

Plan for possible Clemson trail announced

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A bike-friendly trail in Clemson made the short list this week in a South Carolina Department of Transportation announcement about possible alternative transportation projects to receive federal funding.

Clemson University's Biking and Walking Trail, which would connect Hopewell Road and Seed Orchard Road via West Queen Street, was one of four possible projects selected by the SCDOT for its federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program.

The Transportation Alternatives Program, according to an SCDOT news release, is designed to encourage local governments to invest in alternative transportation pathways, some of which are eco-friendly and make areas more accessible to pedestrians and bicycles.

Clemson's proposed project is the most expensive of the four being considered by the SCDOT, with a \$1,000,000 request for funding. Gerald Vander Mey, Clemson's director of university planning and design, said he feels optimistic that the project will be approved.

"We've made a few applications, and this one is on the right track to come through," Vander Mey said.

The trail would run parallel, but separate, from West Queen Street. It would be 10 feet wide and paved with asphalt, Vander Mey said.

It would also serve as a multi-use connection between Hopewell Road and the Seed Orchard Road trail head and would be the first in a series of proposed trails connecting the rest of the



CONTRIBUTED

A map of Clemson highlights the location of a possible \$1M walking trail, proposed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

university to off-campus research facilities.

"One of the things that some of our cycling (faculty) members say is, 'We wish we had a better connection, there should be a better way to get to campus,'" Vander Mey said. "By building this tool, we're adding not only connectivity, but were also making it more attractive for the best and brightest minds that we want to bring to our cam-

pus."

If Clemson receives the requested \$1,000,000, the university will contribute an additional \$250,000 to the project, he added.

The other projects are in Cheraw, Pageland and Santee. A public comment period remains open until July 11.

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