

**Commission Members:**

Lissa Leege, Carolyn Altman, Melanie Sparrow, Bill Herring,  
Jon Cook, Victor Dickey, Ben Morris, Kristine Yager-Rushton, Karen Sanders



50 EAST MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX  
348 STATESBORO, GEORGIA  
30459-0348 AGENDA

Greener Boro Commission Meeting  
November 3, 2022  
6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers

**Attendees:** Lissa Leege, Chair; Carolyn Altman, Vice Chair; Bill Herring, Treasurer; Jon Cook, Karen Sanders, Ben Morris, Victor Dickey, and Kristine Yager-Rushton; non-commission members Marcos Trejo and Shari Barr; and visitors Carolyn Geutry, and Connor Scott

I. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The secretary was not present, so Karen Sanders took the meeting minutes.

II. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 6, 2022 Greener Boro Commission meeting were approved as distributed (Motion to Approve: Jon Cook; Second: Kristine Yager-Rushton)

III. Presentation on Bicycle/Alternative Transportation Project Plans in the City

- The presentation and subsequent discussion supported the Greener Boro's objective to reduce transportation emissions, which includes increasing alternative transportation options such as electric vehicle charging stations, increasing the number and accessibility of bike routes, and improving city walkability.
- David Moyer, Assistant City Engineer, reviewed the city projects related to sidewalks and bike routes. Most projects in the 2009 Transportation Master Plan have been completed. The city is in negotiations with the county and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a new transportation master plan.
- David explained funding and grants are easier to obtain for projects included in a master plan, so it is crucial to include a bicycle plan in the new transportation master plan. For example, if GDOT has a project on a street designated as a bicycle route in the master plan, GDOT is required to include the bicycle amenities in its project. David suggested contacting GDOT's statewide bicycle coordinator for help developing a bicycle plan.
- Grants for local projects are available through GDOT (e.g., Safe Routes to School

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[SRTS] program and Transportation Enhancement Program). The Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) is a significant source of funding for local projects. Statesboro City Council approves the use of its allotted TSPLOST funding for specific projects. Commission would like to know the priority of projects up for the latest TSPLOST funding.

- David presented a 2020 sidewalk map of the city and described upcoming projects with sidewalks and bicycle lanes put out for bid for design work. He explained the challenge of insufficient rights-of-way for sidewalks and the benefit of requiring developers to include sidewalks in new subdivision and commercial developments.
- A plan is needed to connect the Blind Willi McTell Trail and S&S Greenway walking trail. Effort will be needed to get reluctant property owners and the public behind the options presented. David suggested involving bicycle groups with firsthand experience of the value of bicycle paths. Carolyn suggested emphasizing how bicycle paths are used by people riding to work, are important to reduce student traffic in our small town, increase property values, and increase neighborhood safety.
- Initial locations to consider for bicycles lane projects:
  - Streets wider than necessary for vehicles (16- to 18-foot-wide lane) encourage speeding, so road diets such as bicycle lanes are used to calm traffic. Our streets need a minimum of 11 feet for vehicles and 5 feet for a bicycle lane; adding a bicycle lane can be a standalone striping project or included in a resurfacing project. Zetterower should be evaluated for adding a bicycle lane in a resurfacing project.
  - State Route 67 is part of Georgia State Bicycle Route 35 (state bicycle plan) and includes room for bicycle lanes. However, bicycle lanes must be maintained, including the removal of road debris and dead animals, to be safe for use by cyclists.
- Commission agreed a priority is to develop a bicycle plan for inclusion in the new transportation master plan. The bicycle plan would designate bike routes and help identify areas requiring related safety projects.
  - Carolyn will head a bicycle plan development subcommittee to work with the city.
  - David will ask Justin Daniels, the GIS consultant for city, to create a map of existing bike routes so the Commission can begin identifying connectivity needs.
  - City has a camera that gathers data on pedestrian, car, truck, and bicycle traffic, which can be used in bike plan study.
  - New transportation master plan should address locations with safety issues, such as Fair Road, especially with 1,000+ new housing units in development. The city and GDOT recently completed a road safety audit of Fair Road and determined the most dangerous intersection in GDOT District Five (26 counties) is Fair Road and the Bypass (Veterans Memorial Parkway).
  - Lissa suggested that the city advertise the bike route map as a sustainability feature of the Greener Boro.

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**IV. Old Business**

- Ben Morris led a discussion on topics related to energy objectives of the Greener Boro, including energy efficiencies, solar renewable projects, and microgrids.
  - Ben will provide more information on free offerings from Georgia Power on energy efficiencies for residential and commercial properties.
  - Ben will help get EV forecast for our area from Georgia Power and criteria used for strategic placement of EV charging stations.
  - Recommendations for the city could include rooftop solar on city buildings, charging stations for electric vehicles, and campaign on energy efficiency of private citizens that includes trade-in for LEDs and planting trees on south side of houses.
- Commission agreed on additional Greener Boro energy objective: To increase the proportion of renewable energy in the energy mix for the city of Statesboro.  
Motion to Accept: Bill Herring; Second: Jon Cook; Motion to Approve: Unanimous.

**V. New Business**

- Lissa presented printouts of the GreenFest Boards and asked for feedback from the Commission. Lissa and Carolyn will use the boards for a Garden Lunch and Learn on November 10 and will ask attendees for input on how to green the Boro.
- Commission decided not to change language in the bylaws permitting anyone to be on a subcommittee. Should a conflict of interest arise, the Greener Boro Commission will address the issue at that time.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m..