



## Frequently Asked Questions: Delphi Stellar – Gateway Trail Project

A meeting to discuss the City of Delphi's Gateway Trail Project is scheduled for May 15, 2013 from 6:00-7:00 pm at the Wabash and Erie Canal Center located at 1030 N. Washington Street, Delphi. The following summary answers some of the most common questions about the new program.

### **Where will the trail go?**

It will run along the west side of Washington Street from Summit Street (near the North Street Viaduct) to Adams Street (near the Canal Center).

### **How long will it be?**

About 1 mile.

### **Will it be different from other trails in and around Delphi?**

Yes. It will be 8-foot-wide and paved with asphalt. Most of our current trails are made of stone. The trail will be built to modern accessibility standards.

### **When will it be built?**

Design will occur this year. Phase 1 of the trail will be under construction in 2014. Phase 2 is expected to be built in 2015.

### **How will the trail phases work?**

Phase 1 will extend from Columbia Street to Adams Street. The trail will connect to the restored Gray Bridge being installed over the canal. Phase 2 will extend from Columbia Street to Franklin Street, and from Front Street to Summit Street. During the downtown project, a portion of the trail from Franklin Street to Front Street will be built.

### **Where are you at with design of the trail?**

We have preliminary plan concepts completed for Phase 1, and will show them at the Open House. Concepts for Phase 2 and the downtown section are currently being developed and will be presented at a later date.

### **Where will the trailheads be?**

While there will not be formal trailheads, users can park adjacent to the trail and have direct access for most of its route.

**Will it be lighted?**

There is existing street lighting along most of the trail. New lighting is not proposed for Phase 1. A decision has not been reached for Phase 2.

**Will the trail replace the sidewalk on Washington Street?**

Yes. North of Columbia Street, the current sidewalk will be removed and the new trail will be located closer to the roadway. Decisions have not been made south of Columbia Street.

**Will you connect my personal sidewalk to the new trail?**

Yes. If your sidewalk currently connects to the existing sidewalk, we will extend it to the new trail.

**Who will mow the grass along the new trail?**

We are asking that homeowners continue to mow the right-of-way in front of their property, as they currently do.

**Will you be removing the existing trees along the route?**

Many trees will need to be removed to allow the trail to be built. We will replace each tree removed with a new tree.

**Why are we building a trail on Washington Street?**

Delphi was awarded a Safe Routes to Schools planning grant in 2011. During that planning effort, representatives from the City, Parks, Police, Schools, parent groups and others identified that a safer route was needed for students who walk and bike to school along Washington Street. They recommended a central, north-to-south trail be developed that would safely connect neighborhoods, the schools, canal center, downtown, and Riley Park.

**How will you make the hill near Riley Park safer?**

This is a key priority of the project. While we have not selected a design for this section yet, our goal is to provide a safe separation between the roadway and trail. We are considering retaining walls or an elevated walkway along the hillside to allow this.

**Are trails like this safe?**

Accidents and crime can happen anywhere, but studies have shown that trails are safe.

"A number of studies have now shown that urban greenways do not increase crime and, in fact, are commonly regarded as improvements by adjacent property owners." – Tod Schneider *Bike Path Phobia*

**How will the trail impact property values?**

In similar communities, residents have found that having nearby trails increases the value of their property.

A 1999 study of home sales in Indianapolis found that homes along the Monon Trail sold for as much as 10 percent more than other homes in the area.

In a 2000 survey, the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Homebuilders ranked multi-use trails second among 18 factors positively influencing a property's marketability.

### **How much will the trail cost?**

Both phases together are expected to cost \$2.0 million.

### **Who is paying for it?**

Grant money received after Delphi was selected as Stellar Community. Receiving the grant will amount to millions of dollars for sidewalks, housing, storefront façades and other programs over the next few years.

### **Are you working on other trails?**

The City has multiple trail projects ongoing currently.

- The Historic Interurban Deer Creek Trail is in the design phase. It will extend from Hamilton to Washington on the north side of Deer Creek. INDOT has delayed the project funding until 2015.
- The Safe Routes to Schools Trail Project is ready to begin. A contractor has been selected by INDOT, and work will start this summer. It will include a trail along Armory Road in front of the schools, and sidewalk work near the elementary school.
- The Freedom Bridge project is also ready to begin. This bridge will reconnect the Monon High Bridge Trail after being temporarily cut off by the Hoosier Heartland Highway. A contractor has been selected by INDOT, and work will start in 2013.

For more information contact Kevin Kologinsky at (765) 564-6692. Details about all of the Delphi Stellar Communities projects can be found at [www.cityofdelphi.org](http://www.cityofdelphi.org).