



Update on the Development of the Draft Plan

April 3, 2025

Welcome from the
Maryland Department
of Transportation
Assistant Secretary for
Project Development
and Delivery
Joe McAndrew



Photo: Joe McAndrew (center) with TAC members and Project Team members at the kickoff event in Easton, 9/13/24

Speakers

Meg Young

Deputy Director
Office of Active
Transportation
and Micromobility



Photo: Trails Plan Leads- Meg Young (left), Aviva Klugh (right)

Aviva Klugh, AICP

*Strategic Planning
Manager*

Office of Planning,
Programming, and
Project Delivery

What is a transportation trail?

A **transportation trail**, in short, refers to a shared-use path that is part of a transportation network and is open to the public for bicycle and pedestrian use including most forms of micromobility from e-scooters to skateboards.



Shared Use Path



Sidepath



MTB Trail



Hiking Trail

Agenda

- Project Team and Technical Advisory Committee
- Plan History and Development
- Existing Conditions
 - Database and Map Development
- Transportation Trail Toolkits
- Maryland Transportation Trails Survey and Webpages
- Opportunities for Local Input
- Questions and Answers



Photos: Kickoff event in Easton, 9/13/24, TAC meeting 2 in Patapsco Valley State Park, 12/13/24

Project Team Members



The Transportation Trails Technical Advisory Committee

The TAC is a focused subcommittee of the [Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee \(MBPAC\)](#) made up of individuals who represent their region or stakeholders, share upcoming and planned projects, and utilize their networks to support the development of the Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan

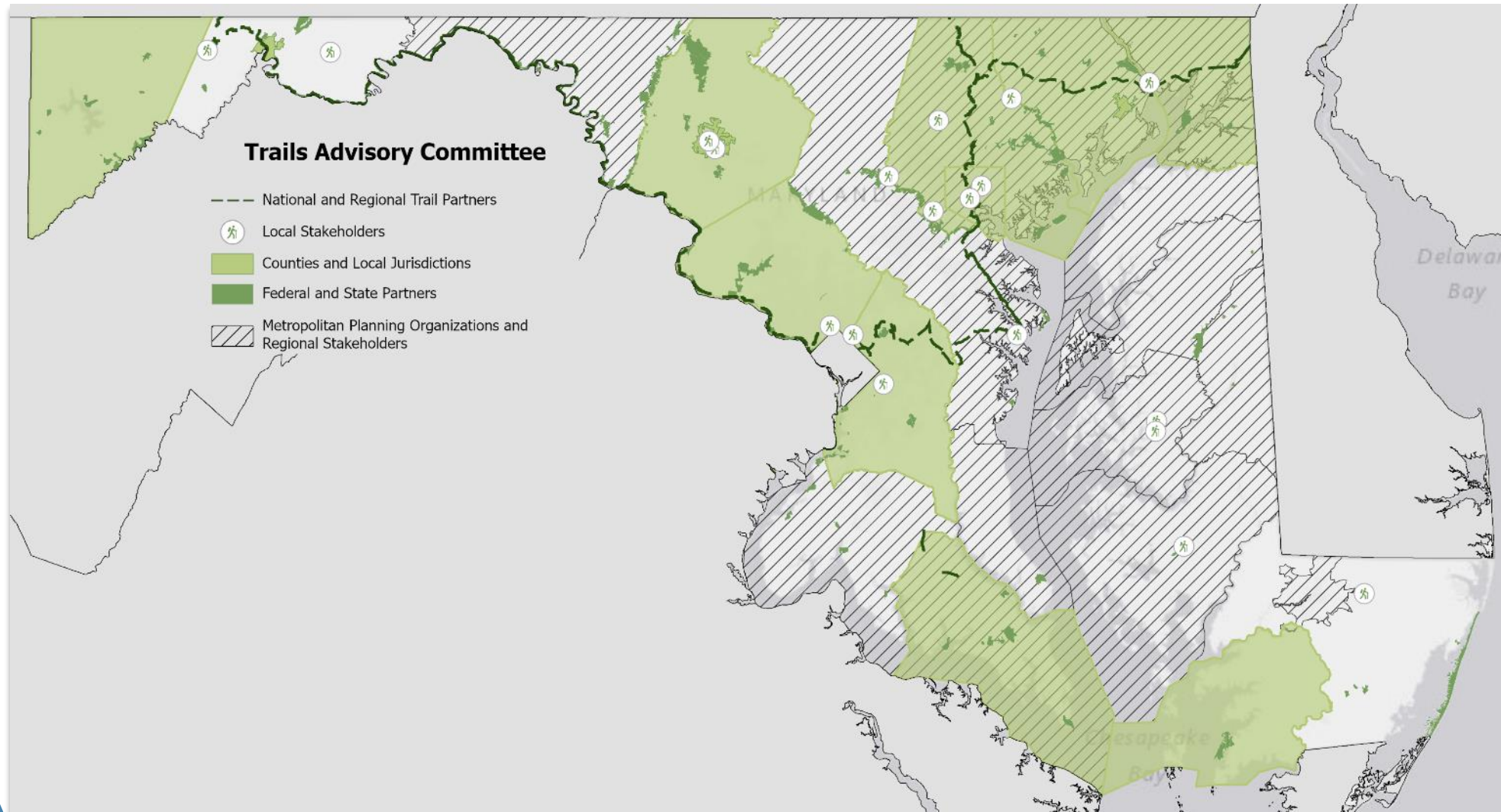
Duties of the TAC include:

- Bi-monthly meetings to discuss plan development
- Provide local expertise on transportation trails
- Share data and review content
- Complete and share the trails survey
- Share information about engagement opportunities with local networks



Photo from kickoff event in Easton, 9/13/24: TAC members (from left to right) Daniel Paschall, Jon Korin, Quinton Batts, and Brigitte Carty

TAC MEMBERS (to date)

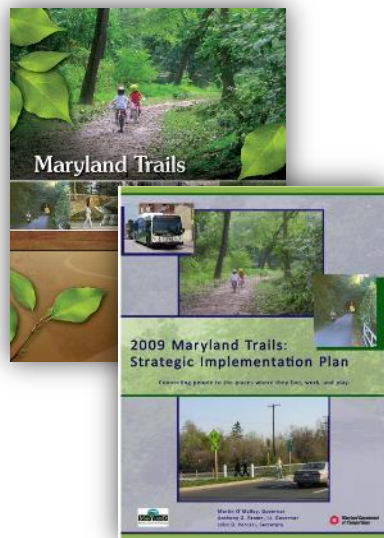


Plan History and Development



Plan History

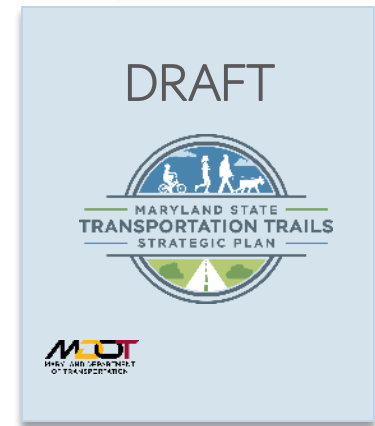
2009



2024



2025



Recommendations from the Plans

- Inventory the existing shared-use path network, missing links, and railbanked corridors identified for transportation trails
- Identify planned and programmed shared-use paths/trails
- Prioritize missing links and crossings to safely connect the state across a low-traffic-stress/all-ages-and-abilities network
- Identify tools and partners to complete shared-use path/trail projects

Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan Development Timeline

Part 1: Plan Development

Fall and Winter 2024/2025

- ☒ Existing conditions analysis
- ☒ Shared-use path database development
- ☒ Website development

Part 2: Plan Implementation

Spring 2025

- ☒ Public trails survey
- ☒ 1 public webinar (*topic: draft plan*)
- ☐ Listening sessions for toolkits
- ☐ Draft Final Plan

Part 3: Final Plan and Map

Summer 2025

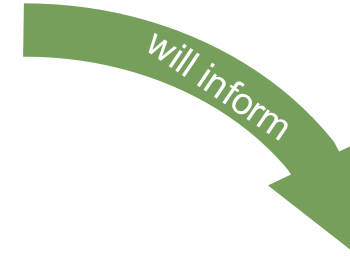
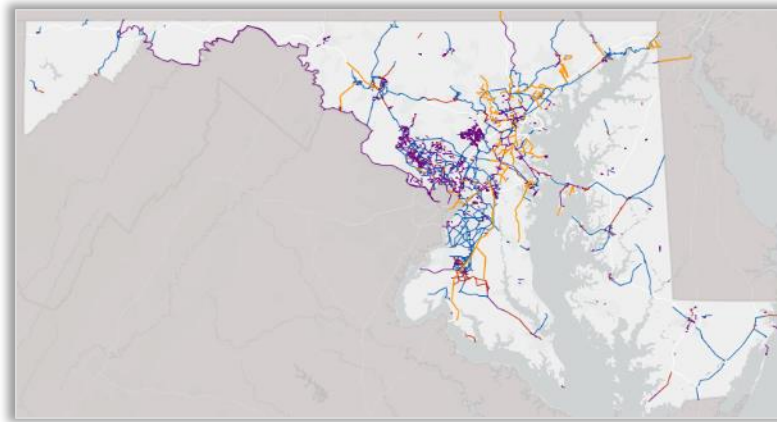
- ☐ 1 public webinar (*topic: final plan*)
- ☐ Final Plan published

Our Process

Existing Conditions Report



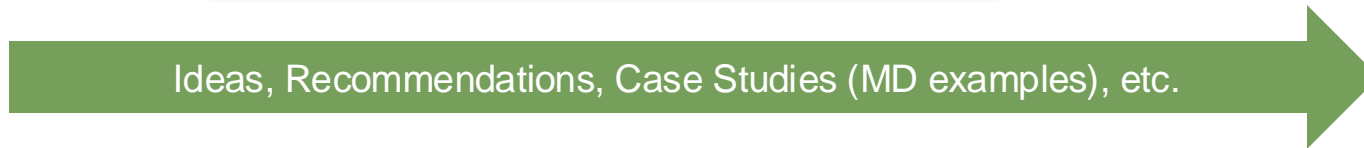
Transportation Trails Database



Final Plan



Ideas, Recommendations, Case Studies (MD examples), etc.



will inform

Toolkit #1



Toolkit #2



Toolkit #3



will inform

Online Survey

Implementation Toolkits

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions Outline

- **Plan and Policy Review**
 - State Plans
 - Cross-State/National Plans and Networks
 - Regional Plans and Networks
 - Statewide Policies
- **Trail Project Lifecycle Analysis**
 - Barriers, Opportunities, and Case Studies



Plan and Policy Review

State Plans

- 2009 Trails Plan
- 2050 Bike/Ped Master Plan
- 2050 MD Transportation Plan
- 2024 State Plan
- 2023 Climate Pollution Reduction Plan
- 2022 State Rail Plan
- 2021-2025 MD SHSP
- 2019-2023 MD LPRP

Statewide Policies

- Railbanking
- Recreational Use Statute
- Complete Streets
- E-Bike and Micromobility Use
- Equestrian Use
- Shared Use Path Standards
- Ownership and Maintenance

County Priority Letters Feasibility Studies

Plan Highlight: the 2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan



Example Trail Policy and Guidance Recommendations:

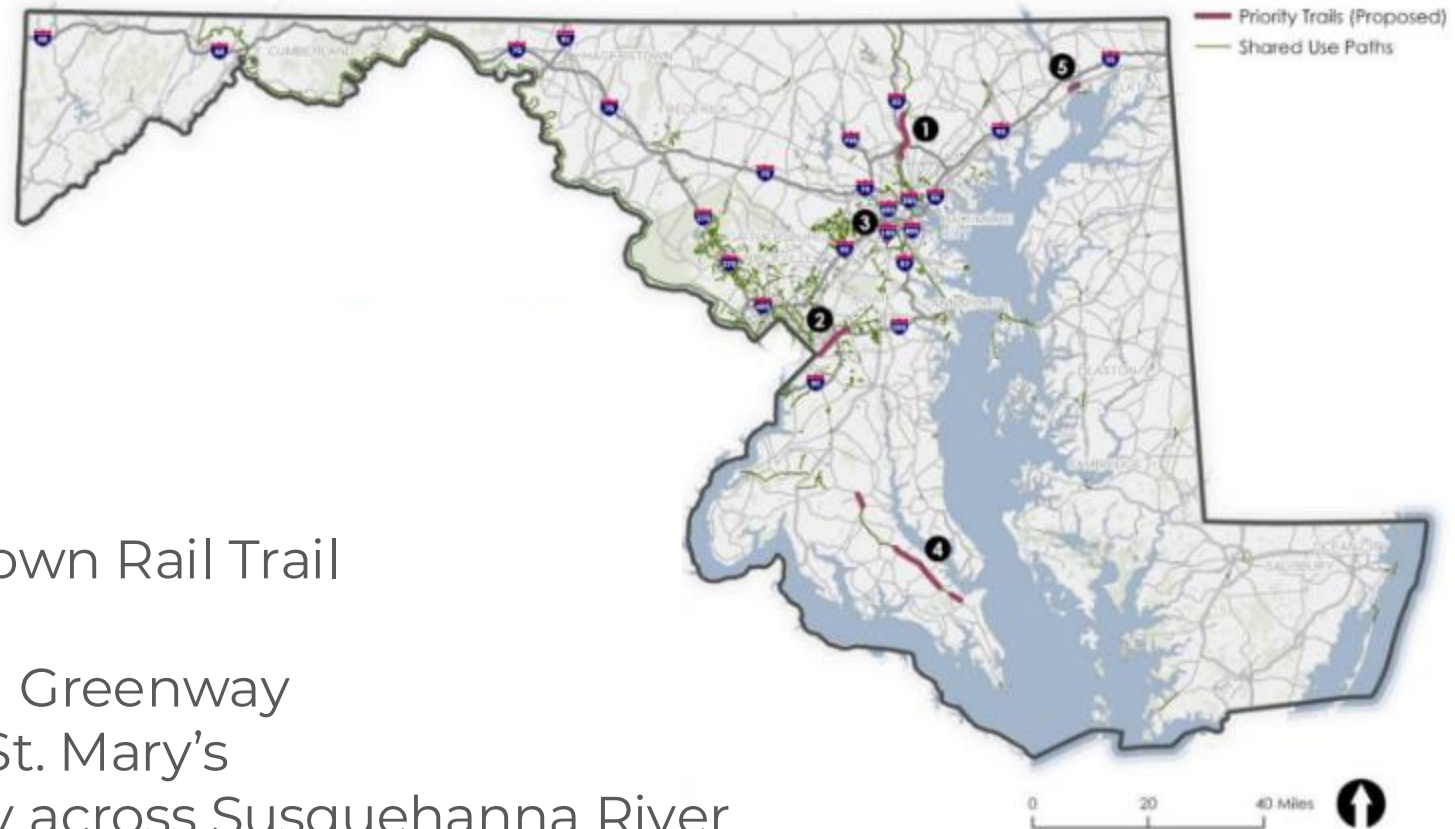
- Include longer distance routes and paths along with greater focus on specific infrastructure improvements
- Set forth procedures to prioritize new projects and coordinate trail network improvements across jurisdictions
- Identify existing trails that need improvements to meet current standards
- Adopt access and lighting standards for transportation trail projects
- Develop statewide Railbanking Policy and implementation guidance; provide rail-banking and rails-with-trails assistance
- Create opportunities for trail creation that promote the growth of trail-based economy and trail-oriented development

Plan Highlight: The 2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The BPMP also includes Priority Projects identified by the 2009 Statewide Trails Plan which remain incomplete—five projects, totaling less than 40 miles.

The 5 Remaining Priority Projects

1. Jones Falls Trail to Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail
2. WB&A Trail towards DC
3. BWI Trail to Patapsco Regional Greenway
4. Three Notch Trail in Charles & St. Mary's
5. Lower Susquehanna Greenway across Susquehanna River

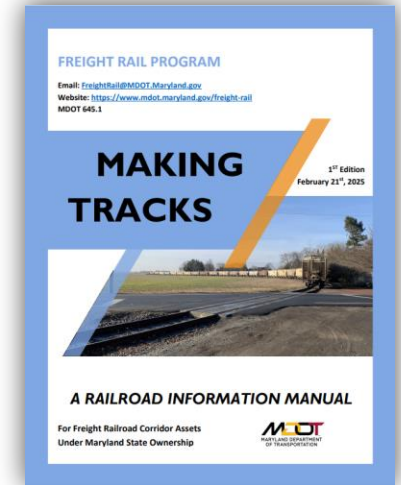


Policy Highlights

Railbanking

Railbanking is a federal process where a trail sponsor, typically a public agency, negotiates an agreement with a rail corridor owner to use an out-of-service corridor for interim trail use.

The process preserves the integrity or completeness of a rail corridor by preserving existing land ownership, rights and easements while it is used as a trail. This agreement allows the corridor to be reactivated for rail use in the future.



Complete Streets

MDOT's updated Complete Streets Policy requires all MDOT modal agencies to consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all new projects on MDOT right-of-way, with measurable objectives for bicycle level of traffic stress (LTS) and an evaluation of historical crash data with an emphasis on VRUs.

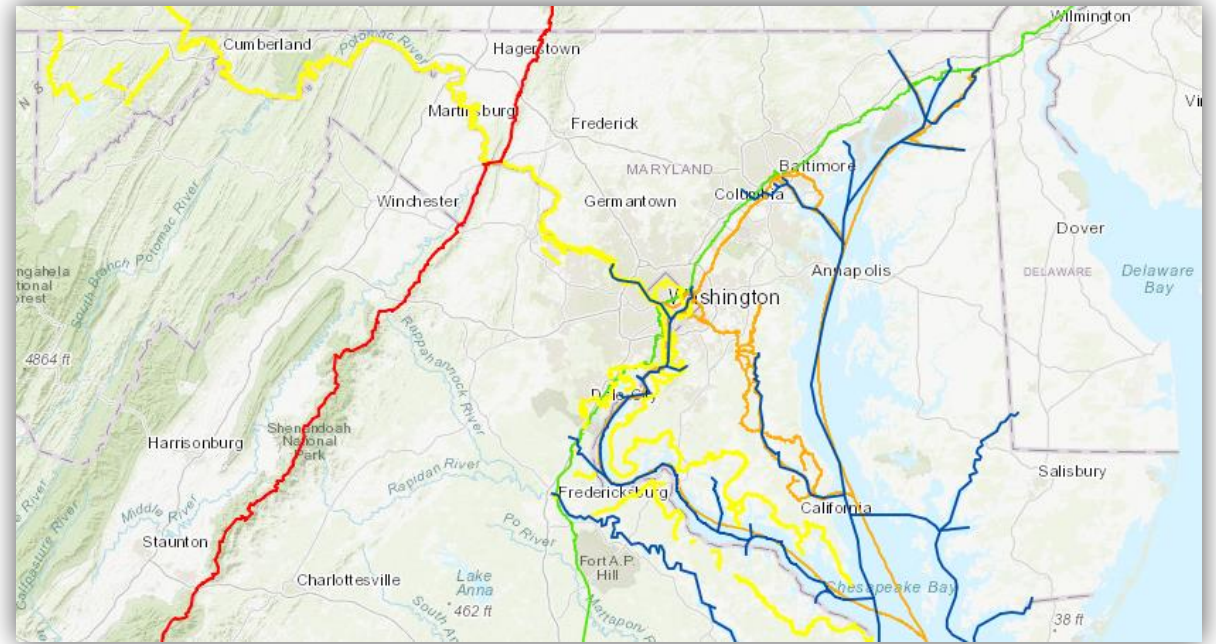
As part of the strengthening of the policy, all new projects must consider current and future bicycle/pedestrian use as part of implementation or utilize a waiver process.



Plan and Policy Review

Cross-State Plans/Networks

- American Discovery Trail
- East Coast Greenway
- Grand History Trail
- Great American Rail-Trail
- Great Eastern Trail
- Mason-Dixon Trail
- 9/11 National Memorial Trail
- U.S. Bicycle Route System
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
 - Includes C&O Canal & Great Allegheny Passage

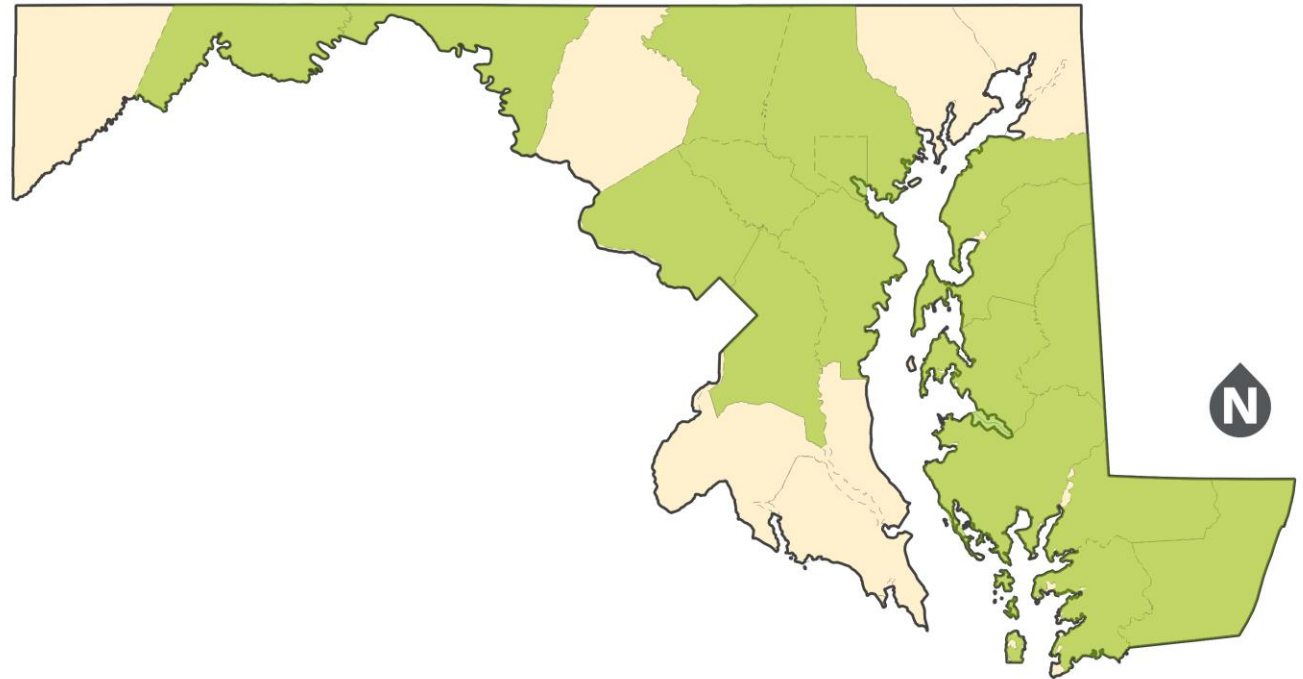


Map of National Scenic and National Historic Trails in Maryland (Source: National Park Service)

Plan and Policy Review

Regional Plans/Networks

- Anne Arundel Trail Network
- Baltimore Greenway Trails Network
- Bikeable Baltimore Region
- Capital Trails Coalition Network
- Chesapeake Bay Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study
- Maryland Eastern Shore Trail Network
- Maryland Park Service Rail Trails
 - Torrey C. Brown, Western MD, etc.
- Patapsco Regional Greenway
- Three Notch Trail and Indian Head Rail Trail

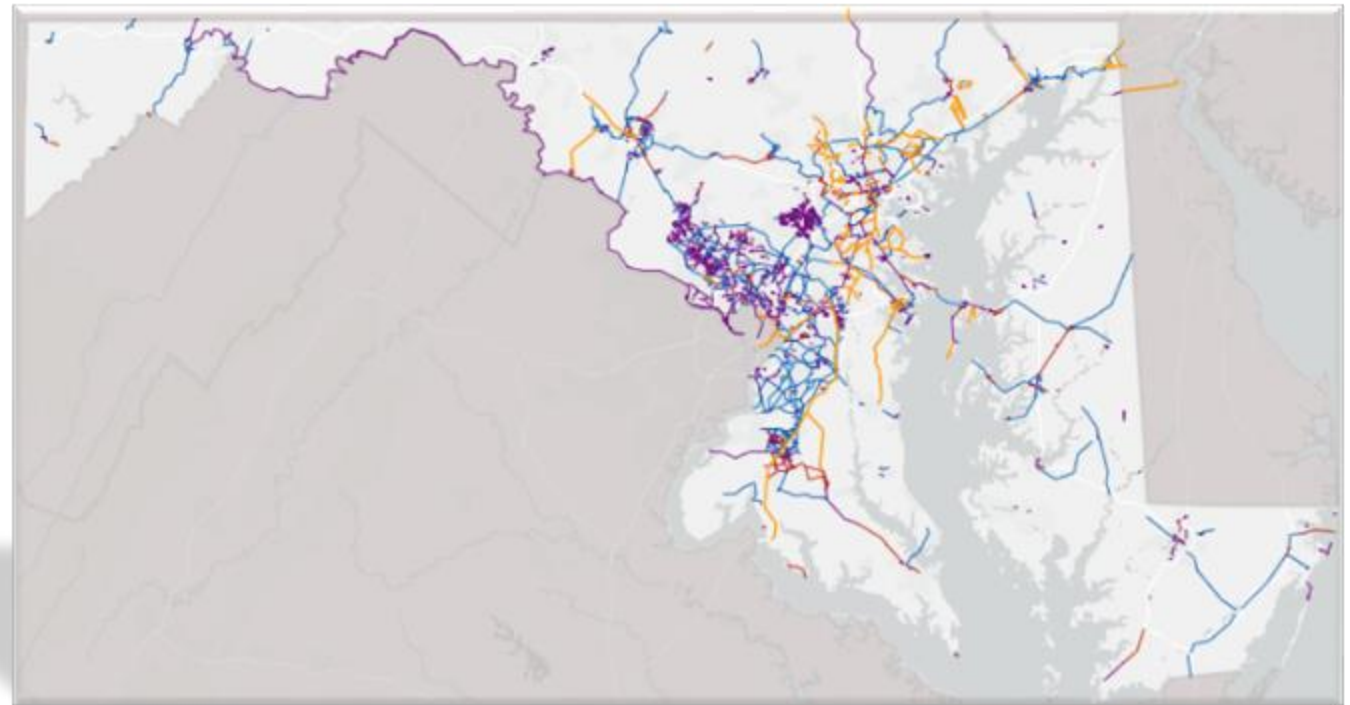


Map of counties that have provided trail network data or reports

Database of Transportation Trails

The planned map layers are:

- **Existing Transportation Trails:**
Built transportation trails
- **Planned Transportation Trails:**
In an adopted plan or priority letter (or has had a feasibility study)
- **Potential Transportation Trails:**
Submitted by an advocacy organization or has been suggested as an opportunity but *not* in an adopted plan, priority letter, or feasibility study
- **TAC Reviewer Added Trails**



Map of Existing, Planned, and Potential Transportation Trails in the Database.

Trail Project Lifecycle Analysis

- Overview of trail building barriers and opportunities in Maryland
- Reference successful case studies and useful resources
- Inform aspiring trail sponsors and local communities newer to trail building
- Lay the groundwork for toolkits for trail implementation



Building Support



Land Acquisition



Funding



Implementation

Feasibility
Study

Concept
Design

30% • 60%
100% Design

Construction

(likely to proceed in separate phases on complex trail projects)

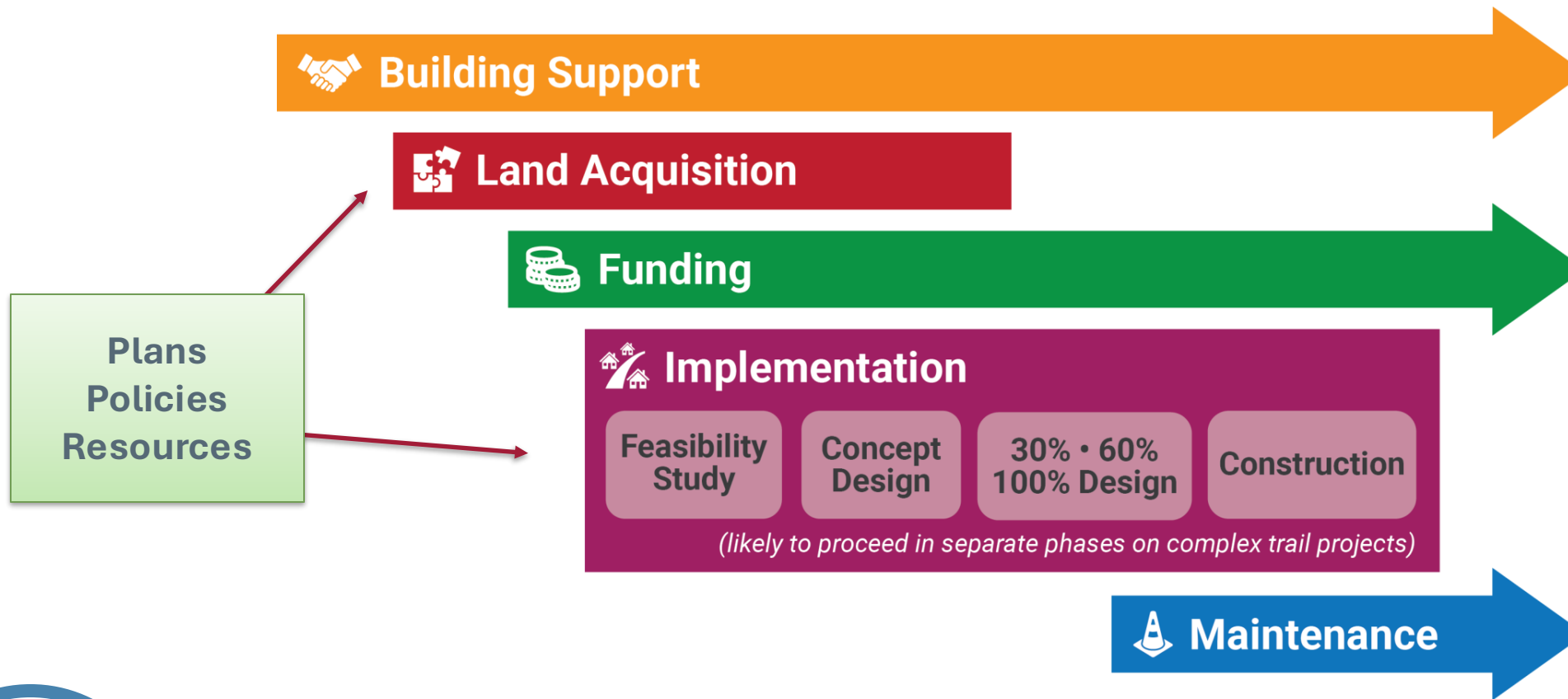


Maintenance

Guidance and Toolkits for Trail Implementation



Trail Project Lifecycle Analysis





Land Acquisition

Barriers

- Legal considerations
- Agreements and recreational use statute
- Limited remaining open corridors

Opportunities

- Updating resources for rail corridors and rail banking policy
- Technical assistance for planning and design for public utility corridors

Case Study



- DNR Railbanked Western Maryland Rail Trail



Implementation

Barriers

- Complexity of trail building lifecycle
- Lack of project readiness for grants
- Role of public engagement

Opportunities

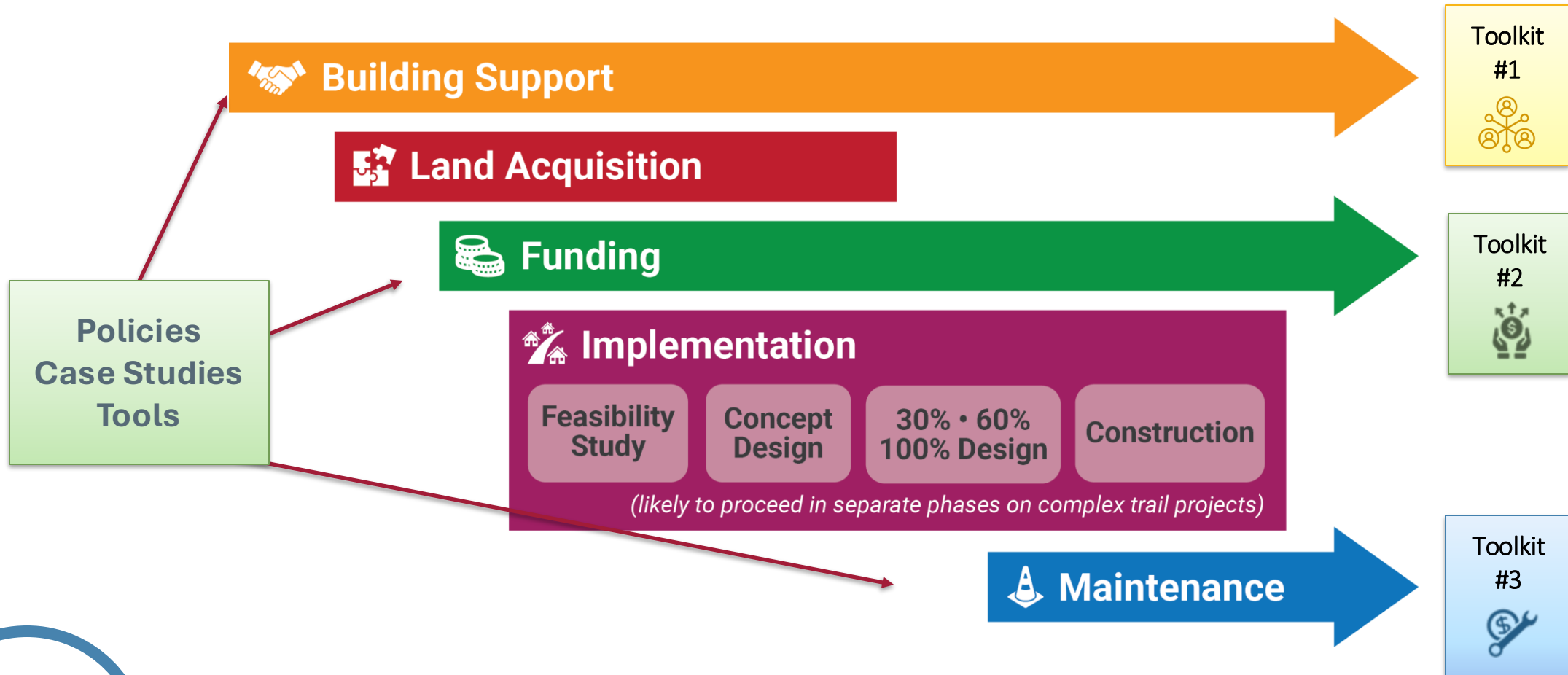
- Updating resources for Complete Streets
- Technical assistance for planning and design
- Public engagement plans
- Incorporating equity and belonging

Case Study



- NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program assistance in Maryland projects

Trail Project Lifecycle Analysis



Toolkits for Transportation Trails



“Making the Case: Building Support”

Identifying important planning steps, outline potential allies, and case studies and resources that convey the economic benefits of transportation trails



“Aligning Funding Opportunities”

Tips to leverage local, state, and federal funding and technical assistance opportunities to execute transportation trail projects



“Maintaining Transportation Trails”

Including strategies, costs, examples from Maryland, and best practices for maintenance of transportation trails

Maryland Transportation Trails Survey



Maryland Transportation Trails Survey

Goal: To get information and feedback from our trails plan partners and the general public to inform our toolkits for implementation

Survey Overview:

- Trail Usage
- Trail Implementation
- Mapping Exercise
- Demographics *(optional)*

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION TRAILS SURVEY

Open through Friday, May 9

- 15 minutes or less to complete!
- Mobile + Desktop-Compatible Survey Available (desktop preferred due to mapping exercise)

Questions?
Email mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov
or visit mdot.maryland.gov/trailsplan
for more information.

MDOT
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
Taking you places!

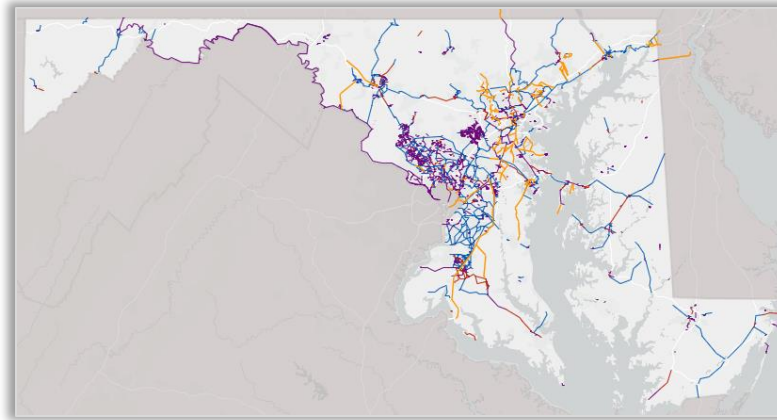
Click here to take the survey

Your Feedback is Important!

Existing Conditions Report



Transportation Trails Database



Ideas, Recommendations, Case Studies (MD examples), etc.

will inform

Final Plan

Maryland State
Transportation Trails
Strategic Plan



Maryland
Transportation
Trails Survey



will inform

Toolkit
#1



Toolkit
#2



Toolkit
#3



will inform

Implementation Toolkits

Online Survey

Transportation Trails Webpages



MDOT Transportation Trails Landing Page is live:

- Definition of transportation trails
- Explanation of Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan
- Photos from kickoff and TAC meetings
- Link to Interactive website
- Information on upcoming TAC meetings

www.mdot.maryland.gov/trailsplan

Transportation Trails Strategic Plan Interactive Webpage coming soon:

- Existing Conditions text
- Interactive Map of transportation trails database
- Tool kits for implementation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL INPUT

- **Take and share the Maryland Transportation Trails Survey**
 - Open until May 9th
- **Review the draft Transportation Trails Map**
 - Provide any feedback on the proposed trails, check for accuracy
- **Join on-going advocacy efforts**
 - Join existing local groups may advocate for sustainability, walkability, and bikeability
- **Attend advisory committee meetings**
 - Many counties and the state have advisory committees with citizen representatives, similar to MBPAC
- **Weigh in on local plans**
 - Local plans determine what gets funded by the MDOT CTP, determine local repaving and redesign efforts, and are used for grant applications
- **Attend the annual CTP tours**
 - Encourage your elected officials to include local projects on the annual Transportation Priority Letter (submitted in May) and attend the annual CTP tour meetings in the Fall
- **Support local grant applications**
 - Grant applications are more competitive with letters of support

Questions & Discussion



Please contact us!



WEBSITE: www.mdot.maryland.gov/trailsplan

EMAIL: mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov

Please take the Maryland Transportation Trails Survey and be on the look out for the next webinar on the final plan this summer!