

# *Elkton Bicycle Plan*

## Overview

The Town of Elkton envisions itself as a livable community where adults and children, including both residents and visitors, can ride their bicycles safely and with ease to destinations such as a friend's house, a nearby park, a workplace, the local farmer's market, historic landmarks, or the library. The Town wants to provide a friendly bicycle experience that is free of mobility obstacles, has directional signage and visual cues for motorists to enhance on-road safety, and accommodations such as bike storage. Elkton envisions bicycling as part of its community fabric and character, as well as a component of its multimodal transportation network.

### Why Elkton, Why Now?

- Elkton is the eastern gateway to scenic Cecil County and the upper Eastern Shore.
- The East Coast Greenway passes through Elkton.
- A potential designation of US Bicycle Route 1 could pass through Maryland via Elkton.
- Elkton's location in proximity to regional attractors are advantageous to bicycle tourism which could spur economic development.
- Elkton's small size and mix of medium density makes bicycling and walking between various uses ideal.
- Elkton is recognized by Maryland's Main Streets program for revitalization efforts along Main Street. This corridor is a major destination in Town and could benefit from improved bicycle access.
- Strains on the transportation network due to BRAC.
- Multimodal transportation options is a factor that makes Elkton a more desirable community in which to live, work, and play.



### Planning Participants

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • The Town of Elkton                           | • Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) |
| • Elkton Parks and Recreation                  | • Cecil County Department of Planning         |
| • Elkton Alliance                              | • Citizen Advocates                           |
| • Elkton Police Department                     | • Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) |
| • Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) |   |

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## Existing Conditions

Elkton currently lacks a strong bicycle-friendly community presence. Many Elkton residents expressed they do not bicycle frequently because they are not comfortable to ride due to traffic and lack of dedicated bicycle facilities. Several corridors and intersections were identified as having challenges with moving bicyclists along including MD 213, MD 268, US 40, and MD 213 at US 40.

Currently, few bicycle parking opportunities are available throughout Town which can discourage usage. Bicycle safety information is not widely publicized in Elkton and bicycling is not encouraged on a consistent basis, which creates a need for emphasis on non-infrastructure improvements such as bicycle safety education and encouragement.



MD 279 westbound, near MD 213



MD 279 and 213 Intersection



MD 213, southbound



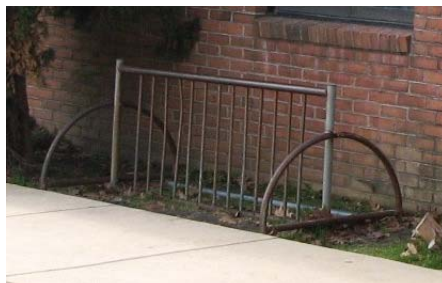
MD 268 overpass, northbound



US 40, at Whitehall Rd



MD 213, northbound at Elkton Blvd



The bicycle rack at the Cecil County Library is not functional.



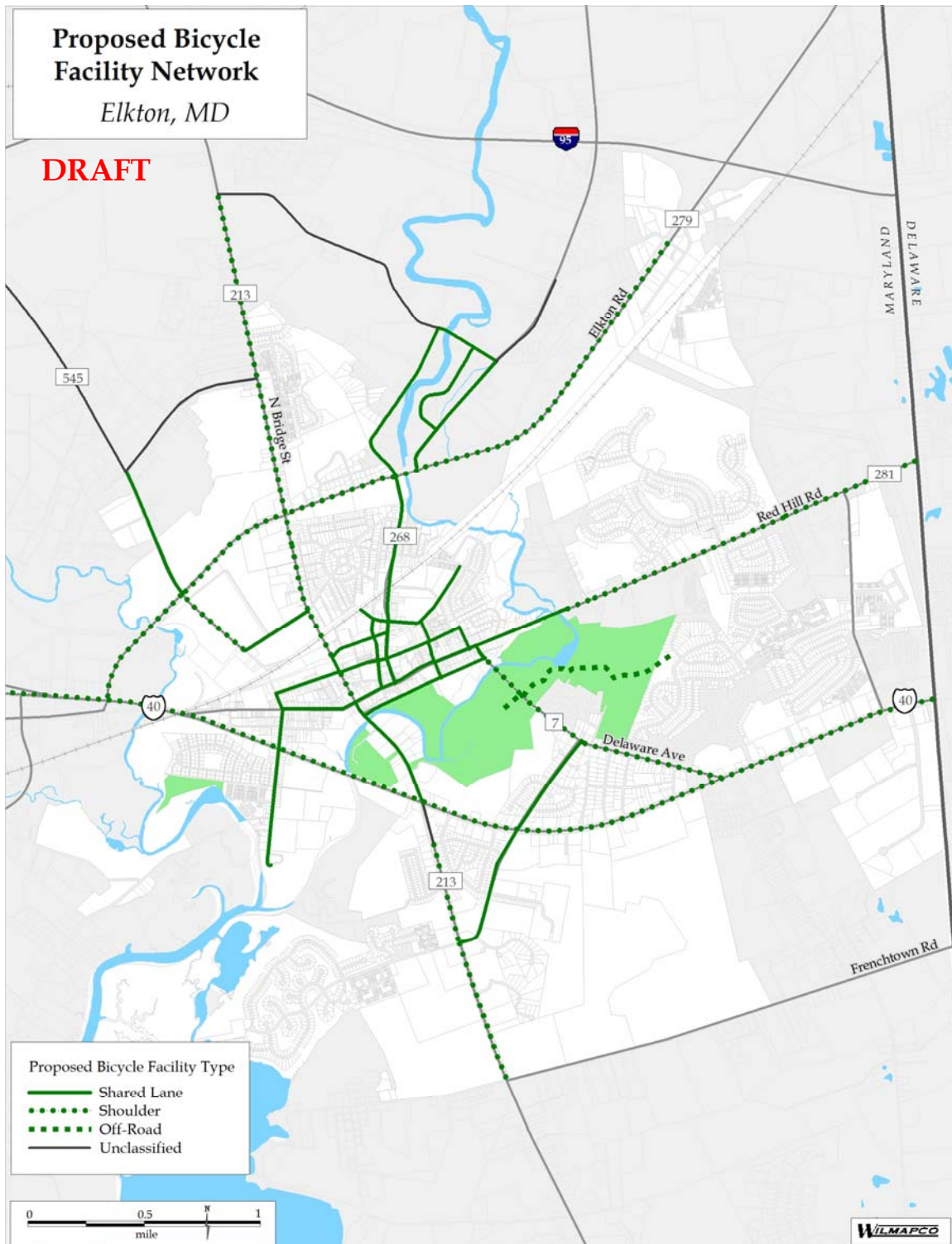
Main Street has abundant opportunities for bike racks.



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## Proposed Bicycle Network

To complement two signed SHA bicycle corridors in Town (MD 213 and US 40), the plan evaluated additional corridors for improvement to encourage bicycling. Using input for existing and desired bicycle travel routes, the proposed network was developed. Most of the segments included have adequate shoulder width (minimum 4 ft.) to create separate spaces for bicyclists, while others have wide lanes and slow speeds that are more ideal for shared lanes.

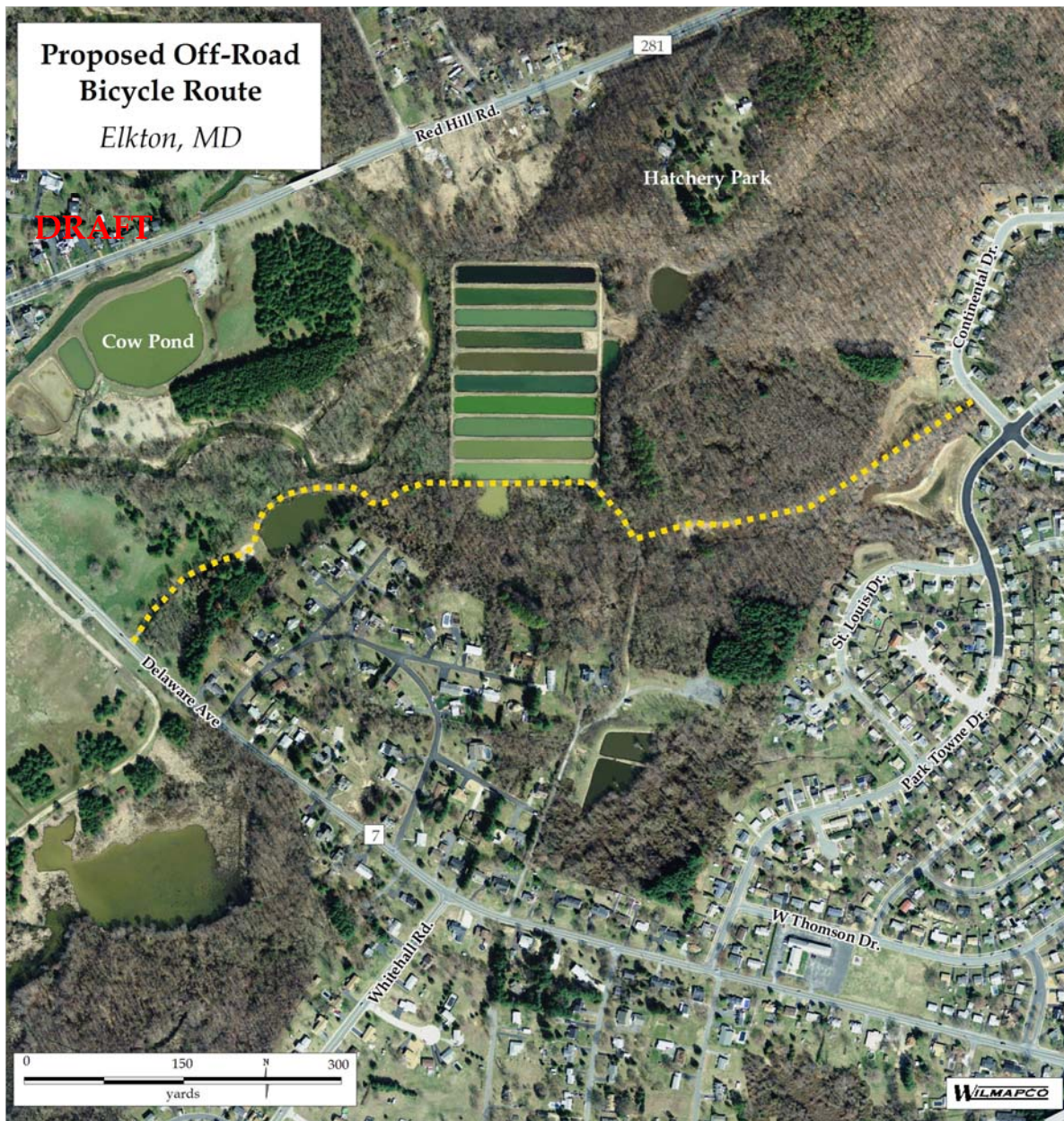




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## Proposed Off-Road Bicycle Trail

There are many benefits to off-road bicycle and pedestrian trails. For instance, connectivity, added safety, direct and indirect economic benefits, and recreational opportunities, make trails an attractive community feature. Elkton's proposed bike network includes an off-road segment that is roughly one mile long. With access from Delaware Avenue, the trail would begin near East Hatchery Park and end at Continental Drive, near Park Towne Drive and Melbourne Boulevard. This portion closely follows a portion of the Mason-Dixon Trail. Below shows where the proposed route may travel.

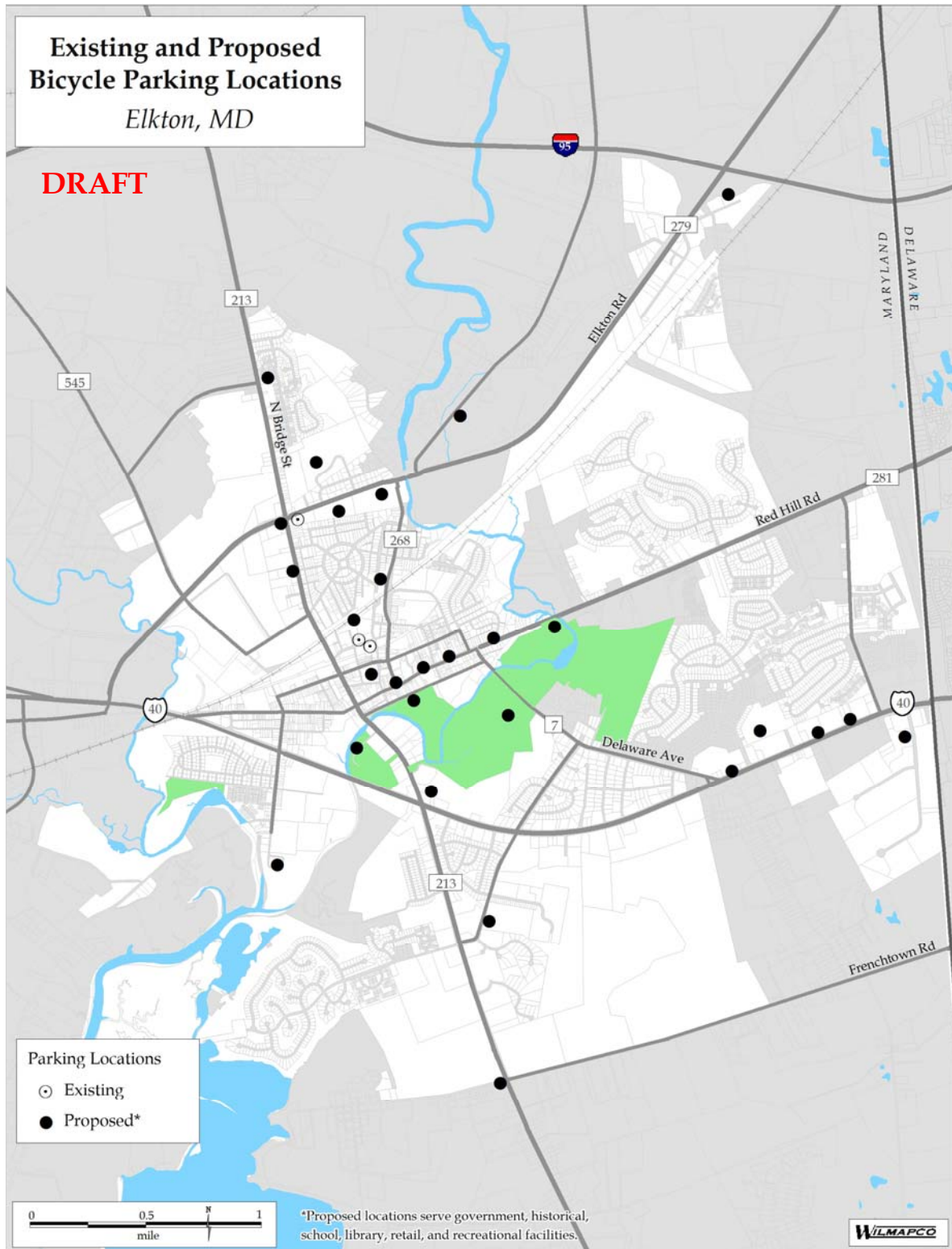




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## Bicycle Parking

Bicycle parking throughout the network is essential to creating a system that works for the users. Adequate and secure bicycle parking is recommended at all major trip destinations including retail corridors, the library, the hospital, parks, schools, and historic sites. The map below shows close to 30 locations where bicycle parking should be provided in Elkton.



# Elkton Bicycle Plan

## Summary of Recommendations

Implementation of Elkton's bicycle plan calls for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements—in which most infrastructure improvements include pavement markings, re-striping, and signage. In partnership with the county and state as well as strategic public-private partnerships for alternate funding sources, the Town can achieve the plans' goals through many actions summarized below.

<b>DRAFT</b>  Goals and Actions	Improvement Category						Timing		
	Planning/ Engineering	Enforcement	Education	Encouragement	Policy	Other	2011- 2014 (ST)	2014-2016 (MT)	2016+ (LT)
<b>Goal 1. Develop a coordinated network of bicycle facilities</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Sign bicycle routes and re-stripe pavement markings to provide a minimum shoulder width of 4 ft. where identified along the proposed network.	x							x	x
2. Clear and sign off-road bicycle routes identified in the proposed network.	x						x	x	
3. Work with MDOT and Cecil County as the East Coast Greenway and Cecil County Greenways are developed and signed through Elkton.	x						x	x	x
<b>Goal 2. Provide safe access to the bicycle network</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Work with MDOT, SHA, Cecil County, and Elkton Public Works to remove physical barriers to access the proposed network through state maintenance and complete street policies.	x				x		x		
2. Work with Cecil County during the development and implementation of a countywide bicycle plan to provide connectivity between the Town and county.						x	x	x	x
3. Work with SHA to improve bicycle conditions along state maintained roads identified in the proposed network.	x						x		
<b>Goal 3. Improve bicycle access to transit</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Work with MDOT, SHA, and Elkton Public Works to provide safe passage to key transit access points in Town via state and local roads.						x	x		
2. Work with the Cecil County Transit, and DART where applicable, to examine and incorporate bicycle access during the decision making process when improvements to existing and new bus stops are planned.					x		x		
3. Request DART and Cecil County Transit to keep records of bicycle rack usage on buses to evaluate trends.						x	x		

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## Summary of Recommendations

<b>DRAFT</b>  <b>Goals and Actions</b>	Improvement Category						Timing		
	Planning/ Engineering	Enforcement	Education	Encouragement	Policy	Other	2011- 2014 (ST)	2014-2016 (MT)	2016+ (LT)
<b>Goal 3. Improve bicycle access to transit (continued)</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
4. Require new and redevelopment plans to include bicycle and pedestrian elements, including the future redevelopment of Elkton's train station.					×		×		
5. Work with other stakeholders to petition MTA to consider policy that would create designated areas on all MARC train cars for bicycles and keep aisles unobstructed.						×	×	×	
<b>Goal 4. Provide adequate and secure bicycle parking at all major trip destinations</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Work with Cecil County Transit and SHA to provide bicycle racks on all buses and at key bus stops such as shopping centers and downtown locations.	×						×		
2. Provide bicycle racks at the designated locations on the proposed bicycle parking map, including at the Elkton Train Station when passenger service resumes. Expand bike parking further when demand increases.	×						×		
3. Add bicycle and pedestrian supportive language to existing zoning ordinance and other bicycle-friendly actions to encourage and facilitate non-motorized travel.					×		×		
4. Adopt a bicycle parking ordinance including bicycle rack design guidelines that incorporate key considerations for design and placement.					×		×		
5. Initiate a Bicycle Rack Program which allows the Town to share the cost to purchase and install racks with local businesses.	×						×		
<b>Goal 5. Promote safe design, maintenance, enforcement practices, and public education and encouragement programs</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Work with the Elkton Police Department to begin local documentation of bicycle crashes to establish a baseline and help guide future safety improvements.		×		×			×		
2. Work with the Elkton Police Department to strengthen the enforcement for the rules of the road and target both cyclists and motorists.		×	×	×		×	×		

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	Planning/ Engineering	Enforcement	Education	Encouragement	Policy	Other	2011- 2014 (ST)	2014-2016 (MT)	2016+ (LT)
<b>Goal 5. Promote safe design, maintenance, enforcement practices, and public education and encouragement programs (continued)</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
3. Work with the Elkton Police Department and Elkton Parks and Recreation and to develop and administer a public education program that includes dissemination of brochures and safety videos, and active learning such as bicycle rodeos, bicycle skills courses, bicycle ambassadors, etc. Include local bicycle clubs.		x	x				x		
4. Consider implementing a ciclovía program along Main Street.						x			x
5. Work with the Cecil County Department of Tourism to promote bicycle tourism in Town and identify economic development opportunities.						x			x
6. To enhance safety on state and local roads, work with SHA and Public Works to install pavement markings along the bicycle network, including symbols and retroreflective words.	x						x	x	
7. Work with Elkton Public Works and SHA to ensure signal timing accounts for cyclists on state and local roads.						x		x	
8. Encourage employers in Elkton to join the Healthiest Maryland Businesses initiative that aims to educate and encourage employee wellness, including promoting regular physical activity such as bicycling.			x	x			x		
9. Encourage employers in Elkton to take key steps and seek national recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Business through the League of American Bicyclists.			x	x			x		
10. Formally support bicycling by adopting Bike to Work Month and Week through a municipal resolution. Promote Bike to Work Month and Week through various local media. Partner with major employers to provide incentives for bicycling to work.					x		x	x	
<b>Goal 6. Incorporate bicycle elements into transportation and development actions (continued)</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Incorporate the Bicycle Plan into the Town's next Comprehensive Plan.					x			x	x
2. Update zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations with language that requires bicycle accommodations when feasible and connects to Elkton's bicycle network (when feasible require these accommodations to connect with existing and planned transit service).					x		x		
3. Follow the Complete Streets policy that requires the consideration of non-motorized facilities into all planning, design, construction, and maintenance of Town owned and maintained roads.	x				x		x		



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	Planning/ Engineering	Enforcement	Education	Encouragement	Policy	Other	2011- 2014 (ST)	2014-2016 (MT)	2016+ (LT)
<b>Goal 6. Incorporate bicycle elements into transportation and development actions (continued)</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
4. Consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities in design review procedures.					x		x		
<b>Goal 7. Develop an implementation plan</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Devote adequate staff resources to implementing the bicycle plan, including serving on Elkton's permanent Bicycle Advisory Committee.						x	x		
2. Establish a dedicated funding stream using a portion of the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments capital budget for the implementation of bicycle improvements on municipal owned roads.					x	x	x		
3. Create an annual budget for bicycle improvements.					x	x	x		
4. Adopt a prioritization process to quantitatively evaluate projects that gives adequate weight to non-motorized improvements.					x		x		
5. Apply for private and federal grants to receive technical assistance and/or funding for implementation.						x	x		
6. Establish a Bicycle Advisory Committee through municipal resolution to assist with the implement the bike plan, address matters relating to bicycling and to raise public awareness on bicycling issues.					x		x		
7. Establish partnerships with a variety of organizations to aid in the development, maintenance, and usage of Elkton's bicycle network.						x	x	x	
<b>Goal 8. Involve the community in the planning and implementation of the bicycle system</b>									
<b>Actions:</b>									
1. Work with local bike clubs, law enforcement, and other agencies and utilize Town events and festivals to promote bicycle safety. These efforts should tie into the larger public education and encouragement initiative.			x	x			x	x	x
2. Increase public awareness of existing and new bicycle accommodations as they become available by providing a permanent bicycle page on Elkton's website with information and printed and online interactive maps.			x	x			x	x	x
3. To increase bicycle activity, promote May Bike Month, Bike to Work Week, and other national and local events that highlight bicycling benefits.			x	x			x	x	
4. Utilize online participatory mapping for residents to document their bicycling concerns and use to help guide maintenance spot treatments.						x	x		
5. Invite residents to participate on the Elkton Bicycle Advisory Committee.			x				x		
6. Provide ads and public service announcements about the benefits of cycling and bicycle accommodations available in Town.			x	x			x	x	