



WESTSIDE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

Public Involvement Summary

This document summarizes public outreach and engagement for the Westside Trail Master Plan. This document includes a summary of the feedback from the questionnaires and comments collected at the six public open houses, and a list of all outreach events project staff attended.

The Westside Trail Master Plan project team engaged stakeholders and the public at 60 events over the course of 27 months. The project team directly engaged 1,400 people at these events. Over the course of the project, Metro compiled an email distribution list of 215 interested stakeholders and members of the public.

Open Houses

The largest of these events were the six public open houses that the project team hosted. Two open houses were held every six months at a south location at Deer Creek Elementary and a north location at Stoller Middle School. The open houses were held on the following dates at the following locations:

- Stoller Middle School on May 30, 2012 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Deer Creek Elementary School on May 31, 2012 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Stoller Middle School on October 29, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Deer Creek Elementary School on October 30, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Deer Creek Elementary School on May 8, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Stoller Middle School on May 14, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m.

334 people attended the open houses and offered preferences on potential trail routes, voiced concerns and questions, and identified priority segments for trail funding. Many of the participants attended multiple open houses throughout the planning process and became familiar with the project.

Open house materials ranged from segment maps, information on how public feedback was used to shape the master plan, estimated trail costs, and benefits of habitat restoration. Paper questionnaires were provided to attendees at each open house to collect feedback. The same information was provided through a virtual open house posted on the project's web page for those unable to attend one of the meetings but interested in providing

feedback. The online questionnaire was available on Metro's website for two weeks after the last date of each series of open houses.

Throughout the project a total of 218 questionnaires were collected. Fifty-nine percent of the questionnaires were collected at the open houses (128 total) and the remaining questionnaires were collected online (87 total). Three questionnaires were mailed to Metro.

Open house outreach

Before each open house series, 18,000 postcards announcing the open houses were mailed to neighbors and local businesses within one half-mile of the trail study segments. An email was also sent to the project email list.

Information about the project and the open houses appeared in the newsletters for CPOs 1, 4k, 4b and 6 as well as in the Oregonian. The open houses were also advertized in the Asian Reporter and the Portland Observer.

An announcement about the open houses was posted on Metro's website. A link to the online questionnaire appeared in a number of blogs and web pages including oregonlive.com and the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District website. A media release was issued to local newspapers the Thursday prior to the first open house.

Open house format

Various Metro staff, project consultants and members of the project stakeholder advisory committee staffed the open houses. A Metro councilor -- either Kathryn Harrington, Craig Dirksen, or Carl Hosticka -- attended each open house within their district to speak briefly about the project.

Open houses began with a brief PowerPoint presentation to provide attendees with a general project overview. The presentations were led by the project consultant team, or by Robert Spurlock, the Metro project manager. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session where the public could ask questions and voice concerns. Attendees were then encouraged to visit the various boards and maps displayed at the open house to identify concerns, highlight areas of priority and to record thoughts on flip charts placed around the room. Throughout the open houses attendees were encouraged to speak freely with staff and members from the advisory committee to learn more about the project. Comments were documented on flip-charts as well as sticky notes that could be posted on segment maps and the questionnaires.

Respondent profile

Each questionnaire asked respondents where they lived and worked which is listed below.

- May 2012 – more than half the respondents reported living in unincorporated Washington County. Beaverton and Tigard were the second most identified areas of residence.
- October 2012 –nearly two-thirds of respondents reported living in unincorporated Washington County. Beaverton and Portland were the second most identified areas of residence. One-third of respondents reported working in Portland, with Beaverton and unincorporated Washington County also commonly identified work locations.
- May 2013 - nearly forty percent of the respondents reported living in unincorporated Washington County. Rural Multnomah County and Beaverton were the second most identified areas of residence. A quarter of respondents reported working in Portland and a quarter of respondents reported working in unincorporated Washington County. Beaverton was also a popular work location.

Overall, more respondents reported where they lived than where they worked.

Responses to questionnaires and open-ended questions

May 2012 Open Houses – Commute Mode and Trail Use

Questionnaires were tailored to collect information based on the phase of the master plan and to gather information that the project team wanted to learn from the local community. The first series of questionnaires asked respondents a series of multiple choice questions about how community members commuted to work or school and whether or not local and regional trails were already being used and if so, how often.

A little over 60 percent of respondents identified single-occupancy motor vehicles as their main form of transportation in their commute. However, there was a large mode split between other modes with cycling making up over 20 percent of commuting mode and carpooling and walking close behind. Nearly 90 percent of respondents indicated that they currently use neighborhood and regional trails. Of these trail uses, more than 80 percent reported using trails at least a few times a month.

Respondents were asked how they would use the Westside Trail once constructed. Walking and biking were the most common forms of travel anticipated and recreation and experiencing nature were the most common trip purposes.

Over 80 percent of respondents believed making sure that the trail is safe and secure for users and adjacent property owners was the most important characteristic of the trail. 35 percent of respondents felt that having a trail that is flat with minimal hills is important or very important..

October 2012 and May 2013 Open Houses – Open-ended Questions

The second and third series of questionnaires were similar in format and posed more open-ended questions including some of the following:

“What areas of the Westside Trail are you most interested in? Please be as specific as possible in describing the location(s).”

- October 2012 – the proposed extension north from the MAX Blue Line received the most comments, especially the portion through Oak Hills and from Bethany to Forest Park.
- May 2013 – many respondents expressed equestrian interests, especially in the vicinity of Bull Mountain. There was also strong interest in the connection with Forest Park.

“Tonight’s meeting included information about: proposed trail alignments, wildlife habitat, estimated costs and a timeline for construction. What else would you like to know about the project?”

- October 2013 – individuals were particularly interest in the project timeline, including information about which portions of the trail might be designed and built first. There were also a number of Oak Hills questions submitted. Respondents were also interested in potential trailhead locations and amenities, how shared-use trails can be safe for all users and impacts to private property adjacent to the trail.
- May 2013 - respondents were particularly interested in equestrian use of the trail including soft surface trails to accommodate horses and trailhead designs that accommodate horse trailers. Another area of interest was in maintaining native habitat along the trail. Additional questions and areas of concern included: dangers from the power lines, how the trail will integrate with existing Forest Park trails, creating canoe and kayak access at the Tualatin River Bridge and the project timeline and costs.

“Please share your thoughts and ideas about potential routes we shared with you tonight.” / “Do you prefer a specific route?”

- October 2012 – in the October open house attendees were asked to identify potential trail routes they preferred. There was strong support for the existing 153rd street crossing of the MAX Blue Line instead of a new crossing. There was also mixed feedback related to crossing Sunset Highway.
- May 2013 – the majority of respondents requested the addition of soft surface trails for equestrian use along the entirety of the trail. Cyclists and pedestrians expressed a need to improve the on-street cycling and pedestrian facilities on NW Skyline Blvd. and NW Springville Road in order to safely connect to Saltzman Road and access Forest Park. Other concerns included ensuring the route does not impact wildlife.

“Which part of the trail is the highest priority to you to complete, and why?”

- October 2012 – respondents supported extending the trail south from Forest Park, with a few people prioritizing the route from the Tualatin River north. Respondents also identified specific crossings (Sunset Highway and the MAX Blue Line) or routes within specific communities (Bethany and Bull Mountain) as priorities.
- May 2013 - respondents supported the trail construction from the Tualatin River through King City while others identified the need for an improved connection

between Springville Road and Forest Park. Connections from Forest Park to areas south were also identified, including connections to the following: Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Bethany, Cedar Hills and the Ice Age Tonquin Trail. Respondents also identified specific crossings (Sunset Highway and the Tualatin River) or routes within specific communities (Bethany and Bull Mountain) as priorities.

In addition to pinpointing specific parts of the trail, respondents at both the October 2012 and May 2013 open houses prioritized building first those parts that:

- Are easier and cheaper to construct because they are flat or soft surface.
- Allow bicyclists and pedestrians to avoid heavy auto traffic.
- Do not impact wildlife.
- Connect residential areas with schools and shopping.
- Intersect with other existing trails.
- Travel through neighborhoods with more families with children.

Overall feedback on open houses and communication methods

All of the questionnaires solicited feedback from the attendees about their thoughts on the open house. The questionnaires asked attendees if they were able to share information with staff and asked how they had learned about the open house. A summary of the responses from all of the open houses can be found below.

“Please give us your thoughts about the open house”

Feedback on the open houses was largely positive. Respondents felt that the meetings were helpful and informative. Staff was well prepared, the maps were helpful and that their input was well recorded and heard. Some respondents did have concerns and requested additional information on a variety of topics. There were requests to further publicize the meetings to special interest groups, such as equestrians, in the future.

“Were you able to share information with project staff that you feel was important?”

The questionnaire asked about the effectiveness of the open houses. Of those who completed a questionnaire at the events, the majority responded they were able to share information with project staff. Respondents also believed that the open houses were held at a convenient location and time.

“How did you hear about tonight’s open house?”

The majority of respondents heard about the open house either through a postcard mailer or via e-mail or internet. The least common form of hearing about the open house was through neighborhood meetings.

Additional open house details can be found within the three individual reports that document the May 2012, October 2012 and May 2013 open houses.

List of Outreach Events

Date	Event	Approximate Number of Attendees
December 1, 2011	conference call: DEQ monitoring on Morand Site	6
December 15, 2011	Interview with THPRD	3
January 4, 2012	Oak Hills HOA meeting	30
January 11, 2012	Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee meeting	10
January 12, 2012	CPO 4B & 4K Joint Board Meeting	6
January 12, 2012	Road crossings meeting with Tigard, Washington County, and Beaverton staff	5
January 18, 2012	meeting with King City staff	4
January 19, 2012	WTMP SAC Kickoff Meeting and Tour	20
January 23, 2012	CPO 7 Board Meeting	6
February 1, 2012	Forest Park Neighborhood Association meeting	10
February 28, 2012	trail tour with Multnomah County and Portland Parks staff	4
March 14, 2012	Bethany Terrace HOA annual meeting	50
March 26, 2012	CPO-4K meeting	50
March 29, 2012	Westside Transportation Alliance Network Event	50
April 17, 2012	Oregon Active Transportation Summit	300
April 18, 2012	meeting with City of Tualatin Parks staff	4
April 19, 2012	Tigard Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Subcommittee meeting	10
April 25, 2012	2nd Annual Regional Trails Fair	150
April 26, 2012	WTMP SAC Meeting #2	15
May 10, 2012	Beaverton Bicycle Citizen Advisory Committee meeting	10
May 23, 2012	Ice Age Tonquin Trail Master Plan Public Open House	50
May 30, 2012	WTMP Open House 1a	61
May 31, 2012	WTMP Open House 1b	23
June 20, 2012	Segment 3 site visit with neighbor	4
June 24, 2012	Sunday Trailways event in Greenway Park, Beaverton	19
July 12, 2012	CPO 4B Board meeting	15
July 19, 2012	Bethany Village Concert and Street Fair	30
August 28, 2012	Oak Hills HOA meeting	4
September 13, 2012	WTMP SAC Meeting #3	15
September 17, 2012	CPO 7 Board Meeting	25
September 18, 2012	Segment 5 site walk with landowner	2
September 20, 2012	Oak Hills HOA board meeting	25
October 3, 2012	Segment 2 site walk with landowner	2
October 29, 2012	WTMP Open House 2a	80

October 30, 2012	WTMP Open House 2b	40
November 19, 2012	trail tour with Portland Tribune reporter	2
January 7, 2013	meeting with PBOT staff to discuss NW Skyline Blvd	3
January 29, 2013	WTMP SAC Meeting #4	15
March 26, 2013	Segment 5 site walk with landowner	3
April 4, 2013	WTMP SAC Meeting #5	15
April 16, 2013	Forest Park Neighborhood Association meeting	12
May 2, 2013	meeting with Forest Park Conservancy staff	4
May 8, 2013	Annual Trails Fair	7
May 8, 2013	WTMP Open House 3a	32
May 9, 2013	meeting with Forest Park Neighborhood Association representative	3
May 14, 2013	WTMP Open House 3b	62
May 16, 2013	meeting with Bicycle Transportation Alliance staff	3
July 30, 2013	WTMP SAC Meeting #6	15
July 31, 2013	presentation to Quarterly Trails Forum	45
September 23, 2013	wildlife interview with Jonathan Soll, Lori Hennings, and Elaine Stewart (Metro natural resource scientists)	3
September 25, 2013	wildlife interview with Jim and Jody Emerson (FPNA)	2
September 25, 2013	wildlife interview with Eddie Passadore (FPNA)	1
September 26, 2013	wildlife interview with Lisa and Andrew Storc (FPNA)	2
September 26, 2013	wildlife interview with Greg Malinowski (FPNA)	1
October 1, 2013	wildlife interview with Carol Chesarek (FPNA)	1
October 1, 2013	wildlife interview with Michael Ahr and Mary Logalbo (West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District)	2
October 2, 2013	wildlife interview with Portland Parks & Rec	1
October 30, 2013	wildlife interview with Renee Meyers (Forest Park Conservancy)	1
January 31, 2014	Segment 5 site tour with Forest Park Neighborhood Association	15
March 12, 2014	Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee	12