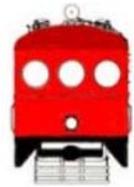




The Red Electric Trail



NEWSLETTER FROM SW TRAILS, WINTER 2015

How would you like to walk or bike on a dedicated trail from downtown Portland south to Hillsdale, then west through Hayhurst to Beaverton and the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail (or that route in reverse)? Transport yourself actively, mostly on picturesque side streets, many of which were occupied by the Red Electric Train route one hundred years ago? Making this vision a reality has been on the minds of public and private organizations for a long time, certainly since the 1990's. Since then the Red Electric Trail has become embedded in the City of Portland's planning for multi-use regional trails.

SW Trails met in November and December 2014 with staff from the City's Parks and Transportation bureaus to learn what the status is of the Trail. Here are highlights of what we learned:

- The two million dollar project to make a bike/pedestrian bridge over the headwaters of Fanno Creek near the intersection of SW Bertha Blvd and SW Capitol Hwy is underway (across from Sasquatch Brewery). The engineering and landscaping design should be completed by the fall of this year. An advisory committee will be established sometime this spring.
- Parks has set aside half a million dollars for work on the trail in 2015; this sum could be gobbled up by planning and right-of-way purchase, but we hope that some can be for actual field work. The funds have yet to be released as staff is busy with other projects.
- It is acknowledged that there are two thorny issues that need resolution for the trail route preferred by SW Trails to be fully realized: one is how to cross Barbur Boulevard near Himes Park; the other is how to cross what is currently private property west of the corner at SW 33rd Place and SW Bertha Blvd.
- There is recognition that the easiest part of the trail to complete would be the western part and that it might make sense to build that soon (especially on the city right-of-way next to Hayhurst School and Pendleton Park).



More at: www.redelectric.org or <http://swtrails.org/campaigns/red-electric/>