



Columbia Levee Connector

The Street Trust

The Columbia Levee Connector will connect people to transit, jobs, parks, schools, and the majestic Columbia River.



The Columbia Levee Connector is a .75-mile multimodal pathway designed for walking, rolling, and biking. It will link some of Portland's most diverse and historically underserved neighborhoods with two regional trails: the Columbia Slough Trail and the Marine Drive Trail. This project aims to improve safety across three of Portland's most hazardous roads (Marine Drive, Airport Way, and Sandy Boulevard), where transit service, jobs, and housing are concentrated.

The pathway will run atop a levee, extending from a residential neighborhood through an industrial area to the Columbia River. This will provide a vital connection for residents of Argay Terrace and Parkrose neighborhoods to access jobs in the Columbia Corridor, local parks and schools, the river, and nearby natural and recreational areas.

Project Partners

- **Lead agency: The Street Trust**
- City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
- Columbia Corridor Association
- Portland Bureau of Transportation
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Portland Parks & Recreation
- Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District
- Argay Terrace Neighborhood Association
- Historic Parkrose

Total Estimated Project Cost

- Approximately \$8 million

Remaining Funding Gap

- \$8 million

In Summer 2024 Metro staff collaborated with local agency partners to compile a list of "shovel-ready" projects key to building out the regional trail system, with fact sheets that can be used to advocate for and secure state, federal, and private funding for trail design and construction.

Graphics are for illustration purposes only and may not reflect final designs.



Project Vicinity

Multi-use Trail

Existing ———

Planned - - - - -

Conceptual - - - - -

On-Street Connection

Existing ———

Planned - - - - -



State & Federal Agency Coordination

Building a trail atop the levee will require review and permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Construction of a bridge or crossing over the railroad will require coordination of a Rail Order with Oregon Dept. of Transportation.

Estimated Annual Project Outcomes and Impact When Project is Complete¹

- Trail users: 330,000
- Tons of greenhouse gases reduced: 29
- VMT² reduction: 31,000
- Enhanced amenities benefits³: \$311,000
- Emission benefits: \$8,000
- Health benefits: \$402,000
- Total emissions, amenities, and health benefits: \$721,000

1 - These benefits were calculated using outputs from the Metro travel demand model and guidance from the forthcoming NCHRP 08-149 Report. Values are in 2022 dollars.

2 - Vehicle Miles Traveled

3 - Enhanced amenity benefits include reductions in travel costs and quality improvements experienced by the user.

Major Opportunities & Constraints

There are four major crossings that the Columbia Levee Connector must negotiate to achieve safe, comfortable connections all the way to the Marine Drive Trail and the Columbia River. Sandy Boulevard, Airport Way, and Marine Drive are identified as high-crash corridors in Portland's Vision Zero plan, while the railroad is a busy freight line carrying numerous large, fast trains per day. Safe, modern crossings of these barriers must be built to ensure the trail is welcoming to people of all ages and abilities.

If full funding were available, the next phase of work would include planning, architectural and engineering services to advance trail planning and design, followed by site improvements and ultimately construction.

Project Contact

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