

Intentional and Equitable Transportation Investment

OBJECTIVE: We need to intentionally and equitably invest in the freedom of Durham residents to walk, roll, bike, ride transit, or drive. We need safe and connected sidewalks, bicycle paths, roads, and public transit, prioritizing Black and Hispanic/Latino, low-wealth, and rural residents, along with residents who do not primarily depend on cars, like youth and seniors. Residents in these communities need transparency and meaningful opportunities to have a voice at the table for deciding how and where this money is invested, to ensure that the community benefits.

BACKGROUND: Current and past transportation funding has focused primarily on cars and highways while neglecting the needs of residents who rely on walking or taking the bus, or who cannot access or afford a car. Widening roads to create more space for vehicles encourages higher traffic volumes and prioritizes drivers. Investment in road, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure has often prioritized higher-wealth residents, leaving lower-wealth and rural residents with far fewer options to safely and easily move throughout our community. New investments in areas without meaningful community participation could lead to displacement and gentrification.

We want transportation infrastructure to be equitably planned, designed, built, and maintained so that all residents can safely and easily walk, ride, and drive to the resources they need to thrive within Durham and surrounding communities.

Quotes from Durham Residents

“equitable placement of sidewalks/crosswalks in underserved communities”

“Equitable attention to infrastructure and road conditions in all neighborhoods”

“I wouldn't have sidewalks by my house at all if the City wasn't widening the road”

“Government fixes the roads on their own time. Some roads in some neighborhoods don't get fixes.”

“where everyone lives in a stable, walkable area and all people have meaningful and real participation.”