

ACROSS THE BOULEVARD

Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

This project is proudly supported in a joint effort by:

Town of Amherst



Town of Tonawanda



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

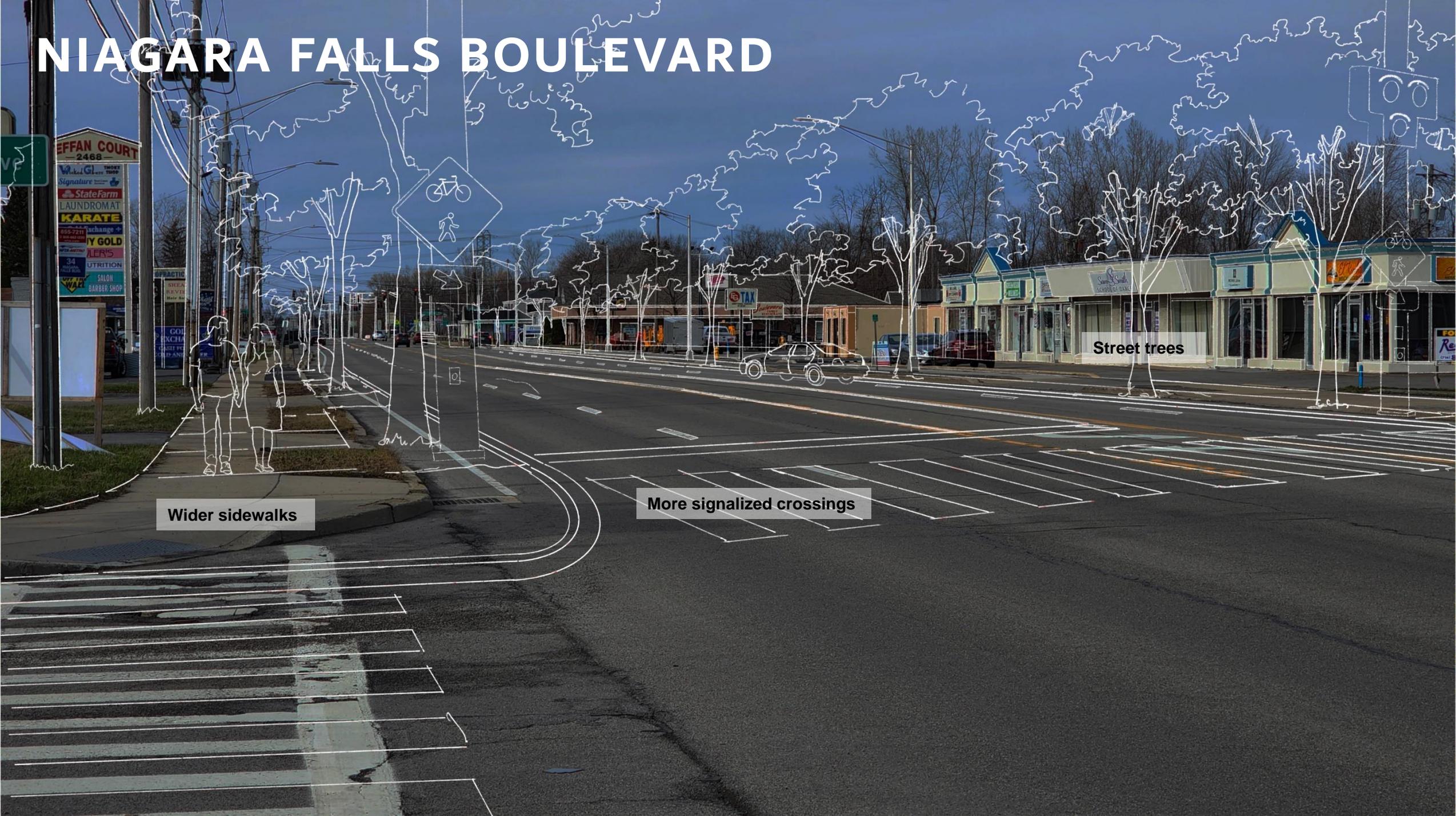
With Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) & Erie County funding support

NIAGARA FALLS BOULEVARD



EXISTING CONDITIONS

NIAGARA FALLS BOULEVARD

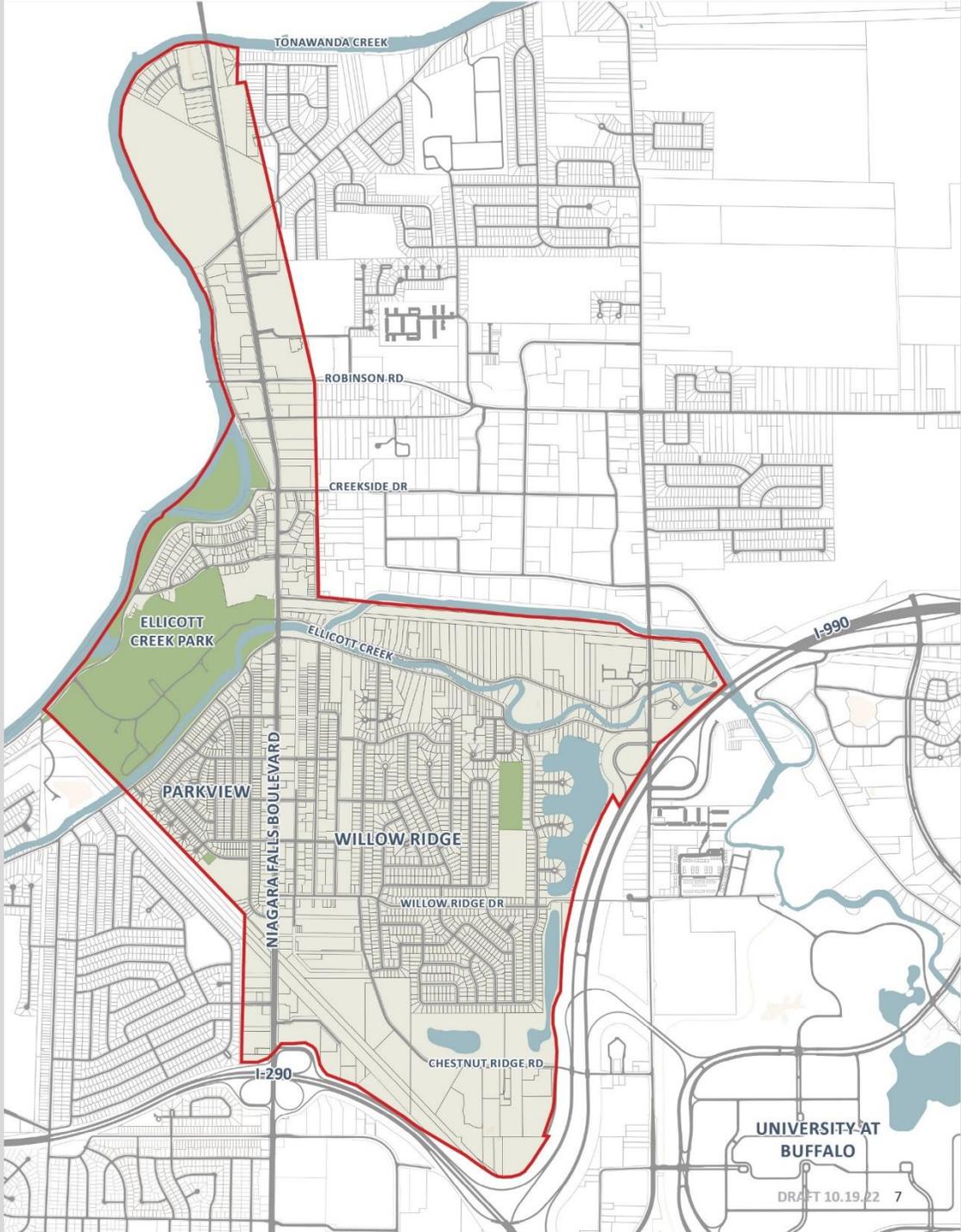


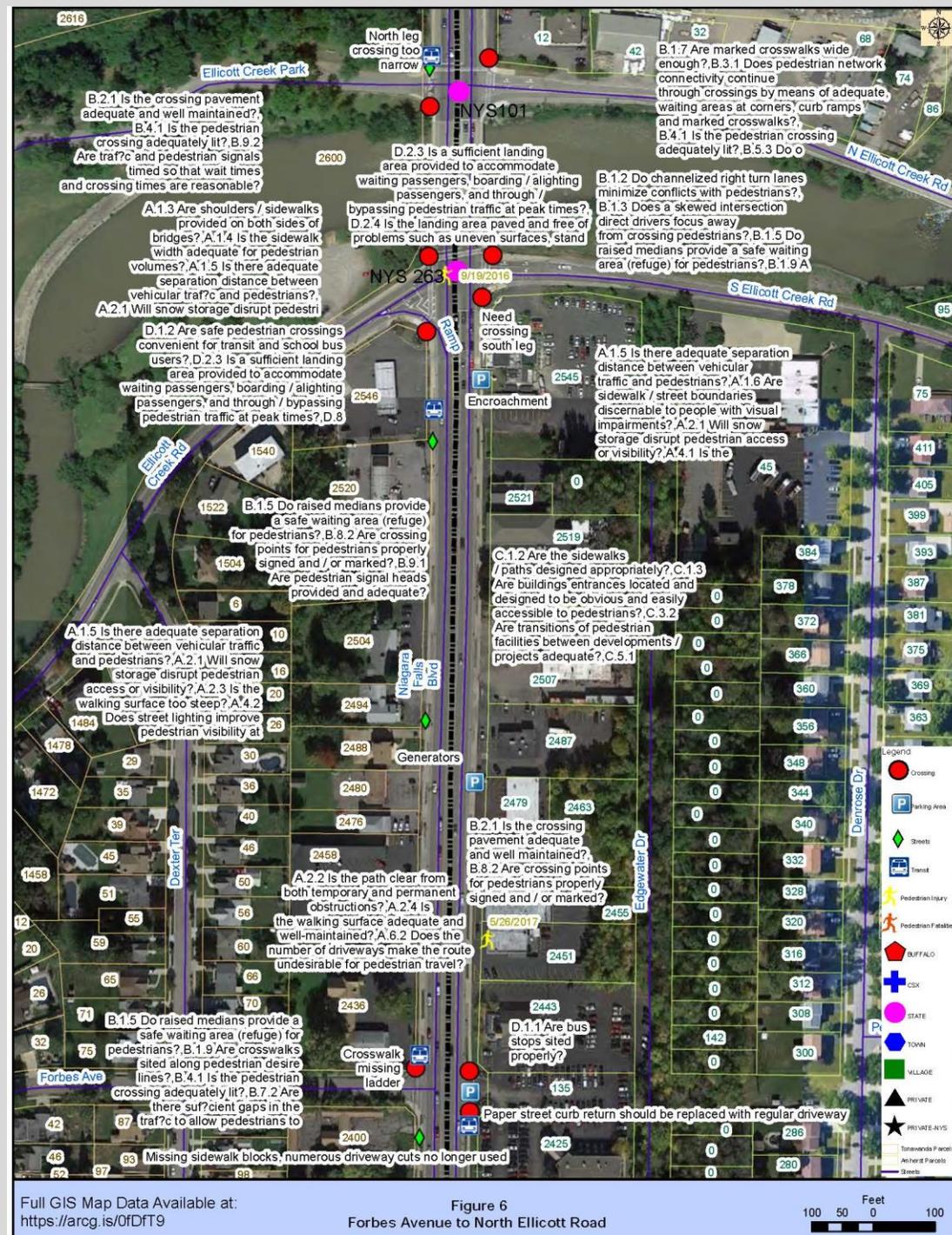
Wider sidewalks

More signalized crossings

Street trees

STUDY AREA





Town of Tonawanda
Office of the Town Engineer

2919 Delaware Avenue
Room 70, Municipal Building
Kenmore, New York 14221-7308

JAMES B. JONES, P.E., CFM
town engineer

**Niagara Falls Boulevard
Pedestrian Road Safety Audit**
Ridge Lea Road to East Robinson Road
Town of Tonawanda and Town of Amherst
June 25, 2018

Figure 1 Wheelchair pedestrian crossing south of Roger Chaffee Dr. 6/25/2018

Conducted by:
Town of Tonawanda
Office of the Town Engineer
2919 Delaware Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14221
Tel: (716) 877-8805

Town of Amherst
Engineering Department
1100 North Forest Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
Tel: (716) 631-7415



“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

NYS DOT 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
prehensive Plans and address
y formulating goals and
pecific Focal Area Plan for



September 7, 2021

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Falls and the City of
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ifficult to redevelop
nd direct adjacency

neighborhoods with
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sustain community
the problems and
on Plan will address
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y zoning and design
he future vision for

of different forms of
he 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.”

COMMUNITY KICK-OFF

March 14, 2022
via Zoom

OVER 60 PARTICIPANTS

Zoom Webinar
Recording

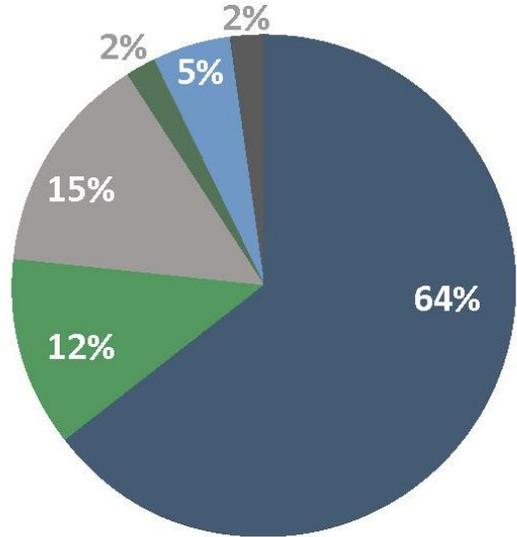
ACROSS THE BOULEVARD
Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

connectingwrpv.com

SEE YOU APRIL 2 - 7

Participants: Elysse Dallas, Victor Dover, Amy Groves, Kim Amplement, Joe Emminger, Jim Hartz, Brian Kulpa, Mike Riebe, Eric Pate

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 HANDS-ON DESIGN

Sat, April 2, 9am – 12pm
Sweet Home High School



BUS TOUR

Sunday, April 3
2pm – 4:30pm



COMMUNITY HANDS-ON DESIGN

Mon, April 4, 6pm
via ZOOM

AutoSave ON | Big Ideas Form - Read-Only | Search (Alt+Q) | Kenneth Garcia | Comments | Share

File Home Insert Draw Design Layout References Mailings Review View Help Acrobat

BIG IDEAS:

Breakout Room 1

- 1.** Improve the Thistle Bridge crosswalk, and make Ellicott Creek Road safer for all. Improve connections to the park. Reduce speeds on Ellicott Creek Road and other residential connector roads.
- 2.** Improve safety along Niagara Falls Blvd, especially between Ellicott Creek and the Home Depot. Add additional crossings.
- 3.** Create a better built environment to attract locally owned businesses that are attractive to residents and visitors. See Kenmore, Williamsville.

Page 1 of 1 | 74 words | Text Predictions: On | Accessibility: Good to go | Focus | 100%

Elysse Dallas

Amy Groves

Christie Shapero

Michael Riebe

James Louis

Unmute | Stop Video | Security | Participants 26 | Chat | Share Screen | Record | Live Transcript | Breakout Rooms | Reactions | Leave

DESIGN STUDIO

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



studio meetings:

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

WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRESENTATION

April 7th



Walking Deadly: Niagara Falls Blvd. 'a pedestrian wasteland'

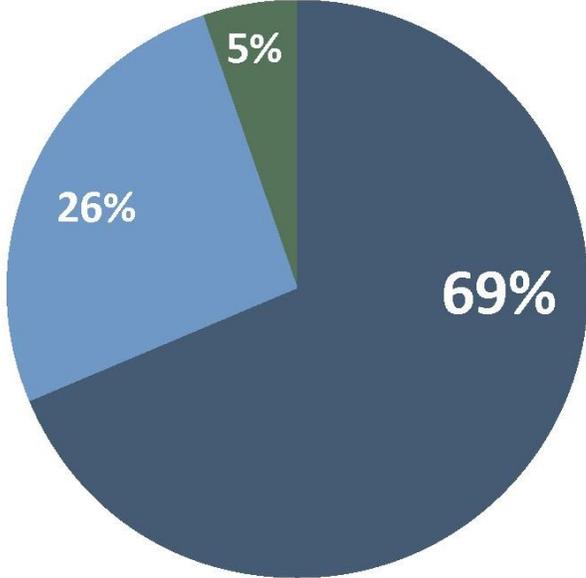
Tonawanda supervisor pushing for greater pedestrian safety on Niagara Falls Boulevard

Woman is sixth pedestrian fatality on deadly stretch of Niagara Falls Boulevard

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



Based on what you heard tonight, is the Action Plan on the right track?



- Yes
- Probably yes
- Maybe – need more information
- No

COMMUNITY REVIEW DRAFT



ACROSS THE BOULEVARD WILLOW RIDGE-PARKVIEW ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 19, 2022 DRAFT



ACROSS THE BOULEVARD
Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

Across the Boulevard: Willow Ridge – Parkview Action Plan

4: Make it Safe

RECONFIGURE NIAGARA FALLS BOULEVARD

What do you think of the ideas for redesigning Niagara Falls Boulevard? (responses at charrette presentation)



BIG IDEAS

Expand the sidewalk: The sidewalk would increase from 5 feet to 10 feet, to be used as a multi-use (walk and bike) facility.

Add street trees: Trees in planting strips will calm traffic, provide snow storage area, and create a buffer for pedestrians.

Create more crossing opportunities: Improved pedestrian crossings will create connections between neighborhoods.

ECONOMIC INSIGHT

Underutilized land is the raw material for visionary developers. There is a supply of land ready for change.



Figure 4.9, right: Existing Conditions

Figure 4.10, below: Redesigning Niagara Falls Boulevard to be safer for pedestrians by narrowing the vehicle lane widths, increasing safe crossing opportunities, enhancing sidewalks and adding street trees.



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ACTION PLAN:

make it safe

connect

refresh

Action #	Description	Timeframe			Responsible Party / Partners	Potential Funding Source	Page #
		Immediate	Mid-term	Long-term			
Make it Safe							
S-1	Adopt a Joint Resolution: Safety is the Highest Priority for the Boulevard						22
S-1.1	Draft and adopt a joint resolution between the two towns to solidify priority on safety over speed, serving to inform all actions at local, county, and state levels.	X			Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda	Town Budget	
S-2	Improve Signal Spacing: Add Signals at Additional Intersections						24
S-2.1	Coordinate with NYSDOT on intersection signal recommendations for Forbes Avenue, Thistle Avenue, Faragut Avenue, and Dexter Terrace; conduct traffic signal warrants evaluation for new signal types (HAWK or full vehicular signal); ensure pedestrian demand warrants for HAWK signals include additional induced pedestrian demand from installing the new crossing; implement new signals according to study results.	X	X		Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda, NYSDOT	State grants, Town Budget	

Action #	Description	Timeframe			Responsible Party / Partners	Potential Funding Source	Page #
		Immediate	Mid-term	Long-term			
S-2.2	Continue implementation of Pedestrian recommendations by partnering with management policy for the corridor leading pedestrian intervals at all signals constructing a new signal near the C Niagara Falls Boulevard / Forbes Avenue (S-2.1).						
Connect							
C-1	Emphasize Placemaking and Walkable Connections Rather than Parking						38
C-1.1	Submit a letter of interest to Greater Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Smart Boulevard to be considered for Smart Arterial (SEMA), Smart Corridor pilot with new technology.	X			Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda	Town Budget	
C-2	Establish a Network of Trails						38
C-2.1	Re-design Niagara Falls Boulevard to increase safety (narrow travel lanes, posted speed of 40mph. (See also step S-3.1).	X			Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda	Town Budget	
C-2.2	Partner with NYSDOT to synchronize Niagara Falls Boulevard to new technology better regulate and monitor traffic flow.	X	X		Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, GBNRTC	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).	X	X		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.	X	X		Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda	Town budget, grants	
	Implement pedestrian and bike improvements on Chestnut Ridge				Town of		

COMMUNITY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT PLAN



“Thank you for this study. I love where I live and look forward to any improvements to make it feel less commercial and more people-centric.”

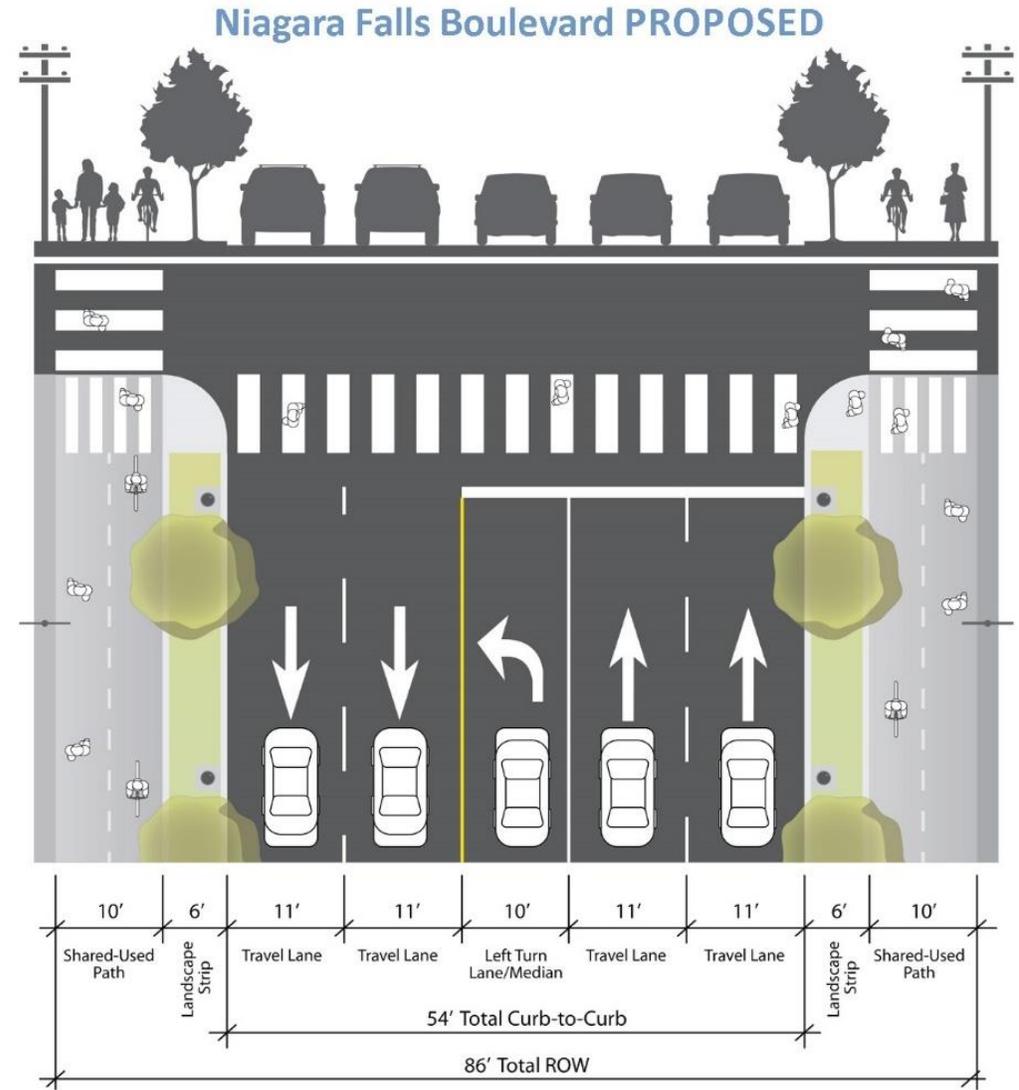
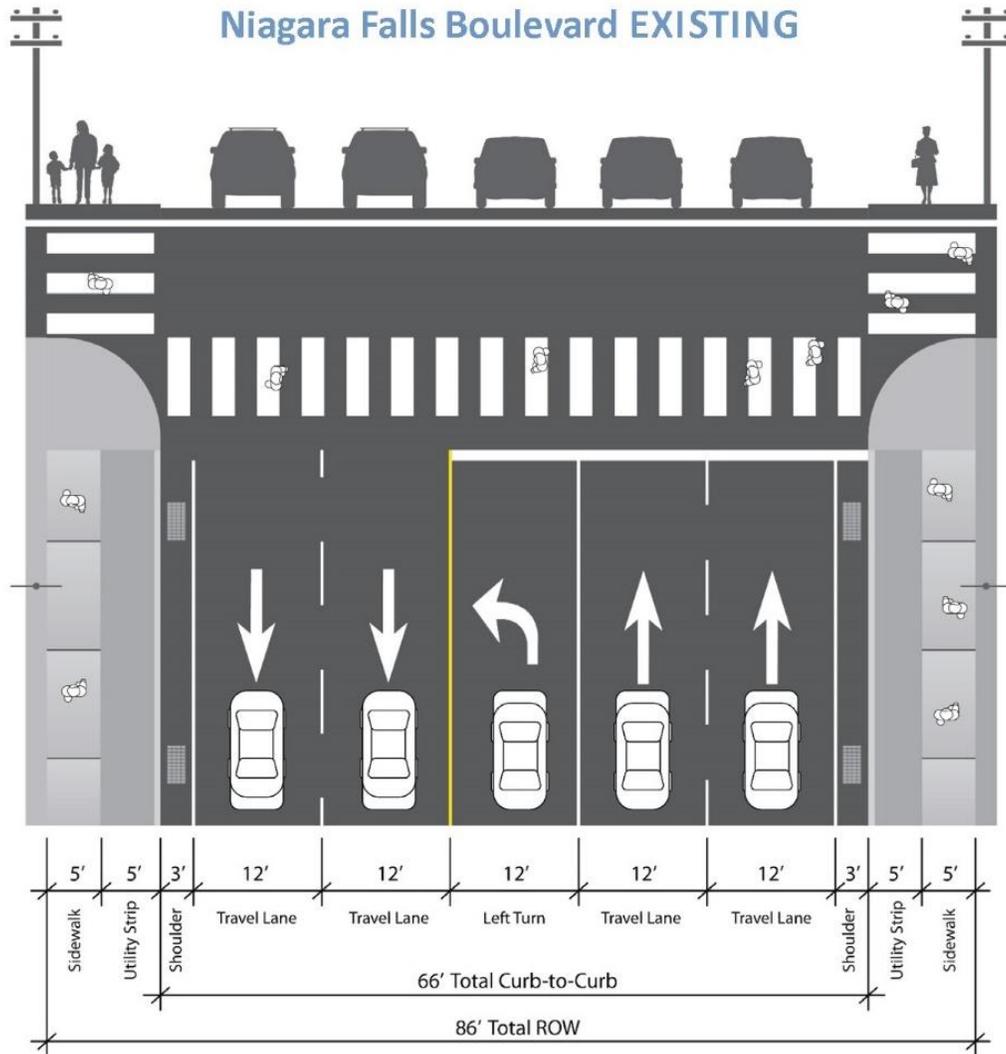
“Love the idea to have the bike path separated away from the thru traffic.”

- Draft report available for review November/December 2022
- Community presentation at Sweet Home Middle School on **March 8, 2023**
- Online surveys on charrette work-in-progress and the draft plan report

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

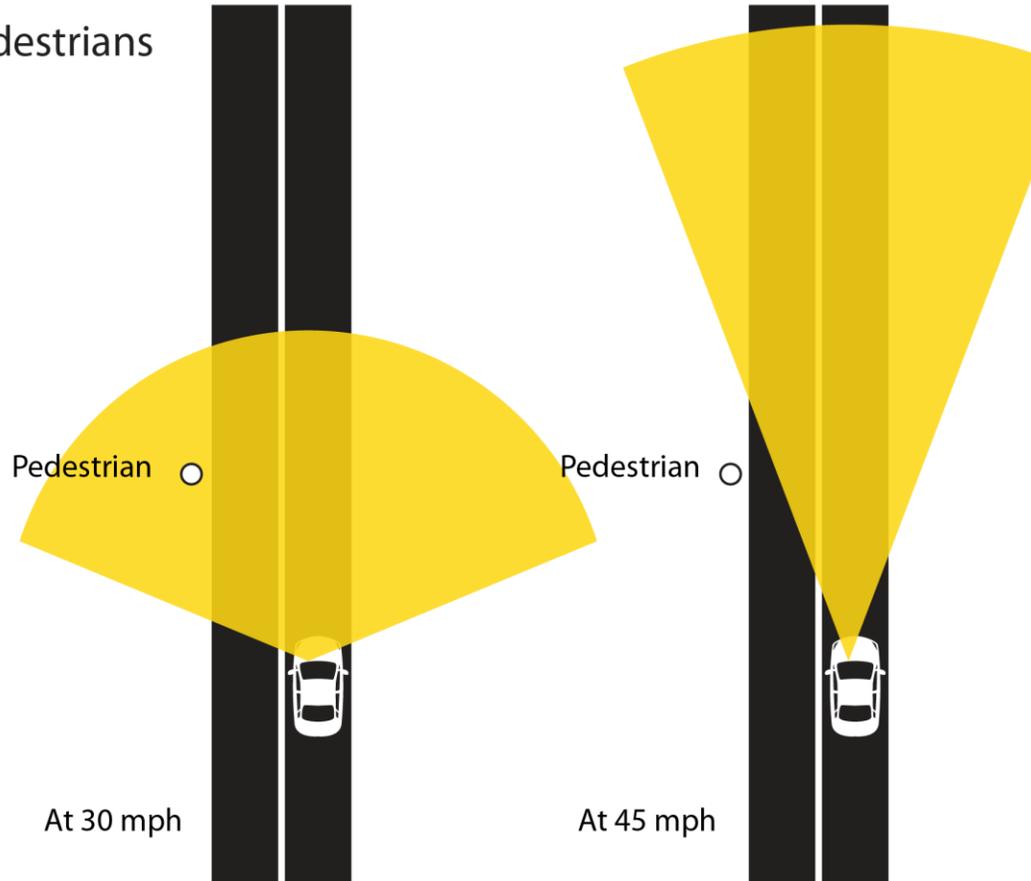
Street Configuration (north of Willow Ridge Drive)



Speed Management

IMPACTS OF VEHICLE SPEED

Seeing Pedestrians



THE EFFECT OF VEHICLE SPEED ON PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES



5% chance of pedestrian fatality

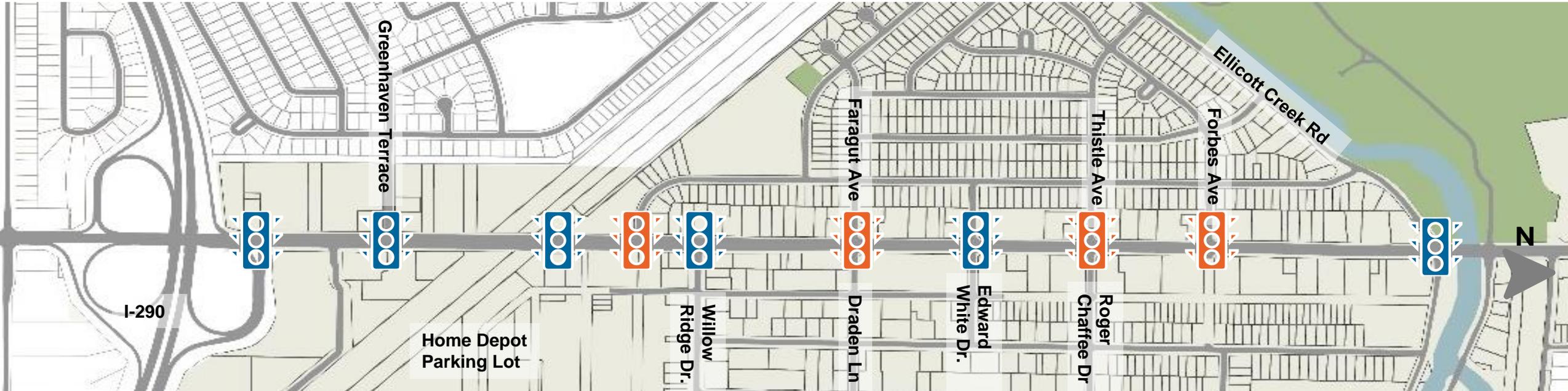


45% chance of pedestrian fatality



85% chance of pedestrian fatality

Signalized Intersection Spacing



- One existing crossing opportunity between Willow Ridge and S Ellicott Creek (> ¼ mile and ½ 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



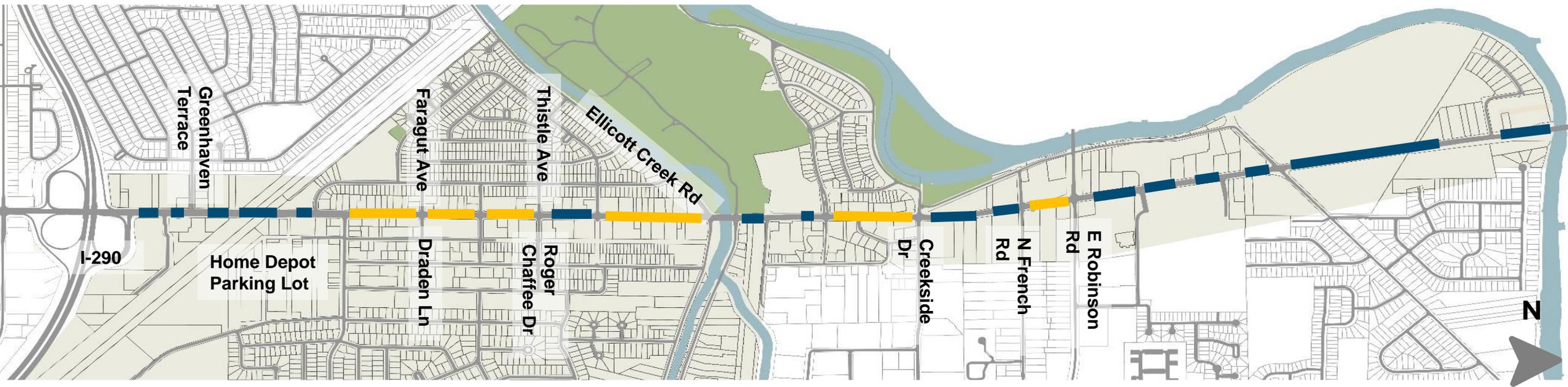
Existing Signal



Proposed Signal
or HAWK Signal



Potential Median Locations

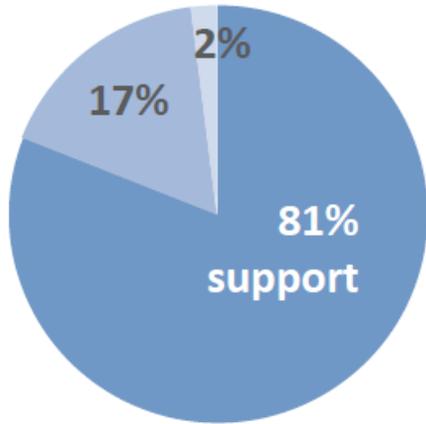


■ Potential Existing Median Opportunities

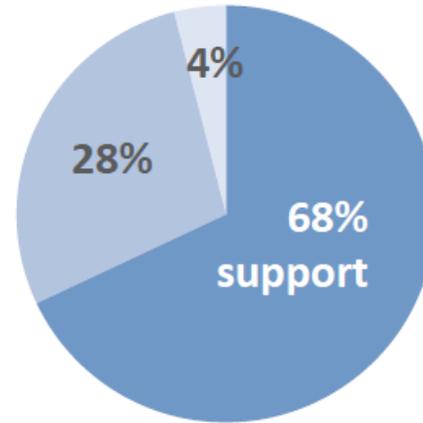
■ Median Opportunity with further driveway consolidation/property coordination

ONLINE SURVEY:

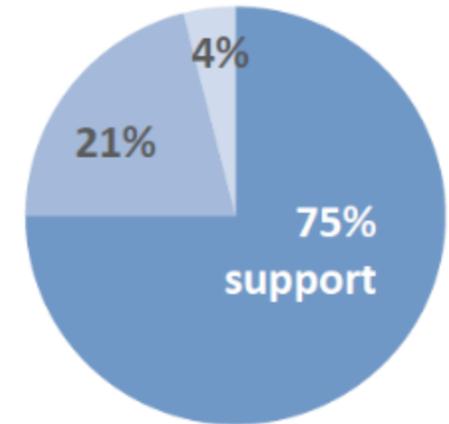
Do you support the **MAKE IT SAFE** Action Steps?



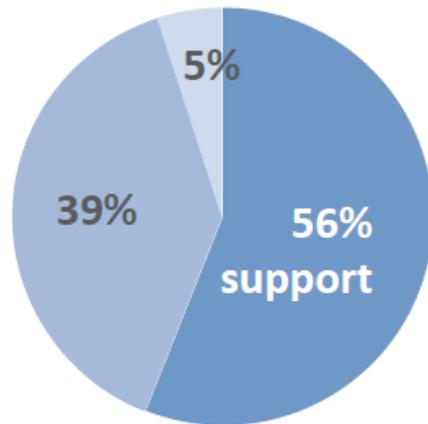
Adopt a Joint Resolution



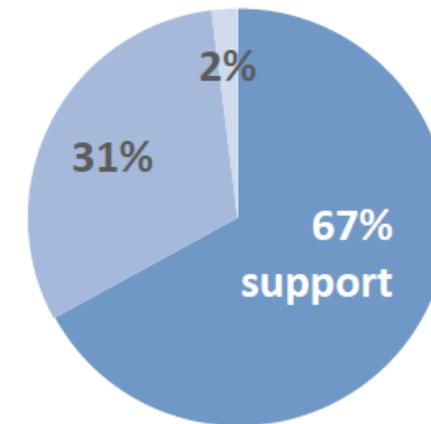
Rethink Speed Management



Access Management



Improve Signal Spacing



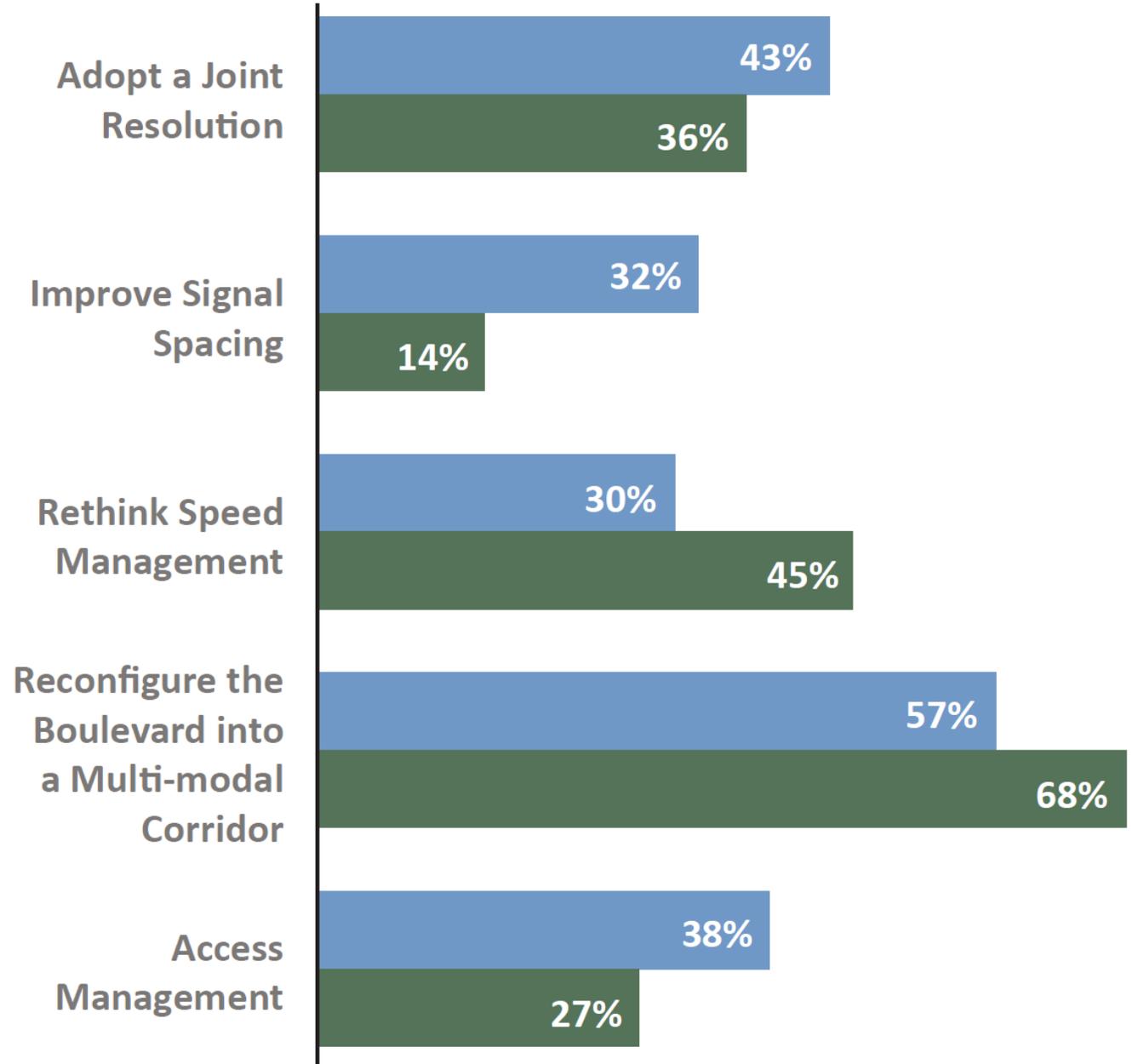
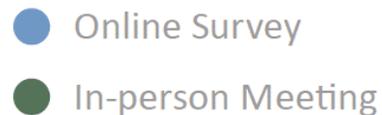
Reconfigure the Boulevard into a Multi-modal Corridor

- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion

ONLINE & IN-PERSON SURVEY:

Select the top two MAKE IT SAFE

Action Steps you
feel should be of
highest priority

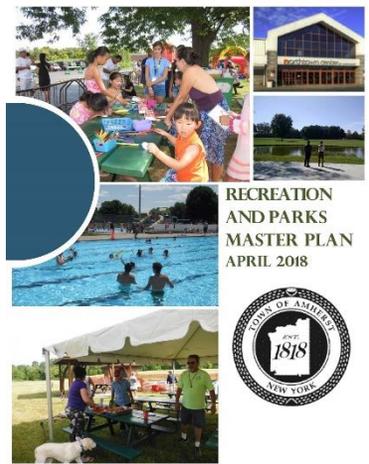
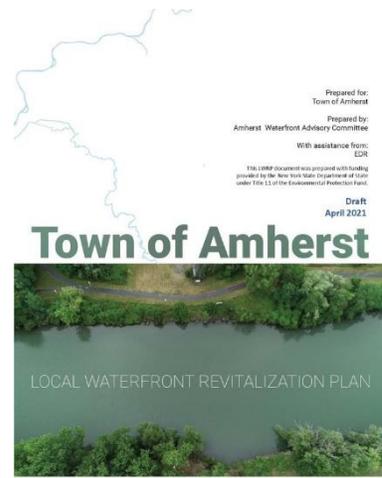
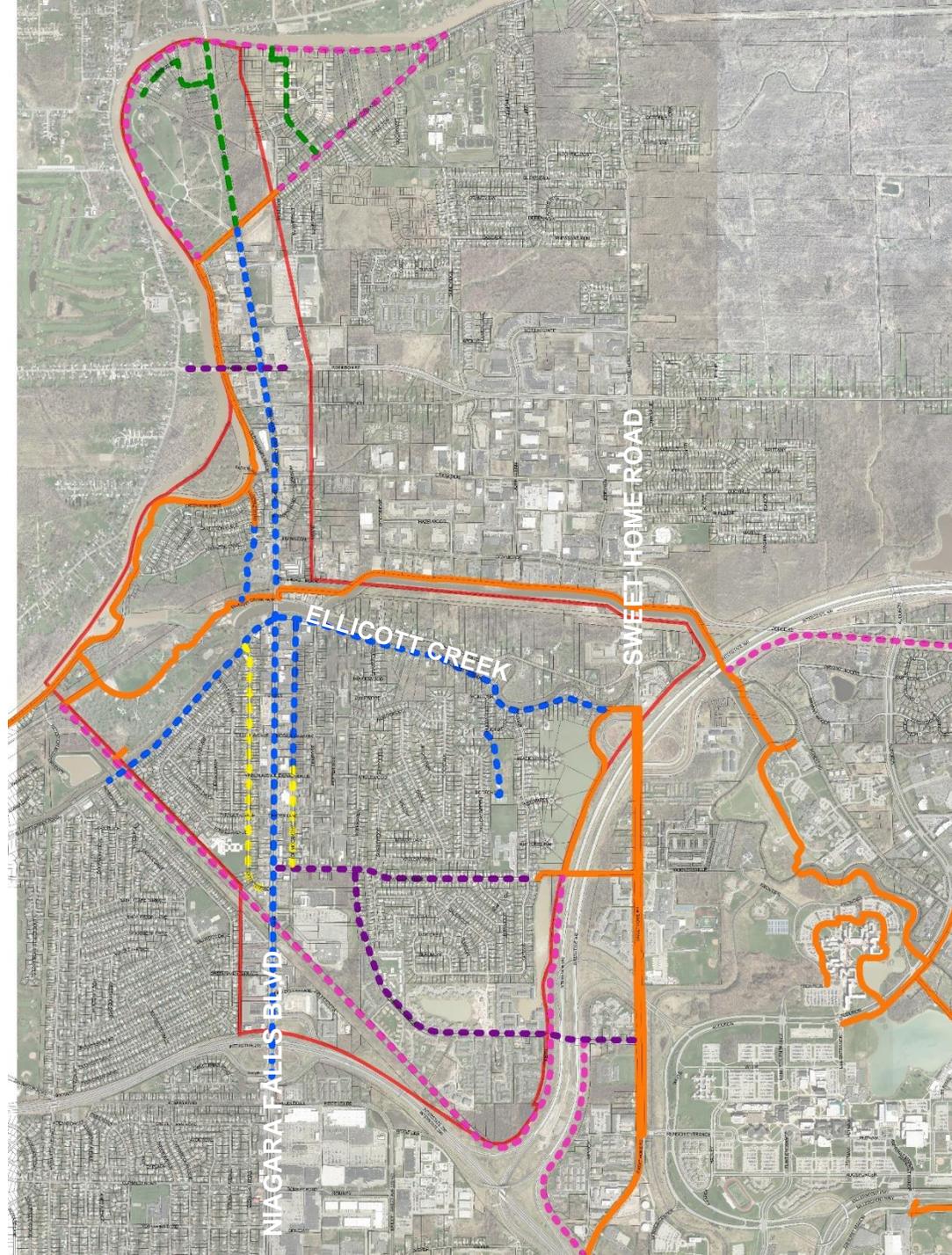


connect: actions

1. 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

- Study Area Boundary
- Existing Trails
- Planned On-Street
- Planned Off-Street
- Proposed On-Street
- Proposed Off-Street
- Proposed Bike Blvd.



Proposed Complete Streets



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



ACROSS THE BOULEVARD
Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

connectingwrpv.com

Nov/Dec 2022

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



CAPITALIZE ON THE CREEK AND TRAIL

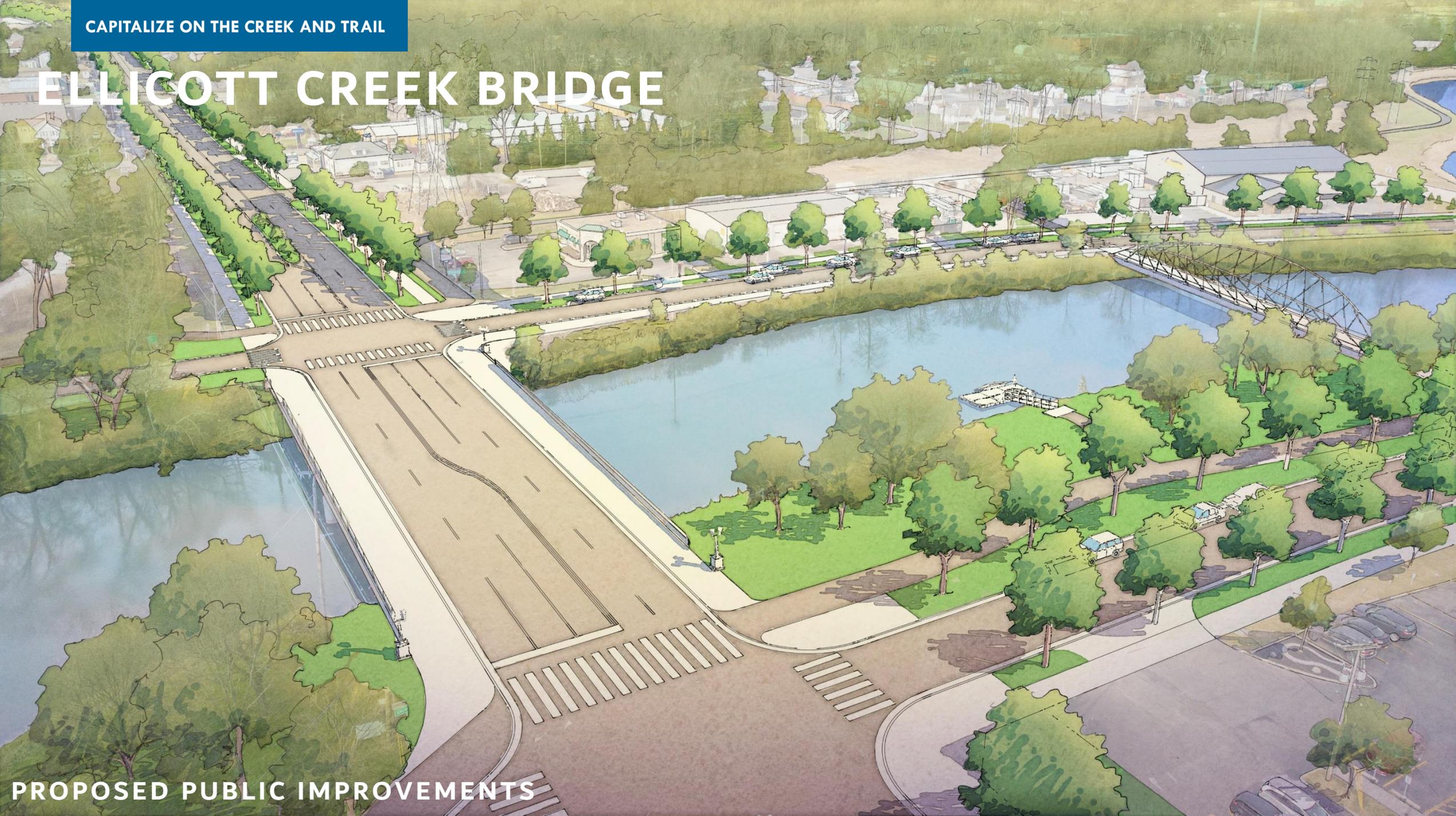
ELLICOTT CREEK BRIDGE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

CAPITALIZE ON THE CREEK AND TRAIL

ELLICOTT CREEK BRIDGE



PROPOSED PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

CAPITALIZE ON THE CREEK AND TRAIL

Street trees and wider sidewalks along the boulevard

Improved crossings and safer intersections

Ellicott Creek Rd reimaged as a pedestrian-friendly street

New bike & pedestrian bridge over Ellicott Creek

New kayak launch

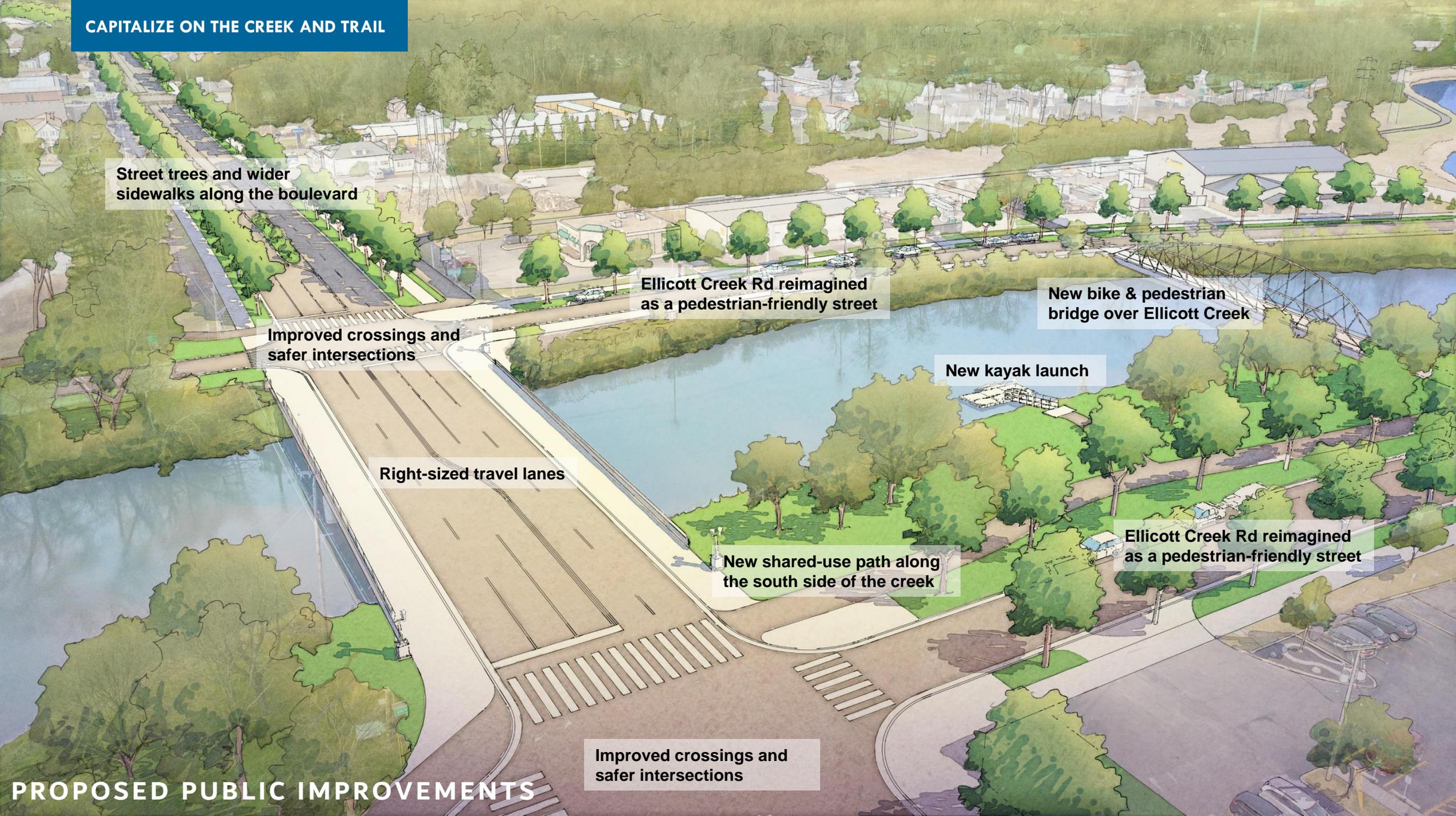
Right-sized travel lanes

New shared-use path along the south side of the creek

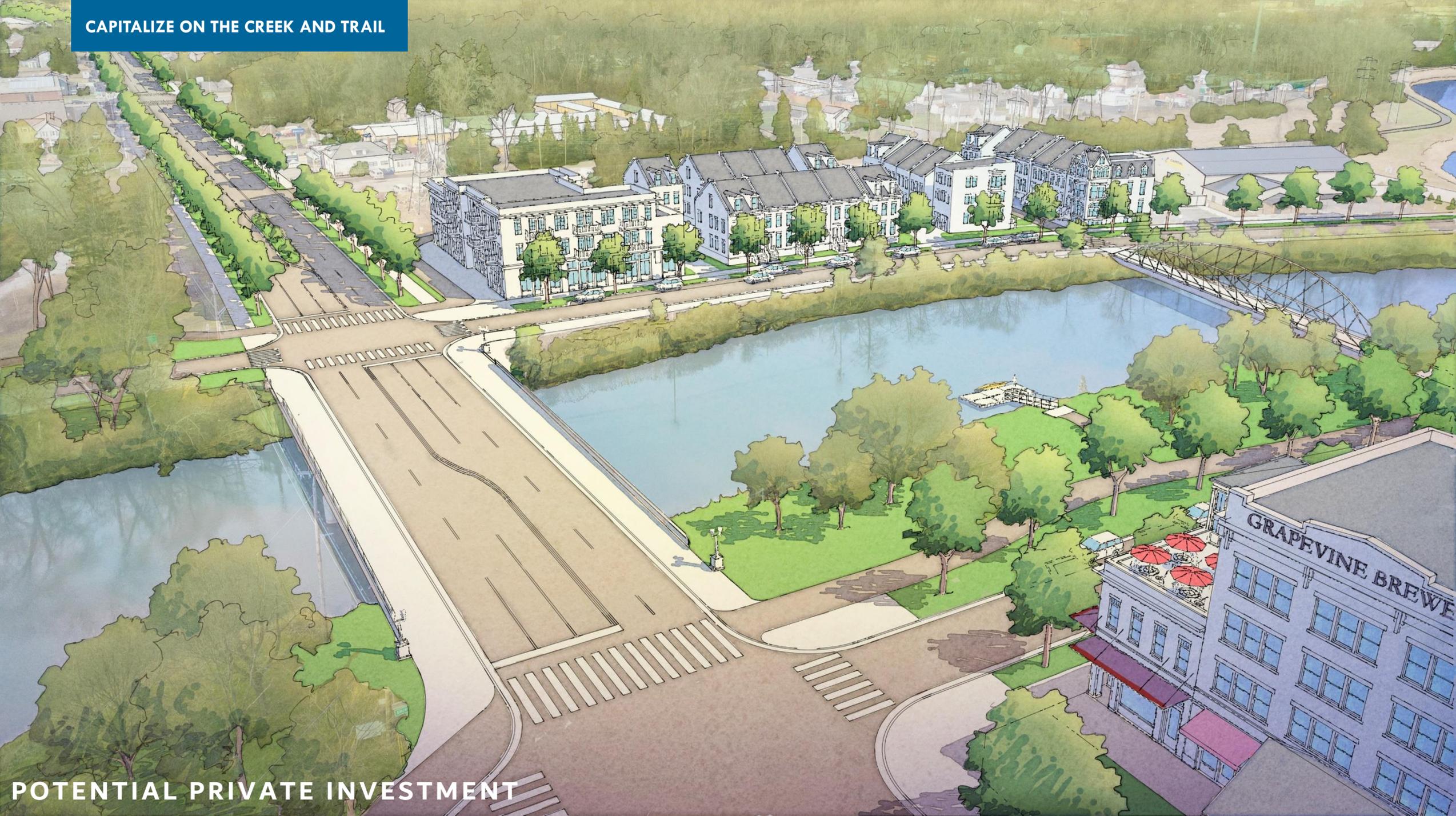
Ellicott Creek Rd reimaged as a pedestrian-friendly street

Improved crossings and safer intersections

PROPOSED PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

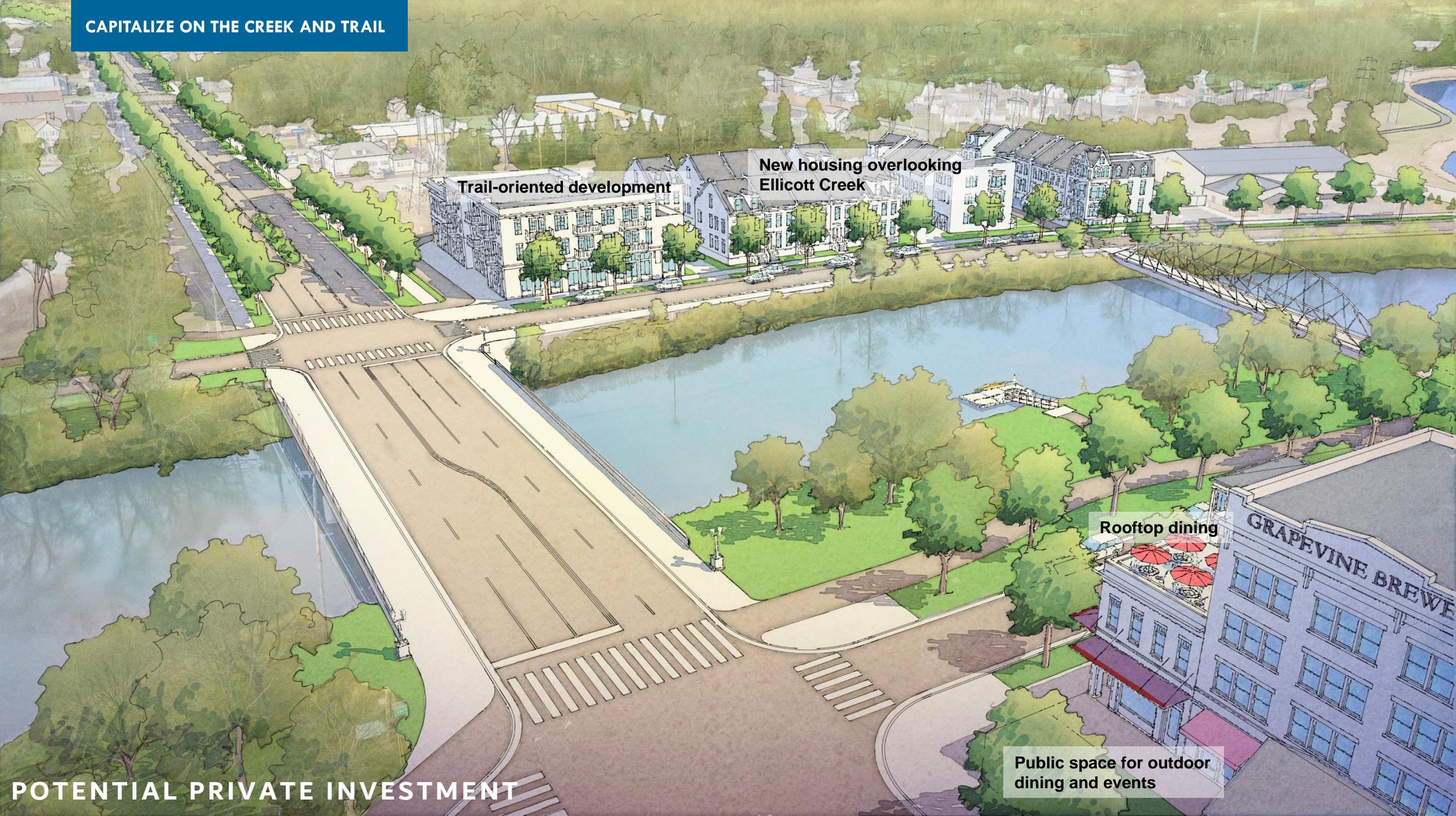


CAPITALIZE ON THE CREEK AND TRAIL



POTENTIAL PRIVATE INVESTMENT

CAPITALIZE ON THE CREEK AND TRAIL



Trail-oriented development

**New housing overlooking
Ellicott Creek**

Rooftop dining

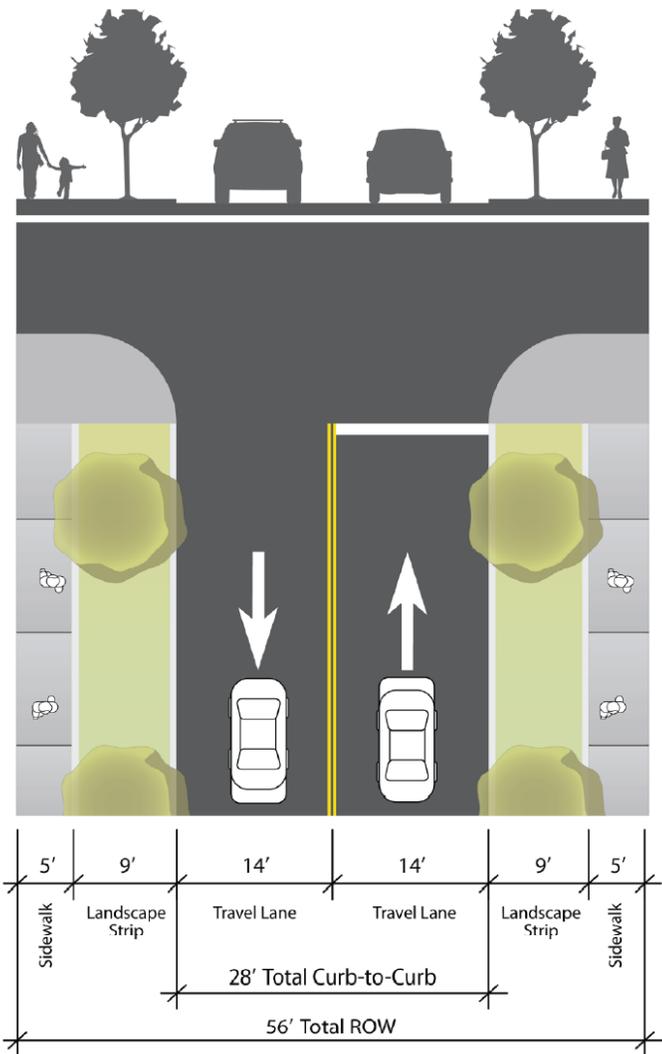
**Public space for outdoor
dining and events**

GRAPEVINE BREWERY

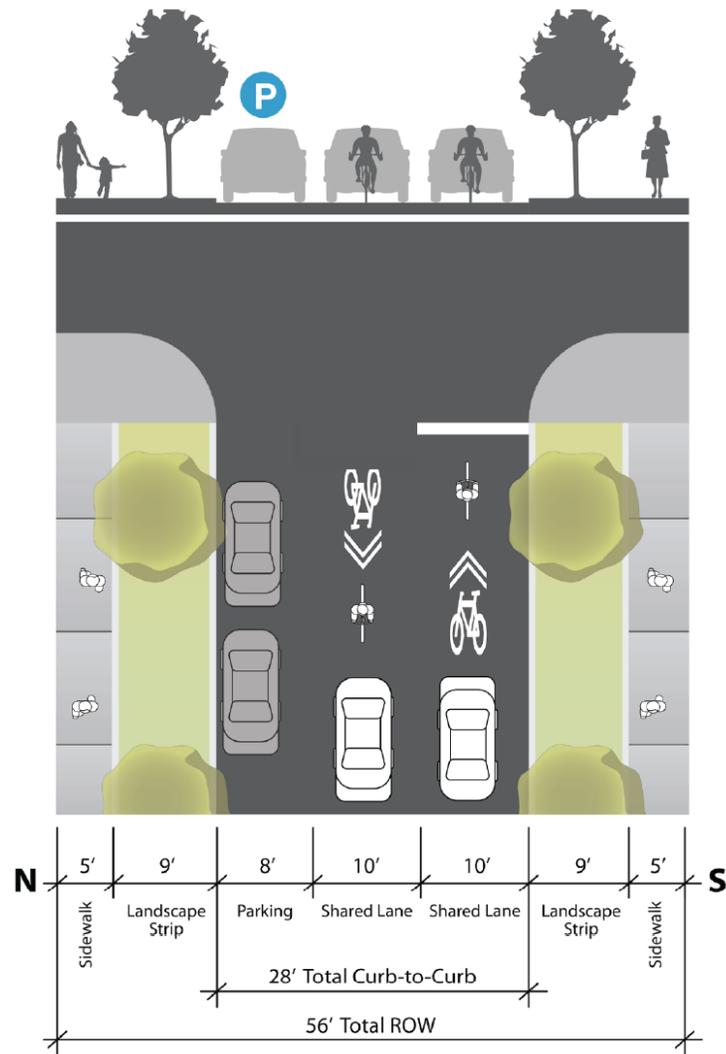
POTENTIAL PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Willow Ridge Drive

EXISTING



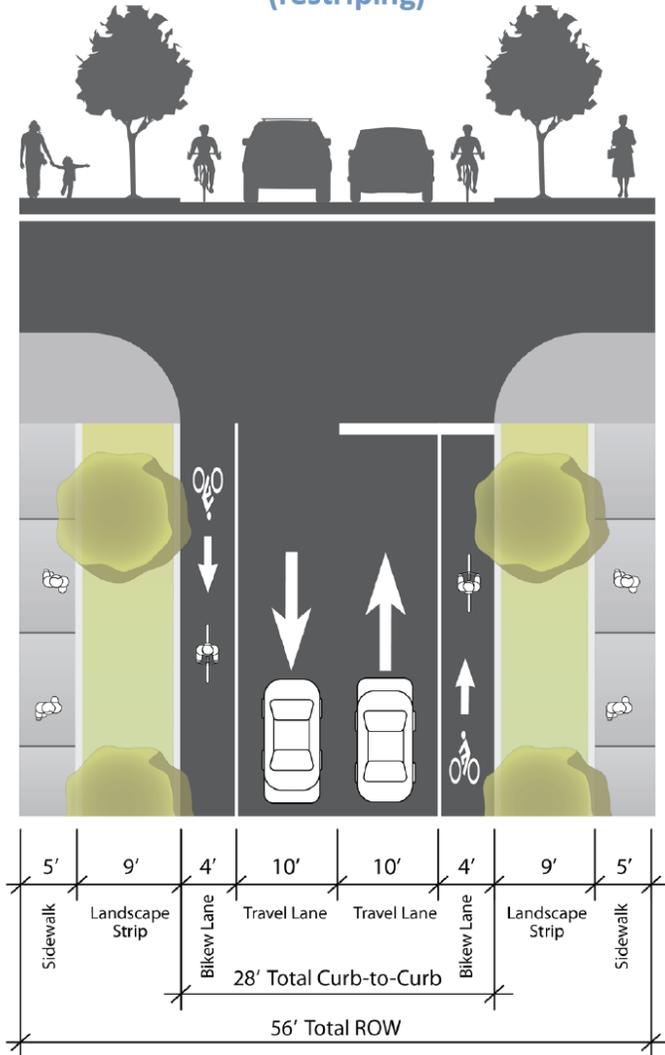
PROPOSED: EAST OF CHESTNUT RIDGE RD



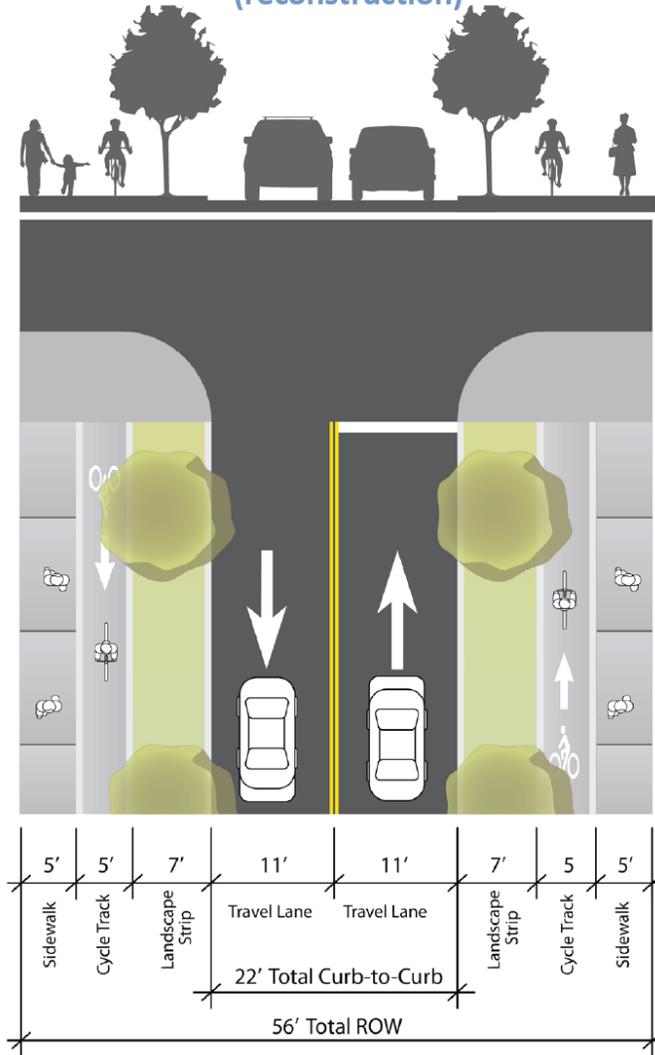
█ West of Chestnut Ridge Rd
█ East of Chestnut Ridge Rd

Willow Ridge Drive

PROPOSED: WEST OF CHESTNUT RIDGE RD
(restriping)



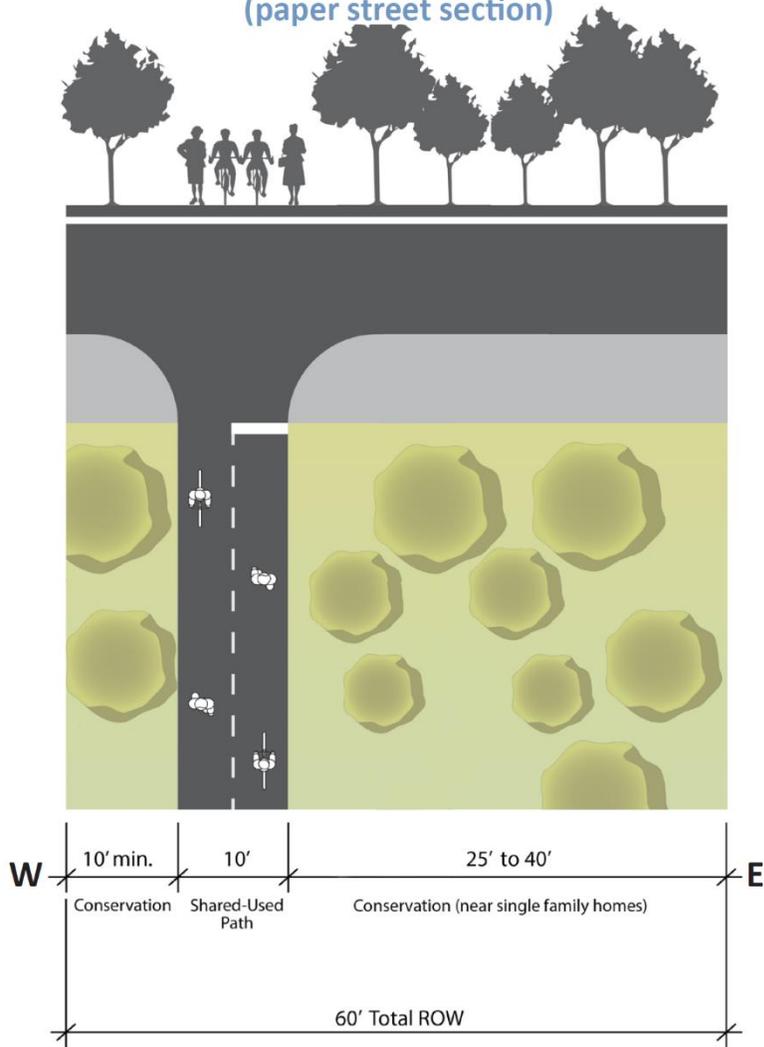
PROPOSED: WEST OF CHESTNUT RIDGE RD
(reconstruction)



West of Chestnut Ridge Rd
East of Chestnut Ridge Rd

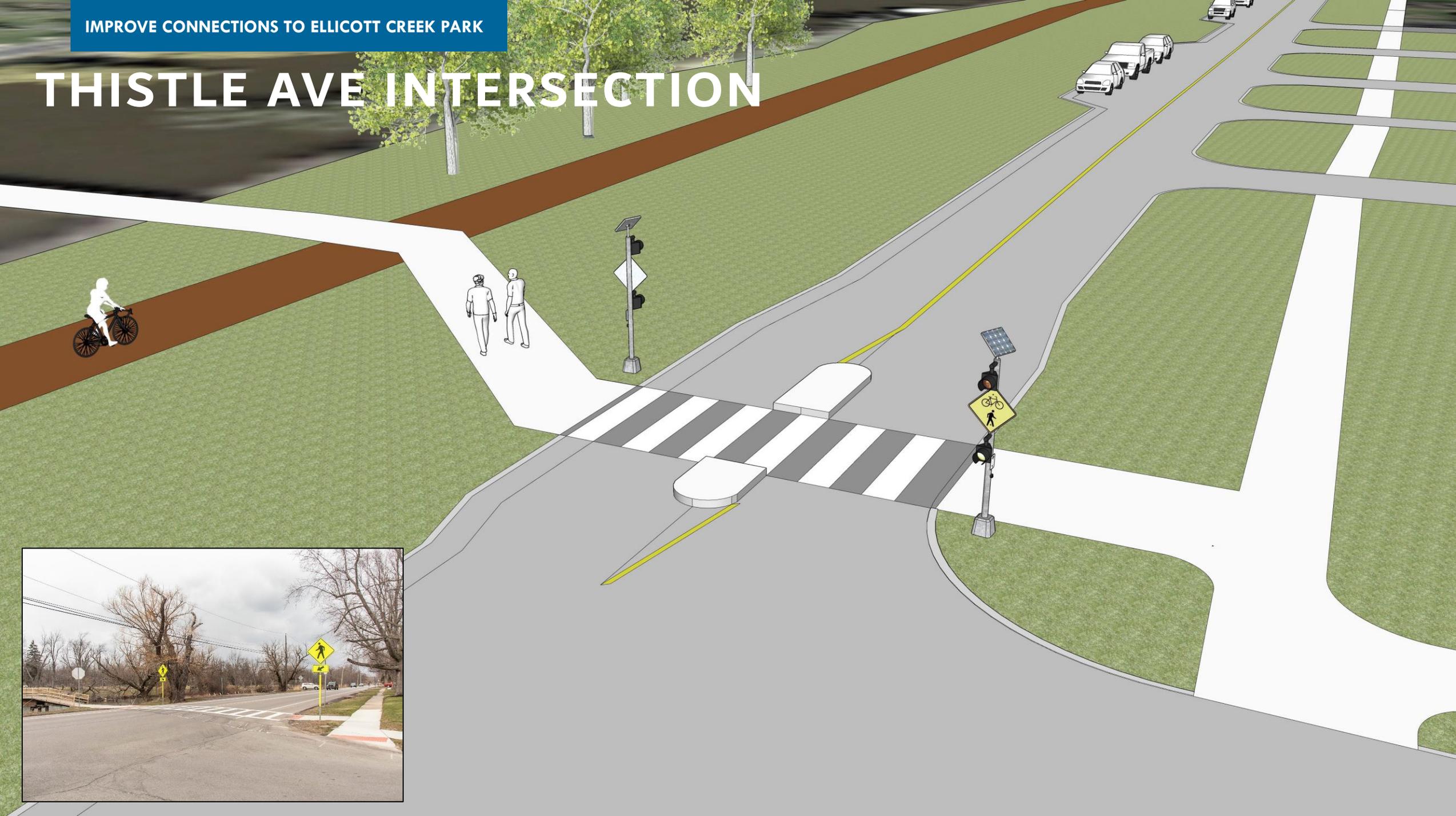
Joe McCarthy Drive

PROPOSED EXTENSION
(paper street section)



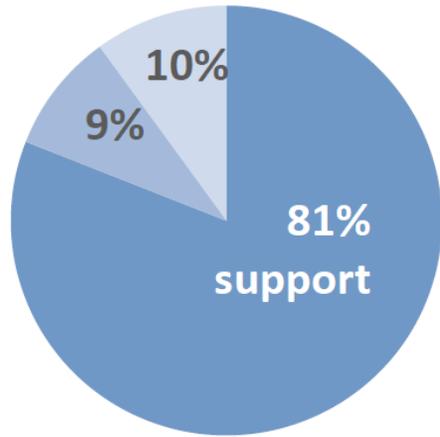
Joe McCarthy Drive
"Paper Street" Extension

THISTLE AVE INTERSECTION

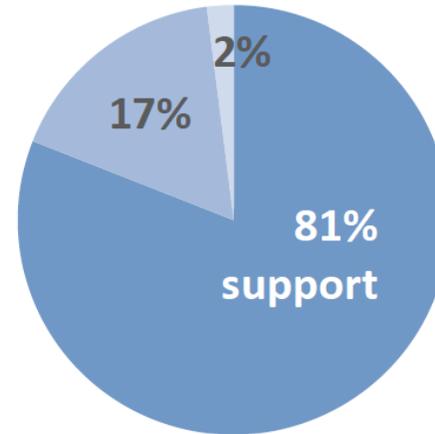


ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the CONNECT Action Steps?

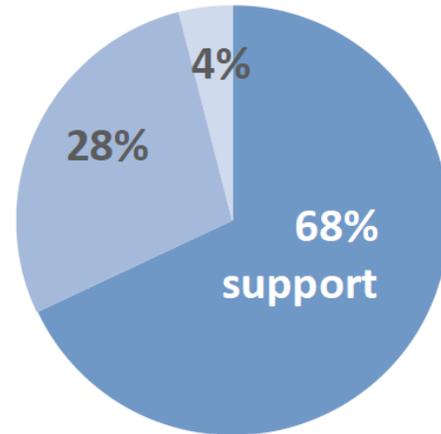
connectingwrpv.com



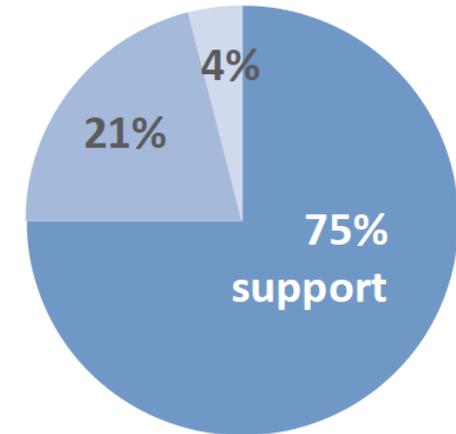
Establish a Network of Trails



Capitalize on Ellicott Creek & Trails



Retrofit Streets to Expand Pedestrian & Bike Infrastructure

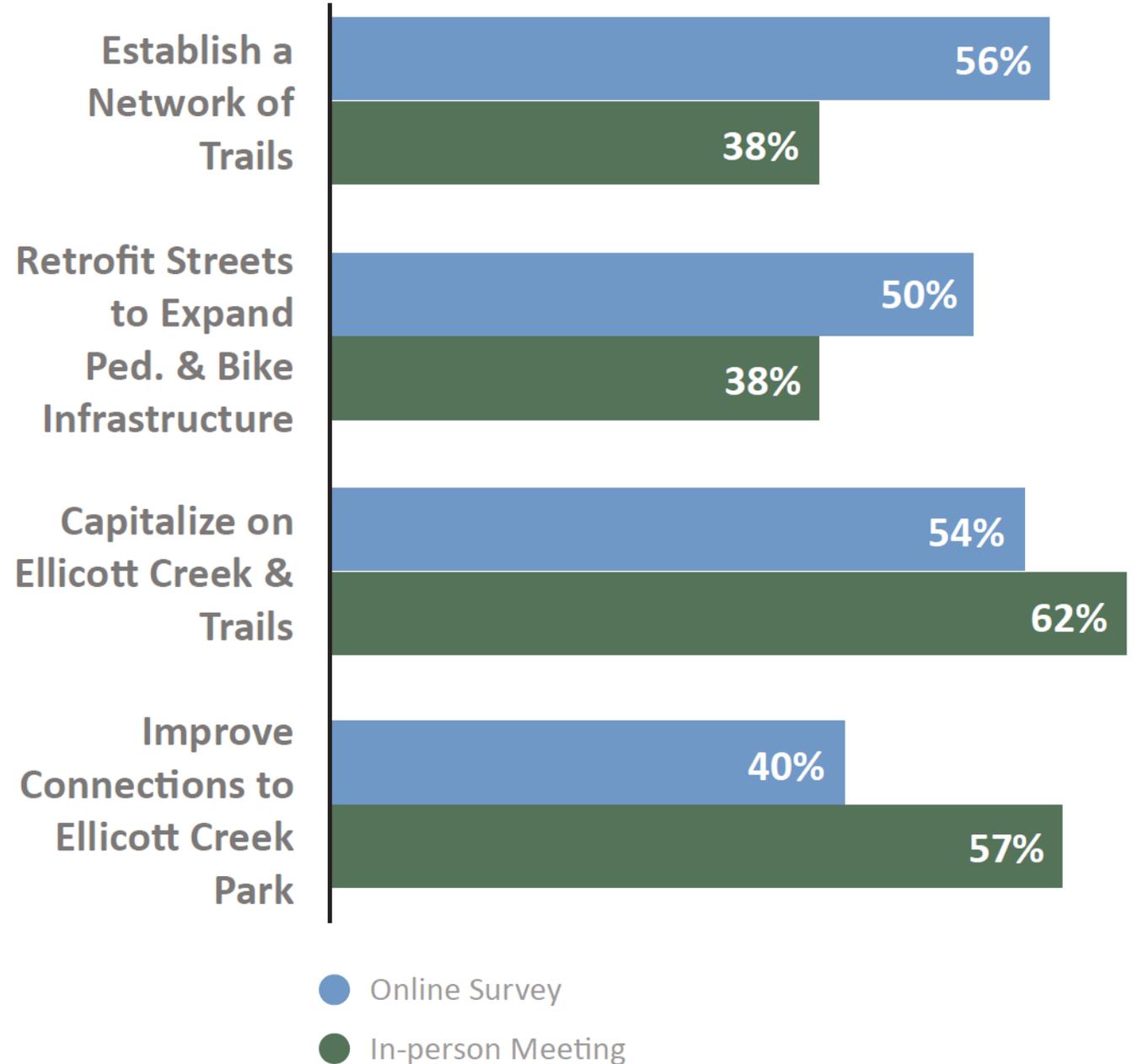


Improve Connections to Ellicott Creek Park

- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion

ONLINE & IN-PERSON SURVEY:

Select the top two
CONNECT
Action Steps you
feel should be of
highest priority



refresh: actions

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

THE BOULEVARD

FOR SALE
DEVELOPMENT SITE



CRE Global, LLC

ANDREA BROZYNA

716.566.0009

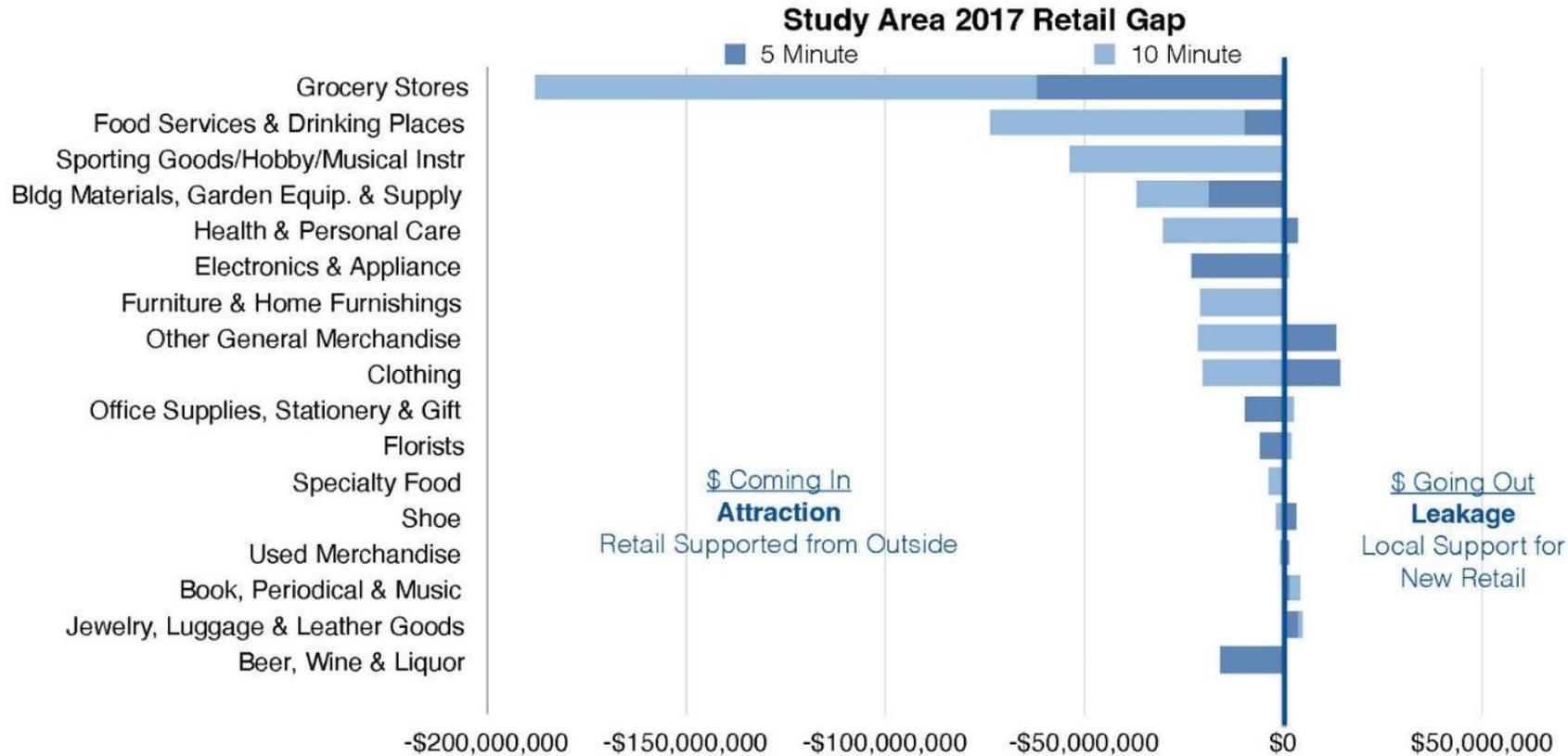
GARY DeCARLO

716.892.5100

716.630.2020



“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.

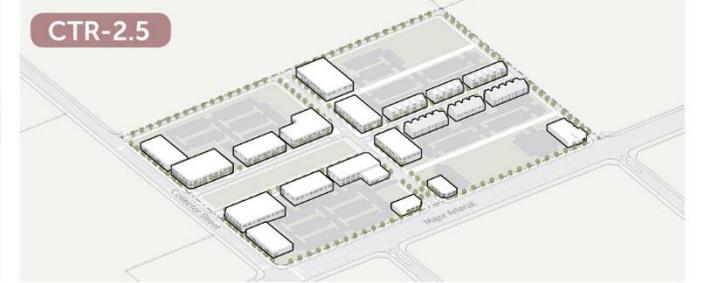


Chapter 203. Zoning

SECTION 5A. MIXED USE DISTRICTS

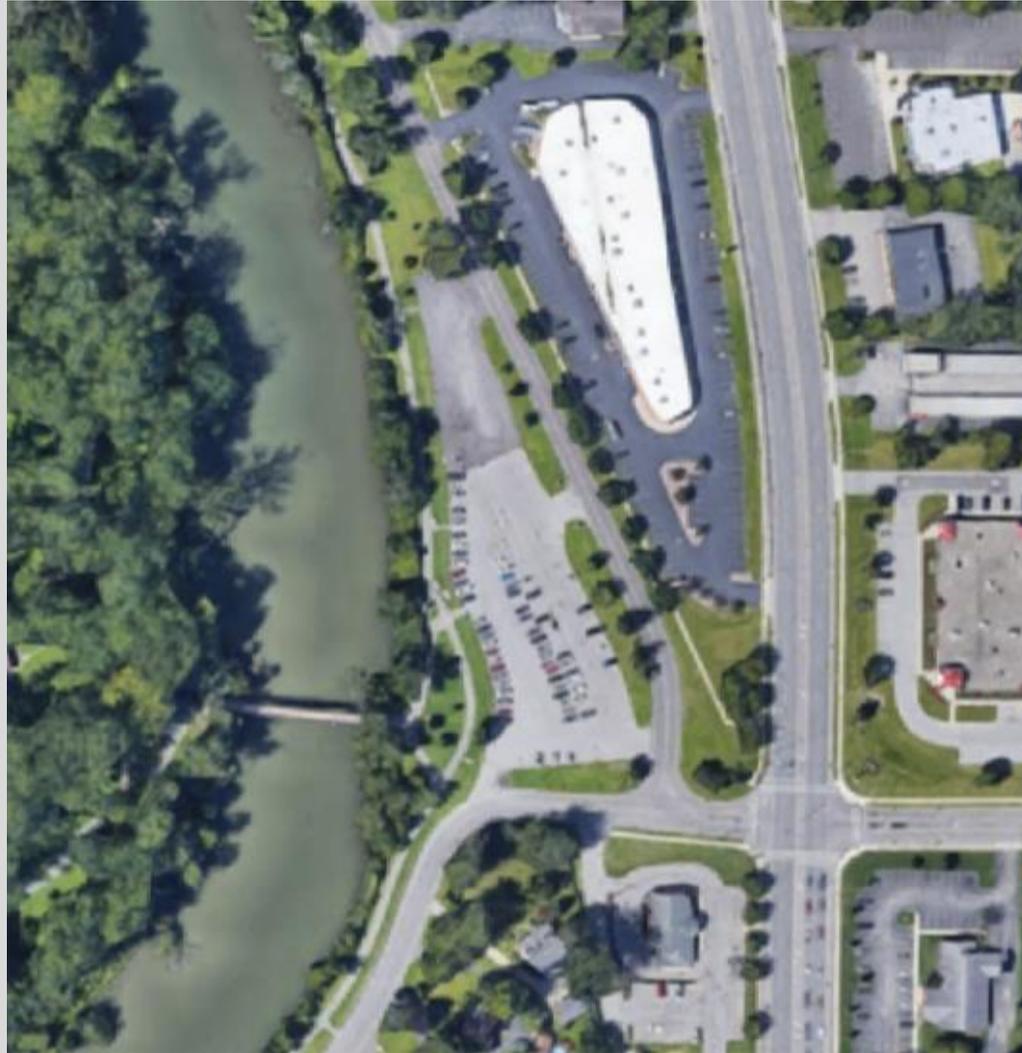


Adopted: September 3, 2019



MIXED USE DISTRICTS CODE: RETROFIT

SAMPLE SITE: CREEKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



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



CREEKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Additional Parking

Neighborhood Gathering Space

Additional Parking

Rerouted Old Niagara Falls Blvd

CREEKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

SAMPLE SITE: THE ASIAN MARKET/ HOME DEPOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

THE ASIAN MARKET/ HOME DEPOT



Renovated building

Outdoor market

Pedestrian/bike connections

INITIAL STEPS

THE ASIAN MARKET/ HOME DEPOT



THE ASIAN MARKET/ HOME DEPOT

Townhomes

Renovated building

Green space

Pedestrian/bike connections

INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT



THE ASIAN MARKET/ HOME DEPOT

Townhomes

Renovated building

Pedestrian/bike connections

Green space

A neighborhood center

A NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



THE ASIAN MARKET/ HOME DEPOT

Townhomes

Pedestrian/bike connections

Green space

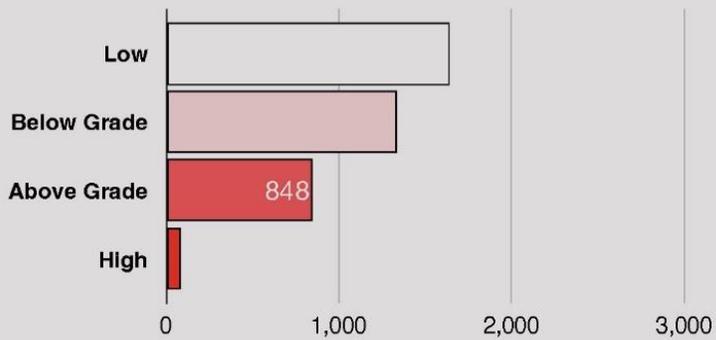
A mixed-use center

A MIXED-USE CENTER

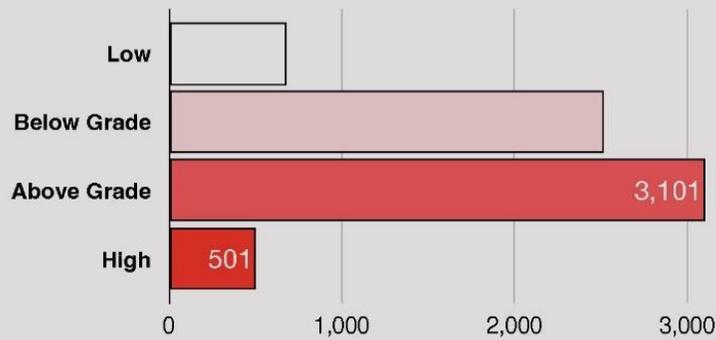


Potential Development Analysis

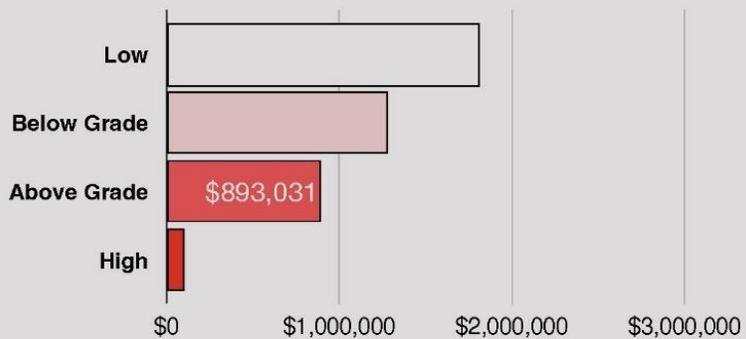
GB/C New Residential Units



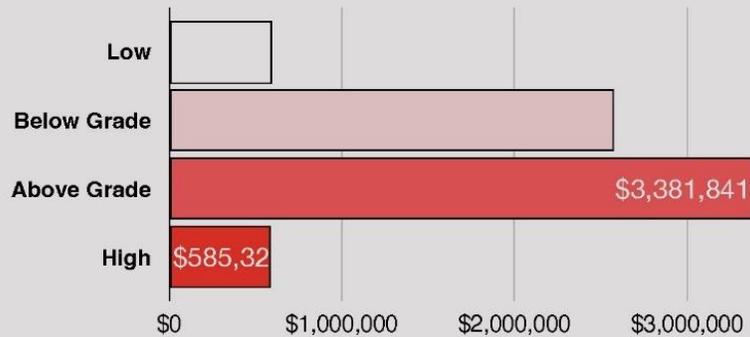
Deep Corridor New Residential Units



GB/C Net New Town Tax Revenue

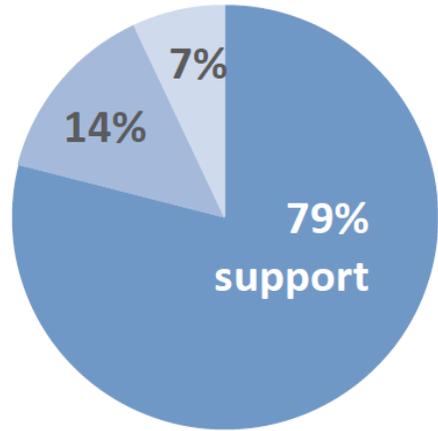


Deep Corridor Net New Town Tax Revenue

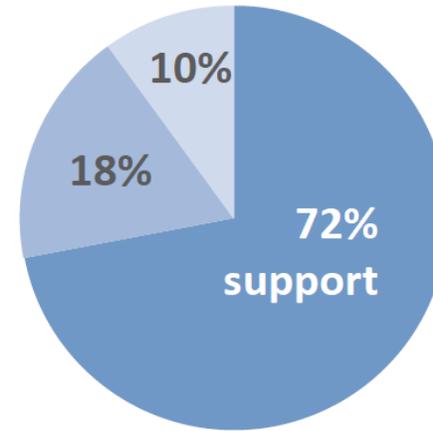


The Potential Development analysis assumed one floor of commercial/retail with two floors of apartments above.

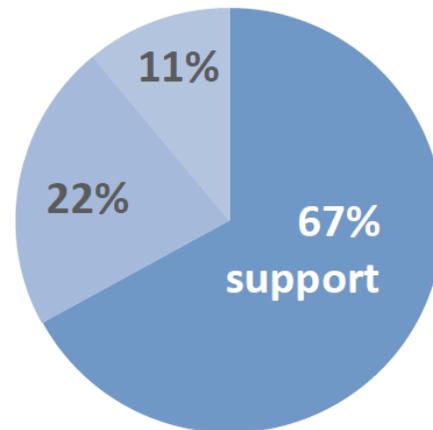
ONLINE SURVEY: Do you support the REFRESH Action Steps?



Actively Support
Investment & Remove
Impediments



Identify Market
Opportunities & Attract
Investors



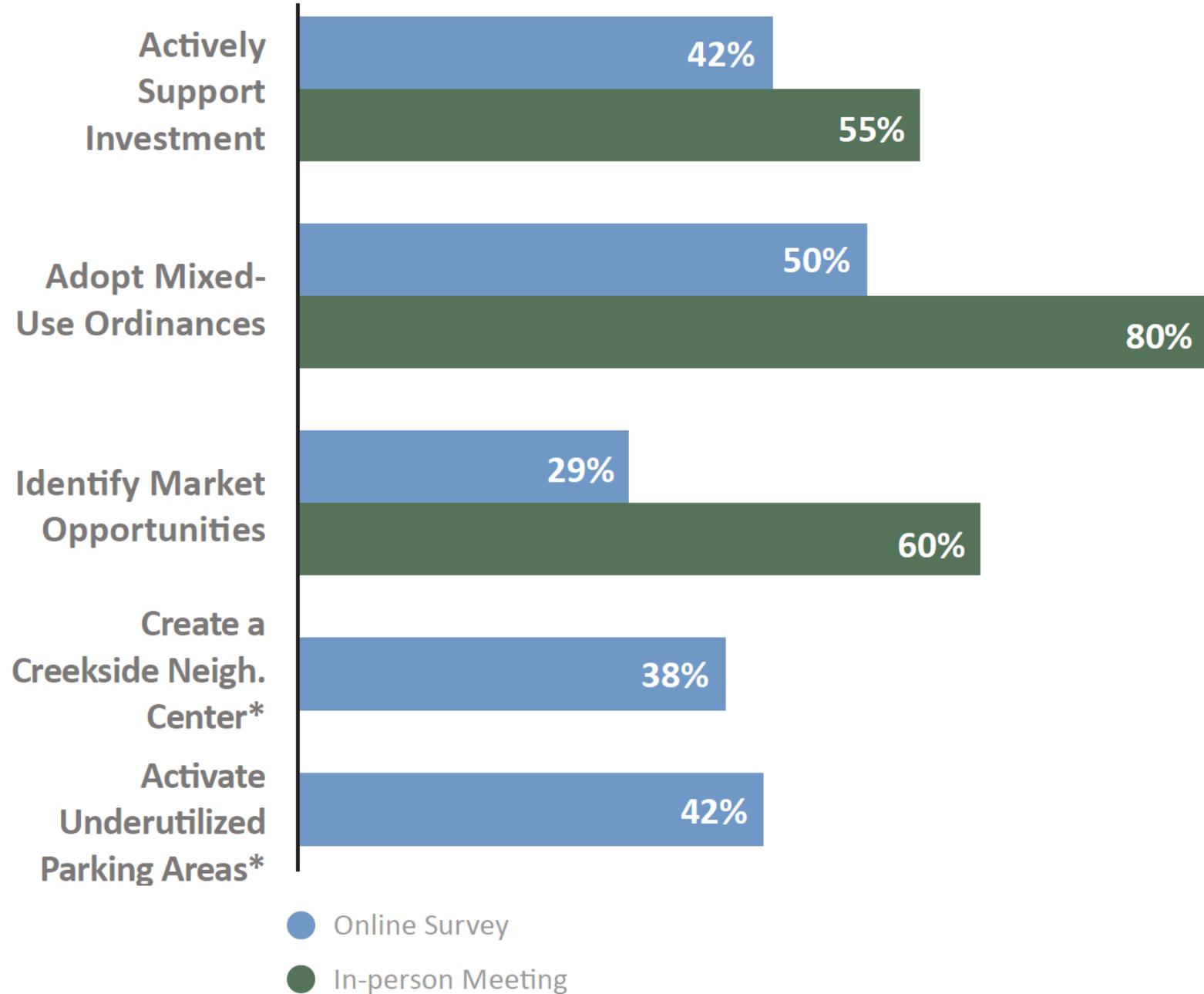
Adopt Mixed-Use
Ordinances along the
Boulevard

- Support
- Don't Support
- No Opinion

ONLINE & IN-PERSON SURVEY:

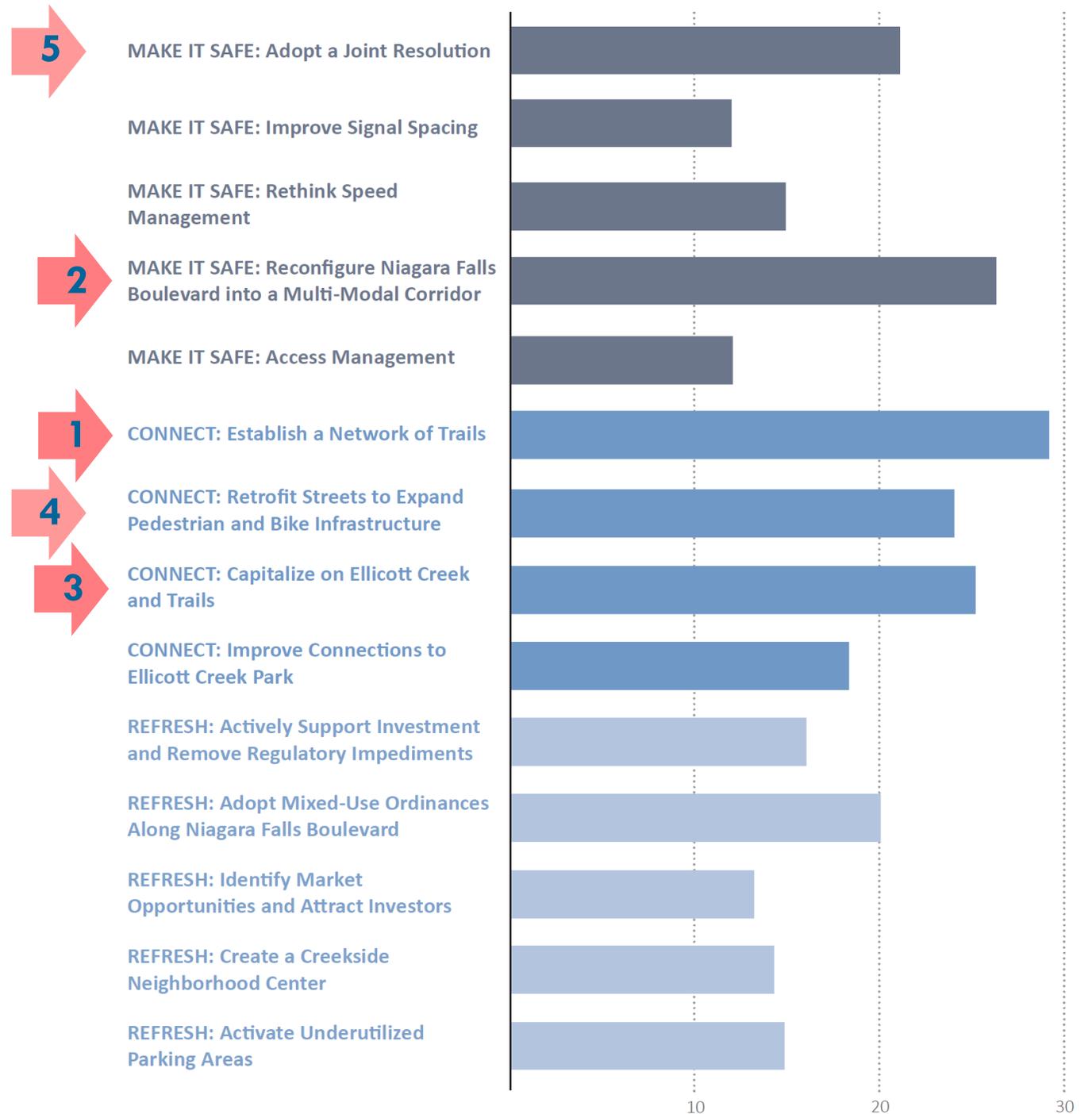
Select the top two REFRESH

Action Steps you feel should be of highest priority



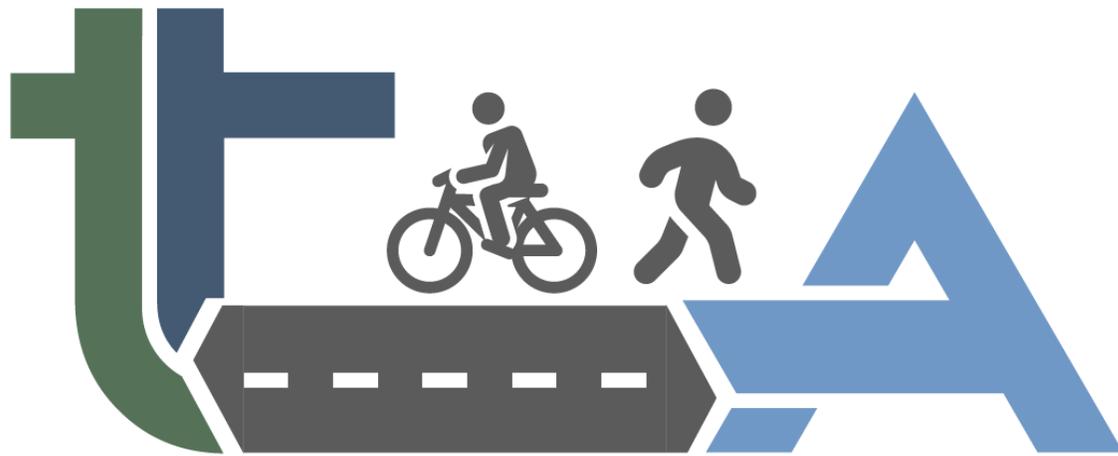
ONLINE SURVEY:

Overall, what are the top five actions that should be of highest priority?



What are the top five actions that should be of highest priority?

- 1. CONNECT: Establish a Network of Trails**
- 2. MAKE IT SAFE: Reconfigure Niagara Falls Boulevard into a Multi-Modal Corridor**
- 3. CONNECT: Capitalize on Ellicott Creek and Trails**
- 4. CONNECT: Retrofit Streets to Expand Pedestrian and Bike Infrastructure**
- 5. MAKE IT SAFE: Adopt a Joint Resolution**



ACROSS THE BOULEVARD

Connecting Willow Ridge and Parkview

connectingwrpv.com

thank you!