

# Bike Path Will Connect Tower Grove Park with Cortex

By Abby Wojcik

Construction has begun on the Tower Grove Connector, a new 1.8-mile protected cycle track connecting Tower Grove Park with the Cortex District. Addressing years of complaints about poor conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, the project includes new traffic signals, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, traffic management upgrades, and repaving of Tower Grove Avenue.

A space physically separated from car traffic will allow for safer cycling and ease of travel through the neighborhoods of Forest Park Southeast, Botanical Heights, and Shaw. The track will be raised to sidewalk level and separated from the street by a concrete curb and buffer area. Additional space for walkers and runners will run parallel to the bike lanes, including dedicated signals for bike traffic.



*A view of the future bike path along Vandeventer Avenue near the Grove.*

As part of the project, site-specific artwork is emerging beneath the I-44 overpass at Tower Grove Avenue, bringing a creative perspective to a critical point of connection in the city. Following a national Call for Artists and public input on three proposed concepts, a final selection will be made in early 2026. The design will reflect the character of surrounding neighborhoods while visually and socially linking the north and south sides of the interstate.

Phase one, at Tower Grove and South Vandeventer avenues, is anticipated to take a year to complete, with construction continuing through the summer of 2026. Phase two involves extending the track north along Sarah Street from Vandeventer Avenue to the Brickline Greenway at the Cortex MetroLink Station, improving access to job centers and cultural institutions throughout the city.

Funding for the Tower Grove Connector includes \$9 million in federal construction grants awarded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program and administered locally by East-West Gateway Council of Governments. Additional support comes from the city St. Louis and local businesses, foundations, and organizations.