

STAFF REPORT

Bicycle Plan and Transportation Plan Amendments

September 17, 2019 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 the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Bike Network map of the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan represent a network of current and future bicycle 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 Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Equestrian Plan map of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan was adopted in February 2019 and the Comprehensive Bike Network map of the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan map was adopted in January 2019.

Proposed Amendments:

Numerous amendments are requested to the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Equestrian Plan map and the Comprehensive Bike Network map. Over 2017 and 2018, the Town, with assistance from two consultant teams, was simultaneously working on both a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan and an update to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The spatial data supporting those plans was delivered to the Town following adoption of the plans in early 2019. Quality review of the detailed data by staff revealed that numerous changes are needed.

Proposed amendments fall into three main categories: (1) Substantive changes identified by staff or through proposed development following adoption of the plans, (2) Changes that were approved through development plans or by advancing designs for greenways that were not captured during the planning process, and (3) Clean-up changes that are the result of mapping errors or omissions. The first category of changes warrant the most consideration and are presented first below. These changes will also be the focus of the Planning Board public hearing presentation. The second and third categories are included for completeness, and can be discussed during the public hearing if desired, but will not be the focus of the presentation.

The proposed amendments below are organized by category then geography. The numbers associated with each amendment match reference numbers included on the attached map. The map is also available online at: <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/28775>.

Category 1 – Proposed Substantive Amendments:

Northwest Apex, in the vicinity of:

4. Crestmont – Replace proposed greenway road crossing with proposed side path crossing and show existing sidewalk
5. US 64 Highway and the American Tobacco Trail – Shift the proposed Goodwin Road side path to east side of road and remove the proposed US 64 Highway side path connection to the American Tobacco Trail
9. US 64 Highway and Vision Drive – Add proposed side path along Vision Drive and remove proposed greenway along US 64 and ramps to NC 55
12. Charleston Village Greenway and Holt Road – Show existing private access and realign proposed greenway and side path for consistency with subdivision plans, to minimize environmental impacts, and plan for improved roadway crossings
13. Howell Road – Change proposed connection to Town of Cary greenway system from proposed side path to proposed greenway
17. Haddon Hall Greenway – Add proposed greenway extension to connect with existing public greenway easement

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Southwest Apex, in the vicinity of:

19. Kinship Lane – Remove proposed side path and greenway along future Kinship Lane
27. Friendship Station – Realign proposed greenway to match side path design per proposed subdivision plans
28. Old US 1 Highway – Change designation of proposed side path to proposed street-side greenway

Southeast Apex, in the vicinity of:

36. NC 55 at Nationwide Plaza – Remove detached proposed greenway through parking lot
38. Big Branch Greenway at Wake Acres Apartments – Realign proposed greenway and add proposed access
39. Big Branch Greenway and US 1 Highway – Revise alignment of greenway and add proposed grade-separated crossing
41. Future Commuter Rail Corridor – Remove proposed side path along future corridor
45. Middle Creek Greenway at Horton Park – Realign Middle Creek Greenway per proposed subdivision plans

Category 2 – Proposed Amendments to reflect Approved Plans and Advancing Designs

Northwest Apex, in the vicinity of:

1. Castleberry Trails – Add approved greenway access to the American Tobacco Trail
3. Wimberly Road and Secluded Acres Road – Revise proposed redundant greenway access within The Preserve at White Oak Creek and add approved neighborhood greenway access and side path
7. Richardson Road and future Reedy Branch Greenway – Add multiple greenway connections to match approved subdivision plans for Smith Farm, Sweetwater, and Linden
10. Thorn Hollow Drive – Change proposed side path to proposed greenway for short section and realign proposed greenway to match development plans
11. Charleston Village Greenway and Old Jenks Road – Realign proposed greenway onto Town property
14. Salem Middle and Salem Elementary schools – Realign proposed greenway to reflect Wake County Public School System preferences
15. Salem Pond Park – Add existing stairs connection to existing trail and park

Southwest Apex, in the vicinity of:

18. Beaver Creek Greenway and Buckhorn Preserve – Realign proposed greenway to match approved subdivision plans and greenway design
20. Beaver Creek Greenway and Hollands Crossing – Consolidate proposed greenway access points into one access point along Town access easement
21. Beaver Creek Greenway and Apex Nature Park – Realign proposed greenway to match approved design
22. Beaver Creek Greenway, Kelly West, and Greenbrier – Add greenway access to match approved design and add proposed side path along existing public greenway easements connecting Greenbrier and Kelly West
23. Beaver Creek Greenway and NC 540 – Show realignment of existing greenway out of floodway
25. Jordan Vistas – Add proposed Jordan Vistas side path to match approved subdivision plans
26. Olive Ridge PUD – Change section of proposed greenway to proposed side path per approved PUD
30. Bella Casa – Realign proposed greenway and access points to use existing access and utility easements
31. Old US 1 Highway and West Village – Add proposed side path to match approved subdivision plans
32. S Salem Street and Apex Peakway SW – Add side path and revise alignment for consistency with proposed Apex Peakway SW plans and to complete gap along S Salem Street
33. Salem Creek Townhomes – Add proposed greenway access to match approved subdivision plans

Southeast Apex, in the vicinity of:

37. Apex Peakway SE Connector – Revise proposed side path to match feasibility study alignment

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44. Middle Creek Greenway at Miramonte – Add proposed neighborhood greenway access per approved design plans
46. Symphony Lake – Realign proposed greenway and street-side greenway connection to Town of Cary system

Category 3 – Proposed Amendments to address Errors and Omissions

Northwest Apex, in the vicinity of:

2. Weddington – Revise alignment of White Oak Creek Greenway connection to American Tobacco Trail
6. US 64 Highway and Jenks Road – Realign proposed side path to match proposed above-grade interchange
8. Woodridge and future Reedy Branch Greenway – Realign proposed side path along reserved road alignment
16. N Salem Street and US 64 – Add proposed side path along N Salem Street (per previous plan) to show connection under US 64

Southwest Apex, in the vicinity of:

24. Beaver Creek Greenway and Pearson Farms – Add proposed greenway access per previous plan
29. Richardson Road – Realign proposed side path and proposed street-side greenway to match proposed future road alignment

Northeast Apex, in the vicinity of:

34. Shepherds Vineyard – Change proposed greenway extension from public to private
35. Community Center – Remove proposed greenway through Community Center parking lot

Southeast Apex, in the vicinity of:

40. Prince Dead End Road – Add proposed greenway to match existing greenway easement
42. Veridea Parkway – Extend proposed side path through interchange
43. Future High School – Realign proposed side path to follow proposed road corridor and reduce impacts to existing neighborhood

Planning Board Recommendation

The Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendments at their September 9, 2019 meeting and unanimously recommended approval.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Recommendation:

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission have reviewed all proposed amendments and recommend approval.

Staff Recommendation:

Planning staff and Parks and Recreation staff recommend approval of the proposed amendments.