

# STAFF REPORT

## Transportation Plan Amendment

May 19, 2020 Town Council Meeting



The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the facts in order to formulate a decision. The Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Equestrian Plan map of Advance Apex: The 2045 Comprehensive Transportation Plan; the Comprehensive Bike Network map of Bike Apex: The Comprehensive Bicycle Plan; and the Parks, Recreation, Greenways, and Open Space Master Plan map represent a network of current and future facilities that provide guidance on what is likely to be suitable for long term growth. The plans do not require a schedule for implementation nor do they set aside funding for improvements. Instead, the plans help the Town establish long term priorities. The three maps were last amended in September 2019.

### **Proposed Amendment:**

The proposed amendment does not involve any substantive changes to the planned bicycle and pedestrian network; rather, it would consolidate recommendations currently maintained on three separate maps on one Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map. This will result in an overall system plan that is more transparent to all stakeholders and more efficiently and effectively maintained by staff.

The Department of Planning and Community Development maintains the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Equestrian Plan map and the Bike Network map. Any changes to these maps are brought forward to the Planning Board and Town Council for consideration in a public hearing setting. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the Parks, Recreation, Greenways and Open Space Master Plan map. Changes to this map are brought forward to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission for consideration. In September 2019, amendments to the three maps were approved so that they currently all reflect the same existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian system facilities. While new maps and recommendations may result from future planning processes, the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map is proposed to serve as the “living” document, maintained and updated in cooperation by both departments, and referenced in coordination with citizens, developers, regional agencies, and other stakeholders.

The proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map is available for viewing online at <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/31442/>. Some of the features and improvements include:

- Reference links to the three planning processes that inform the system plan map;
- Improved labeling of existing and proposed greenways, bicycle routes, places, and roadways
- Updated color scheme;
- Updated symbols that clearly distinguish facility types;
- Inclusion of future thoroughfares and collector streets to provide context for on-road recommendations; and,
- Inclusion of parcel lines to provide location-based reference for recommendations.

### **Planning Board Recommendation:**

The Planning Board considered the amendment at their May 11, 2020 meeting and unanimously recommended approval.

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Recommendation:**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will not meet until after the Town Council public hearing. The Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map will be presented for information during their next meeting.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Planning and Community Development staff and Parks and Recreation staff recommend approval of the proposed amendment.