



Centralina Council of Governments

GROWING Jobs and Our Economy | CONTROLLING Cost of Government | IMPROVING Quality of Life

Neighborhood Bike and Pedestrian Planning for Healthy, Connected Communities

The Challenge

Residents today are seeking a more active and healthy lifestyle that depends on transportation choice. This same choice allows access to local opportunity and daily needs. While the demand for more walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods is on the rise – places that feature safe streets, bike lanes, greenways, and crosswalks – many communities do not have a plan to coordinate their public and private infrastructure investments.

Helping Communities Become More Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly

Bicycle and pedestrian plans are integral to guiding community growth that benefits a multitude of interests: downtown business revitalization, community development, parks and greenway development, traffic and parking management, health and health-related costs, increased connectivity, and ultimately water and air quality concerns for the community and the region. Since 2004, CCOG has been involved in bicycle and pedestrian planning on a local and regional scale, developing plans that include specific strategies for getting projects built. The state's first regional bicycle plan was developed by CCOG and has been endorsed or adopted by all the counties, municipalities and transportation planning agencies in its area, as well as the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

In the bike and pedestrian planning process, Centralina helps communities:

- **Analyze, understand and document existing conditions**
Through extensive public and stakeholder engagement, GIS data analysis, local expert interviews, and on-the-ground research, community conditions are assessed and findings presented to underscore local values, assets and needs.
- **Understand key destinations, best routes, and barriers to bike and pedestrian activity**
By understanding criteria important to the community, preferred routes and targeted strategies are developed to meet the needs of the community.
- **Develop a plan that responds to local needs and gives shape to the community's vision**
A comprehensive forward-thinking plan includes specific policy recommendations, thorough project descriptions, design standards, and funding strategies to help a community meet its goals.

"We found CCOG's work to be extremely thorough and the bike plan covered more area and more potential paths than we expected. The committee work was organized very well and was very productive."

– **Steve Killian,**
City of Kings Mountain

"We continue to use the (pedestrian) plan for capital planning and grant applications. I would highly recommend the COG's services."

– **Brian Matthews,**
Town of Stallings

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