



Built Environment Changes Can Improve Safety for All

The intersection at the entrance to Chapel Street Park was a nightmare to cross. A wide turning radius was more like an on-ramp, and the wide street allowed cars to get up to 60 and 80 miles per hour, such that some residents referred to Fremont Avenue as I-85. Cars had unclear driving lanes, and pedestrians were left up to their own devices.



Chapel Street Park on the City's Northside is used by neighborhood groups, throughout the year.

In September 2010, a walking meeting with residents, City staff and PAL staff identified the intersection as needing a change. This type of "built environment change" is a tactic used to increase safety for all road users, and as a means of improving access to recreation spots. A grant request to the Mary Black Foundation, with matching

funds from the City of Spartanburg, was approved, and renovations started in July of 2011.

The arcing turn on Fremont Avenue was squared off, better defining the driving lane. New crosswalks and stop lines will help both drivers and pedestrians, slowing traffic and allowing for easier and safer crossing for pedestrians.

Built environment changes are long-lasting improvements, and create safer conditions for children, the elderly and others with mobility challenges, and result in safer travel for all users.

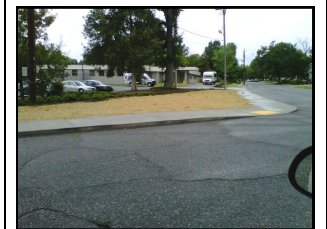
Parks are a good place to start looking to make those changes. We can walk to some parks, but others, like Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park in Boiling Springs, are located on narrow roads with few or no sidewalks. We should be proud of our parks, and make them easier and safer to get to, especially considering our significant investments, both public and private.

By combining built environment changes with policy changes that target certain places like parks, we make a statement that we want to allow for greater access to the places where people play. Doing so would go a long way toward improving both health and safety in our communities.



Before

Intersection improvements in front of Chapel Street Park recapture significant space for pedestrians.



After



There are seven subdivisions and a senior residence complex within a half-mile of the entrance to Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park in Boiling Springs.

About Partners for Active Living (PAL):

Partners for Active Living seeks to make Spartanburg County a healthy, more livable community by promoting walking, bicycling, and physical activity on a daily basis.



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-Some of our Initiatives-



Start of School Year Means More Traffic

School starts this month. In some areas, that means an increase of pedestrians and bicyclists, and shorter and less visible (and less experienced) ones at that. In other areas, it's more automobile traffic a couple of times a day. There are more reasons to pay closer attention, whether you are walking, biking, or driving.

At Partners for Active Living, we advocate for active ways of getting to school. For many reasons, walking and biking to school has decreased dramatically in the past thirty years, coincidental with spiraling obesity rates for adults and children, and increasing health care costs for diseases associated with decreased activity.

We can work with you to help support International Walk to School Day (October 5) and other methods of activating the student body. Last year 41 Spartanburg County schools participated, and we're hoping for even more this year. If you are interested in promoting more active transportation at your child's school, contact us at 864-598-9638, or email info@active-living.org.

For more information about International Walk to School Day, visit

In order to continue promoting active living and healthy lifestyles in Spartanburg County, we need your help.

Please consider joining Partners for Active Living.

You can now donate online by visiting our website: www.active-living.org or send your tax deductible gift to:

Partners for Active Living
P.O. Box 6728
Spartanburg, SC 29304