



bicycle + pedestrian **BEACON**

April 2015



Happy Spring!

The BikePed Beacon April 2015 issue features news and events as they relate to biking and walking around the Baltimore region. This information is meant to educate and inspire you to bike or walk regularly, and become more involved in the process of improving conditions for biking and walking.

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**BIKE TO WORK DAY TO CELEBRATE ALTERNATIVE COMMUTING
OPTIONS, SAFETY ON FRIDAY, MAY 15**

Bike to Work Day is celebrated across the nation each May to encourage bicycling to work and promote public awareness of bicycling and bicycle safety.

Bike to Work Day Regional Partners Plan Events and Convoys

Rallies and pit stops are being planned at locations around the region. If you would like to organize a Bike to Work Day event at your workplace or in your community or if you would like to lead a convoy of riders, please contact Russ Ulrich, Bike to Work Day coordinator, by email at arulrich@baltometro.org or phone at 410-732-9575.

Take the Bike Month Challenge

May is National Bike Month. If you've been biking to work, ask a coworker to join you. If you have not tried it before, rest assured that you don't have to be an Olympic athlete to bike to work - even if you live far from the workplace. Three to five-mile trips made in a city can often be faster by bicycle. Many areas have bike lanes or you can take a scenic ride on a local trail. Those who live farther away can easily combine a commuter, light rail or subway trip with a bike trip.

Visit www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com for a list of current Bike to Work Day locations, links to register and lots of information about how to get started biking to work.

[Learn more about Bike to Work Day...](#)

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY AND WALK TO SCHOOL DAY CAMPAIGNS AIM TO INSPIRE CHILDREN INTO ACTION

Bike to School Day and Walk to School Day are scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6**. More than 2,200 schools participated in the campaigns in 2014.

The campaigns provide an opportunity for schools across the country to join together to celebrate biking and walking among students. They are a great way to motivate both kids and adults in your community to add physical activity into their daily lives through bicycling and walking to school. To register for both events and find useful planning tools like safety tips, how to get the community involved, how to build excitement around your event, promotional ideas and more, visit the [Walk and Bike to School Day website](#).



BALTIMORE CITY ADOPTS 2015 BIKE MASTER PLAN

Baltimore City's Planning Commission adopted its 2015 Bike Master Plan on **March 26**. This plan expands upon the efforts of the past decade, since the adoption of the city's first Bike Master Plan in 2006.

The 2015 Master Plan seeks to add more than **100 miles of biking facilities** during the next 15 years. It also commits to implementing **15 cycle projects** within the next two years.

With the adoption of the Plan, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake signed an executive order establishing the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission (MBAC). The MBAC is an 11-person commission charged with overseeing the implementation of the 2015 Bike Master Plan.

[Download the 2015 Baltimore City Bicycle Master Plan...](#)

The logo for Bike Howard, featuring the words "BIKE HOWARD" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.The logo for Walk Howard, featuring the words "WALK HOWARD" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the main text is the tagline "moving forward" in a smaller, lowercase, orange font, flanked by two horizontal lines.

HOWARD COUNTY LAUNCHES BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLANS

Substantial progress is being made with updates of Howard County's bicycle and pedestrian master plans.

Howard County drafted the Bicycle Master Plan, also known as [BikeHoward](#), in **2014**. The plan outlines a connected biking network to make it easy to get around by bike for people of all ages and abilities. Infrastructure improvements including on-street bike lanes, shared-use pathways and intersection improvements are grouped together into 49 structured projects. BikeHoward also provides suggestions for policy updates that would facilitate complete streets and safer conditions for all road users, and encouragement/education programs to build bike culture and help make biking a more normal and common part of daily life in Howard County.

The Pedestrian Master Plan, also, known as [WalkHoward](#), is an update of a **2007 plan**. The plan includes an extensive inventory of pedestrian accommodations in Howard County, with field survey details for 257 miles of sidewalk, 777 intersections and 491 bus stops. WalkHoward also includes a large amount of "crowdsourced" data, provided by the community and found on the [interactive online map](#). The public input phase of WalkHoward closes at the end of **April**. The plan will be drafted in the Fall/Winter of 2015.

Howard County also is looking into **bikesharing**. A [feasibility study](#) was conducted in 2014 in conjunction with the Columbia Association. The report is significant in that it provides some useful data, information and analysis regarding bikeshare programs in suburban areas.

These efforts are being guided through the planning and implementation process by Howard County's first full-time Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Chris Eatough. Chris was hired by Howard County in 2014 to help make biking and walking easier and safer.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, TRAIL PROJECTS

As part of the state's vision of building a multi-modal transportation system, reimbursable grant funding is available to support local bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects through several funding programs.



Full details about funds available, project eligibility, program guidelines and more for each funding program are available online. Application deadlines begin as early as **Friday, May 15**.

[View the available funding opportunities and application deadlines...](#)



News & Resources

[Celebrating a chilly 'opening day' for newest section of Jones Falls Trail](#)

Baltimore Sun

[Rural Communities: Making Safe Routes Work](#)

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

[Pedestrian Forum Newsletter](#)

Federal Highway Administration

[A Resident's Guide for Creating Safer Communities for Walking and Biking](#)

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

[StreetSmart Campaign](#)



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