



Southeast Land Acquisitions and Street Connections

October 2015

Process...

The purpose of the Southeast Land Acquisition and Street Connections project is to implement the vision of the Independence Boulevard Area Plan (*IBAP*) in support of economic development and revitalization along the Independence Boulevard Corridor. The study area is from approximately Briar Creek to Sardis Road North. A market study was completed for the corridor that identified trends and anchors that could serve as catalysts for revitalization along the corridor. The project team developed a preliminary list of projects based on compliance with Community Investment Plan (*CIP*) goals, *IBAP* vision and market study recommendations. The projects were prioritized based on criteria also derived from *CIP* goals, *IBAP* and market study recommendations.

Community Engagement...

Students from East Mecklenburg High School were given the opportunity to share their ideas for improving connectivity along the corridor during two focus group sessions. A series of meetings were also held with leaders from various neighborhoods



along the corridor. The feedback collected from the focus groups included what they liked or disliked about where they live as well as recommendations to improve access and support economic development.

On June 23rd the project teams for the Southeast Land Acquisitions and Street Connections (*SELASC*) and Independence Sidewalk and Bikeway (*ISB*) Programs held a public meeting at Ovens Auditorium. The project teams presented the preliminary list of projects and asked attendees to select the top projects that meet the goals of the programs.

The Project Recommendations...

Based on the goals of the *CIP*, *IBAP* and community input the project team developed the following program strategies which were also used to prioritize projects.

- *Improve Connectivity* - create connections between neighborhoods and access to alternative routes.
- *Support Economic Development* - improve access to businesses and community amenities, remove blight and initiate parcel assemblage for redevelopment.
- *Improve Safety* - reduce the amount of traffic accessing businesses from Independence and provide access from lower speed/lower volume roads.

The top 5 street connections and the top 6 land acquisition projects identified by the project team are listed below (*see project map*).

Street Connections

1. Pierson Drive Extension (S4)
2. Wendover/Pierson Frontage Road (S3)
3. Coliseum Drive Extension ((S1) & Waterman/Eastway Frontage Road (S2)
4. Wallace Road Extension (S6)
5. Idlewild/Farmingdale Frontage Road (S5)

Land Acquisitions

1. Chesterfield Avenue (L1)
2. Sharon Amity Interchange (L5)
3. Winfield Drive (L4)
4. Ashmore Drive (L6)
5. Long Avenue (L7)
6. Commonwealth Avenue (L8)

Next Steps...

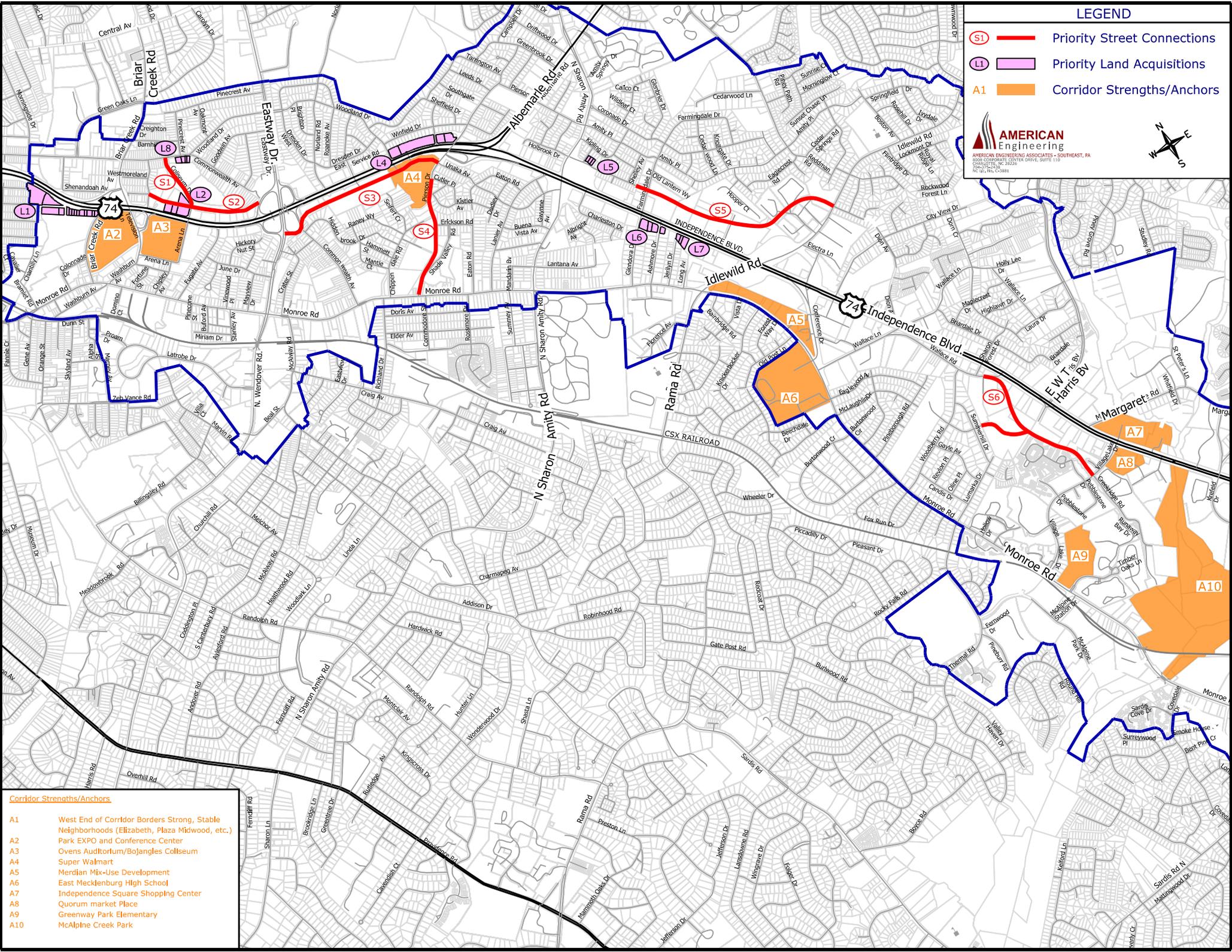
Planning and design of the top 6 street connection projects and top 2 land acquisitions are scheduled to start Winter 2015-2016. The project team will present the project recommendations at a Public Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 at Ovens Auditorium where attendees can drop in at anytime between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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LEGEND

- S1 — Priority Street Connections
- L1 ▭ Priority Land Acquisitions
- A1 ▭ Corridor Strengths/Anchors



Corridor Strengths/Anchors

- A1 West End of Corridor Borders Strong, Stable Neighborhoods (Elizabeth, Plaza Midwood, etc.)
- A2 Park EXPO and Conference Center
- A3 Ovens Auditorium/Bojangles Coliseum
- A4 Super Walmart
- A5 Meridian Mix-Use Development
- A6 East Mecklenburg High School
- A7 Independence Square Shopping Center
- A8 Quorum market Place
- A9 Greenway Park Elementary
- A10 McAlpine Creek Park