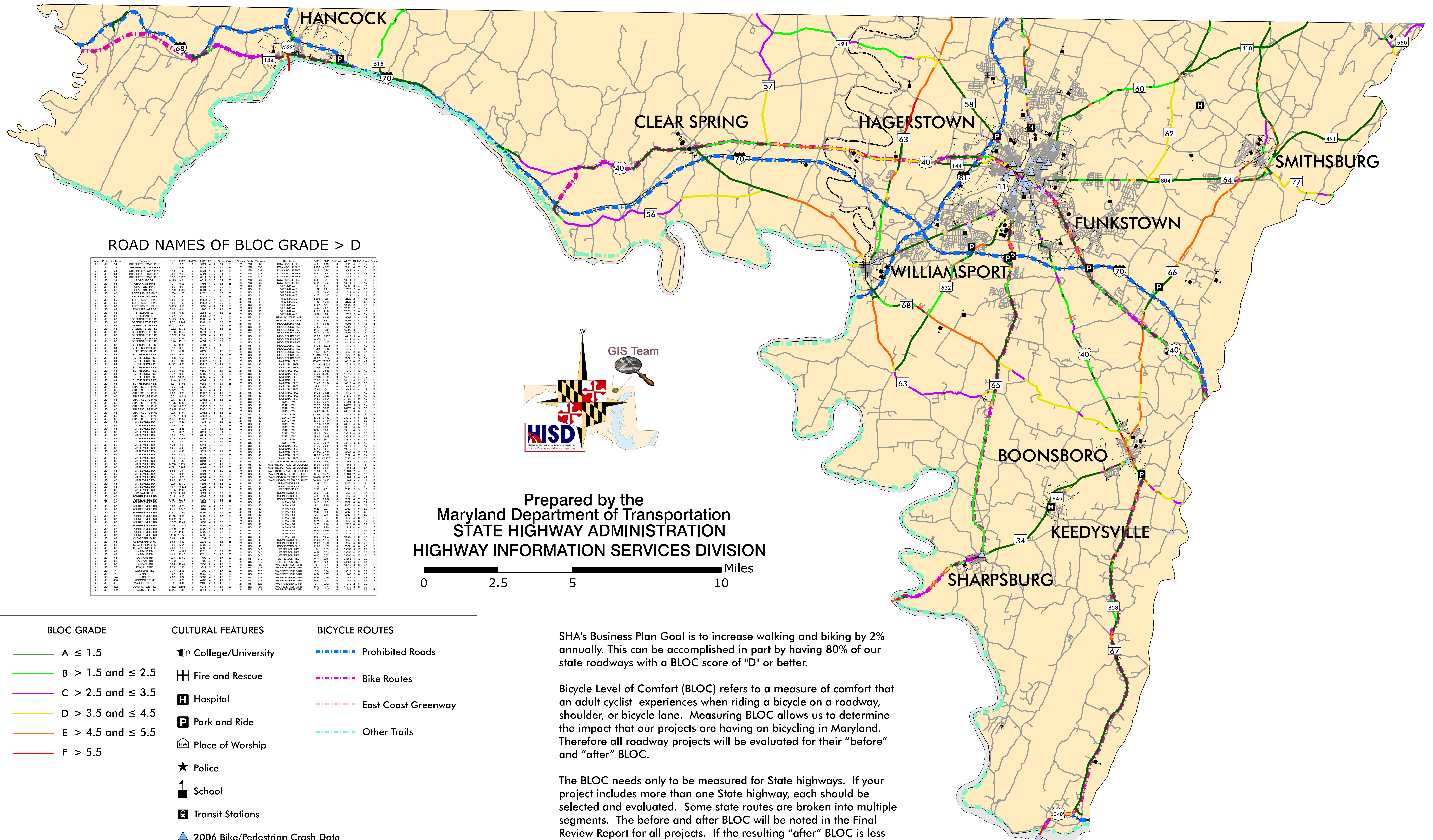


SHA BLOC DESKTOP TOOL MAP - WASHINGTON COUNTY



The Bicycle Level of Comfort (BLOC) desktop tool can be accessed through <http://shahisdweb/shabloc/>.

The desktop tool automatically calculates the BLOC formula:

$$\text{BLOC} = a1 \cdot \ln(\text{Vol15/Ln}) + a2 \cdot \text{SPt} (1 + 10.38 \text{HV})^2 + a3 \cdot (1/\text{PR5})^2 + a4 \cdot (\text{We})^2 + C$$

$$\text{BLOC} = 0.507 \cdot \text{VOLUME} + 0.199 \cdot \text{SPEED} + 7.066 \cdot \text{PAVEMENT} - 0.005 \cdot \text{WIDTH} + 0.760$$

The desktop tool calculates BLOC in the road inventory directions only.

SHA's Business Plan Goal is to increase walking and biking by 2% annually. This can be accomplished in part by having 80% of our state roadways with a BLOC score of "D" or better.

Bicycle Level of Comfort (BLOC) refers to a measure of comfort that an adult cyclist experiences when riding a bicycle on a roadway, shoulder, or bicycle lane. Measuring BLOC allows us to determine the impact that our projects are having on bicycling in Maryland. Therefore all roadway projects will be evaluated for their “before” and “after” BLOC.

The BLOC needs only to be measured for State highways. If your project includes more than one State highway, each should be selected and evaluated. Some state routes are broken into multiple segments. The before and after BLOC will be noted in the Final Review Report for all projects. If the resulting “after” BLOC is less than the “before” BLOC, the project would be reviewed with SHA’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator bikes@sha.state.md.us or 410-545-5656 and a waiver may be required. The goal is to improve the Statewide BLOC scores for each county, district and/or roadway sections by taking reasonable measures.

The BLOC application is a tool that you may use to assist you in seeing the current BLOC score for segments of a road. It will also allow you to change such parameters as Shoulder Width, Through Lanes, Lane Width, IRI, HV and AADT to see what the impact would be on the BLOC score for that segment.