



BETHEL HOMES

NORTH DOWNTOWN ATHENS

PLANNING STUDY

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

**THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2020**

4:30 – 5:30 PM EST

**SESSION #1:
COMPLETE STREETS
& COLLEGE AVENUE**

INTRODUCTIONS

Presenters

- Brian Keith - JHP
- Buck Bacon - W&A Engineering

Moderator

- Christina Davis - Columbia Residential

Special Guests

- Steve Decker - ACC Public Works
- Stephen Bailey - ACC Public Works
- Tim Griffeth - ACC Public Works
- Carol Myers - Incoming ACC Commission District 8



WELCOME!



SIGN-IN THROUGH
THE CHAT WITH
YOUR NAME AND
EMAIL



SESSION IS
BEING RECORDED,
AND WILL BE
AVAILABLE LATER
ON THE WEBSITE



FOR QUESTIONS,
"RAISE YOUR
HAND" OR LEAVE A
COMMENT

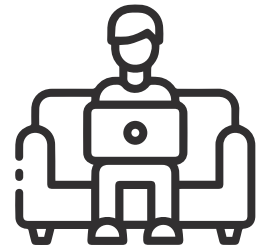


SESSIONS ARE
45 - 60 MINUTES

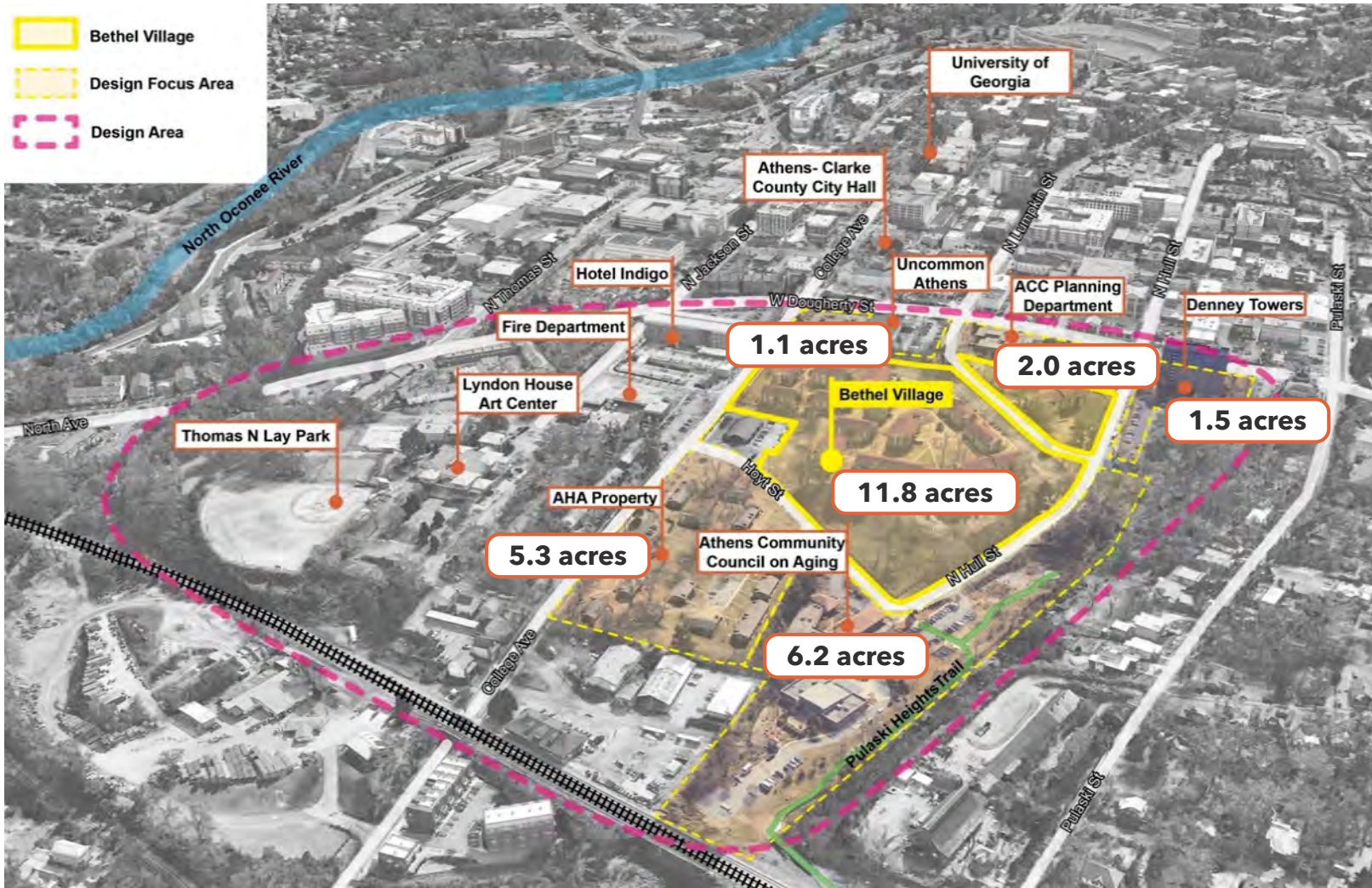


WHAT-IF'S

- Please Note: these are Conceptual Studies at this point to think and rethink about **"possibilities"** and explore various ideas
- Nothing is set or decided – we are **"listening"** to all comments and thoughts
- These sessions and ideas represent some of the main themes which have arisen so far in our Planning Workshops and Interviews



REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLANNING



- Will include mixture of housing types, land uses, and density
- Mixed-use/mixed-income
- Funded from 2020 SPLOST funding through ACCUG
- Will be done in phases
- Master Plan is the first step
- The Master Plan will go before ACCUG for formal adoption when complete

Master Planning Area



PLANNING STUDY TIMELINE



@NDAthensPlanning



@ndathens_planning



info@ndathensplanning.com

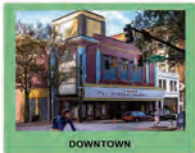
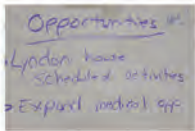
FEBRUARY 2020 WORKSHOP SESSIONS



- Several workshop sessions in early February 2020
- Bethel Village resident focused, and overall Athens community focused
- All Prior Studies and Work is on the website



FEBRUARY 2020 WORKSHOP SESSIONS



Feb. 18th, 2020
(Resident Focused Meeting)

Feb. 19th, 2020
(General Public Meeting)



- **Healthy Community:**
 - a) Friendly multi generational neighborhood with more diversity / senior friendly / Mixed-use neighborhood / affordable.
 - b) Healthcare center.
 - c) Respect site history/restore the urban grid.
 - d) Community center (computer room,gym, basketball, commercial kitchen...).
 - e) Public open space / kids playground / trail connection / outdoor landscape / Green-way connection.
 - f) Connectivity to art walk along Jackson Street.
 - g) Some demands for Live/Work or small business space.
 - h) Make the fire department multi-function.
 - i) Convenient bus and school bus stops.
- **Public Safety:**
 - a) Needs a gated community/outside people bring problems.
 - b) Guaranteed ownership after return.



Listening - Learning - Designing



Prior Workshops/Interviews

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SHIFT



- COVID-19 shift
- Online Resident and Community surveys
- Website as Planning “Hub” for workshops and Urban Planning Efforts
- All Sessions, Work, and Presentations will be posted on the Website



@NDAthensPlanning



@ndathens_planning

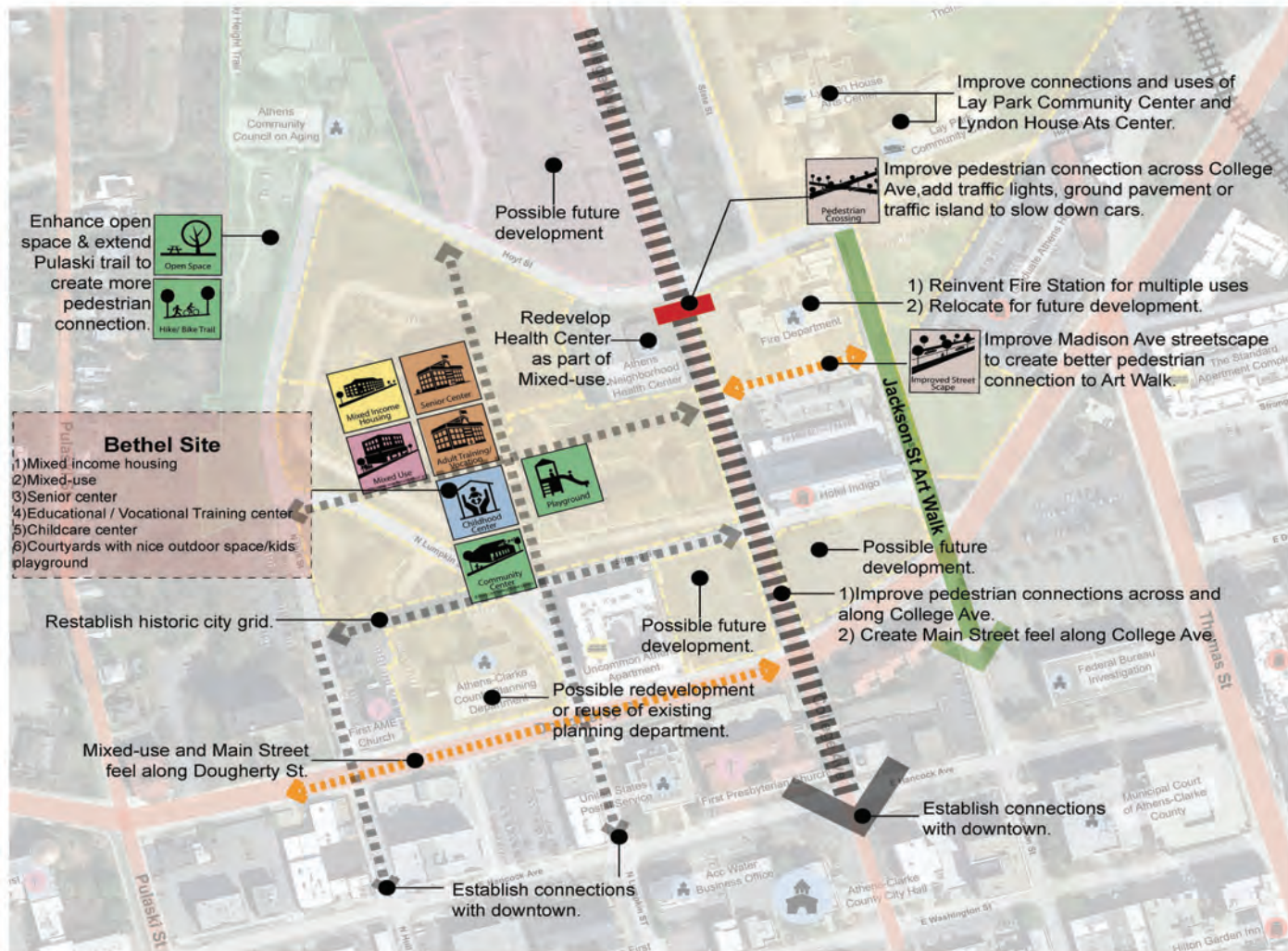


info@ndathensplanning.com



#NDAthens

URBAN PLANNING FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

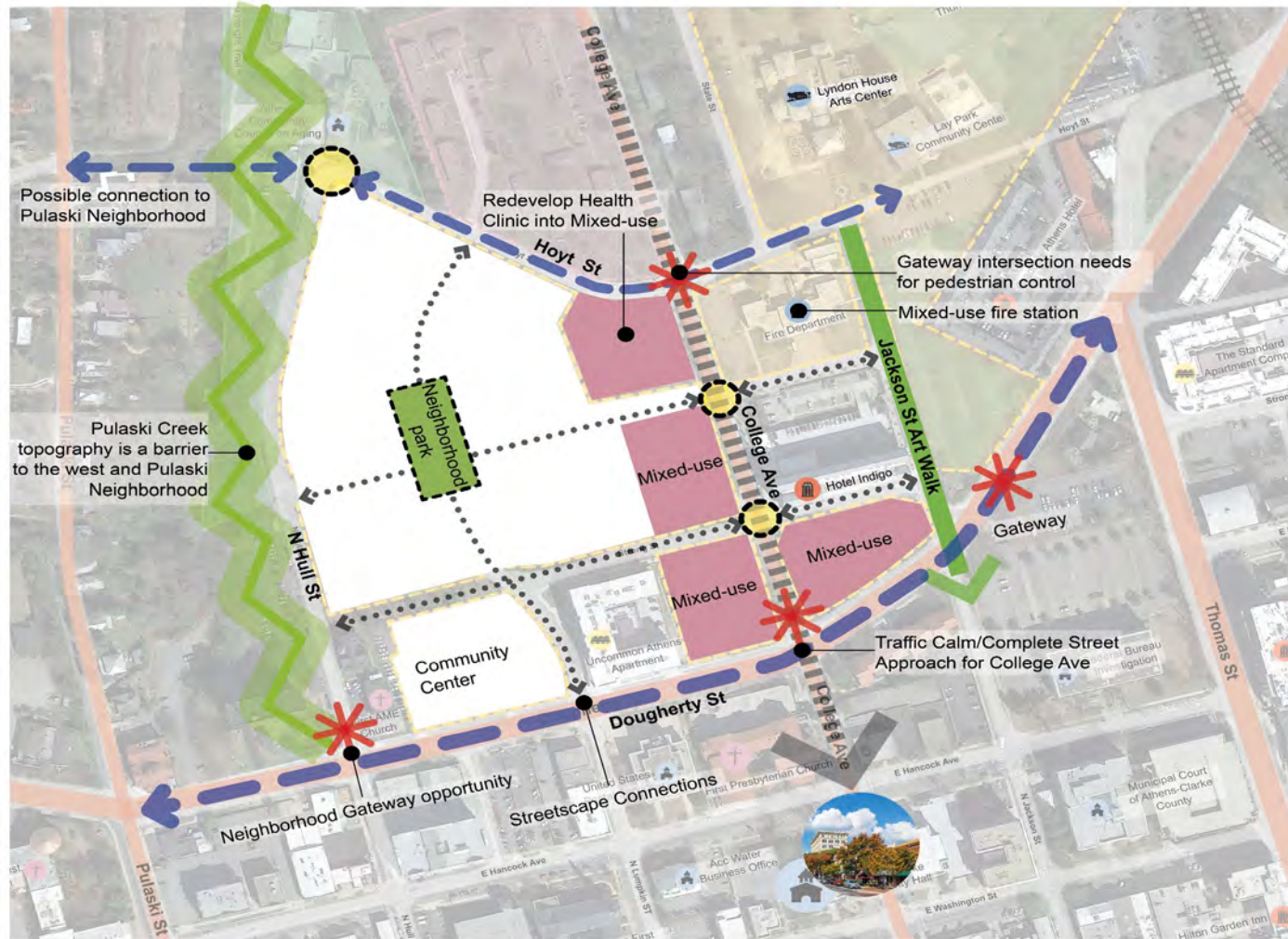


- Issues & ideas “What-Ifs” that came through in our interviews and work sessions
 - College Ave. as a complete street - safe crossing
 - Bike/pedestrian walkability
 - Main Street - mixed-use
 - What is the “Front Door/Entry” of Bethel Village
 - Variety of open space
 - Arts and cultural history incorporated into community “Places”
 - Neighborhood sustainability
 - Community civic uses and resources
 - Connections and linkages
 - Repurposing and Reuse

Planning & Urban Design Analysis

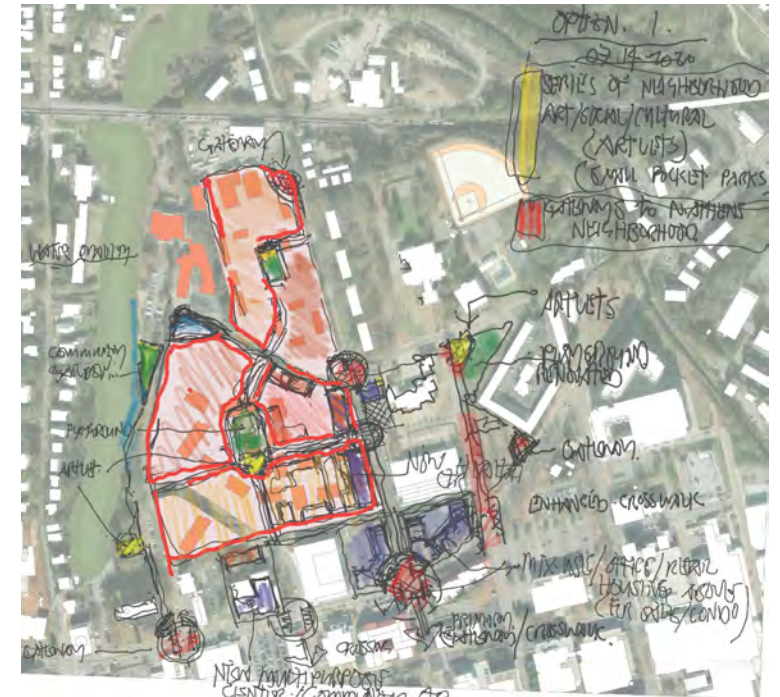
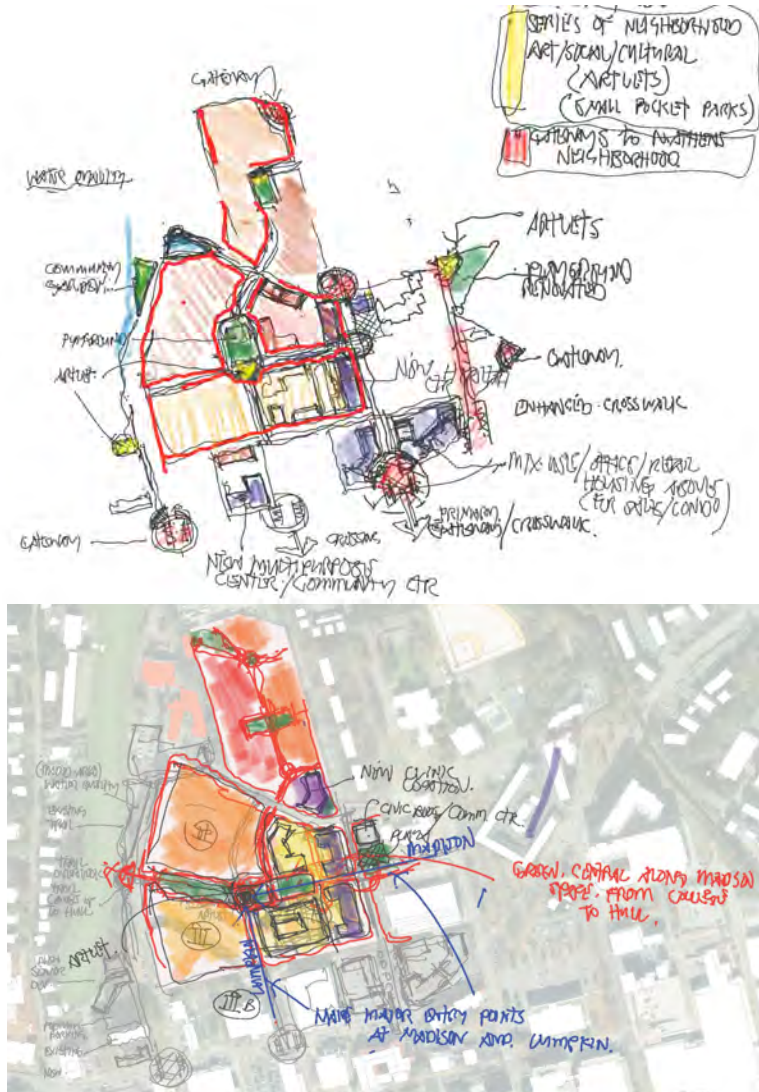


URBAN PLANNING FOLLOW-UP



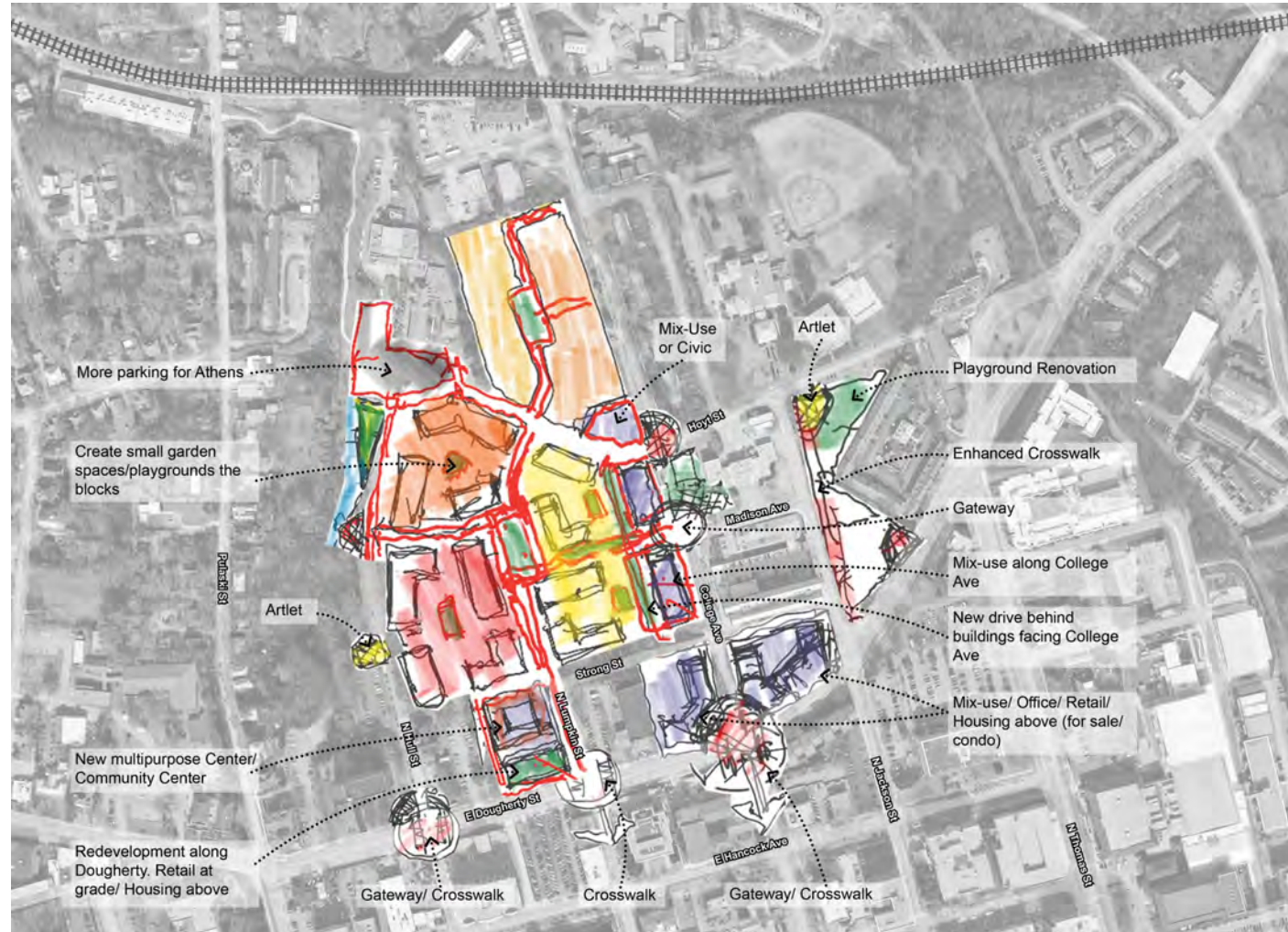
- Key issues & themes emerged - which lead the following Sessions:
 - Complete Streets : Safety, Walkability, Mixed-use
 - Open Space & Parks
 - Exploring Civic Parcels : Community civic uses and resources
 - Transportation & Transit
 - Sustainability and Green Strategies
 - Artlets : Exploring Arts and Cultural history





URBAN PLANNING SKETCH EXPLORATION

“WHAT-IF” IDEA-A

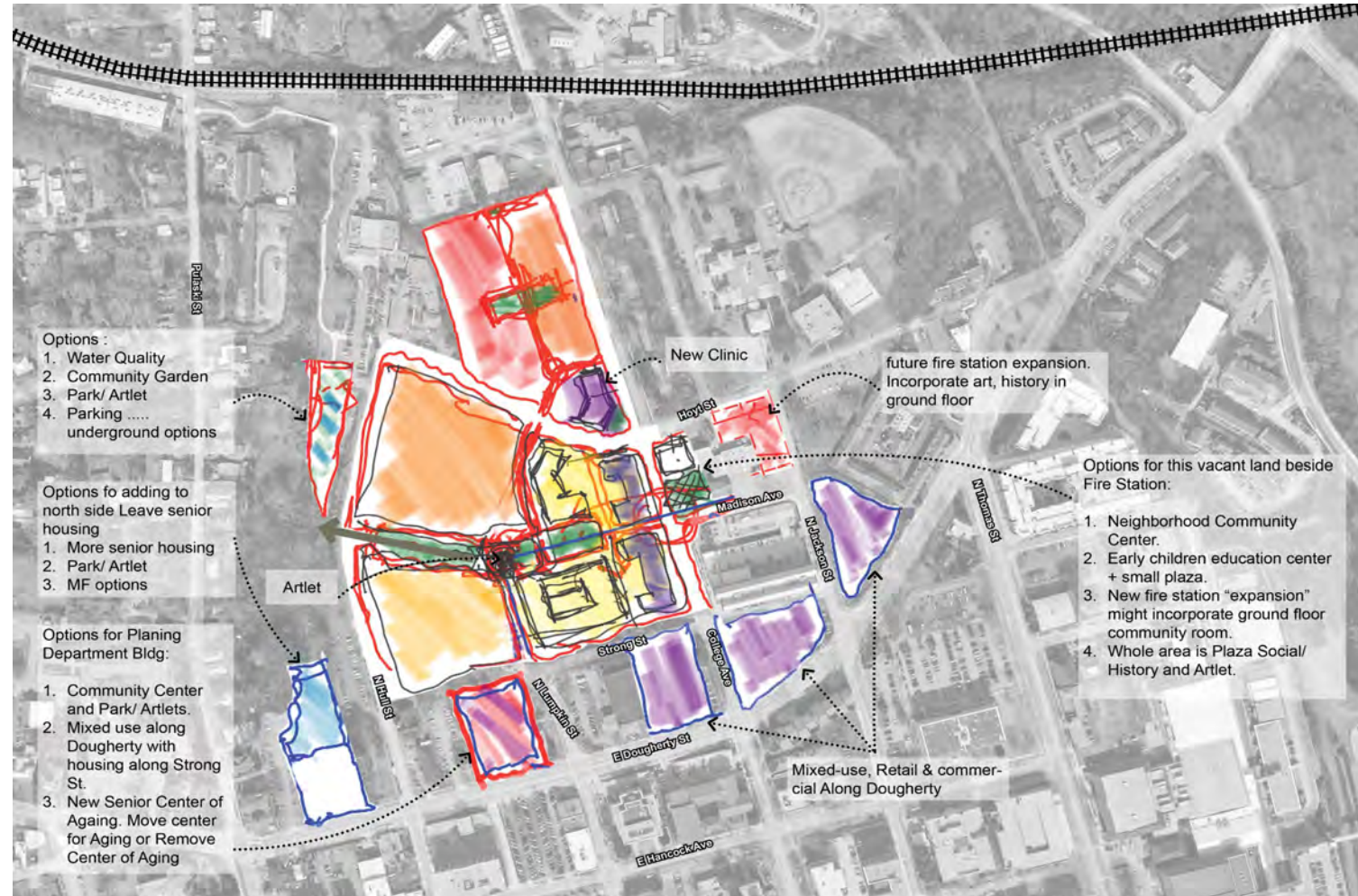


Central Lawn - North/South Connections



URBAN PLANNING SKETCH EXPLORATION

“WHAT-IF” IDEA-B



Green Promenade - East/West Connections



SESSION 1:

Complete Streets & College Avenue



WHAT ARE “COMPLETE STREETS”?



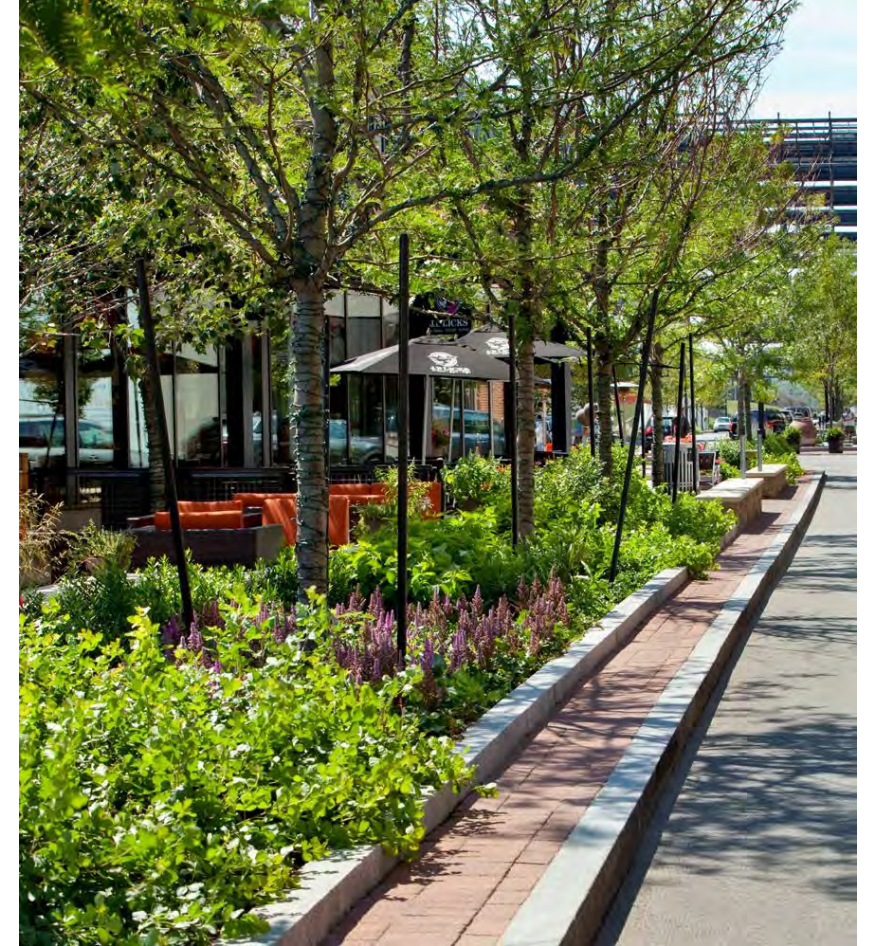
- **Complete Streets are streets for everyone!**
- They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.
- Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work.
- They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from transit and school bus stops.



COMPLETE STREET EXAMPLES

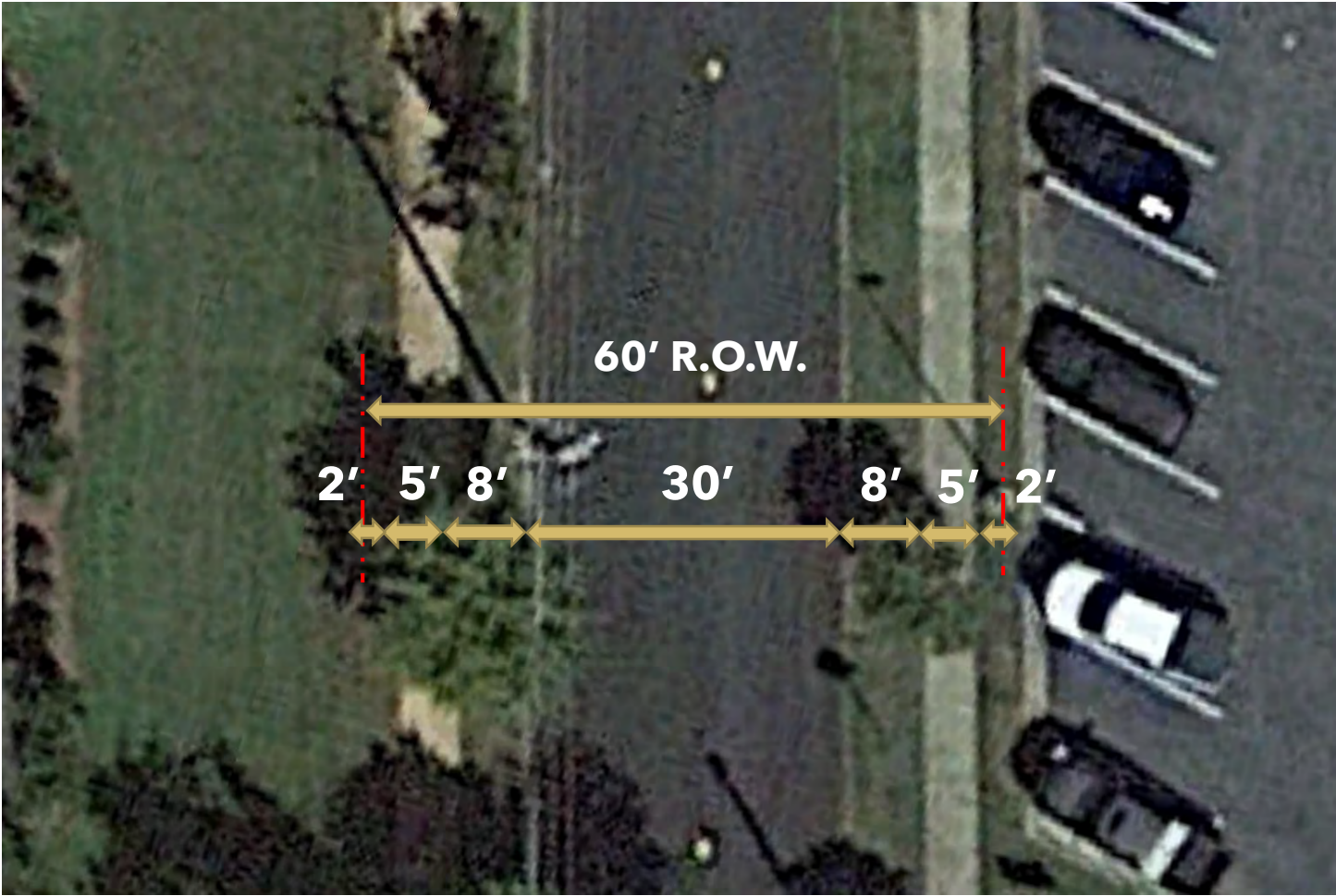


COMPLETE STREET EXAMPLES



Sense of Place - Active Edges and Sidewalks

EXISTING STREET CONDITIONS: COLLEGE AVE.



Existing ROW conditions

COLLEGE AVE - EXISTING STREET VIEWS



EXISTING STREET CONDITIONS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE & HOYT



Issues:

- Speed is fast
- No traffic light / stop sign / four-way pedestrian crossing
- At the Bottom of the Hill - traffic is picked up speed



WHAT-IF IDEA: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE & HOYT



EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE & MADISON ST.



Issues:

- Speed is fast
- No traffic light / stop sign / four-way pedestrian crossing



EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE & MADISON ST.



EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE & DOUGHERTY



Existing Condition:

- Bike lane is bright and easy to see on South side.
- Four-way pedestrian crossing.
- Gateway to the Neighborhood



RESIDENT SURVEYS - COLLEGE AVE COMMENTS

RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS | AS OF 08-03-20 | 82 RESPONSES

4. How important is providing safe crosswalks along this section of College Avenue to Lay Park and other city resources?

85.4% — 70 people → Important to me — my family regularly crosses College Ave and it is not safe

4.9% — 4 people → Not important to me — I think College Ave is already safe to cross on foot

0% — 0 people → Not important to me — I think College Ave should be for cars mainly and not pedestrians

6.1% — 5 people → N/A — I don't frequent this part of town currently

3.6% — 3 people → Other:

5. Where do you usually walk across College Avenue?

15.4% — 12 people → A. At Hoyt and College (closest to Lyndon House / behind the Fire Station)

25.6% — 20 people → B. At Madison and College (closest to the front of the Fire Station)

51.3% — 40 people → C. At Strong and College (in front of the Indigo Hotel)

7.8% — 6 people → Other:

17. What would make you walk around/hang out in North Downtown area more frequently?

11.1% — 9 people → Safer and wider sidewalks

19.8% — 16 people → Better lighting along streets

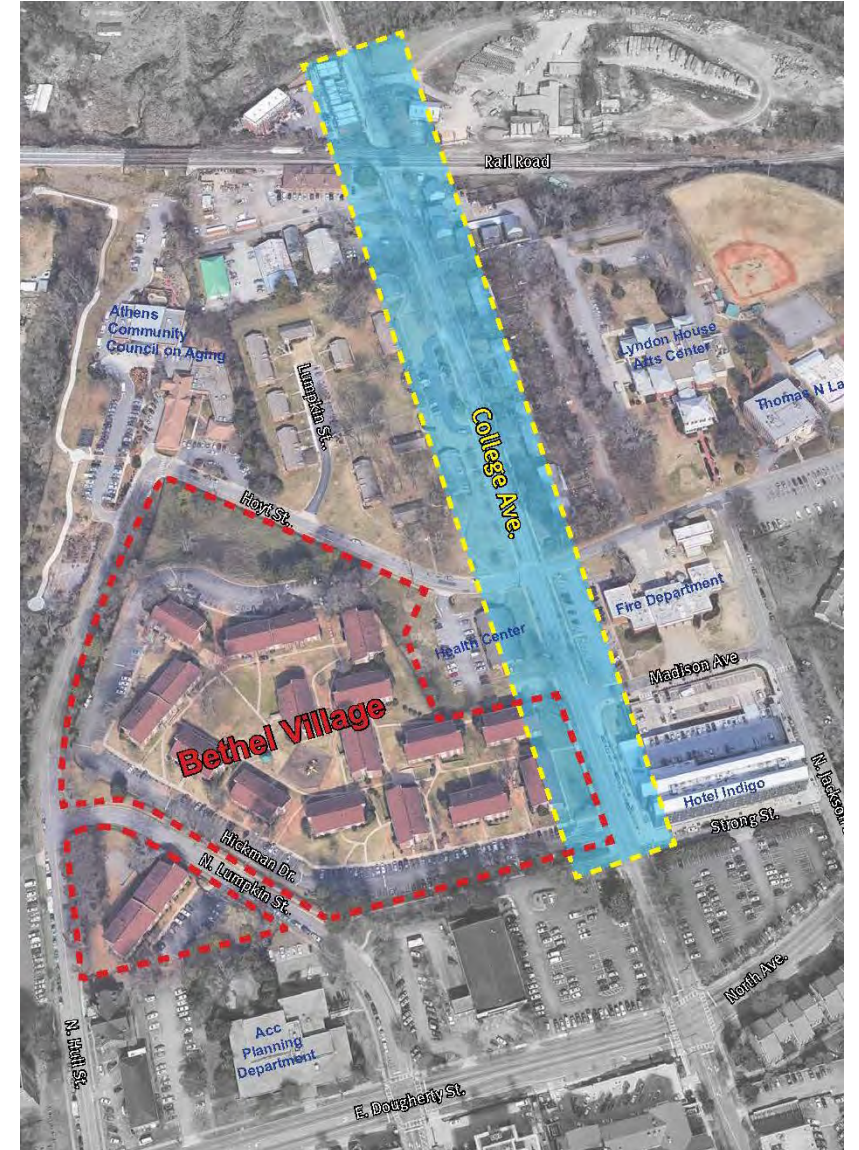
1.2% — 1 people → Access to community facilities

33.3% — 27 people → More places to visit like restaurants, retail shopping, etc.

3.7% — 3 people → Greenspace/trails

19.8% — 16 people → No improvements are needed

11.1% — 9 people → Other:



RESIDENT SURVEYS - COLLEGE AVE COMMENTS

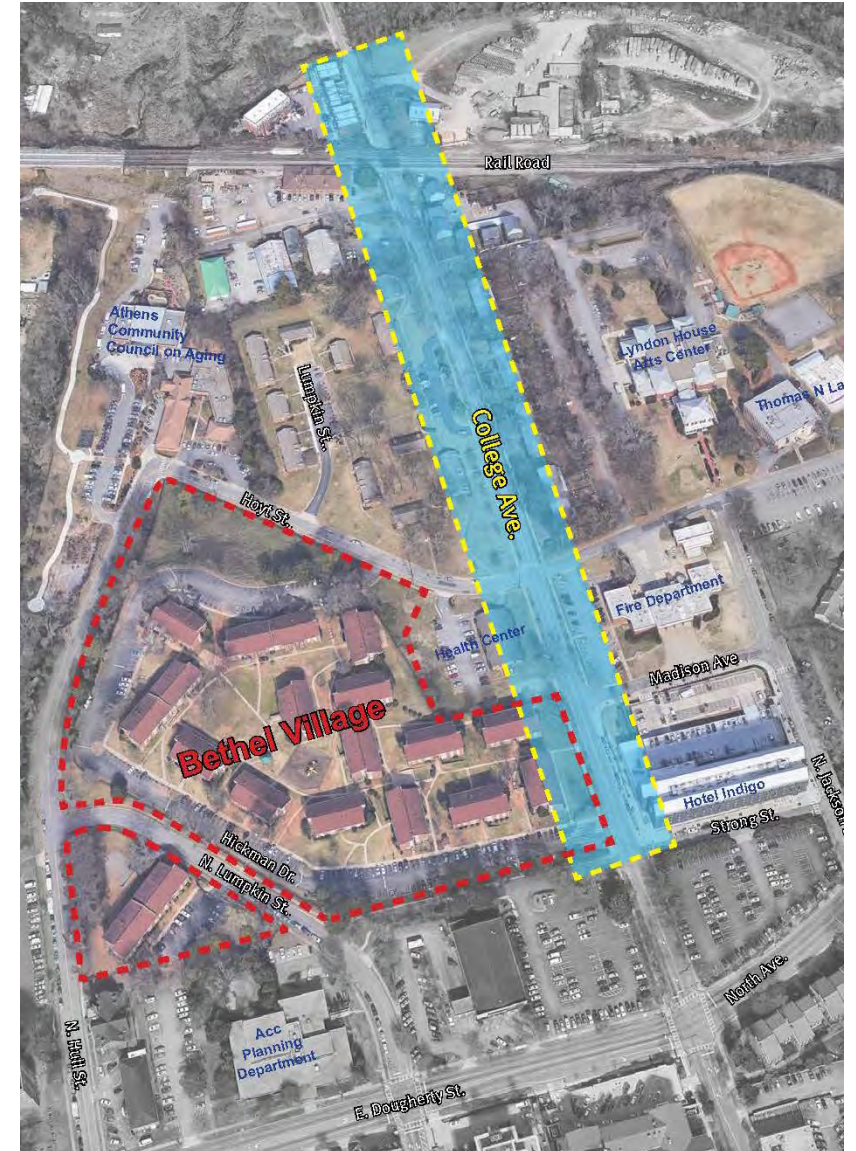
RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS | AS OF 08-03-20 | 82 RESPONSES

33. What kind of non-residential development would you like to see in Bethel/North Downtown Athens in the future? (pick 5)

42% — 34 people → Retail stores
50.6% — 41 people → Personal services (i.e. salon, etc.)
21% — 17 people → Banking
37% — 30 people → Restaurants
53.1% — 43 people → Entertainment
16% — 13 people → Professional offices
46.9% — 38 people → Medical facilities
51.9% — 42 people → Civic facilities (community center, library, etc.)
44.4% — 36 people → Mixed-use (may include residential)
60.5% — 49 people → Day care

35. The North Athens/Bethel Village redevelopment is intended to extend part of the “feel” of Downtown Athens while preserving ALL affordable housing, bringing in other uses, and incorporating higher density mix-use development. What other important aspects/ideas do you think the Redevelopment Master Plan should focus most of its attention on? (please select top three)

64.6% — 53 people → The quality and appearance of the community
86.6% — 71 people → Providing me and my family better quality housing
6.1% — 5 people → Reconnecting North Downtown/Bethel to surrounding streets and resources
17.1% — 14 people → Providing a greater range of open spaces/greenspaces
8.5% — 7 people → Integrating public art into the neighborhood
19.5% — 16 people → Creating more and better sidewalks
37.8% — 31 people → Creating community services like childcare, health clinics, and education (youth and adult) resources
11% — 9 people → Creating a “Main Street” feel along College Avenue
2.4% — 2 people → Creating a sustainable and green community
32.9% — 27 people → Provide better residential and community amenities



PROPOSED PLAN FOR COLLEGE AVE ATHENS IN MOTION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

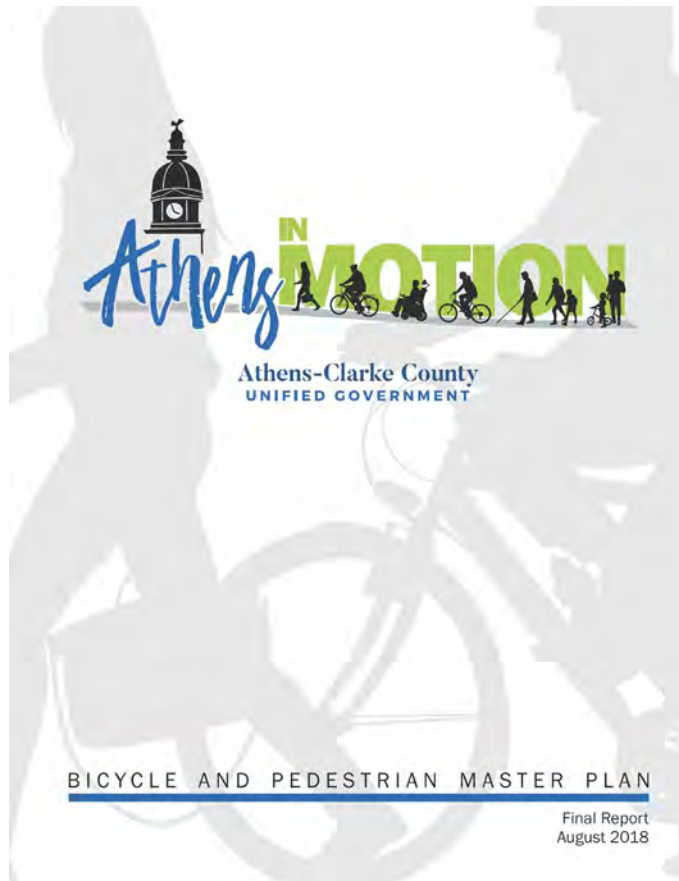
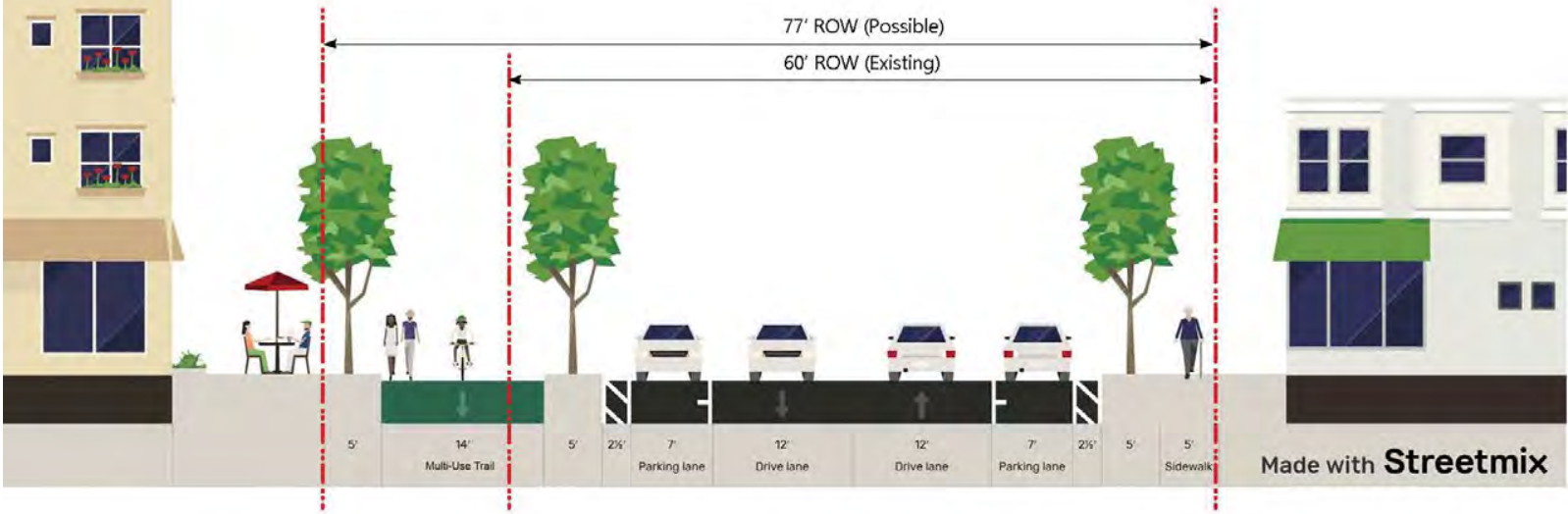
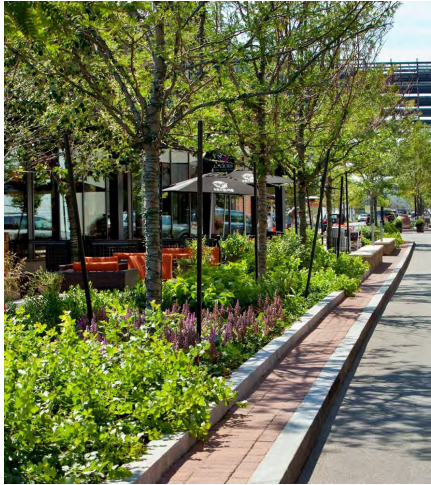


Table 4-5: Tier 1 Bicycle Projects

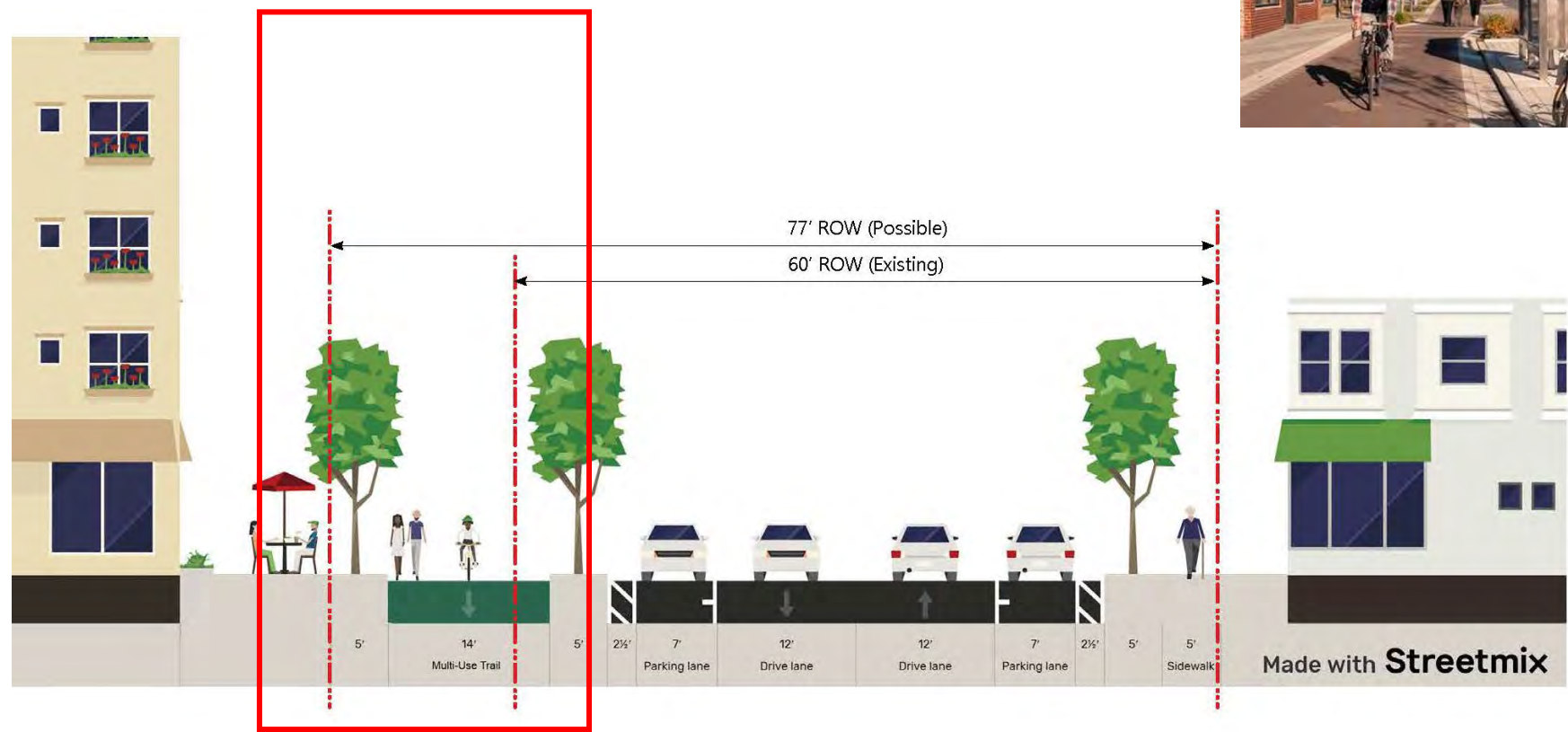
ID	NAME	LOW BIKE COST	HIGH BIKE COST	BIKE CATEGORY	FROM	TO	LENGTH (MI)
1	Pulaski St	\$256,970	\$842,149	Buffered Facility	Prince Ave	W Broad St	0.2
2	E/W Hancock Ave	\$823,459	\$2,698,662	Buffered Facility	N Milledge Ave	College Ave	0.8
4	West Broad St	\$748,447	\$3,526,337	Separated Bike Lane	N Milledge Rd	S Lumpkin St	0.7
5	Barber St/N Finley St	\$254,144	\$1,311,382	Delineated Facility	Boulevard	E/W Hancock Ave	0.5
6	Barber St	\$1,358,133	\$4,664,187	Sidepath/SUP	N Chase St	Boulevard	1.0
8	College Ave	\$158,939	\$221,339	Shared Facility	Elizabeth St	E Dougherty St North Ave	0.6
9	College Ave	\$125,575	\$647,968	Delineated Facility	E Dougherty St North Ave	E Broad St	0.2
17	S/N Milledge Ave	\$963,471	\$4,539,432	Separated Bike Lane	Prince Ave	Baxter St	0.9
18	S Milledge Ave	\$773,651	\$3,645,087	Separated Bike Lane	Baxter St	S Lumpkin St	0.7
19	S Milledge Ave	\$1,714,267	\$5,887,245	Sidepath/SUP	S Lumpkin St	Riverbend Rd	1.3
42	North Ave	\$1,140,936	\$3,918,273	Sidepath/SUP	Willow Street Greenway	Old Hull Rd Danielsville Rd	0.9
51	Vine St	\$306,100	\$1,579,477	Delineated Facility	Oakridge Ave	Nellie B Ave	0.6
64	Winterville Rd	\$219,997	\$755,528	Sidepath/SUP	Winterville Rd	Lexington Rd	0.2
65	Gaines School Rd	\$1,479,013	\$6,968,429	Separated Bike Lane	Barnett Shoals Rd	Lexington Rd	1.3
91	Hawthorne Ave	\$953,629	\$3,125,258	Buffered Facility	Oglethorpe Ave	W Broad St	0.9
95	Baxter St	\$328,672	\$1,695,945	Delineated Facility	N/S Milledge Rd	S Lumpkin St	0.6
98	Williams St/ Baldwin St	\$264,073	\$865,427	Buffered Facility	E Campus Rd	Oconee St	0.2
99	Cedar Shoals Dr	\$952,323	\$4,913,986	Delineated Facility	Gaines School Rd	Whit Davis Rd	1.8
TOTAL		\$12,821,798	\$51,806,109				13.4

- A delineated facility may include a striped shoulder or standard bike lane
- No clear definition for shared facility

WHAT-IF STREET EXPLORATIONS HONORING THE ATHENS IN MOTION PLAN

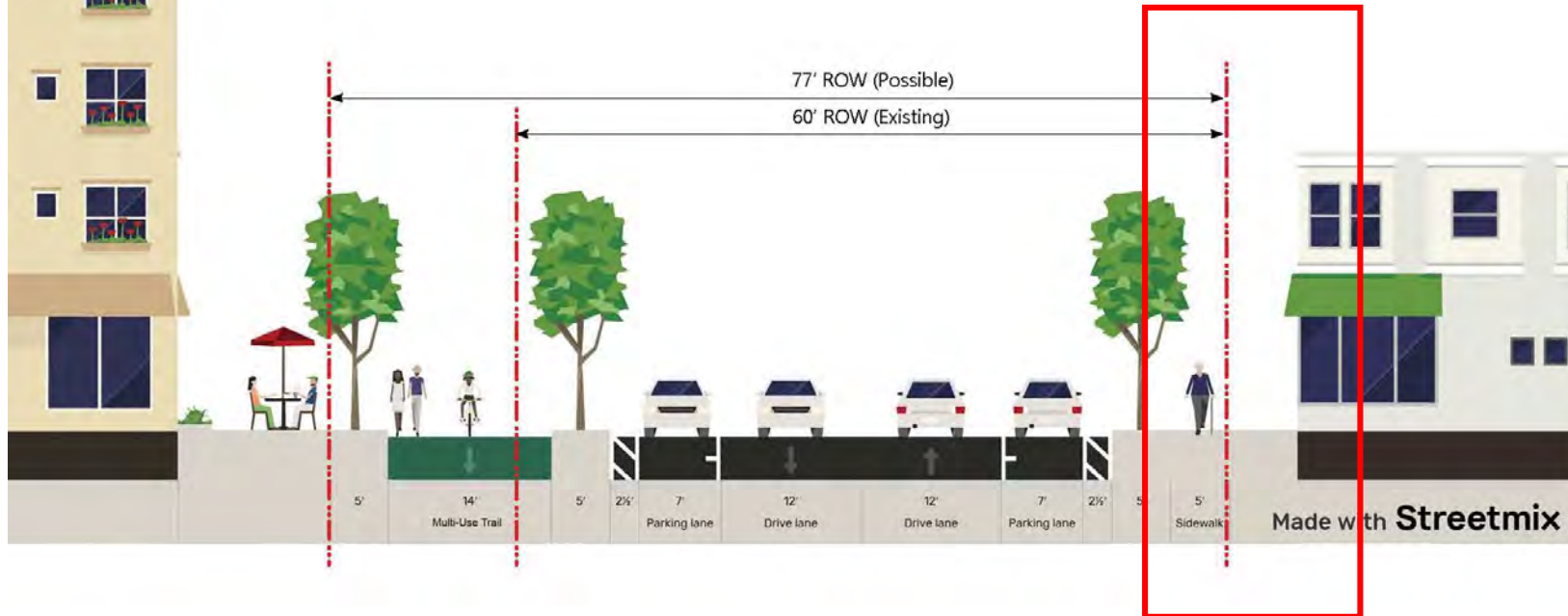


MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL: ALONG WEST SIDE (BETHEL SITE) OF COLLEGE AVE



14' Wide Multi-Purpose Trail for Bikes and Walking

SIDEWALK ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF COLLEGE AVENUE



- 5' wide
- 5' Buffer between road



TRAFFIC CALMING IDEAS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE AND HOYT



- Change Texture at Intersection - Add pedestrian crossing brick paving pattern
- Add lighting / Signage
- "Smart Crossing" Warning signage / RRFB



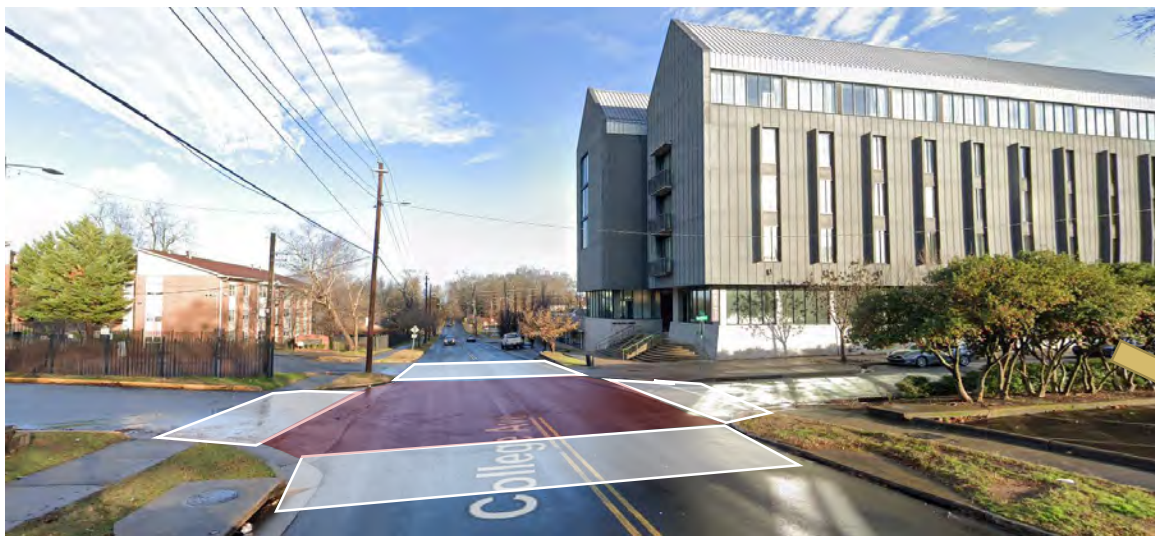
TRAFFIC CALMING IDEAS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE AND MADISON



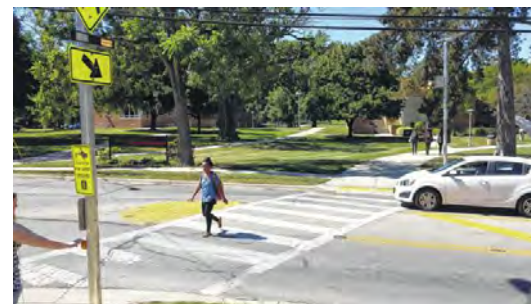
- Big Idea – Madison becoming the Main entry to Bethel Village – Urban Feel
- Change Texture at Intersection - Add pedestrian crossing brick paving pattern
- Add lighting / Signage
- "Smart Crossing" Warning signage / RRFB
- Consider Traffic Signal



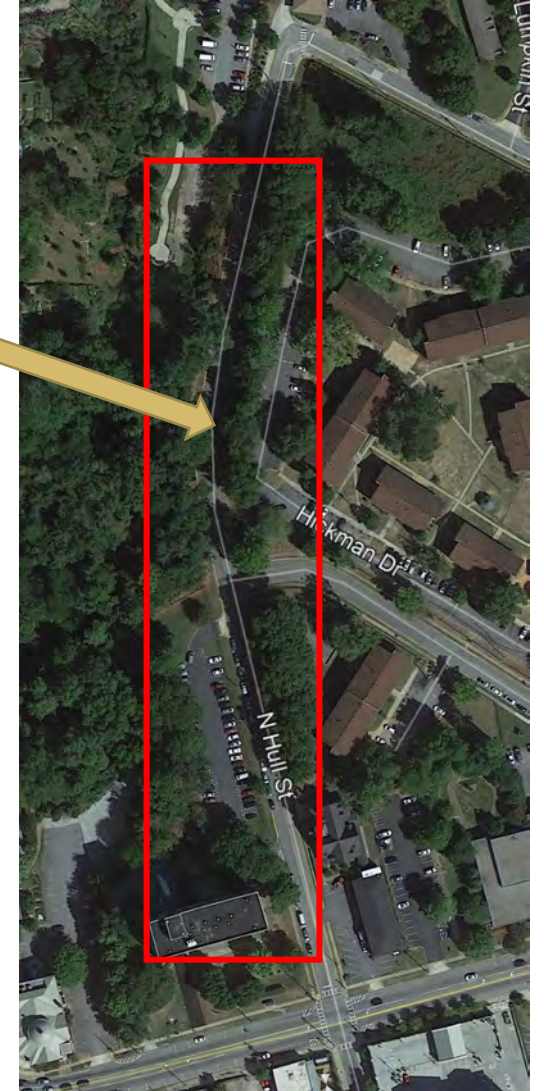
TRAFFIC CALMING IDEAS: INTERSECTION AT COLLEGE AND STRONG



- Change Texture at Intersection - Add pedestrian crossing brick paving pattern
- Add lighting / Signage
- "Smart Crossing" Warning signage / RRFB



TRAIL EXTENSION/STREETSCAPE IDEAS: ALONG HULL ST



- Pulaski Creek Trail Extension - bring up to Hull Street because of grade/topo
- Trail and Parkway feel along Hull street
- Trailheads / Artlets
- Design with "Eyes on the Street"
- Linkage to Dougherty and Downtown



QUESTIONS



Did We Hear your Concerns?



- Any final questions?
- Sessions are recorded and will be up on the website soon
- Join us for one of our other sessions!

August 2020

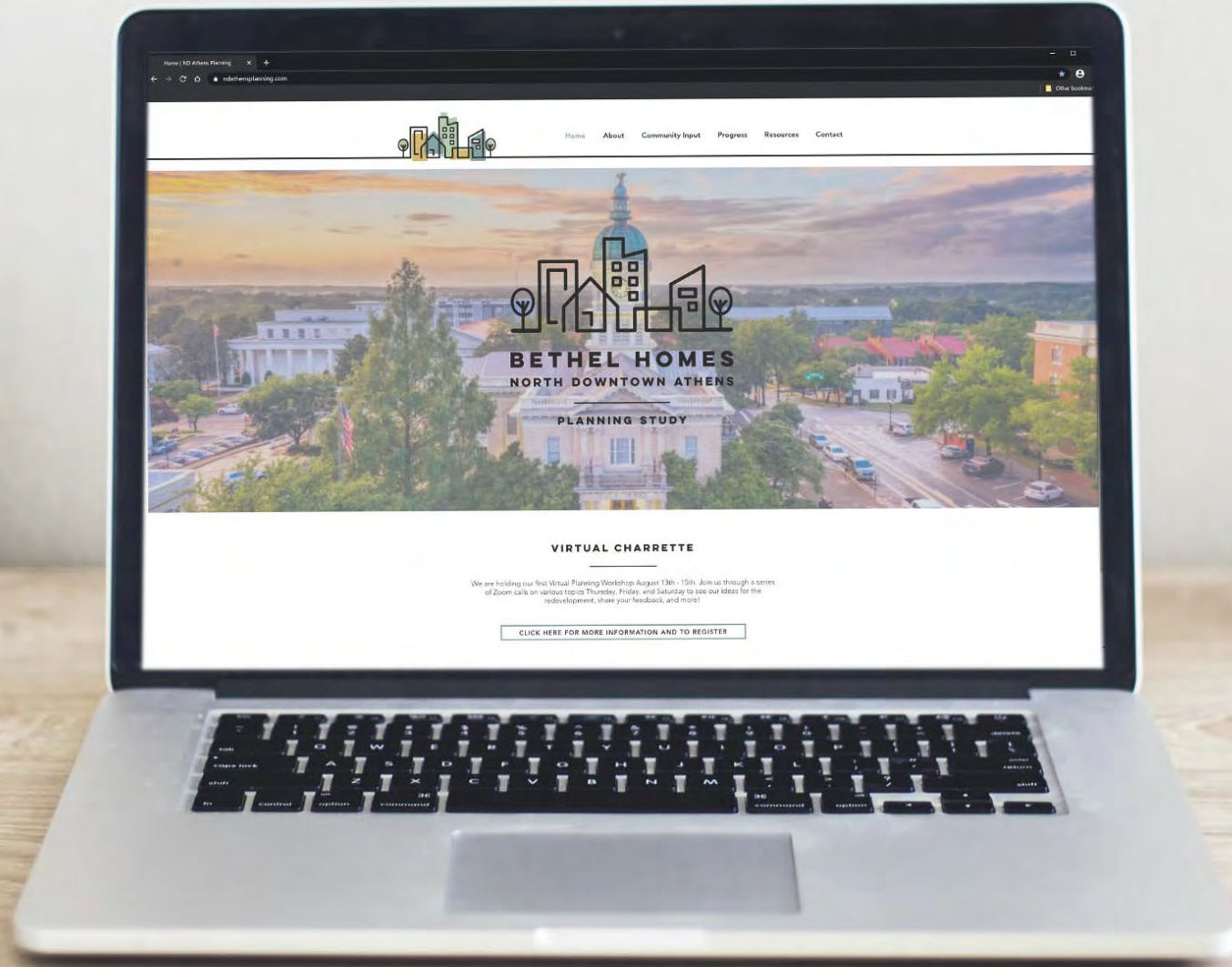
Thursday	13 th	Friday	14 th	Saturday	15 th
4:30 - 5:30 PM EST Session 1: Complete Streets & College Avenue		8:30 - 9:30 AM EST Session 3: Exploring the Civic Parcels		10:00 - 11:00 AM EST Session 6: Artlets & Neighborhood History	
6:45 - 7:45 PM EST Session 2: Parks & Openspaces		Noon - 1:00 PM EST Session 4: Transportation & Transit		Noon - 1:00 PM EST Final Session: Review & Wrap Up	
		5:00 - 6:00 PM EST Session 5: Sustainability & Green Strategies			

NEXT STEPS

SESSION SUMMARY



WWW.NDATHENSPLANNING.COM



@NDAthensPlanning



@ndathens_planning



info@ndathensplanning.com



#NDAthens