

## Shirlington Road

### Proposed Neighborhood Complete Street Capital Project

June 2026

#### Project Background

The segment of Shirlington Road from S. Glebe Road to 22nd Street S. in the Green Valley neighborhood was nominated for Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) funding consideration. It tied for sixth on the scored and ranked list of nominated streets. The Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission (NCSC) affirmed pursuance of a concept design and public engagement at their February 23, 2026 meeting.

This section of roadway has sidewalks that have obstructions that make the route not accessible for people with mobility challenges, traveling in wheelchairs, or while pushing strollers. The street is located near Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School, and John Robinson Jr. Town Square, transit stops, and a short bike ride to the Four Mile Run and W&OD multi-use trails.

#### Public Engagement

In spring 2026, the County project team opened an online feedback form and interactive comment map to solicit feedback on the proposed project concept design. The project team received responses from 38 participants. Results included 22 open-ended comments as well as 9 location-specific comments “pinned” to the online map.

Public feedback, as well as other data collected by the project team, will inform the concept design which will be shared with the public in late spring 2026.

#### Who Participated

Thirty-eight respondents provided feedback. Ninety percent of the respondents indicated that they are residents of Arlington County. Fewer than half (16 of the 38 respondents) shared what neighborhood they live in, with results distributed among Green Valley, Shirlington, Douglas Park and Arlington Ridge accounting for a combined 50%. The remaining responses to this question live in neighborhoods in North Arlington. Top modes of travel on the street by participants were 1. Walking/Rolling (61%), Driving (61%), and Biking (39%).

## Which neighborhood do you live in?

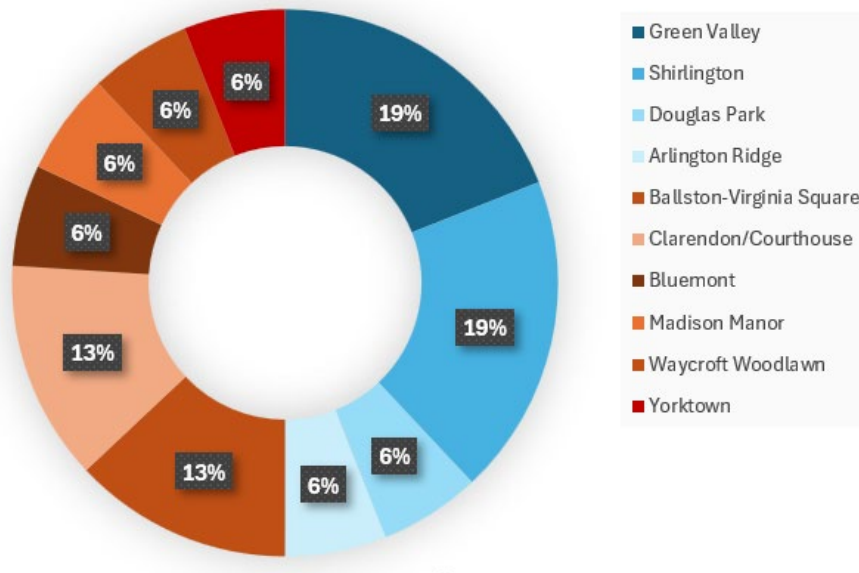


Figure 1: Respondent neighborhoods

## On a typical day, how do you travel on Shirlington Rd?

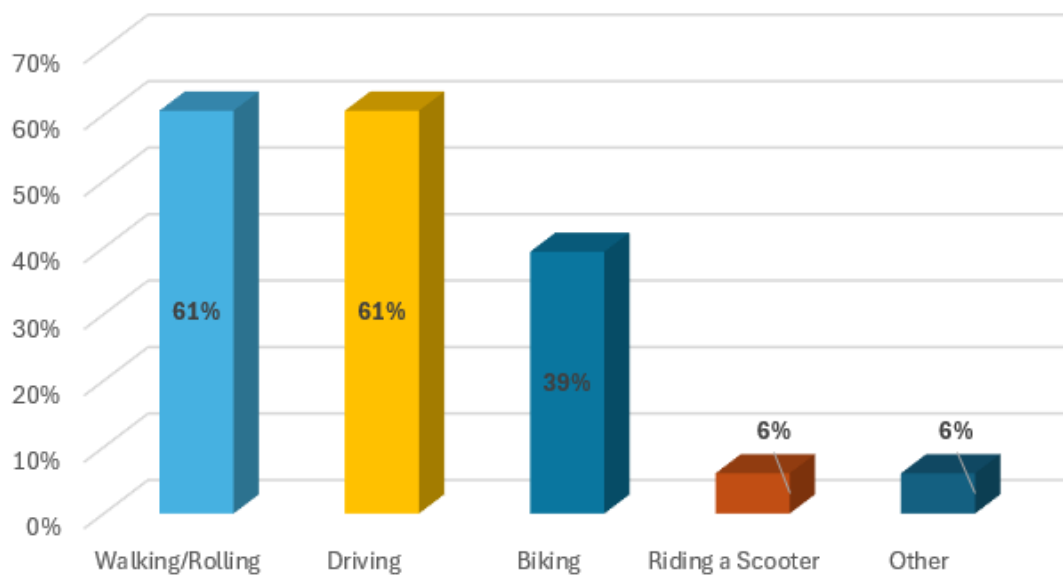


Figure 2: How respondents travel the corridor

## What We Heard

Overall, how safe or unsafe would this concept design make you feel while traveling along Shirlington Road while using the following modes of transportation?

|                            | Very Safe        | Safe        | Neutral        | Unsafe        | Very Unsafe        | Not Applicable        |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Riding a bike              | 14%<br>Very Safe | 11%<br>Safe | 36%<br>Neutral | 11%<br>Unsafe | 11%<br>Very Unsafe | 18%<br>Not Applicable |
| Using a scooter            | 19%<br>Very Safe | 7%<br>Safe  | 37%<br>Neutral | 7%<br>Unsafe  | 7%<br>Very Unsafe  | 22%<br>Not Applicable |
| Walking/Rolling            | 32%<br>Very Safe | 43%<br>Safe | 11%<br>Neutral | 7%<br>Unsafe  | 4%<br>Very Unsafe  | 4%<br>Not Applicable  |
| Driving a personal vehicle | 34%<br>Very Safe | 41%<br>Safe | 14%<br>Neutral | 3%<br>Unsafe  | 7%<br>Very Unsafe  | -<br>Not Applicable   |

*Figure 3: How safe respondents feel by type of transportation*

The majority of respondents who walk/roll or drive a personal vehicle indicated that they would feel “Safe” or “Very Safe” traveling along Shirlington Road with the proposed concept design. The positive feedback for safety was 75% for each of these two modes of transportation. Those who answered that they ride a bike or scooter did not have majority positive responses but had low feelings of being “Unsafe” or “Very Unsafe”, at only 22% and 14%, respectively.

## Open Ended Feedback

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide open-ended feedback on their experience using Shirlington Road, where we received 22 comments. An experience mapping tool was also provided for participants to communicate any specific areas of concern, travel patterns, or additional information about the roadway and its use. We received 9 comments “pinned” to the map.

### Major Themes from the open-ended feedback and experience mapping tool:

Many respondents shared their thoughts and concerns about Shirlington Road. People shared that walking on the street was uncomfortable compared to streets with adequate sidewalks, fewer vehicles, and slower vehicle travel speeds, making them feel vulnerable to vehicular traffic. Major themes of the comments and questions include the following:

### Vehicle Speeds and Volume

Several responses included feedback about the speeds that vehicles travel along Shirlington Road, particularly when going downhill towards John Robinson Jr. Town Square. Several comments requested vertical traffic calming methods, such as speed humps/cushions/tables, or adding bump outs on the south side of the road to “neck down” the road in a manner to further slow drivers. Additionally, some participants noted the high volume of vehicles traveling along Shirlington Road.

“What about speed bumps on Shirlington Road? This is a frequent cut through for vehicles seeking to get to Shirlington/S Four Mile Run Dr.”

“Can rumble strips, speed humps or something similar be added by bumpouts to further slow drivers down?”

“Right now, the road feels dominated by heavy truck traffic, and while the painted bike facilities are there, they do not make the street feel comfortable or safe for all users. If Arlington wants to improve the road for everyone, you might consider sidewalk bump-outs on the opposite side to help reduce speeds and make the street more pleasant for people driving, biking, or walking. A speed hump near the intersection could also help calm traffic.”

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“Bumpouts are great for pedestrians, and slow down drivers, increase visibility. I've seen them really change behavior for drivers and pedestrians. As more people use scooters (decreasing car use) we want to encourage good practices. Bumpouts can help, whether the scooter rider is on the sidewalk or the street.”

## **Road Maintenance**

Several participants shared that this section of Shirlington Road has concrete chunks spilled into the asphalt, likely originating from trucks traveling to or from the concrete facility down the street. Maintenance and repair requests can be logged through the County’s [“Report-a-Problem”](#) online form.

## **Out of Scope Requests**

Several comments shared concerns or suggestions that were either related to another location outside of the project area, or for the intersection of Shirlington Road and S. Glebe Road. S. Glebe Road is a State-owned street, so changes to the intersection of Shirlington Road and S Glebe Road need to be coordinated with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). [Residents may contact VDOT to make safety requests using their online portal.](#)

## **Next Steps**

The project team is looking for opportunities to incorporate what we heard during public engagement into the concept design, where we can work within County standards and engineering best practices. We will develop a final concept design in the coming and share it with the public. Any potential project will need to be recommended by the Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission (NCSC) at a public Funding Hearing (schedule for June 15<sup>th</sup>) and be approved by the Arlington County Board before advancing to detailed design and implementation.

**Project Page:**

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/NCS-Shirlington-Road>

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