



Press Release

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Resource Lays Groundwork for Transit-Oriented Development in Maryland *Latest in MDP's Models & Guidelines Series Provides How-to for Planners, Others*

BALTIMORE – As communities look to accommodate demand for growth with high-quality, sustainable development, many are making big plans around transit. Transit-oriented development (TOD) may not be a new concept, but planning for and implementing walkable, mixed-use areas where communities and transit systems build on each other's benefits remains challenging.

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) developed [Planning Tools for Transit Oriented Development](#) as a comprehensive online planning and implementation resource to support state and local TOD efforts. The resource provides tools for planners, developers, elected officials and residents to advance TOD in their jurisdictions.

An interactive map features a TOD profile tool that enables users to delve into demographics, employment data, transit use, land use and development projects around every Metro and MARC station in Maryland. For those researching potential TOD sites, the profile tool provides a detailed snapshot of conditions around each station.

The resource also details TOD policies, programs and implementation efforts around the state, describing each rail and subway line along with their progress and potential. Rounding out the resource are summaries of best practices to support creative development projects. From [Aberdeen's downtown](#) to Washington, D.C.'s [Columbia Heights neighborhood](#), the best practice summaries describe how local officials and planners created – or are in the process of creating – an optimal environment for TOD.

The benefits of TOD go beyond getting people out of cars and onto transit. The best TOD makes better communities through great design, improves public health by increasing options for walking and cycling, maximizes return on public investment in transit, reduces air pollution and energy consumption, and promotes compact development on less land.

The Maryland Department of Transportation, with whom MDP staff worked closely to develop the resource, also promotes TOD through a variety of means, including a state [designations process](#) that provides resources and technical assistance to local officials.

Planning Tools for Transit Oriented Development is the 30th installment in MDP's [Models & Guidelines series](#) that educates local government officials and planners about managing Maryland's growth.

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