



SC Livable Communities Alliance

The South Carolina Livable Communities Alliance supports the planning, designing, operation, and maintenance of public highways in a manner that provides safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. The Alliance believes that all South Carolinians deserve to live in safe, healthy communities. Complete streets or Multimodal streets make communities and neighborhoods more livable, by ensuring all road users of all ages and abilities —people walking, bicycling, driving, and catching a bus – can travel safely. Providing a modern multimodal network of streets and highways benefits the state economically and improves the quality of life for our citizens. The mere existence of sidewalks, bike paths, and increased access to transit has positive effects on safety, physical activity levels, and access to economic opportunities. There has been a national and global trend toward increased bicycle and pedestrian activity, and we see the same increase in demand in South Carolina.

South Carolina ranks 48th and 46th in the country in the fatality rate of people walking and bicycling. Studies show that improving infrastructure design, in coordination with repaving opportunities as systems age, is the most effective method of increasing **safety** and decreasing fatality rates of people walking and bicycling. Today, two of every three adults (66%) in South Carolina are overweight or obese. South Carolina ranks 13th in the nation for adult obesity and 2nd in the nation for childhood obesity. In 2015, approximately \$8.5 billion were projected for obesity-related health spending in the state. Increased **physical activity** is associated with lower rates of obesity and chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease.

Access to complete streets in neighborhoods also supports environmental **sustainability**, and is linked to **economic benefits** for communities, such as increased property values. Other economic benefits of multimodal streets include personal transportation cost savings, a greater number of construction jobs relative to traditional highway projects, and added value and level of service for more road users. In communities across South Carolina, many people with disabilities (or decreased abilities) rely on pedestrian infrastructure to get to work on foot, on wheels, or using accessible public transit.

Specifically, the South Carolina Livable Communities Alliance supports a Multimodal policy that:

- seamlessly integrates state roads with local streets, with national multimodal design standards,
- coordinates tightly between state, regional and local planning and elected bodies,
- ensures your mode of transportation is just as safe as all the others,
- honors rural and urban interests,
- invests in long-term state priorities
- moves our state towards a higher quality of life,
- integrates with Federal Highway Administration required safety performance measures,
- improves SCDOT processes and street designs, and restores trust and transparency,
- supports people of all abilities having full access to their chosen mode of transportation

Join us in creating safe, healthy communities. We are in full support of a state policy that enables streets that are safer, healthier, and more accessible for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of their mode of transportation.



Sincerely,

SCLCA Steering Committee members



Jim Love, Advocacy Director
AARP South Carolina



SOUTH CAROLINA
Robbie Kopp, Director of Advocacy and
Community Access, ABLE South Carolina



**COASTAL
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE**
Kate Schaefer, South Coast Director,
Coastal Conservation League



Hannah Walters, Sr. Manager for Policy &
Community, Eat Smart Move More SC



life is why™

Yarley Steedly, SC Director, Government
Relations, American Heart Association,
American Stroke Association, Mid-Atlantic
Affiliate



Amy Splittgerber, Executive Director
South Carolina Alliance of YMCA's



Amy Johnson Ely, Executive Director
Palmetto Cycling Coalition



Jevetra Gardner
Project Manager



Mayors

Mayor Knox White, Greenville, SC

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, Columbia, SC

John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor, City of Charleston, SC

Mayor Stephen J. Wukela, City of Florence, SC

Mayor D. Welborn Adams, City of Greenwood, SC