

PORCH SWING PROJECT

The Porch Swing Project seeks to bring together Central Avenue's diverse residents, neighborhoods and businesses. Before the advent of air conditioning, **the southern home was not complete without a front porch**. Neighbors could easily communicate and, from porch to porch, build community. Porch swings installed along Central Avenue would create a unifying element, **making the sidewalk and bus stops a new civic front porch**.

The Central Avenue corridor was chosen as the most **ethnically diverse area** in the City of Charlotte and possibly in North Carolina. The corridor also has one of the highest ridership bus routes in the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS). Portions of the corridor have experienced a surge of new development and have become increasingly attractive to millennials. The Plaza Midwood neighborhood in particular has become a vibrant district of restaurants, music venues, and retail. This project builds a community by linking these diverse residents together as they enjoy their wait for transit.



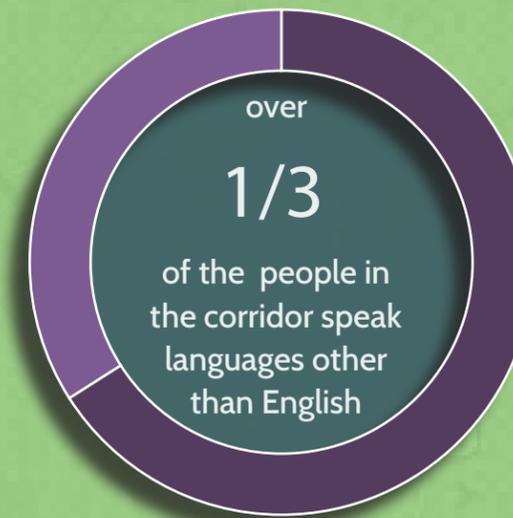
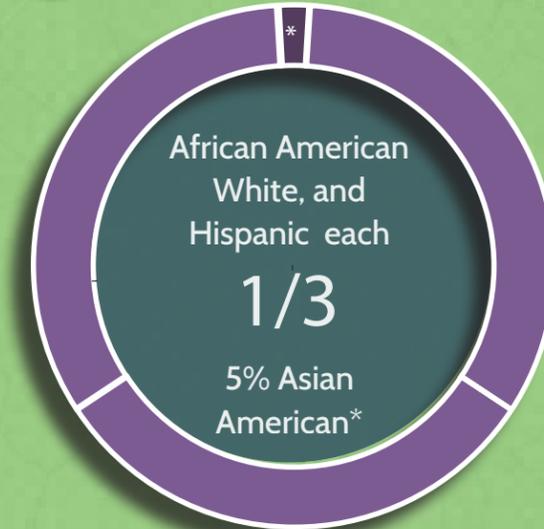
Central Avenue's new front porch

Sites chosen based on:

- Transit ridership
- Ease of construction (flat to avoid retaining walls)
- Ownership willing and able to maintain the swing
- Pleasant waiting area (tree canopy or greenspace)

The corridor has the **highest transit passenger per hour** of any bus route in the CATS bus network.

Porch swings installed along Central Avenue would **create a unifying element for the community**, making the sidewalk a front porch.

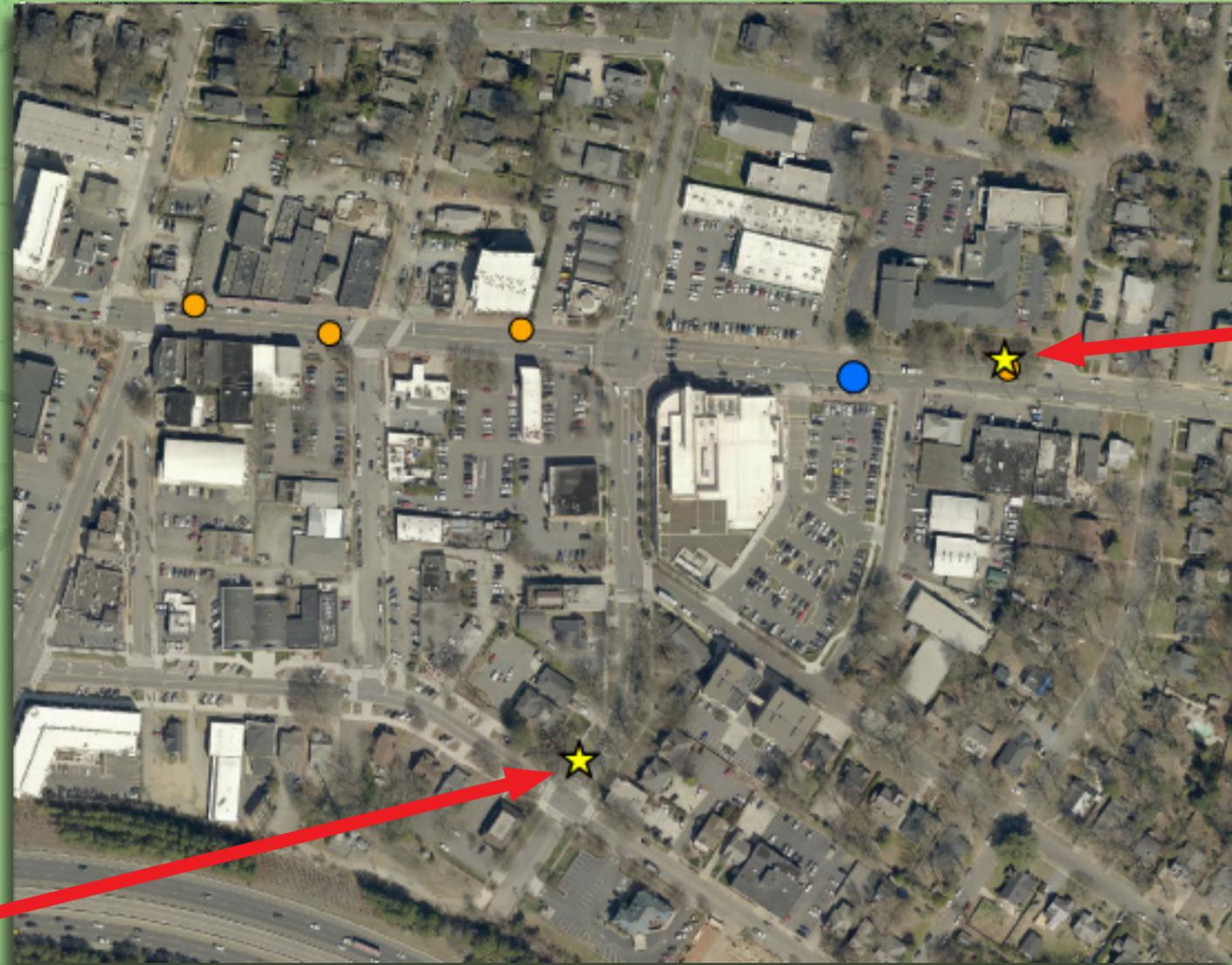


IMPACT

1. **Create new conversation centers** where people can connect.
2. **Create bus stop amenities** that improve the waiting experience and reduce the stigma of riding the bus.
3. **Attract community** to bus stop areas.
4. **Bridge the gap** between long time neighborhood residents and new emerging immigrant and millennial populations.
5. **Increase neighborhood awareness** of the importance of Central Avenue as their front door.

Plaza Midwood

- Historic 1920's streetcar suburb
- Revitalization began in the late 1990's and is rapidly increasing
- Numerous restaurants, music venues, retail and art galleries
- High pedestrian and bike traffic
- Over 2000 apartment units under construction or planned
- Multi-generations with a large influx of millennials



Midwood International Cultural Center

MAP KEY

Average Weekday
Bus Boardings

- 0-10
- 10-30
- 30-50
- 50-100
- 100 or more

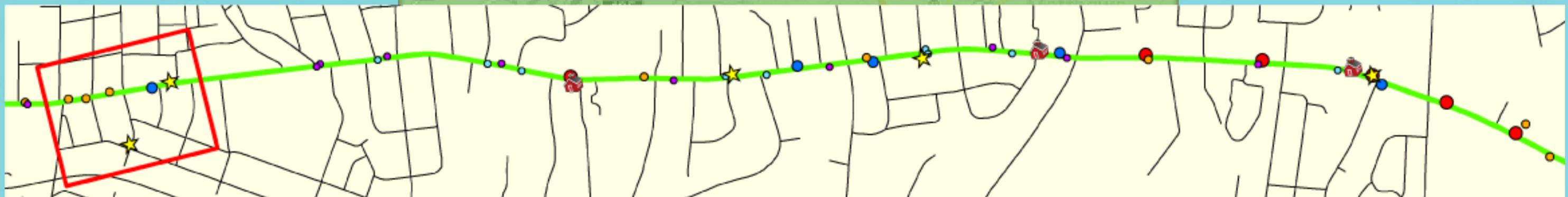
★ Proposed Swing
Locations

🏠 Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Schools Bus Stop

— Central Ave Corridor

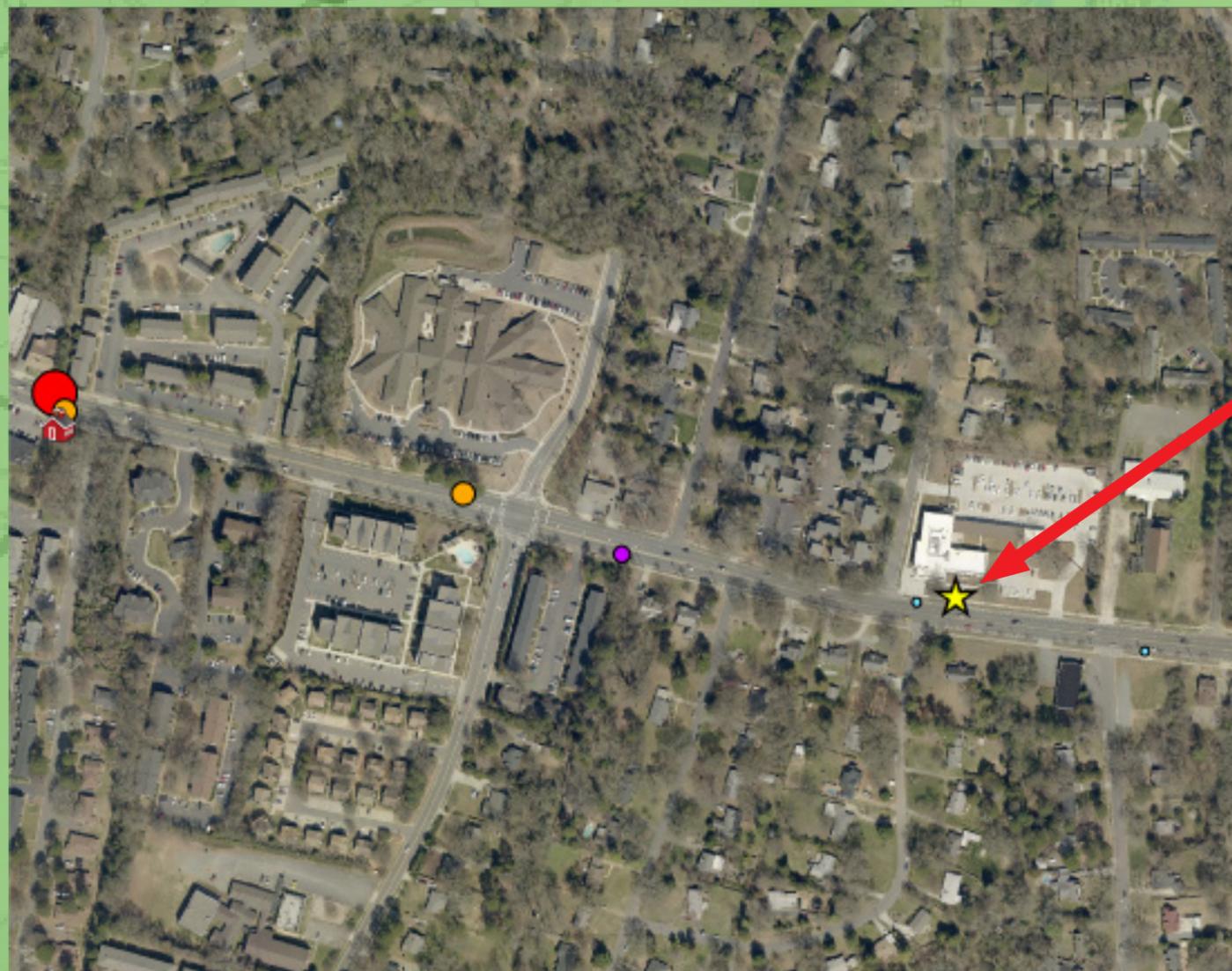


Charlotte Fire Station



Briar Creek

- Strong 1950's era single family neighborhood in Merry Oaks and Commonwealth Park
- Recently constructed police station and greenway
- Vibrant mix of Vietnamese, Chinese, Mexican and Central American restaurants and businesses
- High pedestrian traffic and transit ridership
- High density of existing apartments with some being renovated
- High volume school bus stop



CMPD Eastway Division

MAP KEY

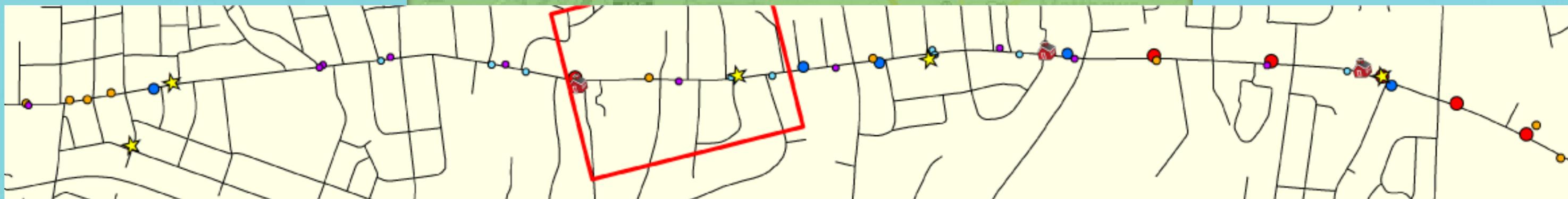
Average Weekday Bus Boardings

- 0-10
- 10-30
- 30-50
- 50-100
- 100 or more

★ Proposed Swing Locations

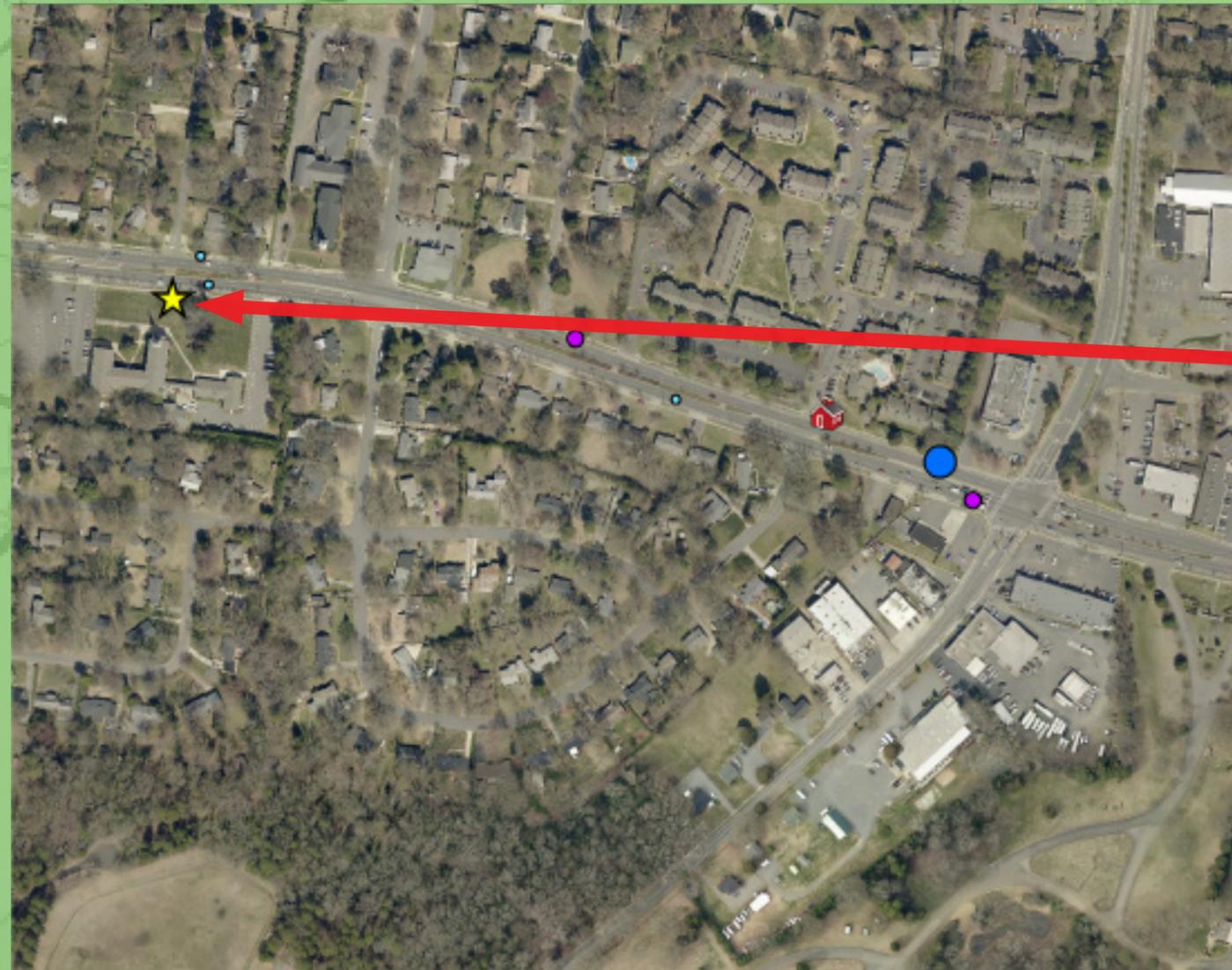
🏠 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Bus Stop

— Central Ave Corridor



Medford Acres

- Strong 1950-60's era single family neighborhoods in Medford Acres and Windsor Park
- Recent public investment in streetscape and bike lanes
- 40 acre nature preserve and large community parks in the area
- Religious institutions that are active in the community
- High volume school bus stops



Memorial United Methodist Church

MAP KEY

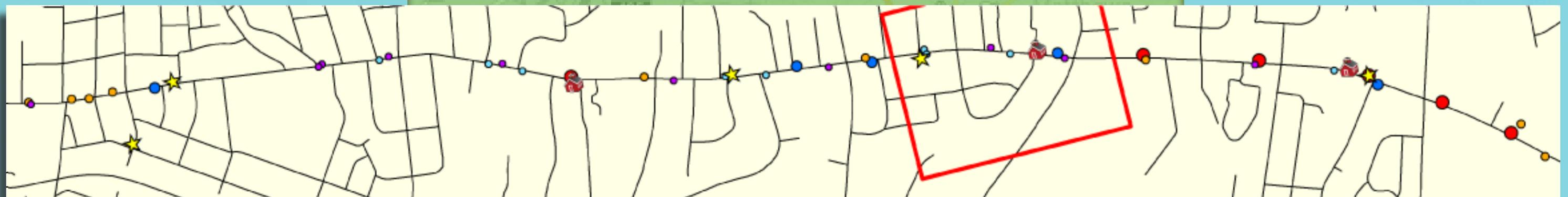
Average Weekday Bus Boardings

- 0-10
- 10-30
- 30-50
- 50-100
- 100 or more

★ Proposed Swing Locations

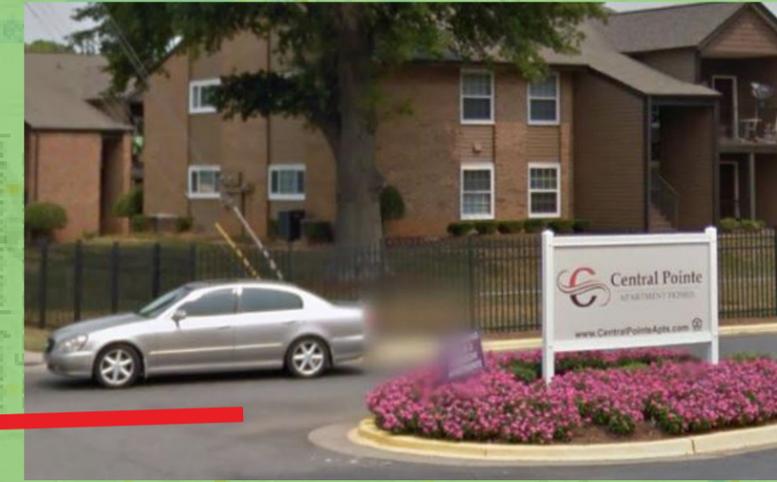
🏠 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Bus Stop

— Central Ave Corridor



Winterfield and Eastland

- Public / Private partnership to renovate an aging shopping center to be more walkable and to include green space
- High concentration of transit ridership served by the Eastland Community Transit Center
- Burgeoning international node of restaurants and small businesses
- Increasing Mexican, Central American, Vietnamese and African populations
- Significant renovation of an existing apartment complex
- High volume school bus stop



Central Pointe Apartments

MAP KEY

Average Weekday Bus Boardings

- 0-10
- 10-30
- 30-50
- 50-100
- 100 or more

★ Proposed Swing Locations

🏠 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Bus Stop

— Central Ave Corridor

