



STATE TRAILS OFFICE UPDATE

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Chief of Policy

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Transportation Initiatives – Investment in Trails

General Fund dollars were provided in the State Budgets approved in June 2022 for the planning, development, and construction of multi-use trails throughout the Commonwealth

The CTB to prioritize the funds for:

- **New regional trails**
- **Projects to improve connectivity of existing trail networks**
- **Provide geographic diversity in the use of such funds**

Directs the establishment of a State Trails Office

- **Develop a State Trails Plan and State Trails Information Clearinghouse consistent with the January 2022 "Report of Virginia Multi-Use Trails Initiative"**
- **State Trails Office shall coordinate with the State Trails Advisory Committee and the Department of Conservation and Recreation**

Transportation Initiatives – Investment in Trails

<i>(in millions)</i>	Previously Provided (2021 Transportation Initiative)	FY 2022 (Chapter 1)	FY 2023 (Chapter 2)	FY 2024 Chapter 2)	Total
General Fund	\$10.0	\$37.5	\$41.5	\$ -	\$89.0
Transportation Alternatives Program (Federal)			7.0	7.0	\$14.0
TOTAL					\$103.0

State Trails Office Update

Staffing

- **2 Positions Developed and Recruitment Underway**

State Trails Plan / Information Clearinghouse

- **Consultant secured**
- **Coordination with DCR & DRPT**
- **Presentation to Statewide Trails Advisory Committee (STAC) - October 27,2022**

General Assembly High Priority Trails



Summary information provided in this presentation should be considered preliminary

- **Based on current project status and available information**
- **Development or validation of scope, schedules and cost estimates currently underway using recent CTB allocation**
- **Ownership and/or maintenance responsibility may not be finalized**

Railbanking and Rails to Trails

Railbanking, established in 1983 as an amendment to Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail sponsor to use an out-of-service rail corridor.

- **Allows a railroad to divest itself of responsibility for an unneeded rail line**
- **Trail use is interim - until such time as the line is needed again for rail service**
- **Railbanked corridors has preserved thousands of miles of rail corridors that would otherwise have been abandoned**

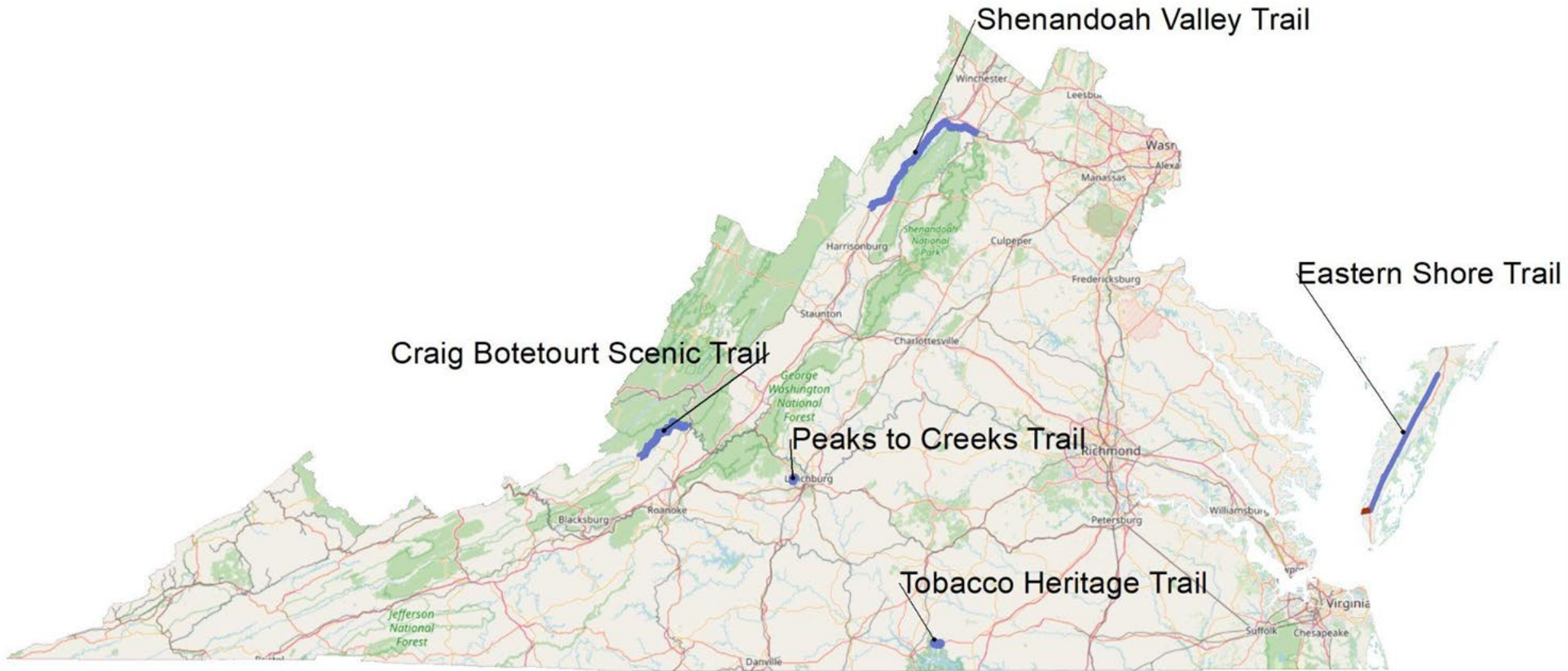
Existing Railbanked Corridors – Eastern Shore Trail & Tobacco Heritage Trail

Future Railbanking Anticipated – Shenandoah Valley Trail

Railbanking Process - General Terms

- **Rail line owner files for ‘abandonment’ with the Surface Transportation Board (STB)**
- **Interim Trails Manager files for Statement of Willingness with the STB**
- **Conduct Environmental Assessment(s)**
- **Negotiate terms and execute agreement within 1 year**

General Assembly High Priority Trails - Locations



Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail (Rail to Trail)

VDOT District: Salem

Localities: Botetourt County, Craig County

Length: 26.4 miles

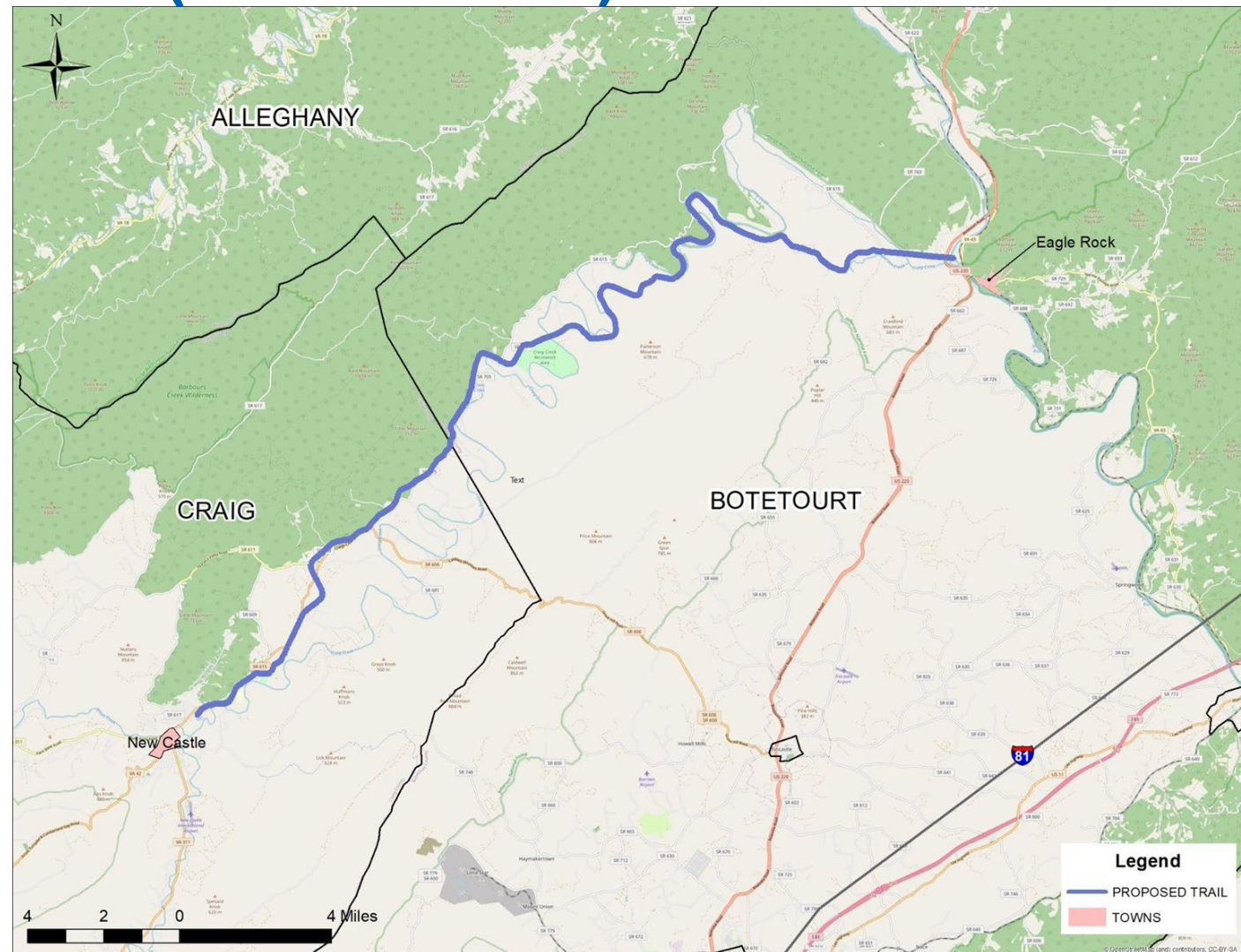
Surface Type: Aggregate

Ownership: TBD (VDOT - Currently)

Maintenance: TBD

Railbanked: N/A

Cost Estimate: TBD



Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail

Background & Updates

- **Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail Assessment completed in November 2022**
- **Botetourt and Craig Counties have each formed stakeholder groups to help guide trail development**

Next Steps:

- **Upcoming meeting to determine scope of trail**
- **Confirm project cost estimate**

Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail

VDOT District: Staunton

Localities: Rockingham, Shenandoah, Warren Counties

Length: 48.5 miles

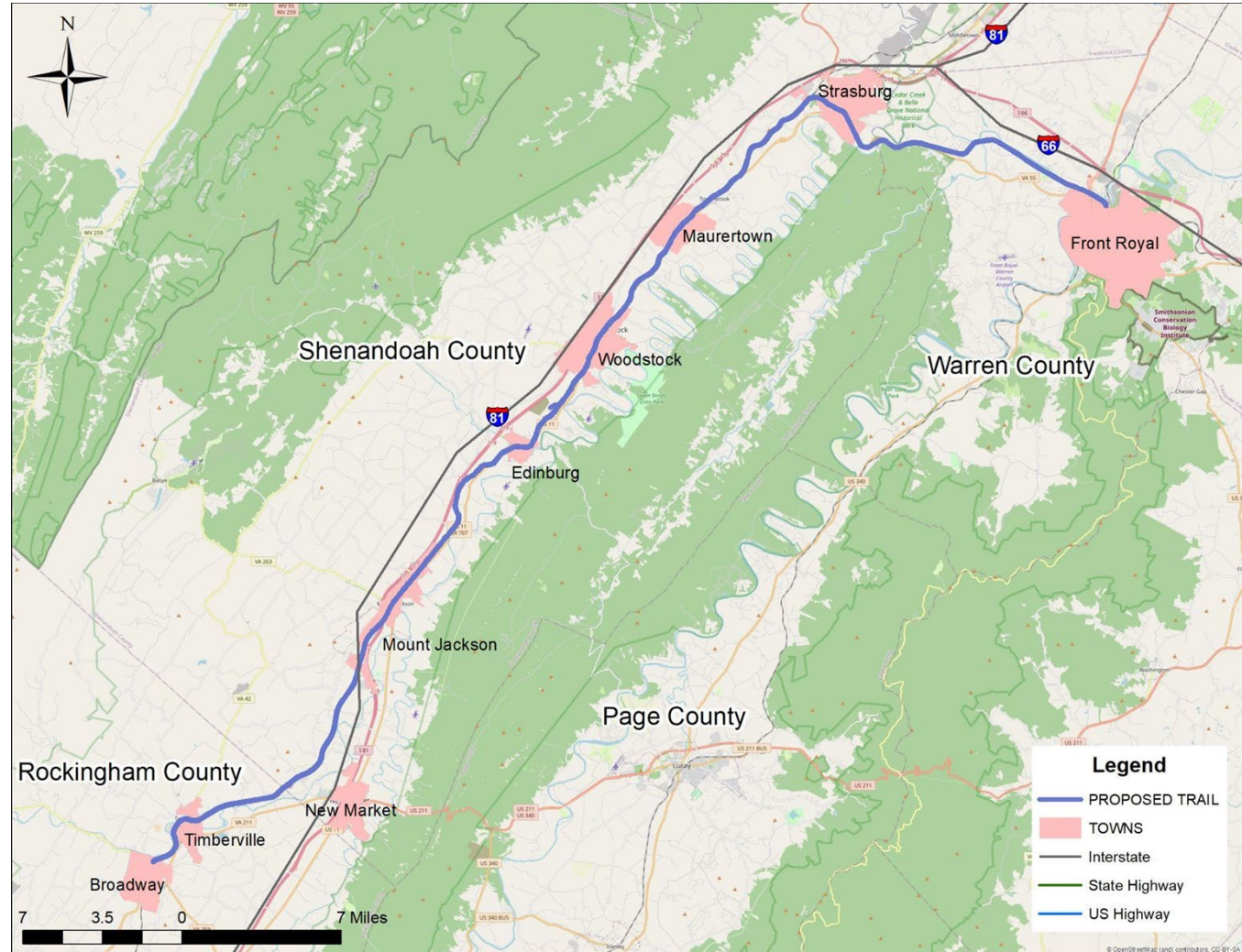
Surface Type: Paved

Ownership: TBD (Norfolk Southern - Currently)

Maintenance: TBD

Railbanked: Potential

Cost Estimate: \$100 – 120M



Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail

Background & Updates

- **Feasibility Study completed in November 2021**
- **3rd Party discussions occurring with Norfolk Southern pertaining to existing property**
- **FY23 community funded project Congressional Earmark pending - \$3M (for preliminary engineering)**

Next Steps:

Formal Proceedings for Railbanking

- **Norfolk Southern to file for rail abandonment**
- **Qualified interim trail manager to enter negotiations**

Peaks to Creeks Trail

VDOT District: **Lynchburg**

Localities: **City of Lynchburg**

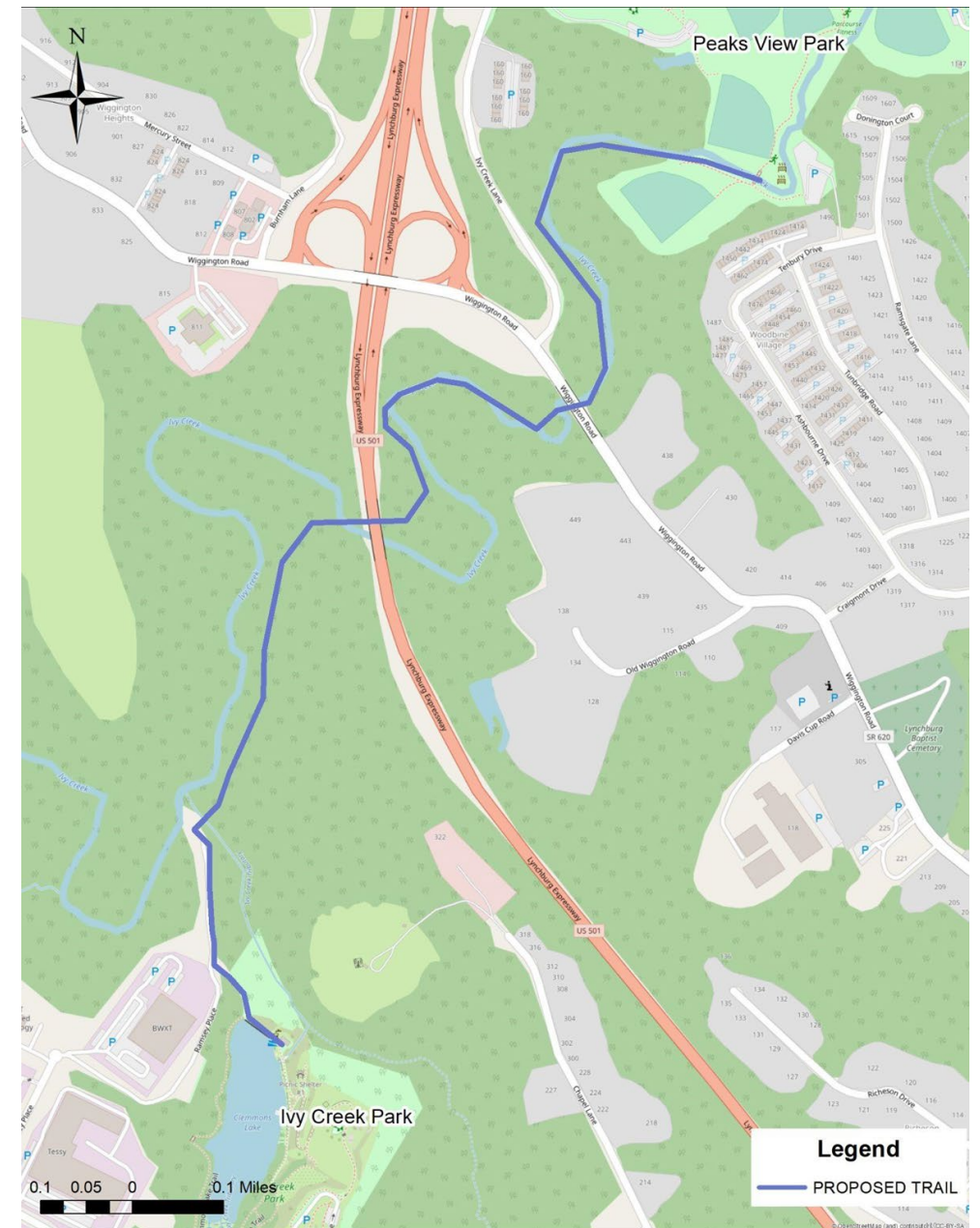
Length: **2.2 miles**

Surface Type: **Paved**

Ownership: **City of Lynchburg**

Maintenance: **City of Lynchburg**

Cost Estimate: **TBD**



Peaks to Creeks Trail

Background & Updates

- **Feasibility Study completed in 2019 by City of Lynchburg**

Next Steps:

- **Begin Preliminary Engineering**

Tobacco Heritage Trail

VDOT District: Richmond

Localities: Mecklenburg County

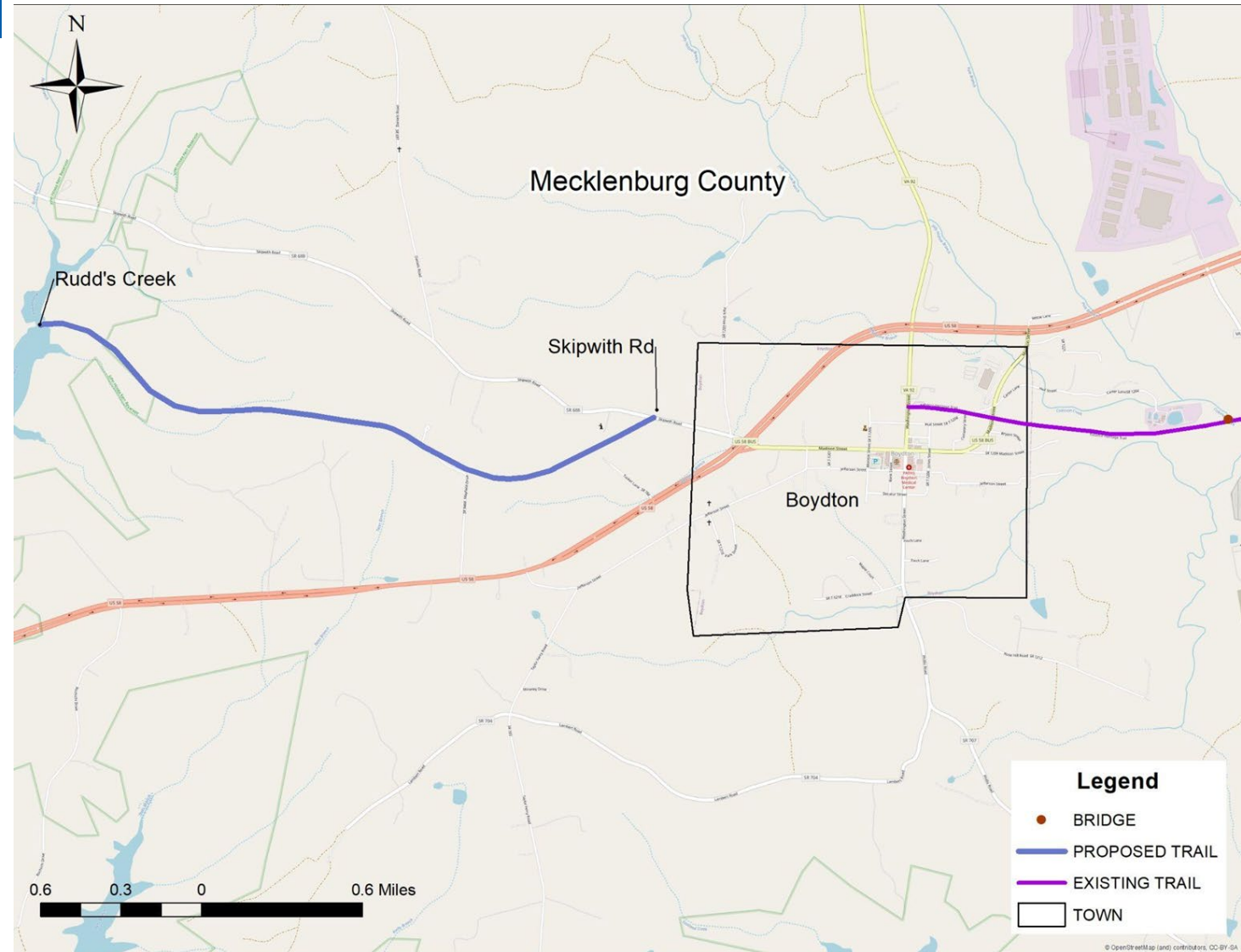
Length: 2.0 miles

Surface Type: Aggregate

Ownership: Roanoke River Rails to Trail, Inc.

Maintenance: Roanoke River Rails to Trail, Inc.

Cost Estimate: TBD



Tobacco Heritage Trail

Background & Updates

- **Tobacco Heritage Trail Master Plan is currently being updated; anticipated completion in early 2023**
- **Initial stakeholder coordination through Southside Planning District Commission (PDC)**

Next Steps:

- **Begin Preliminary Engineering**
- **Address Connectivity**

Eastern Shore Rail Trail

VDOT District: Hampton Roads

Localities: Accomack County, Northampton County;
includes 12 incorporated towns

Length: 46.3 (49.1 miles with Cape Charles section)

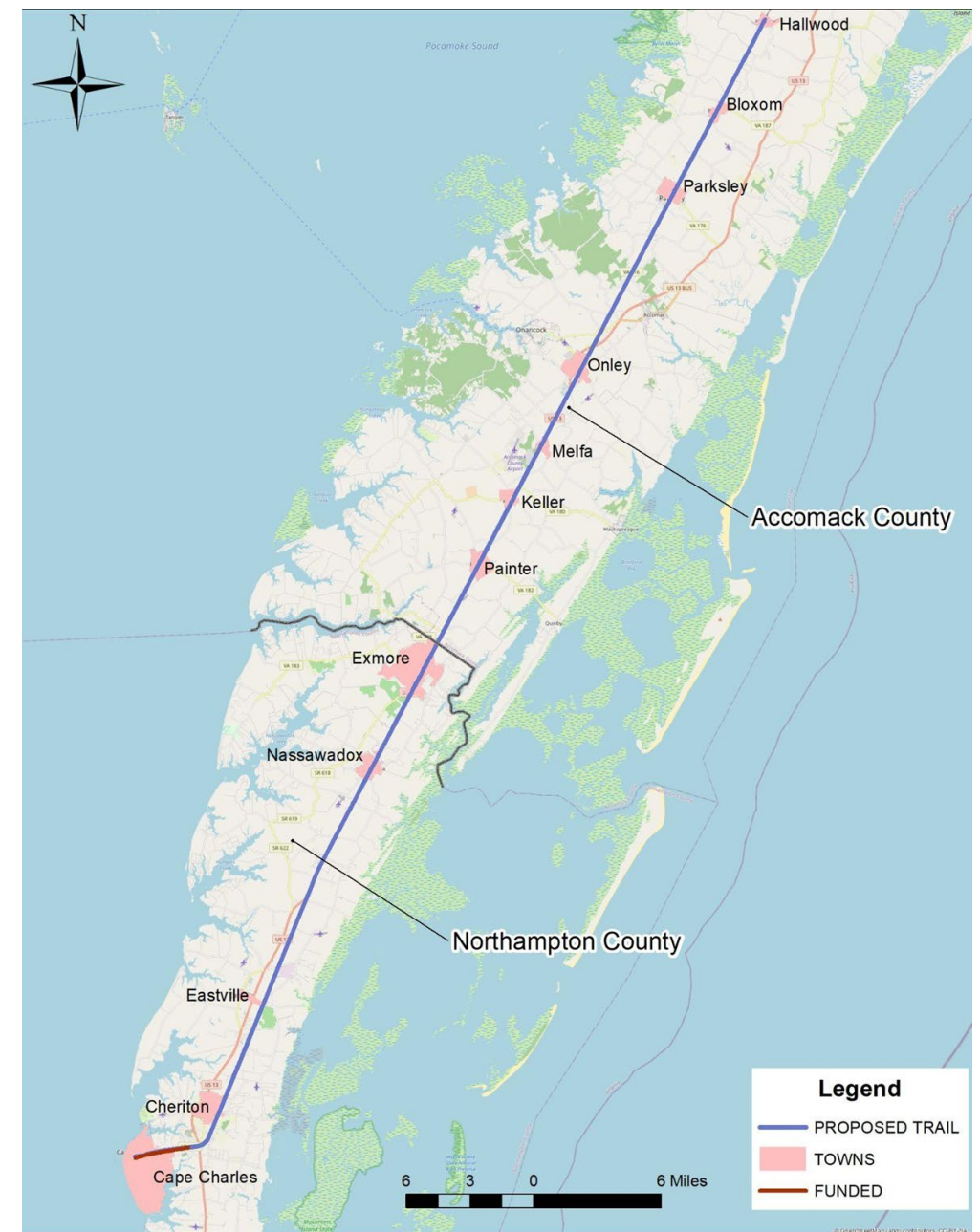
Surface Type: Paved and Aggregate

Ownership: Canonie Atlantic Company

Maintenance: Eastern Shore Rail Trail Foundation

Railbanked: Yes (Eastern Shore Rail Trail Foundation)

Cost Estimate: \$32 - \$40M



Eastern Shore Rail Trail

Background & Updates

- **Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Feasibility Study completed in December 2020**
- **Railbanked in 2020**
- **Accomack Northampton Planning District Commission submitted 4 separate SMART SCALE round 5 applications**
- **FY22 \$2.5 Congressional earmark for construction of a ‘shared use path’ from the Cape Charles park & ride lot (Route 13) to Cape Charles**

Next Steps:

- **Begin Preliminary Engineering**

Next Steps

- **Stakeholder and Public Outreach on State Trails Plan**

Priority Trails:

- **Continue development or validation of scope, schedules, and cost estimates**
- **As applicable, determine Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Review Requirements to inform trail planning**