

WEST EAST EXPRESS TRAIL



The West East Express (WEE) is high priority trail project underway in Annapolis that will dramatically expand the City's trail network. The project has received substantial planning and design funding from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Kim Lamphier Bike Network grant program, and construction funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Recreational Trails Program and Transportation Alternatives Program.

The WEE includes the existing Poplar Trail, an eastern extension of the trail to downtown, and a western extension of the trail to Parole and ultimately Waterworks Park. The trail project has been a longtime priority to connect the region's two major economic and job centers— downtown Annapolis and the Parole area— as well as major trails outside of the City. The Poplar Trail is today the most heavily used trail in Annapolis, part of the East Coast Greenway, and its extensions would address key missing connections linking Anne Arundel County's B&A Trail and South Shore Trail to create a large regional trail loop.

The eastern terminus of the proposed WEE is located at the People's Park adjacent to the Whitmore Garage on Calvert Street in Downtown Annapolis and adjacent to both the State and County government centers. From here, the eastern portion of the proposed corridor, known as the East Extension, follows the historic alignment of the WB&A railroad between Calvert Street and Taylor Avenue which is today a service road for the Graduate Hotel. At Taylor Avenue, the proposed trail meets the existing Poplar Trail adjacent to the Annapolis Police Station.

The existing Poplar Trail would be improved as part of the WEE to allow for more users of all types and abilities to comfortably and safely use the trail. The trail's current width of 6ft is not adequate to meet current demand and the trail is today the only means for bicyclists to travel between downtown and Parole without using West Street. Additional trail amenities will also be added such as seating, signage, gathering spaces, new planting areas, and lighting. All improvements will be coordinated with community input.

The western extension of the Poplar Trail, known as the West Extension, begins at Admiral Drive where it again follows the historic alignment of the WB&A railroad until meeting MD-450 (West Street). Along MD-450, the trail would follow the street corridor as a shared use path until meeting the existing shared use path along MD-2 (Solomon's

Island Road) at the Annapolis Town Center. From here, trail users can access the Anne Arundel Medical Center, the Westfield Annapolis Mall, Waterworks Park, a planned Transit Facility, and other destinations along Anne Arundel County's South Shore Trail which also follows the historic alignment of the WB&A railroad. An alternate alignment of the West Extension uses the existing right of way along MD-393 (Old Solomon's Island Road) and Somerville Road to connect with the Annapolis Town Center and the existing shared use path along MD-2.