

# The Process

---

## II•The Process

The Davidson Circulation Plan and this Connectivity and Traffic Calming Strategy is the culmination of a two year public process of a citizen task force recommendations, preliminary analysis, stakeholder meetings, and a three-day public design charrette.

### Circulation Task Force

Davidson's Circulation Stakeholders Task Force was appointed by Mayor Kincaid and the Town Commissioners in March 2002 in an effort to address future congestion on the Town's main arteries and at its critical intersections.

*"The Goal of the group was to develop a pedestrian oriented circulation plan consisting of streets, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities that provide adequate mobility within current and future development. By minimizing dependence on the private automobile and dispersing traffic throughout a network of streets, this transportation plan could replace the existing Charlotte- Mecklenburg Thoroughfare Plan."*

### Connectivity and Traffic Calming Plan

The Circulation Stakeholders recognized that each connection design is critical to achieving this goal and ensuring that the potential negative effects of each connection should be mitigated. As a result the Town hired the Consultant firm of Glatting Jackson to refine and advance the Draft Circulation Plan with this Connectivity and Traffic Calming Plan to ensure each new connection is done so with sensitivity to those who live and conduct business along these new connections and prioritize based on the impact of each new connection.

### Stakeholder Interviews

During initial phases of the Connectivity and Traffic Calming Plan a number of meetings were held in May of 2003 with elected officials, property owners, and residents in the study area. These meetings were one-on-one sessions intended to identify the issues, concerns and related to the Draft Circulation Plan and identify expectations of residents, members of the business community, and property owners from throughout the Town.

One purpose of these meetings was to establish the viewpoints of the various stakeholders regarding potentially contentious issues related to specific street connections and desired traffic calming measures. This allowed their interests to be balanced as part of the planning process. These meetings provided a comprehensive picture of current issues and future development concerns. The following categorizes the major issues that surfaced during the stakeholder interview process.

#### **What's Good**

Downtown  
Davidson College  
Neighborhoods  
Main Street  
Two-lane Streets  
Town Scale and Character

#### **What's Bad**

Pedestrian Safety / Comfort (Not pedestrian-friendly)  
Bicycling Environment (Unfriendly for cyclists)  
Traffic Conditions on:  
Pine (Between Avinger and Concord)  
South Street  
Walnut  
Concord  
North Main Street  
Griffith Street  
New connections will damage existing neighborhoods  
Access to Concord Road and Main Street  
Traffic speeds (too fast)  
Poor lighting  
School access and staging

#### **What Should Be Done**

Lower speed limits  
More sidewalks and bicycle facilities  
Longer crosswalk timing for signal intervals  
More crosswalks  
Attractive road that will help businesses  
Maintain "Davidson character"  
Traffic Calming  
Update the Town's Adequate Facilities Ordinance  
Protect existing neighborhoods

### The Design Charrette

A design charrette is a hands-on, public design workshop where participants provide input regarding areas of concerns in the community.

During the project's charrette, designers produced sketches of design alternatives that respond directly to input received by the public. The end result is a preliminary plan that represents the collective vision for the community. With the completion of data collection, preliminary analysis, and stakeholder interviews, a design charrette was held over a 3-day period involving over 100 participants. The 3-day charrette was held in the study corridor in September of 2003 in the Town Hall.

The presentation on the first day of the charrette began with a brief overview of the Draft Circulation Plan, team's initial findings, regional traffic conditions and the principles of livable traffic and traffic calming. The public was asked and encouraged to visit the design studio and offer ideas to the team. During the 3-day process the design team worked one-on-one with over 60 local business owners, neighbors, property owners, and Town staff.

The product of this intensive process was a preliminary connectivity and traffic calming plan that was displayed on the evening of the final day in a public presentation at Town Hall. Following the charrette, the team made additional refinements to the plan based on public comment and review.

This report illustrates the completed Traffic Calming Plan with the purpose of establishing a framework for implementing the adopted Circulation Plan both locally and at the regional level with the MUMPO.