

**Coalition for Smarter Growth - Sierra Club Great Falls Group
Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling - Capital Trails Coalition
Fairfax Families for Safe Streets - Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions - South County Task Force
Chesapeake Climate Action Network**

October 20, 2021

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

RE: Thank You for Taking Action on Bike/Ped Funding

Chairman McKay and members of the Board:

The undersigned organizations write today to express our sincere gratitude for the joint Board resolution unanimously approved at the October 5 Board meeting that calls for expediting the funding and implementation of much needed pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements in the County.

We represent smart growth, environmental, social justice, bicycle and pedestrian organizations that collectively work to improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of walking and biking as an integral part of an equitable and sustainable transportation network in Fairfax County.

As you are well aware, Fairfax County continues to experience high rates of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries with 12 people killed already this year. The latest occurred just last week. This doesn't count the near misses as people try to cross, walk, or bike along our busy roads. In a region built around the automobile, anyone trying to get around on foot, by bike, or other active modes is faced with a lack of safe and connected sidewalks and trails, and fast moving roads without adequate lighting and safe crossings.

We greatly appreciate that development of the Active Fairfax Transportation Plan continues to move forward steadily and that funding for Phase II was approved by the Board. However, as we all know and as the Board recognized in its motion, it will be

several years before the plan is finalized and implementation can get underway. Further complicating that is the lack of funding available for the needed pedestrian and bicycle projects and the significant backlog of unfunded projects.

Thank you for hearing our calls to move with greater urgency to overcome the disconnected and dangerous conditions we face today. The \$100 million over six years will certainly jump start that effort. Each of our organizations would be glad to help further refine the list of unfunded projects and help support this effort in any way we can.

We greatly appreciate your support of active transportation and taking action to make it safer to bike, walk, and use other active ways to move around and enjoy our communities.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Smarter Growth, Sonya Breehey, Northern Virginia Advocacy Manager

Sierra Club Great Falls Group, Susan Bonney, Chair

Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, Bruce Wright, President

Capital Trails Coalition, Stephanie Piperno, Trails Coalition Manager

Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Jeremiah Lowery, Advocacy Director

Fairfax Families for Safe Streets, Mike Doyle, Founding Member

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Eric Goplerud, Chair

South County Task Force, Mary Paden, Chair

Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Zander Pellegrino, Northern Virginia Grassroots Organizer