



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2013

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Dan DeWald, Natural Resource Manager, Parks
Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor, Parks
Chris Masek, Transportation Engineer

Subject: Mountains to Sound Greenway "Bellevue Gap" Update
(No Board action requested)

The purpose of this memo is to update Park Board on the current status of the Mountains to Sound Greenway "Bellevue Gap." City staff will be giving a presentation on these efforts to Park Board at the May 14, 2013 meeting. This presentation is for information purposes only; however, we welcome questions and feedback.

Background

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail is an approximately 100-mile regional trail system that connects the Seattle waterfront with Central Washington. This important trail and greenway system provides connections for pedestrians and cyclists for both recreational and commuting purposes.

Within the City of Bellevue, there are significant gaps and barriers to use of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail. The trail ends abruptly at Factoria Boulevard, and the next trail access is located about two miles east at the Sunset Trail (located east of SE 35th Pl and SE Eastgate Way).

In 2011, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust obtained a \$158,312 Federal Highway Administration Scenic Byways grant to undertake design feasibility analysis of the future trail alignment. The City of Bellevue provided \$40,000 in matching funds to obtain the grant.

The Greenway Trust and City worked together with other stakeholders to prepare this trail study. The trail design study was to be based off of the preferred alignments identified in the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Study, which calls for a trail on the south side of I-90 between Factoria Blvd SE and Lakemont Blvd SE.

The purpose of the trail design study is to develop details and guidance to fill the 3.6 mile "Bellevue Gap" in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trail System. The proposed alignment presented provides a framework and guidance for design and construction when funding becomes available in the future.

The design study is based on stakeholder involvement and feedback, identifying right of way needs and permit requirements, and the identification of broad environmental impacts. The report also includes a planning level cost estimate for the proposed trail based on the final alignment, recommended design standards, and a financing plan.

Two study project teams were formed which consisted of staff from City Bellevue, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region, and King County. The broader review team was responsible for reviewing plans and documents and providing feedback. The technical team was a subset of the review team, which worked through the technical and operational details of the conceptual design.

Current Status

The City Council allotted \$430,000 to advance the design of segments 1 & 2 (Between Factoria Blvd SE & 150 Ave SE) to the 60% design level in December 2012 following the completion of the design study. The project is currently being surveyed. Design, geotechnical and environmental work are scheduled to begin in June 2013. There is currently no funding for construction at this time; however, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is actively pursuing State funding to build segments 1 & 7.