

# 2020-2022 Public Lands Transportation Fellows Program

Presented by: Lamar Gore and Taylor Long  
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

# Webinar Logistics

- Duration is 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Eastern
- Webinar – recorded and archived. For quality of recording, please stay muted during presentation
- At the end there will be time for Q&A
- Please feel free to use the chat to ask questions or provide comments



# Goal of this Webinar

- To document and archive the work completed by the PLTF at the John Heinz, E.B. Forsythe and Cape May NWRs from 2020-2022, including his/her lessons learned and tips and tricks for applying these to other USFWS units.



# Agenda

- Introduction by  
Refuge Manager
- PLTF Projects
- General Suggestions
- Q & A





# PLTF Program Introduction

- Began in 2012
- Modeled after the NPS Transportation Scholars Program
- Currently serves USFWS and NPS
- Full time, paid fellowship with benefits
- 12 to 24-month position with the possibility of extension/promotion
- Locations across the U.S. at select National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges





# Our Fellows...

- Provide transportation and planning support to National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges
- Develop transportation solutions that preserve valuable resources and enhance visitor experience
- Experience work at park/refuge, regional office, and national headquarters levels
- Work, learn and grow through orientation, conferences, guest lectures, and mentorship





# Today's Presenters



Lamar Gore  
Refuge Manager  
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum



Taylor Long  
Public Lands Transportation Fellow (PLTF)  
John Heinz, Cape May, and E.B. Forsythe  
National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs)





## *JOHN HEINZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AT TINICUM:*

# FROM THE COMMUNITY OUT

Building Trust, Relationship, and Relevance with  
and in Our Communities





# IMPLEMENTING THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF ENGAGEMENT

- **Community-focused**
- **Intentional**
- **Collaborative**
- **Inclusive**

1. Know and Relate to the Community
2. Connect People with Nature via Stepping Stones of Engagement
3. Build Partnerships
4. Be a Community Asset
5. Ensure Adequate Long-Term Resources
6. Provide Equitable Access
7. Ensure Visitors Feel Safe and Welcome
8. Model Sustainability



# Defining/Refining Target Community & Asset Mapping

## DEFINE COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES

## IDENTIFY AND INVOLVE PARTNERS

## DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF ASSETS TO INCLUDE

## LIST THE ASSETS OF GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS



# Tangible Representation of the Target Community



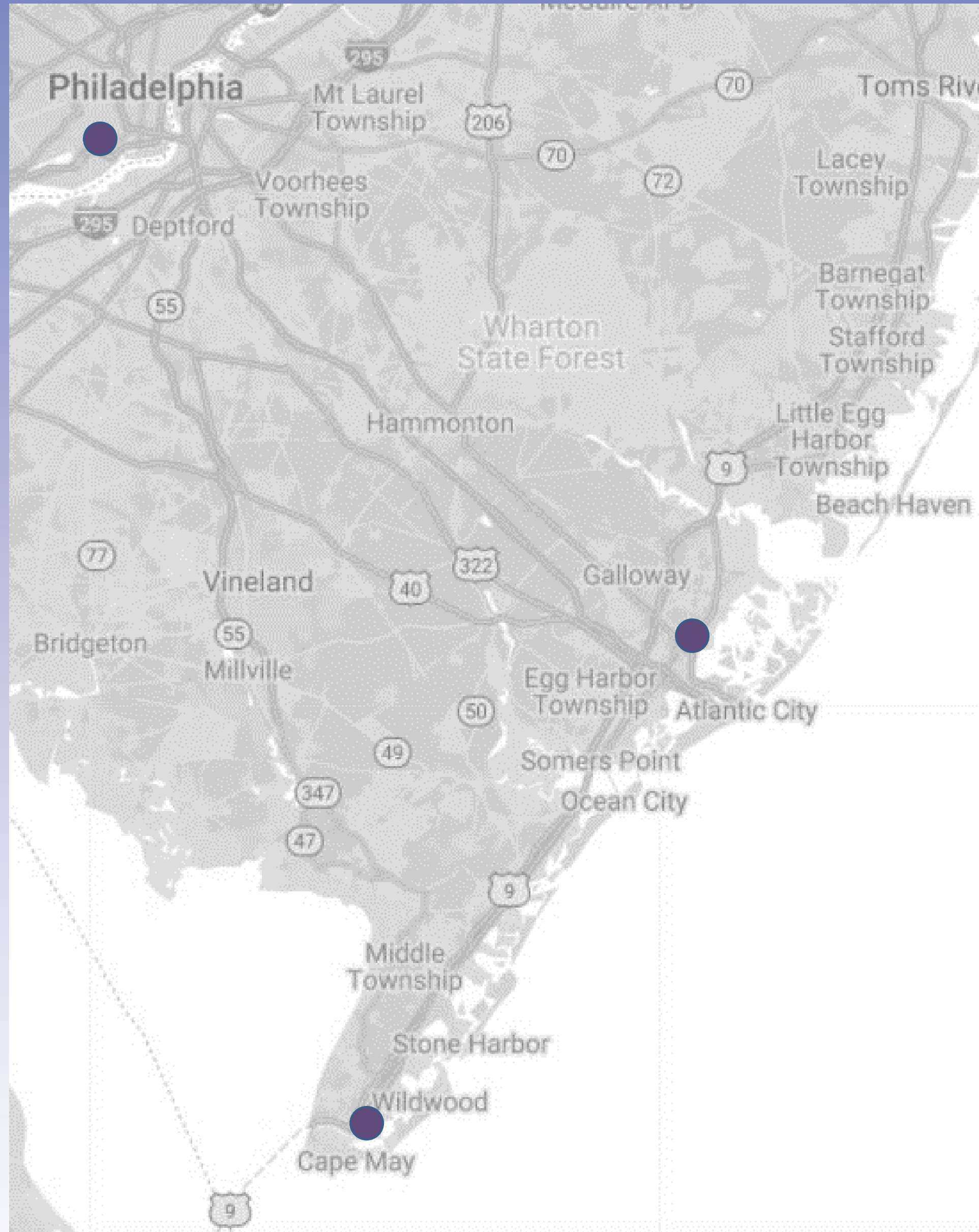
# INTRO

- **Name:** Taylor Long
- **Primary Refuge:** John Heinz NWR
- **Start Date:** August 2020
- **Place of Birth:** Indiana, PA
- **Educational Background:**
  - Master's in Urban Planning and Policy (UIC)
  - B.A. in Journalism (Ithaca College)
- **Academic Focus:** sustainable tourism and alternative transportation, transit equity
- **Fun Fact:** relatively new to outdoor recreation





# THREE REFUGES



**John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum**

**Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**

**Cape May National Wildlife Refuge**

+ Regional Rotation

+ HQ Transportation Branch

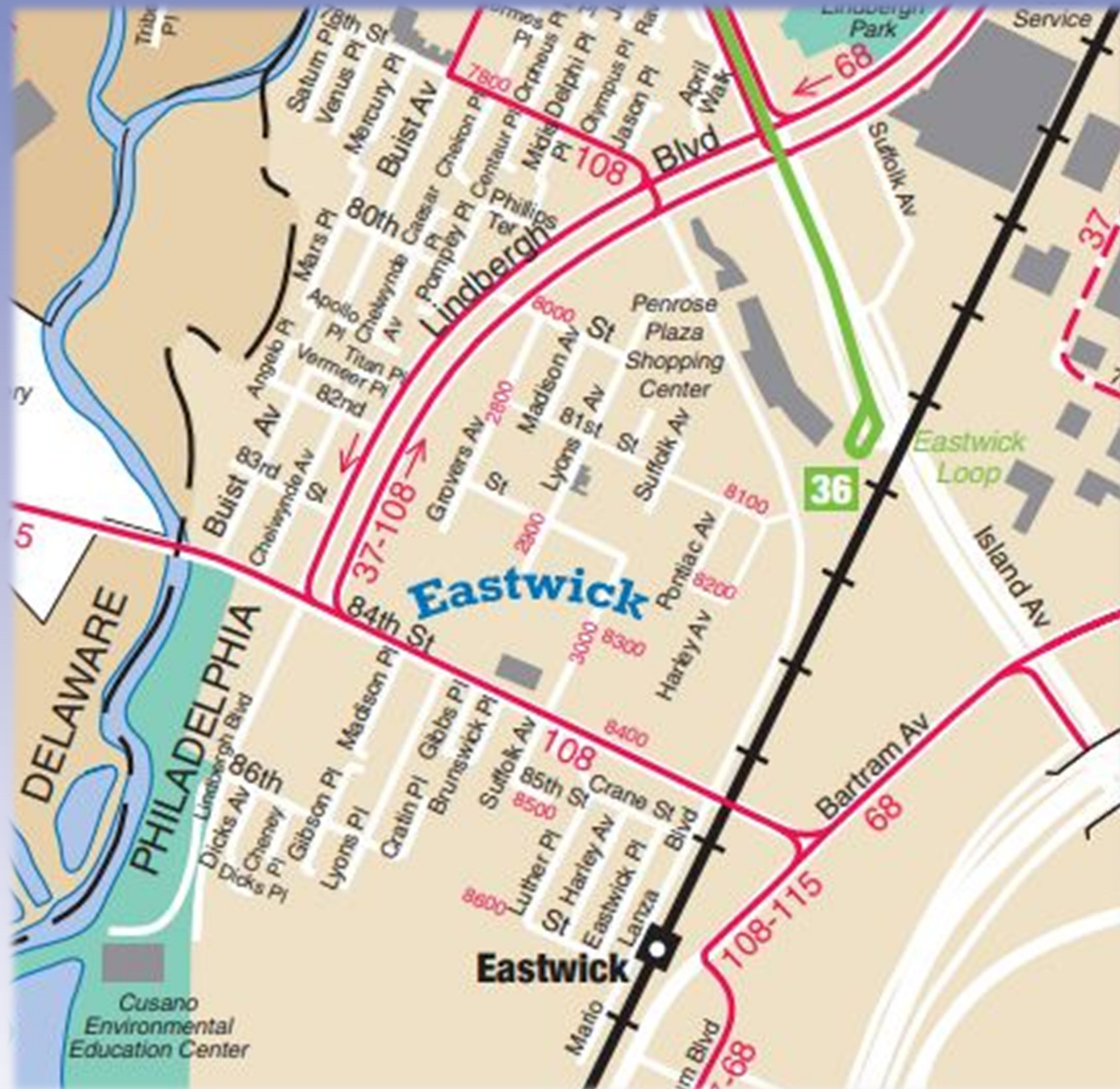


# SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION ACCESS





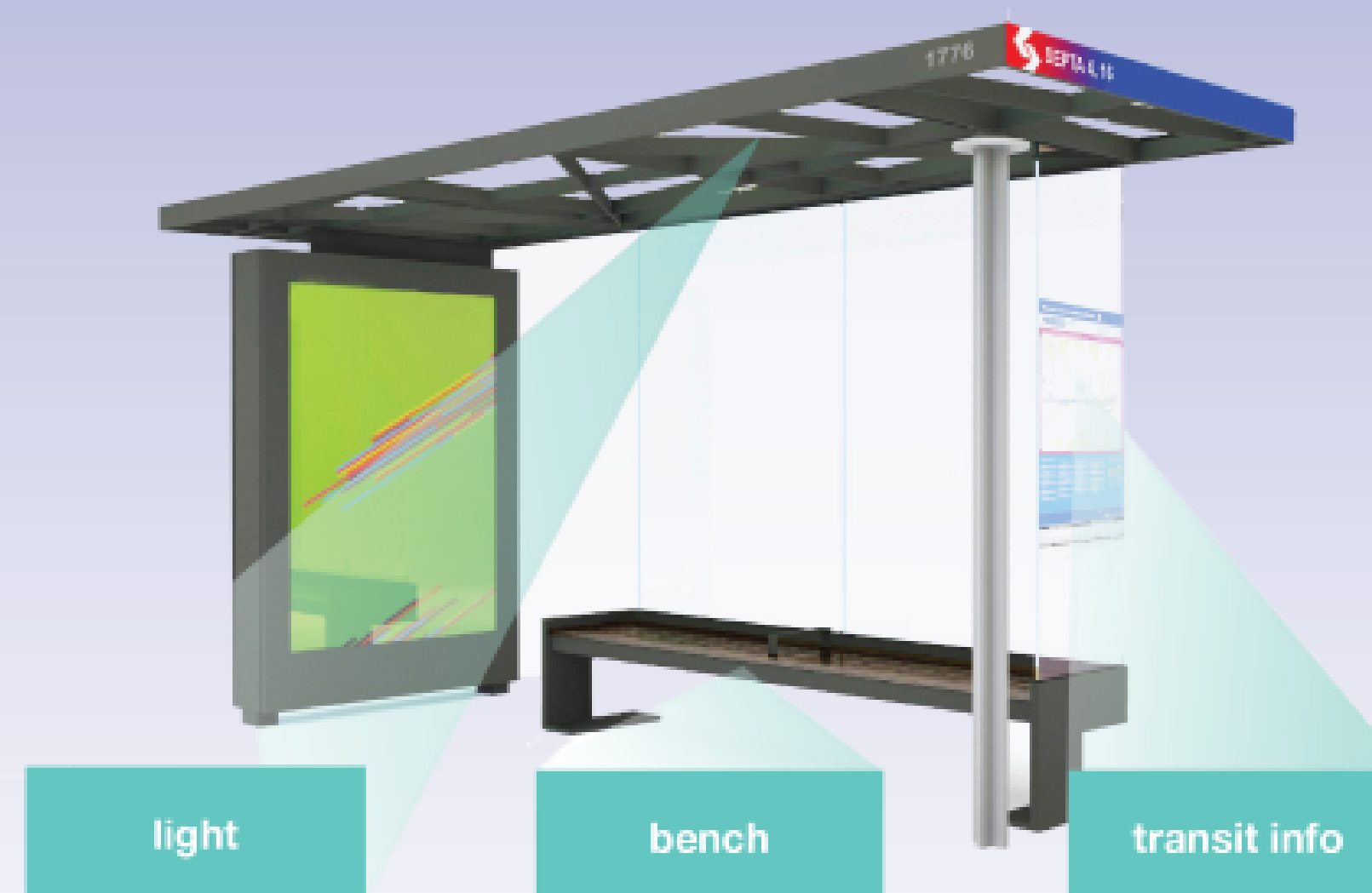
# PUBLIC TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS



Increasing **public transit** options

Advocating for weekend **bus service**

Weighing in on **long-range plans**

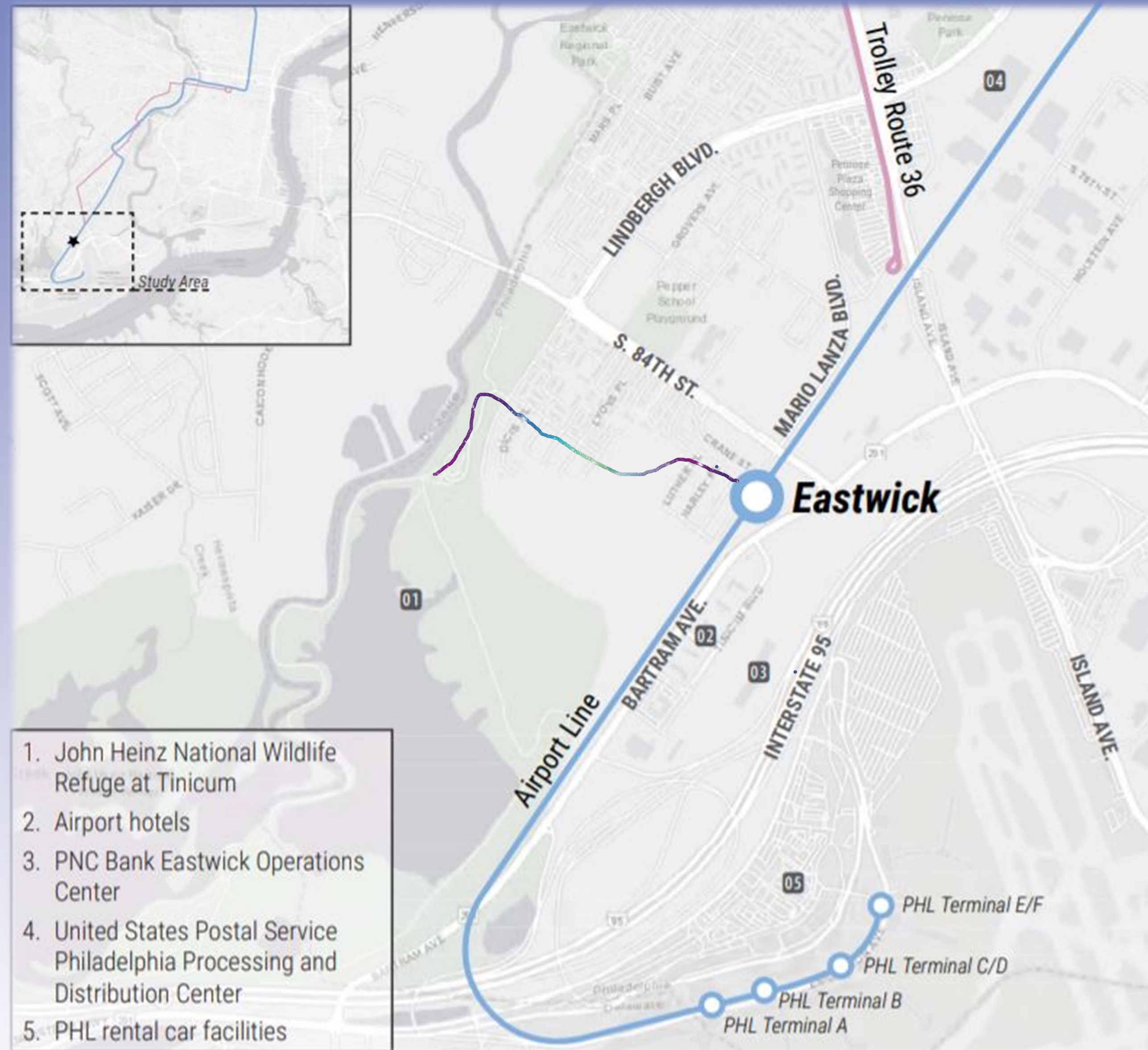


Investing in nearby **bus shelters**

**Bus announcements**



# EASTWICK TRAIL EXTENSION



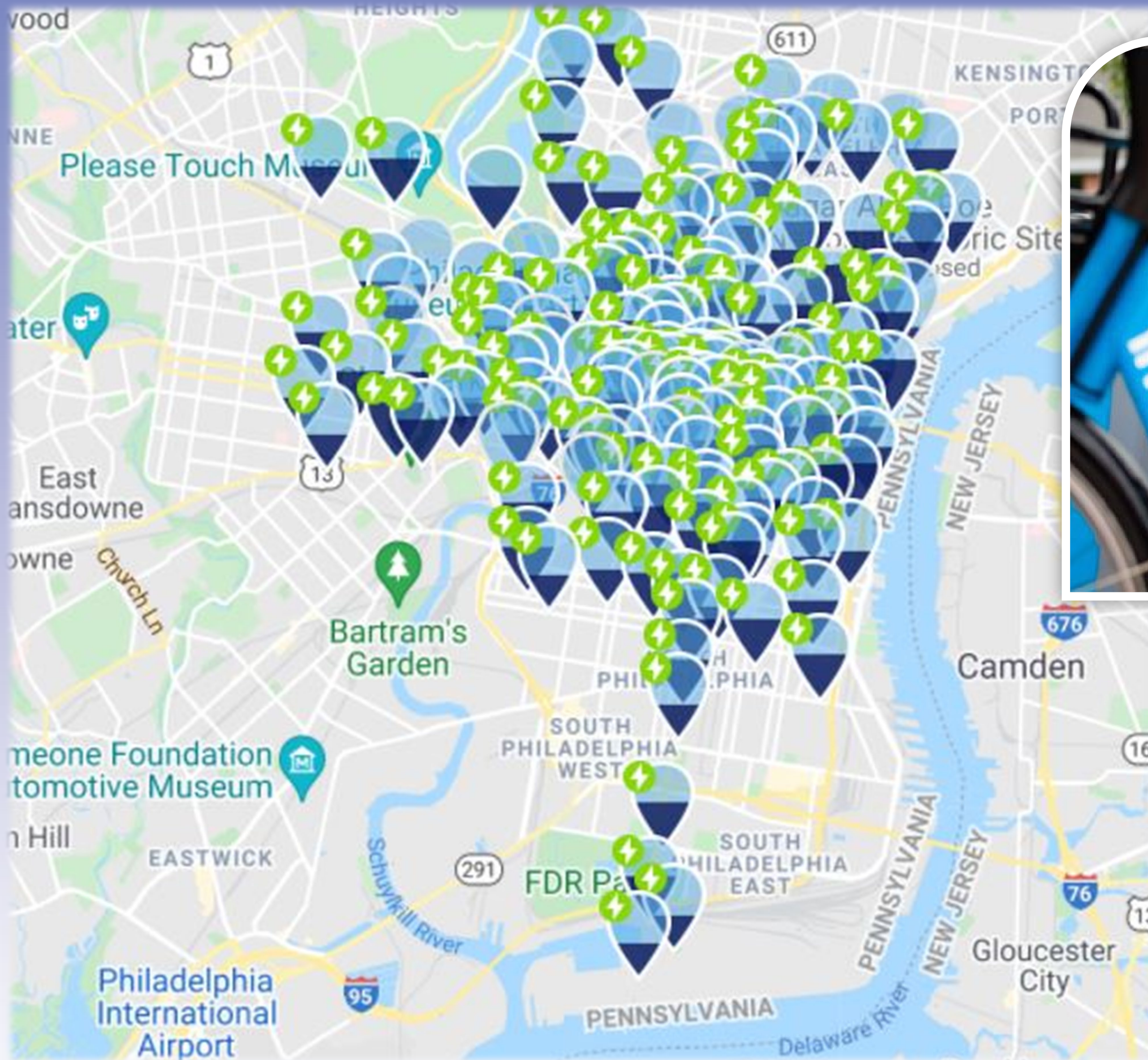
**Within 1 mile of refuge, but indirect route**

**More direct route** between Eastwick regional rail station and refuge Visitor Center

**Next Steps:** Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) application **2022** and **community outreach**



# INDEGO BIKE SHARE EXPANSION



## 2017 FLAP application

- 4 stations proposed
- Did not receive funding


**Challenge:** upkeep of satellite stations

**Next Steps:** proposal for recreation-based model along trail systems



# LINDBERGH BLVD PROTECTED BIKE LANE

**Focus Area: 60th - 65th Sts**




This meeting is for near neighbors of Lindbergh Boulevard between 60th Street and 65th Street,


The full project will change the layout of Lindbergh Boulevard between 58th Street and 84th Street.

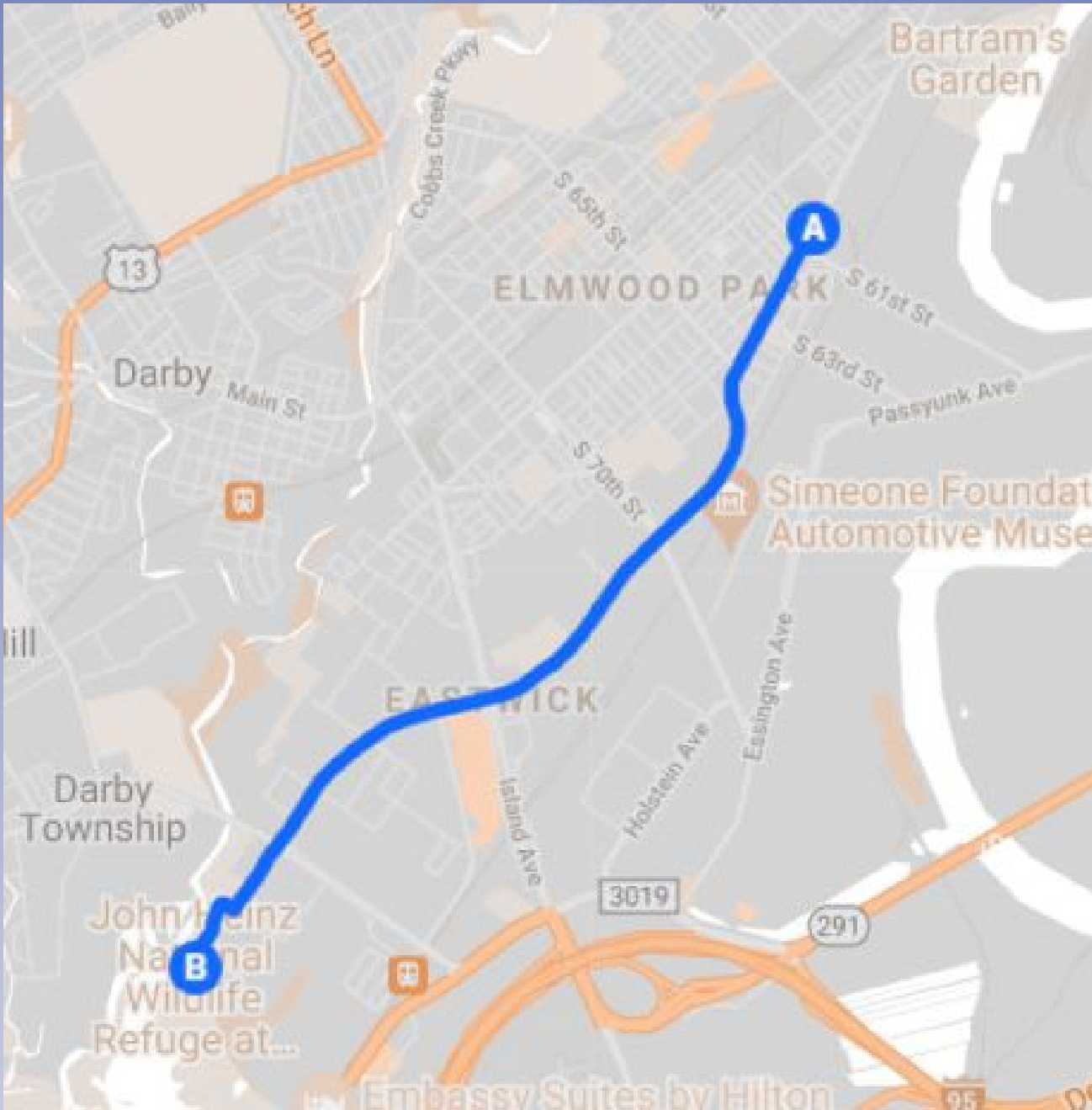
The project will **create more safe connections** between neighborhoods and the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

**Lindbergh Blvd. Crashes between 58th & 65th Streets:**

Between 2015 and 2019, there were **108 crashes** on Lindbergh Boulevard between 58th Street and 65th Street:

 **1 person was killed**

 **133 people were injured**



Protected **bike lane** and **traffic calming**

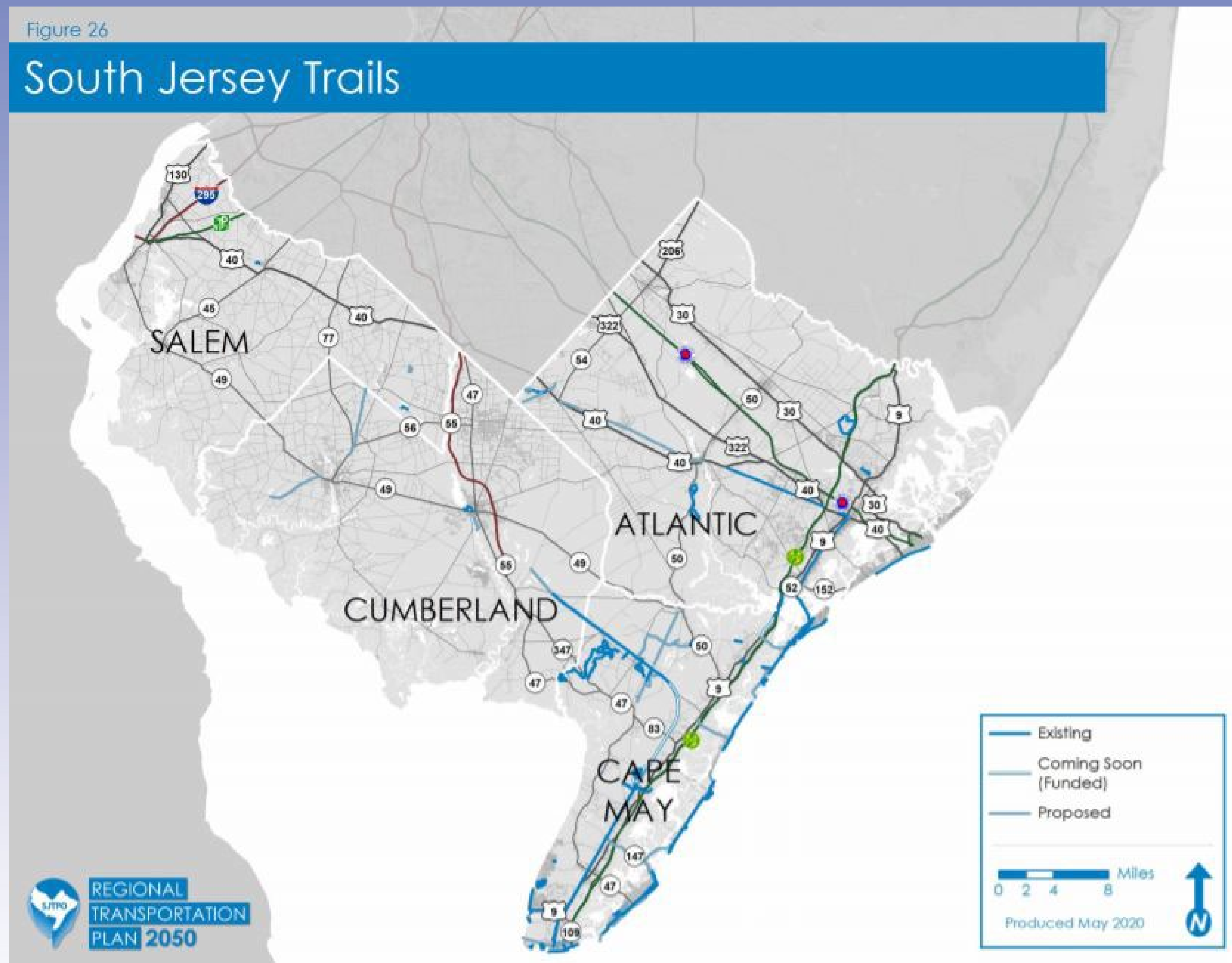
Received **FLAP grant** in 2017

Summer 2021 **community engagement**  
**Groundbreaking** planned for **Summer 2022**





# ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS REPORT



# Reviewed Transportation Plans

- Public Transit
- Bike Infrastructure
- Open Space Planning
- Sustainability and Resilience Plans

Made **recommendations** with **focus on**  
**priority communities**



# TWO MILE BEACH IMPROVEMENTS



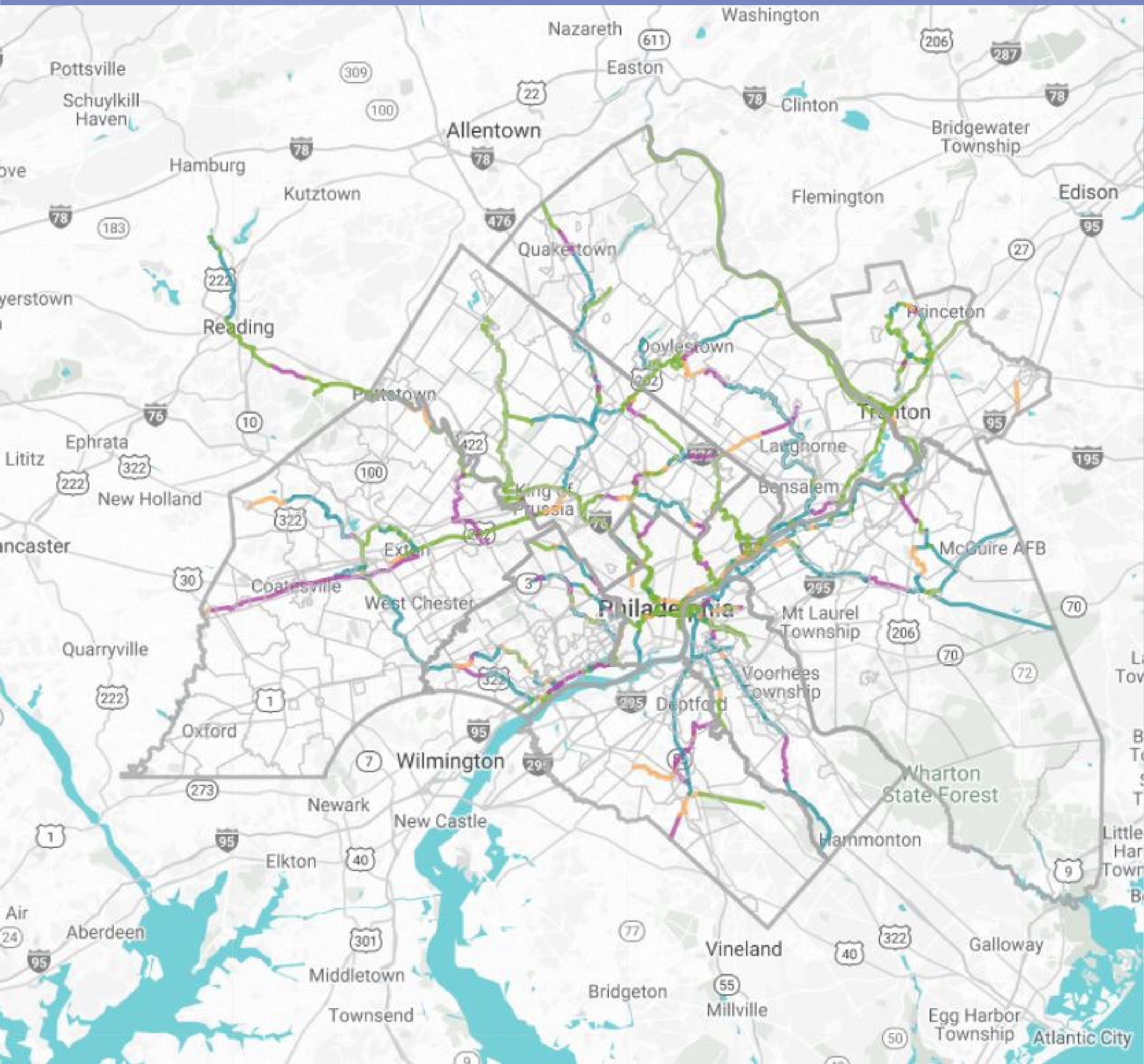
About **72%** of visitors walk or bike to 2-mile beach unit

Provided **recommendations for future** infrastructure improvements:

- Separating bike / ped traffic
- Entrance improvements
- Partner with biking and walking organizations on programs

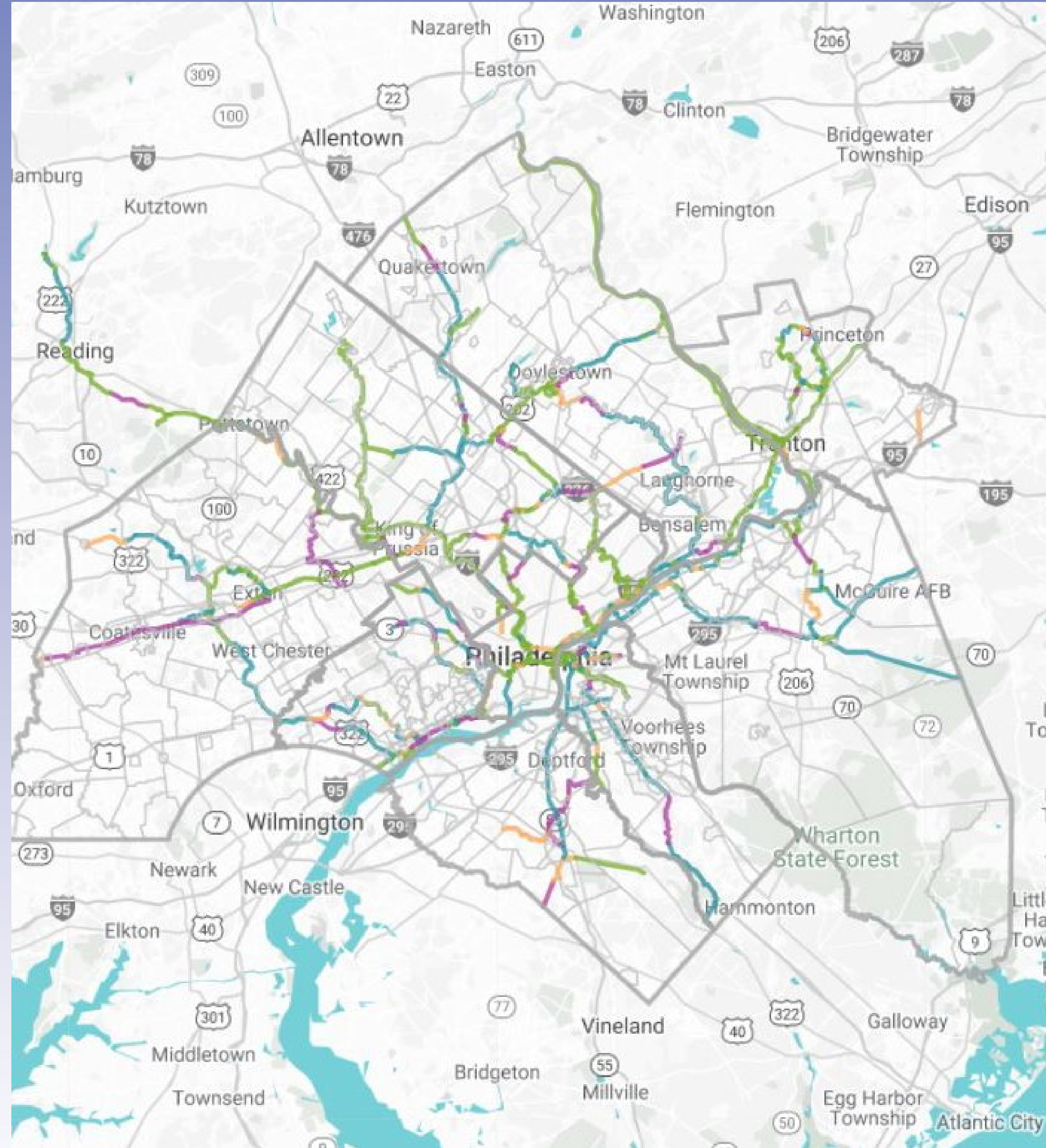


# IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH PARKS + TRAILS





# HEINZ TRAIL CONNECTIONS



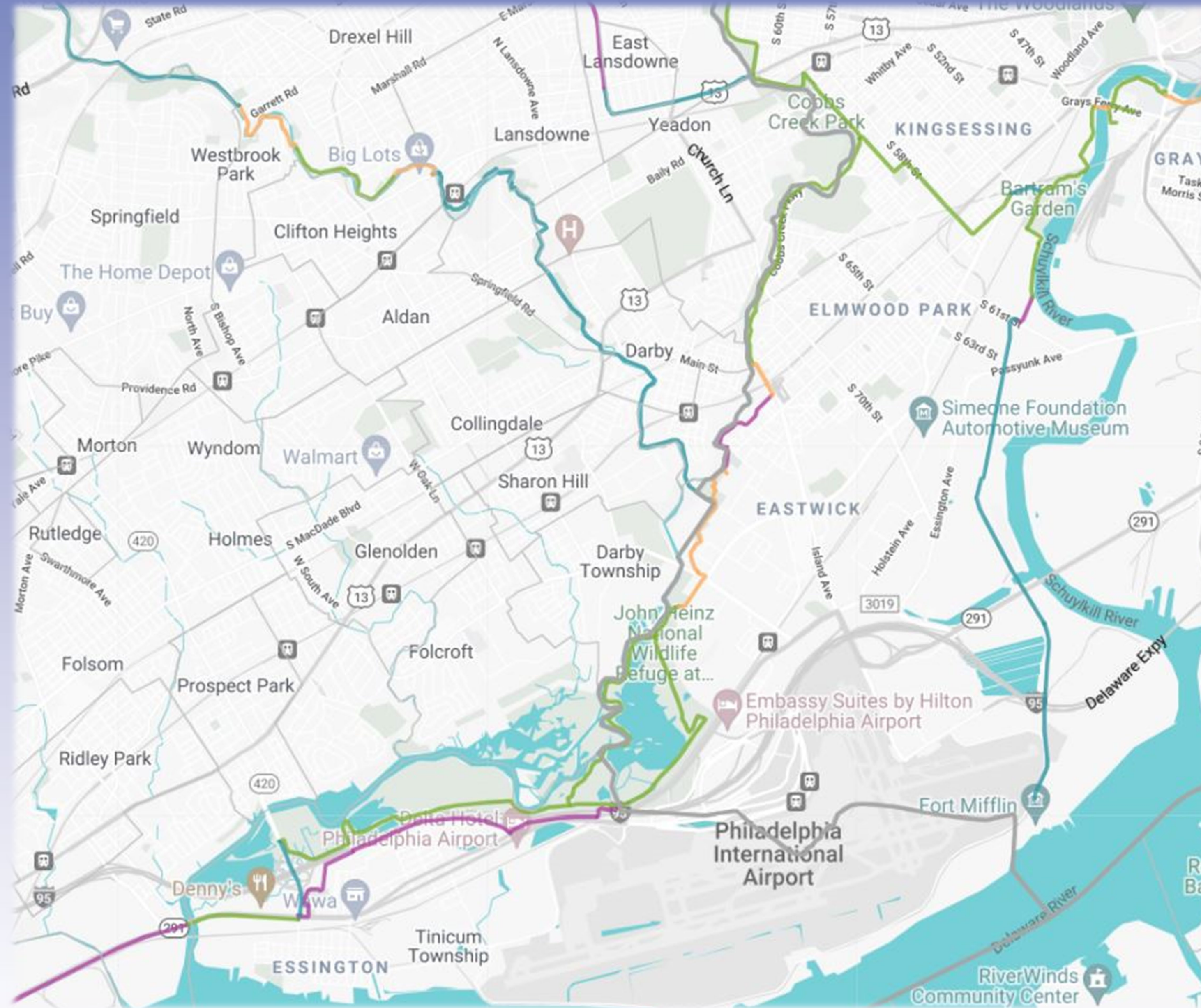
Circuit Trails and East Coast Greenway connects Heinz to:

- **Regional transportation centers** (Amtrak, airport)
- **State and national parks**
- **Local green spaces**

**Coalition building, community outreach, and funding acquisition**



# COBBS AND TINICUM TRAILS



## Cobbs Creek Trail:

- Broke ground on segment closest to refuge
- Seeking funding for remaining portion 2022

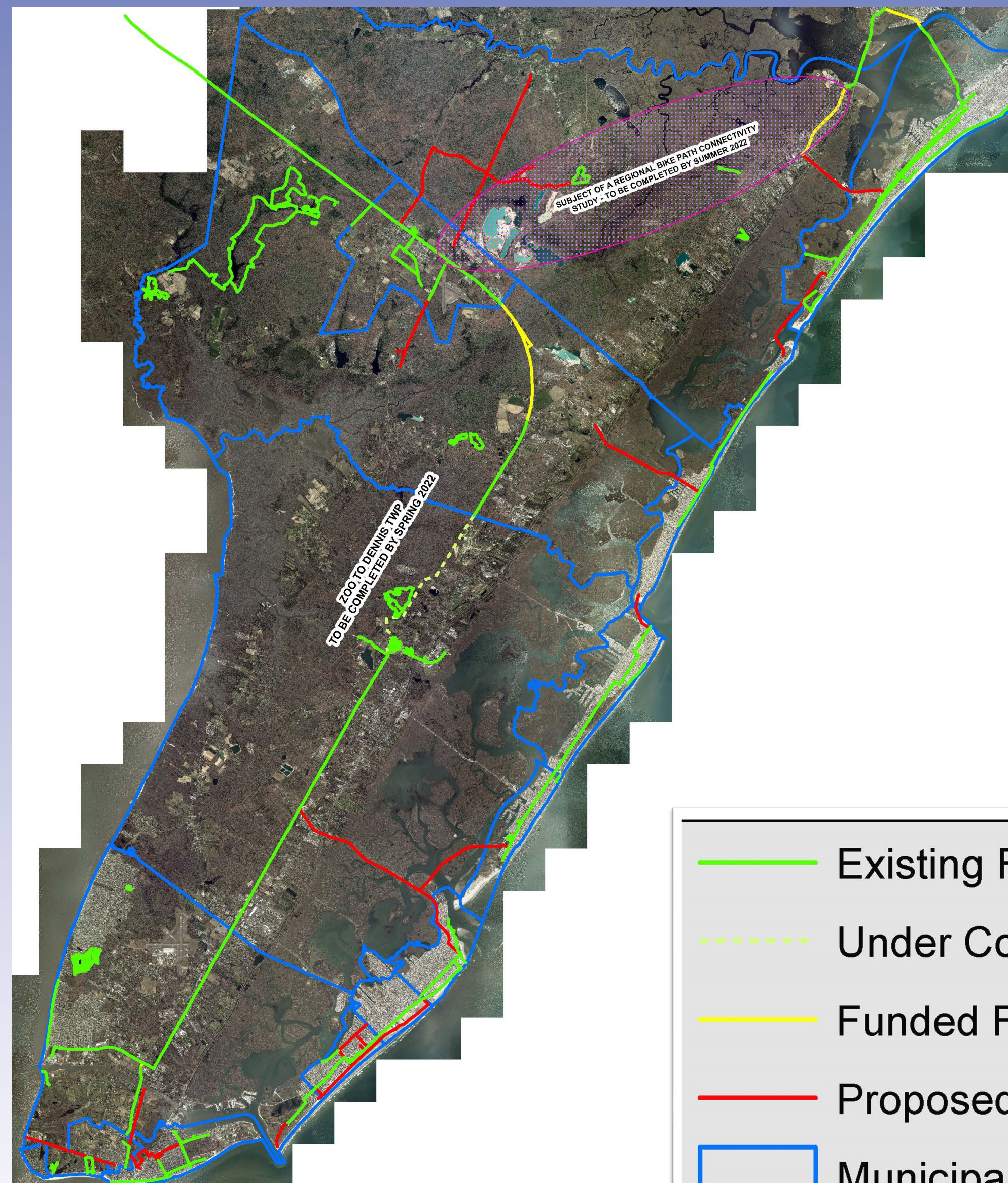
## Tinicum Trail

- Feasibility Study

Next Steps: **community outreach** and plan implementation



# GREAT CEDAR SWAMP RAIL TRAIL



Revisited stalled rail trial project at Great Cedar Swamp division

Drafted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between township and refuge

Rail trail will connect with **state park, Cape May ferry**, and extends to **Philadelphia**



# EXPLORE AND PILOT EMERGING TRANSPORTATION





# LYFT RIDESHARE PILOT

lyftfor  
Acme co.

BUSINESS PROFILES

CONCIERGE

LYFT PASS

Programs

Rides

Reports

PEOPLE

SETTINGS

Niko Miles

Admin

Lyft Pass / Programs

Monthly commute Live

Cover full time employees' travel to and from work.

More actions

+ Add people

Last month spend

\$1,150.25

As of 2 days ago

This month spend

\$250.00

As of 2 days ago

Active riders this month

10

As of 2 days ago

People in program

50

Overview

People (1)

Basics

Type

Monthly recurring

Benefit renews on first of every month.

Benefit

\$100

Can be used on multiple rides until balance is reduced to \$0.

Ride restrictions

Time windows

5:30am - 10:00am

Every weekday

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Every weekday

Locations

Rides to or from locations:

SF HQ

Pick up & drop off

Palo Alto office

Pick up & drop off


Working to subsidize rides to the refuge since 2017

Lyft Pass Program, BPA

Pilot launch, Spring 2022

HQ rotation: Evaluating pilot and developing **criteria for success and expansion**

lyft



LYFT PASS

You've got the hook up

Florida Atlantic University has sent you a Lyft Pass for 2 rides. Open the Lyft app to claim your pass and see when it's eligible to use.

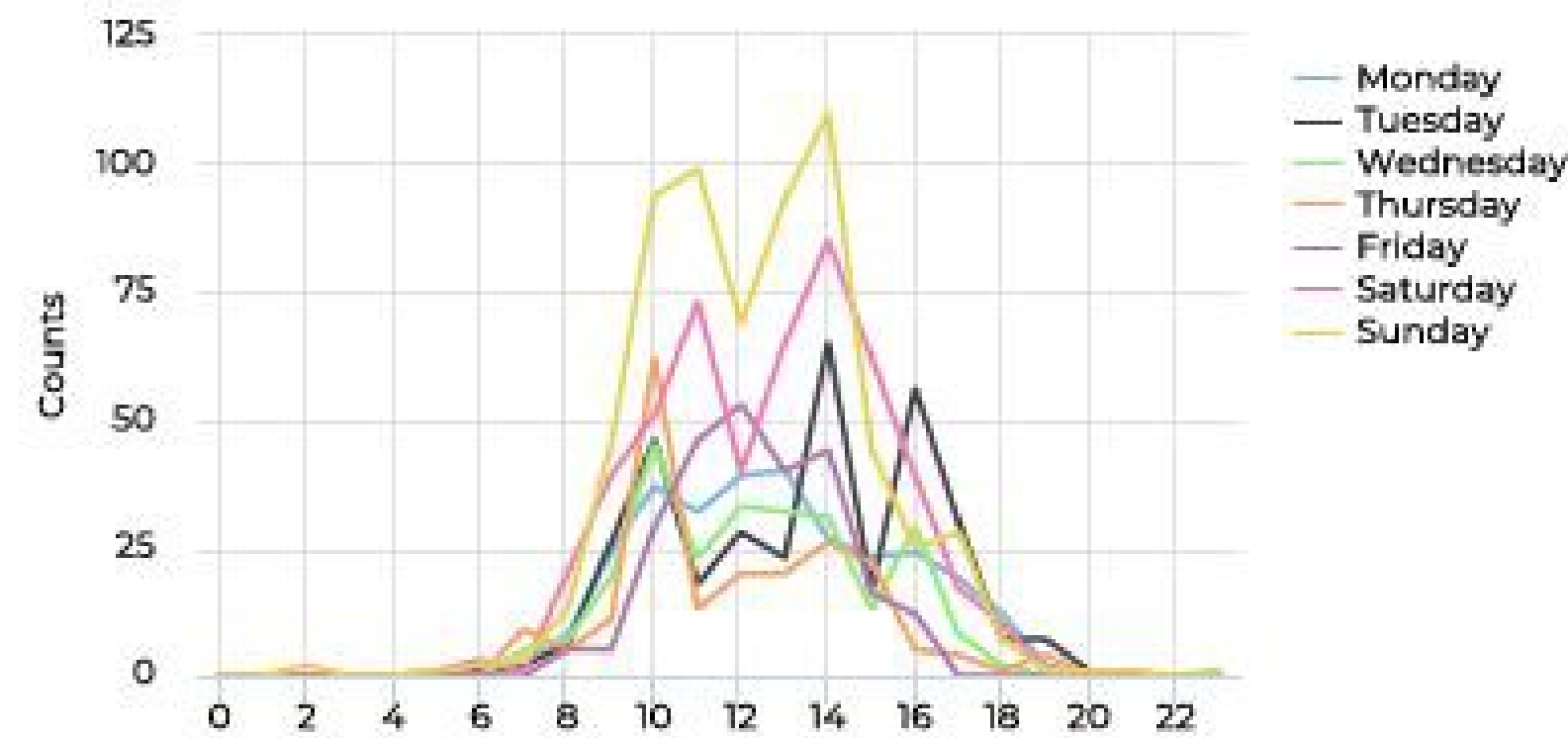
CLAIM YOUR PASS



# BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTERS

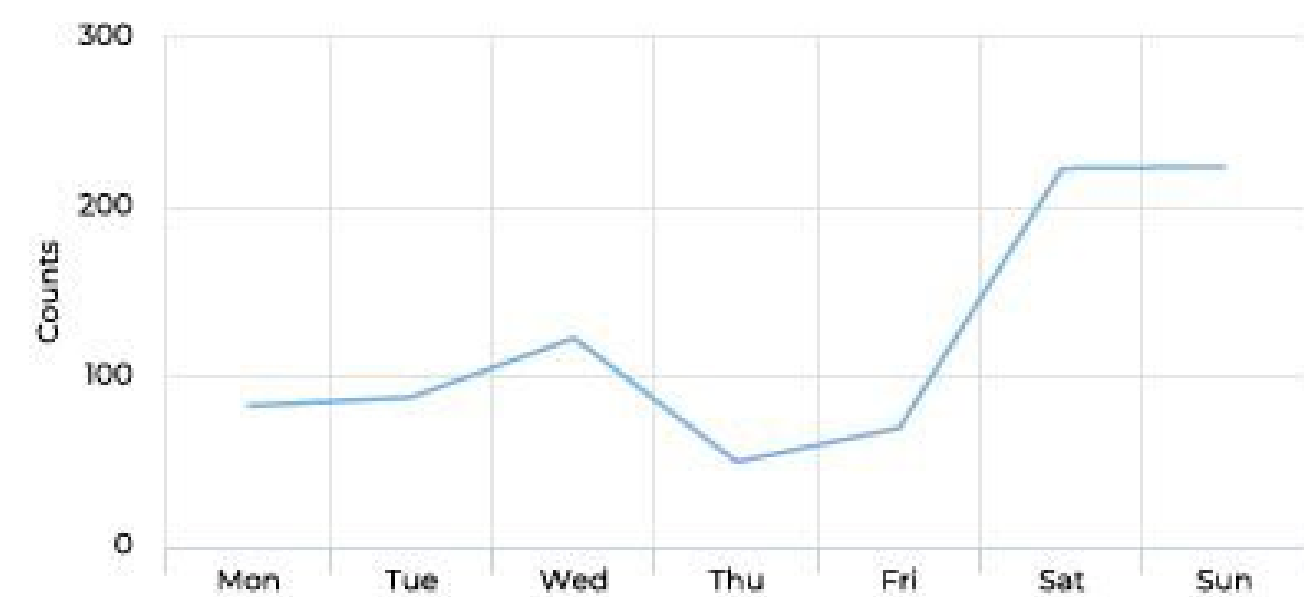
Hourly Profiles by Day

01/01/2021 → 05/04/2021



Daily Profile

01/01/2021 → 05/04/2021



**Eco-Counter** remote transmission bike + pedestrian counter program

IT security concerns resolved with **Technical Review Board** approval of counters

Working with **HQ Transportation Branch**

**Develop guidelines and recommendations** to inform future investment

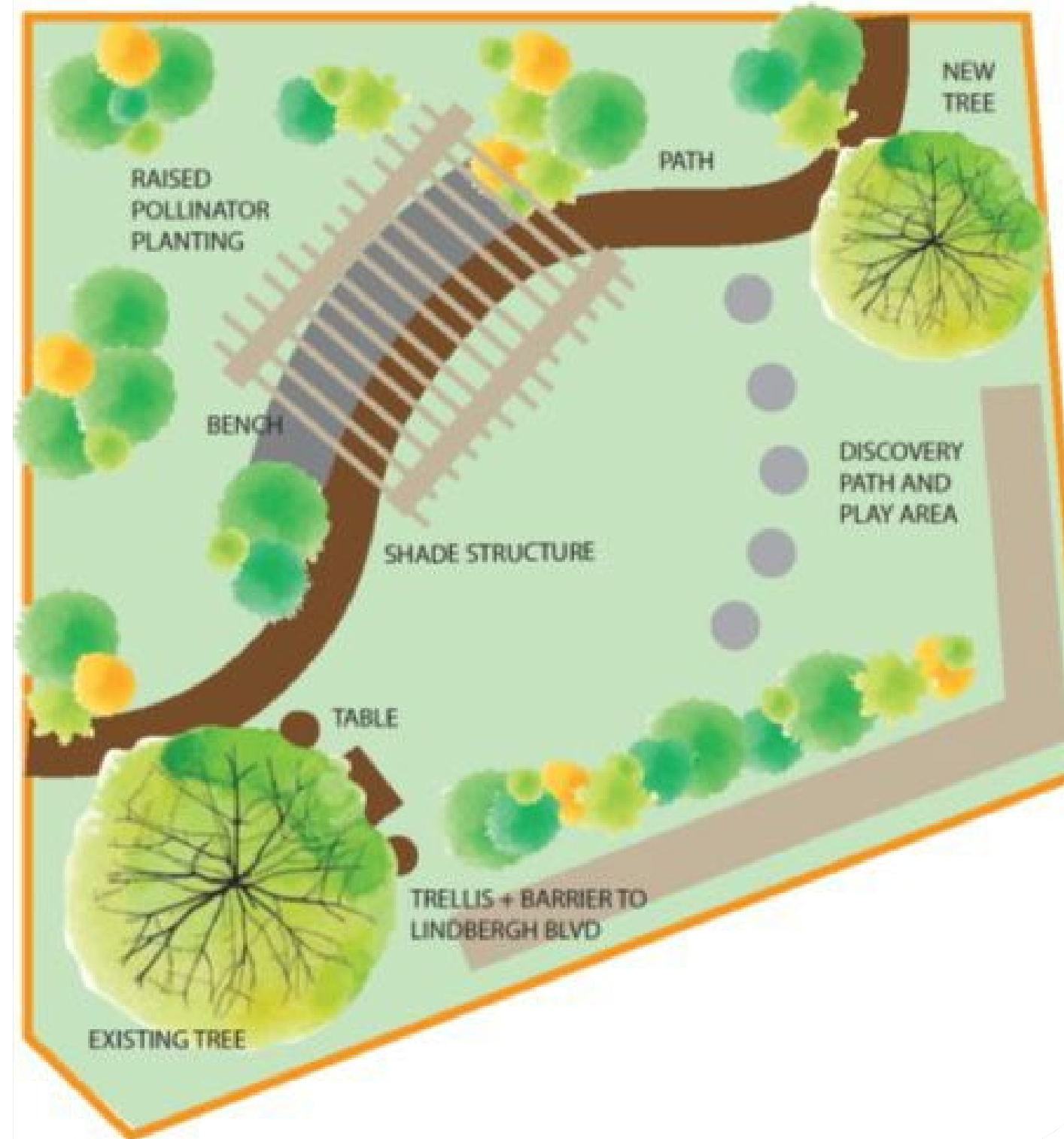


# CONNECT AND PLAN WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES





# POLLINATOR GARDENS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS



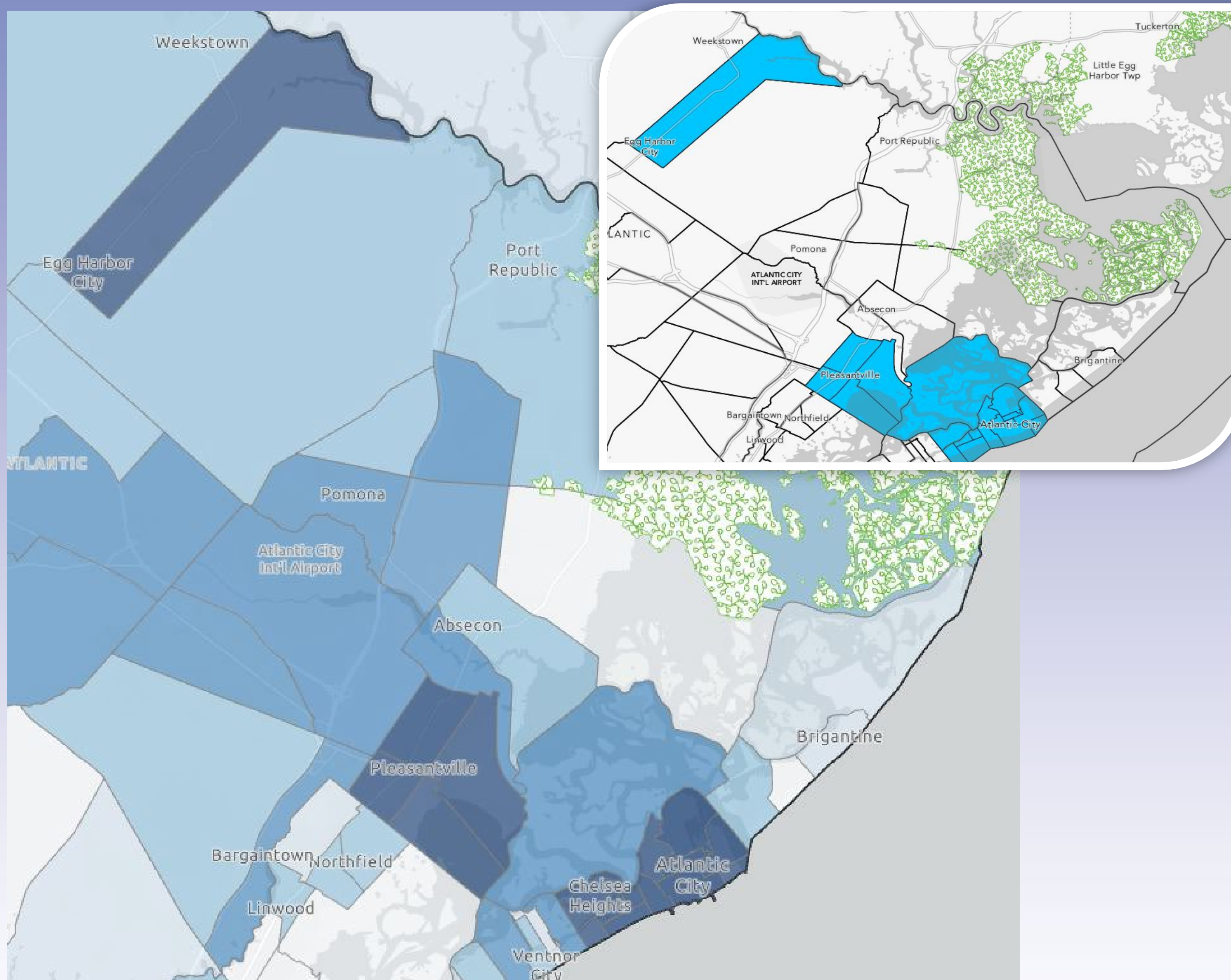
Facilitating **community-led design** session

**Pollinator garden** and community space

**Next Steps:** continue to **activate** space with programming and **implement final design**



# NEEDS INDEX ANALYSIS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## Needs Index Assessment ID “high need” communities for outreach

- Racial demographics, HH income, language spoken at home, zero vehicle, 25 or younger

Conducted initial **asset mapping** exercise

Ongoing participation in **Forsythe Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee**

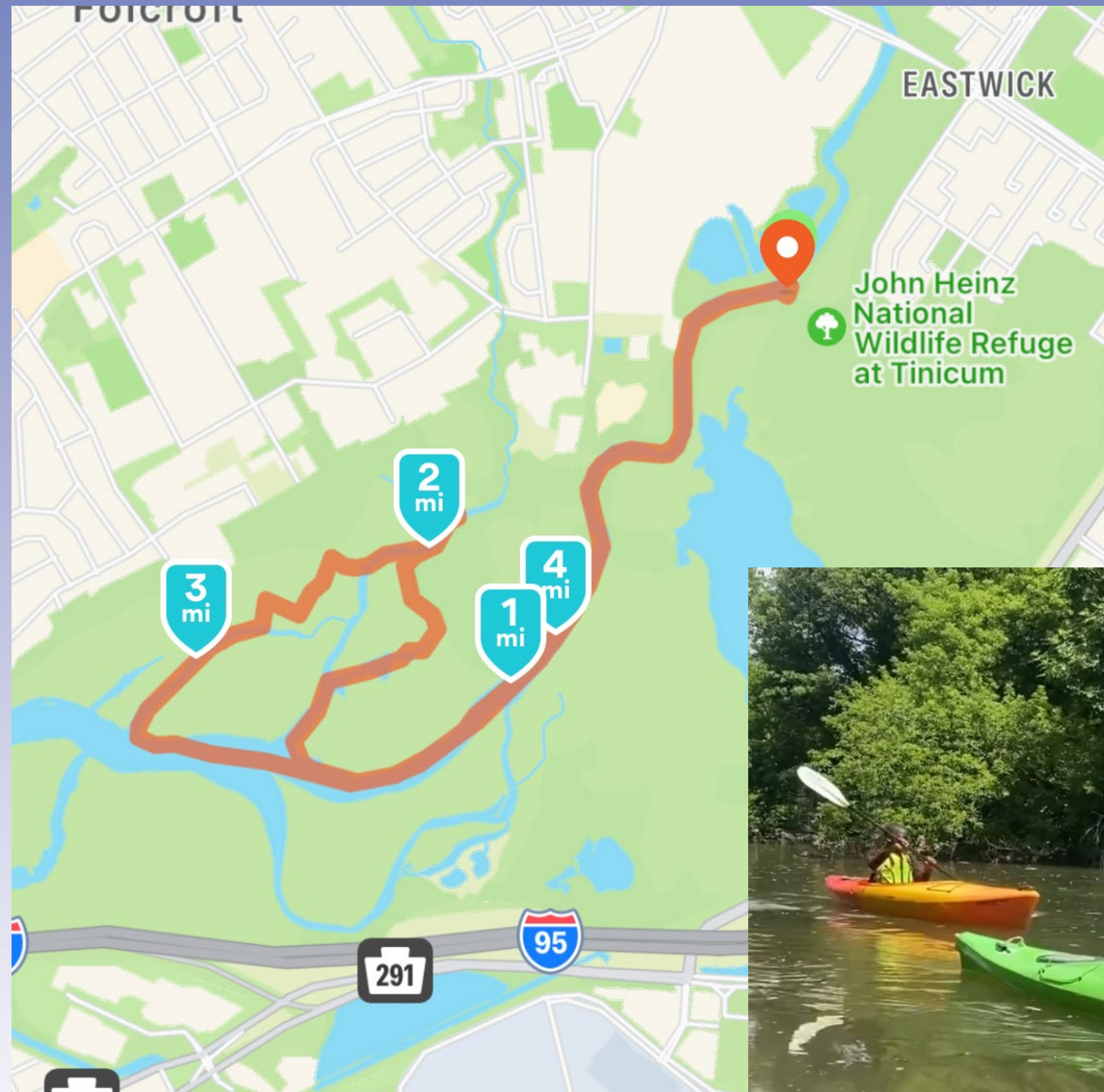


# ENHANCE AND EXPAND REFUGE TRANSPORTATION ASSETS





# WATER TRAIL PLAN



New Tinicum Marsh **self-guided water trail**

Planned **launch Spring 2022**



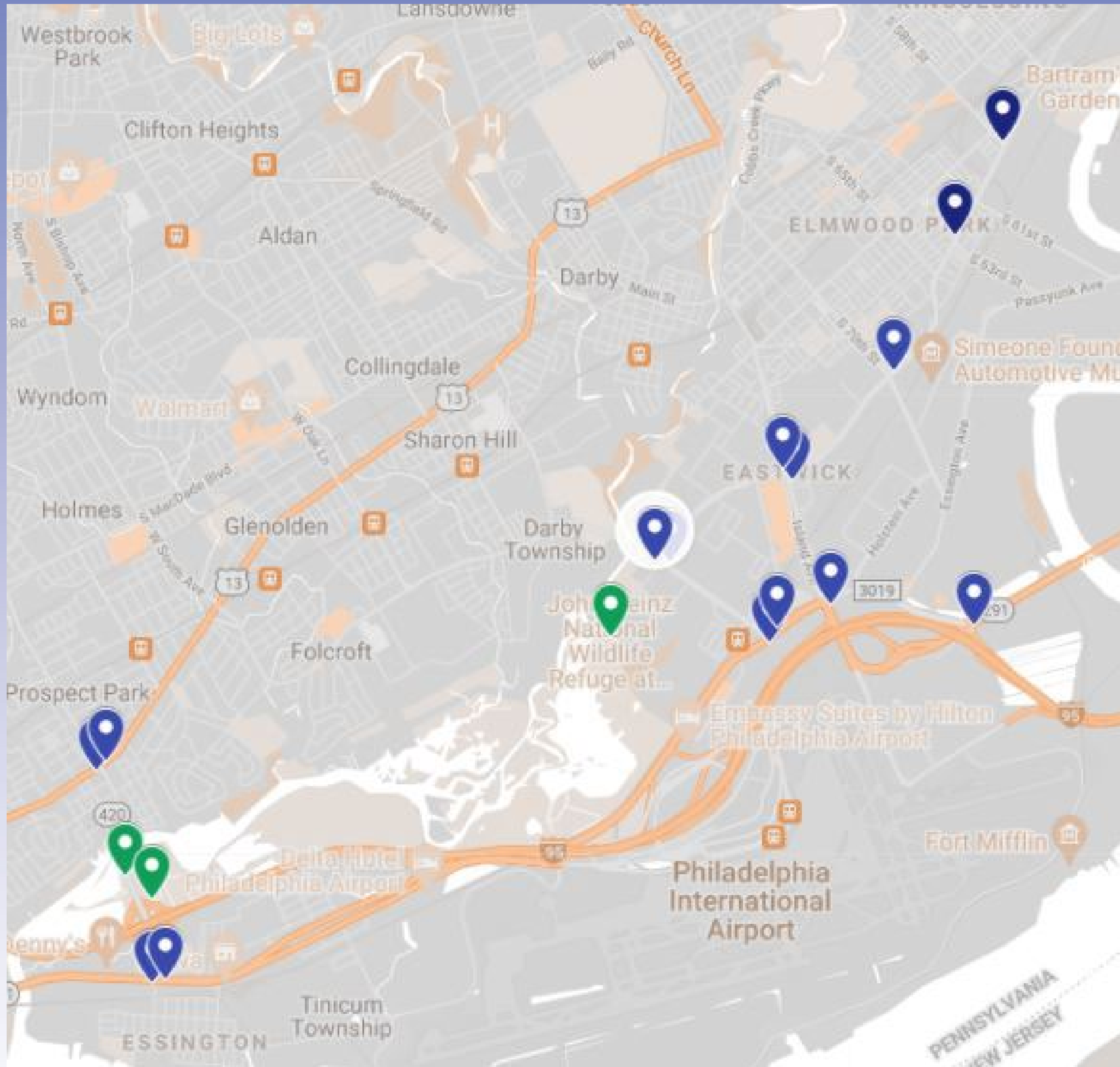
Community **kayak tour** program

Connection with **Tidal Delaware water trail**

Explore **kayak share** possibilities



# ADVANCE NOTICE SIGNAGE PLAN



Review of **FWS Signage Handbook**

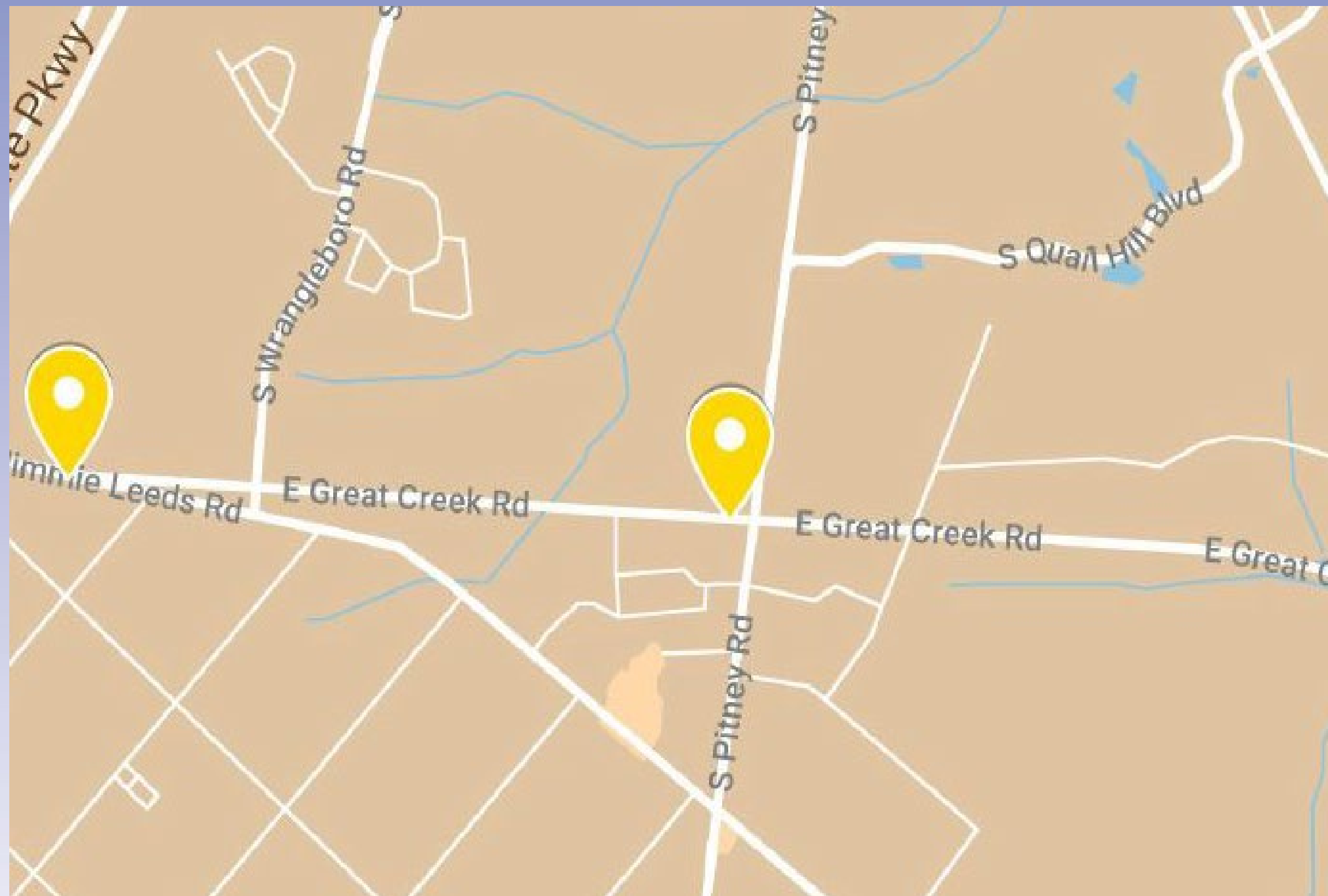
Reviewed and **Mapped Current Signage**

Proposed **15 new Signage Locations** and  
received signage funding from RO

**Next Steps:** submit PennDOT Tourism Oriented  
Directional Signage application



# ADVANCE NOTICE SIGNAGE INSTALLATION



Installed **2 new signs** leading from **Garden State Parkway** to refuge headquarters

Provided **guidelines for future signage** installations along

- New Jersey Turnpike Authority roads
- New Jersey DOT roads



# WILDLIFE DRIVE FEE ENTRANCE STUDY



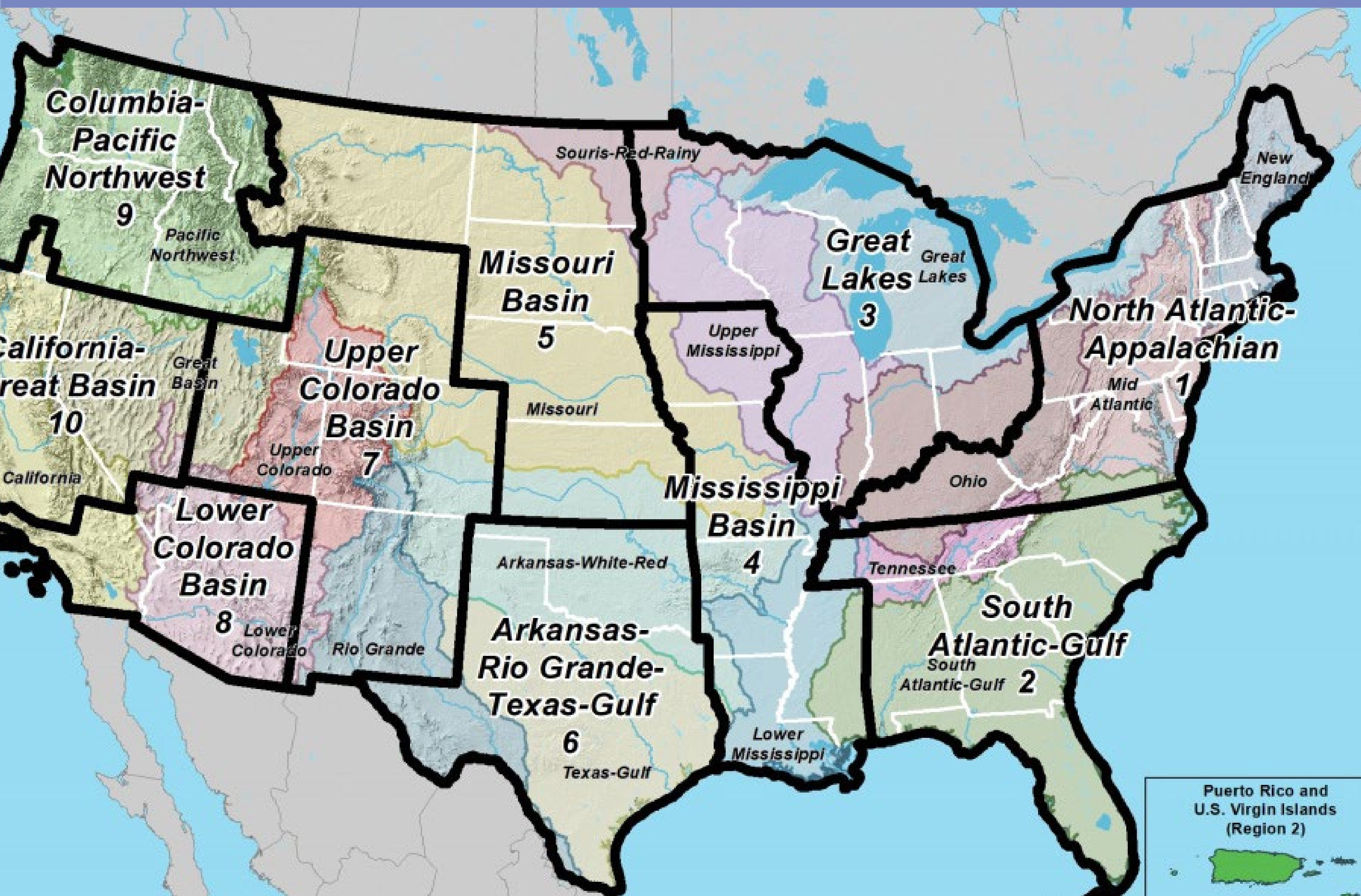
Concern at Forsythe with fee entrance compliance

Collaborating with **Volpe Center** on fee entrance study

**Draft report** with recommendations for implementation by refuge



# PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE





# FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM



## 2022 FLAP Outreach and applications in progress ...

- Ohio River Islands NWR
- Allegheny NFH
- Craig Brook NFH
- Chesapeake Marshlands NWRC

## Project Management support for funded FLAP projects

- Wallkill River Bridge Replacement
- Current Project Database



# OTHER HIGHLIGHTS





# LESSONS LEARNED + GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- Make time to get to know the people you're working with on a personal level
- Get creative about communicating – use metaphors, tell a story
- Find people already doing the work and don't be afraid to ask a ton of questions
- Remember to debrief following major project milestones
- Involve community in project planning early and often
- Stay informed and engaged with issues impacting neighboring communities
- Go with the flow and don't over-plan (think seasonally)
- Use the fellows' network!



# THANK YOU

- Lamar Gore, Mariana Bergersen, Carmelita Rosner, and the whole Heinz crew
- Carl Melberg, Kevin Ortyl, and the Northeast Appalachian Regional Office
- Virginia Rettig, Rich Albers, Keena Graham, and the rest of the Forsythe crew
- Heidi Hanlon, Ethan Hammer, Tim Donnelly, and the team at Cape May
- Laura Wharton, Eric Bergey, Peter Tomczik, and the HQ Transportation Branch
- Jaime Sullivan, Phil Shapiro, Natalie Villwock-Witte, David Kack and WTI
- My fellow fellows, Ella Webber, Tommy England, Naomi Fireman, Nate Begay, Charlie Gould and Pat McMahon
- Communities of SW Philadelphia, Atlantic City and Pleasantville



# RESOURCES

- Emergent Strategy, Adrienne Maree Brown
- Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Black Faces, White Spaces, Carolyn Finney ([video presentation](#))
- Passages, Michelle D. Commander
- The Color of Law, Richard Rothstein
- International Relations and the Problem of Difference, Naeem Inayatullah
- Upstream, Mary Oliver
- Selling the Lower East Side, Christopher Mele
- Lo-TEK Design by Radical Indigenism, Julia Watson
- Travels with Charley, John Steinbeck



# ANY QUESTIONS?





# Contact Information

If you have any questions related to this presentation, please contact:

Refuge manager at [lamar\\_gore@fws.gov](mailto:lamar_gore@fws.gov)

or

Fellow at [taylor\\_long@fws.gov](mailto:taylor_long@fws.gov)

Or contact the PLTF Program Manager at:

(774)571-3505 or [jaime.sullivan2@montana.edu](mailto:jaime.sullivan2@montana.edu)

<https://westerntransportationinstitute.org/professional-development/public-lands-transportation-fellows/>