

# Barbados Trailway - Active & Equitable Mobility

November 2022

Multi-Use Cycling  
Heritage Trail

Future Centre Trust

# Overview

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The Barbados Trailway is a ground-breaking new project to convert the disused historic Barbados Railway into a network of multi-use cycling, hiking and recreational trails running throughout the island.

**The trail network will provide a separate safe route for Barbadians and visitors to cycle and walk, allowing people to commute and exercise, protected from vehicular traffic.**

Reflecting the huge popularity and success of similar trails that have been developed around the world, the Barbados Trailway will deliver a wide range of positive outcomes for the country:

- **Improving public health**
- **Diversifying tourism**
- **Economic and Entrepreneurism**
- **Road Safety and Active Transport**



# Road Safety and Active Transport

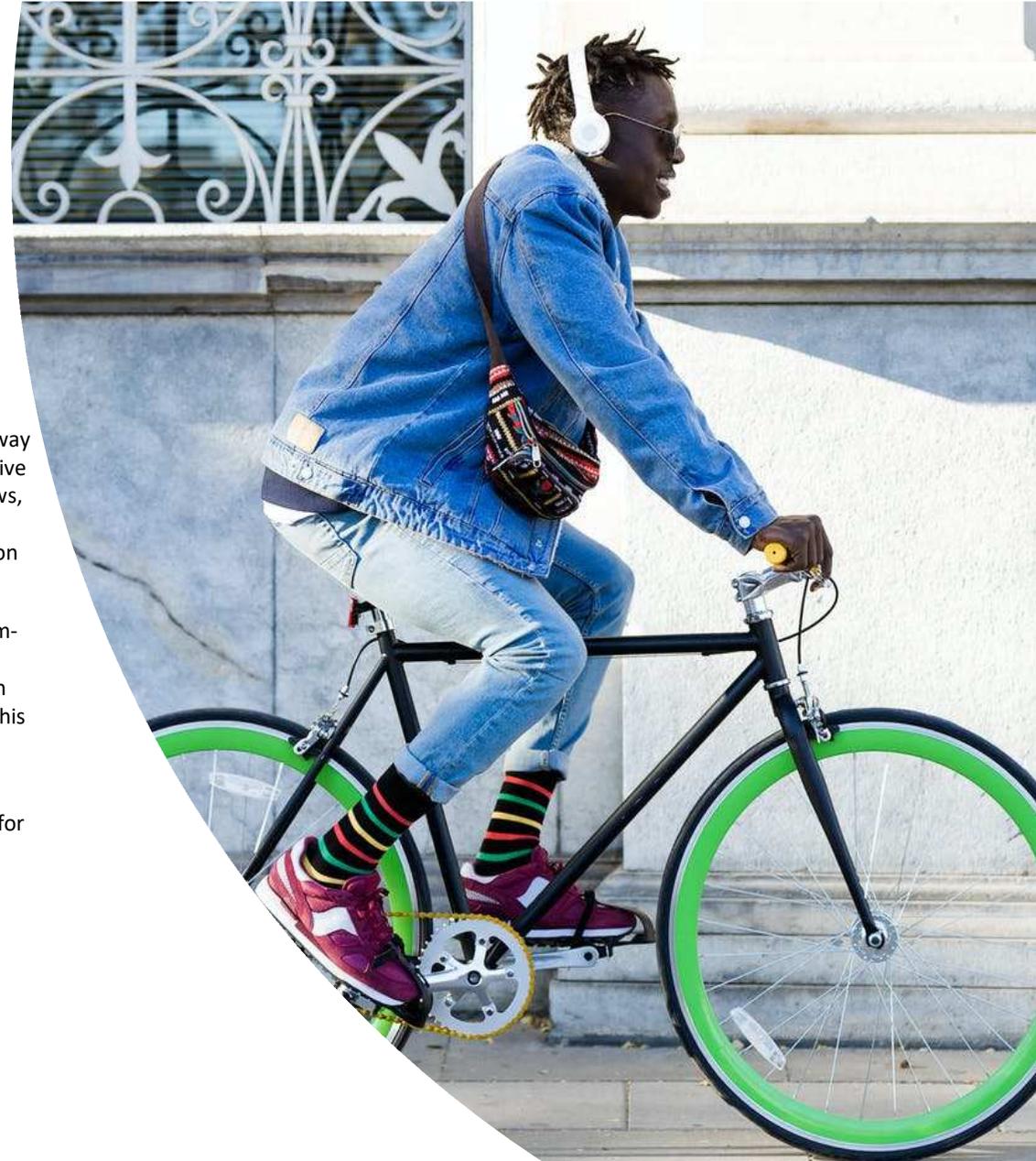
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There is a serious ongoing threat to cyclists and pedestrians on the roads in Barbados. The Trailway can help provide an effective response to this, offering a “gold standard” in terms of both objective and perceived safety by physically separating users from the road. As the Trailway network grows, more of the country will be made accessible and safe to cyclists and pedestrians, increasing the potential for commuting and recreational travel to be undertaken without cars, reducing traffic on the roads.

The World Health Organization has said, “Improving cyclist safety requires a fundamental, system-wide approach. This underscores the importance of integrated land-use and transport planning that ensures accessibility using different modes of transport – as well as equity – in the allocation of road space and resources for transport systems.” The Barbados Trailway directly aligns with this approach and will make cyclists safer.

Once completed, the Trailways project will play a significant role in changing traffic patterns by allowing Bajans a cheaper, healthier and less congested commuting option. Tangential benefits for Barbados of an active transportation network are:

- Gives Bajans an opportunity to be physically active on a regular basis
- Accessible to Bajans and increases social exchanges
- Reduces road congestion
- Contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Saves money on gas and parking



# Health and Wellness

The Barbados Trailway will create opportunities for people of all ages to walk, run and cycle. In providing an attractive, safe, accessible, and low- or no-cost place to exercise, it will make it easier for people to engage in physical activity, so contributing to improved health outcomes. This will support the Barbados Ministry of Health and Wellness' strategic plan to fight non-communicable diseases. A major focus of the Trailway and its interpretation will also be on health promotion. The route will be planted with varieties of fruit trees that will offer users healthy snacks.

The development of similar cycling trails overseas has delivered proven health benefits. For example, a 2018 study of the impact of the Whitefish Trail in Montana, USA, showed that over half of those living near the trail reported exercising more since the trail was built.



# Tourism Product

Barbados has been actively seeking to diversify its tourism product to attract new and repeat visitors. In an increasingly competitive tourism environment, prospective visitors are seeking experiences and activities beyond beaches and resorts. The key benefits for tourism are:

- A safe, low cost and accessible space that will allow users to venture inland, while promoting physical activity and wellness.
- Develop sports tourism with the promotion of national, regional and international sports events such as marathons and cycling races.
- Develop Barbados' heritage tourism product with the interpretation of the unique history and heritage of the old trainline and Barbados' urban and rural development.



# Economic

The Trailway will provide economic opportunities for local people, including vendors, guides, cycle tour operators, and other concessions operating both along the side of the trail and in the communities it passes through. Local businesses will benefit from increased foot traffic in urban places and stronger tourism in rural areas.

For comparison, examples of similar trails overseas suggest the spin off opportunities to be significant.

- The 28 km Camel cycle trail in Cornwall, UK is visited by over 250,000 users a year, 44% of which are by visitors from elsewhere, of whom 14% said the trail was the main reason for their visit to Cornwall.
- In 2015, users spent more than the equivalent of Bds\$18m in the local area and the trail supported around 260 jobs.

We expect a similar development to take place with the provision of this infrastructure especially for rural development. Vendors, farmers, tour guides, concessionaires are all well placed to maximise from the construction and use of the trail.





# Construction

The Trailway is designed to be a pleasant, safe environment – a green and safe space that will encourage people to use it for commuting and recreation. It will consist of a paved track (2.4m wide) with landscaped grass verges extending 2.1m on either side. We will plant trees on either side of the trail, which will provide shade for trail users, improve bio-diversity and offset carbon emissions in Barbados.

- By constructing the trail along the disused Barbados railway (all Crown-controlled property), the Barbados Government can avoid the land acquisition costs often associated with large projects.
- As the Barbados Trailway is planned within the boundaries of this historical easement, it should complement but not conflict with existing land usage.
- While originally focussed on repurposing the lands of the former Barbados Railway, the wider scope of the project now envisions a nationwide network of cycling and hiking trails.

# Costs

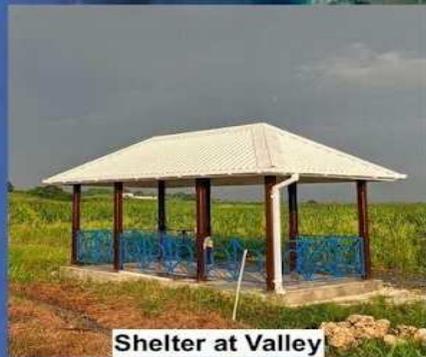
**The per kilometre construction cost of the Trailway is approximately BDS\$400,000**, which includes levelling, paving, landscaping, and other amenities (benches, garbage bins, rest stop).

- Following construction, the **yearly cost of maintaining the Trailway** (trail surface maintenance and repair, verge cutting, litter collection, insurances, amenity maintenance, etc.) is projected to be **BDS\$4000 per km**.
- **Construction:** The Future Centre Trust is actively fundraising to meet the costs of construction, seeking funding from the Barbados Government, international donors, the private sector and high net worth individuals.
- **Maintenance:** The cost of maintaining the Trailway will be funded through corporate advertising along the route as well as concessions for bike rental and tour groups. Once construction is complete, **no additional public funding will be required**. A range of companies have already indicated a high level of interest in purchasing advertising space. Evidence from selling advertising at roadside bus stops in Barbados suggests a sufficient revenue stream will be achieved to cover all maintenance costs.



# The Goal

Trailway section	Colour on map	Route description	Distance (km)
1	Black	Fairchild Street Terminal, Bridgetown to Cosy Corner	4.74
2	Green	Cosy Corner to Consett Bay	17.10
3	Red	Bridgetown loop	9.30
4	Blue	Cosy Corner to St Lawrence Gap	7.83
5	Purple	Hampton to the Crane	6.66
6	Yellow	Warrens to Belleplaine	23.90
7	Orange	Cosy Corner to Warrens	4.80
8	Grey	Consett Bay to Belleplaine	14.60



Shelter at Valley



Paved section at Valley



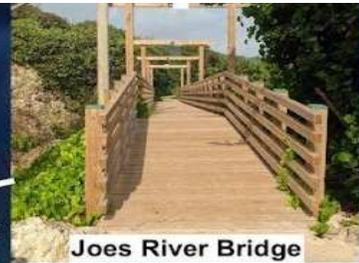
Tree Planting near Bird Hill



Trailhead at Bird Hill, Haggatt Hall



**Demo Stretch**



Joes River Bridge



Bath Trail Bridge



Trailhead at Bulkeley/Carmichael



Trail near Vineyard



Trail near Carrington

Image © 2020 Maxar Technologies  
Image © 2020 TerraMetrics  
Data LDEO - Columbia, NSF, NOAA

Google Earth

13° 12' 14.62" N 59° 33' 43.90" W elev 0 m eye alt 27.77 km

# Contact

Project Lead:

Barney Gibbs

[adoptastop@gmail.com](mailto:adoptastop@gmail.com)

246-230-2360

