

Lake Country Trail Phase 5

Frequently Asked Questions

(WisDOT ID #3852-07-00) 9/24/24

1. What is the scope of the project?

Waukesha County, the City of Oconomowoc and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are proposing to construct an off-road multiuse trail within the We Energies corridor in Waukesha County and to sign an on-road bike route that will connect with the existing Lake Country Trail that currently ends at Roosevelt Park.

The proposed trail extension will have a 10-foot wide asphalt surface within the existing We Energies corridor. The sidewalk/pedestrian improvements along W 2nd St will include a pedestrian bridge over the Oconomowoc River and sidewalk extension. The project will include the construction of a new trailhead parking lot at W. 2nd Street where the off-road trail will terminate. The project will also include the installation of railing, signage, roadway crossing improvements, and some culvert repair.

2. What are the project limits?

The trail will utilize the former Interurban Rail Line which now serves as a We Energies utility corridor. This segment (Phase 5) of the trail begins within the We Energies utility corridor at the Jefferson and Waukesha County line (beginning where the Jefferson Interurban Trail Phase 3 that is to be constructed in 2025 ends). The trail will continue 1.2 miles to W. 2nd Street in Oconomowoc. At this point, the bike route shifts to on-road with bike route signage installed on W. 2nd Street and S Franklin Street to connect to the existing Lake Country Trail at Roosevelt Park. The pedestrian route will use sidewalk accommodations connecting to the trail near W. 2nd Street and run parallel to W. 2nd Street to connect to existing sidewalk at S Elm Street.

3. How wide is the We Energies Corridor?

The We Energies Corridor is 100' wide.

4. What is the timeline for the project?

The project is currently in design. As the project follows the WisDOT design process, we anticipate bidding the project in November 2025. Construction is anticipated for the Spring of 2026.

5. When will Jefferson County complete their last phase of the trail that reaches to the County line?

Jefferson County is planning for 2025 construction of Phase 3 of the Jefferson Interurban Trail.

6. What is the anticipated cost of construction and how is it funded?

The trail construction is currently estimated at \$1.73 million. The County has secured federal funding with a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant for \$1.38 million and will be applying for a WisDNR Grant for \$250,000. The remaining will be funded by the City of Oconomowoc and Waukesha County.

7. What regional connectivity does this trail offer?

This segment of trail completes the final section of an alternative transportation route between Watertown and Oconomowoc constructed along this corridor and extends the already-existing 14.5-mile Lake Country Trail.