

STAFF REPORT

Transportation Plan Amendments

August 22, 2023 Town Council Meeting



The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the facts in order to make 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 May 15, 2023.

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

1. Replace proposed side path with proposed sidewalk along the east side of Transit Trail between Olive Chapel Road and the entrance to the proposed Weston subdivision.
2. Add proposed side path along the west side of Transit Trail between Olive Chapel Road and the greenway in the Legacy Planned Unit Development (PUD).

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

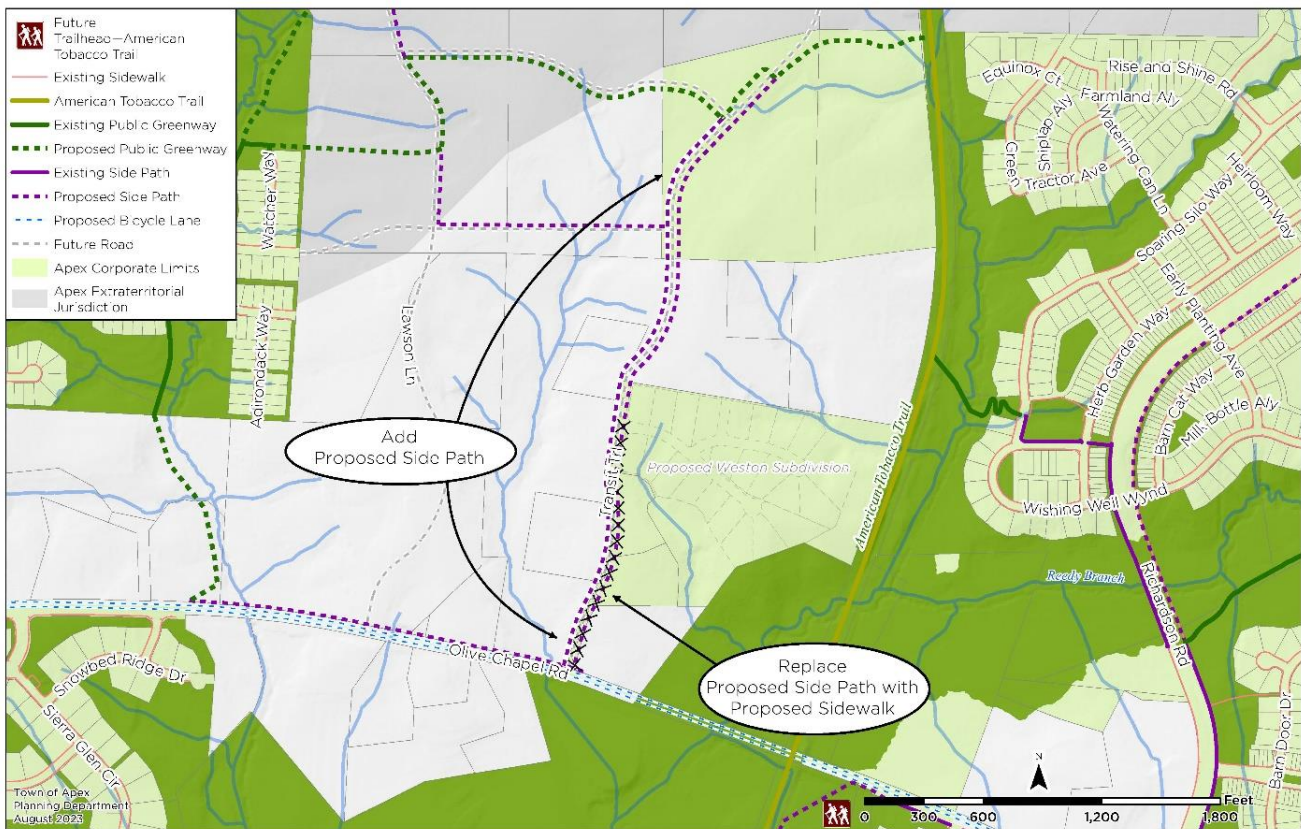


Figure 1. Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map Amendments

The purpose of the first proposed amendment is to replace the proposed side path along the east side of Transit Trail with proposed sidewalk between Olive Chapel Road and the entrance to the proposed Weston subdivision for consistency with the zoning conditions that Town Council approved on June 27, 2023 as part of 23CZ09 Hatcher Property Rezoning (now known as the proposed Weston subdivision), which removed the requirement to construct side path in this location per the adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan Map. The approved Hatcher PUD text includes the following requirement:

STAFF REPORT

Transportation Plan Amendments

August 22, 2023 Town Council Meeting



Developer shall construct Transit Trail according to the Apex Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan on 60' public right-of-way from Olive Chapel Road to the northernmost property boundary, to be dedicated prior to the first plat of the subdivision. The developer shall construct a 24-foot wide section of asphalt (a 6' reduction from the Major Collector Street typical section) and shall not be required to construct curb and gutter on the west side of Transit Trail. The east side of Transit Trail shall be constructed with:

- a. Curb and gutter
- b. A 5-foot sidewalk from Olive Chapel Road to the entrance of the future Master Subdivision Plan, and
- c. A 10-foot side path from the entrance of the future Master Subdivision Plan to the northernmost extent of the property.

The second amendment, the addition of side path along the west side of Transit Trail between Olive Chapel Road and the Legacy PUD greenway, is proposed to provide a continuous off-road bicycle and pedestrian connection between Olive Chapel Road and the greenway, given the removal of side path on the east side of Transit Trail. This side path would enhance the bicycle and pedestrian network in this area by connecting to the proposed greenway in Legacy PUD, the proposed side path along the north side of Olive Chapel Road, and the proposed bicycle lanes along Olive Chapel Road.

If the proposed Transportation Plan amendment is approved, the Legacy PUD developers have agreed to construct side path along the west side of Transit Trail between future Seaside Walk, the east-west road in Legacy, and the southern boundary of the PUD, when development occurs along this section of Transit Trail. Some flexibility in the design of the path will be allowed, including the possibility of a narrowed utility strip or reduced path width, and coordinated with staff at the time of site plan development to accommodate constraints associated within the approved PUD.

The Legacy PUD developer expressed concern about side path being provided along both sides of Transit Trail. Planning staff shared that while side path is not typically included on both side of this type of street, there are considerations for Transit Trail that have led to this recommendation.

- The original plan was to provide side path along only the east side of Transit Trail. Town staff would not be recommending side path along the west side if the side path had been retained on the east side of Transit Trail.
- The Hatcher PUD (Proposed Weston Subdivision) text includes the following requirement that will result in a section of side path on the east side of Transit Trail without a zoning amendment: The east side of Transit Trail shall be constructed with curb and gutter, a 5-foot sidewalk from Olive Chapel Road to the entrance of the future Master Subdivision Plan, and a 10-foot side path from the entrance of the future Master Subdivision Plan to the northernmost extent of the property.
- There is the possibility of a school site on the east side of Transit Trail that would benefit from side path.

STAFF REPORT
Transportation Plan Amendments

August 22, 2023 Town Council Meeting



Staff Recommendation:

Planning Department staff recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

Planning Board Recommendation:

The Planning Board considered and unanimously recommended approval of these proposed amendments at their August 14, 2023 meeting.