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# Pedestrian Facilities/Bikeways

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Department of Transportation (DOT) 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 DOT 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 DOT 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. DOT 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

- Design and acquire land for a new segment of the Metropolitan Branch Trail between an existing trail in Takoma Park to the Silver Spring Transit Center in Downtown Silver Spring.
- Provide funds for the construction and land acquisition for the BRAC bicycle and pedestrian project in Bethesda.

## 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 DOT Pedestrian Facilities and Bikeways Program for FY11-16 totals \$74.5 million and includes 11 ongoing projects and 1 new project. The recommended six-year expenditure total represents an increase of \$16.7 million or 29 percent, over the Amended FY09-14 six-year program of \$57.8 million.

## Pedestrian Safety

DOT continues 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. DOT conducts regular meetings with the Montgomery County Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PTSAC) to obtain input and recommendations on pedestrian safety issues. 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, Pedestrian Safety Program, Transportation Improvements for Schools, ADA Compliance: Transportation, Resurfacing: Residential/Rural, Sidewalk and Infrastructure Revitalization, Streetlighting, Traffic Signals, and Advanced Transportation Management System.