Memo

From: Council Member John Reed

To: Fairfax Town Council

Proposal: Volunteer based pedestrian and bicycle road marking Project:

For many years, numerous community members have expressed frustration at the lack of accommodation for pedestrians and bicycles on Fairfax streets. Rights of way are limited, and sidewalks are non existent in much of town. The narrow streets get used for both moving and parked cars, which make it dangerous for people walking and riding bicycles, who also have to use the same space. The limited space available guarantees that nothing will conform to Caltrans or AASHTO specs, which is the case in many of our neighboring communities as well.

Within the last decade San Anselmo pioneered the use of a graphic, used on narrow roads shared by cars and bikes, which has subsequently been adopted by many cities and towns, and has become know as a "sharrow" in the traffic planning community. It shows a bike below two chevron "arrows", and is painted at regular intervals.

There has been talk of utilizing these in Fairfax to indicate bike routes, as there is not room for conventional bike lanes in many areas. Funding sources considered for this to date have been grants, which have not been available.

There is also a need for indication of pedestrian usage of the roadway, and for traffic calming.

Fairfax is blessed with a large population of people willing to volunteer for projects that help the community, as we all know, and with a number of "problem solvers" who work in creative ways.

My proposal is to sanction a volunteer based effort to mark roadways with sharrows, using a regulation sharrow stencil and paint provided by the Town, as well as markings indicating use by pedestrians. Pedestrian markings could be footprints, or take a variety of forms, perhaps developed by our creative populace. A volunteer based group could be responsible for carrying out the project, working to guidelines, with the end result being a "Fairfax Style" solution that makes streets safer for pedestrians, bikes, pets, and cars, and achieves traffic calming at the same time.

AGENDA ITEM # 19