

# County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2016 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3

## Resolution No. 35 -2016

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION approving a Bicycle Master Plan and endorsing a Complete Streets policy as the road use approach for Howard County; and requesting the County Executive to take certain actions.

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Introduced and read first time \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted\_\_\_, Adopted with amendments\_\_\_, Failed\_\_\_, Withdrawn\_\_\_, by the County Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

Certified By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, 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**, the Bicycle Master Plan, attached as Exhibit A, creates the vision and path  
2 forward for Howard County to become a bicycle friendly community by making it easy for  
3 people of all ages and abilities to get around by bicycle; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, the Bicycle Master Plan was developed with extensive public input and  
6 with oversight from the Office of Transportation, a multi-disciplinary Technical Advisory group,  
7 and a consultant with extensive experience in drafting similar plans around the country; and  
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9           **WHEREAS**, the Bicycle Master Plan provides guidance and recommendations in the  
10 categories of policy updates, programs for education, encouragement, and enforcement, as well  
11 as suggested infrastructure improvements to create a connected bike network; and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, the Bicycle Master Plan is identified in PlanHoward 2030, the County’s  
14 General Plan, as Policy and Implementing Action 7.6a to be completed; and  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, the County Executive believes that streets should be safe and  
17 accommodating for everyone, whether they are driving, walking, biking, or taking public transit;  
18 and  
19

20           **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has proposed a Complete Streets policy statement  
21 within his letter of support that will be included in the Bicycle Master Plan that states, “*To*  
22 *ensure that Howard County is a place for individuals of all backgrounds to live and travel freely,*  
23 *safely, and comfortably, public and private roadways in Howard County shall be safe and*  
24 *convenient for residents of all ages and abilities who travel by foot, bicycle, public*  
25 *transportation or automobile, ensuring sustainable communities Countywide.*”; and  
26

27           ~~**WHEREAS**, the County Executive is organizing a working group, the Complete Streets~~  
28 ~~Implementation Team, that will first evaluate the Howard County Design Manual, *Volume III,*~~  
29 ~~*Roads and Bridges*, (the “Design Manual”) in order to recommend changes to incorporate the~~  
30 ~~Complete Streets policy; and~~  
31

1           ~~WHEREAS, upon completion of the Complete Streets Implementation Team’s review,~~  
2 ~~the County Executive will submit to the County Council recommended changes to the Design~~  
3 ~~Manual consistent with the Complete Streets policy; and~~

4  
5           WHEREAS, the County Executive is organizing a working group, the Complete Streets  
6 Implementation Team, that is expected to (1) draft a comprehensive Complete Streets Policy  
7 consistent with best practices; and (2) develop a Complete Streets Design Manual (the “Design  
8 Manual”) that implements the Complete Streets Policy and incorporates necessary elements from  
9 the current Howard County Design Manual, Volume III, Roads and Bridges; and

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11           WHEREAS, upon completion of the Complete Streets Implementation Team’s work, the  
12 County Executive is expected to submit to the County Council both the comprehensive Complete  
13 Streets Policy and Design Manual for final approval; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, the League of American Bicyclists is a 501(c)(3) organization that works to  
16 create a Bicycle Friendly America through education programs, creating better biking  
17 environments, and promoting bicycling as a transportation option of choice; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, a bicycle-friendly community designation from the League of American  
20 Bicyclists is a highly coveted award that identifies the community as one that is improving  
21 public health, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and improving the quality of  
22 life; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, a bicycle-friendly community designation marks the community as a  
25 vibrant destination for residents and visitors, which holds positive economic benefits for the  
26 entire community; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, the approval of this Resolution will greatly aid the County in its pursuit of  
29 receiving a bicycle-friendly community designation from the League of American Bicyclists, and  
30 to be the first county to do so in the State of Maryland; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Bicycle Master Plan was reviewed and recommended approval  
2 unanimously by the Planning Board on January 7, 2016, with the note that the projects are  
3 preliminary and to include the development of a public input process as a step in the  
4 implementation matrix.

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6           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
7 Maryland, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, that it hereby approves the  
8 Bicycle Master Plan of Howard County, attached as Exhibit A.

9  
10           **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
11 Maryland, that the Council is approving the Bicycle Master Plan with the understanding that  
12 specific routes identified in the Plan are suggested at a very high planning level, and may be  
13 altered following additional detailed design planning and public comment.

14  
15           **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
16 Maryland, that the County Council requests that the County Executive direct the Complete  
17 Streets Implementation Team to draft a comprehensive Complete Streets Policy and develop a  
18 Complete Streets Design Manual that implements the Complete Streets Policy for submission to  
19 the Council for approval.

20  
21           **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
22 Maryland, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, ~~that it hereby approves~~ that it  
23 hereby endorses a Complete Streets policy as the road use approach for Howard County.