Chester Valley Trail West
Feasibility Study and Master Plan

Project Location Map:
Chester Valley Trail West
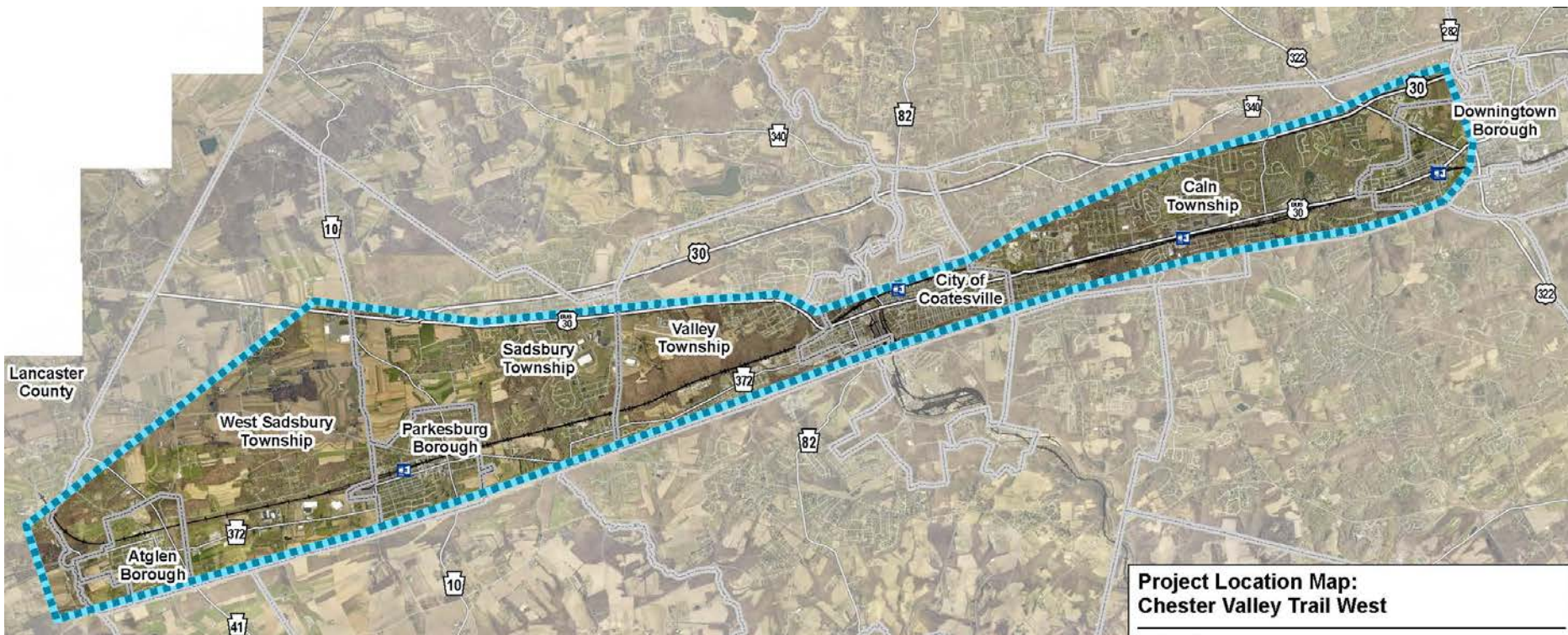
Public Meeting 1
October 17, 2017

Chester Valley Trail WEST

Tonight's agenda

⭐ **Presentation**

- **Project overview**

- **Feasibility study and master plan process**

- **Report deliverables**

⭐ **Public Input**

- **Survey**

- **Where should the trail go?**

- **What should it connect to?**

- **What are your hopes for the trail?**

- **What opportunities do you see that a trail could help bring about?**

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Why trails?

"**Planning** as a public act is a political process of **translating social values** into government policies and programs to protect and enhance the public health, safety and welfare of a community."

Why trails?

Stakeholder groups

Public Meeting on 10/26!

Steering Committee

Photo Contest

Public Survey

Outreach events

Why trails?

*Acquire, enhance, and **manage as essential infrastructure,** an integrated network of protected open spaces that are linked together by **greenways or trail corridors.***

***Provide a safe intermodal transportation system**, which optimizes mobility and access, sustains quality of life, strengthens the economy and protects the environment.*

***Support a strong and diverse economy** through sustainable development practices, to attract, grow and maintain the quality of life that has made Chester County and attractive place to live and work.*

***Provide accessible community services and facilities county-wide**; and meet the specific human services and **public health** needs of all county residents.*

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The many roles trails play

Trail as…

social scene

connector of communities

Commute

linear classroom

free gym membership

way to reduce my carbon footprint

bird-watching venue

meeting place

connector to nature

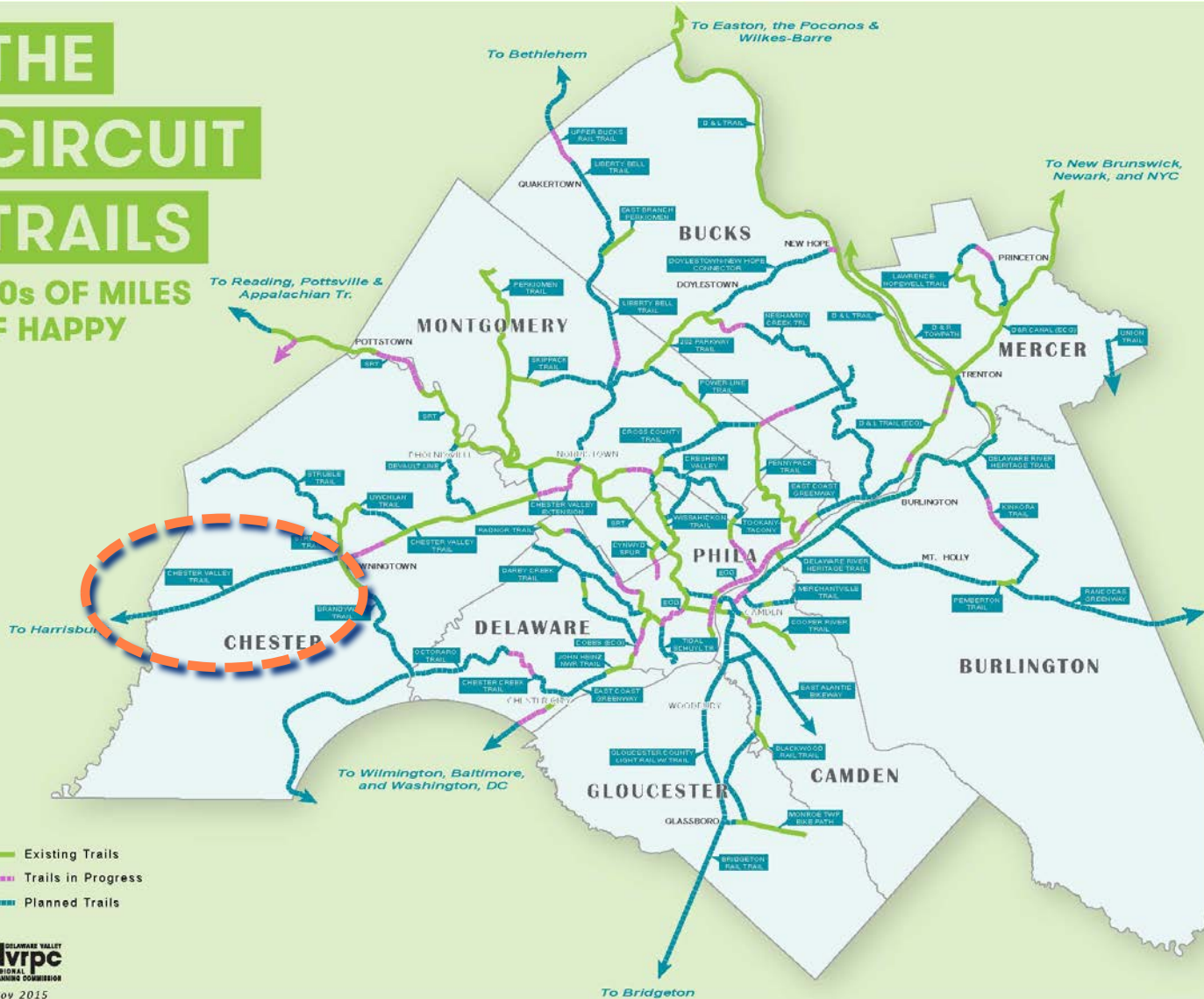activator of healthy habits

first date location

stress-reliever

transportation network

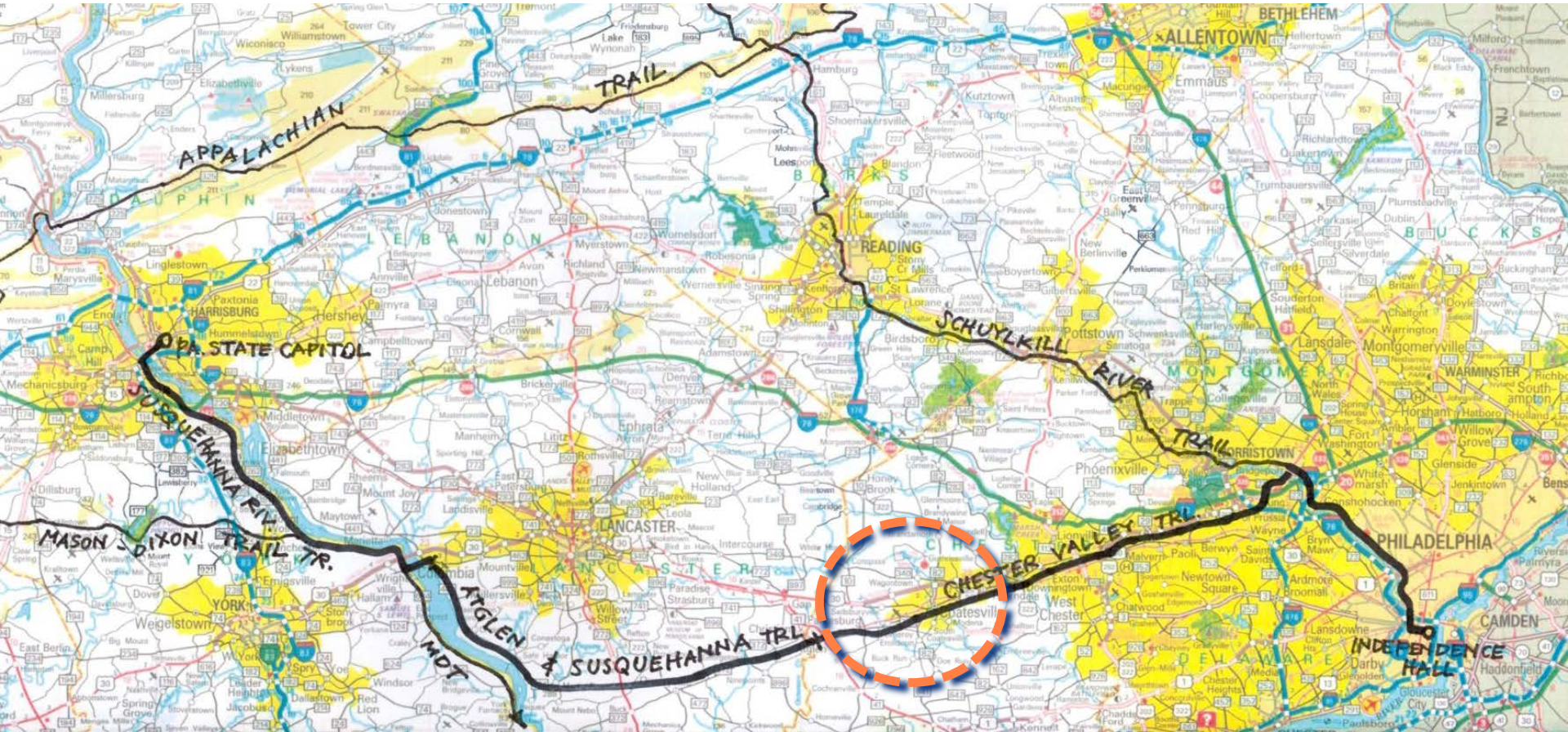peace and quiet!

place to learn to ride a bike
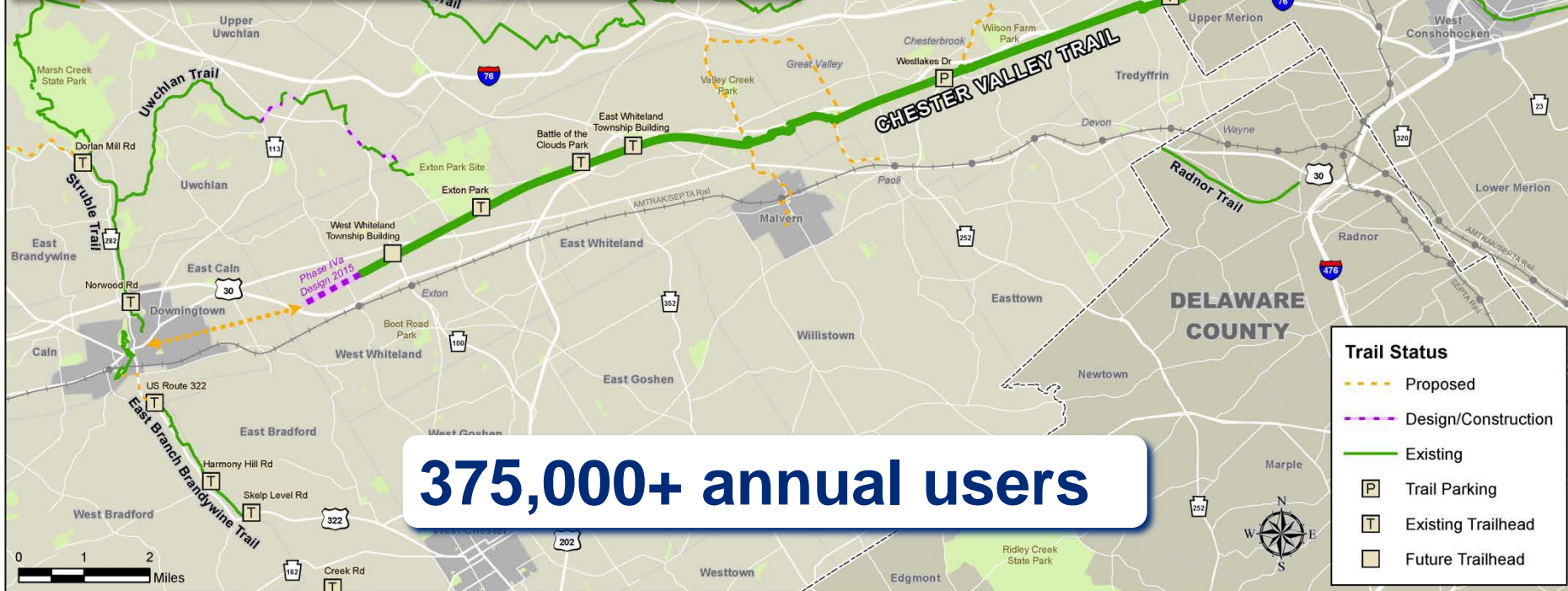
CHESTER COUNTY Planning COMMISSION
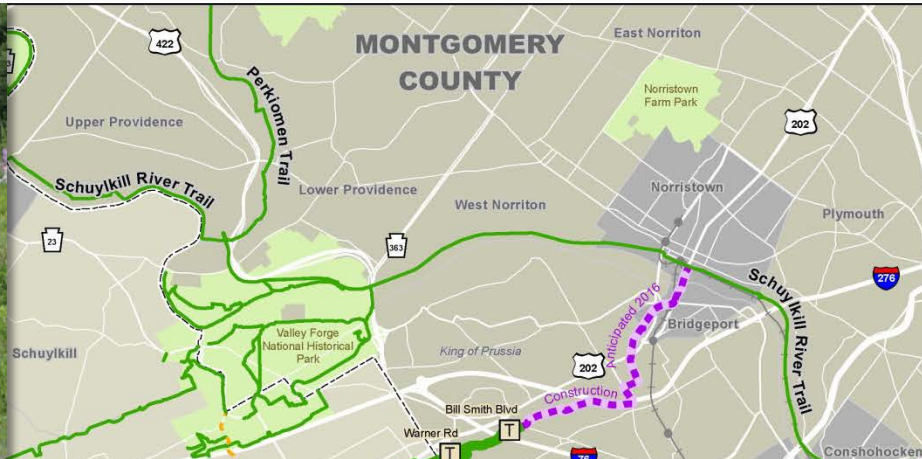
Chester Valley Trail WEST

The Big Picture

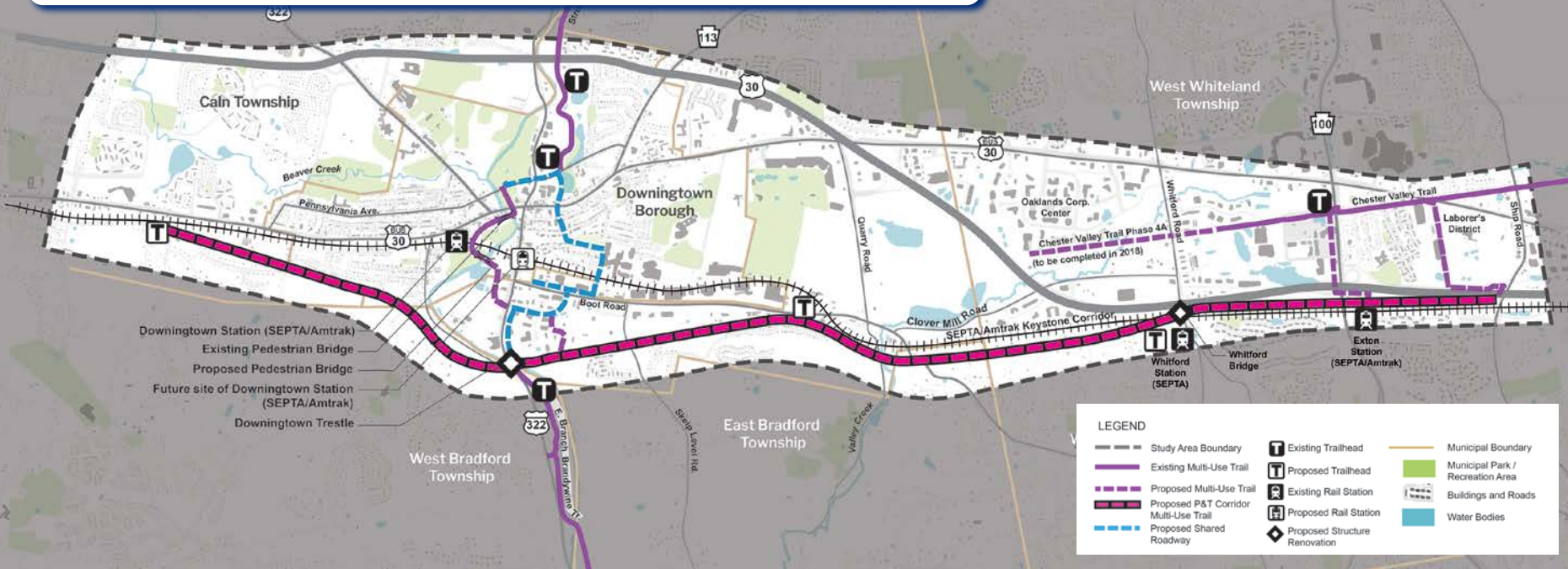**A continuous trail from Harrisburg to Philadelphia**
Map courtesy Campbell Thomas & Co.

Chester Valley Trail- Existing

375,000+ annual users

Trail Status

- - - - - Proposed
- · - · - Design/Construction
———— Existing
P   Trail Parking
T   Existing Trailhead
☐   Future Trailhead
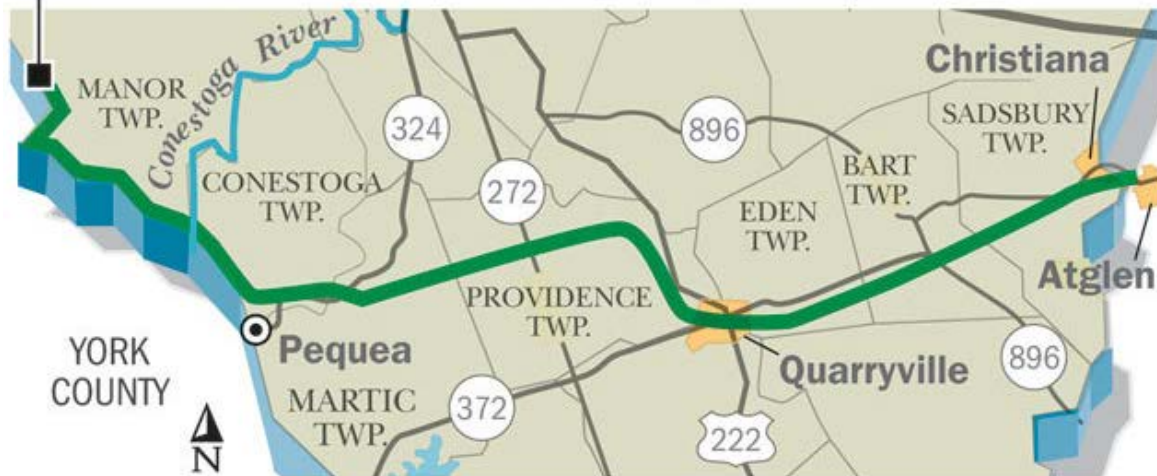
Chester Valley Trail Extension

Enola Low Grade Trail

- 28 mile rail-trail in Lancaster County (20 miles built)

- Last 8 miles are just west of Atglen in Eden, Bart and Sadsbury Twps. and Christiana Borough. In design: construction anticipated 2019-2020.

- Ultimate goal: connect to Northwest Lancaster Co. River Trail, which will connect to Harrisburg

Enola Low Grade rail-trail

The 28-mile Enola Low Grade rail-trail will wind through Sadsbury, Bart, Eden, Providence, Martic, Conestoga and Manor townships, and Quarryville Borough.

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Study Purpose and Goals:

⭐ **Recommend an alignment for connecting the CVT to Enola Low Grade Trail**

⭐ Plan the alignment according to multi-use trail design standards wherever possible

⭐ Identify ways to leverage the trail as a driver for economic development

⭐ Find new stakeholders and partners, and develop an implementation plan to move the project forward

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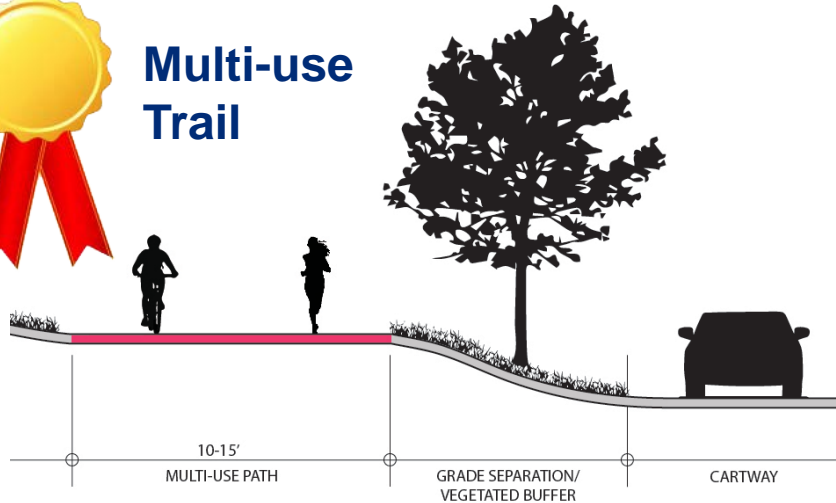⭐ Find new stakeholders and partners, and develop an implementation plan to move the project forward

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Trail Design Standards

Multi-use Trail
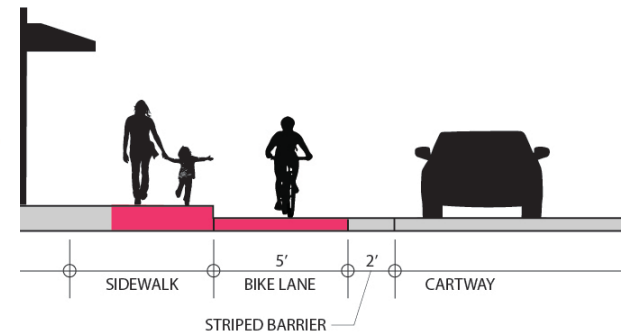
10-15'
MULTI-USE PATH

GRADE SEPARATION/
VEGETATED BUFFER

CARTWAY

Multi-use Sidepath

10-15'
MULTI-USE PATH

5' MIN.
BUFFER

CARTWAY

Cycle Track

SIDEWALK

TWO-WAY CYCLE TRACK

BARRIER

CARTWAY

Bike Lane

SIDEWALK

5'
BIKE LANE

2'

CARTWAY

STRIPED BARRIER

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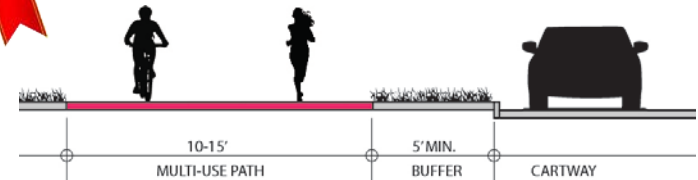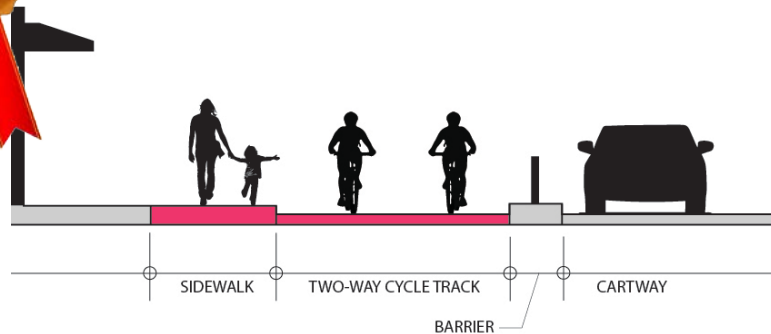
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Trail Towns and Trail-Oriented Development

Frostburg, MD along the Great Allegheny Passage (gaptrail.org)

Trail Towns:

- **Are walkable and bike-friendly**

- **Have amenities for trail users (bike shops, cafes & restaurants with outdoor seating, hotels/B&Bs, etc.)**

- **Have wayfinding systems for both trails and businesses**

Critical to have buy-in from the community, elected officials and local businesses!

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Trail Towns and Trail-Oriented Development

Case Study: Great Allegheny Passage

150 Miles (Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD)

940,000 annual users (2013)
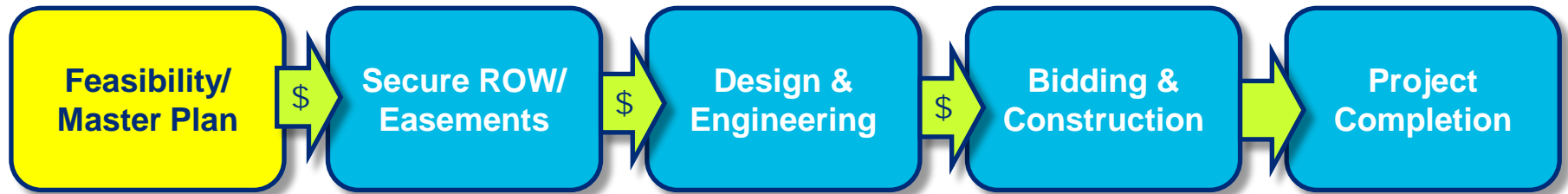
- *Avg. day user spends $18/day (2014)*
- *Avg. overnight guest spends $124/night (2014)*

- *Net gain of **65 new businesses** along the trail since 2007*
- ***270+ net new jobs** created*
- ***Estimated sales due to trail traffic:***
  - *2008: **25%***
  - *2012: **30%***
  - *2013: **34%***
  - *2014: **40%***

Source: Creating Opportunities Along the Nation's Trails report. Trail Towns, The Progress Fund

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Project Schedule

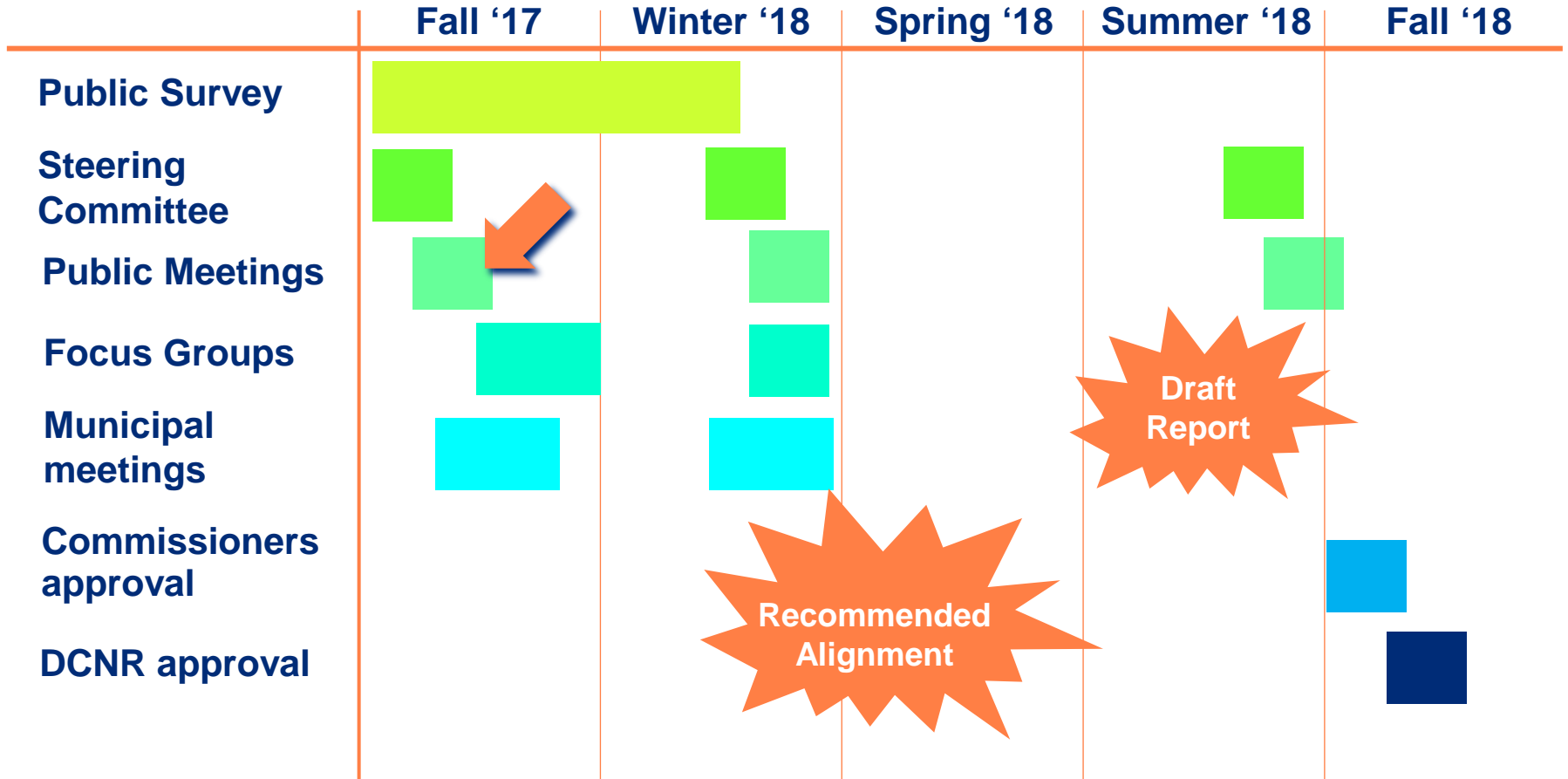| Feasibility/ Master Plan | $ → | Secure ROW/ Easements | $ → | Design & Engineering | $ → | Bidding & Construction | → | Project Completion |

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Steering Committee Representation

- ⭐ **Downingtown Borough**
- ⭐ **Caln Township**
- ⭐ **City of Coatesville**
- ⭐ **Valley Township**
- ⭐ **Sadsbury Township**
- ⭐ **West Sadsbury Township**
- ⭐ **Parkesburg Borough**
- ⭐ **Atglen Borough**
- ⭐ **Chester County Facilities and Parks**
- ⭐ **CC Dept. of Community Development**
- ⭐ **CC Health Department**

- ⭐ **Lancaster Co. Planning Commission**
- ⭐ **PennDOT District 6-0**
- ⭐ **Western Chesco Chamber of Commerce**
- ⭐ **Brandywine Health Foundation**
- ⭐ **Brandywine Conservancy**
- ⭐ **Natural Lands**
- ⭐ **Friends of the Chester Valley Trail**
- ⭐ **TMACC**
- ⭐ **Victory Brewing**
- ⭐ **Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**
- ⭐ **Bike Chester County**

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Project Schedule

	Fall '17	Winter '18	Spring '18	Summer '18	Fall '18
Public Survey					
Steering Committee					
Public Meetings					
Focus Groups					
Municipal meetings					
Commissioners approval					
DCNR approval					

Draft Report

Recommended Alignment

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Study Purpose and Goals:

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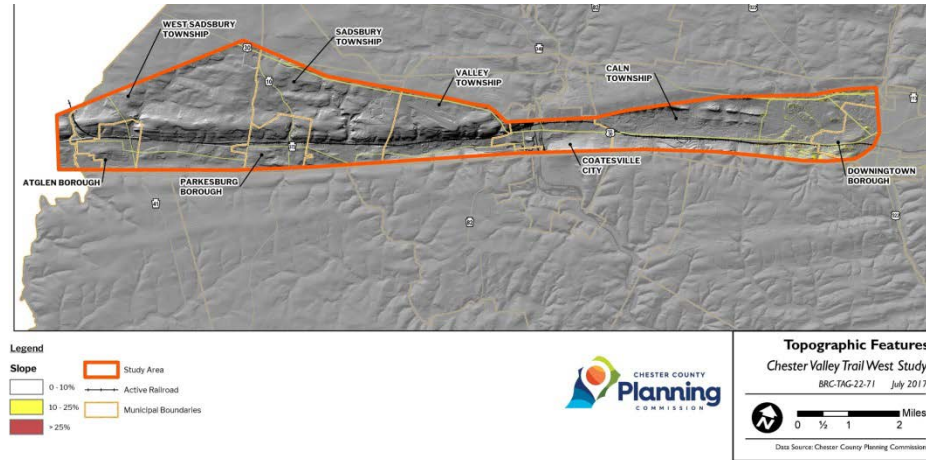⭐ **Find new stakeholders and partners, and develop an implementation plan to move the project forward**

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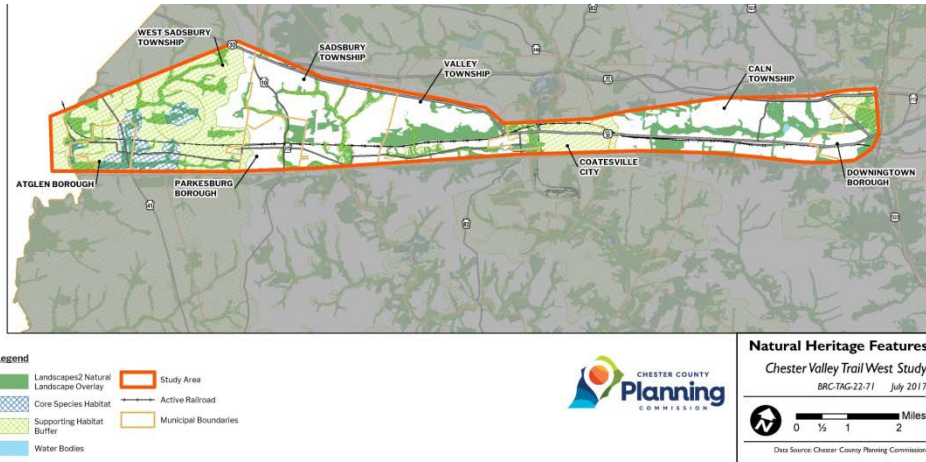# Existing Conditions - *setting the context*
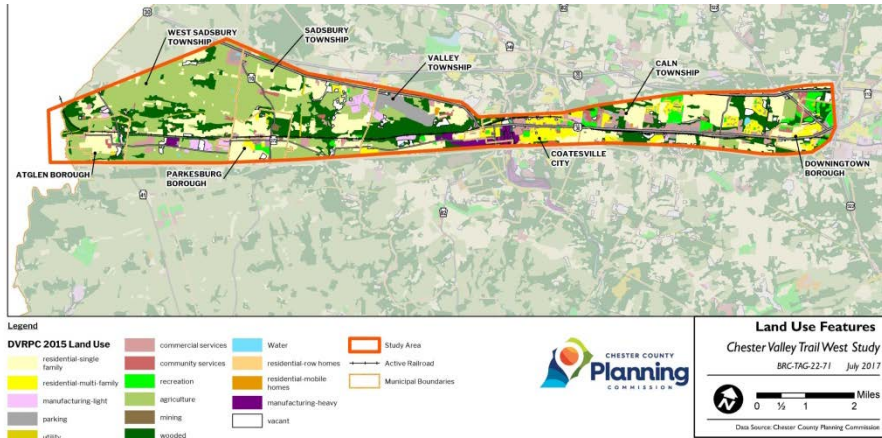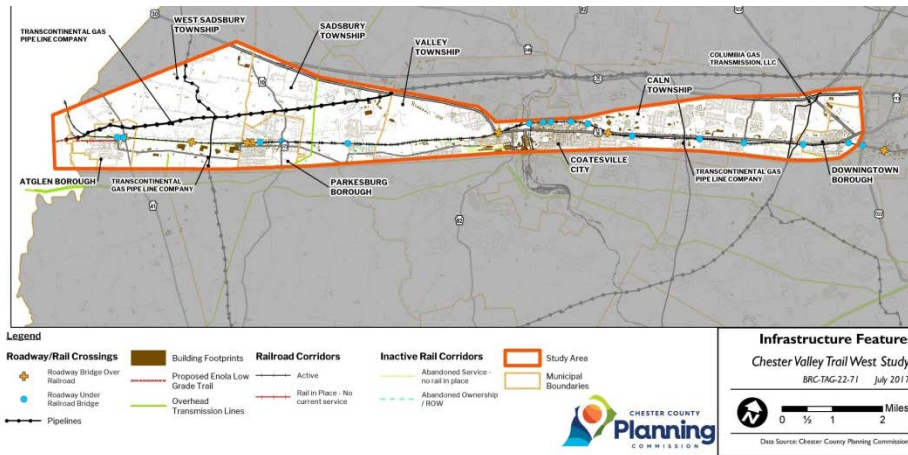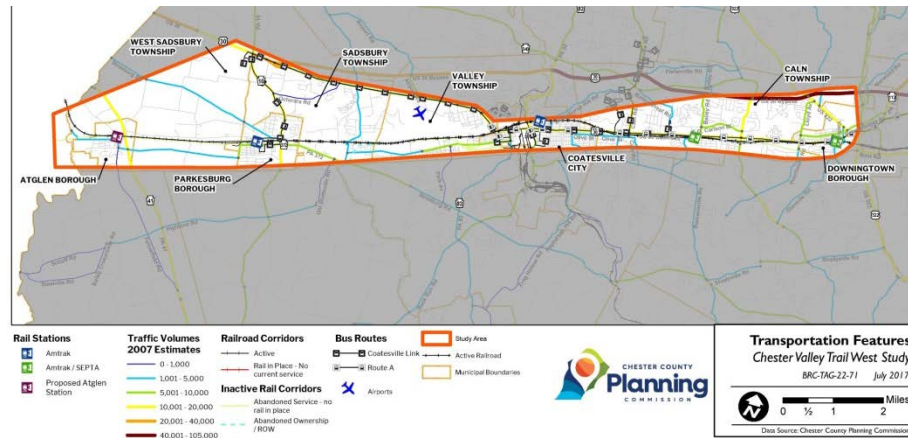

Land Use
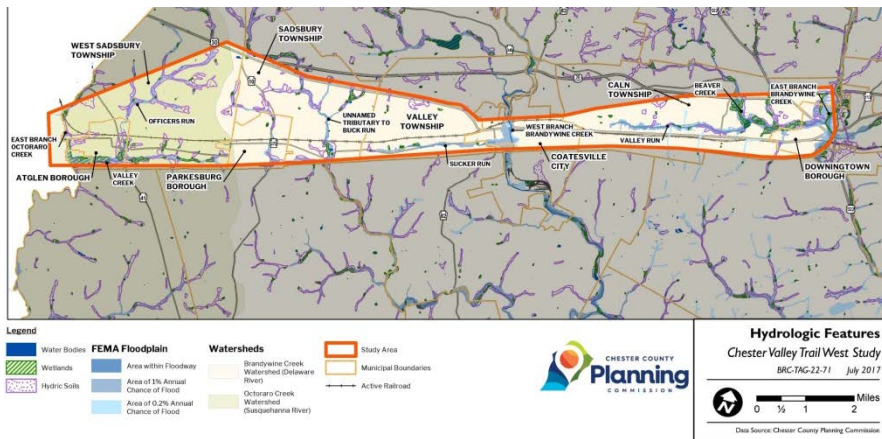
Topography

Hydrology

Natural Heritage

Existing Conditions- *setting the context*
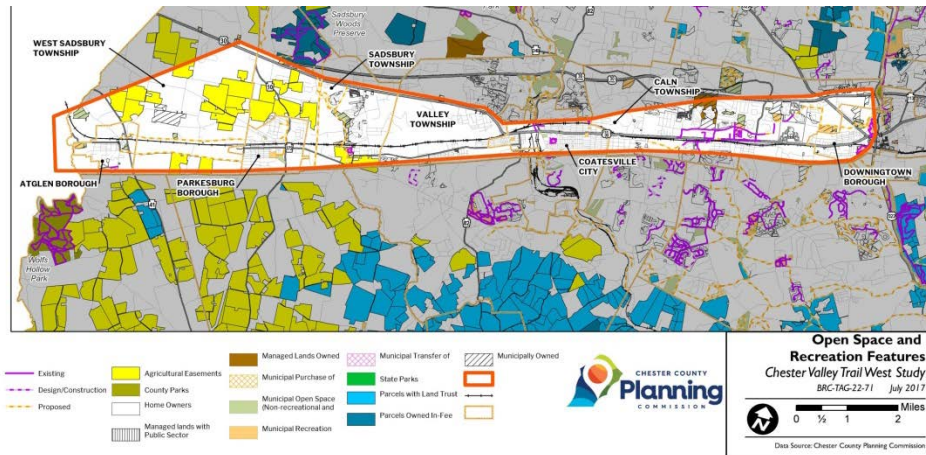
Infrastructure

Open Space and Recreation

Transportation

Cultural Heritage
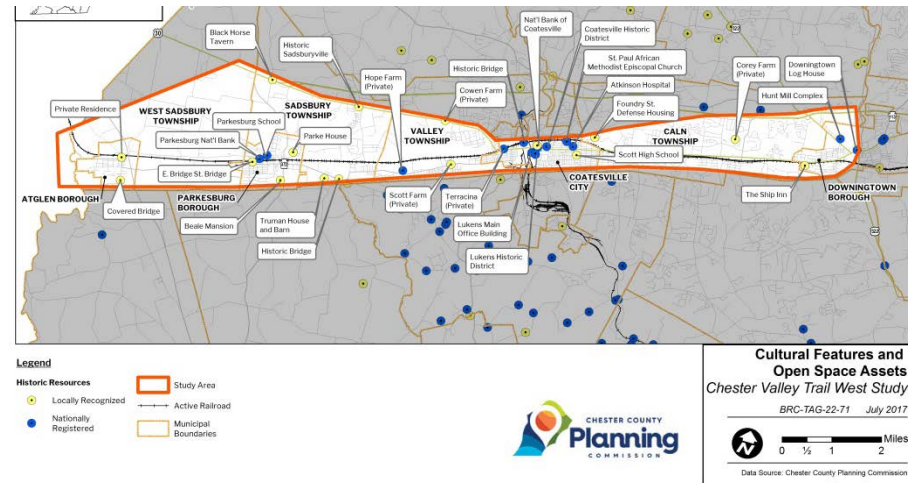
C h e s t e r   V a l l e y   T r a i l   W E S T

Route 30 Multimodal Transportation Study

Legend
- Study Area Trail Alignment Options
- Trail - Existing
- Trail - Design/Construction
- Trail - Proposed
- Existing Sidewalk
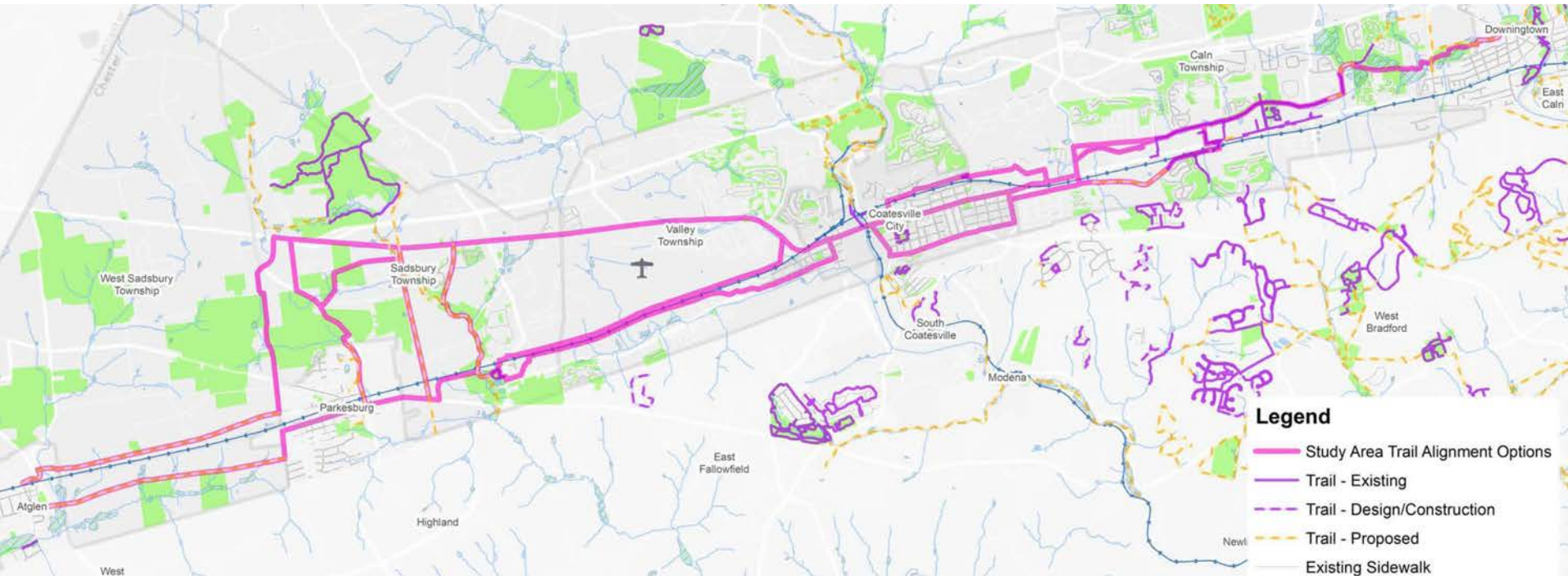
What will the feasibility study include?

- Inventory of existing conditions

- Opportunities for trail-related economic development and recommendations for further study

- Options for potential trail alignments

- Pros and Cons of each alignment
  - Ability to construct a multi-use facility
  - Trail continuity
  - Difficult/expensive improvements required
  - Feasibility of acquisition
  - Environmental opportunities and constraints

➡️ Recommended alignment

What will the master plan include?

- **Trail design standards**

- **Recommended trailhead locations and access points**

- **Trail and trailhead amenities**

- **Ideas for interpretive signage**

- **Maintenance and safety requirements**

- **Wayfinding suggestions to bring trail users from the trail into commercial areas or other destinations**

- **Statement of probable cost**

- **Implementation strategy**

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⭐ **Presentation**

- **Project overview**
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⭐ **Public Input**

- **Survey**
- **Project website**
- **Landscapes3 Swag Bag Giveaway**
- **Where should the trail go?**
- **What should it connect to?**
- **What are your hopes for the trail?**
- **What opportunities do you see that a trail could help bring about?**

C h e s t e r   V a l l e y   T r a i l   W E S T

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Happy Trails!

Project website:

http://www.chescoplanning.org/transportation/cvtw.cfm

Public Survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChescoPlanningCVTW

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