

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 1

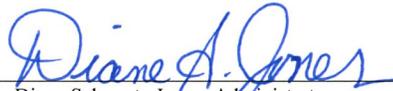
Resolution No. 14 -2020

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION adopting WalkHoward, the Howard County Pedestrian Master Plan and authorizing the Office of Transportation to publish WalkHoward.

Introduced and read first time January 6, 2020.

By order


Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on January 21, 2020.

By order


Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted X, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __, by the County Council on February 3, 2020.

Certified By


Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2007, the County developed its first Pedestrian Master Plan (the “2007
2 Plan”), aimed at addressing the gaps and inconsistencies in the County’s pedestrian network; and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the 2007 Plan attempted to prioritize pedestrian improvements near transit
5 facilities, commercial areas, and sites serving senior citizens, but it generally recommended long
6 segments of sidewalks along collector and arterial roads and many of these segments have
7 proven difficult to implement, with right-of-way, topographical, and funding challenges; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, adopted in 2012, the Howard County’s General Plan, PlanHoward,
10 addresses the need for a connected, comfortable and safe pedestrian network that accommodates
11 all users; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, over the past four years, the County has assessed current conditions,
14 solicited public input, and worked on identifying a vision, goals, and guiding principles to
15 determine the need for physical changes to the pedestrian network; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the County held Pedestrian Master Plan open houses in Laurel, Columbia,
18 and Elkridge, and collected over 2,500 comments and 36,000 “likes” and “dislikes” from the
19 public via an online interactive map; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, addressing the shortcomings of the 2007 Plan and based on the current
22 conditions assessment, public input, and stakeholder workgroup, the County has developed and
23 wishes to adopt WalkHoward, an updated Pedestrian Master Plan, which aims to identify and
24 prioritize more achievable projects to facilitate the implementation of pedestrian improvements;
25 while paying special attention to the needs of seniors, children, those with disabilities, and those
26 who do not own a car; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, WalkHoward differs from the 2007 Plan in notable ways, including:

- 29 1. An increased focus on the integration of pedestrian facilities with transit service, and
30 a new focus on the health and wellness benefits of walking;

- 1 2. An emphasis on achievable infrastructure improvements in manageable sections,
2 beyond recommending sidewalks along long stretches of arterial and collector roads;
3 and
4 3. The inclusion of high priority projects that are an avenue for implementation missing
5 from the 2007 plan; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, WalkHoward complements and supports the Howard County Complete
8 Streets Policy and is coordinated with BikeHoward, the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan;
9 and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, WalkHoward will provide a framework to improve conditions for people
12 walking in Howard County and to promote walking as a safe and convenient option; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, WalkHoward has been reviewed and endorsed by the Multimodal
15 Transportation Board; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, WalkHoward has been reviewed by the Planning Board and it unanimously
18 recommended approval of the Plan, stating it was well thought out and should be considered by
19 the County Council; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive wishes to adopt WalkHoward, the Howard County
22 Pedestrian Master Plan, as attached.
23

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
25 Maryland, this _____ day of _____, 2020, that it hereby adopts
26 WalkHoward, the Howard County Pedestrian Master Plan, as attached.
27

28 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Administrator of the Office of
29 Transportation may publish WalkHoward by adding or amending covers, title pages, table of
30 contents, and graphics to improve readability.