

STAFF REPORT

Transportation Plan Amendments

November 17, 2020 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 6, 2020.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the following proposed amendments to:

1. Add Proposed Side Path along the west side of South Salem Street from Apex Barbecue Road to the interchange at NC 540 to match the approved Depot 499 Planned Unit Development (PUD).
2. Add a Proposed Grade-Separated Pedestrian Crossing of South Salem Street and the railroad tracks to match a condition requested by Town Council and included in the approved Depot 499 PUD.
3. Add Proposed Greenway to provide a pedestrian connection from the Proposed Pedestrian Crossing to the future intersection of James Street and Padstone Drive.

A map of the proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map is displayed in Figure 1 below.

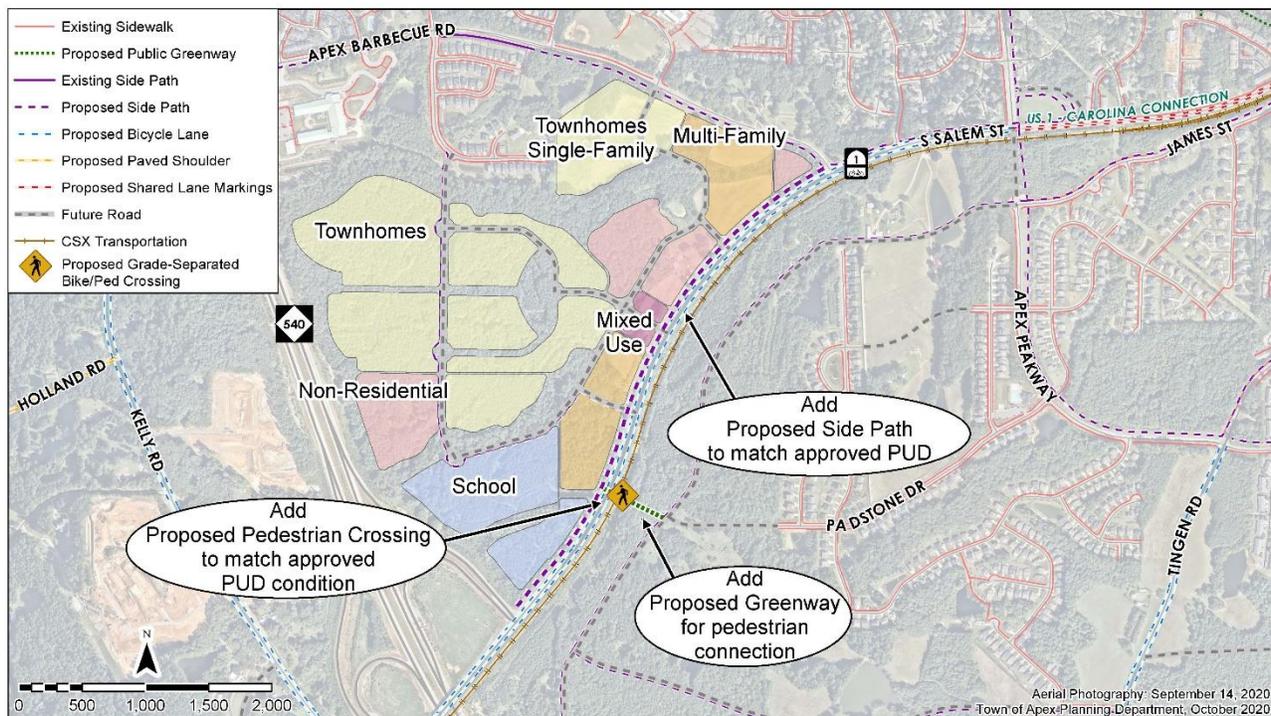


Figure 1. Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map Amendments

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to update the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map for consistency with the approved Depot 499 PUD, Rezoning Case #20CZ01. The proposed amendments are designed to enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity along and across South Salem Street, the adjacent railroad tracks, and the future street network on the east side of the railroad tracks.

The proposed amendments would update the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map for consistency with the following Walkability conditions in the approved Depot 499 PUD, Rezoning Case #20CZ01:

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- Ten-foot wide side paths along South Salem Street frontage.
- At the time of Major Site Plan for any development in Pods I and J, developer agrees to dedicate an approximately 25'x25' area along the South Salem Street frontage to serve as a connection point for a future grade separated pedestrian connection across South Salem Street and the railroad, to be constructed by others. This area may overlap the 15' streetscape buffer along South Salem Street. If the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map has not been amended to reflect a grade-separated crossing of South Salem Street and the railroad in this vicinity, the area for a connection point shall not be required.

The location of the Proposed Pedestrian Crossing in relation to Pods I and J in the approved Depot 499 PUD Layout is displayed in Figure 2 below. Multi-family residential development is proposed in Pods I and J. A school is proposed in Pod S. The Proposed Pedestrian Crossing is located in an area with high anticipated pedestrian volumes. It is anticipated to provide a safe route to school for students who may travel to the future school from the east side of South Salem Street.

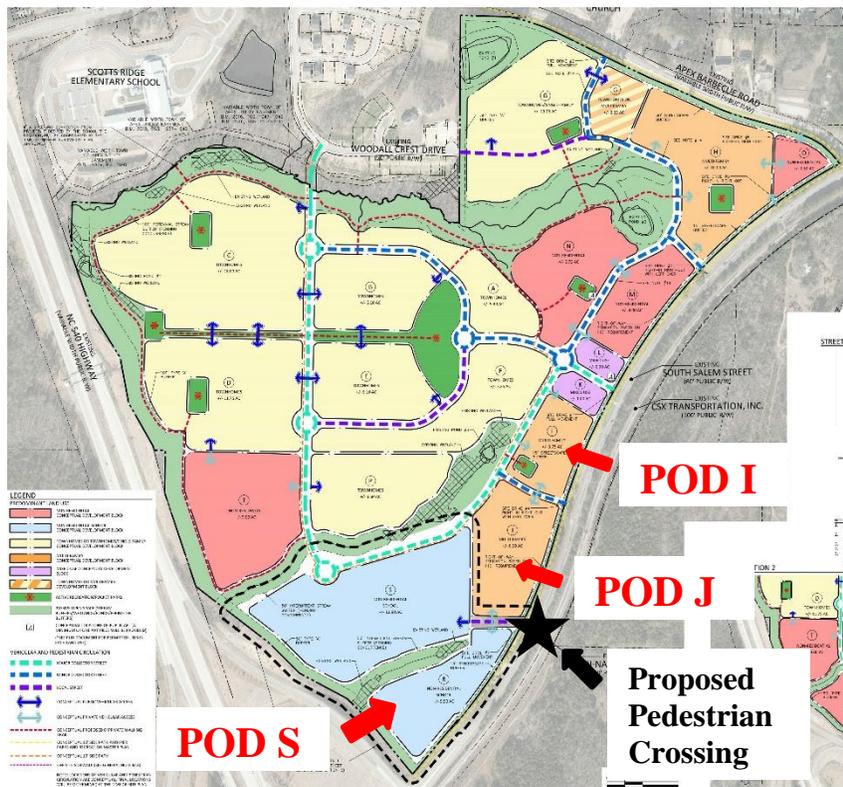


Figure 2. Depot 499 Planned Unit Development Approved Layout

Staff Recommendation:

The proposed amendment was reviewed with staff from Public Works and Transportation, Police, Fire, EMS and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and there were no concerns. A representative of the Depot 499 PUD also reviewed the amendment and indicated it is consistent with the intent of the PUD. Planning staff recommends approval of the proposed amendments to be shown on the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map.

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Planning Board Recommendation:

Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map at their November 9, 2020 meeting.