Trail Planning in Pierce County

Pierce County
Transportation Advisory Commission
July 28, 2022

Brianne Blackburn, Trail Planner
Tiffany Odell, Senior Planner
Agenda

- Introduction
- Policy Framework
- Capital Facilities Planning
- Trail Network
- Coordination
Trail Project Development

Public Engagement

Design & Construction

- Trail Profile
- Road Crossings
- Trailheads
Trails as Transportation

- Equity & access
- Trails are multimodal
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Aid congestion management
- Reduce conflicts
- Climate change
- Promote physical activity
Policy Framework

• Pierce County Comprehensive Plan  
  (Ord 2015-40 and as amended)  
  • Parks & Recreation Element  
  • Open Space Element  
  • Transportation Element  
  • Community Plans

• 2020-2030 Parks, Recreation & Open  
  Space Plan (Ord. 2020-3s)  
  • Park System Needs  
  • Funding Capacity  
  • Fiscal Policy (R2016-115s)  
  • Regional Trails Plan
Planning for Pierce County Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Information &amp; Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
<td>Public Engagement Usage Trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where?</td>
<td>Population Demographics Inventory Access/Distance Gaps Other Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Much?</td>
<td>Benchmarking Persons per facility, miles, or acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings

- Public priority is **trails & walking paths**
- 2021 Active transportation survey results are consistent
- County has a lower rate of parks and trails than similar communities
- Urban unincorporated area will grow the most

Which of the following would help you use active transportation more often in Pierce County?
## Capital Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Fund Constraints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Sales Tax</td>
<td>Financing, acquisition, construction, admin, maintenance, operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 2)</td>
<td>Capital projects specified in the Capital Facilities Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Impact Fees</td>
<td>Add capacity to the park system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Depends on source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>Depends on source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020-2030 = $126m

Share of Projected Funds:
- Grants: 16%
- Park REET 2: 29%
- Park Sales Tax: 15%
- Park Impact Fees: 39%
- Donations: 1%
Fiscal Policy (R2016-115s)

- Adopted 2016 with Park Impact Fee
- Policies for:
  - Capital priorities
  - Use of park revenue sources
  - Planning and system management

- Priority project list:
  - Pipeline Trail
  - Parkland Community Trail
  - South Hill Community Trail
  - Foothills Connections
  - Regional partnerships

2016 Fiscal Policy: Revenue collected through impact fees should be spent:

- Existing Parks 32%
- New Trails 38%
- New Parks 30%
Regional Trail System

Parks Role:
- Primary provider in unincorporated
- Regional Coordinator and partner

45 miles of trail
Vision of 300+ miles
## North Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Estimated Timeline</th>
<th>Estimated Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foothills Trail</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge at White River</td>
<td>Construction: 2022</td>
<td>$266,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cascade Junction to Carbonado</strong></td>
<td>Planning/Design: 2021-2022</td>
<td>$6,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Riverwalk Trail Connection</strong></td>
<td>Construction Begin: 2026</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interurban Connections</strong></td>
<td>Construction by 2030</td>
<td>$2,940,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Partnership)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White River Flume Trail</strong></td>
<td>Construction by 2030</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Note: TBD indicates that the time or funding for these projects is not currently known.
Foothills Trail

Existing: 21 miles
Proposed: 30 miles

Current Projects
1. Link to Puyallup’s Riverwalk Trail
2. Trailhead expansions
3. Link to Mt. Rainier National Park
4. White River Bridge link to King County

Regional Connections
- Link to Pipeline
- Tahoma to Tacoma

Link to Pipeline Trail

1. Puyallup
2. Orting
3. South Prairie
4. Buckley
2. Carbonado
3. Wilkeson
4. Tahoma to Tacoma—To Mt. Rainier National Park

Wilkeson

Orting

Carbonado

South Prairie

Buckley
Central Region

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<td>Construction Begin: 2022</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline Trail</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Design: 2019-2025</td>
<td>$15,344,738</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction Begin: 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central/South Region Trail Connection</td>
<td>Planning/Design: 2024</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
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**Approximate Project Alignment**

**Future Continuation of Pipeline Trail**

**Future Continuation of Footills Trail to Mount Rainier National Park**

**Pipeline Trail**

**Future Continuation of Pipeline Trail to City of Tacoma**

**Footills Trail (Existing)**

**Nathan Chapman Trail**

**Footills Trail**

**Wildwood Trail**

**Puyallup Trail**

**Wildwood Trail**

**Nathan Chapman Trail**

**Future Continuation of Pipeline Trail (In Preliminary Design)**
TACOMA TO PUYALLUP

- WSDOT study along SR 167
- Construction to begin 2025
South Region

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<td>Planning/Design: 2026-2027</td>
<td>$4,400,000</td>
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<td>Construction Begin: 2028</td>
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### 2020-2030 Regional Trail Priorities

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**Estimated $37,097,251**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Cross-State Trail (Partnership)</strong></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tacoma to Puyallup (Partnership)</strong></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>White River Canyon Trail (Partnership)</strong></td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**Estimated $37,097,251**
Challenges

Acquisition
- Costly and time consuming
- Competing priorities

Interaction with road system
- Safe crossings
- Maintenance of road crossings

Funding
- Trail amenities
- Federal
- Maintenance

System planning
- Prioritization
- Right facility in the right place
Trails as Transportation

- Equity & access
- Trails are multimodal
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Aid congestion management
- Reduce conflicts
- Climate change
- Promote physical activity
Questions?

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Extra Slides
Foothills Trail Extension

CASCADE JUNCTION TO CARBONADO

- Regional trail connecting Foothills Trail to Mount Rainier National Park
- Feasibility: trail route & ROM costs
- Significant stakeholder engagement
INTERURBAN TRAIL

Trail Highlights

• Connections to King County
• Connections to Sumner Link & Foothills Trail
• Connections to Edgewood
• Connections to Milton

Combined with the Future Tacoma to Puyallup = 18 mile loop
Foothills Trail Extension
Foothills Trail

WHITE RIVER BRIDGE
PARKLAND COMMUNITY TRAIL

• Connecting 5 schools, 3 Parks, and PLU with a safe route to move in a community with few sidewalks and bike lanes

• Transit opportunities

• 2 miles of trail

• Construction 2022/23

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS
YELM PRAIRIE LINE TRAIL

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 5-mile shared use path on former rail ROW
- Partial RCO funding secured Yelm to Roy
- PSRC Planning Funds secured for trail in Pierce County
- WSDOT seeking federal funds for preliminary design