

Mike's 5-year Plan

to improve the bike/ped experience

I believe in simplicity.

We don't have to re-invent the wheel (or the Town of Carolina Beach.) The answers, the strategies, the projects... they're already here. We just have to implement. I'm referring to these:

2017-22 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan

2020 CAMA Land Use Plan

2011 Bicycle Multi-Use Transportation Plan

2018 Pedestrian Plan

These plans basically consist of 2 things:

- 1) A description of the town we want to have. (Determined from surveys, focus groups and interviews.)
- 2) A list of projects that (individually or as a whole) will help us be that type of town.

What the plans don't have are implementation priorities. That's up to us. My 5-Year Plan is quite simply a list of projects that we should complete. Some are small, some are large. But all will help us to be the town we want to be.

I propose to see that the large projects are included in the 4 budgets that I'll help create. (2022/23 - 2025/26) The small projects can be done without specifically being included in a budget. I will beg, bug and pester staff to get them done. I'll recruit volunteers. I'll raise money. I'll do them the old-fashioned way... my damn self! (If I have to.)

So without further ado, I present my plan... in 2 parts:

- 1) Small projects to do ASAP
- 2) Larger projects to be included in my 4 budgets

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Small projects to be done ASAP (Year 1)

- 1) Alabama beach access
- 2) South Lake Park bike lanes
- 3) Tennessee sidewalk
- 4) Phase II of Bicycle Boulevards
- 5) CB Lake to South Lake Park connection
- 6) Atlanta Avenue crosswalk
- 7) Hamlet beach access bike & golf cart parking

Projects to be included in Annual Budgets (Years 2-5)

2022/23

- Multi-use path on St. Josephs Street and Lewis Drive
- Maximize bike and golf cart parking on CB Avenue North
- Crosswalk with flashers at Spartanburg Ave
- Stoplight and safe crossing at Hamlet

2023/24

- Bike Lanes on Lake Park South
- Traffic calming at Spencer Farlow
- Complete 7th Street sidewalks
- Traffic calming around CB Elementary

2024/25

- Refuge island at Dow Road crossing
- Multi-use path on Harper Ave from State Park Trail to 8th St

2025/26

- Stop light and safe crossing at Winner Ave
- Multi-use path on Lake Park from Carolina Sands to Tennessee Ave
- Extend Tennessee Ave sidewalk

Short Term, Low Cost Projects

Alabama Avenue Beach Access

As pedestrians cross Lake Park to the parking lot/bathroom/shower the crosswalk dumps them on to a mulched area, through some bushes, over a curb and right into a parking spot. People are walking (or rolling in wheelchairs) into the intersection just to get to the crosswalk.

Improvement: Add a sidewalk, cut the curb, add a bike rack and change 2 car spots into 4 golf cart spots. Move the handicap spot to the oceanside parking lot . In conjunction with the existing handicap spot, it can become a van accessible spot.



Facing west



Facing east

South Lake Park Bike Lanes

The bike lanes have become overgrown and in many places they're 1/2 of their original size. This causes a hazard when bikes veer into the drive lane to avoid the sand. (I've witnessed this myself many times!)

Improvement: It's not complicated. We must clear the bike lanes and keep them clean.



Kure Beach

Carolina Beach

Tennessee Avenue Sidewalk

People crossing at Tennessee are often walking on Lake Park because they think they're trespassing if they cross the grass. It's confusing. We need to keep the pedestrians out of the intersection.

Improvement: This corridor serves a large population of Wilmington Beach and it needs improving. Adding a sidewalk on the first block of Tennessee is a good and economical start.



Facing west—current



Facing west - after



Plan view

Lake Connection to South Lake Park

This connection is awkward and dangerous. There is a vertical curb where the sidewalk connects to South Lake Park and no sidewalk if you're heading south from the lake.

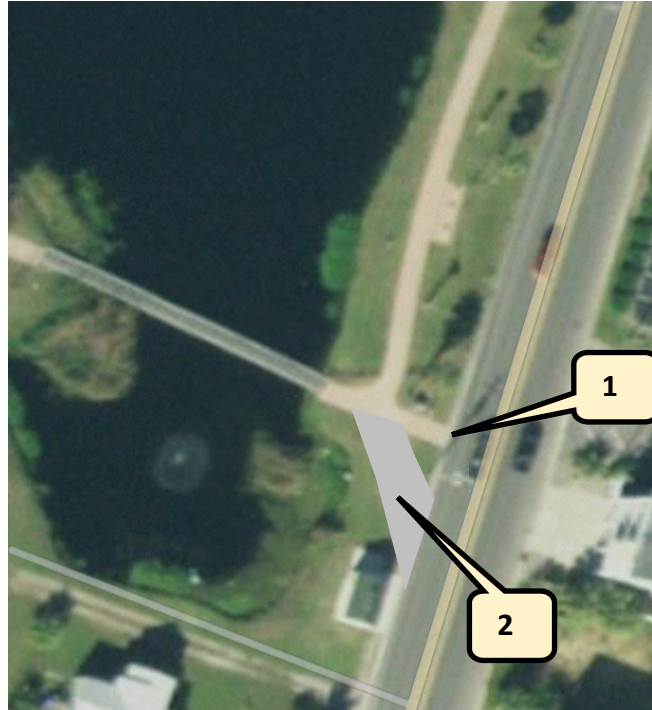
Improvement:

1. Cut curb and add ramp for bike access from northbound Lake Park Blvd.
2. Extend sidewalk and add ramp for merging bike access to southbound Lake Park Blvd.

Before



After



Atlanta Avenue Crosswalk

As bikes and pedestrians cross Lake Park to the east, the curb cut and ramp don't match up with the crosswalk.

Improvement: Fix it, make it look like the west side. (A pedestrian refuge island is a long-term improvement as well, but one thing at a time.)



Facing west



Facing east

Hamlet Beach Access

The bath house / parking lot is being rebuilt, so now is the time to make some important changes.

Improvement:

1. Add golf cart parking. 1 car spot = 2 golf cart spots
2. Add bike racks at the beach access
3. Pursue a bike/ped access through the Marriott parking lot. There are 2 potential places.

