



PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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May 8, 2018

Mr. Mark Schwartz
Arlington County Manager
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Via e-mail: mschwartz@arlingtonva.us

PAC Committee Members

Pamela Van Hine, Chair
Eric Goldstein, Vice Chair
Ellen Armbruster
John Armstrong
Jim Feaster
Eric Goodman
Tom Korns
Christine Ng
Chris Yarie

BAC Committee Members

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Megan Jones, Vice-Chair
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Elizabeth Kiker
Chris Langford
Steve Offutt
Cynthia Palmer
Michael Raizen
Meg Rapelye
Allan Reiter
Tim Rosato
Aaron Schuetz
Chris Slatt

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

On behalf of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC), we strongly encourage you to start a public process to assess making Arlington a Vision Zero community.

The members of the PAC and BAC feel that it is important to join Vision Zero - the international movement to eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. With all of Arlington's efforts to promote safety on our roadways, we have not eliminated deaths or serious injuries on our streets. Six pedestrians died in the past five years; two of those last year (see 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Involved Accidents Annual Report, Special Operations Section of the Arlington County Police Department). In 2017, seven percent of the pedestrians in crashes had serious injuries. With the increase in trips taken by foot and by bike, it is time to try a different approach.

With the volume of people moving around and across our region every day, we need to work collaboratively with neighboring Vision Zero communities on educational, enforcement, and engineering programs to improve safety throughout the area. Our neighbors - Alexandria, DC, Richmond, and Montgomery County - have already adopted Vision Zero policies. Arlington has a lot to share and a lot to learn on roadway safety, but we need to take a seat at the table.

We recommend a public process to evaluate Vision Zero and then figure out how to implement Vision Zero in Arlington and how to ensure the many Arlington entities that impact road safety are on the same page. We are happy to be leaders in this effort, but we cannot do it alone.

Arlington must do more to prevent any more needless suffering on its public roadways. There is a nation-wide movement that is making real progress towards this same goal, sharing resources and best-practices so that all communities benefit. We need to take action and join Vision Zero.

Sincerely,

Gillian Burgess
Chair, Bicycle Advisory Committee

Pamela Van Hine
Chair, Pedestrian Advisory Committee