

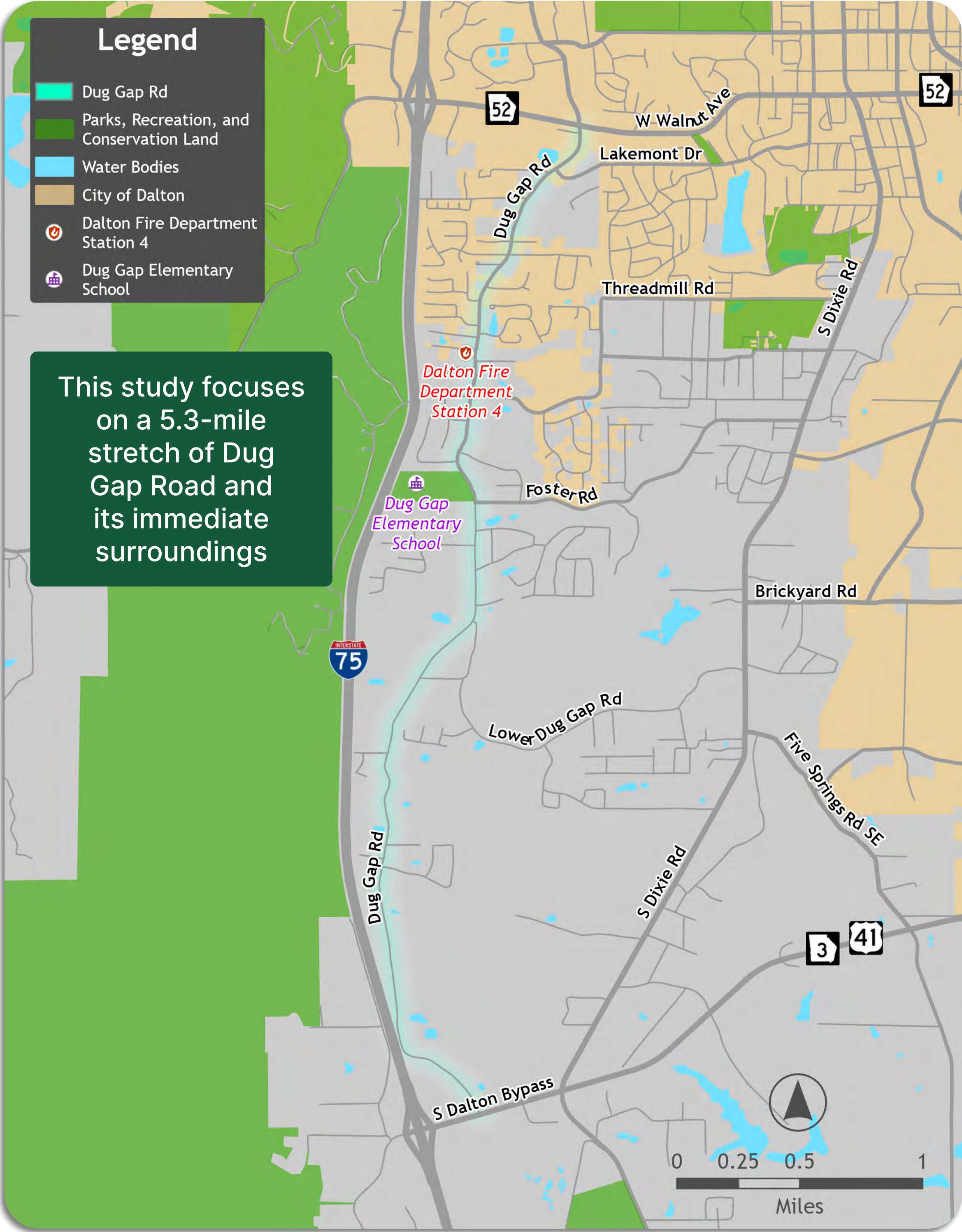
Dug Gap Road Corridor Study Overview

About the Study

The Dug Gap Road Corridor Study will identify recommendations to improve traffic operations, safety, and corridor conditions for all travelers. The study will engage stakeholders and community members to share information and gather input on community concerns and priorities as well as feedback on draft strategies and recommendations. In addition to community input, data analysis of current and future conditions along the study corridor, on-the-ground observations, and other factors such as environmental impacts will be considered in shaping and evaluating potential improvements.

The study will produce a report that summarizes the planning process, key findings from the existing conditions assessment, key themes from the community engagement activities, and recommended improvements to Dug Gap Road over the next several years.

Study Schedule



We want to hear from you!

Scan this QR code for the project website and leave comments on the interactive map.



Questions? Reach out to:
James Davis, Greater Dalton MPO - jtdavis@whitfieldcountyga.com
Erin Thoresen, Gresham Smith - erin.thoresen@greshamsmith.com



Challenges and Opportunities

Primary Concerns

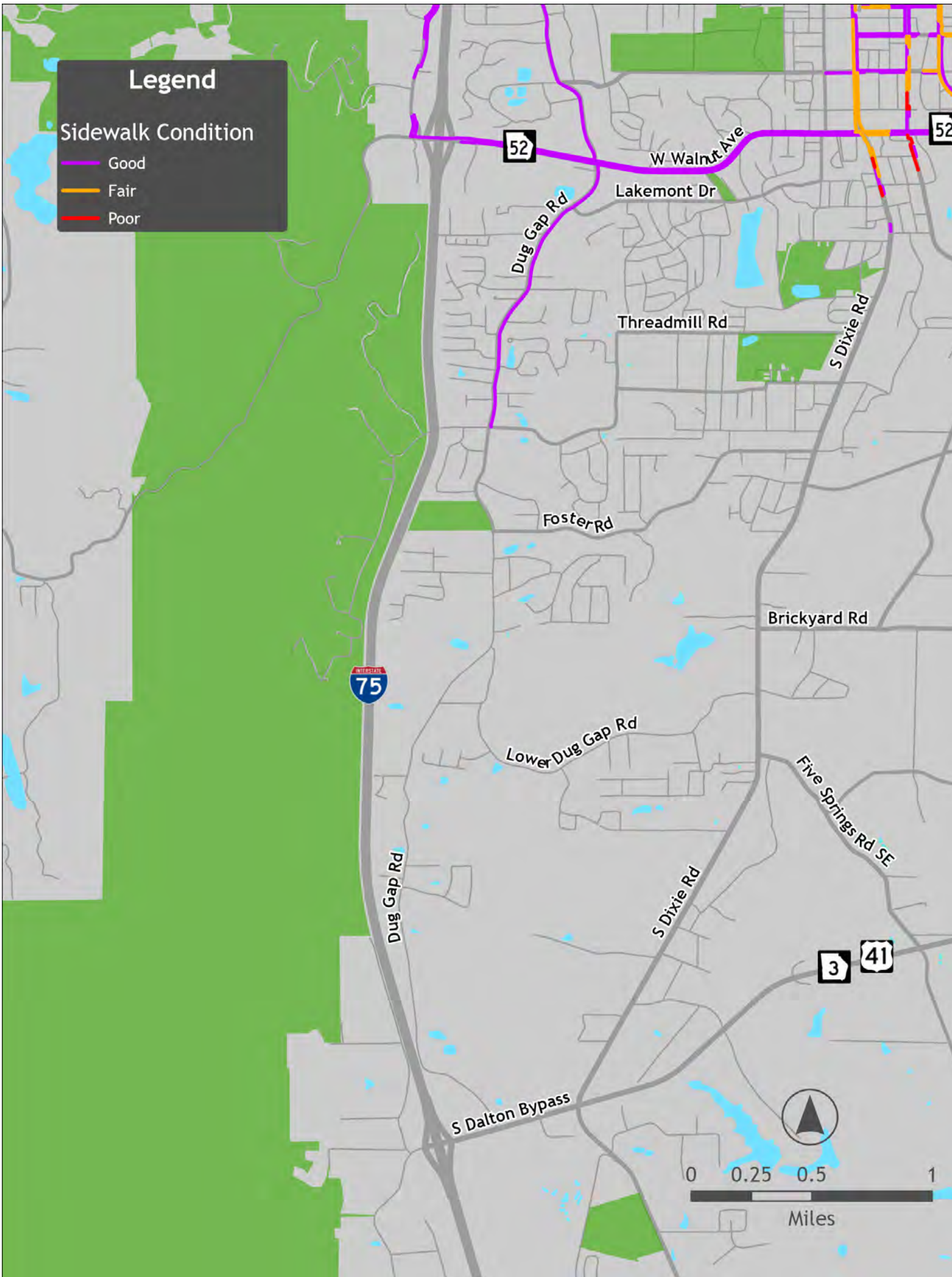
The project team identified primary concerns along Dug Gap Road by seeking community input as well as conducting technical analyses and a field visit along the corridor. The main concerns include the following:

- Traffic congestion associated with commercial areas, new developments, and use of Dug Gap Road as an alternative north-south route when I-75 becomes congested
- Lack of walking and cycling paths and crossing opportunities
- Safety concerns on the roadway, particularly near intersections, driveways, curvy areas, and Dug Gap Elementary School
- A desire for thoughtful growth that preserves the existing character and feel of the corridor and surrounding areas

The primary concerns identified relate to traffic operations, safety, and active transportation. These concerns drive the project team's draft recommendations.

Active Options

Sidewalks exist on the northern portion of the corridor from Threadmill Road to Walnut Avenue, but lack connections to key destinations like Dug Gap Elementary School. The corridor does not have any facilities for biking. Adding a multi-use path, additional sidewalk, pedestrian amenities, and safer pedestrian crossings can improve mobility.



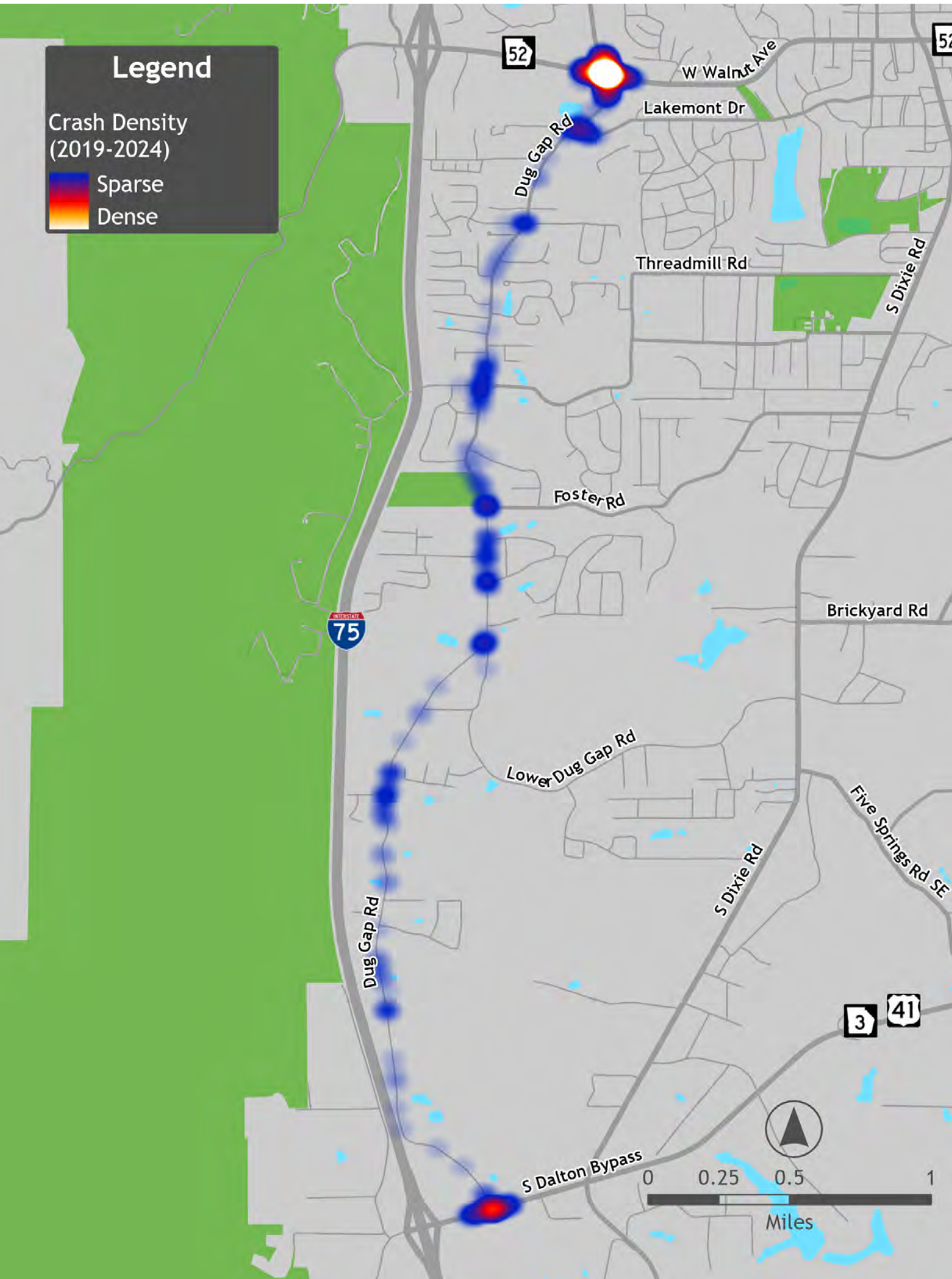
Traffic Operations

Congestion is low on most of the study corridor, with segments near Dug Gap Elementary School and Walnut Avenue facing challenges during peak traffic hours. Intersection and roadway improvements can help traffic flow more smoothly, while pedestrian and cyclist network improvements can reduce vehicle trips and alleviate congestion.



Safety

Poor lighting conditions, curvy roadway segments, and frequent driveways along the corridor contribute to safety issues. With Dalton Fire Station #4 located on Dug Gap Road, the corridor is a crucial route for emergency vehicles. Curve improvements, street lighting, and access management present opportunities to enhance safety.



Community & Stakeholder Engagement

Project Advisory Group

The project team convened a project advisory group consisting of informed stakeholders to solicit specific feedback several times over the duration of the study. Members of this group included leadership from Whitfield County, City of Dalton, Dug Gap Elementary School, and public safety agencies. The group provided specific insight on existing conditions along the corridor, the study’s goals and priorities, as well as draft policy and project recommendations.

Project Website

The project team developed a project website with regular updates and an interactive map activity that allows community members to mark specific locations along Dug Gap Road and comment their insights and concerns.

Scan this QR code for the project website and leave comments on the interactive map.



Mistletoe Festival Pop-Up Table

The project team attended the 5th Annual Mistletoe Festival in December 2025 in downtown Dalton. The primary goal of this outreach opportunity was to identify concerns and improvements that community members wished to see at specific locations along Dug Gap Road. Feedback from this event helped the project team identify safety concerns and potential improvements throughout the corridor.

Focus Groups

Throughout the planning process, the project team held focus group meetings with the following key community groups:

- Public safety personnel
- Faith-based organizations
- Local business leaders

Each of these meetings allowed distinct groups to weigh in on challenges and opportunities along the Dug Gap Road corridor, the study’s goals and priorities, or review draft policy and project recommendations.



Key Themes & Feedback

- Improve traffic flow at high-activity areas and along the entire corridor, considering its use as a north-south detour route when I-75 becomes congested
- Enhance opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly around the school and on the northern portion of the corridor where residential and commercial activity is concentrated
- Address safety concerns, particularly related to school zone safety, emergency response capabilities, high-volume driveways and intersections, and curvy roadway segments
- Take a realistic, measured approach to address concerns along the corridor within the constraints of available funding and right-of-way, with respect to the wishes of local residents



Draft Recommendations Overview

The recommendations presented on this board are a sample of key draft recommendations from this study. Each recommendation on this board is one of 28 countermeasures and strategies considered effective in reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Appropriate Speed Limit for All Roadway Users

A speed limit reduction to 35 MPH along the entire study corridor creates a consistent, predictable environment. Combined with strategically placed dynamic speed feedback signs that remind drivers to slow down, this approach fosters a safe environment for all roadway users.

Roadside Design Improvements at Curves

Chevron signage, in-lane speed advisory markings, and visibility improvements reduce roadway departures at horizontal roadway curves by warning drivers. Sideslope flattening and guardrails provide additional safeguards, where needed.

Corridor Access Management

Access management refers to the control of entry and exit points to the roadway. Driveway closure or relocation, right-in/right-out only driveways, raised medians, centerline hardening, and turn lanes can help reduce left-turn and across-roadway vehicle conflicts.

Roundabouts

Roundabouts are circular intersections that safely and efficiently move traffic. They promote lower vehicle speeds, reduce vehicle conflicts, and reduce unnecessary stops and delays. They can also be designed to accommodate larger vehicles such as trucks, buses and tractor-trailers and reduce emergency response times.

Walking & Biking Facilities

Walking and bicycling facilities will allow roadway users to walk or roll between popular destinations, neighborhoods, and Dug Gap Elementary School. Walking and biking facilities improve quality of life by encouraging active lifestyles and improving mobility for folks who do not drive.

Dynamic speed feedback sign



Chevron signage and guardrail



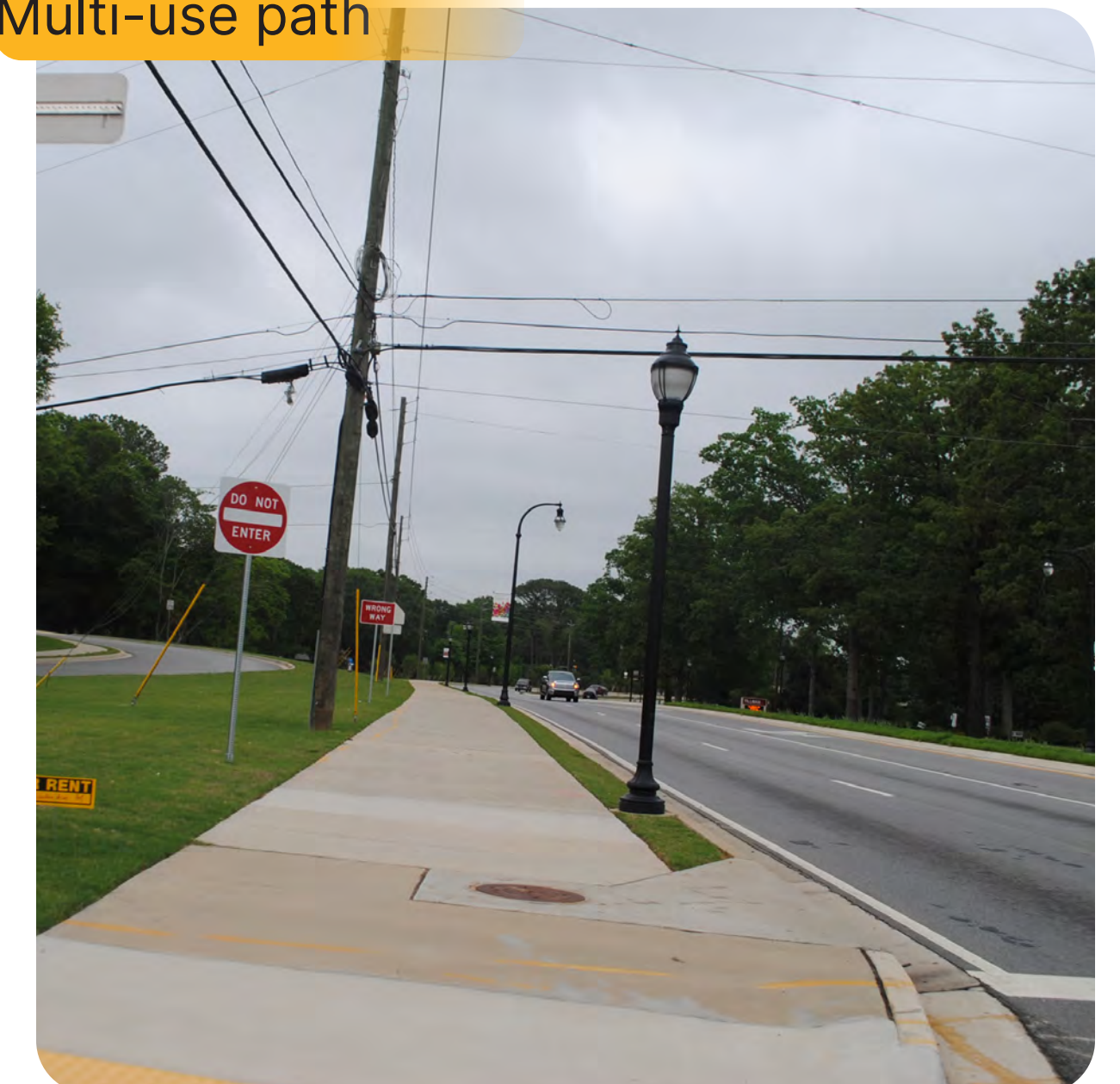
Raised median design



Roundabout



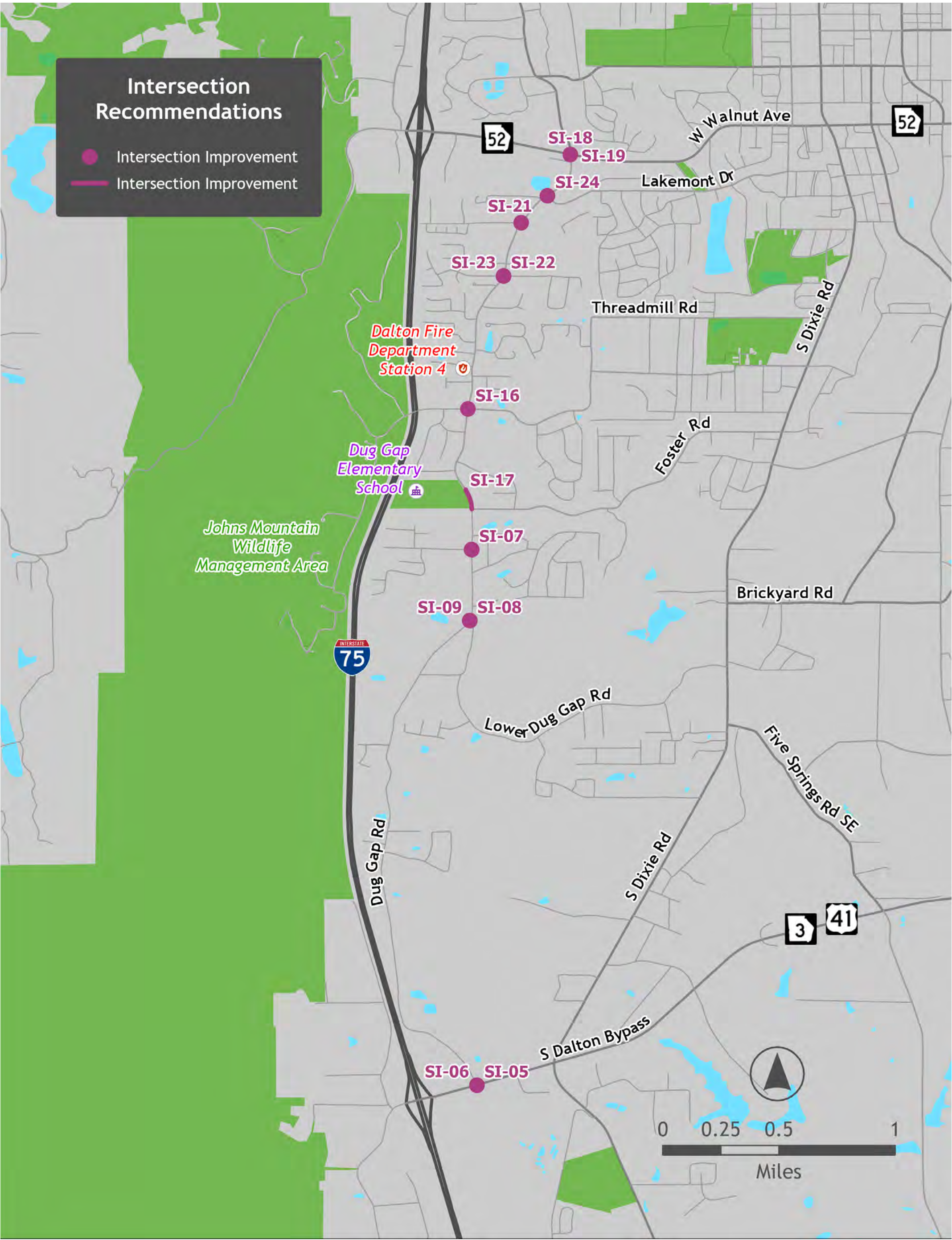
Multi-use path



Draft Intersection Improvement Recommendations

Place a sticker in the 'Indicate Support' column to indicate support for any recommendations (only one sticker per project).

Project Map

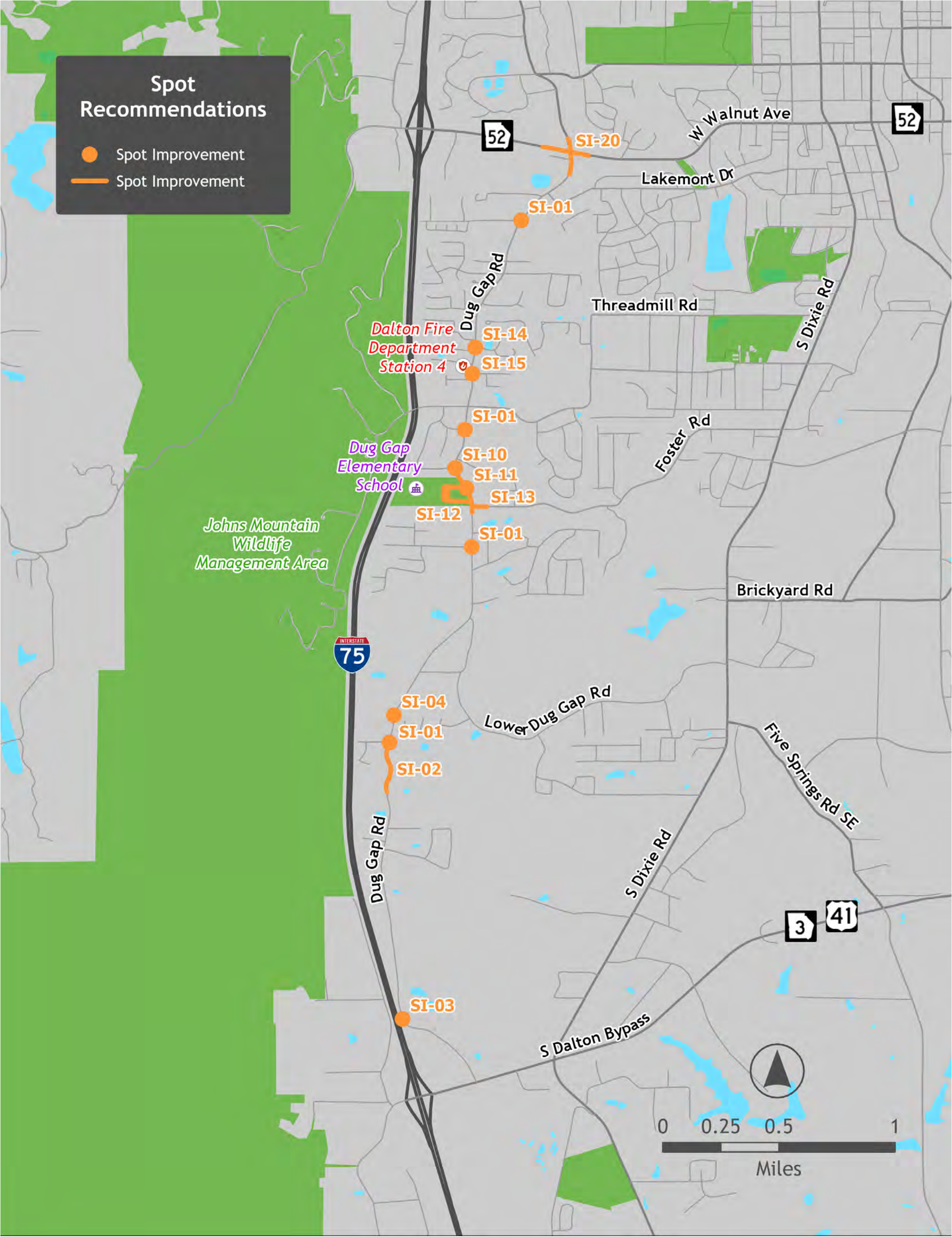


Project Number	Project Name	Indicate Support
SI-05	Intersection Analysis - Dug Gap Road/Yeager Drive and S Dalton Bypass	
SI-06	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road/Yeager Drive and S Dalton Bypass	
SI-07	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Cavender Drive	
SI-08	Intersection Analysis - Dug Gap Road and Old Dug Gap Road (N)	
SI-09	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Old Dug Gap Road (N)	
SI-16	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Threadmill Road/W Dug Gap Mountain Road	
SI-17	Intersection and Frontage Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Dug Gap School Road/Foster Road	
SI-18	Intersection Improvements - Walnut Avenue and Dug Gap Road	
SI-19	Intersection Analysis - Walnut Avenue and Dug Gap Road	
SI-21	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Mineral Springs Road	
SI-22	Intersection Analysis - Dug Gap Road and Hackney Drive/Southmont Drive	
SI-23	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Hackney Drive/Southmont Drive	
SI-24	Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Lakemont Drive/Shields Road	



Draft Spot Improvement Recommendations

Project Map



Place a sticker in the 'Indicate Support' column to indicate support for any recommendations (only one sticker per project).

Project Number	Project Name	Indicate Support
SI-01	Dynamic Speed Display/Feedback Signs	
SI-02	Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements South of Seminole Drive	
SI-03	Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements North of S Dalton Bypass	
SI-04	Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements North of Williard Way	
SI-10	Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements Near Valley Brook Drive	
SI-11	Dug Gap Elementary School Pedestrian Improvements	
SI-12	Dug Gap Elementary School Circulation Improvements	
SI-13	School Zone Safety Enhancements	
SI-14	Pedestrian Crossing at Dug Gap Road and Ryman Ridge Road	
SI-15	Dug Gap Road and Wisteria Drive Visibility Improvements	
SI-20	Access Management near Walnut Avenue	

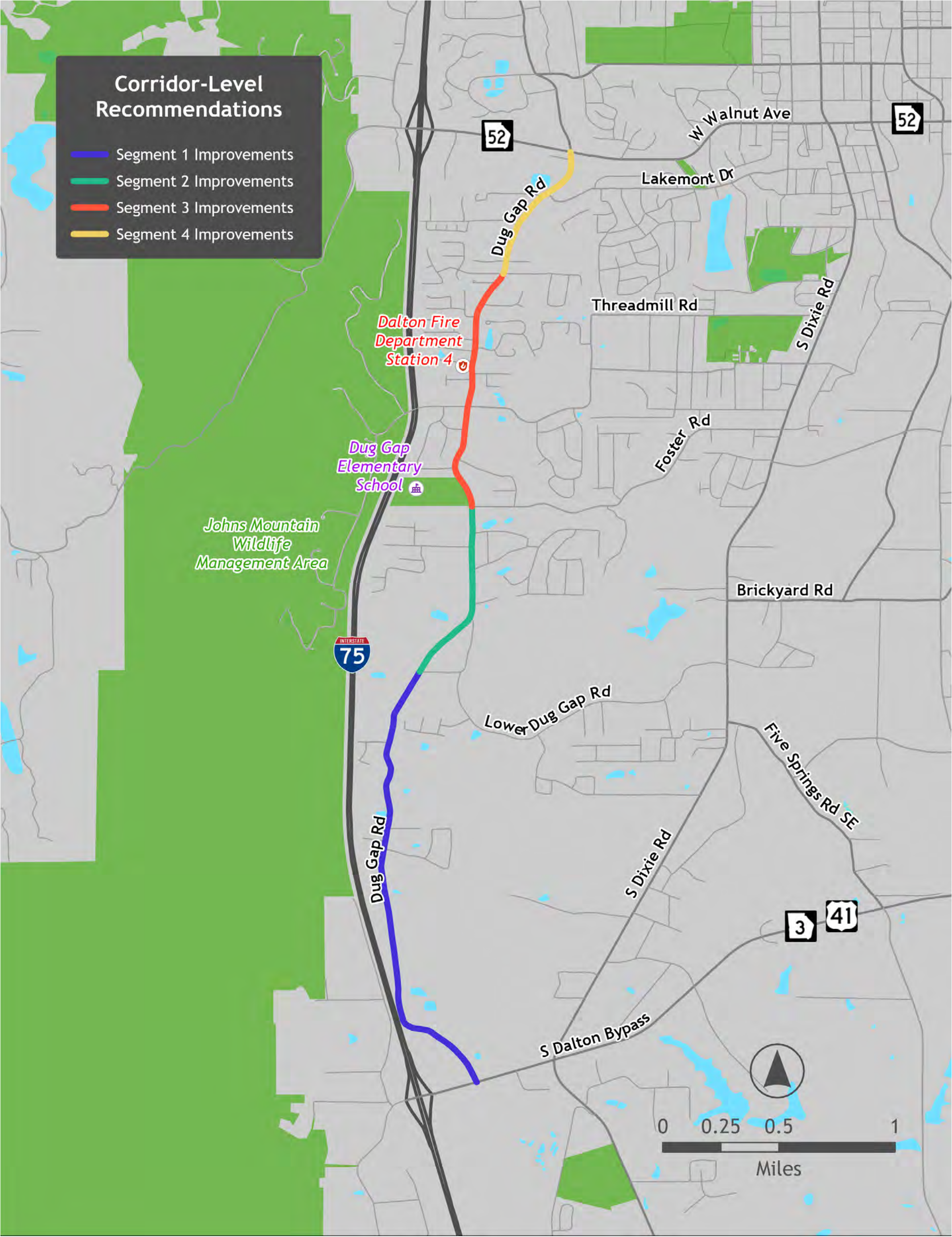


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Draft Corridor Improvement Recommendations & Implementation Strategies

Project Map



Place a sticker in the 'Indicate Support' column to indicate support for any recommendations (only one sticker per project).

Project Number	Project Name	Limits	Indicate Support
CO-01	Segment 1 Improvements	S Dalton Bypass to Old Dug Gap Road (South)	
CO-02	Segment 2 Improvements	Old Dug Gap Road (South) to Foster Road	
CO-03	Segment 3 Improvements	Foster Road to Southmont Drive/Hackney Drive	
CO-04	Segment 4 Improvements	Southmont Drive/Hackney Drive to Walnut Avenue (SR 52)	

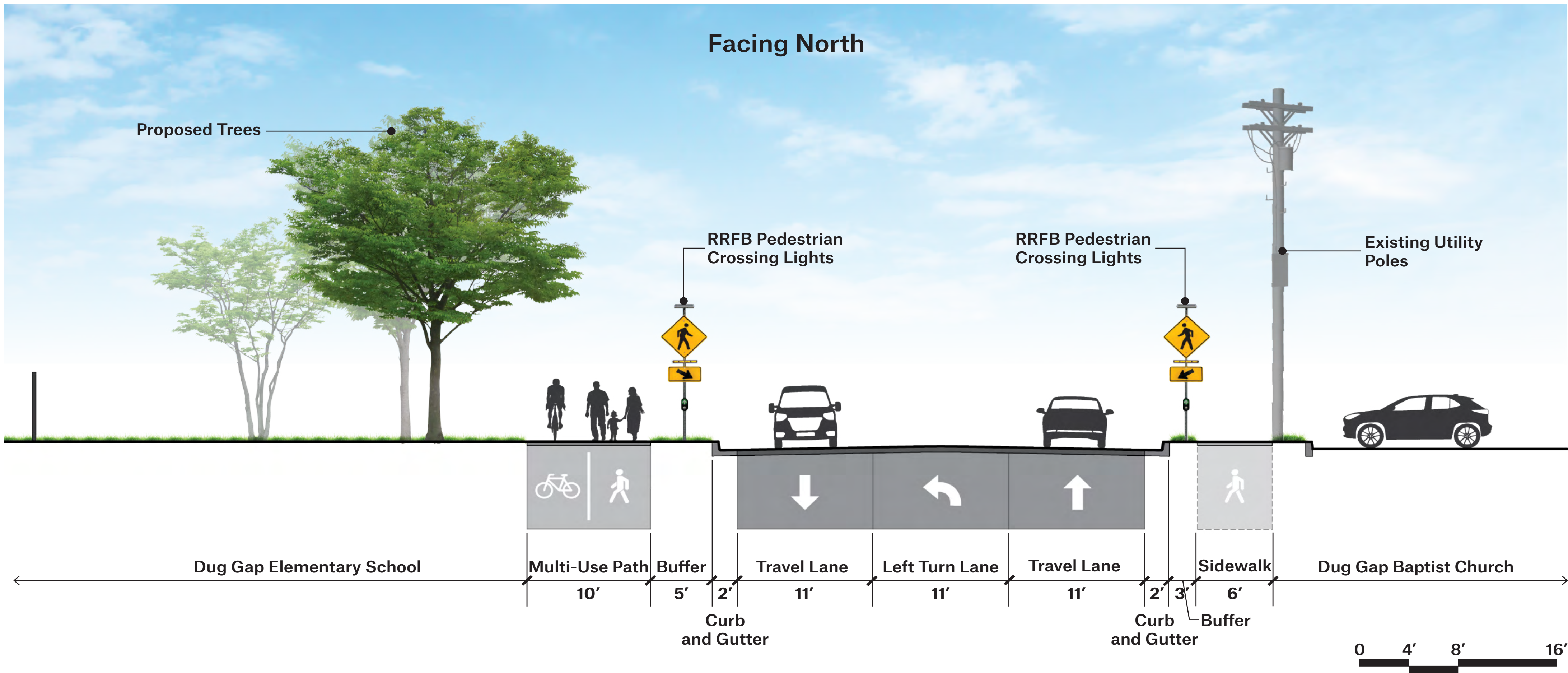
Project Number	Strategy Name	Indicate Support
ST-01*	Speed Limit Reduction (35 MPH)	
ST-02*	Integrate Recommendations with Dalton-Whitfield Safety Action Plan	
ST-03*	Advance and Build on Gateway Corridor Plan	
ST-04*	School Sidewalk Program	
ST-05*	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Participation	
ST-06*	Dalton Shopping Center Connectivity Improvements	

*Strategy recommendations are not shown on the project map.

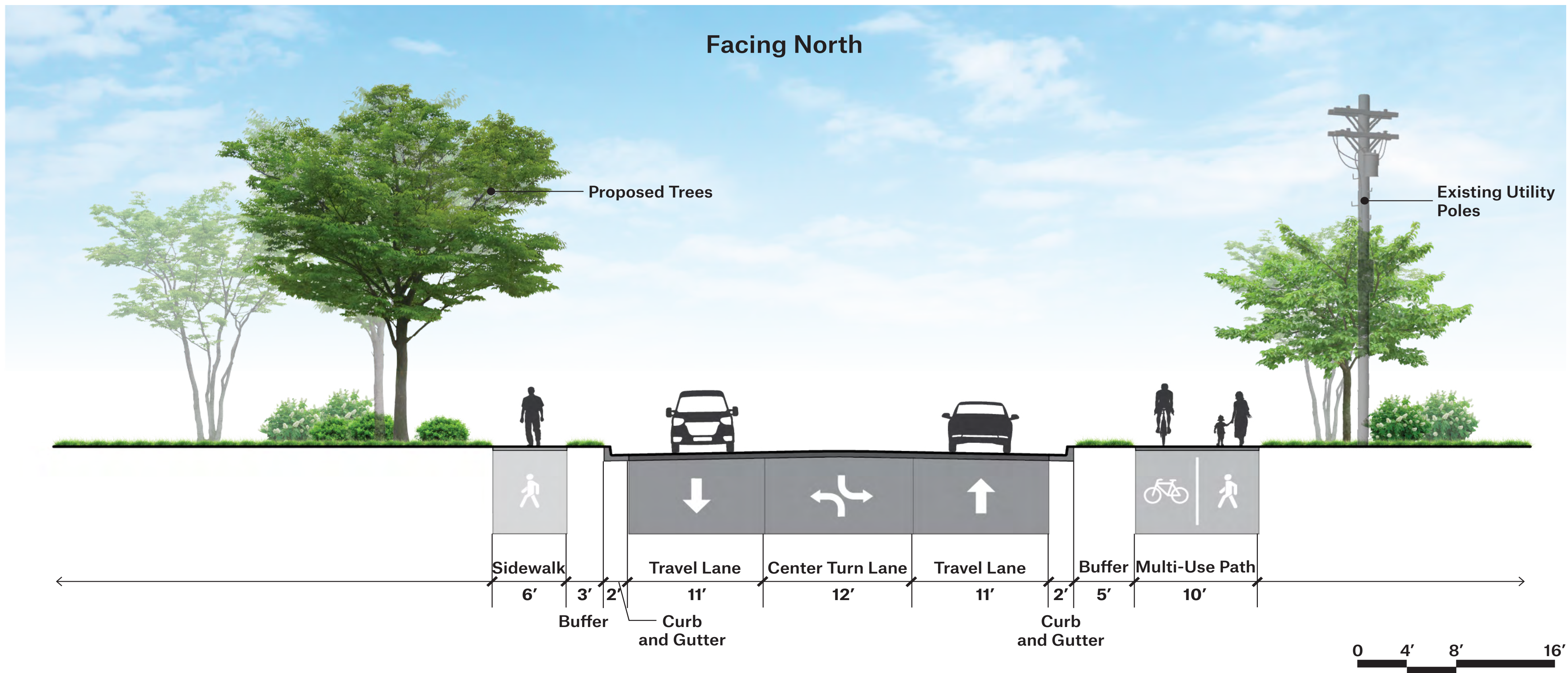


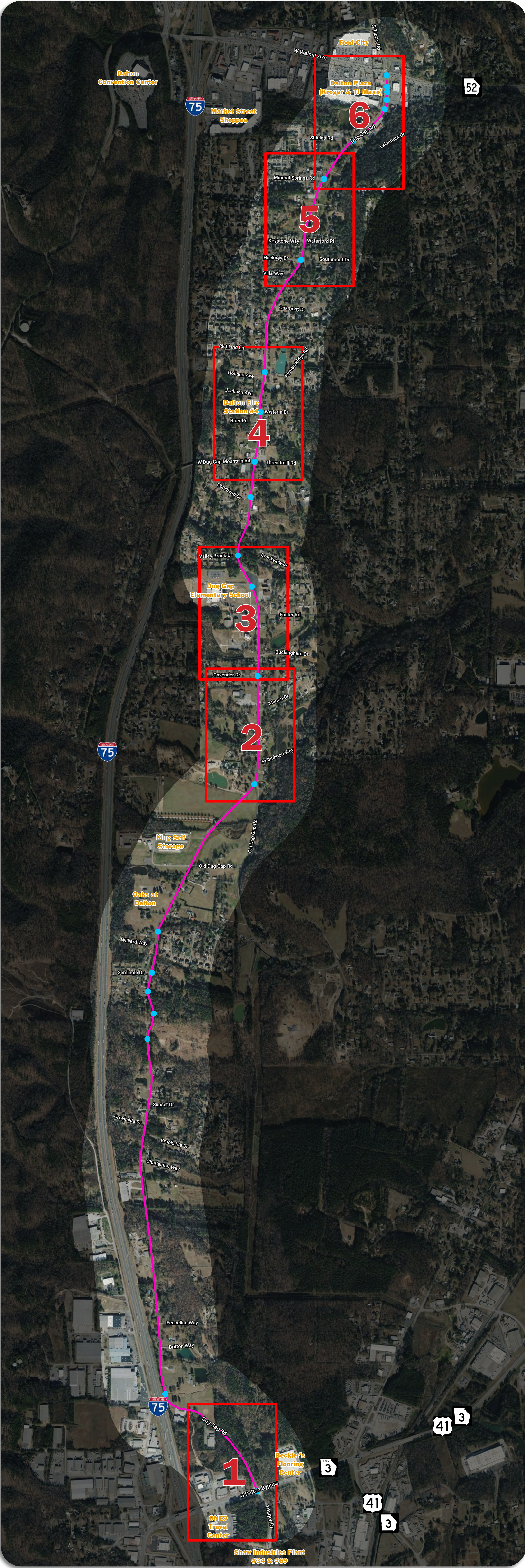
Draft Corridor Improvement Typical Sections

Typical Section
North of Foster Rd at Dug Gap Elementary School



Typical Section
South of Walnut Ave Near Dalton Plaza





Map Overview

The project team has developed recommendations across the entire 5.3-mile stretch of Dug Gap Road, and a series of maps show additional detail as to what projects could look like on the corridor once they are implemented. This board is a place to provide general comments on the corridor and draft recommended projects. There are six additional boards corresponding to the following portions of the corridor:

1. South End of Corridor
2. Old Dug Gap Road to Cavender Drive
3. Dug Gap Elementary School Area
4. Threadmill Road to Ryman Ridge Road
5. Southmont/Hackney Drive to Mineral Springs Road
6. North End of Corridor

Feel free to review at your own pace and place green stickers for what you like and red stickers for what you do not like!

General Notes & Observations



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