

DETAILED STATUS OF E&N RAIL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

September 2021

Phase 1 – Completed December 2018

The initial phase was split into seven different project areas and was built between 2009 and 2018. Just over 9 km of trail was created, spread over each of the communities, as follows:

- City of Langford: approximately 2 km of new trail was developed plus approximately 0.5 km of the overlapping E&N/Galloping Goose segment was paved.
- Town of View Royal: approximately 0.75 km of new trail was developed, approximately 2 km of the overlapping E&N/Galloping Goose segment was paved, and three bridges were developed (trail bridge over Helmcken Road and trail and rail bridges at Island Highway/4 Mile).
- Esquimalt Nation: approximately 0.75 km of new trail was built along Hallowell Road and Admirals Road.
- Songhees Nation: approximately 0.25 km of new trail was built between the Songhees and Esquimalt Nation boundary and Maplebank Road.
- Township of Esquimalt: approximately 3 km of new trail was developed from Maplebank Road to the Esquimalt/Victoria boundary by Hereward Road.
- City of Victoria: approximately 0.2 km of new trail was built from Esquimalt/Victoria boundary to Esquimalt Road.

The cost of developing this phase of the trail was covered through a mix of grants and CRD funding.

Phase 2 – Completed June 2015

This phase was initiated in 2013, with construction over 2014-2015. This phase added 2 km of new trail in the Town of View Royal, between Island Highway/Burnside Road West and Island Highway/4 Mile Bridge. It linked existing Phase 1 trail sections on either end.

The cost of developing this phase of the trail was covered through a mix of grants and CRD funding.

Phase 3 – Completed in July 2021

Phase 3 began in 2018. In considering environmental aspects, privacy for neighbours, technical aspects and costs, several design options were developed and reviewed before a final route plan was confirmed. Construction began in 2019 and was completed in July 2021.

This 1 km section connects existing Phase 1 sections of trail and creates a continuous 13 km route. All six communities are now connected (Langford, View Royal, Esquimalt Nation, Songhees

Nation, Esquimalt, and Victoria). This trail section is unique along the E&N Rail Trail in that it includes two underpasses, one by the east end to avoid Millstream Creek and one toward the west end to provide trail access to/from Westwind Drive.

Costs for Phase 3 were covered through a CRD loan and a \$1 million Active Transportation grant from the Province.

Phase 4 – In Progress

CRD and City of Victoria staff are working together on the planning of this phase. In this phase, the CRD, through its E&N Rail Trail agreement with the Island Corridor Foundation, has authority/jurisdiction to develop the trail between Esquimalt Road and Catherine Street. East of Catherine Street, the City of Victoria and local developers have jurisdiction over the railway corridor and will be developing the route beyond Catherine Street.

In the immediate term, the City of Victoria is developing a two-way all ages and abilities bike lane along Kimta Road and improving an existing multi-use path by the Harbour Road overpass in Victoria. This will provide a continuous pedestrian (on sidewalks/trail) and cycling (on AAA cycle path) route for the E&N Rail Trail in the short term. In the longer term, the final trail route will be implemented through private development, as required by the City of Victoria through the development approvals.

All costs for the CRD's portion of Phase 4 is being covered through a CRD loan. The CRD has provided a letter of support to the City of Victoria for a grant application to assist with the City's section.

Phase 5 – Not Yet Scheduled or Funded

The last segment of trail, Phase 5, between Jacklin Road and Humpback Road in the City of Langford is not yet scheduled or funded. It will create approximately 3.5 km of new trail and complete the E&N Rail Trail – Humpback Connector.

CRD staff need to work with Langford staff to review the 2009 proposed route and determine if modifications are required due to development that has occurred along the route since 2009.

This last phase of the E&N Rail Trail – Humpback Connector is tentatively scheduled for 2024/2025 but is dependent on securing grant funding. Timing for the project will be finalized once the route has been determined and funding has been determined. A staff report outlining funding and timing proposals will be submitted for Board consideration in the future.

Humpback Road Link

Through the Regional Trails Management Plan (2016), the CRD Board supported extending the E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector trail to link with Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park and the Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail, which provides part of the route for the Trans Canada Trail in the CRD. The City of Langford, through a local trail planning initiative, also identified the value in this proposed link and has developed a path along Humpback Road between Irwin Road and the E&N railway line.