



King County

Facilities Management Division

Kathy Brown, Division Director

Department of Executive Services

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east lake sammamish trail

April 2010.

Dear Citizen:

The King County Facilities Management Division proposes to develop an alternative transportation corridor and recreation trail along approximately 11 miles of former railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish. The trail would extend from Gilman Boulevard in the City of Issaquah north to the Bear Creek Trail in the City of Redmond. The railroad corridor has already been developed into an Interim Use Trail, which was evaluated in previous environmental documents. The proposal is to develop the existing Interim Use Trail into a permanent, Master Plan Trail. The Master Plan Trail would be a multi-use trail, with both paved and soft surfaces to accommodate pedestrians, non-motorized wheeled vehicles, and in some areas equestrians. The Master Plan Trail would be located in the same general corridor as the existing Interim Use Trail.

The Draft EIS on the Master Plan Trail was issued on October 20, 2006. The Draft EIS analyzed in detail the characteristics, probable significant impacts, and mitigation measures for the five Master Plan Trail alternatives. Issuance of the Draft EIS was followed by a sixty-day public comment period that included a public hearing. Five government agencies and 165 individuals or groups provided written comments in addition to oral testimony. King County considered all of the comments submitted in preparing the enclosed Final EIS. The Final EIS describes the Master Plan Trail proposal; identifies potential environmental impacts of the alternatives; and identifies reasonable mitigation measures to reduce and, in some cases, eliminate the identified impacts. The Final EIS also includes King County's responses to comments, including changes made in the EIS as a result of those comments.

King County has determined that the preferred alternative is the Corridor Alternative because it best meets King County's purpose and need of (1) providing an alternative transportation corridor between major business centers, (2) providing non-motorized recreational trails to support the growing population, and (3) providing connections between other existing regional trails.

The East Lake Sammamish Trail has been partially funded by the federal Transportation Efficiency Act (TEA-21) and the County will apply for additional federal transportation funds in the future. Because of the federal funding, the environmental impacts of the project must be evaluated under both state and federal laws. King County and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) prepared this EIS for the Master Plan Trail in compliance with both the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Following the circulation of the Final EIS, the FHWA will issue a NEPA Record of Decision, and King County will issue a SEPA Notice of Action Taken. At that time and subject to all other permits and approvals, King County will move forward with the advertisement and construction of the Master Plan Trail.

Thank you for your participation in this important proposal before the citizens of King County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Brown', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kathy Brown, Director
King County Facilities Management Division
Responsible Official