

RIVER ARTS DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

A section of the

WILMA DYKEMAN RIVERWAY

Environmental Analysis, Project Development, and Preliminary Design

Public Meeting # 2
September 29, 2011
Overview

PRESENTED BY:

WilburSmith
ASSOCIATES

LandDesign

This presentation is an overview of information for the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay River Arts District Transportation Project, including plans, exhibits and forms that were presented at a public meeting held by the City of Asheville. It will also provide information on how to access project information on the City's website.

Public Meeting # 2 Overview

This informational drop-in workshop was held on September 29, 2011 at Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity building on Meadow Road in Asheville, NC.

The purpose of this Public Meeting was to:

- Follow up to Public Meeting # 1 (January 2011)
- Present Refinements of the Alignments
 - Design Criteria
 - Identify Impacts
 - Share Agency Feedback
 - Other Project Information
- Allow for Interactive Public Input & Involvement



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Public meeting # 2 was an informational drop-in workshop was held on September 29, 2011 at the Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity building on Meadow Road in Asheville, NC. At meeting, the consultant team and city staff presented the study process to date and were available to discuss the potential alternatives and gather feedback from members of the public.

Project Background

This project will implement portions of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan, the City of Asheville's 2025 Plan and the City of Asheville Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Greenways Master Plan and will be coordinated with other City plans and initiatives such as "East of the River."



Image from Land Use Plan from the 2025 Plan (2000)

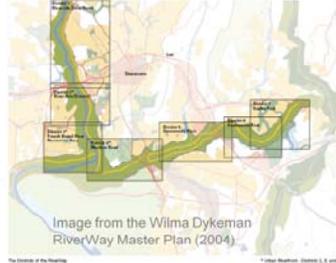


Image from the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan (2004)

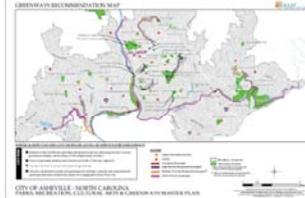


Image from the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Greenways Master Plan (2009)

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This project will implement portions of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan, the City of Asheville's 2025 Plan and the City of Asheville Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Greenways Master Plan and will be coordinated with other City plans and initiatives such as "East of the River."

City of Asheville Website

Links to city approved plans that relate to this project can be found at the City of Asheville website:

<http://www.ashevollenc.gov/>

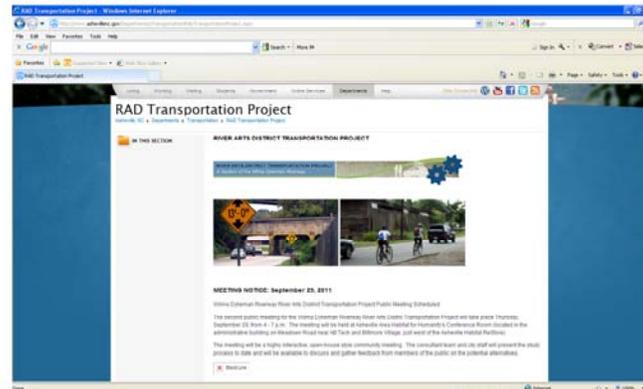


City approved plans can be found at the City's website: www.ashevollenc.gov. For information specific to this project, Select the option "City Progress Projects & Initiatives" The city's website includes project updates and information, as well as past presentations. If you would like a reminder of information presented in January please click the "Public Meeting # 1 Overview" link for an easy to download presentation.

Project Website

Project information regarding this project is available at:

http://ashevillenc.gov/residents/transportation/transportation_planning/default.aspx?id=23772

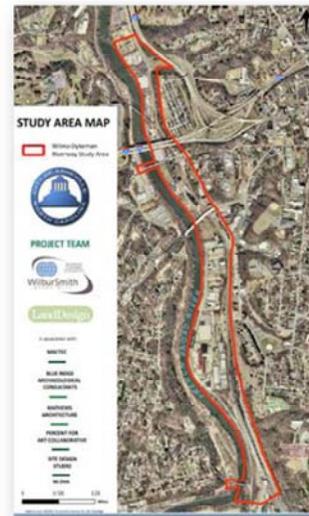


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The exhibits, plans and forms provided at Public Mtg # 2 will also be available for download from the city's project website.

Project Study Area

This current project is a 2.2 mile section of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay. It is bounded on the south by Amboy Road, north by Hill Street, west by the French Broad River, and to the east by Roberts and Depot Streets and the railroad.

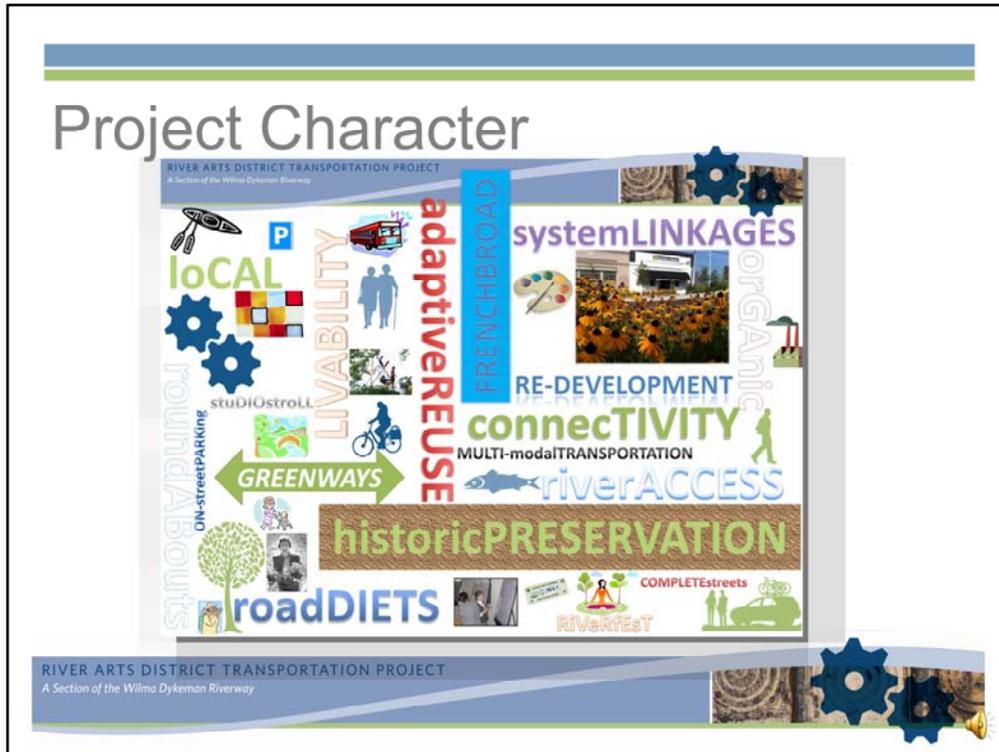


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This project team has had a goal that as much as feasibility possible, all meetings will be in or near the River Arts District and the Project Study Area. To date meetings and/or project work sessions or presentations have been held at : RiverLink, Riverview Station, Asheville Greenworks of Buncombe County, AB Tech, Pink Dog Creative Studios, Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts, and other RAD locations.

Project Character



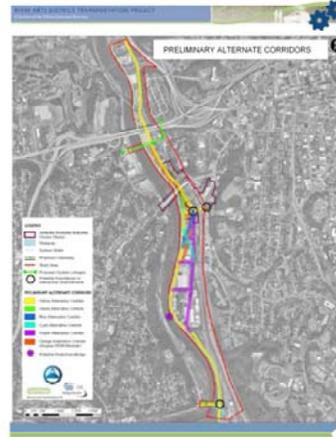
The primary purpose of the proposed transportation improvement project is to enhance the multimodal mobility and system linkages along Lyman Street and Riverside Drive in the River Arts District by providing efficient and convenient access from Amboy Road to Hill Street. The improvements would provide additional mode options for the traveling public and visitors to the River Arts District. These modal and service connections are expected to improve regional pedestrian and bicycle mobility and provide greater access to the revitalizing River Arts District, existing artists' studios, nearby communities, and recreational opportunities along the French Broad River. Project character, as shown on one of the Public Mtg # 2 exhibits is both existing and proposed.



A great deal of work has happened since the Project Kick-off in Summer 2010. These include Existing Conditions Investigation & Due Diligence, study area tours, steering and advisory committee meetings, stakeholder interviews, agency coordination, completing existing conditions reports and developing Preliminary Corridors and Cross Sections. Throughout the project, the public has been kept to date with project newsletters and emails.

Alternative Corridors

In late 2010 and early 2011, the Project Team developed seven (7) concepts and potential improvements which could be incorporated into the development of the alternatives and presented them at Public Meeting # 1 with a randomly assigned color. Each alternative corridor may have different impacts to the natural and physical environment of the River Arts District.



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- The Project Team developed seven (7) concepts and potential improvements which could be incorporated into the development of the alternatives and presented them at Public Meeting # 1 with a randomly assigned color. Each alternative corridor may have different impacts to the natural and physical environment of the River Arts District. The “no-build” or “leave as-is” alternative doesn’t receive a color.
- Yellow is the color assigned to improving the current alignment.
- As a reminder, the “Orange” alignment is the one that matches the alignment shown in the 2004 Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan.
- The other colors Blue, Cyan, Green and Purple were assigned to other conceptual alignments that might be possible. Due to the federal funding of the current study, all “feasible” alternatives must be studied, concepts developed and impacts evaluated.

Public Input to Date

Dots exercise

- Yellow Alternative – 5.4% (2 dots)
- Green Alternative – 10.8% (4 dots)
- Blue Alternative – 13.5% (5 dots)
- Cyan Alternative – 0% (0 dots)
- Purple Alternative – 70.3% (26 dots)
- Orange Alternative – 0% (0 dots)



RiverWay \$'s



Image from Public Meeting # 1 at AB Tech (January 2011)

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The NEPA process for this project requires public involvement as part of the findings of the assessment of impact,. This project is meeting that through a series of audiences and over 40 + meetings to date. This Public Meeting # 2 is a follow up to the first citizen workshop held in January 2011 at AB Tech. At that meeting, the community was asked to weigh in their preferences thru a series of exercises, including dots on a map to indicate preference of alignment, spending Riverway \$ on potential improvements, and providing written comments.

Public Meeting Exercise Results

- Support for future Pedestrian Bridge
- Wider bicycle lanes
- Community desire to help with the outreach
- Preservation of the character of the area
- Proximity / Business impacts concerns
- Historic Resources Protection
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety
- Supported for Purpose and Need

Public Comments in Feb. 2011

Brief Summary of Comments Reviewed following the Meeting 30-day Comment Period.



- Some comments were general about aspirations for district character;
- Some comments were reviewed and identified to be incorporated (sidewalks, bike lanes);
- Some comments have not been incorporated i.e. the design team reviewed, researched and made such a recommendation to the Steering Committee and City Staff; and
- Some recommendations were outside the project limits i.e. parking or recreational/park improvements outside the study area boundary.

Challenges Identified by the Project Team

- Not all alignments were supported by some community members;
- All alignments (except "no-build") increase potential right-of-way in a constrained corridor;
- All alignments (except "no-build") impact historic properties and/or parcels and business;
- All alignments impact natural and environmental resources;
- Public expectation is high about what will be included and when;
- Final Design, Phasing and Construction timeline has not been determined; and
- The current project stops at 30% preliminary design.

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Timeline Since Early 2011

- ✓ Submit Plans to Agency Review
- ✓ Respond to Agency Requests
- ✓ Steering Committee Meetings (April)
- ✓ Advisory Committee Updates (June, July and August)
- ✓ Project Work Sessions (June, July, August & Sept)
- ✓ Stakeholder Meetings (such as property owners, AARRC ,etc)
- ✓ Multiple Meetings with City Staff and State & Federal Agencies
- ✓ Prepare for Public Meeting # 2
 - ✓ Plans, Exhibits, 3D Model, Screening Matrix,
 - ✓ Environment Document (Draft)



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Responding to the challenges

Public Meeting Notice

- Advertised on City's webpage
- Email Blasts & Reminders
- Mailed out notices to property owners within and adjacent the study area
- Hand delivered meeting notices to artist studios within the RAD

**Public Workshop #2 Notice
for the River Arts District
Transportation Project**

The City of Asheville cordially invites you to an informational drop-in workshop for the River Arts District Transportation Project.

The consultant team and city staff will present the study process to date and will be available to discuss and gather feedback from members of the public on the potential preferred alignment for the River Arts District multi-modal transportation improvement.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION and LIMITS: The purpose of the project is to improve the transportation infrastructure and the multi-modal system linkages along Lynum Street and Riverside Drive between Amboy Road and Hill Street which contains the River Arts District.

The River Arts District Transportation project focuses on a 2.2 mile section of the planned Wilma Dykeman Riverway. The project is currently funded for the Environmental Documentation and the Preliminary Engineering phase.

WHEN: Thursday, September 29th
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

WHERE:
Asheville Area Habitat for
Humanity's Conference Room
80 S. Meadow Road
Asheville, NC 28801

We look forward to your participation!
Project information regarding the completed study is
available via web at:
<http://info.asheville.org/transportationproject/rad>
stephen.pankowitz@asheville.com

By Mail
Dan Bachwald, AICP
City of Asheville Transportation Department
700 East Plaza, Room 501
Asheville, NC 28801

By Email or Phone
Stephen Pankowitz, RLA, AIA
Landmarks
Telephone: 828.252.3447 or 828.337.6120
Email: stephen.pankowitz@asheville.com

Deadline for submissions is October 28, 2011

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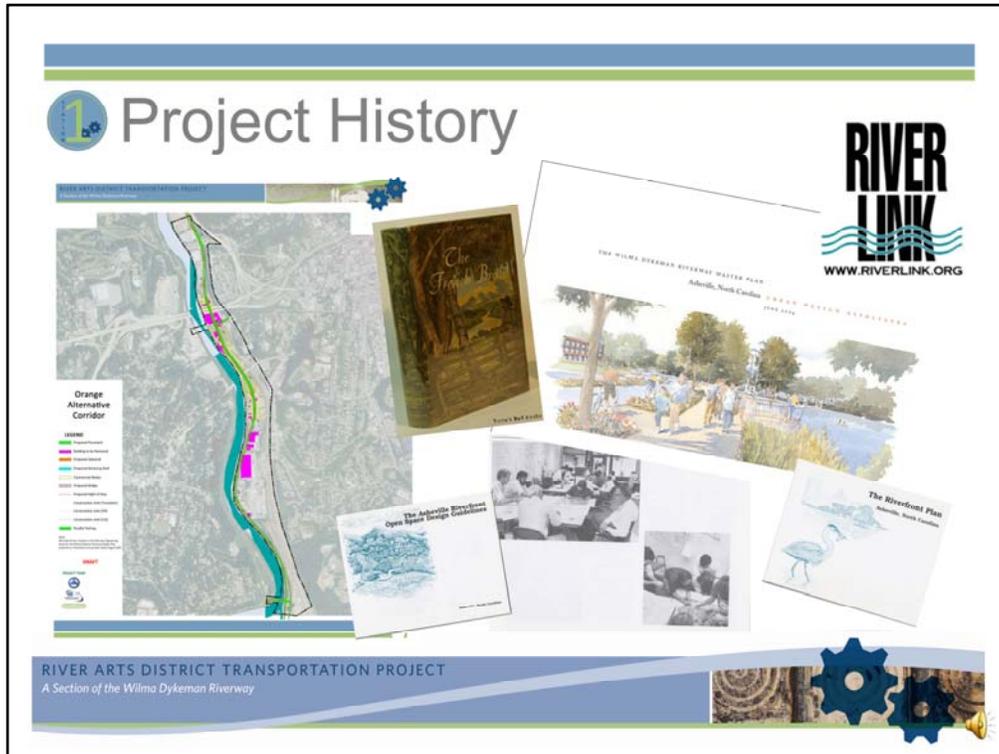
Public Meeting # 2 Layout

- Six (6) Information & Input Stations

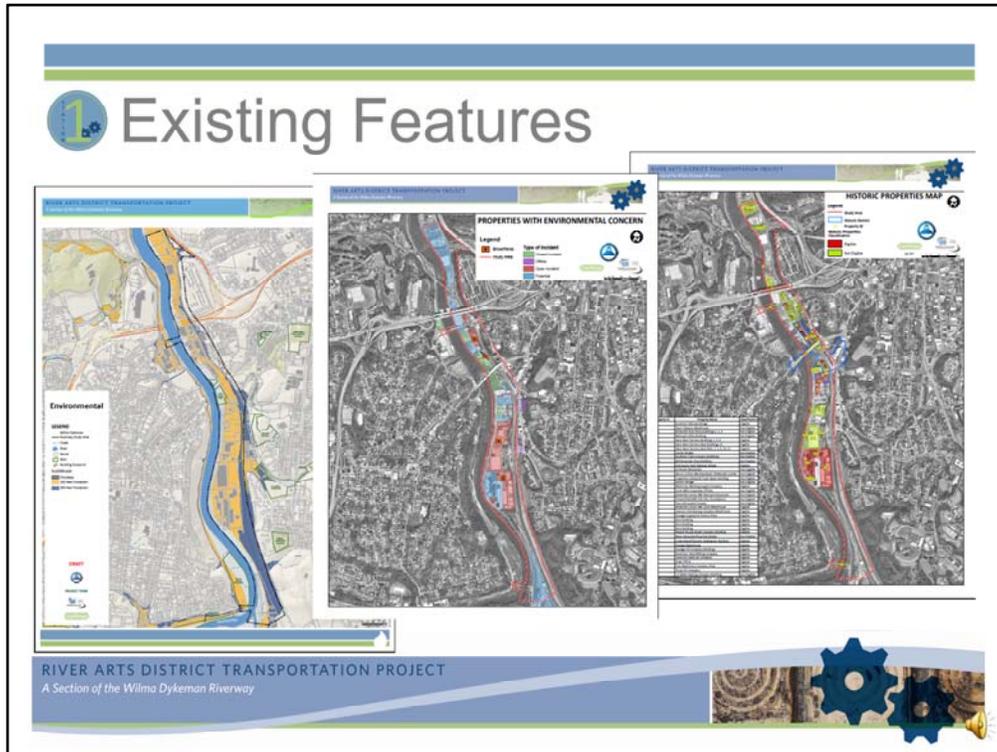


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The public meeting layout was carefully planned by the team so that each station provided useful information to meeting attendees. These included a Sign-in Table with meeting handout that described each station as well as hanging signs that identified each station and order in the meeting room.



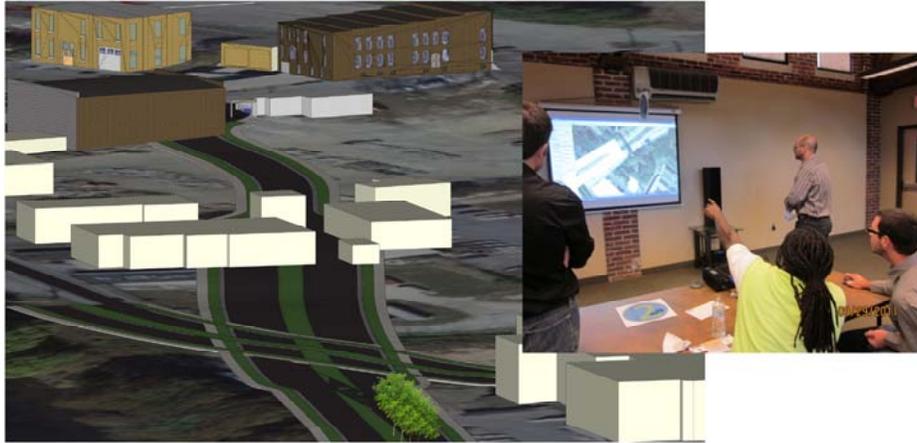
- Station No. 1 contained a table with the original 2004 WDR Master Plan as well as other background documents, books and maps – purpose was give all attendees history about the project. Reminder that this current project is implementing these past local plans and nearly 100 years of working to preserve and enhance the river.



- And station no. 1 include Existing Features Exhibits prepared for the current projects such as
 - Environmental, including updated with current state lidar map floodway lines
 - Properties with environmental concern, and
 - Historic properties, including updated information from the state historic preservation office on which properties were potentially eligible to be historic

There are federal laws that protect certain natural resources and historic sites.

2 Google Earth 3D Model



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Station 2

- Interactive 3D Model in Google Earth
- Display of each alternative as separate layer
- Shows impacts to business and historic properties
- Shows proposed cross section

3 3D Model “Flythrough”



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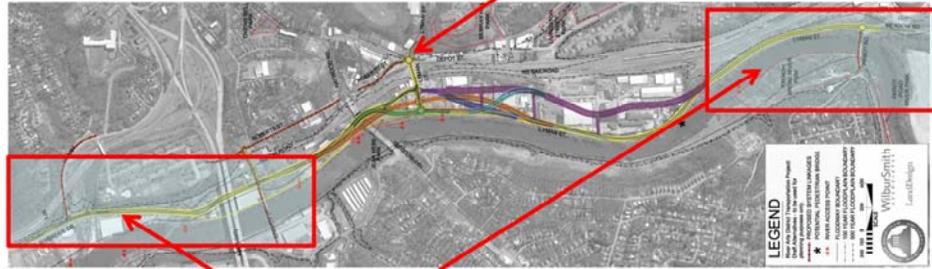


Station 3

- Looping video of alternatives
- Flythrough of each alternative
- Includes easy to understand labels of the alternative “color” as well as local landmarks

4 Alternatives Exhibits

Combined Exhibit



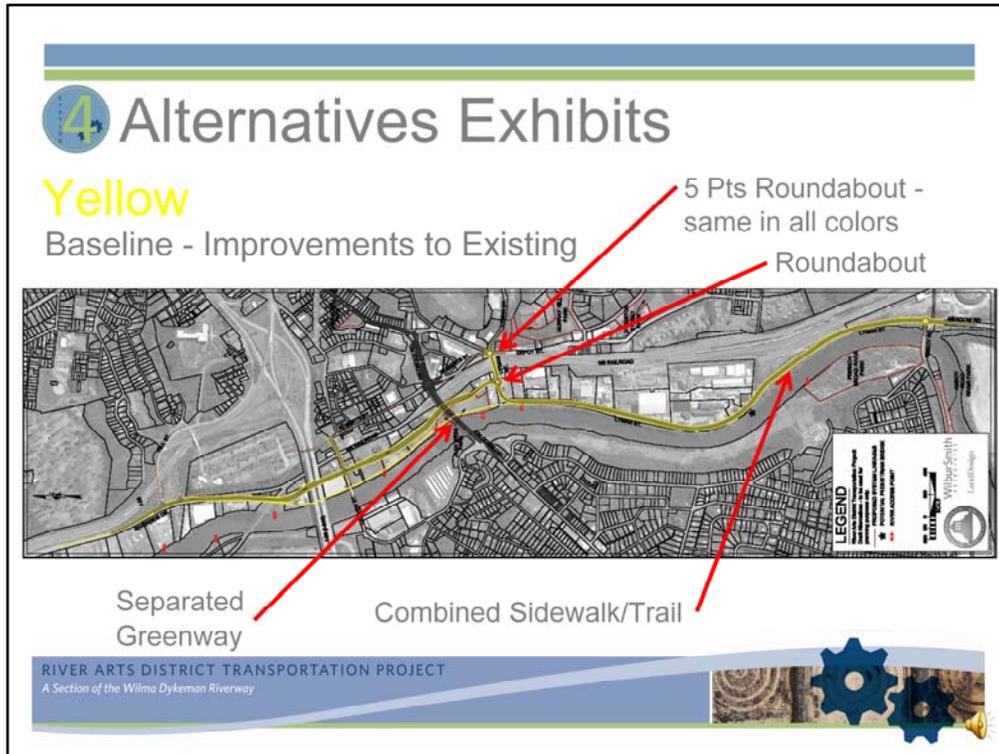
Segments same in all colors

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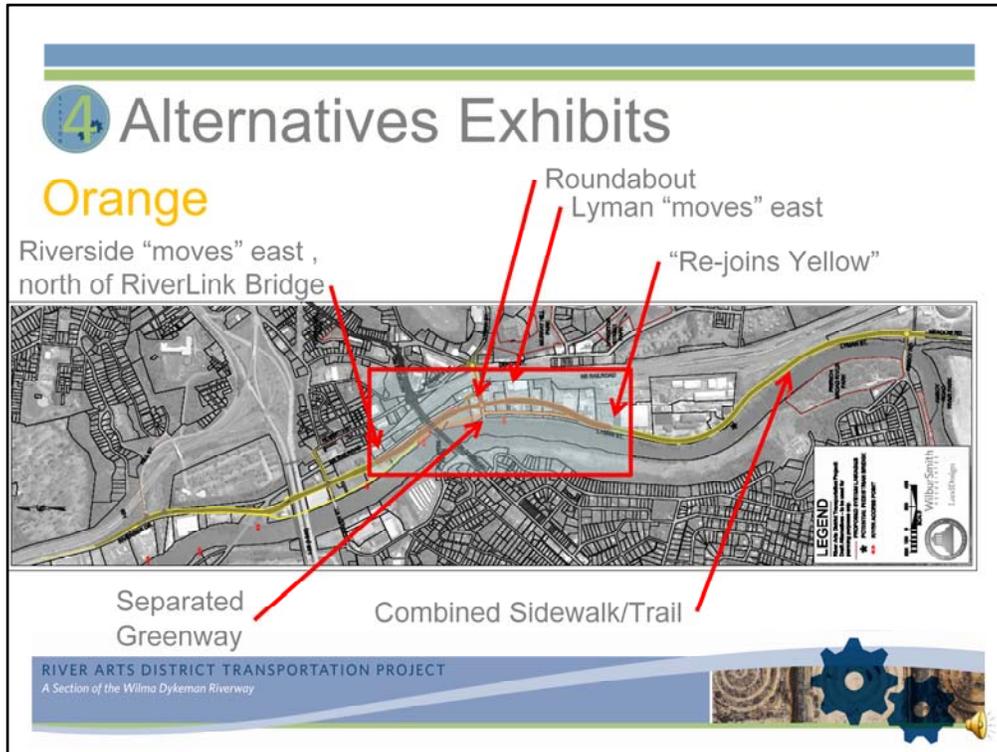


Station 4

- There were several exhibits that presented the alternatives. One was a large format exhibit that showed all of the alternatives combined on one map so that each corridor can be compared on the same sheet. This includes Yellow, Orange, Blue, Green, Cyan and Purple. The arrows and boxes on the next slides are just a few of the elements in each alternative. We encourage you to carefully study the impacts and benefits of each alternative.



- Then the yellow exhibit was shown as a stand along exhibit for the entire corridor on one sheet. Remember the yellow alignment is the one that shows the existing Riverside and Lyman streets in their current location, only with proposed improvements such as sidewalks, bike lanes and median.



Orange, Blue, Green, Cyan & Purple were shown with those colors only in areas that are different from Yellow.

Orange is the alignment that matches the original Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan and proposes a new roundabout close to 12 Bones.

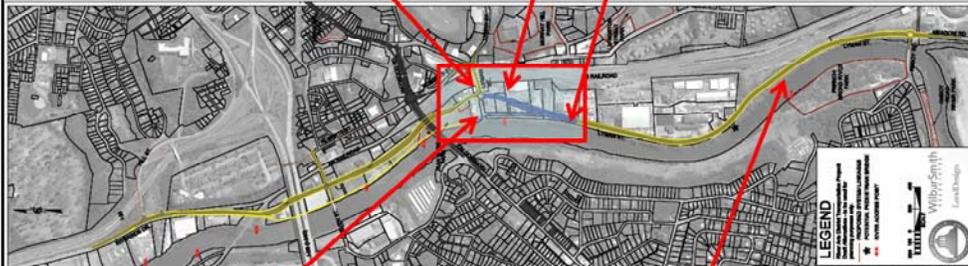
4 Alternatives Exhibits

Blue

Begins with Roundabout at
12 Bones & Curve Studios

Lyman "moves" further east

"Re-joins" Yellow



Separated
Greenway

Combined Sidewalk/Trail

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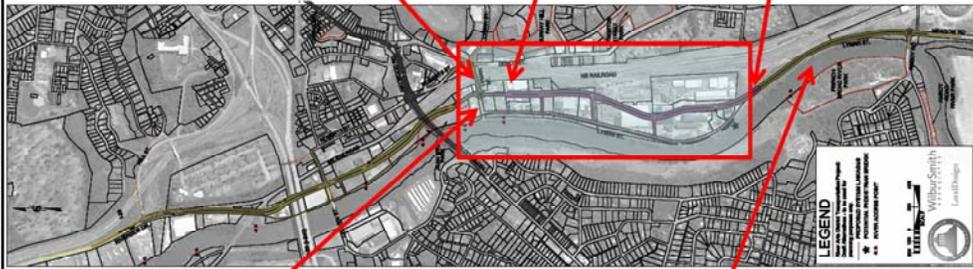
- Blue is different from Yellow in the area shown in Red Box and proposes a new roundabout between Curve Studios, 12 Bones and the Stone yard properties. The blue alignment goes thru the Stone Yard properties and then "re-joins" the yellow alignment past Mountain Energy.

4 Alternatives Exhibits

Purple

Begins with Roundabout at
12 Bones & Curve Studios

Lyman "moves" further east from
stone yard to Riverview Station
"Re-joins" Yellow



Separated
Greenway

Combined Sidewalk/Trail

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- In the purple alignment, Lyman Road "moves" away from the River. The current road alignment would become the French Broad River Greenway east segment.

4 Alternatives Exhibits

Cyan & Purple Hybrid

Begins with Roundabout at
12 Bones & Curve Studios

Lyman "stays" on current

Lyman "moves" east & joins purple



Separated
Greenway

Combined Sidewalk/Trail

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- The difference is that the cyan does not go thru the stone yard parcel

4 Alternatives Exhibits

Green, Cyan & Purple Hybrid

Small street to access
Curve Studios

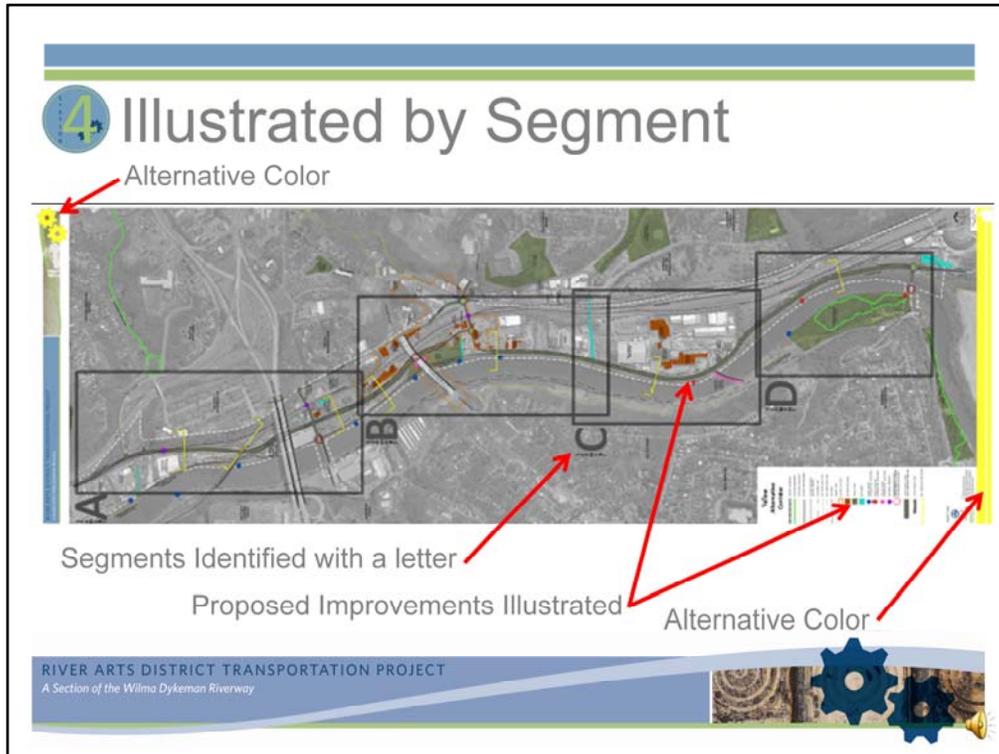
Roundabouts

Lyman "stays" on current until it "joins" Cyan

Riverside "moves" west towards River and thru Jean Webb Park

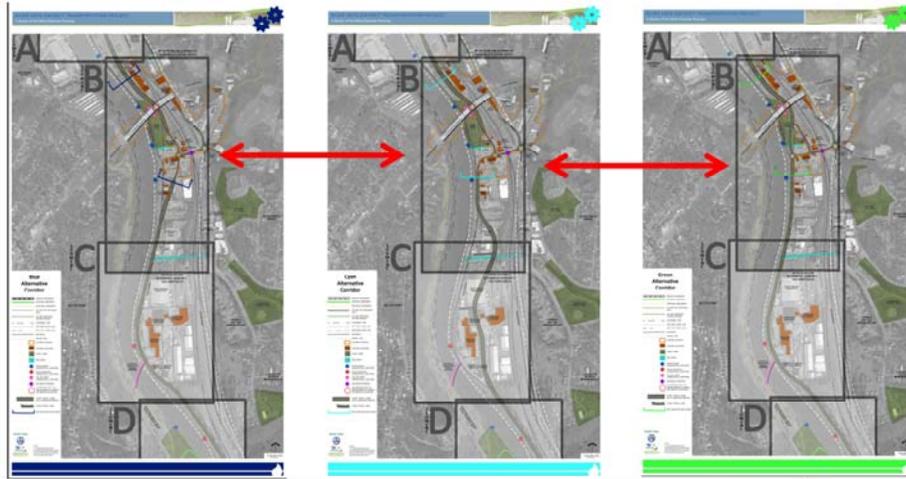
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- Green goes thru Jean Webb Park and places a roundabout between 12 bones and the River



Each alternative was then illustrated in a diagrammatic manner, in order to highlight the proposed improvements. The color of each alternative was noted in the exhibit title block. For all alternatives, segments A and D are the same. The areas that need to be compared are B and C.

4 Segments Comparisons



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For Orange, Blue, Cyan, Green and Purple – compare Segment C road alignments and multi-modal transportation improvements

4 Segments Comparisons



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Continuing comparing segments B all colors. For Segment C, compare Purple and Yellow.

4 Illustrated Cross Sections

YELLOW ALTERNATIVE - SECTION B1

GREEN ALTERNATIVE - SECTION B1

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Representative Cross sections are shown for each color in each segment so they can be compared side by side.

4 RiverWay \$ Exercise



Improvement categories:

1. Separated Greenway
2. On-Street Parking
3. Large Shade Tree in Landscape Strip
4. Wider Concrete Sidewalk
5. Landscaped Median in Center
6. Undergrounding Utilities

With this exercise, we need you to “put your money where your preferences are” which will in turn tell us what your priorities are for the River Arts District Transportation Project. This exercise is important since space is limited in some areas between the river, RR and other historic and natural resources. Simply take your Six (6) RiverWay dollars and put them where you think they need to go. How best would you spend this money if you had to make choices with the elements shown in the cross section? A separated greenway in all segments even it that requires retaining walls or elevated boardwalks? On-street parking? A large shade tree in a wider landscape strip or a wider concrete sidewalk back of curb which may mean acquiring more ROW? Or would you prefer a landscape median in the center or to underground the overhead utility lines? You may spend one dollar on each category available or put them all together to have more impact on one option—it's your choice! Find the bowl in front of the improvement category you prefer and place your dollar(s) in there. We will then tabulate the results to find out your priorities for the River Arts District Transportation Project.

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After reviewing the diagrams, exhibits and cross sections, meeting attendees were invited provide input on potential future enhancements proposed for the River Arts District by placing 6 Riverway \$s in 6 categories including separated greenway, on-street parking, landscape strip, wider sidewalk, landscape center median, or undergrounding utilities. This feedback will be used to identify community priorities when there is not room to accommodate all improvements.

5 Impacts ID'd with Dot

- Business or Personal Properties
- Recreation Areas or Parks
- Historic or Archeological Sites
- Hazardous Waste Sites
- Other (Please Explain w/ a Note)

The dots on the maps will provide one snapshot of the community's recommendations on impacts to avoid or minimize.

This is one many input opportunities for you to help us prioritize alternatives for the River Arts District Transportation Project.

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With this exercise, everyone was invited to assist the team with locating specific sensitive areas that they ID'd in the Survey Questionnaire Question 7. These are areas that community members or stakeholders think should be considered or avoided if a new or improved route is constructed in the study area. Please place a colored dot on the maps available at this station & Please pick your choice from the following list:

5 Purpose & Need

The primary purpose of the proposed transportation improvement project is to enhance the multimodal mobility and system linkages along Lyman Street and Riverside Drive in the River Arts District by providing efficient and convenient access from Amboy Road to Hill Street. The improvements would provide additional mode options for the traveling public and visitors to the River Arts District. These modal and service connections are expected to improve regional pedestrian and bicycle mobility and provide greater access to the revitalizing River Arts District, existing artists' studios, nearby communities, and recreational opportunities along the French Broad River.

The secondary purpose of the project is to address the social demands of the community to provide access to the riverfront and the revitalizing River Arts District as manifested in the various plans that culminated in the 2004 Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Master Plan and other ongoing planning activities.

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This exercise was prepared in order to evaluate each alternative against the project purpose and need, which has been refined since the project start, due to city , state & federal agency input

5 Screening Matrix

DRAFT Purpose & Need Screening Matrix

Does the Alternative include ...	Yellow	Green	Blue	Cyan	Purple	Orange	No Build
Purpose 1: Improve Multimodal Mobility and System Linkages							
Improved greenway linkages? <i>(including future & proposed shown on the City's Greenway MP)</i>							
Improved bike lane linkages? <i>(i.e. future & proposed shown on the City's Transportation Plan)</i>							
Improved pedestrian linkages? <i>(including future & proposed linkage to adjacent neighborhoods)</i>							
Improved transit linkages? <i>(such as the existing bus stops on Haywood Road & W. Asheville)</i>							
Improved blueway linkages? <i>(there is a separate local initiative for a French Broad River Paddle Trail in this area)</i>							
Purpose 2: Address Social Demands							
Increased access to riverway? <i>(boating, kayaking & fishing, or viewing, walking/running/biking/riding or parking by etc)</i>							
Increased frontage for development? <i>(in this context, means as shown in the RiverWay MP & 2025 plans)</i>							
Enhanced connections with local streets? <i>(could be existing or proposed)</i>							
Enhanced ecological sustainability? <i>(riparian buffers, stormwater management, habitat enhancement, etc)</i>							

Fully Addresses Criteria
 Partially Addresses Criteria
 Does Not Address Criteria

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Note: This is a draft qualitative assessment of the alternatives prepared by the project consultant team for use at Public Meeting # 2 Input Station. Following this public meeting and the 30 day comment period, it will be evaluated and refined based on public comment and agency review. We invite you to take one of the blank matrix forms, fill out and provide to the team along with any additional suggestions you may have about evaluating the alternatives.

5 Screening Matrix

DRAFT Goals Screening Matrix

Does the Alternative ...	Yellow	Green	Blue	Cyan	Purple	Orange	No Build
Implement previous plans? <i>(such as the Wilma Dykeman Riverway MP, City's 2013 Land Use Plan, Greenway MP, etc)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Create a unique gateway? <i>(request City MP call for this area to be a distinctive streetway/gateway to the City)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Connect adjacent neighborhoods? <i>(i.e. Hillcrest, Montford, West Asheville, WECAN, Downtown, South French Broad, Riverway, etc)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Promote "Smart Growth" principles? <i>(might include multi-modal transportation, livable communities, transit use, etc)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Increase multimodal choices? <i>(such as walking, biking, kayaking, riding mass transit in addition to traveling in a car)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Enhance economic competitiveness & sustainable redevelopment? <i>(such as the vision shown in the WD Riverway and 2023 Plan)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Provide recreational opportunities? <i>(this could be river related activities such as fishing, viewing, kayaking or items like greenways and bike lanes or parks and open space areas)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Improve environmental protection and water quality? <i>(like providing for a wider riparian buffer and stormwater management or habitat enhancement)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Develop opportunities for streetscapes, amenities, and public art? <i>(including street trees, benches, overlooks, performance space & plazas, signage and art)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Minimize conflict points for bicyclists and pedestrians? <i>(this could be by providing RR crossing improvements or improved intersections & facilities)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
Preserve future mobility through access management? <i>(such as median breaks, intersection improvements, new urban village streets, etc)</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					

Fully Addresses Criteria
 Partially Addresses Criteria
 Does Not Address Criteria

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Note: This is a draft qualitative assessment of the alternatives prepared by the project consultant team for use at Public Meeting # 2 Input Station. Following this public meeting and the 30 day comment period, it will be evaluated and refined based on public comment and agency review. We invite you to take one of the blank matrix forms, fill out and provide to the team along with any additional suggestions you may have about evaluating the alternatives.



Individual Preferences

Public Input – Please mark your preferred corridor alternative on this map and return to the design team by October 29, 2011



Based on the information presented at Public Meeting #2, please mark on this map your preferred alternative alignment of the entire corridor from north to south (left to right). Thank you!

Your name: _____ Organization/Neighborhood (if any): _____

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Based on the information presented at Public Meeting #2, please mark on this map your preferred alternative alignment of the entire corridor from north to south (left to right). Response to this questions will be compiled in order to identify the community preferred alignments (or hybrids of alignments).

6 Public Art Opportunities

- Examples of Public Art
- Receive Feedback from public on how to incorporate art within the study area
- Show examples of opportunities



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At this station the team shared examples of public art, highlighted opportunities for public art within this study area and received feedback from public on ideas about how to incorporate art within the study area.

Your Input Requested!

- This meeting was a very important step to receive community input on the preferred alignment and attributes for the proposed River Arts District multi-modal-transportation improvements.
- Related to this meeting, there will be a 30-day comment period that ends **October 29, 2011**.



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Any member of the community is invited and encourage to comment and provide input on the project, whether you were able to attend the meeting or not.

 LandDesign 
Public Meeting #2 Feedback Form

Your name: _____ Organization/Neighborhood (if any): _____

If you did not return this form at the meeting, please send your written comments to:
Dan Baechtold, AICP, Project Manager, City of Asheville -Transportation Department,
70 Court Plaza, Room 101, Asheville, NC 28801
By Email or Phone, please contact Stephanie Pankiewicz, RLA, ASLA, LandDesign
Telephone: 828.281.1447 or 828.337.6190
Email: SPankiewicz@landdesign.com

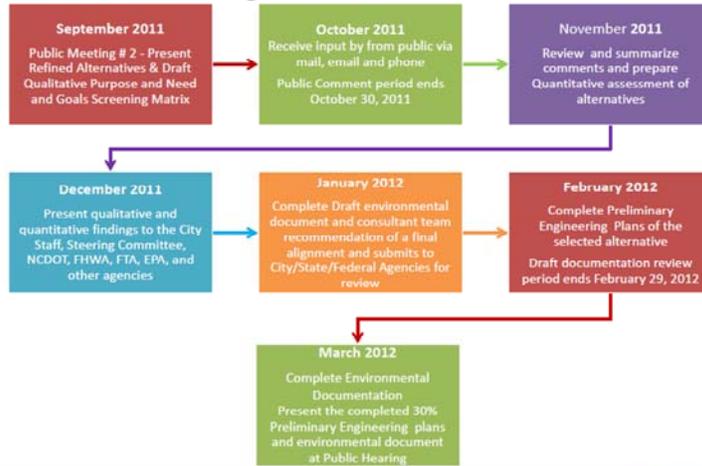
Project information is available via web at: http://ashevillenc.gov/residents/transportation/transportation_planning/default.aspx?id=23772

RIVER ARTS DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PROJECT
A Section of the Wilma Dykeman Riverway



This comment form can be mailed or emailed per the instructions notes.
Please return by October 29, 2011.

Current Project Schedule



RIVER ARTS DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PROJECT
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Project Current Overview. Thank you!