



CHARLOTTESM



Charlotte WALKS:

Chapter 19 Amendments

City Council | November 13, 2017

Charlotte WALKS



- **Charlotte's first Pedestrian Plan**
- **Adopted by City Council on February 27, 2017**
- **Public Outreach** – *over 1,000 residents at 30 different public input events*

Top 2 public comments

- *No back-of-curb sidewalks*
- *Fewer sidewalk gaps*

Especially on thoroughfares



Tonight's Public Hearing

2 Text Amendments

1. *Back-of-curb sidewalk on thoroughfares*
2. *Eliminate an issue that creates sidewalk gaps*

Summary of Public Outreach

Walking is an exercise people can do instead of using cars.

Explore more!!

I love walking with my mom and Dad ♡

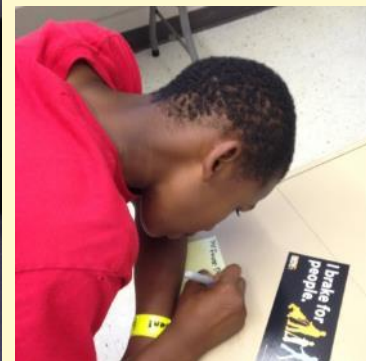
you have fun while you do it

I like walking because you can meet more people

I like to walk with my family

EXERCISE!

Going to the pool + my Dance studio ♡ ♡



Summary of Public Outreach

What does walkability mean to Charlotteans?



Summary of Public Outreach

What does walkability mean to Charlotteans?



Sidewalk Gaps



Back-of-Curb
Sidewalk

... not this

...or this



Charlotte WALKS

Pedestrian Plan



- Charlotte WALKS identified 13 potential code amendments
- Only 2 are recommended for immediate action. Remainder to be considered in the UDO
- Commitment to bring amendments to Council by the end of the year

Top 2 public comments

- *No back-of-curb sidewalks*
- *Fewer sidewalk gaps*

Especially on thoroughfares



Back-of-Curb Sidewalks

Charlotte Code of Ordinances

- Except for certain zoning categories (PED, UMUDD, TOD, etc.) the **Code is silent on reconstructing substandard sidewalk** to meet current standards **in by-right development.**

Even completely re-graded sites with new sidewalk construction don't require that the new sidewalk be set behind a planting strip.

We're missing opportunities.

2012



Midtown Redevelopment – **Kings Dr.**

We're missing opportunities.



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Strip Retail & Gas Station – **North Tryon St. & Lambeth Dr.**

We're missing opportunities.



Walmart – Harris Blvd.



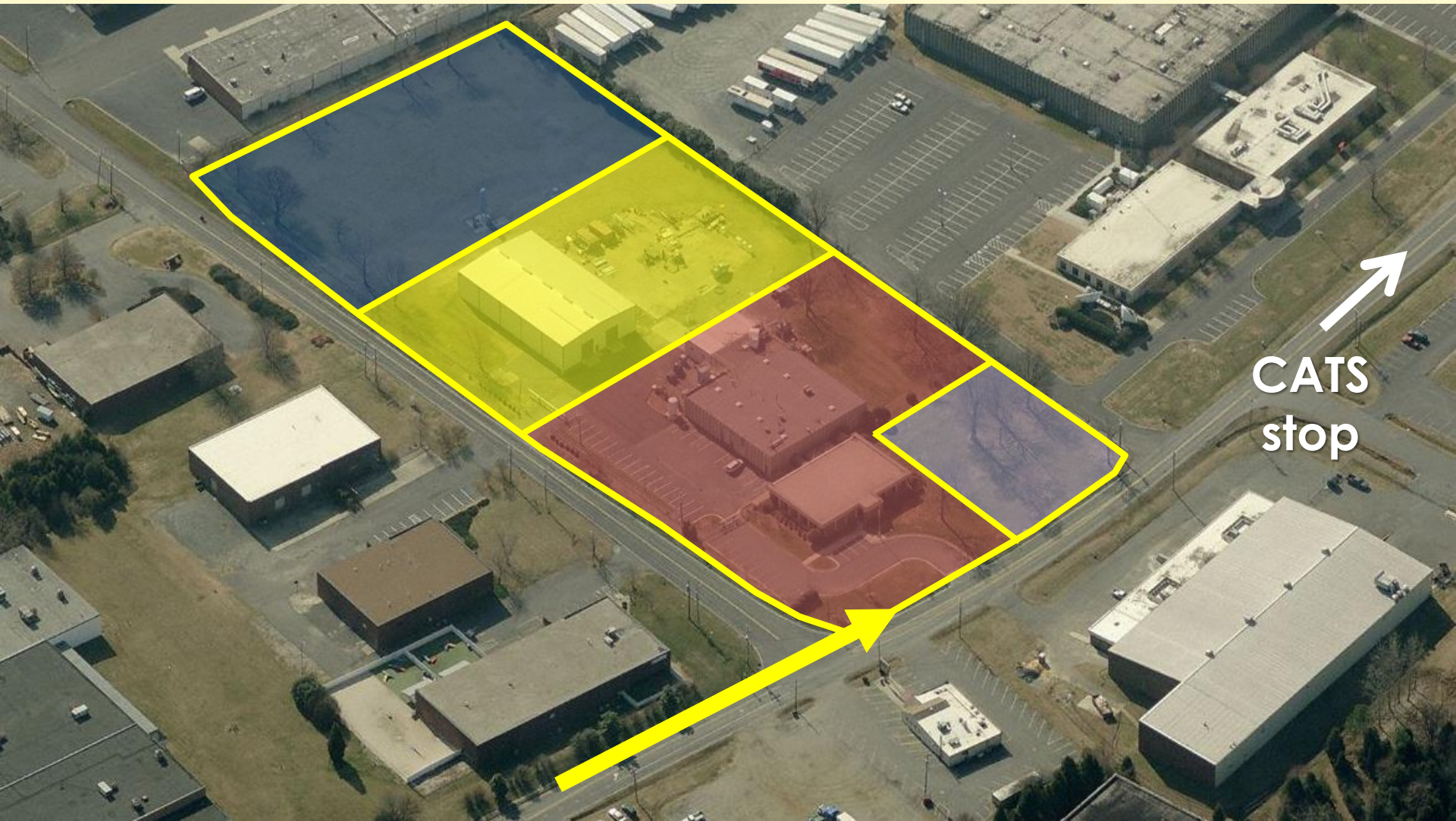
Sidewalk Gaps

Charlotte Code of Ordinances Section 19-173.b

- When the proposed new developed area will be **less than 50 percent** of the total area of the property under single ownership, **sidewalks and drainage facilities may not be required.**

Incremental phasing can lead to total site build-out without any sidewalk construction.

Nations Ford Rd. and Downs Rd.



Nations Ford Rd. and Downs Rd.



- *June 8, 2016*
DSTAC
- *October 12, 2016*
DSTAC
- *August 9, 2017*
DSTAC
- *October 11, 2017*
DSTAC
- *October 19, 2017*
UDO Advisory Committee

Aren't these issues already addressed elsewhere? Maybe through the subdivision ordinance?

- No, they're not. These CH19 issues are not addressed via CH20.

Incorporate some common sense triggers

Think about degree of nonconformity

- "I shouldn't have to rebuild my sidewalk just because my planting strip is 1 foot off standard."

Think about scale of development

- "I shouldn't have to rebuild my sidewalk to upfit my kitchen."

We agree



Proposed Triggers – Back-of-Curb Sidewalk

- **Location**
 - *Thoroughfares only*
- **Degree of Nonconformity**
 - *“Substandard sidewalk”*
 - = any sidewalk less than 4 feet wide, or
 - = any planting strip less than 4 feet wide
- **Scale of Development**
 - *New construction of principal building*
 - *Expansion of principal building by 25% or 2,500 ft², whichever is greater*
 - *Expansion of parking area by 2,500 ft² or more*
- **Removal of Existing Substandard Sidewalk**
 - *More than 30 feet = replace that portion of sidewalk*
 - *More than 50% of frontage width = replace sidewalk along that entire frontage*

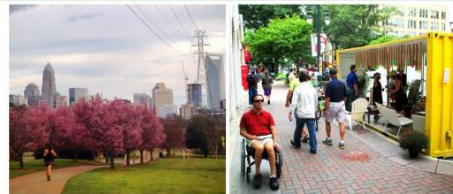
Proposed Changes – 50% Rule

- **Measured by “Built Upon Area”**
 - *Easier to track than “developed area”*
 - *Consistent with administration elsewhere in City Code*
- **Phasing Exemption**
 - *Set at 25% of built upon area*
 - *Language added to clarify that the 25% exemption is cumulative – i.e. cannot avoid sidewalks via multiple phases*


Feb. 2015 to Nov. 2017	Development of Charlotte WALKS Pedestrian Plan
Feb. 27, 2017	City Council unanimously adopts Charlotte WALKS
Feb. 2017 to Nov. 2017	Refining proposed text amendments
Nov. 13, 2017	City Council hears public comments on proposed text amendments
Nov. 27, 2017	City Council Action

**Charlotte
WALKS**
Pedestrian Plan

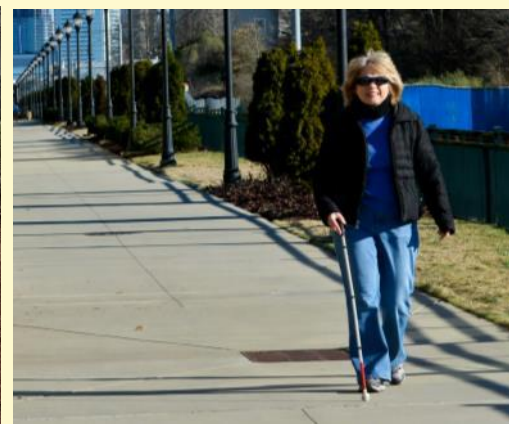


City of Charlotte
Department of Transportation





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