



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL BIKEWAY & TRAIL NETWORK STUDY

A plan to improve bicycling and walking in Northern Virginia

*Bike Network News*

*April 2002*

## UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON THE REGIONAL PLAN

This is an update on the progress of the **Northern Virginia Regional Bikeway and Trail Network Study**, which includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park, and all incorporated towns within the region. The purpose of the study is to analyze critical gaps in the bicycle transportation network, and to develop recommendations for a regional bicycle network for Northern Virginia.

During the fall and winter, Virginia DOT and the consulting team were hard at work bringing together the first regional GIS map of existing and proposed bikeways and trails in Northern Virginia. This map includes on-road facilities such as bike lanes and paved shoulders, as well as locations of existing and proposed off-road trails. This was an important first step in analyzing where new bikeways are needed to bridge gaps in the network. This work was closely coordinated with local jurisdictions. Representatives of each local jurisdiction attended meetings, provided information about existing and planned bikeways, and reviewed and updated maps of proposed bikeways throughout the region.

In March 2002, the consulting team conducted a bicycle travel demand analysis on the proposed regional bikeways, specifically measuring "latent" travel demand – or the relative amount of bicycling that would occur if riding conditions were comfortable. This involved identifying bicycle trip generators – parks, schools, high employment areas, park-and-ride lots, transit stations, shopping areas, and other high volume destinations. For more information on the inputs into the Latent Demand Model, see the project website: [www.fhiplan.com/novabike](http://www.fhiplan.com/novabike).

Next steps involve developing recommendations for a regional bicycle network, and conducting a more detailed feasibility analysis of several major routes. Stay tuned to the project website for the results!

## NEW INFORMATION POSTED ON THE WEBSITE

Have you visited [www.fhiplan.com/novabike](http://www.fhiplan.com/novabike) lately? The project website has been updated with a variety of information, including an updated project schedule, answers to frequently asked questions about the plan, background information on the technical analysis that is being conducted to measure latent bicycle travel demand, and summaries of public meetings.

The website continues to provide a section where you can register to receive information about upcoming meetings, electronic newsletters, and current project information, and also submit comments and suggestions for the project. Let your friends and colleagues know about this resource!

---

## PROJECT SPONSOR

This project is being conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and directed by the staff of the Transportation Planning Section of the Northern Virginia District Office.

---

## CONSULTING TEAM

The consulting team for the project is headed by Sprinkle Consulting, Inc. (SCI) of Laurel, Maryland. SCI is a planning and engineering firm that specializes in bicycle and pedestrian transportation and facility design. The project contact is Jennifer Toole, Planning Director: [jtoole@sprinkleconsulting.com](mailto:jtoole@sprinkleconsulting.com).

The Project Team includes Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. and Saaed & Associates, both of which have experience in bikeway and trail planning and design.

---

## NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

The next public information meeting will be held in Fall 2002. Please stay tuned for more details.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: **Heather Wallenstrom**, Transportation Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation, Northern Virginia District, 14685 Avion Parkway Chantilly, VA 20151, (703) 383-2231 or [Heather.Wallenstrom@virginiadot.org](mailto:Heather.Wallenstrom@virginiadot.org)