



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201**



January 7, 2019

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Draft Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element Update

Dear Chair Dorsey:

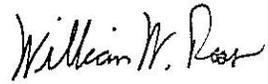
The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the Draft Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element Update developed after deliberation and agreement by the Bike Element Working Group. We appreciate the staff presentation provided by Ritch Viola of the Department of Environmental Services at the Commission's November 2018 meeting. The PRC also appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Working Group process with the inclusion of PRC member Stephen Finn as a member of the Working Group.

The PRC believes the draft update appropriately pursues sustainable improvement to the bicycle network in Arlington. The elements of the plan support the Commission's pursuit of opportunities for physical recreation and enjoyment of the county's outdoor spaces. One ultimate goal of the county is full bicycle connectivity to the county's social infrastructure, including parks. Many of the projects and improvements listed in Appendix D of the draft update, especially the increased mileage of bike and multi-use trails and improved on-street safety for bikes, are undeniably necessary given the county's continual growth.

The PRC notes that a commitment to funding of trail maintenance and land acquisition for additional trails is supported not only by the Working Group but is consistent with the findings of the Public Spaces Master Plan Advisory Committee. As a result, we believe the joint inclusion of the draft update and the PSMP process in the coming months is only a starting point for the county that must be supported in the annual budgeting process and biennial Capital Improvement Program. Our bike network will be a key element in keeping Arlington a healthy and livable community.

Again, the PRC appreciates the opportunity to participate in this critical planning process and fully supports the draft update.

Sincerely,



William Ross
Chair, Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Ritch Viola - DES
Christopher Slatt, Chair, Transportation Commission