

**ARTS/Aiken County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**  
**Focus Group: Recreation**  
**Conducted at Augusta Public Transit**  
**October 4, 2011**

**Focus Group Participants:**

- **Bill Waters**; [wheeliamwaters@hotmail.com](mailto:wheeliamwaters@hotmail.com); 803-514-7872 (Recreational and commuter pending member in wheel movement board.)
- **Martin “Gator” Cochran**; [gator@gatorcochran.com](mailto:gator@gatorcochran.com); 706-823-3066 (Wants to connect communities; long distance cyclist)
- **Brett Audrey**; [brett@outspokinga.com](mailto:brett@outspokinga.com); 706-736-2486 (Owner of Outspokin Bicycle Shop and wants to enhance commuting)
- **Christian Lentz**; [ucflentz@yahoo.com](mailto:ucflentz@yahoo.com) and [clentz@csrarc.ga.gov](mailto:clentz@csrarc.ga.gov); 912-536-8167 and 706-210-2009 (CSRA RC Staff Member, interest in biking, commuting, pending member in wheel movement board)
- **Tom Lex**; [TJLEX5@aol.com](mailto:TJLEX5@aol.com); 803-295-2379 (Palmetto Cycling from Aiken. Wants more routes)
- **Lora Walczak**; [lora.walczak@gmail.com](mailto:lora.walczak@gmail.com); 912-398-5008 (Medical College of Georgia)
- **Steve Exley**; [sexley@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:sexley@columbiacountyga.gov); 706-447-7600 (Columbia County)

**Staff Attending:**

- **Marya Moultrie**; [mmoultrie@augustaga.gov](mailto:mmoultrie@augustaga.gov); 706-821-1796 (Study Project Manager)
- **Mary Huffstetler**, MPH and Associates, Inc.
- **Jack Cebe**, Alta Planning + Design

**Discussion Notes:**

***General Comments***

There is a revived Greenway committee. They have priorities:

- Extend Greenway
- Maintenance of what we have (like gravel on Saint Sebastian Way)

***What is currently good for biking in the study area?***

- Greenway and Canal are good facilities
- Beginning of a promising off-street network
- Bike paths in the works, but not connected
- If emergency lane on SR 28 were cleaned up –very wide, good for bikes
- Focus on “hubs” like Augusta, North Augusta, SR 421—good corridor to connect Aiken and Augusta
- Stagecoach Rd, Whiteoak Rd, good alternative routes
- From Evans, Patriots Park...lots of good alternative routes. Columbia road has a nice shoulder to Patriots Park
  - Signage would be good
  - Cyclists already present in the area

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- Have to cross I-20
- Wrightsboro Road is a good road
- Parkways are asset, need to connect to them though
- Banks Mill Rd, Silver Bluff, Hampton Road, Trolley Line Road, Vaucluse Road in South Carolina—could provide connection but currently dangerous
- SR 421 is great road for biking in Aiken County
- Highway 1 is fairly good, students biking to school
  - Could use more signage, paint, currently inadequate

#### ***What Type of Program Improvements would benefit this Area?***

- Need to education early through drivers education and drivers license testing, both bikers and motorists.
  - People need to know bikes have a right to the road, understand laws, understand penalties for breaking laws, need to have at least 10 questions on drivers license test
- Signage, education, exposure, encouragement
- Mapping with alternative routes
- Cyclists need education regarding riding against traffic in the road, helmets
  - Educate Law Enforcement
  - Currently, enforcement defaults to cyclist as at fault
  - Most local law enforcement are required to have continuing education,
  - Peter Wilbourne [mybikelaw.com](http://mybikelaw.com) knows laws across multiple states and does law enforcement training, doesn't charge; does general public training (doesn't train children)
- Need a national or state PSA —Palmetto Cycling has campaign *Safe Streets Save Lives* to educate cyclists and motorists. Have \$75,000 grant, but not enough for TV time; Airing for target audiences
- Safe Routes to School; Kids should be able to walk to school
- Mentoring Program
- Bicycle rodeos, late spring—getting out of school need to get them tied in with school or maybe utilize Parks and Recreation departments
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Police Department; police need to ticket and have violators attend education workshops run by local bike organizations.
- When people buy bikes from places like Wal-Mart, have them fill out a card/read a questionnaire regarding road rules and safety; Maybe make it so that manufacturers are required to supply test/information; There are no warning labels when you buy a bike; bike manufacturers should be proactive and may be willing to be proactive
- A bicyclist license
- Difference between commuters by choice and by necessity; commuters by obligation aren't necessarily going to associate with bicycle shops
- Wheel Movement, Parks and Recreation, Law Enforcement

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- Medical Care - Pediatricians for young kids may be good to distribution of information
- Insurance Companies
  - Involved in reporting of accidents with cyclists
  - Should be proactive in prevention
- Decision Makers regarding Land-Use
- Education and Encouragement - Let people know where to go for information; where there are safe paths; which routes are low-volume, and which are high volume. Until infrastructure is there, map out best roads
- Consistent, identifiable signage, turn by turn

#### ***What types of Facility improvements would benefit this area?***

- Multi-use paths where people can ride golf-carts
- Effective transportation facilities need stop signs, directional signs
- Consistent, identifiable signage, turn by turn directions
- Dedicated Bike lanes; If can't do it currently, at least utilize sharrows
- Capitalizing on natural assets in the area
- Need to balance money and need
- Biggest impact is education and enforcement
- On road system, but fill in gaps off-road
- Utilize alleyways as bike boulevards (like near Walton way up to Daniel Village, Broad Street, Division Street)
- Creek-beds, canals
- Bike system will provide more opportunities for low - income
- Use what we have currently (alleyways, clean up alleys, ect)
- Signs for cars to give 3' to cyclists
- Connectivity with new development
- Need to connect to new development
- Bike route dedicated streets
- No paint, signs, direction for side paths (like near Knox road)

#### ***Low Hanging Fruit, Priorities***

- North Augusta
- Connecting Augusta Canal to North Augusta Greenway
- Connect the end of the North Augusta Greenway to Walnut Lane in Aiken County down US25 near to facility along I- 520 (Palmetto Parkway)
- Grant money and DOT help for parking facility near Palmetto Pkwy to Ascauga Lake Road.
- Carolina Springs Road and Atomic Road, easy connection from there to end of existing North Augusta Greenway
- Also connection from Aiken into that system (maybe via SR 421 due to low traffic)
- Near Clearwater elementary, goes from 4 to 2 lanes—no shoulder, maybe 4 ft.

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- Adding shoulders on rural roads
- Maybe small tax law (1/3 cent)
- Identify routes and mark and sign them and improve facilities
- Connect to other outlying, rural areas via signed routes
- Columbia County via Augusta Canal
- Better mid-point access to Augusta Canal/I-20 is needed
- South Augusta Gordon Hwy Fort Gordon Gate 5 to Downtown Augusta Spur 56 (Doug Bernard) from Airport to downtown Hwy 1
- Ellis Street in downtown Augusta should be converted for pedestrian and cyclists only/not even used for traffic
- Put money into it, and businesses will follow
- Look at Miami for example
- East and West Buena Vista in North Augusta
- Striping and signage on current roadways
- Broad Street in Augusta
- Improvements should be phased in conjunction with repaving
- Georgia Avenue in North Augusta and 13<sup>th</sup> street in Augusta to connect current trails
- Robinson Ave. in Grovetown (Fort Gordon Gate1)
- Pavement condition an issue to improve biking
- Intersection on East Buena Vista on Brookside Ave. needs improvement; Spur trail terminates, park and residential areas are across the street, not easily crossed with children/families
- In front of Salvation Army Kroc Center on Broad Street, above 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Between Crawford and Eve in Augusta
- Connect Broad to Lake Olmsted/alternative routes. Maybe via King's Mill?
- Stagecoach Road, Whiteoak Road, good alternative routes
- From Evans, Patriots Park, lots of good alternative routes.
- Connect Grovetown to downtown Augusta
- Columbia Road has a nice shoulder to Patriots Park
  - Signage would be good
  - Cyclists already present
  - Have to cross I-20
- Wrightsboro Road is a good road
- All ways into the City of Aiken are a little scary
- Bike racks in downtowns
- Share the road signs are invisible
- Trolley Line Road—between Aiken and Graniteville to connect YMCA, USA Aiken, Manufacturing companies, and residential
- Route designations with signage would be helpful
- There is a memorandum for 4ft shoulders in DOT, but can't afford them when project comes up.
- Focus on routes that are along the Heritage Corridor Friends of the Greenway and

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Greenway Trust; 100,000 dollars in trust; Has to stay in banks; Has to be used for bettering the Greenway

- We need to make easy connections such as Augusta, Edgefield, McCormick, Belton, etc.

### ***Additional Columbia County Notes from Steve Exley from Columbia County***

- N. Belair Widening – Washington Road to Industrial Park Avenue, why no bike lanes?
- Baston Rd., Bike lanes?
- Evans to Locks Road has multi-use path but has no bike lane, needs a bike lane
- N. Belair Road from Washington Road to Fury's Ferry would link parks to residential
- Stevens Creek Rd. sidewalks and bike lanes needed Riverwatch Parkway to Evans to Locks Road
- Hereford Farm from Belair Road to Columbia Road will and should be widened
- Gibbs Road about to widen needs bike lanes
- Hardy McManus Rd and William Few Parkway bike lane and sidewalks needed, connection to Fury's Ferry would connect to Riverwoods subdivision
- Flowing Wells Pleasant Home to Washington Rd. include bike lanes and sidewalks