



## What is a Greenway?

- Active Transportation
- Linear Public Park
- Recreation
- Health and Fitness
- Desirable Amenity
- Access to destinations
- Creates a Sense of Community
- County standard is a 10' wide asphalt trail concforming to AASHTO and ADA for recreational trails.
- 37 miles are complete and open
- Mecklenburg County Greenway Plan currently calls for 185 miles.

# Project History

- Several years ago Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation requested to use the rail corridor to place granite screenings on the tracks and create a greenway connecting Seversville and Frazier Parks.
   An easement agreement was never recorded. It was understood that the granite screening trail was a temporary solution.
- Over time it was discovered that the granite screenings corroded the metal of the rails. NCDOT Rail requested that Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation remove the granite screenings.
- NCDOT Rail, in collaboration with the City of Charlotte, purchased land to allow the rail corridor to serve the Historic Charlotte Trolley in the short term and a commuter line to Gastonia in the long-term. The existing rails will be replaced over time to accomplish this goal.
- Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation has been seeking funding to remove the granite screenings and provide a permanent greenway. A grant has been received from NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division and County capital funding has been made available.

## Process

- A Stakeholder Workshop was held on Monday, September 10, 2012
   It consisted of a walk on the greenway for the entire length of
   the project with a few of the local residents and
   representatives of the City of Charlotte. These individuals
   have been asked to provide continuity by attending the
   two community workshops.
- Address opportunities and concerns.
- Community Workshop #1 on Monday, September 17, 2012
- Address public opportunities and concerns.
- Community Workshop #2 on Monday, October 15, 2012
- · Complete lease agreement with NCDOT Rail.
- Complete design, permit and bid project.
- •Begin construction in spring 2013. Anticipate 6-9 months to complete.



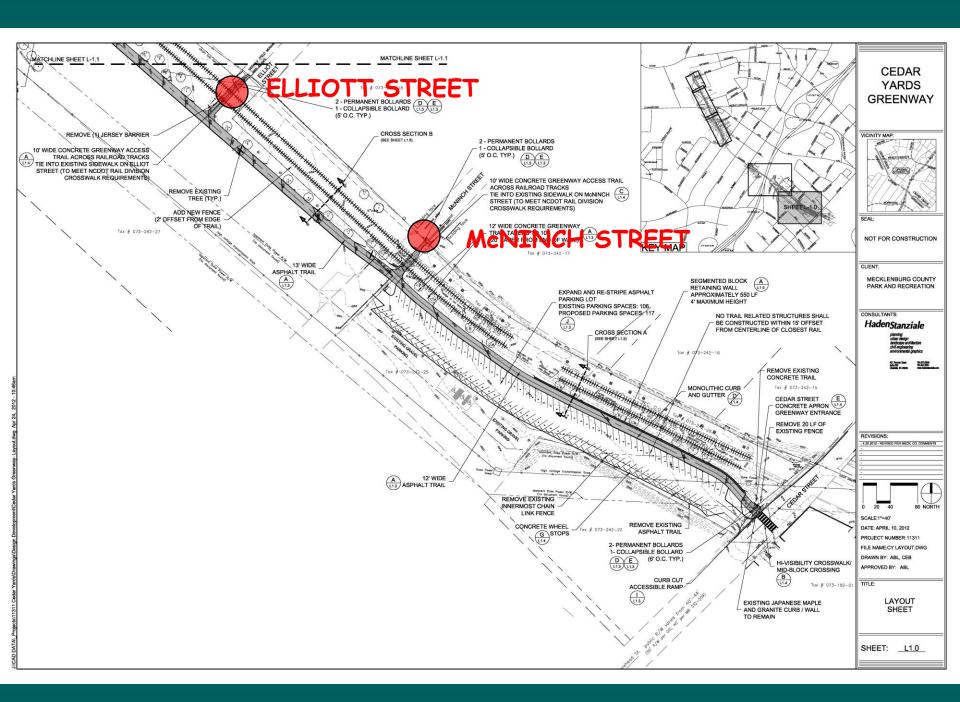
Project Sections

## OPPORTUNITIES

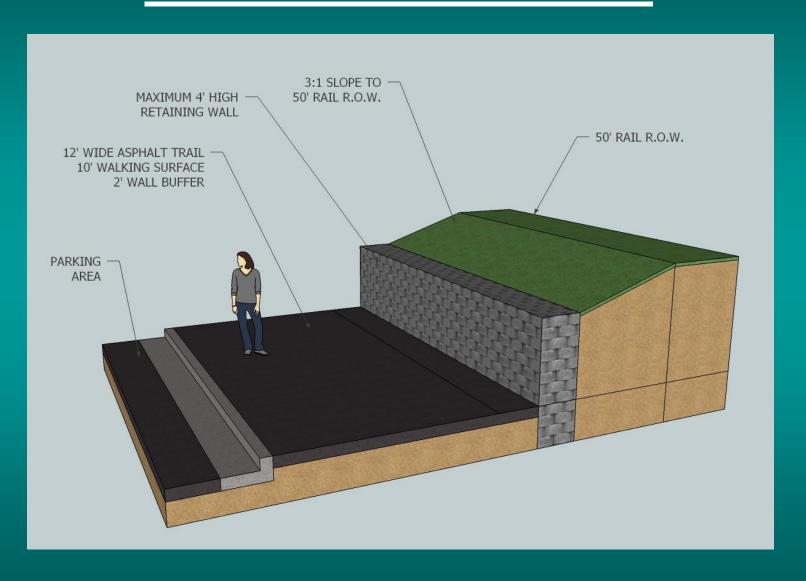
- This project will provide a main greenway trail that is a "permanent" part of the Mecklenburg County Greenway Program.
- This effort is a partnership with both the NCDOT Rail Division and the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division.
- The extension of the greenway through Cedar Yards to Cedar Street will provide an improved bike-ped connection to uptown Charlotte.
- Providing the system standard of asphalt paving accommodates more diversity of greenway users and better satisfies the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition is better insures that the granular material currently on the greenway does not end up in Stewart Creek or Irwin Creek, a request of the County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA).
- NCDOT Bike-Ped has approved \$480,000 in CMAQ Funding toward the Cedar Yards portion of the project. (Removal of granite screenings must be part of the project). The existing culvert that crosses Irwin Creek is available for the greenway trail.
- NCDOT Rail has agreed that the existing pedestrian crossings can be included in the lease agreement and the construction project.

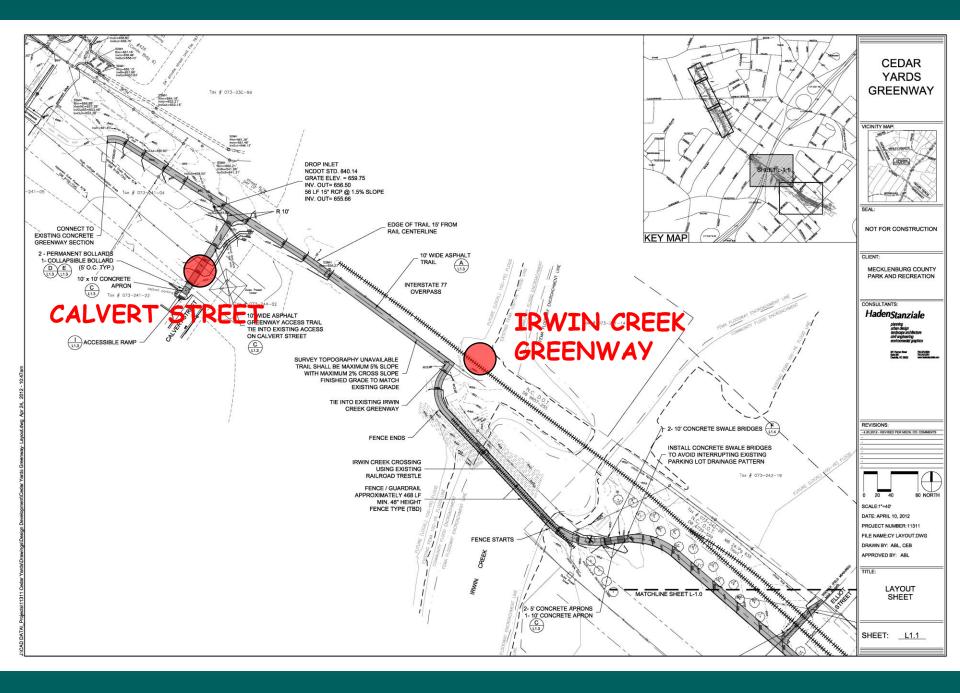
## CONSTRAINTS

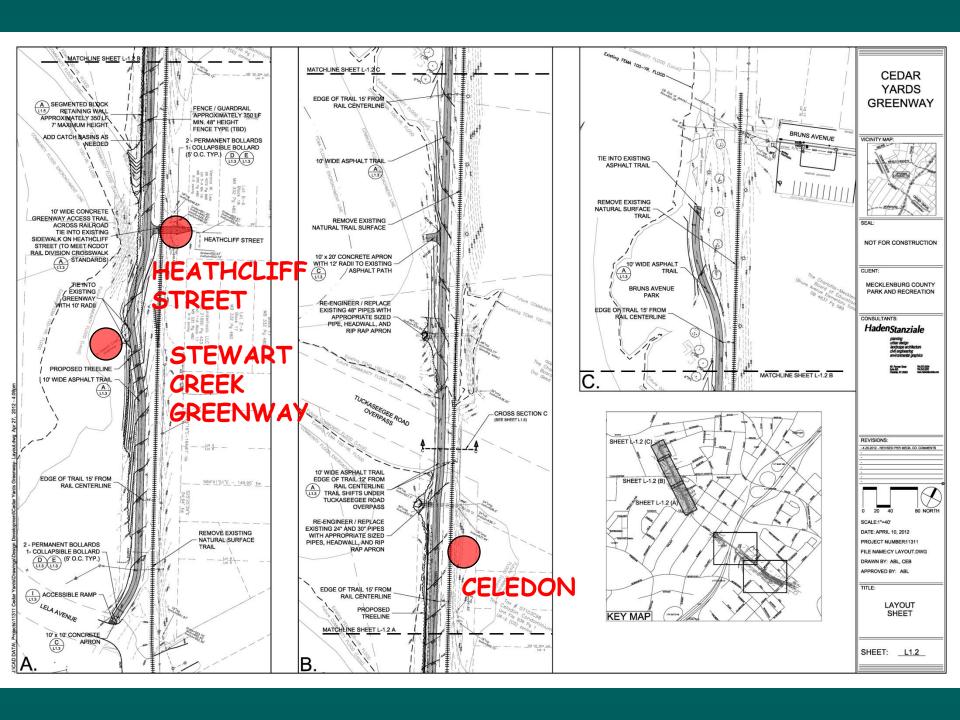
- There is little flexibility in the alignment of the greenway due to site constraints and opportunities.
- A Duke Energy transmission corridor parallels the proposed route of the greenway.
- Several ideas to upgrade finishes and provide certain features will depend on cost. Some items may be bid as alternates.
- There is a deadline on beginning and completing construction by the funders.



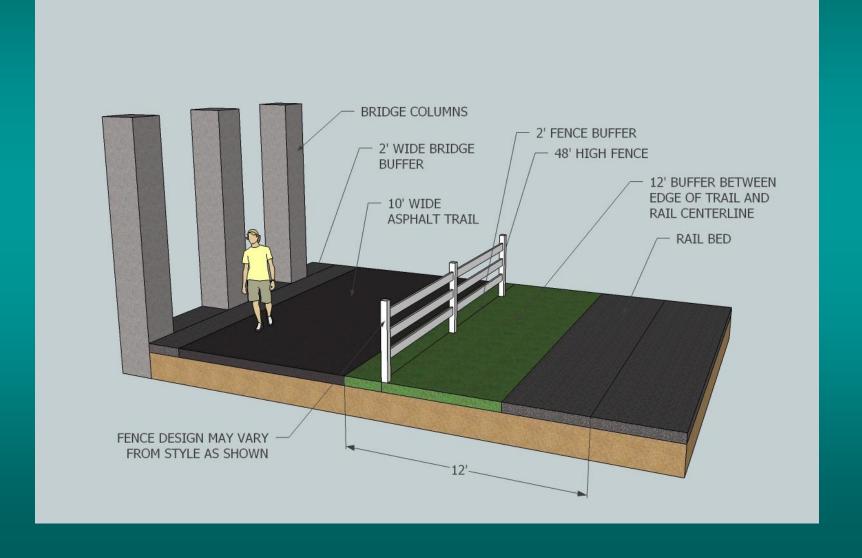
# CROSS SECTION







# CROSS SECTION



## NCDOT Rail

The fence that will separate the rail from the trail, when are you going to require that fence. When the tracks are closer than the standard 15' from the trail?

The fence will not be needed until active rail service is restored to this line. Our desire is to have some tangible entity (fence, shrubs, etc.) to discourage the public from walking on the tracks.

The group asked the obvious question when we explained that we needed to move the trail off the tracks. What plans does NCDOT have for the rails. Their obvious concern is if the rails would ever be used for freight.

With regard to future use of the tracks, the rail line was purchased to preserve for future passenger commuter service from Gastonia to Charlotte. In the relative near term, Charlotte Trolley has expressed a sincere desire to implement trolley service along this rail line from Bruns Ave. to S. Cedar Street. They may begin by having a short trolley run from Irwin creek trestle to S. Cedar Street. In this regard, they have provided an Implementation Plan to NCDOT for this service.

The rail line owned by NCDOT from Bruns Ave. to S. Cedar Street will not be used for freight service.

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# Thank you for participating in your Community Workshop

