



AVON
CONNECTICUT

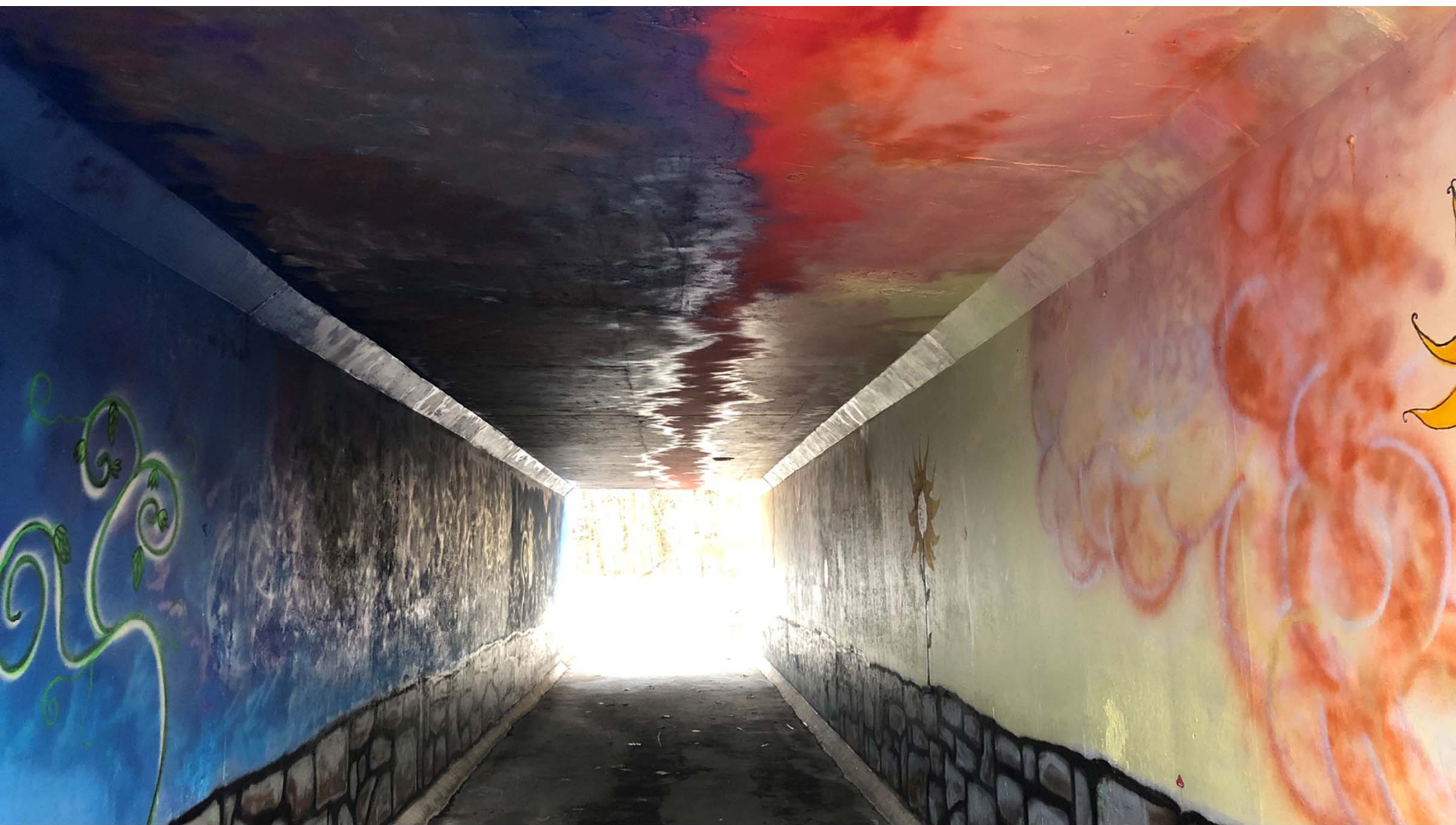
TOWN OF AVON BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING #1

April 25, 2023



SCAN TO VISIT THE PROJECT STORYMAP SITE





ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Plan

Why does Avon need a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan? To make it safer and easier for anyone who lives, works, learns, or plays here to get around by foot, bicycle, bus, wheelchair, scooter, skateboard, or stroller. The Plan will focus on roads and routes that connect Avon's residential areas with commercial areas, existing recreational path and trail access points, public transit, schools, and other major destinations. It will consider the best methods to provide for bicycle and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and districts, businesses, and public transportation.

In parallel with this project, the Town of Avon and Bike Walk Avon CT submitted a second application to the League of American Bicyclists (the "League") to receive "Bicycle Friendly Community" status. That is a separate initiative but will dovetail nicely with this project, as it generates constructive suggestions from the League about how to make Avon more bicycle friendly and brings recognition of the Town's efforts to date.

global **environmental** and **advisory** solutions

The Vision



The Town of Avon's transportation network will provide improved mobility, connectivity with existing trails, public health, and recreational opportunities. It will enhance sustainability by encouraging nonmotorized or public transportation options as an alternative to motor vehicle travel.

The REFINED Vision

To facilitate public health, recreational opportunities, and better air quality, the Town of Avon strives to improve access and safety for all who use our road and trail networks including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motor vehicle operators. To achieve this vision, the Town may invest in infrastructure such as sidewalks, bicycle facilities, traffic calming measures, and programming such as road safety education for all users.



PROJECT MILESTONES (TIMELINE)



January 2023

Project Kickoff



February & March

- * Create project Storymap and survey questions
- * Collect and coalesce existing conditions information and Avon residents' feedback
- * Meet with Avon's seniors at Meals & Minds
- * Meet with town staff



April & May

- * First Public Meeting
- * Continue to receive and analyze public input
- * Begin to develop recommendations



June & July

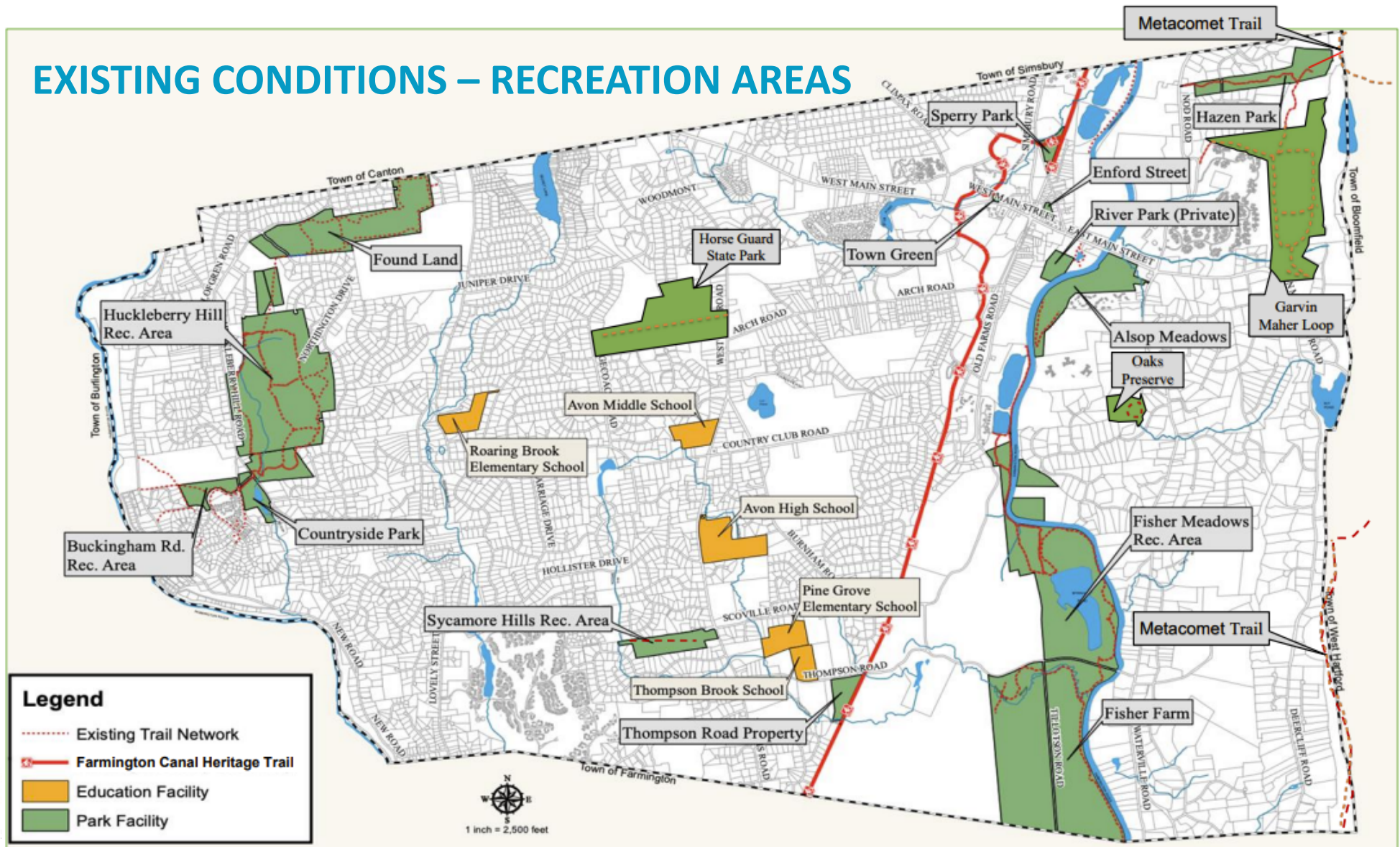
- * Second Public Meeting
- * Refine recommendations and begin to prepare a prioritization plan



August & September

Present the plan to the Town Council for approval

EXISTING CONDITIONS – RECREATION AREAS



EXISTING CONDITIONS



10 pedestrian collisions
2 fatalities



5 cyclist collisions

Pedestrian & bike collisions in Avon (April 2018 - April 2023)



AVON, CT

TOTAL POPULATION
18,500
TOTAL AREA (sq. miles)
22.6

POPULATION DENSITY
818.6

OF LOCAL BICYCLE
FRIENDLY BUSINESSES **0**

OF LOCAL BICYCLE
FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES **0**

Spring 2021

10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Bronze	Avon
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	20%	0%
Total on- and off-road Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	25%	15%
Bicycle Education in Schools	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	7%	UNKNOWN
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS QUARTERLY	NONE
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	AVERAGE	EXCELLENT
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	YES (NO BUDGET)
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 154K	1 PER 18.5K

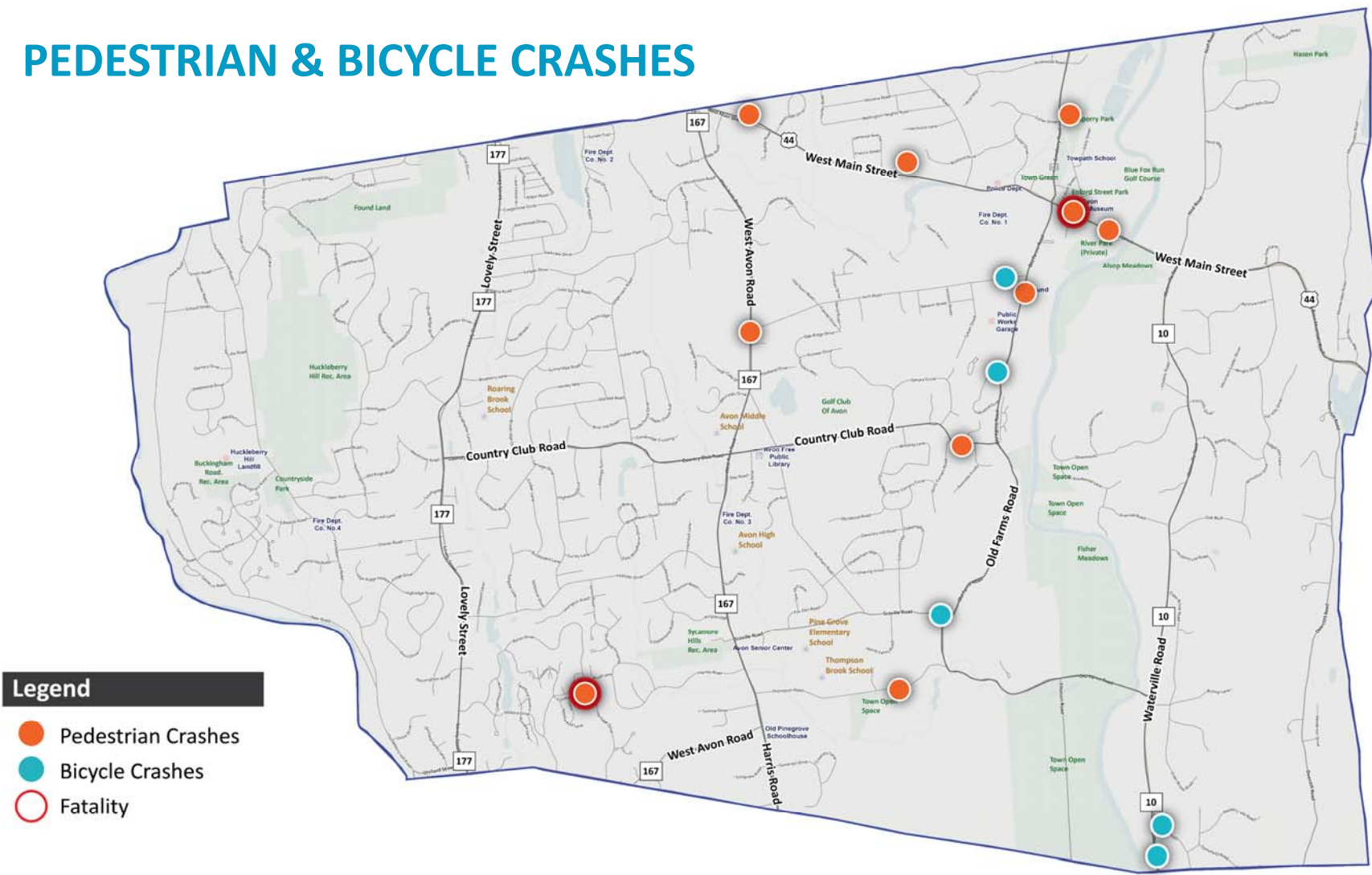
CATEGORY SCORES

ENGINEERING <i>Bicycle network and connectivity</i>	2.20 /10
EDUCATION <i>Motorist awareness and bicycling skills</i>	1.94 /10
ENCOURAGEMENT <i>Mainstreaming bicycling culture</i>	1.08 /10
EVALUATION & PLANNING <i>Setting targets and having a plan</i>	2.83 /10

KEY OUTCOMES

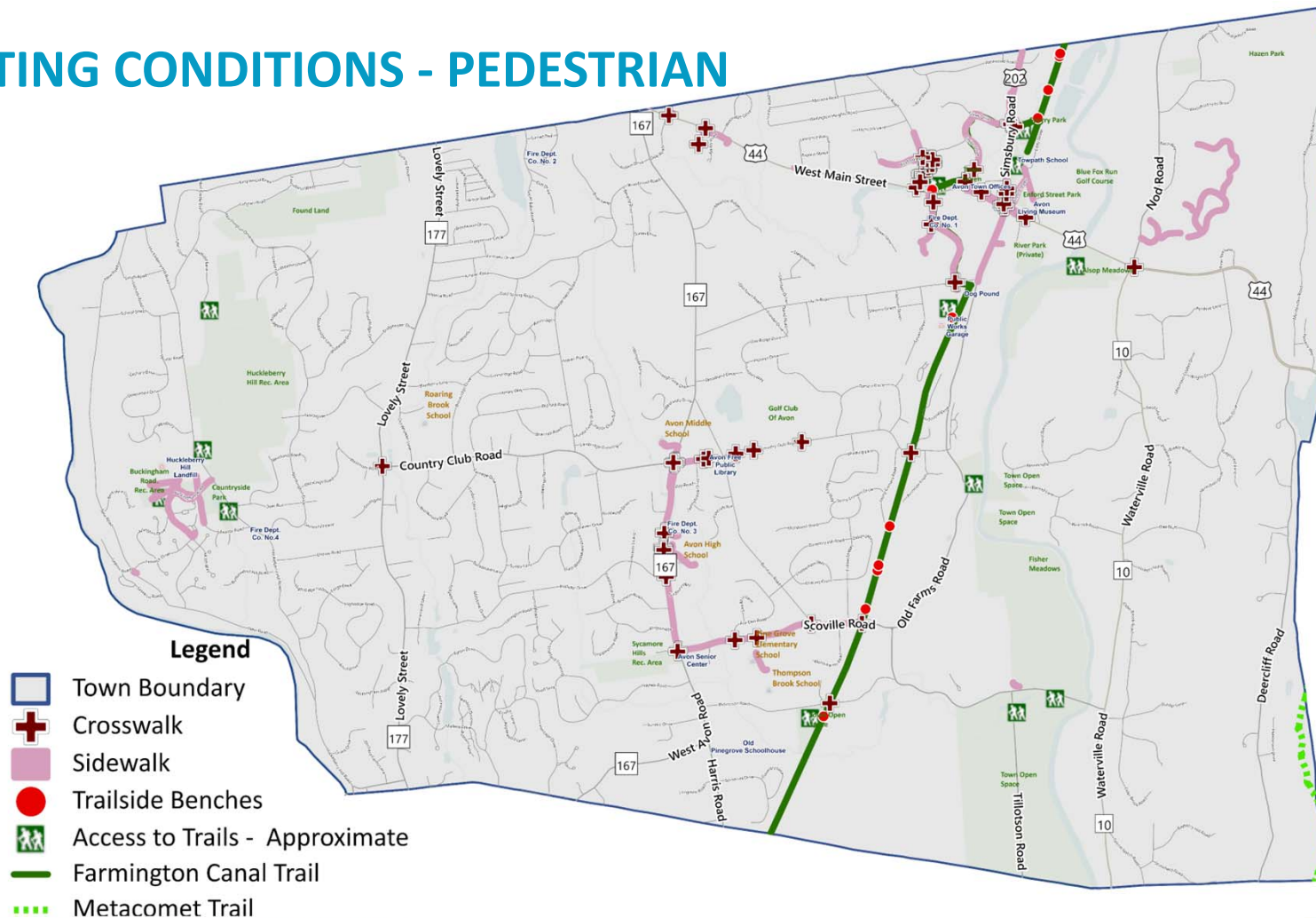
	Average Bronze	Avon
RIDERSHIP <i>Percentage of commuters who bike</i>	1.3%	0.16%
SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES <i>Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	1093	535.71
SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES <i>Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	20	0

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE CRASHES

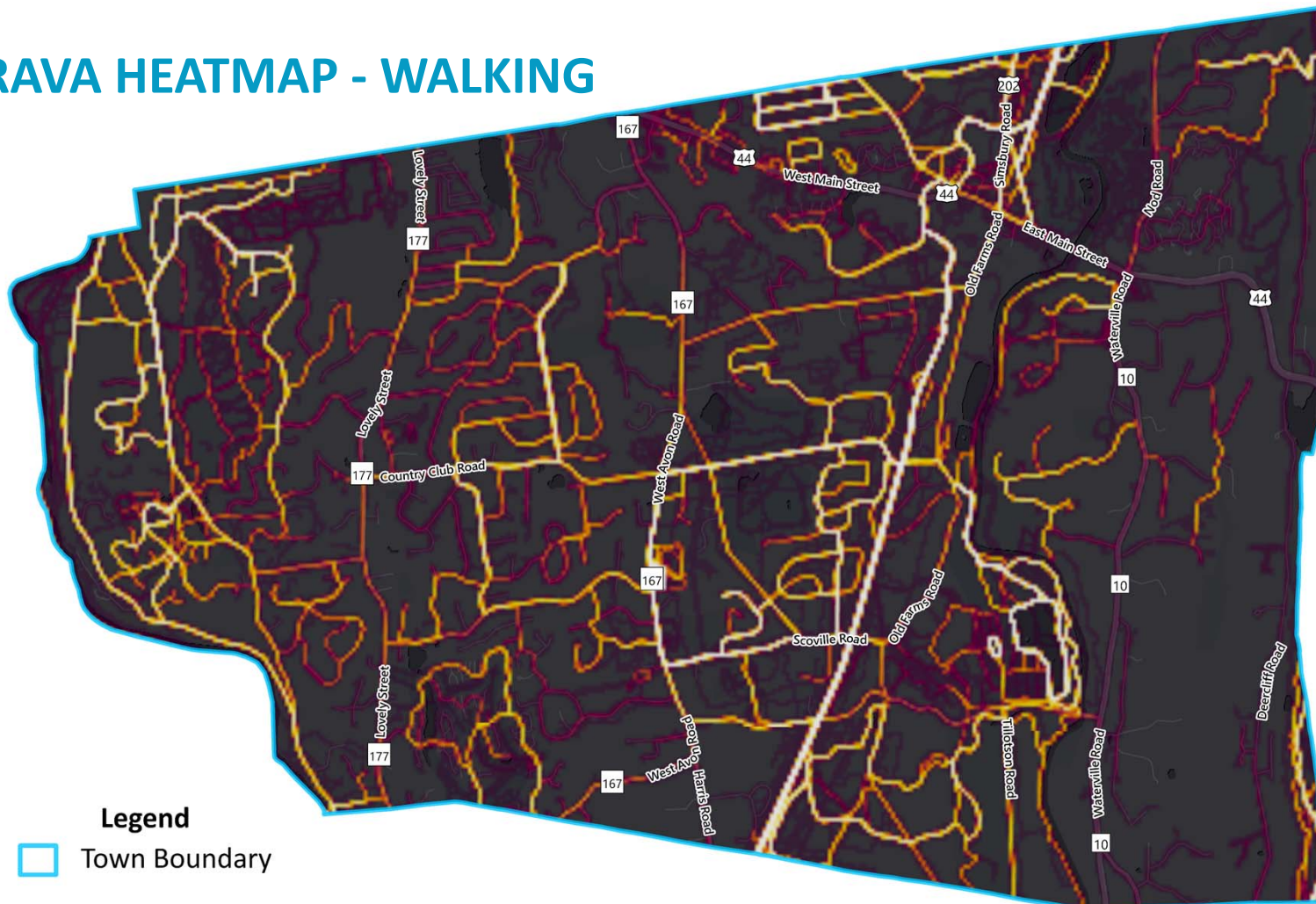


Pedestrian & bike collisions in Avon (April 2018 - April 2023)

EXISTING CONDITIONS - PEDESTRIAN

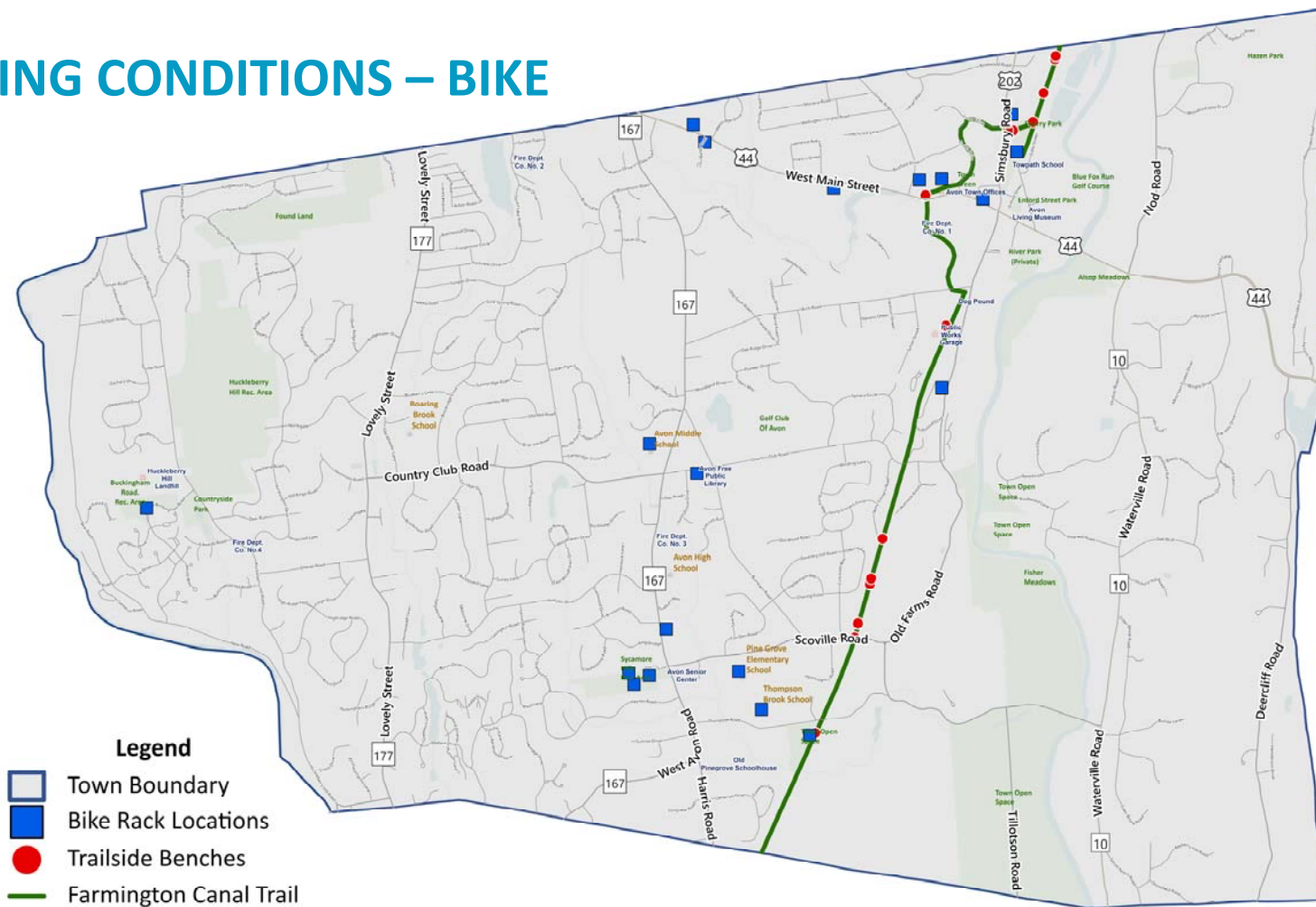


STRAVA HEATMAP - WALKING

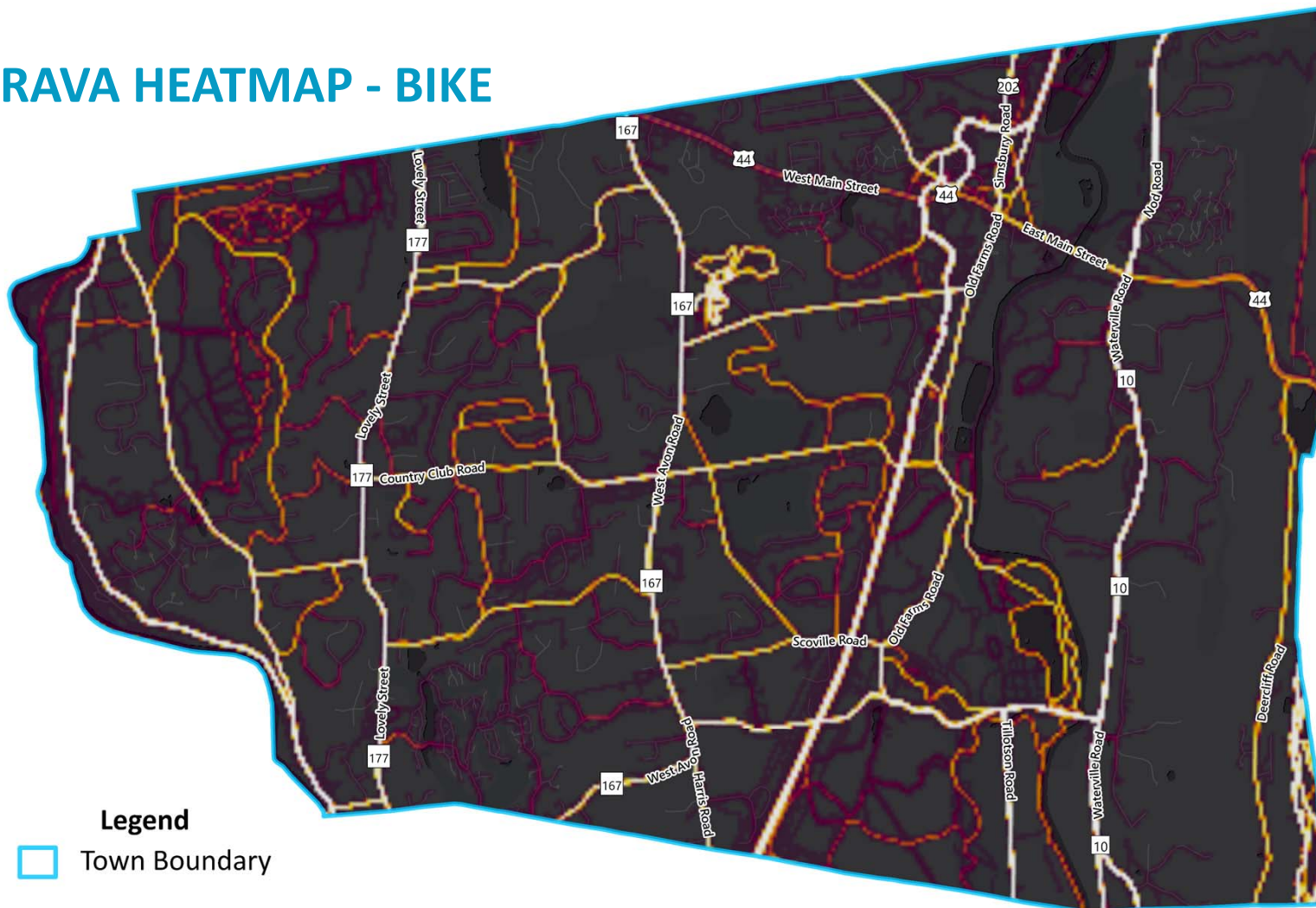


Legend
□ Town Boundary

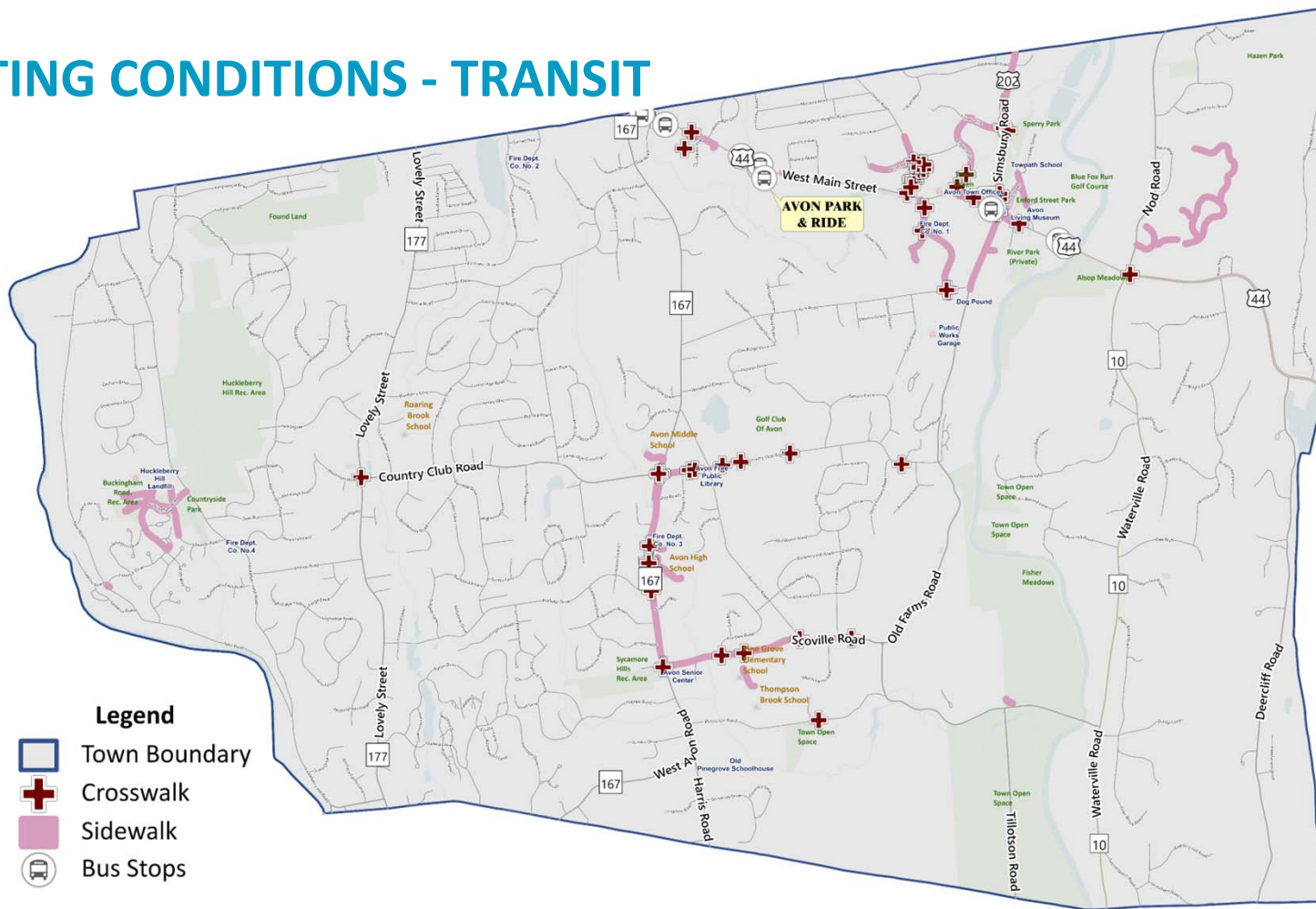
EXISTING CONDITIONS – BIKE



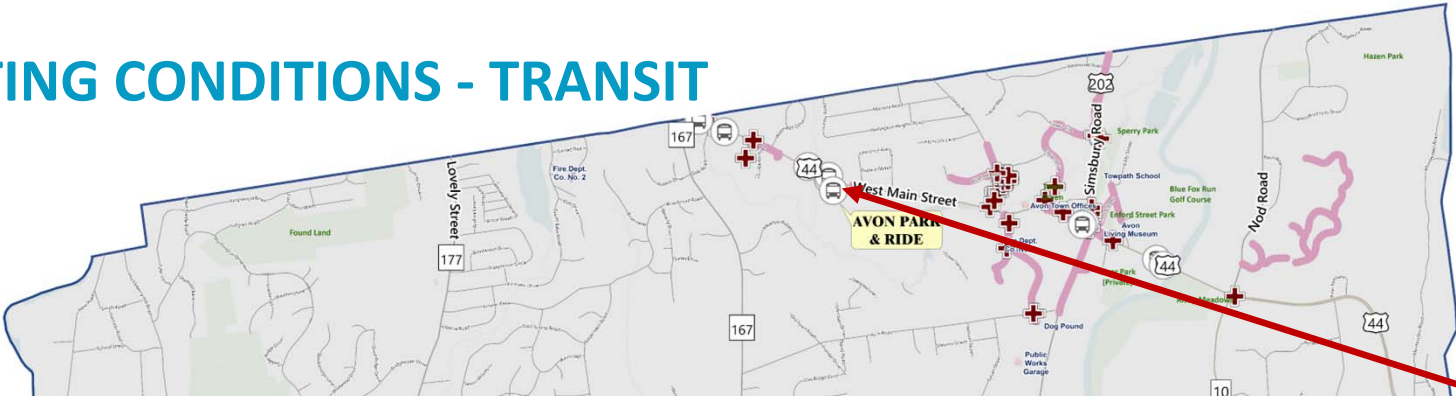
STRAVA HEATMAP - BIKE



EXISTING CONDITIONS - TRANSIT



EXISTING CONDITIONS - TRANSIT

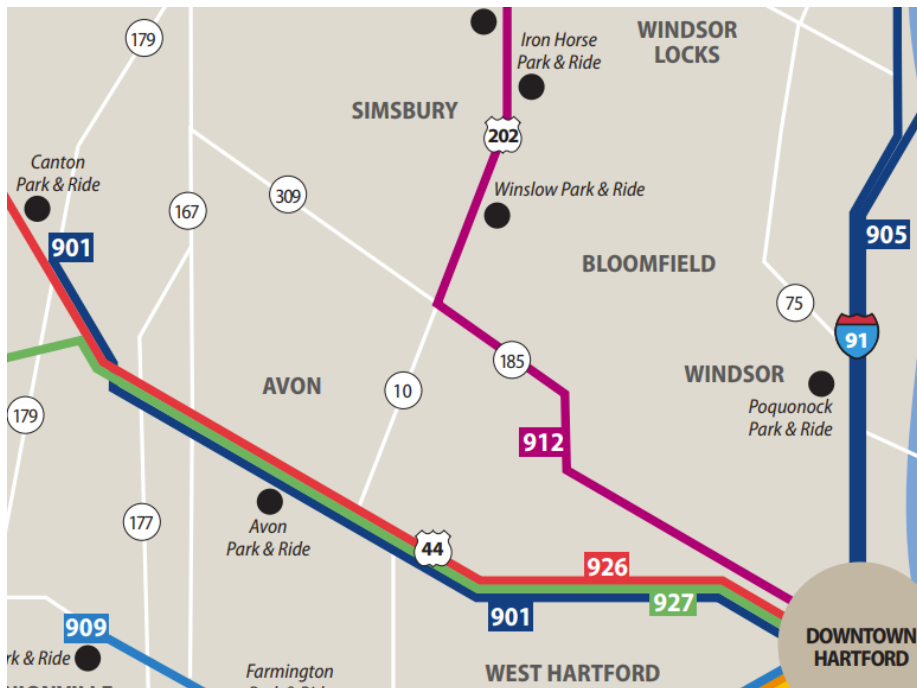


Oct 2021 [See more dates](#)



EXISTING CONDITIONS - TRANSIT

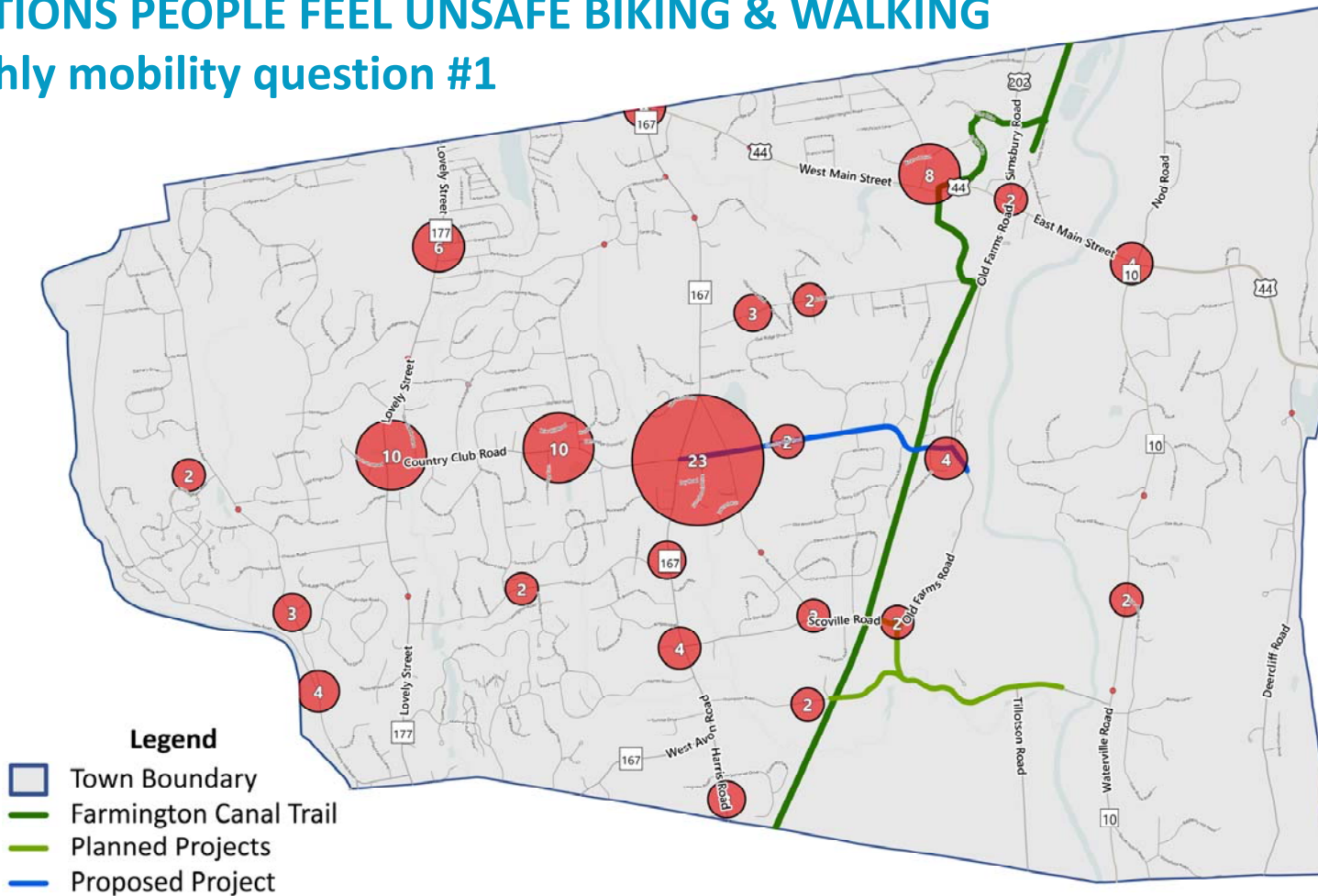
901 ● AVON -CANTON EXPRESS
926 ● WINSTED EXPRESS
927 ● TORRINGTON EXPRESS



- Free parking at Walmart Plaza
- No weekend service
- Only 5 AM buses & 4 PM buses from Avon to Hartford
- Only 3 AM buses, 1 Mid-day, & 5 PM from Hartford to Avon

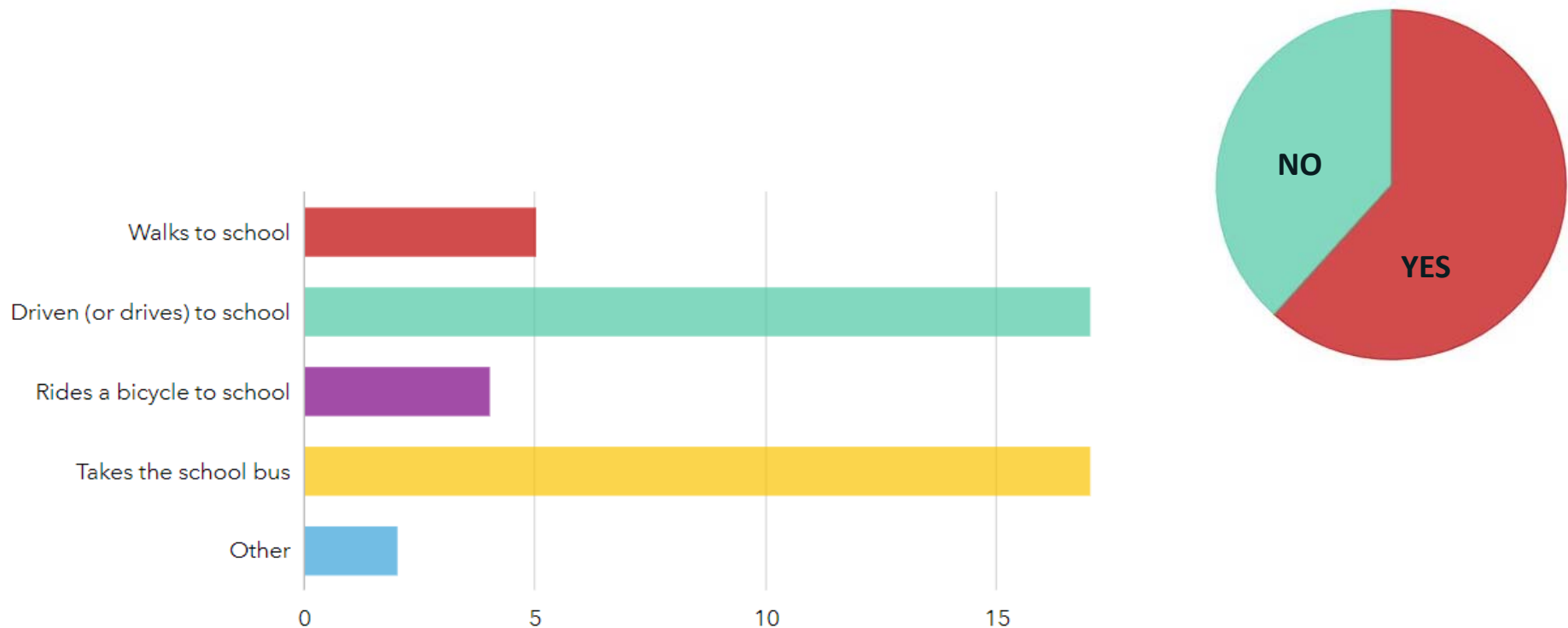
LOCATIONS PEOPLE FEEL UNSAFE BIKING & WALKING

monthly mobility question #1



DO YOU HAVE SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN? IF SO, HOW DO THEY GET TO SCHOOL?

monthly mobility question #2



COMMENTS

"Country Club Rd, Arch Rd, Burnham Rd, W Avon Rd. None of them have bike lanes or even wide curbs and people speed on them. If those 4 roads were bike friendly, I feel the vast majority of the town would be accessible by bike."

"Route 10 is completely dangerous to walk or bike on."

"Lovely Street has no sidewalks or a safe bike lane and a high rate of vehicle speed."

"It would be great to be able to get to the town pool or public parks by walking on safe sidewalks or biking in separated bike lanes, but this simply isn't an option as most roads lack even a safe shoulder to use."

"I wish I could walk from Fisher Meadows to the Rails to Trails, then on to Whole Foods on Route 44."

"It would be great to have a sidewalk or path on Country Club Road going from West Avon Road to the bike path...It would increase [the number of] pedestrians and cyclists going to the new town center via the bike path."

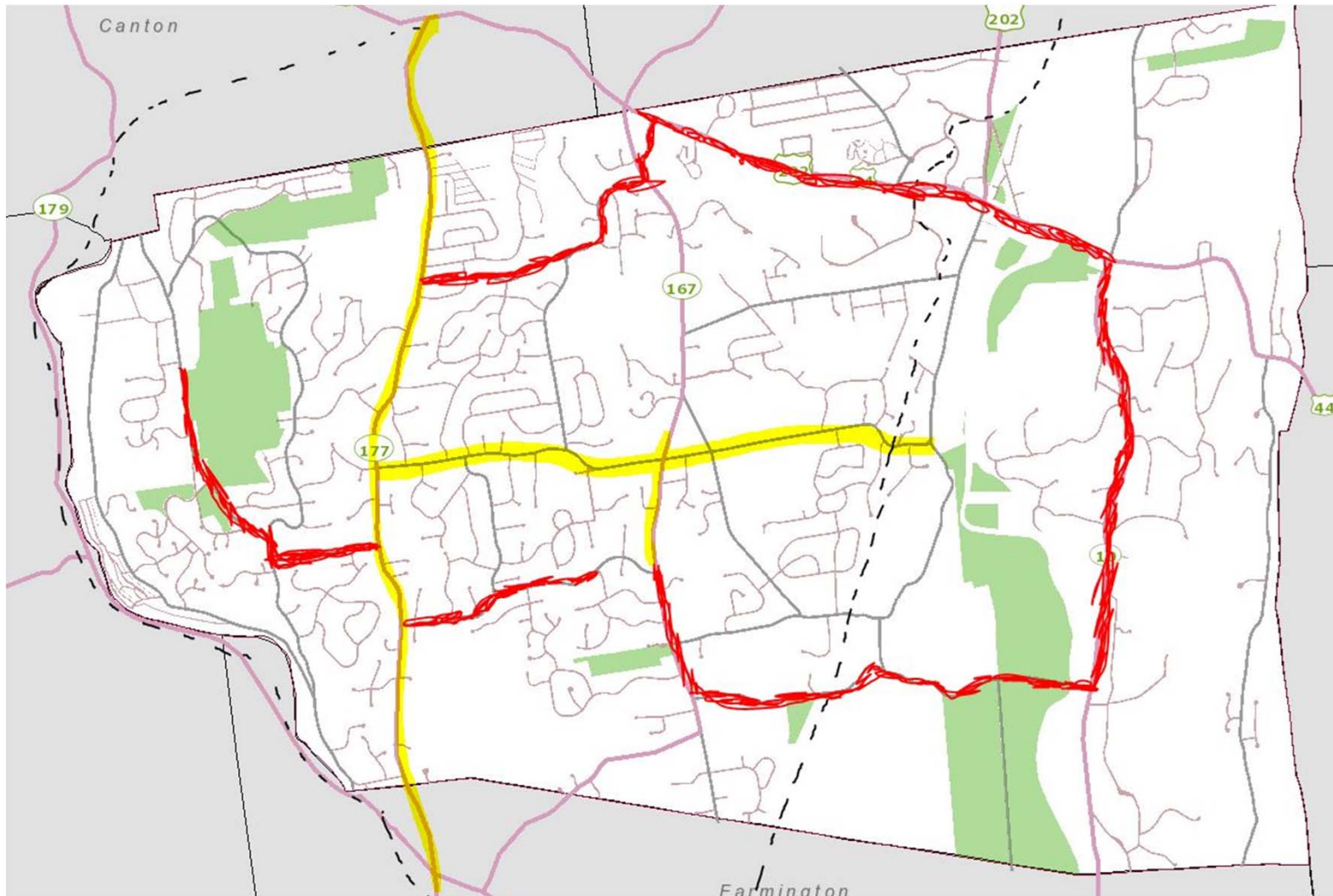
"Please prioritize linking the bike trails with safe bike lanes."

"Being able to walk or bike safely along the Huckleberry Hill Road/ New Road stretch of road would be amazing and allow access to the trails along the Farmington and public transportation."

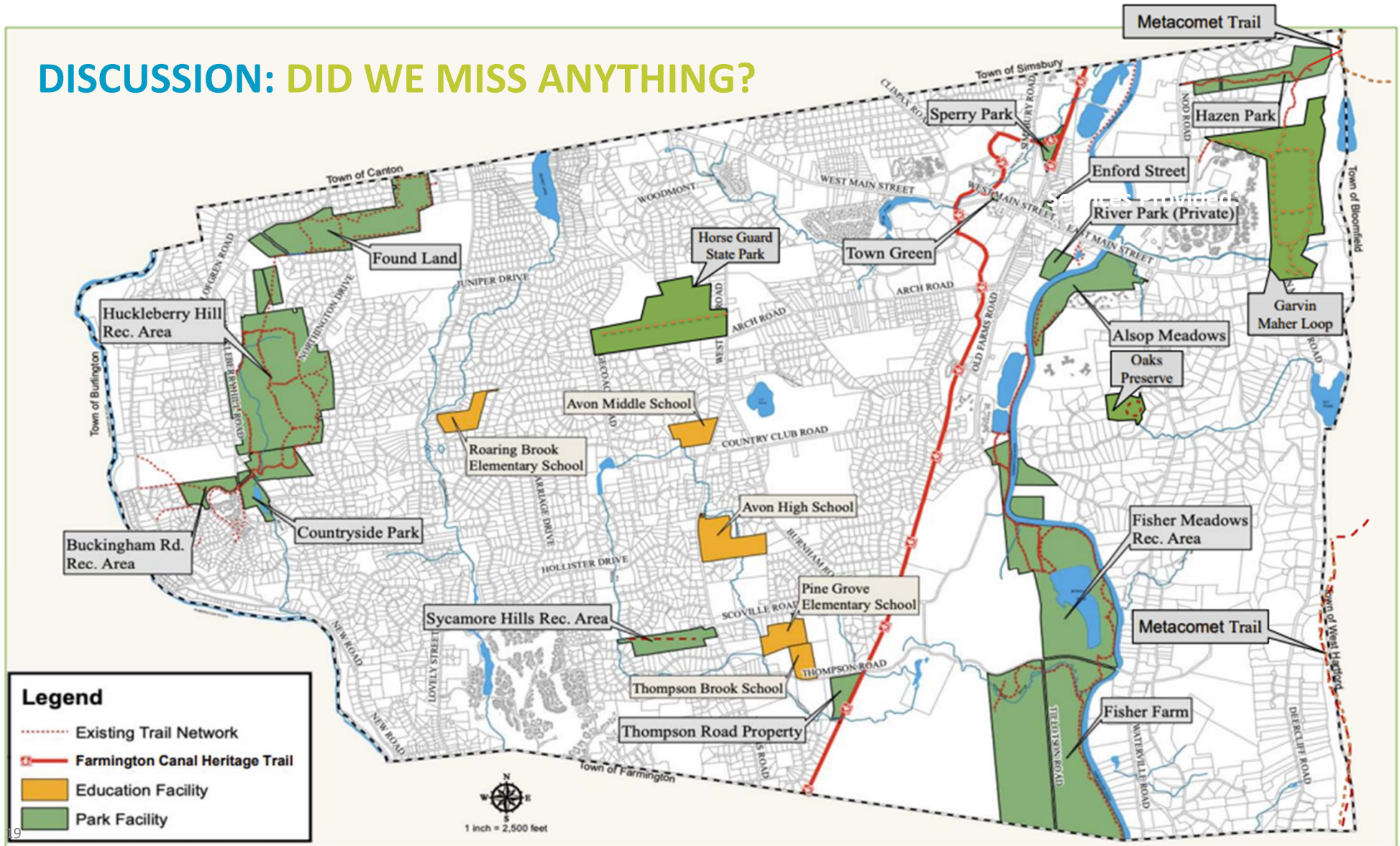
"I run or bike on the bike trails virtually every day of the year...I live in the geographic center of Avon, and getting to the trailheads requires that I use roads that are dangerous to travel on by bike and foot..."

"...I'm very interested in seeing bike lanes added to the roads that would connect safe travel from one bike trail to the other... Lovely, West Avon, Stagecoach (north-south), Juniper, Woodmont, Country Club, Hollister, Scoville, Thompson, and Arch (east-west)."

BIKE LANE ROUTING IDEAS – FROM AVON RESIDENT JEFFREY LYLE

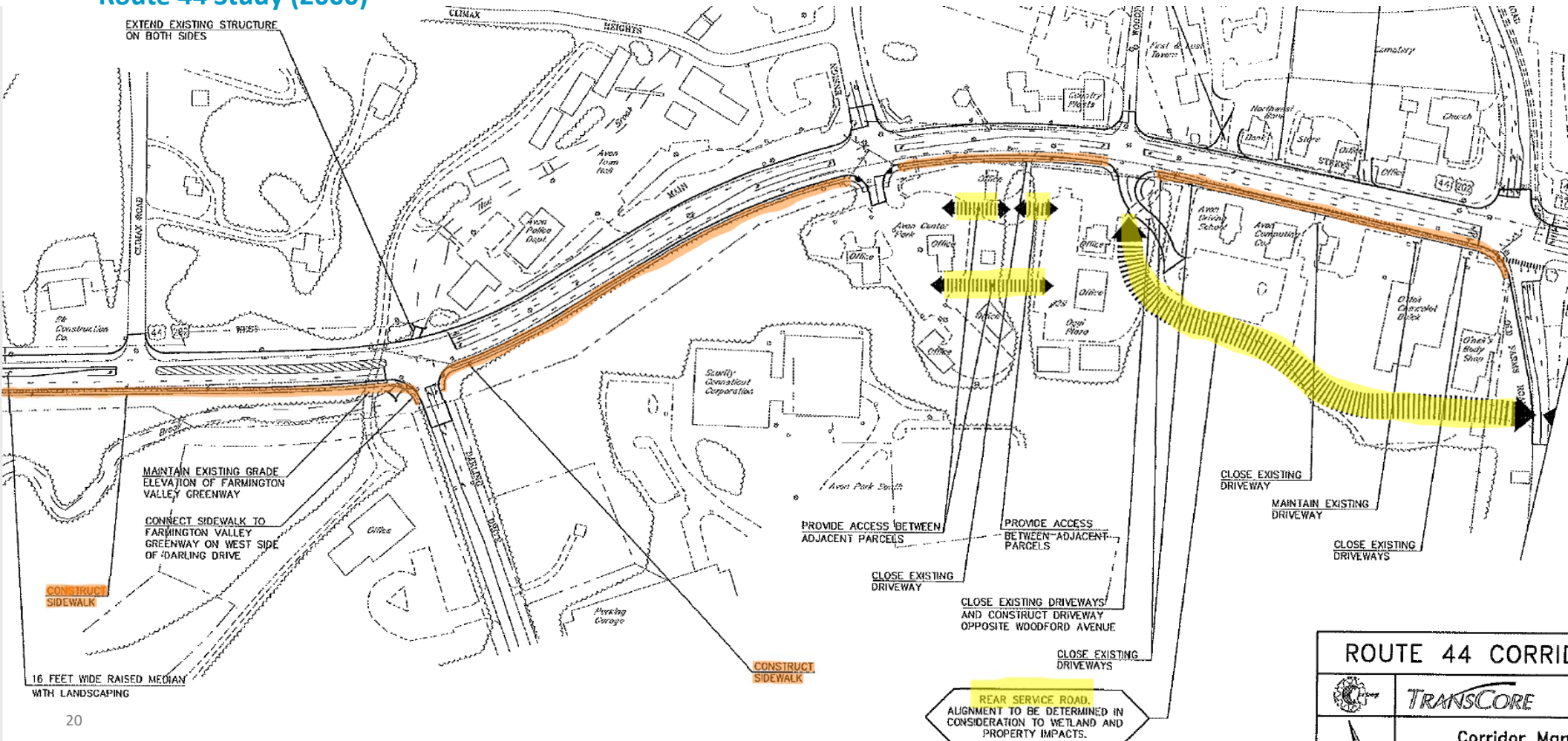


DISCUSSION: DID WE MISS ANYTHING?



PRIOR PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE RECOMMENDATIONS IN AVON

Route 44 Study (2000)

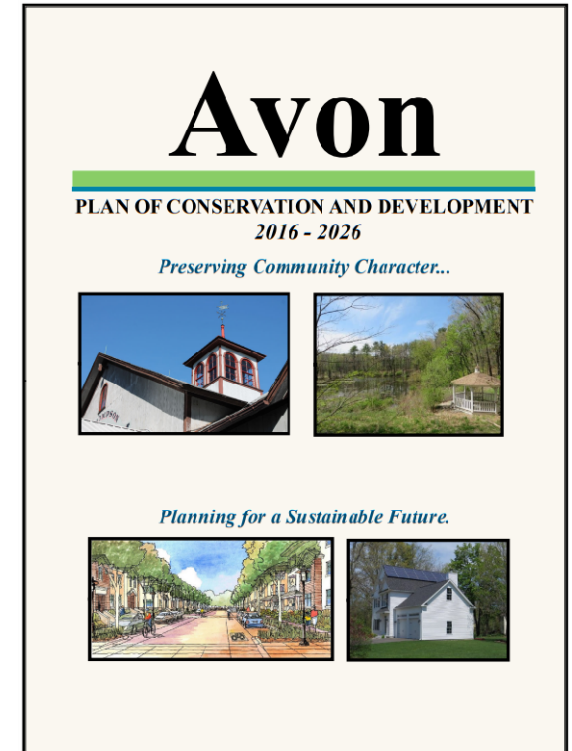


PRIOR PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE RECOMMENDATIONS IN AVON

Plan of Conservation & Development (2016)

TRANSPORTATION CHAPTER - POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Promote the construction of new sidewalks as outlined. Amend Zoning Regulations to clarify when private developers are required to install sidewalks in association with site plan approval for commercial projects.
7. Pursue with the State Department of Transportation the installation of pavement markings and handicap ramps at all signalized intersections on Route 44.

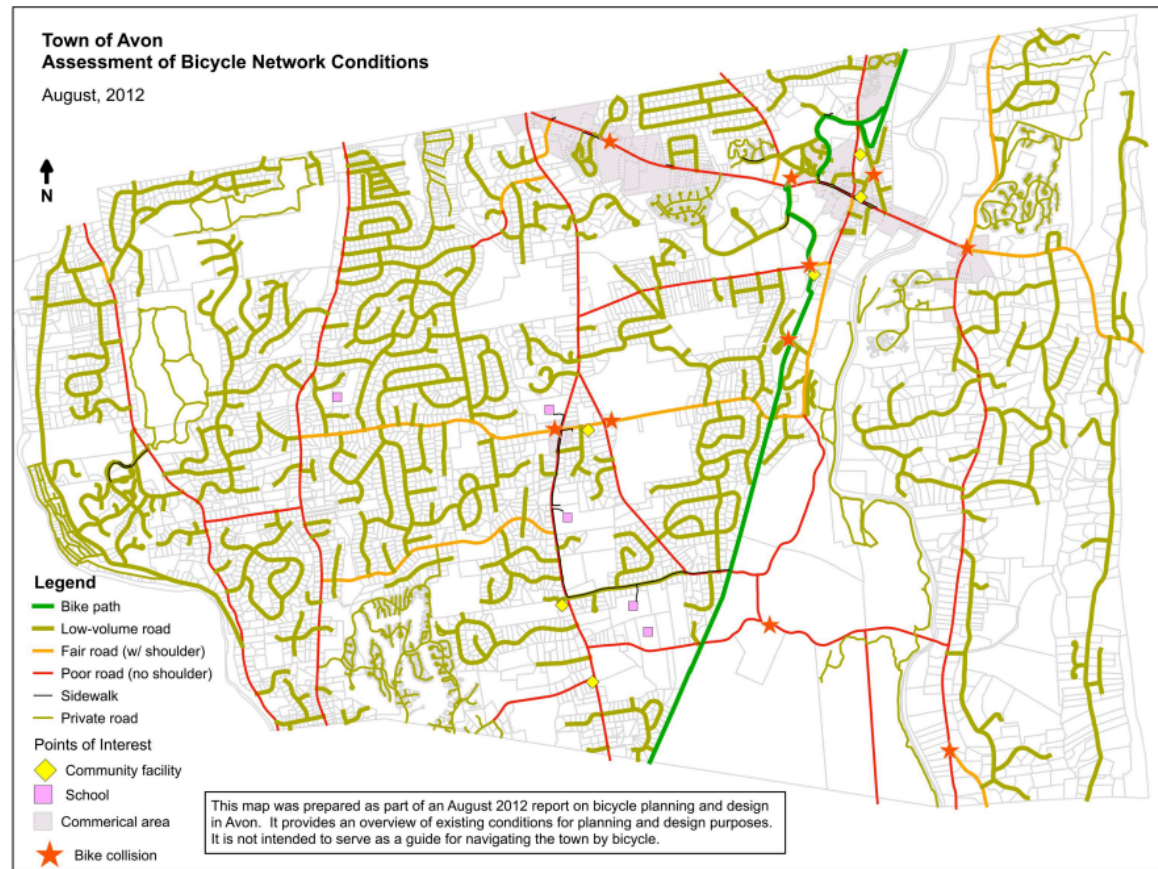


CURRENT & PRIOR PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE-RELATED PROJECTS IN AVON

Plan of Conservation & Development (2016)

TRANSPORTATION CHAPTER – POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Conduct a detailed evaluation of existing roadways and their suitability for on-road cycling, building on the 2012 study prepared by Chris McCahill, PhD. Evaluate roadways in association with the Town's Pavement Management Program. Determine if lane markings may be adjusted to better accommodate bicycles.



AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

	Town Budget	Grant
Capital Improvement Plan (road improvements)	\$419,791	
Council-approved supplemental appropriation for road improvements	\$750,000	
Country Club Rd LOTCIP (grant requested, not approved)		\$4,000,000
Sidewalk repairs	\$25,000	
Sidewalk improvements to replace existing sidewalks on W. Avon Rd.	\$25,000	\$128,205
+ \$424,000 (federal earmark)		\$424,000
Trail maintenance for walking and hiking trails (in the recreation and parks budget)	\$20,000	
Community Connectivity Grant Award to install a multi-use trail adjacent to the new north-south section of Old Farms Rd* (construction this spring/summer)		\$350,000
<i>*This is Phase I of a two phase project – Phase II also includes a multi-use trail, as proposed</i>		

TOTAL	\$1,718,420.00
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NEXT STEPS



January 2023

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PLEASE USE THE MAP BOARDS TO SHARE YOUR COMMENTS

Legend

- City Boundary
- Stops
- Swalk
- Walk
- City
- Municipal Facility
- Trail
- Trails
- ngton Canal Heritage Trail
- ngland National Scenic Trail
- de Benches
- Schools
- Department
- ack Locations

Avon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Comments

1) Put a numbered sticker on the map where you find it challenging to walk or use your bicycle/skateboard/scooter/wheelchair

2) Provide details in the box corresponding to the number on the sticker

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

NEXT STEPS

Please continue to visit the project StoryMap site:

<https://arcg.is/0851im>

to answer the Monthly Mobility Questions and stay apprised of news and future events!



SCAN TO VISIT THE PROJECT STORYMAP SITE