Raytown: overview

The City of Raytown includes approximately 4.25 miles of the historic route, almost entirely along Blue Ridge Boulevard. It also includes one public historic trail site—the Rice-Tremonti Home—a public park affiliated with the trail—Cave Spring Park—and a local historical society museum providing interpretive materials on the trails. Only one very minor deviation from the historic route is required through the center of downtown Raytown.

A major opportunity for trail connections is coming to Raytown in the near future: the trail to be constructed along the former Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad (commonly known as the Rock Island Line) intersects the historic trail alignment in the center of Raytown, and will ultimately connect the Kansas City Metro area to Katy Trail State Park, a rail trail that spans the entire state of Missouri.

Connections to public transit are currently available at the northeast corner of Raytown, at East 51st St and Blue Ridge Boulevard, and along the west edge of the city, on Blue Ridge Boulevard/Blue Ridge Cutoff.

To capitalize on historic trail and recreational connection opportunities, trailheads could potentially be located at Cave Spring Park, the intersection with the Rock Island Line right of way in downtown Raytown, and the Rice-Tremonti Home. Identification of an appropriate location for a minor trailhead (Level I, page 162) in the northeast corner of Raytown would be desirable; one possibility might be in connection with a bus stop along Blue Ridge Boulevard near East 51st Street, although this would be in Kansas City rather than Raytown.

The final length of the proposed retracement route within Raytown is 4.33 miles.
Raytown: overview

As the historic route follows Blue Ridge Boulevard across Raytown, and that road also connects historic trail sites, schools, the proposed Rock Island Line - Katy Trail Connector and Raytown’s downtown commercial district, very few decisions in terms of the preferred routing of the constructed NHT needed to be made within the scope of this project.

Street improvements on E 63rd St, looking west.

Blue Ridge Blvd at Sterling, looking north. Photos: Vireo

Blue Ridge Blvd west of downtown, looking west.

Raytown Historical Society Museum, on E 63rd St.
Raytown: Segment 16

1.49 Miles. Blue Ridge Boulevard from East 51st Street at boundary with City of Kansas City to East 59th Street.

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to transit at East 51st Street
- Connects to Raytown Middle and High Schools

OPPORTUNITIES:
- The City of Raytown is considering a reduction of the road by a lane to allow room for improved sidewalks along this stretch of Blue Ridge Boulevard

RELATIONSHIP TO HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is directly on the historic route of all three trails throughout its length.
Raytown: Segment 17

0.51 Miles. Blue Ridge Boulevard from East 59th Street to East 63rd Street in downtown Raytown.

ISSUES:
• Many sidewalks may need improvement here

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to Raytown Middle and High Schools
• Passes thorough Raytown’s downtown commercial area and recent streetscape improvements on East 63rd Street

OPPORTUNITIES:
• Future streetscape improvements may extend recent work on East 63rd Street northwest along Blue Ridge Boulevard

RELATIONSHIP TO HISTORIC ROUTE:
The historic route of the trail cuts just to the north of the Blue Ridge Boulevard/East 63rd Street intersection. The southern half of this segment diverges from the historic route slightly to follow existing road right-of-ways.
Raytown: Segment 18

1.40 Miles. East 63rd Street west to Blue Ridge Boulevard, Blue Ridge southwest to Blue Ridge Boulevard/Cut-off, then south to intersection with Missouri Highway 350.

ISSUES:
- Challenging intersection crossings for pedestrians on major streets (East 63rd Street and Blue Ridge Cut-off/Blue Ridge Boulevard)

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to future Rock Island Line - Katy Trail Connector
- Directly passes Raytown Historical Society and Rice-Tremonti Home
- Connects to Blue Ridge Elementary School
- Connects to transit at Blue Ridge Boulevard and Missouri Highway 350

OPPORTUNITIES:
- The upcoming construction of a hiking-biking trail along the former Rock Island Line, to connect to Katy Trail State Park, is an opportunity for a major trailhead (Level I or II, page 162) and junction in the heart of Raytown

RELATIONSHIP TO HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is directly on the historic route of all three trails throughout its length. Local knowledge suggests that for some part its period of use the historic trail followed a route from Raytown Center to the Rice-Tremonti Home as shown by the dotted purple line on this map, ( ) which may be interpreted in the area.
Raytown: Segment 19

0.93 Miles. Blue Ridge Boulevard from just north of Blue Trafficway/Missouri Highway 350 to boundary with City of Kansas City near East 75th Street.

ISSUES:
• Busy multi-lane road with sidewalk only on one side of the road for most of this segment

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to Cave Spring Park
• Could provide safe pedestrian connection to nearby Westridge Elementary School (off map to southwest)
• Parallels transit route throughout its length

OPPORTUNITIES:
• Cave Spring Park is in the vicinity of the Barnes Farm, a campground used by historic trail travelers; it offers an opportunity for an NHT trailhead and/or enhanced NHT experience and interpretive development

RELATIONSHIP TO HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is directly on the historic route of all three trails throughout its length.