

City of Sandy Springs Powers Ferry Transportation Study

Recommendations Public Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2024



About the Study



The Powers Ferry Study Area

Western gateway to Sandy Springs

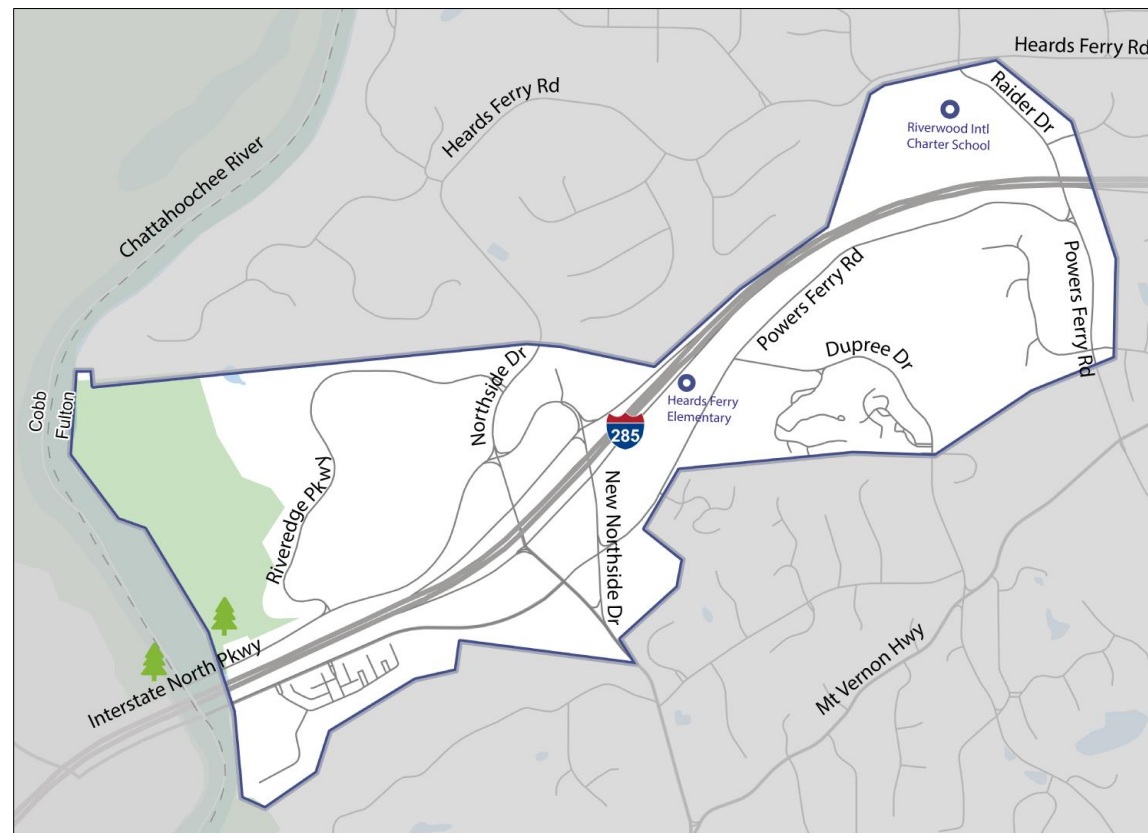
Regional employment center

Residential neighborhoods

Local schools

Small-scale retail

Chattahoochee River National
Recreation Area



2016 Powers Ferry Small Area Plan

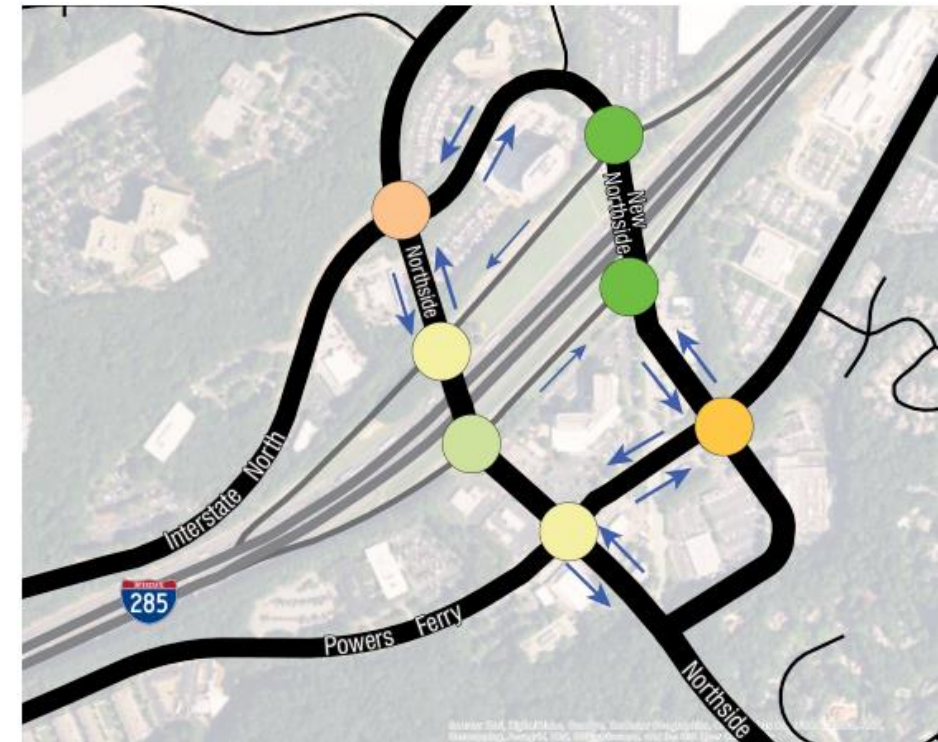
Small Area Plan Purpose:

- Protection of existing residential neighborhoods
- Improved access to natural amenities
- Enhanced small-scale retail uses



Powers Ferry Transportation Study Purpose:

- Further analysis of transportation ideas from 2016 plan
- Analysis of Northside Drive/New Northside Drive to consider reallocation of space
- Prioritization of bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and roadway recommendations



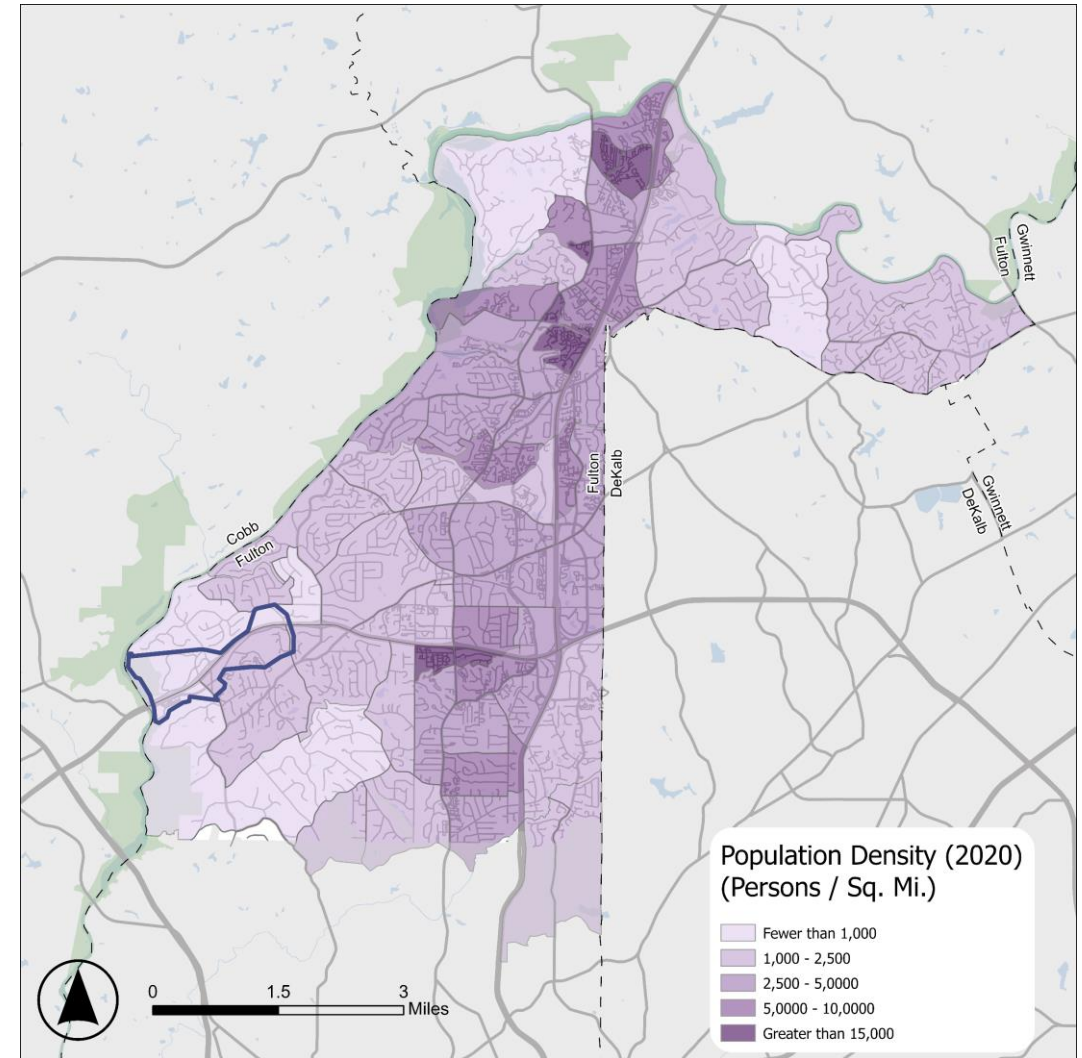
Current Conditions



People and Places

Study Area Characteristics

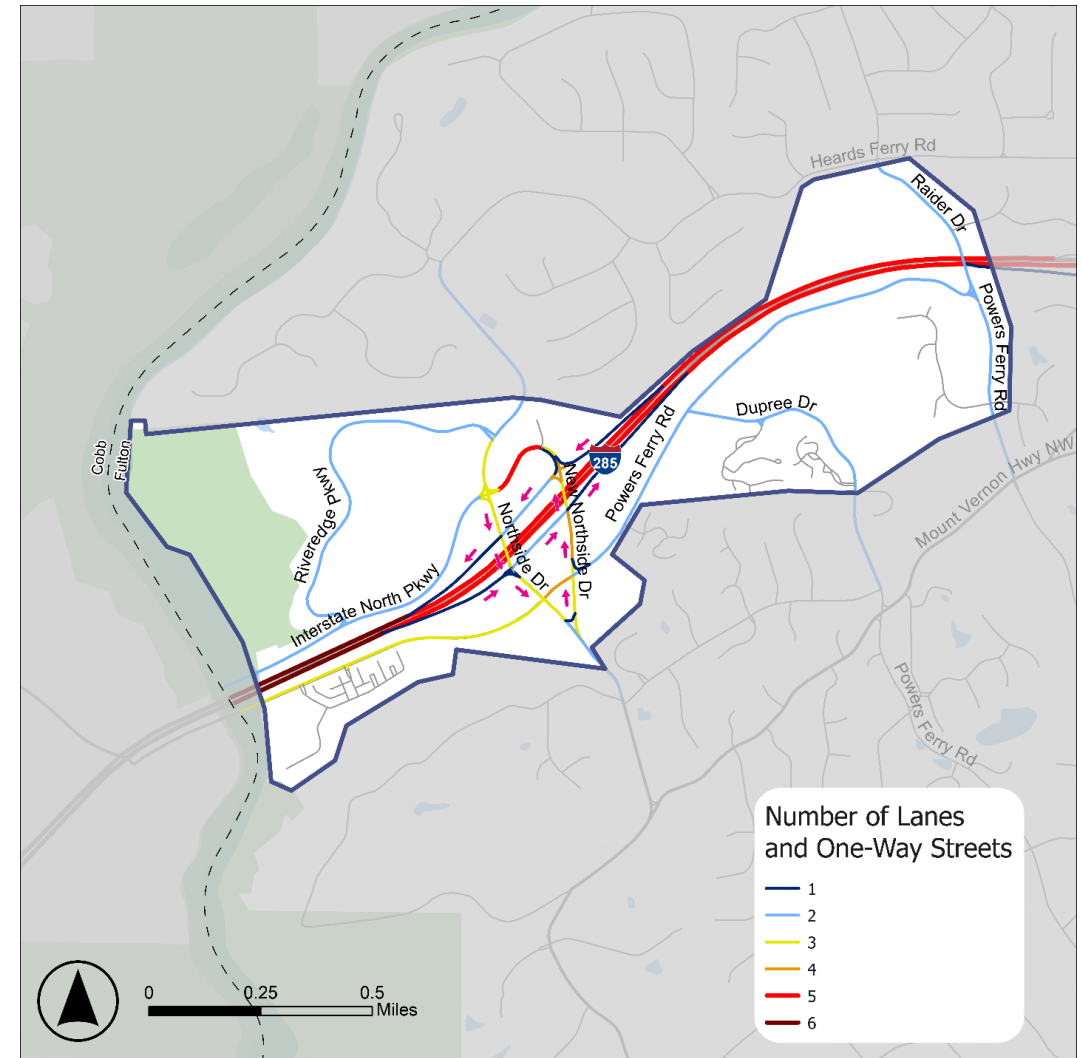
- Low population density
- 9,388 jobs, or 8% of the City's jobs
- Major land uses include office, mixed-use, retail, school, and residential
- Major employers include Voya, Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), Graphic Packaging, Sonesta Hotel, Fulton County Schools Administration



Transportation

Transportation Characteristics

- One-way circulation
- Intersections operate well (low congestion)
- 7 reported wrong-way crashes (2018-2022)
- Some existing sidewalk gaps
- MARTA Bus Route 148



Public Engagement



Public and Stakeholder Input: Round 1

Online survey (344 participants)

- Open from July 31, 2023, through August 22, 2023

Open House (71 participants)

- Held August 14, 2023
- Held in the study area at the Fulton County Schools Administrative Building

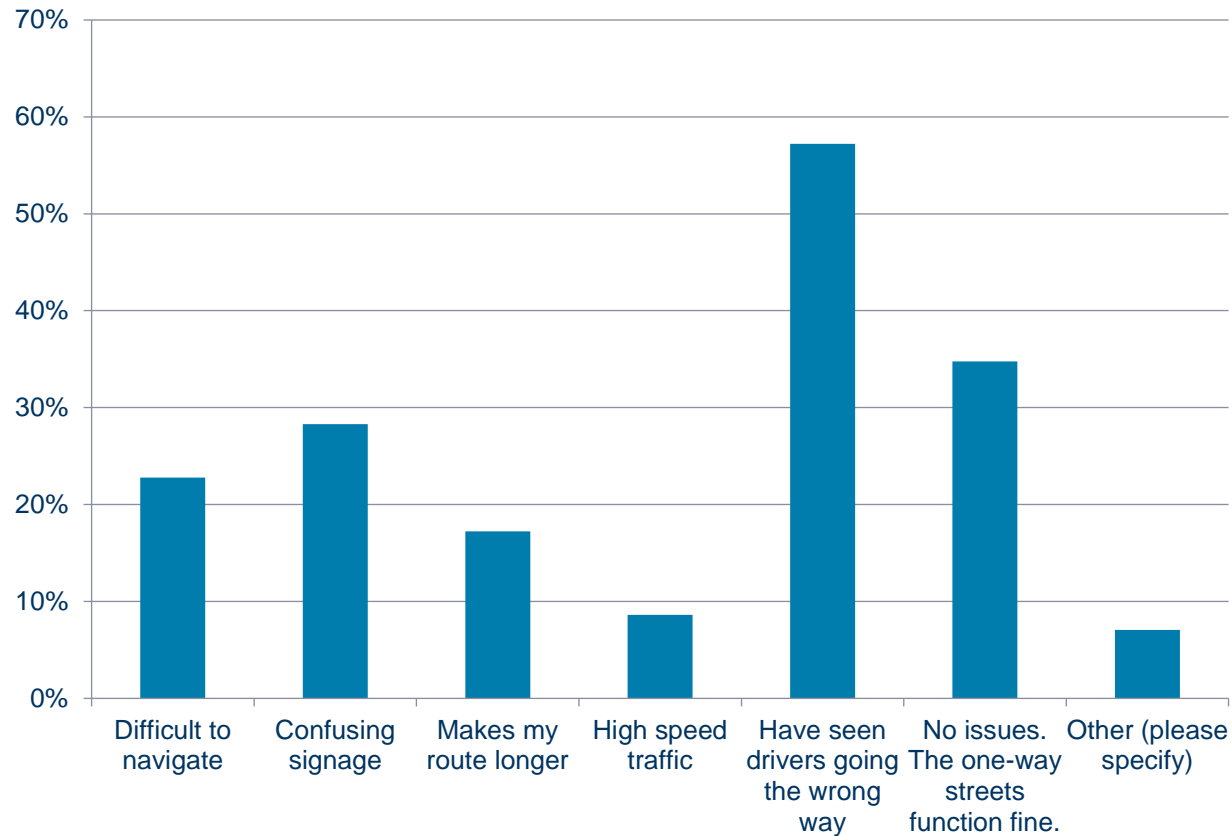
Three focus groups (13 participants)

- Held in August and September 2023
- Major Employers
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Transit and Transportation Demand Management

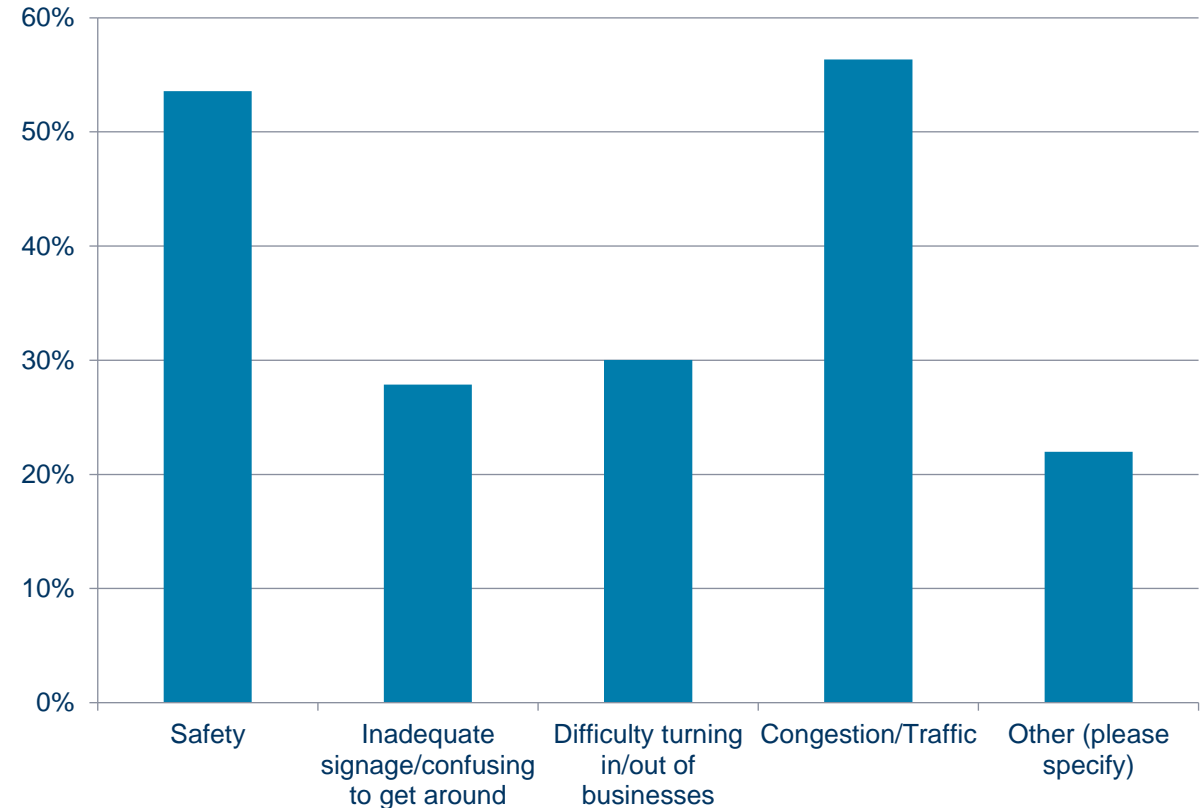


Public and Stakeholder Input

Currently New Northside Drive and Northside Drive operate as one-way streets. Do you see any issues with the one-way operations of these streets? Please select all that apply.



What are your primary concerns driving in the Powers Ferry Study Area? (Select all that apply.)



New Northside Drive / Northside Drive Reconfiguration



New Northside Drive and Northside Drive Alternatives Analyzed

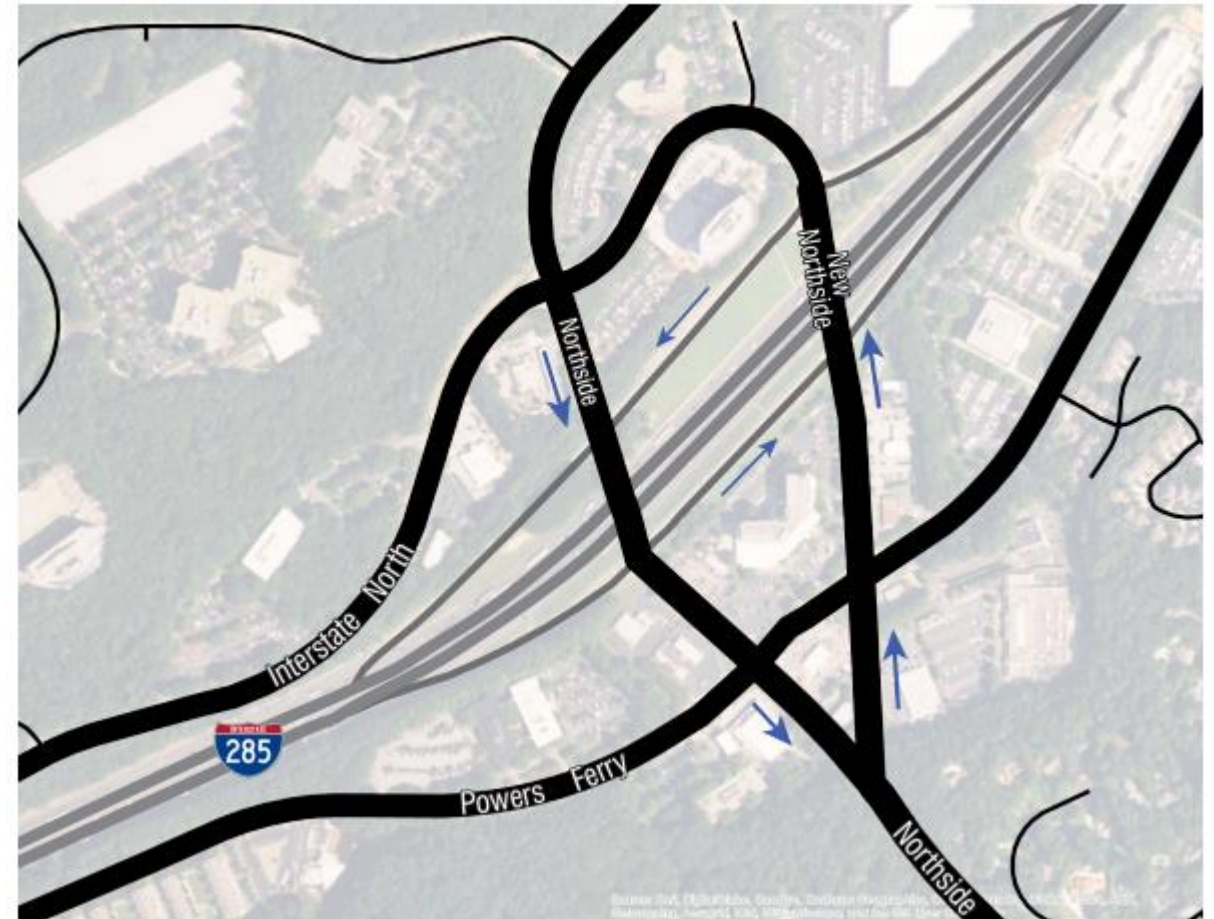
Alternative 1

- Add bicycle and pedestrian facilities by removing a travel lane in each direction

Alternative 2

- Convert to two-way operations
- Add pedestrian/bicycle facilities separately

CURRENT NETWORK



Alternative 1

Allocate space for walking/biking
(Lane Repurposing)

Components

Remove travel lanes along Northside Drive and New Northside Drive, including on I-285 bridges

Install new side path along both streets

Add street lighting, shorter-term sidewalk infill projects, and intersection crossing improvements

Enhance intersections, upgrade traffic signals, and improve safety



Alternative 2

Two-Way Network (Converting the One-Way Streets to Two-Way Traffic)

Components

Repave and restripe roadways for two-way operations

Install three additional right-turn lanes (widen pavement)

Redesign Int. #1 to T-intersection with stop control

Install new side path along both streets (requires new right-of-way and I-285 bridge widening)

Add street lighting, shorter-term sidewalk infill projects, and intersection crossing improvements

Enhance intersections, upgrade traffic signals, and improve safety



Alternatives Comparison

Considerations	Alternative 1: Allocate Space for Walking/Biking (Lane Repurposing)		Alternative 2: Two-Way Network (Converting the One-Way Streets to Two-Way Traffic)	
Pedestrians and Bicyclists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New side path as a part of the baseline design 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New side path is added outside of the current roadway 	
Roadway Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repurposes 1 through lane Involves modification of 4 intersections 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves circulation for drivers Requires additional pavement at 3 intersections 	
Roadway Traffic Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May increase average vehicle delay by ~10% 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May increase average vehicle delay by ~12% May result in more queuing at 2 intersections 	
Transportation Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have fewer conflict points and fewer crashes than Alternative 2 Mitigates current wrong-way driving behavior 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More potential vehicle-vehicle and vehicle-pedestrian conflict points Lower travel speeds may reduce crash severity 	
Cost Estimate	Northside Dr (Roadway/Multimodal) New Northside Dr (Roadway/Multimodal) Total	\$3.2M \$2.6M \$5.8M	Two-Way Conversion Northside Dr (Multimodal/Bridge) New Northside Dr (Multimodal/Bridge) Total	\$9.1M \$2.6M \$2.6M \$14.3M



Recommendation: Alternative 1

Allocate Space for Walking/Biking
(Lane Repurposing)

Phase 1: Northside Drive

Phase 2: New Northside Drive



Other Study Recommendations



Prioritized Projects

Three Project Tiers

- Short-Term: Low cost, easy to implement without substantial new funds; includes agency coordination
- Mid-Term: Moderate cost, good candidates for future funding source
- Long-Term: More aspirational, will require new funds and/or regional coordination

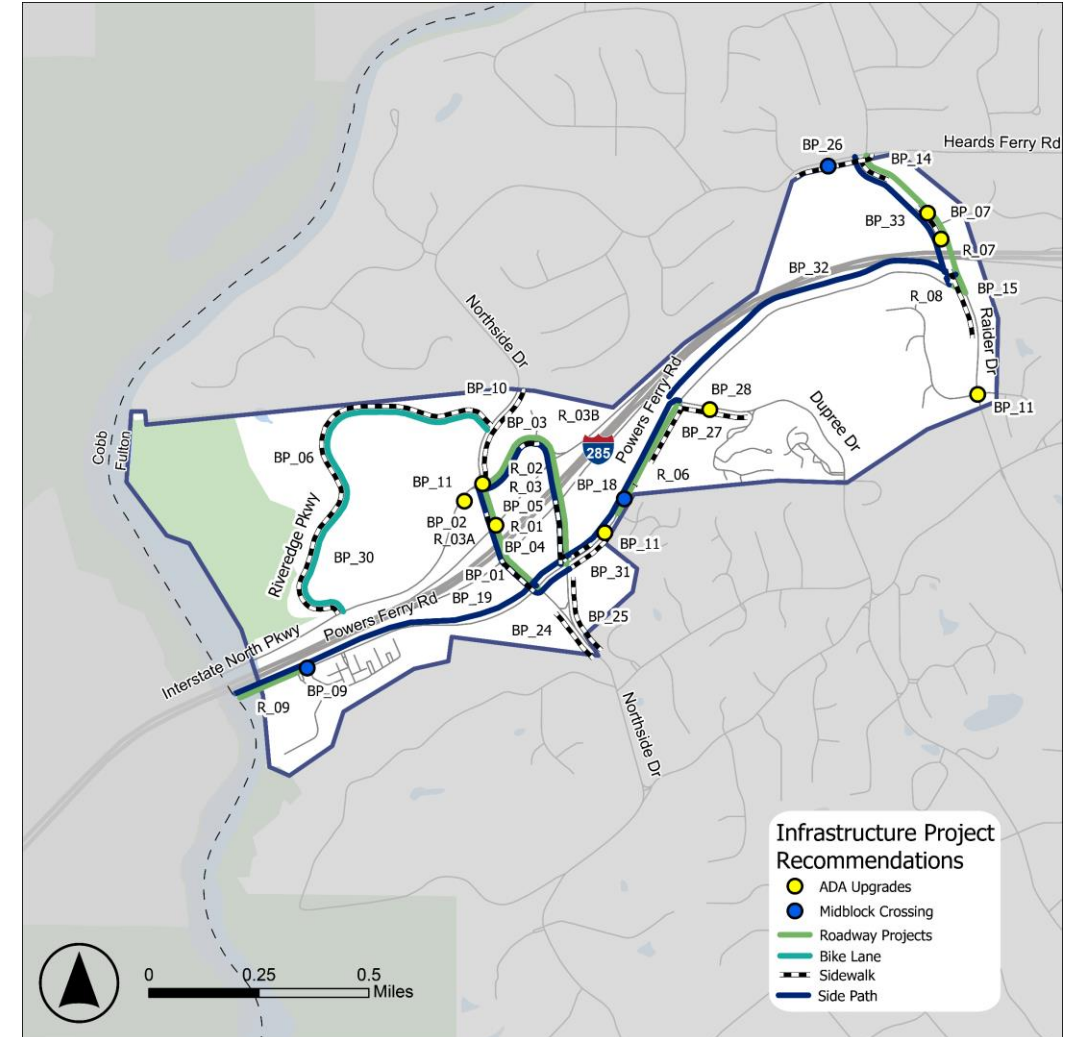
Board Details and Feedback

- One board per tier including map, project data and costs
- Tell us which projects you like or dislike
- Did we miss a project?



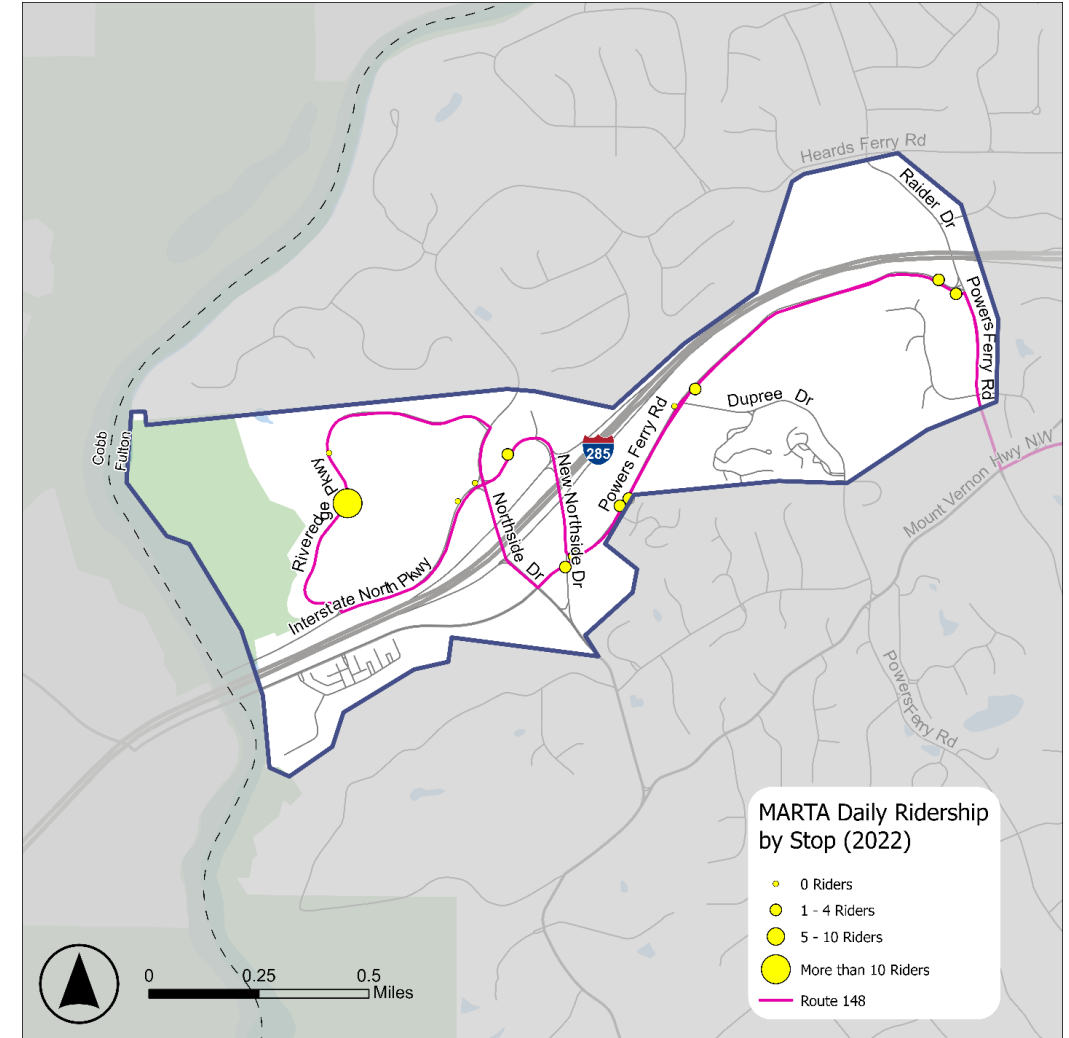
Bicycle/Pedestrian/Roadway Recommendations

- Sidewalk improvements
- Side paths
- ADA upgrades
- Midblock pedestrian crossings
- Midblock bicycle crossings
- Bicycle facilities
- Quick-response improvements (e.g., retroreflective backplates)
- Intersection and street lighting



Transit Recommendations

- Pending MARTA Bus Network Redesign:
 - Encourage connection to Cumberland
 - Support Microtransit over fixed route
- Continue conversations with Cobb County about service
- Bus Stop amenity improvements
 - ADA boarding pads, benches, trash receptacles, mid-block crossings, etc.



Next Steps



Next Steps

- Summarize feedback from public meeting and online survey
- Completion of Mobility and Implementation Plan
- Council Meeting for adoption planned for April 2024

