

Grant will help committee bring sidewalks, paths and trails to Belmont.

[Diane Turbyfill](#)

November 9, 2008 - 5:07PM

BELMONT - Walkers will have a safer path to travel thanks to a state grant.

A committee was formed during the city council meeting last week to create a Pedestrian Master Plan. Within a year, the group will propose a plan to create sidewalks, paths and trails throughout Belmont.

"It's one thing to have sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure, but it needs to be safe," said Adrian Miller, City of Belmont senior planner.

The plan should fill in sidewalk gaps throughout the city and create new sidewalks. The end result could be a healthier community with reduced pollution and traffic congestion, said Miller.

The project will be funded by a \$30,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The city will match with \$6,000.

The pedestrian plan could also incorporate an initiative already in the works, said Miller, who heads up a Safe Routes to School committee. SRS prompts students to walk or ride bikes to school and offers federal money for infrastructure.

The city already requires that all new housing developments include sidewalks on both sides of the road as well as tree buffers. These measures could create a safe, healthy and interactive community, Miller said.

"We're trying to get all sorts of programs to increase pedestrian traffic," said Miller.

You can reach Diane Turbyfill at 704-869-1817.