

STAFF REPORT

Transportation Plan Amendments

November 9, 2021 Town Council Meeting



The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the facts in order to formulate a decision. The Bicycle and Pedestrian System 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 October 12, 2021.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the following proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map:

1. Remove Proposed Paved Shoulder from Holt Road (See Figure 1).
2. Add Proposed Side Path along Holt Road from Phillips Branch Street to Hasbrouck Drive (See Figure 1).
3. Remove Proposed Paved Shoulder along Holland Road and Friendship Road (See Figure 3).
4. Add Proposed Bicycle Lane along Holland Road and Friendship Road (See Figure 3).

Maps of the proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map are displayed in Figure 1 and Figure 3.

Proposed Amendments in the Vicinity of Holt Road

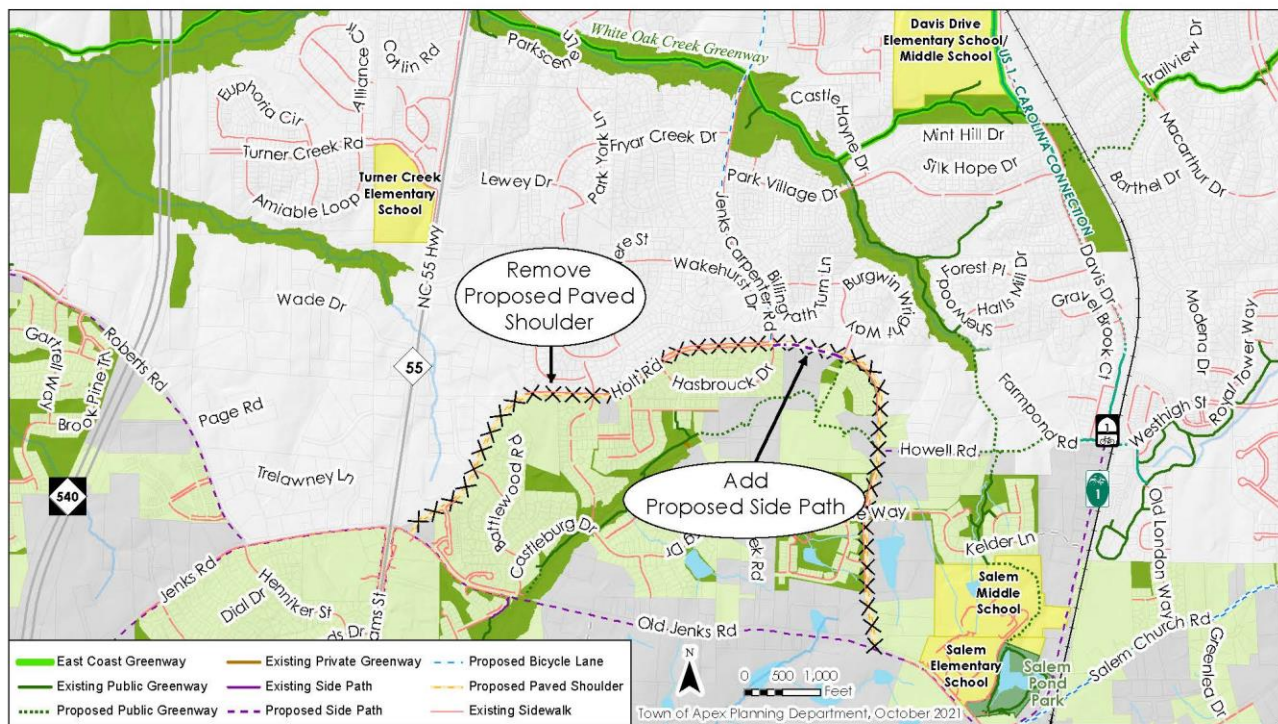


Figure 1. Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map Amendments along Holt Road

Holt Road is designated as a 3-Lane, Widening Thoroughfare on the Town of Apex Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map. Holt Road is located within the Suburban context on the Context Areas map in *Advance Apex: The 2045 Comprehensive Transportation Plan*. Development that is proposed with frontage along roadways with these classifications is required to provide curb and gutter. The Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map currently includes Proposed Paved Shoulder along Holt Road. Paved Shoulder, as a bicycle facility, is typically

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used along rural roadways with a shoulder and ditch cross-section. The Town's standard for a 3-Lane Thoroughfare in a suburban context with curb does not include a wide shoulder, so there is a conflict between our standard sections and the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map where this is shown. The Town's typical cross-section for a 3-Lane Thoroughfare is displayed below in Figure 2.

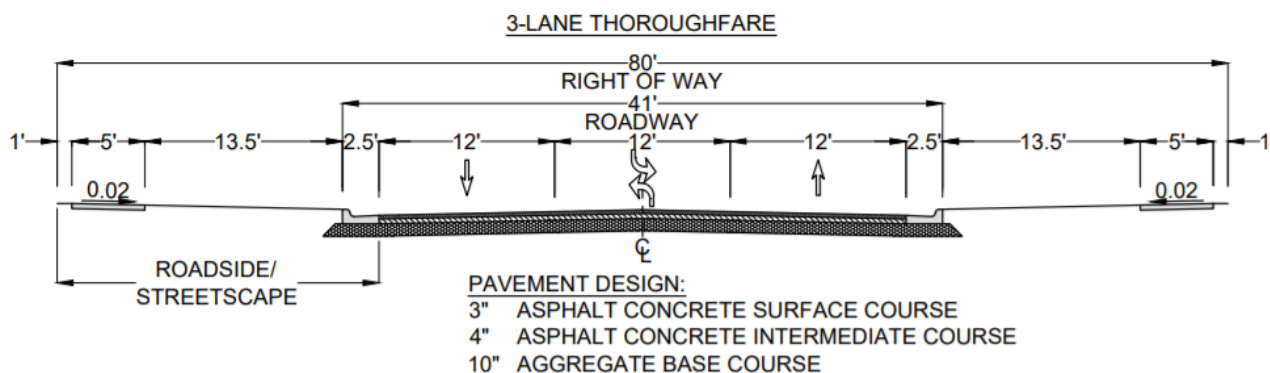


Figure 2. Town of Apex Street Typical Section 3-Lane Thoroughfare

Developments approved prior to the adoption of the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map, as well as more recent developments along Holt Road, have installed curb consistent with the Town's standard, without the wide paved shoulder. Curb and gutter has now been set along much of the Apex side (south side) of Holt Road. Similarly, the Town of Cary has no plans for on-road bicycle facilities within their jurisdiction, along the north side of Holt Road. Based on these factors, staff recommends the removal of the Paved Shoulder designation along Holt Road on the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map.

Staff recommends the addition of Proposed Side Path on the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map along the south side of Holt Road between Phillips Branch Street and Hasbrouck Drive to complete a bicycle and pedestrian connection from the North Beaver Creek Greenway to the White Oak Creek Greenway in the Town of Cary. A portion of the North Beaver Creek Greenway is in development as part of The Courtyards on Holt residential development. The Town of Cary has existing sidewalk along the east side of Jenks Carpenter Road from Holt Road to the White Oak Creek Greenway. The [Town of Cary Community Plan](#) includes Proposed Striped Bike Lanes along Jenks Carpenter Road. The proposed Side Path along Holt Road, in combination with the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Jenks Carpenter Road in the Town of Cary, will complete a pedestrian and bicycle connection to the White Oak Creek Greenway. Further, this route will parallel the facility that would have been provided with paved shoulder along Holt Road.

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Proposed Amendments in the Vicinity of Holland Road and Friendship Road

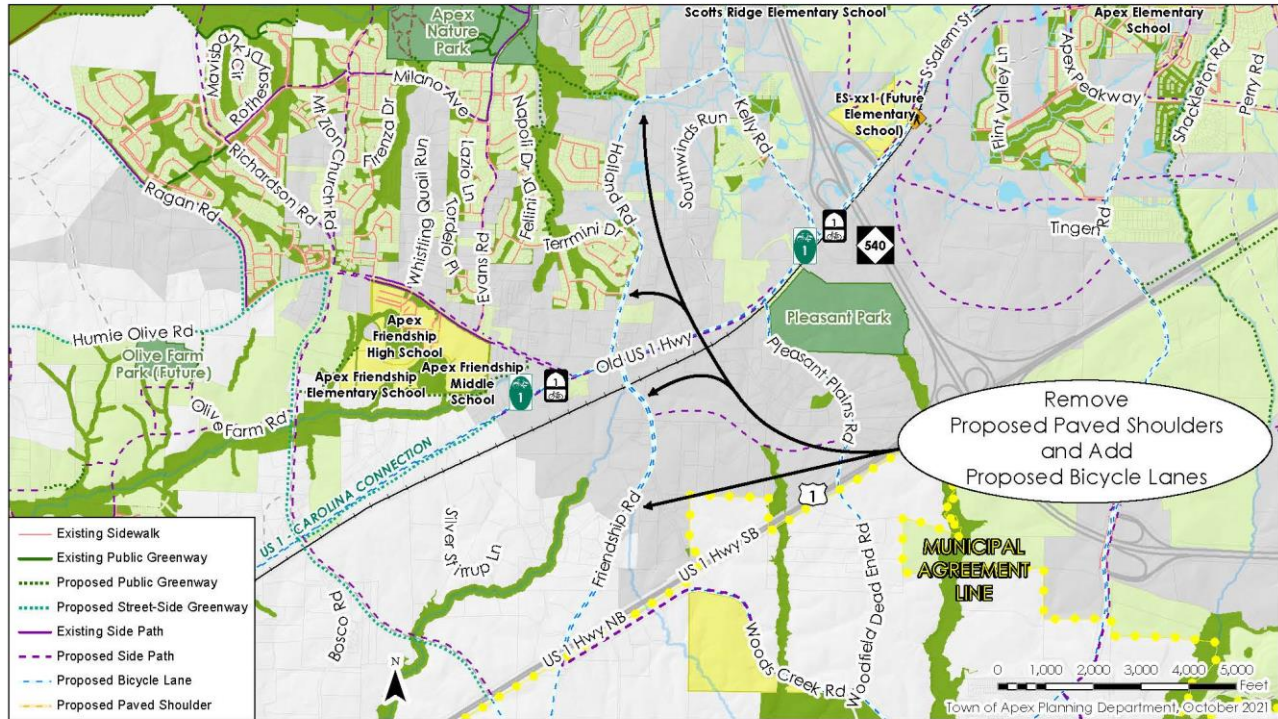


Figure 3. Proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map along Holland Road and Friendship Road

Holland Road is designated as a 3-Lane, Widening Thoroughfare and Friendship Road is designated as a 4-Lane with Median, Widening Thoroughfare on the Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map. Both Holland Road and Friendship Road are located within the Suburban context on the Context Areas map in *Advance Apex: The 2045 Comprehensive Transportation Plan*. Similarly to Holt Road, development that is proposed with frontage along roadways with these classifications in the Suburban context will be required to provide curb and gutter, so there is a conflict between the Town's standards and the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map. Unlike Holt Road, curb has not been set along most of Holland Road and Friendship Road. There is an opportunity to upgrade the plans for bicycle facilities along these corridors in advance of future redevelopment and roadway widening. Bicycle lanes are proposed along these two roadways to accommodate bicycle travel.

The [Town of Holly Springs Comprehensive Transportation Plan](#) includes Bicycle Lanes along their section of Friendship Road. The proposed Bicycle Lanes along Friendship Road in Apex are consistent with the planned bicycle network in Holly Springs.

Staff Recommendation:

Planning and Community Development Department staff recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

Public Works and Transportation Department staff and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department staff are supportive of the proposed amendments.

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Planning Board Recommendation:

Planning and Community Development Department staff will present these items to the Planning Board at their November 8, 2021 meeting. The Planning Board's recommendation will be presented by staff at the Council meeting.