MONTGOMERY COUNTY’S
PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Commission on Aging
September 26, 2019
“...enhance the pedestrian experience in Montgomery County. Walking should be the preferred means of travel for all trips within a short distance, and accessibility for persons with disabilities must be paramount.

Walking and rolling on a mobility scooter or wheelchair should be comfortable, convenient, safe and direct.”
Why a Pedestrian Plan?

First countywide plan to improve all aspects of the pedestrian environment
What will the Plan include?

- Identify Best Practices
- Existing Conditions/Perceptions
- Infrastructure Prioritization
- Pedestrian-Forward Design
- Policy Recommendations
- Programming Recommendations
- Engagement
Identify Best Practices

- What are other counties, cities, states doing as part of similar plans?
- Planning Process
- Plan Layout
- Recommendations
- Engagement Strategies
- What can we learn from?
- **Status:** In Process
Existing Conditions/Perceptions

• What is the pedestrian environment like today in Montgomery County?
  • Pedestrian Level of Comfort
  • Crash Analysis
• What do residents think about walking?
  • Countywide Scientific Survey
• **Status**: In Process
Infrastructure Prioritization

- What pedestrian pathways and crossings are the most important to construct or improve?
- What factors should guide prioritization?
- **Status**: Future
Pedestrian-Forward Design

- Develop design and traffic operations approaches that support pedestrians related to:
  - Traffic-calming
  - Accessibility
  - Signal timing
  - Materials selection
  - Others
- **Status**: Future
Policy Recommendations

- Work closely with County agencies to identify existing regulations/policies that affect pedestrians
- Recommend and adopt new/improved policies
- **Status:** Future
Programming Recommendations

- Catalog existing pedestrian programming
- Recommend new programming, potentially including:
  - Traffic safety
  - Wayfinding
  - ADA compliance
- **Status**: Future
Engagement

- Kickoff Meetings
- Website / e-Newsletter
- Social Media
- Pedestrian Advisory Group
- Additional Engagement
# Kickoff Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olney Library</td>
<td>October 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East County Recreation Center</td>
<td>October 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethesda Chevy-Chase RSC</td>
<td>October 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Department Headquarters</td>
<td>October 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upcounty Regional Services Center</td>
<td>November TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheaton</td>
<td>November TBD</td>
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Montgomery Planning Launches First Countywide Pedestrian Master Plan

With Planning Board approval of scope of work for new plan to improve pedestrian conditions, community engagement will begin this fall.

The Montgomery County Planning Department, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPDC), is set to begin development of the county’s first Pedestrian Master Plan, an effort to make walking in Montgomery County safer and more comfortable, convenient and direct.

The Scope of Work for the plan, defining the purpose, process and timeline required of this initiative, goes before the Planning Board for approval on Thursday, September 5, 2019. Community engagement will occur in fall 2019 and a draft of the completed plan is expected to be presented to the Planning Board in late 2020.

Background on Pedestrian Master Plan

The new Pedestrian Master Plan, to be developed by Montgomery Planning’s Functional Planning and Policy Division, will address all reasons for walking – commuting to and from work or school, running errands, recreation, entertainment, exercise and everything in between. Recommendations will support making walking universally accessible to county residents of all ages and abilities and will consider walking on foot (including with a cane, a walker or a stroller), by wheelchair or by mobility scooter.
Social Media

Montgomery Planning (@montgomeryplans - 29m)
We want to hear your experiences as a pedestrian in Montgomery County. Tweet using #WalkingHere and tag us to share a video/pictures of your journey and/or tell us your story in text. Project manager Eli Glazier shares his walk to work in downtown Silver Spring in this video.

#WalkingHere social media campaign
Department account used to share upcoming events and Plan news
Pedestrian Advisory Group

Provide feedback on pedestrian concerns and plan recommendations

Application for participation to be publicized in October
Additional Engagement

- Develop and promote “Community Walk Audit-in-a-box”
- Meetings with interested community groups
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0: Outreach and Engagement</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1: Planning Board Approved Scope of Work</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2: Identify Pedestrian Master Plan Best Practices</td>
<td>October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>3: Existing Conditions and Perceptions</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>4: Pedestrian Infrastructure Prioritization</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>5: Progressive Pedestrian Design Toolkit</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>6: Pedestrian-Supportive Policies</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>7: Pedestrian-Supportive Programming</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>8: Planning Board Draft Plan</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>9: Council Review and Approval</td>
<td>After June 2021</td>
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What issues should the Plan study?

What are your concerns about traveling around Montgomery County?

If the Pedestrian Master Plan could only achieve one thing, what should it be?

Other questions and thoughts…