



Mr. Mark Schwartz

County Manager, Arlington County

**Subject:** Safety Concerns about Shared Mobility Devices (SMDs)

**Date:** May 10, 2023

**Dear Mr. Schwartz:**

Now that the Crystal City bike network design and implementation plan has been finalized, we ask again that you use your discretion to prohibit shared mobility devices on the sidewalk along Crystal Drive from 27th Street to the entrance to Long Bridge Park at 12th Street. We also requested this in our letter of November 25, 2019, but with the Crystal City bike network design finished, the long-term problem of SMDs will not disappear. We realize that not all bicycle lanes are expected to be protected lanes, but the danger to pedestrians is great.

We understand the goal of eliminating car trips via the use of SMDs is a laudable one. But, the dangerous situation on Crystal Drive in which pedestrians are forced to share the sidewalk with SMDs is completely counter to the Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries within the County by 2030. We ask that you move quickly to correct this imbalance and install appropriate signage to move SMDs to the bike lanes.

In addition, we ask that you address the issues of multiple SMDs blocking sidewalks, tipped over in the gutter, or left in a gaggle of abandoned devices. Together these create a poor urban environment for all other types of use. Blind and handicap people especially have problems navigating a congested sidewalk full of randomly strewn SMDs.

Thank you for taking our view on these topics into consideration and we would be happy to host an Arlington County representative at one of our upcoming CCCA meetings to provide an update on the status of SMDs in Arlington, usage statistics including car trips replaced, and plans to regulate this service to address safety and community appearance issues.

Sincerely,

Eric Cassel, President  
Crystal City Civic  
Association

cc: Jim Larsen, Bureau Chief, Commuter Services Division of Transportation