



Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

Friday, April 28, 2023

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM **Introductions and Agenda Review**

- RAC Co-Chair Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

10:05 AM – 10:10 AM **Approval of January 26, 2023 RAC Meeting Summary**

- RAC Co-Chair Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

10:10 AM – 10:45 AM **Trail Oriented Development (Information and Discussion Item)**

- Principals' Staff Team members
- Eastrail Partners

10:45 AM – 11:05 AM **Federal and State Engagement (Information and Discussion Item)**

- Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners
- David St. John, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

11:05 AM – 11:20 AM **Co-Creation and Community Engagement Initiatives (Information Item)**

- Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners

11:20 AM – 11:35 AM **Summer Events Planning (Information Item)**

- Joe Inslee, King County Parks and Recreation Division
- Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners

11:35 AM – 11:50 AM **Progress and Success Updates (Information Item)**

- RAC Members

11:50 AM – 12:00 PM **Public Comment**

Adjourn



EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY January 26, 2023 | 10 AM – 12 PM Zoom Meeting

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present: Jay Arnold, Kirkland Deputy Mayor (Co-Chair), Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember (Co-Chair); John Stokes, Bellevue Councilmember; Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; Matt Perry, Puget Sound Energy; Jessica Forsythe, Redmond Council President; Don Billen, Sound Transit; Les Rubstello, Woodinville Councilmember; Tom Teigen, Snohomish County

Welcome and Introductions

Councilmember Perry called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, welcomed all in attendance to the first RAC meeting of 2023, and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of October 20, 2022 RAC meeting summary

Councilmember Forsythe moved to approve the October 20 meeting summary and Councilmember Stokes seconded. **Members unanimously voted to approve the October 20 meeting summary.**

RAC/PST Work Plan 2023 Priorities Updates

David St. John of King County DNRP provided updates on the RAC's and Principal Staff Team's proposed 2023 work plan (included in the meeting packet). Activities are separate from work that RAC members will be doing individually (e.g., building projects), and priorities include:

- federal and state engagement
- operationalizing the Arts Coordination Guiding Principles
- implementing the 2021 Eastrail Trail Use Information System Plan
- communicating about major capital project progress/milestones
- continuing co-creation efforts to connect to and involve the diverse Eastrail community
- activating open segments
- planning/coordinating/implementing quarterly RAC meetings and twice-monthly PST meetings
- supporting development and implementation of wayfinding measures to support trail use

New proposed scopes of work include:

- developing and implementing a coordinated strategic communications framework for Eastrail
- advancing planning for the 2024 RAC-sponsored Eastrail event
- developing and/or compiling demographic information describing Eastrail communities
- sharing information about key cross-cutting corridor management issues at RAC meetings

Discussion

- Members agreed that the work plan was aligned with the goals of the RAC as well as those of individual RAC members and were in consensus that staff should move forward with it.

Arts Coordination Guiding Principles and Activation Approach

Jeff Aken from the Redmond Parks Department and Colin Petkus of Eastrail Partners shared updates on the Arts Coordination Guiding Principles (included in the meeting packet) after incorporating feedback from the October RAC meeting.

- Main changes included wording and syntax updates. The Principles include **equity, inclusion and belonging, context and interconnection, collaboration, cohesion, more than visual art, and making the mandatory extraordinary.**
- Next steps following approval include building awareness through sharing the Principles with city Arts Commissions and posting to the Eastrail.org website, as well as piloting a community arts project. Eastrail Partners has applied for grant funding in coordination with Eastside for All to support a pilot project.

Discussion

- Members expressed appreciation for staff efforts and were in consensus that staff should move forward with the revised Arts Coordination Guiding Principles.

2023 Major Capital Projects and Events Look Ahead

PST members shared updates on major capital projects slated for 2023 (included in the meeting packet).

- *Redmond Central Connector to East Lake Sammamish Trail:* in construction in collaboration with Sound Transit as part of the Downtown Redmond Link Extension Project, estimated to open in late 2024 in conjunction with the light rail station.
- *Redmond Central Connector Phase III:* in construction (groundbreaking in November 2022), expected to open in 2025.
- *Kirkland to Woodinville Trail:* completed in fall 2022 connecting across NE 145th in Woodinville to the Sammamish River Trail. Only 2.5 miles but connects hundreds of miles of existing trails and will serve as a model for trail aesthetics. Also plan to add a major new art installation.
- *Woodinville 202 Trestle:* in final design, secured \$7.5M from the State to replace existing trestle and working to secure additional funding for Eastrail planning in Woodinville through a RAISE grant application.
- *Slater/132nd HAWK Signal Crossing:* in final design, construction is estimated to begin in 2024.
- *Totem Lake Connector:* in construction and will be a bike/ped bridge connecting the two ends of the Cross-Kirkland Corridor, ribbon cutting will occur in June.
- *Northup Connector:* in final design, will construct a trail ramp connecting Eastrail to 520 Trail Corridor at Northup Way. Opening could be as soon as fall 2024 but could be delayed; construction season is very limited due to constraints from adjacent wetlands.
- *Eastrail to Spring Boulevard Connector:* 60% design, will connect north-south Eastrail to east-west NE 12th/Spring Blvd to provide an efficient route to the Spring District and downtown. Construction is estimated to begin in 2024.
- *Eastrail NE 8th St. Crossing:* in construction and will provide a connection to the Wilburton light rail station and include Japanese American Agricultural Heritage art commemoration integrated into the design. Expected to be completed in 2023.
- *Wilburton Trestle:* in final design to replace existing trestle, construction planned to begin this year and be completed in 2025. Will be opening for bids soon.
- *I-405 Bridge:* in construction, will reconnect segments that were disconnected when I-405 was widened and open in conjunction with the Wilburton Trestle.

Federal & State Engagement

Katherine Hollis of Eastrail Partners shared updates on federal and state engagement.

Federal

- \$3.6M for two Eastrail projects were included in WA Congressional District 1 community partnerships funds (\$1.1M for RCC Phase III and \$2.5M for SR202 Trestle in Woodinville).

- RAISE Program is the most likely place for Eastrail funding. There is a grant pool for planning and one for construction.

State

- RAC Co-chairs sent letters to key legislators highlighting appreciation for Move Ahead WA funds for Eastrail projects as well as the need to sequence project funding for implementation.
- Eastrail Partners' 2023 state legislative priorities include:
 - King County's need for \$10M of Move Ahead WA funds for Bellevue projects throughout the biennium (Wilburton Trestle and I-90 steel bridge project)
 - Funding for southern corridor acquisitions over this and next biennium
 - Funding for SR202 Trestle in this biennium
 - Kirkland's capital request for a HAWK signal at 132nd PI NE/Slate Ave NE and Eastrail
 - SB 5452/HB 1135 to authorize impact fee revenues for use for bike/ped projects (not just traditional street projects)

Discussion

- Members discussed concern about funding deferral for the I-90 steel bridge project to the 2027-2029 biennium and the need for additional funding beyond state contributions, as well as the need for strategic coordination and funding/project prioritization.
- Members also noted that SB 5452/HB 1135 was getting some pushback in the legislature so RAC advocacy could be helpful.
- Deputy Mayor Arnold moved for the RAC to authorize co-chairs to advocate in Olympia via testimony and written comments on Eastrail Partners' legislative agenda items as appropriate, and Councilmember Forsythe seconded. **Members unanimously voted to authorize RAC co-chairs to advocate in Olympia via testimony and written comments on Eastrail Partners' legislative agenda items as appropriate.**

Progress and Success Updates

Bellevue – waiting for announcement of the outcome of an application submitted to the US DOT's [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) grant program which includes funding for crossings at SE 5th and SE 1st Streets near the Wilburton Trestle and paving the trail segment between.

Kirkland – several councilmembers recently toured the Eastrail-adjacent [Friends of Youth](#) facility which provides behavioral health, case management, and other services and could be a potential trail/community resource connection opportunity.

Redmond – Redmond Lights in December was a success with approximately 6,000 visitors. RCC Phase III groundbreaking occurred in November as mentioned above.

Sound Transit – Sound Transit Board of Directors will be discussing an action item at their upcoming meeting that, if approved, would authorize additional preparation for a light rail starter line between south Bellevue and Redmond Technology Center starting next spring, followed by a full East Link system across Lake Washington to downtown Redmond in 2025.

Snohomish County – continuing to work through legal issues related to securing railroad rights access and ownership.

King County – key updates were included above in the capital projects update. Staff are looking into potentially scheduling the July RAC meeting in person, including a possible site visit.

Puget Sound Energy – planning to begin construction on the Sammamish Juanita transmission line project this summer which will intersect with Eastrail and be a model for future projects to build transmission capacity while maximizing community co-benefits.

Woodinville – pursuing \$5M RAISE grant to support Woodinville 202 Trestle project and speed up construction by ~10 years to create an at-grade linear park running through downtown.

Public comment

- Fred Felleman, Port of Seattle Commissioner, commented that he is delighted to see all the progress on Eastrail and is looking forward to more. He noted that while the Port can rarely directly support projects on the Eastside, the Port was able to make a timely investment to secure the railroad right-of-way, and thus ultimately allow it to be available for Eastrail development.
- Daniel Renn, member of the Wilburton Community Association, commented that he is eager for the opening of the Wilburton Trestle, hopefully in 2025, as well as the I-405 Bridge.
- Judy Jesiolwski, Bellevue resident, commented that she is excited to bike these new trail connections and thanked RAC members for their work.

The meeting recording is available here: [2023 Meetings - King County](#). Interested parties should send comments to eastrail@kingcounty.gov. Joe Inslee will compile any additional comments received.

Next steps and adjournment

The date of the next RAC meeting is April 28. Staff will send out meeting registration information soon. The meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.



Let's Connect

Trail Oriented Development

Presentation for RAC Meeting

April 28, 2023



Discussion Topics

- **Context and Background**
- **Existing and emerging Eastrail examples**
- **How do we encourage Eastrail Trail Oriented Development?**



Why are we talking about this now?

- **RAC and Funding Commission support for the concept**
- **Accelerating progress in making Eastrail a reality**
- **Emerging opportunities: projects and policy development**



What is Trail Oriented Development?

Development where the corridor and neighboring land meet that:

- incorporates planning and design tools to encourage engagement with the trail
- contributes to and benefits from the vitality that a trail can bring to a neighborhood
- includes uses that align with the interests of the community that uses the trail

Creating Connections (2013)

(Founding guidance document from the RAC)

- [Recommendation 4B] Coordinate owner and adjacent jurisdiction planning and actions to foster implementation of the multiuse vision, and enhance or create mobility connections
- [... 5B] Create zoning and development regulations to integrate ERC into communities
- [... 6A] Work together, and with adjacent jurisdictions, to adopt consistent policies, regulations and incentives to facilitate development of the corridor that is well integrated into communities



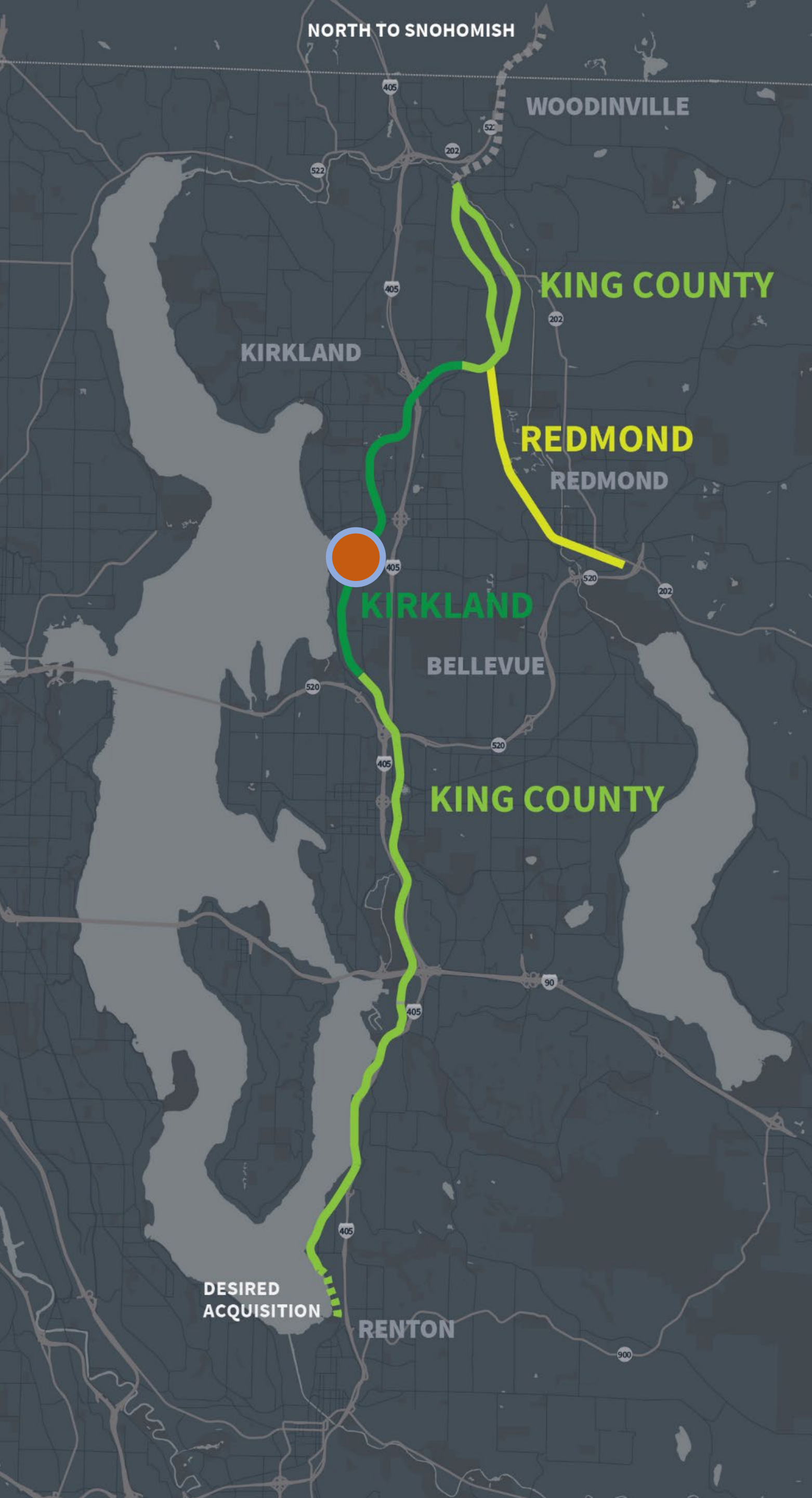


Completing the ERC (2019)

(Final report of the Trail Funding Commission)

“Connect/Construct/Complete”

- Incentivize trail-supportive development and land swaps that help enhance trail connections
- Consider new funding sources, e.g., special purpose taxing districts, Local Improvement Districts, and impact fees
- Encourage trail-supportive development through comprehensive plan and zoning provisions
- Implement incentive-based land use codes (w/ boundary up 3 miles from the corridor) that allow developers to contribute funding to trail development in exchange for density bonuses
- Increase funding for the trail through general fund allocations, support from the King County Parks Levy, and potential new sources of funding (like bonding or a special purpose levy focused on the ERC trail)



Kirkland existing Trail Oriented Development zoning

Building Design:

- Facades designed to be visible from the Corridor provide Blank Wall Treatments.
- Facades visible from the Corridor shall incorporate similar building materials and window treatment as other facades of the building.

Site Design:

- Transparent windows and/or doors at least 50% of facade
- Pedestrian walkway connecting to business entrances.
- Stairs shall be equipped with a bicycle runnel.
- Bicycle parking and accessible by bicycle to the Corridor.

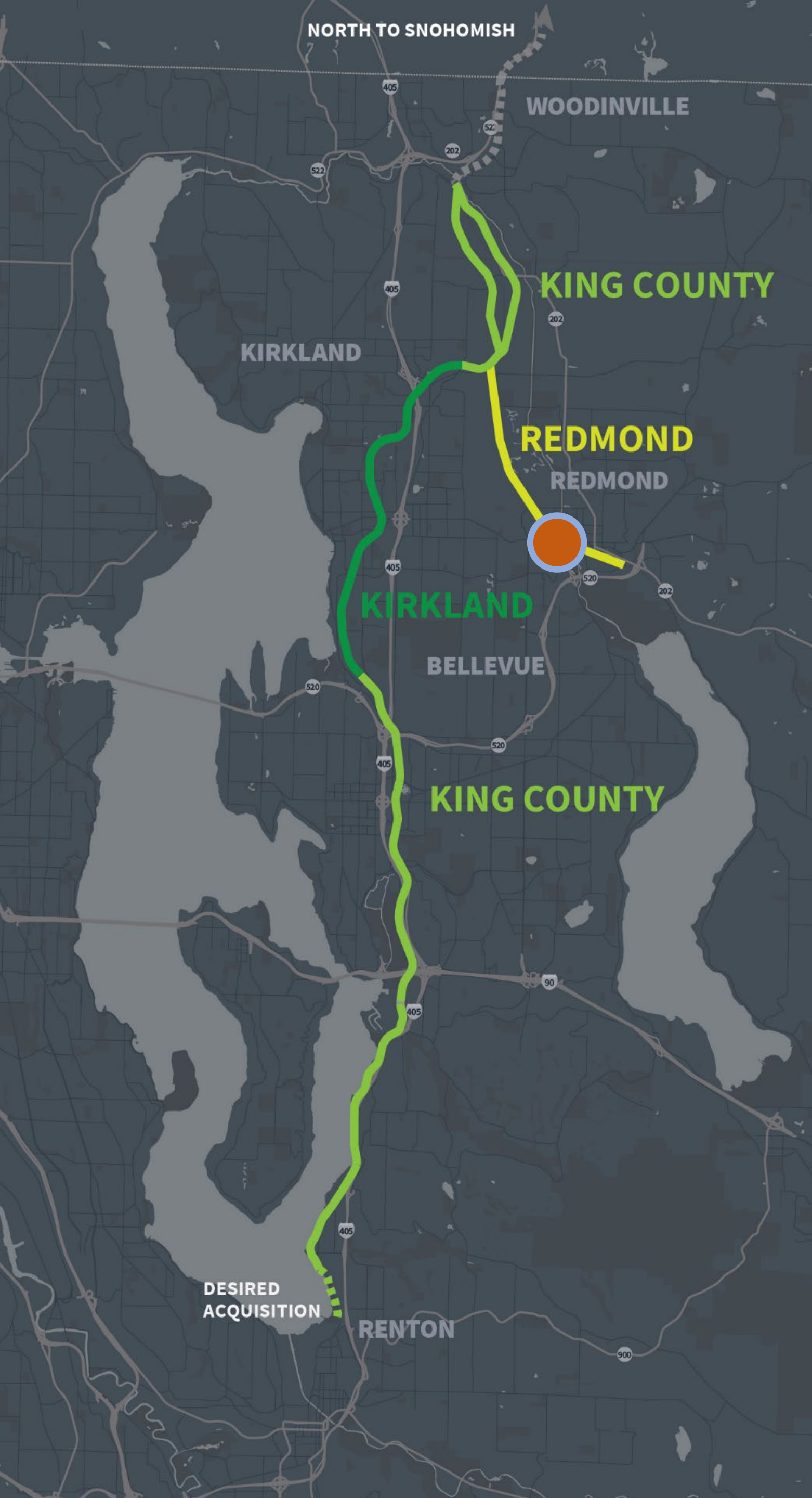


Google Campus – Feriton Spur Park (Kirkland)

Lessons Learned:

- Cities should be bold and think creatively alongside developers, be open to possibilities, even if that pushes boundaries. Example: Allowing Chainline Brewery in the park.
- Incentives: For Google, critical was allowing the pedestrian bridge connecting their campus over public ROW. This bridge was in exchange for the park.
- Listen to neighbors and those that use the trail. #1 request is that restrooms are a MUST.





Redmond Central Connector

- Phase 1 & 2 completed, Phase 3 to be constructed by 2025
- Connect through Downtown core and to (future) light rail
- Objective to activate “18 hour day” as city urbanizes and show investment commitment



Redmond Central Connector, Downtown

- Popular & actively used trail
- Leasing Offices use trail as rental draw
- Newer development's overlook trail
- Integration of art & event space a positive

More Needed:

- Direct access from buildings
- Business activation & use



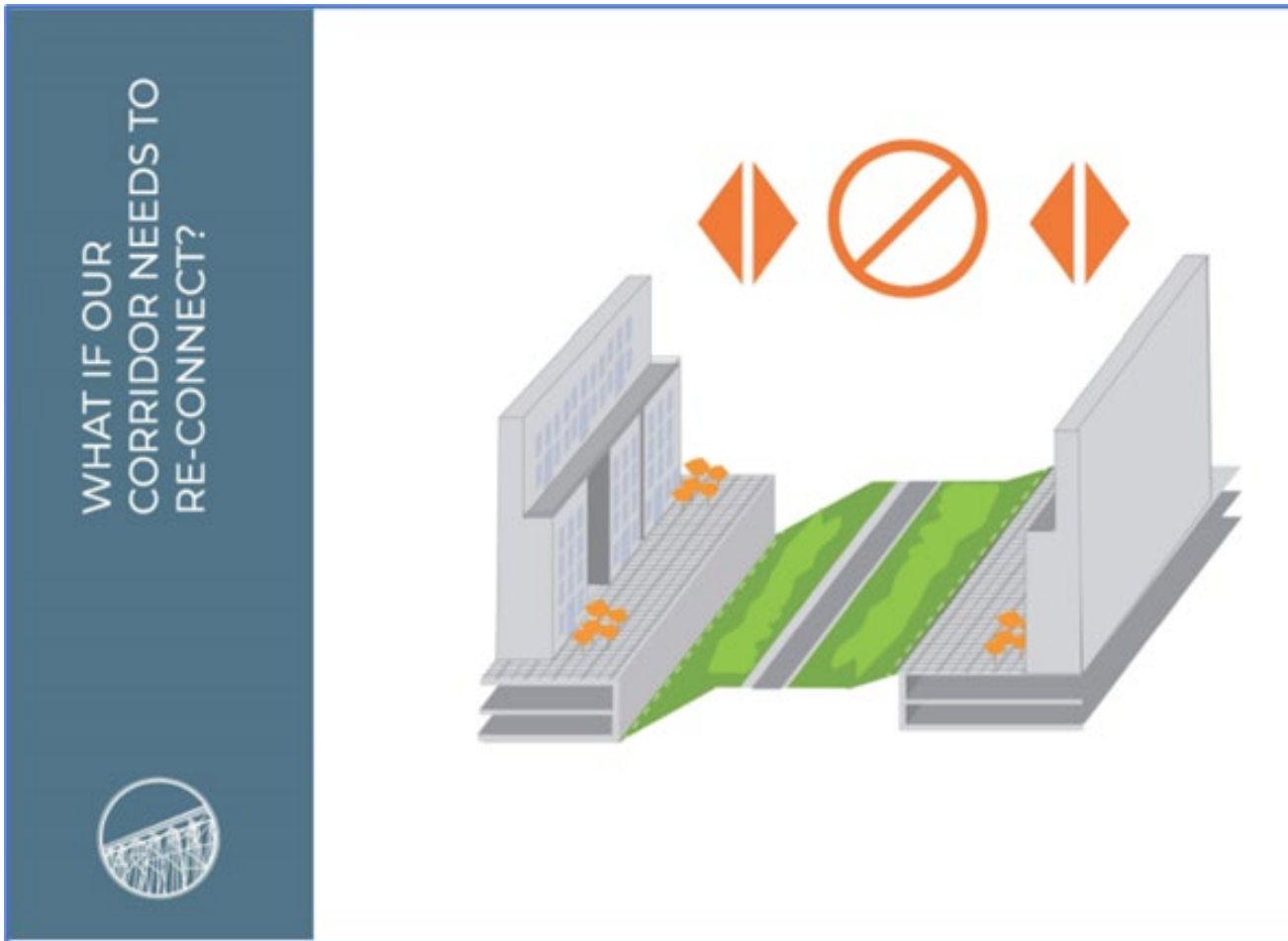
Wilburton Neighborhood in Bellevue

- On east side of I-405, opposite Downtown
- Next growth area in Bellevue, planning underway
- Eastrail runs right through the center

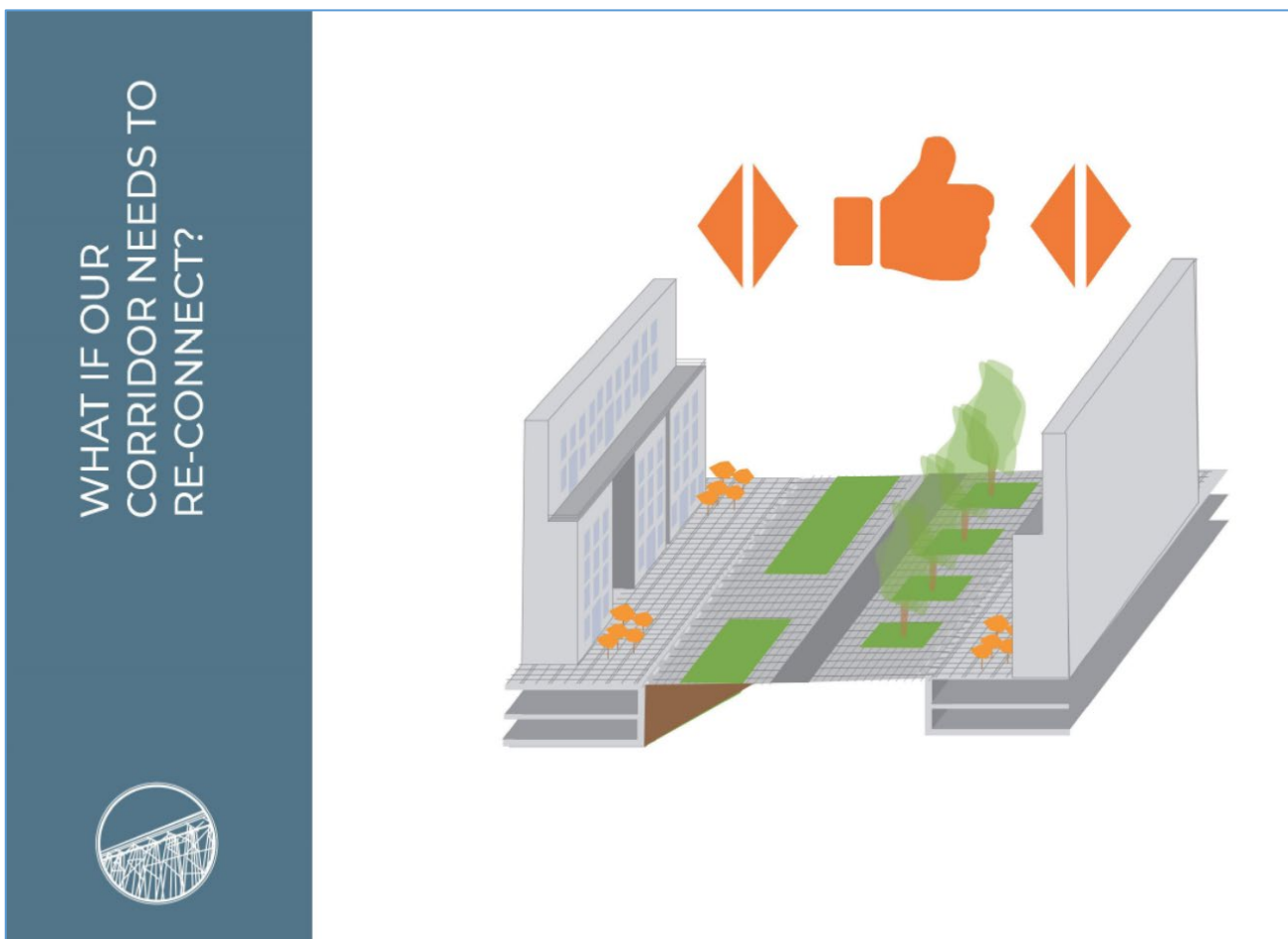


2018 CAC vision for higher-density, mixed use development

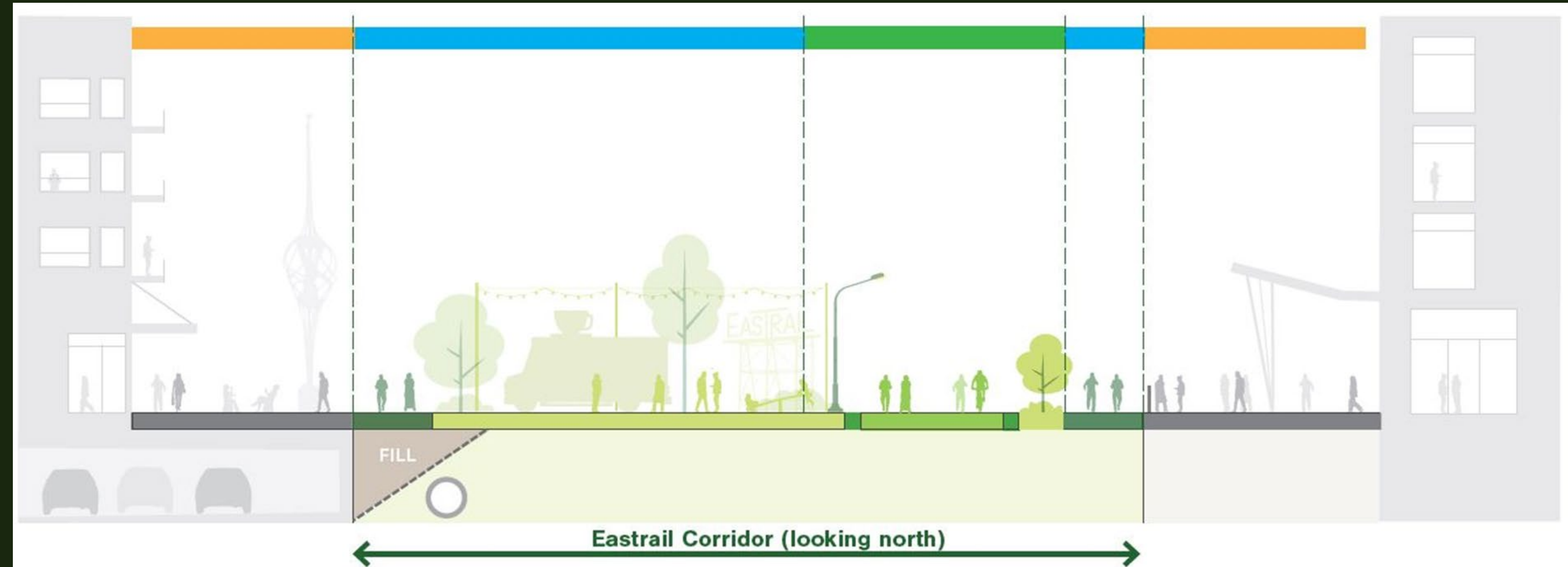
The risk: Development occurs adjacent, turns back on corridor



Desired: Development occurs adjacent and connects to corridor



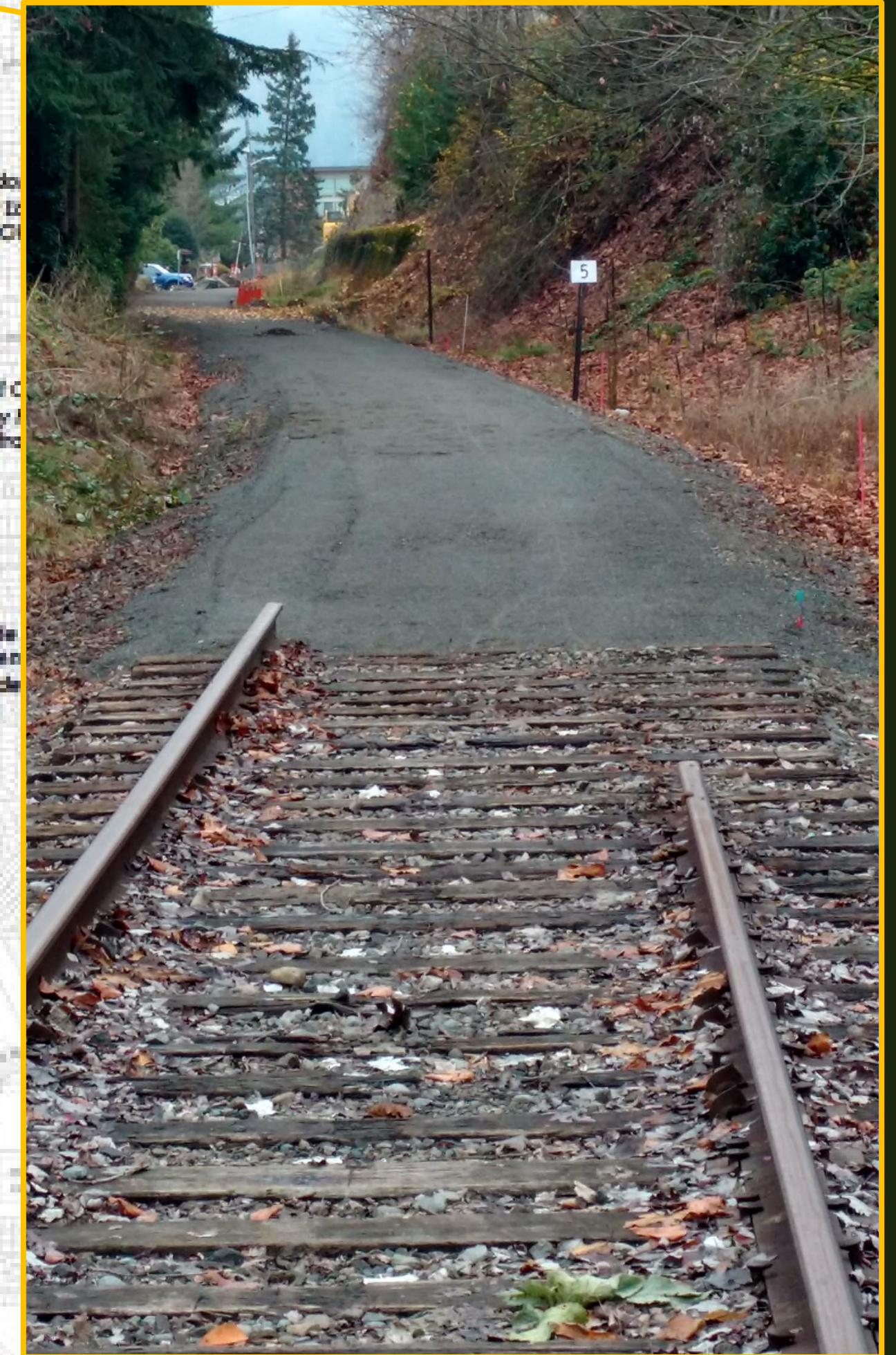
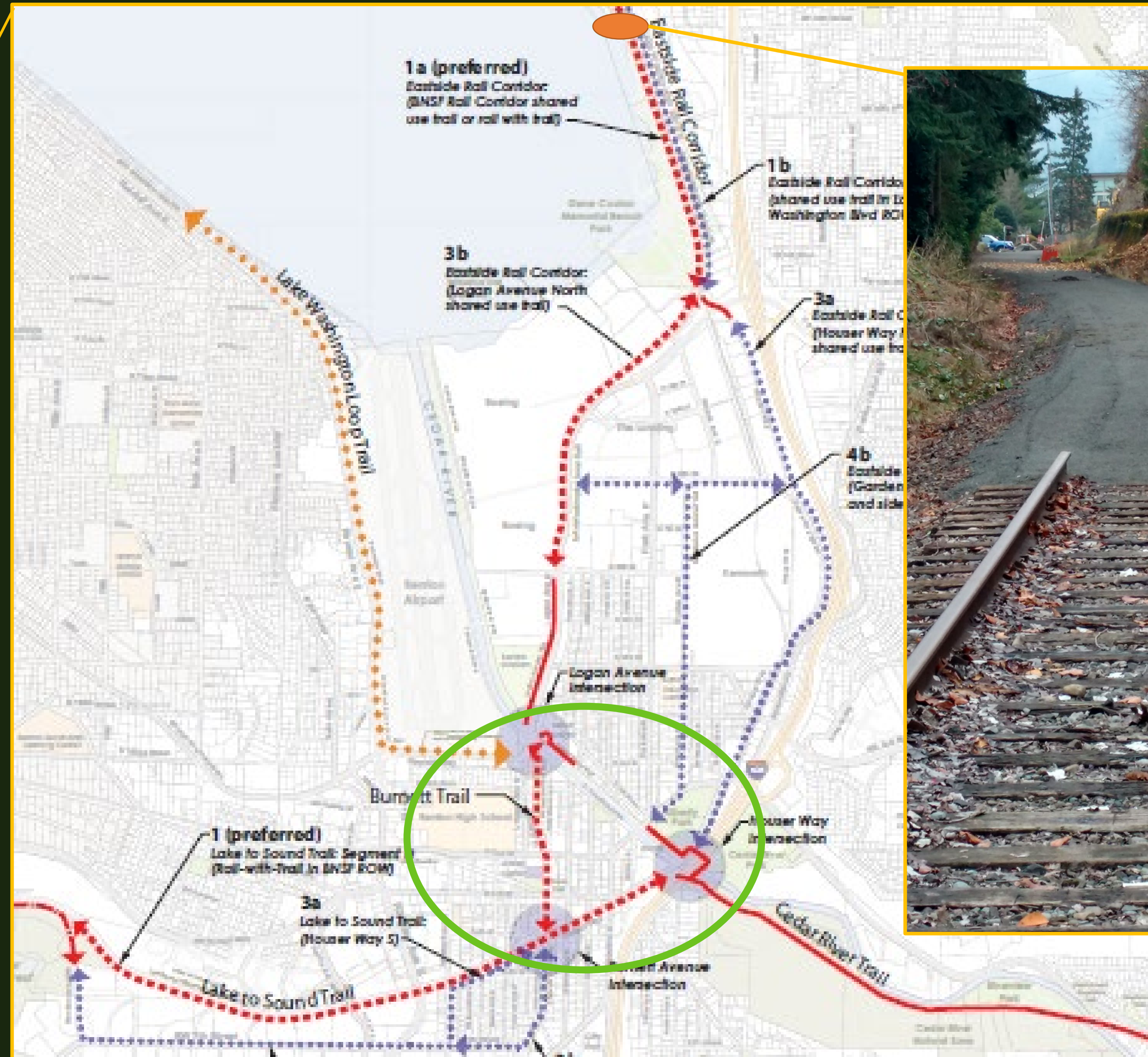
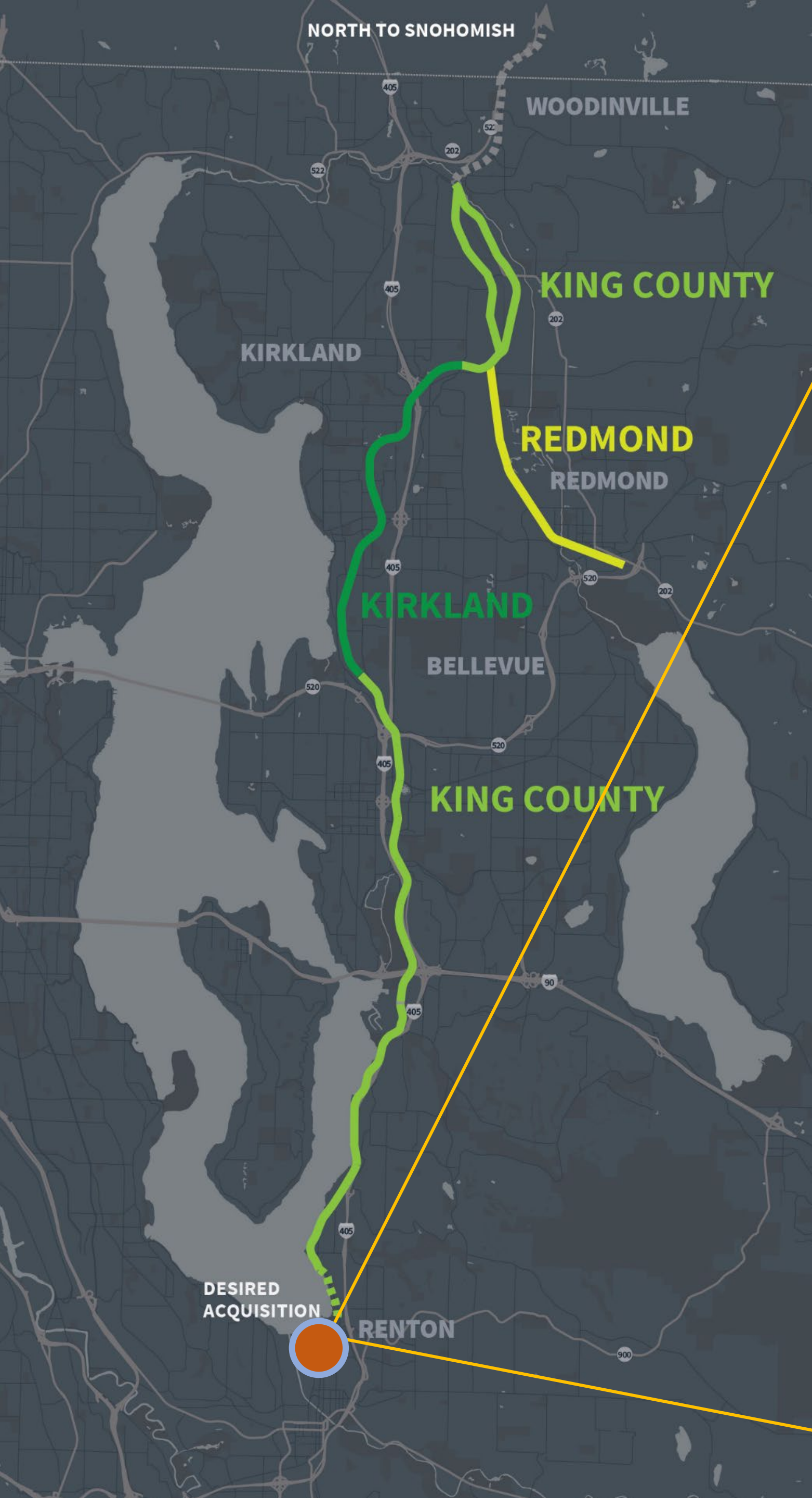
Trail-Oriented Development in Wilburton

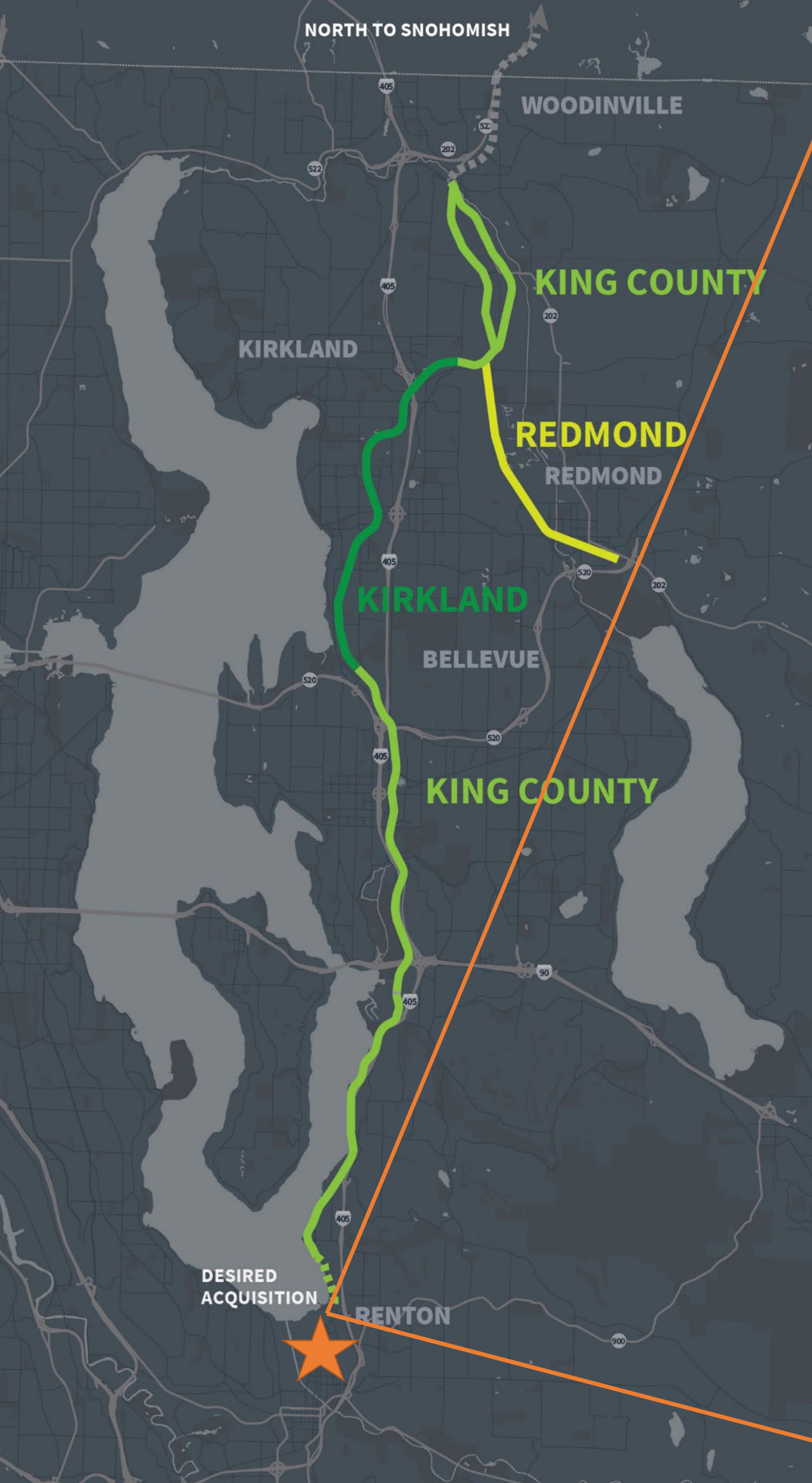


- URBAN PARK ZONE
- REGIONAL TRAIL
- TRAIL ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

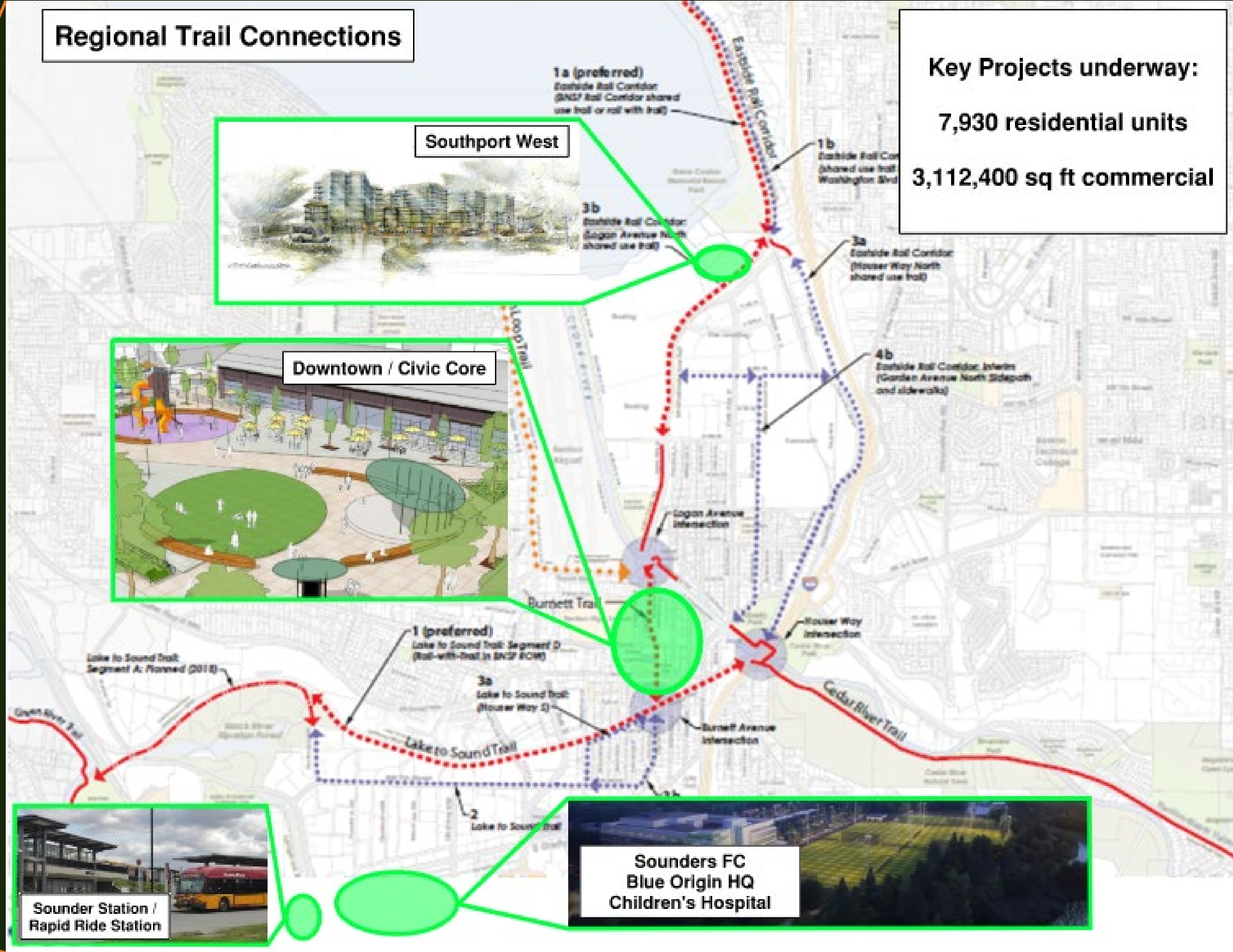
- Corridor will support access and circulation
- Will also serve as green, open space for the neighborhood and for occupants of adjacent buildings
- Currently developing policy & code to encourage adjacent development to integrate, connect with corridor

Renton = Regional Trails Hub





Regional Trail Connections



Key Projects underway:
 7,930 residential units
 3,112,400 sq ft commercial



Woodinville Prepares for Eastrail

- Population targeted to grow another 40% by 2040. Eastrail Flats, Woodin Creek Village Molbak's, Possible GB Zone Changes



- Yellow = Future Eastrail
- Pink = Sammamish River Trail
- Green = Planned / Under Construction
- Striped Green = Comp. Plan Update

Build a safe, soft-surface interim trail along the entire corridor and open it for use as soon as possible.

Make continuous progress towards widening and paving the entire trail so that people of all ages and abilities can use it.

Develop public gathering places, art, and amenities along the trail to enhance the trail experience and knit the Eastrail into surrounding communities.



CONNECT



CONSTRUCT



COMPLETE

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COMPLETING THE EASTRAIL



TRAIL-SUPPORTIVE ZONING AND LAND USE POLICIES WILL CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY GATHERINGS ALONG THE EASTRAIL, LIKE THIS EVENT ON THE REDMOND CENTRAL CONNECTOR.

ENCOURAGE LAND USE POLICIES & NEW FUNDING TOOLS THAT SUPPORT TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Existing public funding and grants are not enough to complete the Eastrail. Trail-supportive land use policies and expanded tools for public funding will be necessary to connect, construct, and complete the Eastrail. Private sector partners can assist in implementing these policies and funding tools by conducting outreach to their peers, helping to gauge public support for new revenue streams, and evaluating land use strategies that support practical and effective zoning policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Incentivize trail-oriented design** in comprehensive plans and zoning provisions, and allow for swaps that enhance trail connections.
- **Consider new funding sources** such as special purpose taxing districts, Local Improvement Districts, and impact fees.
- **Implement incentive-based land use codes** that allow developers to contribute funding to trail development in exchange for density bonuses. Recognizing the benefits to be gained by nearby land uses, the incentive boundary could expand up to three miles from the trail.
- **Increase funding for the trail** through general fund allocations, support from the King County Parks Levy, and potential new sources of funding (such as bonding or a special purpose levy focused on the Eastrail).



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Key Factors

- Clear vision of TrOD suitable for Eastrail
- Multiple landowners- Multiple opportunities
- Reflective of economics/market conditions
- Support and incentives in local codes
- Facilitating the public/private interface
- Synchronizing timing of corridor and adjacent property development
- Integration across communities and multiple corridor uses (trail/transit/utilities)



How do we encourage Trail Oriented Development?

RAC member jurisdictions: Use current/future comp plan and/or land use policy-making processes to create and increase support for Trail Oriented Development



How do we encourage Trail Oriented Development?

Eastrail Partners wholeheartedly commits to advancing Trail Oriented Development in partnership with RAC entities. Initial work could include:

- *A report on successful examples and incentivization policies from across the country*
- *A property inventory of possible sites along the whole Eastrail corridor, both private and public ownership, that could be considered for trail-oriented development*
- *A more detailed prospective for how we move forward on our three steps*



Discussion

- Do you have specific questions?
- Do you have favorite examples of successful Trail Oriented Development (TrOD)?
- How do we leverage our partnership to best advance TrOD to benefit the trail and our communities?



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**How should
this work
proceed?**

END

EASTRAIL SUMMER/FALL CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES

June

July

August

September

October

Northrup Connector Construction



Totem Lake Bridge Ribbon Cutting



NE 8th Ribbon Cutting





Community Events

On the Eastrail

- May 12 – MTSG/Leafline Ride
- May 19 - Bike to Work Day
- Kirkland - Feriton Spur park events (4)
 - With support from SRM, Eastrail Partners is putting on a series of evening events at Feriton Spur Park
 - Wednesday evenings July 12-26, plus theatre performance August 5



Community Events

Get there on the Eastrail

Redmond

- Derby Days - July 14/15
- Rockin' on the River – August
- August 26 – Redmond Open Streets

Woodinville

- Wilmot Gateway Park – Summer Concert series
- City Hall Farmers market (May- Sept)

Kirkland

- Wednesday and Friday Night markets