



Office of Active Transportation  
and Micromobility (OATM)

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) established the Office of Active Transportation and Micromobility at the Transportation Secretary's Office to advance the Complete Streets approach identified later in the page, and support MDOT's commitment to the National Roadway Safety Strategy, and Vision Zero, a campaign to end all roadway deaths and injuries in Maryland by 2030.

This reorganization elevates bicycle and pedestrian activities at MDOT by dedicating staff to interagency collaboration on improving safety and accessibility for vulnerable road users. At its core, the Office of Active Transportation and Micromobility serves as an agent for collaboration in the development and design of active transportation systems in Maryland. The Office of Active Transportation and Micromobility has three main goals:

1. Prioritize vulnerable users in policies and programs.
2. Improve access to transportation for everyone.
3. Expand options for convenient non-motorized travel.

For more information check out this interview with our Director!

[Interview](#)

### Maryland Transportation Secretary Wiedefeld Announces Development of New Statewide Transportation Trails Plan

The Plan Will Guide Investments in Shared-Use Paths and Advance Efforts to Boost Alternative Travel Options, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Protect All Road Users

**EASTON, MD (September 13, 2024)** – Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld today announced the Department is developing a landmark action plan to improve and expand trail connectivity in Maryland. The plan will guide future investment in shared-use paths across the state, helping to advance efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, boost alternatives to driving and prioritize the safety of all road users across the transportation network.

Updated for the first time in more than a decade, the new Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan will focus on strengthening the connectivity of shared-use paths that are open to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. As part of the process, the Maryland Department of Transportation will create an inventory of shared-use trails, study existing conditions and make recommendations for improvements. The initiative aims to leverage the use of available federal and state dollars to further the Department's goal of building a connected network of trails across the state.

At Friday's event at a newly opened trail in downtown Easton, Secretary Wiedefeld was joined by residents, advocates and elected leaders and participated in a trail walk to kick off the statewide trails initiative.

"Shared-use paths are a critical piece of Maryland's transportation system and contribute to the Maryland Department of Transportation's goals of enhancing accessibility and connectivity, growing the economy, and expanding safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. "Walking along the newly completed rail-trail in downtown Easton, I know this is just one of many paths that will further connect communities and support tourism on the Eastern Shore."

The new strategic plan, to be completed next year, will align with existing bicycle and pedestrian efforts such as the new department-wide [Complete Streets Policy](#) and the State Highway Administration's data-driven [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#), both of which aim to improve access and safety for all road users by requiring the addition of safety features such as bike lanes and pedestrian crossings in road projects across the state. The new trails initiative will also align with the Governor's state goals for connectivity and build on the foundation of MDOT's 2009 Trails Plan and the 2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to meet state sustainability goals and address growing demand for an integrated transportation trail system.

This fall, MDOT will begin to take an inventory of the existing trail infrastructure, identifying the shared-use path network, missing trail links and unused rail corridors that can be turned into shared-used paths. Upon completion next year, the plan will provide a blueprint for prioritizing missing links and crossings and will deliver a toolkit for localities and other partners to complete trail projects. As part of the process, MDOT will host two webinars and administer a trails survey.

Earlier this week, Governor Wes Moore announced more than \$16 million in funding for bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects across Maryland, including \$13.9 million in federal funding awarded through the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Recreational Trails Program, and \$2.1 million in state funding through the Maryland Department of Transportation's Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program. Among the 36 projects receiving support are trail improvements in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Caroline County and the campus of Mount St. Mary's University. Funds will also help cover the cost of design and construction of shared-used paths in the Town of St. Michaels, along MD 611 in Worcester County and in College Park, Prince George's County.

### **Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan Update**

In January, MDOT published the 2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Masterplan (BPMP). The BPMP focuses on updating policies and practices to make it safer and more convenient to walk, roll, and scoot. Publication followed a year-long planning process including analyzing existing conditions, public outreach, and policy work with stakeholders. Since January, MDOT is making strides towards several of the recommendations to improve walking and biking conditions over the next five to twenty years, including:

- **Establish a Complete Streets Policy:** MDOT and its modes signed an updated Complete Streets policy on June 1, 2024. Currently, implementation plans are being developed and the policy will be effective on January 1, 2025. Questions and requests for information can be sent to [completestreets@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:completestreets@mdot.maryland.gov)
- **Develop resources to plan and build out pedestrian infrastructure near transit stations:** MDOT's Office of Active Transportation is working closely with the Office of Real Estate and Economic Development on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) standards and traffic impact studies for private developers to consider all roadway users in TOD areas. Current projects include a study for the MARC Penn Line and Baltimore Metro, as well as the launching of a new fund for TOD:
- **DOT Office of Real Estate & Economic Development (MDOT ORED) has published a Request for Information in advance of launching the new TOD Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund.** The RFI can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact TOD Coordinator Alex Walinkas at [awalinkas@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:awalinkas@mdot.maryland.gov)
- **Identify tools to measure pedestrian accessibility:** MDOT launched the sidewalk data collaboration this year, the first cohort of jurisdictions will be trained and input their sidewalk data in September. To learn more or join a future cohort for sidewalk data, email: [Fwaters@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:Fwaters@mdot.maryland.gov)
- **Update the Statewide Trail Plan:** Stay tuned for exciting news later in September about MDOT's plan for a statewide transportation trails plan.



### **Walk Maryland Day**

Marylanders across the state are preparing for the 10th annual Walk Maryland Day on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. Walking is an activity available to people of all ages and abilities, which provides many physical and mental health benefits. Walk Maryland Day showcases our strength in numbers and reminds state officials that walking is a key element of Maryland's transportation and recreation network.

Join us!

Walk Maryland Day is a celebration of our state's official exercise and a call to action to support safe walking and walkability with or without assistance. You can join by registering to walk on October 2 as either a "Walk Leader" or "Sole Mate." Walk Leaders are walk organizers who enjoy walking and encouraging others to realize the benefits this healthy activity can bring. Sole Mates are Walk Maryland Day participants who want to join the cause and join an organized walk in their desired location.

Anyone can register as either a Walk Leader or Sole Mate, for any variety of safe walking experiences. Registered walks can be as an individual or in a group, in parks or city neighborhoods, via wheelchairs or on treadmills, or wherever and however safe walking experiences are available. So, get ready to celebrate Walk Maryland Day and join in the call for safe walking by registering today to walk on October 2!

[Click here](#) for more information on how to register as a Walk Leader or Sole Mate, provided by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).

Be sure to check the [Walktober website](#) early and often, as registered walks, events, and programs will be added throughout the month.



## Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Did you know there are quarterly public meetings about walking and biking in Maryland? The Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee advises State government agencies on issues directly related to bicycling and pedestrian activity including funding, public awareness, and safety and education. In addition to quarterly meetings, there are four active subcommittees focusing on:

- Pedestrians
- Legislation
- Eastern Shore
- Trails

The next meeting date of the full committee will be on October 25, 2024. Please visit the [MBPAC](#) website or email [mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov) for more information on how to get involved.



## Complete Streets Policy

Secretary Wiedefeld recently tasked MDOT with updating the 2012 State Highway Administration (SHA) Complete Streets Policy to align with new Department guidance, statewide mandates, and national best practices established since the policy was first adopted.

The updated Complete Streets policy will also advance the priorities of the Moore-Miller administration including projects to help the state meet Vision Zero and greenhouse gas emissions targets. Previously, the Complete Streets Policy was applicable to projects undertaken by the State Highway Administration (SHA), Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), all different modes of transportation that fall under the purview of MDOT. The new policy aims to take a broader all-MDOT approach to planning and designing projects and programs that improve safety in all areas of MDOT including the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), and Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The Complete Streets policy was signed on June 1, 2024 and will become effective July 1, 2025!



City of College Park Shared Micromobility Station Improvements

## Bikeways Updates

The Kim Lamphier Bikeways Grant Program awards unprecedented funds in FY24, totaling \$4.6 million for locally initiated bicycle safety projects. In January, work kicked off for FY25 with 5 in-person grant workshops to share the funding opportunity with jurisdictions across the state. Returning to in-person events was well received and led to 23



applications to the program during the May application period. Award announcements for FY25 are expected in early September. The Bikeways programs congratulates several project sponsors who completed their projects in 2024:

- Baltimore City completed construction on their Rapid Enhancement Plan project. The Rapid Enhancement Plan addresses various gaps critical to the citywide bicycle network, including the Mount Royal Streetscape, Madison bike boulevard, and other minor retrofits to bicycle facilities in Baltimore City.
- Baltimore County finished their Torrey C. Brown (NCR)/Jones Falls Trail Connection project. This project developed a feasibility assessment/study for a critical trail gap in the state trail system between the Torrey C. Brown (formerly Northern Central Railroad) Trail at Ashland Road and the Jones Falls Trail in Mt. Washington Village.
- The City of Cambridge concluded their Cambridge Bike Lane Feasibility Study. This was an evaluation and preliminary design for bicycle facilities on select streets in Cambridge.
- College Park implemented Shared Micromobility Station Improvements. This grant was used for bike and scooter share parking locations around the City through new bike corrals requested by businesses, signage, and re-painting of shared scooter and bike parking hubs.
- City of Laurel finished their Cherry Lane Bikeways Preliminary Design for a shared-use path along Cherry Lane between Van Nusen Road and Baltimore Avenue.
- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources assessed condition of two bridges along a rail corridor on the eastern shore to prepare design documents suitable for construction to convert bridges to host a recreation hiking and biking rail trail.

Explore all awarded Bikeways projects on our [Kim Lamphier Bikeways project map](#). Any questions about the Bikeways Program can be directed to [mdbikeways@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:mdbikeways@mdot.maryland.gov).



Teams from MDOT, Hagerstown, and Bel Air joined Howard County for a walk audit of the US 1 quick build site.

### **Complete Streets Leadership Academy**

MDOT and State Highway Administration (SHA) will partner with Smart Growth America (SGA) and local jurisdictions to deploy temporary Complete Streets demonstration projects on state-owned roadways amid efforts to improve traffic safety and connect more users to opportunities across the state.

This August, Howard County installed one of these temporary quick-build demonstrations that will be removed before the year's end. The installation repurposed the outer lane of US 1, between Davis Avenue and North Laurel Road, creating a shared use path for cyclist, and pedestrians in a corridor that had no sidewalk.



### **Walktober**

Introducing our updated logo and our fifth annual WALKTOBER campaign! Walking is a great way to access and enjoy all that Maryland has to offer. The Moore/Miller Administration wants to transform our transportation system and provide Marylanders accessible, equitable, and sustainable options across the entire state, ensuring our transportation infrastructure investments connect all Marylanders to life's opportunities and that no one is left behind. Not only is walking recognized as a healthy choice for transportation access, but it's also our official state exercise!

Improving the walkability of our neighborhoods is vital to this effort, and sidewalks are a key component of the MDOT Complete Streets policy, which was updated this year to improve MDOT's approach and increase roadway safety through Context Sensitive Solutions. Historically, roads and transportation systems were often placed with just one goal in mind: connecting one place to another as efficiently as possible for motor vehicles. The aim of Complete Streets is to balance the need of motor vehicles with safe access for other modes of transportation, by expanding facilities for people walking, biking, or riding transit, along with other community needs.

In addition, the MDOT State Highway Administration developed the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) and works with communities to improve pedestrian safety by identifying high crash corridors, focusing on areas of need, and taking action to improve conditions for people walking.

To heighten awareness and educate Marylanders about the importance of walking and walkability, the State of Maryland highlights pedestrian safety in October in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's, National Pedestrian Safety Month. Throughout the month of October, MDOT and our partners will be sharing information, events, and webinars about walk related programs, policies and initiatives. For fresh insights to promote walking and walkability near you, check out the [Walktober website](#) for our list of events!

## Walkinars

In 2024, Maryland's Walktober celebration will reflect on our progress in Maryland from investments as well as progress under the Moore-Miller State plan. This year our series of educational "Walkinars" (webinars) that MDOT has created to help share information and innovative approaches for promoting safe walkability options will also include discussion panels for real life exchanges of ideas and local implementation.

Hosted by the Maryland Department of Planning, the 2024 Walkinar series will include four free 90-minute webinars, beginning at 10:30 a.m. (EST) each Thursday of the month. National, state and local speakers will present new information and unique perspectives on Maryland's pedestrian safety, health, infrastructure and equity. Intended for all stakeholders, the presentations will include insights to help advocates, officials and planners alike gain fresh insights on promoting safe walkability for their communities.

Planners who join for the live broadcasts will also be eligible to receive 1.5 Certification Maintenance (CM) credits from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) for each Walkinar.

Click the button below to learn more and register for the Walkinar series.

[Click Here](#)





Find registration links at [bit.ly/walkinars](https://bit.ly/walkinars)



## 2024 WALKINARS

Thursday, October 3 *From Nation to Neighborhood: Exploring National and State Perspectives*

**Sarah Lock**, Senior Vice President for Policy and **Brain Health** from AARP will explore walking's health benefits, while **Veronica Davis**, author of *Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities*, will focus on transportation equity and community health.

Thursday, October 10 *Crafting Safe Spaces for Every Step with Every Trip*

**Heidi Simon** from Smart Growth America will discuss the latest efforts on Complete Streets in Maryland, then lead a panel discussion to explore local Complete Streets efforts.

Thursday, October 17 *Sidewalks to Safety: Ensuring Secure Routes for Students*

**Kori Johnson**, Program and Engagement Manager at the Safe Routes Partnership discussing the mid-Atlantic, with lessons learned from the Maryland Highway Safety Office and representatives from Howard County and Montgomery County, Maryland.



Find registration links at [bit.ly/walkinars](https://bit.ly/walkinars)



## 2024 WALKINARS

Thursday, October 24 *Step Forward: Advancing Pedestrian Access and Safety*

This webinar will speak to strategies from right here in Maryland, with speaker **Dara Baldwin** - Director of National Policy, Center for Disability Rights, Inc., America Walks and the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Thursday, October 31 *Sustainable Growth: How walkability creates more equitable and vibrant places for all*

**Members of Governor Wes Moore's Sustainable Growth Subcabinet** will discuss how walkability and related issues are coming together to contribute to more equitable and vibrant communities throughout Maryland.

Looking ahead, MDOT will continue its work in 2024 to adopt Complete Streets as the state's default approach. This includes adopting and developing implementation plans for each mode to apply the new Complete Streets policy. Additionally, various training, education, and outreach opportunities will be offered to practitioners, stakeholders and community members to help advance the MDOT mission.

Together we can reduce our roadway fatalities and, in so doing, provide a safer and more equitable transportation system for all Marylanders to enjoy.

