

Easley Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

Appendix A. PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Workshop Results

The City of Easley held a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Public Workshop on June 15, 2009, at Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library. The comments gathered in the workshop are listed below.

Question 1: Pedestrian Facilities

Locations:

General:

- Around schools
- At shopping centers
- Safe Routes to Schools- \$200,000/school

Specific:

- SC 93 Brushy Creek Road
- Puille Road
- Couch Lane
- Burns
- Biltmore Road (more sidewalks)
- Safety crossing: US 123, SC 135, SC 93, Brushy Creek Road
- Pedestrian crossings: Biltmore Road & US 123, Powdersville Road & US 123, Pedestrian bridge over US 123 & Brushy Creek Road
- Crosswalk to connect new mall on US 123
- Crossings at RR tracks & SC 93
- Connectivity across US 123 at bridge/over pass
- Signs to alert drivers along US 123, SC 8, SC 135, SC 93
- Better lighting along Couch Lane, Powdersville Road, SC 8
- Tri County Tech needs to include walking access
- Roundabout at SC 135 & Pendleton Street

Infrastructure Recommendations:

Sidewalks and Pedestrian Facilities

- More sidewalks
- Improved sidewalks downtown
- Improved sidewalks
- Holes and gaps in sidewalks- continuity
- Sidewalks to nowhere
- No ramps off sidewalks
- Sidewalk maintenance, level, ramps
- Lack of shoulder space
- Walking along highways
- Buffer between sidewalk and road
- Destinations for enjoyment

Crossings and Signals

- More pedestrian crossing signals everywhere

Roadway Design

- Reducing speed of traffic

- Many curb cut-ins for businesses- reduce number
- Cars not looking for pedestrians- too fast
- Edge lines on streets for traffic calming and pedestrian access

Ordinances

- Enforcement of developer improvements
- Future development keep walking access in plans

Question 2: Bicycle Facilities

Locations:

General:

- Lanes on roads
- More lanes
- Bike lanes along all major roads
- Bike lanes in parks
- Connectivity
- Maintenance (debris)
- Paint lines on roads more than “sharrows”

Specific

- Bike lanes on Couch Lane, McAllister Road, Powdersville Road
- Crossing lanes (?) on US 123
- Pope Field Road area
- Bike lanes at Complex(?)
- Pendleton Street
- Safety - Pendleton Street to hospital
- Routes to Caesars Head - Jameson Road
- Routes to Greenville - US 123 or Saco Lowell Road
- Routes to Pickens - Dootle Rail
- Routes to Liberty to Clemson

Infrastructure Recommendations:

Roadway Design & Infrastructure

- Signage
- Bike parking: Downtown, YMCA, Main Street, Commercial areas

Trails, etc. (Bicycling and walking facilities)

- Trails while land is still available
- Separate paths
- Bike trails/ paths for walking/biking
- Trails in parks, creeks, new recreational area, etc.
- Floodplains for trails: new high school to downtown, combine with utility corridors
- Railroad Trail
- Share easements with rails
- Family recreational in park/greenspace/playground
- Competitive/avid cyclists- 10 mile+
- Facilities need to cater to all user types
- Utility corridors across Powdersville Road
- Infrastructure: trail connecting all city parks (Pope Field, Kings Park, Red Owens, 5 Points Park, Hagood), build walking/cycling into all new developments, walking trails to add 1/2 mile Baptist Hospital, 1 mile YMCA(?)
- Trails, paths, greenspace made into walk trail loop
- Access to parks, complexes via walking including new shopping center
- Existing utility easements
- Separate trails

Question 3: Education, Enforcement, and Encouragement Opportunities

Education:

- Changing mindset (education)
- Education programs in schools
- Safety
- More awareness
- Signage
- Drivers Education - bike safety
- Child bike safety
- Vacation Bible School
- Upstate Safe Kids
- High School Drivers Education programs
- Schools focal point for info/education, therefore use aggressive program to inform via schools
- Education handbooks Kick-off events for use Northwest quadrant has the fewest drivers

Enforcement:

- Police crackdown
- Law enforcement awareness
- City ordinances enforcing speed and also development

Encouragement:

- Identity (branding, marketing) with trains/trails
- Off-road connection of/to schools
- Family rides
- Group walks and rides
- Trains campaign
- Quarterly Easley magazine
- Discounts from retailers
- Miles ridden rewards
- Bike races
- City-purchased bike racks for businesses
- Bike/Ped person appointed
- Advertising
- Festivals/carnivals on safety and fitness
- Civic organizations (Rotary, YMCA, etc.)

Group Discussion:

Areas of Overlap

- Safety
- Crossings

Programs/events with potential Big Impact

- Group wellness at YMCA, rides
- List of rides on website
- Forum on website

Low Hanging opportunities

- Signage
- Education
- Crosswalks
- Crossing signals
- Enhancing existing conditions
- Narrowing lanes Powdersville
- Road widening for Tri-County Tech
- Ordinances
- 2002 development guidelines enhancements
- Bike parking
- Recognize businesses
- Bike friendly business recognition
- Local celebrities biking
- Spring Fling
- Rodeos in subdivisions
- Has to be visual

Attendees (from sign-in sheets):

- Chris Mann, City Council
- Dave Watson, City Council
- Christine deVlaming (Committee member)
- Tresh Crosby (Committee member)
- Patrick Gramblin (Committee member)
- Brian Garrison (Committee member)
- Kent Dykes (Easley Chamber of Commerce)
- Davis Turner
- J.B. Turner
- Keith Brockington (GPATS)
- Raymond Sanders
- Frank Burrell
- Marga Burrell
- Chris Youngblood
- Tiffany Martin (Pickens County YMCA)
- Martha Clark
- Helen Mercer
- Andrew Meeker (City of Greenville)
- Ford Batson

Community-Wide Survey Results

Question 1: How often and for what purposes do you walk?

- A plurality (42.5%) of Respondents indicated that they walked nearly every day for commuting, recreation, errands, or some other purpose in the last 6 months.
- 1/4 of respondents (25.0%) walked less than once a day but more than once a week.
- 1/5 of respondents (19.0%) walked less than once a week but more than once a month.
- 7.5% of respondents walked less than once a month, while 6.0% of respondents said they never walked.

Question 2: Why do you walk? (Check all that apply)

- The majority of respondents reported that they walked either for exercise/health (88.7%) or pleasure (57.1%).
- About 1/5th of respondents (18.2%) walked for shopping or errands
- 1.5% of respondents walked to work
- 1.5% of respondents walked to school.
- 7.4% of respondents said that they did not walk much.

Question 3: Depending on the purpose of your trip, how long is your walk?

- Almost 70 percent of respondents indicated that the distance to their work/school was "not applicable." Of the 32 respondents that indicated a quantifiable distance, 34.4% lived within 1-2 miles of their work or school. 25.0% lived within "a few blocks."
- A little more than 2/5ths of respondents who gave quantifiable answers (42.3%) stated that the length of trip for recreation/fitness was 2 to 5 miles. Another 2/5ths (37.1%) stated that their trips were within 1-2 miles.
- 47% of respondents did not give a quantifiable distance ("N/A") when asked about trip times for errands. 38.2% of respondents who gave a quantifiable answer indicated that the length of trip for errands was "within a few blocks", while 30.9% stated that the trips were 1-2 miles in length.

Question 4: What are your three favorite places to walk in Easley?

- Individual neighborhoods were listed as the favorite place to walk (61 total selections).
- Downtown was a close second, with 60 selections.
- There was considerable distance between the second and third choices, as the Hospital track received 22 “votes.”
- Other frequently listed places included Brushy Creek, JB Owens complex, and Rock Springs Park.

Question 5: Identify five areas in Easley where walking conditions should be improved

- Downtown again received the most votes (38 total votes). Brushy Creek was voted 20 times, including 13 1st place votes. Schools received a consistent amount of votes in each field, and streets such as Couch Lane and Powdersville Rd rounded out the “top 5.”

Question 6: Identify the improvements needed at each location you listed.

- The overwhelming majority of responses involved installation or improvements of sidewalks.

Question 7: In the last 6 months, how often did you ride a bicycle?

- 87% of respondents answered the question.
- 1/3rd of respondents said that they never rode a bicycle (33.3%).
- ¼ of respondents (24.9%) indicated that they rode less than once a month,
- 7.9% stated that they rode nearly every day.

Question 8: Why do you bike?

- A majority of respondents stated that they rode a bike for either exercise/health (68.9%) or pleasure (62.9%)
- About 1/5th of respondents said that they did not bike (19.2%).
- Only 14.6% of respondents rode bikes for transportation purposes (shopping/errands, work, school).
- Several participants chose “other” and wrote that safer biking conditions would allow them to ride more

Question 9: Please rate your bicycling comfort/skill level

- 70.0% of respondents answered the question.
- Of those, a slight majority (53.7%) indicated a moderate level of comfort/skill, using neighborhood roads, paths, or lightly traveled routes.
- ¼ indicated a low level of comfort/skill, using only bike paths or sidewalks (25.7%).
- 1/5 indicated a high level of comfort/skill, using any road necessary to reach their destination (20.6%).

Question 10: Depending on the purpose of your trip, how long is your average ride?

- 146 people answered the question, with a response rate of 71.9%. However, many people chose “n/a” for parts of the question. This data will only take into account those who gave a quantifiable answer.
- A plurality of those who biked to work or school (38.8%) said their destinations were less than two miles away. The same applied for those who rode for recreation or fitness (31.7%), although a higher percentage of respondents rode longer distances for recreation than for transportation.

Question 11: What prevents you from biking more often in Easley? (Check all that apply).

- The top 3 categories of response involved bikers feeling unsafe due to the presence of automobiles.
- About 4/5ths of respondents (81.1%) stated that a lack of dedicated bike paths, lanes, and/or routes prevented them from biking more often.
- Almost 3/4ths of respondents (73.2%), similarly concerned about safety, said that the presence of too many cars or cars going too fast prevented them from riding more often.
- Only 18.9% of respondents indicated that the distance of destinations prevented them from riding their bike.
- ¼ of respondents stated that a lack of secure bike parking prevented them from biking more (26.8%).
- 27.4% of respondents stated that poor road conditions prevented them from riding more.

Question 12: What are your three favorite places to bike in Easley?

- As with walking, Neighborhoods were the favorite place to bike, with 34 votes. Downtown was second with 18 votes.
- The third favorite place to bike was not a place at all, as 12 people wrote “NONE” due to an attractive or safe place to bicycle.

Question 13: List five places in Easley where biking conditions should be improved:

- Downtown
- All Over/Everywhere
- Brushy Creek
- Schools
- Couch Ln

Question 14: List five places in Easley where bike parking should be improved:

- Downtown
- Retail/Shopping
- Schools
- Parks
- Library

Question 15: Which of the following improvements would make you bike more often?

- Designated bicycle infrastructure such as bike paths or bike lanes were preferred, with bike paths receiving 91 votes and bike lanes receiving 83 votes.
- Marked bike routes in low-traffic areas was ranked 3rd, receiving 58 votes.

Question 16: Please prioritize bike promotion events in Easley:

- Respondents preferred city-wide events (similar to Bike Charlotte or Strive Not to Drive week in Asheville) to smaller-scale events.
- Additionally, several people noted that promotions did not matter to them nearly as much as improved bicycle infrastructure.

Question 17: What is your age?

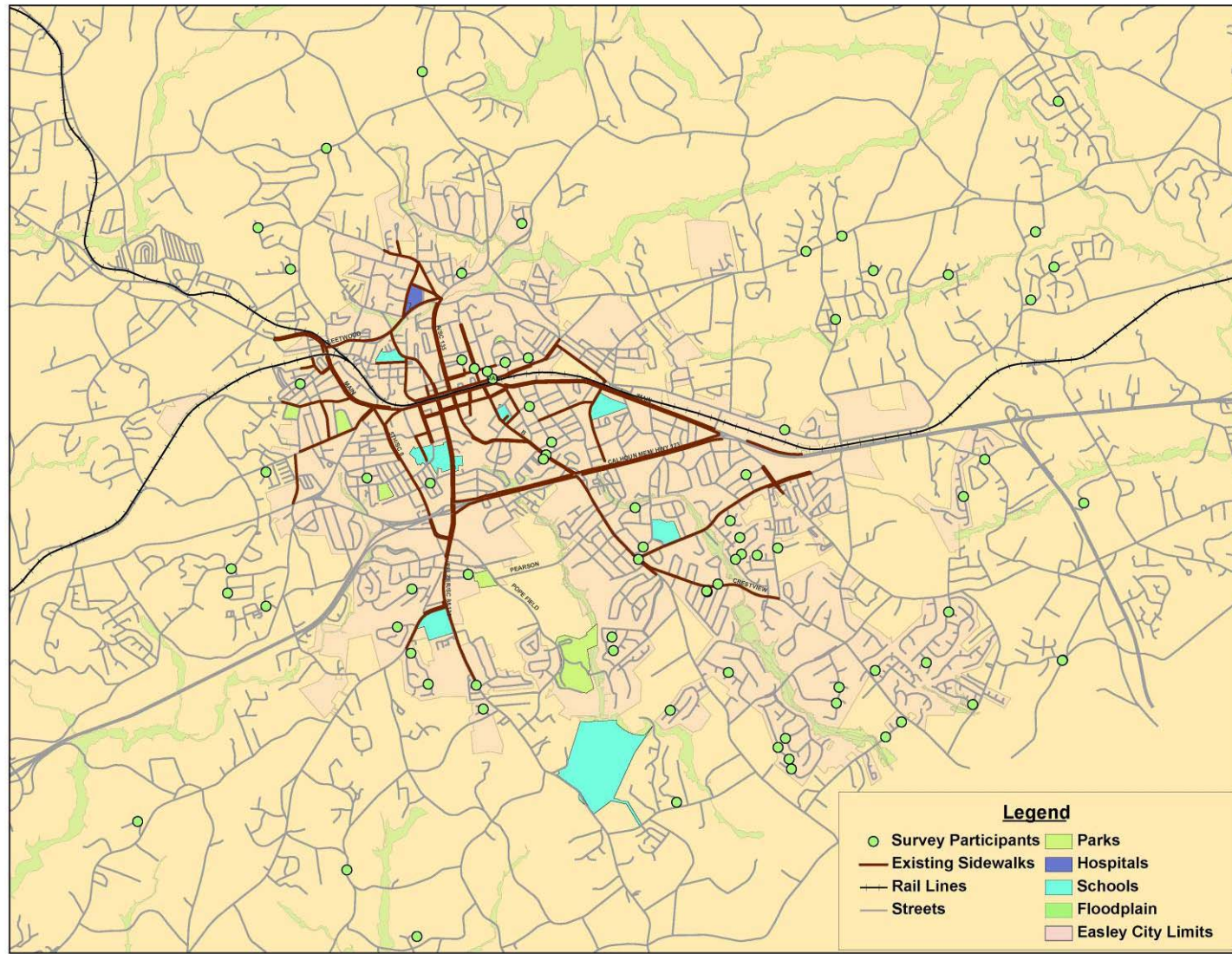
- 85.2% of respondents answered the question.
- The average age of respondents was 42.5 years, with the youngest being 6 and the oldest being 75. The median age was 42 years.

Question 18: What is your gender?

- 86.2% of participants responded to the question.
- There was no significant disparity between genders, with 52.6% of respondents identifying themselves as female and 47.4% of respondents as male.

Question 19: Are you a resident of Easley?

- 82.8% of respondents identified themselves as residents of Easley, while 17.2% said they were not.



Easley Bike & Pedestrian Survey Participants
04/27/09-06/22/09

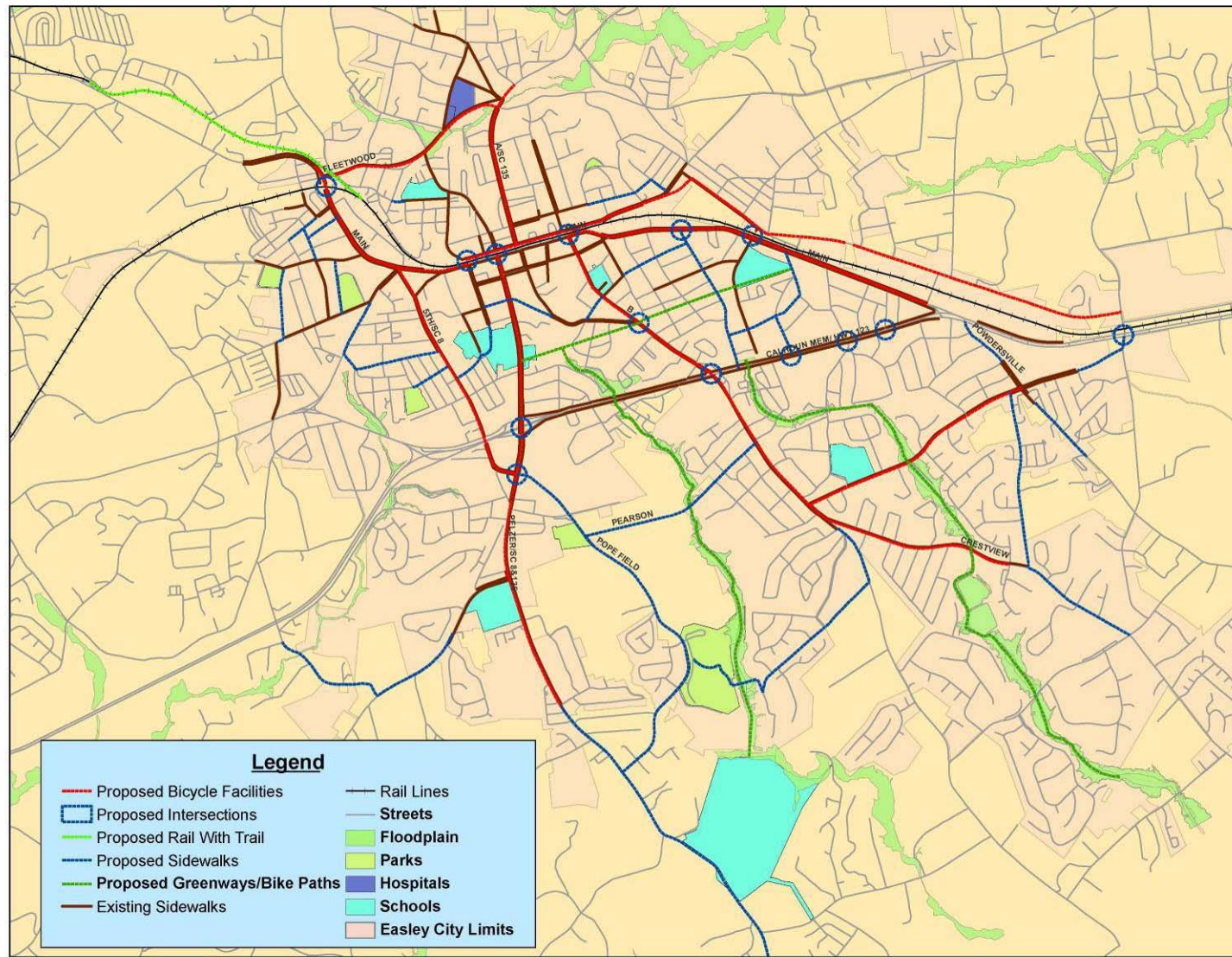


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Miles

Created: 21 July 2009
GCS: SC State Plain 1983
Author: Harry Johnson
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Map A-1. Public Survey Participant Addresses



Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Improvements for Easley, SC



Created: 20 July 2009
 GCS: SC State Plain 1983
 Author: Harry Johnson
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Map A-2. Public Workshop Bicycle and Pedestrian Recommended Improvements