

MARYLAND BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Update!



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What's Happening?

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is leading an update of the existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which was adopted in 2002. This Plan establishes a 20-year vision to guide investments that support cycling and walking, both on-road and off-road, as part of Maryland's multimodal transportation network.

This newsletter provides information on the recent activities MDOT has undertaken in support of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update and what future activities are planned. MDOT has conducted two public meetings, several stakeholder meetings and a straw poll on what draft objectives of the plan are most important to the public.

MDOT is also updating the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), the State's 20-year vision for transportation, which identifies goals and strategies to help guide statewide policy and investment decisions across all modes of transportation.

Maryland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Framework

Goal 1: Build Connected Networks

Expand walking and bicycling networks, remove barriers, and enhance connections with transit and travel destinations.

Goal 2: Improve Safety

Enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety to reduce injuries and fatalities and to make walking and biking comfortable and inviting.

Goal 3: Build for Everyone

Enable transportation agencies to effectively balance the needs of all roadway users to promote travel choices and ensure that bicycle and pedestrian needs are prioritized in appropriate locations.

Goal 4: Strengthen Communities

Partner with local governments to support walkable and bikeable communities and to achieve sustainability, livability, health and economic benefits.

We Are Here

Schedule

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is being updated on the same schedule as the Maryland Transportation Plan, in accordance with State law. Both plans will be completed in January 2014.

Fall 2012	Data collection, initiate public outreach activities
Winter 2013	Assess current conditions, trends and issues; develop goals and objectives
Spring 2013	Develop framework for improving bicycle and pedestrian networks
Summer 2013	Develop strategies
Fall 2013	Develop implementation strategies, develop Draft Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update for public comment
January 2014	Release final plan

Goal 5: Promote Walking and Biking in Maryland

Support walking and biking as everyday modes of transportation and recreation through encouragement, marketing and information.

Next Steps

- » Refine goals, objectives and strategies
- » Draft Plan for public review

Public Input

The Plan update process has involved several public input and outreach opportunities to collect input on key issues and priorities for improving biking and walking in Maryland. MDOT has invited public participation through:

- An online public survey regarding biking and walking activity and obstacles, which received over 3,300 responses
- Two public meetings with approximately 100 participants
- Consultation and three meetings with an Advisory Group comprised of local, regional and state staff as well as representatives of advocacy organizations and members of the public
- A straw poll to indicate top priorities
- Twelve stakeholder focus group interviews
- Project website updates and email correspondence with stakeholders

Common Themes

- Connect state and local roads and trails to build useful networks for walking and biking
- Increase comfort and convenience of biking and walking facilities to attract more users and increase safety
- Recognize different walking and biking opportunities in rural areas
- Target investment in activity centers with high need and opportunity for walking and biking
- Increase coordination with local jurisdictions, major employers, and schools to promote walking and biking
- Educate and increase awareness to improve safety of biking and walking

Additional Information

For questions, contact:

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www.mdot.maryland.gov/bikewalkplan

www.mdot.maryland.gov/MTP



Priorities Straw Poll

MDOT developed a straw poll asking participants to select up to eight top priorities for improving biking and walking in Maryland from a list of 19 draft objectives. The straw poll was conducted at a June public meeting and was also available online. The straw poll was not designed to eliminate objectives lacking strong support, but rather to help identify key focus areas to guide Plan development and implementation. The five top ranked objectives were:

- Address network gaps and physical barriers; build connected networks with continuous bicycle accommodations
- Address key gaps in trail systems and improve integration of trails and on-road facilities
- Provide assistance and/or incentives to local governments to improve biking and walking
- Incorporate Complete Streets principles in all State transportation projects, and promote Complete Streets policies at the local level
- Focus on improving bicycling and walking conditions in locations with the highest demand

Thanks to Participants!

MDOT thanks all participants for their contributions to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan update. The input is guiding development of the Plan and will be shared with MDOT's modal agencies for consideration in their strategic and business planning efforts.

Learn More

Visit the project website at www.mdot.maryland.gov/bikewalkplan for a full summary of the Public Open House Meeting and the Straw Poll results!

Save the Date!

- » Public meeting to discuss the Draft Plan on November 13 from 6-8PM at the Talbot County Free Library: 100 W. Dover St., Easton, MD.
- » An online meeting option will also be available.

