

# DOWNTOWN MATTHEWS MOBILITY PLAN

## REPORT

*Prepared for: The Town of Matthews  
February 2020*

Town of  
**Matthews**  
North Carolina



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**Matthews**  
North Carolina

EXECUTIVE  
SUMMARY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## What is the Mobility Plan?

The Downtown Matthews Mobility Plan is a bold initiative to enhance the way we move people in Downtown Matthews. The plan will serve as a road map to create a modern, well-balanced transportation system that provides real mobility choices and creates great places where people want to spend their time and money. Real mobility choices mean that **people have the option to walk, bike, ride, or drive in a safe and comfortable environment.**

*A photo simulation of what Cotton Gin Alley might look like with an upgrade to a shared street.*



## plan purpose

This plan is intended to accomplish the following goals:

- Evaluate the current and future multimodal needs of Downtown Matthews, including **walking, biking, driving, and transit**.
- Evaluate **pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure** and how it is connected to parking areas, downtown destinations, and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Evaluate of the current parking capacity and an analysis of **current and future parking needs** in downtown.
- Explore how **better connections** can be made **to surrounding residential neighborhoods** and retirement communities located near Downtown Matthews.

The plan will serve as a vision and action plan to create a balanced downtown transportation system that provides mobility choices and contributes to a place where people want to continue to invest time and money. Mobility choices mean that everyone has the option to walk, bike, ride transit, or drive in a safe and comfortable environment.

This project was funded by the Town of Matthews with funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) through the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO).

When implemented, **the mobility plan will create these key outcomes:**



Create safe streets for all ages, abilities, and modes of travel



Expand travel options for people traveling to, through, and around Downtown



Support growth in downtown investment and quality of life for residents and visitors



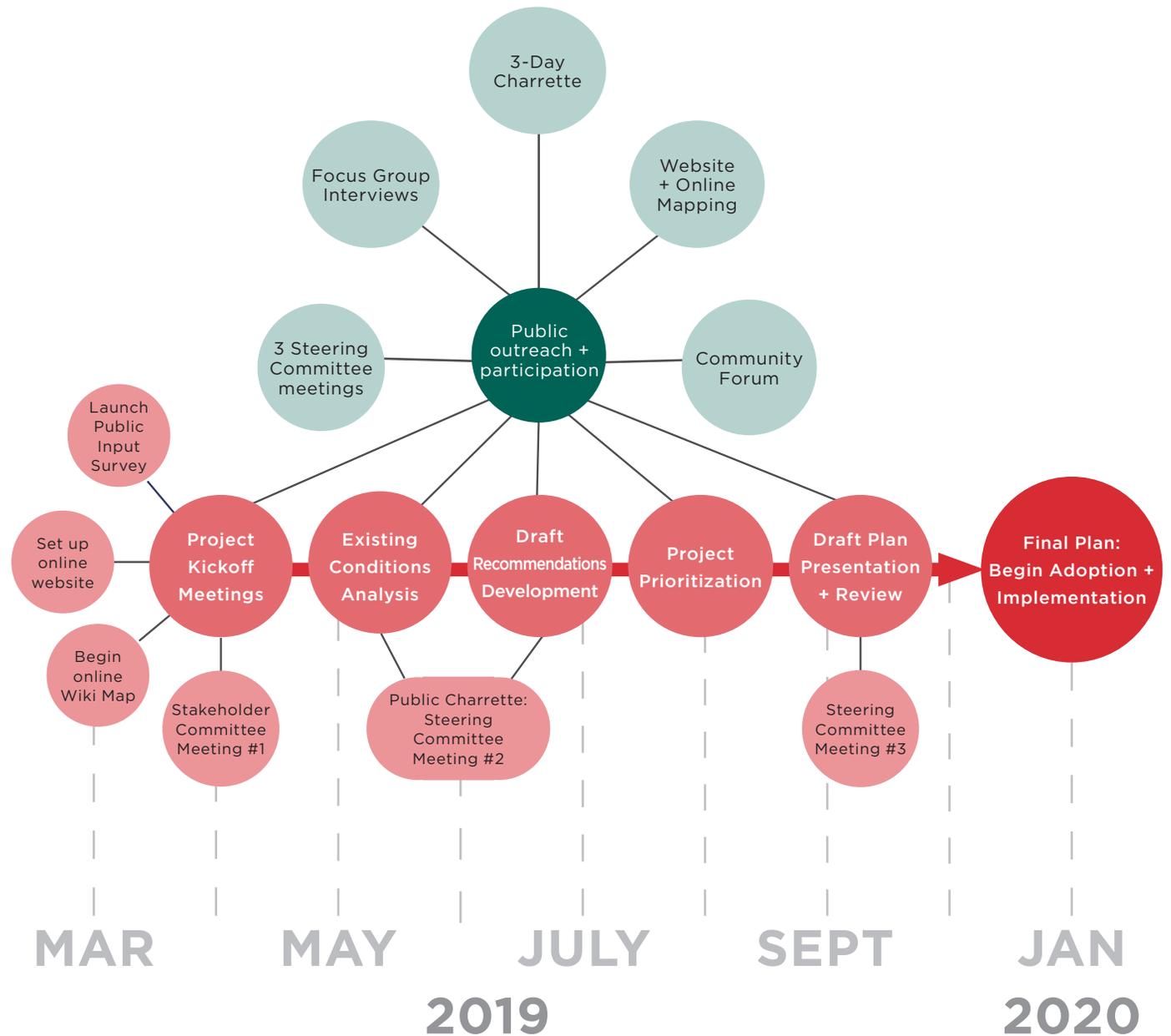
Provide predictable and reliable travel for all modes



*A view of the bike racks and bus stop on Trade Street near the parking lot along the railroad tracks, looking south across Trade Street.*

## planning process timeline

The vision for mobility in Downtown is the community’s vision— one where all modes of travel are safe, convenient, and comfortable. The development of the vision was a collaborative effort that brought together residents, the business community, Matthews Elementary School, and regional—Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) and Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS)—and state partners—North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)—to create this mobility plan for Downtown. The visioning effort began in the Spring of 2019 with a steering committee kick off meeting, followed by a public design workshop (charrette) and stakeholder meetings held over three days; and the launch of the interactive online input map and project survey. During the early fall, the project steering committee met to provide guidance on the development of the priority projects to include in the plan. In the late fall, the complete mobility strategy was presented to the Town, and the input received at that meeting was used to refine and finalize the recommended actions to implement the plan.

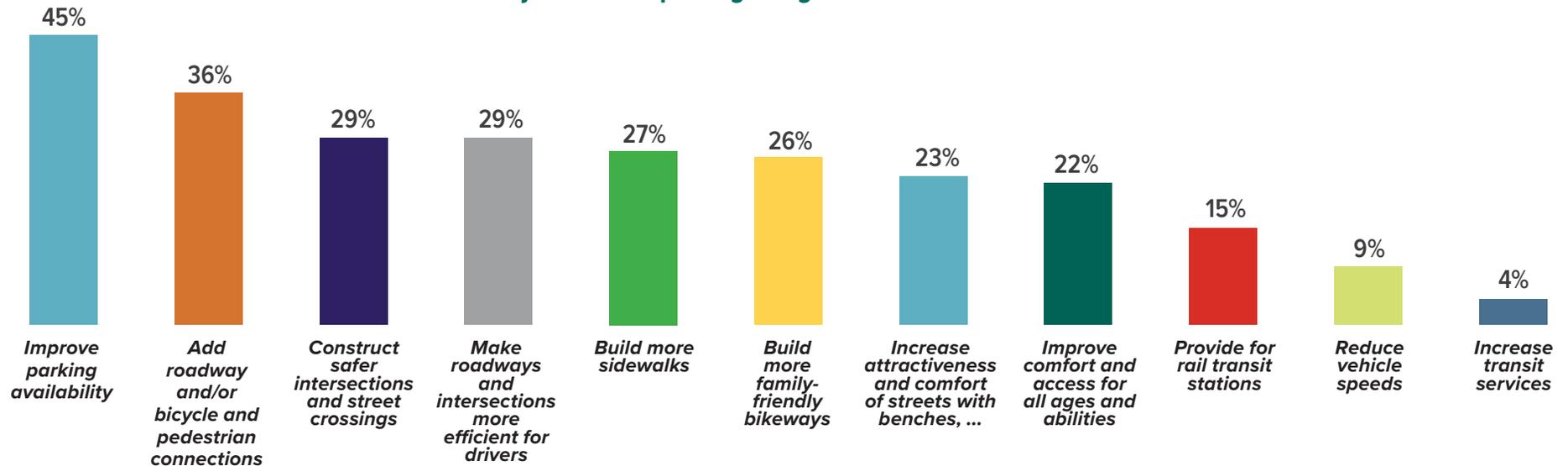


## public input

Matthews engaged its citizens as stakeholders and partners throughout the planning process. The Downtown Matthews Mobility Plan was developed through a partnership with community residents and stakeholders, and builds off of the many previous planning efforts that the Town has completed in recent years. Throughout the process, hundreds of citizens participated directly in the process through stakeholder meetings, online survey and mapping exercises, and a three-day public planning and design workshop known as a “charrette.”

**143** online map views  
**152** online map comments  
**598** survey responses  
**700+** facebook live views (charrette presentation)

### What would you do to improve getting around Downtown Matthews?



Responses to one survey question reveals a preference for improving parking availability and adding roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian connections in Downtown Matthews.

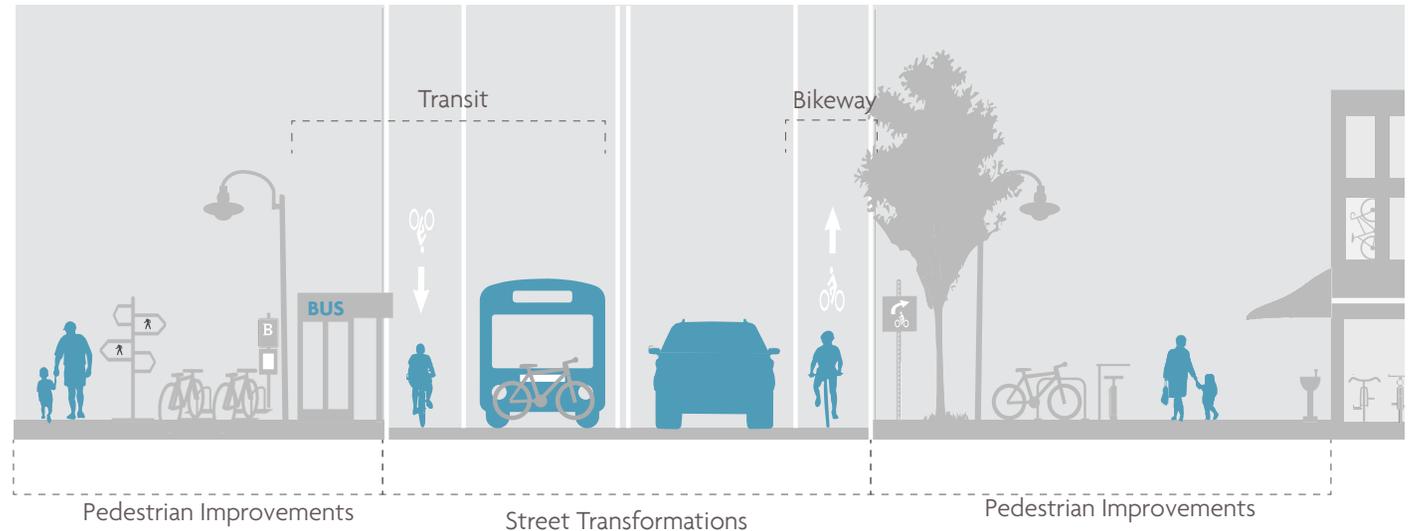
## recommendations

This report provides a common action plan for Downtown Matthews that will expand mobility options, create streets designed for everyone, increase comfort to attract and sustain activity, and enhance the convenience of moving from place to place. The recommendations in this report are implementation-ready and intended to achieve the Plan’s mobility goals. These recommendations are organized into three types:

- **Projects**
- **Programs**
- **Policies**

Together, these recommendations propel Downtown Matthews toward the goal of creating a more vibrant, unique, and walkable place where residents and visitors enjoy spending their time.

It is intended for all projects, programs, and policies to be thoroughly analyzed and reconsidered individually, by topic or as a geographical group prior to implementation



### PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

- Sidewalks (for greenways and sidepaths, see Bikeways + Multi-Use Paths)
- Crossing improvements
- ADA-accessibility
- Placemaking



### PARKING

- New on-street spaces
- Reconfiguration of existing spaces
- Surface lots
- Wayfinding



### STREET TRANSFORMATIONS

- Lane reallocation
- Shared streets
- New Complete Street connections
- Traffic calming
- Intersection reconfigurations



### TRANSIT

- Bus stop amenities
- Bus stop relocation
- Light rail connections



### BIKEWAYS + MULTI-USE PATHS

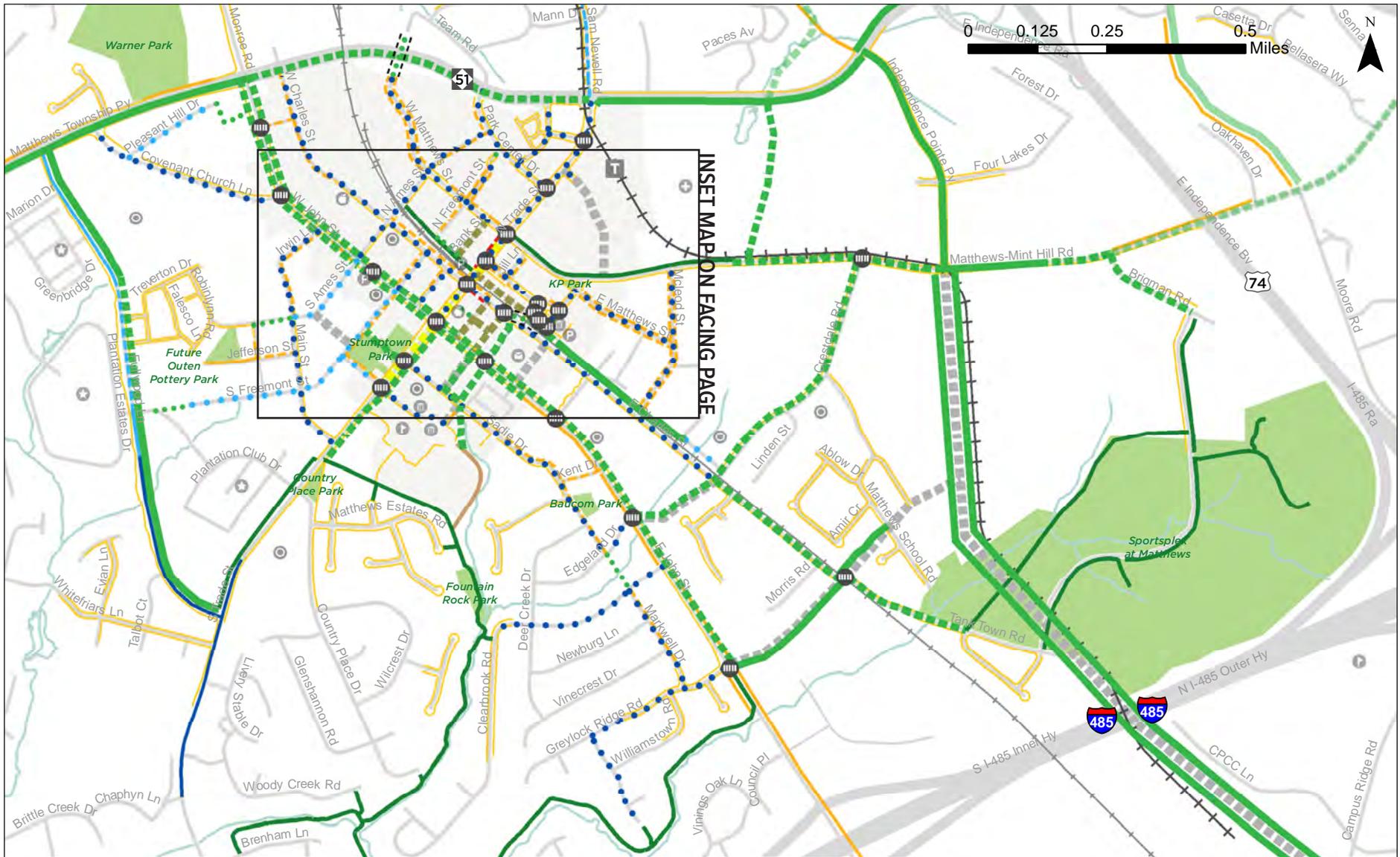
- On-street bike facilities
  - » Bike Lanes
  - » Shared Lane Markings
  - » Advisory Shoulders
- Multi-Use Paths
  - » Greenways
  - » Sidepaths



### PROGRAMS + POLICIES

- Parking
- New Mobility Technology
- Wayfinding
- Transportation Demand Management

# DOWNTOWN MOBILITY NETWORK MAP



## Sidewalks + Access Issues

- Existing Sidewalk
- - - Funded-not constructed
- - - - - Proposed Sidewalk
- - - Fix ADA issues

## Multi-Use Paths

- Existing — (Natural surface)
- - - Funded- not constructed
- - - - - Proposed MUP
- - - - - Proposed Bike/Ped Connector
- - - - - Proposed Bike/Ped Tunnel

## Bike Lanes

- Existing
- - - Funded
- - - - - Proposed

## Shared Street Bike Facilities

- Proposed Shared Lane Markings
- Proposed Advisory Shoulder

## Roadways

- - - - - New Complete Street
- - - - - Lane Reallocation
- - - - - Shared Street
- Crossing Improvement

## Future Silver Line

- T Downtown / Hospital
- + + + Silver Line Proposed Alignment



## downtown core conceptual plan

The projects in the downtown core include reconfiguring lanes along Trade Street, reorienting parking spaces and expanding the sidewalks along Trade; retrofitting on-street parking along side streets and alleys; and intersections improvements to shorten pedestrian crossing distances. The details of these projects, and others are outlined on the following pages.



## priority projects

The Downtown Matthews Mobility Plan Stakeholder Committee identified top priority projects for implementation based on input gathered during the course of the Mobility Plan study. The Stakeholder Committee has put forward the following four projects for consideration by the Town Board of Commissioners for near-term funding and implementation.

### Trade Street Reconfiguration, from John Street to Charles Street

- Lane reconfiguration
- Parking reorientation
- Widened sidewalks
- Crossing improvements

### Trade Street Reconfiguration, from Matthews Elementary School to John Street

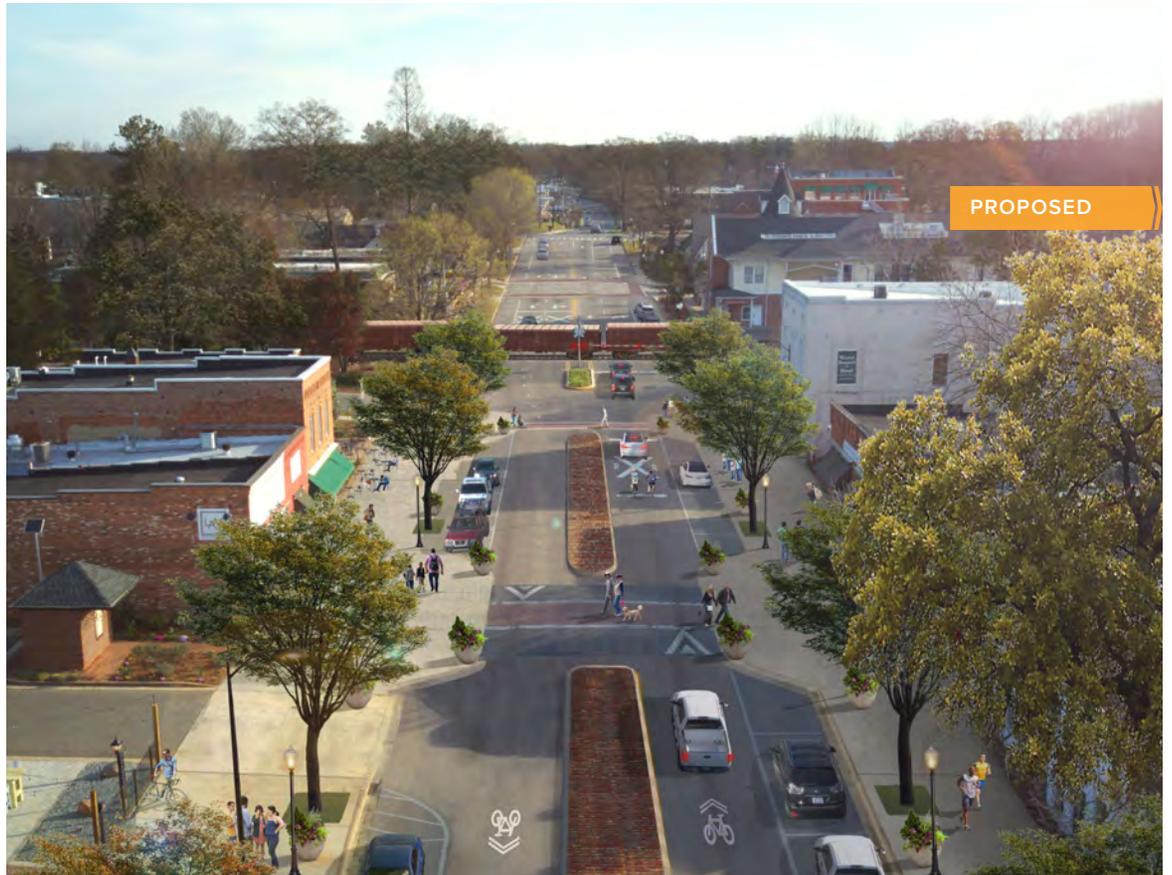
- Lane reconfiguration
- Parking reorientation
- Multi-use path
- Crossing improvements

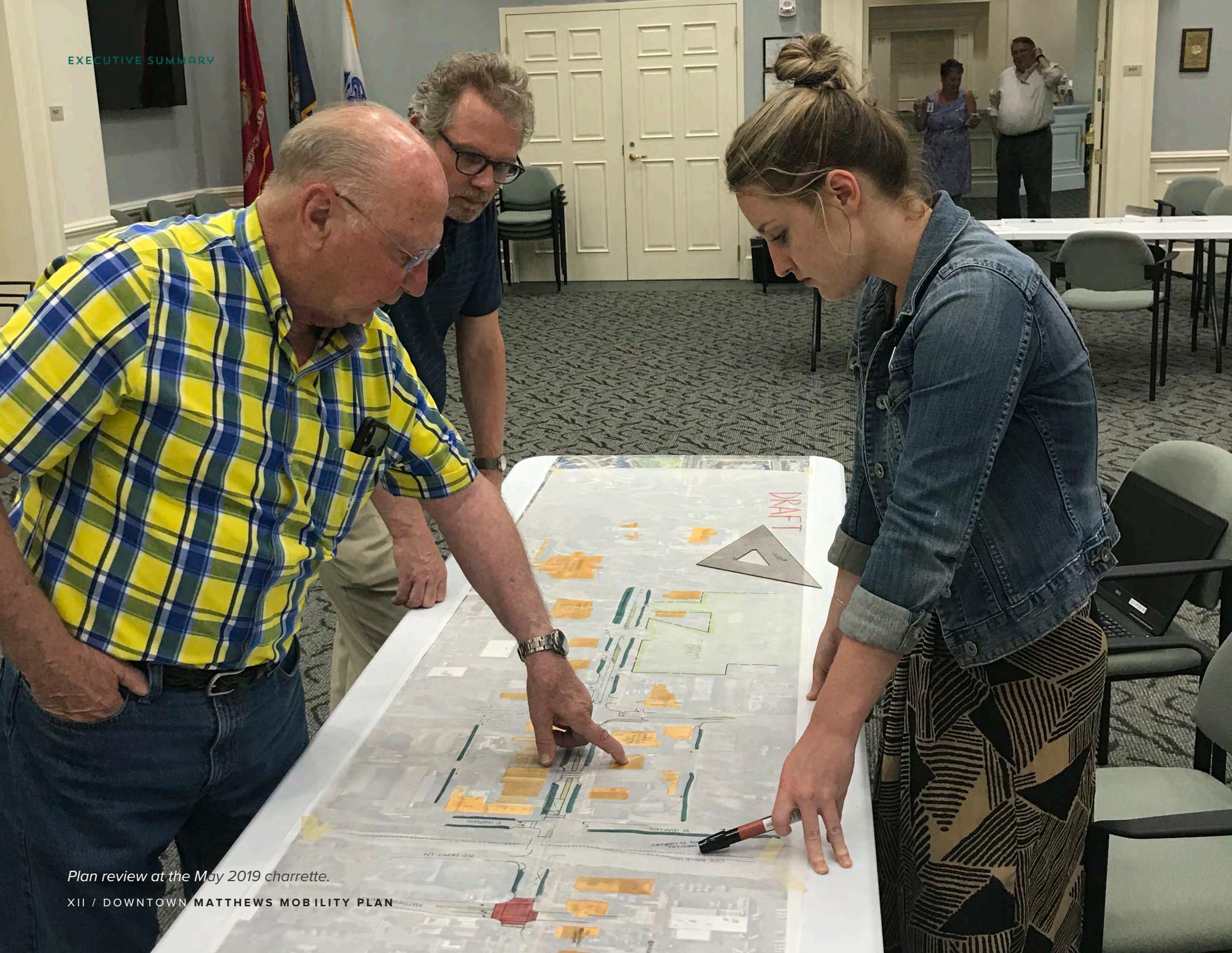
### Library Lane + Freemont Street Paired One-Way Streets, from John Street to Charles Street

- Two one-way conversions on Library Lane and Freemont Street, creating “one-way pair”
- 31 new parallel parking spaces
- Sidewalks along both roads

### Heritage Lane Greenway, Alignment A, from Sadie Drive to John Street

- Multi-use path along southeast side of alley/driveway
- Formalize alley/driveway as public right-of-way, “Heritage Lane”





Plan review at the May 2019 charrette.