



A Plan for a Safe and Connected Bike Network

MWCOG Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee
March 18, 2025

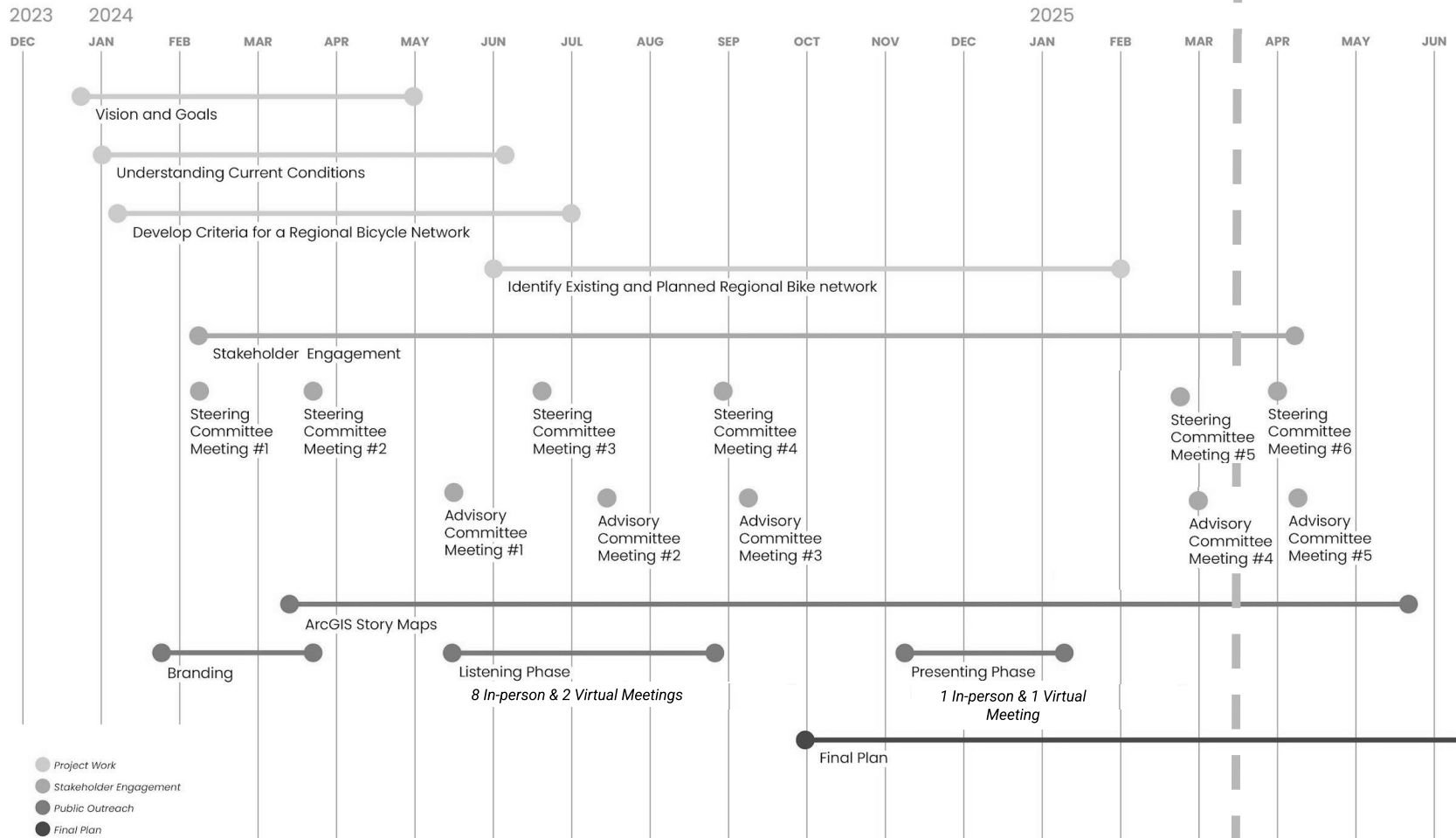


Baltimore Region



The Baltimore region includes the cities of Annapolis and Baltimore, as well as the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's.

Schedule





Vision Statement

"The Baltimore region will work together to create a bicycle network that expands opportunities for users of all ages and abilities. This connected network will support improved safety, mobility, and equitable access to jobs, schools, housing, transit, parks, and other daily destinations."

Project Goals



**Advance
Equity**



**Emphasize
Collaboration**



**Set Attainable
Ambitions**



**Connect People
to Places**



**Improve Safety
& Accessibility**



**Support
Community
Development**



**Consider
Context**



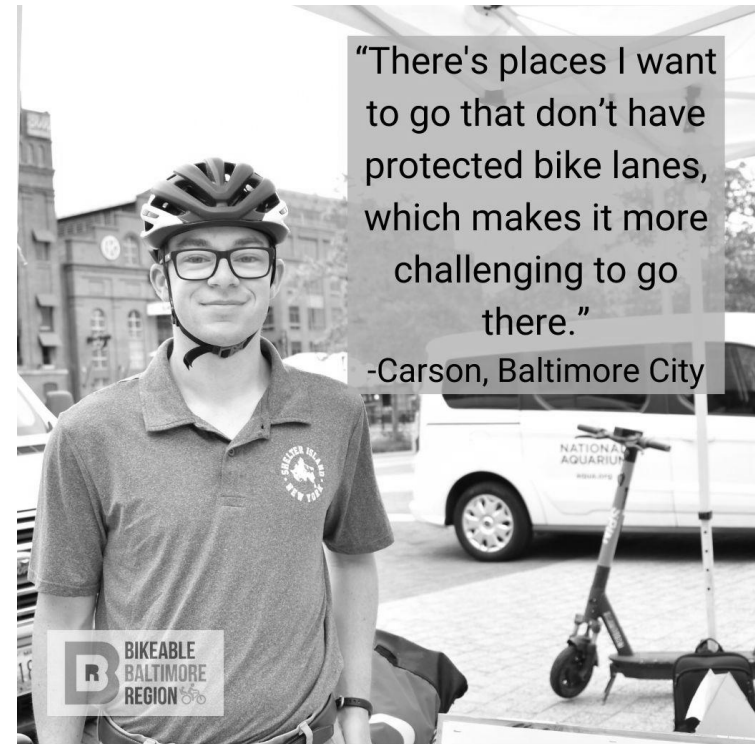
**Maintain the
Network**



**Support
Environmental
& Health Benefits**

Why a Regional Bike Network?

- The Baltimore region already has nearly 600 miles of bike lanes and paths, but many of these routes are not connected.
- This makes it harder for people to bike safely and easily to the places they need to go.
- By identifying a regional bike network, we can focus on building connections that people want and need.
- Having more ways to get around, like biking, can help people reach jobs more easily, stay active, reduce air pollution and emissions from cars, and boost the economy in the area.



What is the Regional Bike Network?

The Proposed Regional Bike Network:

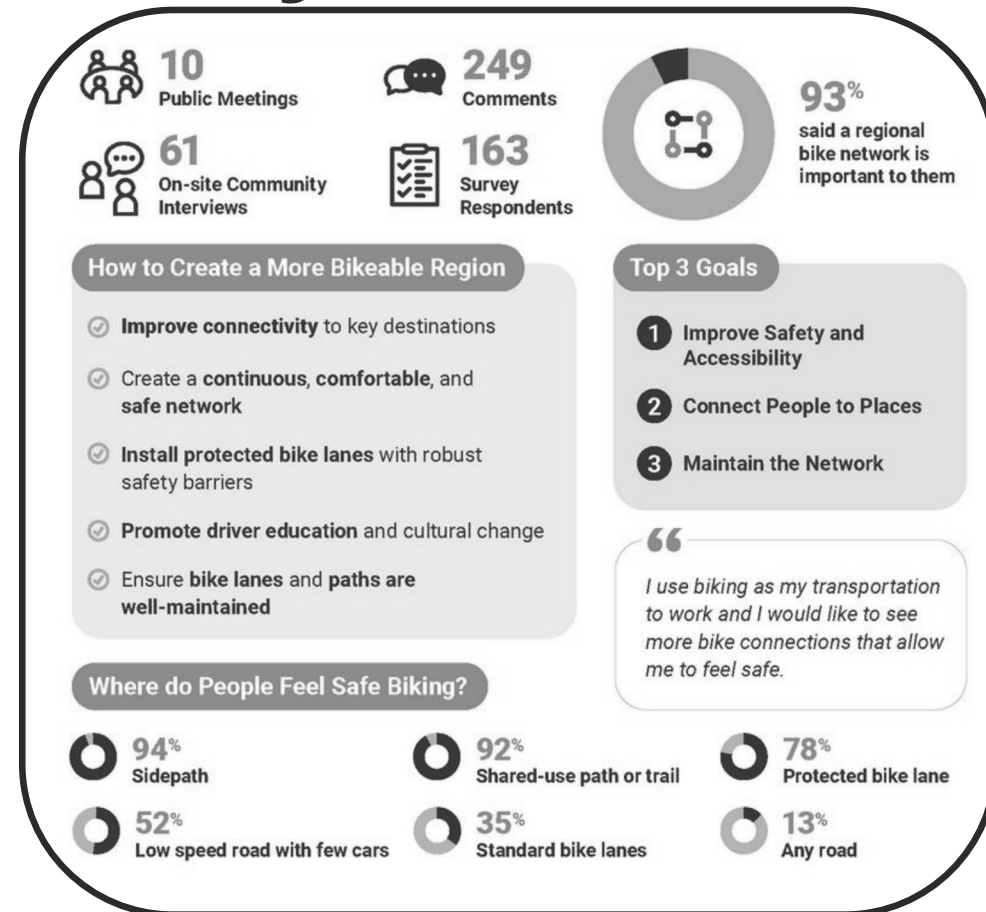
- Does not create or plan any new bike lanes or paths on its own
- Uses local plans to identify important connections
- Is made up of bike routes that are comfortable and safe to bike on as they are either well-separated from traffic or are on roads with low speed limits and little car traffic
- Identifies gaps to help local jurisdictions work together to close them
- Will develop an implementation plan including prioritization, a timeline and cost estimates

Listening Phase Summary

During spring and summer 2024, the project team conducted a public Listening Phase to hear from the community about their vision for a regional bike network.

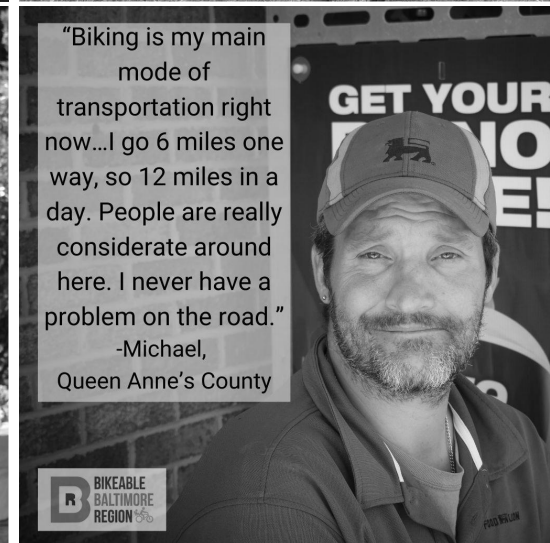
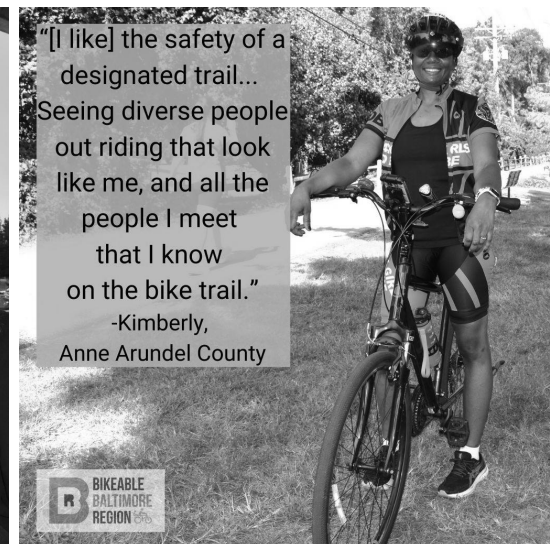
This public feedback:

- Helped improve the network vision and goals
- Guided the identification of the Proposed Regional Bike Network
- Contributed to the creation of objectives and performance measures



Handlebar Interviews

- Project team conducted interviews throughout the region with **people who ride a bike already or who are interested in biking**
- The intercept surveys referred to as Handlebar Interviews focused on first person perspectives on biking in the Baltimore region in an effort to connect regional policy and local needs to personal experience
- Inspired by the Atlanta Regional Commission Walk, Bike Thrive plan



135 Handlebar Interviews Completed

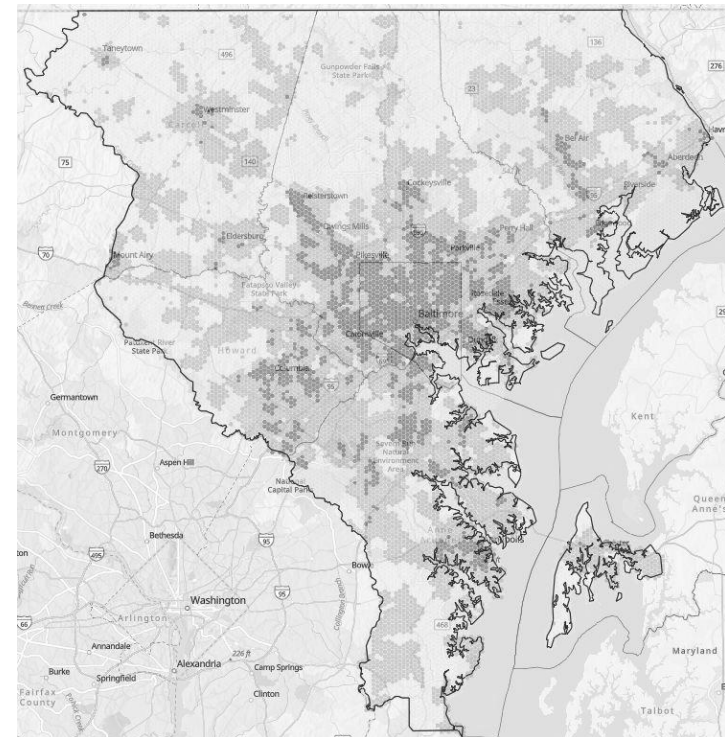


How the Proposed Network was Identified

Data-Based Criteria

The team started by identifying a draft network made of comfortable and low stress bike lanes and paths that improve connections in key areas:

- Places with many **opportunities for short trips** (areas with a lot of people, jobs, or nearby schools or public transit)
- **Vulnerable communities** that need more transportation options
- **Regional parks**, recreational areas, and greenspaces
- **Public transportation** stops, especially those with frequent service



How the Proposed Network was Identified

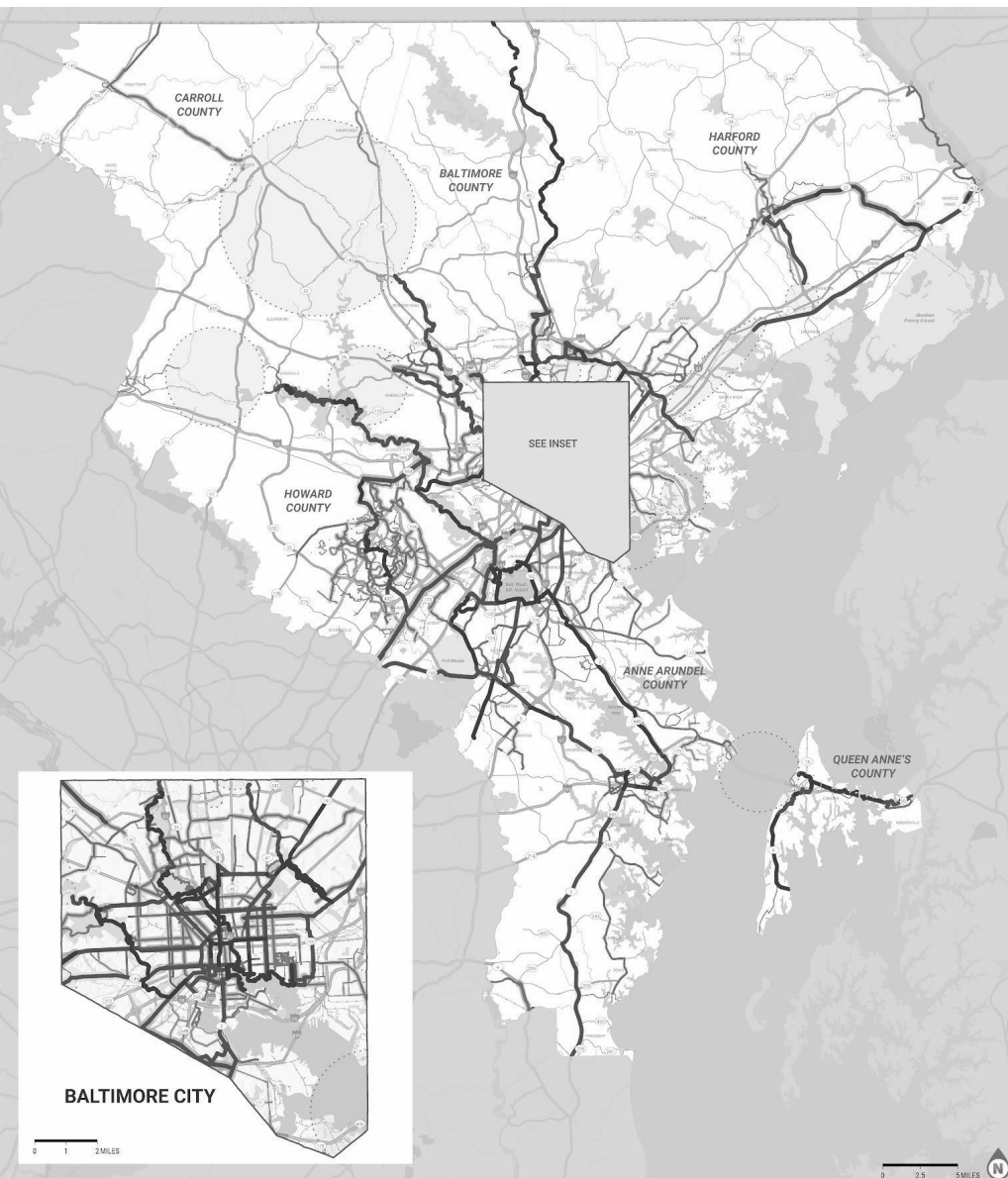
Experience and Knowledge-Based Criteria

This draft network was then improved using input from the public, as well as feedback from local jurisdictions and the state.

Key feedback included:

- Need for a **continuous, comfortable, and safe** bike network that is **separated from traffic**
- Importance of **direct routes** to neighborhoods, parks, major destinations, and public transportation
- Emphasis on **closing gaps** in the current bike network
- Desire to increase **connections to neighboring regions**





Regional Bikeways

- Existing
- Planned

Community Bikeways

- Existing
- Planned

Local Bikeways

- Existing
- Planned

Less Comfortable Bikeways

- Highlighted Yellow

High Stress Bikeways

- Highlighted Orange

Regional Gaps

-

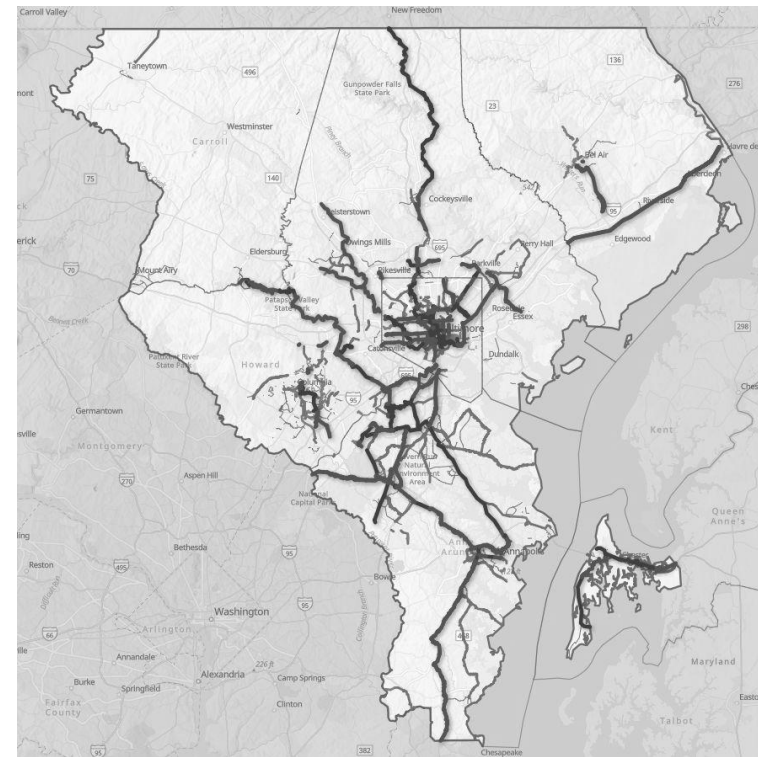
Baltimore Region

-

Proposed Regional Bike Network

CLASSIFYING BIKEWAYS

- **Regional Bikeways** serve as the backbone of the network, providing direct connections across the region
- **Community Bikeways** connect major centers within each jurisdiction to the regional network
- **Local Bikeways** help people get from Regional and Community Bikeways to towns, neighborhoods, and low stress local roads
- All bike routes were identified as comfortable and safe to bike on, based on current conditions and local plans
- Routes are either well-separated from traffic or are on roads with low speed limits and little car traffic

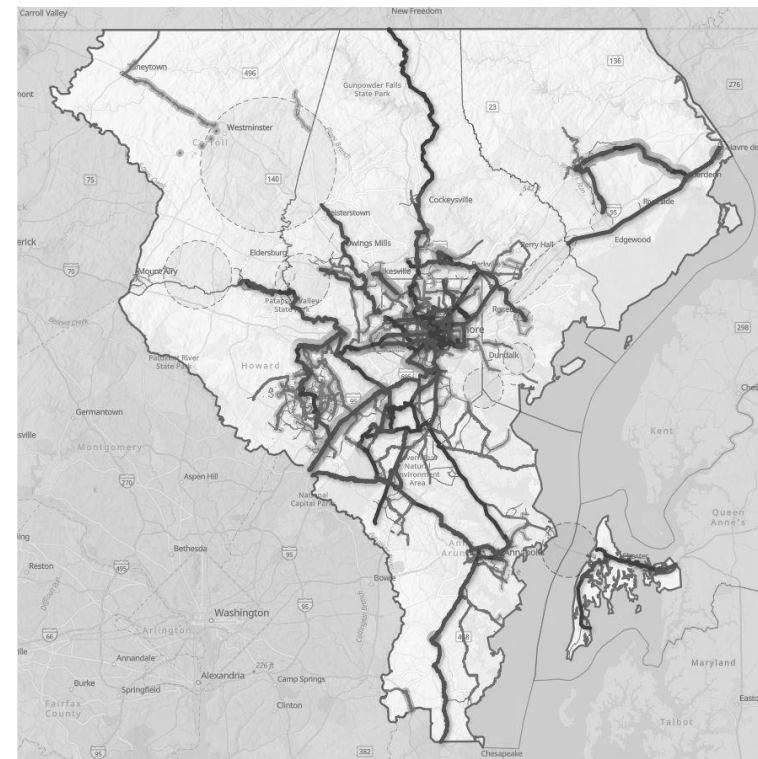


Proposed Regional Bike Network

While the network includes safe and comfortable bike routes, we recognize that the current plans do not yet form a fully connected network. BMC will continue working with our local and state partners to update plans and address these areas.

BEYOND THE LOW STRESS NETWORK

- **Less Comfortable Bikeways** could make important connections but were rated as less comfortable for biking.
- **High Stress Bikeways** routes do not meet the low stress requirements of the network, but could be important connections if they are made more comfortable.
- **Gaps** are areas that could provide key connections but currently do not have existing or planned bike lanes or paths.

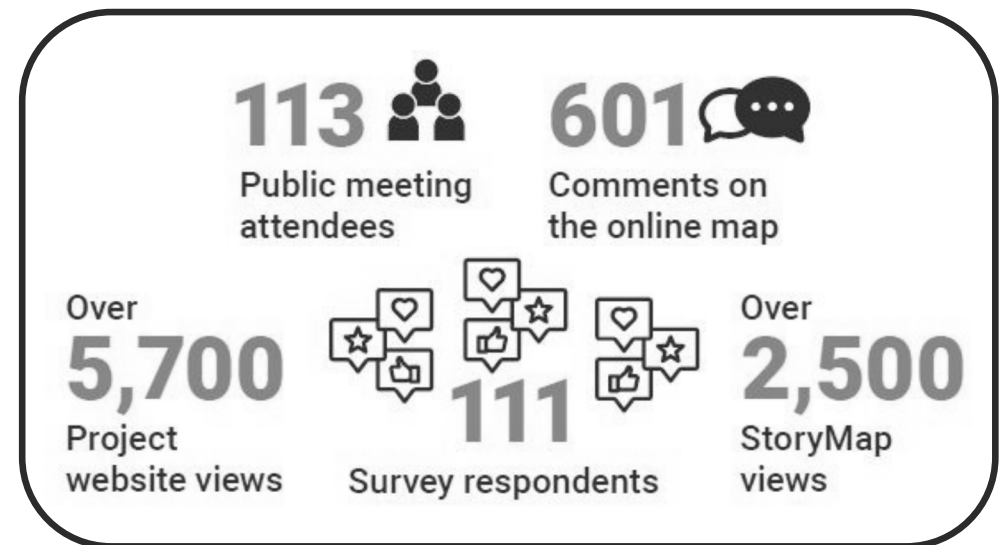


Presenting Phase Summary

From October 2024 to January 2025, the project team conducted a public Presenting Phase to gather feedback on the Proposed Regional Bike Network.

- Outreach efforts included
 - Virtual public meeting
 - In-person public meeting
 - Project website – PublicInput platform
 - StoryMap
 - Online comment map and survey

publicinput.com/bikebaltoregion



Presenting Phase Website

Overview

What We Heard

Regional Bike Network

Share Your Thoughts


Timeline

Overview

The **Bikeable Baltimore Region (BBR)** project presents the **Proposed Regional Bike Network**. This is the first time a regionally connected bike network has been identified for the Baltimore region.

The Proposed Regional Bike Network is made up of bike lanes and paths from current plans in the Baltimore region. The goal is to create an equitable and connected bike network that is safe and comfortable to use for everyone, regardless of age or ability.

The Baltimore region already has nearly 600 miles of bike lanes and paths, but many of these routes are not connected. This makes it harder for people to bike safely and easily to the places they need to go. By identifying a regional bike network, we can focus on building connections that people want and need. We can also invest limited money where it will make the biggest difference.



"I biked because it's better than driving a car, to get access from point A to point B. We have trails where we can get to the grocery store, to the main mall. We have great access." -Tomas, Howard County

"If there was more accessibility to trails I would hop on a bike." -Courtney, Baltimore City

Learn More and Give Feedback

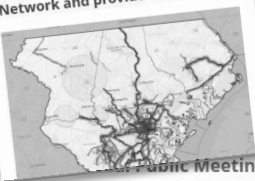
Explore this website and our [interactive StoryMap](#) to learn more about the project and the Proposed Regional Bike Network. Then let us know what you think!

To view this page in another language, click the "translate" button at the top.

If you need help participating, please leave us a voicemail at 855-925-2801 x 7480 or email us at BikeBaltoRegion@publicinput.com.

Join the Bikeable Baltimore Region mailing list!

Visit our [interactive StoryMap](#) to view the Proposed Regional Bike Network and provide feedback



Public Meeting
December 12 at 6 p.m.
[View public meeting presentation here](#)

Overview

What We Heard

Regional Bike Network

Share Your Thoughts

Timeline

What do you think of the Proposed Regional Bike Network?
There are many ways to share your thoughts.

COMMENT MAP: Give your feedback through the [online survey](#)

Give your feedback at the **Dec 10 in-person meeting** or [view the presentation](#)

email to BikeBaltoRegion@publicinput.com

us a voicemail at 855-925-2801 x 7480

us at Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 1500 Whetstone Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

@BaltoMetroCo on social media with #BRTBLive

until January 10, 2025.

Public Meeting!

Join the in-person and virtual public meeting to learn more about the Proposed Regional Bike Network and share your thoughts!

at the Baltimore Convention Center, 100 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Eutaw PI, Baltimore, MD)

Share Your Thoughts

Timeline

FAQ

In-Person Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a bike network?

A bike network is made of connecting facilities such as bike lanes and paths that allow for travel by bike in a given area. A connected bike network should offer bicyclists multiple, safe routes and support comfortable and efficient everyday travel. [Click here](#) for examples of different bike facilities that could be on the Regional Bike Network.

Why is building a Regional Bike Network important?

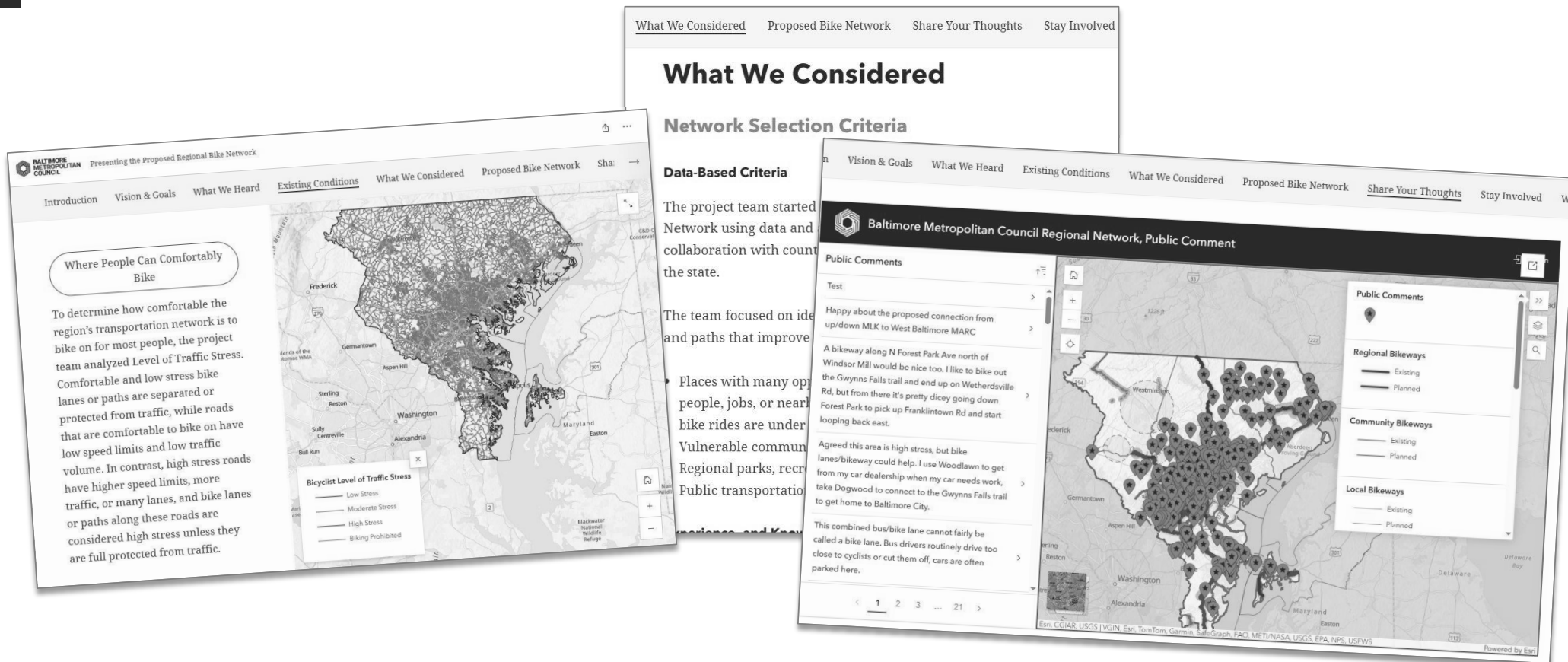
The Regional Bike Network aims to create an equitable and connected bike network that is safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities. This bike network will benefit everyone by connecting our local communities and providing safe and equitable access to places people need to go, such as public transit, schools, work, and parks. Having more ways to get around, like biking, can help people reach jobs more easily, stay active, reduce air pollution and emissions from cars, and boost the economy in the area.

The Baltimore region already has nearly 600 miles of bike lanes and paths, but many of these routes are not connected. This makes it harder for people to bike safely and easily to the places they need to go. By identifying a regional bike network, we can focus on building connections that people want and need. We can also invest limited money where it will make the biggest difference.

What do you mean by "people of all ages and abilities"?

All ages and abilities includes school-aged children, older adults and every age between, as well as people with physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities.

Presenting Phase StoryMap



Presenting Phase Summary

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I'm very happy to see effort being put into envisioning a regional bike network that spans jurisdictions and crosses county/city lines.

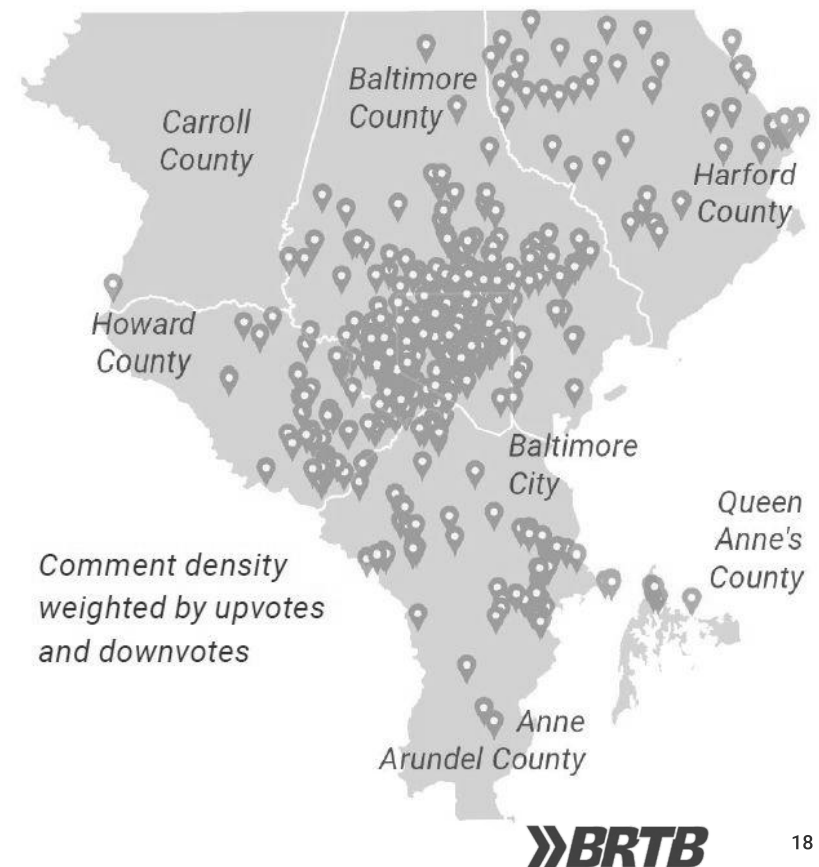
“

Very needed! Thanks for the work.

“

*As well as more protected bike routes, I would like to see more connections between existing routes. **I would like the option to travel without having to use my truck and I think a network of connected routes will help** and increase foot traffic for local businesses.*

Online Map Comment Distribution



Presenting Phase Summary

Public feedback makes a difference

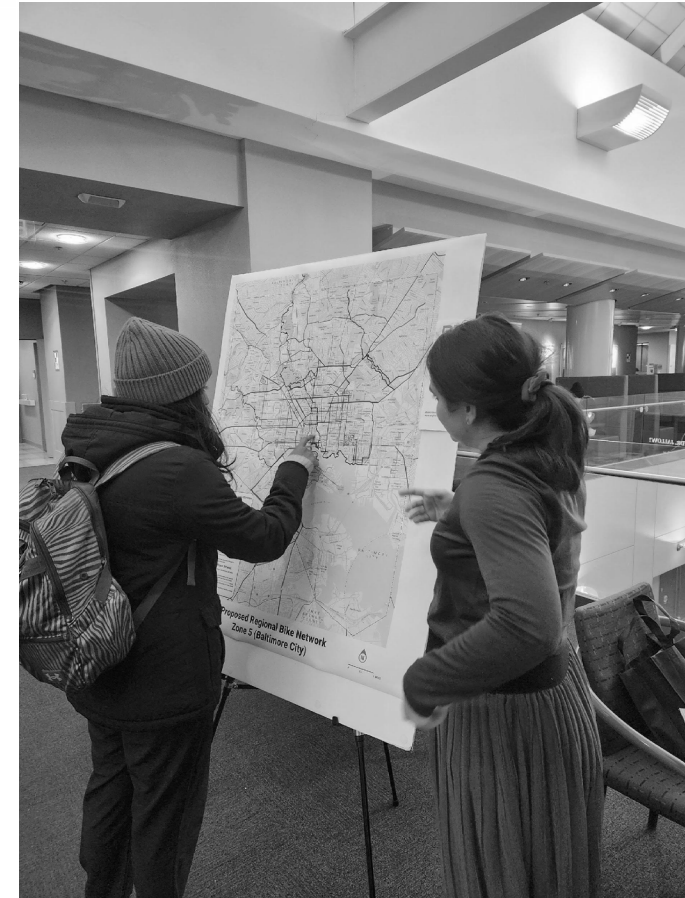
- Network updated to include corrected bikeway identification
- High stress bikeways replaced by low stress bikeways where possible
- Additional network gaps added
- Performance measures updated
- Shape implementation plan including prioritization and recommendations for updated policies and initiatives

Key Takeaways


- ✓ **Prioritize safety** and protected bike lanes and paths
- ✓ **Maintain current bike lanes** and paths and improve higher-stress bikeways
- ✓ **Connect the region** and fill gaps in the network
- ✓ **Coordinate the regional planning effort** and bring jurisdictions together
- ✓ **Clear communication** and public involvement

Presenting Phase Promotion

- Included information in BMC newsletters and on website
- Presented as a guest at 11 meetings throughout the region including advocacy groups and local jurisdiction pedestrian and bicycle, sustainability, and multimodal committees
- Held outreach tables at libraries, recreation centers, and other community-focused spaces
- BMC staff and BBR committee members hung flyers
- Encouraged BBR committee members to share on social media
- Set a wide net for social media posting opportunities such as community or location base groups and leveraged being featured in local news publications



Presenting Phase Promotion



THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD'S

© BMC »BRTB

Active Transportation Newsletter

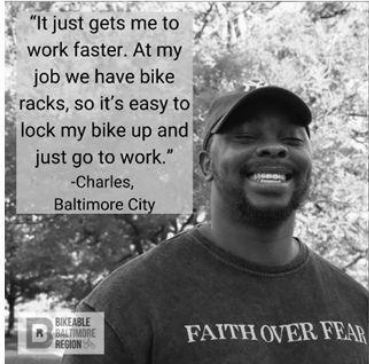
A roundup of news related to active transportation in the Baltimore region.

Bikeable Baltimore Region: Join us at our December public meetings

The Bikeable Baltimore Region (BBR) project presents the Proposed Regional Bike Network. **Join us at a public meeting in December to learn more and share your ideas!** Each meeting will begin with a presentation about the project, followed by a group discussion. Afterward, you can give more feedback on the Proposed Regional Bike Network at different activity stations.

- **In-person public meeting**, Tuesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. (Baltimore Unity Hall)
- **Virtual public meeting**, Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m.

"It just gets me to work faster. At my job we have bike racks, so it's easy to lock my bike up and just go to work."
-Charles,
Baltimore City



BIKEABLE BALTIMORE REGION

FAITH OVER FEAR



Baltimore Metropolitan Council
November 22, 2024 · 🌐

We're planning a Regional Bike Network, and we want your feedback! Which features excite you the most? Any areas for improvement? Take our survey at publicinput.com/bikebaltoregion by January 10 #BikeBaltoRegion

"I would bike to work, it's 6 miles away. That would be very nice, wouldn't be a strenuous bike trip. I could do it and still be work ready. [The reason I don't is] way too much traffic, I could not safely get there."
-Christina, Carroll County



BIKEABLE BALTIMORE REGION

Presenting Phase Promotion

WBAL NEWSRADIO
103.7 FM WJZ-TV
HOME SHOWS NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC ORIOLES RAVENS

Baltimore regions maps first-ever connected bike network

By: Will Carter - WBAL NewsRadio Digital Producer | December 9, 2024



(Photo by Mark Makela/Getty Images)

For the first time, a regionally connected bike network has been mapped out.

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council has compiled existing and planned bike routes across Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and part of Queen Anne's counties, as well as Baltimore City, into one big map.



THE BALTIMORE BANNER Subscribe for \$1 Sign In

Trouble biking across the Baltimore area? Planners want to hear from you

Daniel Zawodny 12/2/2024 8:00 a.m. EST



The proposed Regional Bike Network aims to stitch together isolated plans by identifying possible connections between them, a planner said. (Daniel Zawodny/The Baltimore Banner)

Most people find riding a bike on busy, multilane streets or roads without shoulders intimidating, but for many rides across the Baltimore region — from



Next Steps

- Finalize Regional Bike Network
- Develop implementation plan including costing and prioritization - **Priority Gaps** (next 5 years), **Intermediate Expansion** (5 to ten 10 years), **Long-range Network Expansion** (10+ years)
- Identify implementation strategies and recommendations
- Conduct benefit analysis
- Create final Bikeable Baltimore Region plan and StoryMap



For more information

Charlene Mingus | Active Transportation Planner

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