



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 schools. 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.

A project implemented on Sutherland Avenue exemplifies this. This corridor runs in front of West High School, and is accompanied by the Third Creek Greenway. The Marble City Neighborhood allows residents to walk or bike to nearby coffee shops or restaurants, and students can walk to school. The intersection with Tobler is particularly important, providing connectivity to Kingston Pike, which runs parallel to Sutherland Avenue.

In February of 2024, a student was crossing Sutherland Avenue - in the crosswalk, with the pedestrian signal - when they were struck by a driver. The crash resulted in an injury, and community members demanded safety improvements. Bike Walk Knoxville met with these important stakeholders to understand concerns in the area, which focused on turning movements at the intersection.

Based on these findings, Bike Walk Knoxville hosted a [Walk with Elected Officials](#) in April of 2024. We were joined by two members of City Council, Lauren Rider (District 4) and Charles Thomas (District 5), as well as Board of Education member Kat Bike (District 4). Several candidates for local office also participated, as well as Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA) Board member Dustin Durham, representatives of the City of Knoxville Greenways Commission, and members of staff from the City of Knoxville. The group discussed potential improvements ranging from repainting existing crosswalk markings to improve visibility, adding flashing lights and other signage to raise awareness for pedestrians, adding a Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) to allow pedestrians to establish themselves in the crosswalk and be more visible to drivers, updating signals to facilitate an all-way stop for drivers to allow pedestrian crossings during school arrival and dismissal times, and using curb bump-outs tighten turn radii, slow vehicles down, and decrease crossing distances while increasing visibility.



Bike Walk Knoxville followed up on this event by continuing to have conversations with City of Knoxville Vision Zero Coordinator Cody Gentry, and ultimately, as a result of this advocacy, curb extensions and centerline hardening were implemented at the intersection. Using rubberized curbing, the project tightened the turn radii at the intersection, encouraging drivers to proceed through the intersection at safe speeds, as well as shortening crossing distances for pedestrians. According to the [Vision Zero 2024 Yearly Report](#), “ These measures are shown to decrease vehicle-pedestrian conflicts by 70%.”

Community engagement with the space has continued, and a collaboration with art classes at West High School is currently underway. The “paint the pavement” project is adding bright color to the curbed-off areas, which will not only make the space more vibrant and pleasant, but also encourage drivers to pay attention to pedestrians in that space. Raising awareness is one of the easiest ways to decrease occurrences of crashes and encourage yielding. This project is an exciting example of placemaking and how partners can work together to improve safety through community art!

If you’re passionate about safety in your community and would like to see more projects like this one, we 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!