

# Blue Mountain Regional Trails Plan

In an unprecedented regional effort, cities, counties, health departments, ports, regional, state, and federal agencies joined forces to complete the development of a *Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan* that spans all involved jurisdictions in Columbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington State and northeastern Umatilla County in Oregon.

## Plan Vision

Develop a community-driven and locally-supported regionwide network of bicycle and pedestrian routes and non-motorized trails to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, mobility options, and connectivity within the Blue Mountain Region that benefit –

*health, mobility, quality of life and livability, and economic development and tourism.*

## Benefits of Having an Interconnected Network

- Increase participation in outdoor recreation and active transportation
- Reduce physical inactivity and related health concerns
- Provide safe routes to schools, parks, community sites, and natural treasures
- Shift short trips from cars to walking and biking
- Stimulate economic development
- Enhance community connections and increase quality of life



## Public Involvement

- 2 rounds of public workshops — 8 sessions total just under 1,000 comments collected
- Project website — 20,300 hits through 1/8/18
- Online outreach — 142 comments collected

## 354 Total Miles of Proposed New or Improved Non-Motorized Transportation and Trails

- 15 miles of new sidewalks
- 9 miles of new bike lanes
- 215 miles of designated bike routes on shared roads
- 21 miles of improved and new paved paths
- 94 miles of improved or new trails
- Total cost for regional connections is \$103 million, including \$4.6 million for short-term implementation

## Potential Sources of Funding for Implementation

- Regional Trails Program
- Federal Lands Access Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- National Forest System Trail Stewardship Grant
- Economic Development Administration Programs
- Safe Routes to School Grant
- WSDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
- U.S. DOT Surface Transportation Block Grant
- ... and private funding investments



## What to Do Now

Adoption into local comprehensive plans

Continued collaboration for multijurisdictional projects

Preparation of grant applications

***The public can support project implementation by —***  
Writing letters of support for grant applications

Advocating for implementation

Sharing their talents—  
photography, graphics,  
writing, editing

**... the possibilities are limitless**