Pedestrian Facilities/Bikeways

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) Pedestrian Facilities Program provides safe and convenient new pedestrian walkways for County citizens. Sidewalks reduce the risks associated with walking on the roadway, provide an alternative means of transportation for short trips, and provide access to public transit. Two projects, ADA Compliance: Transportation and the Annual Sidewalk Program, are a part of the Renew Montgomery effort. Renew Montgomery is a comprehensive program that coordinates DPWT services to improve the infrastructure of older neighborhoods to assure effective, safe, and attractive vehicular and pedestrian access.

The two above projects, ADA Compliance: Transportation, and Annual Sidewalk Program are focused on improving pedestrian walkability by creating a safer walking environment utilizing selected engineering technologies, and ensuring ADA compliance.

The DPWT Bikeways Program provides for the construction of bike paths and implementation of other bikeways to provide residents, employees, commuters, and visitors the opportunity to ride bicycles safely to their destinations as an alternative to driving automobiles. The program contributes to energy conservation and improved air quality, as well as to the health and safety of the users. Bikeways provide an additional option in the County's balanced transportation system and reduce congestion. DPWT also works in conjunction with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to provide connections to recreational hiker-biker trails in parks which integrates into an overall Countywide system of recreational trails.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Construct a sidewalk along Dale Drive that provides safer pedestrian access to Sligo Creek Elementary School, Silver Spring International Middle School, public transportation, and Sligo Creek Park.
- Design and acquire land for a shared-use path along the east side of Falls Road from River Road to Dunster Road.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Holger Serrano of the Department of Public Works and Transportation at 240.777.7235 or Alison Dollar of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2781 for more information regarding this department's capital budget.

CAPITAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The recommended DPWT Pedestrian Facilities and Bikeways Program for FY09-14 totals $54.3 million and includes 10 ongoing projects and 2 new projects. The recommended six-year expenditure total represents an increase of $2.3 million or 4 percent, over the Amended FY07-12 six-year program of $52 million.

Pedestrian Safety

DPWT and the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee continue to evaluate existing infrastructure, build necessary enhancements, and add to the County's existing infrastructure to increase the safety and comfort level of pedestrians and ensure ADA compliance. Pedestrian safety initiatives will continue to be supported through efforts in the Public Services Program and will continue drawing support from the following ongoing projects: Annual Sidewalk Program, Bus Stop Improvements, Intersection and Spot Improvements, Neighborhood Traffic Calming, Transportation Improvements for Schools, ADA Compliance: Transportation, Resurfacing:Primary/Arterial, Sidewalk and Infrastructure Revitalization, Streetlighting, Traffic Signals, and Advanced Transportation Management System.