



Town Council Progress Update

November 16, 2022

Presenters:

Brian Litchfield, Transit Director

Caroline Dwyer, Transit Planning Manager

Matt Cecil, Transit Development Manager

Diedra Whittenburg-McEntyre, Principal Planner



AGENDA

- North-South Bus Rapid Transit (NSBRT) project update
- Transit oriented development (TOD) plan update
- Next steps



NSBRT

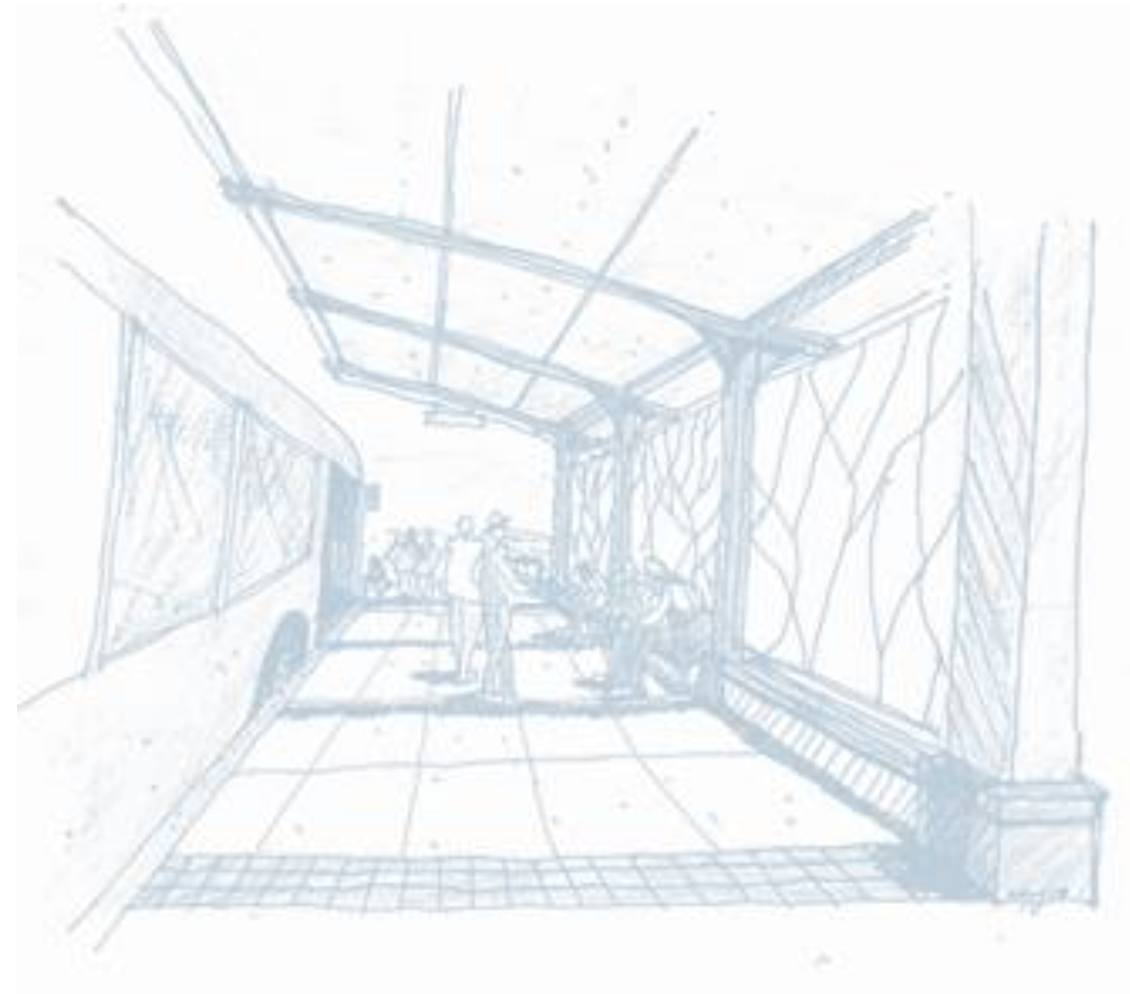
TOD

NEXT STEPS



NORTH-SOUTH BUS RAPID TRANSIT UPDATE

Brian Litchfield



NSBRT

Preparing Chapel Hill for the future and meeting the transportation challenges of today

- 14+ years of ideas, analysis, studies, plans, conversations, dedication, and investment
- More than just “better” bus service
- A critical element of a regional high frequency transit network
- A landmark investment in Chapel Hill’s transportation future

PROJECT BENEFITS



Eubanks Road Park & Ride to Southern Village Park & Ride (8.2 miles)



Dedicated, curb running transit lanes*



7-minute headways at peak times



17 world class stations with cutting edge amenities



Multiuse path with connections to greenway network



Faster, more reliable transit access to local and regional employment centers

**Where right of way allows*

NSBRT

WHAT'S NEXT?



Complete NEPA (*early 2023*)



60% Design (*underway, complete in 2023*)



NSBRT Naming Rights Study (*complete in 2023*)



TOD Station Area Concepts & Implementation Plan (*underway, FTA requires completion & adoption by Feb. 2023*)



Staff prepare FTA Small Starts Grant submittal (*January – July 2023*)



FTA Small Starts Grant submittal and request for updated project rating (*final deadline Aug. 2023*)



Receive FTA Grant Funding (*est. 2025*)

Begin construction (*est. 2026*)

Begin service (*est. 2028*)

Between now and early Summer 2023, staff will work aggressively to ensure we meet FTA's next critical funding benchmark

Document and execute funding commitments

Execute critical third-party agreements (ex. Duke Energy)

FTA required risk mitigation (pre-review, workshop, report)

Prepare and submit final evaluation documents (including project rating justifications)

Complete Readiness Review

NSBRT

CHALLENGES

- **Competing** against national and regional projects for the same funding sources
- **Building confidence** in our region's capacity to successfully manage and implement major transit projects
- **Raising our FTA project ratings** to remain competitive and retain our position in the federal funding pipeline

OTHER REGIONAL SMALL STARTS PROJECTS



FTA Region 4 includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky



IN THE TRIANGLE...

Wake BRT: New Bern Ave; Western Blvd; Southern Corridor; Northern Corridor; Rapid Bus Extensions and Transit Priority Treatments MIS

AND BEYOND...

Nashville, TN

Memphis, TN

Charleston, SC

Charlotte, NC

Atlanta, GA

Jacksonville, FL

Tampa, FL

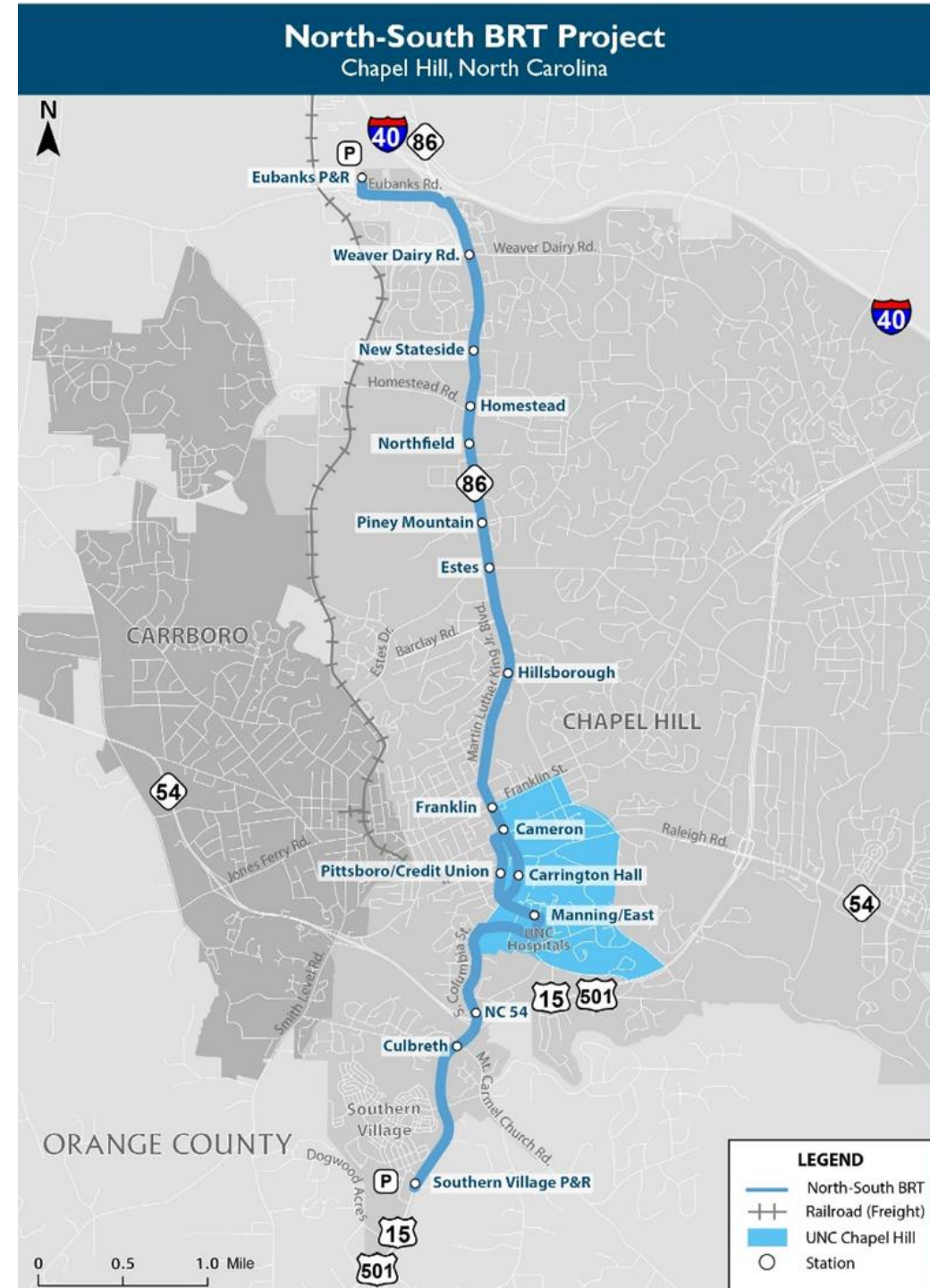
Miami, FL

St. Petersburg, FL

NSBRT

OPPORTUNITIES

- **TOD implementation plan** in progress to help raise project ratings (supported by FTA grant (\$592,000))
- **Naming Rights Study** kicking off in 2023
- Financially **positioned for success**
- Next **major project milestone and rating opportunity** (2023)



NSBRT

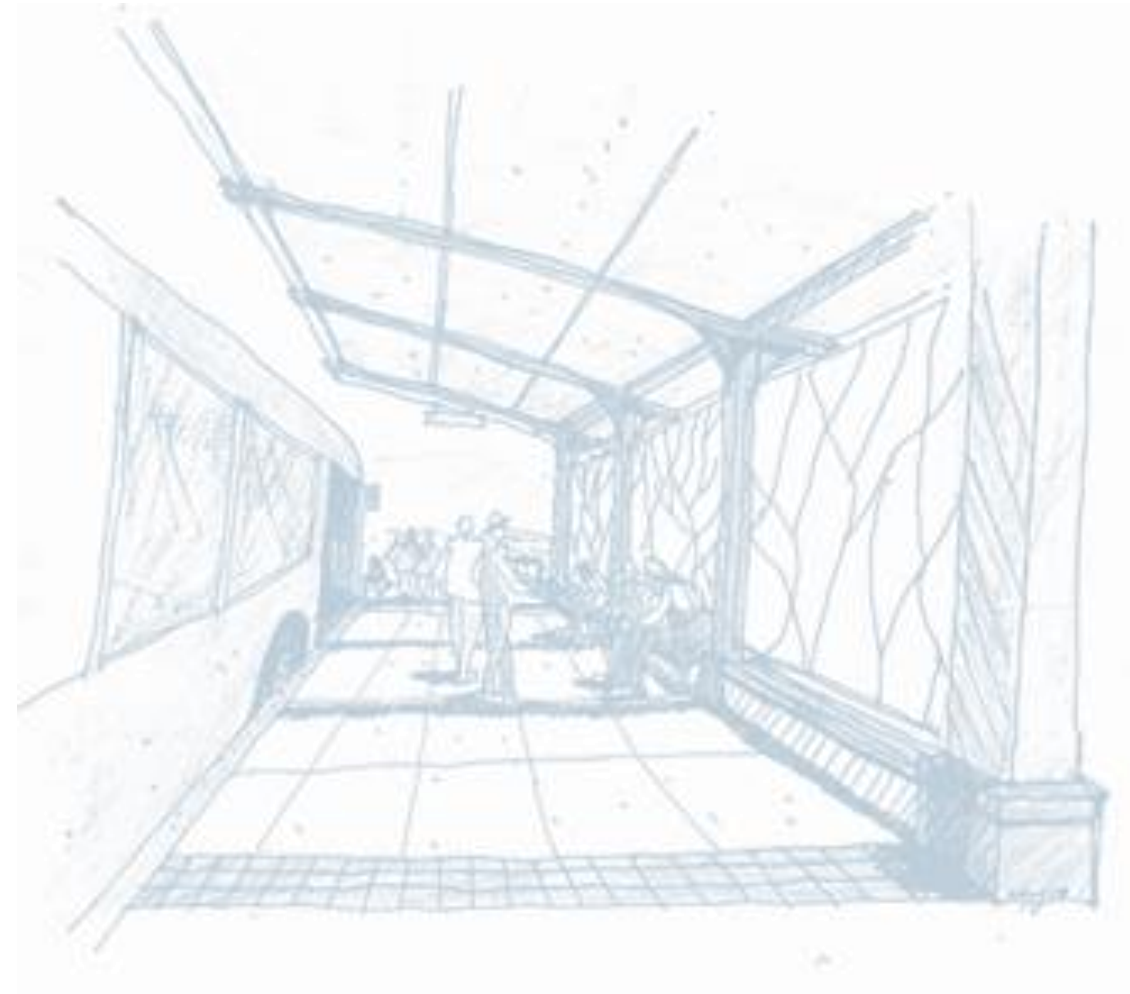
TOD

NEXT STEPS



TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) PLAN UPDATE

Caroline Dwyer, AICP

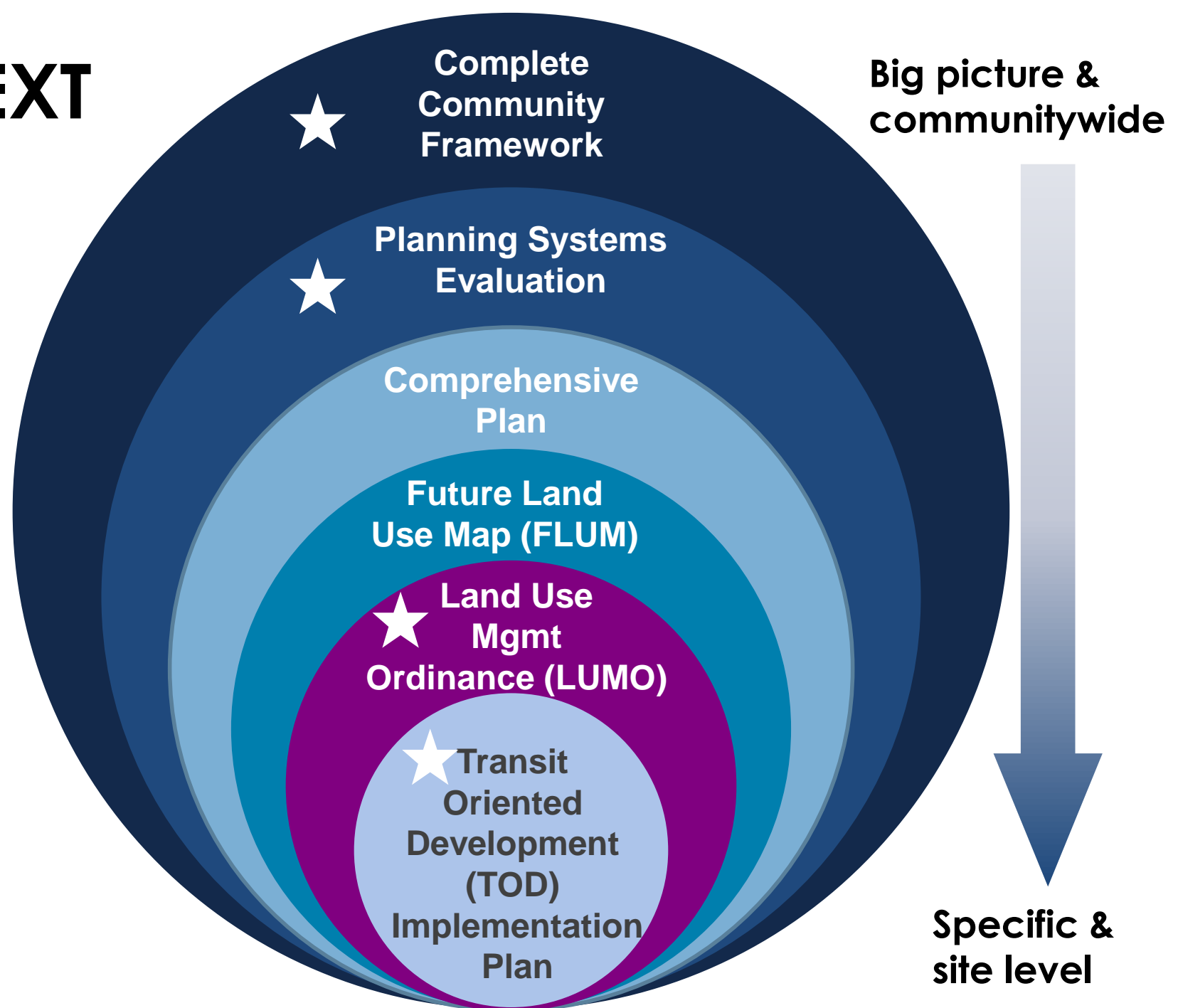


PROJECT CONTEXT

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts

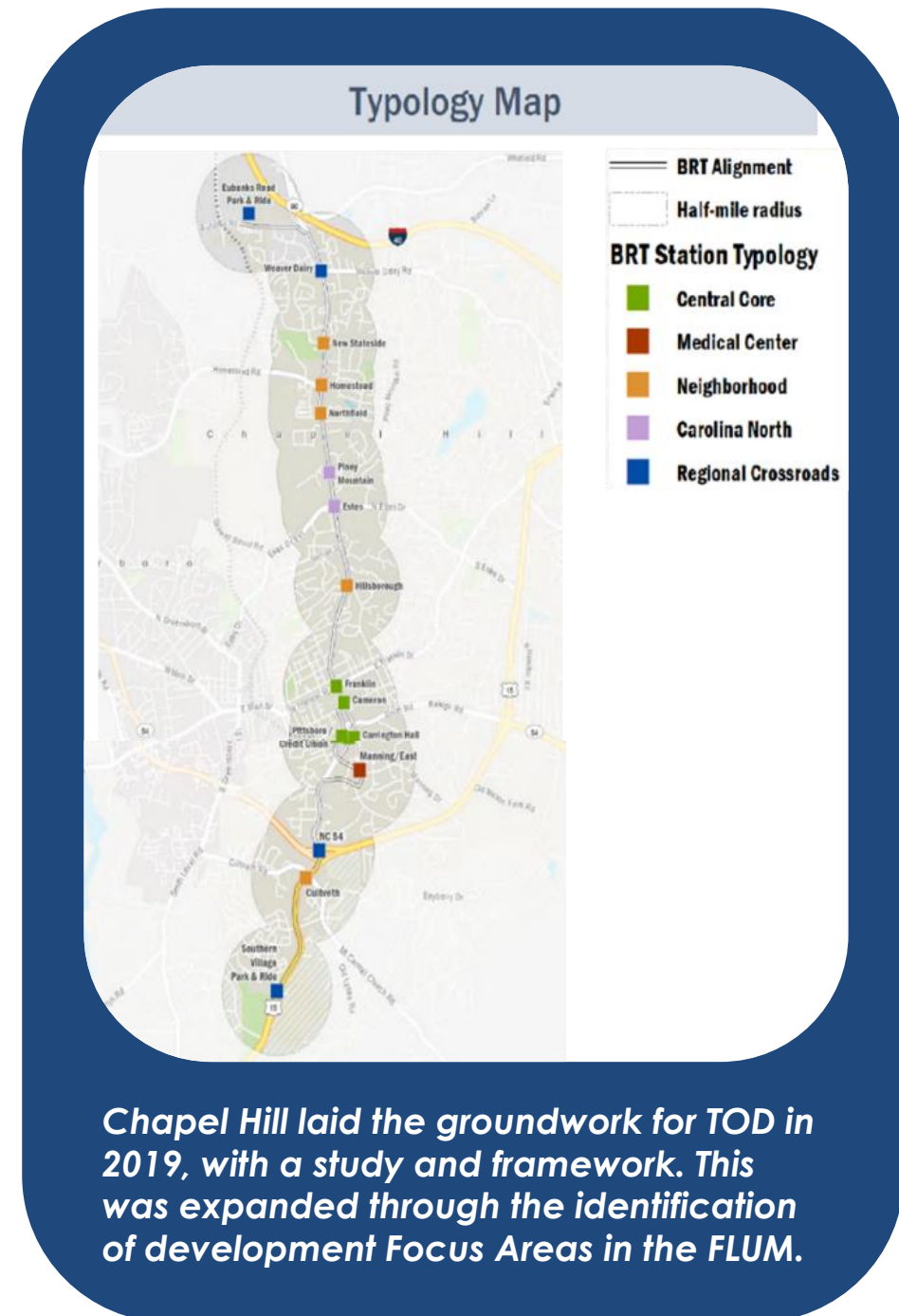
- Integrated land use planning is an accepted **best practice**
- Ongoing projects are mutually supportive, and staff and consultants are working together to ensure consistency across efforts

★ = Current initiative



TOD PLAN: CONTEXT

- **FTA Project Ratings**; criteria: land use, economic development potential, financial plan, environmental factors, transit ridership, and more
- NSBRT received **low-medium rating for “Transit Supportive Plans & Policies”**
- TOCH has “big picture” values and goals promoting transit supportive development but has only “**limited regulatory and financial incentives**” and lacks “**implementation techniques or mechanisms**”
- **GOOD NEWS**: Can **easily improve rating by adopting appropriate transit supportive policies and regulatory mechanisms** for the NSBRT corridor; the **FTA TOD Planning Grant** is helping us to identify the tools we need



Chapel Hill laid the groundwork for TOD in 2019, with a study and framework. This was expanded through the identification of development Focus Areas in the FLUM.

TOD PLAN: BENEFITS

- TOD = “**good planning**”
- Many TOD characteristics already reflected in Town planning goals
- CHT began laying TOD groundwork in 2019 by defining a TOD Framework & Place Typologies; supported by identification of focus areas in FLUM
- Current project: refining concepts for station areas and responding to FTA’s feedback by developing a **TOD plan including regulatory tools for implementation – zoning, incentives, regulations, and more**

TOD CHARACTERISTICS



MIX OF USES



DIVERSE HOUSING



ACCESSIBLE



GREEN & SUSTAINABLE



VIBRANT PUBLIC REALM



MULTIMODAL



CONNECTED

TOD PLAN: CORE ELEMENTS



EQUITABLE HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

TOD leverages proximity to high-capacity transit, supporting vibrant, livable, equitable, sustainable, multimodal, mixed-use neighborhoods.

ANALYSES & TOOLS that are in the Implementation Plan.

- ✓ Market Analysis
- ✓ Affordable Housing Toolkit
- ✓ Affordable Housing Implementation Strategies



EQUITABLE MOBILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

TOD leverages proximity to high-capacity transit, supporting vibrant, livable, equitable, sustainable, multimodal, mixed-use neighborhoods.

ANALYSES & TOOLS that are in the Implementation Plan.

- ✓ Mobility Audit
- ✓ Transportation Equity Analysis
- ✓ Equitable Transportation Investment Checklist
- ✓ Priority Station Area Conceptual Plans

TOD = COMPLETE COMMUNITY

Anatomy of a Complete Community



TOD CHARACTERISTICS



MIX OF USES



DIVERSE HOUSING



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VIBRANT PUBLIC REALM



MULTIMODAL



CONNECTED



COMPLETE
COMMUNITY
STRATEGY

NSBRT

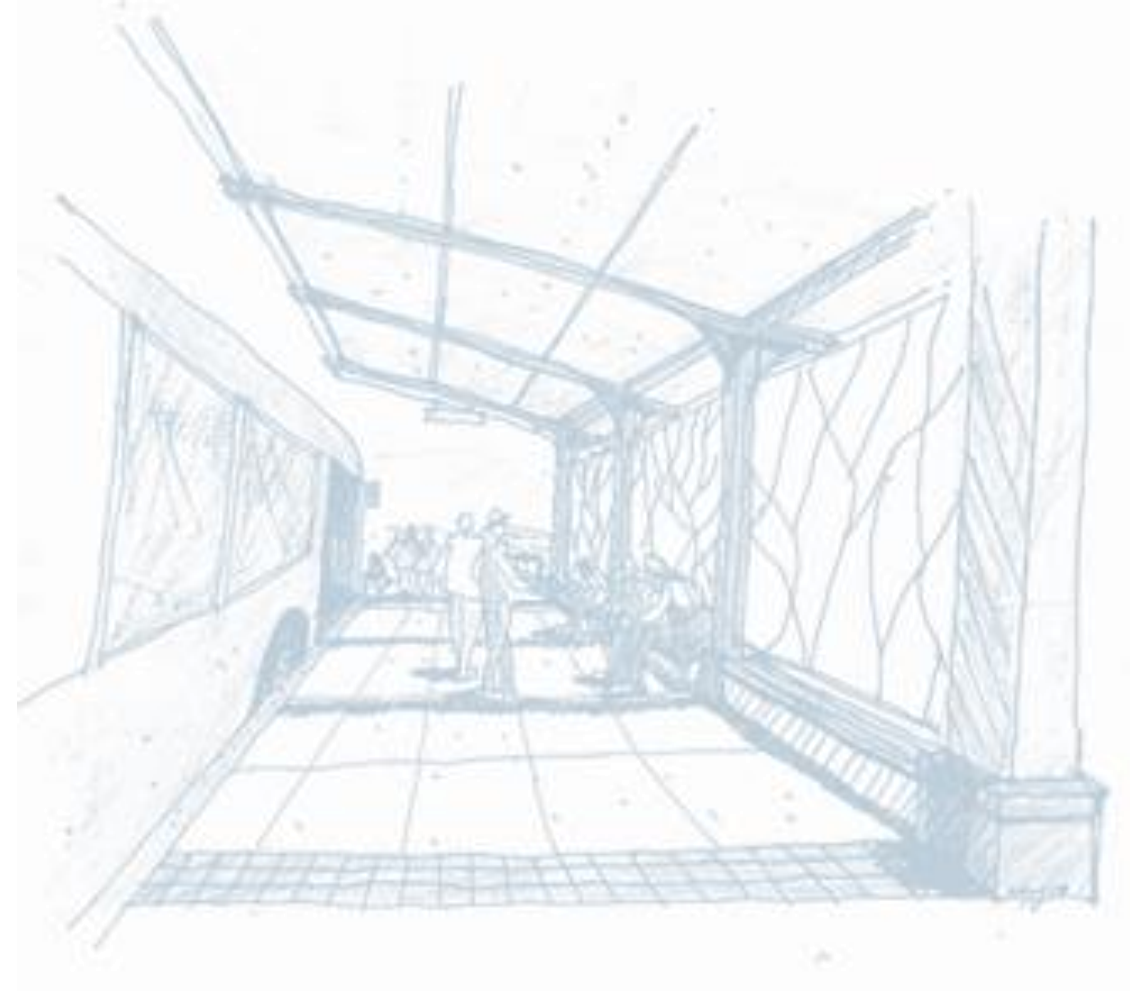
TOD

NEXT STEPS



NSBRT & TOD: NEXT STEPS

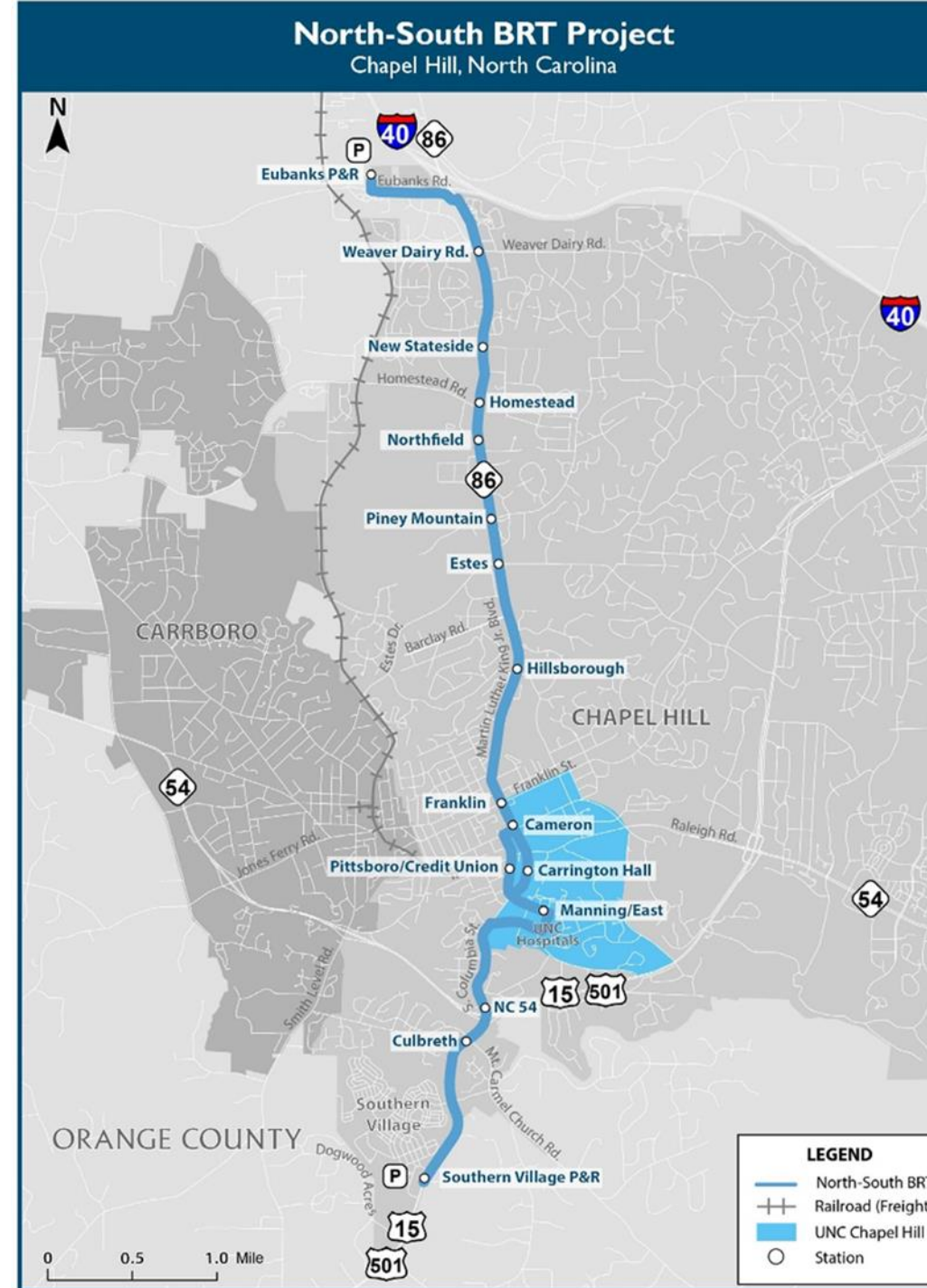
Matt Cecil



RECAP

NSBRT is...

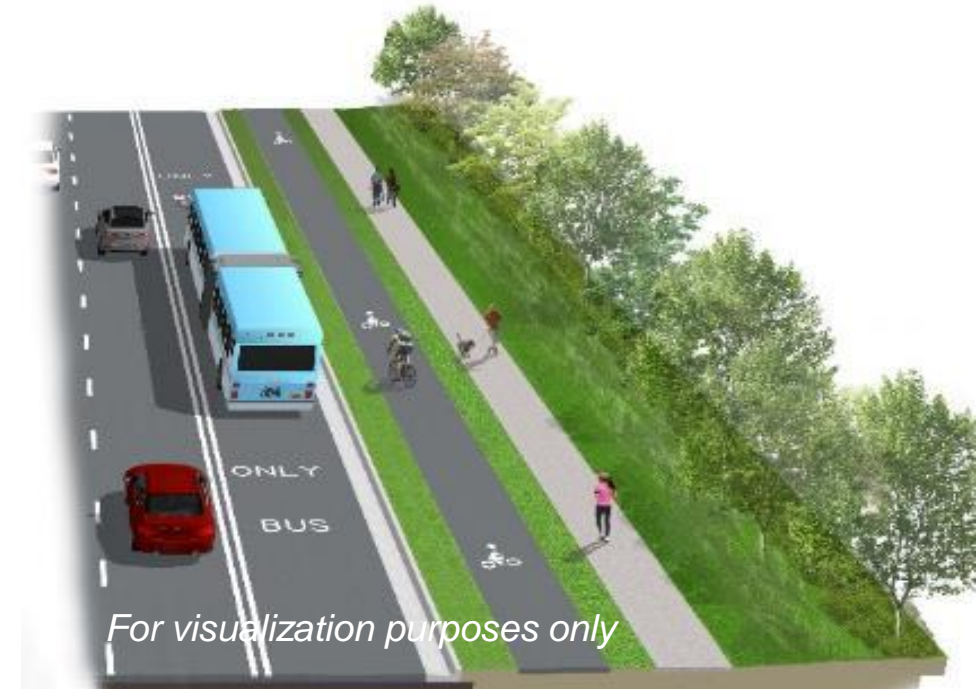
- ✓ A **landmark investment** in Chapel Hill's transportation future and the product of a decade+ of planning and investment
- ✓ A **critical element** of the region's future transit network
- ✓ Financially **positioned for success**
- ✓ A pathway to achieving a **Complete Community**
- ✓ Leading by example as the **only BRT project in a community of our size** in FTA's project development pipeline



RECAP

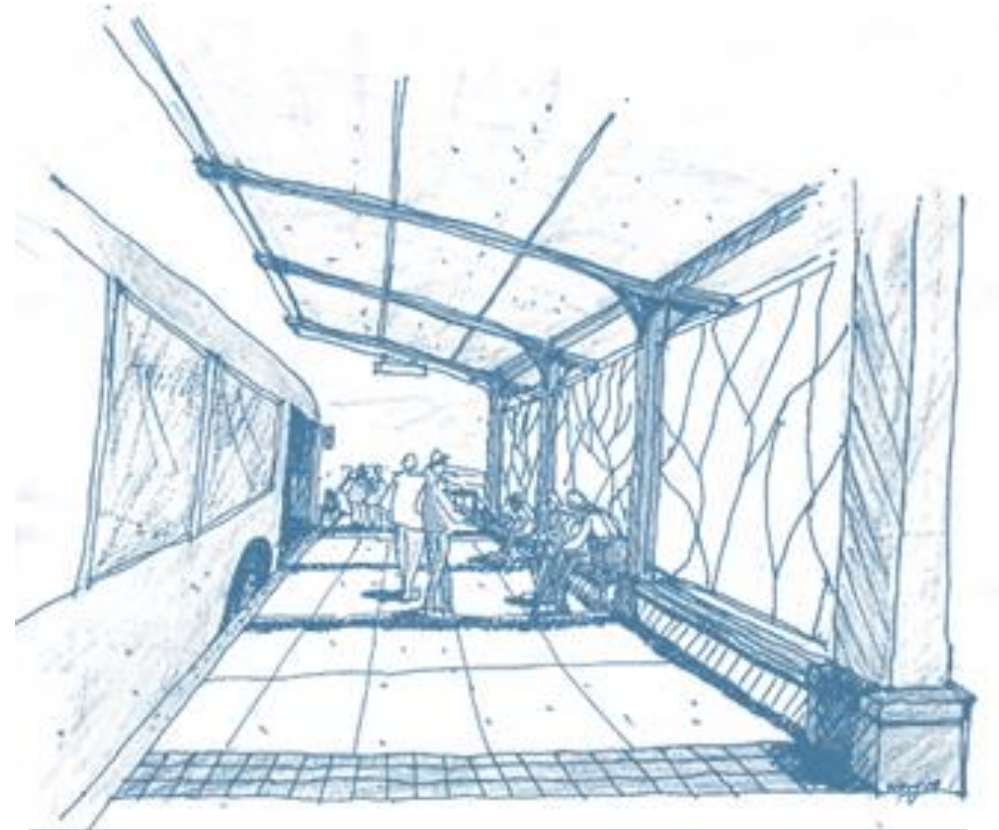
We are also...

- **Competing for the same funding** as other projects, regionally and across the country
- **Depending on high project ratings** to remain competitive and retain our position in the federal funding pipeline
- **Accelerating our pace** to minimize project costs and complete mandatory tasks before FTA's next major deadline (Summer 2023)



NEXT STEPS

- Continue **NEPA, 60% design, and Naming Rights Study** (2022-2023)
- Finalize and review **TOD station area concepts and implementation plan** (Dec. 2022-Jan. 2023)
- Town Council **considers resolution adopting TOD implementation plan as amendment to comprehensive plan**(Feb. 2023)
- Staff prepare for next **FTA Small Starts Grant submittal deadline**(Jan.-Jul. 2023)



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LOOKING AHEAD

Council Engagement



COUNCIL INFORMATION

November 2 RM
Complete Community Proposed decision points and pilot project approach.

November 16 RM
NS-BRT Update
TOD/LUMO Update

November 30 Council Special Meeting
Planning Systems Evaluation Update

December 7 RM
TOD/LUMO LUMO rewrite approaches required to do the TOD.

December 7 RM
Complete Community Accept Pilot Project
Accept Complete Community framework as a part of the Comp Plan.

January 18 WS
PSE Present emerging directions.
TOD Present Station Area and Focus Area plans.

January 25 RM
Accept TOD Implementation Plan/Final Report
Accept PSE emerging directions and revised development review process.

February 15 RM
Stormwater Regulations Technical Report - Final
LUMO Present Draft Code Diagnosis Report.

February 23 RM
TOD **Resolution** - adopt Implementation Plan/Final Report and Complete Community framework as a part of the Comp Plan.

COUNCIL DECISIONS