

Complete Streets - Policy & Vision

Policy. County Council unanimously adopted its Complete Streets Policy in October 2019 (CR 120-2019). Since that time, the County has been actively working to implement that policy through the guidance of the Complete Streets Implementation Team (CSIT) and the dedicated efforts of County departments, including the Office of Transportation, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Vision. The vision of Complete Streets for Howard County is, as captured in its policy statement:

"To ensure that Howard County is a place for individuals of all backgrounds to live and travel freely, safely, and comfortably, public and private roadways in Howard County shall be safe and convenient for residents of all ages and abilities who travel by foot, bicycle, public transportation or automobile, ensuring sustainable communities Countywide."

Key Features. To learn more about Complete Streets in Howard County, [click here](#) to see an infographic highlighting some key features.

Complete Streets - Implementation

Significant progress on the implementation of Complete Streets in Howard County has already been made, including the following:

- 1.** The Howard County Complete Streets Design Manual is a technical document that guides the design of Howard County streets. This is an update of the County's current Roads and Bridges Design Manual, has been overseen by the Complete Streets Implementation Team, and incorporates best practices and Complete Streets concepts. This initiative was recommended in both the Howard County General Plan (PlanHoward) and the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan (BikeHoward); it is also a requirement of the County's Complete Streets policy. The effort has included outreach and input by both the public and the development community
- 2.** through workshops, online surveys, and other means.

The Howard County Complete Streets Design Manual was adopted by County Council as Council Resolution 17-2022 on February 7, 2022.

Workshops were held in October 2021 to educate both the public and technical users of the Design Manual of the proposed changes. Further training on the new Design Manual and Complete Streets design requirements will occur in Spring 2022. The most current version of the

Design Manual is available on the [Design Manual webpage](#).

3. The Community Engagement Plan for Transportation Projects (CEP) was completed in October 2020. It provides best practices and procedures for County employees and others involved in development of transportation projects to engage the general public in the project development process. The CEP describes the significance of community engagement, the benefits of an inclusive process, and the importance of equity in decision making. It will greatly improve the County's outreach and public engagement with specific tools and checklists for both capital and developer projects. The CEP and supporting materials are located on the [Complete Streets and Community Engagement](#) webpage.

The Plan also includes a [Citizen's Guide to Community Engagement](#), to guide the public in their efforts to become more involved in the transportation planning process in Howard County.

Complete Streets - Implementation (continued) & Projects

In addition:

3. The Transportation Improvement Prioritization System (TIPS) is a process that provides an objective measure of the anticipated benefits of transportation projects as they are being considered for the capital budget. Under the TIPS system, candidate transportation improvements will be scored in four areas: multimodal safety and access, equity, crash history, and system preservation/maintenance. The scoring will not provide the final decision; rather, it will inform the decision-making process.

4. Subdivision and Land Development Regulations are now starting to be reviewed and will be updated as required by the County's Complete Streets policy. The regulations will reflect both policy and Complete Streets Design Manual concepts, including the transportation aspects of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance. This work will occur in 2022. Visit the [Complete Streets](#) webpage in Spring 2022 to learn more.

5. Performance measures are another requirement of the Complete Streets policy. There are several performance measures the County must track to improve safety, public health, access, and equity as part of County transportation planning projects. The list of performance measures in full can be found on pages 4-5 of the [Complete Streets policy](#) statement.

6. The [Complete Streets webpage](#) includes several pages of information on the

County's vision, policy, implementation, terminology, projects, and supporting documents. We encourage you to visit the site to learn more.

Current projects. Details of the many Complete Streets projects in planning, design, and construction in Howard County can be found [here](#).

Complete Streets - Related Projects

Related Projects. In addition, here are some projects of interest that are related to our Complete Streets implementation:

- 1.** [HoCo By Design](#) is the County's 10-year update of its general plan - a long-range, visionary document that guides land use, growth, and development decisions. The draft HoCo By Design plan will be developed in 2022 with ongoing refinement and opportunities for input from communities and stakeholders. It is led by the County's Department of Planning and Zoning.
- 2.** [Clarksville Pike Streetscape Design Project](#) will create a shared-use pathway alongside Clarksville Pike between Guilford Road and Linden-Linthicum Lane.
- 3.** [Maryland 103/104/108 Corridor Study](#) will address the transportation and access challenges facing residents along the MD 103, 104 and 108 corridors. The study identifies and prioritizes bicycle, pedestrian, traffic operations, and safety improvements for implementation by the County, Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and private sector development.
- 4.** [Strategic Road Safety Plan](#), developed by the Office of Transportation, provides a roadmap to guide County policies and actions to reduce the number of traffic-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities based on the four focal points of traffic safety: engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency medical services.

Complete Streets - Resources

Some resources related to Complete Streets in Howard County are available below:

- A Bike Box is a new feature of the Complete Streets Design Manual. Its initial implementation in Howard County will be on Centre Park Drive at Columbia 100 Parkway in Columbia in Spring 2022. An infographic explaining how a bike box functions is available [here](#).
- [National Complete Streets Coalition](#) is a non-profit alliance of public interest organizations and transportation professionals committed to developing and implementing Complete Streets policies and practices. The nationwide movement is a program of [Smart Growth America](#) and was originally launched in 2004.
- [U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration](#) has many resources related to Complete Streets. Visit their Complete Streets [webpage](#) to learn more.