

The first stakeholder meeting of the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process was conducted on March 28, 2019 immediately following the adjournment of the MPO's regularly scheduled joint Policy and Technical Coordinating Committees meeting. The stakeholder meeting consisted of three overall activities:

1. An initial presentation describing the MTP process
2. A discussion of transportation goals for the region
3. Interactive exercises to develop understanding of regional priorities

The meeting location, date/time, and attendees are listed below followed by a summary of the meeting's events and discussion on the following pages.

### **Location**

Edwards Park  
115 Edwards Park  
Dalton, GA 30721

### **Date/Time**

Thursday, March 28, 2019  
11:00 PM

### **Attendees**

Jacob Bearden, Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO)  
Kent Benson, Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO)  
Tom Caiafa, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) – Planning  
Joseph Ciavarro, Georgia Department of Transportation – District 6  
Tracey Crawley, Whitfield County  
Chris Crosse, Dalton Police  
Mayor Ken Gowin, City of Tunnell Hill  
Ali Harp, Dalton Whitfield Joint Development Authority  
Greg Hogan, Murray County Government  
DeWayne Hunt, Whitfield County Public Works  
Lynn Laughter, Whitfield County  
Mayor Dennis Mock, Mayor, City of Dalton  
Charlie Morrow, Dalton Utilities  
Radney Simpson, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) – Planning  
Eric Lusher, Pond (MTP consultant)  
David De Leon, Pond (MTP consultant)

The sign-in sheet is provided in [Attachment A](#).



## Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation by Pond Project Manager, Eric Lusher, to the stakeholder committee, provided in [Attachment B](#). This presentation included:

- An overview of the MTP process and schedule including the role of the MTP stakeholder committee
- A summary of initial data collected and analyzed
- A review of evaluation methods to be used as part of the MTP process

## Discussion of Goals

The presentation eventually shifted into a discussion of goals and objectives for the region starting by a quick summary of goals expressed by the MPO previously as well as from federal, state, and local partners. The MPO's previous plan's goals were effectively patterned on federal goals and through brief discussion, the stakeholder committee agreed that this model should be retained but refined with results discussed in the next stakeholder meeting.

The committee then also began discussing broader goals for how the transportation system should operate. Goals previously expressed by the MPO included:

- Accommodate Freight Traffic
- Address North-South Travel
- Encourage Downtown Reinvestment

Through discussion, these three goals were supplemented by the additional ideas indicated below:

- East-West Travel
- Alternative Transportation in Region + Downtown Areas
- Parking Issues in Central Area
- Enhance Connections to I-75
- Connections to Neighboring Communities
- Consider Opportunities for Transit Service
- Transportation Services to Medical Facilities

Raw notations (on a board) from this discussion are provided in [Attachment C](#).

Following the meeting, these goals were further refined to avoid overlapping of ideas and create broad opportunities to address:

- Accommodate Freight Traffic
- Address North-South Travel
- Encourage Downtown Reinvestment (note: intended to be broadly inclusive of ideas for "Alternative Transportation in Downtown Areas" and "Parking Issues in Central Area")
- Address East-West Travel
- Develop an Active Mode Network for the Region (note: intended to be broadly inclusive of idea for "Alternative Transportation in Region")
- Enhance Connections to I-75
- Provide Connectivity to Neighboring Communities
- Consider Opportunities for Future Transit Service in Region (note: intended to be broadly inclusive of ideas for "Consider Opportunities for Transit Service" and "Transportation Services to Medical Facilities")

**Exercises**

At the conclusion of the meeting, the stakeholder committee participated in two exercises, discussed below. Raw notations from these exercises are provided in Attachment D.

Exercise 1 - Preliminary Assessment of Transportation Project Types

In this first exercise, the stakeholder committee was provided a list of eight types of transportation projects/modes. Provided with eight red dots, the stakeholder members were asked to use these eight dots to distribute amongst the eight projects/modes to indicate their priorities. In effect, stakeholders could indicate that all eight projects/modes were equally important or could conversely use all eight dots to indicate their belief of an extreme importance on one project/mode. The results, indicated below, clearly show that while transit and active modes were previously cited, vehicular oriented improvements remain the largest priorities of the MTP stakeholder committee.

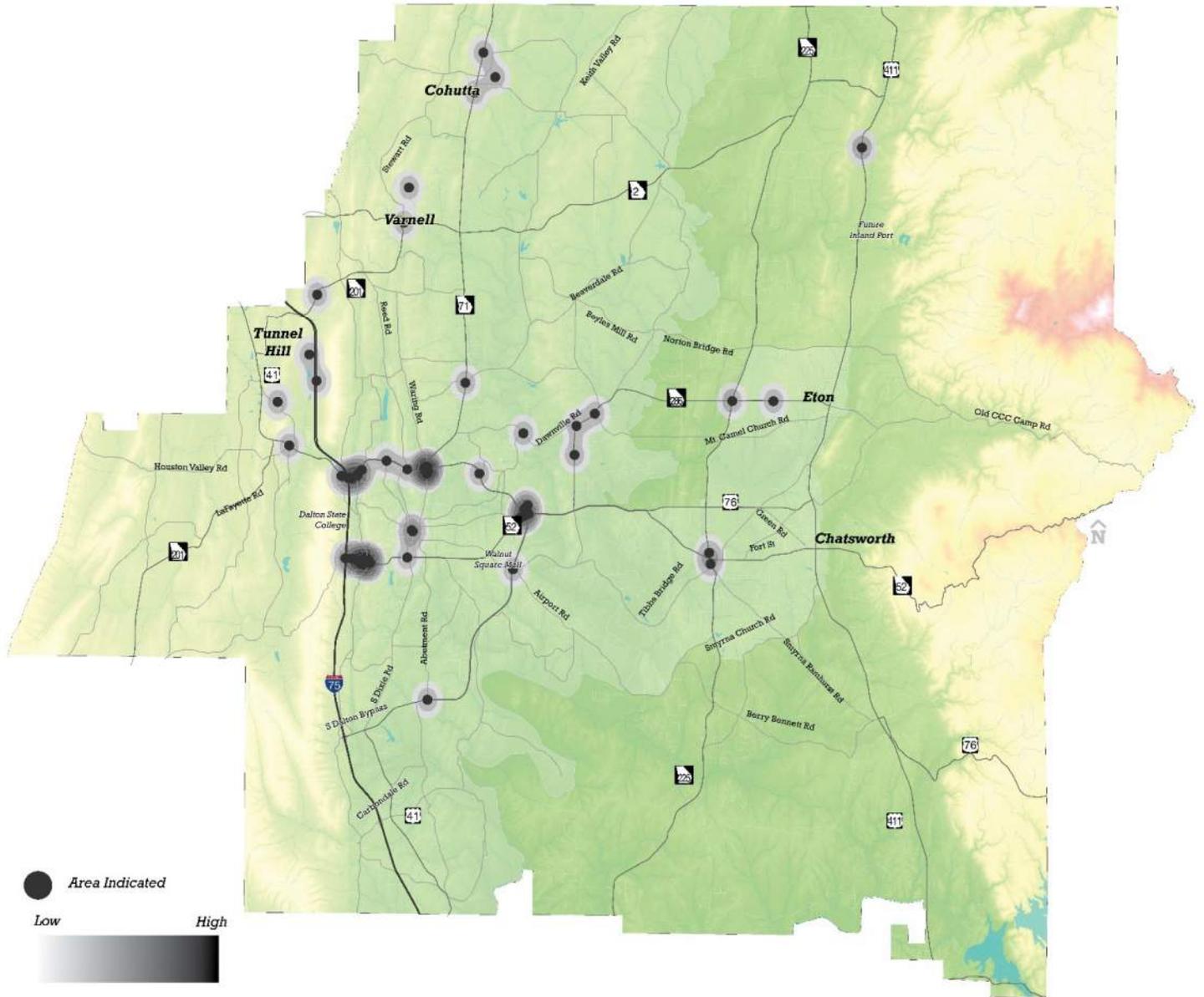
Transportation Project/Mode	Number of Dots
Intersection Improvements	27
Roadway Capacity and Operations	25
Freight Mobility	22
Bridge Upgrades	14
Pedestrian Infrastructure	6
Transit	6
Bicycle Infrastructure	2
Aviation Facilities	2



Stakeholders participating in Exercise 1 (left) and Exercise 2 (right).

Exercise 2 – Bottleneck Locations

For the second exercise, participants were provided maps of the region and were asked to use four provided blue dots to indicate the locations where they believed transportation improvements are most needed. The locations cited by the stakeholder committee are indicated on the map below with an additional heat map effect to show where multiple dots were placed in proximity to each other.



**Next Steps**

The second stakeholder committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2019. The first round of community open houses will be held on Tuesday April 25th, 2019 and Thursday April 30th, 2019 at locations that are to be determined.



Attachment A

# Sign-In Sheet



Name	Organization
1. JOSEPH CIAMERO	GDOT DIST 6
2. Tom Caiata	GOAT Planning
3. Rodney Simpson	GOAT Planning
4. Kent Benson	GDMPO
5. Jacob Learden	GDMPO
6. Charlie Morrow	Dalton Utilities
7. Lynn Loughter	Whitfield County
8. Tracey Crawley	Whitfield County
9. Ali Harp	Dalton Whitfield Joint Development Authority
10. KEM GOWIN	Mayor city of Tunnel Hill
11. Dennis Melic	Mayor Dalton
12. DeWayne Hunt	Whitfield County Public Works
13. Chris Cross	Dalton Police
14. Gray Hogan	Murray Co Gov

	Name	Organization
	Greg Hogan	Murray Co Gov
2	Tom Dickson	Varnell
3	Mark Gibson	Whitfield County
4	Benny Dunn	City of Dalton
5	Andrew Parker	" " "
6	Chris Grasse	Dalton Police
7	Ron Shimnick	Town of Cothatch
8	Rusty Bount	Dalton Public Schools
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

## Attachment B

# Presentation



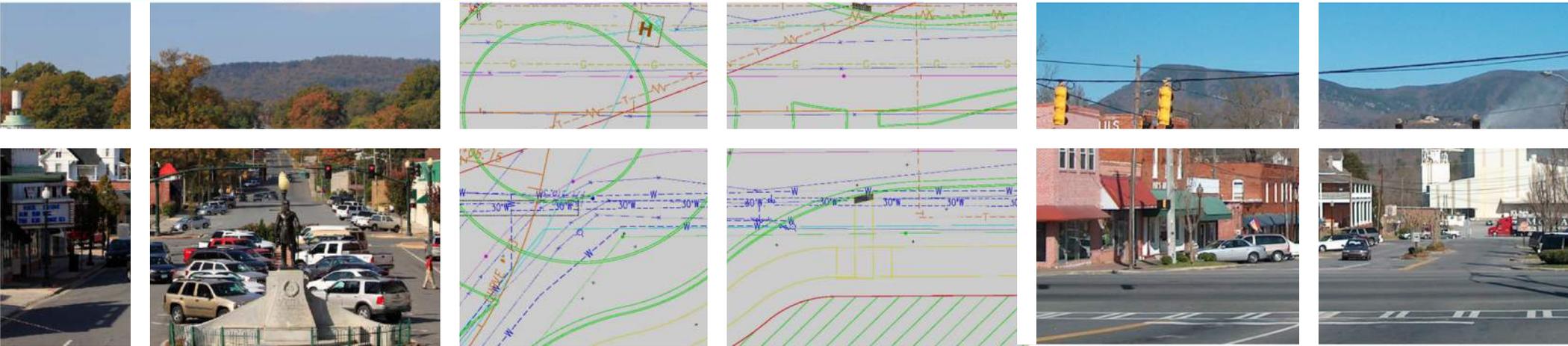


# Greater Dalton

## Stakeholder Meeting #1

March 28, 2019

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan



# AGENDA

- Background
- Initial Data
- Evaluation Methods
- Discuss Transportation Goals
- Map Exercises
- Next Steps

# BACKGROUND

## BACKGROUND

### What is the MTP?

- Addresses all modes of transportation
- Prioritizes transportation needs and initiatives
- Documents how transportation will be funded through 2045

# What is the process?

- 1 Develop Overall Goals

## BACKGROUND

## What is the process?

**1** Develop  
Overall Goals

**2** Understand  
Needs

## BACKGROUND

## BACKGROUND

### What is the process?

**1** Develop  
Overall Goals

**2** Understand  
Needs

**3** Develop &  
Test Solutions

## BACKGROUND

# What is the process?

**1** Develop  
Overall Goals

**2** Understand  
Needs

**3** Develop &  
Test Solutions

**4** Prioritize  
Projects

## BACKGROUND

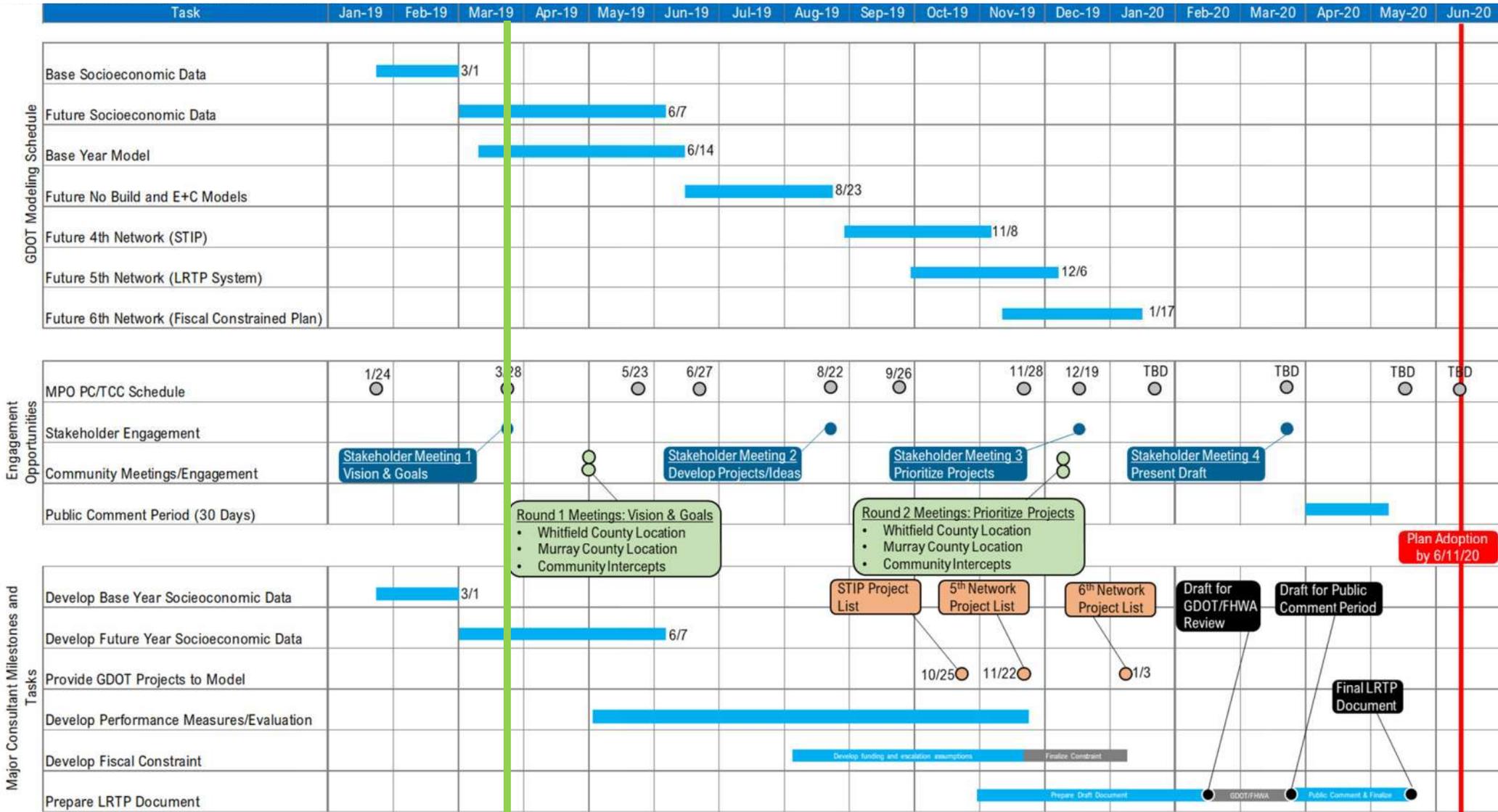
# What is the process?

- 1 Develop Overall Goals
- 2 Understand Needs
- 3 Develop & Test Solutions
- 4 Prioritize Projects
- 5 Implementation Plan

## BACKGROUND

### What is the process?





Plan Adoption by 6/11/20

Round 1 Meetings: Vision & Goals

- Whitfield County Location
- Murray County Location
- Community Intercepts

Round 2 Meetings: Prioritize Projects

- Whitfield County Location
- Murray County Location
- Community Intercepts

STIP Project List

5<sup>th</sup> Network Project List

6<sup>th</sup> Network Project List

Draft for GDOT/FHWA Review

Draft for Public Comment Period

Final LRTP Document

Develop funding and escalation assumptions

Finalize Constraint

Prepare Draft Document

GDOT/FHWA

Public Comment & Finalize

## BACKGROUND

### Stakeholder Group Role

- Be an advocate for the process
- Raise awareness with your constituents and partners to maximize community involvement
- Vet ideas and recommendations
- Ask and answer tough questions

## Stakeholder Group Schedule (tentative)

August 2019  
(Develop Projects & Ideas)

December 2019  
(Prioritize Projects)

March 2020  
(Review Draft Plan)

## BACKGROUND

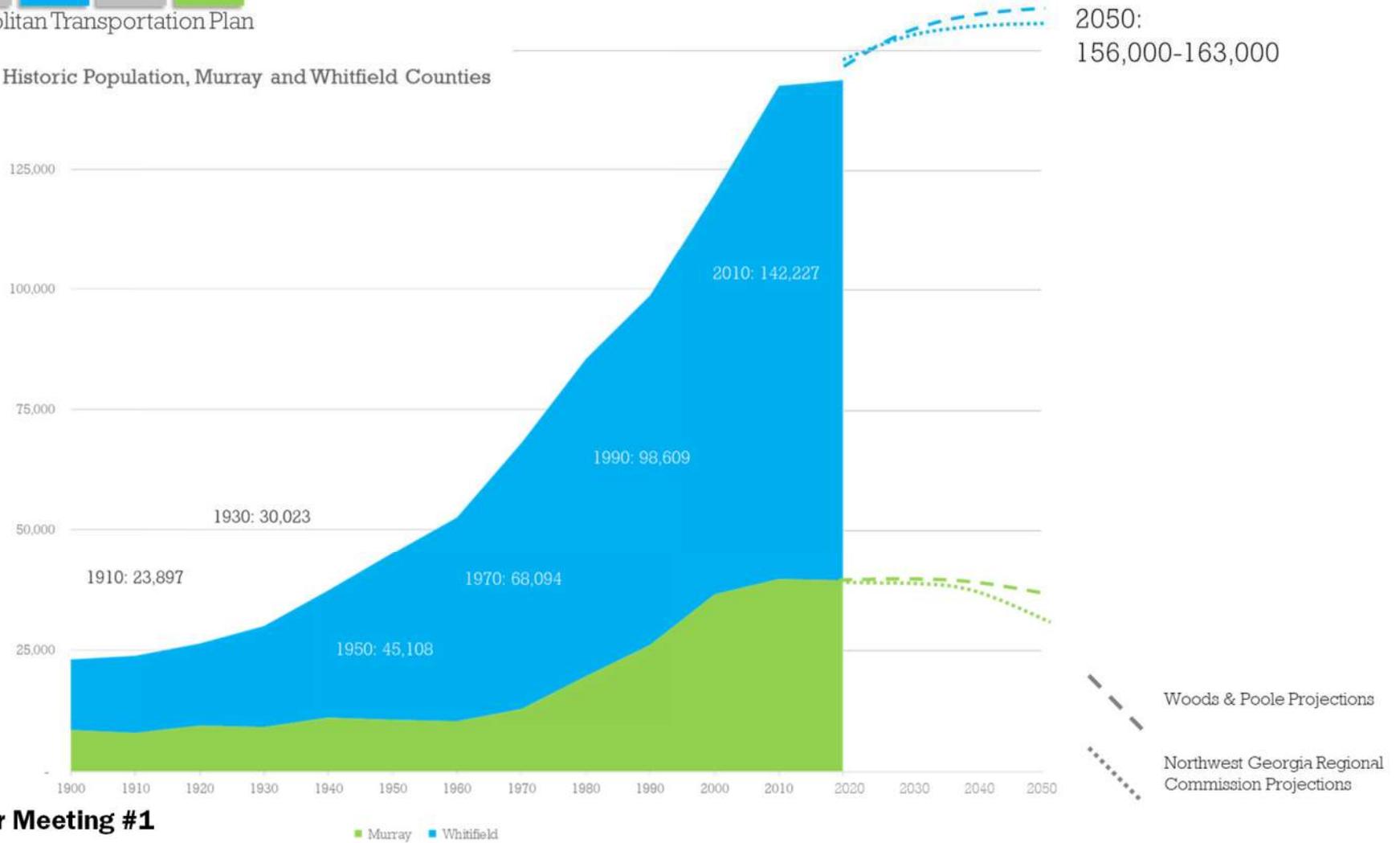
**Stakeholder Meeting #1**  
March 28, 2019

# INITIAL DATA

# Greater Dalton

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

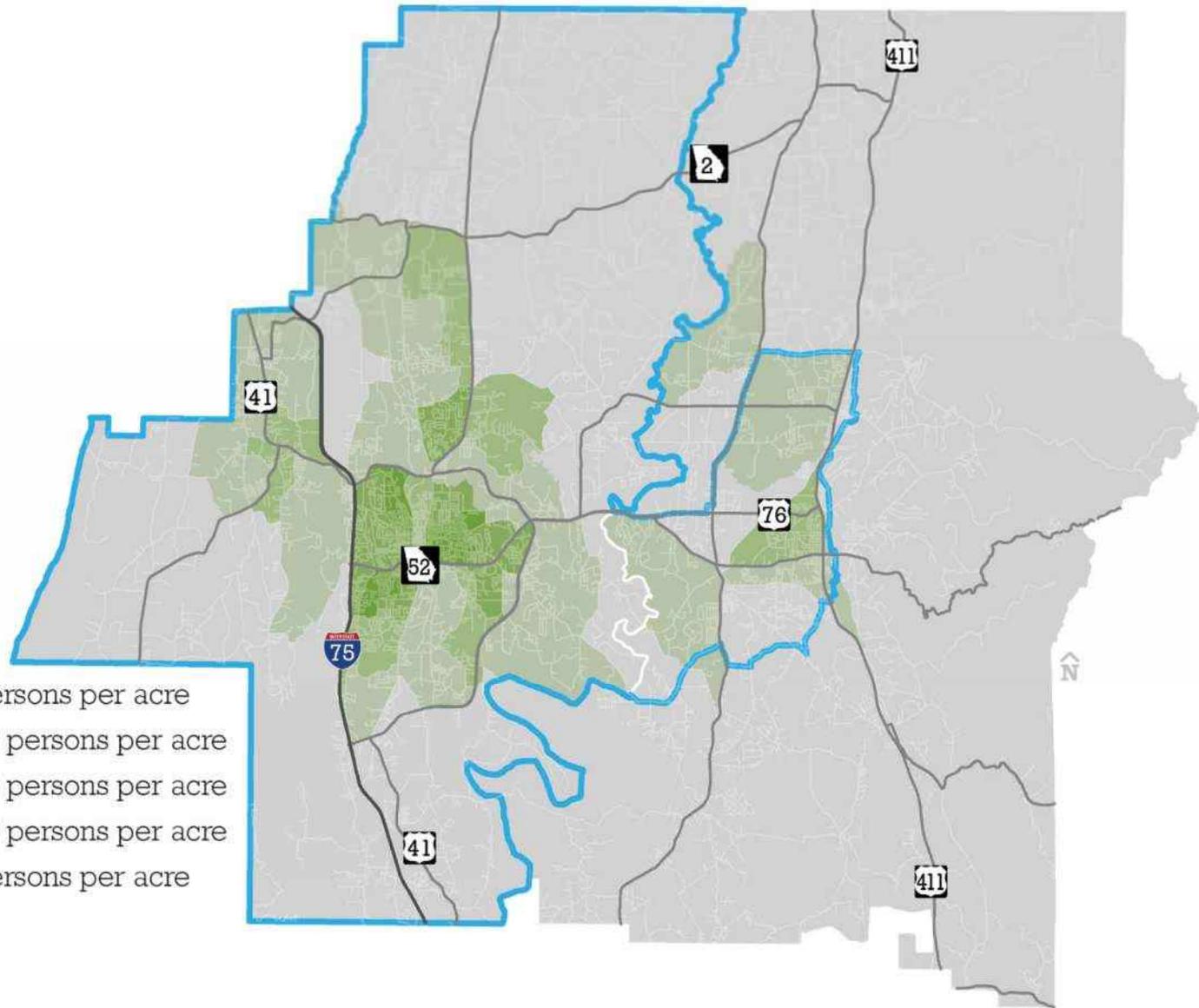
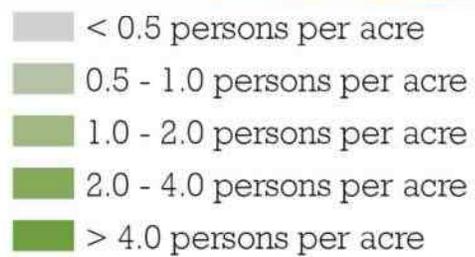
Historic Population, Murray and Whitfield Counties



**Stakeholder Meeting #1**  
 March 28, 2019

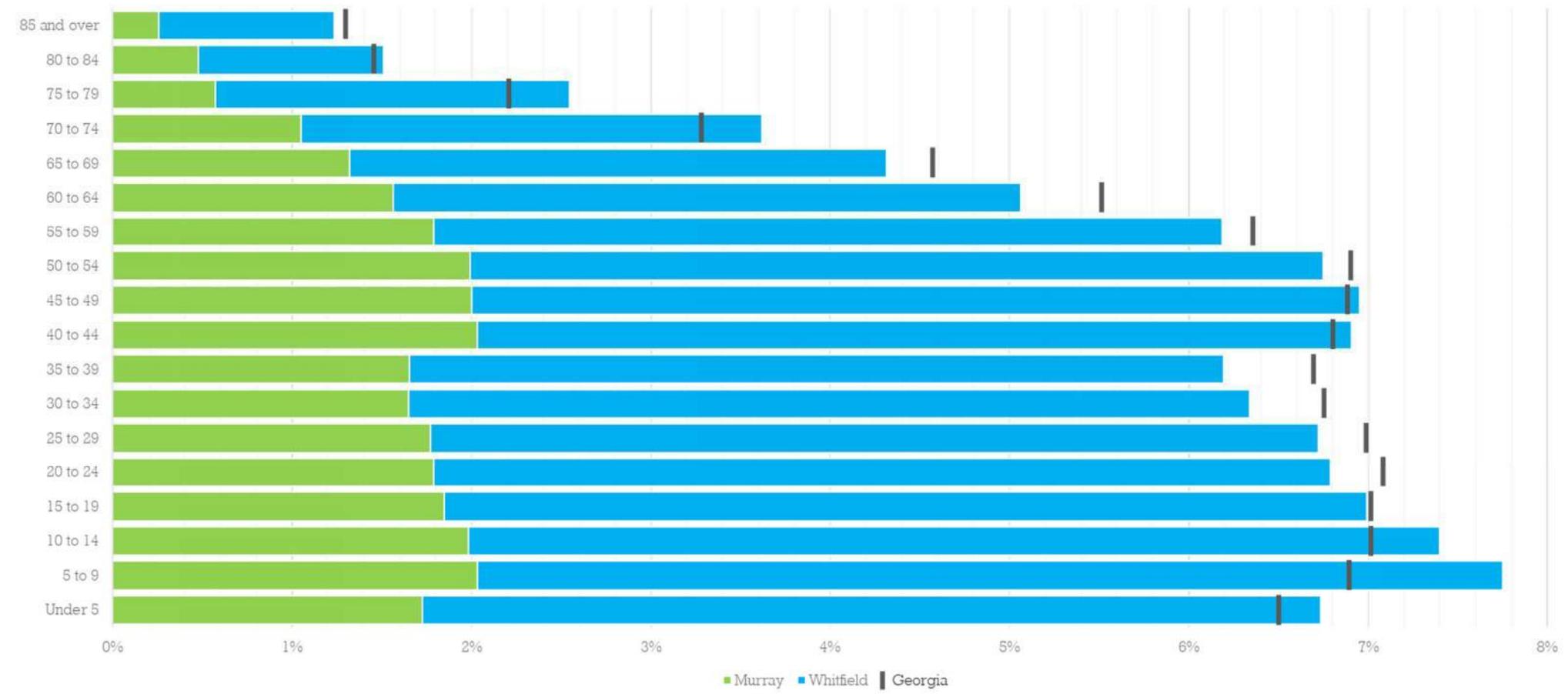
# EXISTING POPULATION DENSITY

(Source: American Community Survey)



# Greater Dalton

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan



**Stakeholder Meeting #1**  
March 28, 2019

# EMPLOYMENT DENSITY

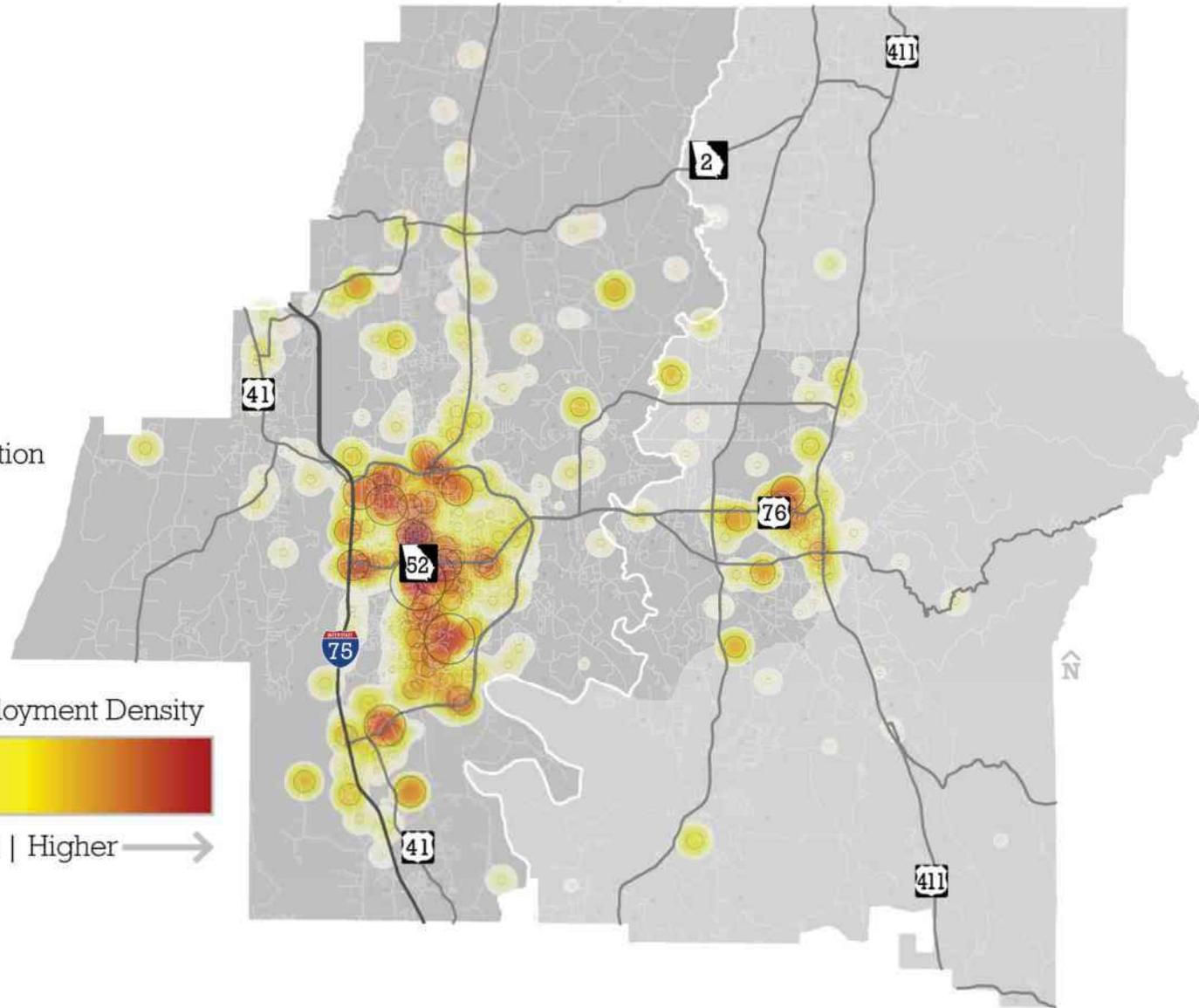
Jobs at a Location

- 1
- 10
- 100
- 1,000

Overall Employment Density

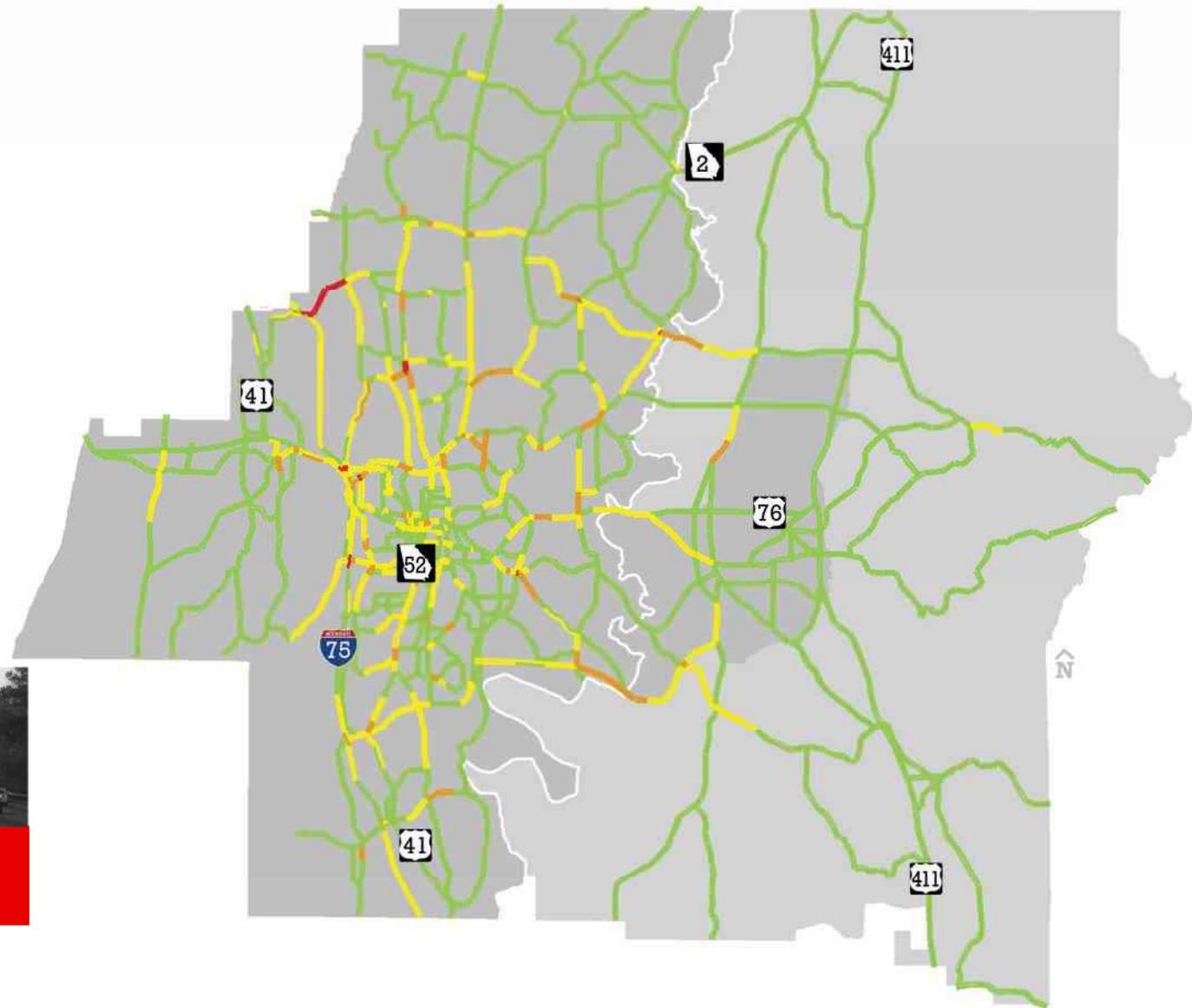


← Lower | Higher →



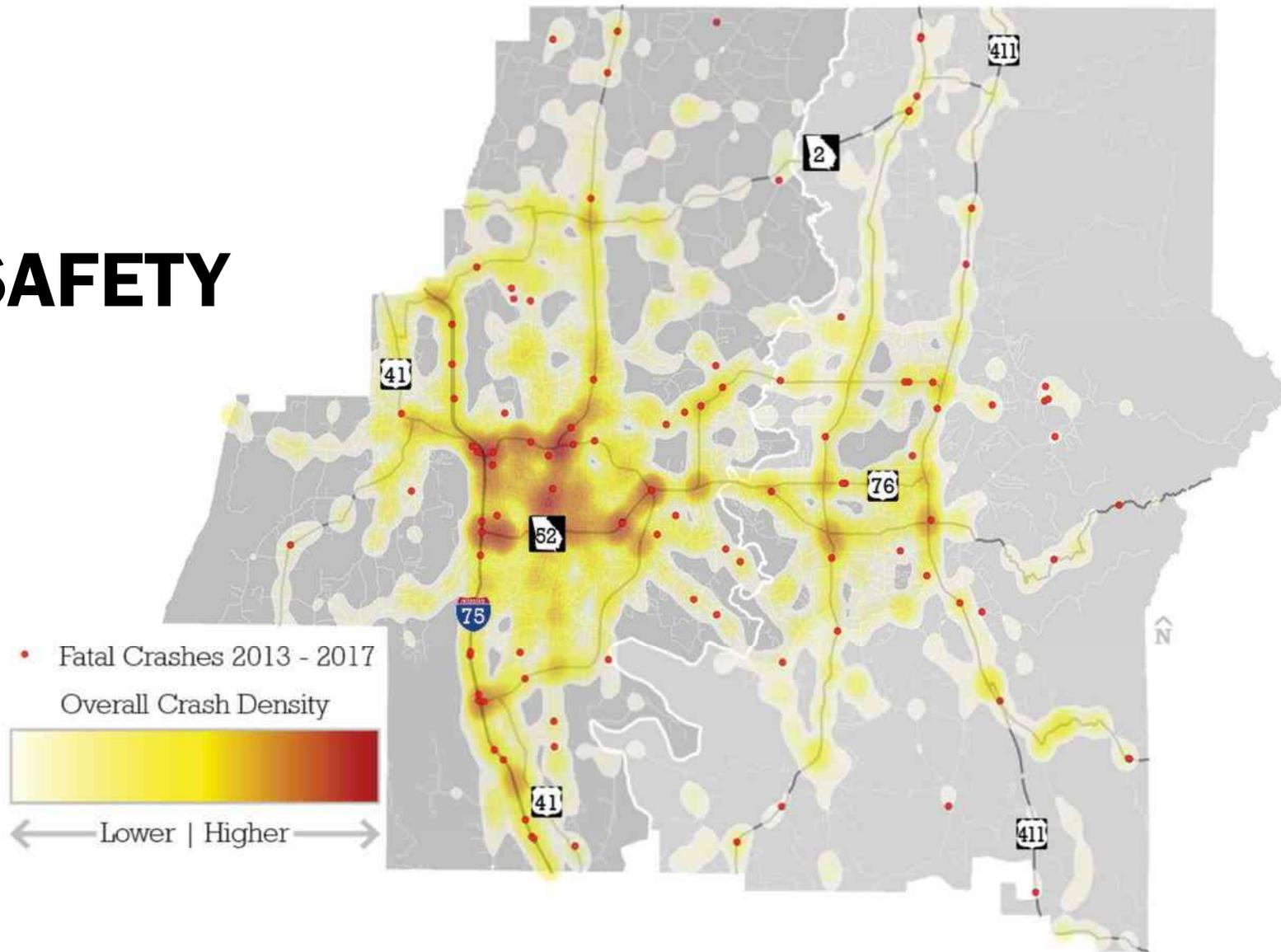
# LOS PLOT FROM PREVIOUS LRTP

(Source: GDOT)



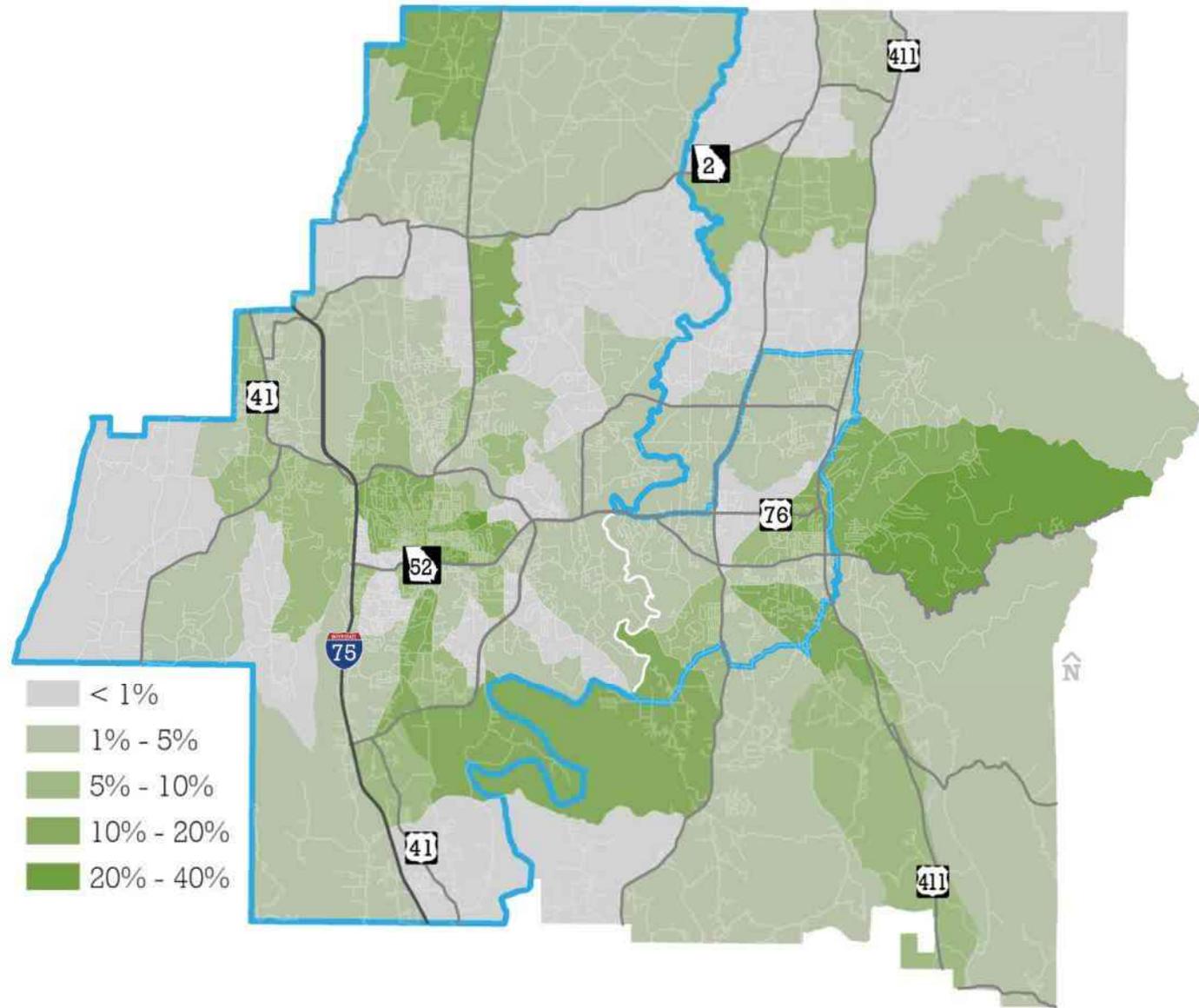
# REGIONAL SAFETY & CRASHES

(Source: GDOT)



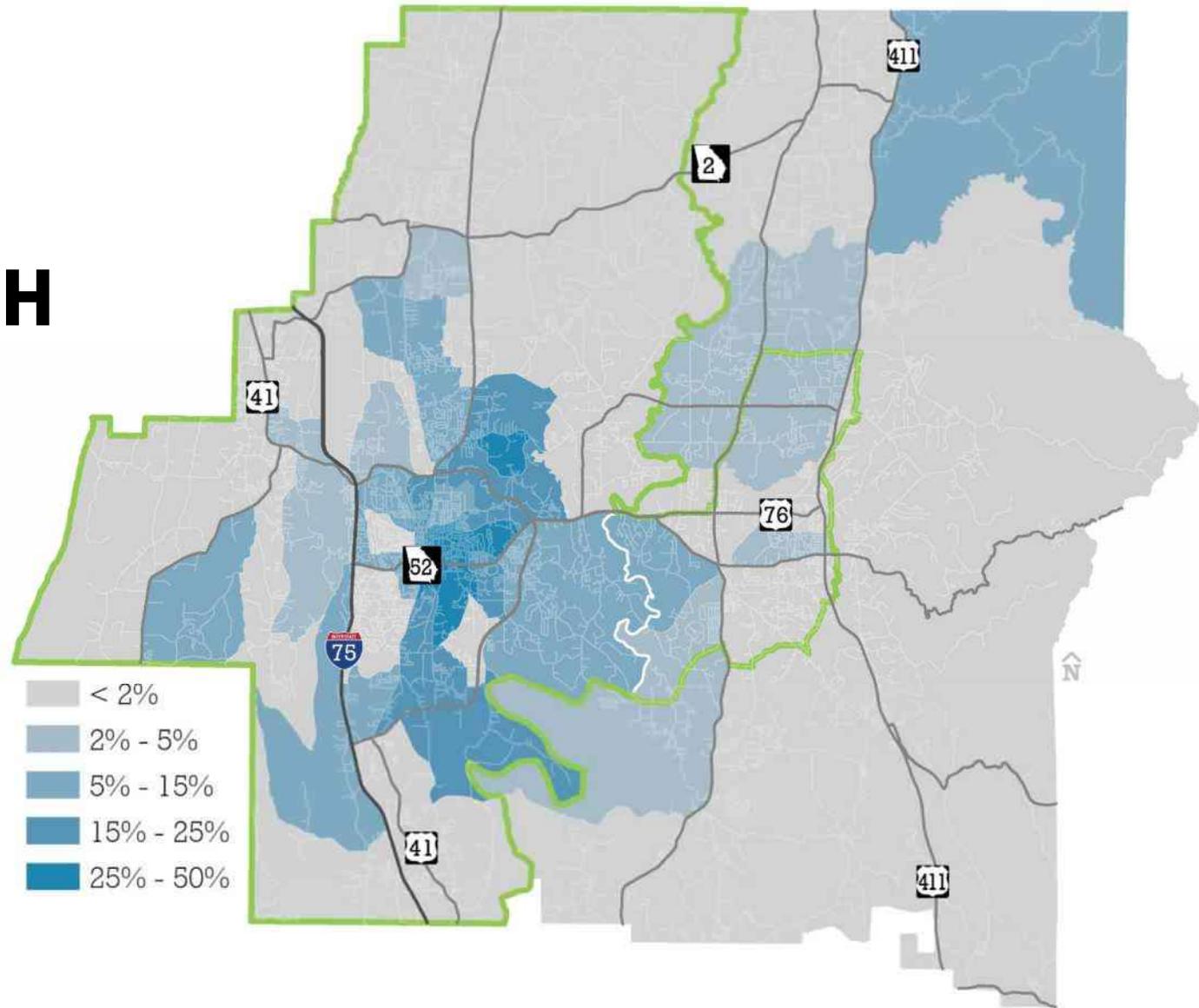
# HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT A VEHICLE

(Source: American Community Survey)



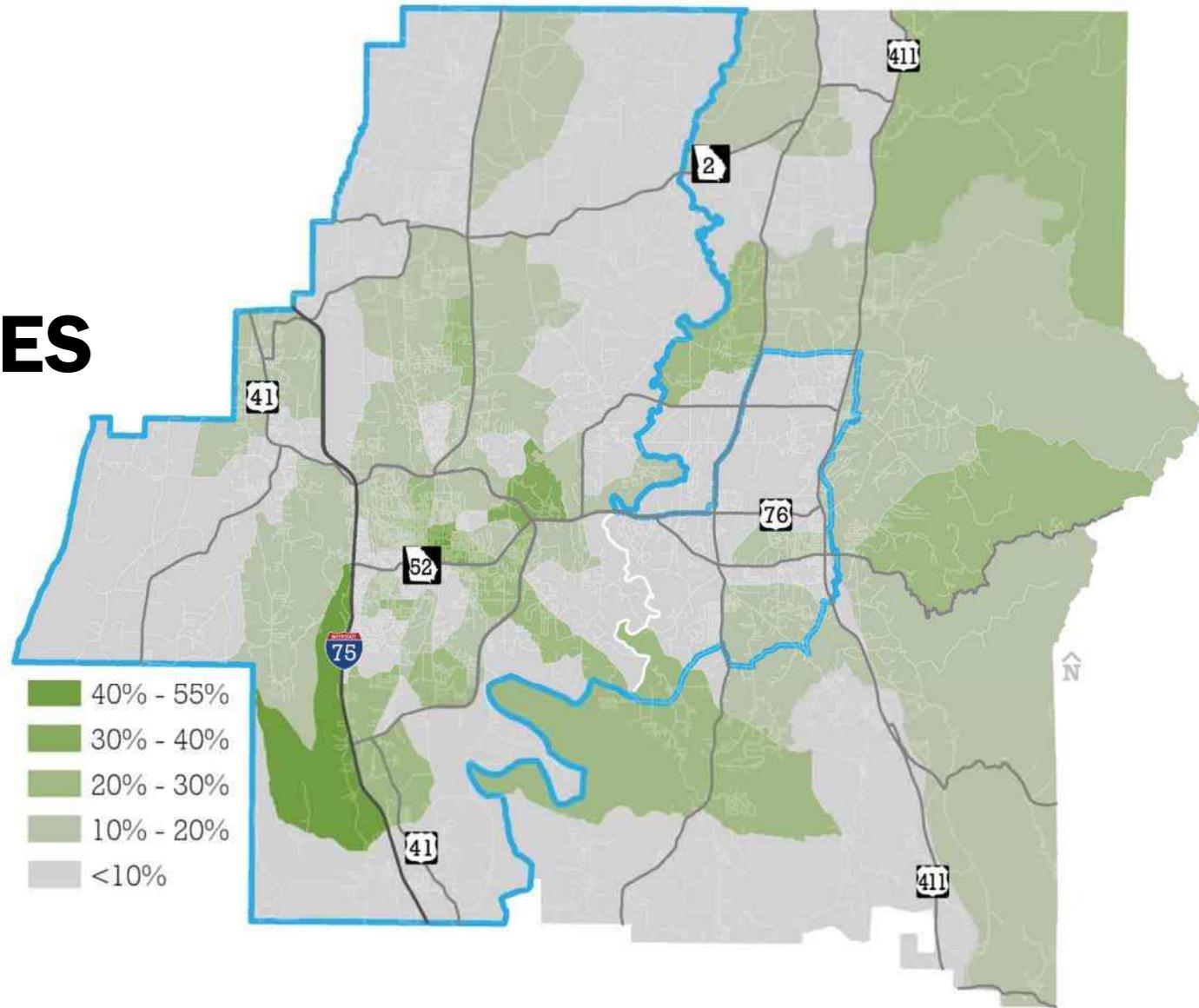
# LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

(Source: American Community Survey)



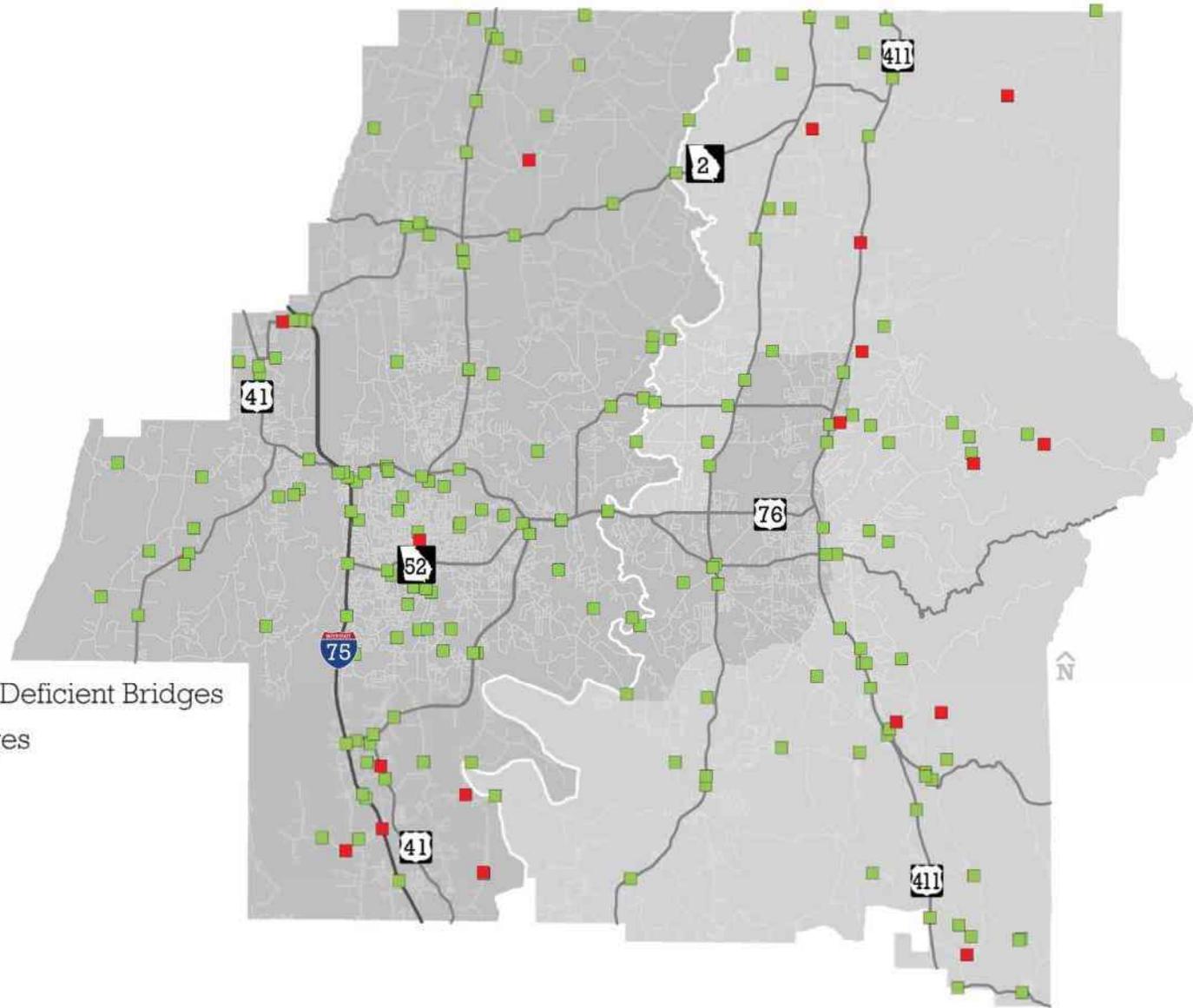
# ALTERNATIVE MODE COMMUTES

(Source: American Community Survey)



# BRIDGE LOCATIONS

- Structurally Deficient Bridges
- Other Bridges

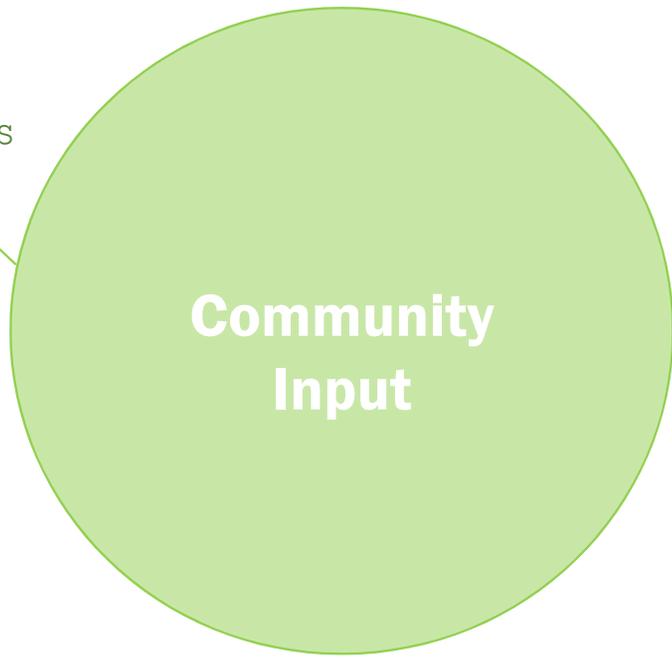


# EVALUATION METHODS



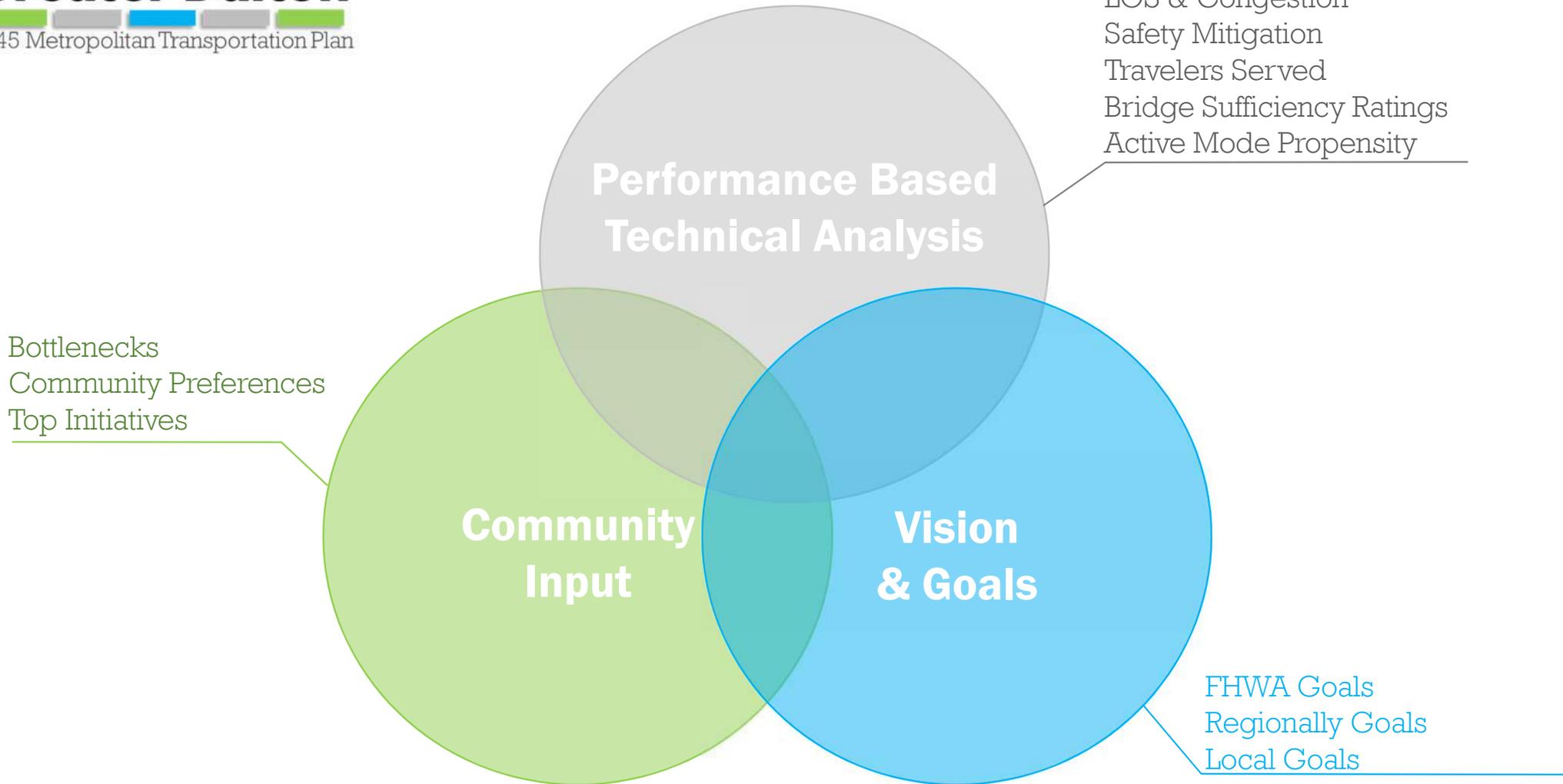
LOS & Congestion  
Safety Mitigation  
Travelers Served  
Bridge Sufficiency Ratings  
Active Mode Propensity

Bottlenecks  
Community Preferences  
Top Initiatives





FHWA Goals  
Regionally Goals  
Local Goals



# TRANSPORTATION GOALS

- **Federal**
- **State**
- **Regional**
- **Local**

FAST (Fixing America's Service Transportation) Act – FHWA

- Act providing \$2 billion for highway and bridge funding
- Planning Factors (10)
  - Support the **economic vitality** of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
  - Increase the **safety** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users
  - Increase the **security** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users
  - Increase **accessibility** and **mobility** of people and freight
  - Protect and enhance the **environment**, promote energy conservation, improve the **quality of life**, and promote **consistency** between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns
  - Enhance the **integration** and **connectivity** of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight
  - Promote **efficiency** system management and operation
  - Emphasize the **preservation** of the existing transportation system
  - Improve the **resiliency** and **reliability** of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate **stormwater impacts** of surface transportation; and (new)
  - Enhance travel and **tourism** (new)

**Stakeholder Meeting #1**

March 28, 2019

## Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan (SSTP) Update (2018)

### Goals

- Improve safety (**safety**)
- Improve reliability (**reliability**)
- Reduce congestion
- Maintain and preserve (**preservation**)
- Improve freight/economic growth (**economic vitality**)
- Improve environment (**environmental sustainability**)

## Greater Dalton MPO 2040 LRTP

- Overall goal
  - Develop a guide for the orderly development of a safe and efficient multimodal transportation system for the movement of people and goods which supports the land use and economic goals of the area and promotes quality of life
- Guiding principles (8)
  - Includes all modes (**multimodal**)
  - Be safe, convenient, and efficient (**safety, efficiency**)
  - Serve and enhance existing land use and planned growth (**growth**)
  - Sustain the quality of the environment and preserve community values (**environmental sustainability, community engagement**)
  - Be financially feasible, and support all sectors of the area's economy (**economic vitality**)
  - Provide access and connectivity with diverse land uses and modes (**connectivity, accessibility**)
  - Maintain performance measures to maintain quality of the transportation system (**preservation**)
  - Be maintained through local/official citizen participation in transportation decision-making (**community engagement**)

### **Stakeholder Meeting #1**

March 28, 2019

### Murray County Joint Comprehensive Plan (2018)

- As the gateway to Georgia's Blue Ridge mountains, we will make Murray County a safe, clean, and welcoming destination for visitors to learn about the history of North Georgia and to enjoy a wide variety of outstanding recreation opportunities (**tourism**)
- We will work to diversify our economy to include a range of businesses and industries that allow quality job opportunities close to home while minimizing the impact on our rural environment and infrastructure (**economic vitality**)
- We will develop policies that protect and enhance our rural landscape, both for the enjoyment of visitors and wellbeing of fish and wildlife, as well as for agricultural and forest product production (**environmental sustainability, economic vitality**)
- Murray County boasts many beautiful springs, streams, Carter's Lake, and the State Scenic Conasauga and Jack's Rivers, whose aquatic diversity of fish and mussels are nationally recognized. We will manage land and water resources to assure the protection of these treasures for the enjoyment of future generations and so that they will continue to provide an abundant and clean water supply. (**economic vitality**)
- We will work with other government agencies and neighboring counties to address regional issues such as transportation, water management, wildlife fire management, and recreation (**Integration**)

### **Stakeholder Meeting #1**

March 28, 2019

Whitfield County Comprehensive Plan Update (2018) - excerpts

- Guiding future development with informed land use plans that take into account the protection of our natural resources (**environmental sustainability**)
- Providing a variety of walkable neighborhoods with sidewalks, greenway trails, and bike lanes (**multimodal**)
- An inclusive community that offers a variety of public transportation opportunities for its residents, with special attention given to those disadvantaged by age, income, or special needs (**Equity**)
- A community that embraces its history with preservation of historic resources and neighborhoods (**preservation**)
- A community that actively promotes and pursues innovative businesses, while investing in and retaining a high quality of life for our residents (**economic vitality**)

Thematic Ideas	Mentions				
	Federal	State	Region	Local	Total
Safety & Security	2	1	1	2	6
Accessibility	1			1	2
Mobility	2		1		3
Efficiency & Reliability	2	1	1		4
Environmental Sustainability	1	1	1	3	6
Economic Competitiveness	2	1		5	8
Maintenance/Resources	1				1
Innovation	1				1
Connectivity	1			3	4
Preservation	1	1		1	3
Equity				1	1
Multimodal			1	6	7
Stormwater Impacts	1				1
Tourism	1			4	4
Congestion		1			1
Growth			1		1
Community Engagement			1		1
Integration				3	3

## Stakeholder Meeting #1

March 28, 2019

## **Let's Establish What We Want Our Transportation System To Do:**

### **What We've Already Heard**

- Accommodate Freight Traffic
- Address North-South Travel
- Encourage Downtown Reinvestment

### **Other Ideas (But Let's Hear From You)**

- Address East-West Travel
- Enhance Connections to I-75
- Active Mode Network For All Users

# EXERCISES

## EXERCISES

### Exercise 1:

Use your 8 **red** dots provided to Rank relative needs to address different Transportation modes

### Exercise 2:

On map, use your 4 **blue** dots to indicate the areas where congestion is most problematic

# NEXT STEPS

## NEXT STEPS

**Stakeholder Meeting #1**  
March 28, 2019

### Community Engagement

- Community Open Houses (Locations TBD)
  - Thursday April 25, 2019
  - Tuesday April 30, 2019
- Online Community Survey (forthcoming)

### Goals & Objectives

- Use information from today to refine

### Technical Analyses

- Continue to coordinate with GDOT to prepare travel demand modeling and other technical analysis

### Next Stakeholder Meeting

- Tentative August (to develop projects and ideas)

## Attachment C

# Goals Discussion Raw Notes



- E-W TRAVEL
- ALT. TRANSPORTATION IN REGION  
+ DOWNTOWN AREAS
- PARKING ISSUES IN CONTROL AREA
- ENTRANCE CONNECTIONS TO I-75  
(perhaps Wall St)
- CONNECTIONS TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES
- CONSIDER OPPS. FOR TRANSIT SERVICE
  - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR MEDICAL

Attachment D

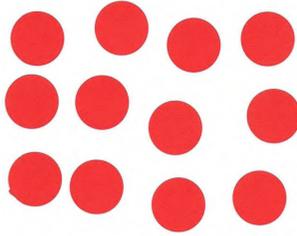
# Exercise Raw Results



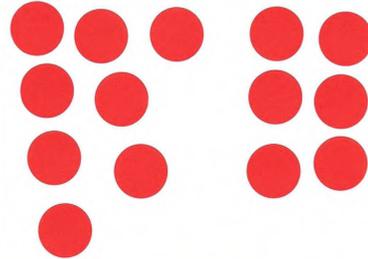
### What types of transportation projects would be most helpful to you?

Apply your eight **red** dots to the eight transportation project types below based on your priorities. You can distribute your dots any way you think is appropriate

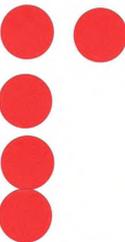
Roadway Capacity  
and Operations



Intersection  
Improvements



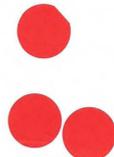
Bridge Upgrades



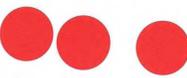
Bicycle  
Infrastructure



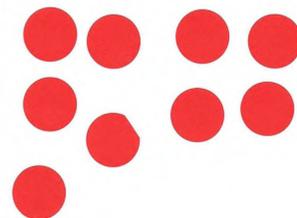
Pedestrian  
Infrastructure



Transit



Freight Mobility



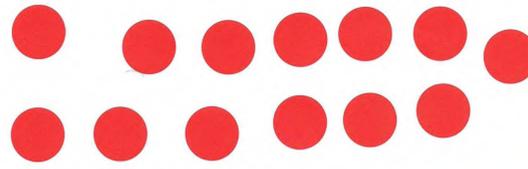
Aviation Facilities



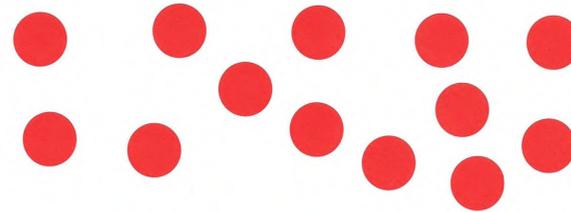
### What types of transportation projects would be most helpful to you?

Apply your eight **red** dots to the eight transportation project types below based on your priorities. You can distribute your dots any way you think is appropriate

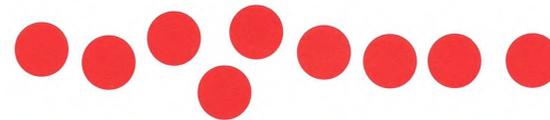
Roadway Capacity  
and Operations



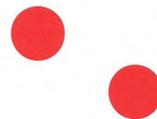
Intersection  
Improvements



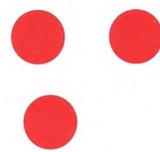
Bridge Upgrades



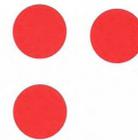
Bicycle  
Infrastructure



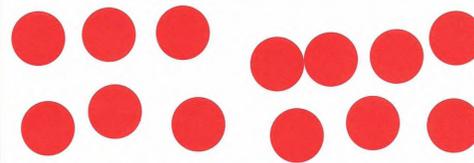
Pedestrian  
Infrastructure



Transit



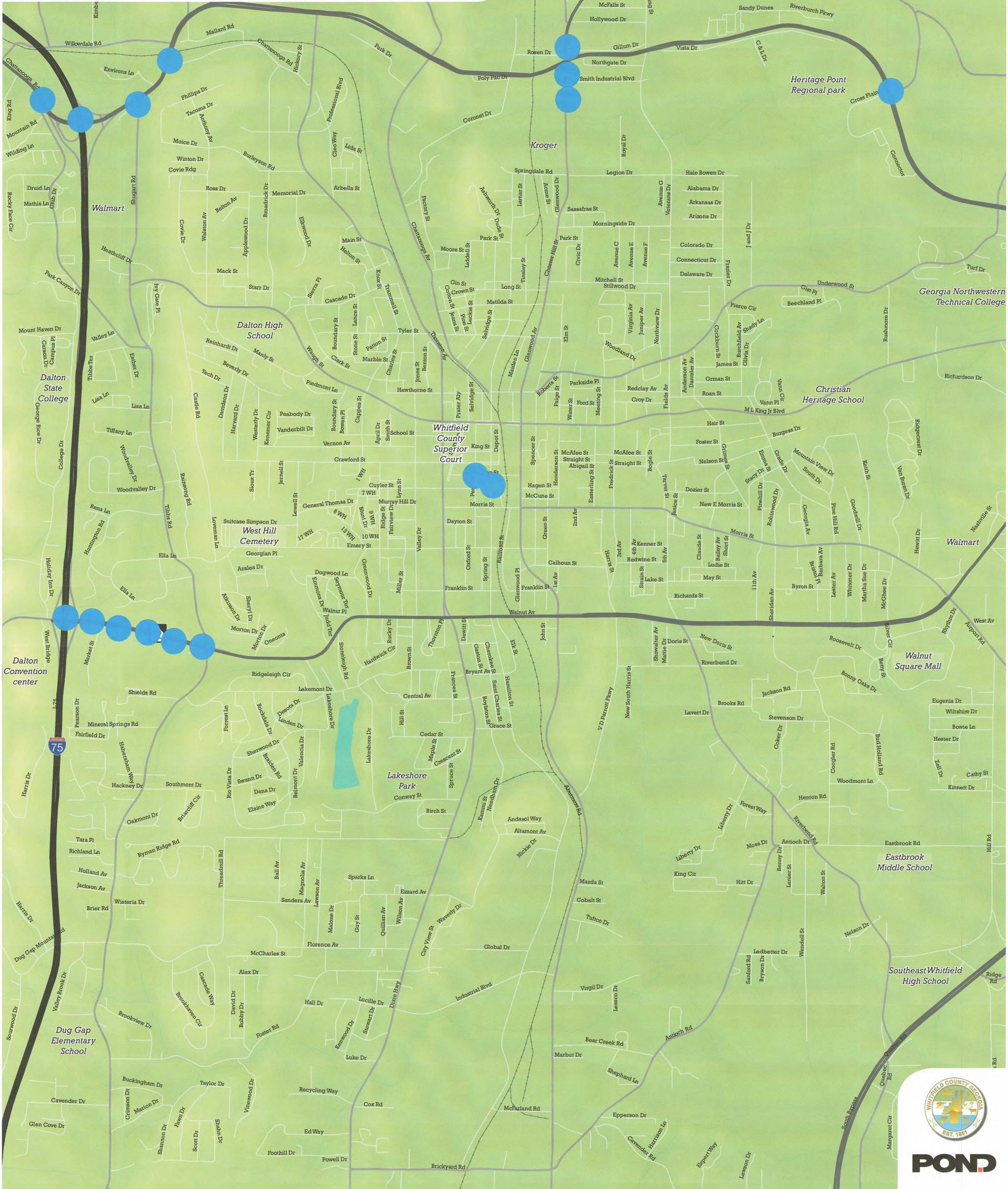
Freight Mobility



Aviation Facilities

## Where are transportation improvements most needed?

Place your four **blue** dots at the locations where you think transportation improvements are most needed.



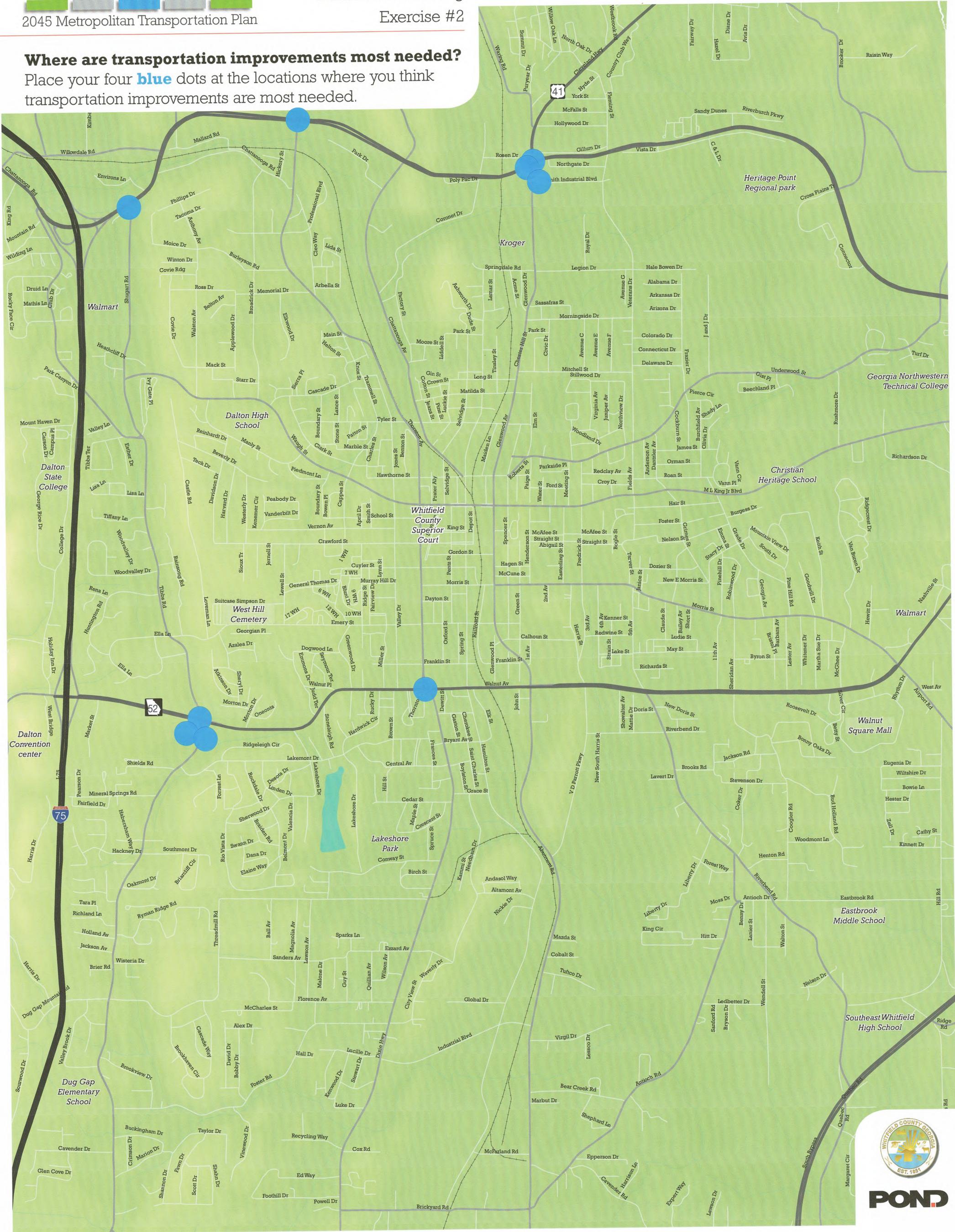
# Greater Dalton

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

March 2019  
Stakeholder Meeting  
Exercise #2

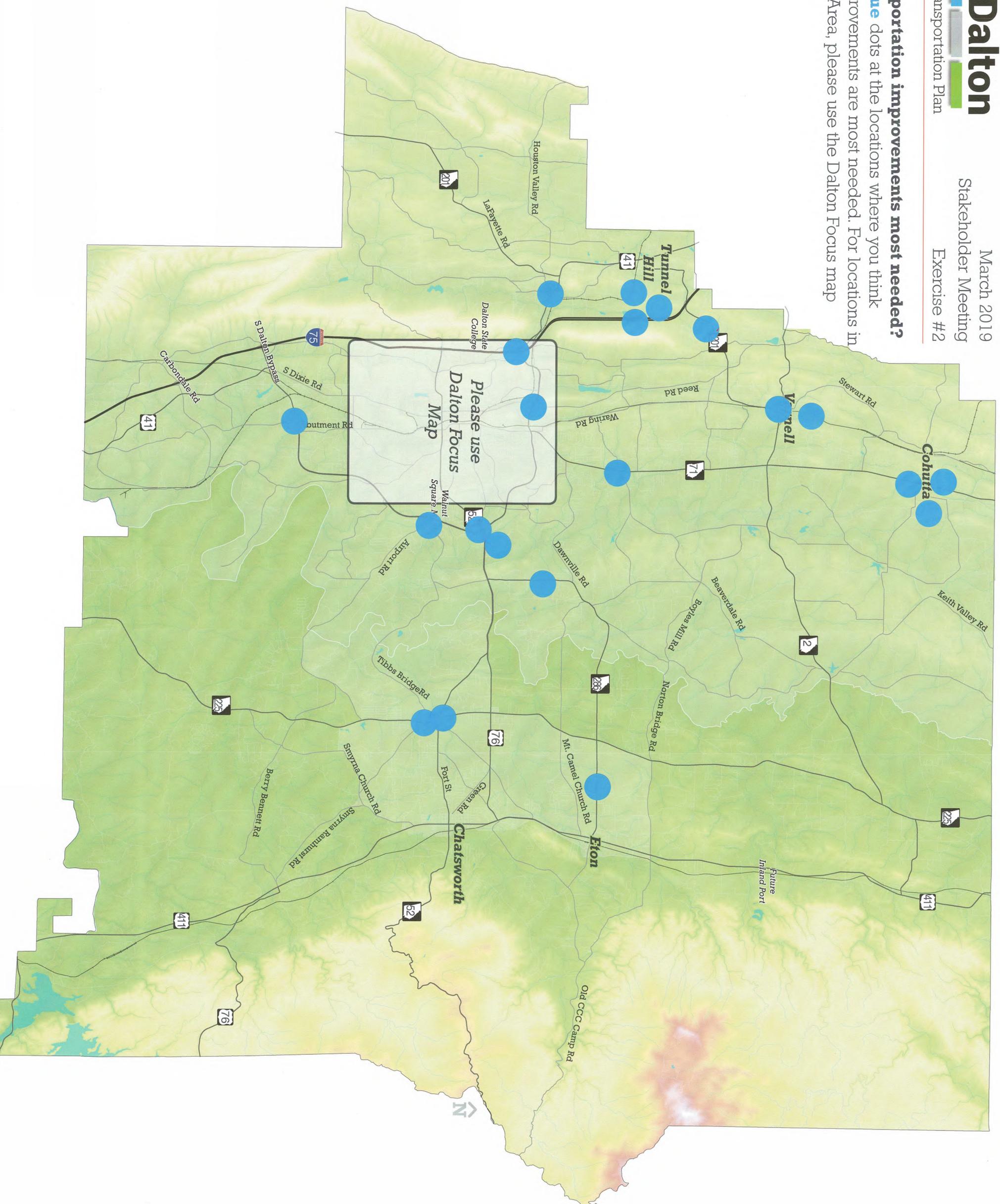
## Where are transportation improvements most needed?

Place your four **blue** dots at the locations where you think transportation improvements are most needed.



## Where are transportation improvements most needed?

Place your four **blue** dots at the locations where you think transportation improvements are most needed. For locations in the central Dalton Area, please use the Dalton Focus map



## Where are transportation improvements most needed?

Place your four **blue** dots at the locations where you think transportation improvements are most needed. For locations in the central Dalton Area, please use the Dalton Focus map

