CobbForward

Recommendations Public Meeting

May 2021

Cobb FORWARD
Comprehensive Transportation Plan
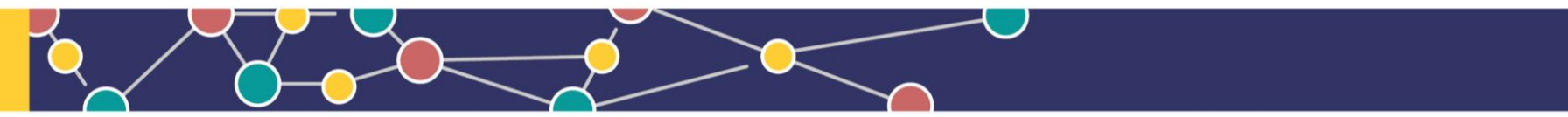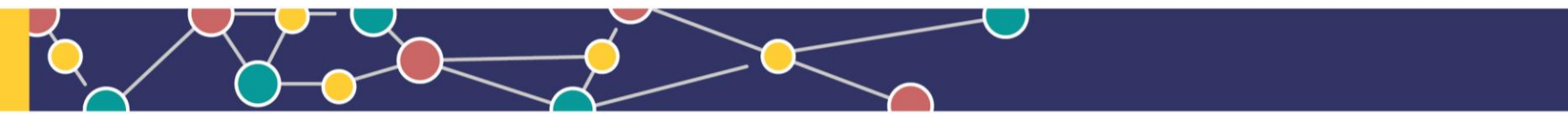
Meeting Logistics

- First part of meeting: webinar style
  - Have questions? Chat them to our panelists.
  - Live polling opportunities

- Second part of meeting: breakout discussions
  - Additional link at the end of the meeting
  - Opportunity to converse with meeting facilitators
  - Breakout groups by Commission District

Agenda

- Review of CTP and early planning activities
- Presentation of potential projects and packages
  - Surface transportation: roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, trail
  - Transit
- Opportunities for input from the community:
  - Live polling
  - Breakout sessions
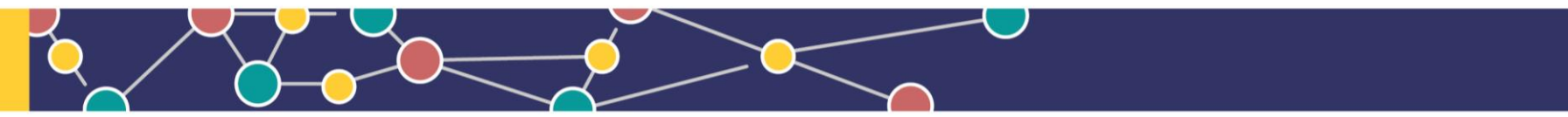 - Online survey and methods for input

Welcome

Chairwoman Cupid

What is a CTP?

Previous Plans

Data Analysis

Public Input

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Local Funding

State/Federal Funding

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Project Goals

Improve Health & Safety
Provide a transportation system that is safe and supports healthy living for all users.

Be Cost Effective
Prioritize investments that maintain reliable transportation infrastructure and maximize return on investment.

Enhance Mobility
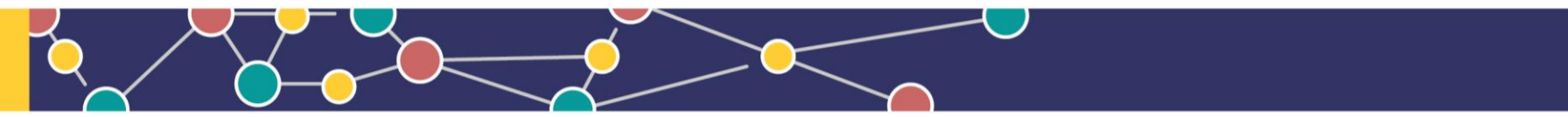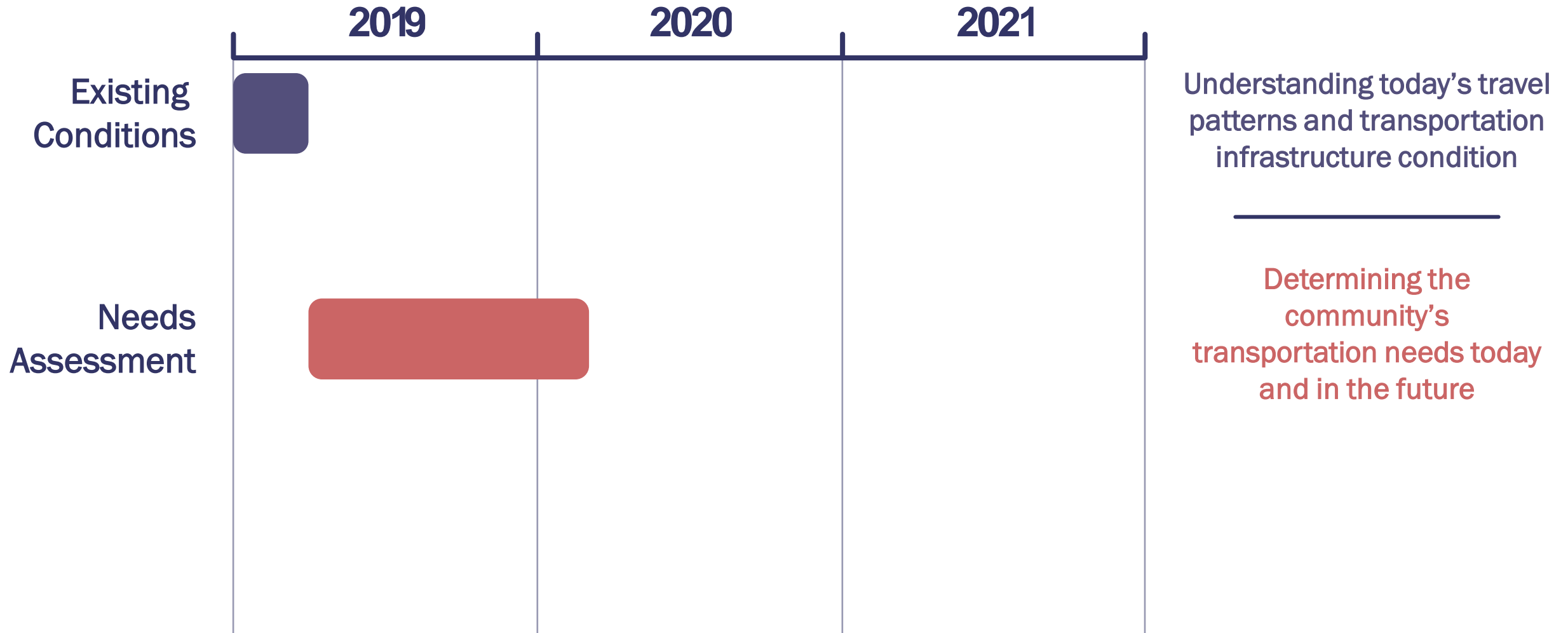Improve travel times for all users with multimodal solutions.

Support Equitable Access
Provide mobility choices that are accessible and equitable for all communities and users.

Use Innovative Tech
Use innovative transportation technologies and access to information to enhance the efficiency of the transportation network.

Integrate Land Use/Design
Support land use and urban design that enhances accessibility and connectivity between land uses for all users.

Planning Process

	2019	2020	2021

Existing Conditions

Understanding today's travel patterns and transportation infrastructure condition

Needs Assessment

Determining the community's transportation needs today and in the future

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Determining Needs

Technical Analysis

People
Places
Travel patterns
Roads
Transit
Bicycles
Pedestrian
Freight

+

Public Input

Community Events
Public Meetings
Online Surveys
Email

= Need

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Planning Process

	2019	2020	2021	
Existing Conditions	■			Understanding today's travel patterns and transportation infrastructure condition
Needs Assessment	▬▬▬			Determining the community's transportation needs today and in the future
Projects and Policies		▬▬▬▬▬		Developing projects and policies to address the transportation needs of Cobb communities

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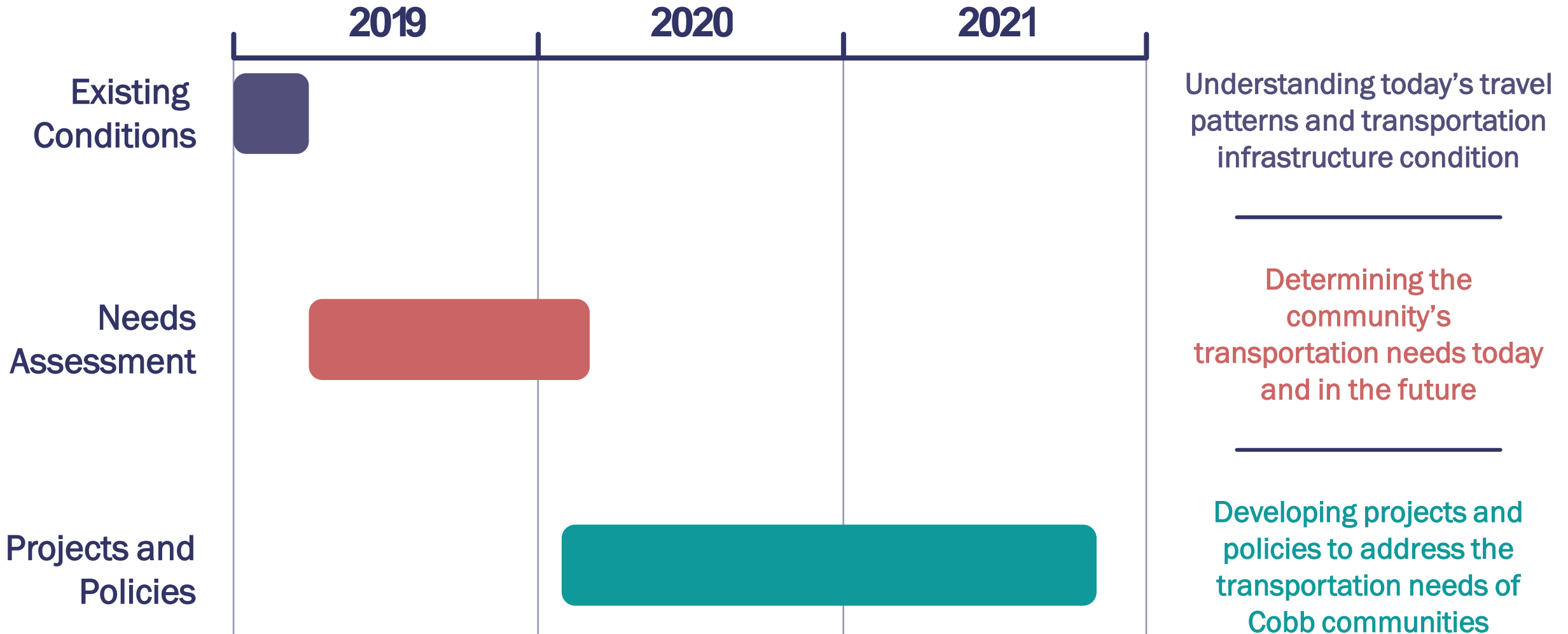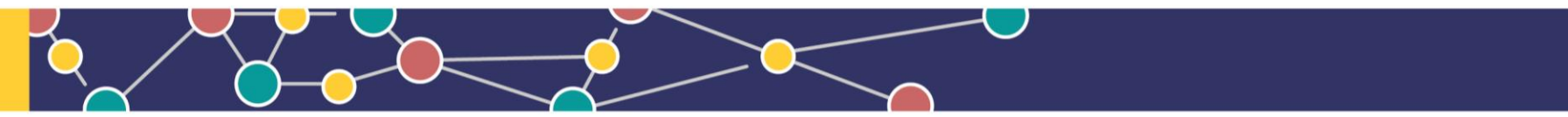
Creating Projects

- ## Previous Plans
    - CTP from 2015
    - Greenways and Trails Plans
    - CobbLinc Short-Range Transit Plan
    - City/CID Plans
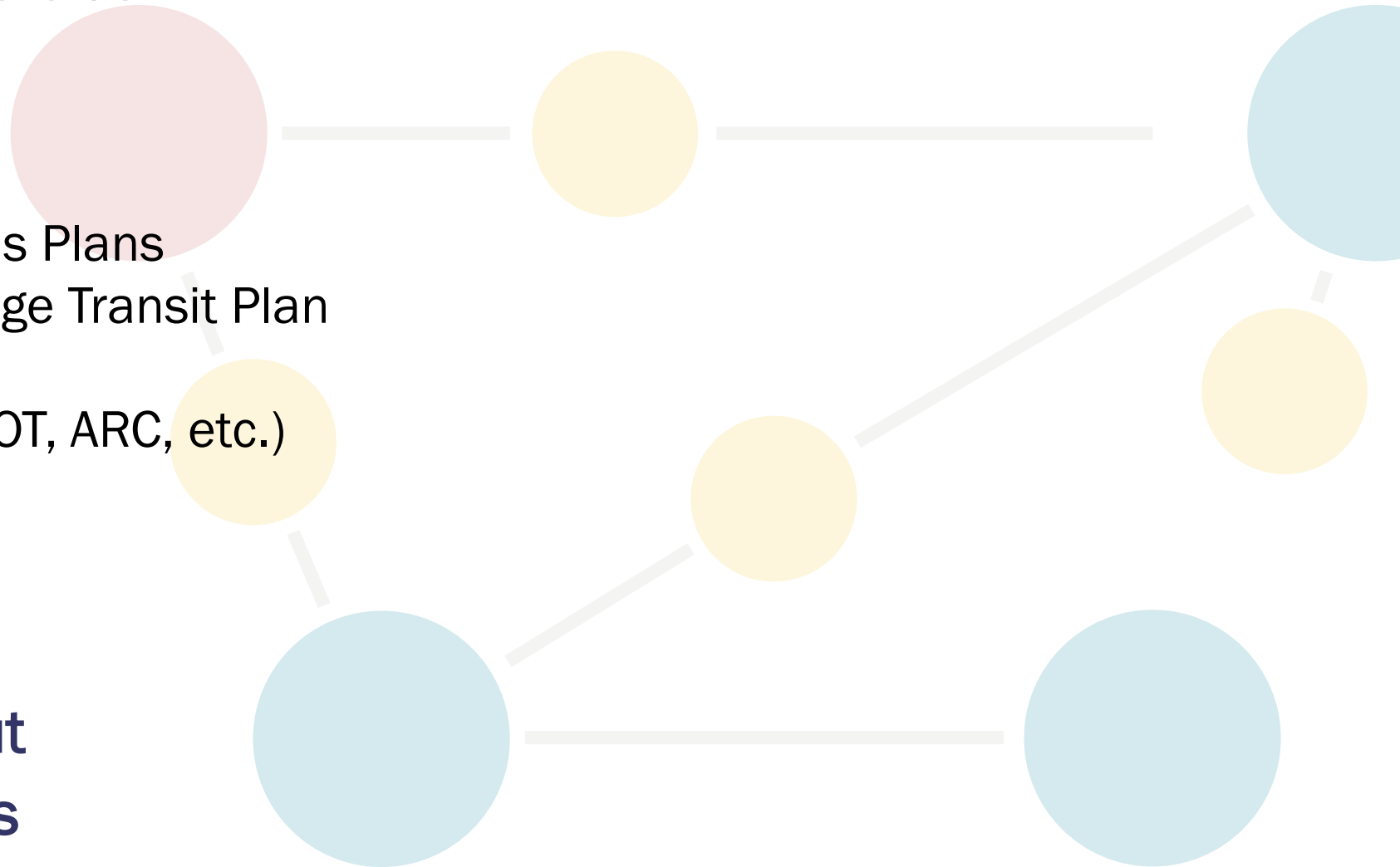   - Other agencies (GDOT, ARC, etc.)

- ## Ongoing Projects
    - Still need funding

- ## SPLOST 2022

- ## Cobb DOT Staff Input

- ## City and CID Projects

- ## New CTP Generated Projects Including Public Input

Universe of Projects

Surface Transportation

Transit

Other

Roadway
- Roadway Capacity
- Grade Separation
- Interchange Improvements
- Operational Improvements
- New Roadways/ Connections
- Realignments
- Intersections

Active Transportation
- Bicycle Facilities
- Pedestrian Facilities
- Trails

Transit
- Local
- High Capacity
- Stops
- Routes
- Maintenance Facilities
- Park & Rides
- Transfer Centers

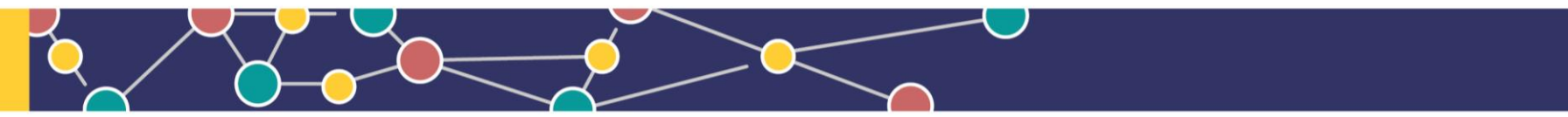## Alternate Evaluation/ Policy Decision
- Asset Management
- Bridges
- Drainage/ Maintenance
- Freight
- Parking
- Emerging Technologies
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Micromobility
- Policies
- Studies

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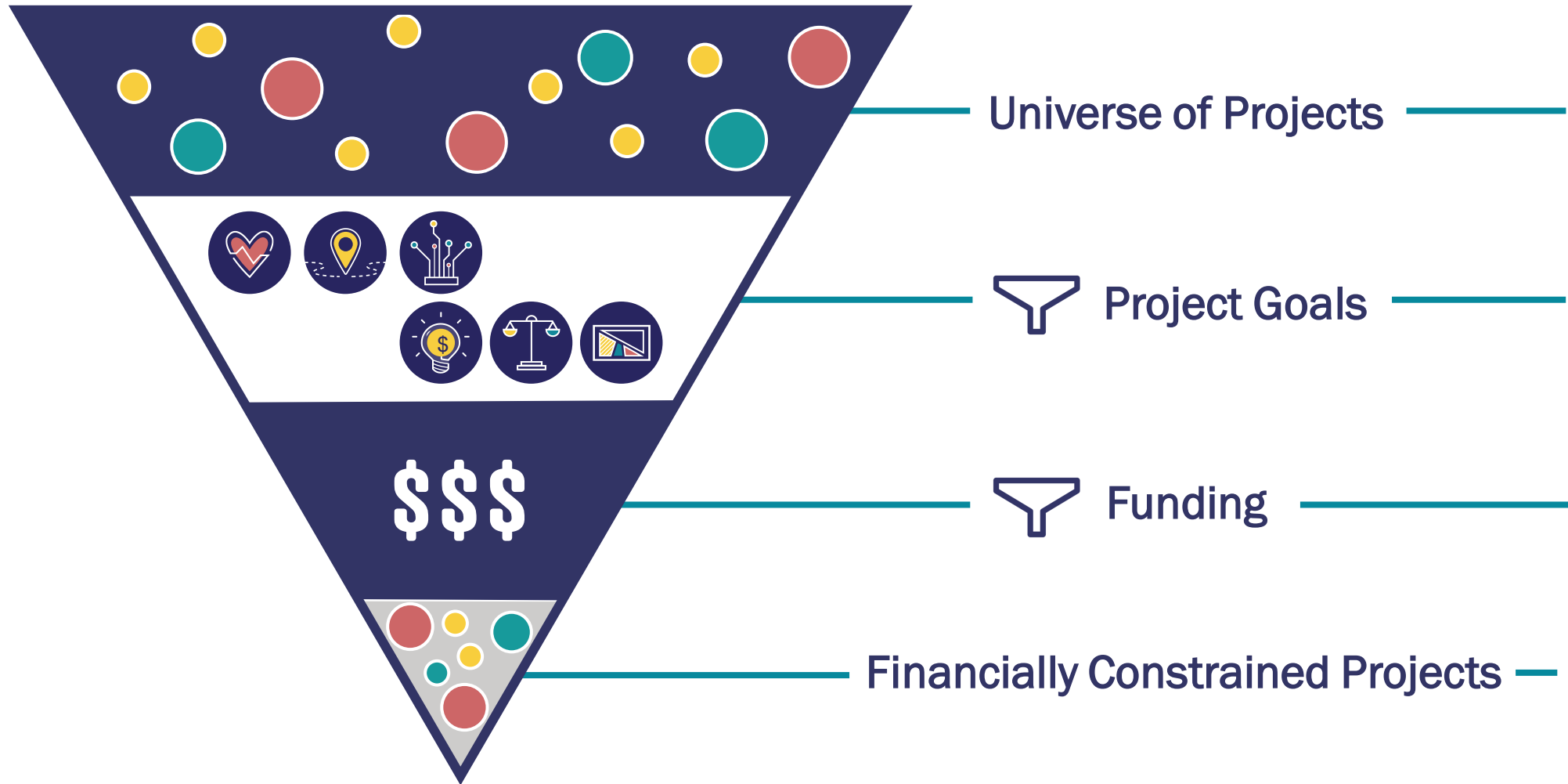
What is SPLOST?

- SPLOST = Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

- Current countywide SPLOST funds County services like:
  - Public services (libraries, parks, etc.)
  - Public safety (fire and police)
  - Transportation (resurfacing roads, safety and operational improvements, sidewalks, etc.)

- Cobb's current sales tax rate is 6%
  - Example: for a $1 drink, the total cost is $1.06

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Local Funding Opportunities Being Considered

Existing Funding Sources

Potential Funding Sources

Countywide SPLOST

General Fund

MOBILITY SPLOSTs

Surface Transportation (HB 170)

Transit (HB 930)

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Why We Are Here Today

- To give the community an update on the CTP

- To outline possible options for new local funding sources

- To suggest potential projects:
    - _Surface transportation_ including roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects
    - _Transit_ networks and supportive programs

- To request feedback from the public regarding:
    - High priority projects and corridors
    - Investment in different project types
    - Consideration of new local funding options

Projects for Consideration

- Considered possible local funding sources as way to constrain project selection

- Total projects shown are likely greater than realistic to assume

- A mix of projects across types is possible

- Need input from the public to guide future policy decisions
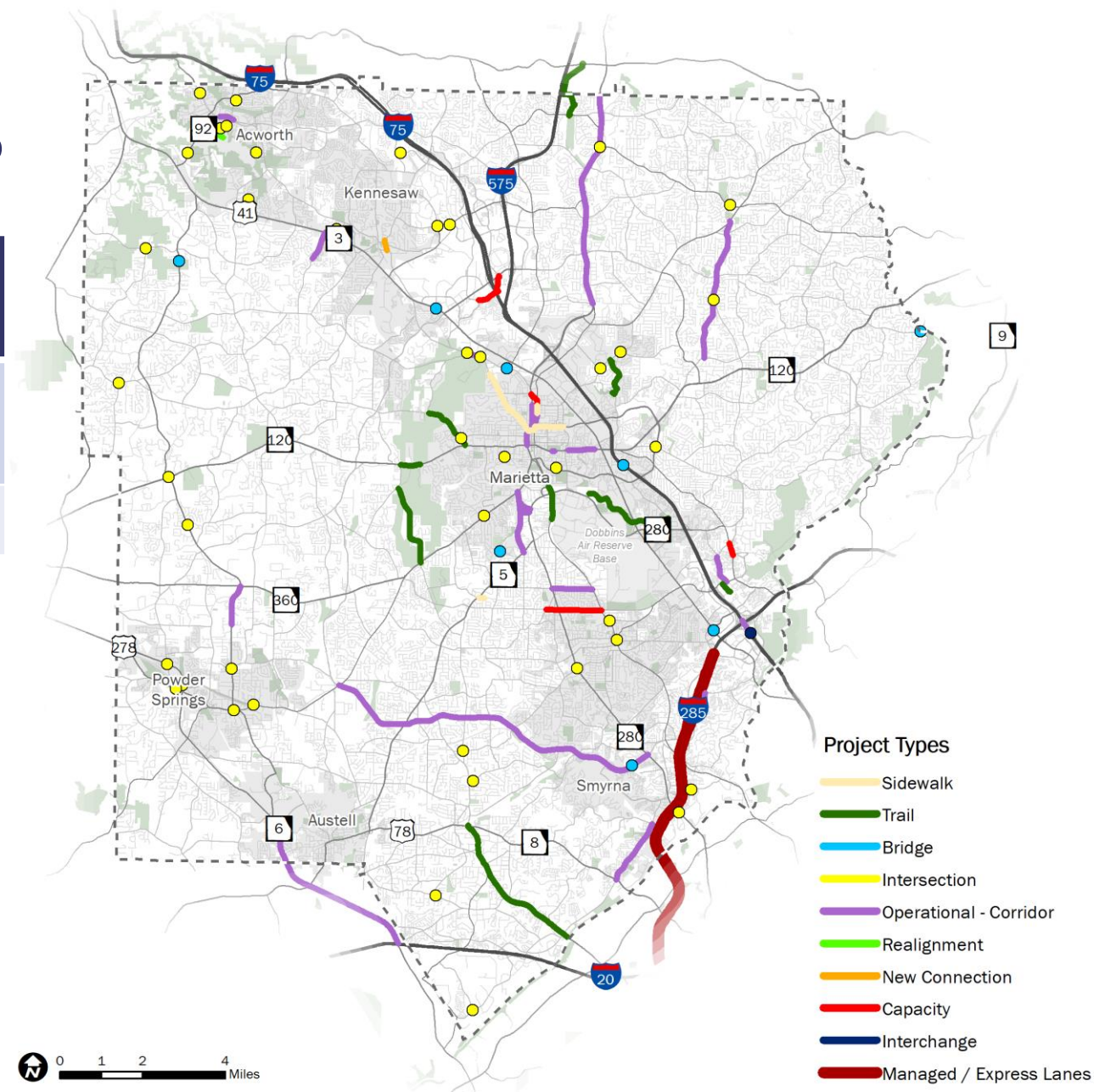
Surface Transportation Projects

Transit Projects

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Programmed Projects

Project Type	Number of Projects
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	18
SPLOST	74

Project Types
- Sidewalk
- Trail
- Bridge
- Intersection
- Operational - Corridor
- Realignment
- New Connection
- Capacity
- Interchange
- Managed / Express Lanes

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Proposed Projects

Project Category*	Number of Projects	Percent based on Total Cost
Active Transportation	184	21.6%
Roadway	273	78.4%

*The information provided on this page is based on an initial draft list of projects and evaluation.

Project Types
— Active Transportation
— Roadway

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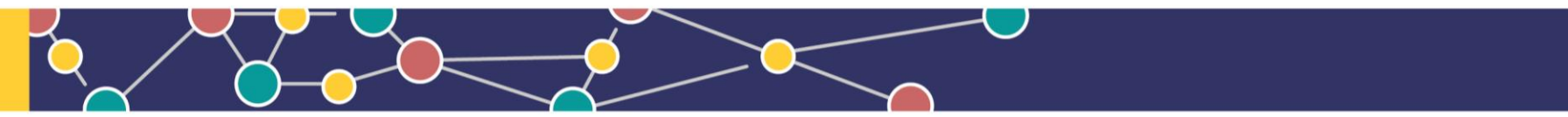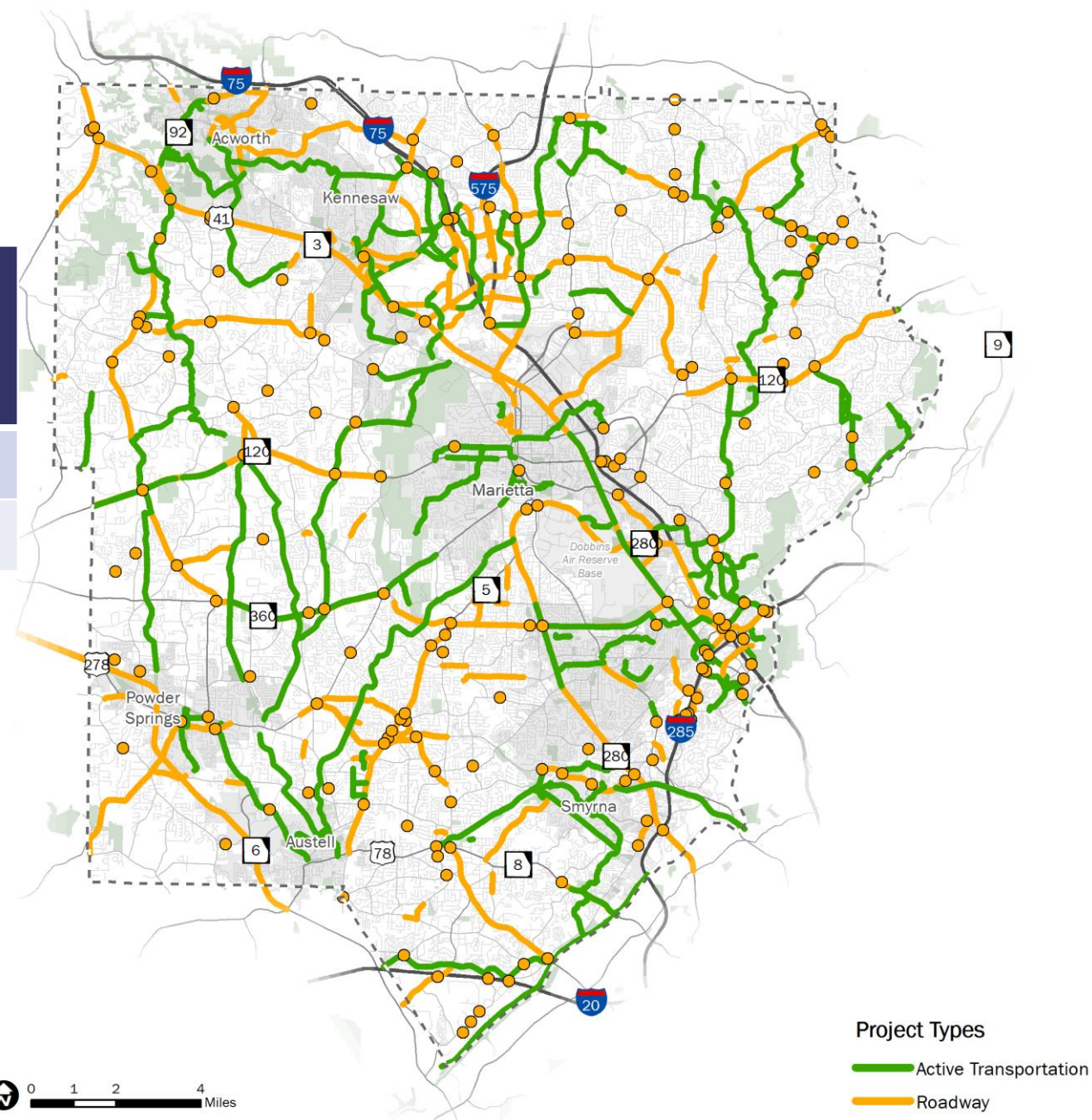
Active Transportation

Project Type*	Number of Projects
Trails	187
Bicycle	6

*Note: sidewalk projects are not shown as they follow a separate prioritization process.

Total County Cost of Bicycle and Trail Projects
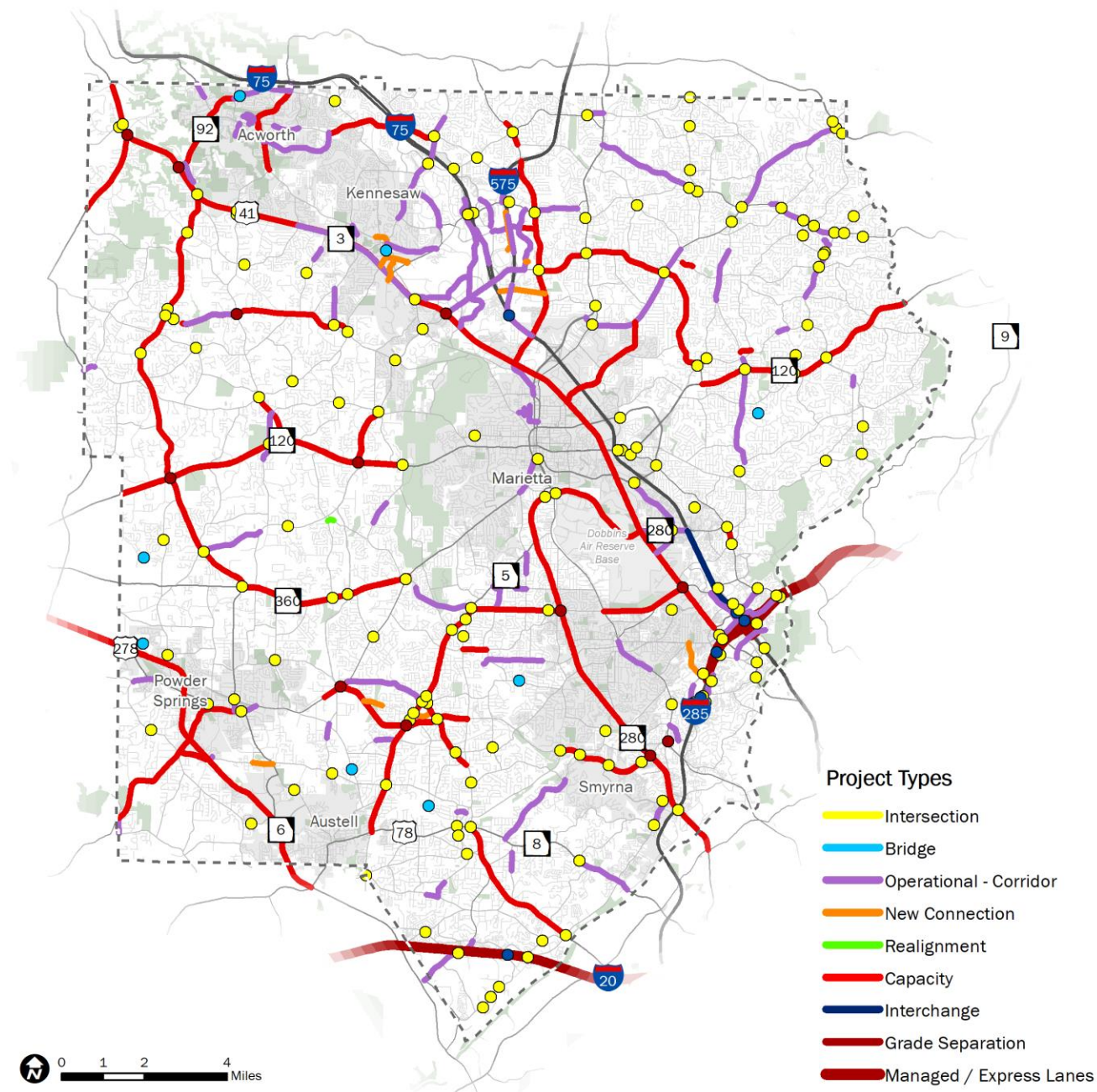$342.8 M
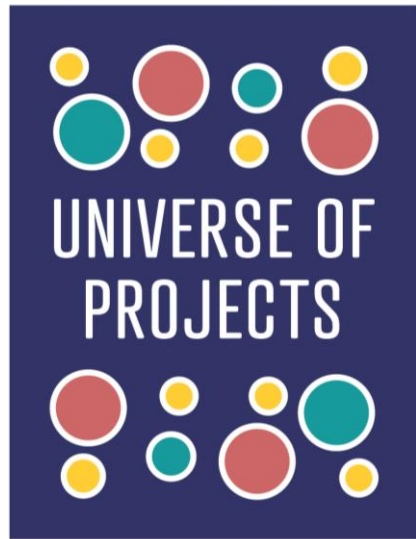Total County Cost of Sidewalk Allocation
$179.9 M

Project Types
— Bicycle
— Trail

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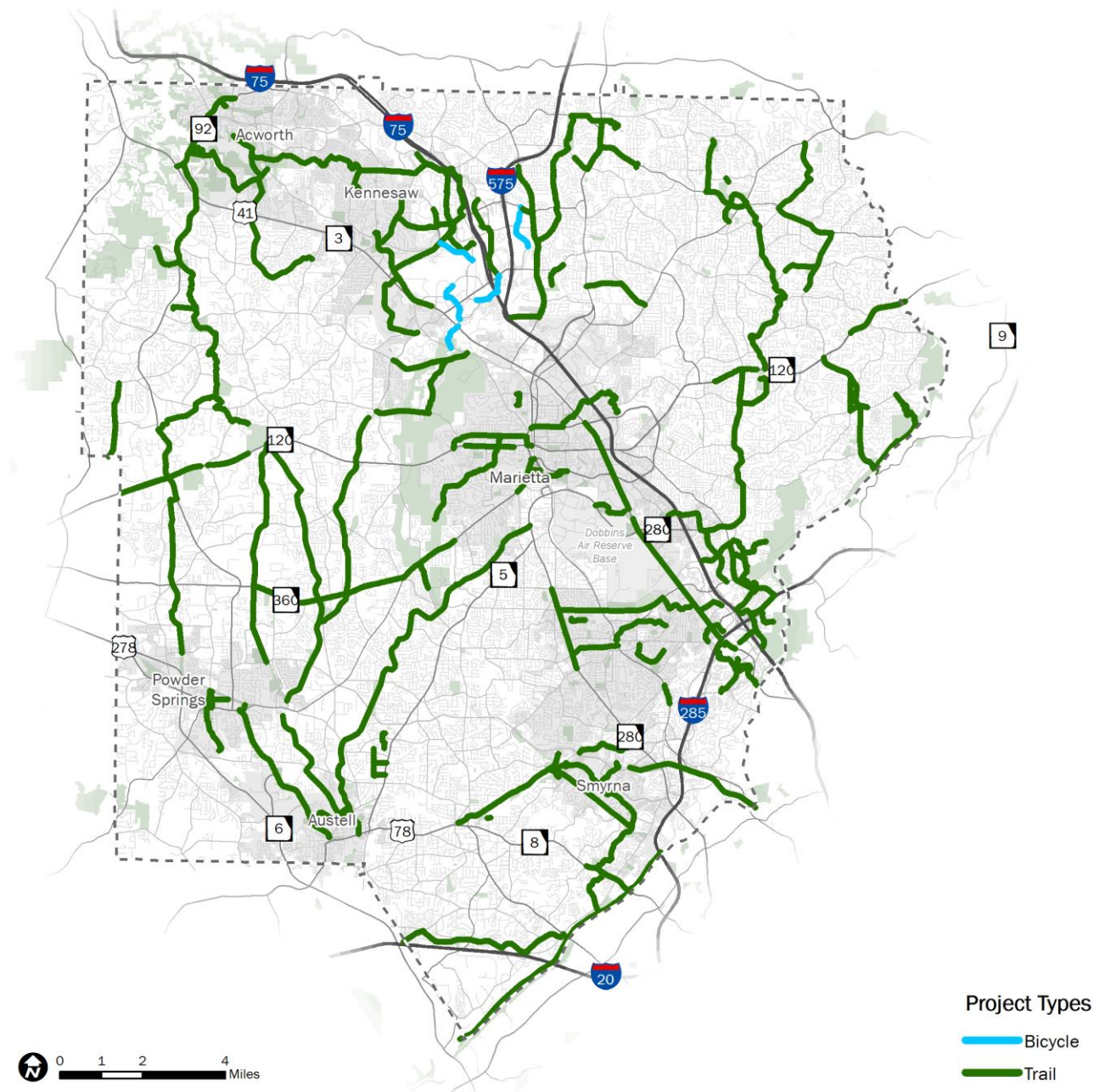
Roadway

Project Type*	Number of Projects
Roadway capacity	47
Grade separation	12
Interchange improvements	7
Operational improvements	97
New Roadway/connections	10
Realignments	2
Intersections	172

*Several roadway project types are not shown as they follow a separate prioritization process (Slide 14)

Total County Cost of Roadway Projects
$1,242.8 M

Project Types
- Intersection
- Bridge
- Operational - Corridor
- New Connection
- Realignment
- Capacity
- Interchange
- Grade Separation
- Managed / Express Lanes

Project Evaluation

UNIVERSE OF PROJECTS

Some examples...

Improve Health & Safety

- The project includes a location or locations that have been identified as having safety concerns
- The project offers access to community resources that include but are not limited to schools, parks, trails, etc.

Enhance Mobility

- The project offers travel time improvements
- The project creates new direct connections

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Potential Surface Transportation Investments

36% Projects within 0.25 mi of activity centers

35% Projects in areas with high no. (>10%) of households in poverty[2]

42% Projects in areas with high (>50%) minority population[2]

270,322 People within 0.25 mi of bike/ped projects[1]

213,960 Jobs within 0.25 mi of bike/ped projects[1]

240 Miles of bike/ped projects

221 Miles of roadway improvement projects

172 Number of intersections improved

1 – ARC 2020 RTP travel demand model projections for 2020
2 – American Community Survey (ACS) data for 2018

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Transit

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Example Types of Transit

Heavy Rail Transit (HRT)
- Regional and county destinations
- Stations spaced ½ mile to 3 miles apart
- 3rd rail power system requires dedicated guideway
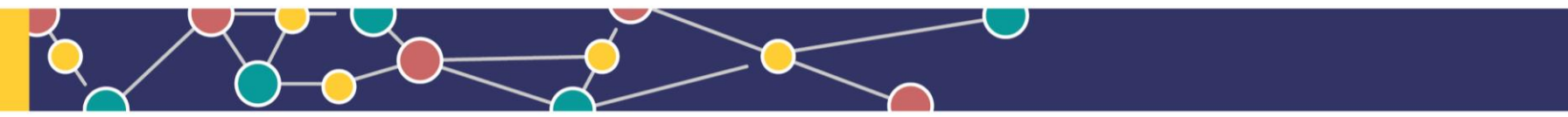- Integrates into existing rail system

Light Rail Transit (LRT)
- Regional and county destinations
- Stations spaced ½ mile to 1 mile apart
- Overhead power allows for flexibility in design and alignment
- Limited ability to integrate into existing rail system

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- Rubber tired vehicles in primarily dedicated ROW
- Priority treatments to increase speed and reliability
- Enhanced stations with distinctive branding and off-board fare collection

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Example Types of Transit

Arterial Rapid Transit (ART)
- Rubber tired vehicles
- Runs some dedicated lanes
- Mostly queue jumper lanes and transit signal priority
- Station spacing ¼ to 1/3 mile

Local Bus
- Electric, hybrid, natural gas, or diesel vehicles
- Mixed flow traffic, shared-right-of-way
- Limited amenities at stops
- Stations spaced 1-2 blocks to ¼ mile

Microtransit
- Demand responsive bus or shuttle
- Mixed flow traffic, shared-right-of-way
- Operates in a defined geographic area without fixed routes
- Combination of door-to-door service and/or designated stops

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Types of Transit – Commuter

Commuter Rail (CR) – limited
- Regional job centers
- Stations spaced 3 to 10 miles apart
- Regional buy-in is critical

Commuter Bus
- Rubber tired coach vehicles
- Serves long-distance, commute flow
- Mostly mixed flow, benefit from managed lanes
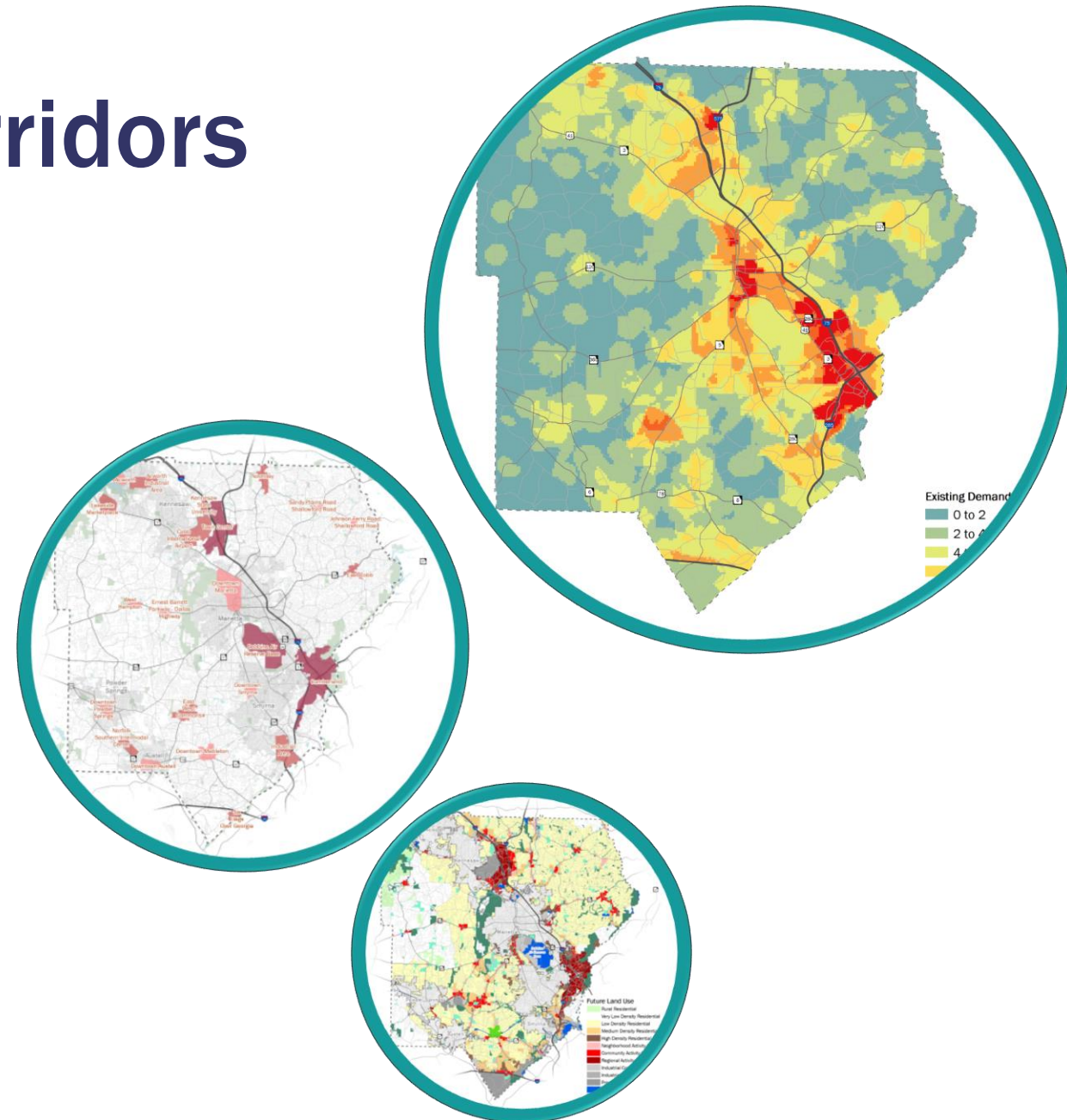- Limited stops, primarily route termini

Vanpool
- Uses vans for targeted small groups
- Serves commuters who have similar home and work locations
- Limited stops focused on route termini

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Identifying Transit Corridors

- Key Characteristics
  - Existing and future travel patterns
  - Existing transit service
  - Activity nodes
  - Community facilities
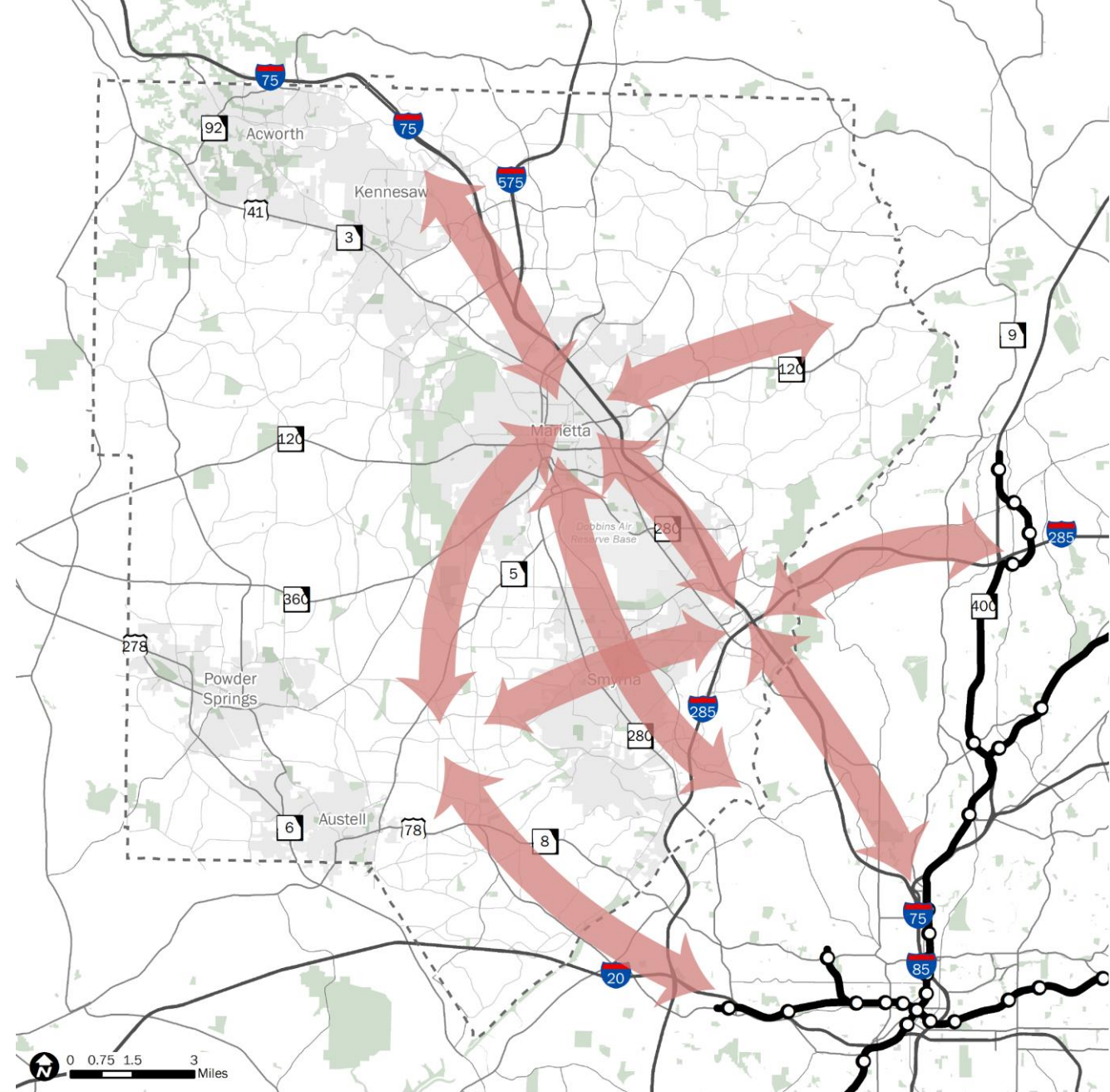 - Existing and future land use
  - Transit propensity

Identifying Transit Corridors

Characteristics	Vision and Goals					
	Improve Health & Safety	Enhance Mobility	Support Equitable Access	Use Innovative Tech	Be Cost Effective	Integrate Land Use/Design
Travel Patterns		●		●	●	
Existing Transit Service		●	●		●	
Activity Nodes	●	●	●			●
Transit Propensity	●	●	●		●	●
Community Facilities	●	●	●			●
Existing and Future Land Use	●	●			●	●

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Nine Priority Corridors

- **Backbone** of larger transit network

- **Scalable** investment

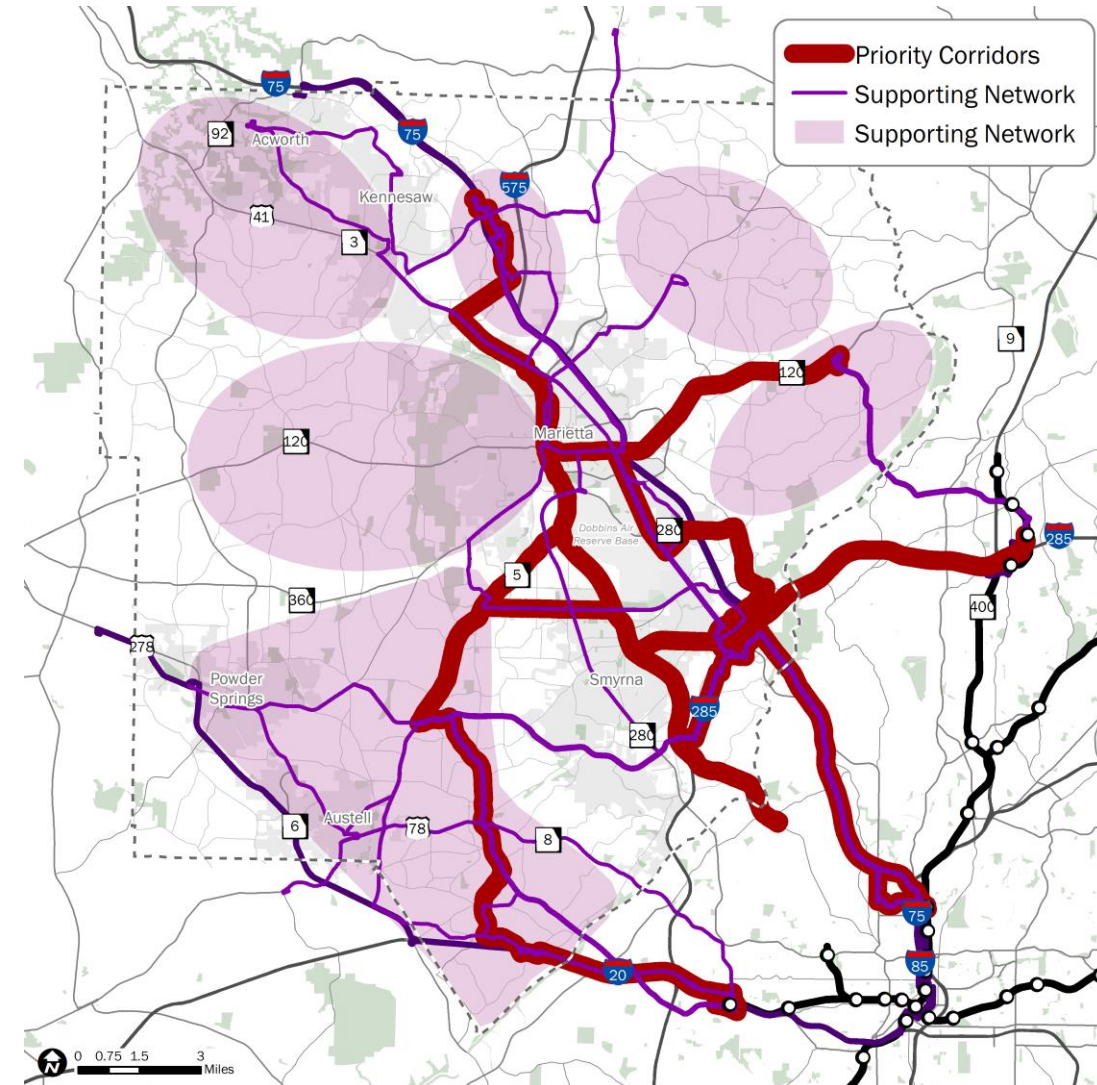# Potential Transit Network Investments*

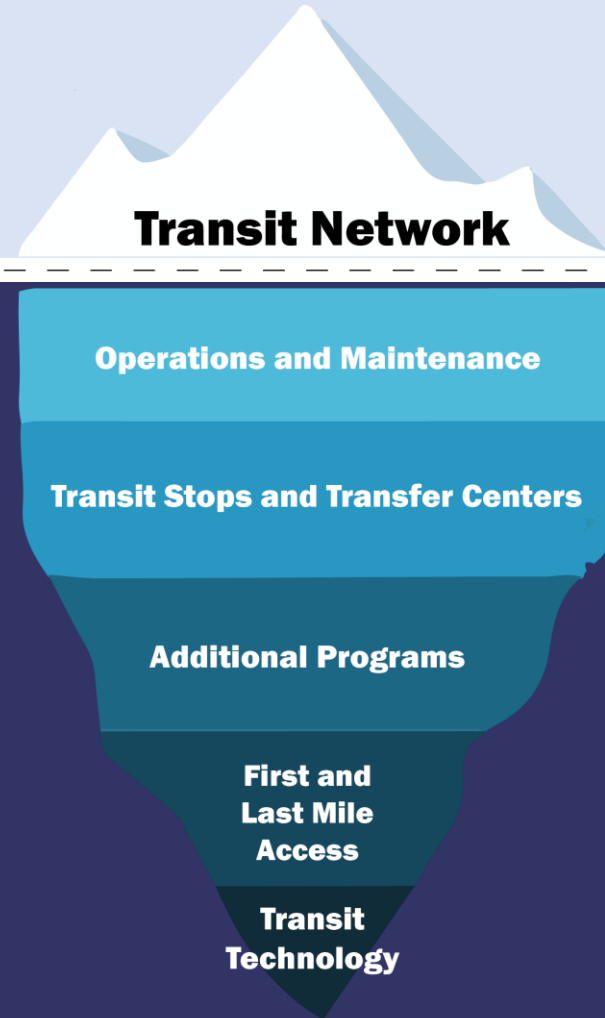## Priority Corridors
- High-Capacity Transit Service

Supporting Transit Network
- Traditional Fixed-Route Transit Service
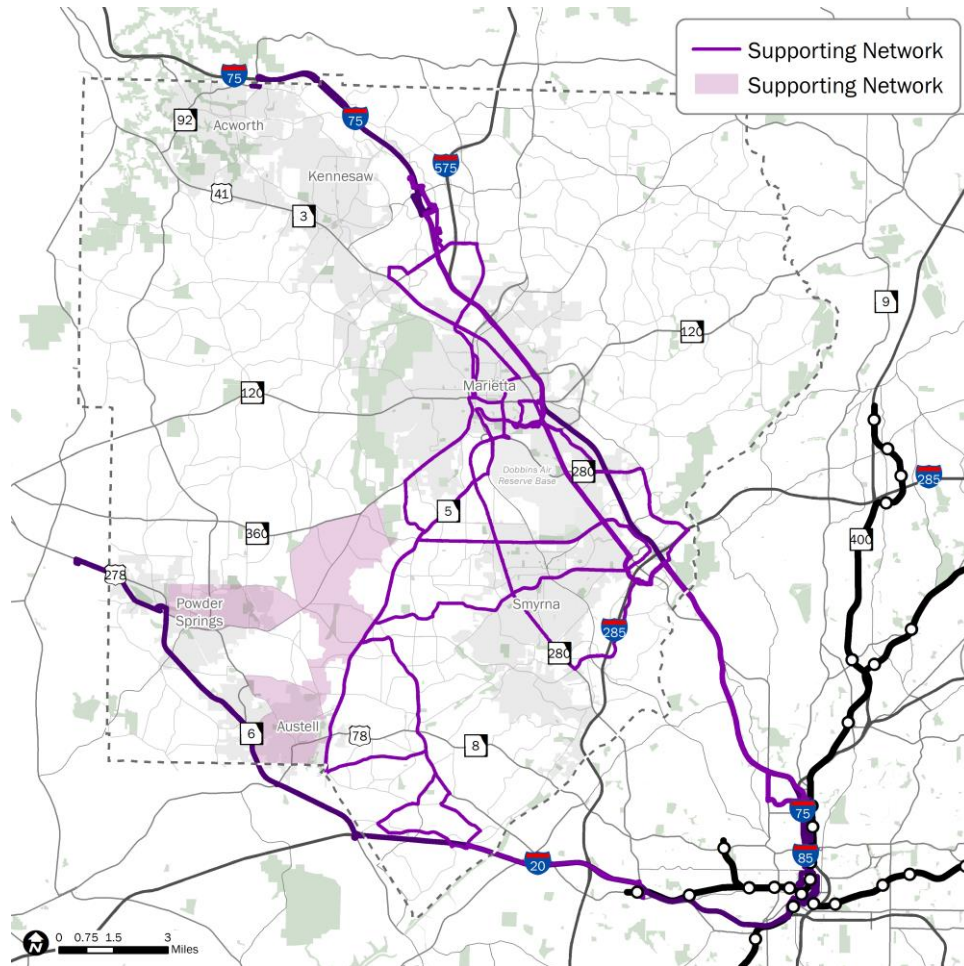- Commuter Service
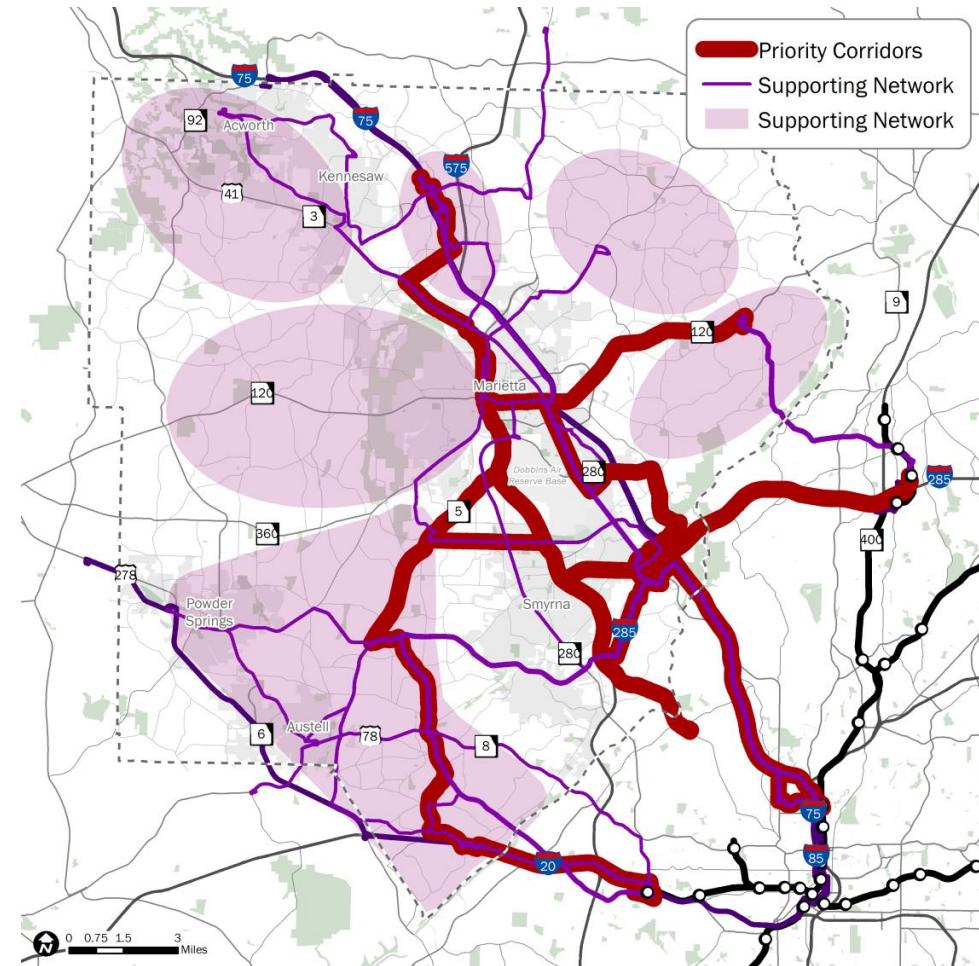- On-Demand/Coverage Service

Assumes 1 penny for 30 years

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Potential Transit Network Investments

Transit Network

Operations and Maintenance

Transit Stops and Transfer Centers

Additional Programs

First and Last Mile Access

Transit Technology

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Potential Transit Network Investments

Existing Network

Potential Network

Potential Transit Network Investments

340% Increase in transit service hours from today

**100** Miles of Priority Corridors

75% Jobs in Cobb County within walking distance of transit service*

70% Residents in Cobb County within walking distance of transit service*

Within 1/4 of a mile of transit service for 2050 ARC Population/Employment Projections

Legend:
- Priority Corridors
- Supporting Network
- Supporting Network

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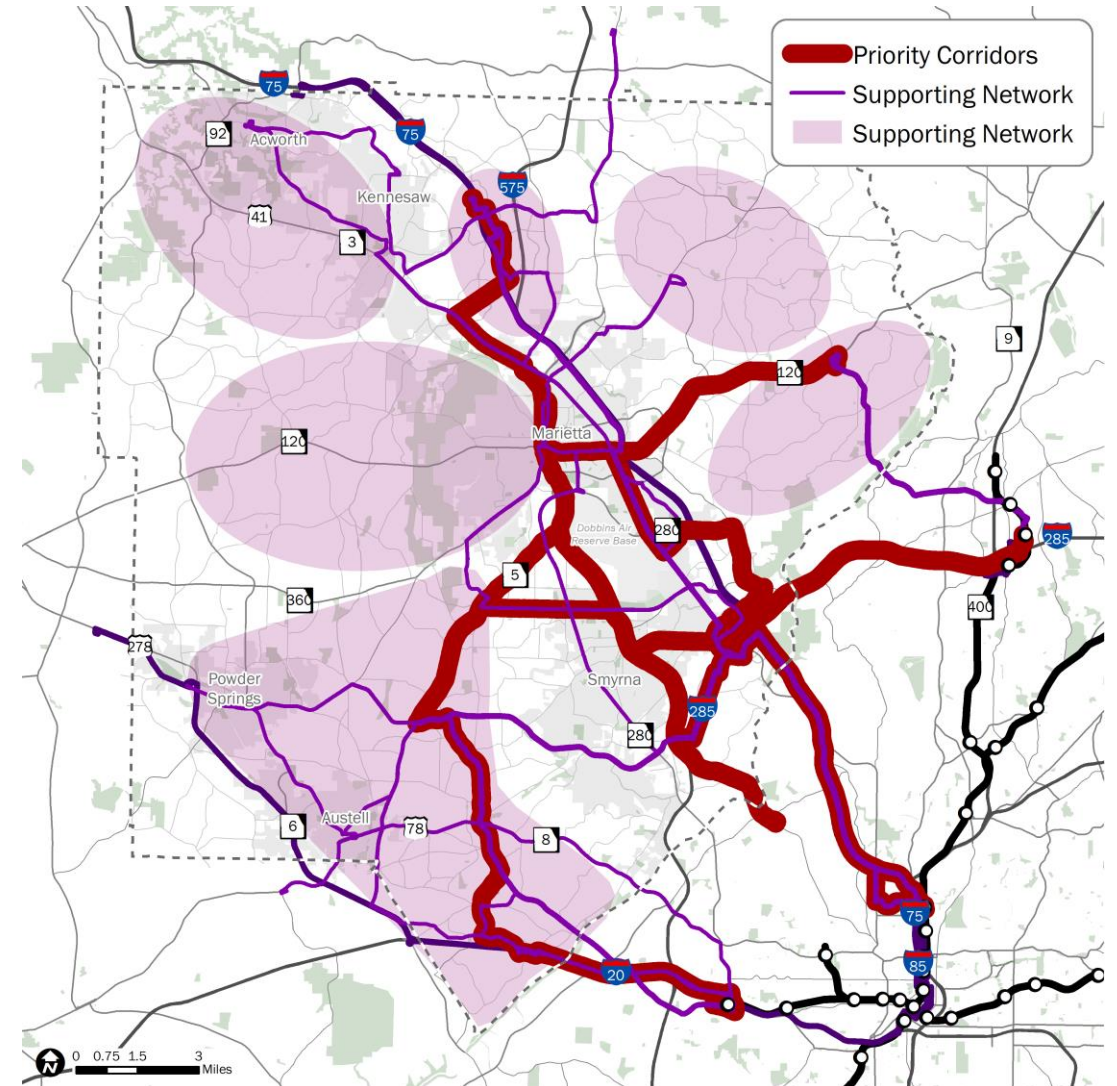
Potential Transit Network Investments

Population/Employment Group	Walking Access to Transit[1]	
	Potential Transit Network	Existing Transit Network
2050 Population	696,000 (68%)	246,000 (46%)
2050 Employment	392,000 (75%)	224,000 (43%)
Poverty Population	59,000 (78%)	32,000 (41%)
Zero Vehicle Households	8,000 (80%)	4,600 (46%)
Age 65+ Population	54,000 (71%)	14,200 (18%)
Minority Population	245,000 (74%)	113,000 (33%)

[1] Cobb County population/households within ¼ mile of transit routes or within on-demand zones

Source: American Community Survey, 2017; Atlanta Regional Commission

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What about Rail?

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Reminder: Example Types of Rail Transit

Commuter Rail (CR) – limited
- Regional job centers
- Stations spaced 3 to 10 miles apart
- Regional buy-in is critical

Light Rail (LRT)
- Regional and county destinations
- Stations spaced ½ mile to 1 mile apart
- Overhead power allows for flexibility in design and alignment
- Limited ability to integrate into existing rail system

Heavy Rail (HRT)
- Regional and county destinations
- Stations spaced ½ mile to 3 miles apart
- 3rd rail power system requires dedicated guideway
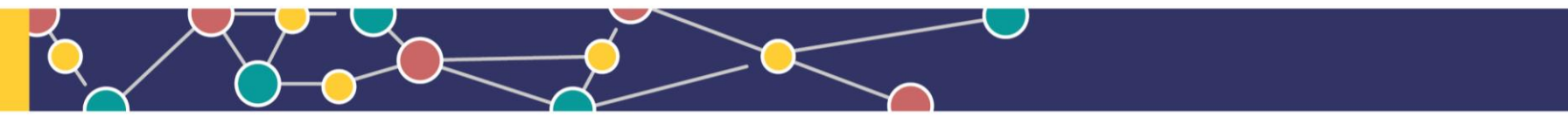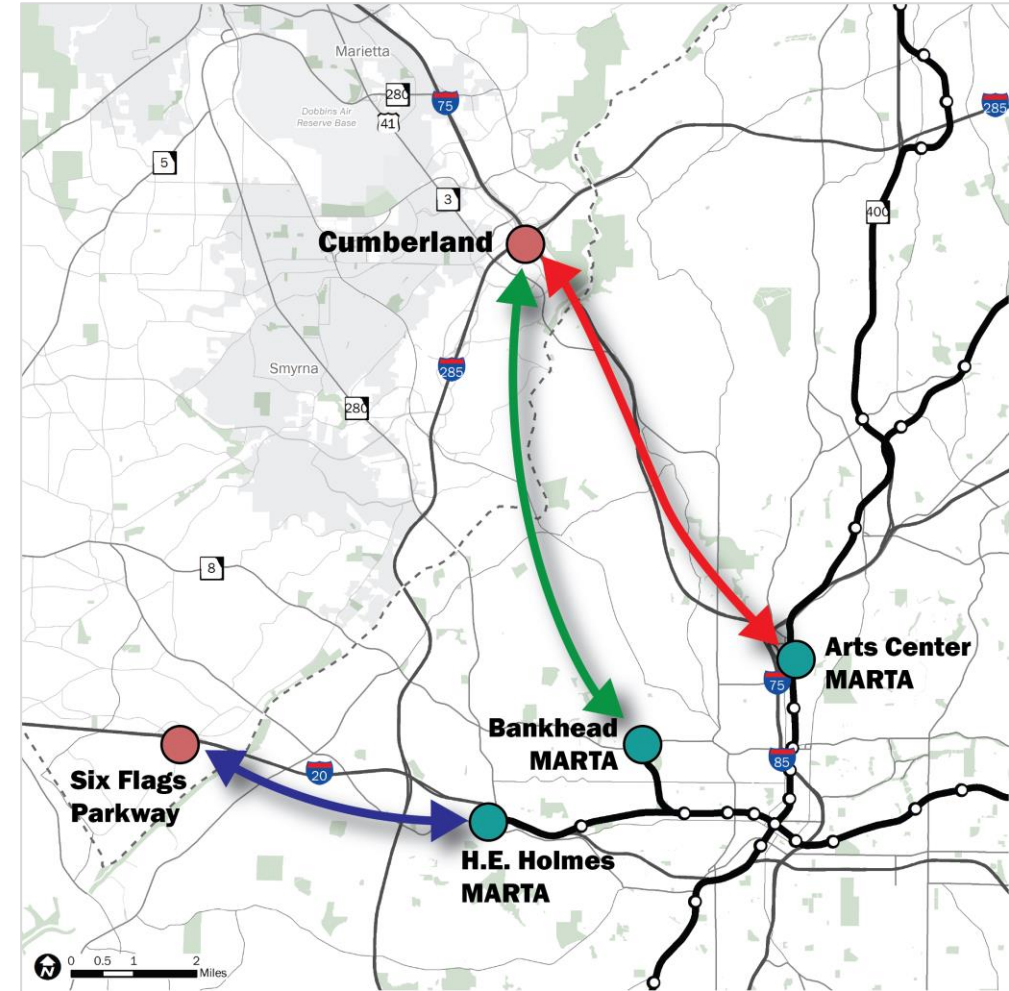- Integrates into existing rail system

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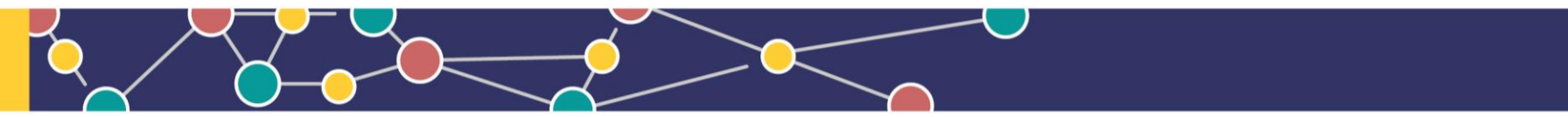
Connection Options

Red – Arts Center/Cumberland

Green – Bankhead/Cumberland

Blue – H.E. Holmes/Six Flags

Regional Context

Miles in Cobb vs. Fulton

Connection	% in Cobb	% in Fulton
Red	20%	80%
Green	50%	50%
Blue	15%	85%
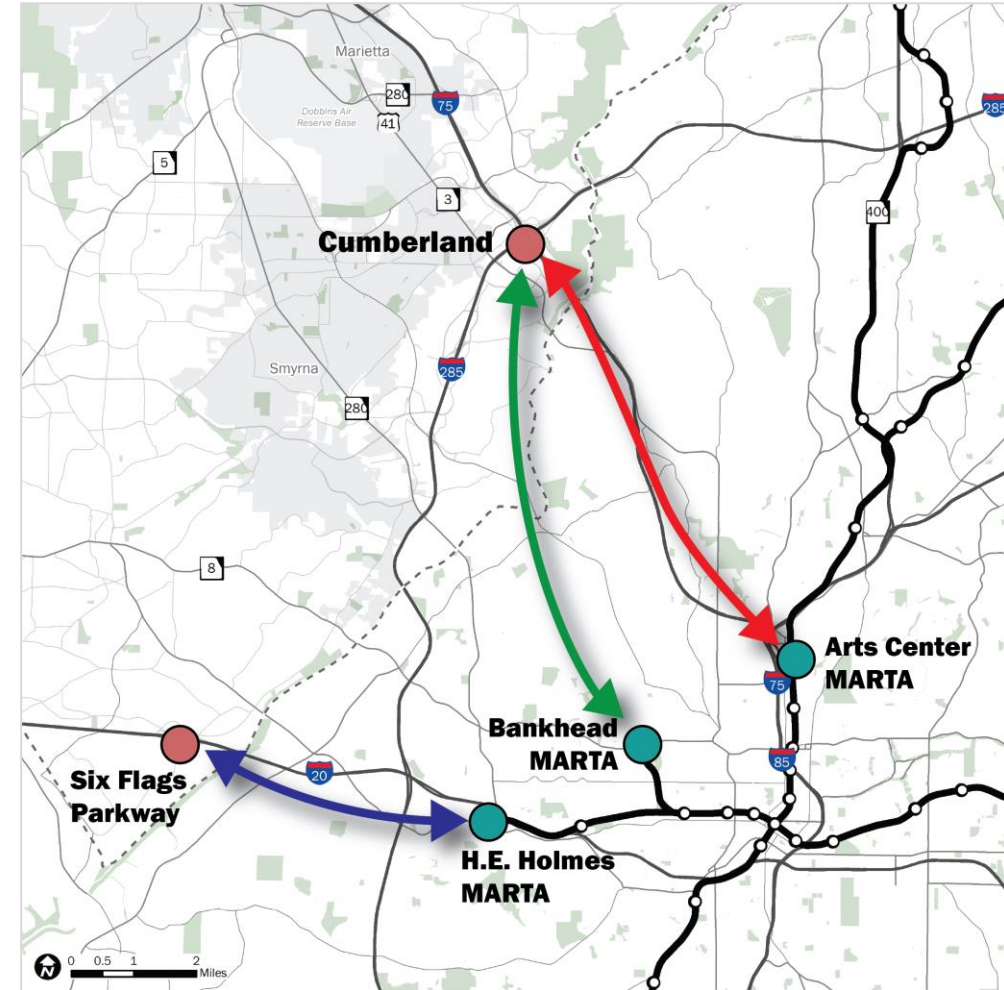
Heavy Rail Rough Cost

Miles in Cobb vs. Fulton

Connection	% in Cobb	% in Fulton
Red	20%	80%
Green	50%	50%
Blue	15%	85%

Rough Heavy Rail Costs*

| Connection	Approximate Cost (2020$)
Red	~$2.9B
Green	~$3.0B
Blue	~$1.8B
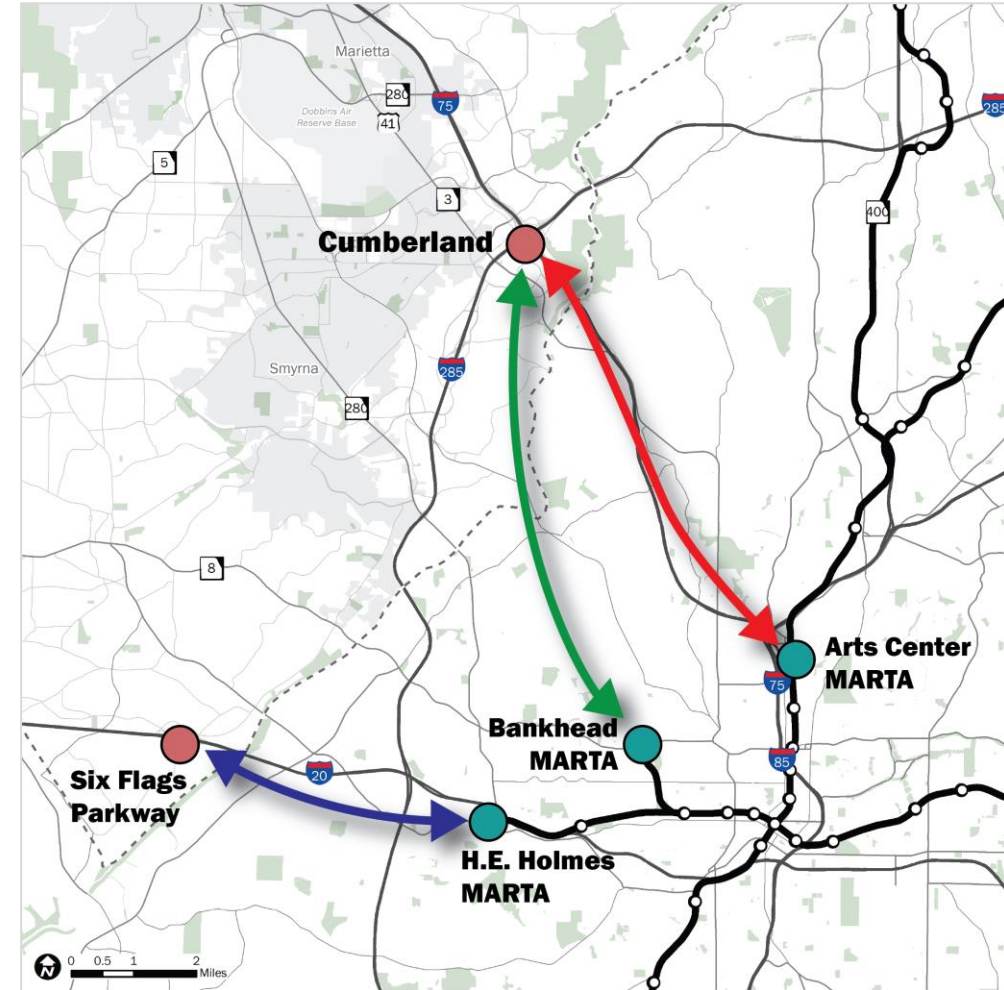
*Costs include capital construction, vehicle purchase, maintenance facility construction/upgrade, and 20 years of O&M cost
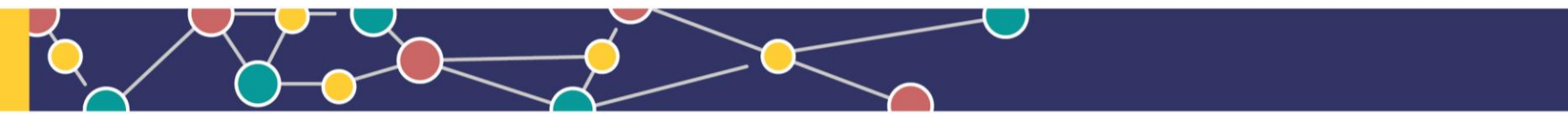
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Paying for Heavy Rail

Connection	Full Local Cost (Share of 1-penny Cobb Sales Tax[1])	% in Cobb (miles)
Red	0.60-Cent (60%)	20%
Green	0.65-Cent (65%)	50%
Blue	0.40-Cent (40%)	15%

[1]*Assumes competitive federal capital assistance of 30%*
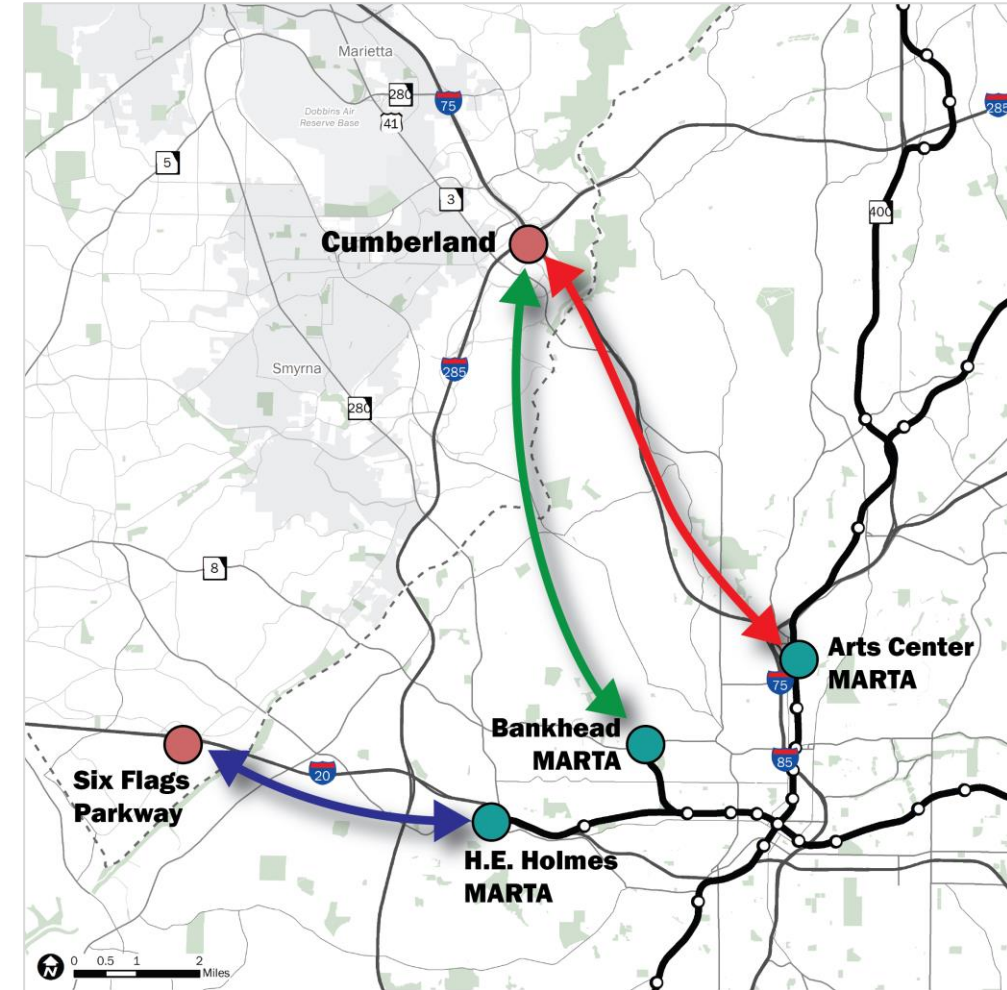
Key Takeaways

- CTP will finish in fall 2021, resulting in:
  - Projects
  - Policies
- CTP can help Cobb to prepare for future funding opportunities like the Mobility SPLOST
- Feedback is needed from the public regarding:
  - High priority projects and corridors
  - Investment in different project types
  - Consideration of new local funding options

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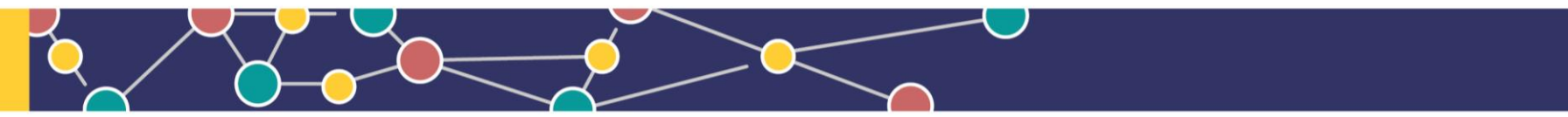Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Next Steps

- Summer 2021
  - Completion of public engagement efforts
  - Revisions to project recommendations for surface transportation and transit
  - Development of policy recommendations

- Fall 2021
  - Coordination with review committees and elected leadership
  - Reports and documentation
  - Plan adoption

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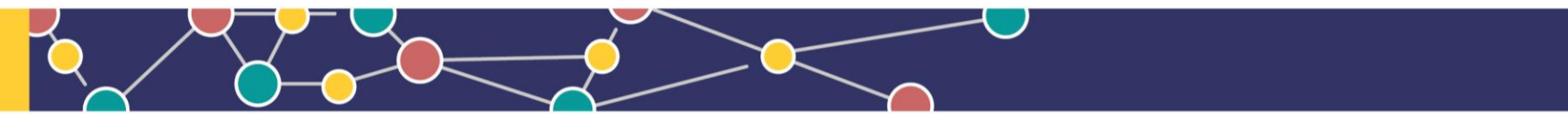
Stay Engaged!

- Website: www.CobbForward.org

- Social media: #CobbForward

- Email address: CobbForward@CobbCounty.org

- Online survey: Live on the website!

- Virtual public meetings:
  - Tuesday May 11th, 5:00 – 6:30 PM
  - Saturday May 15th, 9:30 – 11:00 AM
  - Wednesday May 19th, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

- Other in-person opportunities: Commissioner townhall meetings

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