

STAFF REPORT
Transportation Plan Amendments

May 9, 2023 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 March 31, 2023.

Numerous amendments are requested to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map to align with the proposed Draft Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Greenways, and Open Space (Master Plan). The Draft Master Plan will be presented to Town Council at the May 9, 2023 meeting. In 2021, the Town began the process to update the Master Plan to serve as the guide for the 10-year planning horizon.

Proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map fall into three main categories: (1) Additions to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, (2) Changes based on the outcome of three feasibility studies completed on the priority greenway corridors, and (3) Additions based on existing or planned development.

The proposed amendments address alignment changes that were recommended based on public input and requests for greenway connectivity that provide opportunities to complete corridors that would not be possible based on existing development. In addition, the recommendations are proposed based on development patterns that have appeared through planned projects that might not have approvals, but that sufficient information or public input has been provided that identifies and opportunity for a connection or amends a proposed alignment to connect projects that might not have been available or identified as possibilities in the past.

The proposed amendments below are organized by category rather than geography. The numbers associated with each amendment match reference numbers included on the attached exhibits. The exhibits are also available online at: <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/42949>.

Exhibit ID	Proposed Amendment	Amendment Category
1	Wimberly Road near Castleberry Road – Add proposed greenway connection to the American Tobacco Trail from Wimberly Road. Add a proposed greenway connection to an existing section of greenway in Castleberry Trails.	Improve Connectivity
2	Wimberly Road at Future Park – Add a proposed greenway connection from Wimberly Road to the Future Park off Wimberly Road.	Improve Connectivity
3	Holt Road – Add proposed side path along the east side of Holt Road from Old Jenks Road to Howell Road.	Improve Connectivity
4	Apex Peakway near Mockingbird Lane – Realign South Walk proposed greenway north of the stream connecting to the Apex Peakway near the intersection with Grappenhall Drive.	Existing or Planned Development
5	Chapel Ridge Road – Add proposed east-west greenway connection from the proposed side path on Chapel Ridge Road to the proposed Beaver Creek North Greenway.	Improve Connectivity
6	Reedy Branch Greenway – Realign Reedy Branch Greenway, including a midblock crossing of Kelly Road south of Red Knot Lane. This would shift the greenway to the south of Reedy Branch from Kelly Road to Rothwood Way. Access is proposed to be added at: Creekside Commons proposed greenway	Feasibility Study Results

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	access, Homestead Park proposed greenway access, and Stratford at Abbington proposed Greenway access at Rothwood Way. Access is proposed to be removed within Abbington at Lydenbury Drive and along Kellyridge Drive.	
7	Apex Nature Park – Add proposed greenway within Apex Nature Park, linking to existing trail near Evans Road, extending the corridor through the park. Realign proposed greenway connection from Bella Casa to Nature Park.	Feasibility Study Results
8	Richardson Road crossing – Add proposed grade-separated bicycle and pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Richardson Road and Beaver Creek Greenway.	Feasibility Study Results
9	Barker Road – Add proposed street-side greenway along the north side of Barker Road from New Hill Olive Chapel Road to the Chatham County line.	Improve Connectivity
10	Olive Farm Park – Add proposed greenway connecting the future Olive Farm Park to a proposed side path within the Retreat at Friendship Station project within dedicated parkland.	Improve Connectivity
11	Salem Village – Add proposed greenway that starts at the eastern terminus of Padstone Drive, extends southwest along the north side of the creek, then splits after crossing Flint Valley Lane, terminating at the proposed grade-separated crossing of South Salem Street across from Depot 499 and at the proposed side path along the future extension of Widger Lane.	Improve Connectivity
12	E Williams Street – Add proposed side path along the east side of East Williams Street from Sunset Lake Road to NC 55 and along the eastern side of NC 55 to join the previously-proposed side path. This is consistent with the public hearing map for NCDOT’s project HL-0007, improvements at NC 55 and Technology Drive.	Existing or Planned Development
13	Felton Grove High School area – Add proposed greenway along the east side of a tributary of Middle Creek bordering the future Felton Grove High School north to Stephenson Road and Wild Blossom Drive. Add proposed side path on the south side of the Colby Chase Drive extension east of Smith Road continuing along Rhythm Drive to Stephenson Road.	Existing or Planned Development
14	Big Branch Greenway – Remove proposed Big Branch Greenway between James Street and Apex Peakway and remove Wake Acres proposed greenway access. Realign Big Branch Greenway to the west side of Big Branch, south of Apex Peakway. This greenway realignment would relocate Lexington proposed greenway access and add Bradley Terrace proposed greenway access.	Feasibility Study Results

Staff Recommendation:

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

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Commission considered and unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendments at their April 26, 2023 meeting.

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Planning Board Recommendation:

Staff will present these items to the Planning Board at their May 8, 2023 meeting. The Planning Board's recommendation will be presented by staff at the Council meeting.