Erie Canal Remnant. Photo Credit: Colleen Wolpert

Erie Canal Remnant. Photo Credit: Colleen Wolpert

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

SAMUEL GORDON SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND RESEARCH, DPC

JAMIE KOWALCZK ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
MADISON COUNTY PLANNING

OWEN KERNEY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR CITY PLANNING
SYRACUSE ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY

DAN KWASNOWSKI, AICP DIRECTOR
SYRACUSE ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY

ERIE CANAL BICENTENNIAL

1818-1825

2018-2025

A Map of the Country Traversed by the Erie

ERIE
CANALWAY
National Heritage Corridor

—

A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HERRITAGE CORRIDOR

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL
CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY
ERIE CANALWAY
HUDSON RIVER VALLEY
LEGEND

+

THE VALUE OF THE ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL

Erie Canalway Trail
visitors contribute
$253 million
to the New York
economy each year
Parks Trails
NEW YORK

ECT Visitor Spending

+
GAPS IN THE ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL
SYRACUSE
ERIE BOULEVARD
360 miles

40

+
GAPS IN THE ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL
SYRACUSE
ERIE BOULEVARD
360 miles

+ THE SYRACUSE GAP MATTERS

TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE REGION

2013
ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL

2016
ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL
SYRACUSE CONNECTOR
ROUTE PROJECT

2018
ERIE BOULEVARD EAST
PEDESTRIAN STUDY

ELEVATING
ERIE

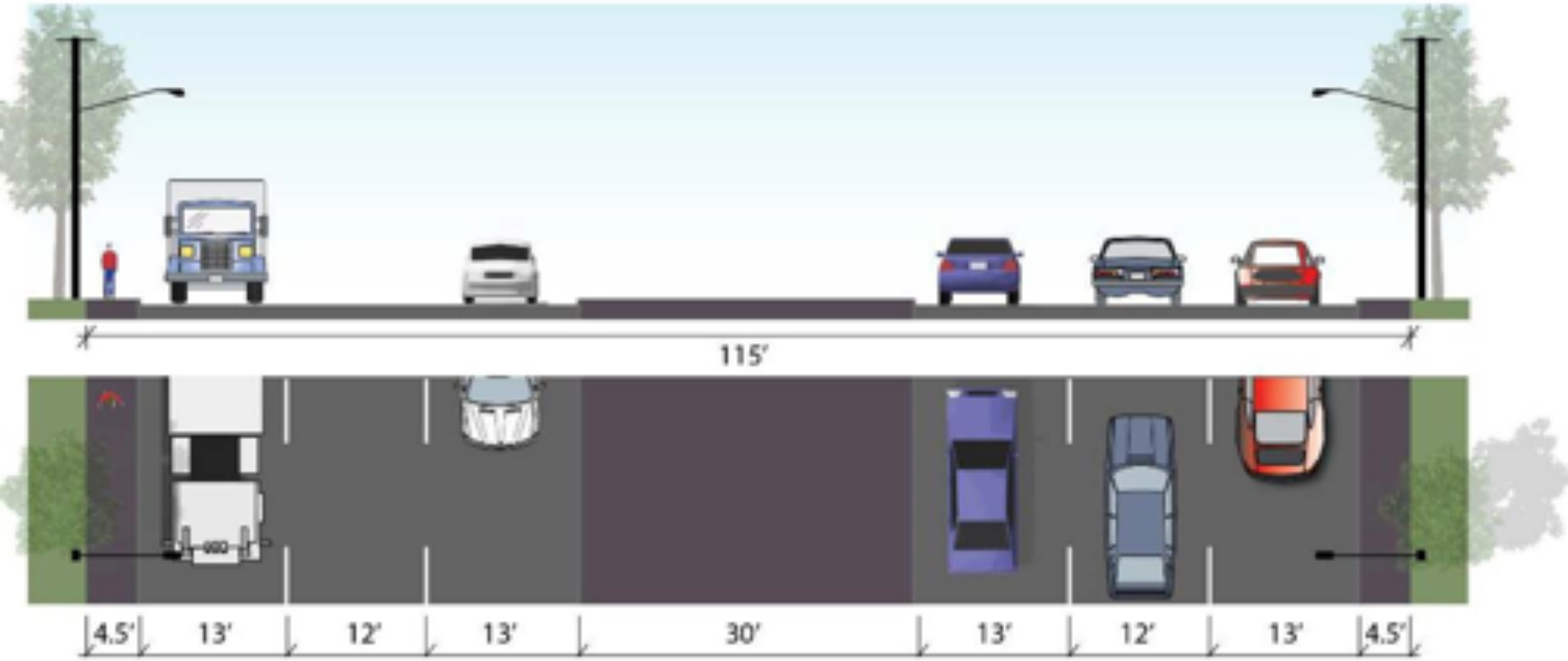
ERIE
BOULEVARD
TODAY

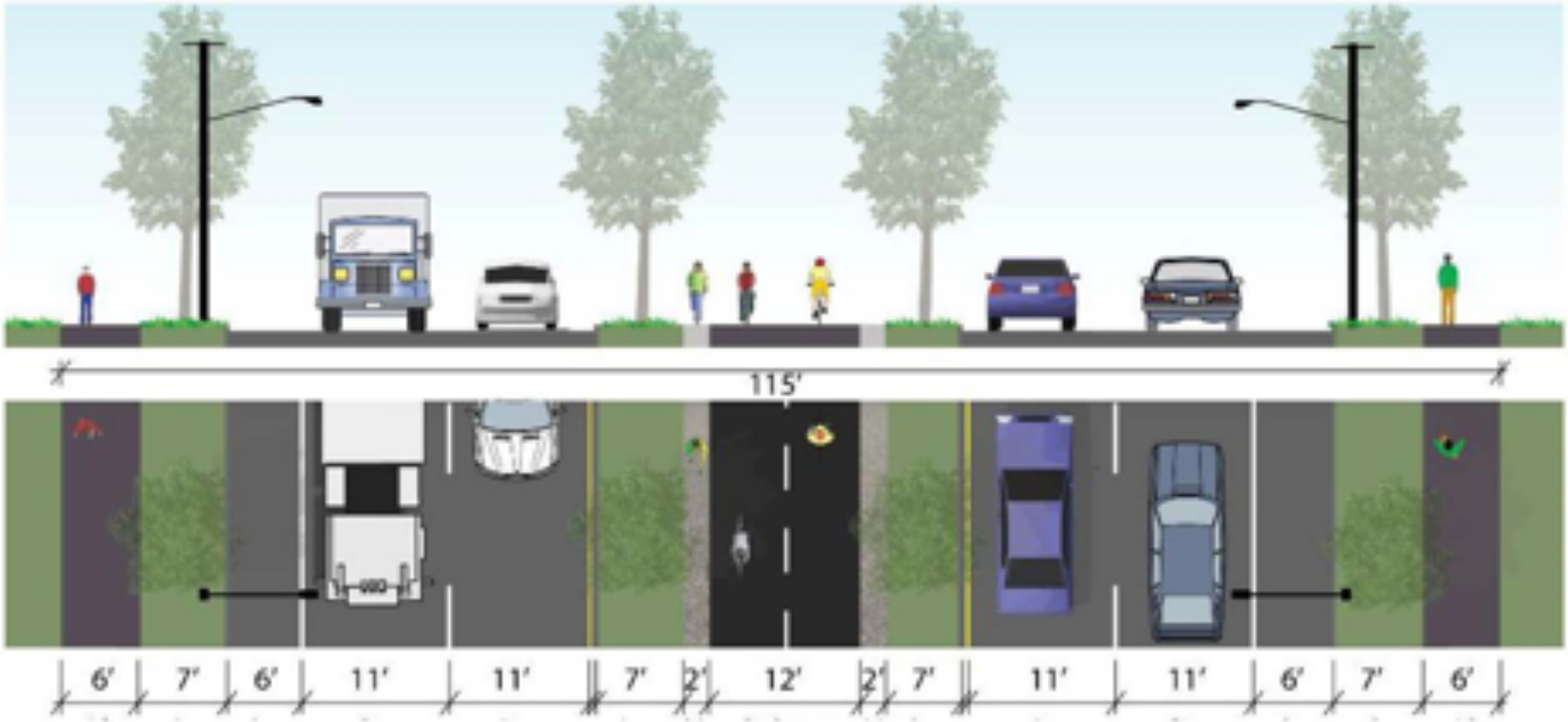
PRELIMINARY

FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

PRELIMINARY

FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS


115'
4.5'
13'
12'
13'
30'
13'
12'
13'
4.5'


115'
6'
7'
6'
11'
11'
7'
2'
12'
2'
7'
11'
11'
6'
7'
6'

ELEVATING
ERIE

ELE
ERI

THE BOULEVARD AREA

Covering roughly four miles, ideas explored how to best incorporate multiple transportation modes, green infrastructure, and new patterns of development along the corridor.

MAJORITY
MEDIAN G

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

BOULEVARD | Block | Branch | Bridge

THE BOULEVARD AREA

NEXT STEPS

TOWN OF DEWITT AND CITY OF SYRACUSE

UPDATING ZONING TO ALLOW MIXED USE

TOWN OF DEWITT AND CITY OF SYRACUSE

BIKE LANE DOWN ERIE

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

LOVEJOYBAKERS

THE BLOCK SITE

LOCATED IN THE CITY OF SYRACUE.
Proposals were asked to consider strategies that could be replicated along the route while also leveraging the unique opportunity of the extreme width at this location.

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

Boulevard | **BLOCK** | Branch | Bridge

THE BRANCH SITE

Here a remaining section of the historic Erie Canal is all but completely hidden from view. This is where the Canalway Trail could intersect with Erie Boulevard.

MAJORITY OF RESP
CREATE WIDEWATER

★★★

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

Boulevard | Block | **BRANCH** | Bridge

MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS SAID
REVEALING THE CANAL

★★★★★

Old Erie Canal Community Working Group

Old Erie Canal Corridor

- 36 miles; Town of DeWitt to City of Rome
- Longest intact portion of historic NYS Canal System
- Towpath trail maintained by NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Canal waterway maintained by NYS Canal Corps
- ***Designated a National Recreational Trail by the United States Department of the Interior's National Park Service***
- Part of 363-mile Erie Canalway Trail that stretches from Buffalo to Albany!

Connectivity

- 3 Counties:
  - Onondaga
  - Madison
  - Oneida
- 5 towns, 4 villages, 2 cities:
  - Town of Dewitt – Butternut Creek Trail
  - Town of Manlius
  - Town of Sullivan
  - Town of Lenox
  - Town of Verona
  - Village of Fayetteville – Limestone Creek Trail
  - Village of Chittenango – Chittenango Creek Walk
  - Village of Canastota – Link Trail/ NST
  - Village of Wampsville – Oneida Rail Trail
  - City of Oneida – Oneida Rail Trail
  - City of Rome – Mohawk River Trail

Connects:

History
Nature
Recreation
Tourism
Business
Communities!

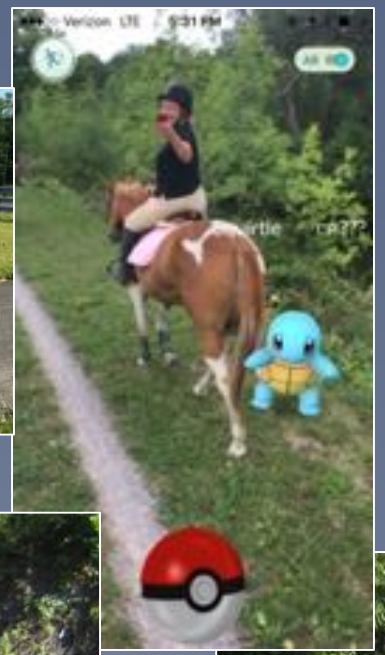
Canal = Unique Asset

THE MANY VISITORS

A couple from New Zealand who flew their bikes to NYS to ride the whole Erie Canalway Trail:

“What brought you to the Erie Canal?”

“Isn’t it the most famous trail in the world?”



Challenges

Sundolphin

STOP
Oneida
Downtown 1.1 mi
Restaurants
Shopping
Oneida Rail Trail Store
Ice Cream
Rome 14 mi

PASTIFICIO
Fresh Pasta Factory
Cafe and Catering Company
210 Brooklea Drive
632-4560
Fri – Sat: 7am – 9 pm
STARBUCKS COFFEE

Mission

Coordinate efforts and resources to create a more cohesive and more utilized Old Erie Canal corridor in order to better preserve and share canal history and leverage it as a catalyst for economic vitality of surrounding communities

Old Erie Canal
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Who we are to date…

- Municipalities
- Canal-related non profits
  - Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum
  - Canastota Canal Town Museum
  - The Erie Canal Museum (Syracuse)
  - Camillus Canal Society
  - Camillus Erie Canal Park

Meetings are the last Thursday of every month.

- Others
  - Great Swamp Conservancy
  - Chittenango Creek Walk
  - Oneida Rail Trail
  - Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
  - Madison County Tourism
  - Erie Canal Bike Tours
  - Blacksmiths and Bicycles
  - VOLUNTEERS!!
- Operators
  - NYS Parks
  - NYS Canal Corporation
- State-wide Groups:
  - Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
  - Parks & Trails NY
  - Canalway Trails Association New York (CTANY)

OEC CWG Goals and Accomplishments

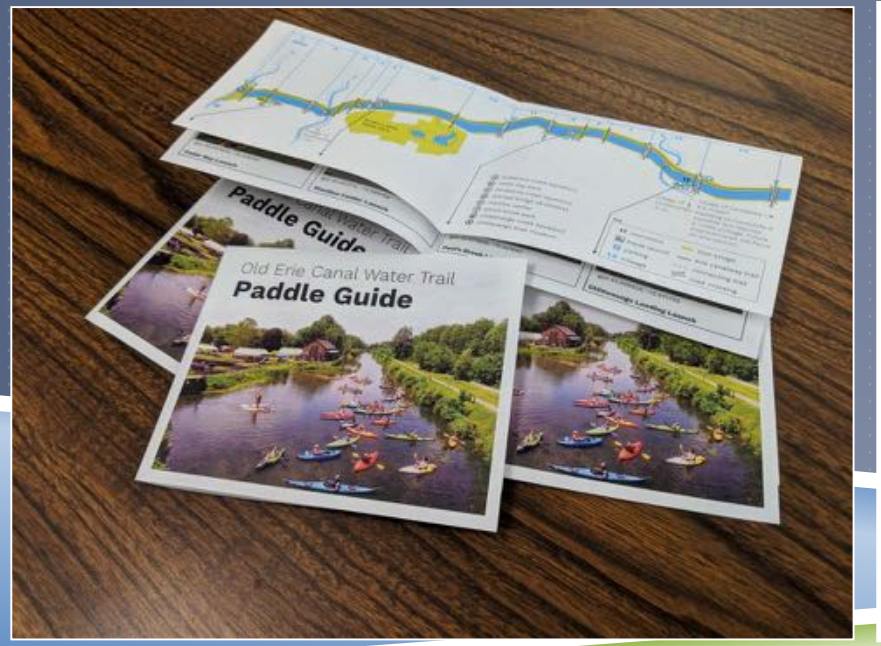
- Reconnect to the Old Erie Canal waterway and reassert it as a state-wide asset
- Increase coordination and partnerships both within and outside the corridor
- Unify the corridor to create a more cohesive 36-mile destination
- Leverage and market the Old Erie Canal to bring tourism and economic development to canal-side communities and businesses
- Repurpose and maximize canal-side properties

OLD ERIE CANAL BOAT FLOAT

- 4 launch locations; 500+ paddlers
- 93% had never paddled the Old Erie Canal before
- 97% of Participants said the Event made them want to paddle the Old Erie Canal again
- Favorite part: nature, history, wildlife, quiet, calm and easy paddle

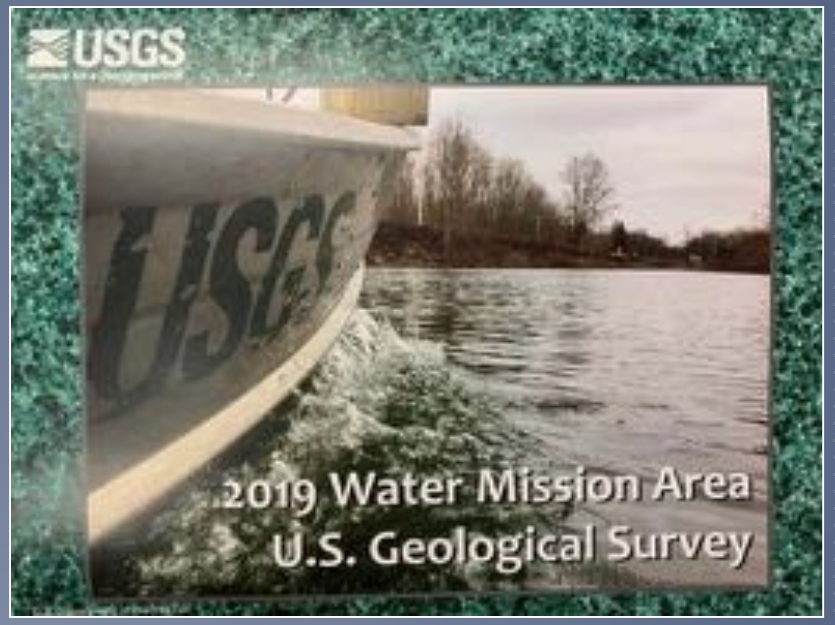
Reconnecting to the waterfront

- Education
- Hand-launch feasibility study
- USGS study of the water
- Kayak rentals



Contract with USGS to study water

- Study Summer 2018; Report forthcoming
- Provide data to NYS Canal Corporation on status of the waterway to inform improvements



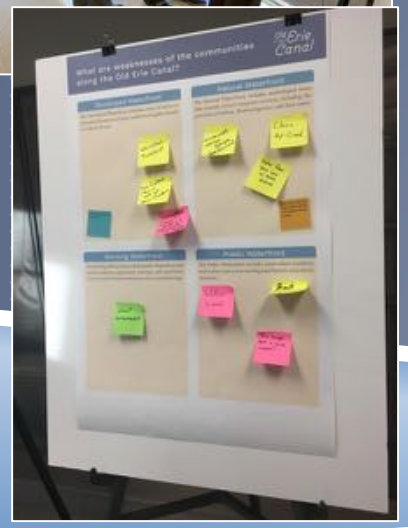
USGS
science for a changing world

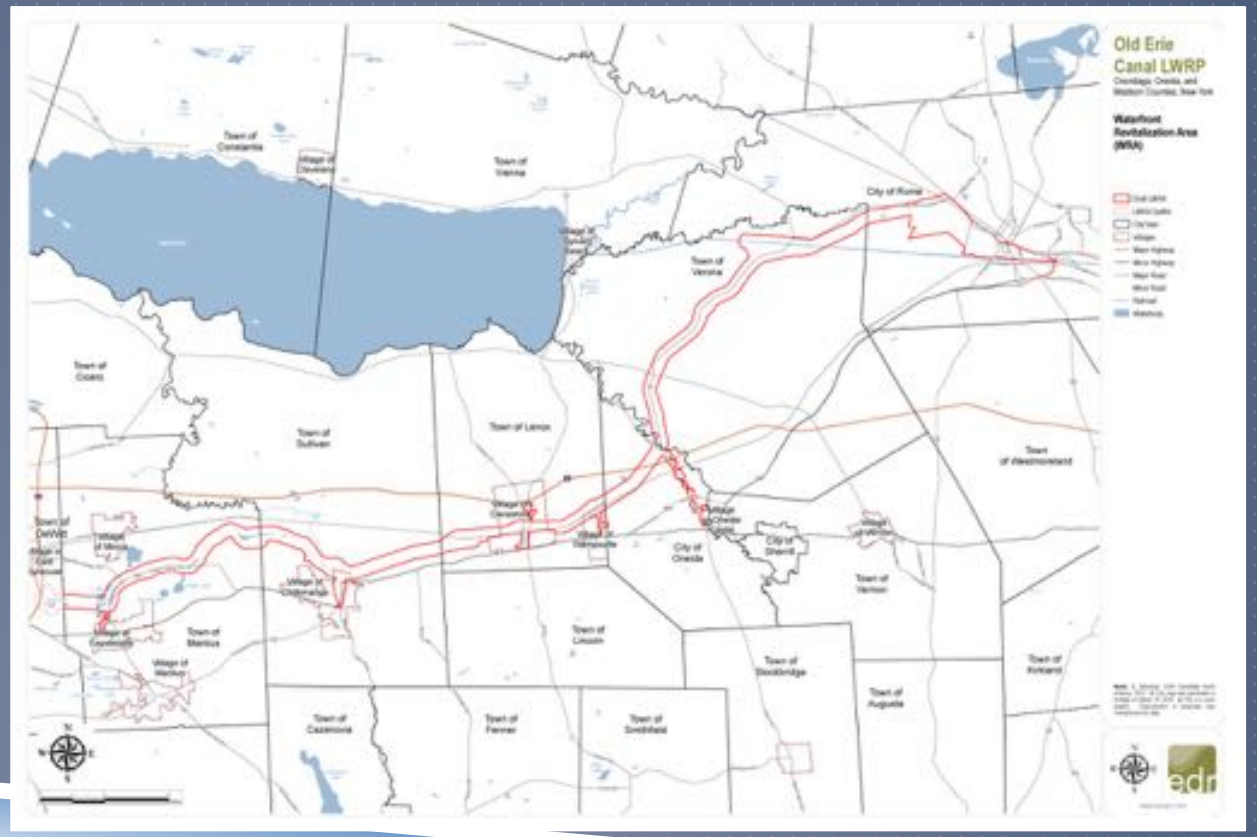
Community Wayfinding

- NYS Canal Corporation Grant - $30,000
- 7 signs

LWRP – Old Erie Canal Corridor

- NYS DOS LWRP grant - $83,000
- Opportunity to create a land and water use plan for the Old Erie Canal Corridor





Reimagine the Canals

A canal-side pocket neighborhood leverages the **quality of life** amenities of the Erie Canal and combines it with the design of a **pocket neighborhood**

The result is a **unique living experience that can only be created in New York State**

Erie Canal

- Trail system
- Waterway
- Recreation
- Non-motorized transportation
- Unique viewshed of the historic and scenic canal
- Runs through the downtown of many NY communities

The Erie Canal is a special place that attracts and inspires the imagination of people from all over the world. People also want to live next to trails: according to the National Association of Homebuilders, trails are the number one amenity that potential homeowners cite when choosing a new community. The Erie Canal represents one of the largest, intact off-road trail networks in the country (in fact, when the Empire State Trail is completed, it will be the largest connected trail system in the entire country).

Pocket Neighborhood

- Homes surround a common greenspace
- Location and layout promotes walkability and neighbor interaction
- Emphasis is on the entire space created not just the house

This type of housing and neighborhood is in demand. Numerous trends have shown that millennials, empty-nesters, couples, families, and seniors are looking for a different lifestyle than that which comes with conventional housing. Preferences have shifted and the ability to access greenspace, live within walking distance to services and amenities, have a shorter commute time to work, age in place, and have a sense of community are all priorities and concerns of a growing demographic.

Canal-Side Pocket Neighborhood

Unique living experience like no other to retain and attract new residents to canal-side communities throughout New York State

By linking new desirable housing choices to the Erie Canal, this proposal would help reinvent the canal by leveraging the quality of life aspects the canal is uniquely poised to play in its post-industrial role as a one-of-a-kind trail system and waterway.

Get Involved with the Old Erie Canal Community Working Group

www.facebook.com/OldErieCanal

www.TourtheTowpath.com

Join the OEC CWG mailing list

Jamie Kowalczk (315) 366-2378
Madison County Planning Department
jamie.kowalczk@madisoncounty.ny.gov

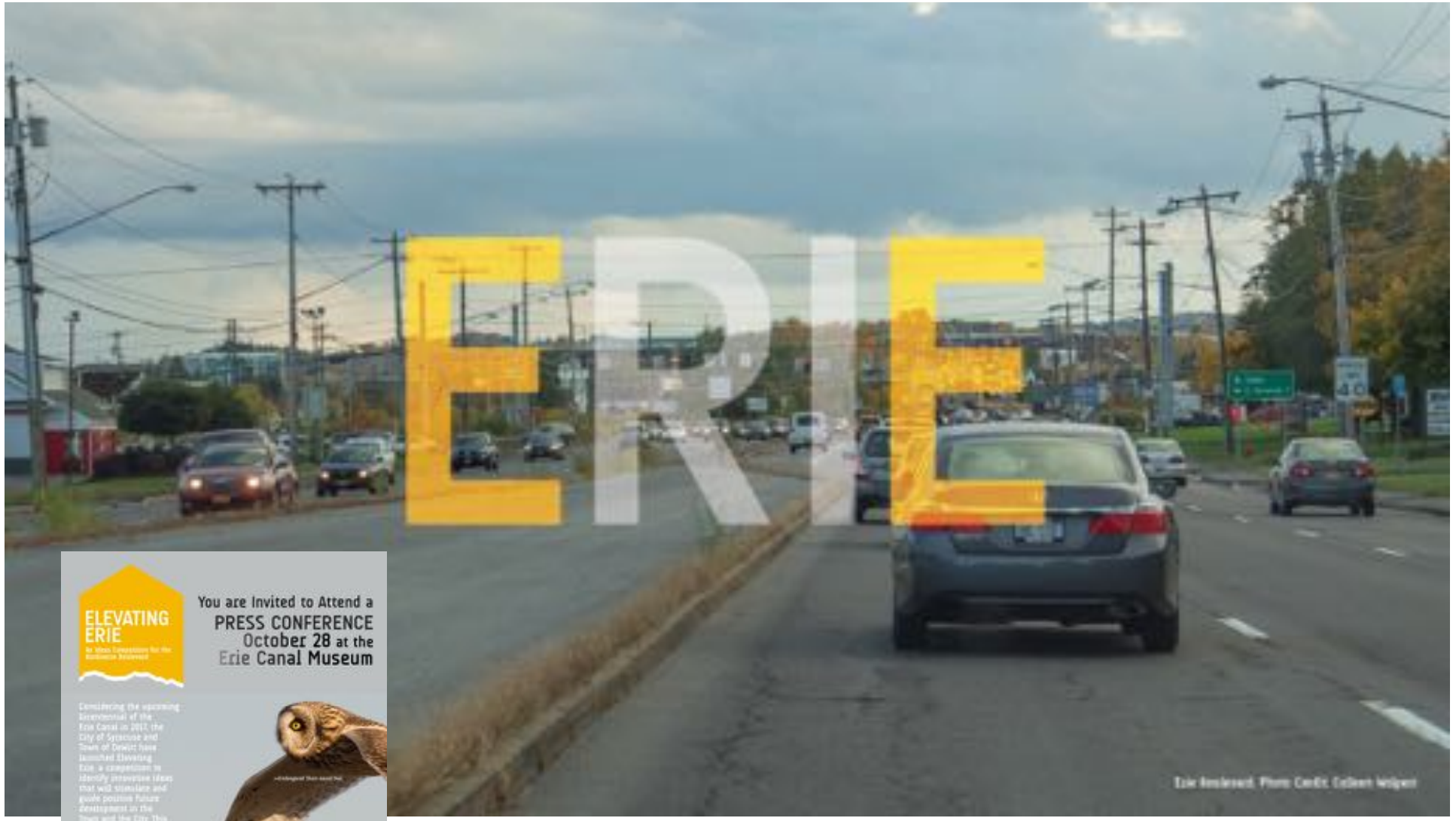
Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

City Planning Division

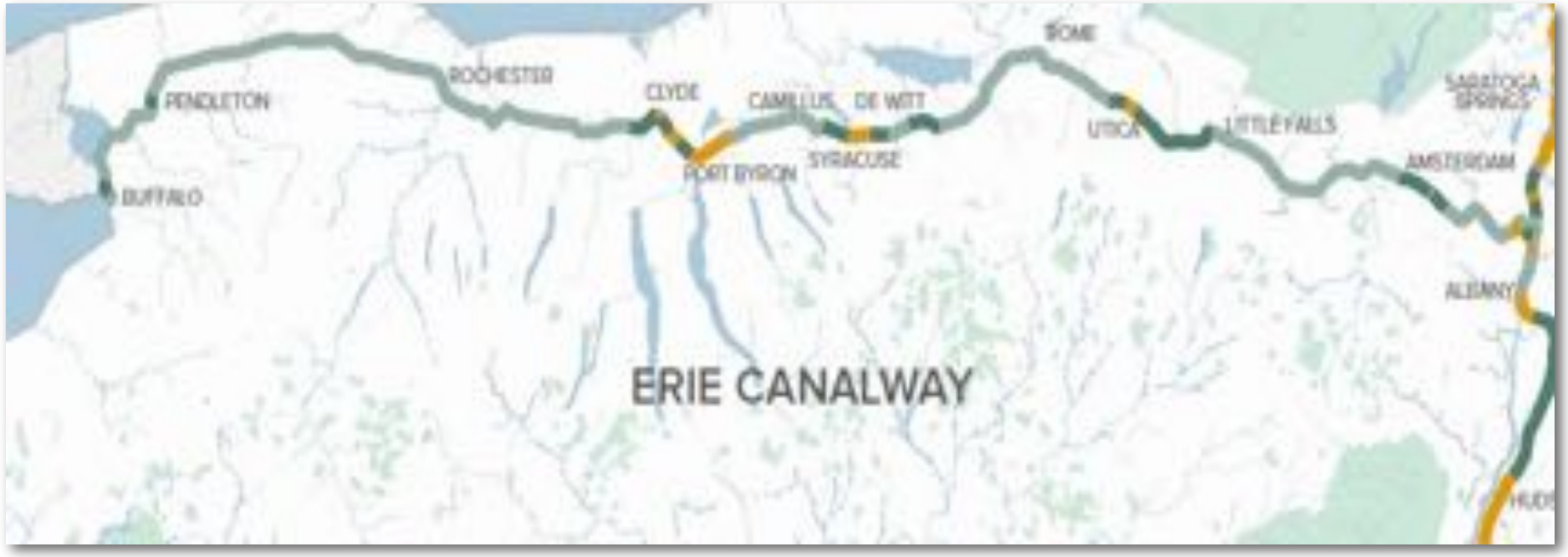
Owen Kerney

ReZone Syracuse Project

- A Comprehensive Zoning update
  - Focus on transportation corridors to:
    - Allow greater density, and additional uses
    - Improve design and site layout
    - Minimize parking requirements
  - Update zoning along *Erie Blvd. East* and the *Empire State Trail* route to encourage economic development



Erie Blvd East – Corridor


PENDLETON
ROCHESTER
CLYDE
CAMILLUS
DE WITT
ROME
SARATOGA SPRINGS
UTICA
LITTLE FALLS
SYRACUSE
PORT BYRON
AMSTERDAM
BUFFALO
ALBANY
ERIE CANALWAY

Empire State Trail - Segment 4

Erie Boulevard

Two Lane Roadway with Two-Way Left Turn Lane and 10-foot Side Path

Erie Boulevard

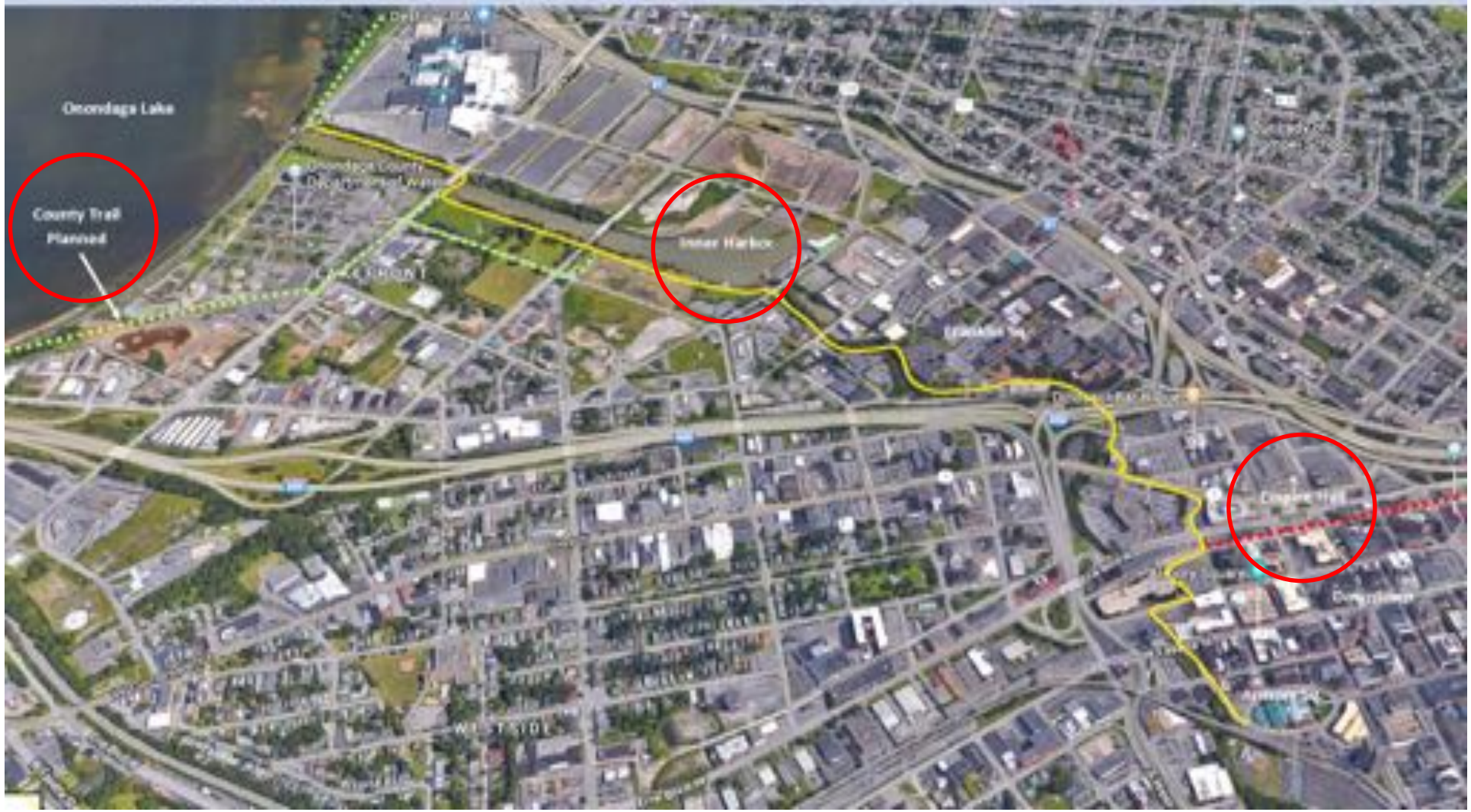
Four Lane Divided Roadway with 12-foot Median Trail

Syracuse Creekwalk:

Phase I

- Connection from Onondaga Lake to Armory Square
- Will provide a connection between *Empire State Trail* & *Loop the Lake Trail*

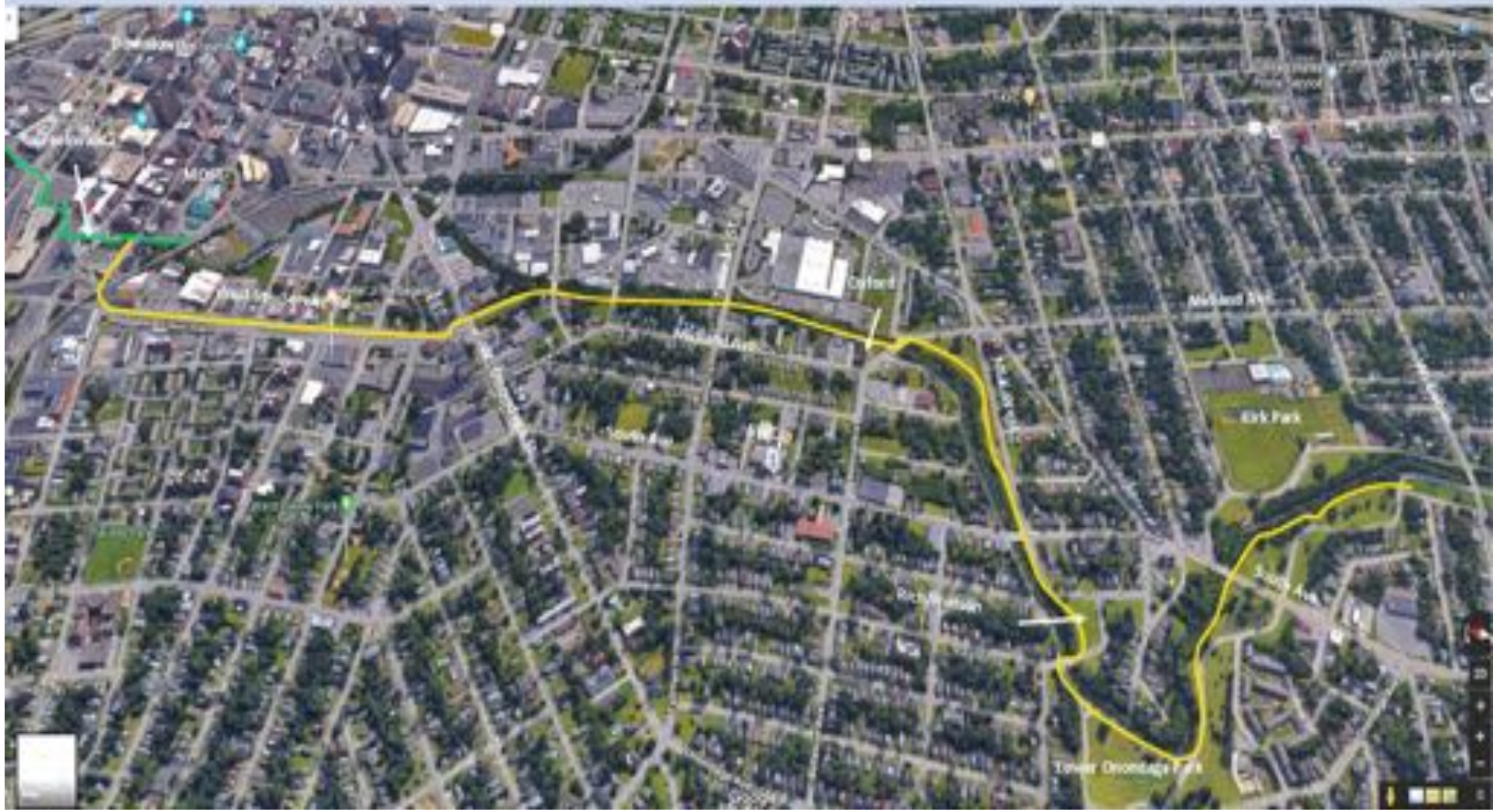
Creekwalk 1 Route



Syracuse Creekwalk: <u>Phase II</u>

- 2.2 mile extension
- Improve connection between Downtown & Southside **neighborhoods**
- Will further extend the reach of the *<u>Empire State Trail</u>* and *<u>Loop the Lake Trail</u>* into **neighborhoods**

Creekwalk 2 Route

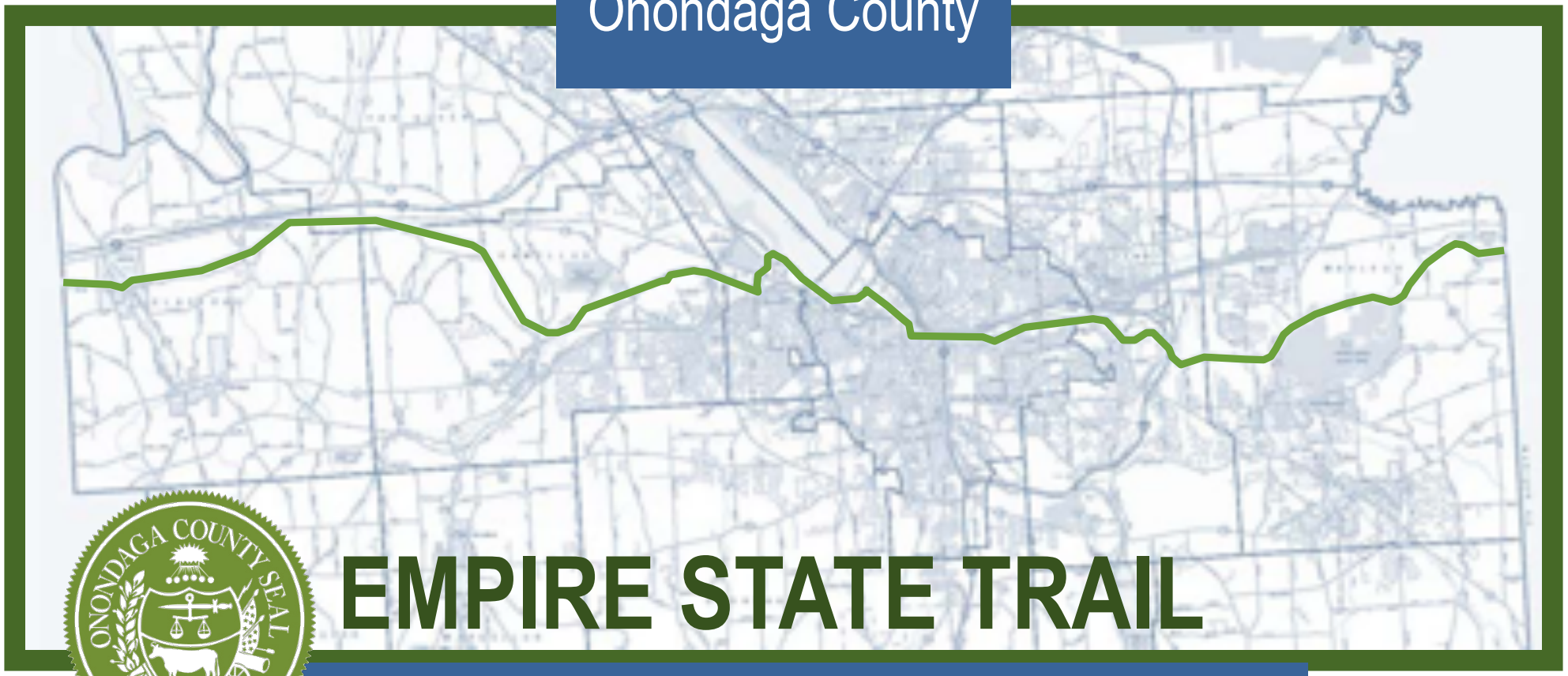


Creekside Platform

- Kirk Park - Fishing; Views
- Future canoe/kayak launch

Bike Share Program

Onondaga County



EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

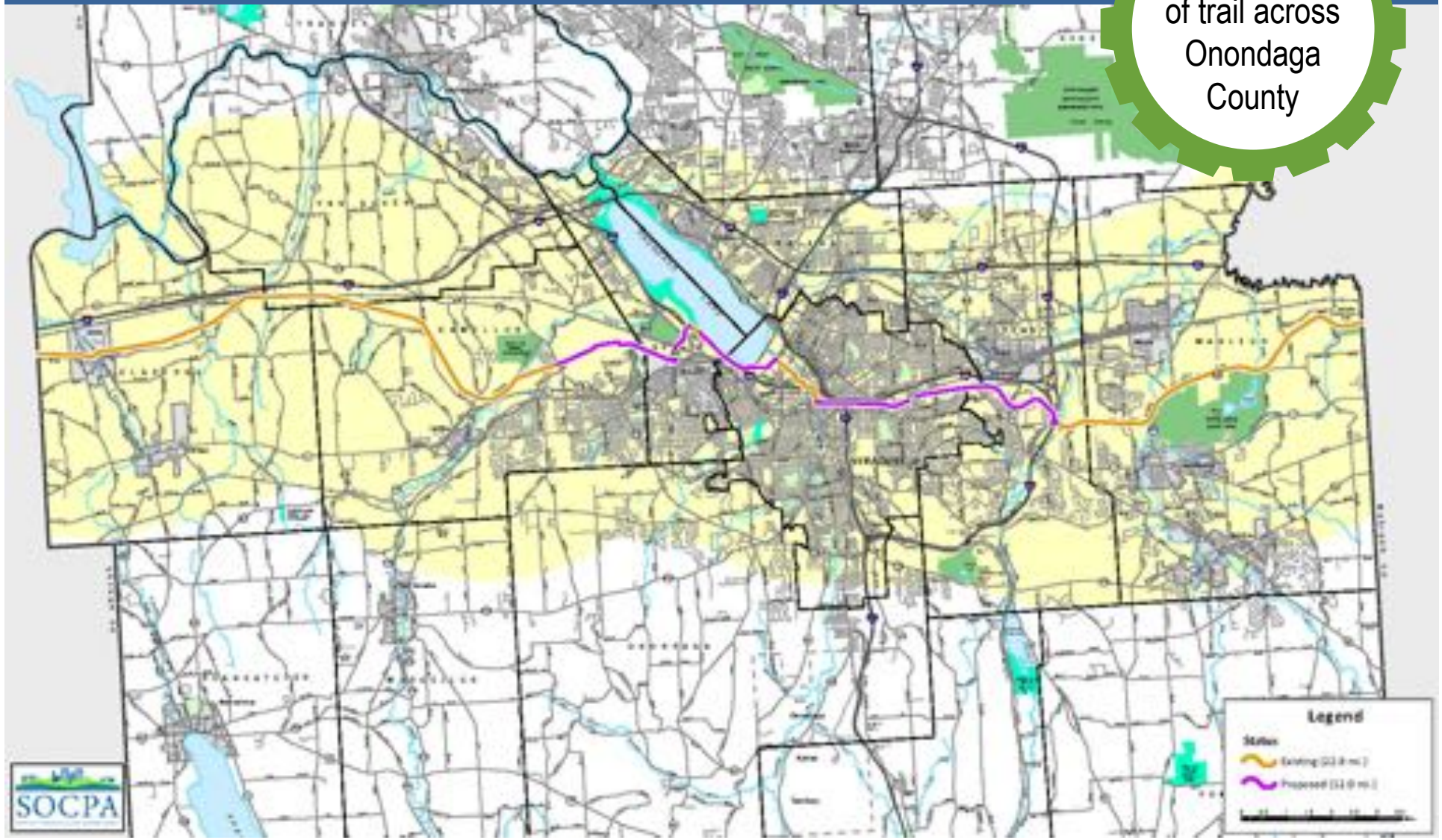
Dan Kwasnowski, AICP
Megan Costa
Allison Bodine
Danielle Krol
Jason DeShaies
Jeanie Gleisner

SOCPA
SMTC
Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

34.8 miles of trail across Onondaga County



EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

OBJECTIVES

- Make it easy for trail users to exit the trail and access local businesses and attractions.
- Identify facilities needed in centers.
- Make safe connections.
- Market available services and attractions.

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

PARTNERS/FUNDING

- County Executive
  - Room Occupancy Tax
  - Legislature-approved
- Contracted with CNYRPDB
- Partnership with SMTC
  - Part of Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

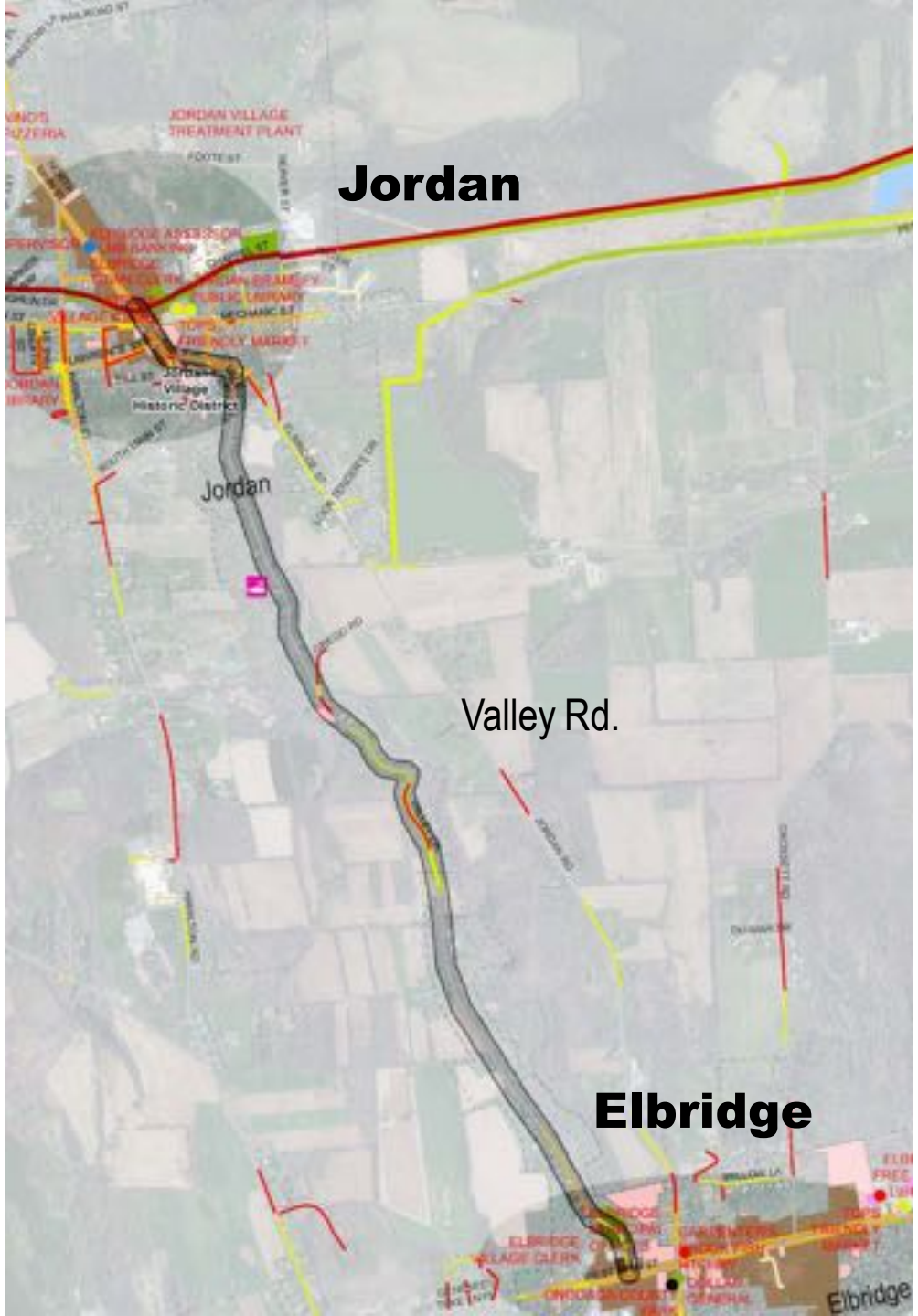
Local Economic Opportunities Plan

STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Prepare analysis maps for communities near trail

  Preloading information before outreach

- Review maps and possible connections to trail
- Refine analysis maps
- Compile a list of projects and resources



Destinations

DestinationType

- Agritourism
- Boat Launch
- Festival, Event, Happining, or Farmers Market
- Fishing Access
- Heritage Resource or Museum
- Natural Area

Selected Sectors - InfoGroup2017

General Sector

- Retail Trade
- Shopping Centers and Malls
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information
- Finance and Insurance
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- Accomodation and Food Services
- Other Services
- Public Administration

- Pre1940_Commercial_Building_Sites_2014_Parcels
- Parks_OpenSpace_2018_Parcels
- NYSHPO_NR Sites (2018)
- ROW - MPA_Points
- ROW - MPA_Polylines

Bicycle Touring Corridors (Peacemaker)

Peacemaker Trail

- Primary Touring Routes
- Rail, Abandoned Rail, Other Trail

MPA Bike Infrastructure

Infrastructure Type

- Bikeway
- Lanes
- Sharrows
- Trail

MPA_Sidewalks_2018

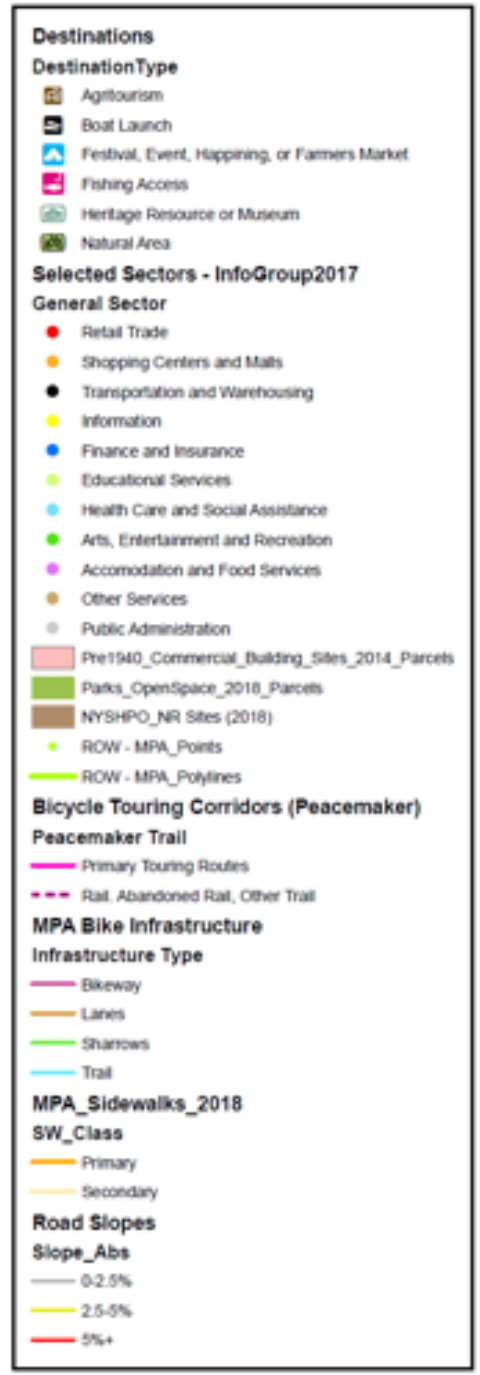
SW_Class

- Primary
- Secondary

Road Slopes

Slope_Abs

- 0-2.5%
- 2.5-5%
- 5%+


Destinations
DestinationType
Agritourism
Boat Launch
Festival, Event, Happining, or Farmers Market
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Finance and Insurance
Educational Services
Health Care and Social Assistance
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
Accomodation and Food Services
Other Services
Public Administration
Pre1940_Commercial_Building_Sites_2014_Parcels
Parks_OpenSpace_2018_Parcels
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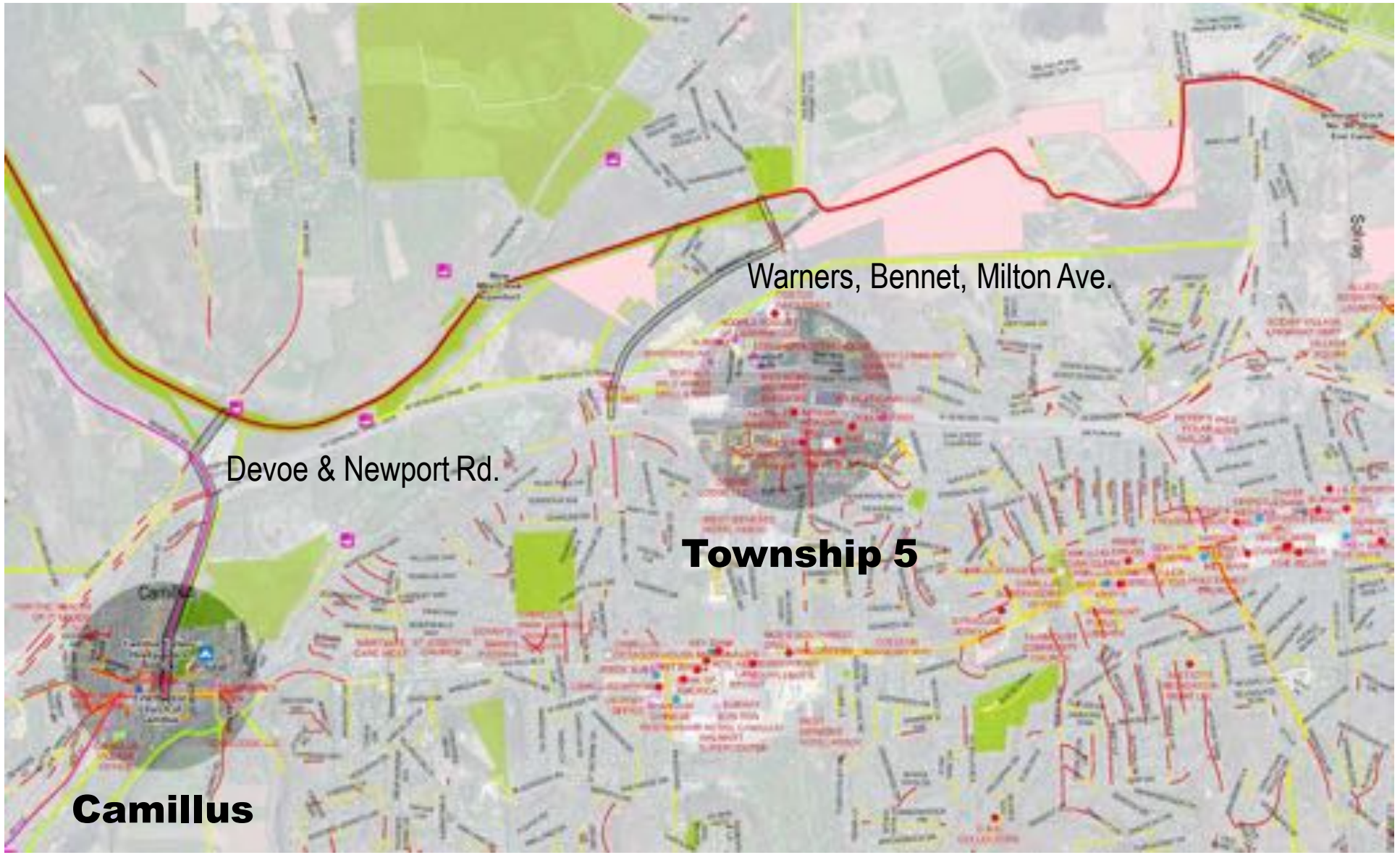
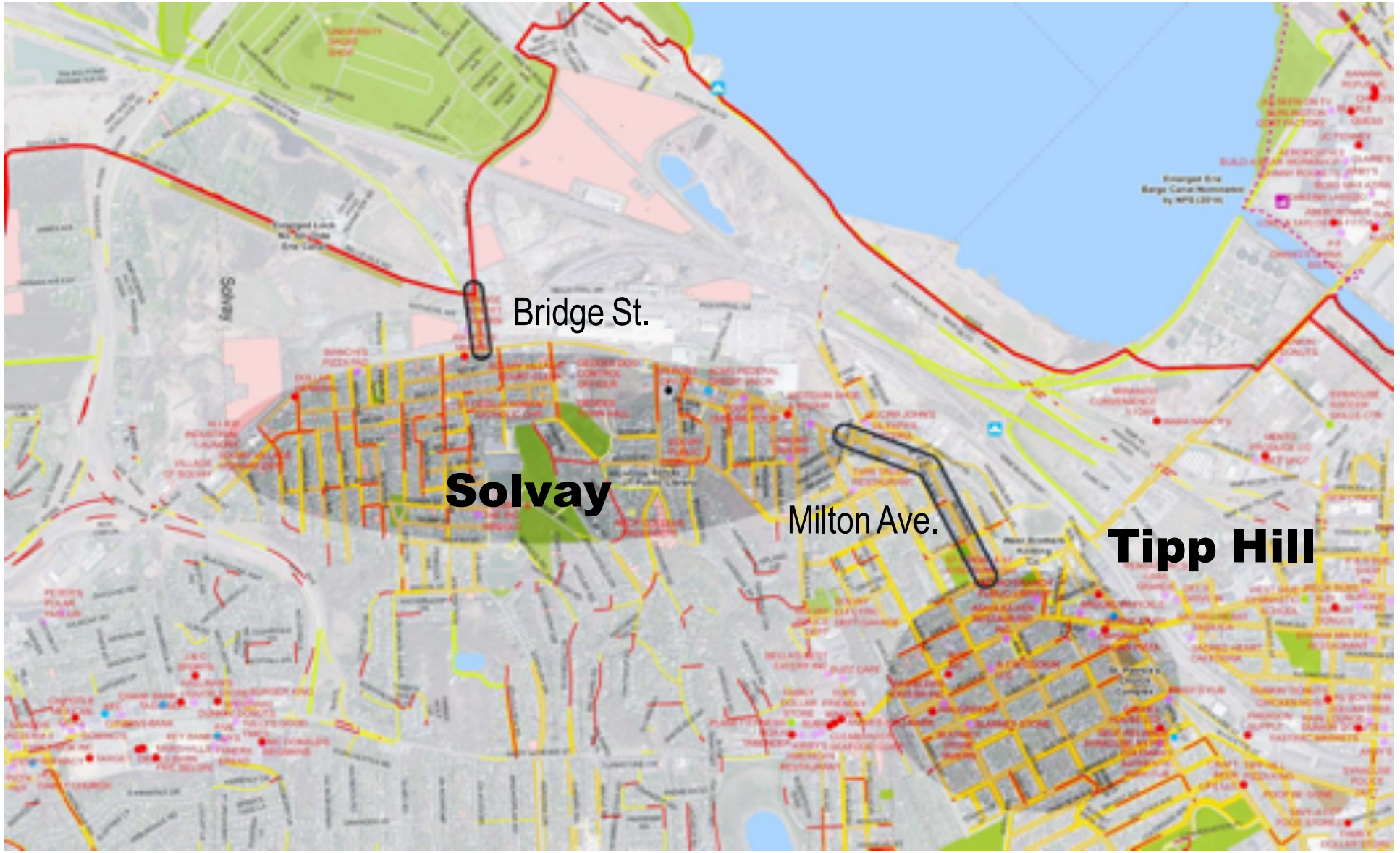
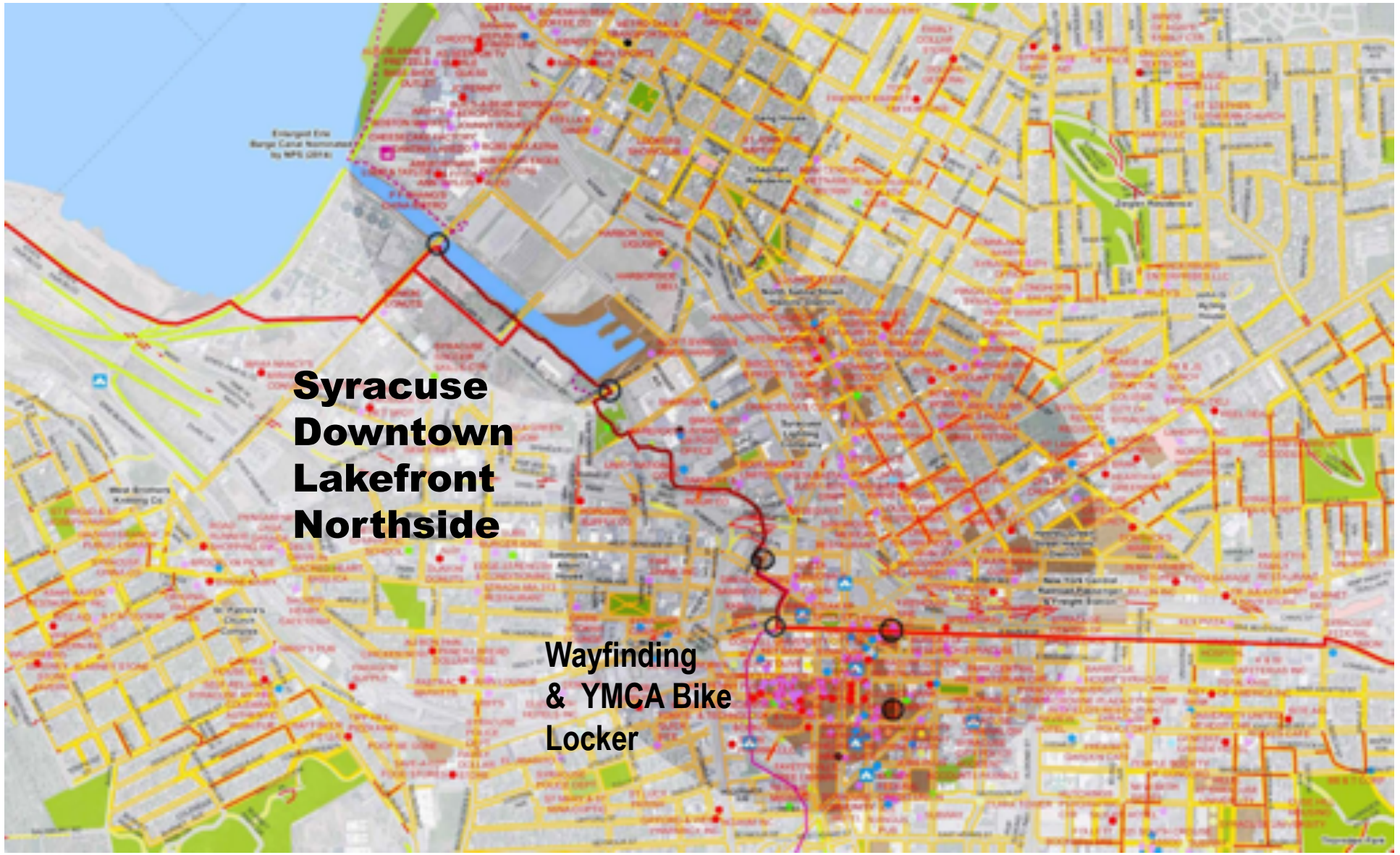
ROW - MPA_Points
ROW - MPA_Polylines
Bicycle Touring Corridors (Peacemaker)
Peacemaker Trail
Primary Touring Routes
Rail, Abandoned Rail, Other Trail
MPA Bike Infrastructure
Infrastructure Type
Bikeway
Lanes
Sharrows
Trail
MPA_Sidewalks_2018
SW_Class
Primary
Secondary
Road Slopes
Slope_Abs
0-2.5%
2.5-5%
5%+

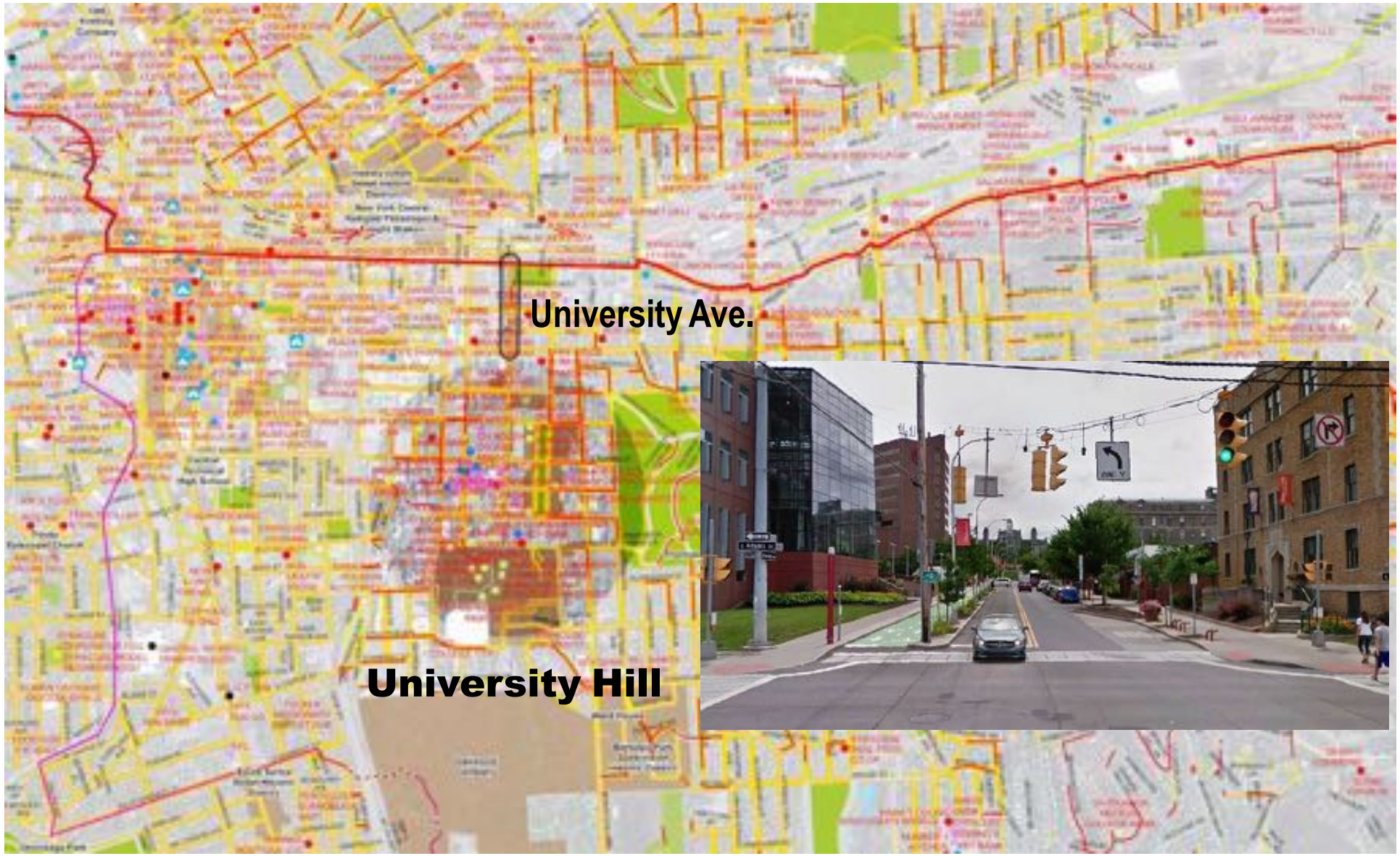

Warners, Bennet, Milton Ave.
Devoe & Newport Rd.
Township 5
Camillus


Bridge St.
Solvay
Milton Ave.
Tipp Hill

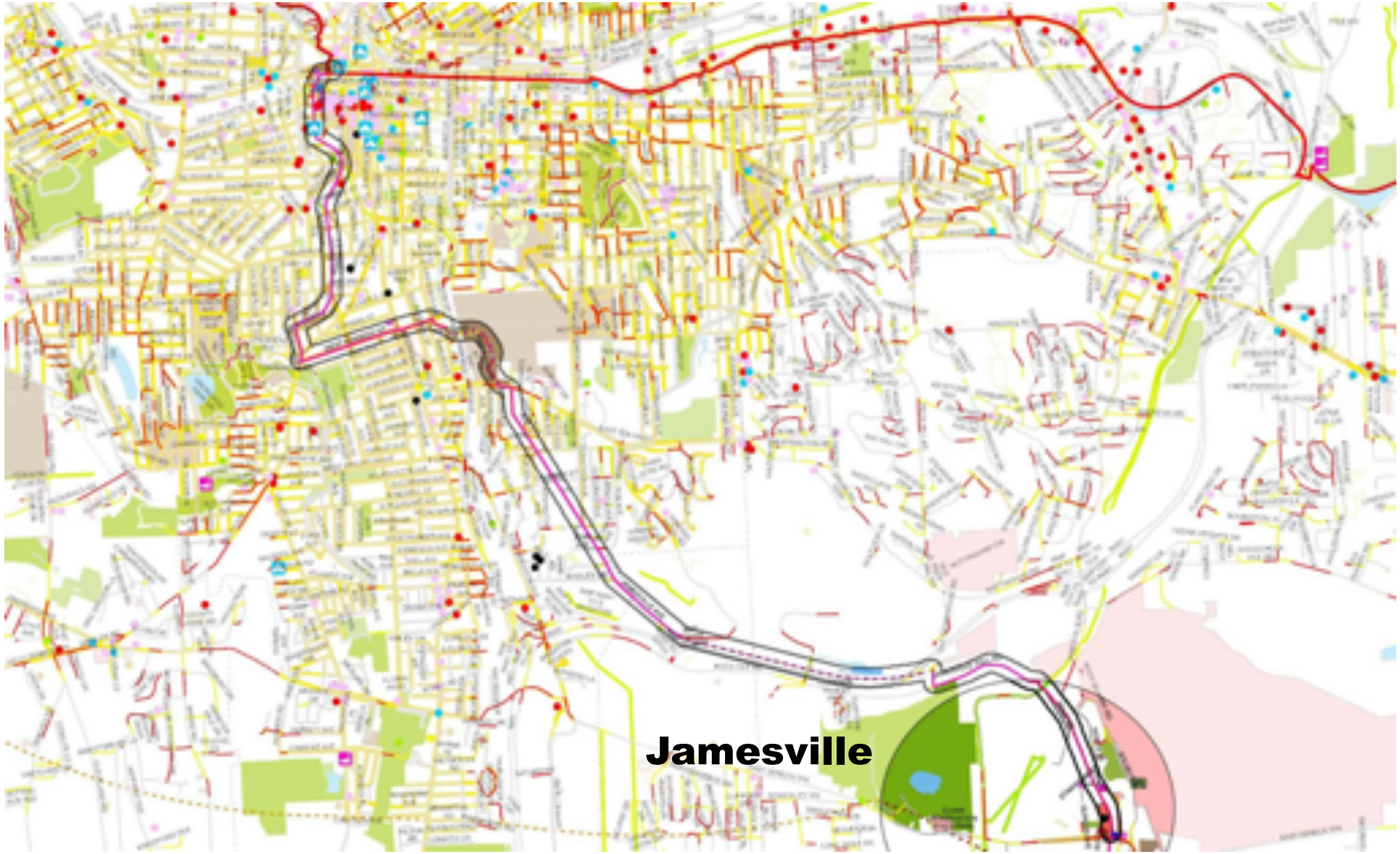
Geddes
(explore potential creek nature trail)
State Fair Blvd.
Warners, Airport, Armstrong Rd.

Loop-the-Lake & CNY Peacemaker Trail
Liverpool

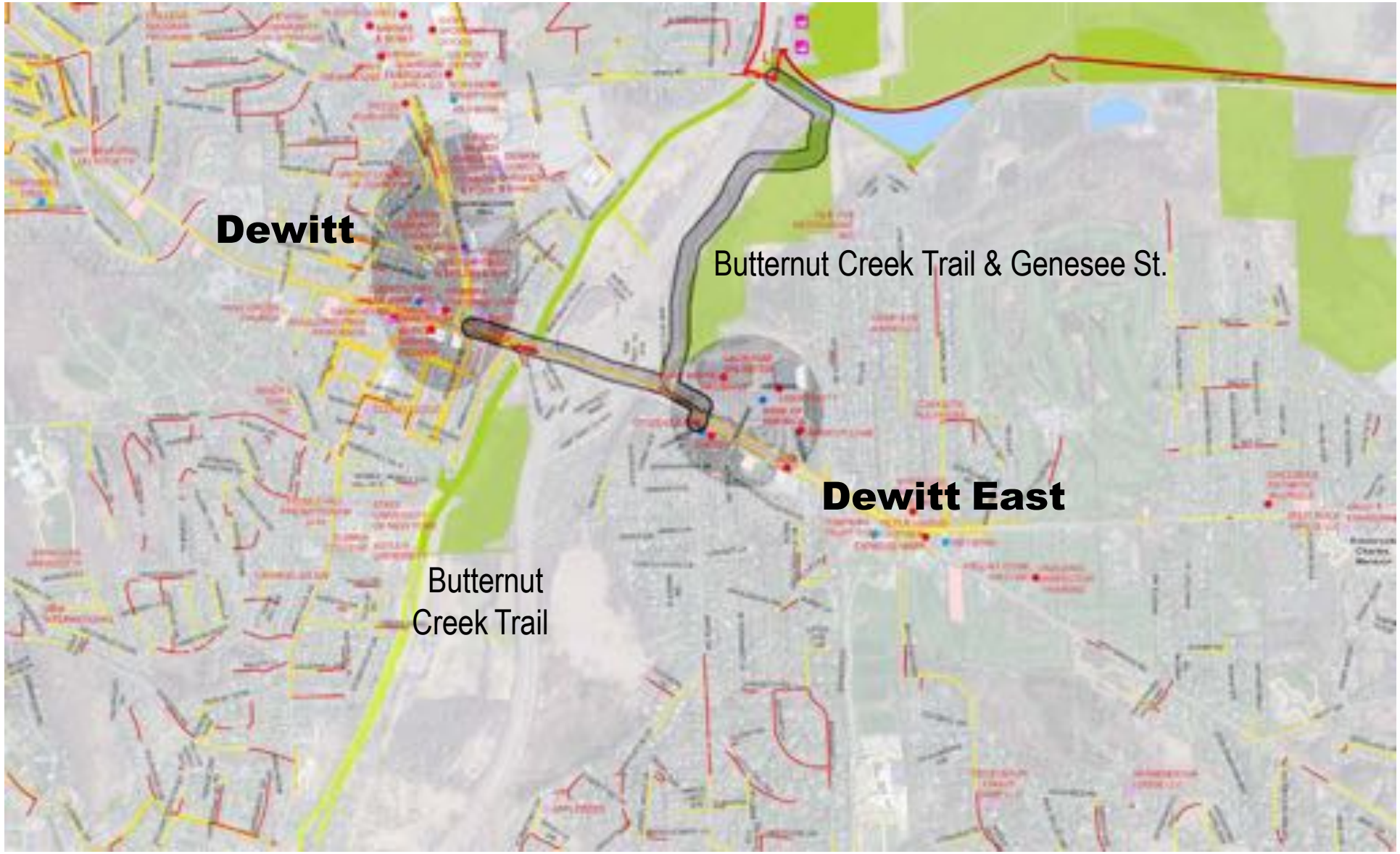

Syracuse
Downtown
Lakefront
Northside
Wayfinding
& YMCA Bike
Locker

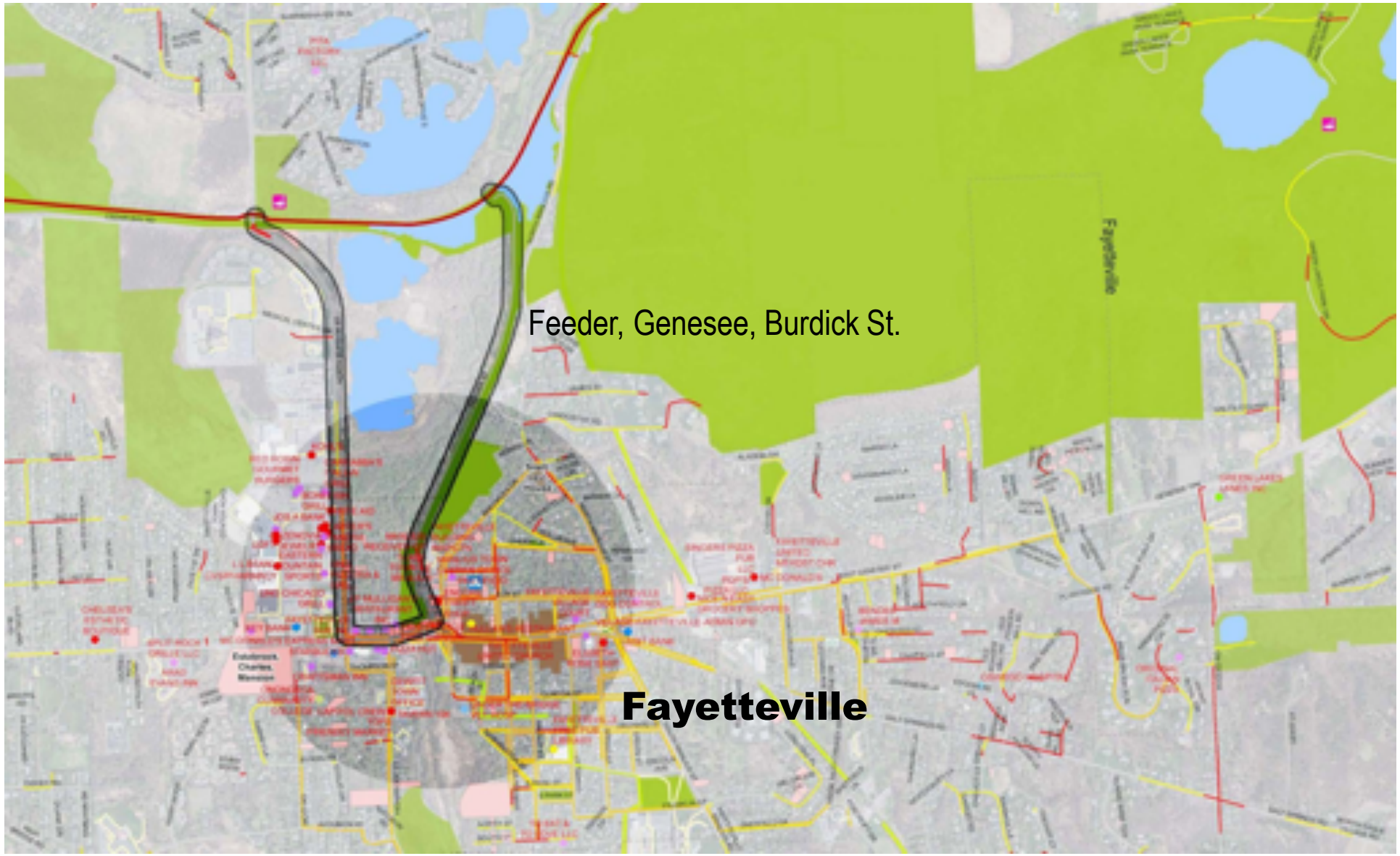

University Ave.
University Hill

Creekwalk & CNY Peacemaker Trail



Wayfinding


Dewitt
Butternut Creek Trail & Genesee St.
Dewitt East
Butternut
Creek Trail


Feeder, Genesee, Burdick St.
Fayetteville

Fayetteville
Green Lakes,
Genesee, Duguid
Manlius
Manlius
Manlius
Manlius

SMTC

Minoa
ST MARY-THE ASSUMPTION PARISH
MINOA CLERK'S OFFICE
MINOA MAYOR'S OFFICE
MINOA PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINOA PUBLIC WORKS DEPT
CLARKSON UNIVERSITY
POST OFFICE
SUNSHINE MINOA FOOD MART
PARKWAY PIZZA
Minoa
Minoa Rd.
MANLIUS HIGHWAY DEPT

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

NEXT STEPS

- Outreach to Stakeholders to fill in gaps.
- Synthesize Draft Mapts and Strategy
    - Projects: connections, facilities, improvements
    - Programs: maintenance, community, wayfinding
    - Future planning: tourism, greenway development
- Public review of plan
- Refine plan
- Implement