COMPLETE STREETS MANUAL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Mayor

1. What is the Complete Streets Manual?

The Complete Streets Manual is a document that provides guidelines on how transportation projects in Baltimore City are:

- Prioritized/selected
- Planned
- Designed/Engineered

2. Who is the target audience for the Complete Streets Manual?

The guidelines in the document are intended to be used by:

- City staff in departments that may be working in or around streets
- Developers that are doing construction on or near streets
- The public to understand how/why transportation decisions are made and to advocate for the change you want to see

3. Will this manual result in significant change?

The guidelines in this manual will help guide projects in a direction that will make it safer and more comfortable to walk, bike, and use transit. Certain guidelines in the manual will result in citywide changes like guidelines on how we post speed limits and how we time our traffic signals.

Guidelines that influence physical changes are more likely to occur on projects as they are planned and engineered. The rollout of projects is funding dependent, so physical changes are more likely to be seen over time.

4. How is equity being considered?

The prioritization processes in this manual differ by the type of work. These processes direct more resources/projects toward areas that are identified as equity zones. This represents a deviation from the previous practice of distributing resources equally by geography.

5. Will the Complete Streets Manual make it harder to drive in the city?

The guidelines in the manual prioritize other modes above driving. However, changes that benefit one mode are often better for other modes. For example, retiming traffic signals to result in less delay for people walking can also result in less delay for people driving. The guidelines in this manual can result in slower, but more consistent progression while driving, as opposed to faster but less consistent progression.