


Collect Pedestrian Data

Transportation Planning Branch		Approved: July 23, 2007 Version 1
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Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to describe how TPB engineers collect the pedestrian data necessary to complete Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTPs).

Background

Comprehensive Transportation Plans are multi-modal plans, and one of the travel modes considered in the plan analysis is pedestrian travel. Historically, pedestrian facility planning has been the responsibility of the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT). Now the multi-modal element of CTPs has made it necessary for data on pedestrian facilities to be collected during the long-range planning process.

Responsibility

The TPB engineer who is working on a CTP is responsible for contacting state and local data sources or personally collecting the necessary pedestrian data.

Policy, Regulatory, and Legal Requirements

[NC General Statute 136-66.2](#) states, "In the development of the [CTP], consideration shall be given to all transportation modes including, but not limited to, the street system, transit alternatives, bicycle, pedestrian, and operating strategies."

In addition, Section 1107 (Metropolitan Planning) and Section 6001 (Transportation Planning) of [Public Law 109-59](#) (SAFETEA-LU) require the consideration of multi-modal transportation in metropolitan and statewide long-range planning.

Scheduling and Time Constraints

This procedure does not have any set time constraints, other than any deadlines determined by the Planning Group Supervisor for the development of the CTP. It may take some time to receive any information requested from other sources (including the DBPT, and local planning agencies), so any schedule should take this into account. If it will be necessary to manually

collect data (either in the field or using aerial photos), this may take considerably longer than if the data already exist.

Procedures

Inputs – Pedestrian, Bicycle or Greenway plans; aerial photos; or field observations.

Output – May be a spreadsheet of attribute data and/or map of pedestrian facilities.

When assigned a CTP study area, the TPB engineer follows the steps outlined below to collect the necessary pedestrian data.

Step	Action
1	<p>After receiving the assigned CTP study area, the TPB engineer needs to determine whether the local area being studied has a pedestrian plan developed as part of the DBPT’s Planning Grant program. This plan would include inventory of pedestrian facilities and a set of pedestrian facility recommendations. A list of the areas that have completed plans can be found on the DBPT web site under the heading “Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In any area that has one of these plans, it should serve as a baseline for pedestrian recommendations in the CTP. A copy of the completed plans will be provided to each of the TPB Planning Groups once the DBPT has approved them. • If a pedestrian plan is currently underway in the CTP study area, the TPB engineer should contact the local government that is doing the plan to find out the schedule for completion. (This may help determine the schedule for the development of the CTP.)
2	<p>The TPB engineer should next contact the local planning department(s) and the RPO or MPO in the CTP study area to find out if any local pedestrian plans have been developed outside the state’s planning grant program. These plans can also be used to help identify potential pedestrian needs.</p>
3	<p>The TPB engineer needs to determine if there are any bicycle or greenway plans that have been developed for the CTP study area. Often greenways and multi-use paths that are intended to serve pedestrian travel might be shown in the bicycle and/or greenway plans. These plans might be developed as part of the state’s planning grant program; developed by a local government; or developed by an RPO or MPO.</p> <p>Check the web site noted in Step 1 to find out if there are any bicycle plans available through the planning grant program (contact the local government, RPO, or MPO to find out if these agencies have any applicable plans). [For additional information, refer to “Collect Bike Data” procedure]</p>
4	<p>The TPB engineer collects information pertaining to existing sidewalks and off-road pedestrian facilities in the CTP study area. This can be accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referencing the pedestrian facility inventory obtained as part of a pedestrian, bicycle, or greenway plan, • Contacting the local planning department in the study area, • Studying available aerial photos, or • Field observations in the study area.
5	<p>The TPB engineer will use all the data and plans collected in the steps above to analyze the pedestrian needs within the community being studied.</p>

	(Output may be a spreadsheet of attribute data and/or map of pedestrian facilities)
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Warnings and Precautions

Because pedestrian planning is a new procedure within the Transportation Planning Branch (TPB), the procedure steps outlined in this document may change over time. These procedure steps have been intentionally written with a degree of flexibility so that the specific needs of each CTP study area can be met.

Resources and Tools

ArcView software – maps (used internally by TPB)

Contacts

- For suggestions to change this procedure contact: Earlene Thomas (919) 733-4705 ext. 31
- For questions about performing this procedure contact: Dan Thomas (919) 715-5482 ext. 389

Glossary

Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTPs)
Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT)

User Access

Restricted NCDOT, FHWA, MPO, RPO, Consultants, etc.

Flowchart

None