

DELIVERED NOV 11 1974



Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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NO. 302

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

New lanes to provide preferential service for buses during peak traffic periods are scheduled to go into operation along a four-mile segment of Arlington Boulevard in Arlington and Fairfax Counties on November 18, the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation said today.

Donald E. Keith, the department's local resident engineer, said the special lanes, along with new commuter bicycle trails, were constructed at a cost of \$1,315,900.

The bus lanes extend on each side of Arlington Boulevard (US Route 50) between Seven Corners and North Pershing Drive at Fort Myer. The bicycle trails extend for a distance of approximately 9,000 feet, between North Pershing Drive and Four Mile Run.

Keith said the project, developed with state highway user tax revenue, also is providing 17 covered passenger shelters for convenience of persons waiting to board buses.

The preferential lanes will be open for use only by buses and right-turning vehicles during the morning and afternoon peak traffic periods -- 6:30 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. on weekdays. They will be open for use by all traffic during other hours and on weekends.

Keith explained that the bus lanes were developed by widening of Arlington Boulevard; the bicycle trails are being provided by connecting existing service roads.

An estimated 70 buses are expected to use the preferential lanes each weekday. The department has estimated that the new project will permit buses to save up to approximately 8 to 12 minutes in travel time.

Aside from providing improved bus mobility, the lanes also should result in smoother movement for other traffic in the highway's conventional lanes by removing the buses from the normal traffic flow except at two points. The buses will be diverted briefly into the conventional lanes to utilize existing bridges across Four Mile Run and Carlyn Spring Road.

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November 8, 1974