

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



1.1 PURPOSE

The overall goal of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is to set a stage for the county's long-term vision of safe, accessible, and connected bicycle and pedestrian network. Implementation of the plan will improve walking and biking conditions throughout Shelby County with an emphasis on connecting neighborhoods, schools,



business districts, parks, and recreational facilities. Another key objective of the plan is to increase opportunities for physical activity within the county. By making walking and bicycling safer and more convenient, there will be greater incentive to walk and ride bikes for health and recreation, as well as for transportation.

The *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* is a stand-alone document that could be incorporated into the Transportation Element of the [Shelby County Comprehensive Plan](#) (Triple S Planning Commission, 2015) as part of the next annual update. The Master Plan provides an updated inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, analyzes the functionality of the overall non-motorized network, and identifies potential for improvements of the network that address connectivity, comfort, and safety.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Shelby County Multi-Use Pathway Joint Committee

The Shelby County Multi-Use Pathway Joint Committee was created with representatives from Shelby County, City of Simpsonville, City of Shelbyville,

Shelby County Parks, Shelby Tourism Commission and the Triple S Planning Commission. The purpose of the committee is to address the needs of alternative modes of transportation, strengthen zoning regulations, and for the completion of the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* for Shelby County.

Plan Development

The *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* was developed over a period of approximately six months with funding through Shelby County Fiscal Court, the City of Shelbyville, the City of Simpsonville and Shelby County Tourism.

An Advisory Committee was established that met regularly between September 2016 and February 2017. The committee helped develop draft goals and objectives, provided input on the proposed bicycle and pedestrian network facilities, and the prioritization criteria. In addition to the advisory committee input, a survey was conducted early in the plan development process to learn more about the habits and preferences of those who are biking and walking in Shelby County. Two public workshops were conducted in October 2016 and



January 2017, both in the City of Shelbyville. The October workshop focused on gathering input on existing conditions. The January workshop focused on a review of the goals and objectives, a draft presentation of proposed facilities, and other plan recommendations.

1.3 VISION

Shelby County envisions a safe transportation system that encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation to enrich the quality of life. The system will lead to the establishment of viable bicycle and pedestrian networks for all users regardless of their age or ability. The development of the system will focus on a healthy environment, continued economic growth, increased connectivity, and forming a more vibrant, sustainable county.

This vision will be realized through the achievement of the following goals:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Network and Support Facilities – Develop a network that allows for safe and convenient movement throughout the county and that provides connections to other regional networks.

Safety, security, and Equity – Provide safe connections between neighborhoods, business centers, institutional facilities, parks, recreation facilities, and schools. Consider the needs of all residents, especially those who do not have access to private vehicles or access to public transportation.

Transportation and Land Use – Consider adjacent land uses and their potential to generate walking and biking travel when determining where walking and cycling improvements are most needed.

Education and Awareness – Open the lines of communications so that all users of the transportation network have improved awareness of the need to share the roadways and trails, and recognize and observe traffic safety laws.

Maintenance and Operations – Ensure that biking and walking facilities are kept in good condition and safe for the intended users.

Tourism and Economic Development – Expand the opportunity for tourism and regional recreational riding and walking.

Public Health – Enhance public health by encouraging biking and walking.

1.4 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following section reflects the development by the Advisory Committee of specific objectives that will be instrumental in achieving the previously stated goals. These objectives are both broad and comprehensive, and were reviewed by the public at the workshops. They can only be met successfully through community-wide effort, and not just through local governmental action.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORK AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

Goal: Develop a network that allows for safe and convenient movement throughout the county and that provides connections to other regional networks.

Objectives:

- *Improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure connectivity and provide more places to walk and cycle.*
- *Build pedestrian and bicycle facilities on new roadways where appropriate, and retrofit older roadways to complete the network when feasible.*
- *Complete missing links in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on the existing street network as a priority measure.*
- *Improve connections to possible future transit for pedestrians and bicyclists.*
- *Develop a bicycle and pedestrian network that supports a diversity of abilities and interests.*
- *Encourage high-quality and secure bicycle parking at destinations.*
- *Provide wayfinding tools for pedestrians and bicyclists. (Maps, signage, etc.)*

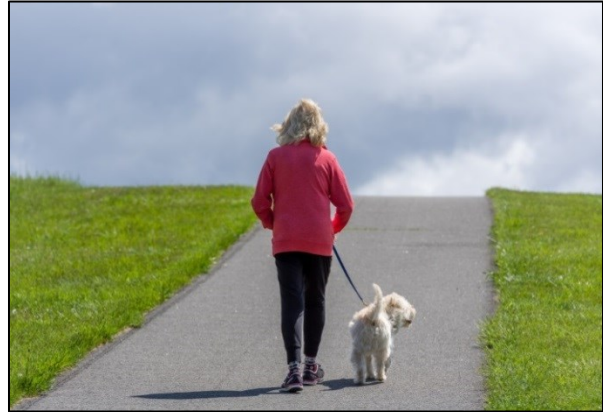


SAFETY, SECURITY, AND EQUITY

Goal: Provide safe connections between neighborhoods, business centers, institutional facilities, parks, recreation facilities, and schools. Consider the needs of all residents, especially those who do not have access to private vehicles or access to public transportation.

Objectives:

- *Provide facility safety through design, operations, maintenance, and education.*
- *Effectively enforce laws that affect bicyclist and pedestrian safety.*
- *Provide outreach and education to increase safety and awareness for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.*
- *Ensure that pedestrian and bicycle facilities are available and accessible to everyone in the community.*
- *Apply traffic calming techniques where practical to address safety issues associated with vehicle speeds and volumes.*



TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

Goal: Consider adjacent land uses and their potential to generate walking and biking travel when determining where walking and cycling improvements are most needed.

Objectives:

- *Connect the pedestrian and bicycle network to destinations such as government facilities, residential areas, commercial and business districts, parks, trails, schools, and recreation sites.*
- *Require implementation of pedestrian and bicycle facilities as part of improvements associated*



with development or redevelopment.

- *Coordinate “pathway” projects with parks and recreation agencies.*
- *Develop “connector trails” to link destinations and facilities not easily accessible to and from the existing street network.*
- *Require pedestrian and bicycle trip-making through the form, density, and design of new commercial and business centers.*

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Goal: Open the lines of communications so that all users of the transportation network have improved awareness of the need to share the roadways and trails, as well as enhanced recognition and observation of traffic safety laws.

Objectives:

- *Support creative local walking and biking events*
- *Develop programs that encourage people to shift from driving to walking and biking for short trips within the City.*
- *Encourage walking and biking to community events.*
- *Strengthen local walking and biking organizations.*
- *Promote Shelby County as a walkable, bikeable, and accessible county.*
- *Provide easily accessible information about the pedestrian and bicycle system.*
- *Encourage school officials to support biking and walking to school, by providing reference materials, bike racks at schools, and supporting bike-to-school day programs.*



MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Goal: Ensure that biking and walking facilities are kept in good condition and safe for the intended users.

Objectives:

- *Monitor bicycle and pedestrian facilities to ensure that safety is not being degraded over time.*
- *Update pedestrian and bicycle facilities where appropriate to incorporate best practices.*
- *Manage traffic control systems to better facilitate bicycle and walking travel along strategic corridors.*
- *Encourage community support and participation in the maintenance of the facilities.*



TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal: Expand the opportunity for tourism and regional recreational riding and walking.

Objectives:

- *Sidewalks and bikeways should be inviting to existing and potential walkers and bikers.*
- *Promote and enhance the role of sidewalks and streets as the PUBLIC REALM by re-envisioning them as public spaces for people to enjoy.*

- *Elevate the level of pedestrian amenities, maintenance, and management to make the sidewalks and streets a vital part of the County's civic life and accessible to all.*
- *Support biking and walking improvements to help communities near major trails leverage economic benefits of trail tourism.*
- *Coordinate with business and economic development organizations to develop and promote biking and walking resources and activities.*
- *Support creative walking and biking events.*



PUBLIC HEALTH

Goal: Enhance public health by encouraging biking and walking.

Objectives:

- *Provide safe and accessible streets, intersections, and trails, as well as programs and policies that encourage increased biking and walking as a safe and active form of transportation and recreation for all users.*
- *Encourage replacement of short vehicular by biking or walking trips, with resulting benefits for residents' health and fitness and reductions in air pollution.*
- *Partner with local governments and other agencies to support walkable and bikeable communities to achieve sustainability, livability, health, equity, and economic benefits.*
- *Encourage and provide incentives for active lifestyles that include regular walking or biking.*

