

- Three public input meetings were held in Loudoun County during June and July 2017
- In addition to the three public input meetings, an online interactive survey was conducted

- Congestion relief, safety, and access were the three top priorities for the Route 15 corridor at the previous public workshops
- Comments from the online survey and meeting activities were digitally mapped to highlight the most frequently identified areas of opportunity or concern along the corridor

239

attended three public meetings

2,006

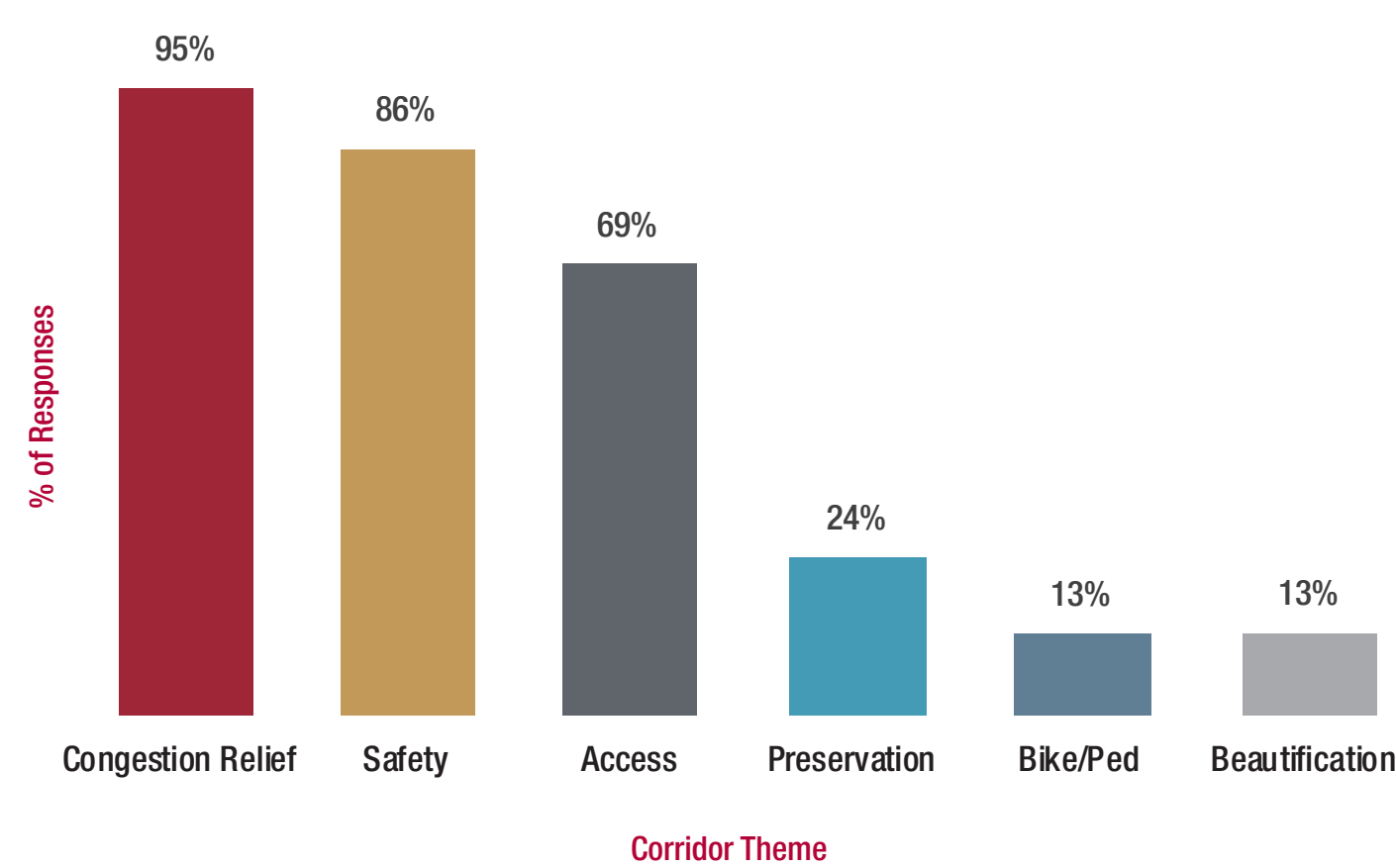
unique online survey responses

4,000+

total comments

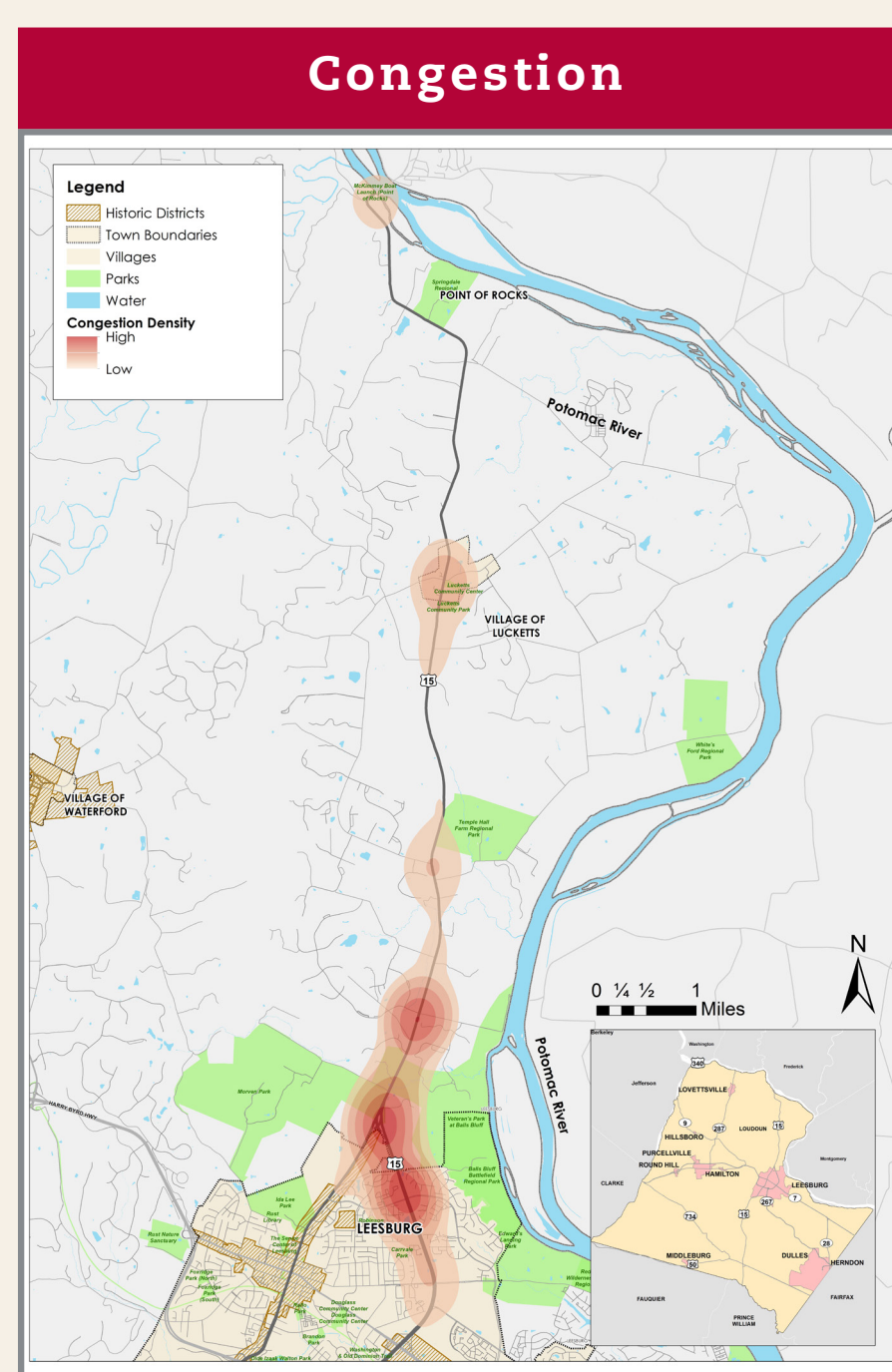
Major Themes - Public Input

This summarizes issues, opportunities, and key suggestions identified by the public.

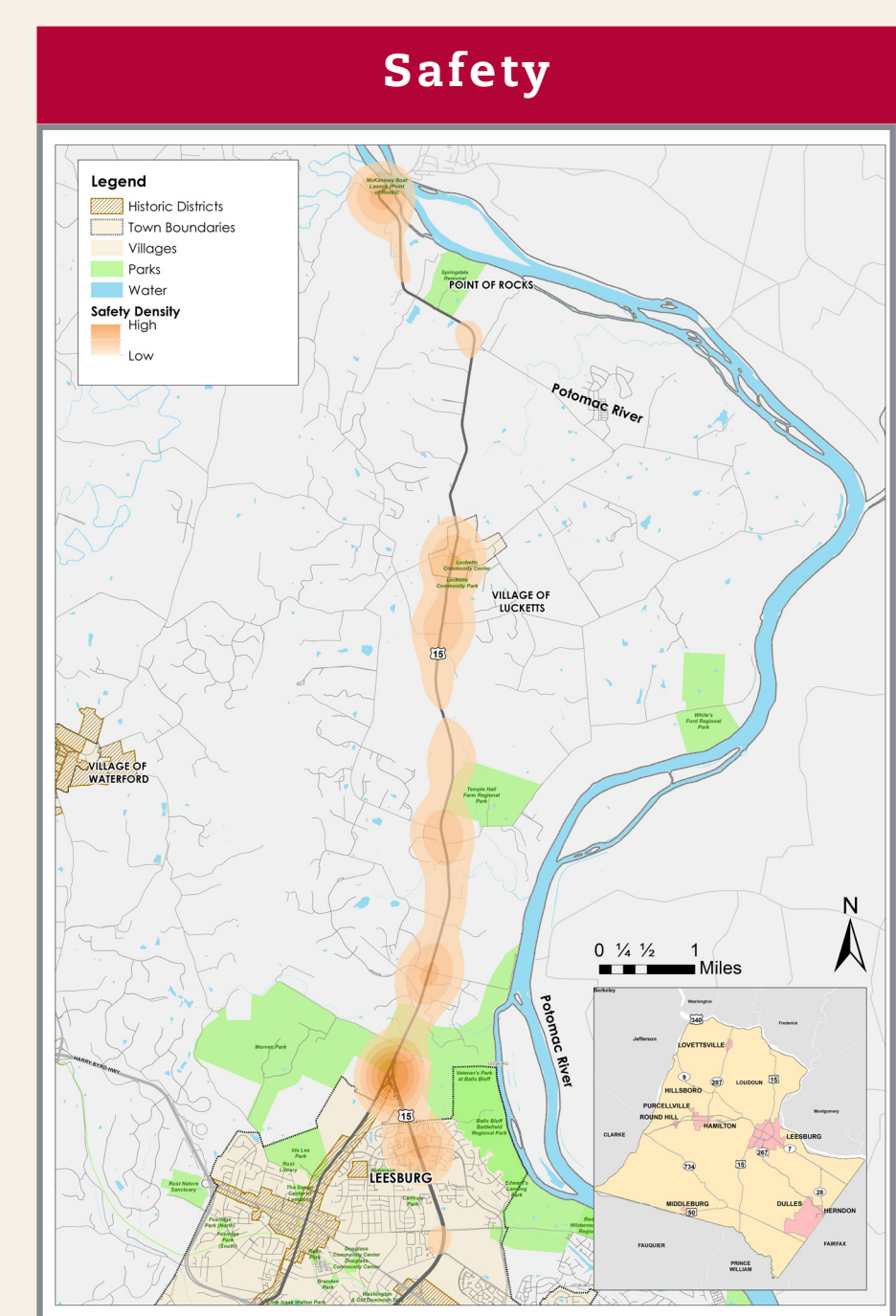


The bar graph shows the relative importance of six themes, according to survey respondents' top three priorities for the corridor.

Map Note: The darker shading on maps indicates higher concentrations of input

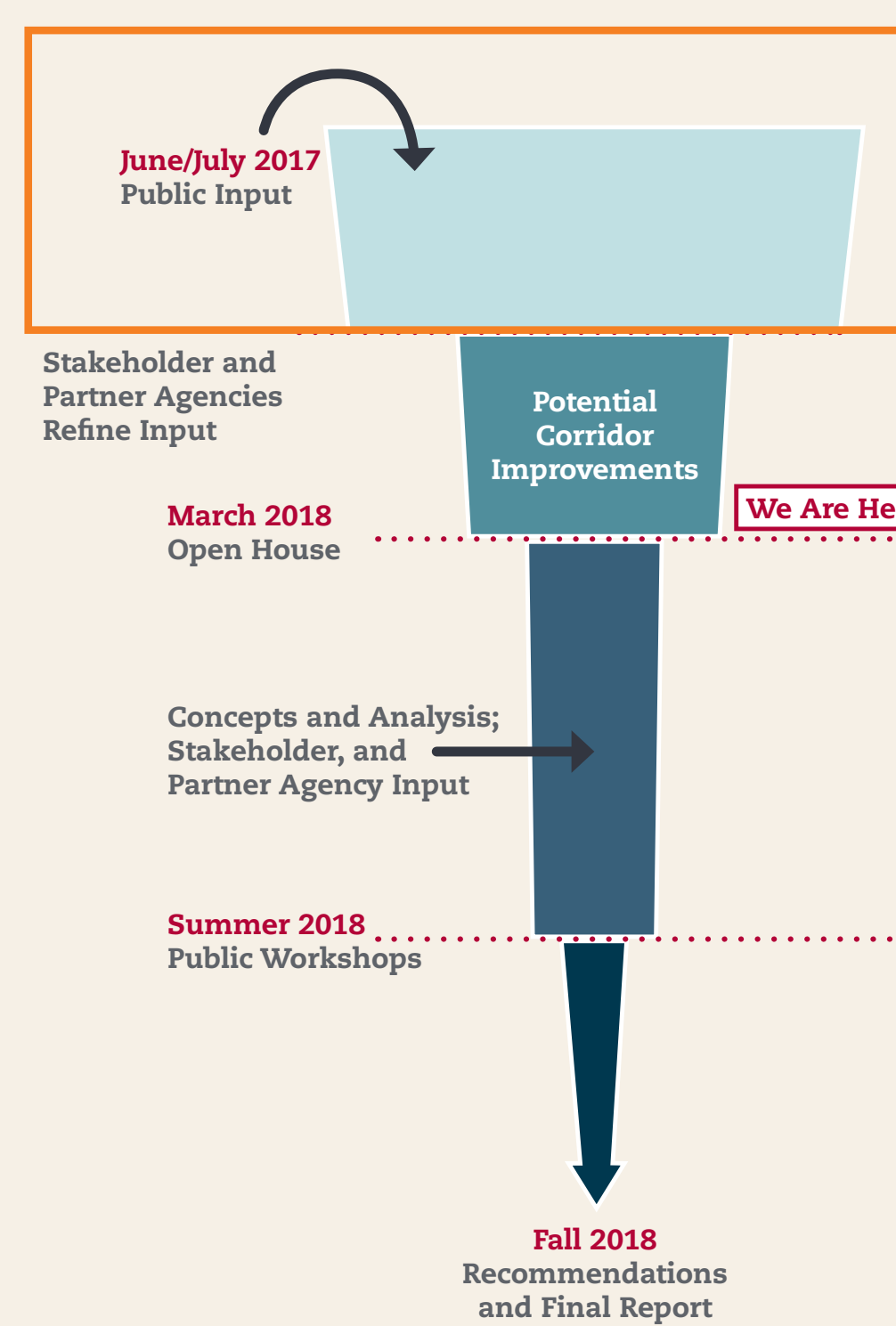


Intersections of Route 15 with Battlefield Parkway, North King Street, and Whites Ferry Road as well as the Village of Lucketts were noted as key locations for congestion relief



Opportunities to improve safety were spread throughout the corridor

The public input boards are the result of this stage of the process and schedule



Congestion Relief

Issues/Opportunities

- General frustration with traffic backups throughout the corridor, especially at Whites Ferry Road and the merge near Battlefield Parkway

Key Suggestions

- Commuter lots and bus routes in Leesburg and north in Maryland to encourage carpooling and “slugging”
- Toll traffic at the Maryland State line
- Another Potomac River crossing between Route 15 and I-495
- Route 15 Bypass of Lucketts
- Widening at least some portion of Route 15 to four lanes

Land Use and Economy

Issues/Opportunities

- Loss of local business due to congestion
- Value of money wasted due to traffic
- Increased housing developments along the corridor have made the situation worse

Key Suggestions

- See congestion relief, access, and intersection control sections for related suggestions

Safety

Issues/Opportunities

- Poor sight distance for merges and side streets
- Lack of safety infrastructure (lighting, rumble strips, signing, markings)
- Lack of shoulders for breakdown situations and emergency vehicle use
- Lack of pedestrian/bike facilities

Key Suggestions

- Widen the shoulder to eight feet to accommodate emergency vehicle access
- Lower the speed limits along Route 15
- Median-divide all of Route 15
- Utilize speed humps and traffic calming measures along common “cut-through” roadways
- Increase police enforcement
- Prohibit passing along the two-lane sections
- Add rumble strips along the shoulder and centerline
- Place limits on or “banning” trucks

Access

Many participants addressed the difficulty of turning movements on and off Route 15.

Issues/Opportunities

- Difficulty of left turns on/off Route 15 (existing and future)
- Additional bike and pedestrian access from Leesburg to the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal Trail in Maryland via Whites Ferry Road.

Key Suggestions

- Better access to communities with acceleration, deceleration, and turn lanes
- Installation of a left-turn lane on Route 15 at Lovettsville Road
- Add median U-turns (also known as Michigan lefts) instead of roundabouts, with the entire corridor being right turn in/right-turn except at controlled intersections
- Realign all cross streets at intersections removing skew

Beautification

While beautification was not a top priority for most, preserving rural character was noted as important in many comments.

Issues/Opportunities

- Preserve the scenic and rural character of the area as much as possible

Key Suggestion

- Prevent any changes in zoning and prohibit new development or retail along the roadway

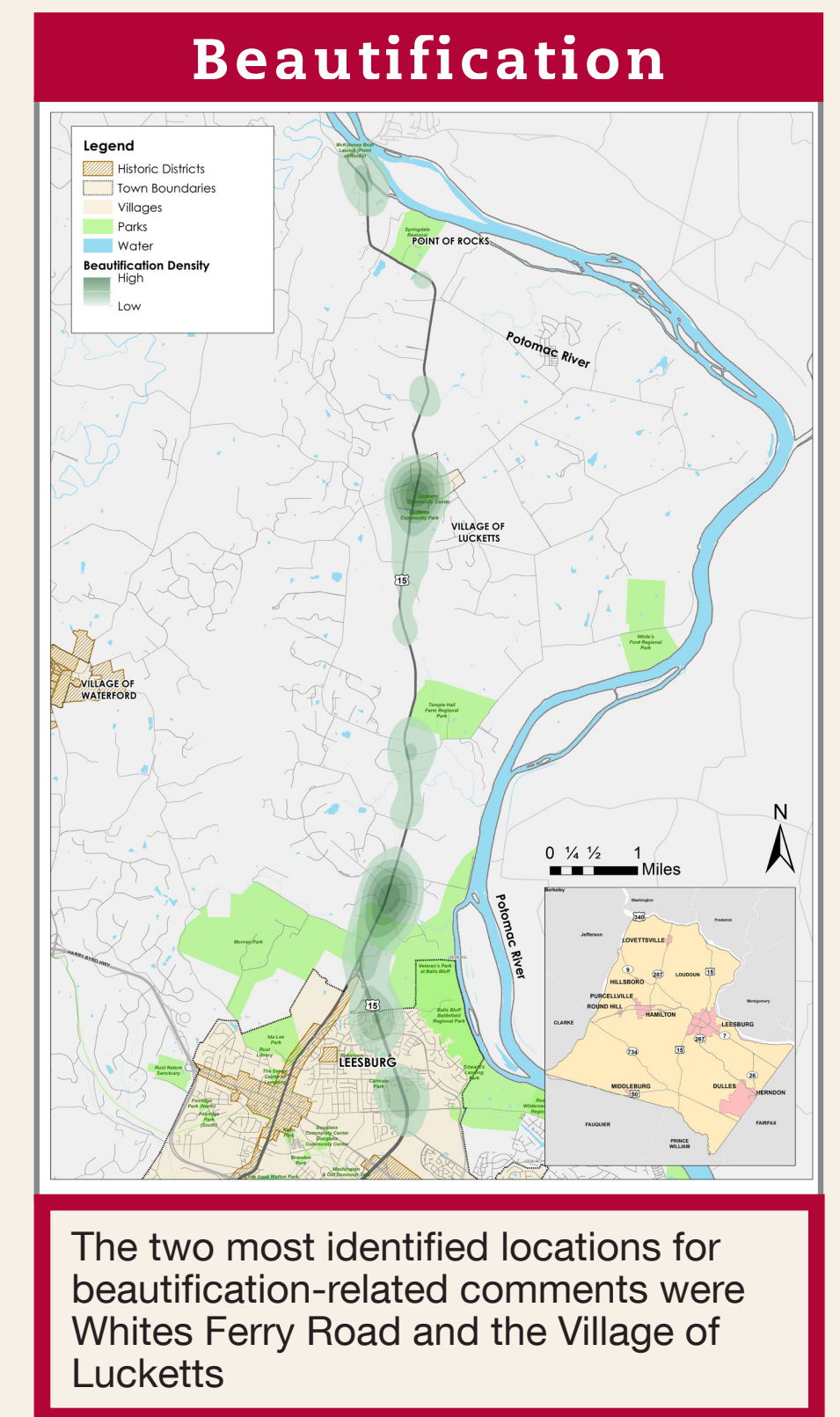
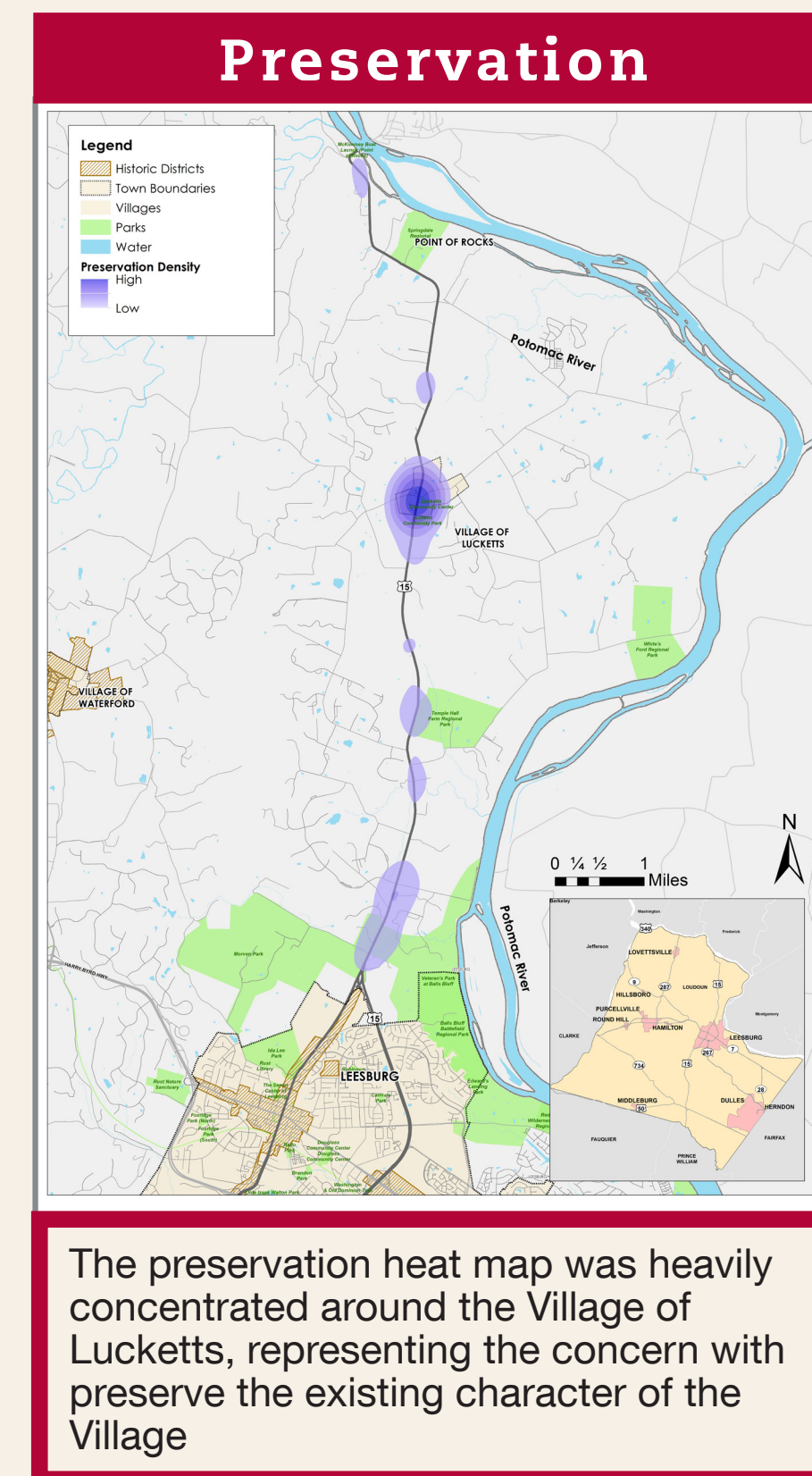
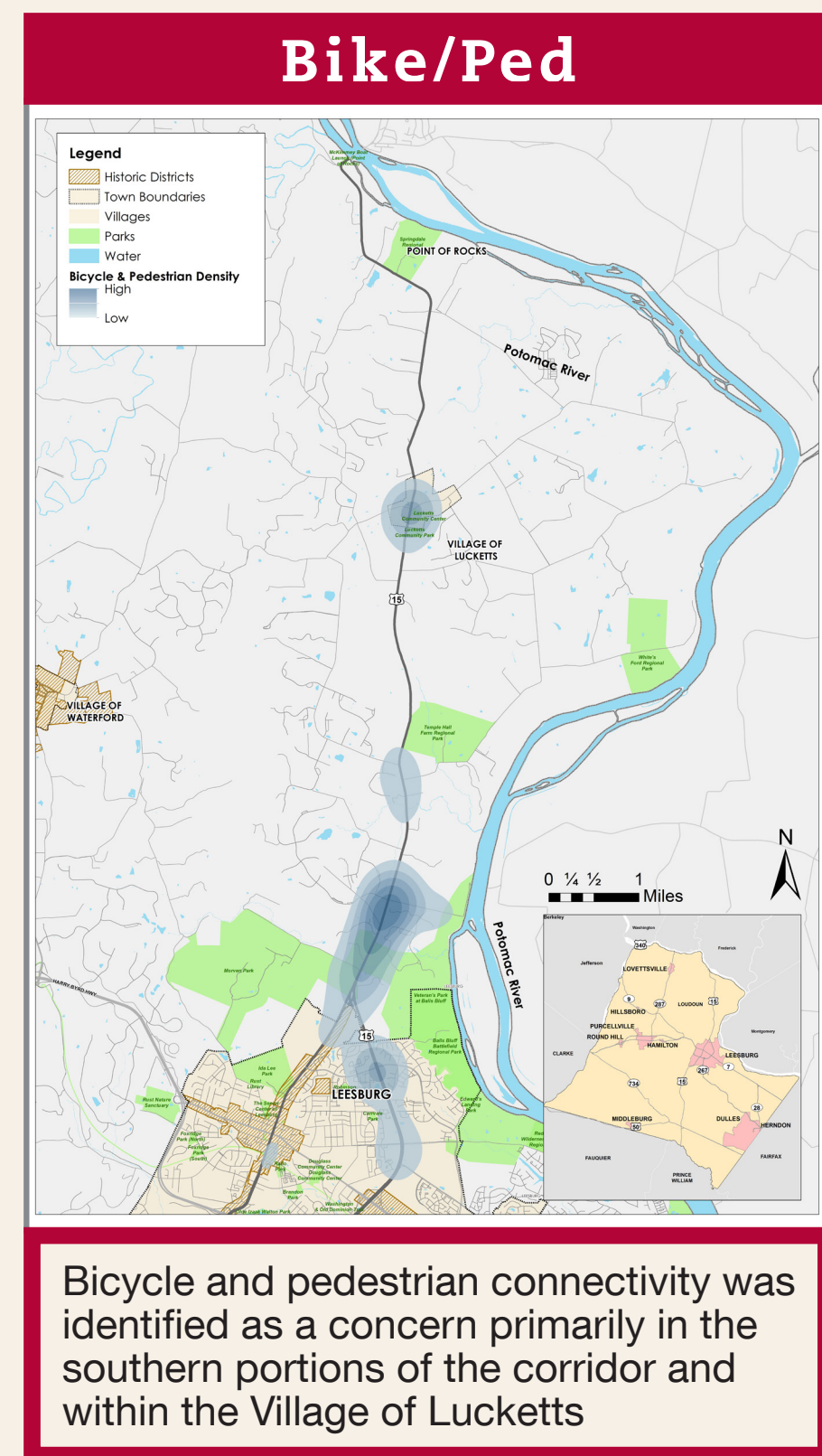
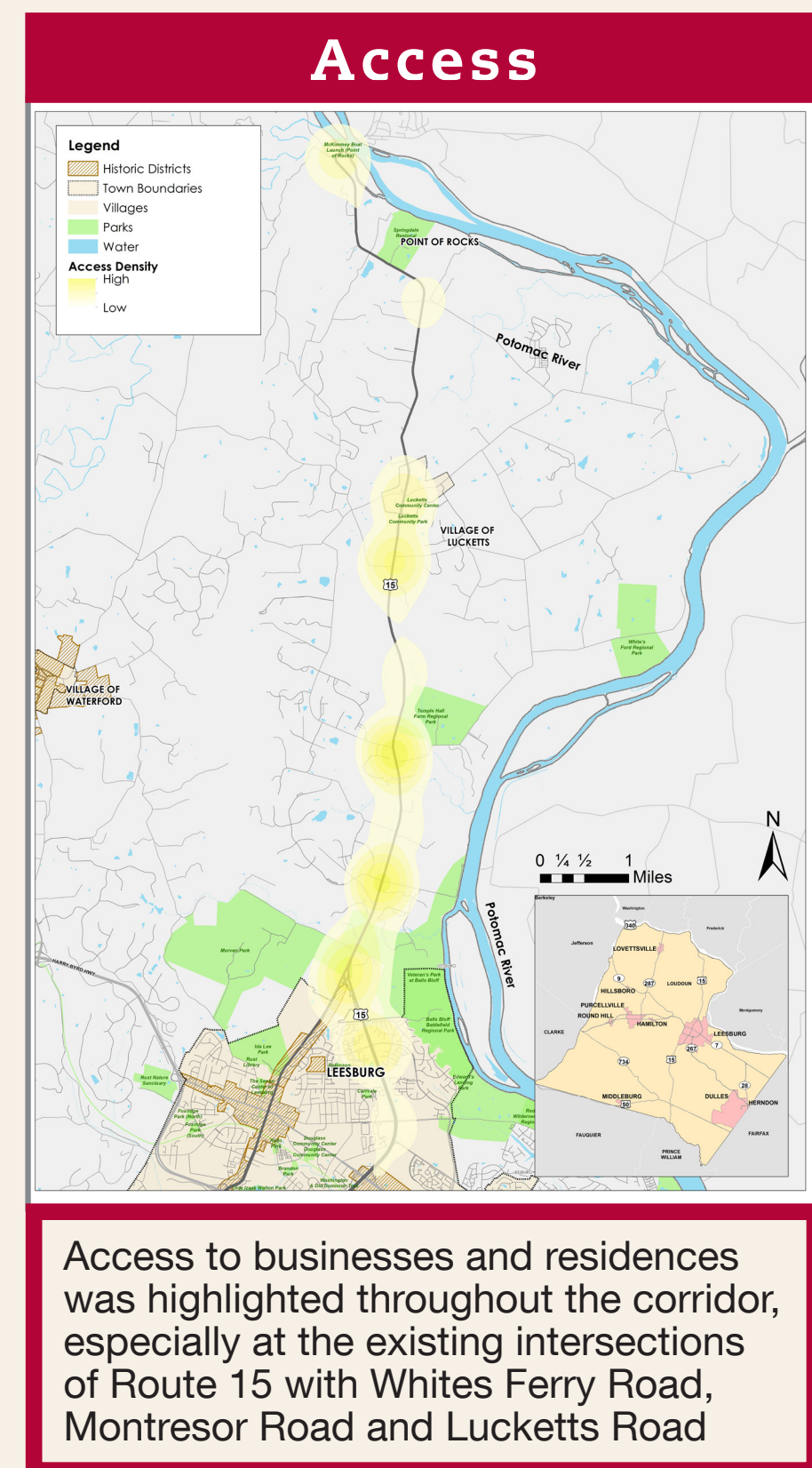
Environment

Issues/Opportunities

- Concern over historic preservation on the corridor
- Limestone Overlay District and negative impacts due to construction
- Decreasing air quality and property values due to congestion

Key Suggestions

- Protect the areas environmental and historic resources



Widening

Positions on the widening of Route 15 were variable

Issues/Opportunities

- Most expressed a desire to widen at least some portion of Route 15
- Some expressed concern that widening would simply push the bottlenecks further up Route 15
- Noted that the Point of Rocks Bridge is only two lanes
- Concern that widening would invite more traffic onto Route 15 and issues would not be relieved
- Impacts of widening on local property and historic resources

Key Suggestions

- Widening Route 15 from two to four lanes from Battlefield Parkway to a location north of Whites Ferry Road (comments suggested a variety of limits up to the Maryland state line)
- Consider three-lane solutions such as a reversible or center-turn lane

Intersection Control

Issues/Opportunities

- Many intersections are currently skewed/offset which make it difficult to turn
- Concern with roundabouts and the maneuverability of larger vehicles
- Confusion regarding the navigation of two-lane roundabouts

Key Suggestions

- Many comments were in favor of grade separation at King Street
- While there was no clear consensus on roundabouts, many people discussed a preference for slower, continual flow

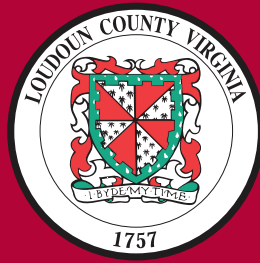
Timing and Phasing

Issues/Opportunities

- Frustration over time it will take to implement improvements to the corridor

Key Suggestion

- Congestion and safety improvements are needed immediately



Stakeholders

Stakeholders represent communities, homeowner associations, businesses, and environmental/historic resource groups along the corridor. The stakeholders met four times between August 2017 and March 2018. The stakeholders represented the following groups:

- Morven Park
- Village Green – Elysian Heights
- Big Springs Farms Community Association
- Saddlebrook
- Raspberry Falls
- Selma Estates
- Big Springs Owners Association
- Lucketts Business Collaborative
- Glynn Tarra Estates
- Catoctin Coalition
- Lucketts Ruritans
- Taylorstown Community Association
- Lee’s Crossing
- Loudoun County Chamber
- Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- Loy Estates
- Raspberry Falls Hunt & Golf Club
- Potomac Crossing
- Exeter

Summary of Feedback on Concept Development

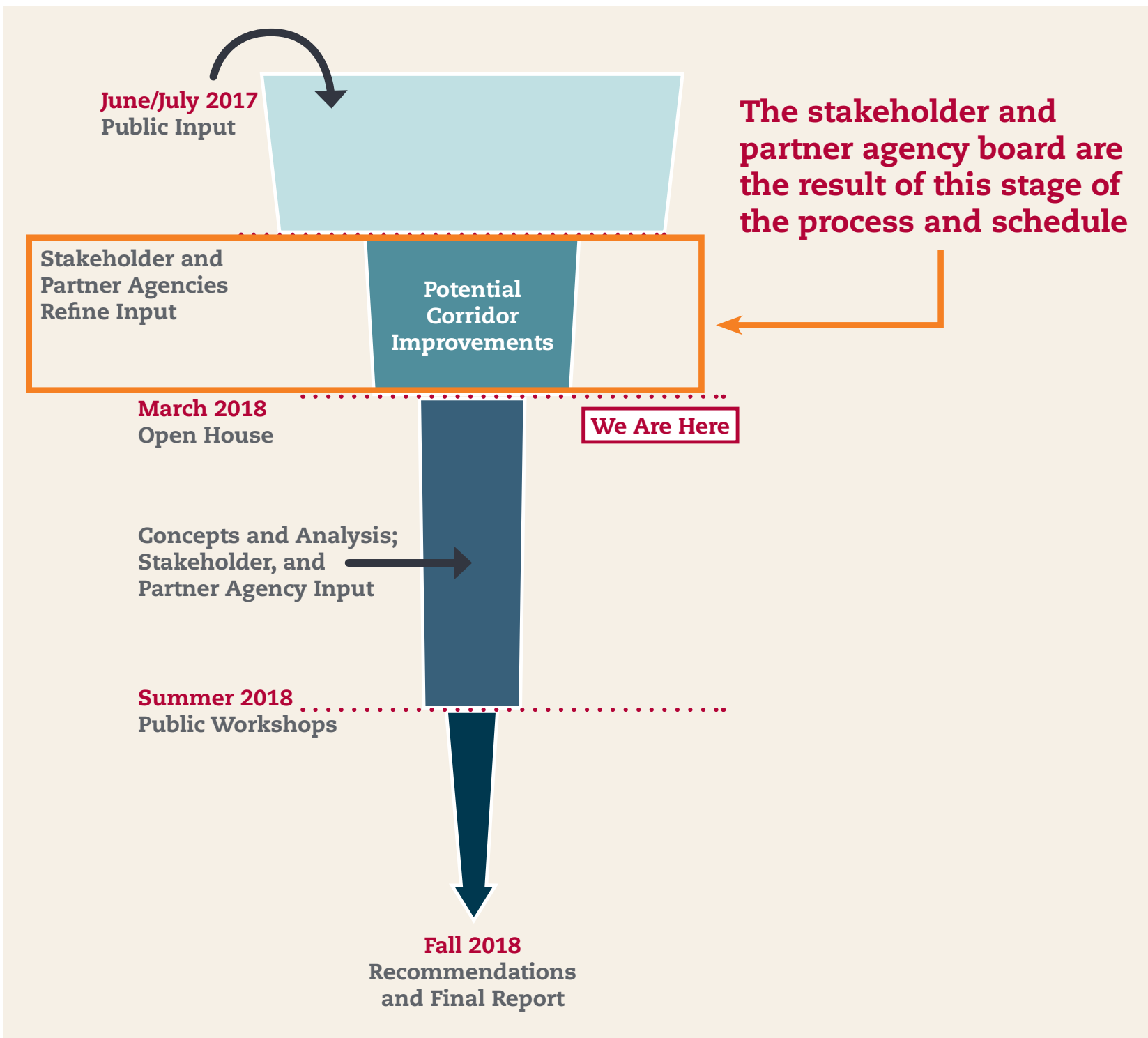
Congestion Relief:

- Widen at least a portion of the southern corridor from two to four lanes
- Modify access and provide “Michigan left” turnaround locations
- Add bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Realign cross street intersections to remove skew and offsets
- Consider Route 15 bypass of Lucketts
- Examine roundabouts or intersection access improvements and modifications throughout the corridor
- Explore further truck restrictions
- Explore commuter lots and bus service
- Eliminate consideration of tolling Route 15 due to the feasibility of adding tolling equipment
- Eliminate consideration of a Potomac River crossing due to the feasibility and time it would take to build
- Eliminate consideration for reversible lanes due to safety concerns and inconsistency with rural context

- Eliminate consideration for adding/expanding parallel roadways due to concerns for encouraging further development

Roadway/Safety Features:

- Add shoulders but explore the use of non-asphalt materials (grass or gravel)
- Add planted medians along all of Route 15
- Install signs to emphasize safety
- Consider rumble strips in the center and edges of the roadway
- Add roundabouts
- Explore reducing speed limits
- Eliminate passing areas
- Include a bike/pedestrian trail from Leesburg to Whites Ferry Road
- Add sidewalk/trails within Lucketts



Partner Agencies

Initial discussions with partner agencies began in November and coordination will continue as the project progresses. Agencies/ groups that have participated include:

- VDOT
- The Town of Leesburg
- Loudoun County Planning and Zoning
- Economic Development
- NVTA
- Frederick County, MD
- MDSHA
- NOVA Parks
- Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- Bike Loudoun
- Morven Park
- LCPRCS
- Virginia State Police
- LCSO
- LCPS
- Fire and Rescue

Summary of Feedback

- Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Services requested wider shoulders and/or turn lanes to safely move around traffic during emergency calls
- VDOT’s highest priority is to improve the roadway for safety and will support capacity improvements deemed appropriate by the County
- Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) has difficulty with bus maneuverability and would like pedestrian facilities added near the Lucketts Elementary School
- General agreement from the partner agencies in support of a bike/pedestrian facility along US Route 15 and enhanced regional trail connections
- Clearing congestion will have the biggest impact on improving safety for the corridor.
- Loudoun Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) and NOVA Parks need to maintain safe access to facilities and maintain ability to hold special events
- Maryland would like to jointly support bus transit options and commuter parking along the corridor for linking MARC in Point of Rocks to Leesburg to METRO in Ashburn
- Maryland Route 15 is planned as a four lane roadway with interchanges (right-of-way is available for widening). No funding or project planned for widening or bridge replacement