



BikeWalkLee

*A coalition working to complete the streets
in Lee County*

Mission Statement

Mission

BikeWalkLee is a community coalition raising public awareness and advocating for complete streets in Lee County--streets that are designed, built, operated and maintained for safe and convenient travel for all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Vision

Lee County is a complete streets model community whose integrated and safe cycling and walking network inspires people of all ages, income groups, and fitness levels to cycle and walk for transportation and recreation. Public transportation is available and accessible to citizens and visitors in Lee County.

Our active transportation focus contributes to the economic health of the community, the physical health of its residents, the environmental health of the region, and the quality of life for individuals and families in our community.

Values

BikeWalkLee values:

- Walkable and bikeable communities that encourage interaction among citizens of all ages, incomes, and abilities;

- The freedom of choice in transportation, including the choice to safely walk, bike or use public transit;
- The strength, stability and quality of our environment;
- Active recreation;
- Responsible use of energy resources; and
- Open communication among citizens and between government and the public

Obstacles to Completing Our Streets

Lee County is blessed with ideal climate for outdoor activities. However, the county has a reputation as a dangerous community for cyclists and pedestrians, reflected in 2007 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- The State of Florida has the highest per capita fatalities for pedestrians in the nation—and Lee County’s rate is higher than the State average.
- The State of Florida has the highest per capita fatalities for cyclists in the nation—and Lee County’s rate is the same as the State average.

Lee County faces multiple obstacles in completing its streets:

- An inadequate and disconnected transportation system. Bike and pedestrian facilities and the transit system are not sufficiently integrated into a network that allows people to get to where they want to go.
- An active transportation system inaccessible to the full range of users—from children, to the elderly and people with disabilities.
- A car-focused transportation system that neglects the role of public transit in a multi-modal network.
- Schools and communities designed without interconnections to allow and encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to school.
- Inconsistent and poorly coordinated bike and pedestrian facilities across various agencies and jurisdictions within Lee County. Poorly designed facilities lead to expensive retrofits.

- An inconsistent level of service in operations and maintenance of bike and pedestrian facilities as compared to facilities for motorists. Inadequate maintenance creates safety hazards for all users of the transportation system.
- Inadequate accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians when road or path construction is occurring, creating safety hazards.
- Inadequate enforcement of the existing rules intended to protect cyclists and walkers.
- Inadequate funding levels, as well as outmoded funding sources and formulas needed for bike and pedestrian infrastructure improvements and enhancements.

BikeWalkLee's "Facts and Figures" document provides statistics on factors related to complete streets: safety, mobility, health, growth and development, economic impact, environmental, and quality of life.

Coalition Goals

To meet these challenges, BikeWalkLee will:

- Advocate for a multi-modal network that includes active transportation on complete streets in Lee County.
- Raise public awareness about the county's active transportation system and opportunities for improvement.
- Promote the benefits and joys of bicycling and walking, and inspire more people to choose alternative transportation.
- Advocate for policies, funding, and programs that support active transportation and complete streets in Lee County.
- Partner with a broad array of stakeholders to improve and support our quality of life through safety, health, and mobility on complete streets in Lee County.

BikeWalkLee: 4/30/09