

Washington County

Middle St Croix Valley to Phalen-Keller Regional Trail Long-Range Plan

November 5, 2026

Agenda

- Project Overview
- Engagement Approach and Preliminary Findings
- Next Steps
  - Route Alternative Evaluation



Washington County

Project Overview

Washington County

Regional Trail Long-Range Plans

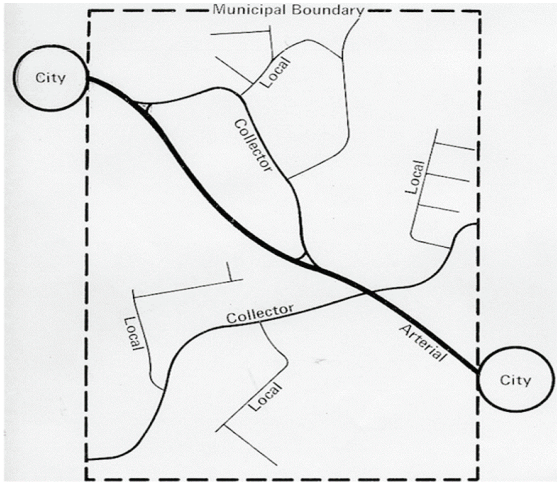
Washington County

Regional Trails

- “Tree trunks” or "highways" of system
- Standard: 10 ft wide paved trail, with 10 ft buffer
- Quality signage and amenities

Long-Range Plans

- Guidance on future alignment, development, management
- Eligibility for funding
- Engagement with partners and public







Process Values

Address requirements for regional trails in **2050 Parks Policy Plan**

Consistent with **Washington County policies, goals, and priorities**

Plan accounts for the inventory and management of **natural and cultural resources**

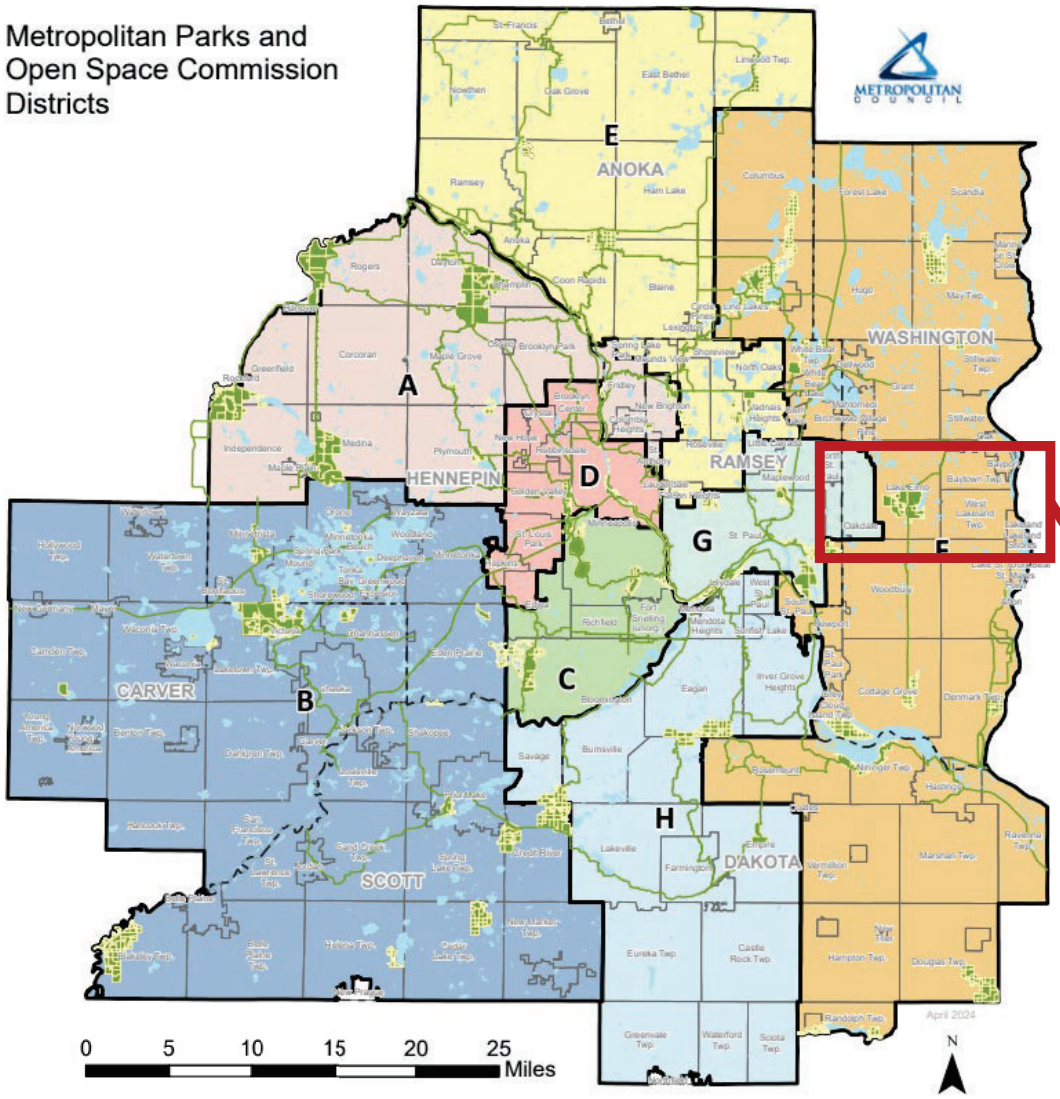
The plan is **implementable** – assessing key barriers to implementation

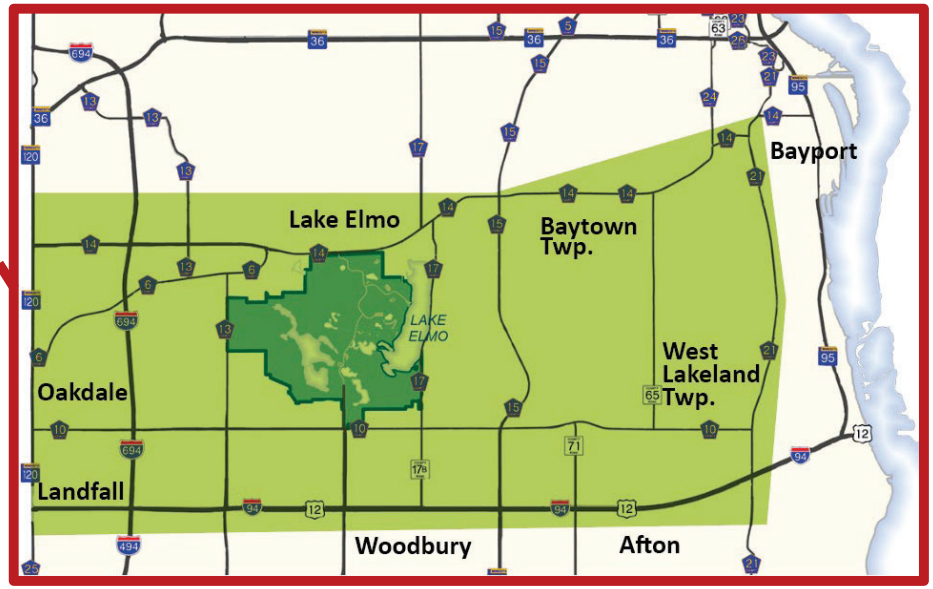
Engage broad **cross section of the public**, especially historically underrepresented populations

Develop/expand relationships with local communities, affected public agencies and community groups. Project is **supported by local partners**.

Process is fun and keeps people positively engaged!

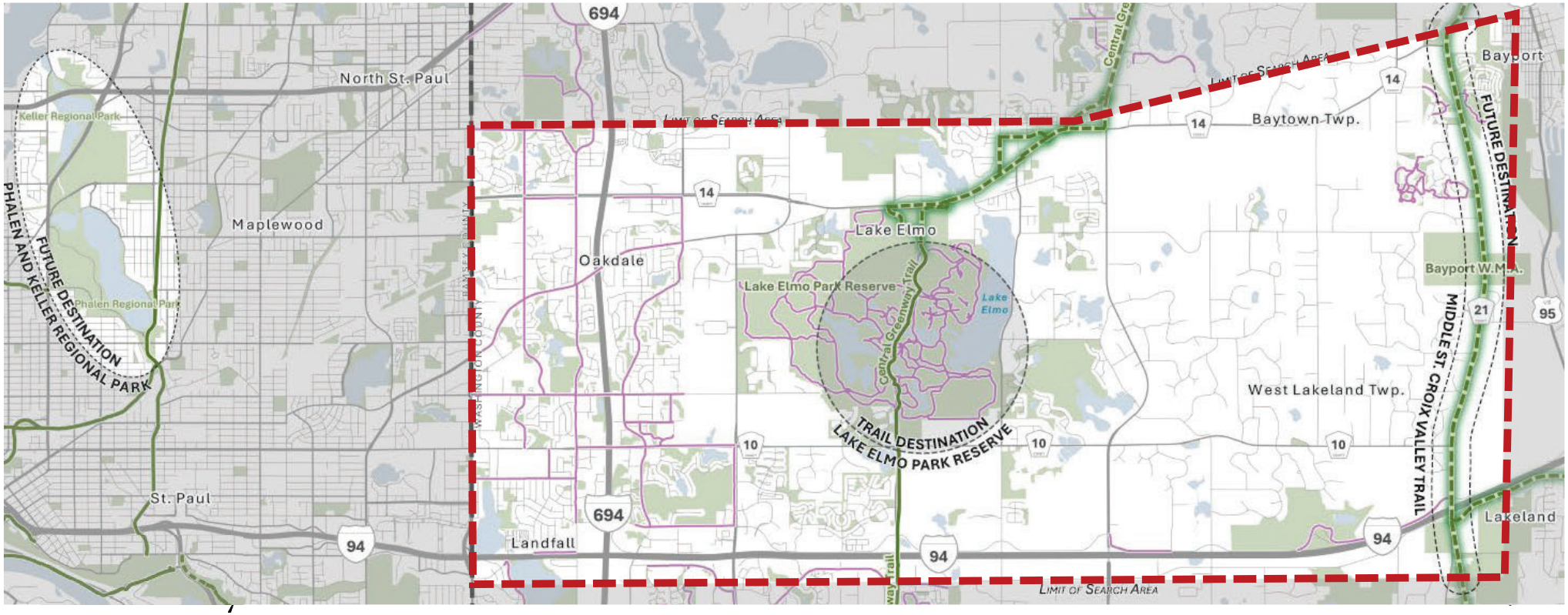
Search Area


Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Districts
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
E
ANOKA
A
HENNEPIN
D
RAMSEY
G
F
WASHINGTON
C
CARVER
B
H
DAKOTA
SCOTT
0 5 10 15 20 25 Miles
N


Bayport
Lake Elmo
Baytown Twp.
LAKE ELMO
West Lakeland Twp.
Oakdale
Landfall
Woodbury
Afton

Corridor Background

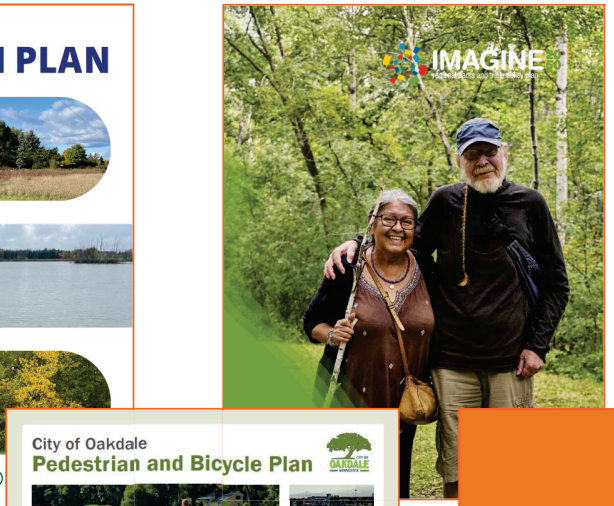
- ~13-mile East-West Arterial Trail
- Destinations: Middle St Croix Valley & Central Greenway Regional Trails, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, and Phalen-Keller Regional Parks
- Build on existing plans/studies

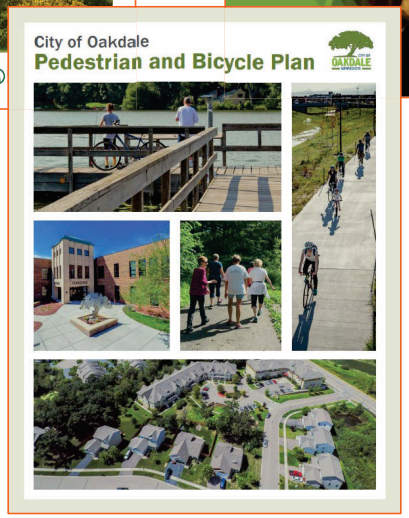


Corridor Background

- Bike and Pedestrian Plan (2021)
- 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
- City and Township Plans
- Watershed Plans
- Ramsey County



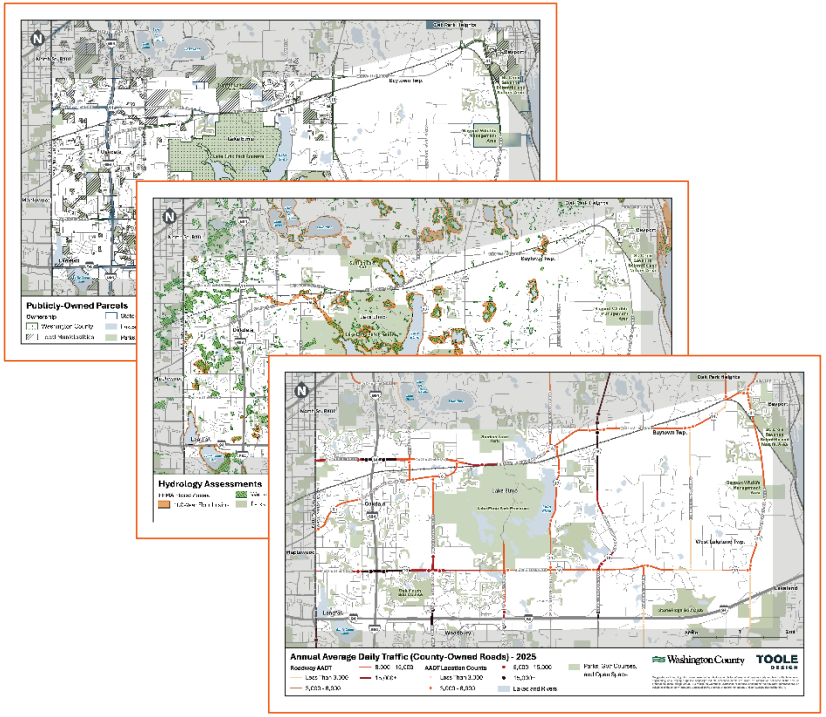




...and more!

Key Takeaways from Preliminary Analysis

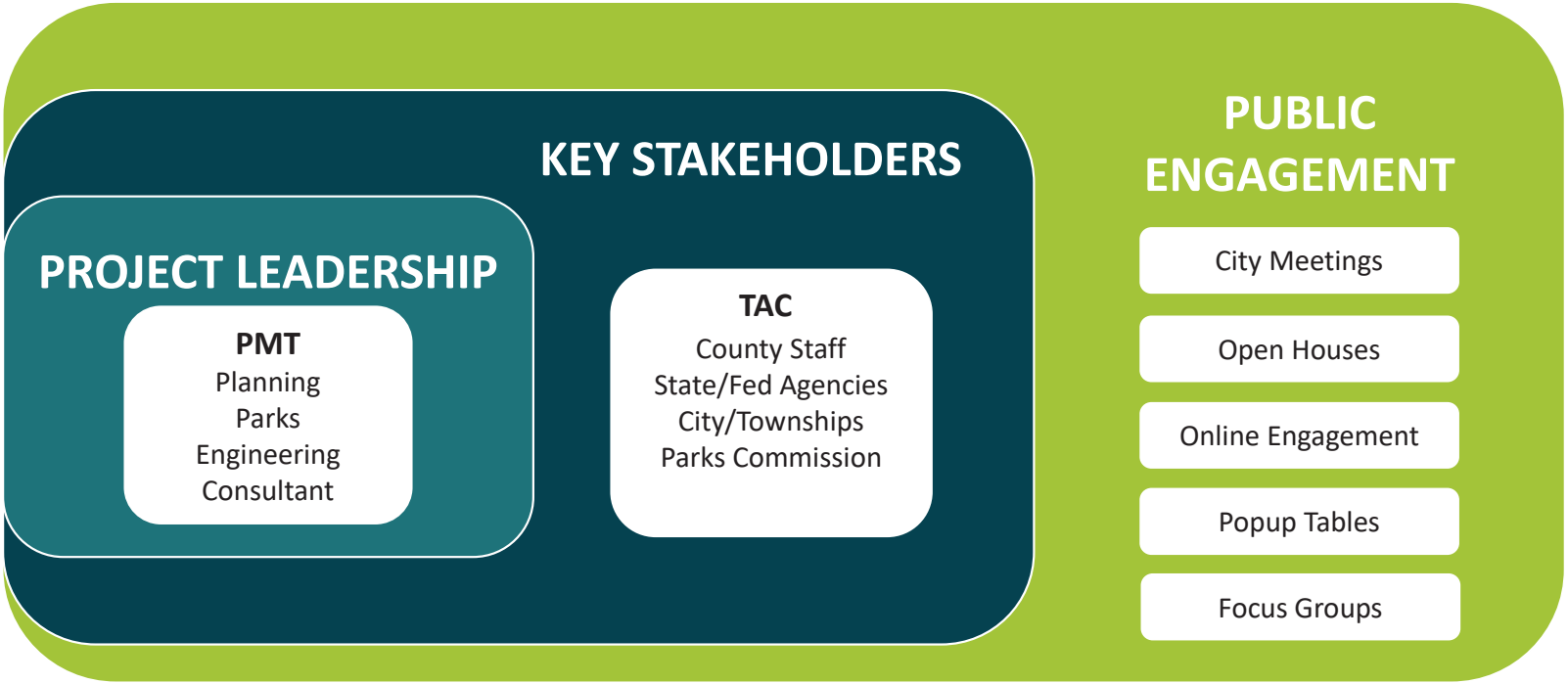
- **Parcel Ownership:** publicly-owned parcels (concentrated in the center and west) may present opportunities to supplement road ROW or offer independent alignment opportunities.
- **Vehicular Traffic Volumes:** highest volume roadways in the south and west; moderate volumes on north/south corridors.
- **Waterways, Wetlands, Floodplains:** pinch points in certain parts of the corridor.
- **Population / Demographics:** priority equity areas closer to the county line.



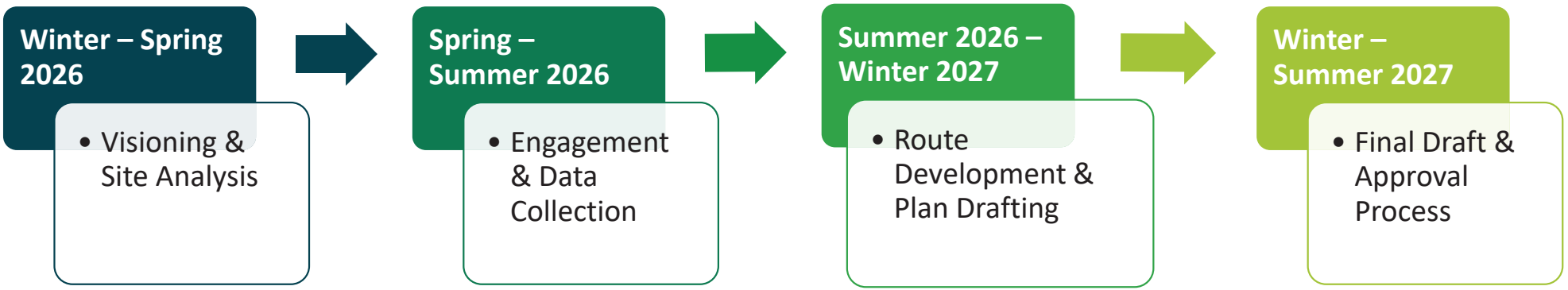
Engagement Approach and Preliminary Findings

Washington County

Engagement Structure



Long-Range Plan Timeline



Public Engagement

- Open House & Online StoryMap
- Online Survey
- Pop Up Engagement
  - Gateway Brown's Creek Trail Association
  - Washington County Fair
  - Lake Elmo Night Out
  - Cimarron Community Farm
  - Oakdale Farmers Market
  - Oakdale Touch a Truck
  - Bluegrass Festival at Lake Elmo Park Reserve
  - Bayport Farmers Market



Key Takeaways from Public Engagement

- **General enthusiasm** for building out the trail network, especially in the eastern part of the corridor
- **Parks** (Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Sunfish Lake) **& other trails as key destinations**
- Desire for **convenient access from home**
- Desire to **experience nature**, and have opportunities for rest and shade
- Concerns about **user conflicts** (e-bikes, cyclists vs walkers) and **intersection / crossing safety**



Next Steps

Washington County

Initial Route Opportunities



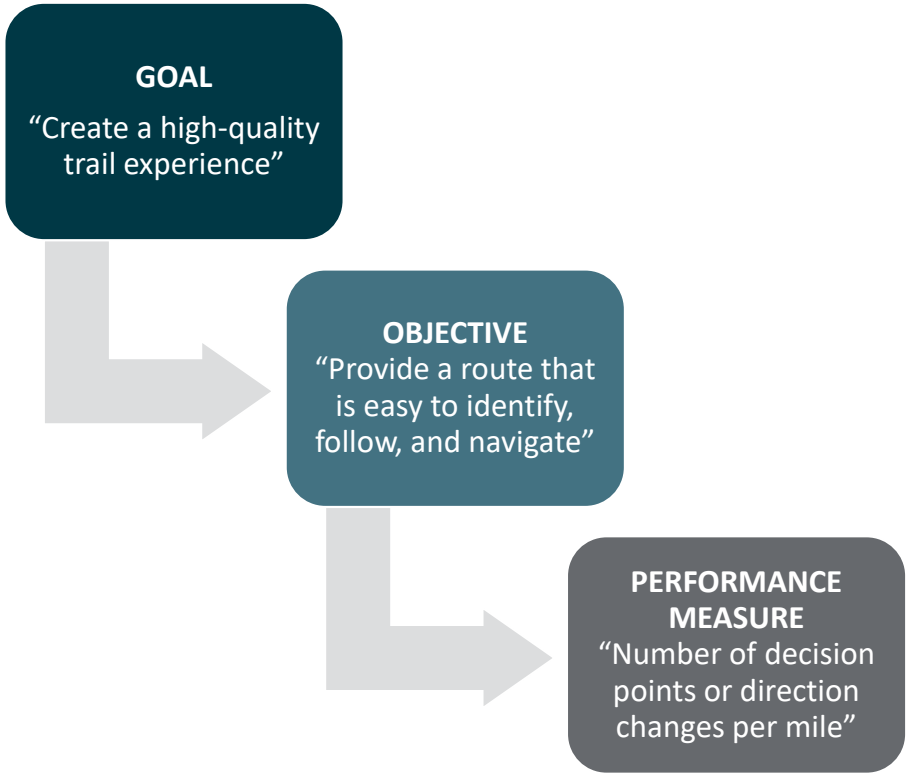
Phase 1: Segment Assessment

- "Spaghetti at the wall"
- Low hanging fruit

Phase 2: Evaluation Analysis

- Data-driven, each segment scored based on Project Goals
- Evaluation Scores
  - Used as guide—not prescriptive
  - "Boots on the ground"

Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures



Goals:

- A means to convey the long-range plan's aspirations
- Specific to this plan
- Informed by stakeholder input

Objectives

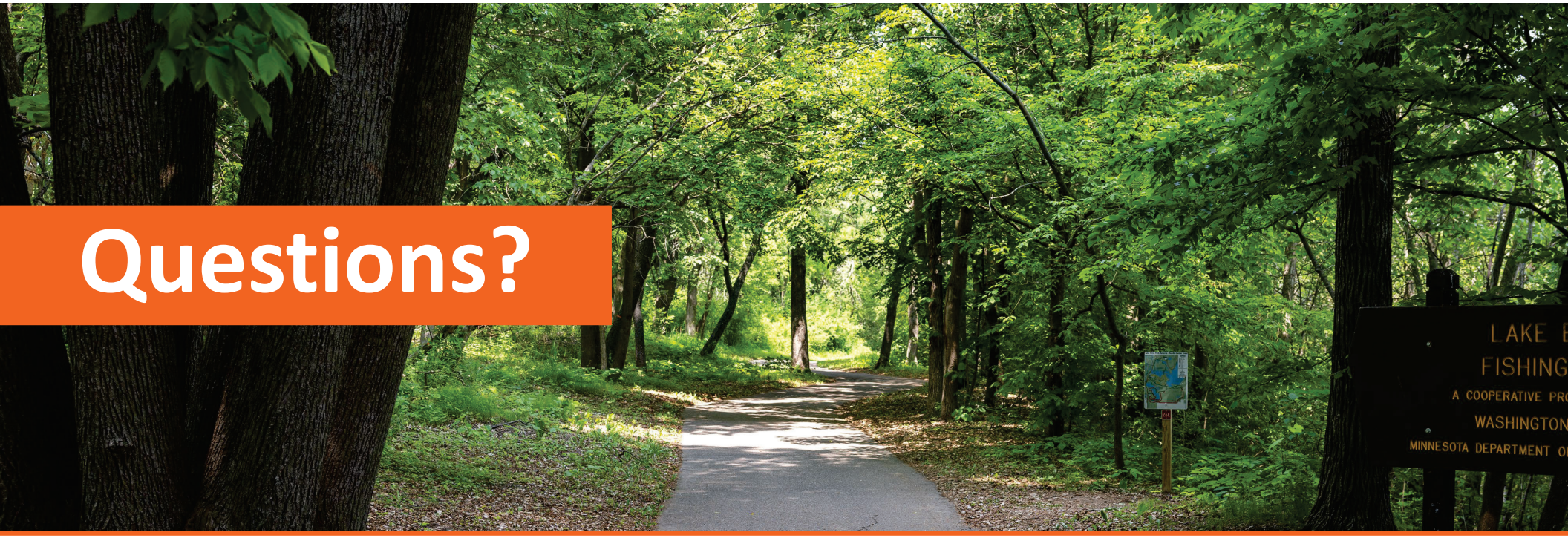
- Goal framework
- Outlines how goals can be accomplished

Performance measures:

- Used to measure the success of objectives
- Feed into a data-driven evaluation of routes

Next Steps

- Complete preliminary route evaluation
- Convene TAC and determine route recommendation
- Conduct engagement on route recommendation
- Seek agency partner support



Questions?

Andrea Rehm
Planner II
651-430-4332
andrea.rehm@washingtoncountymn.gov

Connor Schaefer
Senior Planner
651-430-4303
connor.schaefer@washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County