

City of Elmira Church/Water Street Gateway Feasibility Study

Public Workshop



October 29th, 2025



City of Elmira
New York



STREETPLANS

Meeting Agenda

- 1 Project Team Introduction**
- 2 Project Overview**
- 3 Summary of Existing Conditions Analysis**
- 4 Workshop Activities**
- 5 Project Schedule**

Project Team Introductions

City of Elmira / Chemung Conty

David McCormick

Acting Commissioner of Planning, Director of ECTC

Michael Perry

Deputy Director of ECTC (Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council)

Nicolas Vosburg, PE

Department of Public Works, Commissioner, Primary Contact

Richard Vary

Department of Public Works, Senior Engineer



City of Elmira
New York

Fisher Associates

Prime Consultant

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Senior Planner

Simon Donkoh

Planner

Tim Faulkner, PE

Senior Transportation Manager

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Project Engineer - Traffic



Street Plans

Subconsultant

Mike Lydon

Principal

Dana Wall

Senior Project Director / Tactical Urbanism & Placemaking Expert

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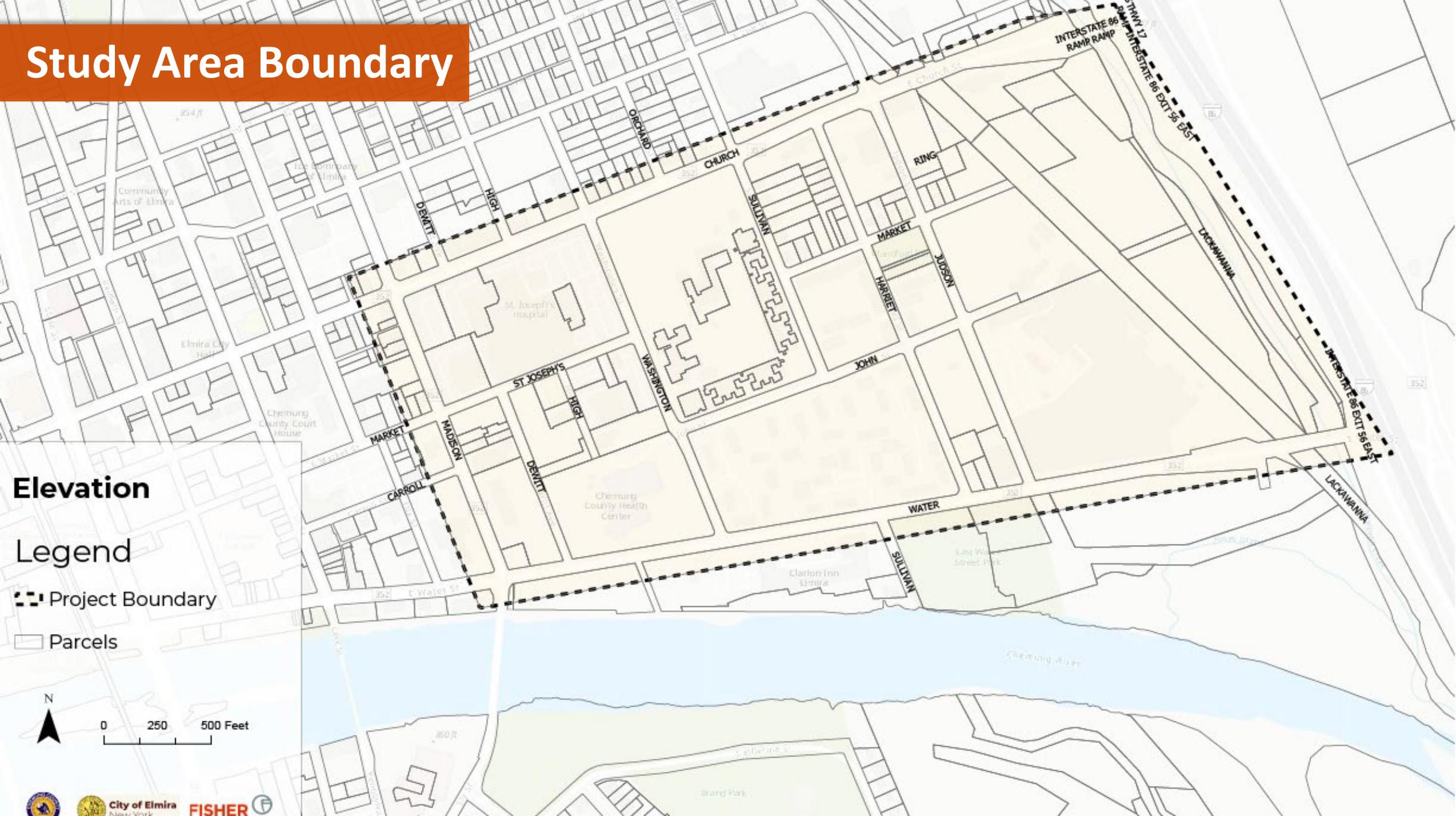
Project Overview



The Elmira Gateway Feasibility Study is **reimagining East Church Street and East Water Street**, the main entryways from I-86 into the city.

The study looks at **how to create a safer, more attractive, and welcoming gateway that works for everyone, drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.**

Study Area Boundary



Elevation

Legend

 Project Boundary

 Parcels



0 250 500 Feet

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Existing Conditions Analysis

Zoning

Land Use

**Traffic
Assessment**

Soil

Floodplains

**Public
Utilities**

**Real Estate
and Market
Trends**

Placemaking

CITY OF ELMIRA COMP PLAN

➤ Strategy 1: Be Market Driven

- ★ Brand Identification & Promotion Initiative

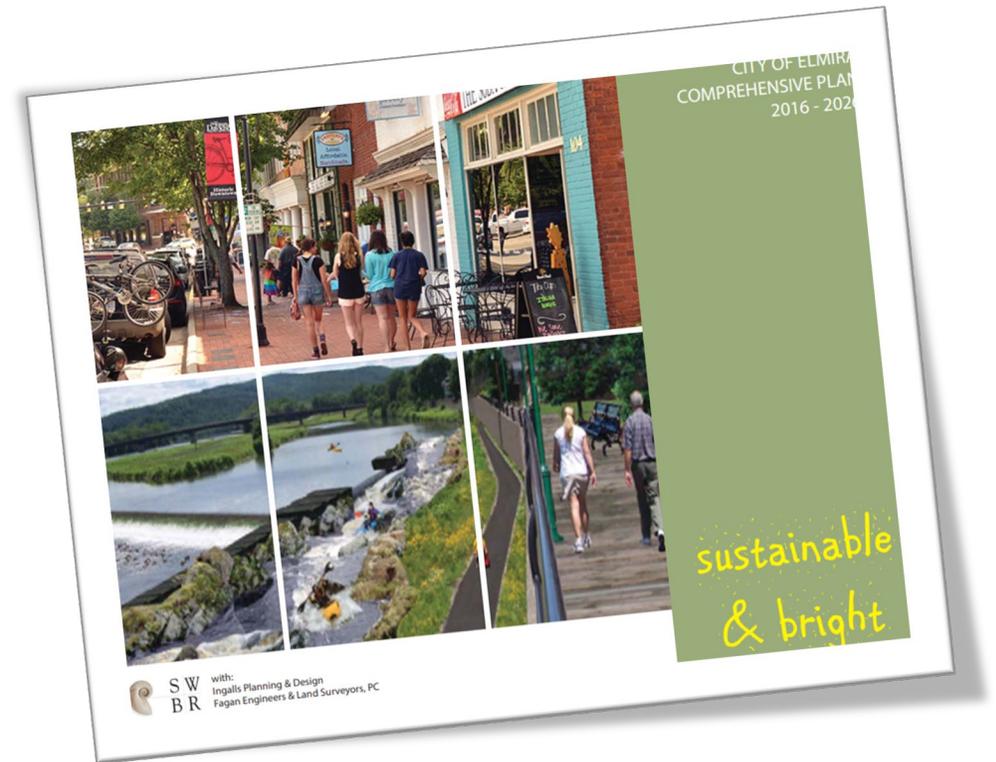
➤ Strategy 2: A New Vision for Land Use & Regulation

- Zoning Code Update
- ★ Targeted Downtown Revitalization Program
- ★

➤ Strategy 3: Provide the Infrastructure Necessary for Success

- ★ Neighborhood Repair & Land Bank
- ★ Complete Streets Initiative (Policy & Priority Implementation)

★ The star represents highest priorities



CITY OF ELMIRA COMP PLAN

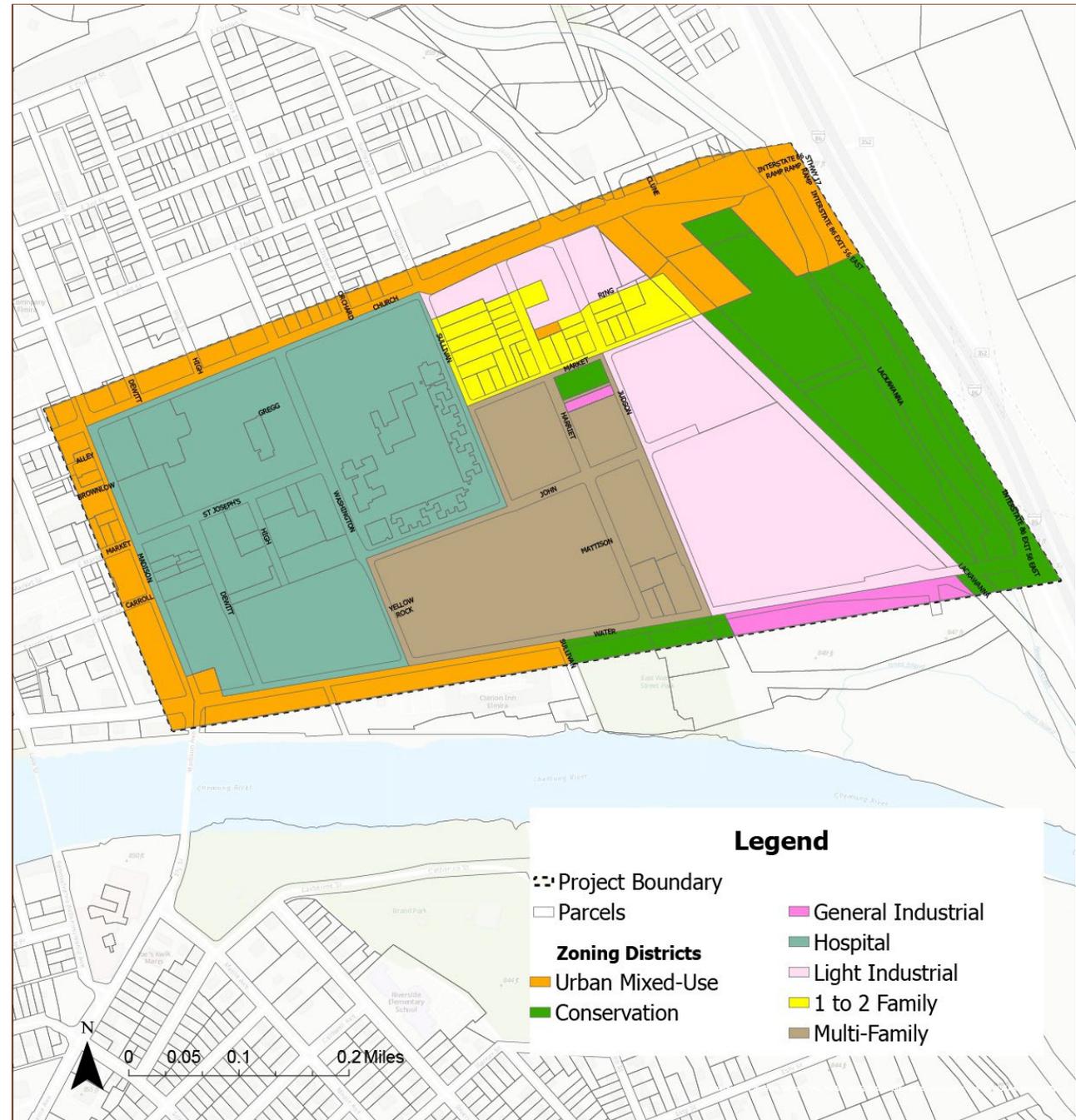
- **Strategy 4: Offer a High & Equitable Quality of Life**
 - ★ Riverfront Park Implementation

- **Strategy 5: Provide the Infrastructure Necessary for Success**
 - ★ Comprehensive Plan Adoption, Stewardship & Implementation
 - ★ Neighborhood Identity, Organization & Congress

The City's focus on **complete streets, expanding alternative transportation options, improving walkability and quality of life, advancing sustainability, promoting healthy and safe living, and pursuing a strategic housing initiative** provides a strong framework for the Elmira Gateway Feasibility study project.

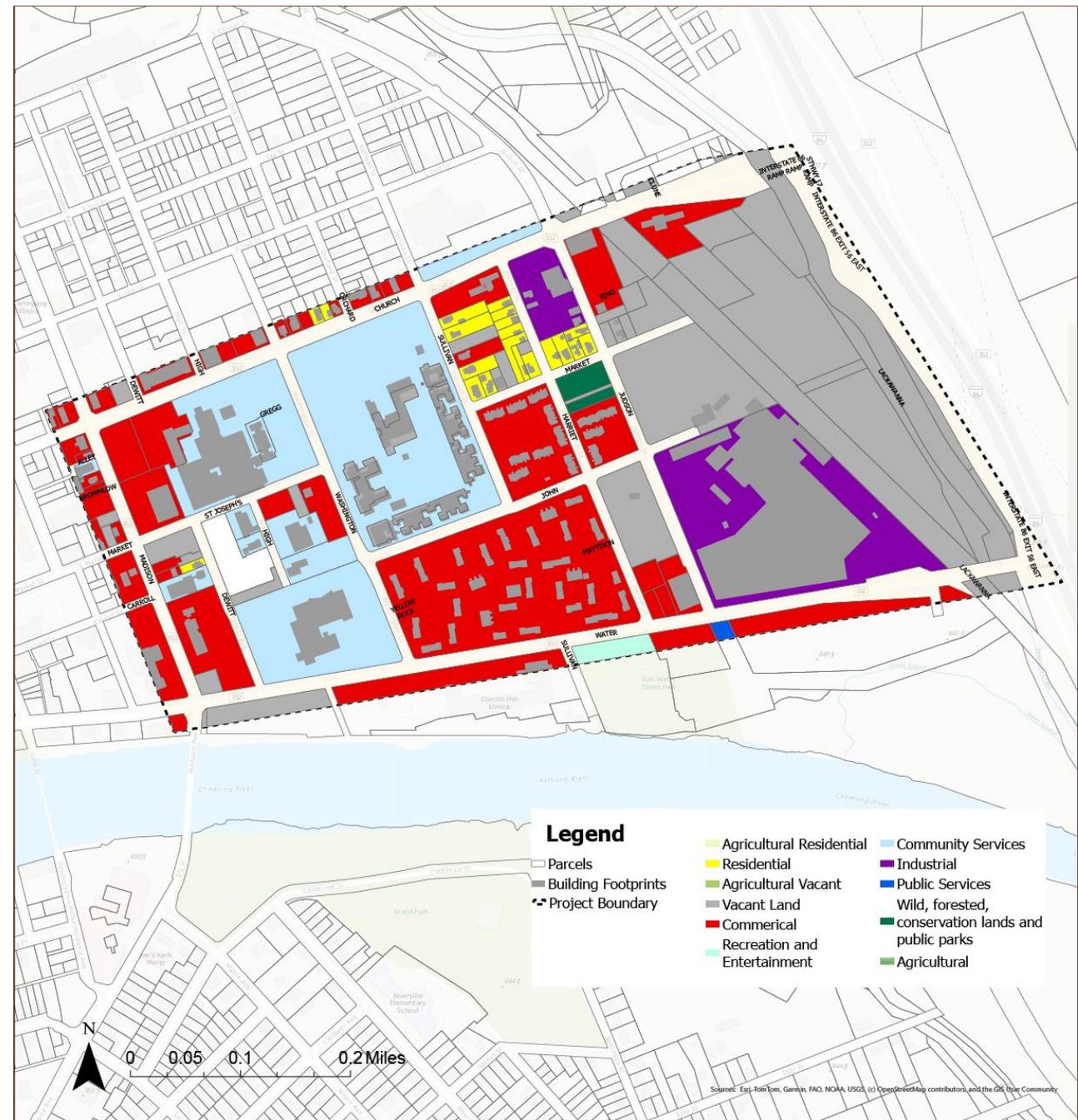
Zoning

- The study area contains a mix of
 - Hospital
 - Urban Mixed Use
 - Conservation
 - Light Industrial
 - General Industrial
 - 1 to 2 Family Residential
 - Multi Family Residential
- The mix of Zoning District allows for varied uses that would support recommendations to **promote walkability** and the area's **vibrancy**.



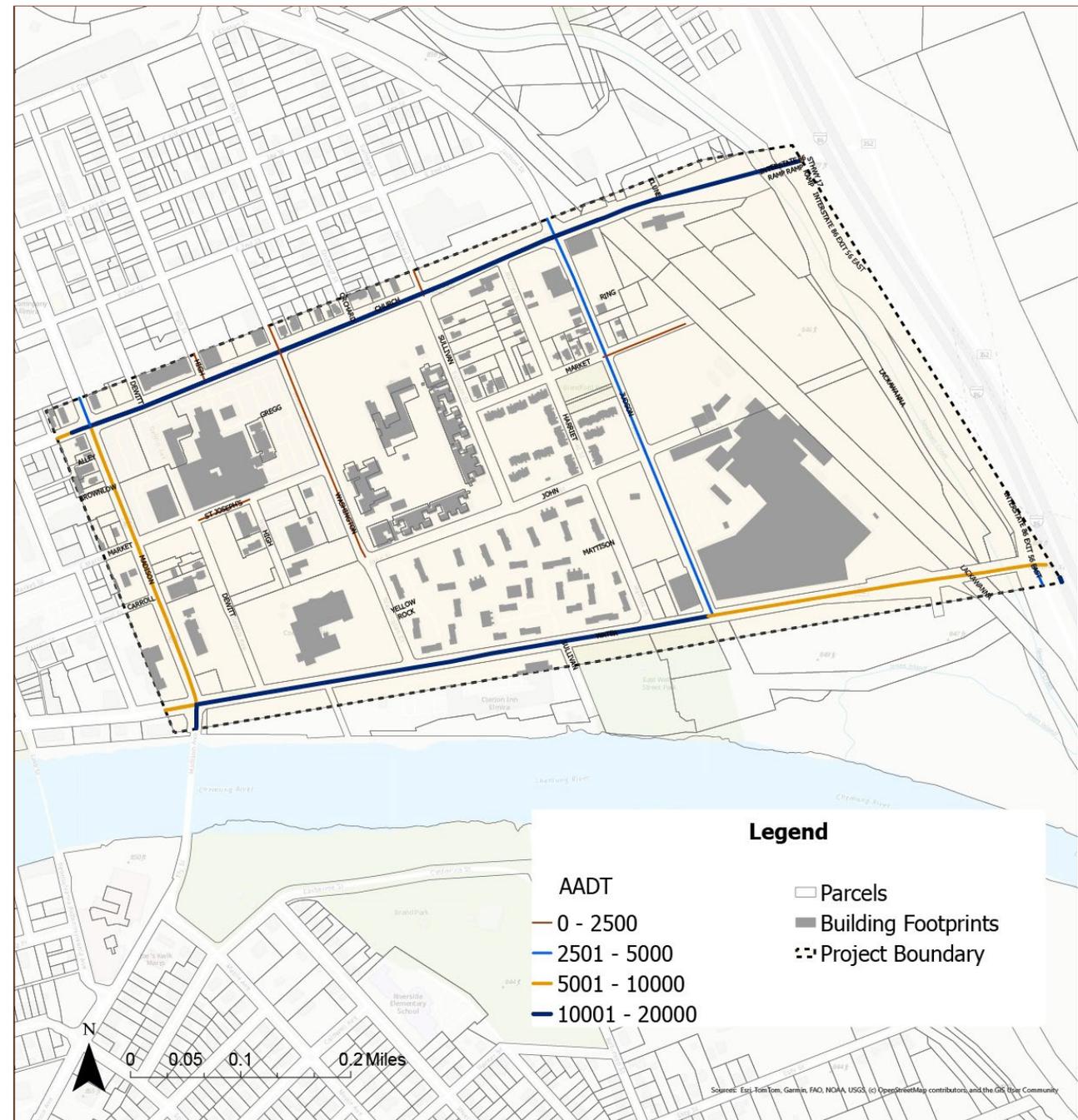
Land Use

- The study area contains a mix of
 - Commercial
 - Residential
 - Industrial
 - Residential
 - Community service
- There is a **notable amount of vacant land** within the study area, indicating redevelopment potential.



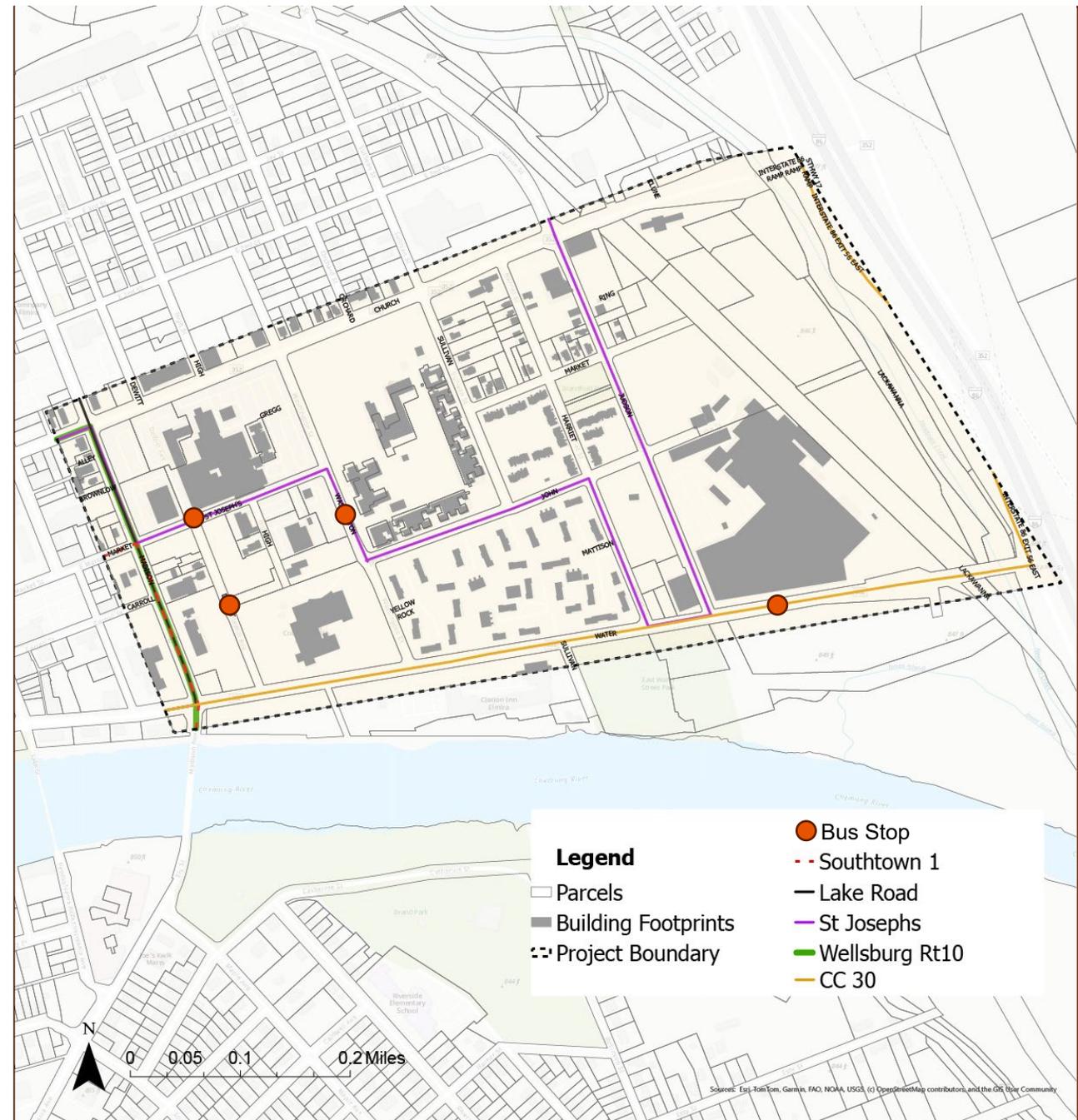
AADT

- **Church Street** receives the highest Annual Average Daily Traffic between **10,001 and 20,000**.
- Madison Avenue and some sections of Water Street receive between **5001 and 10,000 AADT**.
- The high volume of traffic necessitates **pedestrian safety** and **traffic calming interventions**.



Public Transit

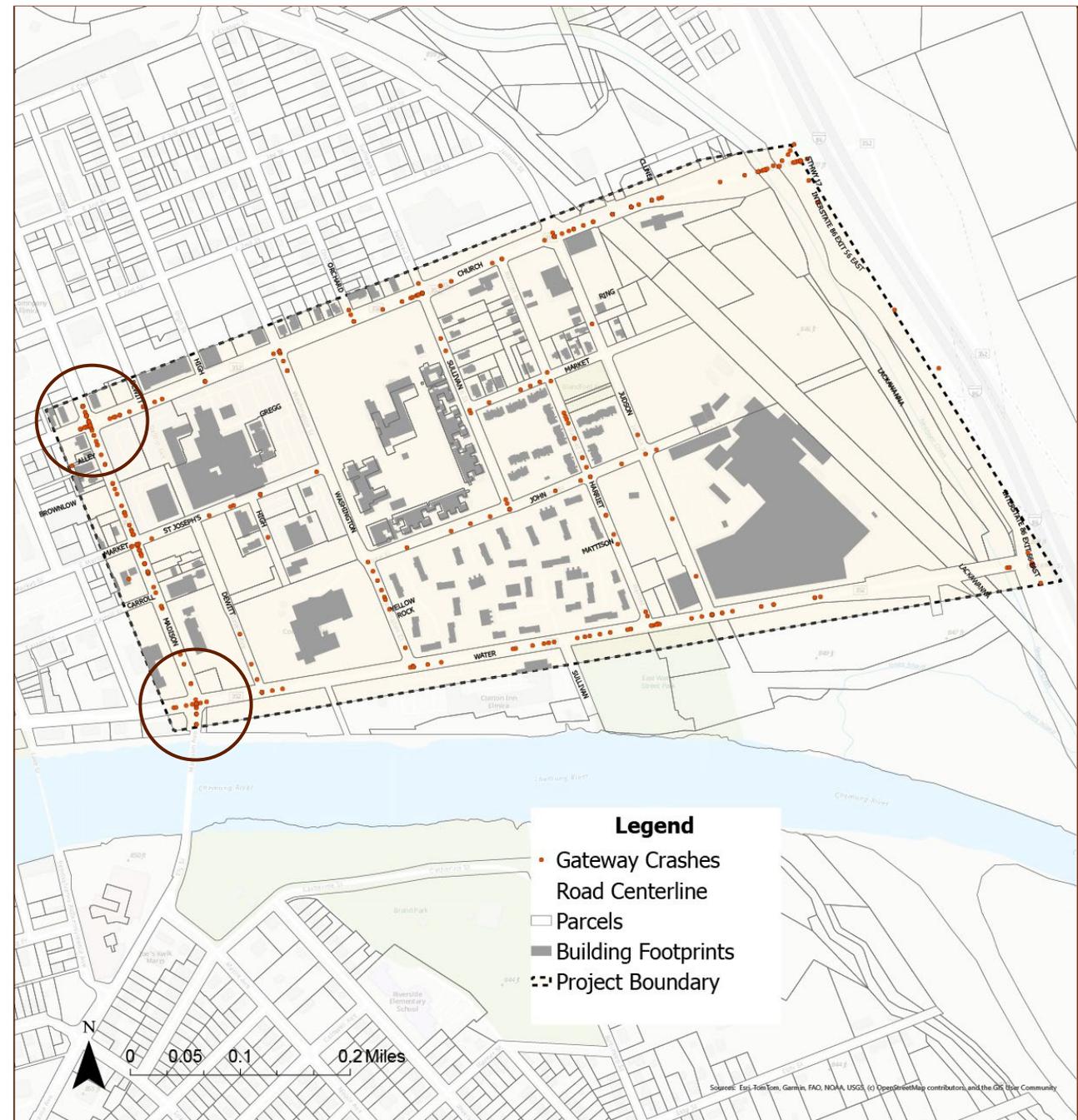
- Several transit routes run through or around the project boundary, including **CC 30**, **Lake Road**, **Southtown 1**, **St. Josephs**, and **Wellsburg Rt10**.
- **Church Street lacks transit service beyond Madison Street**, resulting in gaps in the public transportation network.
- The Water Street section of the study area, spanning approximately 0.7 miles, is served by only a single bus stop, **limiting accessibility for residents and visitors**.
- Need for more bus stops and transit connections.



Crash Analysis

Crash patterns were identified at the E. Water Street & Madison Avenue intersection.

- **Rear-end crashes** are mainly caused by the roadway's design and poor visibility of traffic signals.
- **Church Street** has more travel lanes than needed, encouraging drivers to speed and change lanes. Leads to overtaking crashes.
- **Multiple bicycle crashes** at the **E. Water Street & Madison Avenue** intersection.
- **Lack of bicycle infrastructure** and higher volume of cyclists at this intersection are causes for the bicycle crashes.



Potential Mitigation Measures

- 1** Implementing a road diet would reduce Church Street to one lane in each direction with a center turn lane, helping to calm traffic and improve safety for all users.
- 2** Adjusting signal timing.
- 3** Upgrading signal heads for better visibility.
- 4** Adding advance warning signs.
- 5** Modifying intersection geometry.
- 6** Installing bicycle infrastructure to improve multimodal safety.

Placemaking Opportunities - MOVE



Sidewalks | Most sidewalk segments lack a buffer between the curb and the travel lane, and other amenities for pedestrian comfort.



Intersections | Improvements to key intersections along Church and Water Streets can increase safety and connectivity in the area.

Placemaking Opportunities - MOVE



Bike Facilities | There are no dedicated bicycle facilities in the study area, but both Church and Water Streets could accommodate them.



Transit | Bus riders in the area could use more stop amenities, like shade and seating, and clearer signage clarifying bus routes.

Placemaking Opportunities - MOVE



Lackawanna Rail Trail

- ❑ A denser network of wayfinding throughout the study area
- ❑ Creating more of a public space/recreation destination
- ❑ More robust pedestrian crossings at select intersections to improve accessibility to the trail on foot

Placemaking Opportunities - STAY



Between the George E. Bragg Towers and the First United Church of Christ, there is a **green space with several trees that has the potential for a pop-up or pocket park.**



With **light improvements**, this space could become **a place for either passive or programmed activity** in partnership with the hospital.

Placemaking Opportunities - CELEBRATE



Art in the Right-of-Way

- Use asphalt art (already seen in Elmira!) to accent historic destinations
- Improve the definition of the intersection for all mode users
- Mark the intersection as a place to stay and gather, in conjunction with the pop-up park

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Workshop Activities

Visual Preference Survey

2025 ELMIRA GATEWAY FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Street Design



Which of these street types would you like to see?

Wide roads with sidewalk and green buffers

		Place a dot in this box	Any other comment(s)? Write it on a sticky note and paste it here 

Street arts

		Place a dot in this box

Shared street with pedestrian-friendly design and street furniture

		Place a dot in this box

Streets with public arts / Sculpture

		Place a dot in this box

2025 ELMIRA GATEWAY FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Protected Bike Lanes on E. Water Street



How would you want the bike lane to be protected?

Protected lanes with parking separation

		Place a dot in this box	Any other comment(s)? Write it on a sticky note and paste it here 
Quick Build	Capital		

Planter-protected bike lanes

		Place a dot in this box
Quick Build	Capital	

Bollards protected Bike Lanes

		Place a dot in this box
Quick Build	Capital	

Concrete protected Bike Lanes

		Place a dot in this box
Quick Build	Capital	



Workshop Activities

Prioritization

2025 ELMIRA GATEWAY FEASIBILITY STUDIES

You have \$500 to put toward these goals, which ones would you invest in? Spread it around or put it all in one!

Streetscape & Infrastructure Improvements

Upgrading streetscape and infrastructure enhances both the function and appearance of the corridor.

Features like sidewalks, street trees, lighting, benches, and drainage improvements create a safer, more comfortable, and visually appealing environment.

These upgrades not only improve accessibility and reduce maintenance needs but also attract investment, support local businesses, and encourage people to spend more time in the area.



Placemaking & Public Art

Placemaking, public art, and recreation work together to create lively, welcoming spaces that reflect the community's identity and bring people together.

Murals, sculptures, and well-designed parks or trails transform the corridor into a destination where residents and visitors can gather, relax, and celebrate local culture.

These enhancements promote health, social connection, and economic activity while making the area more beautiful, vibrant, and memorable.



Wayfinding & Community Identity

Improving wayfinding and community identity helps people navigate the area easily while showcasing what makes the community unique.

Clear signage, gateways, and public art create a stronger sense of place, making the corridor more welcoming and memorable.

These enhancements promote local pride, support tourism and business visibility, and help visitors feel connected to the community's character and story.



Parks & Recreation

Enhancing parks and recreation provides residents and visitors with more spaces to relax, gather, and enjoy outdoor activities.

Improvements such as trails, green spaces, and play areas encourage healthy living, strengthen community connections, and attract families and visitors.

These investments also make the corridor more appealing, supporting nearby businesses and improving overall quality of life.



Housing & Mixed-Use Development

Encouraging housing and mixed-use development brings more activity and life to the corridor.

By combining homes with shops, offices, and services, the area becomes more walkable and vibrant.

This approach supports local businesses, increases housing options, and creates a stronger sense of place where people can live, work, and gather within the same neighborhood.



Corridor Safety & Mobility

Enhancing corridor safety and mobility means creating roadways that work better for everyone, including drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

Improvements such as safer crossings, traffic calming, and reducing crashes, encourage walking and biking, and improve overall travel flow.

These upgrades make the corridor more accessible, attractive, and supportive of local businesses and community life.



Workshop Activities

Draw your bike lane exercise

Where would you want to ride your bike?
Use a different colored marker to draw your bike lane.



Workshop Activities

Location Specific Recommendations Exercise



- Improve Sidewalk
- Crosswalk Needed
- Bus Stop Needed
- Challenge
- Other comments

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Project Schedule

Scope of Work Tasks		2025-2026														
		June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February						
1	Project Coordination			■		■		■		■		■		■		
2	Public Engagement	■			■	■			■							■
3	Existing Conditions Analysis/Needs Assessment		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
4	Concept Plans, Strategies & Regulatory Recommendations						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
5	Final Report and Implementation Plan												■	■	■	■

- Client/PAC Meetings
- Walking Tour
- Workshop/Charrette
- Milestones/Deliverables
- Public Meeting
- Team Work Tasks
- Team virtual check-in meetings



We are Here

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