

Sumter County Active Lifestyles Bicycle Plan

Prepared for:
Sumter County

Prepared by:

Linda Pekuri, MPH, RD, LD
Executive Director, Sumter County Active Lifestyles
&
Wayne Argabright
Sumter County Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator

February 2009



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Executive Summary

The Sumter County Active Lifestyles Bicycle Plan, February 2009 is a presentation of the work Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) has done, and plans on doing, to achieve our vision of “everyone in Sumter County being aware of and regularly enjoying the use of the county’s safe, convenient, and attractive bicycle lanes, paths and trails.” Our efforts focus on:

- development and use of bicycle lanes, paths and trails
- development and implementation of a community education and awareness plan that promotes and advocates for safe and enjoyable bicycling for travel, leisure and exercise
- outreach to areas of Sumter County that are underserved in terms of supports and resources for bicycle lanes, paths or trails
- engaging key policy and decision makers in discussions of bicycle travel issues in Sumter County
- promoting use and maintenance of city and county bicycle lanes and trails

The plan details SCAL’s action steps and progress since 2006 toward resolving key issues we’ve identified for each of the above focus areas. Noteworthy achievements along the way are highlighted, which include the installation of eight new bicycle racks at public parks and USC Sumter, initiation of “Bike Month” and “Bike to Work Day” in Sumter County, and achievement of state-level approval and provision of additional Share the Road signs and a street sweeper for Sumter County.

Formal data collection and evaluation of SCAL’s progress on these key issues are managed by the University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center. Individuals interested in more information about these data should contact the SCAL office at (803) 774-3860 or 3861.



Preface

I am pleased to present you with this publication, Sumter County Active Lifestyles Bicycle Plan, February 2009. This publication outlines SCAL's long-range vision of an active and bicycle-friendly community environment and our specific plan of action toward achieving this vision for Sumter County. The vision is grand and requires thoughtful, decisive, persistent and sometimes seemingly insignificant steps to be fulfilled. However, SCAL is committed to achieving the vision, and we are already well on our way to bringing the vision literally down to "where the rubber meets the road."

This publication is a companion piece to the SCAL Pedestrian Plan released in March 2008. It is intended for Sumter County government leaders, planners, decision makers, community coalitions, residents and any other interested parties for informational use relative to what SCAL is doing to improve the health and quality of life for all citizens of the county. I welcome any comments, questions and concerns you may have about any of the information contained herein or suggestions for what SCAL can do to make Sumter County an active and bicycle-friendly community environment. Contact me by mail, email or phone:

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Sincerely,

Linda M. Pekuri, MPH, RD, LD
Executive Director



Part I: Master Plan

Section Contents:

Section 1: Vision and Objectives

Section 2: Issues, Recommended Actions, Progress and Completed Actions



Section 1: Vision and Objectives

Vision

We envision everyone in Sumter County being aware of and regularly enjoying the use of the county's safe, convenient and attractive bicycle lanes, paths and trails.

Objectives

Objective 1: Increase bicycle facilities and bicycle trail development in cooperation with relevant community partners.

Objective 2: Develop and implement an education and awareness plan for a bicycle-friendly community that promotes and advocates for safe and enjoyable bicycling for leisure, exercise and transportation.

Objective 3: Advocate for further development and expansion of safe bicycle lanes, paths and trails in the underserved areas of the county (i.e. areas that are rural and/or have few or no bike lanes, paths or trails).

Objective 4: Develop and implement a plan to engage influential land developers, land use planners, transportation planners, and policy makers in discussions of bicycle travel issues in Sumter County and how we can better accommodate bicyclists.

Objective 5: Promote use of city and county bicycle lanes and trails.



Section 2: Issues, Recommended Actions, Progress and Completed Actions

Objective 1: Increase bicycle facilities (e.g. designated bike lanes/paths and bicycle racks) and bicycle trail development in cooperation with relevant community partners.

Issues:

- 1) Partnerships must continually grow and develop, thereby ensuring ongoing trail development.
- 2) Funding must be sustained for bicycle trails projects and staffing.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Continue ongoing communication with the Sumter County Recreation and Parks Department, Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) team, South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Palmetto Cycling Coalition (PCC). Form new partnerships with other bicycle advocacy groups.
- 2) Hold planning meetings with the Recreation and Parks Department director and Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator at least quarterly.
- 3) Identify funding for bicycle trail projects.
- 4) Continue the funding for the Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator position.
- 5) Create an inventory of existing and proposed bike trails, lanes, paths and racks.
- 6) Expand existing bicycle lane, path and trail projects.
- 7) Support SUATS in its efforts to implement the bicycle-related recommendations of the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Progress toward Recommended Actions and Completed Actions:

- 1) The Recreation Department director, Rose Ford, is an active member of SCAL who gives and receives trails-related information on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to and from the SCAL executive director, Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator, Wayne Argabright, and SCAL's Bike-Walk and Accessibility & Outreach committees. Representatives of SUATS and SCDOT are active members of the Bike-Walk Committee.

SCAL has recently formed partnerships with scbikelaw.com, Partners for Active Living in Spartanburg, SC and the Bicycle Friendly Columbia Task Force. [SCbikelaw.com](http://scbikelaw.com) provided bike lights to distribute. Partners for Active Living and Bicycle Friendly Columbia Task Force will assist SCAL in implementing further bicycling-related initiatives. The Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator is a member of the League of



American Bicyclists and Bikes Belong, two organizations that provide assistance and resources for community-based bicycling initiatives.

- 2) Regular communication exists among the SCAL executive director, Recreation Department director and bicycle-pedestrian coordinator through monthly reports and meetings. The SCAL executive director communicates on an almost daily basis with the bicycle-pedestrian coordinator, who is an active member of SCAL's Bike-Walk Committee.
- 3) Completed: Funding for bicycle trail projects has been identified. Bikes Belong, Park & Recreation Development Fund, and Grants.gov are a few organizations that provide funding. SCAL plans to seek funds for bicycle trail projects, now that it has received its tax-exempt status.
- 4) The University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center (USC PRC) and Sumter County provide funding to the Recreation Department for a part-time Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator, Wayne Argabright. SCAL plans to seek funding to support the bicycle-pedestrian coordinator.
- 5) Completed: The County's bicycle-pedestrian coordinator has created an inventory of all city and county bike lanes, paths, trails and racks. (See pages 25-28 for a listing of bike rack locations.) The SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan (to which SCAL contributed information) and the Recommendations for the Development & Implementation of a Sumter County Greenways Plan document developed by the bicycle-pedestrian coordinator list proposed/potential bike lanes, paths and trails. (The latter document was given to city and county leaders, planners, department directors and USC PRC. It is available at the SCAL office.)
- 6) In December 2006, SCAL purchased seven bicycle racks and had them installed at Cypress Park, Dillon Park, Palmetto Tennis Center and Park, Crosswell Park, Memorial Park and Swan Lake, with the exception of the rack purchased for downtown Sumter. In September 2008, SCAL purchased two bike racks for the USC Sumter campus, which were installed in December 2008.

In August 2007, the Sumter County Cypress Trail was enhanced with new signage and physical improvements to make it easier for trail users to follow and ride the trail.

In October 2008, SCAL applied for funding from Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina to host a complete streets workshop in Sumter. However, the application was not funded.

Three new rail trail projects have been identified: The town of Mayesville has received a grant for a rail trail. A potential rail trail location is the Old Camden branch of the Norfolk Southern Railroad that leads to Horatio and Hagood and connects with the Palmetto Trail at its southern terminus. (The bicycle-pedestrian coordinator is keeping abreast of the status of this



rail line. If it is abandoned, he will be able to progress in making it a rail trail that will also link up with the Palmetto Trail.) Another potential rail trail is the abandoned rail line that heads out from Sumter toward the defunct railroad stops of Privateer and Manchester.

The bicycle-pedestrian coordinator is a member of the Manchester State Forest Advisory Council, which is working on expanding a mountain bike trail in the Campbell Pond area that will be open year-round. The trail will be a full loop, using Poinsett Park property also.

- 7) Three SCAL members are serving on a committee to develop the Sumter County 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The plan will include bicycle-related recommendations of the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan and those of the Sumter County Greenways Plan Recommendations paper developed by the bicycle-pedestrian coordinator.

Objective 2: Develop and implement an education and awareness plan for a bicycle-friendly community that promotes and advocates for safe and enjoyable bicycling for leisure, exercise and transportation.

Issues relative to use of bicycles:

- 1) The awareness level of bicycling safety and the benefits and barriers of bicycle travel in Sumter County is limited.
- 2) There is a need for greater public awareness among motorists and bicyclists of local laws and ordinances regarding bicycle use on streets/roads and sidewalks, and general bicycle safety.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Research local laws and ordinances that relate to bicycling.
- 2) Develop an educational campaign for motorists and bicyclists about safe bicycle travel in Sumter County. (Campaign should address bicycling rules, regulations and safety, and the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and motorists sharing the road.)
- 3) Collaborate with schools and worksites to make residents aware of safe bicycling routes to school and work.

Progress toward Recommended Actions and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed. Local and state bicycling laws and ordinances have been identified. See pages 19-23.
- 2) SCAL began implementing its bicycle safety education campaign in March 2006 and continues presently. Components have included:
 - o *Signs on three Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) vans that promoted bicyclist (and pedestrian) safety.* The signs were in place for over three months in late 2006.



- *CycleFest 2007*. Children were taught how to wear a helmet and use proper riding techniques and given a courtesy safety inspection of their bicycles.
 - *USC-SCAL surveys, in July 2007, of bicyclists and motorists* regarding their knowledge, attitudes and behavior about bicycling/bicycle safety in Sumter County. Some of the results were used in advocacy for building a better bicycling infrastructure for Sumter County, as recommended in the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan. The results are also being used to formulate SCAL's bicycle safety education campaign. (For more information about the survey and its results, contact the SCAL office at (803) 774-3861.)
 - *Sumter City and County Bike to Work Day and Bike Month proclamations in May 2008*. SCAL's first annual Bike to Work Day was held on May 16, 2008 to raise awareness of bicycling as an alternative and "green" transportation method and healthy lifestyle activity. SCAL plans to promote Bike to Work Day and Bike Month more intensely in 2009 and beyond.
 - *Share the Road campaign*. SCAL has created its own Share the Road slogan, "Drive and Cycle Friendly." The slogan was introduced to the Sumter County public in October 2008 via newspaper ads that listed some of the laws in the newly-enacted Bicycle Safety Bill of South Carolina (H*3006- See pages 21-23.) More activities of the Share the Road campaign are in progress.
 - *Bike light distribution program*. In partnership with the Palmetto Cycling Coalition, scbikelaw.com, Sumter County Health Department-DHEC and Sumter County Department of Social Services, SCAL began a bicycle light distribution program in December 2008.
- 3) Collaboration with schools to make parents aware of safe bicycling routes to school is in progress. SCAL is a member of Livable Sumter, which has been working with Willow Drive Elementary School on their Safes Routes to School Initiative.

The Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator provides technical assistance and consultation to worksites in Sumter County regarding policy and environmental supports for bike commuting and safe cycling routes to/from the worksite. In 2008, Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) and Eaton Corporation installed bicycle racks on their campuses.

Issues relative to bicycling infrastructure:

- 1) The ongoing maintenance and enhancement of bicycle lanes, paths and trails are essential to a bicycle-friendly community environment. Current



problem areas for bicycles are: road grates, excessive traffic, no safety margins and excessive debris in bike lanes.

- 2) The impacts of new infrastructure construction (e.g., roads) on bicycle and traffic patterns and bicyclist and motorist safety must be considered and managed.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Identify parties or agencies responsible for maintenance, enhancements and safety of bike lanes, paths and trails.
- 2) Create a “Who to Contact” list of agencies responsible for handling questions/concerns about bike lanes, paths and trails.
- 3) Advocate for ongoing maintenance, enhancements and safety of bike lanes, paths and trails to ensure bike-friendly environments.
- 4) Advocate for more viable and visible bike lanes, paths and trails and complete streets projects.

Progress toward Recommended Actions and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed: SCAL has identified all parties or agencies responsible for maintenance, enhancements and safety of bike lanes, paths and trails.
- 2) Completed: The SCAL publication, *Who to Contact about Bicycle Lanes and Trails in Sumter County*, is available free to the public at the SCAL office. A reproduction of the publication is on page 29.
- 3) In October 2007, SCAL petitioned SCDOT Secretary H.B. Limehouse, Jr. for a street sweeper for Sumter County to help maintain Sumter’s bike lanes more frequently. An additional street sweeper for SCDOT District 1 (which includes Sumter County), along with more frequent inspection and maintenance of the county’s bike lanes, was approved.
- 4) On November 5, 2006, *The Item* newspaper published a letter to the editor written by the SCAL executive director advocating for passage of the one cent capital projects sales tax because it would pay for the addition of bicycle lanes on new road projects. (The sales tax referendum was not approved by voters.) SCAL’s persistent and consistent message about bike-able communities was reinforced during the 2008 capital projects sales tax campaign in a newspaper tab developed by the campaign committee. In 2008, voters approved the sales tax.

In March 2007, SCAL petitioned SCDOT for 27 additional Share the Road signs to be installed along the bicycle routes identified in SCAL’s *Bike Sumter County* map. SCDOT gave their permission and recommendations, and the signs were installed in May 2007.

Objective 3: Advocate for further development and expansion of safe bike lanes, paths and trails in the underserved areas of the county (i.e. areas that are rural and/or have few or no bike lanes, paths or trails).



Issue: Sumter County has only 7.82 miles of marked bike lanes (McCray's Mill Road and Wedgefield Road) and 2.16 miles of bike path (Loring Mill Road). Most parts of the county have no marked bike lanes or paths.

Recommended Action: Continue existing partnerships and develop news ones with agencies and organizations that can help develop bicycle lanes, paths and trails.

Progress toward Recommended Actions and Completed Actions:

- 1) SCAL has maintained strong partnerships with SCDOT, SUATS, Sumter County Recreation and Parks Department and the Sumter City-County Planning Commission to work on bicycling issues, initiatives and infrastructure.
- 2) The Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator is a member of a new consortium of Midlands-area military bases (Midlands Area Joint Installations Consortium- MAJIC) that is working to prevent encroachment upon military installations by creating natural buffers that could include bike trails. The areas of Sumter County that would benefit from these buffers are those in the western portion of Sumter County: Wedgefield, Pinewood, Dalzell, Horatio, Hagood, Rembert, Cherryvale, Stateburg, Cane Savannah, Hillcrest and Borden.

The Recommendations for the Development & Implementation of a Sumter County Greenways Plan document encourages the development of greenways that include bicycle paths in Dalzell, Mayesville, Rembert/Horatio, Pinewood and the Shiloh community.

Objective 4: Develop and implement a plan to engage influential land developers, land use planners, transportation planners and policymakers in discussions of bicycle travel issues in Sumter County and how we can better accommodate bicyclists.

Issue: Mutual cooperation and education among land use planners, land developers, transportation planners and policymakers must be fostered and maintained.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Develop a list of best practices for a bicycle-friendly community to share with and promote to land use planners, land developers, transportation planners and policymakers.
- 2) Communicate these best practices to these stakeholders, and advocate for adoption and implementation of policies and ordinances in support of a bicycle-friendly community.
- 3) Communicate with partners at least quarterly.



Progress toward Recommended Actions and Completed Actions:

- 1) Using criteria established by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), the Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator is assessing Sumter's qualifications for a "bicycle-friendly" designation. He attended a meeting of the Bicycle Friendly Columbia Task Force in January 2009 to learn how that city achieved the bronze-level "Bicycle-Friendly Community" designation from the LAB.

In March 2009, SCAL members will attend a "Bicycle-Friendly Community" workshop in Spartanburg, SC to learn how the Partners for Active Living-Bike Town Spartanburg Initiative achieved the bronze-level "Bicycle-Friendly Community" designation for Spartanburg from the LAB. Afterward, SCAL will begin implementing similar strategies in Sumter.

- 2) SCAL plans to host a "Bicycle-Friendly Community Workshop" in Sumter in 2009. The workshop will provide an introduction of issues affecting bicycling safety and use in Sumter County; create an informed action plan to improve conditions for bicycling in the county; and encourage physical activity through bicycling.
- 3) The resident engineer of SCDOT-Sumter County, the City-County Planning Commission's transportation coordinator and the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments transportation coordinator are members of SCAL and attend monthly meetings.

Objective 5: Promote use of city and county bike lanes and trails.

Issue: Sumter County's bike lanes and trails are underutilized due to low awareness of their existence and lack of connectivity of bike lanes and trails to common destinations.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Increase public awareness of the county's bike lanes and trails by sponsoring community bike rides/events on the trails and via the media (newspaper articles and ads, infomercials, website, etc.)
- 2) Advocate for connectivity of bike lanes and trails to common destinations such as worksites, shops/businesses, restaurants, schools, places of worship and recreational areas.

Progress toward Recommended Actions and Completed Actions:

- 1) SCAL sponsors National Trails Day events every two years to highlight and promote Sumter County's parks and trails. In 2006 and 2008, a National Trails Day event featured bike rides along SCAL-designated bicycle routes.



SCAL and Sumter County Safe Kids Coalition have sponsored CycleFest every two years to promote bicycling and bicycling safety. Rides are conducted along routes designated by the Sumter Easy Riders cyclists.

In October 2007, an infomercial promoting the Cypress Trail was aired for 60 days on local cable television.

In 2008, SCAL provided support to the two local cycling groups (Sumter Easy Riders and Sumter Chain Gang) to hold Sumter Cycling Fitness Ride.

The Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator leads community bike rides; he has led six rides along the county's bike trails since July 2007. The cycling groups have three or four rides a week.

SCAL supports the Sumter Cycling, Hiking and Adventure Club website (<http://www.meetup.com/The-Sumter-Cycling-Hiking-Adventure-Club/>), which is an information source for local bicycle rides.

Nine articles about bicycling and networking in Sumter County have been published in *The Item* newspaper since 2006.

- 2) SCAL provides recommendations to SUATS about street projects. SCAL was an active participant on the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Group to ensure that bicycle-friendly environmental supports/amenities were included in the plan. The plan contains recommendations for connectivity of bike lanes.

The Recommendations for the Development & Implementation of a Sumter County Greenways Plan document describes the benefits of connectivity of bike lanes and trails to common destinations and lists specific points of interest in the county that should be linked by bicycle lanes/trails. This document has been added to the Sumter County 2030 Comprehensive Plan currently under development and the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan.



Part II: Ordinances

Section Contents:

City of Sumter Code of Ordinances: Use of bicycles on sidewalks

Code of Laws of South Carolina: Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways

- Bicyclists and Users of Play Vehicles
- H3006 - The Bicycle Safety Act



CITY OF SUMTER CODE OF ORDINANCES: USE OF BICYCLES ON SIDEWALKS

CODE 1976. ARTICLE IV. SIDEWALKS. SECTION 78-117. USE OF BICYCLES.

- (a) Persons may ride bicycles, not motor-driven, on all sidewalks of the city, save and except the sidewalks on that section of Main Street bounded by Calhoun Street on the north and Oakland on the south, and that section of Liberty Street bounded by Harvin Street on the east and Washington Street on the west.
- (b) No person who is riding a bicycle, tricycle, etc., on any sidewalk shall ride the same across a street intersection.
- (c) Pedestrians using the sidewalks of the city shall have the right-of-way over persons riding bicycles or children riding tricycles on the sidewalks. Anyone propelling a bicycle upon the sidewalks of the city shall propel the bicycle at a reasonable rate of speed under existing circumstances and conditions.

1976 CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA: UNIFORM ACT REGULATING TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAYS (excerpted)

[Note: Some of the following ordinances were eliminated or revised in June 2008. See H3006 summary on pages 21-23.]

SECTION 56-5-160. Bicycle. Every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, is a "bicycle."

ARTICLE 27. BICYCLISTS AND USERS OF PLAY VEHICLES; RIGHTS AND DUTIES THEREOF

SECTION 56-5-3410. Applicability of regulations to bicycles. These regulations applicable to bicycles shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated herein.

SECTION 56-5-3420. Rights and duties of bicyclists generally. Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except as to special regulations in this article and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature can have no application.



SECTION 56-5-3430. Riding on roadways and bicycle paths.

Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

SECTION 56-5-3440. Manner of riding bicycles; number of persons which may be carried.

A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

SECTION 56-5-3450. Clinging to vehicles prohibited. No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall attach it or them or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway.

SECTION 56-5-3460. Carrying articles. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the rider from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

SECTION 56-5-3470. Lamps and reflectors on bicycle. Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from fifty feet to three hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of the lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

SECTION 56-5-3480. Bell or like device on bicycle. No person shall operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least one hundred feet, except that a bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle, except as provided in Section 56-5-3515.



SECTION 56-5-3490. Brake on bicycle. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

SECTION 56-5-3500. Violation of article is a misdemeanor. It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this article.

Summary of H3006 Bicycle Law Revisions

H3006 - The Bicycle Safety Act, signed into law in June 2008, amends Article 27, Chapter 5, Title 56 of the 1976 Code as indicated below. The Act is designed to provide greater safety for bicyclists on South Carolina roads and to bring South Carolina statutes into greater conformity with the Uniform Vehicle Code.

Article 27

Bicyclists and Users of Play Vehicles; Rights and Duties

Definition of a bicycle (revised statute): Section 56-5-160. A bicycle is a device propelled solely by pedals, operated by one or more persons, and having two or more wheels, except children's' tricycles.

Section 56-5-3410. The provisions of this article are applicable to bicycles whenever a bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated in this article.

Section 56-5-3420. A person riding a bicycle upon a roadway must be granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except as to special provisions in this article and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature can have no application.

Safe Operating Distance (new statute): Section 56-5-3435. A driver of a motor vehicle must at all times maintain a safe operating distance between the motor vehicle and a bicycle.

Anti-Harassment of Cyclists (new statute): Section 56-5-3445. It is unlawful to harass, taunt, or maliciously throw an object at or in the direction of any person riding a bicycle. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

Clearer signaling for cyclists (revised statute): Section 56-5-3480.



(a)(1) A bicyclist shall indicate a right turn by extending the left arm upward, by raising the left arm to the square, or by extending the right arm horizontally to the right.

(a)(2) A bicyclist shall indicate a left turn by extending the left arm horizontally.

(a)(3) A bicyclist shall indicate stopping or decreasing speed by extending the left arm or the right arm downward.

(b) A bicyclist is not required to give signals provided for in subsection (a) continuously if the hand or arm is needed to control the bicycle.

Clarification of lane positioning (revised statute): Section 56-5-3430.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), every bicyclist operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable. A bicyclist may, but is not required to, ride on the shoulder of the roadway in order to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

(b) A bicyclist may ride in a lane other than the right-hand lane if only one lane is available that permits the bicyclist to continue on his intended route.

(c) When operating a bicycle upon a roadway, a bicyclist must exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(d) Bicyclists riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

Elimination of the mandatory sidepath law and clarification of right-of-way in bike lanes: Section 56-5-3425.

(a) For purposes of this section, 'bicycle lane' means a portion of the roadway or a paved lane separated from the roadway that has been designated by striping, pavement markings, and signage for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

(b) Whenever a bicycle lane has been provided adjacent to a roadway, operators of:

(1) motor vehicles may not block the bicycle lane to oncoming bicycle traffic and shall yield to a bicyclist in the bicycle lane before entering or crossing the lane; and

(2) bicycles are required to ride in the bicycle lane except when necessary to pass another person riding a bicycle or to avoid an obstruction in the bicycle lane. However, bicyclists may ride on the roadway when there



is only an adjacent recreational bicycle path available instead of a bicycle lane.

The statute mandating all bicycles to be equipped with a bell was eliminated.

The statute making it a misdemeanor for a bicycle to not be equipped with proper brakes, reflectors or lights was replaced with a fine of \$25.

**Imposition of more severe penalties for motor vehicles that violate provisions within Article 27 pertaining to bicycles (revised statute):
Section 56-5-3500.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided, in the absence of another violation being cited, a violation of this article by the driver of a motor vehicle is subject to a civil fine of up to one hundred dollars unless a bicyclist is injured as a result of the violation.

(b) In the absence of another violation being cited, a person driving a motor vehicle who violates a provision of this article, and the violation is the proximate cause of a:

(1) minor injury to a bicyclist, must be assessed a civil fine of up to five hundred dollars; or

(2) great bodily injury, as defined in Section 56-5-2945, to a bicyclist, must be assessed a civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars.



Part III: Resources

Section Contents:

Bicycle Racks Information

Who to Contact about Bicycle Lanes and Trails in Sumter County



STYLES OF BICYCLE RACKS



“Comb style” - A good bicycle rack will support the bicycle in at least two places. The comb style rack makes it difficult to lock up both the front and rear wheels, unless you position your bicycle as shown. It also has a tendency to cause the bicycle to fall over if used as designed (only the front wheel locked to the bars), usually causing the front wheel to bend. **This type of bicycle rack is not recommended.**



“Spike style” - has the same problems as the comb style, only more so. **This type of bicycle rack is not recommended.**





“Inverted U”- A good bicycle rack will support the bicycle in at least two places. The inverted U rack does that. **It is a recommended style.**



“Wave style” - If used as designed, this rack has the same problems as the comb style. **If used like a bunch of inverted “U” style racks hooked together, it makes a suitable rack.** However, using the rack in that fashion reduces the number of bicycles that can effectively use the rack by more than half.

Bike Racks in Sumter County

As of January 20, 2009

LOCATION	NUMBER OF BIKE RACKS & SPECIFIC LOCATION	RACK STYLE
Tuomey Healthcare System	1 in front of drive-through parking area, main entrance	comb
YMCA	1 in front of building	comb
N. Main Street, next to King's Wigs	1	comb
USC Sumter	(3) - 1 at Student Union Building - 1 at Nettles Aud. breezeway - 1 at entrance to Banquet Hall, Arts and Letters Building	inverted U



LOCATION	NUMBER OF BIKE RACKS & SPECIFIC LOCATION	RACK STYLE
County Office Building, 115 N. Harvin Street	2 on west side of building, near library	comb
Library	(2) - 1 at front entrance - 1 at east end	comb
Courthouse	1 on front commons area	comb
DHEC/DSS	1 at front entrance	comb
Palmetto Park	1 near playground	spike
Dillon Park	3 near bathrooms & playground	inverted U
Swan Lake	(2) Both at Visitor's Center	comb
Crosswell Park	1 to the right of the main entrance	comb
Memorial Park	1 at playground	spike
Wilson Hall School	2 to the right of main entrance	comb
PAL Academy	1 at front entrance	comb
Alice Drive Elementary	1 in front of school	comb
Bates Middle School	1 at rear, east side of school	comb
Kingsbury Elementary School	1 to the left of main entrance	comb
Millwood Elementary School	1 in front of school	comb
Sumter High School	1 behind school in student parking lot	comb
Willow Drive Elementary School	1 to the right of main entrance	comb
Cherryvale Elementary	6 at northeast corner of school, near main entrance	wave
High Hills Elementary School	(2) in front of school, near Frierson road	wave
Shaw Heights	1 in front of school	comb



LOCATION	NUMBER OF BIKE RACKS & SPECIFIC LOCATION	RACK STYLE
Corner Pantry on Loring Mill Road at Wise Drive	1 in front parking lot	homemade, seat-prop type. (Not really made for security purposes.)
Eaton Corporation	1 to the left of main entrance	comb
Becton Dickson	1 to the right of main entrance	comb
Caterpillar	1 in northeast corner of parking lot	comb
Cypress Park	3 near bathrooms	inverted U

Information compiled by Wayne Argabright, Sumter County Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator.





WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT BICYCLE LANES AND TRAILS IN SUMTER COUNTY

A community that encourages bicycling and supports residents and visitors who ride a bicycle for travel, leisure or exercise is one that has well-maintained on-road and off-road facilities for bicycling, such as marked bike lanes and bike trails. Sumter County has bike lanes and trails that need ongoing maintenance to keep users safe. If you have concerns about our county's bike lanes and trails, please contact the following offices:

BICYCLE LANES (McCray's Mill Road, Wedgefield Road) & **BIKE PATH** (Loring Mill Road)

CONTACT: Sumter County Department of Transportation, PO Box 417, Sumter, SC 29151. Phone 778-5466.

CYPRESS TRAIL

CONTACT: Sumter County Recreation & Parks Department, 155 Haynsworth St., Sumter, SC 29150. Phone 436-2248.

MANCHESTER STATE FOREST BIKE TRAILS

CONTACT: Manchester State Forest Headquarters, 6740 Headquarters Rd., Wedgefield, SC 29168. Phone 494-8196.

PALMETTO TRAIL

CONTACT: Palmetto Conservation Foundation, 1314 Lincoln St., Suite 305, Columbia, SC 29201. Phone (803) 771-0870.



*Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) is a community-based coalition working to make it easier to be physically active in Sumter County. SCAL advocates for places to exercise for all people of Sumter County, such as parks, trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes. We are working hard to fulfill our vision of "everyone in Sumter County being aware of and regularly enjoying the use of the county's safe, convenient, and attractive bicycle lanes and trails." SCAL appreciates the efforts of citizens and neighborhood groups helping bring this vision to pass by creating neighborhoods that residents can enjoy. This publication is a tool to help you in your efforts. *Together, we can make a difference!**

For more information about *Sumter County Active Lifestyles* or to learn how you can be involved with SCAL's work, call 774-3860 or 3861, or visit our website at www.sumtercountyactivelifestyles.org.

December 22, 2008



Part IV: About Sumter County Active Lifestyles

Section Contents:

What is SCAL?

SCAL's mission, overall goal, priority issues, history and committees

Contact information



What is Sumter County Active Lifestyles?

Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) community-based organization of representatives from city and county agencies, local businesses, health care, law enforcement, media, nonprofit organizations and associations, and local residents, working to make it easier to be physically active in Sumter County.

SCAL advocates for places to exercise for all people of Sumter County, such as parks, trails, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. We work to increase awareness about the things the county has to offer that make it easier to get outside and be more active. We promote the message that physical activity includes routine, day-to-day activities like walking, biking, washing your car, or gardening.

Mission Statement

Promote health and quality of life in Sumter County by advocating for a community environment that supports physically active lifestyles for all citizens.

Overall Goal

Increase physical activity or exercise among Sumter County residents by creating a supportive environment through policy and environmentally-focused strategies.

Priority Issues:

- Promote a bicycle-friendly community
- Promote a pedestrian-friendly community environment
- Promote an overall active community environment
- Expand outreach to underserved areas to address disparities in supports for physical activity
- Maintain community education activities and general advocacy efforts
- Achieve sustainability of the coalition to promote active community environments

History/Background/Committees

Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) resulted from a grant awarded to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)-Region 4 from the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health Prevention Research Center (PRC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Funding began in 1998. SCAL receives its own budget from the university. In January 2006, the grant moved from SCDHEC to the Sumter County Recreation and Parks Department (RPD), and RPD funds a full-time project coordinator and part-time administrative assistant.



To determine how to best achieve its goals, SCAL conducted numerous community audits, surveys and assessments in which a cross-section of county residents' opinions was collected. We continue to develop partnerships with various groups in the community to provide safe and enjoyable places to exercise and to develop community programs. For example, SCAL and the City of Sumter coordinate an Adopt A Park Program; we join with the Sumter Mall to implement the Heart & Soles walking program; we host Sumter Cycle Fest in conjunction with the Sumter YMCA, Safe Kids Coalition, RPD and Palmetto Cycling Coalition; and we co-sponsor the Wednesday Walkers community walking program.

SCAL currently operates through two committees:

- *Bike-Walk* focuses on increasing public awareness of trails, locating and identifying areas for walkways and bike paths, and advocating for and promoting the use of pedestrian and cyclist facilities.
- *Accessibility and Outreach* focuses on assisting communities with limited resources in determining ways to improve and increase physical activity opportunities for their residents. This committee also offers mini-grant opportunities.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sumter County Active Lifestyles
155 Haynsworth St.
Sumter, SC 29150

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Wayne Argabright, Sumter County Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator
Sumter County Recreation & Parks Department
155 Haynsworth St.
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 436-2248, extension 28
FAX: (803) 436-2400
E-mail: trails@sumtercountysc.org

**For more information, visit our website at
www.sumtercountyactivelifestyles.org**

