Inspiring choices that lead to a healthy, equitable, and vibrant community for generations to come!

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Overview

- Rationale for project
- Crowd-sourced mapping
- Rider stories
- Walkability audits
- Demo projects
- Advocacy
- Lessons learned
Rationale for project

- 75% of CATS trips are by bus.
- 80% of all-purpose riders walk to stops.
- 400,000 new residents in Charlotte by 2040.
- Record-high 27 pedestrian deaths last year.
- Charlotte Walks pedestrian plan was passed in 2017, but it’s not yet funded.
- Many bus stops lack amenities, quality sidewalk access, and crossings.
67% of County’s housing is within ½ mile of a transit stop.
No sidewalk but worn path shows bus riders walk along here.

- 35.09493, -80.88358
and the sidewalks are probably too narrow and thin, and you're too close to the cars.
Walkability Audits
Lessons Learned: Audits

- Choose time of day and length wisely.
- Engage groups, but keep it open.
- Explain the purpose and value.
- Foster social capital among volunteers.
- Safety first.
- Support independent observation.
- Look for patterns and exceptions.
Document the positive and negative.

Pedestrian refuge islands (left) made participants feel safer. We saw several pedestrians crossing South Blvd at Grover (right, marked by arrows).
Experience builds empathy.

Many students used this bus stop near East Meck High School (left). With 5 lanes of traffic and few marked crosswalks, pedestrians lack choices for crossing busy Monroe Rd (right).
Advocating for Walkability
Lessons Learned: Overall Project

- Define geographic scope and stop criteria early.
- Clarify project goals and expectations with participants (not just during audits).
- Understand who has power to make improvements and how to connect.
- Keep elected officials and agency staff informed. Invite them to participate!
Share the work at key intervals with elected officials and local media!