

ACROSS THE BOULEVARD

Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

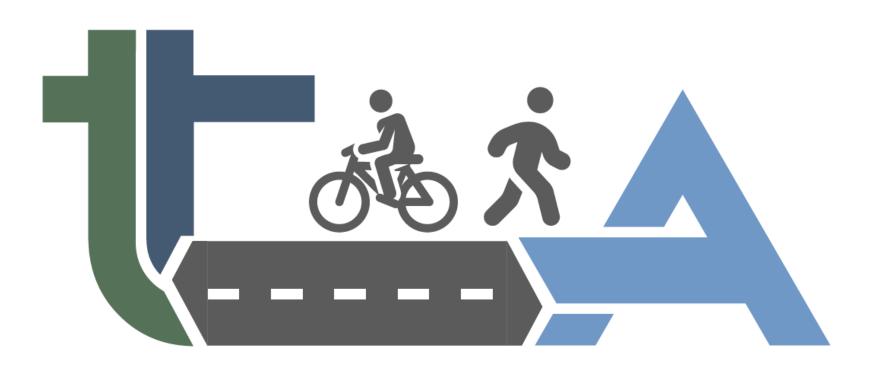
This project is proudly supported in a joint effort by:

Town of Amherst

Town of Tonawanda







ACROSS THE BOULEVARD

Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

WELCOME

Town of Amherst

Town of Tonawanda

Dover, Kohl & Partners

town planning & urban design

Nelson\Nygaard

multimodal transportation planning

G Kellogg

economic analysis

Bergmann

community outreach & public participation

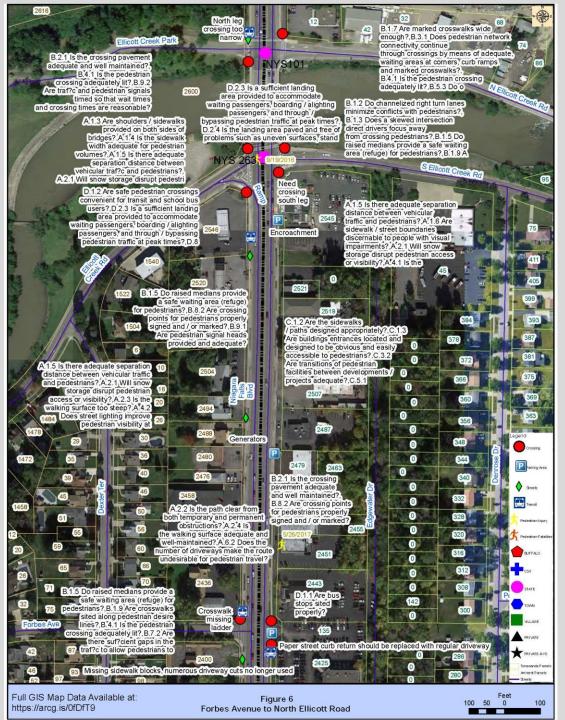
THE BOULEVARD

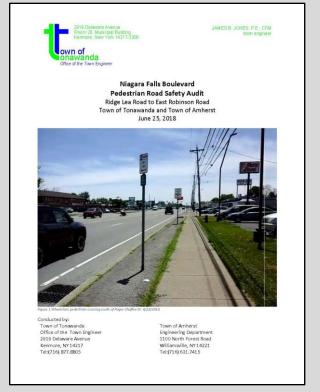


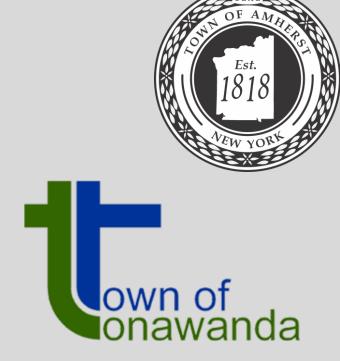




Why is Niagara Falls Boulevard so dangerous for pedestrians? Safety audit spells it out







"In general, the team found, pedestrians have to Walk too far to get to intersections with signals and crosswalks and they have to Wait too long to cross when they get there. And even for those who do use intersections with crosswalks, some signals don't give people enough time to safely cross the road, which is five or seven lanes wide."

- Stephen T. Watson, 09/25/21 Buffalo News

NYSDOT REPORT

Transportation Project Report

Pedestrian Safety Corridor Evaluation

June 2019

Niagara Falls Boulevard
Project Identification Number (PIN): SESS.17.121

Towns of Amherst and Tonawanda Erie County







Figure 10: Willow Ridge Drive Intersection Narrowing (Option A)

Table 1 – Niagara Falls Boulevard Roadway Character

Segment Extents	Length (miles)	# of Primary Lanes ¹	Posted Speed Limit	AADT ²	
Kenmore Ave to Cambridge Blvd	0.4	4	35 mph	19,580 ³	
Cambridge Blvd to Eggert Rd	1.1	5	35 mph	19,580 ³	
Eggert Rd to I-290 WB Ramps	1.75	6	40 mph	31,850 ⁴	
I-290 WB Ramps to Willow Ridge Dr	0.5	7	45 mph	43,290 ⁴	
Willow Ridge Dr to Admirals Walk	2.6	5	45 mph	36,000 ³	
Admirals Walk to Erie County line	0.15	4	45 mph	36,000 ³	

¹ Primary travel lanes includes mainline through travel lanes and center two-way left-turn medians, but not turn lanes at intersections

² Average annual daily traffic

³ Data collected by Consultant team for project

⁴ Traffic volume data available from NYSDOT

PROJECT CHARTER



Towns of Amherst & Tonawanda Willow Ridge/Parkview Action Plan Project Charter September 7, 2021

Plan for the Willow Ridge rensive Plans and address by formulating goals and pecific Focal Area Plan for



September 7, 2021

ised by residents lude but are not

icipalities, however ween Amherst and

er operating speeds tivities and various Falls and the City of esign of a four to six

nes

along Niagara Falls levard to adjacent

tock

ifficult to redevelop nd direct adjacency

neighborhoods with

sues due to aging dscaping, and large

ck of coordinated

at encourages active I sustain community the problems and on Plan will address e goals.

veen Amherst and y zoning and design he future vision for

of different forms of ne area to become a

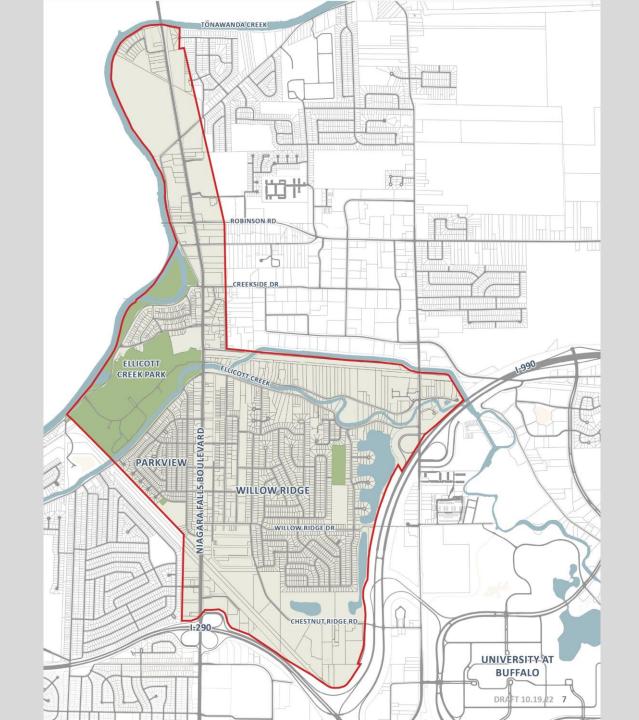
MISSION STATEMENT

"The Towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, along with other stakeholders, aim to create an Action Plan for the Willow Ridge and Parkview neighborhoods to address various problems and opportunities to improve connectivity, recreation, building maintenance and pedestrian safety.

The Plan will serve as a guiding document to portray residents' future vision of the area.

The Towns will employ the Action Plan to update Comprehensive Plan policies, create new goals and objectives, and utilize implementation strategies to create a more vibrant, connected and safe inter-municipal community."

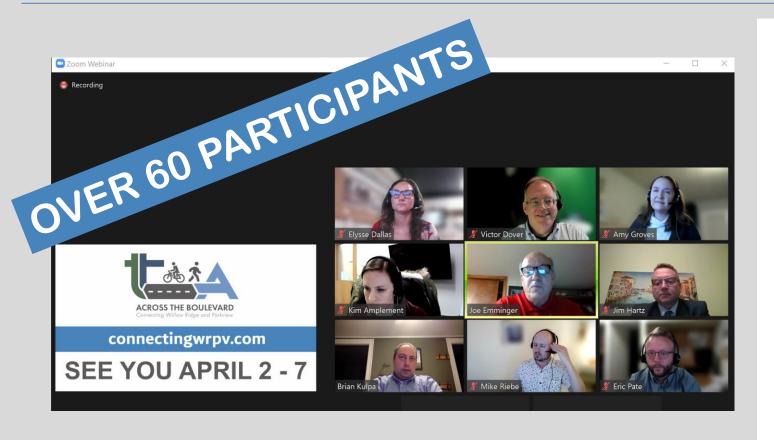
STUDY AREA



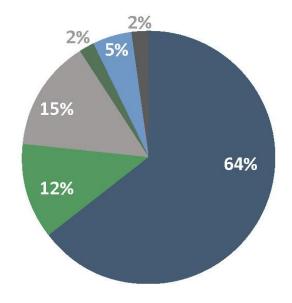




COMMUNITY KICK-OFF



What is your primary interest / top priority to be included in the Action Plan?



- Redesign Niagara Falls Boulevard
- Improve neighborhood / regional parks
- Connect Trails Network
- Economic development / expand commercial businesses
- Enhance neighborhood design
- More housing choices

COMMUNITY KICK-OFF

Polling Results

How often do you walk

28%

27%

in the study area?

23%

22%

Daily

How often do you bike

33%

28%

Special Events

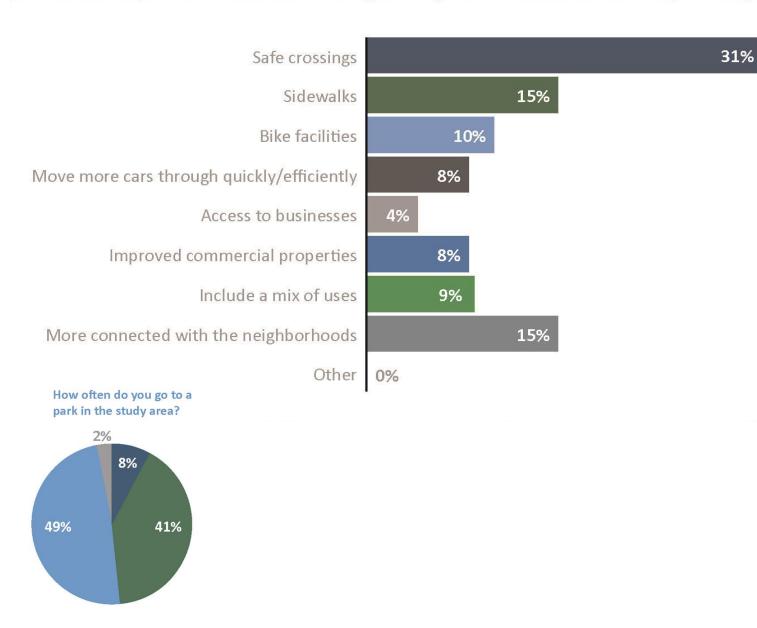
Never

in the study area?

39%

Weekly

What is most important about the future design of Niagara Falls Boulevard? Choose up to 3 responses.



COMMUNITY HANDS-ON DESIGN





COMMUNITY HANDS-ON DESIGN



BIG IDEAS include:

- Bike Paths: consistent bike paths, create loops, improve safety, include bike crossings
- Niagara Falls Boulevard: pedestrian amenities, redesign the boulevard, update vacant and outdated parcels
- Connect sidewalks, pathways, bike paths and waterways
- Village Nodes: create gateways, beautification, small shops & restaurants; in short-term focus areas can lead long-term to walkable village areas
- Access to Parks: improve crossings into parks, trail connections
- Amenities: events, programs, food trucks

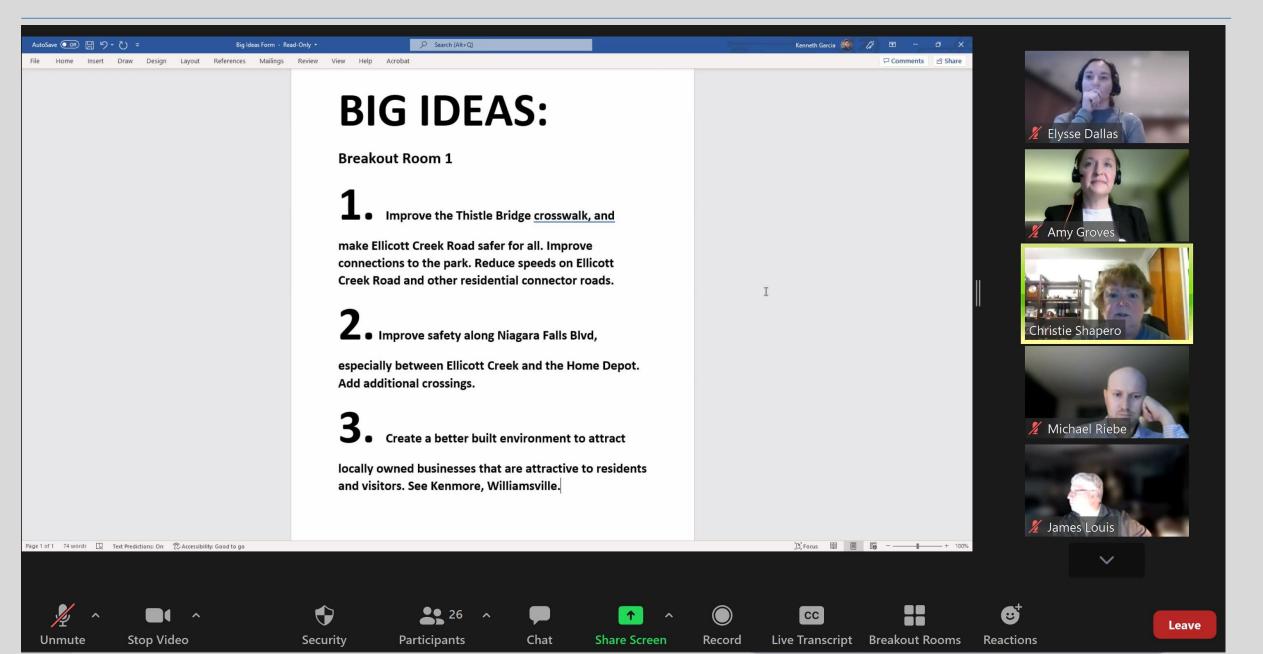
BUS TOUR





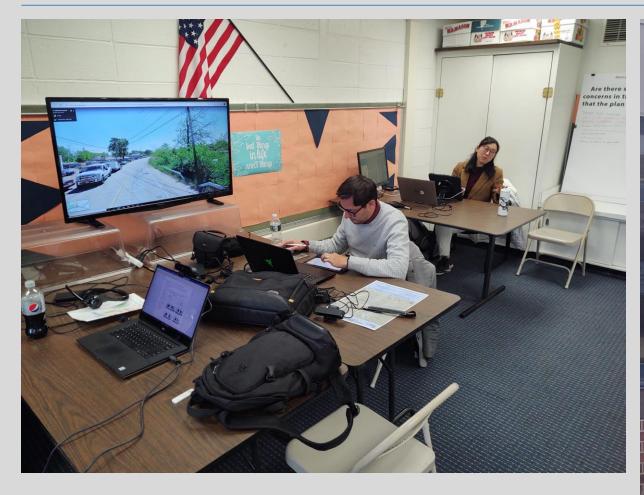


COMMUNITY HANDS-ON DESIGN



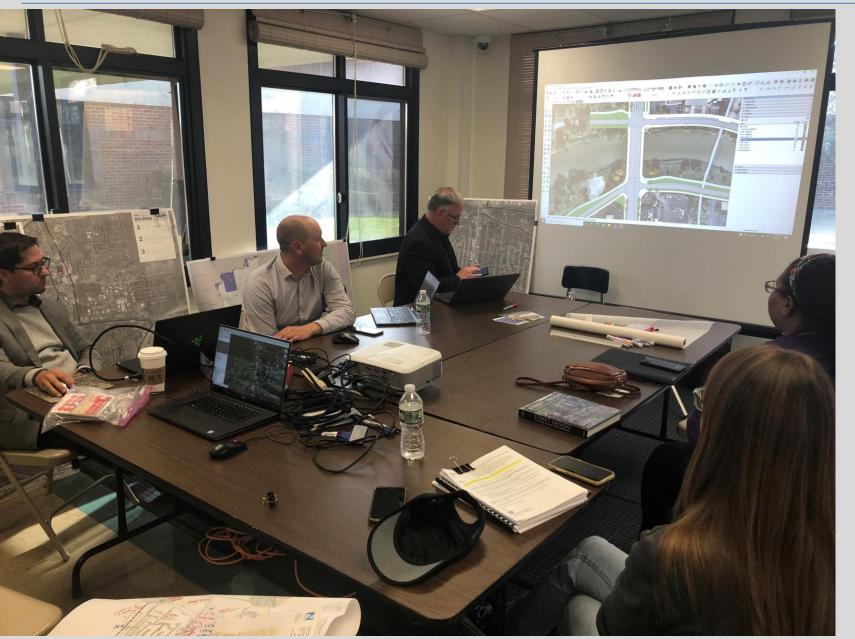
DESIGN STUDIO

Mon, April 4 to Wed, April 6 Dexter Terrace Elementary School Annex 3A





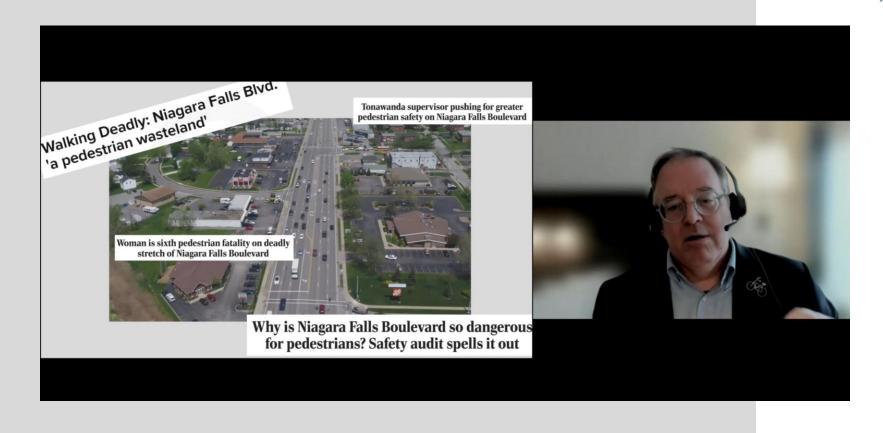
DESIGN STUDIO

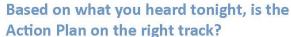


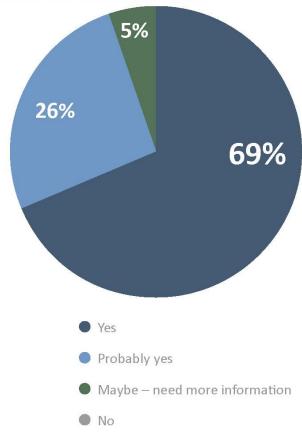
studio meetings:

- University at Buffalo
- Chamber of Commerce / AIDA
- Parks & Trails (towns, county, GBNRTC)
- Transportation agencies
- Corridor businesses
- Community groups

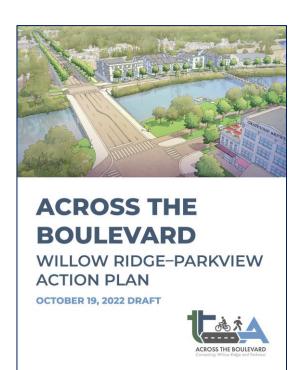
WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRESENTATION







COMMUNITY REVIEW DRAFT





ACTION PLAN:

make it safe

connect

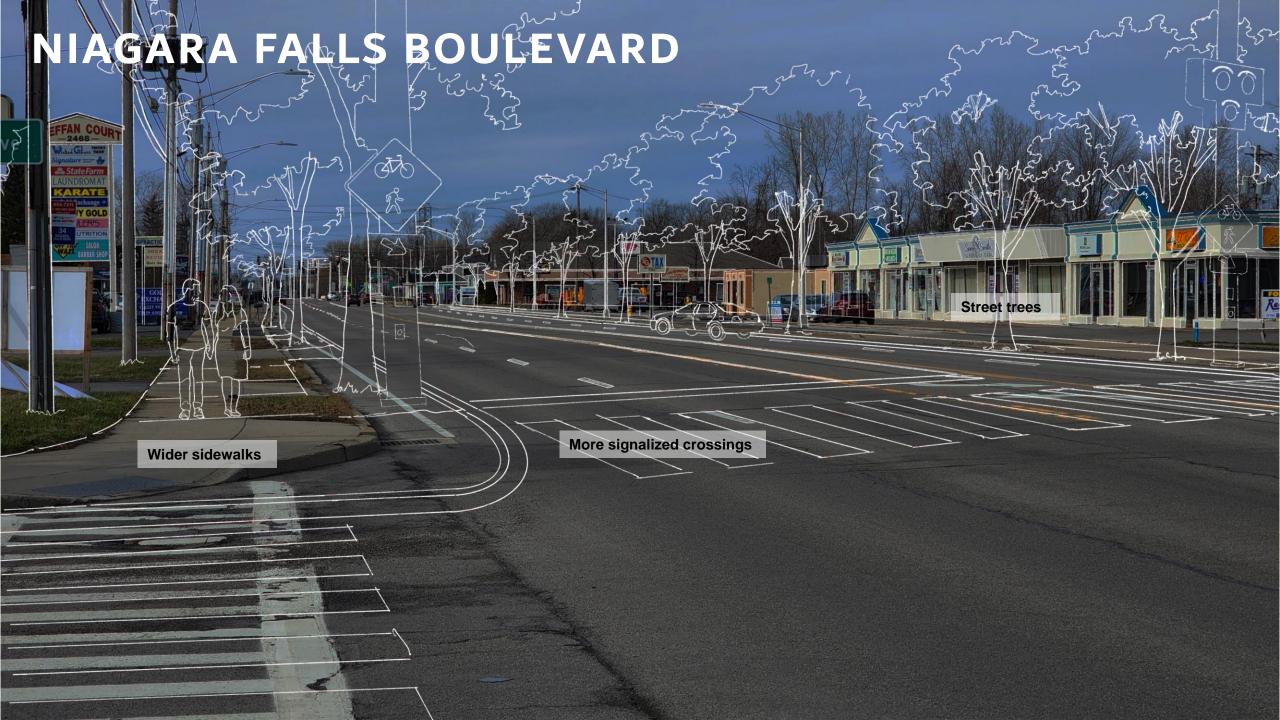
refresh

				Timeframe										
Action #	Description				Mid-term	Long-term	Responsible Party / Partners	Potential Funding Source			Page #	:		
Action Bescription Description Description														
S-1	Adopt a Joint Resolution: Safe		22											
S-1.1	Draft and adopt a joint resolution be priority on safety over speed, serving county, and state levels.	х			Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawa- nda	Towi	n Budget							
S-2	Improve Signal Spacing: Add Signals at Additional Intersections										24			
S-2.1	Forbes Avenue, Thistle Avenue, Fara, conduct traffic signal warrants evalu- or full vehicular signal); ensure pede HAWK signals include additional indu	ith NYSDOT on intersection signal recommendations for te, Thistle Avenue, Faragut Avenue, and Dexter Terrace; ic signal warrants evaluation for new signal types (HAWK lar signal); ensure pedestrian demand warrants for s include additional induced pedestrian demand from new crossing; implement new signals according to					Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawan- da, NYSDOT		e grants, n Budget					
	Continue in all and a final and a								Tim	ofuo	ma	7		
S-2.2	Continue implementation of Pedesti recommendations by partnering wit management policy for the corridor leading pedestrian intervals at all sig constructing a new signal near the C Niagara Falls Boulevard / Forbes Ave	Action #	Description Descr					Potential Funding Source	Page #					
	S-2.1).	Connect												
	Submit a letter of interest to Greater	C-1	Emphasize Pla	cemal	king a	nd Wa	alkable Connection	s Rathe	r than I	Park	ing			38
S-2.3	Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Sm Boulevard to be considered for Smal Arterial (SEMA), Smart Corridor pilo with new technology.	consistent with the	Update Town land use regulations and policy documents to be onsistent with the Project Charter and vision in the WRPV Action X Plan. (See also step R-1, R-2)							Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawa- nda	Town Budget			
S-3	Rethink Speed Management:	C-2	Establish a Network of Trails											38
S-3.1	Re-design Niagara Falls Boulevard to increase safety (narrow travel lanes, posted speed of 40mph. (See also st	C-2.1	Update the Town of Amherst's policy documents, including the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and Recreation and Parks Master Plan, and the Town of Tonawanda Complete Streets Network to include recommended on- and off-street trail connections (see Trails Network map, page 39). Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda								Town Budget			
S-3.2	Partner with NYSDOT to synchronize Niagara Falls Boulevard to new tech better regulate and monitor traffic fl	C-2.2	Pursue grants / funding opportunities and implement components of the trails network. Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda, Eric County, GBN-RTC								Town Budget, grants, LWRP			
		C-3	Retrofit Streets to Expand Pedestrian + Bike Infrastructure											40
		C-3.1	Pursue design and engineering plans/studies (such as necessary scoping, traffic impact analysis, and designate funding resources) for recommended neighborhood street improvements to improve pedestrian and bike connections (Chestnut Ridge Road, Willow Ridge Drive and Joe McCarthy Drive).							Town of Amherst	Town budget, grants			
		C-3.2	Implement bike improvements on Joe McCarthy Drive and Dexter Terrace to provide a parallel bikeway to the Boulevard.						Х		Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawa- nda	Town budget, grants		
			Implement nede	trian a	مبلنظ امم	imara	rements on Chastnut D	idao				Town of		

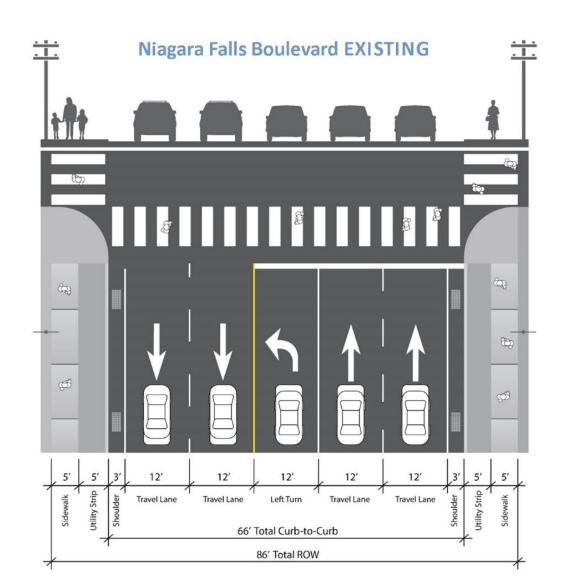
make it safe: actions

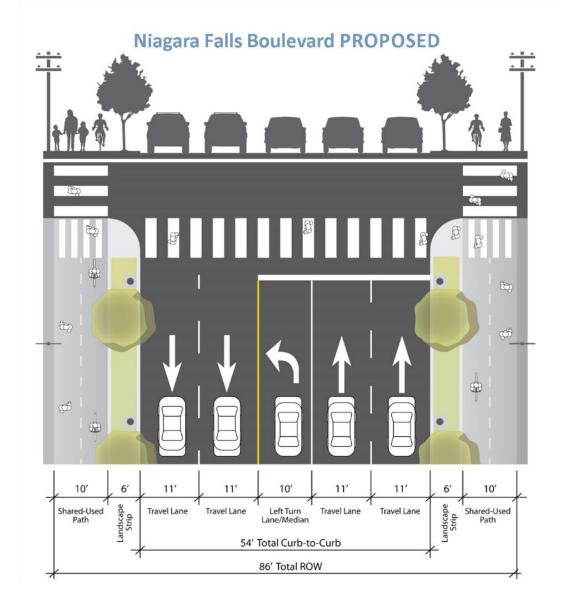
- 1. Adopt a Joint Resolution: Safety is the Highest Priority for the Boulevard
- 2. Improve Signal Spacing: Add Signals at Additional Intersections
- 3. Rethink Speed Management: Balance Design Speed with Posted Speed
- 4. Reconfigure Niagara Falls Boulevard into a Multi-Modal Corridor
- 5. Access Management: Consolidate Medians and Driveways



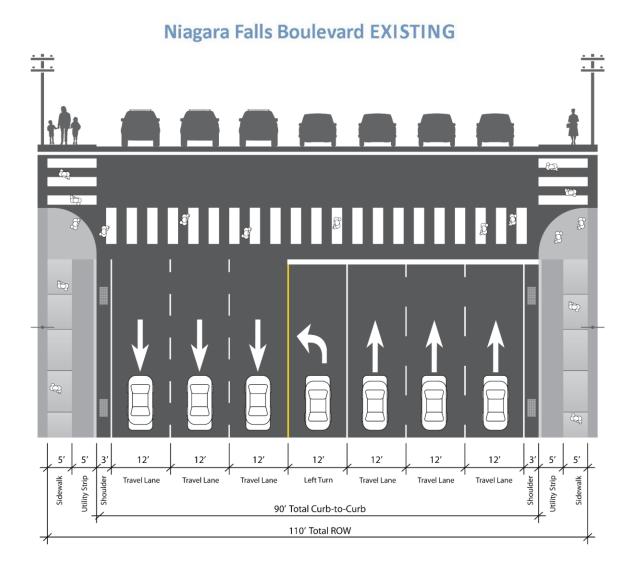


Street Configuration (north of Willow Ridge Drive)





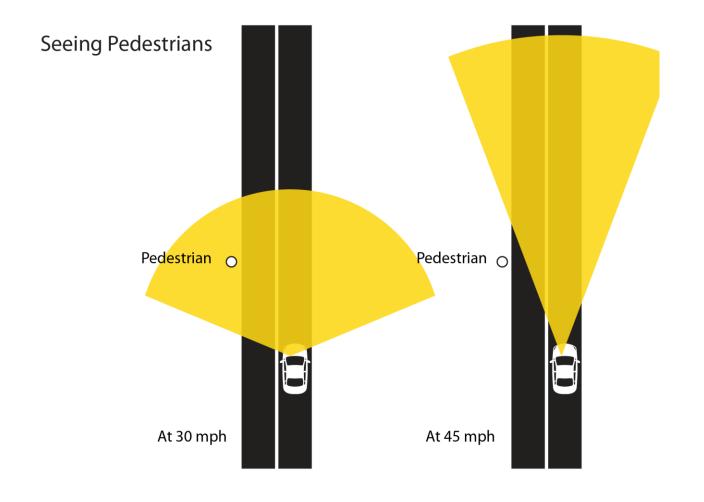
Street Configuration (south of Willow Ridge Drive)





Speed Management

IMPACTS OF VEHICLE SPEED



THE EFFECT OF **VEHICLE SPEED** ON PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES



5% chance of pedestrian fatality



45% chance of pedestrian fatality

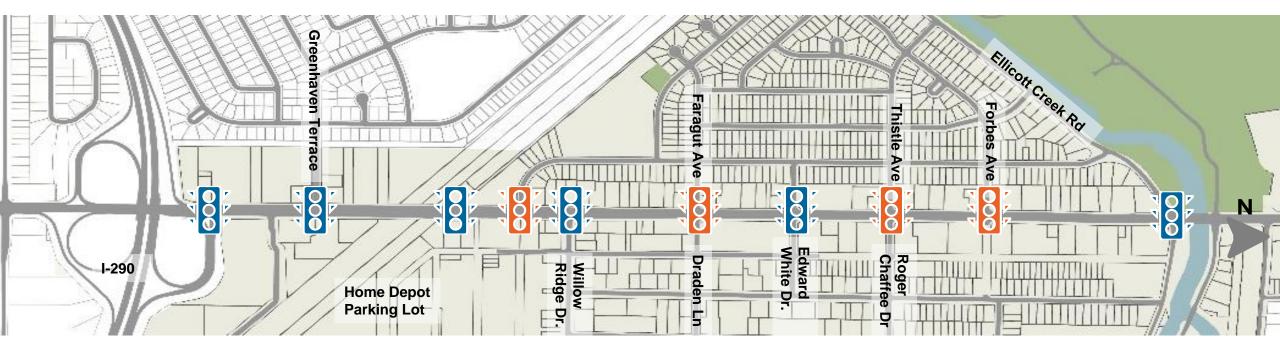


85% chance of pedestrian fatality



Source: Killing Speed and Saving Lives, UK Dept. of Transportation, London, England. See also Limpert, Rudolph. Motor Vehicle Accident Reconstruction and Cause Analysis. Fourth Edition. Charlottesville, VA. The Michie Company, 1994, p. 663.

Signalized Intersection Spacing



- One existing crossing opportunity between
 Willow Ridge and S Ellicott Creek (> 1/4 mile and 1/2 mile between crossings)
- New signal could be HAWK in some locations
- Time corridor for 35 mph (30 mph would be even better)
- Improved pedestrian walk times

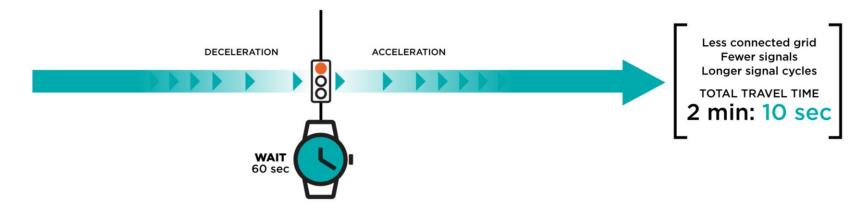


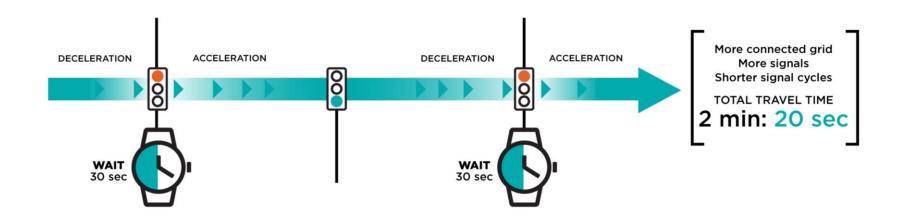




Signalized Intersection Spacing

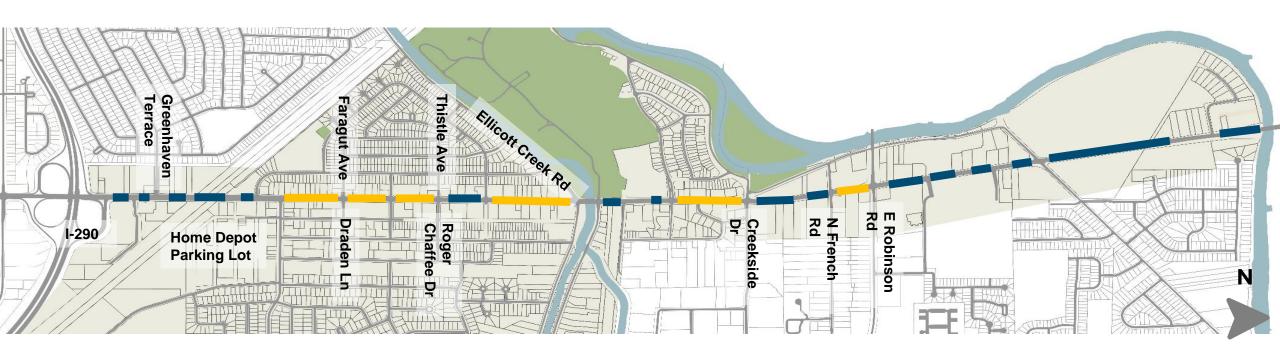
EFFECTS ON TRAVEL TIME







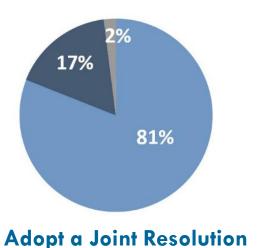
Potential Median Locations

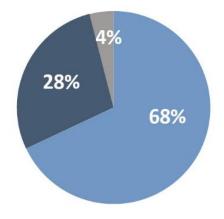


Potential Existing Median Opportunities

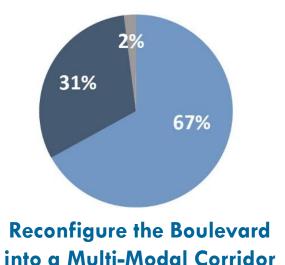
Median Opportunity with further driveway consolidation/property coordination

ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the Action Steps?





Rethink Speed Management

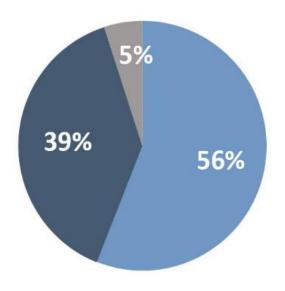






SupportDon't SupportNo Opinion

ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the Action Steps?



Improve Signal Spacing

- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion

"Not sure more signals would manage traffic better, but something to enhance pedestrian and cyclist crossing safety is needed."



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"Don't add more traffic signals, there's already plenty; and sync the current ones to move traffic along (adding 1 more signal = more stopping and traffic delays)."

quick poll

Quick Polling

Send answers through text messaging!



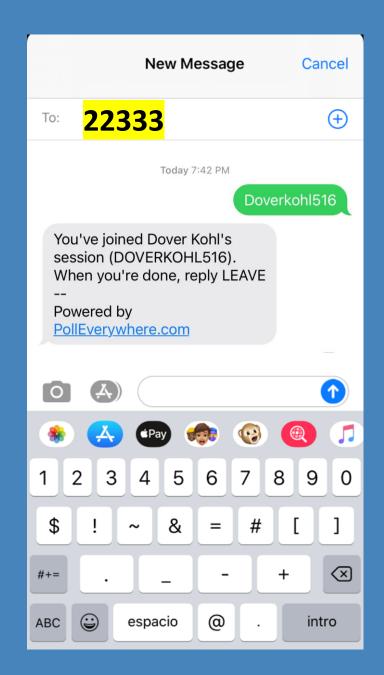


Send a text to **22333**

Send this message: **DOVERKOHL516**

Quick Polling

Send answers through text messaging!

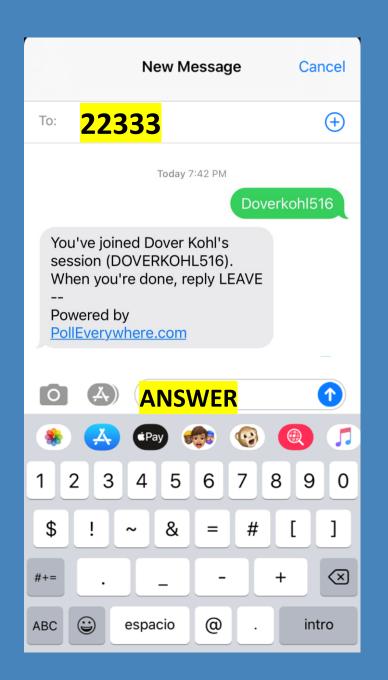






Quick Polling

Send answers through text messaging!







Then send your Answer

What is your primary interest in the area?

I live here

73%

I work or own a business here



5%

I do not live, work or own business here, but I travel on Niagara Falls Boulevard frequently



14%

Other



9%

Where do you live?

Willow Ridge Neighborhood

14%

Parkview Neighborhood

48%

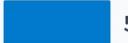
In Amherst Outside of the Study Area

10%

In Tonawanda Outside of the Study Area

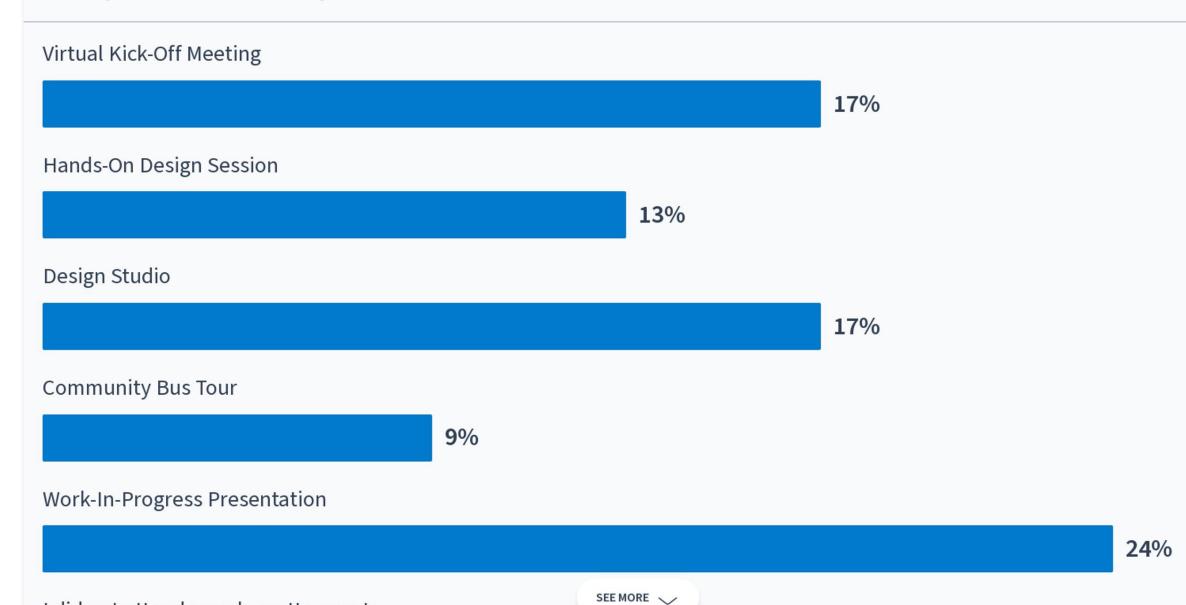
24%

Outside of the Towns

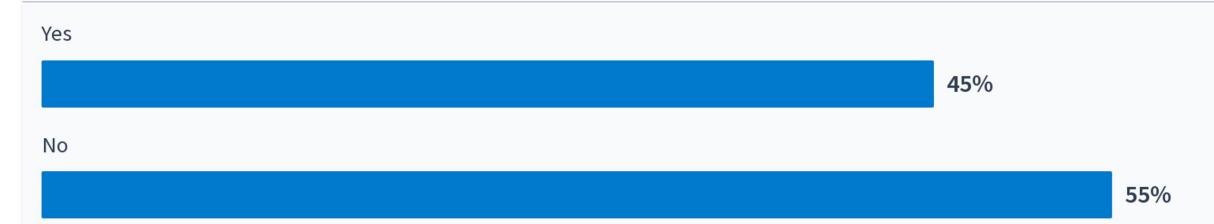


5%

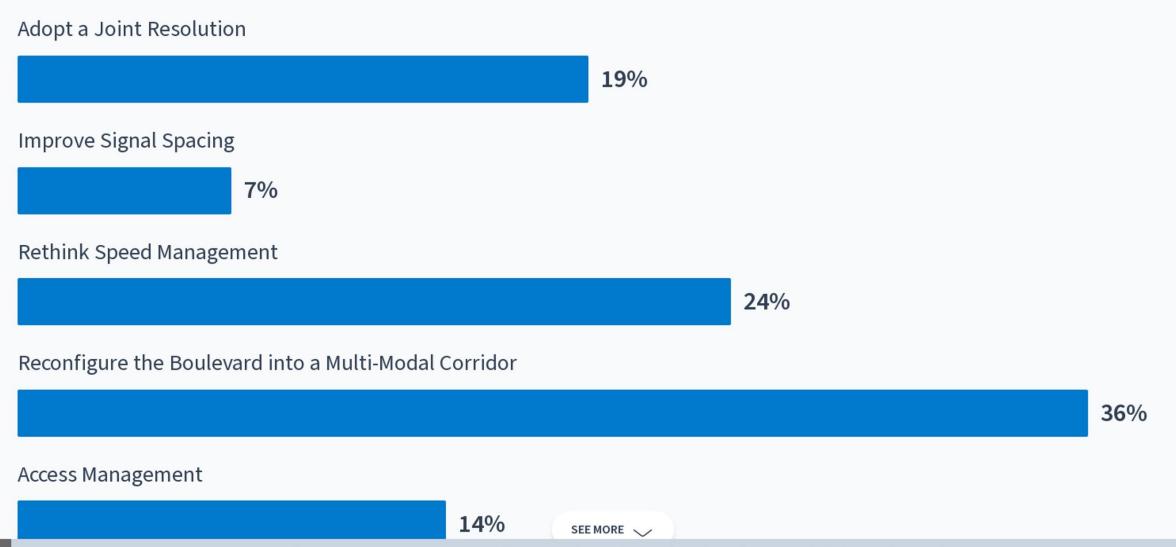
Did you attend any charrette events?







MAKE IT SAFE: Please select the top two MAKE IT SAFE action steps you feel should be of highest priority



connect: actions

- Emphasize Placemaking and Walkable Connections Rather than Parking
- 2. Establish a Network of Trails
- 3. Retrofit Streets to Expand Pedestrian + Bike Infrastructure
- 4. Capitalize on the Creek and Trail as a Great Address
- 5. Improve Connections to Ellicott Creek Park

Trails Network



Existing Trails

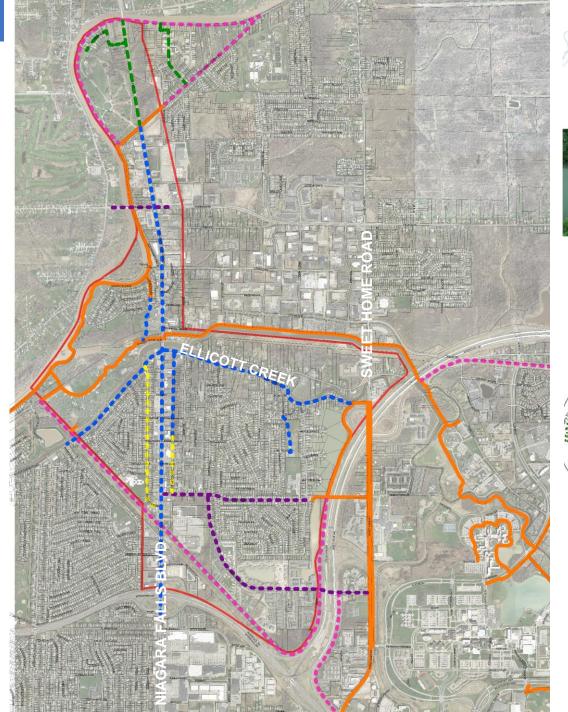
Planned On-Street

Planned Off-Street

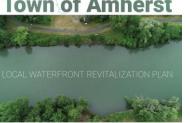
Proposed On-Street

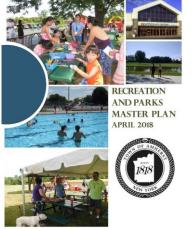
Proposed Off-Street

Proposed Bike Blvd.



Town of Amherst







Proposed Complete Streets





ONLINE SURVEY: Rank the following trail connections in order of importance to you:

Trail connections identified in existing planning documents.

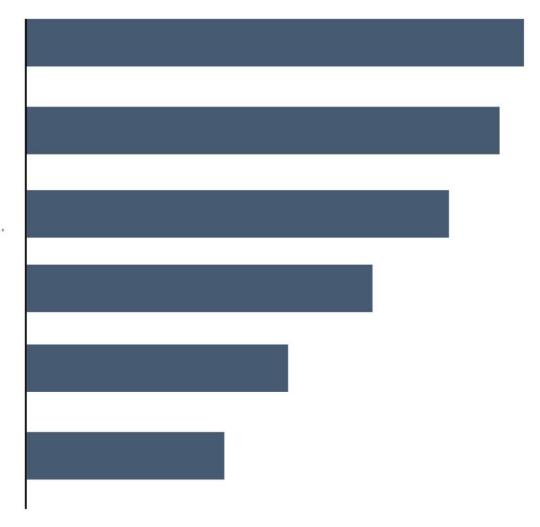
An off-street trail parallel to Ellicott Creek Rd for access to the park.

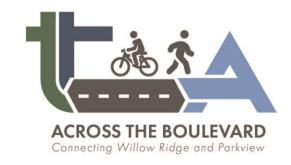
Bike Facilities parallel to the blvd for safe and comfortable N/S connections.

Connections to the University for students and faculty.

Use the utility easement to connect Parkview and Willow Ridge.

An on-street facility at Robinson Rd going across the blvd/creek to N. Tonawanda

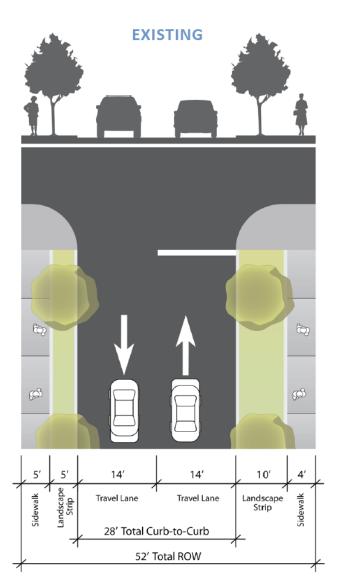


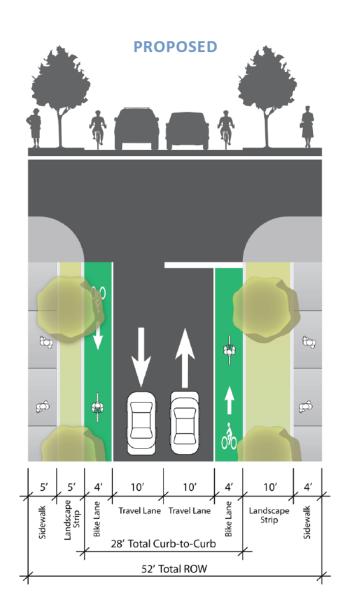


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Chestnut Ridge Road



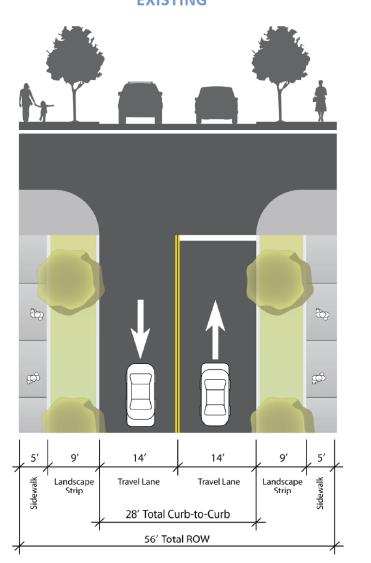




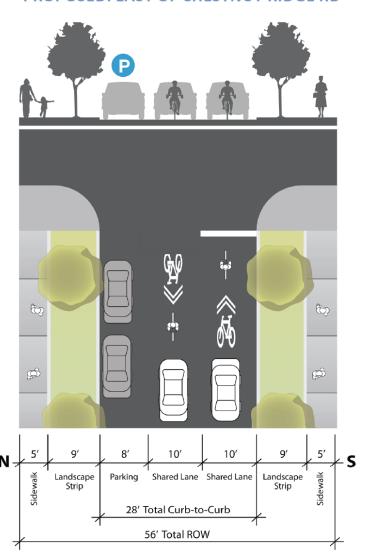


Willow Ridge Drive

EXISTING



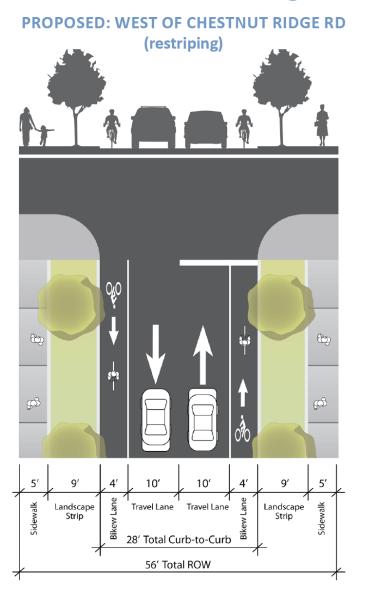
PROPOSED: EAST OF CHESTNUT RIDGE RD

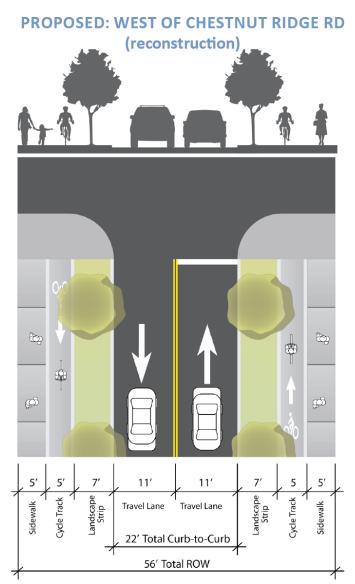




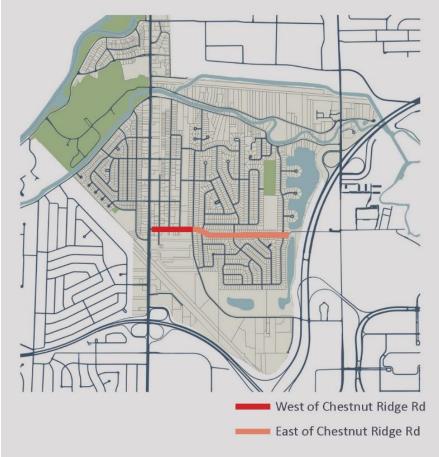


Willow Ridge Drive

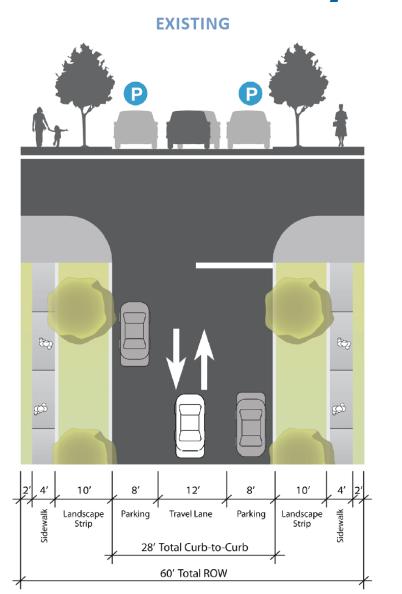


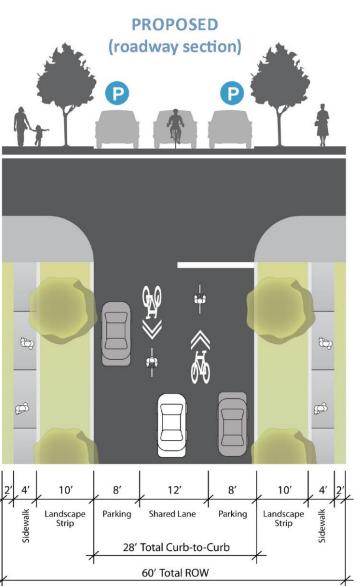






Joe McCarthy Drive

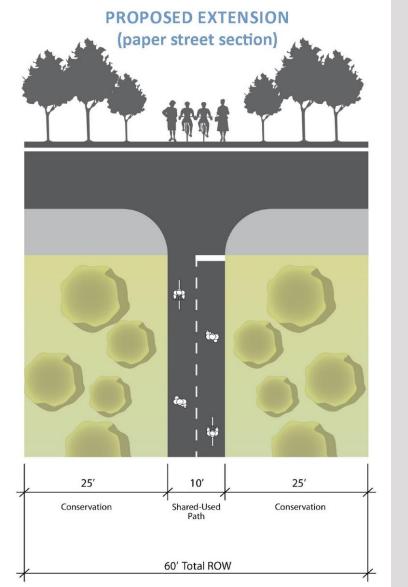




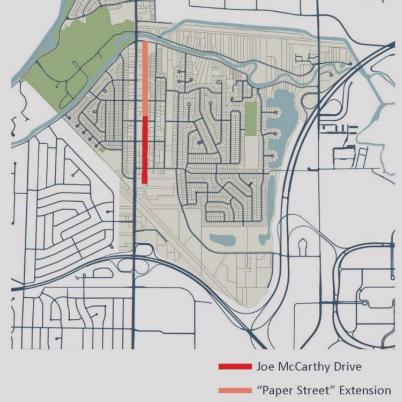




Joe McCarthy Drive

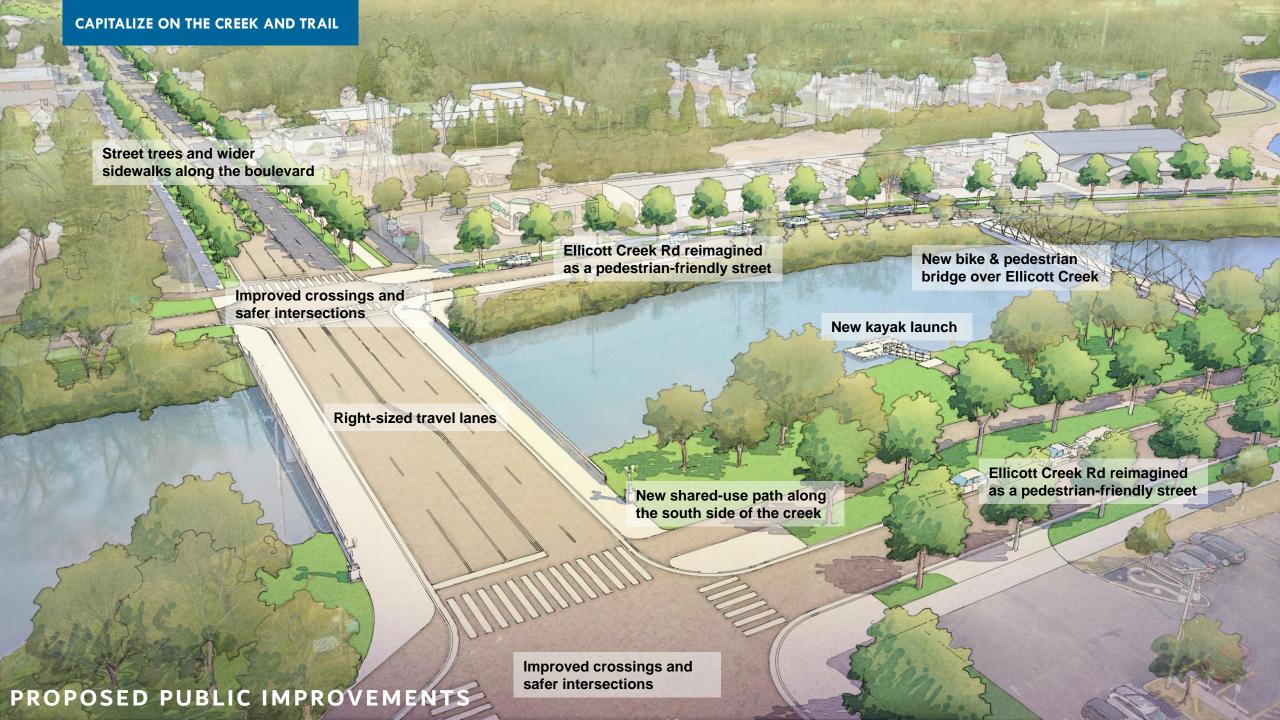


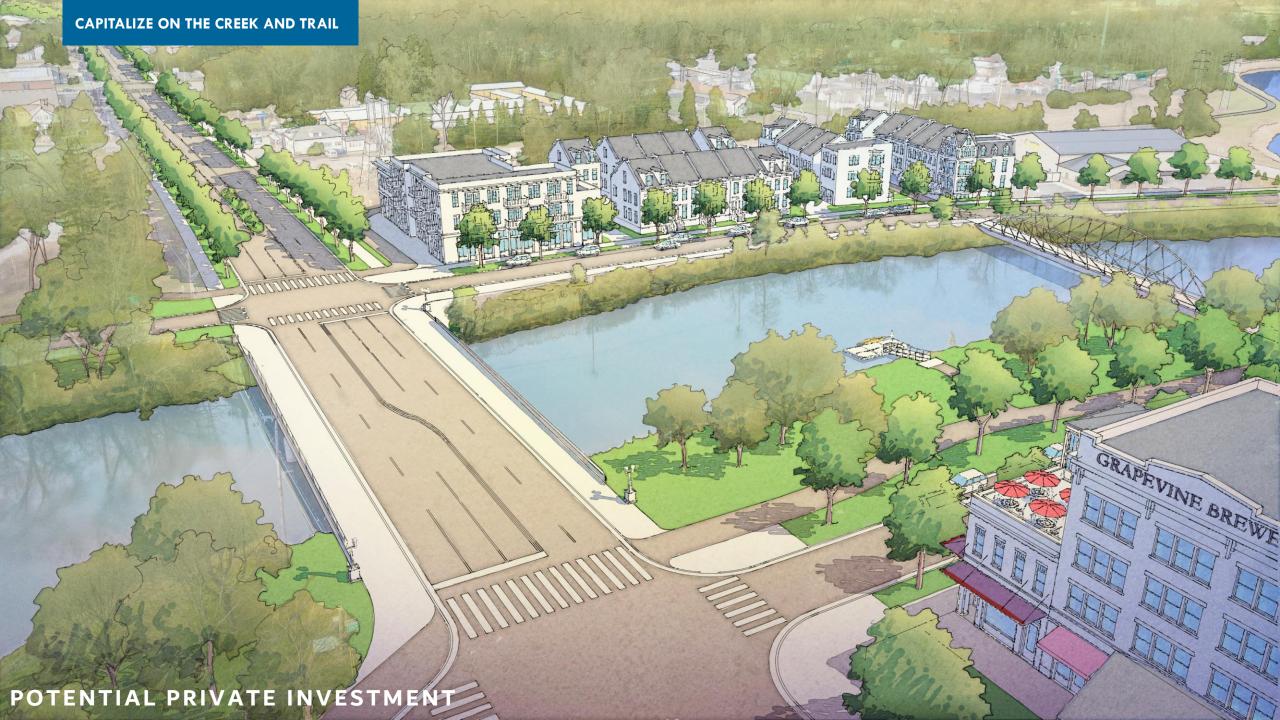


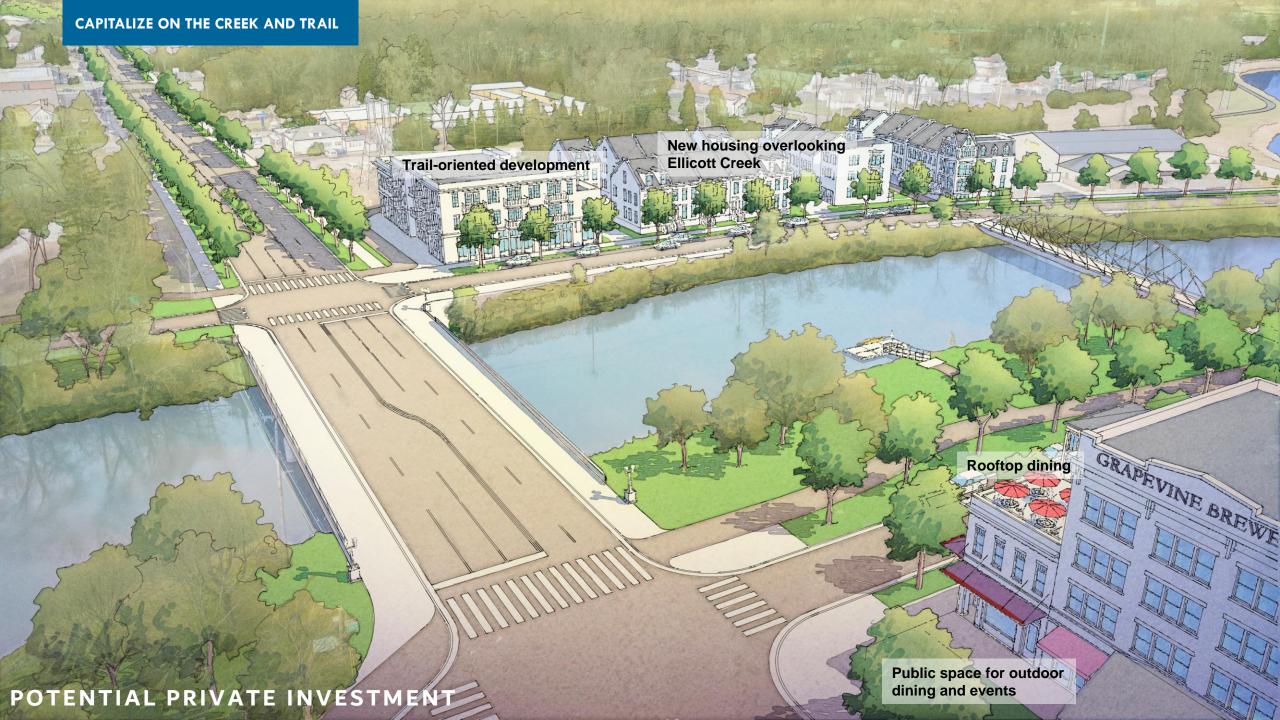




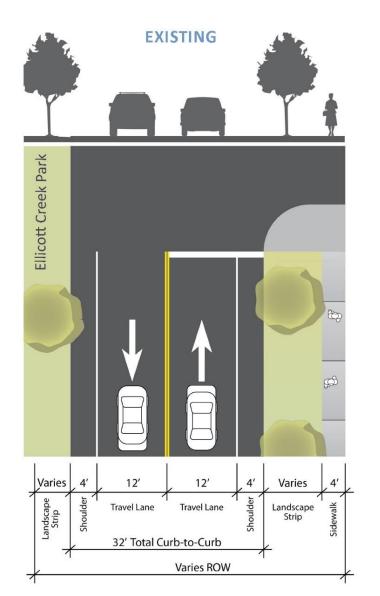


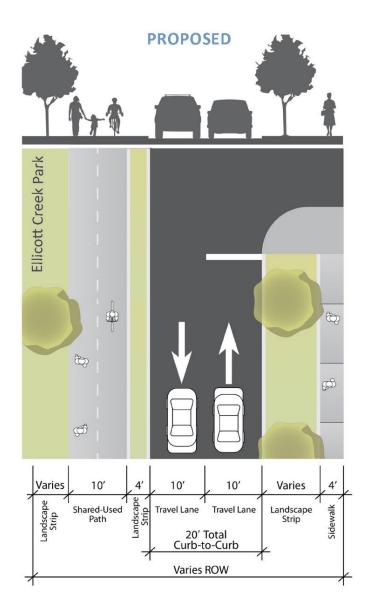






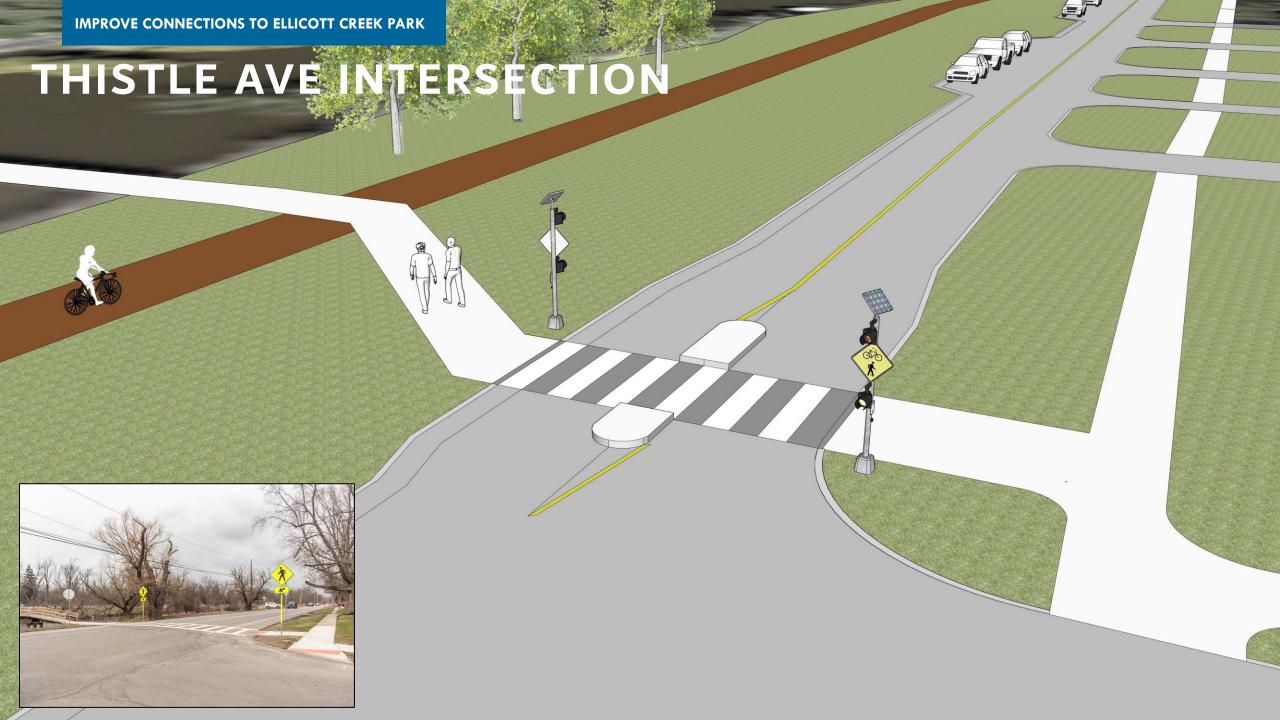
S Ellicott Creek Road



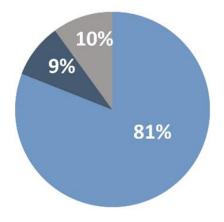




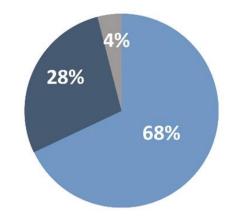




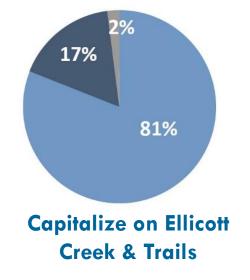
ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the Action Steps?

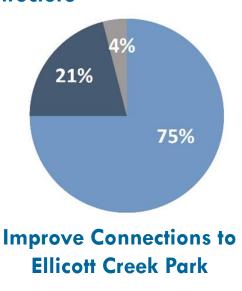


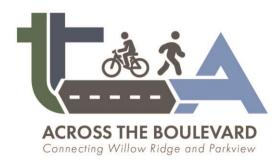
Establish a Network of Trails



Retrofit Streets to Expand
Pedestrian & Bike Infrastructure







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Nov/Dec 2022

- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion

Do you have any additional feedback on these CONNECT action steps or other ideas for improving pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity in the study area?



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Survey: Nov/Dec 2022

"I support the pedestrian bridge over the creek. Using the NFB bridge is a nightmare. There isn't enough room for 2 bicyclists or a pedestrian and a bicyclist to pass each other."

"A hawk or beacon light at Thistle and Ellicott Creek... the amount of times I've almost been hit with my stroller is crazy" "Yes, we desperately need improvement to bike connectivity on S. Ellicott Creek and N. Ellicott Creek. They're both very dangerous to ride and walk on."

"Need to put pedestrian bridge to connect existing trails on west side of Sweet Home Road."

quick poll

CONNECT: Please select the top two CONNECT action steps you feel should be of highest priority

Establish a Network of Trails (A) 20% Retrofit Streets to Expand Pedestrian and Bike Infrastructure (B) 20% Capitalize on Ellicott Creek and Trails (C) 32% Improve Connections to Ellicott Creek Park (D) 29%

refresh: actions

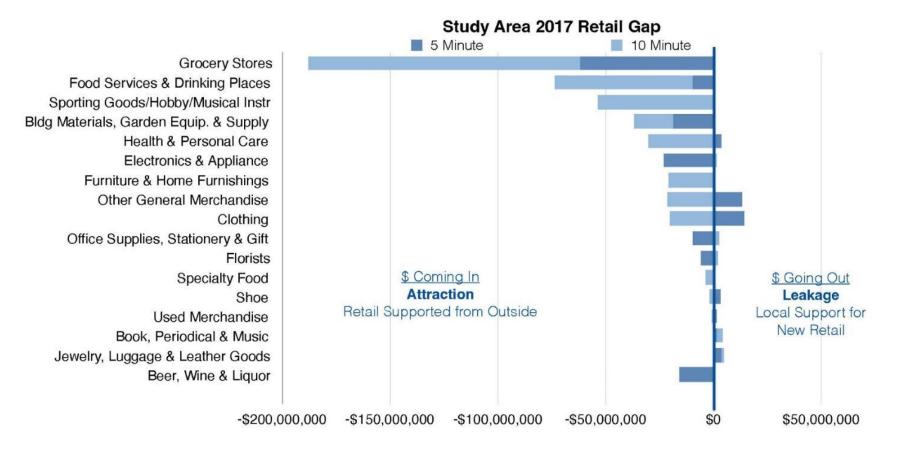
- 1. Actively Support Investment and Remove Impediments
- Adopt Mixed-Use Ordinances Along Niagara Falls Boulevard
- Identify Market Opportunities and Attract Investors







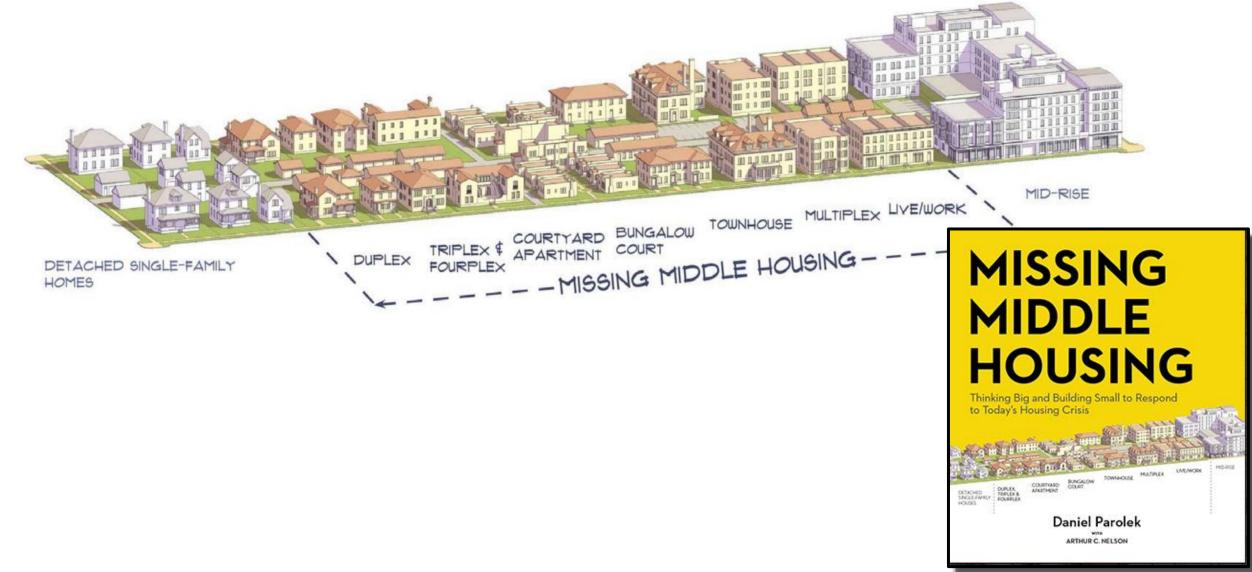
"Retail Gap" Analysis

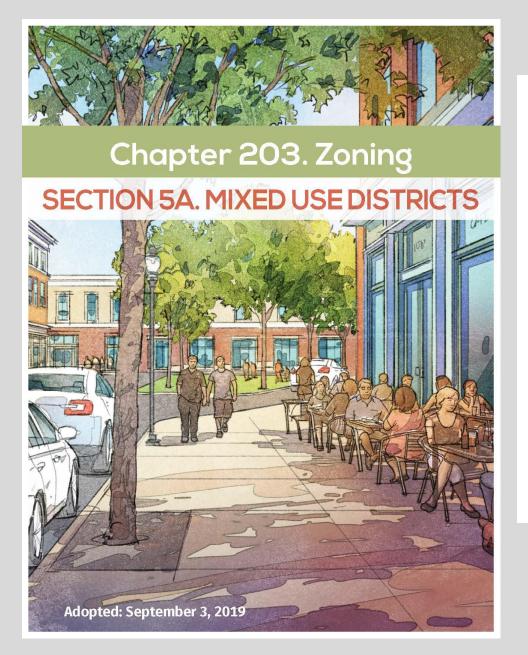


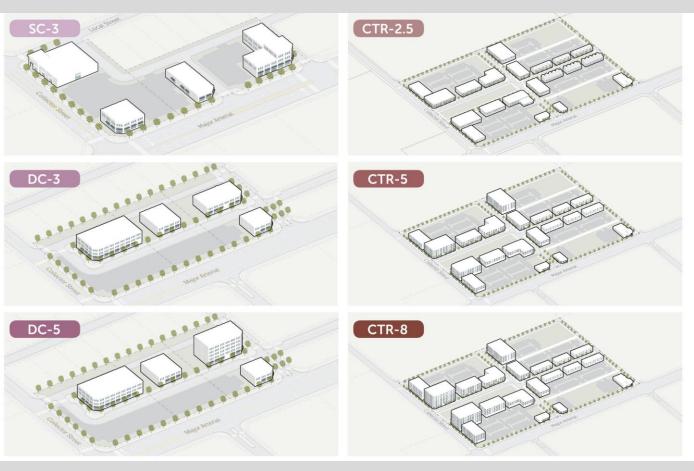
...the data suggests that in most categories, the area and local population are well-served, with businesses along the corridor attracting sales from within the study area and farther away.

Retail targeted to unique experiences not found today (such as shops clustered in walkable neighborhood centers) could fill an unmet need.

Housing Opportunities

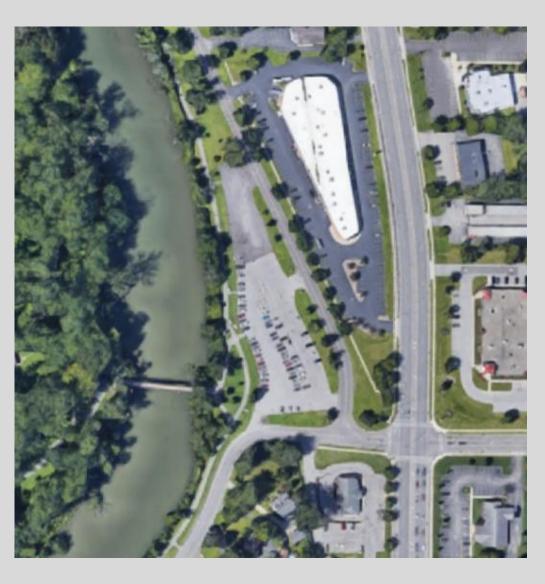






MIXED USE DISTRICTS CODE: RETROFIT

SAMPLE SITE: CREEKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD





- Old Niagara Falls Boulevard is realigned to follow the water, creating a regularly-shaped parcel.
- 2 The entrance to the Bark Park is formalized.
- A new public green space can be used for community gatherings.
- On-street parking on Old Niagara
 Falls Boulevard and Creekside Drive
 (including angled parking near the
 entrance) provides Bark Park parking.
- Mixed-use buildings front the new public space; some businesses could be oriented to dog-friendly uses.
- A variety of housing types, including attached townhouse and apartments over shops are possible; parking for residents is to the rear of buildings.

















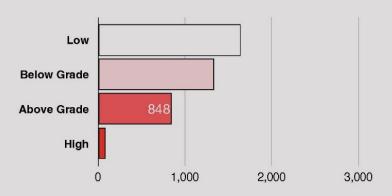




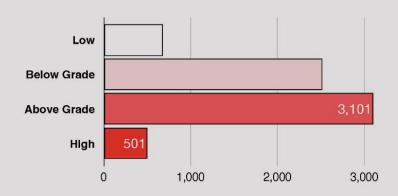


Potential Development Analysis

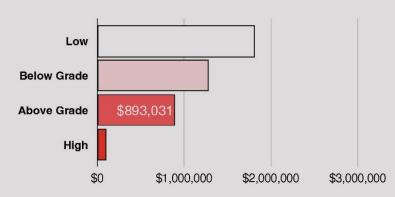
GB/C New Residential Units



Deep Corridor New Residential Units



GB/C Net New Town Tax Revenue



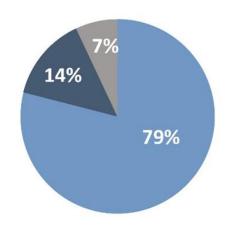
Deep Corridor Net New Town Tax Revenue



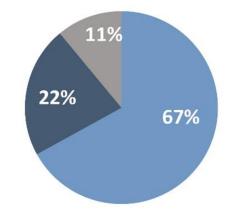


The Potential Development analysis assumed one floor of commercial/retail with two floors of apartments above.

ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the Action Steps?



Actively Support Investment and Remove Impediments



Adopt Mixed-Use Ordinances along the Boulevard

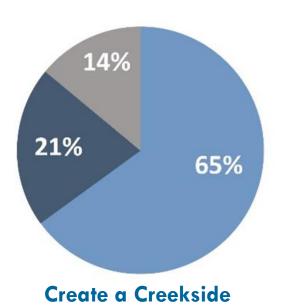


Identify Market Opportunities & Attract Investors



- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion

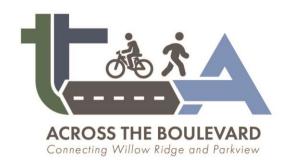
ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the Action Steps?



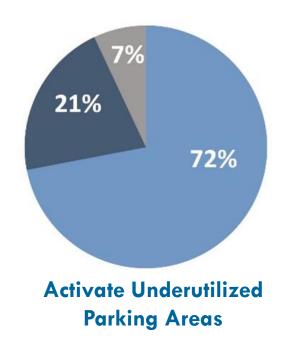
Neighborhood Center

- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion





ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the Action Steps?

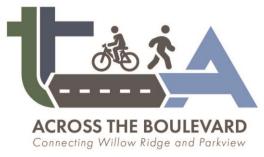


- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion





Do you have any additional feedback on these REFRESH action steps or other ideas for improving pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity in the study area?



"Add areas for food trucks, yoga, and exercise areas, bird watching trails, and neighborhood concerts."

"Pedestrian access to Chestnut Ridge is a great idea to eliminate people walking all the way around or cutting through the fence."

> "Ensure the quality of the architecture in the plan by providing design guidelines that match the aesthetic of the neighborhood and leverage the historical nature of the Erie Canal."

"This type of Land Planning must address reclaiming space for green. Less paved areas-more natural areas.

Reconnecting and restoring needs to

incorporate reclaiming green native

plantings of trees, shrubs and

pollinator plants."

quick poll

REFRESH: Please select the top two REFRESH action steps you feel should be of highest priority

Actively Support Investment and Remove Regulatory Impediments

28%

Adopt Mixed-Use Ordinances Along Niagara Falls Boulevard

41%

Identify Market Opportunities and Attract Investors

31%

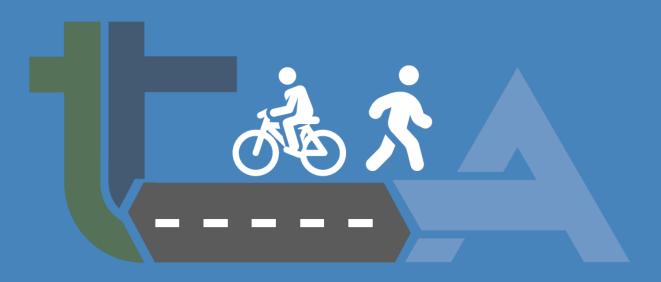
next steps:

- 1. Finalize Plan based on input received
- 2. Action Plan presentation to Town Board(s)
- 3. Begin initial implementation steps, including updating Town policy
- 4. Check for updates: connectingwrpv.com



connectingwrpv.com

thank you!



ACROSS THE BOULEVARD

Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

This project is proudly supported in a joint effort by:

Town of Amherst

Town of Tonawanda



