

# Connectivity

**OBJECTIVE:** We need a better, continuous, more interconnected transportation system that lets people easily and conveniently walk, roll, ride transit, bike, and drive to where they want and need to go within Durham and surrounding communities. Improved street, sidewalk, and bicycle path connectivity will reduce traffic congestion, pollution, and unsafe streets for all Durham residents, particularly those who cannot access a car.

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**BACKGROUND:** Walking and biking paths start and stop abruptly, and do not create connections across Durham. This deters people from walking, biking, or taking transit, and instead leaves people feeling like driving is the only feasible option. Those who do not have options are forced to use unsafe paths with no protection from oncoming traffic or wait a long time for bus transfers to get to where they need to go. Road networks built out by new developments include long blocks and often do not connect to many other roads, leaving limited routes for residents to use, particularly when walking, biking, or taking transit. Traffic is funneled onto existing roads that are already congested, causing overcrowding, unsafe driving behaviors, and pollution.

We want an interwoven community-wide transportation network that creates complete connections and easy links between walking, riding, and driving. We want to improve connectivity of sidewalks, bus routes, roadways, trails, greenways, and bike paths, and create safe connections, especially at crossings or intersections. Creating connections between driving and other modes, like park-and-ride, can provide easy and sustainable ways for people to move between the places they need to go.

## Quotes from Durham Residents

- “Take too long to get anywhere bus early/late/too full. They're building all these buildings but we can't get there.”
- “Get from one end to the other end of Durham easier and with the least amount of trouble. Alternative routes and connectivity.”
- “I have asthma now that I attribute to the pollution and the increase in traffic on my street”
- “More sidewalks. Better street crossings. Curb cuts at corners. More ramps. A plan that addresses lack of pedestrian connections. Up-and-over connections over highways”
- “Strange we only have one central hub - I have to come into downtown to go 8 streets over. Connect outside of downtown. 2 hours Southpoint to downtown to Raleigh? Too long. Libraries as localized transit hubs so they get highest transit level of service and other services”