# Wake BRT Western and Southern Station Area Planning Leader and Connector Training

October 26, 2023

City of Raleigh Town of Cary

SOM AECOM SBFRIEDMAN ADR Planning









# Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Station Area Planning Roles
  - Leaders and Connectors
  - City and Consultant Team
- 3. How we got here
  - Regional Growth and Transportation Demand
  - Wake County Transit Plan
- 4. Roles of Planning and Zoning
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Future Land Use Map
  - Unified Development Ordinance
  - Corridor Plans

- 5. Implementation Tools Summary
  - Zoning tools
  - Housing Tools & Programs
- 6. Breakout Discussion
  - Existing Corridor Plans
  - Engagement Process

# 1. Welcome

## **Station Area Planning**

- Planning around Bus Rapid Transit stations
- Future land use
- Future first mile / last mile connections
- Wake BRT: Southern and Western Corridors

# Why we are here today

- Build understanding of planning context and implementation tools
- Gain input on the engagement process

# 2. Station Area Planning Roles

# **Connectors and Leaders**

#### **Southern Corridor**

#### **Community Connectors**

Veronica Carrington

#### **Community Leaders**

Rick Boccard Dominique Boyd Michael Gierdowski David Holbrooks Ashley Hugh Lewis Allie Jacobs Harold Mallette Lydia Peebles

#### Western Corridor

#### **Community Connectors**

Ana Maria Garcia Adonnica Rowland

#### **Community Leaders**

Andrew Bassett Reid Baughman Andrea Fennell Allison Hutchins Cheryl Johnson Carla Luna Vance Miller Rhonda Muhammad Ines Nizeye Brandon Quinones Tom Skolnicki Al Rieder Alison Rosciano Veronica Thring William Tubilleja

# **Community Leader Roles**

- Provide feedback on engagement strategies
- Identity local organizations to engage
- Help spread the word about the study
- Promote open houses and other engagement avenues
- Review project material as it is developed
- Provide feedback living, working, worshiping, shopping, and playing in the community.
- Ensure the community's voice is being included in the process

# **Community Connector Roles**

- Directly help with outreach
- Sharing information with the community
- Increase understanding of the Station Area Planning project and process.
- Partner with City staff to develop effective outreach strategies
- Gather information from residents
- Discussing key issues that are important for the community

# **Consultant Team Roles**

Planning, Urban Design, Integration Transportation + Connectivity

ΑΞΟΟΜ

Market Analysis, Implementation

**SBFRIEDMAN** 

Zoning Strategies

**ADR Planning** 

Stakeholder Engagement Community Engagement Engagement Advisor



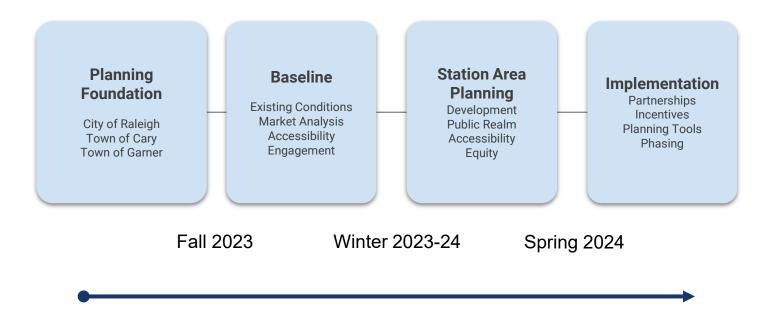
Public Participation Partners Inform. Involve. Empower.



neighboring concepts

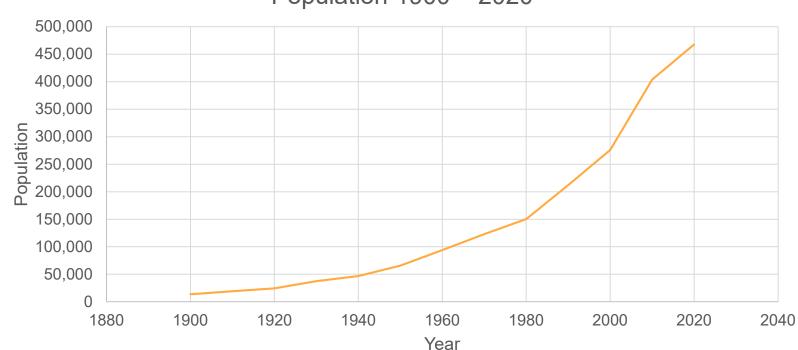
# **Station Area Planning Process**

Integrating Design, Connectivity, Equity, Implementation



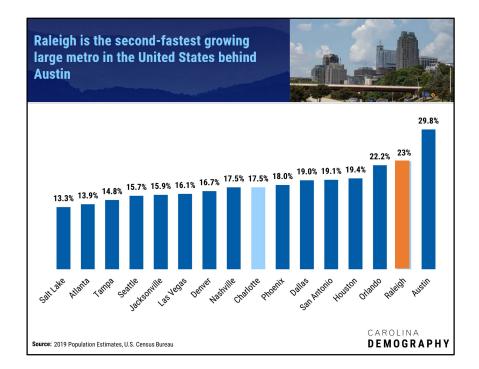
# 3. How We Got Here

#### Raleigh has been growing faster since 2000



Population 1900 – 2020

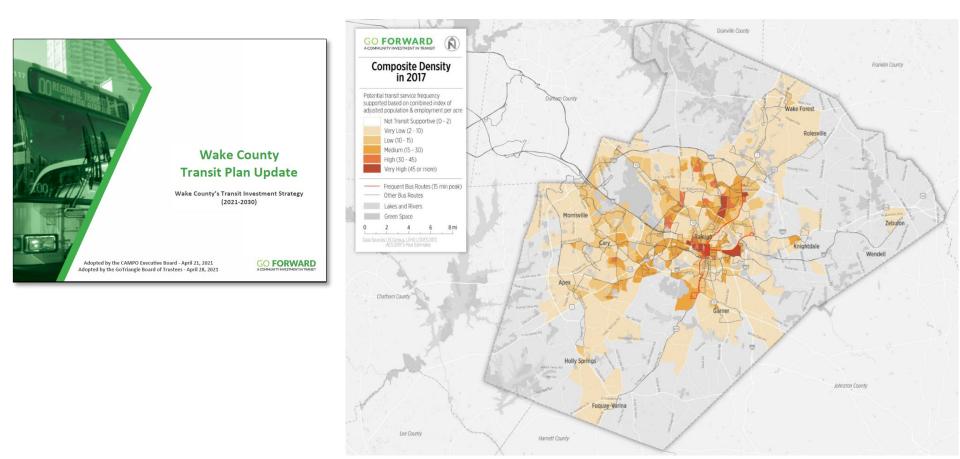
### Rapid growth generating housing affordability challenges



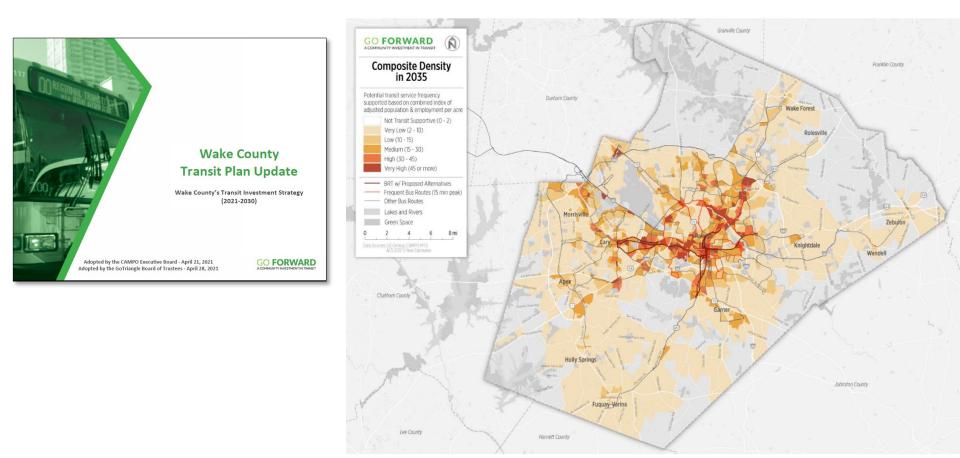
Raleigh's population and housing costs have outpaced the national average since 2010.

2010-2019	Raleigh	USA Average
Population	+15%	+6%
Median Home Value	+22%	+15%
Median Gross Rent	+35%	+26%

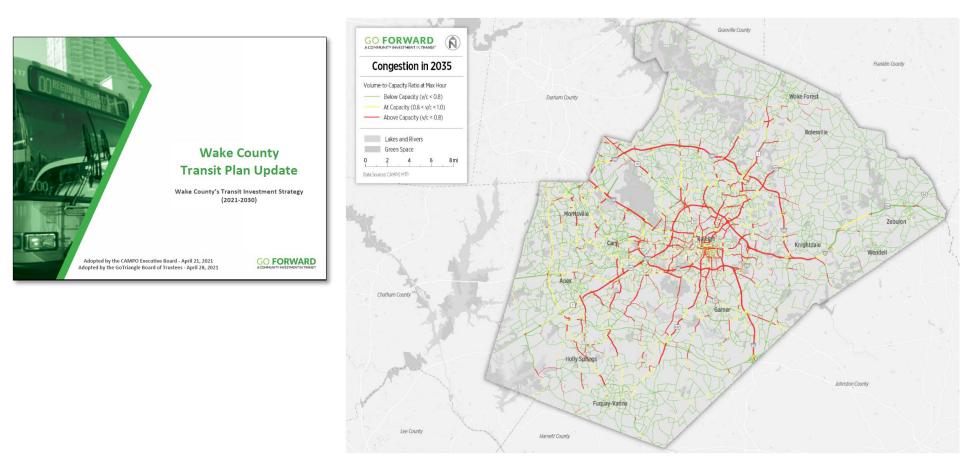
#### **Regional Growth: Combined Housing and Jobs Density in 2017**



#### **Regional Growth: Combined Housing and Jobs Density in 2035**



### **Regional Growth: Projected Traffic Congestion 2035**



#### **Growing Around Transit**

## Question is not whether Raleigh grows, but how

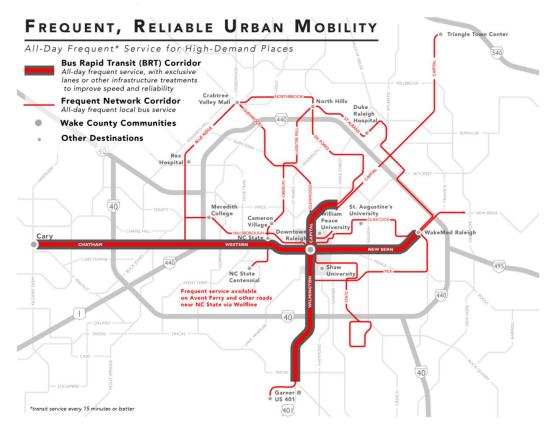
#### Grow More Around Transit

### Grow More Around Driving



### **Extending the Frequent Transit Network**

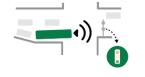
- Wake County Transit Plan Adopted 2016
- 48% of jobs in County within <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile
- Expand evening and weekend service
- 20+ miles of Bus Rapid Transit with 15minute service in key corridors
- Shorter and more convenient trips
- City of Raleigh designated Sponsor for Bus Rapid Transit Corridors 2018



### What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



**Dedicated Lanes** 



Transit Signal Priority



Frequent On - time Service

Off- Board

Fare Collection



Enhanced Stations

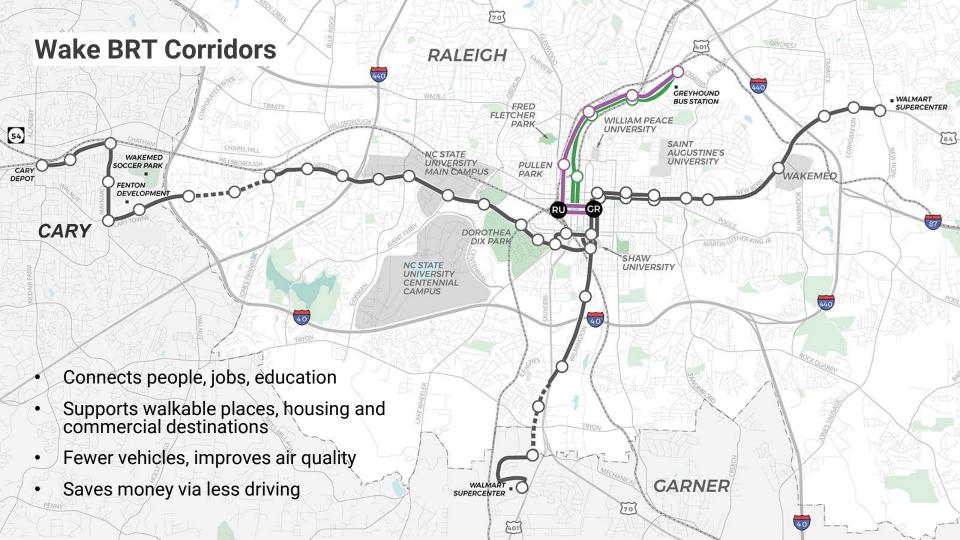


Specialized Vehicles



Unique Branding





#### **Connecting Downtown Raleigh to Downtown Cary** Selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative - Wake BRT: Western Corridor

Alternatives Assessed on:

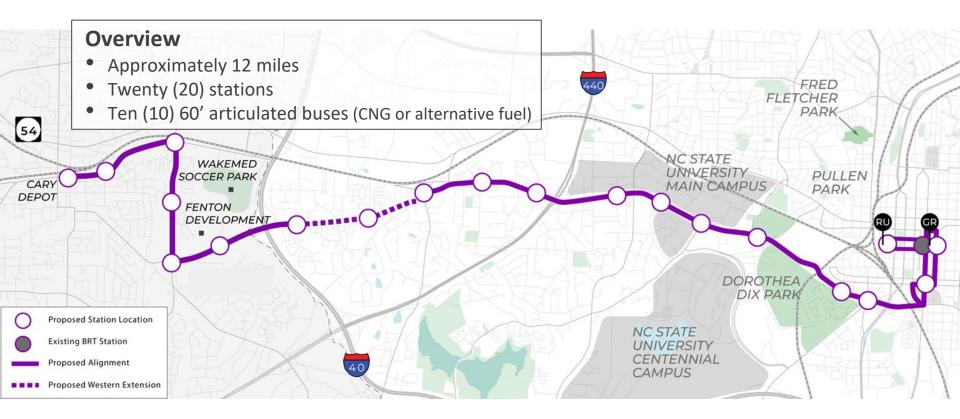
- Available Right of Way
- Transit ridership propensity
- Travel time
- Future population and jobs growth
- Development potential

Cary and Raleigh Council LPA adoption August 2020

CAMPO adoption of LPA October 2020



#### Wake BRT Western Corridor



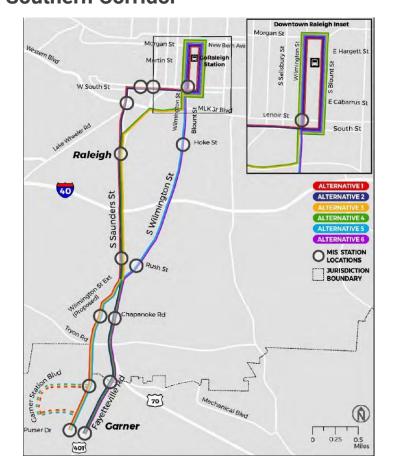
#### **Connecting Downtown Raleigh to Garner** Selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative - Wake BRT: Southern Corridor

Alternatives Assessed on:

- Available Right of Way
- Transit ridership propensity
- Travel time
- Future population and jobs growth
- Development potential

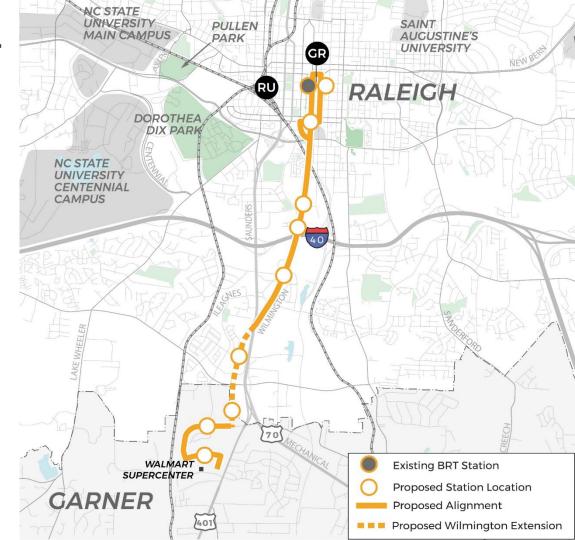
Garner and Raleigh Council LPA adoption April 2021

CAMPO LPA adoption June 2021



### Wake BRT: Southern Corridor

- Approx. 5 miles
- BRT: dedicated transit lanes *and* mixed traffic
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Improvements Grants (CIG) Small Starts: medium-high rating in March 2023
- Recommended for funding in FY24 President's Budget Proposal
- Final Design: 2028



# 4. Roles of Planning and Zoning

## **Tools That Guide Growth**

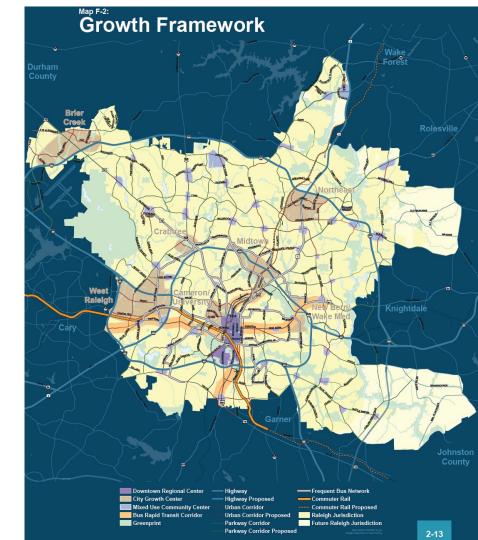
- Comprehensive Plans
- Unified Development
  Ordinance (UDO)
- Zoning and development regulations
- Area and Corridor Plans



#### Raleigh's 2030 Comp Plan Vision and Policy Guidance

- Downtown
- Seven city growth centers
- Four Rapid Transit corridors
- 30% of projected growth within BRT corridors
- 40 mixed-use community centers
- Connected via parkways, frequent bus service routes, and urban streets

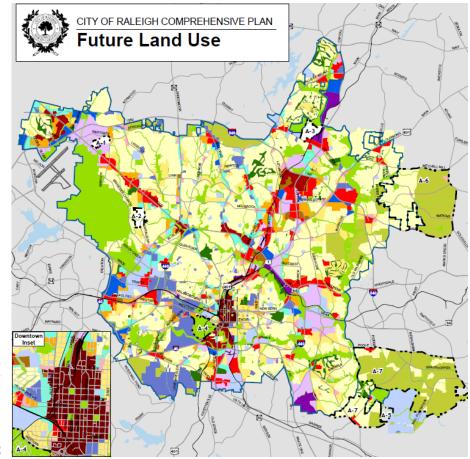
Adopted by City Council



### **Future Land Use Map**

- Reflects Comp Plan Vision
- All properties have a Future Land Use Map designation
- Used to review rezoning requests





### **Unified Development Ordinance**

- Local regulations for the use and development of land and buildings, including:
  - Zoning of land
  - Sub-divisions
  - Storm-water
  - Natural resource conservation





Planning

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA Part 10: **Unified Development Ordinance** 

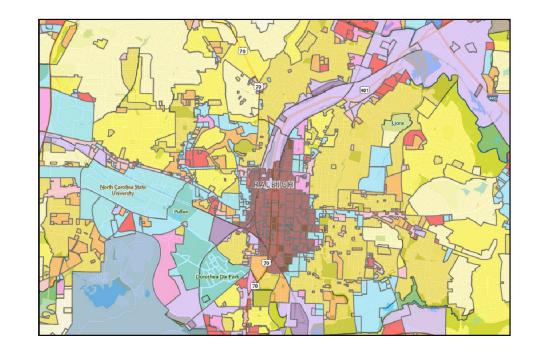
**19TH SUPPLEMENT** INCLUDES ORDINANCE: 353-TC-465, TC-15-21, MAR. 15, 2022

PUBLISHED MAY, 2022

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2013

### **Unified Development Ordinance**

- All land in Raleigh has a designation on the Zoning Map
- Zoning determines how much of what uses can be built where
- Includes other rules shaping development
- Zoning can be changed through rezoning process



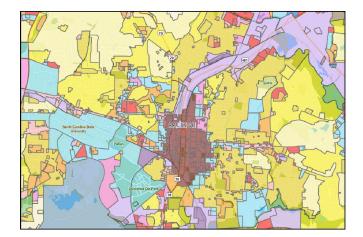
### Development allowed "by-Right" if fits site's designation on map

#### Sec. 1.4.2. Building Types Allowed by District

Building types are allowed by district as set forth below.



	Detached House	Attached House	Townhouse	Apartment
Residential Districts				
Residential-1 (R-1)	•			
Residential-2 (R-2)		-		
Residential-4 (R-4)			□(1)	(1)
Residential-6 (R-6)	•		<b>(</b> 1)	<b>□</b> (1)
Residential-10 (R-10)				
Mixed Use Districts				
Residential Mixed Use (RX-)	•	-		-
Office Park (OP-)				
Office Mixed Use (OX-)		-	-	
Neighborhood Mixed Use (NX-)		-	-	
Commercial Mixed Use (CX-)	•	•	•	
Downtown Mixed Use (DX-)	•	•		
Industrial Mixed Use (IX-)				



# **5. Station Area Implementation Tools**

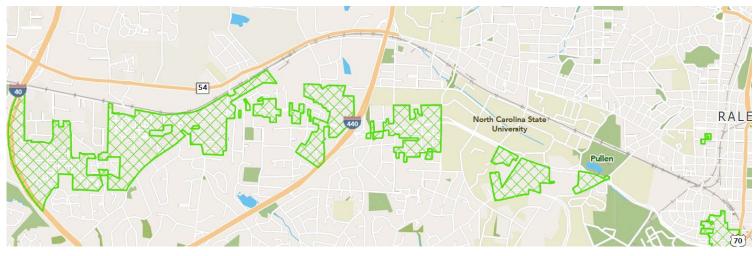
## **Equitable Development Around Transit**

- Public process set a vision and identified tools
- Creating new zoning rules for areas
  next to BRT routes
- TOD zoning: pedestrian-friendly, active uses lively places
- Allowing more people to live and work in walkable places served by transit
- Encourage provision of affordable
  housing

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### Zoning Tools: Western Corridor Transit Overlay District

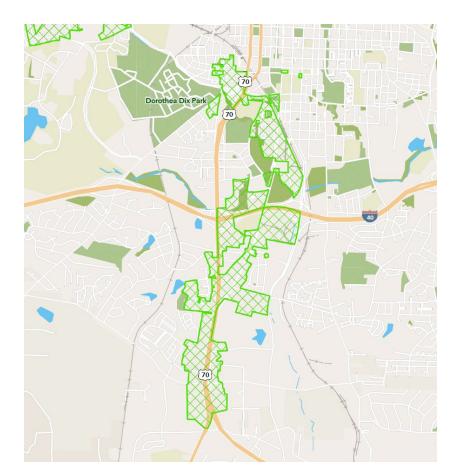


- Property in BRT corridors zoned for commercial and multi-family
- Aligned with BRT Route

- What it does:
  - 50% taller than base zoning height, if affordable housing included
  - Height bonus of 30% for employment uses
  - Facilitates BRT to have enough riders
  - Creates places for: high-quality plazas, active streets, pedestrian connections

### **Zoning Tools: Southern Corridor Transit Overlay District**

- Property in BRT corridors zoned for commercial and multi-family
- Aligned with BRT Route
- What it does:
  - 50% taller than maximum height, if affordable housing included
  - Height bonus of 30% for employment uses
  - Facilitates BRT to have enough riders
  - Creates places for: high-quality plazas, active streets, pedestrian connections



### **Current Housing Tools & Programs**

#### **HUD Funding**

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) HOME (HOME Investment Partnership) ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant)

#### Local Funding

City of Raleigh General Housing Fund (penny) City of Raleigh Housing Bond - \$80 million/5 yrs. Revenue from programs and past bonds

#### **Housing Bond**

Transit-Oriented Site Acquisition Public-Private Partnerships LIHTC Gap Financing Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Down Payment Assistance

#### LOW Income Housing Tax Credits

LIHTC - 4% & 9% deals Local and HOME funds help leverage Loans available for preserving existing rentals or new

#### **Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing**

Rehab Programs (Substantial & Limited Repair) Homebuyer Assistance Program (<80% AMI, \$20K) Pandemic Rental Assistance

#### **Public Project Community Support Fund**

Support businesses and residents to offset the impacts of large-scale public investments

# **6. Breakout Sessions**

# 6. Breakout Session Western Corridor

#### **Focused Rounds of Engagement**

#### Engagement Round 1: Visioning

Project purpose Existing conditions Diverse, locally relevant examples Concepts: Station Areas

#### Engagement Round 2: Station Area Scenarios

Vision concept Refined urban design principles Equity objectives Development Accessibility Public realm Draft framework plans Initial 3D digital modeling

#### Engagement Round 3: Station Area Plans

Draft final plans Urban design forms and character Housing affordability, anti-displacement Missing middle housing Public realm and open space Implementation Strategies Plans, diagrams Refined digital 3D Modeling Eye level visualizations

> Outcome Agreed direction

Outcome Increased awareness Vision objectives Area goals

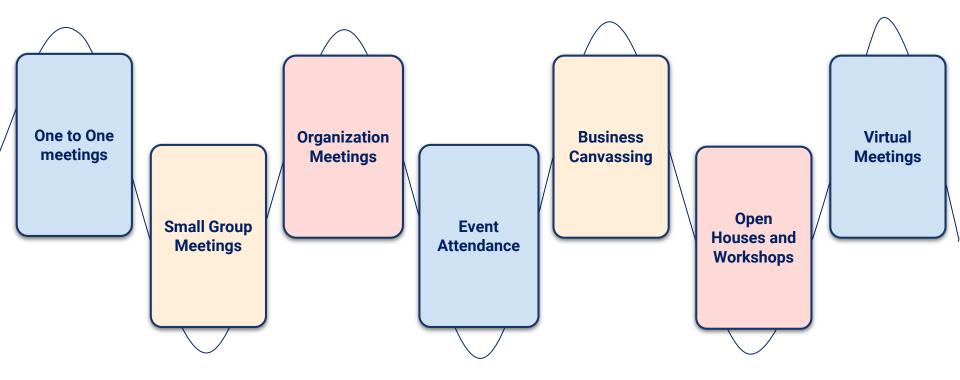
Nov-Dec 2023

Outcome Station Area directions

Jan-Feb 2024

Mar-April 2024

### **Multiple Engagement Approaches**



### Anchored by three rounds of Open Houses



Staffed Exhibits

- Station Area Planning Introduction
- Corridor and Segment Framework
- Connectivity and Movement
- Open Spaces and Parks
- Potential for Development and Change

Facilitated hands on table exercises

- Where people live, work and visit
- Connections that could be improved
- Encouraging walking and biking
- Locations with potential to change
- Types of development people would like

 Which organizations are important to include in the process to ensure we reach <u>residents</u>?

 Which organizations are important to include in the process to ensure we reach local <u>businesses</u>?

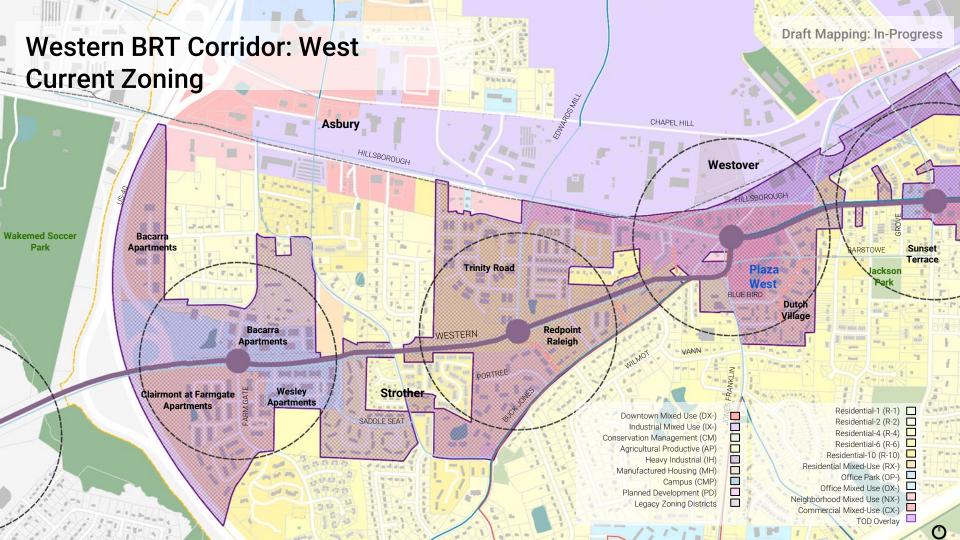
• Are there specific media outlets that connect with local residents and businesses?

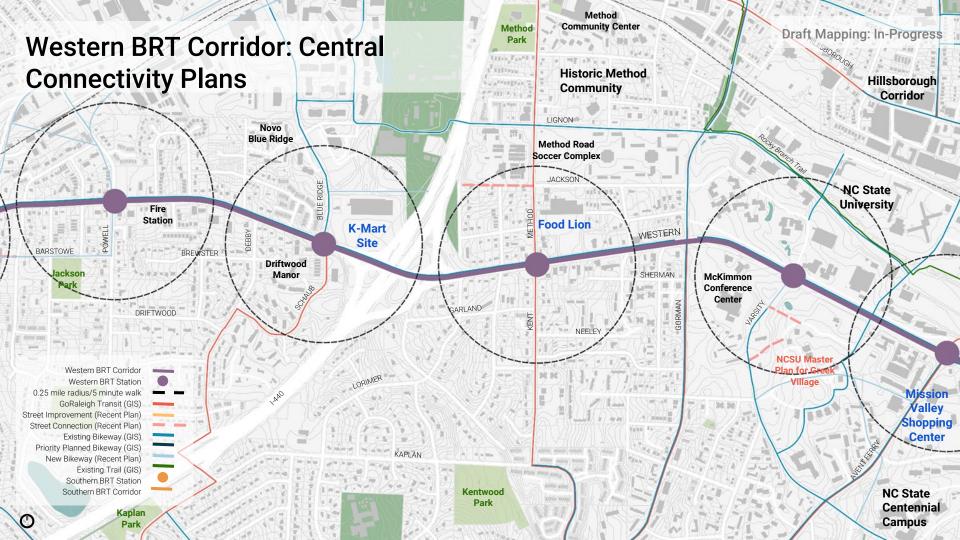
• Are there regular community meetings or other events that we could attend?

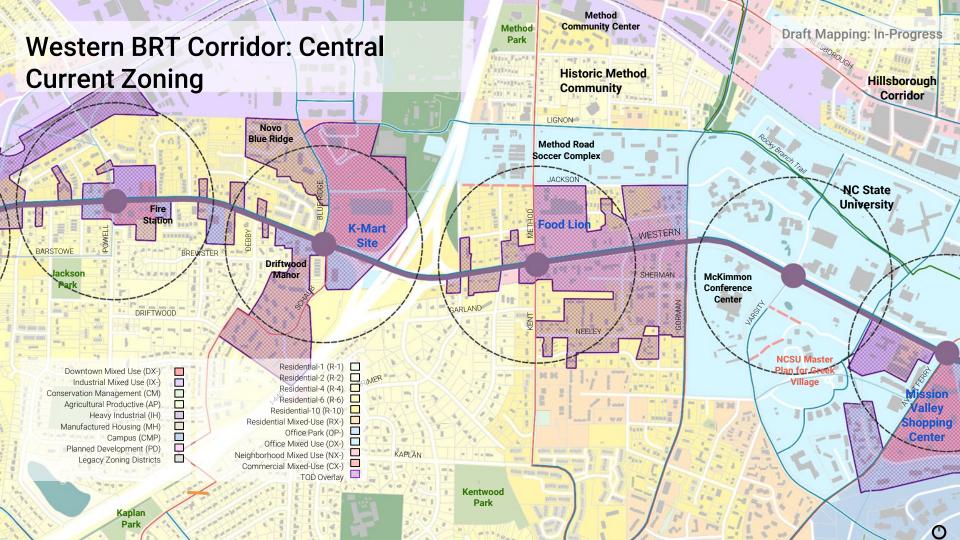
• What other avenues are there to reach residents and businesses?



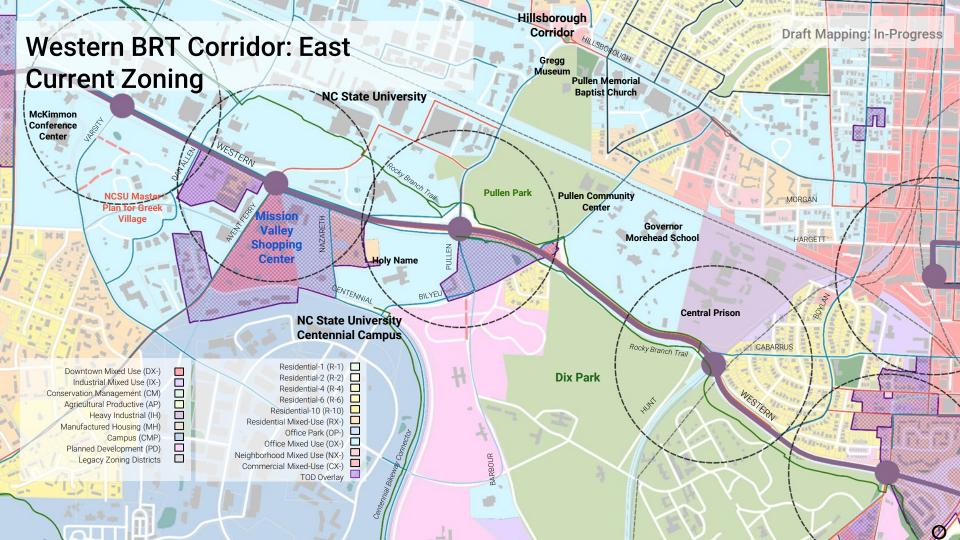


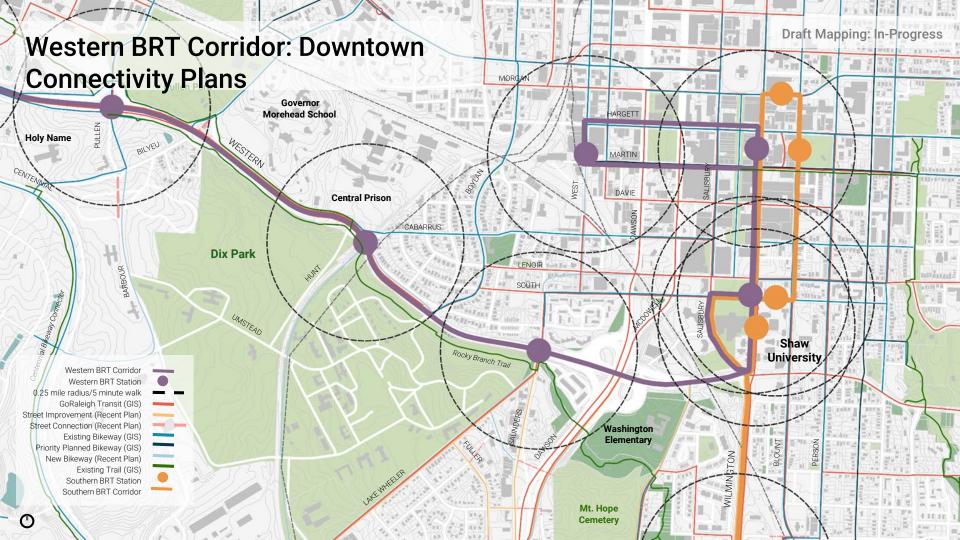


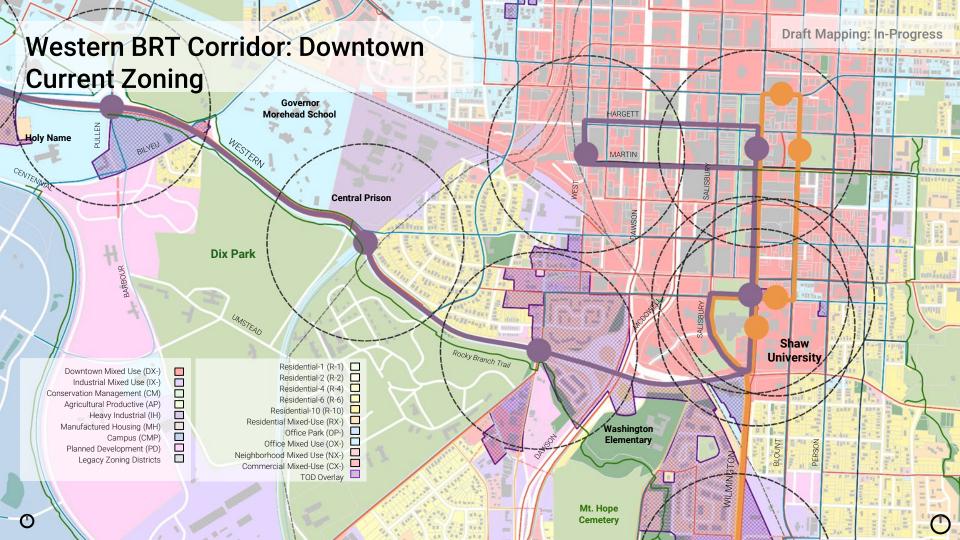












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