



# MINUTES

April 23, 2025

## SECOND MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL - 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM | 160 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE E. | 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Barbara G. Volk, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Jennifer Hensley and Council Members Lyndsey Simpson, Melinda Lowrance and Gina Baxter

Staff Present: City Manager John Connet, Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle, City Clerk Jill Murray, Staff Attorney Daniel Heyman, Communications Manager Allison Justus, Communications Coordinator II Brandy Heatherly and others.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbara Volk called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was established with all members in attendance.

### 2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

*Council Member Melinda Lowrance moved that City Council approve the agenda as presented. A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.*

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Employee Wellness Program Update – John Connet, City Manager

City Manager Connet explained that several weeks ago Mayor Pro Tem Hensley asked for an update on the Employee Wellness Program and Benefit and we asked our HR department to be here to present but they are not here so Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle will give a brief PowerPoint presentation of the current City benefits.

City Benefits  
April 23, 2025



## Topics

- Wellness Program
- Screening
- Medical Insurance
- Paid Family Leave
- Short Term Disability

# Wellness

**Incentive program.** Currently, 250 employees are registered, and we average 145 meeting the quarterly goal. Employees meeting the goal receive two vacation days.

**Employee clinic.** Employees may visit the health professionals at Pardee@Work for non-work related medical issues. There were 341 employee visits in 23-24 and, thus far in this fiscal year, 248 visits.

**Events.** The City offers on-site activities such as wellness fairs, skin cancer screenings, flu & TDAP shots, along with a hiking series, softball team and more.



*"So I started with the City of Hendersonville in March of this year, 2024. I found out about this program and basically did it for the extra days off. Since being on the goal, I've lost weight and a clothing size. It's been a win / win."  
Engineering Technician III*

# Screenings

The City provides on-site health screenings every year for employees and spouses on the medical insurance. Anyone who does not meet at least three standards is offered health coaching.

- 2022 – 49 did not meet standards
- 2023 – 35 did not meet standards
- 2024 – 21 did not meet standards



## MODERATE CONTROL STANDARDS (need to meet three)

- 1. Blood Pressure**  
< 140/90 or decrease by 10%
- 2. Cholesterol/HDL Ratio**  
< 4 or decrease by 10%
- 3. Blood Glucose**  
Fasting glucose < 126 or decrease by 10% OR A1C < 7.0%
- 4. Waist Circumference**  
<= 35" (female) or <= 40" (male) or decrease 5%
- 5. Average 200 points quarterly with AccelWell**  
(employees only)

# Medical Insurance

- Employee only - 220
- Employee & spouse - 32
- Employee & child - 20
- Employee & children – 22
- Employee & family – 43
- Waived medical - 11



2023		Paid Family Leave			
Admin	1				
Comm Devel	1				
Engineering	1				
Finance	1				
Fire	5				
HR	1				
Legal	1				
Police	5				
Public Works	2				
Water/Sewer	5				
Total	23				
		2024		2025	
		Fire	4	Finance	1
		HR	2	Fire	2
		Police	4	HR	2
		Public Works	1	Police	2
		Water/Sewer	5	Public Works	1
		Total	16	Water/Sewer	1
				Total	9

Short Term Disability			
2023		2024	
Engineering	1	Finance	1
Finance	1	Fire	1
Fire	3	Police	1
Police	5	Public Works	1
Public Works	4	Water/Sewer	3
Water/Sewer	4	Total	7
Total	18		
		2025	
		Fire	1
		Police	1
		Public Works	1
		Total	3

### Absence Utilization

**Total 2024.** In total 6,926 days were utilized in 2024.

- Sick = 2,200
- Vacation = 3,387
- Wellness = 1,339

**On Average.** This equates to approximately 18 days per year per employee, or 7.26% of total working days (248).

- Sick = 2.26% or 5.6 Days
- Vacation = 3.44% or 8.54 Days
- Wellness = 1.54% or 3.82 Days

**Impacts.** The only budgetary impacts felt by sick, vacation, and wellness utilization are overtime costs. If a sanitation worker utilizes 4 days of wellness during the year, this would equate to approx. \$900 in salary costs for overtime. Wellness days supplement vacation and sick use, which would likely be used anyway if wellness days were not available.

*National Avg. of Sick Leave Utilization by Season*



Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle gave a brief overview of what is going to be discussed. Lew Holloway, Craig Shoreling, Blake Fulgham, Brian Pahle, Matt Manley and Brent Detwiler all discuss the options below.

## City Council Workshop – PCI + ADA Plan

City of Hendersonville

April 23, 2025

Considerations For  
FY26  
Recommended  
Budget



### PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

01

To update City Council with current conditions of City streets and impacts of current PROWAG requirements.

02

To prioritize the level of services to be strived for and potential rates to fund them.

### AGENDA

Topics to Cover:

1. PCI Process, Score, and Map
2. PROWAG – What it is and the impacts...
3. Bike/Ped Impacts
4. Project Examples
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Tracks to Gwy)
  - Blythe St. (5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>)
5. Revenue Options
  - PILO Sidewalks
  - MFV Benchmarks
  - G.O. Bond

6. Why is this important?
  - Larger Impacts (NCDOT/MPO)
  - Corridors/High Risk Network
  - Ped./Veh. Accidents
  - Do it right...complete street
  - Enhance NCDOT Projects



Craig Shoreling from Transmap Engineering PLLC began with the pavement condition index. We've been doing your pavement since 2018 and this is your second inspection.

# Section 1 – PCI Overview

Transmap Engineering, PLLC



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hendersonville, NC – Reporting Details	
PMS Report Date	September 2024
Number of Miles in Network Asphalt and Concrete Roads only	68.62
Value of the Network	\$107 Million
Cost to Fix Everything	\$5.2M
Average Network PCI	74
Work Planning Horizon	5 Years
Do-Nothing Budget	PCI = 56 after 5-Yrs
Budget to Maintain the Current Network PCI	\$1.402M
Given Projected Annual Budget - \$925k	PCI drops 7 points after 5-Yrs

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The results of a Pavement Management System analysis provide a quantitative performance score called the Pavement Condition Index (PCI).

Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is a term representing the surface condition of the pavement on a scale of 0 to 100.

For example:

- PCI of 100 is a pavement in perfect condition
- PCI of 0 is a pavement that is failed

CURRENT PCI – SEPT. 2024

Hendersonville, NC  
PCI = 74

PCI Range	Condition
86-100	Good
71-85	Satisfactory
56-70	Fair
41-55	Poor
26-40	Very Poor
11-25	Serious
0-10	Failed

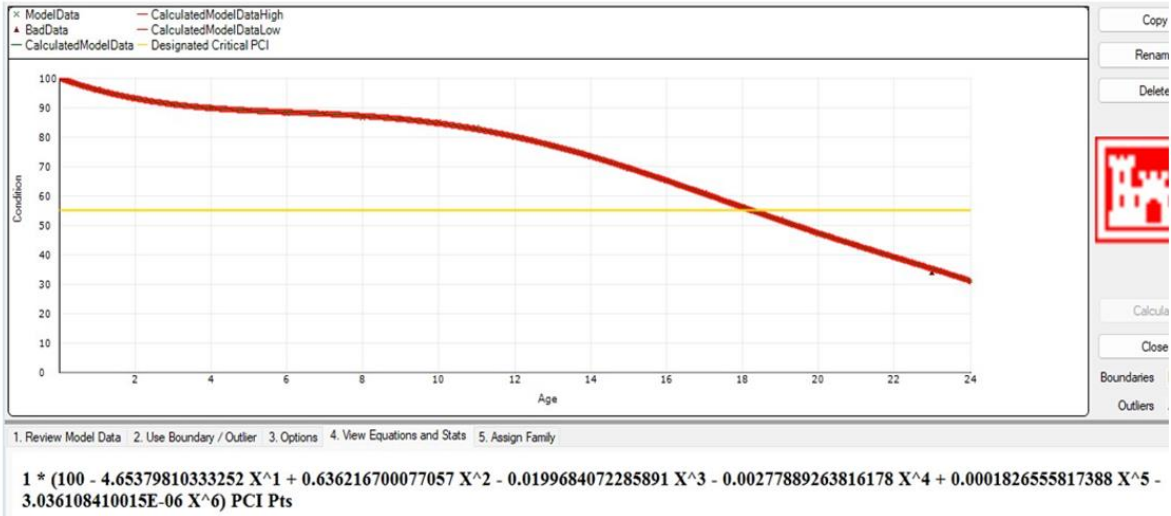
Jul. 2018  
PCI = 71

DATA COLLECTION



PAVEMENT TREATMENT OPTIONS

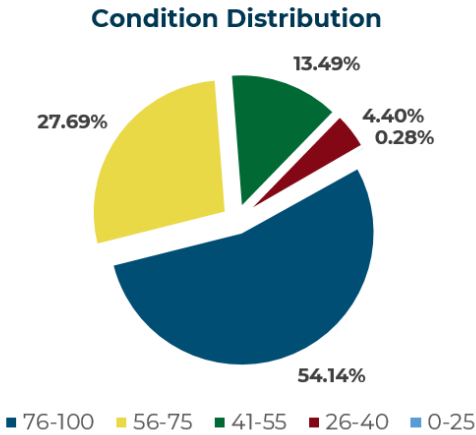
Deterioration Curve





PAVEMENT TREATMENT OPTIONS

M&R Category	M&R Treatment	Price per Sq. Yard	Expected Result
Do Nothing (PCI 76-100)	N/A	\$0.00	N/A
Conventional (PCI 56-75)	1.5" Mill & Overlay	\$10.90	10 Year Stabilization (Reset PCI = 100)
Conventional (PCI 41-55)	2.0" Mill & Overlay	\$15.20	15 Year Stabilization (Reset PCI = 100)
Conventional (PCI 26-40)	3.0" Mill & Overlay	\$24.90	20 Year Stabilization (Reset PCI = 100)
Reconstruction (PCI 0-25)	FDR	\$27.00	25 Years (Reset PCI = 100)



PAVEMENT TREATMENT OPTIONS



Full Depth Reclamation



PAVEMENT TREATMENT OPTIONS



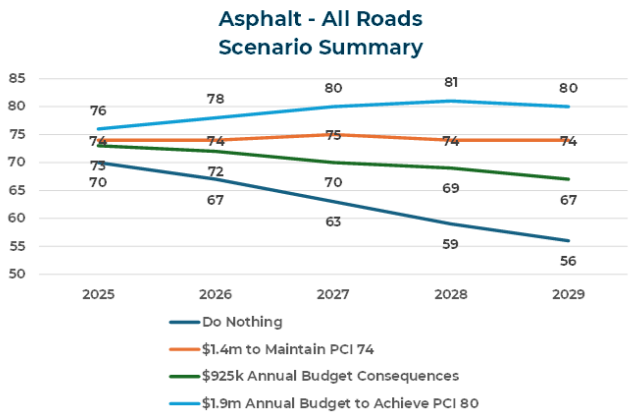
Mill & Overlay

Slurry Seal



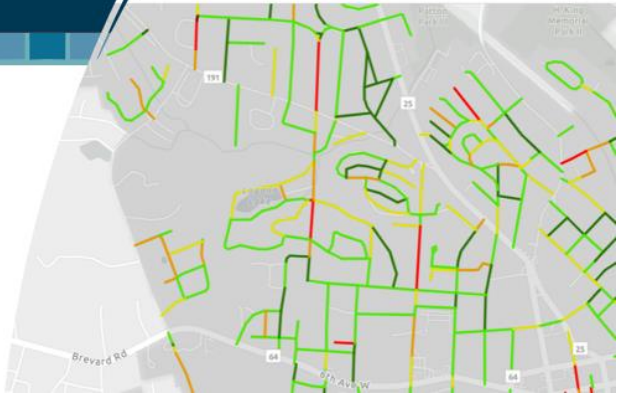
PCI @ DIFFERENT SERVICE LEVELS

Year Beginning July 1, 2025	Do Nothing	\$1.4m to Maintain PCI 74	\$925k Annual Budget Consequences	\$1.9m Annual Budget to Achieve PCI 80
2025	70	74	73	76
2026	67	74	72	78
2027	63	75	70	80
2028	59	74	69	81
2029	56	74	67	80



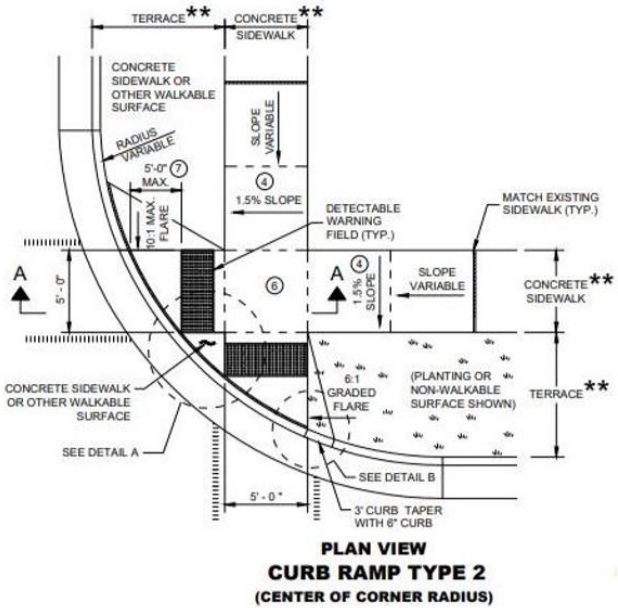
PCI GIS Link

- <https://gis-hendersonville.hub.arcgis.com/>



Management Analyst for Strategy and Performance Blake Fulgham spoke about the ADA Transition Plan.

Section 2 – ADA Transition Plan





# ADA ASSESSMENT

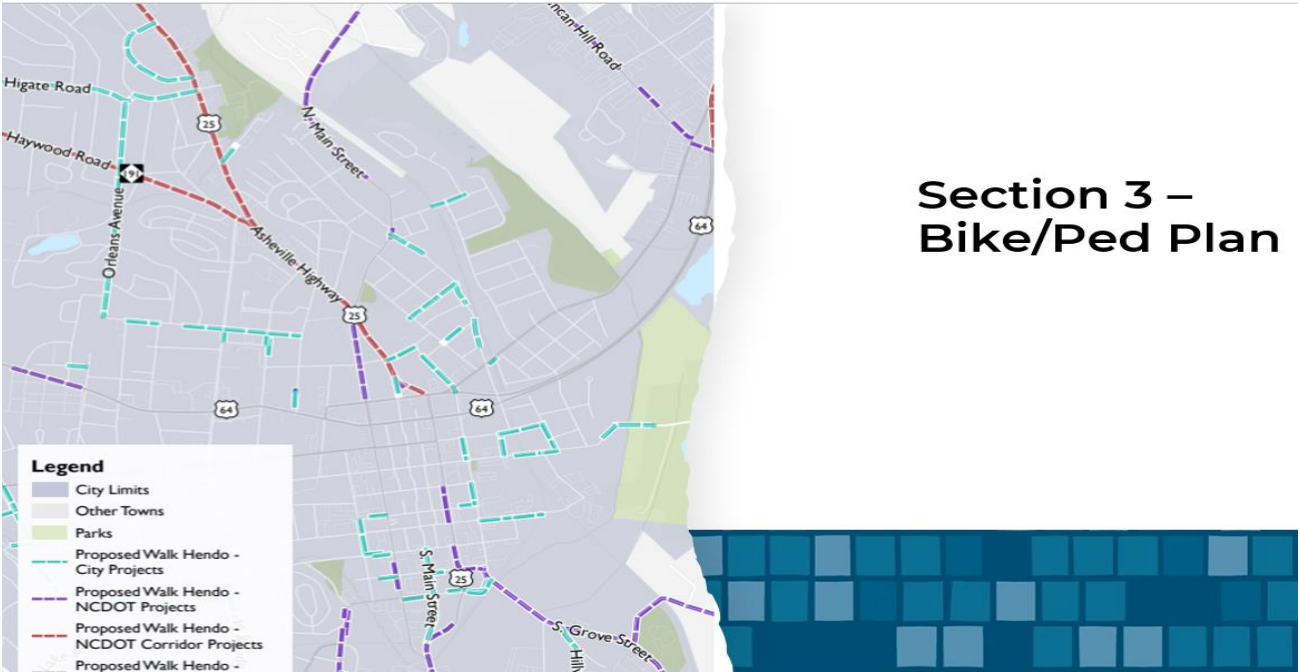
- Between March & April of 2024, Precision Infrastructure Management conducted an Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Assessment of our City's public rights-of-ways.
- Hendersonville aims to provide its community fair access to public right-of-ways and ensuring safe conditions for pedestrian travel.
- Current barriers may pose safety/injury risk for pedestrian travelers, reduced access to local facilities, as well as a decreased quality of life.
- The City partnered with the public to announce the ADA assessment, disseminated a public survey which received 86 responses, and plans to publicize the final report.

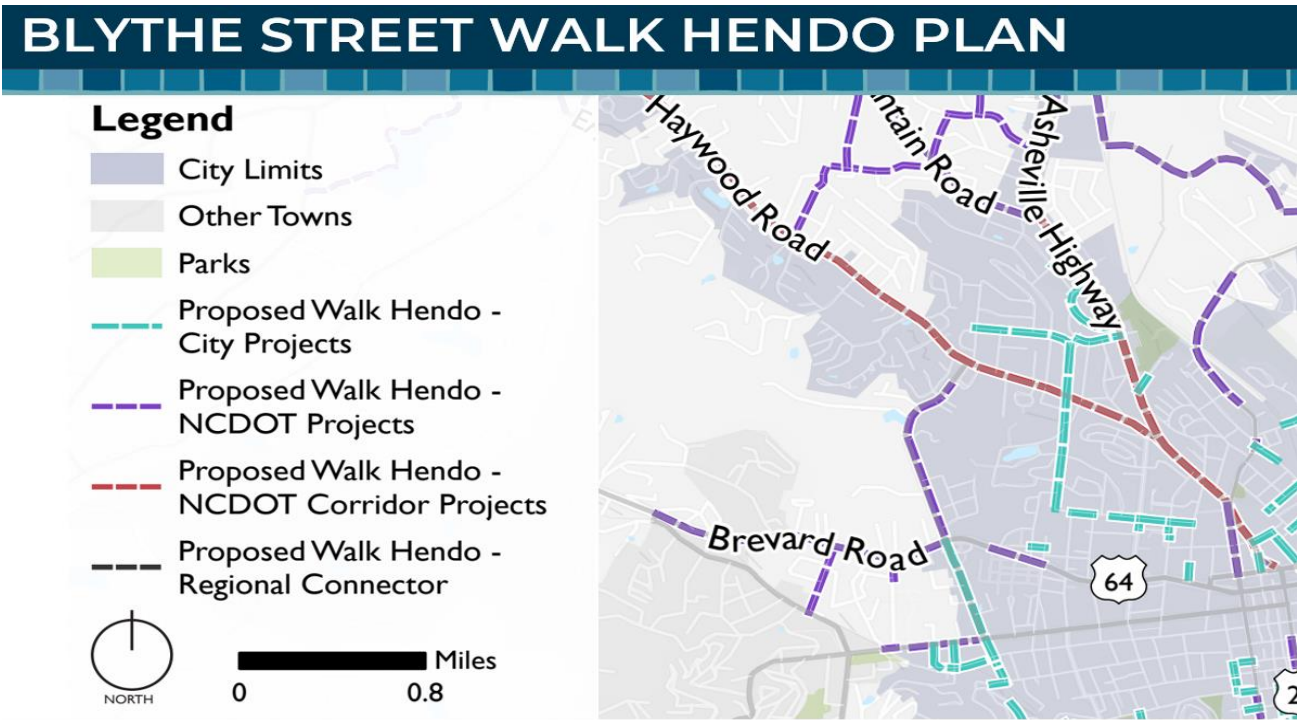
# ADA BARRIERS

- Vertical Height Displacements and sidewalk Demolition & Replacement account for 63.6% of ADA barriers.

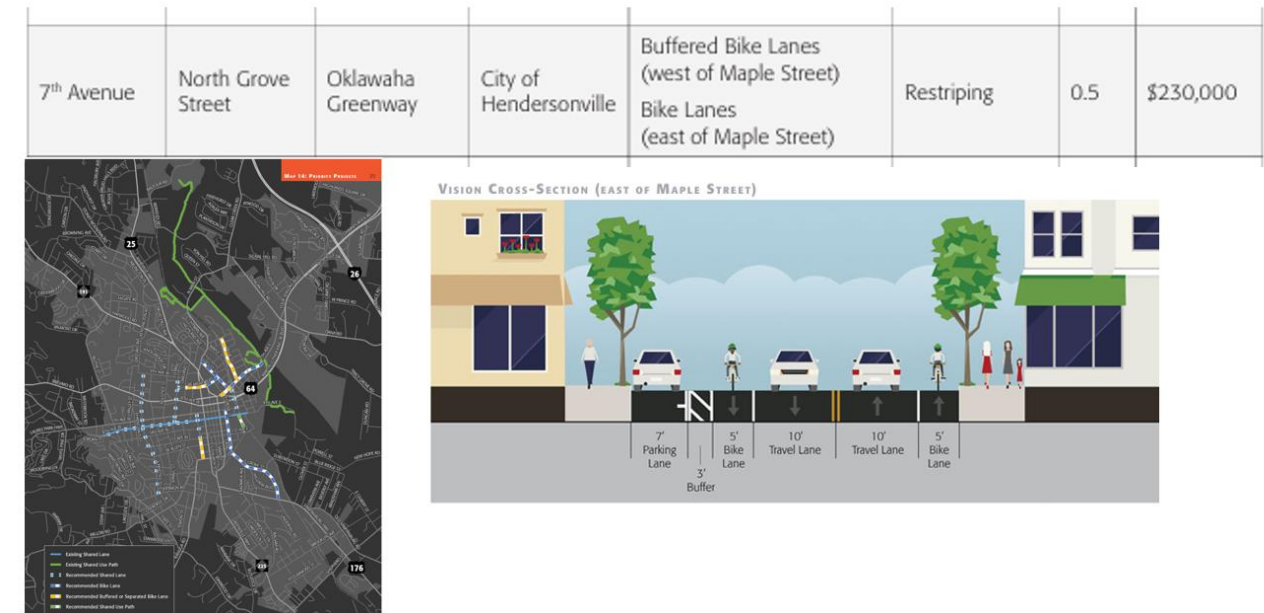
Barrier Class	Total Barriers	Cost to Repair
Cross Slope>50 ft.	344	\$ 1,301,250
Crosswalks	1116	\$ 1,954,750
Curb Ramps	1659	\$ 6,510,000
No Curb Ramp	185	
Driveway Cross Slopes	846	\$ 1,825,750
Obstructions	524	\$ 185,000
Vertical Height Displacements	7582	\$ 815,189
Demolition & Replacement	675	\$ 577,500
Sidewalk Gaps & Footpaths	17	\$ 101,250
Sidewalk < 4 ft.	37	\$ 147,000
Total	12985	\$ 13,417,689

Long-Range Planning Manager Matt Manley spoke about the bike/pedestrian plan.





# 7TH AVE BIKE PLAN



Public Services Director Brent Detwiler spoke about project examples and what it looks like from a cost standpoint.

# Section 4 – Project Examples

City of Hendersonville  
305 Williams Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Estimate For:  
Preliminary Costs: ☒  
Design Costs: ☐  
Construction Costs: ☐  
Date: 4/20/25

OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

PROJECT: Blythe Street, Complete Street

PREPARED BY:  
Brent Detwiler, PE

REVIEWED BY:  
Brent Detwiler, PE

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	EST. QUAN	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Mobilization	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
2	Construction Surveying	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
3	Grading (Including Pavement Removals)	1	LS	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
4	Aggregate Base Courses	750	TON	\$50.00	\$37,500.00
5	4" Concrete Sidewalk	2000	SY	\$75.00	\$150,000.00
6	Concrete Curb Ramp	15	EA	\$3,500.00	\$52,500.00
7	6" Concrete Driveway	700	SY	\$125.00	\$87,500.00
8	Prime Coat	2500	GAL	\$12.50	\$31,250.00
9	Milling Asphalt Pavement, 2" Depth	5000	SY	\$8.00	\$40,000.00
10	Asphalt Concrete Surface Course, Type S9.5C	600	TON	\$100.00	\$60,000.00
11	Asphalt Binder for Plant Mix	60	TON	\$700.00	\$42,000.00
12	Temporary Traffic Control	1	LS	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
13	Drainage Allowance	1	LS	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
14	Minor Items (5%)	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Construction Subtotal					\$1,095,750.00
Construction Contingencies (20%)					\$219,150.00
Design Costs (Engineering, Survey, Geotech, Permitting - Assume 15%)					\$197,235.00
Construction Management (10%)					\$131,490.00
Administration Costs (Legal, Acquisition - Assume 5%)					\$65,745.00
Total Estimated Project Cost (Rounded)					\$1,709,000.00

Description:

3200LF 5-ft concrete sidewalk replacing existing along east side of Blythe Street from 5th Avenue to near 6th Avenue (end of NCDOT project); add sidewalks to west side  
Curb ramp and driveway improvements from ADA  
Road resurfacing for the full roadway, including striping shared lane markings within road width



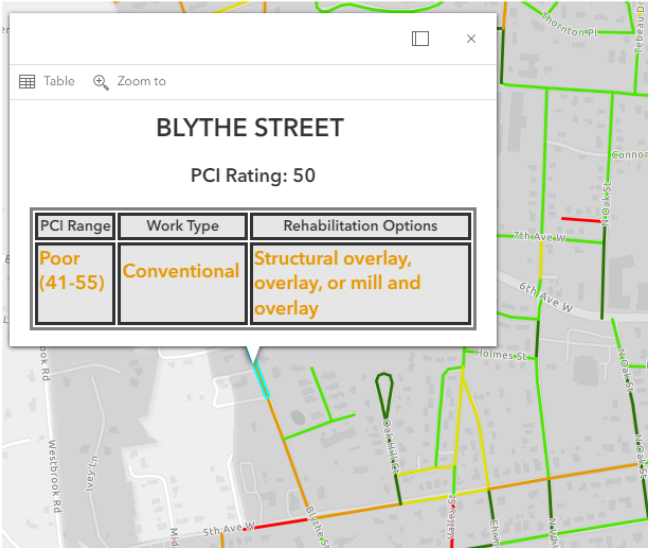
# What is a Complete Street?

In the state of NC, NCDOT developed policy to consider and incorporate several modes of transportation when building new projects or making improvements to existing infrastructure. The benefits of this approach include:

- Making it easier for travelers to get where they need to go;
- Encouraging the use of alternative forms of transportation;
- Building more sustainable communities;
- Increasing connectivity between neighborhoods, street, and transit systems;
- Improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.



## BLYTHE STREET EXAMPLE



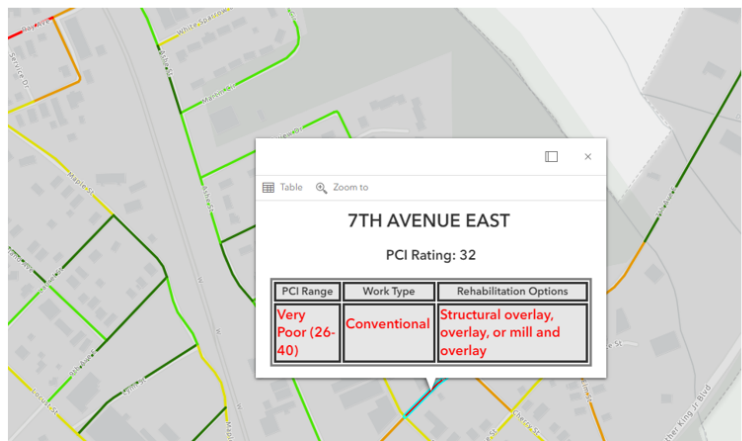
- Complete Street: **\$1,709,000 (~\$1100/LF)**
- Replace Existing Sidewalks (East Side) and Paving with Bicycle Lanes: **\$1,103,000 (~\$700/LF)**
- Repave and Repair ADA Transition Plan Deficiencies with Bicycle Lanes: **\$856,000 (~\$500/LF)**
- Repave Only with Sharrows: **\$384,000 (~\$240/LF)**



• Blythe Street  
ADA Deficiencies



7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE EXAMPLE



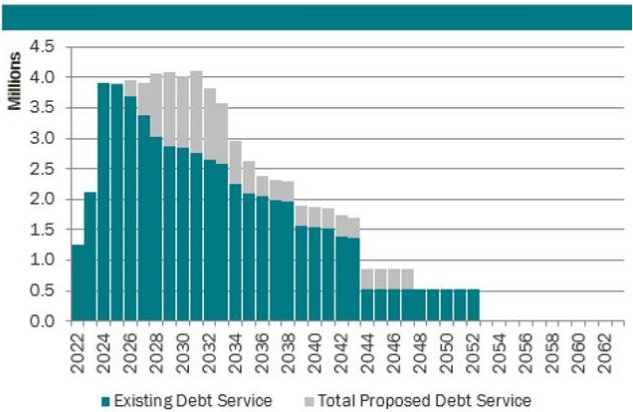
- Complete Street:  
**\$5,924,000 (~\$2900/LF)**
- Replace Existing Sidewalks (Both Sides) and Paving with Bicycle Lanes:  
**\$3,048,000 (~\$1500/LF)**
- Repave and Repair ADA Transition Plan Deficiencies with Bicycle Lanes:  
**\$1,294,000 (~\$600/LF)**
- Repave Only with Sharrows:  
**\$560,000 (~\$270/LF)**



7th Avenue ADA Deficiencies

Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle talked about the revenue options.

# Section 5 – Revenue Options



## REV. OPTIONS – MOTOR VEH. FEE

NCGS 20-97(b1):

- (1) The first \$5.00 is general purpose – we can use this for anything the City can lawfully appropriate funds for.
- (2) The second \$5.00 can be used to finance, construct, operate, and maintain transportations systems – only applies to a City or town operating a transportation system defined in NCGS 105-550.
- (3) The remaining \$20.00 can be used to maintain, repair, construct, re-construct, widen, or improve public streets that are not part of the State highway system.

Currently:

- (1) The City leverages a \$15 fee.
- (2) On average this fee produces \$220k in revenues per year.
- (3) An additional \$15 would allow for the City to add another \$220k in revenue to the existing paving program, bringing the total revenue to \$440k per year.
  - i. Approximately \$200k of this goes to Apple Country Public Transit.

## REV. OPTIONS – PILO SIDEWALKS

Historical City Revenues:

- FY22 = \$13,933
- FY23 = \$60,621
- FY24 = \$39,006
- FY25 = \$61,575
- **Average = \$43,784**
- This funding is available for sidewalk construction within specific districts. Current cost is \$75 per linear foot.
- Fee Schedule Amendment Recommendation in FY26 Budget (\$130 per linear foot).





REV. OPTIONS – G.O. BOND @ \$5M

City of Hendersonville, North Carolina  
Capital Planning Model - General Fund  
Scenario 1  
Existing and Proposed Debt Service

Fiscal Year	Existing Debt Service				Series 2027 - G.O. Bond Transportation				8
	Principal	Interest	Debt Service	Balance	Principal	Interest	Debt Service	Balance	
2022	44,816,730	12,569,745	57,386,475	-	5,000,000	2,358,175	7,358,175	-	-
2023	989,768	261,178	1,250,946	43,826,962	-	-	-	-	-
2024	1,431,745	682,086	2,113,831	42,395,217	-	-	-	-	-
2025	2,814,513	1,095,915	3,910,427	39,580,704	-	-	-	-	-
2026	2,839,493	1,055,404	3,894,897	36,741,211	-	-	-	-	-
2027	2,699,622	979,325	3,678,948	34,041,589	-	-	-	-	-
2028	2,471,353	904,567	3,375,919	31,570,236	-	-	-	5,000,000	-
2029	2,196,054	836,074	3,032,128	29,374,182	167,909	200,000	367,909	4,832,091	-
2030	2,101,259	777,270	2,878,529	27,272,923	174,625	193,284	367,909	4,657,466	-
2031	2,119,057	718,930	2,837,987	25,153,866	181,610	186,299	367,909	4,475,856	-
2032	2,099,697	660,579	2,760,277	23,054,169	188,875	179,034	367,909	4,286,982	-
2033	2,049,254	603,951	2,653,206	21,004,914	196,429	171,479	367,909	4,090,552	-
2034	2,036,501	550,579	2,587,079	18,968,414	204,287	163,622	367,909	3,886,265	-
2035	1,751,298	497,647	2,248,945	17,217,116	212,458	155,451	367,909	3,673,807	-
2036	1,653,055	448,655	2,101,710	15,564,061	220,956	146,952	367,909	3,452,851	-
2037	1,639,546	401,471	2,041,017	13,924,515	229,795	138,114	367,909	3,223,056	-
2038	1,625,322	356,238	1,981,560	12,299,193	238,987	128,922	367,909	2,984,070	-
2039	1,642,173	310,132	1,952,304	10,657,021	248,546	119,363	367,909	2,735,524	-
2040	1,304,232	263,991	1,568,223	9,352,789	258,488	109,421	367,909	2,477,036	-
2041	1,311,503	228,503	1,540,006	8,041,286	268,827	99,081	367,909	2,208,208	-
2042	1,318,631	193,187	1,511,818	6,722,655	279,580	88,328	367,909	1,928,628	-
2043	1,237,570	157,091	1,394,661	5,485,086	290,764	77,145	367,909	1,637,864	-
2044	1,246,379	123,674	1,370,053	4,238,706	302,394	65,515	367,909	1,335,470	-
2045	432,376	90,069	522,445	3,806,330	314,490	53,419	367,909	1,020,980	-
2046	441,342	81,103	522,445	3,364,988	327,070	40,839	367,909	693,911	-
2047	450,942	71,503	522,445	2,914,046	340,152	27,756	367,909	353,758	-
2048	460,525	61,920	522,445	2,453,520	353,758	14,150	367,909	-	-
2049	470,311	52,134	522,445	1,983,209	-	-	-	-	-
2050	480,190	42,255	522,445	1,503,019	-	-	-	-	-
2051	490,509	31,936	522,445	1,012,510	-	-	-	-	-
2052	500,933	21,512	522,445	511,577	-	-	-	-	-
2053	511,577	10,868	522,445	-	-	-	-	-	-

≈ 1 Penny on  
the Tax Rate

REV. OPTIONS – G.O. BOND @ \$10M

City of Hendersonville, North Carolina  
Capital Planning Model - General Fund  
Scenario 1  
Existing and Proposed Debt Service

Fiscal Year	Existing Debt Service				Series 2027 - G.O. Bond Transportation				8
	Principal	Interest	Debt Service	Balance	Principal	Interest	Debt Service	Balance	
2022	44,816,730	12,569,745	57,386,475	-	10,000,000	4,716,350	14,716,350	-	-
2023	989,768	261,178	1,250,946	43,826,962	-	-	-	-	-
2024	1,431,745	682,086	2,113,831	42,395,217	-	-	-	-	-
2025	2,814,513	1,095,915	3,910,427	39,580,704	-	-	-	-	-
2026	2,839,493	1,055,404	3,894,897	36,741,211	-	-	-	-	-
2027	2,699,622	979,325	3,678,948	34,041,589	-	-	-	-	-
2028	2,471,353	904,567	3,375,919	31,570,236	-	-	-	10,000,000	-
2029	2,196,054	836,074	3,032,128	29,374,182	335,818	400,000	735,818	9,664,182	-
2030	2,101,259	777,270	2,878,529	27,272,923	349,250	386,567	735,818	9,314,932	-
2031	2,119,057	718,930	2,837,987	25,153,866	363,220	372,597	735,818	8,951,712	-
2032	2,099,697	660,579	2,760,277	23,054,169	377,749	358,068	735,818	8,573,963	-
2033	2,049,254	603,951	2,653,206	21,004,914	392,859	342,959	735,818	8,181,104	-
2034	2,036,501	550,579	2,587,079	18,968,414	408,573	327,244	735,818	7,772,531	-
2035	1,751,298	497,647	2,248,945	17,217,116	424,916	310,901	735,818	7,347,614	-
2036	1,653,055	448,655	2,101,710	15,564,061	441,913	293,905	735,818	6,905,702	-
2037	1,639,546	401,471	2,041,017	13,924,515	459,589	276,228	735,818	6,446,112	-
2038	1,625,322	356,238	1,981,560	12,299,193	477,973	257,844	735,818	5,968,139	-
2039	1,642,173	310,132	1,952,304	10,657,021	497,092	238,726	735,818	5,471,047	-
2040	1,304,232	263,991	1,568,223	9,352,789	516,976	218,842	735,818	4,954,072	-
2041	1,311,503	228,503	1,540,006	8,041,286	537,655	198,163	735,818	4,416,417	-
2042	1,318,631	193,187	1,511,818	6,722,655	559,161	176,657	735,818	3,857,256	-
2043	1,237,570	157,091	1,394,661	5,485,086	581,527	154,290	735,818	3,275,729	-
2044	1,246,379	123,674	1,370,053	4,238,706	604,788	131,029	735,818	2,670,940	-
2045	432,376	90,069	522,445	3,806,330	628,980	106,838	735,818	2,041,961	-
2046	441,342	81,103	522,445	3,364,988	654,139	81,678	735,818	1,387,821	-
2047	450,942	71,503	522,445	2,914,046	680,305	55,513	735,818	707,517	-
2048	460,525	61,920	522,445	2,453,520	707,517	28,301	735,818	-	-
2049	470,311	52,134	522,445	1,983,209	-	-	-	-	-
2050	480,190	42,255	522,445	1,503,019	-	-	-	-	-
2051	490,509	31,936	522,445	1,012,510	-	-	-	-	-
2052	500,933	21,512	522,445	511,577	-	-	-	-	-
2053	511,577	10,868	522,445	-	-	-	-	-	-

≈ 2 Pennies on  
the Tax Rate

Section 6 –  
Why is this  
important?

Table

Zoom to

3RD AVENUE EAST

PCI Rating: 28

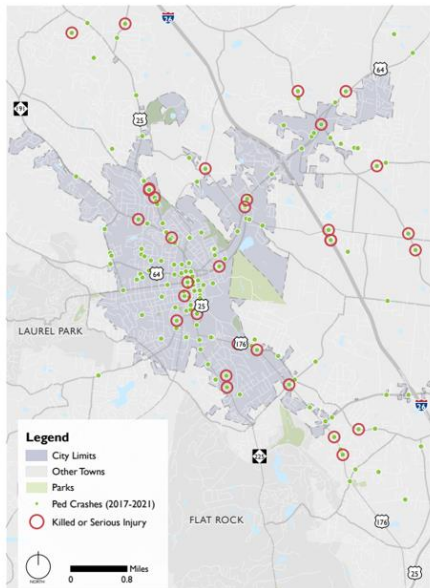
PCI Range	Work Type	Rehabilitation Options
Very Poor (26-40)	Conventional	Structural overlay, overlay, or mill and overlay





## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Map 7. Crashes Involving Pedestrians in Hendersonville



### Factors Impacting/ed by Improved Streets

1. Ped./Veh. Accidents
2. Corridor/Travel Improvements
3. Complete Streets
4. Strong Infrastructure

### People in Hendersonville are walking.

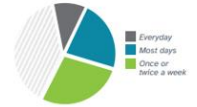
More than 60% of survey respondents\* indicated that they walk at least once a week, echoed by the success of a walkable downtown and popular greenways.

\*Complete survey results can be found in the Appendix.

### Hendersonville rated #1 (highest rate) for pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries.\*

The number of crashes involving pedestrians has been deemed unacceptable by the community and requires safety countermeasures.

\*This ranking is based on crash data from 2010-2019 and included pedestrians killed or severely injured in cities with populations between 10,000 and 25,000 in North Carolina. (Source: NCDOT PBCAT Pedestrian Crash Data)



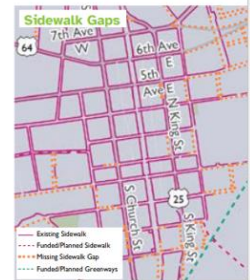
### People are moving to the area.

The City's population grew 46% between 2000 to 2020, which underscores the importance of ensuring that people have walkable neighborhoods and safe connections, highlighting an opportunity to attract more people to live downtown.

(Source: U.S. Decennial Census)

### Sidewalk gaps prevent walkability.

While Hendersonville's downtown is walkable, there are still gaps in the sidewalk network (see map to the right) that create barriers for people on foot, even for those who live nearby. People will walk where they feel safe, the route is convenient, and the overall experience is enjoyable. Closing gaps in the sidewalk network can address each of these elements.



## Questions?

<https://gis-hendersonville.hub.arcgis.com/>

<https://gis-hendersonville.hub.arcgis.com/>  
Ctrl+Click to follow link

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Request for Letter of Support for Hands on Children's Museum and Science Center – Lyndsey Simpson Council Member

Council Member Lyndsey Simpson said that she sent everyone a draft letter last week and an info sheet from Hand's On about their plans to build a science center downstairs from where the museum is currently. So they are trying to work with out State representatives to get some State funding and they asked for a letter of support from the City.

***Council Member Lyndsey Simpson moved that the City Council approve the Letter of Support for Hands On Children's Museum and Science Center. A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.***

Dear Representative, Balkcom,

I am writing to urge your support for Hands On! Children's Museum as you and other members of the state legislature consider providing one-time financial support for the development of the future Hands On! Science Center in downtown Hendersonville.

For nearly twenty years, Hands On! has been a beacon of educational enrichment for children in our community. The museum fosters a love for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects in a fun and interactive way. The future Science Center project will provide a completely new learning experience for older youth ages twelve and up.

The Science Center will serve as a pipeline to support the Made in Henderson County Apprenticeship Program. The interactive Science Center will feature learning experiences that directly reflect STEM industries within Henderson County and Western North Carolina.

Henderson County and Western North Carolina are home to a growing number of high-paying STEM careers. There are numerous local career pathways through vocational

programs, certifications, associate degrees, and apprenticeships—many of which local youth are not aware of. By raising awareness of STEM career opportunities, particularly in the areas of Advanced Manufacturing and Agriculture, the Science Center will serve as a catalyst for inspiring older youth to pursue rewarding STEM careers without having to leave their community.

The future Science Center will support the Made in Henderson County Apprenticeship Program in partnership with the Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, Henderson County Schools, and Blue Ridge Community College.

Thank you for your service to our state and for considering financial support through the state legislature for the Hands On! Science Center Project. Hands On! Children's Museum is an important resource for our children and older youth, and support from the State of North Carolina will be instrumental to the success of this project.

## **5. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m. upon unanimous assent of the Council.

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Barbara Volk, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jill Murray, City Clerk