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SECTION 9 – PLAN IMPLEMENTATION





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Winterville is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. After the Plan has been completed and distributed, a coordinator will be responsible for stimulating, coordinating and managing the implementation of the Plan. Development of a comprehensive pedestrian network is a continuing process and depends on the active involvement of the Town in implementing, monitoring, evaluating and updating the Plan. It is important to realize that this on-going process does not end once the Plan has been written.

The Town's commitment to implementing this Plan and accomplishing the recommended pedestrian projects, program and policies (as outlined in Section 8) will improve Winterville's walkability; therefore, Winterville should strive to complete at least three short-term construction projects per year; in addition to coordinating the design and construction of mid-term and long-term projects. In addition, Winterville should adopt development regulations that require the dedication of land for multi-use trails along identified greenway corridors, even though none of the potential greenway corridors were placed into the phasing plan in Section 8. Winterville should also develop a process to acquire any additional easements and right-of-way necessary along these greenway corridors, so that the multi-use trails can be developed as funds and opportunities become available. It is recommended that if any of the greenway corridors should be constructed first, it should be the Fork Swamp greenway corridor to tie into the City of Greenville's greenway system they are working on.

An annual assessment should be done on the pedestrian system to ensure that it stays up-to-date, based on needs. This should be done in conjunction with planning for the CIP each year and the Pedestrian Plan should be updated at the same time to keep the document fresh by removing completed projects.

The recommended policy/ordinance amendments and pedestrian programs listed in Section 8 are low cost measures, which should be implemented as soon as possible or within the next five years and continued into the future; in addition, Winterville should implement additional programs identified in Section 6 as needed. These policies and programs will ensure a comprehensive pedestrian system; therefore, they should be evaluated annually and new policies and programs should be implemented as needed.

COORDINATOR

The implementation of this Plan involves oversight by a Coordinator, a selected Town staff member, and other local and state of officials whose agencies have been designated as having the responsibility for implementing specific recommendations specified in this Plan. To integrate pedestrian activities into work plans, the Coordinator should contact the local agency responsible for accomplishing the specific work to ensure that the issue is addressed by that agency; this includes ensuring Plan recommendations and potential projects are placed in the MPO thoroughfare plan updates and on the NCDOT STIP.



The Coordinator is encouraged to develop a pedestrian committee to assist in overseeing the implementation of this Plan. The committee should be made up of stakeholders and neighborhood representatives with the interest, knowledge and ability to ensure the proper steps are taken to find funding, change or create public policy, re-rank projects and identify new projects as necessary, ensure implementation of programs, carry out policy changes including developing pedestrian-friendly development guidelines and encourage the community to embrace foot travel. The committee is strongly encouraged to work with other community organizations and agencies to implement the various programs recommended in this Plan.

FUNDING

Winterville should continue to allocate funds by line item in the fiscal budget to ensure completion of pedestrian infrastructure. Winterville should also utilize a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for budgeting pedestrian-related projects, since these projects will usually be funded locally. The CIP will list the specific and general projects that will be funded over a five or ten-year period in the community. The specific projects and their expected costs will be listed for the next year and more general projects and cost estimates will be listed for future years. The CIP will contain a prioritized list of what Winterville wants to accomplish in regards to pedestrian facilities and usually provides a good indication of what the Town is planning to build in the future.

Projects involving NCDOT roads should be recommended by the MPO for placement on NCDOT's TIP, especially sidewalk and pedestrian crossing projects incidental to road construction projects. Sidewalk and pedestrian crossing projects should also be integrated within other Town projects (water or sewer line, park improvements, etc.) to save costs and roadway disturbance. In addition, Winterville should look to combine several small projects into one big one to achieve cost-savings since a bid price is reduced as unit quantities increase.

Other activities may require time that the Coordinator may not have available. The use of student interns from local universities or community colleges should be used to assist with plan implementation.

Finally, Winterville should take an active role in acquiring State, Federal, and private monies available for pedestrian-related facilities. These funds are very competitive thus continuous planning, budgeting and partnerships with local agencies is required to ensure a successful application. Refer to Section 7 for a complete list of funding sources.

Potential Partners for Plan Implementation:

- Pitt County Schools
- Pitt County Recreation Department
- Pitt County Planning Department
- Pitt County Public Health Department
- Pitt Community College
- Pitt County Boys & Girls Club
- Pitt County Memorial Hospital
- City of Greenville
- Urban Greenville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Friends of Greenville Greenways (FROGGS)
- Active Living by Design
- Winterville Planning Department
- Winterville Police Department
- Winterville Recreation Department
- Winterville's NAACP Chapter
- Winterville Tree Board
- Winterville Public Works Department
- Winterville Watermelon Festival Organizers
- Local Realtors
- Local Developers
- Local Business Owners



PARTNERSHIPS

Future coordination among all town departments, local government agencies and private agencies seeking funding to build pedestrian facilities is extremely important. Not only does it keep all parties informed, it also reduces duplicate applications for the same project to funding sources. Nothing speaks louder to state and federal funding sources that there is no communication or cooperative planning than duplicate applications from various parties for the same project. Potential partners for implementation of Winterville Pedestrian Plan are listed in the text box to the right.

MONITORING

Monitoring is an important component of the implementation process. A tracking and reporting system is essential to monitor the progress of the recommendations. To assist with this process, the Coordinator should designate an individual from each agency and/or department (NCDOT, CSX Railroad, Planning, Recreation, etc.) to periodically report on the status of each recommendation. This information, as well as the annual progress report should be shared with appropriate individuals to keep them informed and involved in the process. The Coordinator can also monitor progress through phone calls, visits, and meetings.

Those who have implementation responsibilities can provide the Coordinator with meeting agenda, attendance sheets, correspondence, legislation, minutes of public meetings, telephone records, and grant proposals as the basis for their report to a Coordinator.

ANNUAL REVIEW / PROGRESS REPORT / REVISIONS

Winterville's City Manager shall direct the Coordinator and Pedestrian Committee to take responsibility for conducting an annual review. The annual review shall ensure the Town Council receives an annual report and/or presentation on the progress of Plan implementation. The report will include a status report on the implementation of recommended projects, programs and policies and will recommend, as appropriate, any necessary revisions or amendments to the Plan. For instance, this may include different treatment options for a particular recommended intersection improvement, a change in Federal and State statutes or regulations, identification of additional projects, moving a potential project listed in Section 7 and Appendix B to the recommended project list in Section 8 or a change in pedestrian movement. This process will help ensure that local walkability efforts include the latest and most effective projects.