



ACTIVE FAIRFAX

# Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Adopted November 2021



# Vision Statement

Fairfax County streets, sidewalks, bikeways and trails are welcoming places where people of diverse races, cultures, incomes, ages and abilities feel comfortable using active transportation to safely and conveniently access the widest range of destinations and to exercise, relax or spend time outdoors.

Active transportation is mostly non-motorized travel including walking, biking, hiking, and riding a scooter or horse for transportation or recreational purposes.

# Framework

The ActiveFairfax Plan introduces a framework for advancing active transportation that includes an overarching vision statement, goals, objectives, action items, and evaluation metric. The outline below provides an overview of the organizing framework.

## Vision Statement

A concise and inspirational statement that describes the current and future of active transportation in Fairfax County. The vision statement will be used as a guide to help Fairfax County make decisions that align with its philosophy and declared set of goals.



### Goals



Desired result that Fairfax County and its partners envision, plan, and commit to achieve within a target timeline. Developed using goals and objectives from previous planning efforts and initiatives.



### Objectives

Broad statements of work related to attainment of goals.



### Action Items\*

Specific statements of work related to accomplishment of objectives.



### Evaluation Metrics\*

Specific amounts of progress related to accomplishing the goals.

\*These items will be developed in a later phase of the project.

# What are Complete Streets?

**Complete Streets** balance the needs of all users and create places that are inviting, safe, and pleasant to experience. This is done by matching the infrastructure with community needs through amenities such as wide sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and parallel parking, as well as placemaking features such as trees, lighting, public art, and wayfinding. The amenities and features is dependent on the character of the neighborhood and the needs of the community.

The graphic below describes the space allocation for different modes of transportation on an example street. The design of each street will vary and be sensitive to the surrounding land use context.



# Incorporating Public Feedback

## What We Did...

Public engagement is critical for the development of the vision for ActiveFairfax to shape the future of transportation in Fairfax County. This engagement process allowed for voices to be heard through the following methods:



**1,474**

Virtual community surveys



**1,217**

Comments on virtual Barrier + Destination Feedback Map



**537**

Comments on virtual Planned Trail + Bikeway Network + Complete Streets Map



**12**

Virtual community conversations

## What We Heard...

County residents and stakeholders left comments regarding access, connectivity, safety, comfort, livability, health, equity, and social justice. When asked, "In one word, what is your vision for active travel?," residents and stakeholders responded with the following:

Lighting Plazas Crossings  
 Sidewalks Transit Education  
 More E-mobility Share Options Traffic Calming  
 Parks **Connectivity** Places to Rest  
 Enforcement Trails Trees  
 Bike Lanes Wayfinding  
 Safety Bike Parking

A full report summarizing what we heard about active transportation in Fairfax County today is available here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/activefairfax>



## GOAL 1: ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

**Goal Statement:** Provide a **well-connected active transportation network** that offers safe, comfortable, convenient, healthy, sustainable and affordable mobility options and recreational opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

### Access + Connectivity Objectives

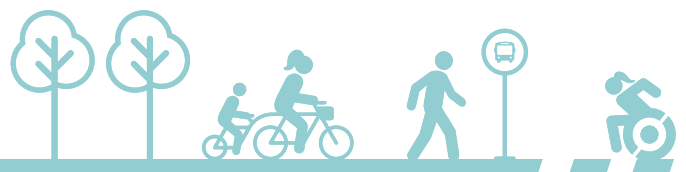
Objective 1.1: Plan, implement and maintain a comprehensive, connected and efficient network of **comfortable, safe and inviting** sidewalks, bikeways, paved trails, natural surface trails and Complete Streets that provide **convenient** access to the widest range of destinations and invite residents and visitors to exercise, relax or spend time outdoors.

Objective 1.2: Pursue policies and design solutions that accelerate the provision and quality of convenient and secure **active transportation end of trip facilities** at destinations.

Objective 1.3: **Address** active **transportation needs** in all public capital improvement projects and throughout all phases of public and private development.

Objective 1.4: Develop and prioritize strategies to **accelerate active transportation project funding, design and implementation**, and make projects more cost-effective without reducing

Objective 1.5: Identify and **prioritize areas with high demand for active transportation infrastructure** for capital improvements, especially areas with low development activity.







## GOAL 2: SAFETY + COMFORT

**Goal Statement:** Increase active transportation user **safety** and **comfort**.

### Safety + Comfort Objectives

Objective 2.1: Develop and implement policies and programs that focus on **minimizing traffic injuries and fatalities** with a focus on active transportation users, monitor effectiveness and update as needed.

Objective 2.2: Develop and apply context sensitive countywide **Complete Streets design guidelines** that meet best practices and community needs.

Objective 2.3: Identify high risk locations and corridors for active transportation users, **systematically implement safety improvements**, monitor effectiveness, and adjust as needed.

Objective 2.4: Pursue policies and incentives that **reduce vehicle trips** and increase active transportation and transit use.

Objective 2.5: Pursue policies, programs and design solutions that **reduce vehicle speeds** particularly in residential and commercial areas.

Objective 2.6: **Monitor crash factors** and provide **targeted multi-modal education** on transportation safety best practices.

Objective 2.7: Ensure **regular maintenance** of sidewalks, bikeways and trails to enhance user experience, safety and comfort.



## GOAL 3: LIVABILITY + HEALTH

**Goal Statement:** Advance public and economic health and quality of life by providing inviting sidewalks, bikeways and **trails that encourage frequent usage for daily trips and recreation.**

### Livability + Health Objectives

Objective 3.1: Apply best practices in **Complete Streets design**, including wider sidewalks, bicycle facilities serving all ages and abilities, narrower streets, lower design speeds and supporting amenities such as shade trees, lighting and places to rest.

Objective 3.2: Apply best practices in **trail design**, including context appropriate trail widths and surface materials, trail access, and supporting amenities such as shade trees, wayfinding signage, places to rest and bicycle parking facilities.

Objective 3.3: Provide a variety of educational and promotional programs and events to **boost the use of active transportation modes, facilities and programs.**

Objective 3.4: **Reduce traffic congestion** by shifting some motor vehicle trips to active transportation trips.

Objective 3.5: Support **economic development goals** by creating dynamic walkable and bikeable communities and commercial centers, and by providing regional destinations for active transportation to spark tourism, attract business investment, and appeal to a talented and diverse workforce.





## GOAL 4: EQUITY + SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Goal Statement:** Provide an active transportation network that adequately addresses the **mobility and recreational needs of communities of color and low-income communities**, as well as the **needs of the most vulnerable users** including small children and their caregivers, youth, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### Equity + Social Justice Objectives

Objective 4.1: Adhere to the **OneFairfax Policy** when developing, implementing and evaluating active transportation policies, programs, facilities, and practices.

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Objective 4.2: Identify and **prioritize neighborhoods and communities that rely most on access to safe, convenient, reliable and affordable** transportation options and recreational opportunities for sidewalk, bikeways and trail improvements and maintenance.

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Objective 4.3: Apply best practices in **inclusive public engagement** to determine the mobility and recreational needs of the full spectrum of active transportation users, to identify potential unintended consequences, and to appropriately balance impacts with community needs.

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## GOAL 5: SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION

**Goal Statement:** Provide sustainable and carbon-neutral transportation options that **advance climate change goals and protect environmental and cultural resources.**

### Sustainability and Conservation Objectives

Objective 5.1: Implement strategies outlined in the **Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan** to increase active transportation trips to daily destinations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air and water quality and reduce noise pollution.

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Objective 5.2: Follow best practices in **protecting, preserving and restoring environmentally sensitive areas and natural habitats** during planning, design, construction and maintenance of active transportation facilities, and provide opportunities for **environmental education.**

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Objective 5.3: Follow best practices in **protecting and preserving significant cultural resources** during planning, design, construction and maintenance of active transportation facilities, and provide opportunities for **heritage education.**

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*Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To request this information in an alternate format, contact FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.*