

Safety - Plans & Analysis

Safety plans for Howard County and the State include:

- **Howard County Strategic Road Safety Plan**. The Howard County Strategic Road Safety Plan 2021-2025 is guided by a core vision: to prevent all traffic crash-related fatalities and serious injuries and to reduce the number and severity of crashes in Howard County. To learn more, visit the [Safety Plan webpage](#). To see the full plan, [click here](#). To see the pedestrian and bicycle strategies and action items, [click here](#).
- **Howard County Police Department** – The [Howard County Police Department Annual Report](#) for 2020 includes information on specialized patrols, officers, and divisions that support safe, active transportation in Howard County.
- **Maryland Department of Transportation** (MDOT) is making improvements to the State's roadway network to improve safety for all Maryland roadway users. Visit [Vision Zero](#) to learn more about how every crash is preventable. Visit [MDOT's Pedestrian Safety Plan](#) to learn more about the State's current pedestrian safety strategies on state roads.

Recent crash analysis related to active transportation for Howard County includes:

- **Howard County Pedestrian and Bicyclist Involved Crashes 2017 to 2019**. This document completed in June 2021 and conducted by the Washington College GIS program was sponsored by several entities, including Maryland Department of Transportation and Zero Deaths Maryland.
- **Maryland Department of Transportation State Highways Office**, as part of its [Vision Zero](#) efforts has developed a scorecard for each of its districts addressing bicycle and pedestrian safety in Maryland. For District 7 (which includes Howard County, Carroll County and Frederick County) [click here](#). To see other districts, [click here](#).

Safety - Educational Resources

Educational resources related to safety for bicyclists, pedestrians, e-scooters, including sharing the path and best practices include:

What you should know if you're in a car:

Did you know?

- Under Maryland law, bicyclists have the same rights as drivers.
- Motorists should yield to bicyclists and pedestrians at intersections and on roads.
- It is illegal to park in a bike lane in Howard County.
- The 3-Foot Rule says motorist must allow a minimum of three feet when passing a bicyclist. Please watch: [A Bicyclist Might Be Someone You Know](#) video to learn more.

[Bike box](#) - Do you know what a bike box is and what to do when you see one?

[Look Out for Each Other](#) - An infographic on how bicyclists and motorists can share roads safely.

[Motorist tips](#) from Maryland Department of Transportation.

[School buses](#) - a brief video from the Howard County Police Department and guidance from HCPSS on how motorists can help keep students safe when driving near school buses.

What you should know if you're riding a bicycle:

[Look Alive](#) - MDOT is working to raise awareness in the region about bicycle and pedestrian safety and enforcement of the laws that protect people walking and biking.

[Look Out for Each Other](#) - An infographic on how bicyclists and motorists can share roads safely.

What you should know if you're riding an e-scooter:

Six Top Tips for Riding Scooters - from SPIN

What you should know if you're a pedestrian:

[Look Alive](#) - Working to raise awareness in the region about bicycle and pedestrian safety and highlight enforcement of the laws that protect people walking and biking.

Tips for pedestrians from MDOT

What you should know if you're a student who travels by school bus:

Tips to be safe from HCPSS