

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release: January 28, 2019

Durham Hosts Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy Workshops *Mission Is to Create Safer Streets by Eliminating Roadway Deaths in Durham*

Who: City of Durham Transportation Department and Smart Growth America

What: Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy Workshops

When: Workshops set for Tuesday, January 29 and Wednesday, January 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Temporary Demonstration Project Site Visit set for Wednesday, January 30 from 11 a.m. to noon

Where: Durham County Human Services Complex, Conference Room A, 414 E. Main St., Durham, N.C. 27701

Fast Facts:

- In September 2018, the National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, selected the City of Durham to participate in their [Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy](#). The academy allows the City's Transportation Department to hone its skills in using safety counter measures, creative placemaking, equitable community engagement, and emerging technologies to create safer streets in Durham.
- In addition to Durham, Huntsville, Ala. and Pittsburgh, Pa. were also selected. As part of this academy, each city is hosting a workshop for staff from the other two cities as well as staff from Smart Growth America. Durham's two-day workshop is set to begin tomorrow and local news media outlets are invited to attend. Mayor Steve Schewel will bring opening remarks on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.
- At the culmination of this year-long academy, Durham will launch a temporary demonstration project to transform a section of West Club Boulevard into a safer place for people. A field visit to this section will occur from 11 a.m. to noon on January 30 on West Club Boulevard near Northgate Mall between North Buchanan Boulevard and North Gregson Street.
- This site visit will allow the visiting cities and Smart Growth America's experts to observe and experience the project site before they help Durham's team come up with potential solutions to make the roadway safer for all users. The West Club Boulevard location was chosen because speeding vehicles make it unsafe for bus riders and pedestrians. Between November 2013 and October 2018, 123 crashes occurred at this location including two crashes involving pedestrians crossing the street after getting off the bus.
- The focal point of the project will be the GoDurham bus stops on both sides of this section West Club Boulevard with particular attention paid to the bus stop close to Dollar Avenue, which is one of the most frequently used bus stops in the system. This bus stop averages 150 boardings per weekday, 145 boarding on Saturdays, and 60 boardings on Sundays.
- Since West Club Boulevard is a City-maintained street, City staff can also use creative placemaking strategies, such as public art, as part of the temporary demonstration project.

- For on-site news media assistance during this two-day workshop, contact Transportation Specialist Anne Phillips with the City's Transportation Department at (850) 980-4316.

About the City of Durham Transportation Department

The [Transportation Department](#) is responsible for a broad range of transportation services, which include traffic signs and signals, transportation planning, parking operations, street lighting, taxicab administration, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. The department also oversees [GoDurham](#) and GoDurham ACCESS as well as leads planning functions for the [Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (DCHC MPO), which is the regional organization that is responsible for planning and programming state and federal transportation projects in the urbanized areas of Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to strengthen the foundation, enhance the value, and improve the quality and sustainability of neighborhoods that are necessary for a strong and diverse community. For more information, follow the department on [Twitter](#).

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