

# Bicycle Master Plan

Updated November 29, 2018



## Planning Board Overview

*The Bicycle Master Plan contains the text and supporting maps and tables for a comprehensive amendment to the 1978 Master Plan of Bikeways, 2005 Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan and all bikeway recommendations in past functional plans, area master plans and sector plans, bringing Montgomery County in line with leading practices in bicycle planning. The plan is a key element in Montgomery County's Vision Zero Two-Year Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries.*

*This plan makes recommendations for a low-stress network of bikeways throughout Montgomery County. The goal of this system is to ensure cyclists of all ages and abilities are comfortable and safe riding to transit stations, employment centers, shops, public facilities and other destinations in Montgomery County. It proposes a new bikeway classification system that organizes bikeways based on their level of separation from traffic. Long-term bicycle parking stations are recommended at all Metrorail Red Line and many MARC Brunswick Line, future Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway stations to encourage bicycling to transit.*

## Status: From the Planning Board October 19, 2018

*Bicycle Master Plan Passes Major Milestone; Council Work Sessions Completed with an Affirmative Straw Vote.*

*The Montgomery County Council expressed significant support for the Bicycle Master Plan ... by voting 8-0 in favor of the proposed plan in a straw vote taken at the conclusion of their worksessions on the document. The plan, if adopted, would be a comprehensive update to the Bicycle Master Plan.*

*The Montgomery County Planning Department has been working on the project since late 2015. After an extensive public review process, the Planning Board approved a draft of the new plan and transmitted it to the County Council in May of 2018. The Council's transportation committee reviewed the plan in September and October, making numerous recommendations, before sending the document to the full Council.*

**Status: From the County Council Press Release, November 28, 2018**

*ROCKVILLE, Md., Nov. 28, 2018—The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved the Bicycle Master Plan on Tuesday, November 27. The plan, which recommends a network of more than 1,000 miles of trails, paths and protected bike lanes, has the goals of making the County a world-class bicycling community; promoting access to a comfortable, safe and connected bicycle network; and making bicycling a viable transportation option that improves the County’s quality of life.*

*The plan also aims to facilitate the creation of supportive infrastructure for bicycling transit, including expanded bicycle parking at transit and commercial centers. It includes state-of-the-art analytical tools for designing safe, convenient bikeways throughout the County, and promotes the long-term implementation of bicycle-friendly policies and planning.*

*“When fully built out, the network envisioned by the plan will make biking a real option for cyclists of all ages and experiences in their trips for work, shopping, and recreation,” said Council President Hans Riemer. “Advance work on this network is already happening with protected bicycle lane networks in Silver Spring and White Flint and soon coming to Bethesda. In addition to completing these networks, we need to lower speeds on neighborhood greenway streets, address unsafe trail crossings across the County, and bring the State Highway Administration to the table to make improvements on State highways. The plan shows us the way to a world-class bicycling community. Now we need to roll up our sleeves and get it built.”*

**Coverage by Bethesda Beat, November 27, 2018**

*The project will take about 50 years to fully implement, according to planning department staff, and many of the bikeways will be installed as a component of other road and private development projects.*

*Approximately 44 percent, or 488 miles, of the recommended bikeway network would be constructed beyond the 25-year lifespan of the approved bicycle master plan. More than 25 percent, or 261 miles, of the network currently exists, according to the 378-page plan. The remainder of the project is broken into four tiers encompassing 356 miles of bikeways and is scheduled to be completed within 25 years.*

*The plan includes the installation of secure, locked facilities to store bikes near Metro stations, and guidelines for short- and long-term parking at commercial and multifamily residential developments.*

*The bicycle master plan focuses on four goals: increasing bicycling rates in the county; creating a highly connected, convenient and low-stress bicycling network; providing equal access to low-stress bicycling for the entire community; and improving the safety of bicycling.*

*The bicycle master plan outlines different types of bikeways to be implemented in different areas, dependent upon the intensity of traffic in the area. On busy roads, bicyclists will have a dedicated space separate from traffic, while cyclists on residential streets will share the road with drivers. A “breezeway network” will be implemented between activity centers, allowing*

*faster-moving bicyclists to travel without delays, while slower-moving users can travel at a comfortable pace.*

*On Tuesday, the council added language to the plan to clarify the county is not guaranteeing all bikeways in the plan will be built as specified and removed language that specified implementation years for each phase of the project. An updated version of the plan will be posted to the county planning department's website by spring.*

### **Related documents**

The bicycle network map and the Master Plan can be seen at:

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/functional-planning/bicycle-master-plan/2018-bicycle-master-plan-planning-board-draft/>

[County Council staff report](#)

### **Next Steps**

Planning Department will post a final version of the plan in the spring.