

# Easley accepts \$60,000 grant for bicycle plan

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Easley is moving forward with establishing a bicycle and pedestrian master plan thanks to a \$60,000 grant.

Easley City Council members unanimously voted to accept a \$60,000 grant from the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study to fund the bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

The grant requires a 20 percent match from the city, which will be an additional \$12,000, City Administrator Fox Simons said.

Simons said a request for proposals will go out soon and a consultant will be chosen to help with the master plan.

The master plan will look at ideal places for bike lanes, sidewalks and other features, he said, and is part of the city's efforts to become a more bicycle-friendly community.

The League of American Bicyclists helps communities become bicycle-friendly, according to members of Easley's bicycle-friendly

committee formed to tackle the issue, and communities across the country like Easley are getting involved.

"I didn't realize just how many people do ride bicycles in the Easley area," said Easley City Councilman Chris Mann, chairman of the committee.

He said the city is interested in bike-friendly efforts as officials look at health issues and alternative modes of transportation.

Mann said they want to encourage people to get out and ride their bikes, raise awareness and promote good health.

"If we can make it easier and more accessible, then we're hoping that people will ride their bikes more," Mann said.

He said the League of American Bicyclists designates bicycle-friendly communities and said the process can mean everything from having workshops to putting in bike lanes.

The bicycle-friendly committee is set to meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at City Hall.