

July 23, 2019

To the Honorable Baldwin County Commissioners:

The Baldwin County Trailblazers is seeking a meeting with the Baldwin County Commission at its August 13 work session to ask whether the county would lead an effort among its municipalities to develop a county-wide bicycle-pedestrian plan. The plan would identify opportunities to network existing bike-ped routes and to identify high-use corridors where bike-ped paths would be appropriate.

All the County's municipalities are realizing the community appeal and economic benefits of bike-ped routes and are pursuing efforts – *separately* – to build bike-ped infrastructure within their legal jurisdictions. Now is the time to coordinate these projects across jurisdictions, so we can leverage their utility and accessibility to residents and visitors.

A collaborative master plan or blueprint would establish a consensus on priority corridors for bike-ped paths based on connectivity between jurisdictions that work to the best advantage of all our communities. Cost-savings would be an immediate benefit. If a street is identified as a priority for connection to an existing bike-ped route, or if it is known as a high-volume bike route, county and municipal leaders would have the guidance to decide whether to incorporate or enhance bike-ped accessibility along the roadway during regularly scheduled maintenance or upgrade projects. The plan also would guide government officials and organizations such as the Trailblazers in joint efforts to seek grants for trail building and improvements.

If the county could provide the leadership and space to bring together engineers or planners from our municipalities, these individuals would be best able to map out bike-ped priority corridors. Desirable communities are increasingly identified as bikeable and walkable communities. To create a master plan for these routes is essential to envisioning this future for our county.

Nancy Johnson, board member
Baldwin County Trailblazers