



# ALLEN CREEK GREENWAY *MASTER PLAN*

City-Wide Public Meeting #1  
June 16, 2016

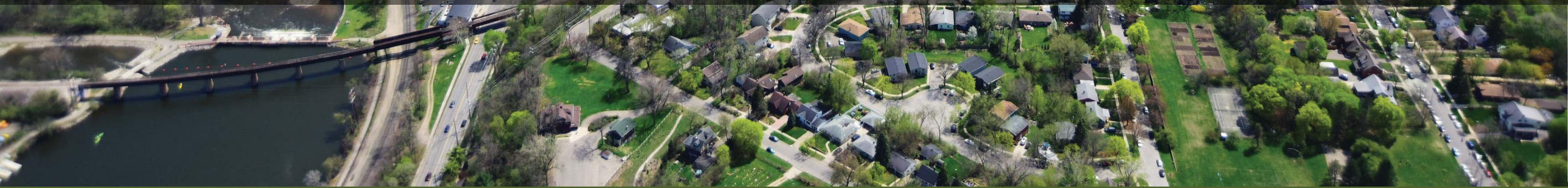
# City-Wide Meeting Agenda

An aerial photograph of a city with a river and a greenway highlighted in blue. The greenway follows the river and winds through the city. The background is a semi-transparent overlay of this image.

- 1. Welcome and introductions** 15 minutes
- 2. Project Overview & Analysis** 30 minutes
- 3. Group Discussion** 30 minutes
- 4. Open House Feedback** 45 minutes



# PROJECT PURPOSE & OVERVIEW



# Past Allen Creek Greenway Planning Activities

- Allen Creek Greenway Preliminary Feasibility Study & Supplementary Research and Preliminary Analysis (2005, Ross Business School, Student Report)

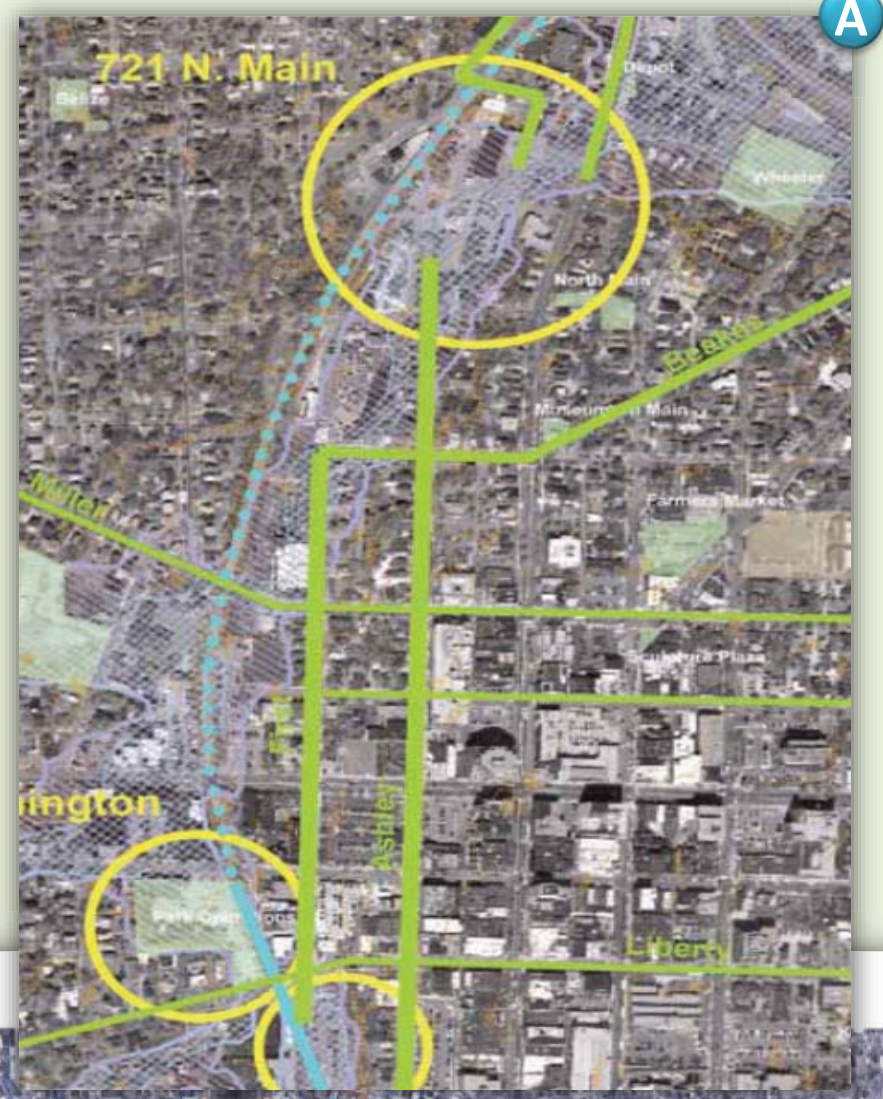
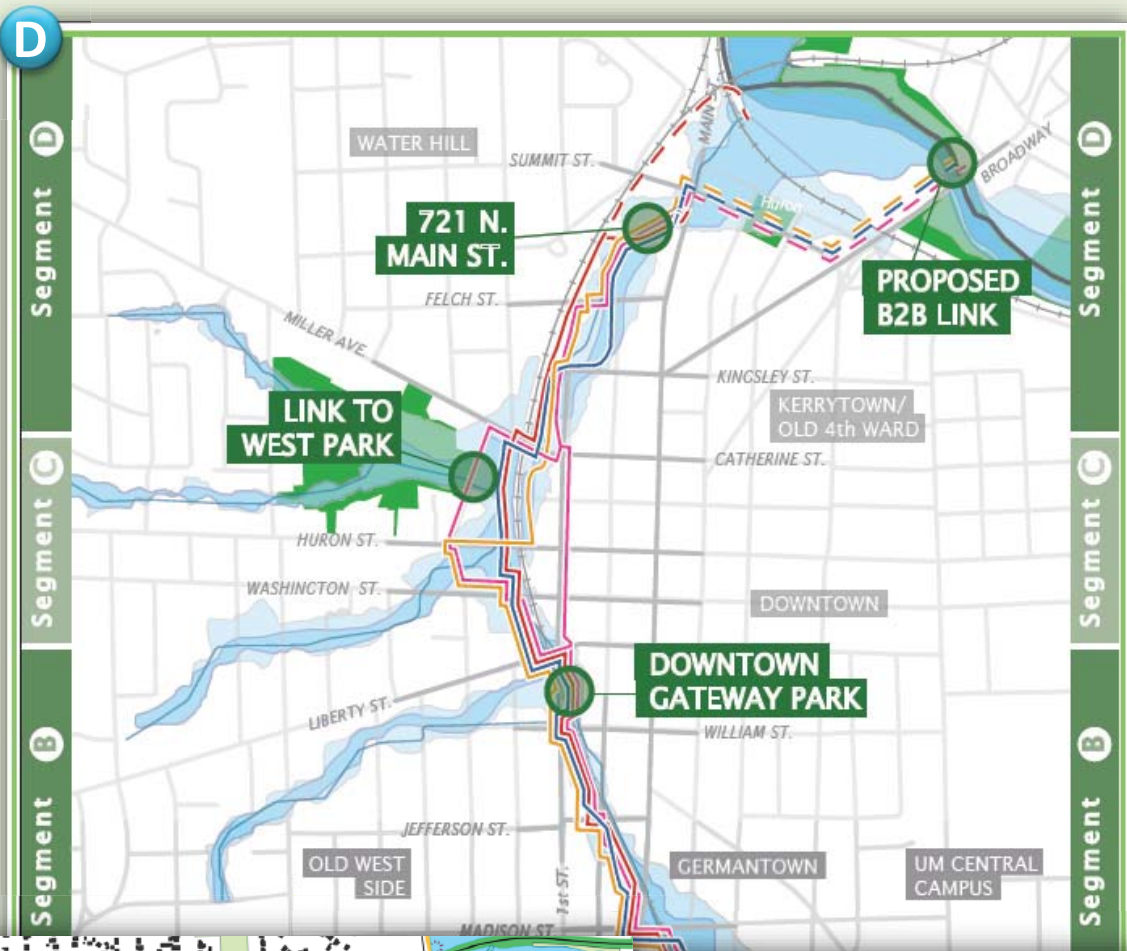
**A** The Allen Creek Greenway - Findings and Recommendations (2007, Allen Creek Greenway Task Force, City of Ann Arbor)

**B** Proposed Route of the Allen Creek Greenway; Essential Route and Future Opportunities (2008, Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy)

**C** Visioning the Allen Creek Greenway: Designing a Path, Creating a Place (2012, U of M SNRE Student Project)

**D** Green the Way: Moving Forward on an Allen Creek Trail (2014 U of M Urban Planning Student Project)

- North Main Vision Task Force Report



# Project Impetus

An Allen Creek Greenway (ACG) has been discussed by the community for many years, with many past studies exploring its potential.

City Council identified the ACG as a priority project in 2016, recognizing inadequate *non-motorized connections within the community and to the Huron River.*

*ACG Master Plan to be adopted as an element of the city-wide master plan.*



## City-Wide Sustainability Framework Goals

*(most relevant goals highlighted)*

- Sustainable Energy
- Energy Conservation
- Sustainable Buildings
- **Engaged Community** (outreach, stewardship)
- Diverse Housing
- **Human Services** (equity, well-being)
- **Safe Community** (health, physical safety)
- **Active Living & Learning** (recreation, culture)
- **Economic Vitality** (attract investment, jobs, people)
- **Transportation Options** (bikes, pedestrians)
- **Sustainable Systems** (infrastructure)
- **Integrated Land Use** (sense/quality of place)
- **Clean Air & Water** (pollutants, floodplains)
- **Healthy Ecosystems** (terrestrial/aquatic habitat)
- Responsible Resource
- Local Food

# Project Purpose and Tasks



## Overall Objective:

**Develop a Master Plan that describes a feasible approach for the future development of the Allen Creek Greenway.**

## Planning process will consider:

- Public and stakeholder engagement
- On- and off-street non-motorized facilities
- Public green and open spaces
- Analysis of existing and future conditions (land use, transportation, environment, etc.)
- Assessment of alternative approaches and treatments
- Cost and funding impacts
- Implementation needs and recommendations

## Project Management Team

### City of Ann Arbor

- Systems Planning, Parks & Recreation, Public Services

### SmithGroupJJR

- Planning, landscape architecture, civil engineering

### Quandel Consultants

- Rail transportation experts

## Technical Advisory Committee

City of Ann Arbor (17 members)

Washtenaw County (2 members)

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (1 member)

## Citizens Advisory Committee

- 22 member group
- Formed following public meeting in Fall 2015.
- 6 meetings 2015 / 2016

## Stakeholder Focus Groups

- Two rounds of stakeholder meetings / interviews

## Public at Large

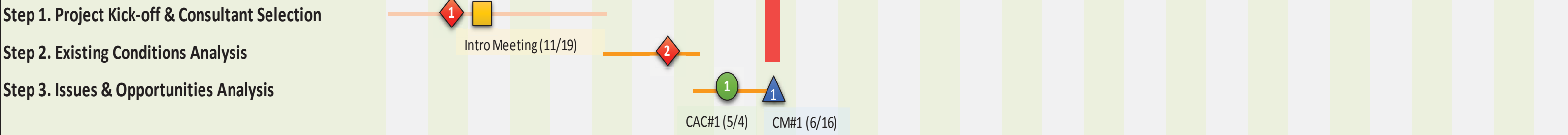
- Three city-wide meetings



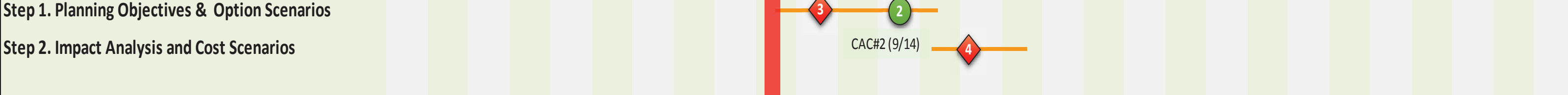
# Project Schedule – A two-year process



## Task 1: PROJECT INITIATION



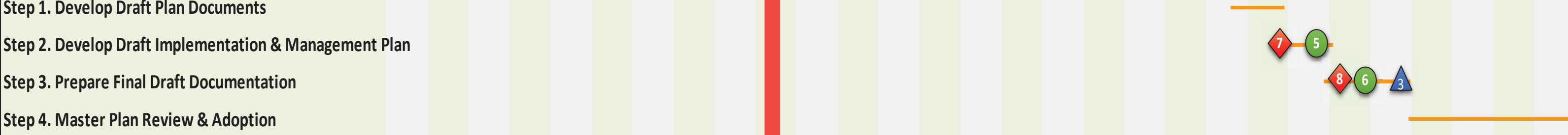
## Task 2: PLANNING OBJECTIVES & OPTIONS, IMPACT ANALYSIS & COST SCENARIOS



## Task 3: MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS & STRATEGIES



## Task 4: MASTER PLAN DOCUMENTATION & ACTIONS





# ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES ANALYSIS

# Project Area

## North Zone:

M14 on-ramp to Depot St.

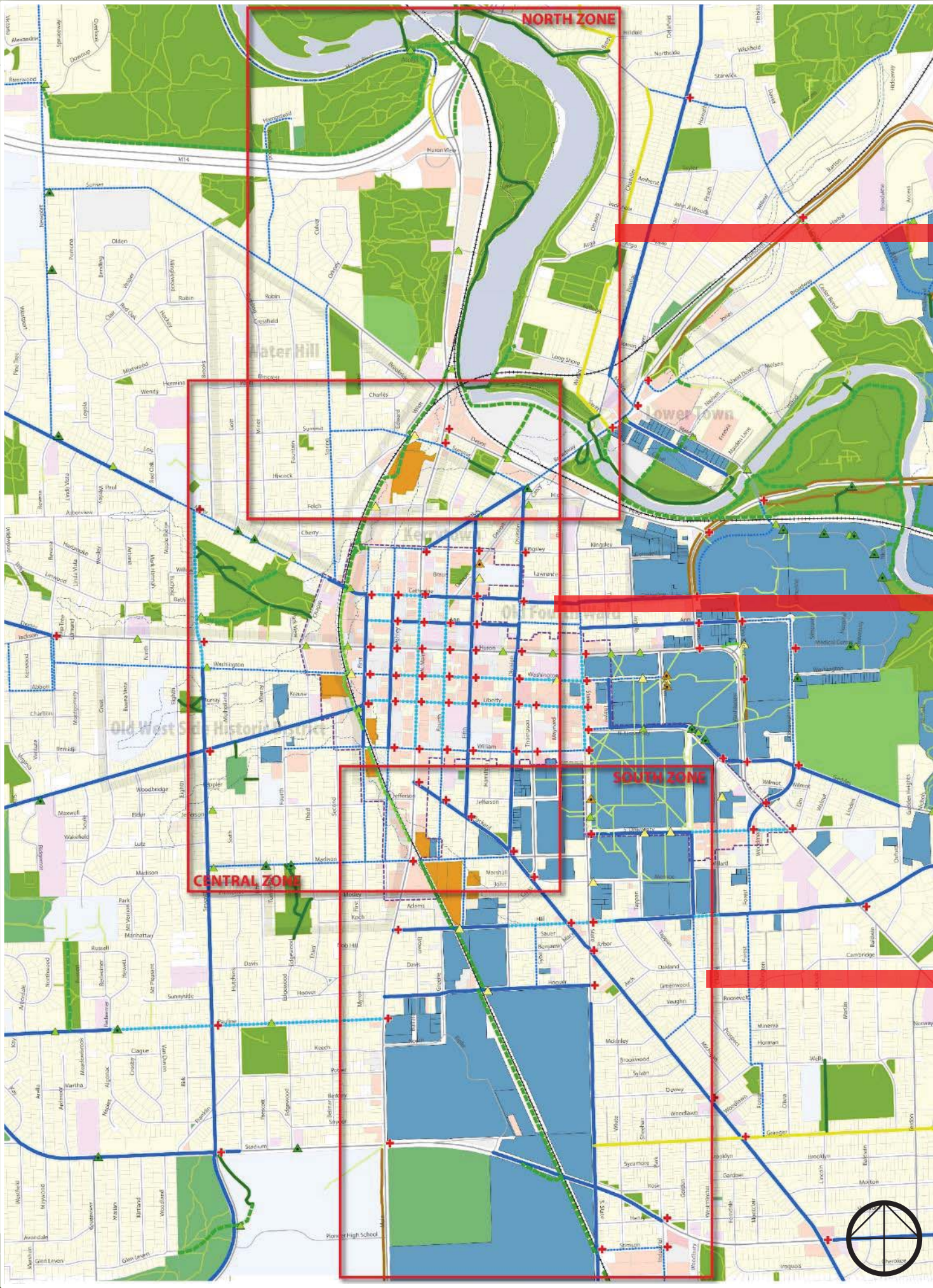
## Central Zone:

Depot St. to Madison St.

## South Zone

Madison St. to Stimson St.

*Note: There is no project boundary / limit line.*



North Zone

Central Zone

South Zone

# NORTH ZONE

- North Main St. area along the Huron River



# CENTRAL ZONE

- Primarily in the downtown and near-downtown neighborhood areas.



# SOUTH ZONE

- Primarily in the U of M South Athletic Campus



Examine the critical factors influencing the *feasibility* and potential configuration of the Allen Creek Greenway.


### ***Considerations:***

- Other past, active, and future projects
- Issues and opportunities
- Potential greenway users

### **KEY TOPICS:**

1. Connectivity opportunities/challenges relative to:
  - Pedestrians and bicyclists (i.e. **greenway users**)
  - Railroad usage, access, and rail-trail feasibility
  - Transit service (bus, commuter rail, connector)
  - Vehicle flows and traffic
2. Land use patterns and property access
3. Community assets and destinations
4. Site-level environmental considerations:
  - Floodplain/floodway areas
  - Topography, grading, existing vegetation and structures
5. Utilities & Infrastructure
6. Cost, engineering, timeframe

## NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM




- Allen Creek Greenway is a potential north-south “spine” that can connect through the city. 
- Connects to many east-west bike facilities that link into neighborhoods.
- Identified in the 2013 Non-Motorized Plan.
- North end connects to the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail with county-wide trail connectivity.
  - B2B is now a part of the state-wide *Iron Belle Trail* system.
- South end can potentially follow the rail corridor to the south of Ann Arbor and other facilities identified in the Non-Motorized Plan.
- Coordinate with existing and proposed mid-block crossings.

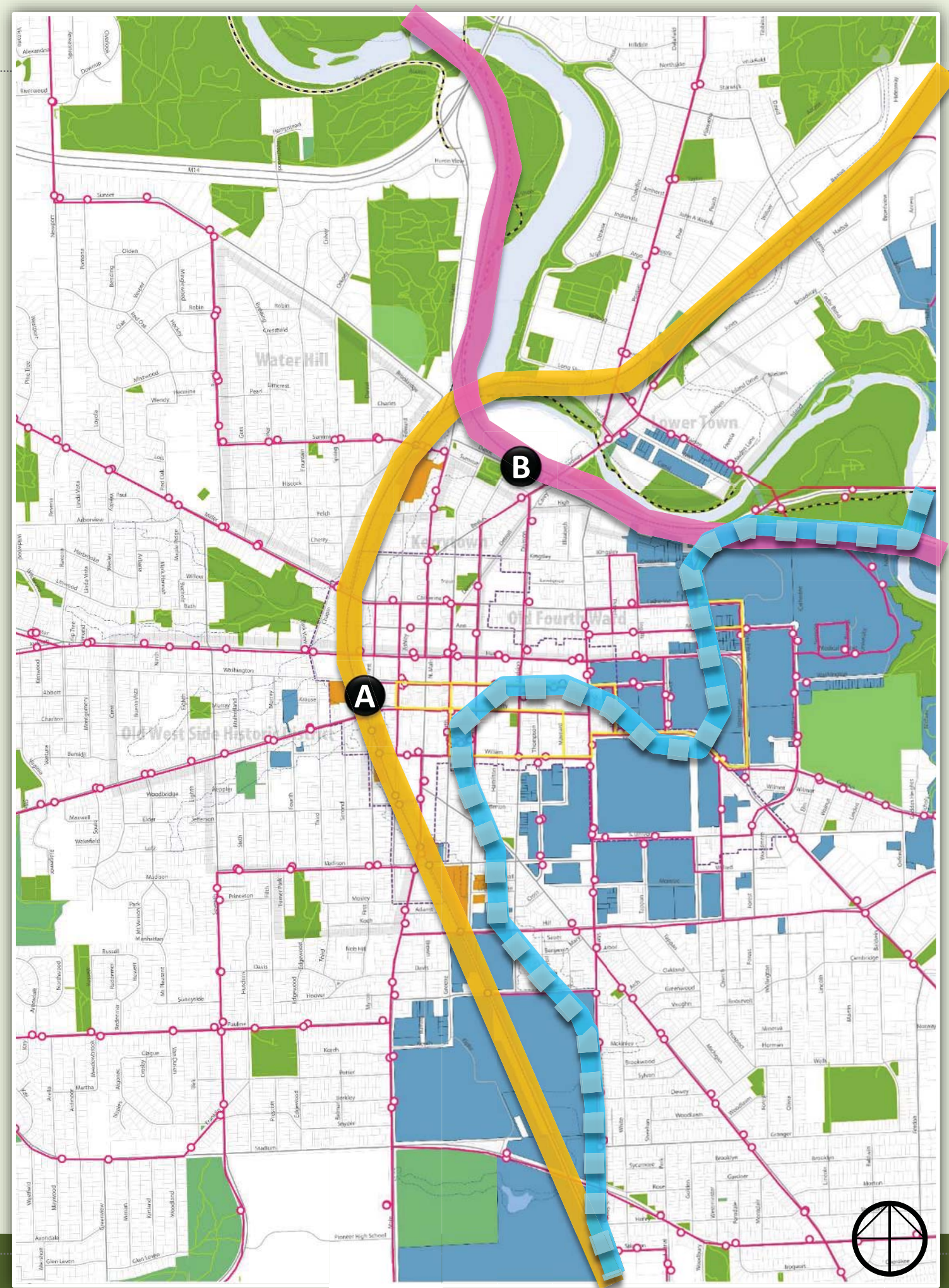




# Transportation System

## TRANSIT & RAIL SYSTEM

- Transit routes & bus stops
  - Consider opportunities and stop locations that might provide additional mode-shift opportunities.
- Railroad crossings (on-grade / above grade)
- Transportation Projects:
  - Connector (Conceptual Route) 
  - Ann Arbor North South Commuter Rail Station ( **A** ) *Eastside of the tracks between Washington and Liberty.*
  - Existing Amtrak Station ( **B** )
- Watco Rail Corridor 
- MDOT Rail Corridor 



**Bus Routes**

- AAATA Route
- AAATA Stop
- Proposed Connector Route

**Transit**

- Railroad
- Railroad Crossing

**Special Area**

- Study Area:
- Floodplain
- DDA Boundary

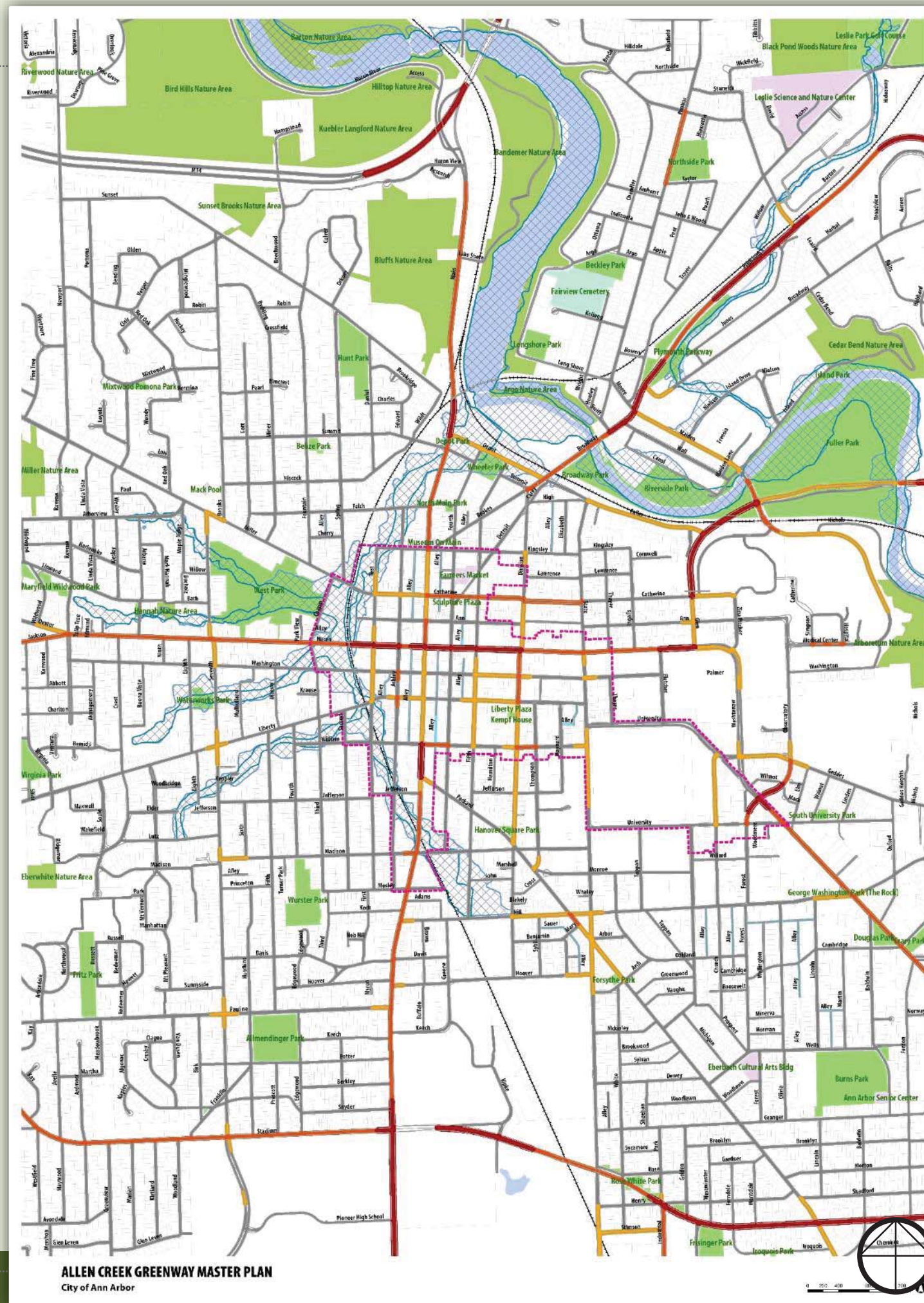
**Land Use**

- University of Michigan Properties
- Key Properties
- Parks
- Natural Area
- Cemetery
- Water
- Parcel Boundary

# Transportation System

## ROADWAY & VEHICLE SYSTEMS

- Right-of-way widths versus pavement widths for locating on-street facilities.
- Intersection treatments (signals, stop signs, etc.)
- Traffic volumes and road capacity
- Pedestrian and bicycle crash data



# Land Use: NORTH ZONE

- Community recreation destinations: Bluffs, Bandemer, Bird Hills, Argo Park & Livery, Argo Cascades, Wheeler Park

**A** 721 North Main (former city municipal yard)

**B** B2B Trail

**C** Railroad corridors limit access to riverfront. Concerns over long-term connections (at Lake Shore Drive)

**D** Flood control modification to railroad berm at 201 Depot Street under design review. May include pedestrian underpass / tunnel.

**E** Future study exploring connection to Barton Park from Kuebler Langford Area.

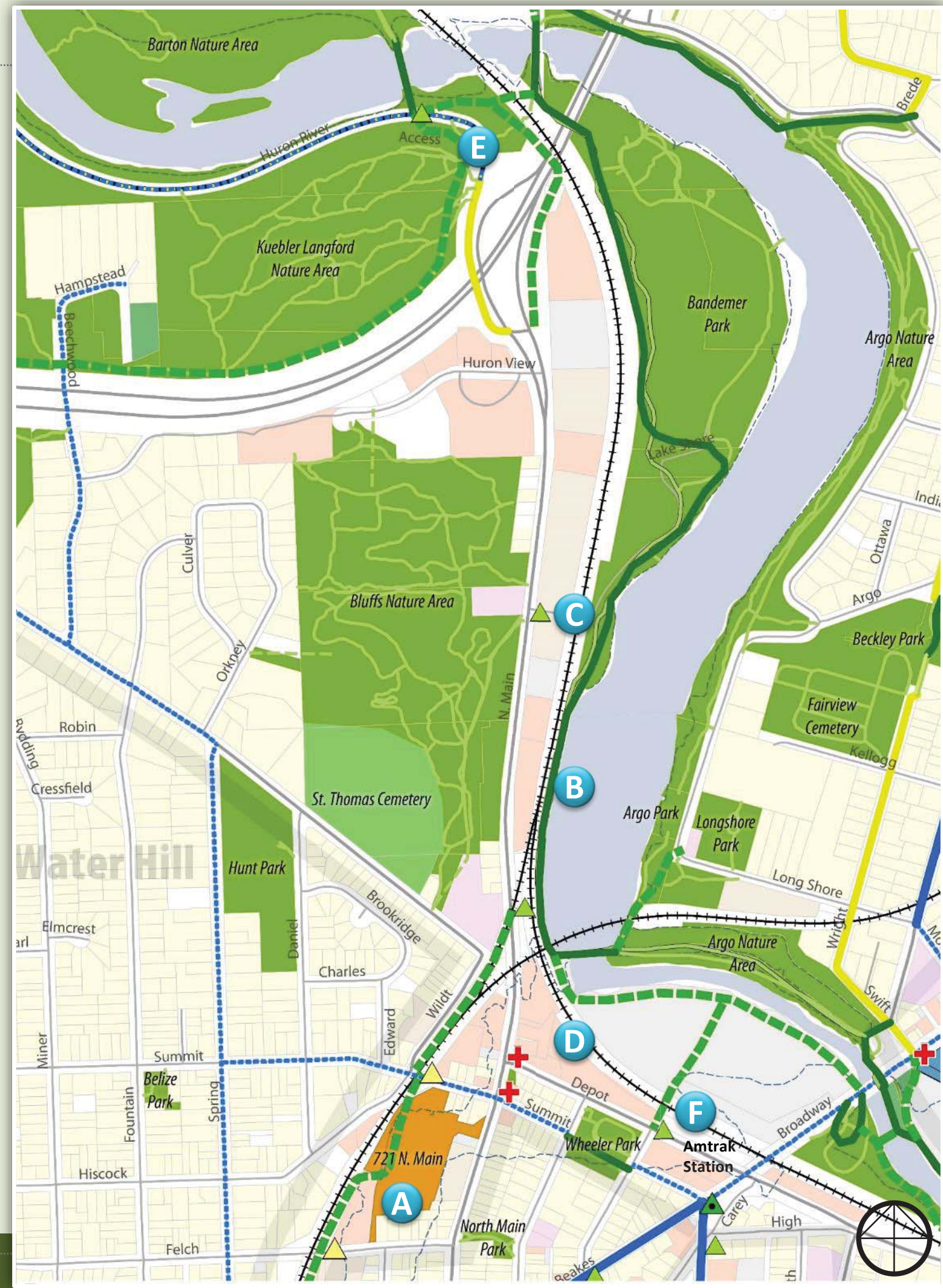
**F** Existing Amtrak Station

- North Main Vision Task Force identified potential improvements to corridor for bike & pedestrian connectivity

- Main & Depot intersection has heavy traffic (difficult pedestrian crossing)

- DTE Broadway property – potential redevelopment

- No dedicated bike facilities presently



**Non-Motorized Facilities (Off-Road)**

- Existing Foot Trail
- Proposed Foot Trail
- Existing Shared-use Path
- Proposed Shared-use Path
- Existing Walk
- Proposed Walk/Path

**Non-Motorized Routes**

- Bike Lane
- Designated Bike
- Shared Use Path
- Sharrow
- Suggested Bike
- Trail
- Border to Border Trail

**Minor Mid-Block Crossings**

- Existing
- Proposed

**Major Mid-Block Crossings**

- Existing
- Proposed

**Signalized Crossings**

- Proposed
- Existing

**Transit**

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Railroad

**Special Area**

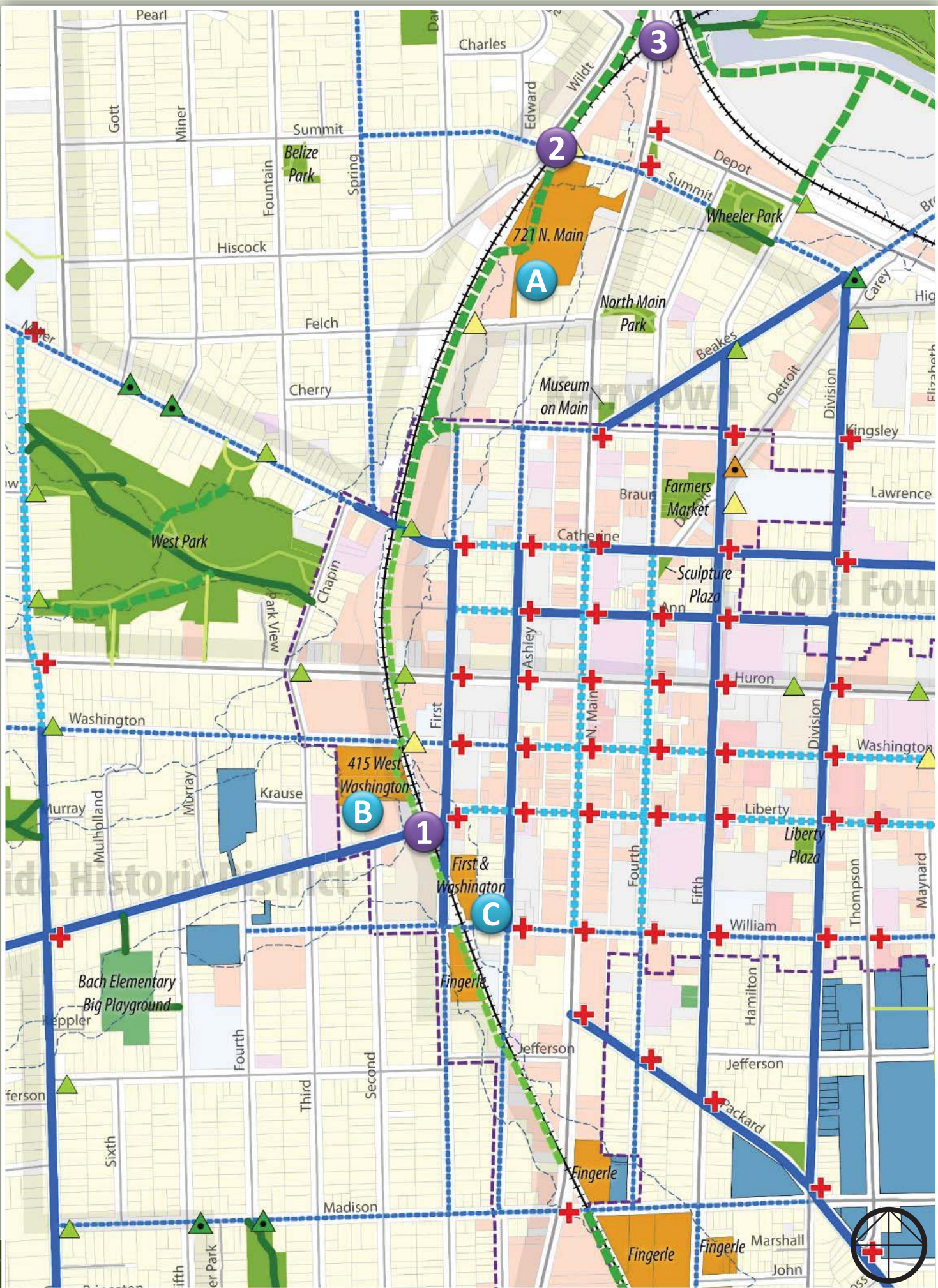
- Floodplain
- DDA Boundary

**Land Use**

- Finance
- Commercial and Business
- Residential
- Institution
- Culture and Education
- Transportation and Utility
- Industry
- University of Michigan Properties
- Key Properties
- Parks
- Natural Area
- Cemetery
- Water
- Parcel Boundary

# Land Use: CENTRAL ZONE

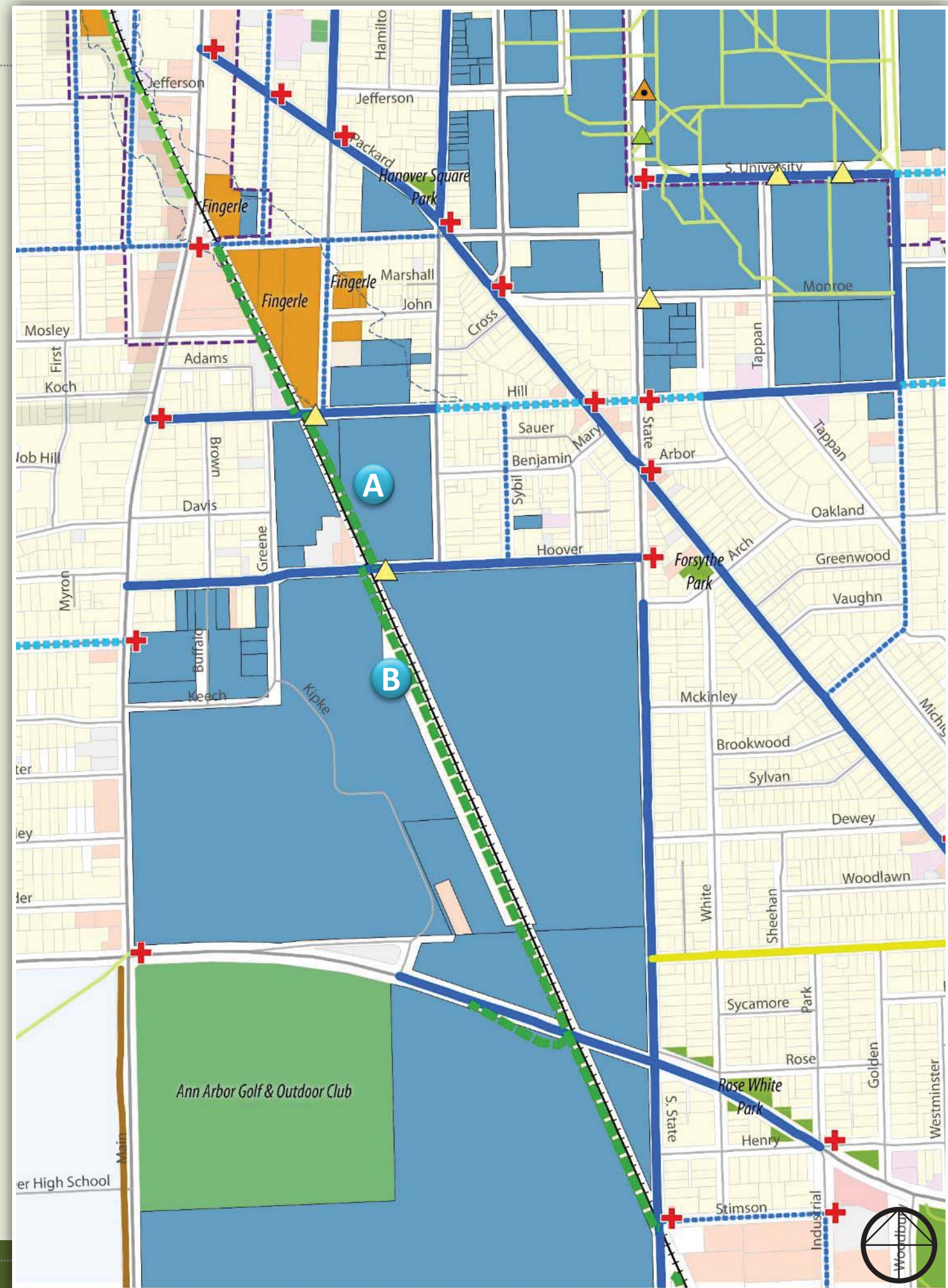
- Adjacent to highly active commercial districts (Kerrytown, Main Street Area)
- Key Properties: 721 N. Main (A), 415 W. Washington (B), First & Washington (C)
- Railroad corridor is on-grade south of Liberty (1) and above grade north of Liberty to Summit (2). Above grade at N. Main Street (3).
- West Park is an established community park. Create connection to park.
- Dedicated bike lanes on portions of Liberty, Miller/Catherine, First St., Ashley, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Division, Madison
- Adjacent Neighborhoods/Districts:
  - Water Hill, Old West Side, Old 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Kerry Town



Non-Motorized Facilities (Off-Road)	
	Existing Foot Trail
	Proposed Foot Trail
	Existing Shared-use Path
	Proposed Shared-use Path
	Existing Walk
	Proposed Walk/Path
Non-Motorized Routes	
	Bike Lane
	Designated Bike
	Shared Use Path
	Sharrow
	Suggested Bike
	Trail
	Border to Border Trail
Minor Mid-Block Crossings	
	Existing
	Proposed
Major Mid-Block Crossings	
	Existing
	Proposed
Signalized Crossings	
	Proposed
	Existing
Transit	
	Primary Road
	Secondary Road
	Railroad
Special Area	
	Floodplain
	DDA Boundary
Land Use	
	Finance
	Commercial and Business
	Residential
	Institution
	Culture and Education
	Transportation and Utility
	Industry
	University of Michigan Properties
	Key Properties
	Parks
	Natural Area
	Cemetery
	Water
	Parcel Boundary

# Land Use: SOUTH ZONE

- The University of Michigan is the dominant land holder adjacent to the rail corridor.
- Elbel Field (UM Property) is a significant recreation destination and band practice area for students ( **A** ).
- Historic turn table & switch track along rail corridor ( **B** ).
- Michigan Stadium / Crisler Arena draw major crowds. High volumes of students moving between Burns Park and near campus neighborhoods to athletic facilities.
- Potential to connect small & disconnected parks along Stadium St. to ACG.



**Non-Motorized Facilities (Off-Road)**

- Existing Foot Trail
- Proposed Foot Trail
- Existing Shared-use Path
- Proposed Shared-use Path
- Existing Walk
- Proposed Walk/Path

**Non-Motorized Routes**

- Bike Lane
- Designated Bike
- Shared Use Path
- Sharrow
- Suggested Bike
- Trail
- Border to Border Trail

**Minor Mid-Block Crossings**

- Existing
- Proposed

**Major Mid-Block Crossings**

- Existing
- Proposed

**Signalized Crossings**

- Proposed
- Existing

**Transit**

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Railroad

**Special Area**

- Floodplain
- DDA Boundary

**Land Use**

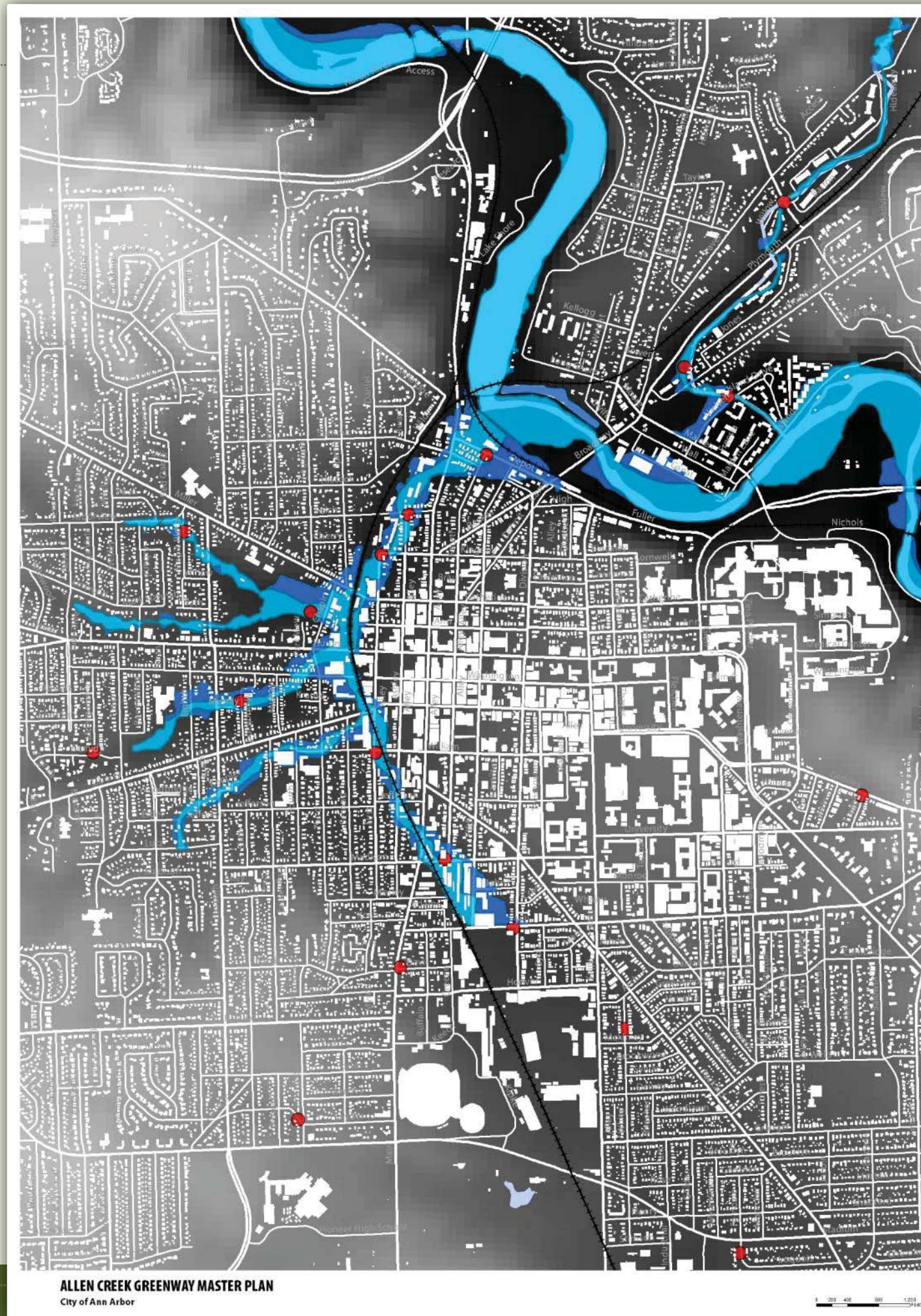
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## FLOODPLAIN

- **Floodplain:** 1% annual chance of flooding
- **Floodway:** Where active conveyance of water occurs during a flood event.
- Future flood patterns may be different than they are today (climate change)

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Existing and planned stormwater management projects
- Parks and natural areas
- Habitat creation and restoration opportunities
- Soil type and infiltration



## Questions (30 minutes)

- When you think “Allen Creek Greenway,” what do you imagine?
- Who do you imagine the users of the greenway to be? How would you use it?
- Are there issues or opportunities that you are aware of that are important for the project team to know?







## Next Steps

### **1. Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting #2**

– September 14, 2016, 8:30-10:30am, City Hall Council Chambers

### **2. Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting #3**

– January 11, 2017, 8:30-10:30am, City Hall Council Chambers

### **3. City-Wide Meeting #2**

– Quarter 1, 2017 – Exact date TBD

**The project team will be identifying and evaluating opportunities for greenway creation.**

**Dates for the Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings #4 - #6 and City-Wide meetings #3 to be determined**

**City project webpage: [www.a2gov.org/allencreekgreenway](http://www.a2gov.org/allencreekgreenway)**

**THANK YOU!**