



TSPLOST 2026 PROJECT 4

Oconee Street Trail Bridge - Greenway/Firefly

Friends of the Greenway

Elise Stangle

Scott Long

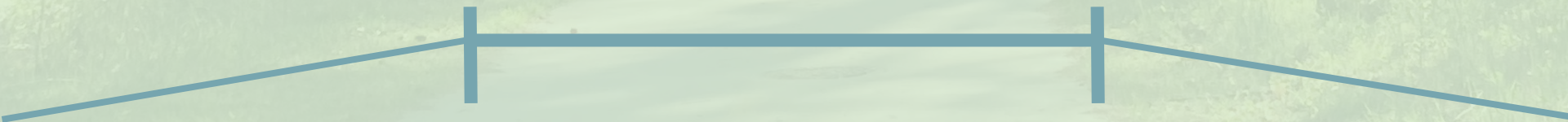
A photograph of a road intersection. In the foreground, there are several orange and white striped traffic barrels and white plastic water-filled barriers. A white pickup truck is parked on the right side of the road, with a 'ROAD CLOSED' sign and a large black arrow pointing right on its back. In the background, there are cars, trucks, and traffic lights. A green box with the word 'GREENWAY' and a white arrow pointing towards the intersection is in the upper right. A red box with white text is at the bottom.

GREENWAY

SPOILER ALERT
This is a trail crossing.

Hello, we're Friends of the Greenway

Our Mission: Friends of the Greenway, Inc. is a non-profit organization that seeks to conserve, improve, and promote the Oconee Rivers Greenway in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia for the benefit of Athens residents and visitors.



Hello, we're Friends of the Greenway

Members:

Danielle Gillmer - Chair

Kathy Harr - Secretary

Dana Scheffen

Steven Niemela

Taylor Worley - Treasurer

Lauren Blais

Elise Stangle

Scott Long

Merritt Melancon

CONTEXT

*The Greenway and Firefly Trails are our
low-stress transportation networks...*



FIREFLY TRAIL



FIREFLY TRAIL



FIREFLY TRAIL



Connector Trail, which leads to...



GREENWAY

ROAD
CLOSED

This is a trail crossing.





GREENWAY

A paved greenway path stretches into the distance, flanked by trees and grass. Two people are walking away from the camera, and a dog is visible on the right side of the path. The path is made of light-colored paving stones. The surrounding area is lush with greenery and trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a transitional season. A dark fence is visible on the left side of the path.

GREENWAY

GREENWAY



CONTEXT

*The Greenway and Firefly Trails are our
low-stress transportation networks...*

...but there's a problem.

GREENWAY





This intersection is part of our
low-stress trail network.









Before GDOT construction

To the
**FIREFLY
TRAIL**

RaceTrac

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

When the GDOT project is complete, trail users will cross the equivalent width of 10 lanes of traffic.

**WAFFLE
HOUSE**

GREENWAY

GDOT Lexington Road/SR10 Loop interchange project marking sheet 10/25/2022

OCONEE STREET

*When construction of the Lexington Interchange GDOT project is complete, people will have to cross the equivalent of **10 lanes of traffic** to continue on our low-stress trail network.*



HOW DO WE FIX THIS?

BUILD A BRIDGE



An aerial photograph of a complex road intersection. A multi-lane road runs vertically through the center, intersecting with a horizontal road. To the right, a curved road branches off. The area is filled with vehicles, including cars and large trucks. A large construction site is visible at the top, with exposed red earth and heavy machinery. Various commercial buildings, parking lots, and landscaped areas with trees are scattered around the intersection. Two dark green text boxes are overlaid on the image, one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

Oconee/Oak Street
To DOWNTOWN

Lexington/US 78
To EAST SIDE

INNER EAST ATHENS

FIREFLY TRAIL

Oconee/Oak Street
To DOWNTOWN

Connector trail

To WINTERVILLE

**WAFLE
HOUSE**



GREENWAY

Park and Ride lot

Lexington/US 78
To EAST SIDE

Loop ramp

To EAST SIDE

INNER EAST ATHENS

Oconee/Oak Street
To DOWNTOWN

FIREFLY TRAIL

Connector trail

To WINTERVILLE

**WAFLE
HOUSE**

**New Bridge
Location**

RaceTrac

GREENWAY

*Original proposed
Park and Ride lot
connection*

Lexington/US 78
To EAST SIDE

Loop ramp

To EAST SIDE

Oconee/Oak Street
To DOWNTOWN

INNER EAST ATHENS

FIREFLY TRAIL

Connector trail

To WINTERVILLE

**WAFLE
HOUSE**

**New Bridge
Location**

RaceTrac

GREENWAY

Park and Ride lot

Loop ramp

Lexington/US 78
To EAST SIDE

To EAST SIDE

PROJECT STATEMENT

Friends of the Greenway propose a **pedestrian bridge** connecting the Greenway and Firefly Trails over Oconee Street and the Park and Ride. Referenced in the Greenway Network and MTP plans, the county's first pedestrian highway overpass will improve commuting access to UGA and downtown, providing safer crossings for East Side, East Athens and Carr's Hill residents, avoiding six lanes of traffic. It enhances connections to the Firefly Trail, Winterville, and the site of the new East Side Library.



A woman in athletic wear is running on a paved path that curves through a wooded area. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green overlay. The title 'CONNECTIONS' is centered in the upper half in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, a list of locations is written in a white, italicized, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a white line with two vertical tick marks.

CONNECTIONS

*Winterville, Downtown, East Athens,
Carr's Hill, UGA, new East Side Library*

A satellite map of the University of Georgia campus and surrounding area. The map shows the University of Georgia campus on the left, with various buildings and green spaces. A major highway, US-78, runs diagonally across the center. To the right of the highway is the Barnett Shoals area, featuring a large body of water (Barnett Shoals Lake) and surrounding residential and commercial developments. The map is overlaid with several text boxes indicating directions and locations.

To DOWNTOWN

UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA

Lexington/US78

Barnett Shoals Road

EAST SIDE

To DOWNTOWN

INNER EAST ATHENS

To WINTERVILLE

Sanford
Stadium

GREENWAY

FIREFLY TRAIL

UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA

Lexington/US78

Barnett Shoals Road

EAST SIDE



To DOWNTOWN

INNER EAST ATHENS

To WINTERVILLE

Sanford
Stadium

GREENWAY

FIREFLY TRAIL

New Bridge
Location

UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA

Lexington/US78

EAST SIDE
LIBRARY

Barnett Shoals Road

EAST SIDE





Carriage Ct

Carriage Ct

Carriage Ct

Barnett Shoals Rd

EAST SIDE
LIBRARY

GREENWAY

174D 005



UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
ATHENS-CLARKE CO
1030 BARNETT SHOALS RD
Acres: 6.29
Value: \$943,500

View: [Report](#) | [Field Definitions](#) | [Pictometry Imagery](#) |
[Google Maps](#)

Barnett Shoals Rd

A woman in a black long-sleeved shirt and shorts is walking on a paved greenway path. The path is bordered by a wooden fence on the left and a grassy hillside on the right. The background shows a dense forest of trees under a clear blue sky. The path has yellow dashed lines and a white dashed line. A green banner with the word 'GREENWAY' is in the top left corner. A purple banner with text about the future East Side Library is on the right side.

GREENWAY

*site of the
future*
**EAST SIDE
LIBRARY**

SUPPORTED BY



Greenway Commission, Firefly Trail, Inc., and BikeAthens

MASTER PLANS

*Featured in the
Greenway Network Plan
And the MACORTS MTP 2050 plan*



WE CAN DO THIS!

*Example pedestrian bridges
over wide roadways*



Oconee Street Trail Bridge Resources

- Link to Google doc with example bridges, maps, articles and other resources
- Use QR code or shortened tinyurl



<https://tinyurl.com/oconee-bridge-resources>



Pinellas Trail, Florida

45-mile rail trail with 10 ped. bridges and 3 underpasses



LINC Bridge over 1-85, Newnan GA

Phase 2 of Newnan LINC trail completed in 2020



Bridgeway Bridge over I-385, Mauldin SC

\$5 million Swamp Rabbit connector bridge



Haywood Rd. Bridge, near Greenville, SC

*One of **two** new Swamp Rabbit bridges totalling \$6.4 million*



Firefly Trail on-ramp bridge, Athens, GA
We built the bridge ahead of GDOT building the on-ramp.



Trail Creek Trestle, Athens GA

Three-bridges-in-one, completed in April 2023, ~\$8 million.



LET'S FIX THIS



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