

**NC Department of Transportation
Pedestrian Planning and Design Workshops
Held May 9 - 13, 2005**

Following the achievements of the first week-long series of workshops in October 2004, this year's series on planning and designing for pedestrians was, again, a successful one. Evaluations were very positive from each day-long workshop.

Out of the 140 people who registered for the Pedestrian Planning and Design Workshop, 137 attended. Of those, 45 participants were local/regional government employees or consultants. This representation was up from 17.5% at last year's workshops to 32.8% this year.

The workshop participants responded positively for this second workshop series using the same evaluation format as last year's participants. These evaluation forms asked them to rank the content, delivery, and presenter of each module on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the best. Scores were averaged for each module over the entire workshop series. The resultant overall average of this year's series was 4.46 – a very solid score.

Participants were also asked to provide comments about each module, their overall impressions, and any topics or issues they felt should be addressed in future workshops. Listed below are some comments of participants' overall impressions:

- *“This is the first time I’ve ever really looked into pedestrian issues and I know I will use a lot of what I learned today.”*
- *“I will be “better equipped to evaluate existing conditions at [an] intersection – to help us when we do make highway improvements.”*
- *“Overall, the class ‘opened my eyes’ to a different view with pedestrians and how to accommodate them.”*
- *“I wish this course could be taught to our MPO members – it would be very valuable to have everyone on the same page.”*
- *“Just about everything was new or [a] worthwhile review; very helpful information for local governments.”*
- *“The workshop “made me think – I’ll take it back to the office, try to persuade others!”*

A few key concepts that especially generated interest from participants throughout the week included the issues of interface between pedestrians and transit, ADA considerations, mid-block crossings, road diets, advanced stop bar usage, splitter island design with right-turn lanes, and roundabouts.

Participants felt that future workshops should cover road diets in a bit more detail, include more planning aspects, and cover more of the laws related to pedestrians. Several comments were made that the workshop content was too long for one day, and felt it should be spread over a day-and-a-half to two days. One participant even said similar workshops for bicycle and transit planning and design would be great.

Evaluation comments from this year's and last year's participants will be considered when preparing for future pedestrian planning and design workshops.