

Panelist Biographical Briefs Horry County Trail Summit

Austin, Tom

Tom has 40 years of expertise in the field of transportation planning and traffic engineering and design for the public and private sector. His expertise includes a wide variety of projects ranging from interchange and intersection alternative analysis and design, traffic circulation studies, traffic calming studies and design, multi-modal studies and design, as well as managing and leading both local and State DOT funded projects to a successful completion.

Benson, Michael

As President of CCU, Michael is a veteran of high education administration. Throughout his career, he has been active in intercollegiate athletics, completing a four-year term as a member of the NCAA Honors Committee. His third book, *The Birth of the Modern American Research University*, is set for release this year by John Hopkins University press. Michael commutes each day to campus via bicycle.

Buice, Brent

Brent has served as the South Carolina and Georgia Manager for the East Coast Greenway Alliance since 2017. Prior to working with the Alliance, he was Executive Director of Georgia Bikes, Georgia's statewide bicycle advocacy organization. Brent earned a Master's in Nonprofit Management from the University of Georgia; is a League Cycling Instructor, and has presented at numerous regional and national conferences focused on active transportation, including the National Bike Summit and Pro Walk Pro Bike. Brent serves on SCDOT's Complete Streets Steering Committee.

Hamilton, Neal

Neal is the State Trails Coordinator for the SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and helps local communities develop and maintain trails through the Recreational Trails Program, a federally funded grant program.

Hardin, Allison

Allison is the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Conway. The City is currently drafting a trails master plan that will identify and prioritize pedestrian and bicycle facility projects to connect key points in and around the city.

Hoeweler, Mark

Mark is the assistant executive director for the Waccamaw Regional Council of Government and serves as Director for the GSATS (Grand Strand Area Transportation System) Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Ketron, Linda

Linda was instrumental in advocating for the scenic Waccamaw Neck Bikeway that has expanded along Business 17 through Huntington Beach to the south causeway in Pawleys Island, a 16-mile trail that serves as the East Coast Greenway through Georgetown County. Linda considers her greatest

contribution to the Bikeway was the tenacity to keep stakeholders focused on the vision as challenges emerged along the way.

Peterson, Machael

Machael is the Director of Planning for the SC Department of Transportation, oversees federal grants and works closely with local public agencies who administer local projects.

Rankin, Luke

Luke has been a bicyclist longer than a South Carolina Senator where he has served Horry County since 1993. Among his many committee assignments includes the transportation committee where he advocates for trail systems.

Rich, Sara

Sara is Assistant Professor of Honors with Coastal Carolina University and serves as chair for CCU's Bicycle Advisory Council. The CCU BAC has worked closely with the City of Conway as it works to develop its bicycle pedestrian master plan. Sara's inspiration for bicycling came from six years in the *Flemish Low Country* (or Lagelanden, in Belgium,) where bicycles outnumbered cars! She learned commuting by bicycle is sound practice and, to this day, commutes to the CCU Campus from Conway, here in *South Carolina's own Low Country*. An interesting note is that the region formed the Benelux Customs Union, the forerunner for the European Union.

Russo, Tom

Tom serves on the City of Myrtle Beach Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and, as chairman, guided the committee to its first *Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan*. A lifelong recreational enthusiast, Tom has sailed the waters of the Grand Strand, ran Ocean Boulevard, recreates with cycling and advocates for long, linear, unobstructed trail systems. His first book *Chicago Rink Rats: The Roller Capital in its Heyday* won the Feathered Quill's Gold/First place in the history category.

Stevens, Delan

Delan is an avid cyclist and an advocate for improving trail systems throughout Horry County. He serves as chairman for the CCU Board of Trustees, as well as serving on the Boards for HTC and Conway Medical Center Foundation.

Vitt, Tom

Tom is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an avid cyclist. The highlight of his cycling adventures was a trip to the Tour de France in 2004 where he rode several mountain stages before the peloton (the professional riders). More recently, he has ridden to explore barbecue restaurants and gravel roads in rural Arizona, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Tom served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Coastal Carolina from 2002 to 2021 and the City of Myrtle Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee from 2014 to 2019. He and his wife Cindy live in Myrtle Beach.