



BIKE MARYLAND

2015 Annual Report

Director's Message

2015 was a challenging year for Bike Maryland. On December 27, 2014, Baltimore cyclist Tom Palermo was struck and killed by an intoxicated and texting driver who fled the scene. Tom was an avid road and trail rider, custom frame builder, husband, father and friend. Tom's insight into making Baltimore more bikeable was invaluable to me during my tenure with Baltimore City Department of Transportation. The months that followed Tom's death were filled with sadness, frustration and anger. Since then, John Bushman, Jake Brewer, Tim Holden, John Fauerby, Lynne Rosenbusch and Benjamin Grimm have lost their lives while biking in Maryland.

Creating a state that's fun and safe is Bike Maryland's mission and we're working hard to make it that way. This year, we've seen an increase in state funding that will create more bike lanes and trails to make it safer for more Marylanders to ride! We've seen bike culture take root in areas of the state where some thought impossible, and we're seeing a greater awareness of cyclists' right to road. From bike parties in Westminster, to greater access for mountain bikes, Bike Maryland is making our state a better place to ride!

Nate Evans

Nate Evans
Executive Director



On New Year's Day 2015, the Maryland bike community came together in a peaceful, memorial ride to remember Tom and raise awareness of how vulnerable cyclists can be with sharing the same roadway with irresponsible drivers.

Photo Credit:
Jerry Jackson



Mission and Strategic Plan

OUR MISSION: To be the unifying organization for Maryland's bicyclists, advocating for improved conditions through infrastructure, education, encouragement, and enforcement.

GOALS:

1. Unify local bicycle advocates to create more bikeable communities statewide
2. Educate public on bikeability & road safety
3. Advocate for the construction of designated and connected bicycle infrastructure
4. Increase statewide bicycle mode share by 2% in 5 years
5. Grow membership, diversify funding sources, and promote organization initiatives

Shared Advocacy Successes

Bike Maryland works with many organizations and municipalities to make Maryland more bikeable. Our approach for a Bicycle Friendly Maryland is to pair top-down pro-bicycle actions with local change. Some of our initiatives in 2015 included:

- **Hagerstown** and **Salisbury** celebrating their new Bicycle Friendly Communities status. That makes SIX bike friendly communities in Maryland!
- Partnering with the **League of American Bicyclists** to perform "bike audits" in Columbia, Cumberland, and Bel Air to support city engineers, planners, and local cyclists with developing bike networks.
- Partnering with the **Washington Area Bicyclists' Association** to perform a property value assessment forecast with the development of the WB&A Trail.
- Starting a bicycle advocacy group in **Carroll County**, which has started its own Westminster Bike Party and began working with local officials on bike improvements.
- Worked with the **City of Baltimore**, **Bikemore**, and the **Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts** to restart many delayed bike initiatives, including opening select single track trails to mountain bikers in Loch Raven Reservoir.
- Sadly, placing **three ghost bikes**: one in Baltimore for Tom Palermo, Union Bridge for Arthur "John" Martin, and Calvert County for John Fauerby and Lynne Rosenbusch.
- Hosted our **2nd Annual Advocacy Day** to review potential 2016 legislation with our local advocacy groups.
- **Bike Lanes installed on MD170** in Linthicum. After community opposition sprang up in 2014, Bike Maryland along with Bike AAA and Aviation Velo spoke with legislators and the State Highway to support their installation.

During memorial rides we appreciate the support of police departments that provide us with escorts and assistance. Notably in 2015: the City of Westminster police, the Anne Arundel County police, and the Calvert County Sheriff's Department. Their presence during rides of silence and ghost bike installations speaks volumes, and we are grateful to their willingness to help.

Education Outreach



In Summer 2015 we brought bike safety to Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks' "Fun and Play" Program

"Thank you so much for bringing the Bicycle Safety and Rodeo Course to our school. It will definitely be the highlight of the year."

- Ms. Polk, Physical Education Teacher
Woodside Elementary School
Anne Arundel County

2015 saw a dramatic expansion of Bike Maryland's education services. Coupling grants from the **Maryland Highway Safety Office** and the **Safe Routes to School** program, Brian Kopp joined Bike Maryland as the education coordinator in January. The Bike-Minded program is constantly evaluated through surveyed schools to improve both message and comprehension. Since then, our Bike-Minded Safety Program has expanded beyond central Maryland. We are working with the **Maryland Department of Education** to bring our resources to school districts across the state.



The Bike Friendly Driver program launched in March in downtown Baltimore. With partners from the **Parking Authority of Baltimore City** and **AAA Mid-Atlantic**, this program helped raise bicycle awareness to motorists along popular bike routes in Baltimore City. People who took "the pledge" were awarded with a Bike Friendly car magnet. The Bike Friendly Driver program has since expanded to Howard County and may expand statewide.

Where Were We in 2015?

Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks "Fun and Play"
Anne Arundel Public Schools
Greenbelt Recreation and Parks
Hagerstown Recreation and Parks
Town of Emmitsburg Heritage Day
Harford County Boys and Girls Club
KIPP Ujima School in Baltimore City
Boys Scouts of Frederick County
750 helmets to students in
Anne Arundel County with Bike AAA

10,000 youth participated in a Bike-Minded Safety Program



Emmitsburg Heritage Day

Classes are being scheduled for 2016. If you are interested in hosting a workshop for students or adults please contact Brian Kopp at brian@bikemd.org or 4434062711

Pedaling Forward

2016 sees no lack of work for Bike Maryland. We've seen state funding for bike infrastructure and a greater awareness for cyclists' rights, but our work is not done. Improving safety for people on bikes improves safety for all road users.

Bike Maryland membership fosters your belonging in a statewide coalition of believers and activists for improved bicycling conditions, accessibility and legitimacy. Join us as we make Maryland a place we are proud to call home, where everyone can ride safely.

Thank you for being a Bike Maryland member!

In 2016 we will:

Advocate for laws that keep you safer

- Three Feet on Every Road
- a Vulnerable Road User Law
- Stronger Anti-DUI Provisions

Work with Maryland State Government for You:

- Negotiating bicycle access on the Hatem Bridge
- Continued and expanded Infrastructure Funding
- Bicycle access on higher quality road design



500 riders joined us for the 7th Annual Larry's Ride in Baltimore County

Bike Maryland is supported by paid membership and donations from cyclists like you!

Staff

Nate Evans, Executive Director
Brian Kopp, Education Coordinator
Emily Ranson, Advocacy Coordinator
Katie Gore, Bike-Minded Safety Program
Renee Moore, Bike-Minded Safety Program
Marla Streb, Bike-Minded Safety Program

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2015 Bike Maryland Grantors and Sponsors

Bike Maryland wishes to thank our sponsors who have enabled us to make our state a better place for bicycling!

State Highway Administration's
Safe Routes to School Program
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's
Highway Safety Office
Baltimore Bicycling Club
Oxon Hill Trail and Bicycle Club
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