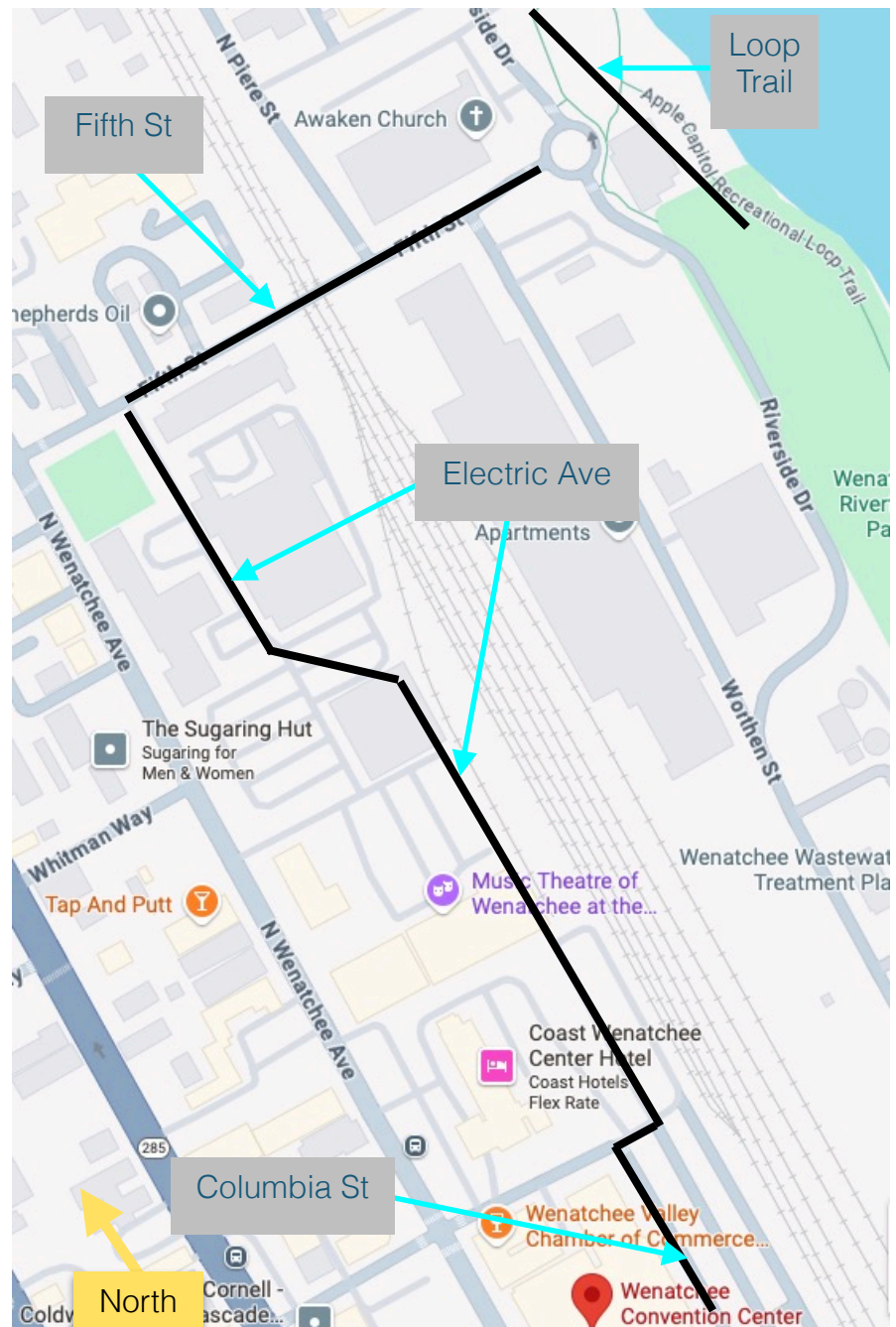


Electric Ave

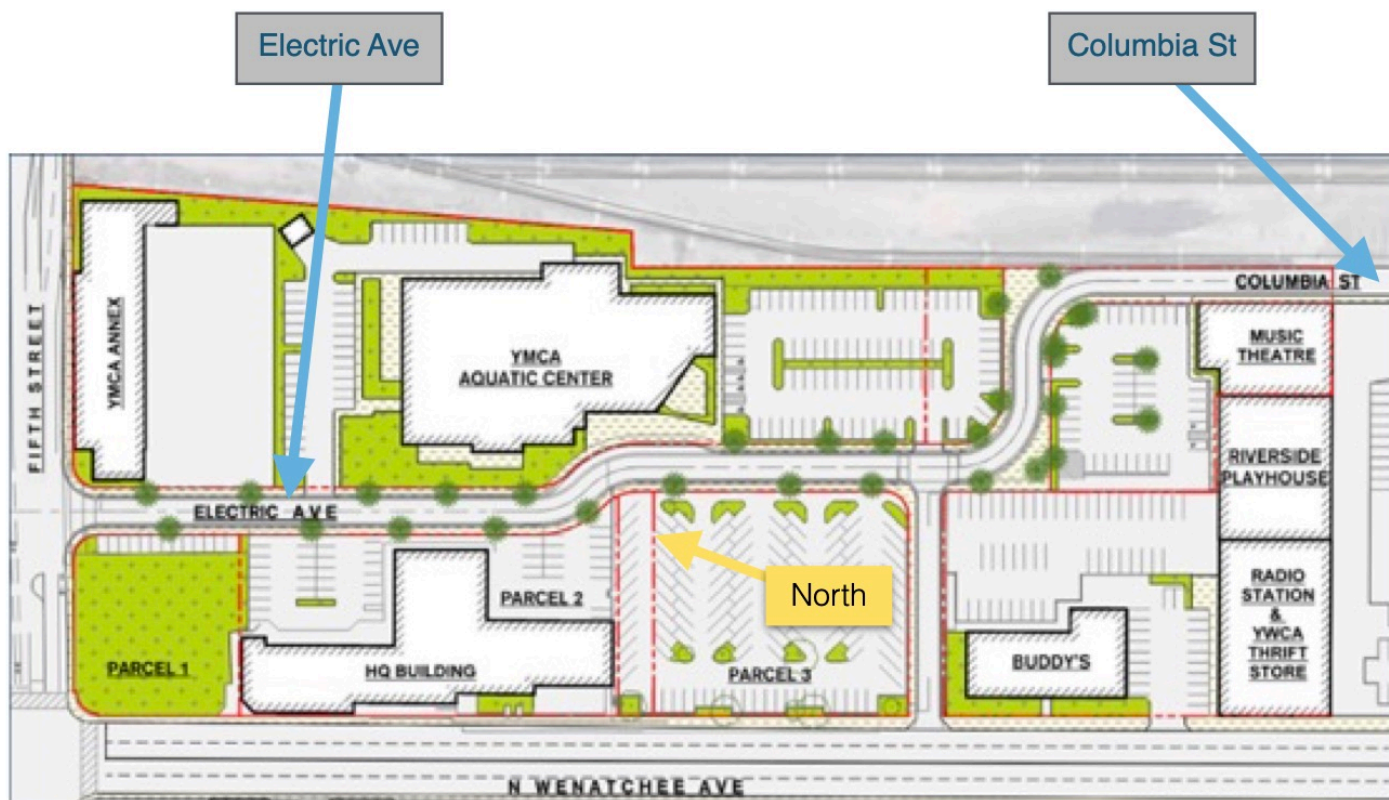
A New Way to Bicycle through Downtown Wenatchee

Brand new pavement is now ready to bicycle north/south through downtown Wenatchee. A bicyclist heading south on the Loop Trail from Walla Walla Park can exit at Fifth St to begin. Bicycle west under the BN railroad tracks using the bike lane. Before reaching Wenatchee Ave turn south onto Electric Ave. This is a new road that travels south through the former PUD campus. At Electric Avenue's south end continue into a City of Wenatchee parking lot just east of the Coast Hotel, then connect with Columbia St. A bicyclist can continue south on Columbia St for several blocks beyond the Link Transit Station. Or a bicyclist can conveniently ride west uphill on any street between Second St and Kittitas St to reach destinations in downtown Wenatchee. Use of Electric Ave avoids the section of the Loop Trail between Fifth St and Pybus Market which tends to be crowded. The City of Wenatchee has long range plans to upgrade Columbia St into a smoother ride. But don't wait, Electric Ave allows access to any location downtown without having to ride on Wenatchee Ave.

Since Electric Ave is brand new, mapping programs have not yet caught up. A screenshot from Google Maps (right) is used in conjunction with author-drawn lines and labels to place the location of Electric Ave. No attempt has been made to draw the connection between the Loop Trail and Fifth St. For most bicyclists the simplest way is to enter the roundabout and ride single file with traffic until the bike lane on Fifth St is reached.



The drawing (below) prepared by the PUD several years ago shows a conceptual look at Electric Ave from Fifth St to its connection with Columbia St. While the mapping of Columbia St is not quite accurate, the drawing does present a depiction of how the former PUD campus will evolve.



A series of pictures were taken in early July, 2025 before the route was considered open. Meanwhile, PUD staff have indicated that bicyclists can now begin using the route. However, construction of the new YMCA beside Electric Ave is on-going. Bicyclists may encounter slowdowns and occasionally will need to ride the sidewalk to get through as construction continues. The view of Electric Ave (right) is looking south from Fifth St.





Electric Ave (left) is a new kind of road in Wenatchee that is designed for slow speeds, so it should work well for bicycling. When the road signs are finally placed, the speed limit will be 20 mph. Sidewalks are without curbs, so bollards are placed to keep motor vehicles off the sidewalks.

Electric Ave has a sharp curve (right) midway between Fifth St and the Riverside Playhouse Theater, a design feature to encourage slow speeds.

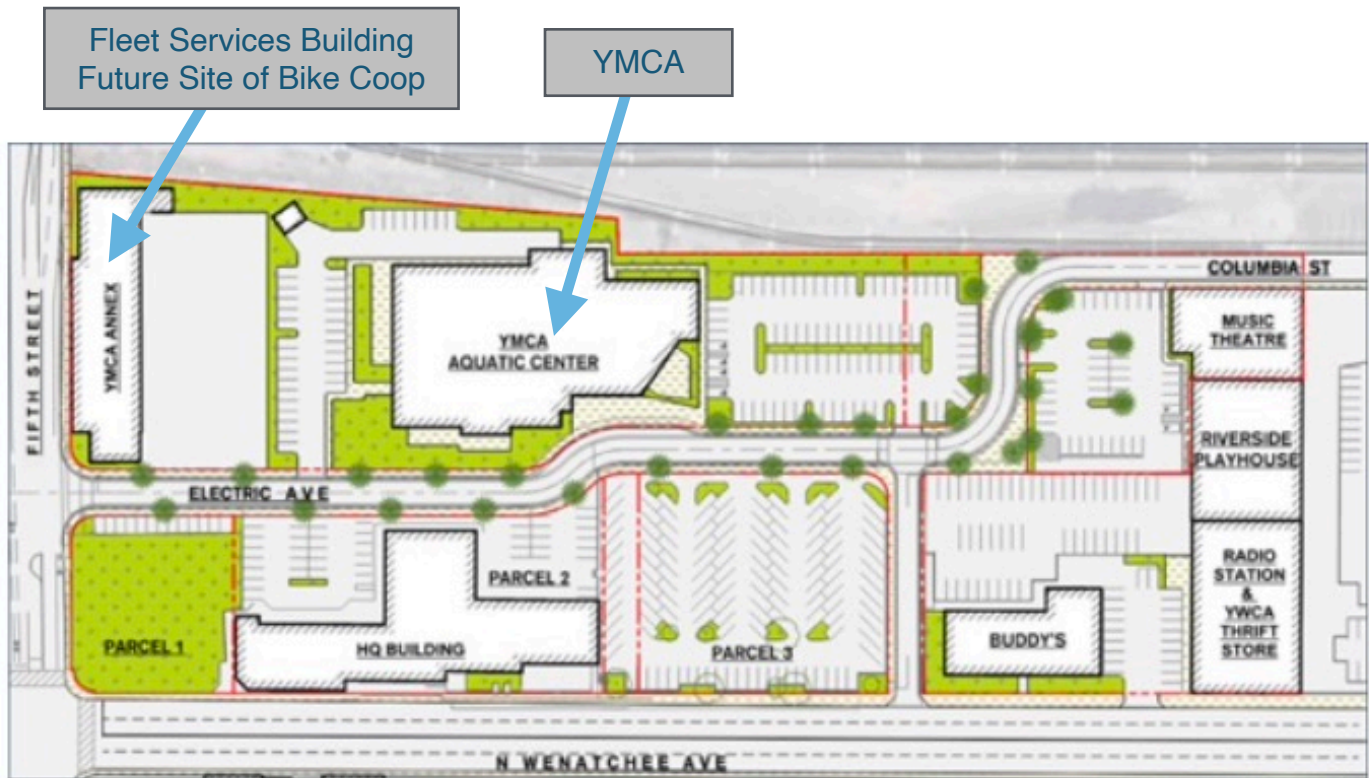


Electric Ave (left) enters a City of Wenatchee parking lot at its south end. Shortly beyond is a connection to Columbia St.



A few additional images were taken early in August, 2025. Electric Ave (left) now has the center line striped and more sidewalks have been completed. As of early August, Electric Ave is still closed to motor vehicles.

The exit from the City of Wenatchee parking lot (right) is bicycle friendly with stop signs to slow traffic. Columbia St heads to the left and uphill is Second St.



New captions (above) have been placed onto the PUD drawing. It's fun to see how the former PUD campus is evolving. It's no longer considered the YMCA Aquatic Center, but now it's a full service YMCA that is being constructed. Part of the YMCA Annex has been donated by the YMCA to the new Bike Coop, which will offer a range of nonprofit services such as classes and bike repairs.



Charles Hickenbottom is the author of *Greater Wenatchee Bicycle Routes - A History Told Through Maps, Drawings, and Pictures* (2021). The book is available for purchase through the Wenatchee Valley Museum, and can be checked out from North Central Washington Libraries. Rights to the book have been donated to the museum.

Hickenbottom has served for 28 years on local bicycle advisory boards and committees. For most of two decades he commuted by bicycle to Lewis & Clark Elementary School from his home near Chase Park. Most of his errands around town are done by bicycle. Since finishing the history book, he has completed numerous informational articles for the Wenatchee Outdoors website, focusing his efforts toward education pertinent to bicycling around Wenatchee. 8-5-2025