

## Athens Downtown Development Authority and BikeAthens Partner to Donate Bike Service Station Downtown

A ribbon cutting ceremony was recently held to commemorate the partnership between Athens-Clarke County, the Athens Downtown Development Authority (ADDA), and BikeAthens to install a bike service station along College Avenue. It is located in front of the College Avenue Parking Deck. The Dero Fixit bike service station was jointly donated by ADDA and BikeAthens. It was installed by the Athens-Clarke County Facilities Management Division.

“These are the type of projects we love,” says ADDA Executive Director Pamela Thompson; “Partnerships to expand transportation options and increase the number of downtown visitors have a positive impact on our community and its economy.” While no recent surveys have been completed, it has been noted that the downtown area has a large number of cyclists. Given the significant number of apartments being added to the downtown area, it is anticipated that the number of cyclists and pedestrians will increase.

It is not uncommon to see bikes abandoned with minor issues. The bike service station installed downtown matches the four located on the University of Georgia Campus and one located in Boulevard Woods Community Park. It is equipped with a standard set of tools needed to handle normal maintenance issues, a tire pump, and a QR code system that allows users to research common repair instructions. “We are grateful to have so many partners dedicated to improving the sustainability of our community. These efforts help us to increase transportation options while reducing our environmental impact.” states Athens-Clarke County Environmental Coordinator Andrew Saunders.

The donation comes amid increased activity to expand bike and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the county. The county has recently built the Pulaski Heights and Trail Creek multi-use trails, and is currently working to add bike lanes along College Station Road. It also has several sales tax-funded initiatives such as a Rail-to-Trail extension, Easley Mill, College Station Road, and Horseshoe Bend Greenway extensions in the planning stages for construction. It appears the County may update the Bicycle Master Plan ahead of upcoming sales tax referendums. “Everyone wins when options are provided for cyclists and pedestrians,” reports BikeAthens Director Tyler Dewey; “We believe this demonstrates how bike-friendly facilities like service stations and bike racks can be easily incorporated in to local projects.”



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