

The Long Road from Planning to Breaking Ground:

A Collaboration Between Roanoke County and VDOT

Megan G. Cronise, AICP

VDOT Coordinating Transportation and Land Use Planning Forum

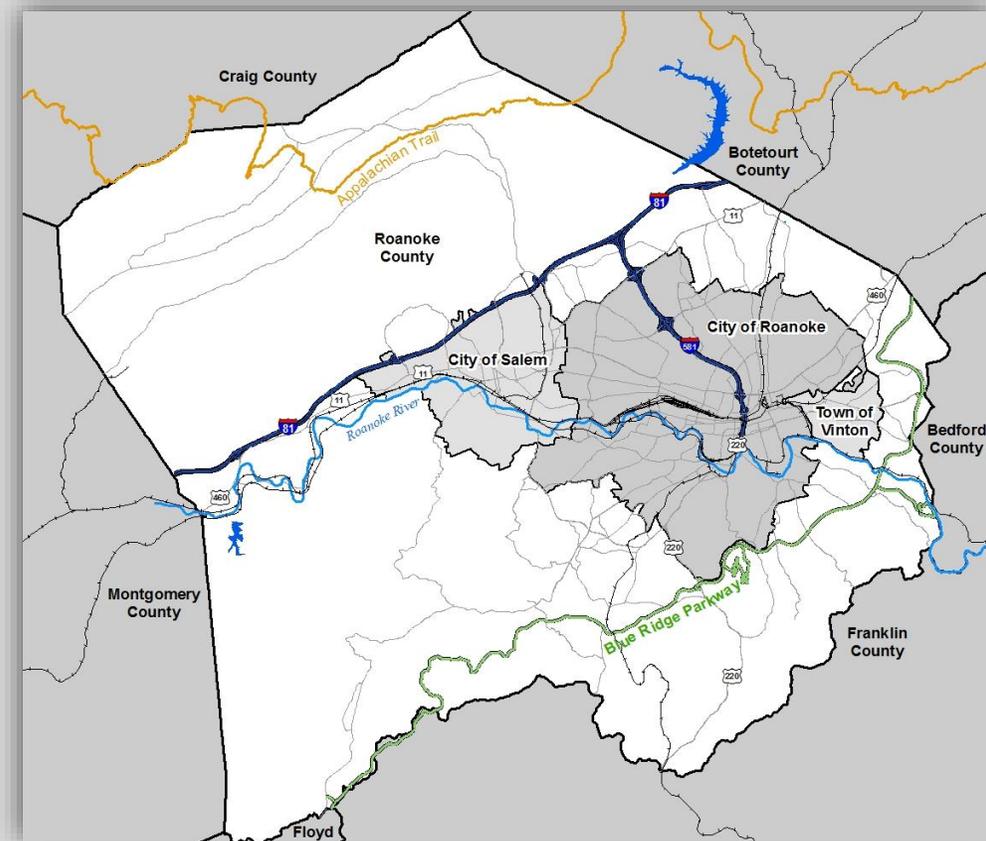
May 10, 2018

Where is Roanoke County?



Roanoke County Profile

- 250 square miles
- 93,730 population (2017 estimate)
 - Includes the Town of Vinton
- 308,707 MSA population (2010)
 - City of Roanoke, City of Salem
 - Roanoke County, Botetourt County (part)
- Region is known for outdoor recreational opportunities and the Norfolk Southern railroad
 - Appalachian Trail
 - Blue Ridge Parkway
 - Near Smith Mountain Lake



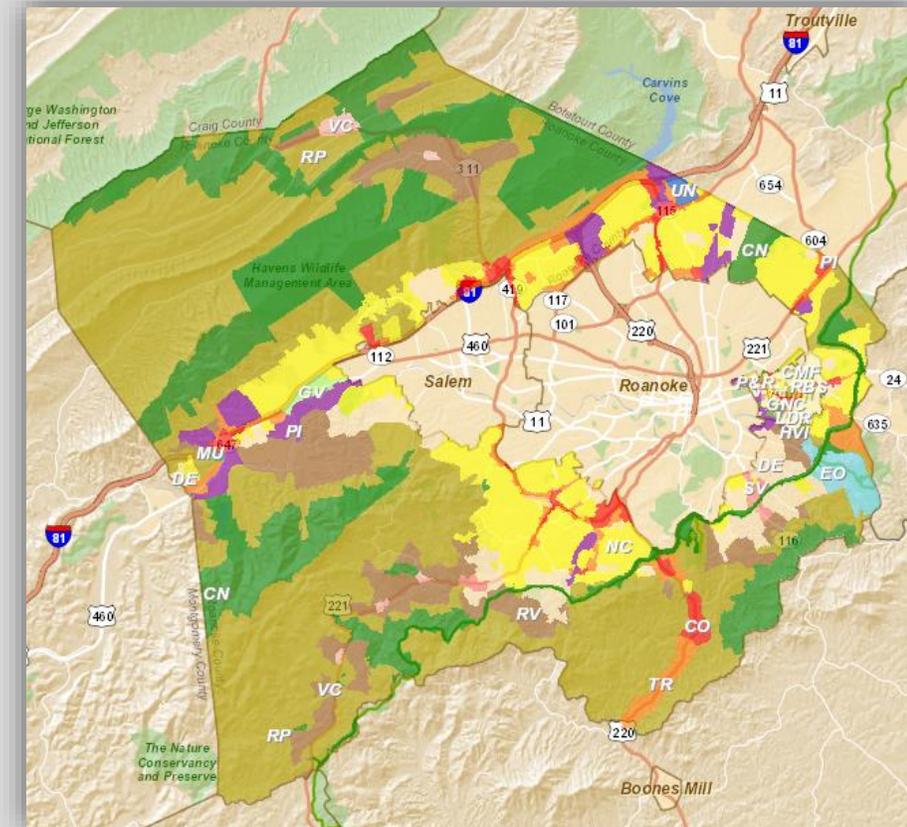
The Comprehensive Plan

State Code Section 15.2-2223

“The local planning commission shall prepare and recommend a **comprehensive plan** for the **physical development of the territory within its jurisdiction...**”

Section B references the locality’s transportation plan:

“...Each locality shall develop a transportation plan that designates a **system of transportation infrastructure needs and recommendations** that include the **designation of new and expanded transportation facilities** and that **support the planned development of the territory covered by the plan...**”



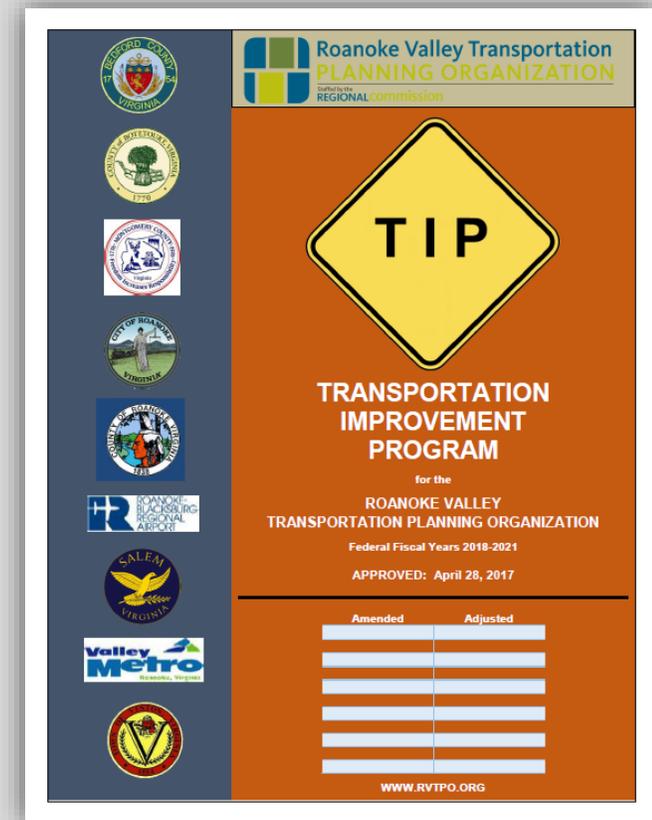
Roanoke County Future Land Use Map

The Comprehensive Plan

State Code Section 15.2-2223, Section B

The transportation plan shall:

- Include a map taking into account the current and future needs of residents in the locality and the locality's planning district;
- Be consistent with the CTB's Statewide Transportation Plan and the Six-Year Improvement Program;
- Be submitted to VDOT for review and comment; and
- Be submitted to VDOT as an adopted transportation plan.

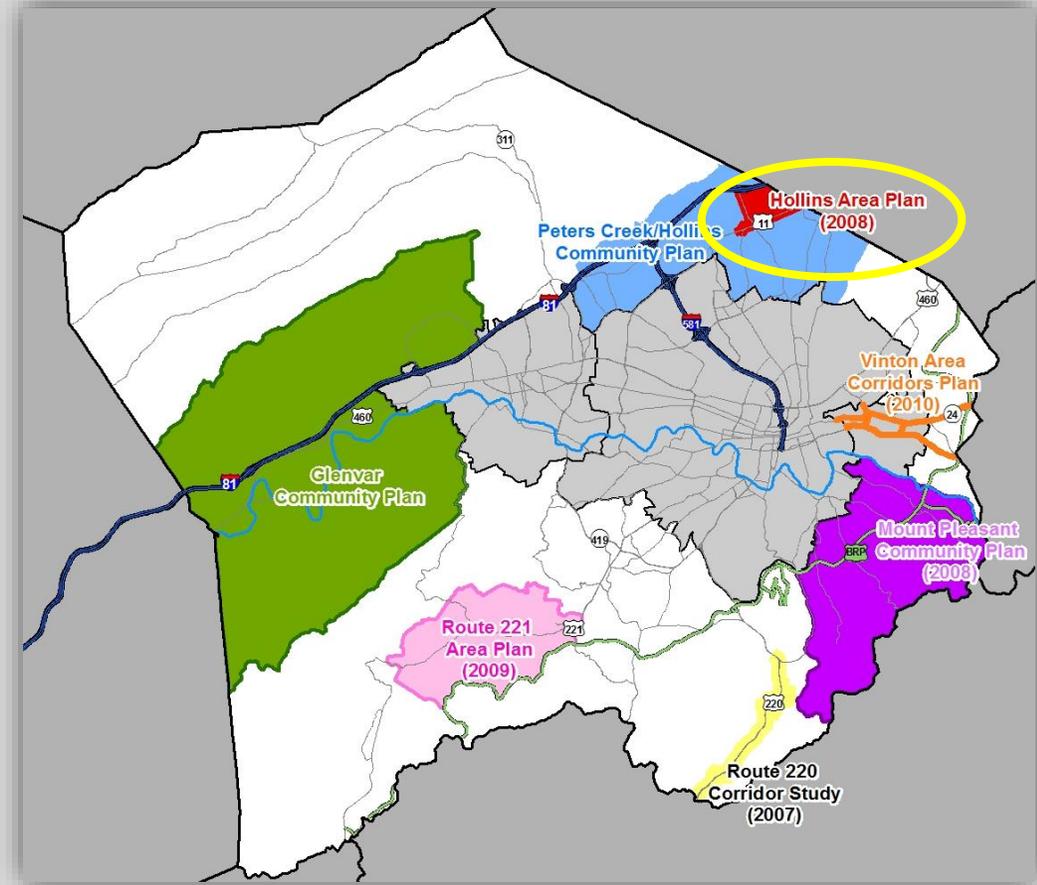


Roanoke Valley TPO's TIP, included in the Statewide TIP

Comprehensive Planning in Roanoke County

Corridor, Area and Community Plans adopted by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan

- Route 220 Corridor Study (2007)
- Mount Pleasant Community Plan (2008)
- **Hollins Area Plan (2008)**
- Route 221 Area Plan (2009)
- Vinton Area Corridors Plan (2010)
- Glenvar Community Plan (2012)

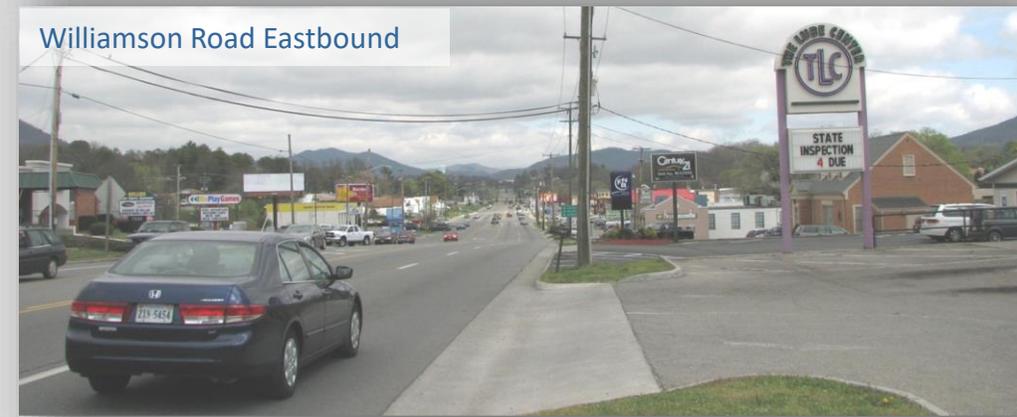


Hollins Area Plan: Goals

1. Improve upon the established commercial, industrial, residential and institutional foundations while balancing industrial and commercial pressures with the needs of the community;
2. Enhance the visual appearance of Williamson and Plantation Roads; and
3. Anticipate growth pressures and create standards for quality development.



Williamson Road Westbound



Williamson Road Eastbound

Hollins Area Plan: Outreach

Two Community Meetings held in April and July 2008

Surveys Conducted in Spring 2008

- Community (mailed paper surveys)
- Hollins University Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration (emailed Survey Monkey link)
- 434 total responses



April 2008



July 2008

Hollins Area Plan: What We Heard

Aesthetic improvements are needed:

- Street trees
- Landscaped medians
- Underground utilities

Multimodal transportation improvements are desired:

- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crosswalks and lighting
- Bus service
- Bike lanes



Williamson Road Social Path (Westbound)

Hollins Area Plan: Implementation Strategies

Implementation Strategies were based on:

- Community Meeting feedback
- Survey results
- Other regional planning efforts (2007 Conceptual Greenway Plan, 2005 MPO Bikeway Plan)
- Field research
- Existing conditions analysis

The Hollins Area Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 11, 2008.

Document 13 - Schedule of Implementation Strategies

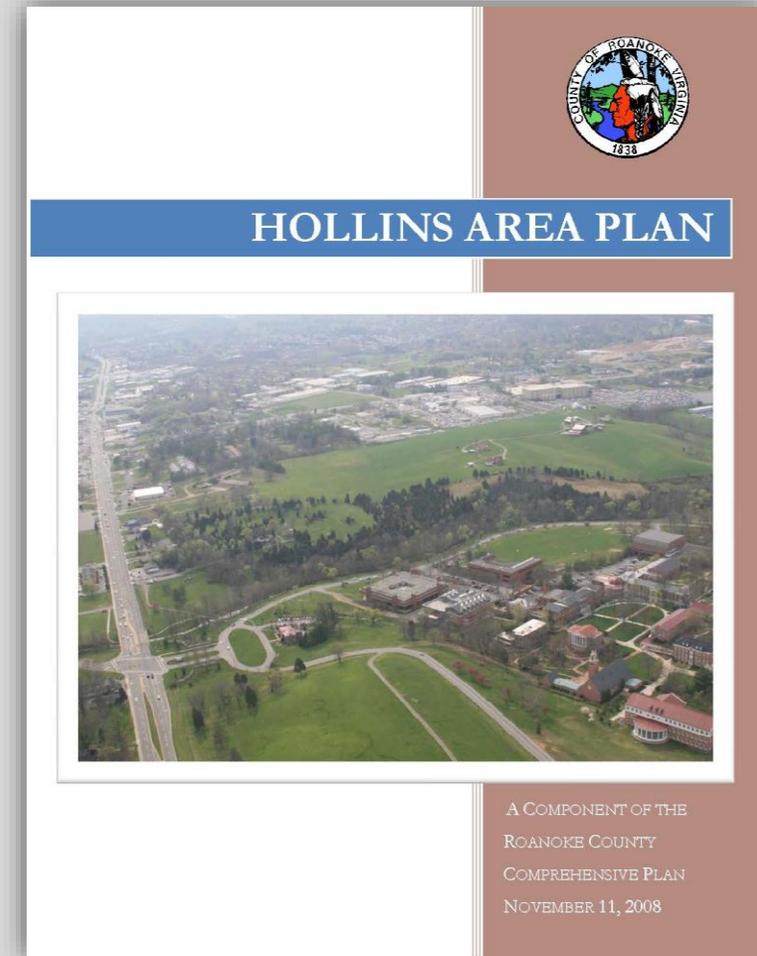
| Implementation Strategy | Responsible Party(ies) | Timetable | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | Tier 1 0-5 yrs | Tier 2 6-10 yrs | Tier 3 10+ yrs |
| Commercial Matching Grant Program | | | | |
| Revise the Program's criteria | RC | ■ | | |
| Expand the boundaries of the Program | RC | ■ | | |
| Entrance Corridor | | | | |
| Develop and adopt an Entrance Corridor Overlay District | RC | ■ | | |
| Greenways | | | | |
| Construct the shared Hollins University / Roanoke County parking lot for Hollywood's Restaurant and the Greenway | HU, RC | ■ | | |
| Construct Hollins University Segment of Tinker Creek Greenway, Phase I (Williamson Road to I-81) | HU, RC | ■ | | |
| Construct Hollins University Segment of Tinker Creek Greenway, Phase II (I-81 to Carvins Cove) | HU, RC | | ■ | |
| Historic Resources | | | | |
| Include additional buildings on Hollins University on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register | HU, RC, DHR | ■ | ■ | |
| Develop and adopt a Hollins University Historic Overlay District | HU, RC | ■ | | |
| Maintenance Programs | | | | |
| Ensure the maintenance of landscaping and other streetscape improvements throughout the study area | B, HU, PO, RC, VDOT | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Pedestrian Amenities | | | | |
| Improve the pedestrian crosswalks at Plantation Road and Williamson Road | RC, VDOT | ■ | | |
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| Streetscape Improvements | | | | |
| Construct and install streetscape improvements (sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, signage, street furniture, etc.) throughout the study area | B, HU, PO, RC, VDOT | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Transportation Improvements | | | | |
| Incorporate bicycle lanes along Williamson Road and Plantation Road where feasible | RC, VDOT | | ■ | ■ |
| Expand transit opportunities to the study area when and where feasible | RC, HU | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Viewshed Conservation | | | | |
| Identify critical viewsheds from and within the study area | RC | ■ | | |
| Encourage conservation easements on private lands and acquire scenic easements through grant funding to protect critical viewsheds | RC, PO, HU | ■ | ■ | ■ |

Implementation Strategies

Hollins Area Plan: Implementing the Plan

Key Components

1. Lead Planner actively working towards completing implementation strategies
2. Reminding elected and appointed officials of the Plan language and goals
3. Keeping the community updated
 - Public presentations
 - Monthly e-newsletter
 - Plan webpage
4. **Funding!**



Where to Start?

Plantation Road was selected for many reasons:

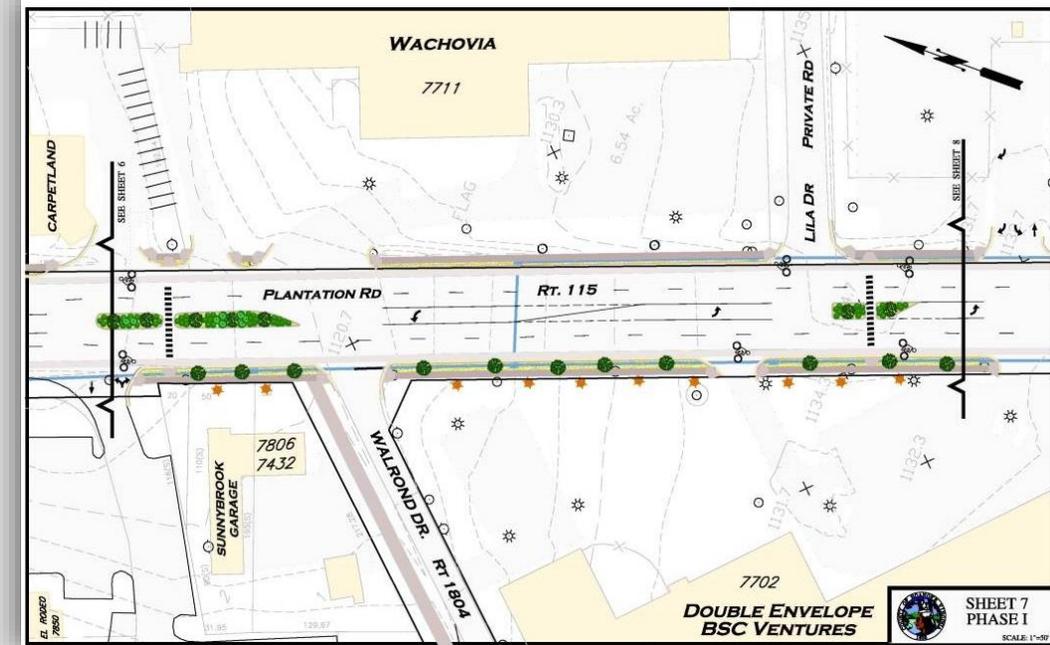
- Largest County employment base (4,000 jobs)
ITT/Exelis/Harris Crosswalk Request
- 400 hotel rooms
- Many commercial and industrial development opportunities (new and redevelopment)
- Recreational resources (Walrond Park, Carvins Cove trails, proposed Tinker Creek Greenway segments)
- Hollins University (900 students)
- Interstate 81 access



Plantation Road Project: Goals

- Provide pedestrian accommodations
- Provide bicycle accommodations
- Consider mass transit opportunities
- Connect existing and planned recreational facilities
- Improve streetscape
- Enhance gateways and nodes
- Improve access management

Goals relate back to implementation strategies

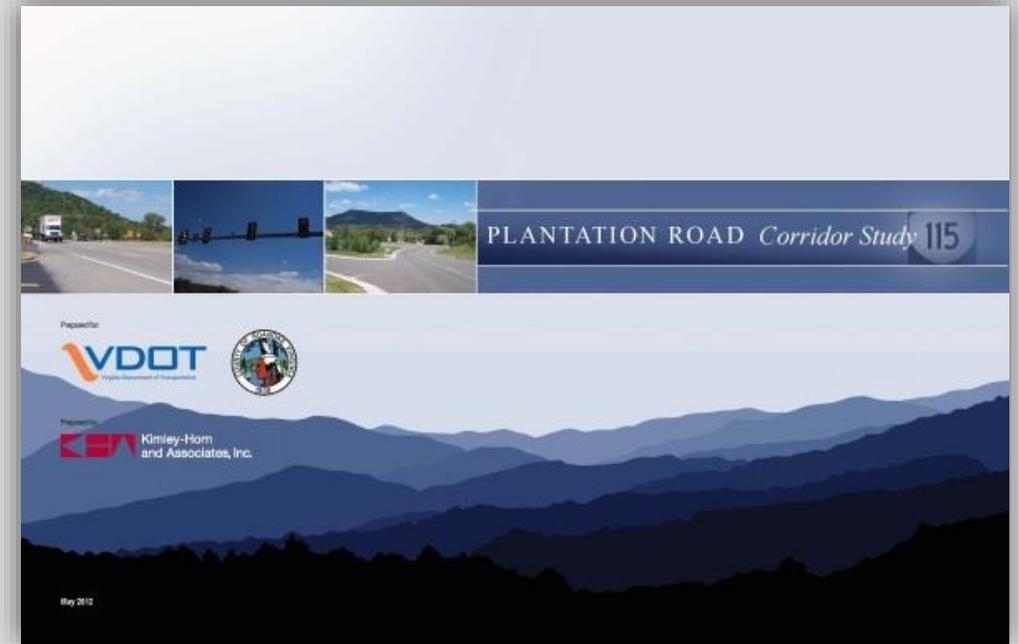


Initial Plantation Road Concept Plan (Excerpt)

Plantation Road Project: Getting Started

VDOT staff assisted with:

- Concept plan evaluation
- Estimate review
- Funding ideas
- Corridor study which identified areas of concern and led to concept refinement



Plantation Road Corridor Study (2012)

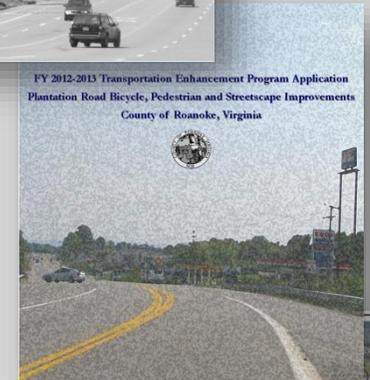
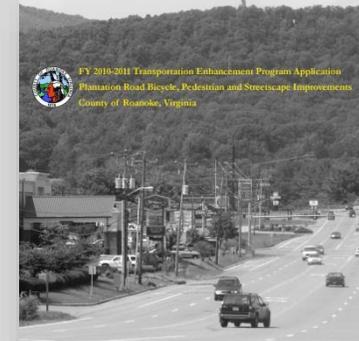
Plantation Road Project: Getting Started

2009 – To build relationships, gauge interest in the project and to request letters of support for applications, Planning and Economic Development Staff met with:

- Plantation Road businesses
- Hollins University
- Roanoke County Commissions
- Business organizations

2011 and 2013 – County Staff met with the same groups again with project status updates and to request support

2013 – These contacts were extremely helpful when the consultants came on-board and we began meeting with area businesses to discuss the project and potential property impacts



Plantation Road Project: Phase 1 Funding

| Program | Match (Federal or State/Local) | Applied | Funded |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| SAFETEA-LU Transportation Enhancement (TE) | 80/20 | 2 | 1 |
| MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives (TA) | 80/20 | 1 | 1 |
| VDOT Revenue Sharing | 50/50 | 2 | 2 |
| VDOT Regional Surface Transportation (RSTP) | 100/0 | 1 | 1 |
| Roanoke County Capital Improvements (CIP) | n/a | 4 | 0 |
| Totals | | 10 | 5 |

Revenue Sharing and RSTP transfers were also completed in order to fund the \$4.2 million project balance.

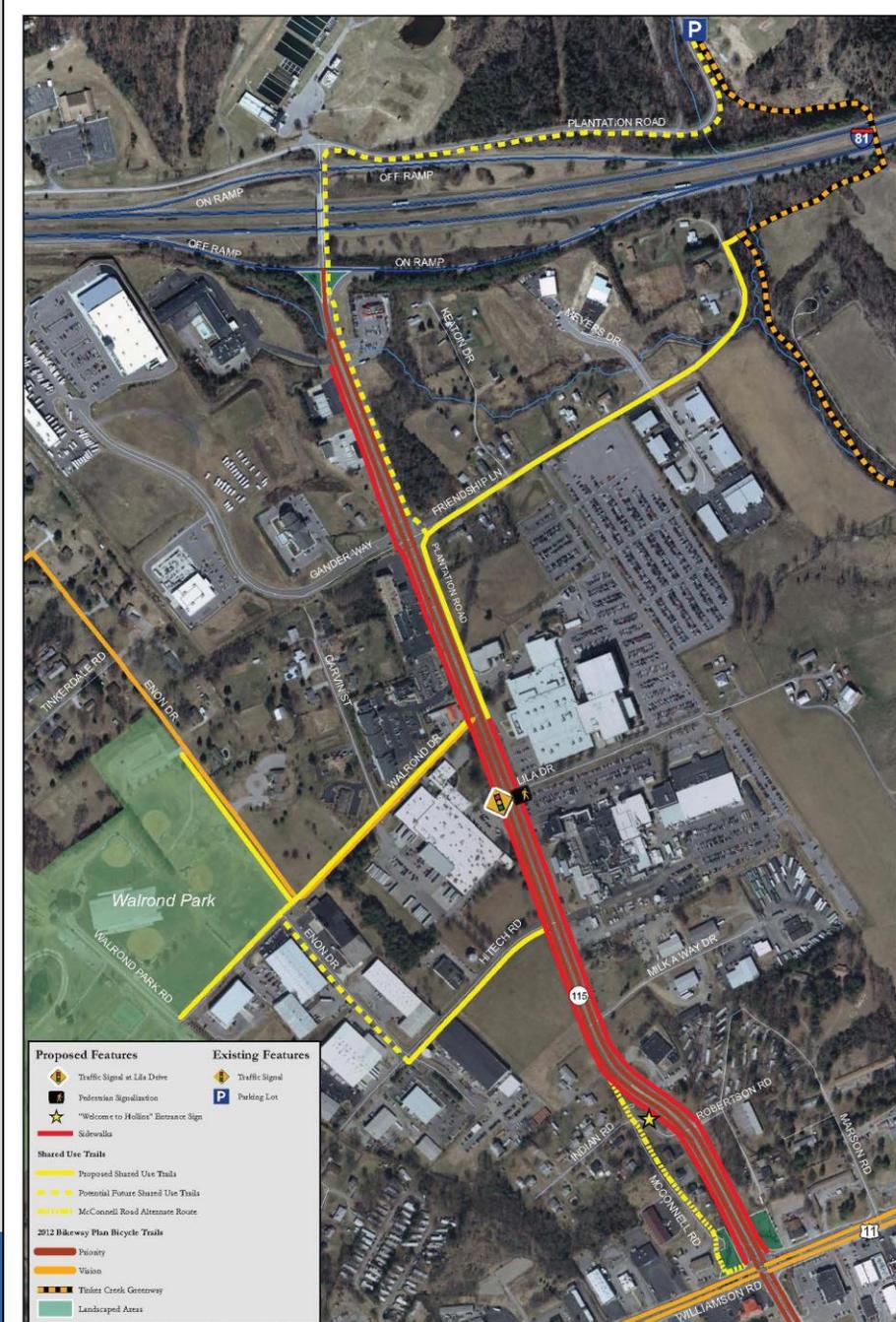
Project applications began in 2009 and the project was fully funded in 2016.

VDOT Staff were critical in assisting County Staff with overall guidance, changing program requirements and funding transfers.

Plantation Road Project

2013: Concept when Consultants Started

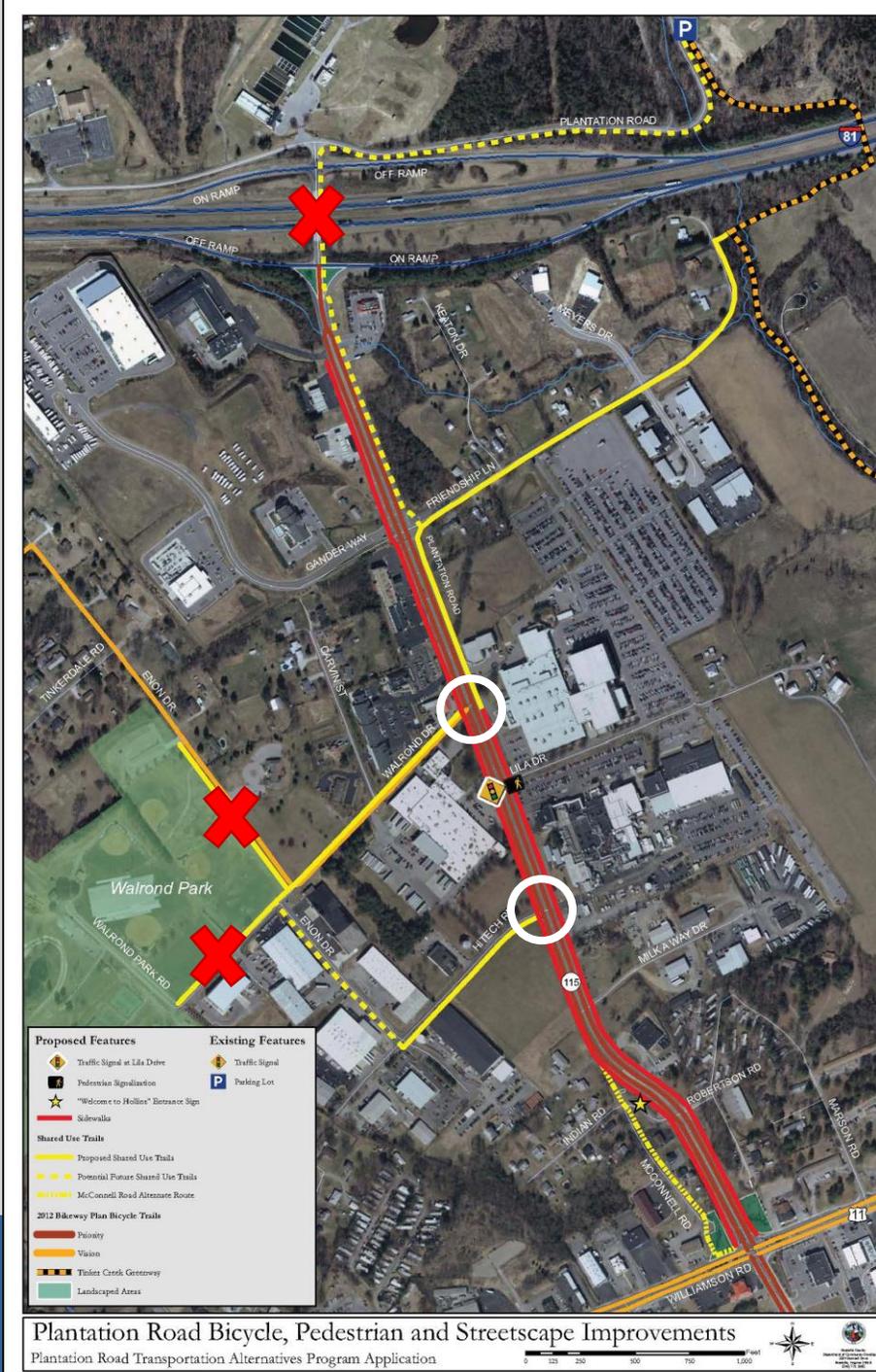
- Red: Sidewalks
- Yellow: Shared Use Paths
- Yellow Dashed: Future Shared Use Paths
- Orange Dashed: Future Tinker Creek Greenway
- Dark Red: Bikeway Plan, Priority Alignments (Plantation Road)
- Orange: Bikeway Plan, Vision Alignments (Walrond Drive, Enon Drive)
- Future Traffic Signal at Lila Drive (conceptual/private entrance)



Plantation Road Project

Evolution as Feedback Received during Fall Outreach and Analysis

- Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism will construct internal trails if the Shared Use Path would connect to Walrond Park
- Walrond Drive and Hitech Road intersections need work due to high tractor-trailer volumes
- Shared Use Path across Interstate 81 is cost-prohibitive and can be considered if/when FHWA/VDOT expands the bridge

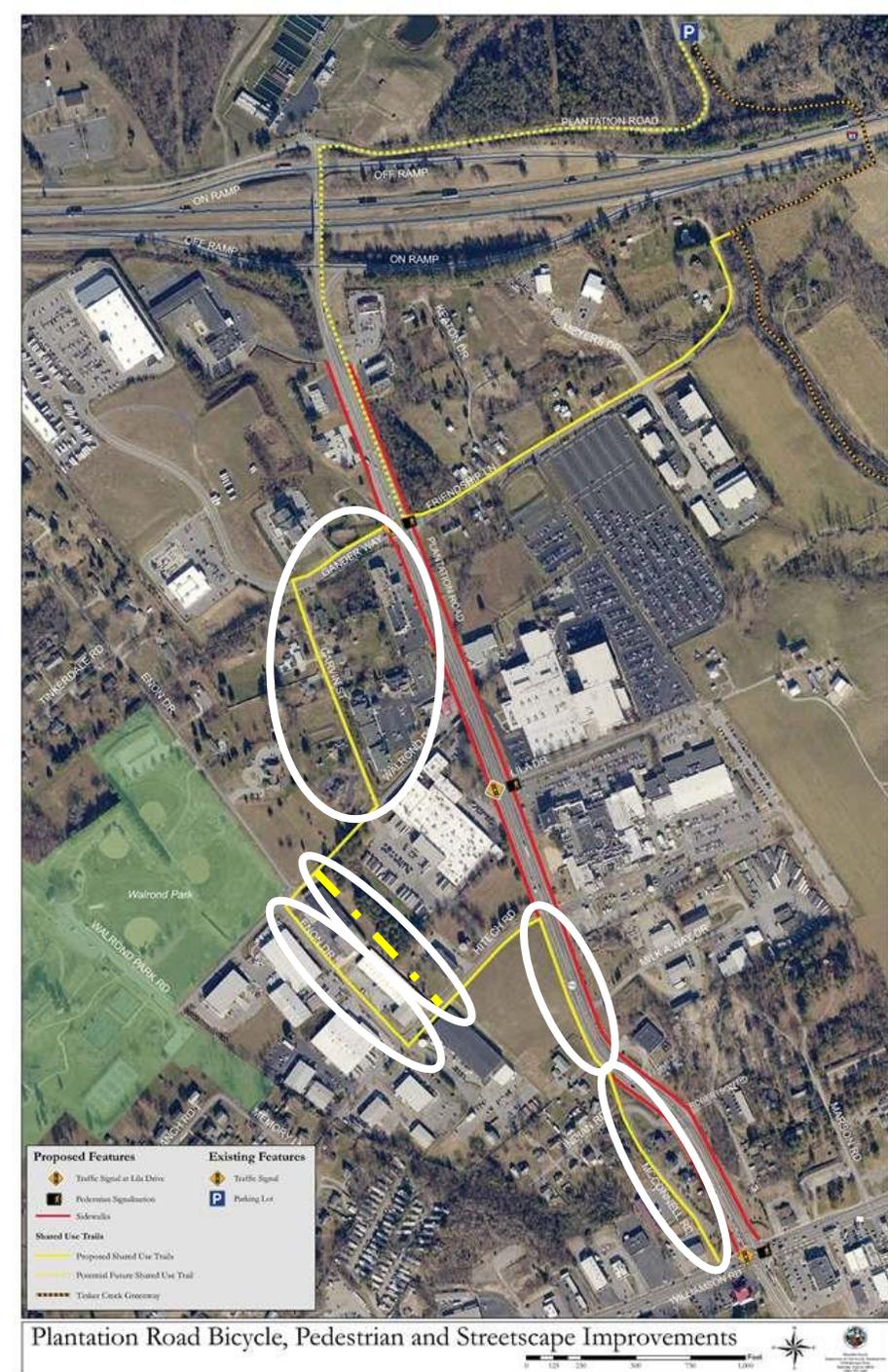


Plantation Road Project

Consultant Ideas

- Formalize an existing path to connect to proposed ped crosswalks at Gander/Friendship intersection
- Connect Hitech Rd. and Walrond Dr. shared use paths (SUP) using Enon Dr. to provide side street bicycle accommodations
- Avoid multiple industrial entrances by providing a SUP behind Enon Dr. businesses
- Provide side street bicycle facility with a McConnell Dr. SUP
- Connect the McConnell Dr. and Hitech Rd. SUPs with a Plantation Rd. connection

Plan provides continuous bicycle and pedestrian accommodations from Williamson Road to Walrond Park and to the proposed Tinker Creek Greenway



Plantation Road Project

Citizen Information Meeting

- Friendship Lane reconstruction and SUP needs to be a separate project
- Remove Enon Drive alternative

VDOT Determination

- Lila Drive traffic signal, 400' road construction and expense of Exelis entrance relocation can be paid for with this project as part of Access Management improvements

Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

- Recommendation to replace sidewalk with SUP to Lila Drive to allow bicycle commuters to safely access the three major businesses at a traffic signal with pedestrian crosswalks

Additional Considerations

- Discussed SUP extension to Lila Drive and possibly beyond to Walrond Drive with BSC Ventures/Double Envelope

Other Conclusions

- Center medians (landscaped or concrete) will not fit without blocking business entrances
- McConnell Dr. SUP more expensive than locating SUP along Plantation Road



Plantation Road Project

2014: Phase 1 Consultant Recommendation

- (West Side) Shared Use Path, curb and gutter from Williamson Rd. to Walrond Dr.
- (West Side) Sidewalk, curb and gutter from Walrond Dr. to Gander Way
- (East Side) Sidewalk, curb and gutter from Milk-A-Way Dr. to Friendship Ln.
- Signalized pedestrian crossing at Gander Way/Friendship Ln.
- Pedestrian lighting, landscaping, “Welcome to Hollins” sign, Broadband conduit
- Intersection improvements and entrance improvements
- (Option to add \$200,000 for sidewalk to Walrond Park)



Plantation Road Project

What did we end up with?

- (West Side) Shared Use Path, curb and gutter from Williamson Rd. to Walrond Dr.
- ~~(West Side) Sidewalk, curb and gutter from Walrond Dr. to Gander Way~~
- ~~(East Side) Sidewalk, curb and gutter from Milk A Way Dr. to Friendship Ln.~~
- ~~Signalized pedestrian crossing at Gander Way/Friendship Ln.~~
- ~~Pedestrian lighting, landscaping, “Welcome to Hollins” sign, Broadband conduit~~
- Intersection improvements and entrance improvements
- ~~(Option to add \$200,000 for sidewalk to Walrond Park)~~
- **Utility Relocations!**



Plantation Road Project: Phase 1 Groundbreaking



Plantation Road Project: Phase 1 Status

Williamson Road to Indian Road

shared use path base (laying and compacting stone), curb, gutter, retaining wall against rebuilt open ditch, fence on top, extensive underground utility relocation (street trees)



Plantation Road Project: Phase 1 Status

Indian Road to Hitech Road

shared use path base, curb, gutter, rebuilt open ditch, gateway sign base (street trees)



Plantation Road Project: Phase 1 Status

Hitech Road to Walrond Drive

shared use path base, curb, gutter, overhead utility relocation, entrance reconstruction (street trees)



Plantation Road Project: Phase 1 Status

Completion anticipated in June

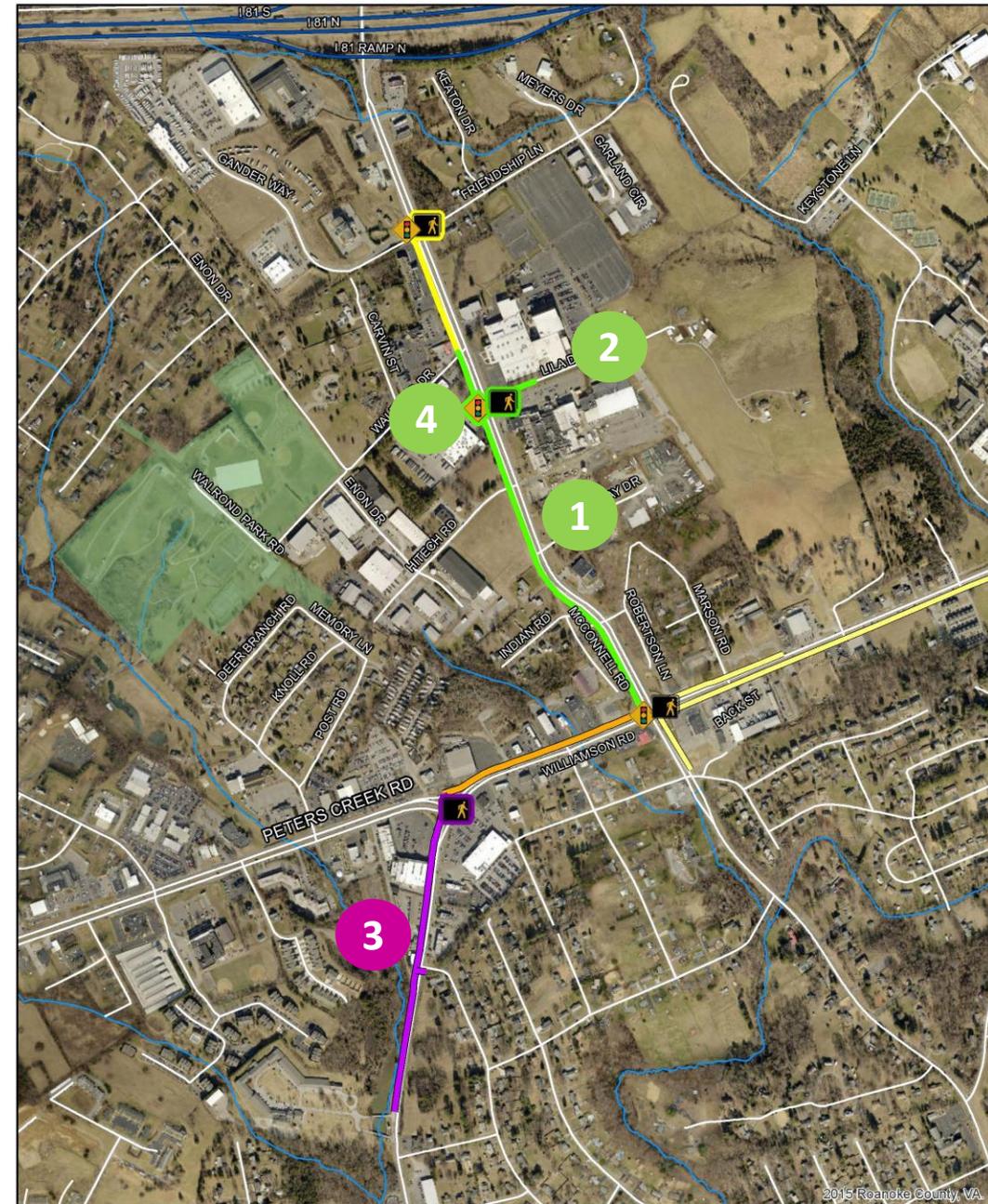
Ribbon cutting will take place shortly thereafter at Double Envelope/BSC Ventures



Design Public Hearing Exhibit (2014)

Hollins Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Status

- 1. Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project, Phase 1**
*Construction Underway;
Completion June 2018*
- 2. Lila Drive Turnaround (County CIP Funding)**
Construction Complete
- 3. Williamson Road/Peters Creek Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements (HSIP)**
*Preliminary Engineering Underway;
Construction 2019*
- 4. Lila Drive/Route 115 Intersection Safety Improvements (SMART SCALE)**
*Preliminary Engineering Underway;
Construction FY 2021*



Hollins Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
January 26, 2017



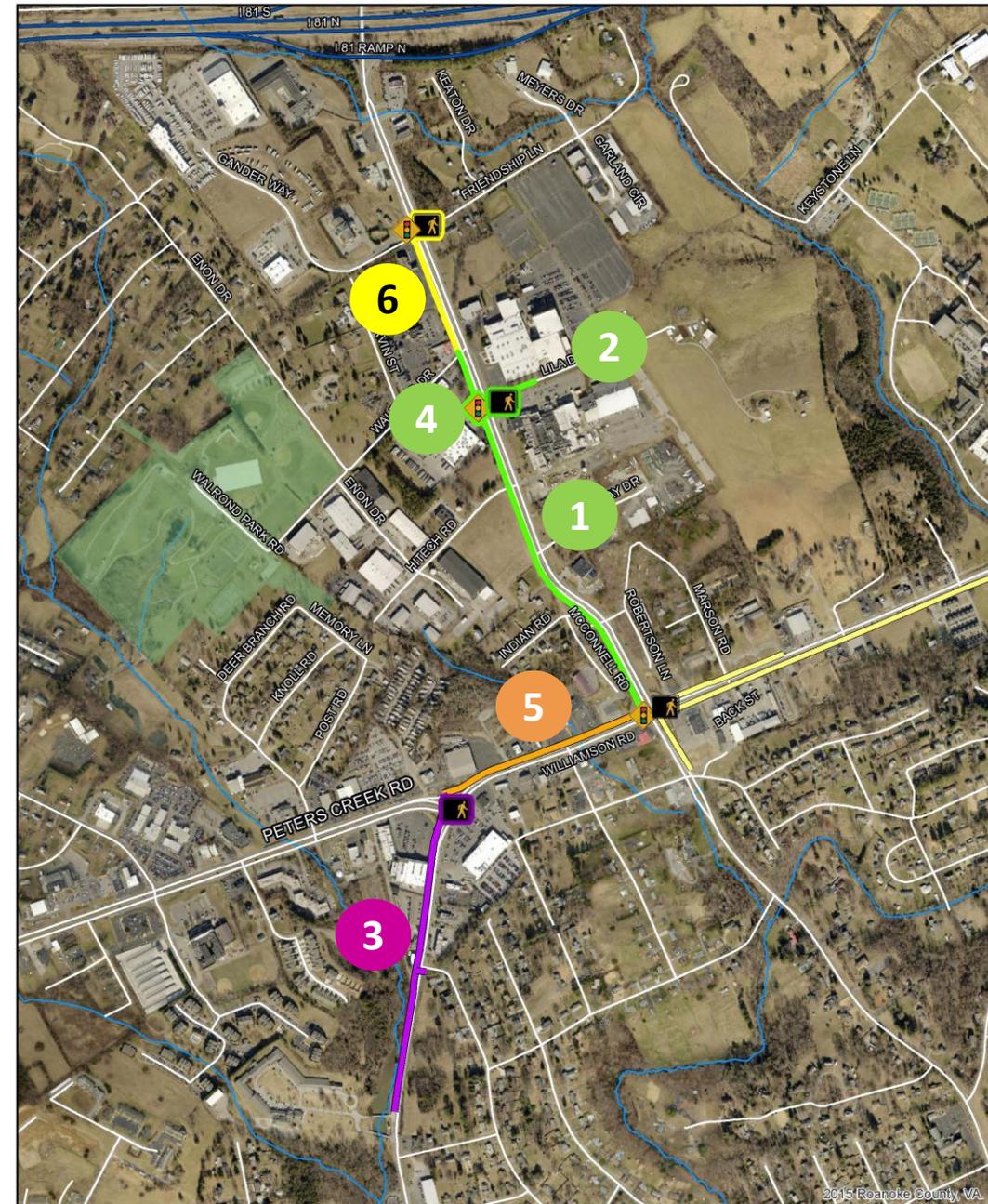
Hollins Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Status

5. Williamson Road Pedestrian Improvements (TAP)

*Preliminary Engineering FY 2018;
Construction FY 2021*

6. Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project, Phase 2 (SMART SCALE)

*Preliminary Engineering FY 2022;
Construction FY 2024*

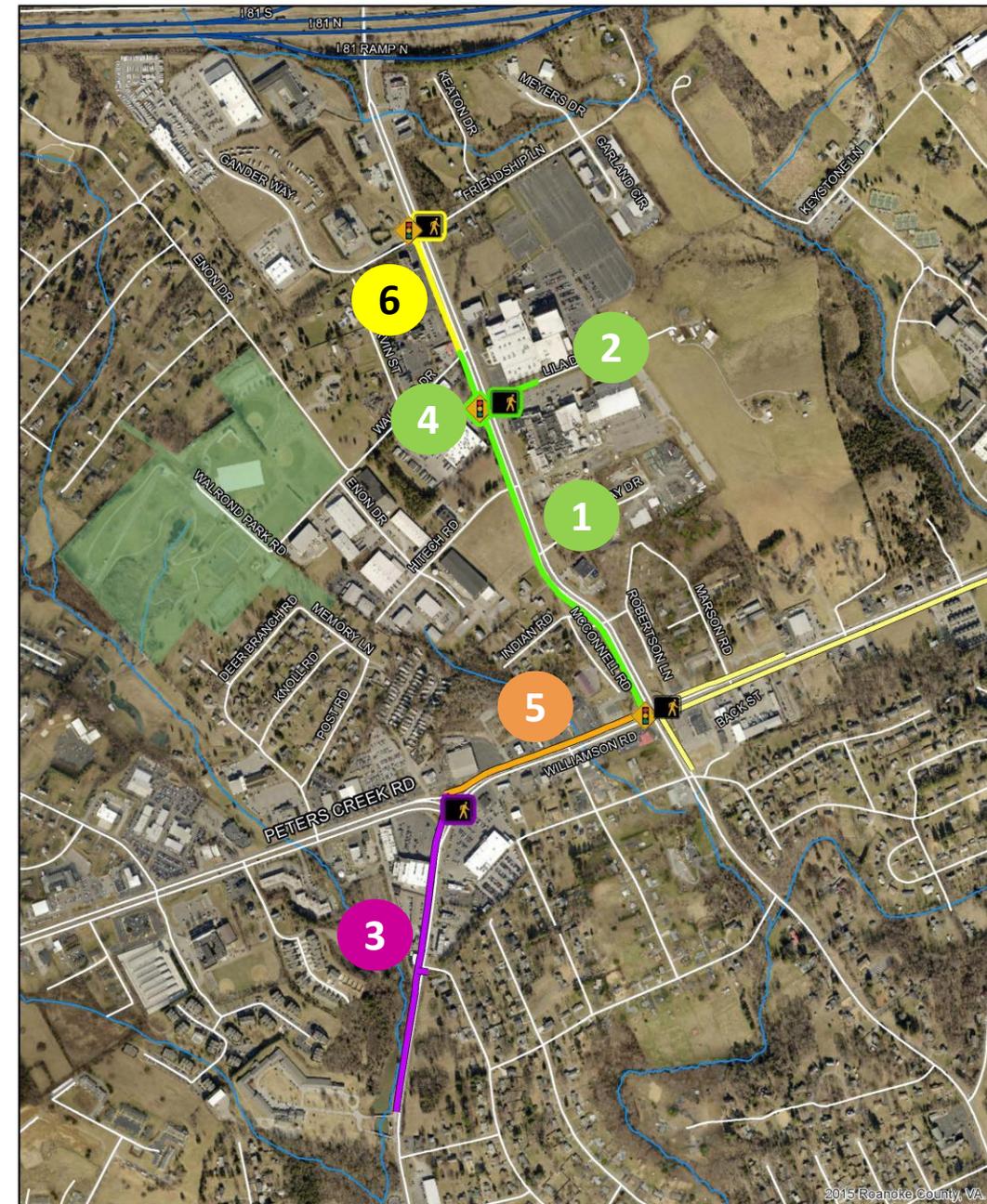


Hollins Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
January 26, 2017



Hollins Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Status

Each project has a different funding source, timeline, and VDOT Project Manager.



Hollins Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
January 26, 2017



Related Transportation Projects: Greenways

Tinker Creek Greenway - Hollins Trailhead

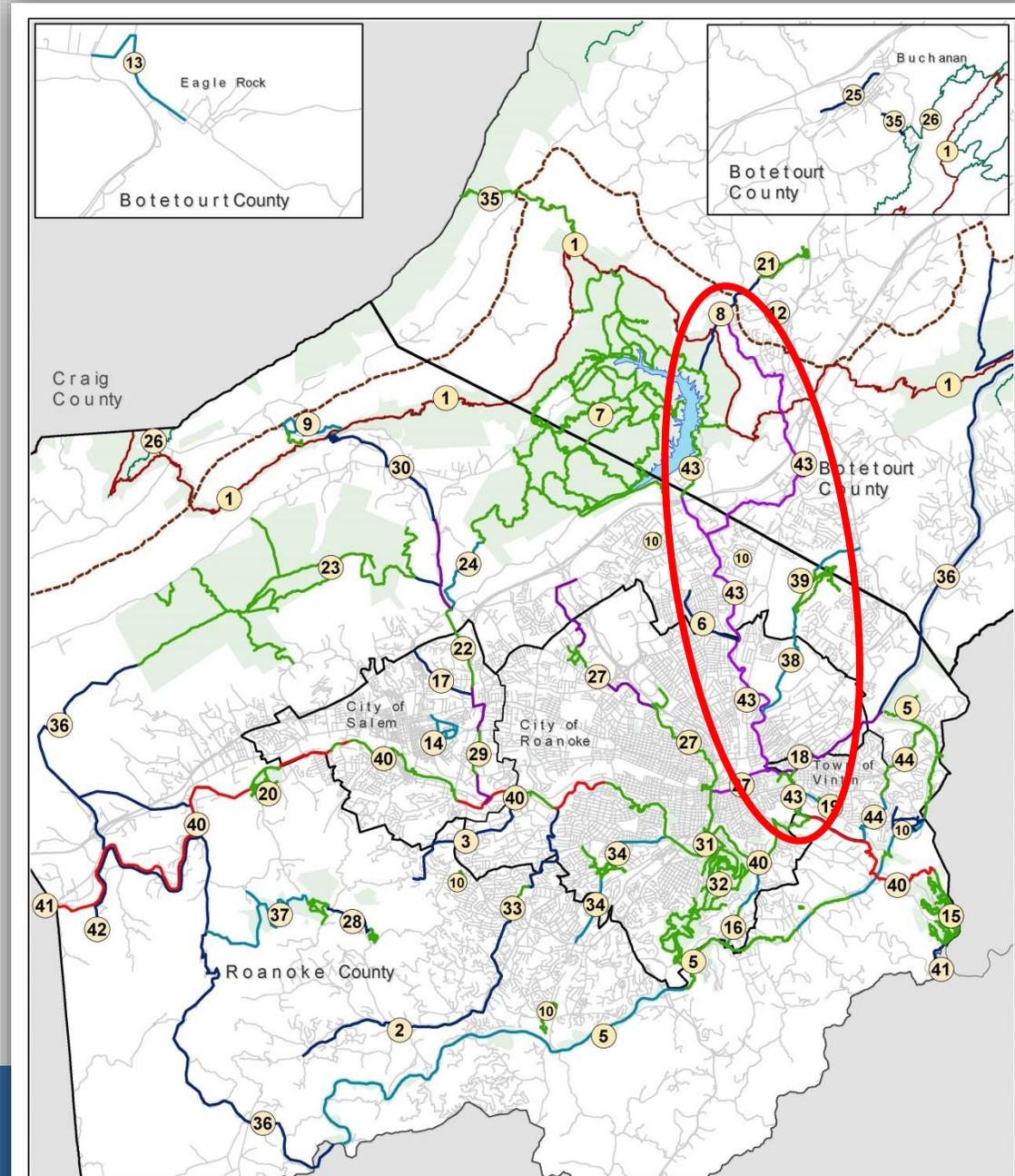
- Public Access Agreement between Hollins University and Roanoke County (2011)
- Trail opened (2012)



Related Transportation Projects: Greenways

Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan

- 2007 Plan: Tinker Creek Greenway identified as Priority 2
- 2018 Update underway with Tinker Creek Greenway identified as a Category 2 route (Greenfield in Botetourt County to Roanoke River Greenway in the City of Roanoke)
- County Board of Supervisors will consider adopting the Greenway Plan as a component of the Comprehensive Plan later this year

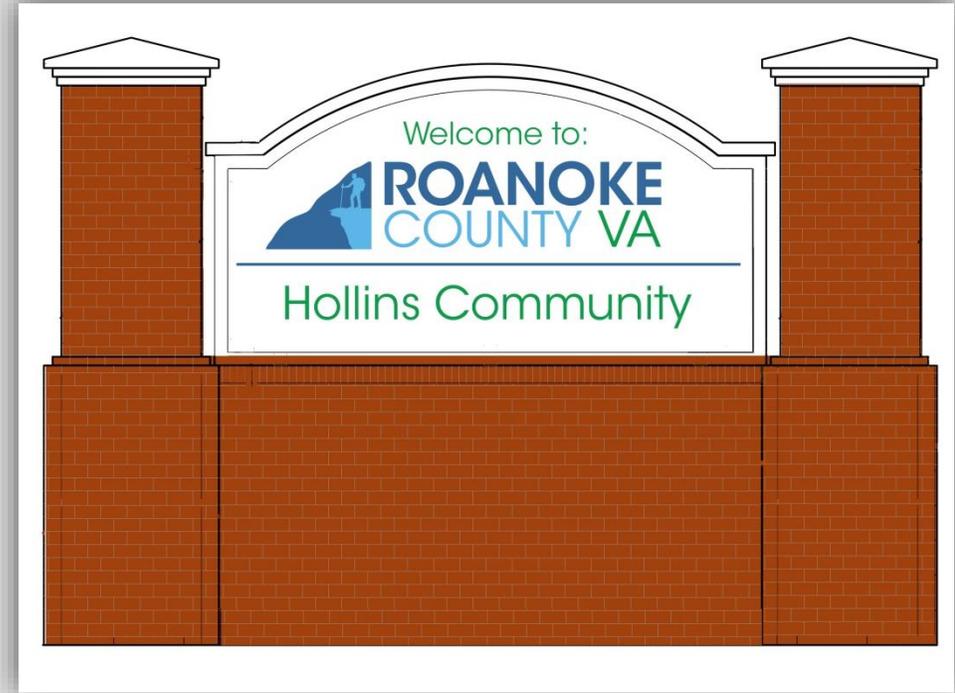
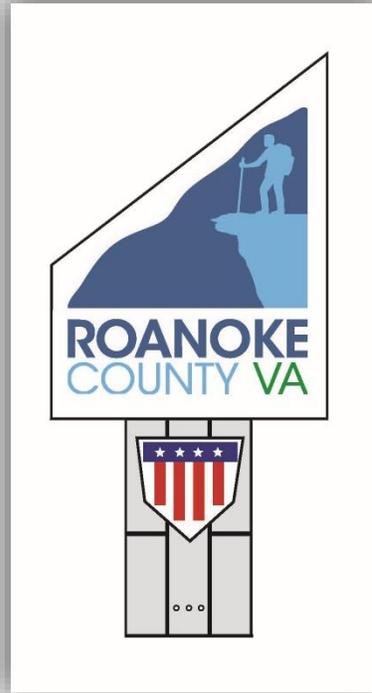


2018 Greenway Network Map

Gateway Corridor Improvements

Roanoke County Gateway Signs

Existing Gateway Proposed Gateway Plantation Road Welcome Sign Under Construction



Gateway Corridor Improvements

VDOT Comprehensive Roadside Management Program Projects

Joint projects between Friendship Retirement Community and the Williamson Road Area Business Association approved in 2012

- Williamson Road and Plantation Road
- Williamson Road and Peters Creek Road



Hollins Area Plan Implementation Strategies

- ✓ Construct Hollins University segment of Tinker Creek Greenway, Phase II (I-81 to Carvins Cove)
- ✓ Ensure the maintenance of landscaping and other streetscape improvements throughout the study area
- ✓ Improve the pedestrian crosswalks at Plantation Road and Williamson Road
- Construct and install streetscape improvements throughout the study area (under construction)
- Improve the pedestrian crosswalks at Williamson Road and Peters Creek Road (in design)
- **5 of 17 strategies over ten years; 4 of these strategies involve VDOT**

| Implementation Strategy | Responsible Party(ies) | Timetable | | |
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A Decade After the Adoption of the Hollins Area Plan...

Hollins Center Planning Study





Outreach Summary To-Date

- March Community Meeting Attendance: 100 (Saturday and Thursday)
- Survey (February 1 to April 7): 393 completed
- Stakeholder Interviews (including VDOT staff)
- Presentation to the Williamson Road Area Business Association
- Study Area Business Visits for March and May meetings





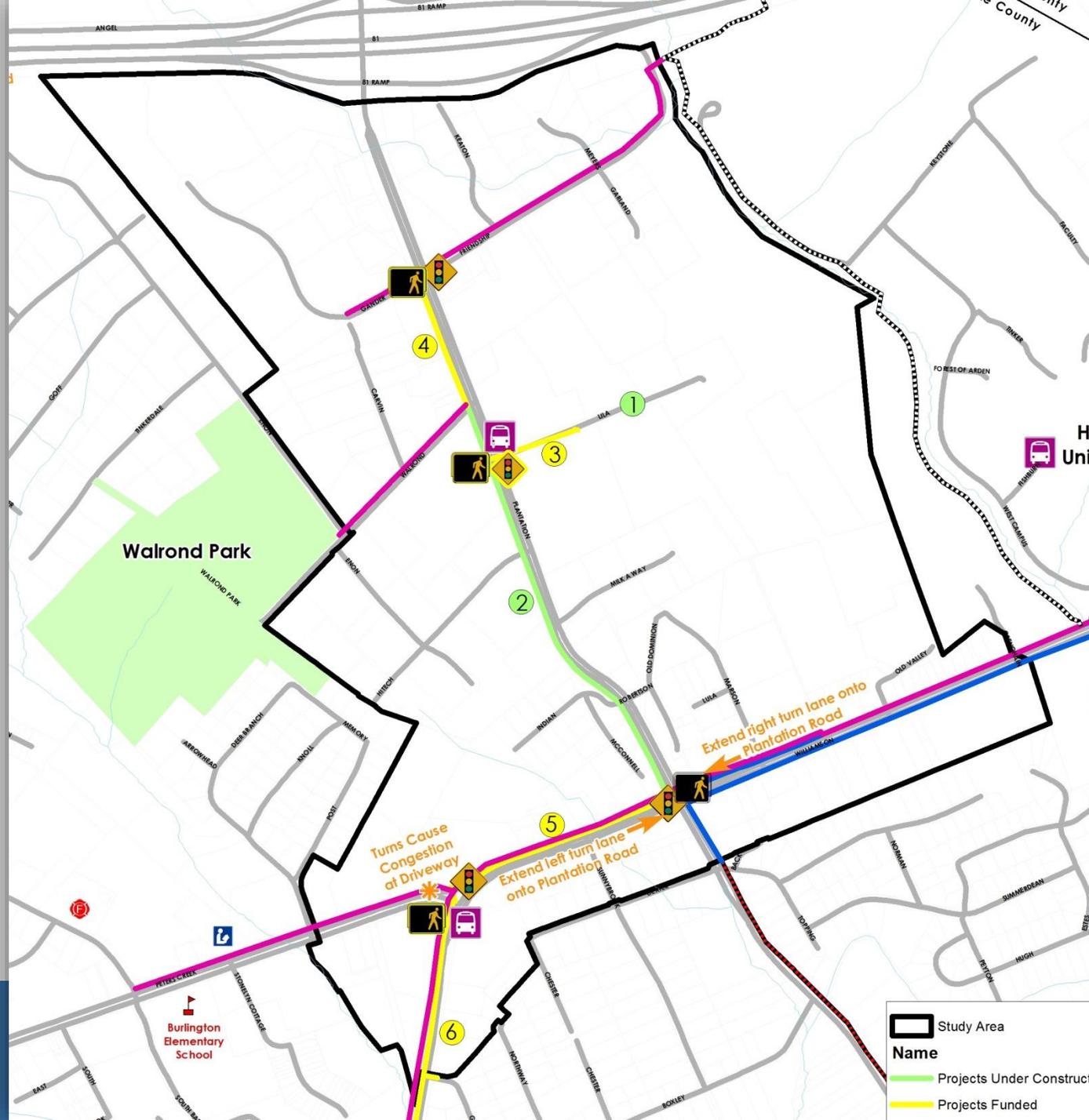
Major Themes

- Add sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes and/or shared-use paths to increase safety for all users in the study area
- Redevelop commercial areas into a mix of housing, locally-owned businesses and places to hang out
- Rebuild the library at a more central, connected location
- Protect, preserve and enhance natural resources and parks

Transportation Feedback

- Expand planned sidewalk and bicycle facilities
- Connect Walrond Park to the Tinker Creek Greenway and Carvins Cove
- Extend bus service to the area





Planning Study Next Steps

May: Open House Community Meetings at the Hollins Library

- Thursday, May 10 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Summer: Draft Planning Studies

Fall: Draft Plan Community Meetings

Winter: Public Hearings

Reimagine 
LEARN. WORK. DINE. STAY.



DESIGN OPEN HOUSE

Help Design the Future of Hollins!

We heard from you that Hollins could become an even better place to LEARN, WORK, DINE, PLAY. At our design open house, Roanoke County will share future design options for Hollins, including possibilities for redevelopment, new community spaces and multi-modal connections. See the results of our public input exercises so far and give feedback on the look and feel of a new Hollins Center that serves as a gateway into Roanoke County.

Thursday, May 10 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 19^{OR} | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Open house-style at Hollins Branch Public Library
6624 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019

Visit www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/Hollins

Questions? Contact Phillip Thompson at (540) 772-2029
or pthompson@roanokecountyva.gov

Meetings are **FAMILY-FRIENDLY!** CORTAN + STAR service will be available.

Conclusion

1. Comprehensive Planning, Land Use and Transportation are intertwined – for better or for worse.
2. Roanoke County's VDOT Salem District and Salem Residency Staff are absolutely critical to our success in planning for future growth and development.
3. If you don't know your local VDOT staff, get to know them as they are an invaluable resource.



Scoping a new SMART SCALE project with several VDOT and County Staff in 90+ degree heat at 4:35 p.m. last Friday afternoon

Questions



ROANOKE
COUNTY VA
PLANNING SERVICES
ROANOKECOUNTYVA.GOV/REIMAGINE

Megan G. Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner
mcronise@roanokecountyva.gov
(540)772-2106