

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
and
PUBLIC WORKS



**Update on Pedestrian &
Transportation Safety
Planning Initiatives**

Presented by:
Alex Freedman, Housing & Community Development
Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works



City Council Actions

- **Administrative Regulation 96-1** (“Traffic Calming Devices - Petition Process and Installations”, Revised April 15, 2003)
- **Resolution (2010-14)** Adopting Ranking System for Prioritizing Sidewalk Installation and ADA Compliance Projects (March 8, 2010)
- **Resolution (2012-16)** Setting a Policy for New Sidewalk Design and Installation (March 19, 2012)
- **Resolution (2022-41)** on Pedestrian and Transportation Safety (October 26, 2022)
 - A presentation in response to the draft recommendations of the Complete & Safe Streets Committee was released in January 2021 but never approved by the City Council.
- **Resolution (2023-3)** Approving the Installation of Traffic Calming on the 6500 Block of Second Avenue (March 8, 2023)

Comprehensive Approach to Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

Background

- Process for developing initiatives and projects as part of ongoing Planning, Public Works, and Police efforts:
 - Identify problems or safety issues
 - Race Equity concerns
 - Staffing limitations
 - Budget constraints



Status Update

- 1 “Prioritize **safety and equity** in decision-making processes and planning”
 - Ongoing
 - Draft Public Space Management Plan (City Council Work Session scheduled for October 18, 2023)
 - GARE Training for Senior Staff



Status Update

2

“Emphasize the well-being and safety of the **most vulnerable roadway users** and prioritize the best use of the public space for the community as a whole”

- Ongoing Bikeway Projects
 - New Ave Bikeway – Section A, B, D
 - Metropolitan Branch Trail Repair Work & Design Upgrade
 - Maple Avenue Connectivity Project
 - M-NCPPC Sligo Creek Trail Crossing Upgrades
- ADA Sidewalk Upgrades – 87% Complete
- New sidewalk installed since 2012 – 18,855 linear feet
- Safe Routes to School Walk Audits

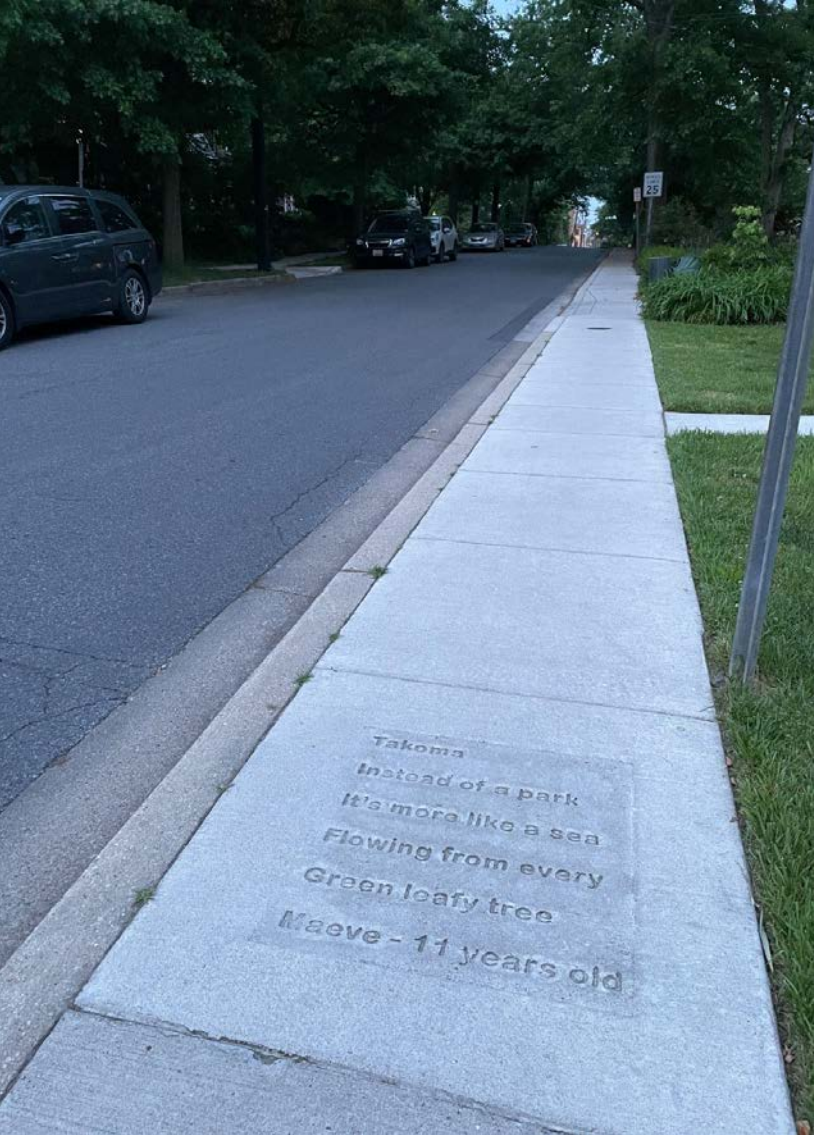


Status Update

3

“Utilize **data-driven** criteria for evaluating and prioritizing sidewalk and traffic calming installations and other traffic calming approaches such as reduced speed limits (as allowed by state law), and for planning and identifying where safety measures are needed”

- GIS Mapping of Traffic Calming Measures (posted online)
- Staff evaluation of law allowing speed limits reduced to 15mph
- Montgomery County Planning Documents
 - Vision Zero Action Plan (2017)
 - Bicycle Master Plan (2018)
 - Pedestrian Plan (in development)



Status Update

4

“Allow for **multiple avenues for initiating** consideration of locations that may need traffic calming or sidewalks, speed limit reductions, or other measures”

- The current process for requesting new sidewalks can be initiated by one or more residents, one or more Council members or the City Manager and can be done so via email to the City. Requests for Traffic Calming, as established by Regulation 96-1 requires a petition and community meeting to initiate the request.
- Updated Sidewalk & Traffic Calming Request Process in development



Status Update

- 5 “Consider **holistic approaches addressing larger geographic areas**, including investigation of reduced speed limits and integration of other City plans, and priorities such as sustainability efforts, public art initiatives, and other projects”
 - Sidewalk Request on Darwin Ave Consolidated School Zone?
 - Additional analyses and technical assistance require funding and supplementary staffing

- 6 “Make progress toward a more **comprehensive approach to transportation and public space planning** that prioritizes pedestrian and non-vehicle safety”
 - Draft Public Space Management Plan (City Council Work Session scheduled for October 18, 2023)
 - Standardized use of Montgomery County Speed Hump Design



Status Update

- 7 “The City Council supports **continuing periodic meetings between State Highway Administration** representatives and City staff and/or Councilmembers...and directs City staff to work with SHA to ensure that such meetings take place quarterly or as frequently as practicable”
- Regular meeting schedule established (some with council attendance and some with staff only)
 - Permanent All-Way Stop Signs at Carroll Ave/Lincoln Ave & Ethan Allen Ave/Elm Ave
 - Rapid-Flashing Beacon Approved for Philadelphia Ave/Chicago Ave
 - Carroll Avenue Repaving Project (including new sidewalk between Merrimac Dr & University Blvd)
 - Carroll Avenue speed reduction between Flower Ave & University Blvd
 - Intersection of Flower Ave/Carroll Ave funded for design work

County & State Safety Efforts

- Interactive Crash Data Map (2022, MCDOT)
Predictive Safety Analysis (2022, MCDOT)
- Bicycle Master Plan (2018)
- Vision Zero Action Plan (2018)
- Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment (Underway, M-NCPPC)
- Pedestrian Master Plan (Underway, M-NCPPC)
- Ride On Reimagined Study (Underway, MCDOT)
- MD House Bill 562 (2021)



Next Steps

- 1 Review and adopt the Public Space Management Plan**
 - Creates the framework and sets the direction for staff to pursue a holistic approach to many pedestrian safety initiatives
- 2 Additional staffing or funds** to support consulting services is required to advance these goals beyond the current pace of implementation, specifically for more comprehensive data collection, analysis, and enforcement.
- 3 Expand the existing school zone** near Takoma Park Elementary and Middle Schools, which would result in a reduction of the speed limit to 15 mph.



THANK YOU

TAKOMAPARKMD.GOV