Active Mobility Commission
Report to Town Council
February 9, 2026
Julie White, Chair

Short-Term Goals:

The focus of our short-term goals is safety issues.

1. Follow up with NCDOT on progress on crosswalks for the sidewalks on the I-40 ramps.
2. Support of solution for safe pedestrian access on Sutton Avenue between Richardson and South Ridgeway Avenue. This area is part of the Central Business District, and it is important to have safe pedestrian access. Due to barriers on both sides of the road pedestrians are using the roadway for foot transportation. We understand the town is bound by state codes and laws on the North side of the road making solutions difficult there. We do encourage the exploration of any solutions which would accommodate the needs of the town and pedestrians. On the South side of the road, we would like to see the town work with Norfolk Southern for pedestrian access. We know that agreements have been made on other portions of Sutton to allow parking.
3. Reverting hours of the greenway path around Lake Tomahawk to 5 am – 11 pm. This path provides safe pedestrian access along Rhododendron and Lake Tomahawk Avenues where sidewalks are lacking.
4. We encourage the town to adopt the Fonta Flora State Trail Black Mountain to Point Lookout Trail Feasibility Study. This is requested by NCDOT before moving onto planning and construction of this portion of the trail. Michelle has a copy of the study.

Mid-Term Goals:

1. Completion of the bridge over the Swannanoa River leading to Veterans Park. We feel this is a high priority for bike and pedestrian connectivity to and from town. As Veterans Park is restored it makes sense to provide access which is not car dependent. We also feel it is important to have an idea of how this will be financed and how community efforts would fit into the funding picture.
2. Addition of lights under I-40 connecting two sides of Veterans Park. Exploratory work had been started with Josh Harrold before Helene hit.
3. Realignment of the Flat Creek Greenway making the unofficial path a part of the Greenway system. Some members of the commission have done some research on easements relating to the original easements acquired for the trail. We would like to see some research into this by town staff as it might make it easier to put in at last an official dirt trail on that property.
4. Completion of EB5547. We would like to see coordination with Fonta Flora State Trail staff to ensure that this project will meet compliance rules for becoming a part of the Fonta Flora State Trail through town.

Long-Term Goals:

1. Completion of the Fonta Flora Trail through town. We want to see coordination between town staff and Fonta Flora Trail personnel in planning this important connection.