

# PATHWAYS TO *Connection*



REIMAGINING DURHAM FREEWAY, **TOGETHER**

## DCHC MPO Technical Committee

Date: August 13, 2024

Central Pines Regional Council, Durham, NC

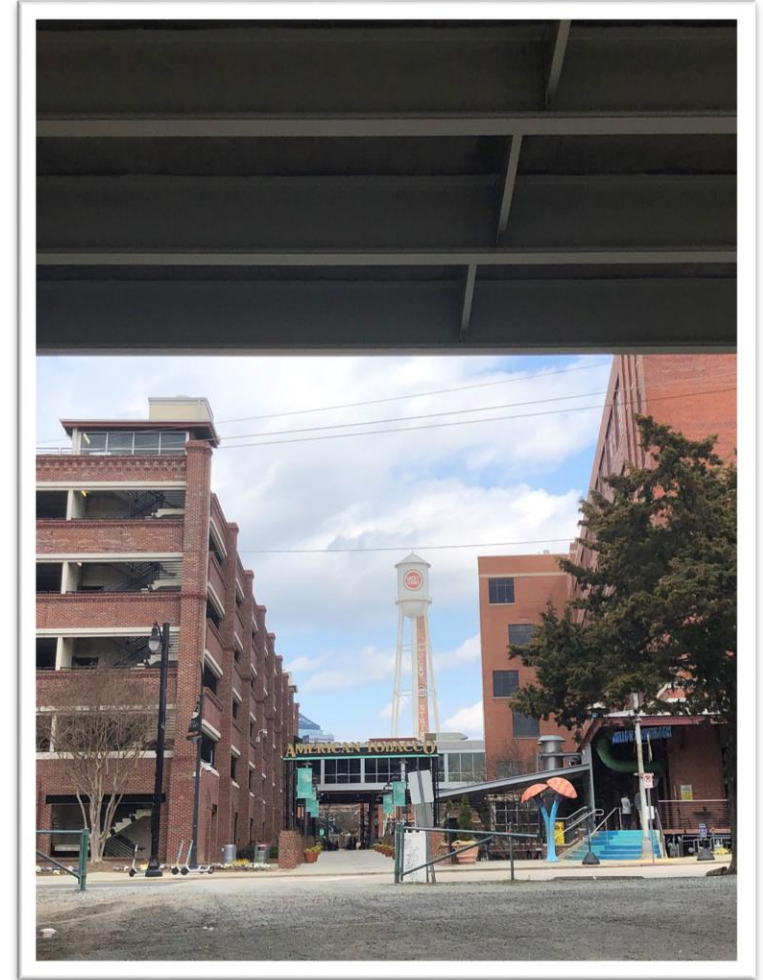
# Agenda

1. Purpose and Background
2. Existing Conditions
3. Public Engagement Update
4. Next Steps
5. Questions

# Reimagine Durham Freeway Study Purpose

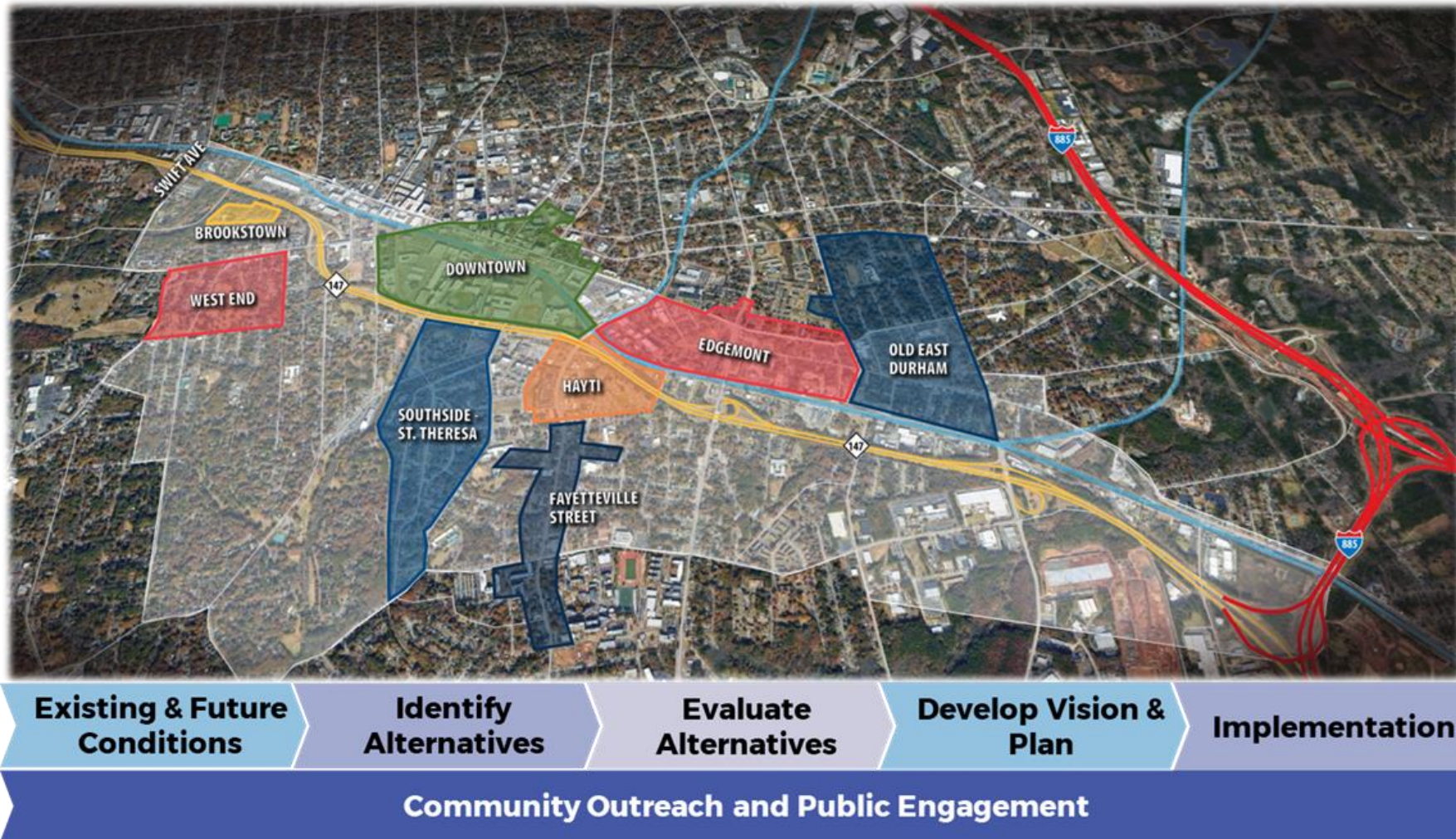
Community-led study that addresses how to mitigate the damage caused by the construction of the Durham Freeway. The study will support the development of a vision that:

- Acknowledges and evaluates the impacts of the Durham Freeway;
- Reimagines the future character of the corridor; and
- Reconnects vital communities in the heart of Durham.































# UPWP-Funded Vision Plan



# Timeline: Winter 2024 to Summer 2025

We are Here

TASKS	MONTH																	
	Outreach and Evaluation Phase									Vision and Implementation Phase								
	THE PROJECT INTENDS TO MOVE AT THE SPEED OF TRUST																	
Task 1: Project Management and Coordination																		
Task 2: Community Outreach and Public Engagement																		
Task 3: Existing and Future Conditions Analysis																		
Task 4: Identify and Evaluate Alternatives																		
Task 5: Vision & Plan Development/Implementation Framework																		



Kickoff Meeting



Monthly PM Meetings



Community Engagement Materials



Analysis Technical Memo



Alternatives Technical Memo



Final Report



# Existing Conditions



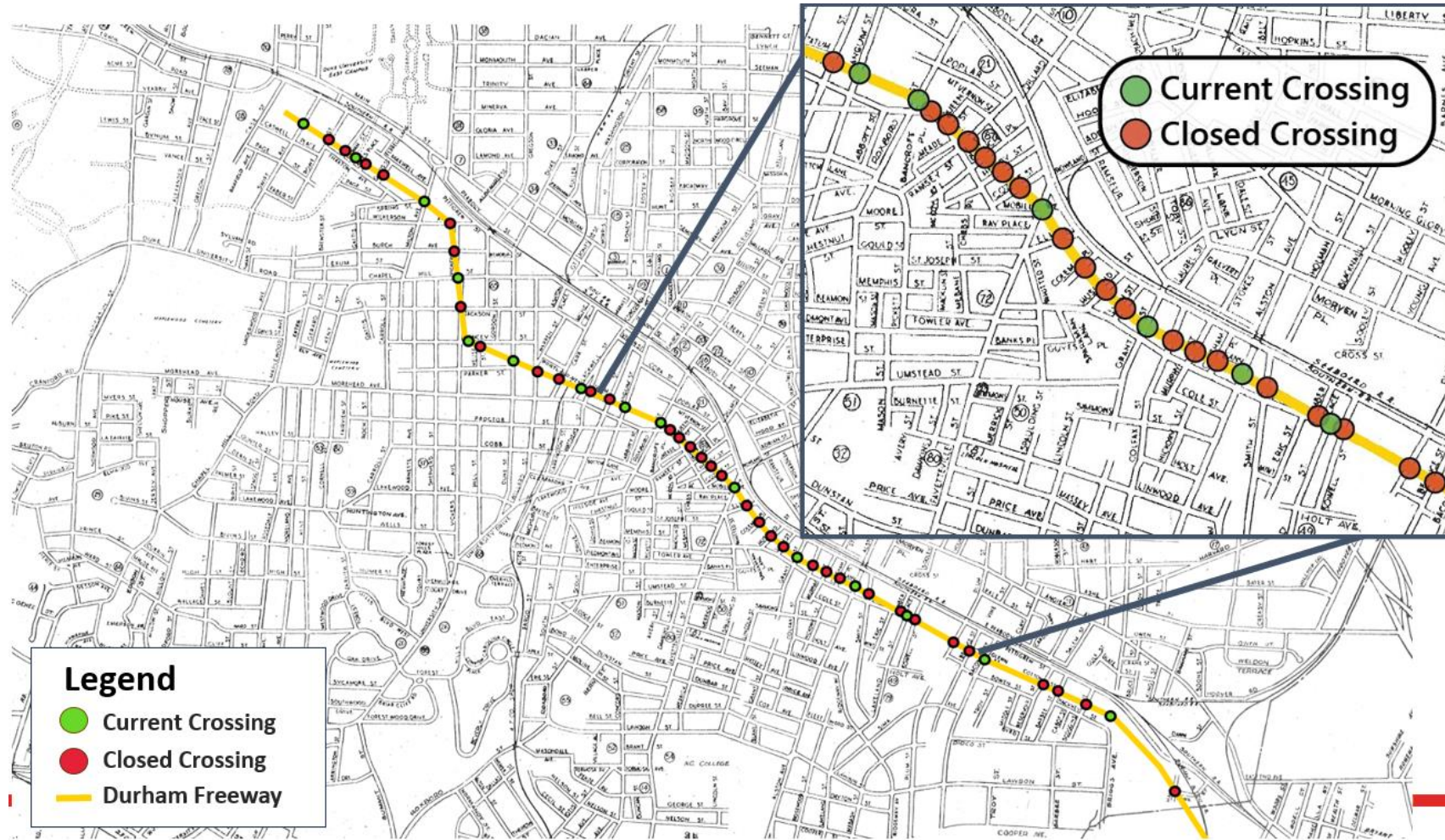
# Existing Conditions

- 4-lane Divided Controlled Access Freeway between Swift Avenue and I-885 Interchange
- Speed Limit: 55 MPH
- AADT 2019-2022: 79,500 to 67,000
- Construction of the freeway is estimated to have displaced over 4,000 families and 500 business
- 34 of 50 original community connections removed





# Freeway Crossings





# Existing Conditions Analysis

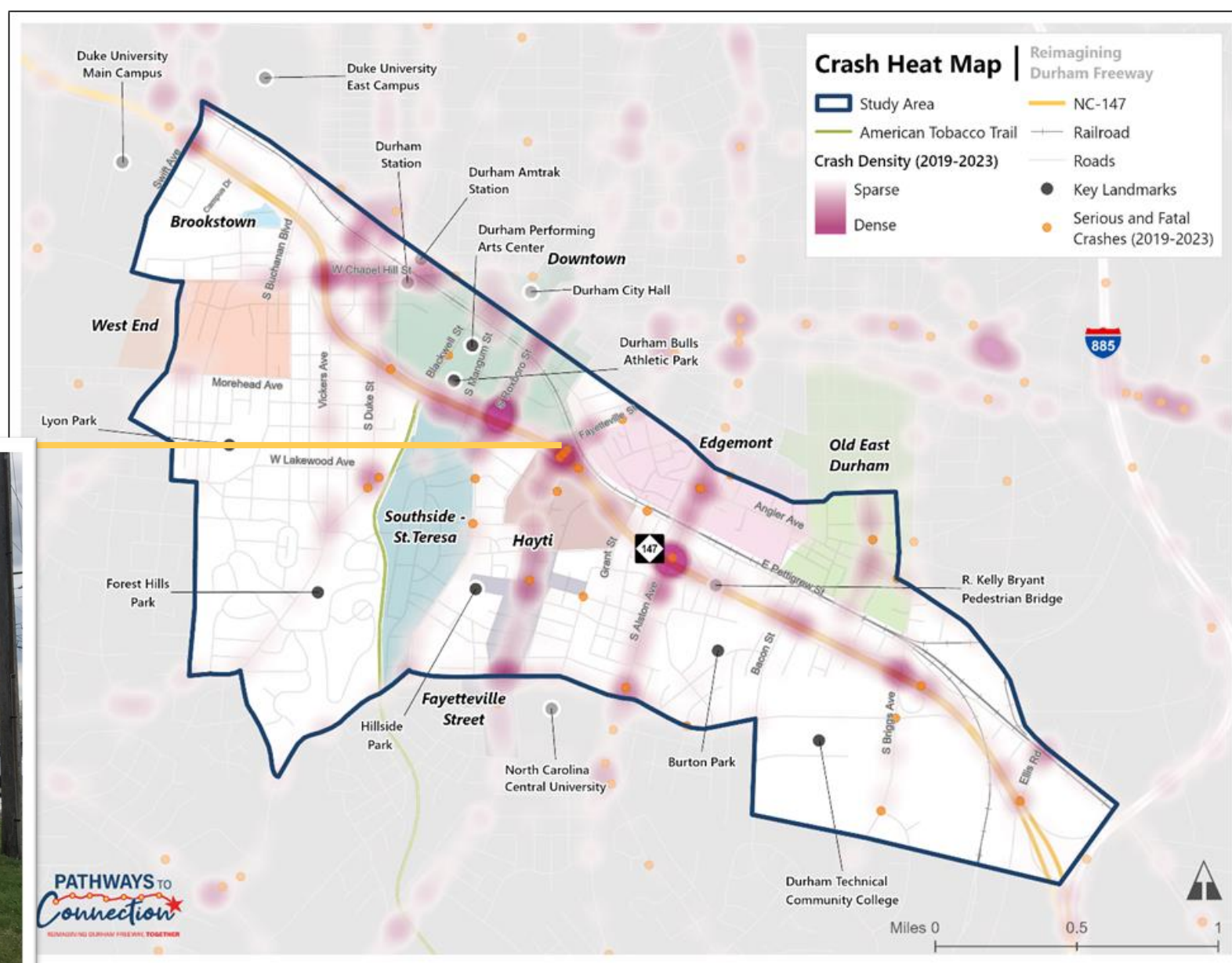
- Land Use
- Crash Analysis
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Existing and Planned Transit
- Traffic Level of Service
- Traffic Modeling





# Existing Conditions Example

## Crash Analysis





# Engagement





# Summary of Findings

In what ways do you engage the Durham Freeway now?



- Driving/riding
- Walking
- Live/play/pray
- Bicycling
- Work
- Riding the bus

"Commute from Durham to RTP on the Durham Freeway."



What concerns do you have about the impact of the Durham Freeway on the Durham community now and in the future?



- Traffic safety
- Limited mobility options along or across the Durham Freeway (i.e. bicycling and walking)
- Pollution (air, noise, water run off, etc.)
- Displacement/property value
- Impacts on open space
- Impacts on economic development
- Traffic congestion

"Unaddressed past harms weighing on the community."

"Neighborhoods near the freeway have less say on the development and resources for their immediate area than those who do not"

"Traffic congestion"



# What type of improvements would you like to see to address any concerns you may have about the Durham Freeway?

I think the freeway should be rerouted out of downtown and in its place there should be elevated parks, improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and a light rail.

As far as spaces I think the city should place a moratorium on property that is city/county owned that falls in the freeway study. Private developers have been a major player in the ongoing racial /class /and disability harm in the area.

Right now, the freeway defines and dominates Durham, and prevents visitors from seeing how great our city is. Finding a way to have a "greener" and more welcoming pathway into our city, and restoring the Hayti neighborhood, in particular is my vision.

We should tear down the freeway and replace it with a boulevard as has been done in Rochester, NY and other places.

At freeway underpasses: greenery to soften, placemaking to welcome, lighting to lighten, traffic calming to make safer

Addition of longer ramps / collector lanes between exits to bring the road to a modern standard of safety; addition of highway lighting for safety; higher speed limits on the parts east of NC 55/Alston Avenue and west of Swift Avenue; improved bike/ped facilities for crossing under/over the freeway.

Pedestrian centered changes!

Improvements like better public transportation options, enhanced pedestrian and bike infrastructure, and smart traffic management systems could address concerns about the Durham Freeway.







# Next Steps

Phase 1  
Findings and  
Analysis

Future  
corridor  
treatment  
toolbox  
concepts



# Contact Information and Project Resources

- Project Website: <https://www.durhamnc.gov/5201/Reimagine-Durham-Freeway>
- Erin Convery, PE, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Durham Transportation Department: [erin.convery@durhamnc.gov](mailto:erin.convery@durhamnc.gov)
- Evian Patterson, Assistant Director, City of Durham Transportation Department: [evian.patterson@durhamnc.gov](mailto:evian.patterson@durhamnc.gov)
- Bill Judge, Assistant Director, City of Durham Transportation Department: [bill.judge@durhamnc.gov](mailto:bill.judge@durhamnc.gov)

# Thank you & Q&A

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REIMAGINING DURHAM FREEWAY, **TOGETHER**

## CAMINOS<sup>DE</sup> *Conexión*★

REIMAGINAR LA DURHAM FREEWAY, **JUNTOS**