STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR DOWNTOWN RALEIGH'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

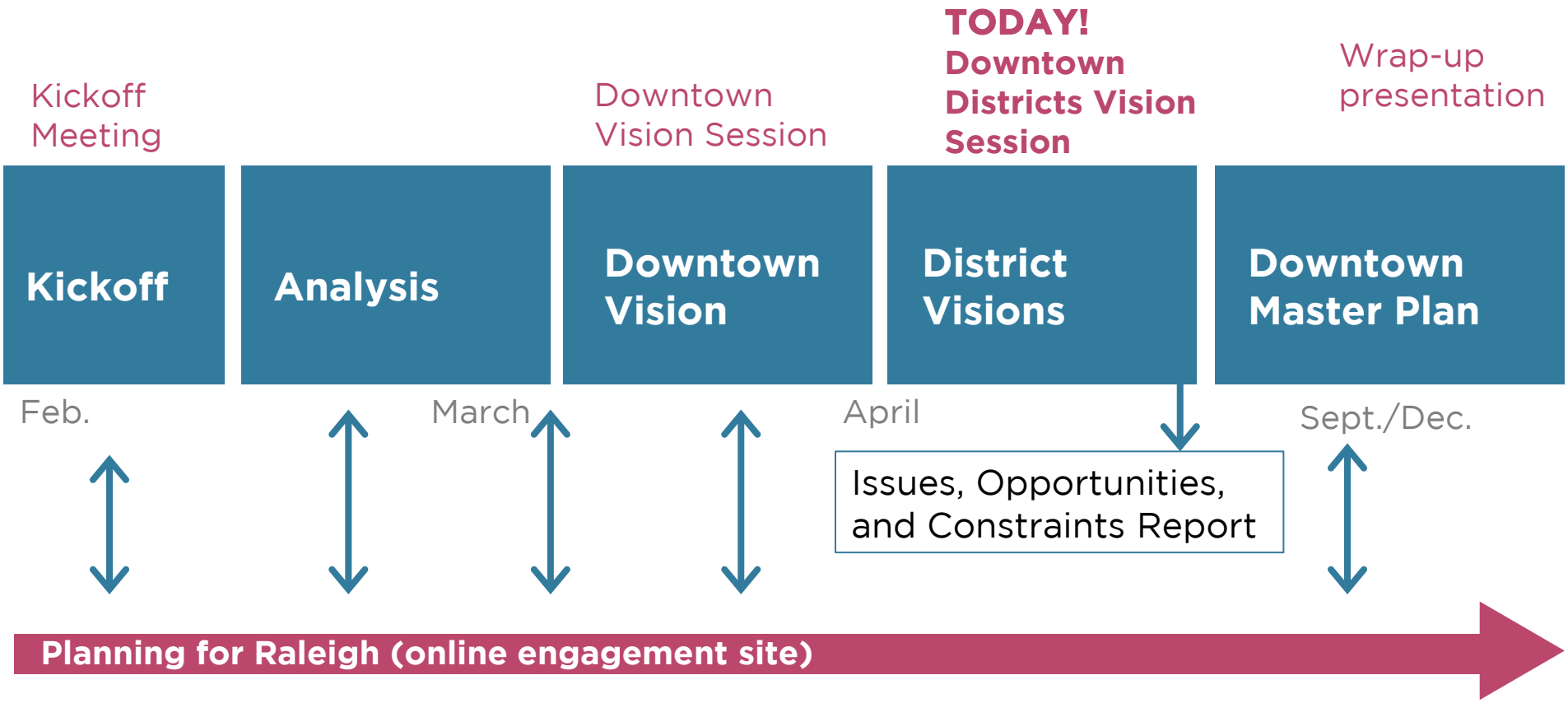
DOWNTOWN VISION MEETING

May 21-22, 2014

THE RALEIGH DOWNTOWN PLAN

Experience It.
DOWNTOWN RALEIGH

Downtown Plan Timeline

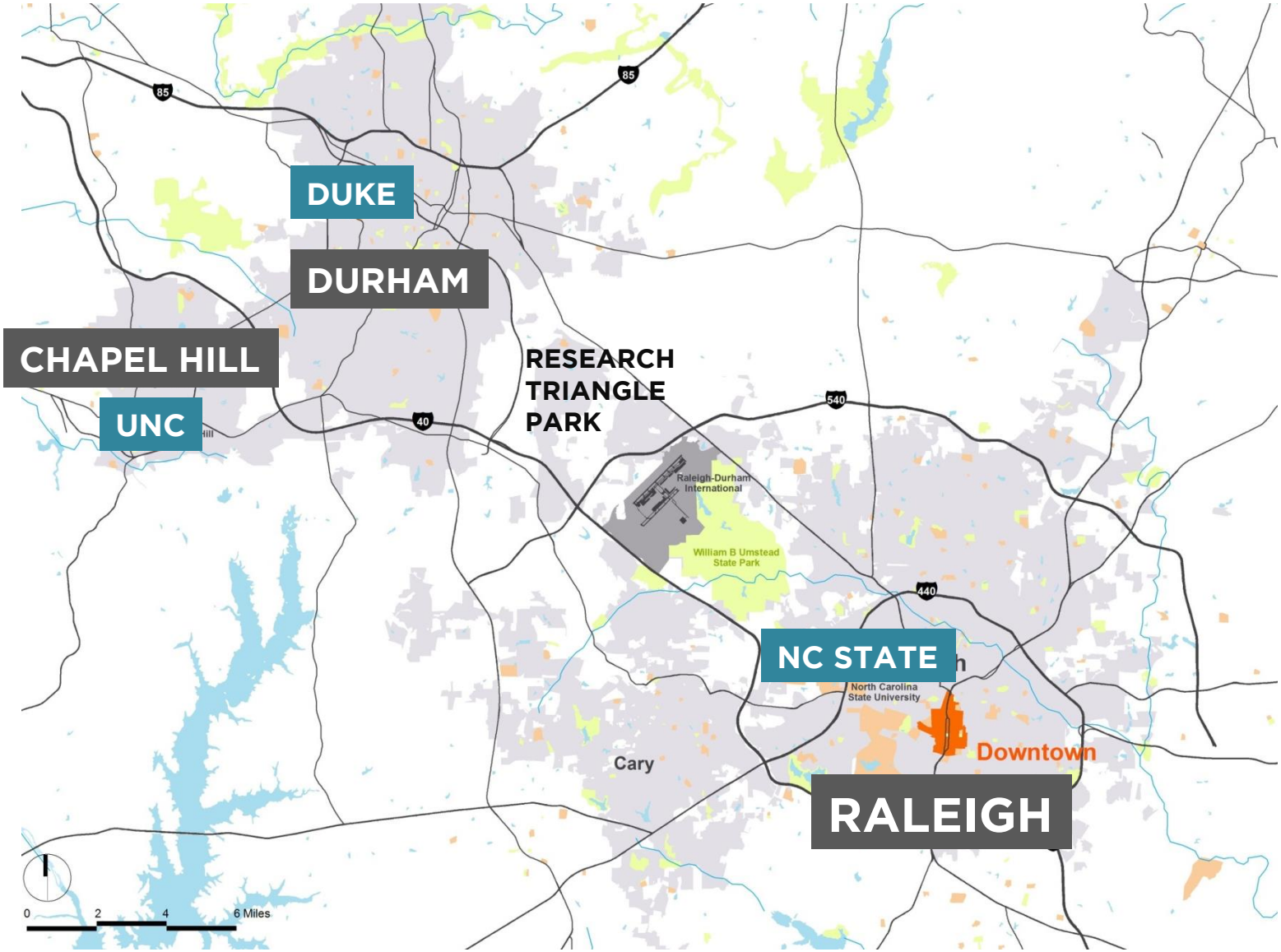


AGENDA

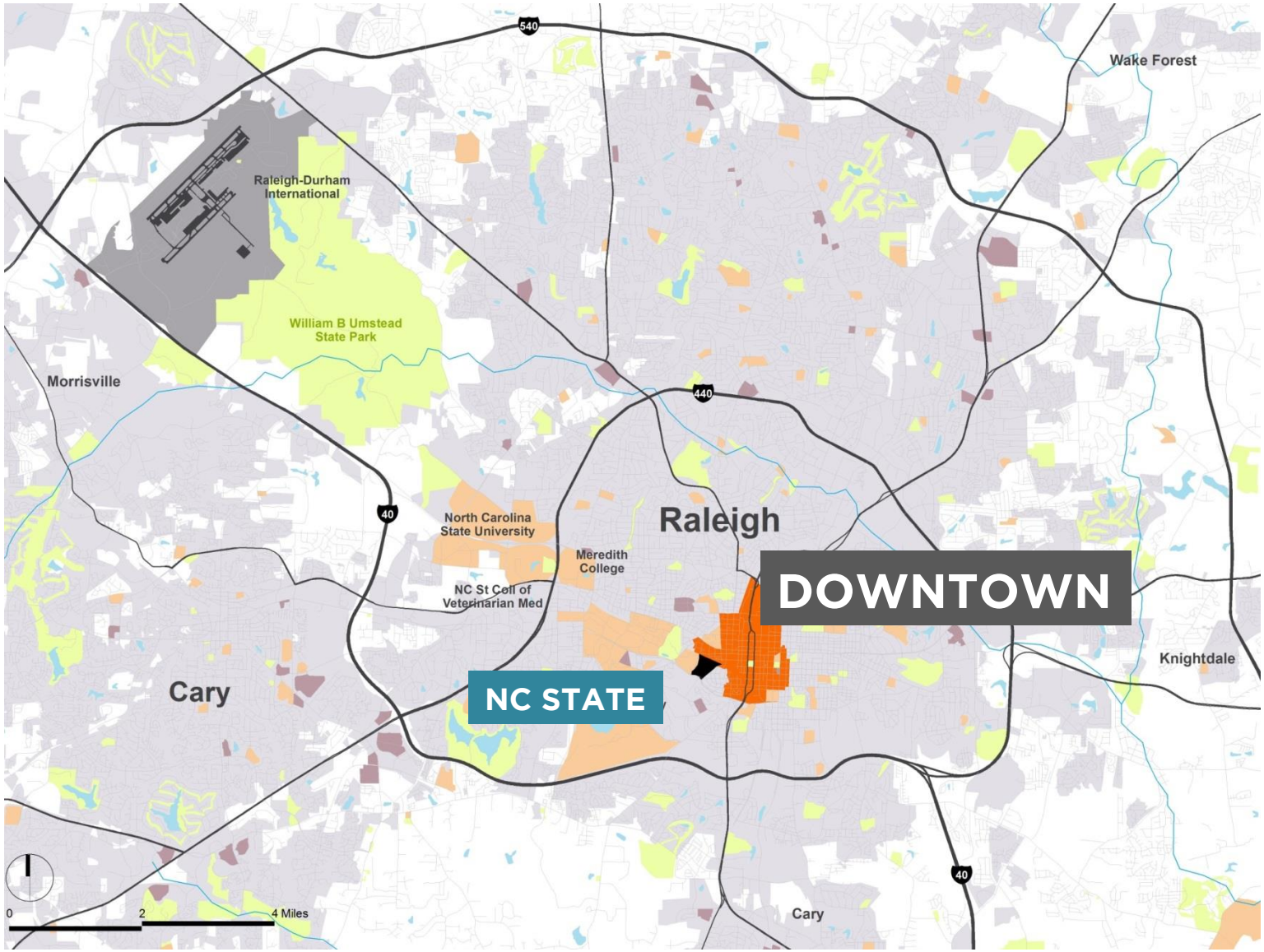
1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Downtown + the Districts
3. Community Visions for Downtown
4. Your District

DOWNTOWN + DISTRICTS

DOWNTOWN'S ROLE IN THE REGION

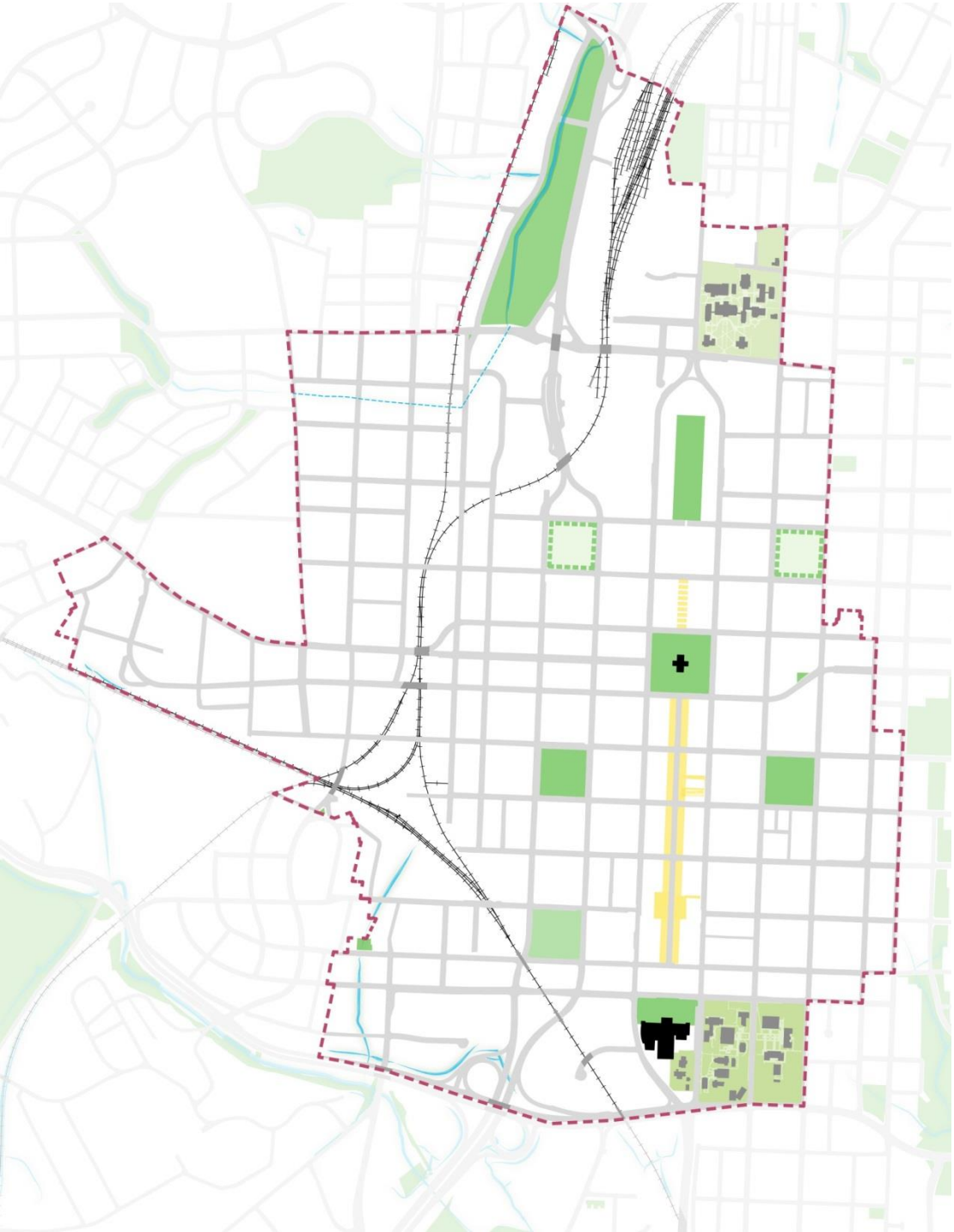


DOWNTOWN'S ROLE IN THE CITY

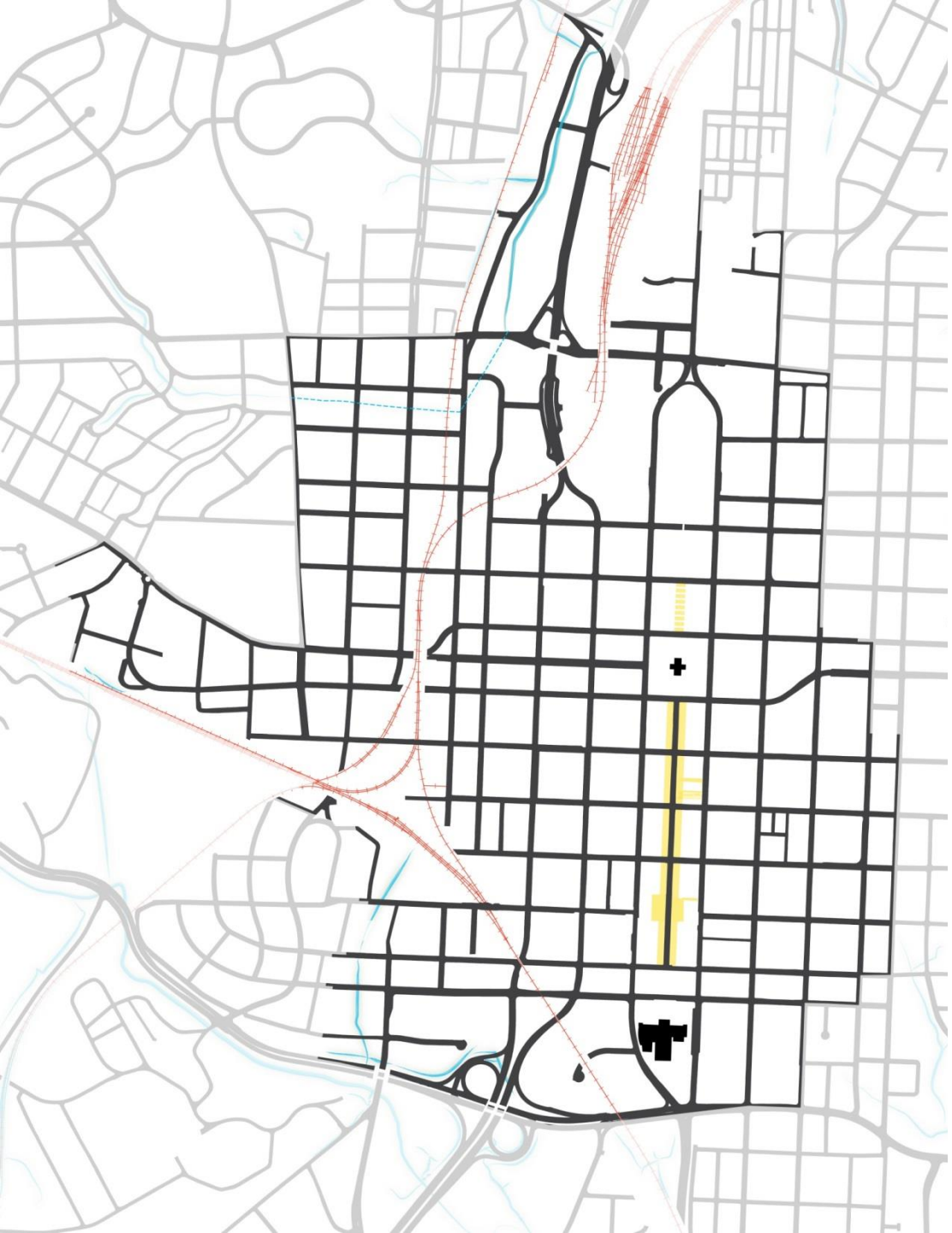


Google

Working
Dining, Shopping, & Entertainment
Creating
Visiting
How does Downtown's urban place add up to the Raleigh Experience?
Innovating
Moving
Living
Growing Up & Growing Old

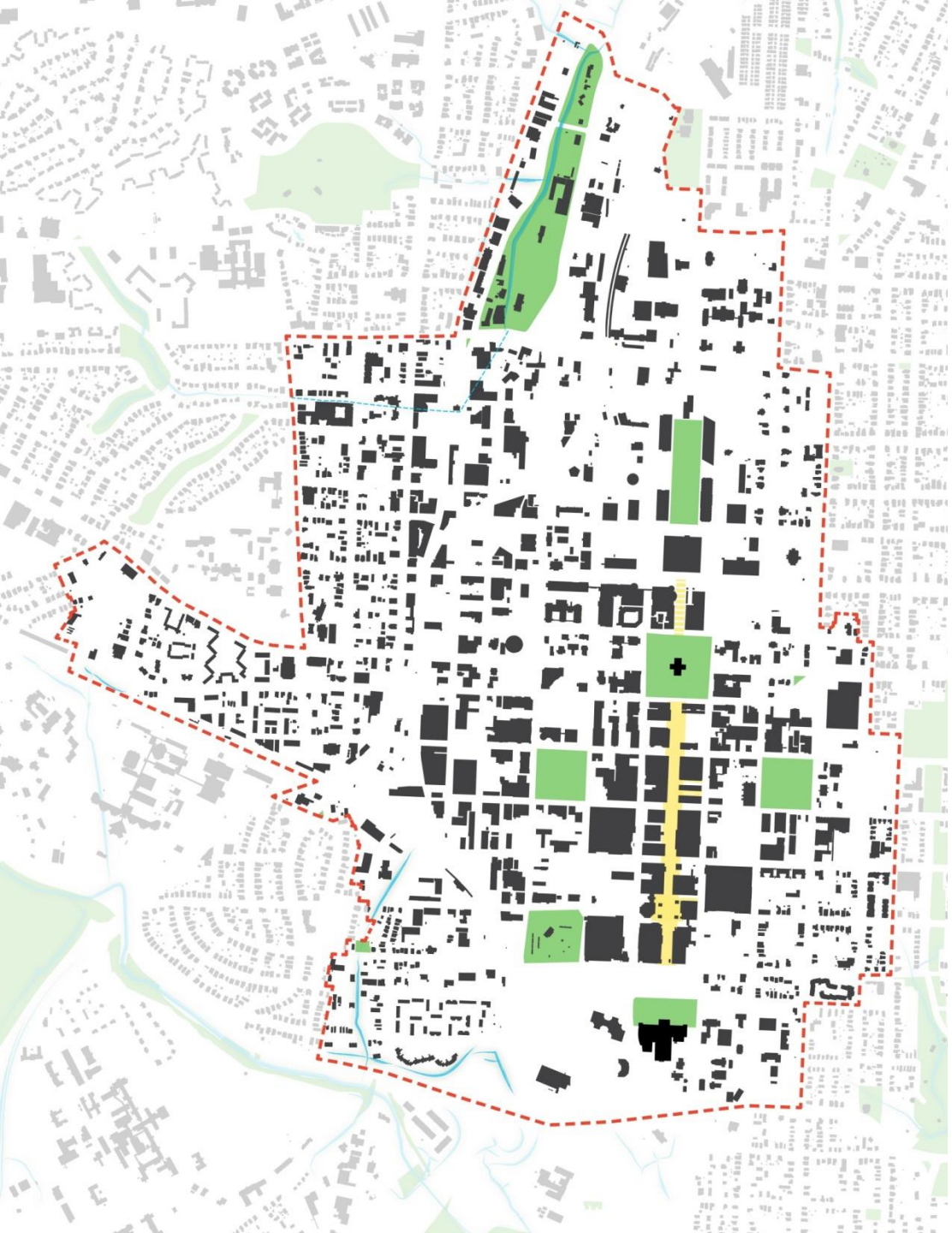


DOWNTOWN RALEIGH



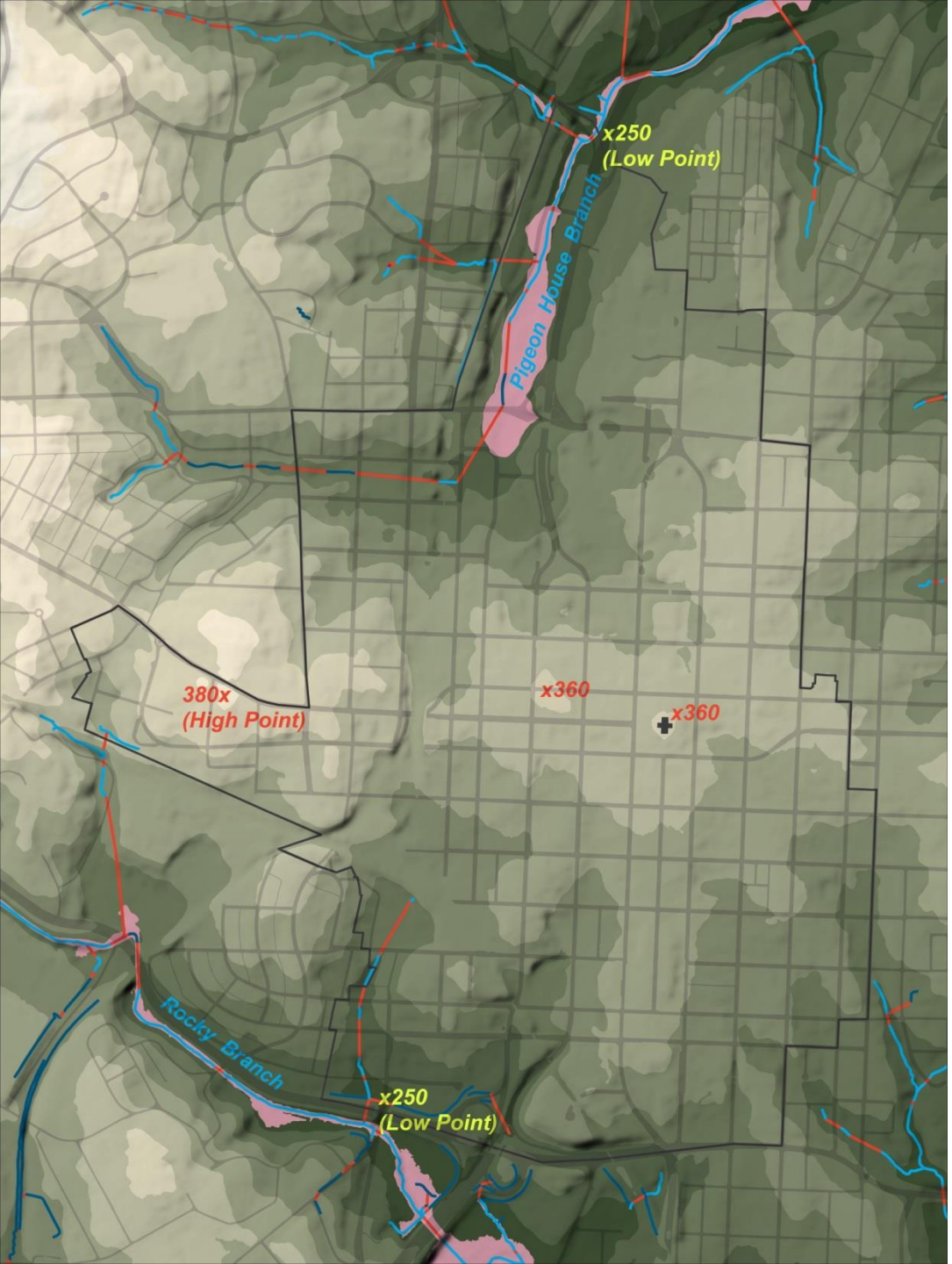
STREET GRID

- Early planning led to a clear orthogonal street grid
- Grid is intersected by rail



BUILDING PATTERN

- Density focused around Fayetteville
- Density gradient reduces at edges
- Building footprints reinforce the street grid



TOPOGRAPHY

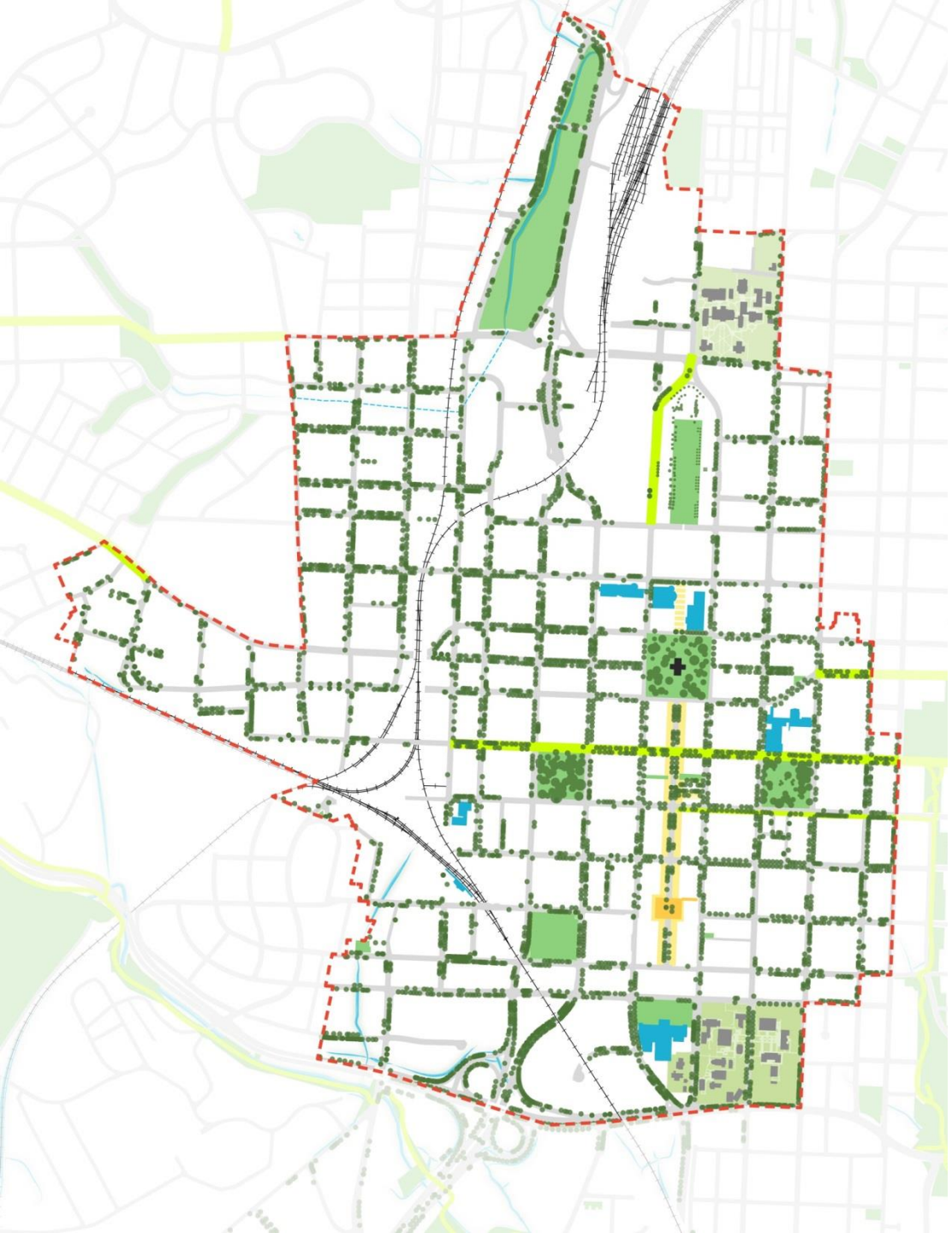
- Modest topography
- State Capitol is 2nd highest point in Downtown (behind St. Mary's School)
- Low points focused around rail & edges, where creeks are

Elevations in Feet

- 420 - 440
- 400 - 420
- 380 - 400
- 360 - 380
- 340 - 360
- 320 - 340
- 300 - 320
- 280 - 300
- 260 - 280
- 240 - 260
- 220 - 240
- 200 - 220

Stream Condition

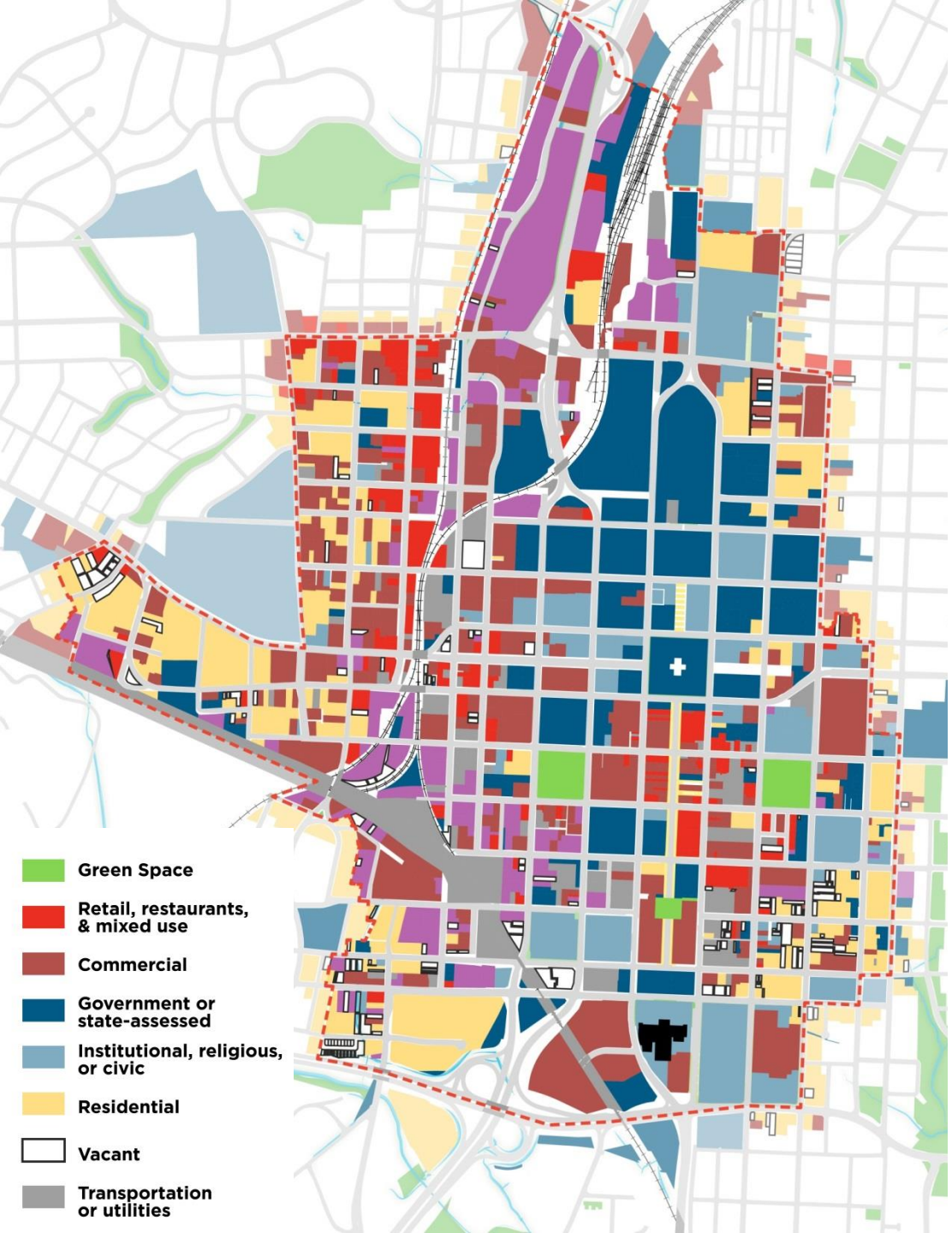
- Stream
- Canal / Ditch
- Connector
- 100-Year Floodplain



CIVIC SPACE

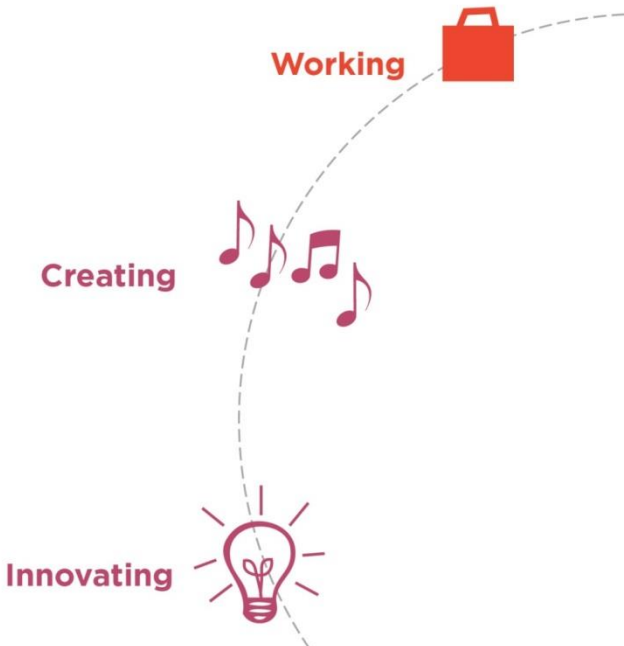
- Green space is lacking, particularly in Glenwood South
- Nash and Moore Square are underutilized
- Pocket parks and sidewalks meet some needs
- Pigeon House Creek and Dix are key opportunities

Greening



MIXED USE DISTRICTS

- Residential largely at edges
- Government offices predominate in the Capital District
- Glenwood and Fayetteville are key retail streets

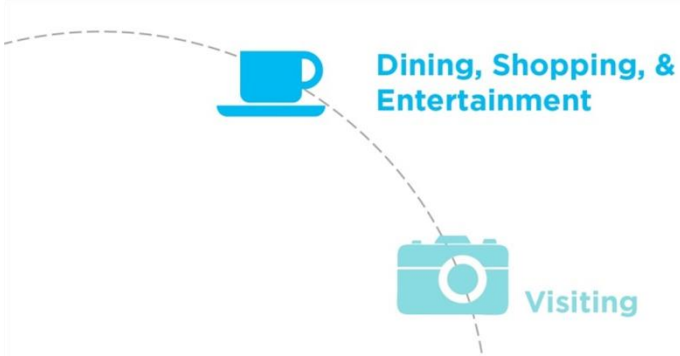


“If you want urban open spaces to work overtime, you want them working at night.”

–Urban Land Institute

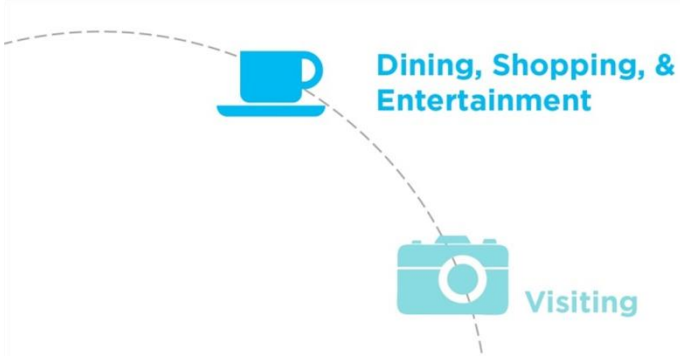
RALEIGH AFTER DARK

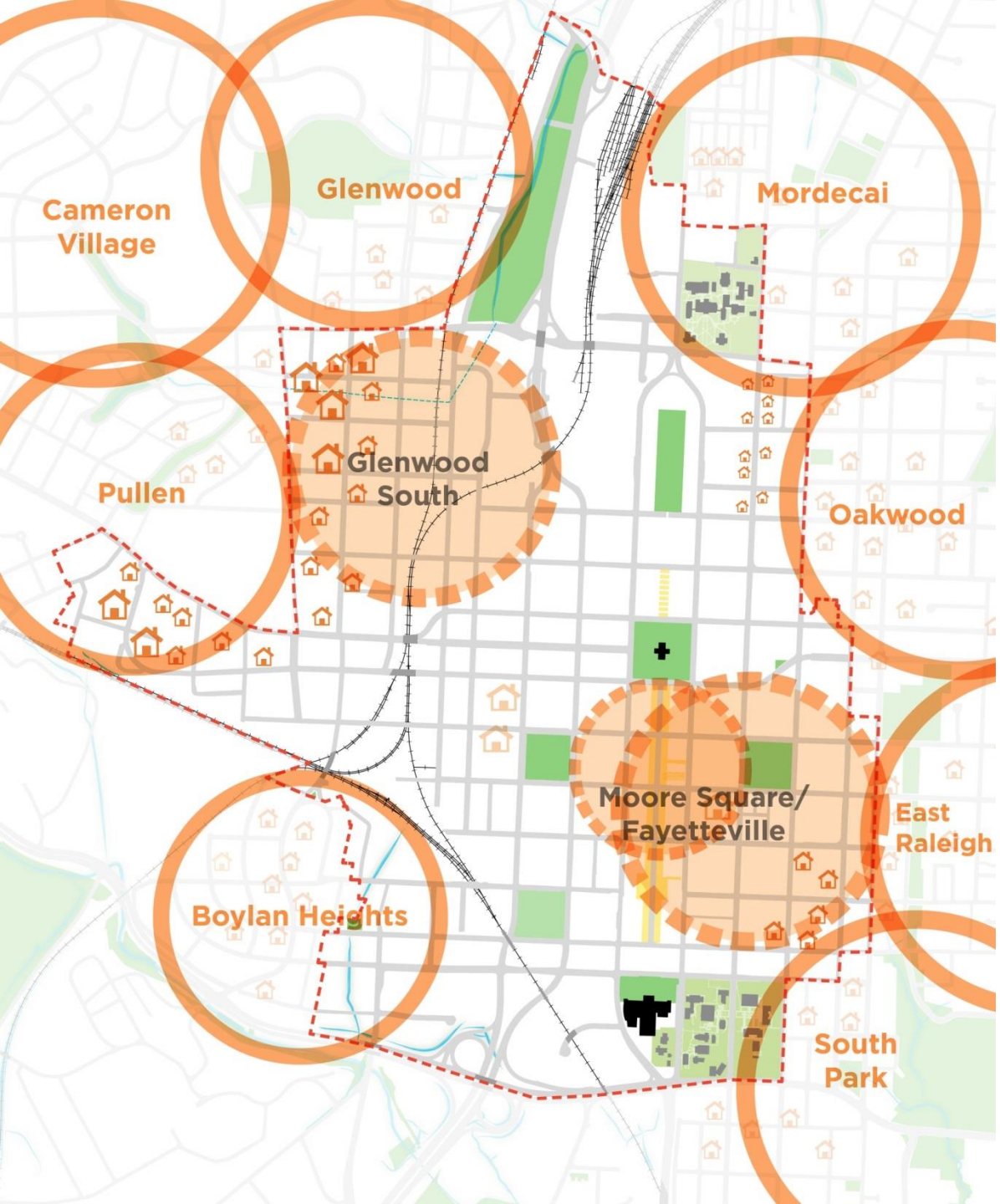
- Street lights and active ground floors in some zones create a safe, vibrant nighttime atmosphere



RALEIGH AFTER DARK

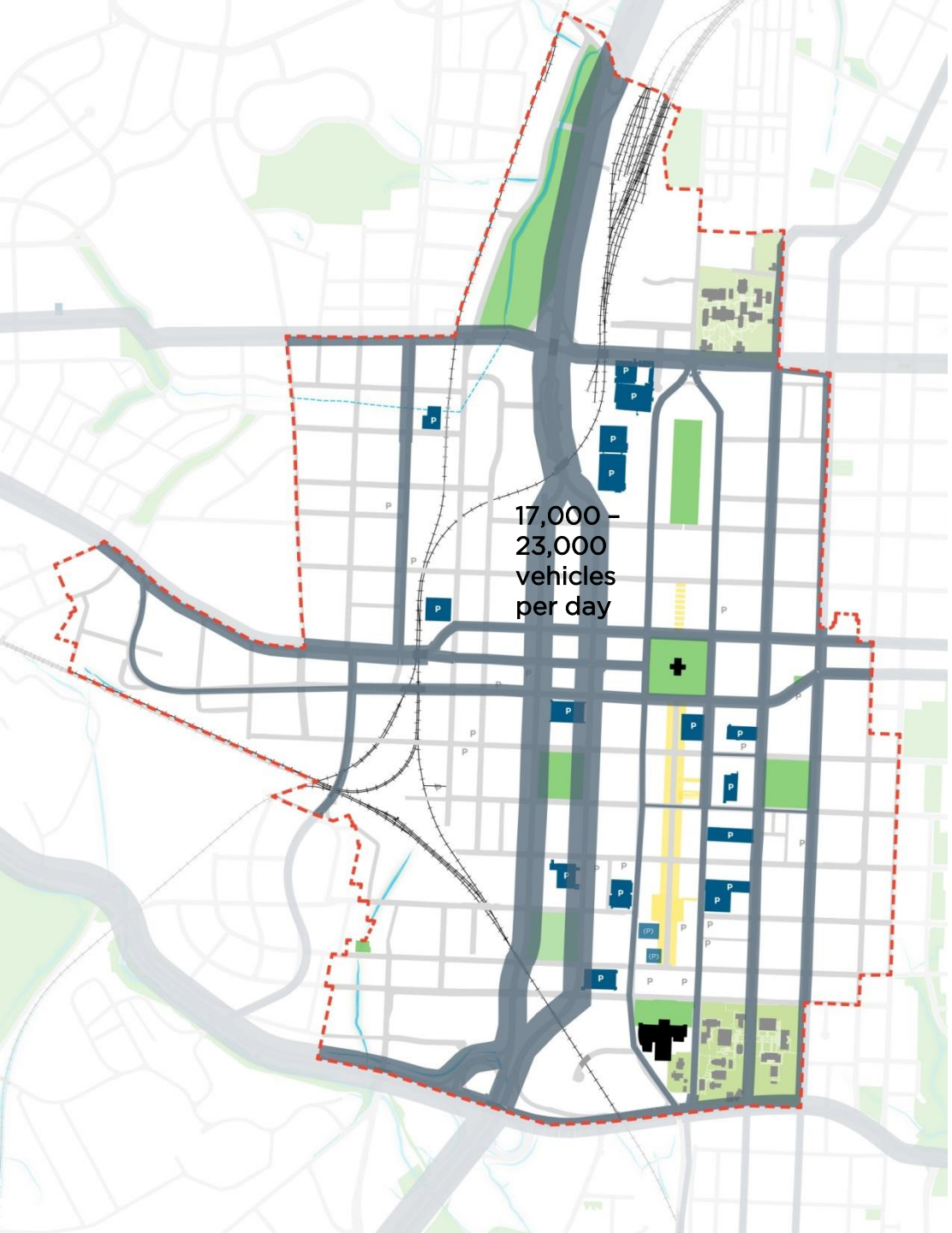
- Dark spots are areas with limited active uses
- “Dark blocks” interrupt connections between districts and attractions





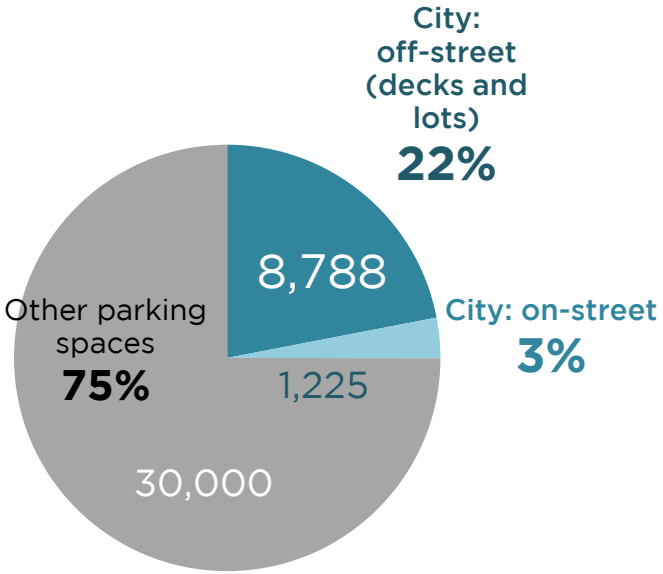
DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS

- Growing, residential hubs in downtown
- Surrounded by urban neighborhoods



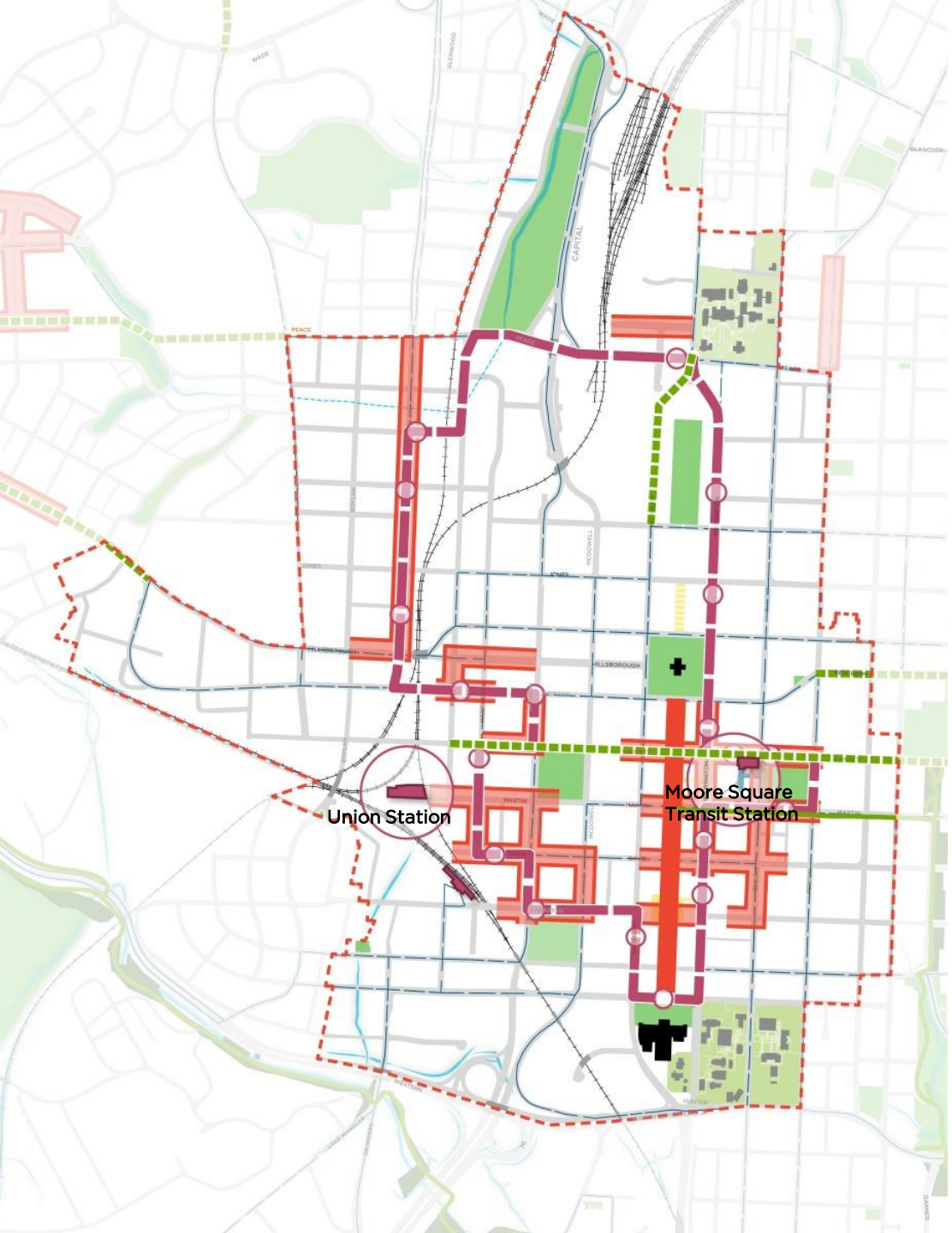
MOVING
DRIVING & PARKING

- Need for a city garage in Warehouse district
- Potential for greater shared parking?



Parking

Moving



MOVING

WALKING & BIKING & BUSES

- R line serves main walkable zones
- Two future downtown transit hubs will influence development and uses
- Potential for more robust trail / bicycle system

Ground-level activity

R-line route and stops

Future LRT

CAT route

On-road bicycle trail

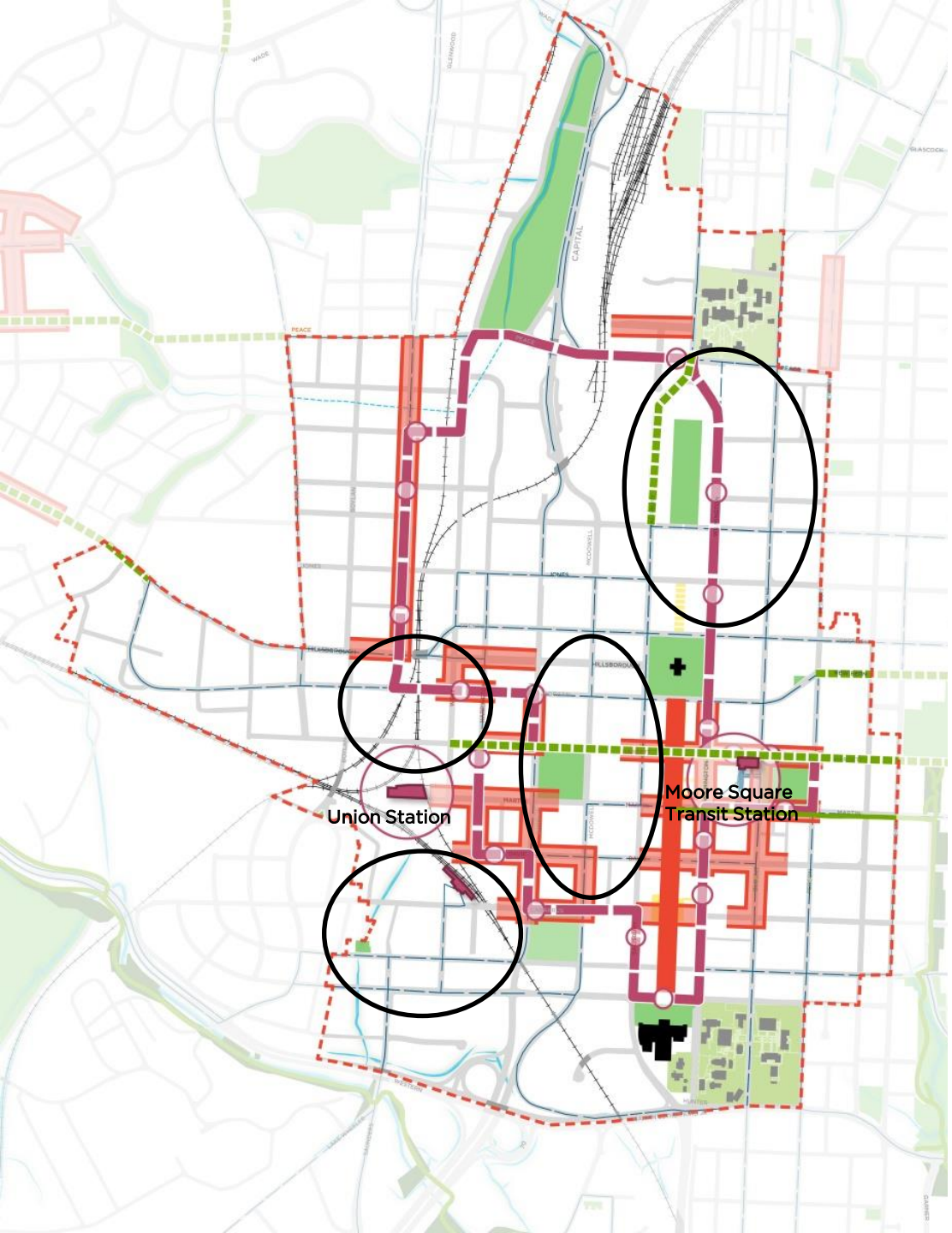
Greenway

Moving

MOVING

WALKING & BIKING & BUSES

- "Activity Gaps" are areas where existing street level activity is interrupted



Ground-level activity

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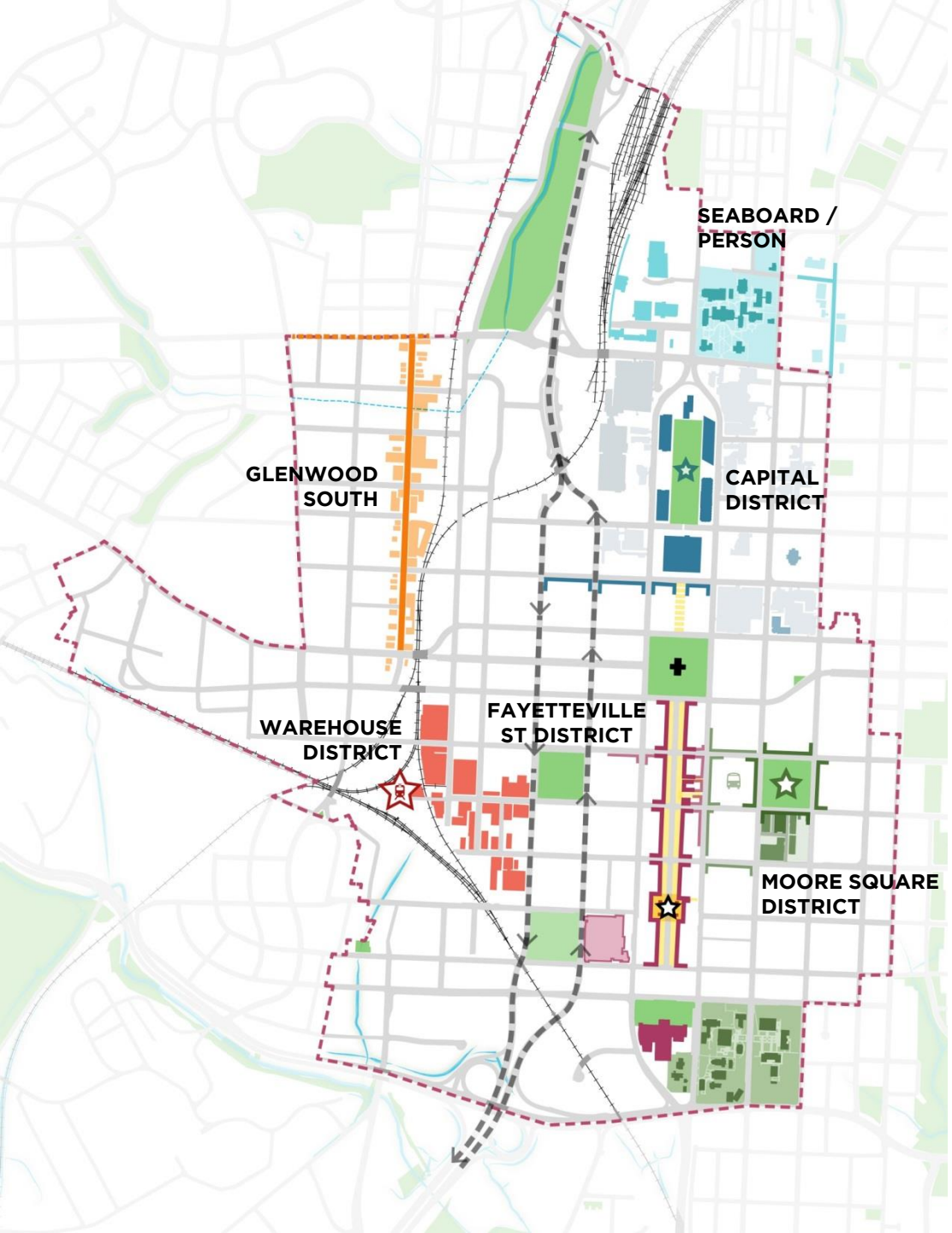
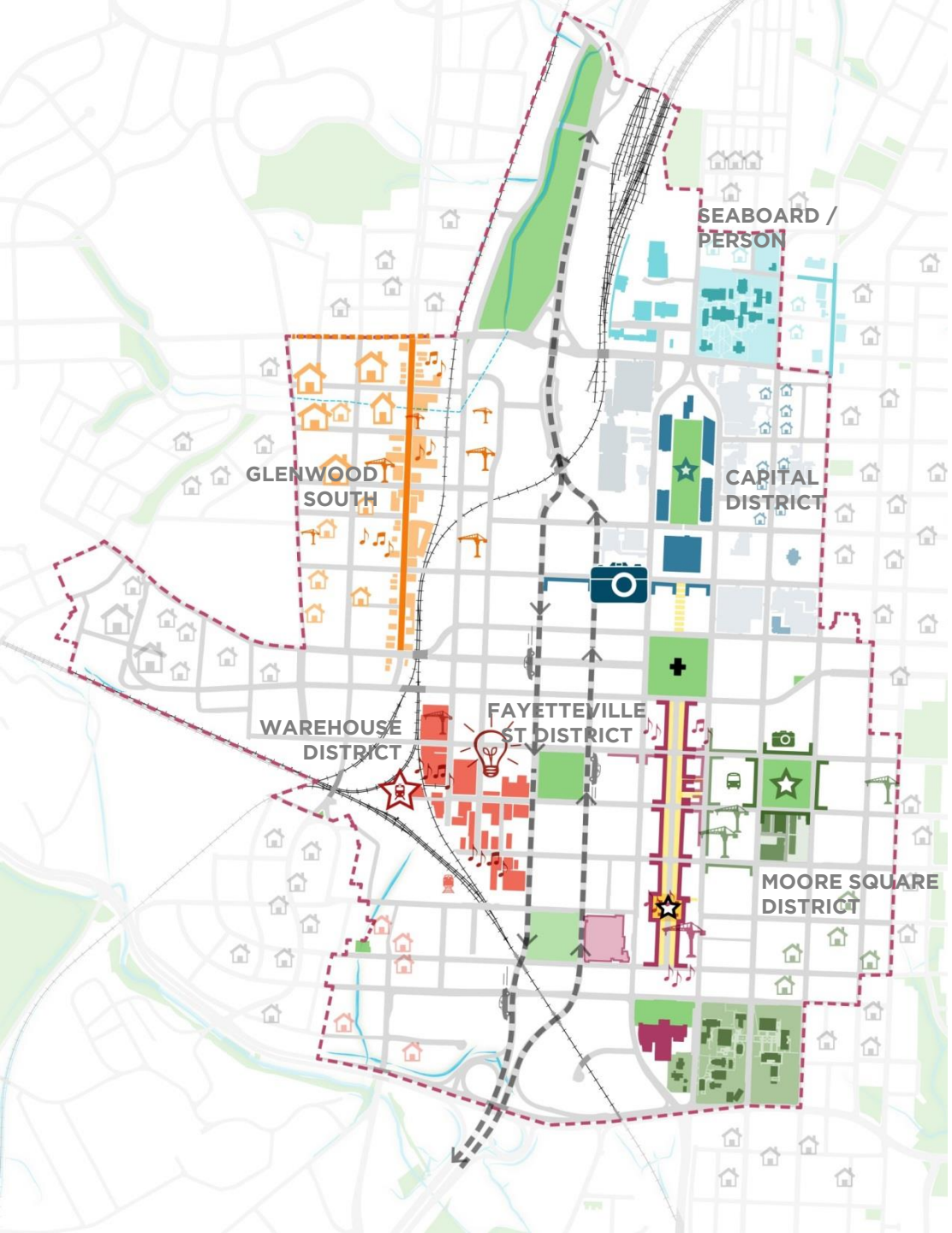
Moving



RALEIGH EXPERIENCE

- How can each district identity be strengthened, revisioned, and better connected?

DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS

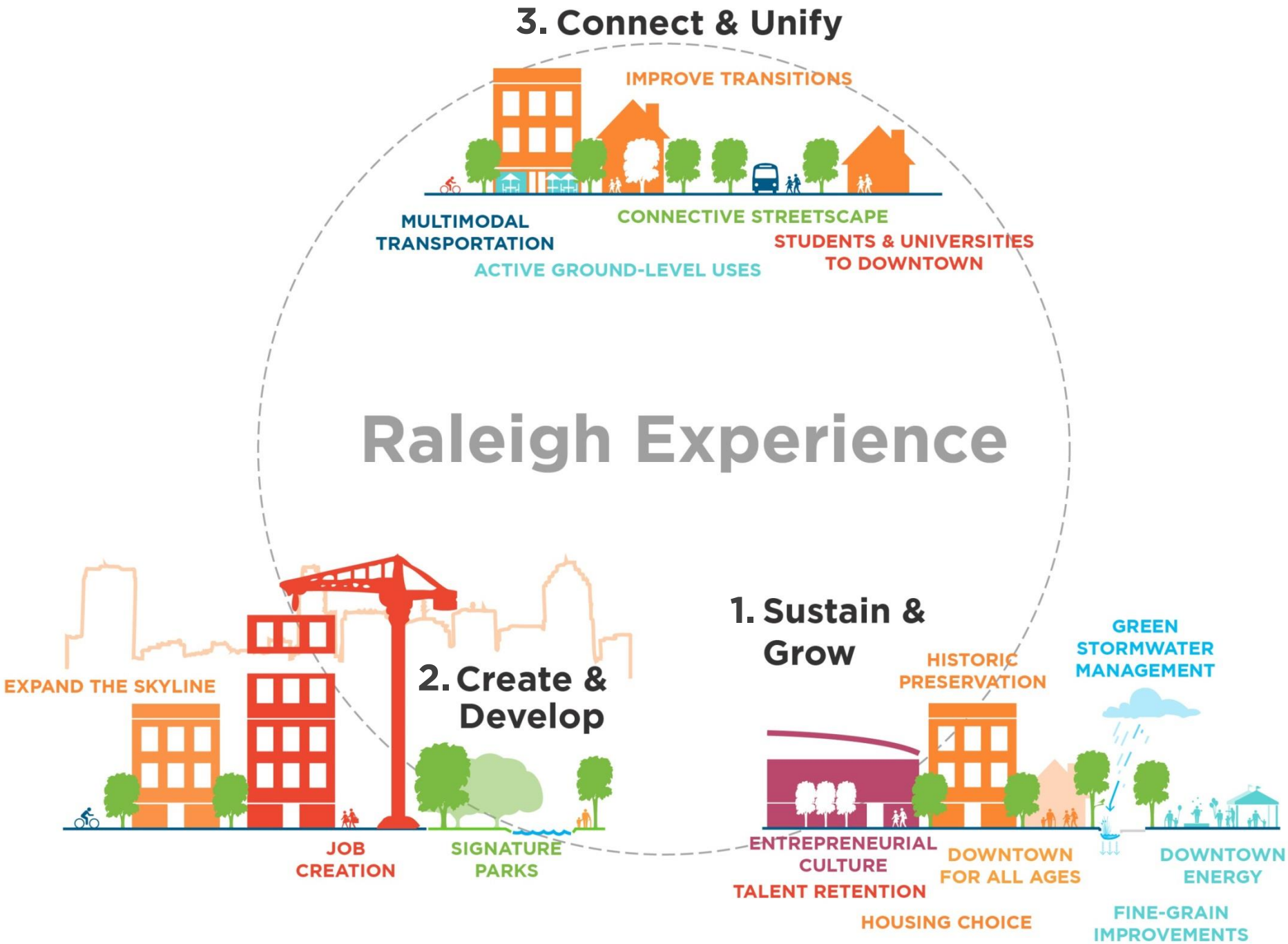


What assets need to be protected or enhanced to keep downtown's identity intact?

What elements need to be created anew to help Raleigh thrive and compete?

Connect & Unify

What needs to be better connected?
How can we make that happen?


3. Connect & Unify
IMPROVE TRANSITIONS
MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTIVE STREETSCAPE
STUDENTS & UNIVERSITIES TO DOWNTOWN
ACTIVE GROUND-LEVEL USES
Raleigh Experience
EXPAND THE SKYLINE
2. Create & Develop
JOB CREATION
SIGNATURE PARKS
1. Sustain & Grow
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GREEN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE
DOWNTOWN FOR ALL AGES
DOWNTOWN ENERGY
TALENT RETENTION
HOUSING CHOICE
FINE-GRAIN IMPROVEMENTS

DOWNTOWN VISION

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

A VISION STATEMENT FOR DOWNTOWN

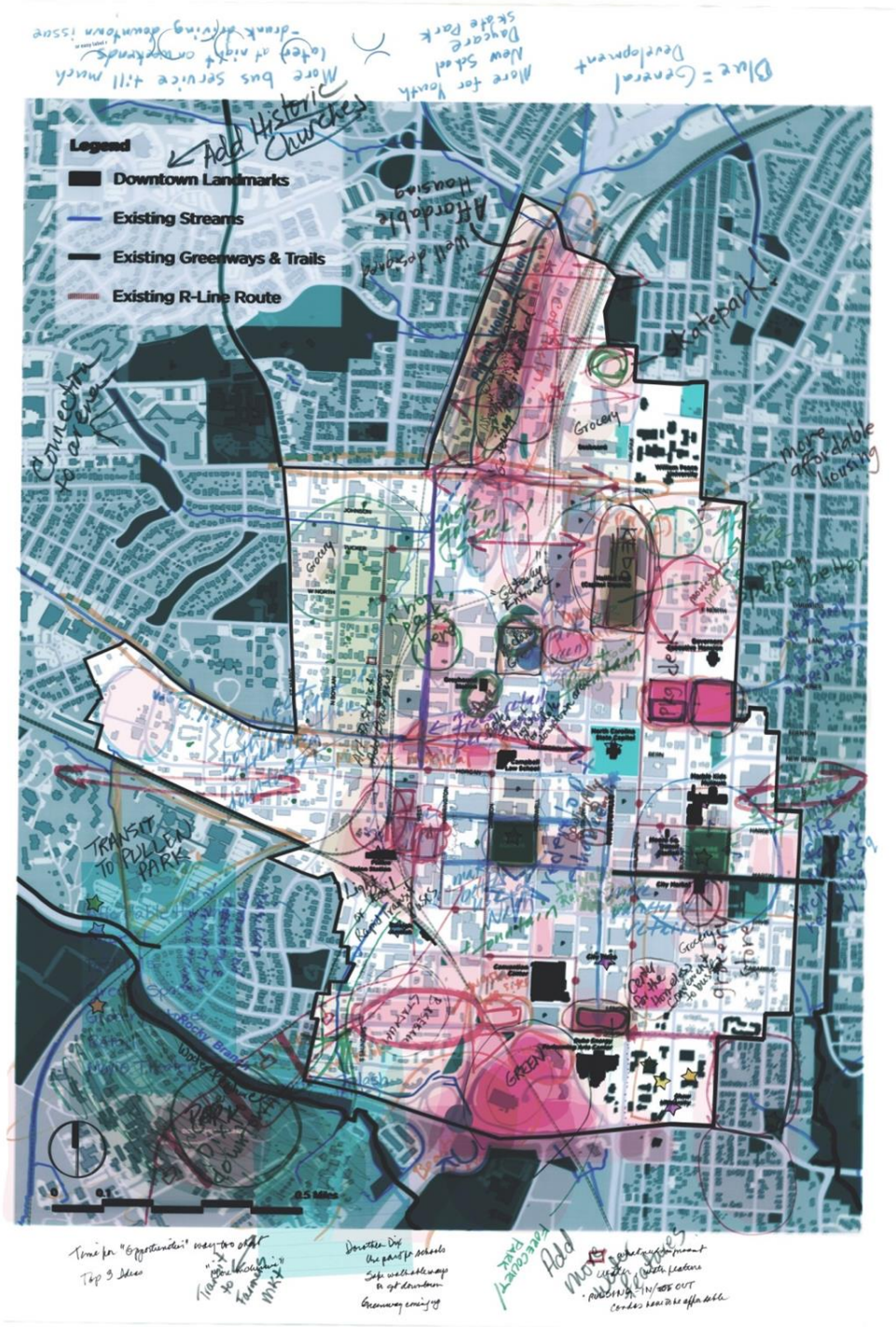
"DOWNTOWN IS THE HISTORIC, FUNCTIONAL, & SYMBOLIC HEART OF RALEIGH."

2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

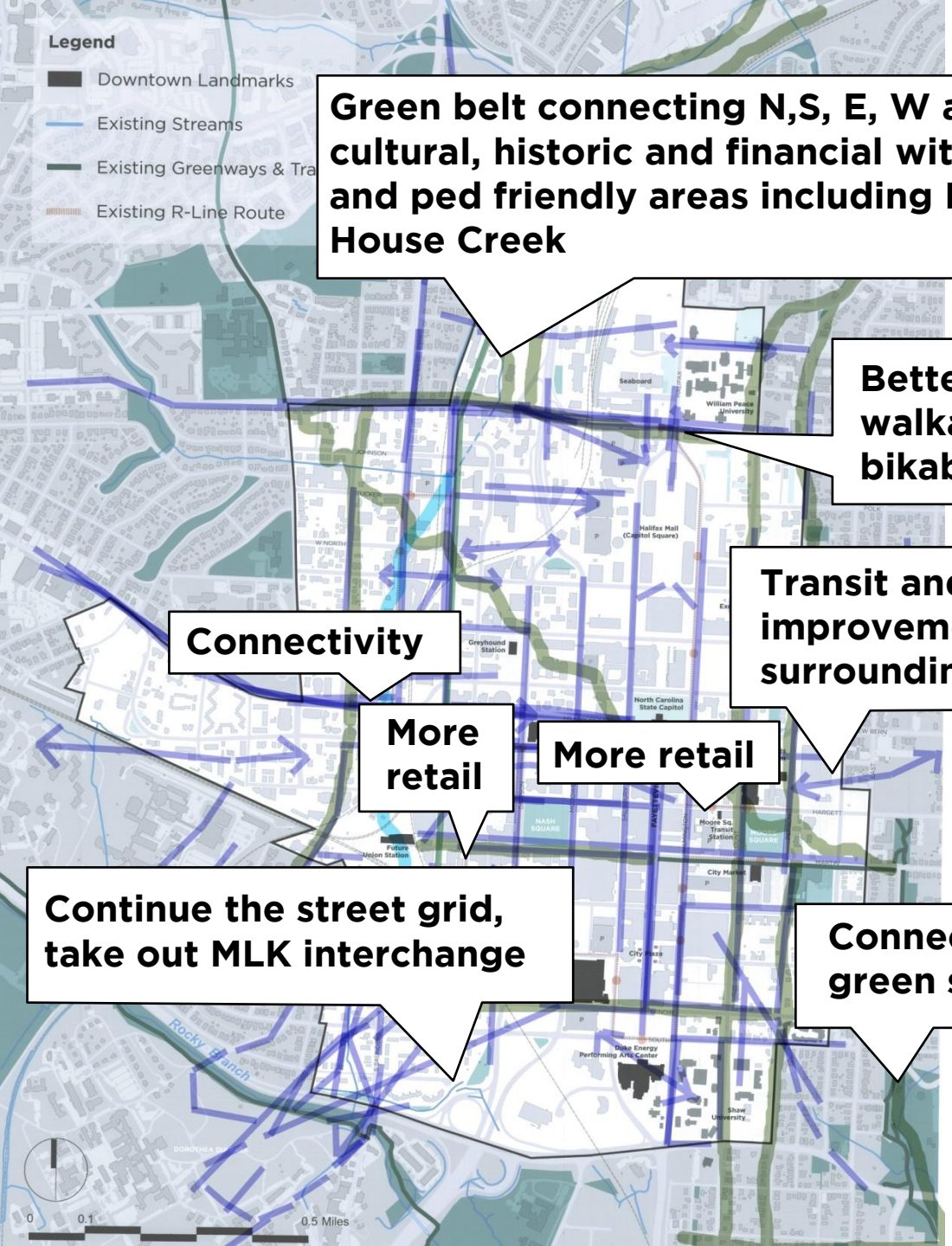
TOP VISION STATEMENTS FROM DOWNTOWN VISION MEETING

- Raleigh—layering experience, sustainability and accessibility for all
- To make Downtown Raleigh the #1 destination for the day and night, a weekend, or the rest of your life
- Attractions for all ages – not just the younger generation
- The center of creativity, history, culture, that is evolving, family friendly, collaborative, embracing and fascinating and growing into a big city
- Raleigh – a place for everyone to gather, grow up and connect

DOWNTOWN VISIONING FEEDBACK



CONNECTIONS



Green belt connecting N,S, E, W and cultural, historic and financial with bike and ped friendly areas including Pigeon House Creek

Better walkability & bikability

Transit and ped/bike connection improvements to DT from surrounding areas

Connectivity

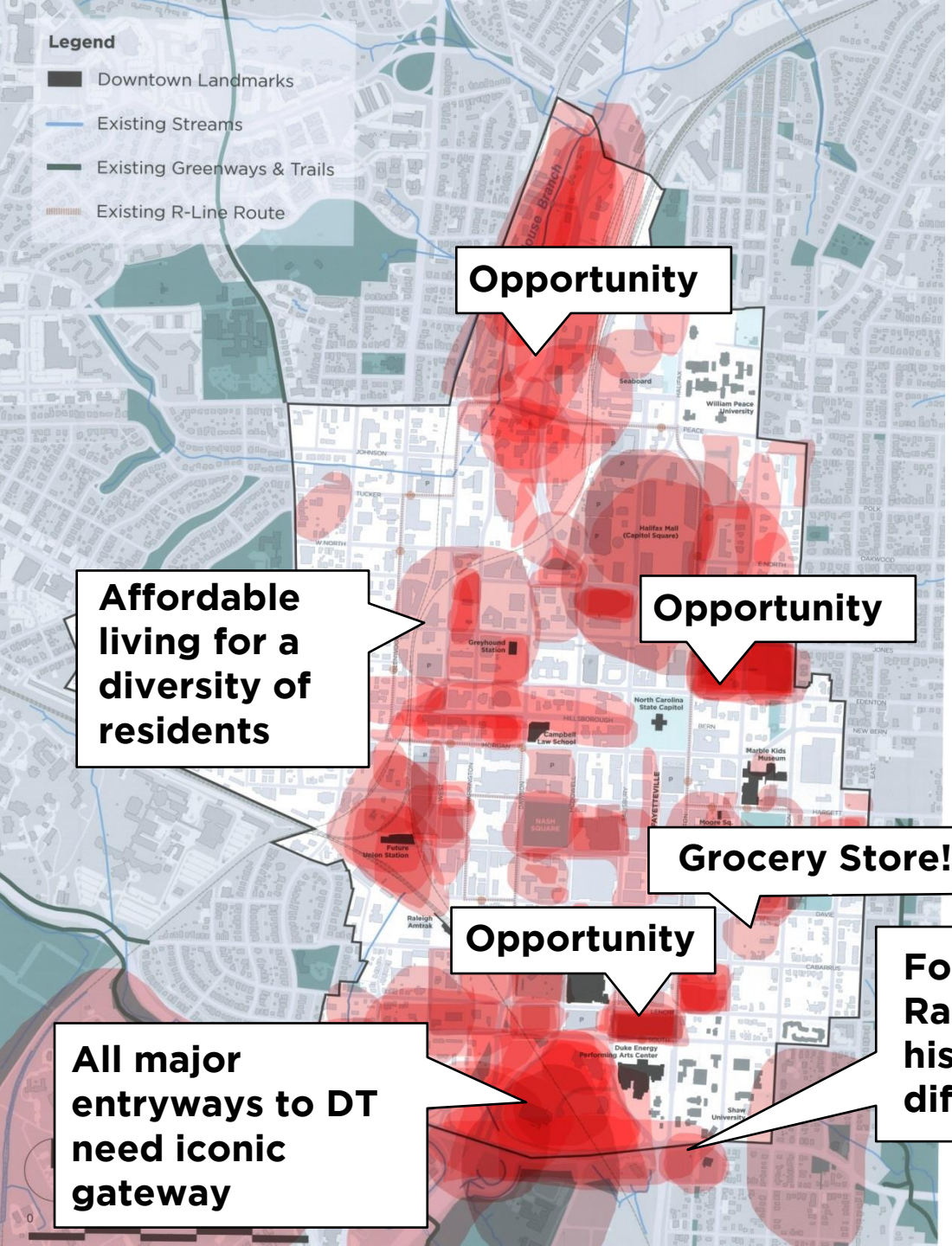
More retail

More retail

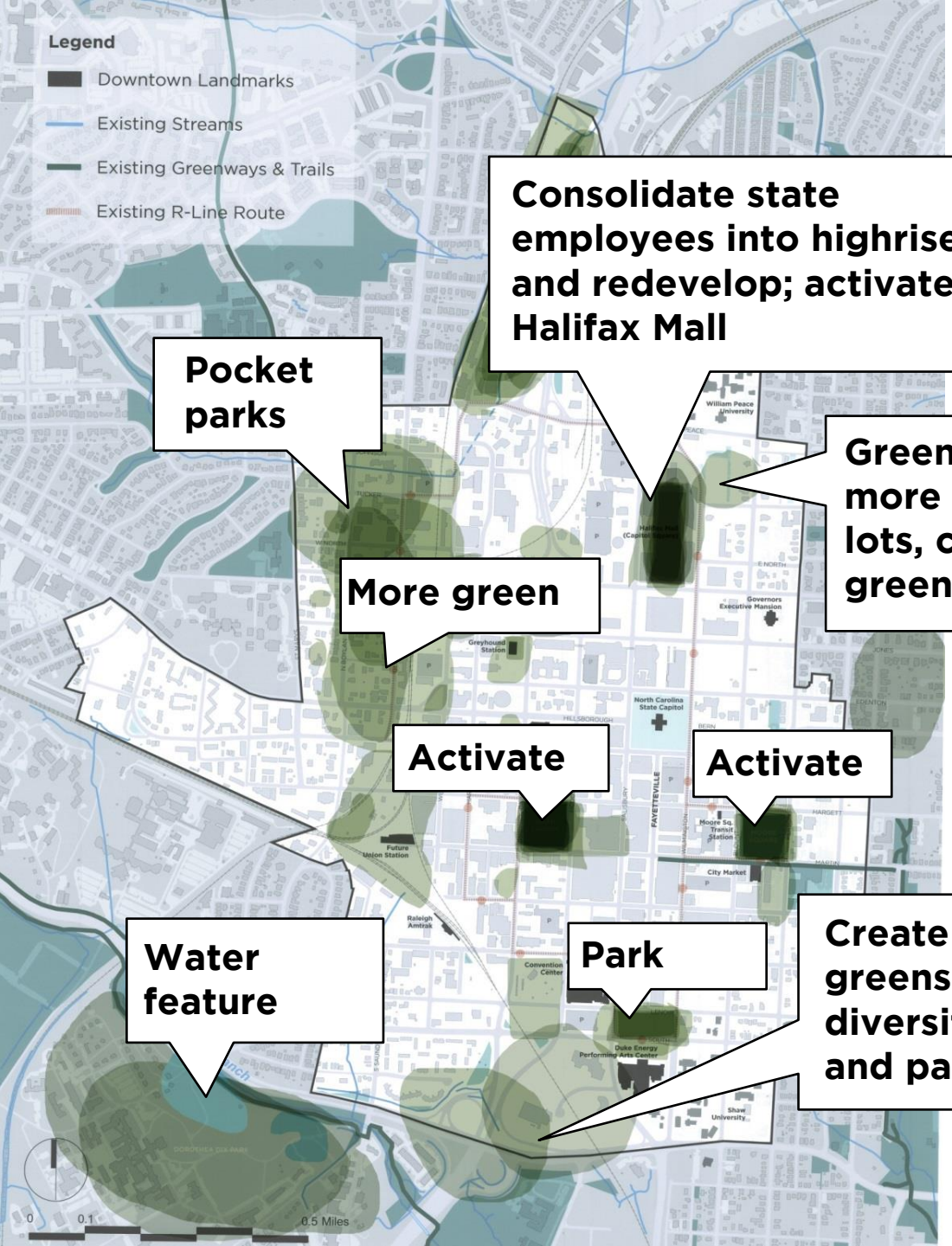
Continue the street grid, take out MLK interchange

Connecting green spaces

OPPORTUNITIES



GREEN SPACE



Consolidate state employees into highrise and redevelop; activate Halifax Mall

Pocket parks

Green the city. No more surface parking lots, cover them with green or other use.

More green

Activate

Activate

Water feature

Park

Create a variety of greenspaces with a diversity of active and passive uses

DISTRICT CHARACTER

CAPITAL DISTRICT

Government buildings and beautifully restored historic homes of Blount Street

FAYETTEVILLE STREET DISTRICT

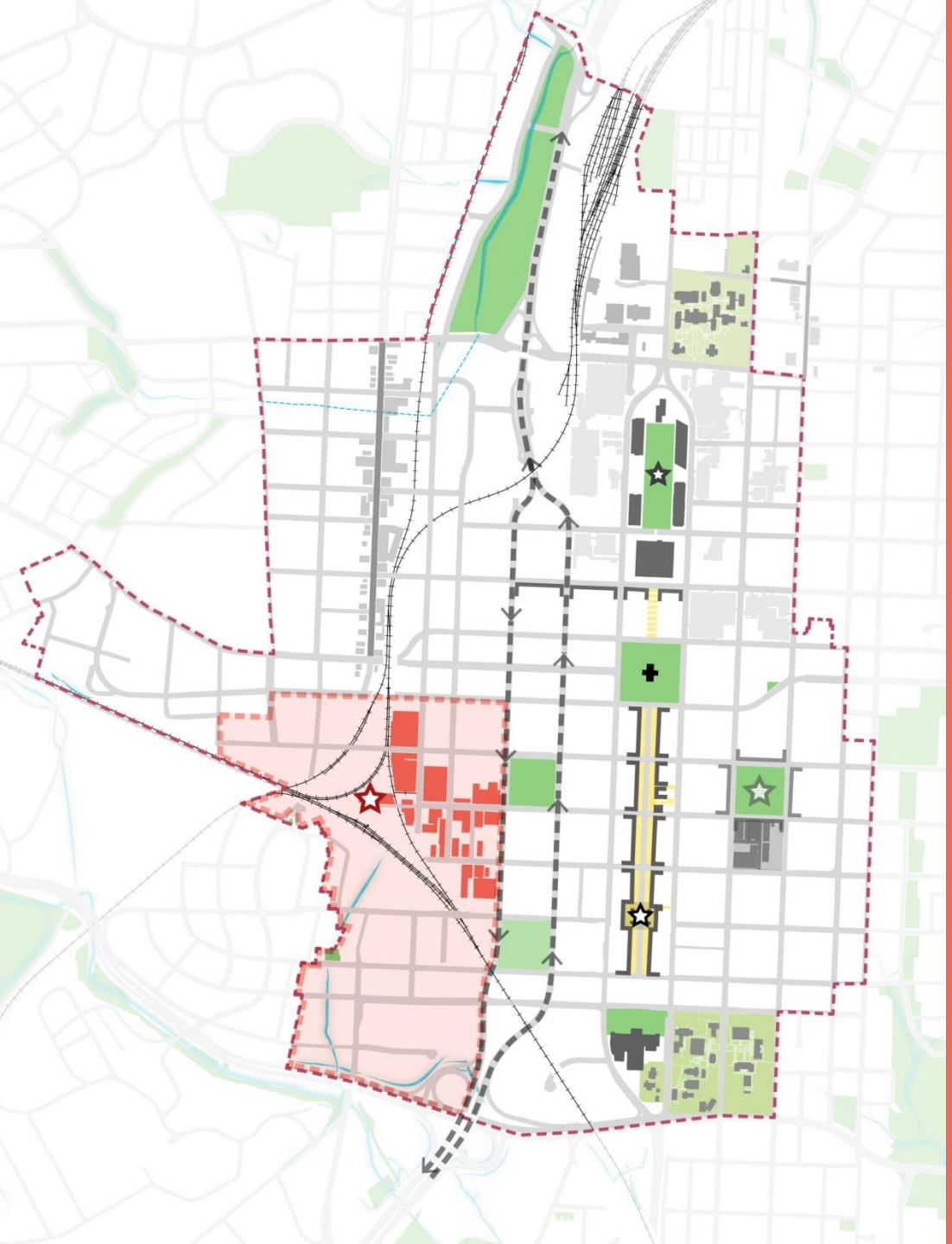
Central Business District of Raleigh, skyscrapers and high density

MOORE SQUARE DISTRICT

Eclectic array of ethnic cuisines, entertainment destinations, galleries, and retail

GLENWOOD SOUTH DISTRICT

Neighborhood feel, anchored by bars and clubs and eclectic, locally owned shops and restaurants



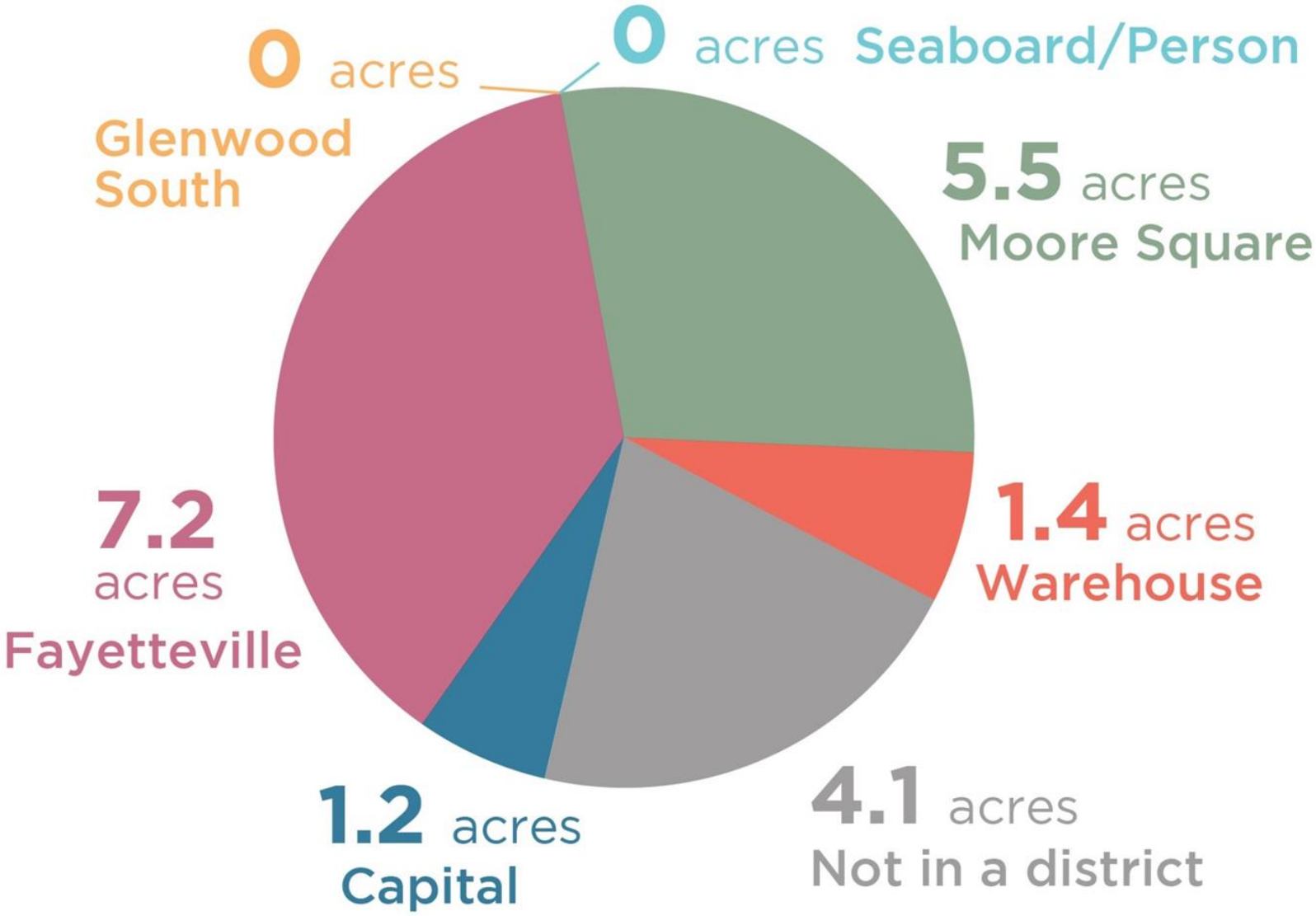
WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Concentrated creative energy and the future Union Station

SEABOARD/PERSON

Emerging shopping destination with a local dining scene and William Peace University

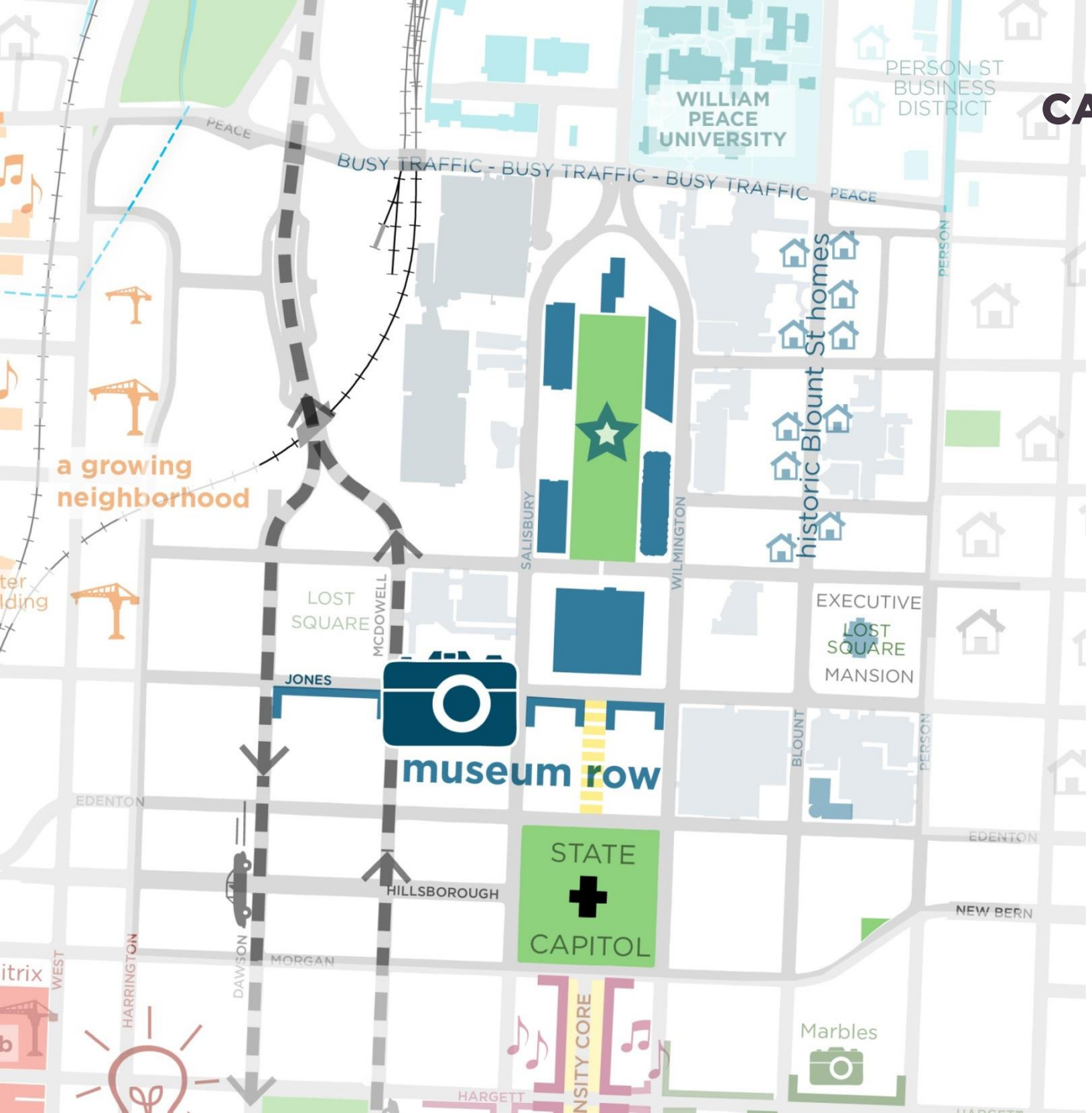
City-owned Opportunity Sites



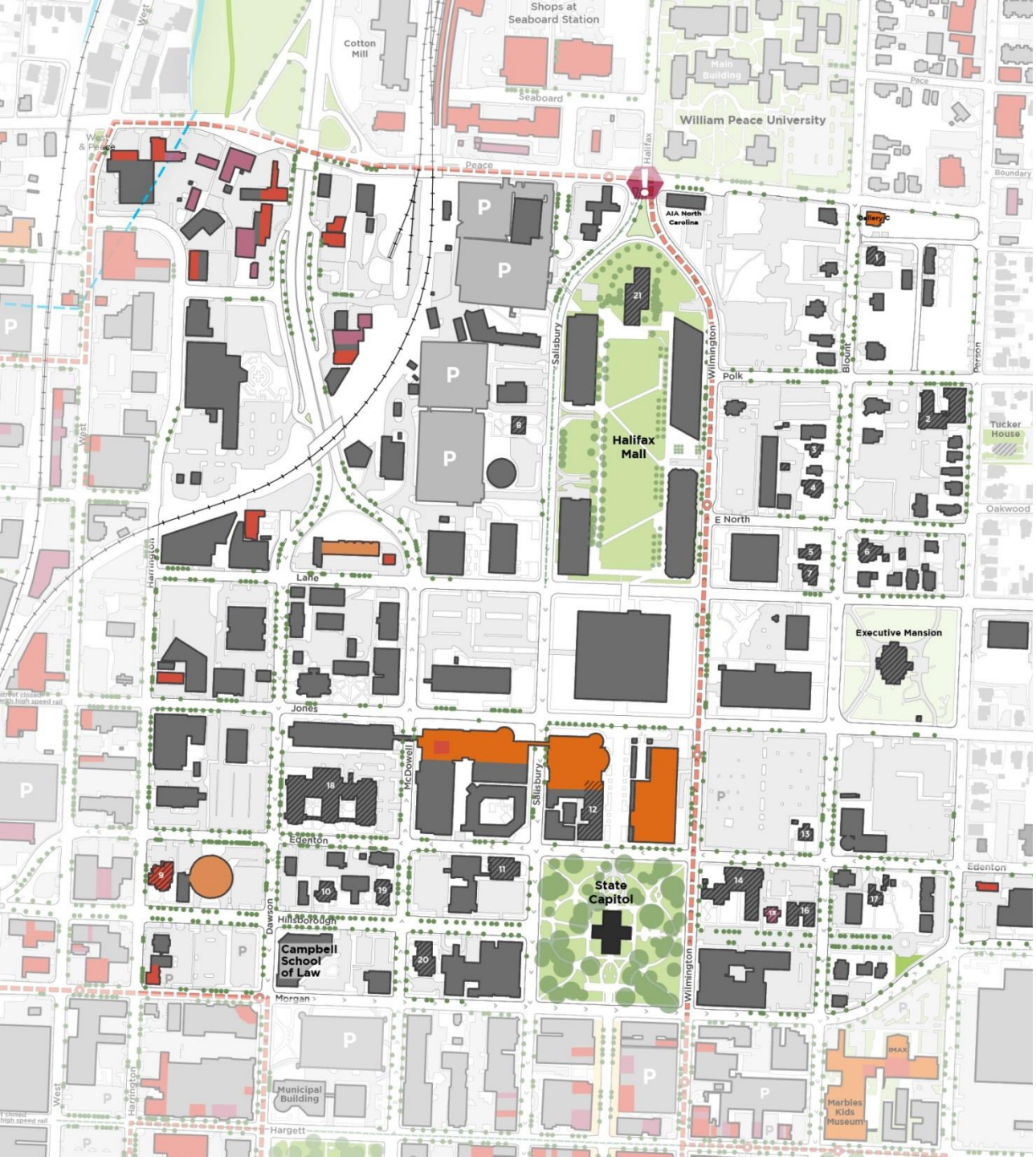
CAPITAL DISTRICT

Goo

CAPITAL DISTRICT



CAPITAL DISTRICT



CAPITAL DISTRICT

Characteristics

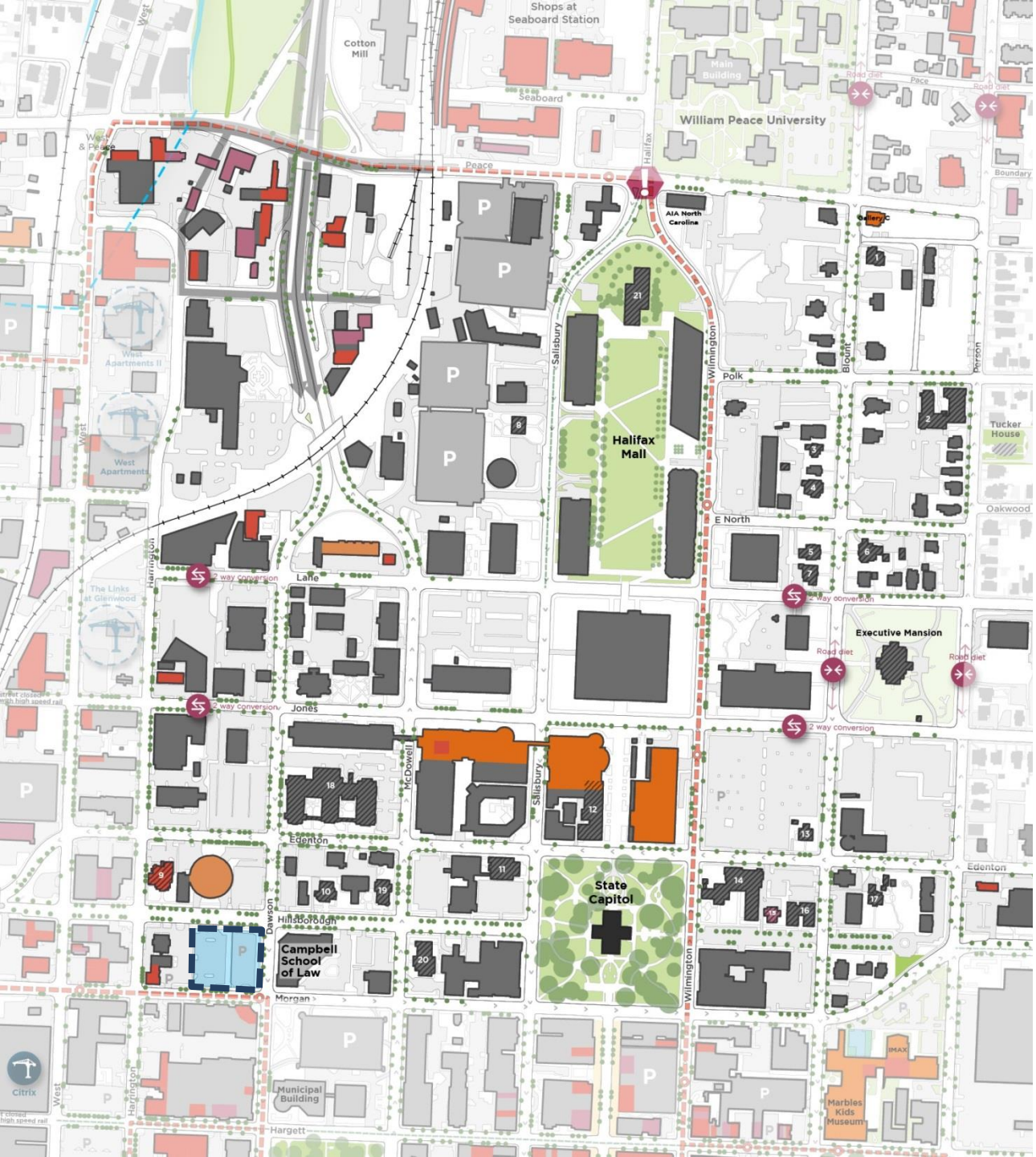
- 9-5 office district
- Lacks urban activity and form
- Parking is everywhere!
- Weak pedestrian, bicycle, and programmatic connections to adjacent areas

Dining, retail, or entertainment

Museum or Civic

Hotel

Service Retail

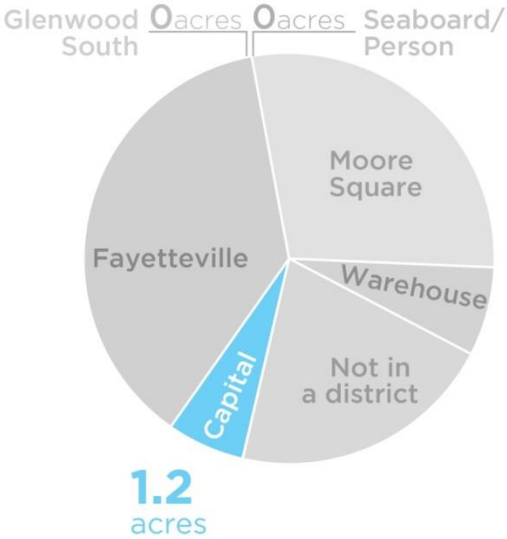


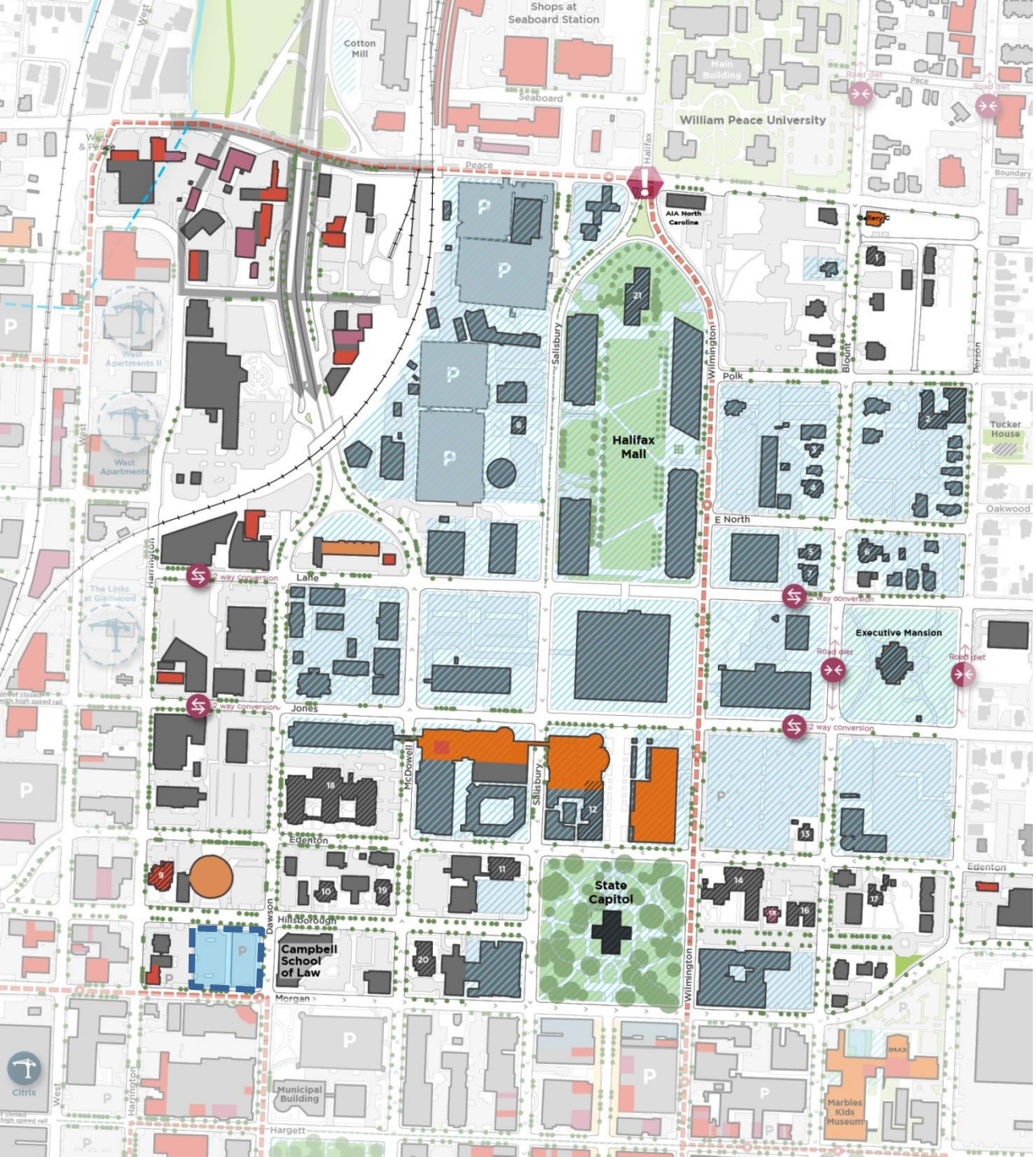
CAPITAL DISTRICT

Opportunities

- Activate Halifax Mall
- Blount St Commons
- Improve street level experience and walkability
- Consolidate and organize parking
- Partner with the State

City-owned Opportunity Sites





CAPITAL DISTRICT

- State-owned land

WHAT ARE THE TRAITS OF VIBRANT, URBAN CAPITAL CITIES?

CAPITAL AREA, BOSTON
GOVT OFFICES
URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD
HOTEL/OFFICE
MAJOR PUBLIC GREEN SPACE
MIXED USE COMMERCIAL
Image Landsat
Google earth

CAPITAL AREA, SACRAMENTO
LINEAR PARK RIVER CONNECTION
MIXED USE OFFICE
GOVT BUILDINGS
PUBLIC GREEN SPACE
Image Landsat

GOVT OFFICE BUILDINGS & PARKING
CAPITAL AREA, AUSTIN
MIX OF SCALES: NEIGHBORHOOD + GOVT OFFICES
CENTENNIAL PARK
MIXED USE DOWNTOWN
Image Landsat

HOW CAN WE ACTIVATE EXISTING, UNDER-USED CIVIC SPACES?

TEMPORARY PROGRAMMING
MADISON, WI
FARMER'S MARKET

COMMUNITY PARK
POST OFFICE SQUARE, BOSTON

- 1,400 parking spaces below
- Events
- Free WiFi
- Four-Season Café
- Seat Cushions
- Library On The Lawn
- Summer Midday Music
- Free Summer Fitness Programs

POST OFFICE SQUARE, BOSTON

REIMAGINE HALIFAX MALL

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH COMPLEX

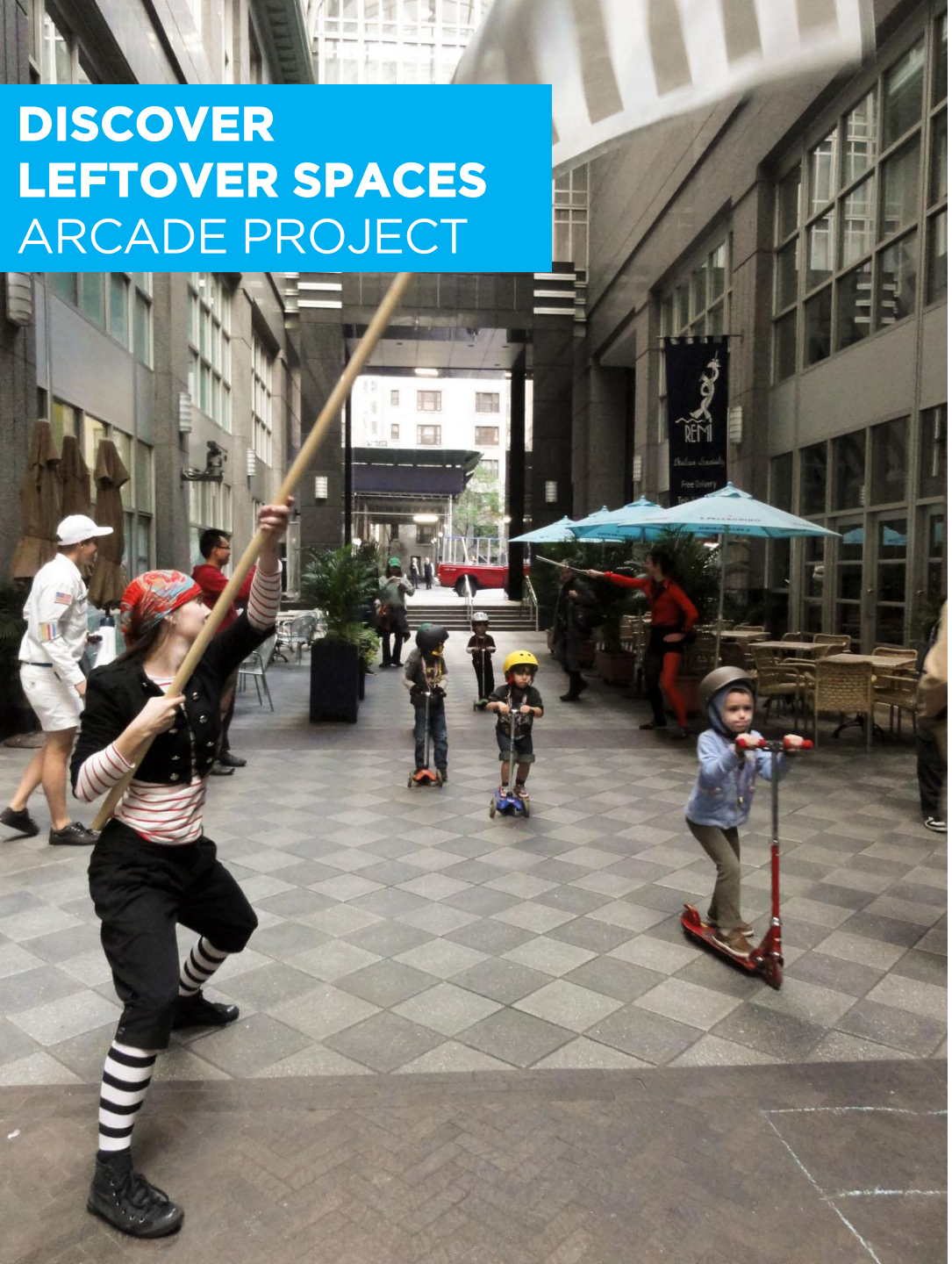
REIMAGINE HALIFAX MALL

LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND REFLECTING POOL

INCENTIVIZE SHARED PUBLIC-PRIVATE SPACES

CITIGROUP CENTER

DISCOVER LEFTOVER SPACES
ARCADE PROJECT



CREATE HUMAN-SCALED SPACES
GREENACRE PARK

PLAN FOR NIGHT
ZUCHOTTI PARK

HOW CAN TRANSIT AND MOBILITY BE IMPROVED?

BUS & SHUTTLE STOPS DESIGN

Health Line BRT, Cleveland OH

EMPLOY PRINCIPLES OF COMPLETE STREETS

Health Line, Cleveland OH

CREATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS

University Park, Cambridge MA

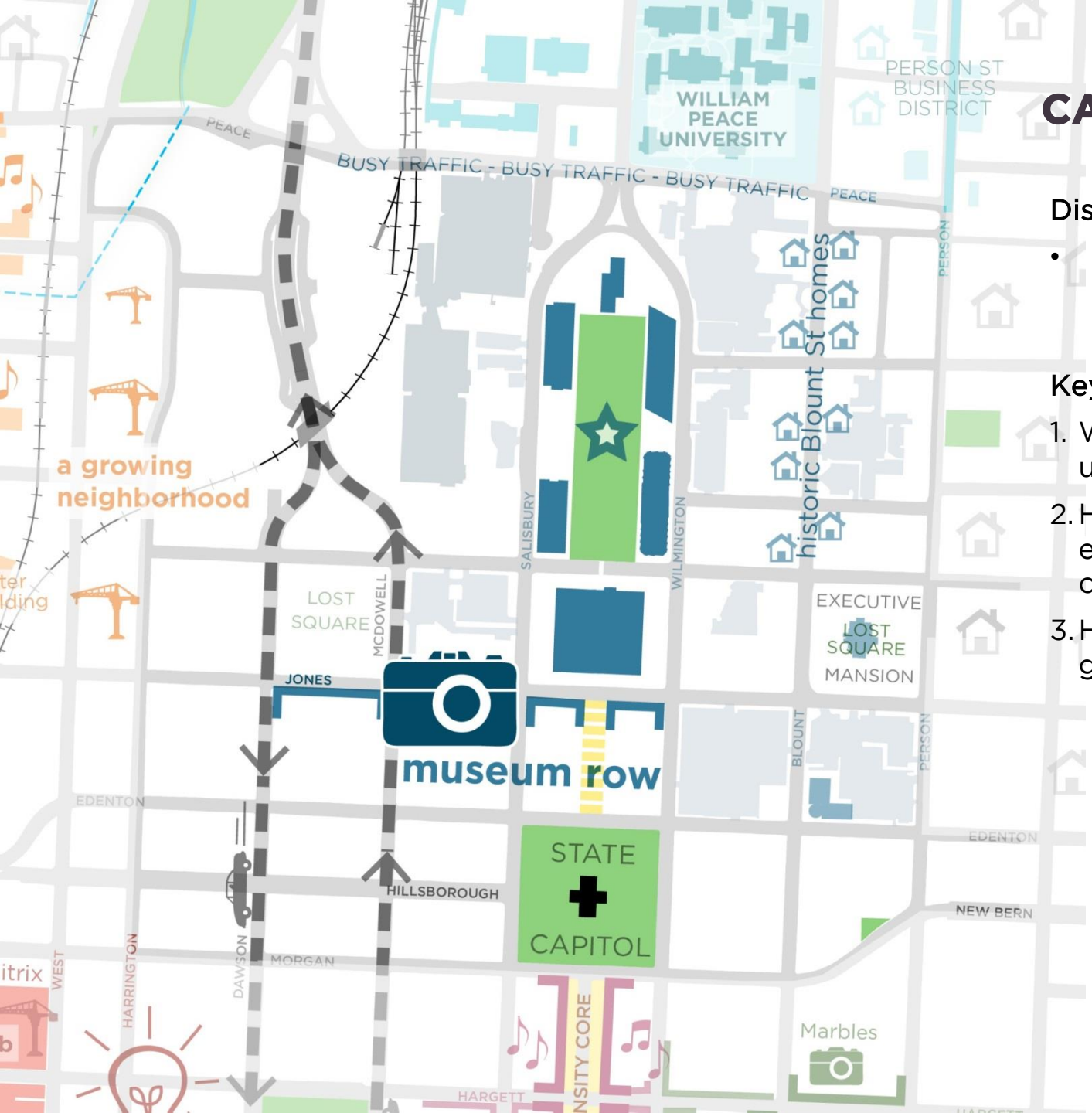
INTRODUCE URBAN TRAILS THAT CONNECT TO EXISTING SYSTEMS

A FLEXIBLE TRAIL FOR MANY CONTEXTS

Photo: Rundell Ernstberger Associates, LLC

A BRANDED, WELL-MARKED TRAIL

Photo: Jun Wang



CAPITAL DISTRICT

District Goals

- What are your goals for the district?

Key Questions

1. What are traits of vibrant, urban capital cities?
2. How can we activate existing, under-used civic spaces (like Halifax)?
3. How can the streets create great places?