Jackson **City • County** Nonmotorized Plan



A plan for people who walk, bike and ride

Preliminary Plan Outreach Meetings

September 9th through September 18th At ten location throughout Jackson County

Please Sign In





Look Ahead a Few Years...

It is a beautiful Saturday afternoon; you don't have to be at work, and you don't have any obligations on your time. You are free to pursue any walking or bicycling activity you would like with the caveat that it be relatively close to home.

What do you do?

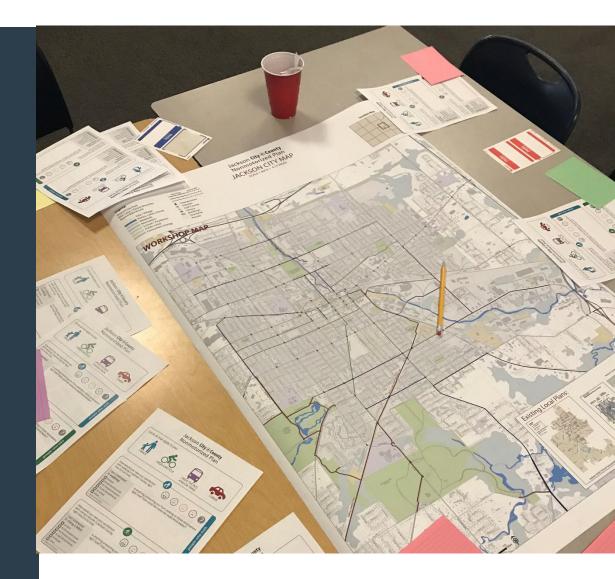
- Can be something simple or grand; specific or general
- Could be based on a someplace that does not exist yet



In a few words, share how you would like to spend your perfect Saturday afternoon?

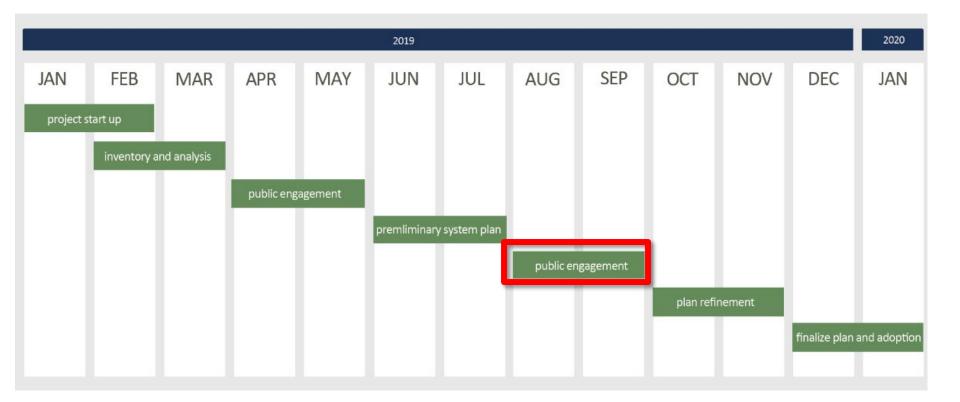


- 1. Project Process
- Project Goals and Objectives
- 3. Key Findings from First Round of Public Input
- 4. County Connectors
 - Overview
 - Table Workshop
- 5. Community Plans
 - Overview
 - Refinement
 - Priority Worksheets
- 6. Next Steps



This our second set of public outreach meetings, our first were in May





About two-thirds the way through the project

Our objective today is to refine and begin to prioritize the preliminary plans

The Goal and Four Driving Objectives of the Project

The goal is to provide safe, comfortable, convenient, and attractive options for people to travel within their community and throughout the County regardless of their chosen mode of travel.

Keeping in mind:

- a special focus should be given to addressing the needs of those residents who have limited transportation options; and
- all types of trips are important

Place

Create the type of walking and bicycling facilities amenities that people want for their community

Homeowners willing to pay 11% more for homes in walkable / bikeable communities

Safety

Reduce pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile crash rates and severity

\$27 million in economic and societal impacts each year in Jackson County

Health

Encourage physical activity in daily activities by providing safe and attractive places to walk and bike

Obesity accounts for about 10% of medical expenditures

Feasible

Draft a realistic plan where the costs of implementation are offset by reduced healthcare costs, increased property values, and a reduced cost of crashes

Do the math; the cost of doing nothing is greater than the cost of doing something

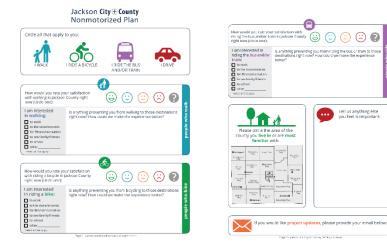
Responding to the Community Values

- Linking the parks, recreation areas, and small towns
- Highlighting lakes and water features
- Establishing family friendly routes
- Building on the success of the falling waters trail to create a countywide trail network
- Highlighting and maintaining the character of rural areas
- A pragmatic vision that can be implemented

🗞 falling waters trail rivers history clark lake urban Jre open space downtown 240102010 quiet recreation terrian ll town fee activites big city ammenities

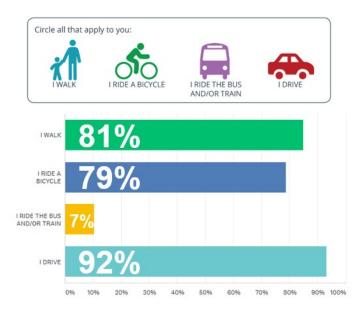
A plan guided by public input, feasibility analysis, and return on investment





240 Total Responses (140 Web, 100 Printed)

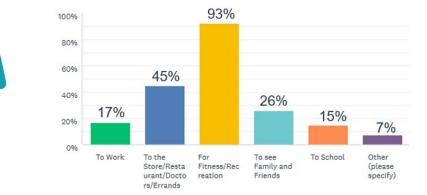
All but one township represented in the sample



Good representation from all modes except transit

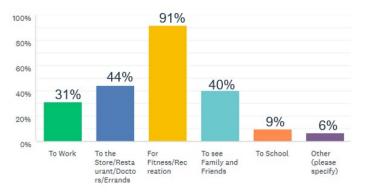
Where People Would Like to Walk and Bike

- Almost everyone was interested in walking and bicycling for fitness/recreation
- Many more people would like to bike to work and see friends than walk



 Generally see walking and bicycling conditions as OK but feel they could be better





Walking – Issues Preventing Walking Trips

Is anything preventing you from walking to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

paths enough condition sidewalks available neighborhood especially Jackson within traffic much around Brooklyn places pedestrians street safety live concerns many cross areas sidewalks Walking snow ice removal sidewalks walking paths road county safe winter lighting snow even also shoulder broken city feel safe trails bike trail bike walkways condition need personal safety cars crosswalks

• Maintenance/condition of existing sidewalks poor/narrow/uneven (Jackson, Grass Lake, Brooklyn)



- Lack of sidewalks or paved shoulder (outside of downtowns, Lake Columbia, Brooklyn, Spring Arbor, Leoni Twp, Summit Twp)
- Lighting and personal safety
- Snow ice removal
- Drivers paying attention
- Lack of crosswalks

Bicycling – Issues Preventing Bicycling Trips

- Pavement condition (potholes, debris)
- Availability of safe bikeways
- Driver knowledge and attitudes toward bikes
- Lack of separated bikeways
- Narrow roads / no paved shoulders
- High speed, high traffic roadways
- Bike parking

Is anything preventing you from bicycling to those destination right now? How could we make the experience better?

using Grass Lake need love Falling Water drivers bikers lanes adding bike lanes lack bike trails riders bike parking coming traffic go bike paths riding Falling Waters streets problem sidewalks even Trail live conditions poor safe walking trails great bike good roads enough bike lanes city pavement conditions routes Lack etc shoulders bike drive ride new trails cars area Please bicycle place busy roads fix makes Safety See feel safe parking Lack bike lanes Also dangerous see bike county



Transit – Issues Preventing Transit Trips

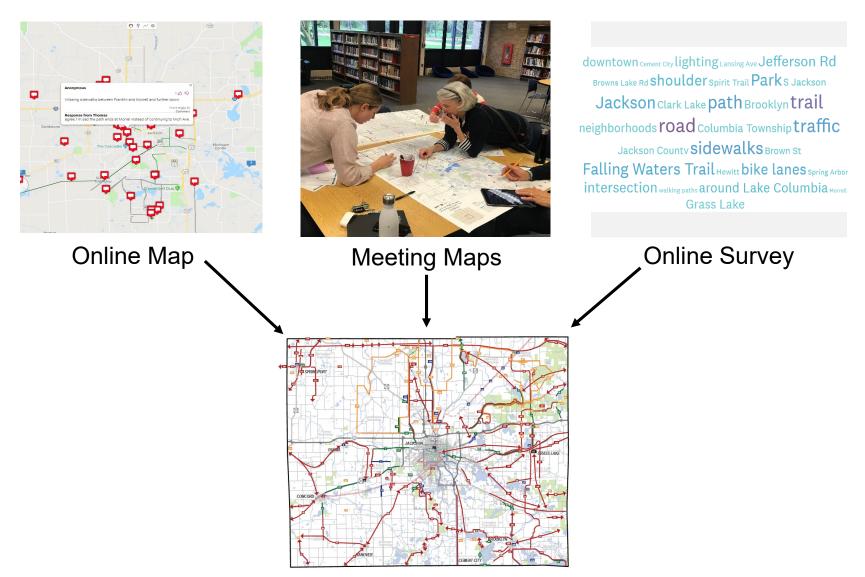
Is anything preventing you from riding the bus or train to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

people work Jackson even train transportation bus service use take

- Unfamiliar
- Confusion on bus route
- No bus routes near me
- Infrequent and inconvenient
- Expensive
- Safety
- Lack of commuter rail service



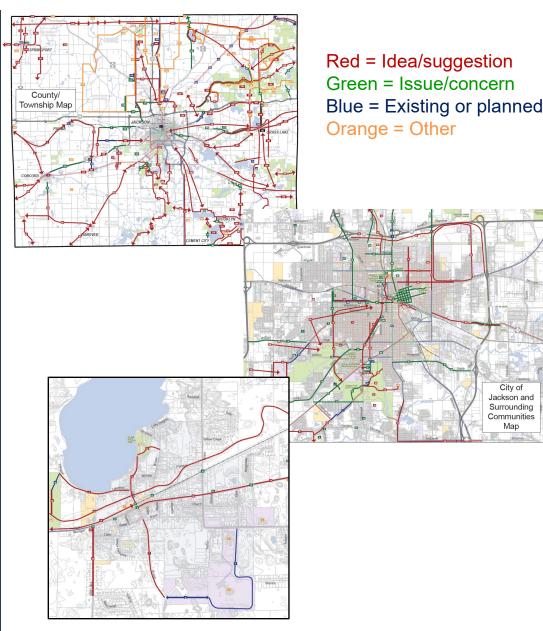
What Specific Places Would you Like to See Improved?



Combined input from numerous sources

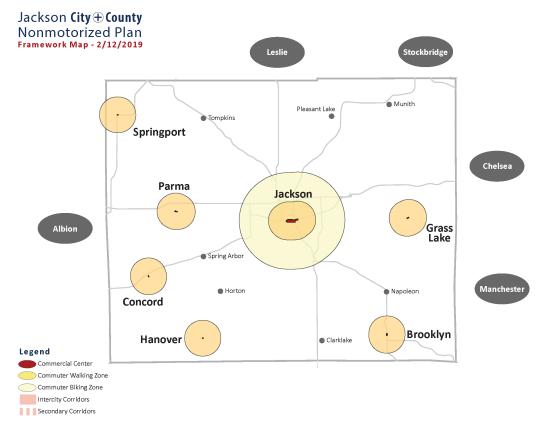
Workshop Map Input

- Countywide off-road bicycle and pedestrian links highly desired
 - Along rail corridors
 - Along Consumer Energy corridors
 - Connecting parks, lakes and communities
- Cities and villages
 - Connections to parks and schools
 - Sidewalk gaps
 - Crosswalks
 - Getting across freeways



Key Takeaways – Intercommunity Connections

- There is a can-do attitude for building trails in the rural areas
 - Willing to work with private landowners to make things happen
- The connections do not all have to look like the Falling Water's Trail
 - Natural surface trails
 - Gravel road routes
- Connections are not just between communities in Jackson
 - Look beyond the borders



Use intercommunity trails and routes as a way to explore and celebrate the county's natural areas and rural character

Can be a key part of creating a brand for Jackson County and bringing in visitors

Major County Connectors Overview

Three Different Experiences:

- Paved trails & routes
 - Low stress / family friendly
 - Like Falling Waters Trail
 - Red lines

Unpaved trails & routes

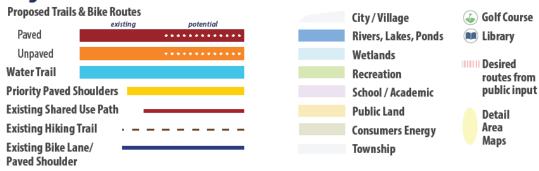
- Mod. stress / tween-adult
- Lakelands Trail / Watkins
 Lake State Park / very low
 volume, rural gravel roads
- Orange lines

• Priority paved shoulders

- higher stress / adult
- Yellow lines
- Low volume county roads



Legend:



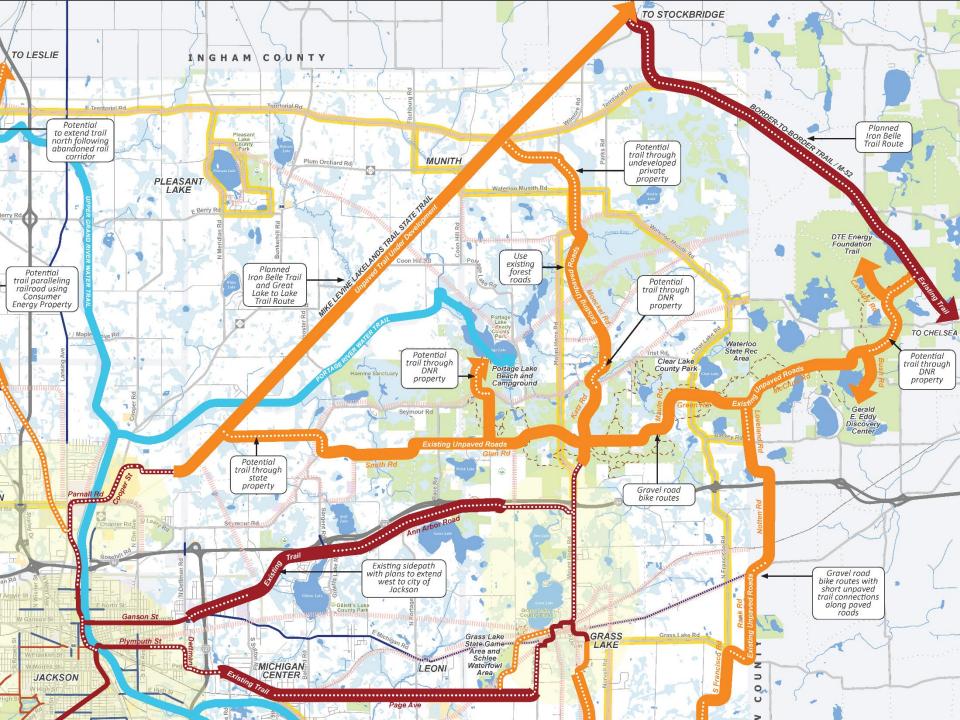
Major County Connectors Additional Thoughts

- Some of the proposed trails will depend on working with private landowners to secure easements
 - This may entail seasonal restrictions
- Several off-road trails are former railroad corridors that are now owned by Consumers Power Company
 - These also require easements
 - Some have small gaps in ownership



Unpaved routes may be a combination of rural gravel roads and unpaved rail-trails

The challenges of obtaining easements for rail-trail projects are off-set by the ease of construction

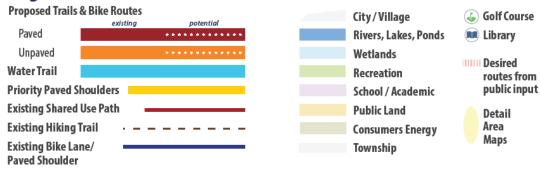


Major County Connectors Table Exercise

- Each table should take some time to review
 - Don't worry about the details in-town just yet
- Any routes that you are concerned about?
 - Please note them and what the issue is
- Any good realistic opportunities missing?
 - please draw them and note the opportunity
- As a group, discuss what are your top three priority routes and note them on the map
 - Appoint someone to be your reporter

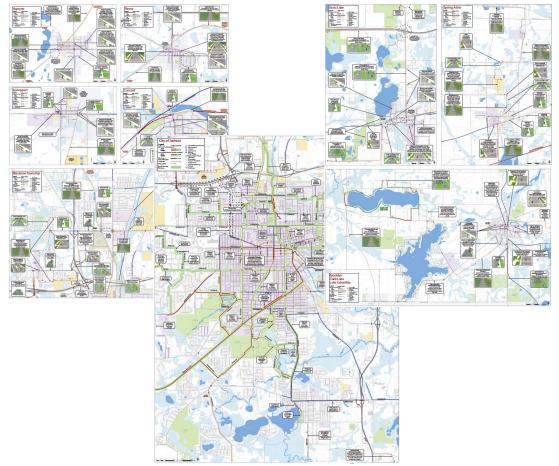


Legend:





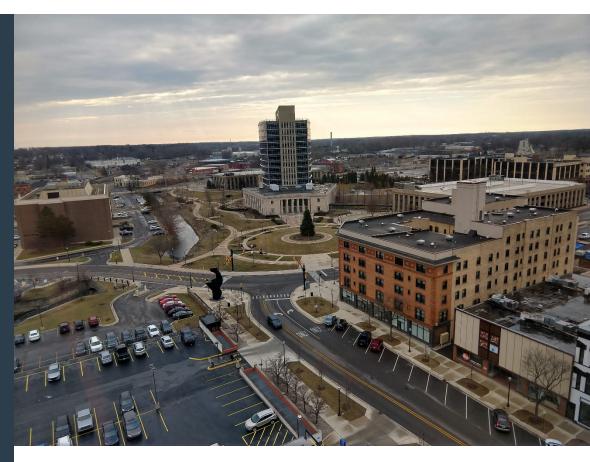
- Focus on accommodating daily trips to visit friends, stores, restaurants, errands, etc.
 - Biking to work becomes important in Jackson
- Addressing gaps in local sidewalk system
- Improving safety of crosswalks
- Manageable projects
- What communities are represented today?



Detailed plans were prepared for nine areas: Springport, Parma, Spring Arbor, Concord, Hanover, Blackman Township, City of Jackson, Grass Lake, and Brooklyn / Clark Lake/Lake Columbia

Key Takeaways – Urban and Suburban Areas

- In-street bicycle facilities must be done right – good separation, connected, and well maintained if they are to be used
- Need to take care of the pedestrian basics by filling sidewalk gaps and providing appropriate crosswalks
- We can't address bicycle and pedestrian facilities without addressing poor pavement condition of the roads



There is a latent demand for more and better pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes and facilities

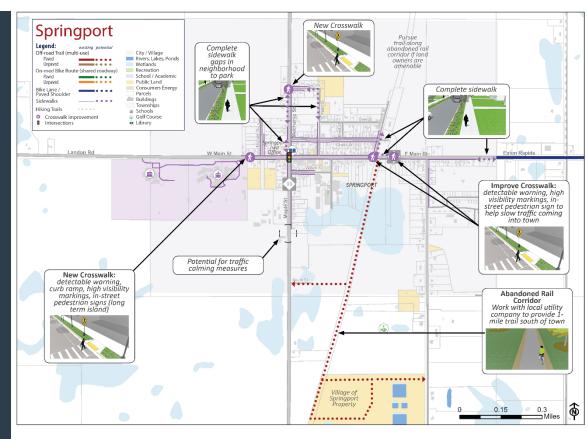
Springport Area Preliminary Plan

Local Priorities:

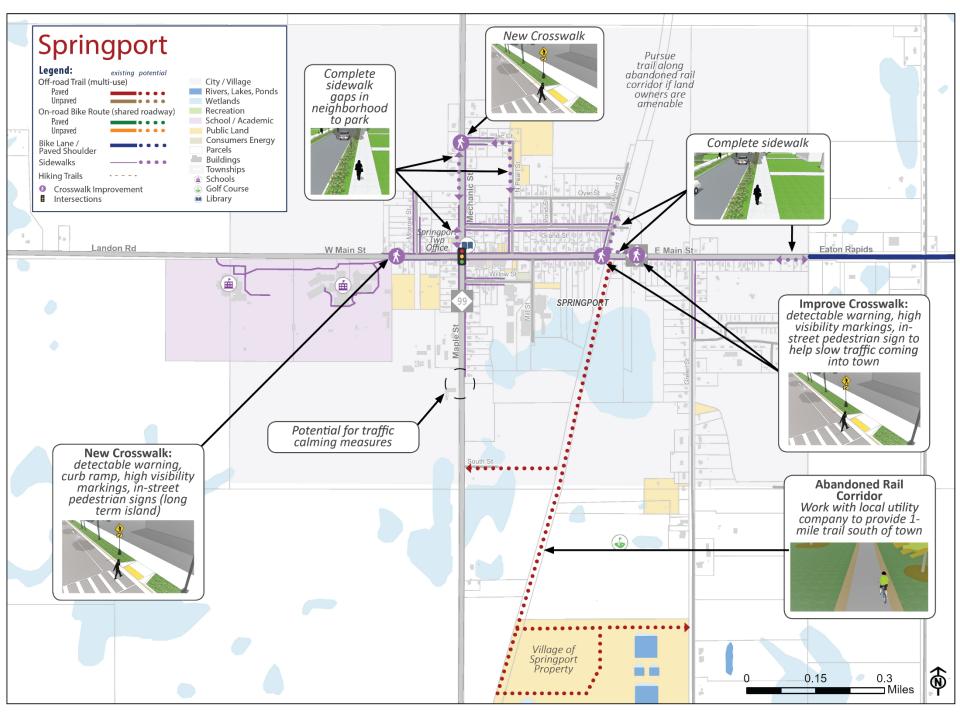
- 1. Sidewalk Gaps
- Rail-trail to City property on south end of town
- 3. New and improved crosswalks

Issues:

- Sidewalk gap between Downtown and Dollar General
- Potential rail-trail to the north but corridor peters out after a while and private ownership







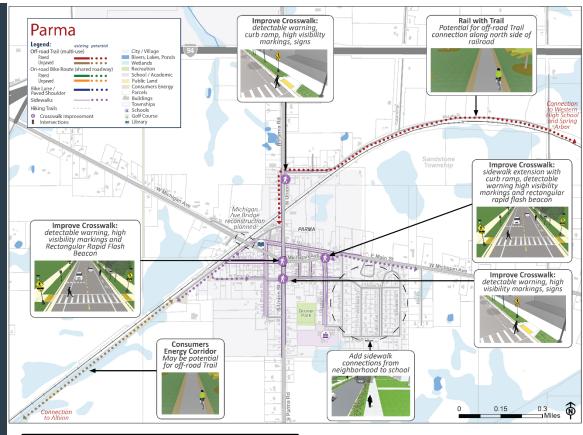
Parma Area Preliminary Plan

Local Priorities:

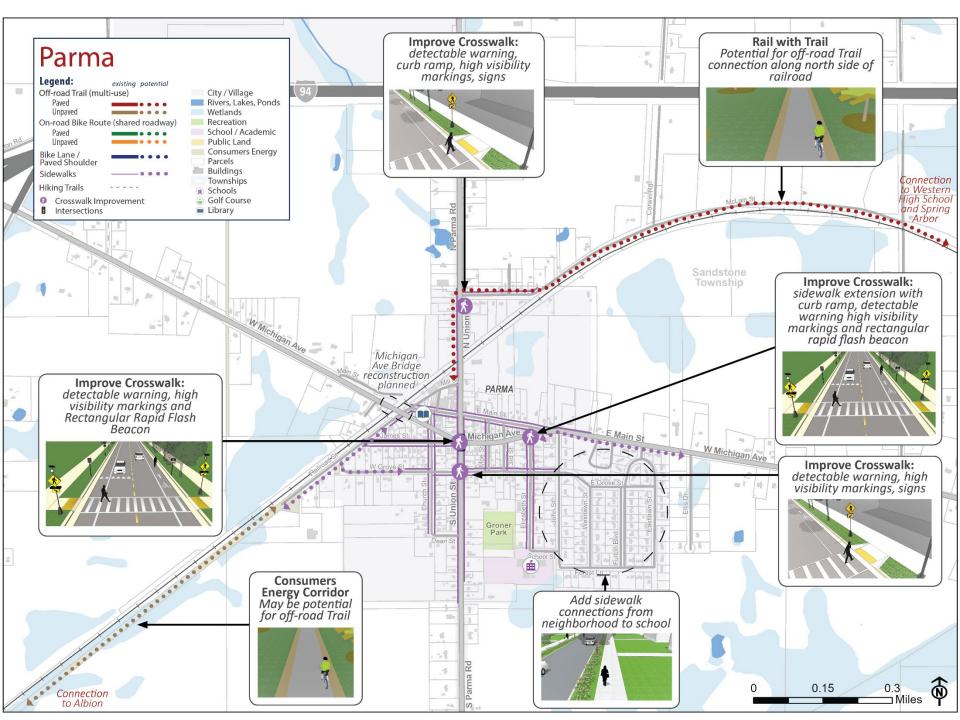
- 1. Improved Michigan Ave crosswalks
- 2. Sidewalk access from business district to neighborhood on east of town
- 3. Sidewalk access from neighborhood to elementary school

Issues:

 Major sidewalk infrastructure project for a small town







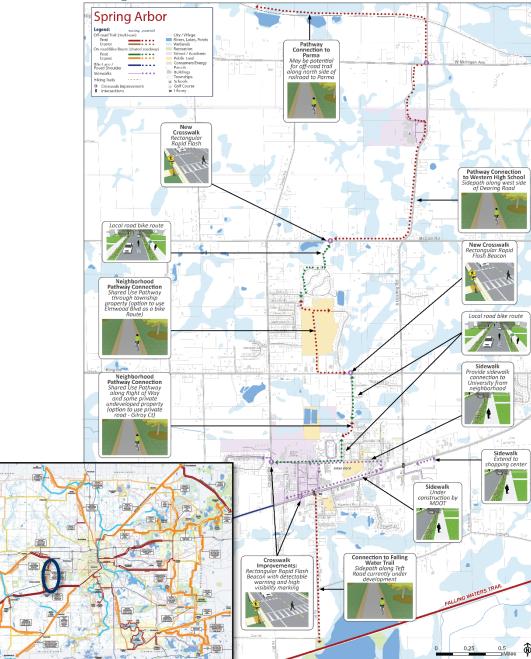
Spring Arbor Area Preliminary Plan

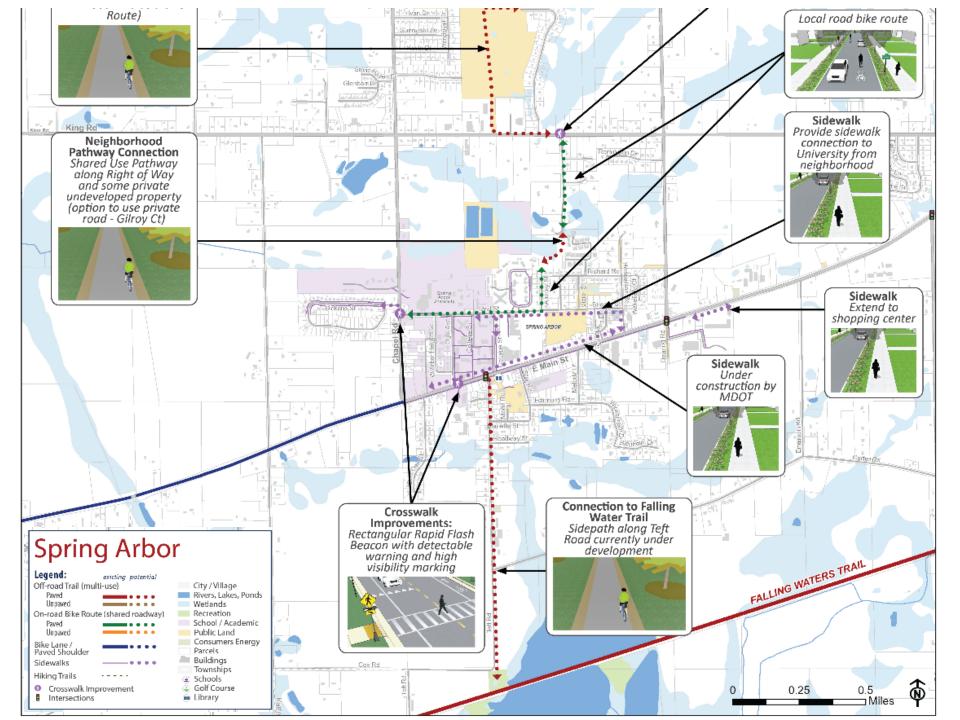
Local Priorities:

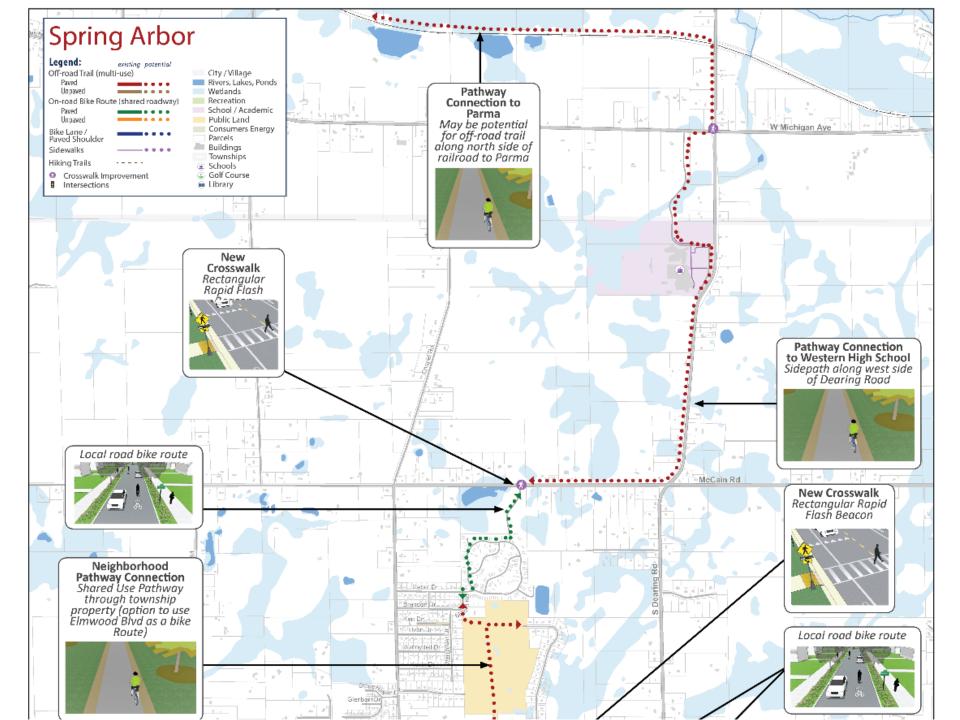
- Connector path from Spring Arbor to Falling Waters Trail (in development)
- 2. Sidewalk access from residential areas to Spring Arbor campus
- Pedestrian and bike access to Western High School

Opportunity:

 Combine local priorities with short extension to create new regional trail link







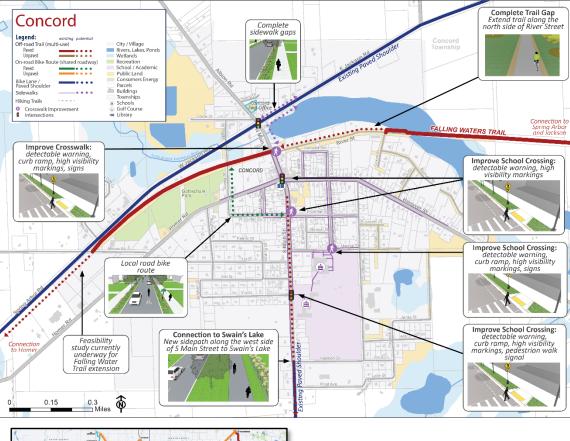
Concord Area Preliminary Plan

Local Priorities:

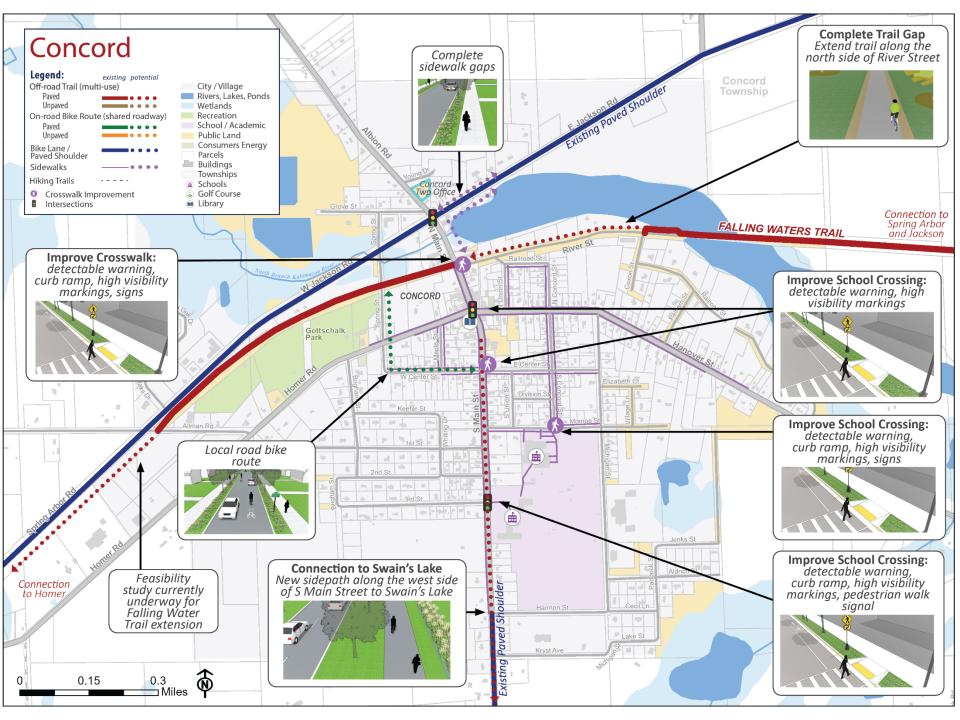
- Better connection between Falling Waters Trail and Concord Trail (and proposed extension to Homer)
- 2. Sidewalk linkages between downtown and commercial areas along Jackson Road
- Pathway between Concord and Swain's Lake County Park

Issues:

 Pathway to Swain's Lake is an expensive "spur"







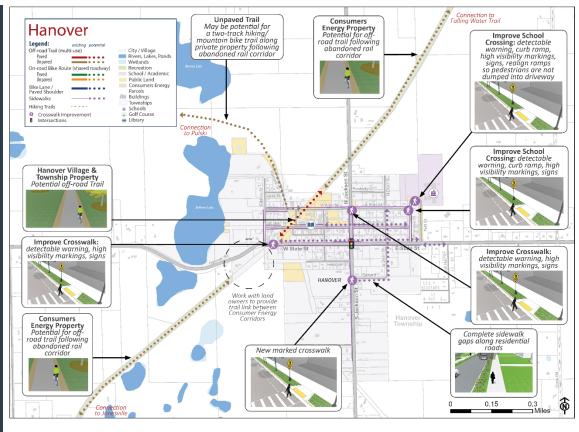
Hanover Area Preliminary Plan

Local Priorities:

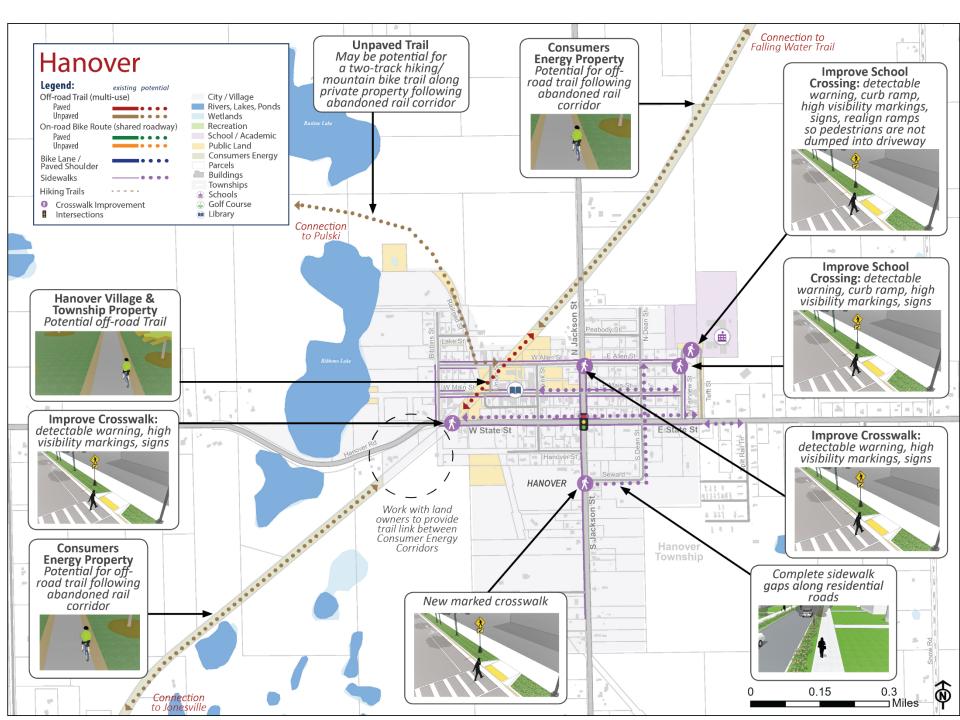
- 1. Many sidewalk gaps
- 2. Improved school crosswalks

Issues:

 How to address gap in Consumers Power ownership of abandoned railroad corridor







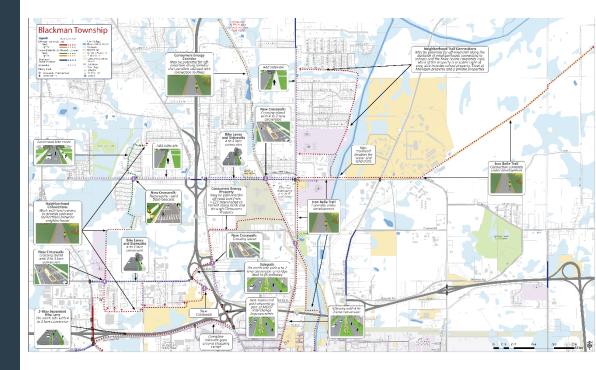
Blackman Township Area Preliminary Plan

Local Priorities:

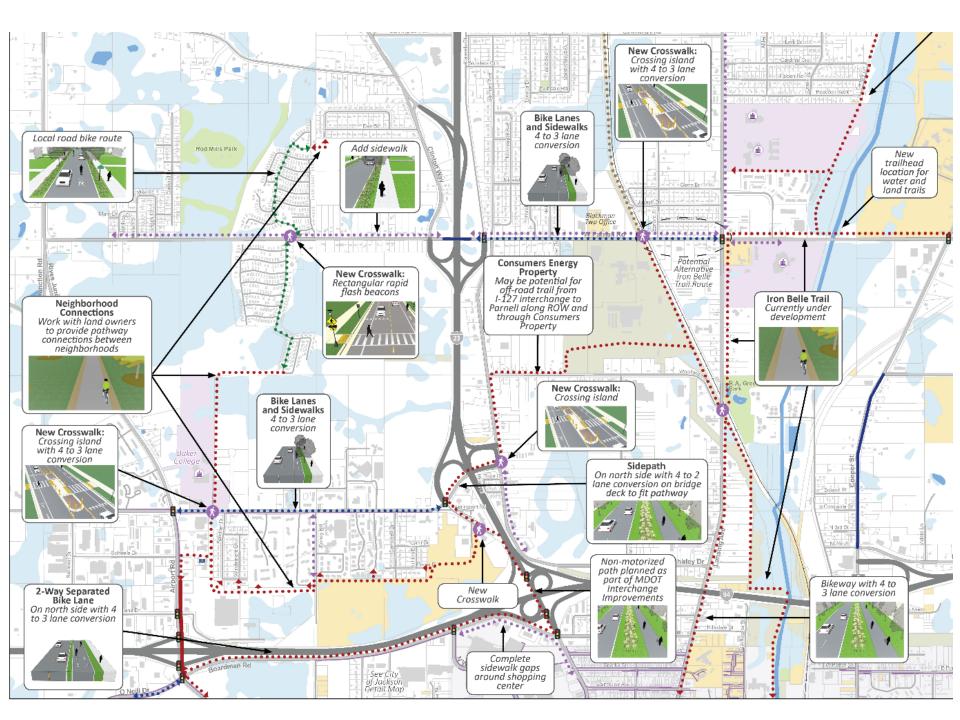
- 1. Connecting isolated neighborhoods
- 2. Linking into the Iron Belle Trail

Issues:

1. Getting across freeway





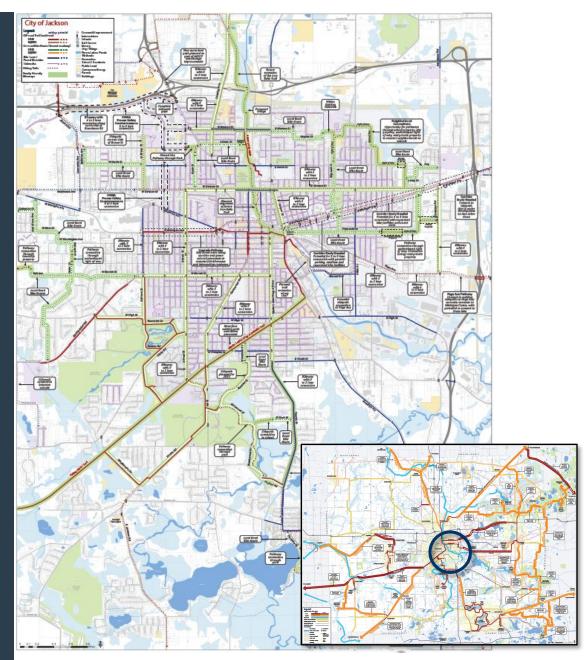


City of Jackson Preliminary Plan

 Focus is on creating a network of family friendly routes throughout city

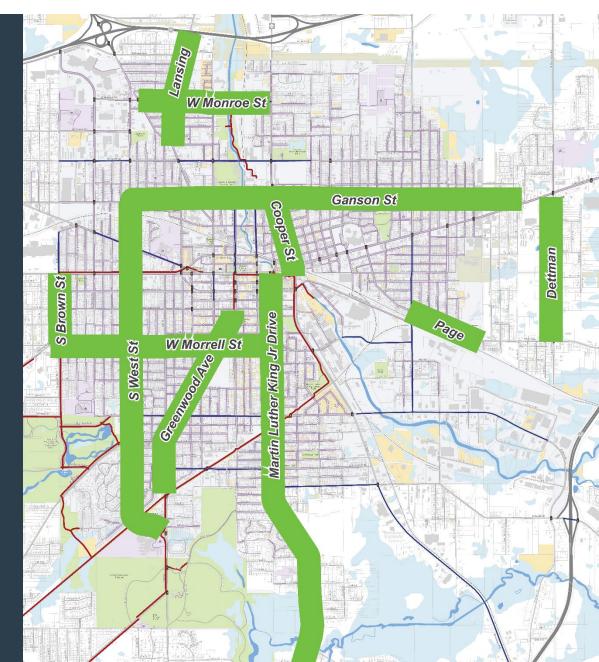
NA

- Preference is for off-road bicycle facilities rather than on-street bike lanes
 - Already adding off-road facilities when roads are reconstructed
- Proposing a "toolbox" of near and long-term options to achieve the objective of separated facilities

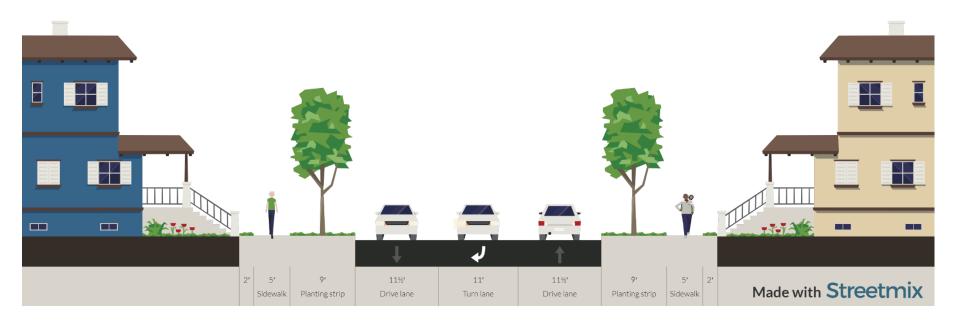


Road Conversions – Foundation for the Network

- The City has a network of roads that share many characteristics
 - Primarily 3 lanes
 - about 34' wide
 - About 11,000 vehicles a day or less
 - 30 mile per hour or less Mostly residential
 - Transit routes
- These roads can function well as a 2 lane roads
 - Add turn lanes at signalized intersections and bus pull-outs



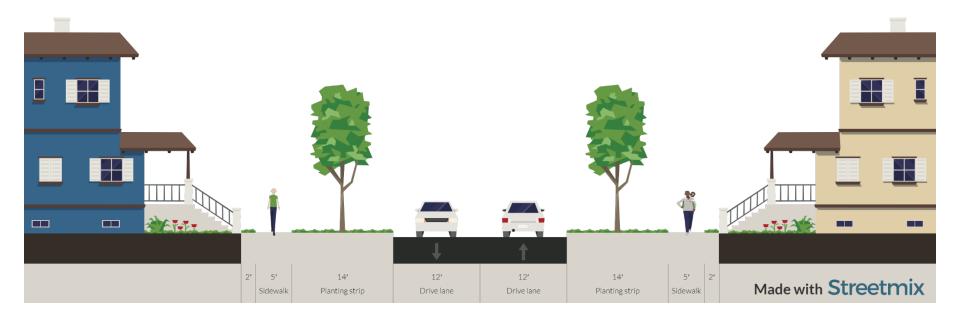
Typical Three Lane Road Conversion Candidates





- Existing cross section encourages higher than desired speeds through residential areas
- Continuous left-turn lane is not warranted
- Many of these streets are likely to be reconstructed

Existing 2 Lane Example with Sidewalks – 4th Street





- Sidewalks both sides
- Generous lawn extension

Existing 2 Lane Example with Path – Brown Street

Flairs to 3 lane road at signalized intersections



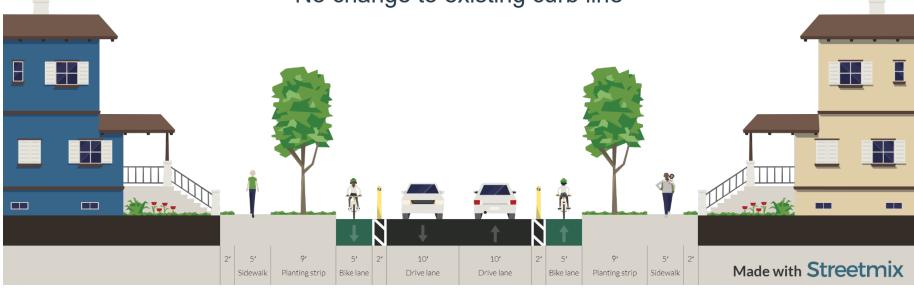


Potential upgrades to this street:

- Speed tables at crosswalks with green paint as an interim solution
- Turning vehicles must yield to bikes & peds. signage at stop signs
- Bicycle signals and restricted motor vehicle turning movements at signalized intersections

Potential Near-term Separated Bike Lanes

No change to existing curb line



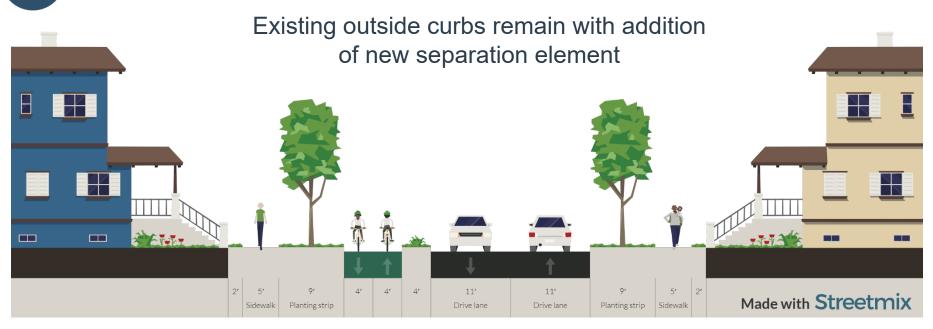


Potential enhancements over typical bike lanes:

- Add green paint at conflict points
- Delineator posts and/or curb at the beginning and the end of blocks
- Add gateway treatments at at crosswalks
- Concerns about cost/benefit of this type of separation



Potential Near-term Two-way Cycle Track

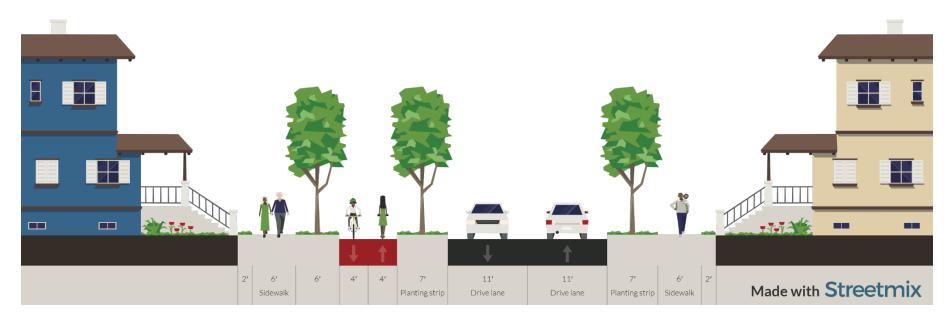




Proposed safety elements at intersections include:

- Speed tables at crosswalks with green paint as an interim solution
- Turning vehicles must yield to bike & ped. signage at stop control intersections
- Bicycle signals with restricted motor vehicle turning movements at signalized intersections

Potential Long-term Two-way Micro-mobility Lanes





Similar to last slide, but with a more substantial buffer:

- Room for street trees adjacent to the roadway better traffic calming
- Potential rain-garden in buffer
- Likely requires moving utilities

Potential Long-term One-way Micromobility Lanes





Bike lanes separated from the roadway:

- Room for street trees adjacent to the roadway better traffic calming
- Potential rain-garden in buffer
- Likely requires moving utilities
- Where road flairs to add left turn lane at intersections bike lane is closer to roadway and more visible

Potential Elements of Neighborhood Greenway Streets

- Rain garden buffers
 - Between roadway and bikeway
 - Between bikeway and sidewalk





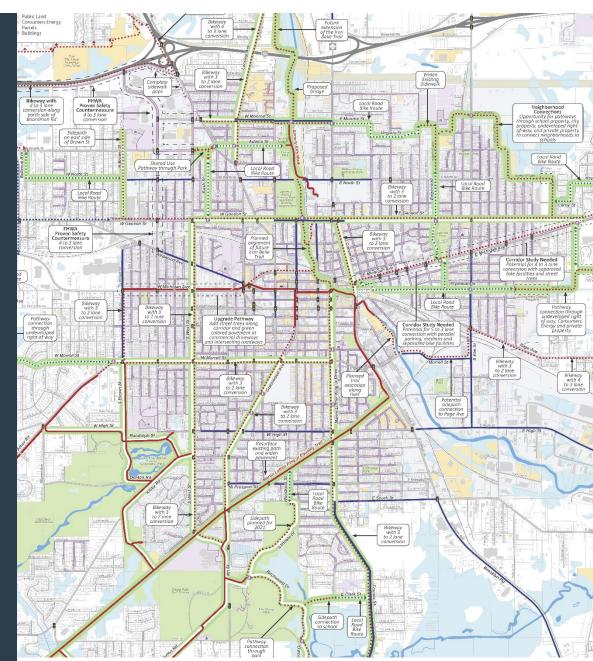




- Green pavement at conflict points
 - Commercial driveways
 - Crosswalks
- Raised bikeways and crosswalks at intersections

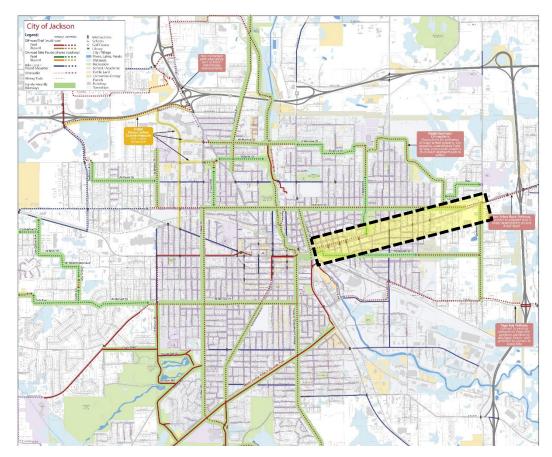
City of Jackson Neighborhood Greenway Network

- Combination of:
 - Family friendly bikeways
 - Off-road rails
 - Local road bike routes
- Coordinates with transit
 - Helps with the first / last mile of transit trips
 - Improved transit stops
- Green Street Elements
 - Street trees every 30'
 - Rain gardens
- Redevelopment catalyst
 - Residential
 - Commercial



Michigan Avenue – Cooper Street to Ganson Avenue

- Major gateway to the City
- Five lane road from Cooper Street to Page Avenue
- 4 lane road from Page Avenue to Ganson
- Transit route
- Traffic volumes can be satisfied by 3 lanes
 - Create a safer road for all modes of travel
 - 4 to 3 lane conversions are proven safety measures

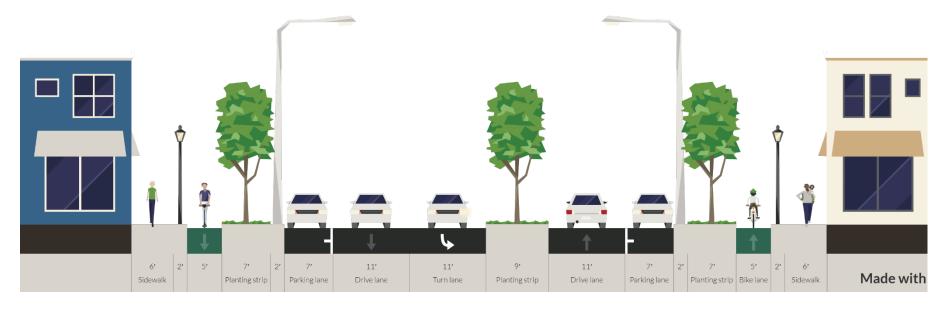


Potential to greatly improve to character of this roadway

Many options – this will require a study unto itself, the following are just a few ideas

Michigan Ave – Cooper Street to Page Ave, 100' ROW

Currently 5 lanes with some on-street parking



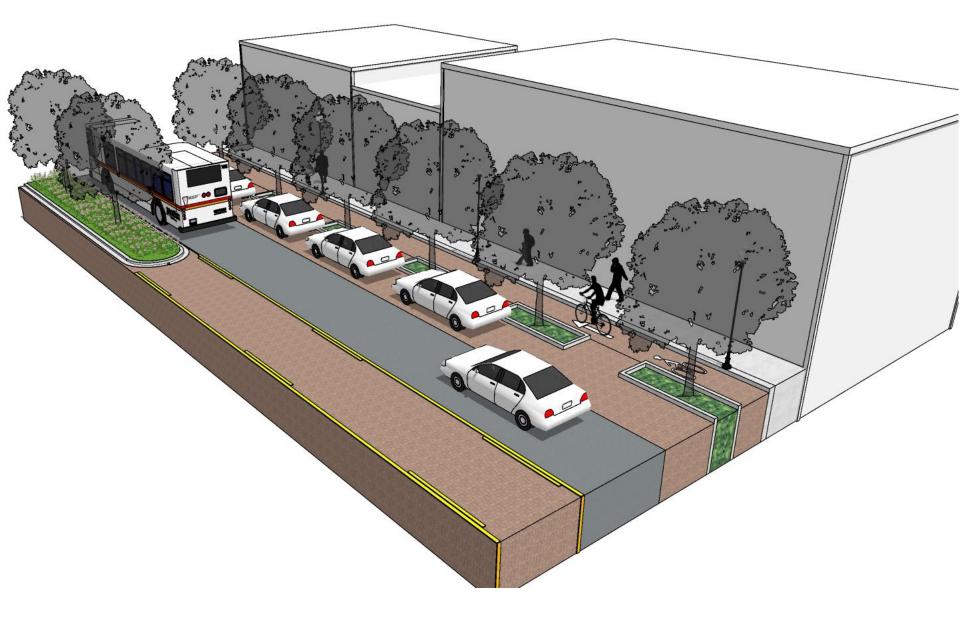


Many options with a three-lane road including:

- Keep parallel parking on both sides
- Add bikeways separated from the road
- Planted median and buffers

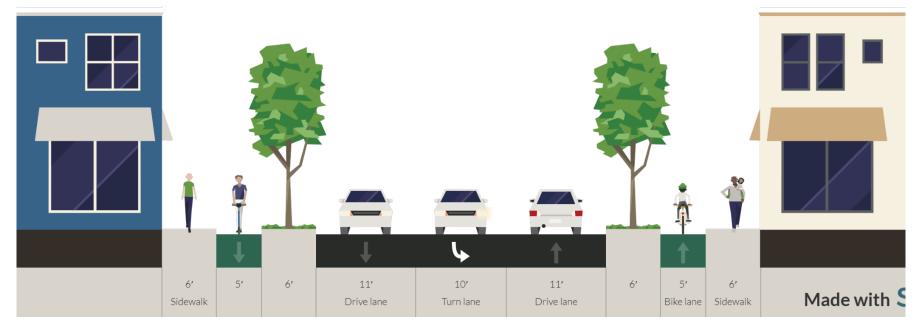
Other corridor enhancements include bringing all future building up to edge of the right-ofway and providing a street presence





Michigan Ave – Page Ave to Ganson St, 66' ROW

Currently 4 lanes







The Series of Series and Series

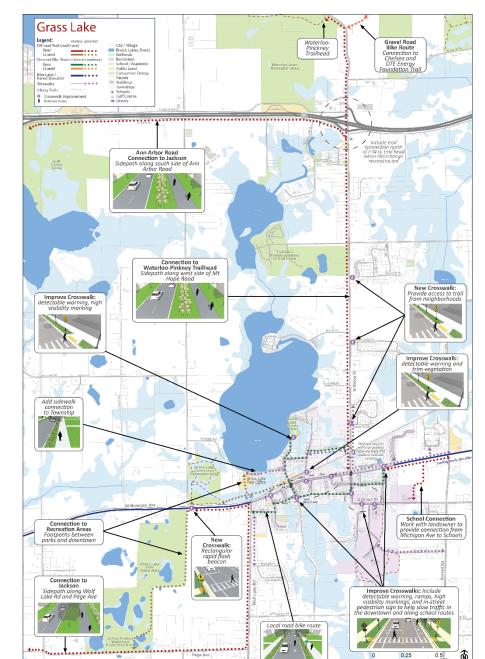
Local Priorities:

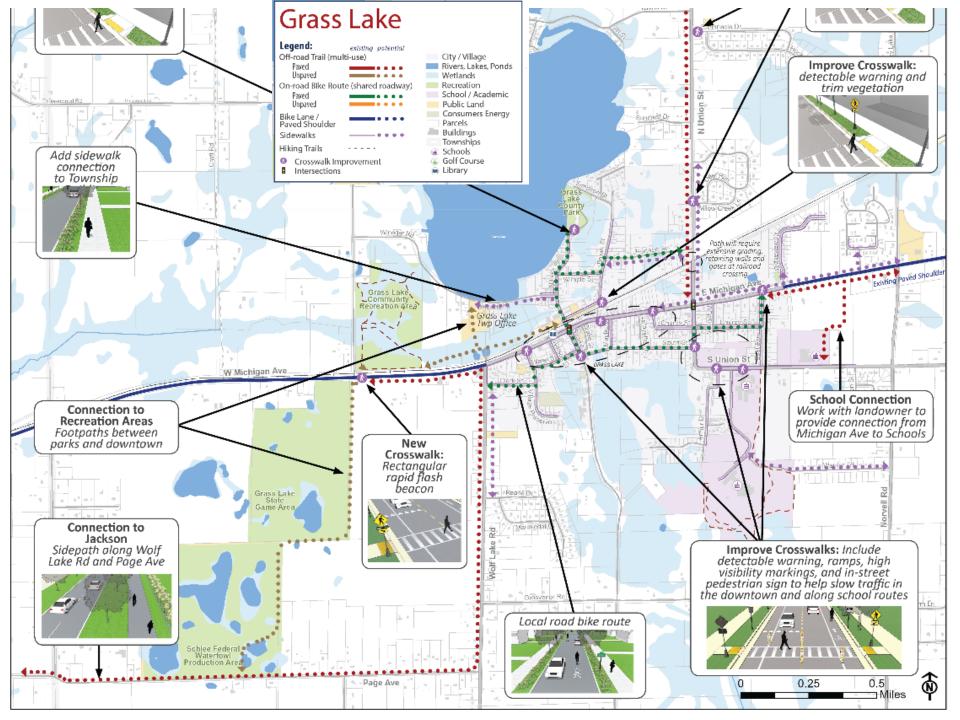
- Access from downtown to neighborhoods along Mt. Hope Road
- 2. Numerous crosswalk enhancements
- 3. Improved access to the high school

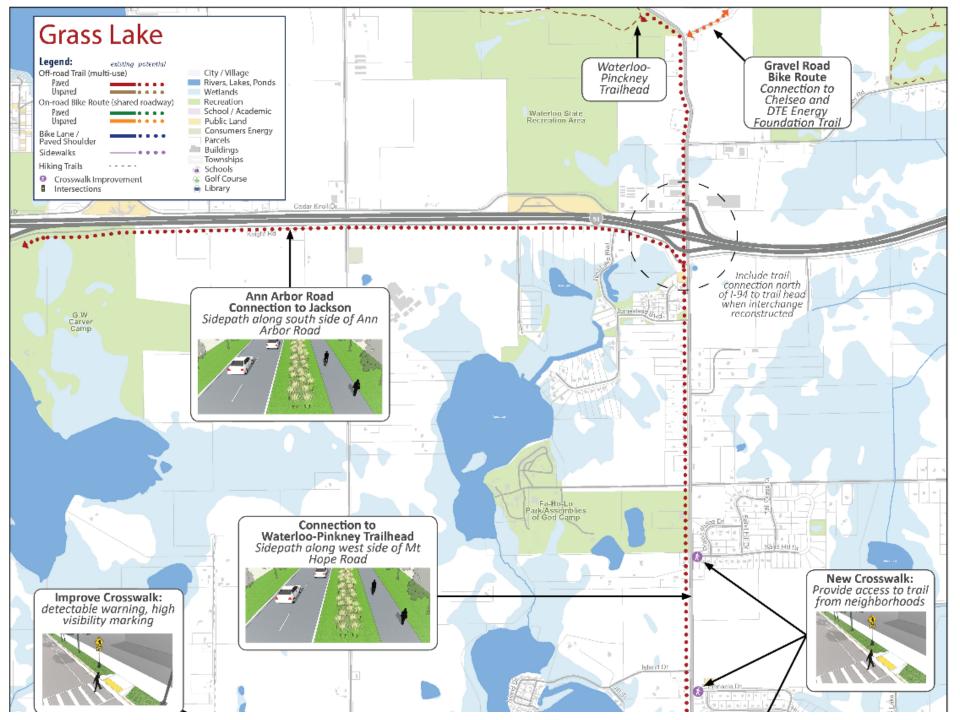
Issues:

• RR pedestrian crossings









Brooklyn, Clark Lake, & Lake Columbia Preliminary Plan

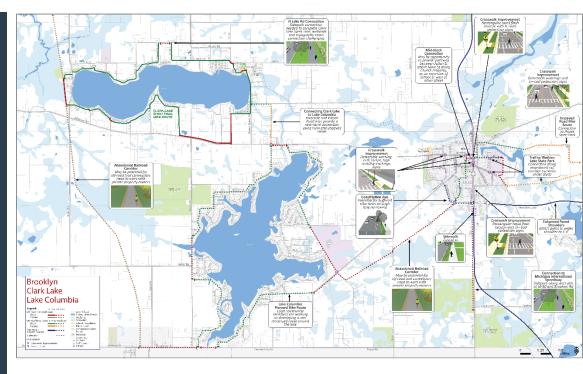
Local Priorities:

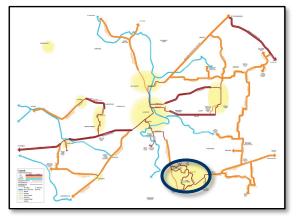
NAX

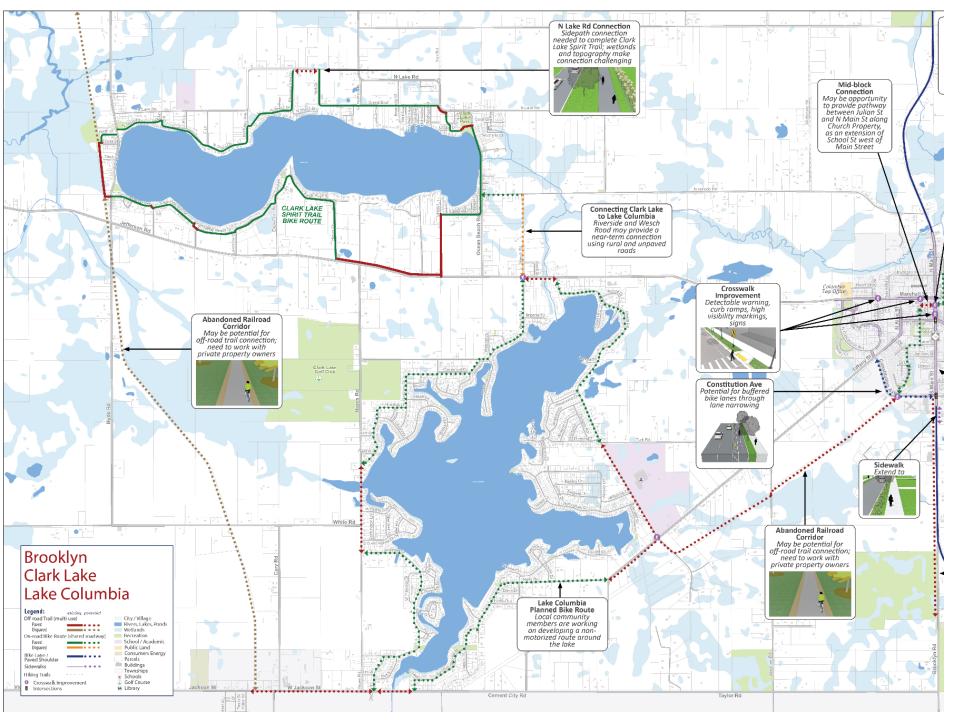
- Numerous crosswalk improvements in Brooklyn
- 2. Gaps in lake loops
- Link between Clark Lake and Lake Columbia
- 4. Linked between Brooklyn and Lake Columbia

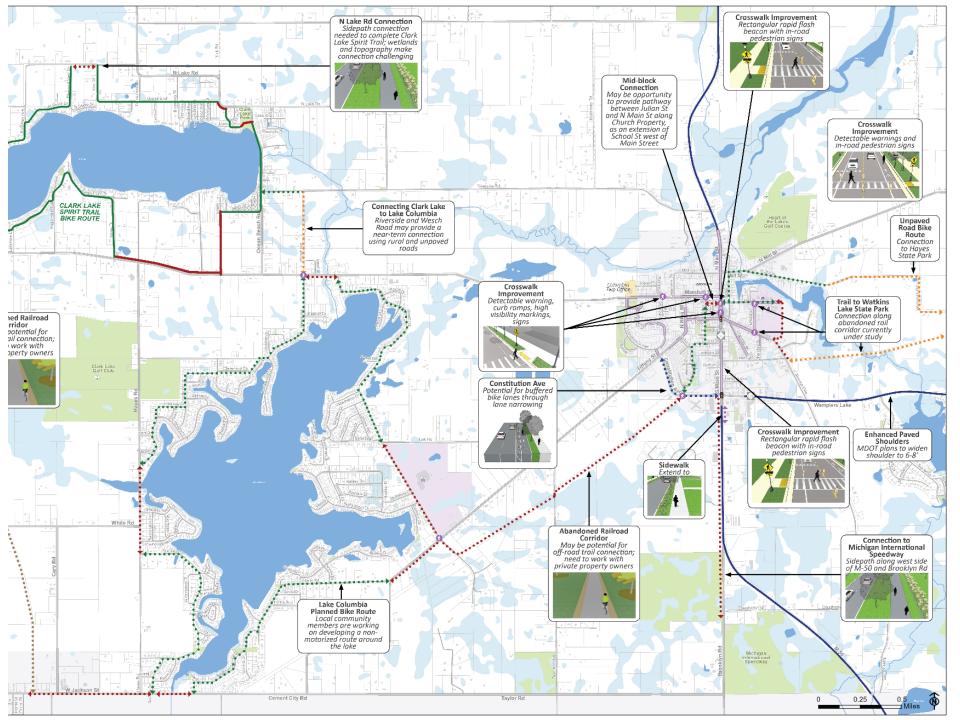
Issues:

 Private ownership of railroad corridor











- Please take some time to review the preliminary plans
 - Discuss as a table
- Anything you would like to see changed?
 - Please note this on the plan
- Any good realistic opportunities missing?
 - please draw them and note the opportunity
- As an individual, please fill out a worksheet

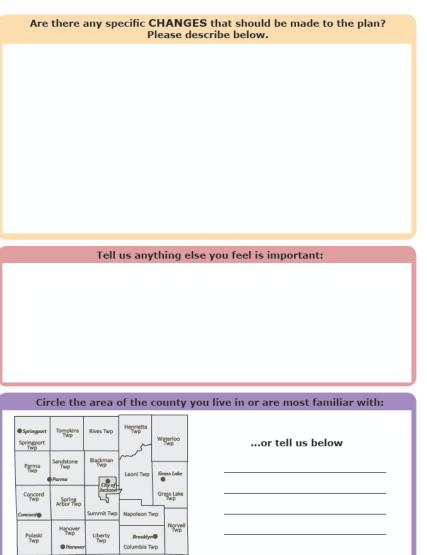


The worksheets will be used to help set priorities and identify areas where there is not total consensus on a proposal

The marked-up maps will be used to help us understand the comments on the worksheets









- Based on the feedback from the public workshops:
 - Refine the Plan
 - Develop an Implementation Strategy
- Review with the Steering Committee refining as necessary
- Finalize the Plan and encourage communities to adopt the plan



All of the maps an online survey available at WalkBike.Info/Jackson

Any Questions or Additional Thoughts?

Jackson **City • County** Nonmotorized Plan



A plan for people who walk, bike and ride

Thank You!



