

## Executive Summary

### What is the Regional Bicycle Plan?



The Regional Bicycle Plan, encompassing three West Virginia counties (Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson) and Washington County, Maryland, is a collaborative effort on behalf of the Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO) and the plan's Bicycle Study and Guiding Committee (BSGC). The Plan identifies goals & objectives, evaluates existing bicycle conditions, and proposes context-sensitive recommendations that seek to improve safety and mobility for cyclists traveling in, around, and through the region.

### How does the plan evaluate needs?



A bicycle-level-of-service (BLOS) tool was used to approximate bicycle comfort and a bicycle demand tool was used to predict where potential bicycle demand is highest. The BSGC helped steer the planning process, while the public participated in several web-based surveys and provided input at four workshops, with one held in each jurisdiction.

### What does the Plan recommend?



The Regional Bicycle Plan recommends a variety of infrastructure, signage, and policy-oriented improvements to help create a safer, healthier bicycle environment. The Plan recommends designated bike lanes, signage to increase motorists' awareness of cyclists (see example on the left), paths for cyclists of all skill levels, and other recommendations that include special events, such as "Open Streets" days where a roadway is temporarily closed to car traffic, giving locals a fun opportunity to bike, walk, skate, and play.



Examples of the Plan's different types of infrastructure recommendations.

### How can we get there?



The Plan includes an Implementation section that prioritizes investments based on a data-driven process, examining projects' varying proximities to schools, parks, trails, housing, and jobs. The Implementation section also considers anticipated construction costs, maintenance, community collaboration, and funding sources.

### Did you know?



...the region is home to several nationally recognized bicycle routes, such as U.S. Bicycle Route 50 (which follows the C&O Canal Towpath) and U.S. Bicycle Route 11?

...the WV Route 9 Bike Path offers over 10 miles of virtually uninterrupted cycling?

...the Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT), extending from Big Pool Station, Maryland to Pearre, Maryland, hosted 135,000 visitors in 2011, contributing to \$1.8 million in spending?

...the City of Hagerstown is designated a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists?

