

Tigard Street Trail: A Path to Employment

EXISTING TRAIL CONDITIONS



Abandoned rail spur becomes a path to employment linking residents with jobs downtown and in adjacent industrial-zoned properties, as well as regionally through downtown Tigard's transit station. Provides connections to Portland, Beaverton and other light-rail linked cities.



In Tigard, at least 85 percent of the workforce commutes out of the city daily. With more jobs in Tigard than residents, Tigard also supplies the regional labor market with skilled professionals and employment opportunities. The Tigard Street Trail becomes a path to employment connecting residents (workforce) with jobs locally and regionally.



This path to employment connects to a downtown commercial core of 250 employers and the surrounding 33 industrial-zoned properties as well as another 200 firms within walking distance of downtown.



This adaptive reuse of transit infrastructure will provide a safe biking and walking connection from Tiedeman Avenue to Main Street and the Tigard Transit Center. The existing gravel would be replaced with a hard surface trail, with lighting, landscaping, and improved safety fencing next to the active rail line.



In addition to filling a gap in the transportation system, this project improves safety in two critical ways. First, it would improve the current barrier along the trail where it is adjacent to the active PWR and WES track. Second, it would ensure maintenance and visibility on this neglected right of way. In its current form, this half-mile inactive rail alignment has fallen into disrepair, with overgrown and fallen trees, informal paths heading toward the active tracks, and signs of illegal camping. At least one local resident has taken it upon himself to pick up litter almost daily, due to the absence of dedicated maintenance.



In Tigard, 85 percent of the workforce commutes out of the city daily. A “Path to Employment” connects Tigard’s workforce to centers of employment. This includes connectivity to a downtown commercial core of 250 employers and 33 industrial-zoned properties. Regionally, a path to employment connects Tigard’s 50,000 residents to employment centers ranging from Downtown Portland to Beaverton via WES commuter rail, light rail, and seven bus routes accessible at the downtown transit station.

A fully connected multimodal transit system is needed to serve this fluid regional employment market. A Path to Employment links new connections from Tigard’s neighborhoods to existing mass transit and employment centers. The Tigard Street Trail is a path to employment connecting residents to local and regional jobs. It will use the inactive rail corridor along Tigard Street from Tiedeman Avenue to downtown Tigard and the Tigard Transit Center/WES transit station. It currently has no sidewalks or other bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. The proposed “Path to Employment” builds upon a 16-foot gravel path (rail bed rock) surface. The alignment would make use of existing sidewalks downtown and a bicycle/pedestrian bridge on Tigard Street to also connect to the Fanno Creek Trail and the Summer Creek Trail—linking even more homes into a multimodal transit system from door front to desk.

The Tigard Street Trail is a multimillion dollar infrastructure investment. Tigard will seek funding from a range of partners to help build this project that connects our residents to their jobs.

