



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE EASTON-PALMER-FORKS REGIONAL MULTIMODAL TRAIL

JANUARY 2026



Today's Agenda

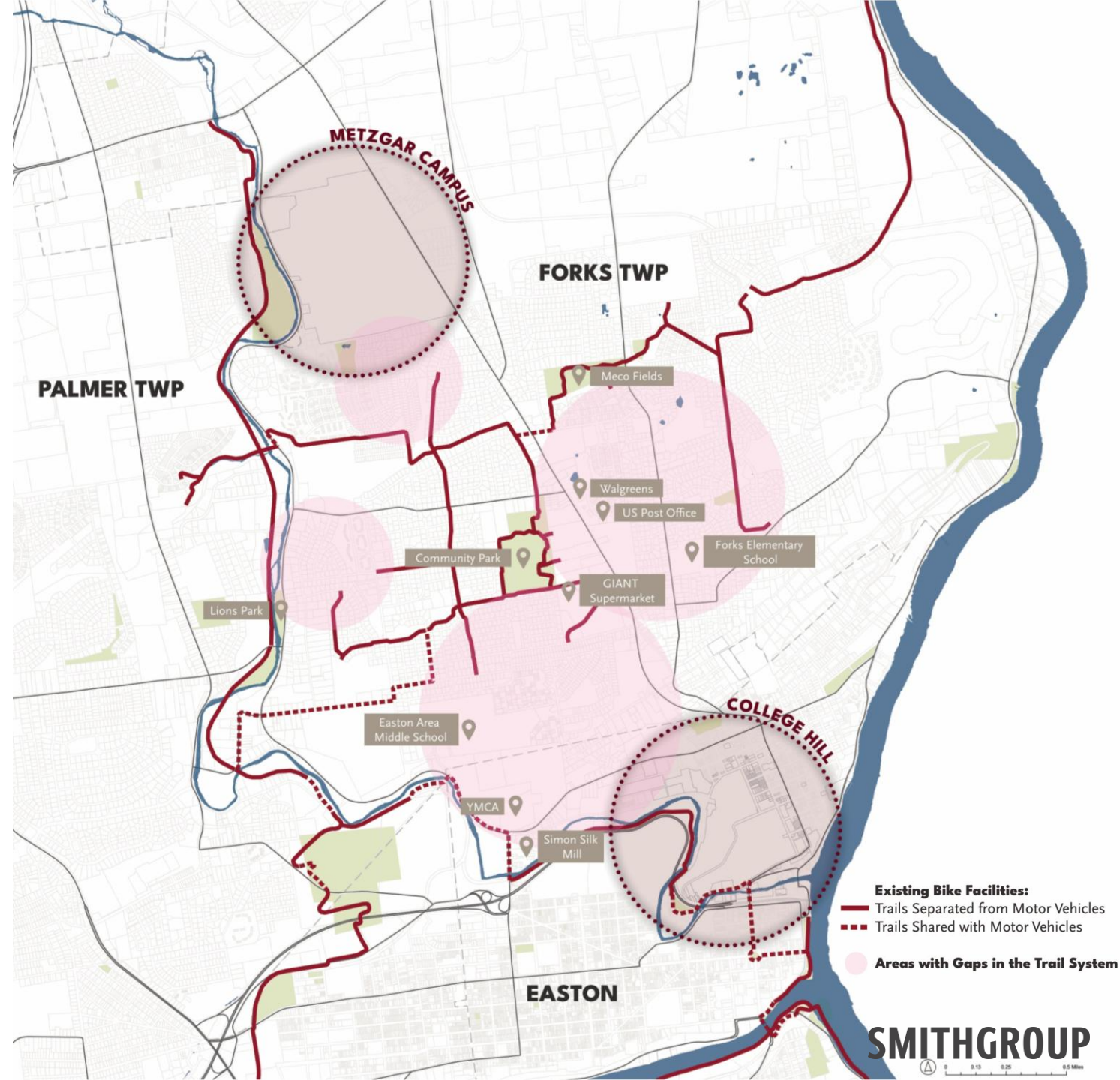
- Give an overview of the project
- Hear about how you use the trails today
- How you would like to use the trails
- How this project would be successful

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

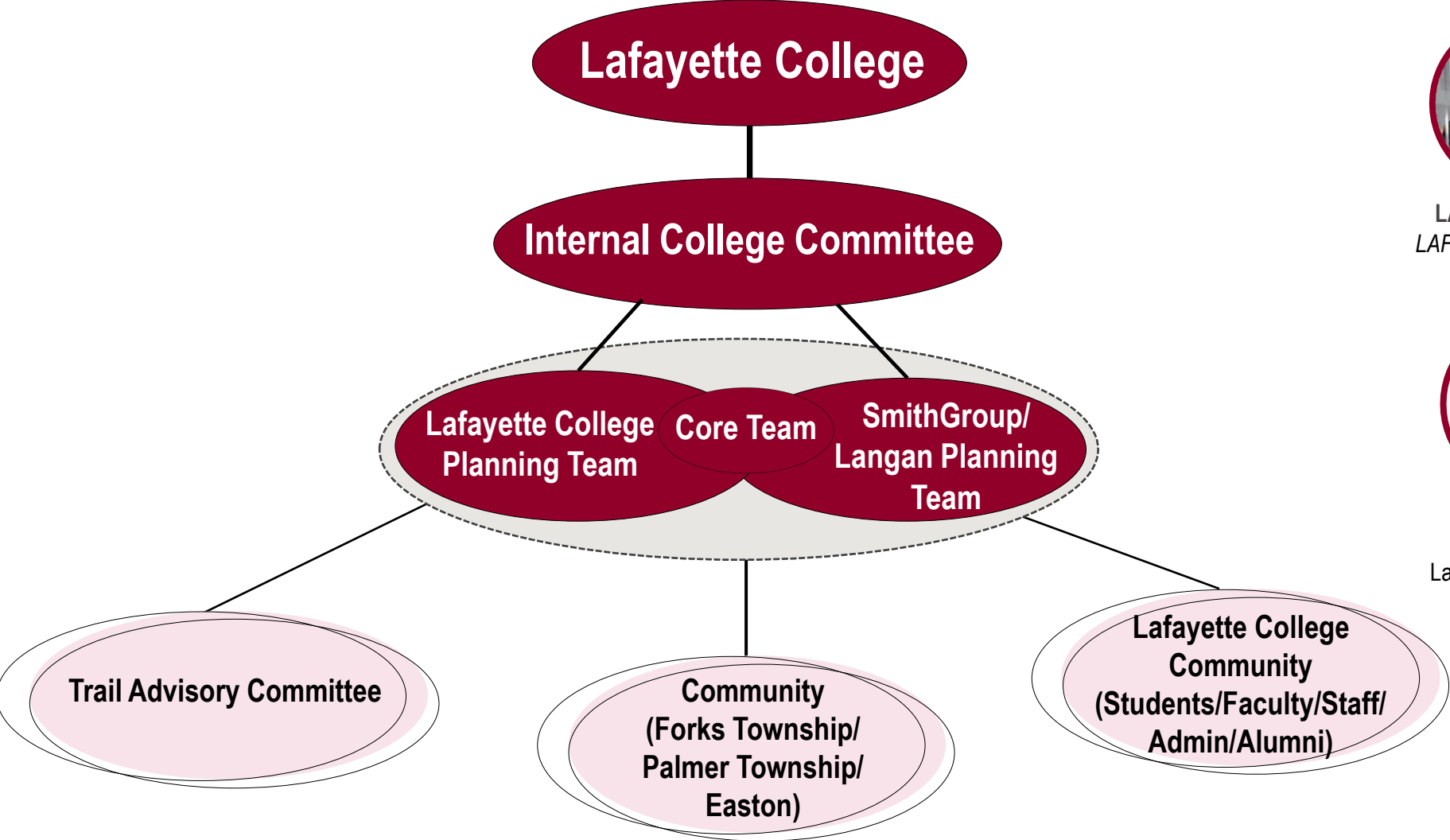
- Increase **accessibility** and **connectivity** between the City of Easton, Palmer Township, and Forks Township by **closing existing trail gaps**
- Provide a route from **College Hill** to the **Metzgar Campus** and **connect to community assets** (including retail and grocery)

■ Scope

- Public meetings
- Existing data analysis
- Visioning wants & needs
- Legal feasibility
- Conceptual trail plan
- Preliminary design & action plan
- Trail management, operation, maintenance and fiscal feasibility
- Implementation matrix



PROJECT TEAM



Planning Team Here Today



LAUREN DANIELS
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
Project Manger



OLIVER KILEY
SMITHGROUP
Principal/
Landscape Architect



MARISA RAZI
SMITHGROUP
Landscape Architect/
Campus Planner



RYAN PARISI
LANGAN
Landscape Architect

BUILDING UPON THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

FALL 2022-SPRING 2025

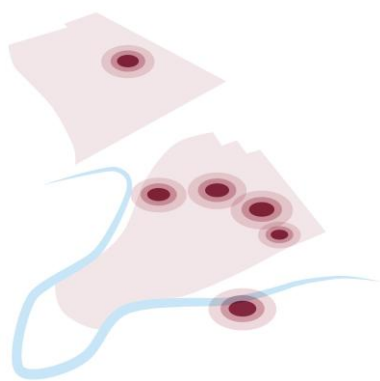


BUILDING UPON THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

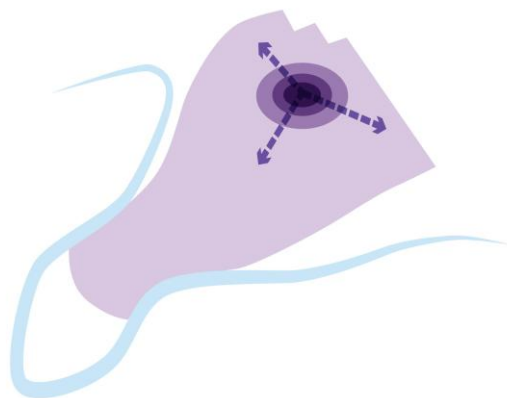
CAMPUS MASTER PLAN PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS



Prioritize phased reinvestment in academic spaces



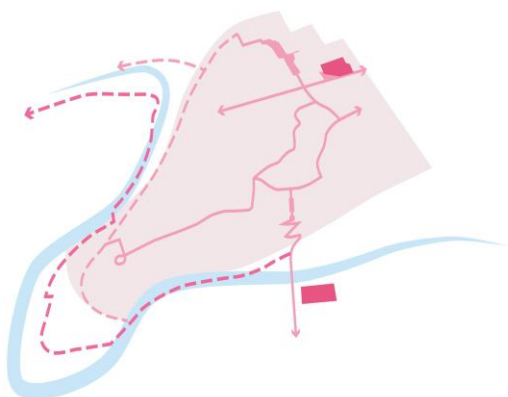
Establish spaces to support co-curriculum programming



Create a one-stop destination for academic support services



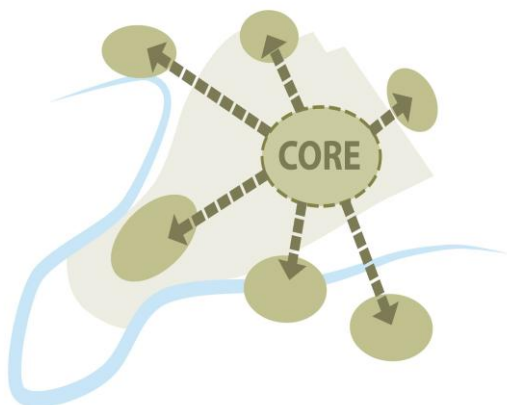
Reimagine the residential campus experience



Enliven the arts campus and improve linkages to Easton



Establish a bold future vision for Metzgar Campus



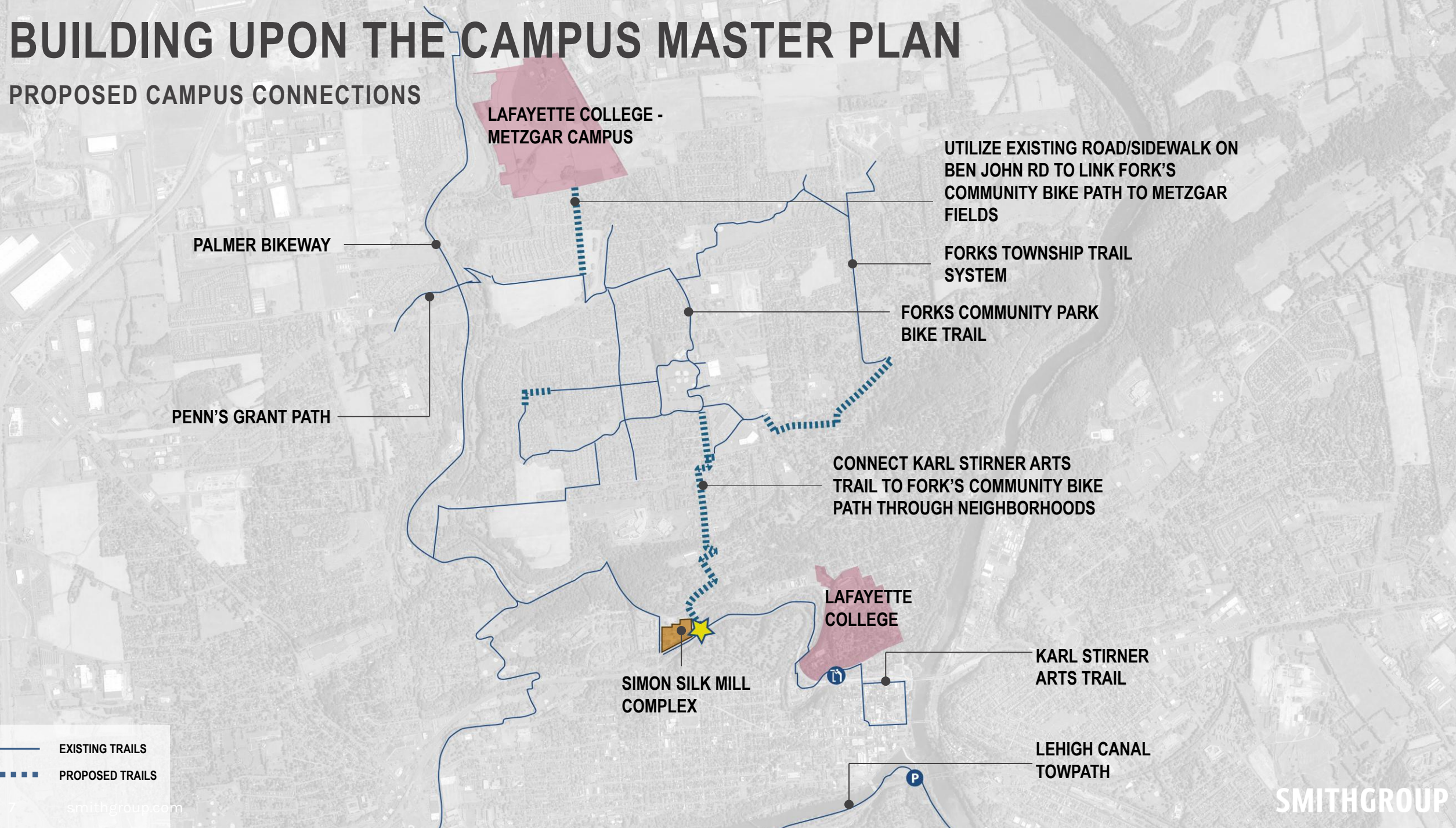
Cultivate campus connectivity to strengthen local and regional partnerships



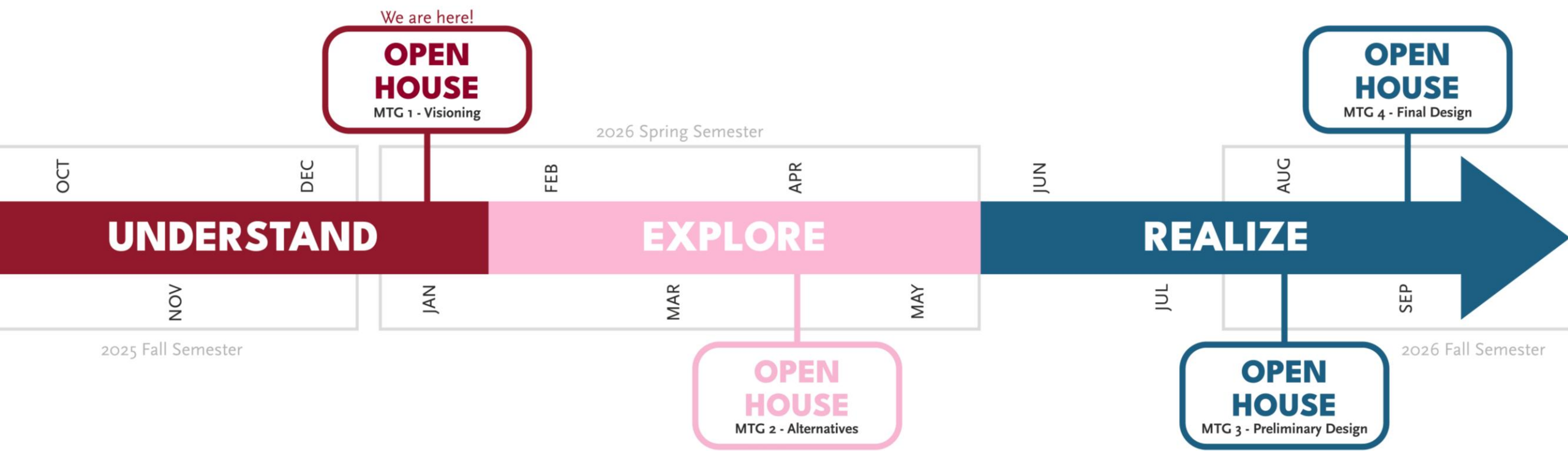
Integrate a sustainable approach

BUILDING UPON THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

PROPOSED CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



SCHEDULE



INITIAL PROJECT GOALS



- Enhance connectivity between College Hill and the Metzgar Campus as well as to surrounding regional trails and assets including grocery, other retail, and community resources
- Leverage the Metzgar Campus as a resource for the entire campus community and surrounding community
- Foster a greater sense of community with local partners
- Enhance Environmental Sustainability
- Promote both Campus and Community Wellness
- Identify opportunities to expand the “Campus as a Living Lab”

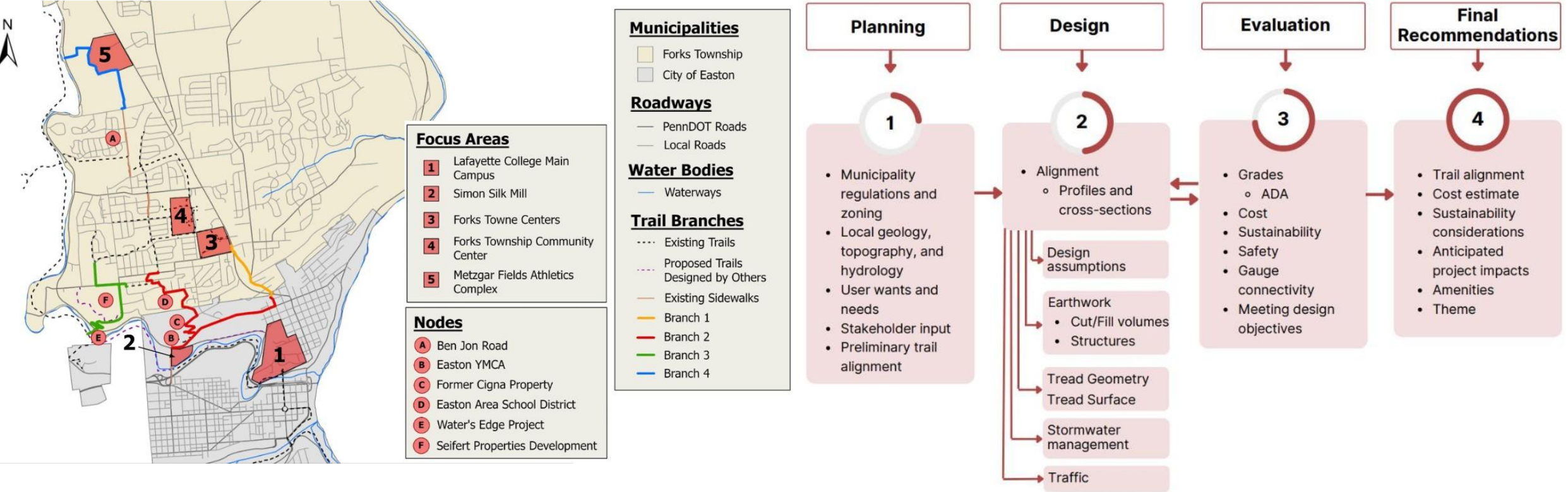
INITIAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES



- Create a safe engaging mobility experience for pedestrians / bikes
- Build consensus and engage the campus and community stakeholders in planning the multimodal trail
- Strengthen local and regional partnerships through the development (or as a result) of the multimodal trail
- Enhance campus wayfinding
- Create a thoughtful and accessible route for users (campus and community)
- Incorporate considerations for long-term maintenance

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE CE 478 CAPSTONE PROJECTS

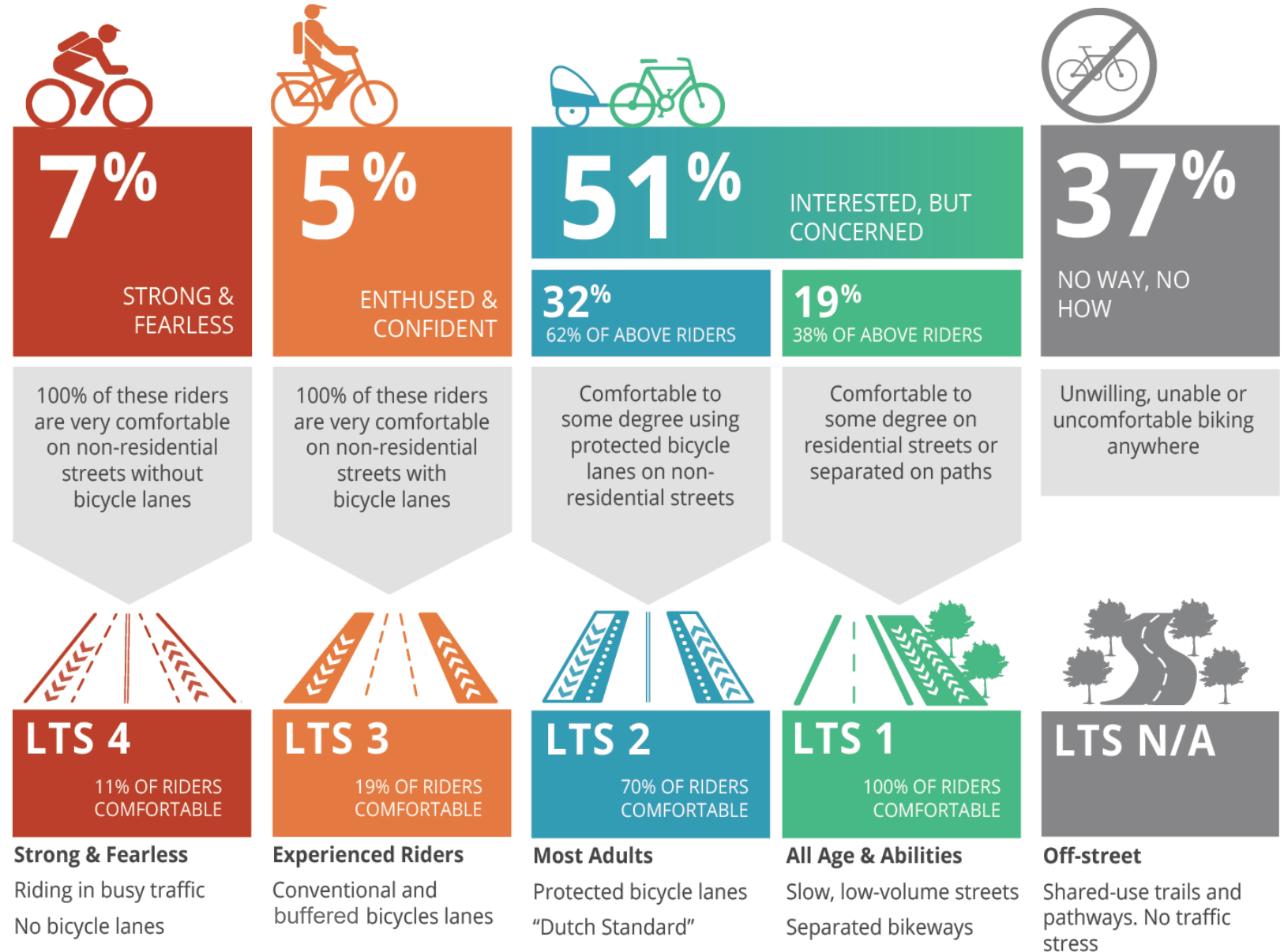
PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY – ENHANCING ACCESS BETWEEN EASTON AND FORKS TOWNSHIP



TYPES OF RIDERS

LEVEL OF COMFORT & TRAIL /
FACILITY TYPE

- **Who are we designing for and what level of comfort / experience do they have?**
- **Key Considerations**
 - On-street vs off-street
 - Level of comfort
 - Practicality (time, steepness)
 - Transportation type: e-bikes, normal bikes, running, walking, strollers, wheelchairs



INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS



■ Assets and Destinations

- Cultural destinations
- Community resources
- Campus areas and schools
- Land ownership
- Natural systems
- Recreation areas

■ Physical Conditions

- Landcover, trees / vegetation,
- Slope, floodplain, soils
- Utilities
- Stormwater management
- Land Use / Zoning

■ Circulation Connectivity

- Transportation infrastructure
- Roadway / Right-Of-Way
- Traffic volumes / speed
- Intersection treatments
- Existing trails, greenways, non-motorized connections
- Access points to neighborhood connections and trailheads
- Transit connections and access to public transit
- Bus Stops
- Existing/planned projects

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

1: Karl Stirner Arts Trail across Bushkill Creek

2: View towards Silk Mill

3: Steep slopes between Bushkill Dr / Lafayette St.

4: View looking east on Bushkill Dr near Silk Mill

5: Intersection at Bushkill Dr / Lafayette St

6: Terminus near GIANT

7: Potential easement near Forks Community Park

8: Trail crossing at Zucksville Rd / Forks Community Park

9: View south from Newlins Rd down Ben John Rd



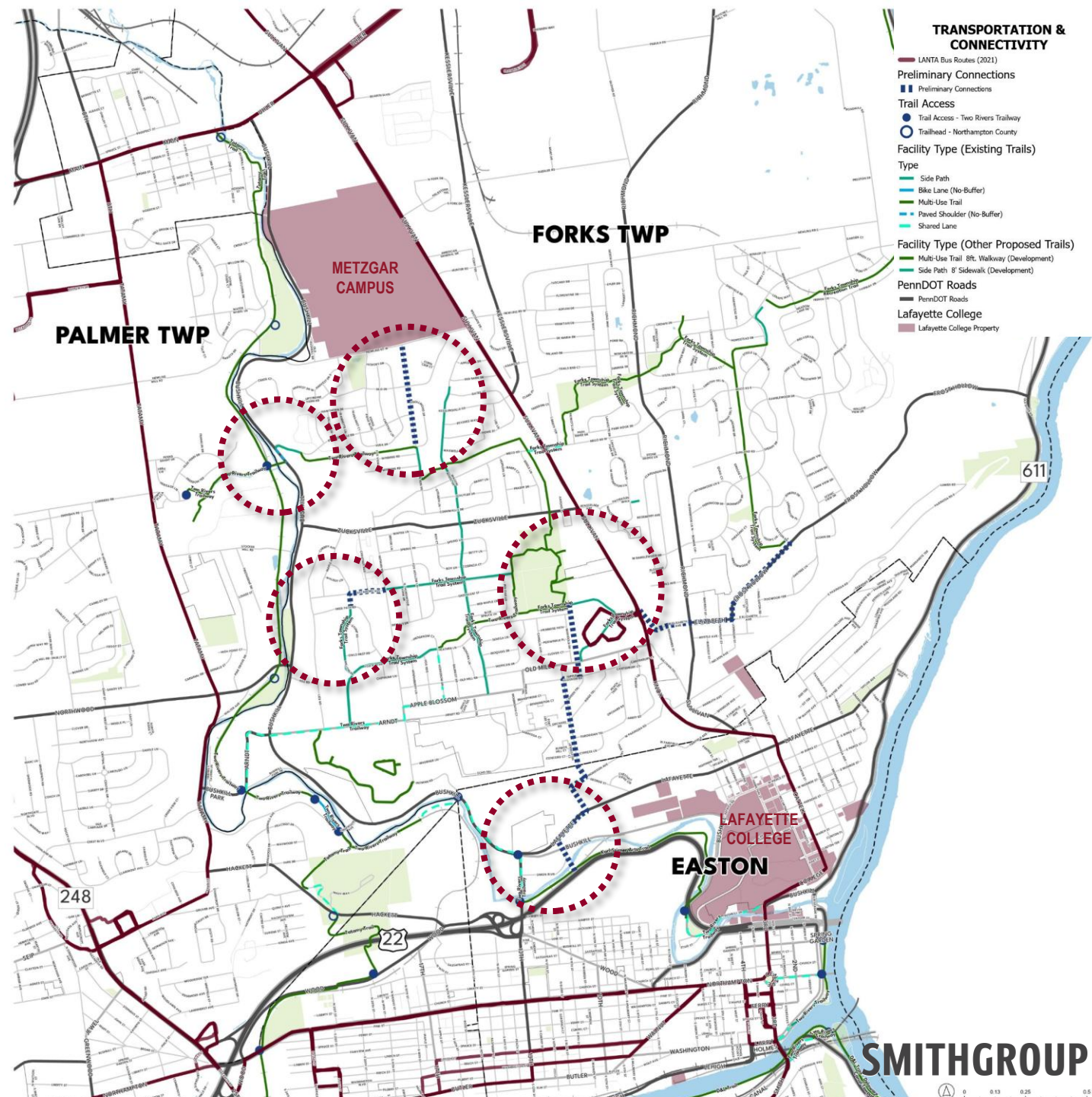
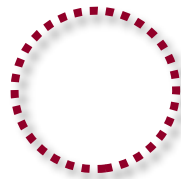
TRANSPORTATION & CONNECTIVITY

GIS DATA

The **trail network** can be multi-functional and serve as a...

- Transportation corridor
- Active connection to parks and recreation spaces
- Recreational amenity

**Major Crossing / Access/
Gateway Opportunity**



COMMUNITY ASSETS

GIS DATA

Recreational Trails

Commercial Node/Forks Towne Center

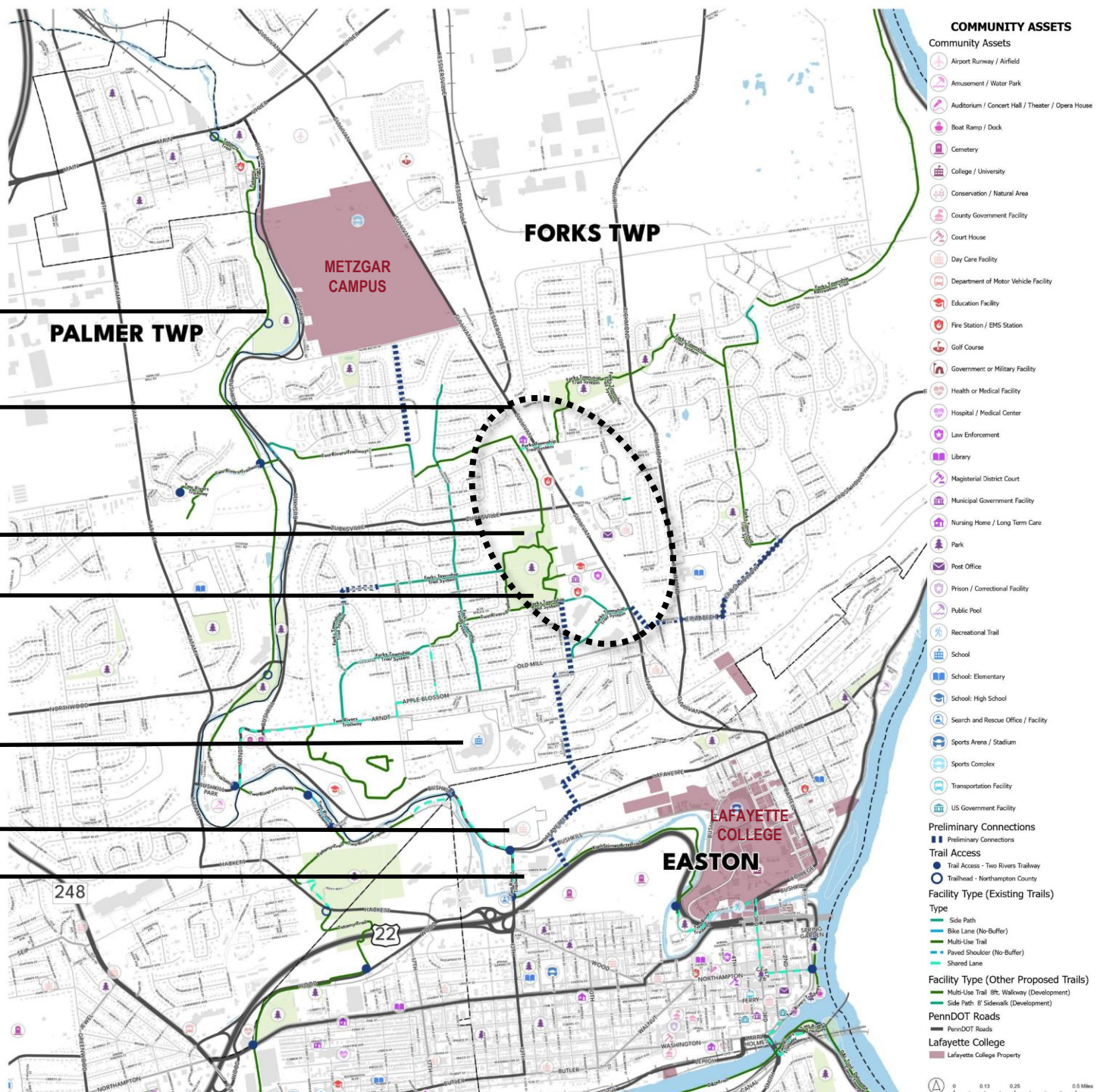
Forks Township Community Center

Forks Community Park

Schools / Institutions

YMCA

Simon Silk Mill



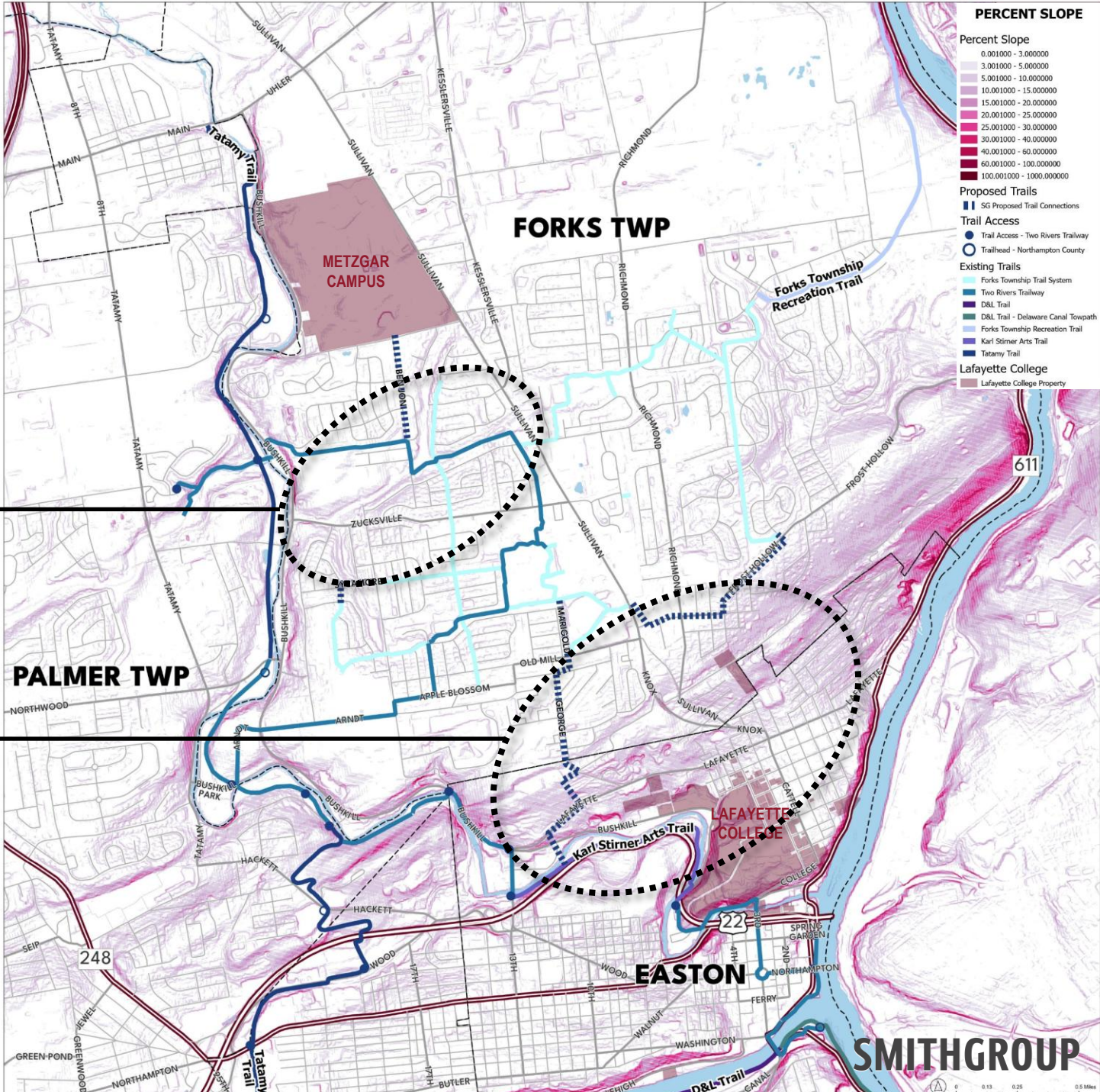
PERCENT SLOPE

GIS DATA

Area where the percent slope is over 20%

Parts of this area even reach a 30% slope

AASHTO guidelines recommend a maximum running slope of 5% for walking and biking paths.



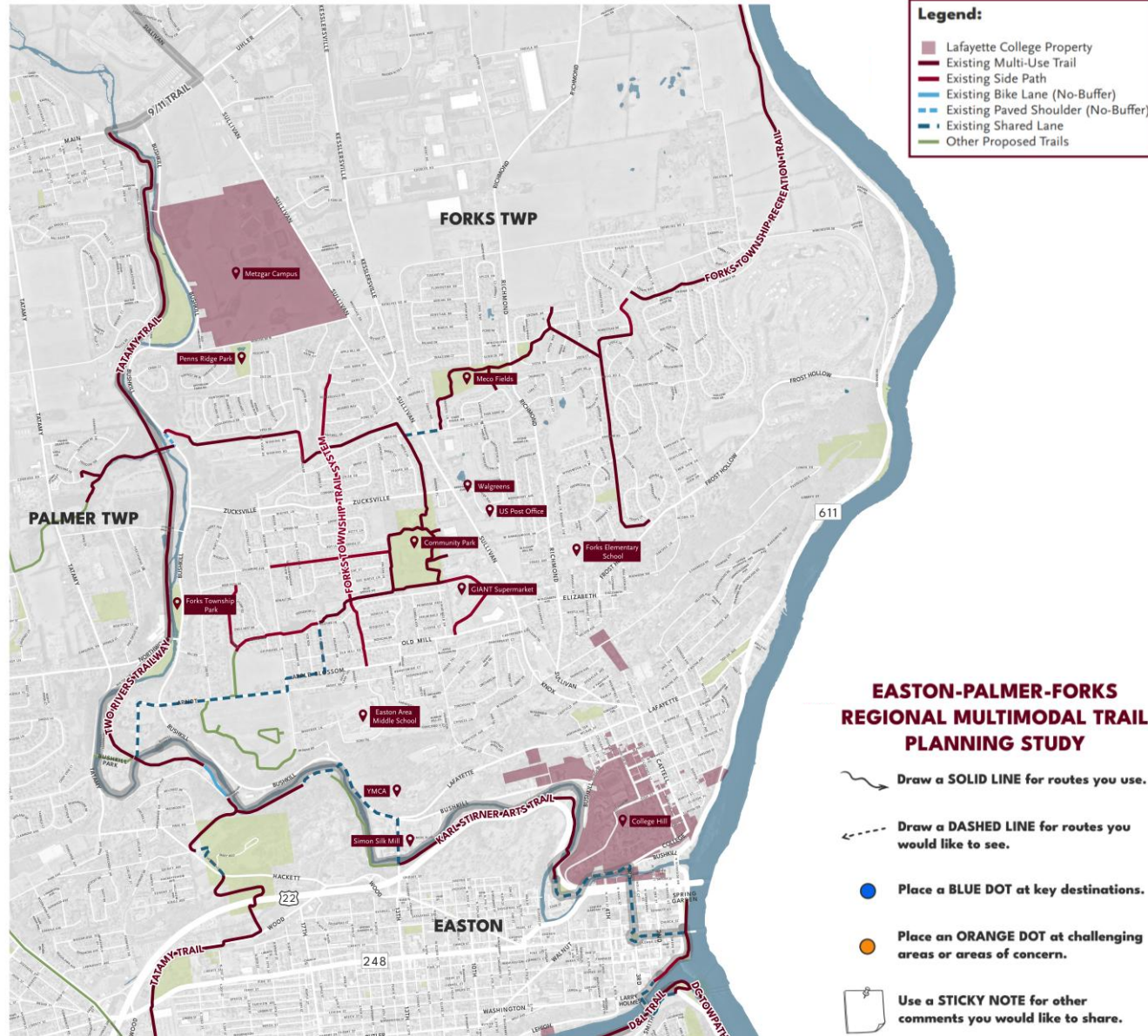


ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Public Community Meetings

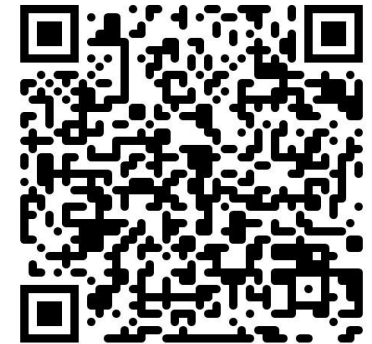
- **Meeting 1: Visioning Workshop**
 - Goal: Understand vision and goals for the Trail
- **Meeting 2: Concept Alternatives Presentation**
 - Goal: Define design direction by receiving feedback on preliminary options
- **Meeting 3: Preliminary Trail Segment Review / Feedback**
 - Goal: Receive feedback on Trail design to inform final plan
- **Meeting 4: Final Trail / Implementation Plan Presentation**
 - Goal: Inform students and community about final design

DISCUSSION



We want to hear from you...

- How do you get around? Do you use the trails today?
- How would you like to use the trails?
- What would make this a successful project?
- Participate in the survey (link to QR code below)



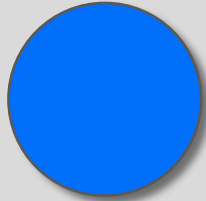
DISCUSSION



DRAW A SOLID LINE FOR ROUTES YOU USE



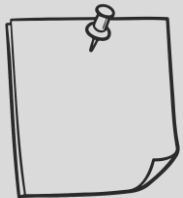
DRAW A DASHED LINE FOR ROUTES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE



PLACE A **BLUE** DOT AT KEY DESTINATIONS



PLACE AN **ORANGE** DOT AT CHALLENGING AREAS/AREAS OF CONCERN



PLACE A STICKY NOTE AT AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT OR OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE

THANK YOU....

This Project was financed in part by grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development and the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Funding assistance has also been provided by Northampton County and the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant Program.



Pennsylvania
**Department of Community
& Economic Development**



THANK YOU

SMITHGROUP