



Biddeford/Saco Bike/Ped Trail Feasibility Study

Public Meeting #1

November 30, 2021

Thank you for joining!

The meeting will start at 6:00 PM

**Please direct any questions or comments after the meeting to:
Jon Kachmar, jon.kachmar@eastertrail.org (860) 227-0914**



Biddeford/Saco Bike/Ped Trail Feasibility Study

Public Meeting #1

November 30, 2021

Welcome!



Biddeford/Saco Bike/Ped Trail Feasibility Study

Public Meeting #1

November 30, 2021





Tony Grande
Project Manager, VHB



Ethan Flynn
Senior Project Engineer, VHB



Jon Kachmar
Eastern Trail

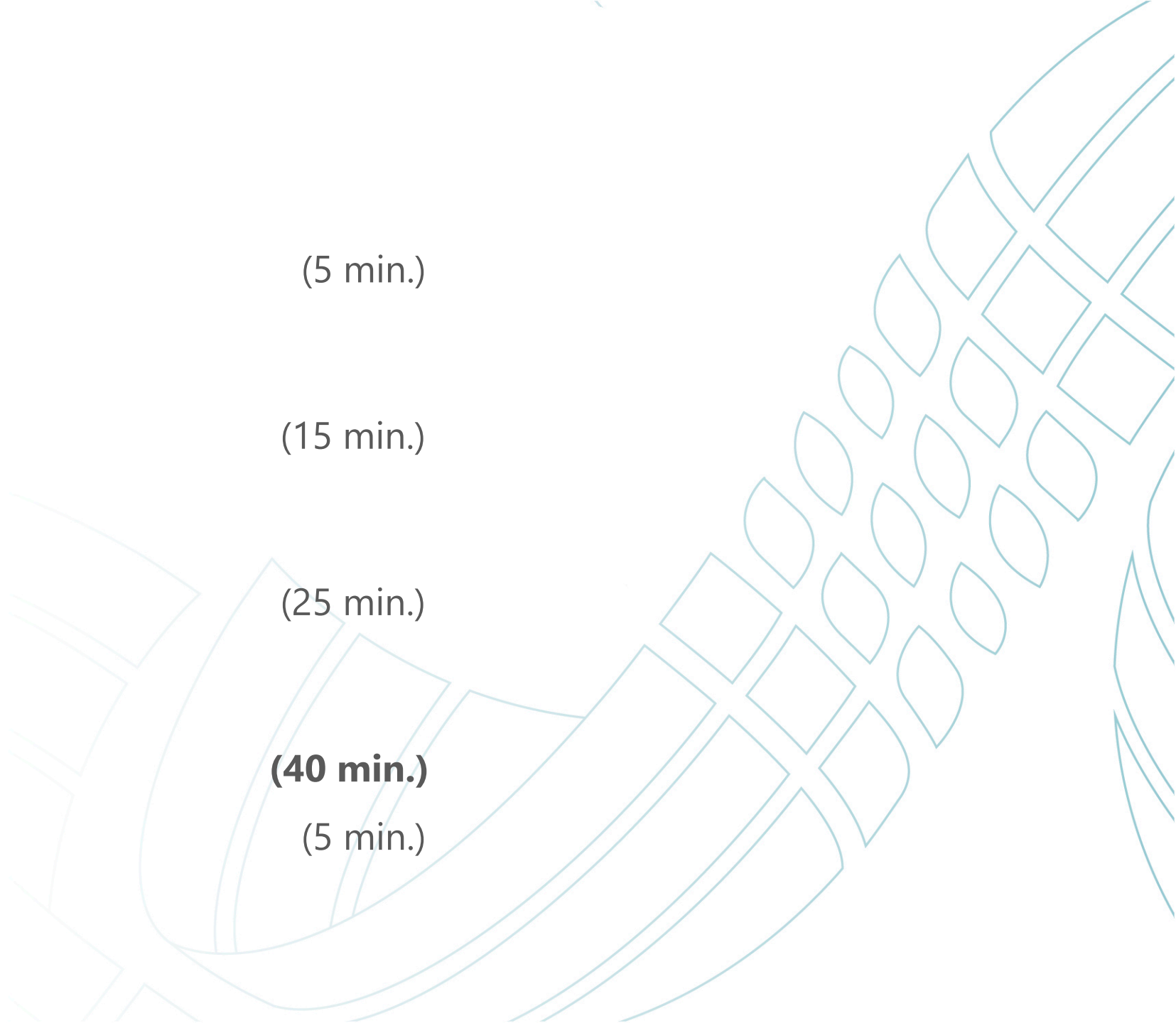


Ian Gorecki
MaineDOT



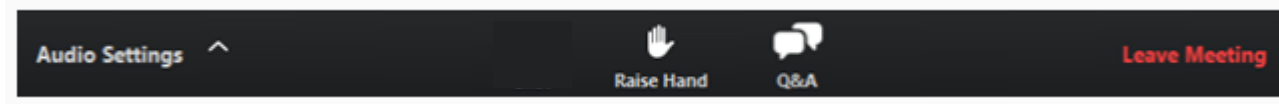
Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions (5 min.)
 - Meeting Logistics
 - Technical Advisory Committee
- Project Overview (15 min.)
 - Scope of Work
 - Project Schedule
- Study Area (25 min.)
 - Existing Conditions
 - Existing Base Plans
- **Public Input/Q&A** (40 min.)
- Next Steps (5 min.)



Meeting Logistics

- All attendees muted
- Lots of time for Questions and Answers after the presentation
- Raise/lower your “Hand” to ask a question “live”



- Q&A – type questions/comments directly into the box
- Phoning in...press *9 to raise your hand
- This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the Eastern Trail website, along with the presentation.
- Email comments: Jon Kachmar, jon.kachmar@eastertrail.org

Technical Advisory Committee Members

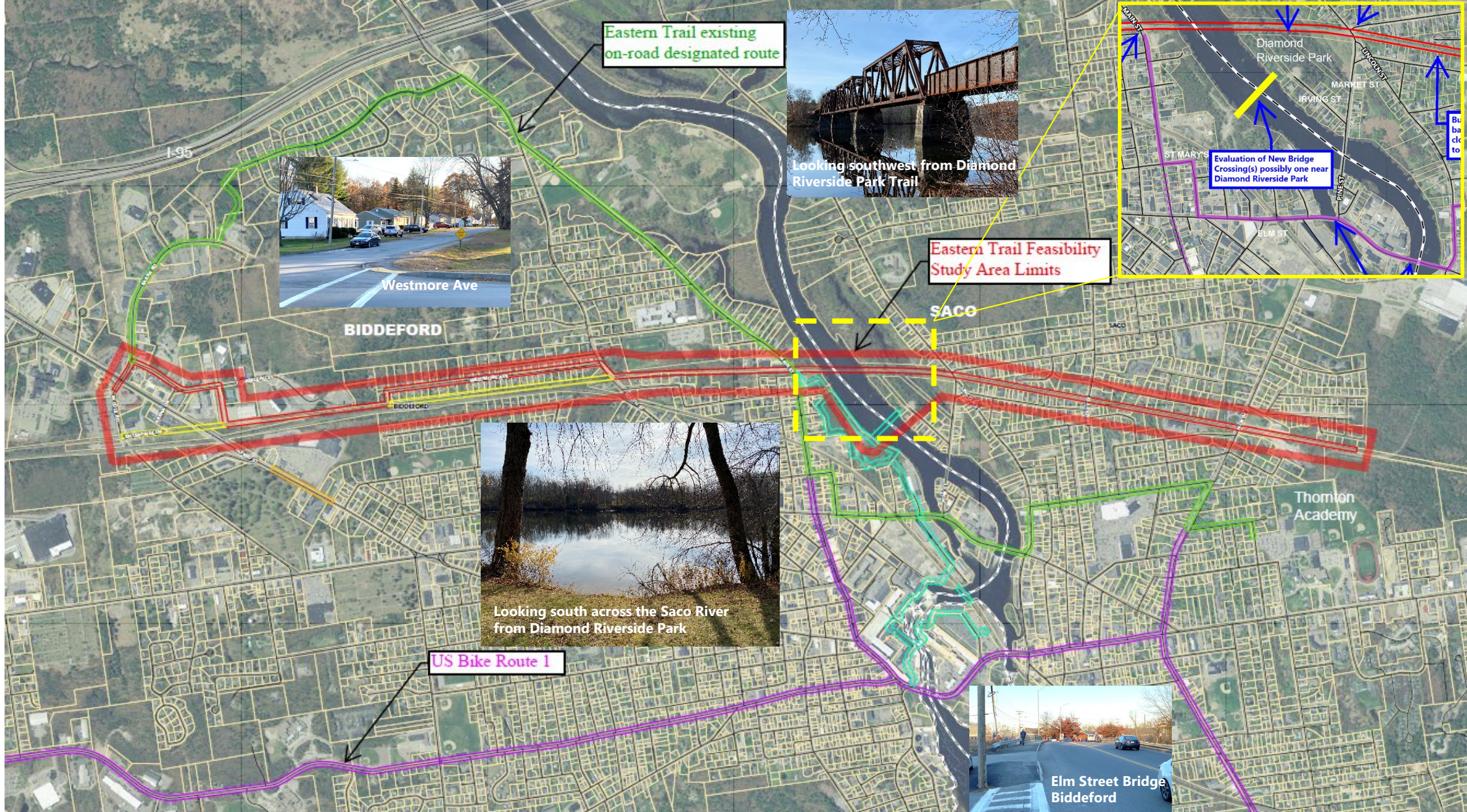
<u>Member</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
1 Jon Kachmar	Eastern Trail
2 Ian Gorecki	MaineDOT
3 Patrick Adams	MaineDOT
4 Greg Tansley	City of Biddeford
5 Jason Garnham	City of Saco
6 Stephanie Carver	SMPDC
7 Tony Grande	VHB
8 Ethan Flynn	VHB
9 Branden Roberts	VHB

Project Overview and Scope of Work



Project Overview

- **Planning Partnership Initiative (PPI):** Biddeford and Saco, in collaboration with The Eastern Trail Alliance (ETA), Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD), and the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT).
- **The study's purpose** is to *evaluate and analyze alternatives to extend the Eastern Trail off-road segments* from:
 1. West Cole Road to the R.R. truss bridge over the Saco River in Biddeford (~1.75 miles)
 2. R.R. truss bridge over the Saco River to Thornton Academy in Saco (~1.2 miles)
- **Typical Section** of the trail will be 10-12 feet wide but could be reduced to 8 feet for short segments to minimize impacts or project costs.
- **Location:** The study area generally runs along the Railroad corridor for the entire length, with potential on-road alternatives to be explored in selected locations.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Connectivity Feasibility Study

Biddeford-Saco, Maine



Project Overview

- Potential improvements to be considered may include:
 - On-road and off-road trail improvements
 - Saco River Crossing: evaluate attaching/supporting new trail bridge on existing RR structure and potential separate new trail bridge crossing
 - New/rehabilitated sidewalks and curb ramps
 - Roadway pavement markings (e.g. crosswalks, lane markings, shared lane markings and bicycle lane markings)
 - Signs (e.g. Destination and wayfinding signs, parking restrictions, bike and pedestrian crossing signs and advance warning signs)
 - Enhanced pedestrian and bicyclist street crossings/intersection treatments
 - Drainage adjustments

Scope of Work

General Scope of Work Tasks

1. *Project Kick-Off Meeting with Project Stakeholders and MaineDOT*
2. *Review Available Data and Assess Current Conditions (on-going)*
3. Evaluate Potential Alternatives (on-going)
4. Develop Preliminary Recommendations and Draft Report
5. Public and Agency Feedback
6. Final Report

Scope of Work

2. Review Available Data and Assess Current Conditions

- **Conducted field reviews** to assess general existing topography, roadway crossings, Saco River crossing, drainage and utility features, existing signs and lighting, and existing infrastructure along potential on-street alternatives
- Performed a **desktop inventory of the study area** to obtain recent MaineDOT traffic counts and crash summaries, registered historic properties within the proximity of the study area, right-of-way lines, bridge and railroad plans, land use and economic development information that could affect transportation in the area or the trail directly
- **Communication with stakeholder groups**, such as the Eastern Trail Alliance, as well as City staff and MaineDOT. Beginning communications with other stakeholders, including Unitol and Pan Am Railways.

Scope of Work

3. Evaluate Potential Alternatives

- **Off-road** alternatives take into consideration:
 - Environmental Resource Impacts
 - Topographic Challenges
 - Saco River Crossing
 - Right of Way Limitations
 - Shared Corridor Restrictions (RWT) / Active RR line (Saco Industrial Track)
 - Project Cost Limitations
- **On-road** alternatives take into consideration:
 - Required Infrastructure Upgrades to Support a Shared Way or Adjacent Facility
 - Traffic Data
 - Trail User Safety
 - Right of Way Limitations
 - Project Cost Limitations
- **Long-Term** and **Short-Term** Eastern Trail connections will be evaluated

Scope of Work

4. Develop Preliminary Recommendations

- Based on existing conditions, available data, stakeholder feedback and evaluations of impacts and costs, VHB will **identify recommended improvements for each segment**
 - Recommendations will include a **discussion of impacts and permitting hurdles**, including **anticipated future costs** of remaining planning, ROW, environmental impact, design and construction phases.
 - Where possible, improvements will be identified as either **short-term** (implementable within one year) or **long-term** (more than a year to implement).
 - Develop basic **conceptual renderings** of recommended improvements.

Scope of Work

5. Public and Agency Feedback

- VHB has planned for two public meetings
 - *Probable remote meetings due to COVID-19.*
 - Public Meeting #1 will include a presentation of project limits, scope, schedule and approach. This meeting will also be used to obtain **preliminary public input** and identify and understand **local concerns and opportunities**.
 - **Public Meeting #2** will include a presentation of the draft recommendations, draft report, and draft estimates.

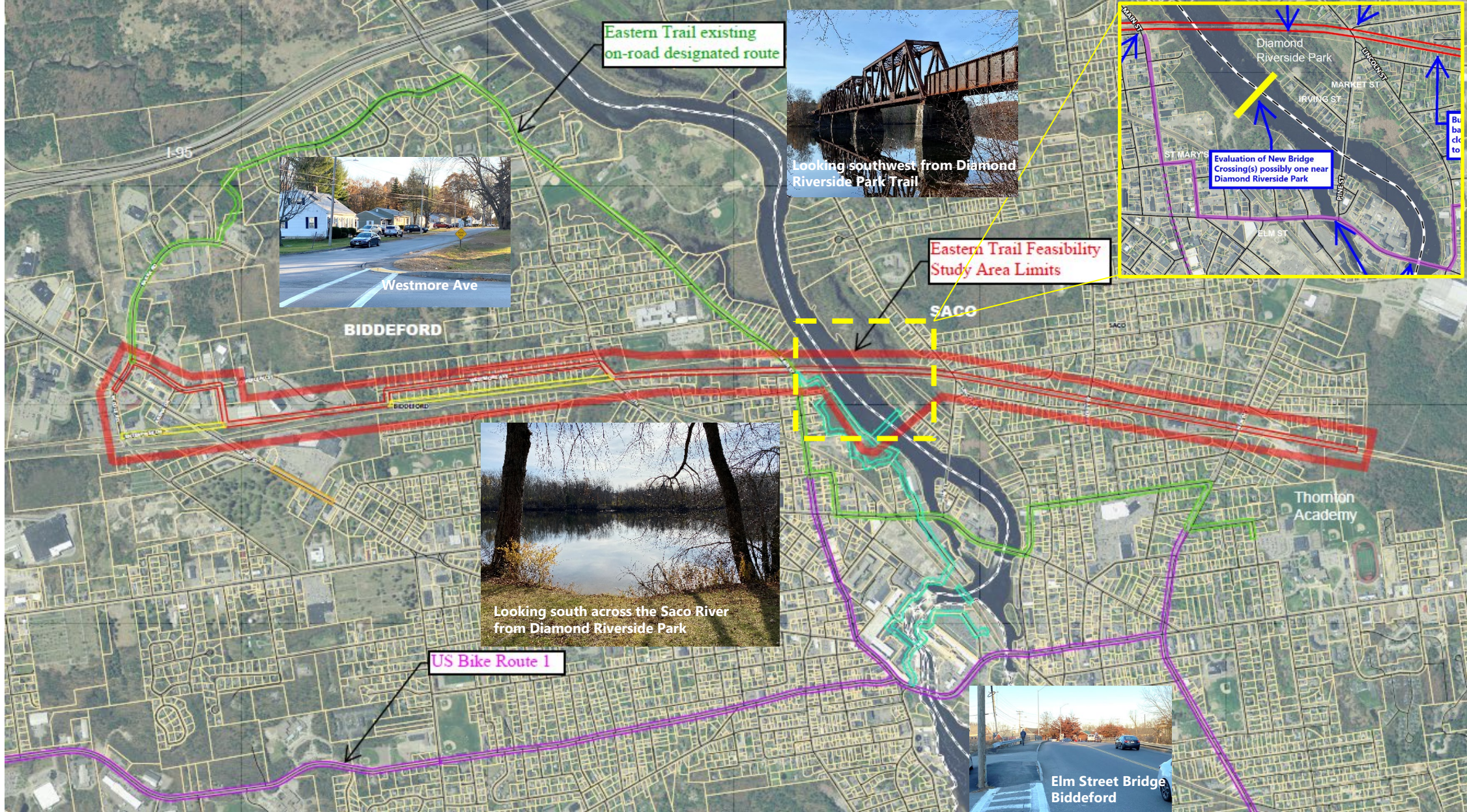
Scope of Work

6. Final Report

- The Final Report will include:
 - A narrative of the **study process**
 - A description of the various **alternatives considered**
 - Documentation of the **evaluation criteria**
 - **Illustrations of** conceptual designs and cross sections for the **preferred alternative**
 - Discussion of **potential interim spot improvements** and/or **construction phasing**
 - **Project costs** with breakdowns of **short- vs. long-term** improvements

Study Area and Existing Conditions





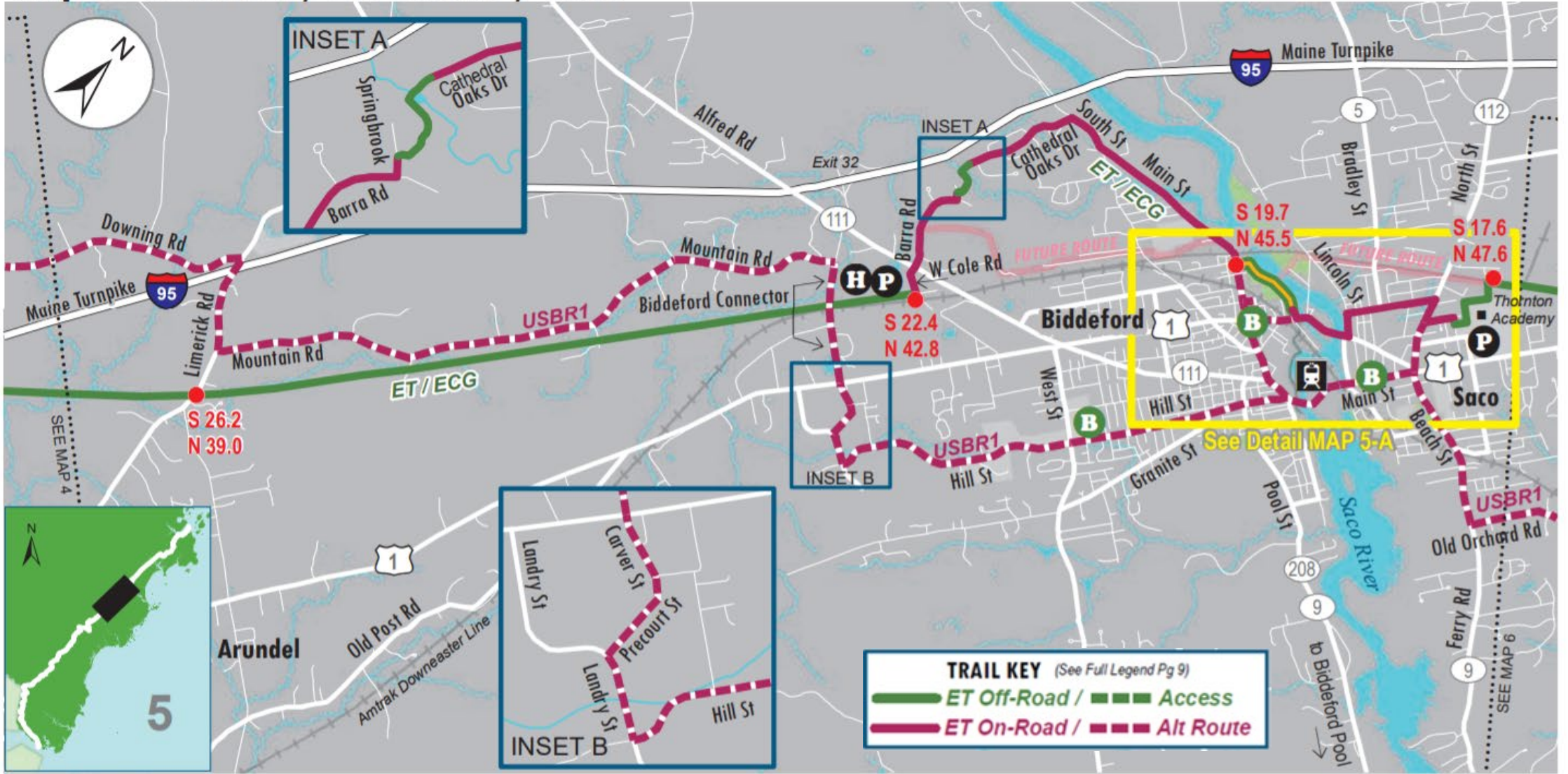
Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Connectivity Feasibility Study

Biddeford-Saco, Maine



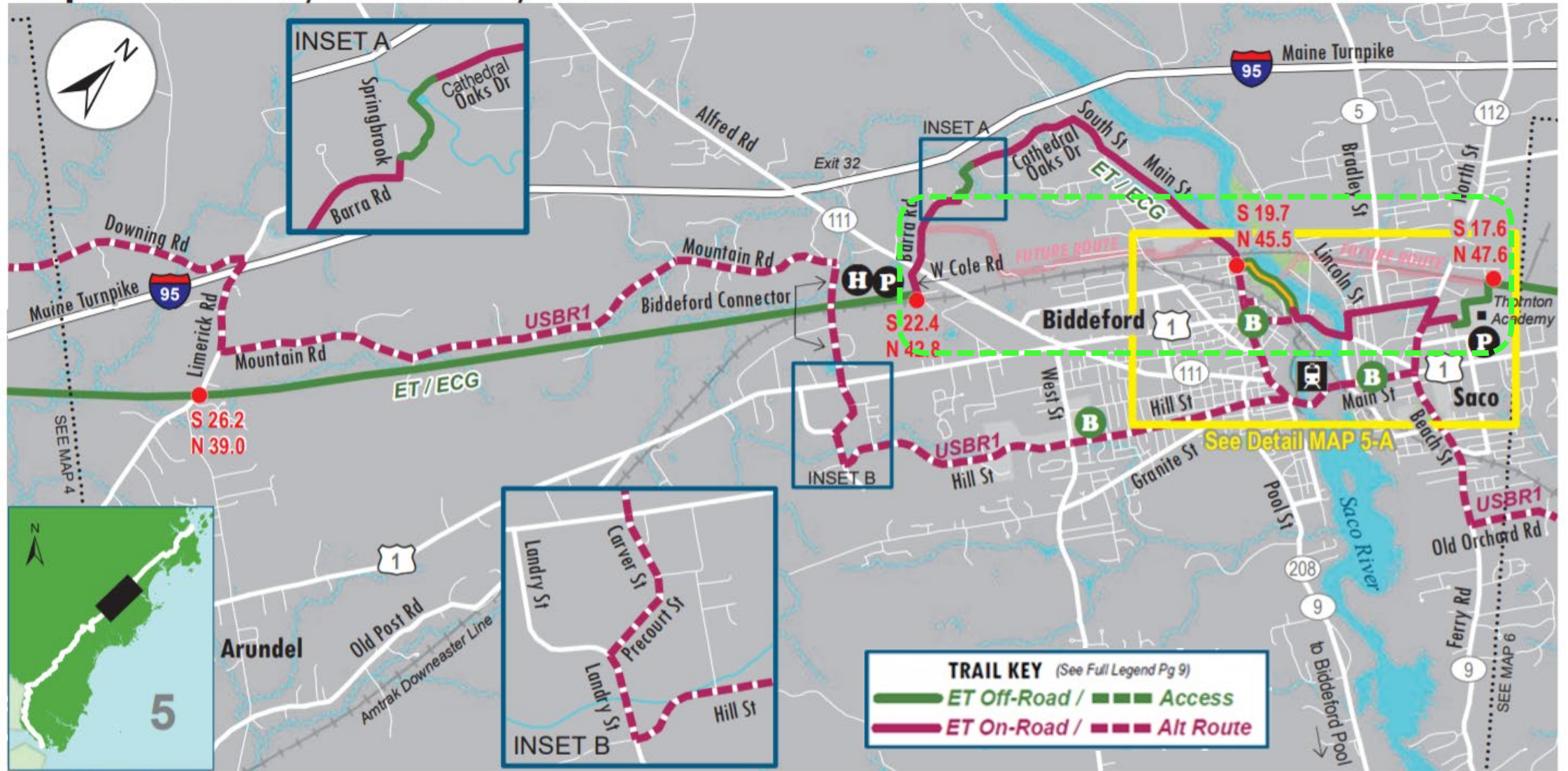
Map 5 ARUNDEL / BIDDEFORD / SACO

0 2 mi.



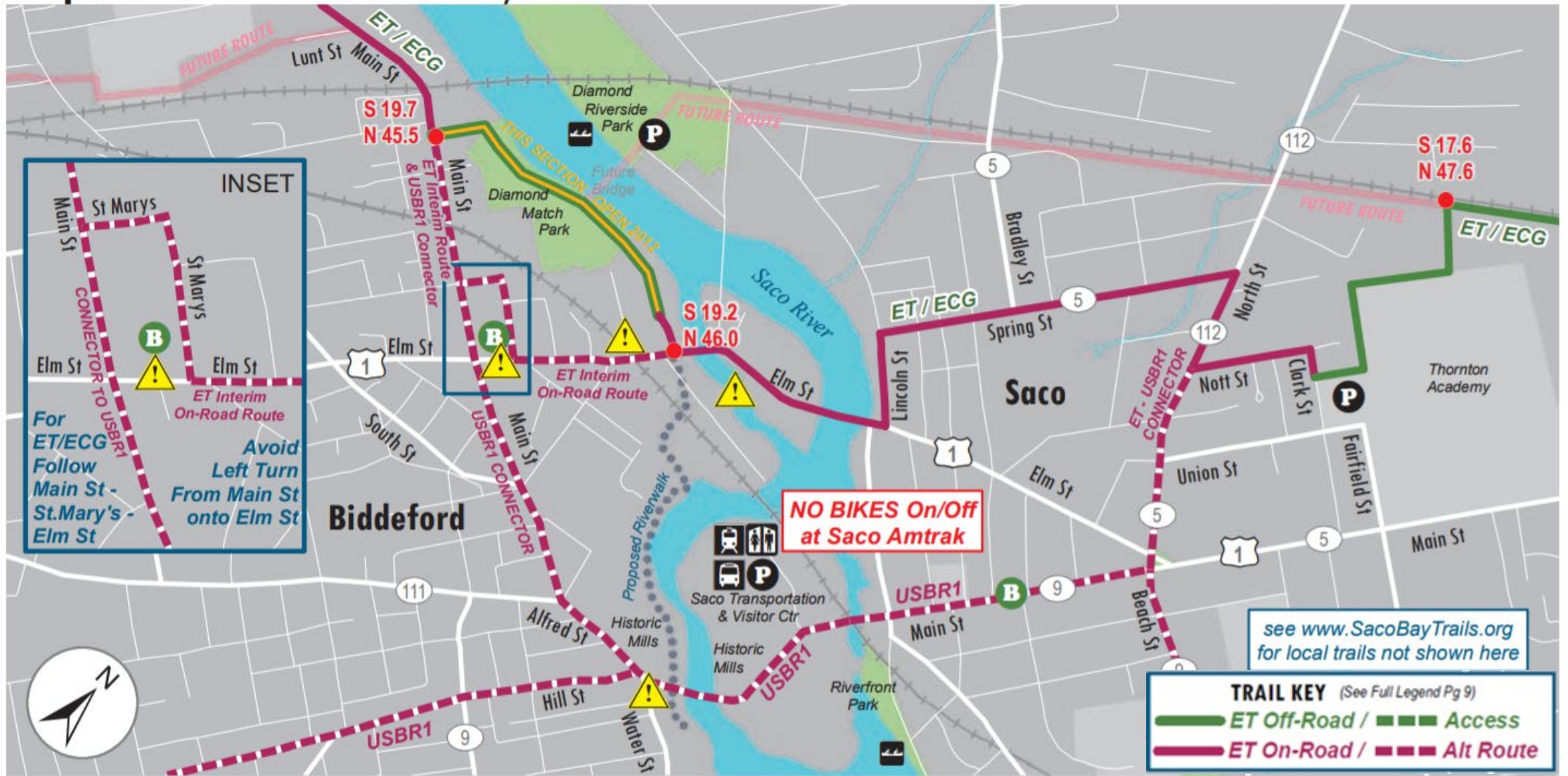
Map 5 ARUNDEL / BIDDEFORD / SACO

0 2 mi.



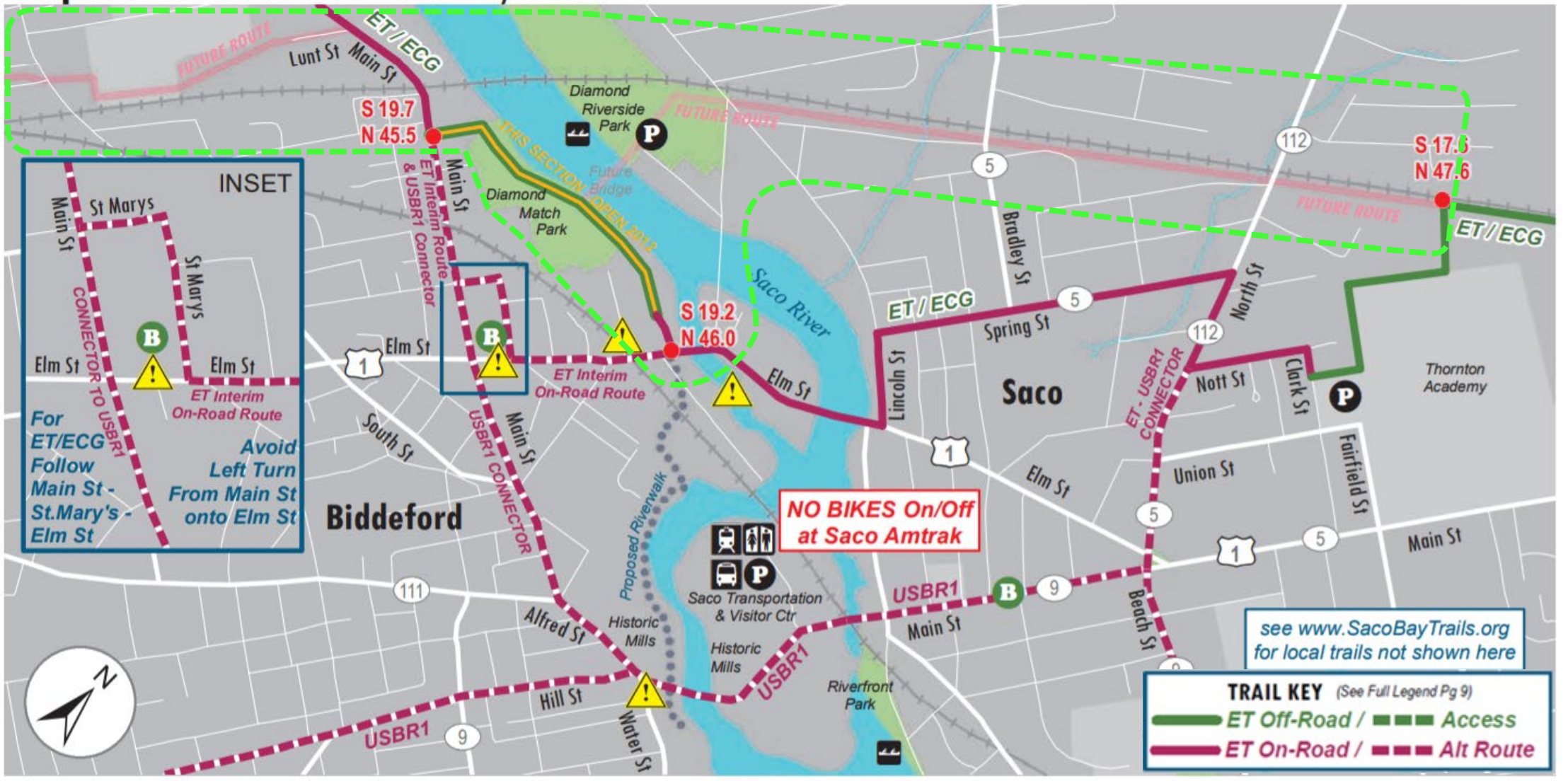
Map 5-A DETAIL - BIDDEFORD / SACO

0 1/2 mi

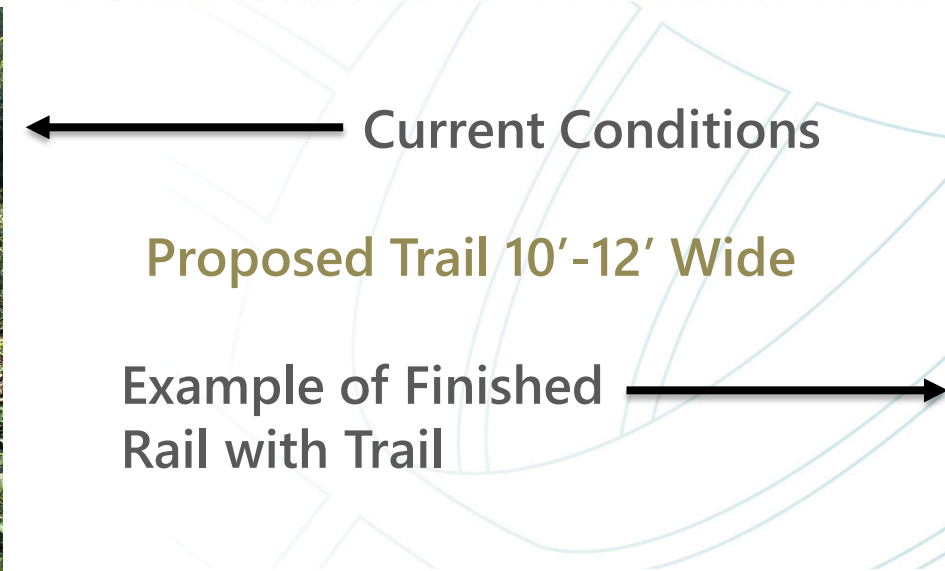
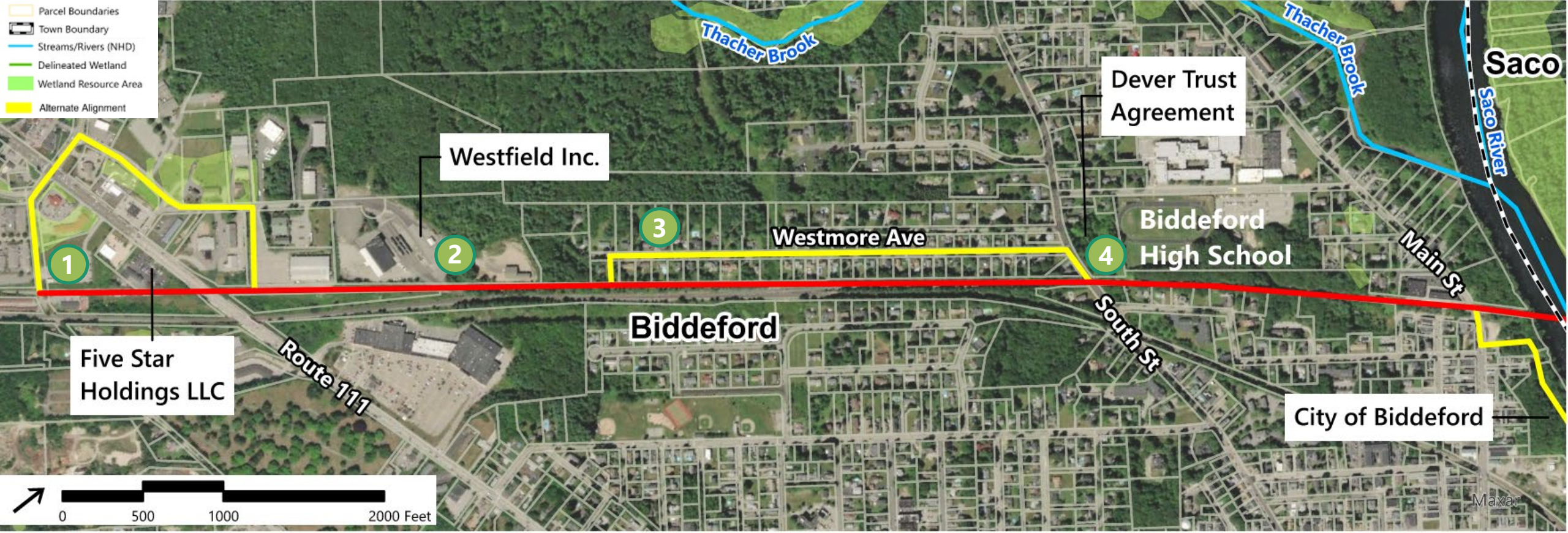


Map 5-A DETAIL - BIDDEFORD / SACO

0  1/2 mi







Existing Conditions



1.) West Cole Road – Southerly Terminus in Biddeford

- Direct Route alternative crosses Five Star Holdings LLC property
 - Requires shifting or crossing RR tracks to cross under Route 111
- Alternate alignment utilizes on-road facility to cross Route 111
 - Crossing of Route 111 at West Cole Road/Barra Road is signalized

2.) Railroad Crossing (Route 111) and Rail Spur

- Utility corridor on west side of rail tracks



Existing Conditions



3.) Westmore Ave Alternative

- Existing utility access point off Westmore Ave
- Creates at-grade crossing alternative at South Street
- On-road options could include:
 - Striping upgrades to create shared facility
 - Sidewalk upgrades
 - Adjacent path separated by curb

4.) South Street Crossing

- Roadway Crossing Possibilities:
 - Improved safety measures at existing curb breaks
 - Utilize Maplewood Ave and/or BHS property
 - Multiple undeveloped lots on north side of South Street may provide connectivity options
- Below Roadway Grade Possibilities:
 - Existing RR corridor passes under South Street
 - Rail with Trail option is constricted by existing infrastructure



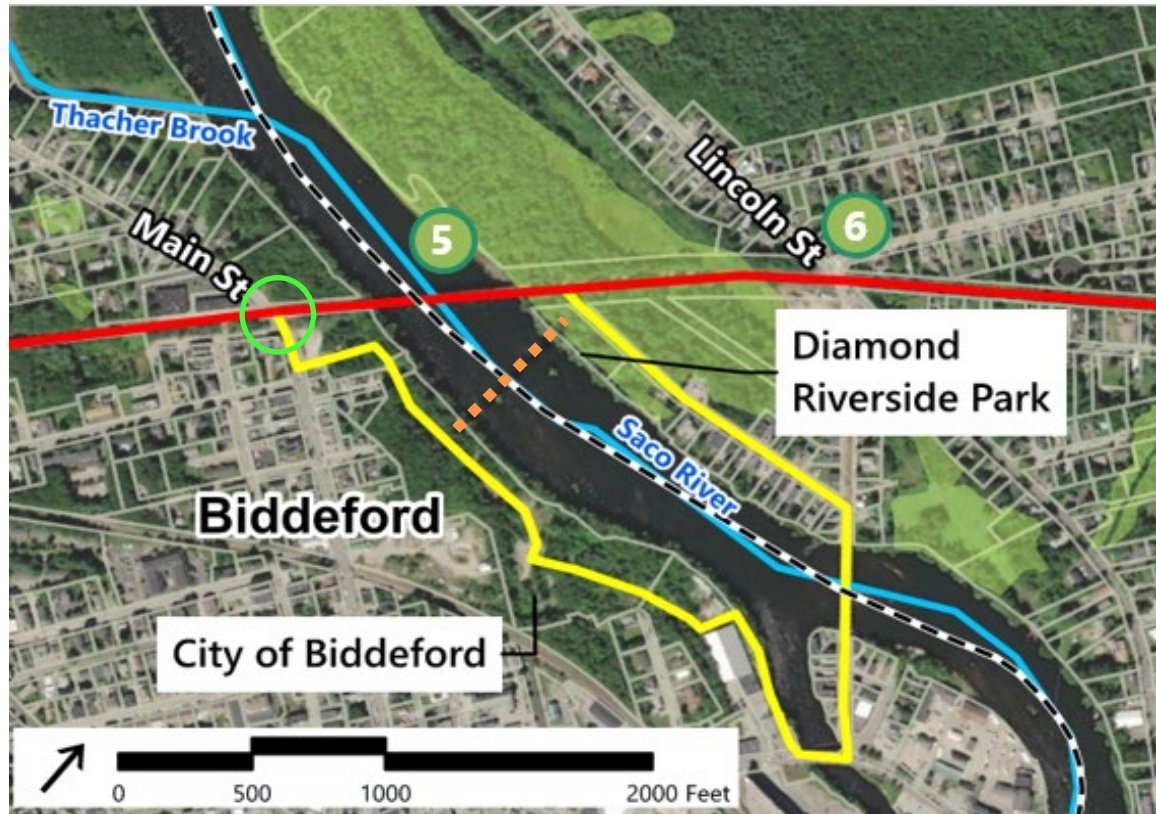


← Current Conditions

Example of Finished Rail with Trail →



Existing Conditions

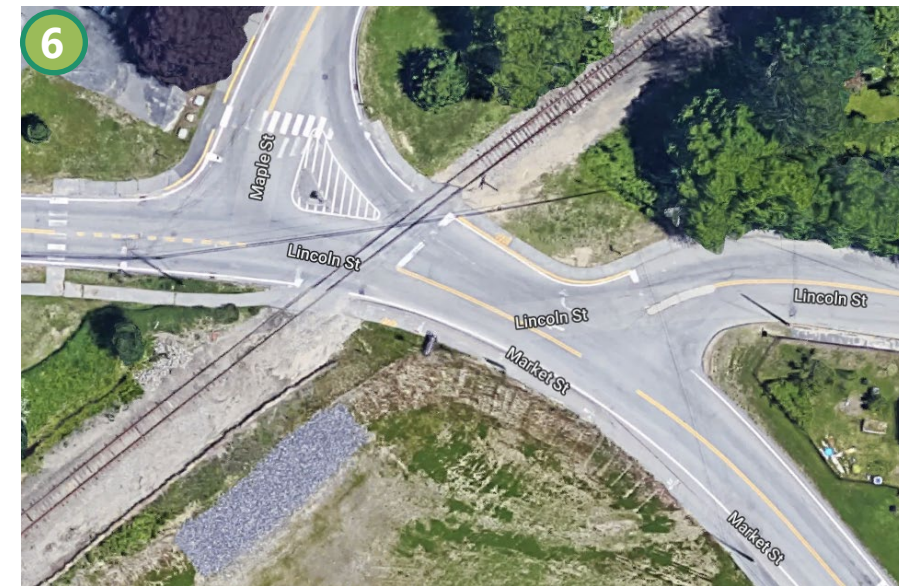


5.) Saco River Crossing Options

- Replace tracks with trail
- Cantilever trail on RR bridge adjacent to tracks
- Construct **new bridge** east of existing bridge
- Utilize roadways and City owned parcels to construct new connection (yellow line)

6.) Lincoln Street Crossing

- Safety improvements to be added



Existing Conditions

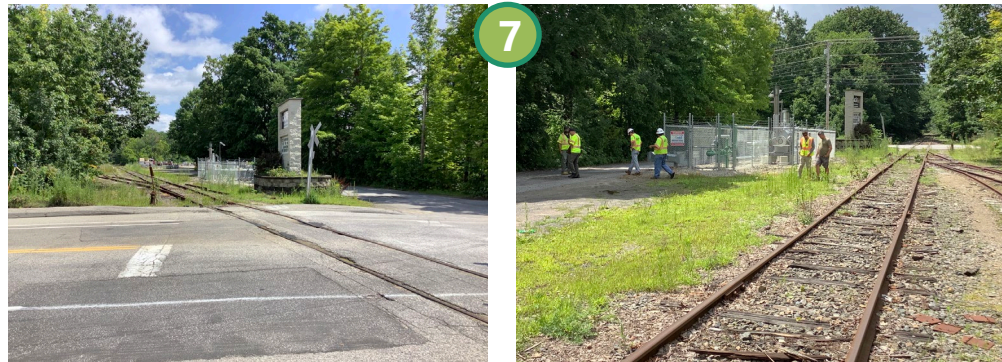


7.) North Street Crossing

- Utility station and drive access challenges

8.) Thornton Academy – Northerly Terminus in Saco

- Tie into existing trail behind sports fields
- Possibly require an additional RR crossing

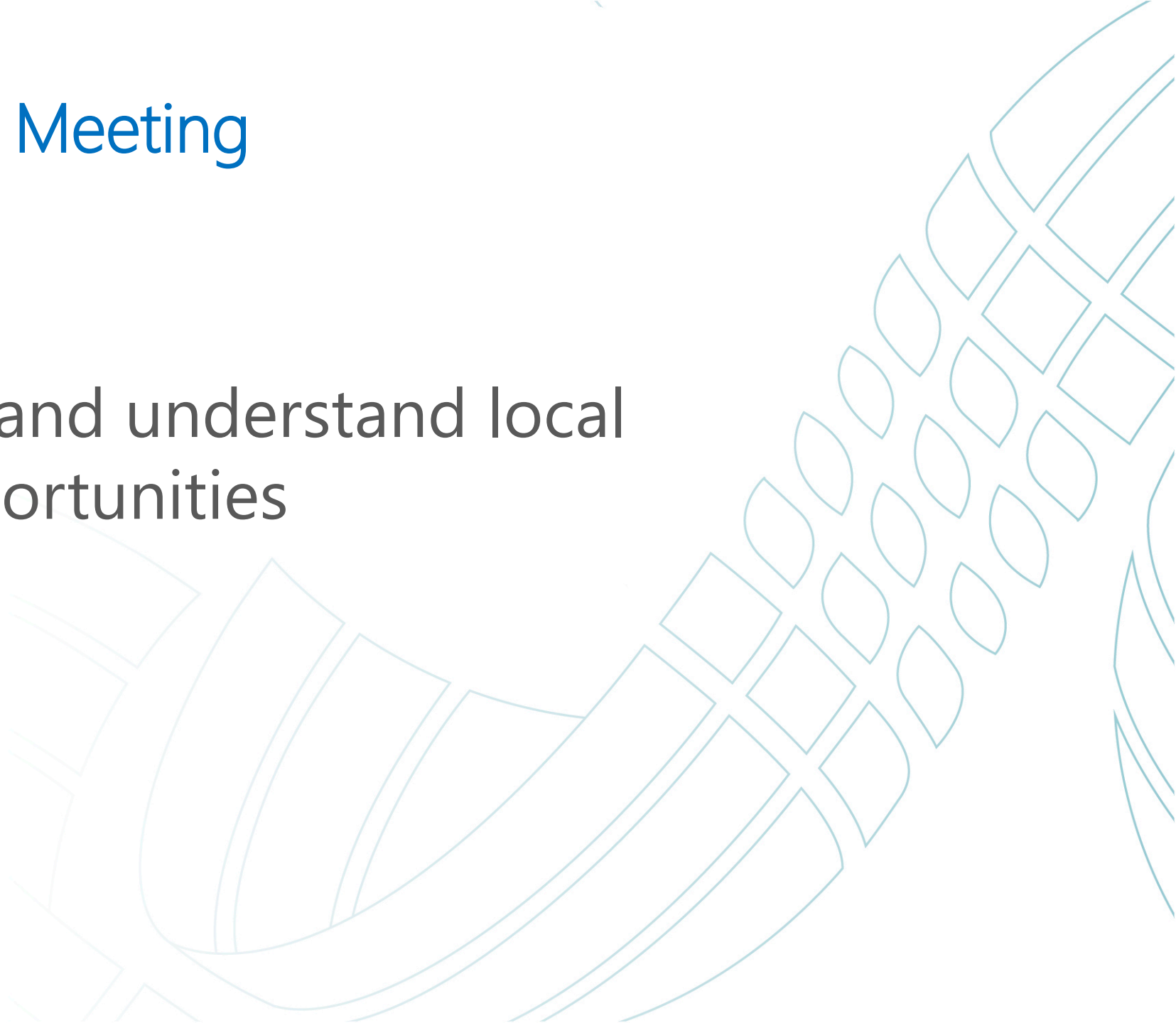


Public Input and Discussion



Focus of Tonight's Meeting

...help us identify and understand local concerns and opportunities



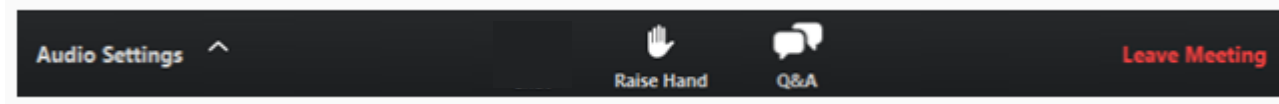
Public Input / Discussion

Study's purpose is to *evaluate and analyze **connectivity** alternatives for the Eastern Trail in **Biddeford** and **Saco**.*

1. What else can you think of to add to tonight's discussion and/or contribute to the overall success of this project? (for example...)
 - Other ideas/options that should be considered
 - Location specific information
 - Local issues and concerns we should be aware of
 - Potential future developments that should be considered
 - Any other relevant information...
2. What are your hopes and or goals for this study?
3. Any concerns, questions, or comments related to the study?

Meeting Logistics

- All attendees muted
- Lots of time for Questions and Answers after the presentation
- Raise/lower your “Hand” to ask a question “live”



- Q&A – type questions/comments directly into the box
- Phoning in...press *9 to raise your hand
- This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the Eastern Trail website, along with the presentation.
- Email comments: Jon Kachmar, jon.kachmar@eastertrail.org



Next Steps

Public Meeting Follow up:

- Collect all feedback and ideas from tonight's meeting
(All comments provided prior to, during, and after the meeting)
- Prepare a summary of all comments for review by the TAC
- Evaluate all the information and develop conceptual trail design

Remaining Project Schedule:

- Dec '21 – Prepare and submit Draft Report
- Jan '22 - Public Meeting #2
- Feb '22 – Prepare and Submit Final Report



Biddeford/Saco Bike/Ped Trail Feasibility Study

Public Meeting #1

November 30, 2021

Thank you for participating!

Please send any additional questions or comments to:

Jon Kachmar, jon.kachmar@eastertrail.org (860) 227-0914