



# **The ActiveFairfax Plan: Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan and Trails Plan Update**

Planning Commission Transportation Committee  
November 14, 2019

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Active Transportation Program  
Fairfax County Department of Transportation

# Current Comprehensive Plan Guidance on Active Transportation and Trails

>> Multiple comprehensive plans with sometimes differing facility type guidance

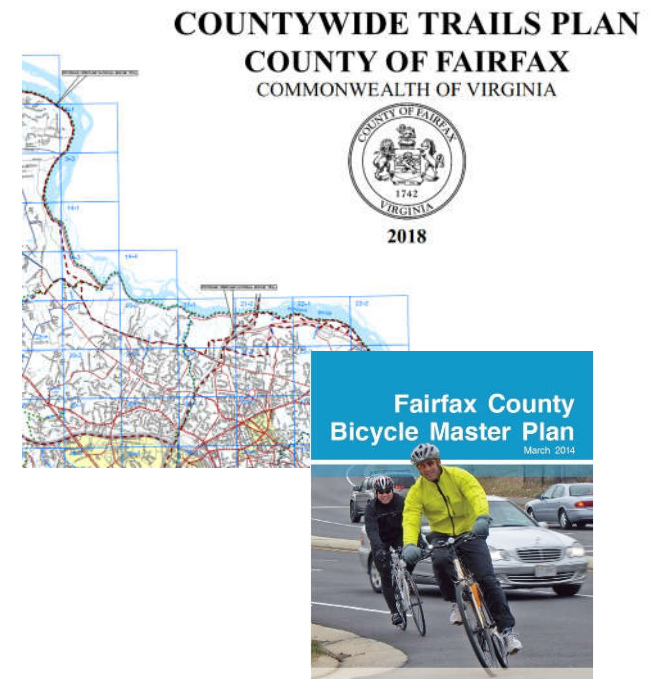
- Countywide Trails Plan originally adopted in 1976, last updated in 2018
- Bicycle Master Plan adopted in 2014
- Multiple Area Plans contain additional bicycle and pedestrian recommendations (updated every 20 years)

>> Some facilities and design recommendations are outdated and no longer meet national and VDOT standards

>> No countywide pedestrian specific recommendations

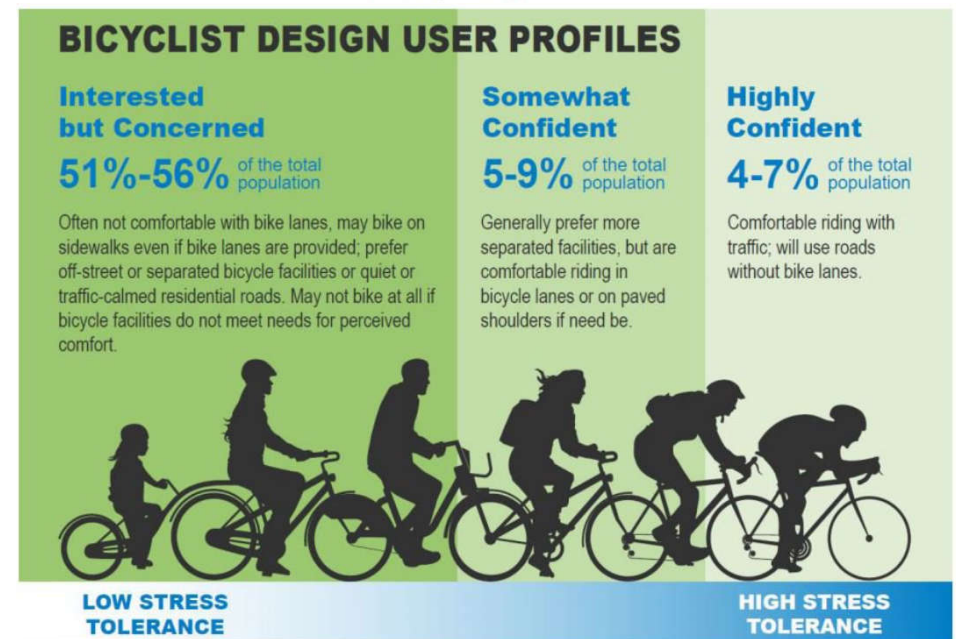
>> No active transportation safety recommendations

>> Draft Countywide Strategic Plan emphasizes need for active transportation facility and safety improvements



# Background: Recent Changes in Bicycle Transportation Planning / Engineering

- National best practices and engineering standards are shifting from on-street bicycle facilities to separated or off-street facilities along busy roadways
- New AASHTO Bikeway Design Guide to be released in fall 2020



Source: FHWA

# All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Bike Facilities

**Rule #1:** Build the types of cycling facilities that feel comfortable for all



Many types of traditional bike facilities only appeal to people who are comfortable riding in traffic. However, bikeways on quiet streets, protected bike lanes, and off-street pathways appeal to people who are interested in cycling but concerned for their safety.<sup>2</sup>

The general approaches to creating AAA cycling routes on city streets are:

- Ensuring low motor vehicle speeds and volumes on local streets, or
- Providing physical separation on busy streets

Source: City of Vancouver

# New National Guidance on Bicycle Facility Selection

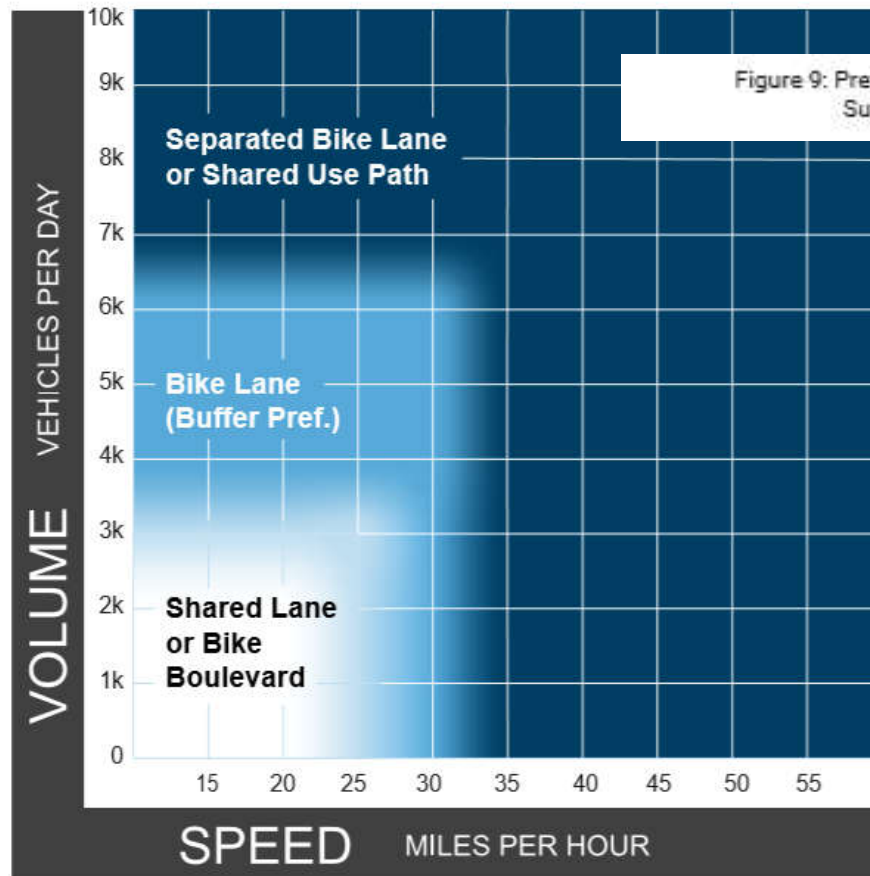


Figure 9: Preferred Bikeway Type for Urban, Urban Core, Suburban and Rural Town Contexts

**Notes**

- 1 Chart assumes operating speeds are similar to posted speeds. If they differ, use operating speed rather than posted speed.

Source: FHWA



# Regional Shared Use Path Network

- Shared Use Paths or “Trails” were not seen as preferred bicycle facilities since the 1980s nationwide, therefore implementation and integration of the Countywide Trails Plan into Area Planning efforts has been spotty
- Driven by successful urban trails such as the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, developing regional trail networks is emerging as a national best practice once again to improve access and economic opportunities for people of all ages and abilities
- Last year, parts of Fairfax County’s existing and planned trail network became part of the regional Capital Trails Network



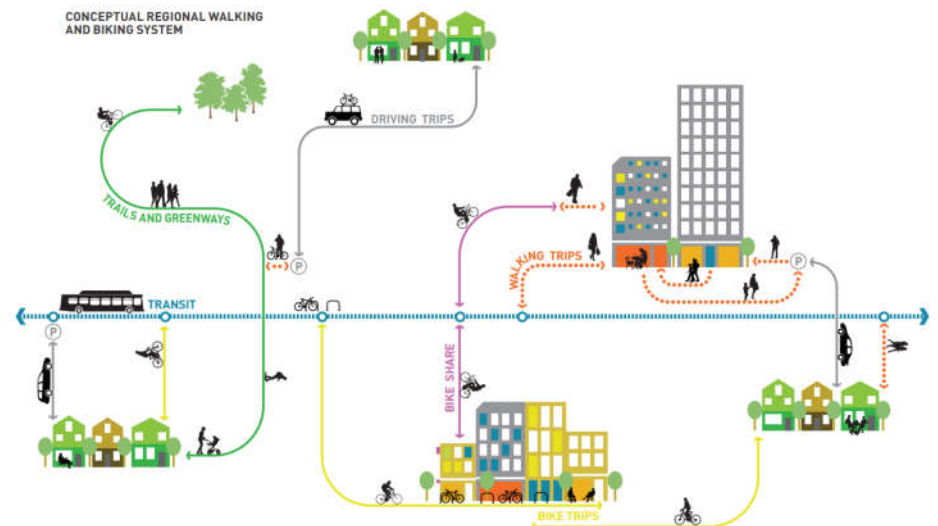
# ActiveFairfax Plan



- Board of Supervisors approved \$300,000 in July 2019 to begin community engagement and data collection
- Additional funding needed to complete comprehensive plan amendment and plan development

# ActiveFairfax Plan Key Project Goals

- ✓ Reconcile bicycle, area and trails plans
- ✓ Bring planned active transportation and countywide trails network recommendations up to current standards, identify and address network gaps
- ✓ Provide active transportation facility selection toolkit for new roads and area planning efforts
- ✓ Provide active transportation safety recommendations
- ✓ Provide implementation, policy and program recommendations and guidance



Credit: Atlanta Regional Commission



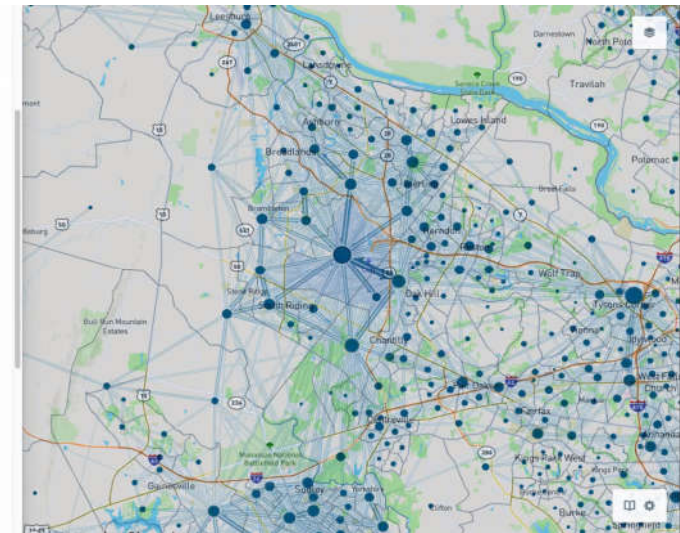
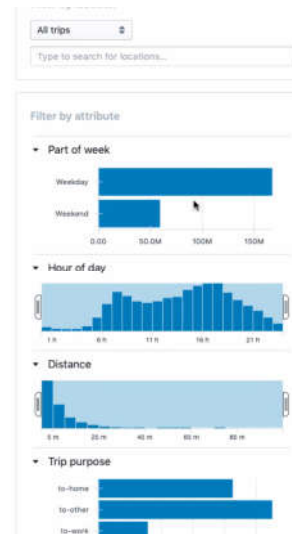
# ActiveFairfax Plan

## Advisory Groups and Committees

- Internal Technical Working Group (Multiple Departments)
- Trails Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
- Planning Commission Transportation Committee
- Transportation Advisory Commission
- Equity Advisory Group
- Youth Advisory Group

# ActiveFairfax Plan Next Steps

- Presentation at Board Transportation Committee on December 10, 2019
- Finalize Scope of Work
- Finalize contract with the consultant and initiate comprehensive plan amendment
- Kick off meeting
- Community Engagement
- Assessment of Regional Travel Patterns and Existing Conditions, Policy Audit, Review of Best Practices
- Development of Vision Statements
- Development of ActiveFairfax Strategy
- Board endorsement of Vision and ActiveFairfax Strategy



Source: Teralytics

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