



Safe Bicycling For Economic Growth, Health and Environment

Anne Arundel County State Delegation

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Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County ([BikeAAA](http://bikeaaa.org)) is an all-volunteer 501c3 promoting safe bicycling for transportation, recreation & fitness throughout Anne Arundel County. We originated as a project of the [Leadership Anne Arundel](#) Flagship program and now represent hundreds of county cyclists and work closely with our statewide counterpart, [BikeMD](#).

BikeAAA accomplishments include:

- Participate on Anne Arundel County *Complete Streets Working Group*
- Worked with AACP&Z to secure MD Bikeways Grant for design of B&A Trail to AACC Connector
- Over 500 registered for the inaugural [Lifeline100 Anne Arundel Century Ride](#) (next: 10/18/15)
- Safety initiatives for children, adults and motorists with MHSO, SHA, MVA, AAMC, AACPD & others

Maryland's Recognized Commitment to Safe Bicycling

- Recently ranked #7 bike-friendly state by League of American Bicyclists ("[LAB](#)")
 - MBPAC, Safety Programs, Complete Streets & Infrastructure funding are key to this position
- Baltimore, Bethesda, Frederick, Rockville and recently Hagerstown are LAB bike-friendly communities
- Maryland's Bike/Ped Master Plan

State Priorities

1. Protect critical bicycle infrastructure & safety funding programs
 - a. *MD Bikeways, Federal Transportation Alternatives, Recreational Trails Program, etc.*
2. Implement and fund the 2014 *Bike/Ped Master Plan* & commitment to *Complete Streets*
3. Focus on **KEY CONNECTORS** to create safe interconnected bike routes including the *Susquehanna River Crossing & Patuxent River Crossing*
4. Strengthen the *Bike Caucus*

Anne Arundel County Priorities

1. Follow-through on Complete Streets with policies and funded projects
2. Integrate land use and transportation policy/planning to improve bike/ped access
3. **KEY CONNECTORS**
 - a. Rt. 170, 175, Ft. Meade Connector, West Street, Mountain Rd, USNA Br. To Spa Creek Br.
 - b. Broadneck Trail, South Shore Trail, B&A and BWI Trail connectors (eg. AACC, SPHS)
 - c. Much can be done inexpensively with striping and signs

STRATEGIES & BENEFITS

Complete Streets

We support the commitment to *Complete Streets* by the state of Maryland and more recently by Anne Arundel County. *Complete Streets* assures that investment in new roads and maintenance/renovation of existing roads will address the needs of multiple transportation modes including cars, trucks, bicycles and pedestrians. This nationally recognized strategy provides safe transportation options **at little incremental cost**. Safe bicycle and pedestrian routes to work, school, shopping and other destinations reduces traffic, protects the environment, stimulates the local economy and addresses Anne Arundel's #1 health issue – obesity. It prepares Maryland for the transportation demands of the current and next generation.

Economic Growth – Commerce & Tourism

Bicycling brings a significant boost to Maryland's economy for residents and businesses. Across the country, cities and states find when bicycle lanes are installed, sales and revenue increase. After New York City installed protected bike lanes businesses along that street saw a **49% increase in retail sales** while businesses in the rest of Manhattan saw a 3% increase. Bicyclists are competitive consumers and spend more on average at most businesses. Maryland has major trail systems including the Great Allegheny Passage, the C&O Canal, and the [East Coast Greenway](#) which runs through Anne Arundel, but has yet to realize its potential as a premier bicycling destination. A 2008 economic impact study on the Great Allegheny Passage rated its benefit to local communities by providing over **\$40 million in direct trail revenue** benefit to towns such as Cumberland, Hancock, Williamsport, Sharpsburg, Brunswick, and Point of Rocks. Travelers on multiday trail systems spend twice what day users spend. Bicycle tourism means economic prosperity for Maryland.

Economic Growth - Competitiveness

Many American cities are competitively attracting businesses and a younger workforce by developing bicycle infrastructure. A survey Portland, Oregon survey found that **62% of new residents cited the city's bike-friendliness as a factor in their decision to move there**. Property values along bicycle infrastructure and trails increase, because they are attractive to residents. Businesses find the millennial generation wants to be able to bicycle and will relocate to states and cities that provide this cheap amenity. Major companies have discovered that their employees prefer active transportation and want to bicycle to, from, and at work. Anne Arundel County's major employment centers such as Ft. Meade, BWI area and Arundel Mills; as well as tourist destinations like Annapolis and South County need safe, interconnected bike routes.

Health Benefits, Especially Obesity

According to the CDC, 27.1% of adult Marylanders are obese and 65.4% overweight. By 2030 Maryland health care costs could climb by 21.3% due to high levels of obesity. Studies show that community based physical activity interventions are cost effective, and it is three to four times cheaper to teach a sedentary adult to integrate moderate intensity physical activity in their life than to enroll in a structured exercise program. Of the **ten most common causes of death in the United States, seven are affected by transportation**, including all of those caused by a sedentary lifestyle, air pollution, and traffic crashes. Research shows that those who commute by car daily are more likely to gain weight than those who do not, even if they are physically active at other times. Bicycling is beneficial to Maryland health, especially when it is used for transportation to work and school.