



MCADAMS

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TCH22007

June 18, 2025

From: Nia Rodgers, RLA, EI; Sr. Project Manager (McAdams)

Presenters: Zachary Hallock (McAdams)

Marcia Purvis (Town of Chapel Hill)

Attendees:

Alexandra Sheaves
Andrew Gavin
Asta Crowe
Brad and Dorothy (Dorothy Hammett)
Carri Polick
Chela
George Entenman
Iris Tillman Hill
janes
Jennifer Stanelle
Kathy Peticolas
Kristina Mesoznik
Luke Powers
Mike V
Moo McMooferson (Jaime Sanchez)
Patrick Mortell
Paul Jones
Renée Bosman
Rosann Farber-Petes
Tom Simon
trans perry
Vici C Cook
Unknown Guest
Unknown Guest

RE: Chapel Hill NC, Morgan Creek Greenway - East Section
Morgan Creek Greenway East Neighborhood Meeting 6/18/2025
Virtual Meeting on Zoom, 6pm

Meeting Minutes

Route Overview and Plan

| Nia gave an overview of the project and showed a map of the route.

- From Merritt's Pasture to 15-501, the route will be a typical greenway or sidepath. From Morgan Creek at 501 towards Manning Drive, the route will be a shared road.
- | Nia explored the more detailed plan, since at the last meeting, people wanted to see the route in more detail. She explains that McAdams proposes abandoning the section of the current path between the bridge and 15501 in Merritt's Pasture and revegetating it with native plants in coordination with the botanical gardens. In place of the old path, there would be a new 14-foot-wide concrete path that takes a slightly different route.
 - Some of the reasons for this include:
 - Avoiding the floodplain and impacts in the stream buffer.
 - Avoiding the need to zig-zag through a patch of trees on the hill.
- | McAdams proposes improving the entrance to Winter Drive with a more standard concrete driveway apron to make it safer for everyone.
- | The embankment towards Morgan Creek Road will need to be cut into with a retaining wall.
- | An Acoustiblok fence is proposed along the property at the corner of Morgan Creek Road and 15-501, and handrails will be required at an existing ditch.
- | A pedestrian protection area is proposed on Morgan Creek Road to the stop sign at Morgan Creek Lane.
 - Option A is on the west side of the street and while not preferred by the Madry family, it avoids trail users having to cross traffic from 15-501
 - Option B is on the East side of the street; users would need to cross traffic entering the neighborhood from 15-501, however the protection area would be wider with this option.
- | Zack explains that although traffic calming, and specifically stop signs, had been looked into for the area around the entrance of Morgan Creek Lane, based on the data the Town collected, it doesn't meet the criteria. However, there is an opportunity for proposed public art, which will consist of painted, colorful traffic circles to indicate the beginning of a shared road.
 - There will also be public art opportunities at Oteys Road and Kings Mill Road.

Component Details

- | Nia emphasizes that accessibility will be prioritized in the Merritt's pasture section. The grades will be around 8% near 15-501, requiring level landings every 30 feet and handrails. Nia shared photos of typical trails with handrails as well as natural planting.
- | Some examples of possible retaining wall finishes were shown, including sculpted shotcrete, form-liner finish, and rusticated concrete. Due to soil conditions along 15-501 and proximity to private property, a block wall is not an option. The maximum height of the wall will be around 13 feet. From the residence side, the wall will not be visible except for a cap and/or fall guard.
 - In some areas of the wall, there will likely be a fall-guard on top, but this is still TBD.
 - The wall is going to be in the NCDOT right-of-way, so it has to meet their requirements.
- | Some examples of sound-attenuating fences were shown for the area of the path near the closest home. Acoustiblok fences are composed of a rubbery foam sandwiched between a wood fence and a cement board fence. On the visible side, there are a number of different finish options.
- | Zack covered the types of pavement markings that will be used on the path. These include regularly spaced bicycle markings with arrows, a potential custom marking for the pedestrian protection area, and public art markings that indicate that bicycles, pedestrians, and cars are sharing the path.
- | There will also be pedestrian warning signs and Town Wayfinding signs placed at key decision points.

Items Removed from Consideration

| Nia went over some items that have been removed from consideration:

- All Way Stops at Oteys Road and Morgan Creek Road have been removed from consideration due to the traffic warrants for speed and volume not being met.
- Oteys Road crossing has been removed from consideration because traffic and NCDOT warrants were not met, and there is not funding.
- A one-way conversion was eliminated due to significant neighborhood traffic concerns.
- The King's Mill Road alternate route was eliminated due to additional project cost and duration, limited room for pedestrian protection areas, and site distance concerns at Coker Drive and Laurel Hill Road.

Feedback Requested

| Which would be preferred for the pedestrian protection area: Typical Town of Chapel Hill shared street markings, or custom public art using artist-designed stencils?

- Marcia will send a survey through the neighborhood president, Renee.

Questions and Answers

| George Entenman asked if stop lines could be added at existing stop signs, and Marcia said she would include that in the survey.

| Rosann Farber-Petes asked about the possibility of adding safety features to the section of the path that goes by the entrance ramp to the highway. At this time, there is no funding for that, although Marcia stressed she is always applying for more grant funding.

| A number of questions were addressed from the chat including future NCDOT plans for 15-501, the possibility for adding signage with rules for cyclists, construction start for the project, and questions about both vehicular traffic and increased bike-ped traffic.

Next Steps

Nia reviewed the next steps for design which included:

- | Drainage design
- | Wall design
- | Signage plan
- | Preliminary NCDOT coordination