



CRCOG



Route 44 Corridor Study
Project Kickoff Meeting Presentation

June 12, 2023



Sat Apr 8 2023

Imagery © 2023 Nearmap, HERE

200 ft

Meeting with you today



Joe Balskus, PE, PTOE, RSP1
Project Manager



Dan Amstutz, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner



Charlie Baker, PE, PTOE
Senior Traffic Engineer



Eric Tang, PE, RSP1, RSP2B
Senior Highway Safety Engineer



Will Britnell
Senior Transportation Advisor



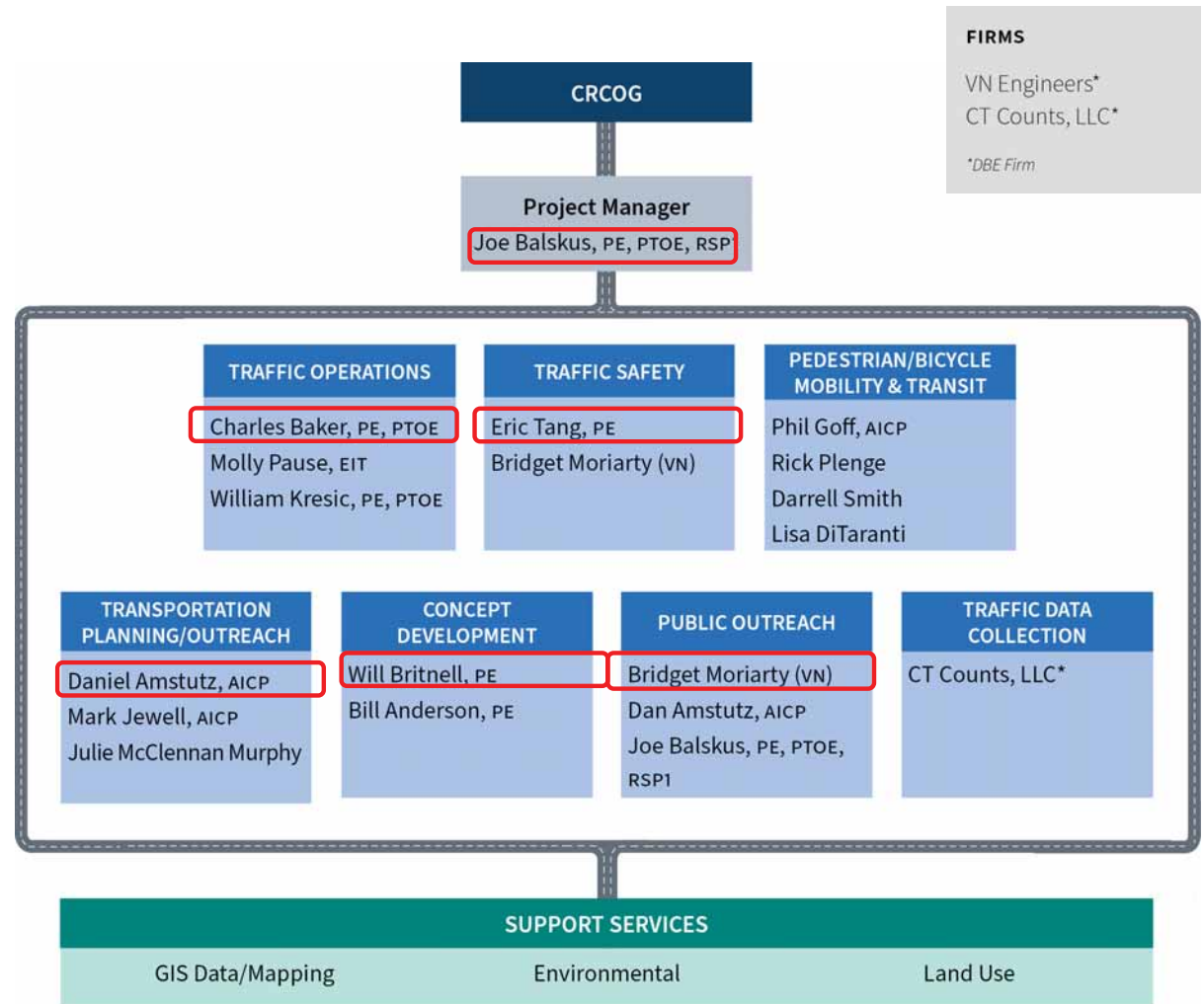
Bridget Moriarty
VN Engineers



Mark Jewell, AICP
Senior Planner

Project Team

- Route 44 Team
 - Shared team members for FRRT–East Study
 - Seamless efforts
 - Common goals
 - One team for both projects



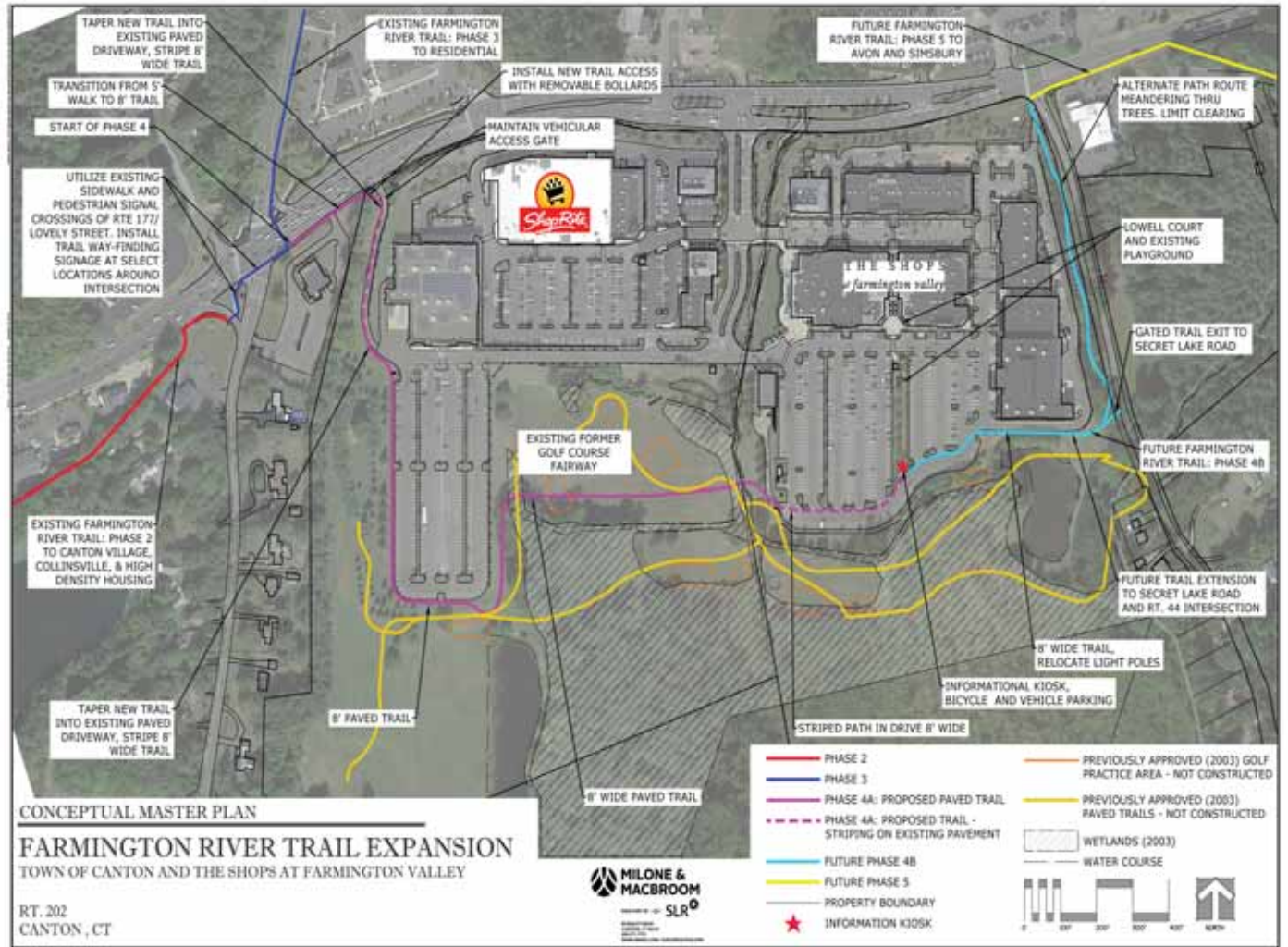
Study Area



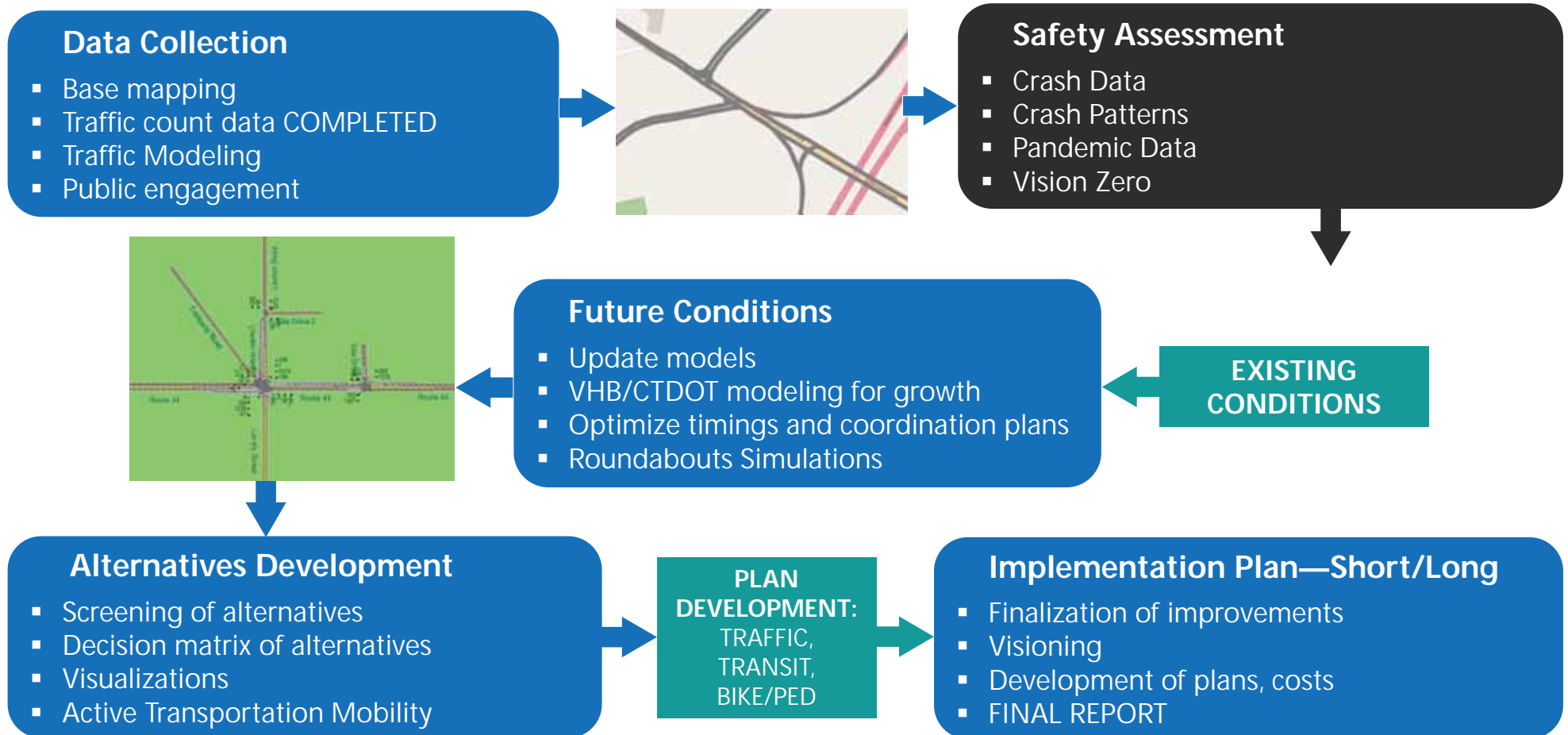
Scope of Work – Major Tasks

- Task 1: Project Management
 - Task 1A: Project Management Plan
 - Task 1B: Study Kickoff Meeting
 - Task 1C: Coordination Calls
 - Task 1D: Monthly Progress Reports and Invoices
- Task 2. Stakeholder and Public Outreach
 - Task 2A: Public Involvement Plan
 - Task 2B: Study Website
 - Task 2C: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - Task 2D. Public Outreach
 - Task 2E. Municipal Coordination
- Task 3. Data Collection
 - Task 3A. Transportation Data
 - Task 3B. Land Use & Development Data
 - Task 3C. Transit Data
 - Task 3D. Pedestrian, Bicyclists, & Vulnerable Users Data
- Task 4. Assessment of Existing Conditions
 - Task 4A. Roadways & Traffic
 - Task 4B. Land Use and Development
 - Task 4C. Transit Data
 - Task 4D. Pedestrian, Bicyclists, & Vulnerable Users Data
- Task 5. Assessment of Future Conditions
 - Task 5A. Future Development Potential
 - Task 5B. Traffic Forecast 2050 Baseline & Growth
 - Task 5C. Traffic Operations Analyses
 - Task 5D. Bike-ped Potential
- Task 6. Identification and Analysis of Alternatives
 - Task 6A. Develop Preliminary Alternatives
 - Task 6B. Assess and Refine Alternatives
- Task 7. Transportation Improvement & Development Management Plan
 - Task 7A. Final Recommendations Plan
 - Task 7B. Executive Summary

Trail Study



Corridor Study Typical Approach



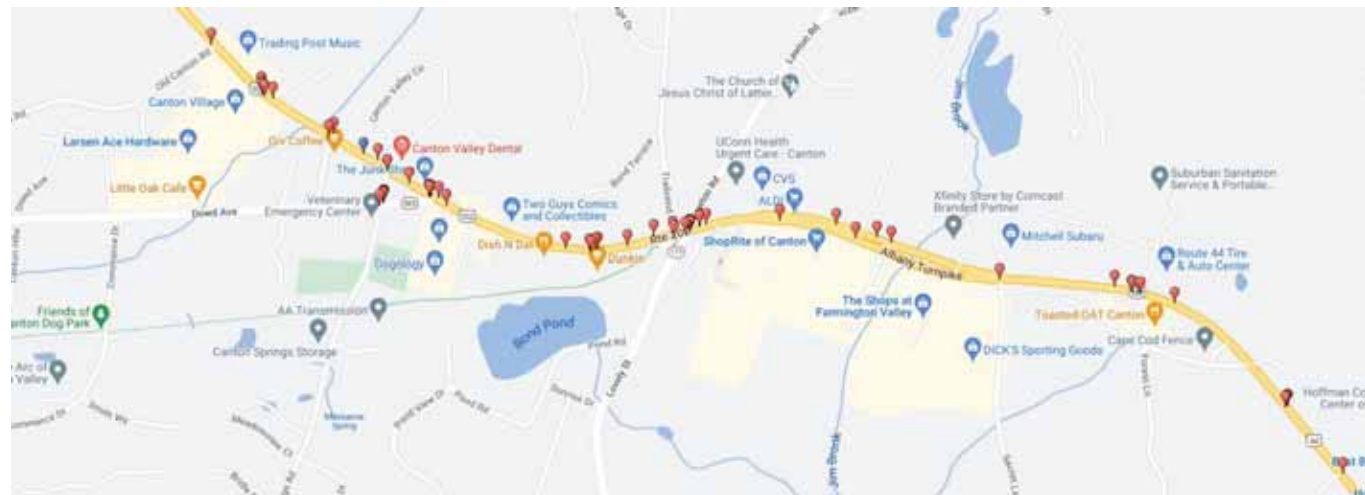
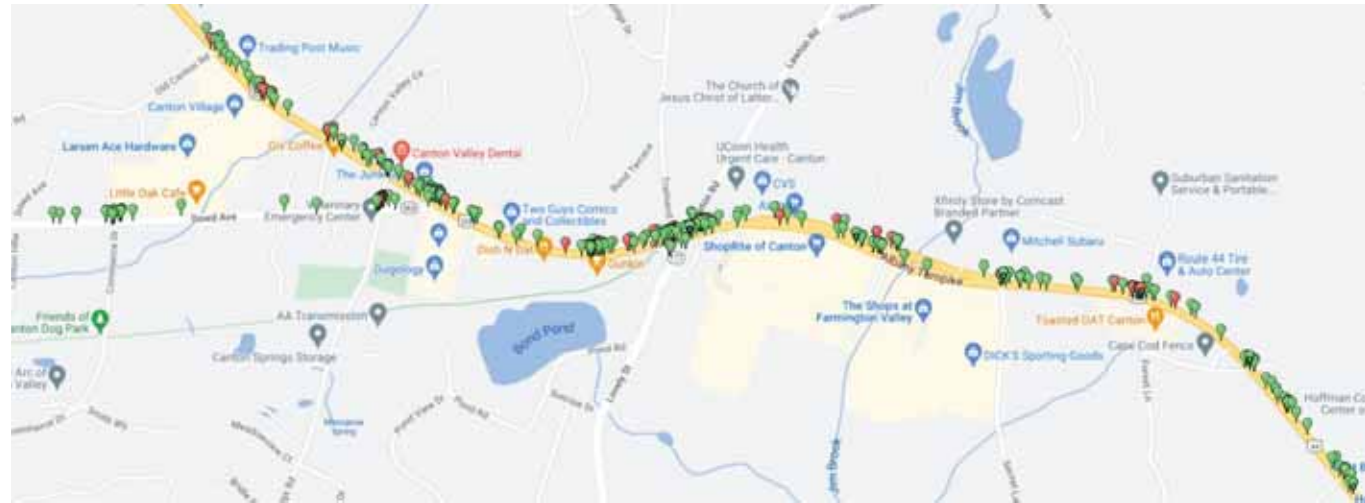
Capacity Analyses

- Evaluate existing conditions and various alternatives
- Study Area:
 - 6 Signalized Intersections
 - Other key locations affected by improvement alternatives
- Synchro Software
 - Industry standard for analysis of signalized intersections
 - Less effective for analyzing:
 - Roundabouts
 - Intersections with complex geometry
 - Interactions between signalized and unsignalized intersections

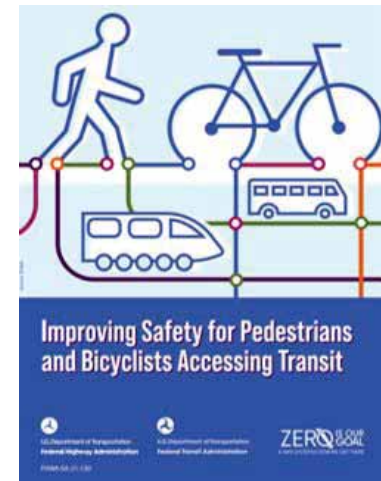
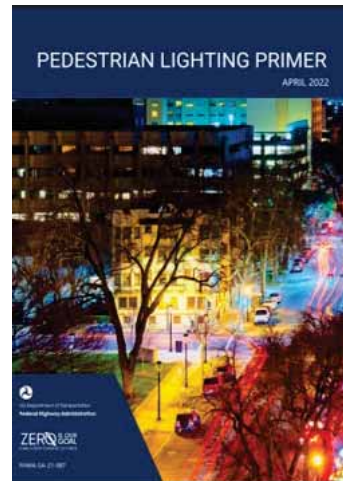
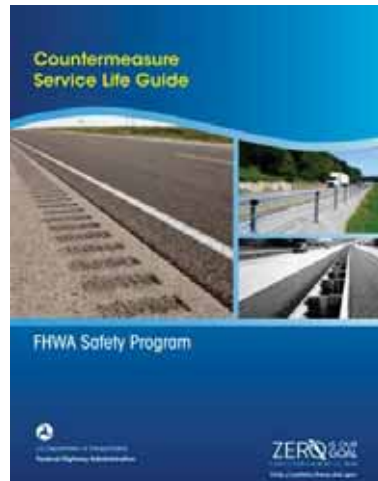


Safety

- Connecticut Crash Data Repository Data (2018-2022)
 - **376 crashes** on Route 44 and Dowd Avenue
 - 55% intersections
 - 20% angle
 - 48% rear end
 - **67 fatal and injury** crashes
 - 63% at intersections
 - 43% angle
 - 36% rear end
 - **1 fatality** on Route 44 (Pedestrian in 2018) just west of Canton Valley Circle

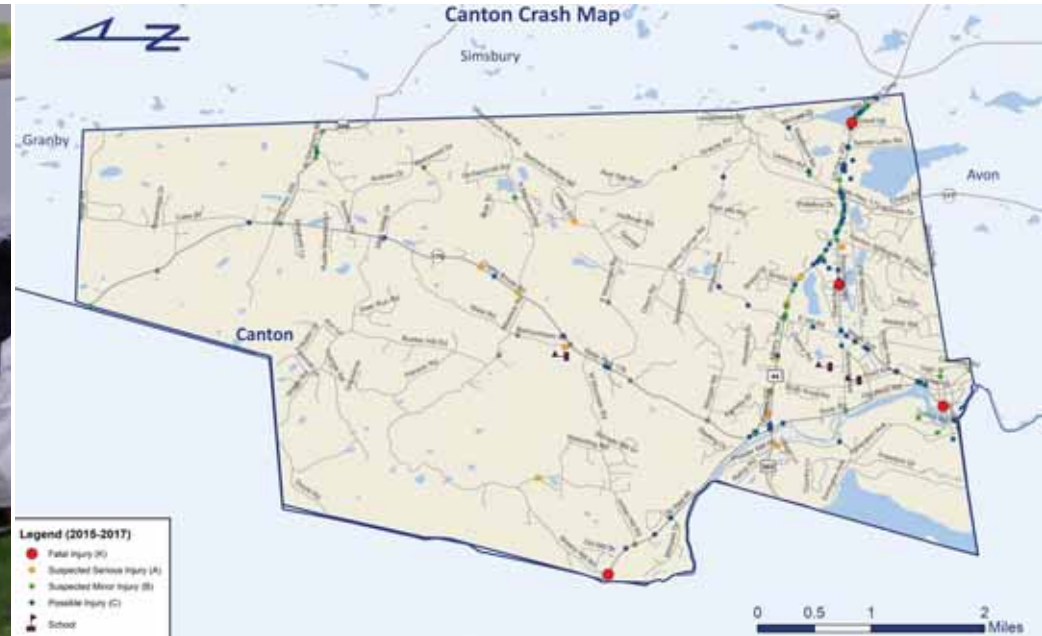


Safety Analysis and Countermeasures



- Systemic and hot spot analysis of crash data
- Application of best practices and proven countermeasures to address identified concerns
- Estimation of potential safety benefit using Highway Safety Manual procedures and Connecticut Roadway Safety Management System tools

Route 44 Corridor Public Outreach



Outreach Plan

- Develop a Public Involvement Plan
 - Ensure EJ/LEP persons included
 - Special focus on commuters who have LEP at Shops, Mitchell Subaru, Aldis, etc.
- Develop two surveys
 - First survey will be during existing conditions development
 - Second survey after alternatives development
 - Distribute to key locations in Canton and post on Canton/CRCOG websites.
 - Analyze and produce findings
- Develop graphics and content for CRCOG's Website
- Organize and host 2 Pop up Events-Collinsville Farmers Market, The Shops at Farmington, Summer Concert Series, Music on Main
- Host 3 Hybrid Public Meetings at various times
- Present at two Board of Selectman Meetings



Stakeholders

- Town of Canton
- CRCOG
- CTDOT
- Residents
- Business owners on US-44
- Motorized and non-motorized users
- Transit Users
- Environmental justice (EJ) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities within the study area
- Farmington Valley Trail Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Bike Walk Canton
- Canton Advocate for Responsible Expansion
- Canton Parks and Recreation
- Senior Center – elderly residential developments



THE SHOPS
at farmington valley

 **CT transit**

Rutas

Pasajes

Cómo viajar

Acerca de



Anticipated Project Schedule

| # | Task | Dates |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Kick-off and Project Management | June 2023, ongoing |
| 2 | Stakeholder and Public Outreach | June 2023–September 2024 |
| 3 | Data Collection | June - July 2023 |
| 4 | Assessment of Existing Conditions | August-September 2023 |
| 5 | Assessment of Future Conditions | October -November 2023 |
| 6 | Identification and Analysis of Alternatives | December 2023 - March 2024 |
| 7 | Development of Transportation Improvement and Development Management Plan | April 2024–June 2024 |

Town/State Provided Data

- Town Plan of Conservation & Development
- Regional Plan of Conservation & Development
- Land Use, ROW and Property Delineation
- Existing Zoning & Development Regulations including two Village Districts
- Population and Employment Data-State
- Wetland & Surface Water Resources-State
- Environmental Constraints-State
- State Superfund site within the project area
- Site Plans for Shops
- Trail Study/Design Schedule
- Technical Advisory Committee Members



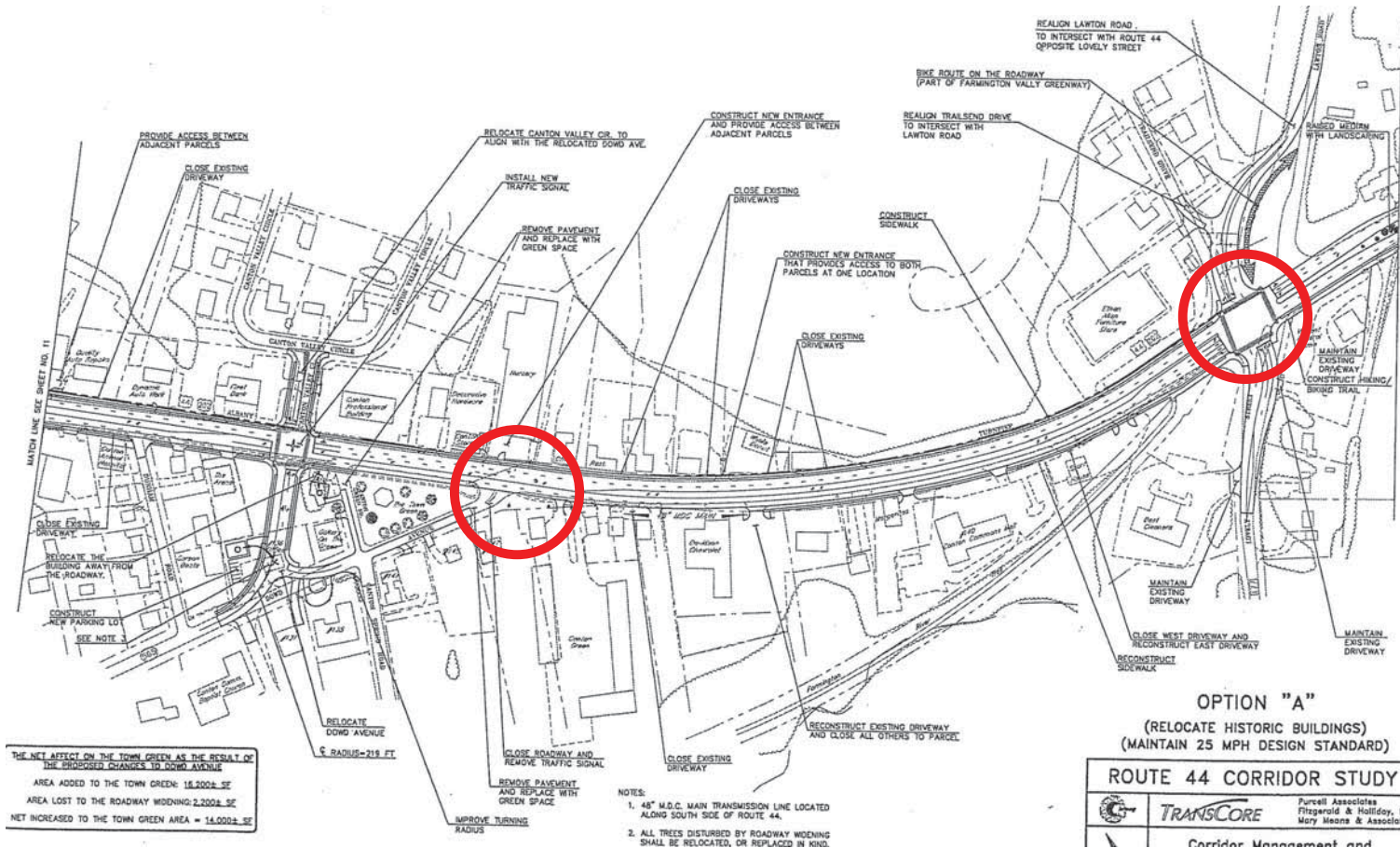
Corridor Study Discussions

Route 44 Corridor History

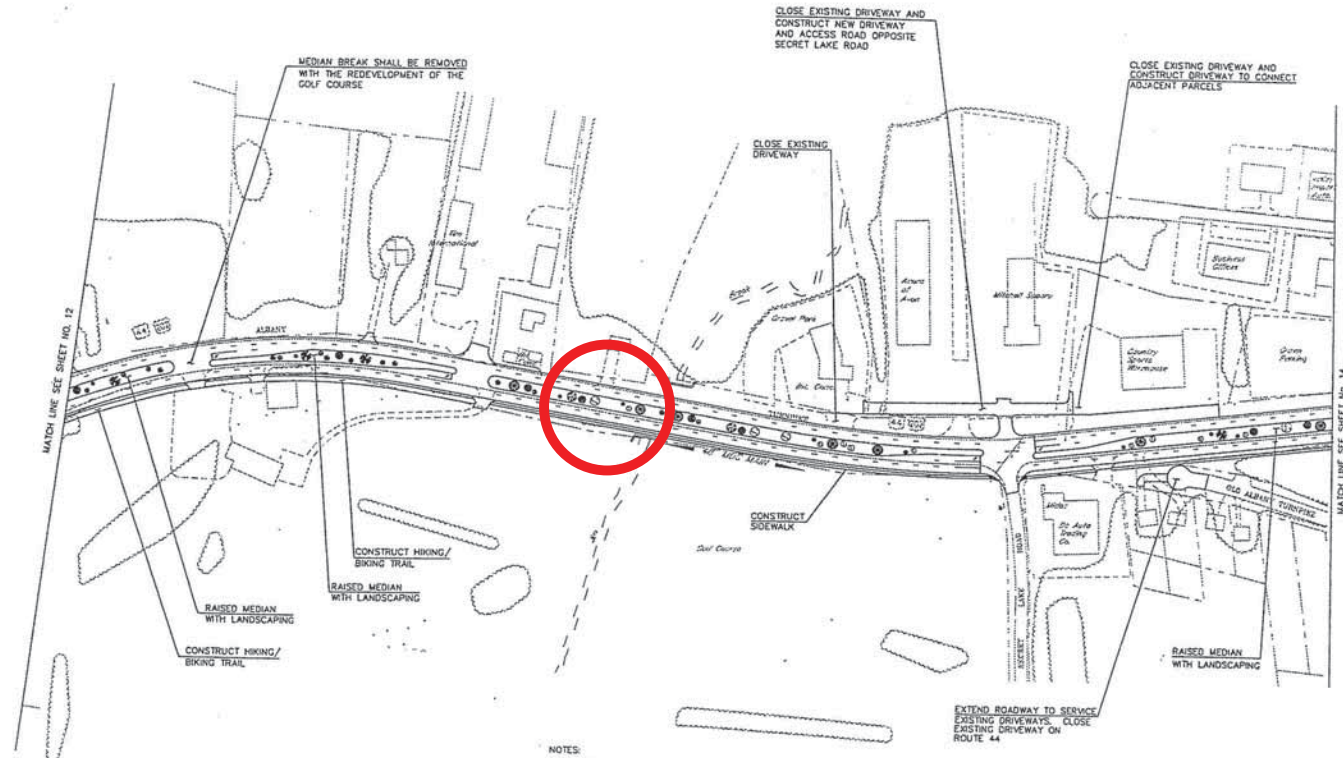
- CTDOT and CRCOG late 1990s corridor study
 - "The Old Stagecoach is Getting an Overhaul"
 - Correct left turn accident problems in commercial area of Eastern Canton with median
 - Median to be sufficiently wide (24') to create attractive boulevard-type appearance
 - Signalization of intersections
- Traffic volumes peaked before Great Recession: 31k ADT
 - Today: 26k ADT
- US Route 44–National Highway System



Route 44 at Dowd – 25 Years Ago



Route 44 at Shops – 25 Years Ago

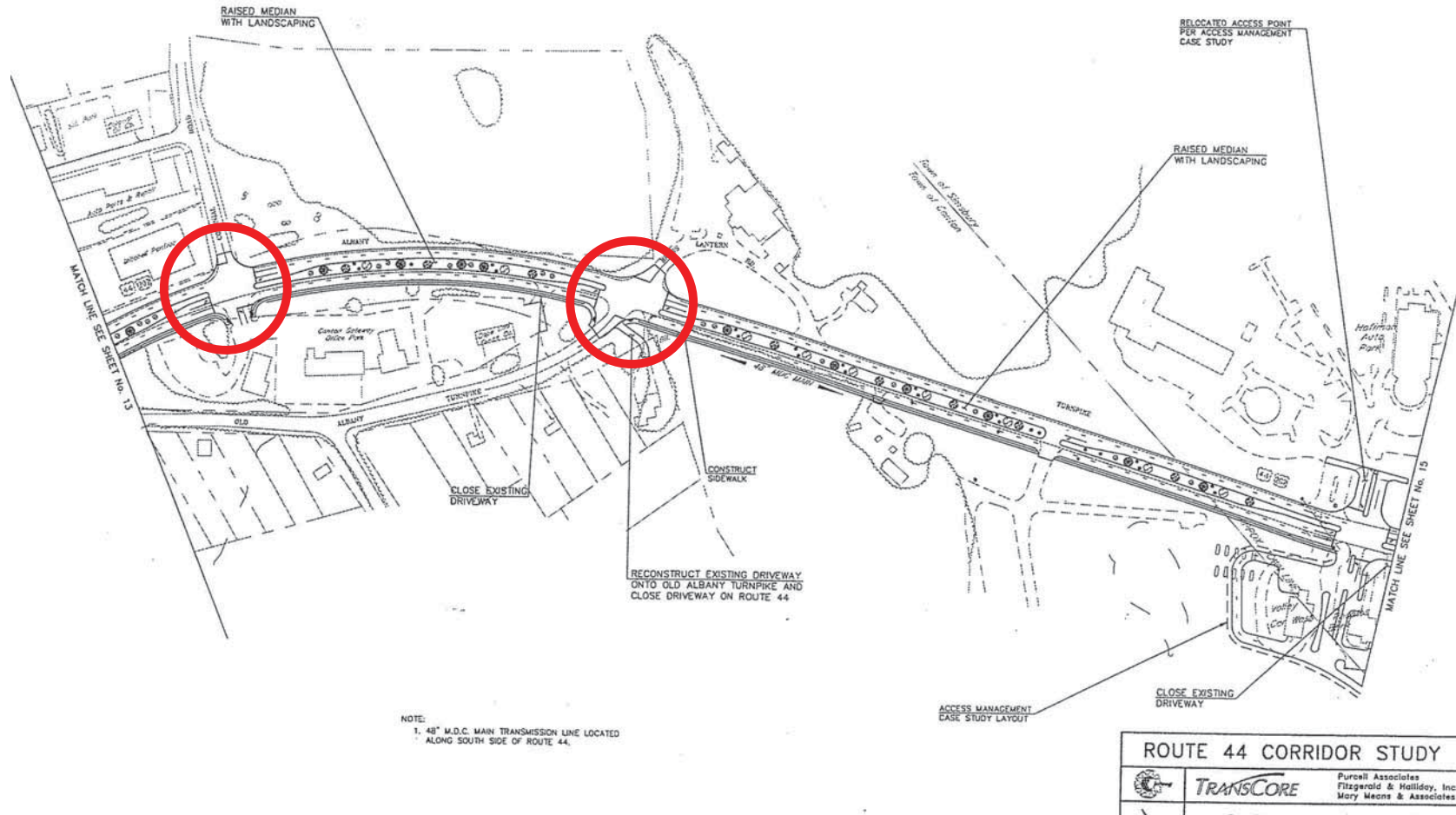


- NOTES:
1. 48" M.O.C. MAIN TRANSMISSION LINE LOCATED ALONG SOUTH SIDE OF ROUTE 44.
 2. PROVISIONS FOR A PARK-IN-RIDE LOT SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GOLF COURSE.
 3. ALL TREES DISTURBED BY ROADWAY WOENING SHALL BE RELOCATED OR REPLACED IN KIND.
 4. ONLY ONE COMMON MEDIAN OPENING SHALL BE PROVIDED ON ROUTE 44 FOR THE ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL AND GOLF COURSE WITH LEFT TURN LANES.

PLAN WAS COMPILED FROM OTHER MAPS, RECORDS, EVIDENCE OR OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION. IT IS NOT GUARANTEED AS HAVING BEEN OBTAINED AS THE RESULT OF A FIELD SURVEY, AND IS SUBJECT TO DISCREPANCY AS AN APPROPRIATE FIELD SURVEY MAY DISCLOSE.

| | |
|--|---|
| ROUTE 44 CORRIDOR STUDY | |
| | <small>Purcell Associates Fitzgerald & Holliday, Inc. Mary Means & Associates</small> |
| Corridor Management and Improvement Base Plans | |
| <small>MANUAL REVISIONS TO THIS DOCUMENT ARE INDICATED AS FOLLOWS:</small> | <small>CANTON CONCEPTS</small> |
| <small>July, 1998</small> | |

Route 44 East – 25 Years Ago



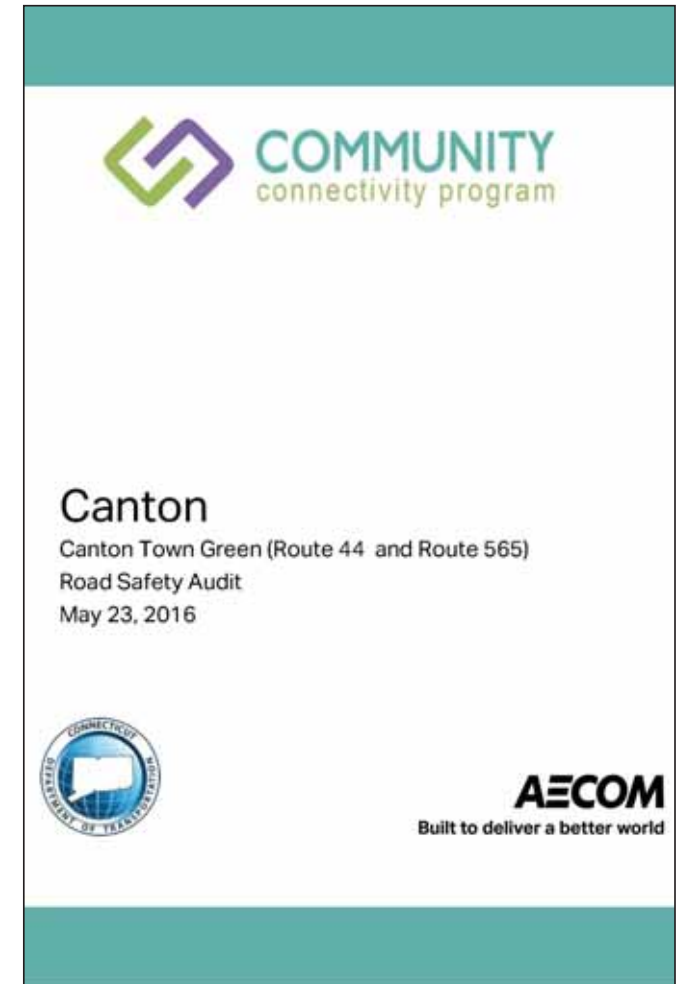
Route 44 in 2016



Understanding: Master Plans and RSA's

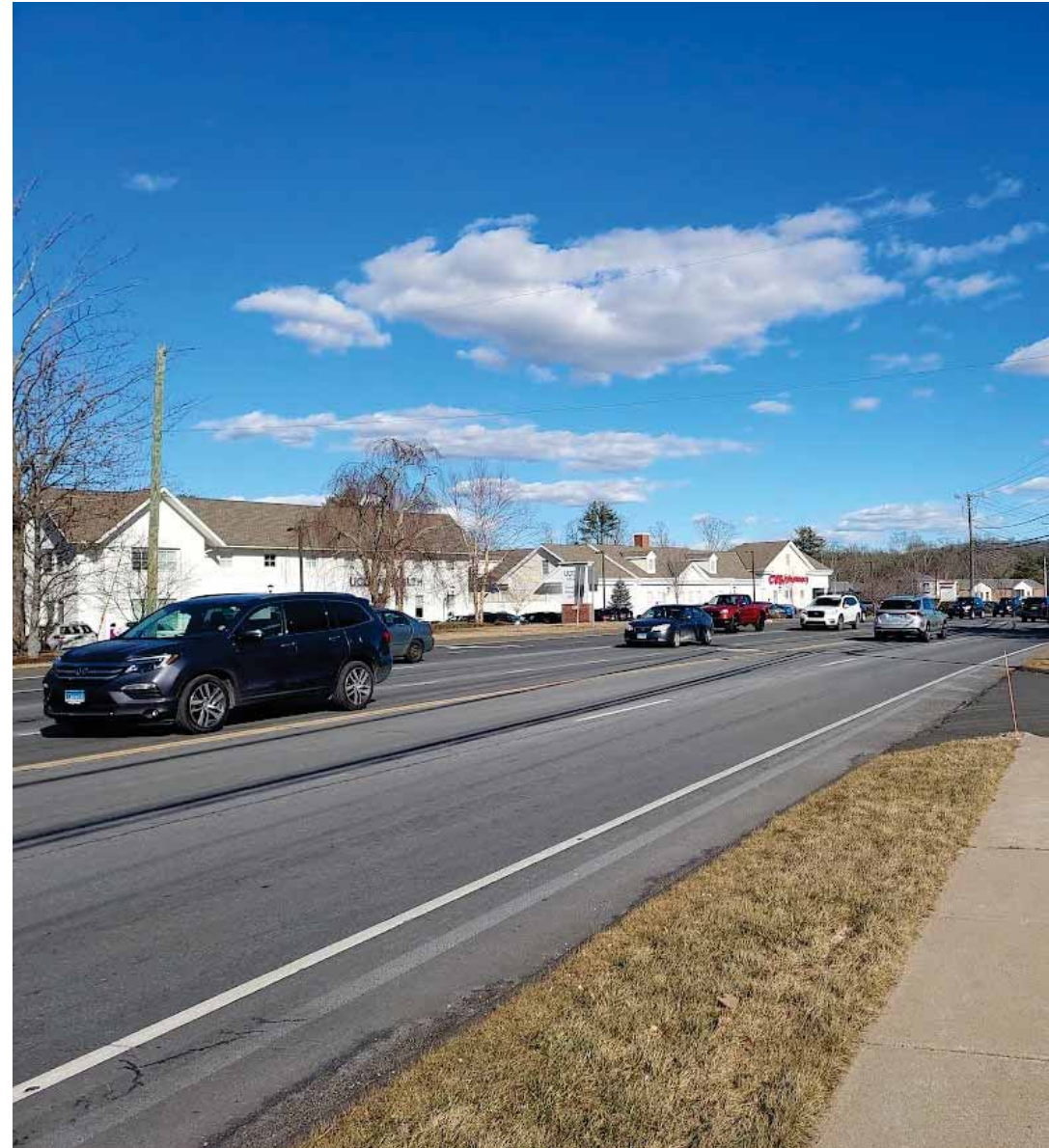
4.3 Long Term

1. Conduct a road diet on Route 44
2. Construct a left turn lane from Route 44 to Dowd Avenue
3. Redo all driveway aprons and sidewalks along Route 44 to create continuous sidewalks, improve connectivity and enhance safety. This may require narrowing or combining driveways to reduce crossing widths.
4. Implement the recommendations for Canton Springs Road and Canton Green Road found in Route 44 study conducted in 2000.
5. Upgrade the sidewalks between Dunham Road and the Town Green to resolve drainage issues.
6. Reconstruct the intersection of Dowd Avenue and Route 44 into a normal "T" configuration and add an exclusive left turn lane on to the Dowd Avenue.
7. Install a speed table at the Canton Springs Road rail trail crossing in order to slow vehicles down.

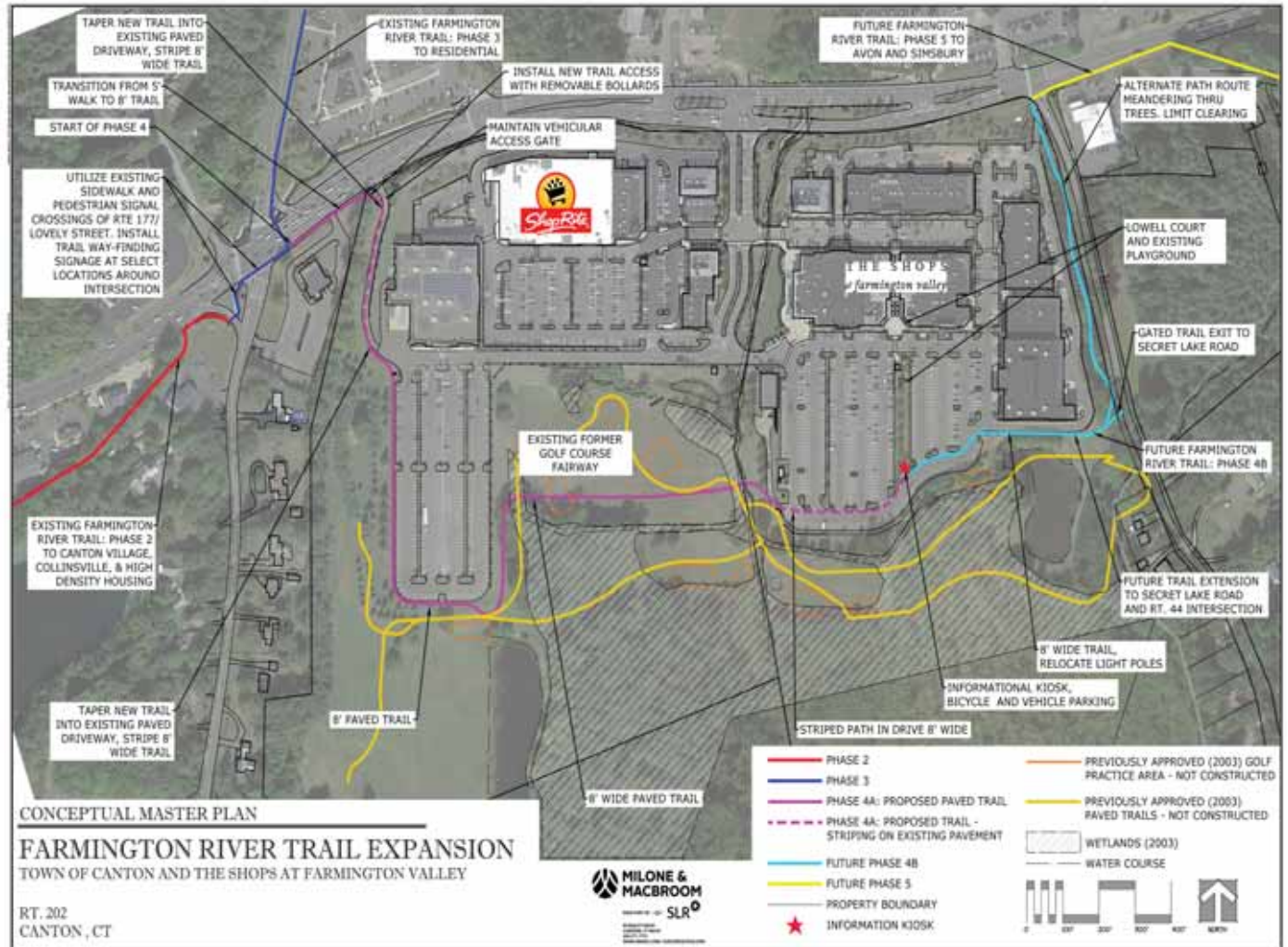


Route 44 Corridor Future

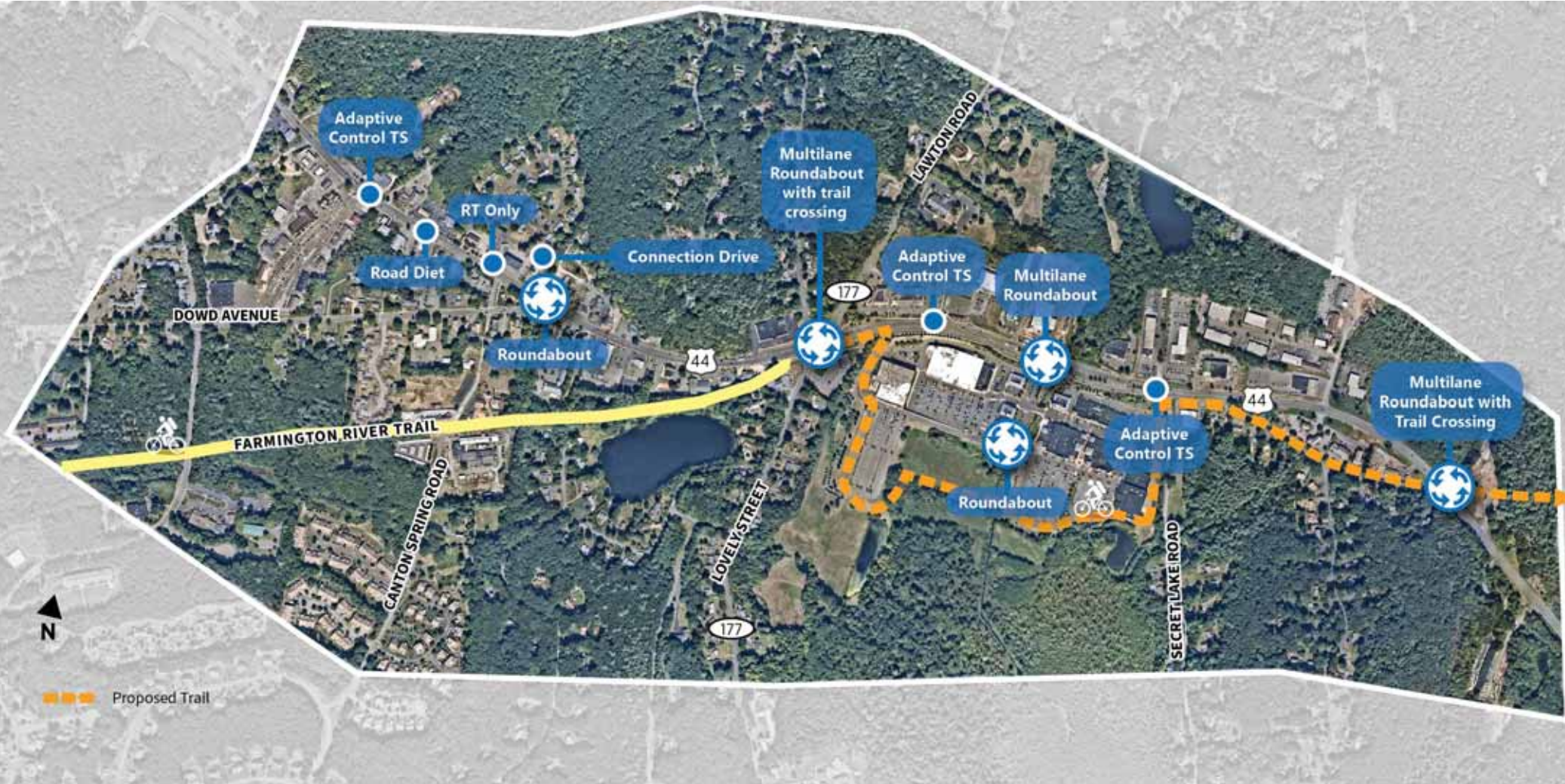
- Multimodal transportation vision for future of corridor and new development
 - Design Village Districts - Form-based code
 - Compact, walkable development
 - Farmington River Trail
 - Improve access to public transportation
- Transform Route 44 to support this new vision

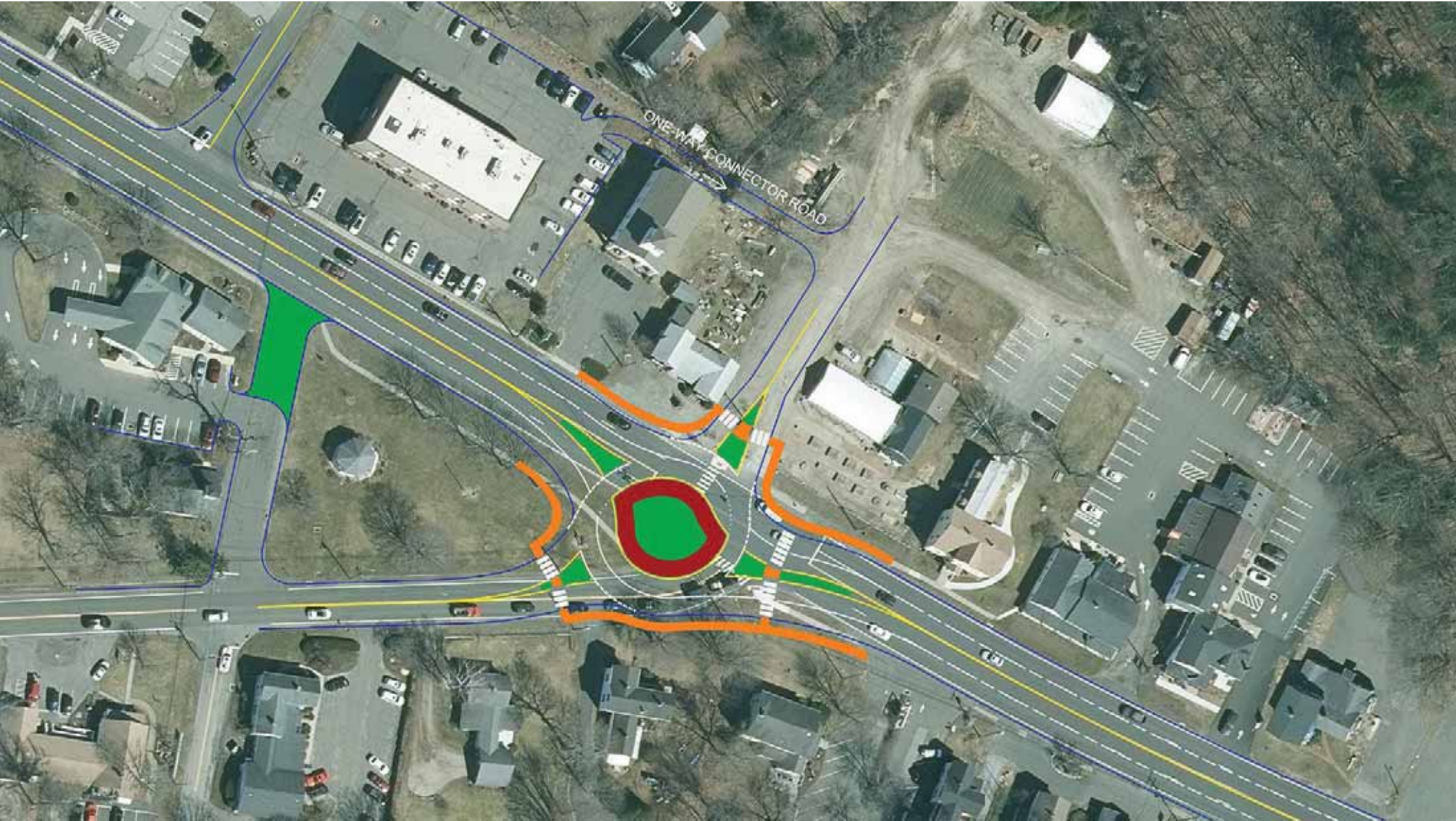


Trail Study



Opportunities







Opportunities East End

- Crossing Route 44 with Vulnerable Users – Safest Opportunity?
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Pedestrian Tunnel
- Traffic Signals
 - At Crossing
 - Adjacent Locations
- Multilane Roundabout



Project Challenge(s)

- **US Route 44 Through Canton**
 - NHS Highway
 - Main Thoroughfare for Town
 - Transform Highway to Town Needs
- **Public Engagement of Stakeholders**
 - Commuters, Patrons, Business Owners, Operators, Residents, Trail Users
 - Conflicting Interests?
 - Develop Consensus? How?
 - Mark, Bridget, Dan
- **FRRT – East Study**
 - Work in Tandem



Major Traffic Generators



| Program | Description | Eligible Project Types for Route 44 |
|--|---|---|
| Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) | State transportation funding through RPOS for Federal-Aid roadways | Roadway reconstruction, multi-use trail and sidewalk projects |
| Transportation Alternatives (TA) | Funding for bike-ped projects | Trails, bike-ped improvements |
| Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) | Improve air quality and reduce congestion on roadways | Traffic flow improvements, bike-ped and trails projects |
| Community Connectivity Grant | Small-scale bike-ped improvements | Bike-ped, trail improvements |
| Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRARP) | Vehicle safety improvements on municipal-owned roads | Safety improvements to Dowd Ave or adjacent local streets |
| DEEP Recreational Trails | Trail-related projects | Farmington River Trail improvements |
| Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) | Capital funding for small towns to improve economic/community development | Road reconstruction, site improvements |
| Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) | State formula funding for local capital improvement projects | Road, sidewalk, bridge, trail projects |

Funding Opportunities for Project Recommendations

Federal

- **IIJA**, CMAQ, LRARP, STP-Urban, (ATCMTD)

State Agencies

- CCGP, LOTCIP, DECD, TOD, Discretionary

Town

- Capital Improvements
- Bonding
- Developers/PPP

A flyer for the Community Connectivity Grant Program. It includes a header with "Community Connectivity Grant Program" and a small image of a street scene. The main text describes the program's goals and provides application details. At the bottom, it states "All state and local roads are eligible for this Program." The flyer is decorated with colorful lines and boxes.

The Community Connectivity Program (CCGP) developed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation seeks to improve accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians in urban, suburban and rural community centers. The primary program objective is to make conditions safer and more accommodating for pedestrians and cyclists, thereby encouraging more people to use these healthy and environmentally sustainable modes of travel. A central goal of the Community Connectivity Grant Program is to facilitate social and economic opportunities in underserved communities by providing equitable levels of access to affordable and reliable transportation options. Underserved communities include low-income households and individuals, minority populations, elderly citizens, people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and/or persons with disabilities. The CCGP will consider suitable transportation projects that respect the community's mobility and connectivity needs and in order to attain an equitable transportation network.

The CCGP provides construction funding for local initiatives that all contribute to reaching the overall goal of the broader Community Connectivity Program. Projects funded through the CCGP will allow municipalities to perform smaller scale capital improvements. The Department will administer the CCGP and will accept applications for grants from municipalities. The Round 3 grants will be awarded on a competitive basis and will range between \$125,000 and \$500,000.

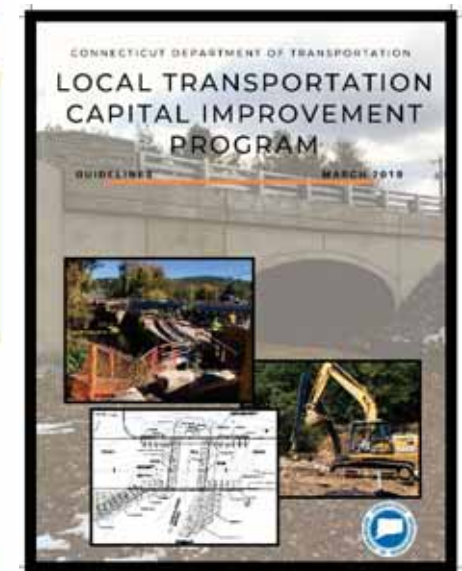
Guidelines for the program and an electronic application can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/ctdot>. The Guidelines provide an overview of the CCGP and all the necessary details to complete an application for grant funding. Please note that this is a competitive process, where applications will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the application materials.

In order to be considered for award of a grant under this solicitation, Municipalities that were previously awarded a grant under the Community Connectivity Program must have progressed with their projects past the point of submission of Final Design and awarded a Notice to Proceed or Authorization to Advance two points by the date the solicitation is announced (August 28, 2023).

The application deadline for the current CCGP solicitation is **6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2023**. Each Municipality will be allowed to submit **one** application.

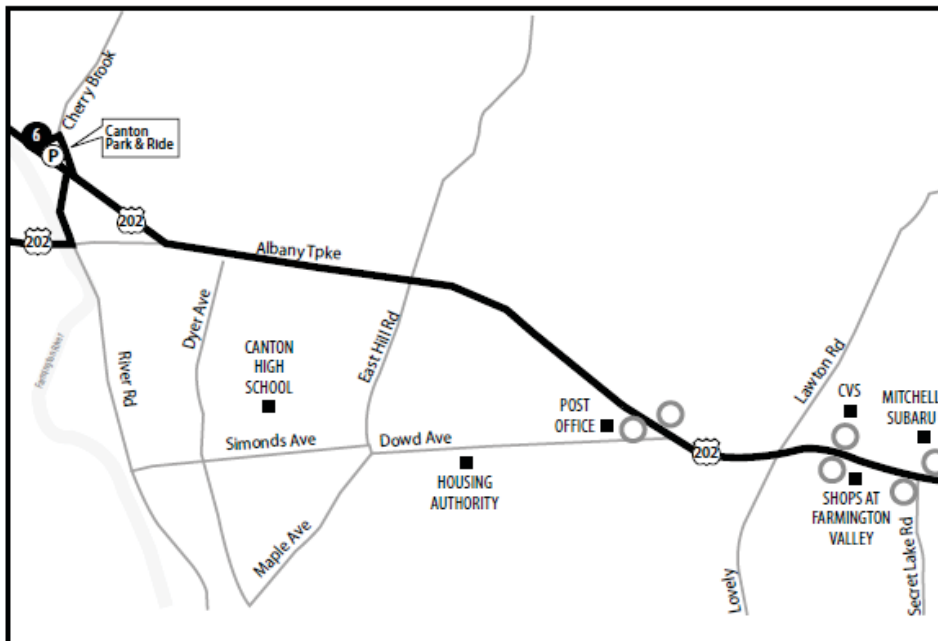
All general inquiries regarding the Community Connectivity Grant Program should be directed to CCGP@CTDOT.state.ct.us.

All state and local roads are eligible for this Program.

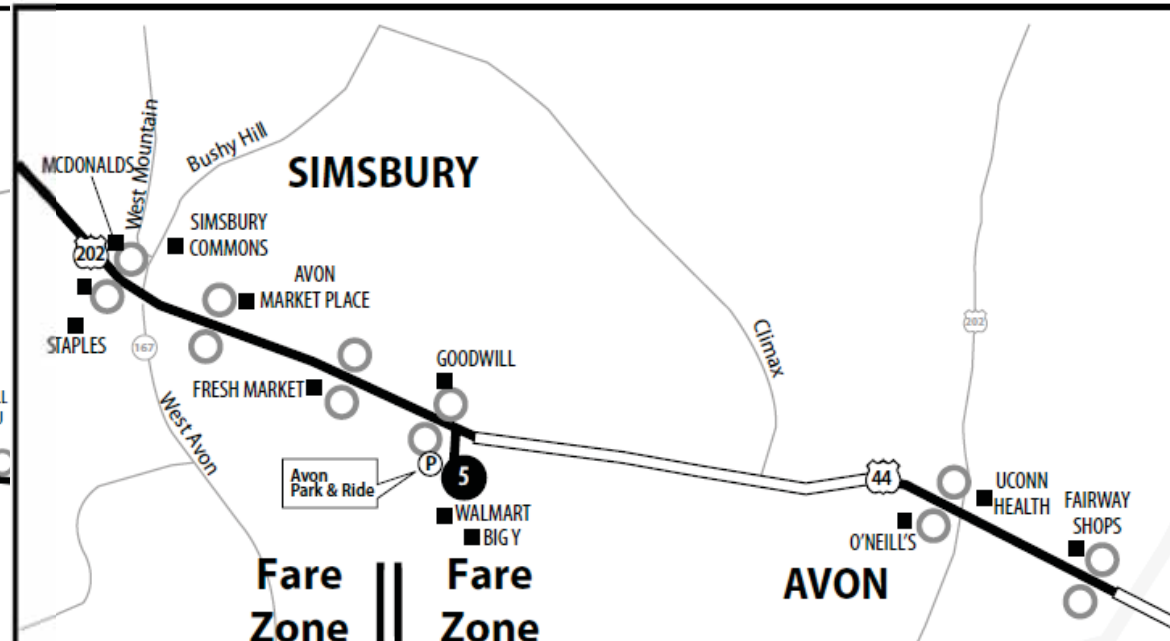


Transit

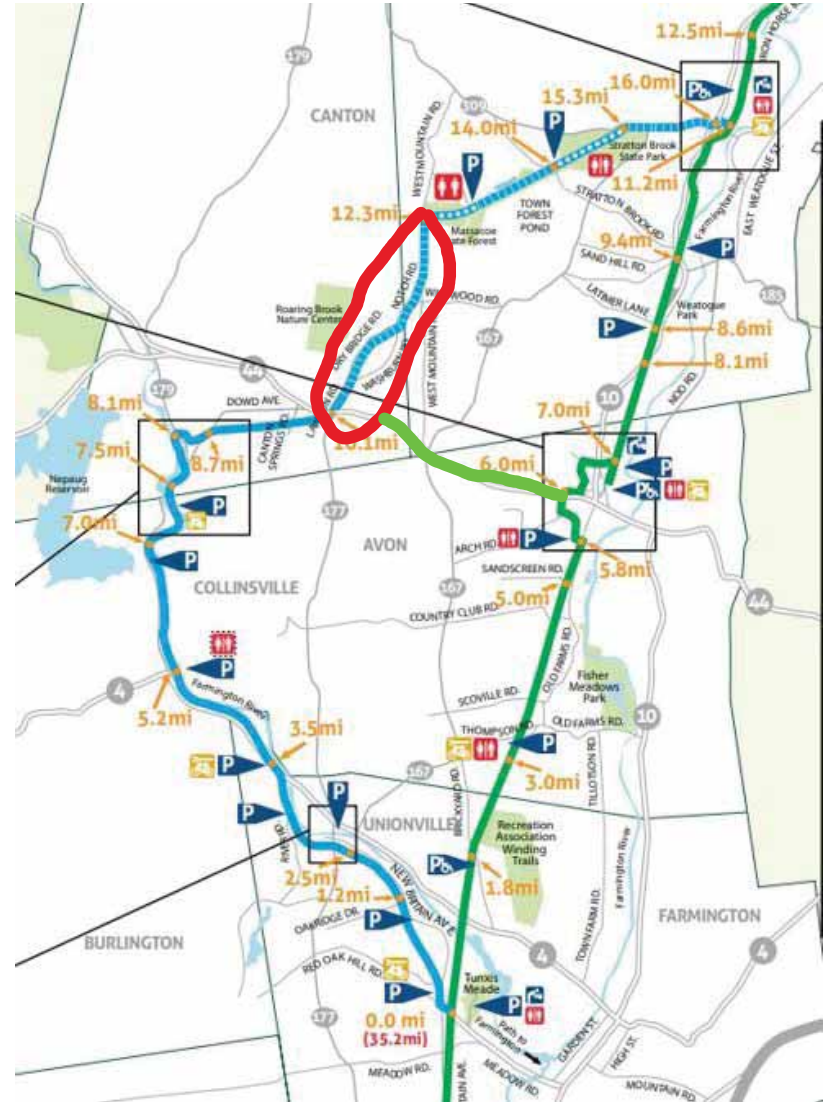
CANTON



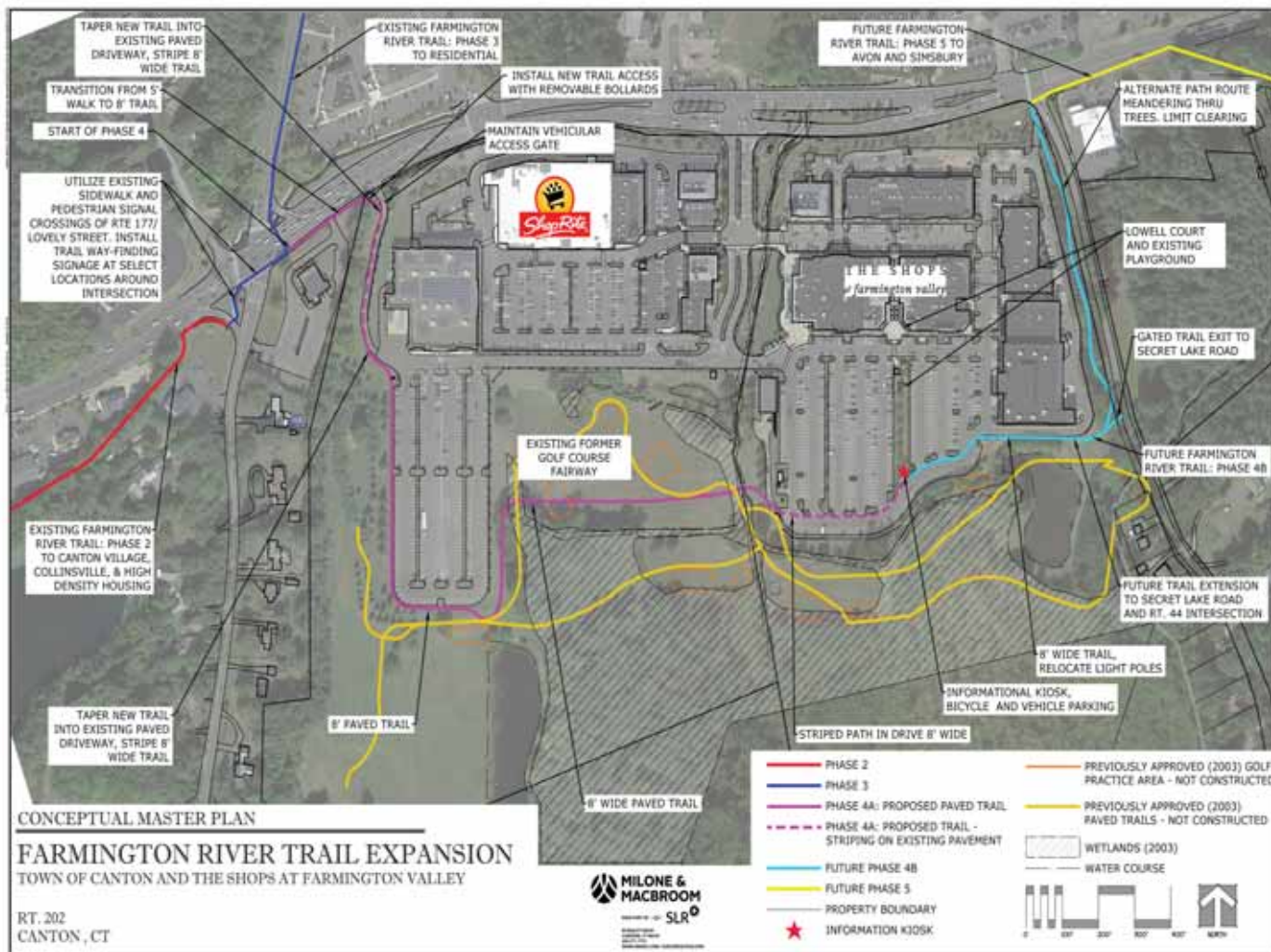
SIMSBURY & AVON



Farmington River Trail



Trail Study



Canton



Simsbury

