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01

VISION

Introduction to the concept of a Signature Trail including the project's vision, guiding principles, and approach.



BACKGROUND

Why Dublin? Why Now?

Dublin is already nationally recognized as a leading trail community, making it an ideal location to create a Signature Trail. With more than 150 miles of shared-use paths, Dublin is a silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community and a leader in mobility initiatives that promote active transportation. Building on this foundation, Dublin is well-positioned to develop a Signature Trail that emphasizes its commitment to connectivity, recreation and community mobility while building on the city's record of delivering transformational projects.

First introduced in the 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and further developed through the Envision Dublin Community Plan and the Multi-Modal Thoroughfare Plan, the Signature Trail will provide a connected, welcoming and iconic east-west corridor for pedestrians, cyclists and scooter users throughout Dublin. It will enhance multi-modal access to key destinations, create new community connections, foster dynamic placemaking opportunities and contribute to economic development.

Centerpiece of Active Transportation

Dublin aspires to become the world's most connected community through advanced infrastructure and convenient, sustainable transportation options. The Envision Dublin Community Plan Update highlights this goal, stating that "a steadfast dedication to enhancing mobility and connectivity will translate into an expansive network of greenways, complete streets and quality public transportation, ensuring that every resident can commute, complete daily tasks and enjoy recreational opportunities without relying on a car."

The Signature Trail is envisioned as the centerpiece of Dublin's active transportation network, designed to meet the community's evolving mobility needs by providing a safe, continuous and well-connected east-west route. Designed to encourage outdoor recreation and physical activity in a natural setting, the Signature Trail will also support more than a recreational amenity, it will encourage outdoor activity in a natural setting while strengthening connections across the region.

Figure 1. Signature Trail Study Area



VISION

THE SIGNATURE TRAIL IS THE MOBILITY HEART OF DUBLIN. A ONE-OF-A-KIND, CONTINUOUS, JOYFUL AND CONNECTED EAST-WEST ROUTE THAT COMBINES SAFE PATHWAYS AND NATURAL BEAUTY WITH THE COMMUNITY'S CHARACTER AND CULTURAL IDENTITY.

PRINCIPLES

Strategic Pillars

The Dublin Signature Trail will provide a connected, joyful and iconic east-west experience for users, featuring new community connections, outdoor recreation options and improvements to multi-modal access to key destinations. The trail will link neighborhoods, parks, schools, activity centers and business districts while integrating with future transit investments like the West Dublin Passenger Rail Station and the LinkUS Northwest Bus Rapid Transit Line. Compared to a traditional shared-use path, the Signature Trail will be wider, more comprehensive and include distinct design features—from material choices, lighting and wayfinding to public spaces and placemaking—that make it a destination in its own right.

The following goals establish a framework for creating a high-quality, connected and memorable trail experience that reflects Dublin's aspirations and delivers lasting community benefits. They are essential for guiding the route selection and trail design that follows as they form the basis for analysis and decision-making throughout all phases of the planning process. These goals ensure that at each step the project's intent and vision remain at the forefront.



Connected

A trail that anchors a connected and holistic citywide and regional trail network, enhancing and activating the places it connects.



Visionary

A trail that can be leveraged to create additional growth, provides lasting community benefits and economic opportunities.



Iconic

A trail that is a significant and recognizable landmark and destination for residents and visitors alike.



Accessible

A trail that is convenient and inclusive, expanding non-motorized mobility options for all.



Sustainable

A trail that supports an ecological and resilient Dublin and promotes user well-being.



Desirable

A trail that aligns with community-identified desires, needs and aspirations.



Actionable

A trail designed for implementation using diverse funding sources and early wins.

WHAT IS A SIGNATURE TRAIL?

Global Inspiration

A Signature Trail is more than just a path for walking and biking; it serves as both a landmark public space and a transportation route that becomes part of a community's identity. Unlike traditional shared-use paths, which often prioritize safety and functionality over experience, the Dublin Signature Trail will be intentionally designed to become a destination itself, offering unique character and experiences along its route.

Drawing inspiration from Signature Trails worldwide, including nationally-recognized routes like the Monon Trail in Carmel, Indiana and the 606 in Chicago, Illinois, the Dublin Signature Trail aims to use various design choices and amenities to elevate the user experience. These features can range from separation from cars to street and sidewalk activation. The existing trails studied for this Dublin project offered several examples of inspirational facilities. The project examples and feature list to the right serve as excellent benchmarks for creating a world-class amenity.

In many of these examples, a pre-existing right-of-way or prominent location provided the foundation for a Signature Trail such as a rail corridor or part of an original master-planned community. For instance, the Monon Trail was converted from a former rail line into a regional recreation corridor lined with parks, businesses and cultural destinations. The Dublin Signature Trail has a slightly more varied landscape and must chart its own unique route through different settings, from a developed urban and active core at Bridge Park to existing lush park spaces to undeveloped areas along the city's western edge. Regardless of context, the Dublin Signature Trail will use this diverse array of features and placemaking capabilities to create not only a new active transportation spine but also a catalyst for economic development, cultural vibrancy and community connection.

KEY FEATURES

Signature Trails can be.....



Neighborhood Connectors

Provide links to various neighborhoods, community parks and other destinations.



Nature Forward

Highlight and preserve natural landscapes and green spaces.



Arts + Culture Destinations

Feature local art, culture and creative spaces.



Street + Sidewalk Activators

Bring vibrancy to adjacent streets with places to gather, rest and explore.



Economic Drivers

Boost local business and new investments.



Iconic

Be unique and memorable, with strong visual identity and landmarks.



Linear Parks

Offer park-like experiences and amenities along the way.



Sustainable

Support multi-modal transportation for more carbon efficient cities and a greener future.



Separated from Cars

Prioritize safety and comfort for trail users of all ages and abilities.

Signature Trails Around the World



Unlike many trails that follow vacated rights-of-way or rail-to-trail corridors, Dublin is charting its own unique route for the Signature Trail.

Cultural Trail, Indianapolis, Indiana

The Cultural Trail is an 8-mile route for biking and walking located in downtown Indianapolis that connects all six of the city's Cultural Districts. Created through a public-private partnership, the trail links neighborhoods, greenways and civic destinations, offering a safe, healthy and convenient way to explore Indianapolis. Along its path, it combines public art, nature and community spaces, encouraging connections to the city's lively arts and culture scene.

-  Sustainable Transportation
-  Arts + Culture Destination
-  Street + Sidewalk Activation



Beltline, Atlanta, Georgia

The Beltline is a 22-mile loop of trails, parks and future transit initiatives that connects 45 neighborhoods once separated by historic rail lines, transforming them into vibrant, accessible spaces. Often called "The City in the Forest," Atlanta showcases its green features through this network of pathways linking parks, public art, cultural events, restaurants and patios. The Beltline aims to enhance mobility, expand green space, support redevelopment, preserve affordable housing and celebrate the city's arts and culture.

-  Economic Development Driver
-  Nature Forward
-  Feels Like a Linear Park



The 606 Trail, Chicago, Illinois

The 606 is a 2.7-mile elevated park and trail on Chicago's northwest side, transformed from an abandoned rail line into a vibrant multi-use destination. Rising about 20 feet above street level, it links a chain of parks, scenic overlooks and public art while offering space for walking, running, biking and community events. Blending history, design and green space, the 606 has become a cultural and recreational landmark that connects neighborhoods and welcomes locals and visitors from around the world.

-  Neighborhood Connector
-  Separation from Cars
-  Iconic Character



Jeffrey Open Space Trail, Irvine, California

The Jeffrey Open Space Trail is a 5.4-mile multi-use path that provides a scenic and secure pedestrian route separated from traffic by bridges and underpasses. Winding through a 96-acre network of parks along Jeffrey Road, the trail welcomes walkers, runners, bikers and families of all ages and abilities. Lush landscaping, distinctive art installations and historical markers that span 500 years of local history make the trail both a recreational resource and a cultural experience, connecting communities across the city.

-  Separation from Cars
-  Nature Forward
-  Feels Like a Linear Park



PROCESS

Roadmap

The purpose of this study is to refine the vision, alignment and framework for implementing the Signature Trail. The Signature Trail study started in July 2024 and finished in December 2025. The planning process aimed to reflect the community’s values regarding mobility and its vision for walking and biking in Dublin. The process was divided into several key phases and components. The first two phases focused on Dublin’s existing trails and potential future directions for the Signature Trail. This analysis and understanding led to the development of multiple potential trail routes for consideration. Community engagement was included throughout the planning process to ensure the trail’s design and location matched the community’s needs and desires. To include as many voices as possible, both online and in-person surveys and activities were conducted throughout the summer of 2024 and 2025. After collecting and analyzing community feedback, the preferred trail route was created through a data-driven, community-centered process with further input from City staff, City Council and key stakeholders. Once the alignment was finalized, the team developed subsequent trail segments, a placemaking plan, cost estimates, an implementation strategy and a final report with recommendations. When finished, the final report and plan were adopted by City Council to serve as a guiding framework for implementation.

What Makes a Trail Signature?

A Signature Trail is more than just a path—it’s a framework for experience, connection and identity. Although it can take many forms, from quiet neighborhood connectors to vibrant arts and culture destinations, its strength lies in how these elements come together as a cohesive whole. The Dublin Signature Trail Study, therefore, must do more than just draw a line on a map. It must lay the foundation for a world-class amenity and experience that combines a connected route with access to destinations and a trail design that includes placemaking, amenities and features that go beyond a standard trail. Each of these components alone can make a great path, but only together can they create a Signature Trail. Therefore, the Dublin Signature Trail Study will focus not only on route location but also on trail design that reflects Dublin’s character through art, landscape and design—transforming mobility into a shared civic experience that celebrates place, connects people and boosts community pride.



Route Selection

Proper alignment links key destinations, improves safety and accessibility and creates opportunities for visual appeal, local identity and memorable experiences along the route.



Trail Design

Thoughtful design choices establish a consistent identity, enhance user comfort and safety, and showcase Dublin’s character through quality, detail, and craftsmanship.

KEY PHASES

Key Phase 1: Project Coordination

During Phase 1, July - September 2024, the planning team worked to align project goals with the City’s desires and refine these goals to guide the project effectively.



Key Phase 2: Alignment & Alternatives Analysis

From September 2024 to May 2025, the planning team worked on establishing potential trail routes and alternatives to present to the community.

Key Phase 3: Trail Design & Public Feedback

Between April and September of 2025, the planning team collected responses on the community’s preferences regarding the alternatives and placemaking.



Key Phase 4: Placemaking & Project Identity

From August to October 2025, the planning team focused on developing place-making concepts based on community feedback. This effort was prioritized to align the new trail with Dublin’s existing character.

Key Phase 5: Final Report & Adoption

Between November and December of 2025, the planning team worked on finalizing and developing the Dublin Signature Trail study.

02

CONTEXT

An overview of Dublin's existing trails, land use and spatial patterns helps provide a foundation for evaluating future Signature Trail alignments and alternatives.



Figure 2. Existing Mobility Network in Dublin

DUBLIN TODAY

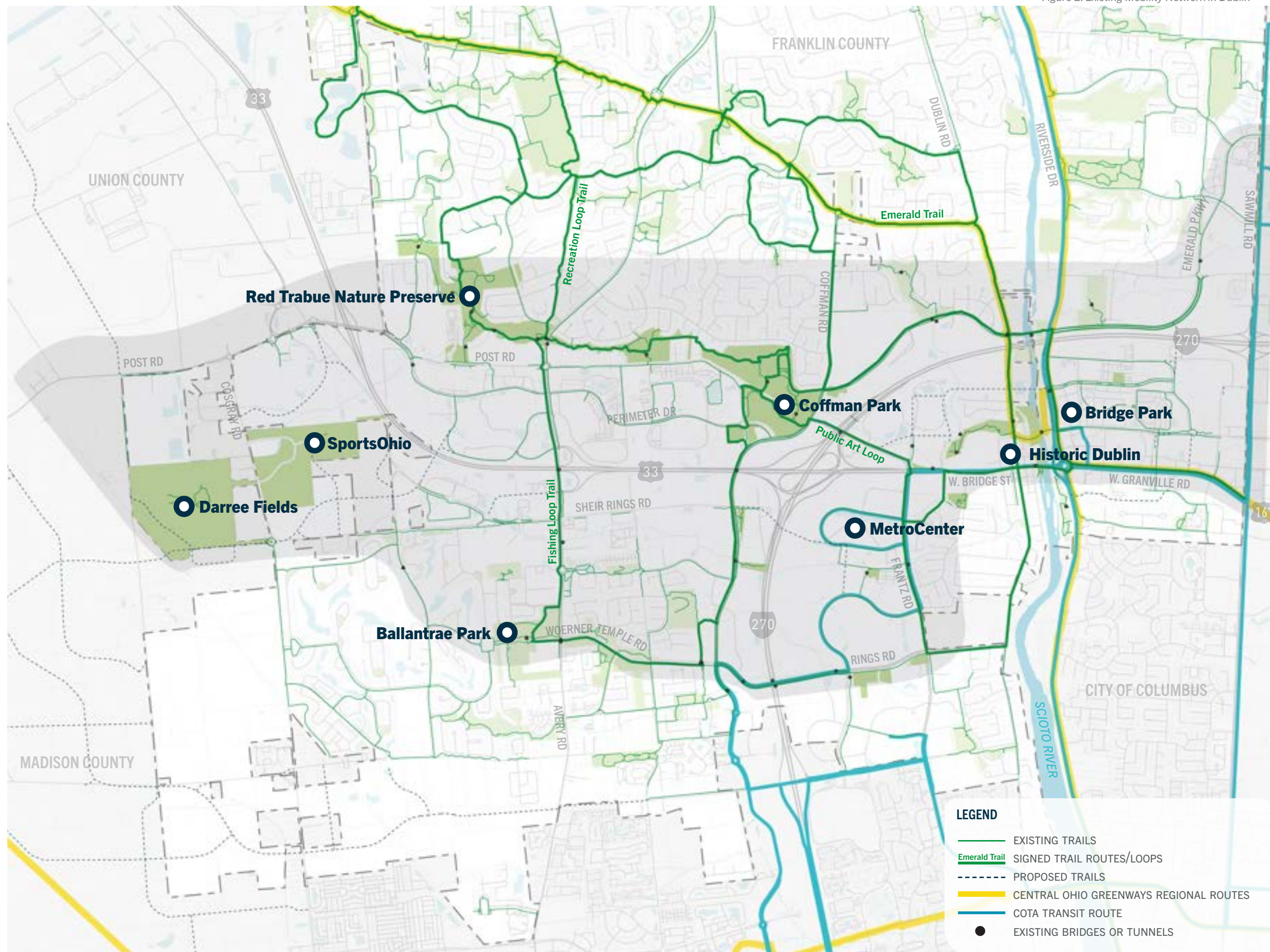
Study Area

The study area for the Signature Trail generally stretches from Dublin’s western boundary near Madison and Union Counties to Sawmill Road on the east. The southern boundary ends around Woerner Temple Road while the northern boundary lies south of Brand Road and the Emerald Trail. Because the route has not yet been finalized, the project’s goal is to establish a continuous connection from Darree Fields on the west to Historic Dublin, Bridge Park and the City of Columbus on the east. Several key parks and other destinations are within the study area, providing many opportunities for the trail to improve existing or develop new multi-modal connections.

Mobility and Active Transportation

At its core the Signature Trail is both a mobility and infrastructure initiative designed to expand safe and accessible active transportation options. It seeks to serve as a leading example of how a trail can foster economic growth, sustainability and community health. To achieve this, the project must thoroughly assess the existing transportation network and the surrounding region. As an east–west corridor, it will help connect many of Dublin’s 150 miles of existing trails while linking to Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and the Central Ohio Greenways system. Along its route the trail will connect parks, neighborhoods, commercial destinations and cultural hubs, becoming a spine that unites daily life with regional connectivity.

While the study area presents opportunities it faces challenges in crossing U.S. 33 and I-270. These crossings are vital for creating a seamless, safe and accessible experience but will require careful planning and strategic investment. Without a defined route the Signature Trail offers a chance to upgrade an existing crossing or build a new link, paving the way for improved multi-modal access. Overcoming these barriers will be crucial to making the trail both a community asset and a regional connector.



Economic Development

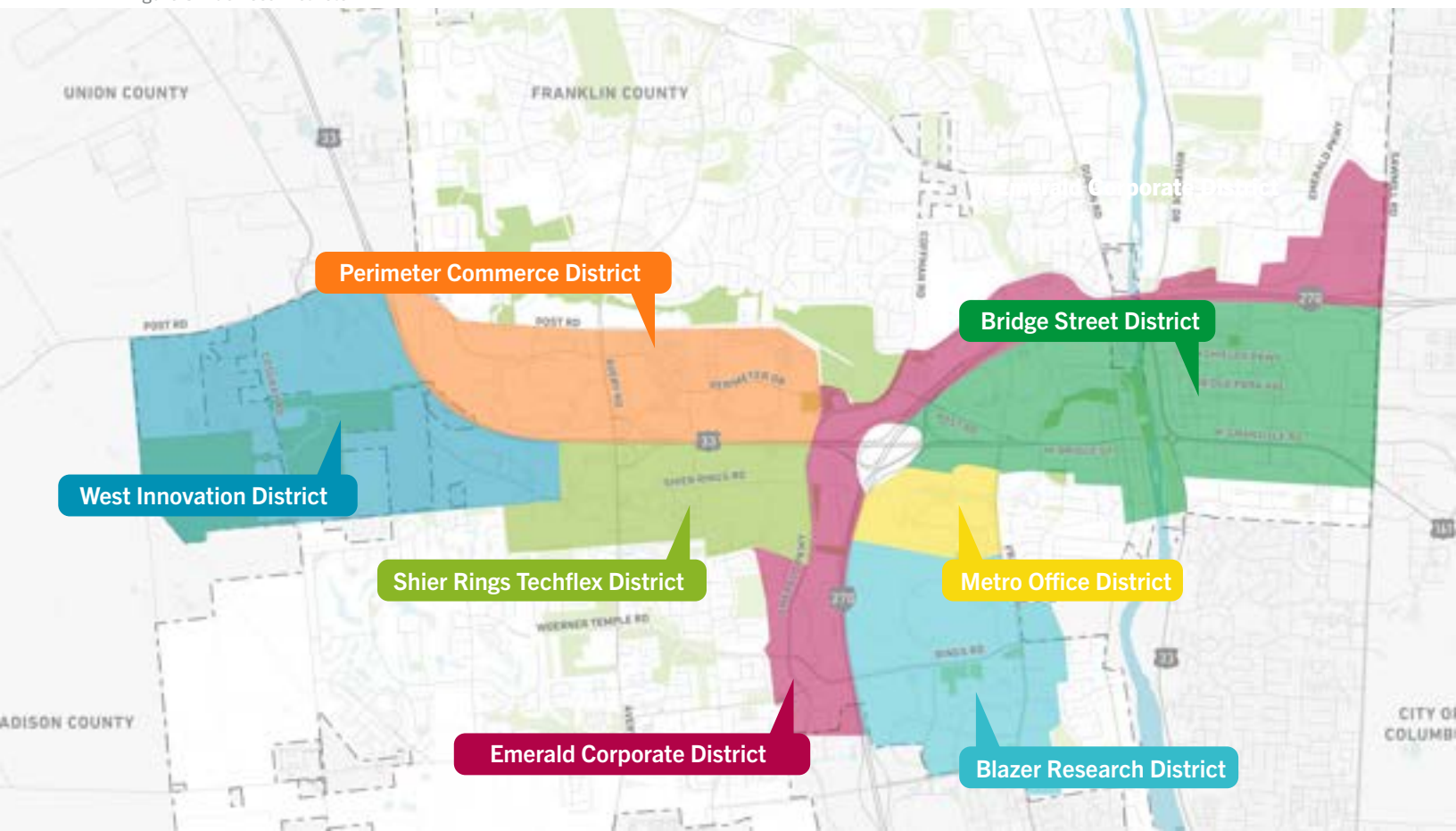
Land use and transportation are closely connected, each influencing and reinforcing the other. How workplaces, neighborhoods, entertainment venues and civic spaces are organized in Dublin affects how people travel, with compact multi-modal areas encouraging walking, biking and transit while more spread-out layouts often necessitate driving.

Simultaneously, transportation infrastructure such as highways, transit routes or Signature Trails directly impacts land value and development, often prompting new growth and redevelopment nearby. These interactions create a feedback loop where access drives development and development in turn, increases demand for more mobility options like additional trails.

The Signature Trail has the potential to strengthen this relationship by connecting all seven of Dublin's Business Districts and serving as a catalyst for economic development. These established districts and destinations provide a solid foundation to build on and leverage into new growth. Businesses along or near the trail could benefit from increased accessibility and visibility while employees and visitors would gain safe, comfortable and sustainable mobility options.

Dublin has already shown strong support for active transportation through its extensive multi-use path network and community investments in mobility. By leveraging these proven assets, the Signature Trail can address current gaps, expand east-west connectivity and improve what already functions well. This positions the trail not only as a unifying element of Dublin's mobility system but also as a tool for economic and community development, creating a space that connects businesses, recreation and daily life in meaningful ways.

Figure 3. Business Districts



Jobs

Within the proposed Signature Trail study area, approximately 29,500 workers are employed, highlighting the trail's potential to serve both residents and the workforce with leisure and commute trips. By providing safe and accessible routes for commuting and daily travel, the trail can support Dublin's mobility and sustainability goals by encouraging a shift away from short single-occupancy vehicle travel toward more community-friendly modes that are safe, convenient and attractive alternatives.

Households

Within the Signature Trail study area, there are approximately 3,750 households and 8,750 residents, all with direct access to the proposed trail corridor. A common feature of Signature Trails worldwide is their ability to serve as neighborhood connectors, linking higher-density residential areas with the surrounding community. Understanding where residents live helps determine the trail alignment, placement of access points and amenities, ensuring the trail is highly visible, accessible and responsive to community needs. By aligning trail design with population patterns, Dublin can maximize usage and strengthen connections between residents, parks, business districts and other destinations along the corridor.

Ownership

Having site control and the ability to implement the project efficiently are critical to the Trail's feasibility and overall success. Public right-of-way is a valuable civic asset, providing opportunities to integrate mobility and placemaking improvements within a space already managed by public agencies. However, many of the most successful Signature Trails achieve their character by being separated from cars and traffic. Securing, maintaining or being granted non-roadway land or access through easements via public-private partnerships ensures the ability to design a continuous high-quality trail in locations that offer the greatest benefits while supporting mobility, recreation and economic growth.

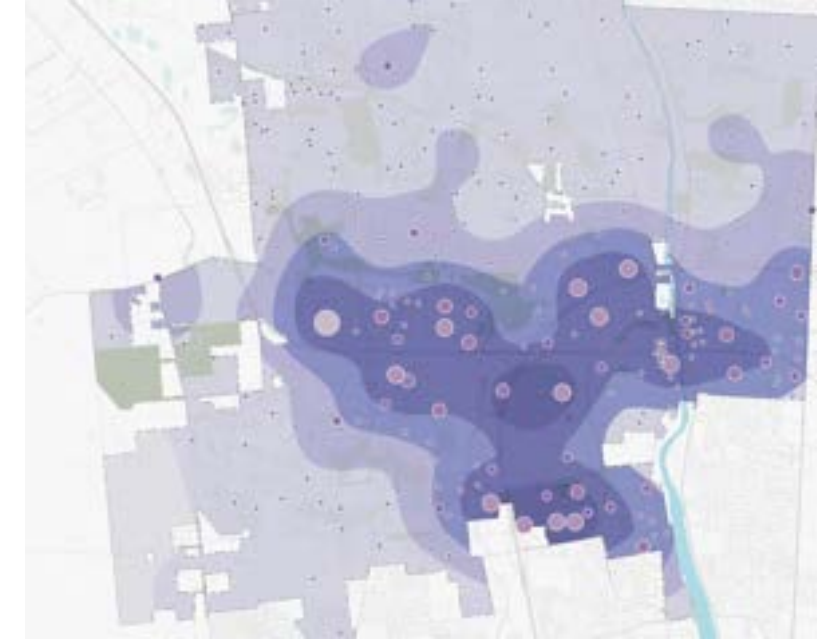


Figure 4. Job Density



Figure 5. Existing Land Use

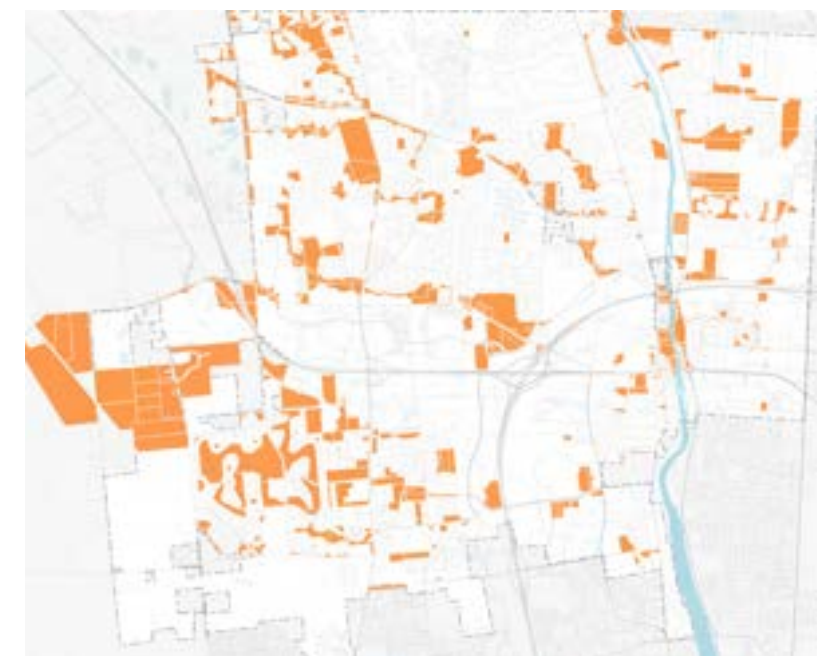


Figure 6. City Owned Land

Environmental Features

According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) the typical park and recreation agency offers an average of 10 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. Dublin maintains 64 parks covering 1,522 acres of parkland, which is about 30.14 acres per 1,000 residents. The City supports 140.2 miles of trails, including 137.5 miles of paved trails and 2.7 miles of unpaved trails. The development of the Signature Trail has the potential to connect several parks and add more than seven miles of new trail, further enhancing the city's recreation network and accessibility.

Parks, green spaces and streams are vital for recreation, wellness and environmental health and align with the idea of building a trail that is nature-forward, sustainable and feels like a linear park.

Exploring the option to align the trail with existing waterways means the Signature Trail may provide a safe car-free corridor that keeps users separated from streets while offering greater access to nature. Using rivers and streams as the main route for east-west travel allows the trail to preserve, protect and restore the community's natural resources.

Additionally, existing stream and drainage crossings of U.S. 33 and I-270 may offer a strategic alternative to interchanges and roadways for bridging these barriers. This approach creates a trail that can provide social, ecological and transportation functionality throughout the community.

Public Art

Public art plays a crucial role in shaping the design and experience of Signature Trails around the world. Whether it is a sculpture, mural or temporary installation, each piece offers a unique chance to tell a story, evoke joy and curiosity, enhance public spaces and create a sense of place. Several of the City's trails already feature art as a central element, engaging both residents and visitors while reflecting Dublin's history and character. As of 2025, the City showcases over 60 permanent, temporary and interactive works by national and international artists.

The Signature Trail provides an excellent opportunity to expand upon this tradition by emphasizing equity and accessibility through these unique interactive features. Curating thoughtfully placed artworks along the trail can highlight natural features, neighborhood identities and community history while encouraging interaction and exploration. By incorporating art into the trail experience, the Signature Trail can become more than a recreational pathway and serve as an iconic destination that strengthens Dublin's identity and advances the City's tradition of innovative public art.

Figure 7. Parks and Streams

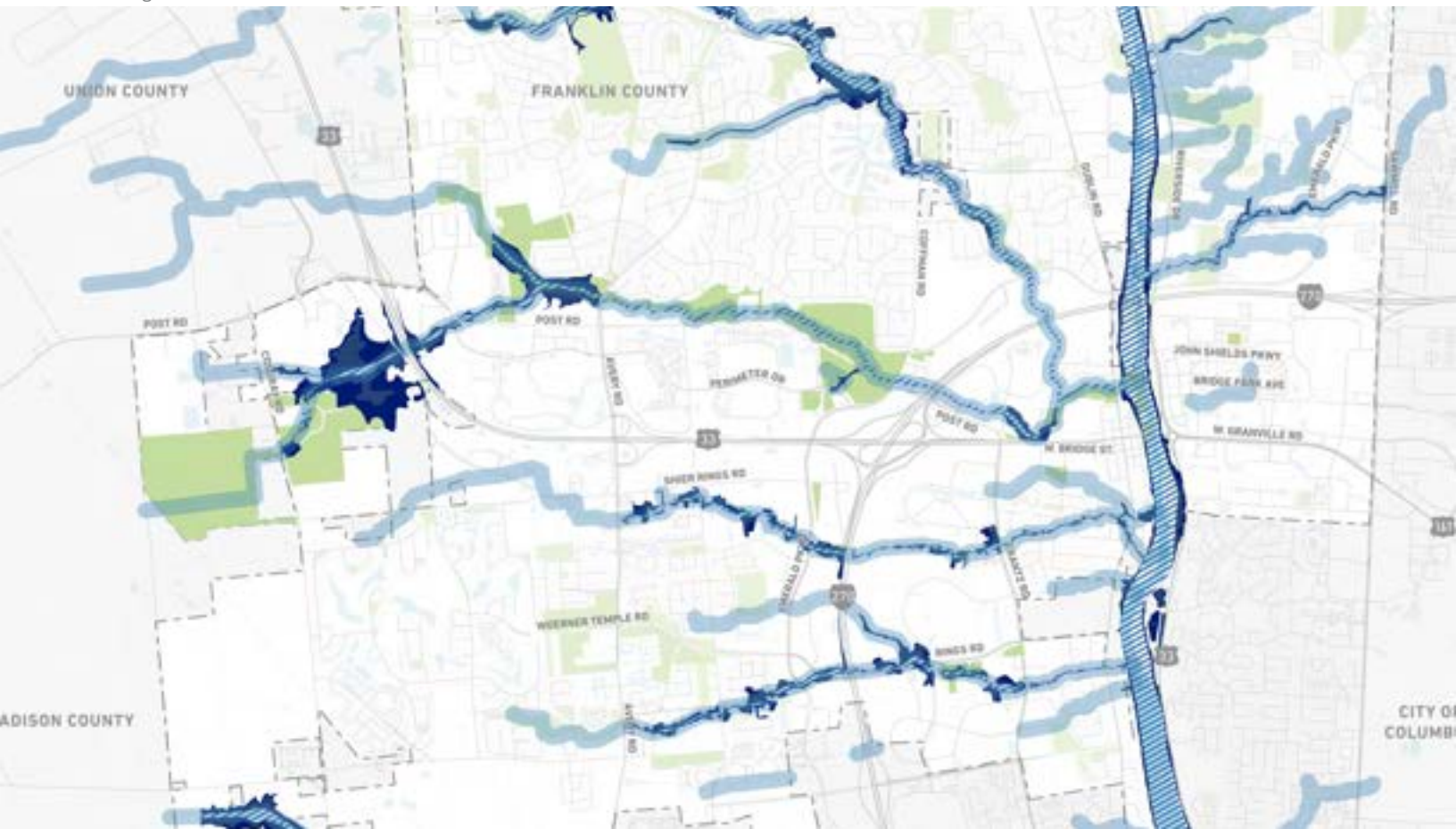


Figure 8. Existing Public Art Within the Study Area



DUBLIN TOMORROW

Plan Alignment

Leveraging previous plans is vital for the informed, strategic development of the Signature Trail. Past studies provide a foundation of data, goals and community priorities that guide decision-making, ensure alignment with regional initiatives and avoid duplicated efforts. The major regional and citywide plans by governing bodies like the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), such as LinkUS (COTA, MORPC, City of Columbus), the Central Ohio Greenways Plan (MORPC) and the Columbus Bike Plus Plan, offer valuable insights on connectivity, active transportation networks and regional mobility priorities. At the local level, Dublin-specific initiatives, including the Envision Dublin Active Transportation Plan, the Multi-modal Thoroughfare Plan and the Dublin Sustainability Plan, further inform trail alignment, access and integration with neighborhoods, parks, business districts and environmental resources. By synthesizing lessons from these large- and small-scale plans, the Signature Trail can build on proven strategies, address gaps in the current network and align with both regional and community goals. This approach ensures the trail is thoughtfully designed, supports active transportation, improves connectivity across Dublin and leverages opportunities for recreation, economic development and community engagement, all while maintaining consistency with broader planning frameworks.

Coordinated Initiatives

REGIONAL:

- LinkUS (COTA, MORPC, City of Columbus)
- Central Ohio Greenways (MORPC)*
- Columbus Bike Plus Plan (City of Columbus)
- RAPID 5*

CITY OF DUBLIN:

- Envision Dublin*
- Dublin Sustainability Plan
- Council's Visionary Goals
- Economic Development Strategy
- Dublin Wellness Alliance
- Dublin Parks Accessibility Plan
- Secondary Wayfinding Signs Implementation
- Bikeways and Bicycle Facilities Policy Update
- Micro-mobility Code Update
- City of Columbus water main project
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Art in Public Places
- Public Art Master Plan*
- Metro Center Revitalization Plan*
- Coffman Park Master Plan

WEST INNOVATION DISTRICT (WID):

- Dublin Passenger Rail Station Study & Vision Plan
- SportsOhio / Darree Fields Expansion
- Ohio University at Eiterman Road
- West Innovation District Integrated Implementation Study*

BRIDGE STREET DISTRICT (BSD):

- Riverside Crossing Park Master Plan
- East Bridge Street Corridor Visioning & Preliminary Design
- John Shields Parkway Extension Studies
- BSD Streetscape Character Guidelines*

*Plans Highlighted on the Following Pages

Central Ohio Greenways

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) is a planned network that connects over 230 miles of trails, links key communities, natural assets and destinations across the region. The Scioto River Trail is one of the most significant corridors within the network serving as a central spine that connects across several miles of central Ohio.

The Scioto River Trail serves as a guiding framework for future trail investments and design decisions. Its role as a regional connector informs alignment choices, design standards and prioritization of projects that close critical gaps and ensure continuity across jurisdictions.

The connection to Dublin is especially important as it bridges one of the fastest-growing employment and residential centers in Central Ohio with the broader regional trail system.

The connection to the Signature Trail would provide residents and visitors with new opportunities for recreation, tourism and active commuting. This connection strengthens access to key destinations such as parks, cultural attractions, commercial districts and riverfront areas while supporting the community's goals for sustainability, health and quality of life.

As the Central Ohio region continues to grow, the Signature Trail will be a cornerstone of achieving COG's Regional Trail Vision of creating a cohesive, interconnected system that links people to places and strengthens the social, environmental and economic fabric of the region.

Figure 9. Central Ohio Greenways Existing and Proposed Routes



RAPID 5

RAPID 5 envisions a unified regional park and greenway system connecting Central Ohio's five waterways. The Dublin Signature Trail brings this vision to life locally by transforming the Scioto River corridor into a continuous, accessible, and vibrant public space.

By linking neighborhoods, parks, and commercial centers through an active transportation network, the trail strengthens RAPID 5's goal of connecting more than 80 communities through shared natural and cultural assets. Its development also advances the broader regional vision outlined by RAPID 5 and Envision Dublin, using their guiding principles to position the project as a cornerstone for redefining how Central Ohio connects people, nature, and place.

The Signature Trail translates these values into action by establishing a thoughtful network that balances recreation and mobility, incorporates green infrastructure and strengthens the relationship between Dublin's built and natural environments.

Together, these efforts reflect a proactive, forward-looking response to the region's anticipated growth, ensuring that access to nature, community well-being, environmental stewardship and economic vitality remain central to Dublin's development.

Ultimately, the Dublin Signature Trail will serve not only as a physical link across the city but also as a symbol of the region's commitment to a more connected, resilient and people-centered Central Ohio.

Envision Dublin

The Envision Dublin Comprehensive Plan provided the framework for further evaluation and design of the Signature Trail. The location of the trail was loosely defined, while other features and strategies were specifically stated, including the following:

"A Signature Trail in Dublin will represent the centerpiece of the active transportation network. Dublin dreams big and has a history of developing projects that are transformational.

The Signature Trail will provide the opportunity for outdoor recreation and physical exercise in a natural setting, linking people with destinations. While the exact alignment is yet to be determined, the Signature Trail will run generally east-west through Dublin, strategically eliminate major transportation barriers with grade separations and provide alternative connection options and trailheads at strategic locations along the corridor.

Specifically, the Signature Trail will be wider than a typical shared use path to accommodate the volume of users it attracts and will include wayfinding, lighting and areas of respite with amenities such as benches, shelters, tire pump stations, bike parking and trash/recycling receptacles."

As the Envision Dublin plan serves as the blueprint for the long-term future of the city, the Signature Trail process utilized this plan to inform a trail design and alignment that supports Dublin today as well as Dublin in the future. In particular, Envision Dublin helped to guide:

- Recommended Trail Dimensions
- Business Districts to connect
- Future Growth and Expansion Areas
- Proposed Thoroughfare and Trail Network
- Catalytic Infrastructure Projects, including major roadway extensions, bridges and underpasses

Figure 10. Sample Rapid 5 Recommendations

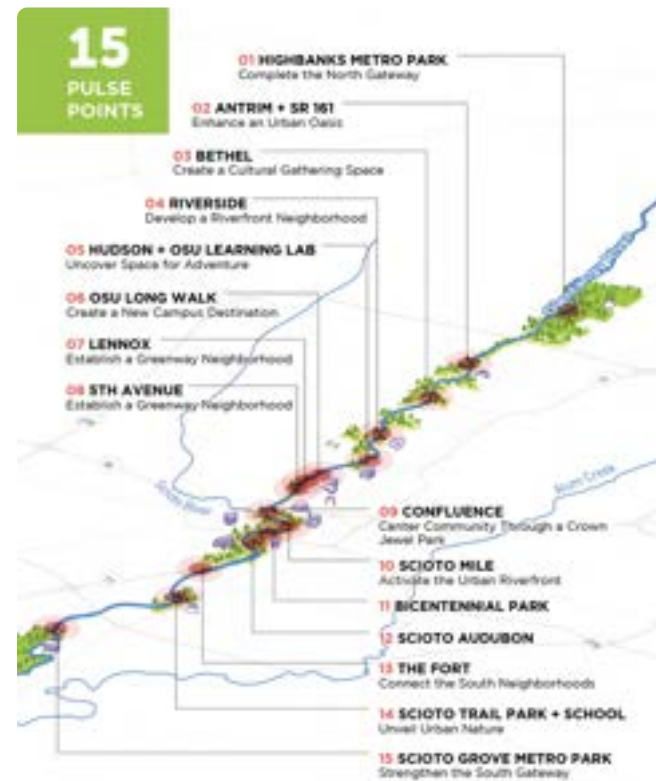
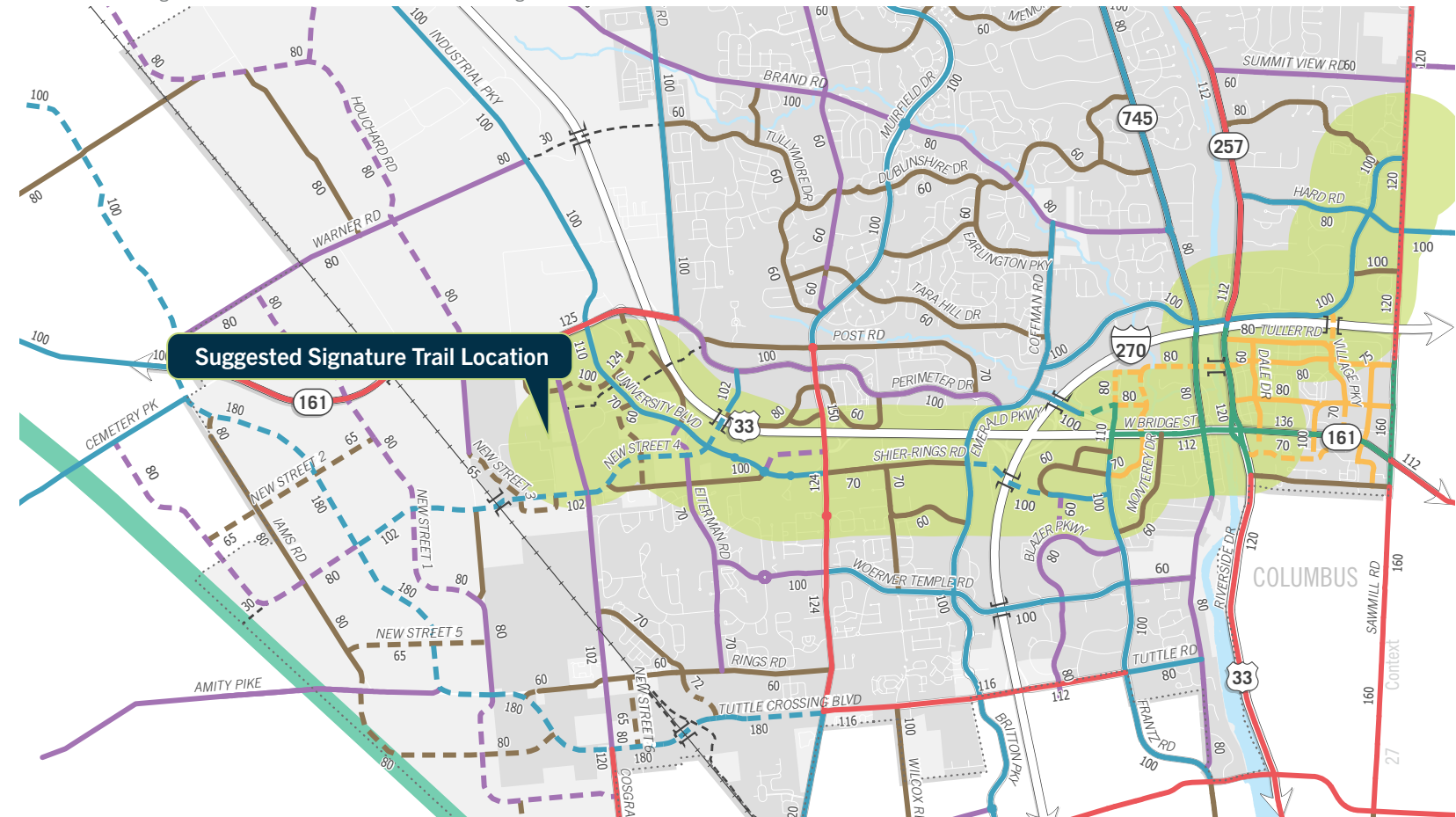
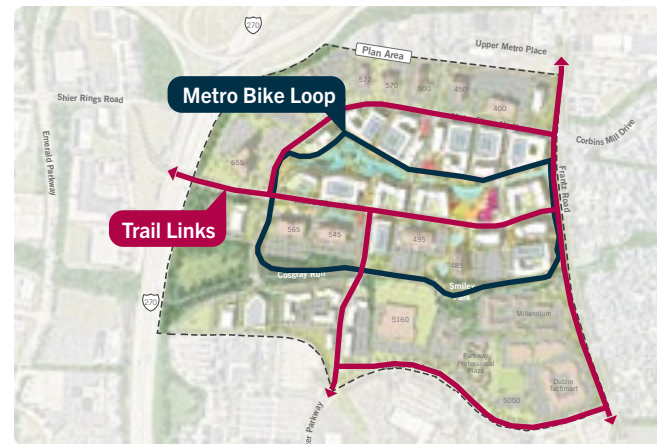


Figure 11. Envision Dublin Multi-modal Thoroughfare Plan



Metro Center Revitalization Plan

The purpose of the Metro Center Revitalization Plan is to transform the existing single-use employment area into a vibrant mixed-use destination that integrates employment, residential, retail and dining opportunities. Building upon previous planning efforts for Metro Center and the Dublin Corporate Area, the plan identifies key public infrastructure and mobility improvements that will support and enable the proposed urban design framework. Ultimately, the Revitalization Plan serves as a guide for future development, outlining the design principles and strategies needed to realize this long-term vision.



West Innovation District Integrated Implementation Study

The West Innovation District (WID) Plan outlines the future growth potential of Dublin's far western corridor with the goal of establishing a hub for innovation and research. Inspired by Ohio University's commitment to create a research campus in Dublin, the City identified approximately 1,100 mostly undeveloped acres for this development. The WID offers multiple opportunities for walkable mixed-use sites that support research and innovation while meeting a variety of business needs. By fostering a 24/7 environment, the district aims to attract and support the workforce of the future. With the addition of the OU campus, this economic engine is expected to develop more rapidly than originally envisioned.



Bridge Street District Guidelines

The Bridge Street District Guidelines establish the streetscape character for the area, setting expectations and precedents for a consistent vibrant and walkable mixed-use urban core. These guidelines emphasize high-quality design that supports a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly street network while reinforcing the role of streets as vital components of the public realm. The plan recognizes that great streets are more than corridors for movement, they are gathering spaces where people connect and spend time. Within the Bridge Street District, streets are envisioned as dynamic public places with distinct identities, much like parks and plazas.

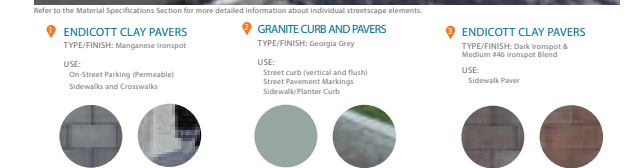
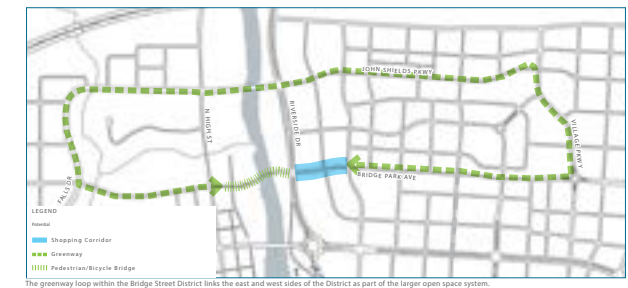
The Greenway System

planned within the Bridge Street District, like the Eblenway network, will vary in character depending on the surrounding context of adjacent development and streets. Much of the central greenway loop will run alongside the District's Signature Streets, including John Shields Parkway, Village Parkway, Bridge Park Avenue and Shawan Falls Drive.

In addition to adjacent streets, the greenway itself should function as a public way, providing an open space alternative for recreational and destination-oriented travel by foot and bicycle. The greenway will be designed with paths along its edges and providing connections through and across the open space. The experience for those traveling along the greenway should be anchored

by major destinations, including parks and mixed use activity centers. Along the way, smaller nodes of activity and resting areas should be provided, such as street intersections that serve as connection points to the greenway from surrounding neighborhoods.

Nearly all portions of the greenway will have public street frontage, providing visual and physical access to the space and helping to define the character of major streets within the District. Some portions of the greenway will be framed by adjacent architecture. In these cases, care should be taken to ensure the open space remains inviting to the general public, and is not perceived as part of the adjacent private development. In other locations, the greenway will expand into larger parks and natural areas, providing seamless connections to the larger open space system.



Public Art Master Plan

The Public Art Master Plan establishes the foundation for commissioning innovative and meaningful public artworks that reflect Dublin's identity and community values. Developed through close collaboration between the Dublin Arts Council and City of Dublin leadership, the plan builds upon the 2016–2017 Public Art Master Plan Working Document to create a structured framework for public art. It outlines processes for integrating art into City planning and development, ensuring that creative expression remains central to Dublin's growth.



Figure 12. Recommended Transportation Projects Composite

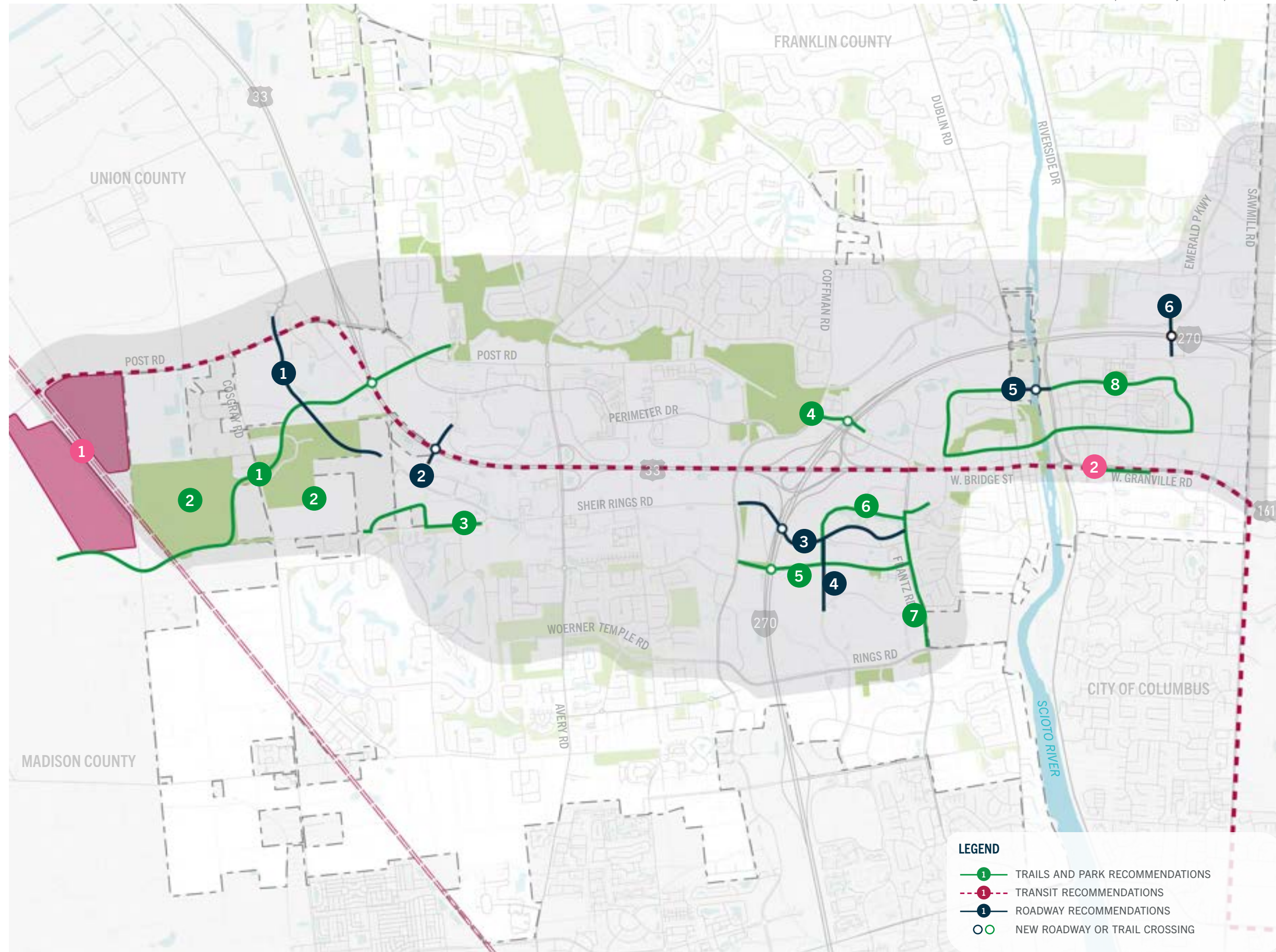
SYNTHESIS + SUMMARY

Dublin's Next Chapter

An objective of the Signature Trail is to build on the broader vision for the City of Dublin and complement the recommendations from previous studies and plans. The analysis of Envision Dublin and other ongoing plans for the City of Dublin creates a framework for synergy. Future development areas, new roadways, major bridge projects and regional transit hubs and routes present opportunities to align the Signature Trail with new destinations, trailheads, crossings and corridors.

This map documents the proposed recommendations from Envision Dublin and other plans that present significant opportunities for the Signature Trail. These are color coded by type: transit recommendations (pink), roadway recommendations (blue) and trail recommendations (green).

- 1 Amtrak Passenger Rail Station and Area Mixed-Use Development
- 2 Proposed LinkUS Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor
- 1 University Boulevard Extension
- 2 New Road and N/S Grade Separated Crossing of US-33
- 3 Shier Rings Extension and I-270 Crossing to Metro Center
- 4 Metro Center Master Plan: New Connections to Blazer Parkway
- 5 John Shields Parkway Extension and New Scioto River Crossing
- 6 New I-270 Crossing Connecting Bridge Street to Mount Carmel
- 1 Indian Run Greenway and Cosgray Road Crossing
- 2 WID Master Plan: Darree Fields and SportsOhio Improvements
- 3 Cosgray Run Stream Corridor Improvements
- 4 Indian Run South Fork Greenway Connector and I-270 Crossing
- 5 Cosgray Run I-270 Crossing and Greenway Connector to Metro Center
- 6 Metro Center Master Plan: Bike Loop Trail and Open Spaces
- 7 Metro Center Master Plan: Frantz Road Gateway and Trail Connections
- 8 BSD Design Guidelines: Greenway and Streetscape Improvements



03 COMMUNITY

Public involvement was at the heart of the process, shaping route selection and design through ongoing dialogue with residents, stakeholders and City Council.



OVERVIEW

Community Conversations

Community engagement was essential to the Dublin Signature Trail planning process, guiding decisions from beginning to end. From December 2024 to August 2025, the project team gathered input through public meetings, stakeholder sessions and 13 in-person pop-up events at parks, community gatherings and the Summer Concierge Series. A dedicated project webpage on Tell Dublin, along with an online survey, expanded outreach by providing updates while collecting valuable data and ideas from residents and trail users.

Guided by City Council, the engagement process focused on confirming the trail route and identifying key design features. Building consensus with City staff, elected officials and the community was critical to ensuring the Signature Trail's success and long-term impact. In accordance with Council's direction to involve Dublin's youth, staff also hosted a special presentation and feedback session through the Citizen U Jumpstart program on June 26, 2025.

The Tell Dublin survey, promoted through social media, the weekly Mobility Concierge at Riverside Crossing Park and other community channels, invited participants to vote on their preferred alignment and provide feedback on trail-oriented development, separation from vehicular traffic, placemaking, public art and other improvements.

This ongoing involvement ensured the Signature Trail reflects community priorities and establishes benchmarks for the next stages of design and implementation.



HOW DID WE ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY?

The proposed alignment of the Dublin Signature Trail represents the shared voices and ideas from the Dublin community. This chapter summarizes the outreach and engagement opportunities that were conducted as well as the results of those efforts. The planning team used the following methods and tools to gather input and feedback throughout the planning process:



Dublin City Council Meetings

Meetings with Dublin City Council took place at key points during the engagement and planning process to ensure the proposed trail plan aligned with the city's broader goals and resources. By involving the Council throughout, the project team developed a shared vision that balanced community desires with long-term city priorities.



Public Events

Public events were held at various stages of the engagement process to better understand community perspectives and collect feedback. These events focused on specific trail segments and the areas they could connect, enabling residents to share ideas, voice concerns and help shape the overall vision for the Dublin Signature Trail.



Interactive Online Survey

An online survey was available throughout the planning process, giving community members the chance to share their perspectives on the Signature Trail. The survey asked residents how they would like to experience the trail and which purposes and design features should take priority.



Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

Throughout the planning process, the City of Dublin and the Project Team met with City Staff, stakeholders and community members directly affected by the trail's development as well as regional partners across Central Ohio who will benefit from expanded trail connections.

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

~1,500+
Community comments
on the Dublin Signature Trail process



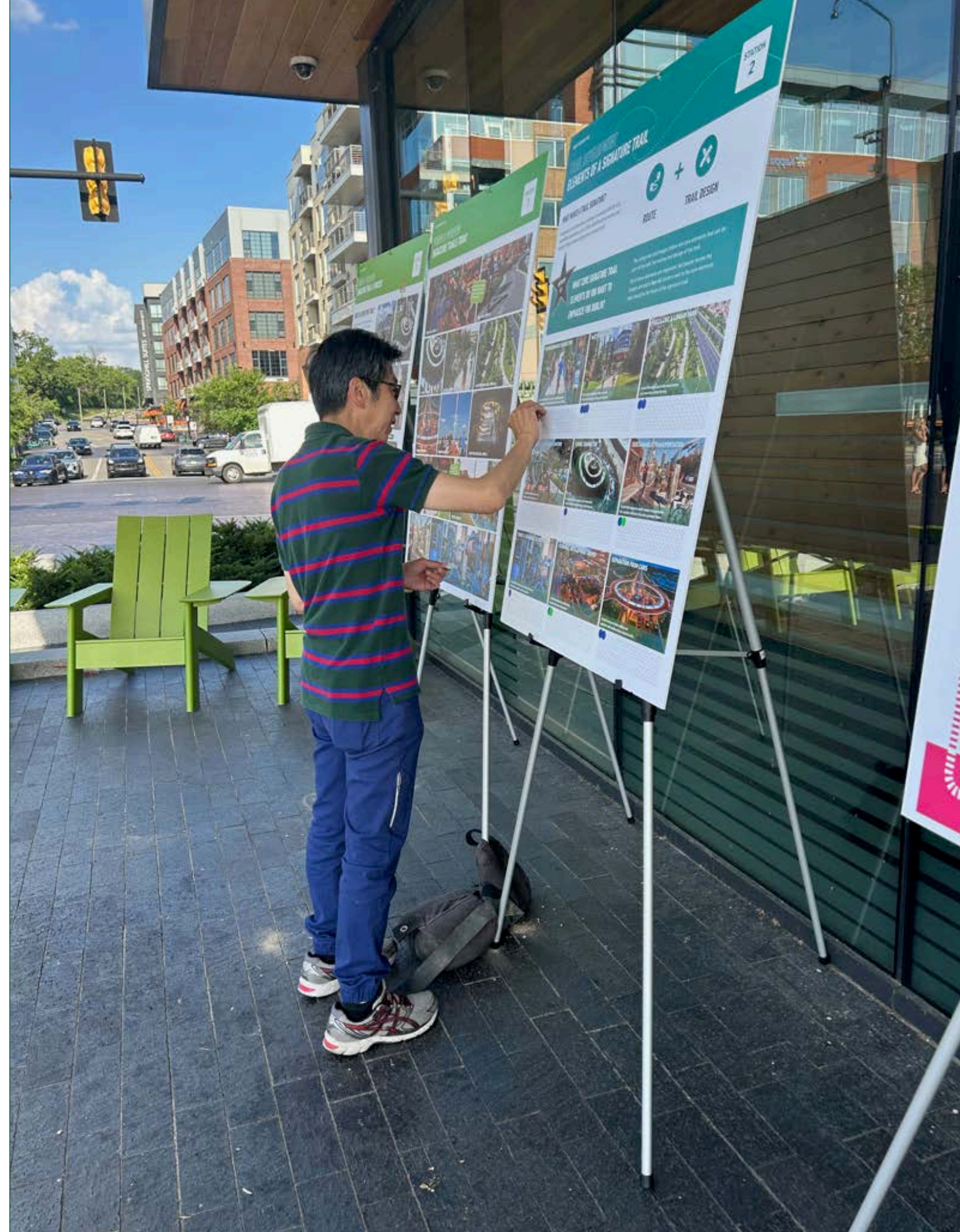
500+
Community Members
engaged in the
process to-date

13
Engagement
Events

369
Online survey
comments



3
Meetings with
Dublin City Council



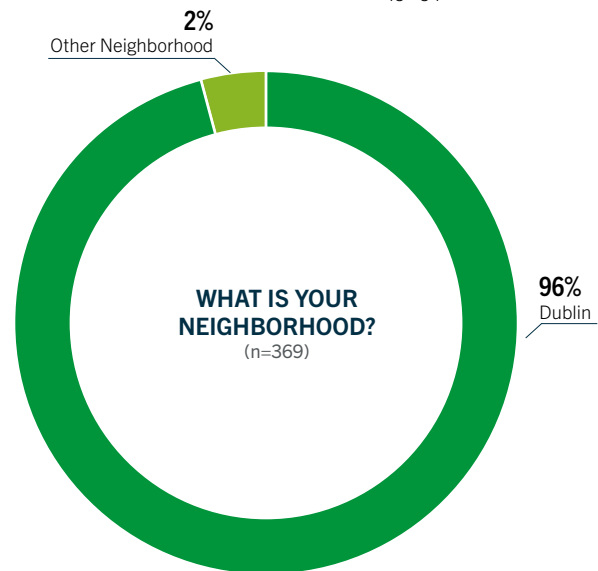
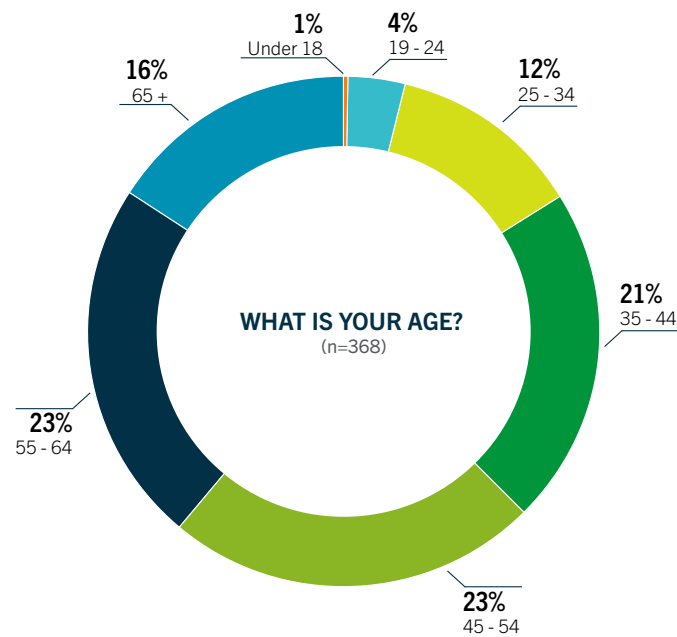
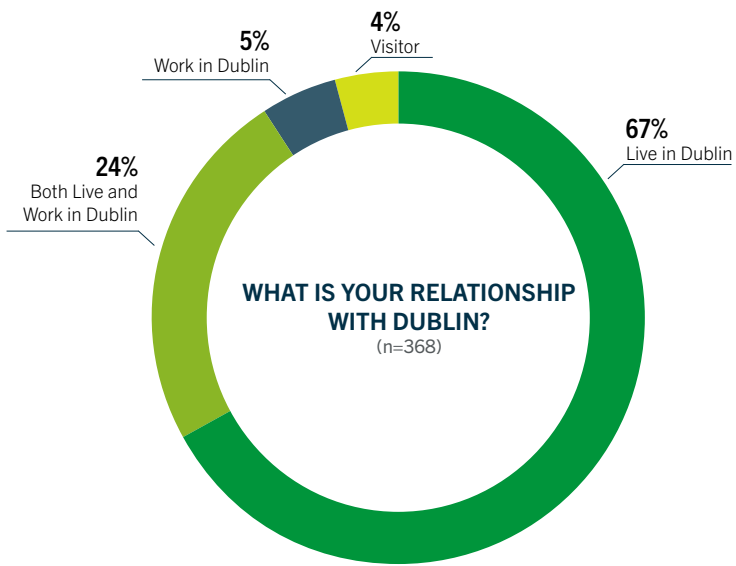
WHO WE HEARD FROM

Feedback Insights

The collected community-driven data ensures that the final trail reflects resident-identified desires and needs by highlighting the most-supported options, guiding the planning team to prioritize features, connections and amenities that matter most and informing decisions on key elements such as trail alignment, safety, placemaking and identity.

The results also help build consensus by highlighting areas of strong agreement among community members and City Council while identifying where further dialogue may be needed. Importantly, the survey results are not the end of the conversation but serve as a foundation for ongoing collaboration, with continued input from stakeholders, elected officials and the broader public guiding the refinement of the trail's vision throughout future design and implementation processes.

The following pages provide insights into the feedback and comments that were received from the community based on the questions we asked. This includes feedback from both in-person activities and the online engagement.



“ I bike a lot in Dublin. I feel comfortable on all of the trails and on the neighborhood roads. I don't feel comfortable on the busy roads except for Muirfield Drive, which has the designated bike lanes on it. ”

“ I like the hidden paths that run through backyards, along streams and through wooded areas. I'm not attracted to the paths which feel like wide asphalt sidewalks along major roads. ”

“ It would be amazing to connect Bridge Park, library, post office, community center, red trabue, with extensions to Glacier Ridge on the NW, Griggs Park on the South, and O'Shauneessy Dam on the N. ”

“ Open, vibrant, and surrounded by both the sense of community AND elements of nature. Biking, walking, running. ”

“ Connecting bridge park and historic Dublin to the western suburbs along Woerner Temple would be great given the proximity and access to the south pool, parks and neighborhoods. ”

“ There are too many bike trails that just dead-end...would love to have no dead-ends! :) would like to see safe accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists to shopping centers, such as the Kroger and Giant Eagle anchored centers. There are bike paths that run close to them but there is no safe way of entering them... ”

“ I enjoy riding on the multi-use paved paths. Physical separation from cars is integral to feeling comfortable riding longer distances, particularly with children. ”

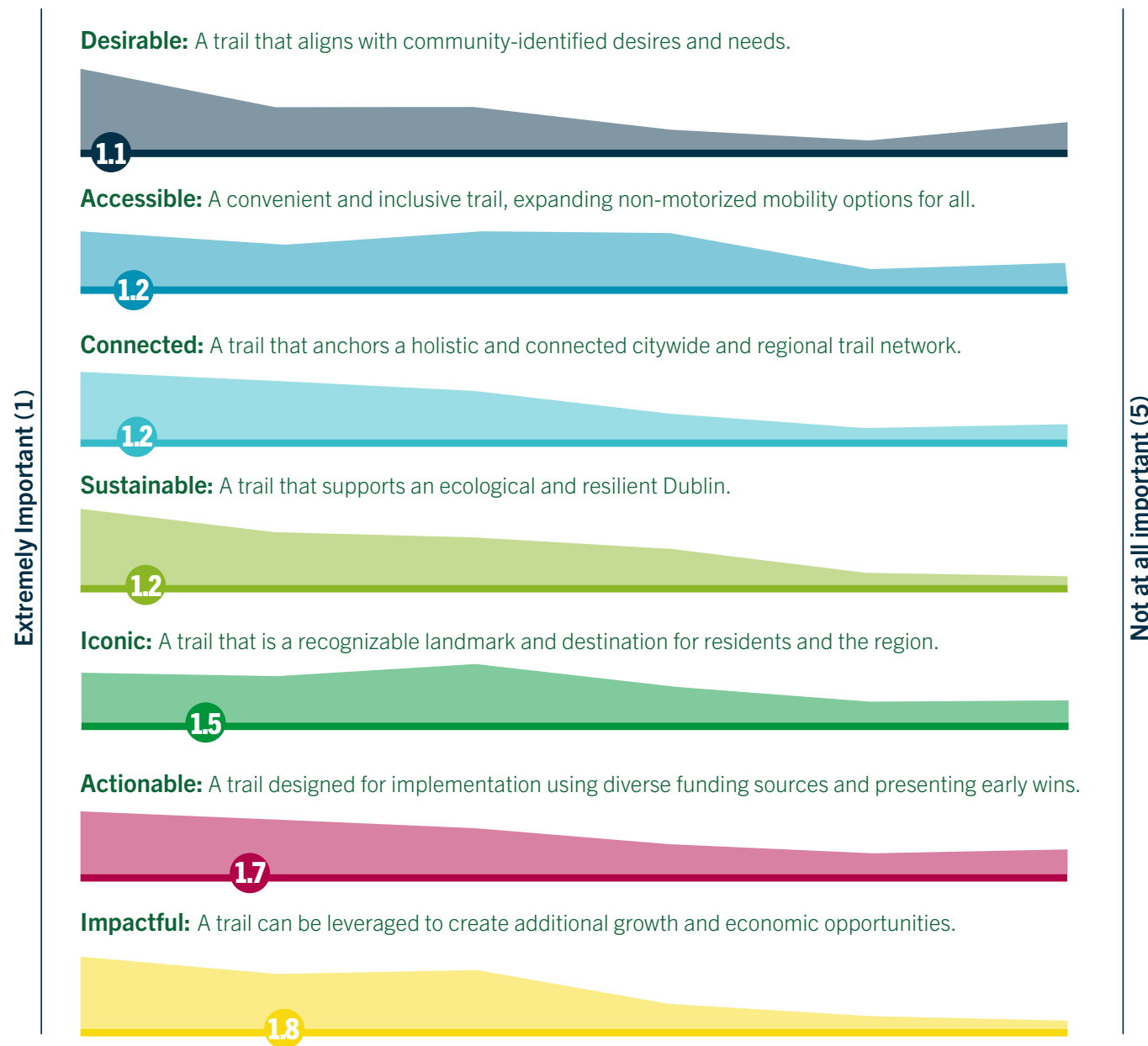
“ Currently, I love to bike at Griggs Reservoir Park or go to Antrim Park to the Olentangy Trail. I like Griggs because it has accessible parking and has gorgeous views of the river, and offers a paved trail. I do wish it were longer, though. ”



WHAT WE HEARD

Access is Key

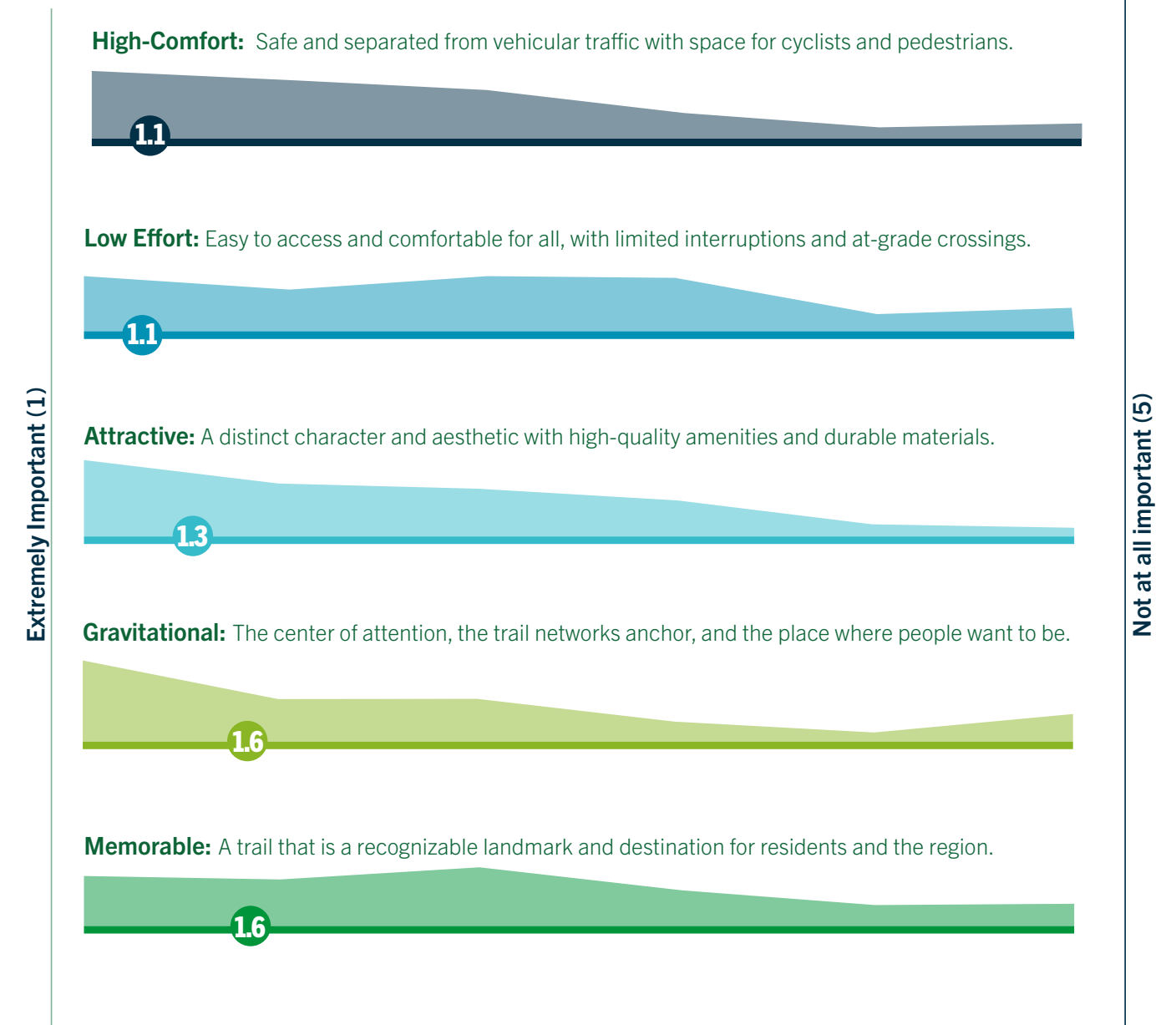
The survey revealed that the respondents preferred a trail that aligns with community desires, is accessible for all and is both connected and sustainable. While accessibility, connection and sustainability emerged as key themes, all goals were considered important to the success of the Signature Trail.



► The goals for the Dublin Signature Trail build upon the recommendations included in Envision Dublin. Tell us if you agree (1) somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or disagree (5) with the following goals, which could guide the trail's design. (n=368)

Comfort Matters

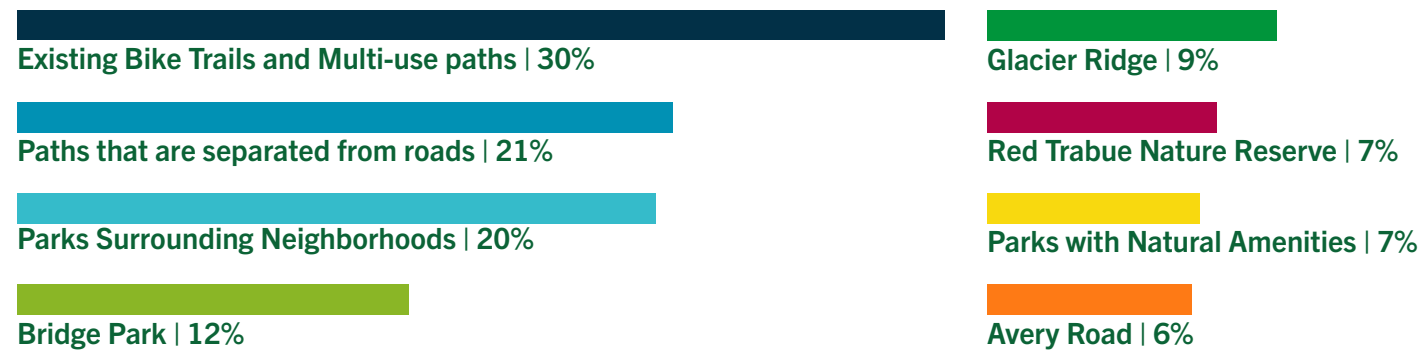
Respondents felt it was important to design a highly comfortable trail that is easy for all users to access without frequent grade changes or interruptions. The feedback not only reinforced accessibility as a top priority but also helped the project team shape and suggest trail routings, ensuring designs reflected the community's expectations for a pleasant, seamless and inclusive experience.



► The Dublin Signature Trail is intended to go above and beyond a typical trail. Tell us if you agree (1), somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or disagree (5) with the following goals, with the features necessary to make this a Signature Trail. (n=368)

Users Like to Be Separated From Traffic

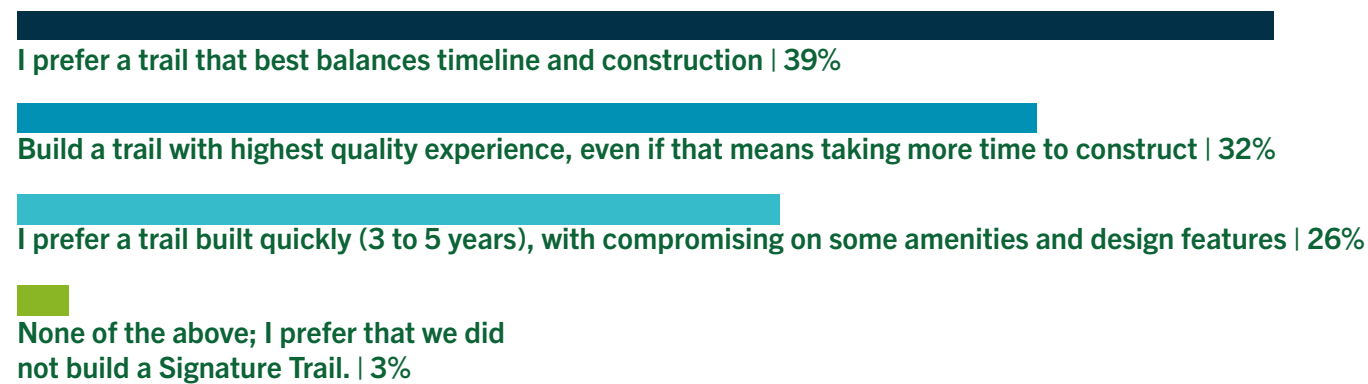
When asked where people feel most comfortable walking, running and biking in Dublin, a majority of responses selected trails and pathways that were separated from traffic. These results highlight a preference for a comfortable trail, suggesting that users are more likely to be active when it feels safe and inviting.



► Where do you feel most comfortable walking, running and biking in Dublin now? (n=369)

Quality is Important but so is Timeline

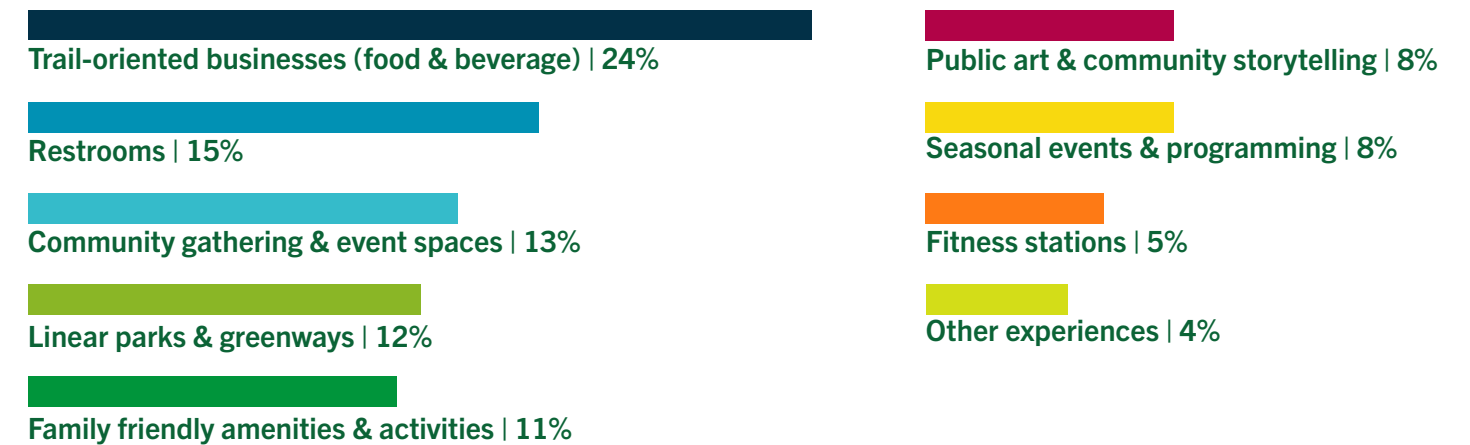
When asked about quality versus time, community members expressed a preference for a Signature Trail that balances timely construction with high-quality design. This balance is important because it ensures the trail can be delivered in a reasonable timeframe while still meeting long-term goals for safety, connectivity and community value.



► Designing and implementing a Signature Trail may require tradeoffs between constructing a typical trail now and building an iconic facility over an extended period. When valuing speed of implementation versus quality of design and experience, which one of the following options would you prefer? (n=368)

Street Activation and Trail Orientated Development is Essential

When asked about key development priorities, the community emphasized that the Signature Trail should include restrooms, trail-oriented businesses and spaces for gatherings and events. This feedback directly informs the trail's design, ensuring it prioritizes amenities that enhance comfort, usability and community engagement.



► What signature amenities or experiences would you like to see? (n=278)

Residents and Council Agree on What Defines Signature

When asked "what makes a Signature Trail," both City Council and the community emphasized the importance of a nature-forward design, separation from cars and strong neighborhood connections as essential features. This alignment is critical, as it provides a clear, shared vision that strengthens decision-making and ensures the trail's development reflects both community priorities and City leadership goals.

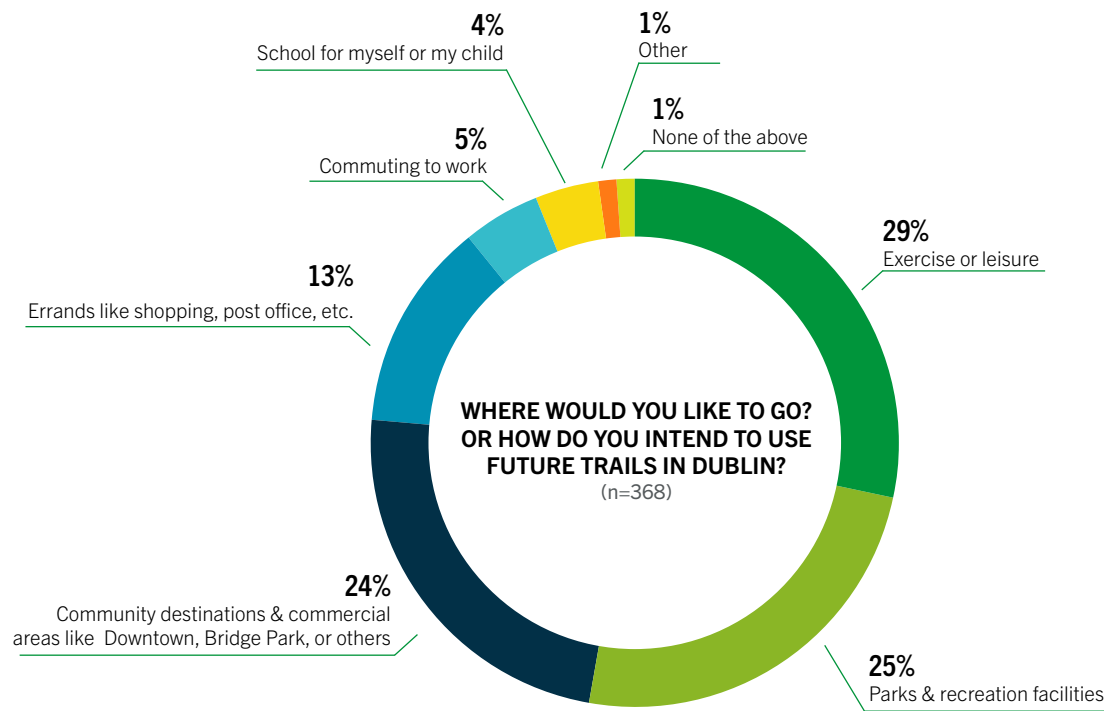
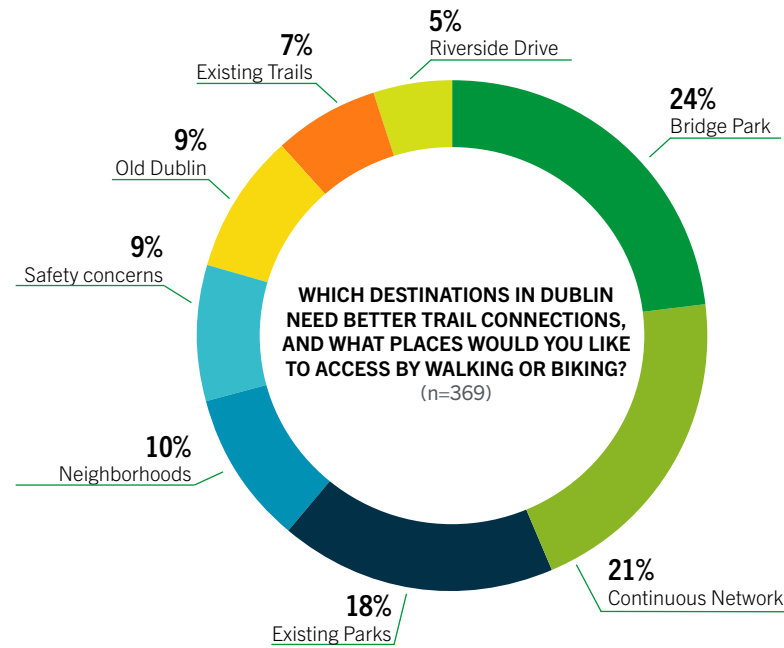


► What makes a trail signature? (n=376)

 **City Council Preferred Signature Features**

Connections to Open Spaces + Bridge Park

Survey respondents emphasized the need for stronger connections to Bridge Park and other key destinations. These links are essential for weaving the trail into everyday routines, supporting exercise, commuter transportation, recreation, and neighborhood access while also creating new opportunities for gathering and exploration. By designing a space with multiple uses, from leisure and wellness to social interaction and access to local destinations, the Signature Trail can become a multi-functional asset for both Dublin residents and visitors.



Local Trails Lack Signature Experiences

Nearly one in four respondents indicated they were unsure what or where the Signature Trail would be, highlighting a critical need for community education and engagement to raise awareness of the trail's purpose, benefits and identity.

By creating a space that fills an existing gap in the market, Dublin has the opportunity to set a new regional standard, one that responds directly to community interests and aspirations. Designing the trail around the elements residents identified as part of their "perfect day" experience such as recreation, social connection and access to key destinations ensures it reflects the values and daily lives of the people who will use it most.

Through this approach, the Signature Trail becomes not only a landmark but also a multi-functional, community-driven destination that inspires pride, increases visibility and strengthens Dublin's identity as a city that invests in its people and public spaces.

Unsure | 25%

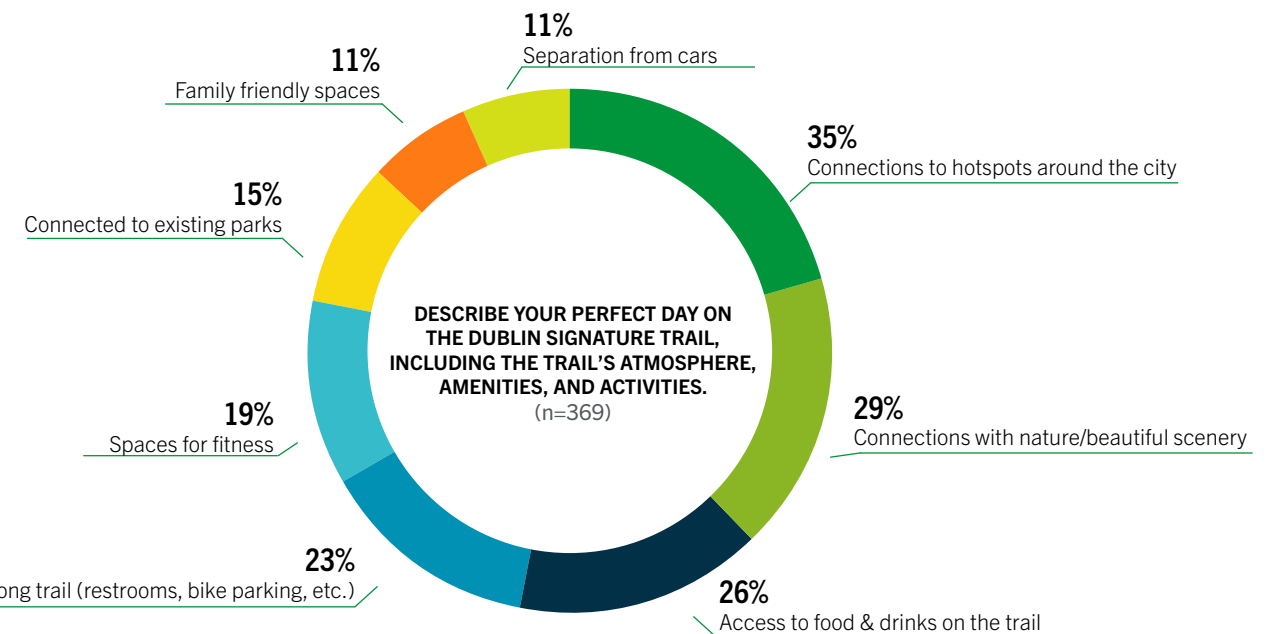
Dublin Trails | 6%

The High Line, NYC | 6%

Glacier Ridge | 6%

Monon Trail, IN | 5%

► Have you visited a trail that felt signature? Where was it? What made the trail feel like a signature experience? (n=369)



INSIGHTS

A Clear and Consistent Vision

The question of where to place the trail was asked online and in person at the pop-up events. The responses from these conversations were recorded and included in the analysis of each trail option, which will be shared in the next chapter as part of the route selection process. The community's preferred choice was just one of many data points used to identify a trail route with the most potential and community support.

Beyond route preference, both the online survey and in-person participants shared a clear and consistent vision for the Signature Trail. Participants emphasized the importance of broad accessibility through multiple access points, strong connections to dining and attractions and clear wayfinding that highlights public art and local points of interest. Respondents envisioned an iconic, safe and connected trail system that allows travel from homes to schools, parks, shops, restaurants and the library without a car. Describing a trail that blends the calm of nature with the vitality of urban life by offering forested retreats alongside seamless connections to key community destinations.

Building on the Trails Design objectives which emphasize inviting, accessible, high-comfort and high-quality amenities, participants expressed strong interest in features that create memorable and engaging experiences.

Ideas included passport stamp stations, memorial plaques and cultural storytelling elements to foster interaction and a strong sense of place.

TOP GOALS

The Dublin Signature Trail Should Be



Desirable

A trail that aligns with community-identified desires and needs.



Accessible

Convenient and inclusive, expanding non-motorized mobility options for all.



Connected

Anchors a holistic and connected city-wide and regional trail network.

TOP ELEMENTS

The Dublin Signature Trail Should Be



Nature Forward

Highlight and preserve natural landscapes and green spaces.



Separated from Cars

Prioritizes safety and comfort for users of all ages and abilities.



Neighborhood Connector

Provide links to various neighborhoods, community parks and other destinations.

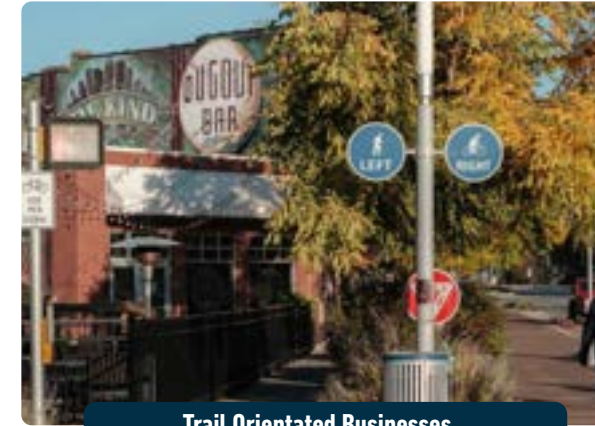


Iconic

Unique and memorable, with strong visual identity and landmarks.

TOP AMENITIES

The Dublin Signature Trail Should Have



Trail Orientated Businesses



Community Gathering Spaces



Restrooms

During public hearings, the Council suggested that the Signature Trail should serve as a resource for all types of trips and users—whether commuting, recreating, exercising or running errands. Participants agreed and emphasized the importance of designing for people of all ages and abilities, reinforcing the inclusive, community-focused spirit at the heart of the project. For many, accessibility means trails near home that access familiar neighborhood routes while offering the chance to step into wooded areas and greenways for a peaceful escape while staying connected to the city's energy.

The community values trails that connect directly to destinations like Coffman Park, Darree Fields, Red Trabue and Indian Run, with an aim to blend scenic beauty with cultural storytelling. At the same time, residents clearly emphasize the importance of quality infrastructure: they prefer wide, well-maintained trails and express frustrations with narrow or uneven surfaces, overgrown vegetation and inconsistent snow removal.

Equally important is flexibility, as people want continuous connections that support commuting, errands, exercise, play and leisure without inconvenient detours. Families in particular emphasized the need for a kid-friendly system with tunnels and underpasses that allow children to move comfortably and safely through the community.

Overall, these insights reflect a strong desire for a comprehensive trail that blends everyday convenience with nature, safety and memorable experiences.



04 ROUTE

Development and evaluation of multiple trail alignments and the process used to select a preferred route. All options were influenced by technical data, site conditions and community feedback ensuring the final alignment reflects thorough analysis and local priorities.



TRAIL ALIGNMENT

Process of Selecting a Signature Trail Route

The process of selecting a preferred route in Dublin involved collaboration among council members, community feedback and technical analysis. The team began by reviewing the City's current trail network, infrastructure and ongoing plans, using this as a foundation to develop multiple options, each with distinctive identities while aligning with Dublin's broader vision.

Key Features and Drivers

The routing of potential Signature Trail alignments was guided by important physical factors that determine how the trail can connect across the city. These factors create the framework for deciding where the trail starts and ends, how it crosses major barriers and which corridors it may follow.

Termini: Starting and ending points for the trail within the city.

Crossings: Current and potential crossing points of US-33, I-270 and the Scioto River.

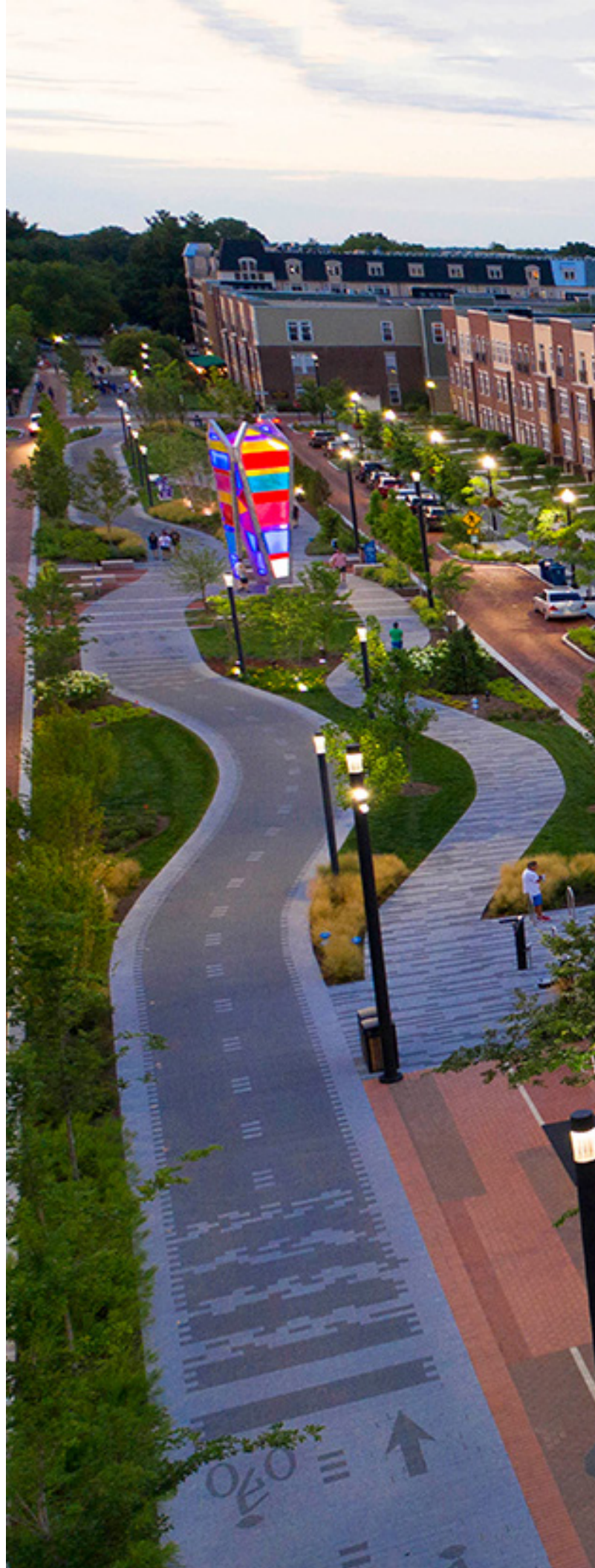
Corridors: Existing and planned trails, roadways and open spaces the trail may occupy.

Potential Alignments

More than ten preliminary alignments were created to examine a broad spectrum of potential routes and experiences for the Dublin Signature Trail. These alignments were intentionally designed to be diverse and distinct, allowing for clear comparisons and contrasts.

From Many Routes to Four

Each option was then reviewed through a vetting process and subjected to a "fatal flaw" test to remove routes with significant limitations. Past and ongoing planning efforts were also considered to ensure consistency and alignment with citywide initiatives and active project goals. From this analysis, four alternatives were presented for public review, allowing residents to give feedback on how each route could best serve the community.



1 WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES?
Origins + Destinations + Crossings + Termini

Every route option links from the proposed Passenger Rail Station and Darree Fields to Sawmill Road with strategic trail crossings of highways and rivers.



2 WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES?
Wide World of Possible Signature Trail Routes

A wide range of segments and alternatives identify potential routes for the Signature Trail, including parks, existing trails, roadways, waterways and new developments.



3 WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ALIGNMENTS?
Eleven Distinctly Unique Continuous Trail Routes

A fatal flaw analysis narrowed many route options to four for further study by assessing the routes signature potential.



4 WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES?
Four Alternatives that respond to the project vision.

The four route options identified were further evaluated based on community input, leadership guidance, and technical data-driven analysis.

POTENTIAL ALIGNMENTS

Preliminary Routes

The following routes are examples of the different options considered during the initial stages of the Dublin Signature Trail planning process. At this point, the advantages and disadvantages of each option were carefully evaluated, not only based on their individual merits but also on how well they aligned with the broader goals of Envision Dublin and other proposed plans and projects.

All the preliminary trail alignments were grouped into four main themes to help describe their design intent and location. Northside Connectors are alignments that mainly serve communities north of US-33. Southside Connectors are alignments that mainly serve communities south of US-33. Direct Connectors offer a relatively simple connection from east to west, often following roadways or passing through underdeveloped areas. Lastly, Knots are alignments with additional loops that help serve a wide range of neighborhoods and destinations.

NORTHSIDE CONNECTORS:

- The Green Ribbon
- The Possibility Parkway

SOUTHSIDE CONNECTORS:

- Ring Around the Temple
- The Dublin Dipper
- The Neighborhood Noodle
- The Ditch Hunter 3000

DIRECT CONNECTORS:

- The Straight Shooter (See Below)
- The North Side-Side Super Fly
- The South-Side Super Fly

KNOTS:

- The Top Knot
- The Double Knot

Figure 14. Other Potential Route Alignments



The Neighborhood Noodle



Ring Around the Temple



The Ditch-Hunter 3000



The Green Ribbon



The South-Side Super Fly



The North-Side Super Fly

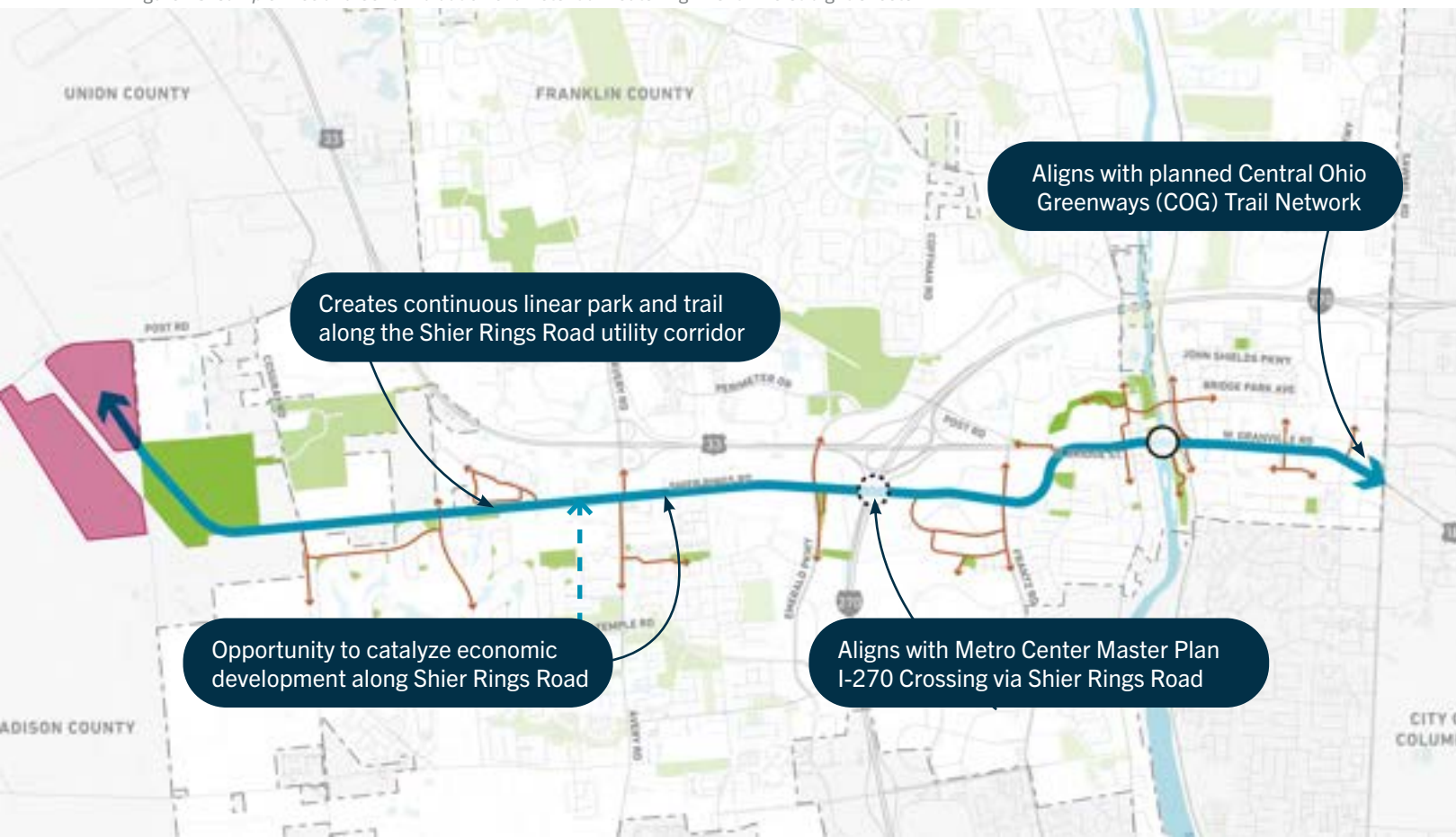


The Top-Knot



The Double Knot

Figure 13. Sample Pros and Cons Evaluation of a Potential Route Alignment: The Straight Shooter



ANALYSIS #1

Gut Check and Fatal Flaws

The analysis of the trail options involved a series of workshops with City Staff and the planning team to review all potential alignments and identify suggested alternatives for further study and public comment. This process began by addressing the following questions:

Fatal Flaws: Are there any fatal flaws for route implementation or planning?

Signature Potential: Which routes have the greatest Signature Trail potential?

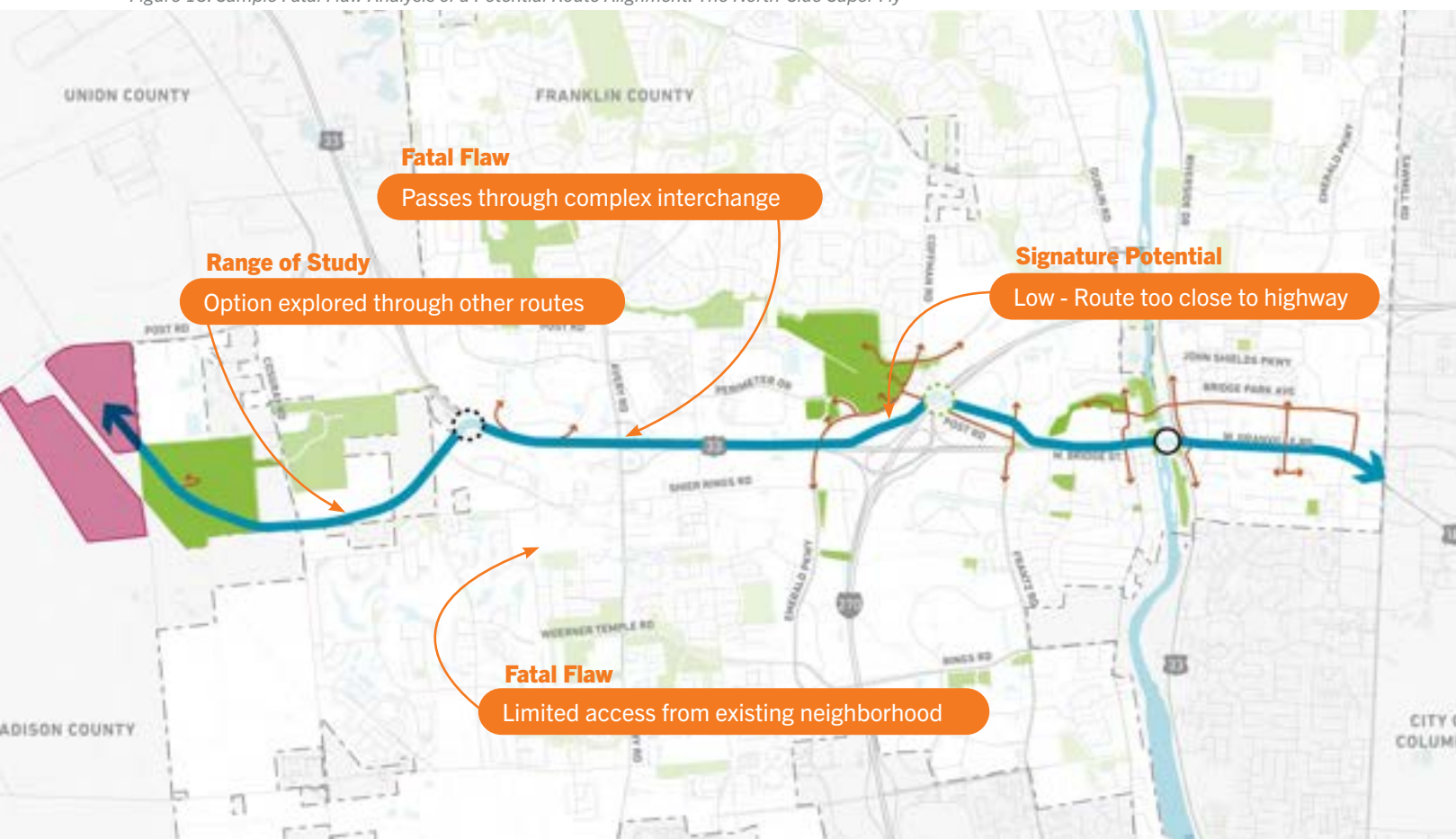
Range of Study: Do the route options provide enough variety for future study and input?

In Analysis #1, routes were assessed based on how each option answered the criteria questions, resulting in four choices for further study, Council review and public feedback.

The example below shows how the analysis was conducted for the entire route. Key considerations for reviewing the alignments included understanding their strengths, weaknesses and potential fatal flaws while identifying which routes felt most connected, feasible and truly “signature”.

This particular route was not selected for advancement due to a series of fatal flaws and uninspired context related to its location next to the highway. Each route was analyzed using the same parameters to determine which had the greatest potential for success as a Signature Trail.

Figure 15. Sample Fatal Flaw Analysis of a Potential Route Alignment: The North-Side Super Fly



WHY ALIGNMENTS WERE EXCLUDED

Alternative Was Not Advanced for Further Study Because.....



Absent Signature Experience

Alignment has limited ability to provide new, iconic or signature moments continuously along its route.



Unsafe Location

Trail location created implementation or safety concerns due to conflicts with existing traffic.



Poor Access from Neighborhoods

Route did not provide convenient, safe, or efficient access from high density residential neighborhoods.



Weak Connections to Destinations

Trail did not reach prominent parks or other key destinations and assets within Dublin.



Inferior Alignment with Envision Dublin

Alignment does not support opportunities to leverage other proposed projects throughout Dublin.



Missing Economic Development Options

Route does not connect to business districts or create opportunities for Trail Orientated Development



Lacking Mode Shift Opportunities

Poor connections do not encourage a shift from short vehicle trips to biking or walking.



Limits Range of Study

Proposed trail location is redundant and can be explored through other options



ALTERNATIVE #1

The Green Ribbon

A north-side connector that provides a continuous greenway experience made of new and existing trail corridors.

The Green Ribbon links the proposed passenger rail station, Darree Fields, SportsOhio and provides a direct link through the Westside Innovation District. The route crosses US-33 via a grade-separated crossing (Envision Dublin). North of US-33, the proposed route provides an extensive linear park experience separated from vehicles and leverages existing trail and open space corridors from Red Trabue Nature Preserve to Coffman Park. The route continues east and crosses I-270 via a pre-existing grade-separated crossing (Envision Dublin) before linking Indian Run Falls, the Dublin Link Bridge and Sawmill Rd via Dublin-Granville Road.

Evaluation and Trade-offs

How does the Green Ribbon compare to the other alternatives in achieving community priorities

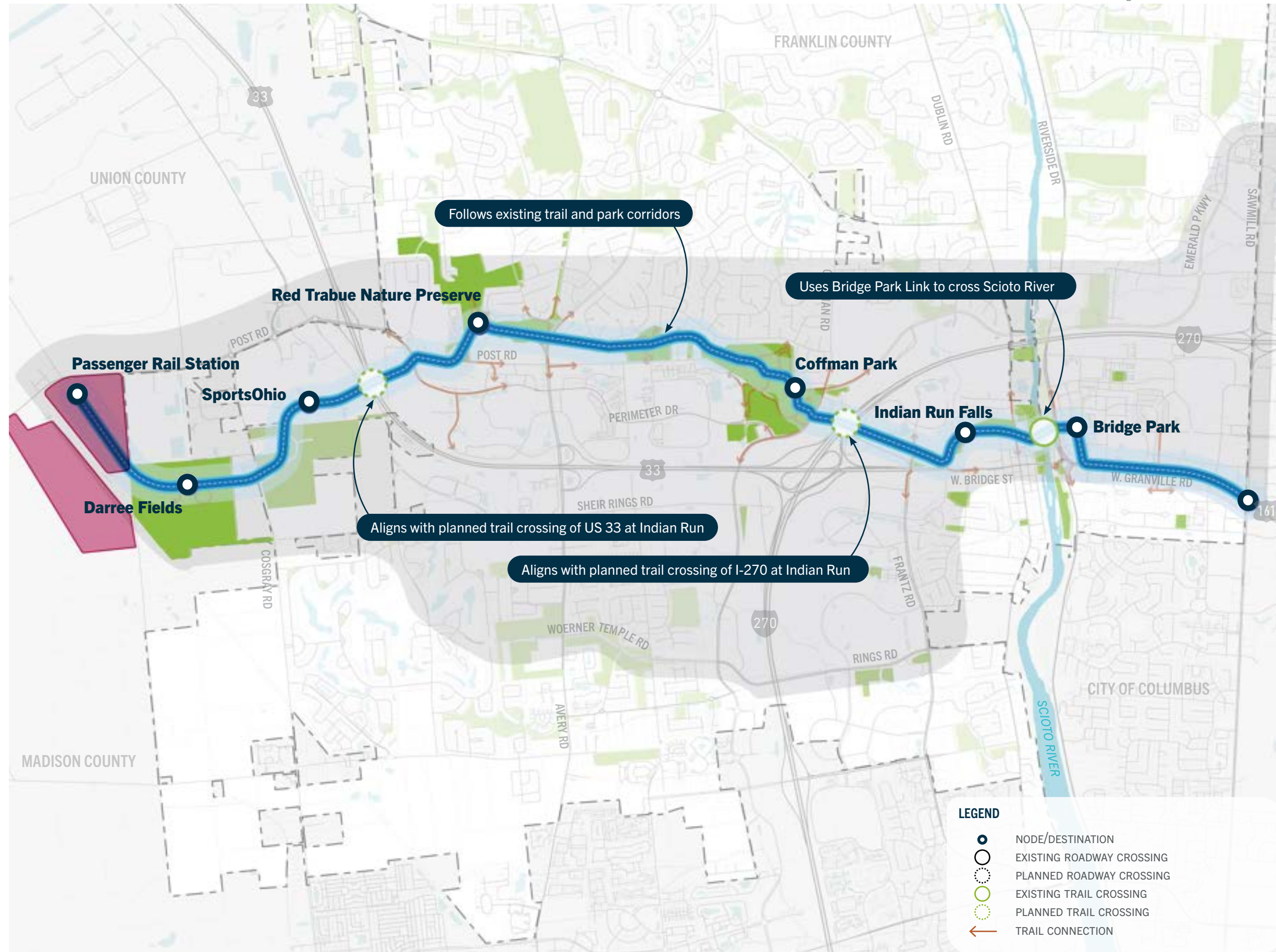
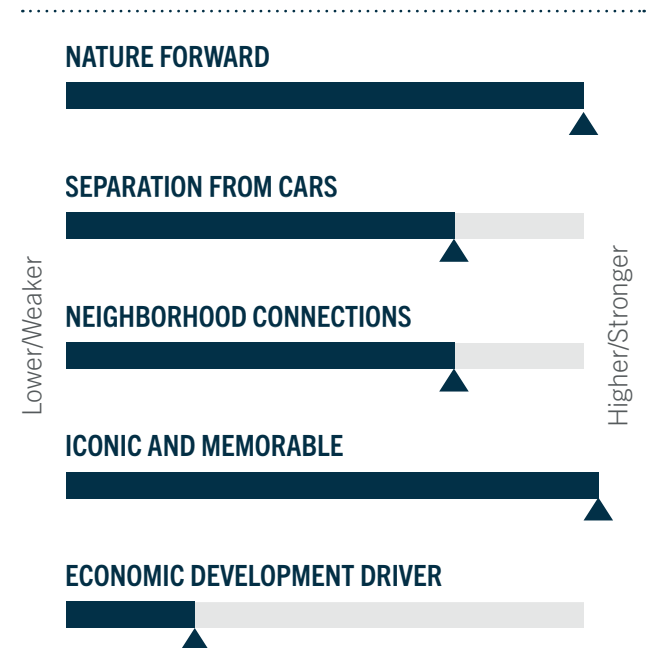


Figure 17. The Possibility Parkway

ALTERNATIVE #2

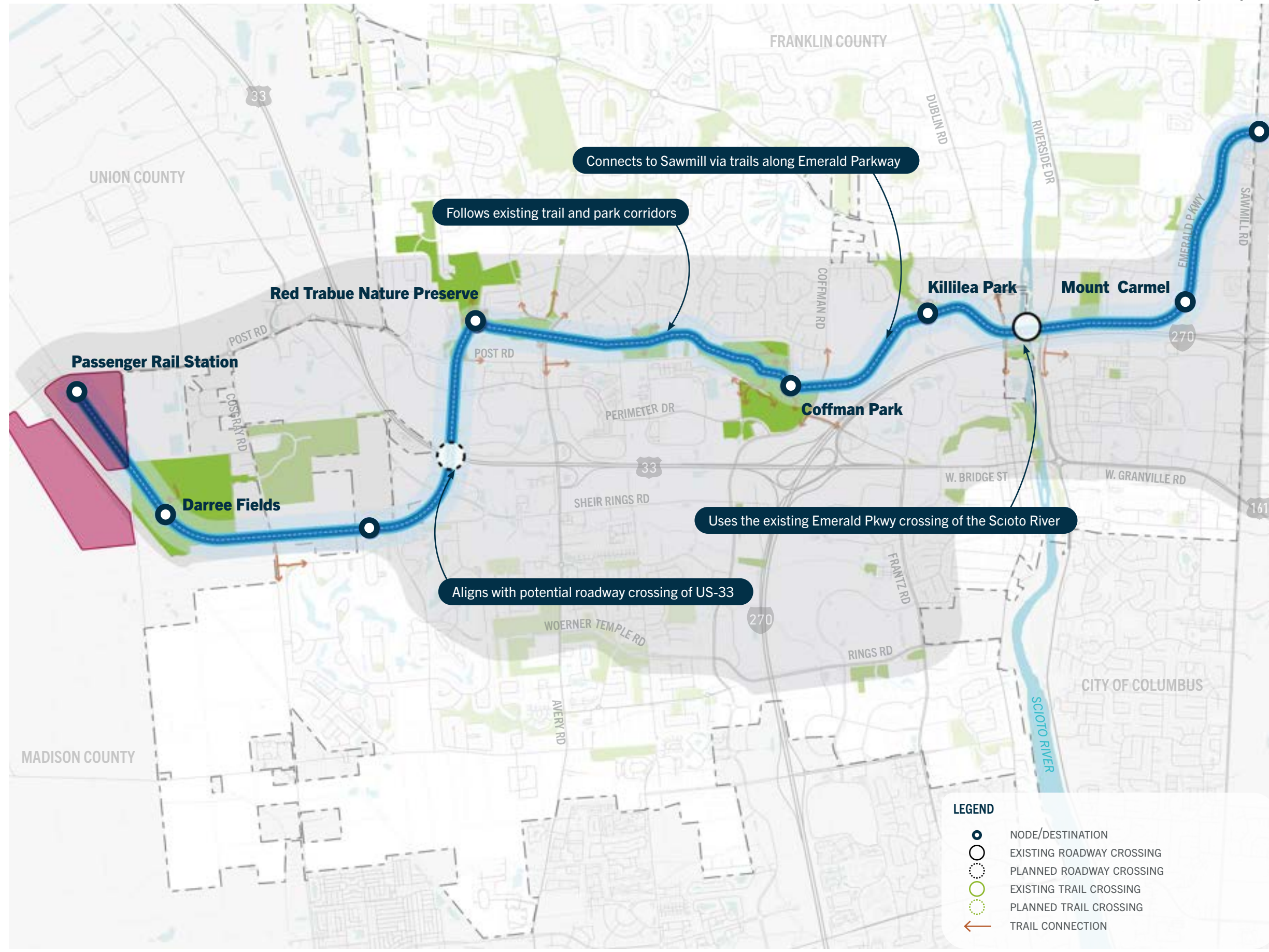
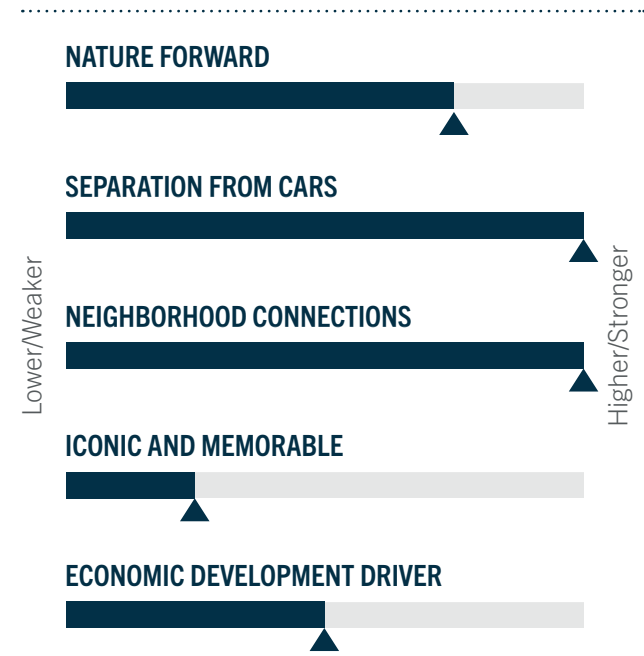
The Possibility Parkway

A north-side connector that connects major western destinations via existing trails, bridges and Emerald Parkway.

The Possibility Parkway links the proposed passenger rail station and Darree Fields and aligns with a new street connection as included in the Multi-modal Thoroughfare Plan and US-33 overpass. North of US-33, the proposed route generally follows Hospital Drive north and leverages existing trail and open space corridors from Red Trabue Nature Preserve to Coffman Park. The route continues east along Emerald Parkway to Sawmill Road, linking neighborhood parks and the new Mount Carmel Dublin Hospital.

Evaluation and Trade-offs

How does the Possibility Parkway compare to the other alternatives in achieving community priorities



ALTERNATIVE #3

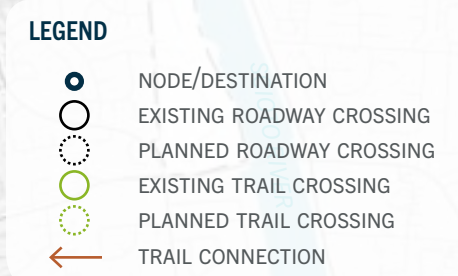
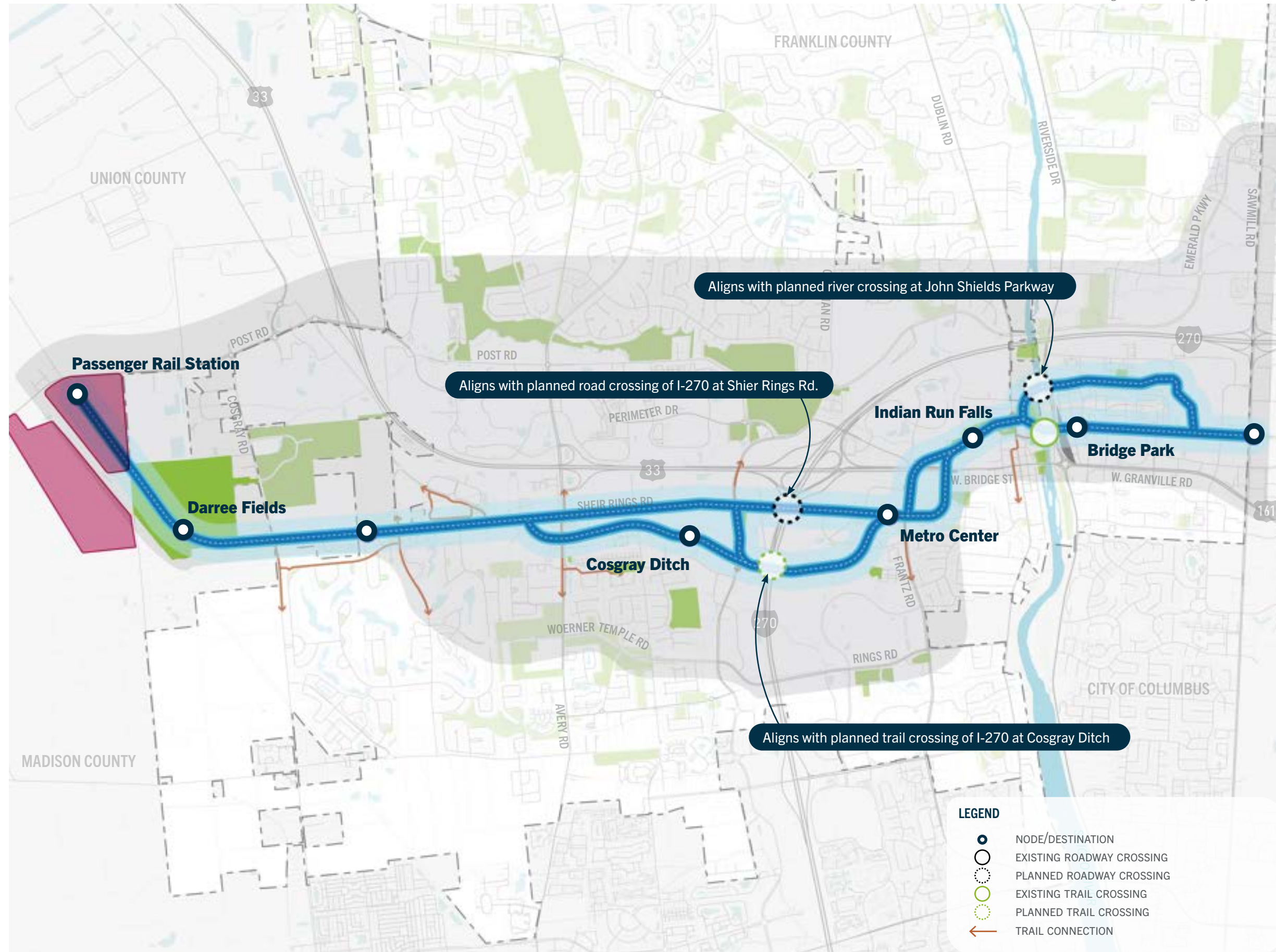
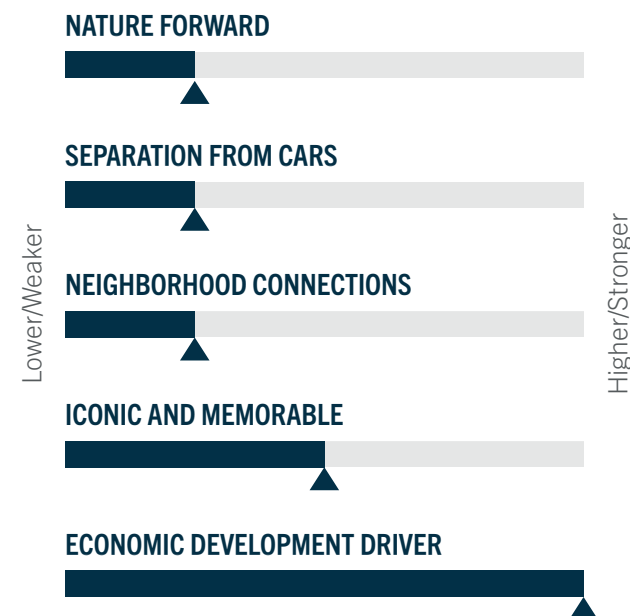
The Cosgray Connect

A south-side connector that provides the most direct route and economic development opportunities with strong connections to Metro Center and Historic Dublin.

The Cosgray Connect links the proposed passenger rail station and Darree Fields. From there, the route continues east along the north side of Shier Rings Road with alternate routes that could follow along Cosgray Ditch. At I-270, the route aligns with either the proposed Shier Rings Road and bridge overpass into MetroCenter (Envision Dublin) or the proposed grade-separated greenway crossing at Cosgray Ditch (Envision Dublin). East of I-270, the route passes through MetroCenter and north to Indian Run Falls before continuing east through Historic Dublin with alternate routes along John Shields Parkway and the proposed John Shields Parkway bridge (Envision Dublin) or via the Dublin Link Bridge and John Shields Parkway to Sawmill Road.

Evaluation and Trade-offs

How does the Cosgray Connect compare to the other alternatives in achieving community priorities



ALTERNATIVE #4

The Dublin Dipper

A south-side connector that links southern neighborhoods and parks via Woerner Temple Road to the Bridge Street District, Darree Fields and the proposed passenger rail station.

The Dublin Dipper links the proposed passenger rail station and Darree Fields. From there, the route continues east along the north side of Shier Rings Road before jogging south to Woerner Temple Road via Eiterman Road in the Ballantrae neighborhood. Along Woerner Temple Road, a potential road diet between Avery Road and Emerald Parkway would create the opportunity for a linear park and trail linking neighborhood parks and retrofitting the existing Rings Road bridge over I-270. East of I-270, the route features alternates that connect north through MetroCenter to Indian Run Falls. The route aligns with the proposed John Shields Parkway Extension and bridge over the Scioto River (Envision Dublin) and continues due east to Sawmill Road.

Evaluation and Trade-offs

How does the Dublin Dipper compare to the other alternatives in achieving community priorities

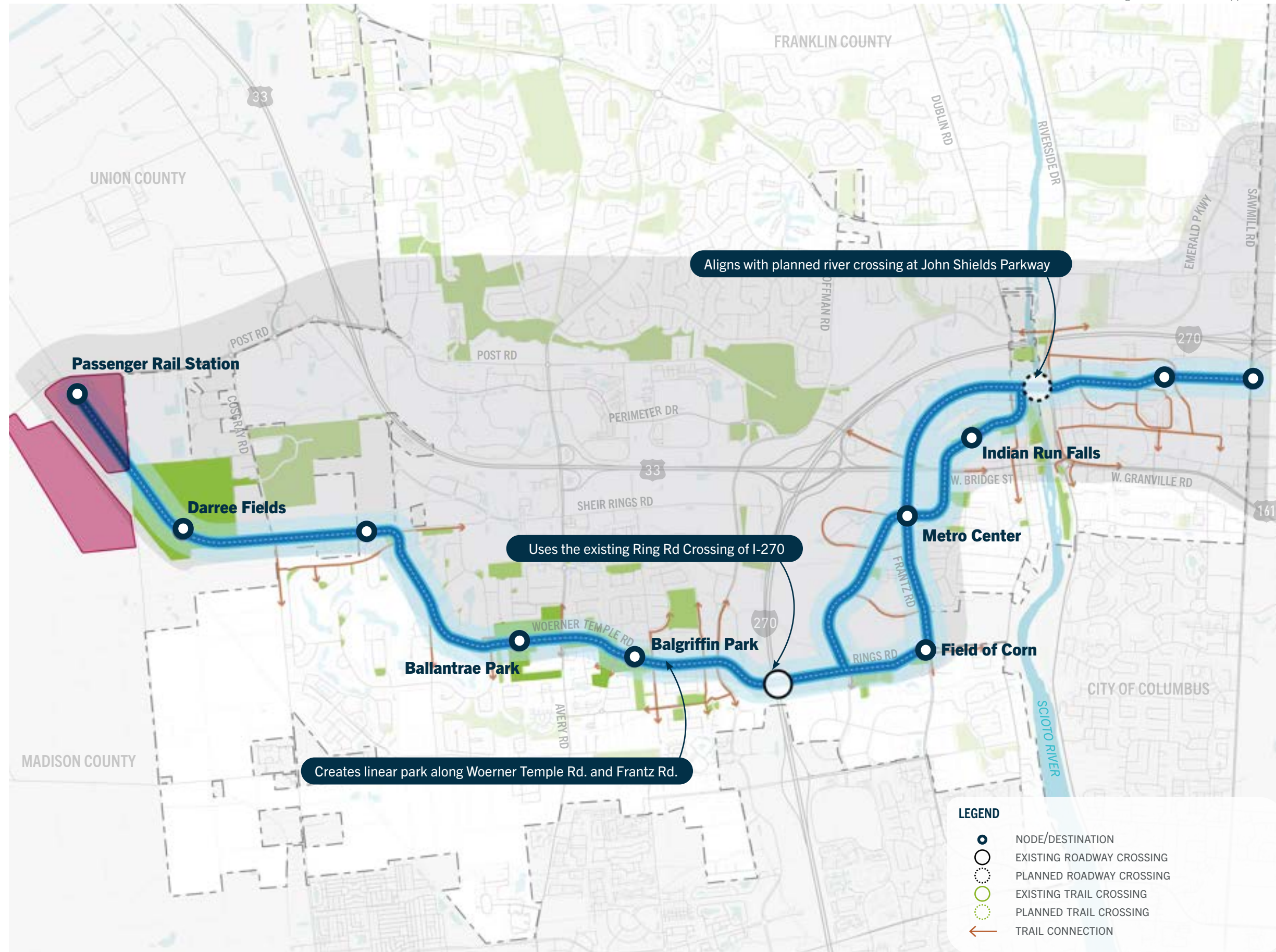
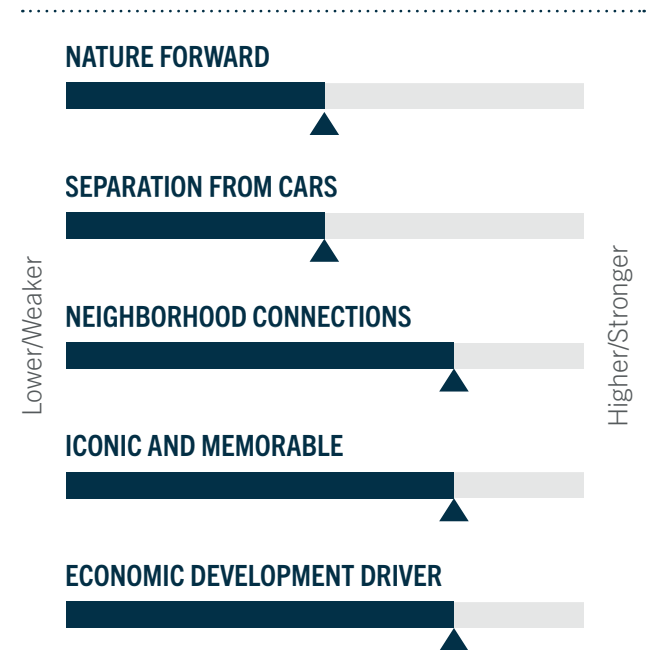


Figure 20. Route Alternatives Overlay

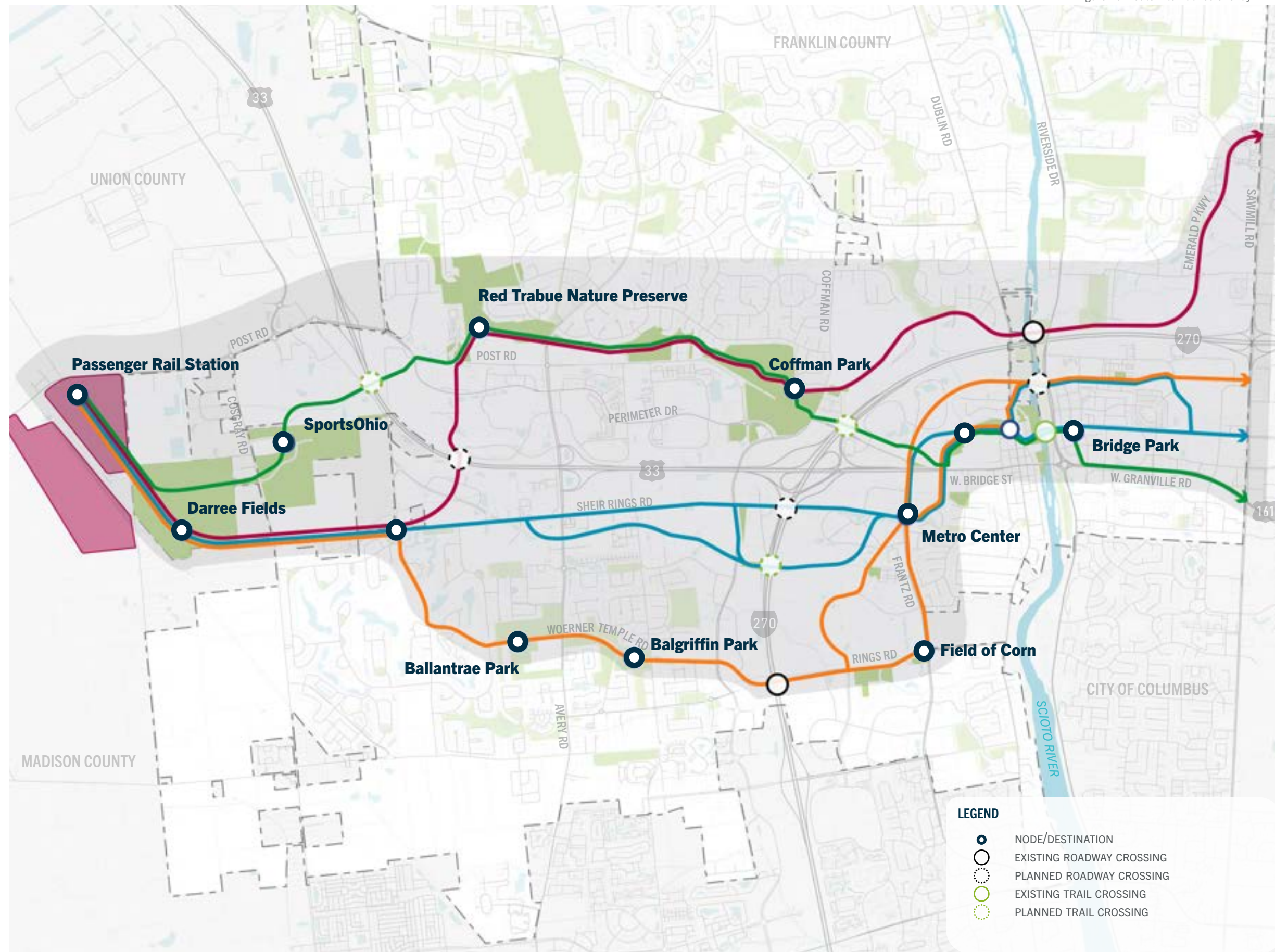
ALTERNATIVES OVERLAY

Different Paths + Different Possibilities

While there is some overlap between alternatives, each one creates unique experiences, connections and opportunities.

The Green Ribbon, Possibility Parkway, Dublin Dipper and Cosgray Connect were selected to advance for further study and analysis because they exhibited the following:

- Signature experience potential
- Access from existing neighborhoods
- Connections to key amenities, destinations and economic development areas
- Alignment with Envision Dublin
- Mode shift from vehicle to active transportation
- Expands the range of study



- THE GREEN RIBBON**
- THE POSSIBILITY PARKWAY**
- THE COSGRAY CONNECT**
- THE DUBLIN DIPPER**

ANALYSIS #2

Guided by Residents, Grounded in Data

The goal of the second round of analysis was to narrow four routes to a single option. Analysis #2 followed three guiding factors and aimed to establish a baseline of data to help City leadership make informed decisions focused on feedback from the community. Three factors drove this evaluation.

Data-Driven Evaluation: A measurable process to determine which routes best support the project’s vision and goals.

Stakeholder and Leadership Collaboration: Guidance from partners and City leadership on the feasibility and alignment with both short-term and long-term goals for Dublin.

Community Input: Feedback from open houses and the results of surveys conducted both online and in person.

Because the project goals are interconnected, no single data point can capture all of them. To improve the organization of the route evaluation process, the goals were grouped into related categories making it easier to break them down into measurable criteria. The initial step of this analysis involved three guiding questions: Is it Signature? Is it Foundational? Is it Actionable?

Is it Signature? This question addresses whether the alignment has community and Council support and offers a consistent high-quality trail experience.

Is it Foundational? This question pertains to the basics of trail building including connectivity to destinations, jobs and population centers, alignment with other networks while ensuring safety and convenient access.

Is it Actionable? The question addresses implementation including the availability of rights-of-way, alignment with existing trail facilities, short-term feasibility, alignment with Envision Dublin and cost.

Step 1: Ask Questions

To improve organization of the route evaluation process, goals were grouped into related categories based on what specific question they would answer.

Step 2: Develop Criteria

Measurable criteria were identified and weighted based on feedback from City Council.

Step 3: Create Segments

The study area was divided into segments to allow a more detailed analysis and the potential to mix-and-match alignments based on the results.

Step 4: Measure Results

Each route and segment was measured and analyzed through a detailed scoring process to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Step 5: Compare Alternatives

The results were placed back into their respective categories to compare alignments to determine which routes met or exceeded the projects goals.








QUESTIONS	GOALS	CRITERIA
IS IT SIGNATURE?	 Desirable	Community preferred trail experience Continuity of experience
	 Iconic	Continuous placemaking opportunities Opportunity for a signature feature or moment
	 Impactful	Aligns with economic development opportunities
IS IT FOUNDATIONAL?	 Connected	Access to Community points of interest Access to jobs Connectivity to existing and planned trail facilities Connectivity to multi-modal transportation options
	 Sustainable	Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction potential Population served
	 Accessible	Serves underserved populations or areas Solves safety concern Frequency & quality of crossings
	 Actionable	Absence of need for easements / ROW acquisition Upgrade of existing facilities Ability for phasing and short-term implementation Aligns with planned infrastructure projects Cost

Figure 21. Summary of Questions and Evaluation Criteria

Segments

To better understand community preferences and design opportunities, the four proposed Signature Trail corridors were divided into three distinct segments for further analysis and discussion with the community and Dublin City Council. This approach intentionally allowed community members to mix and match preferred segments, identifying combinations that best reflected both local and community-wide priorities and experiences rather than committing to a single continuous corridor. It also enabled participants to prioritize individual segments strongly resonated with their design interests such as connectivity, recreation or scenic quality.

Separating the trails into smaller segments also introduces greater flexibility and diversity within the analysis process. Each segment could be assessed for how it addressed unique environmental, physical, cultural, safety or implementation factors, ensuring that the final Signature Trail concept reflects a balanced blend of community preference, data-driven analysis, feasibility and design excellence. This structure not only supports informed decision-making but also encourages a more inclusive and creative dialogue about what Dublin's Signature Trail can become.

Community Input

During the public input phase, community members were asked to select the route alternative that appealed to them in each of the three segments. Ultimately, the feedback gathered from these sessions, both online and in person, became a key foundation and data point for the alternatives analysis, which was then developed alongside the broader community engagement process. This approach ensured that the route selection was community-driven, data-enriched and shaped by the voices and priorities of Dublin's residents.

City Council Input

The City Council also played a vital role in reviewing and providing input on the proposed trail segments. During a workshop, members were asked to select their preferred route alternative in each of the three segments. Their feedback helped shape priorities related to connectivity, feasibility and long-term community benefits. This combined outreach with the broader community and the City Council helps identify where there is alignment and divergence between potential capital investment decisions, strategic planning goals and the lived experiences and aspirations of residents.

By integrating insights from both the public and City Council, the planning process fostered a balanced and transparent decision-making framework. This approach enables the Signature Trail to move forward with broad support, ensuring that the final alignment, design and character of the trail will deliver a meaningful, community-driven amenity that reflects the best of Dublin's identity, innovation and commitment to quality public spaces.

Figure 22. Route Segments

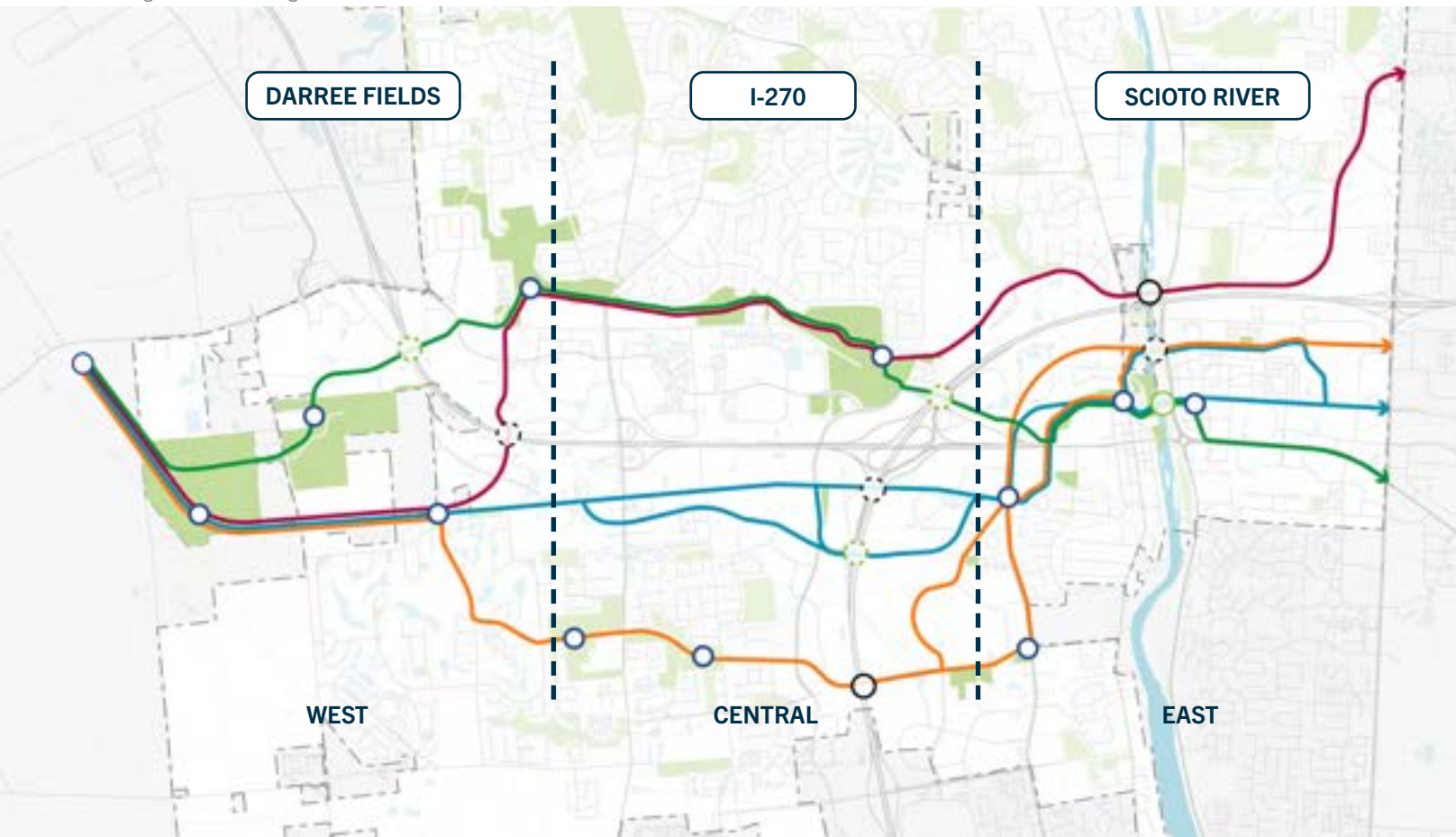
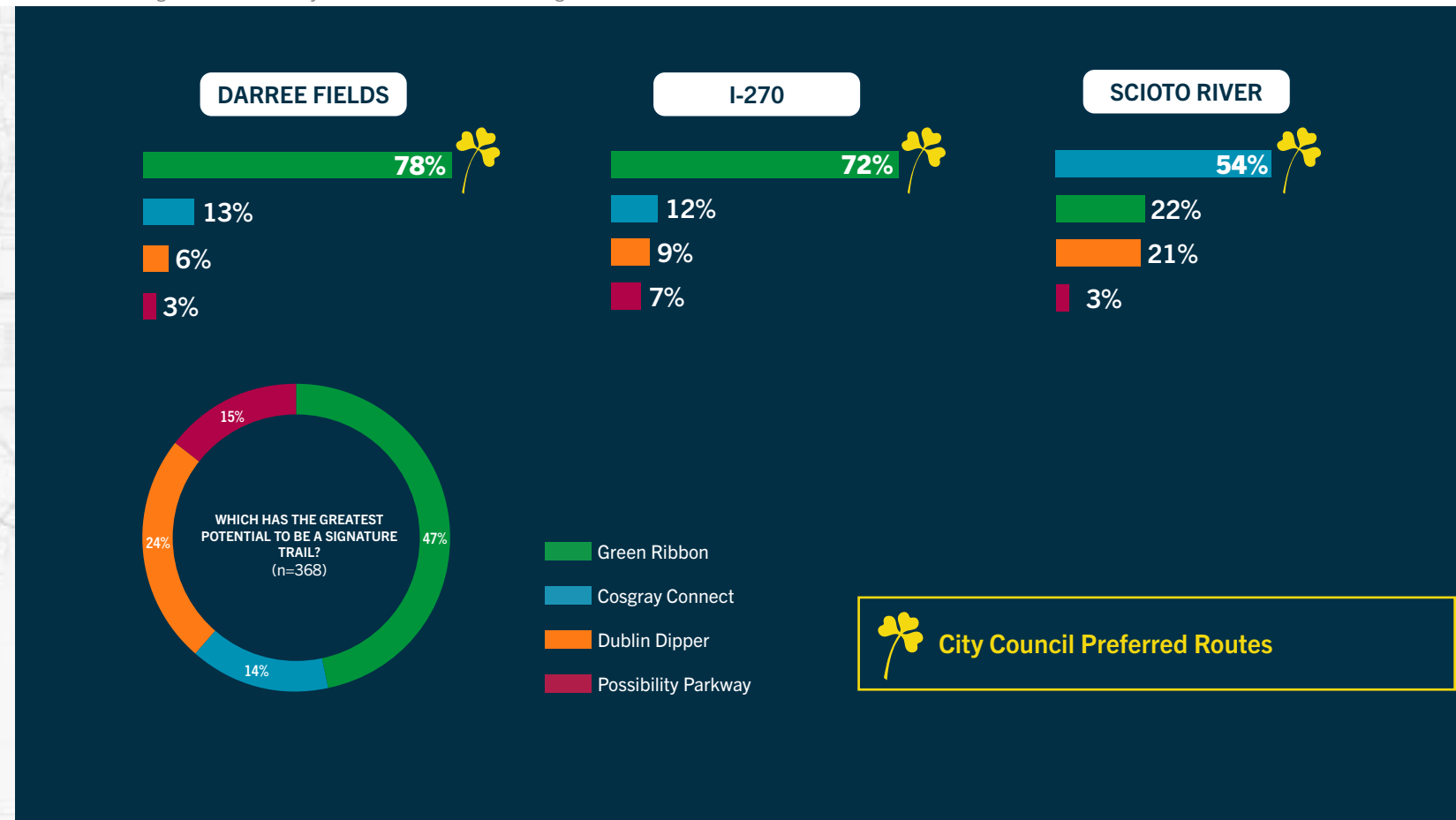


Figure 23. Community + Council Preferred Route Segments



RESULTS

Strong and Flexible Pairing

The results of the alternatives analysis provided a clear direction for the preferred trail routes in all three segments.

Darree Fields Segment: The Green Ribbon was the top-performing alternative in the west segment. The Green Ribbon far outperformed the other alternatives regarding the question “Is it Signature?”, in particular for its ability to link Darree Fields, Sports Ohio and the Westside Innovation District directly to Red Trabue Nature Preserve largely via off-street trail corridors.

I-270 Segment: The Green Ribbon was the top performing alternative in the central segment across all three analysis questions, due to the advantage of aligning with existing trail corridors and parklands that are directly accessible from adjacent neighborhoods.

Scioto River Segment: The Cosgray Connect was the top performing alternative in the east segment. The Cosgray Connect scored top marks for “Is it Signature?” and “Is it Foundational?” due to its direct link between multiple economic districts as well as its close alignment with significant studies and projects for the City of Dublin such as including MetroCenter and the John Shields Parkway bridge and extension.



	GREEN RIBBON	POSSIBILITY PARKWAY	COSGRAY CONNECT	DUBLIN DIPPER	GREEN RIBBON	POSSIBILITY PARKWAY	COSGRAY CONNECT	DUBLIN DIPPER	GREEN RIBBON	POSSIBILITY PARKWAY	COSGRAY CONNECT	DUBLIN DIPPER
IS IT SIGNATURE?	★				★						★	
IS IT FOUNDATIONAL?												
IS IT ACTIONABLE?												
OVERALL	★				★						★	

Measures / Ranking



Lower Performing

Higher Performing

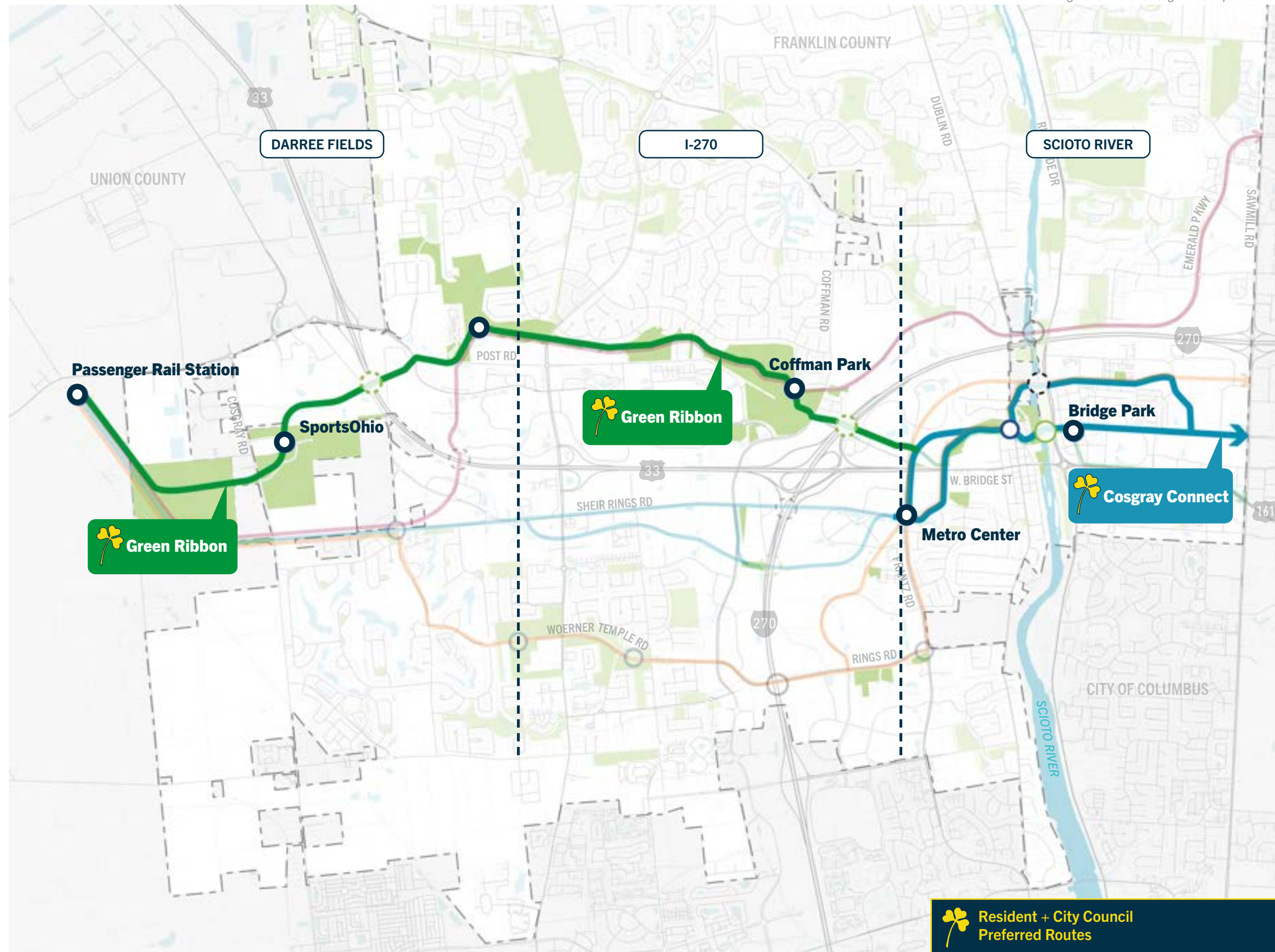
Figure 25. Preferred Segment Composite

PREFERRED SEGMENTS

Shared Direction

The top-performing options in all three segments matched the preferred choice of both the council and the community and aligned with data-driven analysis.

This consensus outlines a clear route for the Signature Trail. It emphasizes the importance of access to parks and natural areas, connecting current and future destinations throughout the city and creating an appealing linear experience that crosses urban, neighborhood and natural settings.



PREFERRED ROUTE +

STITCHING IT ALL TOGETHER

While the preferred segments provide overall direction, additional refinement was necessary to align the routes of both the Green Ribbon and the Cosgray Connect, ensuring that the final alignment met the goals and expectations established at the outset of this study.

The preferred route primarily builds upon the existing shared-use path network, enhancing these corridors through design, connectivity and identity improvements that together establish the Signature Trail experience.

Linking MetroCenter: Creating more economic development opportunities while providing direct access to MetroCenter is an important opportunity for the Signature Trail. The preferred route addresses this by adding trail loops—one around the MetroBlazer corporate areas and another through the heart of MetroCenter in line with the MetroCenter Development Master Plan.

Short-term Implementability: Key nodes and corridors along the preferred route depend on major land acquisitions or significant infrastructure initiatives with extended timelines like roadway extensions and bridge projects such as Shier Rings Road, John Shields Parkway and dedicated trail crossings over US-33 and I-270. To ensure that the Signature Trail could be completed within a quicker timeline and to provide flexibility, short-term Signature Trail route links were identified to offer alternate routes using existing trails to bypass barriers and future project locations. In select locations, these short-term routes could remain in place once the preferred route is fully implemented, creating additional loops.

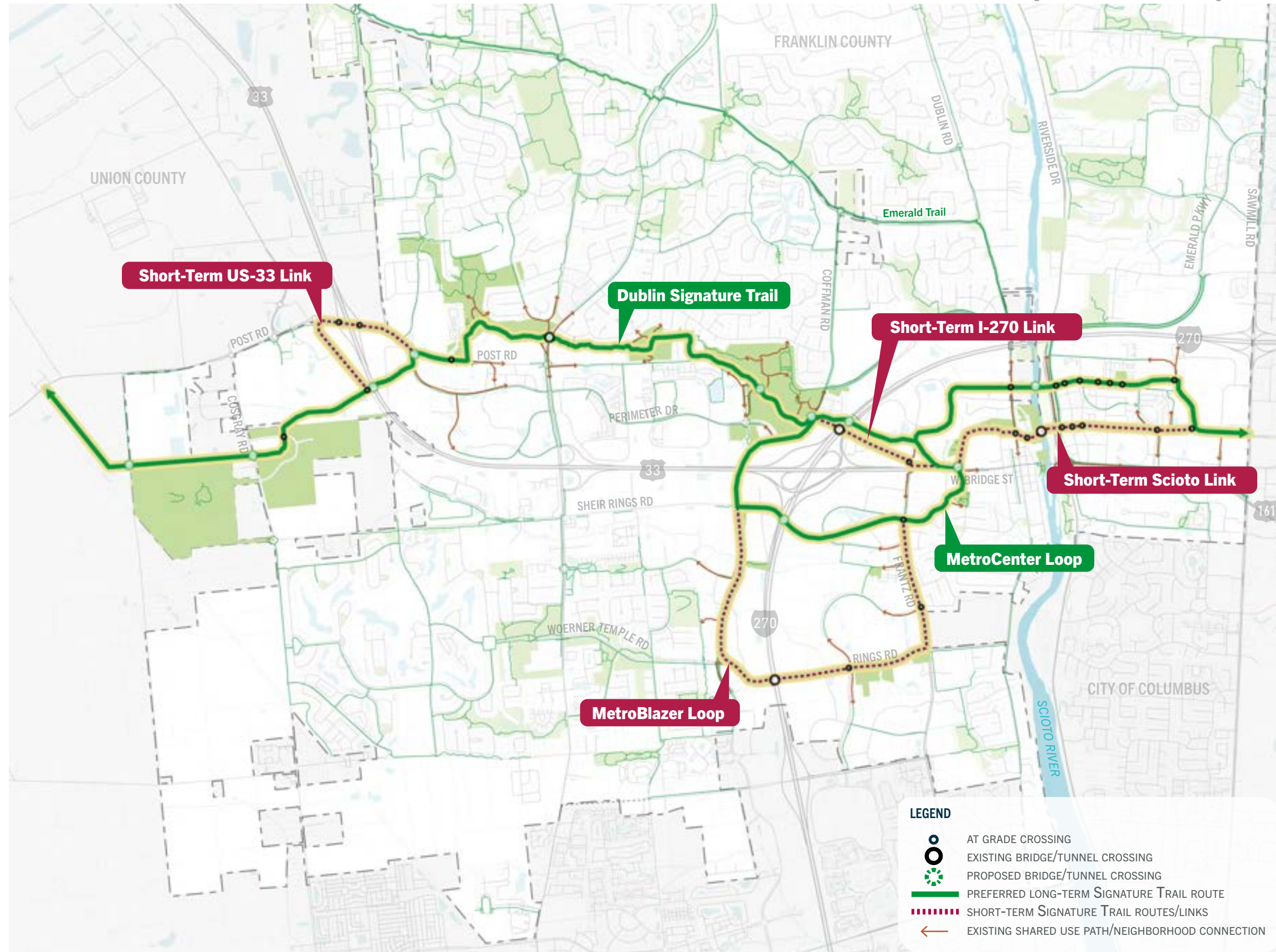
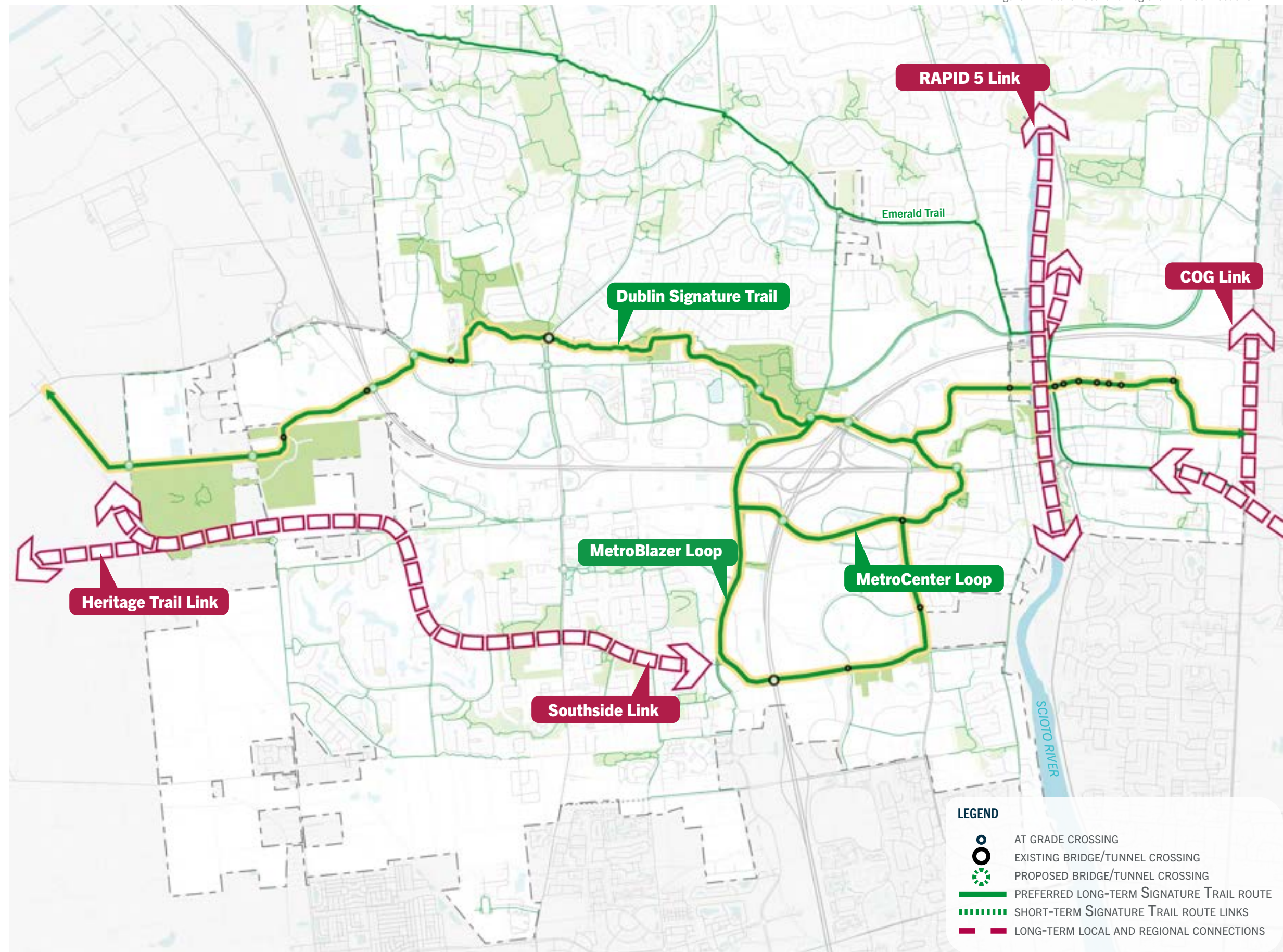


Figure 27. Future Local and Regional Trail Connections

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Closing the Gaps

The Signature Trail vision will keep evolving as new segments are added. Originally planned as a single route, community and council feedback led to the Preferred Route+, which includes loops to boost connectivity and experience. Additionally, recommendations to include connections to the Heritage Trail, Rapid 5 efforts and the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) were suggested and explored. Over time, Dublin's trail network will grow through new links and extensions, connecting more neighborhoods and destinations across the city, like the Dublin Arts Council, and the greater Columbus area.





05

CONCEPT

Unifying the community's mobility goals, vision and design recommendations into a comprehensive plan for the Signature Trail. It illustrates how the trail will shape the area, connect people to places and define Dublin's transportation and cultural experience.



TRAIL FRAMEWORK



TRAIL CHARACTER

Heritage Meets Horizon

The vision for the Signature Trail is to develop a new experience that reflects and enhances Dublin's existing character and identity. The trail should include various physical elements that evoke a sense of place and highlight the City's current charm and rich history, while also incorporating features inspired by newer projects and future opportunities. All trail components must work together to create a cohesive experience that aligns with Dublin's shared vision, balancing aesthetic appeal across neighborhoods and eras along with the community's evolving demographics, needs and values.

Classic Artistry with a Modern Vision

The foundation of the Signature Trail's design explores opportunities within Dublin to enhance existing multi-modal transportation while investing in new creative expressions that showcase the community's diversity. The trail aims to celebrate what already makes Dublin unique while introducing a timeless design framework that will grow with the city instead of becoming outdated. This approach ensures the trail remains relevant, adaptable and true to Dublin's ongoing growth and character.

Three key statements have been identified to guide the trail's character and design choices. These statements are meant to influence everything from surface materials to art and wayfinding. Following these principles will help keep the trail consistent throughout.

Nature + Urban: Where civic and economic energy meet ecology.

Timeless + Authentic: Rooted in and inspired by the local vernacular.

Fun + Expressive: Experiences grounded in Dublin's history, culture, voice and stories.



NATURE + URBAN

Where civic and economic energy meet ecology



TIMELESS + AUTHENTIC

Rooted in and inspired by the local vernacular



FUN + EXPRESSIVE

Experiences grounded in Dublin's history, culture, voices and stories



TRAIL COMPONENTS

The Unifying Element

The Signature Trail is the unifying element throughout the community, linking neighborhoods and destinations into a seamless experience that highlights the community's diversity while building a strong sense of place. As the trail winds through various environments it provides access to a range of experiences and destinations, from peaceful reflection to vibrant economic hubs. The trail must be designed with a thoughtful and consistent approach that weaves through these areas, maintaining a clear sense of identity and scale for users regardless of location within the milieu of Dublin.

Typologies + Settings (pg. 90)

Unlike many global Signature Trails with fixed configurations, Dublin's route passes through a variety of landscapes—ranging from parks and preserves to urban mixed-use districts—each showcasing the city's vibrant character. These five context types require adaptability; what works in Darree Fields might not fit the Bridge District. The design must adjust to each area's needs while preserving a unified, citywide identity.

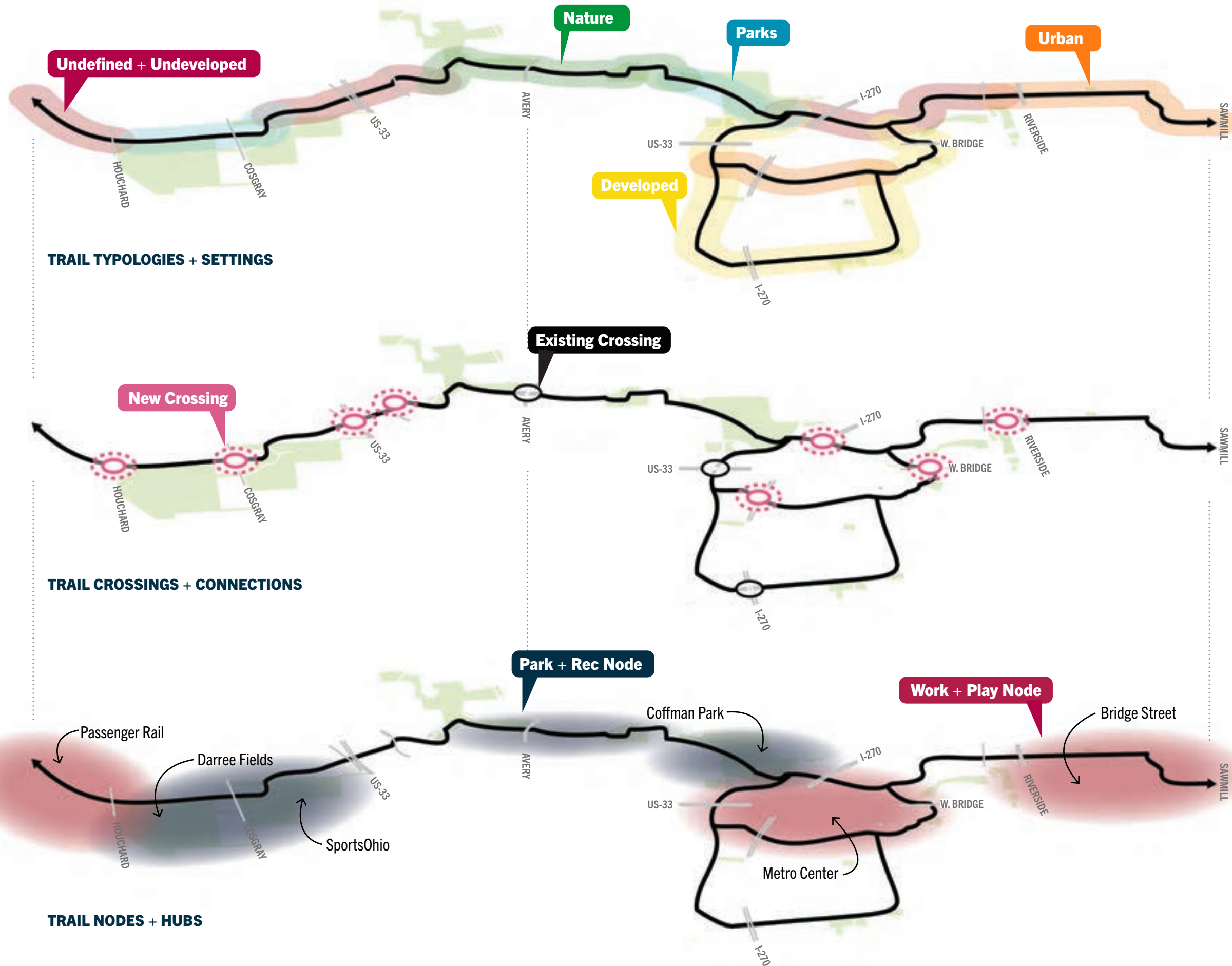
Crossings + Connections (pg. 110)

The same strategy and structure apply to various intersections and crossings along the Signature Trail. Ensuring consistent, and more importantly, safe and comfortable crossings is crucial for connecting key points and neighborhoods throughout Dublin in a strategic manner. Removing barriers through distinctive signature crossings such as the Link Bridge over the Scioto River enhances the trail's visual appeal while encouraging convenient access and supporting shifts in transportation modes across the city.

Nodes + Hubs: (pg. 122)

The Preferred Signature Trail Route was chosen for its strong links to key destinations. Its design should enhance the character of these places through furnishings, public art, trailheads and programming so the trail feels seamlessly part of Dublin's social and economic centers, not an afterthought.

Figure 28. Signature Trail as Unifying Feature Across Various Contexts



TRAIL DESIGN

Fundamental Elements of the Signature Trail

If the Signature Trail is to be the centerpiece of Dublin’s expanding active transportation network, it must be designed like other Signature Trails, with a larger footprint than a typical shared-use path to accommodate the volume of users it will attract. It should also extend beyond just the width of the trail itself and include elements that reflect the community’s character and cultural history through placemaking features aimed at creating lasting memories for future generations. The trail design goals not only include the necessary elements to create a trail that is uniquely Dublin while ensuring that the trail stands out as a unique experience in the city by fostering neighborhood unity, boosting regional ecotourism, improving air quality, helping combat climate change, providing natural habitats throughout the urban area and encouraging economic growth.

Design Guidance and Physical Considerations

The proposed widths and guidance for designing the Signature Trail were based on several key factors. The planning team first drew inspiration from other successful trails, both similar and larger in scale, examining how they addressed the spatial needs of cyclists, walkers, families and other user groups across different contexts. These best-practice examples helped shape early design concepts for the Signature Trail. The 2024 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Bike Guide design standards and the Envision Dublin Plan were also used as references when determining the appropriate width and design dimensions for the Signature Trail. Each of these references provided insights into the optimal path width for the estimated user volume at various locations throughout Dublin.

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

The Dublin Signature Trail Design Should Be



Inviting

Offering the promise of a safe, attractive and enjoyable experience.



Consistent

Cohesive and coordinated design features and amenities across varied contexts.



Accessible

Convenient and inclusive, expanding micromobility options for all.



High-Comfort

Prioritizes safety and comfort for riders of all ages and abilities and is separated from cars.



High-Quality

Polished and well-executed with elevated design standards and material selection.

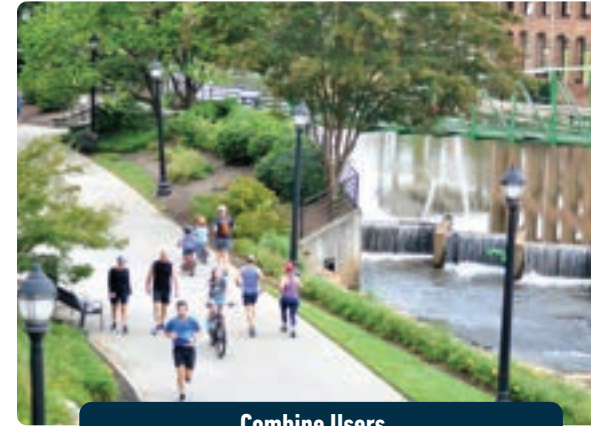


Unique

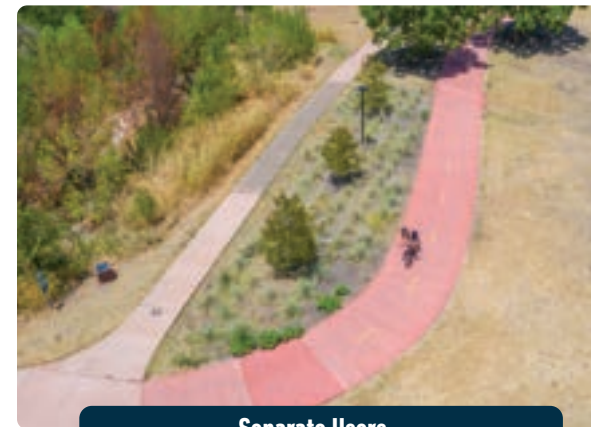
Distinctive and memorable, with strong visual identity and landmarks.

SHARED USE PATH TYPOLOGIES

The Dublin Signature Trail may....



Combine Users



Separate Users

Analysis of best practice precedents for Signature Trails identified two main design categories for Shared Use Paths (SUP). SUPs are off-road corridors intended for pedestrians, bicyclists and other micromobility users. These paths typically fall into one of two configurations—shared or separated. On shared paths, all users occupy the same space, which reduces the required width and works best when pedestrians make up less than 30% of users. However, this setup can slow bicycle speeds and may be less comfortable for children, seniors, or individuals with disabilities. In contrast, separated paths divide slower users like pedestrians from faster users such as cyclists using markings, surface modifications, or physical barriers. While this design generally requires more space, it enhances comfort and safety for vulnerable users, supports higher pedestrian volumes and allows bicyclists to maintain more consistent speeds.

The Envision Dublin Community Plan proposed a 15-foot-wide shared-use path for the Signature Trail. The current citywide standard for a shared-use path is 11 feet, while the AASHTO Bike Guide and Ohio Multimodal Design Guide recommend a 15 to 16-foot-wide path to provide the highest Level of Service (LOS—A) during peak travel. This is assuming 30% of trail users are pedestrians and that there are an equal number of travelers in each direction. The trail should be widened or provide separate facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists when high volumes of users are expected during peak hours or when pedestrians are anticipated to account for more than 30% of total path users.

Based on this evaluation and design workshops with the City and stakeholders, the Signature Trail is recommended to be at least 16 feet wide, in alignment with the Envision Dublin Community Plan’s 15-foot minimum and the AASHTO Bike Guide. This width includes a 12-foot paved path with 2-foot shoulders on each side, allowing a consistent design character throughout. While this pathway is wide enough to accommodate high volumes of users, a separate sidewalk or a slower zone with a buffer is also suggested to reduce conflicts and provide the highest-quality experience.

ENVISION DUBLIN BIKE HIERARCHY

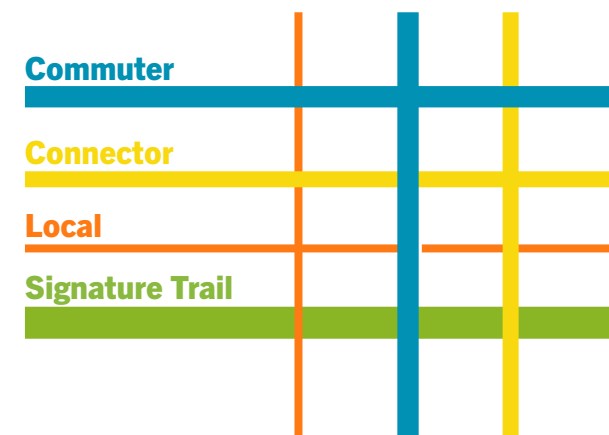


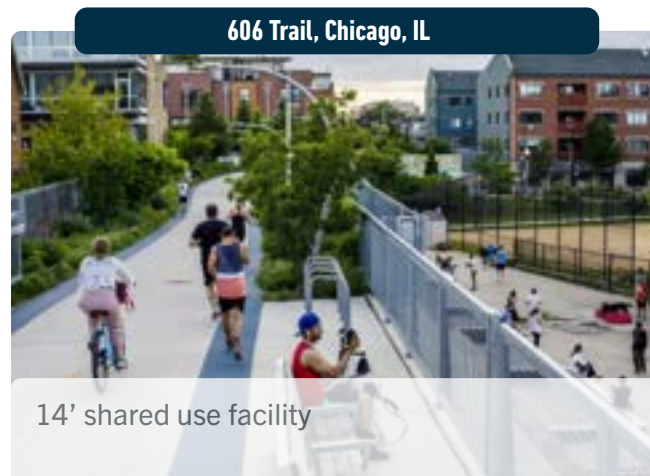
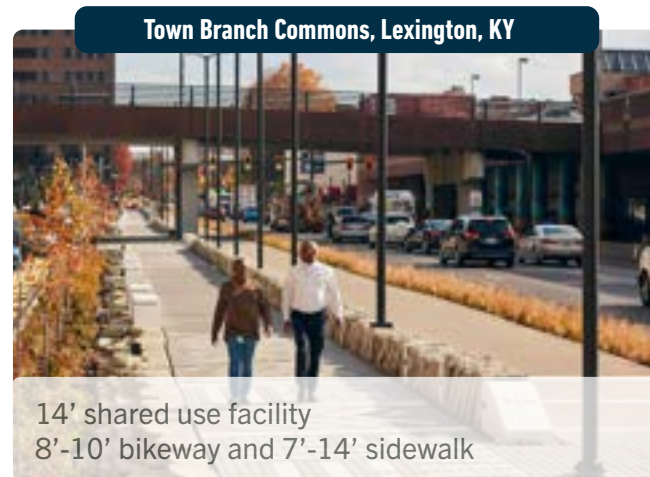
Figure 29. Envision Dublin Community Plan Bike Hierarchy

Sample Precedents

Studying design precedents helped identify best practices and proven strategies relevant to Dublin. This page features sample design precedents showcasing successful shared-use paths from across the country. By reviewing examples like the Monon Trail (Indianapolis, IN), Town Branch Commons (Lexington, KY), Stone Arch Bridge (Minneapolis, MN), and the 606 Trail (Chicago, IL), among others, the design team was able to adopt effective strategies that address bikeway and pedestrian needs in various urban settings. These precedents demonstrate how thoughtful design, proper width and user separation contribute to creating high-quality, context-sensitive and consistent trail experiences.

Existing Character

Currently, Dublin's trail network consists largely of shared-use paths often surfaced with mulch or gravel to delineate walking and recreational areas. These trails wind through parks and natural preserves, providing scenic connections between neighborhoods and community hubs. While they serve as important links throughout the city, many of these routes lack the infrastructure and design features necessary to create a true "Signature" trail experience.



TRAIL TYPOLOGIES

Trail Configurations and Approaches

Creating a wide and engaging shared use trail is only one component of the Signature Trail. The trail must also respond to the character context and proximity of the areas it traverses. To accommodate different landscapes and settings three distinct trail types were developed to provide both consistency and flexibility across the range of adjacent land uses.

Suburban + New Development

The Suburban + New Development typology features less-intensive land uses. These areas mainly consist of residential neighborhoods or development found throughout Dublin and are primarily adjacent to roadways. Undefined areas like the West Innovation District also fall into this typology, which may be scaled up or down depending on the desired intensity of uses.

Park + Nature Preserve

This typology expands on the less intensive New Development option but is adapted to be more sensitive to the surrounding natural environments and park areas it passes through. This trail has the lowest intensity of nearby land uses and is mainly situated within parks, open spaces, preserves, or along stream corridors.

Urban

This typology is found in areas with denser, walkable land uses that feature more destinations such as businesses, entertainment and housing. The Bridge Street District contains most of the urban trail typology; however, future development zones like Metro Center and the Passenger Rail Station are also considered urban due to their expected compact urban forms and diverse uses.

SUBURBAN + NEW DEVELOPMENT TYPOLOGY

PARK + NATURE PRESERVE TYPOLOGY

URBAN TYPOLOGY

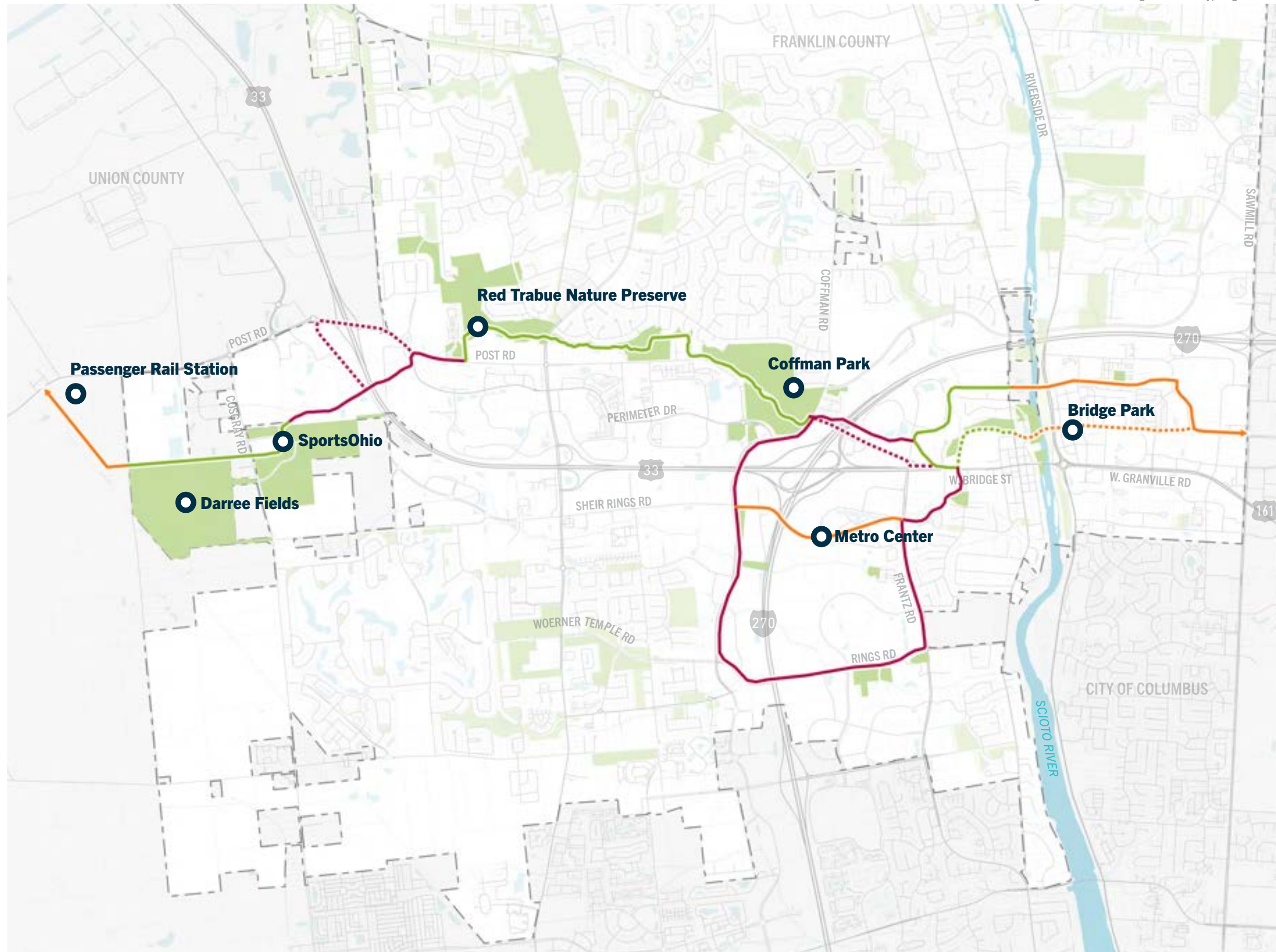


Figure 30. Location of Signature Trail Typologies

TRAIL SECTIONS

Park + Nature Preserve Cross Section

The Parks and Nature Preserves section of the Signature Trail is designed to accommodate multiple user types through a split-use configuration. This approach separates active users such as cyclists, runners and fitness enthusiasts from those seeking a more leisurely experience, like walkers or strollers.

One notable difference between this typology and others is that a five-foot buffer zone is required between the trail zone and walking zone. In contrast, the Nature Preserve Cross-Section acknowledges this buffer will vary, allowing the trail to meander through natural vegetation and various surface materials, minimizing impacts to natural features while maintaining a continuous Signature Trail experience. The preferred width for this section is 27 feet, which provides ample space to design, build and create a signature experience.

Figure 31. Park + Nature Preserve Preferred Trail Section



New Development + Suburban Cross Section

The New Development & Suburban section of the Signature Trail features a preferred width of 33 feet, providing ample space for multiple users to use safely. This slightly wider configuration includes a buffer separating active trail users from adjacent roadways with a required 5-foot buffer between the trail and sidewalks or pedestrian areas, creating a distinct and protected trail and walking zone. This design ensures that the trail can serve both recreational and commuting needs while integrating seamlessly into suburban and newly developed areas. While the park and nature preserve typology provides opportunities for amenity zones on both sides of the trail, the adjacent roadway typology primarily fronts businesses or adjoining land uses on one side.

Figure 32. New Development + Suburban Trail Section



Urban Cross Section

The urban cross section of the Signature Trail features a preferred width of 35 feet, designed to safely and efficiently serve diverse users in more active and dense neighborhoods. An on-street parking lane, if included, helps further separate trail users from busy roadways. An additional buffer, possibly containing various urban furnishings and lighting, helps distinguish slower users and provides a transition from the trail to nearby businesses and land uses. This layout supports existing urban activities while allowing flexibility for multiple functions within the 35-foot corridor. Changes in paving materials are heavily used in this typology compared to other options to help identify different travel zones. Unique paving patterns for mixing zones and other signs such as pavement markings ensure that all users can navigate the space comfortably, safely and intuitively.

Figure 33. Urban Trail Section



Constrained Sections

Figure 34. Typical Constrained Trail Section

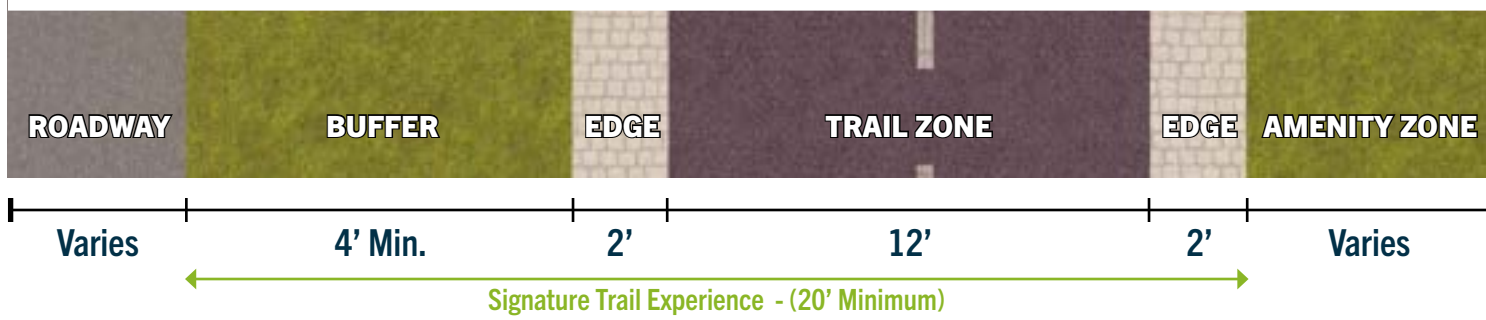


Figure 35. Constrained Urban Trail Section



TRAIL IDENTITY

Elements that Forge a Holistic Identity

The Signature Trail is more than just a wider path that separates users; it also must serve as a unifying element that emphasizes its prominence and Dublin's identity through its physical design and seamless integration with the surrounding environment. Each segment's design has been carefully tailored to reflect the character of adjacent neighborhoods, natural areas and urban centers. The trail's design, from paving treatments to site furnishings, should do the same; it needs to stand apart from the rest of the system and be instantly recognizable through its consistent, connected and carefully curated design. This requires a timeless quality that gives it an effortless presence, as if it has always been part of the community and will endure for generations. Every detail must contribute to a distinct character and positive atmosphere that people can feel they are on the Signature Trail from the moment they arrive to the moment they reach their destination. Together, this recognition and sense of place create lasting memories—an experience that stays with users long after they've left the trail.

Zones of the Trail

To create this holistic uniformity, recommended design guidelines have been proposed to balance fixed and flexible recommendations, ensuring consistency across neighborhoods and trail elements such as furnishings, lighting, railings, and paving while allowing site-specific variety and individuality in unique locations. To provide both consistency and flexibility, the Signature Trail has been organized into two zones: The Signature Trail Zone, the trail space itself and the Amenity Zone, areas outside of the trail but still influential in its curation and experience. Recommendations range from fixed to adaptable in this area to ensure consistency, while the amenity zone allows greater flexibility for unique neighborhood, site, or community-specific placemaking and expression.

Figure 36. Zones of the Signature Trail



AMENITY + GATHERING ZONES
Beyond the Trail - Varies Based on Place

SIGNATURE TRAIL ZONE
The Trail Itself - Largely Consistent

SIGNATURE TRAIL ZONE

The Trail Itself

The Signature Trail zones include not just the trail itself—both pedestrian and cyclist areas—but also the surrounding buffers and amenities that go with these locations, such as landscaping, benches, lighting and other features.

The image on the right shows several items that should be part of the Trail Zone and signature experience. The plan suggests that many elements in this zone be more fixed to ensure a consistent trail experience. These fixed elements should also follow uniform spacing guidelines, while more flexible items and complementary elements can vary in placement and repetition.

Figure 37. Elements and Feature of the Signature Trail Zone



SIGNATURE TRAIL ZONE PALETTE



Guided but Adaptable

The concept for the trail palette is to establish a consistent set of fixed elements that guide the development, continuity and overall character of the Signature Trail. By incorporating coordinated features such as logos, branding, lighting and wayfinding materials, the trail creates a unified identity that allows users to easily navigate and understand their location within the system. These fixed elements serve as visual anchors, reinforcing the trail's presence across diverse environments and helping to communicate the City of Dublin's commitment to quality, safety and user experience.

As the trail extends through varying contexts, elements such as furnishings, landscaping and complementary features will adapt to reflect the specific character, function and needs of each surrounding area. This approach ensures that the trail responds to its environment while still maintaining a cohesive design language. Because it is challenging to maintain identical trail types along the entire route, the design emphasizes a framework of adaptability. This allows the City of Dublin to preserve consistency in key design elements such as signage, lighting and trail materials while adjusting other aspects that best suit local conditions, land uses and user needs.

By building upon existing elements in key areas and thoughtfully introducing new features, the Signature Trail seeks to develop a distinctive and recognizable identity that balances flexibility with consistency. The trail's design approach ensures that whether a user is traveling through a dense urban corridor, a natural greenway or a suburban segment, the experience remains legible, engaging and coherent. Ultimately, this strategy supports both the functional and aesthetic goals of the trail, creating a unifying infrastructure that can evolve over time while maintaining a clear sense of place and continuity across the City of Dublin.

SIGNATURE PALETTE OBJECTIVES

Materials on the Dublin Signature Trail Should Be...



Functional

Appropriate to provide the intended experience for users.



High-Quality

Following Dublin's commitment to providing best-in-class services and amenities



Durable

Built to endure heavy use with low maintenance demands, while remaining resilient and adaptable over time.



Coordinated

Cohesive and recognizable to visually emphasize the trail.



Timeless

Designed to be feel just as compelling in the future as it does today.



Sustainable

Cognizant of the environmental context and impacts.

Logo + Branding + Identity

Creating a distinct name and visual brand for the Signature Trail can boost its impact while helping to establish its identity and prominence at local, regional and national levels. Naming and branding the route should include a logo, a set of colors, graphics and typefaces for Directional Signage, Informational Signage, Identification Signage, Regulatory Signage and other media to reinforce the Signature Trail's coordinated identity. The logo should reflect Dublin's character and identity, seamlessly blending into the community's existing brand while maintaining a unique presence and character of its own.

The logo, branding and overall visual identity of the Dublin Signature Trail will stay consistent along its entire length. This steady baseline acts as a unifying element, helping users instantly recognize the trail and strengthening its presence in various settings. As the Signature Trail develops, the visual identity will offer a clear framework to guide design choices, making sure that new segments, amenities and improvements match the trail's overall character.

The Monon Trail offers a strong example of how a clear, consistent identity can tie together a wide variety of environments. Although the trail moves through many different settings and conditions, it maintains a recognizable brand that helps users immediately understand where they are. No matter where someone enters, they encounter identifying logos and features that reinforce this unified character. The signature red used in the logo, on branding, art elements, bridges and railings creates a visual continuity that signals you are on the trail.



Logo signage identifying connections to surrounding trails



Art and sculpture used as branding opportunity



Identifiable trailheads and crossings



Signature red painted bridges



Pedestrian safety features and trail markers



Wayfinding signage consistent with trailhead marker



Consistent font and signature colors lining the trail and featured in amenities



Consistent font in signature color at crossings



Digital signage

Wayfinding + Signage

Much like the logo and overall identity of the Signature Trail, signage should establish a distinct brand and identity for the trail, resulting in a clear, cohesive, visually appealing and human-scaled system. Creating a Signature Trail of this scope and length requires significant investment and transformation in specific areas. A coordinated signage system is vital to highlight its prominence along with its emerging character and identity. A well-designed signage program can seamlessly blend in with any existing signage system, tell the trail and community's story, support economic growth, connect destinations and foster community pride especially in pedestrian- and bike-friendly areas.

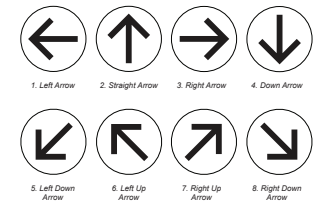
The goal of any signage and wayfinding strategy is to strengthen the sense of place, reinforce the brand and emphasize what makes the trail and Dublin unique. The primary goals and objectives of the Trails Signage and Wayfinding Strategy are:

- Bolster the Signature Trails brand and identity.
- Identify gateways and key entry points.
- Provide clear, safe pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding to destinations.
- Provide clear, appropriate means for identifying destinations.
- Allow for proper installation and management of technology including touchscreens, video boards, digital signs, and marquees.
- Enhance visual appeal, minimize visual clutter, and avoid excessive signage.

Wayfinding and signage will be installed at key points along the trail—such as trailheads, crossings, and major decision points—to clearly signify where the trail begins and to establish identifiable, tangible markers along the route. Strategically placed signage ensures that more users can easily access the trail, understand their direction of travel and move safely and comfortably toward their destinations.

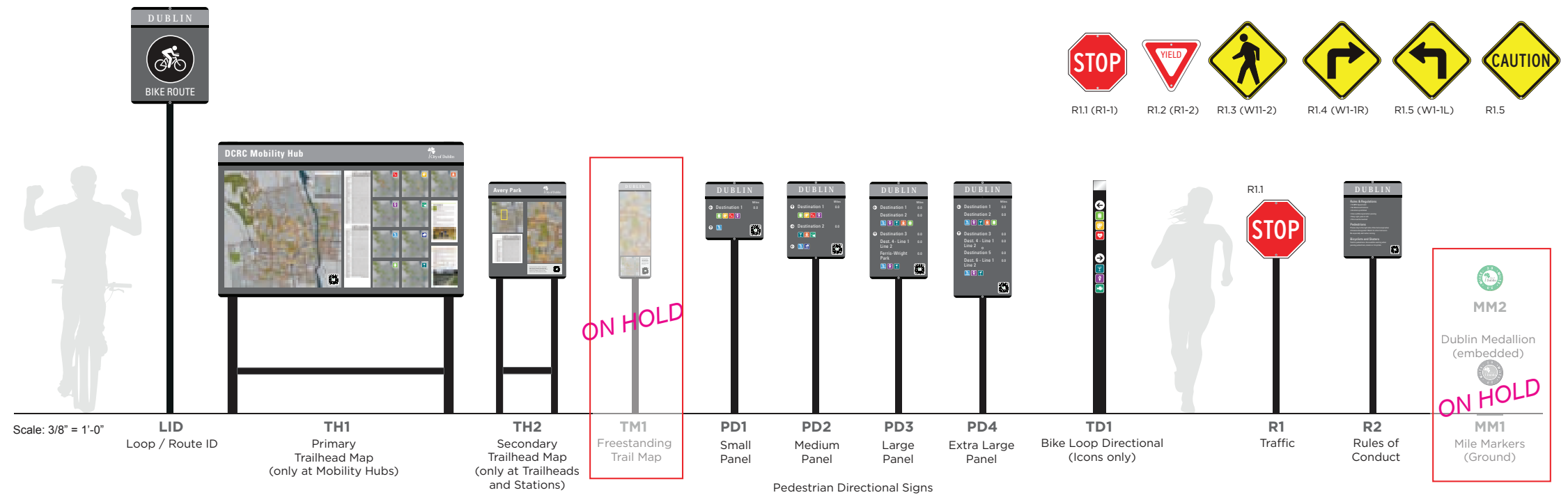
The City of Dublin's existing wayfinding family will be used in coordination with the Signature Trail logo and identity, creating a cohesive visual and directional system that unifies the entire experience.

Figure 38. City of Dublin's Existing Wayfinding System



Univers - Condensed
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
 1234567890

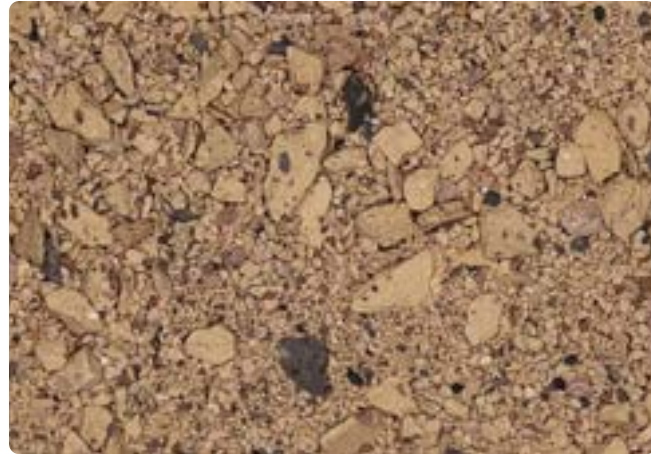
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 1234567890



Surfaces

The trail surfaces will be designed to respond to the context of each segment, drawing on existing materials where appropriate while allowing for adaptation to meet functional and aesthetic needs. By incorporating elements that already exist in specific areas of the city, the trail can maintain continuity and reflect the character of its surroundings, while flexible surface choices ensure durability, accessibility and user comfort across varying conditions.

The significance of separating surfaces is not only about creating visible continuity and a more identifiable Signature Trail experience, it also plays an important role in safety. Pavement separation on shared-use trails creates a physical distinction between travel lanes, typically achieved through markings, material changes, or buffer zones. This separation is especially valuable in high-traffic areas where pedestrian and bicycle movements overlap, helping reduce confusion and minimize conflicts. In Dublin, this approach will clearly signal where the Signature Trail meets existing paths through purposeful pavement differentiation, while also strengthening the character and cohesion of the surrounding areas.



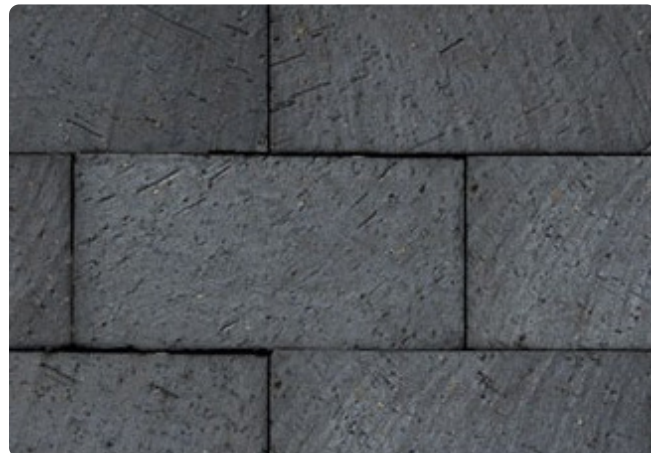
Aggregate for walkways and connections to existing trails and features



Asphalt paving for trail surface in the Park + Nature Preserve, Suburban + New Development areas



Granite to mark the centerline of the trail and for curb separation in identified Urban areas



Black brick paving for the parking in the identified Urban areas



Dark brick herringbone paving to use as a trail surface in the identified Urban areas



Herringbone brick paving for the pedestrian zone along the trail



Stack bond brick paving for the amenity zone along the trail



Cobblestone buffer paving to line the trail and create plaza spaces

Lighting

Consistent lighting is a critical component of the Signature Trail's design, providing safety, security and a clear visual identity for users. By maintaining a uniform lighting strategy throughout the trail, users can navigate confidently during early morning or evening hours, reducing hazards and enhancing overall accessibility. A cohesive lighting approach also helps reinforce the trail's brand and identity, making it immediately recognizable and visually connected across different segments and environments. Exploring solar elements and lighting with electricity outlets for future community events, will help support and advance the overall goals of the trail.

Installing bollard lights along the trail can enhance user safety and creates a subtle protective barrier that helps define the trail's edge. These fixtures reinforce the Signature Trail route and safeguard adjacent amenities by clearly marking the path. In Park + Nature Preserve areas, relying exclusively on low bollard lighting maintains the environmental integrity of the landscape while still providing necessary illumination for users. In Suburban + New Development and Urban areas, bollard lights will be paired with pole lights to establish a stronger trail presence and improve visibility. Pole lights can accommodate signage, creating a unified and consistent identity along the corridor. In more urban sections, catenary lights can be suspended above the trail to deliver a warm, welcoming streetscape aesthetic that enhances the overall experience.



Bollard lights to line the trail



Pole lights to line the trail



Catenary lights to be strung overhead to illuminate the trail

Furnishings

Similarly, trail furnishings, including benches, waste bins and bike racks will balance consistency with adaptability. Where existing elements in a neighborhood or park can be integrated, they will be utilized to reinforce local character, while new or modified furnishings can be introduced as needed to address site-specific requirements, support user activities and maintain a cohesive identity along the length of the trail.

Individual benches should be clean in appearance and placed within the amenity zone along the trail. Site-specific solutions can incorporate various features and materials and can be designed at different lengths. These options allow plaza, park and group seating to support a range of user preferences and create diverse opportunities for rest while maintaining a cohesive overall appearance. Thoughtfully placed seating and furnishings not only enhance comfort but also invite people to pause, enjoy views and experience quieter, passive moments along the trail.

All seating options, including movable or custom furniture, should be tailored to the site-specific context or programming needs. In tandem, bike racks should be prominently featured along the trail and contribute seamlessly to the trail landscape. Consistency in placement and design, not only for bike racks but also for furnishings such as waste bins, wayfinding, signage and other site elements, is essential in creating a unified and welcoming streetscape.



A concrete and wood bench style - these can differ based on context



Bike racks to accommodate trail, amenity and park usage



Wood stylized waste bin

Landscape + Vegetation

The trail's landscape design will highlight Dublin's natural character by integrating native and climate adapted plant species that thrive with minimal maintenance. Planting will be used to frame views, provide shade and create seasonal variety along the route. By emphasizing resilient planting strategies and restoring natural areas, the landscape will support biodiversity while offering users a visually rich and immersive experience.



The trail works with existing vegetation to forge a path that weaves naturally through the landscape

Sustainability + Ecology

Native plantings and green infrastructure such as bioswales, permeable surfaces and pollinator habitats will enhance biodiversity and manage stormwater. The trail's design will protect natural habitats, minimize ecological disruption and restore degraded areas. Through these practices, the Signature Trail will reflect Dublin's commitment to sustainability, resilience and environmental health.

While the sustainability and ecological infrastructure elements will vary along the route, they will remain innovative and context-sensitive, tailored to the unique conditions of the Park + Nature Preserve areas, as well as the Suburban + New Development and Urban environments through which the trail passes.



Habitat structures can be installed along the trail for ecological and educational benefit



Bioswales can act as the green park or urban garden element of the trail

Complementary Elements

Complementary elements play a vital role in shaping the overall experience and identity of the Signature Trail. These elements can include nature play, shelters, vendor kiosks and restrooms and any additional amenities that enhance the trail experience. These elements support a multimodal transportation system and encourage use by including end-of-trip amenities such as water fountains, bike repair and charging stations. Flexible event and plaza spaces further enhance the trail by fostering community around the trail experience.

By developing distinct yet cohesive uses and appearances for each segment of the trail, these elements provide both consistency and flexibility. This approach ensures that the trail maintains a recognizable identity that users can immediately associate with the Signature Trail while still allowing each segment to express its own character and atmosphere, enriching the overall experience and supporting the trail's development. Maintaining complementary elements on a fixed and measured scale further reinforces consistency, enabling new segments or improvements to integrate seamlessly with existing portions while preserving a unified aesthetic.

At the same time, these elements remain adaptable to the unique context and needs of each surrounding area. By balancing consistency with responsiveness, the complementary elements work to strengthen cohesion, reflect local conditions, provide visual interest and enhance the user experience. This careful coordination with design and functionality creates a trail identity that is both distinct and flexible, ensuring that the Signature Trail is immediately recognizable, functional and engaging throughout its entire length.



Nature play areas compliment the natural environment and contribute to the trail activity



Shelters create a space for gathering, rest and refuge from the elements



Restrooms are an important functional feature to promote trail and amenity usage

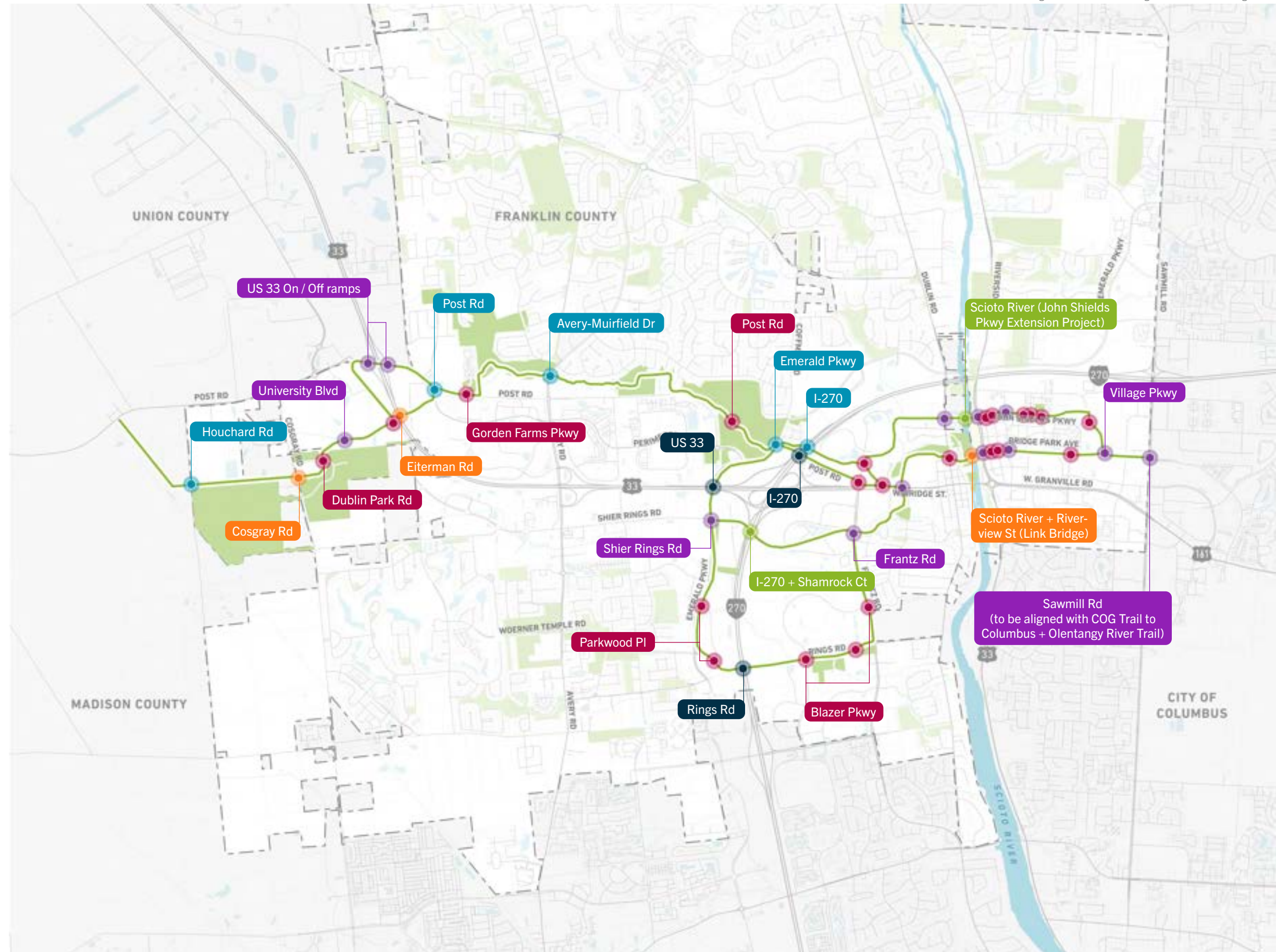
TRAIL CROSSINGS

Reinforcing Quality and Safety at Intersections

The Signature Trail is intended to be a comfortable, continuous and accessible trail that minimizes potential conflict points with vehicles. The preferred routing was selected in part due to its infrequent interaction with roadways, in particular major arterial roadways. To navigate the entirety of the Signature Trail route, a suite of at-grade and grade separated crossing typologies are recommended.

Grade Separated Crossings are bridges over or tunnels/underpasses under a roadway. While more costly than at-grade crossings, grade-separated crossings offer unparalleled safety and comfort for trail users by removing potential conflict with vehicles. These structures also serve as signature moments along the trail, highlighting key views, showcasing public art and creating iconic gateways that attract users.

At-Grade Crossings are located at street intersections or mid-block locations where the trail crosses the roadway. At-grade crossings are used sparingly along the Signature Trail and, where necessary due to context, cost, or feasibility constraints, are designed using best practices to maximize user safety and comfort



- CROSSINGS LEGEND**
- Bike & Pedestrian Tunnels/Underpasses
 - Bike & Pedestrian Bridges
 - New Roadway Bridges
 - Retrofit Roadway Bridges
 - Arterial/Major Crossings
 - Minor Crossings

At-Grade Crossing Typologies

At all at-grade crossings, the crossing design should adhere to NACTO and FHWA best practice design standards where possible. All crossings are context specific and at a minimum are required to include high visibility crosswalk striping, regulatory trail crossing signage and clear sight-lines on for both trail users and vehicles.

Major/Arterial Crossings

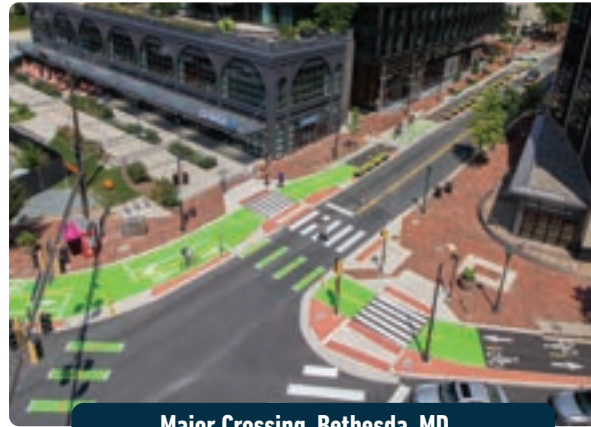
At signalized major/arterial intersections, additional safety measures are highly encouraged to ensure bike and pedestrian priority and clearly delineate safe crossings. These interventions may include additional high-visibility bike crossing markings, curb extensions, raised crossings, refuge islands, no right turns on red and other elements to heighten awareness of users to differentiate from the roadway. Dedicate trail signal phasing should be considered for higher volume crossing locations.

Mid-block crossings of major/arterial roadways should be avoided when possible.

Minor Road Crossings

At non-signalized minor intersections, additional traffic calming measures are encouraged including additional high-visibility bike crossing markings, curb extensions, raised crossings and refuge islands. Consider Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) or Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to slow motor vehicles and increase yielding rates.

If the trail crosses mid-block, PHB or RRFBs are strongly encouraged to increase visibility.



Major Crossing, Bethesda, MD



Minor Crossing (RRFB), Fort Collins, CO

Grade-Separated Crossing Typologies

For all grade separated crossings, the trail width should match the combined bike and pedestrian path widths of the Signature Trail on approach. A 16ft minimum width should be used to match the constrained trail cross-section.

Tunnel/Underpass

Tunnels and underpasses can artfully weave artistic and safety components to provide an inviting separated pedestrian and bicycle facility for a Signature Trail experience. The approach of the tunnel should be direct to maintain sight lines through the tunnel and minimize perceived safety concerns. Tunnels should be well lit at all times of the day. Vertical clearance is 12ft preferred/10ft minimum.

New Bridge/Roadway

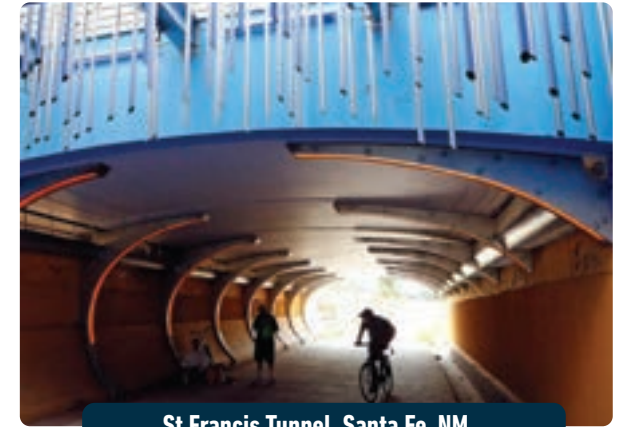
Along the Signature Trail, all new roadway bridges are in coordination with planned roadway projects. Similar to pedestrian or bike bridges, roadway bridge structures can provide eye-catching treatments to establish signature landmarks. The Signature Trail should be separated with a curb or vertical barrier from the roadway.

Retrofit Roadway Bridge

Key locations along the Signature Trail utilized existing roadway bridges, particularly along the Metro Blazer Loop. Railings, lighting and surfaces may be enhanced to improve placemaking and experience and to clearly defined the Signature Trail. The Signature Trail should be separated with a curb or vertical barrier from the roadway.

Pedestrian & Bike Bridges

A dedicated pedestrian and bicycle bridge provides the premier trail crossing experience and should be considered at high-volume roadways and signature placemaking moments. Signature pedestrian and bike bridges such as the Link Bridge serve as eye-popping works of art that become iconic landmarks for their communities.



St Francis Tunnel, Santa Fe, NM



Tilikum Crossing, Portland, OR



Cykelslangen, Copenhagen, DK

TRAILHEADS + ACCESS

Arrival and Orientation

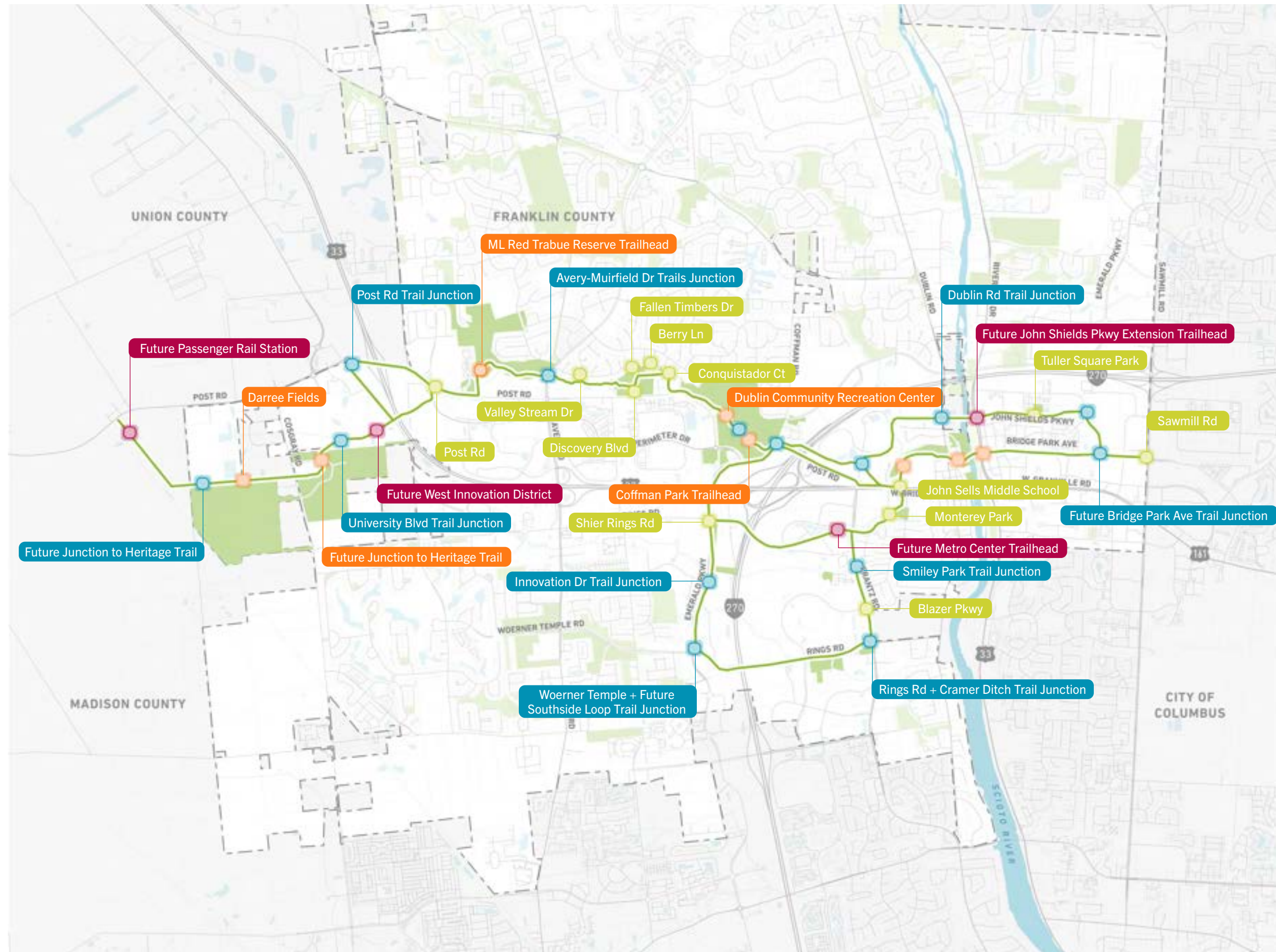
Access to the Signature Trail is fundamental to the route. These are points-of-beginning that include critical trail amenities. The suite of access locations needs to serve a range of users include both local residents who may walk or bike and regional visitors that may drive. Access across the route is spaced to provide convenient access and to align with major destinations and future developments.

Trail access is broken into two primary categories - Trailheads and Access Points.

Trailheads are major points of beginning, featuring trailhead plazas, wayfinding maps and/or kiosks, benches, bike racks and parking lots among other amenities. These are exclusively co-located with existing parks and destinations or future development areas.

Access Points are located more frequently than trailheads and provide local access to communities or other trails. They are much smaller scale than trailheads and include basic trail amenities including bike racks and wayfinding.

While parking is necessary at certain access points, it should not be viewed as a substitute for creating safe, connected routes that allow people to walk or bike to the trail. Convenient parking can support visitors, but the long-term success and accessibility of the trail rely on a network of comfortable, protected connections from surrounding neighborhoods and destinations.



TRAILHEADS & ACCESS LEGEND

- New Trailhead w/ Parking
- Retrofit Trailhead w/ Parking
- Community Access Point
- Trail Junction Access Point

Trailhead & Access Point Typologies

New Trailheads

New trailheads are entirely associated with planned or future projects, including Metro Center development, John Shields Pkwy Expansion, West Innovation District and the future passenger rail station. In addition to featuring signature moments for placemaking and art, the trailheads will include public parking and a plaza to attract users and improve comfort.

These facilities are primary points of beginning for trail users coming by car and feature the widest array of trail amenities, as indicated in Table 1.



Monon Trail, Carmel, IN

Retrofit Trailheads

Retrofit trailheads leverage existing public parking lots or street parking at key destinations and natural points of beginning along the Signature Trail, such as Coffman Park, Riverside Crossing Park Plaza and Darree Fields, among others.

In all of these locations, the trailhead retrofit is intended to leverage existing assets while providing complementary amenities and connector paths that serve Signature Trail users as well.



BeltLine, Atlanta, GA

Community Access Point

Community Access Points are significantly smaller scale than trailheads and predominantly serve local neighborhoods. These facilities typically terminate at local roads and may include a range of basic trail amenities, as indicated in Table 1.

Trail Junction Access Point

Trail junctions are locations where city or regional trails intersect with the Signature Trail. These access points will feature basic trail amenities such as wayfinding and seating, as indicated in Table 1.



Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring, NY

Table 1. Trail Amenities

	New Trailheads	Retrofit Trailheads	Community Access Point	Trail Junction Access Point	Along the Trail
Public Parking / ADA Parking	Required	Required*	-	-	At Trailheads
Trail Plaza***	Required	Recommended	Encouraged	Encouraged	At Trailheads and Access Points
Public Restrooms	Recommended	Recommended	-	-	At Trailheads
Drinking Fountains	Required	Recommended	Encouraged	-	At Trailheads and Access Points
Wayfinding Kiosk/ Shade Structure	Required	Recommended	Encouraged	-	At Trailheads and Access Points
Wayfinding Map	Required	Recommended	Encouraged	Encouraged	At Trailheads and Access Points
Wayfinding Signs	Required	Required	Required	Required	On approach to key destinations and decision points
Lighting	Required	Required	Required	Recommended**	Continuous, reduced lighting through nature preserve
Bench Seating	Required	Required	Recommended	Encouraged	At trailheads, access points, and every 1/4 mile along the trail
Cafe/Plaza Seating	Encouraged	Encouraged	-	-	At Larger Trail Plazas or Retail Frontages
Waste Receptacles	Required	Required	Recommended	Encouraged	At Trailheads and Access Points
Bike Parking	Required	Required	Recommended	-	Consolidated at Destinations & Retail Districts
Bike Repair Stations	Recommended	Recommended	Encouraged	Encouraged	At Trailheads and Access Points
Vegetation & Trees	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Continuous

*Urban retrofit trailheads may feature street parking.

**Lighting at trail junctions within natural areas should be dark sky compliant.

***Trail plaza provides widened paved surface for trail users to gather and utilize trail amenities without blocking the trail itself.

AMENITY ZONE

Beyond the Trail

The design of the trail and the guidance on the previous pages sets the stage for a highly functional and desirable trail. However, the experience of the trail is also defined by the surroundings that go beyond the edges of pavement and into the amenity zones and adjacent land uses. The amenity zone creates areas of dappled shade from tree canopy, integrated public art and spaces that encourage pausing, reflection, social interaction and access to nearby shops. The areas just beyond the Signature Trail add color, culture, storytelling and community to make the entire experience fascinating, inviting and joyful.

Figure 40. Beyond the Trail: Amenities + Gathering Zones



AMENITY + GATHERING ZONES

Dynamic and Flexible Elements that are Context Specific

Signature Trail ZONE

Design Elements that are Guided but Adaptable

PLACEMAKING



Shaping the Trail Experience

Placemaking

Placemaking is not just about incorporating public art. Placemaking, as the name implies, is specific to the place. It's about creating memories and experiences along the trail that make it more enticing, more desirable and connected to the community.

The placemaking strategy for Signature Trail merges experience zones with placemaking elements.

Experience Zones:

Areas or districts along the Signature Trail with a distinct character. This underlying character is driven by the adjacent context, from natural areas to urban areas to a range of spaces in-between.

Placemaking Strategies:

The specific strategies - programming, art and more - than can be utilized across a range of unique areas to create a holistic experience that is greater than the sum of its parts.

PLACEMAKING OBJECTIVES

Placemaking on the Dublin Signature Trail Should Be...



Connected to Place

Responsive and complementary to the surrounding experience areas.



Rooted in People

Linked through art and storytelling to the people past and present of Dublin.



Intentional & Integrated

A deliberate sequence of elements that is additive to both the trail and surroundings.



Inspiring

Iconic moments for awe or wonder, to capture a photo, a memory and the imagination.



Adaptive

Flexible to align with future development areas.

PLACEMAKING

Experience Zones

The Recreation Zone

Features recreational amenities, playful art and facilities that encourage community gatherings and wellness activities.

The Parklands

Features a collection of creative living plant sculptures that include a mix of local wildlife and zoo animals.

The West Innovation District

Integrates a series of immersive public art experiences and murals.

Future Experience Zone

Incorporates a futuristic theme with an emphasis on lighting components and applications.

The Historic Core

Pays homage to Dublin's history and cultural assets drawing inspiration from the 2017 Dublin Historical & Cultural Assessment.

The Urban Core

Aspires to highlight Dublin's diversity and celebrate the city's multiculturalism. It serves as a gateway between Riverside Crossing Park and the City of Columbus.



- ◆ THE RECREATION ZONE
- ◆ THE PARKLANDS
- ◆ THE WEST INNOVATION DISTRICT
- ◆ FUTURE EXPERIENCE ZONE
- ◆ THE HISTORIC CORE
- ◆ THE URBAN CORE

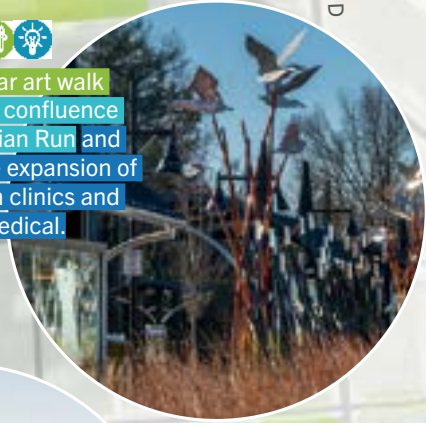
THE RECREATION ZONE & WEST INNOVATION DISTRICT

The Recreation Zone

Play & Family - Linking a series of colorful spaces centered on play and community for all ages and abilities. These unique spaces ebb and flow along the trail and create a strong visual link between Darree Fields and Sports Ohio. Through art and interpretive features, Dublin's youth sports, regional sports teams and Dublin's longstanding golf tradition are celebrated.

The West Innovation District

Reflective & Bold - A linear art park functioning as a green corridor through new development, integrating landscape and art throughout. This trail complements the future growth of major hospital networks and the OU Medical program, creating a therapeutic and inspiring nature and art walk for trail users, patients, employees and students.



PLACEMAKING LEGEND

- Signature Trailheads
- Signature Trail Structures
- Play
- Art & Storytelling
- Events & Programming
- Immersive Landscape
- Lighting, Innovation & Technology
- Community Gathering Spaces



Public Art + Storytelling

Gathering Spaces

Play Elements

Wayfinding + Signage

Signature Trail

Neighborhood Access Points

Immersive Landscapes

THE PARKLANDS

The Parklands

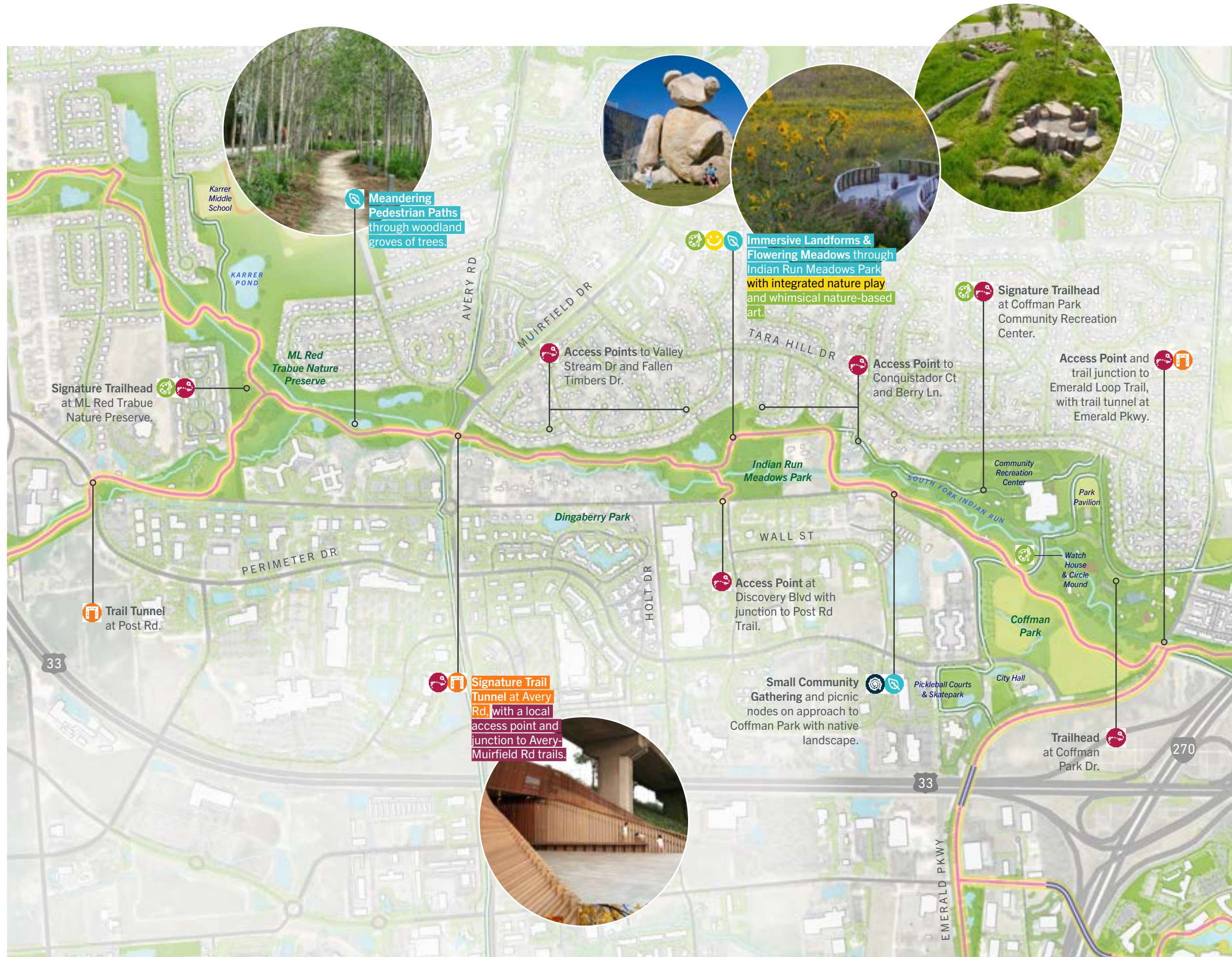
Nature & Ecology - Linking a green corridor from Red Trabue Nature Preserve through Coffman Park, the trail creates a continuous experience separated from roads and the noise of city life. Anchored by the natural beauty and forests, the corridor is augmented with immersive landform and nature-scapes that elevate seasonality and year round recreation.

From west to east, the parkland shifts from quiet, passive spaces to more lively recreational areas. In the fall, groves of trees burst with seasonal color, while throughout the preserve, cozy side paths invite visitors to slow down, explore, and briefly lose themselves in nature.

East of Coffman Park, the trail environment becomes more active and lively. Intermittent natural elements appear along the corridor, including immersive landforms and landscape-based art. In spring and summer, these features highlight native flowering plants and incorporate local flora and fauna. Farther east, small gathering nodes are integrated along the trail, providing seating and picnic areas for seasonal use.

PLACEMAKING LEGEND

-  Signature Trailheads
-  Signature Trail Structures
-  Play
-  Art & Storytelling
-  Events & Programming
-  Immersive Landscape
-  Lighting, Innovation & Technology
-  Community Gathering Spaces





Furnishings + Amenities

User Separation

Art + Culture Connections

Raised Crosswalks + Traffic Calming

Events + Programming

THE HISTORIC & URBAN CORE

The Historic Core

History & Reflection - Subtle, sincere and grounded in authenticity - the trail is a visitor here, serving as tour guide of a rich history. This section of trail pays homage to Dublin's history and cultural assets through interpretive features in partnership with Visit Dublin Ohio and the Dublin Historical Society.

The Urban Core

People & Culture - The heart of the future of Dublin and a celebration of the city's multiculturalism. This section of trail serves as a gateway from the River to the eastern edge of the city, an urban trail activated through business frontage, lights, banners and art. Linear park spaces between the trail and new development create opportunities for community, play and art that is inspired and informed by the diverse cultures that make Dublin what it is today.

“ Art that shares about Dublin's history would be great! ”

PLACEMAKING LEGEND

- Signature Trailheads
- Signature Trail Structures
- Play
- Art & Storytelling
- Events & Programming
- Immersive Landscape
- Lighting, Innovation & Technology
- Community Gathering Spaces



New Trailheads

Public Art + Storytelling

Material Changes

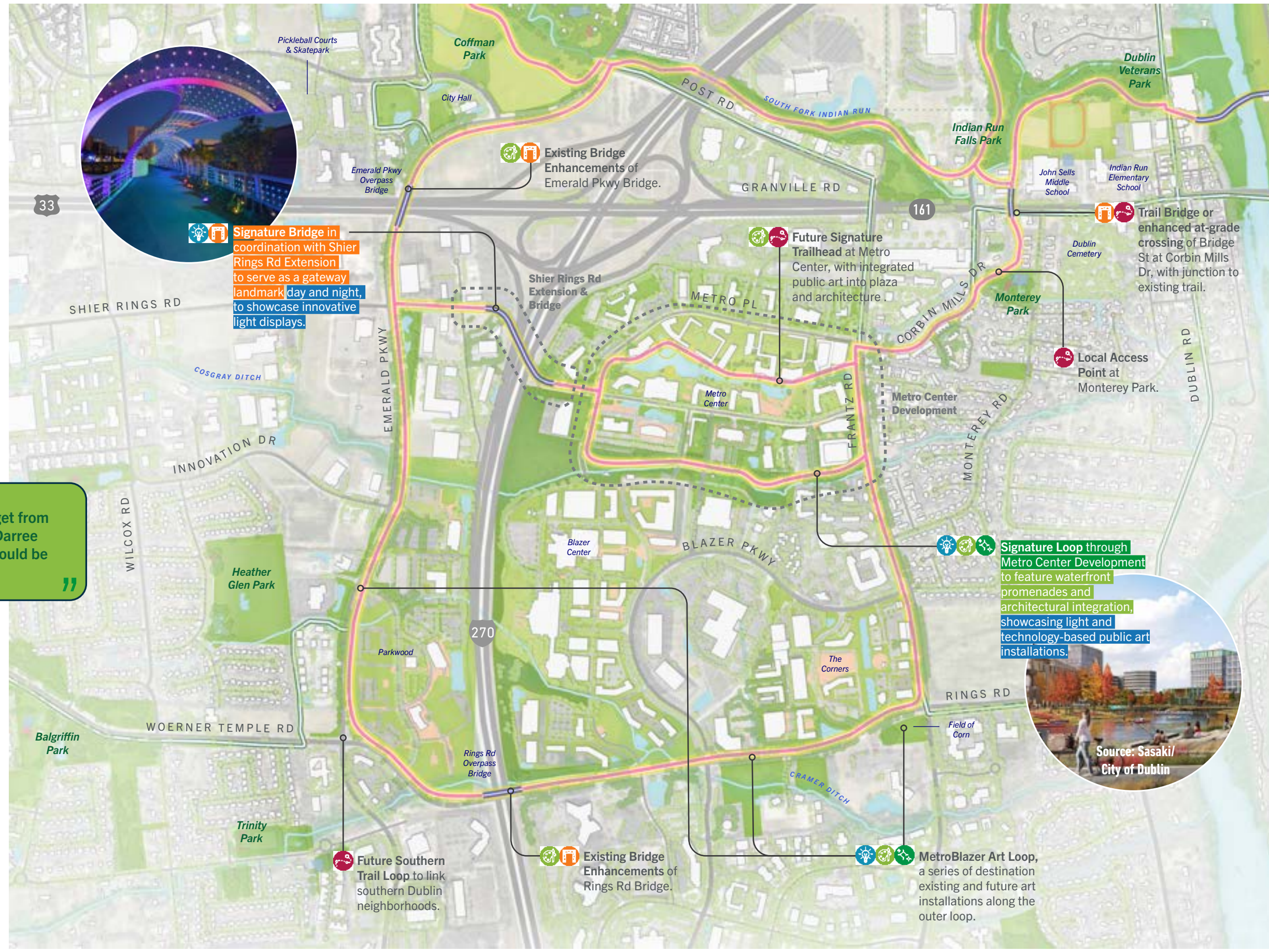


THE FUTURE EXPERIENCE ZONE

The Future Experience Zone

Iconic & Bold - Awe inspiring, urban and iconic - big, bold, illuminated and visible from the highway. This section of trail leans into the future, with integrated lighting and technology that highlights the future economic centers of Dublin. Here, the trail functions as a connective spine, linking dynamic public art elements and creating a cohesive linear art experience at key moments and structures along the corridor. The trail will also link commuters to job centers and will provide legible connections to transit and neighborhoods.

“ Within Dublin, I'd like to easily get from my home to Coffman Park and Darree Fields...through Metro Center would be great. ”



Signature Bridge in coordination with Shier Rings Rd Extension to serve as a gateway landmark day and night, to showcase innovative light displays.

Future Signature Trailhead at Metro Center, with integrated public art into plaza and architecture.

Signature Loop through Metro Center Development to feature waterfront promenades and architectural integration, showcasing light and technology-based public art installations.



- PLACEMAKING LEGEND**
- Signature Trailheads
 - Signature Trail Structures
 - Play
 - Art & Storytelling
 - Events & Programming
 - Immersive Landscape
 - Lighting, Innovation & Technology
 - Community Gathering Spaces



06

NEXT STEPS

The build-out of the Dublin Signature Trail includes strategic phasing, coordination and critical action items. This section details out the costs and framework for implementation and near- and long-term steps to get there.



IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The implementation of Dublin Signature Trail will be a multi-year process that will include several phases. The following framework has been established to support a coordinated and strategic process for implementation.

Opinion of Probable Costs

An opinion of probable costs was developed to support future budgeting and phasing decisions. Costs were informed by the trail typology, presence of an existing trail corridor, location of hydrological and topographic features and proposed structures and crossings.

Coordinating Projects

The Signature Trail final alignment will continue to be coordinated and refined in specific locations to align with future development projects and ongoing planning studies, particularly on the west side of the study area. Signature Trail project phasing and next steps should be reviewed annually as part of the Capital Improvement Program and Operating Budget process, identifying strategic opportunities to coordinate implementation with adjacent or complementary projects.

Phasing

The Signature Trail will be constructed incrementally. A four-phase approach was developed to provide flexibility for the City of Dublin to align with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and regular funding sources. The approach to phasing balances factors including cost, independent utility, community impact and use, economic development potential, coordinating project timelines and implementation complexity.

Action Items & Next Steps

Additional coordination, policies, research and future studies are needed to support the long term success of the Signature Trail, including immediate next steps.

Ongoing Community Engagement

Continue proactive community engagement throughout the project development process to gather input on key features, priorities and the relative importance of this initiative compared to other community needs

SEGMENTATION

Segmentation breaks down the Signature Trail Route into smaller units. These segments are intended to serve as a starting point for delineation of future design and engineering projects. The segments provide a point of comparison for understanding the distribution of cost and coordination impacts, as well as the potential benefits for economic development or community impact.

Segments were developed to meet the following criteria and are documented in Table 2 and the map on the following page:

- Comparable lengths (under 3 miles)
- Beginning and end point to align with a study terminus, roadway, or destination
- Consistent segment type (short- vs long-term)

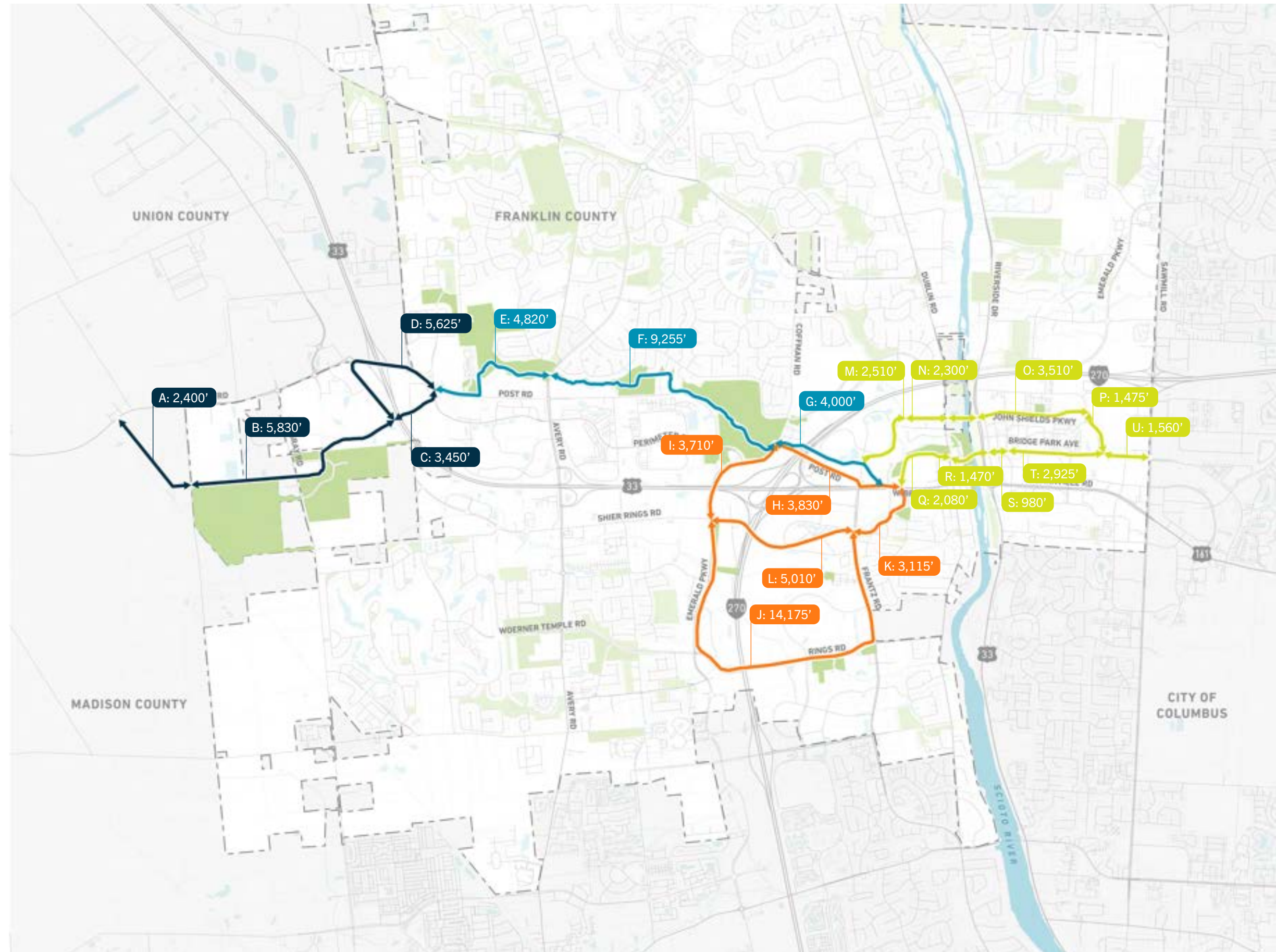
Table 2. Signature Trail Segments

ID	Extents	Primary Corridor	Segment Type	Length (LF)
A	Post Rd (West Terminus) to Houchard Rd	Trail	Long-Term	2,400
B	Houchard Rd to University Blvd	Trail	Long-Term	5,830
C	University Blvd to Post Rd	Trail	Long-Term	3,450
D	Eiterman Blvd to Post Rd	Eiterman & Post Rd	Short-Term	5,625
E	Post Rd to Avery-Muirfield Dr	Trail	Long-Term	4,820
F	Avery-Muirfield Dr to Emerald Pkwy	Trail	Long-Term	9,255
G	Emerald Pkwy to Corbin Mills Dr	Trail	Long-Term	4,000
H	Emerald Pkwy to Bridge St	Post Rd	Short-Term	3,830
I	Coffman Park/Post Rd to Shier Rings Rd	Emerald Pkwy	Long-Term	3,710
J	Shier Rings Rd to Corbin Mills Dr	Emerald Pkwy, Rings Rd, Frantz Rd	Long-Term	14,175
K	Frantz Rd to Bridge St	Corbin Mills Dr	Long-Term	3,115
L	Emerald Pkwy to Frantz Rd	Shier Rings Rd Ext, Metro Center	Long-Term	5,010
M	Indian Run Falls Park to South Fork Indian Run	Trail	Long-Term	2,510
N	South Fork Indian Run to Riverside Dr	John Shields Pkwy Ext	Long-Term	2,300
O	Riverside Dr to Village Pkwy	John Shields Pkwy	Long-Term	3,510
P	John Shields Pkwy to Bridge Park Ave	Village Pkwy	Long-Term	1,475
Q	Bridge St to Franklin St	Trail	Short-Term	2,080
R	Franklin St to Riverside Dr	Link Bridge	Short-Term	1,470
S	Riverside Dr to Dale Dr	Bridge Park Ave	Short-Term	980
T	Dale Dr to Village Pkwy	Bridge Park Ave	Short-Term	2,925
U	Village Pkwy to Sawmill Rd (East Terminus)	Bridge Park Ave	Long-Term	1,560
				84,030



Segmentation Map

The segments as defined in the map to the right correspond to the definitions included in Table 2 on the previous page.



SEGMENTATION

- West
- North
- South
- East

OPINION OF PROBABLE COST (OPC)

An opinion of probable costs was developed to support future budgeting and phasing decisions. Costs were developed for each segment, informed by the following factors:

- Trail typology
- Presence of an existing trail corridor
- Location of hydrological and topographic features
- Proposed structures and crossings.

A summary of probable costs were developed and broken down by trail cost, structures cost and crossings cost. While the linear-foot cost of the trail is relatively consistent across the study area, segment costs vary most significantly due to structural costs, particularly large-scale bridges and tunnels. Across the entire study area, 55% of the construction costs were the trail itself while an additional 42% was structures. Crossings made up 3% of construction costs.

Assumptions

The following assumptions were used for the opinion of probable costs.

- Costs consider material and labor costs based on 2025 prices, informed by recent and similar projects.
- Costs do not include acquisition.
- Costs include basic trail amenities.
- Costs do not include placemaking features that go beyond standard landscape elements.
- Segments of trail that align with roadway extension projects (i.e. John Shields Pkwy Extension) assumed to be factored into the cost of the roadway extension.
- A 25% contingency was applied to the construction cost totals.

Table 3. Opinion of Probable Costs by Segment

Segment	Trail Subtotal	Structures Subtotal	Crossings Subtotal	Contingency	Total Cost	Cost per Linear Foot
A	\$1,344,000	-	\$50,000	\$349,000	\$1,743,000	\$700
B	\$3,435,300	\$3,300,000	-	\$1,684,000	\$8,419,000	\$1,400
C	\$2,128,500	\$9,190,000	\$400,000	\$2,930,000	\$14,649,000	\$4,200
D	\$3,847,950	-	\$250,000	\$1,025,000	\$5,123,000	\$900
E	\$2,931,100	\$3,200,000	\$200,000	\$1,583,000	\$7,914,000	\$1,600
F	\$5,725,150	\$1,045,000	\$200,000	\$1,743,000	\$8,713,000	\$900
G	\$2,620,000	\$2,530,000	-	\$1,288,000	\$6,438,000	\$1,600
H	\$3,274,650	\$7,240,000	\$150,000	\$2,667,000	\$13,332,000	\$3,500
I	\$3,172,050	\$3,880,000	\$150,000	\$1,801,000	\$9,003,000	\$2,400
J	\$12,119,625	\$7,760,000	\$1,200,000	\$5,270,000	\$26,350,000	\$1,900
K	\$2,495,325	\$4,200,000	\$150,000	\$1,712,000	\$8,557,000	\$2,700
L	\$3,849,550	-	-	\$963,000	\$4,813,000	\$1,000
M	\$1,644,050	-	-	\$411,000	\$2,055,000	\$800
N	\$1,226,500	-	-	\$307,000	\$1,534,000	\$700
O	\$3,001,050	-	\$50,000	\$763,000	\$3,814,000	\$1,100
P	\$1,261,125	-	-	\$316,000	\$1,577,000	\$1,100
Q	\$1,377,900	\$2,180,000	-	\$890,000	\$4,448,000	\$2,100
R	-	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-	-
T	\$2,500,875	\$690,000	\$100,000	\$823,000	\$4,114,000	\$1,400
U	\$1,333,800	\$345,000	\$200,000	\$470,000	\$2,349,000	\$1,500
Totals	\$59,288,500	\$45,560,000	\$3,100,000	\$26,995,000	\$134,945,000	\$1,600

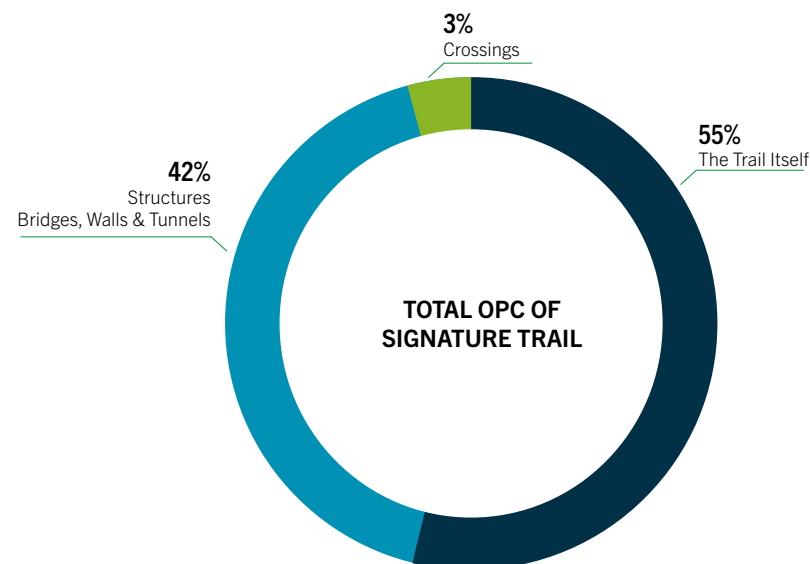


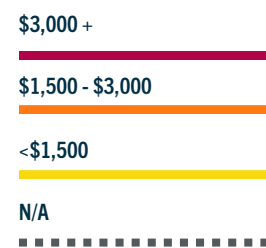
Figure 41. Breakdown of OPC by Category

Linear Cost per Segments

Linear costs per segment provide a standardized means to understand the relative cost impact of each segment, regardless of length. The primary drivers for higher cost segments are major structural elements including bridges, tunnels and extensive retaining walls due to steep slopes and environmental conditions.



COSTS PER LINEAR FOOT



COORDINATING PROJECTS

The Signature Trail final alignment will continue to be coordinated and refined in specific locations to align with future development projects and ongoing planning studies, particularly on the west side of the study area.

These studies and future developments and projects are all at different phases of development and subject to specific future funding and implementation timelines that will impact phasing and implementation of the Signature Trail.

ONGOING STUDIES

- West Dublin Passenger Rail Study
- West Innovation District Integrated Implementation Study
- SportsOhio Master Plan

COORDINATED PROJECTS

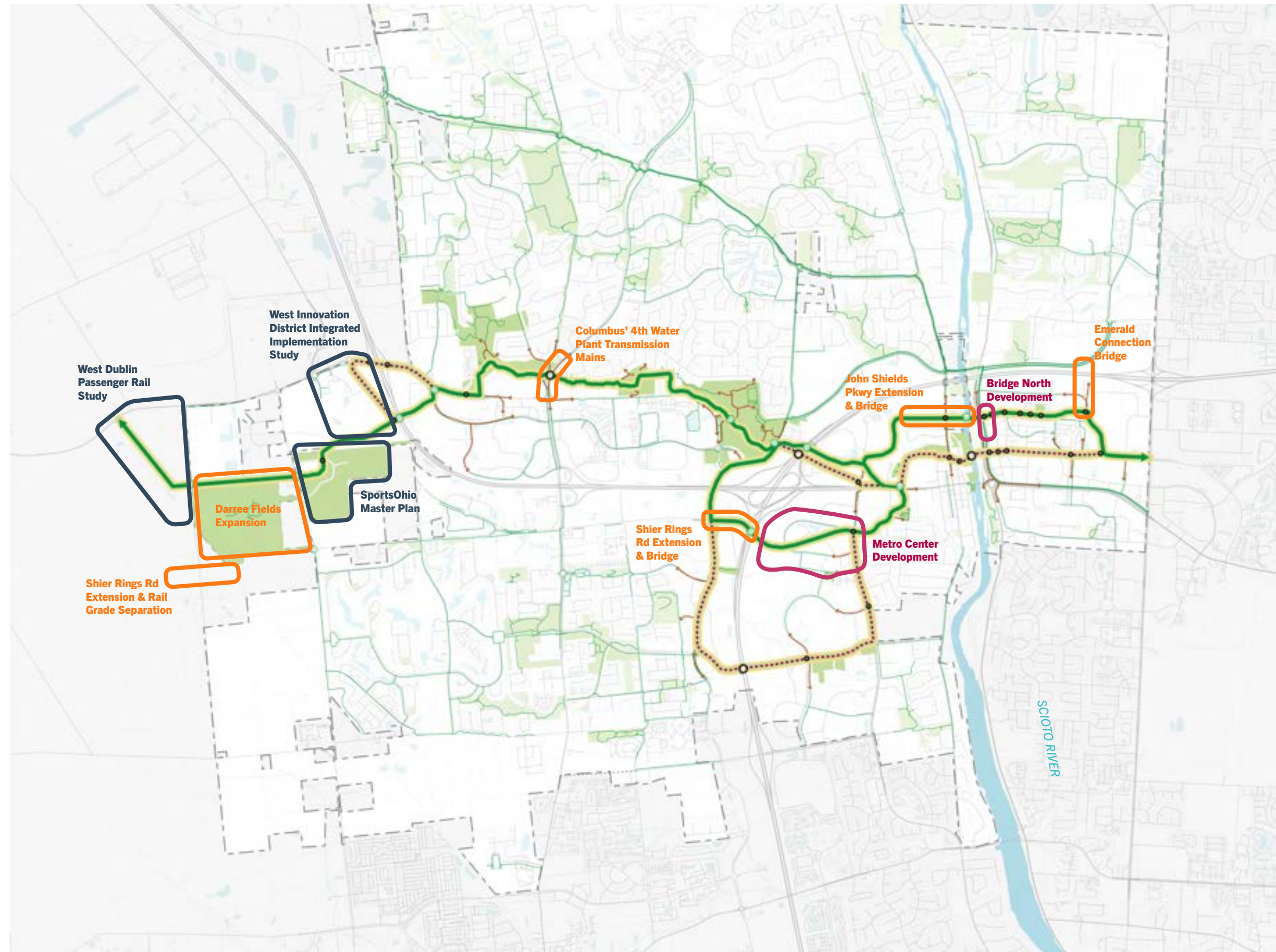
- John Shields Pkwy Extension & Bridge
- Shier Rings Rd Extension & Bridge (East)
- Shier Rings Rd Extension & Rail Grade Separation (West)
- Emerald Connection Bridge
- Darree Fields Expansion
- Columbus' 4th Water Plant Transmission Mains

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

- Metro Center Development
- Bridge North Development

COORDINATING PROJECTS LEGEND

-  Ongoing Studies
-  Coordinated Projects
-  Future Development Areas
-  Preferred Long-term Signature Trail Route
-  Short-term Signature Trail Routes/Link



PHASING

The proposed phasing is informed by a series of key attributes of each segment and their relationship to the overall Signature Trail network.

Cost. Lower per linear-foot cost segments are easier to fund and offer a greater impact for less cost.

Independent Utility. The phasing of segments requires that each phase be a fully functional trail with a natural start and end point. Each phase is intended to build upon the prior phase and to begin and end at major destinations or trail junctions.

Community Impact & Use. Segments that serve an immediate community function and close a critical gap in access provide a greater immediate impact, such as linking open spaces not previously connected by trails.

Economic Development Potential. Segments that align with recent or near-future development opportunities present greater value in the short-term.

Coordinating Projects. Segments that are tied to a significant coordinating project are ultimately linked to that project's timeline. Several of these projects, such as roadway bridges and extensions, are on longer timelines.

Implementation Complexity. Major structures or segments that require long-term acquisition are on a longer timeline and less suited for near-term phases.

Recommended Phasing

The recommended phasing strategy is not to start with the easiest segment, but to begin with something exciting. The western section offers that opportunity, building a Signature Trail where none currently exists and setting the tone for future phases. Although phases are outlined, implementation is not strictly sequential, projects can move forward in parallel as funding

and coordination opportunities develop. Overall, the strategy is meant to remain flexible. With alignments and segments defined, the plan provides a framework that adapts to changing conditions while still guiding a clear and compelling path forward.

Phase 1: Darree Fields to Red Trabue Nature Preserve.

Segments B and D. This phase links Darree Fields, SportsOhio and Red Trabue Nature Preserve, while connecting to the existing trail that extends east to Coffman Park. The short-term segment (D) provides a critical link across Hwy 33 that can be constructed on a shorter timeline than a future grade-separated highway crossing (C). This phase provides a critical connection between recreational facilities while aligning with future development of the West Innovation District.

Phase 2: Red Trabue Nature Preserve to Link Bridge/Riverside Dr.

Segments E, F, L, Q and S. This phase improves the existing trail through Red Trabue to Coffman Park, utilizes the short-term segment (L) along Post Rd to connect across I-270 and follows the trail route behind the school complex to the Historic Downtown and Link Bridge. This phase aligns with the implementation timeline of the Columbus Water Mains project and completes the critical connection from Coffman Park to Downtown Dublin.

Phase 3: Metro Blazer Loop and Bridge District.

Segments H, I, J, T and U. This phase builds out the east and south connections that do not require major structural or roadway bridge projects for implementation. Upon completion of Phase 3, trail users will be able to connect from end to end and access Metro Center.

Adaptive + Responsive Opportunities

Segments A, C, G, L, M, N, O and P are all projects designed to be adaptive, enabling each to progress in response to changing conditions and opportunities rather than following a fixed sequence.

Table 4. Breakdown of Phasing

Phase 1			
B	Houchard Rd to University Blvd	Trail	5,830
D	Eiterman Blvd to Post Rd	Eiterman & Post Rd	5,625
			11,455 LF

Phase 2			
E	Post Rd to Avery-Muirfield Dr	Trail	4,820
F	Avery-Muirfield Dr to Emerald Pkwy	Trail	9,255
H	Emerald Pkwy to Bridge St	Post Rd	3,830
Q	Bridge St to Franklin St	Trail	2,080
R	Franklin St to Riverside Dr	Link Bridge	1,470
			21,455 LF

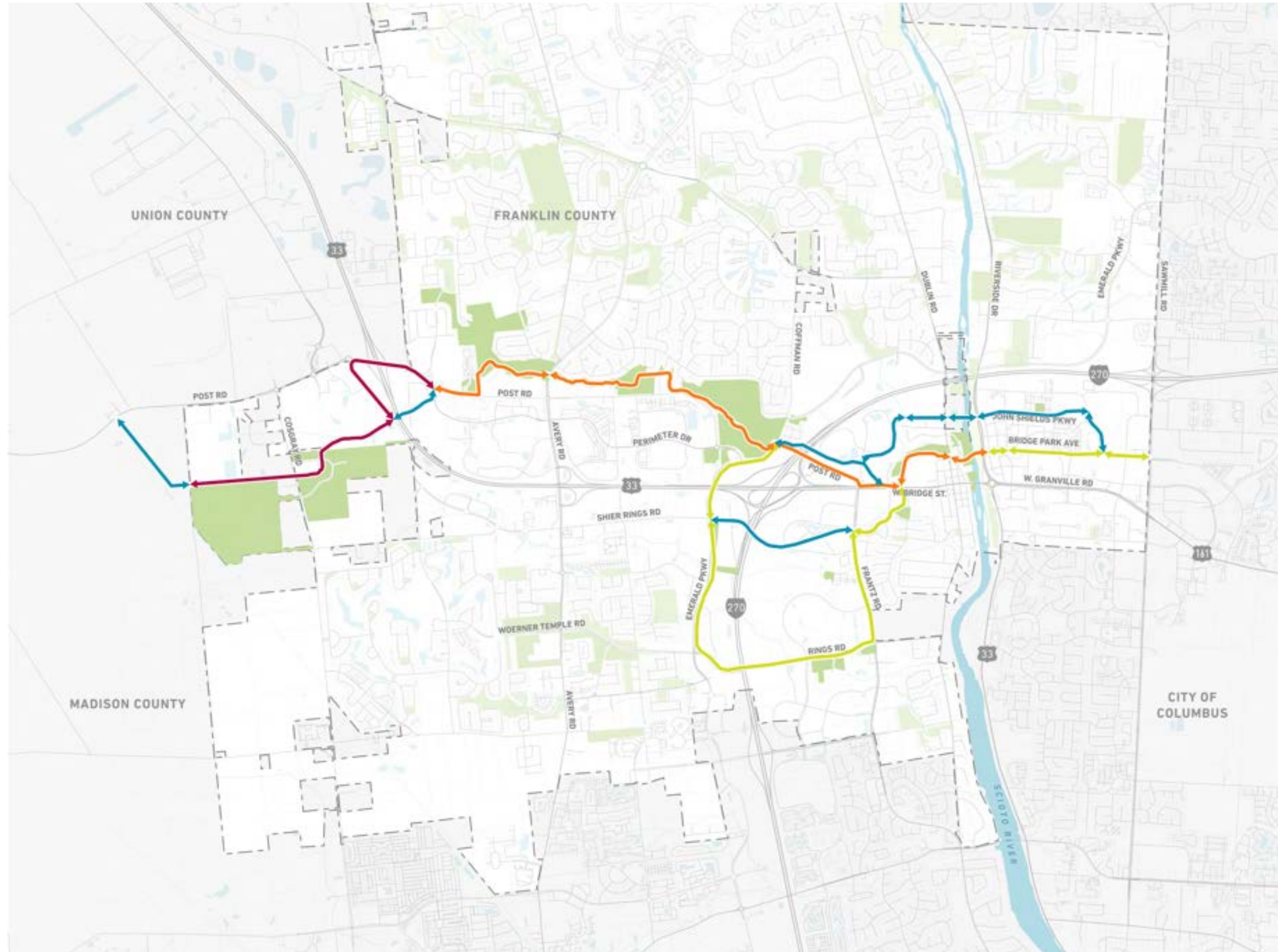
Phase 3			
I	Coffman Park/Post Rd to Shier Rings Rd	Emerald Pkwy	3,710
J	Shier Rings Rd to Corbin Mills Dr	Emerald Pkwy, Rings Rd, Frantz Rd	14,175
K	Frantz Rd to Bridge St	Corbin Mills Dr	3,115
S	Riverside Dr to Dale Dr	Bridge Park Ave	980
T	Dale Dr to Village Pkwy	Bridge Park Ave	2,925
U	Village Pkwy to Sawmill Rd (East Terminus)	Bridge Park Ave	1,560
			26,465 LF

Adaptive + Responsive Opportunities*			
A	Post Rd (West Terminus) to Houchard Rd	Trail	2,400
C	University Blvd to Post Rd	Trail	3,450
G	Emerald Pkwy to Corbin Mills Dr	Trail	4,000
L	Emerald Pkwy to Frantz Rd	Shier Rings Rd Ext, Metro Center	5,010
M	Indian Run Falls Park to South Fork Indian Run	Trail	2,510
N	South Fork Indian Run to Riverside Dr	John Shields Pkwy Ext	2,300
O	Riverside Dr to Village Pkwy	John Shields Pkwy	3,510
P	John Shields Pkwy to Bridge Park Ave	Village Pkwy	1,475
			24,655 LF

*Adaptive + Responsive segments could move to earlier phases as coordinating projects are implemented.

Phasing Map

The map to the right illustrates the proposed phasing of Dublin Signature Trail, as detailed in Table 4.



PHASING LEGEND

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Adaptive + Responsive Opportunities

RECOMMENDATIONS + ACTION ITEMS

Action Items

Advance a Signature Trail Identity (name, logo, and branding)

Further develop a Signature Trail identity. The Signature Trail name, brand, and identity should include a name, logo and a suite of colors to create a signature Dublin amenity that creates a unique and distinctive identity that blends well with the existing character and any existing signage and wayfinding system within Dublin.

Wayfinding and Signage

Using the existing Dublin signage family and Signature Trail Name and Brand, develop a dedicated signage typology for the Signature Trail that aligns with the City's broader Wayfinding sign system to ensure consistency and recognition across the network.

Interpretive Elements, Interactive Features, and Digital Integration

Evaluate opportunities to include interpretive signage, augmented reality experiences, community gathering spaces and interactive storytelling elements to enrich the educational and cultural value of the trail.

Explore opportunities to incorporate GPS-based mapping, mobile navigation and other digital integration tools to enhance user experience and accessibility.

Material Palette

Further refine and develop the materials palette for the Signature Trail. This includes investigating combinations of trail surface materials and colors to create a signature Dublin amenity that balances comfort, aesthetics, maintenance and cost. Considerations should also be given to finalizing the palette of signature components, such as lighting, furnishings, edges, crossings and trailhead features, so that Signature Trail sections can be built as opportunities arise.

Develop a Schematic Design Package for Phase 1

Develop a Schematic design package for phase 1 of the trail that links Darree Fields, SportsOhio and Red Trabue Nature Preserve. Use this design development process to incorporate all adjacent plans into one comprehensive vision that further advances all design elements towards construction, including materials, crossings, furnishings and costs.

Annual Review and Coordination, including Phasing Identification

Annually review Signature Trail project phasing and next steps as part of the Capital Improvement Program and Operating Budget process, identifying strategic opportunities to coordinate implementation with adjacent or complementary projects.

Speak with potential sponsors and donors for the Signature Trail, identify upcoming development projects and public projects to integrate sections of the Signature Trail and focus on potential early wins for the project. Consider advancing an identified segment to detailed design.

Detailed Southern Loop, Crossing, and Alignment Studies

During project development, conduct detailed analyses of all proposed crossings to ensure the safest and most effective design solutions are implemented.

When the Frantz Road and Corbin's Mill segment advances toward implementation, conduct a detailed alignment study to determine the optimal route of the Signature Trail, evaluating whether the preferred path remains along Corbin's Mill or shifts to Frantz Road through Boy Scout Park to connect with the Indian Run ravine area.

As the Signature Trail expands, commission an additional study to further define and evaluate the concept of a southern loop connection within the overall Signature Trail network.

Ongoing Community Engagement

Continue proactive community engagement throughout the project development process to gather input on name, brand and logo, along with key features, priorities and the relative importance of this initiative compared to other community needs.

Next Steps

The Signature Trail final alignment will continue to be coordinated with the West Dublin Passenger Rail Study, the West Innovation District Integrated Implementation Study and the SportsOhio Master Plan to further refine the western portion of the alignment through those efforts.

