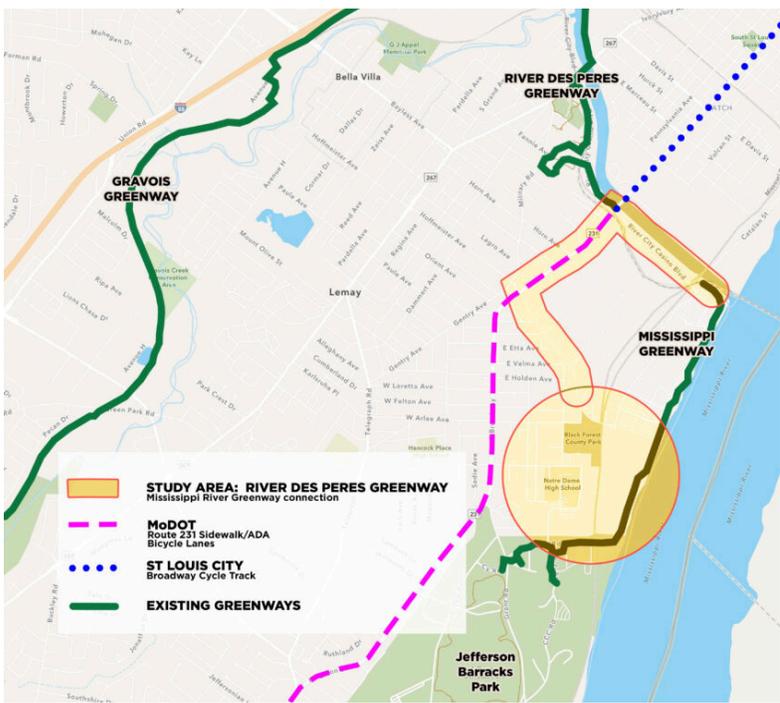




Connecting the River Des Peres and Mississippi Greenways



Great Rivers Greenway (GRG) is a public agency created by public vote in 2000 to fund parks and greenways. There are more than 140 miles of greenways in our region (and counting)! Greenways are paved trails where people can walk, run, bike, use a wheelchair, or push a stroller.

This project seeks to close a long-standing gap between the River Des Peres Greenway and the Mississippi Greenway near River City Casino. When connected to the Gravois Greenway, this link would create nearly 24 miles of continuous greenways, significantly expanding safe, accessible routes for biking and walking in St. Louis.

While a connection using the Union Pacific Railroad corridor has been explored for years, the railroad's insurance requirements would create a substantial, ongoing cost for taxpayers. As a result, Great Rivers Greenway is evaluating alternative routes that better balance safety, feasibility, and long-term affordability.

Community Engagement

Listening to how people actually make the connection today

To understand how people currently travel between the greenways and where improvements are needed, GRG conducted a public survey distributed via:

- Yard signs along the greenway
- GRG's social media
- The project webpage

The survey focused on:

- Routes people use today to make the connection
- How people use the greenway (biking, walking, running, etc.) and how often
- Safety, comfort, and wayfinding challenges

505 Survey Participants

- 90% bike the greenways
- Most use every few months to monthly
- Most 56+ years old
- Most live in St. Louis City near the greenways





How People Connect the Greenways Today

- 67% use the River City Casino Blvd. bridge
- 14% avoid the connection altogether
- Others go under the bridge, down the embankment, or through neighborhood streets

Despite being the most direct route, the bridge lacks comfortable pedestrian and bike facilities.



“Using the casino bridge is functional, but dangerous.”

“I would prefer to connect the trails directly, avoiding busy roads.”

What We Heard

Most feel that the current connection is stressful, uncomfortable, and unsafe. Concerns include:

- Biking alongside fast-moving or distracted traffic
- Narrow sidewalks and poor pavement conditions
- Having to dismount and walk across grass or parking lots
- Trash, poor lighting, and unclear wayfinding
- Awkward or unsafe interactions with cars entering/exiting the casino

Top Priorities from the Community

- Improve trail connectivity (29%)
 - Improve cyclist safety (24%)
 - Create protected bike lanes (15%)
 - Reduce vehicle speeds (13%)
- Most respondents said they would continue using the bridge if a protected bike lane were added, while others supported a safe neighborhood-based route, as long as safety is prioritized.

Key Takeaways

- This connection is highly supported - greenway users want to enjoy a continuous ride!
- Safety is a major deciding factor in making the connection (or avoiding it altogether)
- A direct route is important, but not more than a safe, protected route away from cars
- Protected infrastructure away from cars is preferred, no matter the route

Survey results will guide the next phase of work as Great Rivers Greenway studies feasible, community-supported connection options.



Thoughts? Questions?

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