

Chapter 12 – Active Transportation

As noted in the Chapter 3 above, pedestrian and bicycle facilities are an integral part of the area’s transportation system. Active transportation provides a myriad of economic, environmental and social benefits for the region. Vision Dixie calls for the implementation of “complete streets” criteria to ensure streets and roads accommodate all users including drivers, transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists, as well as for older people, children, and people with disabilities. Complete Street designs are also intended to improve motorist attitude and behavior toward other street users.

In Spring 2014, Dixie MPO Staff and the Technical Advisory Committee acknowledged that there was a need to develop a more safe, attractive, and better-connected system of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The region already includes an extensive array of trails, and some shared roadways and bike lanes. However, walking and cycling for transportation purposes is often inconvenient and unsafe, as the current transportation system lacks meaningful connections to destinations.

Acknowledging this need, the Dixie MPO Commissioned a *Dixie MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan* to identify projects and policies in the region that will create a transportation network conducive to cycling and walking.

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan recommends a network of connected bikeways and improved sidewalk connections. Facility types include sidewalks, bike lanes, shared roadways, and shared use paths, and various crossing improvements. Map 8 illustrates those projects.

The Dixie MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Plan has been introduced into each municipality’s transportation plan, with some cities opting to improve or further develop a more localized Active Transportation Plan. The Cities of St. George, Washington, and Hurricane have adopted Active Transportation Plans that are now wrapping into their Master Transportation Plans.

Objectives and Goals

Objective

Improve conditions to make cycling and walking for transportation more safe, attractive, and convenient

Goals

1. Facilitate the appropriate design, construction, and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
2. Support a multimodal transportation system for all new construction and reconstruction projects.
3. Encourage policies and programs that improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.

