

Rethink Folly Road

A Complete Streets Study in Charleston, SC

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Area:	7.8 mile corridor
Client:	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG)
Year Initiated:	2015
Website:	bcd cog.com/RethinkFollyRoad

For more information, visit doverkohl.com.

The Project

Rethink Folly Road: a Complete Streets Study is being undertaken by the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) in association with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), the City of Charleston, the Town of James Island, the City of Folly Beach, and Charleston County. The purpose of this initiative is to explore the potential to remake Folly Road into a more sustainable, multimodal corridor.

This corridor serves an important function of moving people and providing access to services – yet the physical environment today, consisting primarily of auto-oriented commercial development, does not meet the needs of its users.

This plan addresses connectivity, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendliness, transit, green infrastructure, economic development, and the retrofit of the existing suburban fabric. Recommendations will detail a strategy for improvements, recognizing the dual functions of moving vehicles and the desire to create a safe, walkable environment that will lead to increases in economic competitiveness, neighborhood livability, and sustainability in the Charleston Region.

The Process

From May 7 - 13, 2015, Dover, Kohl & Partners led a design charrette, working with the community to develop a vision for the future of the Folly Road corridor. A visual summary report was drafted, which includes recommendations for implementation. Public hearings will be conducted November 2015 – February 2016 in all four jurisdictions to consider adoption of the plan. Alta Planning + Design, Turnberry Consulting US, Horsley Witten Group, Bihl Engineering, and Partners for Economic Solutions collaborated with Dover-Kohl on this effort.



Folly Road Commercial Core: a new walkable, bikeable center for James Island

SAFE



CONNECTED



GREEN



VALUABLE



SYNCED

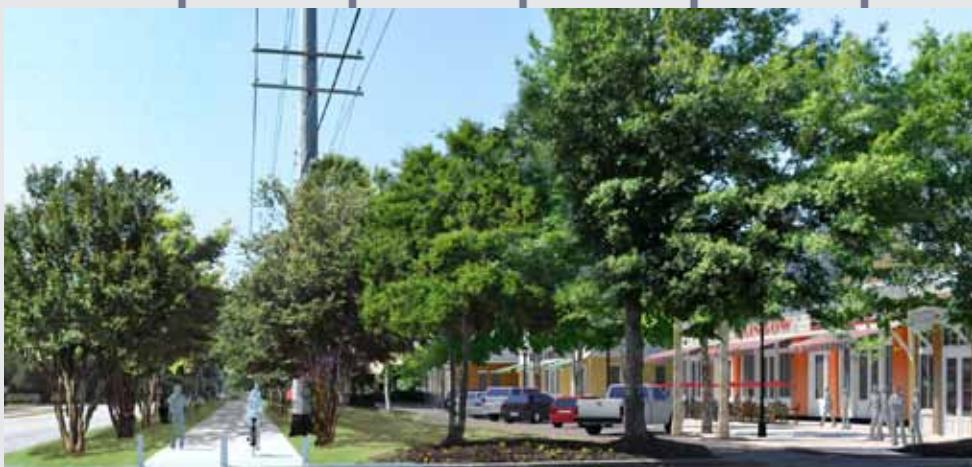


Folly Road "Guideposts"

Five "Guideposts", or primary goals for improving the Folly Road Corridor, were identified during the charrette. These reflect a preliminary consensus about the ideal future for Folly Road so that it better serves a range of users and provides increased amenities while augmenting quality of life.

SAFE

- Make all of Folly Road a desirable place to walk and ride bicycles: build continuous sidewalks, frequent crosswalks, and protected bikeways
- Use slower, safer "design speeds"
- Preserve evacuation route



Proposed



Existing Conditions

CONNECTED

- Make it more convenient to reach the beach
- Upgrade transit: Make it faster & more frequent, add covered shelters, employ modern technology
- Create new connections between adjacent properties and to-and-from Folly Road: add cross-access easements, new street network segments and pedestrian paths to connect Folly Road, commercial parcels, & surrounding neighborhoods

GREEN

- Modernize stormwater infrastructure with creative, sustainable, memorable designs
- Increase tree canopy; add real street trees in the right-of-way
- Introduce landscaped medians and a range of public green spaces

VALUABLE

- Make Folly Road contribute more to property value and daily life
- Improve business conditions with better building designs that look good and encourage walking
- Make possible gradual change, over time, and incremental development

SYNCED

- Optimize traffic signal timing with modernized software
- Join together the various governments to collaborate on important decisions: appoint one executive to oversee the whole suite of Folly Road improvements; create a joint review body; share costs and responsibilities



Proposed



Folly Road Neighborhood Preservation Area: safer and more enjoyable to walk, bike & use transit.

Existing Conditions