

Cecil County, Maryland Bicycle Master Plan - Scope of Work

DRAFT

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

WILMAPCO staff will lead the development of a Cecil County Bicycle Plan, in coordination with Cecil County, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), municipalities, cyclists and other stakeholders to establish recommendations for improved access and comfort of bicycling. The Plan will map proposed bicycle facilities, include an update of Cecil County recommendations outlined in the 2002 Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Master Plan, identify where further bicycle investments should be made, and present actions for implementation. It will promote safe and enjoyable bicycling opportunities for commute, recreation, and fitness, and will link to other modes of transportation throughout Cecil County. This Plan will also improve Maryland's Bicycle Friendly State ranking from the League of American Bicyclists by having county-level bicycle plans.

Plan Objectives

- Identify best practices for bicycle transportation and their possible use in Cecil County.
- Evaluate existing bicycle conditions and identifying gaps in the network.
- Identify potential bike routes that include links to other modes of transportation, including bus and rail service, pedestrian connections and park and ride lots.
- Propose policies, programs and projects for achieving the plan goals.
- Develop an implementation plan, including funding sources and partnerships.
- Identify action steps for the County to continue integrating bicycle planning into community and transportation planning processes, and to complete identified projects.

Project Boundaries

The plan will identify a bicycle network and recommendations for all unincorporated areas of Cecil County, MD and its municipalities. The plan will incorporate the recent bicycle recommendations for Elkton and Perryville.

Vision, Goals and Strategies

Aligned with statewide bicycling goals, Cecil County's vision, goals, and strategies will be refined using input from the Advisory Committee and the general public.

Goal 1: Planning/Engineering - Develop a coordinated bicycle network that is safe, accessible, convenient, and provides intermodal connections.

Strategies

- 1.1 Provide safely designed, well-marked, and maintained on- and off-street bicycle routes.
- 1.2 Provide connectivity to county, regional, and national bicycle routes.
- 1.3 Integrate bicycling with public transit facilities and services.
- 1.4 Provide adequate and secure bicycle parking at all major trip destinations.
- 1.5 Incorporate bicycle elements into planning activities and development.
- 1.6 Develop an implementation plan.

Goal 2: Education - Teach children and adults safe bicycling techniques and motor vehicle operations.

Strategies

- 2.1 Provide activities and educational programs with emphasis on bicycle safety and laws.

Goal 3: Encouragement - Increase bicycle usage by establishing a positive image of bicycling in the community that will foster bicycle-oriented lifestyles and businesses.

Strategies

- 3.1 Promote bicycling as a legitimate means of transportation, recreation, fitness, and tourism.
- 3.2 Involve the community in the planning and implementation of the bicycle plan.

Goal 4: Enforcement - Provide enforcement of traffic laws related to bicycling.

Strategies

- 4.1 Effectively enforce laws that impact bicycle safety to reduce crashes and violations against a bicyclist.

Goal 5: Evaluation - Periodically examine and quantify the plan's implementation progress and make adjustments where necessary.

Strategies

- 5.1 Establish systems to support and evaluate the implementation of the plan goals.

SCOPE OF WORK

Schedule and Tasks

It is estimated that this plan will take 18 months to complete and adopt. Below summarizes the tasks to accomplish over the estimated timeframe.

1. Plan Scoping and Mobilization

- Develop a general plan scope and timeline.
- Create a bike plan Advisory Committee.
- Develop a page on WILMAPCO's and Cecil County government websites presenting the plan project.
- Hold a kick-off meeting.

2. Data Collection and Review

- Review federal, state, regional and local policies and programs that influence bicycling in the County.

- Review best practices, transportation plans, and other planning documents at the state, regional and local level for strategies and activities regarding bicycling.
- Review additional literature and studies, as needed.
- Develop vision, goals and strategies.
- Map existing and funded bicycle network and facilities.

3. Identify Issues, Opportunities and Constraints

- Identify progress on bicycle improvements since the completion of the 2002 Maryland Bicycle & Pedestrian Access Master Plan.
- Identify and map major trip origins and destinations including schools, businesses, shopping centers, transit stops, and parks.
- Collect, map, and analyze bicycle crash data.
- Conduct site visits and create a photo inventory.
- Meet with Advisory Committee to review materials for public workshop.
- Hold public workshop and on-line hearing.

4. Bicycle Master Planning

- Identify additional and improved links needed to create a complete and safe bicycle network.
- Identify other system improvements including parking, signing, and lighting.
- Identify projects that improve safety at hazardous locations along the bicycle network.
- Identify strategies, practices and programs for bicycling appropriate for the County.
- Meet with Advisory Committee to review materials for public workshop.
- Hold public workshop and on-line comment period.
- Develop an initial draft of the plan.

5. Prioritization and Implementation

- Develop general criteria for project prioritization.
- Prioritize needed bicycle facilities based on the general criteria.
- Develop a phased action plan and timeline for the County.
- Identify existing and potential funding sources and partnerships.
- Refine a final draft of the plan.

6. Plan Endorsement

- Meet with Advisory Committee to review materials for final public workshop.
- Present implementation plan at public workshop and on-line hearing.
- Seek plan adoption by Cecil County Planning Commission and WILMAPCO.

Tasks	2011									2012									
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Plan Scoping & Mobilization																			
Data Collection & Review																			
Issues, Opportunities & Constraints																			
Bicycle Master Planning																			
Prioritization & Implementation																			
Plan Endorsement																			

Advisory Committee

The development of this Plan will be guided under the direction of an Advisory Committee that will represent a variety of stakeholders and agencies needed to implement the Plan, such as county and state officials, municipalities, community groups, businesses, and citizens. The Cecil County Bicycle Plan Advisory Committee (CBPAC) will meet 4-6 times, provide advice on the development of the Bicycle Plan, and will be a conduit for public outreach.

The role of members includes the following:

- Assist in setting goals, strategies, and actions
- Assist in the bicycle network identification
- Identify important destinations
- Locate sites for bike parking
- Review maps and document drafts
- Assist with public outreach and supply leadership

Community Involvement

The Cecil County Bicycle Plan will involve members of the public throughout the entire process, including planning and implementation of the bicycle system. Strategies include providing information through the WILMAPCO website and newsletters, seeking input through interactive mapping, surveys, workshops and the Advisory Committee. Over the course of the planning process, public feedback will be sought out through at least two or three public open-house workshops.