

Quality of Life Improvements

Our region's quality of life is helped immensely by having a viable multimodal transportation system that enables persons to experience area attractions and destinations beyond the use of motorized transportation. Furthermore, a multimodal system that provides residents with travel choices, such as bike and walking facilities, and encourages access to scenic vistas and walkable downtowns helps to enhance one's travel experience. This section on quality of life improvements summarizes the various initiatives undertaken in the region in the areas of **bike-pedestrian planning** and the **transportation enhancement (TE) program**.

Existing Conditions

- **Sidewalks:** prominent in most area communities that were developed prior to 1950
- **Bicycling:** more than 23 miles of bike lanes throughout the urbanized area
- **Trails:** more than 27 miles of greenway/community trails (3-Rivers, Palmetto, & Harbison Trails)
- **Enhancements:** Since 2005, 30 TE projects (totaling over 12 miles) have been funded in our region

Recommendations & Strategies

1. **Improve the transportation system to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access along roadways.**
 - Partner with SCDOT in making pedestrian and bicycle travel a routine part of every roadway project
 - Coordinate with SCDOT and local governments to study traffic signal timing and detection of bicycles at intersections, and then identify specific locations where signal system improvements/adjustments should be made.
 - Encourage the removal of physical barriers and the provision of facilities (such as ramps, curb cuts, and adequate sidewalks) for persons with physical disabilities.
2. **Encourage more cooperative land use and transportation policies**
 - Encourage every municipality/jurisdiction to adopt and implement the *COATS Bike and Pedestrian Pathways Plan* or develop and implement their own bike-pedestrian plan;
 - Encourage colleges and universities (e.g. University of South Carolina) to develop a pedestrian and bicycle plan for the campus and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Create comprehensive inventory of bike lanes, shared-use trails, and sidewalks in developing a regional pathways plan that promotes interconnectivity between the various trail, bike, and sidewalk systems across the region.
3. **Increase bicycle and pedestrian safety through public awareness**
 - Coordinate with law enforcement agencies and schools to educate residents on the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. This may include making public service announcements about pedestrian and bicycle safety and driver responsibility and produce brochures on nonmotorized safety.
 - Partner with area school districts to establish Safe Routes to School policies that encourage local and state entities to provide adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities linking residential areas and school campuses and encourages students to walk or bike to school.
4. **Encourage municipalities to participate in annual SCDOT Transportation Enhancement process**
 - Continue circulating information on the benefits of the TE Program through MPO Committees and member governments and sponsor annual workshops on the SCDOT TE Program