

SOUTHWEST TRAIL

JUNE 2019

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE PUBLIC MEETINGS IN LATE 2018?

After the public meetings in Pulaski, Saline, and Garland counties, the project team has been reviewing and incorporating public input, and revising the proposed trail alignments. Additional environmental studies and design work is taking place. An environmental document will be prepared later this year, followed by a public meeting anticipated in fall 2019 to review the revised alignment and Environmental Assessment document.

HAS THE ALIGNMENT BEEN SET?

No. The trail alignment is being studied and the project team anticipates a preferred alignment will be determined this fall. The trail is approximately 60 miles long and located in parts of Garland, Saline, and Pulaski counties. Environmental and Design firm Garver is working to revise proposed trail alignments and is performing environmental studies. In addition to considerations given to public comments received, the project team is looking at road crossings, bridges and culverts, railroad crossings, residential and business impacts, economic and indirect impacts, Environmental Justice, wetlands and floodplains, endangered species, access and user safety, community connections, trail grade, hazardous materials sites, and right of way.

WHEN WILL AN UPDATED TRAIL ALIGNMENT BE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC?

The next round of public meetings is anticipated this fall. Public meetings will be held in Pulaski, Saline, and Garland counties. To see the materials and various trail alignments shown at the public meetings in November 2018, visit SWTrail.TransportationPlanroom.com.

WHEN WILL THE TRAIL BE COMPLETED?

Funding for construction has not been determined, and the availability of funding will dictate when the trail sections are built and complete. It is likely the trail will be built in sections and over a period of time as funding allows. It is too early to say when construction will begin and be complete. Portions of the trail could begin to be built as early as fall 2020.



MORE →

- Email: PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com
- Project Website: SWTrail.TransportationPlanroom.com

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HOW MUCH WILL THE TRAIL COST TO BUILD?

The preliminary estimate is approximately \$42 million, which does not include any right-of-way acquisition. It is anticipated that the trail will be funded through a variety of ways, including grants and private financing.

I'VE HEARD THAT THE TRAIL MAY IMPACT MY PROPERTY. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

The project team is currently working to define the alignment. If the final alignment is on your property, you will be contacted and negotiations will take place with you as the property owner.

HOW CAN I FIND THE LATEST NEWS ON THE TRAIL?

A project website has been developed to keep the public informed. This includes a project overview, frequently asked questions, public meeting materials, trail typical sections and an overview map, and contact information. Visit SWTrail.TransportationPlanroom.com. You can also email questions and comments to PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com.

HOW CAN I BE NOTIFIED OF FUTURE MEETINGS?

The next round of public meetings is anticipated this fall. Public meetings will be held in Pulaski, Saline, and Garland counties. Email PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com to ensure inclusion on the project contact list.

Public outreach will *include and exceed* the below methods used during the first round of meetings in 2018:

- **Newspaper Ads** in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, The Saline Courier, and The Sentinel-Record
- **News releases** sent to media in Pulaski, Saline, and Garland counties
- **Email and mail** notifications sent to previous public meeting attendees along with those who have requested inclusion on the contact list
- **Postcards mailed** to property owners along the alignment. (Property owners within a 20-foot buffer zone of the alignment will be mailed a postcard per the address identified on property owner documentation)
- **Hand-delivered flyers** to public locations along the alignment
- **Social media posts** made through various groups on Facebook and Twitter
- **Websites** posting information, such as SWTrail.TransportationPlanroom.com, and the county websites for Pulaski, Saline, and Garland
- **Paid Service Announcements** on several local radio stations