



Active Community Environments (ACE) Special Project: Greenwood County

ABSTRACT

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and Eat Smart Move More (ESMM) South Carolina funded Greenwood County for an ACE Special Project. ESMM Greenwood County worked with the City of Greenwood and Alta Planning + Design to develop a master bicycle and pedestrian plan to further enhance the health and well-being of Greenwood's residents, as well as enhance the community's attractiveness to prospective businesses, employees, and visitors.

BACKGROUND

Greenwood has a large population of individuals who live in food deserts and have limited access to recreational physical activity. The master bicycle and pedestrian plan will help fill this void by creating a more connected and walkable community for residents. The community will have safer access to grocery stores, healthcare, social services, and areas for play.

PURPOSE

The primary objective of this project is to propose a long-term on- and off-street bikeway, walkway, and trail network, while creating connectivity between residents and destinations.

Barriers to Walking and Biking in Greenwood



ASSESSMENT & RESULTS

Alta Planning + Design convened a diverse group of members for a steering committee and held a public resident forum. The forum identified a community need for safe travel-ways for bicyclists and pedestrians. Barriers that discourage walking and biking in Greenwood include:



Trail maintenance and perceived safety concerns. Following crime prevention guidelines and maintaining better lighting, trail upkeep, and sightlines could increase both safety and perceived safety of existing trails, leading to increased trail use.



Lack of dedicated spaces for bicycling. Bike riding on sidewalks indicates that residents feel more comfortable bicycling there due to the lack of dedicated spaces for bicycling along most Greenwood roadways.

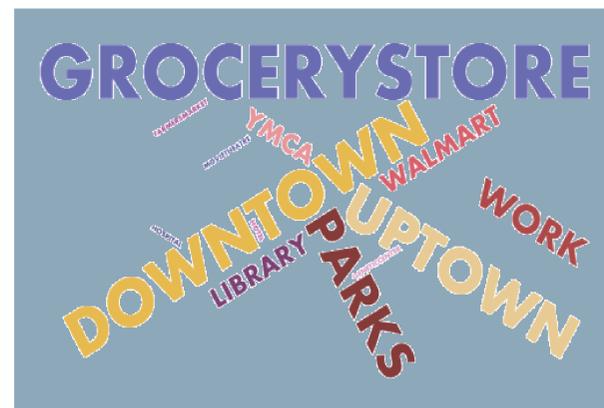


Large roadway intersections. Accessibility and safety can be increased by installing median refuges, pedestrian and bicycle-oriented signals, and high-visibility pavement markings.



Sidewalk gaps outside of the city center. Filling in sidewalk gaps along major roadways will encourage walking and increase accessibility for school children and residents with mobility issues

Residents' Preferred Walking and Biking Destinations



KEY STEPS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A master bicycle and pedestrian plan was created.
- Key partnerships were formed and included: City of Greenwood, Greenwood County, Greenwood Family YMCA, Self Regional Healthcare, Lander University, and Carolina Community Health Centers.

LESSONS LEARNED

Engaging active residents in the planning process is essential. It may also be valuable to have recreational walkers engaged, as well. Their ideas will appeal to a larger range of people.

NEXT STEPS

When the Plan is approved by City Council, the Steering Committee will have a strong foundation to move other projects forward. The master bicycle and pedestrian plan will be presented to Greenwood City Council for adoption.

