

Huckleberry Trail Extension: Phase II

In 2006, “Phase I” of a two-stage project was completed for connecting the Huckleberry Trail to the Hethwood bike paths. See [this Web page](#) for a discussion of Phase I, which is a quarter-mile path within the Hethwood bike path system that eliminated a section of running/biking on roads — and eliminated a hill.



Figure 1: The two black arrows in the upper-left-hand part of the figure mark the ends of the Phase I path. Phase II will start on the east side of Plantation Road (left-hand panel in Figure 2), run along Stroubles Creek to just short of the Bypass, run parallel to the Bypass to the second tunnel marked by the black arrow (right-hand panel in Figure 2). The total length is about a mile. Shown on the figure are the gravel road that runs from the end of Plantation Road through Center Woods. The new path will be between that road and the Bypass.

Phase II will connect Phase I to the Huckleberry Trail (Figure 1). Phase II was not implemented sooner because of cost and logistics issues. In this [June 2010 article in the *Collegiate Times*](#), one reads:

This project is a collaboration between FOTH, the town of Blacksburg, and Virginia Tech, which will expand the trail from the west of Route 460 to Hethwood. Tech has contributed \$465,000 in grants and FOTH has raised \$30,000 in funding, according to Ellenbogen.

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FOTH is the Friends of the Huckleberry, headed by Bill Ellenbogen. Recently, a path was cleared near the eastern exit from Center Woods to allow surveying to be done. It is roughly the route that will be followed, although it is not cut for the whole length of the trail and it is not the exact alignment.



Figure 2: The left-hand panel shows the detail at the Hethwood-path end of Phase II, and the right-hand panel shows the end at the Huckleberry Trail. The crossings of the gravel roads are about 50 feet from the tunnel entrance and will be at-grade.

It is hoped that the construction of Phase II will start in Spring 2011.