

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201

September 24, 2013

The Honorable Walter Tejada, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: E2C2 letter on W&OD Carlin Springs Access

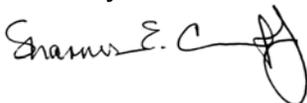
Dear Chairman Tejada:

The Arlington County Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) understands that the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation is currently considering an access path between the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) bike trail and the northbound side of Carlin Springs Road. The E2C2 supports this effort based on the following:

- There is currently no bicycle access between Carlin Springs Road and the W&OD.
- An old access road which once provided vehicle access to the alignment has been chained off and has become overgrown and unusable.
- The County Transportation Dept. is currently adding bike lanes to a portion of Carlin Springs Road, with the eventual goal of providing it as a bicycle link between the trail and points north and south. Providing this additional access will improve the usefulness of the W&OD regional trail for local routes, which will encourage biking and walking by Arlington residents, as an alternative to driving.
- A review of the previous E2C2 action regarding this section of the W&OD trail (minutes of the June 28, 1999 E2C2 meeting and public hearing, and July 12, 1999 recommendation letter to the County Board) indicated that there was significant community concern regarding the "meadow" on the west side of Carlin Springs Road, but no expressed concern with regard to the bike path on the east side of Carlin Springs Rd.
- County staff has indicated that the new access path will be developed using pervious paving to minimize impact to Four Mile Run drainage.
- Any effort that facilitates and encourages pedestrian use or the use of bicycles as opposed to automobiles will be a significant factor in meeting the goals of the County's recently approved Community Energy Plan.

We appreciate your attention to this issue and would appreciate your support of County staff in this effort.

Sincerely,



Shannon E. Cunniff
Chair