

# BICYCLES ON MDOT MTA

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



## **MDOT MTA** **LOVES BICYCLES**

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) is committed to keeping our state on the move while fostering a healthy environment. One of the ways we honor this commitment is by allowing bicycles on our system.

Public transportation and bicycles provide more mobility options to everyone, help improve air quality, and reduce traffic congestion. In Maryland, public transportation and bicycles work together to allow for longer trips. That's smart transportation - the ability to move seamlessly between transit modes in a healthy, enjoyable manner.

Bicycles are permitted on Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink, although if there is a crowded train, please wait for one that's less crowded before boarding with your bicycle. No more than two bicycles are permitted on any individual Light RailLink or Metro SubwayLink vehicle. Local buses are equipped with racks above the front bumper to carry up to two bicycles. Bicycles are not allowed inside MDOT MTA buses.





Folding bicycles are permitted on all MARC Trains. Full-size bicycles are allowed on all weekend MARC Penn Line trains and on most weekday rush-hour Penn Line trains. As an added benefit of MDOT MTA's commitment to our customers, you can also stow your bicycle at an MDOT MTA-provided bicycle rack or locker at stations and stops along the system.

## **RACK IT**

### **Tips for Using a Bus Front-Mounted Bike Rack**

MDOT MTA LocalLink, CityLink, and Express

BusLink vehicles are equipped to carry two bicycles. The bicycle racks are easy to use and designed for cyclists to load and unload themselves. See the steps on the following pages for loading and unloading, or visit a Bike-n-Ride display at a local bike shop.



## Loading

1. To prepare your bike for loading prior to the arrival of the bus, remove all loose items, water bottles, chain locks or any other dangling objects.
2. Stay back as the bus approaches the stop, keeping yourself and your bicycle safely out of the way.
3. Alert the operator that you will place a bicycle on the rack, and then go to the front of the bus to load the bicycle from the curb side. Do not step into oncoming traffic to load your bike.



4. If the rack is in the upright position, using one hand, squeeze the handle to carefully lower the bicycle rack while holding your bike with the other hand.



5. Lift the bicycle, fitting wheels into the slot closest to the bus. If it is the second bicycle on the rack, place your bike in the opposite direction of the first bicycle. The front tire should be in the wheel slot with the tire-stabilizing hook.



Don't rush, ensure your bicycle is secure before boarding. The operator will wait for you to finish.





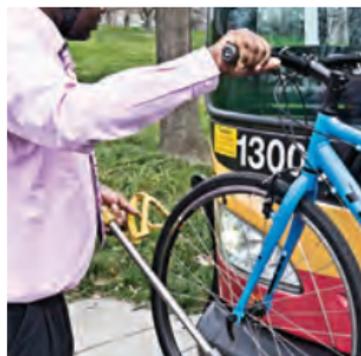
6. Raise the tire-stabilizing hook up and over the front tire so the hook rests at the highest point on the front wheel. The hook adds lateral support for the loaded bicycle. If you are having trouble with this step, try to pull the hook out straight before positioning it at the highest point of the wheel.
7. Board the bus, pay the fare and tell the operator at which stop you will depart with your bicycle.
8. Enjoy the ride!



# ROLL IT

## Unloading

1. Don't forget your bicycle is loaded on the bus!
2. Exit from the front door and remind the operator you have a bike to take off the rack.
3. Raise the hook off the tire by pulling up on the yellow handle. Lower it past the bicycle tire to its original position on the rack. Lift your bike off the rack.
4. If there are no other bicycles on the rack, return the rack to the upright position by squeezing the handle and folding up the rack until it snaps into position.



5. Step away from the bus toward the curb and wait for the bus to pull away from the stop before mounting your bicycle.



## BIKES ON RAIL

Any standard-size bicycle may be brought aboard the MDOT MTA's Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink trains. When using these services, be sure to:



- Walk or carry the bicycle when on the elevator, inside the station, on the platform or in the train.
- If the train is crowded due to morning or afternoon rush hour, sporting events or special events, please wait for a less crowded train.



Do not use the escalator or carry your bike on the stairs. Only use the elevator.

- Stay a safe distance from the loading platform edge at all times before boarding trains.
- Be considerate of other passengers and wait until exiting and entering passengers have cleared the doorway before carrying the bicycle onto the train.
- Follow any instructions given by transit staff regarding bicycle transport.





Stand or sit with your bicycle in a location that minimizes the impact on other passengers, and always maintain control of your bicycle.

- In the event a bicycle or other property falls into the track area of the Metro SubwayLink system, DO NOT attempt to retrieve it. Immediately approach the station attendant for assistance.

## MARC Train

Collapsible bicycles that fold with wheels that come together are permitted on all MARC Trains. Stow folded bicycles so that passenger aisles are kept unobstructed. Folded bicycles are not permitted to be stowed in overhead storage bins. Please be cautious when entering or exiting a MARC Train with a bicycle, particularly from or onto a low platform.



Full-size bicycles are permitted on all weekend MARC Penn Line Trains in the MARC Bike Cars. They're also permitted on most weekday Penn Line rush-hour trains. Visit [mta.maryland.gov/marc-penn](https://mta.maryland.gov/marc-penn) for the schedule of trains that accept full-size bicycles. For a complete list of do's and don'ts for bikes on MARC Train, visit [mta.maryland.gov/bike](https://mta.maryland.gov/bike).

## **SAFETY RULES**

Staying safe when riding on the roads means watching out for a wide variety of vehicles and audio/visual warning devices. Bicyclists should always watch for transit vehicles and practice the following:



- If you as a bicycle rider cannot see a transit vehicle's outside mirror, the operator of that vehicle is unable to see you.
- Be aware that buses pull over to the curb to pick up or drop off passengers. You should exercise extreme caution before passing any bus on the right. Be sure not to pass a bus on the right when it is pulling over to stop for passengers.
- When you pass a bus with its rear angled out into traffic, pass on the left and look around carefully. Pass the front of the bus with plenty of room in case it pulls out or



pedestrians appear. Buses and other large vehicles need more room to negotiate turning corners, so stay away from the rear of a turning vehicle.

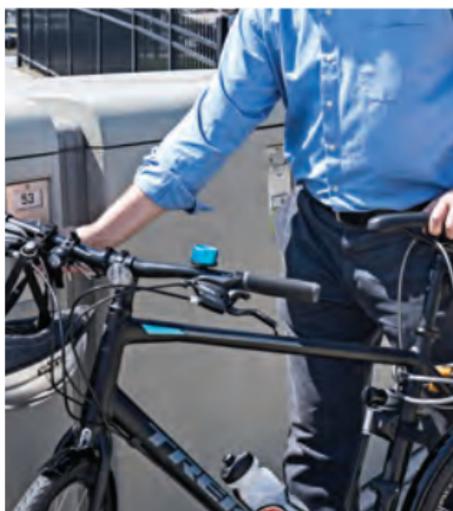
- Use high-visibility front and rear lights in low-visibility situations to make sure drivers can see you.
- When approaching Light RailLink or other railroad tracks, always expect a train at any time, from any direction, and on any track in the vicinity.
- Only cross Light RailLink tracks with caution and with the bicycle wheels perpendicular to the tracks to prevent the wheel from getting stuck in the track flange gap. Tracks can be particularly challenging to cross when they are wet or icy.
- Obey railroad crossing safety devices. That means signals, flashing lights, gate arms and audible bells.
- NEVER try to race a train or piece of track equipment through a grade crossing or intersection.
- Stop, look and listen before crossing tracks at the designated location. Trains and track equipment move more quickly than they might appear to be moving. If stopped, they may move without warning.



- Do not rely on sound alone to warn of an approaching train as they can be very quiet.
- Light RailLink trains follow their own traffic signals and may move at unexpected times.

## **BICYCLE RACKS AND LOCKERS**

Nearly all Light RailLink stops, Metro SubwayLink stations and MARC Train stations have bicycle racks. Rack space is available at no cost. Be sure to use U-locks to secure your bike-frame and both wheels to the rack, and remember to take any easily removable accessories with you.



Bike lockers are available at several Light RailLink stops, Metro SubwayLink stations and MARC Train stations.

For locations where bike lockers are available and for information on renting a locker, call the MDOT MTA Office of Customer and Community Relations at 410-767-3999. A \$25 refundable deposit is required for the locker key. The yearly cost of renting a locker is \$70.



## DEDICATED BUS AND BIKE LANES

Dedicated bus and bike lanes allow buses to travel more easily through some of the region's most congested streets and provide an additional option for MDOT MTA passengers who connect to the transit system by bicycle.



Dedicated bus lanes are painted red to make them more visible to the public. In areas with a solid red marking, only buses, bicycles and emergency vehicles can travel. All vehicles can enter areas with dashed-paint markings to make a right turn at the next intersection or driveway. In some areas, the dedicated bus lanes are for peak periods only and are not marked with red paint, but simply with signage and markings on the pavement.

When using a dedicated bus and bike lane, be aware of your surroundings and always follow the rules of the road as other vehicles may occupy the shared lane. If you are traveling slower than a bus behind you, find a safe place that you can pull aside to let the bus pass you safely.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **MDOT MTA Information**

410-539-5000 or 1-866-RIDE-MTA  
(1-866-743-3682) | [mta.maryland.gov](http://mta.maryland.gov)

### **Forgot your bike on the bus?**

Call us and we will make every effort to locate it and arrange for its return. You will be asked to provide bus route number, bus vehicle number (if known) and where you exited the bus.

### **Bicycle Lockers and Racks**

MDOT MTA Office of Customer and  
Community Relations Information  
6 St. Paul Street, 3rd Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202 | 410-767-3999

### **Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC)**

7201 Corporate Center Drive, P.O. Box 548  
Hanover, MD 21076 | [mdot.maryland.gov](http://mdot.maryland.gov)

### **Guaranteed Ride Home Program**

Once registered in the Guaranteed Ride Home program, bicyclists who ride to work at least two times per week are eligible for up to four free rides home per year in case of personal illness, family emergency or unscheduled overtime. 1-800-745-RIDE (7433)

[commuterconnections.org](http://commuterconnections.org)



**MDOT State Highway Administration  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator**

707 North Calvert Street, MS 502  
Baltimore, MD 21202 | 410-545-5656  
**bikes@sha.state.md.us**

**Baltimore City Bike & Pedestrian Planner**

417 East Fayette Street, Suite 555  
Baltimore, MD 21202 | 443-984-4094

**Bike Maryland**

1415 Bush Street, Baltimore, MD 21230  
443-406-2711 | **bikemaryland.org**

**Bikemore**

2209 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218  
443-475-0350 | info@bikemore.net  
**bikemore.net**

For more information or to request this information in an alternate format or translated into another language, please contact the department listed below.

Para mayor información, o para solicitar esta información en un formato alternativo o traducido a otro idioma, por favor contacte el departamento enlistado abajo.

欲了解更多信息或欲索取另一种格式或译成其它语言的本文档，请联系下列部门。

Pour plus d'informations, ou pour obtenir ce information sous un format différent ou traduit dans une autre langue, veuillez contacter le département indiqué ci-dessous.

더 자세한 정보가 필요하시거나, 이 문서에 대한 다른 형식의 복사본 또는 다른 언어로 번역된 복사본이 필요하시면 아래 기재된 부서로 문의하시기 바랍니다.

Para sa higit na impormasyon, o para hilingin ang impormasyong ito na nasa panghaliling format o isinalin sa ibang wika, mangyaring kontakin ang departamento nakalista sa ibaba.

Для получения дополнительной информации или запросить эту информацию в альтернативном формате либо в переводе на другой язык, просьба связаться с указанным отделом.

**MDOT MTA Transit Information Contact Center**  
**410-539-5000 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497**  
**Maryland Relay Users Dial 7-1-1**