









Sept 11, 2019

THE CITY OF FAIRFAX

# DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AREA PLANS

## INTRODUCTION

### WHO WE ARE

## Local Experts Invested in Fairfax and its Development



#### **OCULUS**

Landscape Architecture, Open Space Planning,
Sustainable Design

#### Walter Phillips

Civil Engineering & Utility Analysis

#### **UtilityPros**

Dry Utility Consulting & Utility Analysis

# Award-Winning Design Firm with Proven Results

Urban Planning | Urban Design | Community Engagement | Graphics | Historic Preservation | Meeting Support & Document Production

- Local firm with 23 years of experience
- Hands-on leadership throughout the length of the project
- Winner of 74 AIA Design Awards, 3 Charter Awards (CNU)
- Well-rounded portfolio includes Historic Preservation, Town & Gown / University buildings, and Housing (Affordable, Market-Rate, Developer, Single Family)







# Supporting Design with Grounded Analysis

**Development Advisory Services** 

**Property Recommendations** 

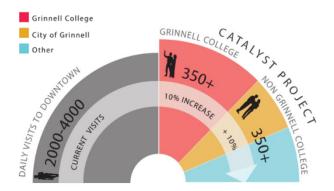
**Economic & Market Analysis / Feasibility** 

- Highest & best use analysis for all property types (income and cost proformas, ROI)
- 25 years of background market knowledge in NoVa / industry stakeholder engagement expertise
- Development cost thresholds
- Implementation strategies that leverage existing assets and help guide the market
- Facilitate development partnerships





Clarksburg Town Center



Grinnell College



Falls Church George Mason School Site

# Other Key Team Members

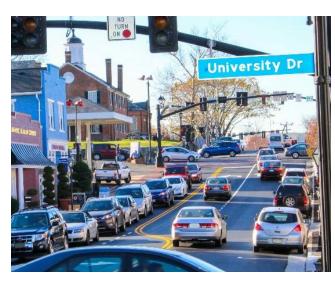
Open Space Planning | La

**Landscape Architecture** 

Sustainable Design

Civil Engineering |

**Dry Utilities Consulting & Utility Analysis** 









#### **KITTELSON & ASSOCIATES**

Knowledgeable of multimodal systems and parking strategies in built-up suburban context.

National leaders in transportation research and applications in real world context.

#### **OCULUS**

A depth of experience with municipalities from the Washington Metro region, from meticulously designed urban spaces to large-scale planning efforts.

#### **WALTER PHILLIPS**

Years of experience working in the City of Fairfax, brings a deep knowledge of the City's entitlement process.

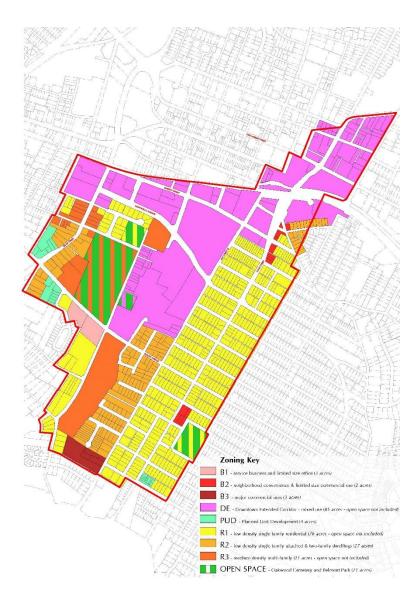
#### **UTILITYPROS**

Currently working on Scout at the Circle project; on-call dry utility consultant for Arlington County.

### WHAT WE ARE DOING

### What is a Small Area Plan?

- Detailed Analysis of Study Area
- Builds on Comprehensive Plan
- In-Depth Meetings with Stakeholders
- Considers Property-by-Property Complexities
- Makes Specific Recommendations for:
  - Land Use / Open Space
  - Density / Height
  - Transportation
  - Others
- Focused on Implementation





#### **PROCESS**

### Process and Schedule

Part 1: Information/Data Collection, Existing Conditions Analysis

Summer/Fall 2019

- Research and Site Visits / Market Analysis
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Community Meeting #1

Part 2: Public Outreach and Initial Urban Design Recommendations

Fall/Winter 2019

Community Meetings #2 (Old Town) and #3 (Northfax)

Part 3: Development of Plan Recommendations

Winter/Spring 2020

Community Meeting #4

Part 4: Final Recommendations and Implementation Strategy

Spring 2020

# Process: Spending time learning and analyzing existing conditions and sense of place.

# Research & Analysis























#### **PROCESS**

# Research & Analysis



FAIRFAX BOULEVARD COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

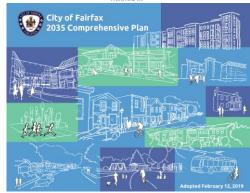
MARKET ANALYSIS







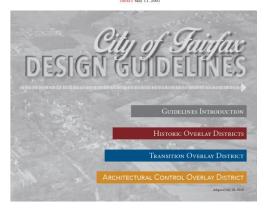




Process: On the ground analysis, precedent analysis, and building on existing plans and studies.



FAIRFAX BOULEVARD MASTER PLAN





### Sensitive & Multifaceted Public Outreach

Elected Leaders | Boards and Commissions | Stakeholder Groups | Citizens Property Owners | City Staff | Agencies

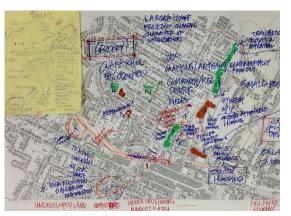
#### **Building Relationships**



Stakeholder Meetings



Site Tour



**Focus Group Comments** 



**Public Presentations** 



Civic Groups



Workshop/Charrette

#### Communicating with the Public









- Traditional and Social Media outreach
- Building Community knowledge and consensus
- · Working with Stakeholders and Staff as a collaborative resource

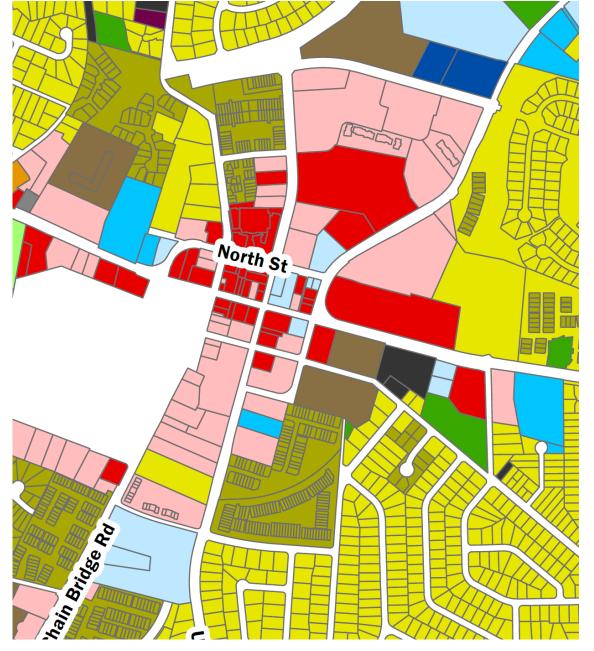
#### **PROCESS**

# Parcel Dynamics



**Property Owner Meeting** 

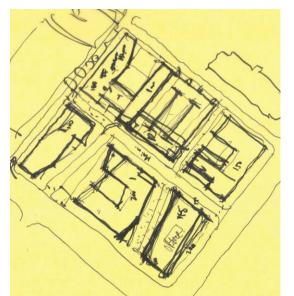
- Building the vision by *getting the right people to the table* to build relationships and leverage assets for new opportunities.
- Conceptual Development Plans / Alternatives
- Creation of realistic recommendations that are actionable and informed



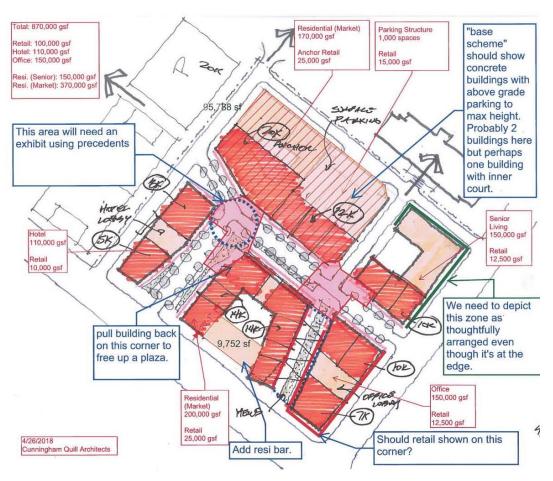
**Existing Land Use Map** 

# From Vision to Implementation

#### **Interactive Challenging of Initial Assumptions**







Process: Working visually and layering in economic analysis and realism.

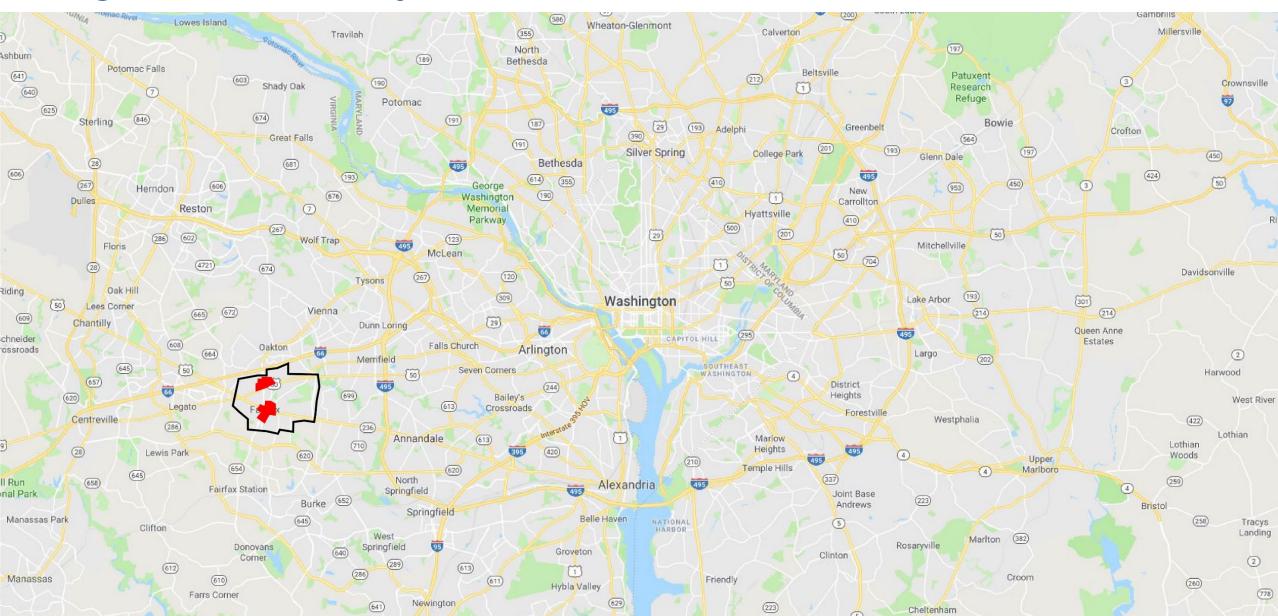




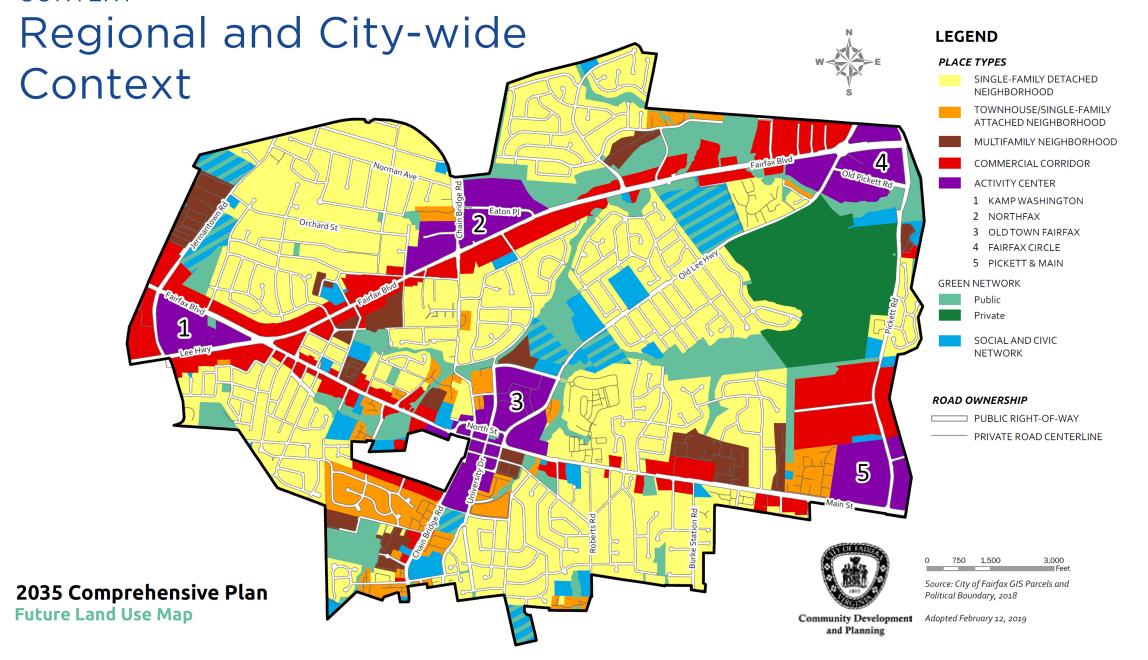


#### CONTEXT

# Regional and City-wide Context

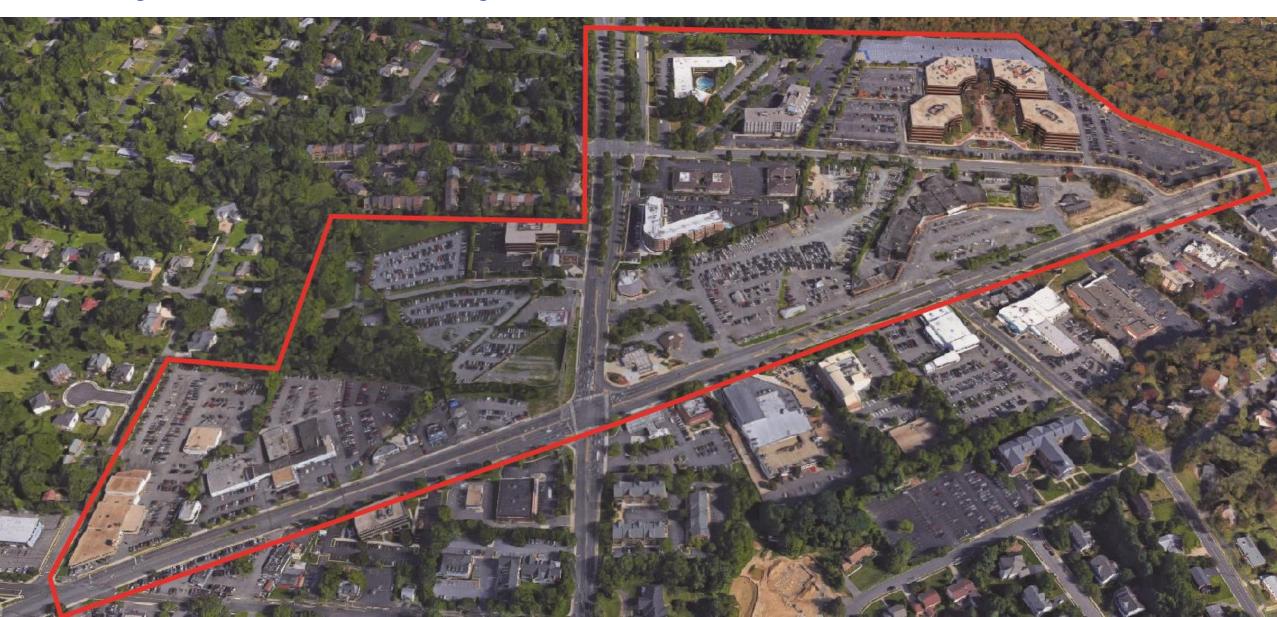


CONTEXT





# Study Area Boundary



### **ECONOMIC CONTEXT**

### Bolan Smart - General Observations

#### **Economics**

- Strong sub-regional economy
- Transportation proximate
- Land value development potential disconnect
- Strong civic commitment

#### **Comparative Development Economics**

	LOWER DENSITY	MEDIUM DENSITY	HIGHER DENSITY
Project Description			
Land Use	commercial	mixed-use	mixed-use
Net FAR	0.4	1.5	5.0
Construction Type	tilt-up	stick	frame
Parking	surface	above grade	below grade
Phasing	single	single	multiple
Development Costs (per FAR)			
Land	\$25	\$25	\$25
Infrastructure	\$15	\$15	\$15
Hard Costs	\$75	\$150	\$200
Soft Costs	<u>25%</u>	25%	25%
Total	\$144	\$238	\$300
Revenue (per FAR)			
Occupancy	92%	95%	95%
Gross Income	\$25	\$30	\$30
Operating Expenses	\$10	<u>\$8</u>	\$10
NOI	\$15	\$22	\$20
Net Present Values			
Discount Rate Variable	7.5% \$200	<u>7.5%</u> \$293	7.5% \$267
Return on Investment	10.0%	12.0%	-8.0%

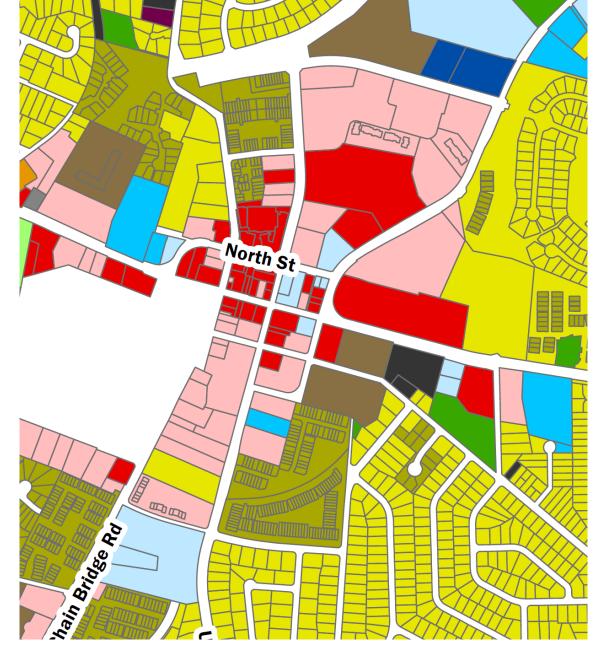
**Analysis of Development Options** 

#### CONTEXT

### Old Town Observations

#### **Economics**

- Unique physical environment, Spread out
- GMU / Fairfax County interface (and untapped potential) and regional draws
- Local demand driven and retailers
- Limited retail critical mass
- Mixed transportation and pedestrian related experiences
- Residential demand and Secondary office market
- Zoning overlays and development restrictions
- Significant underdeveloped parcels
- Institutional infrastructure

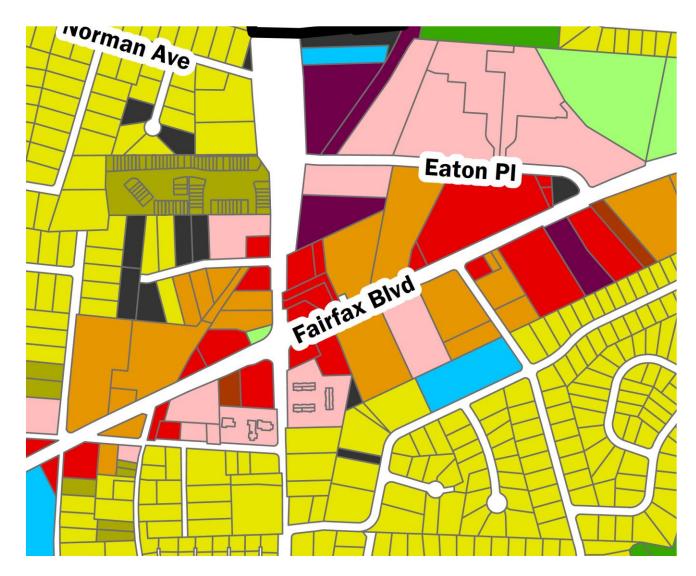


**Existing Land Use - Old Town** 

### Northfax Observations

#### **Economics**

- Substantial regional competition
- Underdeveloped landscape (also clean slate)
- Some redevelopment updated uses
- Transitioning commercial uses
- Mixed-use development potential
- Large parcel redevelopment opportunities

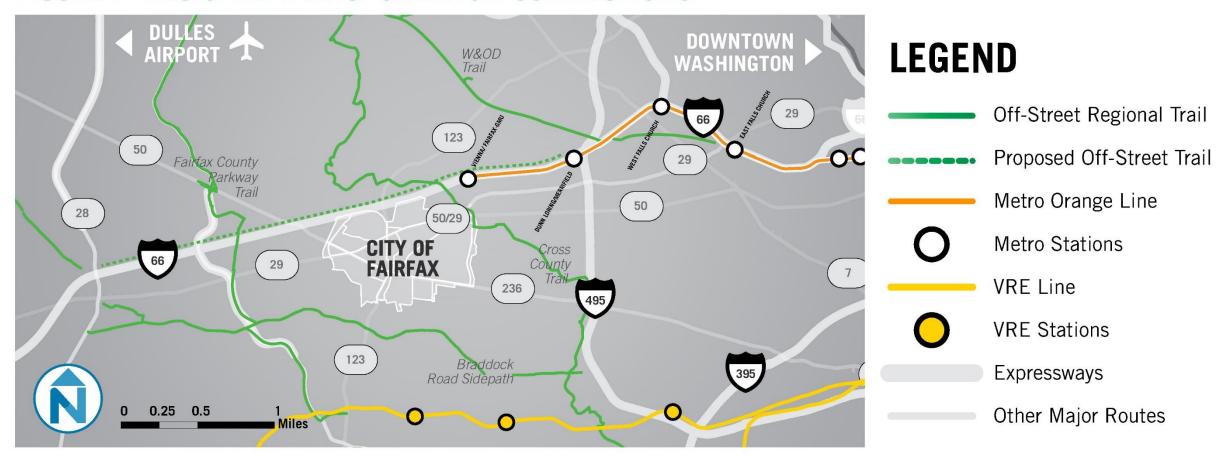


**Existing Land Use - Northfax** 

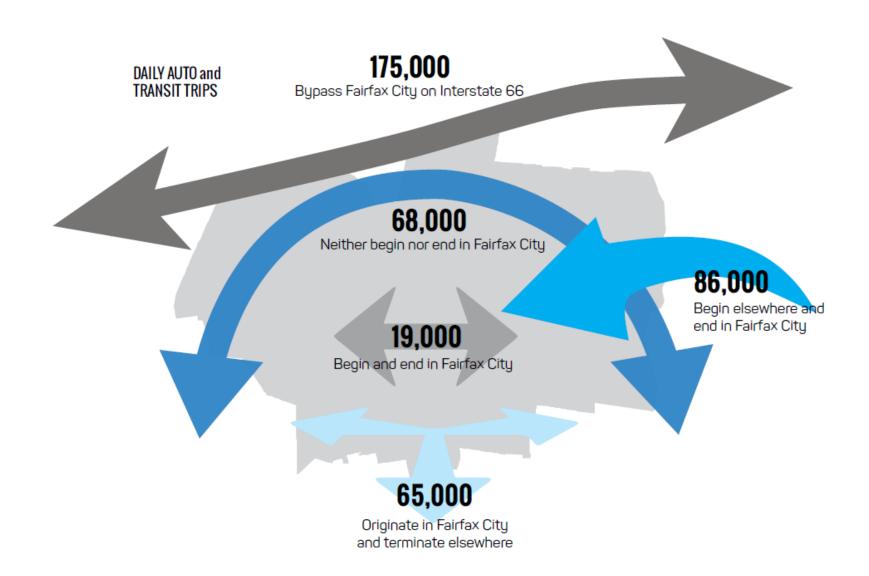
### TRANSPORTATION CONTEXT

# Local and Regional Context

#### FIGURE 1 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS



# Local and Regional Context



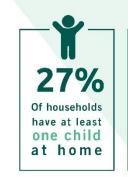
# Local and Regional Context

# Fairfax facts

The City of Fairfax is centrally located









837 SALANTON Automobile crashes in the city

Of households

include at least

one senior

**72%** Of City of Fairfax commuters drive alone to work

66% Of residents surveyed would prefer to travel by a means other than driving alone to work or errands

ConGESTION + Safety

are the two most frequently cited threats to livability in the City of Fairfax



Most transit routes in the city operate from early morning through evening



However, most transit routes only operate once or twice an hour

1/3 of all household trips





#### **TRANSPORTATION**

### Goals

# The following performance metrics are identified in the Fairfax Multimodal Transportation plan:

Create a city of "15-minute neighborhoods" — ensure that 100% of residents can access a local activity center via a safe 15-minute walk from home (currently 44%).

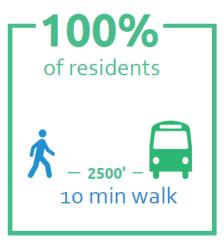
Ensure 100% of residents are connected to green space, trails, or open space via a safe 15-minute walk of home (currently 88%).

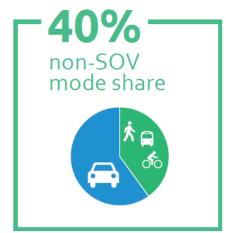
Ensure 100% of residents have access to transit by providing a transit stop within a safe 10-minute walk of each residence (currently 79%).

efficiency in travel by achieving at least a 40% non-drive alone mode share for commute to work trips (currently 28%).









### Observations - Old Town

- Established street grid and block pattern
- Limited space for people walking on existing sidewalks
- No east-west connection for people biking
- Mismatch between the location of parking and desired destinations
- Congested east-west options for people driving through Old Town



### Observations - Old Town

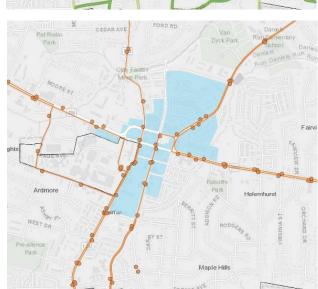
# Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress

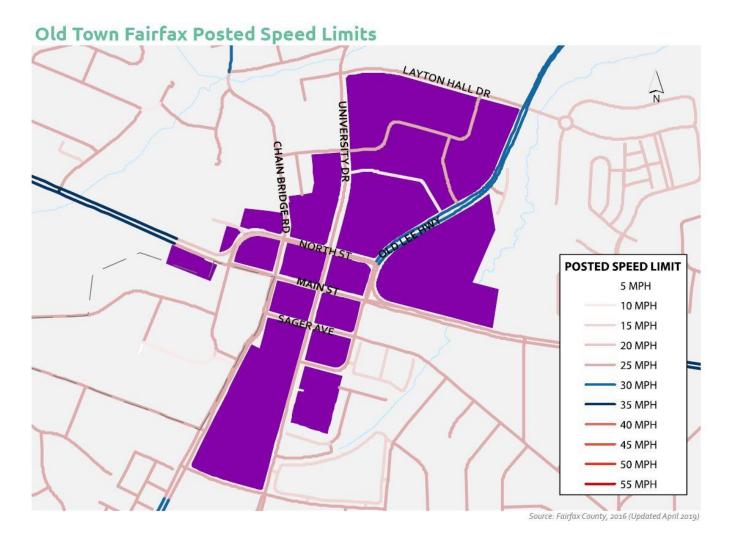
- Most Comfortable
- Somewhat Comfortable
- Less Comfortable
- Use Caution
- Study Area



#### **Transit**

- CUE Transit Routes
- CUE Transit Stops
- Study Area





### Observations - Northfax

- Limited functional street network limits traffic to Chain Bridge Road and Fairfax Boulevard
- Lack of options for people walking and biking from surrounding neighborhoods to access Northfax
- Site location and layout provides an abundance of opportunities:
  - Site access
  - Site layout inward versus outward
  - Multimodal connections to surrounding neighborhoods



### Observations - Northfax

# Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress

- Most Comfortable
- Somewhat Comfortable
- Less Comfortable
- Use Caution
- Study Area

#### Transit

- CUE Transit Routes
- CUE Transit Stops
- Study Area



### KEY OBSERVATIONS

#### **KEY OBSERVATONS**

# Observation #1: Local Strengths

Building on Fairfax's Assets and Strengths







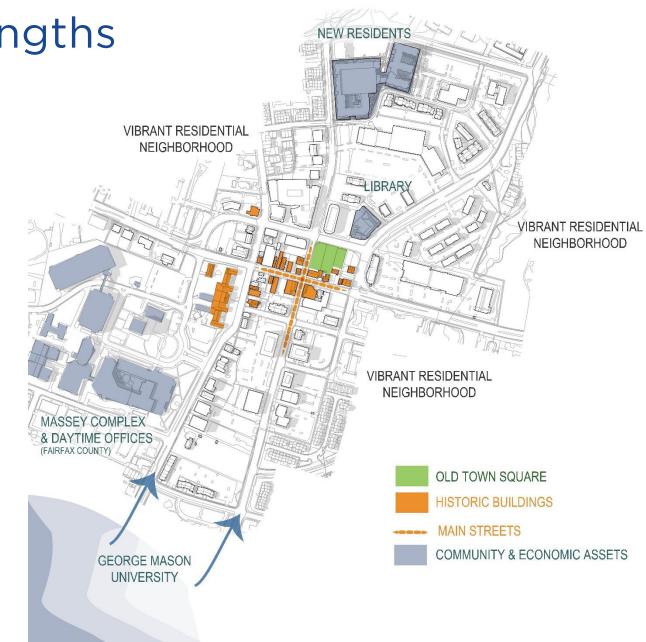


#### KEY OBSERVATONS

Observation #1: Local Strengths

Building on Fairfax's Assets and Strengths

- Strong Regional Economics
- Vibrant Local Neighborhoods and Community
- Charming Historic Main Street Character
- Local Employment Centers Massey Complex and GMU
- Presence of Large University
- Popular Downtown Amenities Old Town Square and Library



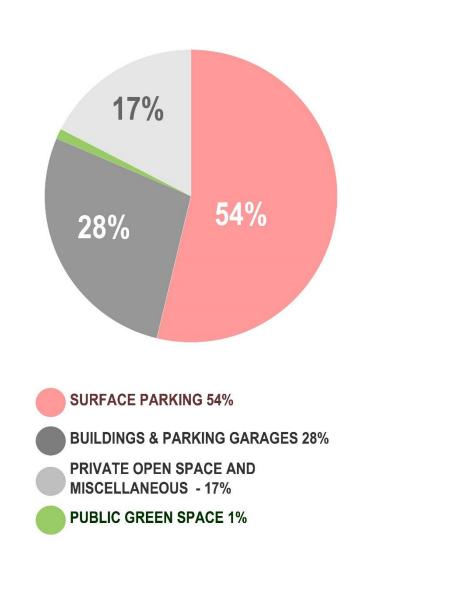
Land Use is Dominated by Car-Usage

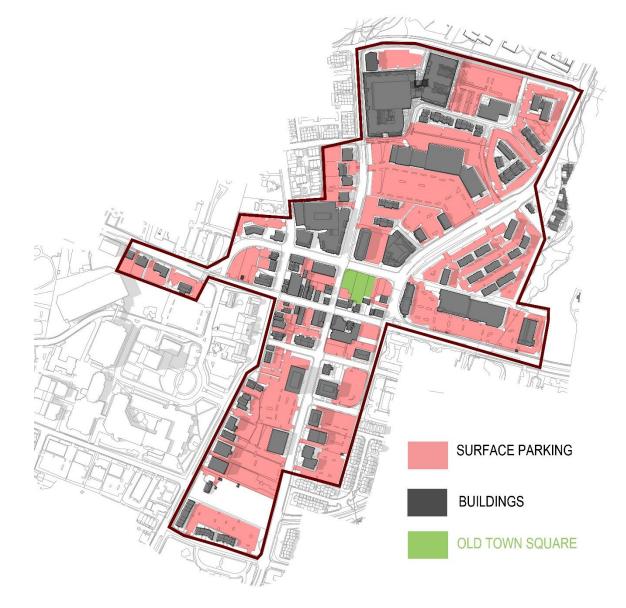


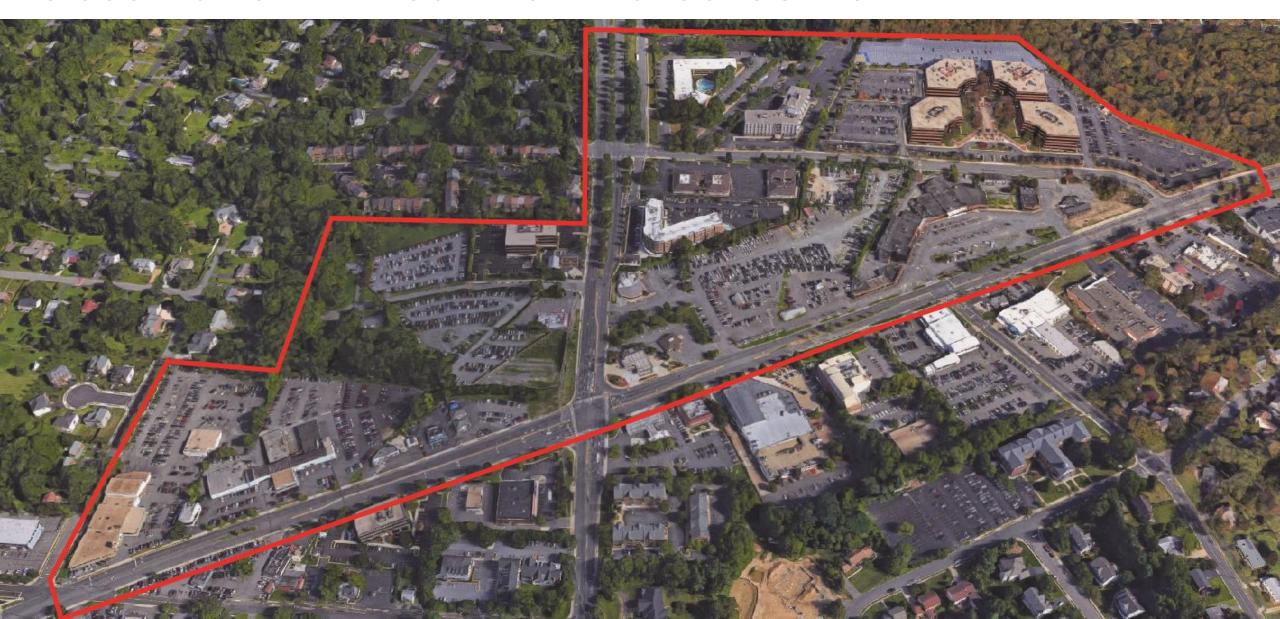


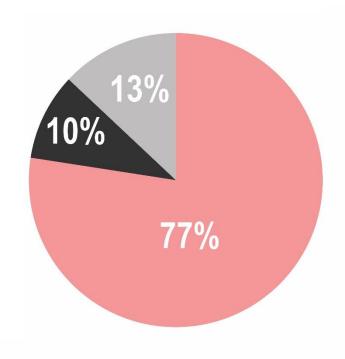




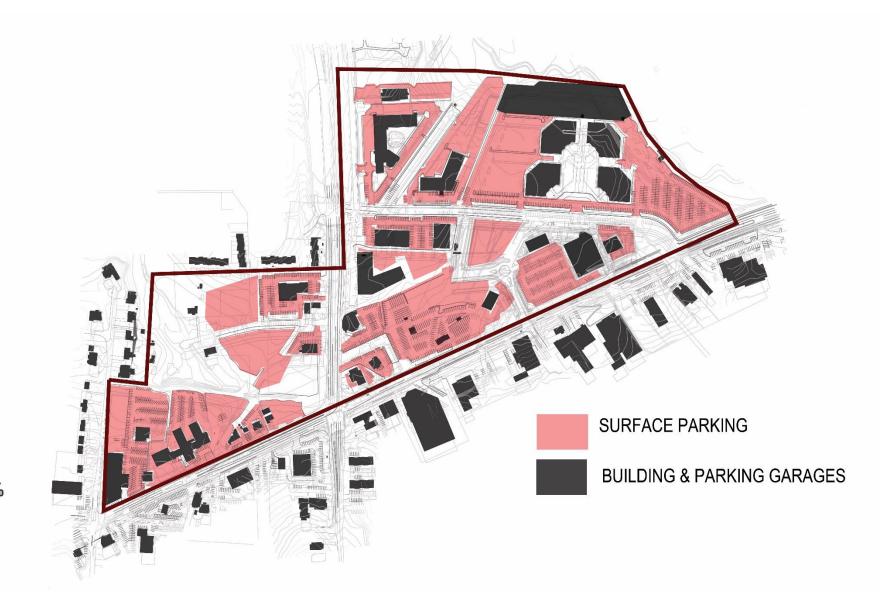








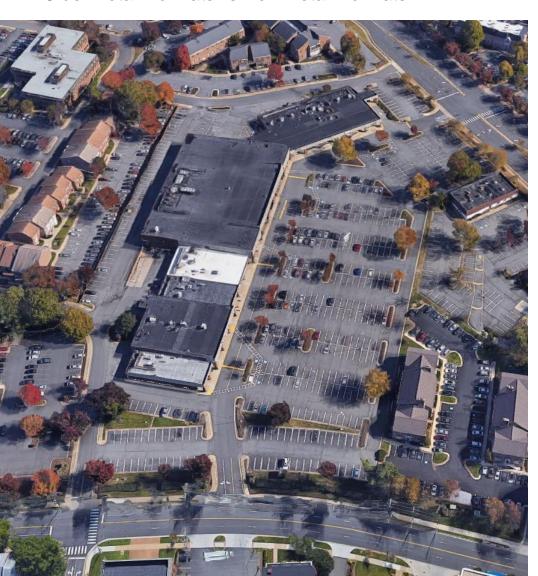
- SURFACE PARKING 77%
- PRIVATE OPEN SPACE AND MISCELLANEAOUS 13%
- BUILDINGS & PARKING GARAGE 10%
- PUBLIC GREEN SPACE 0%



## Observation #3: Retail is Changing

Older Retail Formats vs New Retail Formats

Older models of single-use retail strip centers vs. newer models of integrated mixed-use developments.





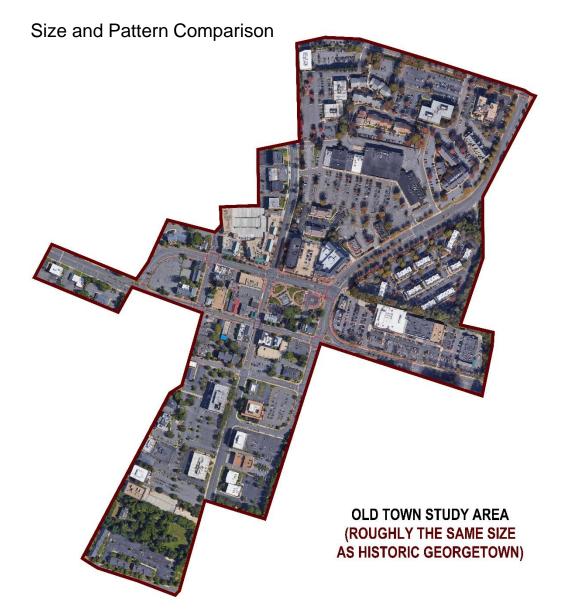
## Observation #3: Retail is Changing

Mosaic District and Georgetown, DC





### Observation #3: Retail and Office is Changing





HISTORIC GEORGETOWN

### Observation #3: Retail and Office is Changing

Size and Pattern Comparison



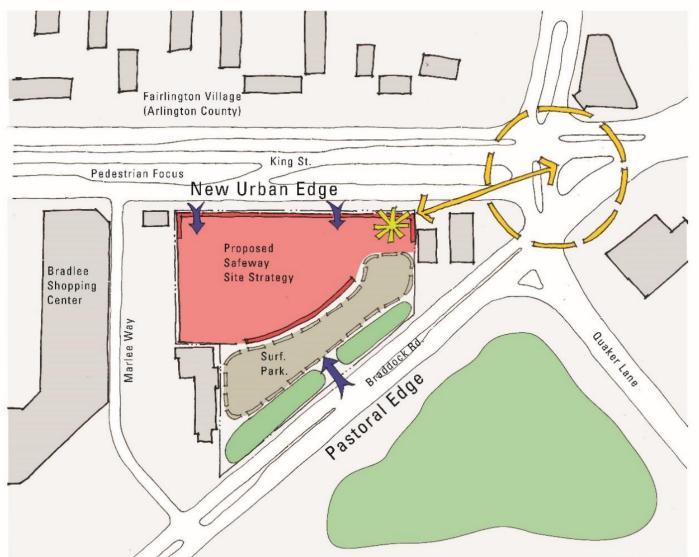
NORTHFAX FAIRFAX STUDY AREA (ROUGHLY 1 1/2 TIMES THE SIZE OF MOSAIC)

**MOSAIC DISTRICT** 

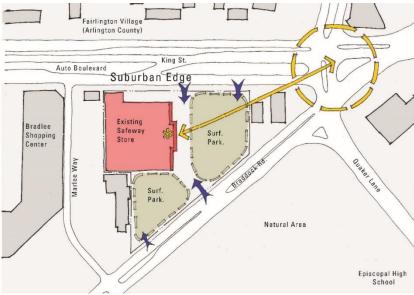
# Transforming a typical suburban grocery store typology into a urban, walkable design.

## Observation #3: Retail is Changing

New Retail Formats – Urban Safeway, Alexandria, VA







## Observation #3: Retail is Changing

New Retail Formats – Urban Safeway, Alexandria, VA







## Observation #3: Office is Changing

Older Office Formats







Analyzing existing office building stock and opportunities for redevelopment.

## Observation #3: Office is Changing

New Office Formats – HITT Co | Lab, Falls Church, VA

Newer office buildings and potential partnerships with businesses and university programs.







### Observation #4: College Town?

The Character of Great College Towns (Example – Ithaca, NY)



- College Towns are Rated Among Best Places to Live
- Focus on Walkability and Quality of Life
- Mixed neighborhood-serving office and retail
- Focus on Local and Unique Businesses
- Positive Synergy with University
- Mixed Population Older Community
   Members alongside Students

## Observation #4: College Town?

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University





## Observation #4: College Town?



### Observation #5: A Uniform Downtown

Finding Vibrancy and Pops of Color



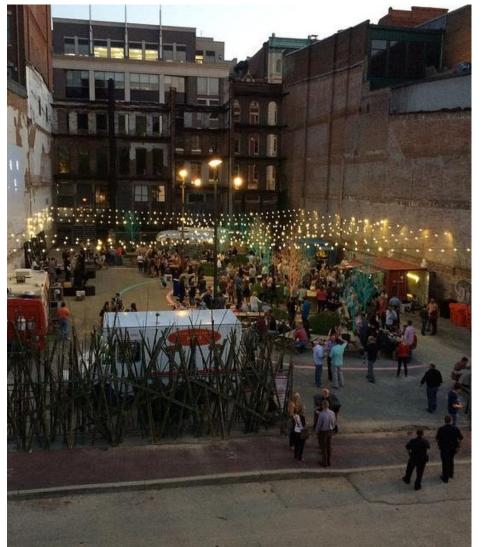




### Observation #5: A Uniform Downtown

#### Experiential Art and Retail

- Establish partnerships between local government, nonprofits, and community to create destinations.
- Pop-up movies, concerts, single-day events, public art, installations, pocket parks, and unexpected splashes of color can add vibrancy and personality to otherwise dull spaces.







### Observation #5: A Uniform Downtown

Experiential Art and Retail





Observation #6: Opportunities for Placemaking



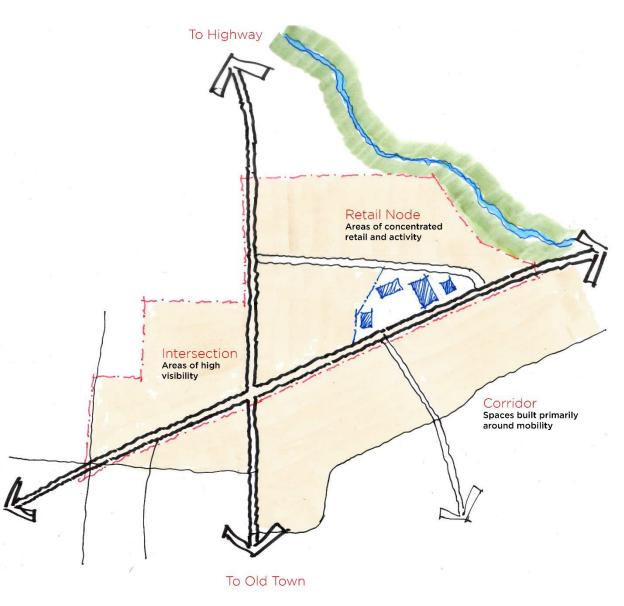




## Observation #6: Opportunities for Placemaking







### **Next Steps**

• Email: ComprehensivePlan@fairfaxva.gov

• Web: www.fairfaxva.gov/smallareaplans

• Phone: 703-385-7930

### OPEN FORUM



