



City of Columbia
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the bicycle is a viable and environmentally-sound form of transportation and an excellent form of recreation; and

WHEREAS, many Columbians will experience the joys of bicycling during the month of May through participation in educational programs, races, commuting events, trail work days, helmet promotion activities, charity events, or just getting out and going for a ride; and

WHEREAS, the Palmetto Trail attracts trail users each year from all around the state by providing economic, health, and scenic benefits to citizens of South Carolina, Columbia and the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, these bicycling activities and attractions have great potential to have a positive impact on Columbia's economy and tourism industry, and to stimulate economic development by making the City attractive to businesses and citizens who enjoy spending time outdoors and leading healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, creating bicycle-friendly communities has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, to boost community spirit, to improve traffic safety, and to reduce pollution and congestion; and

WHEREAS, May has been declared National Bike Month and is so again in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), bicycle clubs, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, hospitals, companies and civic groups throughout the City and the region will be promoting bicycling as a leisure activity as well as an environmentally-friendly alternative to the automobile during the month of May 2016; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia adopted the City's first Bike and Pedestrian Plan on June 2nd, 2015 as the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan, known as "Walk Bike Columbia", and this Plan has a goal of creating great places for bicycling with a focus on education, encouragement, evaluation and planning, engineering, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the education of bicyclists and motorists as to the proper and safe operation of bicycles is important to ensure the safety and comfort of all users.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of May 16th through May 20th, 2016 as Bike to Work Week, and the month of May as

National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month

in the great City of Columbia and urge my fellow citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor

Sam Davis
District I, Council Member

Tameika Isaac Devine
At-Large, Council Member

Leona Plough
District IV, Council Member

Moe Baddourah
District III, Council Member

Howard E. Duvall, Jr.
At-Large, Council Member

Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II, Council Member