



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation  
c/o City of Falls Church  
300 Park Ave.  
Falls Church, VA 22046

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Don Beyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
c/o District Office  
1901 N. Moore St., Suite 1108  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Congressman Beyer,

I respectfully ask for your support of the City of Falls Church's much-needed Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure Improvements request.

Falls Church is a wonderful place to live and visit. However, our City needs significant financial investments to expedite efforts to create a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation network for pedestrians, bicyclists, people with disabilities, public transportation riders, and all citizens.

In a January presentation to City Council, Police Chief Mary Gavin shared some disturbing transportation trends that her department has identified in Falls Church:

- In fiscal year 2021, 13 percent of motor vehicle crashes injured someone compared to about 8 percent in 2020 and 2019 crashes — an increase of more than 50 percent.
- During the pandemic, police have witnessed drivers exceeding 70 mph in a City where the maximum speed limit is 25 mph. Chief Gavin noted her officers see much more reckless driver behavior nowadays, putting other vulnerable users of public space at increased risk.
- The number of crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists nearly doubled from 2020 to 2021, and those numbers are projected to worsen in 2022.

Chief Gavin noted that many injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists occur around the W&OD trail. Unfortunately, the routes many people take to access the newly widened W&OD Dual Trails lack adequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

With its population skyrocketing more than 40 percent since 2000, Falls Church needs more multimodal infrastructure investments to help larger numbers of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to safely navigate the City in a variety of ways for decades to come.



As someone who closely follows transportation safety and flooding issues in Falls Church, the Greening of Lincoln Avenue proposal is a tremendous opportunity to create a win-win-win situation that would improve pedestrian safety, stormwater management, and park access, while reconnecting a neighborhood that has long been separated by a busy, overly wide road.

These multimodal investments would help make Falls Church's business districts and neighborhoods more accessible, connected, and vibrant for all residents and visitors.

I respectfully ask you that the City of Falls Church's request for Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure Improvements be fully funded.

Very much appreciated,

Dave Gustafson  
Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation  
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