



Shared Use Path Maintenance

BPAG

July 20, 2022



Background

- **Maryland Code**
 - Maintenance responsibility of bicycle pathways along urban highways
 - Summary presented at the November 2021 BPAG meeting
- **Request to discuss shared use path maintenance responsibilities at May BPAG meeting**

Shared Use Paths

- A paved or unpaved bikeway outside the motor vehicle traveled way and physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space, curb, curb and gutter, or barrier
- Either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent alignment
- Shared use paths are open to use by pedestrians and other authorized non-motorized users
- Minimum width for a bi-directional path is 10 feet wide, with widths ranging from 10 – 14 foot based on volume
- Sources: MDOT SHA Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines (2015) and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (2012)

Shared Use Path

Shared Use Path



Sidepath

A path located in the roadway right-of-way



Shared Use Path



Sidepath

A path located in the roadway right-of-way



Greenway

A path with an independent right-of-way



Shared Use Path Maintenance

- **Washington D.C.**
 - Maintenance responsibility varies based on who is the property owner (NPS, DDOT, or DPR)
 - The agency property owner maintains the path unless there is an agreement which divides responsibility between agencies
 - DDOT is the only agency that clears snow from paths
 - DDOT completed an internal “Maintenance Guideline Report” for trail, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities in 2010
 - An updated inventory/maintenance report was completed in spring 2022
 - This document has been useful in promoting cross organizational conversations and to assess and fill in gaps in maintenance practices

Shared Use Path Maintenance

- **Montgomery County, MD**
 - The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) maintains shared use paths
 - However, if the paths are on Montgomery County Park property they are maintained by Montgomery Parks
 - Property owners adjacent to side paths are responsible for snow removal with a minimum clear path wide enough for a pedestrian or wheelchair user (Montgomery County Code)
 - The Countywide maintenance plan includes maintenance of shared use paths and funding is programmed within the Operating Budget
 - All new Capital Improvements Projects must show future maintenance costs so they can be added to the Operating Budget

Shared Use Path Maintenance

- **Arlington County, VA**
 - Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) maintains most County paths
 - However, some major trails are not on County property:
 - Mount Vernon Trail, owned and maintained by the National Park Service
 - Washington and Old Dominion Trail, owned and maintained by Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority
 - Custis Trail, owned by VDOT and largely managed and maintained by the County under a memo of agreement
 - A subset of County controlled paths are designated key transportation facilities and are cleared of snow by the County
 - Arlington County does not have a shared use path maintenance plan and paths are not included in a larger maintenance plan

Montana DOT Shared Use Path Maintenance Plan

- **Shared Use Paths Inventory and Detailed Maintenance Plan, 2016**
 - Tracks the current condition of paths, new paths are added as they are built, and work history is documented
- **Components of a maintenance plan include:**
 1. **Current maintenance needs (maintenance backlog)**
 - One time cost to bring path condition up to an acceptable level
 2. **General maintenance needs**
 - Snow removal, sweeping, mowing, cleaning drainage structures, monitoring and evaluating path conditions
 3. **Pavement preservation maintenance (asphalt)**
 - Crack sealing (~4 years), fog sealing (~8 years), pavement overlays (~25 years)

Montana DOT Shared Use Path Maintenance Plan

- **Current Maintenance Needs of Existing Shared Use Paths**
 1. **Inventory**
 - Collect data by riding a bicycle along the shared use path using a GoPro camera mounted to the bicycle to take photos every 10 seconds
 - Use ArcGIS Field Maps application to record: surface type, photos, drainage, etc. of intersections, for every 10 miles
 - Randomly select 1 mile out of every 10 miles to record: cracking, oxidation, potholes and raveling, and drainage issues
 2. **Analysis**
 - Use the GoPro photos and 1 mile assessments to analyze pavement condition ranking from poor to excellent
 3. **Cost**
 - Use three year average costs to calculate the needed pavement repairs to bring the shared use path up to acceptable condition levels

Montana DOT Shared Use Path Maintenance Plan

Figure One: Cracking



Figure Four: Good to Excellent Condition



Figure Two: Oxidation



Figure Six: Poor Condition



Figure Three: Raveling



Montana DOT Shared Use Path Maintenance Plan

- **General Maintenance Needs**
 1. Calculate costs per mile using averaged three year costs
 2. Snow removal, sweeping, mowing, cleaning drainage structures, monitoring and evaluation conditions
- **Pavement Preservation Maintenance**
 1. Calculate the costs by determining how often general treatments are needed
 2. For asphalt these include crack sealing, fog sealing, pavement overlays
 3. Concrete shared use paths require less annual maintenance
 4. Pervious surface types require specialized cleaning and maintenance

Washington DC DOT Shared Use Path Maintenance Plan

Shared-Use Path Maintenance Responsibility (October 2021)

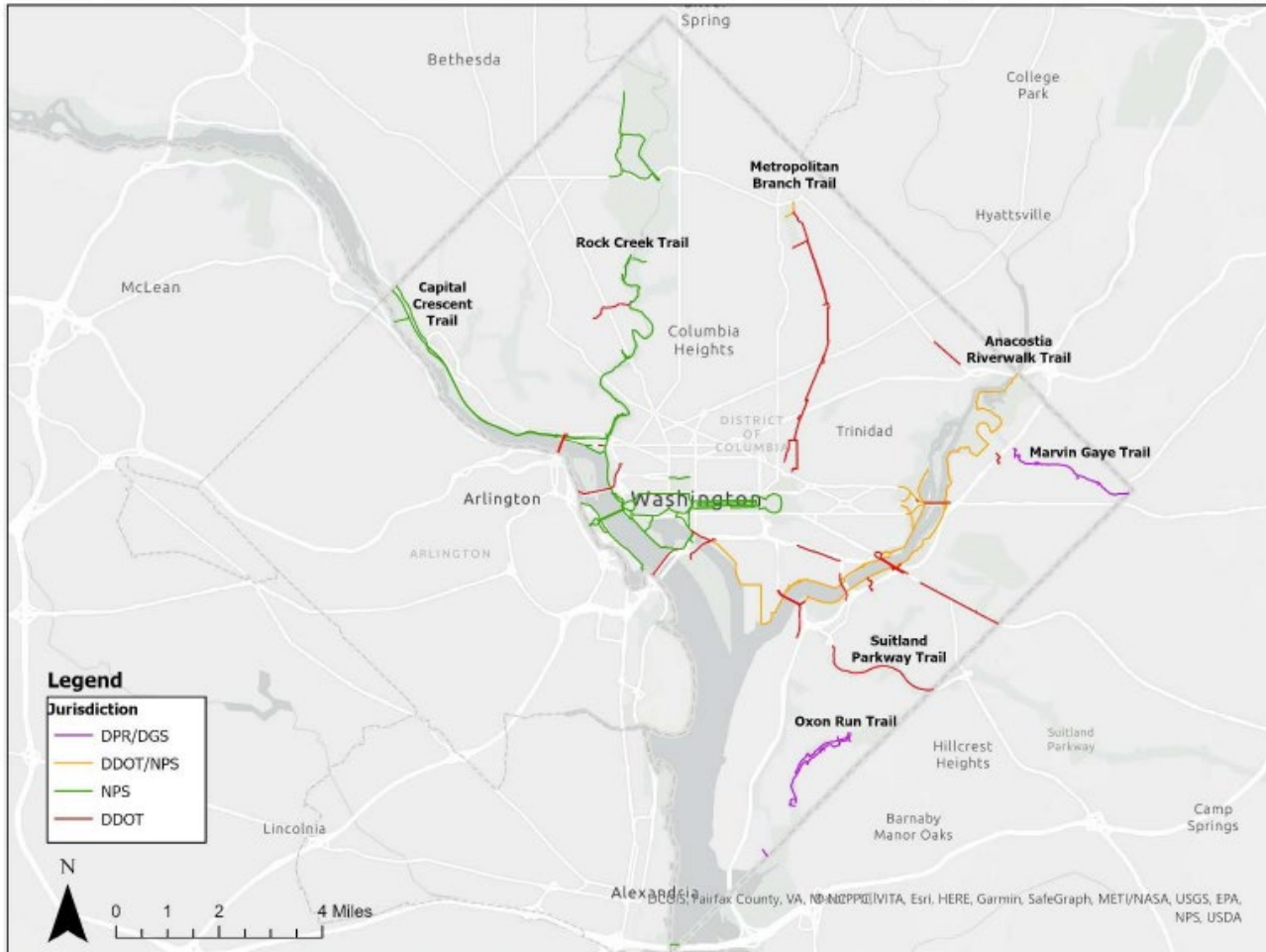


Figure 3: Maintenance Jurisdiction of the City's Shared-use Path Network

For More Information

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