COMPLETE STREETS

On Rural Roads

Presenter

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Historical Street Design

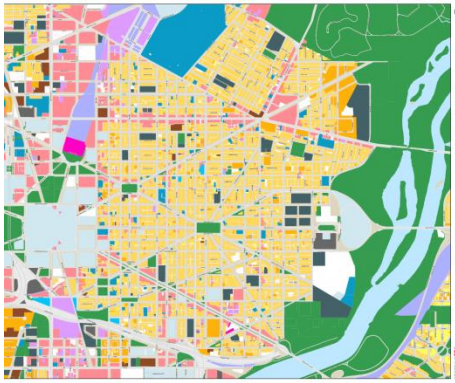
- Capacity
- Safety
- Efficiency
- Car-Centric

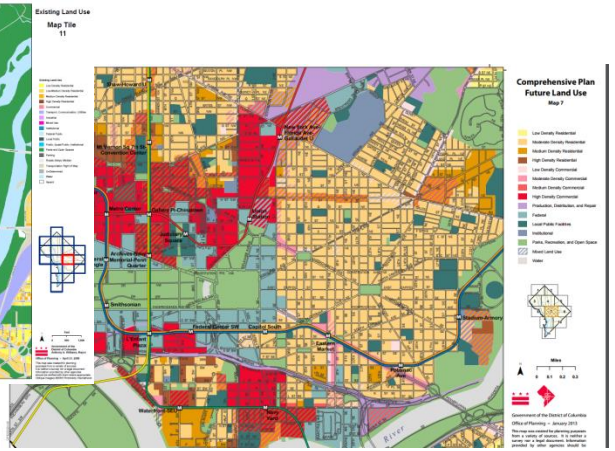
What is a "Complete Street?"

- A street that is planned, designed, operated, and maintained to:
  - Provide **access** and
  - Serve the local **context** and
  - Enable **safe, convenient and comfortable travel** for all users
  - Consider **land use**




Complete Street Components
Based on Needs / Context





Context and Complete Street Components

- Houses far apart?
- Extensive agricultural fields?
- No pedestrian destinations?
- No existing trails, bicycle routes (existing or planned)

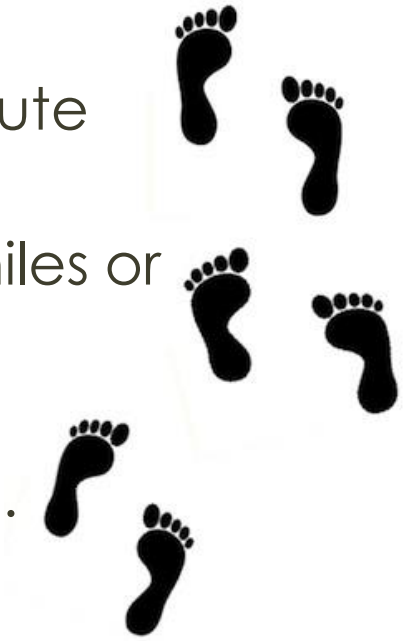
Context and Complete Street Components

- Rural road, but has:
  - Clusters of houses
  - Pedestrian or bicycling destinations within walking distance

Should consider additional modes

What is "walking distance"?

- The distance that most people will walk as opposed to drive.
  - For over 20 years, 0.25 miles or 5 minute walk.
  - Based on more recent studies, 0.5 miles or 10 minute walk is average.
    - Many walkers traveled over 1 mile.
  - Walking trips predominantly <2 miles.



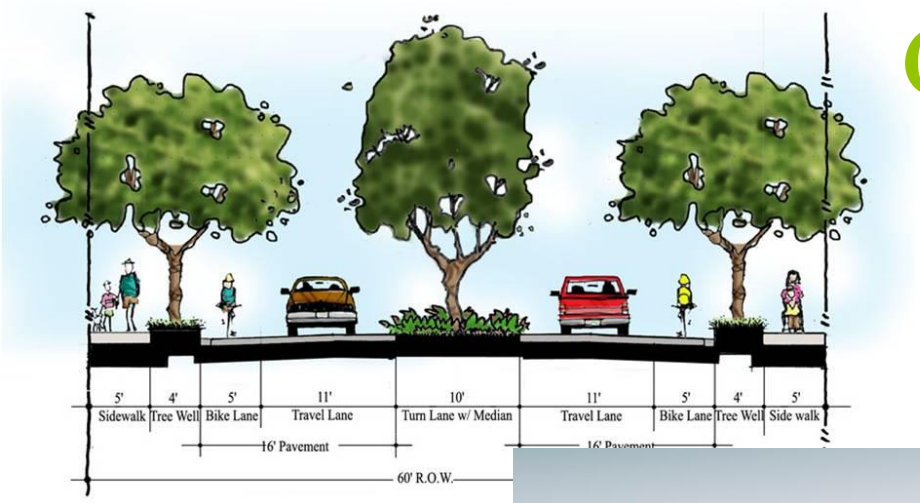
2009 National Household Travel Survey, FHWA

More on Contextual influences

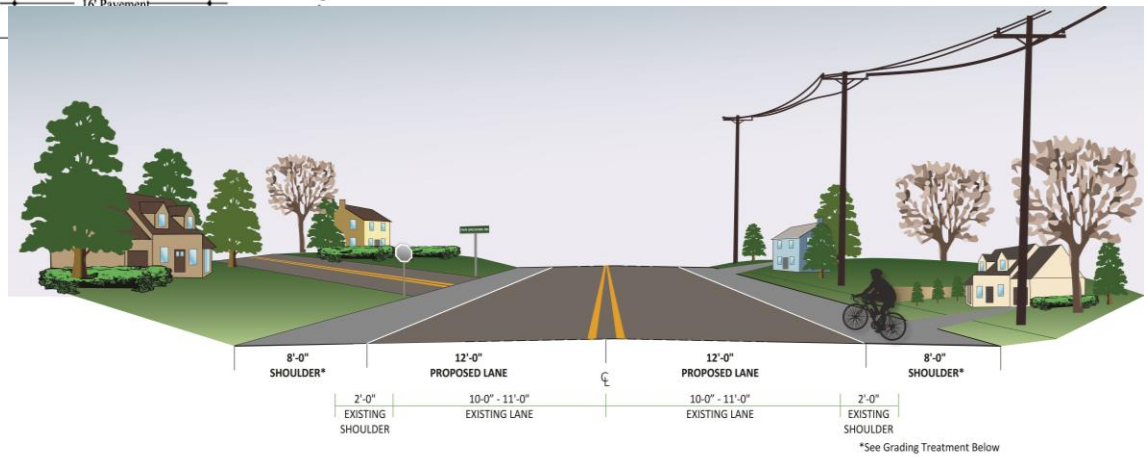
- Rural area with some existing developmental pressure
- No / few existing land use controls
- Numerous existing access points
- Potential for increased traffic

Consider access management planning and, possibly, land use planning

City / Town vs. Rural Road Complete Streets



City



Rural

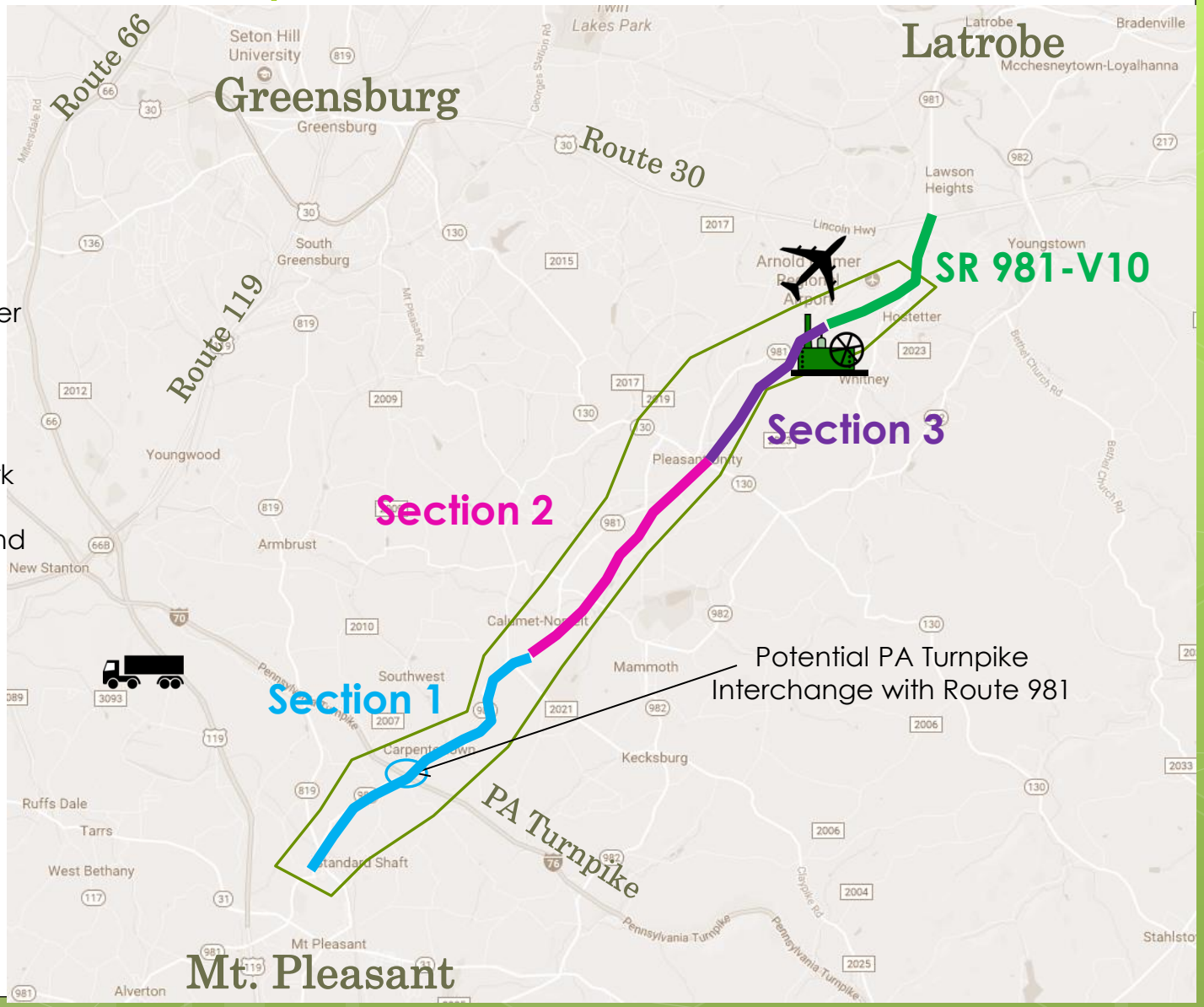
LAUREL VALLEY
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Example

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport

Airpark Industrial Park

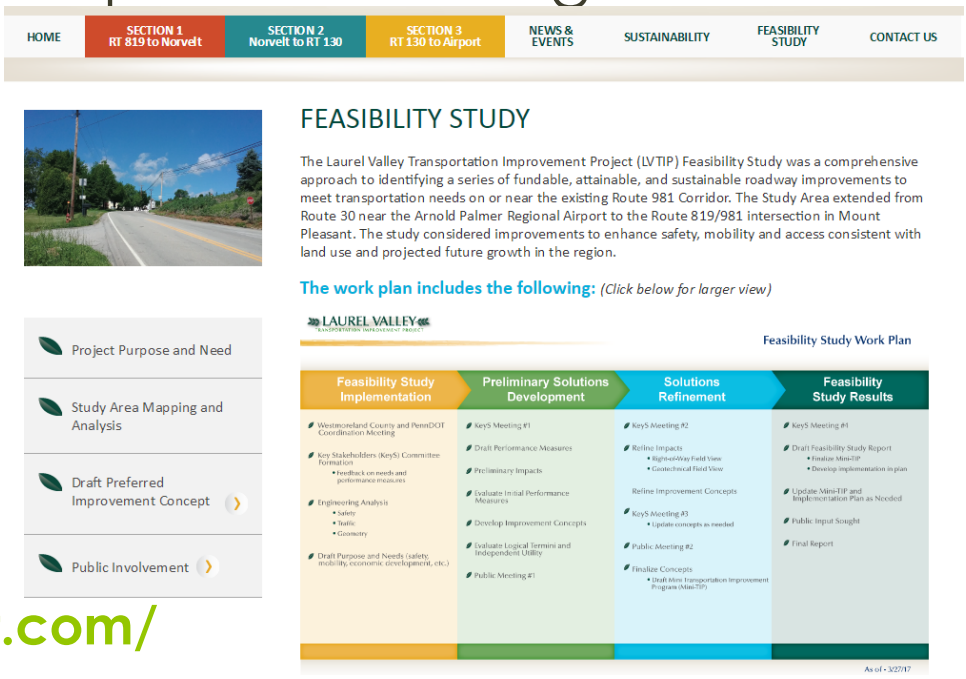
Westmoreland Intermodal Center



LAUREL VALLEY
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Example

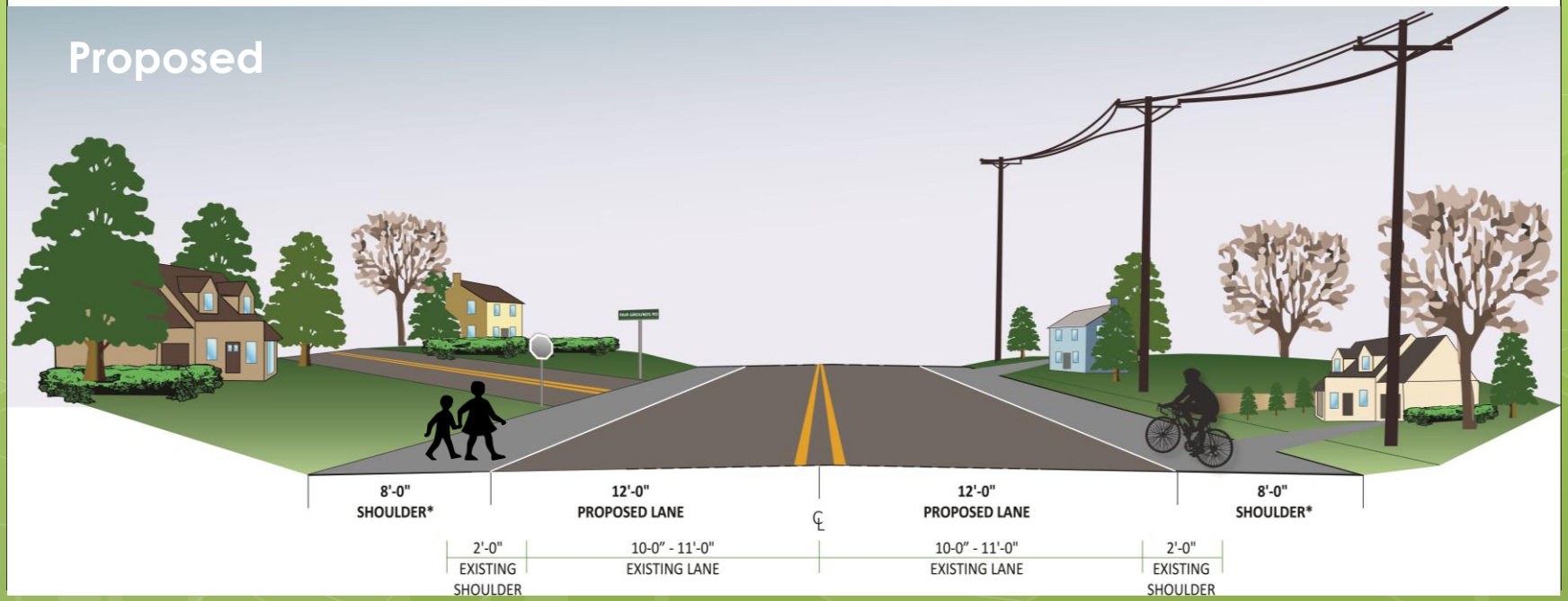
- Feasibility Study
  - Identified pedestrian needs
  - Identified desire to maintain rural character
  - Need to serve the Airpark Industrial Park
  - Potential for PA Turnpike interchange



http://laurelvalleyproject.com/

LAUREL VALLEY
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Example



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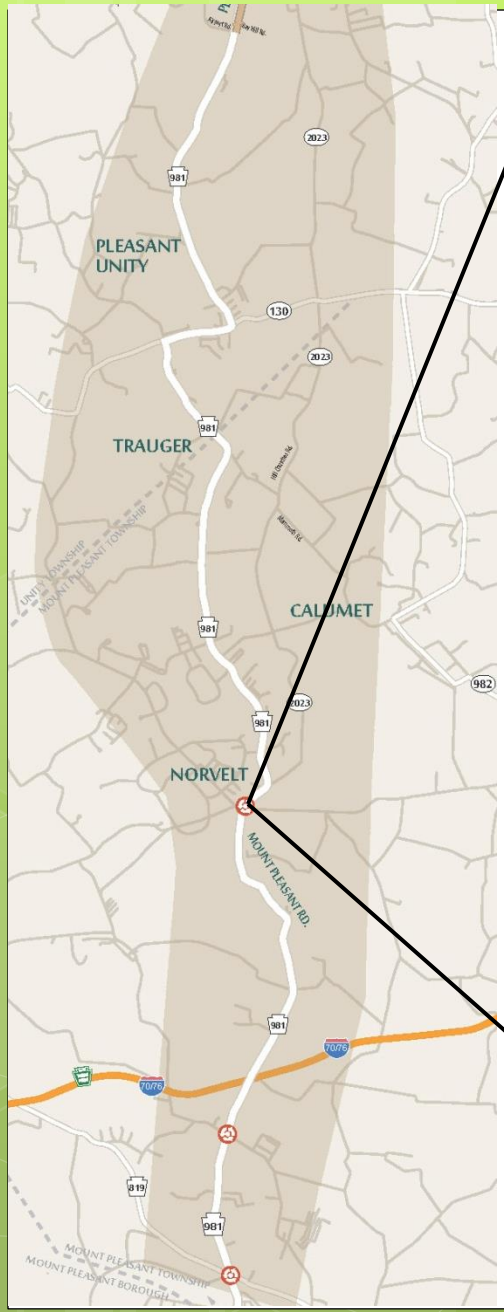
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Potential Roundabout

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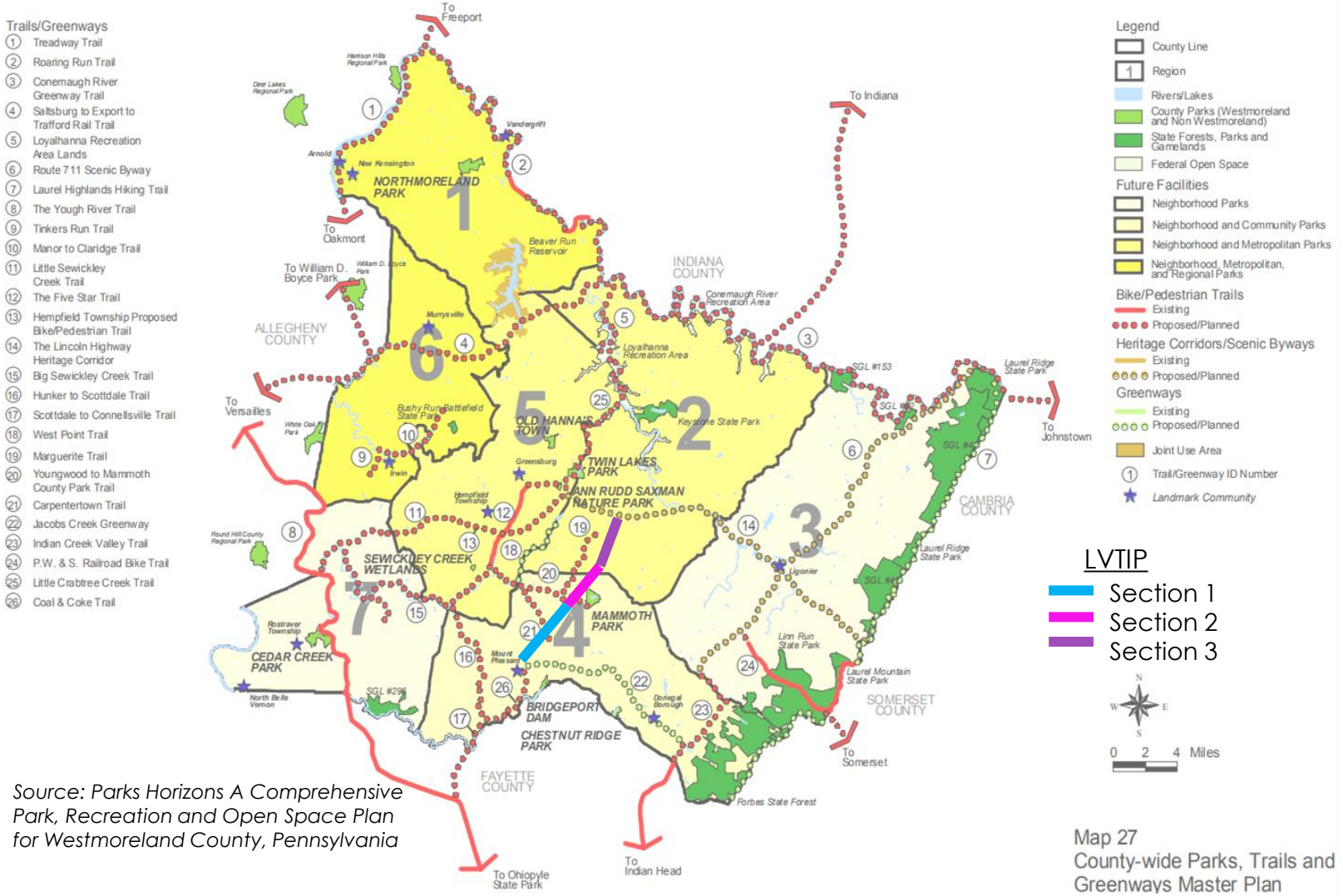
Trail Connections



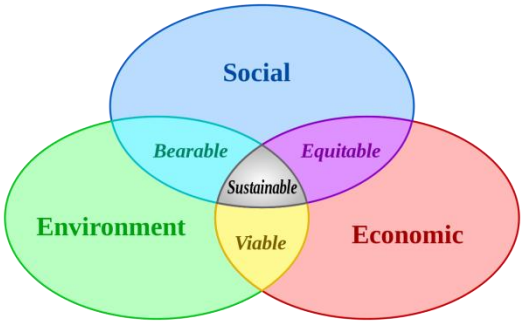
Source: Parks Horizons A Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan for Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Map 27
County-wide Parks, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

LAUREL VALLEY
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Example

Project Example



- Local Land Use Planning
  - Led by Westmoreland County
  - Working with affected municipalities
  - Evaluating existing land use regulations
  - Assessing possibility for land use changes after construction
  - Determining community vision for future land use
  - Helping to develop land use controls (corridor overlays, ordinances, etc.)

Project Example

- Local Land Use Planning

http://www.hlplanning.com/portals/westmoreland/

Things to Consider

- Distance between homes and pedestrian destinations
- Posted Speed
- Roadway Geometry
- Lighting needs
- Vehicle mix
- Need for land use controls
- Access management

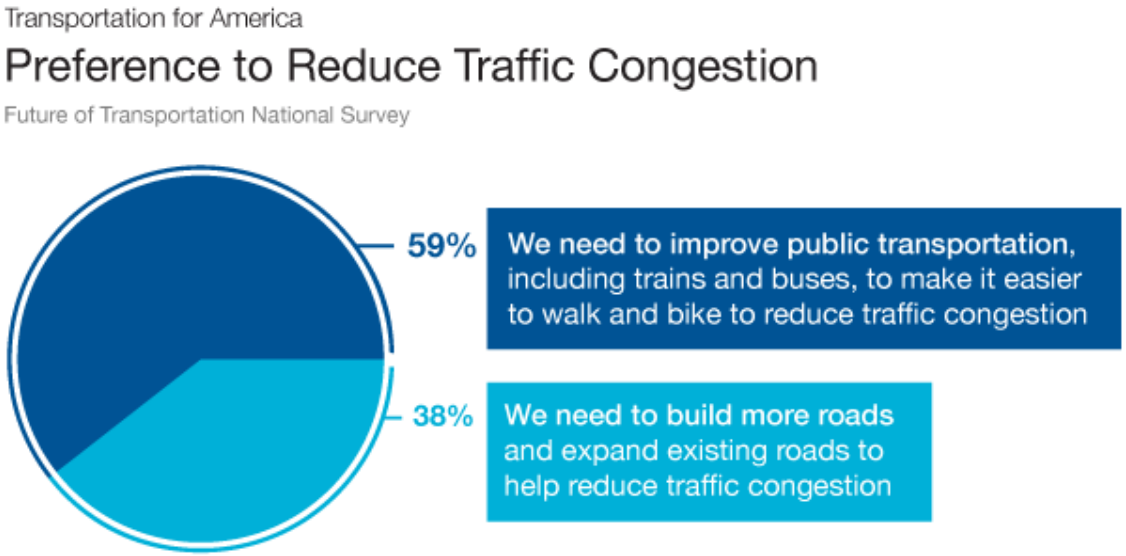
Benefits of Complete Streets

- Support economic growth
  - Increase accessibility
- Improve the environment
  - Less cars = better air quality
- Foster independence
- Increase healthy behaviors
- Reduce potential for costly future retrofits
- Maintain future capacity by controlling growth and access

Future of Transportation

2010 National Transportation Survey of Americans

- 67% want more options
  - Freedom to choose HOW they get there
- 73% feel they have no choice but to drive
- 57% want to spend less time in a car



Opportunity

- 50% of trips are less than 3 miles
- 28% are less than 1 mile
  - 60% of these trips are by motorized vehicle

Source: National Household Travel Survey (2009), FHWA

Complete Streets are not

- A demand to immediately upgrade existing roads
- A one-size fits all approach
- A special street design
- A silver bullet, still need to address
  - Environmental issues
  - Demand management
  - Special considerations in certain areas

Thank you!

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