

Summary



Lumberton Loop Feasibility Study

Advisory Committee
Meeting #1

August 10, 2023 @ 10:30 AM (Virtual)

Attendees

- Brandon Love, Lumberton
- Sara Beth Ward, Lumberton
Downtown Development
- Travis Klondike, NC State
Coastal Dynamics
- Leslie Bartlebaugh, NC State
Coastal Dynamics
- Joshua Zhang, NCDOT IMD
- Joseph Furstenburg, NCDOT IMD
- Timothy Tresohlavy, Stantec
- Dan Hemme, Stantec
- Nina Reich, Stantec
- Scott Lane, J S Lane Co

Summary

Welcome & Introductions – (City, Stantec)

Stantec welcomed members to AC meeting #1, and reviewed some project purpose/context.

Discussion from AC members: *This Plan will be successful because...*

- Connection of Lumberton loop items
- “Infrastructure mobility **pipeline**” resulting in implementation
- Directly effects our ongoing work with Downtown
 - “Connect people with places”
- Severe flooding events in 2014-16 – led to Floodprint and Lumberton Loop concept
- Bring different parts of the plan together to get to construction / implementation / funding
- Downtown connections working with DDA
- Of a robust community development plan / community feedback
- Being able to commute by bike, not have to use a car
- It will overlap/be connected to other projects in progress/ Opportunity to continue to connect, and integrate multiple planning strategies
- It will show/be in line with the character of the Lumberton community
- Finishing loop will make full loop more successful – connecting the dots, especially downtown where safety is an issues
- Continue to progress forward, even after this FS
- Integration into other initiatives in Lumberton – “community resource”
- Walkability requires a closed loop, which will be much more successful – “complete the loop”
- Safety and recreation focus

Project Overview – (Stantec)

Stantec walked through Roles & Responsibilities, and a general timeline for this project.

Discussion from AC members:

- Roles & Responsibility (Stantec)
- General timeline (Stantec)
- Coordination with other City projects (Downtown Master Plan; Second Street improvements; I-95 improvements)

Outreach Strategy – (Stantec)

Stantec walked through the several Community Engagement tools to be utilized, notably the project website, online survey, interactive map, and stakeholder 'listening sessions' during the early phase.

Discussion from AC members:

- Preference for:
 - LumbertonLoop.com
 - WalkLumberton.com
- Lumberton Loop domain names – using those terms will help with longevity. Domain can be linked to a city website.
- Website Domain – want to be specific, “feasibility study” is very broad and can be interpreted differently.
- WalkWalnutStreet.com is available.
- Lumberton Loop or Walk Lumberton – City would want these to last longer than this feasibility study – purchase domain, however if we are more specific don't need to carry on domain.

What do we (think we) know? – (Stantec)

Stantec described some of the data items assembled for the corridor. Discussion included...

Discussion from AC members:

- Carthage Road sections: Missing link (sidepath) from I-95 and river to Downtown Lumberton – not part of this project
 - Have submitted one TIGER grant and to BUILD applications for that segment (unsuccessful thus far)
 - Part of 95 widening project, NCDOT to improve bridge for Carthage Road including 12-foot multi-use path across 95
 - Intersection of Elizabethtown and Water Street roundabout about 6 years ago – want to try to connect to road – have concept design for this, but have no funding
 - Divided roadway with median, bike lanes, sidewalks
- Second Street (NC 72) safety study (completed by VHB in 2022) – used to justify need for NCDOT corridor improvements
- RAISE grant project (funded) with NCDOT Div Engineers
 - Roundabout @ start to NC 72 / Roberts Ave intersection (2.3 miles)
- Past plans
 - Scott – need to look at 2022 safety study VHB completed along Second Street
 - Business community involvement to build 'champions' to move forward
 - Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Potential Dates for Public Event #1:
 - Downtown Master Plan initiation – September 28th
 - Arts on Elm St + Art Stroll event – October 5-6th
 - Smart Start Day - downtown October 21st, 11:00-2:00

Issue Identification Exercise – (Stantec)

Using the interactive webmap to demonstrate how this tool functions: [Lumberton Loop Trail \(arcgis.com\)](http://LumbertonLoopTrail(arcgis.com))

Discussion from AC members:

- Stantec demonstrated the online tool for adding local points of interest, and shared a link with attendees to pass along to others.

Action Items/ Next Steps – (Stantec)

- Additional data resources?
- Additional planning studies / initiatives?
- What don't we know?

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Presentation Slides**

Project Contacts

Project Manager

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Project Manager

Joseph Furstenberg, Program and PM branch

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Stantec Project Team

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Lumberton Loop Feasibility Study

Advisory Committee Mtg #1
August 10, 2023



Integrated Mobility Division
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Project Overview
- Outreach Strategy
- What do we *(think we)* Know?
- Issues Identification Exercise
- Next Steps

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Project Team



Lumberton, NC

Brandon Love

Deputy City Manager
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NCDOT

Joseph Furstenberg

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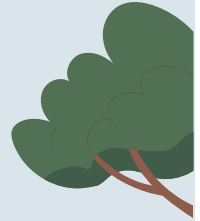
Stantec

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Timothy Tresohlavy, Project Manager

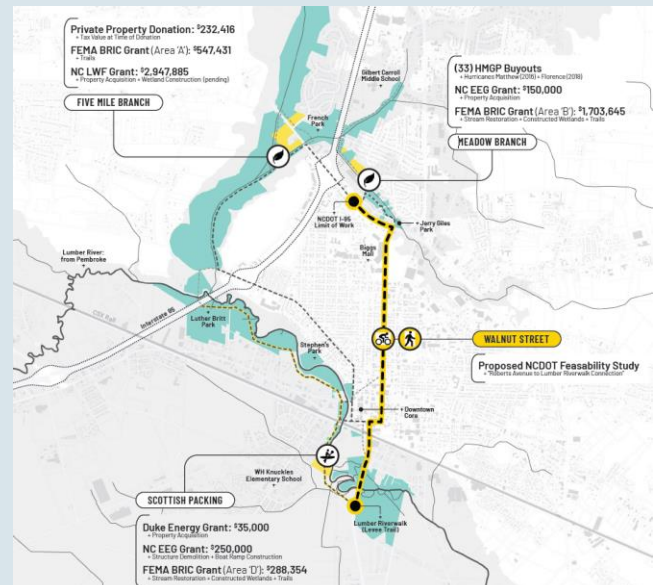
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Feasibility Study is ...

- A planning study → leading into engineering design (phase 2)
- Necessary to identify **potential constructability issues**, and then avoid / minimize them
- Useful to develop a realistic **cost estimate**



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This plan will be successful because...

- *Your thoughts & discussion ...*
 - Purpose
 - Goals
 - Vision



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Roles

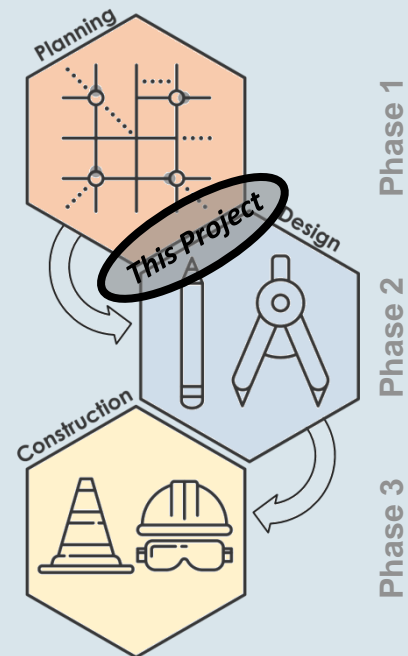
Stantec—facilitating the 'process'

- Synthesizing information
- Technical assistance and best practices

NCDOT-IMD—Integration with local/state needs

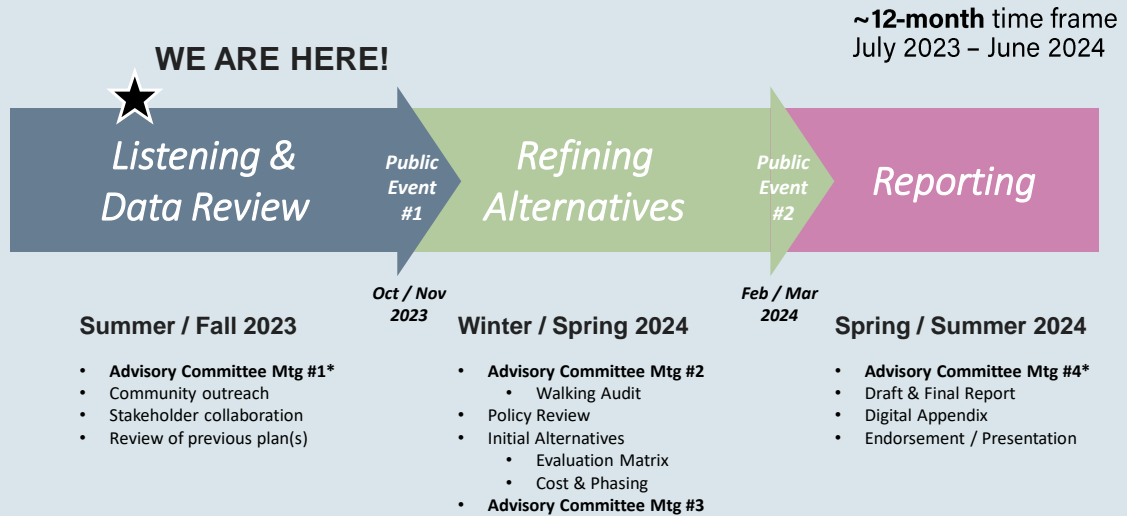
Advisory Committee—the local experts

- Area knowledge / Community vision
- Identifying the "who" needs to be involved?



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General Timeline

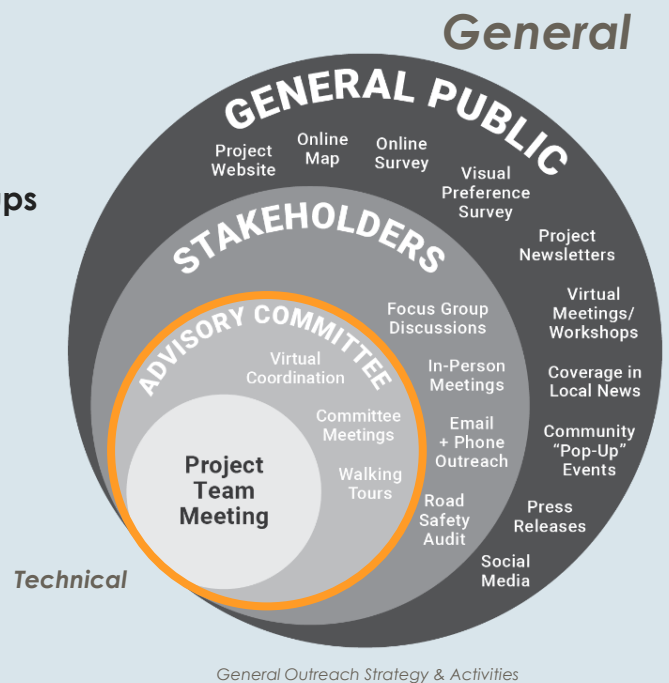


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Outreach Strategy

Tailored Activities for Different Groups

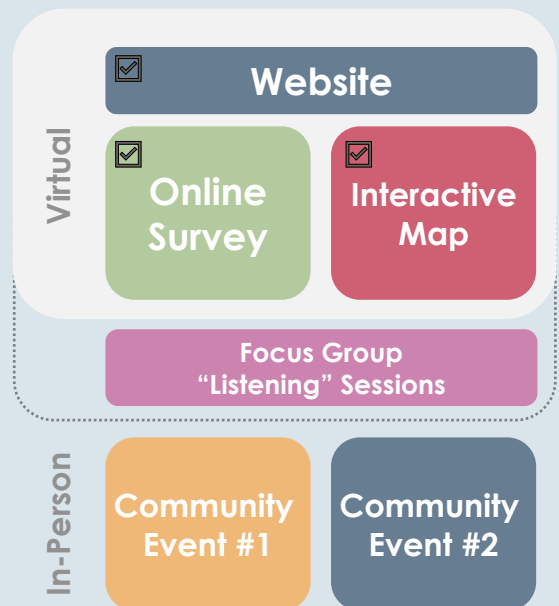
- Broad involvement
- Focused discussion
- Technical decisions



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Tools for Outreach

Requires your help to share, post, promote



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Project Website

Website domain options:

- LumbertonLoop.com
- LoopLumberton.com
- LetsLoopLumberton.com
- CraftTheLoop.com
- HelpLoopLumberton.com
- LumbertonMoves.com
- LumbertonPath.com
- LumbertonFS.com
- LumbertonFeasibility.com
- LumbertonFeasibilityStudy.com
- WalkLumberton.com

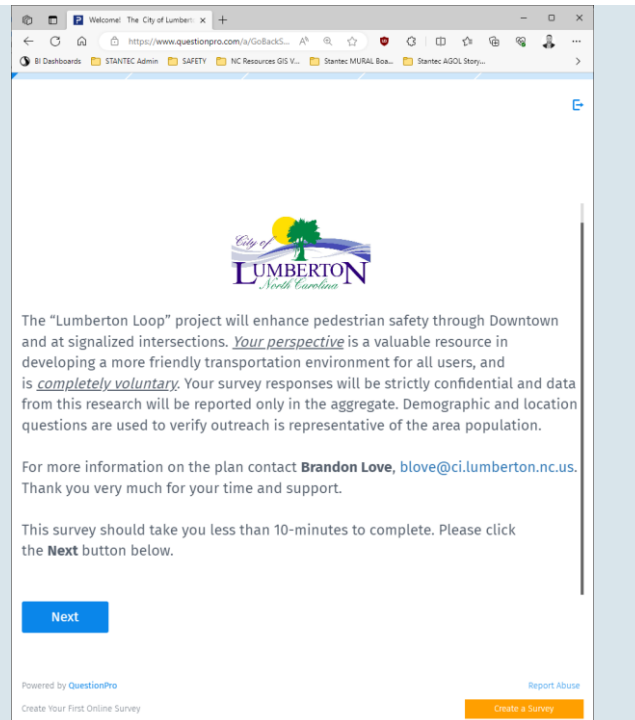
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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Lumberton Sidepath Feasibility Study website. The navigation bar includes links for Home, About, and Outreach & Events. The main heading is "LUMBERTON SIDEPATH FEASIBILITY STUDY". Below this is a welcome message: "Welcome! We're glad you're here!". The section "Why this project?" explains the purpose of the feasibility study and lists the collaborating organizations: the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the project team. A photograph of a road sign for "ROUTE 101" and "East Coast Greenway" is shown. The section "Why do you want feedback?" is partially visible at the bottom, accompanied by a photograph of people at a community meeting.

Online Survey

Launched from website

- 10 questions
- +4 demographic questions
- Intentionally brief



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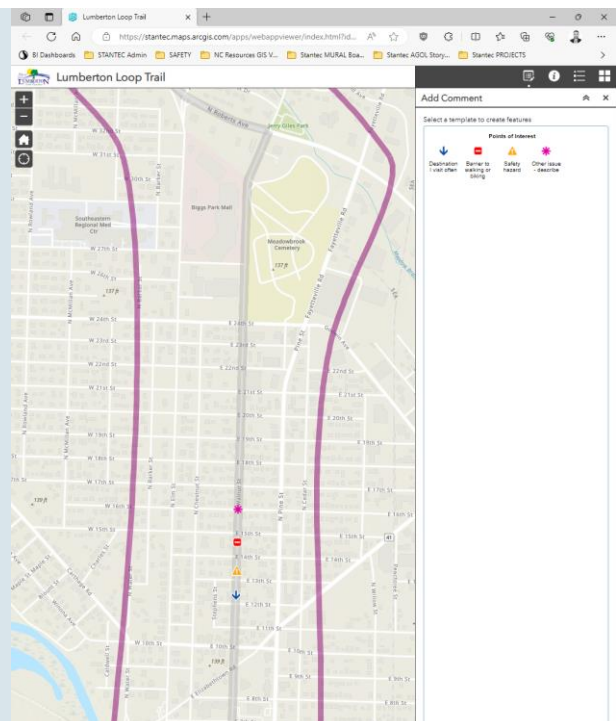
Interactive Map

Community provides **Points of Interest** / Issues to Address:

- Destinations
- Barrier to walking or biking
- Safety hazards
- Other issue(s)

We will also use during Focus Group discussions

Please share with colleagues



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What we *(think we)* know



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Flood Hazards

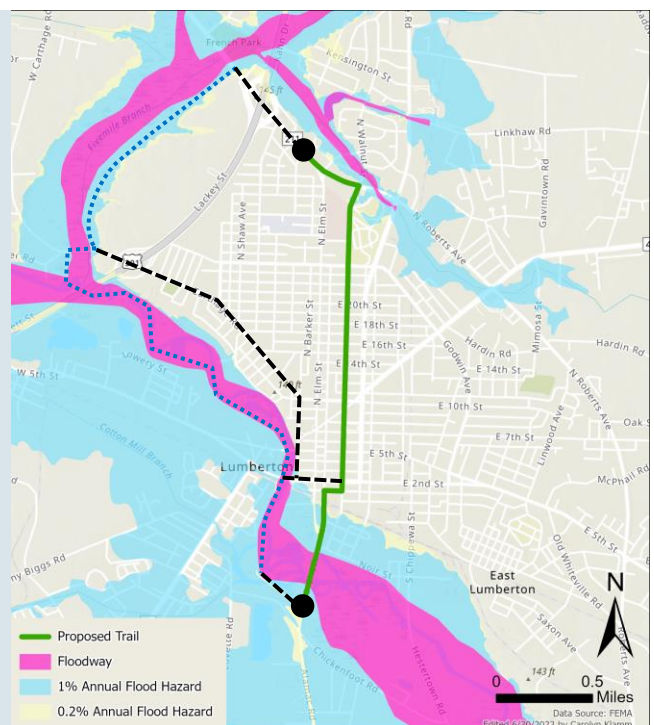
Lumberton, NC

Paddle Trails help 'complete' the Loop

- Five Mile Branch
- Lumber River

Sidepath portion is 2.6 miles long

- ~7 signalized intersections

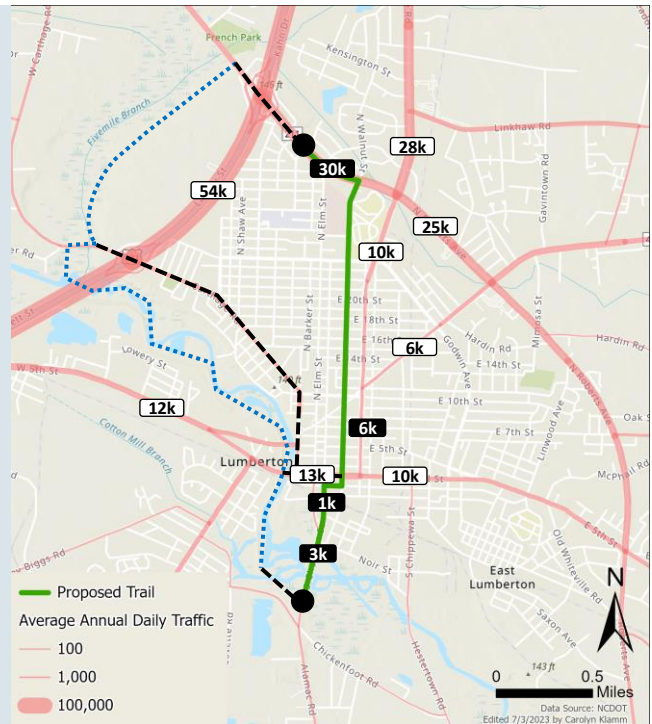


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Average Daily Traffic on NCDOT Roads

Lumberton, NC

- Higher traffic volumes on either end:
 - 30k Roberts Avenue
 - 13k 2nd St / NC 72
- MUCH lower along Walnut St
 - Residential streets
 - Lower volume
 - Perhaps lower speeds



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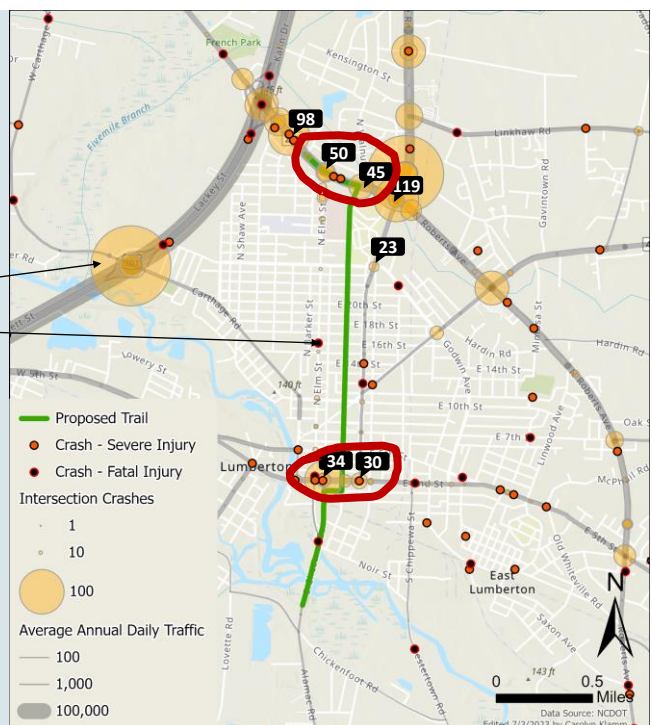
Safety – Crashes

Lumberton, NC

Crashes by intersection (5-year)
Fatal / Severe Injury (10-year)

Safety concerns:

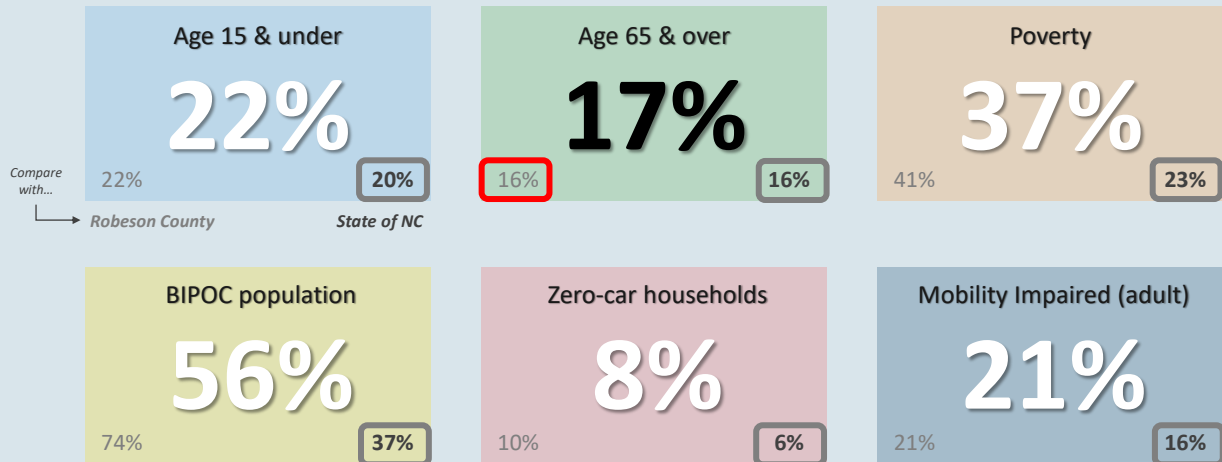
- along Roberts Avenue
- crossing 2nd St / NC 72



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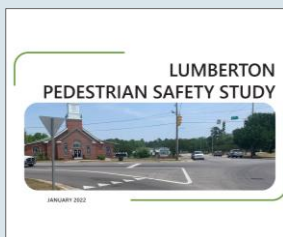
Transportation Disadvantaged

Mobility Needs Remain Unmet for **Lumberton, NC**.



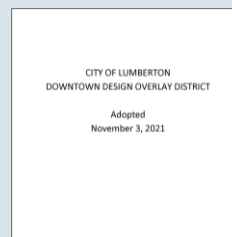
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Plan & Policy Review



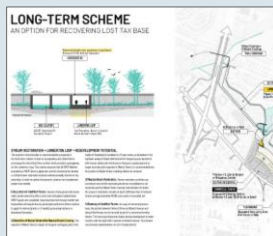
Pedestrian Safety Study (2022)

- Pedestrian crossing improvements (crosswalks & signal heads) at:
- Walnut St & NC 72
 - Walnut St & NC 211 / Roberts Ave
 - Tie this shared-use path to potential Roberts Ave path



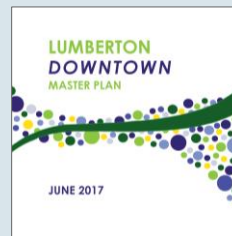
Downtown Design Overlay (2021)

- Sidepath impacts to existing parking / driveways
- Driveway closures on Elm Street / Chestnut Street may impact alternatives development



Floodprint Phase 2 (2020)

- Meadow Branch recommendations (near northern extent):
- Trail / sidewalk connection across Roberts Ave to Jerry Giles Park
 - Long-term solution crosses Robert, follows Meadow Branch stream



Downtown Master Plan (2017)

- Enhanced pedestrian crossings across 2nd St
- Convert Elm / Chestnut St to two-way pattern
- Water St Complete Streets project: crosswalks & trees



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Coordination Items

Background Resources:

- Previous studies?
- Additional datasets?
- What *don't we* know?
- Tell us what we need to look at!

Scheduling next Meeting(s):

- Public Event #1 this fall
- AC#2 (in person) + walk audit

