



# Capitol to Capitol Trail Route

- Trail, Shared Use, Existing
  - Trail, Shared Use, Planned
  - Trail, Shared Use, Proposed
  - Route, On Street, Existing
  - Route, On Street, Proposed
  - Trial, Recreational, Planned
  - Trial, Recreational, Proposed
  - Alternate Route, Potential
  - Featured Trail on Map
- Urban Growth Areas
  - Parks, Preserves, and Open Space
  - DNR Managed Lands
  - Unincorporated Thurston County
- Roundabouts
  - School/Urban
  - Hospitals
  - Public Restrooms
- Bike Lane
  - Wide Shoulder
  - Commonly Used Local Roads
  - Bicycle/Pedestrian Connection
  - Bicycles Forbidden
  - Active Railroad
  - Local Streets

## Capitol to Capitol Trail Route

**Length:** 10 to 14 miles

**Type of Facility:** Combination of Shared-Use Trails, Bicycle Lanes, Sidewalks, and Recreational Trails

**Partners:** The McLane School Forest and Trails Committee, City of Olympia, Thurston County, Olympia School District, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Washington State Department of General Administration, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), The Evergreen State College

**Description:** The Capitol to Capitol Trail is a proposed east-west route that uses existing, planned and proposed trails and on-street facilities to create a recreational corridor between the State Capitol and the State Capitol Forest. The proposed corridor would be a designated and signed route connecting northwestern Thurston County and west Olympia neighborhoods with downtown Olympia, the Capitol Campus and the Capitol State Forest. This corridor would provide a familiar and predictable route and increase non-motorized transportation and recreation options for west Olympia and the Mud Bay vicinity.

**Cost Estimates:** No cost estimates available

**Connections and Destinations:** downtown Olympia, State Capital Campus, Heritage Park, Future West Bay Park and West Bay Trail, Northwest Olympia and County Neighborhood, Grass Lake Refuge, Yauger Park, McLane Forest Trail, Evergreen Parkway Trails, proposed Highway 101 Trail, Capitol Forest, The Evergreen State College, and Garfield, Jefferson, Capital, Hanson, Marshall, and McLane public schools.

### Conditions and Recommendations:

*(Recommendations are in bold)*

- ① Heritage Park - This trail would start from the Heritage Park Hillside Trail. **A kiosk or sign for the Capitol to Capitol Trail Route should be considered at Heritage Park** (see Map 8, No. 2).
- ② All Partners: Install wayfinding or directional signs along the entire route to orient users to the route's course. Users would have the option at the Deschutes Parkway pedestrian crossing to traverse the switchback sidewalk up through the roundabouts and continue into the Northwest Olympia neighborhood, or travel north along the water's edge on the future West Bay Trail.
- ③ Heritage Park to Cooper Point Road - West Bay Trail users would travel west along Brawne Avenue, and the on-street route would converge back at Conger Avenue and proceed along existing bike lanes and sidewalks to Cooper Point Road. **Conger Avenue should be considered for a sidewalk under the City of Olympia's Recreational Sidewalk Program.** Trail users would cross the intersection at the existing traffic signal.
- ④ Cooper Point Road to Kaiser Road - The route would continue at the future east-west recreation trail along the southern edge of the Grass Lake Refuge. The 1997 Grass Lake Master Plan includes an east-west trail running from the intersection of Cooper Point Road and Conger to

Kaiser Road. Class I and II wetlands in the southeast corner of the refuge necessitate that the trail near these areas be constructed with boardwalks and other low-impact environmentally sensitive trail construction techniques. The trail will provide a pedestrian connection mid-way between Mud Bay Road and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, improving walking connections to Capitol High School and commercial activity centers from neighborhoods west of Grass Lake Refuge. Having a designated trail will reduce the likelihood of park users straying from the trail and disturbing valued habitats. This trail will connect with a future north-south trail linking Grass Lake Refuge and Yauger Park. It may be an appropriate link in the Capitol to Capitol Trail because much of the alignment is within previously disturbed uplands and near residential developments so the habitat values are not as high in other areas within the refuge. The City of Olympia anticipates constructing a bike lane and sidewalk on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW in the next 6 years. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue could provide an alternative for those bicyclists looking for an express route around the refuge.

- ⑤ Grass Lake Refuge to Harrison Avenue - The trail would emerge from Grass Lake Refuge, utilizing future sidewalks and bike lanes on Kaiser Road and Harrison Avenue. Trail users could proceed west on Harrison Avenue to the McLane School Forest Trail. **Wayfinding signs should orient users to Harrison Avenue.**
- ⑥ Alternative Trail Alignment, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Trail users may desire a more direct route to The Evergreen State College Campus and could proceed north on Kaiser Road to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. **The 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue alternative route would require wayfinding signage and “Share the Road” traffic signs if this segment is selected as part of the preferred alignment.** 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue connects to an Evergreen Parkway Trail that runs north south along the Parkway (See Map 12). Trail users can cross the Evergreen Parkway at 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue or at the property boundary of The Evergreen State College at an existing pedestrian refuge island crossing.
- ⑦ The McLane School Forest Trail and the Evergreen Parkway Trail (see Map 12) provide routes to The Evergreen State College and McLane Elementary School. Trail users would use the designated McLane Trail overpass on The Evergreen Parkway to cross Harrison Avenue to access the southern end of the McLane Trail and continue traveling west.

- ⑧ Allison Springs Proposed McLane School Forest Trail Extension - A proposed extension for the McLane Forest School Trail through Allison Springs would extend a shared-use path to Mud Bay Road. More work is required to evaluate this proposal. **The City of Olympia should complete a feasibility study to determine the viability for a proposed shared-use trail through the environmentally sensitive Allison Springs Wellhead Area.**
- ⑨ Alternative Trail Alignment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue - More research is needed to determine if the route would continue along Mud Bay Rd and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW. There are no bike lanes, sidewalks, or wide shoulders along this rural segment of the proposed route, and Thurston County and WSDOT would need to evaluate bicycle and pedestrian safety options. An easement or some type of ROW acquisition is necessary to access Capitol Forest from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The trail could connect to an existing spur of the B-Line forest road. DNR currently has no plans to develop this vicinity of the State Capitol Forest into a recreation facility. **A minimum of a kiosk and picnic table is desirable.** This trail could also be accessed from the south via Maple Valley Road SW.
- ⑩ Alternative Trail Alignment, Delphi Road - Delphi Road provides direct access to the State Capitol Forest McLane Forest Nature Trail. This park is a suitable destination with existing park facilities including nature trails and a toilet. Delphi Road currently lacks bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In 2007 Thurston County received a \$810,000 Rural Arterial Improvement Program Grant to upgrade Delphi Road with wide shoulders from McKenzie Road SW to US 101. Delphi Road experiences higher traffic volumes than 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, making this facility a more likely candidate for future roadway shoulder widening and other horizontal and vertical alignment corrections that may provide a safer route into Capitol Forest. More research and analysis is required to determine the final alignment of this corridor. **Alternative analysis for all scenarios is recommended as a follow up work item for the partners of this proposed trail route project.**