

Railway connections Phase 1a

Now that construction of phase 1 is nearing completion I would like to consider some smaller simple connections from the railway to adjacent neighborhoods and facilities. After discussions with Allen Haynes and Jondi Brackeen Roberson of the AVA Hotel project, we may be able to get some private money to help fund these efforts. Also I have a list of 3 or 4 Boy Scouts looking for community service projects. Let me outline my ideas and maybe we can talk at the next Pathways meeting June 6 or OPC board meeting on June 20. Attached is a PDF with topo maps of the Railway area and a satellite image to illustrate the proposed locations of the projects

Nighborhood connections:

1. CB Webb - There is already a worn walking path through the trees. I have spoken to Jeff McClure and would like to arrange a visit to decide on the best placement of a path to connect the CB Webb complex to the Railway. This would be a great addition to the pathway, a good way for kids to participate in the safe routes to school program, and to get access to the OPC facilities at Stone Park.
2. Longest Ave.** - There is a walking path at the end of Longest that angles up to the bike path but it is pretty steep. From the contour map it looks like the grade at the railway is about 12 ft higher than the street. Over a distance of about 20 ft. This could be improved a little or a lot depending on the resources available. This would serve not only the Summerset neighborhood but Cherokee Hills, Eagle Springs, Orwood etc.

OPC connections

1. Tri-Plex/Tennis courts - Bike lanes extend on Price St. from the RR crossing the OPC parking lots. It would be preferable to have a direct connection to the railway to keep bikes out of the crowded parking lots. A bike rack next to the pavilion between the ball fields and the tennis courts would also be nice.
2. Stone Center / Bike Safety/Workshop/Recycling Center** This is a larger scale project that will take more planning and substantial investment. The perfect spot would be at the back of the Stone Center, right across from the new Boys and Girls Club and adjacent to the Middle School. There are some nice trees in between the Stone Center and the railway but they are growing in a thicket of privet. With a little clearing the Stone center site would have a great view north and south along the railway. And the hill would be just perfect to launch a youngster on a small jump. Below is an outline of possible activities and some examples from other cities.

Bicycle Awareness/Activities @ Stone Center
Possible Functions

- o Drop point for Bike Donations,
- o Community Bike Repair Workshop
 - Kids could earn bikes with volunteer hours
- o Rentals (Staffed by volunteers?),
- o proceeds to Church Youth Groups, Scouts, Boys&Girls Club
- o Safety Programs (OPC or OPD)
- o Kid-friendly BMX style Trails, Jumps

Here is a model program from Maine.

<http://www.communitybike.net/>

and one from Boulder, CO

<http://communitycycles.org/>

and one from Memphis

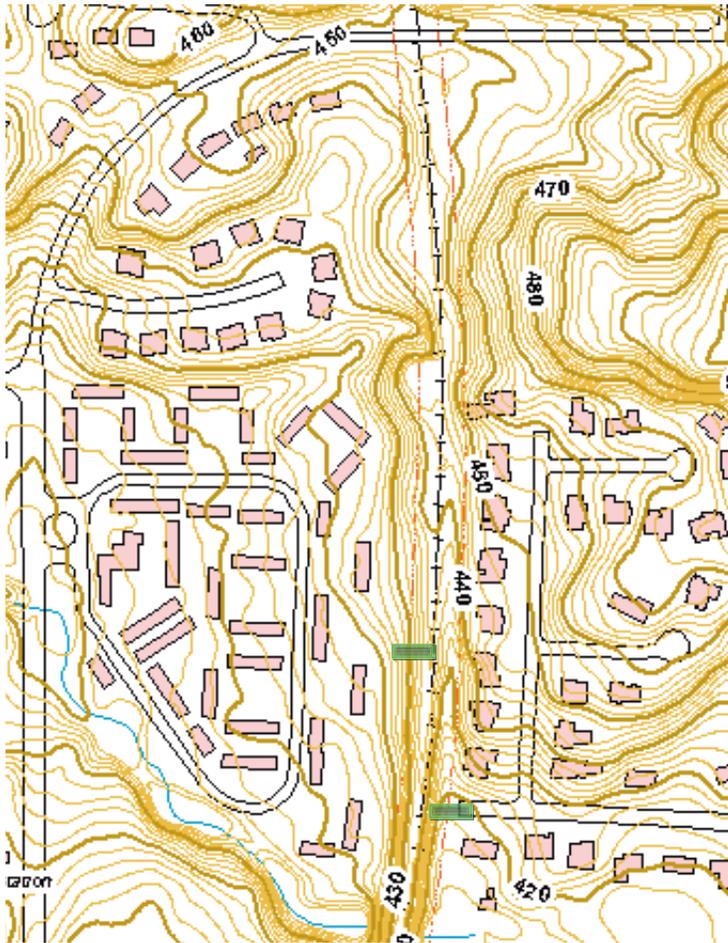
<http://revolutionsmemphis.com/index>

Oxford School District

1. Middle School Mid-Campus Bike Access** Safe routes to schools programs will begin in the fall. Initial efforts will focus on walking. Current sidewalks would be adequate. Eventually bike to school programs will be initiated. Again separate bike-only access would be desirable. The AVA developers have suggested filling the ditch to the east of the railway. This would enable a direct connection to the campus by bike, possible between the current CES building and the track.

**Fill Dirt / Donations may be available from Ava Hotel developers Possibly enough to fill the ditch between OMS campus and railway The developers also discussed burying the powerline from Molly Barr to Jackson. As a homeowner on Summerset whose back yard (as well as the railbed embankment) has slowly been eroding away with each heavy rain I think this would be a good idea. Excess fill might also be used to construct a ramp at Longest Ave.

Phase 1 (Railway) connections and enhancements - MM 2007.05.30.



Neighborhood connections

- CB Webb
- Longest Ave.**
- Bury Power Line**

OPC connections

- Tri-Plex/Tennis courts path bike rack
- Stone Center / Bike Center**

OSD

- Middle School Mid-Campus Bike Access**

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