



# *Safe Bicycling For Economic Growth, Health, Environment & Competitiveness*

## *Anne Arundel County State Delegation*

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Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County ([BikeAAA](#)) 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 more than 500 county cyclists and work closely with our statewide counterpart, [BikeMD](#).

### **BikeAAA recent accomplishments include:**

- Launch of Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission chaired by BikeAAA president Jon Korin
- Over 1,000 children through bike safety rodeos with partners AACR&P, AACPRD & AACPS
- More than 500 free helmets to county children through an MHSO grant
- Over 670 registered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual [Lifeline100 Anne Arundel Century Ride](#) ( next: 10/16/16 )
- Training new League Certified Instructors to teach bicycle safety
- East Coast Greenway signs are up on AA County roads; soon statewide (Maryland Bikeways grant)

### **Maryland's Recognized Commitment to Safe Bicycling Must Be Strengthened**

- Recently slipped from #7 to #10 bike-friendly state by League of American Bicyclists ("[LAB](#)")
  - Safety laws, Safety Programs, Complete Streets & Infrastructure funding are key to this ranking
- Baltimore, Bethesda, Frederick, Hagerstown, Rockville and Salisbury 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. Close the exception to the 3 foot passing law
3. Implement and fund the *Bike/Ped Master Plan* & reinforce the commitment to *Complete Streets*
4. Focus on **KEY CONNECTORS** to create safe interconnected bike routes including the *Susquehanna River Crossing & Patuxent River Crossing*.
5. Strengthen the house of delegates *Bike Caucus* and assure strong staff bike focus in *MDOT/SHA*

### **Anne Arundel County Priorities**

1. Launch the Bike Commission and 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, Linthicum)
  - c. Odenton/Ft. Meade/Arundel Mills/BWI Corridor and greater Annapolis need bike networks

*BikeAAA is an all-volunteer 501c3 promoting safe bicycling* [www.bikeaaa.org](http://www.bikeaaa.org)

## 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.