

I-10 Mobile River Bridge Meeting

Bike/Pedestrian Path

Common Questions about the Bicycle/Pedestrian path being requested

The Need

- Alabama is ranked 49th in the nation in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, indicating severe deficiencies. Within Alabama, Mobile has fewer facilities than other cities, with only one on-road bike lane.
- Mobile is ranked 4th in the country in obesity, with a 33.7% rate. Mobile ranks in the bottom of many measures of health and quality-of-life nationally.

The Opportunity

- Health and Quality-of-life: The Mobile Bay bikeway could be connected to the planned Three-Mile Creek linear park and Eastern Shore Trail – allowing people from West Mobile to Point Clear a safe avenue to exercise by biking or walking. As an example, 66% of Charleston's Cooper River Bridge users say they are getting more exercise because of the bridge's bikeway, and 85% of African American users say they are more active because of the bridge. Over 300,000 people per year now use the bikeway on that bridge.
- Tourism: The bikeway would be challenging enough that it would attract enthusiasts, as well as the offering the general population a spectacular view of the bay.
- Economic Development: Young entrepreneurs and professionals desire amenities such as this in the communities in which they choose to live. Also, bike paths have been shown to increase volume in small businesses along their route – which would be downtown Mobile, the Causeway, and Eastern Shore in this case – as cyclists and pedestrians are more likely to stop and patronize them.

Logistics

- Bike paths on Interstate highways or bridges are NOT prohibited by law. In March 2010 the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released a policy statement that encourages state DOTs to include biking and walking accommodations on all bridge projects.
- Title 23 United States Code section §217 requires that bridges being built or replaced with federal funds include safe accommodation for bicyclists as long as it does not represent an "excessively disproportionate cost" which FHWA considers "exceeding twenty percent of the cost of the larger transportation project."
- There are dozens of examples of interstate or other major bridges with bicycle accommodations: the Woodrow Wilson (I-95 at the Potomac River), the George Washington Bridge (I-95 over the Hudson River); I-90 floating bridge across Lake Washington in Seattle; the Golden Gate Bridge (US 101) in San Francisco; and the Cooper River Bridge (US 17) in Charleston, SC.

Official comment forms will be on mobileriverbridge.com after the first meeting

Public Meetings:

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 - 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.
Alabama Cruise Terminal
201 S. Water Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Monday, September 29, 2014 - 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.
Five Rivers Delta Resource Center
30945 Five Rivers Blvd, Spanish Fort, AL 36527

More information at bicyclemobile.org/i10-bridge