

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Town of

Matthews

North Carolina

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Draft
6/15/20

*A view of the current conditions at the intersection
of Trade Street and Matthews Station Street..*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the Mobility and Parking Study?

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

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



purpose

This study is intended to accomplish the following goals:

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

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

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

When implemented, **these key outcomes will be created:**



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



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



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



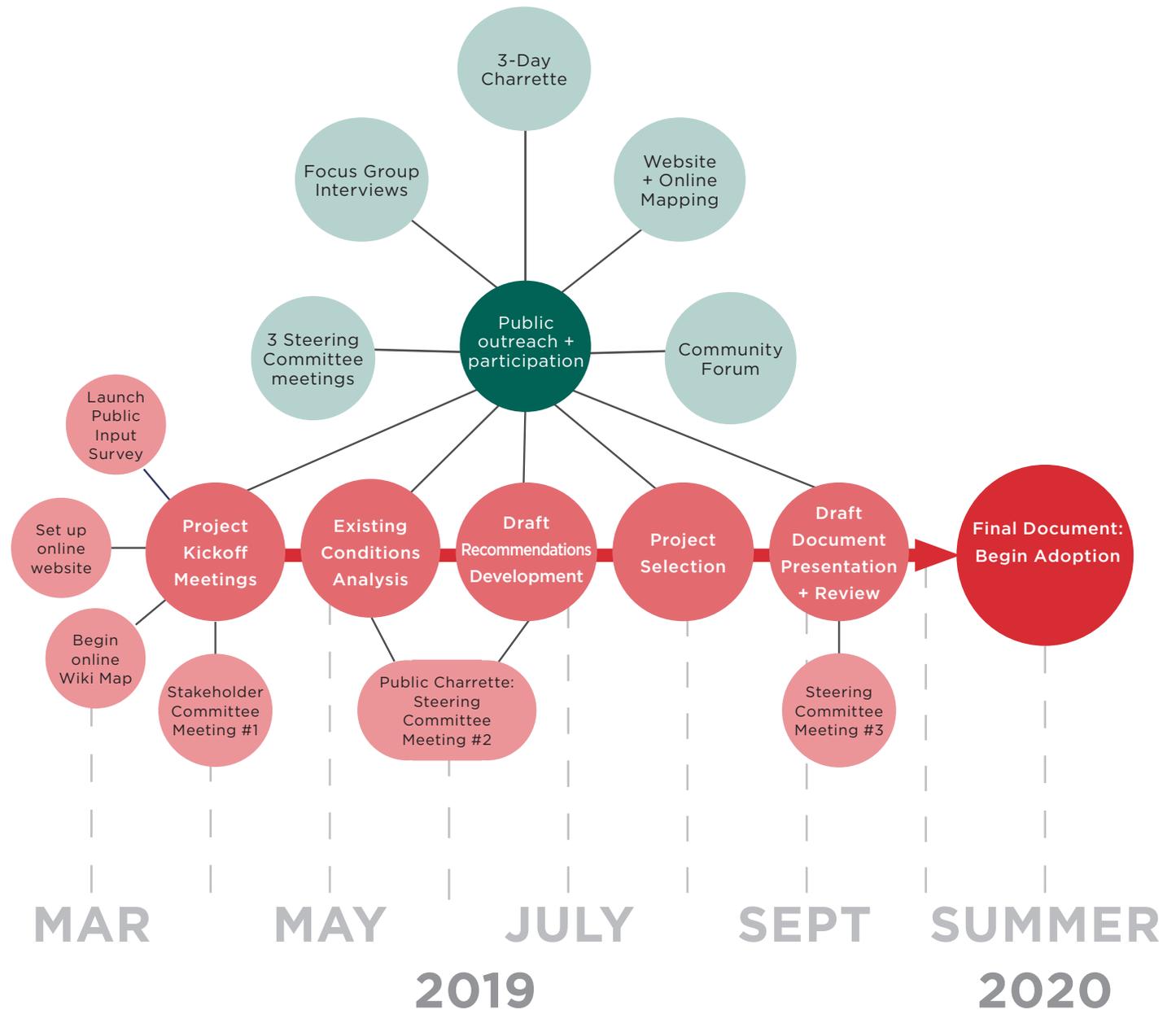
Provide predictable and reliable travel for all modes



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

planning process timeline

The vision for mobility in Downtown is the community’s vision— one where all modes of travel are safe, convenient, and comfortable. The development of the vision was a collaborative effort that brought together residents, the business community, Matthews Elementary School, and regional—Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) and Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS)—and state partners—North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)—to create this mobility study for Downtown. The visioning effort began in the Spring of 2019 with a steering committee kick off meeting, followed by a public design workshop (charrette) and stakeholder meetings held over three days; and the launch of the interactive online input map and project survey. During the early fall, the project steering committee met to provide guidance on the development of the priority projects to include in the document. In Winter 2020, the complete mobility strategy was presented to the Town, and the input received at that meeting was used to refine and finalize the recommended actions.

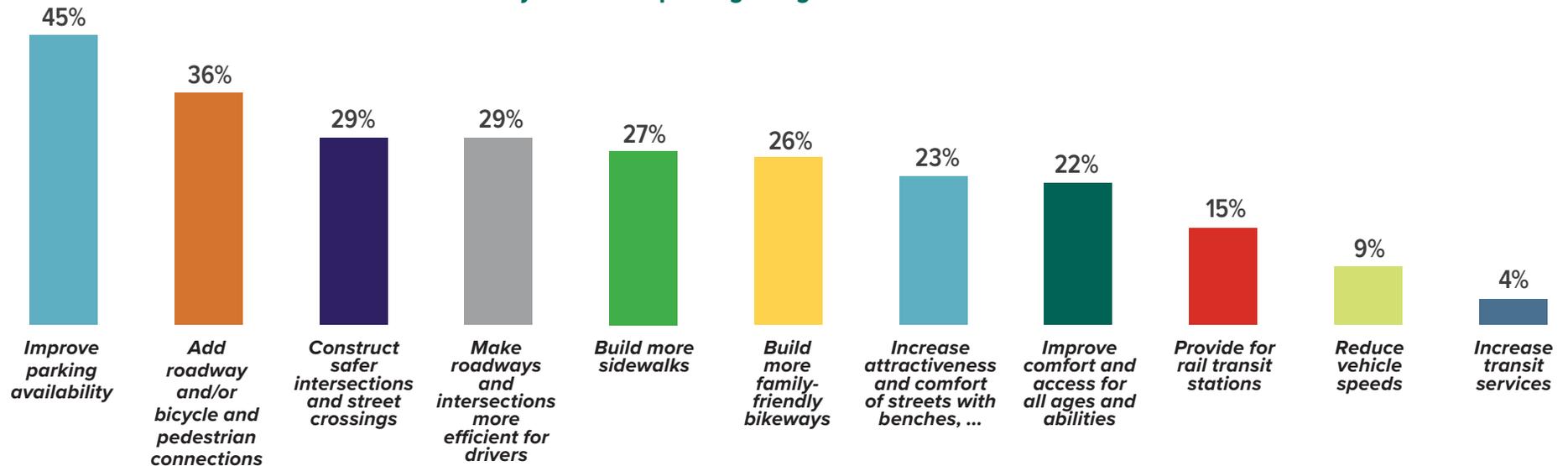


public input

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

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

What would you do to improve getting around Downtown Matthews?



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

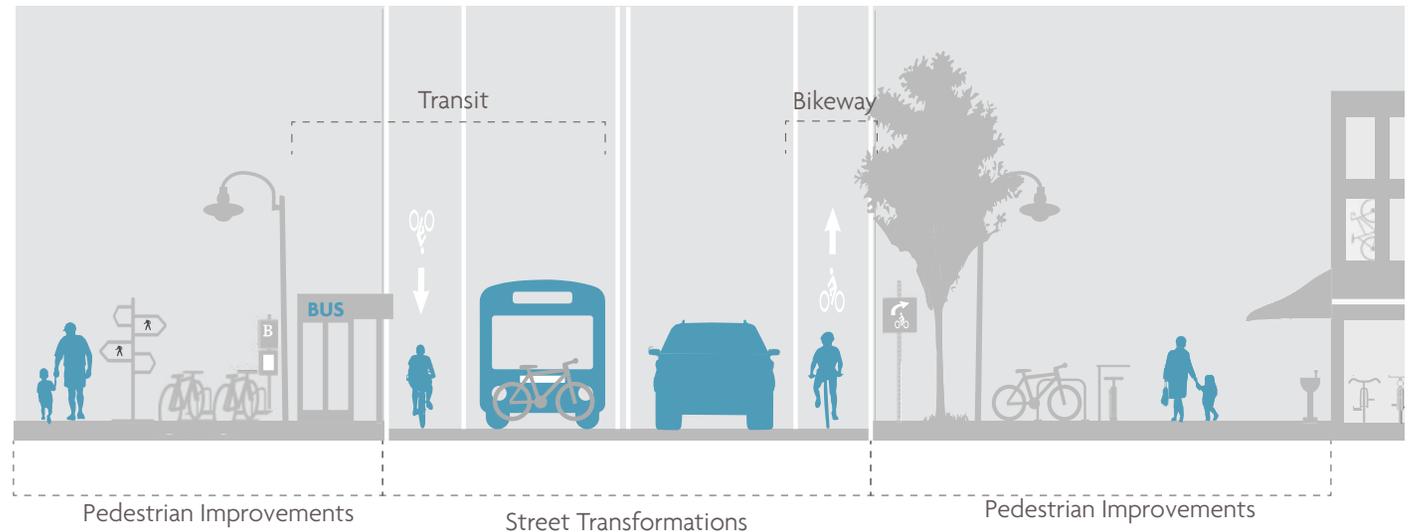
recommendations

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

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

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

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



PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

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



PARKING

- New on-street spaces
- Surface lots
- Wayfinding



STREET TRANSFORMATIONS

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



TRANSIT

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



BIKEWAYS + MULTI-USE PATHS

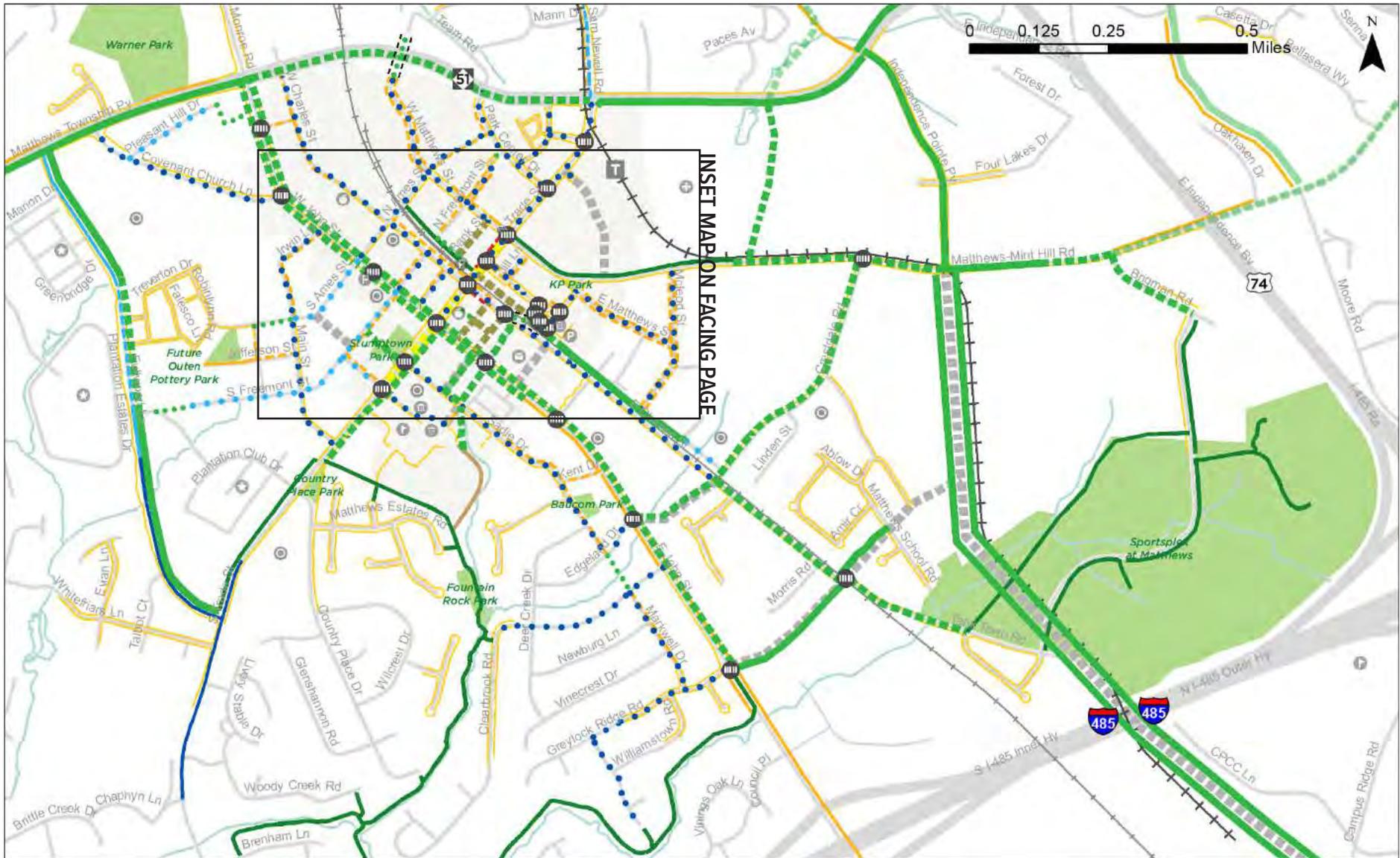
- On-street bike facilities
 - » Bike Lanes
 - » Shared Lane Markings
 - » Advisory Shoulders
- Multi-Use Paths
 - » Greenways
 - » Sidepaths



PROGRAMS + POLICIES

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

DOWNTOWN MOBILITY NETWORK MAP



Sidewalks + Access Issues

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

Multi-Use Paths

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

Bike Lanes

- Existing
- Funded
- - - Proposed

Shared Street Bike Facilities

- · · Proposed Shared Lane Markings
- · · Proposed Advisory Shoulder

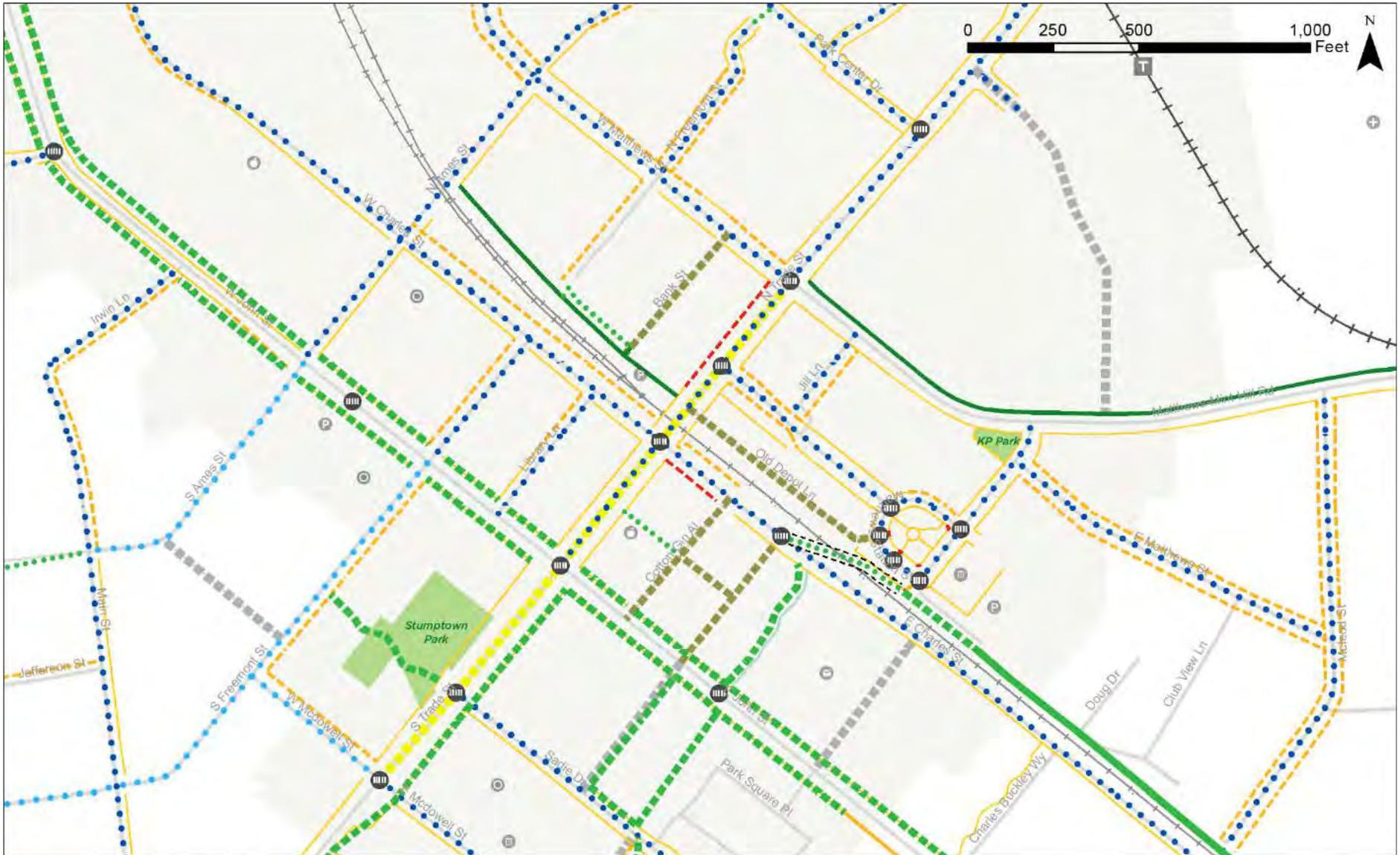
Roadways

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

Future Silver Line

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

DOWNTOWN MOBILITY NETWORK MAP- INSET



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downtown core conceptual plan

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



potential projects

The Downtown Matthews Mobility and Parking Study Stakeholder Committee identified top projects for implementation based on input gathered during the course of the Mobility Study. The Stakeholder Committee has put forward the following four projects for consideration.

Trade Street Reconfiguration, from John Street to Charles Street

- Lane reconfiguration
- Widened sidewalks
- Crossing improvements

Trade Street Reconfiguration, from Matthews Elementary School to John Street

- Lane reconfiguration
- Multi-use path
- Crossing improvements

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

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

**Please note: Reorientation of parking from angled to parallel was removed from this study during the adoption process.*

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

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

