

April 15, 2005

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WALKABLE COMMUNITIES FOCUS OF WORKSHOPS

FAYETTEVILLE - Making local communities pedestrian friendly will be the focus of a series of eight half-day workshops scheduled from May 2nd to May 6th across the region surrounding Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

The Walkable Community Workshop is a course for elected officials, citizens and professionals in the fields of planning, engineering, law enforcement, public health and education. It will provide participants with information on how to turn their communities into pedestrian-friendly places.

The Walkable Community Workshop program concentrates on identifying real-world problems and hands-on solutions for each community. During a four-hour workshop, trainers deliver a presentation on the elements of a walkable community and solutions to common issues. They then lead participants on an interpretive walking tour (called a “walkabout” or “ped audit”) of a pre-determined study area. The trainers emphasize seeing the community from the perspective of a pedestrian. Charles Gandy of Livable Communities Consulting, and Mark Plotz of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking will lead the workshops.

Participants then gather in small breakout groups to identify specific measures to improve conditions for pedestrians. The workshop closes with presentations from the breakout groups and discussions to reach consensus on priority action items to create more walkable environments.

Funds for the program were provided by the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Mid-Carolina Council of Governments Rural Planning Organization, the National Center for Bicycling and Walking, and local community sponsors.

MORE

The Fayetteville Area MPO region is one of thirteen metropolitan areas across the nation that have been chosen to host these workshops. Other regions selected include the Chicago Area Transportation Study; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; City of Medford (OR); Miami-Dade MPO (FL); Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (Dayton, OH); and Spartanburg County MPO (SC).

The workshops are free. The public is invited to participate, but seats are limited. For more information, citizens should contact each workshop's representative.

Walkable Community Workshops Locations and Contacts

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| <p>Monday, May 2nd – 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm White Lake Town Hall 1879 White Lake Drive White Lake, NC Contact: Brenda Clark, White Lake Town Clerk (910) 862-4800 or bclark@whitelakenc.com Contact: Mary Jo Gollnitz, Elizabethtown Planning Dir. (910) 862-2066 or mgollnitz@elizabethtownnc.org</p> | <p>Tuesday, May 3rd – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Clinton City Hall Auditorium 227 Lisbon Street Clinton, NC Contact: Mary Rose, Senior Planner Clinton/Sampson County Planning Dept. (910) 323-1892 or mmr@intrstar.net</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, May 3rd – 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm Stedman Recreation Center 175 Circle Drive Stedman, NC Contact: Connie Spell, Clerk Town of Stedman (910) 323-1892 or conniespell@nc.rr.com</p> | <p>Wednesday, May 4th – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Lillington Presbyterian Church 1101 8th Street Lillington, NC Contact: Tom Hogg, Manager Town of Lillington (910) 893-2654 or tghogg@charter.net</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, May 4th – 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm Spring Lake Town Hall 300 Ruth Street Spring Lake, NC Contact: Thomas H. Spinks, Planning Director Town of Spring Lake (910) 436-0241 or tspinks@spring-lake.org</p> | <p>Thursday, May 5th – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Hope Mills Town Hall 5770 Rockfish Road Hope Mills, NC Contact: Anita Kilgore, Director Hope Mills Parks and Recreations Dept. (910) 426-4110 or acmurray@town.hope-mills.nc.us</p> |
| <p>Thursday, May 5th – 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm Cliffdale Regional Branch Library 6882 Cliffdale Rd Fayetteville, NC Contact: Monita McLaurin, Planner Cumberland County Planning and Inspections Dept. (910) 678-7611 or mmclaurin@co.cumberland.nc.us</p> | <p>Friday, May 6th – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Highland Presbyterian Church 111 Highland Drive Fayetteville, NC Contact: Lesley Resnick-Ward, Planner II, City of Fayetteville Planning Department (910) 433-1417 or lward@ci.fay.nc.us</p> |

