

Partnership for a Healthy Durham – Physical Activity, Nutrition and Food Access Committee (PANFA)

Location: Zoom

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

[Zoom-9am](#)

Facilitated by: Kia Campbell, Scott Brummel, Krista Kicsak

**Present:** Kia Campbell, Krista Kicsak, Angel Romero, John Tallmadge, Raina Goldstein Bunnag, Scott Brummel, Ileana Vink, Bernadette Greene, Tim Flora, Clint Blackburn, Sean Egan, Gregory Williams, Emilie McIntosh, Alex Hurdle, Jeff Forde, Savannah Carrico, Kim, Kelly Warnock, Shannon Jackson, Gabby Rivero, Jeremy Berggen, Jacquelyn Beam Blackwell, Idia Enogieru, David Green, Kristen Brookshire, Desiree Lucas, Kat Combs, Wade Walcutt, Mary Unterreiner, Javiera Caballero, Carl Rist

Project/Topic/Goal	Major discussion points	Action Items and Responsible Person(s)
<b>Check in, Announcements</b> (9am-9:10am)	<b>Icebreaker:</b> are you team pumpkin spice, or no?  <b>Announcements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Partnership’s Systemic Equity Action Team (SEAT), has started working with PANFA through their equity toolkit. They have decided to focus on the issue of food access and the meetings are open to all. The next meeting is from 10:30am-12 on Tuesday, 9/24 <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88481278506?pwd=MzlrSE8zeiNzZmd2NmxTUWF2QlBydz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88481278506?pwd=MzlrSE8zeiNzZmd2NmxTUWF2QlBydz09</a> Meeting ID: 884 8127 8506 Passcode: 032961<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If you would like to know, email Kelly Warnock so that she can send you the agenda and more information. SEAT uses a unique decision making process and she can also send a video on it so that anyone new joining will have an idea of what to expect.</li></ul></li><li>• Bike Durham will host bicycle classes for both teenagers and adults of varying abilities, ranging from those who are new to learning how to ride to those who want to sharpen their skills. Bike Durham has a sliding fee scale and offers free scholarships, as well. More information can be found on their website: <a href="https://bikedurham.org/bike-education-classes">https://bikedurham.org/bike-education-classes</a></li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 30 - October 6 is the Week Without Driving. Take the challenge to experience and reflect on what it is like to move around our community without driving a car; details and sign up form at <a href="https://bikedurham.org/2024-week-without-driving">https://bikedurham.org/2024-week-without-driving</a></li> <li>The Partnership for a Healthy Durham's Access to Care Committee meeting will take place tomorrow, on Thursday, September 12, 2024. 08:30-9:30 a.m.</li> <li>Men on the Move monthly community walk will be held on September 21st at Elmira Park from 9am - 10am. All are welcome to join. For more information, contact Jeff Forde at 919-451-3469</li> <li>Durham Public Schools (DPS) school meals are FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS! Make sure to spread the word.</li> <li>More announcements can be found here: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xB8MACmUMbrnULSjFsDokV5seQS9LOk3vCifGUnb82w/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xB8MACmUMbrnULSjFsDokV5seQS9LOk3vCifGUnb82w/edit</a></li> <li>Krista Kicsak and Scott Brummel will be presenting about the food recovery initiative at End Hunger Durham's Food Pantry Operator's meeting tomorrow, 9/12 at 4pm. <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87390797523?pwd=VakwxNChWVNJutFJEavL717qjWkf3i.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87390797523?pwd=VakwxNChWVNJutFJEavL717qjWkf3i.1</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) Overview</b> (9:10-9:20am)</p>	<p>The group briefly reflected on the CHIPs that were finalized last month. These have been submitted to the State and there has already been feedback on how great the plans look (great job team!). The group utilized <a href="#">Jamboard</a> to list the strategies they are most excited about, as well as what strategies they think should have top priority/be worked on first. Answers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in the search and application of at least 1 grant/year to share with DPS Good Food</li> <li>Increase the number of fruits and vegetables served in at least 3 food distribution sites or pantries in 3 years. Start this discussion with at least 1 congregate meal site.</li> <li>Collaboration with the City of Durham's Vision Zero plan</li> <li>Work with County and City organizations to host at least 1 Open Streets event</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with transportation department and neighborhood associations to identify places to add signage with safety messages and information</li> <li>• Continue working with SEAT</li> <li>• Hosting more food security community listening sessions</li> <li>• Expanding/improving the system of communicating food resources in the community</li> <li>• Working with communities experiencing high levels of food insecurity and lean into their strengths and assets, and leverage our resources to help</li> <li>• Compile a toolkit for pantries and distribution sites to use on how to cook seasonal produce and communicate demonstrations through email and social media</li> <li>• Starting with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engaging with community members, organizations, and neighborhoods to identify how to improve food security, especially with informal leaders in East Durham</li> <li>○ Collaboration and promotion with Vision Zero plan</li> <li>○ Adding safety signage</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Presentation: Bond Referendum</b>  <i>City of Durham team</i>  (9:20-10am)</p>	<p>A team from the City of Durham presenting on the 2024 Bond Referendum to educate the group on what is coming up on the ballot on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Tim Flora (Chief Financial Officer), Clint Blackburn (Public Works Department), Sean Egan (Director of Transportation), Emilie McIntosh, (Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR)) and Wade Walcutt (DPR Director) were present, joined by council members Javiera Caballero and Carl Rist.</p> <p>Coming up on November 5<sup>th</sup>, City of Durham residents will have the opportunity to vote yes or no to \$200 million through bond referendums. There are general obligation bond options with two opportunities, one for streets and sidewalks (\$115 million) and one for parks and recreation (\$85 million). Voters will get to approve if the City can move forward with this. City staff did not present in order to tell attendees that they should or should not vote a certain way, but to present the information that will help them make the</p>	<p><i>Visit Durham County Tax Administration's website for more details on their property tax relief programs.</i>  <a href="https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-s-f-z/tax-administration/property-tax-relief-programs">https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-s-f-z/tax-administration/property-tax-relief-programs</a></p> <p><i>AMI Info for Durham here:</i>  <a href="https://www.durhamnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/56015/FY-2024-HUD-">https://www.durhamnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/56015/FY-2024-HUD-</a></p>

best decisions for themselves and their community. Council members voiced their support of the bonds.

**For the possible \$115 million for streets and sidewalks:**

- \$60 million would go towards creating new sidewalks
  - The City will build 12.4 miles of sidewalks in 25 top-priority locations
    - These will range from sidewalk gaps of ¼ mile or less or creating new sidewalks along corridors one mile or longer
    - Some of these will be the standard five-foot sidewalks, while some will be ten-foot shared-use paths
    - Sidewalk locations are available online. This shows locations for new sidewalks, repaired sidewalks, repaved streets, and unpaved streets:  
<https://webgis2.durhamnc.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7dca7226fe1c4f2fa50fb4c2307e650a>
    - The cost associated with creating these sidewalks include right of way acquisition, building, and professional services to support bidding, acquisition, and construction
  - Many projects serve areas identified as equity communities through [Equitable & Green Infrastructure](#) and [Capital Improvement Plan](#) processes
  - Projects chosen are those that are farthest along in readiness or are closest to completion
  - These projects would begin in spring 2025
- \$15 million would go towards repairing current sidewalks
  - 20 miles of sidewalks will be fixed
  - The City will use an equity-based prioritization model to guide future repair work
  - Project would begin in summer 2025
- \$30 million would go towards street paving and preservation
  - Approximately 100 miles of streets will be repaved and repaired

[Income-Limits Durham-Chapel-Hill-NC-HUD-Metro-FMR-Area-05232024?bidId=](#)

- The City used the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) from 2021 to assess what streets would be selected for repaving
  - From a scale of zero (failed streets) to 100 (a perfect street), overall, the streets have been rated a 69/100
  - Equity tools were utilized to weight this scoring for choosing these streets
  - They are currently doing a new PCI study, but it will not be ready in time to affect the selection for these streets
- Projects would begin in summer 2025
- \$10 million would go towards unpaved streets
  - There are about 11 miles of unpaved streets left in the City of Durham, and this bond would fund the rest of this. The City has a goal of unpaved streets being paved by 2029 and this bond would allow for this to happen
  - This consists of removing the loose materials on top of the road and putting down asphalt but does not include widening the streets. They will also clean up some of the ditches that are needed

**For the possible \$85 million for parks and recreation:**

- In 2017, the City went through a Comprehensive Aquatic study to understand what aquatic programs and opportunities are available to residents and Durham. Results highlighted:
  - Pools in Durham have aging infrastructure
  - Compared to other cities of similar sizes, Durham doesn't have enough pools or spray grounds
- This study helped guide the City to the conclusion that they needed to work on this and provide more opportunities, as well as guided the team towards areas of the city that they haven't engaged in as well as they should have
- The former Wheels Roller Rink Fun Center site became available a few years ago and the City signed off on purchasing it for creating a new pool and improve the skating

rink. This will be opened soon and is part of the Merrick-Moore Park.

- Project renderings, or plans, were not only created by City and DPR staff. Some of the projects underwent two years of community engagement of what was needed or wanted in the facilities.
  - Engagement included in person meetings, attending Partners Against Crime (PAC) meetings, going to community members where they are at, following the City's equitable engagement blueprint
- Other parks that would be included in this bond referendum project and adding pools are Long Meadow Park and East End Park
  - Pools may be added or moved, due to being in flood plains
  - These parks have historical significance, as they were both originally segregated parks ( a Black park and a White park). A trail will connect these two parks to one another along Alston Avenue, and DPR believes the new improvements would allow them to be some of the best parks in the Triangle area
- These projects would begin in 2026 and open around summer 2028
- Parks are extremely important and beneficial to the community as a whole, providing safe spaces to be active and improve health and overall wellness of Durham

**Why bonds are chosen to finance projects like these**

- General obligation bonds fund many Capital Improvement projects and are the least expensive form of debt the City has
- These are the most equitable way to do it, spreading the value of the asset over those who are utilizing the asset
- This opportunity is up to voters due to using the credit of the City's taxing authority, requiring residents to approve this
  - The City also has a AAA credit rating from all three major rating agencies, allowing for the lowest interest rates and maximum funds available

- Funds borrowed as needed and repaid over time as installments, putting less stress on annual budget

**Potential Property Tax Rate Increases**

In order to pay the debt of bonds, the City has to pay through a tax increase. The interest rate is 5.34%, which is higher than the City would normally pay, but this is the average of the interest rates other governments in the state of North Carolina have paid, making this the rate required to make these calculations. The Chief Financial Officer of the City of Durham expects the actual rate they would have to pay to be lower, so the rates in the following table are the **maximum** amount that taxes would increase by, and they expect them to actually be lower.

<b>BOND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>RATE INCREASE</b> (per \$100 of assessed value)	<b>APPROXIMATE ANNUAL COST</b> (property value of \$300,000)
Only streets & sidewalks	\$115 million	+ 1.99 cents	\$60 (\$5/month)
Only parks & recreation	\$85 million	+ 1.47 cents	\$44 (\$4/month)
Both	\$200 million	+ 3.46 cents	\$104 (\$9/month)

<b>Property Value</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>Tax Amount</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Streets &amp; Sidewalks</b>
\$100,000	3.46 cents	\$34.50	\$14.66	\$19.84
\$200,000	3.46 cents	\$69.00	\$29.32	\$39.68
\$300,000	3.46 cents	\$103.50	\$43.98	\$59.52
\$400,000	3.46 cents	\$138.00	\$58.64	\$79.36
\$500,000	3.46 cents	\$172.50	\$73.30	\$99.20

Again, on the ballot, there will be two questions for residents to vote on. One will be for the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Bonds and one will be for the City of Durham Streets and Sidewalks Bonds. Residents can vote for or against one, both, or neither.

Additional information can be found at [durhamnc.gov/bonds](https://www.durhamnc.gov/bonds). On residents surveys annually, many residents report wanting more investment in these projects.

Other helpful links:

- <https://www.durhamnc.gov/5278/Connecting-Durham-2024-Bond-Referendum>
- Request a speaker about the bond referenda: <https://www.durhamnc.gov/FormCenter/Communications-19/2024-Bond-Referendum-Speaker-Request-371>

**Questions (Q) and Answers (A):**

Q1: What is the lead cleanup plan? After the lead contamination is removed, is it possible to plant native pollinator plants in the large grassy areas that are not used? Less mowing for your crews and less pollution from gas powered mowers

A: <https://www.dprplaymore.org/516/Soil-Property-Testing> is a helpful website to find more information and Wade Walcutt is happy to speak one-on-one with anyone who has questions. Soil samples are continually being sampled and analyzed to understand the depth of contaminants and type of contaminants. DPR does not have enough data to make informed, final decisions. Once more data is available, a menu of options will be created to fix the problems and these will be vetted through the community and working groups, subject matter experts, and health officials. If funding is made available through these bonds, projects at East End Park recommended by community members, such as basketball courts, pools, tennis courts and other amenities, would be funded and these would be one of the solutions the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would support related to the lead contamination. For example, the asphalt placed for basketball courts would serve as a barrier between people and the potential lead contamination. DPR will be heading out to Northgate



Park next month to meet with the neighborhood association, where they can talk further about this issue.

Q2: These are great projects AND I wonder how much taxes went up this past year with the extra funding for DPS. I'm feeling for people on fixed income right now - \$100 may not be too much for a working family but this on top of the city and county tax increase last year plus inflation is adding up for people on fixed incomes. Not a question really, just a comment and concern.

A: Funding for DPS comes from the County, not the City, so the City team could not speak to that. Regarding the tax increases, the way the City structures debt is a level principal payment, so every year they pay the principal amount, allowing for debt to be paid off much sooner than a home mortgage, for example. Over the years, the tax rate impact will actually go down; the City can certainly adjust the tax rate over the course of the bond debt.

In addition to this, the City and County have a joint program called the Low income Homeowner Relief program targeting this exact issue. Any homeowner in Durham that has owned a house for at least five years and has an annual income of 80% or lower of the Area Median Income (AMI) can receive some form of tax relief. Seniors who have owned their homes for five years or more and who have an income of 30% AMI or lower will get a rebate for taxes paid.

Q3: With the project for Long Meadow Park, where will the homeless people go? Has anyone thought about this?

A: If the bonds are passed and the project can happen, the City will continue community engagement. They will also work with all local partners who assist with those who are unhoused to identify transition plans and what services are available. This brings up another point as to why these parks are prioritized, as there is a lot of illicit activity going on in these parks. By improving the park and creating more activities, this will allow more people to utilize the park for what it is created for.

Q4: Will the transportation stops change at all?

A: No significant changes are planned for bus stop locations, but they are hoping to implement improvements to bus stops. The new sidewalks would also add a concrete pad for those who use wheelchairs and a seating area for those using the bus. These costs are included within the budget for the bond.

Q5: With the projects, will it affect the Boys and Girls club, Eastway elementary, and other area centers?

A: Hopefully yes, in a positive way, to work altogether. We can figure out how everyone can interact and work together.

Q6: What tools and processes were used to keep equity in mind for what locations were chosen for these improvements?

A: The team relied heavily on the community engagement efforts and feedback from the community. Council also did their due diligence on making sure this was equitable. They also took a look at zip codes and who actually utilized those parks, along with Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) assistance. These parks are also in historically underinvested areas. For sidewalk locations, they looked at the places where lots of people are walking, such as the area near Duke Hospital and the VA. The team also reprioritized projects that served minorities and lower-income communities, as well as gave weight to areas with transit options as many who use those services are people of color and of lower socioeconomic status. Public Works Geographic Information System team (GIS) has a new equity map, including information all the way down to asthma, which have been seen as equitable markers. They used this map, along with the road safety scores, to identify the best places for improvement.

Q7: What about improvements for intersections and crossing streets, is there a way to make those safer within the plan?

A: Transportation and Public Works work closely together anytime a resurfacing or roadway project to make sure projects would make things safer. At every opportunity, they try to make sure everything

	done will make things safer for pedestrians and drivers and those costs are built into the resurfacing budget.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Physical Activity (PA) Workgroup: Wednesday, September 25th from 9-9:30am <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85613682116?pwd=UHR6ZmlEazdCQ2o0dnMyY0FtZkVIQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85613682116?pwd=UHR6ZmlEazdCQ2o0dnMyY0FtZkVIQT09</a> PANFA: Wednesday, October 9th 9am <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85953302971?pwd=T3didzRVM3dWbjBFMVB CYVZYbGFiUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85953302971?pwd=T3didzRVM3dWbjBFMVB CYVZYbGFiUT09</a>	