

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Allen, showing a network of streets and green spaces. A prominent blue-green overlay, representing the Allen Creek Greenway, winds through the city, following a path that likely corresponds to a creek or a planned green corridor. The overlay is composed of several parallel lines, some solid and some dashed, indicating different sections or phases of the plan. The city is surrounded by dense greenery, and the overall tone is a mix of urban development and natural landscape.

# ALLEN CREEK GREENWAY *MASTER PLAN*

City Council Work Session—Project Update  
September 12, 2016







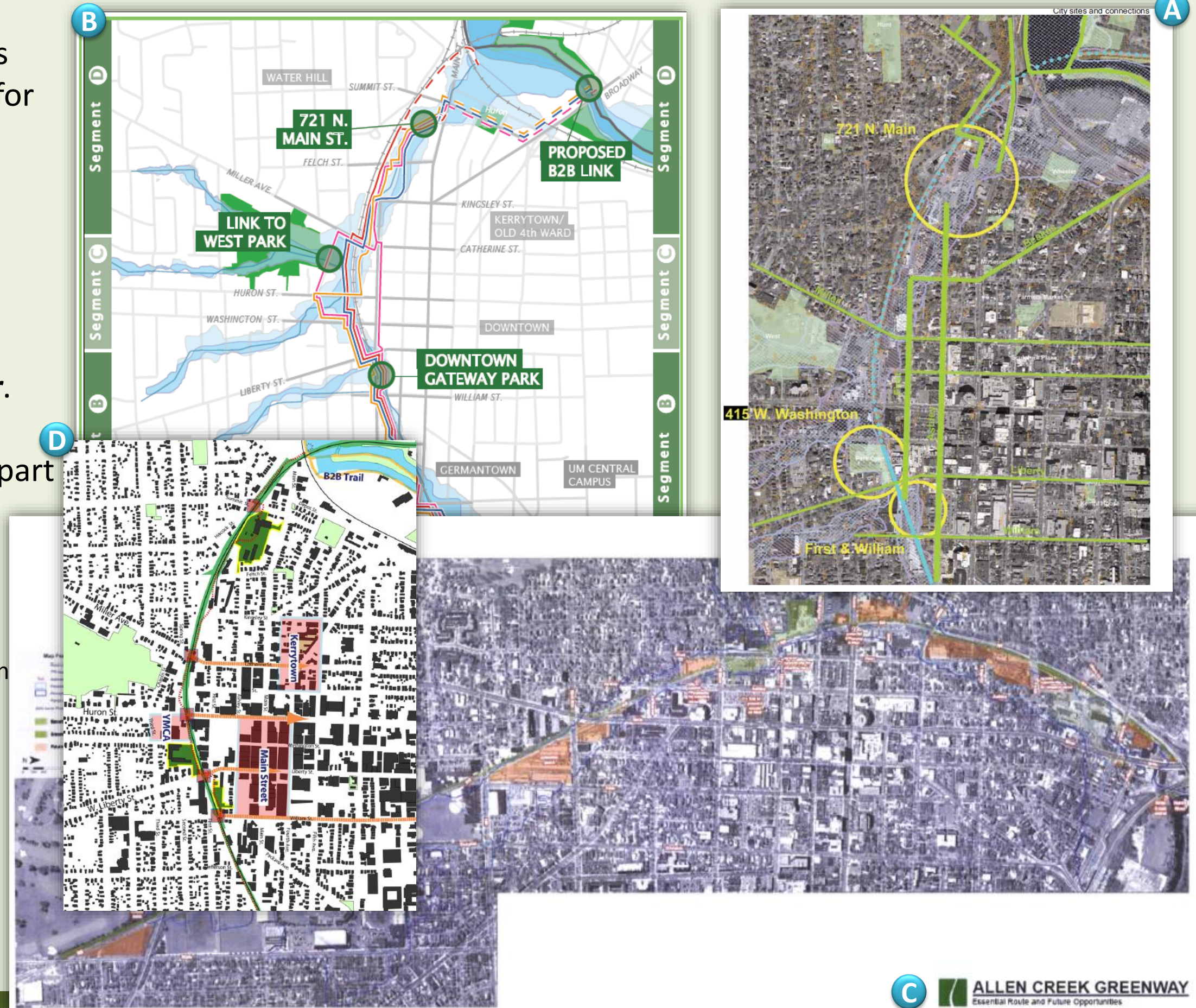
# Project Impetus

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

City Council identified the ACG as a priority project to strengthen *non-motorized connections within the community and to the Huron River.*

ACG Master Plan to be adopted as part of the city-wide master plan.

- A** Allen Creek Greenway Task Force (2007 Report)
- B** Green the Way: Moving Forward on an Allen Creek Trail (2014). Explored four different options/alignments.
- C** Essential Route – Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy (2008)
- D** Visioning the Allen Creek (2012)
  - North Main Vision Task Force





## Project Management Team

### City of Ann Arbor

- Craig Hupy                      Public Services Area Administrator
- Connie Pulcipher           Systems Planner + *Project Manager*
- Cresson Slotten              Systems Planning Unit Manager
- Colin Smith                   Parks & Recreation Unit Manager
- Kayla Coleman               Systems Planning Analyst

### SmithGroupJJR

- Neal Billetdeaux              Principal, Landscape Architect
- Oliver Kiley                   Landscape Architect + *Project Manager*
- Keenan Gibbons              Landscape Architect
- *SGJR Resources*              Civil Engineering Expertise
- *Quandel Consultants*       Rail & Transit Expertise



SMITHGROUP JJR

## Technical Advisory Committee

### City of Ann Arbor

- Troy Baughman              Systems Planning Engineer, Utilities
- Greg Bazick                   Safety Services (Police)
- Amy Brow                    Safety Services (Fire)
- Chris Carson                  Project Management, Construction
- Eli Cooper                    Transportation Program Manager
- Tom Crawford               Finance and Administration
- Becky Gajewski              Natural Area Preservation
- Jerry Hancock               Stormwater & Floodplain Program Coordinator
- Jeffrey Kahan               Planning & Development
- Robert Kellar                Communications
- Amy Kuras                    Parks & Recreation
- Jennifer Lawson              Systems Planning, Water Quality Manager
- Luke Liu / Cynthia Redinger   Project Management, Traffic
- Amber Miller                Downtown Development Authority
- Molly Maciejewski           Field Operations Services Manager
- Matt Naud                    Environmental Coordinator
- Jill Thacher                   City Planner, Historic Preservation

### Washtenaw County & Other Non-City

- Harry Sheehan               Wash. County Water Resources Commission
- Peter Sanderson              Washtenaw County Parks Commission
- Nick Sapkiewicz              Washtenaw Area Transportation Study



## Citizens Advisory Committee

- Peter Allen Peter Allen & Associates
- Maria Arquero De Alarcon UM, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning at Taubman College
- Eric Boyd Board Member: Old West Side Association & Friends of the Border to Border Trail. Old West Side resident
- Terry Bravender Water Hill Resident
- Robin Burke Land Protection Manager, Legacy Land Conservancy
- Vince Caruso Allen's Creek Watershed Group (ACWG)
- Bob Galardi Parks Advisory Commission
- Nancy Goldstein Old West Side Resident
- Sue Gott University Planner
- Chris Graham Environmental Commission
- Robin Grosshuesch Water Hill Resident
- Jim Kosteva UM Director of Government Relations
- Darren McKinnon Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy
- Sarah Mills City Planning Commission
- Rita Mitchell Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
- Melinda Morris Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy
- Seth Peterson Old West Side resident, bike rider
- Alice Ralph Burns Park (South) Neighborhood Resident
- Ellen Ramsburgh Historic District Commission
- Sonia Schmerl Board Member: Old West Side Association, Old West Side Resident
- Sandi Smith Downtown Development Authority
- Jeff Van Schaick Assistant Vice President-Government Affairs WATCO Companies/Ann Arbor Railroad

*Note: Views of CAC members do not necessarily reflect view of groups and organizations from which they are affiliated.*



## Overall Objective

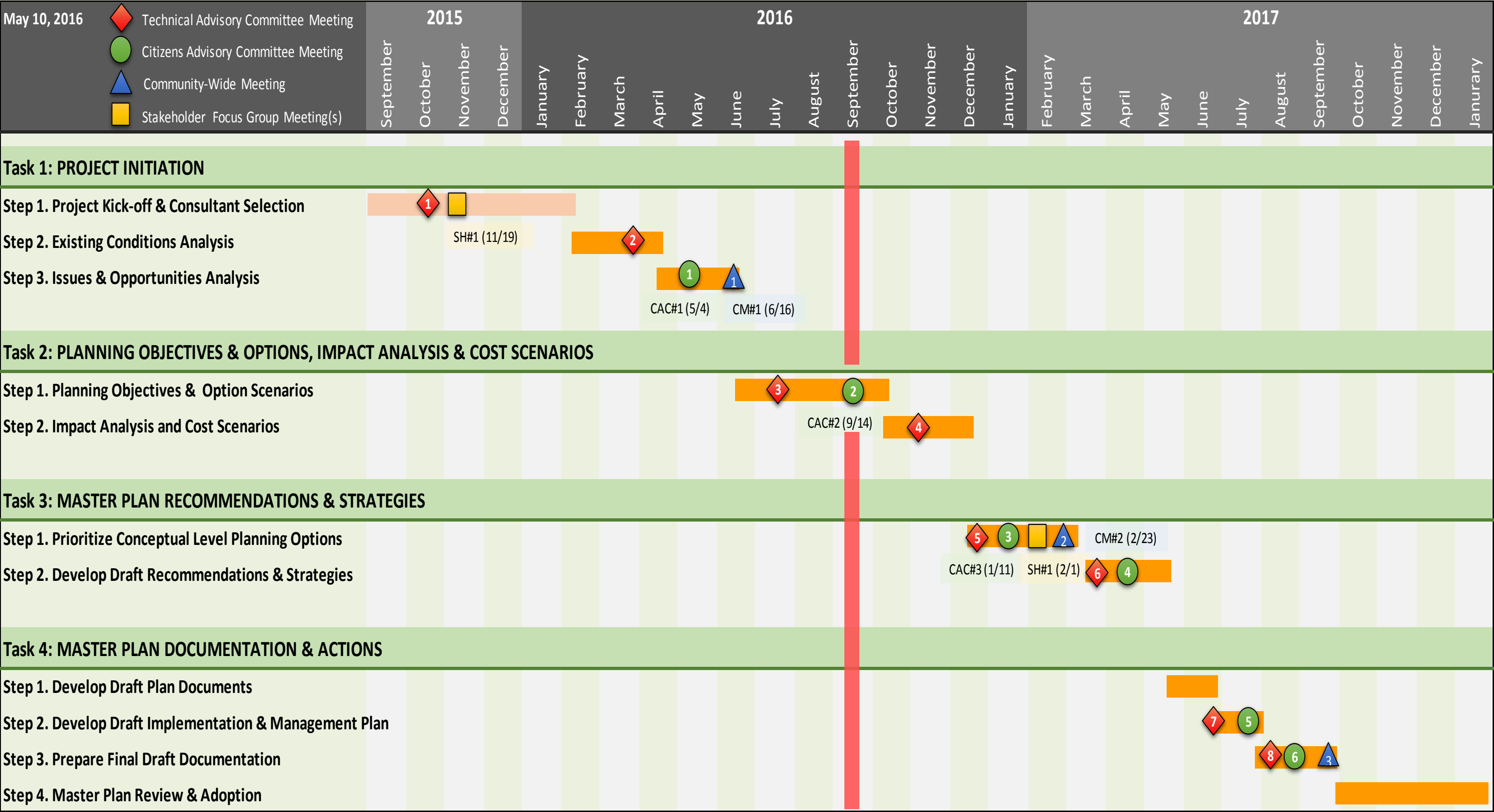
Develop a Master Plan that describes a feasible approach for the future development of the Allen Creek Greenway

## Planning Process is Considering:

- Public and stakeholder engagement
- On and off-street non-motorized facilities
- Public green and open spaces
- Best practices from other communities
- Analysis of existing and future conditions (land use, transportation, environment, etc.)
- Cost and funding impacts
- Implementation needs and recommendations



# Project Schedule





# Guiding Documents

---

## Allen Creek Greenway Plans

- City of Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Plan Update: Allen Creek North (2001, A2DDA)
- Allen Creek Greenway Preliminary Feasibility Study & Supplementary Research and Preliminary Analysis (2005, Ross Business School, Student Report)
- The Allen Creek Greenway - Findings and Recommendations (2007, Allen Creek Greenway Task Force, City of Ann Arbor)
- Proposed Route of the Allen Creek Greenway; Essential Route and Future Opportunities (2008, Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy)
- Visioning the Allen Creek Greenway: Designing a Path, Creating a Place (2012, UofM SNRE Student Project)
- Green the Way: Moving Forward on an Allen Creek Trail (2014 UofM Urban Planning Student Project)

## Other Land & Transportation Plans

- The North Main Street - Huron River Corridor Vision for the Future (2013, North Main Task Force)
- City of Ann Arbor South State Street Corridor Plan (2013, City of Ann Arbor)
- City of Ann Arbor Non-motorized Transportation Plan (2013 update, City of Ann Arbor)
- Connecting our Communities: Summary Report for Evaluation of Downtown Ann Arbor North-South Commuter Rail (WALLY) Station Sites (2014)
- Ann Arbor Downtown Street Design Manual (2015)
- Ann Arbor Connector Plan (2016)



# Sustainability Framework Goals

- **Sustainable Energy** - Improve access to and increase use of renewable energy by all members of our community
- **Energy Conservation** - Reduce energy consumption and eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions in our community
- **Sustainable Buildings** - Reduce new and existing buildings' energy use, carbon impact and construction waste, while respecting community context
- **Engaged Community** - Ensure our community is strongly connected through outreach, opportunities for engagement, and stewardship of community resources
- **Diverse Housing** - Provide high quality, safe, efficient, and affordable housing choices to meet the current and future needs of our community, particularly for homeless and low-income households
- **Human Services** - Provide services that meet basic human needs of impoverished and disenfranchised residents to maximize the health and well-being of the community
- **Safe Community** - Minimize risk to public health and property from manmade and natural hazards
- **Active Living & Learning** - Improve quality of life by providing diverse cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities for all members of our community
- **Economic Vitality** - Develop a prosperous, resilient local economy that provides opportunity by creating jobs, retaining and attracting talent, supporting a diversity of businesses across all sectors, and rewarding investment in our community
- **Transportation Options** - Establish a physical and cultural environment that supports and encourages safe, comfortable, and efficient ways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users to travel throughout the city and region
- **Sustainable Systems** - Plan for and manage constructed and natural infrastructure systems to meet the current and future needs of our community
- **Integrated Land Use** - Encourage a compact pattern of diverse development that maintains our unique sense of place, preserves our natural systems, and strengthens our neighborhoods, corridors, and downtown
- **Clean Air & Water** - Eliminate pollutants in our air and water systems
- **Healthy Ecosystems** - Conserve, protect, enhance, and restore our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- **Responsible Resource** - Use Produce zero waste and optimize the use and reuse of resources in our community
- **Local Food** - Conserve, protect, enhance, and restore our local agriculture and aquaculture resources





# INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



## Analysis Intent:

Examine the factors influencing the ***feasibility*** and potential configuration of the Allen Creek Greenway. Consider constraints and opportunities.

## Key factors affecting feasibility:

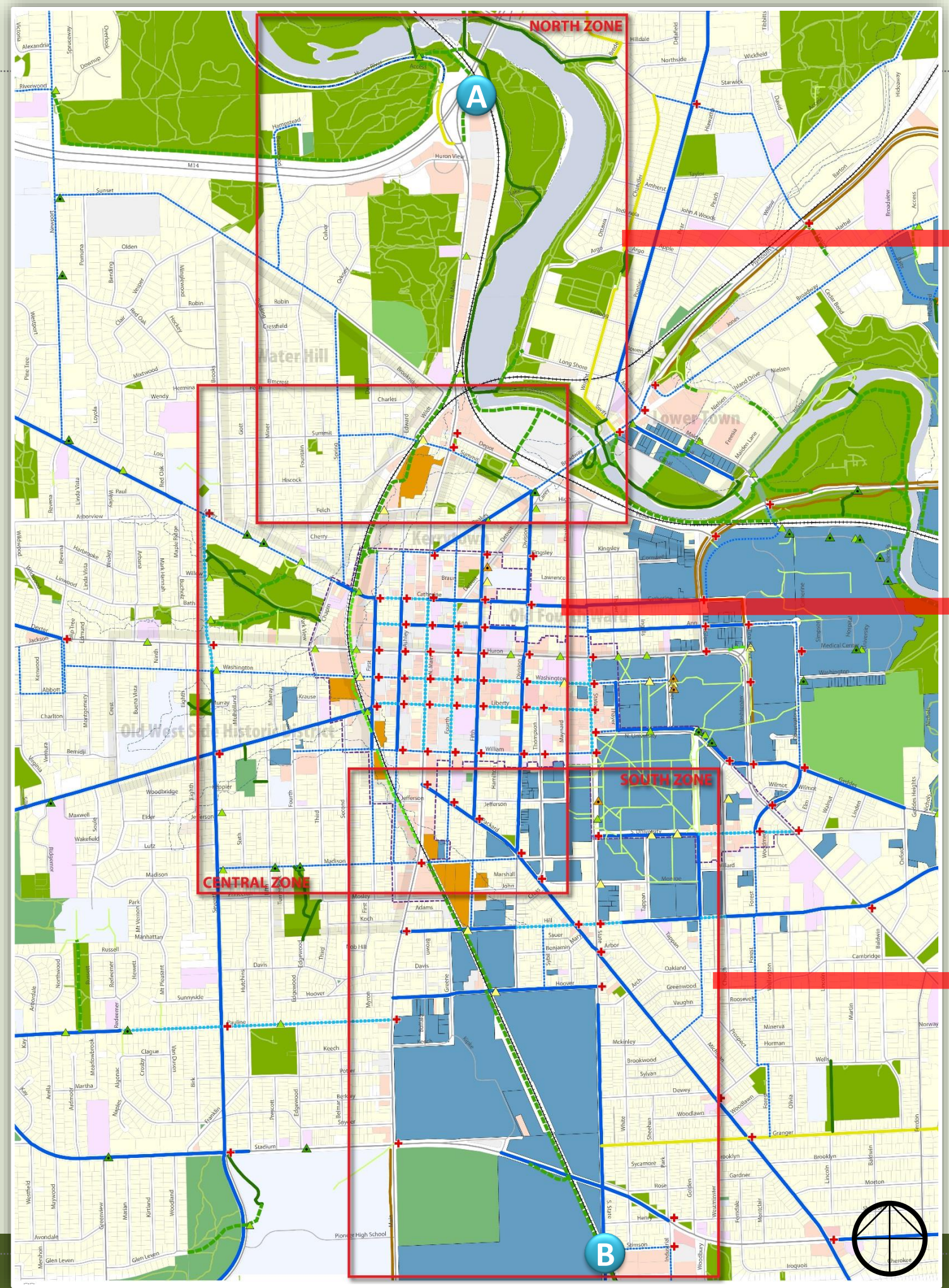
1. Land use patterns and property access
  - Current/future development
2. Key locations and community destinations
3. Connectivity opportunities/challenges relative to:
  - Pedestrians & bicyclists (i.e. **greenway users**)
  - Transit (Bus service, commuter rail)
  - Vehicle flows and traffic
  - Railroad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



# Project Area

**A North Boundary:**  
Main St. @ M14

**B South Boundary:**  
S. State St. @ Stimson  
(Salvation Army)



North Zone

Central Zone

South Zone



# NORTH ZONE





# 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** Border-2-Border Trail

- No dedicated bike facilities presently

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

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

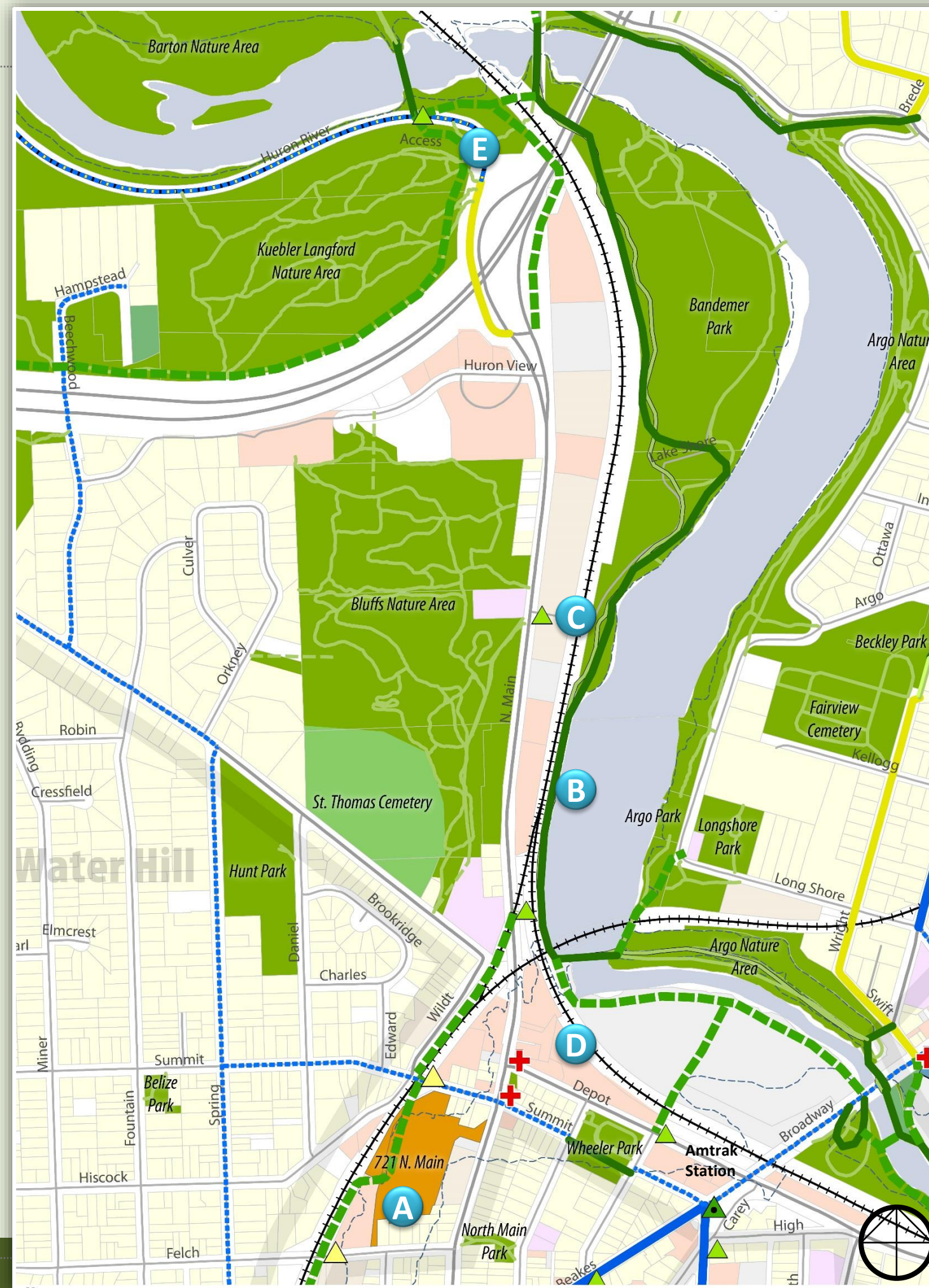
- Main & Depot intersection has heavy traffic (difficult pedestrian crossing)

- DTE Broadway property – potential redevelopment

**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.

- Existing Amtrak Station



- 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



# CENTRAL ZONE





# Land Use: CENTRAL ZONE

- Adjacent to highly active commercial districts (Kerrytown, Main Street Area)
- Key Properties: 721 N. Main, 415 W. Washington, First & Washington, Fingerle Lumber Properties
- West Park is an established community park. Create connection to park.
- YMCA **A**
- 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
- 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** ).





# SOUTH ZONE





# Land Use: SOUTH ZONE

- The University of Michigan is the dominant land holder adjacent to the rail corridor.
- Fingerle Lumber is a key property owner.
- 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 ACGW.
- 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** ).





# Who are we serving? Types of Cyclists (& Pedestrians!)

## 1. Strong & Fearless

- Very few

## 2. Enthused & Confident (Commuter / Rec. Riders)

- <10%

## 3. Interested but Concerned (“Family” Riders)

- Majority of bicyclists (~50%)

## 4. No Way, No How

- About 30% of population

*(Roger Geller, Bicycle Coordinator, Portland Office of Transportation, 2006 )*

*Where would you let an unaccompanied 10-year old ride?*





## Next Steps

- 1. Technical Advisory Committee currently analyzing route alternatives**
- 2. Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting #2**
  - September 14, 2016, 8:30-10:30am
  - City Hall Council Chambers
- 3. Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting #3**
  - January 11, 2017, 8:30-10:30am
  - City Hall Council Chambers
- 4. City-Wide Meeting #2**
  - Quarter 1, 2017—Date TBD
- 5. Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings #4 - #6 & City-Wide meeting #3 dates TBD**

**Check out the Google Group and Google Drive for Resources!**

[www.a2gov.org/allencreekgreenway](http://www.a2gov.org/allencreekgreenway)