

COUNCIL CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL



The Council Creek Regional Trail will be a multiuse pathway for people to bike, hike, roll and stroll between Hillsboro and downtown Forest Grove. This shared community vision grew from the Council Creek Regional Trail Master Plan (2015). Today, work is underway to make this vision a reality.

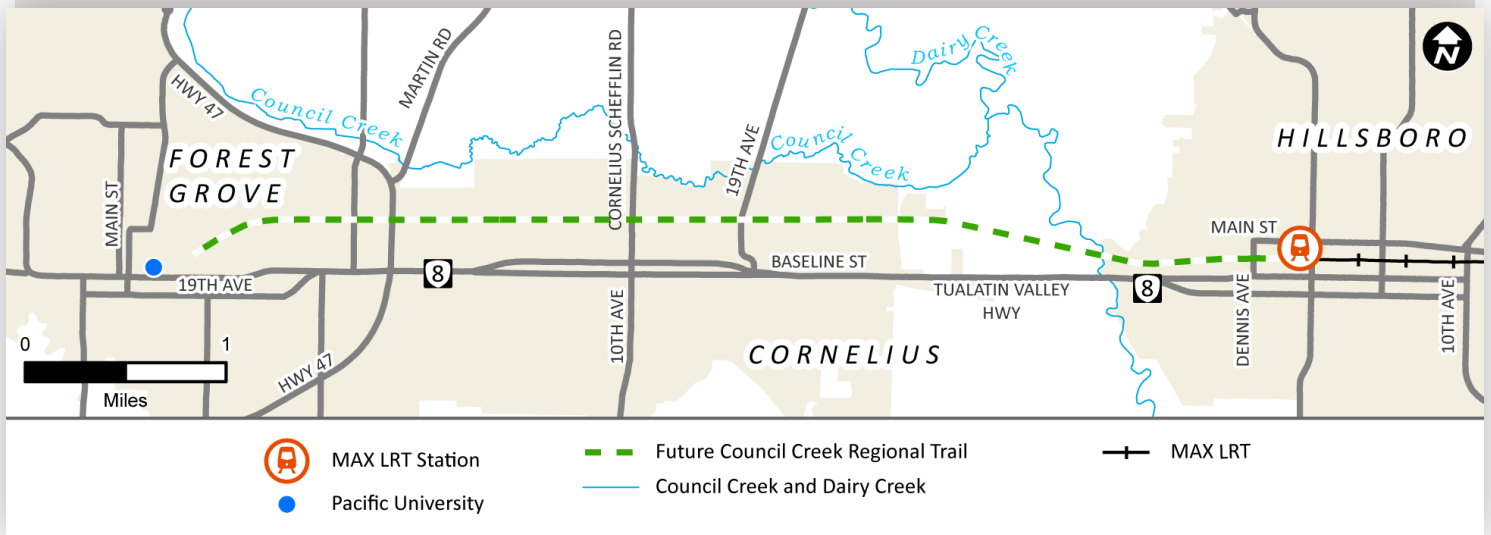
Neighboring communities are excited about the benefits of this new pathway, including:

- Car-free travel, reducing climate impact and lowering transportation costs for all
- An alternative to TV Highway ideal for people of all ages and abilities—for fun, fitness, getting to work, running errands or catching a bus or MAX
- A feature for business districts and neighborhoods along the trail

The Council Creek Corridor Working Group is guiding creation of the trail. This partnership of agencies and community groups focuses on:

- Preliminary engineering and design of the trail, currently underway
- Final design (starting in 2024) and construction
- Coordination with the Oregon Department of Transportation related to future use of the corridor
- Tracking and securing more local, regional, state and federal funding

**Follow development of the Council Creek Regional Trail
on our website at <https://bit.ly/CCRT2022>**



SENDERO REGIONAL DE COUNCIL CREEK



El sendero regional de Council Creek será una senda multiuso para que las personas anden en bicicleta, caminen, rueden y paseen entre Hillsboro y Forest Grove del centro. Esta visión compartida de la comunidad se desarrolló en el plan maestro del sendero regional de Council Creek (2015). Hoy, el trabajo está en marcha para convertir esta visión en una realidad.

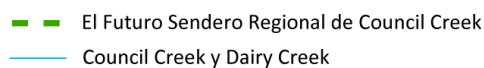
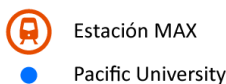
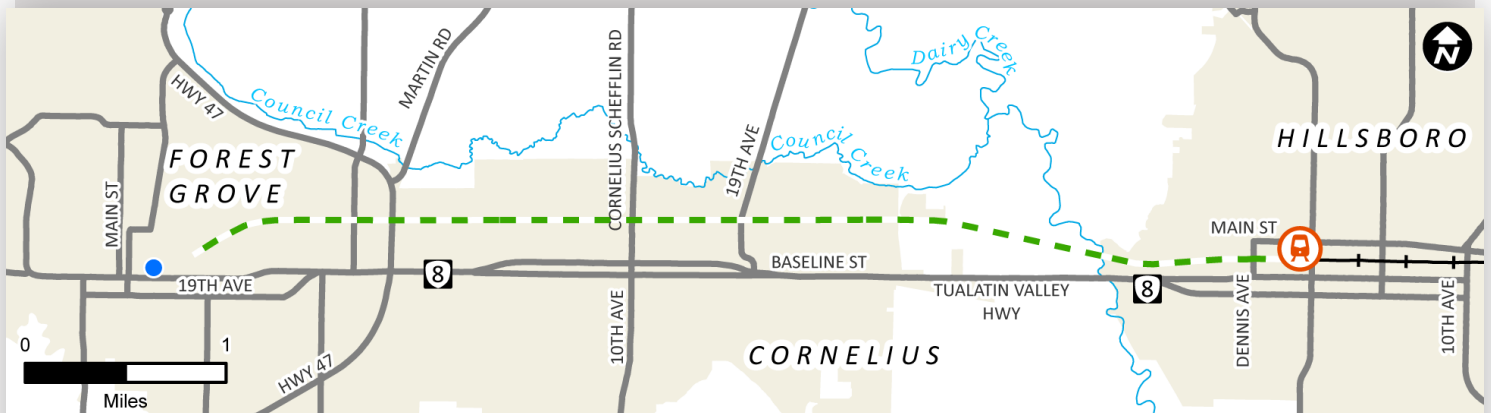
La comunidades vecinas están entusiasmadas con los beneficios de esta senda, que incluyen lo siguiente:

- Traslados sin automóvil, lo que reduce el impacto climático y baja los costos de transporte para todos
- Una alternativa a TV Highway, ideal para personas de todas las edades y capacidades: para divertirse, ejercitarse, llegar al trabajo, hacer mandados o tomar un autobús o MAX
- Un atractivo para los distritos comerciales y vecindarios a lo largo del sendero

El Grupo de trabajo del corredor de Council Creek está guiando la creación del sendero. Esta colaboración de agencias y grupos comunitarios se centra en:

- La ingeniería y el diseño preliminar del sendero que actualmente está en marcha
- El diseño final (a partir de 2024) y la construcción
- La coordinación con el Departamento de Transporte de Oregon en relación con el futuro uso del corredor
- La localización y confirmación de fondos locales, regionales, estatales y federales adicionales

Siga el desarrollo del sendero regional de Council Creek en nuestro sitio web en <https://bit.ly/CCRT2022ES>



#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, May 17, 2024 2:42:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, May 17, 2024 3:20:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:37:38
IP Address: 204.147.152.15

Page 2: ACE Award Application

Q1

Name of Project:

Council Creek Regional Trail

Q2

Jurisdiction or Local Government:

Washington County, Hillsboro, Cornelius, Forest Grove

Q3

Applicant name:

Washington County

Q4

Contact email:

erin_wardell@washingtoncountyor.gov

Q5

Contact phone number:

503-846-3876

Q6

Name of organization or agency:

Washington County

Q7

Optional: Upload a cover letter or memo describing your project. Please limit document length to less than one two-sided page.

Council%20Creek%20Regional%20Trail.pdf (765.4KB)

Page 3: Project Team and Partners

Q8

County government

Who led the community engagement effort for this project?

Q9

Project start date: Generalizations acceptable: e.g. "Spring 2021" or "2019"

January 2022

Q10

Target project completion date:

February 2024

Q11

What organizations participated in the project team and/or as project partners? If a project team or partnership includes a community based organization as a fundamental project team participant, please include them here.

- Washington County
 - Consultant team: Alta, Espousal
 - Regional Municipalities: Hillsboro, Cornelius, Forest Grove
 - Regional agencies: Metro, TriMet, ODOT, Clean Water Services
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Q12

If community-based or community-serving organizations were involved in community engagement efforts, please identify the community or communities they represent in your response.

2024 Achievement in Community Engagement Award

We conducted gatherings with six focus groups dedicated to the voices of people who are Spanish speaking, BIPOC, elderly and special needs, employers and low-income participants and to those who are hiking/walking/bicycling affinity groups. We extended invitations through the organizations below.

During outreach for open houses and online surveys, we sent outreach messaging including a sample newsletter story and social media posts in English and Spanish to these and additional cultural organizations, as well as to our jurisdictional partners.

- o Adelante Mujeres
- o Centro Cultural
- o Latino Network
- o Virginia Garcia
- o Bienstar
- o Familias en Accion
- o People of Color Outdoors
- o African American Outdoors Association
- o Beaverton Black Parent Union
- o Black Girls Do Bike
- o Coalition of Communities of Color
- o APANO
- o Asian Health & Outdoors Initiative
- o Oregon Somali Family Education Center
- o Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- o Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
- o Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- o Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
- o Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- o Unite Oregon
- o Community Action
- o Getting There Together Coalition
- o HomePlate Youth Services
- o Safe Routes to School Partnership
- o Adventures Without Limits (AWL)
- o Disability Rights Oregon
- o Coalition of Housing Advocates (CHA)
- o Coalition on Rural Housing/Forest Grove Foundation
- o Wild Diversity
- o Westside Transportation Alliance
- o Washington County Chamber of Commerce
- o Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce
- o Project Homeless Connect
- o Washington County Visitors Association
- o Travel Oregon
- o WashCo Bikes
- o Oregon Trail Coalition
- o Oregon Walks
- o Salmonberry Trail Foundation
- o Open Door Counseling

Q13

To what extent were Oregon's tribes or tribal voices engaged in this conversation?

- Reached out to Tribal leaders and asked them how they wanted to be engaged in the project. Tribal leaders expressed interest in continuing to be apprised of project progress and potentially participating later in the process of development of educational resources.
- Invitations to participate in focus groups
- Invitation to spread the word with sample promotional materials provided to them to share with their audiences
- Invitation to participate in public gatherings and survey.

Q14

Was a compensation model used for participation? If so, briefly describe.

Yes, we used a compensation model that::
Yes, our compensation model provided a \$75 stipend in the form of a gift card for those participating in focus groups. Additionally, we provided an incentive drawing for three \$100 gift cards among all who participated in the official survey.

Q15

Was this project supported through grant funding?

Yes, this project received grant funding from::
Yes, this project received a Regional Flexible Funds Allocation grant from Metro (2020)

Page 4: Project Description

Q16

Please describe the area affected by this project.

The Council Creek Regional Trail Corridor planning efforts affect three cities and the County. The planning area is an abandoned Portland and Western railroad corridor passing behind homes, businesses and across wetlands in this portion of Washington County. Directly involved agencies include Oregon Department of Transportation, Clean Water Services, Metro and TriMet.

Q17

100

Where is your project in the planning cycle?

Q18

What is the desired outcome of this planning process? What will this land use planning effort accomplish?

The planning process resulted in adoption of a preferred alignment into Washington County's TSP (through Ordinance 900, adopted in April of 2024) and complete preliminary design so that the project can quickly move into the construction phase.

Page 5: Community Engagement

Q19

What are the community engagement objectives for this plan or project?

As a foundation, engagement and communications have:

- Ensured an open and transparent process consistent with Washington County's Comprehensive Plan and Statewide Planning Goal 1
 - Been informed by the Washington County Equity Resolution, DEI policies of the Cities of Hillsboro and Forest Grove, the Metro Equity Strategy, and the Metro Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Coordinated with concurrent County engagement work as much as possible
 - Coordinated with the Metro-led Tualatin Valley Highway transit project engagement efforts
 - Relied on a variety of strategically chosen activities, presentations, and events to reach communities where they are
 - Engaged residents who voice opposition to the project in order to understand concerns and address them where possible
 - Reported on how the engagement framework and activities impacted planning work
 - Provided continuity of information and transparency into decision-making
 - Developed recommendations to improve future County engagement efforts
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Q20

How did decision-makers use or consider this information in the decision-making process? (if applicable)

Public input was shared at regular meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee, Elected Officials Steering Committee and the Working Group. The Elected Officials Steering Committee included voting members from the four municipalities and four additional members who provided input. This group were the decision makers for key project elements such as the alignment and major structure decisions. They considered input including:

- public comments received
- outcomes of public outreach events and open houses
- reviews of public survey results
- recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee

Project team members and members of these advisory committees attended in-person open houses to have the opportunities to converse directly with interested parties.

Q21

What tools did you use for communication and community engagement? Refer to Putting the People in Planning for descriptions of the tools below.

Project website,
Email updates,
Newsletter or newsletter articles,
Translation Services,
Advisory Committee or Group,
Focus Groups,
Traditional Open Houses,
Online Open Houses,
Fact Sheets, Brochures or Flyers,
Fact Sheets, Brochures or Flyers (translated),
Online survey,
Online survey (translated),
Other,
FAQs,
Infographics,
Media Packet or Media Kit,
TV, Radio or Newspaper Interviews,
Community Listening Session,
Stakeholder Interviews,
Social Media

Q22

If you answered "other" to the previous question, please describe what additional communication and community engagement tools were or are used.

Public outreach events— Spanish speaking staff and translated materials available.

- Forest Grove Farmers Market
- Hillsboro Farmers Market
- Cornelius Farmers Market
- Dia de los Ninos (Cornelius- Hispanic community event)
- National Night Out (Cornelius- strongly supported by Hispanic community)
- North Plains Garlic Festival
- Viva Tualatin (Tualatin Hispanic community event)
- Washington County Fair

Direct mail of bilingual postcards to all properties and owners adjacent to the corridor.

Q23

Please describe the commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how it influenced or is influencing this work.

Washington County is committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and follows guiding principles:

- Inclusion of diverse perspectives by identifying barriers to engagement and implementing strategies that help break down those barriers
- Timely and effective communication with community members, Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and other key stakeholders
- Transparent decision-making processes
- Clear mechanisms for accountability

In support of these principles:

- As 38% of those living in the Corridor area speak Spanish and 13% are Spanish speakers with limited English proficiency, all materials (website, online surveys, paper surveys, presentation materials, display posters, mailings and emails) were provided both in English and Spanish. Spanish speaking staff members or interpreters were present at all public events including community outreach events and open house gatherings.
 - Focus groups were formed to deliberately gather the input of BIPOC, youth and elder, and people with special needs and organizations to learn opinions, concerns and useful accommodations. Stipends were available to participants to assure that financial concerns were not a barrier to participation.
 - Surveys were offered online in English and Spanish and on paper in English and Spanish. The Cornelius Library produced large-print versions of paper surveys and offered them to visitors throughout the survey window. Notices of available surveys were posted in all Washington County Public Libraries in English and Spanish, surveys were collected in English and Spanish at all public outreach events during the survey window, and a social media campaign advised of the survey and in-person event opportunities on English and Spanish social media channels of the County.
 - In person open house events were held at the Cornelius Public Library, a location central along the corridor and served by public transportation.
 - Opportunities to participate were promoted at public events, through direct mailings to corridor neighbors, at focus groups, through social media, at CBO presentations and through the communications of community and jurisdictional partners asked to repeat the message to their audiences. Notices were also placed in the Community Outreach newsletter produced by the Washington County Office of Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (OEICE) and in LUT News and Quarterly Report of the Washington County Department of Land Use and Transportation.
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Q24

What process did you use to identify priority populations/underserved communities affected by this work?

Our stakeholder mapping considered those who would be most directly affected by the project and those who would be users and potential users of the trail.

We began with a review of 2016-2020 American Community Survey data. This identified that 38% of those most affected by the trail spoke Spanish. While on a county-wide basis, 5% of Spanish speakers have Limited English Proficiency, within the affected area of this project, 13% were identified as having Limited English Proficiency.

We also noted that while the median income of Washington County in 2020 was \$86,626, the median income of the affected area was \$62,704. While 21% of Washington County population are at or below Federal poverty level, within the affected area, 36% are identified at this level.

Next we considered users and potential users of the finished multiuse pathway and identified specific accommodations to increase value of this project to these groups:

- Young and school-age people
 - People commuting to work by foot or bicycle
 - People who use trails for recreation or exercise
 - People who are older
 - People with disability or specific needs
 - People living along the trail
 - People visiting and unfamiliar with the area
 - People with limited transportation options
-

Q25

What intentional efforts did you make to include priority populations/underserved communities?

We used various engagement strategies to engage and communicate with community members:

Affinity Focus Groups: Community Engagement Liaisons conducted focus groups sharing a common identity characteristic. Each provided meaningful opportunities for diverse and historically excluded community members to share perspectives that helped form project decisions. Participants were compensated \$50/hour for their time.

Community-based Organization (CBO) partnerships: CBOs were recruited to host an interactive community workshop. CBOs closely connected to Hispanic communities were sought as well as those from Asian Pacific Island community, multilingual communities, people of low income, youth and people living with disabilities.

Community Survey: The survey offered both online and print options and was available in English and Spanish. It was graphical and conformed to Plain Language principles, was distributed by a variety of messages including postcards, emails, news releases, flyers, social media and flyers posted in Washington County Public Libraries. It was promoted by Washington County, Metro, local jurisdictions and CBO channels.

Public outreach events: Project information was offered at a variety of outdoor public events to connect with community members in affected communities. We participated in Hispanic community events in the immediate vicinity of the trail corridor for best connection to these community members. Displays were bilingual and bilingual staff were present to discuss the project with visitors. During the survey window, paper surveys in English and Spanish were offered at these events.

Direct mail to adjacent property owners and occupants: Bilingual contact to those adjacent to the trail corridor welcomed affected parties to early participation and inclusion on the interested parties email list.

To make all events as inclusive as possible we:

- Chose neutral and accessible meeting locations
- Offered language interpretation services for all virtual meetings—Spanish and by request, American Sign Language and any other language needed
- Offered Spanish interpretation and translated materials at community outreach events
- Provided Spanish translation of all vital documents and materials in an equivalent matter to English materials provided
- Provided food and beverages at county-hosted in-person meetings/events
- Provided stipend gift cards to focus group participants
- Provided trauma-informed facilitation to offer safe and welcoming space for community members to share input

Q26

What assessments/evaluations have you conducted of the community engagement work to date?

Tracking public meeting attendance,
Tracking website traffic,
Tracking social media impressions,
Tracking newsletter or email engagement,
Project team debrief after events,
Updating or changing plans based on evaluation,
Evaluation form for participants in engagement activities
,
Multiple opportunities for communities, individuals, or organization to express concerns about engagement
,
Synthesis of public comments and feedback

Q27

If the project is ongoing, describe assessments or evaluations planned as the project moves forward.

As the project moves to finalization of design and then into construction, communication and engagement will continue to be highly important. In the coming year, there will be both online and in person surveying and open house opportunities, public event outreaches, and notifications will continue to be sent to those signed up for the interested parties list—817 and counting—and by specific contact with those living along the corridor.

Page 8: Lessons Learned

Q28

What did you learn through the assessment and evaluation of the community engagement process?

We experienced greater success engaging our Hispanic communities by participating in their community events—going to them— than by inviting them to our open houses and county events. We had tremendous success with interaction at Viva Tualatin, Dia de Los Ninos and Cornelius National Night Out events.

Stipends were useful to allow inclusion of individuals in focus groups. An incentive to entice online survey participation did entice higher response levels, but also incurred an extreme level of BOT attacks extreme enough to bypass CAPCHA measures to assure human-only participation. BOT submissions, identified by irrelevant responses and suspect submission URLs were removed before all valid input was analyzed.

Q29

Do any lessons learned have the potential to inform other, future phases, or new community engagement efforts? If so, please explain.

Acting on our greater success engaging Spanish-speaking people at their community events, we will continue to engage these community members at events popular within their communities. We will continue inclusive measures for our planned open houses and general events, but with the knowledge that these are not the preferred ways most Spanish speaking communities choose to interact with us.

Additionally, focus group participant stipends were appreciated and allowed participation of those who may have had financial barriers to participation. In future projects when funding allows, we will offer stipends.

Q30

How does the community engagement for this project align with overall community engagement efforts for this organization?

Washington County is committed to equitable community engagement and our County's goals as established in the 2020 Washington County Equity Resolution.

Engagement efforts for the Council Creek Regional Trail corridor project benefitted from:

- Up-front inclusion of identified non-English language groups in the county and vicinity of the trail
 - Deliberate stakeholder mapping and identification of the wide variety of voices we must deliberately seek to include
 - Engaging with key groups through culturally-specific community activities and events
-