

# STAFF REPORT

## Transportation Plan Amendments

August 13, 2024 Town Council Meeting



The Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan (Plan) map represents a network of current and future facilities that provide guidance on what is likely to be suitable for long term growth, connectivity, and recreation. The Plan does not require a schedule for implementation nor does it set aside funding for improvements. Instead, it helps the Town establish long term priorities and identify requirements for new development. The Plan was last amended on January 23, 2024.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map along the Middle Creek Greenway corridor in order to make a decision.

The proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map include changes along Reliance Avenue, Classic Road, and Ten Ten Road to establish the Middle Creek Greenway corridor route through Apex and connections to the corridor. The proposed Middle Creek Greenway route was identified through the Middle Creek Greenway Feasibility Study, funded through a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division and in partnership with VHB Engineering. An exhibit of the proposed Middle Creek Greenway route is displayed in Figure 1 below. While not shown as greenway on the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map, due to facility type, once constructed, this route would be designated on maps and signed as the Middle Creek Greenway.

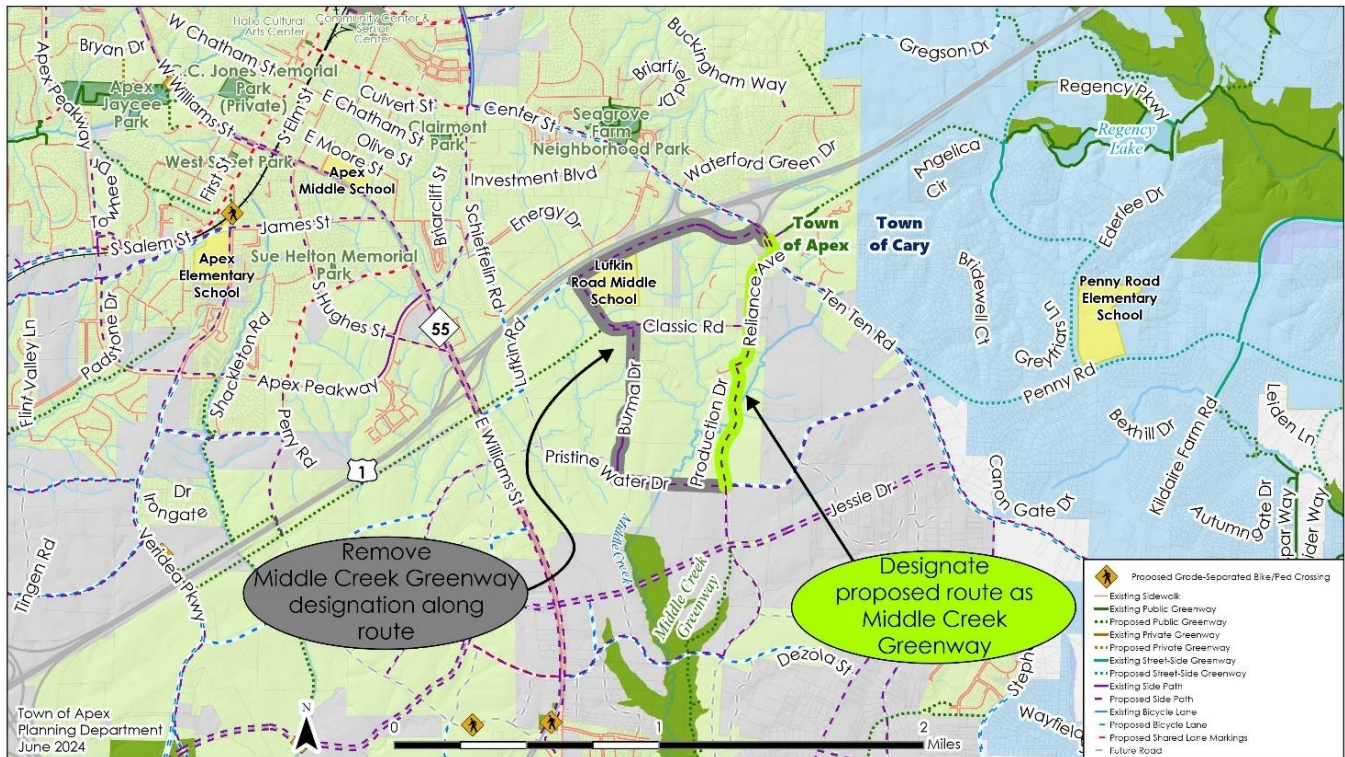


Figure 1. Proposed Middle Creek Greenway Route



A map of the proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map is displayed in Figure 2.

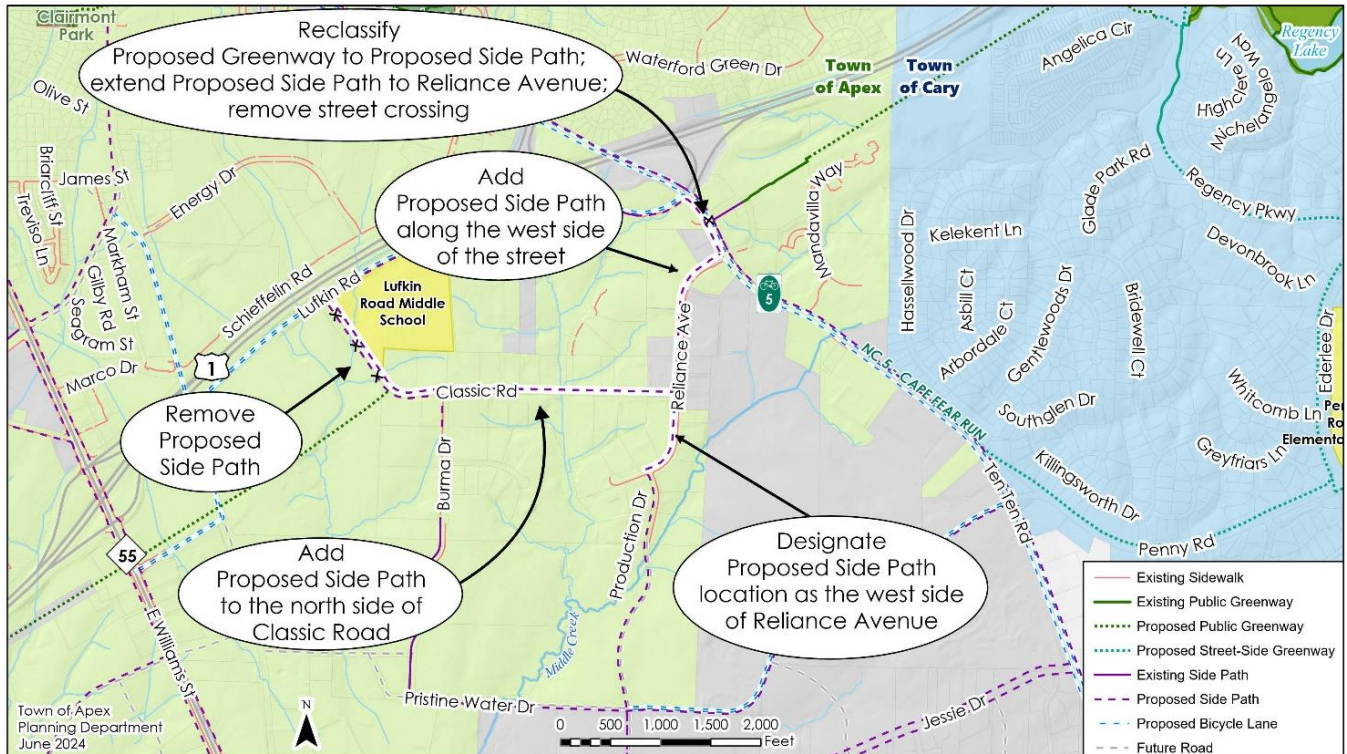


Figure 2. Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map Amendments

### Middle Creek Greenway: Reliance Avenue Proposed Side Path

The proposed amendments along Reliance Avenue include: (1) Designate Proposed Side Path location as the west side of Reliance Avenue from Production Drive to Classic Road. Proposed Side Path is currently shown on the plan, but the side of the road is not specified; and (2) Add Proposed Side Path along the west side of Reliance Avenue from Classic Road to Ten Ten Road. The Middle Creek Greenway is proposed along Production Drive and Reliance Avenue as it provides a direct bicycle and pedestrian connection to the existing Swift Creek Greenway Connector and the future Swift Creek Greenway in the Town of Cary and this alignment allows for an at-grade crossing of Ten Ten Road at the signalized intersection with Reliance Avenue. The west side of Production Drive and Reliance Avenue is the proposed Middle Creek Greenway alignment as it minimizes impacts to existing utilities and minimizes conflicts with driveways. This Middle Creek Greenway alignment was identified as the highest performing alternative based on an analysis completed as part of the feasibility study that considered connectivity, cost, environmental impact, safety, and user experience.

### Ten Ten Road Proposed Side Path

The proposed amendments along Ten Ten Road include: (1) Reclassify Proposed Greenway to Proposed Side Path along the west side of the road from Lufkin Road south, (2) Remove the Proposed Greenway street crossing of Ten Ten Road at Meridian Pointe Drive, (3) Extend Proposed Side Path along the west side of Ten Ten Road to complete the section between Lufkin Road and Reliance Avenue, and (4) Add a proposed at-grade greenway crossing of Ten Ten Road at Reliance Avenue. The purpose of these proposed amendments is to establish a consistent bicycle and pedestrian facility along the west side of Ten Ten Road from Lufkin Road to



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Reliance Avenue and to provide a connection from the Lufkin Road side path to the signalized crossing and greenway connection at Reliance Avenue.

### Classic Road Proposed Side Path

The proposed amendments along Classic Road include: (1) Add Proposed Side Path along the north side of Classic Road from Lufkin Road to Reliance Avenue and (2) Remove Proposed Side Path from the south side of Classic Road from Lufkin Road to the Proposed Greenway. The addition of Proposed Side Path along the north side of Classic Road from Lufkin Road to Reliance Avenue would provide an east-west connection between the Middle Creek Greenway and the Future Big Branch-Middle Creek Connector Greenway, which follows the Duke Energy easement along US 1. The Middle Creek Greenway Feasibility Study includes a recommendation to replace the existing 5-foot sidewalk along the north side of Classic Road with a 10-foot side path.

The plan amendments include the removal of Proposed Side Path along the south side of Classic Road between Lufkin Road and the Future Big Branch-Middle Creek Connector Greenway, as side path is proposed along the north side of Classic Road. Proposed Side Path is retained along the south side of Classic Road between the Future Big Branch-Middle Creek Connector Greenway and Burma Drive to provide a bicycle and pedestrian connection from the Proposed Greenway to the Proposed Side Path along the north side of Classic Road. This side path alignment would provide a future bicycle and pedestrian connection to Lufkin Road Middle School and it would connect to Existing and Proposed Side Path along the west side of Burma Drive.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Planning Department staff; Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department staff; and Transportation, Infrastructure and Development staff recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

### **Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission Recommendation:**

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission considered and unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendments at their May 29, 2024 meeting.

### **Planning Board Recommendation:**

The Planning Board considered and unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendments at their July 8, 2024 meeting.

# PLANNING BOARD REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

## Long Range Plan Amendments

Planning Board Meeting Date: July 8, 2024



### Long range plan(s) proposed to be amended:

Transportation Plan

### Description of the proposed amendment(s):

Realign the Middle Creek Greenway corridor. Amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map are proposed along Reliance Avenue, Classic Road, and Ten Ten Road.

### Planning Board recommendation:

Motion: Approval as presented by staff.

Introduced by Planning Board member: Daniel Khodaparast

Seconded by Planning Board member: Alyssa Byrd

Approval of the proposed amendment(s) as presented

Approval of the proposed amendment(s) with the following conditions or changes:

Denial of the proposed amendment(s)

With 6 Planning Board member(s) voting "aye"

With 0 Planning Board member(s) voting "no"

### Reason(s) for dissenting votes:

This report reflects the recommendation of the Planning Board, this the 8th day of July 2024.

Attest:

*Tim Royal*

Tim Royal, Planning Board Vice-Chair

Dianne F. Khin Digitally signed by Dianne F. Khin  
Date: 2024.07.08 17:02:48 -04'00'

Dianne Khin, Planning Director