

The Inman Trail

General Overview



The Inman Trail is a concept that will unify and enhance the Inman community by promoting pedestrian activity along a planned, closed loop pathway. This idea is currently in the process of introduction for approval by the local agencies. The benefits of the Inman Trail will include creating safe routes to school for children, designated paths of travel for various modes of pedestrian exercise, a means of recreation and community interaction, and an outdoor stage for natural science education. The Inman Trail has been tentatively laid out on the attached map of Inman as a closed loop, composed of five links with three spurs. Each link and spur present a distinctive character:

1. The School Link .75 miles

This pathway will occupy an abandoned railroad bed linking Asheville Highway (US 176) to North Main Street. The bed makes an excellent place for a trail since it has already been cleared and graded, not to mention the fact that it runs near three community schools: Inman Elementary, Inman Intermediate, and Mabry Middle Schools. It is anticipated that this will be the first link to be completed. The School Link will feature a 10' wide, ADA accessible, asphalt paved trail that will meander through residential back yards among areas of mature trees and native landscaping and will be the educational link to include signage to identify various botanical specimens to inform pedestrians. Benches, trash cans and trail signage will add a park-like environment and include personal exercise stations along the route.

2. The North Main Street Link 0.5 miles

This link will be located within the currently vacant, generously wide, western right-of-way associated with the rarely used railroad tracks along Main Street, leading past the historic central business district. The distinctive character of this link will be more like a linear city park, with a more formal style of landscaping, benches, trash cans, signage and adjacent parking, all within full view of the central business district, just across the street. This link will extend the access of safe route to the schools to additional residential areas as well as provide a stage for the center city events (Harvest Day, Christmas Parade, Veteran's Day Parade, etc.). The implementation of this link will require special permission by the Norfolk Southern Railroad since the track is technically active.

3. South Main Street Link 0.5 miles

This link will run concurrently with and require the upgrade of existing sidewalks along a few residences and several businesses. South Main Street is also SC State Highway 292, which is the most used route to the historic central business district. The upgrading of this sidewalk system will give passersby on the heavily traveled Asheville Highway (US 176) a glimpse of something new happening, drawing them off the main highway toward the historic central business district.

4. Mill Street Link 0.3 miles

This link will run concurrently with and require the upgrade of existing sidewalks along businesses and a few residences. It will provide an alternate route to the historic central business district and is the most direct route from Inman Mills. This route is useful in accessing the Library and Post Office and is a main venue for Harvest Day. The intersection of this route and Asheville Highway (US 176) already has a park-like quality that will be an asset to the trail system and be fully visible to passersby on this heavily traveled vehicular route.

5. Asheville Highway Link 0.6 miles

This link will be the most difficult to accomplish. It will be located along side the busiest vehicular route in town (a five lane highway). The benefit of this link is twofold: first, it serves as the final connector that will close the trail upon itself, making a full loop that will provide pedestrian travel that does not require back tracking to return to a starting place. Secondly, it will provide a view of the trail for the large volume of vehicular traffic on US 176, allowing them to see a portion of the trail which continues out of sight, hopefully whetting their interest to turn off the highway, park their vehicle, and take a walk.

6. High School Spur 0.75 miles

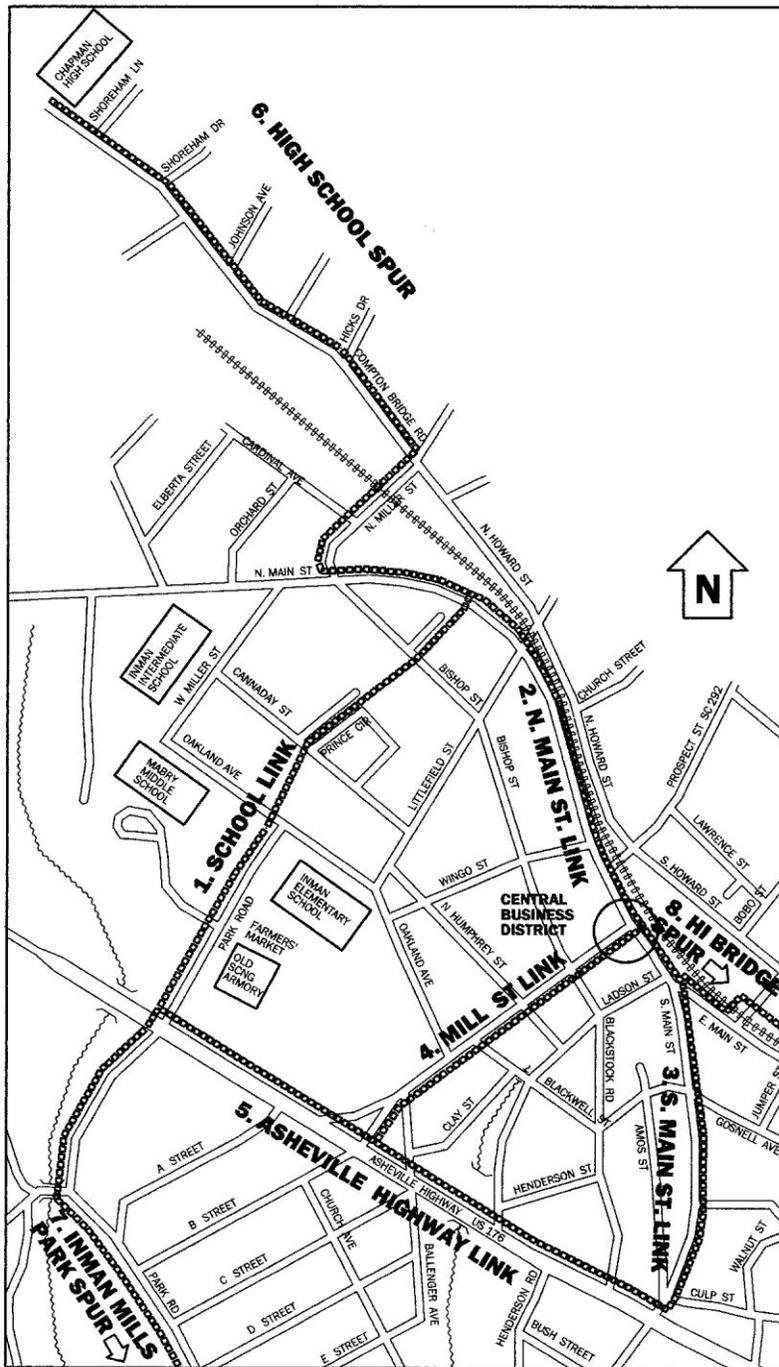
This link is anticipated to be funded by a matching grant from the SC DOT, currently in the final stages of approval.

7. Inman Mills Park Spur 0.5 miles

This link will make the connection with the Inman Mills Park at the southern terminus, providing access to baseball/softball fields and tennis courts.

8. Hi Bridge Spur 0.6 miles

This link will follow the active railroad line to the eastern edge of town and potentially become a portion of the Palmetto Trail. It will be possible to turn this spur into a link and connect it back to Asheville Highway, increasing the size of the closed loop considerably.



The Inman Trail will be composed of five links:

1. The School Link (.75 miles)
2. The North Main Street Link (.5 miles)
3. The South Main Street Link (.5 miles)
4. The Mill Street Link (.3 miles)
5. The Asheville Highway Link (.6 miles)

The 6. High School Spur, the 2. North Main St. Link, and the 8. Hi-Bridge Spur are potential portions of the Palmetto Trail.

The total perimeter distance will be 2.1 miles.

The Inman Trail will have three spurs:

6. The High School Spur (.75 miles)
7. The Inman Mills Park Spur (.6 miles)
8. The Hi Bridge Spur (.75 miles)