

Bicycle Improvements Coming to Guilford Avenue

Guilford Avenue is a commonly used bicycle route through the center of Baltimore. Being a quieter, residential street, cyclists are attracted to Guilford due to less vehicular traffic. The school parking lot at North Avenue acts as a traffic diverter for cars, but allows bikes to continue through. Needing a connection in the city's bicycle network between the Collegetown Bicycle Network and downtown, the Department of Transportation (DOT) will add improvements to Guilford Avenue between Mt. Royal and University Parkway. Guilford Avenue will be designated as a **'bicycle boulevard'** or roadway where bikes and cars share the road at near equal speeds. Wayfinding signs, bike-friendly speed humps and mini-circles will further enhance the bicycle experience. In the planning process, the Department of Transportation sought and received valuable community input to help determine what design treatments were appropriate for specific locations.

Other improvements to Guilford Avenue will include **'sharrows'** to remind motorists of bicycle traffic and a **widened median crossing** at North Avenue to reduce bicycle and pedestrian conflicts. A **curb extension** at the southwest corner of North Avenue and Guilford will provide a bicyclists & pedestrian s a refuge while waiting to cross North Avenue. A solid white pavement marking will be added to Guilford to delineate the parking area from travel way. **Mini-circles** will replace 4-way stops at 22nd St, 24th St, and 32nd St. **Speed humps** will be added to the 2600 and 2700 block of Guilford to reduce vehicular speeds.



A mini-circle on a bicycle boulevard in Oregon



A typical 'sharrow' in Baltimore

Once the project is complete, residents of Guilford Avenue will see little difference in the road as a whole, except for increased bike traffic. In other cities across the globe, bike boulevards have helped increase the number of cyclists by creating a safe corridor where beginner cyclists feel less intimidated. Where Guilford Avenue ties in to Mt. Royal Avenue, Phase 2 of the Jones Falls Trail will be constructed this year that will allow cyclists to continue on to the Inner Harbor. With other quiet residential streets across the city, Baltimore will likely see an expansion of bicycle boulevards in the future with Guilford Avenue being the first!