

2021 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION OPEN HOUSE

COMPLETE STREETS - COMPLETED ELEMENTS

Significant progress on the implementation of Complete Streets in Howard County has already been made, including the following:

1. The **Community Engagement Plan** for Transportation Projects (CEP) was completed in October 2020. It provides best practices and procedures for County employees and others involved in development of transportation projects to engage the general public in the transportation project development process. The CEP describes the significance of community engagement, the benefits of an inclusive process, and the importance of equity in decision making. It will greatly improve the County's outreach and public engagement with specific tools and checklists for both capital and developer projects and clear guidance for project managers to ensure that public input is carefully considered throughout project development.

Input on the CEP was gathered from the best practices in the field, the CSIT, and County residents as part of publicly advertised workshops and online surveys.

The Plan also includes a Citizens' Guide to Community Engagement, to guide the public in their efforts to become more involved in the transportation planning process in Howard County.

2. The Transportation Improvement Prioritization System (TIPS) is a process that provides an objective measure of the anticipated benefits of transportation projects as they are being considered for the capital budget. Under TIPS, candidate transportation improvements will be scored in four areas: multimodal safety and access, equity, crash history, and system preservation/maintenance. The scoring will not provide the final decision; rather, it will inform the decision making process.

3. A new sidewalk policy has been developed that allows, as new opportunities to construct sidewalks are identified - either through development projects or other capital improvements - the County simply to build the sidewalk and notify the neighboring property owners of the infrastructure improvement and their maintenance responsibilities. This provision allows *WalkHoward* to progress in its efforts to improve connectivity, safety and comfort for pedestrians and our community as well as simplify communication procedures.

4. The County has created a Complete Streets website, which includes information on our vision, policy implementation, terminology, information on projects, and supporting documents. We encourage you to visit the site to learn more.

For more on Complete Streets and other topics, see the additional boards on the Open House homepage.

