Active Mobility Commission Minutes
August 18, 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, Karen Neal, Janice Rausch, Eddie Aaronson
Staff Present: Jennifer Tipton, Russell Cate

III. Public Comment

a. No public comment during this time.

IV. Agenda - review and modify

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

V. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed and adopted by consensus.

VI. Old Business

No old business to review.

VII. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Election of officers adopted by consensus:
Julie White, Chair
Eddie Aaronson, Vice Chair
Kristie Bergna, Secretary

b. Discussion of how to proceed with connector path from Ingles to Cheshire Village

Currently the commission agreed the best crossing will be between Meadowbrook Free Will Baptist Church and First Christian Church on Blue Ridge Road, and are open to working with NCDOT for crosswalks and a safer crossing when the roundabout work commences. The first request for path materials will be for rock dust or crushed gravel, with mulch as a back up if the first two are cost prohibitive. Aaron, Julie, and Jeremy will informally reach out to property owners they have connections with to see how receptive they will be to working with the town on path easements. The town will formally reach out with a letter after the commission edits the letters at the September meeting. Jennifer is following up on the NCDOT right of way distance and with Duke on how to request permission to walk under the guide wires. Signage will be informal, but contain mileage information and will be a fun design if possible.

c. Updates from Town

Blue Ridge Road bridge construction should begin in the winter of 2026/2027 and include pedestrian improvements. NCDOT is hopeful that they will stay under their 18 month timeline. Interchange construction in this same area may start in 2027, with the roundabout at Blue Ridge Road and NC 9 possibly beginning in a year or two. No updates on crosswalks at I-40 interchanges on NC or on the Veteran's Park bridge. EB5547 part A (Sutton to Terry Estate) is 60% complete with design. Part B (Terry Estate to Oaks Trail) is 90-95% complete on design. However, the designs will not meet Fonta Flora Trail regulations and the Town Council is deciding whether to scrap these designs and move towards working on Fonta Flora compatibility. Kimley Horn has been chosen as the new engineer for the flood mitigation portion of the Flat Creek Greenway project. 9th Street is closed from Hiawassee to North Cherokee. Golf course bridge repair is scheduled to begin.

VIII. Discussion

IX. Adjournment

Julie White adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm