Active Mobility Commission Minutes
March 17, 2026

I. Call to Order

Julie White called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Quorum

Members Present: Jeremy Claeys, Julie White, Kristie Bergna, Kyle Cole, Lisa Raleigh, Janice Rausch
Staff Present: Jennifer Tipton, Russell Cate
Public Present: Jake Disabatino, Eddie Aaronson

III. Public Comment

a. No formal public comment, however both Jake and Eddie contributed to the meeting throughout the agenda topics.

IV. Agenda - review and modify

The agenda was adopted by consensus after adding an agenda item for the Valentine's Day Greenway Run.

V. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and adopted by consensus after Jake and Eddie's last names were added to the public present.

VI. Old Business

No old business to review.

VII. New Business

a. **Discussion about meeting with Richard Hicks, Interim Town Manager**
Lisa, Jeremy, and Kristie met with Richard to discuss staff behavior at previous meetings. All three felt that Richard was understanding and receptive to what was said, and that the issues will be addressed if they continue. A copy of the town code of ethics will be shared with anyone attending meetings and not adhering to appropriate communication.

b. **Sidewalk Survey**
The commission would like to focus on connectivity to community pillars like: grocery stores, libraries, gyms, etc. The first two focuses will be on non vehicular connectivity between the YMCA and the town's central district and non vehicular options on Blue Ridge Road. Janice is contacting the YMCA regarding free walk feasibility studies they conduct. Julie and Lisa will set up a meeting with Nathan West, developer of a housing project off Blue Ridge Road, to walk Blue Ridge Road to stress the importance of the development working with the town and NCDOT to add safe non vehicular paths along this road.

c. **Town Updates**
EB5547 (formerly Riverwalk Greenway) section A is 65 % complete on design and waiting on NCDOT comment, section B is 90% complete on design. Section A focuses on pedestrian connectivity with intersection improvements from Flat Creek Road along the sidewalk in front of the Primary School down Richardson Boulevard and Sutton Street to reach Vance Avenue. Section B focuses on pedestrian access from Vance Avenue to the Oaks Trail. The TOBM and Fonta Flora trail have set up a meeting to discuss the trail going through Black Mountain. No updates on Veteran's Bridge, waiting on FEMA. The Oaks trail will remain closed until Montreat College deems it safe to reopen to the public, this will probably occur after tree work is complete. Jennifer had copies of the current Flat Creek easement to review, however these will probably change based on current damage assessments being conducted. Julie asked Jennifer to keep the commission updated on necessary land or easement purchases from the mobile home park for easement changes. The town is also working on an additional page on the town's website that will address current status of town projects.

d. **Valentine's Day Greenway Run**
The run was successful with over 130 people in attendance and approximately $3,500 raised for the Greenway Committee.

VIII. Discussion

IX. Adjournment

Julie White adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm