



Annapolis Transportation Board

Bicycles on Sidewalks

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, State of Maryland

Where do we stand?

What should we do?



Goal

- **Diverse and resilient transportation system that serves everyone**
- **Bicycles are just one (important) component**
- **Good and safe infrastructure is difficult & expensive, so let's address a bite-size chunk**
- **Some infrastructure already exists - sidewalks**
- **Not ideal but here, paid for, and underutilized**



Bicycles on Sidewalks

- **Maryland State law forbids bicycles on sidewalks as the default setting statewide**
- **Localities can override**
- **Some do, some don't**
- **Localities' rules often confusing/contradictory**
- **Riders have no good way of knowing whether a trip traversing several localities is legal**



Present Local Situation

- **Maryland State law forbids bicycles on all sidewalks, state/county/city, by default**
- **AACounty same, except “where permitted”**
- **Annapolis is blurry, forbidding “negligent riding” so we mostly don’t know one way or the other**



Why Change?

- **Many roads are unsafe, or safe only for highly skilled “spandex” riders**
- **Vulnerable populations (children, elderly, inexperienced) are mandated by law to ride on unsafe roads built for & used by cars**
- **Hardly any safe infrastructure & yet we forbid using safe infrastructure that already exists and is underutilized**



STATES

- Allowed:** CO, CT, DC, FL, ID, IL, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, OH, OR, RI, SD, UT, WA, WI, WY
- Allowed except where Prohibited (AxwP):** AK, DE, HI, KY, ME, MA, PA, VA
- Silent:** CA, AZ, AR, IN, IA, KS, LA, MS, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VT, WV

Prohibited unless allowed: MD, GA, NH, ND
Prohibited: AL

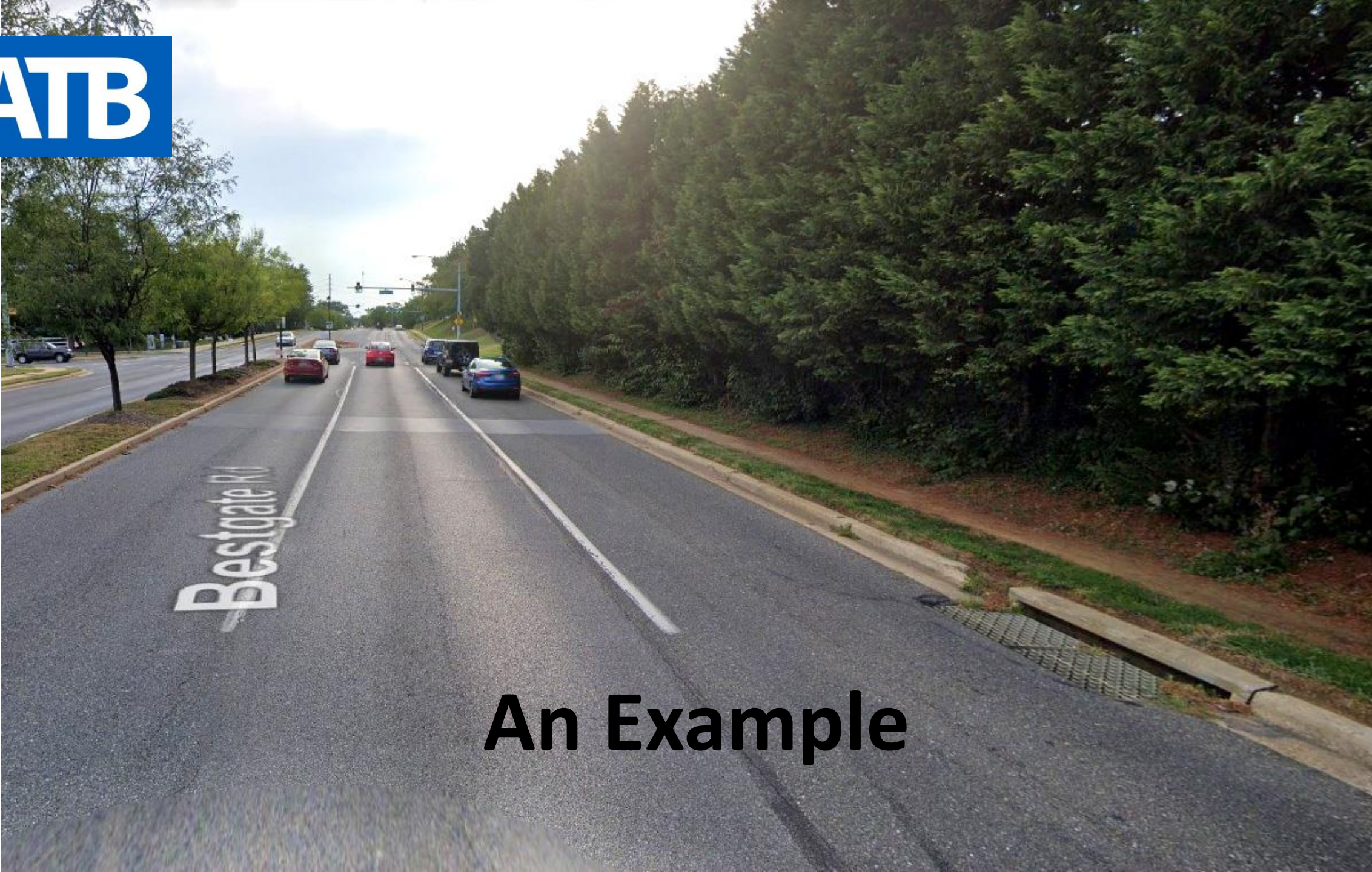


Maryland is in the Minority
We are not “normal”



Anne Arundel County

- **Rule mostly mirrors the State law**
- **Would be fixed if/when State law is changed**
- **Meanwhile, AA County & Annapolis should harmonize each other's rules to be more supportive & tolerant of bicycles on sidewalks**



An Example



City of Annapolis

- Existing rule is blurry and should be clarified
- O-31-20 introduced, clarifies bikes are allowed
- Areas prohibitable by Director of Public Works
- No explicit obligation to consult public and stakeholders for input/advice
- ATB has recommended clarifying this



Let's Solve These Problems

- **Reverse State of MD default**
- **Don't force people onto roads that are unsafe, or safe only for "spandex" riders**
- **Protect vulnerable populations (children, elderly, inexperienced) from exposure to cars**
- **Lacking safe bicycle infrastructure, allow using safe infrastructure that already exists**



Board Recommendations

1. City work to reverse default statewide sidewalk ban
2. Council resolution encouraging our legislative delegation/
Transportation Caucus to action (Sarah Elfreth, Dana Jones)
3. Coordinate & harmonize AACo & City rules for sidewalks
4. Pass ordinance O-31-20 with ATB suggestions, for city's
interim bicycle/sidewalk rule pending reform of state law
5. Develop clear city/county standards/administrative
procedures for signs & designating prohibited areas, with
public input from relevant boards & commissions and others
6. Stress need for major new bicycle infrastructure

end