



Mercer University Trail Study

Public Meeting #4 – September 12, 2024



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Welcome

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Planning Process
3. Summary of Feedback to Date
4. Proposed Trail Segments
5. Next Steps

Introductions

Caleb Wittenmyer, RPCA Greenspace Manager

Chuck O. Ellis, RPCA Director

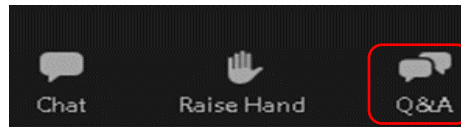
Commissioner Robert Patrick - District 1

Meeting Purpose

- Review the final report and recommendations of the Mercer University Trail Study
- Share next steps

Using Chat and Asking Questions

- Please use the Q&A icon located at the bottom of the screen to ask questions
- Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation, not during.



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Planning Process

Goals of the Trail Study

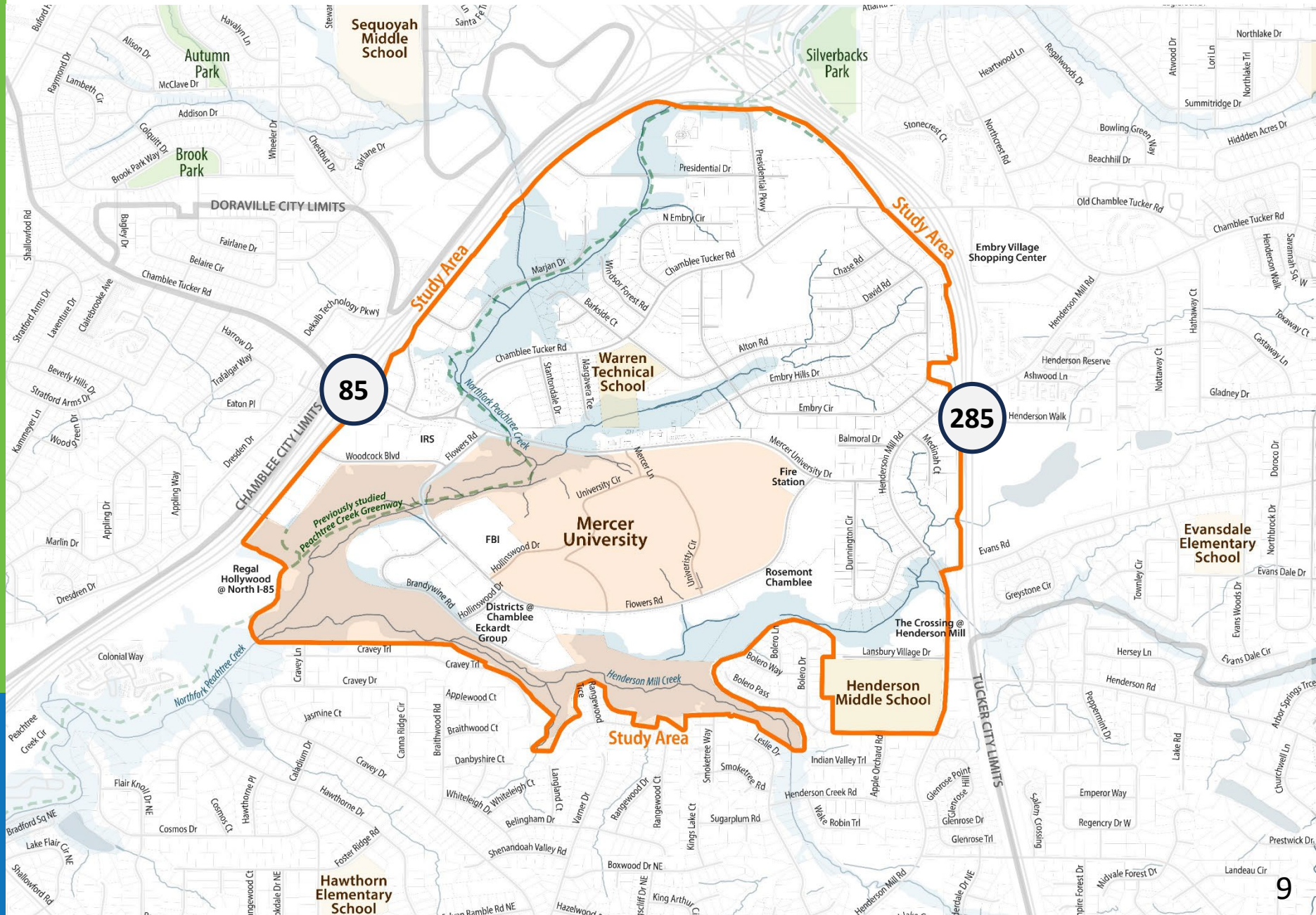
Goals of Study

- Work with the community to propose a trail centered around Mercer University
- Reconnect neighborhoods separated by interstates
- Enable non-car travel to key destinations and to regional trail network

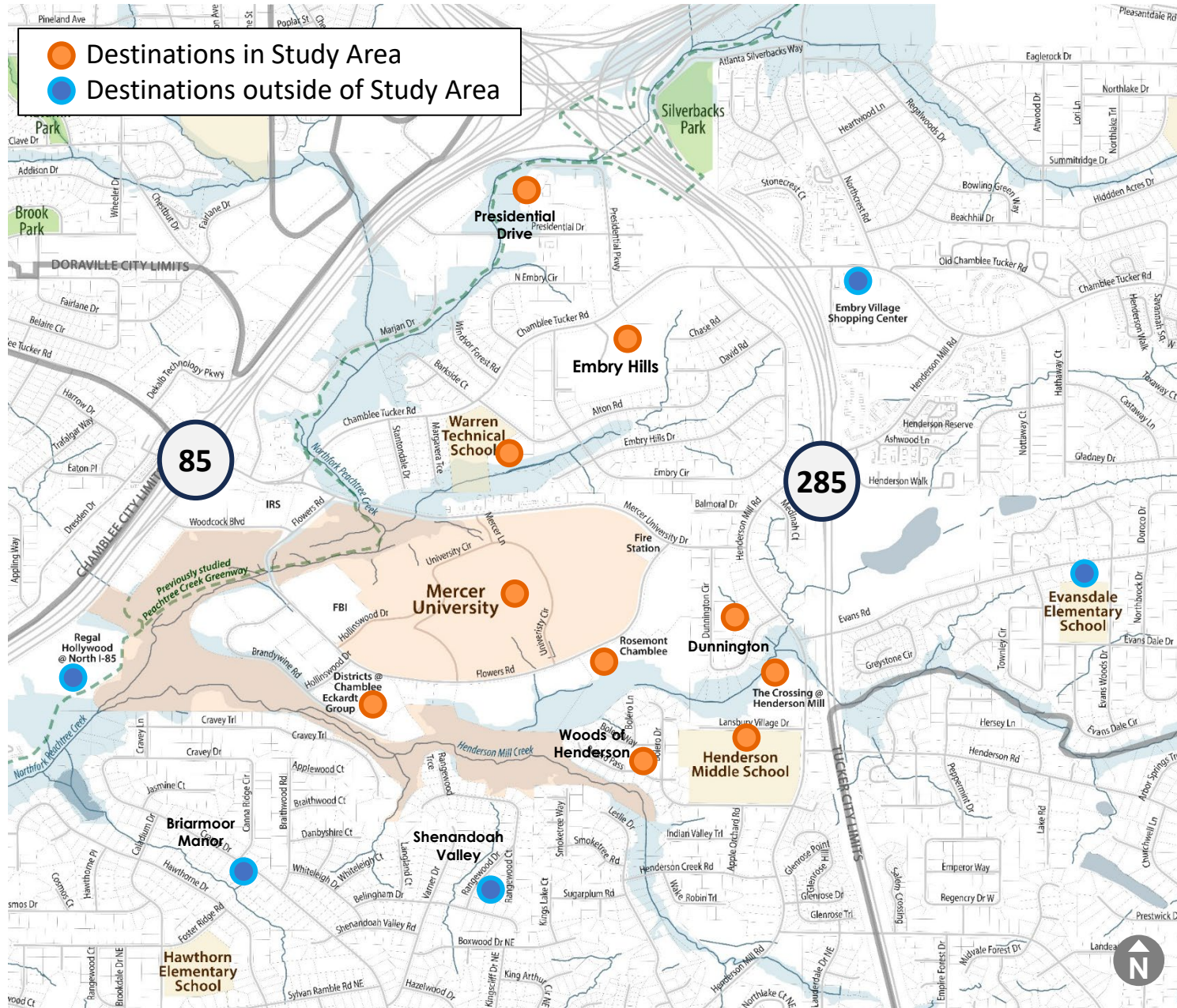
Desired Outcomes

- Provide neighbors access to the unique ecological areas of Mercer's campus.
- Enhance physical, mental, and social health through outdoor recreation
- Empower people with mobility challenges to enjoy the benefits of trails and natural areas
- Educate residents, workers, and students of all ages about their environment
- Identify and address the privacy and security of residents who live near trails

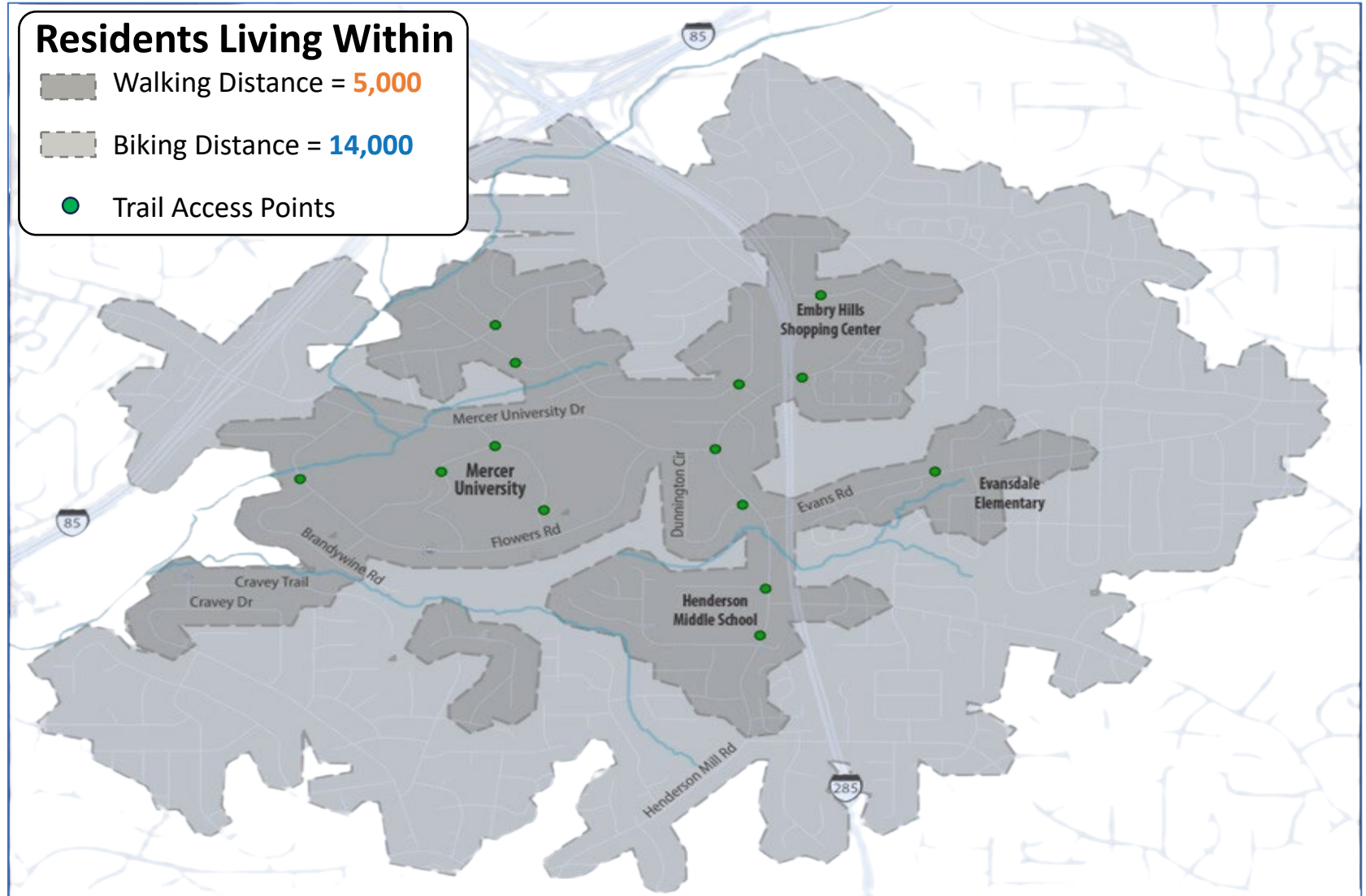
Mercer University Trail Study



Trail Study Area - Key Destinations



How Many Could Access Proposed Trails?



Mercer Urban Forest and Trails



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**SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK TO
DATE**

Feedback Channels

- **Public information open house (Meeting #1: Aug. 24, 2023)**
 - Information boards
 - Online survey
- **Public presentation (Meeting #2: Sept. 27, 2023)**
 - Question cards and comment cards from the meeting
- **Email Questions**
 - Emails sent to DeKalb County (Commissioner, RPCA)
 - Emails to working group members
- **Public presentation (Meeting #3: Nov. 2, 2023)**
 - Mailers to promote presentation
 - Feedback through pigeonhole
 - Verbal Q&A



Summary of Feedback

Benefits of proposed trail

- Nature access
- Place to safely walk, bike or run
- Get around without driving

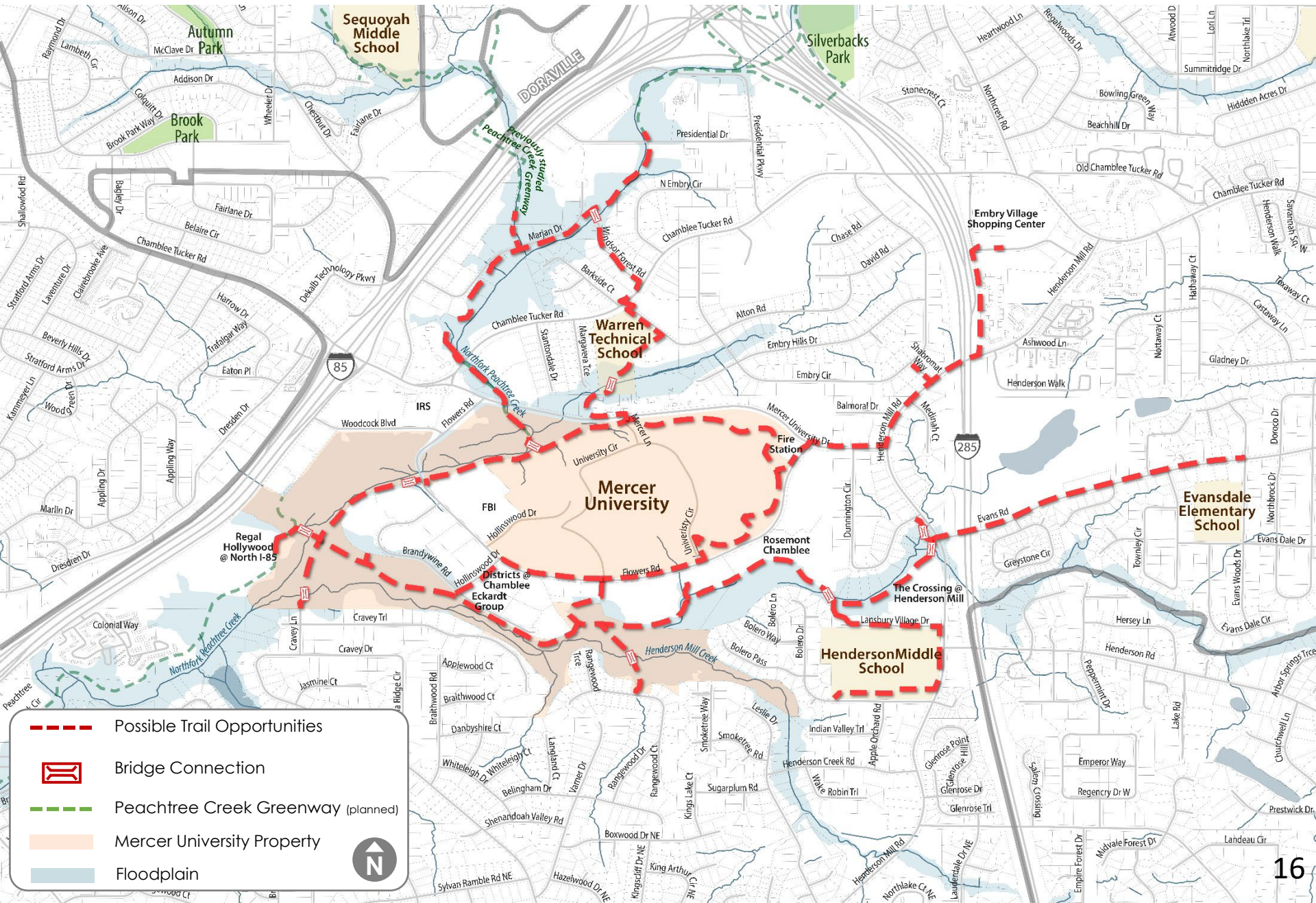
"We love the idea of having trails connected to our neighborhood. Having safe and accessible trails with a natural setting is a huge perk for everyone. Thank you for considering our area."

Concerns about proposed trail

- Increased crime
- Loss of privacy
- Damage to environment
- Benefit to community

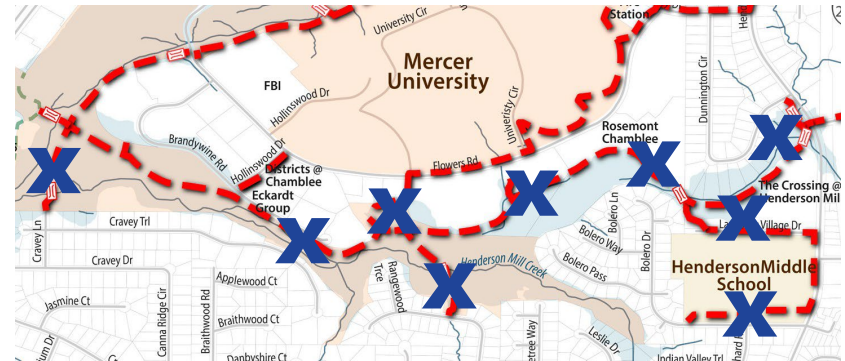
"Do not want this - does not need to be in our neighborhood - more people - no!"

Original Trail Opportunities in/near Study Area



Responses to Concerns

Following the third round of public engagement DeKalb RPCA have determined the following changes in the trail.



1. Cravey Trail Spur Removed

2. Henderson Mill Creek Trail east of Hollinswood Drive and Rangewood Trail Spur Removed

3. A Flowers Road and Henderson Mill Road sidepath were added to make the trail connection from PCG to Henderson Middle School.

Top Negative Perspectives

1. Value to the public
2. Ecological impacts
3. Aesthetics
4. Security
5. Privacy

Top Positive Perspectives

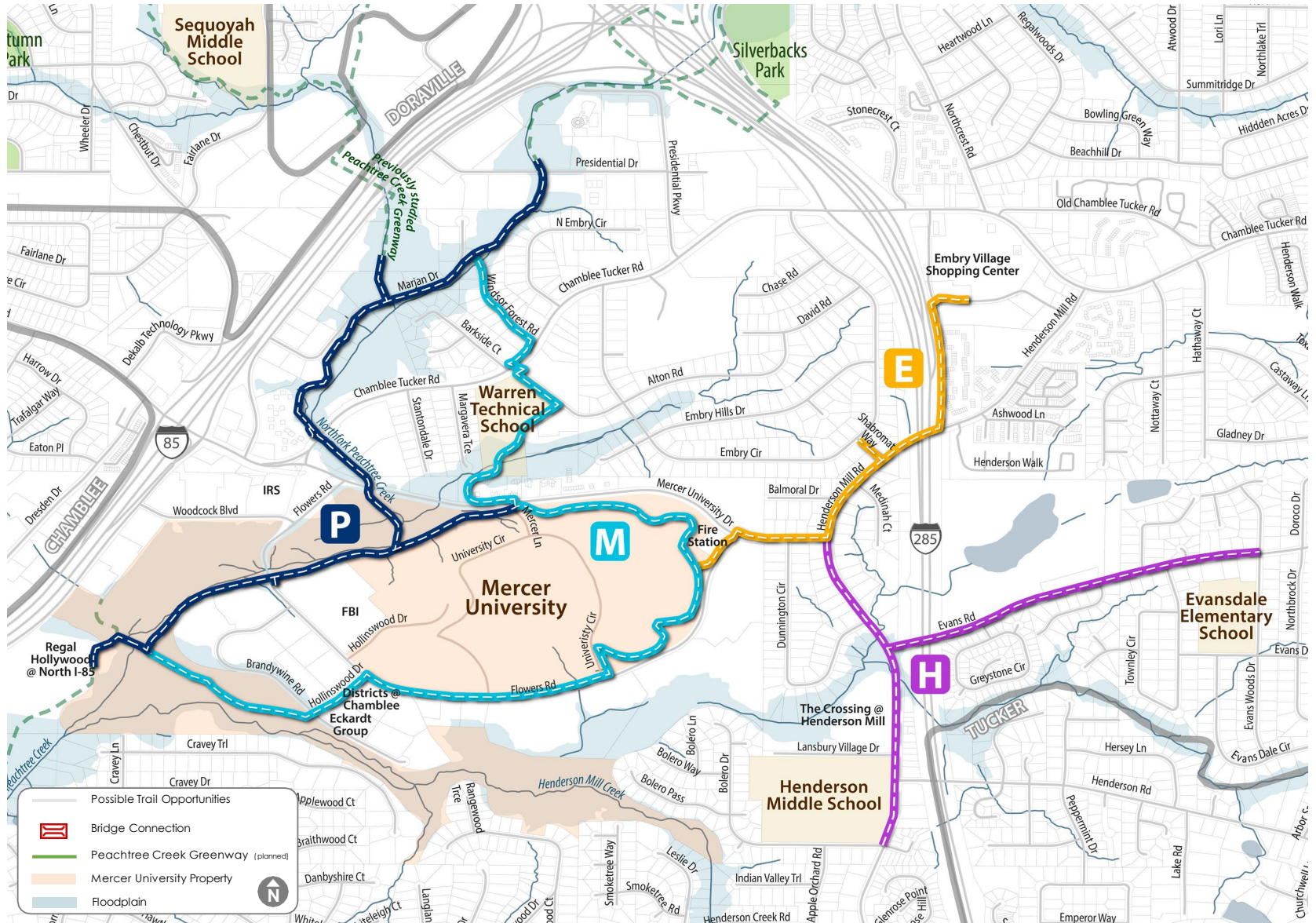
1. Exercise
2. Access to Nature
3. Walk the dog
4. Socialize
5. Getting around without driving

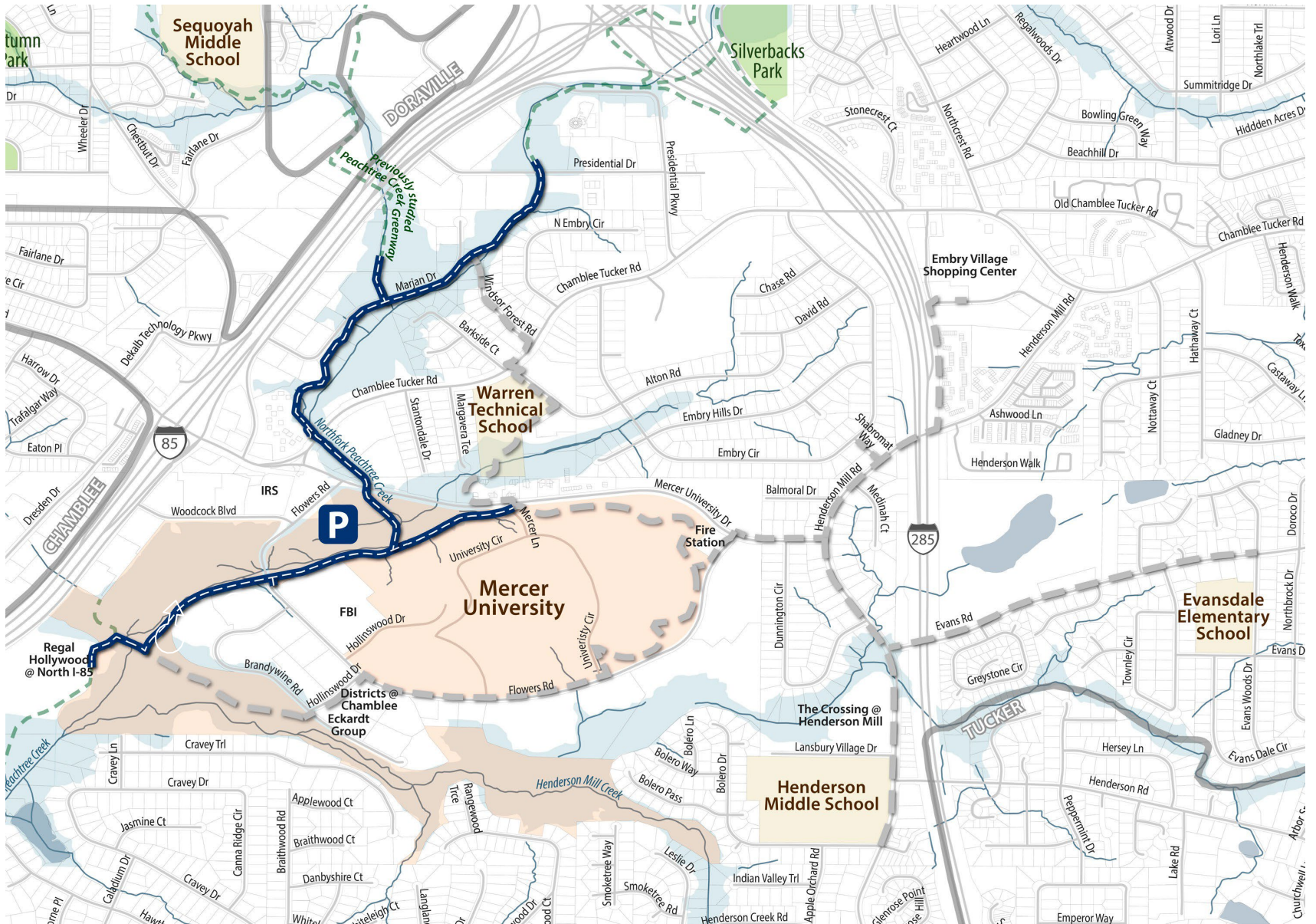
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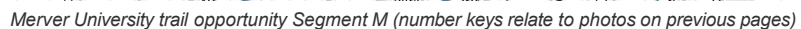
Trail Segments

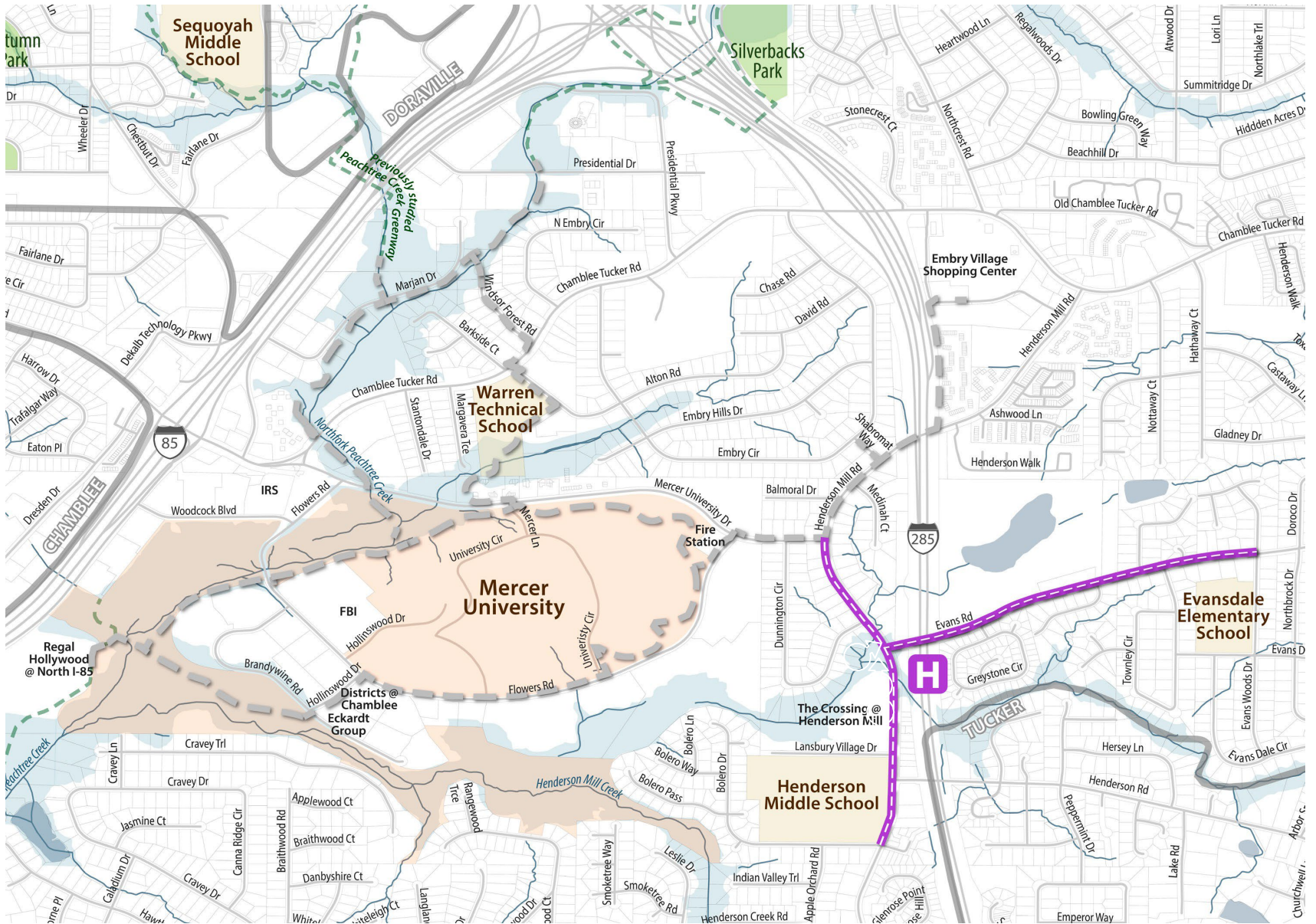
Trail Opportunity Segments



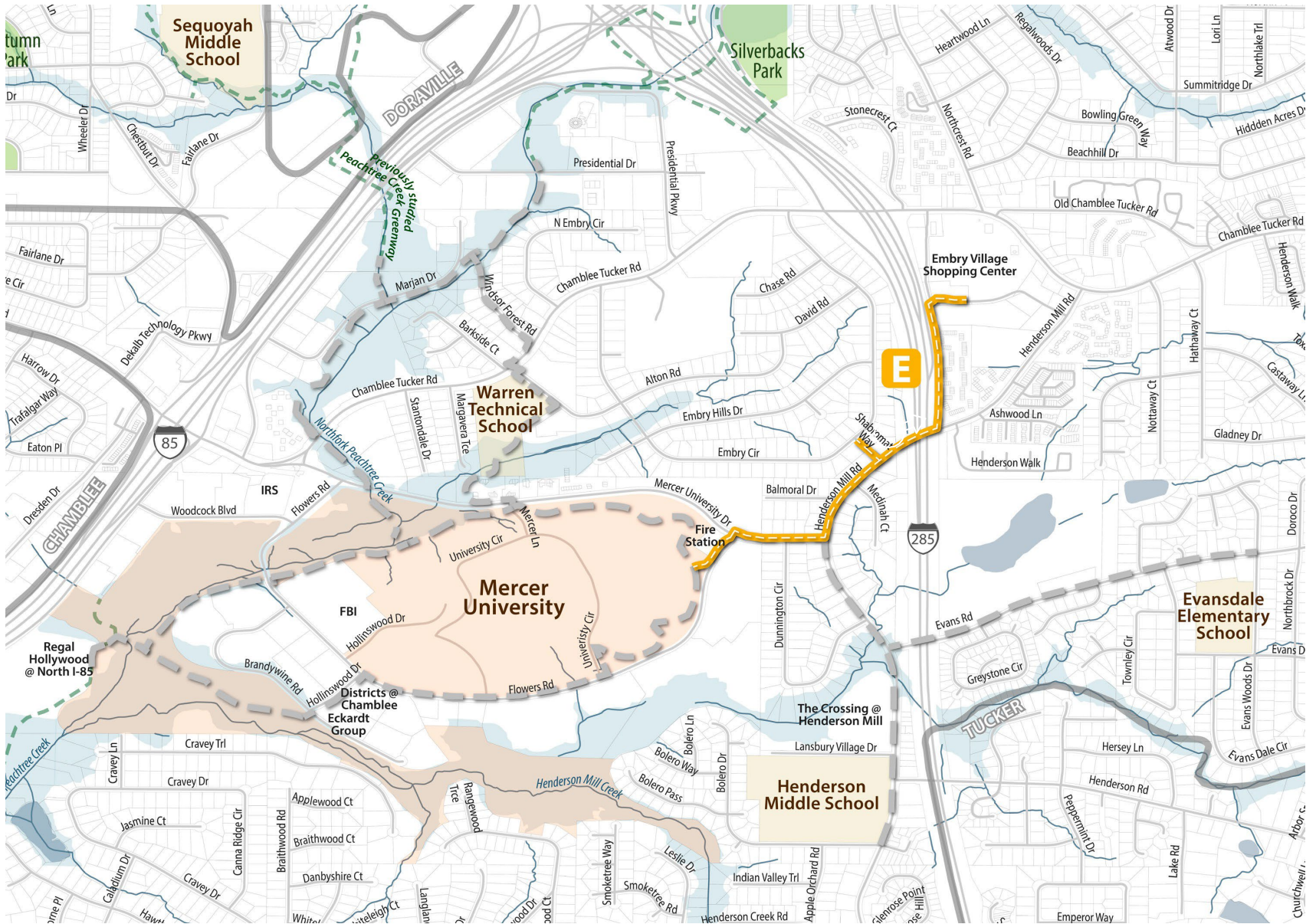


Mervr University trail opportunity Segment P (number keys relate to photos on previous page)





Merger University trail opportunity Segment H (number keys relate to photos on previous pages)



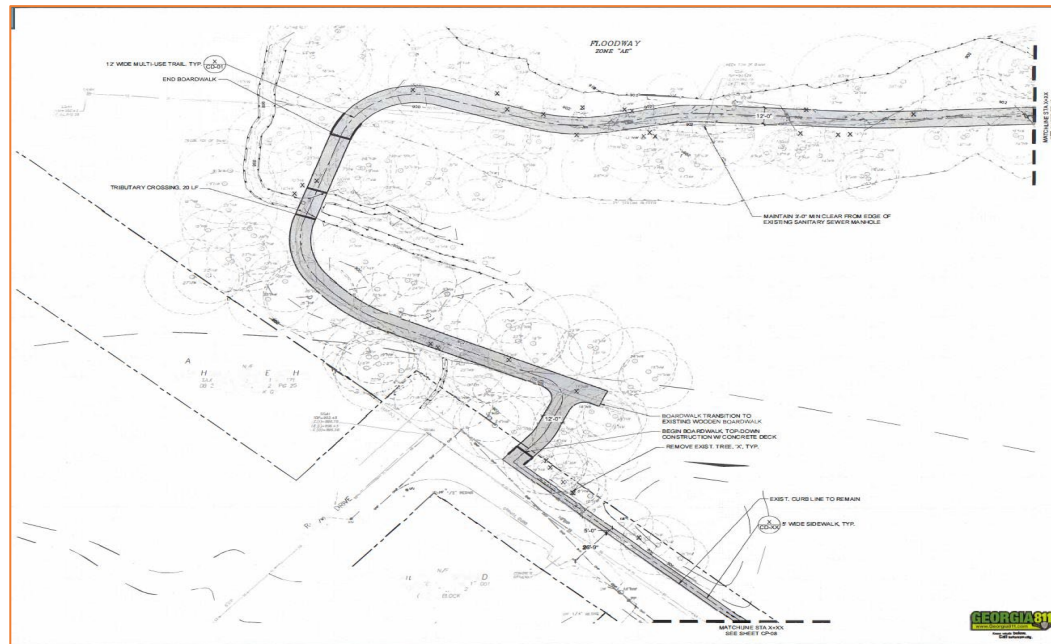
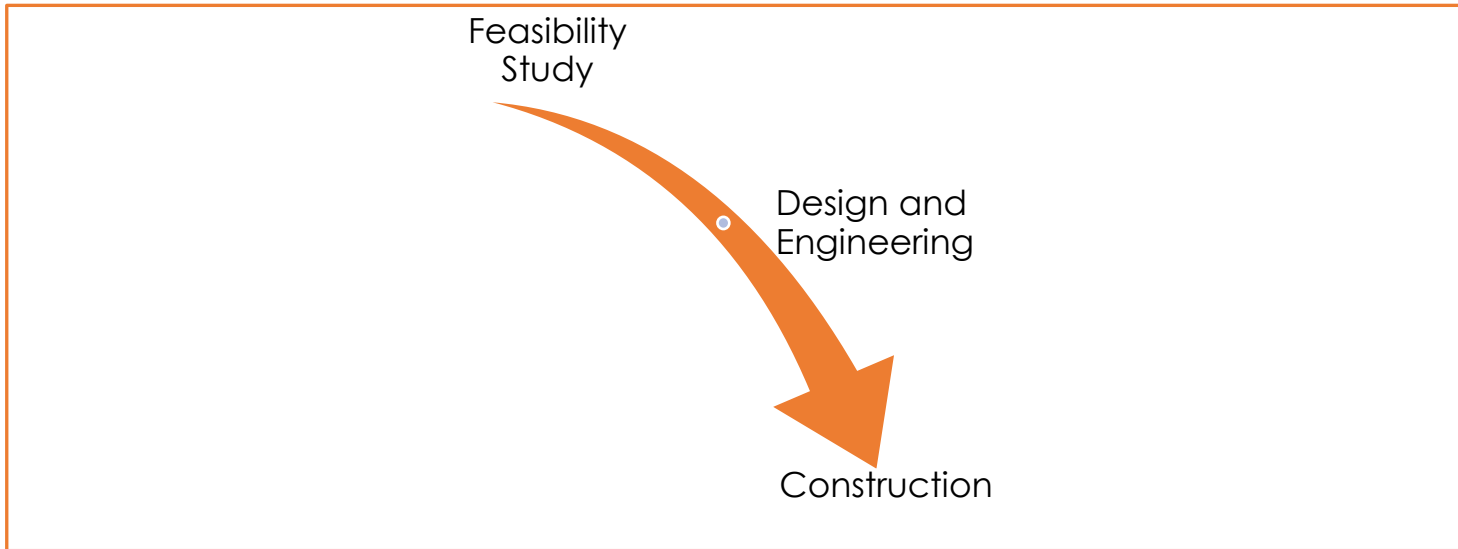
Mercer University trail opportunity Segment E (number keys relate to photos on previous page)

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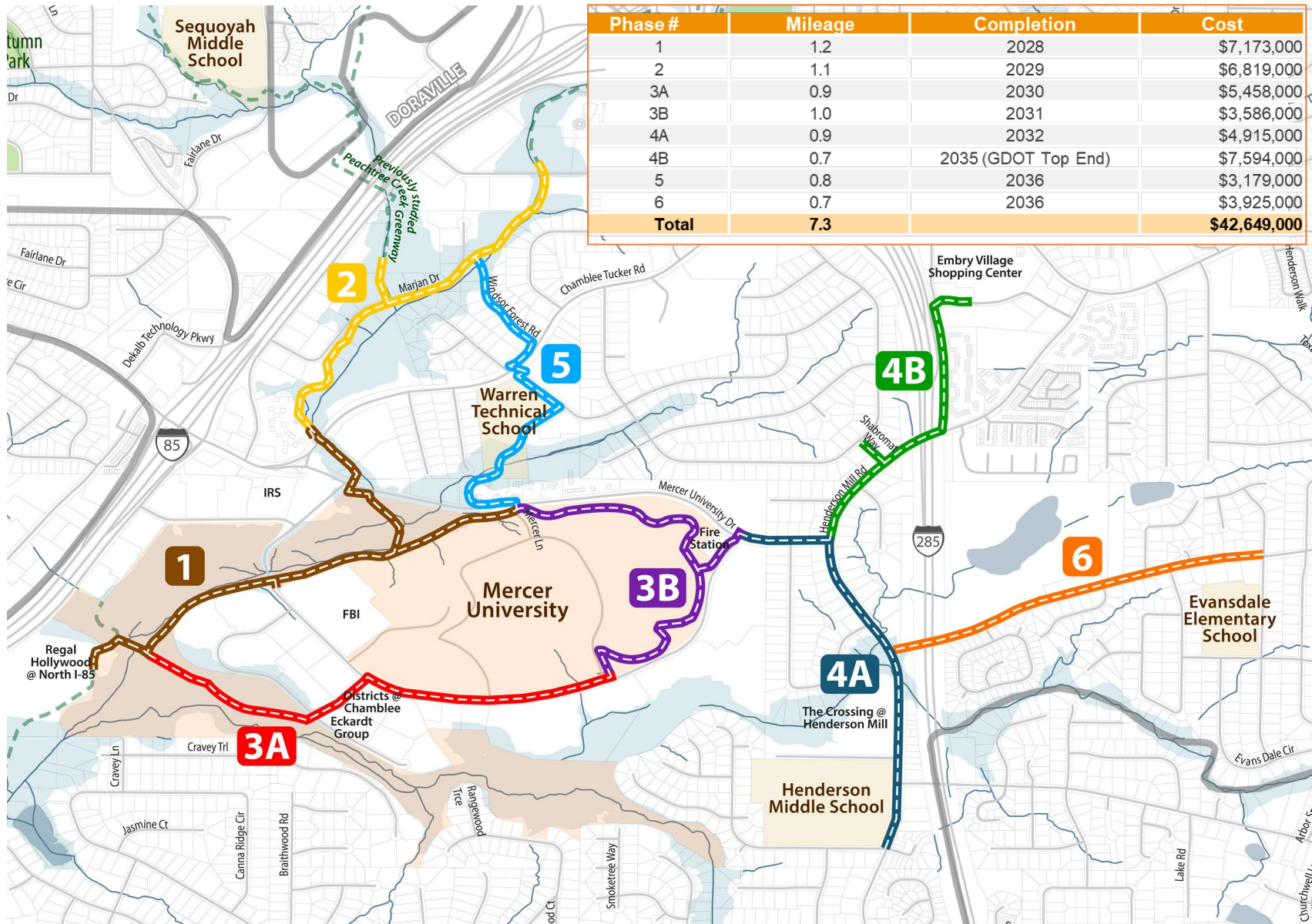


Next Steps

Phasing and Process



Recommended Construction Phasing

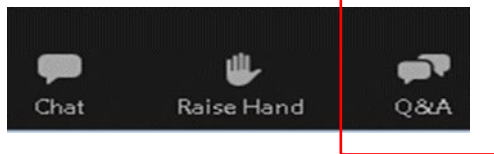


Next Steps

- Present Final Trail Study for County Adoption
- Seek funding for Design and Engineering

Q & A

Please provide additional questions in the Q&A section of the webinar. Questions will be read aloud and answered.



Thank you!

**Please send any additional feedback about the
Mercer Trail Study to**

tmatttox@dekalbcountyga.gov

Subject = Mercer Trail Study