



Mooresville-Charlotte Trail

A 30 Mile Bicycle & Pedestrian Corridor

An opportunity exists to create a 30-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail that would connect Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville and northern Charlotte. The Mooresville-Charlotte Trail would stitch together the existing and planned greenways and bicycle routes already adopted by these communities and private stakeholder. It would also provide an additional transportation and recreation choice to every child, adult and senior alike. The proposed Mooresville-Charlotte Trail is located in areas that currently direct bicycle riders onto high volume, high speed roads that do not feel safe or comfortable to most cyclists. The Mooresville-Charlotte Trail would address this deficiency by providing a high-quality transportation and recreation facility that would connect schools, employers, downtowns, and other important destinations in the area, including transit stations for the proposed Red Line Rail.

The possibility of achieving a 30-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail, mostly separated from any roadway, captured the attention and commitment of a visionary group of regional planning organizations, citizens and staff; this Mooresville-Charlotte Trail Initiative Group has worked to shape the nature and scope of this effort and to prepare an initial feasibility report. A planning grant from the Charlotte Area Transportation Planning Organization (formerly MUMPO) has enabled further planning and Community Workshops which will allow the jurisdictions to consider incorporating the Mooresville-Charlotte Trail into their respective pedestrian and bicycle master plans. The trail will likely be built in sections over years, with both public and private funding.

Goals & Objectives

- Provide a north-south connection for bicyclists and pedestrians across seven jurisdictions.
- Provide roughly 30 additional miles of trail to an impressively expanding trail system that will likely become part of the Carolina Thread Trail and Lake Norman Bike Trail.
- Allow bicycle and pedestrian users an off-roadway alternative to high-volume and high-speed Hwy 115 and other roads.
- Provide connectivity for schools, greenways, parks, residential developments, businesses, and commercial centers.
- Encourage regional economic investment and development by improving community quality-of-life attractiveness.
- Plan collaboratively with Norfolk Southern and CATS.
- Collaborate with emergency service providers, Norfolk Southern and CATS for potential safety and maintenance access.
- Provide access to all proposed transit stations for the CATS Red Line and expanded connections with CATS bus lines.
- Improve air quality, health and fitness.

Quick Facts

- Proposed Mooresville-Charlotte Trail would traverse approximately 30 miles.
- Preliminary demand models prepared by transportation planners estimate that between 1.2 and 1.8 million user trips will be made annually on the trail.
- Once the Mooresville-Charlotte Trail is adopted by the seven jurisdictions as part of their bicycle, trail and greenway master plans, funds can be sought from various sources and dedications of land can be requested.
- Approximate cost per mile for planning purposes is anticipated to be approximately \$1 million for design and construction (excludes land acquisition and significant bridges or structures; subject to change according to current economic conditions).
- It is anticipated that approximately 60% of the needed easements will be dedicated.
- Land acquisition funds will be needed to connect sections of the corridor (cost has not yet been determined).

Feasibility Report Completed

The Mooresville-Charlotte Trail Initiative Group consists of approximately 25 individuals representing citizens, planning firms, regional planning organizations and planning staff from the seven jurisdictions. After careful study of the corridor, the group unanimously agrees that the project is feasible and planning efforts should continue for public review and comment. Many bike-pedestrian connections can be made as each section is completed, providing citizens opportunities for non-vehicular transportation and recreation along this corridor.

Partnerships and Funding

Opportunities for public and private partnerships and benefits abound as this trail will link various land uses, providing non-vehicular access to businesses, commercial developments, neighborhoods and the proposed transit system.

Next Steps

The Mooresville-Charlotte Trail Jurisdictions are working to advance planning for the trail corridor, which has been made possible through a grant from the Charlotte Area Transportation Planning Organization (formerly MUMPO). The report will outline a more detailed master plan for the corridor to determine probable trail location, study cost, define and prioritize sections of trail development, and to consider construction priorities to focus funding efforts. Mooresville/Iredell has already adopted the Mooresville-Charlotte Trail in their pedestrian and bicycle master plans and it is included in the Carolina Thread Trail. The remaining jurisdictions will seek adoption of the Mooresville-Charlotte Trail and Carolina Thread Trail into their plans. Funding efforts will follow and the trail will be built in sections over time.

