

## Pedestrian Master Plan Update

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### DESCRIPTION

Staff will provide an update to the Planning Board on the Pedestrian Master Plan.

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive briefing and provide feedback.

### INTRODUCTION

Since the last Pedestrian Master Plan briefing to the Planning Board on March 18, 2021, the Pedestrian Master Plan team has advanced key plan elements, described below. A project schedule update is also included.

### PLAN UPDATES

#### **Pedestrian Level of Comfort**

As the culmination of several years of work, the countywide Pedestrian Level of Comfort (PLOC) map is nearly complete. The pedestrian walkways and crossings along more than 3,500 miles of roads in the county have been assessed a comfort score from 1 (Very Comfortable) to 4 (Undesirable) using factors such as the posted speed limit, number of traffic lanes, presence of on-street parking, presence of a walkway and the width of the buffer between the street and the walkway. A major milestone in the development of the existing conditions report, the project team is now using the PLOC to evaluate pedestrian access to schools, parks, transit centers, grocery stores, and other local/regional destinations. The map is available at [mcatlas.org/pedplan](http://mcatlas.org/pedplan).

#### **Pedestrian Audit Toolkit**

Project staff, together with the Communications Division and our consultant, recently completed an interactive Pedestrian Audit Toolkit, drawing on successful pedestrian audit materials from across the United States. The toolkit, available [here](#), educates community members about how to plan, conduct, debrief and follow-up on a pedestrian audit in their community. The project team will be hosting a virtual training on this exciting tool on September 28 from 6pm to 8pm. Montgomery Planning has conducted many successful pedestrian audits in the past, and the Pedestrian Audit Toolkit makes it easier for interested community members to do the same.

### **Task 3: Existing Conditions Report**

The existing conditions report is in progress. As connectivity analysis using PLOC is completed, staff will develop sections describing the findings of those analyses, while also interspersing relevant datapoints into other, already-completed sections – for instance, reviewing pedestrian connectivity to better explain differences in student walk mode share to different schools.

### **Task 4: Pedestrian Infrastructure Prioritization**

The project team is in discussions with the ITI Division to develop an interactive prioritization tool, allowing members of the public to weigh different prioritization variables to share their preferred infrastructure prioritization approach. This tool will be used in both in-person and virtual public engagement as the plan and its recommendations are developed.

### **Task 6 and 7: Pedestrian-Supportive Policies and Programming**

In support of Tasks 6 and 7, the consultant team developed a memorandum providing their perspective on potential plan recommendations in several important pedestrian subject areas, including signal timing, snow removal, sidewalk materials, lighting and others. The project team looks forward to sharing those recommendations as part of a larger policy discussion in the coming months.

## **FEEDBACK ON THE PEDESTRIAN DESIGN TOOLKIT**

Task 5 of the Pedestrian Master Plan is to develop a Pedestrian Design Toolkit. This toolkit, similar to the [Bikeway Facility Design Toolkit](#) and the [Vision Zero Community Toolkit](#), will provide guidance on how and when different street design treatments can be considered to improve pedestrian safety and comfort. Staff has identified 28 potential treatments to include in this toolkit below. Planning Board members are requested to provide staff with recommendations for additional treatments to consider including in the toolkit during the briefing.

- Corner Radius Reduction
- Crossing Islands
- Curb Extensions/Bulb Outs
- Floating Transit Islands
- Harden Centerlines / Turn Wedges
- High Visibility Crosswalks
- Leading Pedestrian Intervals
- Lighting
- Mini-Roundabouts
- Neighborhood Slow Zones
- No Turn on Red
- Crossing Location Parking Restrictions
- Protected Crossing Spacing
- Protected Signal Phases
- Raised Crossings
- Raised Medians
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon
- Shared Streets
- Signal Timing and Pedestrian Recall
- Speed Humps, Tables and Cushions
- “Hot” Right Removal
- Tactile Pavement
- Median Tree Plantings
- Local Traffic Diversion
- Permanent Slow Streets

- Driveway Consolidation/Access Management
- Vertical Separation (Bollards/Railings)
- Flexible Pavement

## **SCHEDULE UPDATE**

An updated Pedestrian Master Plan schedule is described below and reflects a delay of one year. The Pedestrian Master Plan timeline has lengthened because completing the Pedestrian Level of Comfort map has taken longer than anticipated and the project team has invested resources in parallel pedestrian efforts that advance the goals of the Pedestrian Master Plan, including incorporating pedestrian safety and comfort into the Growth and Infrastructure Policy, strengthening pedestrian construction detour legislation, creating the Purple Line Connectivity Report, and supporting pedestrian planning efforts in area master plans. With the completion of the PLOC map, the project team is confident in the plan schedule moving forward.

### **Scope Tasks**

Task 1: Planning Board Scope of Work – Complete

Task 2: Identify Best Practices for Pedestrian Master Plans – Complete

Task 3: Existing Conditions, Perceptions and Best Practices Report – In progress. To be presented to Planning Board in April 2022.

Task 4: Pedestrian Infrastructure Prioritization – In progress. To be presented to Planning Board in September 2022.

Task 5: Progressive Pedestrian Design Toolkit – In progress. To be completed August 2022.

Task 6: Pedestrian-Supportive Policies – In progress. Consultant review of existing policies and recommended new policies is complete. To be presented to Planning Board in September 2022.

Task 7: Pedestrian-Supportive Programming – In progress. To be presented to Planning Board in September 2022.

Task 8: Planning Board Review and Transmittal – Estimated to begin January 2023 and continue through May 2023.

Task 9: Council Review and Approval – Estimated to begin May 2023 with the County Executive’s Fiscal Impact Analysis and continuing through November 2023.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will complete the Existing Conditions report and present it to the Planning Board in April 2022.