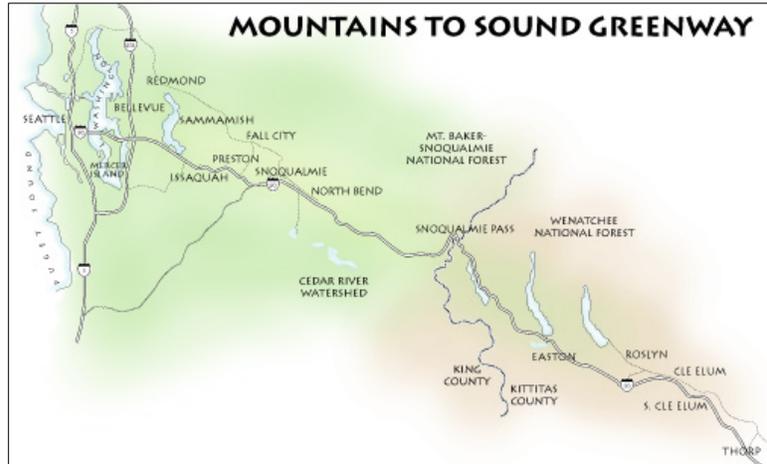


## EW-4: Mountains to Sound Greenway

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a nationally designated scenic highway surrounded by forests, trails and history, stretching for 100 miles along Interstate 90, from the Seattle waterfront, over the Cascade Mountains to Central Washington. The Greenway is a significant, connected and natural landscape set aside to provide recreation, tourism, environmental benefits and education, for both current and future generations.

Since 1990, the goals in the Greenway Concept Plan have inspired landowners and government agencies at the local, state and federal level to secure over 125,000 acres of farm and forest land in public ownership as working forests, parks and open spaces. The Trust has worked closely with municipalities and state transportation planners to connect a trail system that will allow everyone to walk or ride their bike to the mountains.



In Bellevue, the Greenway trail that connects to the I-90 trail at Enatai Beach goes eastward through Mercer Slough and ends abruptly at Factoria Boulevard. The next safe and separated multi-use trail begins 1.9 miles east at the Sunset Trail and 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE. Corridor EW-4: Mountains to Sound Greenway, represents a unique opportunity to fill one of only five short missing links in this cross-state facility that will link Bellevue residents and people throughout the region to major population centers. Additionally, EW-4 has the added benefit of linking to each of the north-south priority bicycle corridors. Finally, realizing this link is consistent with Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Policy UD-53: "Integrate designs of frontage roads along the I-90 freeway corridor as contributors to the Mountains to Sound Greenway concept. Give particular attention to multi-use trails, large scale landscaping and pedestrian amenities."



The Mountains-to-Sound-Greenway Trust (MTSGT) has recommended to the City the completion of the missing links in the I-90 Trail system component of the MTSG. The City's new Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan acknowledges the benefits of addressing this missing link with project **O-137-N**.

A paved multiuse trail of 10-feet or greater width is proposed beginning at the current end of the trail at Factoria Blvd and running eastward along the north side of SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street to 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. It would cross 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, and continue along the north side of SE 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

Eastward from 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, the trail would follow the north side of SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street, before cutting north towards I-90, along 166<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE (right-of-way) to SE 37<sup>th</sup> Street (which also serves as an I-90 frontage road) to the Sunset Pedestrian Bridge. Here cyclists would be able to cross to the north side of I-90 and make use of the Sunset Trail to West Lake Sammamish Parkway. The old, easternmost segment of the Sunset Trail is narrow and has substandard switch-backed alignment and other tight curves and needs that should be upgraded.

It is recommended that construction of the above mentioned MTSG I-90 trail links such as the segment along SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street should not eliminate existing on-street bicycle facilities; the latter should be maintained, and improved where improvement is needed, such as in the vicinity of the 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE interchange as SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street curves to become SE 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

Today, several Greenway municipalities and partner agencies are working to fill the last 5 remaining gaps in this corridor. The separated trail gap in Seattle is in the design and engineering phase thanks to cooperation between the City of Seattle and WSDOT. The City of Issaquah is currently conducting technical studies of an off-road trail from West Lake Sammamish Parkway to the East Lake Sammamish trail and eastward. A few miles east, another gap in the Greenway trail is in the final stages of design by WSDOT and the State Legislature has allocated \$3.6 million to construct this trail in the next two years. Additional coordination between the City of Bellevue, WSDOT, King County, and the Greenway Trust is required to study this route.

The following represent before/after photo-visualizations of project **O-137-N**, showing the placement of the proposed off-street path in three different location along the Mountains to Sound Greenway route:

**1) SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street and 146<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, looking west**



2) SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street and 155<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, looking west



3) I-90 Frontage Road/SE 37<sup>th</sup> Street, across from Crossroads Bible Church, looking



southeast

**Connections to Other Main Bicycle Corridors:**

- West Lake Sammamish Parkway Connection
- Spirit Ridge-Sammamish River Connection
- Somerset-Redmond Connection
- BNSF Connection
- Lake Washington Loop Trail
- Enatai-Northtown Connection

**Connections to Park Facilities:**

- Enatai Beach Park: [http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/enatai\\_beach.htm](http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/enatai_beach.htm)
- Mercer Slough Nature Park: [http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/mercer\\_slough.htm](http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/mercer_slough.htm)
- Sunrise Park: <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/sunrise%20.htm>

**Connections to Schools:**

- Bellevue Community College: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/>



## Current Environment



## Recommended Improvement



Add a multiuse trail of 10 feet or greater paved width running eastward along the north side of SE 36th Street from Factoria Boulevard to the curve near the southwest quadrant's ramps of 148th-150th Avenue SE interchange **(O-137-N)**.

*\*Additional coordination between the City of Bellevue, WSDOT, King County, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is required to study this route.*

## Current Environment



## Recommended Improvement



Add a paved multiuse trail of 10 feet or greater paved width on the south side of SE 37th Street (which here serves as an I-90 frontage road) to the Sunset Pedestrian Bridge where cyclists will cross to the north side of I-90 and make use of the Sunset Trail to WLSP **(O-137-N)**.

*\*Additional coordination between the City of Bellevue, WSDOT, King County, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is required to study this route.*