



REIMAGINING DURHAM FREEWAY, **TOGETHER**

# City of Durham

City Council Work Session

August 21, 2025

# Agenda

1. Project Purpose & Background
2. Community Engagement
3. Corridor Options



# Project Purpose and Background



Pathways to Connection has produced a community-led vision to shape the future of the Durham Freeway and mitigate damage caused by its construction.

**The study's vision plan will:**



Acknowledge and evaluate the impacts of the Durham Freeway



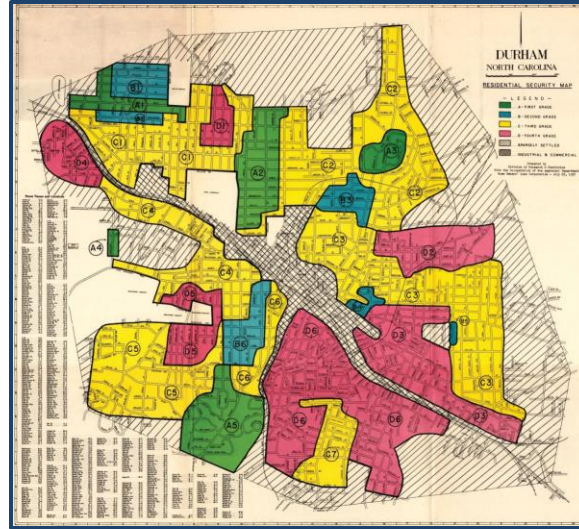
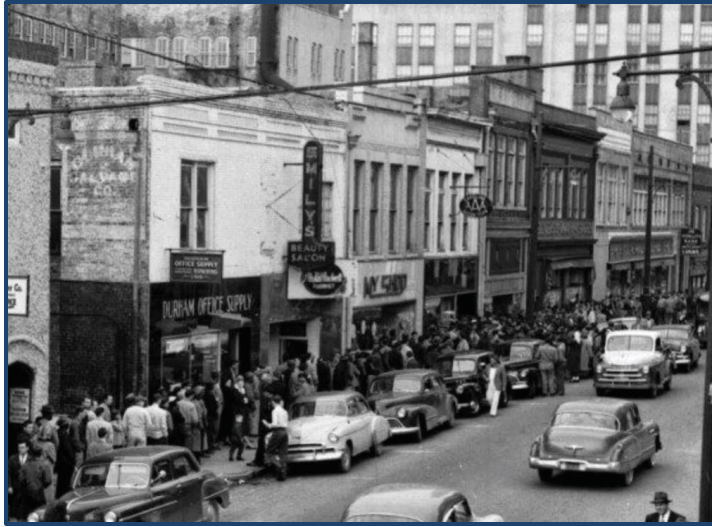
Reimagine the future character of the corridor



Reconnect vital communities in the heart of Durham

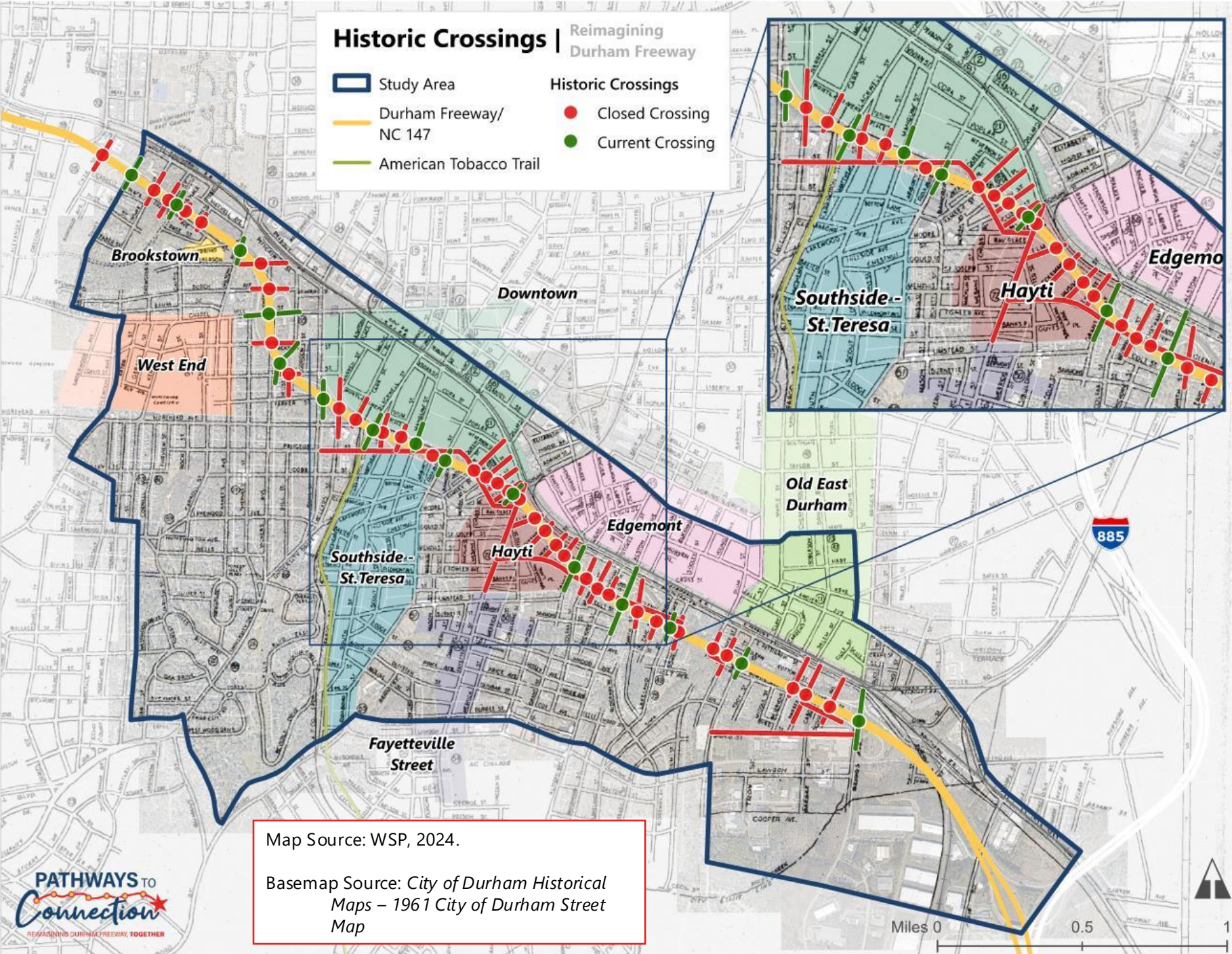


# History of Durham Freeway



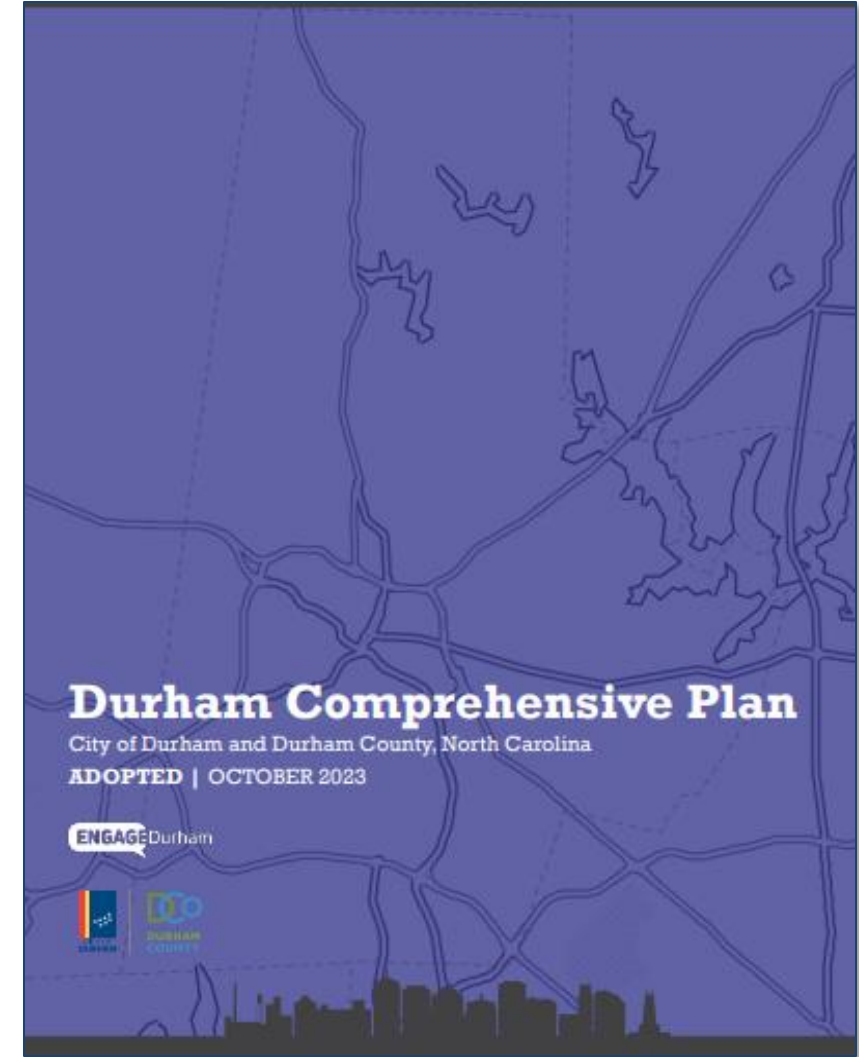
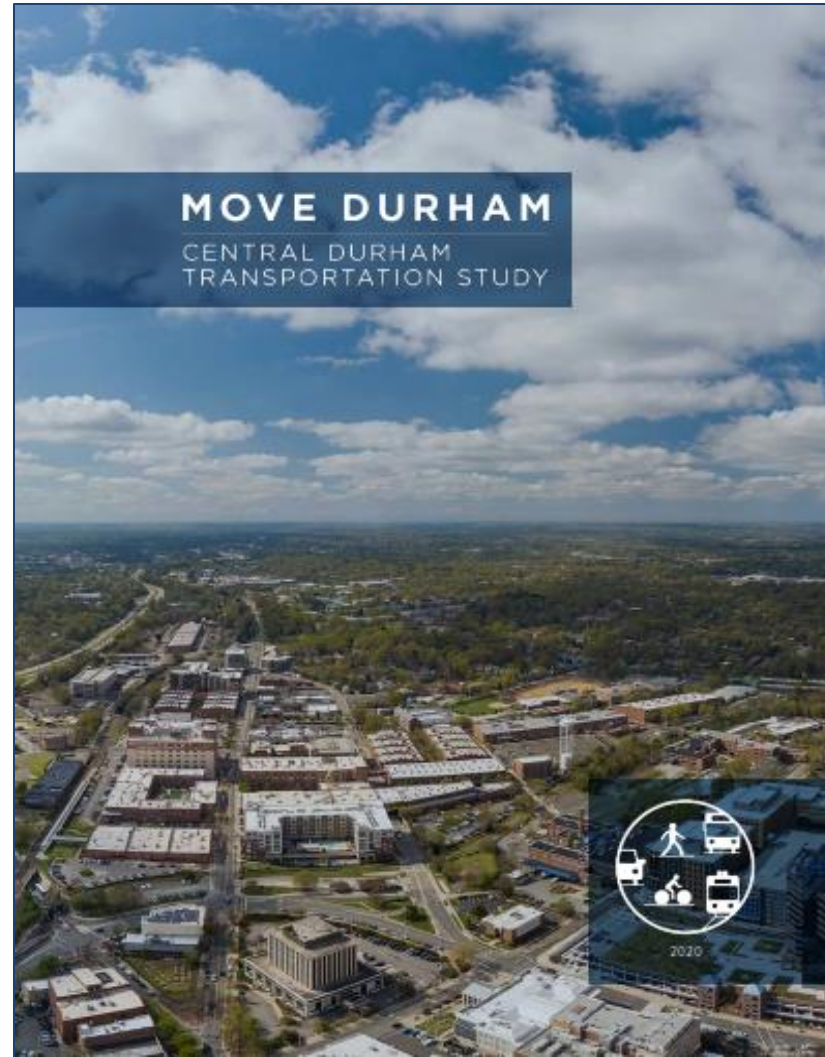


# Historic Crossings





# Transportation and Land Use Plans





# Project Team



# Technical Committee



- **City of Durham**
  - City Manager's Office
  - Engagement\* (*Neighborhood Improvement Services, Office on Youth*)
  - Environmental and Street Services (*Public Works*)
  - General Services
  - Housing and Neighborhood Services (*Community Development*)
  - Office of Economic and Workforce Development
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Planning and Development
  - Transportation Department

*\*Department name has not been finalized*



- **Durham County**
  - Transportation Department
  - Economic Development



- **Durham Housing Authority**



- **GoDurham**



- **GoTriangle**



- **NCDOT**
  - Transportation Planning Division
  - Division 5
  - District 2
  - Integrated Mobility Division



**TRIANGLE WEST**  
Transportation Planning Organization

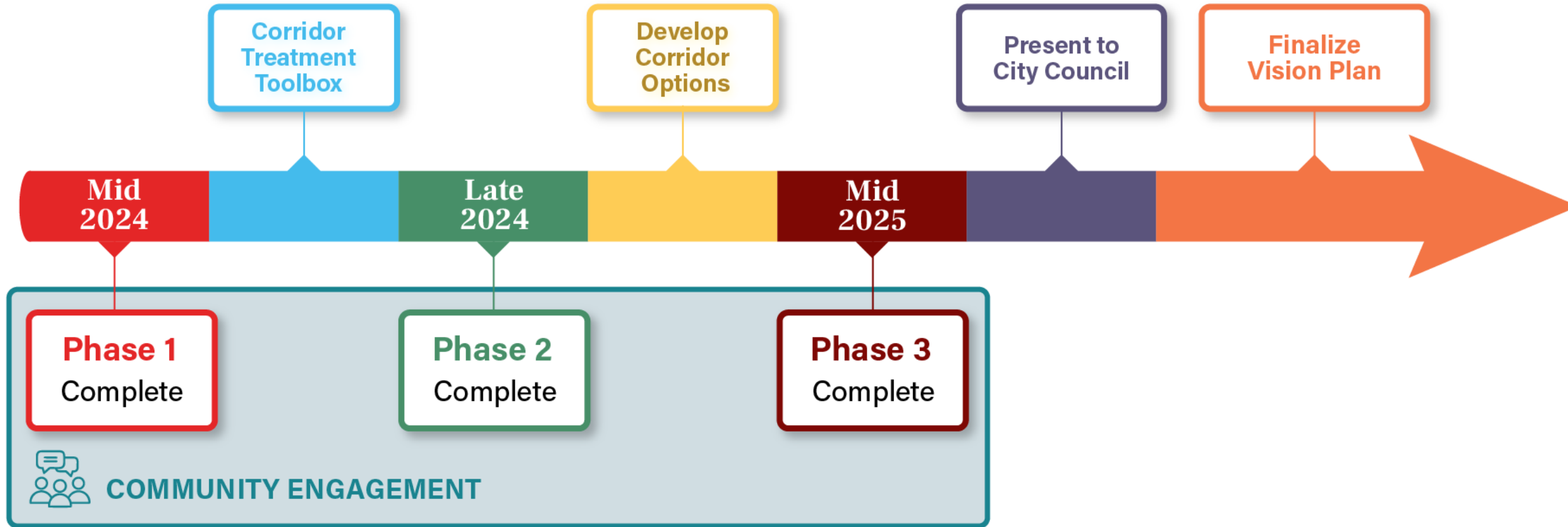
- **Triangle West TPO**



# Institutional Stakeholders



# Project Timeline





# Community Engagement

*A Community-Led Vision*





# Phase 1 Engagement Strategy and Statistics



**20+** Community Events



**1,500+** Community Members Engaged



**790** Survey Responses





# Phase 1 Engagement Takeaways

The ***biggest concerns*** about the Durham Freeway:

**SAFETY  
FOR ALL  
USERS**

**LIMITED  
MOBILITY  
OPTIONS**

***Improvements***  
the Durham  
community  
would like to  
see:



***A Better  
Bike/Walking  
Network***



***Community  
Development  
& Investment***



***Redesign or  
Removal of  
the Freeway***



# Corridor Treatment Toolbox

## Five Focus Areas



Reflect Community Feedback



Inform Focus Areas and Strategies



Inform Development of Corridor Options



Inform Performance Metrics of Corridor Options

**History &  
Belonging**

**Mobility**

**Equitable  
Land Use**

**Safety**

**Sustainability**

# Corridor Options

- **Boulevard Conversion**
- **Freeway Cap / Land Bridge**
- **Freeway Modernization**





Before



After



St. Mark

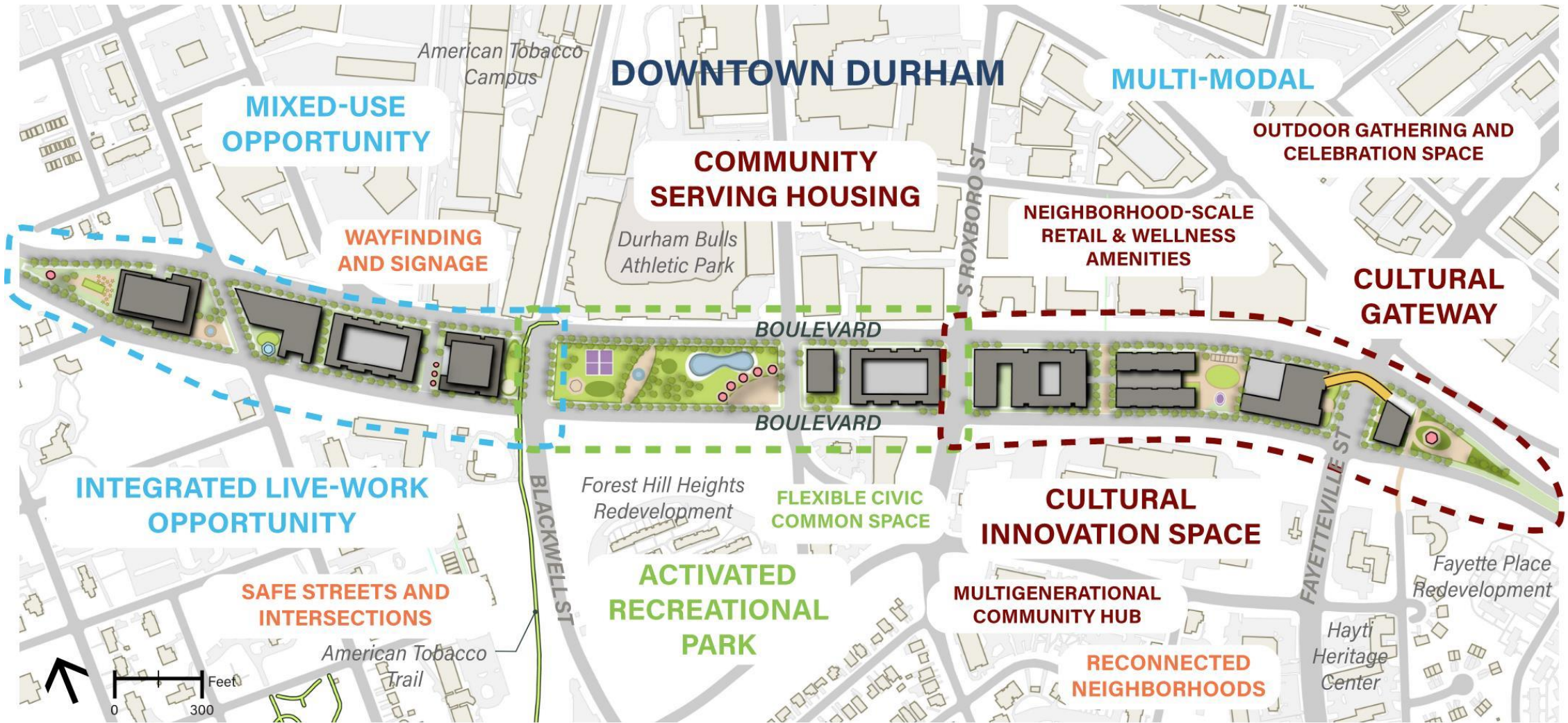
Downtown

Hayti

**Boulevard Conversion**



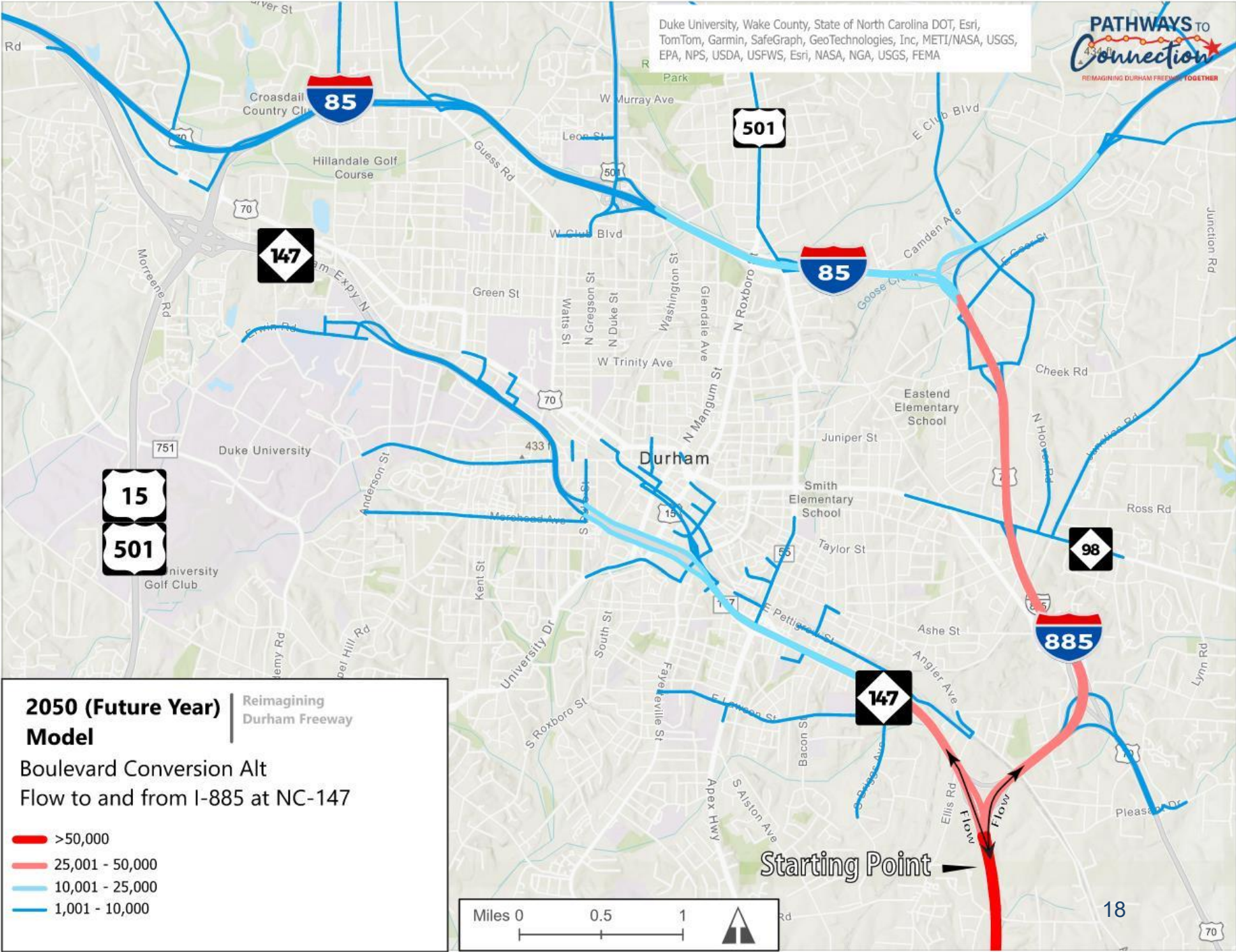
# Boulevard Conversion





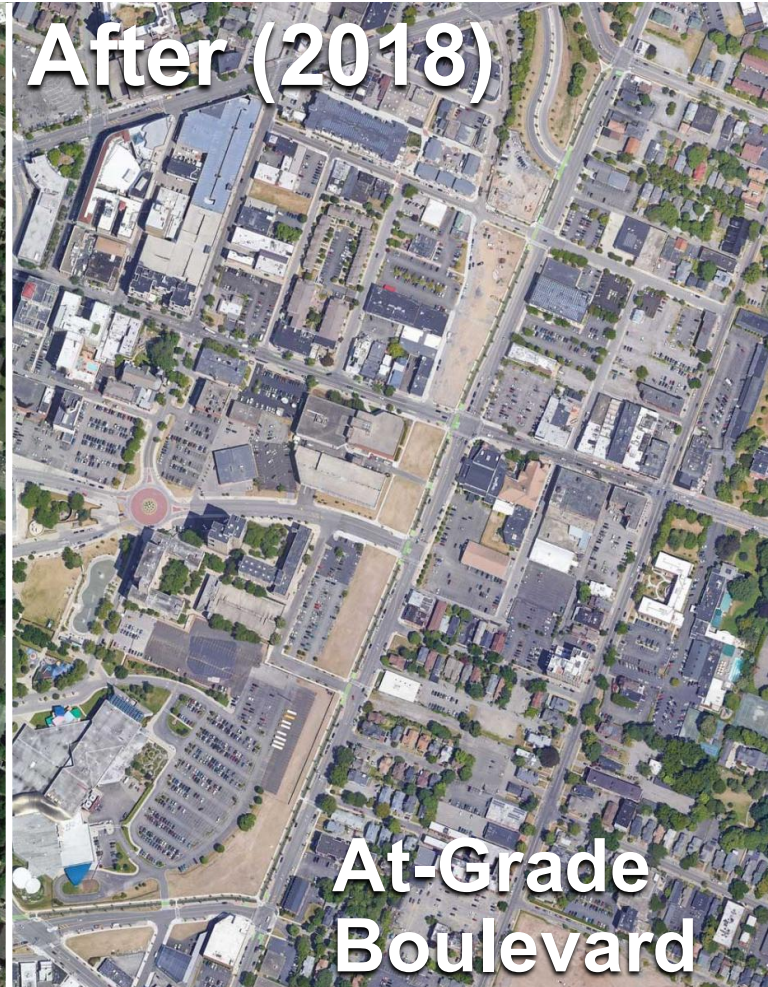
# Boulevard Conversion

# Travel Pattern





# Inner Loop East Project, Rochester, NY





Before



After



St. Mark

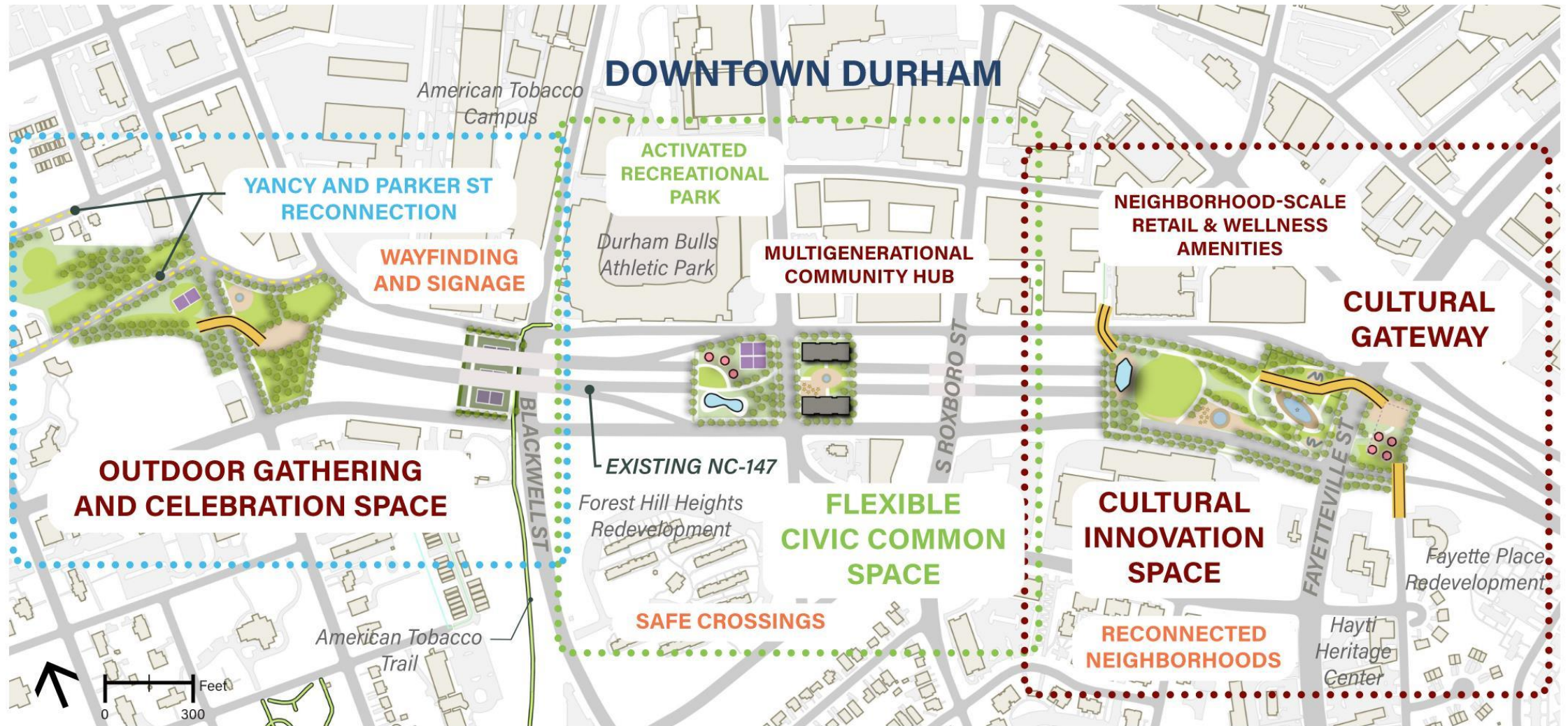
Downtown

Hayti

**Freeway Cap or Land Bridge**



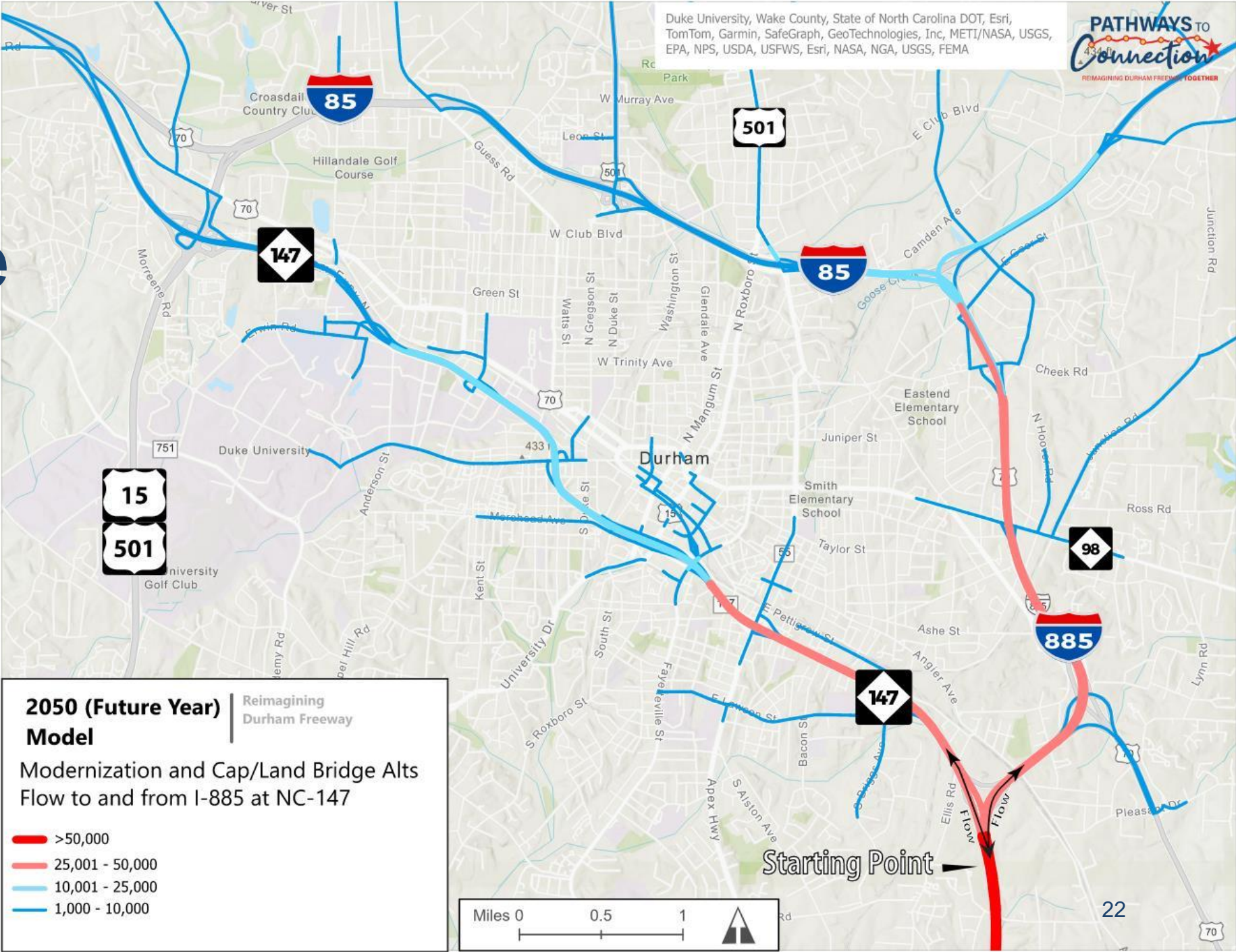
# Freeway Cap or Land Bridge





# Freeway Cap or Land Bridge

# Travel Pattern





# Central 70 in Denver Metro





Before



After



St. Mark

Downtown

Hayti

**Freeway Modernization**



# Freeway Modernization

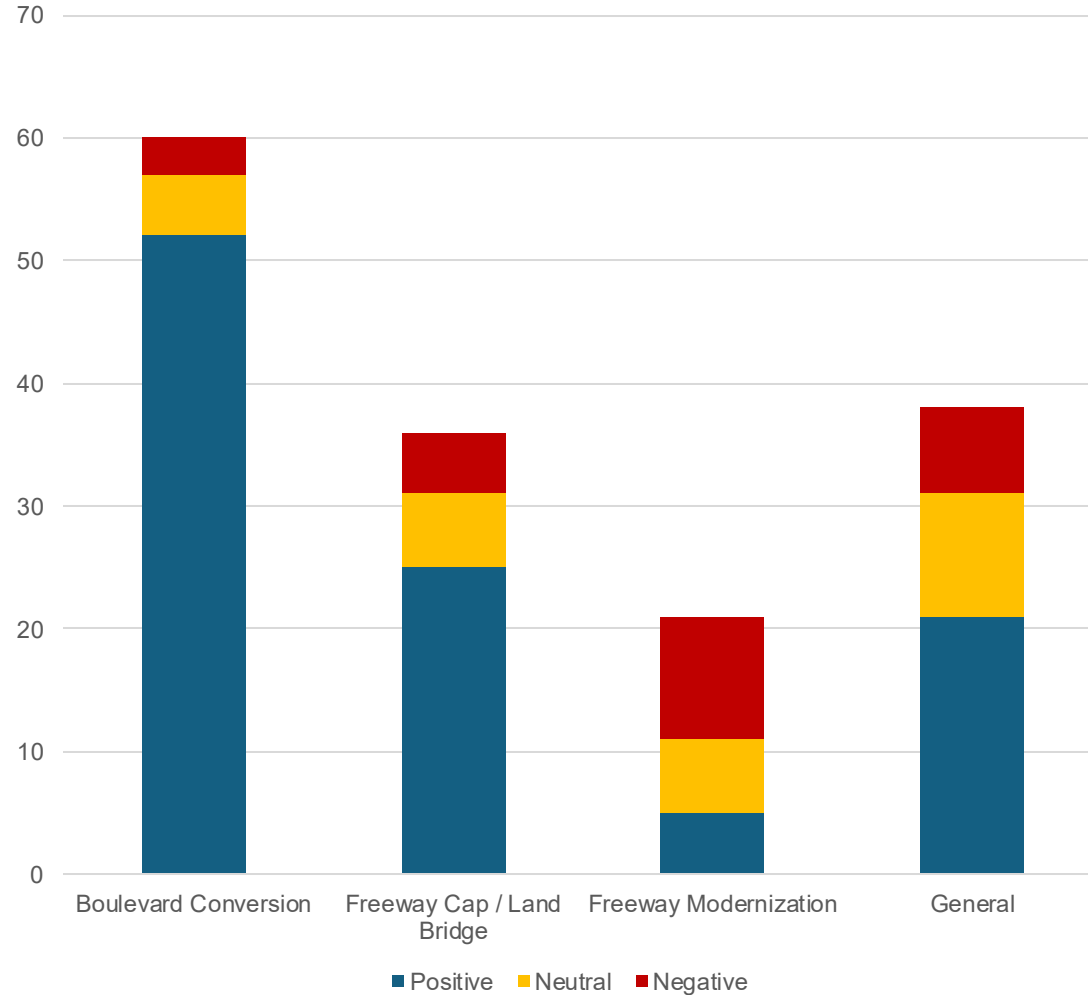




# Winston-Salem I-40 Business Reconstruction



# What We've Heard





















**"The land bridge honors the community and the people that were displaced."**

**"Love the boulevard option! It'll make this city more walkable and accessible."**

**"(Freeway Modernization) seems like the most likely/feasible."**



# Performance Metrics Summary

	Durham Freeway Options		
Community Focus Areas	Boulevard Conversion	Freeway Cap or Land Bridge	Freeway Modernization
History and Belonging			
Safety			
Mobility			
Sustainability			
Equitable Land Use			
Overall Rating			
Land Opportunity (Acres)	20.0 - 22.0	3.0 - 25.0	12.5 - 14.5
Preliminary Cost (2025 \$)*	\$450M	\$450-800M+	\$350M



# Next Steps

- Receive Council input to inform final Vision Plan
- Continue coordination with NCDOT
- Facilitate ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Identify funding strategies for future phases of study (e.g., economic impact analysis, life cycle cost analysis, etc.)

