



Fact Sheet

Mark Bixby Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path/ Ocean Boulevard Connector



Port of
LONG BEACH
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Overview

A legacy of connecting the community to the Port of Long Beach continues with the new Mark Bixby Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path and Ocean Boulevard Connector, two projects created in conjunction with the Long Beach International Gateway Bridge.

Scheduled to open in May 2023, the two connected bike-walk paths will offer a unique recreational experience, allowing Long Beach residents and visitors to safely observe the nation's largest seaport complex. In addition to views of the working harbor, bicyclists and pedestrians will also be able to glimpse downtown Long Beach and Catalina Island.

The new route starts at the western edge of downtown at Golden Shore and proceeds west along Ocean Boulevard, and after a looping curve then connects to the Bixby Path, which travels along the southern edge of the new bridge, separated from vehicular traffic.

Background

From the start of planning for the Long Beach International Gateway Bridge, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners directed a bicycle-pedestrian path to be included in the project upon the urging of Mark Bixby and the cycling community. The decision to add the Bixby Path to the new bridge and to build the Ocean

Boulevard Connector align with the Coastal Access Policy of the California Coastal Commission.

The pathway was included in the project to replace the Gerald Desmond Bridge, which opened



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Legend

- Bixby Path
- Overlook
- Ocean Blvd. Connector
- L.A. River Bike Path
- Path End

in 1968. The new bridge and bike-walk path were constructed with \$1.57 billion in funding from the Port of Long Beach, California Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

The Ocean Boulevard Connector was built with \$4 million in funding through the California Transportation Commission's 2015 Active Transportation Program, along with \$3.1 million from Metro's 2015 Call for Projects program.

The new bridge opened to vehicular traffic in October 2020, while the bicycle-pedestrian path remained closed until completion of the Ocean Boulevard Connector and demolition of a substantial portion of the old bridge.

Features

The pathways offer a safe, convenient way for members of the public, on foot or on bicycle, to access elevated views of the Port and of the surrounding area. At its crest, the Bixby Path reaches a height of 205 feet above the water.

The Ocean Boulevard Connector, built in partnership with the City of Long Beach, includes a viewing area with a timeline of the Port and other architectural features. The Bixby Path has three overlooks, each with informational signage.

Bicyclists and pedestrians will start from the southwest corner of Ocean Boulevard and Golden Shore and proceed west on the Ocean Boulevard Connector and then the Bixby Path. Just after the Bixby Path's third and final overlook, everyone will turn around and head back over the bridge to downtown Long Beach.

The two paths will be accessible from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. There is also an entrance from Pico Avenue in the Port.

Did You Know?

- The Mark Bixby Memorial Bicycle-Pedestrian Path is named after one of Long Beach's leading bicycle advocates. Bixby spearheaded the successful grassroots effort to have a bike path included in the design of the new bridge. Bixby and four others were killed in a tragic airplane crash on March 16, 2011.

- Approximately 68,000 cargo trucks and commuter vehicles cross the bridge daily.
- The Long Beach-Los Angeles ports complex is the nation's busiest, and the premier gateway for trans-Pacific trade.
- Trade, construction and tourism at the Port of Long Beach generate more than 575,000 jobs in Southern California.
- The community can also safely access the Port area on the South Waterfront-Pier J Bike and Pedestrian Path, running from the south end of the Queensway Bridge and into the Port of Long Beach's Pier J area along South Harbor Scenic Drive.
- In addition to the new paths, Long Beach has five major Class I separated bike paths spanning more than 60 miles.

Additional Information

For more information on the project please contact:

Lee Peterson
Port Media Relations Manager
Lee.Peterson@polb.com
 (562) 283-7715