

**A Report to the Maryland General Assembly**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**House Appropriations Committee**

**and**

**House Environment & Transportation Committee**

**Chapter 721, 2018**

**Report on the Status of the Complete Streets Program**

**January 2019**

**The Maryland Department of Transportation**

**MSAR #11651**

## **Introduction**

This report is prepared in accordance with Chapter 721 of the Acts of Maryland, 2018 (House Bill 535), which requires that:

- (a) On or before December 31 each year, the Department shall submit a report to the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Environment and Transportation Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the status of the program.*
- (b) the report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include:*
  - (1) the status of any grant projects funded by the program; and*
  - (2) a discussion of whether there is a need to reevaluate the program to ensure that it is meeting the goals stated in § 8–903(b) of this subtitle.*
- (c) the report required under subsection (a) of this section shall be made available on the department’s website.*

## **Background**

House Bill 535 was passed during the 2018 General Assembly session, and establishes the Complete Streets Program. This is a competitive matching grant program within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), which seeks to provide matching grants to certified local governments to encourage the following activities:

- a. the regular and routine inclusion of complete streets design elements and infrastructure during the planning, design, construction, and reconstruction of new or existing locally funded roads;
- b. the adoption of urban retrofit street ordinances designed to provide safe access to users of multiple modes of transportation; and
- c. the development of ranking systems for complete streets projects that consider the needs of underinvested and underserved communities in specific geographic regions of the state.

The legislation states that “funds for the Program shall be as provided by the Governor in the State budget.” It further specifies that the law “may not be construed to require the Maryland Department of Transportation to provide staff or operating expenses for the administration of the Complete Streets Program established under Section 1 of this Act until money is appropriated in the State budget for the Program.”

## **Program Status**

MDOT is currently operating under Fiscal Year 2019. Funds were not appropriated for the Complete Streets Program in the FY 2019 budget. Therefore, the administration of the Complete Streets Program established by Chapter 721 has not begun.