

# **Why the River Drive Buffered Bike Lane is a Great for our Community!**

## **1. A Regional Milestone**

- These 5-foot-wide bike lanes, with a painted buffer, are the first of their kind in the Midlands region and among only a few in South Carolina. This redesign demonstrates Columbia's commitment to creating safer, more livable streets for residents and visitors alike.

## **2. Connecting to the Vista Greenway**

- The new lanes will intersect at the NOMA community garden with the future extension of the Vista Greenway, a critical part of Columbia's growing greenway network. This buffered bike lane on River Drive will provide critical connectivity between the Vista Greenway extension, currently in design, and neighborhoods in north Columbia as well as Broad River Road, the Bull Street District, and the Three Rivers Greenway. Active transportation routes provide alternatives for shorter trips that reduce traffic congestion and allow for safe and convenient routes for residents and visitors alike.

## **3. Safer Streets for Everyone**

- Narrowing vehicle lanes on River Drive discourages speeding and creates a safer environment for all road users, including people walking, running, using wheelchairs, or riding bikes. The painted buffer provides additional space, ensuring everyone feels more secure and the road functions more efficiently.

## **4. Part of Columbia's Vision for Connectivity**

- Recommended in the Walk Bike Columbia plan, this project is an early and essential step toward safer, more connected streets in the region. It supports the city's forward-thinking vision of vibrant, accessible neighborhoods and infrastructure that works for all.

## **5. Addressing a National Safety Concern**

- A 2024 report by Smart Growth America, *Dangerous by Design*, ranked Columbia as the 12th most dangerous city in the U.S. for people walking and biking. Projects like River Drive's bike lanes are small but crucial steps to reverse this trend and build a safer, more livable city for everyone.  
(<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>)