Montgomery Planning

COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN GUIDE
VERSION 1.2 – REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Montgomery County
COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN GUIDE
May 2024 | Version 1.2
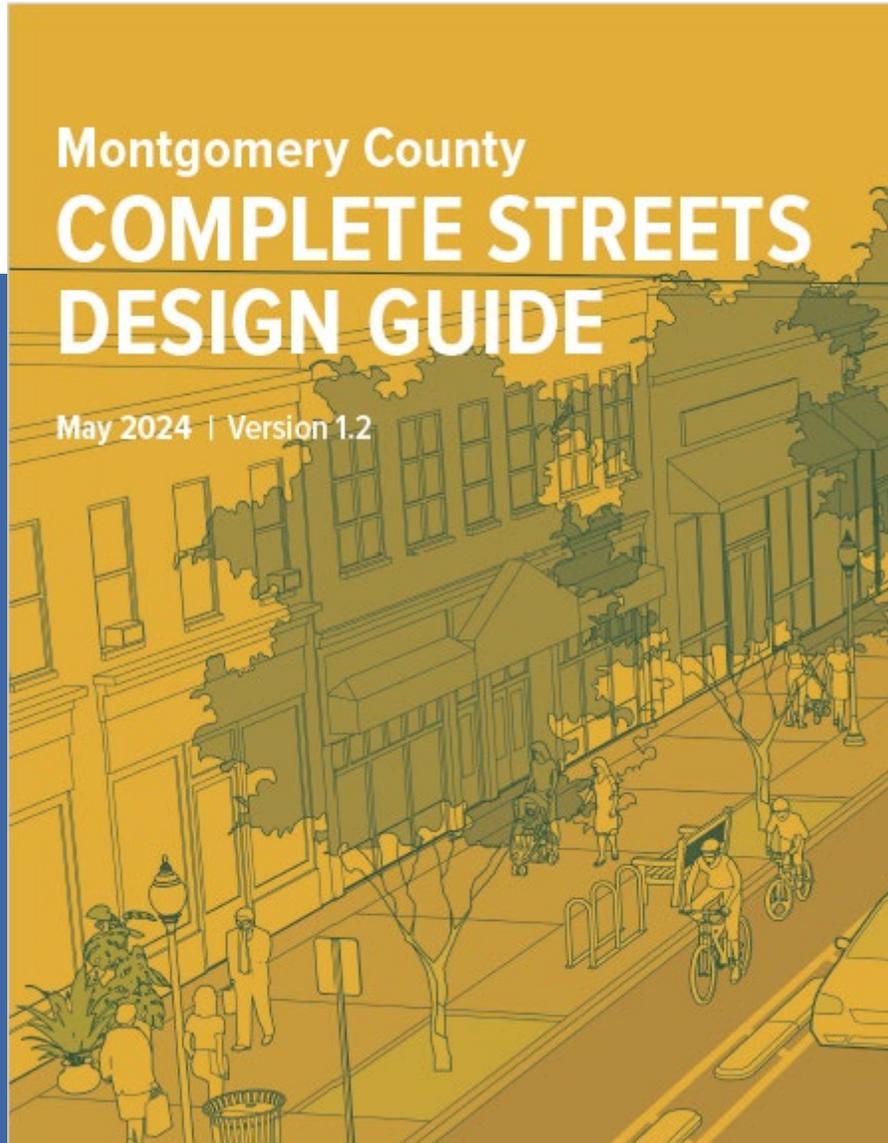
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SUMMARY

- The Montgomery County Complete Streets Design Guide is a collaborative project of the Montgomery Planning Department and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

- The first revision to this document, Version 1.2, is being submitted to the Planning Board for review and approval.

- Many of the proposed changes are to ensure that the CSDG is consistent with County Code and evolving practices.

INFORMATION

Document

Complete Streets Design Guide, Version 1.2

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Planning Division

Countywide Planning & Policy

Planning Board Information

MCPB Item No. #8

The Montgomery Planning Department and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) have jointly developed a revised edition of the Montgomery County Complete Streets Guide (CSDG), Version 1.2, for review and approval by the Planning Board (see Attachment).

The original version of the CSDG was reviewed and approved by the Planning Board in February 2021. It has since been used to guide the planning and design of transportation rights-of-way in both master planning and development review by Montgomery Planning and in the design of capital improvement projects by MCDOT.

In late 2022, the County Council approved Bills 24-22 and 34-22 that incorporates the CSDG street types and many of the standards in the CSDG into Chapters 49 (Road Code), 50 (Subdivision Regulations) and 59 (Zoning Code) of the county code. These bills went into effect on February 1, 2023 and February 2, 2023, respectively, and included changes that necessitated an update of the CSDG.

This new version of the CSDG – Version 1.2 – includes the changes made by the County Council as well additional changes to ensure that the CSDG is consistent with evolving practices. A summary of the major changes includes the following:

1. Reduced the target speed for Town Center Boulevards from 30 mph to 25 mph. (page 46)
2. Addition of a new street type called "Area Connector" with a target speed of 25 mph. This street type is similar to a Neighborhood Connector, but more likely to have higher-level arterial streets functions within the county's street network. (pages 62-66)
3. Reduced the target speed for Neighborhood Connectors from 25 mph to 20 mph. (page 70)
4. Changed the name of the "Major Highway" street type to "Controlled Major Highway." This change was required to ensure consistency with existing law in Chapter 49. (pages 104-108)
5. Provided new content on Parkways as a Special Street type (page 114)
6. Added content on Montgomery County Bikeway Branding Style Guide and Systems Standards Manual as a wayfinding resource. (page 201)
7. Updated guidance on default bikeway types in Table 5-29. (pages 202-203)
8. Included a new graphic and text in Chapter 6 to depict 40' bus as a potential design vehicle. (page 211)
9. Provided new content on Montgomery County's Protected Intersection Checklist. (page 224)
10. Updated crosswalk design text and graphic consistent with the Pedestrian Master Plan. (page 232)
11. Established a new default target speed of 30 mph for Rustic and Exceptional Rustic Roads. (page 267)
12. Added Major Changes section in Appendix B.1 (pages 318-319)

SECTION 2 – NEXT STEPS

Planning staff will provide a presentation of the proposed CSDG Version 1.2 at the Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board will be asked to approve this document.

SECTION 3 – ATTACHMENTS

Montgomery County Complete Streets Design Guide, Version 1.2, May 2024