



AUBRYN BEDNAR  
ACTING CLERK TO  
THE COUNTY BOARD

**ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

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February 4, 2008

Michael Knapp  
Chairman, COG Board of Directors  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Transportation Planning Board  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

Dear Mike and Phil,

First, congratulations on your elections as chair of the COG Board and Transportation Planning Board respectively.

We are writing to ask that you convene a meeting of senior level public officials from the region's core jurisdictions, both elected and appointed, to discuss bike sharing.

In recent months, we have become aware that at least two jurisdictions, the District of Columbia and Arlington, have developed plans for bike sharing. These plans use different systems, and are not compatible. We have attached a copy of a recent Washington Business Journal article that briefly describes these plans. It is our view that most readers of this article will wonder why there is not a more coordinated regional approach to this effort.

We very much appreciate the District's early efforts to move forward on bike sharing, and we similarly respect the staff work done in Arlington – yet we remain concerned that the two systems are not compatible. While there has been communication at the staff level, we feel the situation calls for a higher level of involvement at this time.

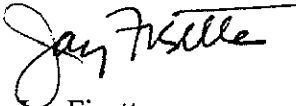
It is our hope that COG and TPB, both committed to regionalism and regional coordination, can convene a meeting of the necessary senior public officials to allow a full discussion of the current plans, the status of those plans, and what, if any, opportunity exists for future compatibility of bike sharing programs.

We personally believe that bike sharing has the potential to succeed, particularly in the core of the region, but it may be very important that early plans are coordinated to maximize the

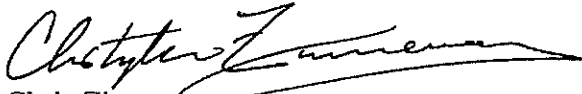
potential of that success. Clearly, we see the core to include the District of Columbia, Arlington, and Alexandria – and it is possible that some portions of Montgomery County and Falls Church could also benefit in the early stages. As we know, some large cities outside the United States, particularly in Europe, have seen great success with large bike sharing efforts in recent years.

Please contact either of us should you need any further information. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Fisette  
Member, COG Board  
Member, Arlington County Board



Chris Zimmerman  
Member, TPB  
Member, Arlington County Board

cc: Ron Carlee, Arlington County Manager  
Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator, District of Columbia  
Jim Hartmann, Alexandria City Manager  
David Robertson, COG Executive Director