

Maryland Bicycle Safety Task Force (2017) and MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Programs

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Task Force to Study Bicycle Safety on Maryland Highways - Overview

- Enacted under Article II, Section 17(c) Chapter 836:
- Created to “**study and make recommendations**” on 11 topic areas related to safety, operations, design, funding and accessibility for bicycle on roadways.
- Report with recommendations due December 2017.



Bicycle Safety Task Force Background

➤ Task Force Membership: 20 Members

- Elected Officials
(2 each -State Senate & House of Delegates)
- Transportation and Insurance Industry Officials (AAA Mid-Atlantic, MD Motor Truck Assoc., vehicle insurance)
- State Agencies: MDOT MVA, MDOT SHA
- Professional Expertise: Civil Engineer, Traffic Engineer
- Bicycle Advocates (4)
- Law Enforcement (MD State Police, MD Sherriffs, and MD Chiefs of Police Assoc.),
- County & Municipal Officials: MACO, MML.



Bicycle Safety Task Force Background

- Safety issues related to bicycle operators on highways in the State;
- The appropriate operation of bicycles on highways in the State;
- The appropriate operation of motor vehicles in relation to bicycles on highways in the State:
- The adequacy of the current and future capacity and use of bike lanes, bike paths, and protected cycle tracks in the State;
- Past, current, and future implementation of Complete Streets strategies related to facilitating safe travel for all bicyclists regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel;
- Issues related to traffic control devices governing the operation of and behavior towards bicycles on highways in the State
- Public education and outreach related to the operation of bicycles on highways in the State;
- Potential funding sources to support and encourage the safe operation of bicycles in the State;
- The effects of bike lanes, bike paths, and protected cycle tracks on street parking and pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow;
- The siting of utilities and other infrastructure along bike lanes, bike paths, and protected cycle tracks; and
- Best practices for ensuring access to retail, residential, commercial, and other points of interest adjacent to bike lanes, bike paths, and protected cycle tracks.

All eleven Legislative Topical areas were included in official meeting agendas and discussed during the various strategy area dialogues & presentations of the Task Force group.



Bicycle Safety Task Force – Recommendations (39)

➤ Five Meetings - and Focus Areas:

- ☐ Legislative Tools and Operations for Bicycle Safety
- ☐ Infrastructure Tools, Guidance, and Performance Measures
- ☐ Site Access and Utilities
- ☐ Education and Outreach
- ☐ Funding Resources

➤ Meetings August 31 to November 8.

➤ Draft Plan – Released to public Mid November.

➤ Final Plan – December 2017.



Bicycle Safety Task Force - Recommendations

- Legislative tools and Operations for Bicycle Safety:
 - ❖ Vulnerable road users
 - ❖ Contributory negligence
 - ❖ Exceptions to 3 foot law
 - ❖ Enforcement
 - ❖ Speed limits



Bicycle Safety Task Force - Recommendations

- Infrastructure Tools, Guidance, and Performance Measures:
 - Develop better crash data
 - Improved utilization of Short Trip Opportunity Areas (STOAs)
 - Maintenance of facilities
 - Uniform route signage
 - Traffic modeling
 - Infrastructure inventory
 - Roadway audits
 - Regional network planning
 - Update MDOT SHA Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines
 - More detail, bicycle specific traffic signals, Mid-block crossings/HAWK, installation of single/bidirectional protected bike lanes, low stress bicycle facilities
 - When Main Street is a State Highway update
 - Flexibility in accommodations for facilities associated with new developments



Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Programs

MDOT Program Staff

	P r o g r a m
Christy Bernal State Highway Administration	Transportation Alternatives Safe Routes to School
Cheryl Ladota State Highway Administration	Recreational Trails
Virginia Burke Transportation Secretary's Office	Maryland Bikeways
Luis Gonzalez State Highway Administration	SHA Retrofit Funds
Aviva Brown State Highway Administration	Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas

Project Development Process Overview

	TA	SRTS	RTP	Bikeways	SHA Retrofit	BPPA
Develop concept; planning						X
Include in local plans & priorities						X
Build support & partnerships						X
Refine the concept				X	X	
Secure Right of Way						
Design	X	X		X	X	
Permitting	X	X		X	X	
Construct	X	X	X	X	X	
Maintain			X			
Educate & promote		X	X	X		

Webinar held April 13:

Program & Application Requirements

Program	Summary	Application Deadline
Transportation Alternatives & Safe Routes to School	Federal 80/20 reimbursable grant open to local agencies for transportation enhancements including trails, sidewalks, etc.	May 15
Recreational Trails	Federal 80/20 reimbursable grant open to agencies and organizations for all types of trail projects.	June 30
Bikeways	State reimbursable grant open to local agencies for bicycle transportation projects.	June 14
SHA Retrofit Programs	SHA funds for projects along state roads.	N/A
BPPA	Coordinated State/local planning effort. Not a funding program.	May 5

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- [Aviation](#)
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MDOT Offices

Bike | Walk

- [Bike/Walk Homepage](#)
- [2019 MD Bike & Pedestrian Plan Update](#)
- [Plans & Resources](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Maryland Bicycle And Pedestrian Advisory Committee \(MBPAC\)](#)
- [Task Force to Study Bicycle Safety on Maryland Highways](#)
- [Partners](#)



Bike | Walk Programs

The Maryland Department of Transportation administers several competitive grant and special fund programs for biking & pedestrian programs. These programs support local economies and enhance quality of life through biking and walking. In addition, the Department provides technical assistance to help local jurisdictions with feasible projects.

MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Funding Opportunities: Open House

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is hosting an Open House to address MDOT funding opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The meeting will begin with a very brief overview of the programs presented in the March 21st webinar. Participants are invited to bring questions and project ideas. Participants will have ample opportunity to interact with MDOT Program staff. The Open House may be most useful for eligible applicants to address questions and clarifications regarding the application process and participants' project ideas.

DATE: Wednesday March 28, 2018
TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.