



CHARLOTTESM



Walkability in Charlotte:

Taking the Next Steps

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission | May 4, 2015



Why Walkability?



Walking is
transportation



We are all
pedestrians

Why Walkability?



For some of us, **our feet are the only way we have to get around...**

Why Walkability?

...Some of us might have more options, but **every trip starts and ends as a pedestrian trip.**



Public Health

In Charlotte....

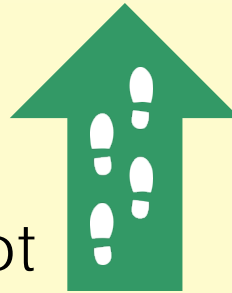
- **50%** of adults don't get the recommended minimum amount of weekly physical activity.
- **28%** of adults have high blood pressure.
- **26%** of adults are obese.

(ACS. 2009-2011. BRFSS. 2010-2011.)



Public Health

When the % of people commuting to work on foot



Rate of high blood pressure



Rate of obesity



Rate of diabetes



Pedestrian fatality rate

Economic Development

“Americans made two things very clear in the latest biennial Community Preference Survey by the National Association of Realtors. **They want to live in walkable neighborhoods** and **they care more about neighborhood than house size** when deciding where to live.”

(National Association of Realtors. 2013.)



Economic Development



CONNECT *Our Future*

FEATURED TOOL: TRANSIT READINESS ASSESSMENT AND PRIMER



Reduce Commuting Costs



Improve Water Quality



Support Local Farms



Grow Jobs Closer to Home



Increase Housing Choices



Increase Transportation Choices



Maximize Return on Public Investment



Improve Air Quality



Improve Access to Parks and Open Space



Support Our Communities

(CONNECT Our Future. 2015.)

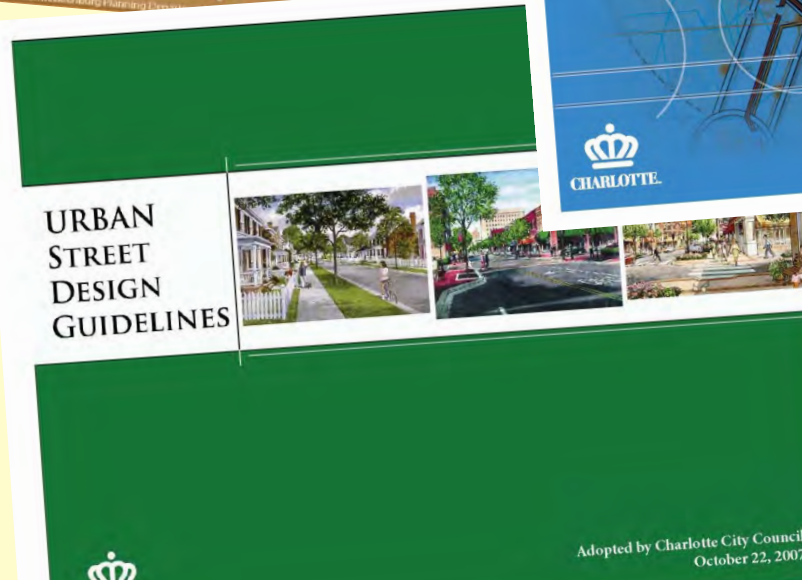
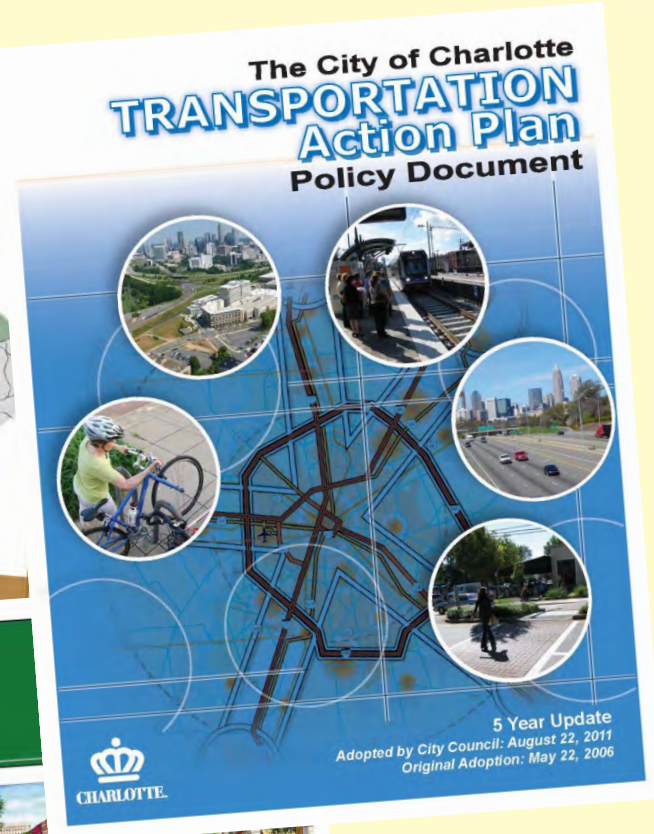


Charlotte's Pedestrian Program

Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Program

Policy Foundation

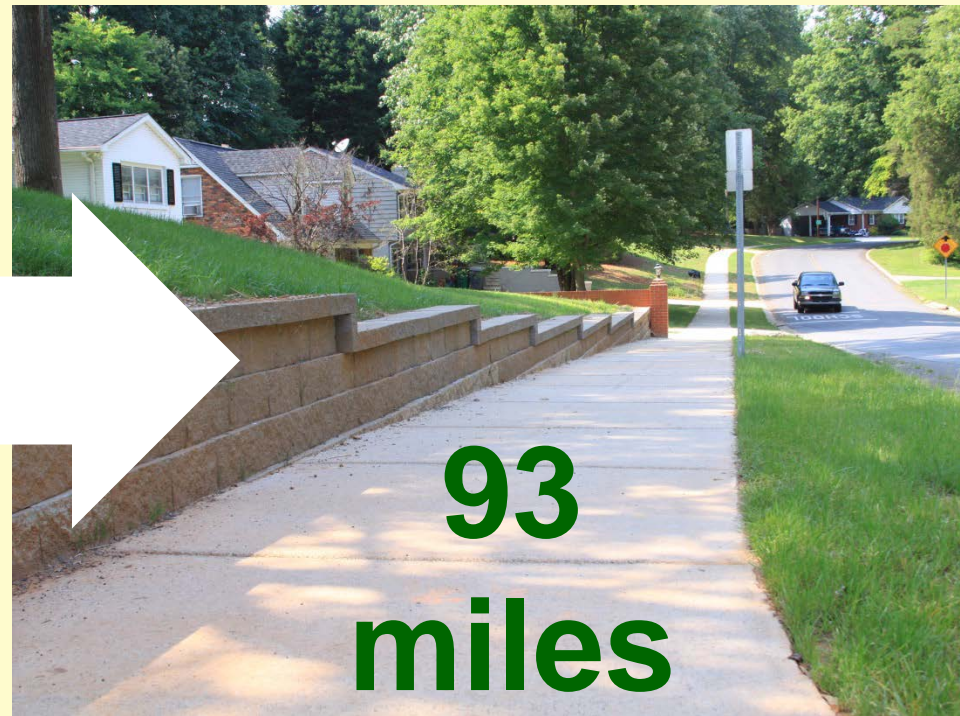
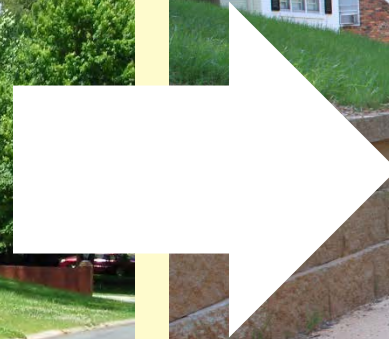
- Centers, Corridors, and Wedges Growth Framework
- Transportation Action Plan
- Urban Street Design Guidelines



Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Program

Mission

- To make Charlotte a more walkable city by:
 - Constructing new sidewalks and pedestrian crossings,



Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Program

Mission

- To make Charlotte a more walkable city by:
 - Constructing new sidewalks and pedestrian crossings,
 - Educating citizens and leaders about the importance of walkable places,



Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Program

Mission

- To make Charlotte a more walkable city by:
 - Constructing new sidewalks and pedestrian crossings,
 - Educating citizens and leaders about the importance of walkable places, and
 - Leading policy initiatives to guide future investments in walkability.





Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Program



Charlotte is supporting more transportation choices than we ever have before.



Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Program

Sustainability Report Card

(Sustain Charlotte. 2014.)

Transportation Evaluation

– Local Trend Grade: B

Charlotte Department of Transportation

2014 Community Sustainability Award Winner: Transportation



***We've come a long way,
but we can still do more.***



Ongoing Challenges

Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

What do Charlotteans think about walkability?

(National Citizen Survey. 2014.)

- 24% rate the ease of walking as "Poor."
- Peer City Comparison – Charlotte rated lower in
 - Ease of walkability
 - Frequency of walking or biking, instead of driving



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

Why is Charlotte still such a challenging place for pedestrians?

1950 to 2000

POLICY DIRECTION

Spread out & move the most cars as fast as possible.

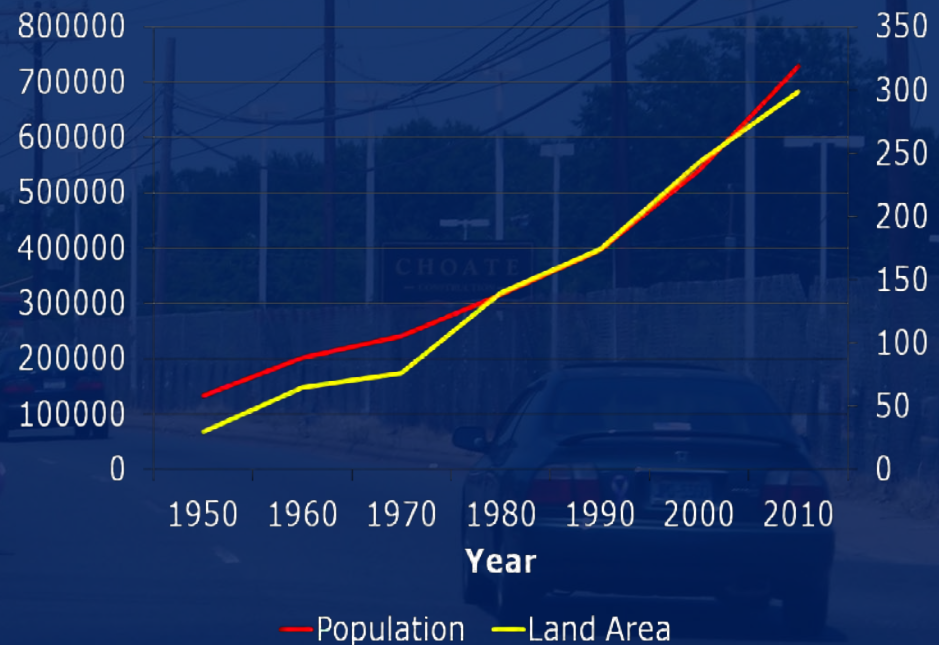
POPULATION

More than quadrupled from 134,000 to 570,000

AREA

+213 square miles

Growth in Charlotte Following WWII



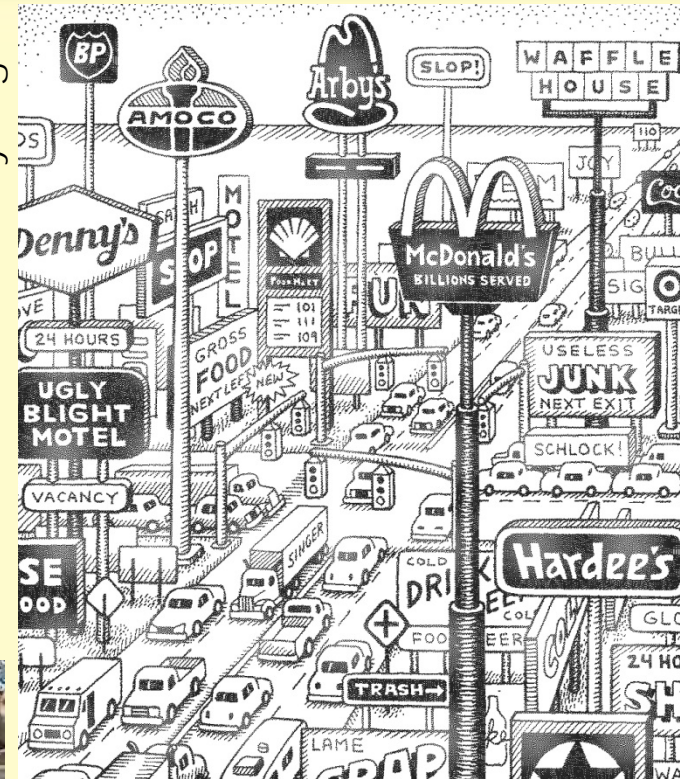
We forgot about walkability.

Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

Our development legacy...

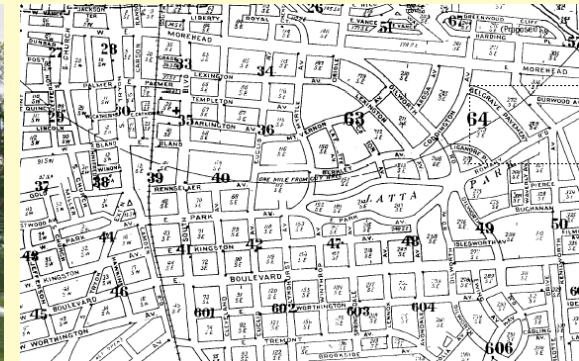
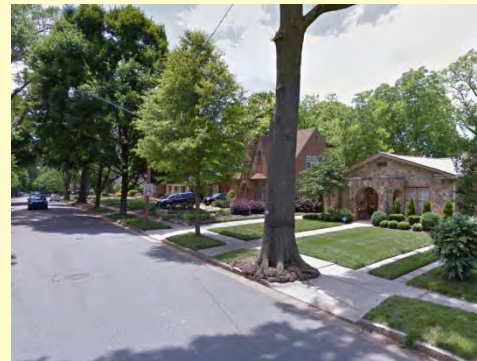
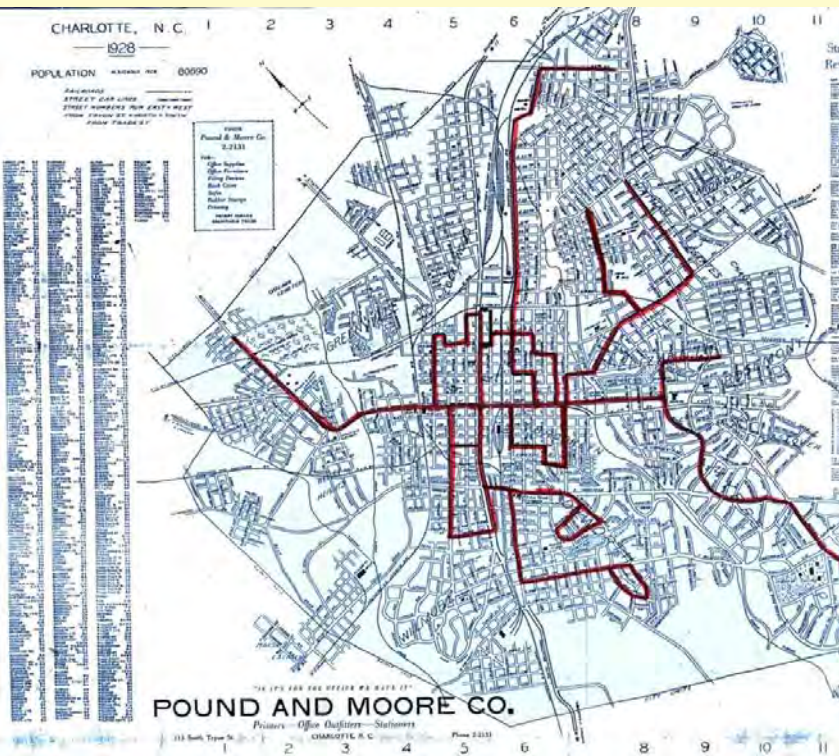


Andy Singer



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

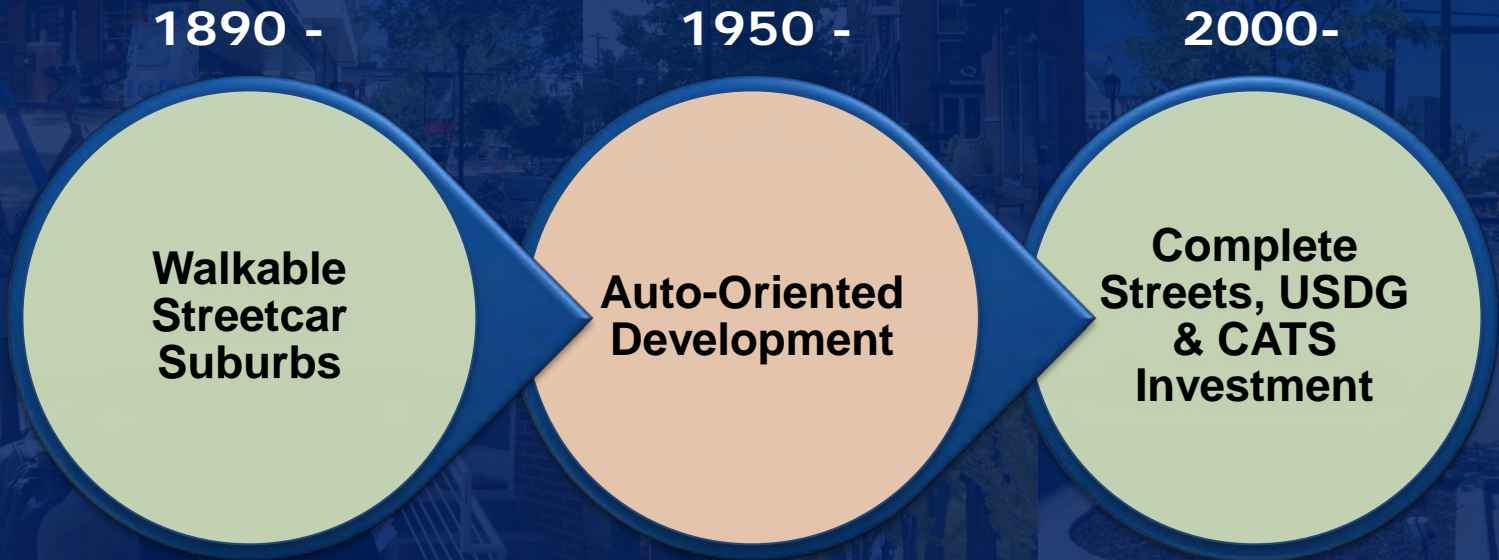
Our development legacy...



...wasn't always like that.

Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

Our development legacy...



...is getting better.



Future Initiatives

It's about more than sidewalks...

It's about creating GREAT PLACES





Useful, Safe,
Inviting



Questions?

Scott Curry | AICP, CNUa
Pedestrian Program Manager – City of Charlotte
spcurry@charlottenc.gov

