Graham Bishai

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An early-career urban planner focused on improving pedestrian infrastructure and public transportation and street designs that enhance safety, community, and quality of place.

Education

Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | *Master of City and Regional Planning* *expected May 2026* | **Chapel Hill, NC**

- Course focus in Transportation and Land Use Planning/Modeling, GIS, Land Use Law, Environmental Policy.
- ITE campus chapter, vice president 2025. Admissions and Social Committees.
    - **Masters Capstone:** *Mapping and Surveying Pedestrian/Greenway Easements in Chapel Hill*

Harvard University | *Bachelor of Arts, cum laude* 2015-2019 | **Cambridge, MA**

- Major: Social Studies (focus in public policy & urban development). Minor: African & African American Studies. GPA: 3.79.

Experience

Town of Chapel Hill | *Transportation Planning Assistant* June 2025 - present | **Chapel Hill, NC**

- Staff support to Office of Mobility and Greenways, which oversees planning and design for streets, sidewalks, and greenways, maintaining public rights of way, and safety initiatives including Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School.
- Conducting traffic analyses and preparing renderings and restriping plans for several upcoming bike lane expansions.
- Mapping, walk audits and volume counts, and community engagement to improve walking & biking conditions. Proposing and developing quick build strategies to address known safety hazards.
- Created mapped GIS layers and inventories of pedestrian easements and traffic control devices within town jurisdiction.
- Steering committee member for Everywhere-to-Everywhere Greenways Feasibility Study, providing applied research, community input data, and geospatial analysis to a plan to build 25 miles of paved greenway in Chapel Hill.

UNC Department of City & Regional Planning | *Research Assistant* 2024-2025 | **Chapel Hill, NC**

- Conducted qualitative interviews with local planners and transportation officials, with coding and analysis.
- Co-authored a research paper with Dr. Noreen C. McDonald surveying municipal planning responses to e-commerce-driven surges in warehouse and distribution development in NC.

Rails-to Trails Conservancy | *TrailLink Geomapping Intern* Feb - Jun 2024 | **remote**

- Spatially analyzed over 100 multi-use trails and updated maps and descriptions on TrailLink, RTC's web and mobile platforming detailing 40,000+ miles of multi-use greenways and trails across the United States.
- Pursued a dedicated focus on improving user accessibility and visibility of transit access to trails on the platform.

Urban Design Forum | *Communications Manager* Jan - Dec 2023 | **New York, NY**

- Led communications for a 1,000-member professional organization, showcasing its work and research on equitable and sustainable built environment strategies for NYC designers, planners, architects and city leaders.
- Oversaw weekly correspondence to 12,000 subscribers and managed website. Grew social media audiences by 23%.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights | *Membership Associate* 2021 - 2023 | **remote**

- Grew legislative advocacy partnerships among 230+ partners in the nation's oldest and largest civil rights coalition. Hosted large virtual briefings for top civil rights leaders, executed new contracts, and dispersed partnership grants.
- Produced, booked guests, and wrote scripts for Pod for the Cause, org. podcast discussing civil rights current affairs.

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism | *Researcher & Program Assistant* 2021 | **New York, NY**

- Contract for research on federal infrastructure investment on project seeking business community support for public investment in infrastructure in early stage of what became the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Skills

- Bicycle/Pedestrian and Transit Planning
- Traffic Observation and Analysis
- GIS and Geospatial Analysis
- Modal and Network Analysis
- Mapping and Wayfinding Design
- Community Engagement
- Verbal, Written & Visual Communication
- Graphic Design
- Project Management
- Event Planning and Facilitation

Software

- Microsoft Office
- ArcGIS Pro + Online
- QGIS, Felt
- SketchUp
- Remix
- TransCAD,TransModeller
- Adobe InDesign, Illustrator Photoshop
- Excel
- R and Stata

Languages

- English - *fluent*
- Spanish - *intermediate*

Volunteer Work

East Chapel Hill High School | *Student Trail Club Advisor* 2025-present | **Chapel Hill, NC**
- Formalizing and improving accessibility at a school-access trail. Lending planning and design advice to a student-led tactical urbanism project. Facilitating engagement with school board, local HOA and Habitat for Humanity affordable housing project.

Riders Alliance | *Campaign Committee Member* 2023 - 2024 |**New York, NY**
- Outreach and organizing with advocacy group urging public transit accessibility improvements in New York City.
- Testified at state and local public hearings and volunteered at community outreach events.

Bio

Graham Bishai is a second-year master's student in City and Regional Planning student at UNC-Chapel Hill, and a Transportation Planning Assistant for the Town of Chapel Hill, NC. Graham works to make places more walk- bike- and transit accessible. He cares deeply about dignity in transportation and livable street designs that enhance safety, community, and quality of place. Originally from Baltimore, Graham lived in South Africa as a teenager and in New York City after college. City planning draws upon his fascination with place and the built environment's effect on culture, civil society, health, and wellbeing. Prior to planning school, Graham worked for 5 years in public policy and for non-profits working on civil rights and urban design, and in trail and greenway development.