Enhancing Walkability & Bikeability

Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled and Increasing Support for Concentrated Activity Centers

Facilitiators:

Mike Hunninghake, Environmental Finance Center
Jeff King, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director

Benefits of Walkable & Bikeable Communities

Environmental Benefit

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduces smog and particulate air pollution.

Human Health Benefit

- Positive impact on air quality and public health.
- Expanded opportunity for physical activity supporting weight loss and stress relief.
- Improved quality of life from reduced commute times.

Economic Benefit

- Reduced commuting costs.
- Can catalyze economic growth.
  - Money saved on commuting is spent on other goods and services which adds stimulus to state incomes, employment, and real wages.
  - Construction of trails and other pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure supports jobs and incentivizes private sector investment.
  - Homes values near trails and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure are often higher.

Snapshot of Efforts in the County

- VisionZero plan looks to make streets safer for walking and biking.

- Ongoing efforts to incorporate complete streets into land use planning and urban design to create bike and pedestrian friendly communities.

- RideSmart Solutions offers free information on accessing bus service, rail lines, carpooling, vanpooling and telecommuting.

- Working with Commuter Connections to promote transportation alternatives and connect commuters to jobs, education, shopping, healthcare, and other important destinations, while reducing auto emissions and traffic congestion.

- Promotion of a collection of commuting apps to inform decisions about commuting options and rewards programs including:
  - NextBus to track TheBus system
  - PGCTrip for real-time roadway conditions and traffic cameras
  - TransLoc on-demand PGC Link micro transit in the Fort Washington area (pilot program running now through early May 2021)
  - Curb for Prince George's County taxi service options
  - CarpoolNow offers free, real-time ride matches with other commuters traveling the same direction as you to work or home
  - Commuter Connections for ride matches, Park & Ride lots
  - Incentrip which rewards commute choices in cash and/or gift cards

- 2020 review of 2012 Climate Plan draft leading to an upcoming employee commute survey

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director
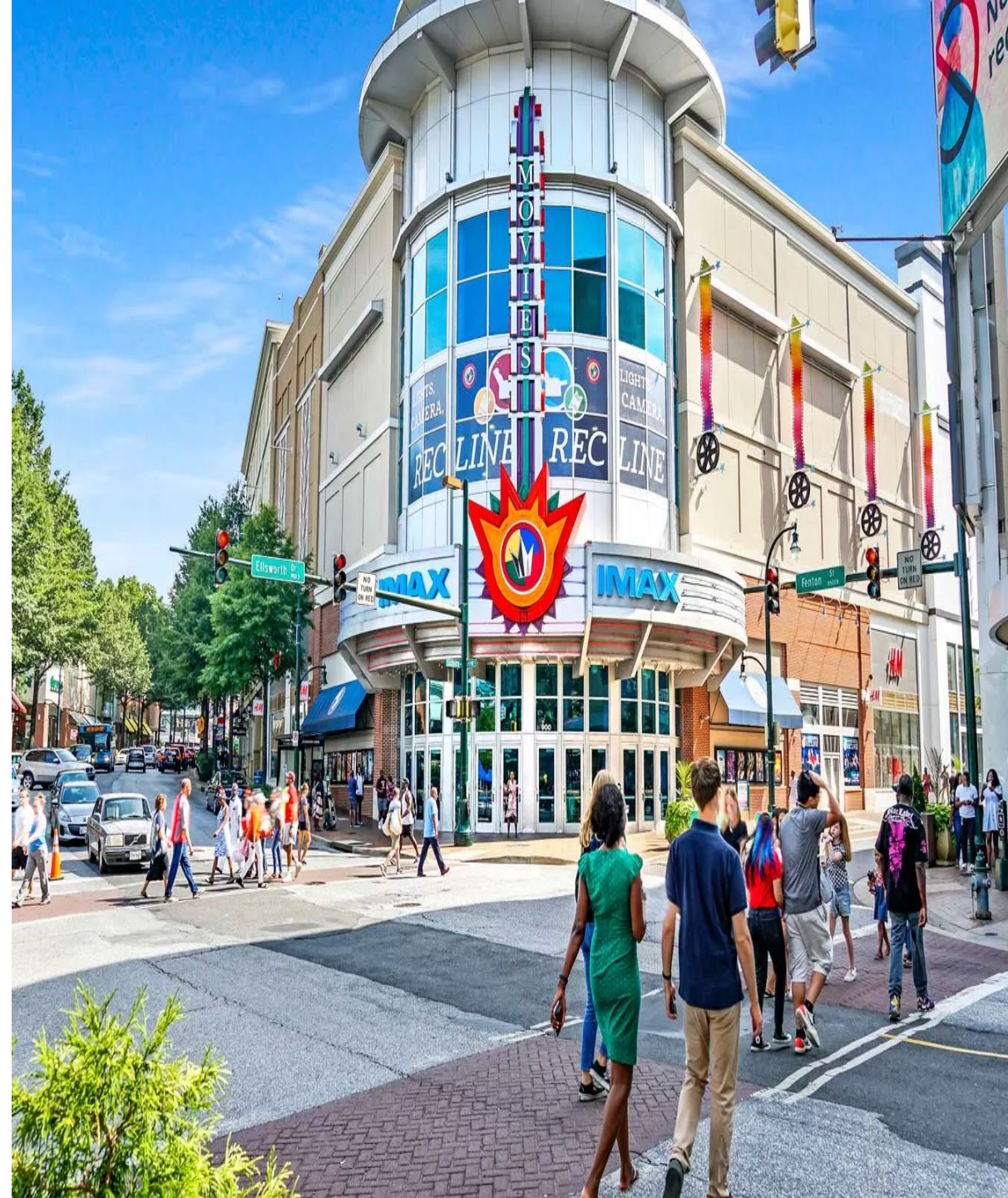
Preliminary Walkable & Bikeable Recommendations

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through support for teleworking and virtual convenings; County to lead by example through its telecommute policies.

- Increase support for Activity Centers by focusing capital investments, supporting transit, enhancing walkability and bikeability, adopting strategies that bring housing and jobs to these centers in order to reduce VMT and stimulate economic development

What does an enhanced Walkable & Bikeable Prince George's County look like?

- WHO?
- WHAT?
- WHEN?
- WHERE?
- HOW?

Century Group Graphic

What could enhanced Walkability and Bikeability in Prince George's County look like?

- *E.g., dedicated bike routes with slower vehicle speed limits*

- *Mode shift, reduce VMT, set goal, ID way to get there.*

- *Trails are important, safest for walk/bike, connected lit trails, connect to employment/commercial/residential, amenity for recreation too.*

- *Education on environ benefits of walk/bike.*

- *Address – need to feel safe, for families especially. Rethink process.*

- *Need technical advisement on implementing plans*

What could enhanced Walkability and Bikeability in Prince George's County look like?

- *K-12 Bike/Walkable Schools, Safe routes to schools*

- *Equity – where, all users*

- *Enforcement issues – black and brown communities*

- *South County issue – different needs/possibilities*

- *Measure VMT/capita as key indicator/target to drive change*

- *How retrofit roadways, enhance safety, build right way. Fully fund and implement complete streets and urban design stds.*

- *Need greenway, connectivity, address social equity*

- *Address safety for crossing major thoroughfares – Goddard/greenbelt, Rt 210 in southern county too, food deserts*

- *South County – no sidewalks, amenities, only cars, buses, traffic, loss of trees/greenspace, big community issue*

- *Adelphi – can't walk or bike, no sidewalks, can't let kids ride on street*

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director

Challenges

- Sheer number of automobiles
- Lack of sidewalks, speeding, safety issues, lighting (including trails), road and community design, enforcement
- Traffic and pedestrian signals
- Distance, density, proximity to transit
- Design of major thoroughfares
- Resistance from communities, concern about cost, gentrification
- Lack of communication between agencies

Opportunities

- Connect trails, connect communities, sidewalks
- Move away from auto-centric development
- Elevate non-auto to higher tier of consideration
- Build in reduced VMT to development review
- Bike rental options, scooters too? All of the above
- TDM Management, encourage incentives for metrorail and bus, supporting shuttles
- HOV lanes on streets to promote ridesharing
- BRT/Rapid Transit

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director

Who benefits?

- Areas of high pedestrian fatalities
- Those lacking auto access, or choosing a no auto lifestyle
- Elderly

Who is burdened or left out?

- South County
- Elderly
- Disabled

How do we ensure equitable outcomes?

- *E.g., Prioritize projects, promotion of opportunities, or technical support in Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)*
- Address lack of investment in low-income communities and communities of color
- Figure out who manages these things
- Recognize walking is a necessary component of everyday life – a Human Right
- Address disabled community
- Do better at planning areas of focus, be more
- Address student needs, have students create plan and present to leaders.

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director

What does success in the County look like in the next 3-5 years?

- Research and Data Needs
- Policy/Ordinance Changes
- Residential Outreach Efforts
- Monitoring and Evaluation

- South County has Sidewalks
- Affordable housing located in transit accessible, walkable communities.
- Able to walk or bike anywhere
- Good Map that has routes for all County routes, comprehensive, see DC Bike Map
- Walk to grocery
- More connectivity of trails
- Safe access to Metro
- Don't need a Car
- Redesigned intersections and roadways
- Safe designs
- Walkable destinations
- Good community engagement

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director

Apply to be a County Climate Action Resident Expert

- https://forms.gle/z92cx7LLrYTmNLN17

Visit the DMV Climate Partners Website

- https://climatepartners.org

Learn More About Upcoming Meetings

- mypgc.us/climateactionplan

Explore the County CAP Virtual House

- https://bit.ly/2S7PgEQ

Provide Comments and Feedback

- https://bit.ly/3vBKqNJ

Stay Engaged

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Crooms | Acting Director
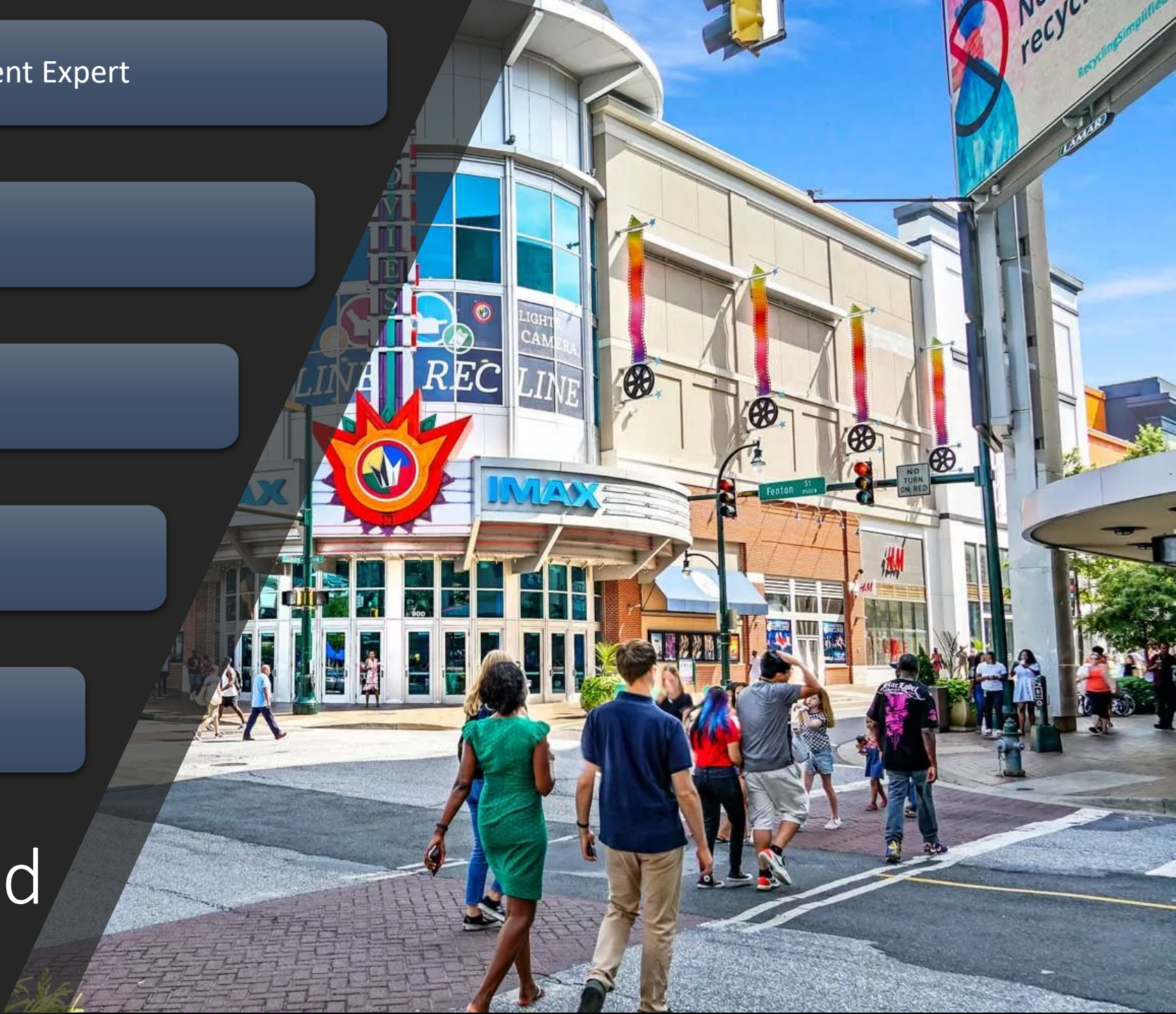
7. ENHANCING WALKABILITY AND BIKEABILITY CHAT TEXT

19:57:13	From Walkability - Helena Kaiser : Sooo sorry! I have to leave: I have another meeting at 8 pm; thought that this was just 1.5 hrs. I will check for the recording. Thanks for having this meeting!
19:59:03	From Miriam Bader, College Park : Goal should be that a PG County resident can walk or bike to all the places they want to go, i.e. to the store, transit, post office, bank, etc.
19:59:55	From Amanda Dewey, Berwyn Heights : Not only do people have close and easy access to places they need, but they can also get there safely and feel comfortable. I hope we'll focus less on cars and more on other options. Also lots of trees so folks aren't walking and biking in direct sun
20:00:02	From James Roberson: PGCPS : K-12 students having walkable and bikeable schools... sidewalks are important, safe streets, trails, etc. are needed.
20:00:25	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : Agree with Patrick!
20:00:47	From 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC To Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him(privately) : Agreed. I'm on the Board of Coalition for capital Crescent Trail
20:01:45	From Joy Bailey : clean, well groom
20:03:24	From Joy Bailey : clean, safe, and well kept roads are needed to provide a walkable, likea
20:03:31	From Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him To 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC(privately) : Great! And I think you know my day job is Director of Govt Relations at Rails-to-Trails Conservancy :)
20:04:06	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG : This would never happen in Southern tip PG County. The areas in our county that already receive the most resources would receive the Walking/Biking settings.
20:04:48	From 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC To Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him(privately) : Right!
20:08:43	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG : Currently Green gases are on the rise. 20 years ago our area was rural and quiet. Now Cross County residents driving Highway 210 has Quadrupled. There are no sidewalks outside the Community.
20:09:08	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Set reduced VMT goals and implement by updating the County's Transportation Review Guidelines for new development and mitigating the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) impacts of proposed projects.
20:09:39	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG : Can't find hand raise signal
20:09:56	From 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC To Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG(privately) : Under Reactions on bottom
20:10:45	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Fund & implement road retrofits, build/reconstruct new roads with complete streets.
20:11:44	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : focus growth in centers with complete streets, redirect growth away from areas not in centers/near transit.
20:14:48	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Measure progress by setting quantified Countywide targets to reduce per capita automobile VMT (vehicle miles traveled) and increase non-automobile mode share
20:15:29	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Challenges - state & county roads designed for speeding cars rather than vulnerable users.
20:15:30	From Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him : Also build walking and biking infrastructure around all of our Metro and Purple Line stations and any other transit hubs
20:15:31	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : Yes, lack of sidewalks, speeding on streets, busy/ multi-lane streets that are scary to cross or walk on
20:15:40	From Yesysrael Cook : Dance from parks
20:15:42	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG To 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC(privately) : Lighting
20:15:43	From Yesysrael Cook : *distance

20:15:59	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : pedestrian signals ignored if present
20:16:35	From Yesysrael Cook : Impact on the environment
20:16:53	From Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him : Specifically lighting trails so that they can be better used as commuter routes
20:16:57	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : High design speeds for roads where people are trying to walk & bike.
20:17:14	From Yesysrael Cook : Impact on the environment
20:17:15	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : connectivity of trails, sidewalks
20:17:34	From Amanda Dewey, Berwyn Heights : Challenges - safety, and a culture focused on cars including some residents who perceive transit issues as a zero-sum game. Another challenge (but also an opportunity) is the structure around development that builds in vehicle traffic considerations. For example, as we continue to engage with the redevelopment of beltway plaza, the process by default prioritizes car issues
20:17:38	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Intersections that create barriers for people walking & biking.
20:18:06	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Build in reduced VMT in development review
20:18:20	From Larry Hilliard - Greenbelt Green ACES : Well identified and supported crossing points.
20:18:52	From Larry Hilliard - Greenbelt Green ACES : Bike Rental options between way points.
20:19:21	From Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him : yes!
20:19:26	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : sure
20:19:38	From Yesysrael Cook : Challenges" impact on the environment Opportunity: HOV lanes on the streets to promote ride sharing
20:20:31	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG To 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC(privately) : Yes bike share: bike trails or Lanes separate from walk trails.
20:21:01	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Bus lanes!
20:21:25	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : Challenges- sometimes resistance from communities to adding bike/ped infrastructure because of the fear of increased costs/ gentrification/ displacement
20:21:50	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG To 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC(privately) : Bus Service. It currently doesn't extend to Accokeek.
20:22:03	From Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him : Another challenge is the lack of communication between all the many agencies that have a say in bike/ped infrastructure - M-NCPPC, DPWT, NPS, SHA
20:22:10	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : invest in promoting biking for low income residents.
20:23:14	From 📝Co-Facilitator: Jeff King, COG : Check out COG's regional Bike/Ped Plan if you have time. May be of interest.
20:23:49	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : More walk/bike friendly communities benefit low income residents who drive less, ride transit more, walk & bike.
20:24:22	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : Could also look at the highest incidence of chronic disease prevalence and the existing infrastructure
20:25:38	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : Work with various community advocates to understand concerns about bike/ped infrastructure and work collaboratively to determine best path forward
20:25:50	From Amanda Dewey, Berwyn Heights : I think addressing policing issues is particularly important here, because people of color need to feel that they can safely walk and bike
20:26:17	From Yesysrael Cook : Social equity: connecting low income and high income areas
20:26:28	From Miriam Bader, College Park : Who Benefits? Elderly who no longer can or want to drive, need safe walking trails/sidewalks that connect to everyday needs like stores, post office, bank, community center, etc.
20:26:47	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Safer walk/bike designs bring equity with shared public spaces that don't require owning a car.
20:26:48	From Laila Riazi_Cheverly GIC : The family safety issue is extremely important because walking is a necessary component of everyday life.
20:27:43	From Yesysrael Cook : Disabled need access
20:27:54	From Amanda Dewey, Berwyn Heights : Great point Yesysrael!

20:27:57	From Larry Hilliard - Greenbelt Green ACES : 3 examples: Old Greenbelt is a beneficiary of good connectivity, while West of Kenilworth Avenue, lack of bike/pedestrian planning makes them an outpost. Greenbelt East is "somewhat connected".
20:29:15	From Yesysrael Cook : Student voice: have student create a greenway plan and present it to those with power
20:30:16	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Affordable housing located in transit accessible, walkable communities.
20:30:55	From Miriam Bader, College Park : People can walk or bike anywhere.
20:31:00	From Yesysrael Cook : A SMART goal
20:31:00	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : VMT measure for all new development, mitigation
20:31:12	From Laila Riazi_Cheverly GIC : That I could walk to the grocery and connect to trails safely.
20:31:14	From Kate Robb (she/her), Chillum : More connectivity of trails
20:31:29	From Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, he/him : That there is safe walking and biking access especially to every Metro and Purple Line station
20:31:33	From Miriam Bader, College Park : Success-Won't need a car.
20:31:35	From Tonya Charleston-Resident Southern PG To 🙋 Co-Facilitator: Mike - UMD/EFC(privately) : Have destinations to Bike or Walk too. Shopping and or green spaces.
20:31:47	From Yesysrael Cook : community engagement
20:32:13	From Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth : Redesigned streets & intersections safe for walking & biking.