

Foreign Service Institute

CHAMPION SINCE 2014

HIGHLIGHT

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is located South of Ballston, near Columbia Pike, and has around 3,300 Foreign and Civil Service members commuting to the facility regularly for language training courses.

FSI is not within short walking distance from a Metro Station so leadership has been creative with transportation benefits and amenities so staff and students don't need to drive alone, contributing to traffic congestion, to get to work and class.

In addition to the transportation challenges that FSI is faced with, the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) has been integral in voicing the health, wellness and lifestyle improvements that service members would like to see at FSI.

CLIENT OPPORTUNITY

With the federal transit subsidy and limited parking at FSI, many service members opt to use the FSI shuttle service to Rosslyn for access to Metro. Unfortunately, there is often crowding and frequency issues with these shuttles, leaving many service members dissatisfied at peak times.

AFSA leadership took it upon themselves to explore possibilities for additional commute options at FSI and successfully advocated for the placement of a Capital Bikeshare station at the Arlington Boulevard entrance of FSI. The placement of this station opened up the option of an easy bike ride North to the Orange and Silver Metro Lines. AFSA reached out to Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) to see how the County could help with the transportation challenges at FSI.

BASICS

Champion Level
Platinum

Urban Village
Columbia Pike

Industry
Federal Government,
Department of State

Staff
3,300 service
members



CHALLENGE

FSI wants to improve the experience of its service members who choose to commute without a car.



CHAMPIONS SOLUTION

ATP suggested conducting a commuter survey of all service members at FSI to gain a better understanding of commute patterns, preferences and what services and amenities people would like to see. Once completed, the survey highlighted a strong desire for improved bike access and amenities such as subsidized Capital Bikeshare memberships, a new bicycle and pedestrian entrance on the FSI's Eastern perimeter and free shower facilities.

The proposed bike/pedestrian entrance on the Eastern edge of FSI is highly significant in its capacity to triple the number of ART and Metrobus routes that are easily accessible from FSI. When built, this entrance will help alleviate crowding on FSI shuttles by allowing service members to utilize numerous bus routes to get to Ballston for easy access to the Orange and Silver Metro Lines.

PEOPLE STORY

Many service members have switched to bike commuting regularly since the Capital Bikeshare station was installed near FSI at the end of July 2014.

In less than a year, there have been over 3,100 trips to or from this station, which has alleviated parking and shuttle congestion, offset CO₂ emissions and contributed to a healthier, more active, population at FSI.

Chris Sibilla, President of Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, commutes from Reston and uses Capital Bikeshare for the last leg of his trip since he carpools with his wife. Biking from the Glebe-Fairfax intersection, Sibilla used to walk the 1.5 miles to FSI until the station was installed.

ARLINGTON IMPACT

The FSI population has a drive alone rate of 39%, which is lower than the rest of Arlington County. Throughout the rest of the County, 53.3% of Arlington residents drive alone to work and 55.3% of people who work in Arlington drive alone to work.

FSI's programming and transportation amenities assist Arlington County in its long-range goal of shifting the County single occupancy vehicle mode split down to 40%.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Arlington County Commuter Services

Arlington Transportation Partners, a division of Arlington County Commuter Services within the Department of Environmental Services, provides transportation expertise and services to businesses, residential communities, developers, and hoteliers in Arlington County, Virginia.



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