This signature bridge is an artistic landmark that symbolizes the City of Jacksonville's commitment to bicycle and pedestrian travel in addition to conserving green space. The City of Jacksonville built the Rails to Trails Bridge (shown above) to provide safe passage over NC 24. The Rails to Trails Route is an off-road trail created from an old railroad right-of-way that generally follows lower traffic secondary roads, beginning near the Jacksonville Mall and ending at Marine Park. Some of the route is still accessible to the public (shown on the map); however, the section of NC 172 on Camp Lejeune is only accessible to those with proper military identification.

The Ports of Call Route, designated as NC Bike Route 3, extends from South Carolina to Virginia. The Jacksonville-Onslow section of the route extends west from Hewitt Road near the Onslow County border, east towards Maysville. The route is generally follows lower traffic secondary roads, beginning near the Jacksonville Mall and ending at Marine Park. Some of the route is still accessible to the public (shown on the map); however, the section of NC 172 on Camp Lejeune is only accessible to those with proper military identification.

The Richlands Loop Route is a 50-mile on-road loop, following scenic rural roads that generally are low volume, but occasionally have higher-speed vehicular traffic. For a more leisurely ride, the route may be shortened to roads that generally are low volume, but occasionally have higher-speed vehicular traffic.

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In support of alternative forms of transportation, most of the Jacksonville Transit bus fleet is equipped with bike racks. The bicycle rack is located on the front of the bus, and steps for easy use. To use the bicycle rack, follow these steps:

1. Be prepared, be alert and be safe. It is recommended that riders consider time of day, route length and daylight availability before departure.
2. Be at a designated bus stop ready to load your bike. The bus will come to you if you are the last person to unload a bike, return the rack to its upright position.
3. Pull up and out on the support arm and hook the arm securely over the top of the front wheel closest to the fork. Place the front wheel on the side labeled “Front Wheel.”
4. Place the back wheel under the bicycle support arms, following support arms to the sides of the front wheel. Be sure to secure the arms to the top of the fork. Do not use the front fork or the seat post for support.
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Bike Handling

- Bike = Vehicle
  - Follow the Road Rules
    1. Obey all traffic lights and other road signs.
    2. Stay in a lane, signal your intentions, and use the hand signals to let others know you’re on your way.
    3. Put on your helmet, and make sure it fits properly.
    4. Be prepared to ride at any time of night or day.
    5. Look both ways before crossing the street.

Basic Traffic Riding Techniques

- Speed and road position
  - Choose a speed that allows you to see what’s going on back there.
  - When traffic is going a lot faster than you, keep well back.
  - When traffic is going a lot slower than you, keep well in the left lane.

- Width and road position
  - Choose a width that allows you to see what’s going on back there.

Destination and position

- To turn left, ride about three feet right of the center line.
- To go straight, keep at least three feet from the curb.

Making left turns

- Make left turns smoothly and allow for a break in traffic.

“Share the Road”

Cars and bicyclists should share the road when it is safe to do so.

Wear a Helmet!

- Wear a helmet that fits properly.
- Helmets cost as little as $15 and could be your most important piece of equipment.