

# FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL

## Complete Community Update

In May 2023, the Chapel Hill Town Council updated our Comprehensive Plan to include our Complete Community vision and framework. Through Complete Community, we are taking a new approach to planning and development aimed at ensuring our Town will be more inclusive, sustainable, and economically competitive now and in the future.

Key goals for Complete Community are to:

- **Create a Town that is green and sustainable** by adding more housing while also staying green.
- **Expand and deliver a new Everywhere to Everywhere Greenway network** that serves both transportation and recreational purposes so that residents can walk, bike, or ride the bus to more of the things they need.
- **Provide broader community benefits such as parks, greenspaces, and neighborhood retail townwide** – including for existing neighborhoods that are currently underserved by specific amenities.
- **Preserve ecologically sensitive areas.**

At present, our concrete goals include creating 485 new housing units each year, adding 25 miles of new greenways, and continuing to create and preserve affordable housing in Chapel Hill.

With help from a federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant, we are completing a feasibility study for the Everywhere to Everywhere greenways network.

In addition, we are updating our land use policies through our Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) rewrite, creating a Natural Areas map, and starting on a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Also, we are working closely with UNC to grow a downtown innovation hub and explore other ways to increase downtown vibrancy and create a resilient year-round economy in the heart of our community.

**On behalf of Chapel Hill residents, thank you for all you do to advocate and realize a brighter future for our community, the Triangle region, and our great state.**

# FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

## Federal Funding Challenges

The following pages give you a high-level understanding of our strategic priorities and projects - and how you might help us advance these important initiatives.

On almost all fronts, we rely on a mix of local, state, and federal funding for core operations, services, and programs - and to advance strategic goals. The shifting landscape of federal funding is a significant challenge to local governments everywhere. Here's a snapshot of current federal funding for the Town of Chapel Hill:

### **TRANSIT**

- Our current federal grant awards amount is 48.4 million dollars in 21 different grants.

### **PLANNING**

- Our current federal funding amount is 14.1 million dollars in 4 capital projects and 4 grants.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- Our current federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding is about 2.9 million dollars.

### **POLICE**

- Our current federal grant awards amount is 669,968 dollars in 4 different grants.

### **LIBRARY**

- Our current federal grant awards amount is 45,000 dollars in 1 grant.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

- Our current federal grant awards amount is 217,245 dollars in 2 grants.

I know that your staff members are in frequent contact with leadership and senior staff from across all Town departments and divisions. I look forward to continued conversation and collaboration.

**On behalf of Town staff, thank you for your support in helping us deliver our mission of learning, serving, and working together to build a community where EVERYONE can thrive.**

# SUSTAINABILITY

## State-Level Priorities

**Passing HB 131 to reenact the Solar Energy Tax Credit** and make solar projects more viable.

**Passing HB 77 to increase public participation in environmental permitting decisions** impacting minority or low-income communities.

**Passing HB 73, the Energy Security Act** to ensure greater security at utility substations.

**Protecting the Governor's appointment authority** for the NC Utilities Commission and NC Building Code Council.

**Supporting performance-based ratemaking for utilities** to incentivize them to support grid resilience and energy efficiency.

**Advocating for utilities to make and maintain climate commitments**, which could be weakened by the passage of SB 261.

## Good News

The NC DEQ VW Settlement Electric Vehicle Infrastructure grant supported the Town's installation of 20 Level 2 charging stations at the Town's new Rosemary Street parking deck.

**A big challenge to achieving our sustainability goals is the potential loss of federal pass-through funding for climate action and resiliency.**

## Highlights of Town Goals & Actions

**Reduce carbon emissions from our buildings and transportation sector.**

- Assessing Town buildings for solar and EV potential.
- Exploring a regional electrification program.
- Doubling the number of public EV charging stations.
- Launching an e-bike lending library.
- Piloting electric landscaping equipment.

**Protecting natural resources and promoting resiliency.**

- Expanding early warning flood sensor network for our creeks.
- Annual Leave Your Leaves campaign.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## State-Level Priorities

**Propel NC** is the NC Community College System's goal to realign program funding to ready a high-demand, high-wage, and livable workforce for the future in our community.

**NC Tri-Share Childcare Initiative** would enhance the scope and quality of the State's Tri-Share Initiative so that it's more accessible for employers and workers. We support the evolution of the pilot program and would like to deploy something similar in our community.

**Infrastructure Investments** that advance a healthy economy and workforce. Particularly, those investments that aim to reduce the use and environmental impact of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in our communities.

## Good News

Now that our Rosemary Street parking deck is open, we are reimagining a nearby surface lot into a vibrant gathering space that will contribute to our downtown revitalization efforts.

**Big challenges to achieving our economic goals are housing affordability, workforce availability, and economic uncertainty.**

## Highlights of Town Goals & Actions

**Creating and sustaining a year-round economy, especially in our downtown.**

- Supporting current businesses and attracting new ones, especially in the entrepreneurial and life sciences sectors.
- Revitalizing downtown with streetscape planning and creating vibrant public spaces for residents and visitors.
- Realizing a downtown Innovation District, in partnership with the University.
- Developing a local workforce to meet the needs of current and future employers.



# HOUSING

## State-Level Priorities

**Expansion of state funding for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program** to support affordable housing production and perseveration.

**State funding to support down-payment assistance** for community members who may not otherwise afford the purchase of a home.

**State funding to support rental assistance** for community members affected by the cost of rent which continues to increase.

**Clarifying local government authority** to support affordable housing production.

**Big challenges to achieving our housing goals include a lack of housing stock and the high cost of development leading to high home prices.**

## Highlights of Town Goals & Actions

**Supporting missing-middle housing and transit-oriented development.**

- Completing a comprehensive rewrite of our Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO).
- Reducing barriers in zoning regulations and development processes.

**Investing in multiple strategies to both preserve and create affordable housing.**


- Pipeline of over 1,000 new units over the next 5 years.
- Fostering public-private partnerships to build new affordable housing.

## Good News

We recently launched a 20 million dollar Affordable Housing Loan Fund in partnership with UNC Health and Self-Help Credit Union. We expect the fund to support preservation or creation of 600 units in the next 20 years.


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# TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

## State-Level Priorities

**Working with NCDOT to identify remaining \$5.5 million** needed for North-South Bus Rapid Transit (NSBRT) project.

**Increasing state operating assistance for transit.** SMAP has stayed flat for 20+ years, despite growth in urban transit systems and increased cost of service.

**Advocating for NCDOT to allow sponsorship signage** at NSBRT stations located within NCDOR right-of-ways.

**Advocacy for reinstating frozen federal funding,** especially for bike-ped projects. NCDOT doesn't fund these, so federal funding is the primary funding source.

**Changing the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI)** legislation for elevate non-highway projects for funding consideration.

**A big challenge to achieving our goals is the potential loss of significant federal funding for both major projects and project staff.**

## Highlights of Town Goals & Actions

**Advancing a car-free future for our community.**

- Completing the 60/90% design phase for North-South Bus Rapid Transit, a transformational infrastructure project.
- Conducting a feasibility study for our Everywhere to Everywhere Greenways network, made possible by a RAISE grant.

**Improving safety for everyone who moves through our town.**

- Partnering with the community to create a Safe Routes to Schools Action Plan
- Advancing our Vision Zero goals, especially in high-crash corridors.

## ✓ Good News

The Estes Drive Bicycle & Pedestrian Project was completed in 2024, significantly improving a corridor with schools, churches, older neighborhoods, and newer multifamily housing.

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# COMMUNITY SAFETY

## State-Level Priorities

**State funding for mental and behavioral health, substance use, and developmental disability services,** facilities, and transports for people who need long-term solutions.

**Approve and fund 1115 Medicaid Waiver** authorizing NC DHHS to invest in housing, food, transportation, and reentry.

**Legislation regulating** concealed firearms and preventing firearm access for people who show signs of mental illness, threats.

**Support HB 199** regulating towing business by requiring permits, setting fee limits, and creating a towing business database.

**Legislation regulating** hemp-derived products. This includes banning products that resemble well-known candies and raising legal purchase age to 21.

## Good News

Our Crisis Assistance, Response, and Engagement (CARE) Team, a partnership with Orange County, provides mobile crisis response that doesn't require a law enforcement presence. It's a complement to our longstanding Crisis Unit.

**A big challenge to achieving our community safety and wellbeing goals is our need for mental and behavioral health solutions for people who have serious long-term needs.**

## Highlights of Town Goals & Actions

**Providing a compassionate, appropriate response by the most appropriate resource.**

- Policing based on building strong relationships with all of our community members.
- Leading the way in the co-response model of officers responding with mental health experts.
- Implementing deflection and diversion to reduce involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Civilian virtual report taking and crash response frees up officers to respond to emergencies.
- Prioritizing officer wellness to make sure we give our best to our community.