**City Bikeways**

The City of Takoma Park maintains 3 miles of signed on-street bike routes, some of which are marked with shared lane (“sharrows”) pavement markings. In addition, there are 0.5 miles of marked “bikeways” on Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue, which are lanes in the split direction on two-way roads. There are also marked, non-standard (less than four feet wide) bicycle lanes on sections of Carroll Avenue through Old Takoma and on bridges across Sligo Creek and Long Branch. Approximately 2.5 miles of the Sligo Creek Trail runs through Takoma Park, maintained by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The City continues to make improvements to neighborhood bikeways by adding sharrows and signing routes. In 2013, new bike route signs will be installed along an additional 2.5 miles of Elm, Westwoodland, and Maple Avenue, where existing sharrows on Maple Avenue will be freshly re-installed. The Green Avenue Project between the Takoma Park Community Center and the Ed Williams Field at Takoma Piney Branch Park will include a bike path, ensuring this bike corridor is maintained. As part of the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project, bike lanes are planned for East-West Highway where it meets New Hampshire Avenue. Stay tuned for updates on Montgomery County’s expansion of the popular Capital Bikeshare program, coming soon to Takoma Park!

Like our Facebook page to keep up on bike projects and events in Takoma Park and on The New Ave

[www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD)

**Share the Road & Be Safe**

**Cyclists**
- Follow the rules of the road – Cyclists have the same rights and duties as other drivers and must follow the same traffic laws.
- Be predictable – ride in a straight line, signal turns, and vocalize turn intentions before turning on changing lanes.
- Climb to a complete stop at every stop sign and traffic light.
- Use a bell and lights (both front and rear), and keep your bicycle well-maintained.
- Don’t ride with headphones.
- Be courteous – please pedestrians on trails and sidewalks.
- Wear a helmet – if you’re under 15, it’s the law in Montgomery County!

**Motorists**
- Reckless bicyclists should be dealt with by police and drive with courtesy and tolerance.
- Check your blind spots – a bicycle could be there.
- Come to a complete stop at every stop sign and traffic light.
- Signal all turns and lane changes 100 feet in advance, otherwise Gardner right side of the bike lane before completing the turn.
- See the hoop – bike lanes, signs and pavement markings indicate cyclists are nearby.
- Be patient – please bicyclists only if it is safe to do so.
- Keep left – at least 3 feet of clearance.
- Be courteous – yield to pedestrians and Appendix crosswalks.

**Follow the Signs**

- Ride the “Takoma Greenways” neighborhood routes that connect regional trails with local destinations on quiet streets with low traffic.
- Cyclists should watch for speed bumps and pedestrians in the roadway.

Indicates that cyclists may be operating anywhere within the traffic lane on a Maryland State Highway.

**Pavement Markings**

Sharrows (Maple Avenue)
Shared lane markings, or “sharrows” are used to indicate that bicycles and automobiles share the lane, and reinforce the legitimacy of bicycle traffic on the street. Motorists must share the road with cyclists, and show them courtesy and respect.

**Bike Lanes (Carroll Avenue)**
Sections of Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park have designated lanes for bikes. Motorists must respect the bike lane, taking care when making right turns. Where space exists for a wider shoulder or bike lane on only one side of the road, it is usually placed in the climbing direction for the comfort of slower-moving cyclists.

**Eat, Shop, & Play by Bike**

Takoma Park’s vibrant and unique commercial districts and farmers markets are accessible by bike. For more information, see:
- Old Takoma Business Association
  [www.maldenmaketakoma.org](http://www.maldenmaketakoma.org)
- Takoma Park Farmers’ Market
  [www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org](http://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org)
- Long Branch Business League
  [www.longbranchbusinessleague.com](http://www.longbranchbusinessleague.com)

**Visit Takoma Park’s Takoma Park Community Center and Library for cultural and recreational activities by bike as well.**

**Look for the standard hoop rack in commercial districts and around public buildings. To request consideration for additional bike racks on City streets, contact the City’s Planning Division**

**Bike to School**

The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School program aims to encourage students to walk or bike to school. Safe Routes offers regular school-based programs to teach students the best safety practices when biking to school and around town. Schools are invited to participate in the annual Bike to School Day event in May. A bulk helmet purchase in the fall allows families access to high-quality helmets at a reduced price.

For more information, see [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7119 and contact lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov.

**Bike to Work Day**

Bike to Work Day
[www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org)

**Regional Bike Organizations**

Washington Area Bicyclist Association
[www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org)

Bike Maryland
[www.bikemd.org](http://www.bikemd.org)

League of American Bicyclists
[www.bikething.org](http://www.bikething.org)

**Bikes and Transit**

Most Metro stations have bike racks and some have lockers available for rent. On your bike you can ride your bicycle to a station, leave it there and take MetroLink or Metrobus. New Bike & Ride facilities at some Metro stations provide inexpensive, easy access bike parking with card access.

Bicycles are permitted on Metro rail weekdays except peak hours (7:10 am and 4–7 pm). Bicycles are permitted all day Saturday and Sunday as well as most holidays, except July 4th, Inauguration Day, or other special events attracting large crowds. Folded bicycles are allowed on Metro rail during all operational hours, but must remain folded and securely fastened during weekday peak hours.

Metrobus and RideOn equip buses with a rack that can hold two bikes, including children’s bikes. You are responsible for loading, securing, and removing your bike from the racks. For more information on using bikes on transit, and to learn how to secure bus bike racks, visit [www.wmata.com/getting_around/bike_racks](http://www.wmata.com/getting_around/bike_racks), or pick up a “Bike and Metro” brochure from the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

**City of Takoma Park**

Housing and Community Development

7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912
301-891-7119
planning@takomaparkmd.gov

**Bikeshare program, coming soon to Takoma Park!**

Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project, bike lanes

Piney Branch Park will include a bike path, ensuring this bike corridor is maintained. As part of the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project, bike lanes are planned for East-West Highway where it meets New Hampshire Avenue. Stay tuned for updates on Montgomery County’s expansion of the popular Capital Bikeshare program, coming soon to Takoma Park!

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**Takoma Park’s residents bike to work, school, Metro, shops, social events, and also just for fun. The City encourages you to incorporate cycling into more facets of your life, as a clean, healthy, safe, and convenient alternative to driving. This map will help guide your two-wheeled adventures in and around Takoma Park, with safety tips and handy resources along the way!**

Printed copies of this bike map are available in Takoma Park Community and Recreation Centers, and downloadable from:

[www.thetakelive.com/explore/bike](http://www.thetakelive.com/explore/bike)
[www.takomaparkmd.gov/fcdt/transportation-planning](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/fcdt/transportation-planning)

**Welcome!**

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