



Three Notched Trail Shared-Use Path

MASTER PLAN



September 30, 2025

Support Provided by  **vhb**  **EPRPC**  **TOOLE**
DESIGN

Presentation Outline

- History of Effort
- Benefits of the Trail
- Project Purpose
- Project Area
- What We've Been Working On
- What to Expect Next

Three Notched Trail history

- Long-held local interest in the project – included in several plans since 2015
- Petition with over 4,000 signatures in 2021
- Albemarle County received a federal grant in 2022 to determine the preferred trail route



Logo from Community Advocates' Website

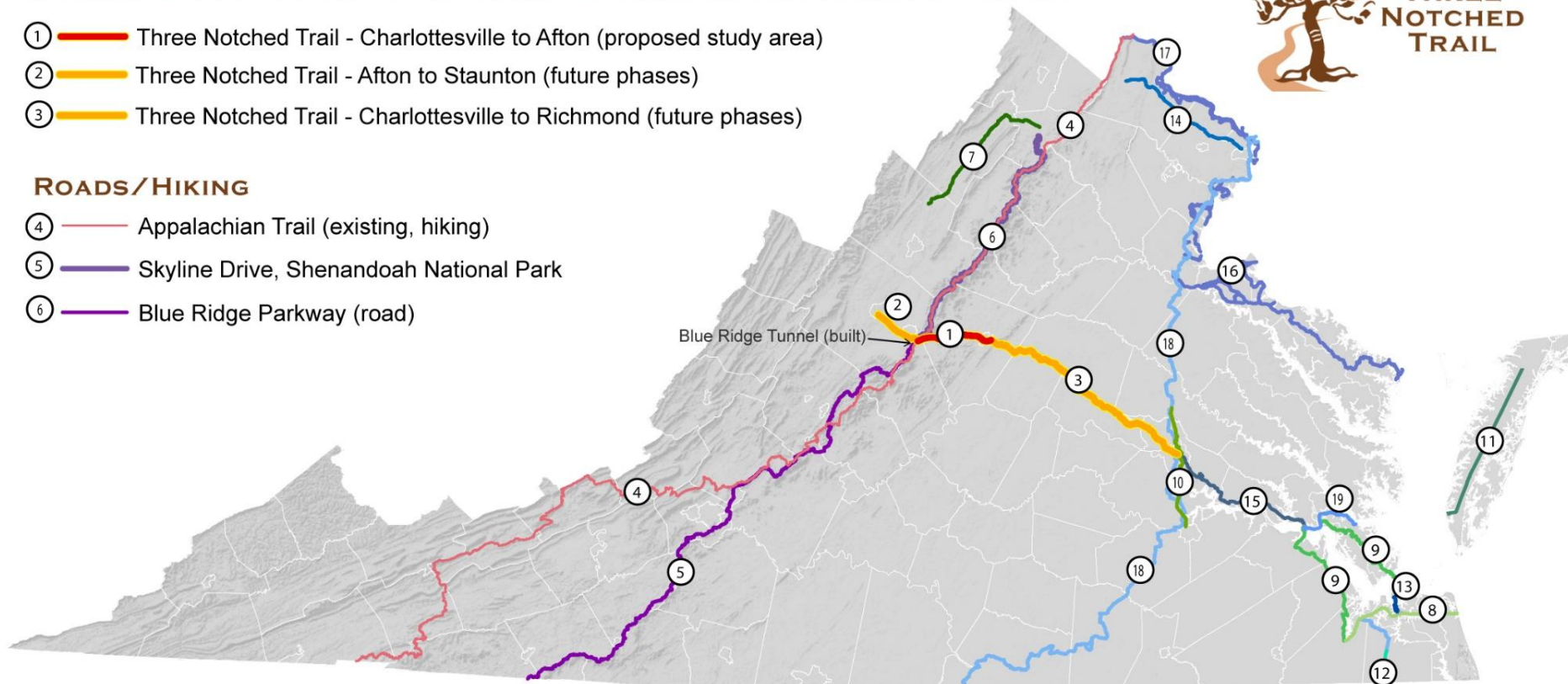
CONNECTIVITY OF VIRGINIA'S THREE NOTCHED TRAIL



- ① — Three Notched Trail - Charlottesville to Afton (proposed study area)
- ② — Three Notched Trail - Afton to Staunton (future phases)
- ③ — Three Notched Trail - Charlottesville to Richmond (future phases)

ROADS/HIKING

- ④ — Appalachian Trail (existing, hiking)
- ⑤ — Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park
- ⑥ — Blue Ridge Parkway (road)



ENVISIONED, PLANNED, OR UNDER STUDY

- ⑦ — Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail (envisioned/planned)
- ⑧ — South Hampton Roads Trail (partial build, planned)
- ⑨ — Birthplace of America Trail (planned)
- ⑩ — Fall Line Trail (construction funds appropriated)
- ⑪ — Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study Area (under study)
- ⑫ — Dismal Swamp Canal Trail (partial built, planned)

EXISTING, PARTIAL, WITH MORE BEING PLANNED

- ⑬ — Elizabeth River Trail (existing)
- ⑭ — WOD Trail (existing)
- ⑮ — Virginia Capital Trail (existing)
- ⑯ — Potomac Heritage (existing, more planned)
- ⑰ — C&O Canal Towpath (existing)
- ⑱ — East Coast Greenway Routes
- ⑲ — Colonial Parkway (existing)

Project Benefits

- Improved safety for vulnerable road users
- Improved mobility and access for residents
- Improved quality of life for residents
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Economic benefits for the community and individuals



Project purpose

Work with the community to develop a Master Plan

- Connect Charlottesville to Blue Ridge Tunnel via Crozet
- Enhance community connections
- Provide safe and healthy outdoor opportunities
- Improve transportation options

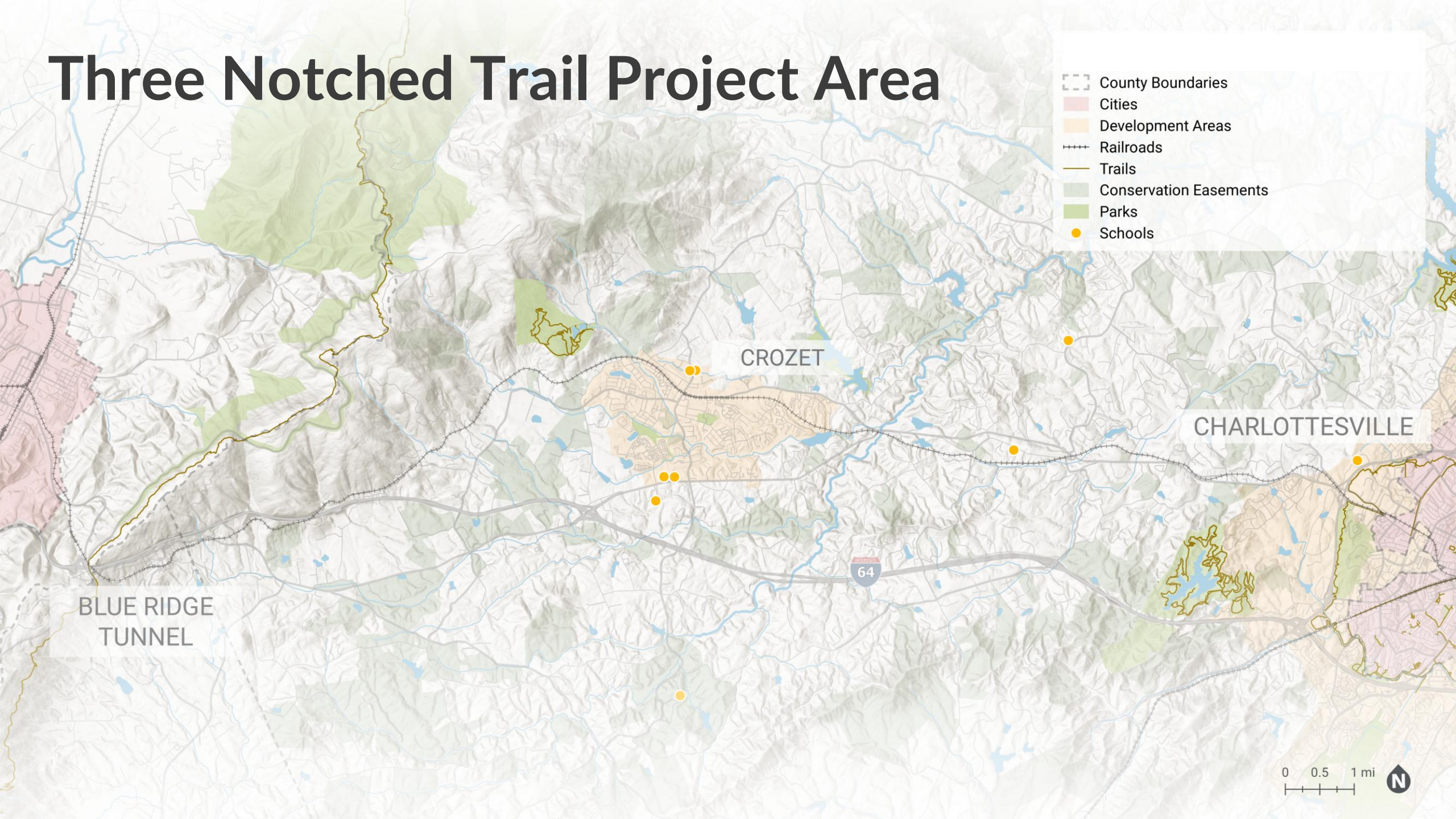
Project purpose

What is a Master Plan?

- Map the preferred trail route
- Identify trail segments for phasing of design and construction
- Show likely construction costs
- Outline steps to make trail a reality
- Deliver preliminary designs for priority segments

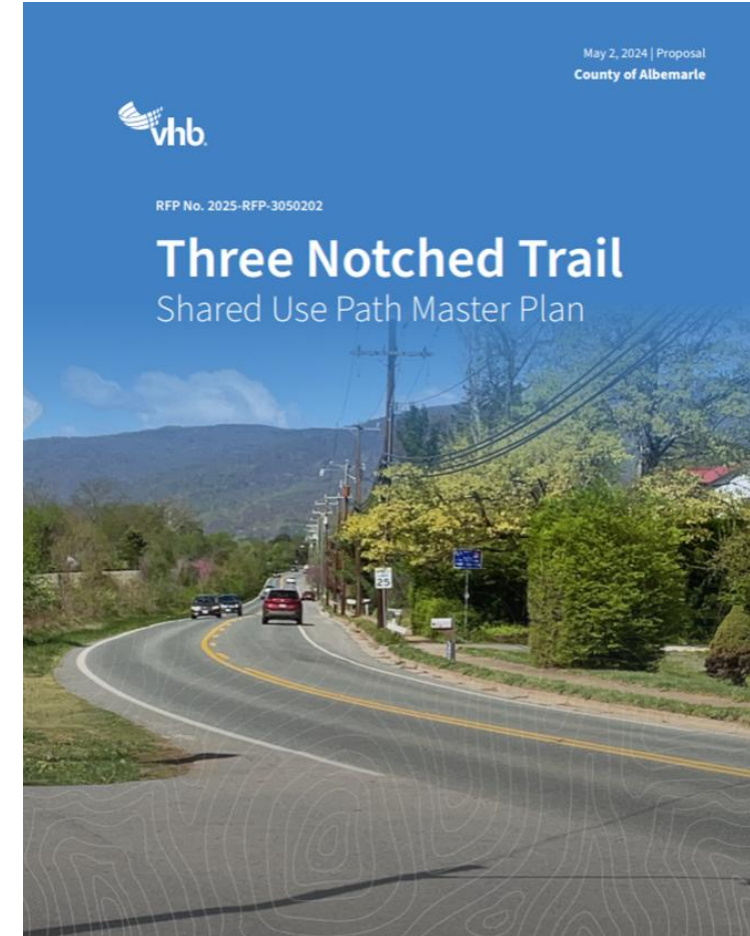
This is a planning effort – no property acquisition or construction at this time.

Three Notched Trail Project Area



What has happened since September of 2023?

1. Signed Grant Agreement
2. Competitive Procurement Process
3. Selection of a Consultant Team
 - VHB
 - Toole Design Group
 - EPR, Inc.
4. Approved Scope of Work and Notice to Proceed



What has happened since September of 2023?

5. Creation of a Technical Committee

- City of Charlottesville
- TJPDC
- Other County Departments
- UVA
- CACVB
- City of Waynesboro
- Nelson County
- RTF
- VDH

6. Development of a Website on Engage Albemarle



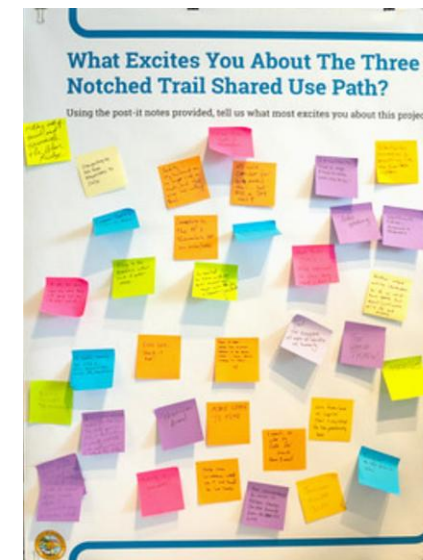
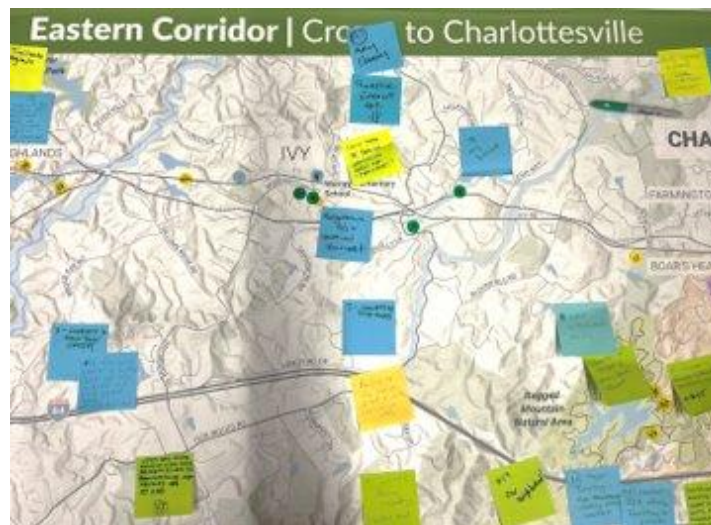
What has happened since September of 2023?

7. Public Meeting #1

- Open House held at Crozet Elementary (May 15th)
- Welcomed over 150 attendees
- Shared a brief project presentation
- Collected 3NT-specific feedback from attendees at stations

What did we hear?

- primary intended use is for recreation and exercise
- Staying comfortably away from cars is key
- An indirect, more rural route is fine
- even if it is longer
- Attendees are excited for the “community” that being on the trail will bring

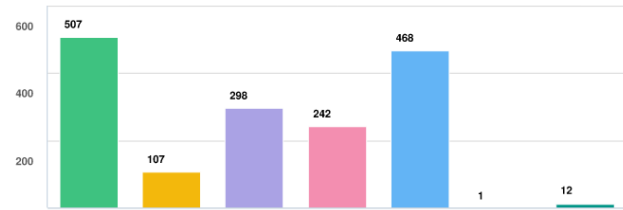


What has happened since September of 2023?

8. Public Survey and Webmap

- Over 600 Responses to the Survey

Q1 What is your relationship to the Three Notched Trail Study Area? Select all that apply.

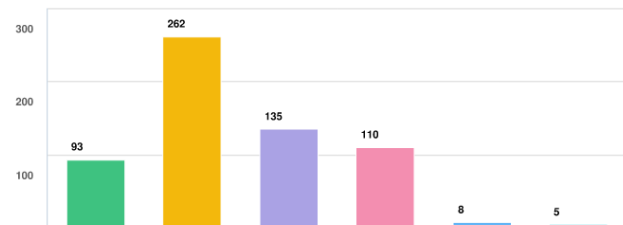


Question options

☒ I am a resident in the area ☒ I own a business or work for a business in the area ☒ I travel through the area
☒ I am a customer of a business in the area ☒ I recreate in the area ☐ None of the above ☐ Other (please specify)

Optional question (614 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

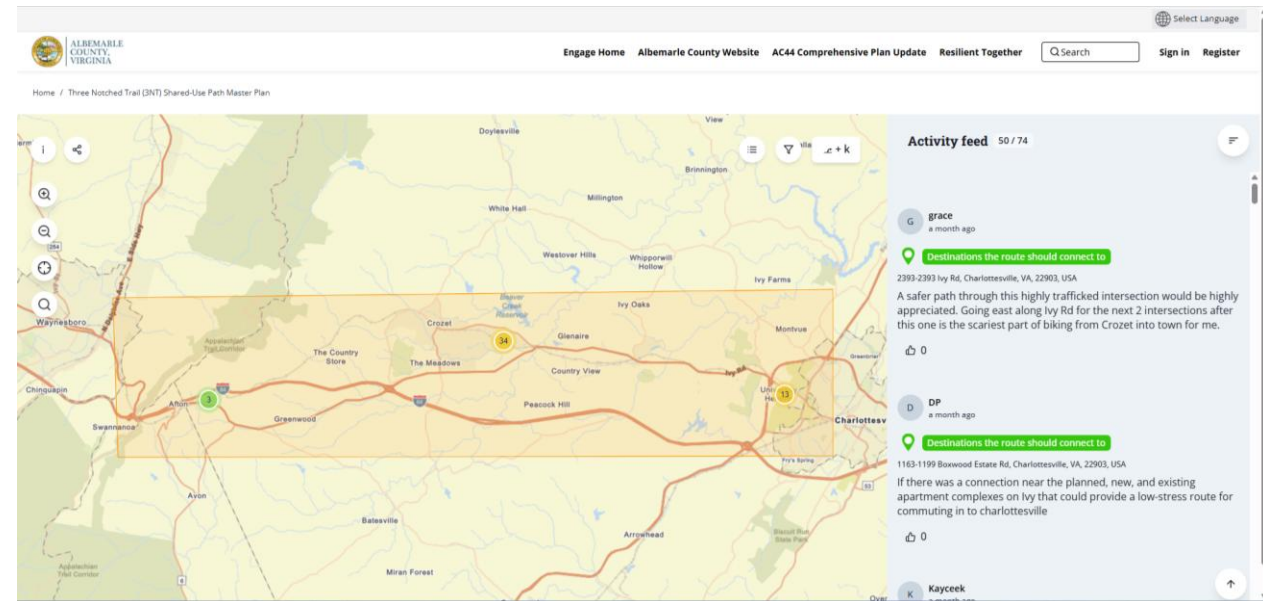
Q2 Do you currently use trails in Albemarle County? Pick one.



Question options

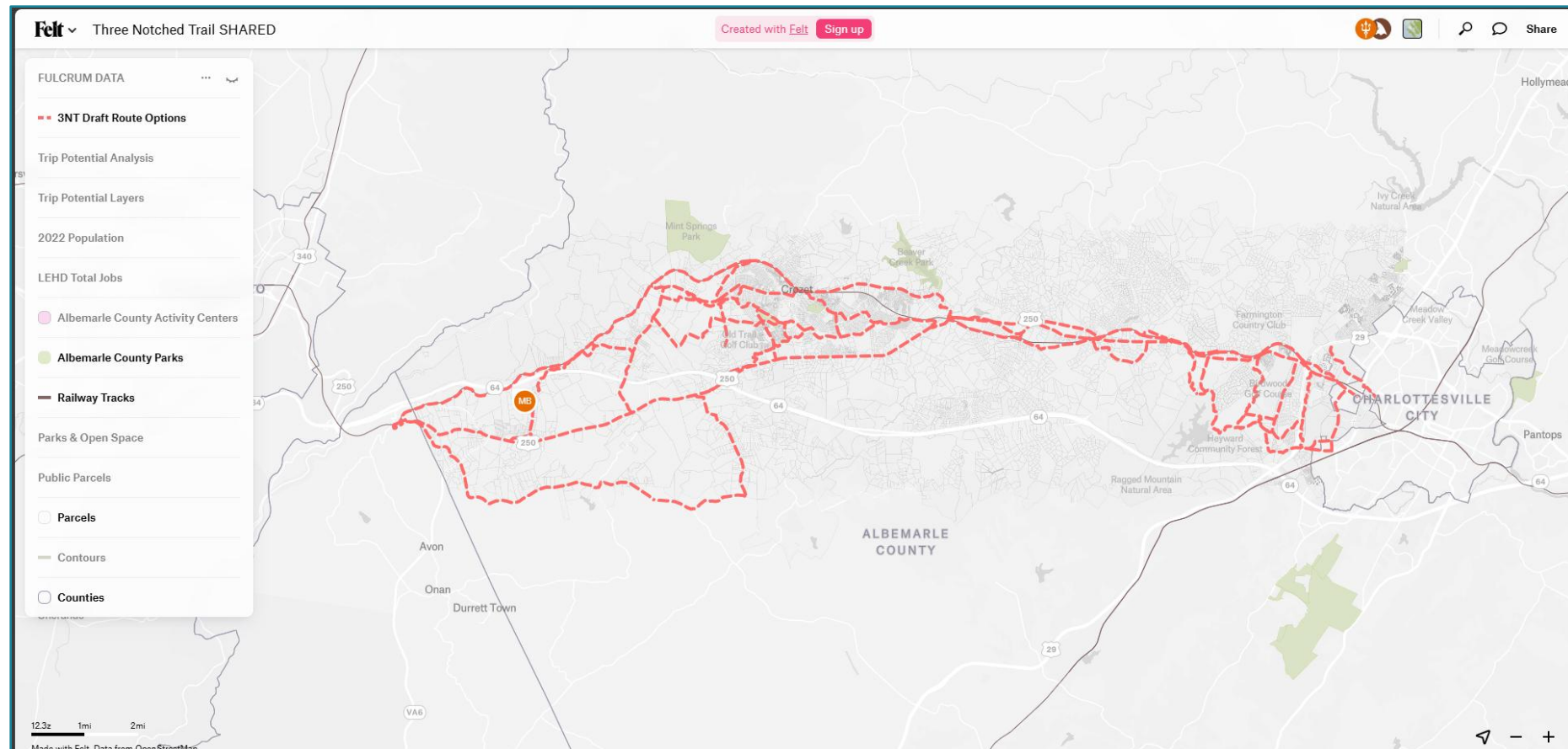
☒ Yes, daily ☒ Yes, weekly ☒ Yes, monthly ☒ Yes, a few times a year ☐ No ☐ Other (please specify)

- Nearly 100 Comments on the Interactive Webmap



What has happened since September of 2023?

9. Stakeholder Working Group



What has happened since September of 2023?

9. Site Visits



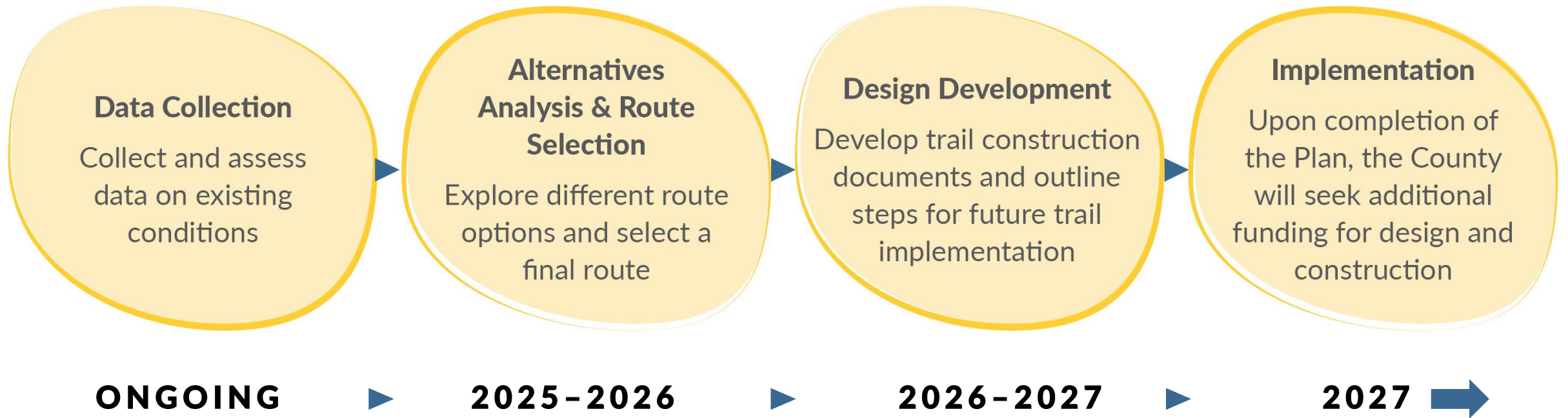
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What has happened since September of 2023?

10. Trip Potential Analysis



What are the Next Steps?

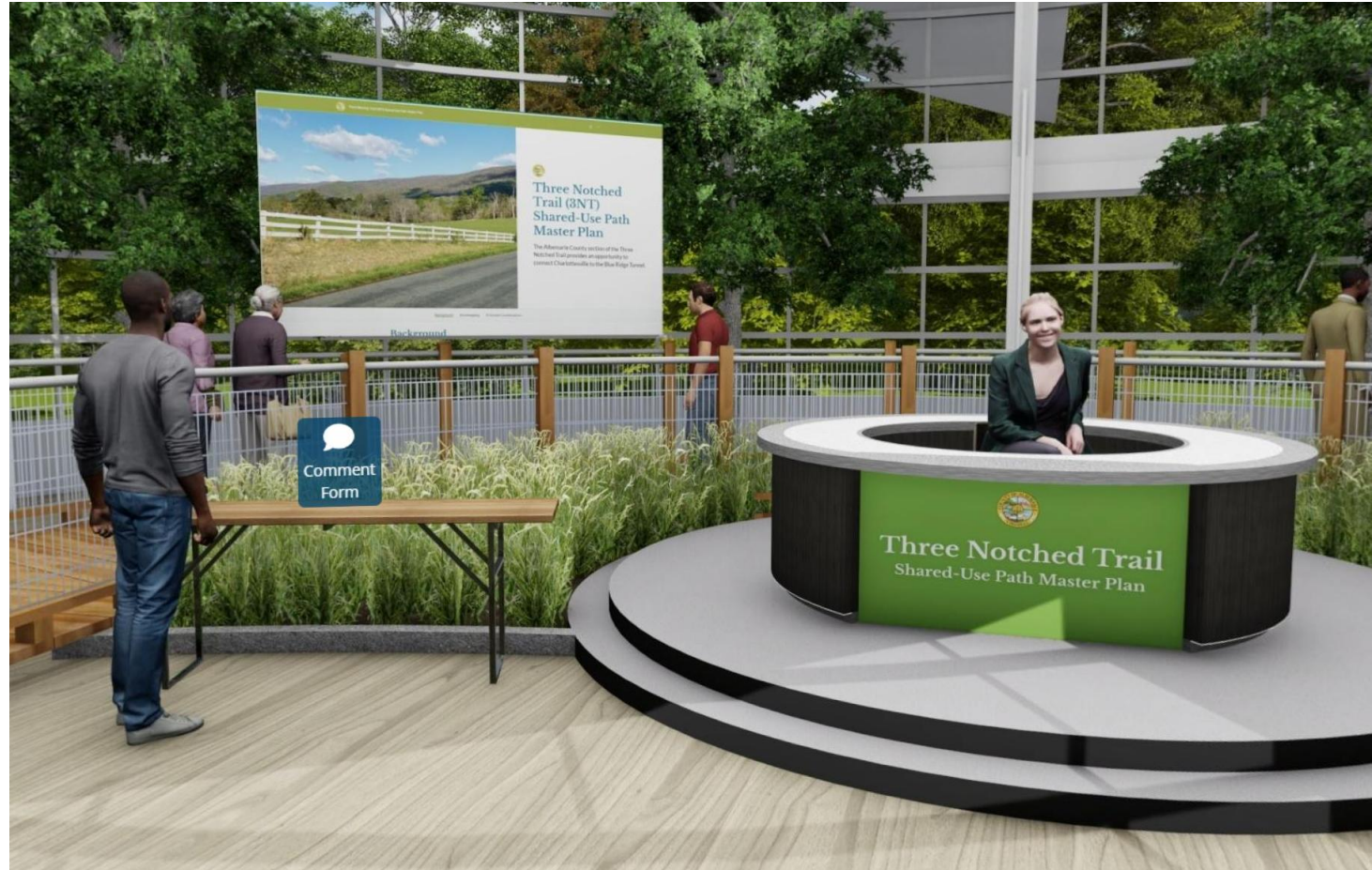


What are the Next Steps?

- Mapping of three trail route options
- Pop-up meetings
- Website updates
- Second public meeting
 - Likely scheduled for late fall 2025
 - Present and discuss three trail route options
 - Get feedback on preferred trail route

How to stay involved

- **Meetings**
 - Three more public meetings
 - Pop-up events
 - Board of Supervisors meetings
- **Project website –**
www.engage.albemarle.org/three-notched-trail-master-plan
 - Questionnaires
 - Virtual room
 - StoryMap
 - Sign up for newsletter updates



Thank you!



Questions?