



Working Towards a Barrier-free UMBC

Reducing Physical Barriers to Accessibility
October 15, 2025

Today's Discussion

Campus overview

Campus partnerships

Recently completed projects to improve accessibility

Current projects to improve accessibility

UMBC Transit

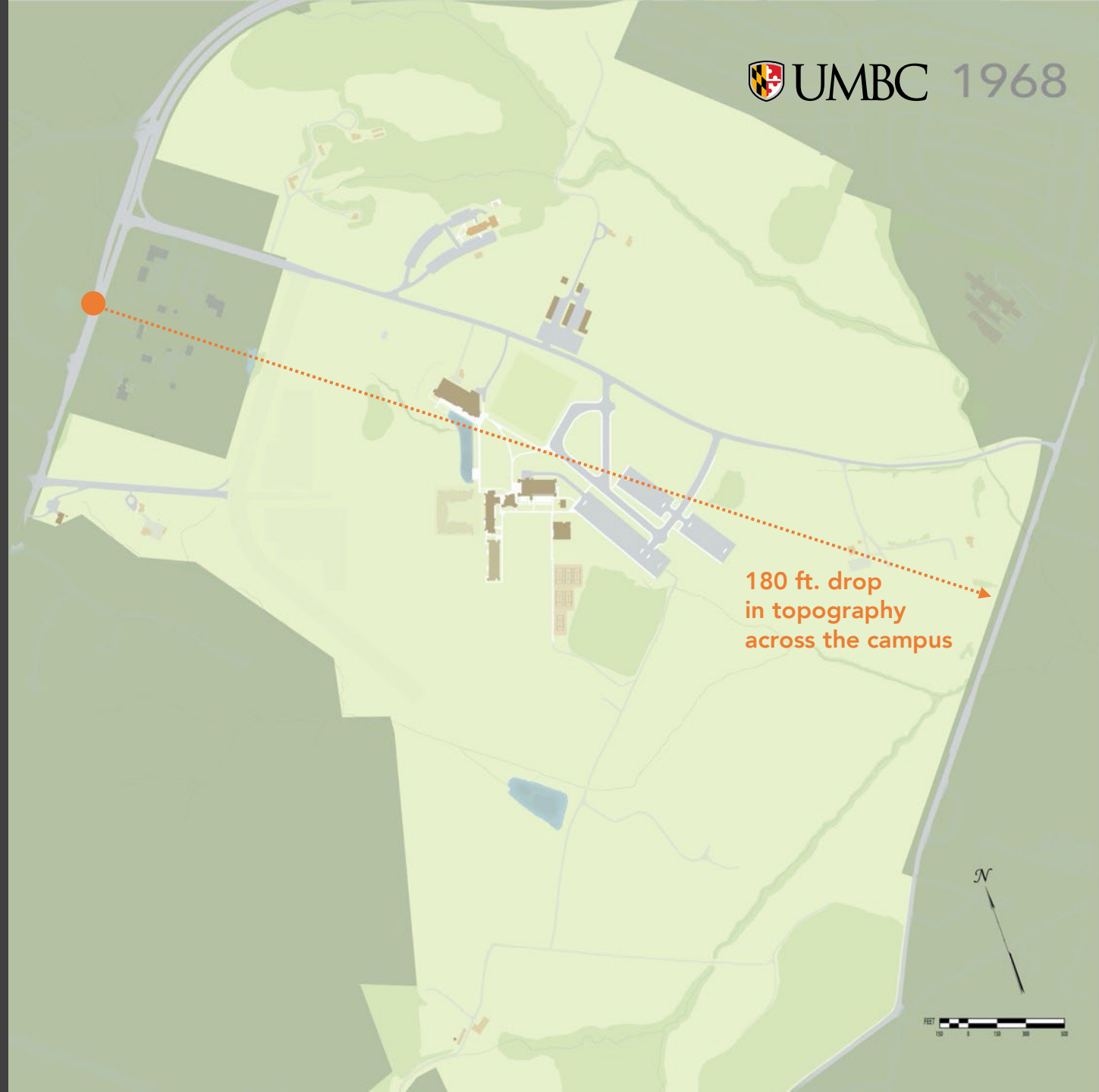


The UMBC Main Campus

The UMBC campus was located in rolling farmland, with Walker Avenue as its only access road.

Vestiges of the working farm, including chicken coops, were still visible in 1968.

A 180 foot drop in topography across the site was a challenge to those that laid out the first campus buildings and remains one of the greatest physical challenges of our campus.



The UMBC Main Campus

The campus expanded rapidly in its first 25 years. Much of the academic core and most residences were designed and constructed prior to the adoption of the ADA Standards for Accessibility in 1992.

Since then, the university has been committed to retrofitting these early buildings, parking lots and pedestrian paths to comply with these and subsequent standards, making the campus more accessible for all.



The UMBC Main Campus

More than 13,500 students
(11% are registered with SDS!)

2,000+ faculty and staff

76 buildings with nearly 4.4 million
SF of space

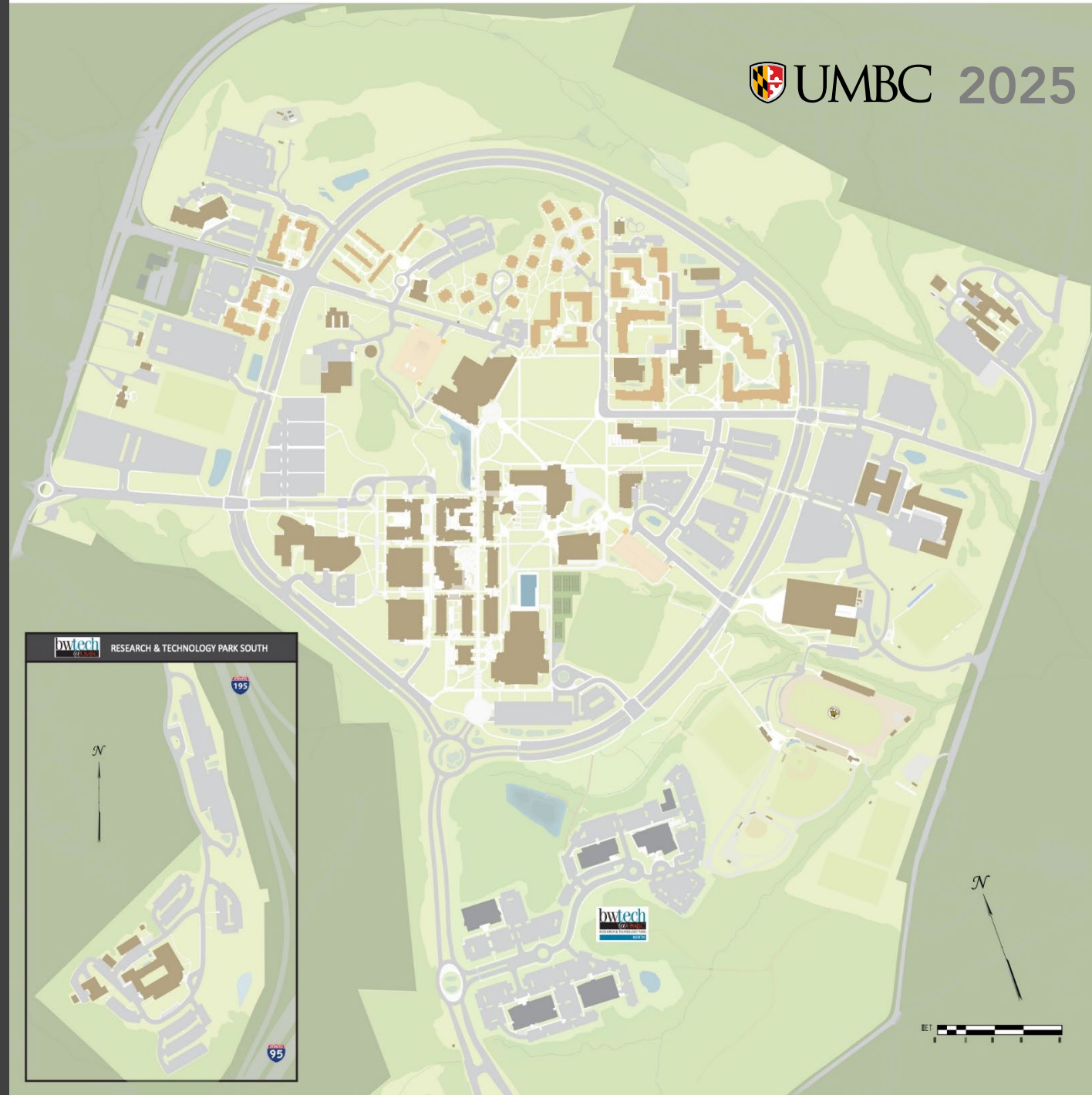
226 classrooms and class labs

8 distinct athletic facilities

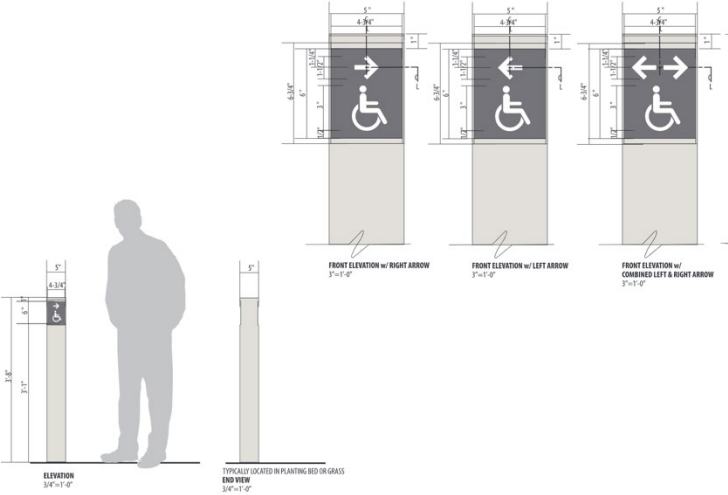
262 ADA-compliant restrooms

3 garages, more than 30 parking
lots and 190 accessible parking
spaces

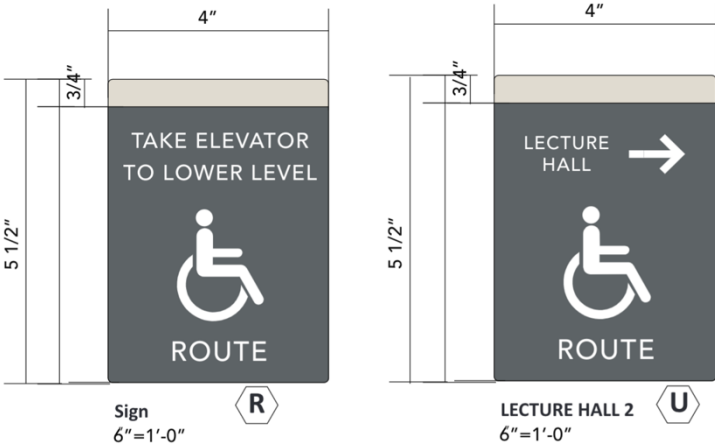
7 transit routes linking the campus
to the surrounding communities



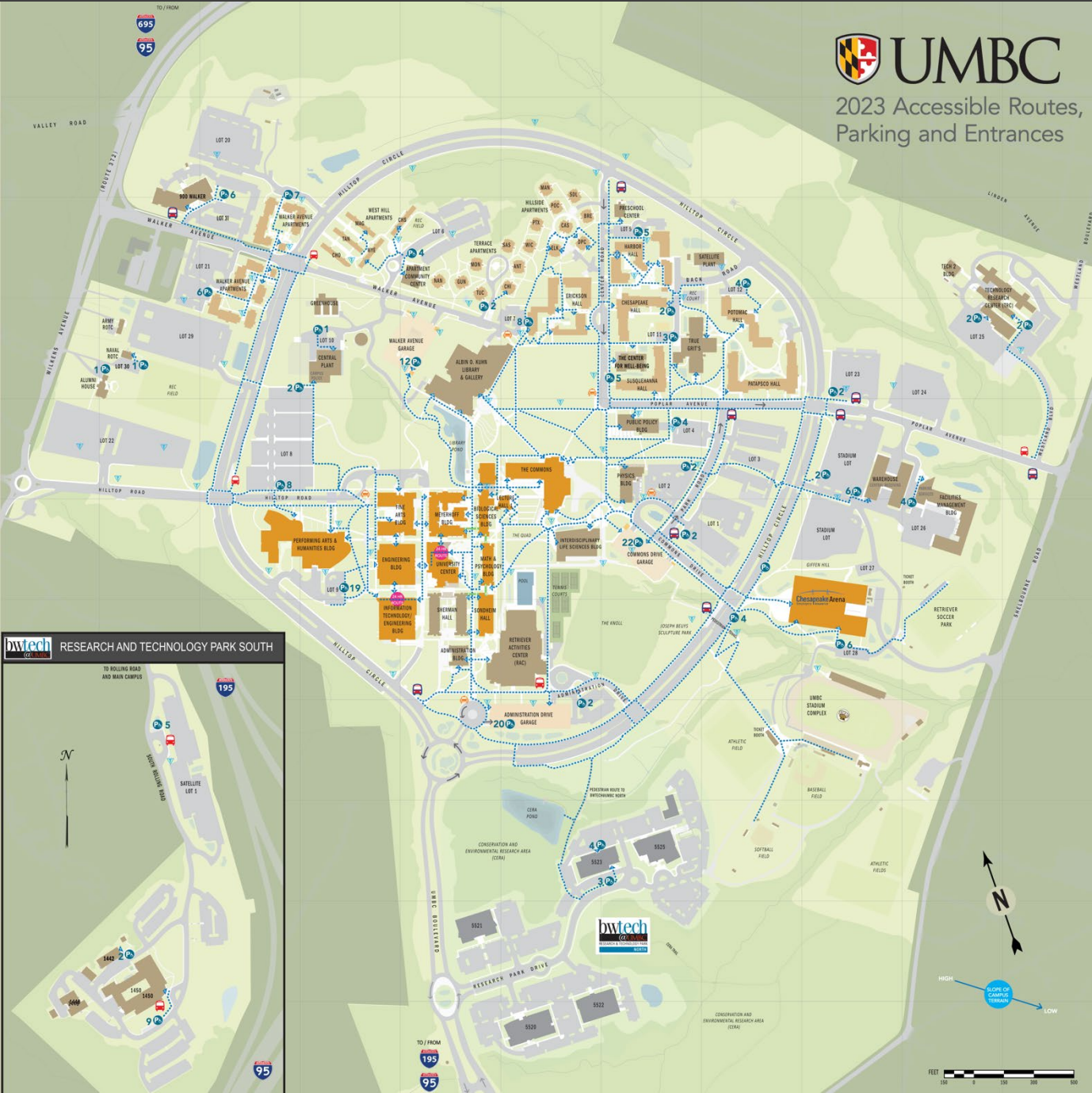
Navigating the Campus



Exterior Bollards

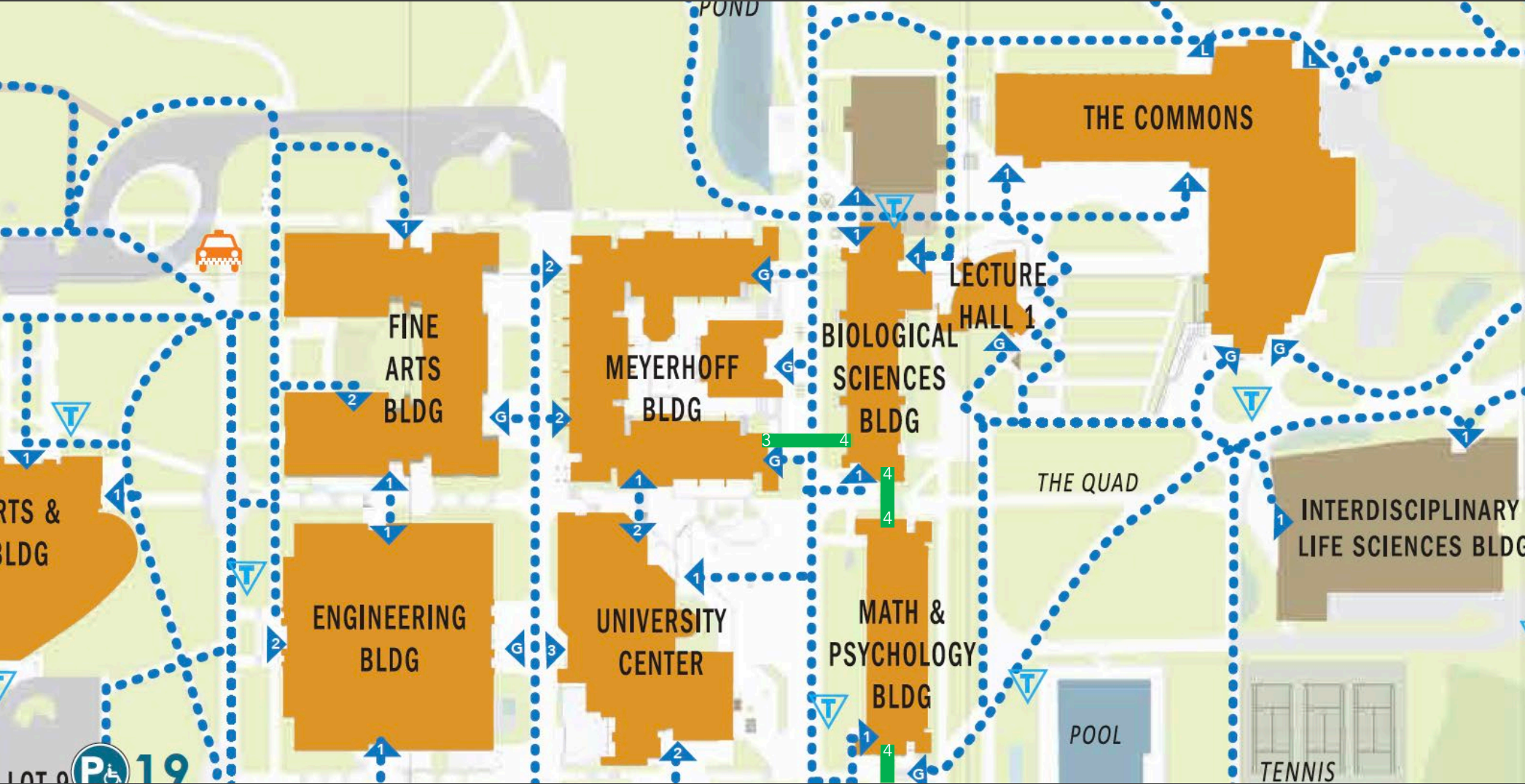


Interior Route Signage



Accessible Routes Map

Detail of Accessibility Routes Map



QR codes on Campus Map
Kiosks provide access to
Accessibility Routes Map



Sherman Hall Renewal Update: Routes Open & Closed

Open: Sidewalks on the ITE side of Sherman Hall and access from the University Center plaza.

Closed (Oct 13, 2025–Jan 2027):
Academic Row between Sherman
and Sondheim.

Detour: Use the Sondheim side
closest to the RAC; accessible
route available through Sondheim
Hall.



To identify, address and remove barriers to accessibility on campus, FM partners with the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services and UMBC Transit.

Provides key insights from faculty, staff, and students as the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services engages directly with many students.

Proactively coordinate alternative routes and critical messaging during construction and planned maintenance.

Share ideas and develop priorities for future projects, proposals, and improvements.



Facilities Management also:

Prepares and submits to MDOD annual updates of the Campus Accessibility Transition Plan.

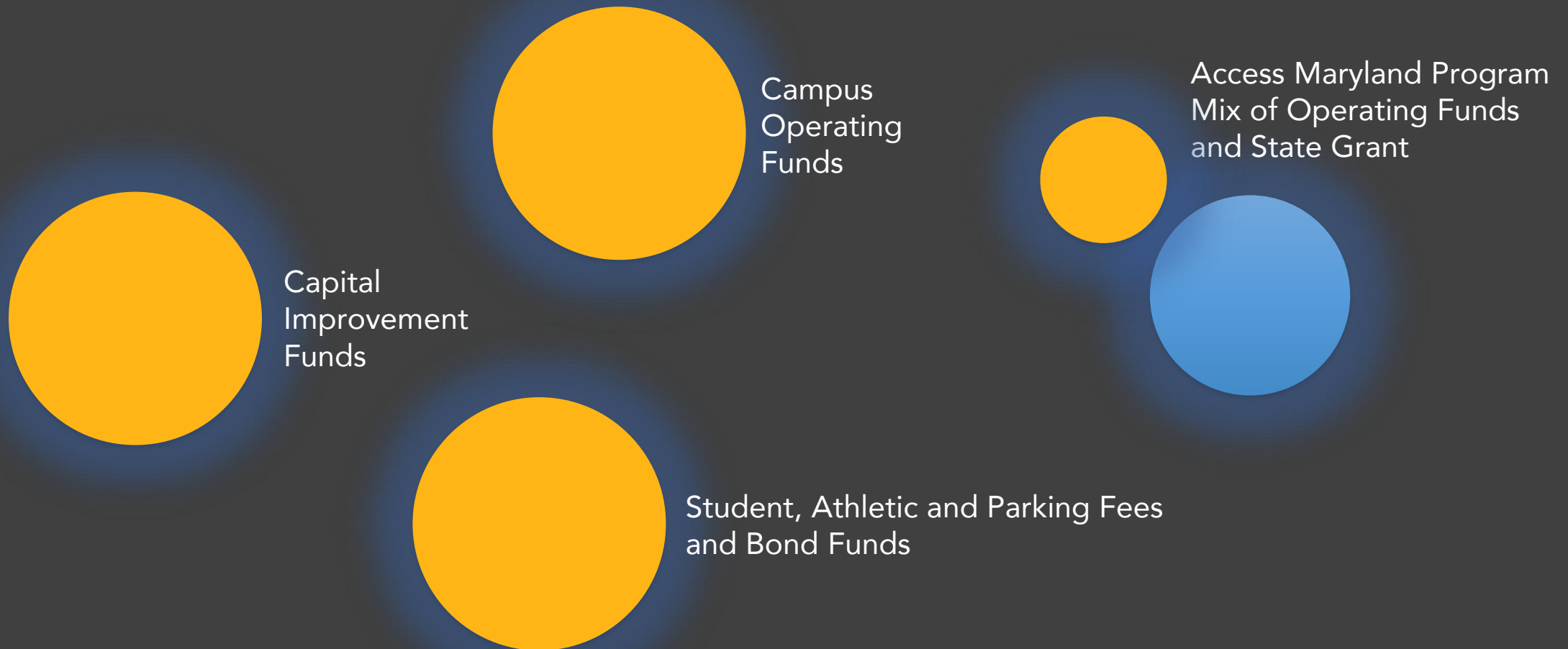
Monitors and reviews repair reports via the ReADY Request system and Work Control to target systems, like elevators, with chronic maintenance issues.

Make updates and improvements to our existing facilities that were constructed prior to the passing of the ADA standards.

Hosts public outreach, like our accessibility forums, to receive input from the campus community.



How are improvements funded?



How are improvements funded?

Capital Improvement funds (CIP) allow us to build new and renovate existing State-supported buildings, like our academic buildings.

CIP Funds used to renovate:

- Sherman Hall

CIP Funds used to design and construct new buildings that replace older and highly retro-fitted facilities:

- Center for Well-being replaced the SDSC trailers
- The ILSB on the site of the Academic Services Building

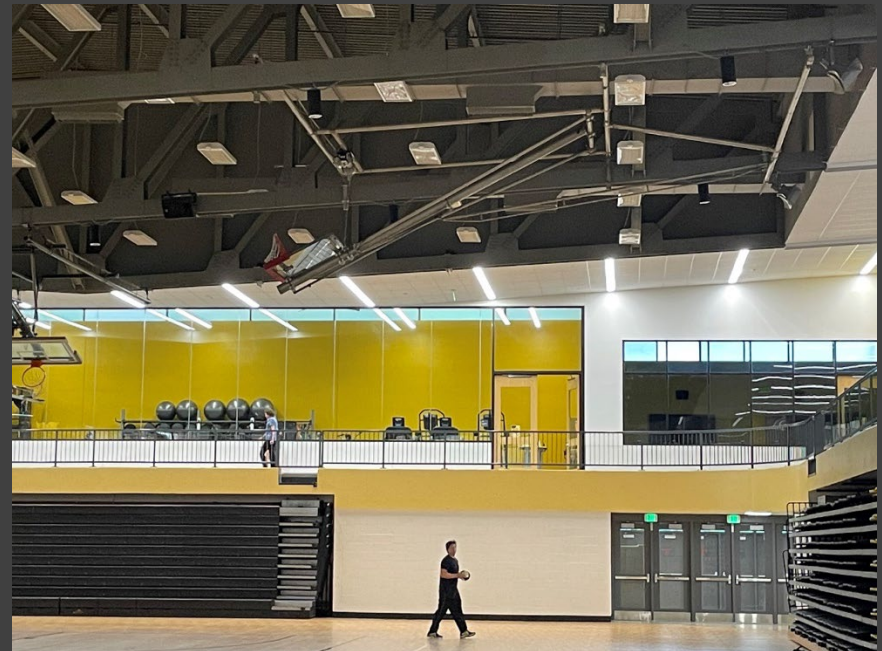
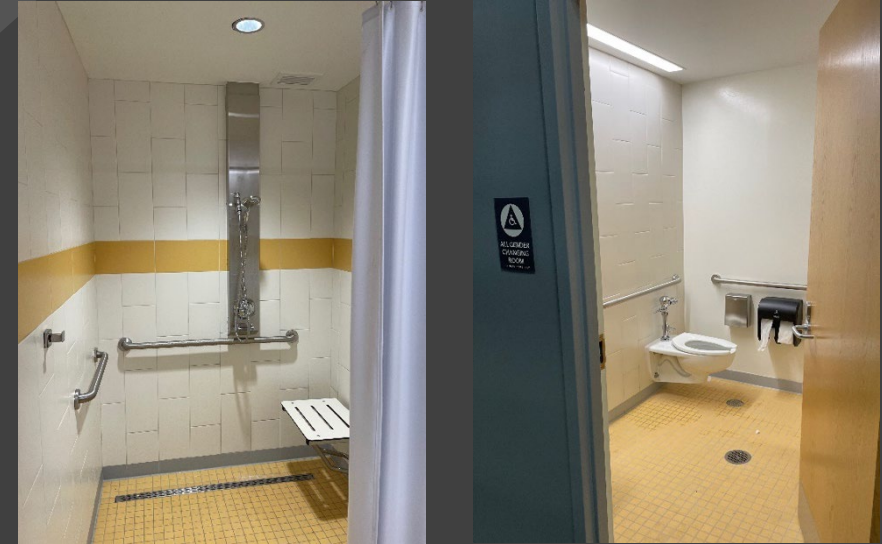


How are improvements funded?

Student, Athletic, and Parking fees are used to make improvements within auxiliary facilities (athletic, parking, residential, student life, and dining).

Auxiliary or Bond Funds used to renovate:

- the Stadium Complex and build the fan amenities building
- all the student residence halls
- True Grits dining hall
- The RAC (Retriever Activities Center) and build the Arena



How are improvements funded?

Campus Operating funds are used for small renovations and improvements to buildings and outdoor areas, and maintenance.

Operating Funds used to support:

- Partial building renovations
- Lecture Hall renovations
- Elevator replacements
- Restroom compliance and creation of all-gender restrooms
- Site improvements



Recently Completed accessibility improvements

Engineering 027 Lecture Hall Full renovation completed in summer 2025

- new accessible seating locations
- AV technology improvements
- lobby improvements



Recently Completed accessibility improvements

Biological Sciences Building Restroom Accessibility Full renovation completed in summer 2025

- upgraded four restrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors to be compliant with the ADA standards
- upgraded four drinking fountains on the 2nd and 3rd floors to be compliant with the ADA standards
- Access Maryland Project



Recently Completed accessibility improvements

Meyerhoff Chemistry Teaching Labs Accessibility Modifications

Full renovation completed to three (3) labs in summer 2025

- modified three existing teaching labs and undergraduate research lab to allow for inclusive participation in critical chemistry and biochemistry lab courses and research opportunities
- modifications to three more existing teaching labs planned for summer 2026
- Access Maryland Project

Recently Completed accessibility improvements

Patapsco Hall All-Gender Restrooms Accessibility Full renovation completed in summer 2025

- upgraded two basement level restrooms to be all-gender and compliant with the ADA standards
- converted one closet to an all-gender and ADA compliant restroom

Current Projects in design or construction

Engineering Building Accessible All-Gender Restrooms Ground Floor

- near lecture hall
- construction to be completed in 2026

Current Projects in design or construction

Accessible EV Charging Stations

Multiple campus locations

Project 1:

- new campus Fleet charging stations to be installed in spring 2026, a significant proportion will be accessible, these are located at lots 9, 26 & 31

Project 2:

- new public charging stations, we received \$1 million to support a total of 40 charging ports (20 dual port stations)
- installations could begin fall 2026, including accessible spaces
- locations not determined yet

Current Projects in design or construction

Chesapeake Hall All-Gender Restroom Accessibility

- upgrade two basement level restrooms to be all-gender and compliant with the ADA standards
- construction to be completed in spring 2026

Ongoing Initiatives

Elevator and Assisted Doors Maintenance and Repairs

- Over the last five years FM has contracted with a specialty elevator maintenance firm with the express purpose of reducing elevator down-time. FM has received good feedback on this approach.
- The main campus has 60 elevators, 5 chair lifts. Today have only 1 elevator down for repairs, before fall 2020 it would be 12-20 at any given time.
- In addition, we now have a specialist door operator contractor that allows us to be more proactive in regular maintenance and rapid in response to repairs. The campus has over 300 operable doors.

Place a Work Order:

umbc.assetworks.cloud/ready/

410-455-2550

Recently Completed accessibility improvements

Elevator Phased Upgrades and Replacements

Over the 10 years 18 elevators have been modernized to received ADA upgrades as part of a general elevator rebuilds.

- Biological Sciences Building
 - south elevator: completed June 2025
 - north elevator: completed August 2025
- University Center
 - service/passenger elevator: completed July 2025
 - main elevator: completed September 2025
 - mailroom elevator – in progress, anticipated completion Nov 2025

Current Projects in design or construction

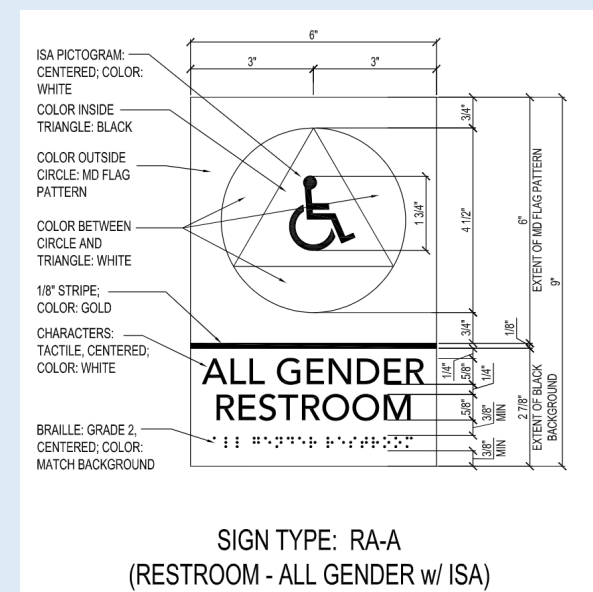
Elevator Phased Upgrades and Replacements

- Meyerhoff Chemistry Building
construction start in summer 2026
- Engineering Building
construction start in summer 2026
- Erickson Hall
construction start in summer 2027
- Harbor Hall
construction start in summer 2027

Current Projects in design or construction

Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery Accessibility improvements

- This 8-level building contains 31 restrooms, of which 23 are functionally accessible. Accessible restrooms for both men and women are found on every level of the library, except the lowest level, which has limited access for students
- Improvements are underway for automatic door operators on select restroom entrances, as well as addition of new signage.



Questions, Suggestions, and Improvements

Maintenance

Place a Work Order
umbc.assetworks.cloud/ready/
410-455-2550

Ideas or Suggestions for Projects

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Campus Planner
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Accessibility Concerns or Accommodations

Office of Accessibility and Disability Services
accessibility.umbc.edu

Transit Route Alerts and Info

UMBC Transit
transit.umbc.edu

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UMBC Transit: Committed to Accessibility

- UMBC Transit is committed to providing **equal access for all riders** with our trained CDL drivers.
- We prioritize **ADA compliance, inclusive technology, and rider support**
- Our mission: **Safe, Reliable, and Responsive transportation**



Our Accessible Fleet and Stops

Our Fleet:

- 28 Accessible buses with kneeling ramps and lifts
- 3 smaller vehicles for specialized transit needs

Our Service Area:

- UMBC Main Campus
- Nearby Baltimore County and City, East Howard County
- **104 Accessible stops**
 - Wheelchair-friendly and step-free locations
 - Connect with accessible, stair-free paths



Our Accessible Fleet and Stops

SMS & Voice Notification

- 3480 SMS since August 2025
- 17 Voice Calls

BUS STOP


 **UMBC**
transit




umbc.edu

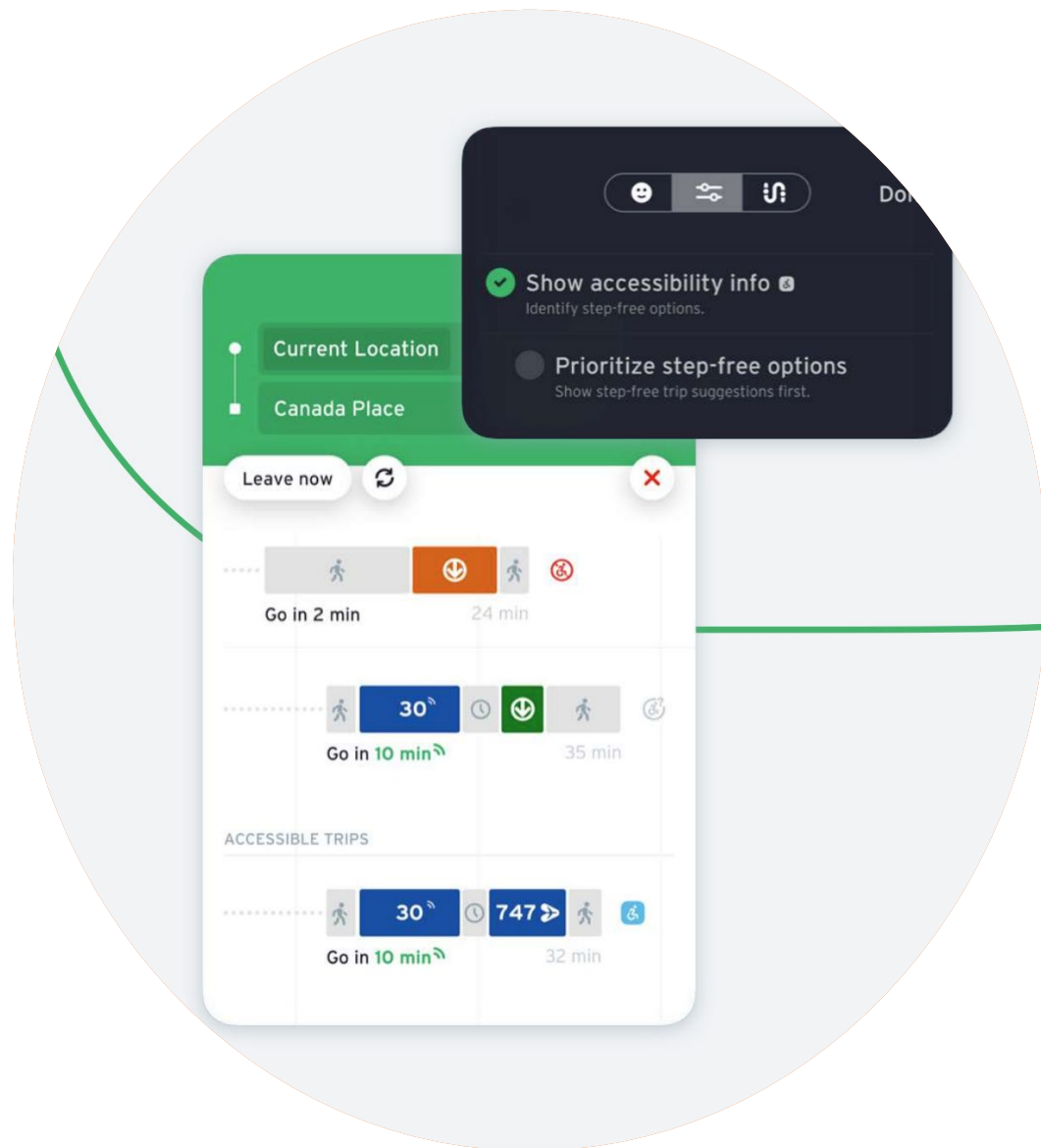
PARADISE
Weekdays / Weekends 

Text [Stop ID#]
to 443-455-9900
for next bus:
4739

umbc.edu/transit
410-455-2454


Technology for Accessibility

- **Transit App:** Real-time tracking, stop announcements, trip planning
- **Google Maps integration** for easy navigation
- 3.7% of Transit users have enabled an accessible feature such as the accessible **trip planner**, display preferences or **screen readers**
- **Transit's GO** functionality includes audible instructions that let users know when their stop is approaching, helping riders with visual and functional impairments



Rider Support & Additional Features



- **Priority seating** for riders with disabilities
- **Trained Operator assistance available** for those who need extra help boarding/exiting
- **On-demand support** for trip planning and accommodations

Continuous Improvement & Goals

- UMBC Transit works with county and local transit agencies to improve accessibility regionally by collaborating on **bus stop infrastructure**
- **More options for accessibility within our vehicles** to reduce reliance on driver assistance
- Exploring **innovative transit solutions** for improved accessibility through conversations like this gathering
- Strengthening **partnerships** to expand inclusive transit services



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