**ABSTRACT**

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and Eat Smart Move More (ESMM) South Carolina funded Richland County for an ACE Special Project to improve access to physical activity. ESMM Richland County worked with Alta Planning + Design, Walk Bike Columbia, and the City of Columbia to develop a bike boulevard, which was included in the city's master bicycle and pedestrian plan.

**BACKGROUND**

Located on the outskirts of downtown Columbia, the Edgewood neighborhood is a low-income area that often goes unnoticed in city transportation plans. Barhamville Road connects a neighborhood, elementary, middle, and high school. However, there are limited safe options for people who use walking and biking as their main source of transportation. Due to the timing of the City of Columbia’s master bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts, this neighborhood was an obvious choice for the ACE Special Project.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project was to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety through the implementation of an existing master bicycle and pedestrian plan. Advocating for a bike boulevard became a priority project, and ESMM Richland County worked with the City of Columbia Planning to construct the bike boulevard.

**ASSESSMENT & RESULTS**

Local demographic data, as well as bikeability audit results were used. Key findings included:

- Low income, high minority population,
- Limited options for bikeability, and
- Need for signage and striping.

**KEY STEPS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Installed way-finding signage and high visibility crosswalks to make the road a bike boulevard.
- City of Columbia provided all labor in-kind.
- Key partnerships were formed and included: Palmetto Health, Palmetto Conservation Foundation, EdVenture Children’s Museum, Safe Routes to School, City of Columbia, and Walk Bike Columbia.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- Need city planning on board.
- Start planning early!

**NEXT STEPS**

ESMM Richland County advocated for extending the bike boulevard beyond its current scope. The City of Columbia agreed, and plans are underway to make the bike boulevard longer. Community partners also intend to raise awareness about the bike boulevard.