

STAFF REPORT

Transportation Plan Amendments

April 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting



The purpose of [Advance Apex: The 2045 Transportation Plan](#) (Advance Apex) is to identify transportation needs and recommendations for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit, and freight. The purpose of [Bike Apex: The Comprehensive Bicycle Plan](#) (Bike Apex) is to establish policy, program, and infrastructure recommendations that will create a bicycle-friendly community. Bike Apex was adopted on January 3, 2019 and Advance Apex was adopted on February 5, 2019. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed text amendments to Advance Apex and Bike Apex, in order to formulate a decision.

The proposed text amendments to Chapter 6: Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of Advance Apex and Chapter 3: Recommendations of Bike Apex are intended to clarify that street-side greenways are recreational facilities, located outside of the public right-of-way. This clarification is intended to guide private and public development of street-side greenways. The proposed text amendments are detailed below.

Advance Apex (Chapter 6: Bicycle and Pedestrian Element - Page 59) and Bike Apex (Chapter 3: Recommendations - Page 49)

- 'Street-side greenway' is a term used locally for **a shared use** side paths with a greater landscaped buffer between the roadway and trail, allowing the trail to meander slightly for increased user comfort and a more rural aesthetic. These street-side trails ~~typically do not fit~~ **are not** within the roadway right-of-way, but ~~can usually~~ **are to** be constructed within a town greenway easement **a minimum of 20' in width-30'**. The easements can overlay streetscape buffers while not affecting setbacks or buffer widths, so long as required planting density can still be achieved. ~~This design should be considered for the more rural side paths that are recommended in this plan.~~

Advance Apex (Chapter 6: Bicycle and Pedestrian Element - Page 62)

- Sidewalks may be replaced by side paths ~~or street-side greenways~~ where appropriate, particularly along roadways with high traffic volumes ~~or to provide recreational corridors that connect destinations.~~ **Sidewalks may be replaced by street-side greenways to provide recreational corridors that connect destinations. Replacement of sidewalks with side paths or street-side greenways typically requires an amendment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map.**

Staff Recommendation:

Planning and Community Development Department staff and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department staff recommend approval of the proposed text amendments to Advance Apex and Bike Apex.

Planning Board Recommendation:

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on April 12, 2021. The Planning Board's recommendation will be presented during the Town Council public hearing.