

WATERTOWN-JEFFERSON COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN  
CONNECTIVITY STUDY**

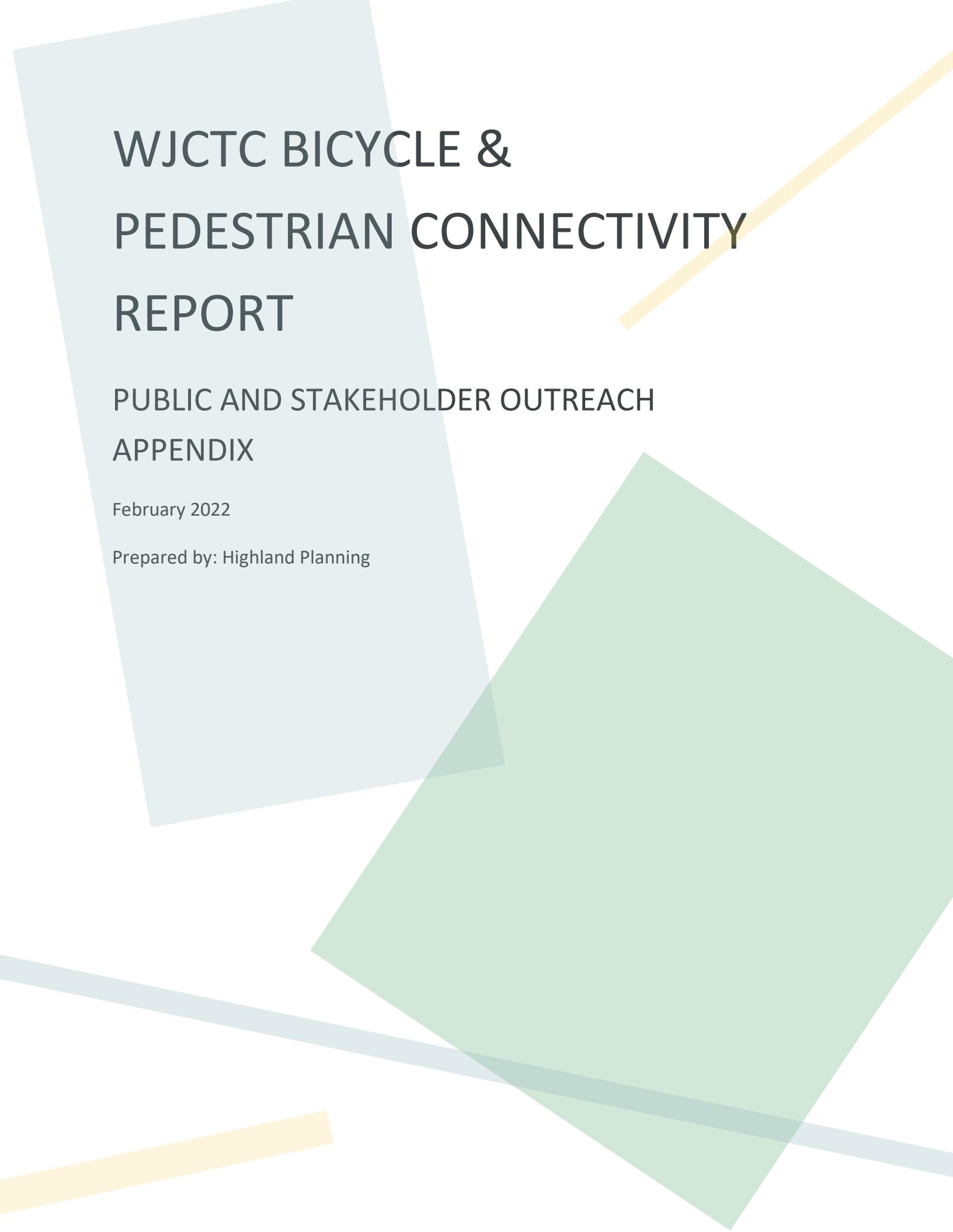
**APPENDIX B:  
PUBLIC OUTREACH &  
ENGAGEMENT**



**Barton  
& Loguidice**



HIGHLAND PLANNING



# WJCTC BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY REPORT

## PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH APPENDIX

February 2022

Prepared by: Highland Planning

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

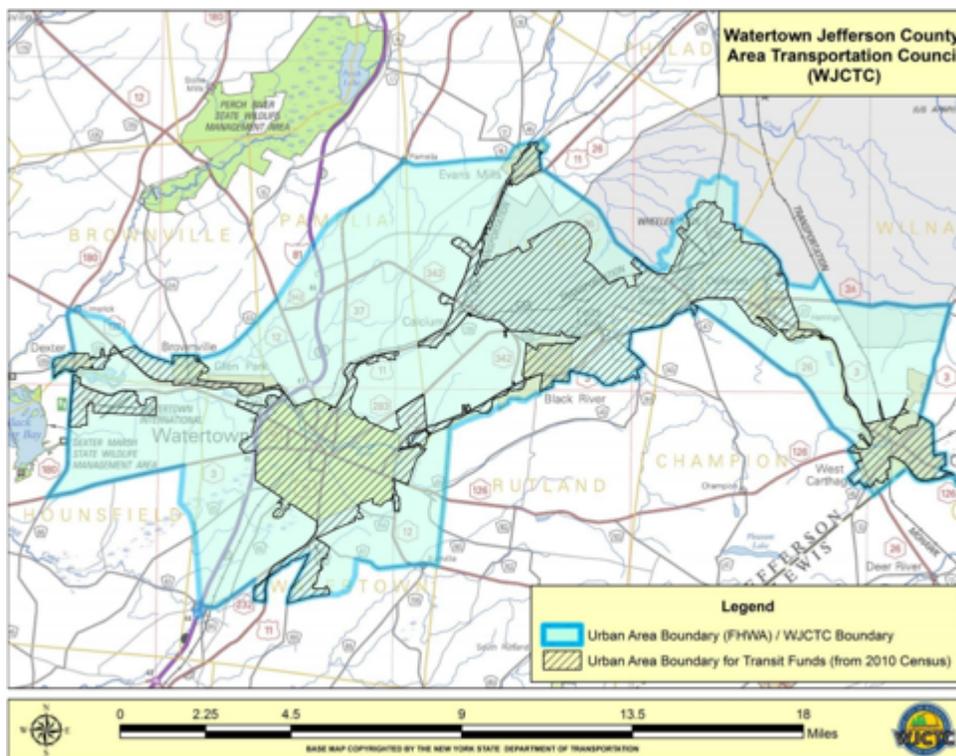
Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity Study and Black River Trail Extension Project

## INTRODUCTION

### Project Overview

The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJTC) is conducting an area-wide study of bicycle and pedestrian connections within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary. The study will place particular emphasis on the connection between the current Black River Trail and Fort Drum. In addition to evaluating general bike/ped connectivity and past plans, studies and proposals, the project will identify gaps in existing bike/ped routes as well as opportunities for new routes that do not presently exist. The project is part of the MPO’s Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2020-2021 and is a key component of the effort to link Lake Ontario to Fort Drum with an uninterrupted network of active transportation and recreational facilities. Figure 1 shows the study area in blue.

**Figure 1 MPO Boundaries**



## Plan Purpose

WJCTC recognizes that a successful engagement plan requires input from a broad array of stakeholders. This document develops a public engagement process for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity Study and Black River Trail Extension Project and defines key stakeholders, engagement tools, and outlines an engagement schedule to engage a wide variety of stakeholders throughout the study process. The plan is designed to be a living document with purposeful flexibility. It may evolve over the course of the project as the effectiveness of tools and techniques is evaluated. If necessary, the plan will be modified to better suit the project and broader community. Finally, this plan formalizes the commitment of WJCTC to solicit meaningful input and engage the public throughout the course of the project. A summary of engagement activities is below:

- Pre-Engagement Interviews
- Property owner outreach
- Small group meetings
- Public Meeting
- Communications materials

## Decision Statement

A decision statement is used in a public engagement process to summarize the problem to be solved, the opportunity to be explored or the decision to be made. The decision statement is intended to clarify the outcome of the project. Typically, it is used to inform communications, such as press releases, at the start of public meetings, and in all draft and final documents. The decision statement for this project is:

**WJTC intends to complete the study in Fall 2021 by identifying recommendations for short- and long-term improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network in the Watertown/Jefferson County urbanized area, including a preferred alternative for the Black River Trail Extension to Fort Drum.**

## COVID-19

The project team understands that during NYS on PAUSE due to COVID-19, most professional offices, libraries, community centers, and other public spaces will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Members of the public and stakeholders may not have access to reliable internet and/or computer equipment at home to allow video conferencing. Therefore, the virtual

platforms and techniques in this plan include options for participants to join by phone-only or view materials/pre-recorded presentations on their own time.

This plan recommends both virtual and non-virtual techniques that do not rely on in-person contact. As certain engagement activities will have to align with the sensitivity of the situation, this schedule will remain fluid throughout the project. Should the risks of COVID-19 recede during this study, a transition to more in-person and on-site engagement can be undertaken.

## PROJECT TEAM

The project team consists of WJCTC and the project consultants. The main contacts WJCTC and the consultant team are listed below.

### Technical Committee

- Al Ricalton | al.ricalton@dot.ny.gov  
NYSDOT Region 7
- Scott Docteur | Scott.Docteur@dot.ny.gov  
NYSDOT Region 7
- Geoff Urda | gurda@watertown-ny.gov  
City of Watertown, Planning Department
- Mike Delaney | mdelaney@watertown-ny.gov  
City of Watertown, Engineering Department

### Consulting Team

- Keith Ewald | kewald@bartonandloguidice.com  
Consulting Team Project Manager, B&L
- Christopher Dunne | christopher@highland-planning.com  
Public Engagement Project Manager, Highland Planning

## PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

### Fort Drum

The involvement of personnel from Fort Drum will be critical as improved connectivity and responsiveness to the transportation and quality of life needs of the military presence in the area is a key goal of the project.

### Jefferson County and Municipalities

Beyond bicycle and pedestrian connections in the City of Watertown, connections in surrounding communities will be assessed including the towns of Dexter, Carthage and Adams, and the Village of Black River, necessitating the participation of officials from all of these communities and the wider county.

### Property Owners

The potential Black River Trail Extension corridor to Fort Drum traverses roughly a dozen pieces of property. Several large parcels are owned by utility companies and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“Parks”). Working with these property owners to mitigate impacts in the selection of the preferred alternative for the Extension will be crucial. Additionally, as part of their periodic relicensing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), power utilities often provide resources for trails and other amenities. To that end, a partnership with utilities with holdings along the Black River could be explored.

### Bike Enthusiasts

Avid cyclists will be among those who benefit the most from improvements to the area’s bike/ped facilities. Including participants who take part in the local weekly rides set up by Black River Adventurers’ Shop, members of the JeffCoBiking group and ReCre’s Bike Studio will ensure improvements to infrastructure and the Trail Extension reflect the needs of this community.

## ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### Pre-Engagement Interviews

Throughout February 2021, team representatives will conduct a series of one-on-one/small group interviews with committee members and key stakeholders via video conference. The findings from these interviews will inform a risk assessment and recommendations for ongoing engagement.

**Participants:** 5-7 Technical Committee Members and other key stakeholders

**Interview objectives:** Share information about the project scope and desired outcomes, gather initial feedback from stakeholders about challenges and opportunities, discuss next steps.

**Format:** 20 - 30 minutes via phone

**Process:** The recommended one-on-one virtual interview process is as follows:

- Highland will send invitations to the stakeholder working group members for one-on-one interviews with the consulting team.
- Highland will manage time slots and logistics
- At conclusion of the interview, Highland will prepare interview summaries and send a copy of the summary to the respective stakeholders to verify its accuracy.

**Interview Questions:** The proposed interview questions include the following:

- What are some key challenges related to bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the area? Or what has been your experience with bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the area?
- Do you have any concerns about this study?
- How do you think the community will perceive this study?
- What do you think are the biggest opportunities/best outcomes of this project?
- Are there any hot button issues we should be aware of before we start engaging the community?
- Who else should we talk to?

**Documentation:** The Highland/B&L/WSP team will prepare a written summary of each interview. Results will be summarized in the aggregate for public consumption so that individual responses are not identified.

#### Public Meeting #1 (or small group meetings)

The purpose of the initial public meeting in April 2021 will be to introduce the project, gather information on issues and opportunities and solicit input from community residents. The Black River Trail Extension will be featured as a priority connection within the overall regional network and will be presented with more detailed information to address specific issues and opportunities related to parcels along this corridor. It is anticipated that this meeting may still have to be virtual in nature, requiring the use of a Zoom Webinar. Use of Zoom's polling, Q&A and "raise hand" features will ensure a lively and interactive agenda.

**Participants:** General public

**Interview objectives:** Identify pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure and services that best support general community goals and expectations and which also mitigate adverse traffic impacts on the study area's livability and business climate.

**Process:** Highland will send invitations to stakeholder groups identified above and provide social media content and/or physical fliers to help promote the event. Additional outreach may be made to specific property owners along the proposed Black River Trail Extension. Promotional materials will include a registration link for attendees to ensure contact information is accurately captured. Zoom Webinar is not easily disrupted by unwanted attendees.

**Format:** 60- to 90-minute video conference via Zoom Webinar

**Documentation:** The Webinar will be recorded (audio-only and video/audio) by the host and saved for the host to share with the project team upon request or as on-demand webinar. The Highland/B&L/WSP team will also prepare a written summary of the meeting.

## Public Meeting #2

The purpose of the second public meeting in June 2021 will be to discuss and solicit input on the alternatives and recommendations provided in the Draft Report. Ideas and suggestions received at this meeting will be integrated into the final project documents. Recommended alternatives and associated improvements will be presented to the community in the form of maps, drawings, cross-sections, and other visual techniques. Materials will also make clear how feedback heard at the initial public meeting have informed the Draft Report. Given the timing of the meeting and the subject matter of the project, an outdoor "biking/walking open house" format is a possibility. Aligning the event with the weekly bike ride hosted by the Black River Adventurers' Shop could also ensure robust participation from cycling enthusiasts.

**Participants:** General public

**Interview objectives:** Share Draft Report recommendations and alternatives on pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure and services and document community input on the Report's contents.

**Format:** 90-minute “walking open house.” Project team members would staff maps, boards and a sign-in/refreshment tables set up along the Black River Trail or another bike-ped facility and capture feedback through the use of stickers and stickie-notes.

**Process:** Highland will send invitations to stakeholder groups identified above and provide social media content and/or physical fliers to help promote the event.

**Documentation:** The Highland/B&L/WSP team will prepare a written summary of the meeting.

## COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

### Stakeholder Database

A database of contact information gathered from all interested stakeholders will be maintained. The stakeholder database will be used to facilitate e-blasts, mailings and other communication.

### Website

Highland Planning will work with the MPO to develop and maintain a webpage on the WJCTC website specific to the project and work with B&L and WSP to develop web content. Upon review and approval of content, Highland Planning will continually update the website with information about upcoming engagement opportunities, study findings, reports, media coverage and any other material that would be helpful in conveying the intent, goals, and results of the study.

### Materials and Content

While engagement activities may require a variety of materials, informational materials and content will be developed that can be used throughout the project. These include:

- Press releases
- Web and social media content
- E-blasts and meeting invitations



## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

<b>Project Title</b>	Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity Study and Black River Trail Extension Project
<b>Meeting Dates</b>	February/March 2021
<b>Venue</b>	Phone/Videoconference
<b>Topic</b>	Preliminary Stakeholder Interviews
<b>Interviewees</b>	(See individual interview summaries below)
<b>Project Team</b>	Keith Ewald, Barton & Loguidice Katie Olbrich, Barton & Loguidice Christopher Dunne, Highland Planning

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### OVERVIEW

#### Background

The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) is conducting an area-wide study of bicycle and pedestrian connections within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary. The study will place particular emphasis on the connection between the current Black

River Trail and Fort Drum. In addition to evaluating general bike/ped connectivity and past plans, studies and proposals, the project will identify gaps in existing bike/ped routes as well as opportunities for new routes that do not presently exist. WJTC intends to complete the study in Fall 2021 by identifying recommendations for short- and long-term improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network in the Watertown/Jefferson County urbanized area, including a preferred alternative for the Black River Trail Extension to Fort Drum.

A series of preliminary stakeholder interviews were undertaken by phone and videoconference in late February/early March 2021 in order to better understand potential issues and opportunities associated with the project. This document summarizes those discussions, including key findings from stakeholders.

## Key Findings

### Opportunities

- Longer Black River Trail could become a regional destination and help with marketing the area as a recreational tourism mecca
- Connections with Fort Drum could increase trail use dramatically
- Trail could eventually connect up with relocated 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum/Natural Resource Outreach Facility trails
- Trail head at 971V north of River could be used for pedestrian overflow during large events
- Trail Extension through Village of Black River could benefit downtown and connect to trails on Kamargo/Poor's Island
- Partnership on Trail maintenance/ownership: Parks Commissioner is supportive of partnerships and Parks could potentially provide maintenance of the Trail since they have on-the-ground experience

### Issues

- Connecting to Village/Fort Drum and connecting to Carthage may require the trail to diverge
- Resources: acquiring and maintaining Trail would require funding that stakeholders may not have access to
- Property ownership: alternatives for the Trail Extension all cross multiple properties and some utilities that own land with informal paths have not wanted to formalize them for fear of liability issues
- Section of Fort Drum Black River Trail extension would connect through the Village of Black River/Felts Mills has few residences, a closed gate and could be viewed as a security issue



**Scott A. Docteur**

Director, Regional Planning &  
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NYSDOT Region 7  
MPO Director

**Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith**

City of Watertown  
Vice Chairman – Policy Committee

**Kenneth Mix**

City of Watertown  
City Manager

**Robert F. Hagemann III**

Jefferson County Administrator

**John D. Peck**

Jefferson County Board of Legislators  
Chairman – Policy Committee

**Kenneth M. Bibbins**

Acting Regional Director  
NYSDOT Region 7  
Secretary – Policy Committee

**Kristopher H. Reff**

NYSDOT Region 7  
Local Stakeholder Group Representative

## Watertown Jefferson County Area Transportation Council

317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York, 13601; 315-785-2354

### **TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON BLACK RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION**

*The online meeting will give residents and stakeholders a chance to discuss options for extending the Black River Trail east toward the Village of Black River, Fort Drum and Carthage, as well as other bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the area.*

JEFFERSON COUNTY, New York – The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (“WJCTC”) has announced the first online public meeting for a project aimed at extending the Black River Trail and identifying other opportunities for improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the region.

WJCTC, the area’s designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, initiated the planning study this winter with the aim of identifying a preferred alternative for extending the Trail that would be eligible to receive federal funding. The official paved portion of the Trail currently runs along the River’s southside from the City of Watertown to a trailhead at the outskirts of the Village of Black River near Route 3.

To date, the project team has reached out to key stakeholders in the region as well as property owners along possible trail extension routes through the Village connecting to Fort Drum. The study is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2021 and will include recommendations for other bicycle and pedestrian projects to pursue in Watertown and Jefferson County.

“In the short term, we want to give bike riders and pedestrians a new connection between the city and the base,” said Geoff Urda “Longer term, we hope to have a trail system that extends from Lake Ontario to Carthage, which could really boost our region’s status as a destination for outdoor recreation.”

The consulting team for the project includes Barton & Loguidice who will provide engineering and technical expertise as well as Highland Planning, who will direct the public engagement process.

Due to NYS on PAUSE requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held online. The project team aims to hold a second meeting in-person and outdoors with social distancing at some point in the summer or early fall.

## Press Release

Thursday, April 22, 2021

### Bike-Ped Connectivity Study Public Meeting

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The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m. Attendees can register for the meeting by visiting <https://TinyURL.com/vteCu6F4>. Those who would like to attend but require assistance are encouraged to contact Christopher Dunne by emailing [christopher@highland-planning.com](mailto:christopher@highland-planning.com) or calling (585) 752-5806. Additional information on the study is available on the WJCTC website at <http://www.wjctc.org>.

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#### Media Contact

Keith Ewald

Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

Office: (315) 410-6656

[kewald@bartonandloguidice.com](mailto:kewald@bartonandloguidice.com)

# MEETING SUMMARY

<b>Project Title</b>	Watertown-Jefferson County Bike-Pedestrian Connectivity & Black River Trail Extension Study
<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 18, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Video Conference
<b>Topic</b>	Public Meeting #1
<b>MPO Members</b>	Scott Docteur, MPO Director (NYSDOT) Al Ricalton, MPO Highway Technical Committee (NYSDOT) Geoff Urda, MPO Bike/Ped Coordinator (City of Watertown) Jim Lawrence, MPO Highway Technical Committee (Jefferson County) Kris Reff, MPO Highway Technical Committee (NYSDOT)
<b>Project Team Members</b>	Keith Ewald, AICP, PLA (Barton & Loguidice) Katie Darcy, AICP (Barton & Loguidice) Christopher Dunne (Highland Planning) Charvi Gupta (Highland Planning)

## OVERVIEW

### Introduction

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the first public meeting of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Connectivity & Black River Trail Extension project for the Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) was held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held using Zoom Webinar videoconferencing software and included presentation and discussion of MPO-wide bike-pedestrian issues and opportunities as well as proposed alternatives for the Black River Trail Extension. The meeting was also livestreamed to Facebook and shared on the JeffersonCoBiking Facebook Page. The meeting had an estimated 40 attendees who are listed in the Appendices.

### Meeting Promotion

The meeting was promoted through e-blasts to the project stakeholder list comprised of 183 contacts, posting of a Facebook event to the Facebook pages of the City of Watertown Planning and Community Development, ReCre's Bike Studio and JeffersonCoBiking, and a press release that was submitted to local media outlets and emailed to officials in the towns and villages within the

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries. Flyers were also posted at the existing trailheads prior to New York State's I Love My Park Trail Day volunteer clean-up event for the Black River Trail on May 1, 2021. Copies of promotional materials are available in the Appendices. The project team also presented on the study and promoted the meeting at the virtual Black River Watershed Conference webinar hosted by the Tug Hill Commission on May 12, 2021.

## AGENDA

1. Team Introduction & Project Overview
2. MPO-Wide Analysis
  - Vision & Goals
  - Existing Conditions Overview
  - Key Takeaway and Preliminary Needs
  - Public Input: Issues & Opportunities
3. Black River Trail Extension
  - Project Objectives
  - Overview of Preliminary Alternatives
  - Design Components
  - Public Input on Alternatives
4. Next Steps

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Geoff Urda, WJCTC, welcomed attendees and presented an overview of the role and jurisdiction of the MPO. Christopher Dunne, Highland Planning then spoke to the meeting agenda, introduced the project team, provided instructions for giving input using Zoom Webinar controls during the meeting and summarized initial public outreach efforts.

## PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

The meeting's presentation and ensuing discussion are summarized below.

### MPO-Wide Analysis

Katie Darcy, Barton & Loguidice, presented an overview of the project including the objectives of identifying gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian networks, providing context-sensitive solutions for future active transportation investments and enhancing connectivity and accessibility for active transportation users of all types. She spoke to a draft vision statement for the project and goals before reviewing existing conditions of the roadways and surrounding infrastructure, commuting modes, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. After presenting findings from the preliminary needs assessment, the floor was opened up for questions and comments in response to the prompt "what are the key issues & opportunities in the region regarding

bicycle & pedestrian connectivity?” Comments, questions and responses from the project team are summarized below.

- Carthage would be a good connection to include on a trail. From there, the trail could potentially connect to Lowville. Also, you have a site near the dam in Herrings which the Town of Wilna has studied as a potential park location.
  - Yes, the ultimate goal is to have the Black River Trail extend all the way to Carthage.
- Has there been any thoughts to making it an “arts trail” and including installations from local sculptors and artists?
  - The project is not at the recommendations stage just yet but that is a great idea, and we can certainly consider opportunities for public art in any public right-of-way improvements when we reach that stage.
- One reason that there is low uptake in bicycle commute is because it is very difficult for people to get to retail areas.
  - Yes, particularly if retail locations are situated along high traffic corridors that are less bike-friendly
- The existing conditions analysis showed zero bike commuters in the area. However, I bike to work daily. I’m sure I’m in the minority. One challenge was having my bicycle vandalized/stolen when working in downtown Watertown.
  - The Census data did show roughly 0.2% of residents biking to work but we rounded it to zero for the purposes of this presentation. Bike security and storage will be an important consideration as well.
- Hope there will be offshoots from the Black River Trail to other towns.
  - Yes, that is the hope with the larger MPO-wide analysis of bicycle and pedestrian connections. It would be great to hear thoughts on which communities trail offshoots could connect to in the area.
- Would it be possible to build a trail around the exterior of Fort Drum to Carthage from the Black River?
  - Yes, we will discuss this possibility in the second half of the meeting.
- Is there a plan for extending the trail to Remington bike trail to Felts Mills to Great Bend?
  - Yes, some of the alternatives being considered for the Black River Trail Extension use this existing path.
- Is there any chance that all or part of the trail can be groomed during the winter?
  - Operations and maintenance of any trail extension will be considered as part of the study.
- I live in Carthage and work on Fort Drum. I commute to work via bicycle. Riding on Rt. 3 is dangerous with limited space on the side of the road closest to the River. Are there any plans in the future to improve shared roads for bicycles?

- Yes, the study is considering improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the region, including on-road facilities.
- Have you considered in the long term what will and will not be considered motorized traffic on these trails? E-bikes, e-scooters, one-wheels, etc. are not a big issue yet but I suspect this will get complicated. I currently see all of these devices on the current trail.
  - Yes, a lot of communities are having these conversations and the types of vehicles allowed on the trails will have to be considered in the study.
- Who currently owns and maintains the current paved Black River Trail?
  - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation maintains the trail segment from the Village of Black River to the dismount point at the Eastern Boulevard Bridge. The City of Watertown maintains the segment in front of the wastewater treatment plant to Waterworks Park.
- How are you planning to use the streets in the Village of Black River? They are not wide enough.
  - There are a few alternatives being considered for the trail extension that will be reviewed in the second half of the meeting.
- Are there any challenges at the entry points, crosswalks, and intersections? There are many challenges when bicyclists and pedestrians are simply trying to access the trail and have conflicts with automobile traffic.
  - Part of the design criteria we'll be reviewing in the second half of the meeting. However, we are still very early in the process. Once funding has been secured for the Black River Trail Extension, then we will be able to get to the level of individual intersections.
- Will the width of recumbent trikes and handcycles be considered in the design of the trail extension and, in particular at, trail entrances? They barely fit on the current trail.
  - When we get down to the level of specific routes and properties, we will have a better sense of this. Ultimately, we want to make the trail accessible to as many different users as possible.

## Black River Trail Extension

Keith Ewald, Barton & Loguidice presented on the proposed extension of the Black River Trail. Objectives for this project include evaluation of alternatives from the current terminus at the Village of Black River to Fort Drum, engagement of public and private property owners, assessment of environmental impacts and constructability as well as a development of cost estimates and identification of a funding source.

Christopher Dunne then reviewed efforts to reach property owners as well as findings from initial outreach to key stakeholders and property owners. Opportunities included that a longer Black River Trail could be a regional destination linking to a relocated Fort Drum Museum, that the Trail extension could benefit the Village's downtown, and that partnerships between agencies could be used. Issues identified included

funding and resources, the presence of multiple privately-owned properties along identified trail extension alternatives and associated liability issues, the high traffic volumes and speeds along Route 3, the presence of motorized vehicles along existing paths and concerns around safety.

Keith Ewald then reviewed the four alternatives for the Trail extension. Alternatives #1, #2 and #3 all connected an existing path owned by a utility north of the Black River at the intersection of 971V and First Street. Alternative #4 would be an on-road facility from the Village of Black River to Great Bend on Route 3. After presenting on trail facility design, safety and potential trailhead facilities, the floor was opened up for questions and comments in response to the prompt “what are your thoughts on the alternatives presented?” Comments, questions, and responses from the project team are summarized below.

- Can the Black River Trail Extension stay on the old railroad bed? It only has a couple of property owners and the Black River can be accessed via National Grid property [sic].
  - Two of the alternatives utilize portions of this railroad bed. It is no longer one single property.
- Regarding Alternative 3A along Maple Street: what are the benefits of the improved sidewalks and where would the funding for that infrastructure improvement come from?
  - The planning process is funded through the MPO and will have recommendations for the MPO-wide trail network as well as specific elements of the Black River Trail Extension. Ultimately, we hope to leverage those recommendations to seek state and federal funding such as TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program). Regarding sidewalks: if the existing sidewalks are in a condition that can be used, that is the preferable option. However, we need to assess them, understand their accessibility from an ADA standpoint, and add crossings where warranted.
- Would a state or federal entity than maintain the sidewalk rather than the Village of Black River since it would be part of the Trail?
  - The study will look at operations and maintenance for the Trail. The Trail could have potential economic development benefits for the Village but also mean additional wear-and-tear on sidewalks so that is something to consider.
- Alternative 3A also provides access to destinations in Kamargo Trail (Poor’s Island) recreation area, the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, and several ballfields (Maple Street Park)
  - Agreed and this is the kind of information we are looking for not just for the Black River Trail Extension but the wider bike-ped connectivity study
- Today, I encountered some trespassers on my land who were trying to access the Black River for fishing. This highlights a concern for property owners and the need to avoid these kinds of incidents as well as littering that may be associated with it should not just be viewed as a sticking point for a particular plan.

- Point well taken. Once we have identified a recommended alternative and secured funding, we can then work with individual property owners to include elements in the design that encourage users to stay on the trail and off private property.
- Could you speak to the proposed alternatives through the Village of Black River (specifically along South Main Street, Maple Street and East Remington)?
  - South Main Street will be part of the plan one way or another but first we have to look at what is there today. We want to use the existing street and sidewalk facilities to the extent we can so long as they are safe and accessible. Where we identify needs for improvements, we will include that in the design.
- What is the timeline for the project?
  - The planning process will conclude by the end of 2021. Once we have a draft plan available, we hope to be able to share that and hold an in-person meeting on-site at some point this summer or in the early fall.
- Could the project team meet with representatives of the Village of Black River?
  - Yes, we certainly want to meet with Village officials given the importance of the Village as a stakeholder and destination for the Trail Extension. We will need to determine the best time to do that.

### Next Steps and Adjournment

Keith Ewald outlined next steps for the project including continuing the gap analysis for the MPO-wide bike and pedestrian network, continuing to evaluate ROW and construction constraints and conversations with property owners. Ultimately, a draft plan would be presented in summer / early fall ideally at an in-person trail walk meeting.

John Peck, Representative for Jefferson County Legislative District 7, provided some closing remarks. He thanked attendees and the presenters and highlighted the opportunity the study presents to further the concept of Walkable Communities, connect towns from Watertown to Carthage and perhaps even to Lewis County. Christopher Dunne and Geoff Urda thanked attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

## APPENDIX A: ATTENDEES

Names Redacted

## APPENDIX B: PRESENTATION

A copy of the meeting presentation is attached under separate cover.

## APPENDIX C: MEETING RECORDING

A recording of the meeting is available on YouTube at this [link](#).

## APPENDIX D: MEETING PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

### Media Coverage

News source: ABC50 Now

Title: [Jefferson County council seeking public input on Black River Trail extension](#)

Date: April 22, 2021

News source: NNY360

Title: [Council seeks community input on trail extension](#)

Date: May 8, 2021

News source: NNY360

Title: [A step forward: Online meeting to discuss plans to extend Black River Trail](#)

Date: May 13, 2021

News source: 7 News, WWNY-TV

Title: [Feedback welcomed on vision to expand trail network](#)

Date: May 14, 2021

News source: 7 News, WWNY-TV

Title: [Public gets first look at Black River Trail expansion plans](#)

Date: May 19, 2021

## Flyers and Social Media Images

Figure 1 Meeting Flyer

**City of Watertown  
Jefferson County  
Bike-Pedestrian  
Connectivity & Black River  
Trail Extension Study**



**Virtual Public  
Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 18  
6:00 PM

The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) is studying the possibility of extending the Black River Trail to connect with the Village of Black River, Fort Drum and other communities. Additionally, WJCTC is exploring other options for enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the city of Watertown and Jefferson County.

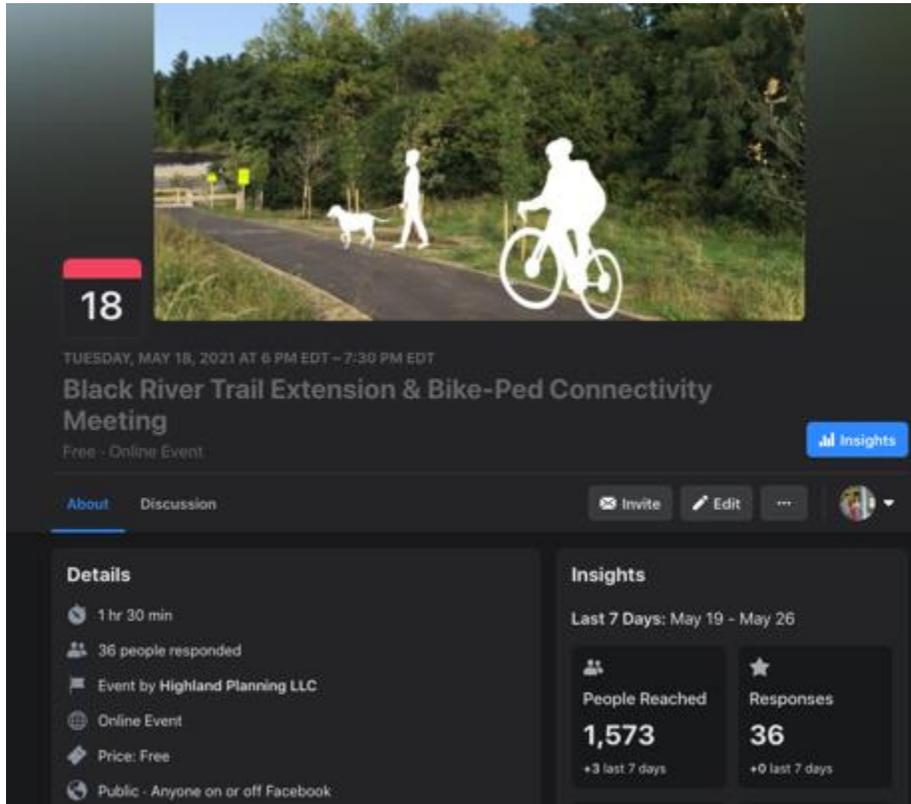
**WE WANT YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS!**  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR  
USE LINK BELOW TO  
REGISTER  
<https://TinyURL.com/vteQu6F4>

1. Aim phone camera or code reader at code
2. Open link in browser to register for meeting



Need help? Contact Christopher Dunne: [christopher@highland-planning.com](mailto:christopher@highland-planning.com) or (585) 752-5806

Figure 2 Facebook Event



The image shows a Facebook event page for a meeting held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, from 6 PM EDT to 7:30 PM EDT. The event is titled "Black River Trail Extension & Bike-Ped Connectivity Meeting" and is a free online event. The cover image features silhouettes of a person walking a dog and a person riding a bicycle on a paved trail. The event details include a duration of 1 hour and 30 minutes, 36 people who responded, and it is organized by Highland Planning LLC. The insights section shows that 1,573 people were reached and 36 responses were received in the last 7 days (May 19 - May 26).

**18**

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 AT 6 PM EDT – 7:30 PM EDT

### Black River Trail Extension & Bike-Ped Connectivity Meeting

Free · Online Event [Insights](#)

[About](#) [Discussion](#) [Invite](#) [Edit](#) [...](#) 

#### Details

- 🕒 1 hr 30 min
- 👤 36 people responded
- 🏠 Event by Highland Planning LLC
- 🌐 Online Event
- 💎 Price: Free
- 🌍 Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

#### Insights

Last 7 Days: May 19 - May 26

👤 People Reached	★ Responses
<b>1,573</b>	<b>36</b>
+3 last 7 days	+0 last 7 days

Figure 3 MailChimp E-Blast



[View this email in your browser](#)

**Join us for a virtual public meeting**

The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) is studying the possibility of extending the Black River Trail to connect with the Village of Black River, Fort Drum and other communities.

Additionally, WJCTC is exploring other options for enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the city of Watertown and Jefferson County.

Join us for a presentation and Q&A regarding proposed Trail Extension alternatives and bike-ped connectivity projects in the area.



**Virtual Public Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 18  
6:00 P.M.

[REGISTER FOR MEETING](#)

Send us a comment or sign-up for project updates by clicking the button below.

[SEND A COMMENT OR GET UPDATES](#)

Can't make this meeting? We'll also be presenting on the project and taking comments at the Black River Watershed Conference Webinar tomorrow, May 12 at 3:00 P.M.

[REGISTER FOR WATERSHED CONFERENCE WEBINAR](#)



**Kristopher H. Reff**

Acting Director, Regional Planning &  
Program Management  
NYSDOT Region 7  
MPO Director

**Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith**

City of Watertown  
Vice Chairman – Policy Committee

**Kenneth Mix**

City of Watertown  
City Manager

**Robert F. Hagemann III**

Jefferson County Administrator

**John D. Peck**

Jefferson County Board of Legislators  
Chairman – Policy Committee

**Kenneth M. Bibbins**

Acting Regional Director  
NYSDOT Region 7  
Secretary – Policy Committee

**Jarrod M. Radley**

NYSDOT Region 7  
Local Stakeholder Group Representative

## Watertown Jefferson County Area Transportation Council

317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York, 13601; 315-785-2354

### **TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AREA BIKE AND WALKING NETWORK**

*The outdoor open house will give residents and stakeholders a chance to discuss a narrowed set of options in a study on extending the Black River Trail east toward Fort Drum, as well as other bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the area.*

JEFFERSON COUNTY, New York – The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (“WJCTC”) has announced it will be holding an outdoor public meeting aimed at finalizing options for the study that could extend the Black River Trail as well as gathering community input on other opportunities for improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the area.

WJCTC, the area’s designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, initiated the planning study this winter with the goal of identifying a preferred alternative for extending the Black River Trail that would be eligible to receive federal funding. The official paved portion of the Black River Trail currently runs along the river’s southside from Watertown to a trailhead at the outskirts of the Village of Black River near New York State Route 3.

To date, the project team has held a virtual public meeting in May, reached out to key stakeholders in the region as well as property owners along possible trail extension routes through the Village of Black River connecting to Fort Drum. The study is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2021 and will include recommendations for other bicycle and pedestrian projects to pursue in Watertown and Jefferson County.

“For the extension of the Black River Trail east toward Fort Drum, we’ve narrowed the alternatives,” said Geoff Urda. “We want to present those options to the public and also receive comments on other places we should study enhancements to the bicycle and pedestrian network.”

The consulting team for the project includes Barton & Loguidice who has provided engineering and technical expertise as well as Highland

Planning, who has directed the public engagement process.

The open house will be held outdoors, and social distancing is encouraged. Should weather or other factors necessitate a change of venue, a virtual meeting will be held in its place.

**Press Release**

Tuesday, August 31, 2021, 12:00 PM

Bike-Ped Connectivity Study Public Meeting

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The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Mayor Joseph M. Butler Pavilion by the JB Wise Plaza in downtown Watertown. Those who would like to attend but require directions or other assistance are encouraged to contact Christopher Dunne by emailing [christopher@highland-planning.com](mailto:christopher@highland-planning.com) or calling (585) 752-5806. Additional information on the study is available on the WJCTC website at <http://www.wjctc.org>.

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Media Contact

Keith Ewald

Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

Office: (315) 410-6656

[kewald@bartonandloguidice.com](mailto:kewald@bartonandloguidice.com)

# MEETING SUMMARY

<b>Project Title</b>	Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity & Black River Trail Extension Study
<b>Meeting Date</b>	September 16, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Mayor Joseph M. Butler Pavilion, Watertown, NY
<b>Topic</b>	Open House on Draft Recommendations
<b>Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council</b>	Barbara Cadwell, DOT Geoff Urda, City of Watertown Jim Lawrence, Jefferson County Kristopher Reff, DOT
<b>Consulting Team</b>	Keith Ewald, Barton & Loguidice Susan Charland, Highland Planning Christopher Dunne, Highland Planning

## OVERVIEW

On Thursday, September 16, 2021, an outdoor open house was held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for the WJCTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity & Black River Trail Extension Study at the Mayor Joseph M. Butler Pavilion in Watertown, New York. The open house included display boards on the project and opportunities for comment.

There were an estimated 30 attendees. A list of attendees is included in Appendix A, copies of the boards are included in Appendix B, and a copy of written comments is included in Appendix C. Images of promotional materials are included in Appendix D.

### Comment Themes

While few attendees left written comments, participants were provided with information on how to offer input on the draft recommendations either online or through a mailable trifold project brochure. Many attendees engaged in conversation with members of the MPO and project team on the content of the display boards. Themes of comments included interest in the use of abandoned railbeds for trail connections, questions about funding and construction timelines, the relationship of local solar projects to the Black River Trail extension and design specifications for the trail network. Feedback on the draft recommendations was generally positive.

Meeting Summary



APPENDIX A

Attendees

Names Redacted

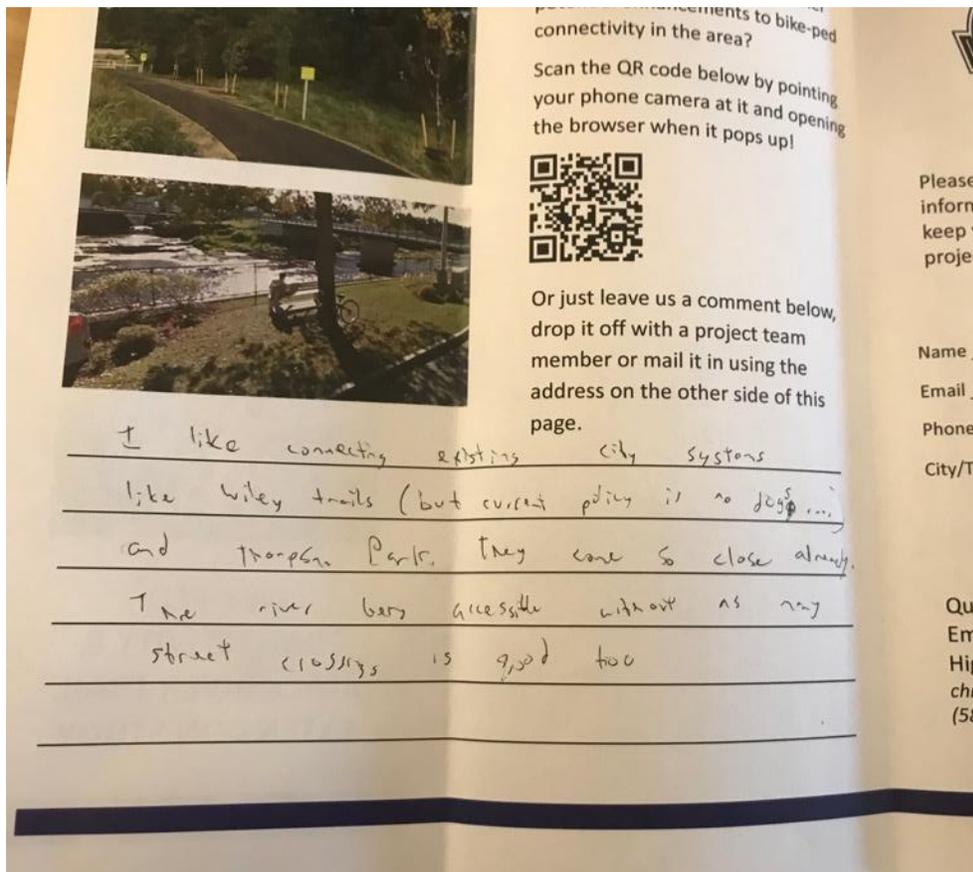
## APPENDIX B

### Display Boards

A copy of the meeting boards is attached under separate cover.

## APPENDIX C

### Written Comments



"I like connecting existing city systems like Wiley Trails (but current policy is no dogs...) and Thompson Park. They come so close already. The river being accessible without as many street crossings is good too."

## APPENDIX D

### Meeting Promotion

#### E-Blast

The event was promoted with e-blasts sent to the project's contact list and a press release sent to local media outlets. The e-blast was sent to 208 recipients and is shown below.

**THE CITY OF WATERTOWN**  
Jefferson County  
**WJCTC**  
NEW YORK

[View this email in your browser](#)

**Join us for an outdoor open house**

The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) has been studying the possibility of extending the Black River Trail to connect with the Village of Black River, Fort Drum and other communities.

Additionally, WJCTC has been looking at options for enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the City of Watertown and the urbanized portions of Jefferson County.

After months of study, the project team is ready to present draft recommendations on the Trail Extension and other possible improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.



**Bike-Ped Study Open House**  
Thursday, September 16  
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.  
Mayor Joseph M. Butler Pavilion  
Watertown, NY

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

Need directions? Click the green button above and enter your starting location or take a look at the parking and access map below.

[PAVILION PARKING AND ACCESS MAP](#)



Send us a comment or sign-up for project updates by clicking the button below.

[SEND A COMMENT OR GET UPDATES](#)

Can't make this meeting? You can still see the draft recommendations by visiting the project website below.

[SEE THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

Let a friend know about this event: Tweet about this project or forward this email.

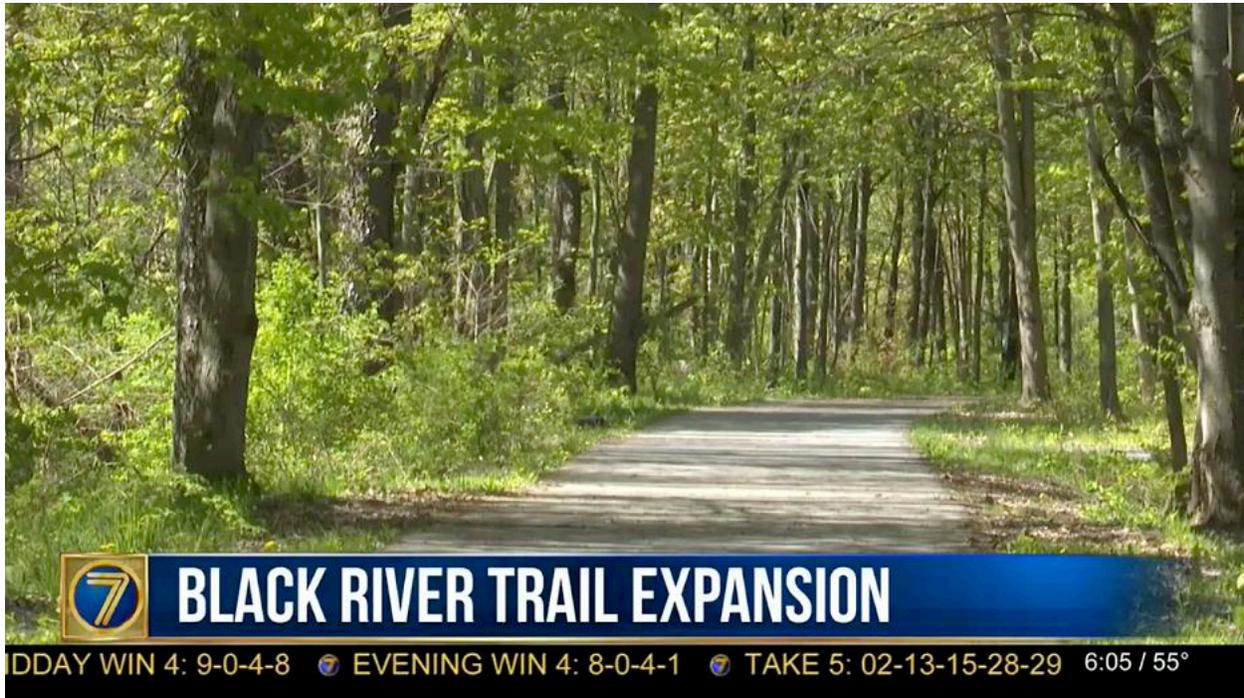
[Tweet](#)

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## Media Coverage

The meeting was covered by NNY-TV Channel 7: [Plans Unveiled for Black River Trail Extension](#).



## Outreach to Public Officials

While public officials in all member communities of the MPO were contacted for the event, follow-up phone calls were made to officials from communities for which specific trail extension and bicycle-pedestrian improvements were proposed. A list of these officials is included below:

- James Eves, Village of Dexter
- Ralph Skinner, Village of Glen Park
- Scott Allen, Town of Pamela
- Timothy Scee, Town of Hounsfield
- Joel Bartlett, Town of Watertown
- Bruce Ferguson, Town of Champion
- Janet Zando, Village of Deferiet
- Paul Smith, Town of Wilna
- Wayne McIlroy, Village of Carthage
- Richard Lane, Town of Brownville
- Pat Connor, Village of Brownville

# DRAFT REPORT PUBLIC COMMENTS

## Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council

<b>Project Title</b>	Bike-Pedestrian Connectivity & Black River Trail Extension Study
<b>Comment Period</b>	December 2021
<b>Topic</b>	Draft Report

## OVERVIEW

In December 2021, members of the public were given the opportunity to provide a comment on the draft report for the Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) Bike-Pedestrian Connectivity and Black River Trail Extension Study. The report and the comment form were made available on the WJCTC website and community members were contacted made aware of the comment period via an e-blast to the project's contact list. In all there were 8 comments on the draft report were collected.

## SUMMARY

Commenters were generally in favor of there being a proposed expansion of the trail. Many mentioned that the trail is used daily for activities such as running, hiking, biking, walking, riding ATV or snowmobiles and, with a possible expansion, trail-users would have an increased area to do so. Members also felt that a possible expansion could be a way to draw more people from outside the area into Jefferson County which could benefit local businesses. There was one concern with the expansion and that being there should be restroom facilities at the trail heads. The only comment which may require a change to the draft report mentioned the Jefferson Co Biking group as an organized informal resource for local cyclists.

## APPENDIX A: MAILCHIMP E-BLAST



[View this email in your browser](#)

**The public comment period for the draft report is open until December 31, 2021.**

Click the link below to see a copy of the draft report and to leave us a comment.

**DRAFT REPORT AND COMMENT FORM**

**Thank you to those who joined us for the open house this fall!**

For those who couldn't make it to the event on September 16th, we've got photos and news coverage to share below.



### MEDIA COVERAGE

Let a friend know about this project: tweet this by sharing below or forward this email.



A final report incorporating public input on the draft will be issued in the coming months. Thank you!

Copyright © 2022 Highland Planning. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you were identified as a key stakeholder for this project.

**Our mailing address is:**  
Highland Planning  
820 Clinton Ave S # 3  
Rochester, NY 14620-1406

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



## APPENDIX B: TABLE OF COMMENTS

Steve Washer	I think the black river trail should expand to include dexter and Carthage
Maureen Cean	I support this plan because it provides increased access for area residents and families to pursue fitness activities safely and may even draw users from outside the area that will spend dollars in Jefferson County.
Donald Dangerfield	I purposed this ideal after the removal of the Train tracks. Then, it could've been an excellent snowmobile and or ATV trail. This would've connected the town and business from Watertown to Lowville. But at least it's being utilized.
Brenda Wood	I frequently run or bike the Black River Trail and I think it would be a boon to our community if it were extended ...the Trail and Thompson Park are the gems of our community and the connectivity to the community would not only help with health but with the domino effect of bringing more local business as well as maybe more jobs for maintaining the trail and the surrounding business to downtown.
Daniel Mosher	I currently use the existing Black River trail as a bicyclist, and I look forward to continued expansion and improvements. There needs to be restroom facilities at trail heads.
Marc Mosher	<p>I am very interested in this project and would like to receive updates.</p> <p>I have read the entire study and the only information I have that might be of use concerns the lack of an organized bicycling community here and cycling advocates.</p> <p>We do have a Jefferson County organized group of cyclists of 191 members, though it is indeed informal. But the group is a clearinghouse for local cycling information, and usually a start-off point for those organizing any formal or non-formal, public or private, biking events including bike races and charity rides as well as private group rides.</p> <p>Our group is based at Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/jeffcobiking/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/jeffcobiking/</a> with a supporting website at <a href="https://hmienterprises.com/jeffcobiking/">https://hmienterprises.com/jeffcobiking/</a> - the website of which has county cycling resources and links.</p> <p>Perhaps when the time comes for the project to need some cycling advocates you may find some interested parties in our group.</p> <p>Marc E. Mosher</p>
Thom Peterson	As a regular user of the black river trail, I support its proposed expansion
Laura Hicks	Yes!!! We love the trail. We use it almost daily. Any expansion would be great!

Public Meeting

May 18, 2021

# WJCTC Bicycle Pedestrian Connectivity Study

Photo: Black River Blueway

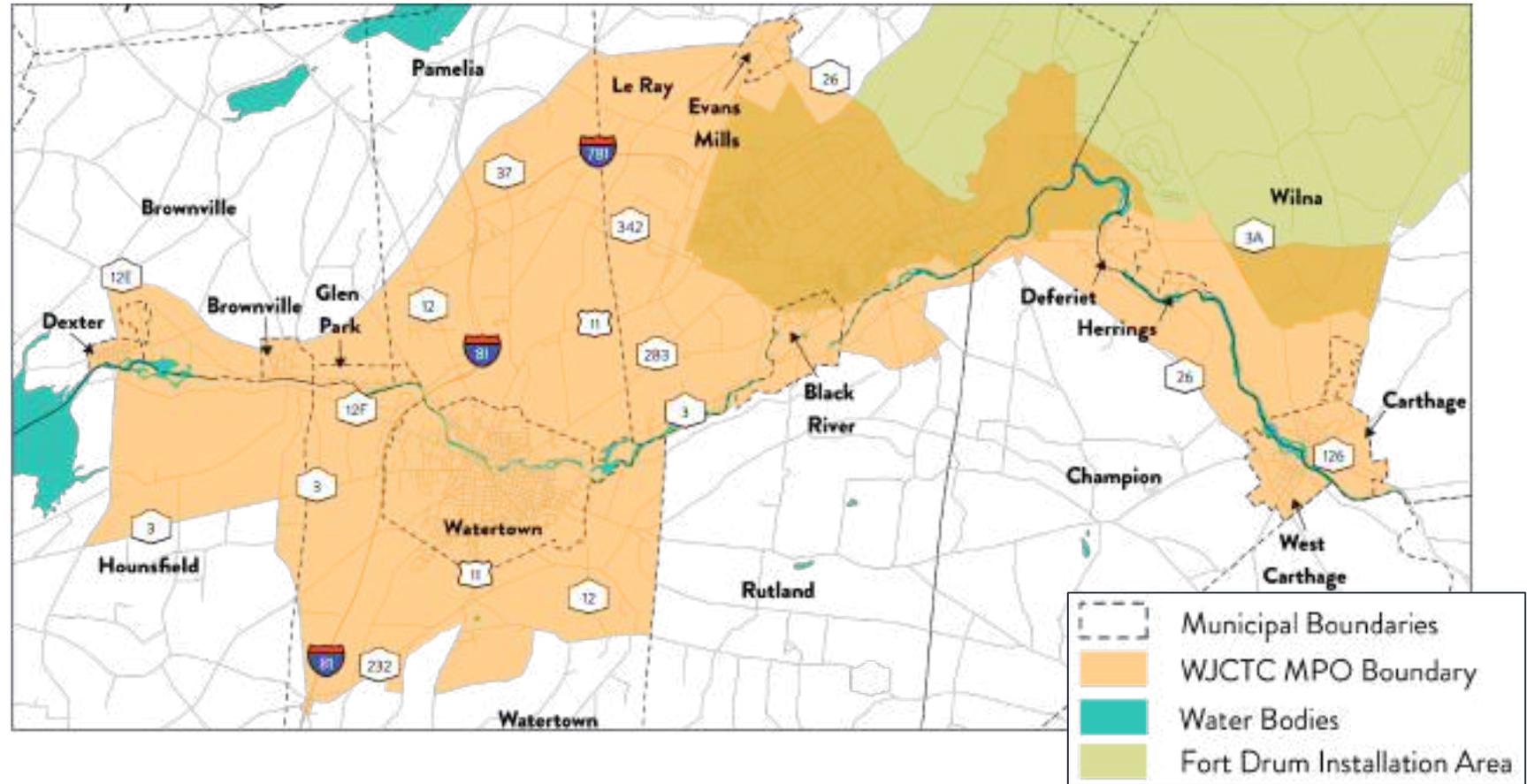


**Barton  
& Loguidice**



# What is the Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC)?

WJCTC was established in 2014 as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Watertown Urbanized Area. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires that every urbanized area in the Country that exceeds 50,000 in population has an MPO to represent the area and receive federal highway and transit funds to carry out the metropolitan planning process.



# Meeting Agenda

## 1. Team Introduction & Project Overview

## 2. MPO-Wide Analysis

- Vision & Goals
- Existing Conditions Overview
- Key Takeaway and Preliminary Needs
- Public Input: Issues & Opportunities

## 3. Black River Trail Extension

- Project Objectives
- Overview of Preliminary Alternatives
- Design Components
- Public Input on Alternatives

## 4. Next Steps



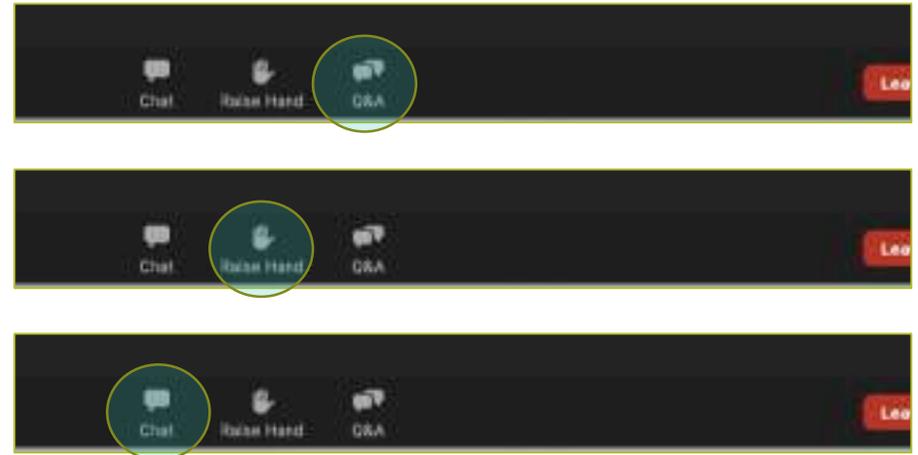
# Project Team

- **Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council**
  - Scott Docteur, MPO Director (NYSDOT)
  - Al Ricalton, MPO Highway Technical Committee (NYSDOT)
  - Geoff Urda, MPO Bike/Ped Coordinator (City of Watertown)
  - Jim Lawrence, MPO Highway Technical Committee (Jefferson County)
  - Kris Reff, MPO Highway Technical Committee (NYSDOT)
- **Barton & Loguidice**
  - Keith Ewald, AICP, PLA
  - Katie Darcy, AICP
- **Highland Planning**
  - Christopher Dunne



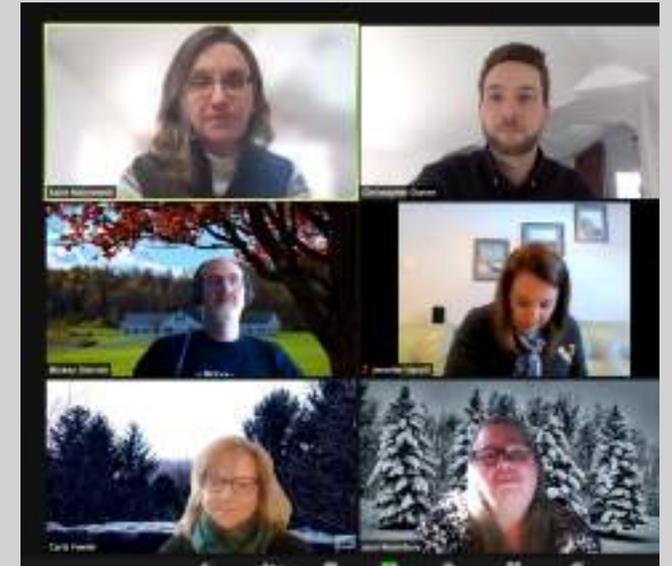
# Webinar Instructions

- Click “Q&A” to **type** a question that panelists can respond to
- **Chat** is also available to type comments
- If joining by phone audio only, **press \*9** to “Raise Hand” and you will be acknowledged
- Attendees are muted and have video disabled by default when they enter the webinar



# Public Outreach

- Public Engagement Plan
- Preliminary Stakeholder Interviews
  - Fort Drum
  - Village of Black River
  - Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
  - Tug Hill Commission
  - GYMO Architecture, Engineering & Land Surveying
  - Black River Adventurers' Shop
- Outreach to property owners along Black River Trail Extension options
- Comment form and stakeholder database



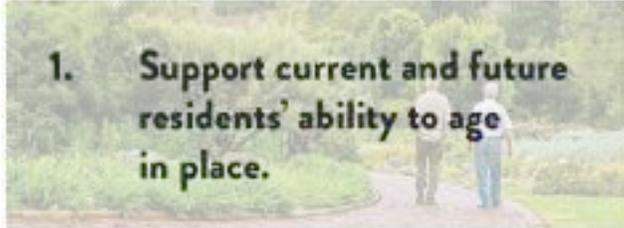
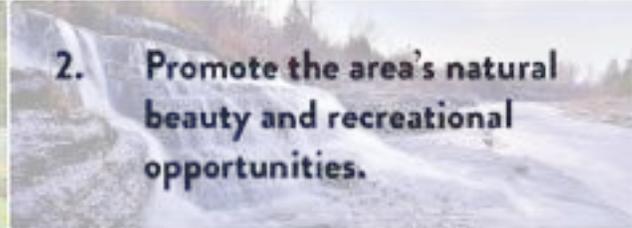
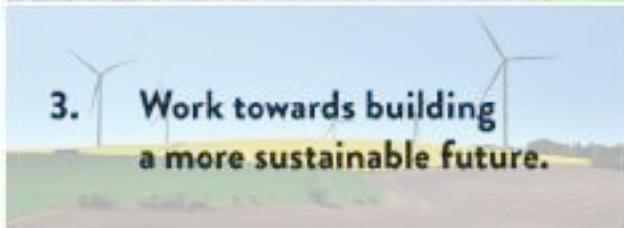
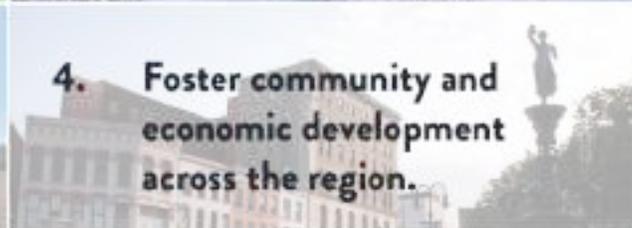
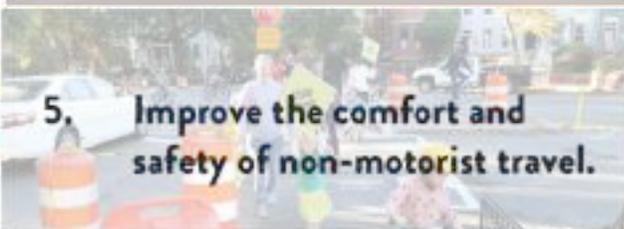
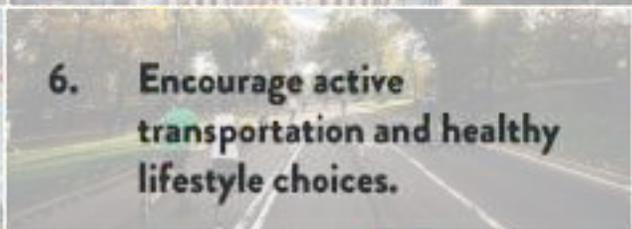
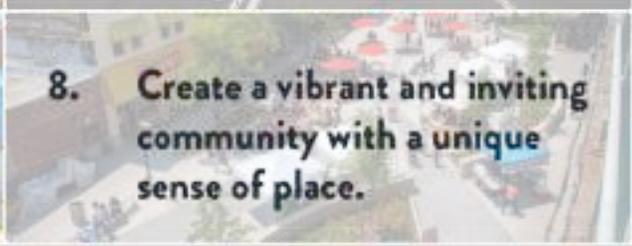
# Project Overview



- Identify Gaps in Bicycle & Pedestrian Networks
- Provide Context-Sensitive Solutions for Future Active Transportation (Bike/Pedestrian) Investment
- Enhance Connectivity & Accessibility for Active Transportation Users of All Types

# DRAFT Project Vision & Goals

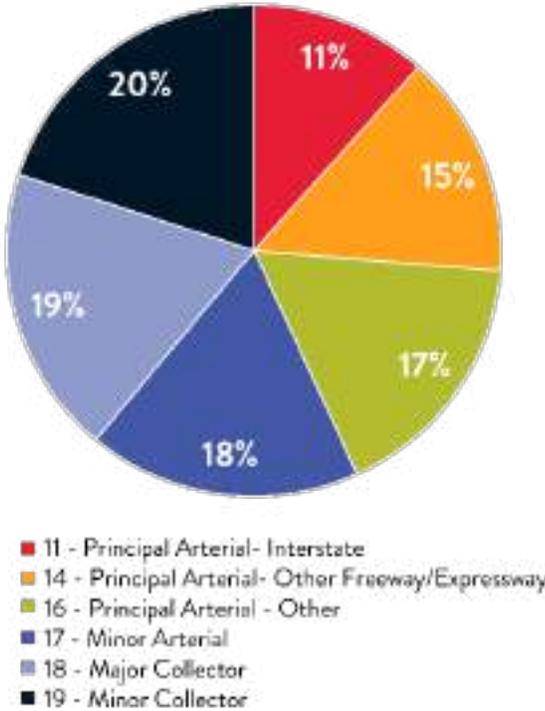
*“WJCTC will promote a connective, accessible, and safe pedestrian and bicyclist networks in which people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can easily travel to and from the region’s key destinations without relying on personal motorized vehicles. This will help foster a growing community of pedestrians and bicyclists that will contribute to and enjoy the benefits of a vibrant, active community that supports healthy living, increased economic activity, and the ability to age in place.”*

 <p><b>1. Support current and future residents’ ability to age in place.</b></p>	 <p><b>2. Promote the area’s natural beauty and recreational opportunities.</b></p>
 <p><b>3. Work towards building a more sustainable future.</b></p>	 <p><b>4. Foster community and economic development across the region.</b></p>
 <p><b>5. Improve the comfort and safety of non-motorist travel.</b></p>	 <p><b>6. Encourage active transportation and healthy lifestyle choices.</b></p>
 <p><b>7. Champion accessibility and equity for all transportation users.</b></p>	 <p><b>8. Create a vibrant and inviting community with a unique sense of place.</b></p>

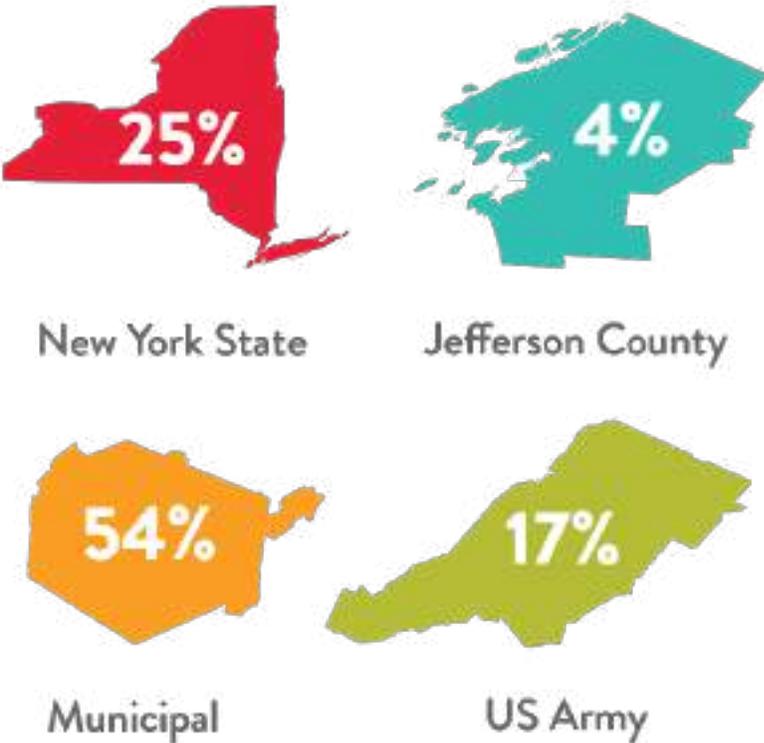
# Existing Conditions

- **Roadway Characteristics**
  - Functional Class
  - Roadway Jurisdiction
  - Roadway Laneage
  - Traffic Volumes
  - Speed limits
  - Etc.
- **Existing Infrastructure**
  - Sidewalks
  - Parks & Trails
  - Bicycle Facilities
  - Proposed Extensions

Functional Class Distribution

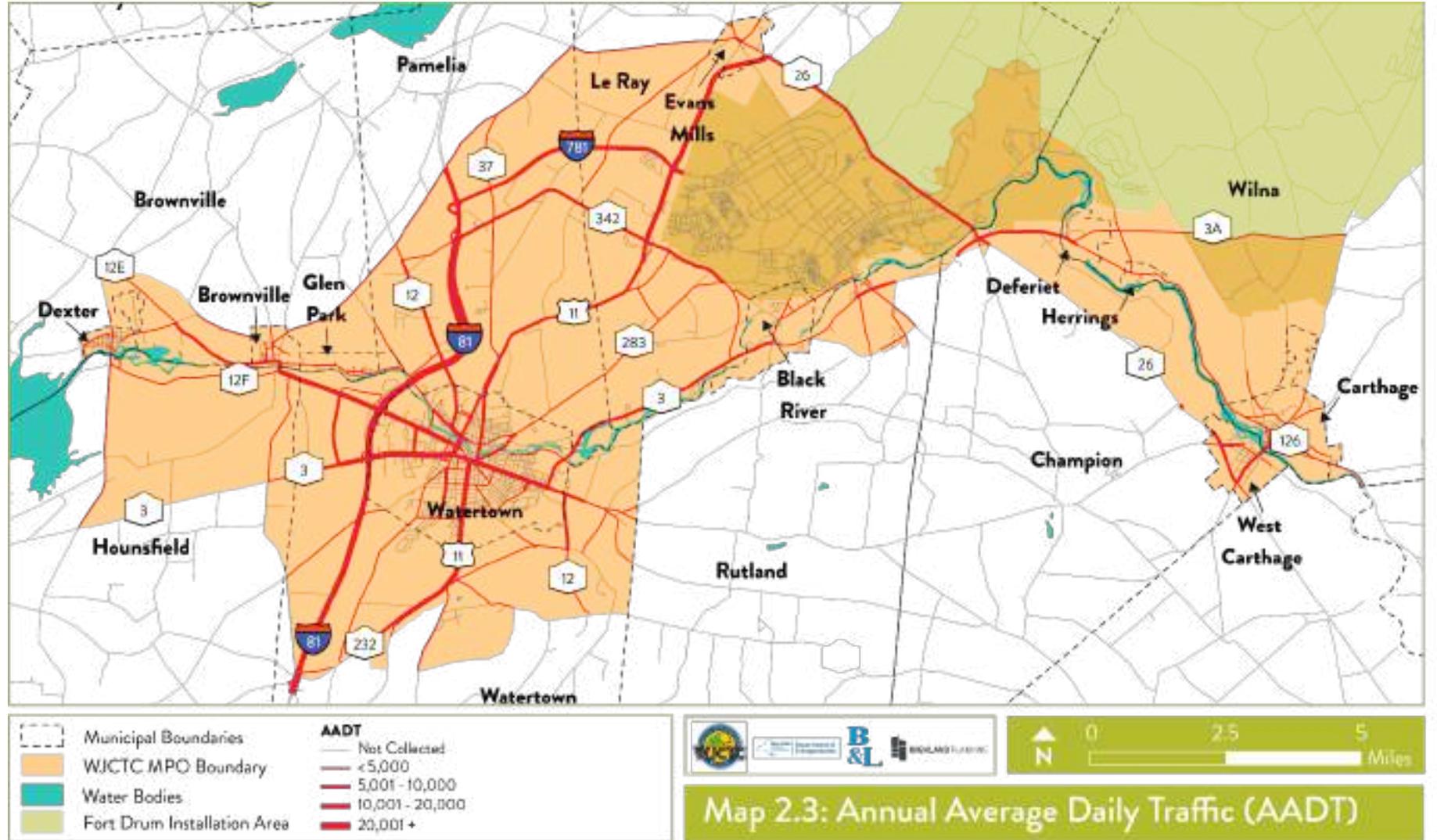


Roadway Ownership



# Existing Conditions

- Roadway Characteristics
  - Functional Class
  - Roadway Jurisdiction
  - Roadway Laneage
  - Traffic Volumes
  - Speed limits
  - Etc.
- Existing Infrastructure
  - Sidewalks
  - Parks & Trails
  - Bicycle Facilities
  - Proposed Extensions



# Existing Conditions

## Out of 100 Commuters in Jefferson County\*...



78 Drove Alone



5 Worked from Home



8 Carpooled



1 Took Public Transit



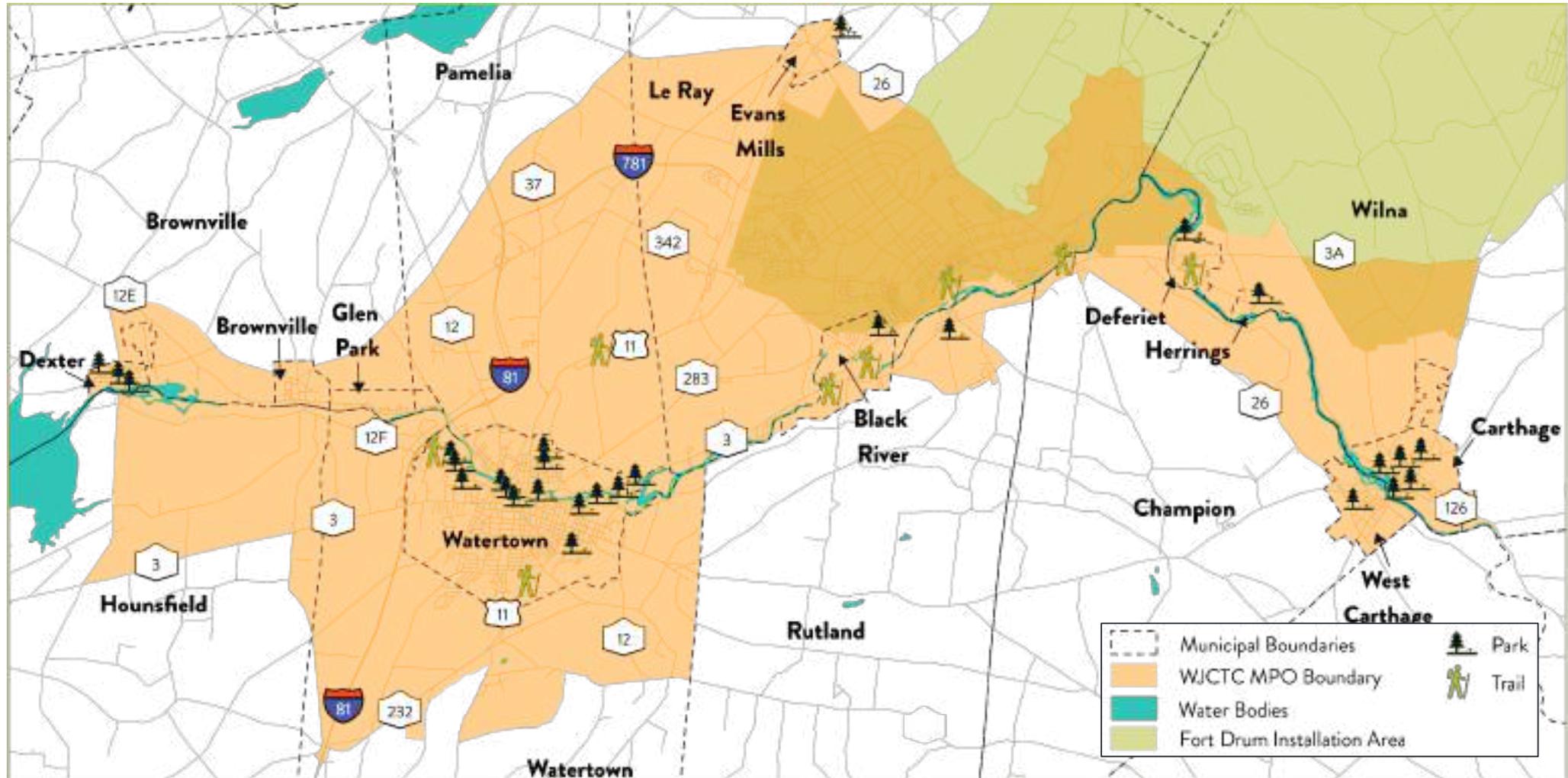
6 Walked



0 Biked

*\*2 workers took an alternative form of transportation such as a taxi or motorcycle.*

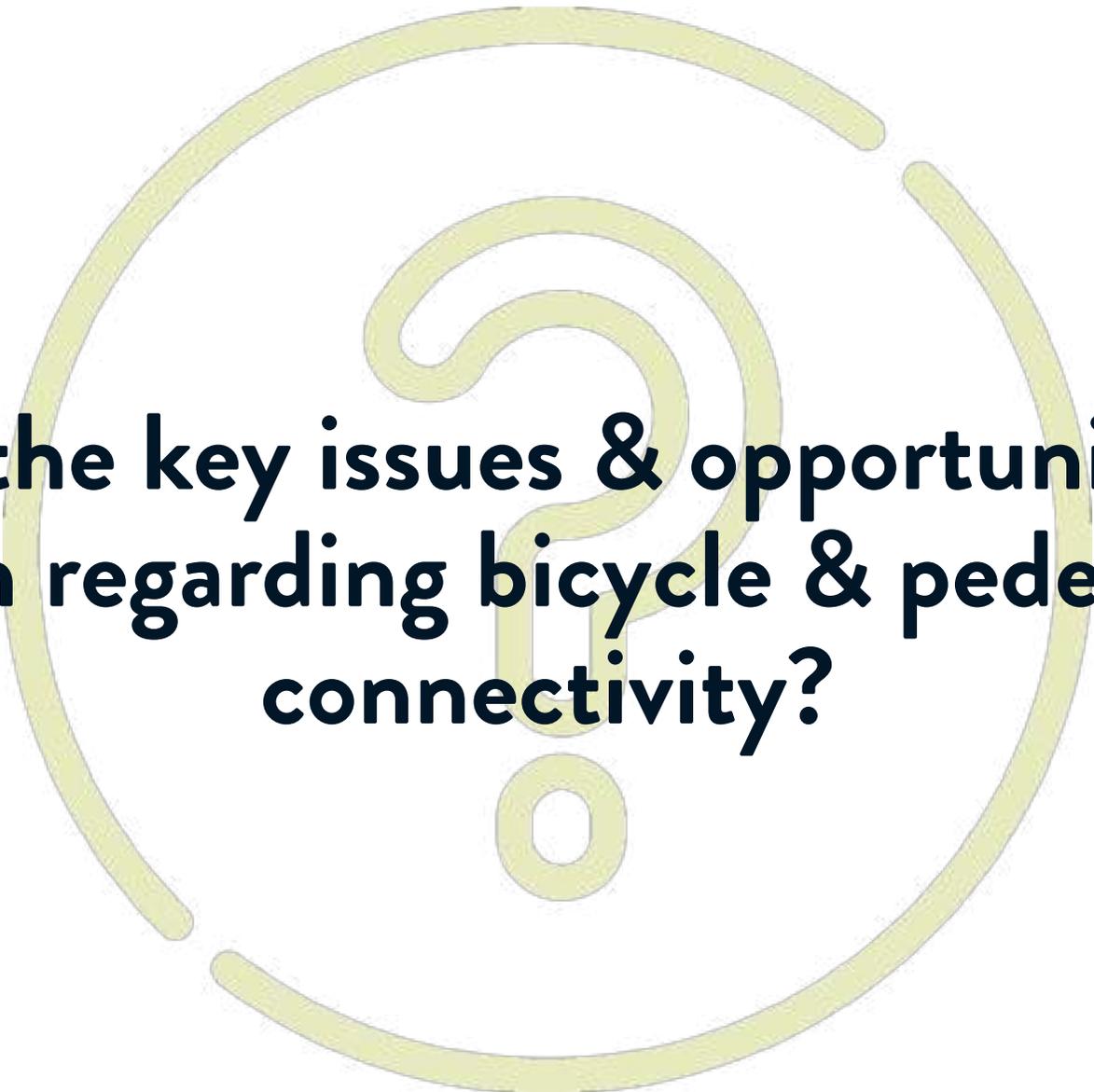
# Existing Conditions





# Preliminary Needs Assessment

1. Promoting access to the Black River and other natural resources of the region
2. Creating linkages between existing pedestrian & bicyclist facilities
3. Fostering connections between activity centers
4. Providing safe connections between residential areas and schools
5. Developing programs & policies that support future multi-modal investment



**What are the key issues & opportunities in the region regarding bicycle & pedestrian connectivity?**

# Priority Project No. 1

# Black River Trail Extension

# Project Objective

- Evaluate alternatives for eastward expansion of the Black River Trail from its current eastern terminus south of SR 3 in Black River, to Fort Drum
- Identify and engage in dialogue with key involved property owners (both public and private)
- Assess environmental impacts (wetlands, floodplains, rare & endangered species habitats)
- Constructability assessments
- Develop cost estimates for future construction
- Identify potential funding sources



# Black River Trail Extension Property Owner Outreach Timeline

Identify owners of potentially impacted parcels

Contact by phone

Invite property owners to public meeting

**Hold Public Meeting #1**

Prepare table of ROW needs with acreages, locations and ownership

Invite property owners to public meeting

Hold Public Meeting #2

Make Final Report Available



EXISTING CONDITIONS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS & DRAFT REPORT

FINAL REPORT

*Winter/Spring 2021*

*Summer/Fall 2021*

ALTERNATIVE 1 OWNERS

ALTERNATIVE 2 OWNERS

ALTERNATIVE 3 OWNERS



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE PROPERTY OWNERS

# Outreach: What We've Heard

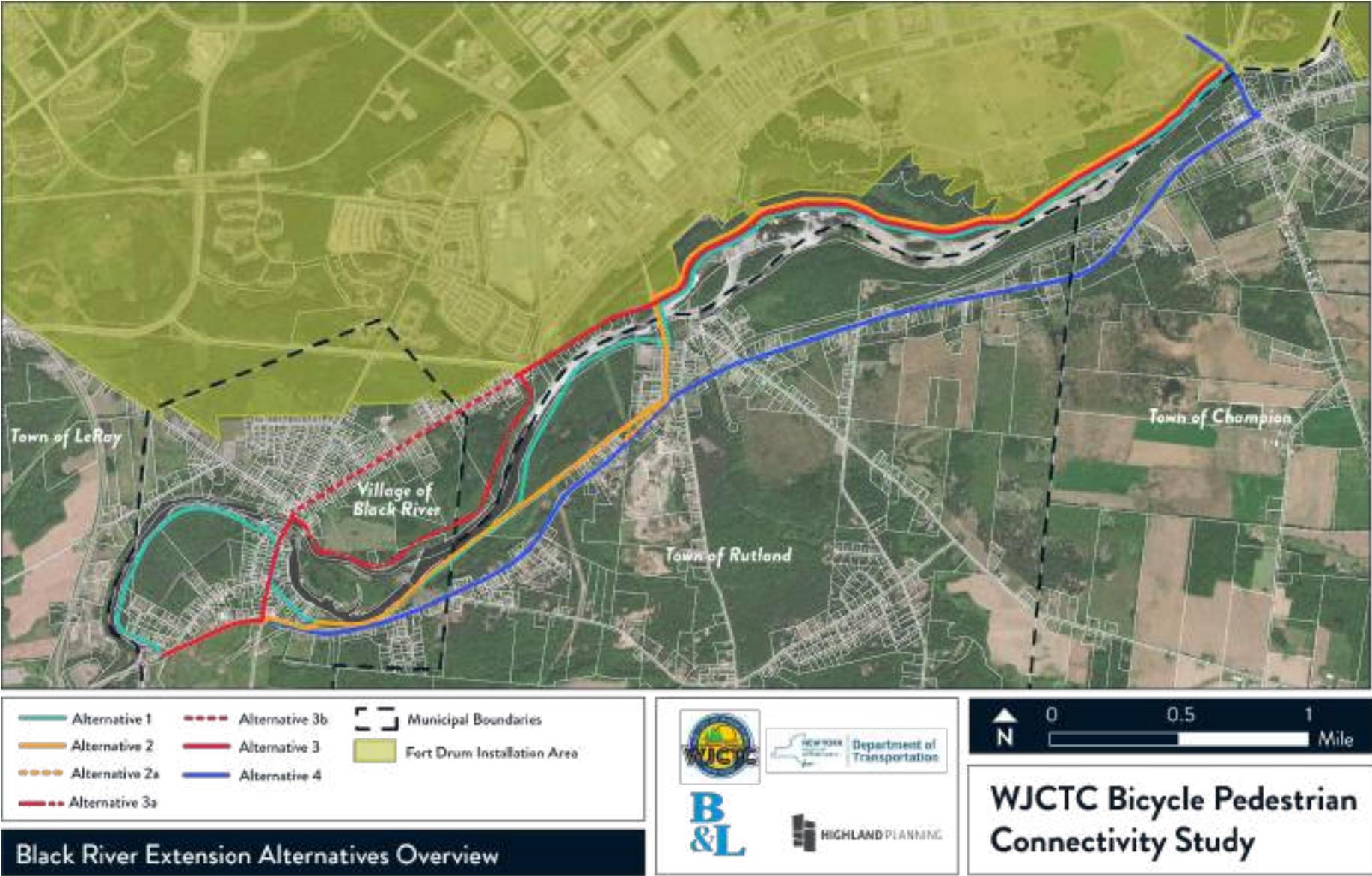
## Opportunities

- Longer Black River Trail = regional destination
- Connections to base would increase use and link to relocated Fort Museum
- Trail extension through Village of Black River could benefit downtown
- Partnerships can make new trails and extensions viable

## Issues

- Funding and resources
- Multiple privately owned properties and liability issues
- Route 3 traffic volumes and speeds
- Use of existing dirt trails by motorized vehicles
- Safety around the Black River

# Overview of Preliminary Alternatives



# Alternative #1

- 90% off-road, 10% on-road
- 16 property owners – large gap of unwilling owners to date, NYSOPRHP
- Minimizes on-road safety issues – 4 road crossings
- Potential design considerations = retaining walls, ped bridge/culvert crossings



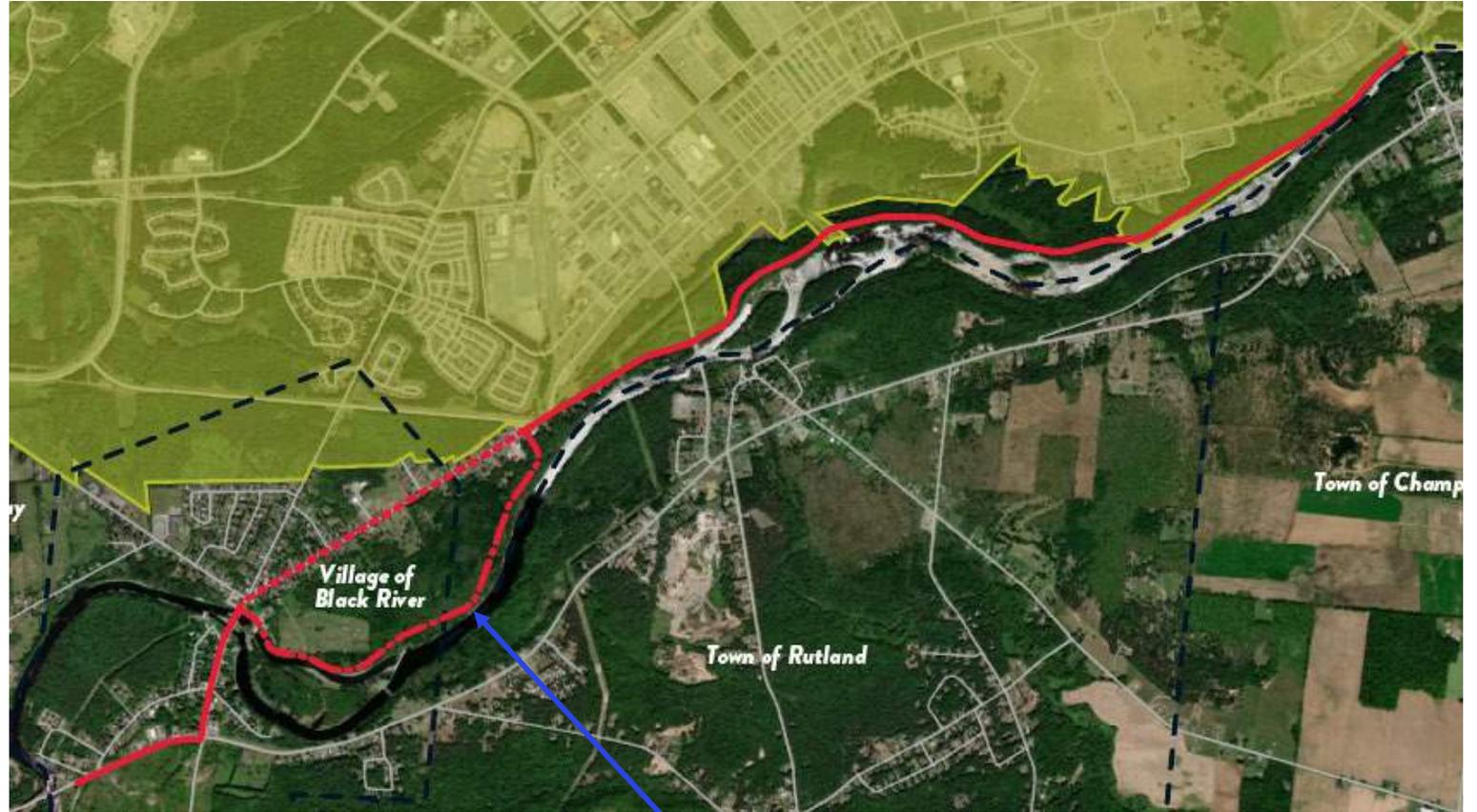
# Alternative #2

- 85% off-road, 15% on-road
- 7 property owners – long segment owned by Grid & NYSOPRHP
- Minimizes on-road safety issues – 2 road crossings
- Potential design considerations = retaining wall, ped bridge/culvert crossings



# Alternative #3A

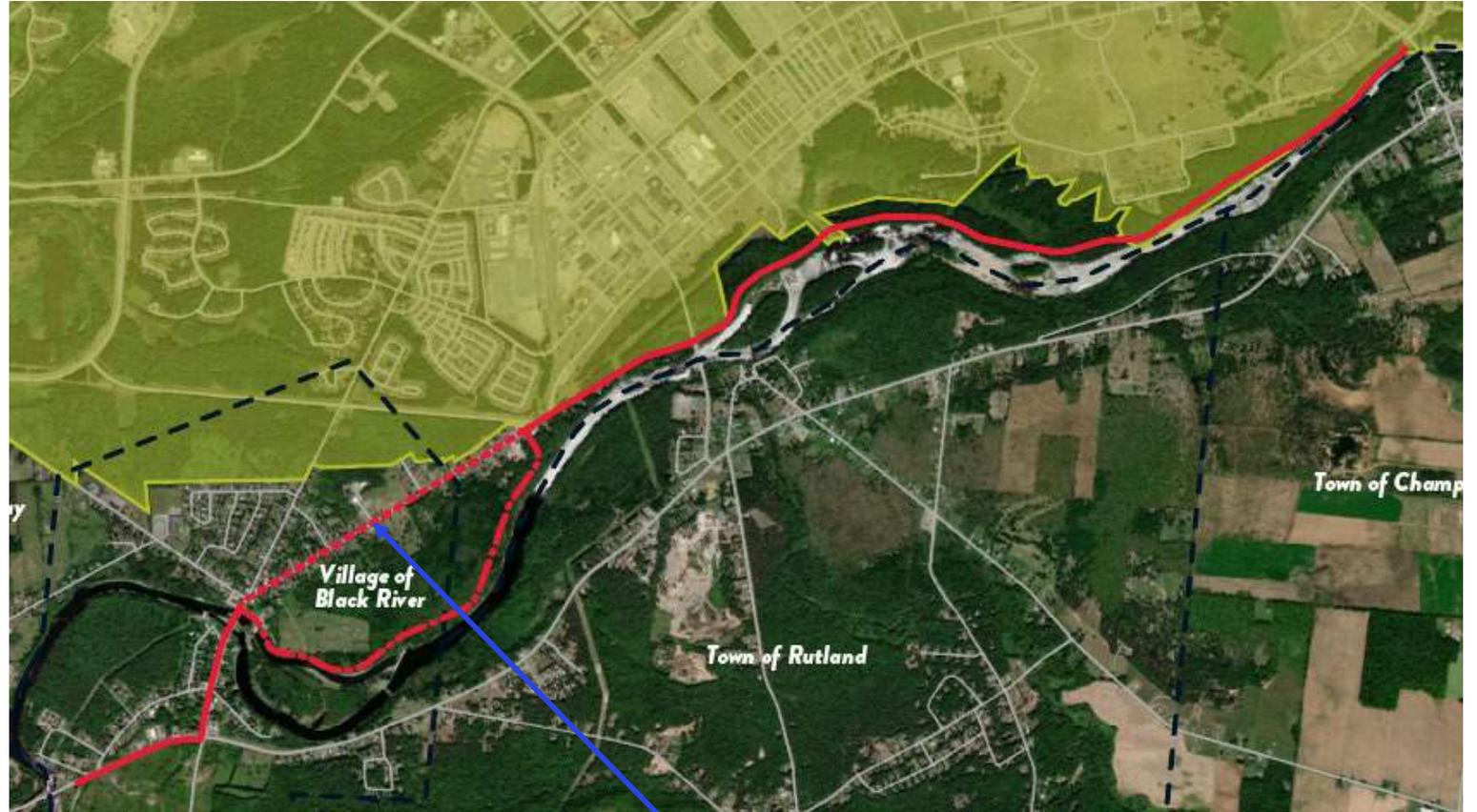
- 71% off-road, 29% on-road
- 9 property owners
- Clearing of existing untouched land north of the River
- Minimizes on-road safety issues – 3 road crossings
- Potential design considerations = bench into slope along shoreline



3A

# Alternative #3B

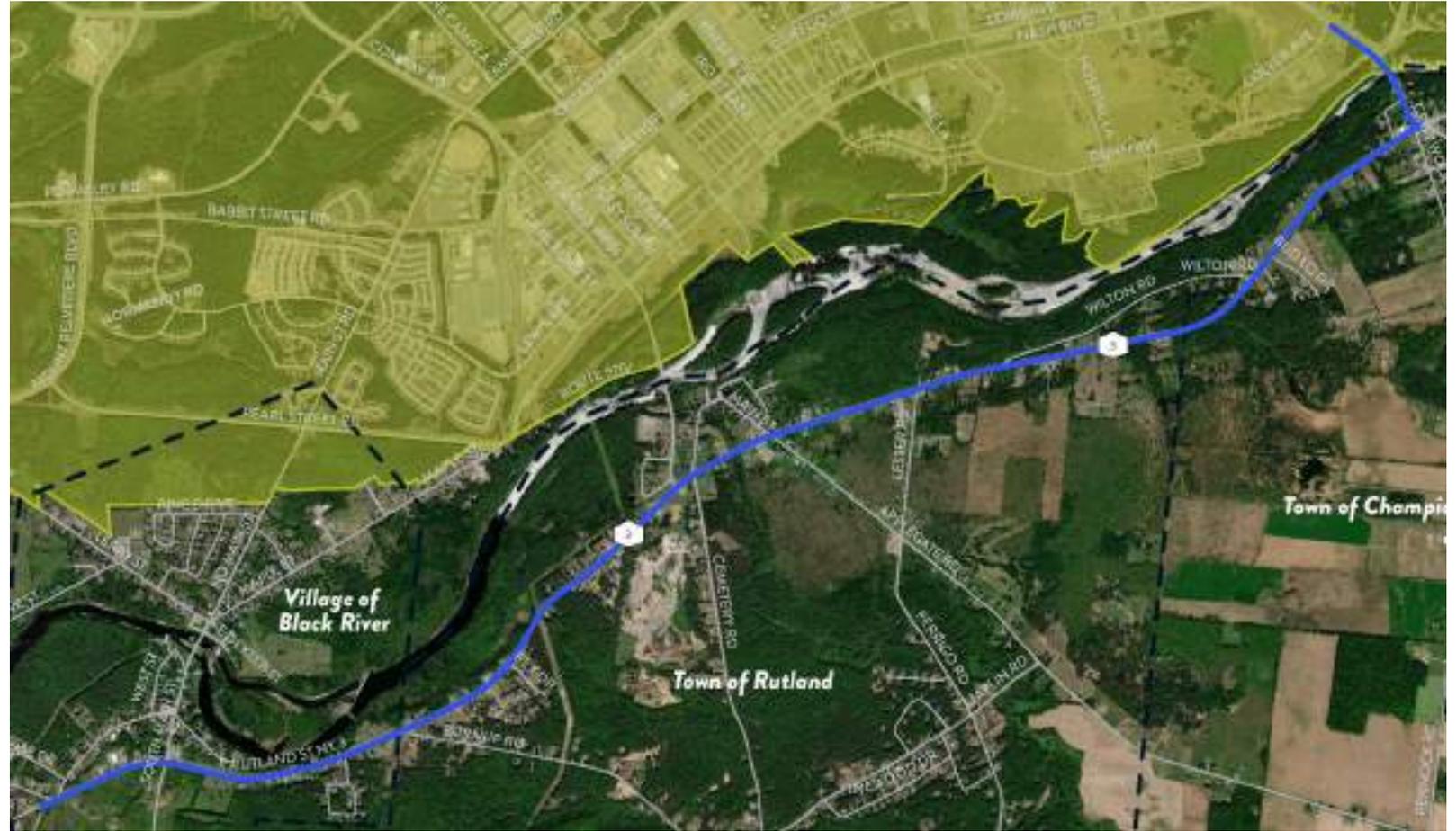
- 48% off-road, 52% on-road
- 2 property owners
- Minimizes on-road safety issues – 3 road crossings
- Potential design considerations = Use of Maple Street sidewalks and new shared bike facility



3B

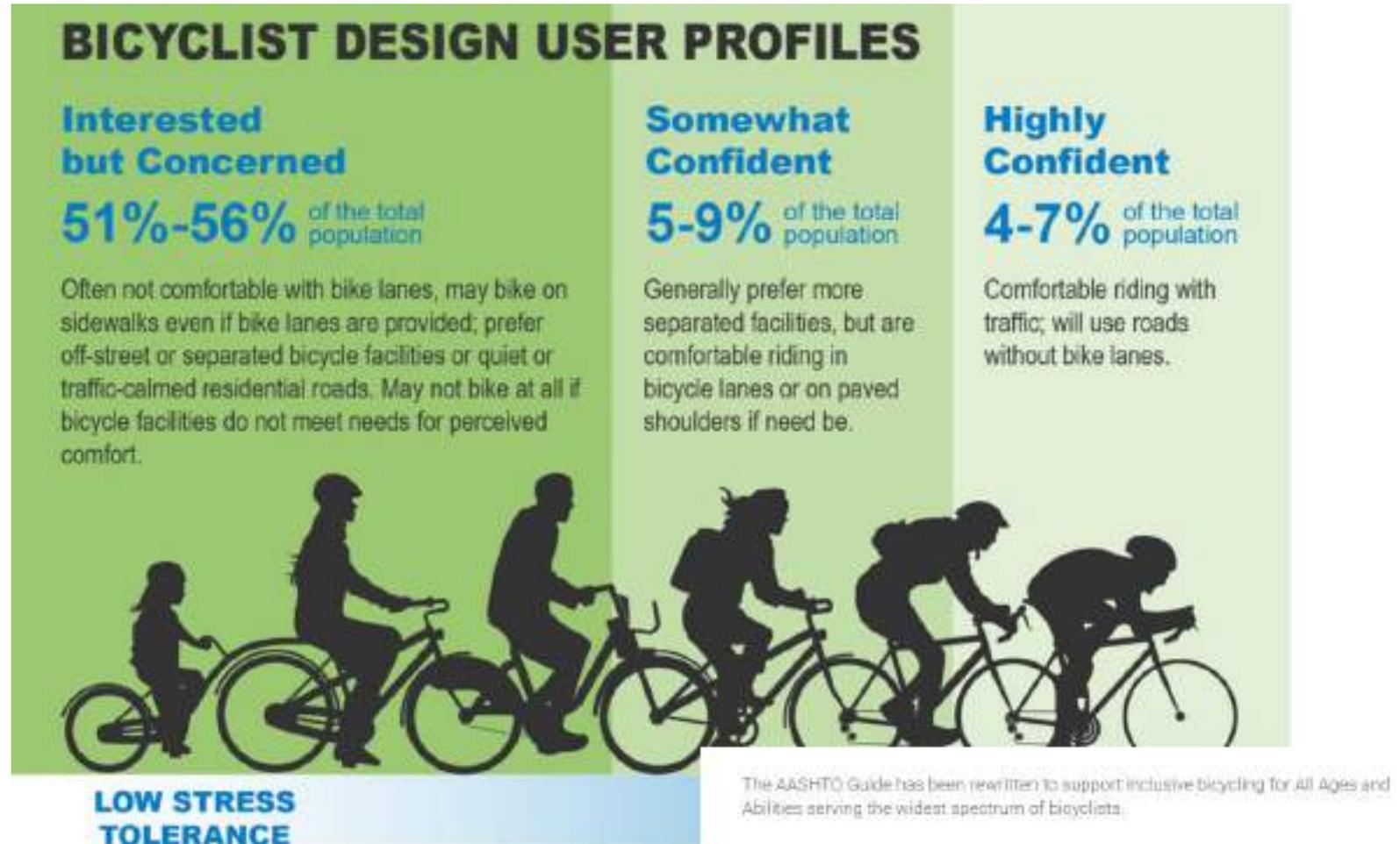
# Alternative #4

- Follows SR 3
- 100% on-road
- Will evaluate whether a separated 8'-10' side path can be built within the ROW
- Likely shared roadway markings and new sidewalks (Route 26)
- 17 intersections/road crossings
- Feasible but not ideal



# Design Criteria

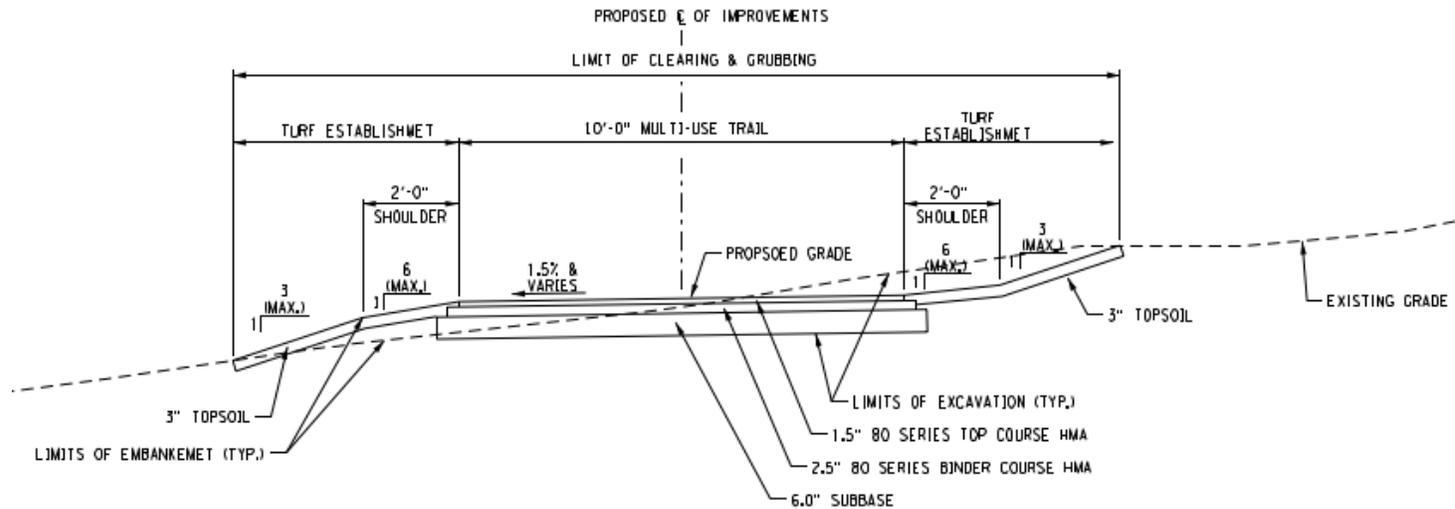
- AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities (2012)
- AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (2020)
- ADA Standards for Accessible Design, 2016
- NYSDOT Highway Design Manual, Chapters 17 and 18



# Trail Facility Design: Existing Trail Segments



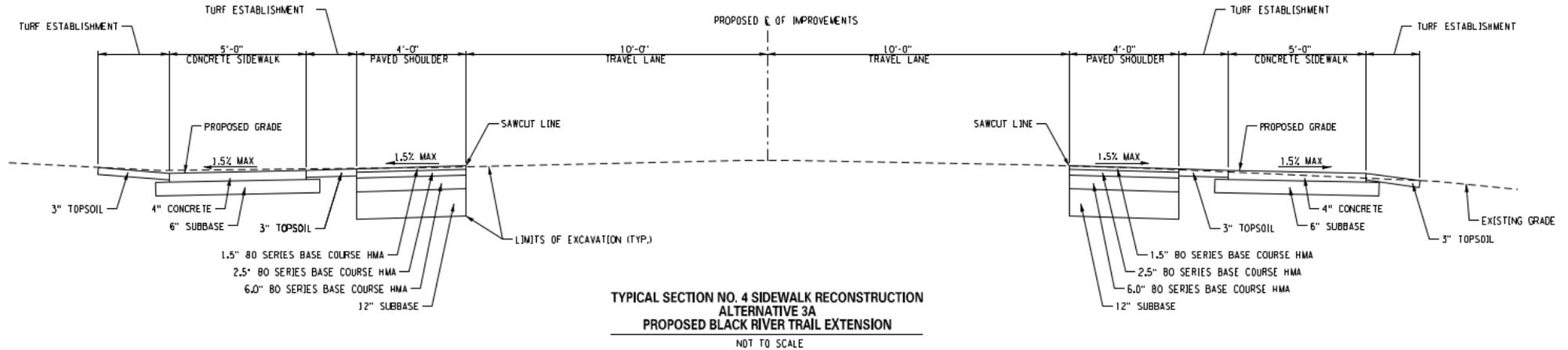
# Trail Facility Design: Off-road trail



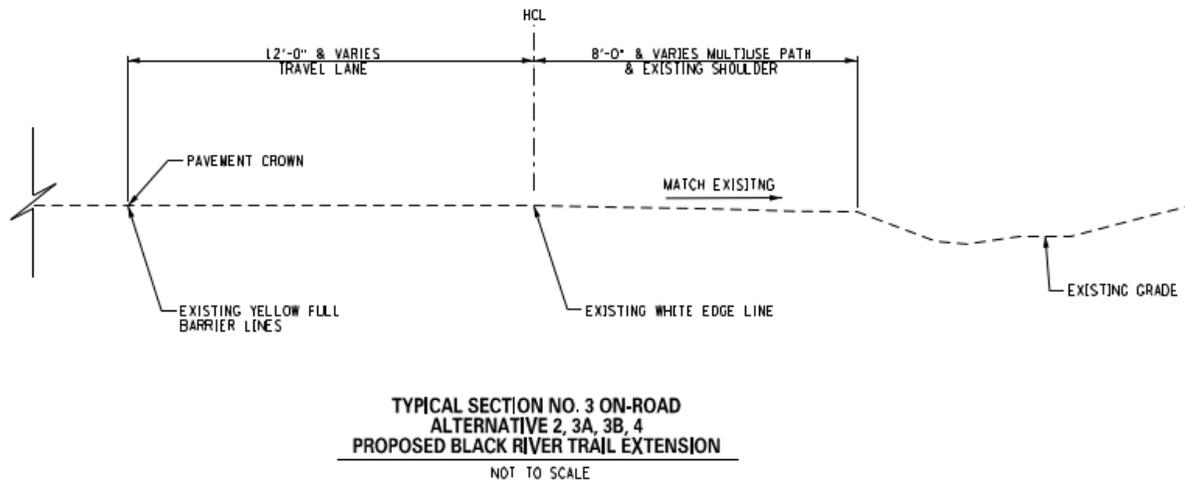
**TYPICAL SECTION NO. 2 - OFF ROAD**  
**ALTERNATIVE 1, 2, & 3B**  
**PROPOSED BLACK RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION**  
NOT TO SCALE



# Trail Facility Design: On-road Separated Facility (Maple Street)



# Trail Facility Design: On-road Shared Shoulder (least desirable)



# Trail Facility Safety Considerations

Image: Rural Design Guide for Shared Use Paths



# Trailhead Facilities

Existing Pathway at First Street in Felts Mills



Existing Parking Area at Garrison Drive and Great Bend Road at the entrance to Ft. Drum





**Outreach:**  
**What are your thoughts on the alternatives presented?**

# Next Steps

- Continue gap analysis for MPO-wide bike & pedestrian connectivity
- Continue to evaluate ROW constraints
- Further conversations with property owners
- Constructability assessments of all alternatives
- Safety analyses
- In-person and outdoor trail walk/meeting this summer or early fall
- Develop Connectivity Study report with recommendations for regional connectivity and feasible alternatives for BRT Extension to Ft. Drum



# Public Meeting

May 18, 2021

# THANK YOU!

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Photo: Black River Blueway



**Barton  
& Loguidice**

