

# **Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Program**

*and*

## **Blue Line Extension Construction Update**

**May 14, 2015**

Presented by:  
**City of Charlotte**

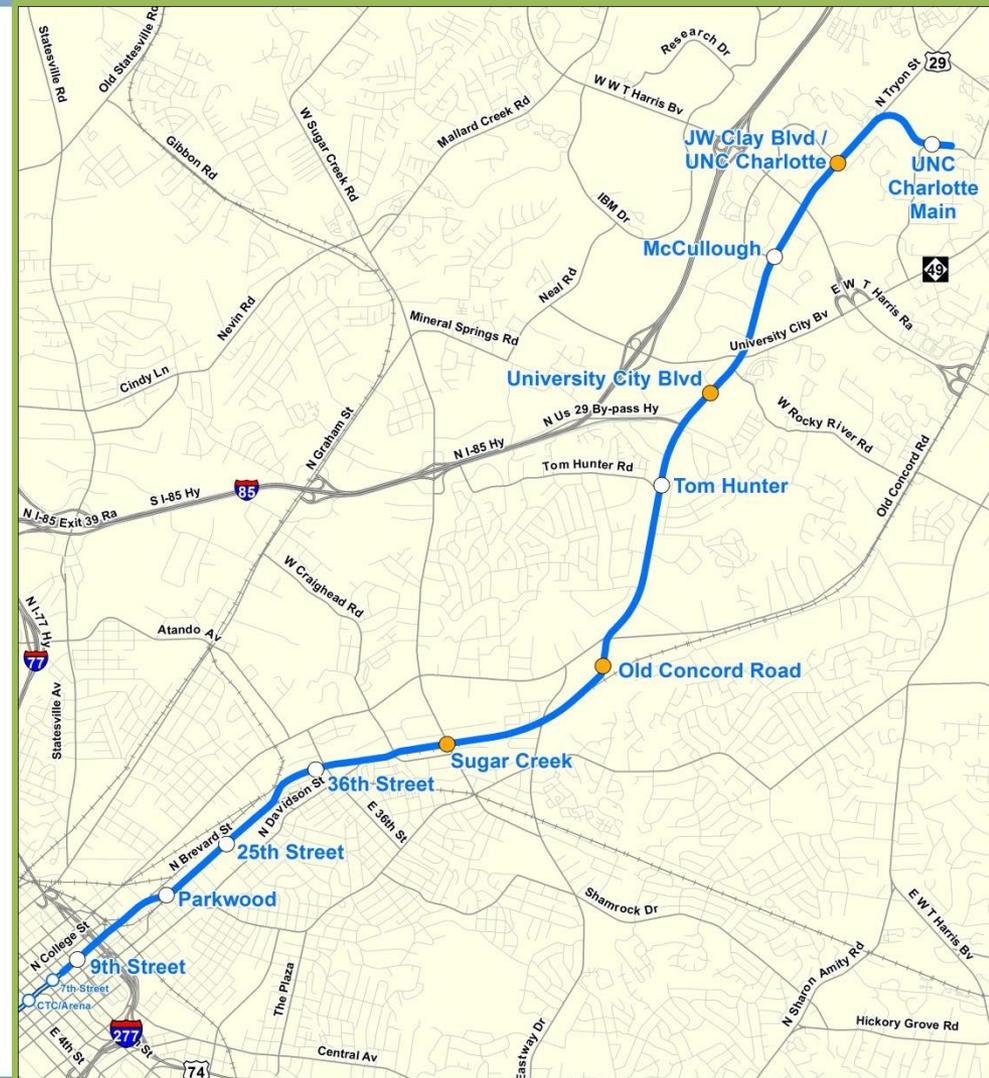
Engineering & Property Management  
Charlotte Area Transit System  
Charlotte Department of Transportation

## LYNX Blue Line Extension Construction Update



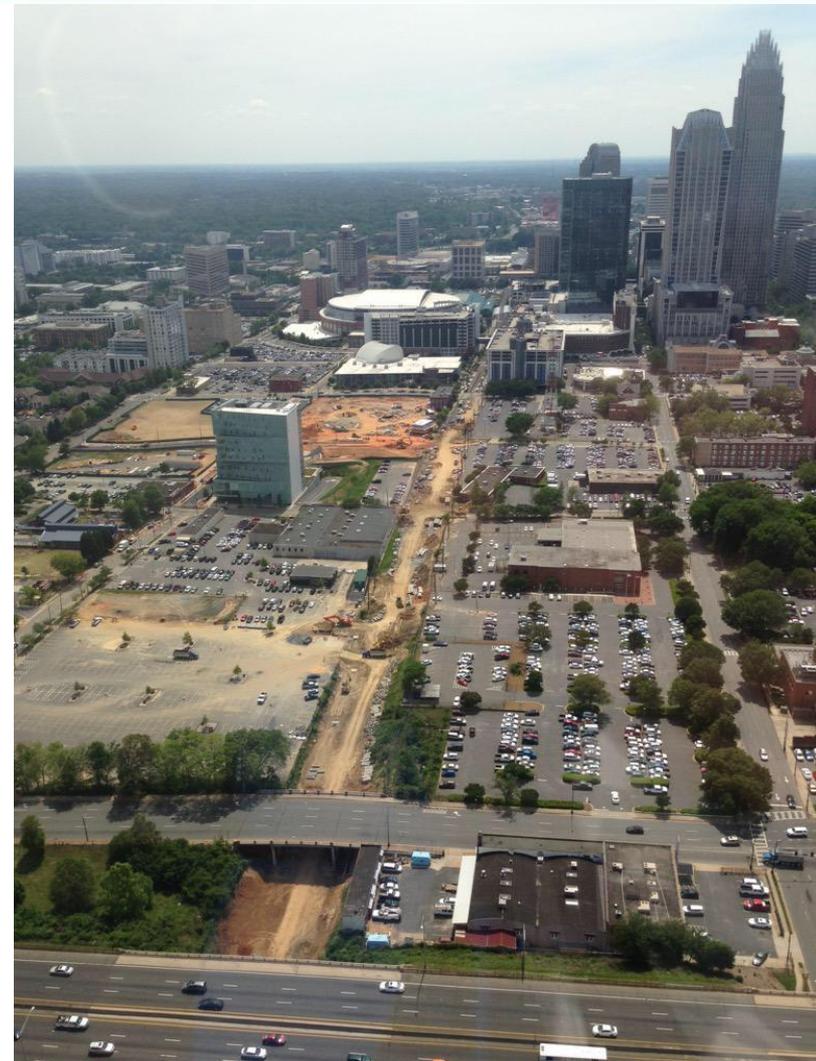
## LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Overview

- 9.3 miles, 11 stations
- 4 park and ride facilities
- Approximately 3,100 parking spaces
- Accommodates 3-car trains
- 25,000+ daily riders
- Improvements to North Tryon St.
- Connects UNC Charlotte campuses
- 22 minute commute from Uptown to UNC Charlotte
- Initial peak period service 7.5 minute frequency
- Connecting bus services
- Revenue service in 2017



## Uptown

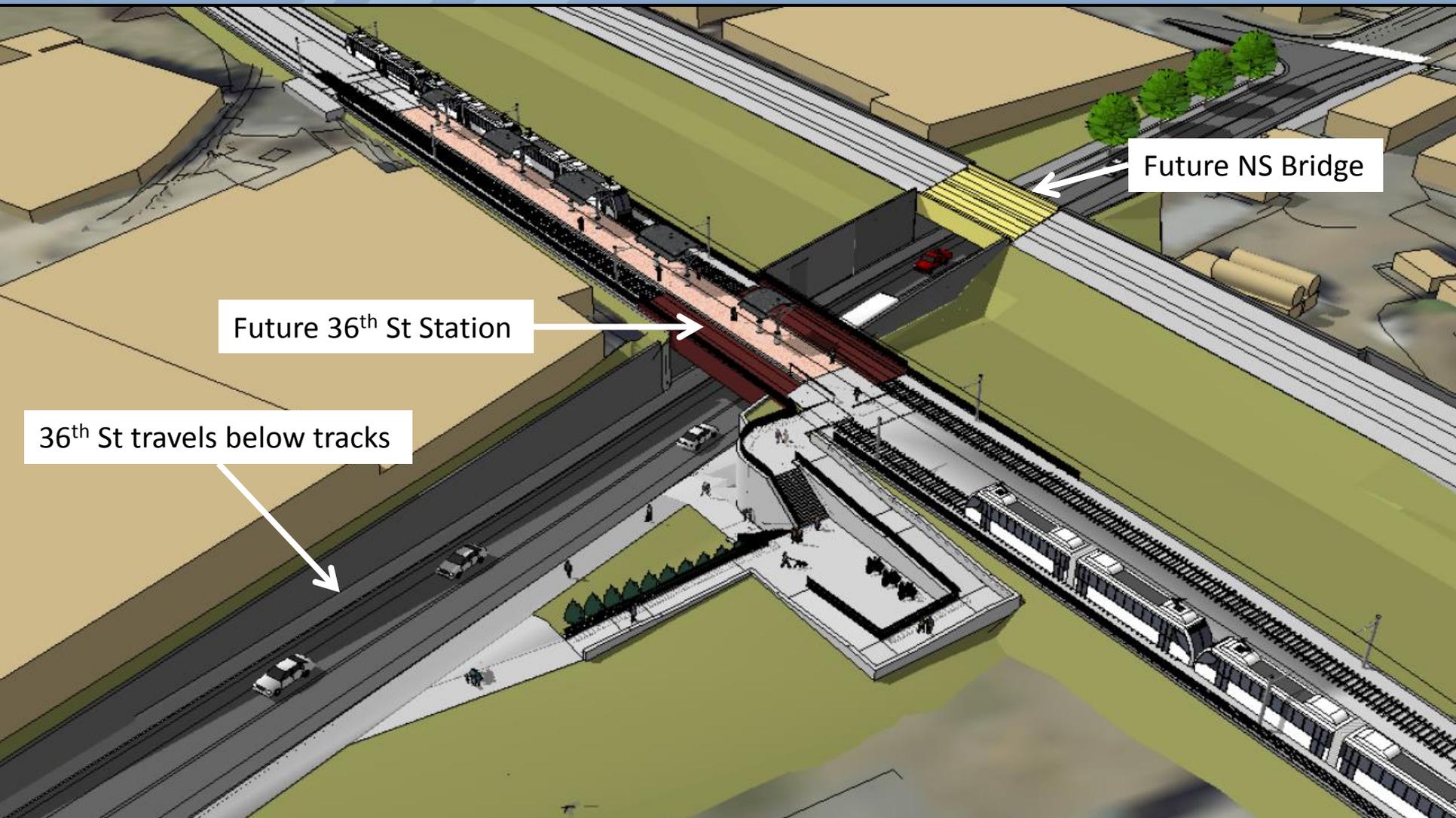
- Closures
  - East 8<sup>th</sup> Street
  - East 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Installing Storm Drainage
- Relocating Utilities
- Preparing for Track



## Uptown to Old Concord

- Closures
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Street (reopened)
  - N Brevard Street
  - East 36<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Craighead Road
  - Eastway Drive
- Bridges, Station Foundations, Retaining Walls
- Excavation for Future Bridge over E 36<sup>th</sup> Street
- Extension of Eastway Bridge







Mosaic art will be installed at the  
36<sup>th</sup> Street Station

## Along North Tryon

- Closures
  - Old Concord Road
  - Austin Drive
  - Arrowhead Drive
  - Orchard Trace Lane
  - Grove Lake Drive
- Widening roads
- Private Utility and Traffic Signal Relocations continue
- **SAFETY FIRST:**
  - **Speed Limit Along North Tryon Street 35 MPH**
- Storm Drain and Water Line Installation



## Bridges and Walls along the Alignment

- Various Shorter Block Retaining Walls
- Light Rail Bridges Across the I-85 Connector and University City Blvd
- Installing Permanent Fencing on Retaining Walls





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*Blue Line Extension: Northeast Corridor*

## University City Blvd. Parking Deck



- 6 Levels with Approx. 1,500 Spaces for Cars
- 24 Covered Bicycle Spaces , 3 Bus Bays
- 5 Retail Spaces
- Installing Steel Piles, Foundations, Walls and Storm Drainage

## J.W. Clay Parking Deck



- 5 Levels with Approx. 800 Spaces for Cars
- 14 Covered Bicycle Spaces, 2 Bus Bays
- 7 Retail Spaces
- Installing steel piles and foundation

## UNC Charlotte Station Area

- Building Bridge Across Toby Creek
- Working on Retaining Wall that will Surround the Tail Track



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***Be Informed. Be Connected. Be In The Know.***

## Community Investment Plan (CIP)

- *\$816.4 million in proposed improvements throughout the City*
- *4 bond cycles over the next 8 years*



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*Blue Line Extension: Northeast Corridor*

## **Proposed Investments – Northeast**

- ***North East Corridor Infrastructure (NECI)***
- ***Cross Charlotte Trail***



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## Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Program (NECI)



## NECI Program Goals

### Improve Accessibility

- *Provide pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular connections to light rail stations.*

### Promote Economic Development

- *Provide infrastructure to support and encourage transit supportive development*



## Improved transportation connections can help make this happen in your Community



**PLACES FOR  
COMMUNITY**



**ACCESS  
TO JOBS**



**REDEVELOPMENT**



**STRONGER  
LOCAL  
BUSINESSES**



**NEW BUSINESS  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**HEALTHY  
LIFESTYLE**

## Planning Process:

- Identify deficiencies
- Assess environmental issues
- Survey
- Traffic analysis
- Public outreach
- *Determine a preferred alignment*

## We begin with a concept...

- How community accesses transit?
- What is working well?
- What are key deficiencies?
- What would make it a “complete street”?

## Then we come to you...

- How will you get to the transit station?
- What do you like about the street?
- What deficiencies do you see?
- What would make it a “complete street”?

## Projects to be addressed tonight:

- Parkwood Ave Streetscape
- 25<sup>th</sup> Street Connection
- N Tryon/36<sup>th</sup> Streetscape
- Philemon Ave Extension
- Sugar Creek Streetscape

## Parkwood Ave Streetscape

300 600 Feet



### LEGEND

-  Parkwood Avenue Project
-  Parkwood Light Rail Station
-  Community Features
-  Blue Line Light Rail Extension
-  Proposed/Potential Cycle Track
-  Greenways
-  Streams

## Parkwood Ave Streetscape *Project Area Deficiencies*



**Existing Pedestrian Conditions**

- *Sidewalk adjacent to roadway with no planting strips/buffer.*
- *Broken sidewalk/overgrowth*



**Sidewalk Connectivity**

- *Gaps in sidewalk network*

## Parkwood Ave Streetscape *Project Area Deficiencies*



**Existing Bicycle Conditions**

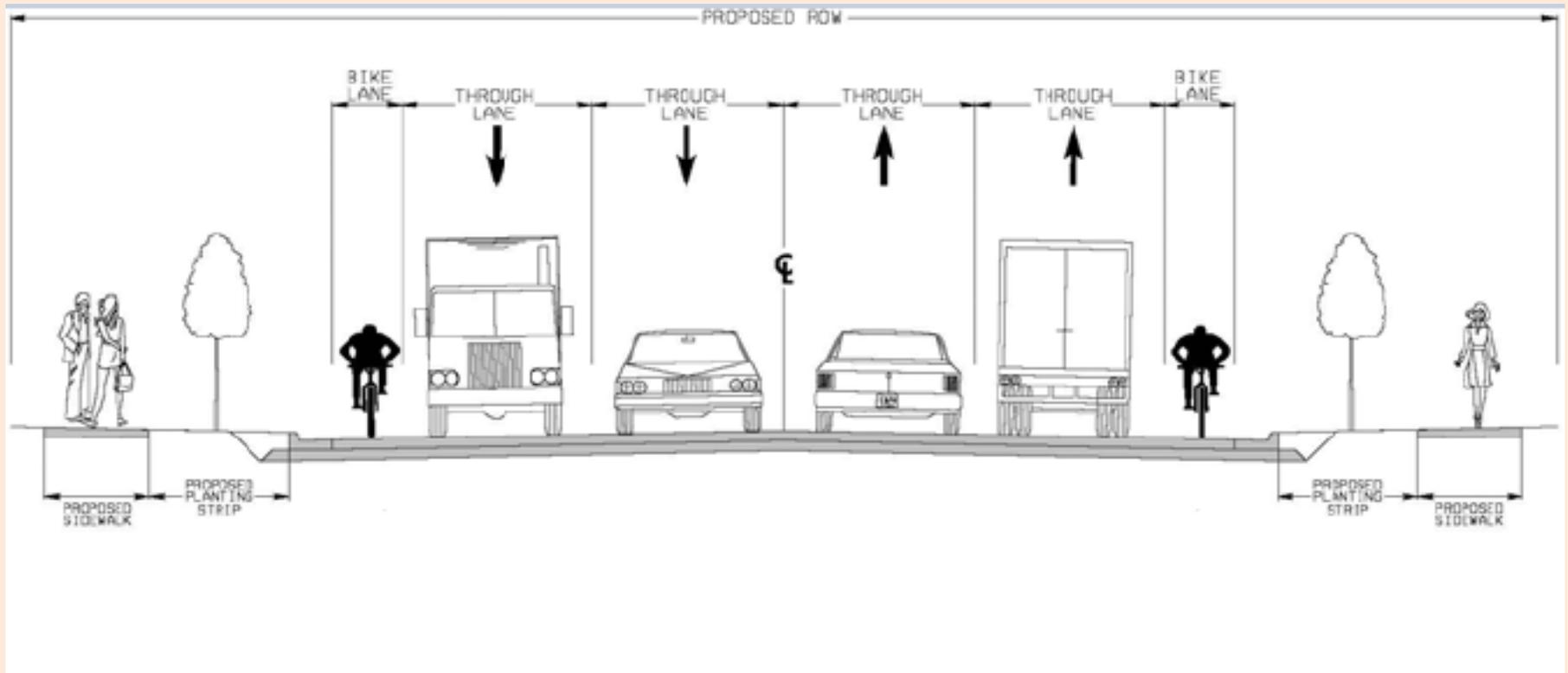
- *No existing bike lanes*
- *Connectivity between Brevard St and light rail station.*



**Safety**

- *Sight distance.*
- *Lighting & Pedestrian Crossings*

## Parkwood Conceptual Cross Section

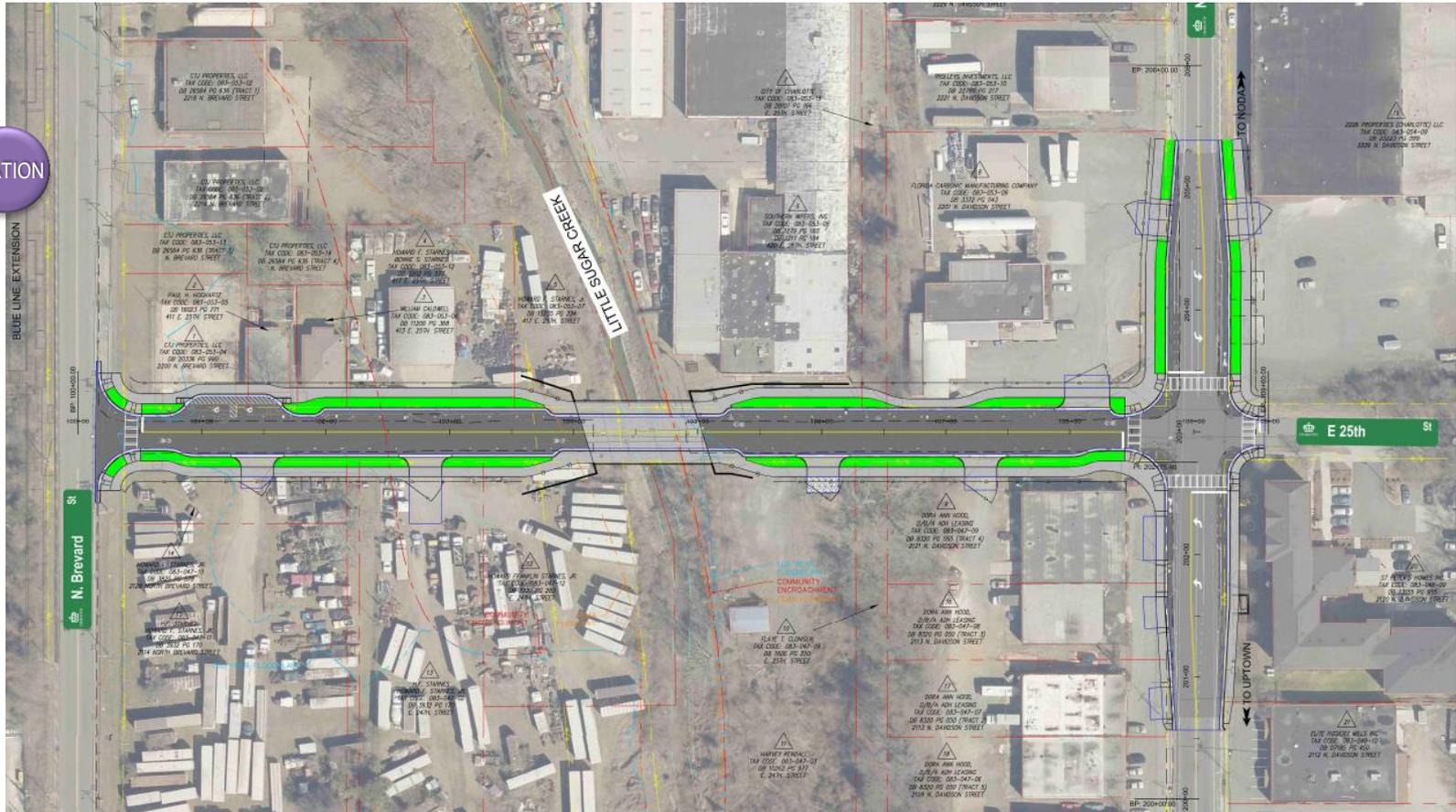




## 25<sup>th</sup> St Connection

New Bridge over Little Sugar Creek between North Davidson Street and Brevard Street

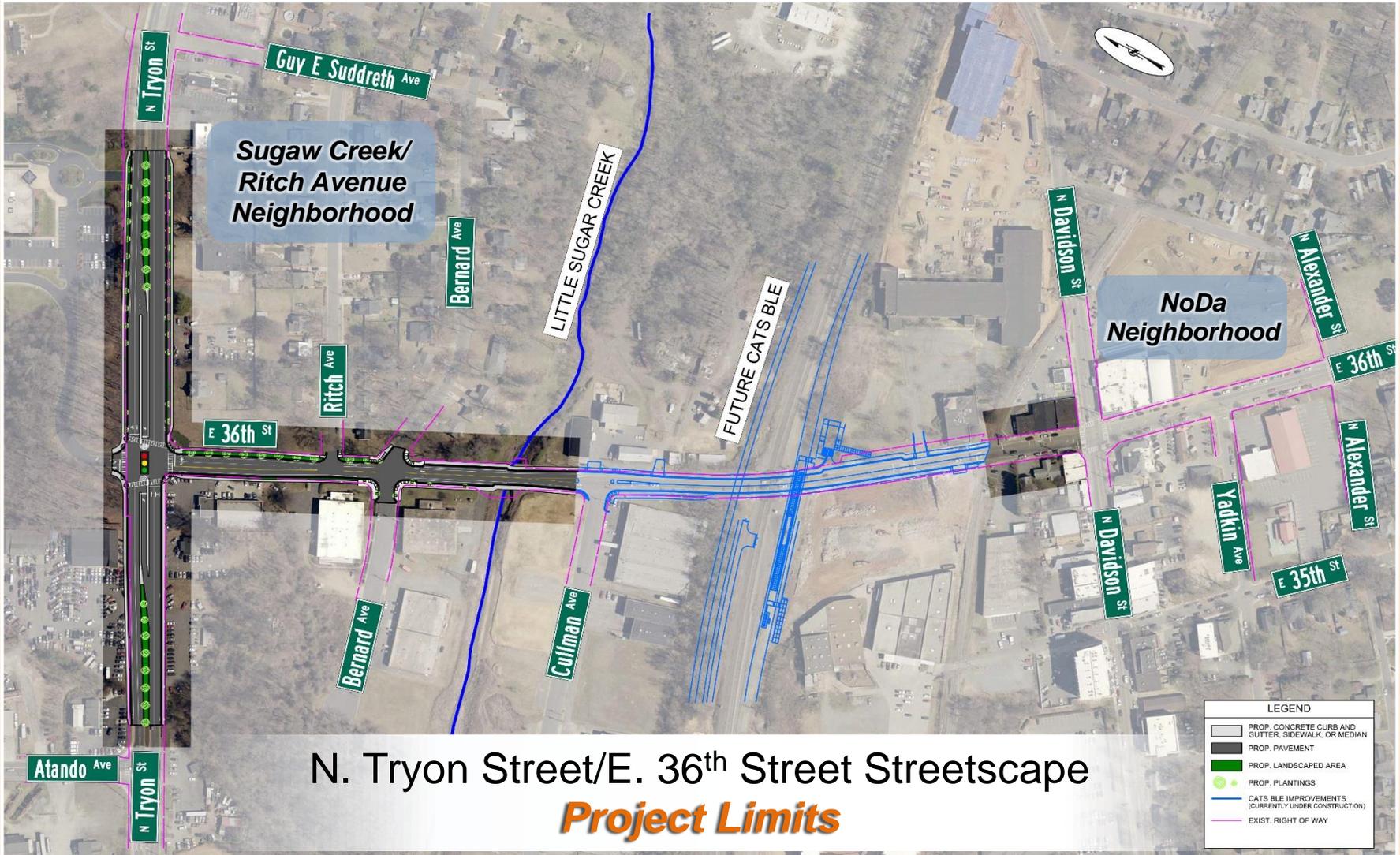
STATION





8'	8'		5'	13'		13'	5'		8'	8'
sidewalk	planter strip	c/g	parking	travel/bike		travel/bike	parking	c/g	planter strip	sidewalk

Typical Cross Section



## N. Tryon Street/E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape

### *Project Area Deficiencies*



***Missing Sidewalk Connections  
on north side of E. 36<sup>th</sup> St  
east of N. Tryon St***

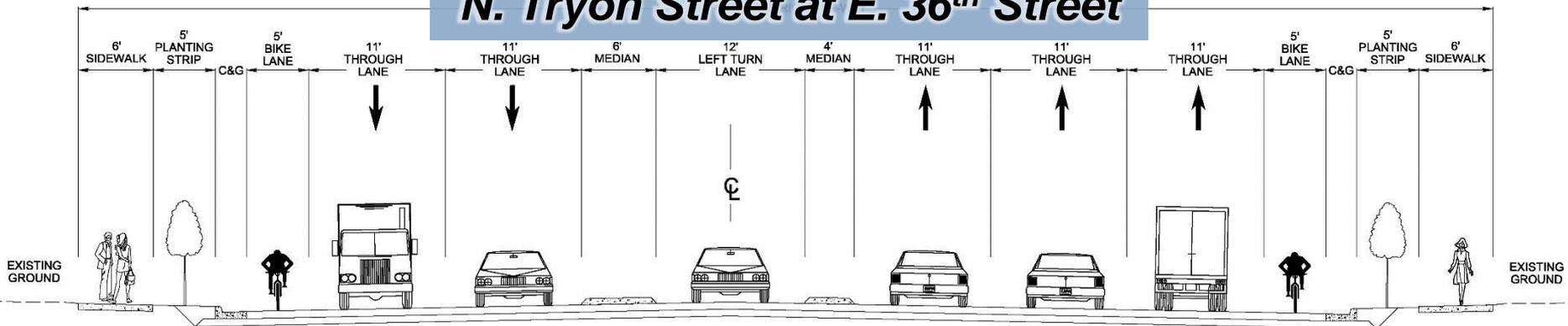


***Missing Sidewalk Connections  
on east side of N. Tryon St  
south of E. 36<sup>th</sup> St***

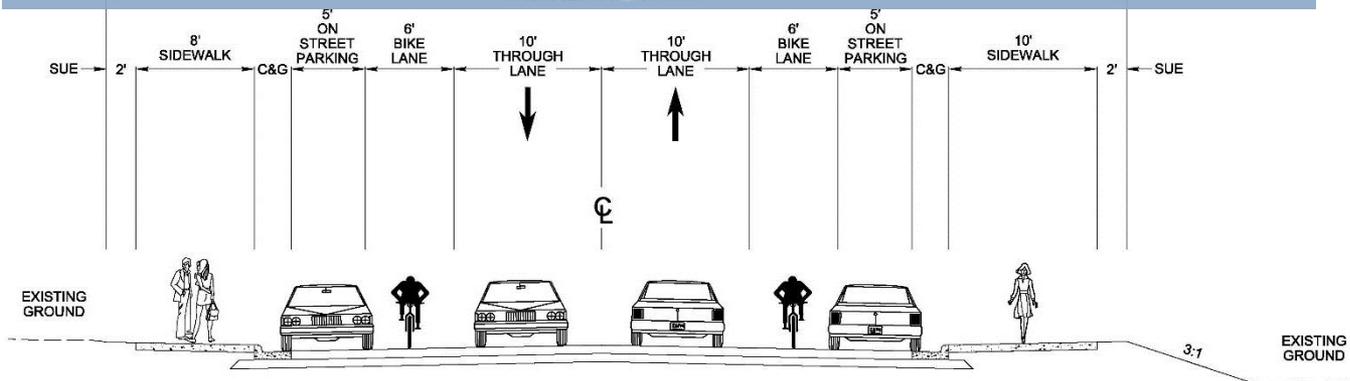
## N. Tryon Street/E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape

### Potential Typical Sections

#### N. Tryon Street at E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street



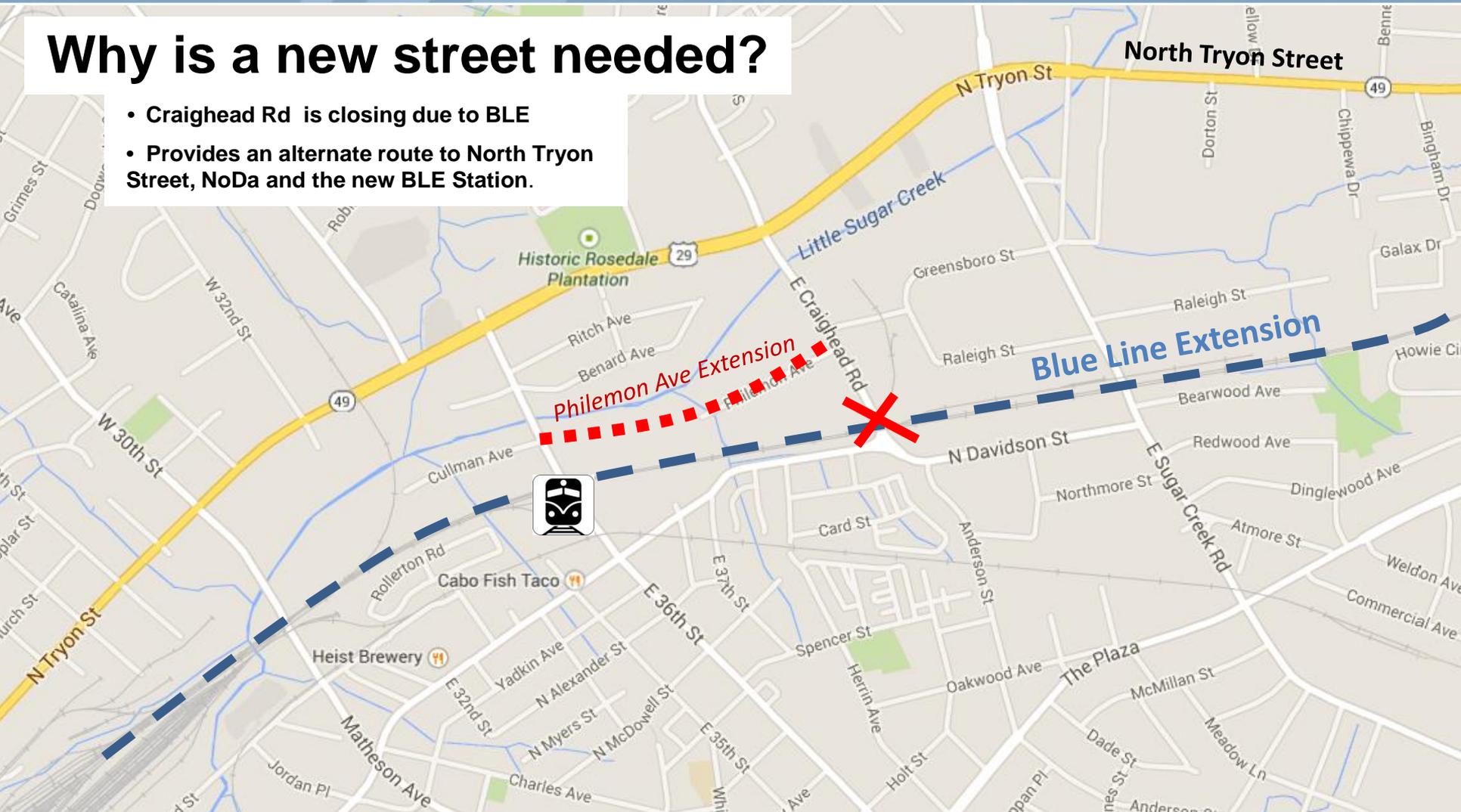
#### E. 36<sup>th</sup> St between N. Tryon St and N. Davidson St





## Why is a new street needed?

- Craighead Rd is closing due to BLE
- Provides an alternate route to North Tryon Street, NoDa and the new BLE Station.





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*Blue Line Extension: Northeast Corridor*



8'	8'		5'	6'	11'	11'	6'	5'		8'	8'
sidewalk	planter strip	c/g	parking	bike lane	travel/bike	travel/bike	bike lane	parking	c/g	planter strip	sidewalk

## Typical Cross Section

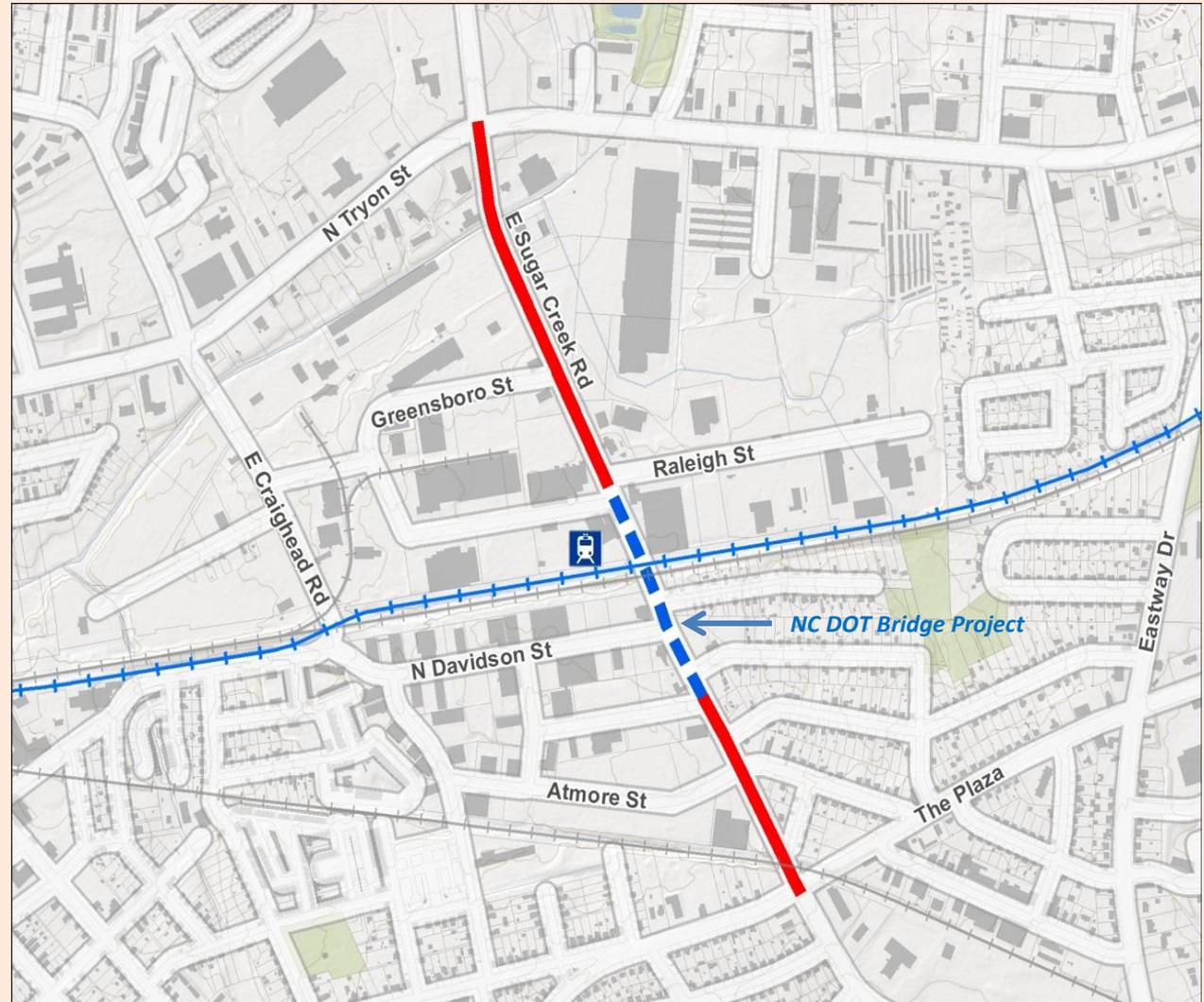


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## *Sugar Creek Streetscape*



## DEFICIENCIES



**Sidewalk Needed**

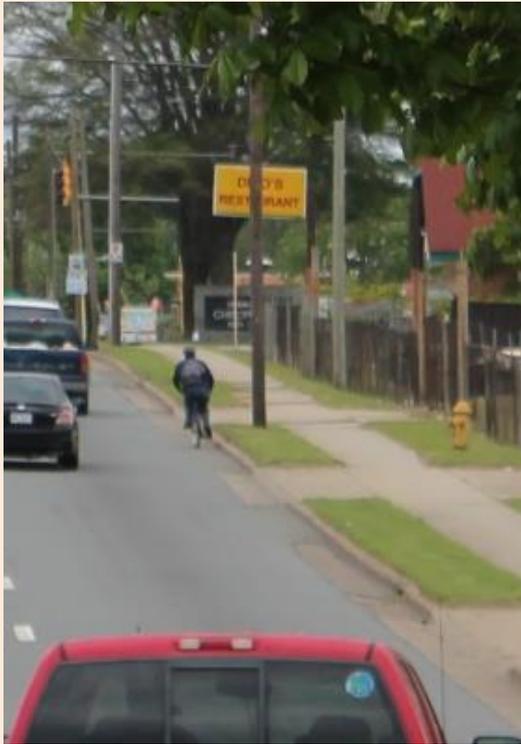


**Narrow sidewalk /  
Obstructions in sidewalk**



**Damaged Sidewalk**

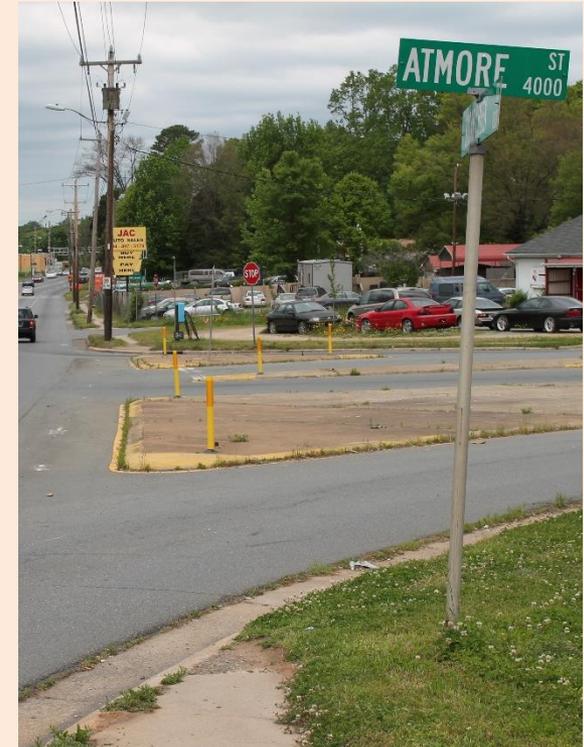
## DEFICIENCIES



Bike Lanes Needed

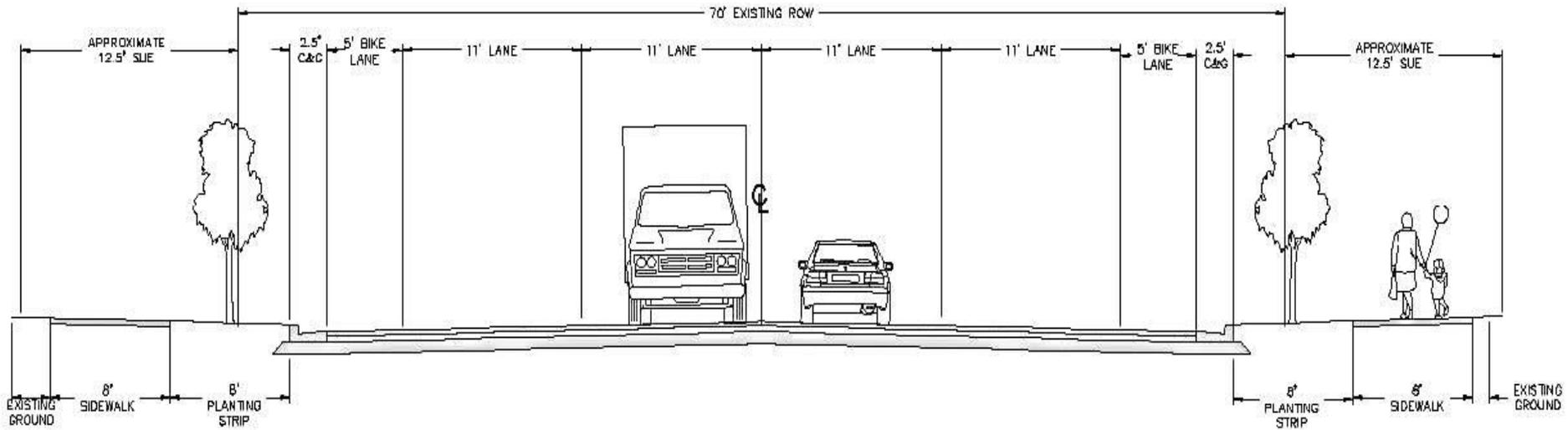


Wheel Chair Ramps Needed



Wide / Difficult Crossing

## Sugar Creek Conceptual Cross Section



NOT TO SCALE  
 CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL SECTION  
 ID 155 - SUGAR CREEK ROAD

## What are our Tools for Improvements?



### Improve Streetscape Conditions

- Sidewalk Connections
- Bike Lanes
- Decorative Lighting
- Street Trees and Landscaping
- Curb and Gutter



### Improve Signals and Crossings

- Update Signal Timings
- Upgrade Pedestrian Crossings
- Update Paint Striping

## All Projects...What's Next?

- Planning contracts underway
- Public discussion tonight
- Continued public involvement throughout project
- *Anticipate “preferred alignment” by year end*

## Phasing and Scheduling

- Planning – Approximately 1 year
- Design
- Real Estate
- Utility relocation
- Bid
- Construction/Landscaping



## Breakout Session

- How do you see yourself using the road?
- How do you think the street can function better?
- What amenities would best suit your needs?
- What deficiencies do you experience?



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*Blue Line Extension: Northeast Corridor*

Visit [www.charlottefuture.com](http://www.charlottefuture.com) to learn more about the Community Investment Plan and sign up to receive regular updates.

