



# Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for participating in the first public workshop for the River Arts District Transportation Project, a section of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay.

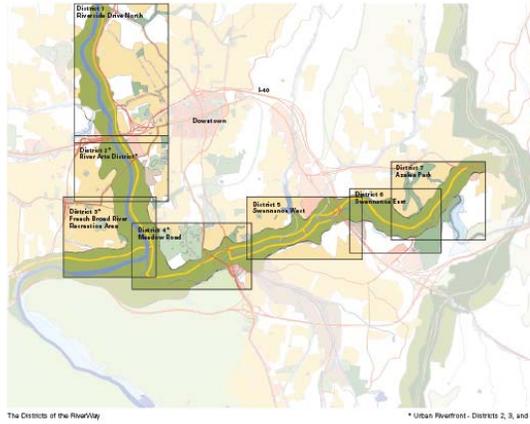
RIVER ARTS DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PROJECT  
A Section of the Wilma Dykeman Riverway



Welcome and thank you for participating in the first public workshop for the River Arts District Transportation Project, a section of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay. The purpose of this informational workshop is to obtain input on the purpose and need of the project, potential alternative corridors, and to present existing environmental and community features. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have regarding the study area and your vision for the River Arts District.

# The RiverWay Plan

The Wilma Dykeman RiverWay is a 17 mile corridor along the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers. The Master Plan consolidates 20 years of planning for the redevelopment of the urban riverfront corridor by RiverLink and was adopted by the City of Asheville.



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The Wilma Dykeman Riverway is a 17 mile corridor along the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers. RiverLink spearheaded the RiverWay Master Plan and it was adopted by the City of Asheville.

## 2025 Plan

The City's 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan identifies this project area within the RiverWay as a Gateway Boulevard and highlights opportunities for future neighborhood redevelopment, urban villages, parks and recreation.



The City's 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan calls the RiverWay a Gateway Boulevard and highlights opportunities for neighborhood redevelopment, urban villages, parks and recreation.

## 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 current project is a 2.2 mile section of the overall Wilma Dykeman Riverway and is bounded on the south by Amboy Road, north by Hill Street, west by the French Broach River, and the east by Roberts and Depot Streets and the railroad.

## Project Area Character

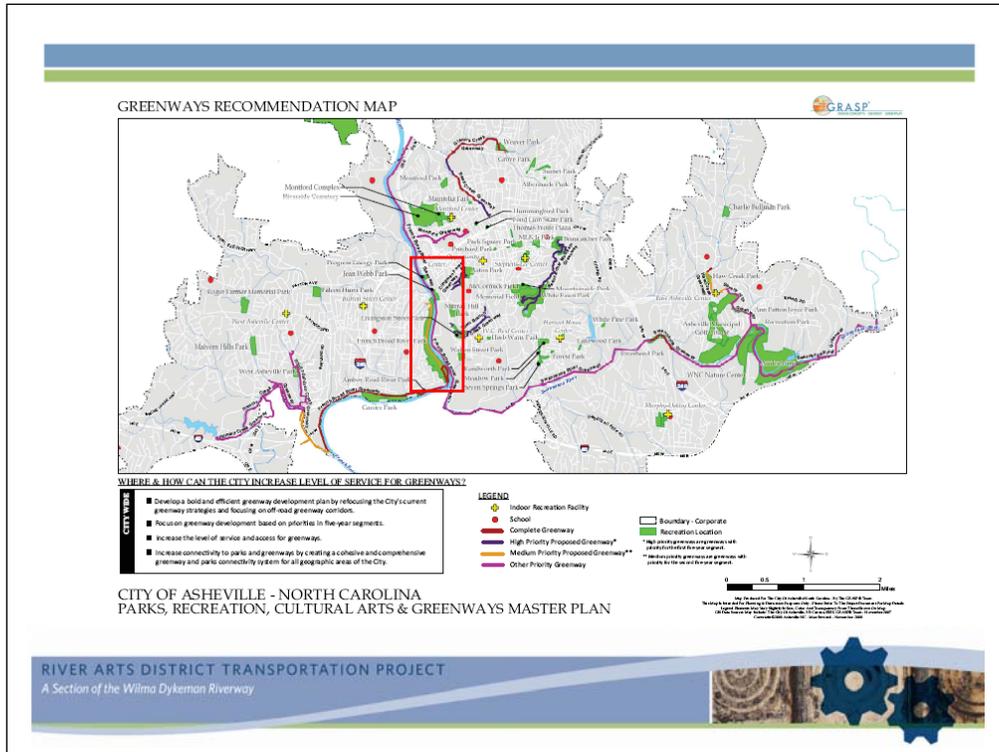
- Cultural Arts
- Bridges
- Greenways
- Mix of Land Uses
- Local Materials
- Multi-modal Transportation
- Parks & Recreation
- River Access Points
- Open Space
- Signage
- Streetscape
- Artist Studios
- Retail & Business
- Industry
- Tourism



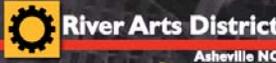
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Within and adjacent the project area, the character is diverse and includes many great resources that will be enhanced through this project.



The Greenway highlighted with the red box is designated as the “French Broad River Greenway” on the City of Asheville Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts & Greenways Master Plan. The east segment is within this current project area. This Greenway connects the River Arts District, Amboy Road river park system and West Asheville, along with the future Buncombe County Hwy 251 Greenway.



### Map of the River Arts District








*Come Down to the River and Explore!*

- 120 Working Studios
- 13 Historic Buildings
- 3 Restaurants
- 1 Microbrewery
- Free Parking

Many artists are open year 'round – Look for the  to locate business hours.

## studio stroll™

**2nd FULL weekend of every June & November, 10am – 6pm**

**RIVER ARTS DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**  
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The project area covers the River Arts District. The River District Artists are a community of over 100 artists with studios in the District and related businesses. They produce highly attended events such as the twice yearly Studio Strolls.

## General Description

“Roadway, Greenway and Sidewalk Improvements along the corridor of Lyman Street and a portion of Riverside Drive from Amboy Road to Hill Street.”



BIKE LANE ADJACENT TO ON-STREET PARKING



AMBOY ROAD GREENWAY

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The current project proposes Roadway, Greenway, and Sidewalk Improvements along the corridor of Lyman Street and a portion of Riverside Drive from Amboy Road to Hill Street. It is funded by a federal appropriations grant. The project newsletter available today provides more detail about the potential improvements to the public infrastructure within this project area.

## Current Project

- Unique Study Area
- NEPA Requirements
- Comprehensive Public Involvement Process
- Challenges/Opportunities
- Locally Preferred Alt.
- Preliminary Engineering
- Make it real...implementation



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This a unique study area which has many challenges and opportunities. The project will include a comprehensive public involvement process and provide preliminary engineered drawings. NEPA must be followed since the current project is receiving Federal funding. The original RiverWay Master Plan was a concept master plan funded by different sources and was not required to follow NEPA requirements. Whenever federal funds or actions occur that could effect the environment, an analysis needs to be made to determine the impacts.

## So, what is NEPA about?

- Involving the public in decisions using federal money
- Documenting Existing Conditions and the potential Project “significant” impact.
  - **Does not mean that individuals or businesses will not be impacted in a way that feels “significant” to them**
  - **Measured from the broader community perspective, not the individual perspective**

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NEPA is the National Environmental Protection Act and requires that the public is involved in making informed decisions and existing Conditions must be thoroughly documented and significant impacts must be analyzed and measured. *At today's meeting you can view another presentation called NEPA 101 that explains more specifically the NEPA requirements.*

# Public Involvement

As finding of the assessment of impact, the NEPA process requires public involvement. This project is meeting that through a series of audiences and over 30 + meetings to date:

- ✓ Steering Committee
- ✓ Advisory Committee
- ✓ Primary Partners
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ General Public
- ✓ Public Hearing  
(at the end of the project)



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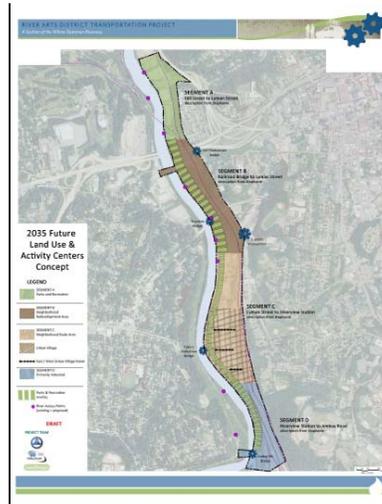
This project is meeting the public involvement requirement through a series of audiences (30 + meetings to date), including meetings with the steering committee, advisory committee, primary partners such as NCDOT, stakeholders, including landowners, business owners and artist in the district and public meetings *such as this one*.

Photo is the September Advisory Committee Study Area Tour in the Asheville red trolley

## Purpose and Need

For this Project might include:

- Flexibility in design
- Multi-modal linkages
- Land planning
- Environmental protection
- Economic development
- Uniquely Asheville solution

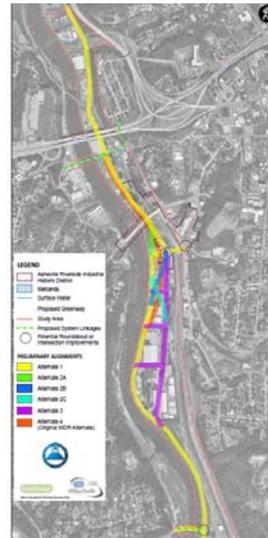


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The primary purpose of the project is to improve the transportation infrastructure and the multimodal system linkages. The secondary purpose of the project is to address the social demands to provide access to the riverfront and the revitalizing River Arts District. A range of other project purposes, needs and goals will be evaluated. The design will need to be flexible, protect the environment and be a uniquely Asheville solution.

## Corridor Alternatives

The Project Team has developed several concepts and potential improvements which could be incorporated into the development of the alternatives. Each alternative corridor may meet different aspects of the project purpose and needs and have different impacts to the natural and physical environment of the River Arts District.



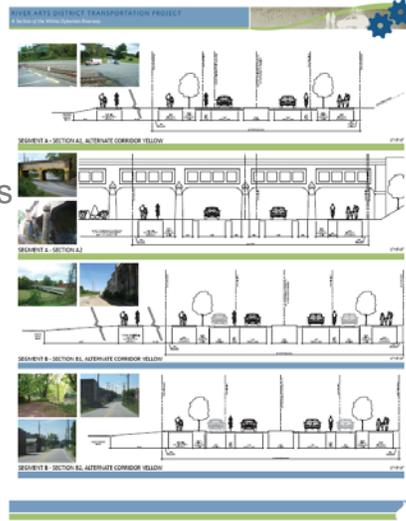
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The Project Team has developed several concepts and potential improvements which could be incorporated into the development of the alternatives. Each alternative corridor may meet different aspects of the project purpose and needs and have different impacts to the natural and physical environment of the River Arts District. This could include Economic Historic Properties, Wetlands, Noise and Air Quality impacts among others. *You are invited to provide comments and input on each corridor alternative and cross sections.*

# Alternatives

- Build upon previous work/studies
- Understand Challenges
- Take a fresh look at Opportunities
- Different ways to meet Purpose & Need
- Likely alternatives will include:
  - Improve & Relocate streets
  - Sidewalk/multiuse path
  - Transit stops, Bridges
  - Stormwater retention features
  - Other (river access, public art, etc)



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**The project is required to look at multiple feasible alternatives, including the one shown in the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Master Plan. It will build upon previous work/studies by a detailed documentation of the Challenges but also take a take a fresh look at Opportunities.**

## Challenges/Opportunities



Challenges and opportunities include: Multi-modal linkages, Norfolk Southern Railroad, flooding/Stormwater and water quality

## Challenges/Opportunities



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As well as river access, on-street parking, greenways, and sustainable Redevelopment.

## Challenges/Opportunities



*You are invited to inform the team of other challenges and or opportunities you may know of or experience in the River Arts District.*

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*You are invited to inform the consultant team of other challenges and or opportunities you may know of or experience in the River Arts District.*

# Precedent Photos



It can be useful to review local precedents as well as other locations of successfully implemented projects.

# Precedent Photos



RIVER ACTIVITIES



RIVER ACCESS



MULTI-MODAL - KAYAK



MULTI-MODAL - CANOE



TRAIL PASSING UNDER BRIDGE



RAILROAD - ADJACENT TRAIL



MOUNTAIN BIKE PRACTICE COURSE



MOUNTAIN BIKE PRACTICE COURSE

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# Precedent Photos



GRITTY / INDUSTRIAL / ARTIST FLAVOR



GRITTY / INDUSTRIAL / ARTIST FLAVOR



GRITTY / INDUSTRIAL / ARTIST FLAVOR



GRITTY / INDUSTRIAL / ARTIST FLAVOR



TRANSIT STOP - ARTIST INSPIRED



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## Diverse Services Required

- Landscape Architecture
- Architectural Historical Survey
- Archaeological Survey
- Natural Systems Survey
- Land Planning
- Economic Development
- Air Quality
- Noise Analysis
- Traffic Forecasting
- Recreational Planning
- Traffic Engineering
- Transit Planning
- Ped/Bike Planning
- Rail Design
- Structure/Bridge Design
- Stormwater/Hydraulic Design
- Surveying
- Streetscape Design
- Water/Sewer
- Signage/Wayfinding

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This project will require diverse services including landscape architecture, planning, archaeology, environmental, transportation planners and civil engineers among others.

## Team

- **City of Asheville** – Transportation Department, Steering Committee
- **Wilbur Smith Associates** – NEPA, Economic Development, Multimodal Transportation Planning, Stormwater Studies, Design, Project Management
- **LandDesign** – Local Project Coordination, Public Involvement, Land Planning, Landscape Architecture, Multi-use Path Design
- **Mathews Architecture** – Architectural Historical Survey, Public Involvement, Advisory Group
- **MACTEC** – Natural Systems Report
- **Blue Ridge Archaeological Consultants** – Archaeological Survey
- **Site Design Studio** – River Access Points Coordination
- **Percent for Art Collaborative** – Public Art Planning, Advisory Group
- **W-ZHA** – Economic Development, Advisory Group

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The comprehensive design team has valuable project history and experience and includes regional and local Asheville-based members. They collaborate together, are committed to the project and have Ability and eagerness to deal with challenges.

# Project Schedule - 22 Months

## WILMA DYKEMAN RIVERWAY PROJECT SCHEDULE



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The project started in June 2010 and the schedule is 22 months long to allow for development and analysis of alternatives and to preliminary engineer the final preferred alternative. Throughout 2011 there will be additional opportunity for input on the community's preferred alternative. A final public hearing is planning for Spring 2012.

## Analysis of Existing Conditions (June 2010 – November 2010)

- Land Suitability Map Development
  - Historical, archeological features
  - Natural systems, contaminated properties
  - FEMA flood limits
  - Railroad
  - Past City Plans
- Development/Redevelopment Opportunities (Utilities, Topography, etc)
- Capacity Analysis



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Since June, the team has been working on the Land Suitability Map Development, including Historical, archeological features, Natural systems, contaminated properties, existing utilities, Topography. They have also been reviewing past city plans and performed a traffic capacity analysis.



## Preferred Alternative

- Improved roadway geometrics?
- Multimodal travel?
- Pedestrian facilities/linkages?
- Bicycle lanes?
- Transit stops?
- Traffic calming measures?
- River access/amenities?
- Railroad modifications?
- Public Art?
- Landscaping?
- Stormwater features?
- Parks/Open Space?



AMPHITHEATER

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With your input on the community's objectives and priorities, a final preferred alternative will be developed that has the least impact and is supported by the community. The final preferred alternative will need to be engineered completely and funded for construction at a later date.

## Make it real

- Identify the Priorities
- Funding opportunities identified
  - Public
  - Private
  - Local
- Logical phasing
  - Set up to build momentum
- Concepts made real



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This project will allow the City to apply for grants and create other funding opportunities to implement the project in the future. Since funds are often limited, this will mean developing priorities on how to spend the money and phase the project. How would you recommend the City spend money on the implementation?

We wish to thank you for participating in today's workshop. Your comments are very important during this initial stage of the River Arts District Transportation Project.

Please use the comment forms to make any comments or inquiries. Feel free to leave the comment forms with the project team today at the registration table or mail them by **February 23, 2011** to the address provided in the newsletter..

# Thank You!



*Wilma Dykeman  
From a family photo album*

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We wish to thank you for participating in today's workshop. Your comments are very important during this initial stage of the River Arts District Transportation Project. Please provide your input and feedback on :

- Potential corridors
- Environmental and community features
- Project goals and purpose and need

Feel free to leave the comment forms with the project team today at the registration table or mail them by **February 23, 2011**