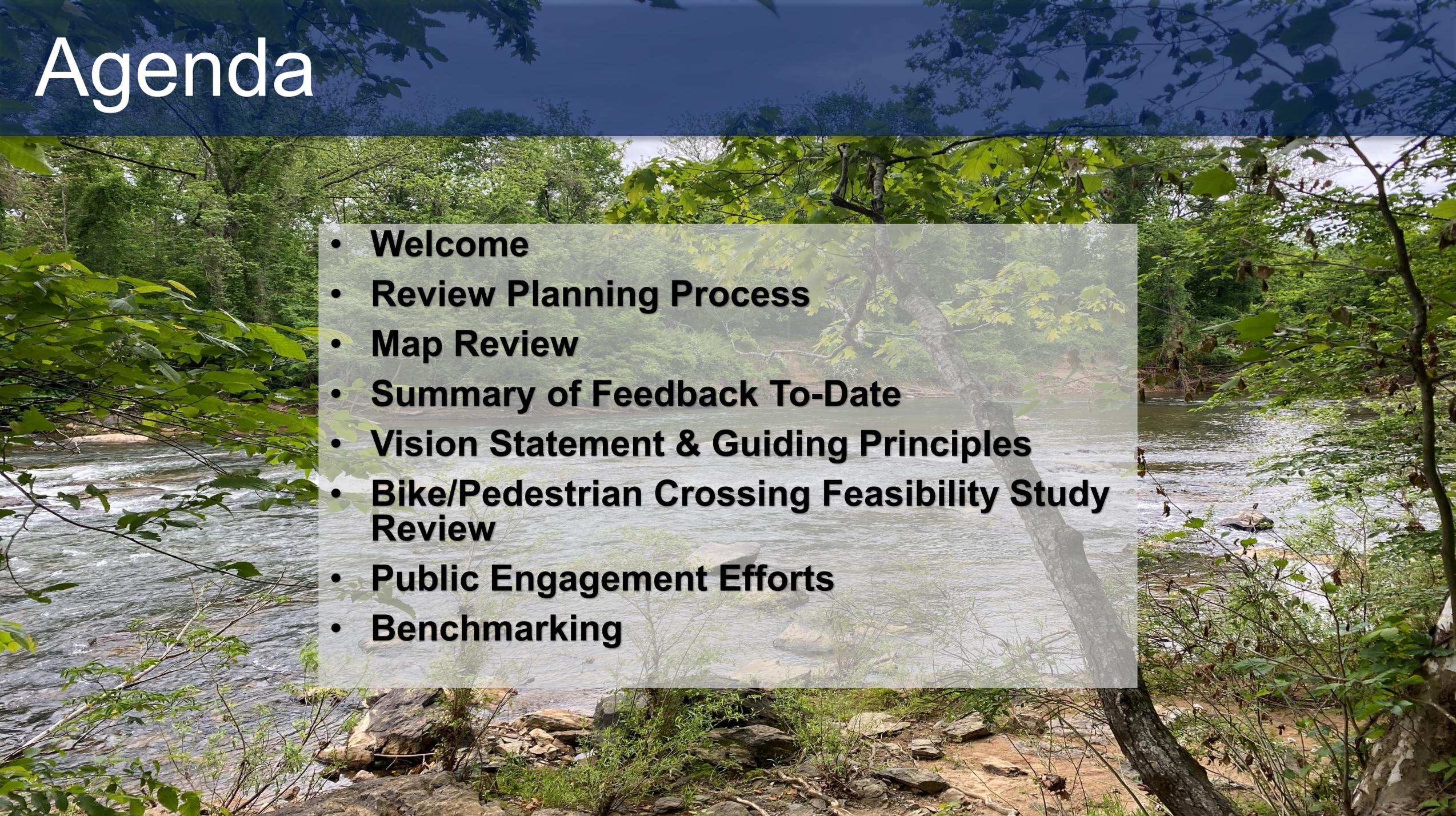


Urban Rivanna River Corridor Plan



**Steering Committee Meeting
Friday September 4th, 2020**

Agenda



- **Welcome**
- **Review Planning Process**
- **Map Review**
- **Summary of Feedback To-Date**
- **Vision Statement & Guiding Principles**
- **Bike/Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study Review**
- **Public Engagement Efforts**
- **Benchmarking**

The Planning Process

- A joint effort between Albemarle County & The City of Charlottesville
- Goal of developing a vision and action plan for the urban corridor of the river
- Is a phased approach, consisting of three phases:
 - **Phase I:** \$30,000 existing conditions inventory completed in 2018
 - **Phase II:** \$84,000 visioning phase
 - **Phase III:** To be determined at future date, would develop master plan for the urban corridor

Phase II Study Area

- Phase II study area runs from Pen Park as northern terminus to I-64 as southern terminus
- Technical committee helped to define the new study area
- Is more targeted than Phase I study area, which consisted of a 0.5-mile buffer from the center of the river from the South Fork Reservoir down to the Milton Road Bridge near Shadwell



Phase II Timeline

- **Jul 2019: Project kickoff**
- **Aug 2019: Refine study area & develop mapping needs**
- **Sep 2019: Flow River Fest engagement event & launch of public survey**
- **Oct-Nov 2019: Refine maps & summarize survey data**
- **Dec 2019: Develop business outreach strategy**
- **Jan 2020: Discuss targeted outreach efforts**
- **Feb-Mar 2020:**
- **Apr-Jun 2020: Develop vision & guiding principles**
- **Aug 2020: Finalize outreach strategy**
- **Sep 2020: Community outreach & peer benchmarking**
- **Oct-Nov 2020: Plan drafting**
- **Dec 2020: Final plan delivered**

Phase II Mapping

- **Map 1: Future Opportunities**
 - City and County staff provided notations for future opportunities and known activities in the development pipeline
- **Map 2 & 3: Trails, Parks, & Recreational Features**
 - Shows existing & proposed bike/pedestrian infrastructure, park lands, trail access points, boat launches, and kiosk locations
- **Map 4: Future Land Use**
 - Includes general future land uses designated in Pantops Master Plan (Albemarle County) and City's Comprehensive Plan
- **Map 5: Floodplains, Trails, & Public Lands**
 - 100 year floodplain including trail information and publicly owned land
- **Map 6: Landcover**
 - Illustrates ground surface (impervious surfaces, tree cover, dense forest, and buildings)
- **Map 7: Simple Satellite Imagery**

Themes from Feedback

- **Describe how you primarily use the river corridor.**
 - Pedestrian recreation
 - Trails, bike & walking paths,
 - Swimming
 - Boating
 - Enjoying nature
- **What aspects of the river corridor are most important to you?**
 - Continuous access
 - Remaining environmentally friendly
 - Staying a mainly litter-free area
- **Where does development or redevelopment seem most appropriate?**
 - Do not develop if ecology has to be disturbed, but use already developed or disturbed areas
- **Is it important to you to learn about access along the corridor?**
 - Yes, have informational signs with historical facts
- **Is it important to you to learn about the ecology of the corridor?**
 - Yes
- **Write in responses**
 - Address traffic congestion on 250
 - Enhance recreational opportunities which have a low impact on habitats

Vision Statement

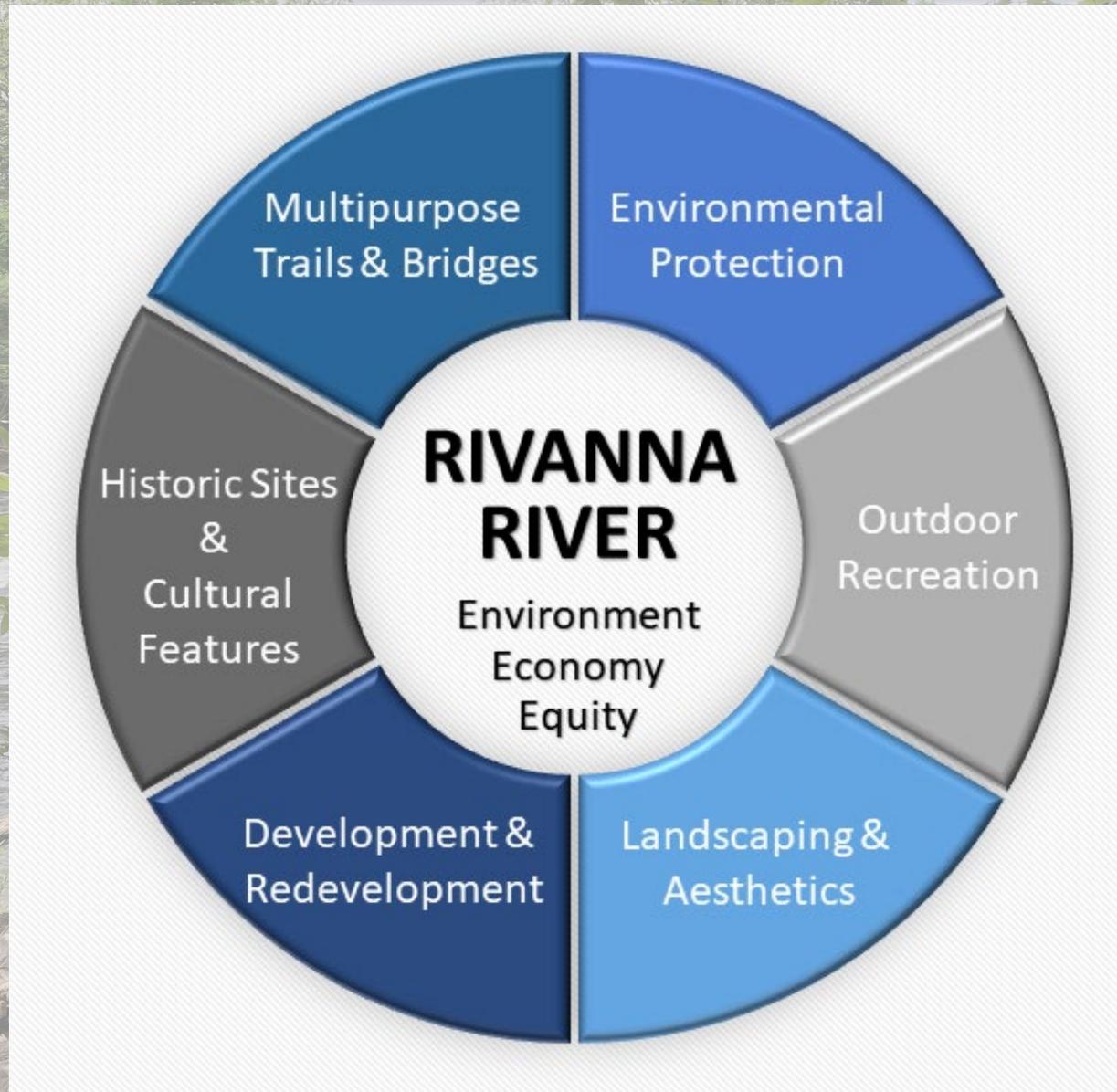
The Rivanna River flowing through Charlottesville and Albemarle County is one of the community's greatest assets. In and near Free Bridge, Woolen Mills, and the Pantops area, the river corridor is and will continue to be a vibrant place where people experience a quiet and serene natural environment, enjoy healthy outdoor activities; and appreciate important historic and cultural points of interest.

Vision Statement: Polling Question

Polling Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with this vision statement?

The Rivanna River flowing through Charlottesville and Albemarle County is one of the community's greatest assets. In and near Free Bridge, Woolen Mills, and the Pantops area, the river corridor is and will continue to be a vibrant place where people experience a quiet and serene natural environment, enjoy healthy outdoor activities; and appreciate important historic and cultural points of interest.

Guiding Principles



Guiding Principles

Environmental protection of the riparian system shall be paramount in all new activities along the river.

Recreational activities at public parks and along the riverfront will be enhanced; commercial recreation will be encouraged and promoted.

Landscaping and buffering of existing commercial and industrial activities abutting the corridor will enhance the natural experience of being on and along the river.

New development and redevelopment will contribute to a mixture of uses in the corridor which include apartments, service sector activities, light industry, offices, and the like. It will also result in or complement recreational activities along the river while protecting key environmental and historic features.

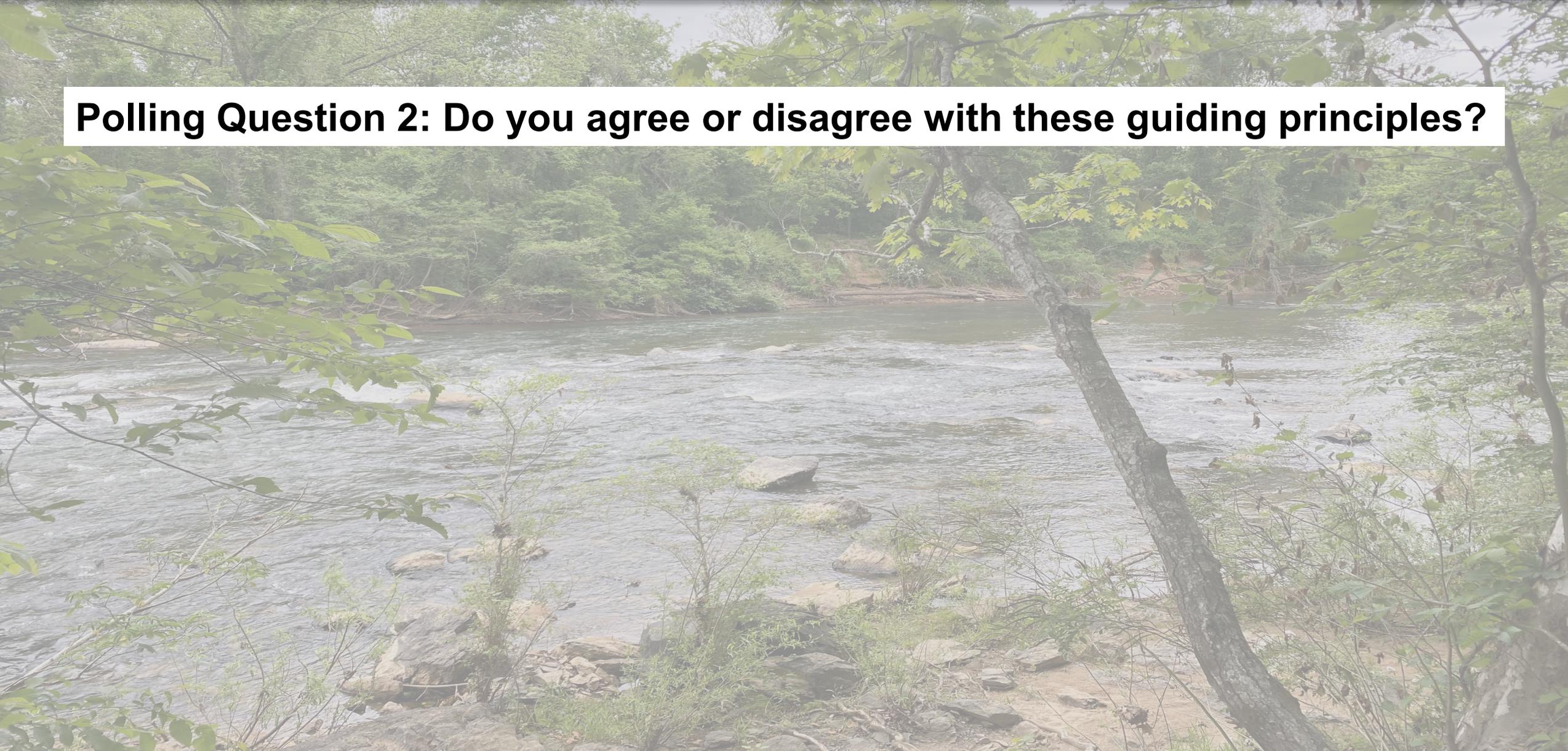
Historic places and cultural features will be protected, identified, and incorporated into the greenway and parks system along the river.

Multi-purpose trails and bridges will offer pedestrians and bicyclists opportunities for movement to, through, and within the corridor.

Public safety measures will maximize the safety and enjoyability of using the trails and ensure that undeveloped natural areas along the river are not misused.

Guiding Principles: Polling Question

Polling Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with these guiding principles?



Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility

Project History

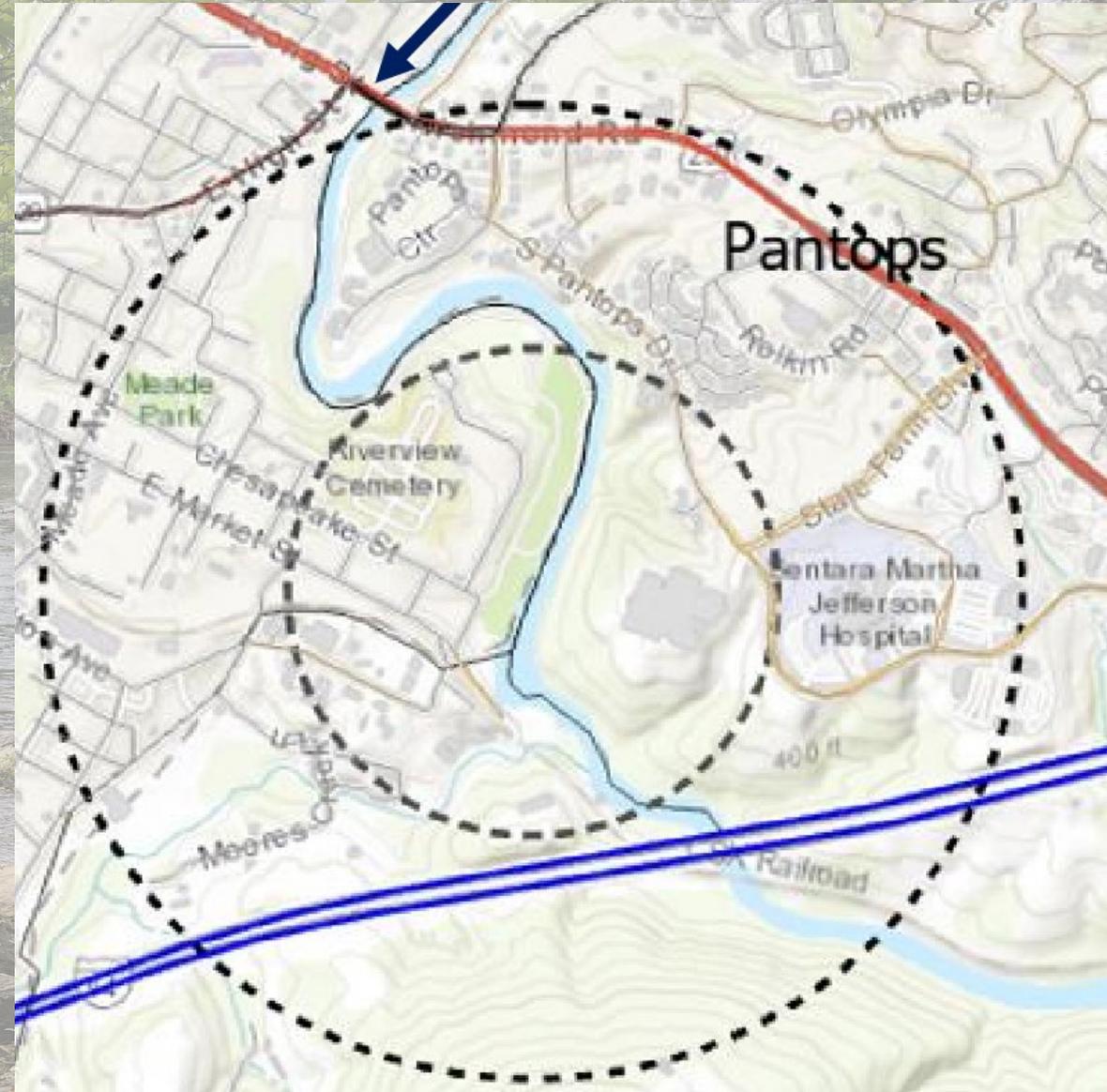
The need for a bike and pedestrian crossing of the Rivanna River in the vicinity of Riverview Park to connect the Pantops region of Albemarle County to the Woolen Mills area and the City of Charlottesville has been identified in numerous planning documents

- **Albemarle County's Pantops Master Plan**
- **Charlottesville's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**
- **Rivanna River Area Plan (TJPDC)**
- **Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (TJPDC)**

Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility

Feasibility Study

At the request of staff from the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, VDOT's Transportation Mobility and Planning Division hired consultants to do a feasibility study to develop a conceptual plan and "planning-level cost estimate" for such a connection

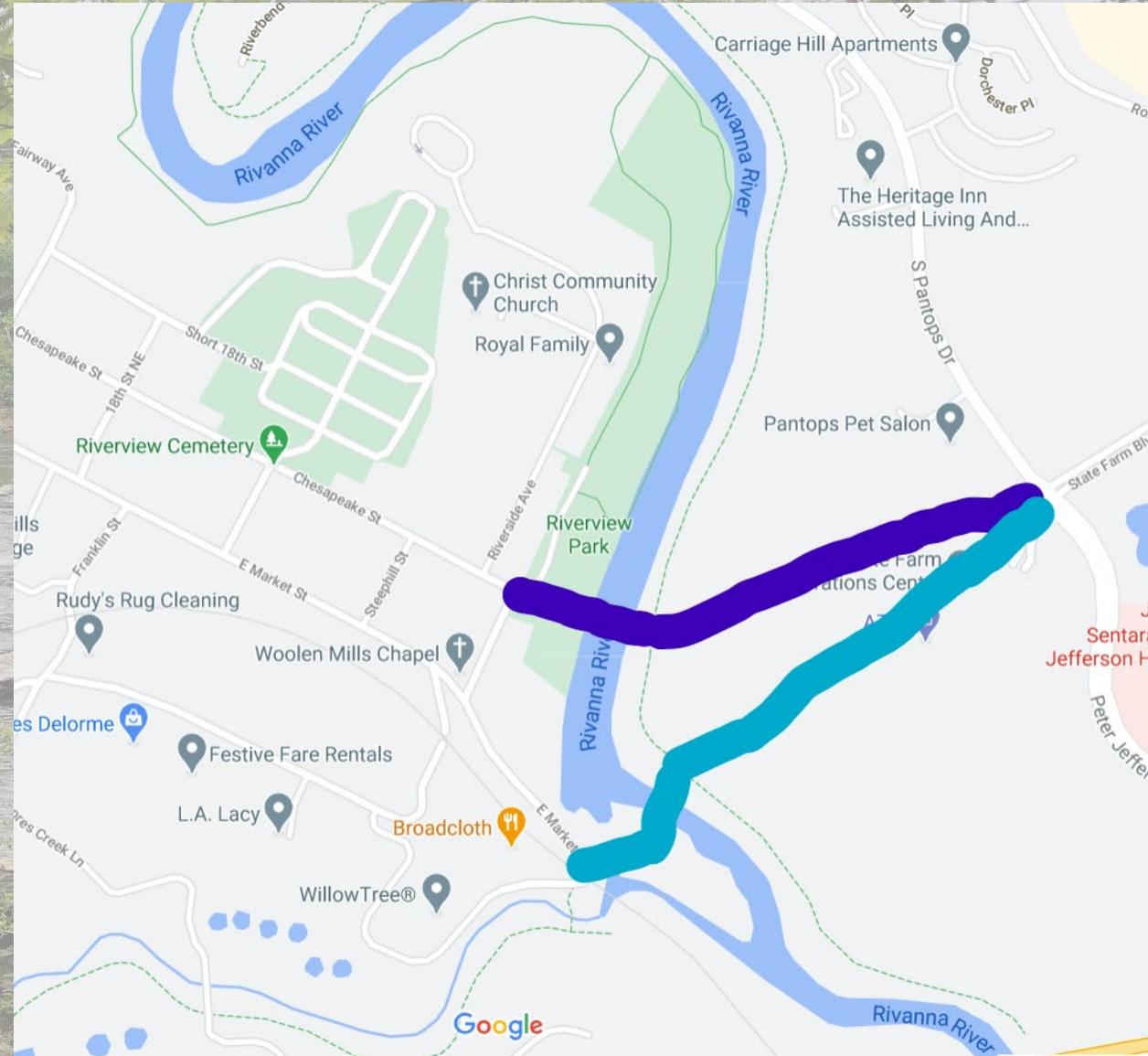


Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility

Suggested Alignments

Option #1 (Indigo) - From Chesapeake Street/Riverside Avenue to Peter Jefferson Parkway/State Farm Blvd

Option #2 (Teal) - From East Market Street to Peter Jefferson Parkway/State Farm Blvd



Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility: Option 1



Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility: Option 2



Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility: Engineering Basics

Option #1

- **Single truss; 325' span**
- **Bridge span has a clearance of 40' over normal river height (15' over floodplain)**
- **Bridge and path maintain grade of 5% or less**

Option #2

- **Arch bridge with pier on mid-river sediment island; each span is 296'**
- **1st span has clearance of 5' over normal river height (1' over floodplain)**
- **Bridge and path mostly maintain grade of 5% or less, but 150' of path have a grade of 6.5%**

Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility: Connectivity & Other Concerns

Option #1 (Chesapeake)

- Provides a direct connection to the Rivanna Trail, Riverview Park's parking lot, and Chesapeake Street which leads to downtown Charlottesville
- Expected to be easier of two options to construct (absence of in-river construction)

Option #2 (East Market)

- Provides a direct connection to the Woolen Mills economic development site, but East Market Street has a constrained 20' cross-section that does not allow for separate bike or pedestrian facilities
- Limited parking availability along East Market Street for recreational users
- Potential impacts to historical canal and lock system

Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility: Permitting

Option #1 (Chesapeake)

- Requires a permit from the VA Mirane Resources Commission
- Requires hydraulic modeling of 100-year floodplain -> low-risk of impact

Option #2 (East Market)

- Requires a permit from the VA Mirane Resources Commission and from US Army Corps of Engineers (pier)
- Requires hydraulic modeling of 100-year floodplain -> higher risk of impact -> would require Special Use Permit from Albemarle County, Floodplain Development Permit from City of Charlottesville, and Conditional Letter of Map Revision from FEMA

Bike/Ped Crossing Feasibility: Cost Estimates

Option #1 (Chesapeake)

- **\$11,330,000 + contingencies**
- **ROW purchase from State Farm and Presidio Development properties assumed (negotiation of an easement would reduce total cost)**

Option #2 (Market Street)

- **\$15,360,000 + contingencies**
- **ROW purchase from State Farm and Presidio Development properties assumed (negotiation of an easement would reduce total cost)**

Community Engagement

- **Project website**
 - **Post maps, surveys, information, meeting recordings, etc. for public review and comment**
- **Informational signs along river corridor**
 - **Place signs at various points along river to direct users to the website**
- **Outreach to businesses and property owners**
 - **Physical mailings to property owners to invite them to participate in public engagement opportunities**
 - **Would the Steering Committee prefer a live webinar option, or to simply direct addressees to website to provide feedback?**
- **Make remaining technical and steering committee meetings easily accessible to the public**
 - **Post meeting links on website**
 - **Include opportunities for public questions and comments during the technical and steering committee meetings**

Benchmarking

- There are no peer sites that mimic the unique characteristics of the Urban Rivanna Corridor,
- TJPDC staff is conducting reviews of other river corridor planning efforts to highlight elements that can inform/inspire this corridor planning effort
 - Richmond, VA
 - Greenville, SC
 - Fredericksburg, VA
 - Lynchburg, VA
 - Others?
- TJPDC staff will coordinate with technical committee to identify images from other river projects to inspire plan recommendations

Thank You

Thank you for attending and participating in today's meeting.
The Technical Committee will meet Wednesday September 9th
from 12-1 PM