



Department of Planning

2022 Summer Edition

225 North Center Street
Westminster, MD



Special Interest Articles:

- Emerging Transportation Trends
- Johnsville Road Safe Routes to School Project
- Welcome New Employees

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Emerging Transportation Trends: 'The Autonomous Corner'

by: Peri Odenwald & Abigail Rodgers, Department of Planning

In Spring of 2022, the Planning Department investigated future modes of transportation in the County and State. These findings will be summarized in a chapter of the upcoming Transportation Master Plan. Autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles and electric bikes are among the modes of transportation being examined.

During the month of April, the Department of Planning collaborated with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to conduct a public interest survey relating to transportation and opinions on MDOT's State Highway Administration's (SHA) futuristic travel plans. The survey is ongoing and will allow citizens to voice their opinions on travel patterns, the likelihood of adopting these new transportation trends, and additional generalized demographic information.

The most significant development in Carroll County has been the Autonomous Corridor in Westminster. The project is an effort by the Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory

(MAGIC), a non-profit based in Westminster. The Autonomous Corridor is an effort to develop and manage connected and automated vehicles, known as CAVs. CAVs are driverless vehicles with the ability to communicate with infrastructure and one another. Sensors within CAVs pick up on and respond to the surrounding environment. Truck platooning is the main activity being examined for CAV technology, with the goal of reducing road accidents. The State of Maryland has recently changed laws on truck platooning to accommodate and plan for the expansion of CAVs. Trucks are now allowed to follow one another more closely, and regulations now allow for two trucks to use vehicle-to-vehicle radar technology to sync with one another.

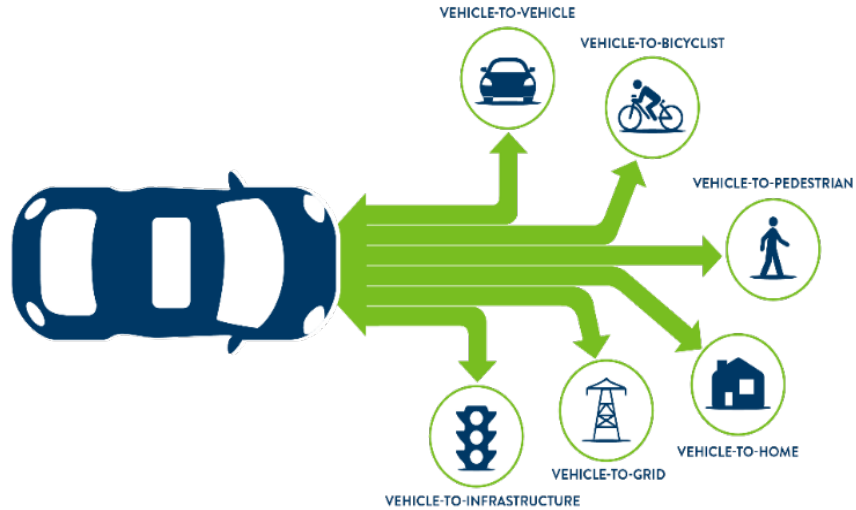
While the city of Westminster is a testing ground for CAVs in the county, I-95 is a testing ground for the state.



Alternative and future modes of transportation will also be featured in the Transportation Master Plan. Autonomous delivery robots and electric bikes are both legal in the state of Maryland and are regulated by MDOT and MTA. Currently, there is no county-specific legislation or regulation regarding these modes of transportation in Carroll County, but could be a future possibility.

Please click the links below for more information:

- https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OTMO/2021-2025_MDOTSHA_CAVImplementationPlan_Final.pdf
- <https://magicinc.org/projects/autonomous-corridor>



Johnsville Road Safe Routes to School Project is nearing completion.

by: Clare Stewart, Comprehensive Planner



In 2015 the Carroll County Department of Planning applied for and received funding for a Safe Routes to School Grant to construct a sidewalk along Johnsville Road. The project is to provide safe passage along the east side of Johnsville Road from Eldersburg Elementary School to the intersection of Bartholow Road, across from Liberty High School. This is a heavily traversed road by pedestrians and children who currently walk in the street. The project, which is scheduled to be completed by July 2022, includes 5' wide sidewalk with an adjacent 6" vertical curb to provide a vertical separation from vehicles. The improvements are constructed wholly within the county right-of-way. State and county stormwater management requirements are being met via a bioretention area on the Liberty High School property and a bioswale on the Eldersburg Elementary School Property.



Above: sidewalk connecting to walking path at Johnsville Rd & Victor Dr



Right: northbound Johnsville Rd, looking towards Liberty HS

Before Photos



Above Left: crosswalk and walking path at Johnsville Rd & Victor Dr
Above Right: northbound Johnsville Rd, looking towards Eldersburg ES



Welcome Andrew Gray, Comprehensive Planner



Andrew Gray has been a proud Carroll County resident for nearly 25 years where he attended North Carroll High School. He is not new to Planning in Carroll County having been Comprehensive Planner for the City of Westminster for nearly seven years where he was involved in much of the Planning, Zoning, Development Review, and permitting that occurred in the city during his time. At the City he was principal Staff to the City Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning and Zoning, Historic District, and Tree Commissions. Before his time at Westminster, Mr. Gray was an intern here in the Carroll County Planning Department and was a regular attendee at the Town of Hampstead Planning and Zoning Commission meetings.

Mr. Gray obtained his Master of Arts degree in Geography and Environmental Planning (2019) from Towson University. During his time in graduate school, he investigated the Urban Heat Island hazard in the City of Westminster, and the locations of socially vulnerable citizens in relation to such hazard for his graduate thesis entitled, *“Analyzing the Urban Heat Island Effect in the City of Westminster, Maryland with Attention to Mitigative and Adaptive Measures”*. Andrew also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Metropolitan Studies from Towson University (2014).

Mr. Gray has been passionate about the field of urban planning for well over a decade. He is excited to not only build upon his knowledge of Carroll County but help guide his home County into a well-planned sustainable future that will strengthen what we have all come to know and love about our great County.

