October 31, 2026 | issue 4

Bicycle Columbus Newsletter

Promoting safe walking and bicycling for transportation and recreation and advocating for improved bicycle and pedestrian conditions in Columbus, Georgia

Advocacy I Events I Education I Partnerships

From the Route

Pedestrian Safety has been at the top of our minds this October as we know that being hit by a car is a known danger to children on Halloween. We had the opportunity to reach thousands of children teaching them how to be safe pedestrians to “Be Safe Be Seen” with the help of our partners at Safe Kids Columbus. As we approach our Annual Meeting, we are looking at bringing on new board directors. Know someone who may be a great fit? We want to know, email us today at info@bicyclecolumbus.org. We hope this perfect fall weather inspires you to get out and- safely- walk, bike and roll! Enjoy another great issue of the Bicycle Columbus Newsletter.

By Stacy Roberts, Executive Director of Bicycle Columbus

Your City

Your Guide to Bike Lights

By John Jackson, President of Bicycle Columbus

Nighttime is arriving sooner this time of year, which means it’s more critical that we make ourselves seen on the road. This can especially be important for bike commuters who have gotten used to riding home in the bright summertime evening. Don’t let yourself get caught in the dark after work!

You may be wondering: do I really need a light, or will a reflector do? According to Georgia state law, every bicycle ridden after dark needs a front **white** light and either a rear **red** light or a rear **red** reflector. A lot of bicycles come with reflectors already, which means you may only need to get a front light. Before you shop, below are some things to consider.

Not all lights are the same, and it’s worth getting one that will keep shining bright all winter. Georgia state law specifies that both front and rear bike lights must be visible from 300 feet away, so check the beam distance in the product description.

Aside from brightness, the waterproof rating is also important, since you never know when you'll get caught in some unexpected rain. Some lights use replaceable batteries, and some are rechargeable, so consider which of those will be easier for you to keep charged and whether the one time higher cost of a rechargeable light may outweigh the continued cost and waste of single use batteries.

Many lights come with extra features that you may or may not need. An adjustable brightness can be useful to conserve battery life. A blinking effect may help you be seen, although it may also be a distraction for you. Some rear lights come with remote controls and even turn signals. Personally, my luck with fancier lights has been that more features mean more pieces to lose or break.

Now, once you have your light, when do you need to use it? Georgia law states that they're required at night. To be extra safe, a bright light can also increase your visibility during the day, if you can spare the juice for it. If you're riding on the trails, then remember to be courteous to other trail users and aim your light downward slightly, away from their faces.

If you don't have a light for your bike yet, it's not hard to get one. Any local bike shop or big chain store should sell them, and we at Bicycle Columbus have some available at our events. If you already have one from last winter, now is a good time to check that the battery is still charged.

Remember that the law requiring lights is designed to keep you safe. We at Bicycle Columbus encourage all pedestrians and bicyclists to be safe and be seen with **white** in the front, **red** in the back.



Photo of Bike Safety Lights by Marki Williams/NYT Wirecutter

Road Rules

Georgia Law 40-6-296 says: (a) Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a light on the front which shall emit a **white** light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the front and with a light on the back which shall emit a **red** light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the rear. Any bicycle equipped with a **red** reflector on the rear that is approved by the Department of Public Safety shall not be required to have a light on the rear of the bicycle.



Upcoming Events

Click or Scan

Bicycle Columbus Annual Meeting

Thursday November 12 @ 6pm
MidCity Yards
Join us for complimentary snacks from Moe's BBQ and other tasty refreshments, plus drinks available to purchase from Scofflaw Brewing Co. We will be reviewing activities from the past year, sharing updates on ongoing and upcoming projects, and inviting dialogue for future ideas. We also look forward to hearing updates from our partners at Dragonfly Trails, MidTown Inc, and more!

News from Bicycle Columbus

Bicycle Columbus is pleased to announce it has received $82,502.50 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS).

This grant will organize events to distribute educational and safety materials, conduct pedestrian and bicycle conditions audits, host family-friendly group bicycle rides, and partner with community organizations in their efforts to make our streets safer.

"The Governor's Office of Highway Safety continues to work with state and local agencies to develop innovative projects and campaigns that are designed to save lives and protect everyone traveling on Georgia's roads and highways," said Allen Poole, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. "We remind all drivers that following the rules of the road not only helps saves your life but also helps to make sure others make it home safely to their families as well."

Read the full announcement on our Bicycle Columbus website at bicyclecolumbus.org/#bc-news.

Check Out Last Month's Highlights

MIDTOWN ART RIDE 2026

✦ ✦ ✦

SEP 17

Bike safety, a look at the art around MidTown, and a beautiful bike ride.







GEORGIA BIKE-WALK-LIVE SUMMIT

SEP 10-11

Learning alongside fellow advocates about all things pedestrian and bicycle safety in Athens, GA.



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.

Bike Walk Macon's Big Bike Ride

*Join hundreds of Middle Georgia bicyclists as they ride together for a safer, more connected Macon on **Saturday Nov 7 @ 2:30 pm**. The ride kicks off at Rosa Parks Square and winds through Macon's streets, highlighting projects that are improving connections across our neighborhoods. We'll finish with a celebration at Fall Line Brewing Co., where you can connect with fellow riders and explore updates on the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail.*

Click or Scan

Tunnel to Towers 5k in Preston, GA

*This 5k event on **Saturday November 7 @ 10am** is one of over 100 events in a national series of 5ks and Climbs that honors the heroic life and death of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter (FDNY) who lost his life on September 11, 2001 and provides homes for first responders.*

Click or Scan

Join the Mission

Thank you for reading — and if you haven't already, consider subscribing to our newsletter and emails by entering your email below, so you never miss an update! People walking, biking, or rolling are the road users most likely to be seriously injured or killed — and Columbus is not exempt. Our streets were not built with their safety in mind. Your donations and volunteer hours allow us to put safety gear in people's hands, teach neighbors to walk and ride safely, and speak up for safer crossings, protected bike lanes, and connected trails. Simply scan the QR codes or click the 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

info@bicyclecolumbus.org

BicycleColumbus