



**TOWN OF ARLINGTON**  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

From: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner

CC: Jennifer Raitt, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development  
Christopher Tonkin, Chair, Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Date: February 10, 2020

RE: Bikeway Hours Warrant Article Proposed for 2020 Annual Town Meeting

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A Warrant Article to change the operating hours of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway in Arlington has been submitted by Adam MacNeill (Town Meeting Member Precinct 4).

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) has provided staff support for the background of this Warrant Article, including research into a similar proposed Warrant Article from several years ago, facilitating discussion with the Arlington Police Department (APD), and in the capacity of staff liaison to the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC). The following matters should be considered relative to this Warrant Article:

- **The Bikeway serves a legitimate transportation purpose at all hours of the day.**  
The Bikeway has a clear commuting pattern based on trip data from year-after-year manual counts and from a recently-installed automatic bicycle and pedestrian counter located at the Bikeway and Swan Place. The Bikeway can also be used for many different trip purposes due to its strong connections to residential and commercial properties and public transportation hubs. Extending the hours would ensure that use of the Bikeway is legal at later times of the day.
- **This change would allow for legal usage during the months with extended daylight.**  
During daylight savings hours, the Bikeway is still usable late into the evening, and weather conditions can make evening travel attractive. This proposal would also be in line with changes at certain town parks that allow for usage as late as 11:00 p.m.
- **Late-night Bikeway usage exists, though it is minimal.**  
Automatic counter data shows some use of the Bikeway after 9:00 p.m., although minimal (around one percent of all users). Some of this travel may be people leaving or arriving at Alewife Station, as the last Red Line train from Alewife leaves each day at approximately 12:30 a.m.

- **This change is supported by ABAC.**

At its January 15, 2020 monthly meeting, ABAC members voted to support MacNeill's proposed Warrant Article. As noted in the reference material for the Warrant Article, MacNeill sought and received support from APD on the extended hours for the Bikeway.

- **Additional consideration of Bikeway hours could be explored through DPCD's Bikeway Planning Project.**

DPCD has requested Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for a Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project. This project would include robust public outreach to collect community feedback about Bikeway safety, access, placemaking, public art, and other elements, to create a sustainable, long-term vision for the Bikeway. Issues such as Bikeway hours could also be explored by this project. A decision on MacNeill's Warrant Article need not be contingent upon this proposed project.