

## ACTION 12:

# Harrison Boulevard to Campus Way Multi-use Path

Develop a new multi-use path between NW Harrison Boulevard and NW Campus Way, creating a safe, attractive, and convenient walking and biking connection to campus.

### Opportunity

The Witham Hill neighborhood, sitting only a mile from the OSU campus, is home to a high concentration of OSU students and employees in single-family homes and in high-density housing developments, both older and newly built. If a low-stress biking and walking route to campus were built from this area, it would likely attract numerous students and employees to add bicycle or walking commute trips to their regular routines.

### Current State

Pedestrian and Bicycle trips to campus from the Witham Hill neighborhood today follow a circuitous and discontinuous route along substandard pedestrian and bicycle facilities. NW Harrison Boulevard, the only direct connection from the neighborhood to the north side of campus, carries high volumes of traffic traveling at high speeds during peak periods. Unprotected bicycle lanes that turn into shared vehicular lanes (marked with sharrows) make it uncomfortable for all but the most confident cyclists. Recently, the extension of NW Circle Boulevard to NW Harrison Boulevard now provides access to a new high-density residential development less than a mile from campus, with a high potential for pedestrian and bicycle trips to OSU.

#### Cost

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#### Timeline

Long

#### Lead

OSU/ City of Corvallis

#### Complementary Actions

Commute Incentives (Action 3)

Bike Parking (Action 14)

#### Partners

CAMPO

### Discussion

#### A Critical Yet Complicated Connection

Over many years, the Corvallis community has demonstrated interest in this walking and biking connection, which appears as a recommendation in many adopted plans.

- The Corvallis Transportation System Plan identifies project PB2 to develop a new multi-use path between Harrison Boulevard and Campus Way, fully separated from motor vehicle traffic, as a high priority.
- The Corvallis Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a Tier 1 project (C14) that calls for a new Connector Trail between NW Harrison Boulevard and SW Campus Way.
- The Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Regional Transportation Plan includes a similar project: “Circle Boulevard Multi-Use Path: Extend from Harrison to Campus Way (#16).”

A specific alignment for the project has not yet been identified. Successful project planning will require listening to and understanding the needs

of both OSU agricultural research programs and adjacent residential neighborhoods that may be impacted by the project. Creative design and engineering solutions may be required to accommodate the needs of these diverse stakeholders.

The OSU Dairy Research Center in the College of Agricultural Sciences actively uses the open fields between NW Harrison Boulevard and SW Campus Way for research on animal science and forage crop production. If a route were designed to traverse these fields, it would need to safely accommodate ongoing research in the area, including the east-west passage of milking cows between the forage fields and the dairy barn.

Further east, residents of the neighborhood that borders the agricultural fields have expressed concerns about having a multi-use path located immediately adjacent to their properties. Coming to a decision on the alignment of a path through this area will require outreach to these and other stakeholders.

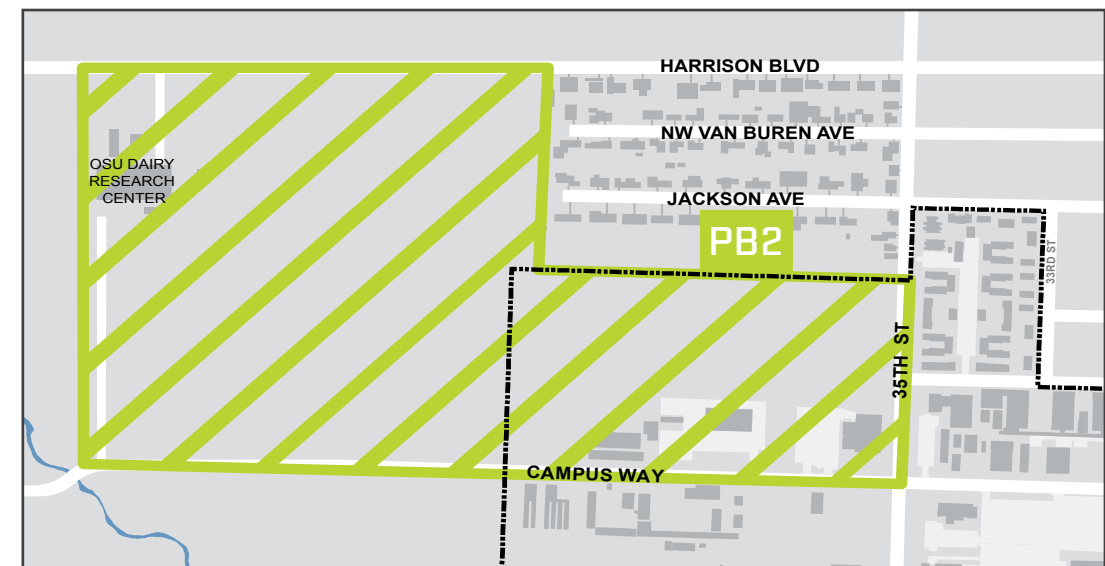


Figure 18: An alignment for the Harrison Boulevard to Campus Way Path has not yet been identified.