



Walkable Washington

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For information about Walkable
Washington and other Feet First
programs

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Case Study

Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.

Redmond Central Connector Redmond, WA

Description and purpose

The Redmond Central Connector project began in 2013, a vital part of a multi-modal transportation corridor which will link downtown Redmond with the wider region and accommodate an estimated 6,000 new residents and 4,000 new employees by 2020. Integrated art, lighting, and landscaping along urban plazas provide opportunities for community gathering and events along the first mile of paved trail, which also knits together over 60 miles of the East Lake Sammamish and Sammamish River Trails.

The Redmond Central Connector Phase I included the extension of NE 161st and NE 164th streets, installation of an underlying regional storm water trunk line and treatment system, low impact development opportunities for public and private projects, and preservation of property for the future Sound Transit East Link line and terminal station and King County wastewater utility infrastructure. Together, these investments will change the face of the Redmond Downtown Center for future generations.

Costs and funding

The project is part of an overall infrastructure investment by Redmond of approximately \$65 million. The first mile of the trail cost \$5.7M for design and construction and was funded by the City of Redmond, the State Department of Commerce, and the Federal Transportation Enhancements funding.

Implementation time-frame

In June 2010, the City of Redmond was the first of the Eastside Rail Corridor partners to acquire a segment of the corridor from the Port of Seattle. Master Planning began immediately and included intense coordination with partners' Sound Transit and King County.



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After four months of engineering level planning, the public process of visioning the future trail and park corridor began. The final master plan was adopted in June 2011; design work was completed in 2012. Construction occurred from November 2012 through 2013. The official opening ceremony occurred during the City's annual Redmond Lights festival in December 2013. In March 2014, the City unveiled "Signals," the second commissioned artwork by John Fleming.

In February 2014, the City received 60% plans for the second phase of the project, which extends from the east side of the Sammamish River to the 9900 Block along Willows Road. Construction is anticipated in 2015. Redmond is coordinating the third phase of work with King County and Kirkland, in order to ensure a connection across 124th Ave NE to the Totem Lake urban center in Kirkland. Future phases of work could include enhanced park and urban design along the 1.1 mile downtown segment of the trail and expansion of the trail nearly 3 miles north to NE 124th Street, at the King County line.

Community involvement

Redmond engaged the community in planning through a series of well-attended public meetings, surveys, stakeholder meetings and interviews. The public meeting included innovative ways to bring people together including a band, a theatre troupe that helped interview people, big top tents, food, elected officials, and wonderful inspirations of place-making from around the world. During the design phase, the City partnered with Feet First to host a Walk and Talk that attracted more than 100 people. Throughout the master plan and design process, the project team engaged with citizen and volunteer organizations including the Parks and Trails Commission, Arts Commission, Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission, Design Review Board and City Council.

Benefits and results

Completion of the first phase will support nearly 50,000 monthly trail users during peak season, reduce vehicle miles traveled by an estimated 24,000 per year, and enhance economic vitality by encouraging mixed use and transit oriented development. The project will improve pedestrian travel through the heart of downtown, connect Old Town to Town Center, and improve the pedestrian experience behind existing mixed use developments along the Redmond Central Connector. Street grid improvements will improve vehicular and pedestrian connections, especially in the north-south direction. The corridor will include new pedestrian and light rail transit opportunities. The trail, park, and arts and cultural improvements will cover more than 12 acres. Combined, all of these enhancements will create a destination within the City where people come to gather, shop, and experience the City's culture, and a desirable place for new commercial and residential development. In preparation for projected growth, private developers have recently constructed more than 1500 residential units in downtown Redmond.

Project Contacts

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Resources

Central Connector Project Homepage, City of Redmond

<http://www.redmond.gov/PlansProjects/connectingCommunity/centralConnectorPhase1/>

Central Connector Master Plan

<http://issuu.com/thebergerpartnership/docs/redmondcentralconnector>



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