

# Town of Weldon Bicycle + Pedestrian Project Acceleration Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #1

April 6, 2023



MCADAMS

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Plan Purpose
- Plan Visioning Exercise
- Community + Stakeholder Engagement
- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Group Discussion + Mapping Exercise
- Next Steps



# Introductions

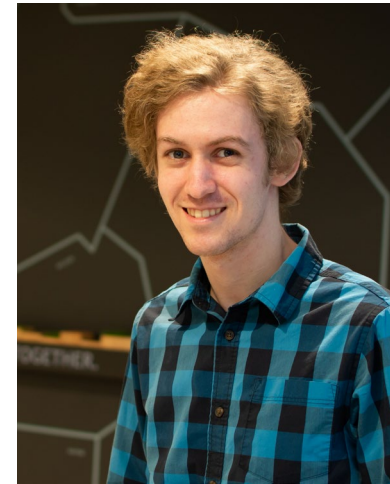
## MCADAMS PROJECT TEAM



**Kathryn Zeringue**  
Senior Bicycle +  
Pedestrian Planner  
*Project Manager*



**Haley Nafissi**  
Bicycle + Pedestrian  
Planner



**Christopher Normile**  
Bicycle +  
Pedestrian Planner

# Plan Purpose

## **What is a bicycle and pedestrian project acceleration plan?**

A project acceleration plan is an abbreviated plan that focuses on priority bicycle, pedestrian, and multimodal project identification and project implementation.

## **How is this type of plan helpful?**

Project acceleration plans focus on efficiently identifying multimodal projects and implementation steps to foster a more walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly environment in communities that might otherwise have difficulty resourcing or funding a multimodal network plan.



# Plan Purpose

## **Where do people want to bike and walk in Weldon?**

Identify key locations people want and/or need to reach by biking and walking.

## **How do we connect to these places?**

Identify corridors and appropriate facility types to connect key locations.

## **How do we build Weldon's bicycle + pedestrian network?**

Identify priority projects, implementation strategies, and funding opportunities.

## **How do we build a bicycle + pedestrian friendly community in Weldon?**

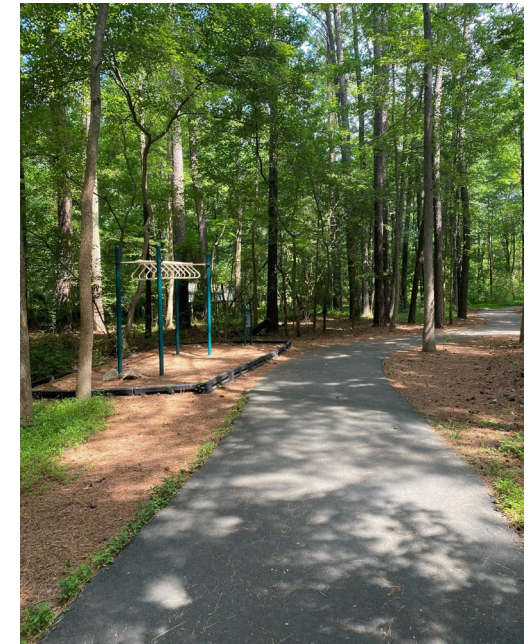
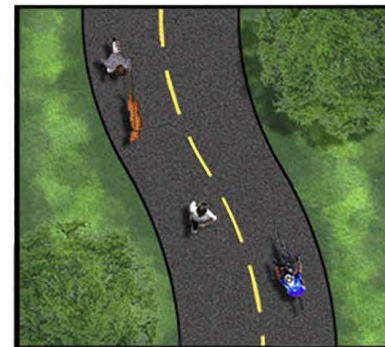
Identify policies and programs to promote biking and walking.

# Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility Types

## Greenway

A greenway or shared use path provides an area separate from motorized traffic for bicyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users, skaters, joggers, etc.

Greenways offer network connectivity opportunities beyond the roadway network, as they are often located along streams, in utility corridors, and parks.



# Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility Types

## Sidepath

A sidepath is a bidirectional shared use path adjacent and parallel to a roadway.

Sidepaths offer a low-stress experience for bicyclists and pedestrians along network routes with high-speed or high-volume traffic.



# Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility Types

## Sidewalk

A sidewalk is a bi-directional path that provides a dedicated travel area for pedestrians in the transportation network.

Sidewalks are physically separated from the roadway by a curb or unpaved buffer space.





# Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility Types

## Separated Bicycle Lane

A separated bicycle lane is a facility for exclusive use by bicyclists that is located within or directly adjacent to the roadway and is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by a buffered space with a vertical separation element.

Separated bicycle lanes can be designed to accommodate one-way or bi-directional bicycle travel.



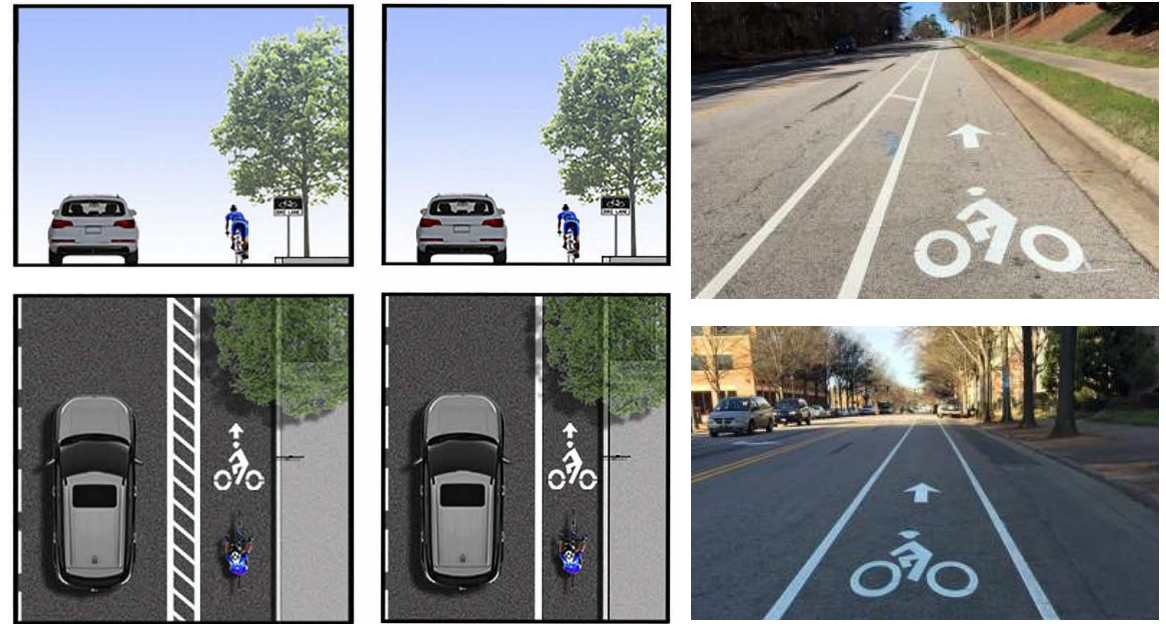


# Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility Types

## Buffered Bicycle Lane / Bicycle Lane

A buffered bicycle lane designates travel space for bicyclists in the roadway through use of pavement markings and a 1.5-4' buffer separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent travel lane.

A bicycle lane designates a travel space for bicyclists in roadway in the absence of more separated facilities.



# Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility Types

## Bicycle Boulevard / Shared Lane Markings

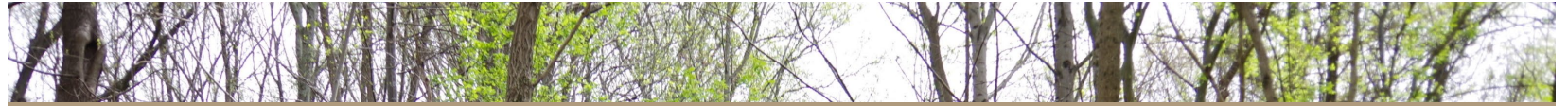
A bicycle boulevard is a low-stress, shared street accommodation to offer priority for bicyclists operating within a roadway shared with motor vehicle traffic.

Bicycle boulevards use a combination of pavement markings (shared lane markings), signage, and optional traffic calming measures to allow bicyclists to comfortably travel along a roadway.





# Plan Visioning Exercise



Discussion:  
*“What does success look like for Weldon’s Project Acceleration Plan?”*

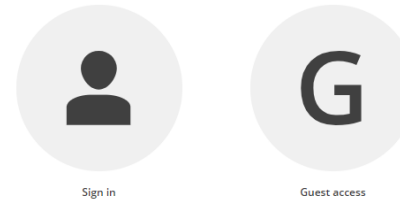


# Plan Visioning Exercise

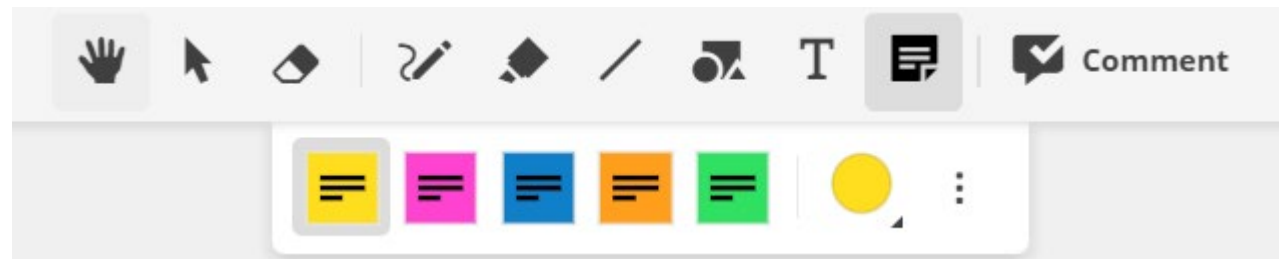
1. Click the link in the chat:

<https://app.conceptboard.com/board/p3yt-mnmb-yz7k-px8i-343d>

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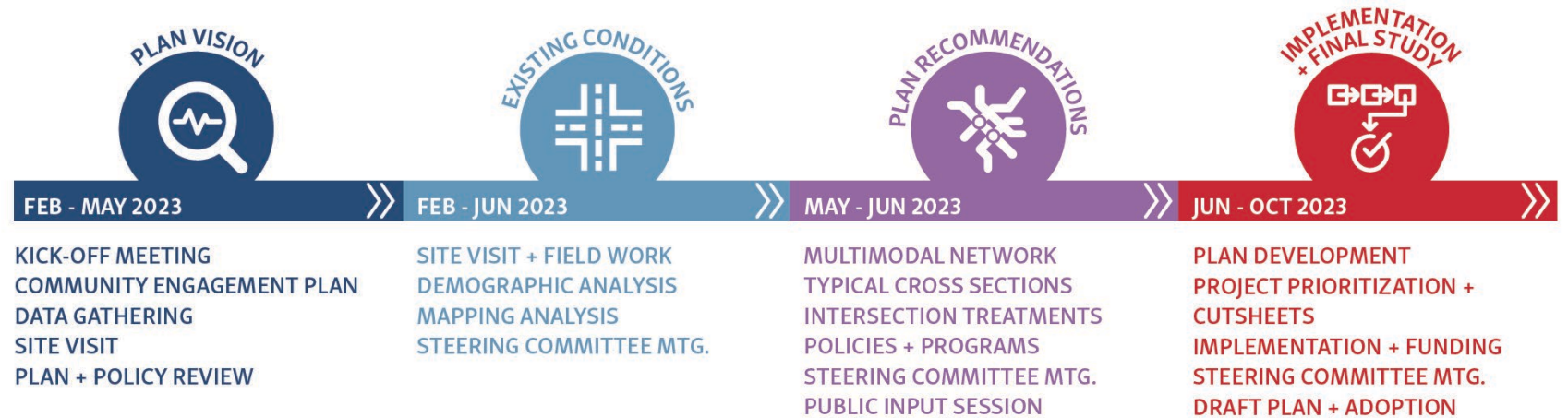


3. Select a "Post-it Note" and share your thoughts on the board





# Project Schedule + Engagement Strategies





# Steering Committee

## Role:

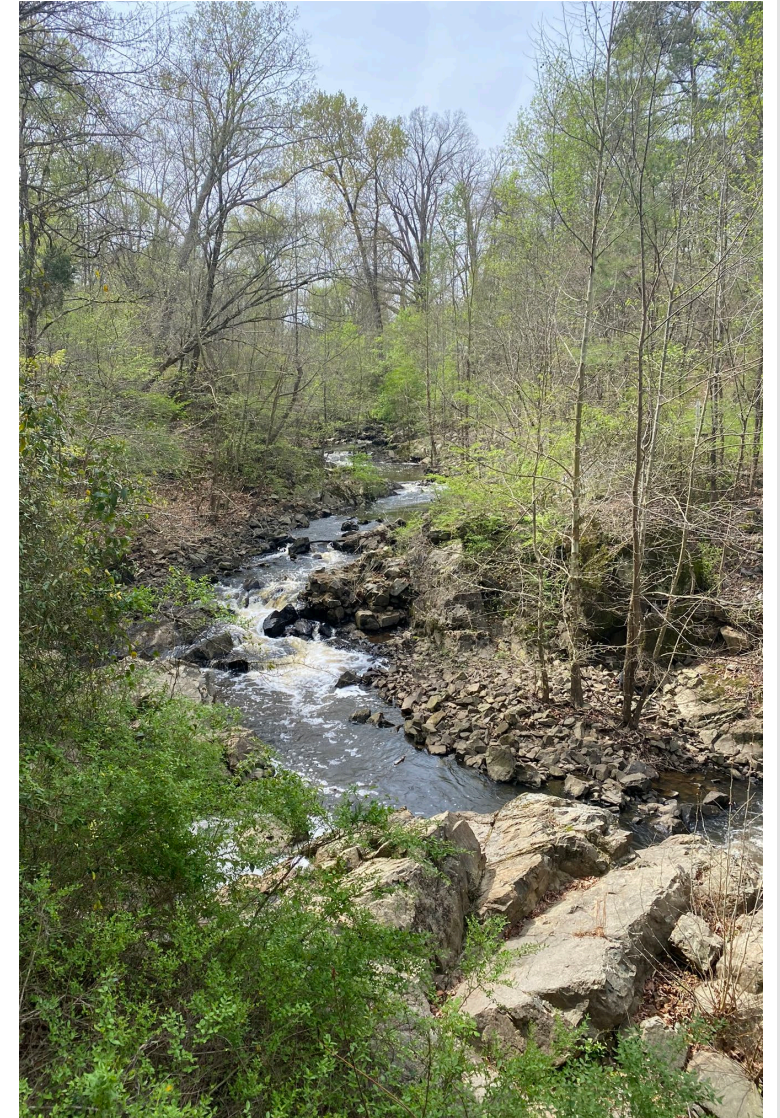
The Steering Committee will attend three (3) meetings where they will provide support, guidance, and oversight for progress for the Plan.

- Committee Meeting #1:  
Plan Vision, Goals, and Existing Conditions (Today)
- Committee Meeting #2:  
Draft Recommendations (June/July 2023)
- Committee Meeting #3:  
Draft Plan Review (August/September 2023)



# Community + Stakeholder Involvement

- Community Survey
  - Existing Conditions, Opportunities + Constraints, Destinations (March-May 2023)
- Public Meeting
  - Project Overview, Draft Recommendations, and Priority Projects (May 2023)
- Community + Stakeholder Review of Draft Plan
  - Draft Plan Review (September 2023)





# Demographics

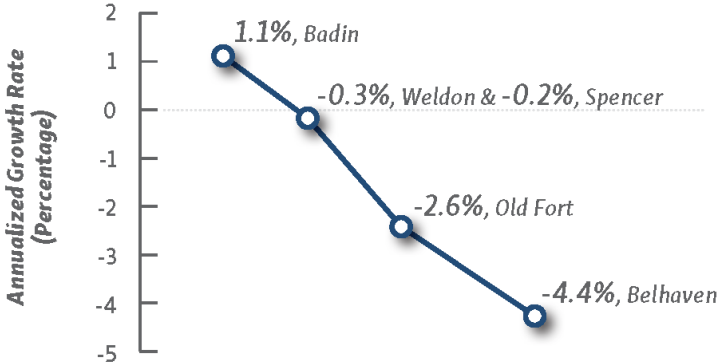
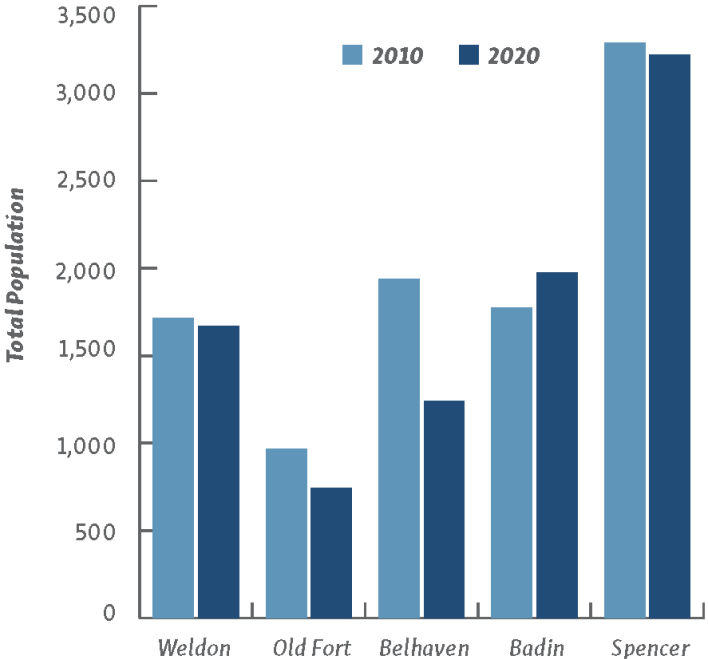
This demographic analysis informs the community engagement approach and helps to ensure recommendations meet the diverse needs of people residing in Weldon.

- Population
- Race + ethnicity
- Age
- Education
- Residents Living Below Poverty Level
- Income
- Commute
- Vehicle Access
- Employment Density

Source: US Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

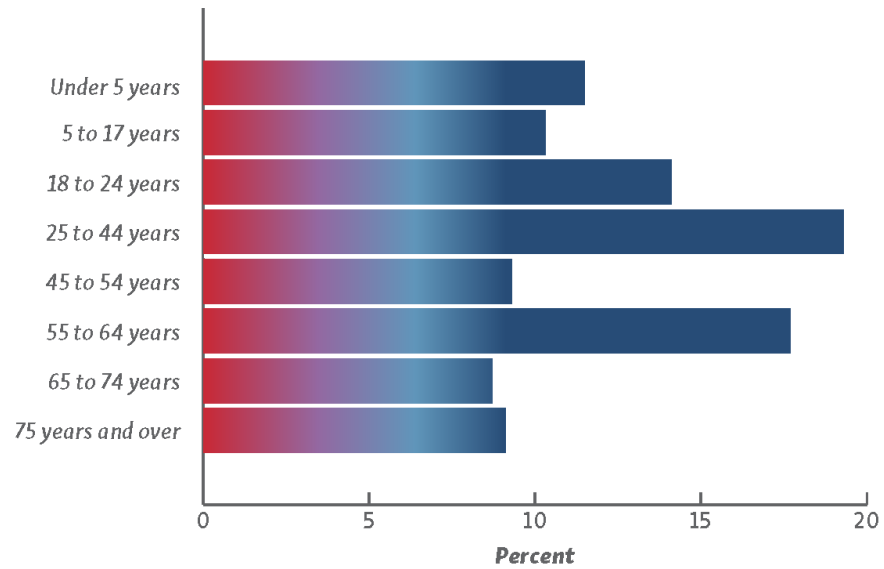
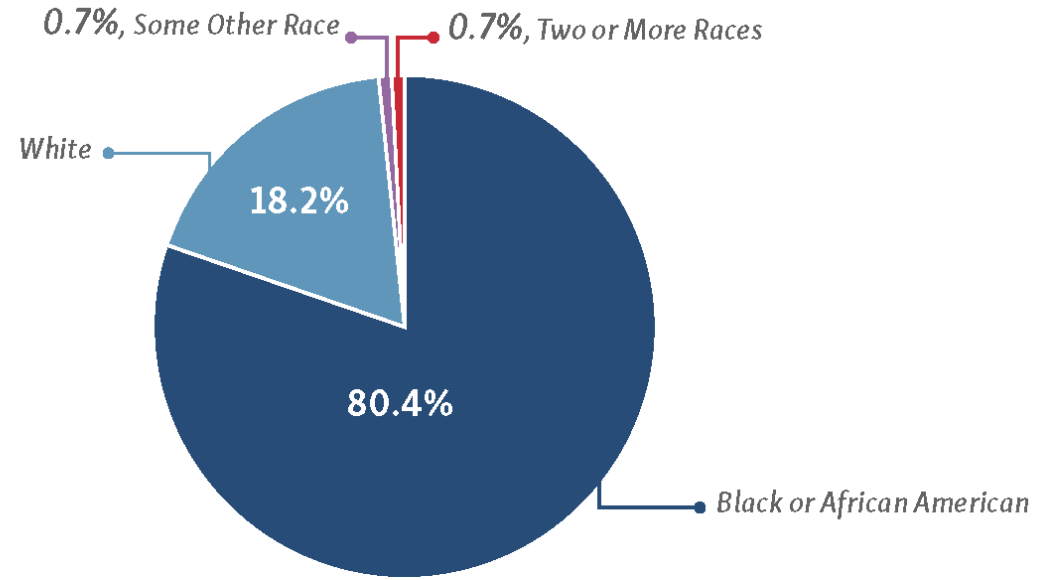


# Population



# Race + Ethnicity

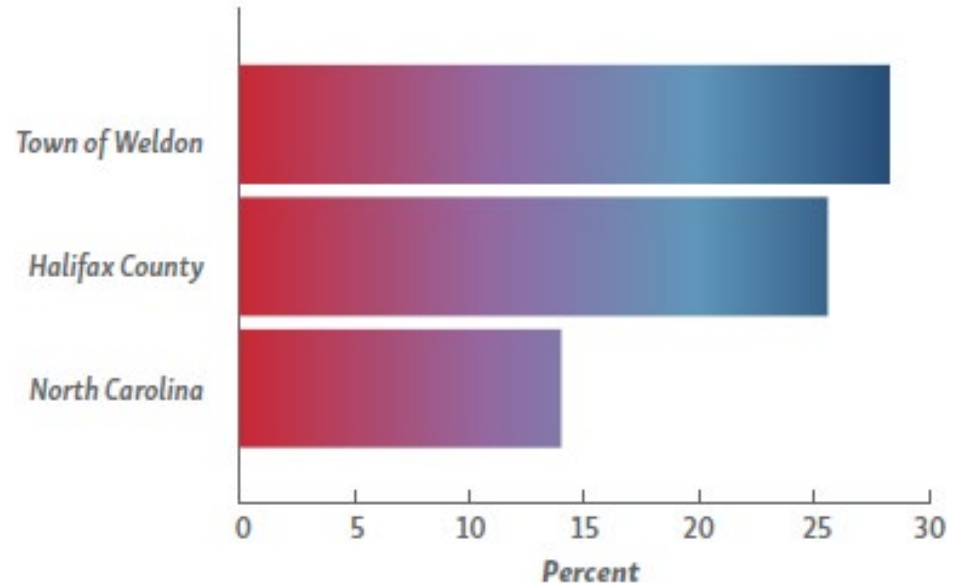
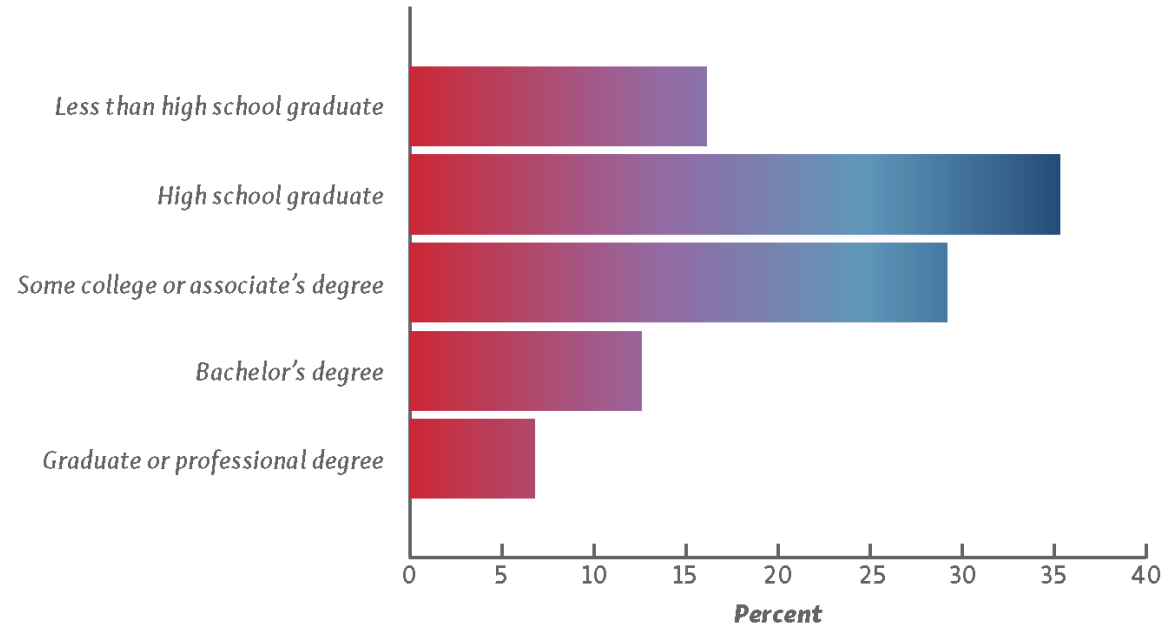
# Age



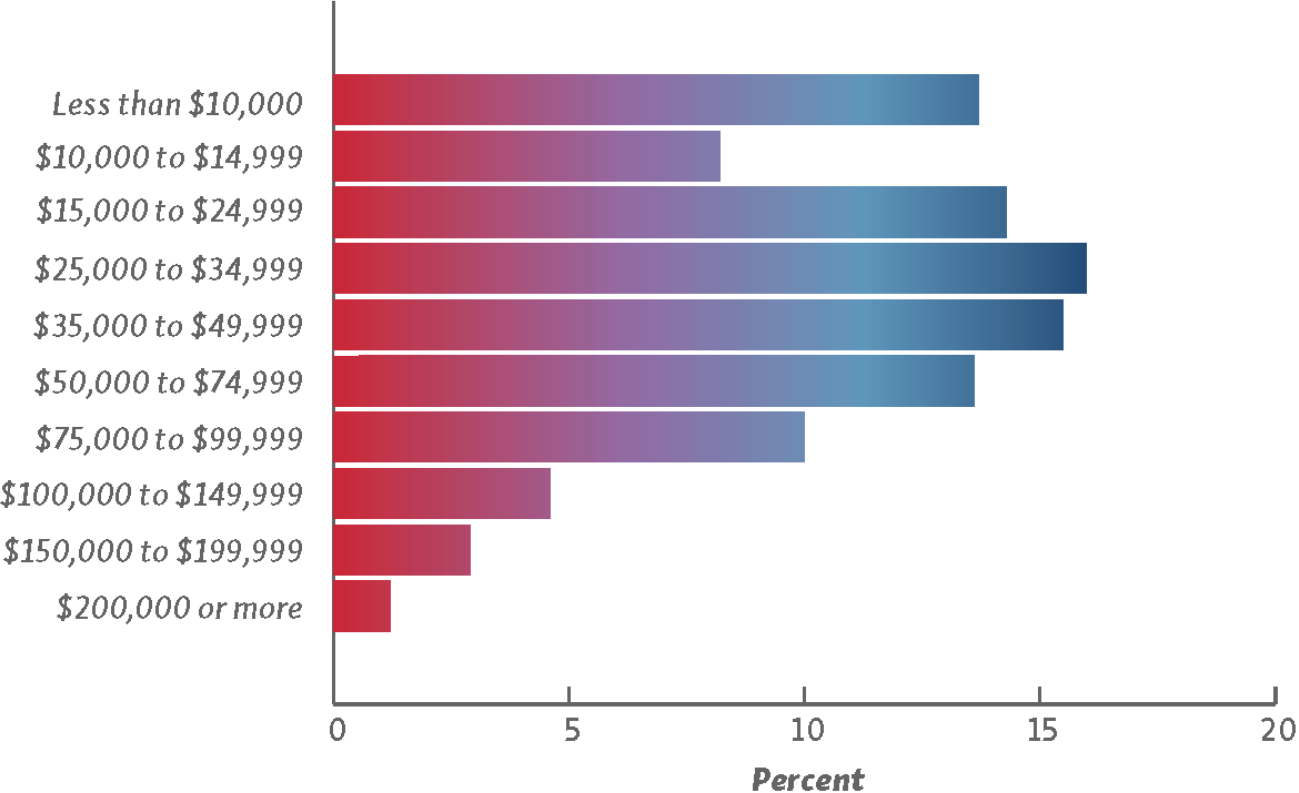


# Education

## Residents Living Below Poverty Level

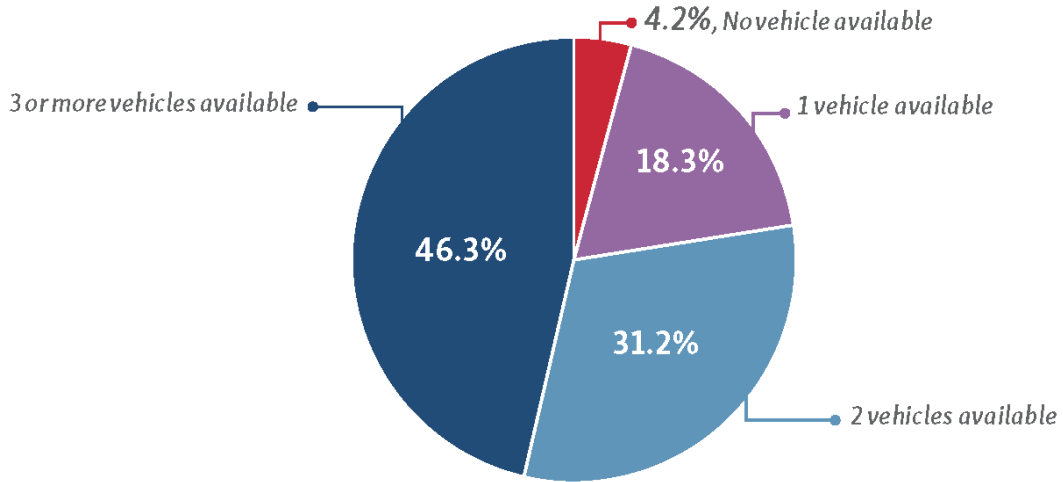
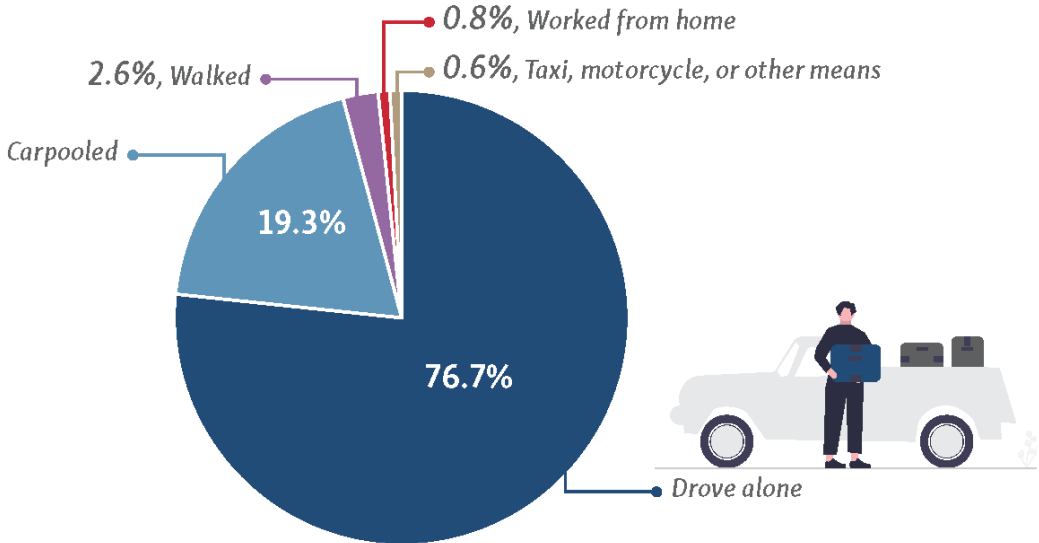


# Income



# Commute Modes

# Vehicle Access



# Employment Density



**TOWN OF WELDON  
PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN**  
Employment Density (All Jobs 2019)

- 1-100 Jobs
- 101-500 Jobs
- 501-1,000 Jobs
- 1,001 or more Jobs
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
- Water
- Weldon Town Limits
- Roanoke Rapids
- County Boundary

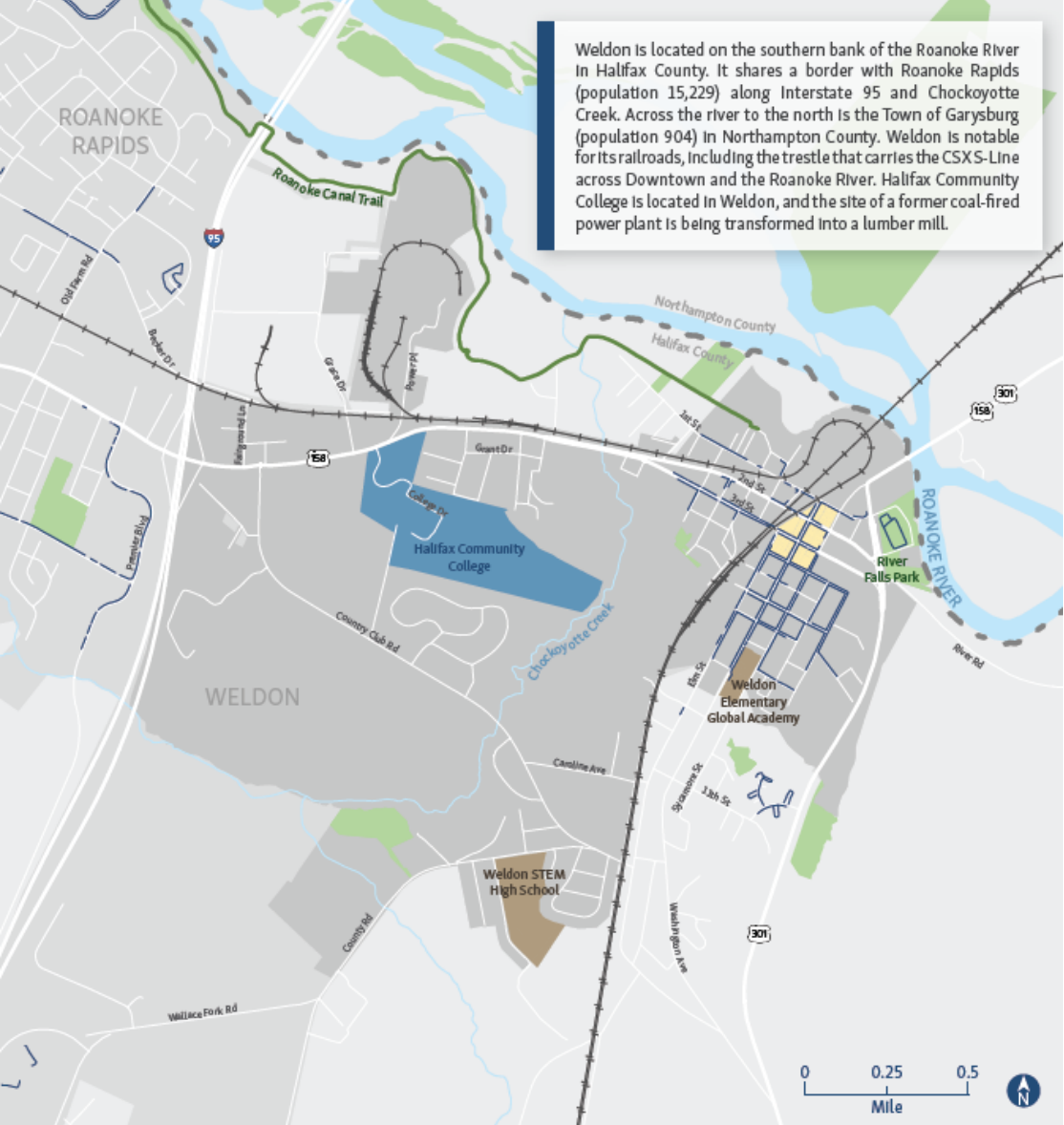
LEGEND ▶

# Previous Plan + Policy Review

- **Town of Weldon Downtown Façade Improvement Program (2022)**
  - Encourages investment in downtown storefronts, including sidewalks, landscaping, and other improvements to the pedestrian experience.
- **Town of Weldon Land Development Plan (2006)**
  - Envisions an expanded active transportation network with greenways connecting Roanoke Canal Trail to River Falls Park, adding sidewalks to major corridors such as US-158, and improving landscaping and lighting along roadways.
- **Roanoke Rapids Urban Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2008)**
  - Recommends bicycle improvements on US-158, US-301, and W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, and sidewalks along roads including US-158, W C Rivers Dr, E 3<sup>rd</sup> St, E 5<sup>th</sup> St, Washington Ave, Country Club Rd, and County Rd. Also recommends improvements and maintenance to existing sidewalks.
- **Town of Weldon Zoning Ordinance (2008)**
  - Requires site plans to include sidewalks, trails, and pedestrian paths, and to reserve a portion of open space for active recreation use.
- **Town of Weldon Subdivision Regulations (2009)**
  - Requires sidewalks be 5ft in width with a 4ft planting strip and on both sides of the street in all zoning districts but R-20 (one side required) and R-40 (not required). Crosswalks are required where considered necessary by the Planning Board.



# Study Area



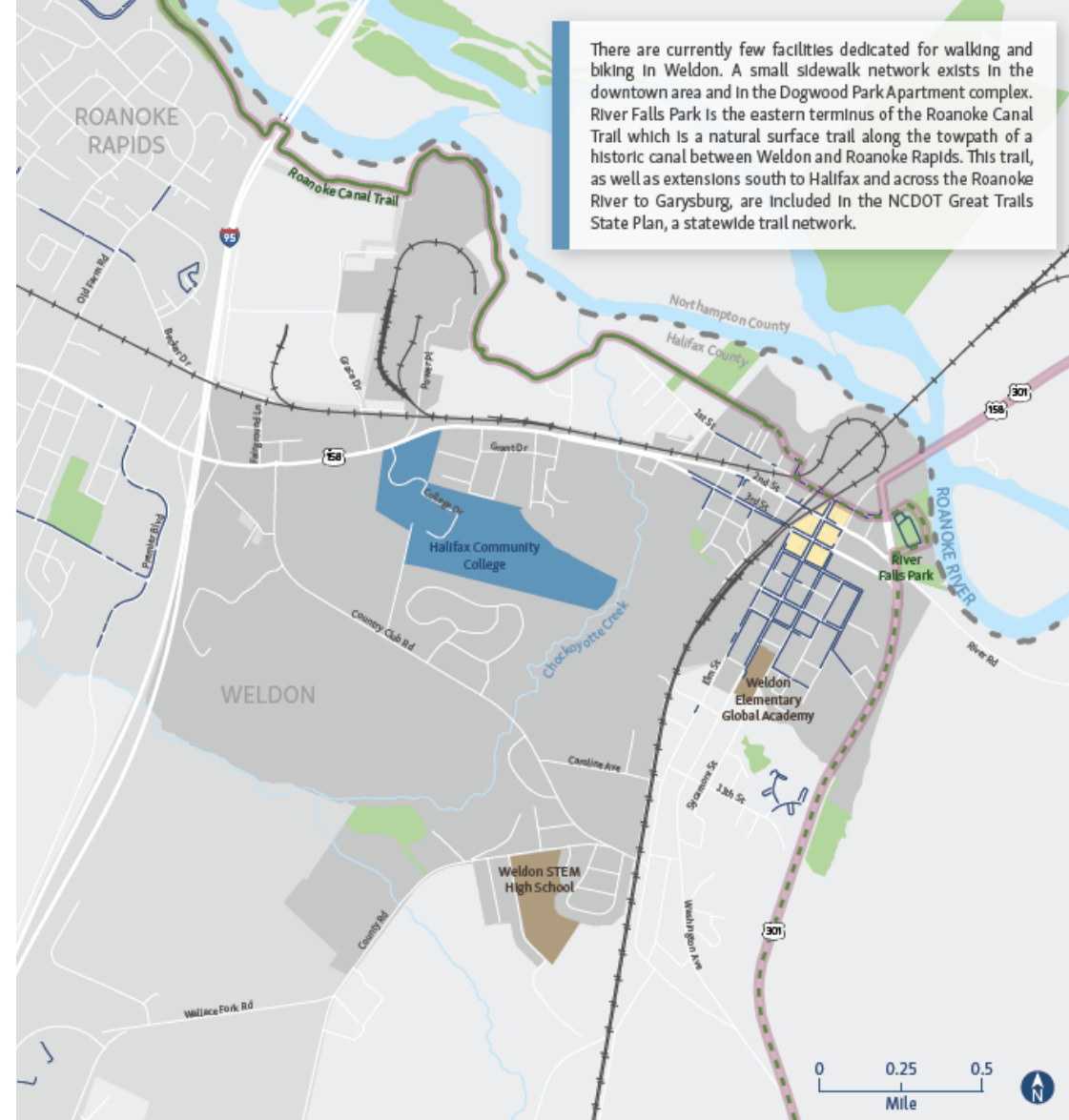
Weldon is located on the southern bank of the Roanoke River in Halifax County. It shares a border with Roanoke Rapids (population 15,229) along Interstate 95 and Chockoyotte Creek. Across the river to the north is the Town of Garysburg (population 904) in Northampton County. Weldon is notable for its railroads, including the trestle that carries the CSX S-Line across Downtown and the Roanoke River. Halifax Community College is located in Weldon, and the site of a former coal-fired power plant is being transformed into a lumber mill.

## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN Study Area

LEGEND ▶

- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
- Water
- Weldon Town Limits
- Roanoke Rapids
- County Boundary

# Existing + Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities



## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN Existing + Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

LEGEND ▶

- Proposed Shared Use Path
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- NCDOT Great Trails State Route
- Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
- Water
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- County Boundary

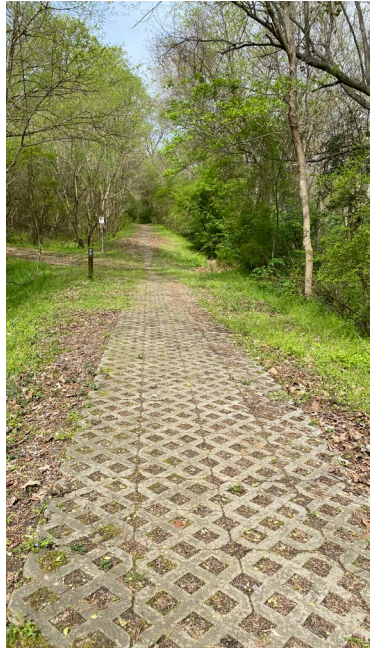


# Existing Conditions: Downtown



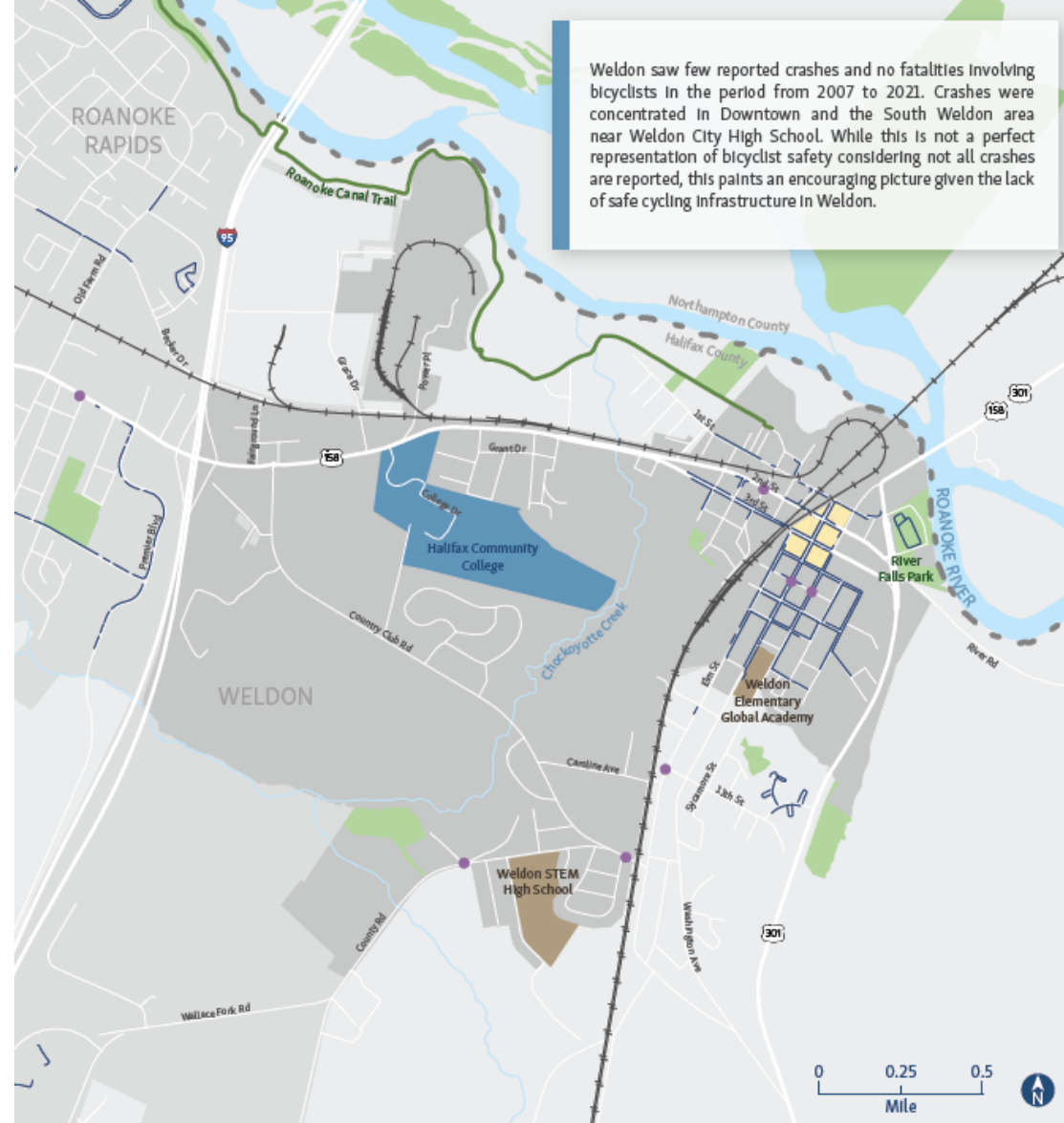


Existing  
Conditions:  
Existing Trail  
Facilities





# Bicycle Crashes (2007-2021)



**TOWN OF WELDON**  
**PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN**  
 Bicycle Crashes (2007-2021)

LEGEND ▶

- Bicycle Crash
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- ⊕ Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
- Water
- Weldon Town Limits
- Roanoke Rapids
- ▭ County Boundary

# Pedestrian Crashes (2007-2021)



Pedestrian safety can also be measured by reviewing crash data. In Weldon, pedestrian crashes have been reported primarily along thoroughfares such as US-158, Washington Ave, and Elm St. Fatalities have been recorded on Elm St near 9th St and Country Club Rd near Hampton Farm Rd. The area near 12th St, Washington, Ave and Old Halifax Rd, just outside of Town Limits, has seen a concentration of crashes and one fatality. Across Interstate 95, one fatality and several crashes have been recorded entering Roanoke Rapids on US-158.

## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN Pedestrian Crashes (2007-2021)

- Pedestrian Crash
- Pedestrian Fatality
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- + Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
- Water
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LEGEND ▶



# Existing Conditions: Safety Concerns





# Existing Conditions: Barriers





# NCDOT Traffic Volume (AADT)



Traffic volume is a factor in planning bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Many primary roads in Weldon are maintained by NCDOT, which records Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes for some corridors. US-158 east of Interstate 95 is the busiest roadway in Weldon with an average of 16,000 vehicles per day. Many roads in Weldon carry only light traffic, which makes them more suitable for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Country Club Rd, Washington Ave, and US-301 south of 2nd St each carry fewer than 5,000 vehicles per day.

**TOWN OF WELDON**  
**PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN**  
 NCDOT Traffic Volume (2021 AADT)

- 1-2,000 AADT
- 2,001-6,000 AADT
- 6,001-12,000 AADT
- 12,001-18,000 AADT
- 18,001 AADT or more
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
- Water
- Weldon Town Limits
- Roanoke Rapids
- County Boundary

LEGEND ▶

# NCDOT Speed Limits



## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN NCDOT Speed Limits

- 25 MPH or less
- 26-35 MPH
- 36-45 MPH
- 46-55 MPH
- 56-70 MPH
- Existing Shared Use Path
- + Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
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LEGEND ▶

# NCDOT Right-of-Way



## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN NCDOT Right-of-Way

- 50 feet or less
- 51-75 feet
- 76-100 feet
- 101-150 feet
- 151 feet or more
- Existing Shared Use Path
- + Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
- School
- College
- Park/Conserved Land
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- County Boundary

LEGEND ▶

# NCDOT STIP Projects (2020-2029)



## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN NCDOT STIP Projects (2020-2029)

LEGEND ▶

- Statewide Highway
- Statewide Rail
- Division Highway
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- + Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
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# NCDOT HMIP Projects (2023-2027)



## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN NCDOT HMIP Projects (2023-2027)

### LEGEND ▶

- 2023 Resurfacing
- 2023 Preservation
- 2026 Resurfacing
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- + Railroad
- Roadway
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# Floodplains + Wetlands

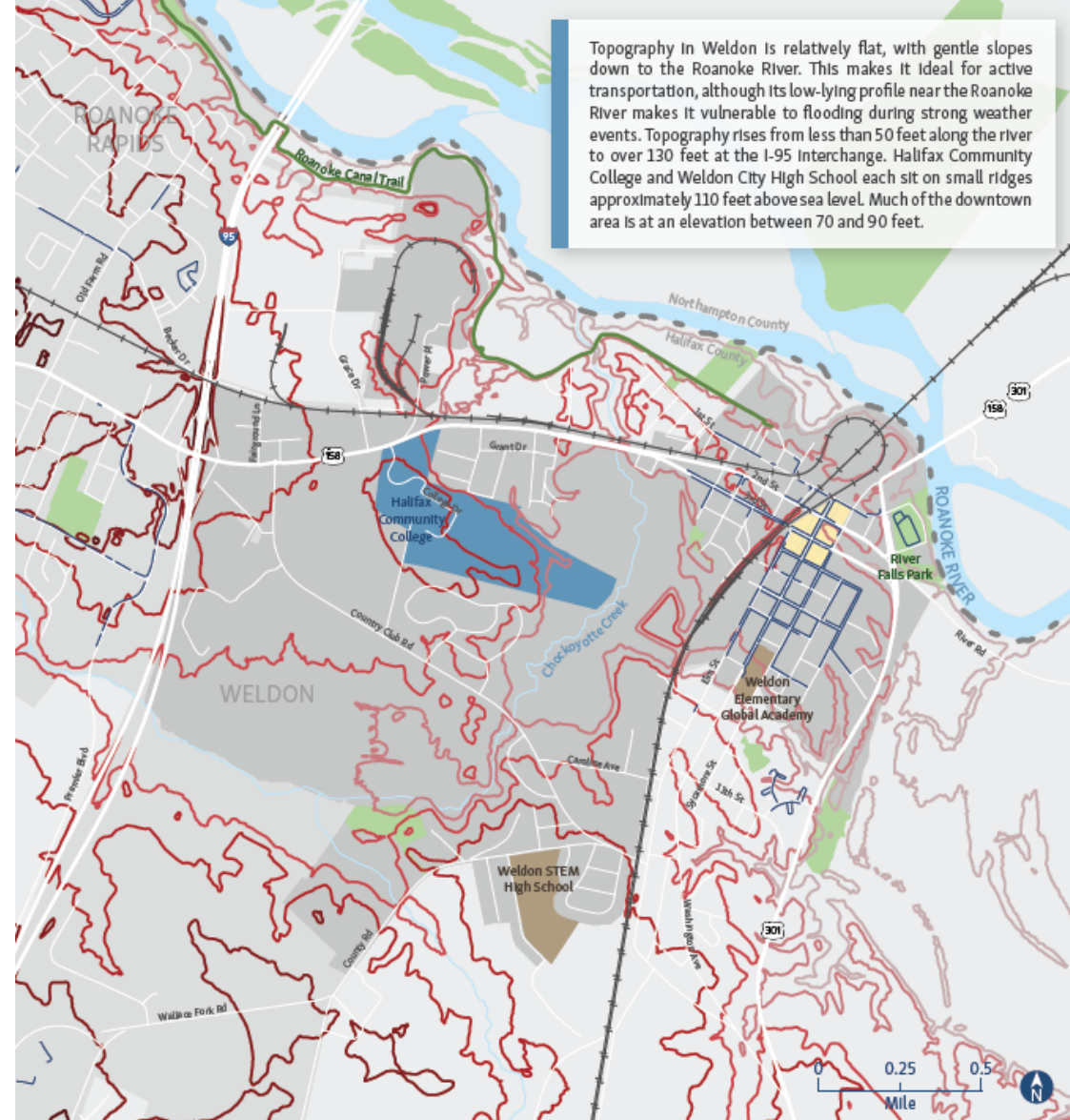


## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN Floodplains + Wetlands

### LEGEND ▶

- Wetlands
- Floodplain
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Existing Sidewalk
- Railroad
- Roadway
- Downtown Weldon
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# Topography



## TOWN OF WELDON PROJECT ACCELERATION PLAN Halifax County Topography

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| — 50 feet                  | — Railroad            |
| — 70 feet                  | — Roadway             |
| — 90 feet                  | — Downtown Weldon     |
| — 110 feet                 | — School              |
| — 130 feet                 | — College             |
| — 150 feet                 | — Park/Conserved Land |
| — Existing Shared Use Path | — Water               |
| — Existing Sidewalk        | — Weldon Town Limits  |
|                            | — Roanoke Rapids      |
|                            | — County Boundary     |

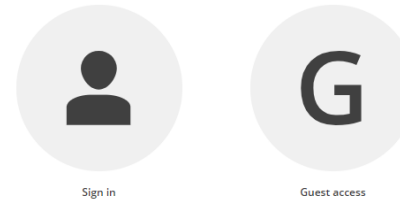
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# Group Discussion + Mapping Assessment

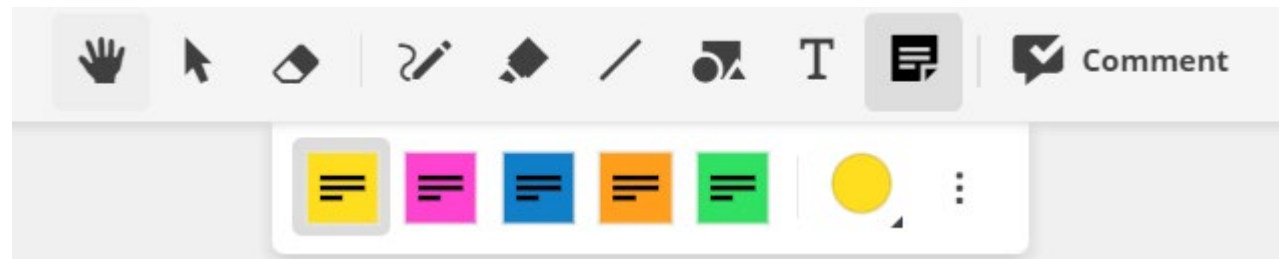
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2. Select Guest Access



3. Select a "Post-it Note" and share your thoughts on the board





# Next Steps + Questions

## Next Steps

- Online Survey Launch (April)
- Survey Analysis (Mid-Late May)
- Draft Recommendations (May/June)

## Questions?

Kathryn Zeringue,  
Senior Bicycle + Pedestrian Planner  
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