



SIDEWALKS AND BIKE LANES

Alternative methods of travel like pedestrian paths and bike trails are a great way to get around somewhere without a car. Walking and biking are healthy exercise, and the availability of these alternatives increases the livability of a city. Kingsport promotes these activities in a number of ways.

The City of Kingsport has a code, listed in its Code of Ordinances, that gets more specific about new sidewalk construction. According to the code, “sidewalks shall be constructed along the street frontage, except for limited access highway frontage (Interstate 81, Interstate 26 and John B. Dennis Highway), of all industrial, commercial, office, professional, semipublic and multifamily residential developments whenever a new principal structure is built or erected.”

This means that, as new construction arises, so will new sidewalks.

There’s an additional code about “alternative methods of pedestrian mobility,” which provides that in certain circumstances a bike lane, greenway, or similar mode of nonvehicular activity may be more appropriate than a standard sidewalk. If that’s the case, property owners can submit requests to the city engineer. The planning commission shall then approve or reject the proposal.

For more information on the codes mentioned above, please refer to their full text in the city’s [Code of Ordinances](#). The sidewalk code is found at [Sec. 90-184](#). The code on alternative methods of pedestrian mobility is [Sec. 90-190](#).