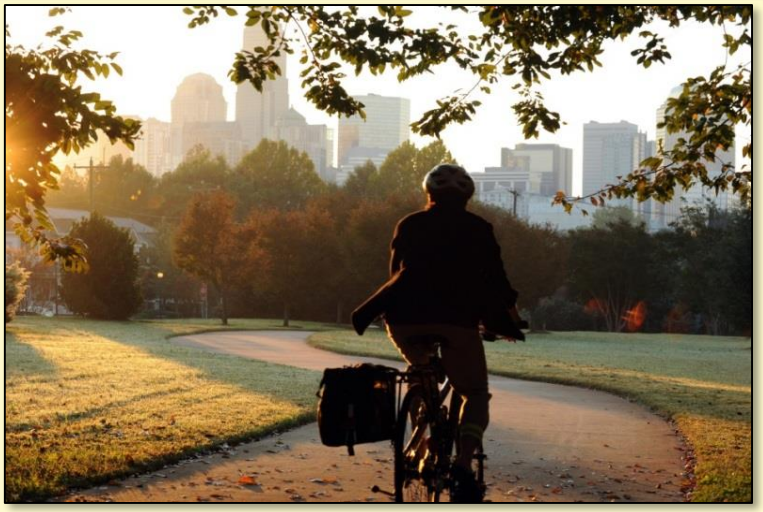
CROSS CHARLOTTE TRAIL (XCLT) UPDATE

City Council Dinner Briefing
October 9, 2017

Overview

- **XCLT Background**
- **Master Plan Development**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Trail Implementation**
  - **Accomplishments to date**
  - **Segments**



What is the Cross Charlotte Trail (XCLT)?

IMAGINE…

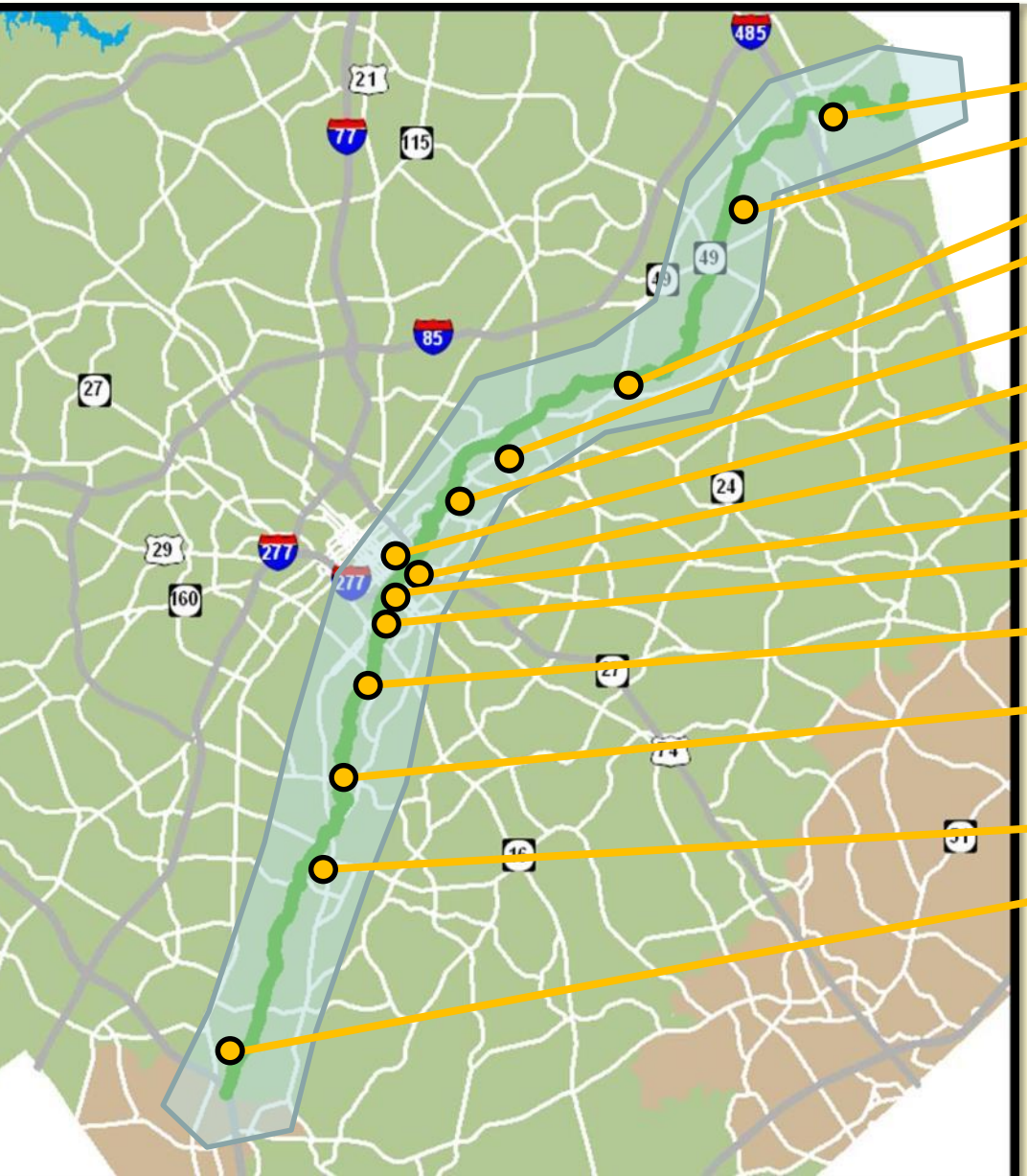
Being able to bike or hike from Pineville to Uptown to UNCC…

30+ miles of seamlessly connected greenways and urban trails.

Separated from automobile traffic.

Dozens of destinations and neighborhoods along the way…

Where will the XCLT take you?



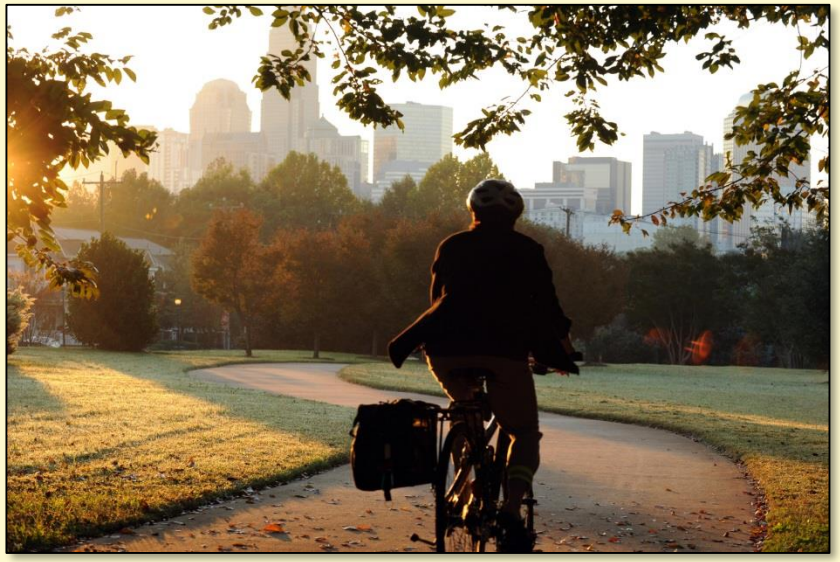
- PNC Music Pavilion
- UNCC
- Blue Line Extension
- NoDa
- Cordelia Park
- Uptown Charlotte
- CPCC
- The Metropolitan
- Carolinas Medical Center
- Freedom Park
- Park Road Shopping Center
- Park Road Park
- Carolina Pavilion

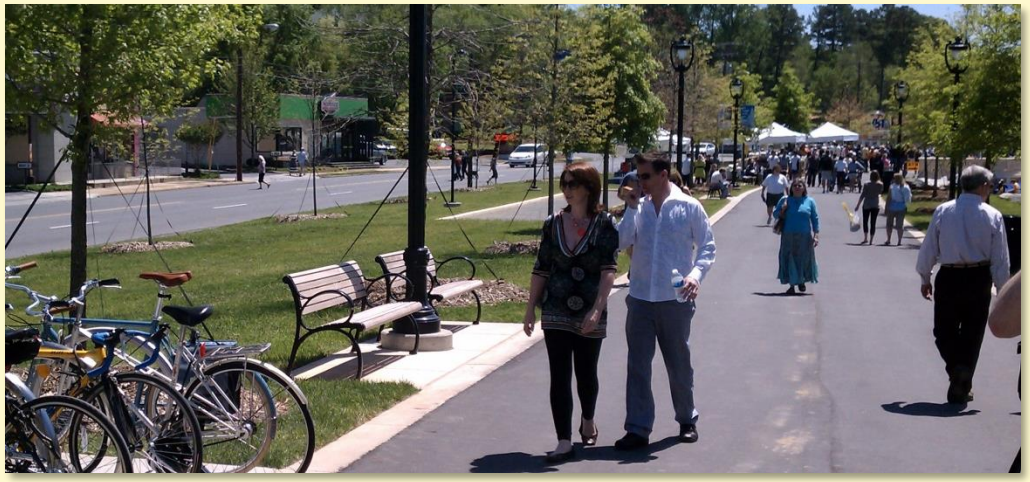
- **140,000 residents and 130,000 jobs within ½ mile**

Why a Cross Charlotte Trail?

More than just Recreation…

- ***Transportation*** – get there without putting the keys in the ignition!
- ***Quality of Life*** – County P&R survey revealed more paved trails = #1 most desired amenity
- ***Economic Development***
  - Real Estate Value and Investment
  - Business Investment
  - Tourism/Placemaking

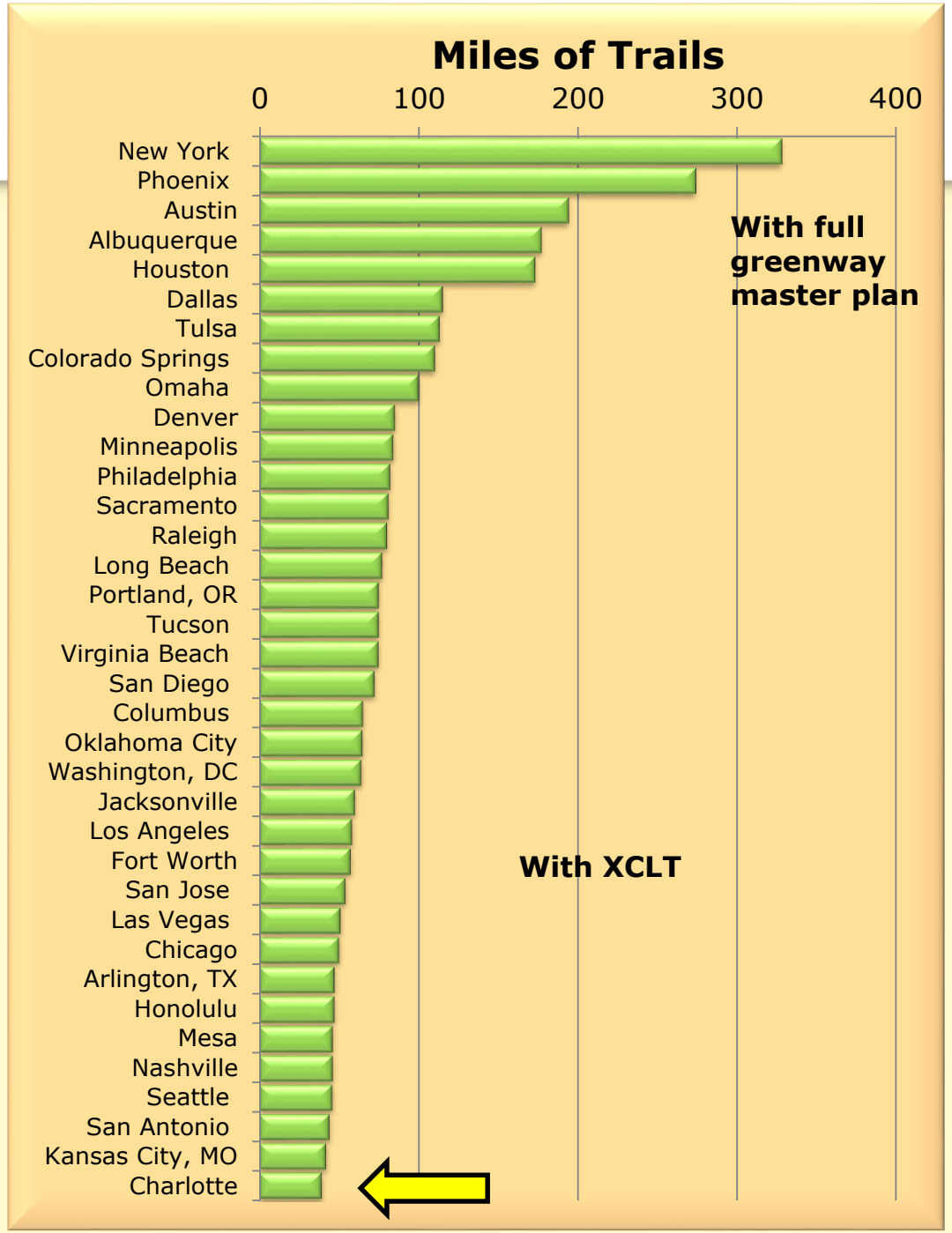




Enhance community value

Return on Investment

Competitiveness



Source: Alliance for Bicycling and Walking, 2012

Cross Charlotte Trail for all users…

XCLT Master Plan Goals

Public Support

User Experience

Transportation

Economic Development

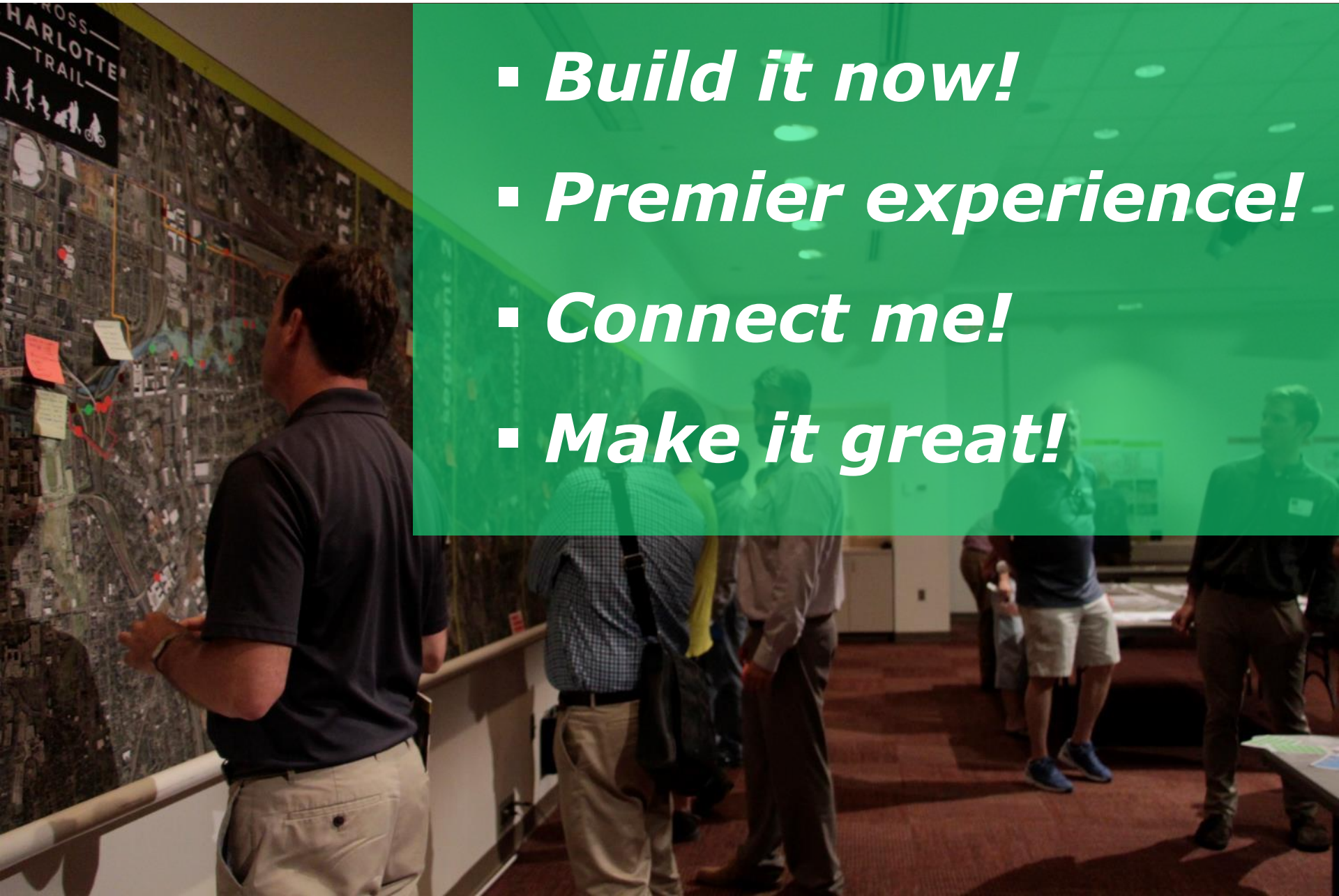
Placemaking

Equity/Access for All

Feasiblity

- **Many community meetings**
  - **Pop-Ups**
  - **Neighborhoods**
  - **Public workshops**
    - **200+ attendees**
- **Staff talked with hundreds of community members**

What we have heard clearly…



- ***Build it now!***
- ***Premier experience!***
- ***Connect me!***
- ***Make it great!***

User Experience through Design

- Quality experience for all users
- Separate user groups where we can
- Development oriented toward the trail – eyes on the Trail

Photo: Toole Design Group

Trail Oriented Design

Unifying Character

- **Placemaking**
- **Public Art Strategy Plan**
- **Wayfinding**
- **Amenities (Benches, Lighting)**

CHARLOTTE.

Trail Implementation

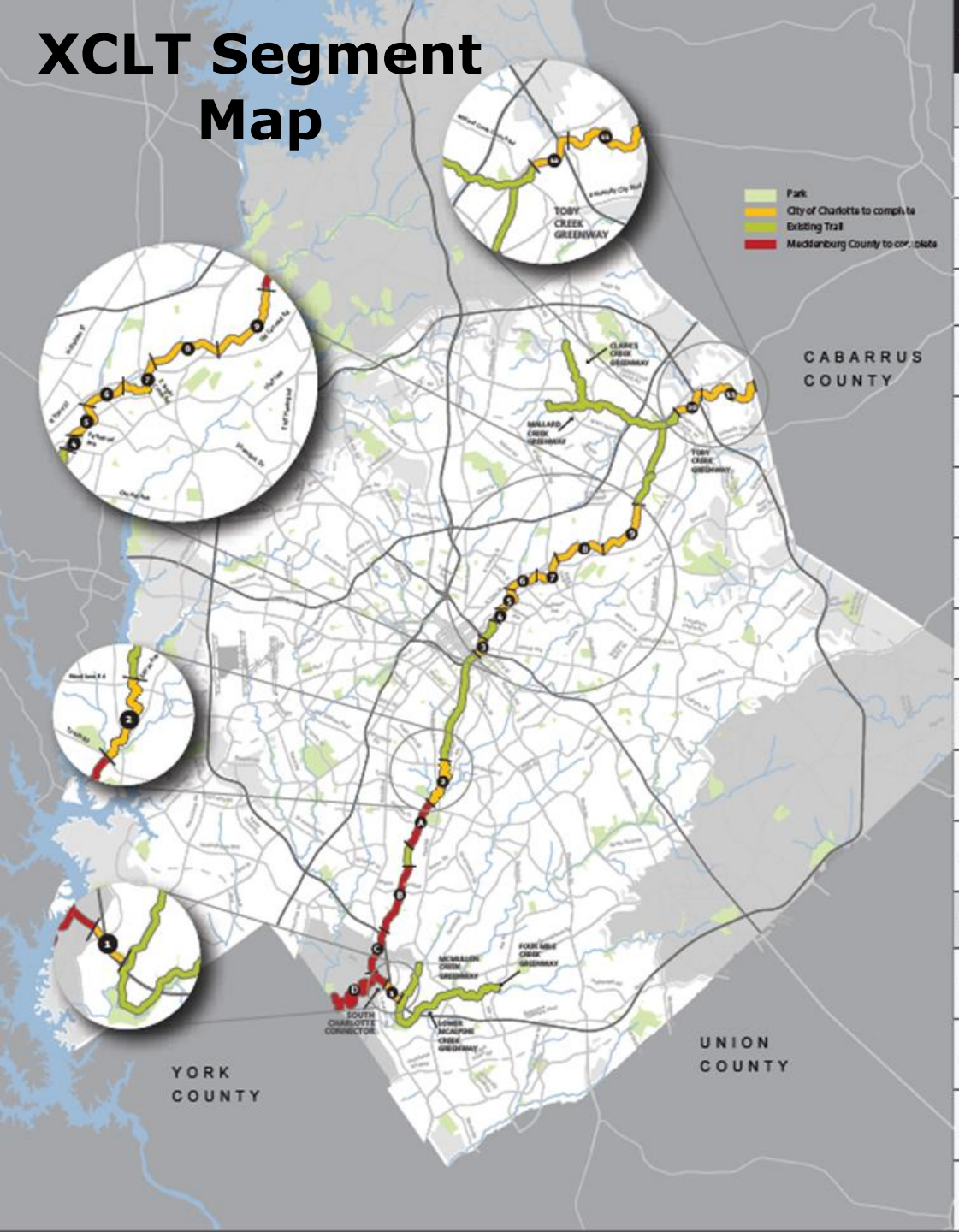
Interlocal Agreement
Segments
Accomplishments
Key Points

Accomplishments To Date!

City-County "Overarching" Interlocal Agreement

- Approved by City Council and County BOC in 2015.
- Established XCLT as a joint enterprise of the City and County.
- Establishes responsibilities for construction and real estate.
- County to take over management and maintenance of each segment after construction, except where the trail is in or crosses a CDOT maintained street.

XCLT Segment Map



#	Segment Project (to/from)
City to Complete	
1	Park Rd to McMullen Creek
2	Brandywine Rd to Tyvola Rd
3	7th St to 10th St
4	Parkwood Ave to Davidson St at 24th St
5	Davidson St to Matheson Ave
6	Matheson Ave to Craighead Rd
7	Craighead Rd to Tryon St at Wellingford Rd
8	Wellingford St to Tryon St at Orr Rd
9	Orr Rd to Rocky River Rd Planning
10	Mallard Creek Church Rd to Pavillion Blvd
11	Pavillion Blvd to Cabarrus County
County to Complete	
A	Tyvola Rd to Huntingtowne Farms
B	Huntingtowne Farms to I-485
C	I-485 to Polk State Historic Site
D	Polk State Historic Site to SC State Line

Accomplishments To Date!
Cordelia Park Segment

Interlocal agreement #2 - City/County jointly funded segment

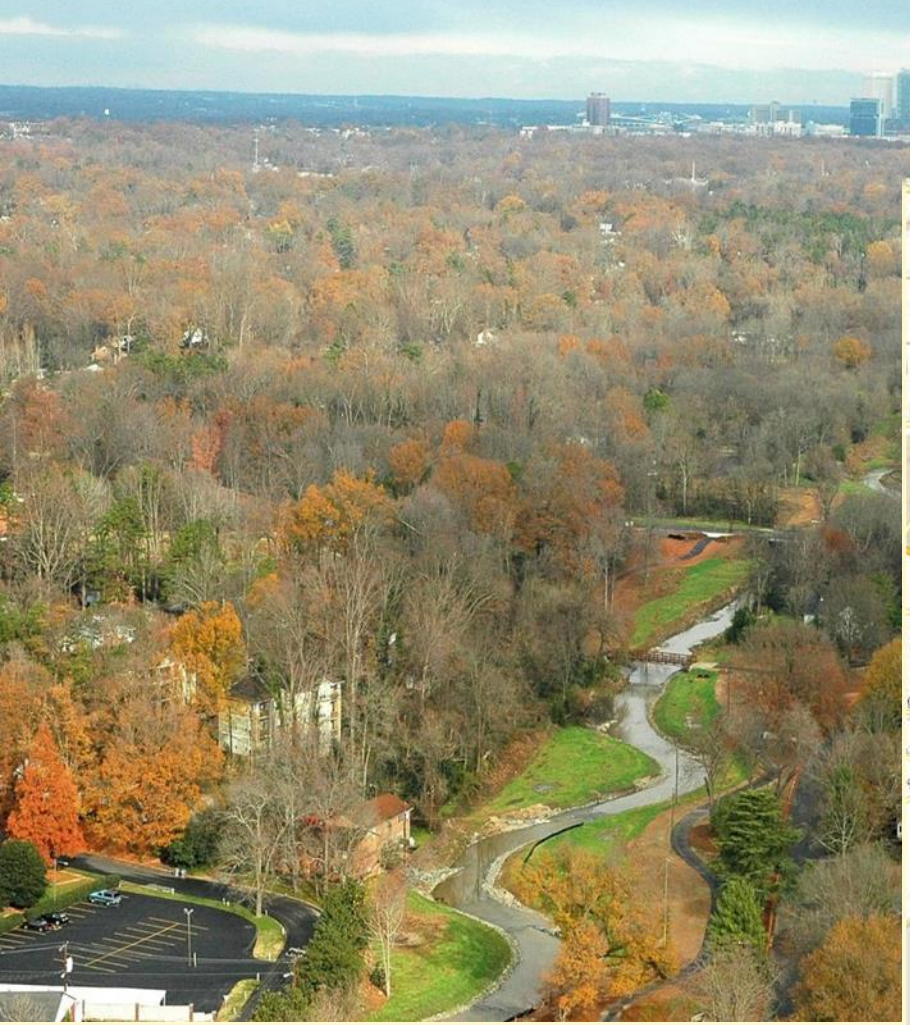
Parkwood Underpass

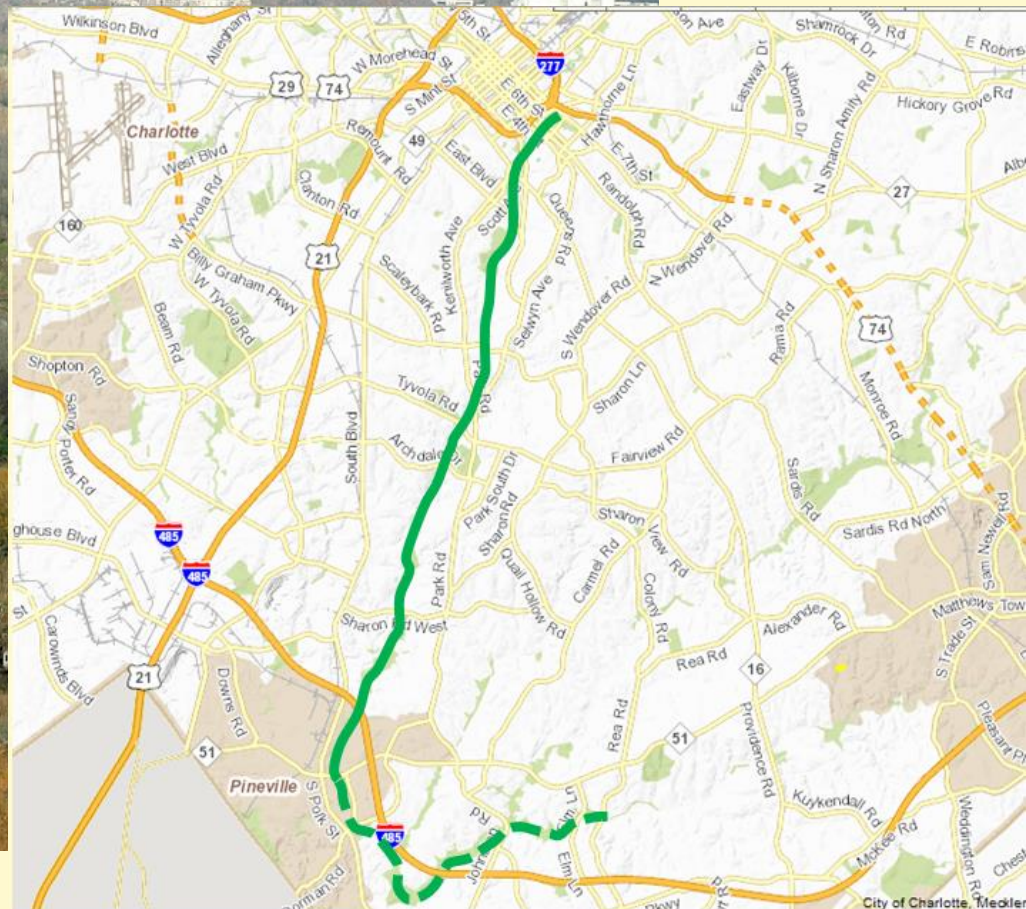
Connection to 24th Street

Ribbon Cutting in May 2017

South Charlotte Connector: 90% Design

The 1 mile South Charlotte Connector will extend the reach of XCLT by almost 7 miles across South Charlotte by 2020





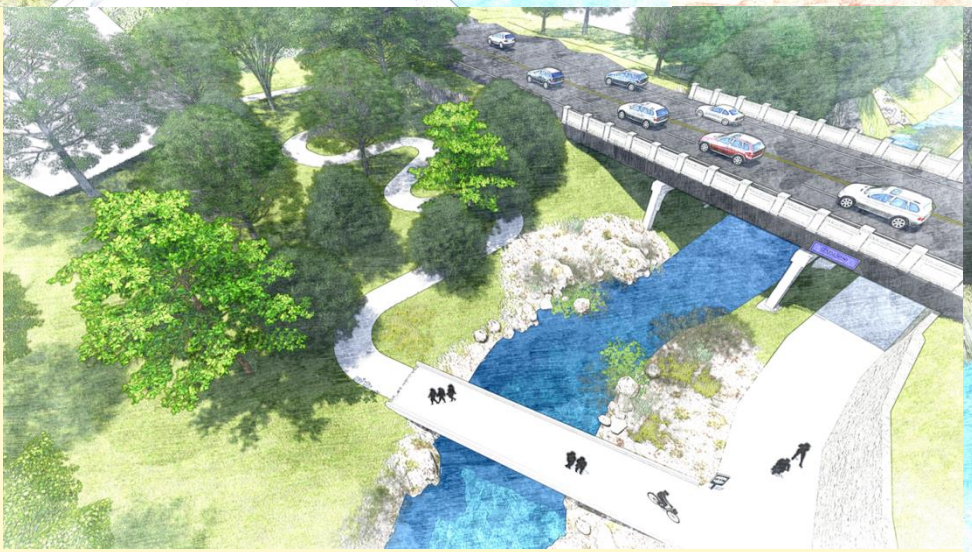
Brandywine to Tyvola (B2T): 90% Design

- High Priority – Missing link in Little Sugar Creek Greenway
- Started 2015, now at 90% design plans

Brandywine to Tyvola (B2T): 90% Design

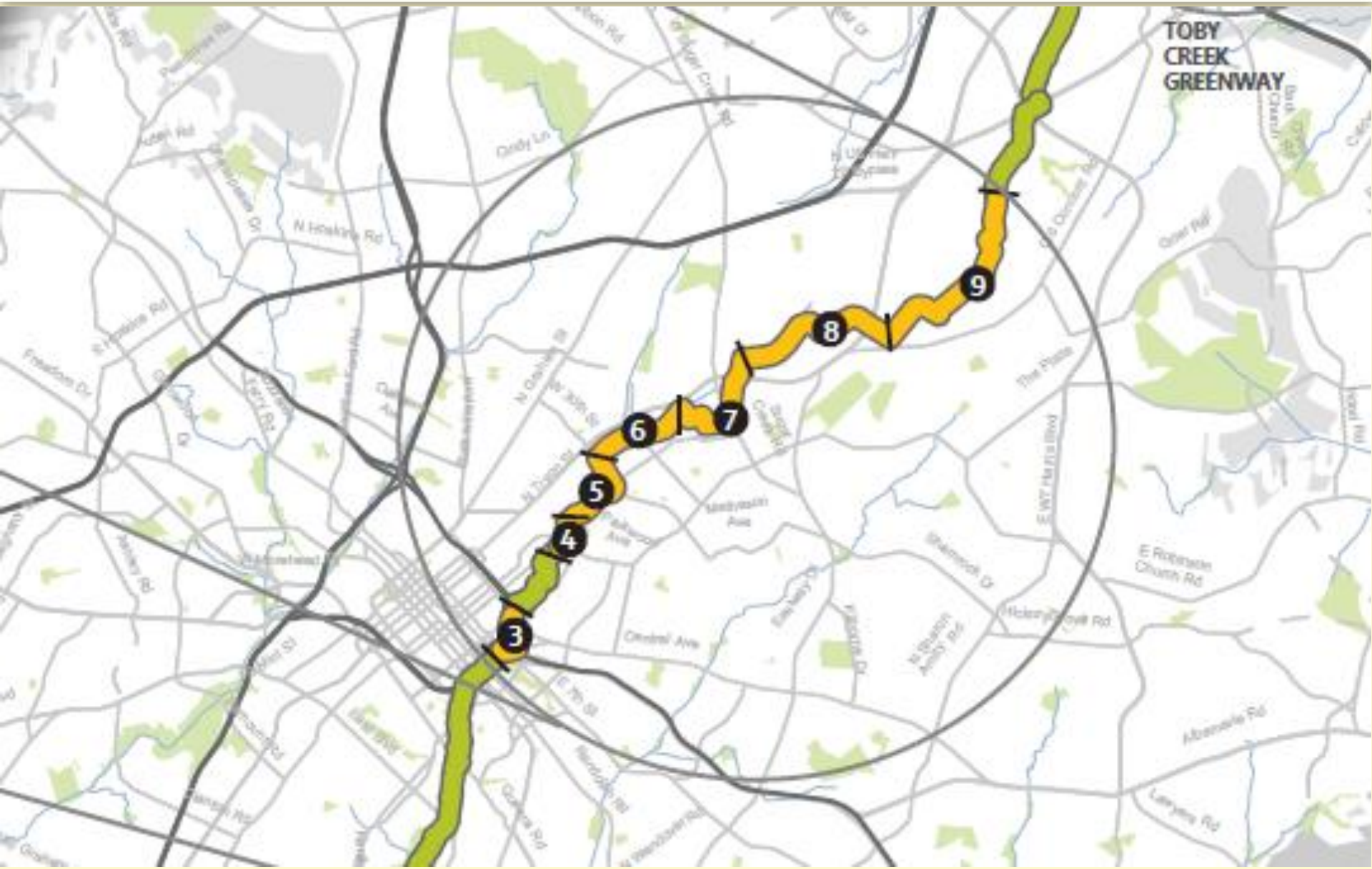
"You're building it in the Grand Canyon"

"In a word, beautiful"



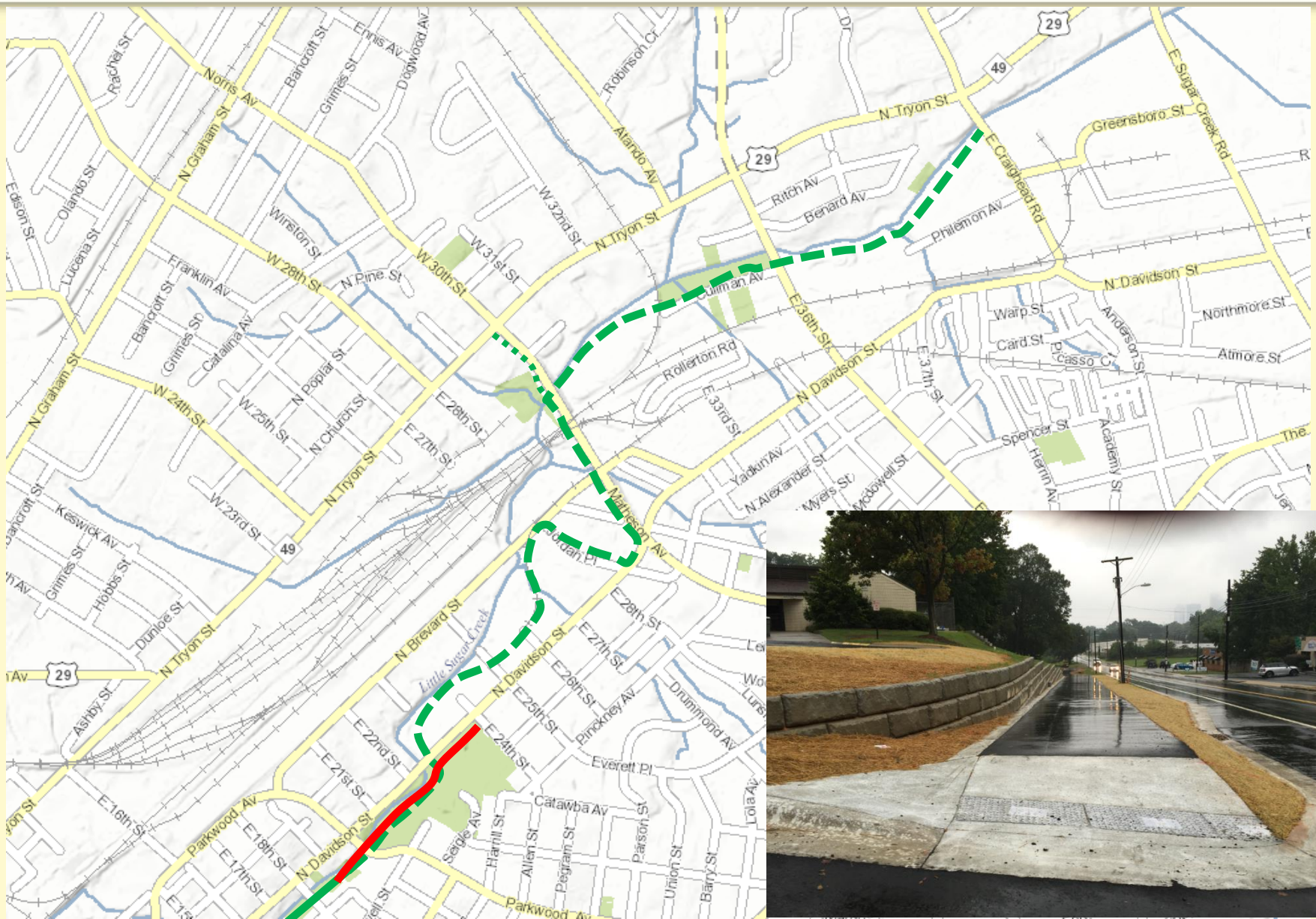
http://charlottenc.gov/Projects/Pages/XCLTBrandywineTyvola.aspx

Moving North:
Connecting Little Sugar Creek to Toby Creek



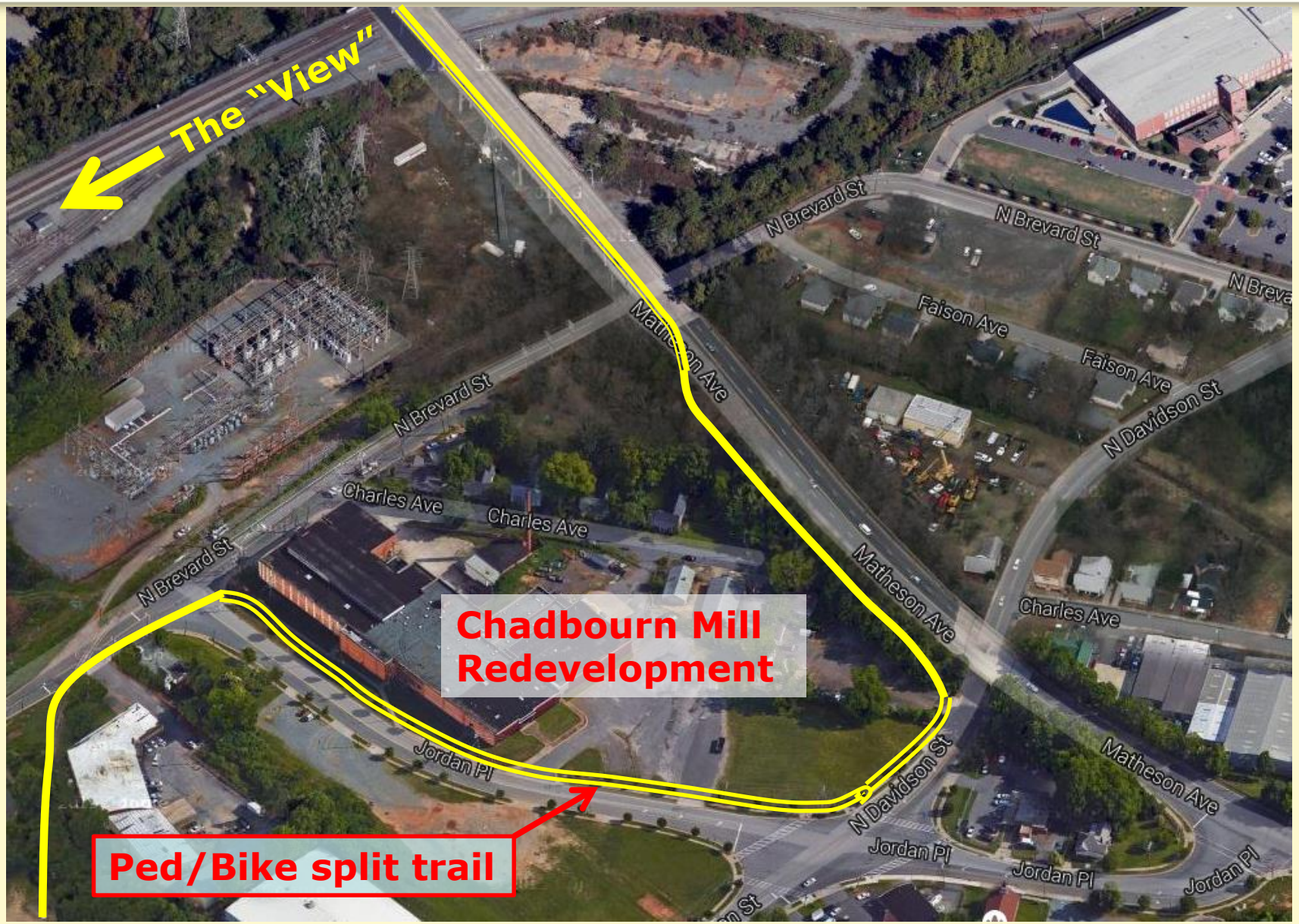
Cross Charlotte Trail

Moving North - Optimist Park, Noda and beyond…

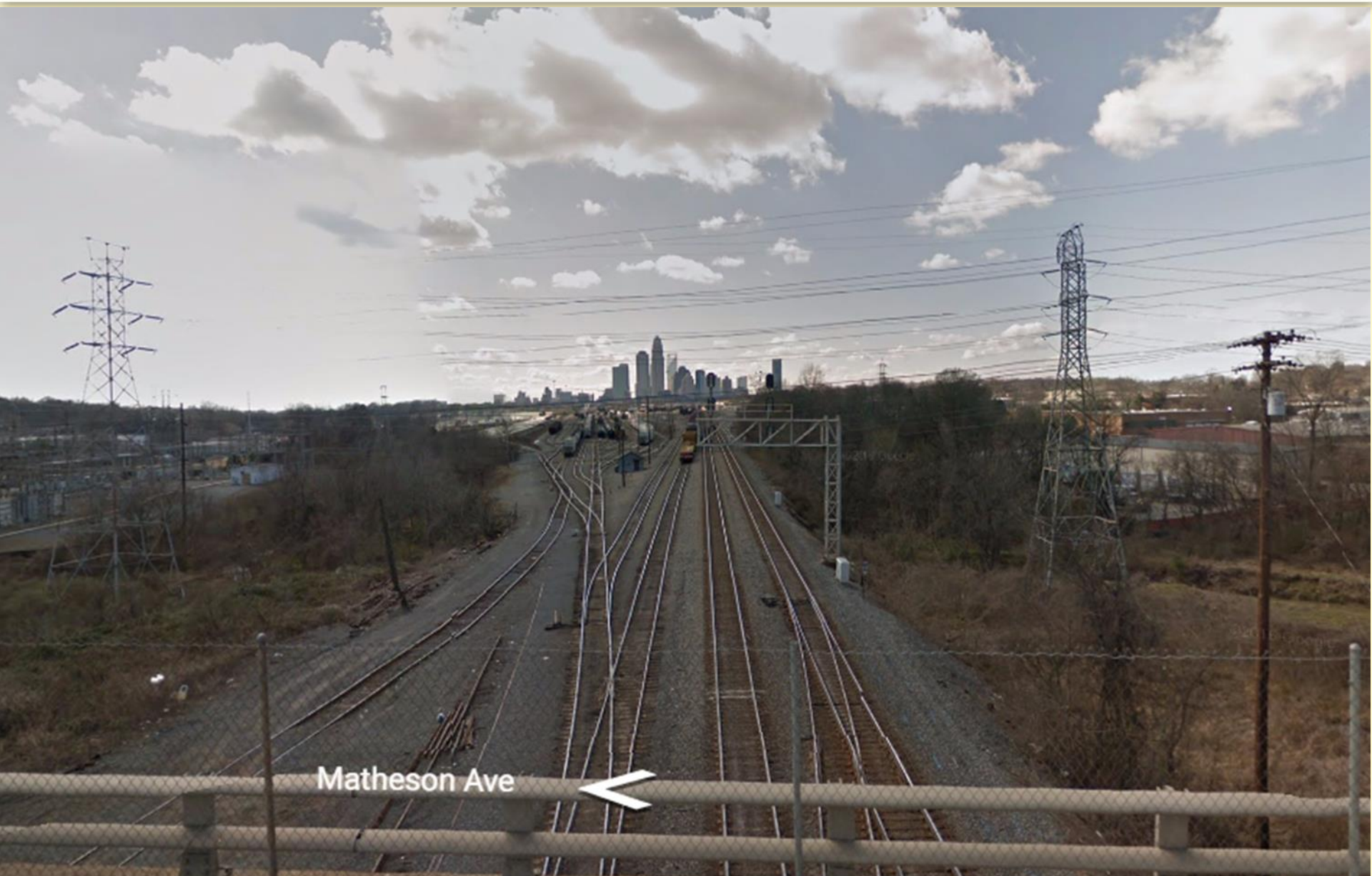


Cross Charlotte Trail

Chadbourn Mill and Matheson Avenue



“The View” from Matheson Avenue Bridge on XCLT



XCLT segments in planning

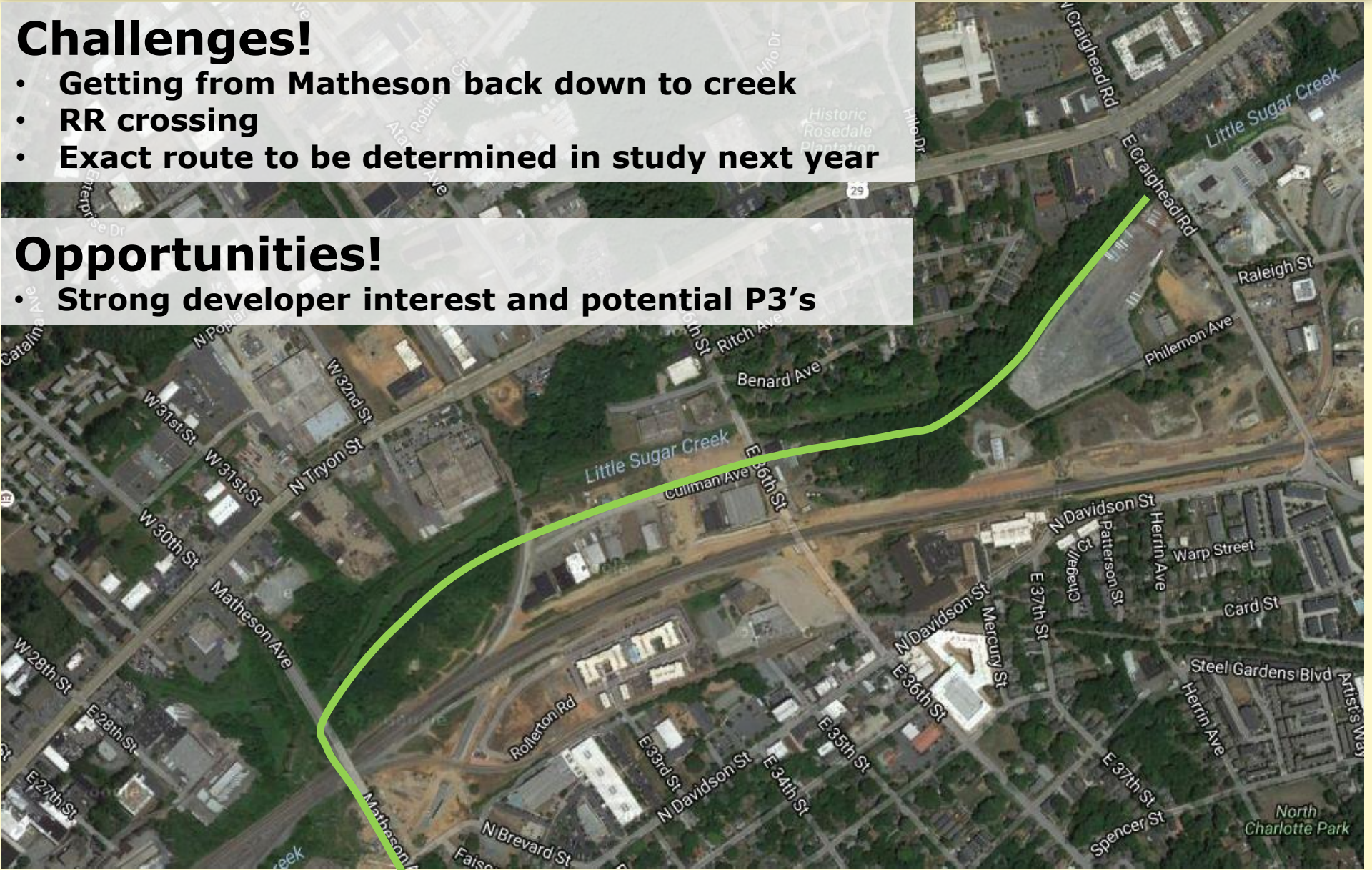
Matheson Avenue to Craighead Rd

Challenges!

- **Getting from Matheson back down to creek**
- **RR crossing**
- **Exact route to be determined in study next year**

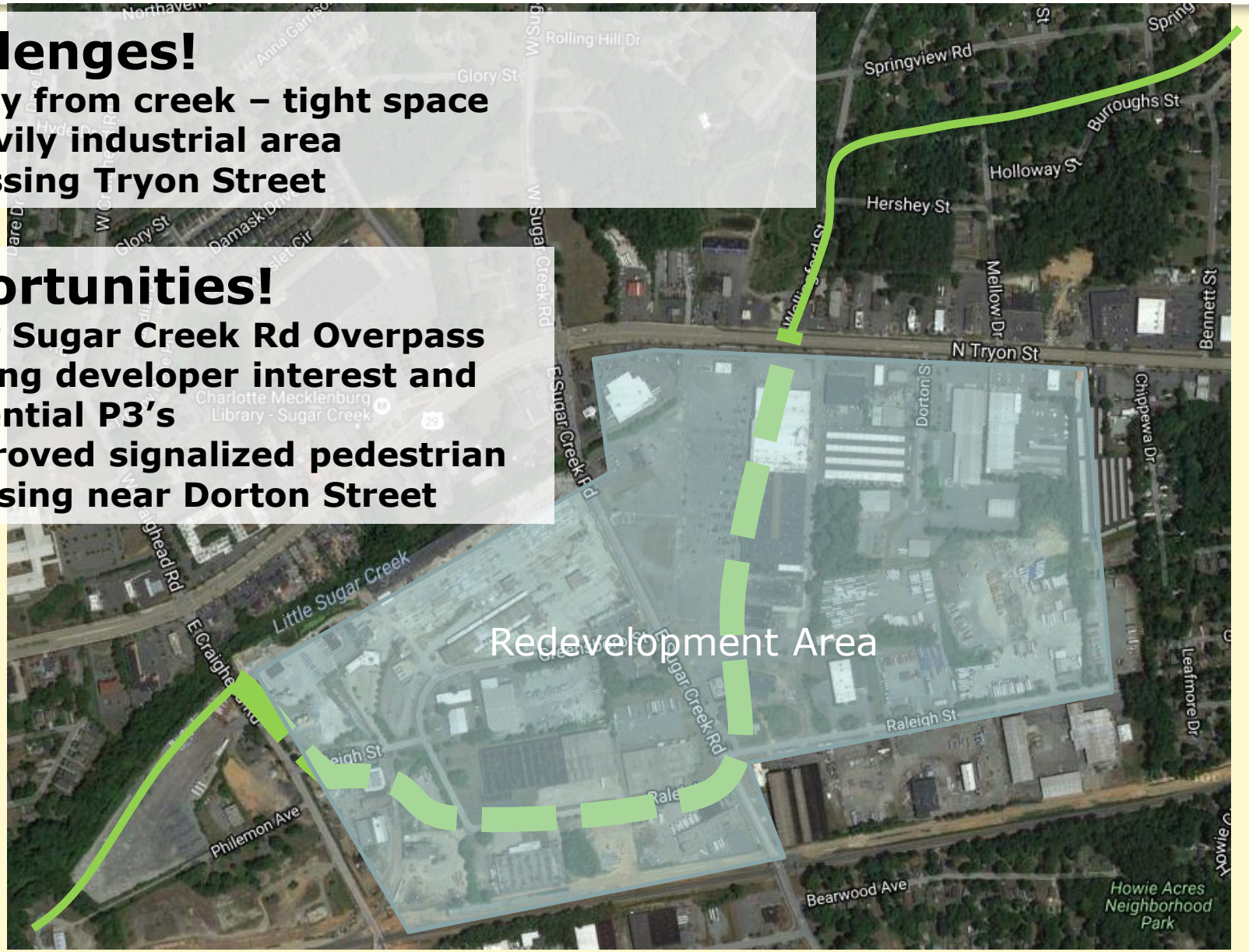
Opportunities!

- **Strong developer interest and potential P3's**



XCLT segments in planning

W. Craighead Rd to N. Tryon St. (Sugar Creek Rd Area)



Challenges!

- **Away from creek – tight space**
- **Heavily industrial area**
- **Crossing Tryon Street**

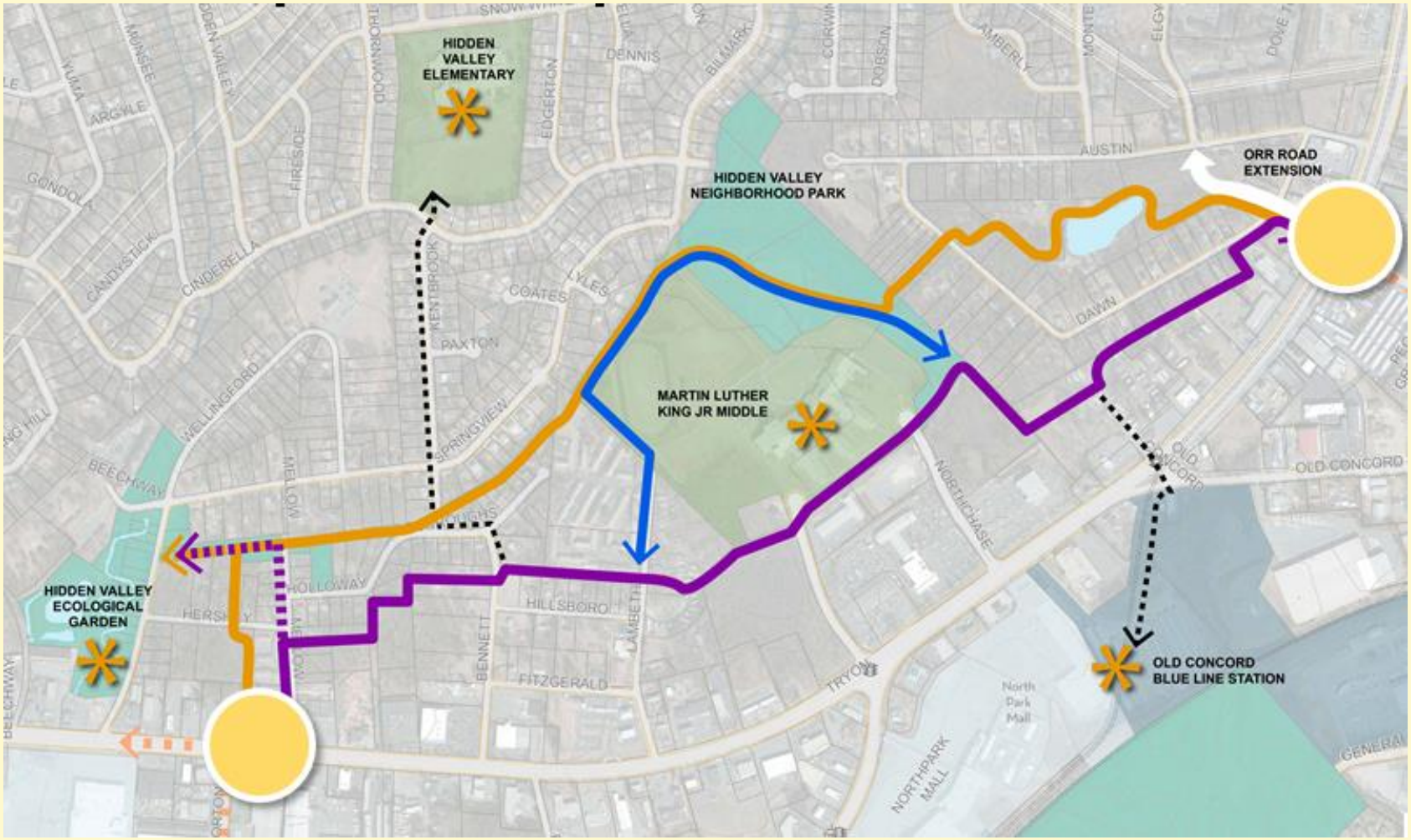
Opportunities!

- **New Sugar Creek Rd Overpass**
- **Strong developer interest and potential P3's**
- **Approved signalized pedestrian crossing near Dorton Street**

XCLT Segments in Planning

Hidden Valley Area (Wellington to Orr):

- Connects largest residential neighborhood to XCLT
- Ronald C. Hare Trail partnership
- 3-day Charrette with stakeholders and public

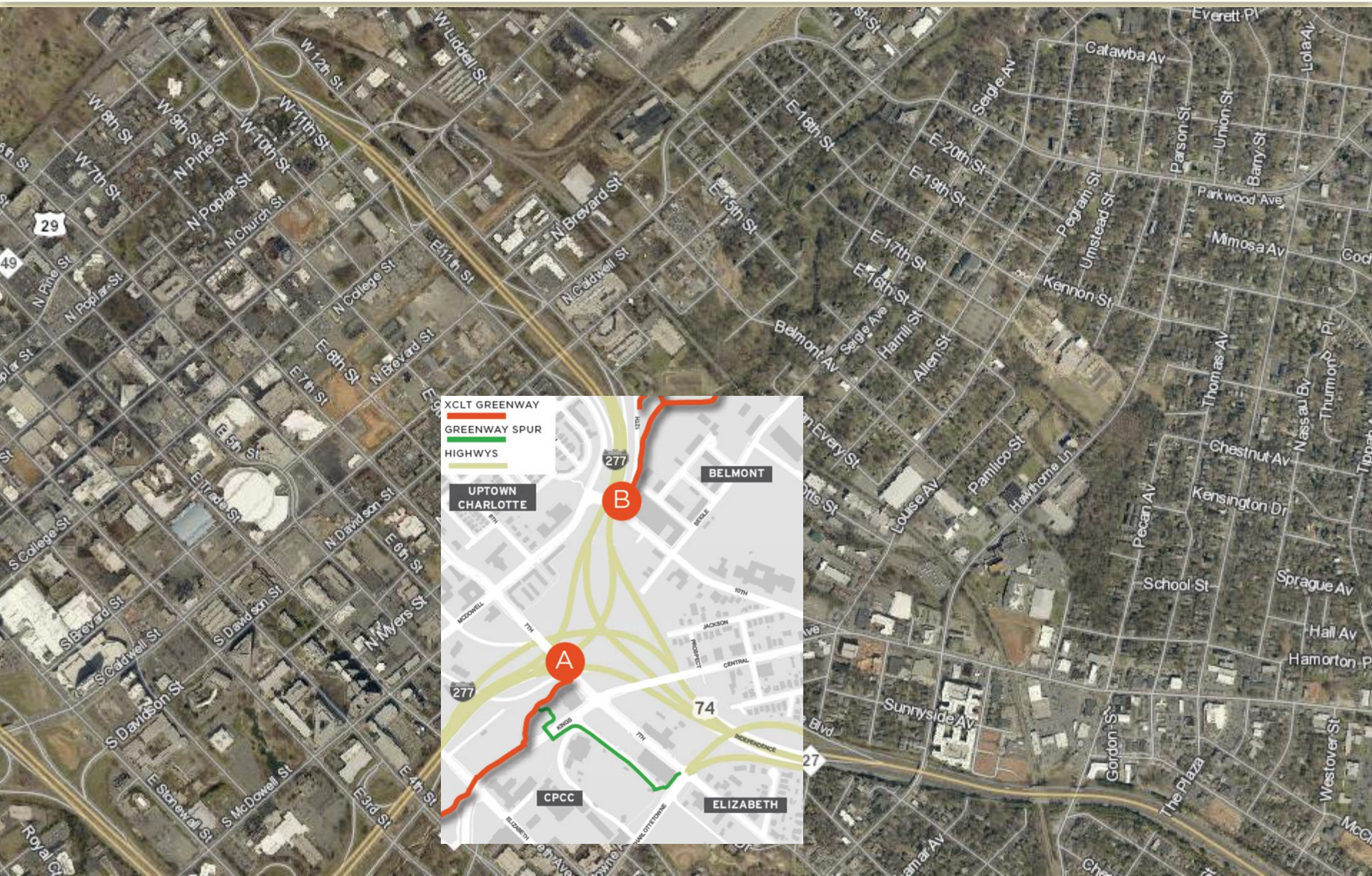


XCLT Segments in planning

Orr Rd to Rocky River Rd

- Steep terrain and tight real estate expected to be challenges
- Scenic beauty and place making opportunities

7th to 10th: The Gap in the Middle of XCLT



Interim Solution
Cycle Track on Central Avenue Bridge

Why a Cross Charlotte Trail? - Tourism

GREENVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM

SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL

STUDY SHOWS $6.7 MILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT

25% of trail users are tourists

Economic impact of tourism on local economy **$6.7 million**

Average time users spend on trail: **1.5 hours**

Most popular times of year: **When temperatures are 61-70 degrees**

76.3% of users were observed on weekends.

Businesses hot on the trail

Owners or managers of 19 retail businesses on or close to a trail access point were interviewed in 2013, including five retail bicycle shops.
Two bike shops reported an average of **75%** of their customers purchased bikes to use the trail in 2013. These two bike shops reported revenue ranging from **$300,000** to **$400,000** from trail users. The majority of the businesses surveyed reported increases in sales and revenue ranging from **10%** to as high as **85%**.
One bike store that focuses on rentals reported that customers are:
50% local
30% from Spartanburg and suburbs
20% from outside areas, such as Atlanta

One bike store owner reported that **75%** of its employees are biking for around an hour a day, daily.

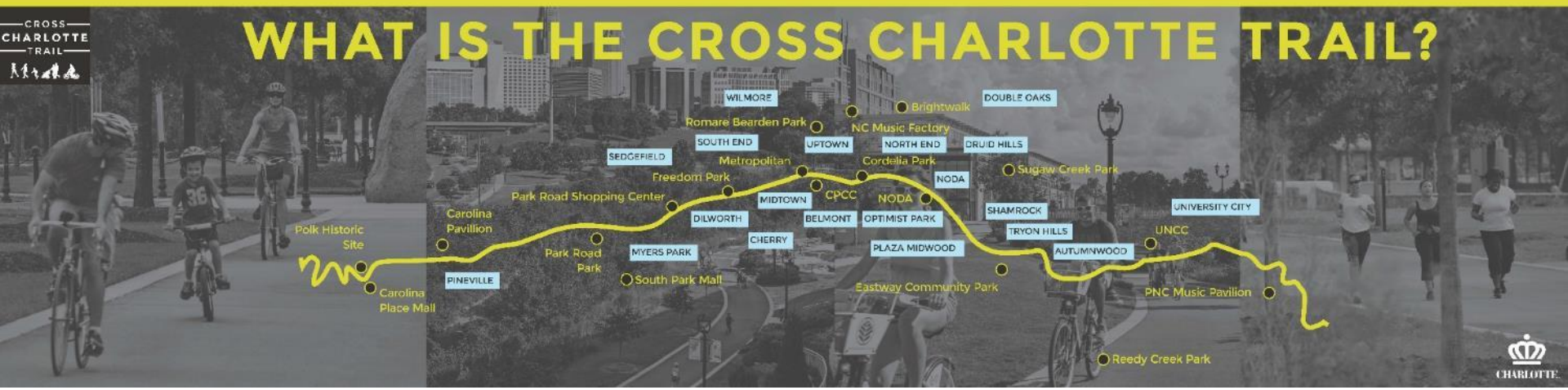
SOURCE: Greenville Health System Swamp Rabbit Trail Year 3 Findings, by Furman University; *Clemson International Institute for Tourism Research & Development.* *(Infographic by Jean Piot)*

World Class Pedestrian Bridges

XCLT
World Class

Ultimate Solution – Signature Bridge

- TIGER application due Oct. 16
- Project Cost Estimated at $16.7M
- Federal Request of $11.6M
- Local match of $5M



Thank You!

For more information on the
Cross Charlotte Trail:

CharlotteFuture.com/XCLT

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