



January 20, 2017

Members of the League of American Bicyclists and Local Reviewers,

The City of Carrollton partnered with the Friends of Carrollton GreenBelt to complete the Bicycle Friendly Community application and submit it to the League of American Bicyclists. The Mayor and City Council were presented and approved a resolution of support for the application.

Our leaders recognize and support the values promoted by the League, and the effort to create safer roads, stronger communities, and a bicycle-friendly America. Becoming designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) will enable the formation of new partnerships and momentum for bicycle improvements, strengthen grant applications for bicycle facilities, like spurs for the Carrollton GreenBelt, and strengthen the City's messaging related to education, encouragement, evaluation, and enforcement. We hope it will also provide us with feedback on what other improvements can be made to further improve the connectivity and stimulate the bicycle commute growth.

City of Carrollton is already a model for developing mixed use paths in the state, with several communities visiting the Carrollton GreenBelt and modeling their efforts to create local trail networks after Carrollton's model. The Carrollton GreenBelt is an example of having the right team working on the right project. A local philanthropist recognized an opportunity to create a trail system that could also function as a sustainable transportation alternative and put together an implementation team, Friends of Carrollton GreenBelt, who took a 30-year plan and turned it into a 5-year project. The team consisted of trail designers, representatives from the Community Foundation of West Georgia, city leaders, a real estate specialist, several local community activists, and Executive Director of the PATH Foundation (Silver Comet Trail).

A lot of effort and careful planning ensured the trail connected several of the city's neighborhoods, one fourth of which are low-income) with destinations including the University of West Georgia, Carrollton City Schools, industrial zones, local hospital system (Tanner Medical Center), numerous shopping centers and a number of city parks. For users who do not live in close proximity to the trail, trailheads located in city parks (Hays Mill Park, East Carrollton Park, Lakeshore Park and Hobbs Farm Park) provide free parking and easy trail access. The bridges, the boardwalks, and the trees we have saved all become part of our story and our success.

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At the end of 2016, we closed both the 18-mile loop, and a chapter on the single largest greenspace conservation and trail project the city has ever undertaken. The City is now looking forward to enhancing the bicycle network and including all road users in the planning and design for new facilities. We welcome public comments on new developments. Carrollton is also spearheading the Complete Streets Policy in the county.

I hope you will find the time to visit our community and explore our unique trail.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erica Studdard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erica Studdard  
Community Development Director