

Council Resolution 160-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: September 8, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent: The purpose of this legislation is to advance the updated Howard County Bicycle Master Plan, [BikeHoward 2026](#), as a comprehensive framework for improving bicycle transportation and recreation throughout Howard County. *BikeHoward 2026* builds upon the [original Howard County Bicycle Master Plan](#) adopted by the County Council in 2016 and updates the County's bicycle planning framework to reflect current policies, design standards, planning goals, and best practices.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

According to Administration testimony, the *BikeHoward* infrastructure plan estimates about \$54 million for all high-priority projects. The expected source of funding comes from:

Funding Source	Description
County capital funds	About \$1 million annually through Capital project K5066 , plus additional funding from other capital projects.
Grants	Howard County has received more than \$10 million in bicycle-related grants over the past five years (view PDF file).
Developer contributions	New development projects are expected to construct portions of the bicycle network under the updated Complete Streets Design Manual.

Funding Sources and Potential County Impact

The Administration has stated that the anticipated breakdown of the estimated \$54 million in future project costs among County capital funds, grant funding, and developer contributions is not yet known. Additionally, the estimated \$54 million represents a preliminary planning-level estimate and should not be interpreted as the actual future project cost. Coordination with other planned activities, such as roadway resurfacing, may provide opportunities to reduce project costs significantly.

Ongoing Maintenance Costs

The additional bicycle infrastructure is expected to result in ongoing maintenance requirements. However, the associated maintenance impacts are anticipated to be absorbed within the County's existing maintenance resources. The Administration has stated that additional operating budget allocation is currently anticipated.

Cost and Funding Source for the *BikeHoward Master Plan Update*

According to the Administration, the cost to conduct the *BikeHoward Master Plan Update* was \$150,000. The study was fully funded through a grant from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Budget Implications:

Under the FY2027 Capital Budget ([Project K5066](#)), the five-year forecast for FY2027–FY2032 totals \$6.0 million. Of this amount, \$1.0 million is allocated in FY2027 to support several projects, including Bike Lanes on Tamar Drive, construction of the Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride Access, the Cedar Lane Pathway, North Laurel Connections, Countywide bike wayfinding phase 2, final design for Robert Fulton Drive, design of complete streets improvements on Montgomery Road from Rowanberry to Marshallee, the Bicycle Master Plan update, and bike lane installations through resurfacing markings and signage.

Other Notes:

N/a

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Grant Name	Grant Sponsor	Grant Program Name	Grant Starting Date	Fiscal Year	Grant Purpose	Transportation Function	Grant Award Amount	Local Match (Based on required ratio)	Total Project Cost
2	Patuxent Branch Trail, Design	MDOT-SHA	Transportation Alternatives	02/17/17	2017	Funding for 100% engineering/design work on the paving of the existing Patuxent Branch Trail from Old Guilford Road to Volmerhausen Road	Bike/Ped connection between Columbia and Savage/Laurel.	\$ 1,092,000.00	\$ 288,000.00	\$ 1,380,000.00
3	Patuxent Branch Trail, Construction	MDOT-SHA	Recreational Trails	02/15/23	2023	Funding for construction work on the paving of the existing Patuxent Branch Trail from Old Guilford Road to Volmerhausen Road	Bike/Ped connection between Columbia and Savage/Laurel.	\$ 1,655,000.00	\$ 455,125.00	\$ 2,110,125.00
4	South Entrance Trail, Construction	MDOT-SHA	Congressional Earmark	11/06/23	2024	Funding for construction work for the South Entrance Trail from South Entrance Road to the intersection of Stevens Forest Road and Broken Land Parkway	Bike/Ped connection between Downtown Columbia and central Columbia.	\$ 3,000,000.00		\$ 3,000,000.00
5	North Laurel Connector, Construction	MDOT-Sec Office	MD Bikeways	12/11/22	2023	Funding for construction of portions of the North Laurel Connections project, specifically across the BGE right of way between Ridings Way and Royal Path Cove and on Gorman Road near Manorwood Road	Bike Ped connections in North Laurel	\$ 509,828.00	\$ 127,457.00	\$ 637,285.00
6	Patapsco Greenway – Elkridge to Guinness Spur, Construction	MDOT-SHA	DGS	03/16/22	2022	Funding for design and matching funds for future construction grant of pathway connection between Historic Elkridge and Guinness Open Gate in Halethorpe, including a new pedestrian bridge over the Patapsco River.	Bike Ped connection between Howard County and Baltimore County	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000.00
7	Safe Streets For All	US DOT	US DOT Safe Streets for All	03/01/24	2024	Support planning on US 1 Corridor	Planning	\$ 488,133.00	\$ 377,867.00	\$ 866,000.00
8	MD 32-Alternate Bike Route	MDOT-Sec Office	MD Bikeways	12/31/21	2022	Design	Bike/Ped	\$ 488,000.00	\$ 573,000.00	\$ 1,061,000.00
9	EC-Oella Connection Study	MDOT-SHA	Transportation Alternatives	11/10/21	2022	Feasibility Study	Planning	\$ 132,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 165,000.00
10	Dobbin Road segment 1, Design	MDOT-SHA	Transportation Alternatives	03/27/19	2019	Funding for 100% engineering/design work on the Dobbin Road Pathway Segment 1 from McGaw Road to Oakland Mills Road	Bike/Ped connection and safety improvements in the Dobbin Road commercial corridor	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 275,000.00
11	Dobbin Road segment 1 and 2 Construction	MDOT-SHA	Transportation Alternatives	02/05/25	2025	Funding for construction of segment 1 and 2 of the Dobbin Road pathway between MD 175 and Oakland Mills Road	Bike/Ped connection and safety improvements in the Dobbin Road commercial corridor	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 7,600,000.00
12	Dobbin Road segment 1 and 2 Construction	MDOT-SHA	Congressional Earmark	02/05/25	2025	Funding for construction of segment 1 and 2 of the Dobbin Road pathway between MD 175 and Oakland Mills Road	Bike/Ped connection and safety improvements in the Dobbin Road commercial corridor	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00
13	Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride Pathway	MDOT-SHA	Carbon Reduction Program	05/05/25	2025	Funding for construction of a shared use pathway along Broken Land Parkway from Patuxent Woods Drive to the Park and Ride	Bike/Ped connection to park and ride	\$ 970,000.00	\$ 227,500.00	\$ 1,197,500.00
14							Totals	\$ 16,804,961.00	\$ 3,736,949.00	\$ 20,541,910.00