

Completing the East Coast Greenway in Bloomfield

April 26, 2023



CAPITOL REGION
**EAST COAST
GREENWAY STUDY**

SIMSBURY — BLOOMFIELD — HARTFORD — EAST HARTFORD



Agenda

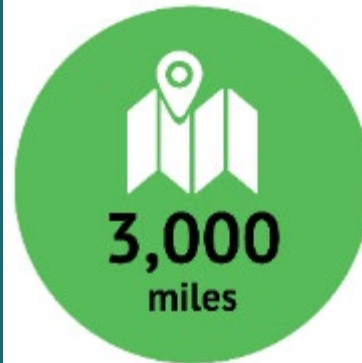
- WELCOME
- EAST COAST GREENWAY CONTEXT
- PROJECT OVERVIEW & GOALS
- TRAIL ROUTE ALTERNATIVES
- WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES
- OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



East Coast Greenway



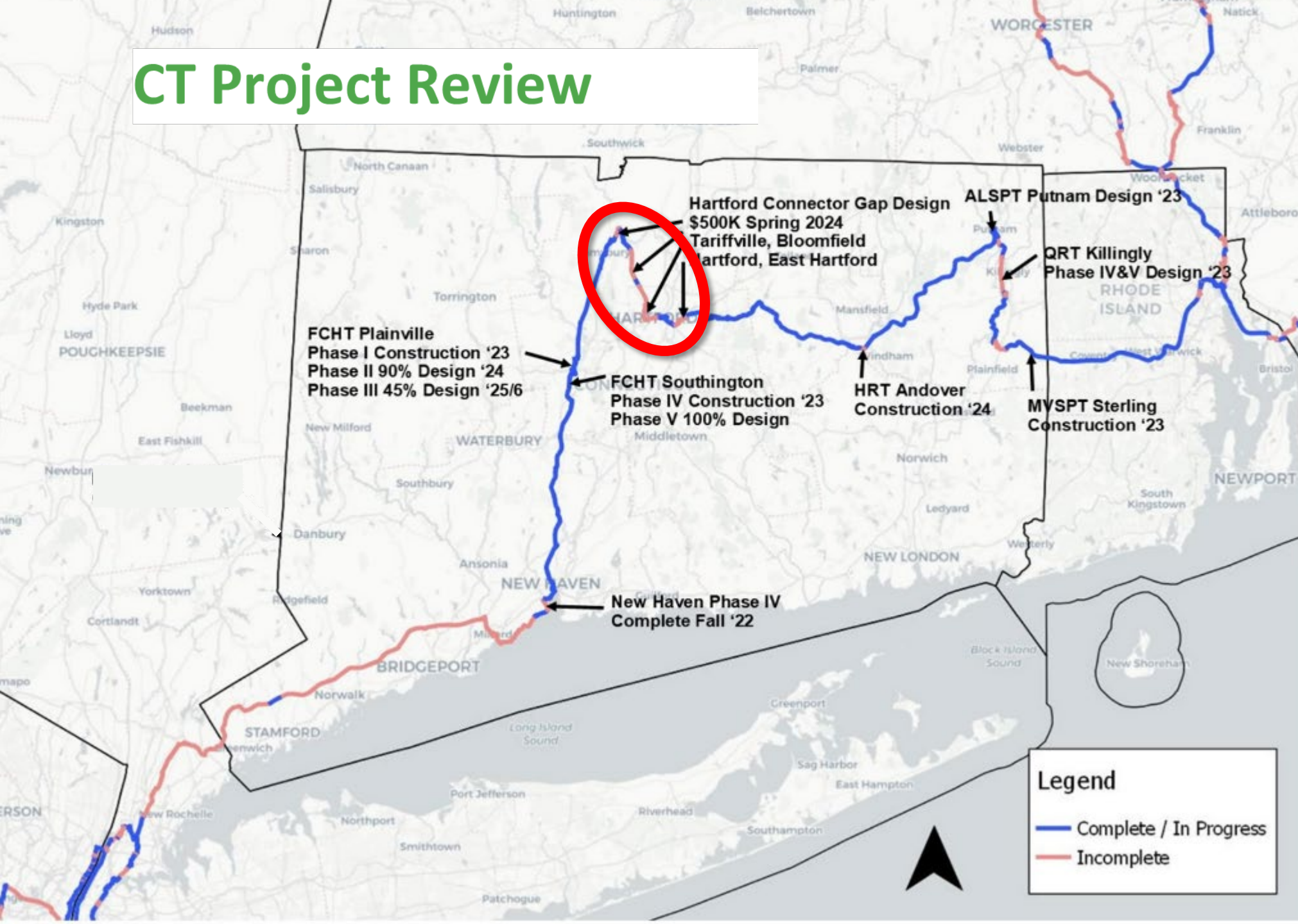
Maine to Florida:



greenway.org

*Approximately 1,000 miles off-road today

CT Project Review



12-mile study area gap – Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford, and East Hartford

By 2027 – 63% Completion Statewide

~150 mi between New Haven and RI state line

Opportunities



Health and Wellness

Mobility and Connectivity

Environmental Justice

Economic Benefit



Project Overview & Goals





Multi-Agency Effort

Managing Agency:



Consultant Team:



Partner Agencies & Organizations:

Federal
National Park Service

State
CT DOT
CT DEEP

Municipal
Town of Simsbury
Town of Bloomfield
City of Hartford
Town of East Hartford

NGO
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Riverfront Recapture
The iQuilt Partnership

About CRCOG

What is CRCOG?

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Metro Hartford Region
- 38 municipalities
- Nearly 1,000,000 residents

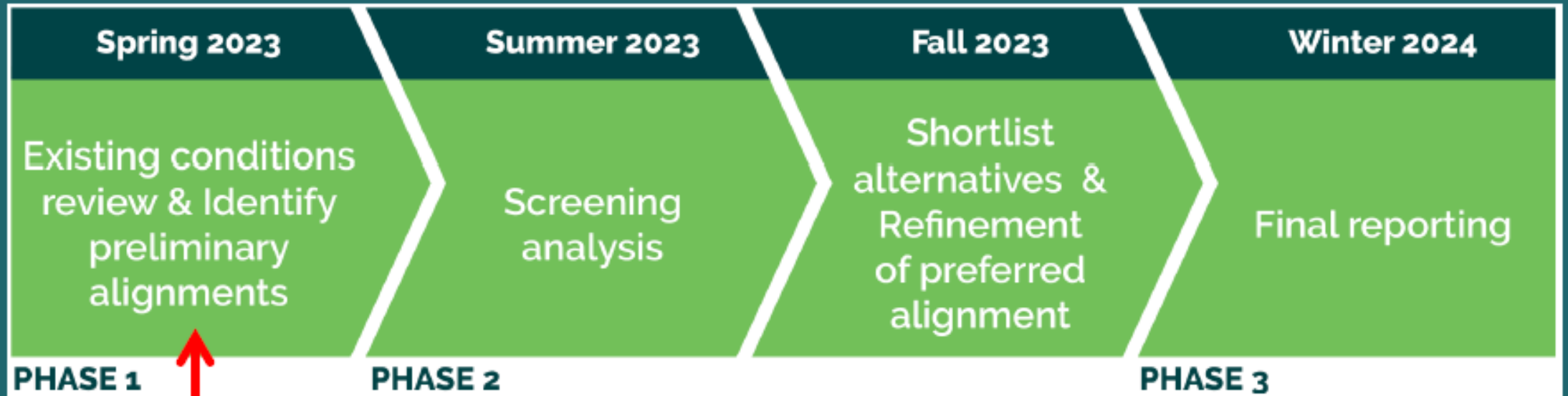
How is CRCOG involved in transportation planning?

- Transportation considerations in Metropolitan Transportation Plan, including planning for vulnerable users, expanding trail and complete street networks, and encouraging mode shift
- Coordination with CTDOT in support of bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- East Cost Greenway a key priority of the CRCOG MTP





Project Schedule



We are here



Project Goals for Bloomfield

- Regional Connection to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail/East Coast Greenway route through Simsbury for walking, running, and bicycling
- Preference is for off-road route that young children would be comfortable riding a bike
- Connection to local parks and recreation opportunities
- Direct Link to the Bloomfield High School, Arace Middle School and others
- Strong connection to downtown and nearby businesses
- Well-designed and attractive trail infrastructure



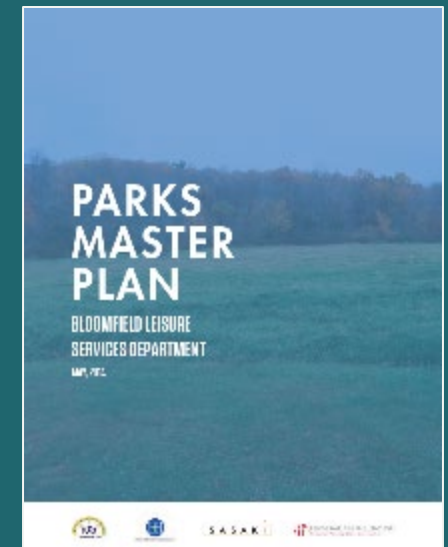
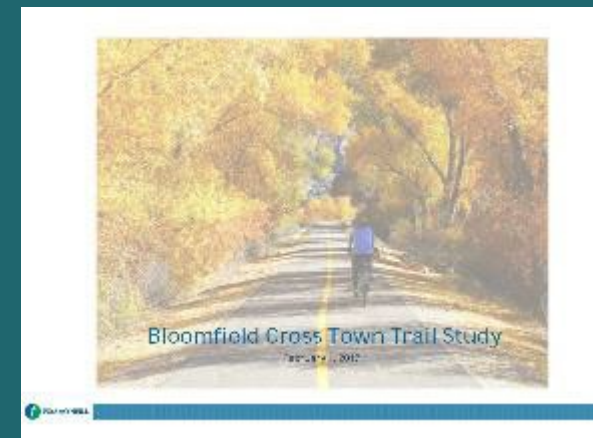
Trail Route Alternatives





Incorporating Prior Efforts

- Bloomfield Complete Streets Master Plan (2021)
- Bloomfield Cross Town Trails Study (2016)
- Bloomfield Parks Master Plan (2014)
- Bloomfield Greenway: Cross-town Bicycle/ Pedestrian Connectivity Project (2023)
- Misc. regional and state plans, e.g., CROCOG Complete Streets Plan



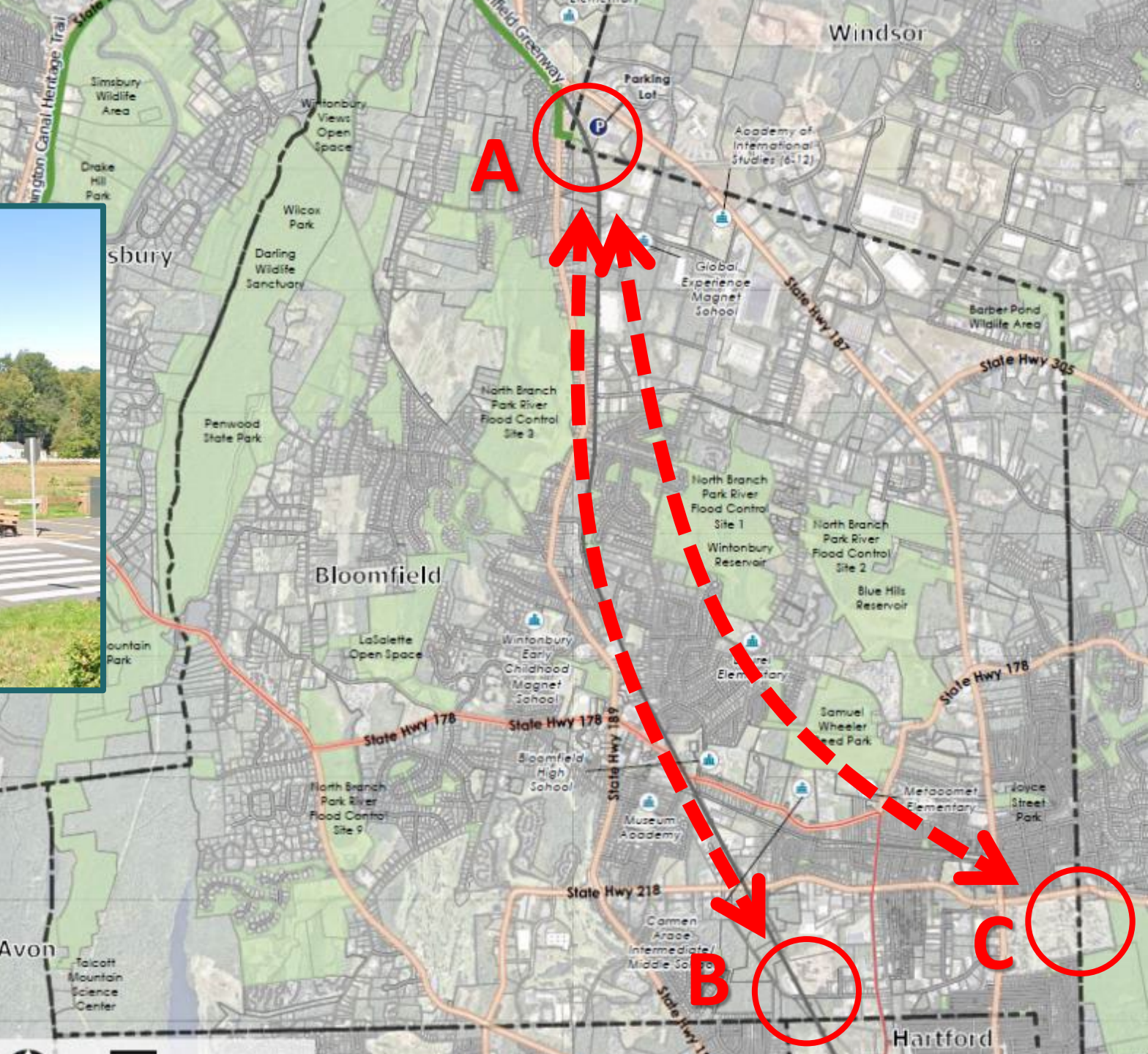
Study Area



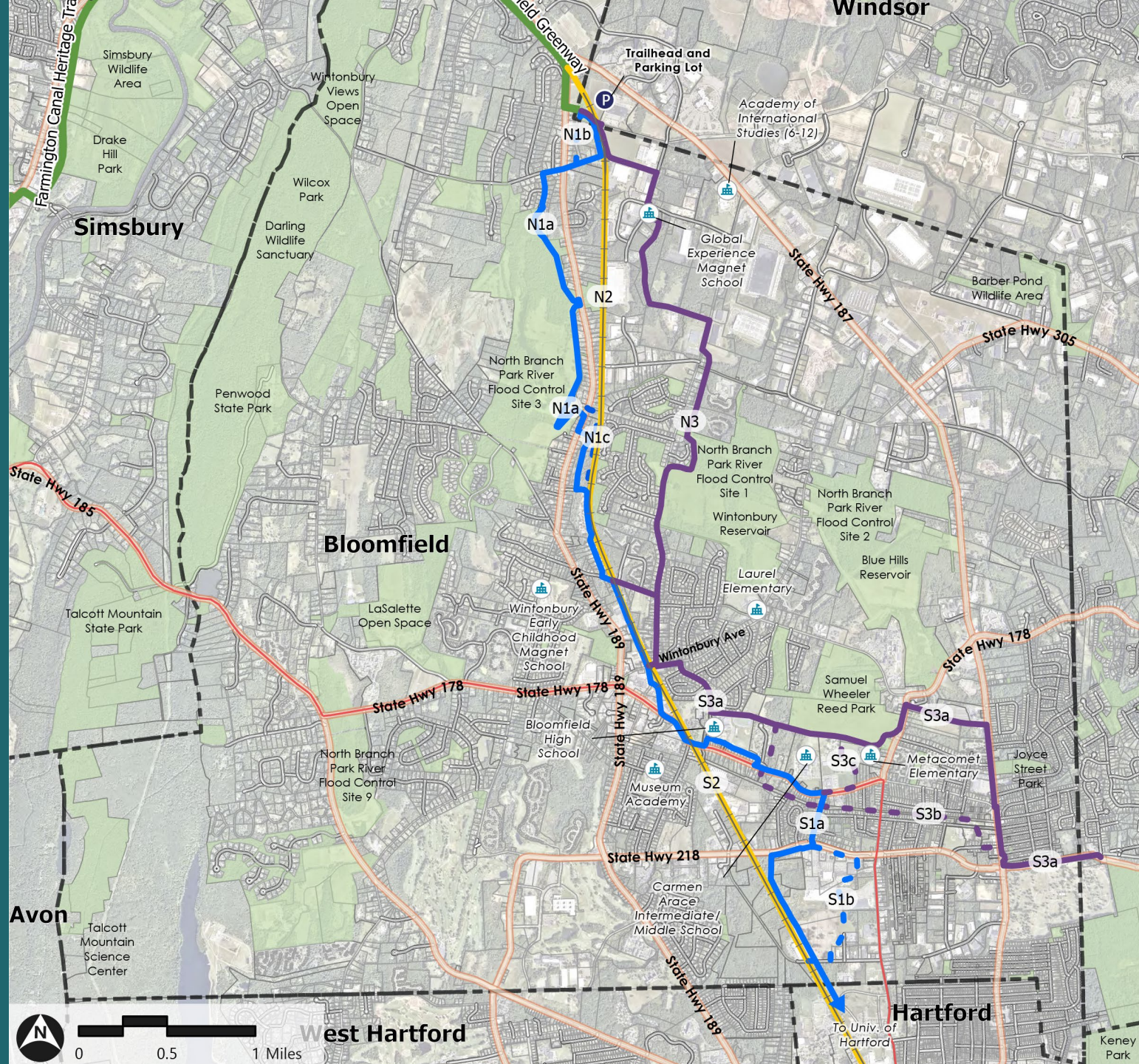
Point A: Bloomfield Greenway Trailhead

Point B: Univ. of Hartford

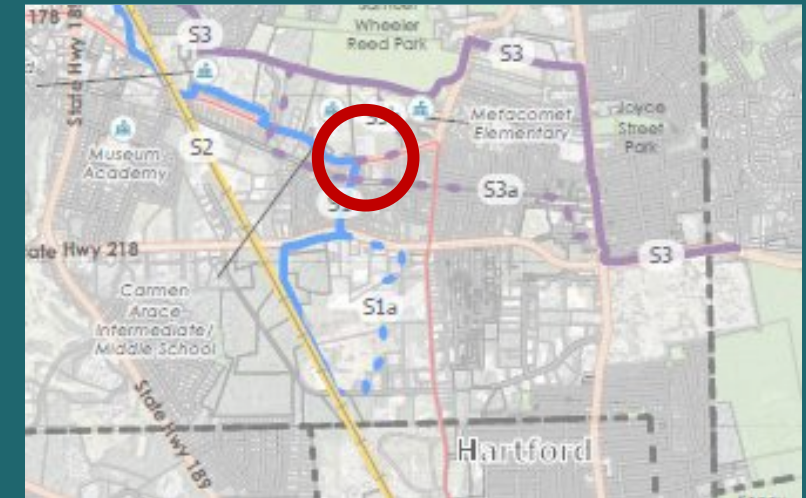
Point C: Keney Park



Draft Alignment Alternatives

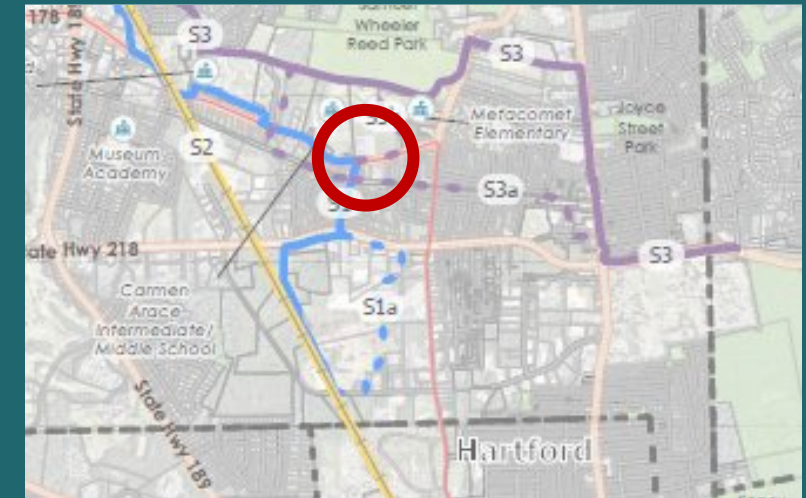


Draft Alignment Alternative 1



Park Avenue current conditions

Draft Alignment Alternative 1



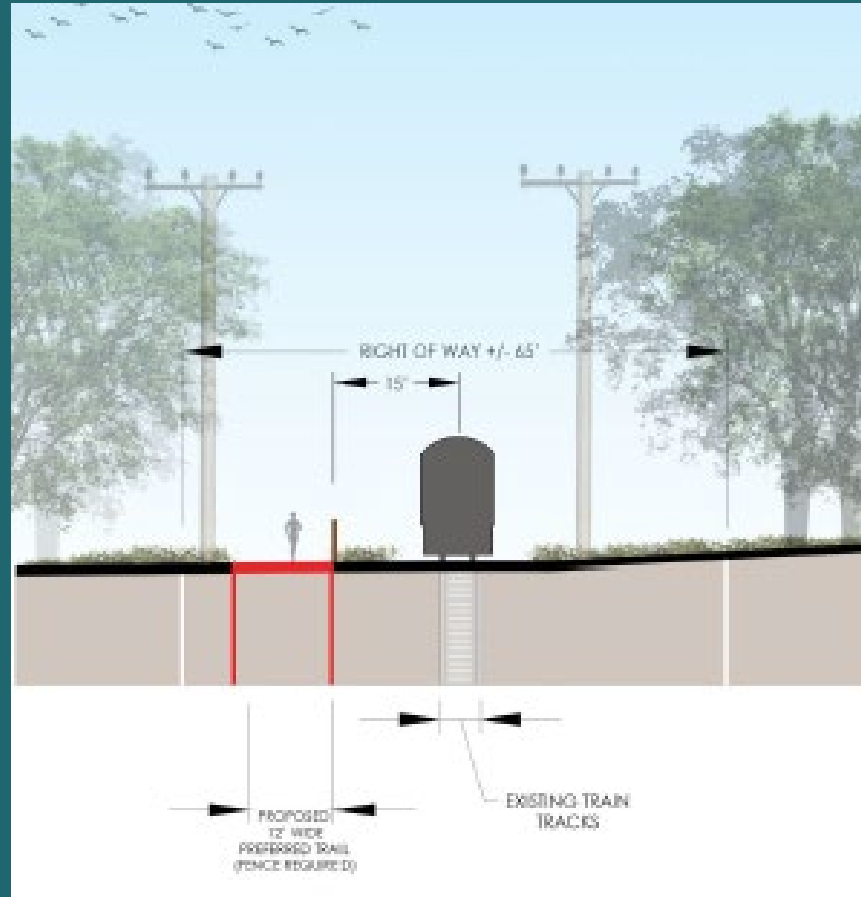
Park Avenue with potential greenway trail



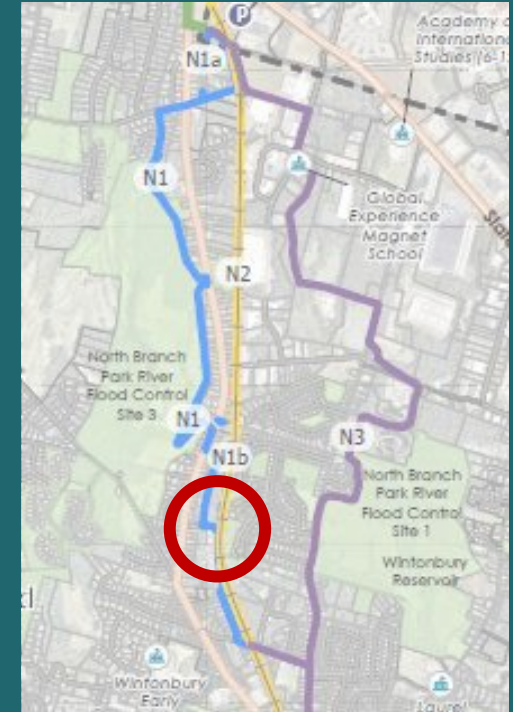
Draft Alignment Alternative 2



Griffin Line from Mills Lane
looking North



Source: Bloomfield Crosstown Trail Study (2017)





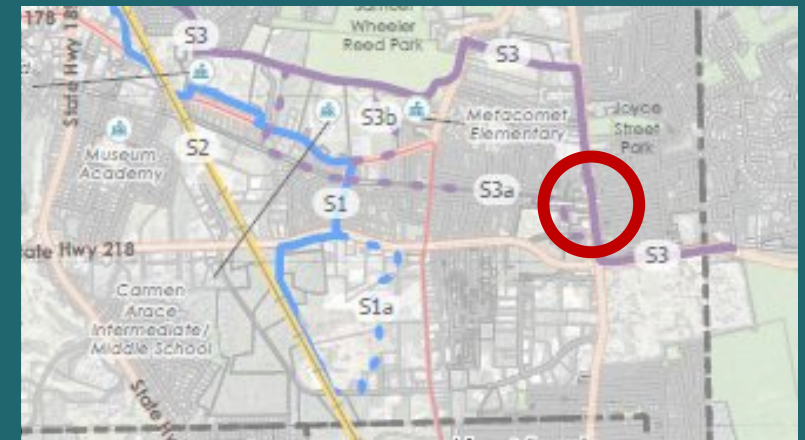
Draft Alignment Alternative 3



Blue Hills Ave at Rockwell Ave



Blue Hills Ave at Harding Ave (beyond Alt. S3)



ECG Trail Typologies for Consideration



Side Path examples (Alewife Greenway in Arlington, MA / Housatonic Ave. in Bridgeport, CT)

ECG Trail Typologies for Consideration



Rail with Trail examples (Eastern Trail in Falmouth ME / Hiawatha Trail in Minneapolis MN)

ECG Trail Typologies for Consideration



Boardwalk examples (Glastonbury, CT and the Alewife Greenway in Arlington, MA)

ECG Trail Typologies for Consideration



Roadway-level 1-way Cycletrack in Hartford



Raised 1-way Cycletrack in Hartford

ECG Trail Typologies for Consideration



Roadway-level 2-way Cycletrack in Bolton, CT



Raised 2-way Cycletrack in Washington, DC

ECG Trail Typologies for Consideration



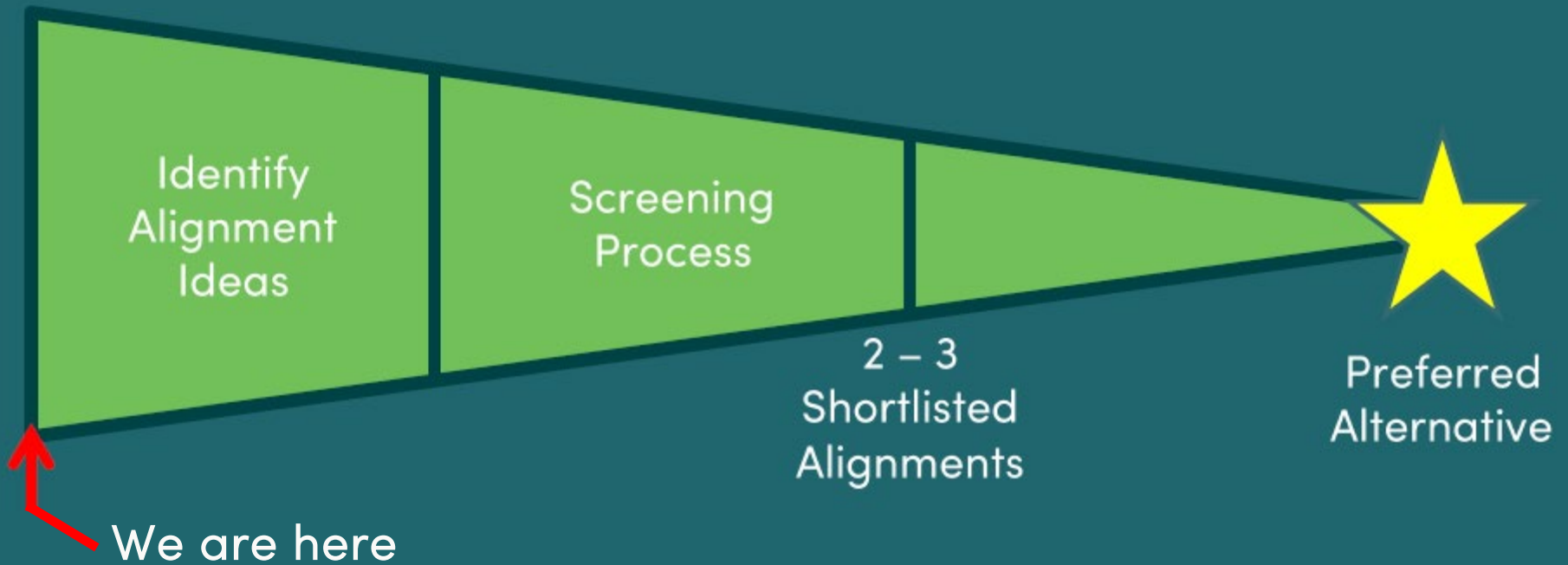
Photo: Jason Phillips / AllTrails

Route 44 underpass in Avon, CT



I-384 Exit Overpass in Bolton, CT

NEXT STEPS





NEXT STEPS

Screening Process –
What do we prioritize in selection a route?



Off-Road



Connectivity



Environment



Traffic Safety



Equity



Cost



Personal Security



Right-of-Way



Economic
Opportunity



FUNDING

- CTDOT has committed to the closure of the East Coast Greenway gaps
- We have seen this commitment extended to funding. For example, no local funds were utilized for the \$30 million gap closure project in Plainville and New Britain (10.2 miles completing the ECG and connecting to CTfastrak trail)

Workshop Activities





Workshop Activities

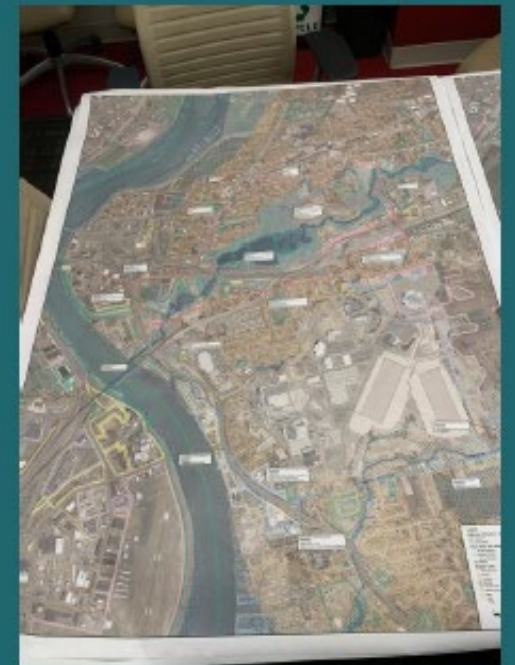
We want to hear from You!

- Discuss with project team at the boards and tables
- Submit your thoughts and comments
- All ideas are worth discussion!

Trail VISIONING



Trail ROUTING



Other Engagement Opportunities



Online Engagement



CRCOG ABOUT • SERVICES • GOVERNANCE / COMMITTEES • GENERAL PUBLIC • NEWS & EVENTS •

Capitol Region East Coast Greenway (ECG) Study

ABOUT THE STUDY

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has initiated a study to identify the preferred alignment of the East Coast Greenway through the last remaining 12-mile gap in the Capitol Region in Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford, and East Hartford. The East Coast Greenway is an off-road walking and biking route stretching 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. In Connecticut, the East Coast Greenway consists of a 200-mile route between the Rhode Island state line at Sterling, Connecticut and the New York state line at Greenwich. In Connecticut, the completed portions of the East Coast Greenway utilize a series of trails including the Air Line Trail, the Hop River Trail, and the Farmington Canal Trail.



crcog.org/capitol-region-ecg-study

Online Engagement



Map Satellite

Windsor Locks East Windsor South Windsor

WEST SIMSBURY Simsbury WEATOGUE Avon Bloomfield Windsor Farmington West Hartford Hartford East Hartford Wethersfield Newington

CLAY ARSENAL ASYLEM HILLS WEST BOULEVARD HISTORIC DISTRICT SOUTH GREEN BARRY SQUARE

GLASTONBURY CENTER

Google

Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2023 Google Terms of Use Report a map error

Add a pin or line All pins & lines

CAPITOL REGION
EAST COAST
GREENWAY STUDY
SIMSBURY — BLOOMFIELD — WINDSOR — EAST HARTFORD

Please utilize this mapping tool to provide comment for 1) potential trail locations, and 2) key destinations or barriers which should be considered during this project. Please use the comment box directed to provide more information on each feature identified such as potential improvement to be made, planning history of a particular alignment or other relevant information.

Add Pin Add Line

Address Search
Search...

Legend

- Study Area
- Other Towns of Interest
- User Content
 - User Pins (4)
 - User Lines (1)
- East Coast Greenway Alignment
 - On-Road Routing
 - Trail
 - Trail, Unpaved
 - Transit or Ferry
- Multi-Use Pathways & Sidepaths
 - Constructed

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Want to stay involved and find out about the latest opportunity to participate? Join our interested parties list, by filling out this **FORM**.

CRCOG is interested in your thoughts about the remaining gaps. Please submit comments using the interactive map, link below:

[INTERACTIVE MAP](#)

crcog.org/capitol-region-ecg-study



Future Engagement

Summer 2023

- Community Pop-up Events
- 1-on-1 Stakeholder Meetings
- Online Engagement via Website
- Email and Newsletters

What?

- Screening evaluation of all options considered
- Visualizations and additional detail of Top 2 - 3 Alignments
- In-person site visits with stakeholders on Top 2 - 3 Alignments

Winter 2023-2024

- Final Public Meetings
- Town Council Meetings / Approval

What?

- Review of project process
- Summary of report recommendations

Thank You!

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