

WalkHoward – Master Plan

WalkHoward Master Plan. WalkHoward is Howard County's pedestrian master plan which seeks to create a safe, accessible, and connected pedestrian network for County residents. It was adopted in February 2020 by County Council. [WalkHoward: Moving Forward](#), is an update of the County's 2007 pedestrian plan and continues our efforts to improve walkability in Howard County. Those efforts include a vision for a more comprehensive, connected, and accessible system of sidewalks, pathways, bus stops, and roadway crossings - to make it easier to get around by walking and using assistive walking devices, like wheelchairs and walkers.

WalkHoward addresses pedestrian movement in all its forms - running errands, getting to work or school, running for exercise, or pushing a child in a stroller. However, WalkHoward also integrates our pedestrian network with our transit, biking, and micromobility networks to make transportation via more than one mode more viable in Howard County. Visit the [WalkHoward website](#) for more.

WalkHoward Recommendations. The recommendations provided in the WalkHoward Plan address three areas: network and facility, program, and policy. Key considerations include: filling in gaps in the sidewalk and crosswalk networks, establishing safe and convenient pedestrian connections to all transit locations, meeting and exceeding ADA standards for pedestrian facilities, and supporting efforts to increase walking to schools.

- Network and facility recommendations translate into sidewalks in 1,044 new locations, repairs at 492 locations, and a resulting 240 miles in sidewalk improvements. 621 intersections are identified for curb or crosswalk improvements, and 494 improvements at bus stops are targeted to better serve and connect the pedestrian network.
- Key program recommendations include: developing a "beyond the minimum" program for ADA accommodation, expanding non-motorized police patrol units, analyzing and publicizing pedestrian crash data, adopting pedestrian friendly laws and policies, and establishing a countywide Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.
- A full description of the recommendations can be found on the [WalkHoward Master Plan](#). Program recommendations begin on page 40. Policy recommendations begin on page 46. Detailed structured project recommendations begin on page 62.

WalkHoward - Implementation

Implementation of WalkHoward Recommendations. The current status of specific WalkHoward Policy, Program and Structures Projects recommendations can be found by clicking on the follow areas. *Please note:* URLs included in WalkHoward status spreadsheets are not linked.

- [Policy](#)
- [Program](#)
- [Structured Projects.](#)

Implementation of the recommendations for structured projects is progressing with seven of the structured projects partially complete and five in the design stage. Two of the priority connections are also in the design phase. An online map of WalkHoward network recommendations can be found [here](#). The locations of the proposed project can also be accessed on the Howard County [interactive map website](#).

To read about each of the recommendations in detail, please visit the [WalkHoward Plan](#).

- Chapter 4 includes network and facility recommendations.
- Chapter 5 includes program recommendations.
- Chapter 6 includes policy recommendations.

To learn more, please visit the [WalkHoward website](#).

To see the current implementation statistics for the WalkHoward plan, [click here](#).

WalkHoward - Projects

Current Projects. Howard County has many pedestrian projects underway.

To see current and recently completed projects, including sidewalks, crosswalks, and pathways that are being planned, under design, in construction, or recently completed, please view the [projects list](#). Pedestrian projects are identified under "Facility Type" as: sidewalks, crosswalks, shared-use pathway, and mixed. One of these projects, Frederick Road Sidewalk, is currently in construction and should be completed in Spring of 2022.

Completed Projects. Several projects were completed this last year including:

- Stephens Road Bridge Replacement Project. This project provided a new bridge on Stephens Road to replace an older bridge that frequently flooded. Sidewalks and bike lanes were also added along Stephens Road between Whiskey Bottom Road and Gorman Road.
- Savage-Area Complete Streets Project. To hear from our County Executive at the project [opening](#) in December 2021 by video [click here](#). The almost \$2 million, three-phased project improved pedestrian access and safety and installed traffic calming measures at several locations in Savage. The project included 5,145 linear feet of curb and gutter, 3,635 linear feet of concrete sidewalk, 660 feet of pervious sidewalk, 44 new ADA ramps, and a mini-roundabout at Foundry and Washington Streets. To learn more, visit the [project webpage](#).
- Crosswalks across Hale Haven Drive and Elverta Drive. Crosswalks were added across Hale Haven Drive and Elberta Drive to improve pedestrian access along Hale Haven Drive to Doncaster Drive and Worthington Elementary School.
- Crosswalk across Montgomery Road. A crosswalk was added across Montgomery Road at Bellanca Road to connect to the new sidewalk built by the new residential development on Bellanca Road and to improve access to Rockburn Elementary School.
- Ilchester Road project. A sidewalk was added along Ilchester Road from Ilchester Point Court to Wharff Lane improving access to Ilchester Elementary School and Bonnie Branch Middle School.

WalkHoward - Resources & More

WalkHoward website. The [WalkHoward website](#) includes the [WalkHoward Plan](#), a [map](#) of site specific WalkHoward recommendations, and other helpful resources. Please visit and learn more.

Connecting to other modes of transportation. The County also recognizes the importance of multimodal transportation - that is, making a trip using more than one kind of transportation, like walking to a transit stop and taking the bus, or carpooling to a central location then walking to work.

- To learn more about bus transportation in or from Howard County visit transitrt.com (RTA) and www.mta.maryland.gov (MTA).
- To learn more about County's Bikeshare and Shared Electric Scooters programs, visit: howardcountymd.gov/transportation/bikeshare-shared-electric-scooters.

Some additional resources of interest to pedestrians in the County include:

Walking Routes. To try new walking routes in Howard County, click on these links:

- [Google maps](#) provide directions and travel times by foot (click on walking-person icon)
- [Howard County parks and trails](#) maps are available for the eight County regional parks, two Natural Resource Management Areas, and 29 neighborhood parks.
- [Howard County Park Walking and Moving maps](#) are 1-mile routes for 11 sites in the County park system. They were originally created for *Walktober 2021*.

Walktober Webinars. Click on any of the links below from the October 2021 webinar series offered by Maryland Department of Transportation to learn more:

- [Taking Fresh Steps toward a More Walk-Friendly Maryland](#)
- [Walking toward a Healthier Maryland](#)
- [Pedestrian Safety: Trends, Measures and Solutions](#)
- [Great Partners and Creative Approaches for Promoting Safe Walk Opportunities](#)