30+ Miles of Bike Lanes in Three Years

RESURFACING AND DESIGN FLEXIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT A BIKE MASTER PLAN

ADAM LIND, BICYCLE PROGRAM COORDINATOR, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA
Overview

- Fairfax County, VA
- Partnerships
- Perfect Storm
- Pushing the limit
- Moving forward
Fairfax County, VA

- Located outside of Washington DC
- 400 sq. mi, over 1 million people
- Variety of land uses from rural to urban
- Several dense residential and employment centers in the County
County of Fairfax, Virginia

Fairfax County, VA

- Multiple heavy rail lines serve the County
- New Silver line Metro service to Tysons and Reston
- Virginia Rail Express Service from outer areas of the County to DC
- Opportunities to tie bicycling and transit together
- Large trail/side path network
Partnerships

- All roads in Fairfax County owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- VDOT decides when and where to repave roads, and County can recommend adding bike facilities
- 2007-first lane diet in Fairfax County
- 2009-first road diet in Fairfax County

From: FHWA Road Diet Brochure
Partnerships

1) VDOT provides the County with a list of roads to be repaved the following year in the Fall

2) County does field work to take measurements and recommend list of projects

3) County/VDOT work together on traffic analysis for road diets

4) County leads public engagement process for all proposed projects
Perfect Storm

- **October 28, 2014** Fairfax County adopts first Bicycle Master Plan
- Previously, some guidance for on-road bike lanes based on 2002 Trails Plan
- **In 2013, Virginia General Assembly adopts HB2313** – creates dedicated funding for transportation, incl. maintenance
- Maintenance funding increased 4x+ from previous years
Perfect Storm

2017 VDOT Repaving

Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan
Perfect Storm

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>&lt;2014</th>
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<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Bike Lane Mileage</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>12.9*</td>
<td>8.3**</td>
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*10.3 Miles completed during repaving

**8.3 Miles completed during repaving

***13.1 Miles completed during repaving

73+ miles of bike lanes now!!!
Perfect Storm

Fairfax County Bike Lane Network

Legend
- Pre 2014 Bike Lanes
- County Border

Miles
0 2.5 5 10
Perfect Storm

Fairfax County Bike Lane Network

Legend
- 2014 Bike Lanes
- Pre 2014 Bike Lanes
- County Border

Miles
Perfect Storm

Fairfax County Bike Lane Network
Perfect Storm

Fairfax County Bike Lane Network

Legend
- 2017 Bike Lanes
- 2016 Bike Lanes
- 2015 Bike Lanes
- 2014 Bike Lanes
- Pre 2014 Bike Lanes
- County Border
Perfect Storm

5.3 mile connected network in 3 years at $0 cost to the county

Connects over 30,000 residents to parks, schools, activity centers, transit, and a regional trail network

On road network, plus neighborhood wayfinding grows the network to more than 12 miles!
Perfect Storm
Pushing the Limit

- Push against the standards/norms of wide lanes, # of lanes, lanes “needed” at intersections
- Be creative with redesigning existing road space
- Progress with VDOT to go under 11’ lanes in certain situations was the difference in bike lanes vs sharrows
- Evaluate every 4-lane undivided for a road diet
- Don’t think an existing design exists for a reason
- Don’t take no for an answer
County of Fairfax, Virginia

Pushing the Limit

- No buffered bike lanes in the County prior to 2015
- Completed two 4-lane to 3-lane road diets
- 2015 implemented several projects with buffered bike lanes, including a 5-lane to 3-lane road diet
County of Fairfax, Virginia

Pushing the Limit

- Tysons is big employment hub, known for traffic
- Major center of redevelopment in the County
- Implemented road diet on two streets in 2015
- Change mindset-not every street is pushing capacity
County of Fairfax, Virginia

Pushing the Limit

- Old standard 12’ lanes, 4’ bike lane
- Repaving in 2016 created opportunity to improve design

2014
County of Fairfax, Virginia

Pushing the Limit

• Opportunity to upgrade bike lanes
• Old standard 12’ lanes, new standard 11’ lanes
• What to do with the extra 2’? Buffered bike lanes

2016
Moving forward

- Continue to push and move towards narrower lanes to create safer streets, better bike lanes
- Connect gaps in the network with capital projects-on road bike lanes and off road trails
- Make buffered bike lanes the new standard: 8 – 80
- Protected bike lanes-next frontier for Fairfax County
  - Pilot project this year to add bike lanes to existing buffered bike lanes from 2015 repaving project
County of Fairfax, Virginia

Takeaways

• **Need buy in** at the highest levels of agencies involved in resurfacing

• **Coordinate** early and often with maintenance agency

• **Do** as much of the ground work as possible for new designs

• **Push** for designs needed to create safe bike network

• **Don’t take No**—it might not make a difference this year, but the next year, and the next it will
Thank you

Questions/Comments?

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