



As an organization dedicated to making Knoxville a better place to bike and walk for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, Bike Walk Knoxville works to improve infrastructure conditions that support active transportation in our community. We do this through direct engagement with City of Knoxville Transportation Engineering and Vision Zero, public advocacy events such as Tours with Elected Officials, and collaboration with community stakeholders such as neighborhood organizations and entities like the University of Tennessee. While not all of our advocacy work is visible to the public, our team is working hard behind the scenes every day to promote active transportation in our community.

One project that highlights all of these elements is the recently implemented road diet on Concord Street. A connection between Sutherland Avenue and Kingston Pike, Concord is a popular route for active transportation users seeking access from Bearden and West Knoxville to campus and downtown. The Third Creek Greenway crosses Concord as it approaches Tyson Park, and folks can frequently be seen walking or biking in the area for transportation or recreation.

On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, a driver struck a pedestrian while crossing Concord via the Third Creek Greenway. City of Knoxville Greenways Ambassadors came across the crash, and EMS responded. This tragedy brought the area to Bike Walk Knoxville's attention - while Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, or RRFBs, had recently been installed at the greenway crossing to encourage drivers to yield to greenway users and help everyone navigate safely, clearly more protections were needed to ensure the safety of vulnerable road users.

Bike Walk Knoxville helped to convene necessary stakeholders such as City of Knoxville Engineering, Vision Zero, Parks and Recreation, and the Knoxville Police Department to discuss the crash and brainstorm potential safety improvements. These meetings raised the need for better data on how folks are utilizing the greenway crossing, so Bike Walk Knoxville followed up by conducting crossing counts. These observations demonstrated the importance of slowing down vehicular traffic in the area - vehicles were frequently seen traveling at unsafe speeds, and the multiple lane configuration created a hazard when drivers attempted to pass vehicles yielding to greenway users in the crosswalk. The Bike Walk Knoxville team compiled this data and brought concerns back to the City stakeholders.



From these discussions, the idea of a road diet for Concord Street took shape. Road diets reduce lanes for vehicular traffic, adding facilities for other modes of transportation and slowing speeds by providing natural traffic calming. This project would reconfigure Concord Street from two vehicular travel lanes in either direction to one vehicular travel lane in either direction, with a center turn lane and bike facilities on either side. This design decreases the amount of lanes pedestrians utilizing the greenway cross must navigate and can reduce rear-end and left-turn crashes due to the dedicated left-turn lane.

On May 19, 2026 Bike Walk Knoxville hosted a public [Walk with Elected Officials along Concord Street](#), between Sutherland Avenue and Kingston Pike. We were joined by several elected officials, including Mayor Indya Kincannon, City Councilman Matthew DeBardelaben (District 4), Board of Education member Kat Bike (District 4) and Patricia Fontenot-Ridley (District 3). We also had several candidates walking with us, including Breauna Holloway (Board of Education, District 1), Kat Bike (Board of Education, District 4), Brandon Huckaby (County Commission, District 3), and Katina Sharp (County Commission, Seat 11). Finally, we were thrilled to have representatives from City departments including Vision Zero, Transportation Engineering, Parks and Recreation - Greenways, and the Knoxville Police Department with us. The Tour highlighted the importance of active transportation accessibility in the area, and gave community members the opportunity to join local elected officials in imagining what Concord Street would look like when the road diet was implemented.

A few weeks later, the project was installed during the planned resurfacing of Concord Street. Implementing a project like this along with scheduled resurfacing helps it to be extremely cost effective, because crews will already be doing striping work, making it convenient and efficient to complete the lane reconfiguration.

The new Concord Street features vehicular traffic moving at safe speeds, facilities for cyclists, and a more comfortable crossing environment for the Third Creek Greenway. Bike Walk Knoxville is proud to be a part of advocating for these safety improvements, and would like to thank all of our partners for their collaboration and support of these efforts.

We also invite you to be a part of our work! Our organization is always looking for input from community members on where they have concerns for active transportation



safety, where they see opportunities for improvement, and how we can all work together to make Knoxville a great place to walk and bike. You can also support our efforts by [making a donation](#) - your tax-deductible gift empowers us to keep pushing for a more walkable, bikeable, liveable Knoxville!