

Circulation Topic Paper Pedestrian Traffic

General Questions

1. **Top Priorities.** What are the top 5 priorities related to the issue of pedestrian traffic? Issues you may consider include the location of trails or sidewalks, the surface/type of certain trails, what are trails connecting, who are the users of different types of trails, etc.
2. **Inventory.** Identify existing conditions and features within Freeland. This can be done through the use of a map, a list, or some other medium. Before going into the field it is suggested that you consider the existing reports and studies that have already been prepared.
3. **Improving Existing Connections.** Identify at least 5 existing features that you identified in the inventory where improvement could occur in the future. Locate those features on a map and identify the kinds of improvement that would be helpful. Consider trails and sidewalks when making this list. If you find that a connection exists but it is broken (e.g. a sidewalk along Main Street that exists in some segments but is non-existent in others) include those types of situations in this question as opposed to the next question.

Specific Questions

4. **Creating New Connections.** Utilizing the future land use map and your knowledge of existing connections identify at least 5 locations where a new connection would be beneficial. Locate them on a map. You do not need to worry about property boundaries or the exact location of a trail or sidewalk. Be general when placing it on the map, but describe the purpose of the connection that you are creating, e.g. connecting downtown core to Freeland Park, or connecting assisted care facility to post Main Street.
5. **Timing.** It is likely that we would want to see all of the improvements as quickly as possible, however, the sequence of events needs to be thought out. It will be counterproductive if the County requires a developer to construct a sidewalk on Main Street right now only to have it removed when a sewer line is installed later. What kinds of timing considerations should be incorporated into planning efforts?
6. Please provide some opinions to the following questions. Some of these questions likely require a legal opinion as well. The answers to these questions will help define some of the philosophy behind codes and policies.
 - a. Some trails or sidewalks will be constructed as a public project where a single stretch is developed at one time. Other times, trails or sidewalks are constructed incrementally as development occurs. Is it appropriate to require sidewalk and/or trail construction as part of a development proposal (where the developer actually

- constructs the feature)? Alternatively, is it better to require developers to pay a mitigation fee that helps fund future construction?
- b. Most public trails and sidewalks are located within public rights-of-way which reduces or eliminates landowner liability. Are there ways to reduce liability without having to transfer land into public ownership? Should privately owned connections be encouraged or is it safer/easier to strive for public ownership? If privately owned connections are appropriate, are there incentives that could be used to encourage their creation?
 - c. In some cases, adequate right-of-way may not yet exist for a trail or sidewalk. In lieu of paying mitigation fees or construction costs, should the landowner have the ability to instead “donate” their land to the right-of-way?
 - d. A number of land use rules will utilize the size of a parcel when determining what or how much can be done on a parcel. For example, the code may say that no more than 50% of a site can be covered with building footprints. Donating or selling land for right-of-way use will reduce the size of the parcel and therefore reduce what the landowner can do on the property. Should the development potential of a parcel be based on the size of the lot prior to right-of-way acquisition or before?
 - e. Is it appropriate to answer these questions differently depending upon whether the trail is actually a traditional sidewalk or if it is a dirt or gravel trail? Should future connections that you have identified on the map be categorized based on their use and type? For example, sidewalks along streets have a different purpose than a paved trail along the highway which is different than a gravel path that connects a residential community to the Main Street sidewalk. Some are multi-purpose (walkers/joggers, bikers, rollerbladers) others are single purpose (walkers/joggers only).