



OFFICE OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND MICROMOBILITY

BI-Monthly Newsletter
December 2024

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Maryland Completes Fifth Annual WALKTOBER Series

This year, WALKTOBER partners amplified MDOT’s efforts to heighten awareness and educate Marylanders about the importance of walking and walkability, throughout October. There were five Walkinars on the following key topics: **National and State Perspectives**; **Complete Streets**; **Safe Routes to Schools**; **Pedestrian Access**; and **Equity & Reconnecting Communities**. The final walkinar consisted of a Secretaries Panel moderated by Assistant Secretary for MDOT, Jawauna Greene, and including Assistant Secretary for MDOT Joe McAndrew, Secretary of Planning Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Housing and Community Development, Jake Day, and Secretary of Health Laura Herrera Scott, M.D. Registrations this year saw exponential growth compared to previous years. See page 4 for featured speakers.

Upcoming Events

- Complete Streets training for advocates.....Dec 3
- Complete Streets Lunch & Learn for elected officials.....Dec 6
- MDOT Grants Workshop.....Feb 2025
- OATM Open House.....Jan 2025
- MDOT Grants Season.....Spring 2025



Walk Maryland Day 2024

Public Service Perspectives

by Meg Young, OATM Deputy Director

OATM’s Deputy Director authored a personal piece for the Transportation Alternatives’ Vision Zero Journal, an international journal of traffic safety

innovation! Deputy Director Meg Young was asked to author the piece when she joined MDOT, having recently worked for USDOT and for Baltimore City and the City of New Orleans prior. The piece reflects Meg's personal perspective and not those of MDOT; she was inspired by conversations with her brother who works in venture capitalism, when discussing what motivates her to stay working in public service. In the article Meg describes the importance and role of government in protecting the public good and governing shared spaces in the face of rapidly advancing technology.

Read her article, "E-Wheeling and Dealing: A New Age of Public Service" [here](#).

MDOT Announces New Trails Plan!

MDOT announced a planning effort to update the Statewide Transportation Trails Strategic Plan in September. Since then, MDOT formed a technical advisory committee with representatives from across the state and representing local projects and national advocacy groups. This group will meet every other month over the course of the yearlong project. These meetings are open to the public, for information on dates and locations, email mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov. At the meeting, the group discussed data sources for existing and planned trails, as well as brainstorming what toolkits would be most beneficial for locals who want to advance trail projects. Following the meeting, the Havre de Grace planning department led a tour of the Havre de Grace living shoreline along the Susquehanna River and signature sidewalks around town.



Havre de Grace living shoreline trail.

Micromobility Makes an Entrance

MDOT is developing resources for local jurisdictions to guide the expansion of micromobility in Maryland. Current activities include researching legislative and funding proposals which support micromobility, including e-bike rebate programs, and concepts; integrating micromobility into MDOT projects like first and last-mile accommodations with MTA, WMATA, and MDOT TOD; and establishing an MDOT's framework for Model Micromobility Permit and Program Structure (2050 MD BPMP, Appendix G). Additional information about these and other related resources will be available on MDOT's website later this year.

Highlights from the MBPAC Quarterly Meeting

The Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meets quarterly to advise State government agencies on issues directly related to bicycling and pedestrian activity including funding, public awareness, safety and education. At the October meeting, the committee heard presentations from MDOT MdTA about integrating bicycle and pedestrian facilities into toll facilities, as well as from MDOT SHA about trail connections to the new Purple Line. Other agencies reported out their walking and biking related work, including the Health Department's Walkability Primer Academy. To view presentations and meeting minutes, please visit the link at the button below.

[View presentations and meeting minutes.](#)



BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MDOT Conducts Complete Streets Leadership Academy Community Outreach

This summer Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) partnered with Smart Growth America (SGA) and local jurisdictions to complete a series of quick build demonstration projects on state-owned roadways amid efforts to improve traffic safety and connect more users to opportunities across the state.



Scott Newill, SHA District 7, engages community at Cranksgiving event.

In November, MDOT participated in the Howard County and Downtown Columbia Partnership's 4th annual *Cranksgiving* event. Cranksgiving is an annual event that is designed to provide active recreation for local residents, raise awareness about the county's bikeable pathway system, and generate food items for individuals and families in need.



US 1 shared use path

The Office of Active Transportation & Micromobility displayed Howard County's quick build safety improvements and requested feedback from locals. See photos from the event here!

Positive Preliminary Findings from MDOT Complete Streets Leadership Academy Safety Demonstrations

Throughout the demonstration projects, MDOT and partners collected data such as motor vehicle speeds and pedestrian comfort to measure efficacy. A report on safety results will be released in 2025.

Howard County installed continental crosswalks, and a shared use path on US 1 from Davis Avenue to North Laurel Road.

The Town of Bel Air installed speed cushions, continental crosswalks, closed a turning lane, hardened a right turn and more at the busy intersection of Main, Bond and Gordon Street. 64% of the residents surveyed said they feel safer as a pedestrian since the installation has been in place.

The City of Hagerstown faced challenges of speeding, inadequate pedestrian protection and tight turning radii for motorists. They placed improvements along US 40 which included, speed limit reductions, and hardened centerlines which resulted in 85th percentile speeds reducing from 42 mph to 35 mph.

While these demonstrations are slated to be removed by this December, some of the safety measures will remain with hopes of the others being reinstalled using permanent materials.



2024 Featured Speakers



Jawauna Greene,
Assistant Secretary for
Public Affairs & Strategy
MDOT



Sarah Lock
Senior Vice President for
Policy, AARP



Heidi Simon
Director of Thriving
Communities, Smart
Growth America



Cynthia Spriggs
Program Manager, Maryland
Highway Safety Office



Betsy Schultz
Physical Education
Teacher, Howard County
Public Schools



Veronica Davis
Director of Transportation &
Drainage Operations, City of
Houston, TX



David Conway
AARP Maryland
State President



Kori Johnson
Program & Engagement Manager,
Safe Routes Partnership



Duwan Morris
Program Manager,
Montgomery County
Department of Transportation



Dara Baldwin
Director of National
Policy, Center for
Disability Rights, Inc.



Mike McGinn
Executive Director,
America Walks



Francine Waters
Transportation Specialist,
Maryland Department of
Transportation



Marshall Stevenson
GIS Specialist,
TransSystems



Joe McAndrew
Assistant Secretary for
Project Development and
Delivery



Rebecca L. Flora
Secretary of Planning



Jacob R. (Jake) Day
Secretary of Housing and
Community Development



Laura Herrera Scott, M.D.
Secretary of Health

Sidewalk Data Collaboration wins Interjurisdictional Coordination Award

Congratulations are in order for our Transportation Specialist, Francine Waters, who, in addition to helping us organize the monthlong celebration of WALKTOBER, has also been recognized by the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA MD) and the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA). The award recognizes Francine's



work on MDOT's Sidewalk Data Collaboration, a project that is overseeing the development of a statewide inventory of pedestrian infrastructure.

John Beall, Kyle Hearing, Danny Winborne, Linda Eisenberg, Francine Waters, Marshall Stevenson

By mapping sidewalks, jurisdictions will be able to retrieve data to assist in planning efforts, including the prioritization of pedestrian safety improvements and grant/funding applications.

Upcoming Events

December 2024	6 Complete Streets Lunch & Learn for elected officials	16 Community Change Grant Applications Open
January 2025	30 OATM Open House	31 OATM Open House

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