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From the Route

It has been a rewarding first month serving as Executive Director for Bicycle Columbus, and even more so, serving as your Columbus advocate for safer walking and biking. The community's exuberance to come together for the safety of others, and their desire for a more active way to commute and spend time in their community, has been inspiring. Welcome back, and I do hope you will continue to enjoy the ride with us.

By Stacy Roberts, Executive Director of Bicycle Columbus

Your City

The number is 111. That's how many crashes in Columbus result in fatalities and life-altering injuries every year. It doesn't have to be this way.

By Pat McHenry, Vice President of Bicycle Columbus

Using 111 for a starting point, the Columbus Consolidated Government recently developed the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan, available at [this link](#). It's a comprehensive report that includes fatality and injury data for all road users and a good plan for reducing these to the only acceptable number: zero. However, it takes political will. You can contribute by reading the report and contacting your city councilors to encourage them to support implementation. To illustrate the urgency here, I want to focus on just one category, pedestrian fatalities.

The number of pedestrian fatalities in Columbus has more than doubled in recent years and shows no sign of improving. Between 2013 and 2018, nineteen people were struck and killed by cars; between 2019 and 2024, the number rose to 43 – a 123% increase. On State Route 1 alone (Victory Drive and Veteran's Parkway), the number of pedestrians killed during these two date ranges went from 2 to 20 – an increase of 900%. Pedestrian fatalities are wildly overrepresented in overall traffic deaths, reaching 43% in 2019 and never dipping below 19% in the years since.

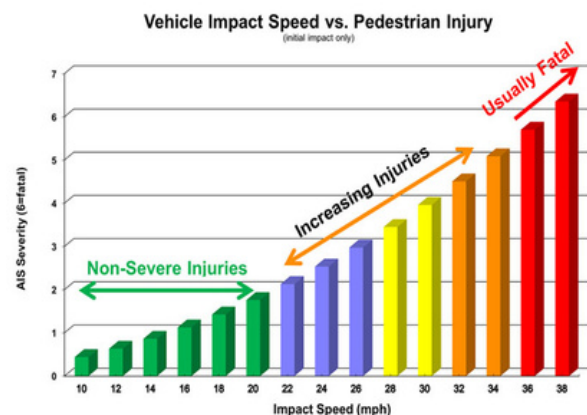
I'll repeat the Bicycle Columbus mantra: it doesn't have to be this way.

The problem is surely a mix of human error (behavior) and poor design (structure), but what is the most productive way to frame a solution? Let me suggest that the only effective solution, the only approach proven to work, is not behavioral but structural. It's the approach SS4A relies on.

What do I mean by behavioral and structural? A solution based on behavior relies on rules and enforcement. A wide straight street such as Veteran's Parkway gives motorists visual cues to drive at highway speeds and with limited attention. A few drivers get tickets now and then, but that does little to change the overall danger baked into the design. Going so fast (even at the posted speed), drivers can't always react to an unexpected pedestrian or red-light runner. It's a facility designed for perfect users and populated by flawed humans, and the results are too often deadly.

A solution based on structure accepts that humans are sorry drivers, unpredictable pedestrians, and wobbly bicyclists, and it accommodates these realities. To make a car sewer like Veteran's Parkway safer, the design itself would slow cars down. It might have narrower lanes, lighted and raised crosswalks, roundabouts at intersections, pedestrian refuge islands, protected bike lanes, and no deceleration lanes, all of which would prioritize safety over speed. Regardless of the speed limit, the faster a car is going, the more dangerous to pedestrians, as the graph to the right shows.

The SS4A Action Plan includes a number of low-cost interventions that are ready to go. There's no reason for the city to wait a day longer to get started. All that's needed is a bit of public pressure. Check [this map](#) to find your district and [this site](#) to contact your Councilor and let your voice be heard.



Upcoming Events

Midtown Art Ride

**Thursday, Sept 17,
5:30 Check-In; 6 pm Ride Time
Columbus Museum**

Join us as we partner with our friends at MidTown Inc for a casually paced, police-escorted bicycle tour of public art in MidTown Columbus, GA! More info on the Facebook event page [here](#).



Recent Events

SAFE KIDS COLUMBUS HELMET FITTING

JULY 13

We equipped the children in the community with bike and roll safety.



BIKE WASH AND MAINTENANCE EVENT

JULY 18

Bicycle Columbus rolled up their sleeves and provided free bike washes and maintenance checks for the community.



SNEAK PEEK



AUGUST

We completed our first ever bike and walk audits. Stay tuned for more pictures and the audit report!

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK &
INSTAGRAM PAGES FOR MORE
PICTURES AND VIDEOS!



 BicycleColumbus 

Our Vision

We envision Columbus vibrantly connected by active transportation infrastructure which is safe, efficient, and comfortable. People of all demographics should be able to use elements such as sidewalks and bike lanes to reach everyday destinations. By building a culture that values walking and biking, residents can easily enjoy good health, thriving community life, and a unique sense of place.

**"Columbus
vibrantly
connected."**



Friends and Partnerships

Check out what our friends in the biking community are up to and events they are hosting.

Bicycle Friendly State Survey

You're just in time to fill out the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly State Survey. Responses will help to inform the 2026 Bicycle Friendly State ranking and help us make the case for better biking in Columbus Georgia. Use [this link](#), or the QR code to the right.



Scan for Survey



Georgia Bike-Walk-Live Summit

Going to the Summit in Athens? Come say 'hi' to us from Bicycle Columbus! Learn more about this event at go-georgia.org/summit-2026.



Join the Mission

Thank you for reading — and if you haven't already, subscribe to our newsletter by [clicking here](#), so you never miss an update! Bicycle Columbus encourages people in the community to get involved. If you have a heart for serving the vulnerable or are passionate about bicycling and walking advocacy, you can consider joining our mission through your time, talents, or financial support. Simply scan the QR codes or click [here](#) to volunteer or [here](#) to make a donation. Bicycle Columbus is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization.

Sign up to Volunteer



Donate Today

**Stay
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