

THE LACE & AXLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ONLINE AT [JACKSONVILLE.GOV/PEDBIKE](https://jacksonville.gov/pedbike)

Vision Zero Begins in Jacksonville to Create Safer Streets for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Funded through a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All (SS4A) discretionary grant, the City of Jacksonville has begun development of the City's first **Vision Zero Action Plan**, dedicated to advancing safety policies, programs, and projects that support safer roadways for residents of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit customers, drivers, and the disabled community. With the same goal of eliminating all roadway fatalities, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority has initiated their own **Creating Safe Spaces Action Plan**, which outlines an equal commitment to Vision Zero. In strong partnership, both safety plans are sharing a joint steering committee deemed the **Vision Zero Task Force (VZTF)**, comprised of local subject matter experts from all disciplines. The VZTF held their kickoff meeting on August 1st, with a logo reveal, breakout sessions, and inspiring opening remarks from both Nat Ford, JTA's CEO, and Mayor Donna Deegan.



Bicycle Signals Come to Jacksonville!



Test the bicycle signals for yourself along the LaVilla Link, at the entrance to the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, and let us know what you think: JPDTransportation@coj.net

New bicycle signal technology has been implemented along the Emerald Trail's LaVilla Link to make travel safer and more comfortable for Jacksonville's many cyclists. The City and Groundwork Jacksonville, the NPO partner agency responsible for developing the Emerald Trail in collaboration with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), made concerted efforts to ensure that the bicycle signals were installed properly, helping to inform design standards for future, more widespread use of the signals throughout all of Duval County. Varying signal head sizes, pole heights, and signage were tested, in accordance with the 2024 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), to determine the safest intersection layout for all modes of travel.

Bicycle signals are similar to vehicle signals in their intent to make movement through intersections safer and more predictable for all roadway users, alerting cyclists as to when conflicting vehicle movements have halted. Unlike vehicle signals, however, the bicycle signal heads are smaller, and installed at lower heights for trail users to view more easily, positioned outside the line of vision for vehicles to avoid confusion. The bicycle signals provide longer crossing phase times as well, so cyclists aren't pressured to race through intersections or make erratic and often unsafe split-second decisions. The signals further include leading bicycle intervals, allowing cyclists to advance into crossing areas before vehicles are permitted to go, establishing cyclists within drivers' peripheral vision sooner, to help prevent right or left turn crashes.

NORTHBANK RIVERWALK

Several transformative projects are slated for construction along the Northbank Riverwalk through Fall 2025. The below map provides a recommended detour route for residents that walk and bike the trail.



Meet Jacksonville's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: The BPAC!

Lace and Axle sat down with members of Jacksonville's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's (BPAC) Peter Borenstein (Chair), Lauren Rushing (Vice-Chair), and Stephanie McCaffrey (Secretary), to learn more about their advocacy for those that walk and/or ride bicycles to destinations here in Jacksonville. Read the conversation below!



Members of Jacksonville's BPAC, Lauren Rushing (Left), Peter Borenstein (Center), and Stephanie McCaffrey (Right).

What is the BPAC and what do you do?

Lauren Rushing: BPAC is a committee open to the public with three officers supported by residents, city staff, and professionals who are passionate about making Jacksonville a more walkable and bicycle-friendly place. We provide a platform for knowledge sharing, constructive discourse on our city's challenges and opportunities, and advocate for policy, planning processes, and projects that will help achieve this vision.

What are some goals of the BPAC?

Lauren Rushing: Our mission is to educate, support, promote, and advocate for the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists throughout Jacksonville. We strive to be community leaders and function as a liaison between residents and city leaders to achieve a vision of a city that is safe, accessible, and prosperous for all pedestrians and bicyclists, of all ages and abilities (8-80 demographic, including ADA).

How is the BPAC helping make Jacksonville a better place for residents that walk or ride bikes?

Lauren Rushing: We participate in public engagement and strive to ensure that the needs of people walking and bicycling are considered and accommodated in the planning and design process for projects throughout the city. We've also been involved in advocacy for specific projects, such as the Fuller Warren Shared Use Path ("The SUP") and improvements to 5-Points, which have had a substantial impact on making our city more walkable and bikeable.

BPAC advocacy sounds important. Is there a balance between serious advocacy and fun/recreational activities?

Lauren Rushing: Certainly! Political advocacy is vital, but fun activities also play an important role in improving our community by helping us engage other residents, demonstrate the importance of a safer walking and bicycling environment, and build community cooperation.

Stephanie McCaffrey: Exactly! We've heard presentations by various bike clubs that host community rides, including the Blue Zones ride series along the Baldwin Trail, or from groups that organize and build natural surface trails for biking and running, like the awesome work SORBA Jax has completed in creating Jeremy's Hill off Sunbeam Road. There are so many great bicycling, walking, running, and ADA groups in Jacksonville, with so many events to join! We're always asking these awesome groups to attend our monthly BPAC meetings to talk about their events or ongoing efforts.

What are some of the memorable meeting presentations you all have had? Can the public watch the video or see the slides?

Peter Borenstein: Absolutely! Our meetings are always open to the public and new attendees are encouraged to join in person or listen online. One presentation that stood out to me was Bill Delaney's presentation on surface parking, aka "parking craters" in Jacksonville, at the September 2023 BPAC meeting. We ensure all meeting materials, including PowerPoints and meeting minutes, are posted on the BPAC's website, so, Bill's presentation can be viewed there (Editor's note: web page link at end of article). What I learned from Bill's presentation was that parking is a harsh reality that often makes it difficult to create a walkable, bikeable, and vibrant environment. "Free" parking carries hidden costs when you factor in sprawl, acres of unsightly surface areas, and heat/health factors. Strategic parking initiatives, such as reduced parking requirements or sharing parking between businesses, may help local municipalities avoid an overabundance of surface parking, which often creates an unappealing cityscape. Many of the greatest cities in the world have the lowest amount of off-street parking areas!

Lauren Rushing: Daniel Ashworth's presentation at the same meeting (Sept 2023) regarding "tactical urbanism," sometimes referred to as demonstration projects, still resonates with me as well. These "quick build" projects are a great way for residents to "test drive" new roadway designs before committing to multimillion dollar projects, allowing communities to sample temporary bike lanes, roundabouts, pedestrian plazas, and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities, for anywhere between 6-12 months, before deciding if (Continue reading on page 4).

they want the designs to become part of the city's permanent infrastructure. It's a great way for communities to approve or reject new roadway treatments without feeling like the projects are being "thrust upon them" without their input.

What ways can residents get involved if they are interested?

Stephanie McCaffrey: Come join us at our monthly meetings, every first Thursday of the month in the Ed Ball Building in downtown Jacksonville. You'll hear about the latest walking and cycling projects in the community and have the opportunity to share your thoughts with city and state officials. Sign up to join our mailing list by emailing announcements@jacksonvillebpac.com. We send out monthly newsletters that include opportunities to get involved in the community. We share information on upcoming meetings, conferences and social bike rides throughout Jacksonville. We also provide opportunities for you to share your thoughts on local projects by linking to relevant surveys or public meetings. Our Facebook page, Friends of BPAC includes information on upcoming events.

Peter Borenstein: Ask your local political representatives to help support better walking and biking projects in Jacksonville. Engineers know how to design a better world, but they must first be given the greenlight to design and build it. Our monthly meetings also have a virtual option to join the meetings from home via Microsoft Teams. We love seeing new faces at meetings and hearing from residents about their individual walking, biking, and ADA experiences.

Any upcoming events?

Peter Borenstein: We are hosting a local event for **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** on Sunday, November 17, in downtown's James Weldon Johnson Park. The BPAC's event in Jacksonville aligns with the larger, nationwide observance happening on the same day. The event commemorates all people killed and seriously injured – whether while driving, walking, or riding a bicycle - on the roads and advocates for better support

for road traffic victims and victim families. We are calling for action towards improving roadway safety including implementing evidence-based strategies, such as redesigning dangerous roads, reducing speed limits, and improving vehicle design. Survivors, family members, advocates, transportation professionals, and members of the public are encouraged to attend to hear these personal stories and show their support for a safer Jacksonville.

(Editor's note:

Location: James Weldon Johnson Park

Date: November 17, from 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Stephanie McCaffrey: There are also public meetings that BPAC members attend throughout the year, to voice our support or disapproval for transportation projects slated for construction in Jacksonville. These public comment sessions are usually preceded by a group discussion of the project in question at one of the monthly BPAC meetings.

Anything else you'd like to share with Lace and Axle readers?

Peter Borenstein: Other cities have shown change is possible within a generation. A walkable and cycle-friendly Jacksonville is possible if we build it!

Stephanie McCaffrey: Stay safe while walking and biking in Jacksonville!

Lauren Rushing: If you're passionate about vibrant, walkable communities and riding your bike – this is the place for you!

For meeting dates/times and to learn more about the BPAC, visit their website by scanning the QR code:



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: JACKSONVILLE WEST BRANCH LIBRARY SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

Staff from Jacksonville's Transportation Planning Division happily accepted an invitation from the West Branch Library to join in both the Summer Opening and Summer's End celebrations. Staff handed out free bicycle helmets, t-shirts, bright/reflective backpacks, and LED flashing armbands (so kids can be seen by drivers at night), amongst other safety information. Visit Jacksonville's West End Branch Library page for information about upcoming events and classes:

www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/locations/west-branch



SURF THE WEB!

Interesting Pedestrian & Bicycle Online Resources

BEST TRAVEL ROUTE?

The City of Jacksonville On-Street Bikeways and Trails Network Map was recently updated to include all existing, funded, and planned bicycle facilities. Find the best route for your daily commute or weekend adventure here: www.tinyURL.com/COJbikeMAP

THEY REALLY DID IT!

Arguably the world's most interesting skateboarder, Heath Kirchart, retired from skateboarding and rode a bicycle from LA to New York City, along with pal Jeff Vallee, despite both having very little long distance cycling experience. Read their travel blog here:

www.werereallydoingit.com/category/bike-across-america/

FROM LOBSTER TO MANATEE:

The East Coast Greenway continues to attract millions of walkers, runners, and nonmotorized wheeled travelers each year, as the remaining sections of this ambitious trail project connecting Maine to the Florida Keys are completed. View maps and read updates on their site:

www.greenway.org/

REGIONWIDE WALKING AND BIKING:

The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization has a wealth of bicycle-pedestrian studies and planning documents posted online, including the Sunbeam Road Corridor Study, Rogero Road Corridor Study, and the Myrtle Avenue Complete Streets Study, all completed in 2024! Read those studies and others here:

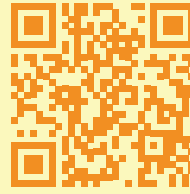
www.northfloridatpo.com/planning/studies-initiatives

LET'S GO TO THE PARK!

Resources to help you get the most out of Jacksonville's many public parks, recognized as one of the largest urban park systems in the nation! Visit JaxParks page today to learn more:

www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks,-recreation-and-community-services/recreation-and-community-programming

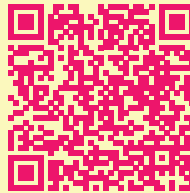
Local Group Rides



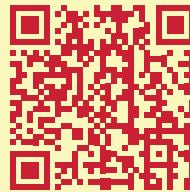
**VELOBREW
BICYCLE
CLUB**



**SORBA
JAX**



**OPEN
ROAD
BICYCLES**



**NORTH
FLORIDA
BIKE CLUB**



**ZENCOG
BICYCLE
COMPANY**



More and more Jacksonville residents are choosing to ride bicycles to connect to jobs, schools, retail centers, and other essential services. As the use of bicycles increases, so does the demand for convenient and secure bicycle parking. To match this demand, the City of Jacksonville has developed a FREE bike rack installation program entitled JaxRax.

Through the JaxRax program, businesses and community members can request a bicycle rack to be installed within the public right-of-way throughout Jacksonville. The new off-street bike racks will improve security for cyclists, while also improving safety for pedestrians and drivers by removing bikes that may otherwise occupy sidewalk space or be locked to traffic signs and trees. Learn more about our program by visiting our website: Jacksonville.gov/pedbike



One of many JaxRax located in the Murray Hill

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD CAR FREE DAY

9/22/2024

Ditch your car for a day and explore **alternative** modes of transportation like walking, biking, or using public transit.

WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

10/9/2024

Leave the family car at home and choose an **active** transportation like walking, biking, scootering, or skateboarding to get to school.

Local Run Clubs



JTC RUNNING: SUMMER BEACH RUN

AUGUST 24, 2024, JACKSONVILLE BEACH SEAWALK PAVILION
JTC Running is pleased to present the 59th running of the Summer Beach Run. The run consists of a 5 mile, 5K and one mile run/walk and a post-race celebration featuring live music, free beer and pizza. To register, visit 1stplacesports.com/races/sbr/



RUN JAX LABOR DAY 5K

SEPTEMBER 2, 2024, 1ST PLACE SPORTS, BAYMEADOWS RD
The Run Jax Labor Day 5K is run on a certified fast course through the Beauclerc area of Jacksonville. The race features prize money, large finisher medals, high quality running tops, and electrolyte popsicles. Run Jax is an official event on the Jacksonville Grand Prix. To register, visit 1stplacesports.com/races/runjax/



VESTCOR 5K BRIDGES RUN

SEPTEMBER 7, 2024, DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE
The Vestcor Family Foundation will hold its annual charity 5K & 1 mile fun run on Saturday, September 7, beginning on Water Street by the Prime Osborn Convention Center Downtown. Monies raised will support organizations such as Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida, ExcelinEd, Jacksonville Classical Academy, Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History, Junior Achievement of North Florida and North Florida School of Special Education. To register, visit 1stplacesports.com/races/vestcor/



35TH ENDLESS SUMMER WATERMELON RIDE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024, AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA
The North Florida Bicycle Club and Major Taylor Cycling Club of North Florida bring you the 35th Endless Summer Watermelon Ride. This event is designed for all road cyclists! A portion of proceeds will go to support NFBC's Pedaling for Safety Campaign whose mission is to promote safety for people who bicycle along Florida's First Coast. To register, visit eswr.raceroster.com/



VYSTAR EMERALD TRAIL 5K RUN/WALK AND 10K RUN

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024, DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE
The 5th Annual VyStar Emerald Trail 5K and 10K presented by JTC Running and 1st Place Sports will take runners, walkers and cyclists along the newly opened LaVilla Link and the S-Line Rail Trail of the Emerald Trail. All proceeds from this event benefit Groundwork Jacksonville, the City's nonprofit partner in building the Emerald Trail and restoring McCoy's Creek and Hogans Creek. To register, visit 1stplacesports.com/races/emeraldtrail/



BIKE MS: PGA TOUR CYCLE TO THE SHORE 2024

OCTOBER 5-6, 2024, TPC SAWGRASS, FLORIDA
Enjoy this two-day cycling event with amazing coastal views. On day one, you can choose your start line location at either TPC Sawgrass or Marineland and then make your way to Daytona Beach where you'll have an amazing beachside celebration with your fellow cyclists. The following morning, you'll finish the weekend by making your way back to your day one start location. Experience the extraordinary journey as we come together to reach our goal — a world free of MS. To register, visit events.nationalms-society.org/



ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS (APBP) CONFERENCE

AUGUST 12-14, 2024 DETROIT, MICHIGAN
Join colleagues, friends, advocates, and experts for excellent training with informative mobile session taking you into the field on foot, bike and transit. You'll get to explore Detroit while experiencing the fully realised designs presented in the classroom. To register, visit apbp.org/2024-conference

FLORIDA PLANNING CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2024, TAMPA, FLORIDA
APA Florida provides statewide leadership in the development of sustainable communities by advocating excellence in planning, providing professional development for its members, and working to protect and enhance the natural and built environments. To register, visit foridaplanningconference.org

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