

# THE LACE & AXLE

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## Jacksonville Adds New Green Bicycle Lanes to Enhance Safety on RG Skinner Parkway



Images and layout of the new green bicycle lanes along RG Skinner Parkway.

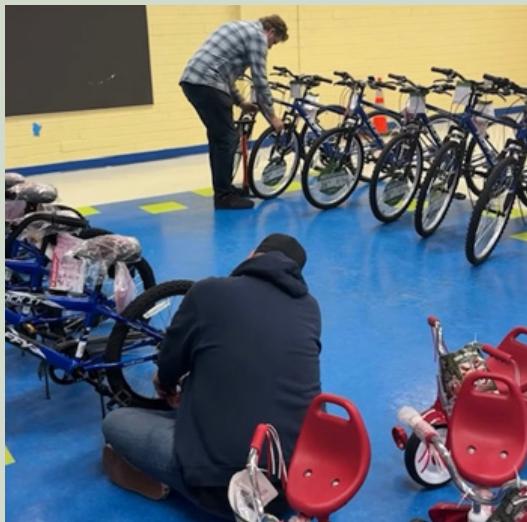
The City of Jacksonville has completed the construction of new green bicycle lanes along RG Skinner Parkway in a significant step towards improving urban mobility. This project not only introduces vibrant green markings to delineate bike paths but also includes a critical realignment of existing curbs. Previously, these curbs protruded into the bike lanes, forcing cyclists into vehicular traffic for short stretches, making the area less comfortable for both drivers and cyclists. The new layout ensures a continuous, safe, and comfortable passage for nonmotorized users, enhancing the overall cycling experience in the area.

This project on RG Skinner Parkway is not just about adding a splash of color to the roadways, it's a testament to Jacksonville's commitment to reducing traffic injuries and fatalities through proactive urban planning. The City aims to enhance safety for all roadway users, particularly for nonmotorized transportation modes, by implementing green bicycle lanes more robustly citywide.

As more cities adopt similar measures, the evidence continues to mount that green pavement is a simple yet effective tool in the quest for safer streets. ■

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

# Center of Hope and Blue Zones Jax Jolly Jamboree Brings Holiday Spirit to Durkeeville



COJ staff helped prepare bicycles of all sizes to provide at the event (photo by Blue Zones Jacksonville).



The Center of Hope at Emmett Reed Community Center was transformed into a winter wonderland on Saturday, December 7, 2024, as families gathered to celebrate the Jolly Jamboree, a festive event that brought the community together. Hosted in the heart of Durkeeville, the Jamboree featured activities for all ages, including holiday crafts, face painting, live entertainment, and dozens of bicycle giveaways! Twenty-four children from the 32209-area code received brand-new bicycles, symbolizing the event's emphasis on natural movement and active living.

Staff from the City of Jacksonville and Blue Zones Project Jacksonville supported the event by fitting each child with a helmet and providing a brief road safety lesson before each bicycle was awarded. The event aligned seamlessly with Jacksonville's Vision Zero initiative, currently in development, focused on eliminating all traffic fatalities and reducing crash injury levels citywide. Teaching kids bicycle and pedestrian safety early in life promotes a lifetime of healthy active transportation through walking and biking responsibly.

The Jolly Jamboree showcased the vibrant spirit of Jacksonville's communities, reminding everyone of the magic that happens when people come together to create a brighter future. The Center of Hope anticipates making the event an annual occurrence for residents. ■



# WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS



Councilmember Jimmy Peluso listens to Teresa Rose and Drew Haramis' stories.



Visuals at the event denoted the high number of traffic fatalities in Jacksonville over the past three years.



Bicycles painted all white are commonly used to honor cyclists that have been lost in traffic crashes.



Mayor Donna Deegan expressed sympathy for family and friends of traffic victims as well as safety efforts underway to make Jacksonville a safer city for all.

On Friday, November 15th, the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) co-hosted with others the first annual World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims event at James Weldon Johnson Park. 508 white flags were displayed as a backdrop, one for each of the Jacksonville residents killed in traffic crashes over the past three years. Mayor Donna Deegan, Nat Ford (JTA CEO), and District-7 Councilmember Jimmy Peluso each delivered remarks honoring the friends and family members suffering with the loss of loved ones and delivering a message of hope for safer roadways in Jacksonville's future.

Other speakers included Drew Haramis, founder of Angels for Allison, a non-profit organization

founded in memory of Drew's daughter, 15-year-old Allison Haramis, who was tragically killed in an auto accident in April of 2009, and Teresa Rose, a cyclist advocate with the West Augustine Wheelers, who lost her friend Katey Usina in 2020 when Usina was fatally hit by a truck while riding her bike in St. Augustine. The common sentiment throughout all of the remarks was the preventability of traffic fatalities and an urgency to make our roads safer through engineering, enforcement, and education. Fred Jones, of the Haskell consulting firm, closed the event with a message of hope, noting that the City of Jacksonville's Vision Zero Action Plan and JTA's Creating Safe Spaces Action Plan are currently being developed with a focus on policies and programs aimed at eliminating all traffic deaths in Jacksonville by 2035. ■

# The North Florida School of Special Education Summer Enrichment Programs: Teaching Bicycle and Pedestrian Skills



FSSE's Leigh Washburn accepting the City's tricycle donation (photo by Sherri Hartsell).



A student at NFSSE learns valuable bicycle safety skills through their bike program (photo by Leigh Washburn).

North Florida School of Special Education was founded in 1992 by a group of parents who recognized the need for better educational opportunities for children with intellectual and developmental differences.

The City of Jacksonville donated two adult tricycles to the NFSSE program in November, which gave City staff a chance to catch up with Leigh Washburn, Director of Community Engagement at the NFSSE. Washburn provided an update on their bike program: "The North Florida School of Special Education bike program is a new program that was brought to the school in early 2024 through a grant to purchase eight Strider bicycles. We have already hit the ground pedaling with offering summer learn-to-bike programs for all age groups, and now offering a bike club to our students two days a week. Our students get the chance to practice all bicycle skills inside our gym and outside on our track, as we prepare them to safely take to the streets once they graduate from our program. With the addition of the tricycles, we can now reach some of our other students who may need more support with balance and the repetition of pedaling before moving on to a bicycle. We appreciate the addition (donation of the adult tricycles) to our growing bike program!"

To learn more about the program, please visit the NFSSE website by scanning the QR code below or visiting [www.northfloridaschool.org](http://www.northfloridaschool.org) ■



# City of Jacksonville and Duval County Public Schools Team Up for Student Safety



Coach Bryan Robinson, physical education resource instructor at DCPS, helps students navigate the bike rodeo course (photo by COJ Planning staff).

On October 3rd and 4th, 2024, City of Jacksonville staff joined forces with Duval County Public Schools to host two days of pedestrian and bicycle safety lessons, including a “bike rodeo,” where kids were able to ride bikes through a real-world roadway simulation at Sallye B. Mathis Elementary School. The replicated roadways included stop signs, vehicle and bicycle lanes (complete with tennis balls as “debris” to be avoided), and informational stations where the students were quizzed on best practices such as bike signaling, where to safety ride in the road, and safe maneuvering at intersections and stop signs. The event was part of a broader collaboration aimed at enhancing safety for students commuting to school through engaging lessons and practical demonstrations. Continued collaboration between DCPS and the City is anticipated throughout 2025 and beyond to help equip students with essential knowledge on safe walking and biking practices. ■

# CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S AMBITIOUS VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

The City of Jacksonville has embarked on an ambitious journey to develop its first Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP), aiming to eliminate all traffic fatalities on its roadways. The primary goal of this plan is not just to reduce the number of traffic incidents but to ensure that when crashes do happen due to inevitable human error, the outcomes are not fatal or severely injurious, particularly for the most vulnerable road users like bicyclists and pedestrians. This initiative is framed within what's called the "Safe Systems Approach," which acknowledges that while human errors cannot be completely eradicated, the impact of these errors can be significantly mitigated through thoughtful urban planning and engineering focused on reducing vehicle speeds and enhancing safety measures.

## FOCUSING ON TARGETED SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS WHERE DATA SHOWS THE GREATEST NEED

Jacksonville's impetus for adopting Vision Zero stems from stark crash data revealing its high-risk environment for pedestrians and cyclists. According to the annual "Dangerous by Design" report, Jacksonville ranks as the 15th most dangerous city for pedestrians and the 3rd for bicyclists in the U.S. This represents a slight improvement from being the 6th most dangerous metropolitan area in previous reports, but it underscores the urgent need for systemic change. The city's effort to combat these statistics has been financially supported by a USDOT grant of \$350,000 in 2022, to develop the VZAP, supplemented by an additional \$1,270,000 in 2024 for implementing "quick build," aka demonstration projects, which allow for temporary safety enhancements, giving the community a tangible sampling of safer street designs without immediate long-term investments. These TBD "demo" projects might include temporary protected bike lanes, pedestrian plazas, or even mini roundabouts to assess their effectiveness in real-world scenarios. Smaller scale interventions at individual intersections or crosswalks are also planned, focusing on immediate safety enhancements where data shows the greatest need.

Key to the VZAP is the identification of High Injury Networks (HIN), which are specific routes and intersections with disproportionately high crash rates. These networks are further categorized by mode of transportation and jurisdiction, ensuring tailored interventions where they are most needed, whether on city-managed or state-managed roads. The crash data analysis for the plan was specifically curated to exclude limited-access highways, focusing instead on roads where both cyclists and pedestrians can travel, ensuring that the safety measures proposed are relevant and practical for all modes. By focusing on high injury crash areas, which constitute only a small percentage of the total road network but account for a significant number of fatal and serious injuries, the plan aims to make impactful safety improvements. This targeted approach allows for a concentration of resources and efforts where they will yield the most significant safety dividends.

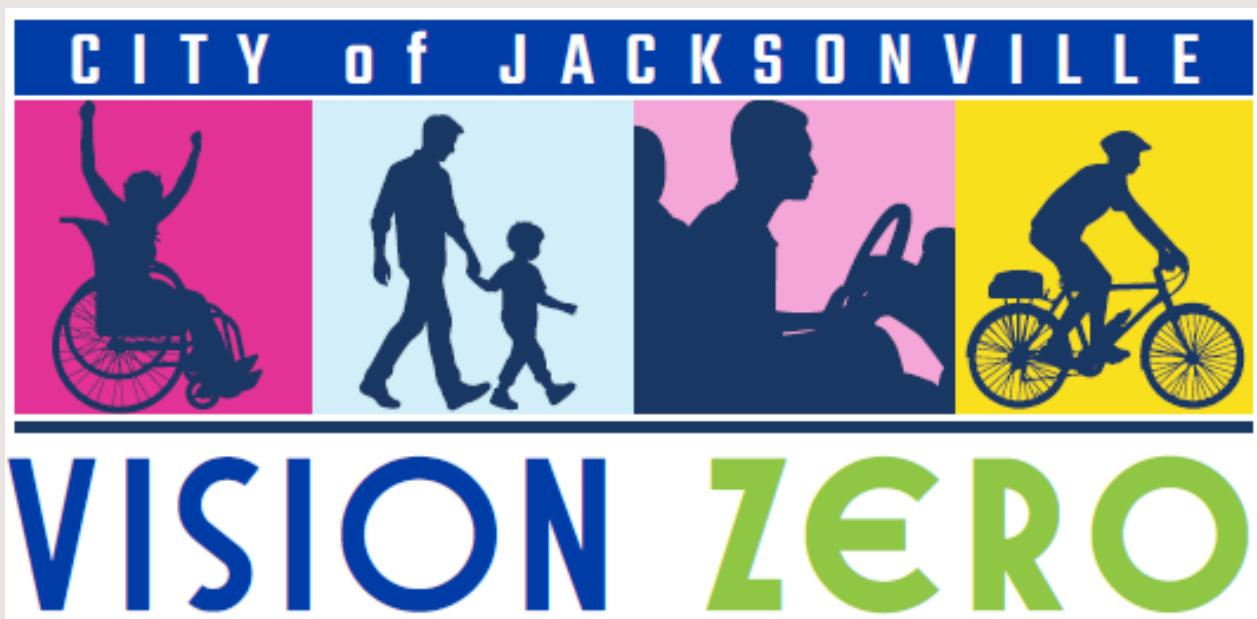
The plan incorporates a comprehensive approach with what is known as the "Big Es" - engineering, education, and enforcement. Engineering solutions will redesign high-risk areas to enhance safety, education will inform the public about safe road behaviors, and enforcement will ensure compliance with traffic laws. Performance targets will be set, and a public dashboard will be created to monitor progress, making the process transparent and accountable to Jacksonville's residents.

The development of Jacksonville's Vision Zero Action Plan is a collaborative effort, with a steering committee comprising the city's Vision Zero Task Force, the Joint Stakeholders Group, and public input. An Open House held on November 6th at the Kids Hope Alliance Building was a testament to this collaborative spirit, where community members provided valuable feedback on the proposed changes. The plan is slated for completion in March or April 2025, at which point implementation will begin, marking a new chapter in Jacksonville's commitment to road safety for all its citizens. ■

Please visit the City of Jacksonville's Vision Zero website by scanning the QR code below:



Separating vehicles with off-roadway nonmotorized facilities like shared-use paths (trails) or protected bicycle lanes while also reducing vehicle speeds will create a safer environment for residents that ride bikes and walk (Photo by Barry Cotter).



## RESOURCES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Local  
Race  
Calendar



Local  
Run  
Clubs



Local Group Rides

VELOBREW  
BICYCLE  
CLUB

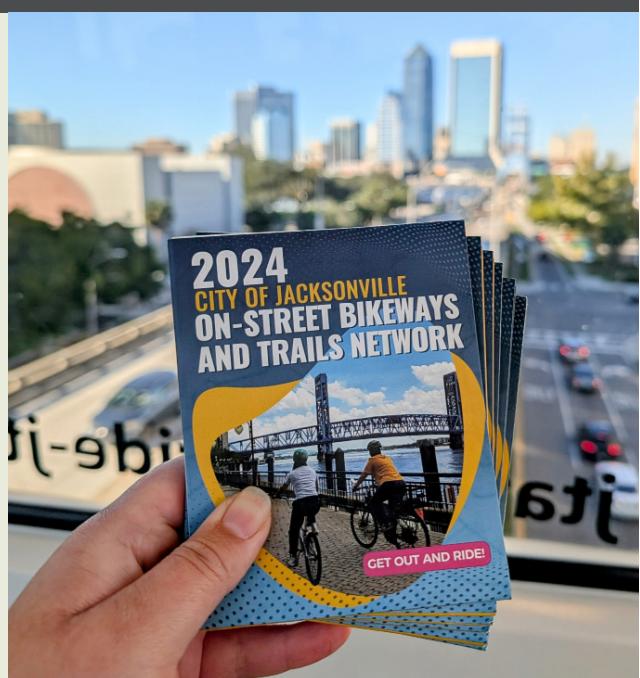
SORBA  
JAX

OPEN  
ROAD  
BICYCLES

NORTH  
FLORIDA  
BIKE CLUB

ZENCOG  
BICYCLE  
COMPANY

Ask for  
this **FREE**  
map at  
your local  
bike shop



### DONNA MARATHON WEEKEND

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2, 2025, JAX BEACH SEAWALK PAVILION



The 18th Annual DONNA Marathon Weekend will include a 5K, DONNA Dash, Half Marathon, Marathon, Ultramarathon, Event Challenges, and Health & Wellness Expo that will fill the City of Jacksonville and the Beaches of Northeast Florida with thousands of runners from all 50 states and many countries.

To learn more, visit: [breastcancermarathon.com](http://breastcancermarathon.com)



### GATE RIVER RUN 15K

MARCH 1, 2025, EVERBANK STADIUM

The Gate River Run was formerly known as the Jacksonville River Run and was created in 1978. It's been the US National Championship 15K since 1994. The Gate River Run is the largest 15k race in the United States and also includes a 5K and other mile races. To learn more, visit: [gateriverrun15k.com](http://gateriverrun15k.com)



### NACTO DESIGNING CITIES CONFERENCE 2024

MAY 28-31, 2025, WASHINGTON D.C.

The annual National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Designing Cities Conference brings together over 1,000 people passionate about advancing the state of transportation in North American cities—engineers, planners, government agency leaders, elected officials, advocates, and other transportation professionals of all career levels. To learn more, visit: [nacto.org/conference/designing-cities-2025-washington-d-c/](http://nacto.org/conference/designing-cities-2025-washington-d-c/)



Through the JaxRax program, businesses and community members can request a bicycle rack to be installed within the public right-of-way throughout Jacksonville. Learn more about our program by visiting our website: [Jacksonville.gov/pedbike](http://Jacksonville.gov/pedbike)



JaxRax at Intuition Ale Works on Bay Street