

Healthy, Safe, and Dignified Transportation

OBJECTIVE: We need to be able to walk, roll, bike, ride transit, and drive throughout Durham safely and with dignity, prioritizing Black and Hispanic/Latino residents, low-wealth residents, youth, single parents, and those who cannot access a car. We need streets that are safe, walkable, and pleasant places to be, not just places to move through.

BACKGROUND: While Durham has funded sidewalks, bus stops, speed bumps, and bike paths in some neighborhoods and in downtown, residents in low-wealth neighborhoods, who rely on walking or use of public transportation, do not see this investment in their neighborhoods. Instead, they often face poorly maintained roads; unpleasant sidewalks that end abruptly and have no shade; busy, loud, and polluting traffic while trying to cross streets; and unmarked and inadequate bus stops with no landing pad, shelter, or bench. Some residents are forced to take long, treacherous walks to reach their destination or take multiple bus transfers to get where they need to go. Likewise, rural areas have few sidewalks or crosswalks, and none are currently required with new development.

We want residents to have healthy, safe, and dignified transportation that eliminates traffic injuries and deaths and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. We want to design right-sized roads, widening roads only where necessary, implementing traffic-calming measures, and improving conditions at intersections and freeway exchanges

Quotes from Durham Residents

“Buses let you off right there in the ditch”

“Bus stops in poorer neighborhoods are not maintained”

“I have to cross a busy intersection to check my mail”

“My neighborhood has sidewalks to nowhere and then we have to walk in the street”

“Would like to see more sidewalks and bike lanes, particularly on busy corridors. The lack of these facilities forces pedestrians and bikes into the street, which is unsafe and can back up traffic.”

“They've got this 'cute' walkable city idea, but no one can walk there. They've created this fake Disneyland.”