

# BELMONT ON THE MOVE!

SUMMER/FALL 2021

Belmont on the Move! is a quarterly newsletter designed to keep our residents informed about our #1 priority - transportation!

More information on specific transportation projects can be found on our website:  
<https://www.cityofbelmont.org/transportation>

## How do road projects in Belmont get funded?

The roadway network in Belmont consists of both local streets and state roads.

The City is responsible for maintaining our local streets, and we utilize state gas tax yearly (Powell Bill) funding allocations to help offset those costs for our residents.

On state roads, the City works closely with NCDOT to request funding for new projects through their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the STIP. This plan is updated approximately every two years using a data-driven process called Prioritization.

**What This Means:** Because the majority of roads in Belmont are owned by NCDOT, we are often one of hundreds of cities within North Carolina requesting NCDOT funding for road projects.

**The Bright Side:** NCDOT prioritizes road projects when a jurisdiction contributes financially to a project. To-date, two developments have committed payment-in-lieu funding at the time of their approval to help us prioritize local improvements in the NCDOT ranking process.

The City also works with developers to build roads identified on our adopted plans as part of new development; and requires a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) studies for larger projects to mitigate their impacts on our road network. Additional roadway improvements are also sometimes funded by developers and tied to a project's approval.

In the future, we can consider alternative funding strategies to continue to advocate for the transportation needs of our community.

WHOSE STREET IS THAT?

[CLICK HERE FOR A MAP](#)

NEED TO REPORT A POTHOLE TO NCDOT?

[CLICK HERE](#)

NEED TO REPORT MAINTENANCE FOR A LOCAL STREET?

[CLICK HERE](#)

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## NCDOT STIP ROAD PROJECTS

### 2023-2024

WILKINSON BRIDGE  
REPLACEMENT

WILKINSON BLVD/  
E CATAWBA ST  
INTERSECTION

### 2024-2029

I-85 WIDENING

WILKINSON/ N MAIN ST  
INTERSECTION

BELMONT MT. HOLLY  
ROAD FROM N MAIN ST  
TO I-85

### 2029-POST YEAR

SOUTH POINT RD/  
ARMSTRONG RD  
ROUNDBOUT

WILKINSON/PARK ST  
INTERSECTION  
NCDOT moved from FY21 to FY29

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As we continue planning efforts to meet both current and future transportation needs, we want to hear from our residents to help us understand and prioritize needed improvements throughout our City. Please take a moment to share your thoughts by completing the brief survey below.

[>COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE<](#)

## UPCOMING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### AUGUST - OCTOBER:

STATE TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN PUBLIC INPUT



### SEPTEMBER:

CONNECT BEYOND REGIONAL  
MOBILITY PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT



### SEPTEMBER:

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT &  
LYNX SILVER LINE CORRIDOR-  
VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE



### NOVEMBER:

CATAWBA CROSSINGS FEASIBILITY  
STUDY PUBLIC MEETING

# GET OUT AND GO!



## UPDATES ON OUR TRAILS AND GREENWAYS



### Grand Opening: Rocky Branch Park

a COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELMONT, CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL, GASTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION, GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS, AND THE TOWN OF CRAMERTON

Born out of the efforts of a dedicated and relentless volunteer team, [Rocky Branch Park](#) became a niche trail in the mountain biking community. In December of 2018, a volunteer committee of Belmont residents and members of the non-profit trail advocacy group, the Tarheel Trailblazers, started developing a plan to enhance Rocky Branch Park centered on four main goals: Inclusion, Progression, Trail Quality and Connectivity.

In January of 2021, construction began on the Carolina Thread Trail segment of Rocky Branch Park, consisting of 1.25 miles of multi-use trail with parking available at both ends. This first segment serves as a backbone for the park, providing a complete corridor for bicyclists, trail runners, and walkers and will ultimately connect the lively downtowns of Belmont and Cramerton. Construction has also been completed on the 1.15 mile beginner mountain bike trail. The first phase of trails opened on Saturday, August 7, 2021.

Future phases of construction include a 1.35 mile intermediate mountain bike trail, a 1.10 mile advanced mountain bike trail, and another 0.75 mile beginner mountain bike trail. These progressive trails will include bike park style features such as rock gardens and boardwalks.

Along these paths, under a beautiful forest canopy, the mountain bike trails connect to the multi-use trail at four hubs. The trails are organized by the difficulty associated with their terrain and features. The beginner, intermediate and advanced trail hubs will provide clear markings for progression as new riders learn to ride and then progress through the hubs and become seasoned riders.

All of this was made possible by thousands of volunteer hours from the Rocky Branch Park Committee, the Tarheel Trailblazers and local volunteers, as well as donations from individuals and small businesses, grants from the Gaston Community Foundation, corporate sponsorship from Greenworks, and investment by the City of Belmont, the Town of Cramerton, and the Carolina Thread Trail. Rocky Branch Park has and continues to be a place where community comes together and connections get made.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Kevin Loftin Park features a public kayak launch location, with [kayak rentals](#) available through October, providing access to our 17+ miles of river frontage. This launch is also featured as part of the Carolina Thread Trail's [Catawba River Blueway](#) and the [Gaston County 11 Mills Blueway Trail](#).