

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits? Cowlitz County is growing and county and city trails attract new families, support economic development, and improve our health and quality of life. A new trail can ease transportation problems, reduce air pollution, increase real estate values, improve mental well-being, promote cultural activities, and serve as an outdoor classroom. Nearly 65% of county residents are overweight or obese and physical activity by hiking or biking on trails can reduce obesity and help prevent chronic disease.

Where will the trail be located? The actual trail route will be determined through the planning process. The goal is to connect with the Castle Rock Riverfront Trail and the new Lexington Bridge.

How will it be developed? The trail will be developed through a partnership of volunteers, local agencies, and public agencies participating in a planning process, which will develop the most feasible trail route. A community-based trail project looks for locations where public access can easily be guaranteed (for example, public lands), where access can be achieved through various agreements or easements, or through purchase from a willing seller.

Can they take my land or make me allow a trail on it? Imminent-domain is not part of this community-based trail system. The trail can only cross your land with your permission. Actual building of a trail normally take 2-3 years, depending on barriers to overcome, financial resources, and the commitment of community partners and volunteers.

What will it cost? That can't be determined until the planning process is complete. Trails are often financed through state and federal grants, local government budgets, foundations, volunteer giving, and local fund raising.

Who is sponsoring the new trail? Currently the community partners for this trail project are Pathways 2020, Cowlitz County Health Department, City of Castle Rock, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Cowlitz County, and the Cowlitz On The Move Health Lifestyle Coalition. Local volunteers have stepped forward to be involved with the project and we expect more to join the effort.

Who do I call if I have a question? There will be several ways to contact the planning committee with your questions or concerns.

- ✓ Call Pathways 2020 at 360-423-8704
- ✓ Go on-line to www.cowlitzonthemove.org and click on the Contact Us button and type in you question.
- ✓ Send in the post card available at the meeting with your comments. You can send it without listing your name on it.
- ✓ Invite the planning committee to your club, church group, business association, school, or what ever for a presentation and update on the project.
- ✓ Join the planning committee by putting you name and address on the post card and leave it on the table.