Central Midlands Bicycle & Pedestrian Regional Pathways Plan:

A Vision for Non-motorized Travel throughout the Midlands

Adopted by the Central Midlands Council of Governments Board of Directors on March 25, 2010.
OVERVIEW

The Central Midlands Bicycle & Pedestrian Regional Pathways Plan (a.k.a. “Central Midlands Pathways Plan”) is a culmination of greenways, sidewalks, on-street bicycle facilities and off-street recreational trails that link together to form a system of “pathway opportunities” for the sole purpose of creating more connectivity for non-motorized travel throughout the Greater Columbia metropolitan. This plan takes a comprehensive view at helping residents travel to key destinations across the Midlands without necessarily having to drive by automobile to do so. Examples of regional destinations include the employment centers and attractions of Downtown Columbia (such as the Innovista, State Capitol, and University of South Carolina) as well as popular tourist and recreational attractions (like the Lake Murray, Riverbanks Zoo, Sesquicentennial Park, Congaree National Park, and Fort Jackson).

The Pathways Plan highlights existing and proposed greenway, bikeway, and sidewalk locations in proximity of not only those regional attractions noted above but also the many schools, parks, churches, and shopping centers in between. In addition, the plan will recommend short and long term projects that local entities can easily identify and incorporate into their respective planning policies, thus encouraging all new subdivisions to connect with these facilities. Altogether, the Pathways Plan identifies 29 corridors throughout the metro area that could be developed over the next 30 years.

Why have a Plan?

The purpose for the Central Midlands Pathways Plan is not to replace and/or revise the 2006 COATS Bike and Pedestrian Pathways Plan. Rather, this document was developed in order to supplement (and serve as an appendix to) the 2006 Plan.

The underlying theme of the Pathways Plan is regionalized non-motorized connectivity. Whereas that 2006 Plan provided some general recommendations for regional bicycling and pedestrian opportunities, CMCOG wanted to go a step further in identifying opportunities for non-motorized travel on a more localized level. The Plan attempts to address the “gaps” that exist between the current and planned recommendations.

Currently, there are over 16 miles of developed greenway trails as well as 32 miles of existing bike lanes and plenty of miles of sidewalks throughout the region. However, there are no clear plans/proposals for connecting these facilities. The Central Midlands Pathways Plan shows a way to connect these facilities,
ultimately linking popular destinations such as Lake Murray Dam Boardwalk to the Riverbanks Zoo and Downtown Columbia area and then on out to Fort Jackson and the Congaree National Park. In short, this plan is a set of corridors that are deemed important. It is recommended that local jurisdictions incorporate this vision plan as part of their comprehensive plan in an effort to support it, build it, and, even, further expand it.

**What are the key features of the Pathways Plan?**

The Plan highlights existing and proposed greenway, bikeway, and sidewalk locations in proximity of not only those regional attractions noted above but also the many schools, parks, churches, and shopping centers in between. In addition, the plan recommends short and long term projects that local entities can easily identify and incorporate into their respective planning policies, thus encouraging all new subdivisions to connect with these facilities. Refer to the map on the next page for a composite of all existing and proposed greenway and bikeway routes throughout the region.

**What is a “greenway”; what is a “bikeway”?**

**Greenways** are corridors that flow mainly along creeks or rivers. They are vegetated natural buffers that improve water quality, reduce the impacts of flooding, and provide wildlife habitat—and in this instance with the plan—contain a walking/biking trail. This multiuse off-road trail (also known as a “shared use path”) within the greenway corridor helps to provide recreation, transportation, fitness, and economic benefits for all to enjoy.

**Bikeways** are corridors that follow the existing road network. They are intended to provide linkages between various off-road greenways and allow greater access to the overall regional pathways system. These bikeways can include bicycle lanes, shared lanes, wide shoulders, and wide outside lanes. Bikeways can be retrofitted onto existing streets and roads without construction by making reasonable changes with signs, striping, lighting, traffic signals, operation, and maintenance. Existing roadways that are not being reconstructed provide many opportunities to improve safety for bicyclists and other users. Bikeways should be considered in all projects, including pavement surface overlay projects, signal replacement, re-striping or pavement maintenance.

Currently, there are 16 miles of developed greenways and 185 miles of undeveloped greenways as well as 32 miles of existing bikeways and 785 miles of proposed bikeways in the Pathways Plan.
Regional Bikeways & Greenways

Key Destination
Existing Bikeway
Proposed Bikeway
Existing Greenway
Proposed Greenway
Palmetto Trail
Major Highway
Local Road
Park
Protected land
Municipal boundary

Central Midlands Council of Government disclaims responsibility for damage or liability associated with the use of this information. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure accuracy.
Regardless of which facility a person uses, greenways and bikeways provide safe movement for pedestrian travel as well. For a visual description of bikeways and greenways, please refer to the cross sections at the end of this document.

**How were the Pathways chosen?**

Most of the Pathway Corridors originated from some existing plan and/or project concept that went through its own set of public meetings and adoption process. The selected corridors are a culmination of ideas, SCDOT projects, and recommended bikeway routes. Groups who participated as part of this ongoing public input process include, but not limited to: land use planners, transportation planners, transportation engineers, bicycling and pedestrian advocates, greenway/environmental advocates, and the general public.

More specifically, the Pathways were derived from the long range plans of the following entities:

- SCDOT (existing bike lanes)
- City of Columbia (*BikeColumbia* routes)
- River Alliance (Three Rivers Greenway)
- Palmetto Conservation Foundation (Palmetto Trail)
- CMCOG Bike & Pedestrian Pathways Plan
- Richland County Conservation Commission (Richland County Trail System)
- Richland County Recreation Commission
- Lexington County Greenway Alliance (Lexington Greenways)
- Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission
- CMCOG traffic-volume data to identify low-volume streets
- Parcel information (Richland & Lexington Counties) to identify public-owned ROW along/near water areas (e.g. creeks, lakes, etc)

The following framework of steps was used to identify pathway connections:

1. Existing Bike Lanes
2. Existing Greenway Paths
3. Existing Attractions/Destinations (parks, hospitals, libraries, schools, churches, major shopping centers)
4. Planned Bikeways—per Long Range Plans
5. Planned Greenway Paths—per Long Range Plans
6. Identify “connection opportunities” via street network or public-owned ROW along creeks—so as to form an Interconnecting Comprehensive Pathways System
What does the rest of this report show?

Not only does this report present a graphic overview of the Regional Pathways Vision, but in the pages following are brief presentations highlighting each of the recommended pathway corridors.

It is important to note that the pathways identified as part of this plan are to be viewed only as a “regional conceptual vision”. As with all concept studies, further study and engineering are needed in order to properly assess the feasibility of these corridors. As noted earlier, this Pathways Plan is intended to provide an overarching vision for building a regional bicycle and pedestrian system.

What is the timetable for the Regional Pathways Plan to be completed?

The Pathways Plan is an ongoing analysis of bike-pedestrian opportunities. The Plan will be conducted in primarily three phases.

- **Phase I** is a composite of existing conditions and recommendations from various recent transportation and bike-pedestrian studies. Each of these studies underwent its own public involvement process and the routes recommended were taken directly from those studies. The end goal of this first stage therefore is to identify possible gaps and lay the foundation for a regional pathways network. *Completed and adopted by CMCOG Board (March 2010).*

- **Phase II** will involve a more detailed analysis of this proposed network, analyzing existing and proposed facility segments and their proximity to major and local destinations. *Anticipated Completion—Fall 2011.*

- **Phase III** will identify segments or projects that are likely to be short term and long term as well as recommending funding and implementation strategies. *Anticipated Completion—Summer 2012.*

How can you participate as part of the Plan development process?

Public participation is paramount to the success of any good vision plan. Everyone is encouraged to view the maps and tables and provide feedback. Comments regarding the identification and location of destinations as well as feedback on where the pathway links are located are most appreciated.

If you need further information, feel free to contact Aaron Bell, CMCOG Transportation, at 803-376-5390 or at transportation@cmcog.org.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Three Rivers Greenway East Bank</td>
<td>Smith Branch – Downtown Columbia Innovista</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Three Rivers Greenway West Bank</td>
<td>SC 12 Bridge – Centennial Park (Cayce)</td>
<td>5.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saluda River Greenway</td>
<td>Lake Murray – Interstate 26</td>
<td>7.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SC 60 Bikeway</td>
<td>Lake Murray – Harbison State Forest</td>
<td>7.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Smith/Rocky Branch Greenway</td>
<td>Congaree River – Broad River</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gills Creek Greenway</td>
<td>Congaree River - Lake Katherine</td>
<td>12.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SC 6 North Bikeway</td>
<td>Lake Murray - Lexington Town (I-20) -</td>
<td>7.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SC 6 South Bikeway</td>
<td>Lexington Town (I-20) - White Knoll</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Crane Creek Greenway</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Bluff Road/Congaree Park Bikeway</td>
<td>USC Stadium - Congaree Swamp</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Lower Richland Bikeway</td>
<td>Bluff Road - Fort Jackson</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Fort Jackson (Wildcat) Bikeway</td>
<td>Percival Road – Leesburg Road</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Two Notch Road Bikeway</td>
<td>Columbia Mall - Sandhills Mall</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Vista/Tunnel Greenway</td>
<td>Downtown Columbia (Smith Branch - Blossom Street)</td>
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<td>Congaree Creek Greenway</td>
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<td>Beasley Creek Greenway</td>
<td>Crane Creek - Blythewood</td>
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<td>Trenholm Road Bikeway</td>
<td>USC - Sesqui. St. Park via Trenholm Rd/Forest Acres</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Platt Springs Bikeway</td>
<td>White Knoll – Springdale/West Columbia</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Broad River West Bank Greenway</td>
<td>Northwest Richland County to Interstate 20</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Twelve Mile Creek Greenway</td>
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<td>Northwest Richland County to 3 River Greenway</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Caulks Ferry Bikeway</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Old Cherokee Bikeway</td>
<td>US 378 – Pilgrim Church Road/SC 6</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Northeast Greenway</td>
<td>Crane Creek – Fort Jackson</td>
<td>11.19</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Cedar Creek Greenway</td>
<td>Fort Jackson/McEntire - Congaree Swamp</td>
<td>13.83</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Leesburg-Fort Jackson Greenway</td>
<td>Gills Creek- Cedar Creek</td>
<td>12.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Capital City Trail Greenway</td>
<td>aka Palmetto Trail</td>
<td>9.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Fourteen Mile Creek Greenway</td>
<td>SC 6 - 12 Mile Creek Greenway</td>
<td>4.46</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• **Length**: 4.3 miles  
  **Location**: Columbia (Richland County)  
• **Existing Segments**: ½ mile beyond Broad River Rd – Gervais St  
• **Possible Implementation Entities**: River Alliance  
• **Key Destinations**: Innovista, Downtown Columbia  
• **Connections to Pathways**: Saluda River Greenway, Smith/Rocky Branch GW
Pathway #2: Three Rivers Greenway West  
(SC 12 Bridge - Centennial Park)

- Length: 5.8 miles  
- Location: West Columbia, Cayce (Lexington County)  
- Existing Segments: Jarvis Klapman Blvd (W Columbia) – Old State Rd (Cayce)  
- Possible Implementation Entities: River Alliance  
- Key Destinations: Centennial Park, Downtown Columbia  
- Connections to Pathways: Congaree Greenway, Platt Springs Bikeway
Pathway #3: Saluda River Greenway (Lake Murray Dam - Interstate 26)

- **Length:** 7.60 miles
- **Location:** Columbia (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments:** proximity in/around Saluda Shoals Park
- **Possible Implementation Entities:** Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission
- **Key Destinations:** Lake Murray Dam, Saluda Shoals Park
- **Connections to Pathways:** Three Rivers Greenway West, Saluda Greenway, SC 6 Bikeway
Pathway #4: SC 60 Bikeway
(Lake Murray Dam - Harbison State Forest)

- **Length**: 7.83 miles
- **Location**: Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments**: Old Bush River Rd – Irmo Drive
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: SCDOT & Town of Irmo
- **Key Destinations**: Lake Murray Dam, Harbison Trail System, Harbison Forest
- **Connections to other Pathways**: Saluda Greenway, SC 6 Bikeway North
Pathway #4: SC 60 Bikeway
(Lake Murray Dam - Harbison State Forest)

- **Length**: 7.83 miles
- **Location**: Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments**: Old Bush River Rd – Irmo Drive
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: SCDOT & Town of Irmo
- **Key Destinations**: Lake Murray Dam, Harbison Trail System, Harbison Forest
- **Connections to other Pathways**: Saluda Greenway, SC 6 Bikeway North
Pathway #6: Gills Creek Greenway

- **Length**: 12.46 miles
- **Location**: Southeast Columbia (Richland County)
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Columbia, Gills Creek Watershed, Richland County Conservation
- **Key Destinations**: Congaree River, Lake Katherine, Fort Jackson
- **Connections to Pathways**: Congaree River Greenway, Bluff Road Bikeway, Ft Jackson Greenway
- **Length:** 7.72 miles
- **Location:** Town of Lexington (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments:** I-20 to Lake Murray
- **Possible Implementation Entities:** SCDOT
- **Key Destinations:** Gibson Pond, Virginia Hylton Park, Lexington Town Hall, Lexington County Government Center, Lexington Elementary/Middle Schools, Lake Murray Dam
- **Connections to Pathways:** SC 60 Bikeway, Saluda River Greenway, Pilgrim Church Road Bikeway
Pathway #8: SC 6 Bikeway (South)  
(Interstate 20 - Platt Springs Road)

- **Length**: 3.76 miles
- **Location**: South Lexington County (White Knoll)
- **Existing Segments**: I-20 – Platt Springs Road
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: SCDOT
- **Key Destinations**: White Knoll High School
- **Connections to other Pathways**: SC 6 Bikeway (North), Platt Springs Bikeway
• **Length**: 9.70 miles  
• **Location**: North Columbia (Richland County)  
• **Existing Segments**: none  
• **Possible Implementation Entities**: City of Columbia, Richland County Conservation  
• **Key Destinations**: Broad River  
• **Connections to other Pathways**: Broad River Greenway, Beaseley Creek
Pathway #10: Bluff Road Bikeway
(USC Stadium - Congaree National Park)

- Length: 14.15 miles
- Location: Southeast Columbia (Richland County)
- Existing Segments: none
- Possible Implementation Entities: City of Columbia, Richland County (Conservation), SCDOT
- Key Destinations: USC Football Stadium, Congaree Nat'l Park
- Connections to Pathways: Gills Creek Greenway, Smith Creek Greenway, Lower Richland Bikeway, Cedar Creek Greenway
Pathway #11: Lower Richland Bikeway (Bluff Road - Fort Jackson)

- **Length**: 8.71 miles
- **Location**: Southeast Richland County
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: SCDOT, Richland County Conservation, Richland County Parks & Recreation
- **Key Destinations**: Congaree Nat’l Park, Hopkins Park, Lower Richland High School, Fort Jackson
- **Connections to Pathways**: Fort Jackson Bikeway, Leesburg-Ft Jackson Greenway, Bluff Road Bikeway
Pathway #12: Fort Jackson (Wildcat Road) Bikeway (Percival Road - Leesburg Road)

- **Length**: 7.27 miles
- **Location**: Fort Jackson (Richland County)
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Fort Jackson, SCDOT, Richland County
- **Key Destinations**: Leesburg-Ft Jackson Greenway (aka “Palmetto Trail”)
- **Connections to Pathways**: Leesburg-Ft Jackson Greenway, Northeast Greenway, Lower Richland Bikeway
• Length: 6.54 miles
• Location: Northeast Columbia (Richland County)
• Existing Segments: none
• Possible Implementation Entities: City of Columbia, SCDOT
• Key Destinations: Columbia Mall, Sesquicentennial State Park, Village at Sandhills
• Connections to Pathways: Trenholm Road Bikeway, Northeast Greenway
Pathway #14: Vista Greenway  
(Smith Branch - Blossom St)

- **Length**: 4.46 miles  
- **Location**: vicinity of Smith Branch to Blossom Street (Columbia, Richland County)  
- **Existing Segments**: none  
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: City of Columbia  
- **Key Destinations**: Earlewood Park, Finley Park, Downtown Columbia  
- **Connections to Pathways**: Platt Springs Bikeway, Smith-Rocky Branch Greenway
Pathway #15: Congaree Creek Greenway
(Platt Springs Road - Congaree River)

- **Length**: 9.60 miles
- **Location**: Lower Lexington County (near Cayce)
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Lexington County
- **Key Destinations**: Three Rivers West Greenway, 12,000 Year Historic Park
- **Connections to Pathways**: Platt Springs Bikeway, Three Rivers West Greenway
- **Length**: 7.98 miles
- **Location**: Blythewood, northeast Richland County
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Richland County Conservation
- **Key Destinations**: none
- **Connections to Pathways**: Crane Creek Greenway
Pathway #17: Trenholm Road Bikeway  
(Beltline Road - Decker Boulevard)

- **Length:** 7.37
- **Location:** Northeast Columbia (Richland County)
- **Existing Segments:** Beltline Road – Two Notch Road
- **Possible Implementation Entities:** City of Columbia, SCDOT, Arcadia Lakes
- **Key Destinations:** Columbia Mall, Dent Middle School, Forest Acres City Hall, Library Branch, Cardinal-Newman High School, Lake Katherine
- **Connections to Pathways:** Two Notch Road Bikeway, Gills Creek Greenway

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**Key Destinations:** Columbia Mall, Dent Middle School, Forest Acres City Hall, Library Branch, Cardinal-Newman High School, Lake Katherine

**Connections to Pathways:** Two Notch Road Bikeway, Gills Creek Greenway
Pathway #18: Congaree River Greenway (ThreeRivers West Greenway - Congaree National Park)

- **Length**: 22.78 miles
- **Location**: Lower Richland County
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: River Alliance, Richland County Conservation
- **Key Destinations**: Three Rivers Greenways, Congaree Nat'l Park
- **Connections to Pathways**: Three Rivers Greenway East
• **Total Length:** 17.16 miles
• **Location:** Lower Lexington County (White Knoll)
• **Existing Segments:** none
• **Possible Implementation Entities:** SCDOT
• **Key Destinations:** White Knoll High School, Indian River Golf Club
• **Connections to Pathways:** Caulks Ferry Bikeway, Congaree Creek Greenway
• **Total Length**: 17.16 miles
• **Location**: Lower Lexington County (Springdale, West Columbia)
• **Existing Segments**: Emanuel Church Road – Charleston Highway
• **Possible Implementation Entities**: SCDOT
• **Key Destinations**: Midlands Tech, Springdale Town Hall, Pair Elementary School
• **Connections to Pathways**: Three Rivers West Greenway
Pathway #20: Broad River Greenway West Bank (Northwest Richland County - Interstate 20)

- **Length**: 20.6 miles
- **Location**: Northwest Richland County
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: River Alliance, Richland County
- **Key Destinations**: Chapin, Broad River, Downtown Columbia
- **Connections to Pathways**: Three Rivers West Greenway
Pathway #21: Twelve Mile Creek Greenway
(Gibson Pond - Saluda River)

- **Length**: 9.57 miles
- **Location**: Town of Lexington (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Town of Lexington, Lexington County
- **Key Destinations**: Gibson Pond, neighborhoods in vicinity, new RiverBluff High School
- **Connections to Pathways**: SC 6 Bikeway (North), Fourteen Mile Creek Greenway
*Note: Broad River Greenway is a potential segment of the SC Palmetto Trail System*

- **Length**: 22.12 miles  
  **Location**: Northwest Richland County  
- **Existing Segments**: none  
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Richland County Conversation  
- **Key Destinations**: SC Palmetto Trail (Peak, SC), Broad River, Downtown Columbia  
- **Connections to other Pathways**: Capital City Trail Greenway
Pathway #23: Caulks Ferry Bikeway
(US 378 - Platt Springs Road)

- **Length**: 11.59 miles
- **Location**: western Lexington County
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: SCDOT
- **Key Destinations**: Lake Murray, rural countryside
- **Connections to other Pathways**: Platt Springs Bikeway, Old Cherokee Bikeway
Pathway #24: Old Cherokee Bikeway (US 378 - SC 6)

- **Length:** 8.09 miles
- **Location:** Town of Lexington (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments:** none
- **Possible Implementation Entities:** SCDOT
- **Key Destinations:** forms the south leg of the unofficial “Lake Murray Bike Route”
- **Connections to other Pathways:** SC 6 Bikeway (North), Caulks Ferry Bikeway
Length: 11.18 miles  
Location: Northeast Richland County  
Existing Segments: bikeway from Two Notch Road – Valhalla Drive  
Possible Implementation Entities: City of Columbia, Richland County Conservation, SCDOT  
Key Destinations: Village at Sandhills, The Summit Neighborhoods  
Connections to other Pathways: Crane Creek Greenway, Two Notch Road Bikeway
• **Length:** 13.83 miles
• **Location:** Southeast Richland County
• **Existing Segments:** none
• **Possible Implementation Entities:** Richland County Conservation
• **Key Destinations:** Congaree Nat'l Park
• **Connections to other Pathways:** Leesburg-Ft Jackson Greenway, Bluff Road Bikeway
*Note: Leesburg-Ft Jackson Greenway is an existing segment of the South Carolina Palmetto Trail System*

- **Length:** 12.12 miles
- **Location:** Columbia east, Richland County
- **Existing Segments:** Lake Katherine – Fort Jackson east boundary
- **Possible Implementation Entities:** Richland County Conservation
- **Key Destinations:** Congaree Nat’l Park
- **Connections to Pathways:** Leesburg-Ft Jackson Greenway, Bluff Road Bikeway
**Pathway #28: Capital City Trail Greenway**  
(Palmetto Trail thru Downtown Columbia)

*Note: Capital City Greenway is an existing segment of the SC Palmetto Trail System*

- **Length:** 9.16 miles  
  **Location:** City of Columbia (Richland County)
- **Existing Segments:** Blossom Street to Laurel Drive
- **Possible Implementation Entities:** Columbia, Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Richland County Conservation, SCDOT
- **Key Destinations:** Broad River, InnoVista (Downtown Columbia), USC, Baptist Hospital
- **Connections to Pathways:** Vista Greenway, Smith Branch Greenway
Pathway #29: Fourteen Mile Creek Greenway (SC 6 - Saluda River)

- **Length**: 4.46 miles
- **Location**: Town of Lexington (Lexington County)
- **Existing Segments**: none
- **Possible Implementation Entities**: Town of Lexington, Lexington County
- **Key Destinations**: neighborhoods in vicinity
- **Connections to other Pathways**: SC 6 Bikeway (North), Twelve Mile Creek Greenway
Appendix:

Sample Pathway Cross Sections