

Out front on Thread Trail

Opinions

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Eventually, the Carolina Thread Trail will connect 15 counties in both North and South Carolina. The route will include prominent towns, regional attractions and natural landmarks along what has been described as a "green interstate"

But while many counties along the route are just beginning to consider the possibilities, York County is among the first to create a long-term plan for building the trail.

In December 2007, York County in South Carolina and Gaston County in North Carolina received the first two grants awarded by the Carolina Thread Trail to create a blueprint for a comprehensive multi-use network of trails. Since then, York County has sponsored a series of public hearings to collect ideas for the trail.

Those who attended the meetings last year saw all the suggested routes of the trail, along with the preferred one, on conceptual maps. York County has been at the forefront of this ambitious project, and the first leg of the trail in the county is likely to serve as a model for the rest of the state.

Following the lead of Fort Mill, Clover and Rock Hill, the York County Council unanimously adopted a master plan this month. The city of York will discuss getting involved in the planning later this month.

While this project could take 10 to 20 years to complete, many legs of the trail should be in use long before that. We're proud that residents throughout York County have played a vital role in the early planning and, because of that, the county's leg of the trail could be in use in the near future.

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