



THE LACE & AXLE



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MEET MATT FALL, COJ's NEW BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR!

From the Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator: Hello, Everyone! I am Matt Fall, and I am honored to be Jacksonville's newest Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator! Undoubtedly, Jacksonville is an amazing place to live, but there is much work to be done to make our sidewalk and bikeway networks as safe and connected as possible. As the population in Jacksonville grows each year, it is vital to communities that our active transportation infrastructure connect residents with jobs, retail centers, schools, and essential services, and that planning for active transportation be geared towards people of all ages and abilities, providing safe and comfortable movement for all users. As 2022 begins, I look forward to working with and learning from the advocates, engineers, planners, community leaders, health specialists, law enforcement, and all others that play a role in ensuring that Jaxsons can travel by foot (shoe-LACE), and by bicycles or wheelchairs (AXLES).



Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator, Matt Fall, helps fit a helmet for a young attendee.
Source: City of Jacksonville

Work and Educational Experience

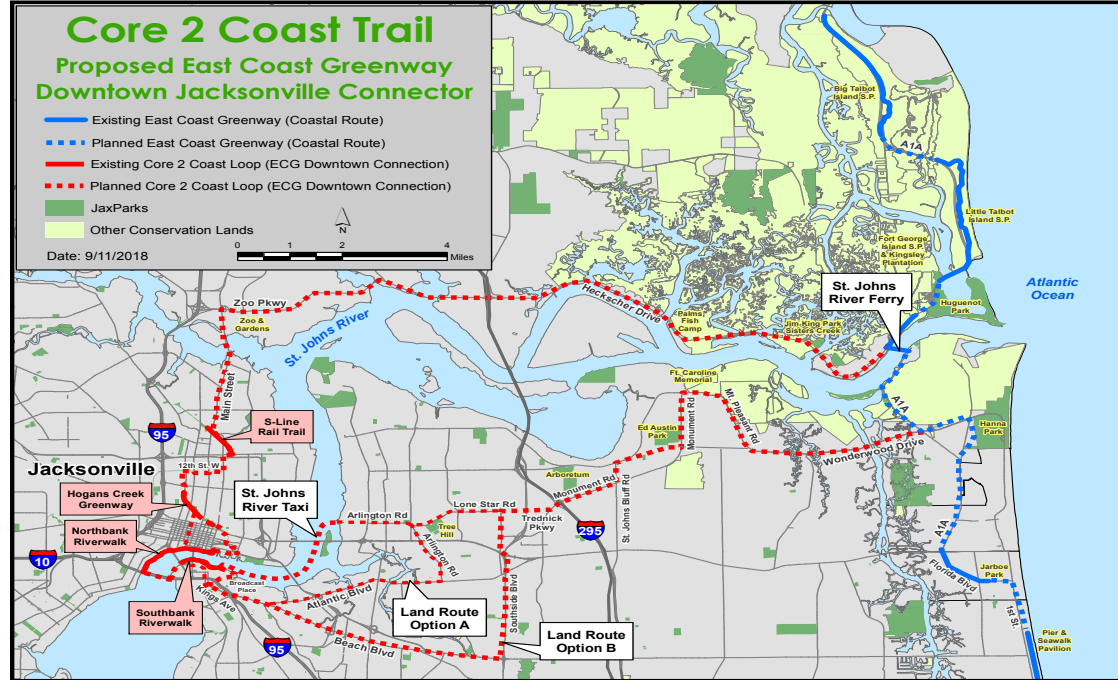
I began in the Bike-Ped Coordinator position for the City of Jacksonville in September of 2021. Prior to joining the City's Planning and Development Department, I was a Transportation Specialist for the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), in Washington, DC, and later served at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) as a special staff for Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and for Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari. Later on I worked as a Policy Analyst in the Office of the Secretary (OST-P).

After leaving DC, I worked at the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) as an associate planner, where I focused on systems planning, goods movement, and the development of multimodal facilities, before accepting a senior planner position (Bicycle-Pedestrian) with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG, MPO). There I was instrumental in developing a Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and helped to support the bicycle and pedestrian network within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Planning Area. I hold an undergraduate degree in economics and policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a graduate degree in public administration from the George Washington University, in Washington, D.C. I now live in Jacksonville with my wife, Vida, and our cat, Chico. I can't wait to meet you all!

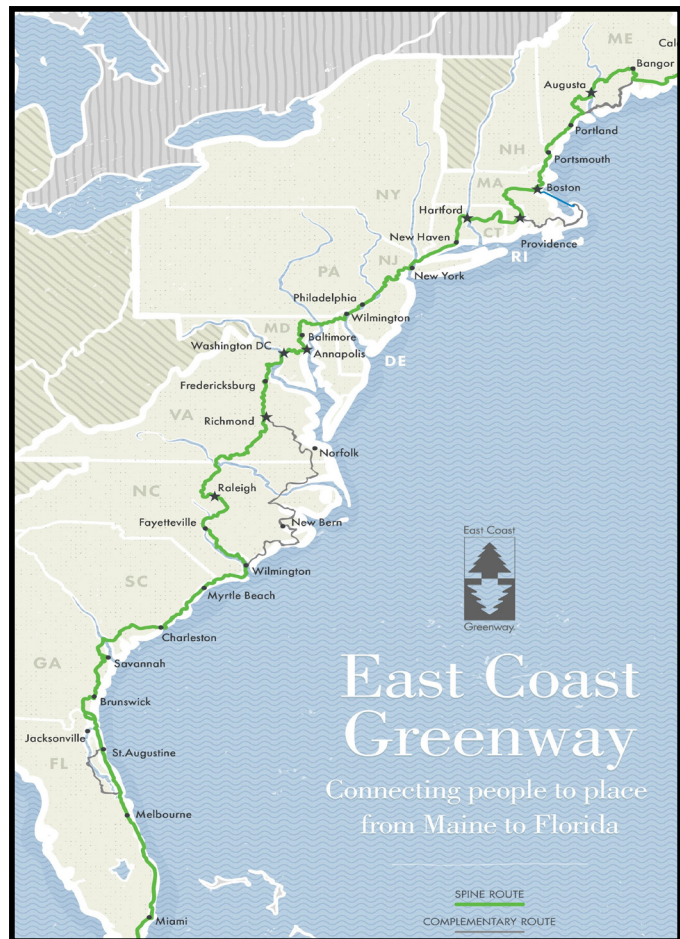


Taking a break after a long bike ride.
Source: City of Jacksonville

EAST COAST GREENWAY RIBBON CUTTING AND HELMET GIVEAWAY



Detail of proposed alignments for the City of Jacksonville's Core to Coast trail. Source: City of Jacksonville



Detail of alignments comprising the East Coast Greenway. Source: East Coast Greenway.

A ribbon cutting event was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021, to designate a recently completed shared-use path through Jarboe Park as an official section within the larger East Coast Greenway (ECG). When completed, the ECG will provide 3,000 miles of continuous bicycle facilities from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida, and will also connect with Jacksonville's Core-to-Coast trail, connecting downtown Jacksonville to the beach. Neptune Beach Mayor, Elaine Brown and Vice Mayor, Fred Jones, delivered remarks regarding the trail addition, as well as Mayor Ellen Glasser from Atlantic Beach,

and Dennis Markatos-Soriano, Executive Director of The East Coast Greenway Alliance, the not-for-profit group behind the ECG project. Staff from the city of Neptune Beach, the City of Jacksonville, the Neptune Beach Police Department, Beach Life Rentals, Wolfson's Children's Hospital, and National Parks Service Superintendent Chris Hughes were on hand to celebrate with the public and to distribute free bicycle helmets to the children in attendance (helmets courtesy of Florida Department of Transportation's PedBike Resource Center).



Source: City of Jacksonville

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Shared Use Path Crossing Along Fuller Warren Bridge

The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) 12' shared-use path (SUP), currently under construction along the Fuller Warren Bridge is slated to be completed in the spring of 2022. The 12' SUP will provide comfortable and safe movement across the St. Johns River for pedestrians and cyclists between the San Marco and Riverside neighborhoods. Structurally, the SUP will include a concrete barrier with a mounted, 10' safety fence on the north side, and decorative safety fencing along the south wall. Users on the Riverside end will use the ADA-friendly ramp to enter the SUP, complete with aesthetic enhancements in a style consistent with the Riverside Arts Market (RAM); whereas users on the San Marco side will access the SUP near Palm Avenue, complete with bridge elements mirroring "special RAM and Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens artistic features" (from FDOT's nflroads.com project website). The SUP is part of a larger operational improvements and bridge enhancements FDOT project, with roughly \$20 million in funding provided specifically for the SUP by the State. The facility is representative of FDOT's ongoing commitment to pedestrian and bicycle safety.



Source: City of Jacksonville



Source: FDOT



Source: FDOT

COJ Bicycle Rack Installation Program



The JaxRax pilot program initiated in 2019 has witnessed delays due to staff changes and the recent Covid-19 environment; however, the City of Jacksonville is currently coordinating with vendors to get things moving again. Those that have requested racks to be installed will be contacted once locations are reviewed and approved. For those of you interested in applying, please scan the QR code (to the left) or visit the Bike-Ped page for the JaxRax application form: coj.net/pedbike. Thank you all for your patience and participation in this new program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



FHWA WORKSHOP
DESIGNING FOR BICYCLIST SAFETY

April 14-15 | Ed Ball Building

SCAN HERE TO SIGN-UP →



FREE! Bike safety training workshop, Jacksonville, Florida: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and COJ will co-host this 2-day training workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, 2022, intended for engineers, planners, developers, and other transportation practitioners that design, engage in planning, or implement policies and programs related to bicycle facilities. Please register today at coj.net/pedbike or scan the QR code.

Group bike rides throughout Jacksonville!

Retail outlets such as Open Road Bicycles offer no-cost weekly group rides or join a bike club for scheduled group events.

- Open Road Bicycles: openroadbicycles.com
- North Florida Bike Club: nfbcl.us
- VeloBrew Bike Club: velobrew.com



National Bike Summit, online and Washington, DC: The League of American Bicyclists are hosting the 23rd Annual National Bike Summit. Which will take place as a hybrid event (online or in-person) on Sunday, March 27 - Wednesday, March 30, 2022. For registration, pricing, and other information, visit bikeleague.org/summit



Safe Streets Summit, Miami, Florida: The 9th annual Safe Streets Summit, happening February 17-18, 2022, is a collaborative effort between the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization as well as the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency to provide a local yet regionally connected approach to prioritizing and implementing Complete Streets throughout southeast Florida. For more information, please visit floridaltap.org/event/safe-streets-summit-2



FDOT informational webinar: Data Analysis and Safe Routes to School, online: This webinar will cover the purpose of data collection for a Safe Routes to School program and will provide an overview of the data available to analyze walking and bicycle usage, safety, and infrastructure. To register, visit floridaltap.org/event/data-analysis-and-safe-routes-to-school