

Project Overview

Study Area

and Trail Alignments Under Consideration

LEGEND

- Existing Trails
- Future Trail Routes Under Consideration
- Town of Kure Beach
- Park/Recreation Destination



Vision

The trail will be a safe, multimodal corridor accessible to all ages and abilities.

It will connect to key destinations and recreation areas, serving both community members and visitors.

The trail will be a linear park, providing a beautiful and enjoyable experience for recreation, gathering, exercise, and improving mental health.

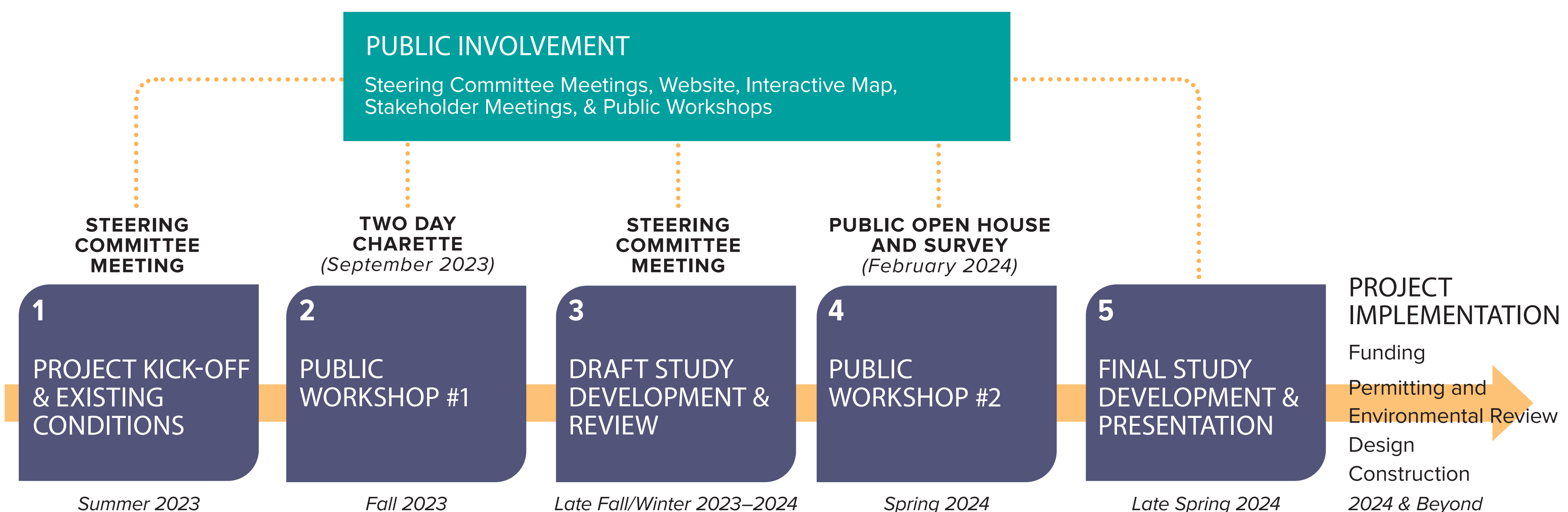
Goals

Create a linear park that connects trail users to their destinations and is enjoyable to use.

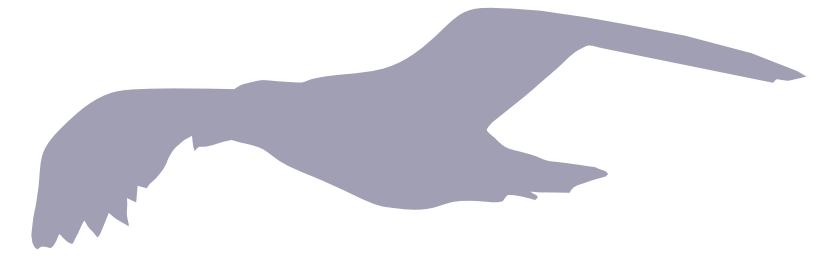
Connect residents and visitors to all recreation facilities and to the beach easily and comfortably.

Minimize environmental impact through sustainable design to reduce maintenance needs in the future.

Planning Process



Why Greenways?



Here are some reasons why communities across the United States and the world are investing in improvements for bicycling, walking, and trails.

TRAIL TALK: A greenway or trail typically refers to a paved linear path for walking, biking, rolling, skating, and using other non-motorized modes of transportation. You might also hear them called **shared-use paths**, **multi-use paths**, and **sidepaths**.

The Many Benefits of Greenways

According to North Carolina's Great Trails State Coalition, the benefits of greenways include:

RECREATION

- Make communities better places to live by preserving and creating free and open spaces for recreation.
- Provide new opportunities for outdoor recreation and non-motorized transportation.
- Serve a diverse population of a community that may otherwise have limited opportunities to access natural areas due to financial or transportation constraints.

TRANSPORTATION

- Provide neighborhood and community connections.
- Are an integral part of a multi-modal transportation system.
- Facilitate and contribute to positive health and environmental outcomes as active transportation networks.

HEALTH

- Provide a dedicated space for physical activities, such as walking, hiking, mountain biking, paddling, and horseback riding.
- Increased physical activity improves physical and mental health and an individual's sense of well-being.
- Free to users, trails are an inexpensive and safe avenue for regular exercise.

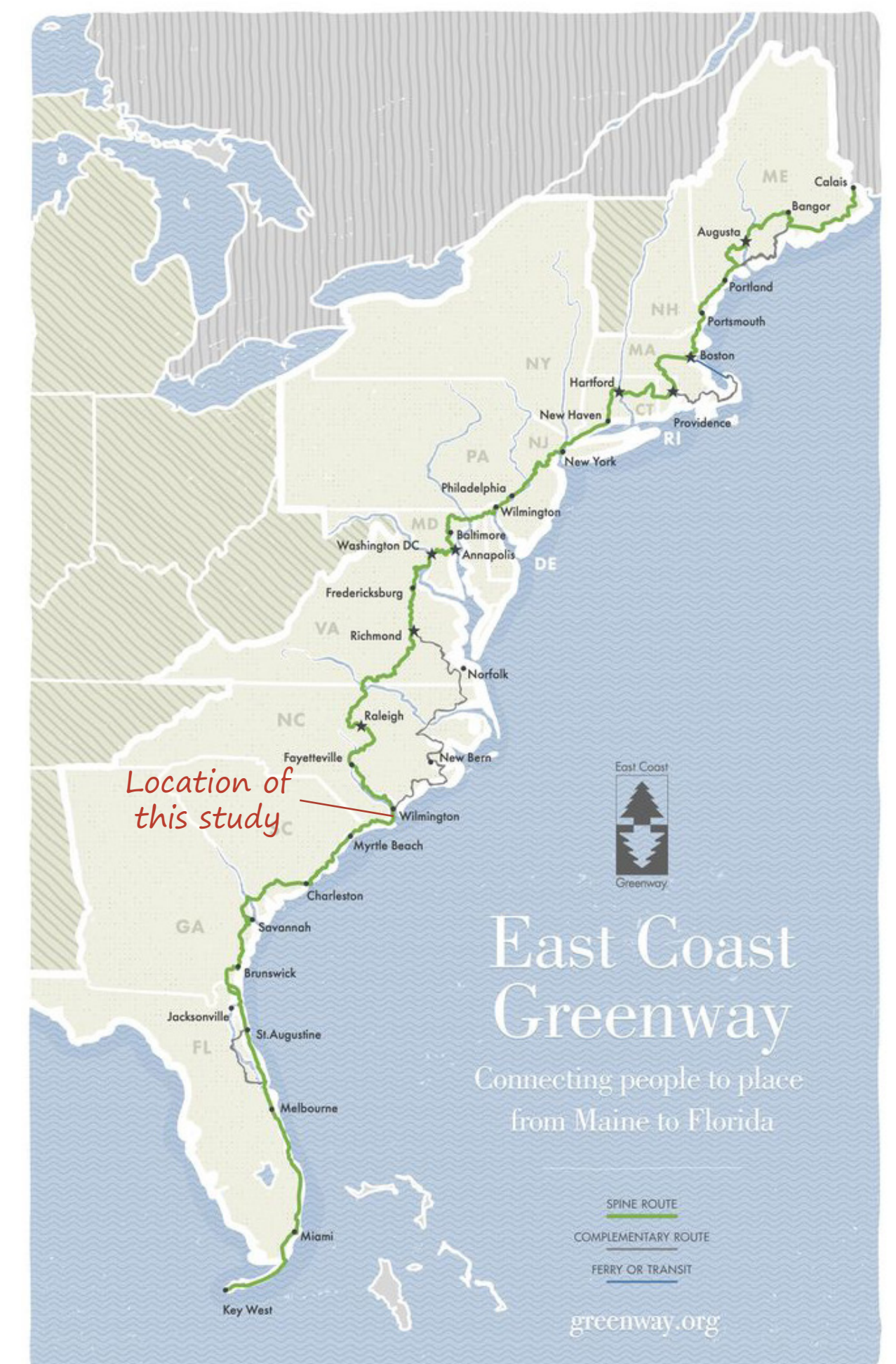
ECONOMIC

- Enhance the ability of a community to attract and retain business and residents; this is why trails are considered a quality of life amenity.
- Benefit businesses located nearby as trail users spend money on equipment, food, lodging, and entertainment.
- Proximity to trails and greenways can increase property values, attract buyers, and make property easier to sell.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Preserve natural areas, protect habitats, and provide wildlife corridors.
- Encourage human-powered forms of transportation, which improves water and air quality.
- Serve as hands-on environmental classrooms.

Source: North Carolina 2023 Year of the Trail Community Toolkit.



East Coast Greenway

The East Coast Greenway (ECG) is a continuous **3,000-mile route for biking, walking, and other active modes from Maine to Florida**. Kure Beach is part of the planned ECG route through North Carolina.

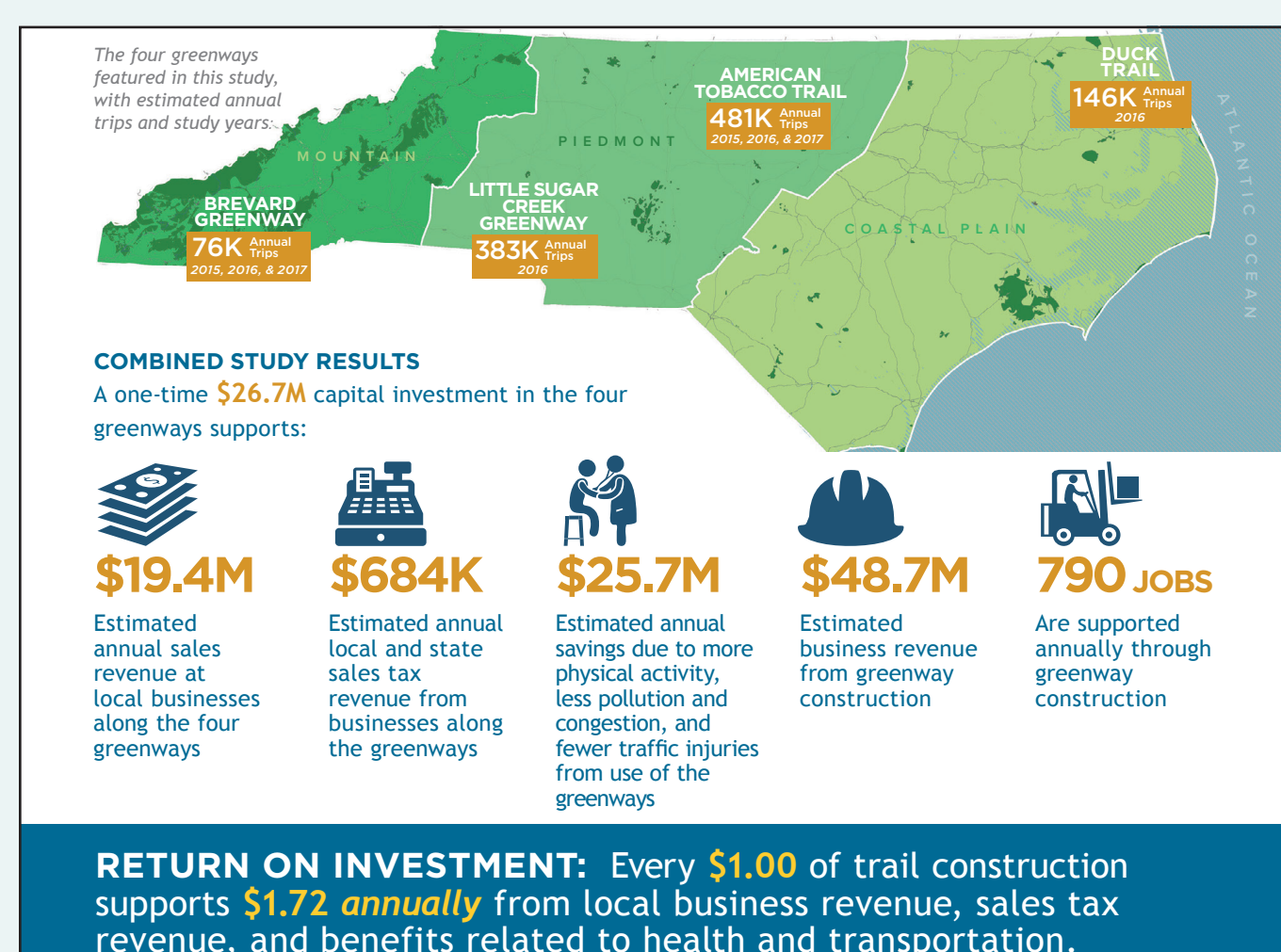
The ECG is envisioned as a fun, safe, and accessible route that connects major cities, small towns, and nature on facilities that are completely separated from motor vehicle traffic. Currently, about 35% of the ECG route is protected from traffic, and the remaining sections are on-road. The completed ECG will support local commutes and long adventures alike, fostering healthy, sustainable, and prosperous communities throughout the Eastern Seaboard.

Visit www.greenway.org to learn more.



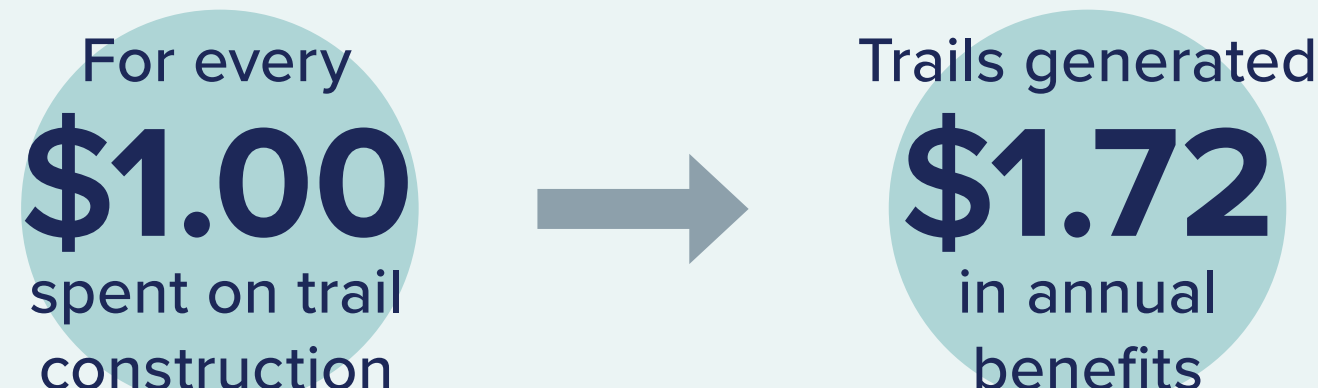
Measuring the Impacts in North Carolina

Support for walking and biking trails is growing in NC as their benefits become clear. Studies of existing greenway trails in our state have demonstrated a range of health, transportation, environmental, and economic benefits.

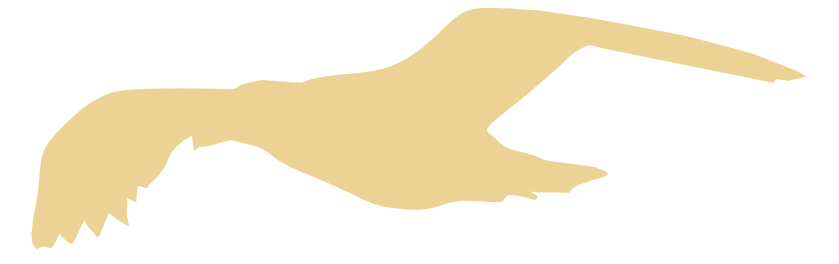


ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GREENWAYS ACROSS NC:

This 2018 study of four paved greenways in NC found a **positive return on investment** for every dollar spent constructing the greenways.



Source: "Evaluating the Economic Contribution of Shared Use Paths in NC" (2018) by The Institute for Transportation Research and Education and Alta Planning + Design.



Common Questions



It's natural to have questions about how a new greenway could affect your community. Looking to other communities with successful greenways provides examples of trail features that address concerns and enhance the trail experience.

CONCERN:

Safety and Security

Trail users and people who live near proposed trails may have concerns about safety and security.

TRAIL FACT: Studies of existing trails, such as the American Tobacco Trail, have shown that **crime rates on trails tend to reflect the crime rates of the surrounding community**; in other words, trails do not typically have an effect on crime. Trail users provide “eyes on the street”, which can often contribute to reduced crime rates.

Conflict between Modes

Where greenways are heavily used, it may be challenging for a variety of user types to comfortably and safely share the space.

Stormwater Impacts/Wetlands

When greenways are built in floodplains, there may be concerns about the added impervious surface contributing to existing stormwater or flooding issues. Greenways are a way to activate otherwise undevelopable flood-prone areas, allowing users to access and enjoy these natural areas. Wetlands are abundant in the study area. All measures will be taken to avoid or minimize wetlands due to their critical ecological functions and permitting restrictions. Boardwalks may be considered in special exceptions as some have reduced impact to wetlands.

Maintenance

A common concern is how the trail will be kept in a state of good repair and cleanliness. Regular upkeep and timely removal of any trash, obstacles (such as fallen trees), graffiti, and vandalism are key to a positive trail experience. Typically local jurisdictions will be responsible for maintenance. The feasibility of this will be discussed as part of this project.

HOW HAVE OTHER COMMUNITIES ADDRESSED IT?



FENCING in areas where trespassing is a concern or safety issue (appearance can range from decorative to more secure).



LIGHTING along the trail and good **VISIBILITY** for trail users.



SIGNAGE with trail rules to reinforce expectations for trail user behavior.



SUFFICIENT TRAIL WIDTH (>10 ft) reduces conflicts when passing, and allows faster traffic to pass slower traffic.



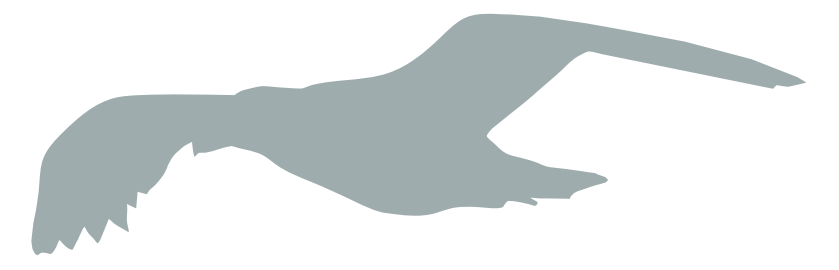
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE such as bioswales, bioretention planters, rain gardens, and permeable pavements can help manage stormwater.



TRASH RECEPTACLES and pet waste stations discourage littering along the trail.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS allow community groups to help with trail maintenance and provide a way to report larger maintenance needs to authorities.



Facility Types



Which do you like best for walking and bicycling?

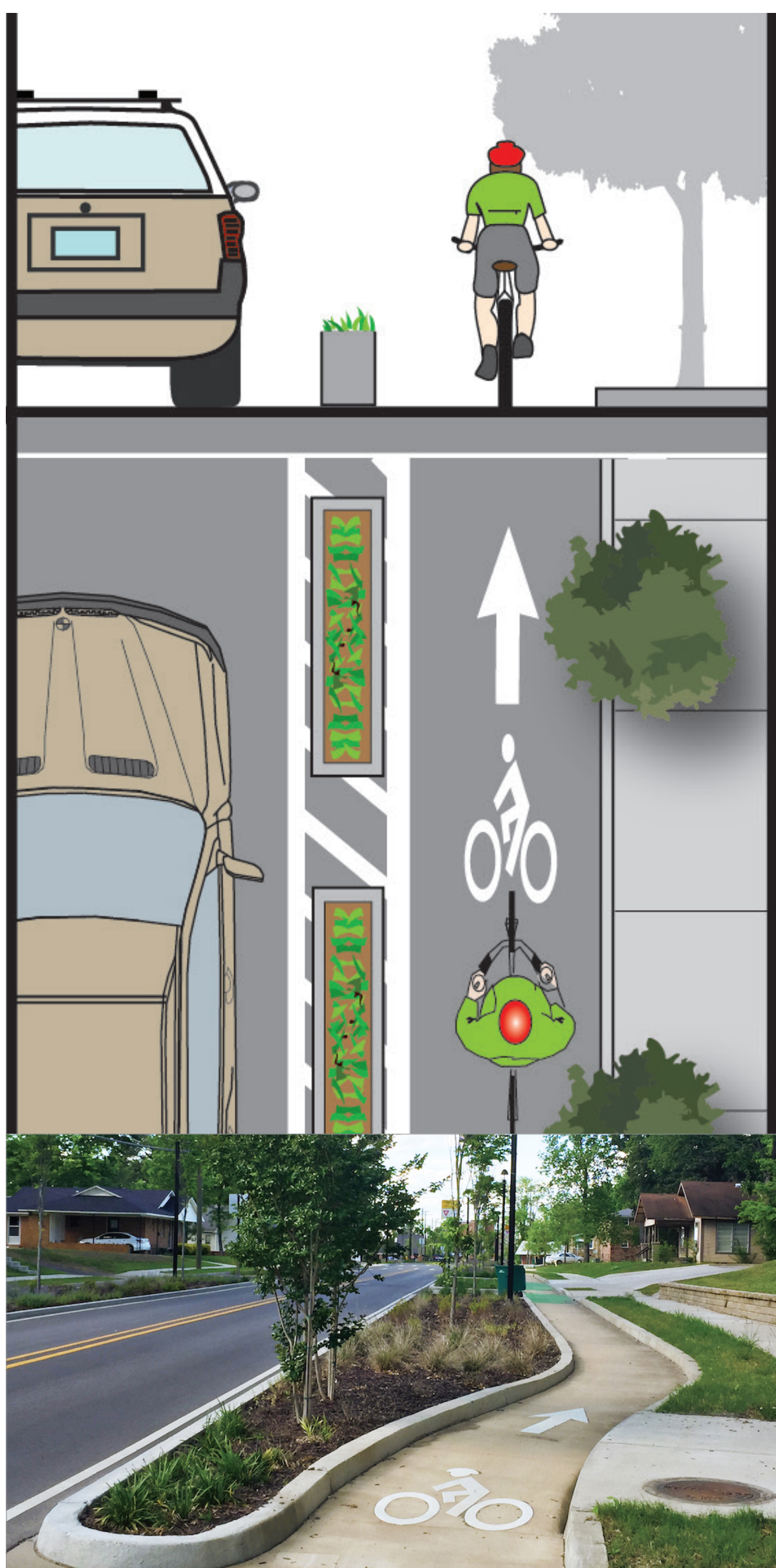
Note: The Island Greenway could be made up of different facility types in different sections, depending on which alternatives are chosen.

Vote with your dots on any option below!

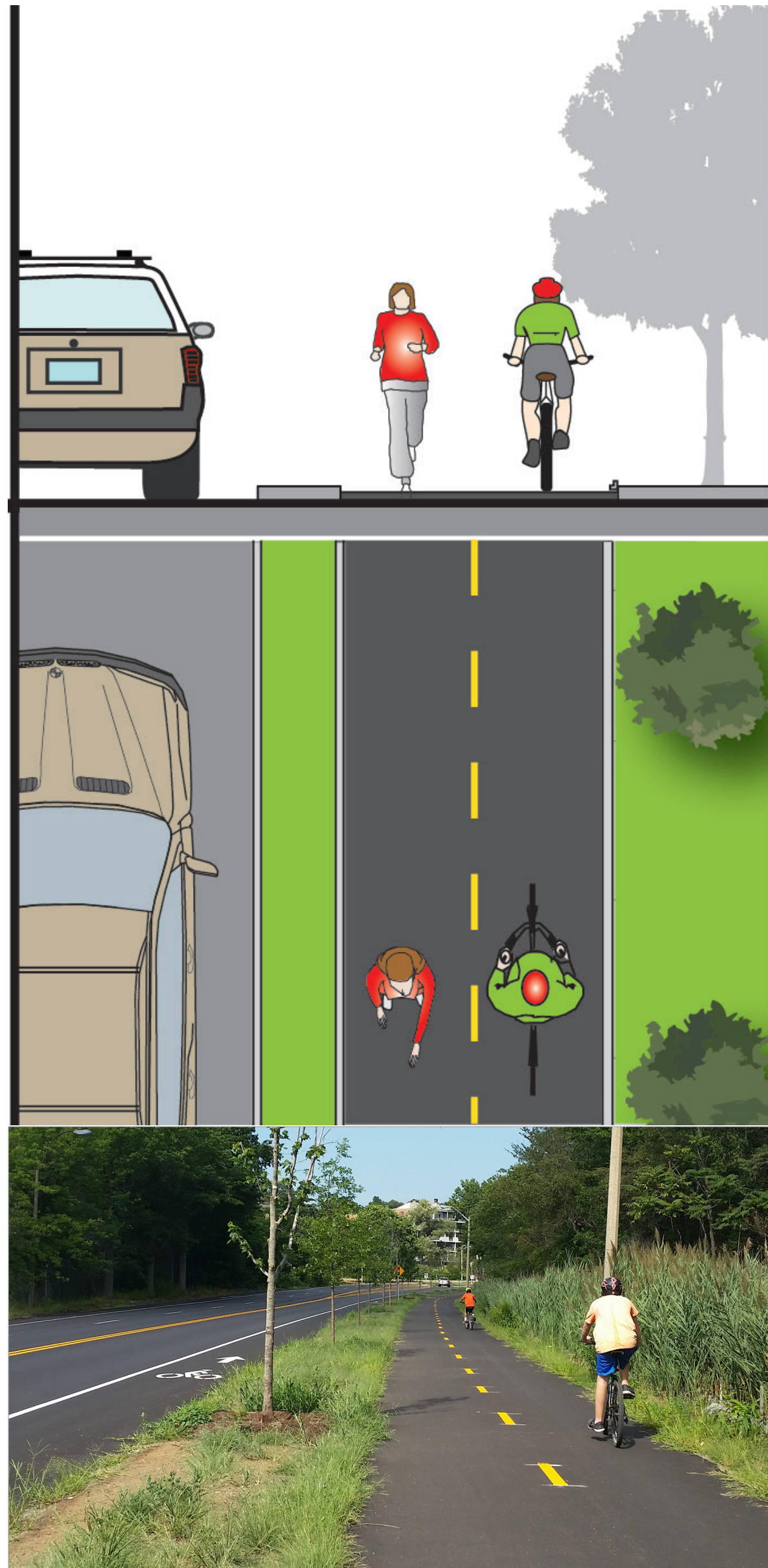
For Kure Beach Residents: Place up to two yellow dots.

For Non-Kure Beach residents: Place up to two red dots.

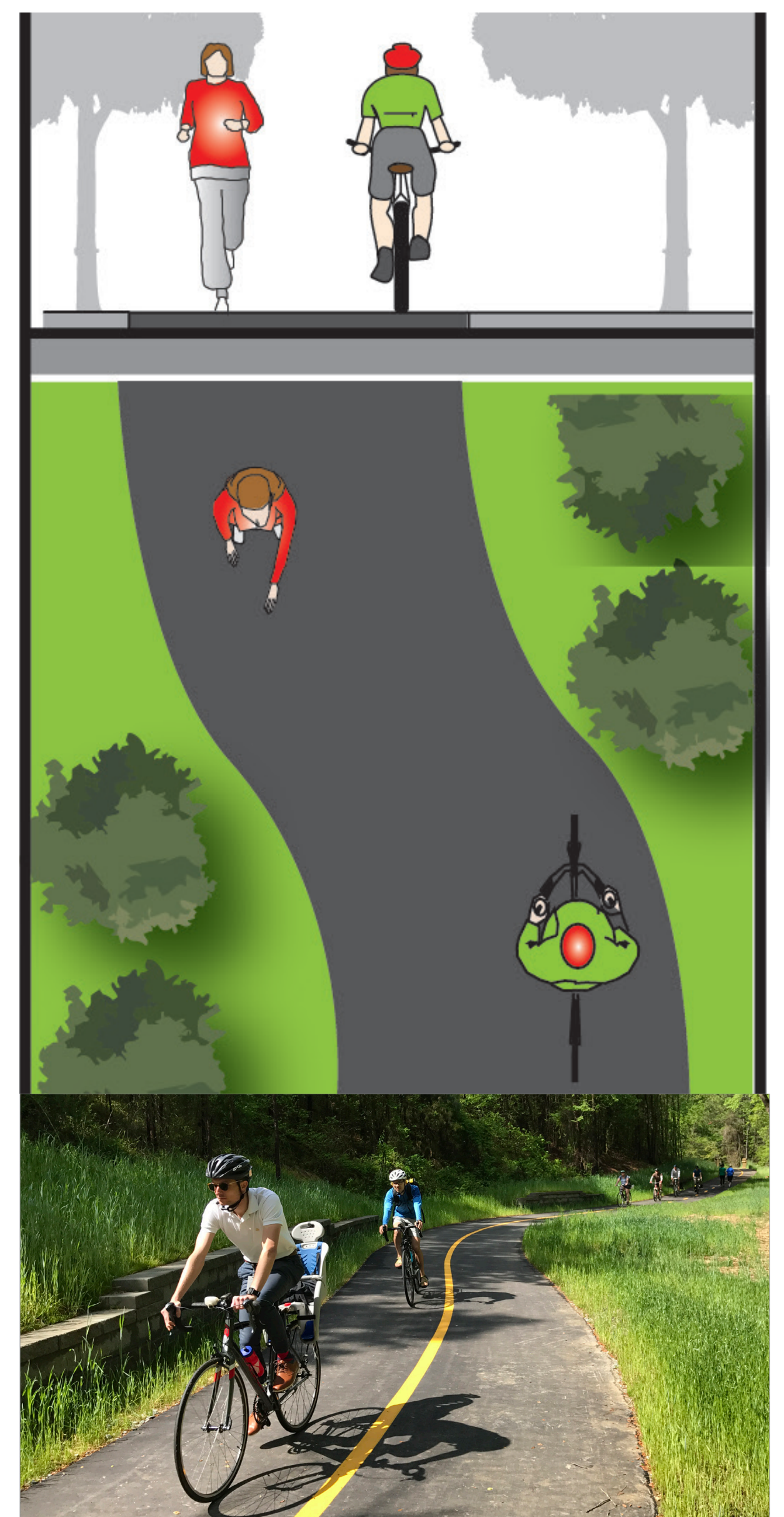
SEPARATED BIKE LANE WITH SIDEWALK



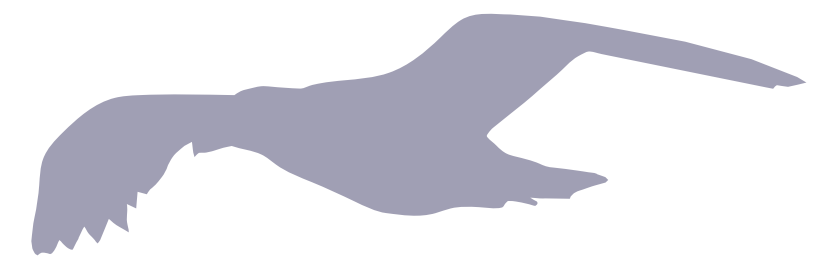
SHARED-USE PATH: SIDEPATH



SHARED-USE PATH: GREENWAY



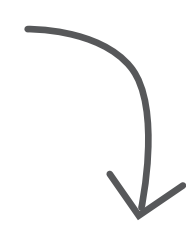
Place dots here!



Share your Thoughts

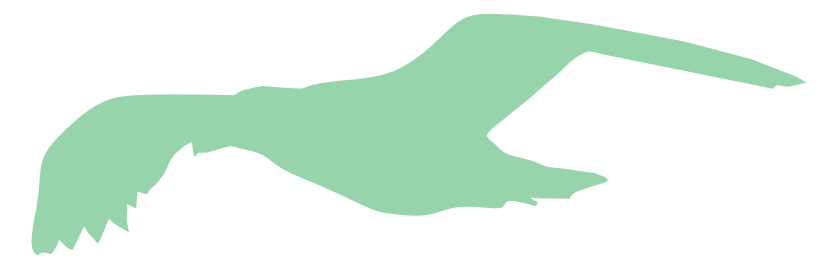


Leave a sticky note below!



The Island Greenway will be...

Who will use the Island Greenway?



Route Selection



Which criteria do you feel are most important when considering the best trail route?

Vote with your dots below!

Kure Beach Residents: Place up to three yellow dots.

Non-Kure Beach residents: Place up to three red dots.

Non-Kure Beach Locals: Place up to three blue dots.



Connectivity

Prioritizing connections to other trails, parks, retail, schools, neighborhoods, or other destinations can enhance the trail's transportation function and expand the area's overall walking and biking network.



Traffic Safety

Routes that minimize crossings with roadways, driveways, and railways reduce the potential for crashes between trail users and vehicles. On highly-used trails, it's also necessary to reduce conflicts between trail users that can occur when the trail is too narrow for users to safely pass each other.



Cost

Total costs can be influenced by many factors, including: need for land acquisition, trail length, trail surface, trail width, number and type of bridges and roadway crossings, trail amenities, need for grading, and need for construction within floodplains.



Property Acquisitions

Routes may prioritize use of land that has the fewest property impacts, ensures for safety and security of adjacent landowners, and/or minimizes impacts to property values, though this may come at the expense of connectivity.



User Experience

Prioritizing a comfortable user experience requires careful consideration of factors such as shade/tree cover, scenery, slopes, and available right-of-way (which affects trail width and the buffer width between the trail and vehicle traffic).

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

MAP 1:

Ocean Boulevard to H Avenue

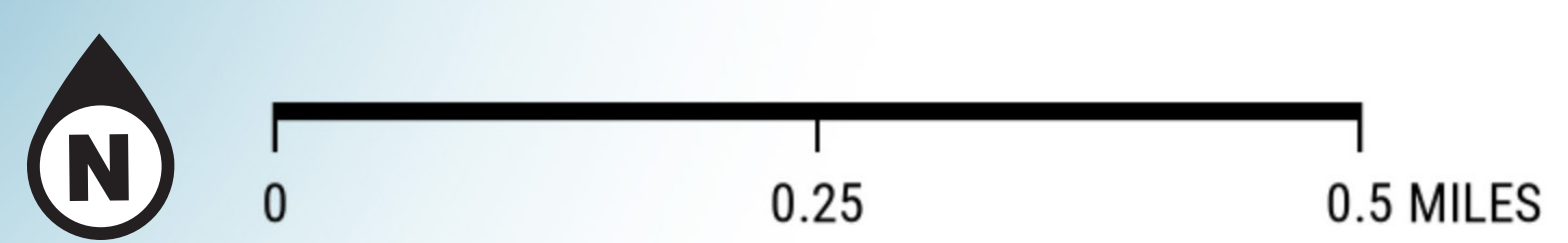
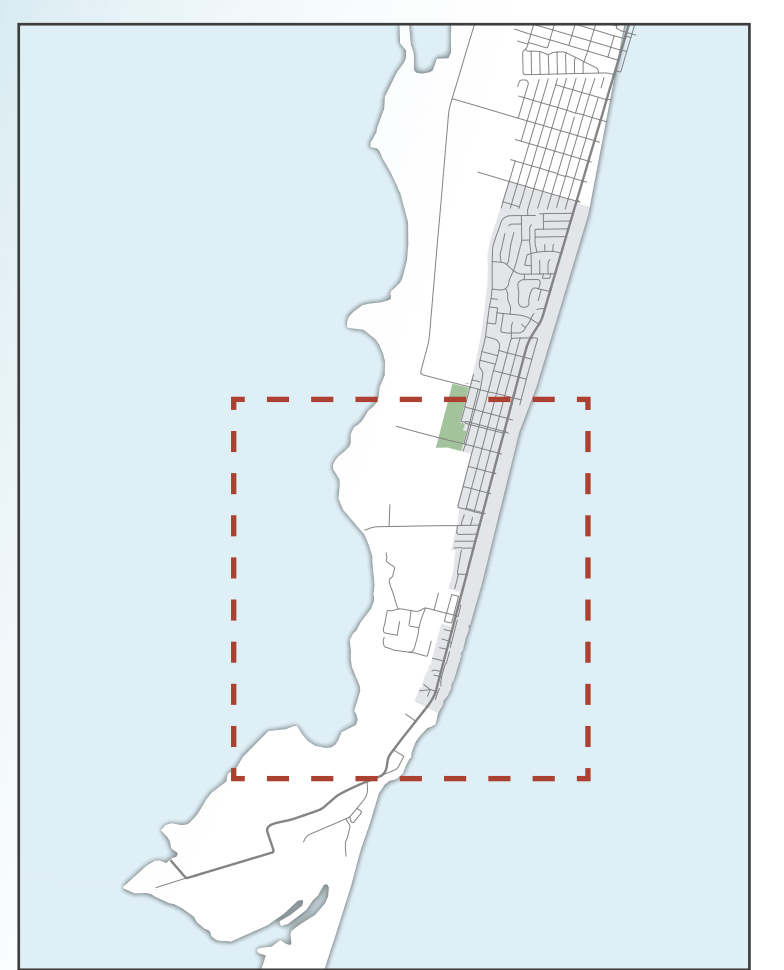
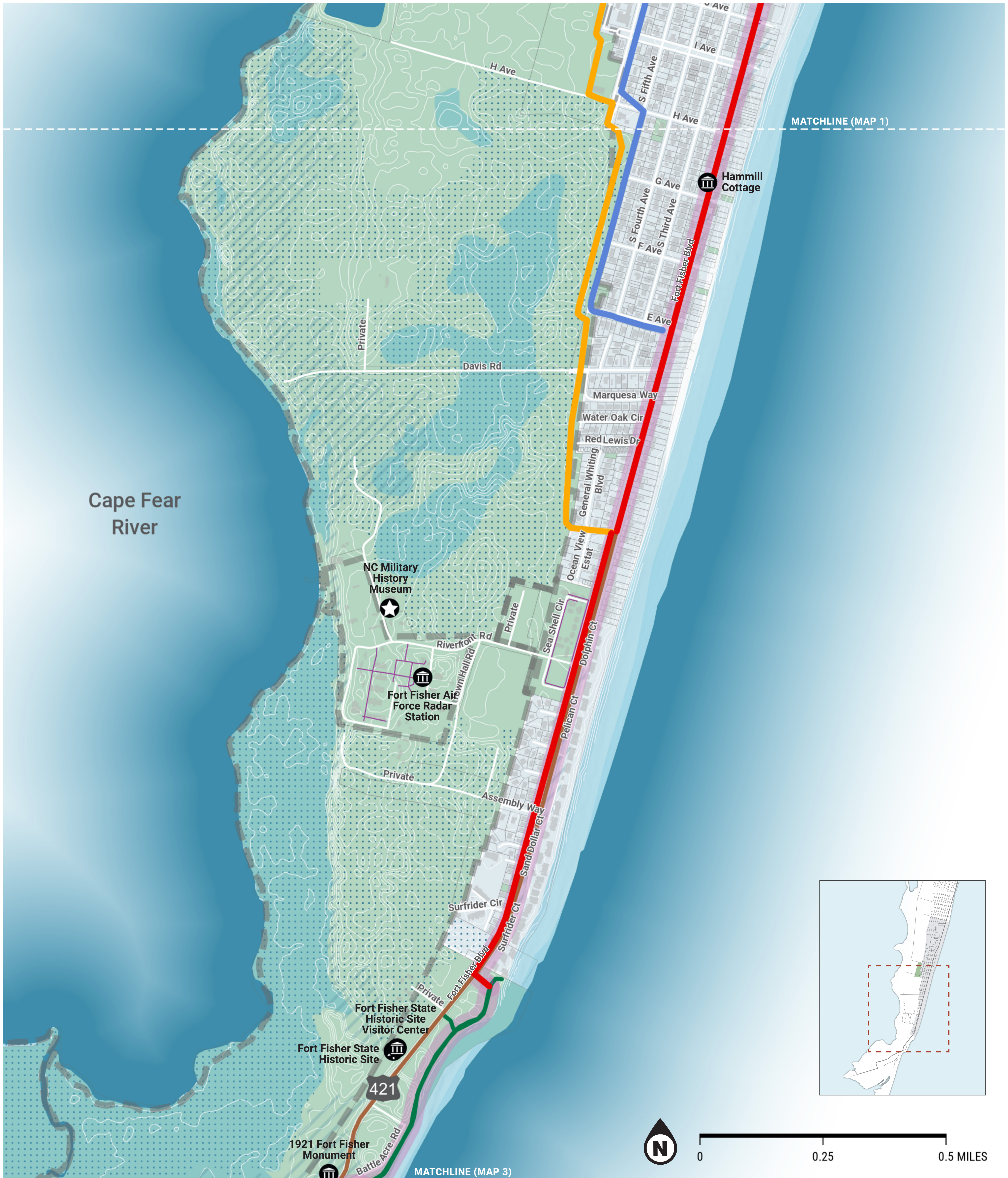


LEGEND

DESTINATIONS	FEATURES & BOUNDARIES	EXISTING FACILITIES	TRAIL ALIGNMENT OPTIONS
Historic Preservation Sites	Building Footprints	Shared-Use Path	Dow Road Alternative
Points of Interest	Parcels	Bike Lane	MOTSU Boundary Alternative
Parks	4' Contours	Paved Shoulder	Fort Fisher Boulevard Alternative
	MOTSU Installation Boundary	Sidewalk	Neighborhood Bikeway Alternative
	Public, Parks, and Conserved Lands	East Coast Greenway Alignment	
	Natural Heritage Areas		
	Water Bodies and Streams		
	Wetlands		
	100-Year Floodplain		

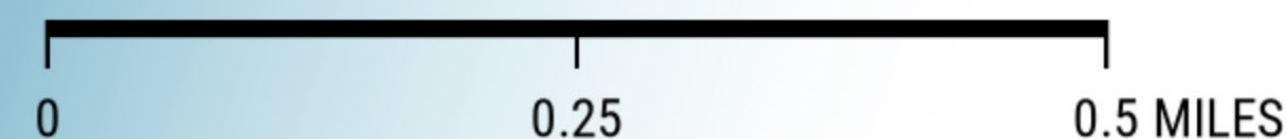
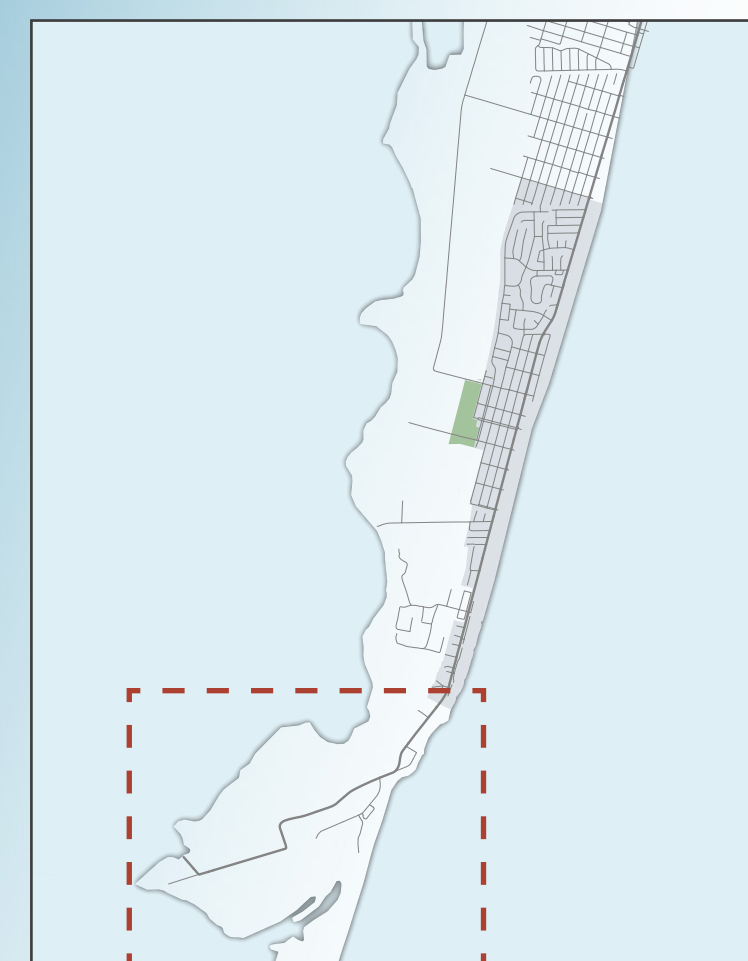
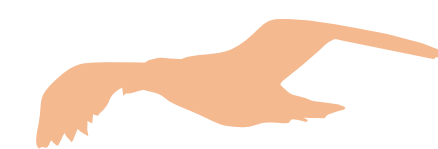
MAP 2:

H Avenue to Fort Fisher State Historic Site



DESTINATIONS	FEATURES & BOUNDARIES	EXISTING FACILITIES	TRAIL ALIGNMENT OPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Preservation Sites Points of Interest Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Footprints Parcels 4' Contours MOTSU Installation Boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public, Parks, and Conserved Lands Natural Heritage Areas Water Bodies and Streams Wetlands 100-Year Floodplain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared-Use Path Bike Lane Sidewalk East Coast Greenway Alignment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTSU Boundary Alternative Fort Fisher Boulevard Alternative Neighborhood Bikeway Alternative

MAP 3: Fort Fisher State Historic Site to Ferry



LEGEND

DESTINATIONS

- Historic Preservation Sites
- Points of Interest
- Boat Ramps
- Ferries
- Parks

FEATURES & BOUNDARIES

- Building Footprints
- Parcels
- 4' Contours
- MOTSU Installation Boundary

- Public, Parks, and Conserved Lands
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Water Bodies and Streams
- Wetlands
- 100-Year Floodplain

EXISTING FACILITIES

- Shared-Use Path
- Bike Lane
- Sidewalk
- East Coast Greenway Alignment

TRAIL ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

- Fort Fisher Boulevard Alternative