

NCDOT
MOBI
AWARDS



2020



Table Of Contents

What are the Mobi Awards?.....	5
Submissions.....	6
Thank you.....	8
Meet the Judges.....	10
*Awards.....	12
Urban	12
Rural	26
Tourism	34
Innovation	40
Most Voted Project	42

*Note: Suburban category did not have entries this year.



What are the Mobi Awards?

Welcome to the 2020 Mobi Awards! The Mobi Awards were developed to raise the profile of multimodal transportation and recognize the positive community impacts multimodal transportation projects have on North Carolina's economy and quality of life.

Inside this book you will find descriptions and photographs of the more than 60 transportation projects entered into this year's Mobi Awards competition.

All modes of transportation—including aviation, bicycle, pedestrian, ferries, highways and rail—were represented in this impressive group of applicants.

Entries were judged in five categories – Rural, Urban, Suburban, Tourism, Innovation and a new category this year, Most Voted Project. Except for the Most Voted Project, a distinguished panel of judges selected winners and honorable mentions based on the degree to which projects spurred investment, boosted economic development, created job growth, improved health or had other positive impacts on a community.

For the Most Voted Project category, we placed all this year's entries online and let the public decide a First-Place winner and an honorable mention.

Thank you to the nominees, hosts and sponsors of the 2020 NCDOT Mobi Awards. We hope you enjoy browsing through the projects, and that they inspire your community to make multimodal investments that contribute to making your community a vibrant place to call home.



Thank you

The NCDOT Mobi Awards started in 2019 and honored communities with the state's top multimodal projects. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to change our Mobi Awards from an in-person program to a virtual one held on NCDOT's YouTube Channel. But all the nominees, the winners and the honorable mentions we recognized this year were no less impressive than those from our first Mobi Awards.

None of this could have been possible, including this book, without the support of the Mobi Awards' hosts and sponsors.

This year's event was hosted by the North Carolina Triangle Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminars, N.C. Department of Transportation, NC Go! and the N.C. State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education.

Sponsors this year were:

- HDR, McAdams and WSP (Platinum Sponsors)
- Alta and Simpson Engineers & Associates (Gold Sponsors)

We wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone on these teams who helped make the 2020 Mobi Awards a success.

PLATINUM



GOLD



HOSTED BY



JUDGES



Christopher Chung

Christopher Chung joined the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina as chief executive officer in 2015. Chung brings more than 20 years of state-level economic development experience.

The partnership conducts business recruitment and support, international trade and export assistance, small business start-up counseling and other economic development functions for North Carolina.

Chung earned a double major in Japanese and economics from Ohio State University and a master's degree in Public Policy and Management. He also served as a judge during last year's Mobi Awards.



Anita R. Brown-Graham

Anita R. Brown-Graham is a professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government. She rejoined the UNC School of Government in September 2016 to lead the public launch of ncIMPACT, which expanded the school's capacity to work with public officials on complex policy issues. She and her colleagues have devised programs to support communities working on economic Mobility, poverty, the expansion of pre-kindergarten, extending the labor pool, and opioid abuse.

In 2007, Brown-Graham became director of the Institute for Emerging Issues at N.C. State University. She led IEI's efforts to build North Carolina's capacity for economic development and prosperity, working with leaders in business, government and higher education. She served her first tour as a UNC faculty member from 1994 to 2006.

Brown-Graham is a William C. Friday Fellow, American Marshall Fellow, and Eisenhower Fellow. She earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

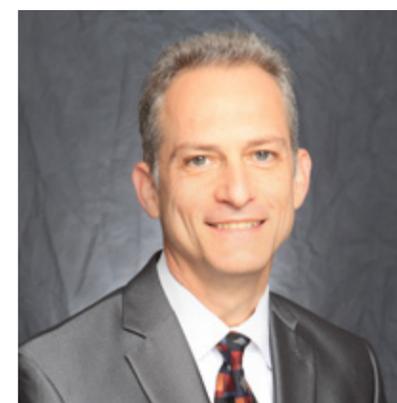


Maurice "Mo" Green

Maurice "Mo" Green is the executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a private, family foundation that has been a catalyst for positive change in North Carolina for 80 years and invested \$572 million into the state. Green works with the foundation's trustees and staff to spearhead its efforts to improve the quality of life for North Carolinians. He also works with leaders to respond to challenges and opportunities and generate strategies to improve the state's future outlook.

Green has served more than seven years as superintendent of Guilford County Schools. He led the development of the school district's first-ever strategic plan and launched a second plan. He has also served as the general counsel for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and as a private practice attorney.

Green has a bachelor's degree and a law degree from Duke University.



Wit Tuttell

Wit Tuttell is the head of Visit NC, the state's official tourism office. As part of the executive leadership for the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, he oversees marketing for tourism, film and sports development, business recruitment, retention and growth. He also oversees strategic planning, policy development, economic development marketing and other initiatives for Visit NC.

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina is a nonprofit corporation focused on making the state more competitive at recruiting businesses, creating jobs and helping existing companies expand. It was created to consolidate and enhance North Carolina's marketing and recruitment functions and oversees the state's efforts in business and job recruitment and retention, international trade, tourism, film and sports development.



Patrick Woodie

Patrick Woodie has served since 2013 as the president of the North Carolina Rural Center and previously served as the center's vice president of programs.

As president, he led the organization through a major transition, repositioning the center into an era of work and community engagement as it maintained its mission of improving the quality of life in rural areas. He has served as a member of center's board of directors and with the Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce. He led a startup nonprofit in its implementation of a sustainable economic development plan for northwestern North Carolina.

Woodie graduated from Wake Forest University in 1987 and from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1990.

WINNER

Craven Street Transportation Improvements

Nominated By: **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **April 21, 2017**



The Craven Street Improvement Project included realigning Craven Street, improving sidewalks, creating new bicycle lanes along Craven Street, completing a phase of the French Broad River West Greenway, creating an informational site history kiosk, developing new public parking lots, and installing stormwater management and water quality improvements. Partners that teamed up to complete the transportation project included Asheville, RiverLink Inc. and New Belgium Brewing Company.

French Broad River West Greenway will tie into the longer network of greenways in Asheville

and Buncombe County. This will allow people to walk, bicycle or run the greenway while enjoying views of the river, visiting artist studios as well as restaurants, shops and breweries. Also, sidewalks and bike lanes along Craven Street enable New Belgium Brewery employees and visitors to access the site by bike, on foot or by transit.

The project has helped the local economy, given people another great opportunity for exercise and improved the local environment.

HONORABLE MENTION

University Pointe Boulevard: The I-85 South Bridge

Nominated By: **City of Charlotte**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **May 9, 2017**



The I-85 South Bridge is the first of two bridges Charlotte built across I-85 in the University City area. The Charlotte area project has reduced traffic congestion and connected residential areas, schools and businesses west of I-85 to retail and rail to the east.

The bridge also provides the first low-speed, multimodal street crossing over I-85 in University City. This project includes a roundabout that has decreased traffic congestion and increased safer travel and emergency response time. It also includes two

bus stops that connect residents to the University Research Park with Lynx light rail stations. As a result, there has been increased excitement and support in the local community for a north bridge project over I-85. In 2021, the bridge will include a parallel, multimodal connection north of Harris Boulevard. This impressive addition will bookend the interchange and create better traffic flow.

HONORABLE MENTION

GoRaleigh Transit Service Expansion (Southeast and Northwest Raleigh, Garner, Knightdale and Rolesville)

Nominated By: **City of Raleigh/GoRaleigh Transit System**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 14, 2019**



The GoRaleigh project has successfully contributed more than \$13 million in public services for the Raleigh area. GoRaleigh was approved by North Carolina voters in 2016 and receives its revenue via the Wake County half cent sales tax. The initiative has helped make impressive transportation improvements possible, including the new Transit Operation Facility (2011), renovations to GoRaleigh Station (2017) and the compressed natural gas fueling station for CNG buses (2019). It was also instrumental in the realization of the 50+ mile expansion of the Wake County Transit Plan

whose goal is for transit service to be within walking distance of 85 percent of job opportunities.

URBAN NOMINEES

Charlotte Intermodal Facility

Nominated By: **City of Charlotte**
 Modes: **Aviation, Rail and Roadway**
 Completed: **May 31, 2014**



The Charlotte Intermodal Facility has created transportation connections and solutions amid the state's rapid growth. The facility acts as a mass coordinator for air, rail, ship and trucks, accommodating wide variations of traffic. The initiative started in the mid-90s when Charlotte-Douglas International Airport came up with the idea to bring together these different modes of transportation to one site. Charlotte and the N.C. Department of Transportation completed an interchange on I-485 to connect to the new facility, allowing for a new, better equipped terminal to accommodate the large amounts of movement in and out of the busy area.

Morrisville Parkway Extension & N.C. 540 Interchange

Nominated By: **Town of Cary**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 4, 2019**



This project addressed a missing gap along the Morrisville Parkway between N.C. 55 and Green Level Church Road, with the new stretch crossing over and providing access to N.C. 540. It includes two new roundabouts that decreased congestion and traffic accidents. A greenway was incorporated and provides access to walk or bike to nearby attractions while connecting residents to the larger greenway network. The extension has also increased land development adjacent to it, which will add businesses and create jobs.

Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard Roadway Reconfiguration

Nominated By: **City of Durham**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 20, 2015**



This project converted a five-lane roadway into a three-lane configuration between University Drive and Chapel Hill Road in Durham County. It added multimodal access through the addition of bicycle lanes, bus stop pull-outs, and 21 on-street parking spaces. It provided connectivity to six neighborhoods and has brought in several new local businesses along the road since the implementation of the project. This project has improved safety, reduced traffic accidents and lowered vehicle speeds.

URBAN NOMINEES

Downtown/Lineberger Park Connector

Nominated By: **City of Gastonia**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Pedestrian**
 Completed: **June 15, 2018**



This project provided improvements to Second Avenue and Chestnut Street, including new bike lanes and sidewalks. These features have given pedestrians better connections to downtown, the Highland Rail Trail and a previously existing multi-use path at Lineberger Park. The connector promotes exercise and the reduction of vehicle use, while also energizing new economic investments in businesses and spurring another trail extension project.

Greensboro Downtown Greenway (Phase 3/2E & Phase 1B & C)

Nominated By: **City of Greensboro**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 30, 2018**



This project was comprised of two phases of the Greensboro Downtown Greenway, which creates a loop around the downtown business district. This shared use path created connectivity for local residents, college students and visitors to the unique downtown area by providing an easy way to access local shops, restaurants and businesses. It has improved access to the local community with increased bicycle use and pedestrian trips while spurring the creation of new businesses along the pathway, including the first downtown grocery store in more than 30 years.

Hillsborough Street Renewal (Phase II)

Nominated By: **City of Raleigh**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **July 12, 2018**



Raleigh transformed its iconic Hillsborough Street from an outdated road with few options for pedestrians and bicyclists into a destination for cyclists and pedestrians. The renewal of Hillsborough Street, one of the capital city's main thoroughfares dating back to the late 1700s, also added enhanced transit facilities and lower vehicle speeds. This has helped make this area a more desirable place to work, shop, dine and live. The Hillsborough Street Renewal Project (Phase II) has created an aesthetically appealing streetscape that promotes walkability and allows the street to be turned into a pedestrian-only area during street festivals.

URBAN NOMINEES

Crabtree Creek Greenway

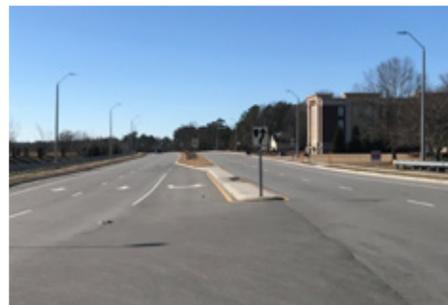
Nominated By: **Town of Cary**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 9, 2018**



The Town of Cary completed a critical 1.7-mile section of the Crabtree Creek Greenway on the south side of Lake Crabtree County Park, providing a multi-use trail for cyclists and pedestrians. It is part of the greenway corridor that connects Raleigh, Cary and Morrisville to parks, schools, businesses and residential areas. The project has created alternative commuting opportunities, recreational activities and connectivity from local businesses to the greenway, helping attract employees, businesses and new residents to the area.

U-5318, Main Street Extension

Nominated By: **Wake County**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Roadway**
 Completed: **January 22, 2018**



The Main Street Extension included the realignment and extension of Piney Grove-Wilbon Road and Ralph Stephens Road. This project provides an additional north-south connection and alleviates traffic congestion on the Avent Ferry Road corridor which leads to N.C. 55 and downtown Holly Springs. The project includes new sidewalks and bike lanes in each direction and encourages the use of alternative transportation modes and more recreational activity.

Raleigh Union Station

Nominated By: **City of Raleigh**
 Modes: **Public Transportation and Rail**
 Completed: **July 10, 2018**



The Raleigh Union Station, in the capital city's downtown Warehouse District, is a passenger train station that replaced the nearby Amtrak station. The facility was built to better accommodate current and future demand for intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, buses, taxis, bicycles and other transportation. The project has spurred residential and commercial development in the area. Raleigh Union Station is one of several improvements aimed at increasing railroad capacity, efficiency and safety along the Raleigh-to-Charlotte corridor.

URBAN NOMINEES

Envision My Ride

Nominated By: **Charlotte Area Transit System**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Public Transportation and Rail**
 Completed: **October 1, 2018**



The Envision My Ride initiative redesigned the area's bus system to improve connections to jobs and education, provide more frequent public bus transportation and create crosstown connections. Phase 1 of the project focused on connections to light rail while Phase II implemented changes to additional bus routes and the development of a crosstown network to enhance mobility and increase the attractiveness of the area for employers.

South Tryon Street Sidewalk Improvement Project

Nominated By: **City of Charlotte**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 30, 2017**



Charlotte adopted a Transportation Action Plan to provide a safe, comfortable and connected pedestrian system to improve the quality of life in the area. This sidewalk improvement project connected hotels and housing communities to places where people can play tennis, disc golf or traditional golf. The project promoted the use of an extensive transit system by providing safe locations to wait for buses. It also improved mobility for residents by installing sidewalks and ramps that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

City of Wilmington: Gary Shell Cross City Trail

Nominated By: **Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO)**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **February 10, 2019**

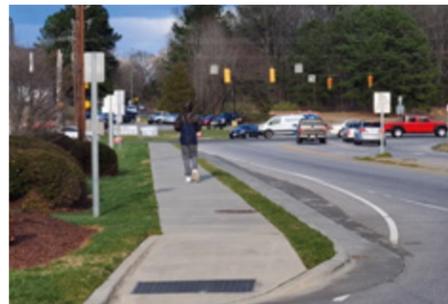


The Gary Shell Cross City Trail is a 15-mile, primarily off-road multi-use trail with bicycle and pedestrian access to recreational, cultural and educational sites in Wilmington. The trail is part of the East Coast Greenway and connects to the River to Sea Bikeway, providing people with trails for recreation, physical activity and alternative transportation.

URBAN NOMINEES

Industry Drive Phase I

Nominated By: **City of Oxford**
 Modes: **Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 24, 2018**



This sidewalk project provides a safe route for pedestrians throughout its 0.98-mile span. A newer pathway within our state, the sidewalk begins at the intersections of Industry Drive and Raleigh Street, closing at the final driveway of the Granville Corners Shopping Center. It offers convenient mobility for an estimated 520 residents within and around Raleigh Street, Central Children's home and popular shopping locations in Oxford. The project's design includes safety features such as an intersectional time/signal to aid in safe cross walking and enhanced road striping.

N.C. 55 and Avent Ferry Intersection Improvements

Nominated By: **Town of Holly Springs**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Roadway and Pedestrian**
 Completed: **November 15, 2016**



The intersection improvements modified the intersection of Avent Ferry Road and N.C. 55 from a traditional signalized intersection to a reverse restricted, crossing U-turn intersection. When it was constructed, it was the first four-leg reverse restricted crossing U-turn in North Carolina. The project team evaluated several alternatives to address the significant backups experienced at this intersection. These included optimized signal timings, traditional signalized intersections and several "superstreet" concepts. The team conducted corridor travel time runs before and after construction and found that travel times were reduced by more than 50 percent because of the improvements. People now have better and quicker access to restaurants, schools, hospitals and businesses. By reducing the time vehicles idle, the intersection improvements have also reduced harmful emissions.

Smith, Sanford and Dunn Creek Downtown Connector Greenway

Nominated By: **Town of Wake Forest**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **October 31, 2018**

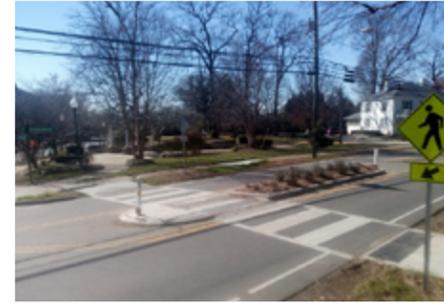


Wake Forest completed the construction of this greenway trail along the Smith, Sanford and Dunn Creek corridors in 2018. The multimodal facility consists of about 3.7 miles of greenways and 1.25 miles of sidewalk and a multi-use path, and a partial road widening near Heritage Elementary, Middle and High Schools, as well as major activity centers in Wake Forest. By providing pedestrian and bicycle friendly connections to the community, the greenway helped increase peoples' physical activity, decreased harmful emissions and prompted residential development along the greenway corridors.

URBAN NOMINEES

The Matthews-Mint Hill Road Multimodal Project

Nominated By: **Town of Matthews**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **October 1, 2018**



The 0.6-mile, 10-foot wide multi-use path sits along an NCDOT corridor in Matthews. The project included two pedestrian refuge islands/crosswalks that have helped connect employers and new residential development with the historic downtown area. Project developers relocated a Charlotte Area Transit bus stop closer to the crosswalk. The project has connected residents, major employees, Harris Teeter's headquarters and other corporate offices to Matthews' downtown.

GTA Electric Replacement Buses (TA-6698)

Nominated By: **City of Greensboro**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transportation**
 Completed: **January 22, 2019**



By completing this project, Greensboro became the first municipality in North Carolina to buy electric buses. The Greensboro Transit Authority added its first 10 electric buses in February 2019 and plans to replace its entire fleet with electric vehicles within the next decade. This transition will ensure bus commuting is an undisputed environmentally and economically friendly option. In addition to reducing harmful air emissions, electric buses are saving Greensboro money on fuel and maintenance costs. The battery-electric buses are part of the city's integrated strategy to improve the entire system and be more environmentally sustainable.

I-26 at N.C. 280/Asheville Airport Diverging Diamond Interchange

Nominated By: **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **March 29, 2017**



The project involved converting the existing diamond interchange at Interstate 26 and N.C. 280 Airport Road into a diverging diamond interchange, using the existing bridge structure. The diverging diamond interchange allows for a two-phase operation at all signalized intersections in the interchange. This improves safety by reducing conflict points and makes it more efficient for motorists traveling through the interchange. The interchange upgrade also included the addition of a sidewalk, wheelchair curb ramps and signalized crosswalks. The interchange provides easier access to the Buncombe County Fairgrounds, which hosts the popular Mountain State Fair in September. The project has also decreased delays and allowed more travelers to get to the airport and other nearby destinations safely and quickly.

URBAN NOMINEES

Howard Coble Intermodal Transportation Center

Nominated By: **Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **September 9, 2017**



The Howard Coble Intermodal Transportation Center opened in Greensboro in 2017 and serves as a multimodal transportation hub in the heart of the Piedmont Triad. From its inception, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation envisioned a multimodal hub to connect transit, airport passengers and future passenger rail. The center's first phase was a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Silver public transit terminal, bus slips and a park-and-ride lot. The second phase was a maintenance and operations building. Consolidating administration, passenger terminal and maintenance functions

provides a cost-effective delivery of public service. The center also provides people with plug-in electric vehicle stations and bike storage racks.

From Sea to Queen City. In One Day.

Nominated By: **North Carolina State Ports Authority**
 Modes: **Rail and Roadway**
 Completed: **September 1, 2019**



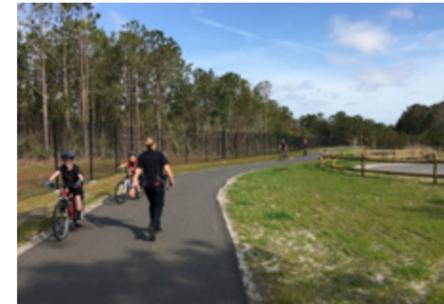
The Queen City Express, which opened in July 2017, is a rail service that allows freight to be carried on trains between the Port of Wilmington and Charlotte, the nation's first inland port. The express was so successful that in 2019 the North Carolina Port Authority worked with CSX and N.C. Department of Transportation to expand the intermodal rail service. As a result, the Queen City Express has increased its capacity by carrying freight shipments each weekday rather than a couple times a week. Access to the Queen City Express allows the port to expand its service offerings to customers and has been critical to

attracting new shipping lines to the Port of Wilmington. The project has been an economic boon to North Carolina and the port.

URBAN NOMINEES

Town of Carolina Beach – Island Greenway

Nominated By: **Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization**
 Modes: **Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **March 10, 2019**



The 10-foot wide paved, multi-use path begins at Mike Chappell Park and winds south through scenic wooded areas to the intersection of Alabama Avenue and Spot Lane. Part of the East Coast Greenway, it leads to the ferry and includes pedestrian signal heads at intersections, increasing safety for travelers. The project exemplifies the community's commitment to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and comprehensive planning. The greenway has served as a destination for running/walking events and local cycling events, including the Neon Bike Brigade Fundraiser. The trail represents a commitment to the health and

well-being of the community and visitors.

Antiquity Greenway/South Prong Rocky River (EV-5775)

Nominated By: **Town of Cornelius**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transportation**
 Completed: **September 28, 2019**



The Antiquity Greenway is 0.6 miles but is an important link in the master plans for the Carolina Thread Trail, Mecklenburg County and Cornelius. Users walk under an old-fashioned covered bridge and ascend an elevated boardwalk to be met with great views of surrounding forested areas. The greenway is part of Cornelius' Emerald Necklace, a 13-mile loop that will envelope the town and connect it to Davidson and Huntersville. The greenway ties into existing trails in Davidson and Cornelius, helping to provide 10-mile link of interconnected trails that connect several communities, shopping, dining and public transportation.

Cornelius leaders say the Antiquity Greenway has given people another exercise option and boosted the local economy by attracting more people to the area to use the greenway and visit local businesses, restaurants and coffee shops.

URBAN NOMINEES

The Salem Creek Connector

Nominated By: **City of Winston-Salem**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **April 20, 2018**



The Salem Creek Connector is a 1.1-mile, four-lane median divided road with sidewalks and greenway connections connecting Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Rams Drive at the Piedmont Triad Research Park. The Salem Creek Connector adds nine bridges over parts of Salem Creek and U.S. 52. Also, a new interchange was built at U.S. 52 and the current interchange at Rams Drive will be removed. The road connects the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter with major roads and links Winston-Salem State University to the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter. It also provides

better access to tourist attractions such as Old Salem and Bowman Gray Stadium. The connector has improved motorist and pedestrian safety by helping traffic move more efficiently in Winston-Salem. The project also improved access to the Salem Creek Greenway, which provides biking and walking opportunities.

Toby Creek Greenway

Nominated By: **Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Pedestrian**
 Completed: **October 1, 2019**



This 1-mile greenway extends from Rockland Drive to University City Boulevard and connects residents and college students to major retail shopping, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and miles of existing greenways. Features such as a grade separation and a concrete boardwalk made the trail safer and easier to maintain for motorists and greenway users. The trail winds through wooded neighborhoods and provides an alternative route to nearby roads.

Church Street Lane Reduction with New Sharrows

Nominated By: **City of Asheboro**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Pedestrian**
 Completed: **August 12, 2016**



South Church Street (State Road 1707) in Asheboro is a minor thoroughfare running north to south for approximately two miles and connecting downtown to Asheboro High School. In 2015, the FHA Office of Safety Programs published a report that included a Speed Management Action Plan for Randolph County. This plan "characterized Randolph County's speeding and safety problems and speed management issues, identifies appropriate countermeasures and strategies, and describes implementation actions the State, County, and other partners can take to reduce speeding and speeding-related fatal and injury crashes." SR1707 emerged as a roadway that could benefit from a reduction of lanes. This project has resulted in the first signed bicycle route in Asheboro and helped the city's reputation as a bike-friendly community.

URBAN NOMINEES

Crabtree Creek and Hatcher Greenways

Nominated By: **Town of Morrisville**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Rail**
 Completed: **August 21, 2018**



The Crabtree Creek and Hatcher Creek Greenways form a 2.8 mile stretch of new greenway that provides an east-west corridor through Morrisville. The new routes run through two Morrisville parks and connect to Lake Crabtree County Park, Cary's greenway system and four commercial centers. The greenways will also travel under N.C. 54 and a North Carolina railroad bridge. The paths use substantial boardwalk as they run through local forested wetlands and increase access to the natural environment.

Charlotte's Uptown Cycle Track (Phase I)

Nominated By: **City of Charlotte**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **April 26, 2019**



Charlotte's Uptown Cycle Track is part of a citywide effort to accommodate Charlotte's diversity of users and better connect residents across different transportation modes. Phase I of this project links the Little Sugar Creek Greenway to the LYNX Blue Line Rail Trail on a two-way, protected bicycle path. The 2-mile path was designed to make it safer for bicyclists and motorists to travel on a key corridor together. Charlotte and the N.C. Department of Transportation designed and implemented Phase I using pavement markings, signage and resurfacing. The project also promotes more people exercising, a reduction in harmful air emissions with fewer vehicles on the road and spurs consumer spending.

Unpark Yourself

Nominated By: **Duke University and Health System**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transportation**
 Completed: **July 1, 2019**



Duke University's Unpark Yourself Mobility marketing campaign promotes quality transportation options for employees and students. It is also a marketing device to promote vanpool, carpool, carshare, subsidized bus passes, electric scooters, as well as the walking, biking and other transportation options at Duke. As a result of the campaign's success, Duke University has been named a Best Workplace for Commuters in each of the last five years. The campaign has helped reduce congestion and improve public health.

URBAN NOMINEES

Charlotte Launches First Dedicated Bus/Bike Lane in Downtown

Nominated By: **Charlotte Area Transit System and Charlotte Department of Transportation**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **December 16, 2019**



In December 2019, Charlotte introduced the city's first dedicated bus/bike lane along East 4th Street in a busy area of Uptown Charlotte. The lane is restricted to public transportation, school buses, scooters, emergency vehicles and bikes. It prioritizes mobility, provides quick and reliable bus service and increases safety. The dedicated lane provides another transportation alternative for people living and working in Charlotte. In doing so, the dedicated lane reduces the potential for crashes, and supports the growing bicycling and scooter communities.

Long Branch Trail

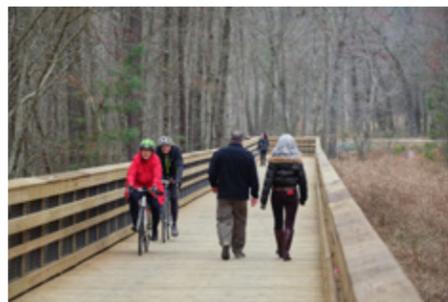
Nominated By: **City of Winston-Salem**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Pedestrian**
 Completed: **April 11, 2018**



The 1.5-mile Long Branch Trail provides a seamless, separated urban bicycle and pedestrian path that connects downtown Winston-Salem to the Salem Creek Greenway. It allows users to access about 24 miles of separated trails, including the Salem Creek Greenway, Salem Lake Train, Waughtown Greenway and the Strollway. The trail has an aesthetic and functional appeal with uniform signs, trailheads, security features, lighting and Wi-Fi connectivity. Long Branch Trail has given the community another opportunity for recreation and contributed to the ongoing renaissance in the downtown area.

White Oak Creek Greenway Phase V - Extension to ATT

Nominated By: **Town of Cary**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 1, 2018**



The White Oak Creek Greenway Phase V extension to the American Tobacco Trail created a regional pedestrian/bike facility between Durham and Raleigh. This 1.81-mile project on the border of two towns, Cary and Apex, opened in November 2018. It was one of the most frequently requested and asked about projects in Cary, completing a crucial missing link. Green Level High School opened in 2019 and is south of the greenway off Green Level Church Road. The greenway's underpass minimizes conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

URBAN NOMINEES

Pullen Road Extension

Nominated By: **City of Raleigh**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **December 17, 2018**



In 2015, the City of Raleigh developed a three-party agreement with North Carolina State University and the Catholic Diocese of North Carolina to extend Pullen Road from Western Boulevard to Centennial Parkway. This extension improved safety and congestion along Western Boulevard and enhances the connectivity between N.C. State's Central and Centennial campuses. The project consists of approximately 0.62 miles of roadway with bike lanes, sidewalks, a roundabout, street lighting, and a 10-foot multi-use path connecting the Rocky Branch Greenway Trail to the Centennial Bikeway Connector.

FAST Transit Center

Nominated By: **City of Fayetteville**
 Modes: **Public Transportation and Rail**
 Completed: **November 20, 2017**



The FAST Transit Center replaced an outdated, unattractive facility with a portable building, a few shelters, and portable toilets. The new center is in the heart of Fayetteville, just one block from an Amtrak station. It serves FAST buses as well as Greyhound and Megabus. The transit center provides areas for other business such as food vendors and retail shops. The first floor contains ticket sales/information counters, a customer waiting area, restrooms and a driver lounge. There are 16 bus bays that provide sheltered seating and route information. The second floor of the center houses transit offices and a large community room.

WINNER

Granite City Greenway (Phase 3)

Nominated By: **Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **July 6, 2016**



Mount Airy conceived of a connected network of greenways to mitigate flood impacts and provide recreation after a 1979 flood that caused \$45 million in property damage in Surry County. In 2016, public officials from across the region dedicated phase 3 of the greenway. Phase 3 is a 2.2-mile connector for the Lovill and Ararat greenways. The project provides people with non-motorized mobility opportunities and bicycle, pedestrian and transit connectivity through access to a park-and-ride lot.

HONORABLE MENTION

Surf City Topsail Island Bridge Connector

Nominated By: **Town of Surf City**
 Modes: **Bicycle and Roadway**
 Completed: **December 4, 2018**



The Surf City Topsail Island Bridge Connector replaced the aging, 1950s-era steel truss drawbridge that served as a critical link between Surf City and Topsail Island. The 0.7-mile replacement bridge eliminates the chronic traffic delays from the drawbridge. It also includes roundabouts for better vehicle flow and pedestrian movement. The new bridge includes a 10-foot, multi-use path that creates a safe pedestrian route, connects the mainland to the beach, sidewalks and a park, and links to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The project has improved traffic flow and helped the local economies by enabling people to access businesses more easily in Surf City and Topsail Island. It has also given the community a more efficient evacuation route during hurricanes and storms and reduced response times for emergency responders.

HONORABLE MENTION

REACH Transit

Nominated By: **Transportation Administration of Cleveland County Inc.**
 Modes: **Pedestrian and Public Transportation**
 Completed: **October 2019**



REACH Transit is a fixed route that runs in Shelby on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It makes nine stops in west Shelby and has become a transportation lifeline for the community. Before the public transit system was introduced, some residents were unable to get to medical appointments, grocery stores or pharmacies. REACH connects residents in west Shelby to medical facilities and pharmacies, grocery stores and a community college. Local school children created artwork celebrating the REACH Transit project and some of their work now adorns the sides of the public transportation vehicles.

RURAL NOMINEES

Jonesville GreenwayNominated By: **Piedmont Triad Regional Council**Modes: **Bicycle and Pedestrian**Completed: **May 30, 2019**

The Jonesville Greenway is a 2.5-mile multi-use trail that extends from the center of Jonesville along the Yadkin River. It provides residents a safe place to walk and bike while providing a scenic view of the area's natural beauty, including the Yadkin River. It has enhanced the area by attracting people for community events and recreation. The greenway has also contributed to improving health and created environmental benefits such as protecting a sensitive riparian area and local wildlife.

GWTA Transfer CenterNominated By: **Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation, Rail and Roadway**Completed: **September 21, 2015**

The Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority Transfer Center, or GWTA, allows for multimodal access, Amtrak rail service connectors and Greyhound bus service. Additionally, it provides daily regional service by the "Down East Express" for more efficient travel along the U.S. 70 corridor. The GWTA was part of a successful downtown Goldsboro revitalization. This multimodal center is located near both downtown and major state thoroughfares. Several community transportation programs use the center's resources, and GWTA service itself has experienced increased ridership since the center was opened in September 2015.

Prosperity VillageNominated By: **City of Charlotte**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**Completed: **June 15, 2015**

Prosperity Village was the result of plans dating back almost 30 years for the expected construction of I-485 in northeast Charlotte. The project included a grid of multiple two-lane thoroughfares and collector streets instead of one large multi-lane thoroughfare. With public investment in transportation infrastructure and the subsequent development, there are now roughly seven miles of connected bicycle trails, 12 miles of sidewalks and nine roundabouts that have improved mobility and connectivity to local shops and businesses.

RURAL NOMINEES

Campbell University Pedestrian TunnelNominated By: **Harnett County Development Services**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**Completed: **July 1, 2016**

The Campbell University Pedestrian Tunnel is an impressive example of safety and practicality. The structure runs under U.S. 421 in Buies Creek and provides students, faculty and visitors with a safer route to and from campus. The tunnel's success has paved the way for a similar walkway between the university's main campus and medical school, which will help ensure the safety of the Campbell community.

U.S. 19 East Widening (from Jacks Creek Road to N.C. 80)Nominated By: **Town of Burnsville and Yancey County**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**Completed: **June 29, 2017**

The U.S. 19 East project involved widening a 7.4-mile section of the road. The project added a divided median from Jack's Creek Road to N.C. 80, as well as new sidewalks, bike lanes, wheelchair ramps and signalized crosswalks. The sidewalks provide a pedestrian path between Burnsville's high school and middle school. This effort has enabled more people access to local shopping and helped promote new business and more downtown festivals and events.

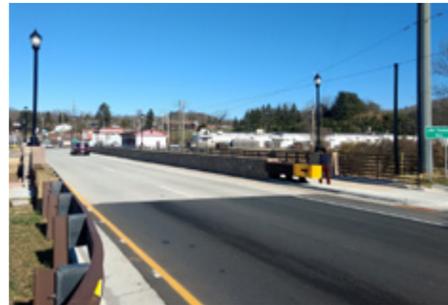
Ocracoke Island Tram SystemNominated By: **Hyde County**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Ferry, Public Transportation and Roadway**Completed: **September 9, 2018**

Hyde County, the N.C. Department of Transportation, and a private contractor put in place a tram system in Ocracoke to reduce vehicular traffic and encourage the use of public transportation as tourism grows. The commuter service is an extension of the long-distance ferry. The tram system consists of four eco-electric motorized vehicles and two trailers that operate on a three-mile loop through Ocracoke Village. It visits eight spots in Ocracoke before dropping passengers off at the ferry dock to return to Hatteras Island.

RURAL NOMINEES

Plymouth AirportNominated By: **Albemarle Rural Planning Organization**Modes: **Aviation and Roadway**Completed: **January 5, 2015**

The Plymouth Airport has served as Washington County's receiving and distribution point during disasters since 2015. Airport officials have worked with Washington County Emergency Management to enhance the facility's emergency response capabilities. Improvements to the airport included the purchase of auxiliary power to ensure the facility would be operational during emergencies. Airport officials have also partnered with the N.C. Forest Service since the facility sits near a water source that state forestry officials can use to fight wildfires.

Bridge No. 22 over Little Tennessee River (B-5125)Nominated By: **Town of Franklin and Macon County**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**Completed: **January 11, 2019**

The bridge on U.S. 441 traverses the Little Tennessee River. The bridge is 308 feet long and incorporates a multi-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians. The bridge is a critical component to the Little Tennessee River Greenway and connects multiple commercial and residential areas. It provides great recreational opportunities and is an economic lifeline for Franklin as it connects people the town's restaurants, art galleries, breweries and art galleries.

New Bern Gateway Corridor ImprovementsNominated By: **New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**Completed: **August 30, 2019**

The First Street corridor improvements transformed a busy, four-lane, undivided road by creating a safe, multimodal corridor with new bicycle lanes and ADA-compliant sidewalks. The corridor is fast becoming the second major entrance to downtown New Bern and has improved access to neighborhoods, local shopping and restaurants, schools and churches. It also enables quicker emergency responses and serves as a primary connection to U.S. 70.

RURAL NOMINEES

Ocracoke ExpressNominated By: **Albemarle Rural Planning Organization**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Ferry**Completed: **May 20, 2019**

The NCDOT Ferry Division launched its first passenger-only ferry service – the Ocracoke Express – in May 2019. During its summer season run, the passenger ferry carried 28,604 passengers and 1,670 bicycles between Hatteras and Ocracoke Village. It complemented the vehicle ferries the division operates and gave visitors another transportation option between the Outer Banks' islands. The passenger ferry came about to alleviate summertime congestion on the popular Hatteras-Ocracoke vehicle ferry route.

I-40 and South Sterling Street (Exit 105) Interchange and Widening ProjectNominated By: **City of Morganton**Modes: **Pedestrian, Bicycle and Roadway**Completed: **July 6, 2016**

The I-40 and South Sterling Street (Exit 105) Interchange and Widening Project expanded South Sterling Street and built a new bridge complete with an upgraded interchange and signalization designs. South Sterling Street was reconfigured from a three-lane road with little to no sidewalk to a five-lane roadway. The project also included the construction of a newly landscaped interchange along with a stained stone patterned bridge over Interstate 40. This structure boasts custom relief mural abutment walls. The addition of sidewalks, refuge and landscape islands and crossings created a safer, more beautiful travel corridor for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

RURAL NOMINEES

I-40 and Enola Road (Exit 104) Interchange and Widening ProjectNominated By: **City of Morganton**Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**Completed: **May 18, 2017**

The I-40 and Enola Road Interchange and Widening Project widened roads to multiple lanes, replaced existing structures, installed new traffic signals and upgraded existing interchanges. Enola Road was reconfigured from a two-lane road with few or no sidewalks, to a five-lane road with wide sidewalks, stretching the length of the street. These upgrades included the addition of a newly landscaped interchange and the installation of a new stone-patterned bridge over I-40. The additions helped create a safer and more appealing corridor for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Probart Street SidewalkNominated By: **Transylvania County**Modes: **Bicycle and Roadway**Completed: **June 30, 2016**

Brevard completed 3,308 feet of five-foot wide sidewalk between 2015 and 2016, connecting the downtown area to the Brevard Music Center, a world-renowned summer music camp. The music center has been in operation for more than 80 years. In addition to providing a safer travel option for walkers and bicyclists, the sidewalk also reduces the number of vehicles in the town.

Downtown Lumberton Roundabout ProjectNominated By: **Robeson County**Modes: **Bicycle and Roadway**Completed: **December 22, 2016**

The Downtown Lumberton Roundabout links North Water Street, West 6th Street, Carthage Road and Elizabethtown Road. It has reduced traffic congestion and provided a better route into downtown Lumberton from Interstate 95 and Carthage Road. The roundabout includes bicycle and pedestrian lanes. It has spurred economic development with three new businesses being created across the street from the project.



WINNER

Albert J. Ellis Redevelopment Project

Nominated By: **Onslow County**
Modes: **Aviation and Roadway**
Completed: **September 15, 2016**



Onslow County redeveloped the Albert J. Ellis Airport's terminal in 2016. The county replaced the main passenger terminal and constructed a 10,000-square-foot executive terminal, hangar complex, rental car facilities, aircraft aprons, installed utilities and built multiple taxiways. Improvements were also made to the road network accessing the airport. The 67,000-square-foot passenger terminal features a dedicated mass transit/commercial vehicle loading area, covered vehicle loading areas, parking for four aircraft with three passenger boarding bridges and enlarged waiting areas. This project boosted tourism, allowed businesses

to expand and increased employment in the area. The airport is now a source of community pride and enhances the county's ability to attract new visitors, businesses and residents.

HONORABLE MENTION

Thermal Belt Rail Trail: Connecting Great Small Towns

Nominated By: **Isothermal Rural Planning Organization**
Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
Completed: **October 19, 2019**



The Thermal Belt Rail Trail, a greenway on a former railroad track, connects the communities in Rutherford County. The greenway meanders through downtowns and natural areas during its nearly 14-mile length. Trail users can leave their cars at home and commute to work, run errands, exercise or travel to and from school, thanks to the trail's proximity to four downtowns in the county. Rutherford County Transit also has stops along the trail. The trail is handicapped-accessible and offers access to all travelers as it traverses road intersections and interactive pedestrian crossings, and includes renovated

bridges with lighting, and landscaped parking and trailheads. The local planning organization says the trail has already been a boon to the local economy, drawing people from surrounding communities to exercise, shop and eat at local restaurants.

HONORABLE MENTION

1st Avenue Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Nominated By: **City of Conover**
Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Rail and Roadway**
Completed: **May 7, 2018**



These improvements on 1st Avenue South in Conover included restriping the roadway, installing a pedestrian refuge island along with clearer crossings at intersections, building bulb-outs for on-street parking spaces and planted roadway medians, and adding bike sharrows. This project falls under the umbrella of Complete Streets, a policy that incorporates different modes of transportation when building or improving existing roads. As such, the 1st Avenue Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements incorporated improved methods to promote safe transport for a wide range of

traffic, including new bike facilities, a better on-street pedestrian crossing, ADA pedestrian crossing over railroad tracks and other community connections. The project also improved the appearance of downtown Conover and supported the town's ongoing revitalizations efforts.

TOURISM NOMINEES

Historic Rogers Road Sidewalk

Nominated By: **Town of Carrboro**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transportation**
 Completed: **July 2, 2019**



The Rogers Road Sidewalk fulfilled a long-time commitment to bring overdue improvements to a local neighborhood. The project included new sidewalks, bike lanes, a bus shelter, stormwater and telecommunications infrastructure, and pedestrian crossings. These improvements have brought safer travel, connectivity and better access to the entire community. This project also spurred new businesses and made the area more attractive to new residents and mixed-use developments.

Last Mile Connection

Nominated By: **Concord Kannapolis Area Transit (Rider Transit)**
 Modes: **Public Transportation and Rail**
 Completed: **January 1, 2019**



The Last Mile Connection Amtrak/Transit system ensures that public transit is available and convenient for train passengers traveling between Raleigh and Charlotte. The innovative network includes connecting stations in Kannapolis, Salisbury, High Point, Greensboro, Burlington, Durham and Rocky Mount. This system of intermodal transportation has proven to be a significant recruitment tool to bring private investment to places such as the Warehouse District in Raleigh and the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. Establishing a Last Mile connection is a critical component in connecting different modes of

transportation. For instance, this project made it easier for people to take the train to Charlotte and then get on a public bus to attend a Carolina Panthers football game.

Bridge Replacement (B-4159)

Nominated By: **Jackson County**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **January 7, 2019**



This project was a bridge replacement that included bicycle, pedestrian and road elements. The project enables people to walk from Western Carolina University and the Old Cullowhee commercial area and student housing developments. It included about 1,850 feet of new sidewalk construction. The bridge, which is on Old Cullowhee Road less than a mile from Western Carolina University, was designed to allow a future greenway segment to be located below the bridge, providing a connection point between the Jackson County Greenway and a proposed Cullowhee River Park.

TOURISM CATEGORY

TOURISM NOMINEES

Concord Charlotte Express

Nominated By: **Concord Kannapolis Area Transit (Rider Transit)**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Rail**
 Completed: **March 19, 2018**

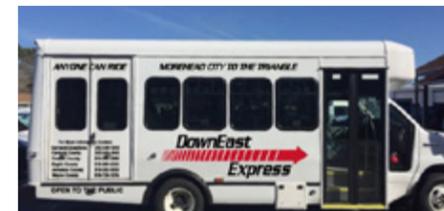


The Concord Charlotte Express regional bus route began service in March 2018, connecting the Concord Kannapolis Area Transit and the Charlotte Area Transit System with separate transportation modes. The new service creates a direct link between the Rider Transit Center and the J.W. Clay Boulevard LYNX Light Rail Station. The Concord Charlotte Express service is the first, seven-day-a-week regional express service in the area.

It provides easy access to and from Charlotte and Cabarrus County while offering residents and visitors expanded access to jobs, educational opportunities and medical facilities. Users can also access the Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Mills mall. Also, those using the express bus route receive a free transfer to the LYNX Light Rail that gives people easy access to professional football and basketball games, museums, art galleries and restaurants.

Down East Express Coordination

Nominated By: **Carteret County Area Transportation System**
 Modes: **Aviation and Public Transportation**
 Completed: **January 2, 2017**



The Down East Express offers daily trips between Carteret County and the Triangle. The Carteret County Area Transportation System has coordinated with seven surrounding counties to assist in their public transportation needs to the same area. All the public transit systems have the same scheduling software and communicate daily to schedule trips. The express service picks up people as it passes through one of the seven

counties, delivers them to their requested location and later returns them to their home county. The service offers people access to medical facilities, shopping and other opportunities they would not otherwise have.

Country Club Road Widening

Nominated By: **Rocky Mount Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **December 1, 2015**



This project widened Country Club Road in Rocky Mount from a two-lane road to a four-lane, median-divided thoroughfare. The median and the wider additional lanes are safer for bicyclists and motorists. The improvements also added a new bus stop, a new sidewalk and an access drive to the Stoney Creek canoe launching site. In addition to boosting the area's visual appeal, the project has allowed people easier and safer walking, running and bicycling access to local shopping while making travel easier for motorists.

TOURISM CATEGORY

TOURISM NOMINEES

Widening of Ricks Road (S.R. 2302)

Nominated By: **Town of Selma**
 Modes: **Pedestrian, Rail and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 10, 2019**



The Ricks Road project widened the road to three lanes from U.S. 70 to U.S. 301. The increase in vehicular capacity between these major routes is vital for the commercial area, and a sidewalk has helped connect residents with restaurants and other businesses in the community.

Oklawaha Greenway Phase III & Sidewalk Project

Nominated By: **City of Hendersonville**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **July 10, 2019**



This project enhanced the area's active transportation system by expanding the Oklawaha Greenway an additional 1.5 miles and completing a city-wide network that connects four parks. The 10-foot wide asphalt, multi-use path promotes recreation and provides a scenic path for users. The North Main Street sidewalk portion of the project created a half-mile of sidewalk along a busy corridor where no walkway previously existed. A 70-foot pedestrian bridge provides safe passage over Mud Creek and gives the Oklawaha Village, a Housing Assistance Corporation

mixed-income development, direct greenway access.

Pedestrian Right-of-Way for ADA Compliance

Nominated By: **Greater Hickory MPO/Western Piedmont Council of Governments**
 Modes: **Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
 Completed: **November 1, 2019**



The Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization and Western Piedmont Council of Government have taken significant steps to improve walkability and bring Americans with Disabilities Act services to the region. As part of the effort, an ADA coordinator/transportation planner position was created. The coordinator and staff with the Western Piedmont COG developed a pedestrian right-of-way application so mobility hazards could be documented. The application collects a range of multimodal data including sidewalks, curb ramps, driveway cuts, intersections, railroad crossings, bus

stops, crosswalks and pedestrian islands. Decreasing the number of barriers should make walking easier and areas along the path more accessible.

TOURISM NOMINEES

Kitty Hawk's Historical First in Flight Access Route Living Shoreline

Nominated By: **Town of Kitty Hawk**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **July 1, 2019**



This project involved protecting Moore Shore Road, which was used by Orville and Wilbur Wright to carry the Wright Flier from Kitty Hawk Village to the dunes at Kill Devil Hills for the first flight. Over the years, the road has been impacted by erosion and traffic from emergency response vehicles. To protect this critical Kitty Hawk road, officials installed 520 linear feet of an offshore wood/vinyl sill designed to reduce wave damage along the shoreline. Local officials say the project has increased tourism and business since Moore Shore Road is along the route for the Outer Banks Marathon and the Flying Pirate Half Marathon.

U.S. 321 Widening

Nominated By: **Town of Blowing Rock/Middle Fork Greenway**
 Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
 Completed: **October 18, 2018**



The widening of U.S. 321 was completed with funding from the N.C. Department of Transportation. The widening project has helped bring new business to the area and increased tourism. The town estimates that the greenway has attracted about 12,000 visitors and helped generate about \$6 million for the local economy. It has also provided health benefits by providing a place for bicycle and pedestrians to safely travel.

WINNER

REACH Transit

Nominated By: **Transportation Administration of Cleveland County Inc.**
Modes: **Pedestrian and Public Transportation**
Completed: **October 2019**



REACH Transit is a fixed route that runs in Shelby Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The route makes nine stops in west Shelby and has become a transportation lifeline for the community. Before the public transit system was introduced, some residents were unable to get to medical appointments, grocery stores or pharmacies. REACH connects residents in west Shelby to medical facilities and pharmacies,

grocery stores, and a community college. Local school children created artwork celebrating the REACH Transit project and some of their work now adorns the sides of the public transportation vehicles.

HONORABLE MENTION

Albert J. Ellis Redevelopment Project

Nominated By: **Onslow County**
Modes: **Aviation and Roadway**
Completed: **September 15, 2016**



Onslow County redeveloped the Albert J. Ellis Airport's terminal in 2016. The county replaced the main passenger terminal and constructed a 10,000-square-foot executive terminal, hangar complex, rental car facilities, aircraft aprons, installed utilities and built multiple taxiways. Improvements were also made to the road network accessing the airport. The 67,000-square-foot passenger terminal features a dedicated mass transit/commercial vehicle loading area, covered vehicle loading areas, parking for four aircraft with three passenger boarding bridges and enlarged waiting areas.

This project boosted tourism, allowed businesses to expand and increased employment in the area. The airport is now a source of community pride and enhances the county's ability to attract new visitors, businesses and residents.

HONORABLE MENTION

Craven Street Transportation Improvements

Nominated By: **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**
Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian and Roadway**
Completed: **April 21, 2017**



The Craven Street Improvement Project included realigning Craven Street, improving sidewalks, creating new bicycle lanes, completing a phase of the French Broad River West Greenway, creating an informational site history kiosk, developing new public parking lots, and installing stormwater management and water quality improvements. Partners that teamed up to complete the transportation project included Asheville, RiverLink Inc. and New Belgium Brewing Company.

The French Broad River West Greenway will tie into the longer network of greenways in Asheville and Buncombe County. This will allow people to walk, bicycle or run the greenway while enjoying views of the river, visiting artist studios as well as restaurants, shops and breweries. Sidewalks and bike lanes along Craven Street enable New Belgium Brewery employees and visitors to access the site by bike, on foot or by transit.

MOST VOTED PROJECT

WINNER

Surf City Topsail Island Bridge Connector

Nominated By: **Town of Surf City**
Modes: **Bicycle and Roadway**
Completed: **December 4, 2018**



The Surf City Topsail Island Bridge Connector replaced the aging, 1950s-era steel truss drawbridge that served as a critical link between Surf City and Topsail Island. The 0.7-mile replacement bridge eliminates the chronic traffic delays from the drawbridge. It also includes roundabouts for better vehicle flow and pedestrian movement. The new bridge includes a 10-foot, multi-use path that creates a safe pedestrian route, connects the mainland to the beach, sidewalks and a park, and completes

a link to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The new bridge has improved traffic flow and helped the local economies by enabling people to more easily access businesses in Surf City and Topsail Island. It has also given the community a more efficient evacuation route during hurricanes and storms and reduced response times for emergency responders.

HONORABLE MENTION

Thermal Belt Rail Trail: Connecting Great Small Towns

Nominated By: **Isothermal Rural Planning Organization**
Modes: **Bicycle, Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Roadway**
Completed: **October 19, 2019**



The Thermal Belt Rail Trail, a greenway on a former railroad track, connects the communities in Rutherford County. The greenway meanders through downtowns and natural areas during its nearly 14-mile length. Trail users can leave their cars at home and commute to work, run errands, exercise or travel to and from school, thanks to the trail's proximity to four downtowns in the county. Rutherford County Transit also has stops along the trail. The trail is handicapped-accessible and offers access to all travelers, as it traverses road intersections and interactive pedestrian crossings, and includes renovated bridges with lighting, and landscaped parking

and trailheads. The local planning organization says the trail has already been a boon to the local economy, drawing people from surrounding communities to use the trail for exercise and to access shopping and restaurants.

The Most Voted Project is a new category added this year. For this category, we placed all the entries online and let the public select the top projects. Our First-Place winner, the Surf City Topsail Island Bridge Connector, garnered 14,515 votes. This year's honorable mention, the Thermal Belt Rail Trail: Connecting Great Small Towns, collected 11,484 votes. A total of 47,491 votes were received for all this year's entries.

MOST VOTED PROJECT

47,491

VOTES

**Surf City Topsail Island
Bridge Connector**

14,515

VOTES

**Thermal Belt Rail Trail:
Connecting Great Small Towns**

11,494

VOTES



Stay Tuned for Details on 2022 Submissions!

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/events/Pages/Mobi-awards.aspx>