

A Complete Streets Law for Baltimore

Complete Streets are more than just asphalt, concrete, and paint. A complete street is public space that empowers community members by supporting prosperity, safety, and health. A key feature of Baltimore's complete streets law will be a focus on racial equity.

Why do we need Complete Streets?

Equity. Complete streets help undo past barriers to access. The new Complete Streets law will address equity in project planning, design, and in the reporting on project performance.

Prosperity. Complete streets bring prosperity by creating streets that support commercial activity and improve access to jobs.

Safety. Complete streets are safe and comfortable for all types of road users. They reduce the risk of crashes that cause property damage, injury, and death.

Health. Complete streets support a healthy, active lifestyle.

Community. Complete streets invite neighborhood life and build community identity and power.

How does the bill work?

The new Complete Streets law will require the Department of Transportation to adopt comprehensive *design guidelines* that combine street design, placemaking, and community vision. That means that there will be a standardized process for redesigning streets around the City.

- **All Projects Become Complete Streets Projects.** This bill makes it the law in Baltimore to build a network of Complete Streets by requiring that DOT re-envision the street using Complete Streets principles each time it undertakes a resurfacing or other project.
- **Project Development and Community Engagement.** DOT will follow a new project delivery process including more robust community engagement.
- **Planning and Designing Streets Becomes a Cross-Disciplinary Function.** The Department of Transportation will develop comprehensive design guidelines that include street design, placemaking, and economic development elements. Input will come from communities, the Planning Department, the Maryland Transit Administration, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Public Art Commission.
- **Complete Streets are More Than Asphalt, Concrete, and Paint.** Complete streets will gain a mix of new features based on the typology of the street combined with community vision. New features may include traffic calming, pedestrian improvements, streetscaping, façade improvements, transit improvements, or bike lanes.
- **Complete Streets Open Up New Funding Streams.** Since Complete Streets are more than asphalt, concrete, and paint, new funding sources can be leveraged.

To read the full policy brief and learn more about collaboration with Bikemore, visit
BaltimoreCompleteStreets.com