



Movability Advisory Committee (MAC) – Wednesday, September 28, 2021 10:30 a.m.

Present Members:

Eleanor Byrd – West Hickory, Transit Advisory Board (Catawba Co.)
“Todder” Natosha Clark – Ridgeview Rec Center (Catawba Co.)
Lynn Dorfman – NW Hickory Cyclist (Catawba Co.)
Johnny Scott – CVCC (Catawba Co.)
Pam Cook – NCDOT TPD/ TCC (all four counties)
Dean Ledbetter – Division 12 Corridor Development Engineer (Alexander and Catawba)
Stephen Sparks – Division 13 Corridor Development Engineer (Burke County)
Mike Norris – McGill Associates (Caldwell County)

Present WPCOG Members:

Averi Ritchie – Transportation Planner/ADA Coordinator
Duncan Cavanaugh – Transportation Planner/Data Analyst
Emma Stogner – Transportation Technician

Notes from Meeting:

- **How MAC is supporting environmental changes within the region** – problem areas identified at last meeting, audit results, and supporting data: Ms. Ritchie covered the results of the walking audits conducted by WPCOG staff. Staff looked at roads described by MAC members as being particularly hazardous to pedestrians and mapped/photographed some examples of problem areas. Ms. Ritchie identified recommendations and NCDOT repaving schedules on each road using Ms. Stogner’s interactive map. Ms. Stogner’s interactive map covers bike, pedestrian, and transit recommendations included in adopted plans, NCDOT resurfacing schedules, existing sidewalk, transit routes, and more. The map can be found on MAC’s website. Ms. Ritchie explained that smaller items such as bike lanes, curb ramp improvements, and crosswalks can be achieved during repaving as long as NCDOT approves and is notified before the contract let date. Ms. Ritchie contacted 3 NCDOT engineers prior to the meeting to discuss repaving schedules. Discussed roadways from meetings 1 and 2 are listed below. Please refer to Attachment II for adopted recommendations, walk audit findings, and road resurfacing information. Ms. Ritchie noted that both meetings have had more of a Hickory focus, however, input regarding the bike, pedestrian, and transit needs in each MAC member’s home/work location is encouraged. MAC input helps guide our research, potential project ideas, and field trip locations.
 - Springs Road
 - 29th St
 - Kool Park Road
 - Sandy Ridge Road
 - Roads around the Ridgeview Recreation Center in the Ridgeview Community

- **Additional problem areas** – Ms. Clark and Dr. Scott suggested 20th St NE and Ms. Dorfman suggested roads around Lenoir Rhyne University. The group asked that they be included on a walking audit on 20th St NE. Ms. Ritchie said that she would plan an audit for late October or early November.
- **How MAC is supporting policy changes within the region** – repaving schedules & adopted plans in coordination with problem areas, LAPP methodology, environmental justice and Title VI: Ms. Ritchie explained the Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) and its role in funding local bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and smaller roadway and intersection projects within the four county region. Ms. Ritchie covered the current LAPP methodology used to prioritize projects and award funding. Since this funding source is expected to become more competitive, Ms. Ritchie asked MAC members for suggestions regarding LAPP methodology. Mr. Norris and Mr. Ledbetter recommended not awarding application points when municipalities give more than a 20 percent financial match. They feel that this could create a system that favors larger municipality projects. Ms. Stogner replied that larger municipalities have higher populations and that larger municipalities may need more projects than smaller urbanized areas. Mr. Ledbetter also felt that the “proximity to school” category could be changed to “connects homes to school”. He feels that, in order to best serve the people, mobility connections should be improved connecting to the school and not just near it. Ms. Ritchie felt that the methodology should mirror that of complete street goals and objectives. Complete streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.
- **Next Steps** – Next steps include the walk audit with the group, LAPP methodology updates, and meetings with municipalities regarding short term project ideas. Ms. Ritchie mentioned that the WPCOG is interested in looking at interactive maps and/or phone applications for citizens to document mobility hazards.

Next Meeting Date:

The group decided that doodle poll is the best way to determine meeting dates. The walking audit will be held in late October, however, the next committee meeting will be held in December.

