



## **Pedestrian planning process a step closer in Albemarle**

By Matt Irvin, Staff Writer

Tuesday, March 28, 2006 — Sidewalk and pedestrian improvements are in sight for Albemarle.

City council has entered an agreement with URS Corporation to help with a comprehensive pedestrian planning process.

The city council recently approved a contract between the city and URS not to exceed \$34,981.

Albemarle Parks and Recreation Director Lindsay Dunevant said the study was to see where and how to make connectivity for pedestrian needs in specific areas as well as the overall needs of the community.

“We are hoping to hold the first meetings in the next two or three weeks,” Dunevant said. “The steering committee will be selected by the city council by April 3 in the council meeting.”

Dunevant said the connectivity was an important part of the study.

“We want to make this a very public process,” Dunevant said. “We want to seek input where we can.”

At the council meeting last week, Dunevant recommended the council choose members of the steering committee for the process from a diverse cross section of the community. Two public workshops will be held to solicit input from residents. The steering committee will review summaries of each the meetings.

Studies will be made of location and conditions of present sidewalks, existing and proposed developments. Key destinations and land uses will be included and the identification of handicapped accessibility issues. Other areas that will be included in the study will be special population areas like schools, the disabled and the elderly. Existing master plans for parks, recreation, greenways and open space in the city will be reviewed for the study.

The final report on the plan is scheduled to be completed by December.

“The study looks at all types of pedestrian issues, anything related to pedestrian activity, standards and land use policy.”

“It also identifies pedestrian needs and changes in land use zoning and incorporate policy changes,” City Manager Ray Allen said.

Allen said the study also identifies possible funding for projects from state and federal sources.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation grant for the study is \$24,000 with a \$10,500 match from the city.



### **Albemarle residents get last shot at guiding pedestrian plan**

By Matt Irvin, Staff Writer

Tuesday, January 9, 2007 — Final input on Albemarle's pedestrian plan will be sought next week.

The final stages of Albemarle's comprehensive pedestrian plan are starting to wrap up next week.

A meeting on Tuesday will give the public an opportunity to comment on the city's consultant's draft plan.

The city entered an agreement last spring with URS Corporation to help with the comprehensive pedestrian planning process. The \$34,981 contract is being paid by a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) grant. The grant is for \$24,000 with a \$10,500 city match.

The proposed plan recommends new sidewalks and shared-use paths, new policies for future improvements, land use suggestions and programs to encourage walking in the community.

The draft plan is a result of the first public hearing from April. More than 40 people attended the public hearing to give input on the plan.

A survey was distributed in December seeking more public input.

"We sent out surveys in the December bill stuffing," said Director of Public Works Michael Lambert. Lambert is the chair of the steering committee of the plan.

"The steering committee represents all areas in our community," he said.

Studies were made of location and conditions of present sidewalks, existing and proposed developments. Key destinations and land uses were included and identification of handicapped accessibility issues.

Other areas that have been included in the study are special population areas like schools, the disabled and the elderly. Existing master plans for parks, recreation, greenways and open space in the city are included in the study.

"In order to develop a plan for future needs, we need to identify and have a solid understand of the current conditions," Lambert said.

City Manager Raymond Allen said the city needs a plan for future growth and planning.



“There are several benefits to the plan, it is a planning tool as we look forward for capital projects,” he said. “We need to have a study on sidewalks, greenways related to roads and transportation.”

Allen said the plan will give the city a heads up to plan for state and federal grants.

“The fact of having it in place will help plan for grants,” he said.

Allen said there is still time to return surveys for comments.

“There are still surveys at the YMCA, city hall and the Parks and Rec Department,” Allen said. “There is time to get them in before the meeting.”

Lambert said his department is collating the information from the surveys that have been returned.

“We will be putting together an outline of the responses from December’s responses,” Lambert said.

He has not seen the draft proposal yet. “It will be brought down by the consultant (URS Consultants).

The elements included in the plan are:

- Sidewalks;
- Off-road paths and greenways;
- Traffic calming methods;
- Policies and standards;
- Connectivity;
- Land use suggestions;
- Benefits of walking;
- Programs to encourage walking.

The hearing will be held Tuesday at the city hall annex at 5:30 p.m.

Questions or comments can be made to Michael E. Lambert, director of Public Works, P.O. Box 190, Albemarle, N.C. 28002. Or by e-mail to [mlambert@ci.albemarle.nc.us](mailto:mlambert@ci.albemarle.nc.us)



Published: October 05, 2007 08:37 am

Albemarle wants to be pedestrian friendly

By Sarah Jane Rosser, Staff Writer

Thursday, October 4, 2007 — The aim is to make Albemarle safe and easily accessible to those walking on foot.

The Albemarle Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan was brought before the city council Monday night.

Bill Clark, lead consultant in developing the plan, presented the plan that council members adopted and they plan to appoint a committee to investigate what's feasible for the city.

Some of the projects in the plan Clark said would make Albemarle a safer area are wide sidewalks, striped shoulders, shared use paths away from vehicle paths and various traffic calming techniques.

Council member Jack Neel posed the question as to how to get people to walk on the sidewalks and not on the streets. Clark said it's hard to monitor walkers and runners since the asphalt is better for knees.

Council member Judy Holcomb said she was hesitant to adopt the pedestrian plan because she had not had the chance to read it in its entirety. She also said she had a lot of questions about what she had read so far.

Once a committee is put in place, the team will look over the plan and decide what Albemarle needs and how to go about localizing the pedestrian plan for the city.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Annex.