



# Belmont Sidepath Reconstruction

Above: Existing Sidepath along West side of Belmont Avenue

## Background

The purpose is to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists travelling through West Fairmount Park between Philadelphia's Parkside neighborhood and Montgomery County's Bala Cynwyd. This project will widen the existing trail to comply with state of the art trail standards as well as upgrading the existing ADA ramps to allow for trail traffic travelling in opposite directions. This project intends to address a lack of infrastructure along a critical corridor throughout one of the most visited parks in the country. This corridor is designated a part of the City's High Injury Network, where 80% of fatal and serious injuries occur on just 12% of Philadelphia's streets.

## Why is this important?

The existing asphalt trail on the west side of Belmont Avenue between Montgomery Drive and Edgely Drive poses significant safety challenges for pedestrians and cyclists in Fairmont Park West. This project will reconstruct the existing sub-standard trail to create a safe, attractive ADA compliant multi-purpose trail people walking and people riding bikes in and throughout West Fairmount Park. The reconstructed, upgraded trail will provide safe and comfortable access to numerous cultural, historical, community, and recreational attractions and destinations for residents and visitors, contributing to Philadelphia's multimodal transportation network and supporting local and regional transportation connectivity and safety goals.

## Project Description

This project is needed due to the deterioration of the existing trail which forces cyclists to ride in traffic rather than use the existing sub-standard trail. Between 2017 and 2021, there were 59 crashes on this corridor including one accident involving a bicycle. Enhancement of this corridor is essential to improving the safety and well-being of the park's visitors and residents who use the corridor for commuting. This street is designated a high-quality bicycle project in the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan due to the lack of modern infrastructure at this location.



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Project Extents:  
West side of Belmont Avenue  
Edgely Dr. - S. Georges Hill Dr.

Questions?

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