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INFORMATION:

Brookside Drive – Neighborhood Inquiries Regarding Parking and Bike Infrastructure

Staff Resource: Barbara Godwin, Transportation, 996-2504, barbara.godwin@raleighnc.gov

Charles Howard, Transportation, 996-4047, charles.howard@raleighnc.gov

As Council is aware and as several Council members have inquired, there have been numerous emails from residents regarding parking and bike infrastructure along Brookside Drive near Conn Elementary School. Parking staff had originally planned to bring an agenda item to the November 7 Council regarding on-street parking requested by residents along Brookside Drive; a staff mailing to property owners appears to have prompted the emails Council has received. Due to the recent public feedback, Transportation staff will delay requesting Council action, and continue to engage with the community with an expected agenda item being brought forward during the 1st Quarter of 2024. Parking staff will send an updated letter to the residents early next week notifying them of the changes and our continued efforts to engage with the community. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum containing additional information.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

General Follow Up

Election Survey

Staff Resource: Tiesha Hinton, Office of Community Engagement, 996-2707, tiesha.hinton@raleighnc.gov

During the June 20 meeting, Council authorized the Office of Community Engagement to proceed with selecting a third-party pollster to conduct a randomized and statistically valid survey on a variety of election-related topics, specific to the City. The selected firm, ETC Institute, has completed the survey design, sampling plan, and administered the survey to random City households. ETC plans to obtain 1,000 survey responses which will include the demographic data of respondents compared to the city overall. A formal report is anticipated to be presented to Council in January.

(No attachments)

Follow up from the September 19 Council Meeting

Resident Access During Special Events (Mayor Baldwin)

Staff Resource: Whitney Schoenfeld, Office of Special Events, 996-2204, whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov

Following public comment from a Sir Walter Apartments resident who has experienced challenges accessing transportation during downtown special events, staff was asked to provide information on maintaining resident access during event-related road closures.

Hundreds of special events occur annually within downtown, with some necessitating road closures for event programming and attendee safety. In 2023, 15 of those events have or will result in the closure of both Davie Street and Fayetteville Street adjacent to the Sir Walter Apartments. The closure of Davie Street next to the building is necessary any time an event closes the blocks of Fayetteville Street immediately to the north and south of Davie Street. Closing Davie Street prevents vehicles from being forced to make a U-turn, or from driving into the event footprint. However, emergency access is always maintained for the Sir Walter, with City of Raleigh Transportation staff on-site throughout each event to move barricades for emergency vehicles.

To ease some of the challenges that community members face during special events, event organizers are required to adhere to the Special Events Office's [Public Notification Requirements](#). These requirements

ensure that residents, schools, places of worship, and businesses are provided advanced notification ahead of an event-related road closure, so they can plan accordingly for access and travel on the day of the event. In multi-occupancy buildings, notifications are provided to management or front desk staff, who are then tasked with disseminating that information to residents.

That said, Special Events staff regularly accommodate community members who are faced with extenuating travel-related challenges because of events and have come up with several ways to improve access for Sir Walter residents. Special Events staff met with property managers for the Sir Walter and confirmed that residents do receive notifications for permitted special events. To provide an extra layer of notification, staff shared resources for property managers to circulate with residents, including the [Special Events Calendar](#) and [Weekly Events Digest](#), as well as the [Event Feedback Form](#) so residents can provide direct commentary on impacts from events. Additionally, for those dates when the roads next to the building are closed, staff will now encumber designated drop-off/pick-up parking on S. Salisbury Street behind the Sir Walter.

The Special Events Office strives to maintain a balance between facilitating culturally rich festivals and celebrations downtown, and being mindful of those who live and work there. Staff will continue to seek opportunities to improve communication and come up with creative solutions that allow both visitors and residents to thrive.

(No attachments)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Paul Kallam, Director of Transportation
From	Barbara Godwin, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
Department	Transportation
Date	October 27, 2023
Subject	Brookside Drive – Neighborhood Inquiries Regarding Parking & Bike Infrastructure

Brookside Drive - March 2023 Inquiry and Staff Evaluation

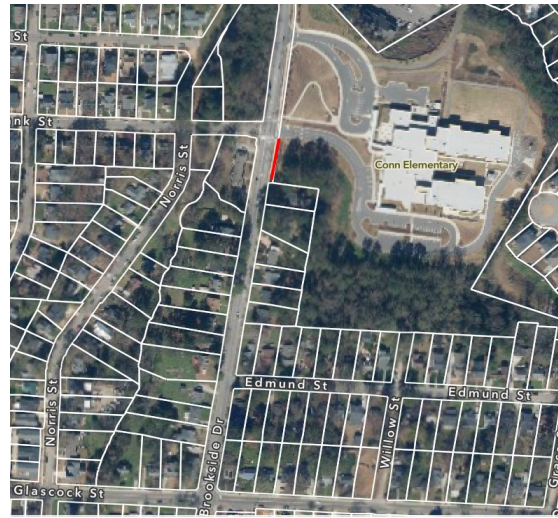
In March 2023, Transportation staff received an inquiry from concerned citizens to evaluate the existing travel lane and parking configuration along Brookside Drive, between Frank and Glascock Streets. The concerns revolved around how existing conditions allowed aggressive drivers to pass slower motorists in the current elongated dedicated right turn lane into Conn Elementary School.

Before Conn Elementary was rebuilt in 2020, the carpool lane configuration placed cars queuing on Brookside Drive due to limited vehicle stacking capacity on school property. A right turn only lane was striped on Brookside Drive turning into Conn Elementary to better accommodate carpool queuing for the school.

Staff conducted a review of the Brookside Drive conditions and determined the Conn Elementary reconstruction, completed in 2020, had changed the utilization of the roadway capacity needs. Conn Elementary’s new site layout expanded internal carpool queuing capacity, shortening the right-turn lane storage demand into the school entrance. Fewer stacked vehicles along Brookside resulted in an open travel lane for aggressive, unsafe driver behavior. The red line in the images below shows queuing before and after Conn Elementary was rebuilt.



Original Conn Elementary Queuing



Current Conn Elementary Queuing

Partial removal of the right turn only lane leaves approximately 700 feet of unutilized pavement on this section of Brookside. Feedback from adjacent neighbors also expressed concerns about the availability of on-street parking.



Existing Brookside Drive

Staff's review determined that if the existing center line was shifted eastward along this section of Brookside that full time parking could also be added along the west side.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) Review – June 2023

After hearing from several residents in the Brookside Drive neighborhood, the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) requested information on how the neighborhood concerns can be addressed.

Transportation staff presented updates at the June BPAC meeting that highlighted existing conditions, including the 85th percentile speeds of 34-36 mph in a 30-mph zone. The 30-mph zone is the result of a neighborhood-initiated speed limit reduction in 2020. Additionally, staff reported that one (1) speed related crash has been documented in the past 3 years and approximately 6,500 vehicles travel through Brookside Drive daily. Based on the conditions identified, Brookside Drive is not eligible for traffic calming through the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP).

Staff additionally highlighted efforts that could be pursued to address safety and parking concerns from the neighborhood. These included reworking current temporary on-street parking regulations to allow for full time on-street parking, shifting on-street parking directly in front of the new multi-family development, right-sizing the right turn lanes, and creating friction with the travel lane shift and lane reduction to further encourage speed compliant behaviors.

Several BPAC Commissioners expressed interest in having this section of roadway converted to bike lanes rather than parking. Transportation staff advised that Brookside Drive was identified in the 2016 Bicycle Plan to receive bike infrastructure in the long term, but it is not identified as a priority project in the 2016 ten-year priority plan. Also based on the existing pavement condition for Brookside Drive, it is not scheduled to be resurfaced until 5+ years.

The Brookside Drive item was referred to the BPAC Planning Committee for further review.

BPAC Planning Committee Review: July - August 2023:

In July, BPAC members coordinated a site visit with representation from the commission, transportation staff, and residents of the neighborhood to better understand the neighborhood's concerns. At this meeting, staff reviewed the proposal from the June 2023 BPAC meeting and heard concerns from residents regarding their desire for prioritizing bike infrastructure, parking, and safety improvements. Transportation staff shared the difficulties and street constraints that limit the ability to include safe and effective bike infrastructure and parking along the corridor.

In August, the BPAC Planning Committee reviewed staff's proposal from the June 2023 meeting. Staff conducted sightline and level of service analyses that informed the following proposed changes:

- Recentering the double-yellow line to allow parking on both sides of the street, partially within the existing right-turn only lane into Conn

Elementary. This change shortens the right-turn only lane and discourages drivers to use the right-turn only lane as a passing lane heading north.

- Removal of right-turn lane on Brookside Drive to Glascock Street. This will simplify the number of vehicles approaching the intersection.

The BPAC Planning Committee requested that staff evaluate opportunities to include dedicated bike infrastructure on this corridor as opposed to additional parking.

BPAC Recommendation

At the September BPAC meeting, this item was reported out of Planning Committee to the full Commission. BPAC was supportive of safety improvements to address the neighborhood concerns in the short term, but expressed concerns over adding parking to a corridor that is identified for bike infrastructure in the long term bike plan.

Parking Division Engagement October 2023

All property owners on the Brookside Drive corridor were notified of the proposed parking changes and safety initiatives in October and provided two weeks to respond with any concerns. Several responses were received from residents located outside of the notified area, but adjacent to the corridor, that requested staff to continue evaluating for bike infrastructure as opposed to only adding parking to the corridor and pursuing the proposed safety initiatives. Staff received feedback from one stakeholder within the notification area that supports the proposed parking changes and safety initiatives.

BPAC Policy Review

During discussion around Brookside Drive and engagement with the neighborhood, BPAC additionally identified the need for policy that supports the bicycle and pedestrian program's ability to intake requests from residents and rank those requests against priority projects that are a part of the adopted workplan. BPAC identified this topic as a policy challenge with the current bike plan and is working with Transportation staff to review this item in the BPAC Outreach and Engagement Committee. Potential recommendations to address this policy need could also be addressed during development of the 2024 bike plan update.

Current Bike Plan Implementation Policy and Considerations

The ten-year priority plan recommends implementation of selected greenways, side paths, separated bikeways, conventional bike lanes, and neighborhood bikeways. These projects were selected using criteria such as park and greenway access, population served, need and equity, access to destinations,

crash data, and existing service levels. Staff prioritizes Bicycle Program resources for this list of priority projects, which can be found in the link below.

[Prioritization and Ten-Year Plan](#)

This list of ten-year priority projects is managed and delivered through a variety of ways, including City of Raleigh and NCDOT annual resurfacing programs, private development coordination, standalone bike projects through Raleigh's Capital Improvement Program, and in coordination with other City led projects and initiatives.

Bike Plan Update 2024

The BikeRaleigh Plan's current priority plan was adopted with an anticipated completion year of 2026. In preparation for completing implementation of the ten-year priority plan, the City of Raleigh's FY2021- FY2025 Strategic Plan includes an initiative to update the BikeRaleigh Plan with a focus on equitable outcomes and bike lane implementation focused on linking strategic connections.

In July 2023, the City of Raleigh was notified of award for a bicycle plan update from NCDOT's Multimodal Planning Grant Program. Pending approval of the Municipal Agreement between the City and NCDOT, the BikeRaleigh Plan update will kick off in Winter 2024. The bike plan update will provide an opportunity for community engagement on development of a priority scoring matrix and how projects are selected as part of the next priority list.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, October 27 – Thursday, November 2

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[Day of the Dead 5K](#)

Historic Oakwood Cemetery & Wilmington Street

Saturday, October 28

Event Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Associated Road Closures: Wilmington Street between E. Hargett Street and E. Morgan Street will be closed from 8:00am until 1:00pm. Roads will be closed from 10:00am until 11:30am for the race. Note that all cross-streets one block in each direction will be detoured, and [view the 5K route](#) for more details.

[Raleigh DIY Punk Rock Flea Market](#)

Rebus Works & Kinsey Street

Saturday, October 28 & Sunday, October 29

Event Times: 12:00pm - 7:00pm on 10-28-23 & 10:00am - 3:00pm on 10-29-23

Associated Road Closures: Kinsey Street between Dupont Circle and Rebus Works property will be closed from 10:00am until 8:00pm on 10-28-23, and from 8:00am until 4:00pm on 10-29-23.

[Fall Fest](#)

Wilmington Street

Saturday, October 28

Event Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Associated Road Closures: S. Wilmington Street between Bledsoe Avenue and E. Lee Street will be closed from 2:00pm until 7:30pm.

[Halloween Double Feature](#)

Dorothea Dix Park, Flowers Field

Saturday, October 28

Event Time: 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Dawkins Drive will be closed, and Flowers Field will be used from 12:00pm until 11:59pm.

[Day of the Dead with Revista Latina](#)

City Plaza

Sunday, October 29

Event Time: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 8:00am until 8:00pm. Note that the 500 block of Fayetteville Street will remain open for local traffic.

[Raleigh Night Market](#)

City Market

Wednesday, November 1

Event Time: 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Parham Street between Martin Street and Wolfe Street, and Wolfe Street between Blount Street and Blake Street will be closed from 3:00pm until 10:00pm.

[Pickleball in the Plaza](#)

City Plaza

Through Thursday, November 30

Event Times: 9:00am - 9:00pm daily

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. The off-street, westside portion of City Plaza behind Shish Kabob will be used until 5:00pm on 11-30-23.

Other Upcoming Events

[Transportation and Treats](#)

Friday, October 27

John Chavis Community Center

[Dark Raleigh Walking Tours](#)

Friday, October 27

City of Raleigh Museum

[San Jose Sharks vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Friday, October 27

PNC Arena

[Celebrate Fall with Raleigh Parks](#)

Friday, October 27 – Sunday, October 29

Various Parks Citywide

[La Traviata – NC Opera](#)

Friday, October 27 & Sunday, October 29

Memorial Auditorium

[Día de Oakwood](#)

Friday, October 27 – Thursday, November 2

Historic Oakwood Cemetery

[Unused and Expired Medicine Drop-Off Event](#)

Saturday, October 28

Various Locations

[Artist Reception: Reframed: Resonance of Retrospect Exhibition](#)

Saturday, October 28

Pullen Arts Center

[Halloween Spooktacular – NC Symphony](#)

Saturday, October 28

Meymandi Concert Hall

[Frankenstein – Carolina Ballet](#)

Saturday, October 28 & Sunday, October 29

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Moore Square Market](#)

Sunday, October 29

Moore Square

[Mount Olive vs. NC State](#)

Wednesday, November 1

PNC Arena

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, October 27 – Thursday, November 2

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

[Design-2-Part Show](#)

Wednesday, November 1 & Thursday, November 2
Raleigh Convention Center

Public Resources

[Pilot Text Alert Program](#): Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.