



MARYLAND STATE
TRANSPORTATION TRAILS
STRATEGIC PLAN



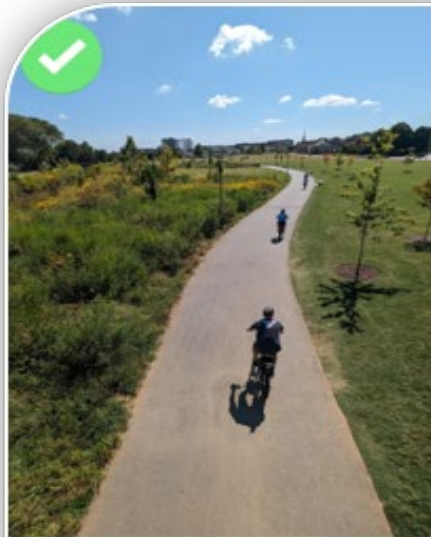
Update on the Development of the Draft Plan

MWCOG | MAY 20, 2025



What is a transportation trail?

A **transportation trail**, in short, refers to a shared-use path that is part of a transportation network and is open to the public for bicycle and pedestrian use including most forms of micromobility from e-scooters to skateboards.



Shared Use Path



Sidepath



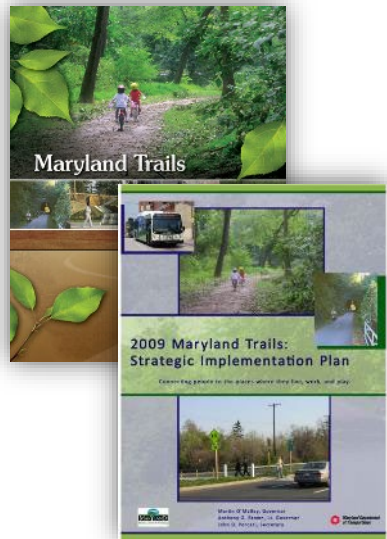
MTB Trail



Hiking Trail

Plan History

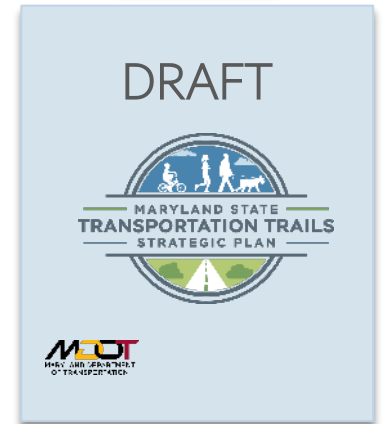
2009



2024



2025



Recommendations from the Plans

- Inventory the existing shared-use path network, missing links, and railbanked corridors identified for transportation trails
- Identify planned and programmed shared-use paths/trails
- Prioritize missing links and crossings to safely connect the state across a low-traffic-stress/all-ages-and-abilities network
- Identify tools and partners to complete shared-use path/trail projects

The Transportation Trails Technical Advisory Committee

The TAC is a focused subcommittee of the [Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee \(MBPAC\)](#) made up of individuals who represent their region or stakeholders, share upcoming and planned projects, and utilize their networks to support the development of the Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan.

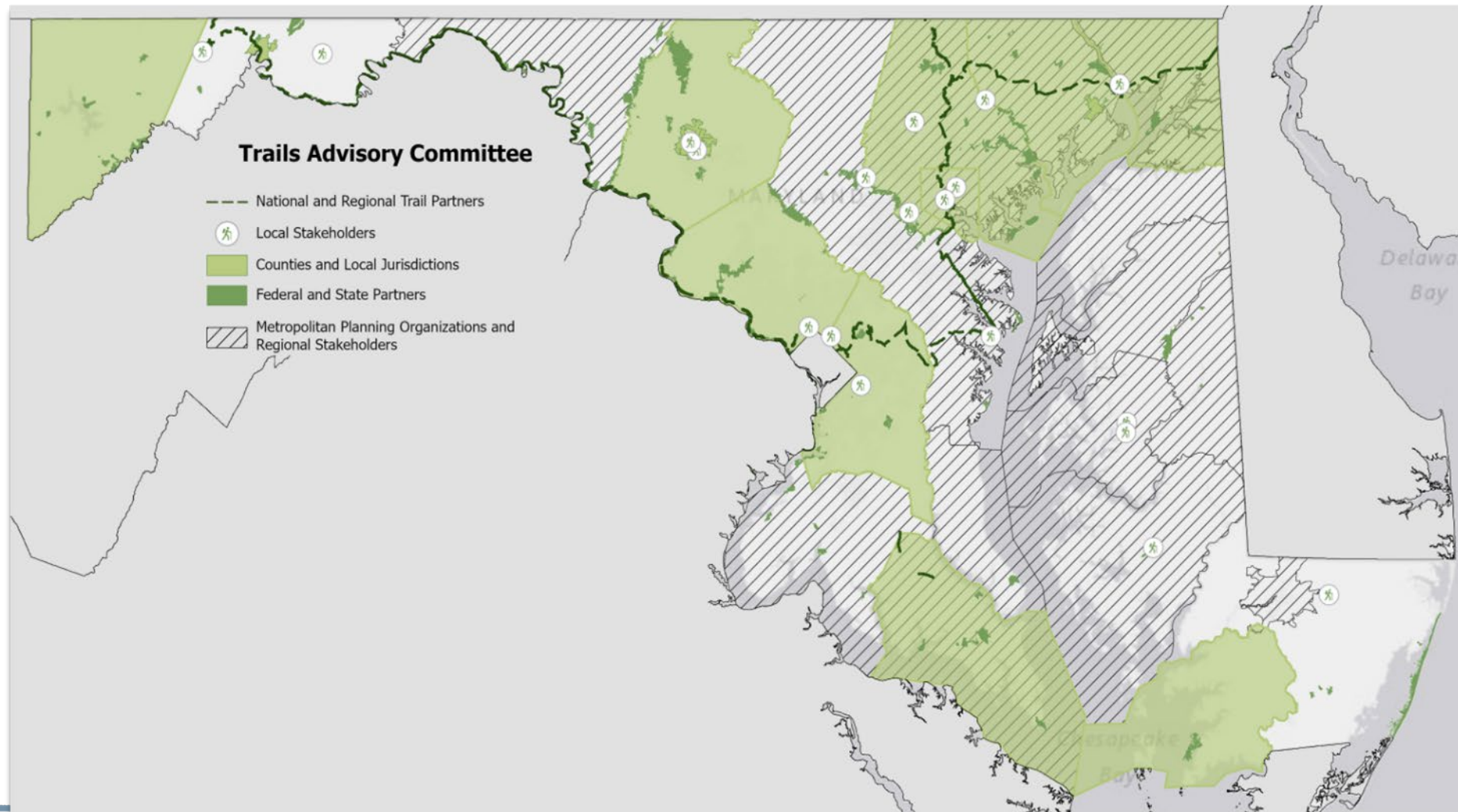
Duties of the TAC include:

- Bi-monthly meetings to discuss plan development
- Provide local expertise on transportation trails
- Share data and review content
- Complete and share the trails survey
- Share information about engagement opportunities with local networks



Photo from kickoff event in Easton, 9/13/24: TAC members (from left to right) Daniel Paschall, Jon Korin, Quinton Batts, and Brigitte Carty

TAC MEMBERS (to date)

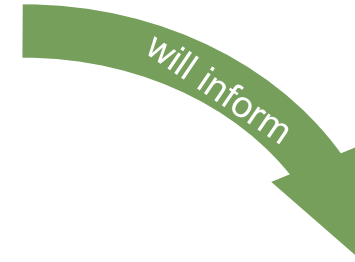
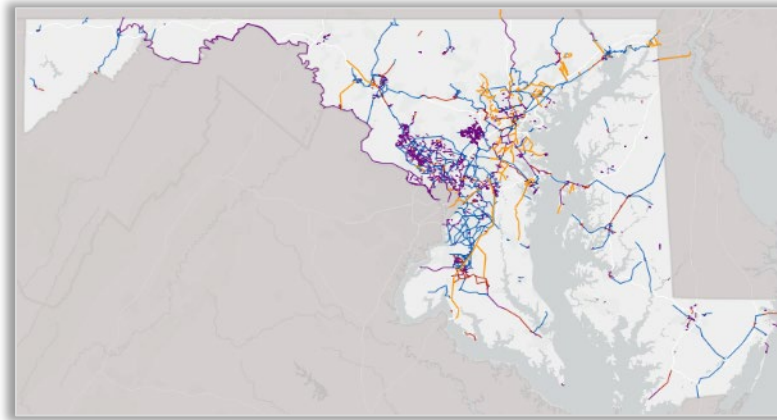


Our Process

Existing Conditions Report



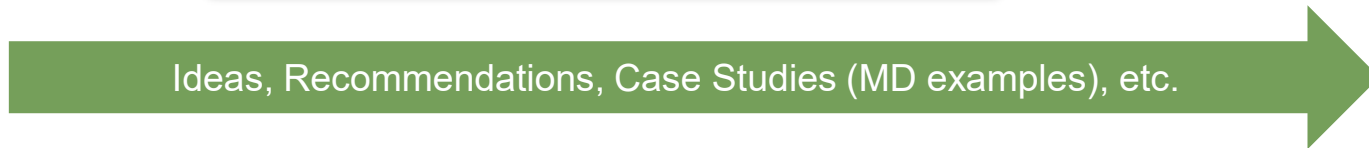
Transportation Trails Database



Final Plan



Ideas, Recommendations, Case Studies (MD examples), etc.



Online Survey

will inform

Toolkit
#1



Toolkit
#2



Toolkit
#3



Implementation Toolkits

will inform

Existing Conditions Outline

- **Plan and Policy Review**
 - State Plans
 - Cross-State/National Plans and Networks
 - Regional Plans and Networks
 - Statewide Policies
- **Trail Project Lifecycle Analysis**
 - Barriers, Opportunities, and Case Studies



Plan Highlight: the 2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan



Example Trail Policy and Guidance Recommendations:

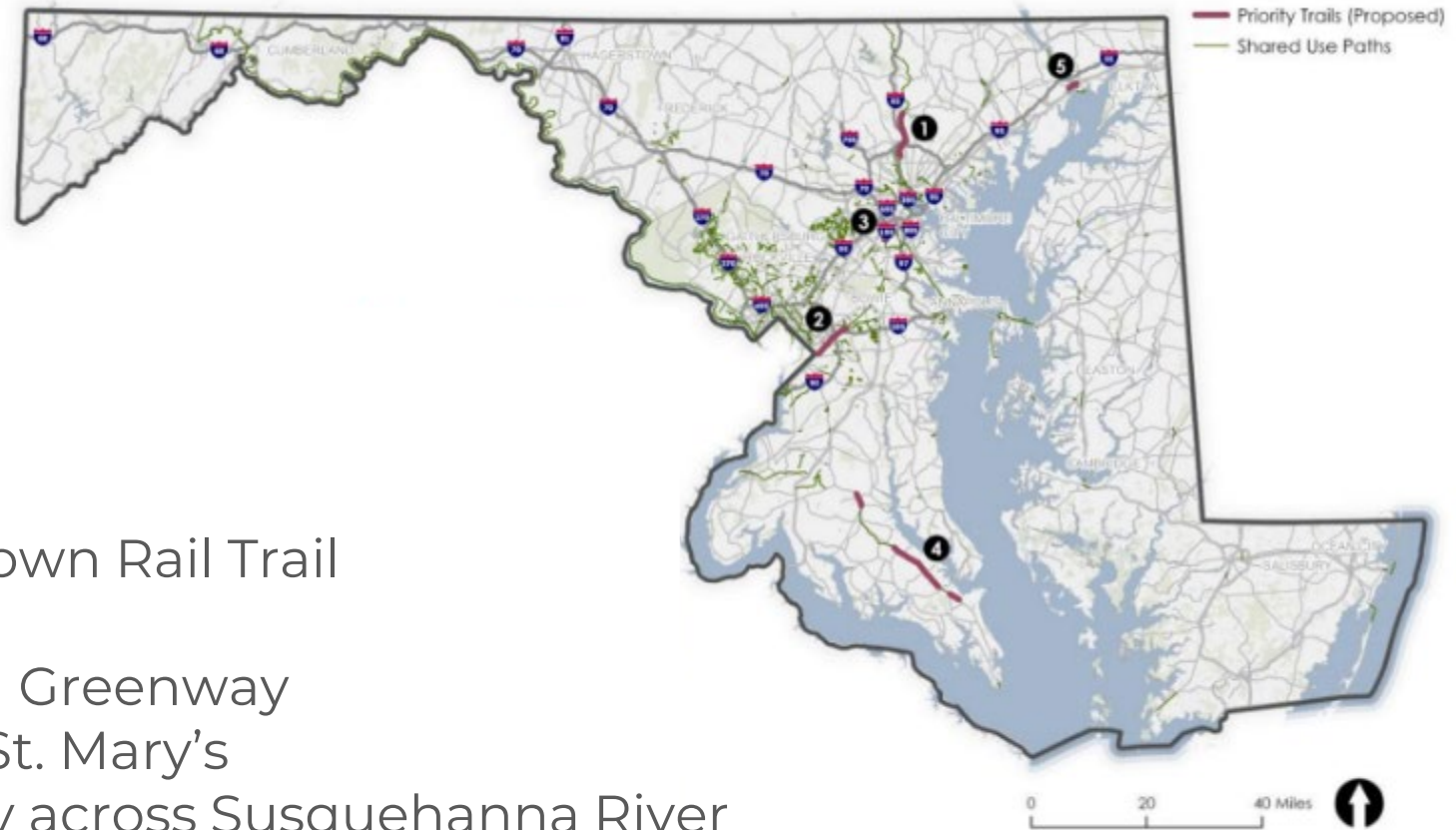
- Include longer distance routes and paths along with greater focus on specific infrastructure improvements
- Set forth procedures to prioritize new projects and coordinate trail network improvements across jurisdictions
- Identify existing trails that need improvements to meet current standards
- Adopt access and lighting standards for transportation trail projects
- Develop statewide Railbanking Policy and implementation guidance; provide rail-banking and rails-with-trails assistance
- Create opportunities for trail creation that promote the growth of trail-based economy and trail-oriented development

Plan Highlight: The 2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The BPMP also includes Priority Projects identified by the 2009 Statewide Trails Plan which remain incomplete—five projects, totaling less than 40 miles.

The 5 Remaining Priority Projects

1. Jones Falls Trail to Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail
2. WB&A Trail towards DC
3. BWI Trail to Patapsco Regional Greenway
4. Three Notch Trail in Charles & St. Mary's
5. Lower Susquehanna Greenway across Susquehanna River

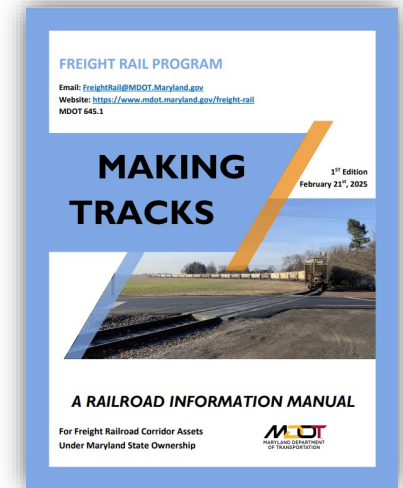


Policy Highlights

Railbanking

Railbanking is a federal process where a trail sponsor, typically a public agency, negotiates an agreement with a rail corridor owner to use an out-of-service corridor for interim trail use.

The process preserves the integrity or completeness of a rail corridor by preserving existing land ownership, rights and easements while it is used as a trail. This agreement allows the corridor to be reactivated for rail use in the future.



Complete Streets

MDOT's updated Complete Streets Policy requires all MDOT modal agencies to consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all new projects on MDOT right-of-way, with measurable objectives for bicycle level of traffic stress (LTS) and an evaluation of historical crash data with an emphasis on VRUs.

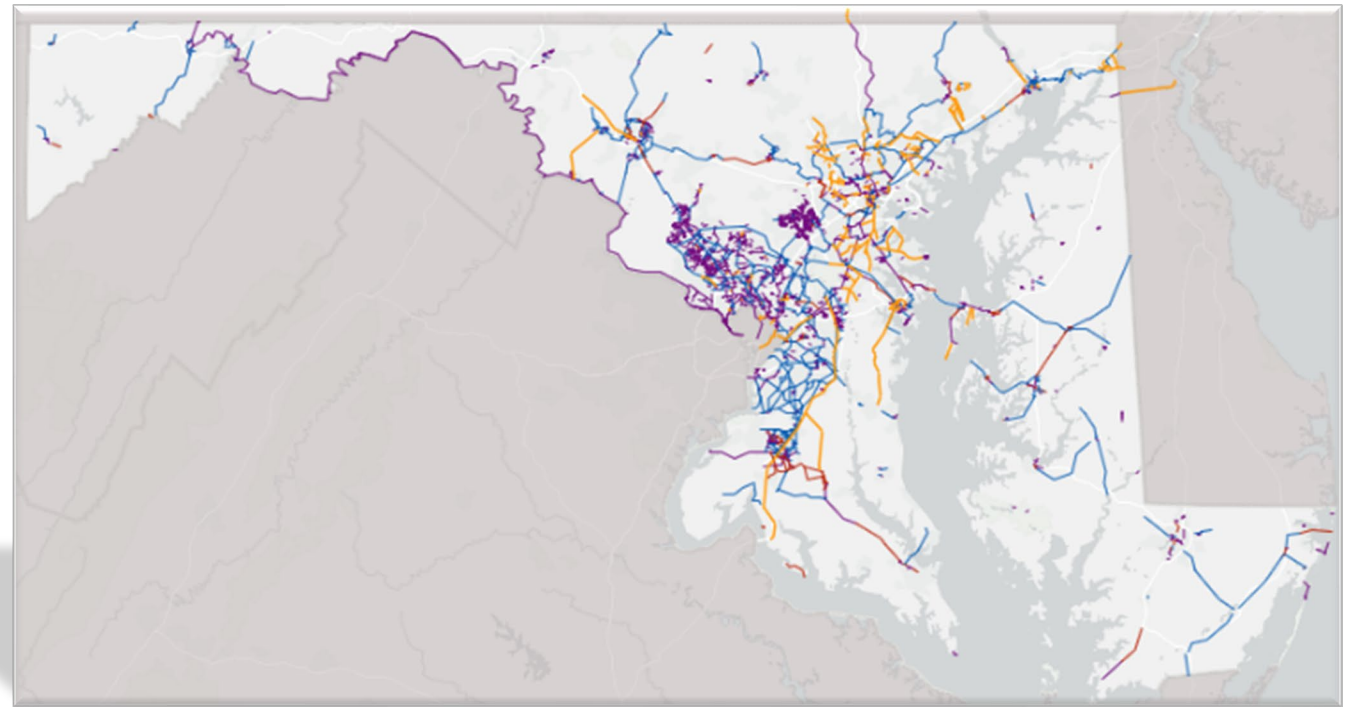
As part of the strengthening of the policy, all new projects must consider current and future bicycle/pedestrian use as part of implementation or utilize a waiver process.



Database of Transportation Trails

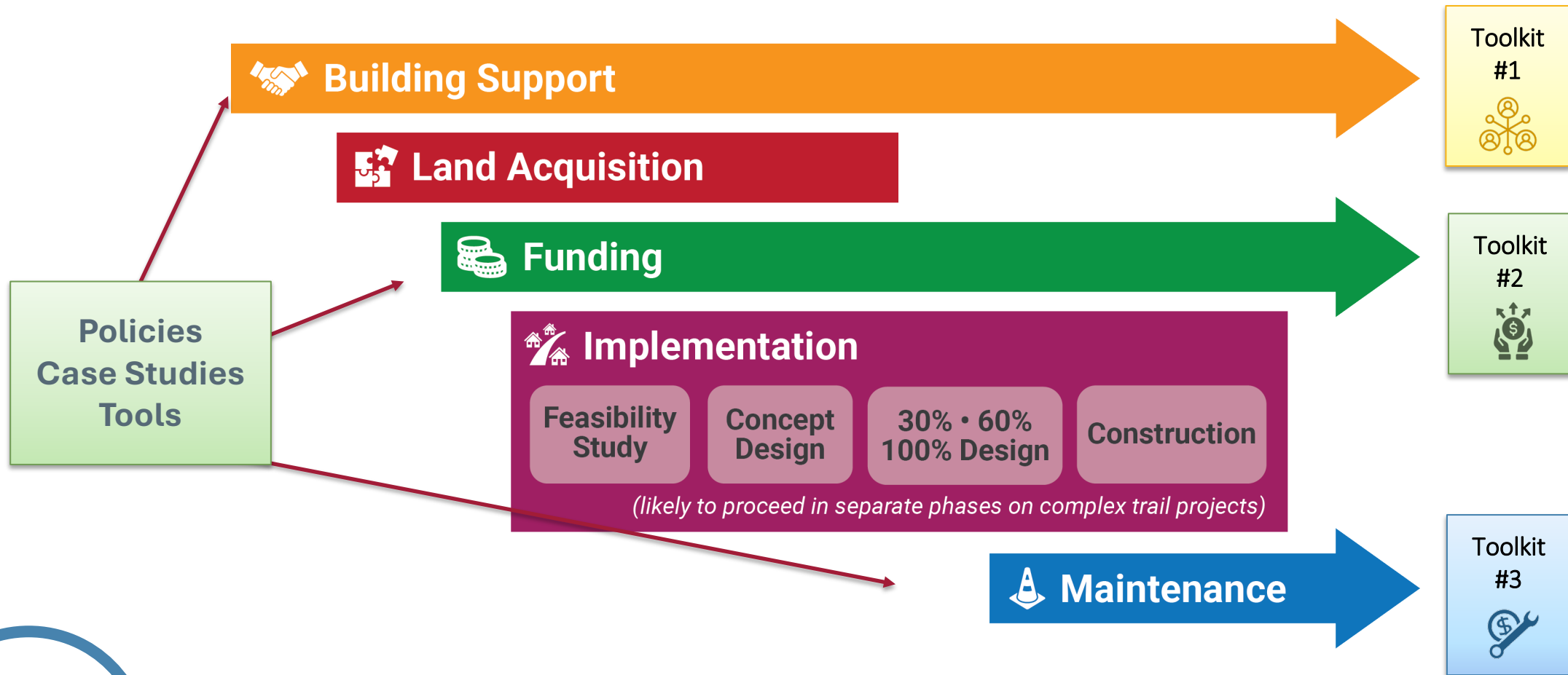
The planned map layers are:

- **Existing Transportation Trails:**
Built transportation trails
- **Planned Transportation Trails:**
In an adopted plan or priority letter (or has had a feasibility study)
- **Potential Transportation Trails:**
Submitted by an advocacy organization or has been suggested as an opportunity but *not* in an adopted plan, priority letter, or feasibility study
- **TAC Reviewer Added Trails**



Map of Existing, Planned, and Potential Transportation Trails in the Database.

Trail Project Lifecycle Analysis



Toolkits for Transportation Trails



“Making the Case: Building Support”

Identifying important planning steps, outline potential allies, and case studies and resources that convey the economic benefits of transportation trails



“Aligning Funding Opportunities”

Tips to leverage local, state, and federal funding and technical assistance opportunities to execute transportation trail projects



“Maintaining Transportation Trails”

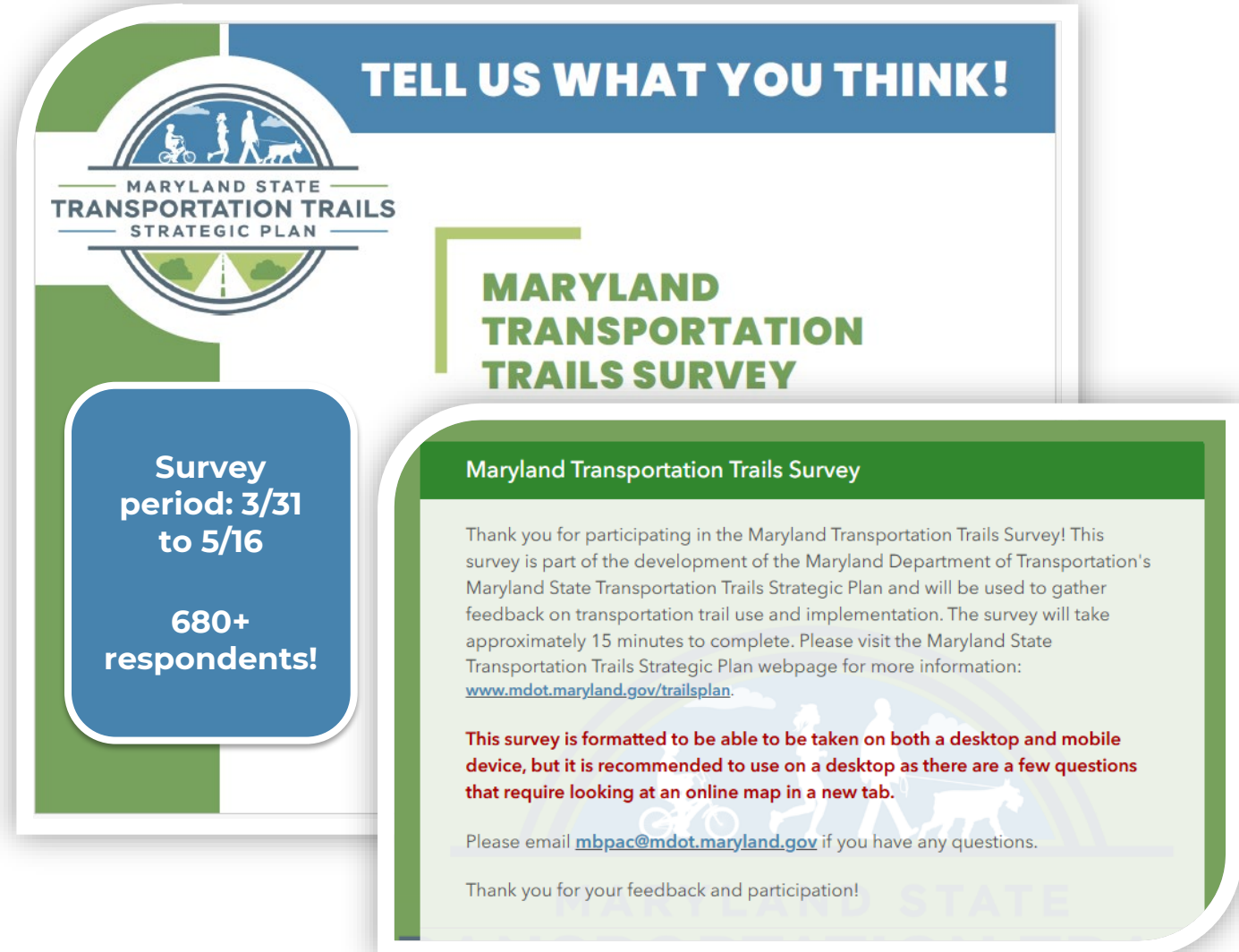
Including strategies, costs, examples from Maryland, and best practices for maintenance of transportation trails

Maryland Transportation Trails Survey

Goal: To get information and feedback from our trails plan partners and the general public to inform our toolkits for implementation

Survey Overview:

- Trail Usage
- Trail Implementation
- Mapping Exercise
- Demographics



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

MARYLAND STATE
TRANSPORTATION TRAILS
STRATEGIC PLAN

**MARYLAND
TRANSPORTATION
TRAILS SURVEY**

Survey
period: 3/31
to 5/16

**680+
respondents!**

Maryland Transportation Trails Survey

Thank you for participating in the Maryland Transportation Trails Survey! This survey is part of the development of the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan and will be used to gather feedback on transportation trail use and implementation. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please visit the Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan webpage for more information:
www.mdot.maryland.gov/trailsplan

This survey is formatted to be able to be taken on both a desktop and mobile device, but it is recommended to use on a desktop as there are a few questions that require looking at an online map in a new tab.

Please email mbpac@mdot.maryland.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you for your feedback and participation!

Transportation Trails Webpages



MDOT Transportation Trails Landing Page is live:

- Definition of transportation trails
- Explanation of Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan
- Photos from kickoff and TAC meetings
- Link to Interactive website
- Information on upcoming TAC meetings

Transportation Trails Strategic Plan Interactive Webpage coming soon:

- Existing Conditions text
- Interactive Map of transportation trails database
- Tool kits for implementation

www.mdot.maryland.gov/trailsplan

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MPO INPUT

- **Register for the Webinar**
 - Anticipated July/August
- **Review the draft Transportation Trails Map**
 - Provide any feedback on the proposed trails, check for accuracy
- **Join on-going advocacy efforts**
 - Join existing local groups may advocate for sustainability, walkability, and bikeability
- **Attend advisory committee meetings**
 - Many counties and the state have advisory committees with citizen representatives
- **Weigh in on local plans**
 - Local plans determine what gets funded by the MDOT CTP, determine local repaving and redesign efforts, and are used for grant applications
- **Attend the annual CTP tours**
 - Encourage your elected officials to include local projects on the annual Transportation Priority Letter (submitted in May) and attend the annual CTP tour meetings in the Fall
- **Support local grant applications**
 - Grant applications are more competitive with letters of support

Please contact us!



WEBSITE: www.mdot.maryland.gov/trailsplan

EMAIL: mpbac@mdot.maryland.gov