

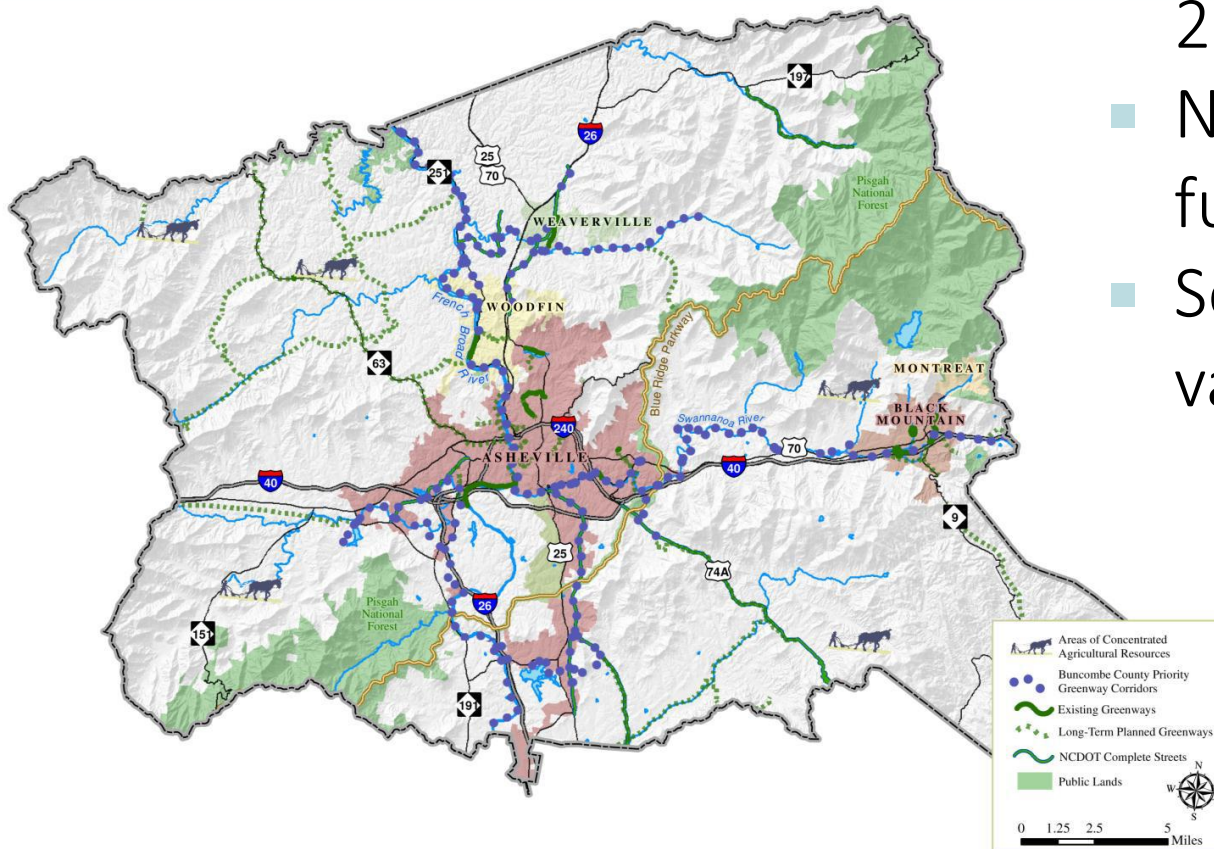


Buncombe County Greenways Overview

Greenways Master Plan

102 miles of collective corridors

- Adopted September 2012
- No dedicated funding
- Seeks funding from a variety of sources



Current Greenway Development

Construction

- Lake Julian Park Extension

Feasibility Studies

- US 70 / Swannanoa River Greenway
- French Broad River / Highway 251 Greenway
- Bent Creek — Lake Julian Greenway

Current Projects

- Bent Creek/191 Greenway (Feasibility)
- NC 251 Greenway (Preliminary Engineering)



Current Grants and Funding

- The price for each of the 191/Bent Creek Feasibility studies was \$50,000 (total \$100,000).
- Friends of Connect Buncombe has provided the required matching funds for these studies totaling \$20,000.
- The remaining \$80,000 in grant funding was provided through NCDOT.
- The total grant amount available for the French Broad/251 project is \$660,000 through a grant from FHWA. Required match for this project is \$132,000.



Funding Options - Grants

- We are using an aggressive grant pursuit strategy
- Grants require personnel to administer and we have to evaluate our ROI. There is a cost of grant capital
- Grants involve financial risk to the County, we must balance the amount of risk we accept at one time
- Few grants provide money up front. Most require a match and pay through reimbursement

Funding Options - Grants

- We do not currently have any greenways for which we can pursue construction funding due to a lack of completed designs
- Grant funding cycles and budget cycles are often non-concurrent
- Granting agencies often want to invest in projects or ideas that extend community investment not serve as the sole source of capital
- Grants require devoted “seed” money to move the process forward

Greenways Conceptually

- Studies are critical for
 - Gaining financial leverage and
 - “Piggy backing” onto other projects
 - Competing for external funding sources
- Generally speaking, progression follows
 - Plan
 - Feasibility
 - Preliminary Engineering
 - Land Acquisitions
 - Construction



Plan



- Vision for the future
- Potential strategy and beginning to the conversation
- Does not detail alignments or property impacts accurately
- Allows for coordination of efforts



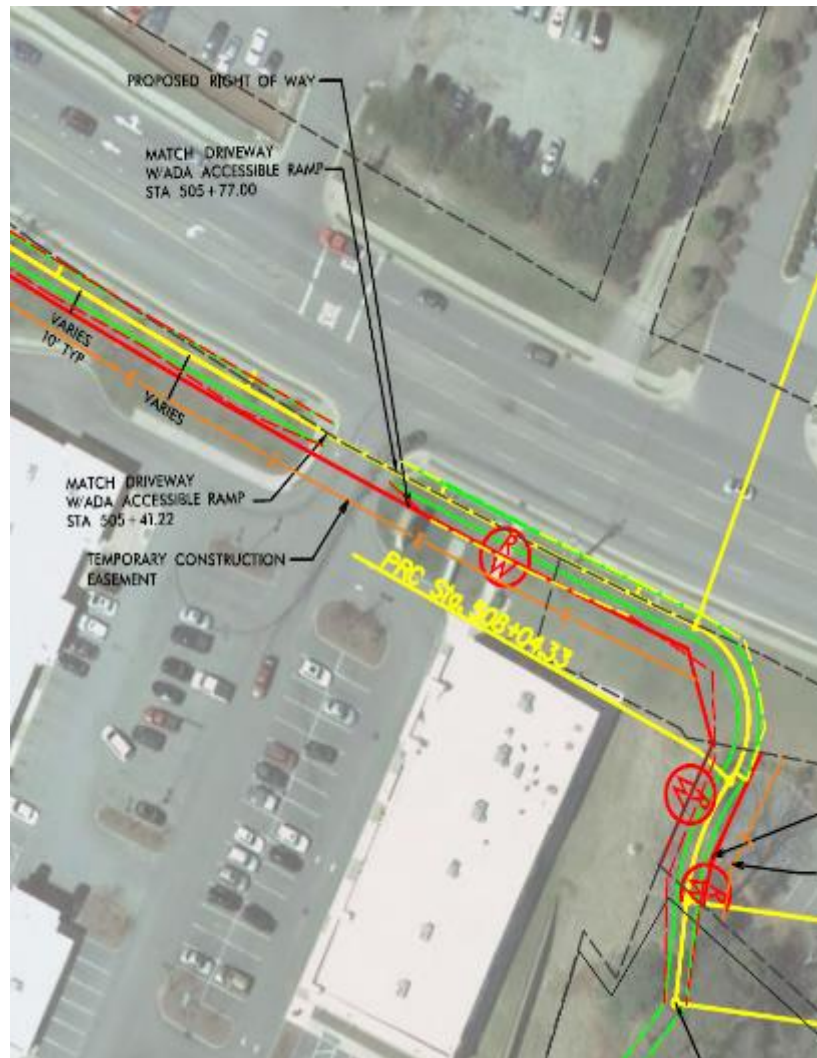
'Gone Fishin' by Tess Fields.

Feasibility Studies



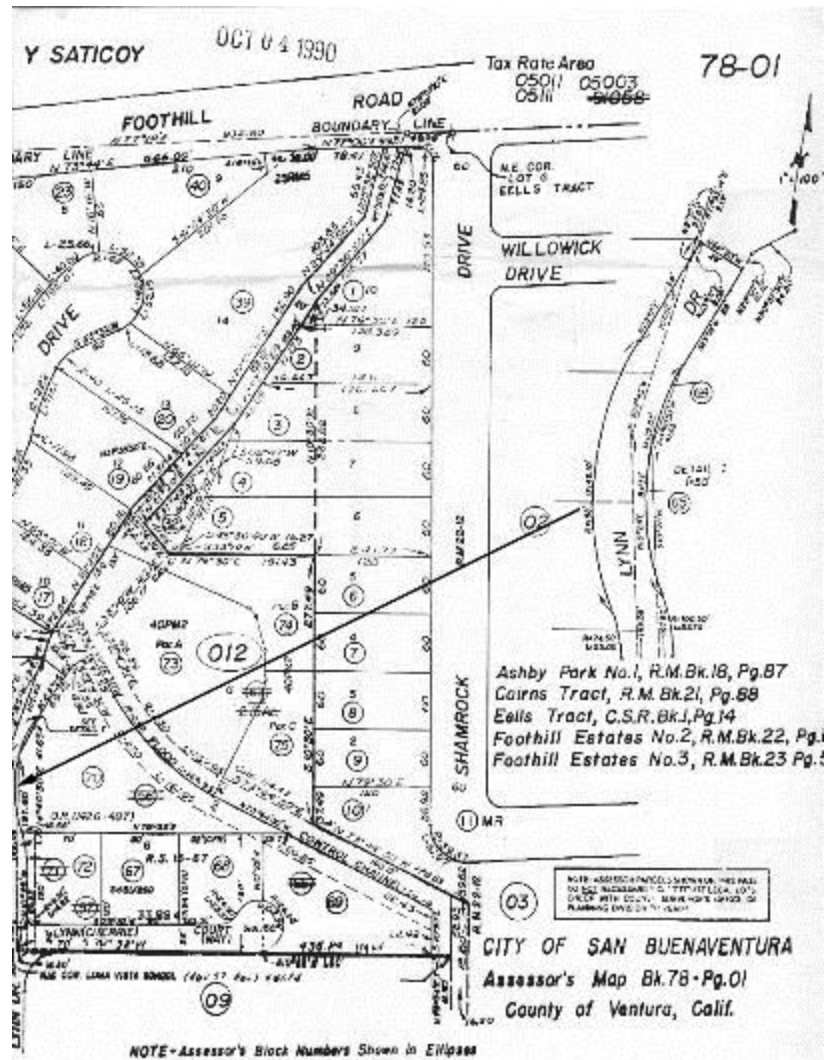
- Clarify ambiguity
- Provide tentative alignments
- Produce initial estimates
- Eliminate dead ends

Preliminary Engineering/Design



- Provides detailed greenway alignments
- Accounts for issues such as handrails, retaining walls, utilities, etc.
- Documents environmental issues
- Begins permitting process

Land Acquisition



- Drafting of legal documents necessary to secure easements and right-of-ways
- Obtaining signatures, recording necessary documents for perpetuity
- Paying costs associated with access to the land

Construction



- Construction represent includes earth moving operations, compaction, surface treatments, and land stabilization
- Also represents an intensive phase of stakeholder management and engagement
- Cost increases during construction are the norm rather than the exception

Key Difficulties

- Greenways require progression through a number of steps before construction can begin
- Plans and studies are tedious, but they allow us to accurately estimate costs while minimizing risks
- In pursuing grants and other sources of funding, we need to fully understand the project, thus studies are imperative
- Quite a number of grant programs require matching funds or construction ready projects (which requires local sources of investment)



Key Difficulties

- Greenway construction is complex
 - Unique regional topography
 - ADA requirements
 - Environmentally sensitive areas
- Greenway construction is time consuming
- Financial management of the process limits how much we can take on at one time
- Public process and legal requirements set the pace at which we can progress through each phase



Greenways Conceptually



- Connections are being generated each day as Asheville continues to develop
- Greenways are evolving from being considered as linear parks and localized trails to being seen as key drivers of tourism and as transportation opportunities



Greenways Conceptually

It's necessary with greenway design to make choices regarding aesthetics, function, cost, and safety. Some greenway segments may be more serene, park settings while others may be a combination of sidewalks and bike lanes. We are looking to achieve a balance between access to destination and user experience.

