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From the Route

September was a month full of learning, growing, and riding! I had the opportunity to attend the *Georgia Bike-Walk-Live Summit*, expanding my knowledge and connecting with bicycle and pedestrian advocates from across the state. I also had the distinct pleasure of bicycling the streets of Athens during the Summit, only to return home and ride alongside our own community during the annual MidTown Art Ride. We're keeping the fun—and the information—rolling as we present Issue 3 of the Bicycle Columbus Newsletter. Enjoy!

By Stacy Roberts, Executive Director of Bicycle Columbus

Your City

Car Optional Columbus

By Pat McHenry, Vice President of Bicycle Columbus

It's the quiet you notice first when you experience a place like Makinac Island, or Venice, or certain parts of Paris. What they have in common is that they're car-free. You notice how purposeful the allocation of space is when none of it is devoted to parking, how compact and accessible the commercial areas are. More than anything, with no cars, you notice how you can step into the street without risking your life.

As far fetched as it seems, with the right planning, Columbus could create a car-free district in the city and experience the quiet, the walkability, the accessibility, and the freedom to walk around. It sure would put Columbus on the map. Imagine the



Car Free Makinac Island, Michigan

magnetic effect to a frustrated commuter in Atlanta or Charlotte of living in the Fountain City car free. Not everyone wants to live without a car, but younger people now show less interest in driving than in years past, and so do many of my aging



Credit: © Sijia USA/Alamy

friends. The original Columbus was built before the automobile age and was walkable by necessity. With bold leadership, Columbus could bring back, at least for a modest zone within the city, the best of this old way of moving around.

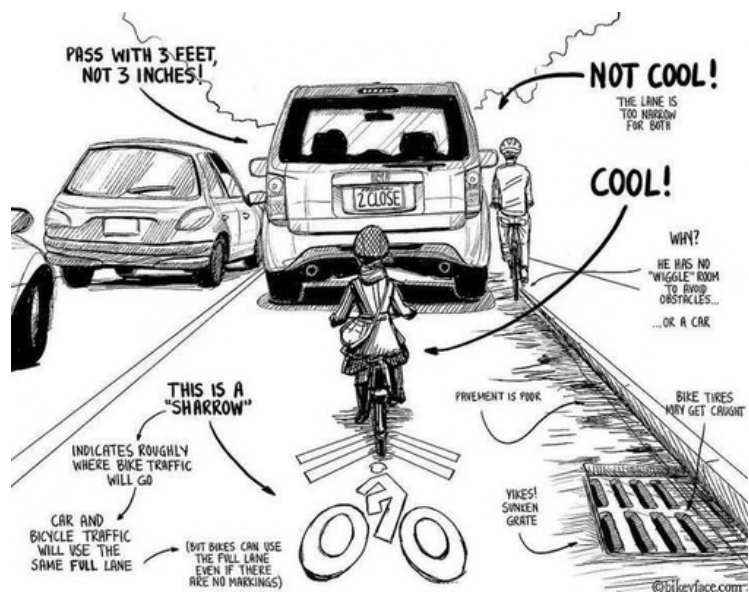
The precedent that comes to mind is located in Arizona. The village of Culdesac (pictured to the left), set on sixteen acres in Tempe, claims to be unlike anything built in the US in 150 years. It includes about 600

apartments and 20 small businesses in mixed-use buildings, all positioned to keep residents cool against the Arizona sun. Its most conspicuous feature is the lack of cars. Everything is built on a human scale, and the whole thing is located near a transit stop to give residents access the rest of Tempe and Phoenix. It has its faults and its critics, of course. It should be more affordable and would be better to grow as a result of good planning and zoning decisions rather than a single developer. However, it offers a model for breaking the ironclad notion in the US that you can't house people without accommodating their cars.

Let's clear the air: you think I'm crazy. Maybe so, but I encourage you to seek out a car-free place, even a fake or temporary version such as a shopping mall (inside, not the parking lot), an amusement park, or an Uptown event. Take in the experience, and ask yourself why we can't go ahead and build real places on the same principle. Next, ask your city councilor the same question.

Road Rules

A quick lesson on how to properly use a sharrow!  See one from a first-person perspective right here in Columbus, GA, featured on Slide 10 of our [Bike Audit Report](#). Want to learn more? Scroll down to page 4!



Upcoming Events

Watershed Festival- Help The Hooch!



Saturday, Oct 3, 11am - 2 pm
Synovus Park- Pinnacle Park

The Watershed Festival is a free community event provided by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission. This event features food, live music, giveaways, and more—all celebrating the importance of protecting our waterways. Bicycle Columbus will be partnering with Safe Kids Columbus to provide pedestrian safety materials and fit FREE helmets!

Be Safe. Be Seen. Pedestrian Safety Program



October- November 2026
Columbus GA Schools

Bicycle Columbus is partnering with Safe Kids to bring pedestrian safety education to schools throughout Columbus. Students will learn simple ways to stay safe while walking and receive safety reflectors to help them be more visible around roadways. Together, we're helping our youngest road users build safe walking habits and stay seen in our community.

Metra Communities in Motion



Thursday, Oct 15, 11am - 2 pm
METRA Campus, 814 Linwood Blvd

Join us for METRA's Communities in Motion as we come together to learn more about transportation, mobility, and the ways we can keep our community moving safely. Bicycle Columbus will be there handing out FREE bicycle and pedestrian safety materials and providing courtesy bicycle maintenance.

Spooktacular



Saturday, Oct 17, 4pm - 6 pm
Lakebottom Park

Spooktacular is coming to Lakebottom Park for a fun, family-friendly way to celebrate the spooky season with Columbus Parks & Recreation. Bicycle Columbus will be partnering with Safe Kids Columbus to provide pedestrian safety materials and fit FREE helmets!



Recent Events

2026 BIKE & WALK AUDITS

AUG 22
&
AUG 29



Pedestrians now make up about 30% of Columbus traffic deaths, and Bicycle Columbus believes it doesn't have to be this way. That is why we completed our first bike and walk audits. View the complete reports via the QR codes below. Click [here](#) to learn more.

These audits were only made possible with support from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), The Jackson-Burgin Foundation Fund, our volunteers, donors, and partners. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support.

Scan the QR Code or click [here](#) to see the Community Bike Audit Report-



Scan the QR Code or click [here](#) to see the Community Walk Audit Report-



**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
REACH OUT TODAY TO FIND OUT
WHEN OUR NEXT BIKE AND
WALK AUDITS WILL BE.**



 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.

GDOT Public Meeting & Feedback for Schomburg Road

*GDOT is looking for your feedback on proposed solutions to improve the four intersections at the ramp at Schomburg Road and Blackmon Road. Let your voice be heard by scanning the QR code to the right. You are also welcome to join the **public information open house Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Blackmon Road Middle School, 7251 Blackmon Road.***



Scan or [Click for Link](#)

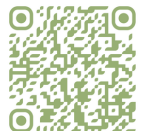


BWGI Pedal Golden Isles 2026

Looking to get away to the coast and ride your bike for 20, 40, 62 miles? Look no further than the Pedal Golden Isles Rides in Brunswick, GA hosted by our friends at Bike Walk Golden Isles!



Scan or [Click for Link](#)



Join the Mission

Thank you for reading — and if you haven't already, [subscribe](#) to our newsletter and emails, 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](#) make a donation. Bicycle Columbus is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization.

Sign up to Volunteer



Donate Today

**Stay
Connected**

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