



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

Residents Urged to Keep Safety in Mind on Area Streets and Highways

Look Alive campaign cautions drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to watch out for each other in wake of coronavirus outbreak

BALTIMORE – With the gradual lifting of coronavirus restrictions, local officials are urging area residents to keep their guard up when leaving their homes after weeks of sheltering in place.

Law enforcement reports that a growing number of drivers are taking advantage of reduced traffic to ignore speed limits and other traffic laws, while ongoing social distancing prompts some pedestrians to step into streets to maintain the recommended six-foot gap from others.

“These are still tumultuous times as millions of people adapt to the new ‘normal’ and take steps to continue to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19,” said Mike Kelly, Executive Director of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. “We want everyone to remember that safety applies to driving, walking, and bicycling, too.”

Safety advocates say it’s important for everyone in the Baltimore region to be alert and aware of their surroundings, obey traffic laws, and avoid distractions when driving, walking or bicycling. The *Look Alive* traffic safety campaign offers these tips to stay safe on area streets and highways.

If you’re driving...

- Obey speed limits, even when tempted to go faster because of fewer cars on the road
- Always come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Watch and stop for people crossing the street.
- Avoid using your cell phone, and never text while driving.
- Be alert for people who may occasionally step into the roadway as they attempt to maintain social distancing.

If you’re walking...

- Cross at the corner and use crosswalks when available.
- Use caution and double check for vehicles if you are stepping into the street for any reason.
- If you’re unable to use a sidewalk, keep close to the edge of the road and face traffic if possible so you can see approaching vehicles.
- Avoid using your cell phone while you’re crossing the street.
- Remain alert to others around you—drivers, bicyclist, and other pedestrians.

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If you're biking...

- Obey traffic signs and signals.
- Use hand signals to tell drivers what you intend to do.
- Wear a helmet.

Look Alive is a regional pedestrian and bicycle safety program that combines education and enforcement across the Baltimore metropolitan region. Visit LookAliveMD.org for more safety tips and information about the program.

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve our quality of life and economic vitality. BMC, as the Baltimore region's council of governments, hosts the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federal metropolitan planning organization (MPO), and supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas including emergency preparedness, housing, cooperative purchasing, environmental planning and workforce development.

BMC's Board of Directors includes the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, the mayor of the City of Baltimore, a member of the Carroll County and Queen Anne's County boards of commissioners, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.

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