

WALKABLE TOWSON PLAN FOR TOWSON, MD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH TND PLANNING GROUP, FERRELL MADDEN ASSOCIATES,
RETTEW ASSOCIATES, AND TOOLE DESIGN GROUP

HPE RESPONSIBILITY:

Develop proposals to enhance walkability and vehicular circulation within downtown Towson.

CLIENT'S NAME & ADDRESS:

Baltimore County, Maryland
 Office of Community Conservation
 Ray Heil, Project Manager
 6401 York Road, 2nd Floor
 Baltimore, Maryland 21212
 Phone: 410.887.3317
 email: rheil@baltimorecountymd.gov

The Hall Planning & Engineering, Inc. design team included TND Planning Group, Ferrell Madden Associates, Rettew Associates and Toole Design Group. Focus of the work was to develop design recommendations for transforming the central core of Towson, Maryland, into a vibrant, pedestrian friendly destination.

Towson's 150 year old downtown is, today, a "9 to 5 district" with little activity in the evenings and on weekends. However, Towson has the proper human scale to become much more walkable, active and exciting.

HPE work encompassed:

- Providing walkability support during a six-day Towson design charrette
- Applying HPE's "Walkability Index" to gauge pedestrian comfort resulting from existing conditions and proposed plans
- Re-designing streets and intersections to support a more pedestrian-friendly development pattern

Walkability enhancements recommended by HPE included:

- Narrowing selected travel lanes to reduce vehicular speeds and improve safety, thus encouraging increased pedestrian activity
- Converting one-way streets back to two-way operation
- Applying speed management techniques such as reducing curb return radius and eliminating right turn lanes
- Improving streetscapes

As testimony to its local appeal, on February 6, 2008, the Walkable Towson Plan received an award at the One Less Car Bike/Ped Symposium in Annapolis, MD.

