

WELCOME

City of St. Thomas



Transportation Master Plan Refresh

June 25, 2024

4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Memorial Arena & Auditorium
80 Wilson Avenue, St. Thomas

The *Transportation Master Plan* is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) (an approved process under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*).

With the exception of personal information, all comments received will become part of the public record, in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

What is a Transportation Master Plan?

A Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is a strategic policy document that guides how the transportation system in a city will grow and develop over the long term.

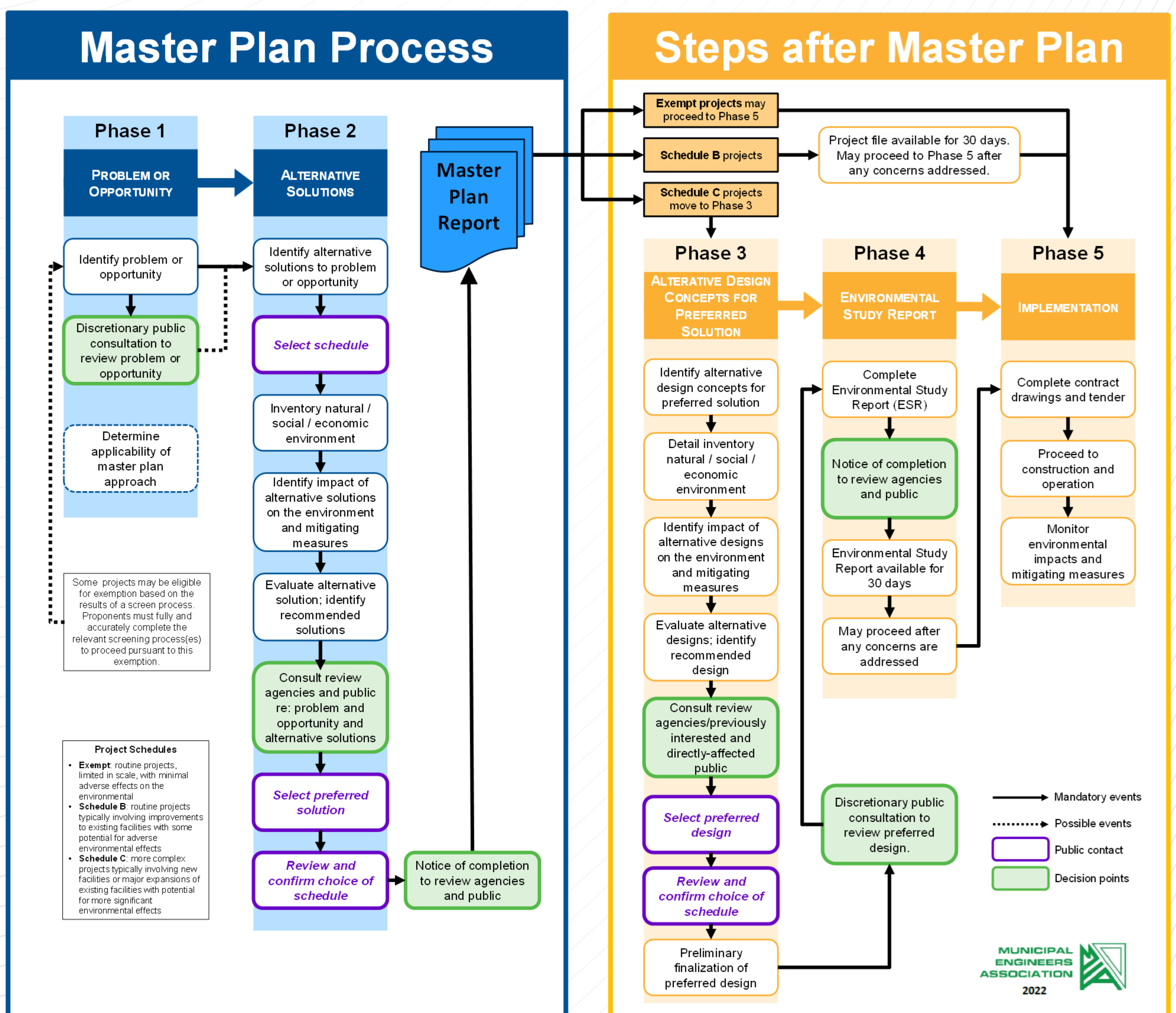


Transportation Master Plans:

- ▶ Examine current transportation issues within a community,
- ▶ Assess existing and future growth patterns
- ▶ Determine the need for transportation improvements (roads, walking, cycling, public transit)
- ▶ Establish investment priorities
- ▶ Establish policies to support the plan and maintain the transportation network

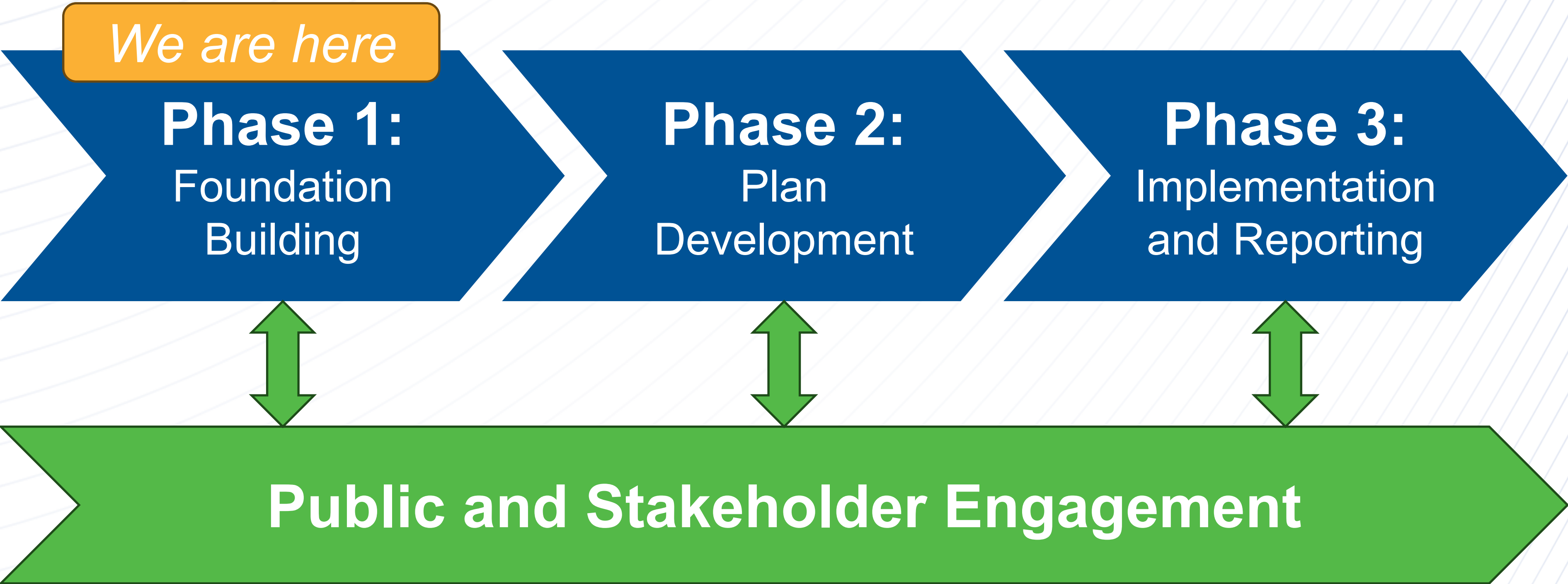
Masterplan Process

- ▶ Ontario requires municipalities to assess the environmental effects of major projects, (including for transportation) using a standard five-phase process
- ▶ The 'Master Plan' process identifies problem(s), then evaluates recommends solutions
 - Covers first two phases of assessment process
- ▶ Major projects recommended by this study will get more detailed review before implementation



Study Process

Study will have three phases:



Technical Work Program

1) Foundation Building

- ✓ Collect Data
- ✓ Existing Conditions
- ✓ Growth forecasting
- ✓ Identify gaps / opportunities

2) Plan Development

- Assessing alternatives
- Network plans
- Policies and programs

3) Implementation and Reporting

- Priorities
- Implementation plan / timing
- Reporting

Engagement Program

1) Foundation Building

- ✓ Public survey to gather input on issues and priorities
- ✓ Public Open House #1

2) Plan Development

- Public Open House #2

3) Implementation and Reporting

- Present final TMP to Council for approval

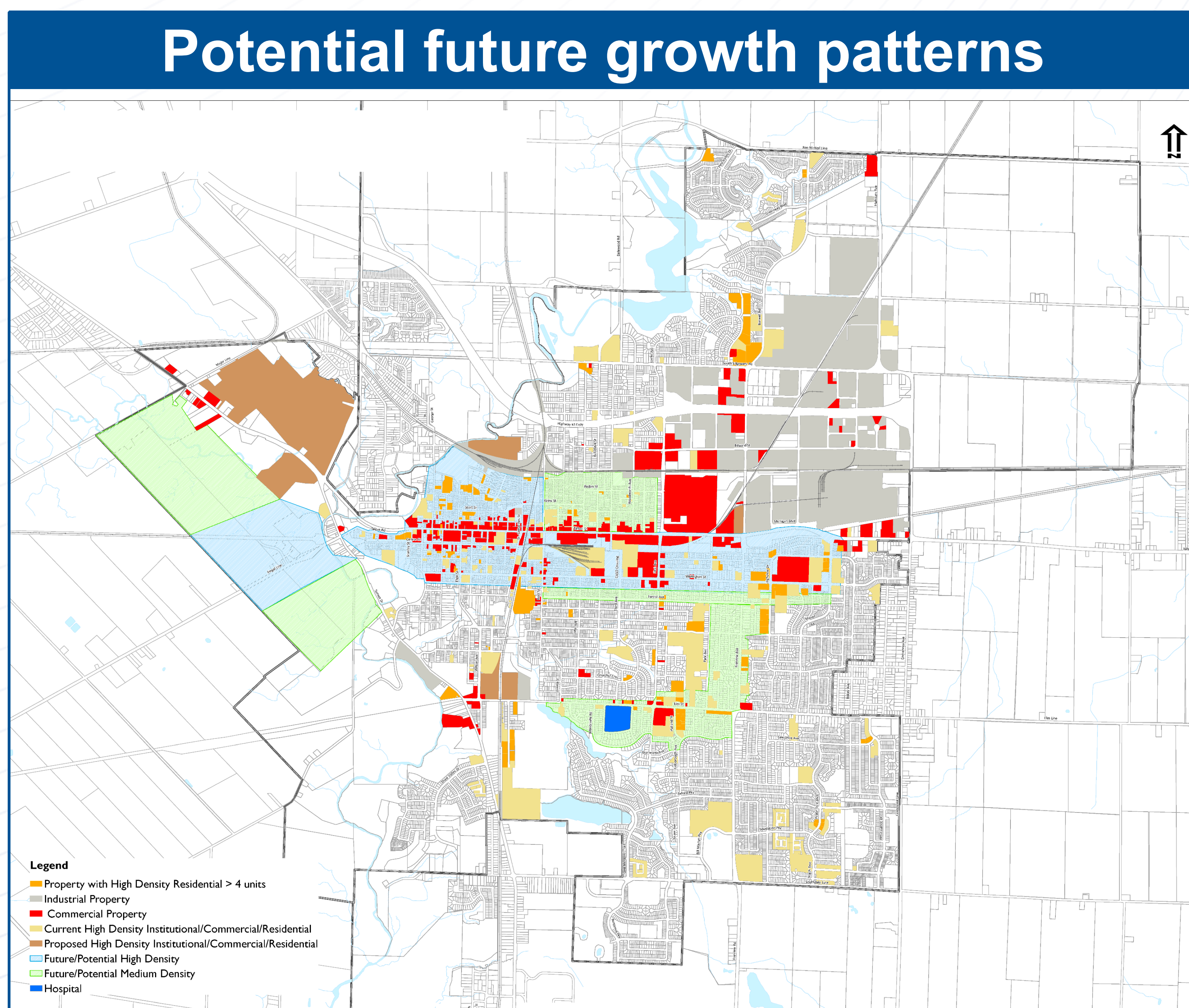
Opportunities to Connect:
Website | Project Email
Online survey | Social Media Posts
Public Open House Meetings

Why does St. Thomas need a TMP Refresh?

A TMP looks into the future, anticipates future needs, and recommends ways to improve the way residents move around the community.

► Our community is :

- Growing by 10% more people 2016 to 2021
- Becoming more diverse and getting older.
- Undergoing changing work patterns for some.
- Seeing demand for high-density development in the downtown and elsewhere
- Welcoming new industrial development, which means planning for the movement of more people and goods within and to/from the city



POLICY CONTEXT

Numerous transportation-related policies apply to or affect the study area:

Province of Ontario	County of Elgin	City of St. Thomas
▶ Provincial Policy Statement ▶ Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act ▶ Ministry of Transportation Transit Supportive Guidelines ▶ #CycleON: Ontario’s Cycling Strategy ▶ Ontario Trails Strategy	▶ Official Plan ▶ Strategic Plan ▶ Transportation Master Plan (<i>on hold</i>) ▶ Roads Plan & Policies ▶ Cycling Master Plan <i>St Thomas is not part of the County of Elgin, but its policies influence travel to/from the city.</i>	▶ Official Plan (<i>under review</i>) ▶ Urban Design Guidelines (<i>draft</i>) ▶ Council’s Strategic Plan 2024-2027 ▶ Cycling & Trails Plan ▶ Transit Strategic Plan

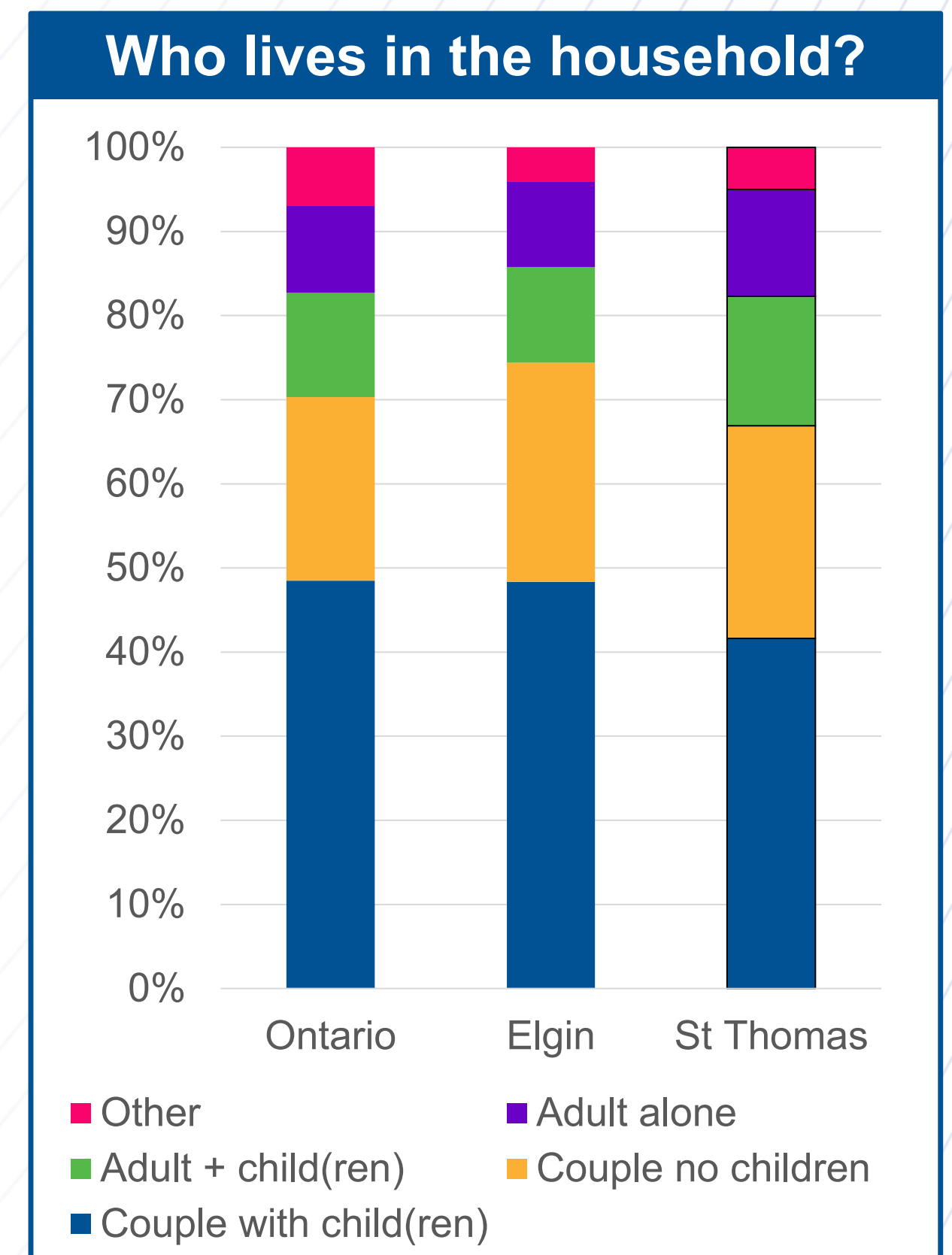
- ▶ **Policy environment promotes:**
 - Integrated planning of transportation and land use to accommodate long-term growth
 - Increased use of sustainable travel modes (walking, cycling, transit)
 - Improvements to safety for all transportation users
- ▶ **Official Plan sets strategic approach for transportation network:**
 - Maintain a hierarchal road network to serve existing and future development
 - Plan for widening of select roads
 - Pursue safe and secure pedestrian and bikeway system
 - Provide and encourage use of public transit
- ▶ **Planned transportation projects in Official Plan / other studies will be incorporated into this study**
 - Review and confirm need and suitability

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Demographics

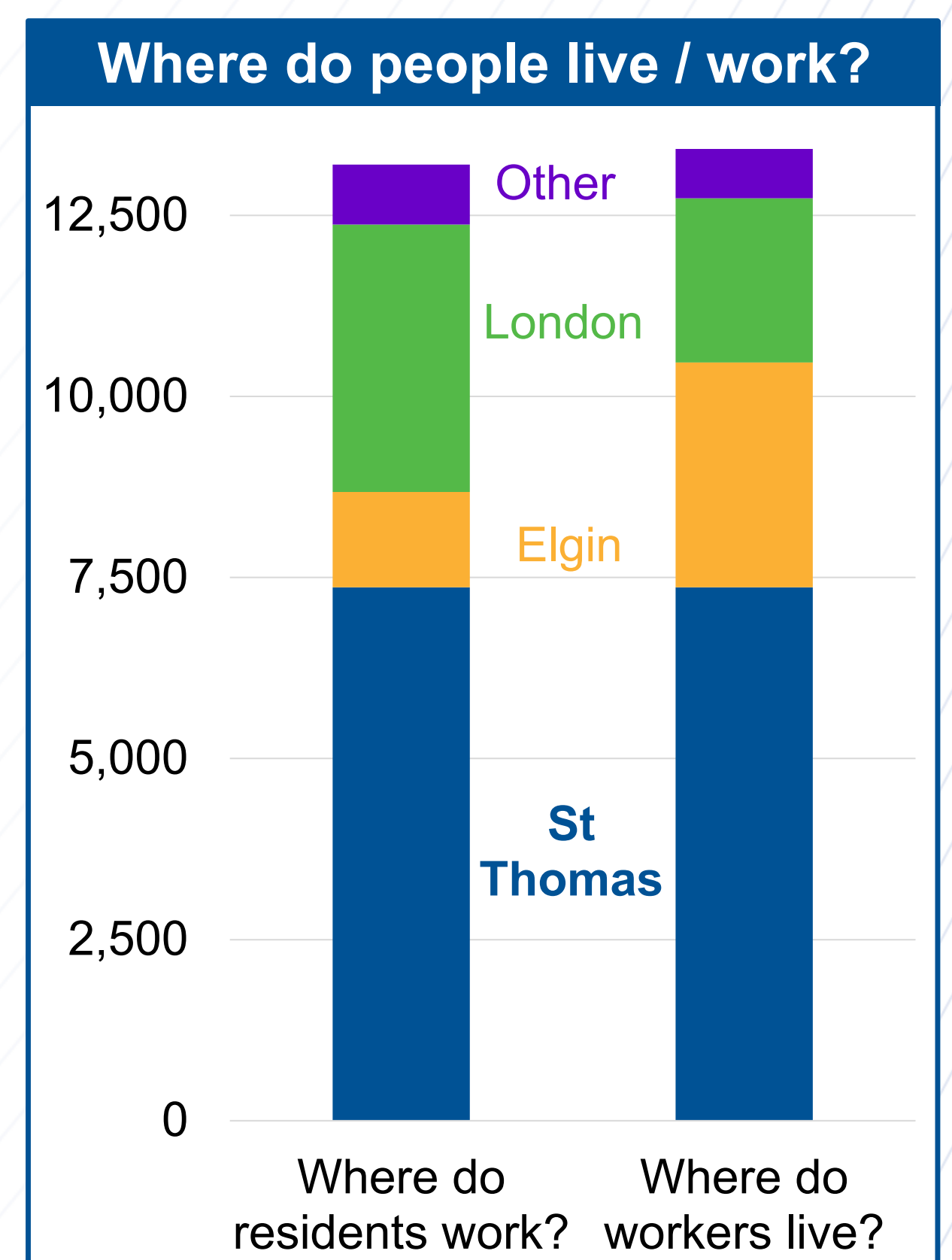
► Age / household composition

- St Thomas has fewer younger adults (age 20-45) than Ontario average
- More seniors, one-parent homes, childless households than average
- Demonstrates need to plan for wide range of ages and user types



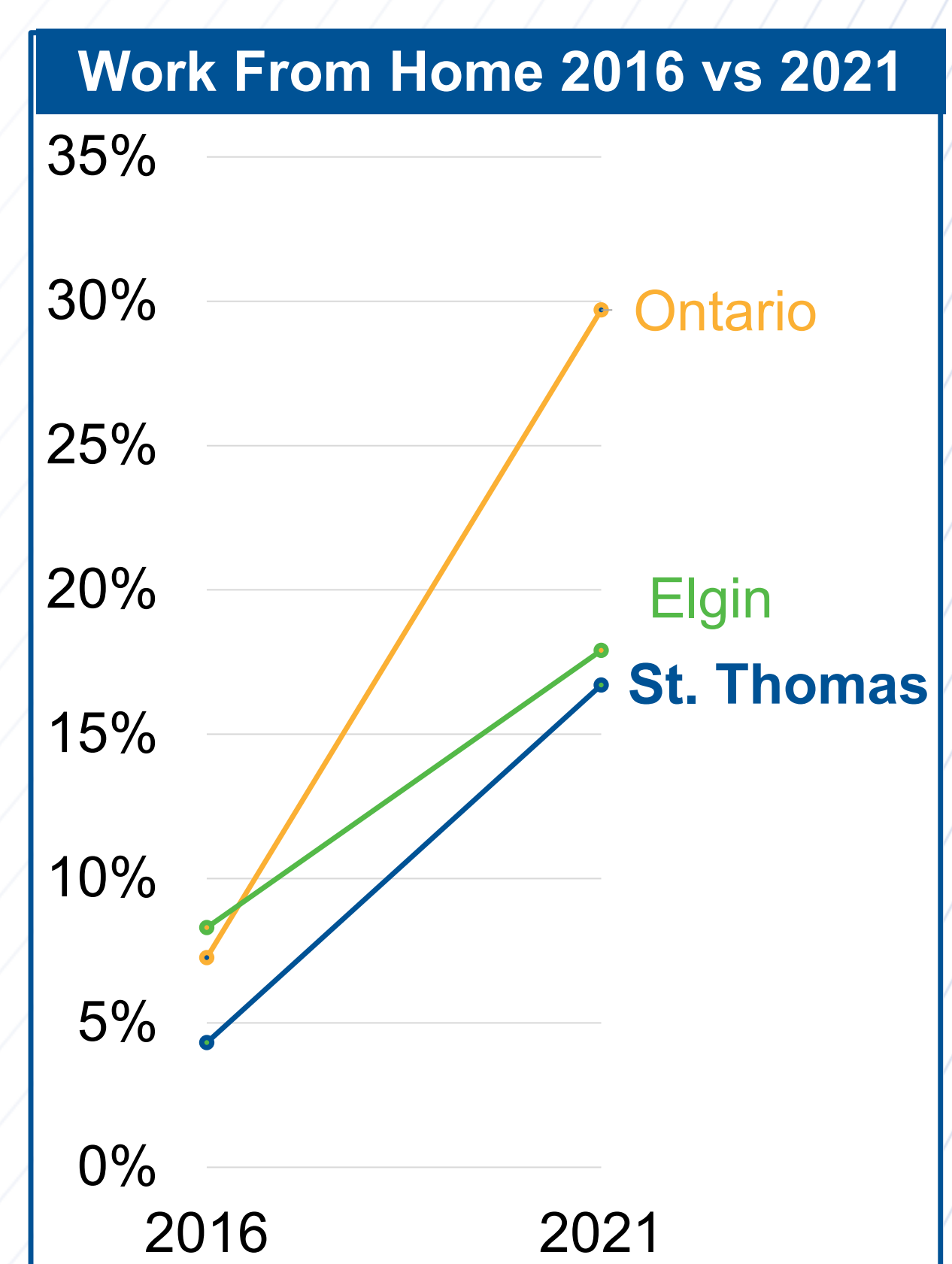
► Commuting

- Over half of residents work within city
- Roughly equal numbers commute into St Thomas as commute out. Out-commuters mostly going to London
- Non-residents working in city come from equally from Elgin and London
- Shows need to balance needs to travel within and to/from City



► Working from home

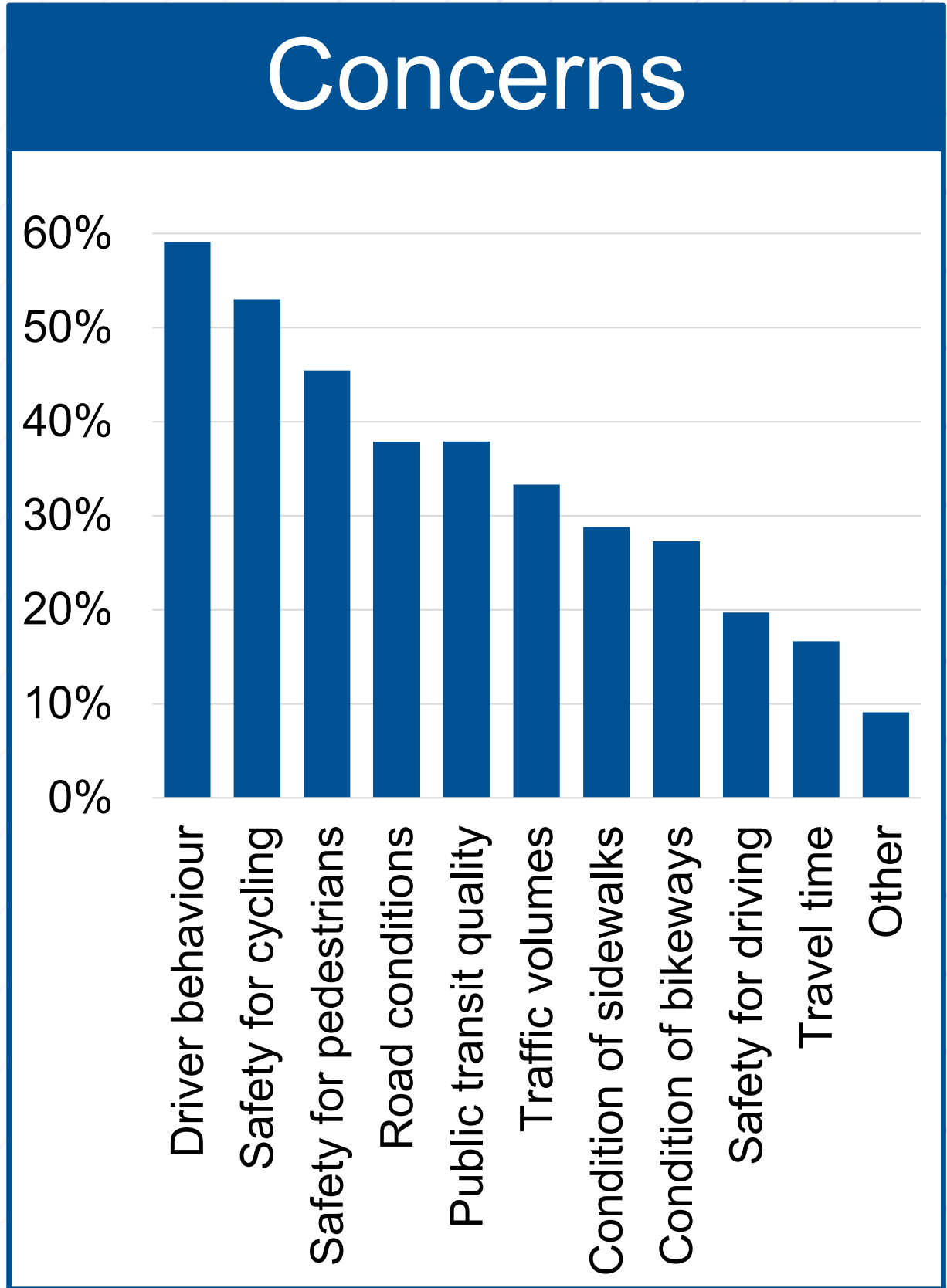
- Numbers have increased, but less than elsewhere in Ontario
- Manufacturing, education, healthcare jobs are in-person
- “Work at home” includes people who attend workplace some days



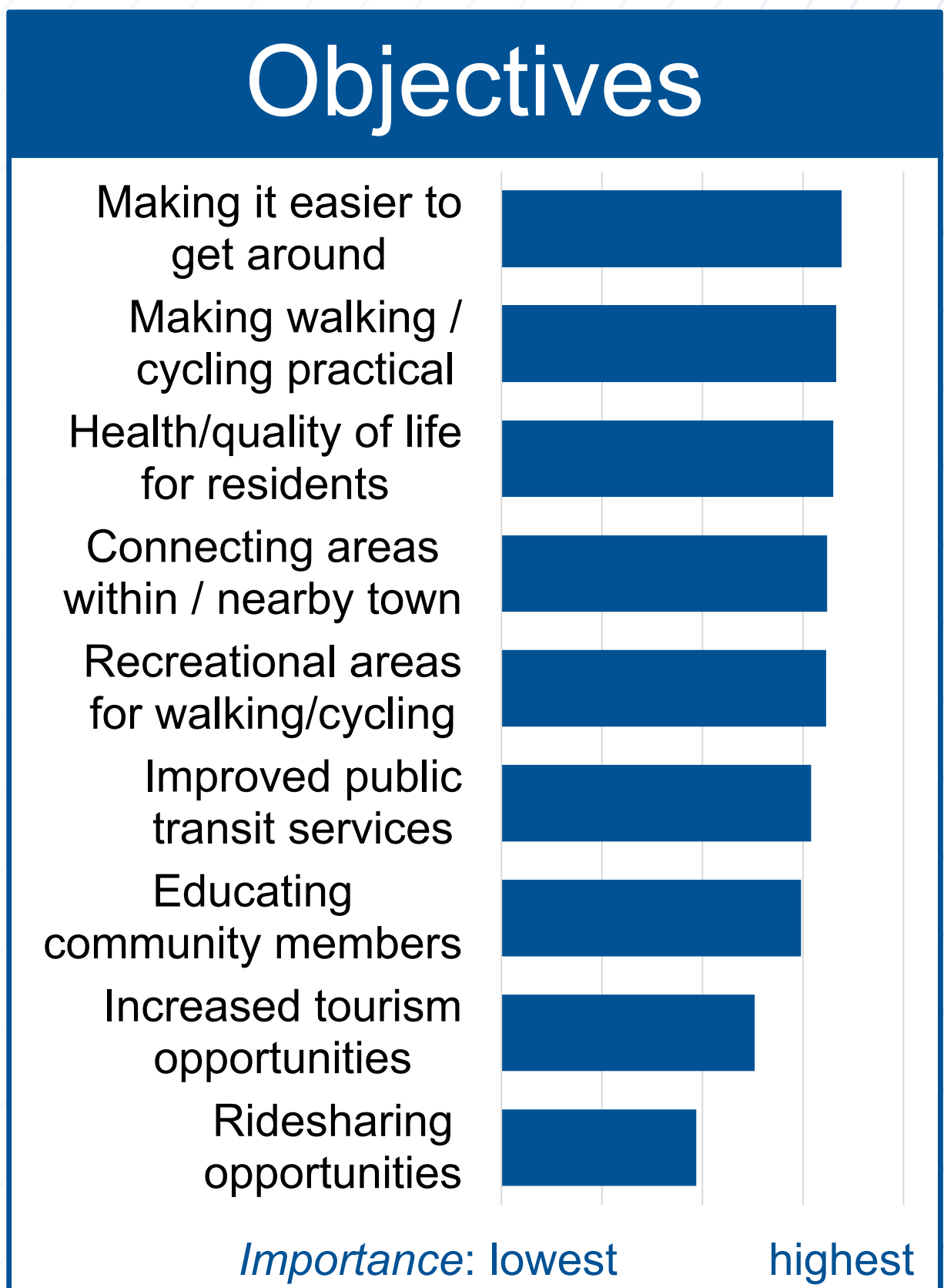
Data source for charts: 2021 Census.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD: Survey Results to Date

- ▶ **78 responses so far**
- ▶ **Most common concerns were driver behaviour and safety**
 - Other common concerns were roadway conditions, public transit quality, and traffic volumes



- ▶ **Preferred objectives were ease of travel and making walking / cycling practical options**
 - Health / quality of life, connecting to areas in/near the City, and improved public transit also scored highly



- ▶ **Key Observations**
 - Clear direction to change driver behaviours / improve safety
 - Improvements to sustainable modes (walking, cycling, transit) important
 - Extra road capacity (*not shown*) viewed as less important

Have your say!

Scan QR Code to take online survey

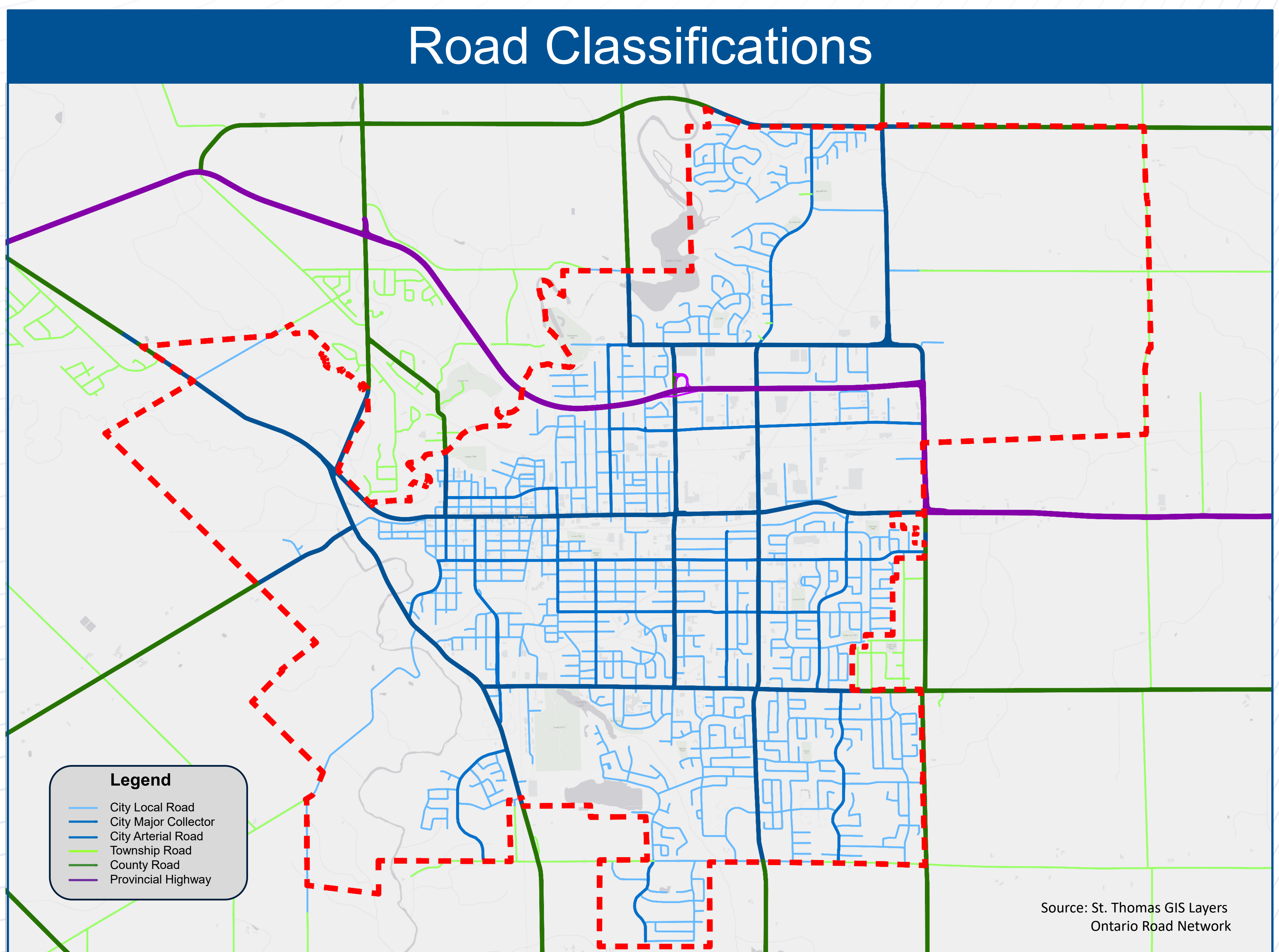


or visit

www.stthomas.ca/Transportation
[Master Plan Refresh 2024](#)

EXISTING CONDITIONS: Road Network

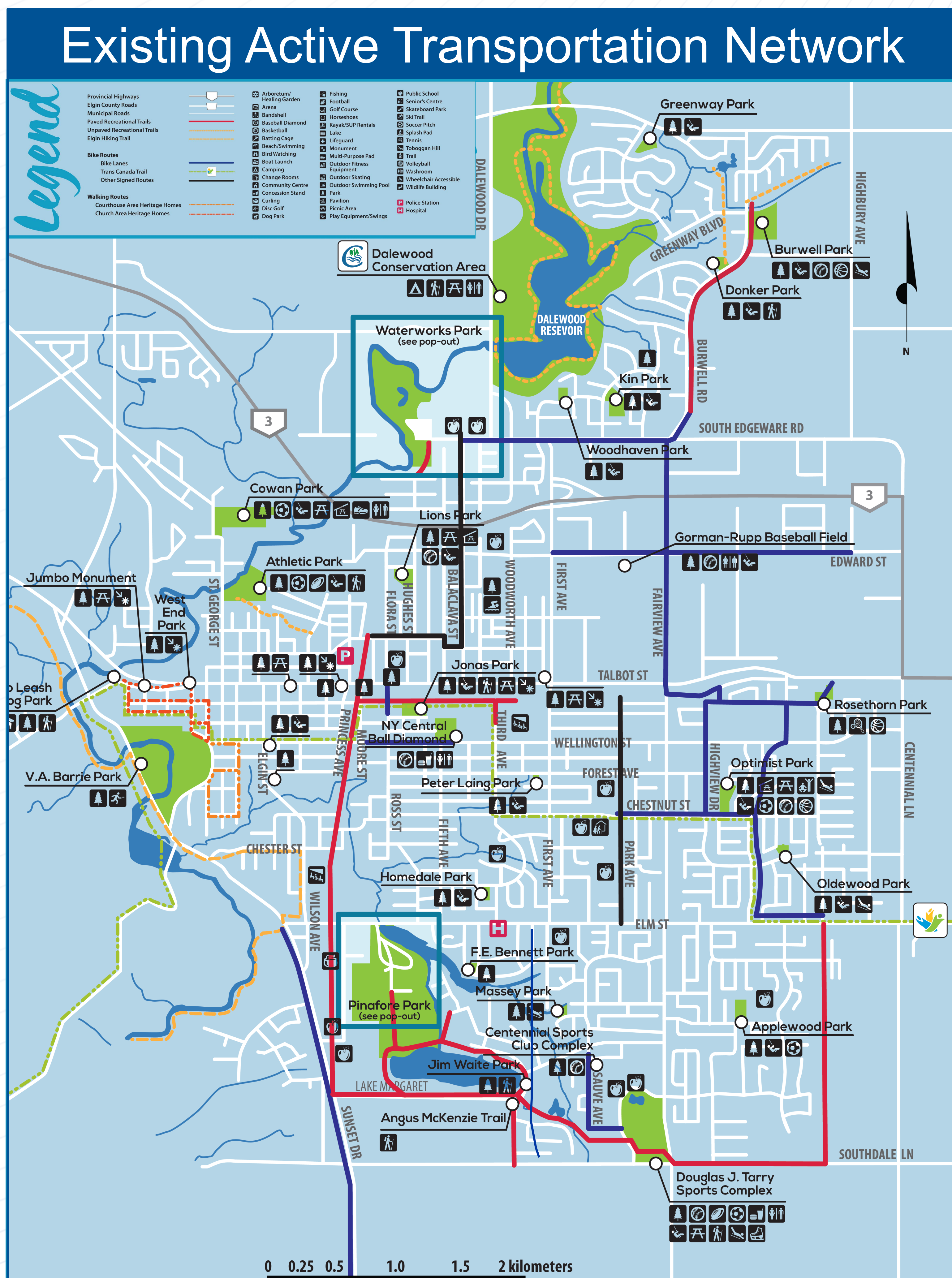
- ▶ **Roads in study area are the responsibility of multiple governments**
- ▶ **Province**
 - Highway 3
- ▶ **Elgin County**
 - Sunset Drive (CR 4), Ron McNeil Line (CR 52), Southdale Line (CR 57), etc..
- ▶ **City**
 - All the remaining roads in city, classified into arterial (major roads), collector (intermediate roads) and local
 - City responsible for 192 km of roads (36 km arterial, 30 km collector, 126 km local)



EXISTING CONDITIONS: Walking / Cycling

► Types of facilities

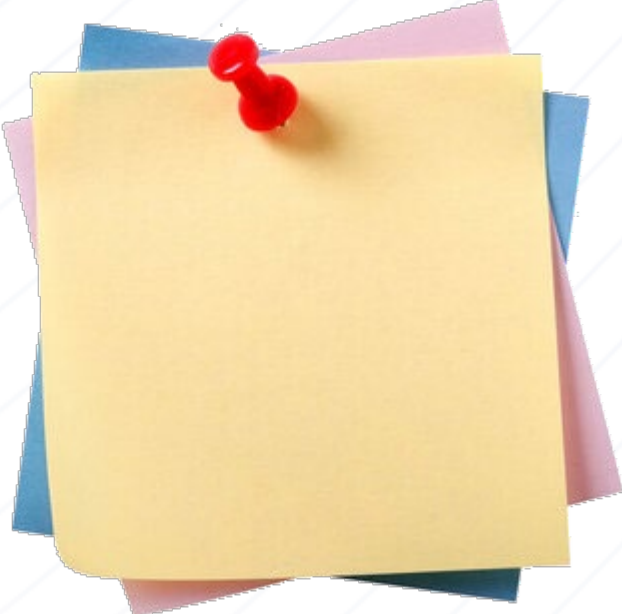
- 207 km of sidewalks
- 23 km of Multi-use trails
- 13 km of marked bike lanes / paved shoulders



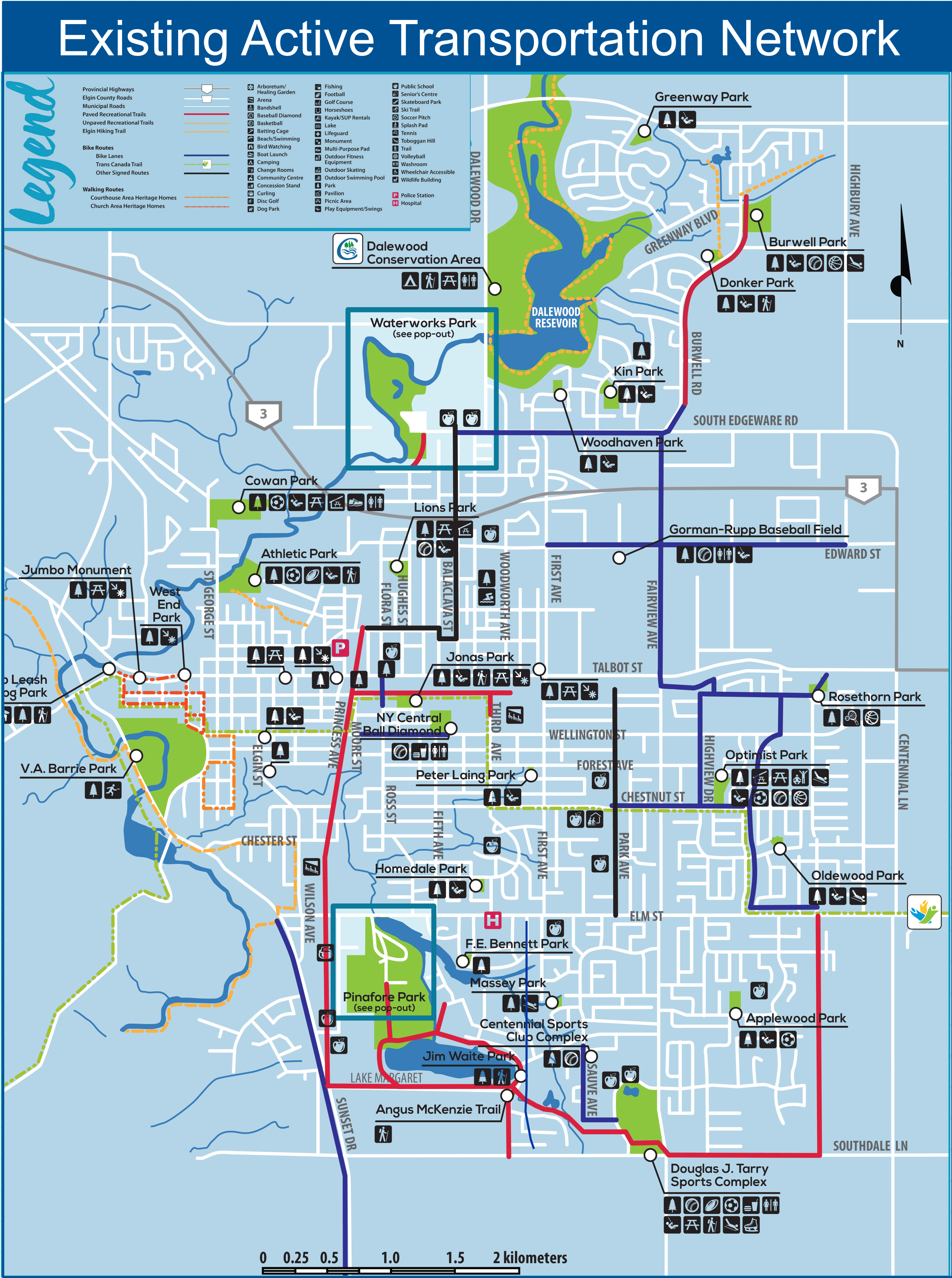
EXISTING CONDITIONS: Walking / Cycling – What’s needed?

Should the city build missing sidewalks in neighbourhoods?

What would encourage you to walk / cycle more?



What types of facilities do you prefer to cycle on?



EXISTING CONDITIONS: Public Transit

► New Inter-Regional Service

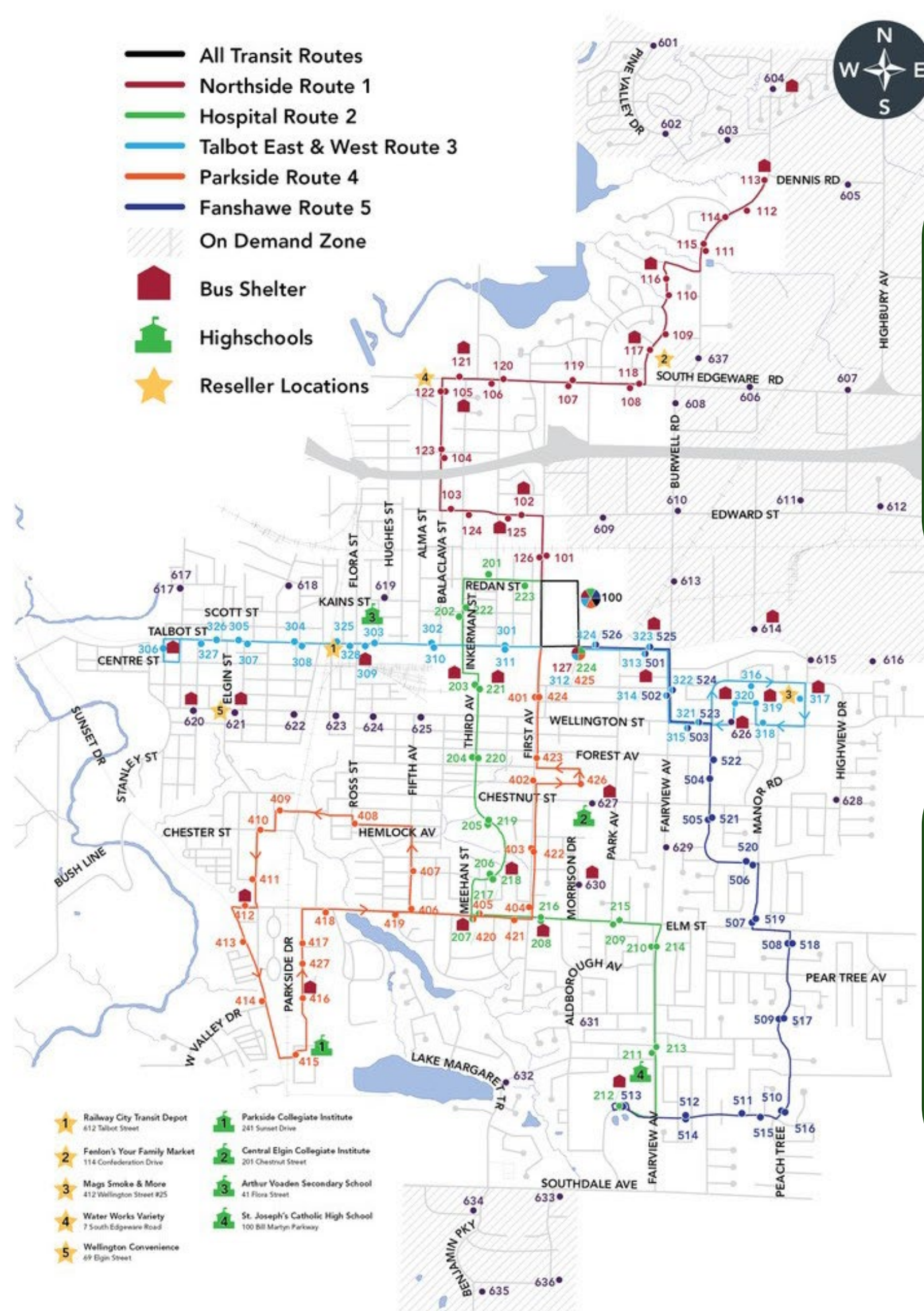
- Provides 4 trips per day to and from London

► Local Service

- 7 days per week
- 5 fixed route
- 2 on-demand zones
- 150 bus stops; 25 bus shelters
- 95,000 passengers per year
- 10 fully accessible, low floor vehicles



Existing Public Transit Network

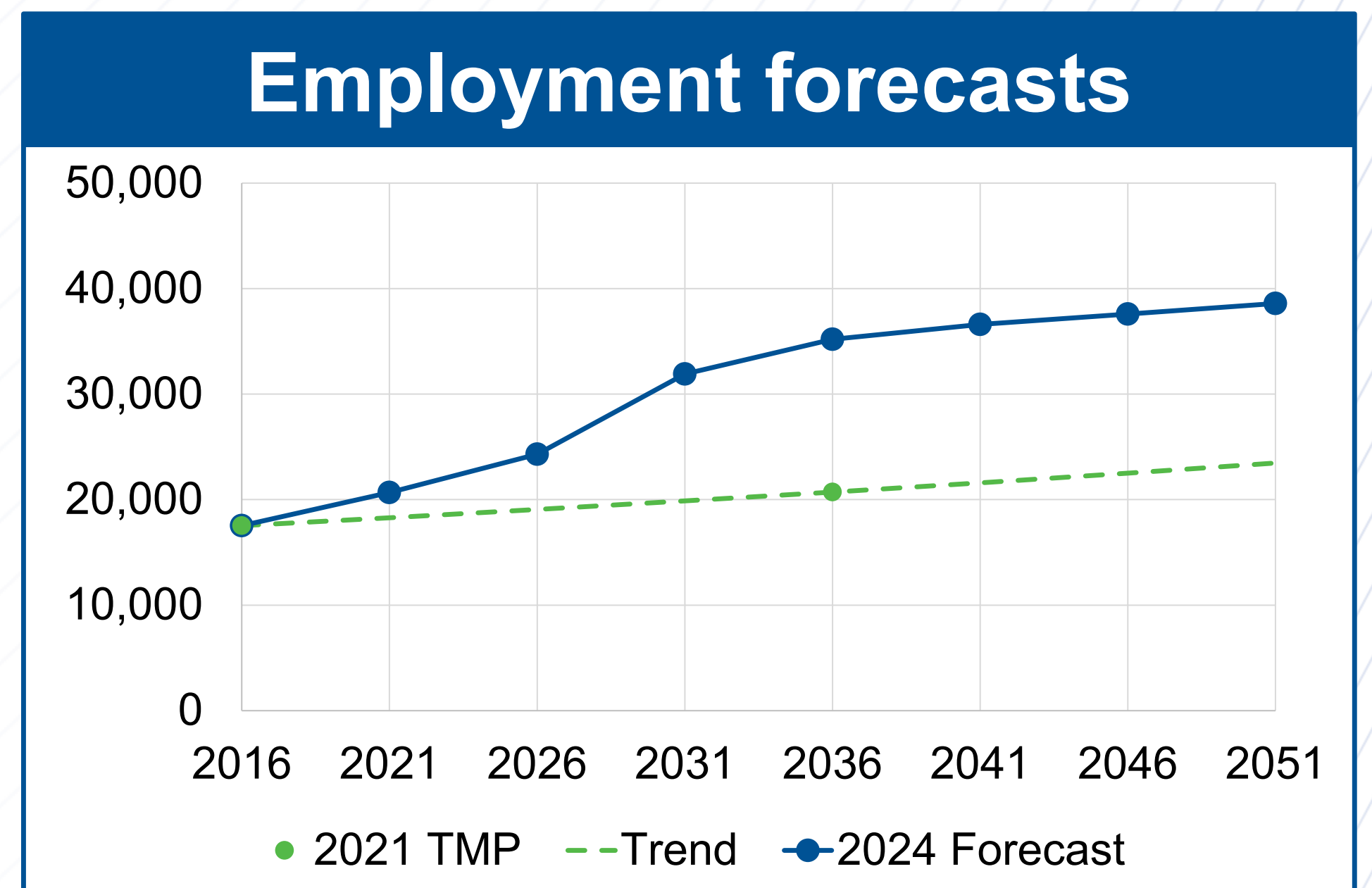
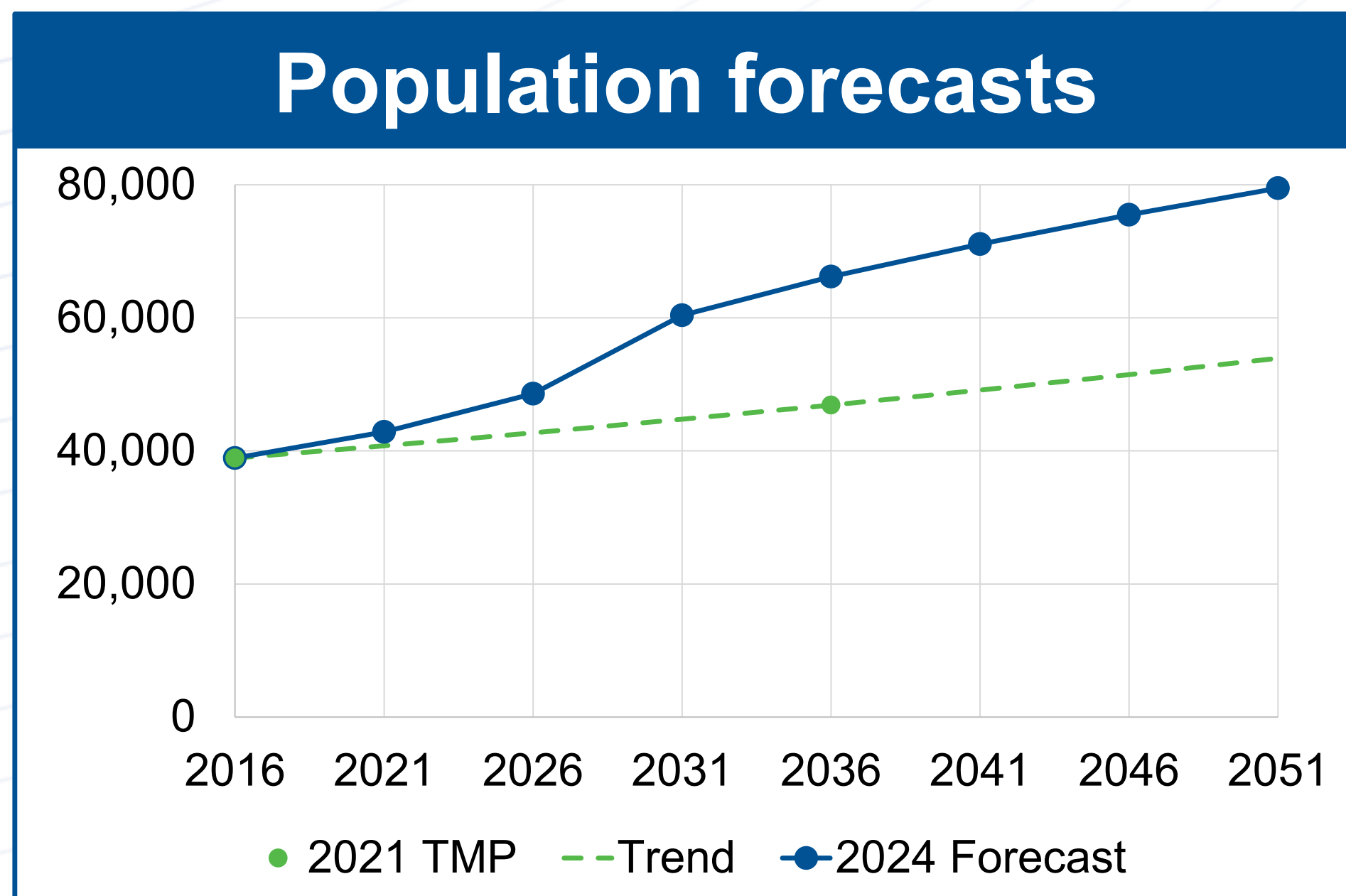


What would encourage you to use transit more often?

What should transit service look like in 2051?

FUTURE CONDITIONS: Growth Forecasts

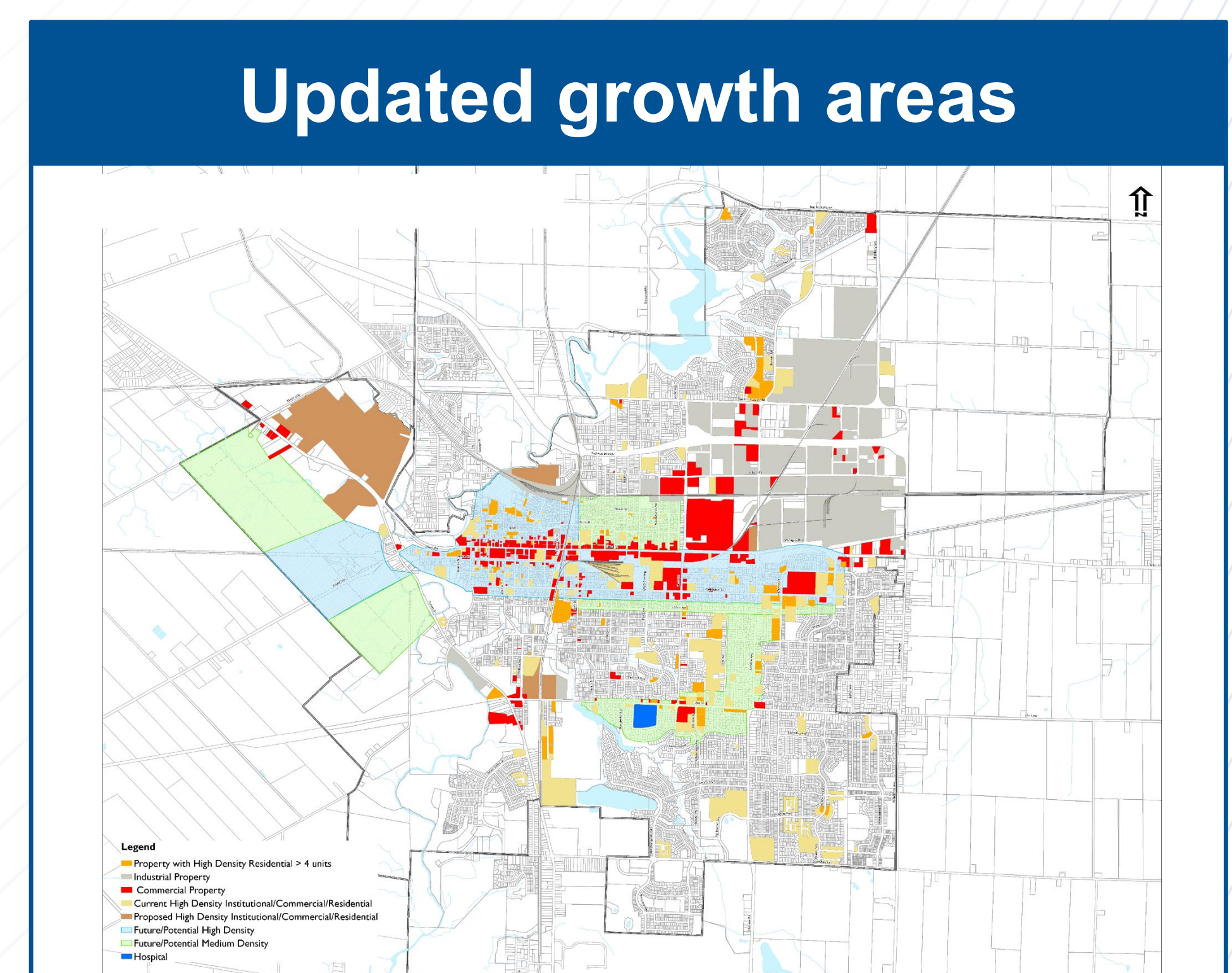
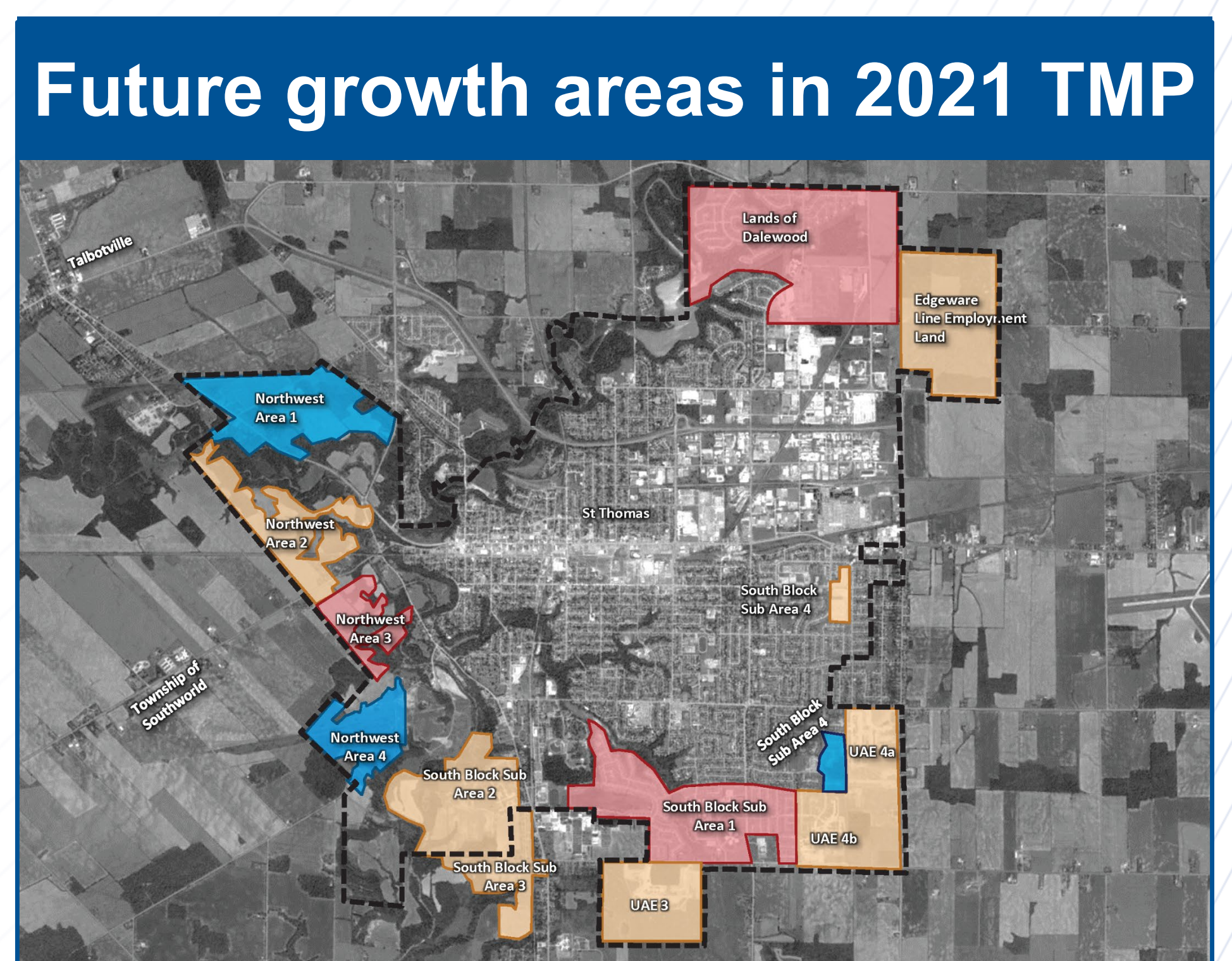
► Population and employment growth is higher than was envisioned in 2021



► The location of growth influences travel demand patterns

- Growth is expected in different places
- Battery plant a key factor

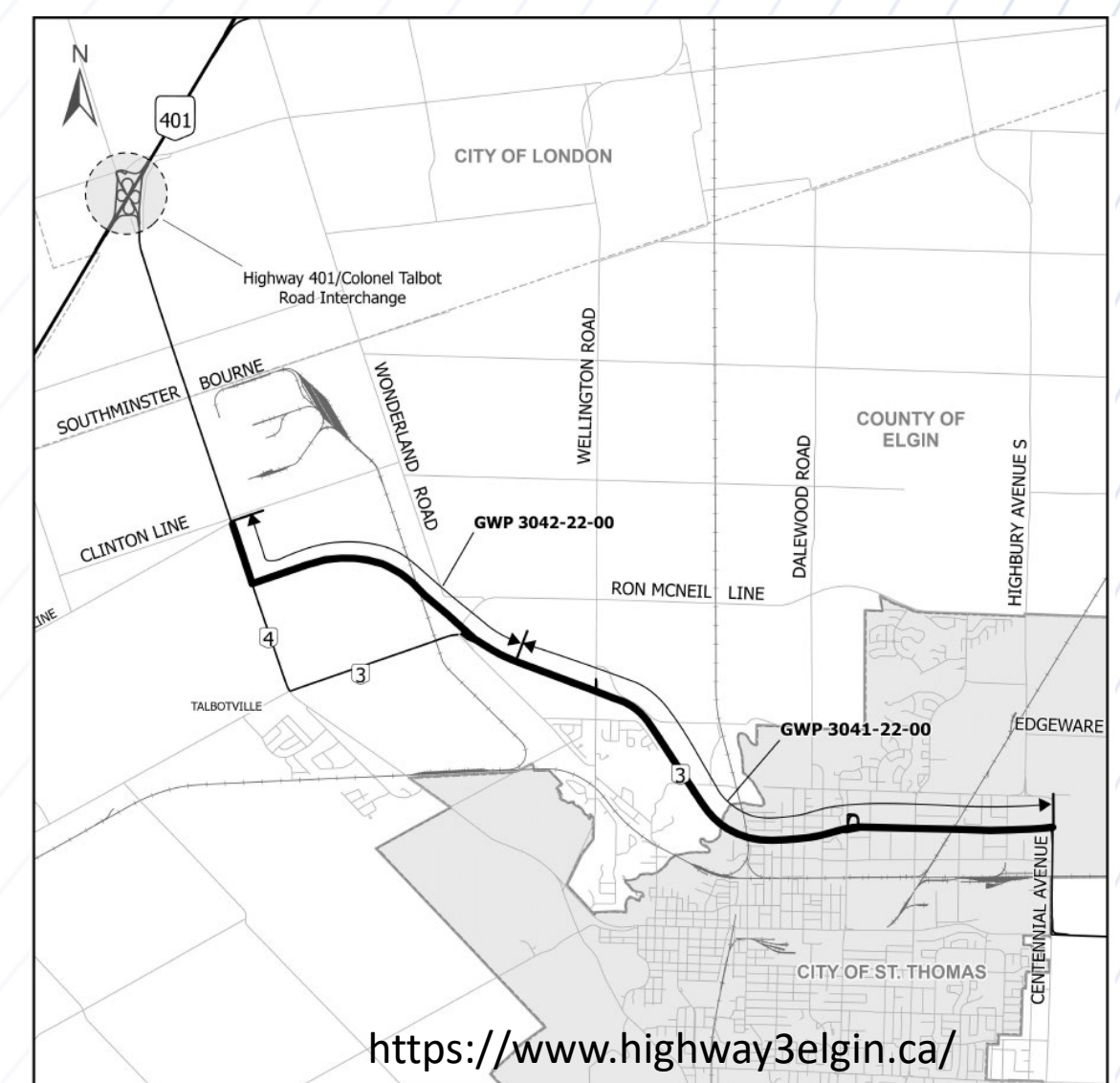
► TMP Refresh is planning for 36,000 new residents and 15,800 new jobs by 2051



FUTURE CONDITIONS: Planned Road Improvements

► The Province has announced planned improvements to Hwy 3 and Hwy 4

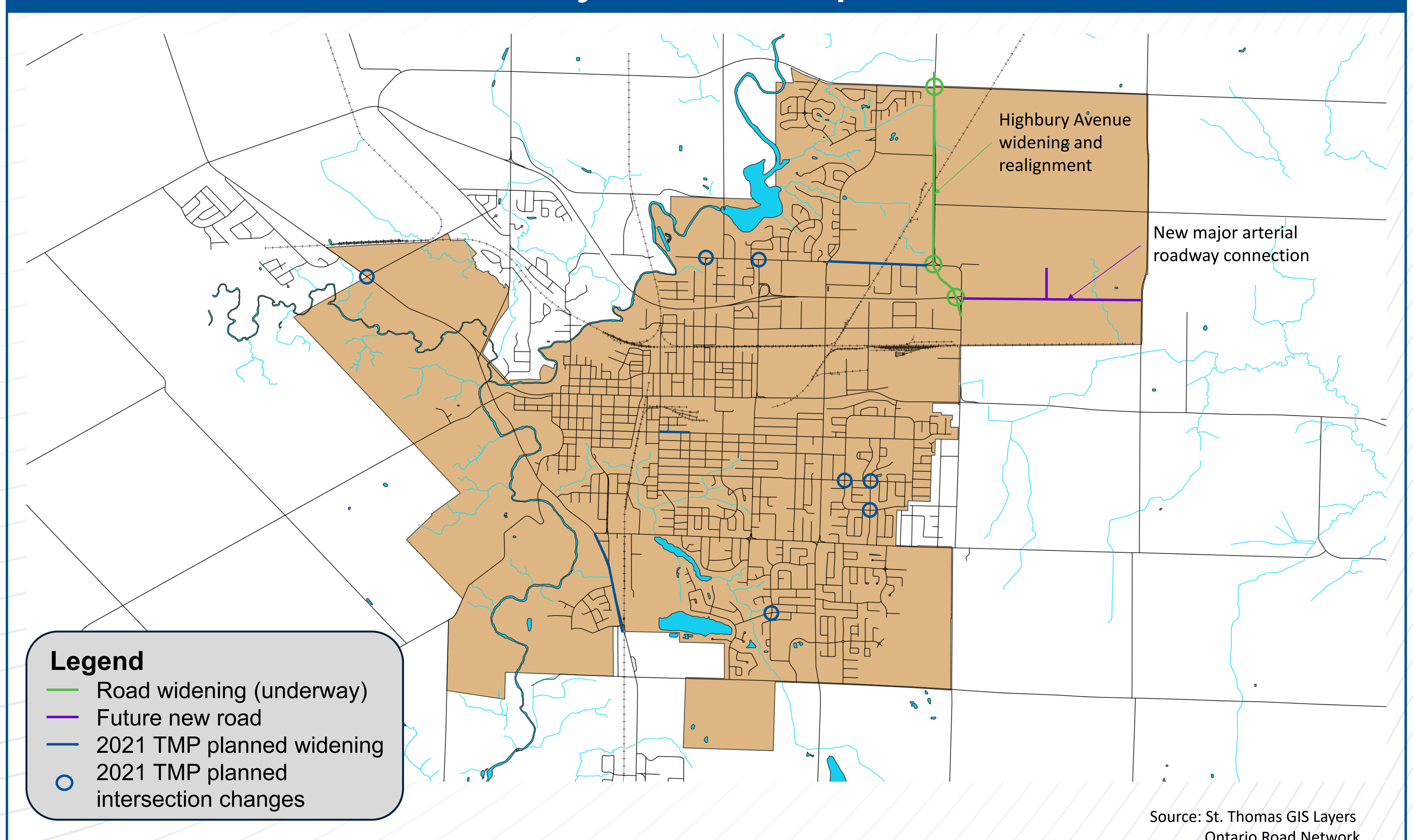
- Widen Highway 3 to four lanes through St Thomas
- Hwy 4 by-pass of Talbotville
- Widen Hwy 4 to four lanes



► City Projects

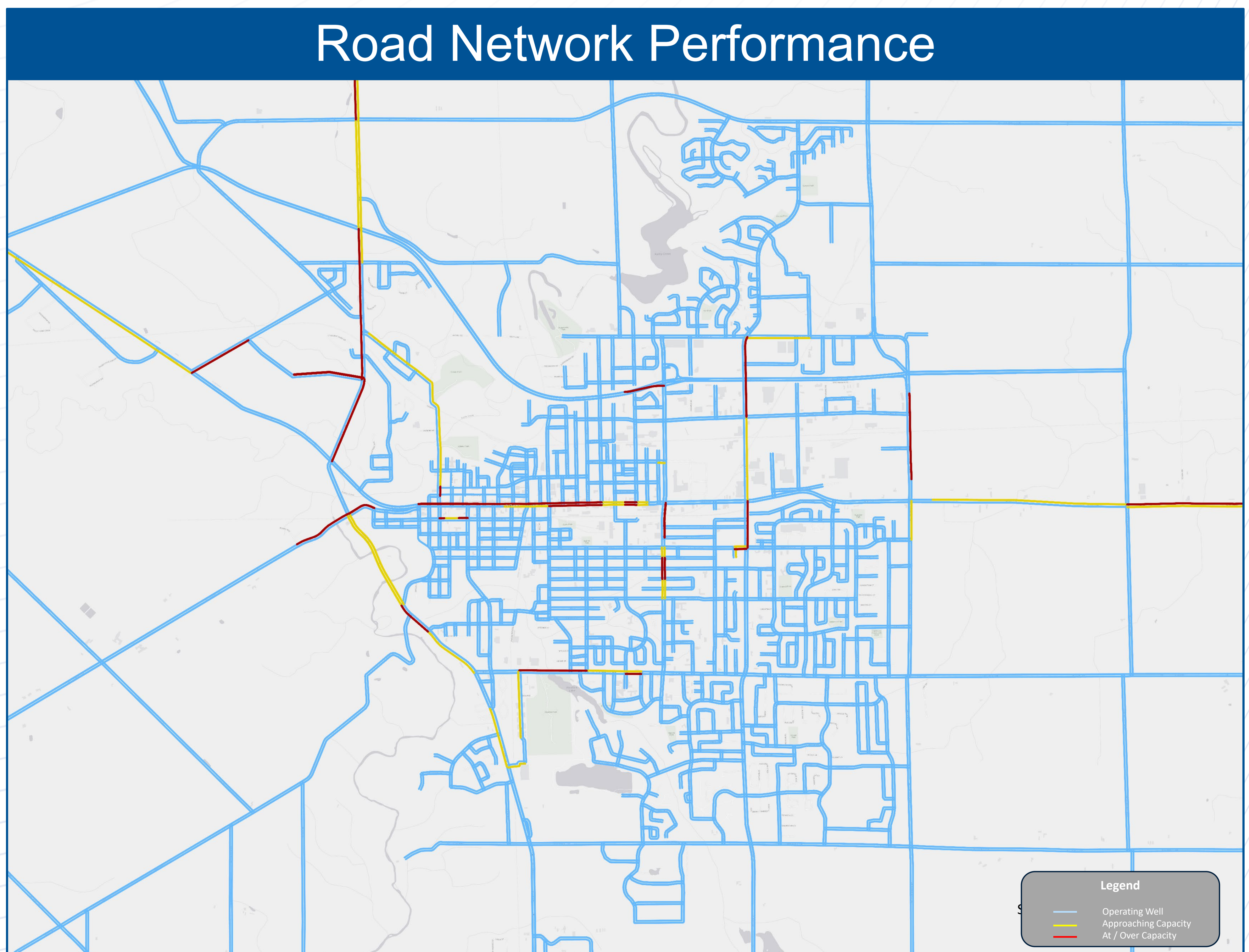
- Highbury Avenue widening under construction
- New Major Arterial Road (EA Completed)
- Other projects recommended in 2021 TMP to be confirmed as part of TMP Refresh

Planned City Road Improvements



FUTURE CONDITIONS: Road Network Performance

- ▶ **Growth in people and jobs will increase peak period travel demand by 96%**
- ▶ **Planned improvements will partially address planned growth**
- ▶ **Some roads will exceed capacity without changes to travel behaviour**
 - Talbot Street downtown
 - Burwell Road north of Talbot Street
 - First Avenue through downtown
 - Elm Street west
 - Wellington Road / Sunset Drive



DEVELOPING A VISION: What would you prefer?

Vision and Objectives from 2021 TMP

Vision Statement:

“A multi-modal transportation network that facilitates connectivity for residents to jobs, services, and recreation providing options for traveling within and beyond the City safely and efficiently.”

Do the vision and objectives reflect your vision of St Thomas in 2051?

Six Objectives:

- 1) Provide infrastructure for growth
- 2) Plan flexible infrastructure for seasonal changes
- 3) Prioritize and encourage active transportation
- 4) Prioritize and encourage transit
- 5) Improve safety for all road users
- 6) Enhance multi-modal connections

Is there anything else that should be incorporated?

Potential Future Scenarios – Trips by mode of travel

Mode	2016	2021	2051: Status Quo	2051: Partial Shift	2051: Aggressive Shift
Auto	91%	93%	91%	87%	83%
Transit	1%	0.3%	1%	4%	6%
Walk/bike	7%	5%	7%	8%	10%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

What is your preferred vision for transportation?
Place a dot in the box that represents your vision

Status Quo

Partial Shift

Aggressive Shift

FUTURE CONDITIONS: Opportunities

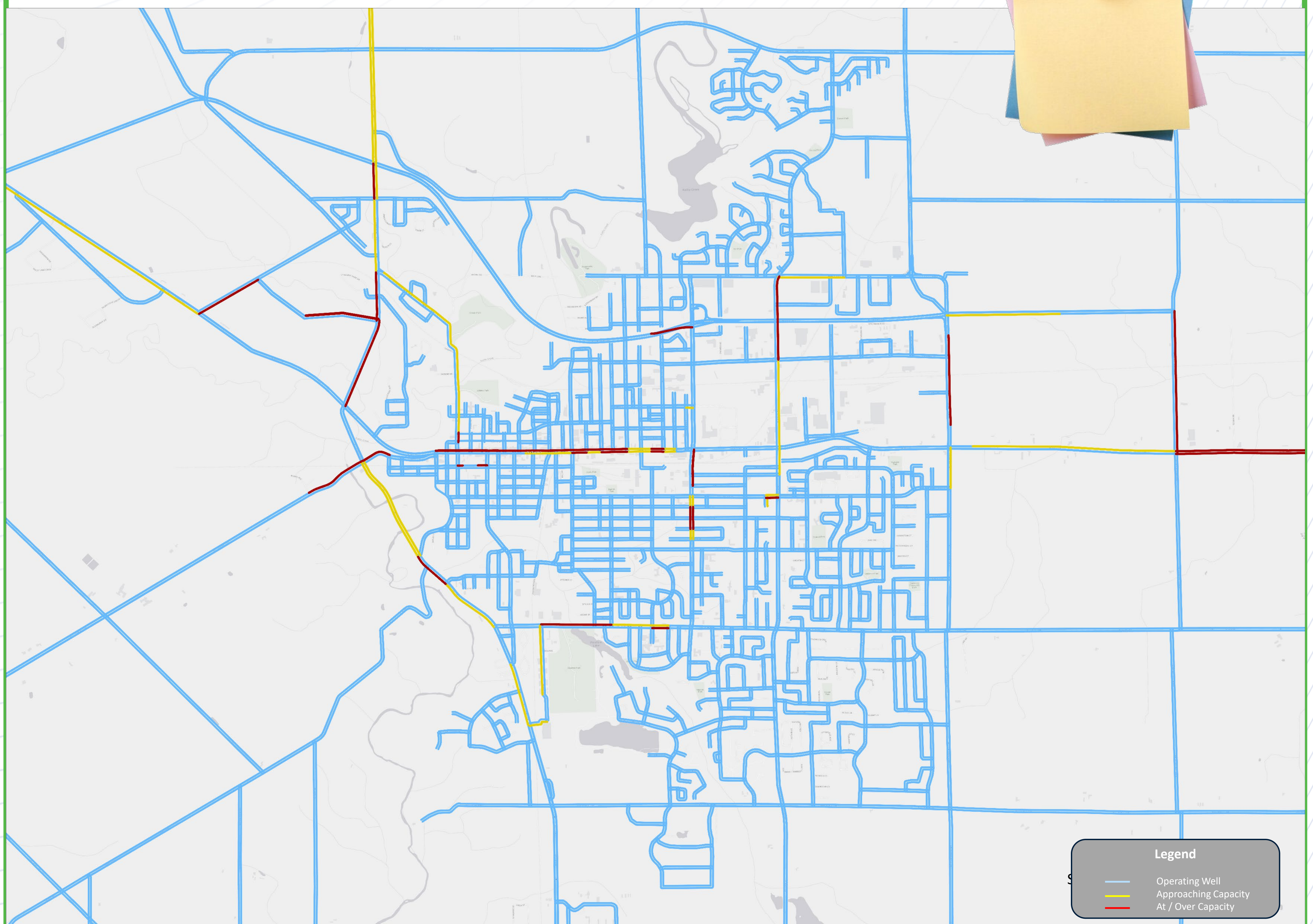
► Manage Travel Demand

- Promote work from home for those who can

► Promote alternative travel modes

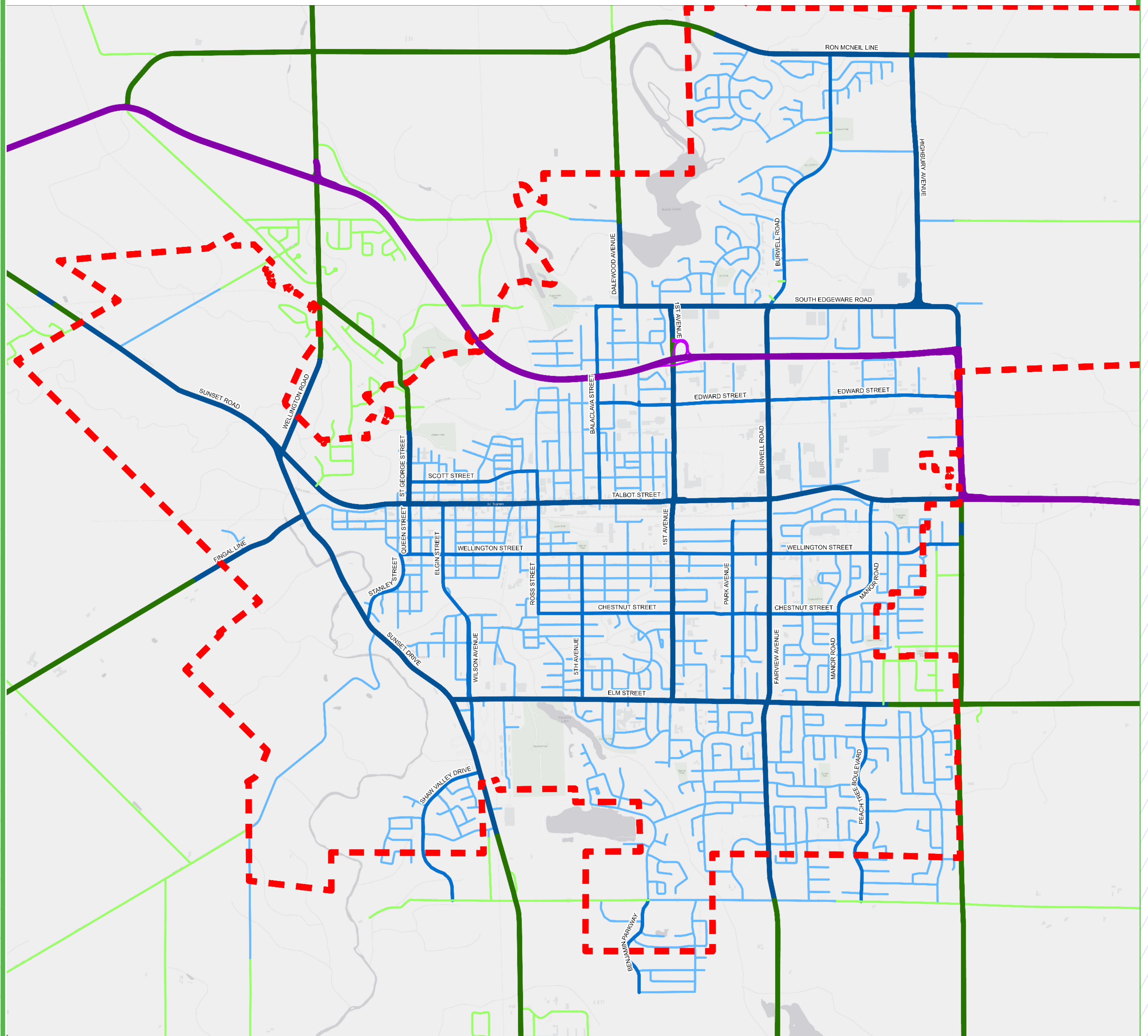
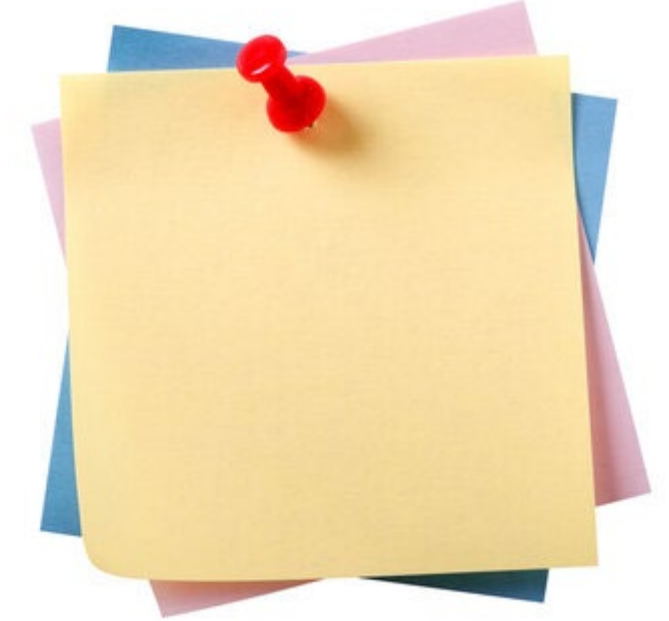
- Transit – improve service, expand coverage
- Walking – invest in sidewalks, paths, trails
- Cycling – invest in separated bike lanes, paths, trails

What are your thoughts on what needs to be planned for transportation in 2051?



FUTURE CONDITIONS: The Idea Zone

Where do you think road, transit, cycling or walking improvements are needed?



NEXT STEPS

► Consideration of feedback from public

- Complete technical analysis
- Option development and evaluation
- Develop Preliminary Infrastructure Recommendations
- Develop Preliminary Policy Recommendations
- Public Open House # 2 – Fall 2024

How do I get involved?

Visit the project website

Visit the project website to learn more about the study, complete our online survey (open until July 12) and offer comments.



www.stthomas.ca/Transportation_Master_Plan_Refresh_2024

Send the project team an email

StThomasTMP@ptsl.com

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