

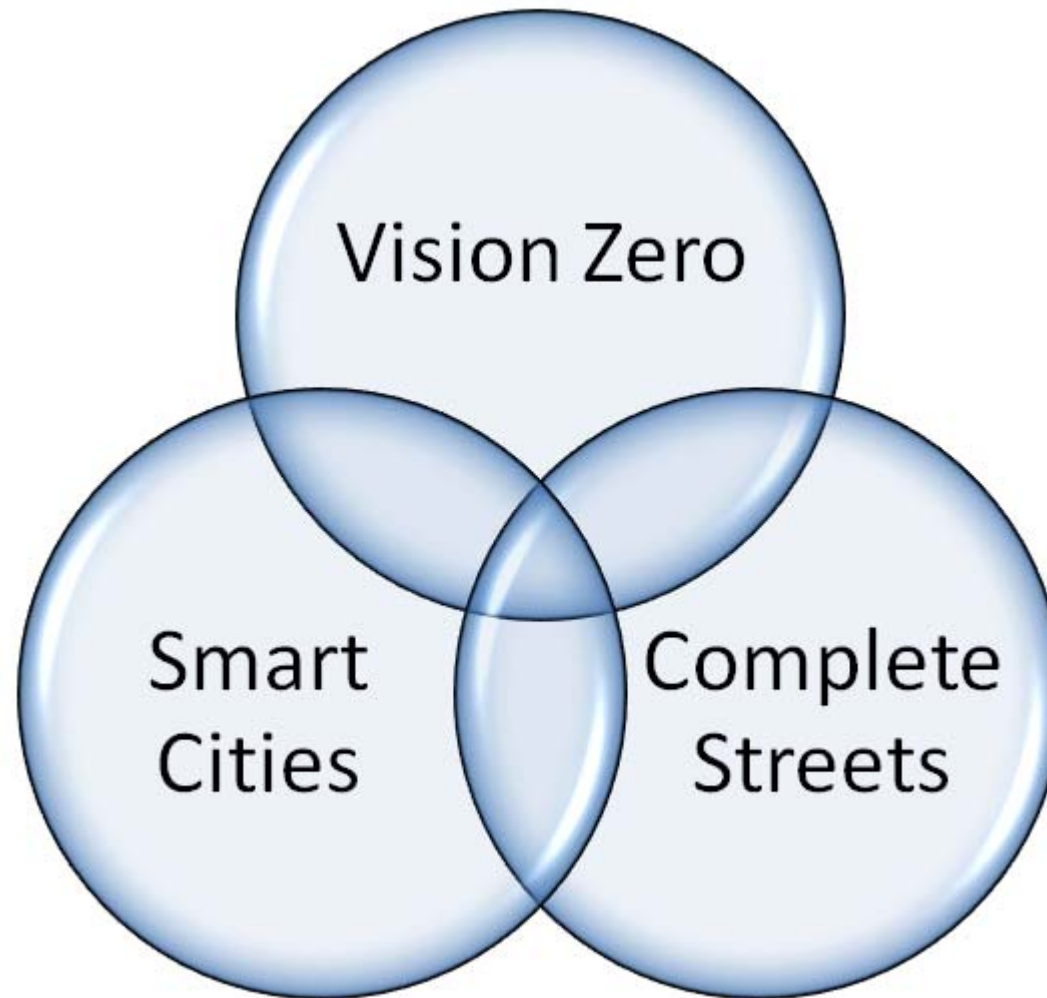


# Forest Hill Terrace Neighborhood Transportation Study

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting  
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church  
September 17, 2019



# City's Transportation Emphasis



# Meeting Agenda

- Study Context
- Vehicle Impacts
- Pedestrian Analysis
- South of the James Farmer's Market
- Questions





# Study Context: Background





# Study Extents

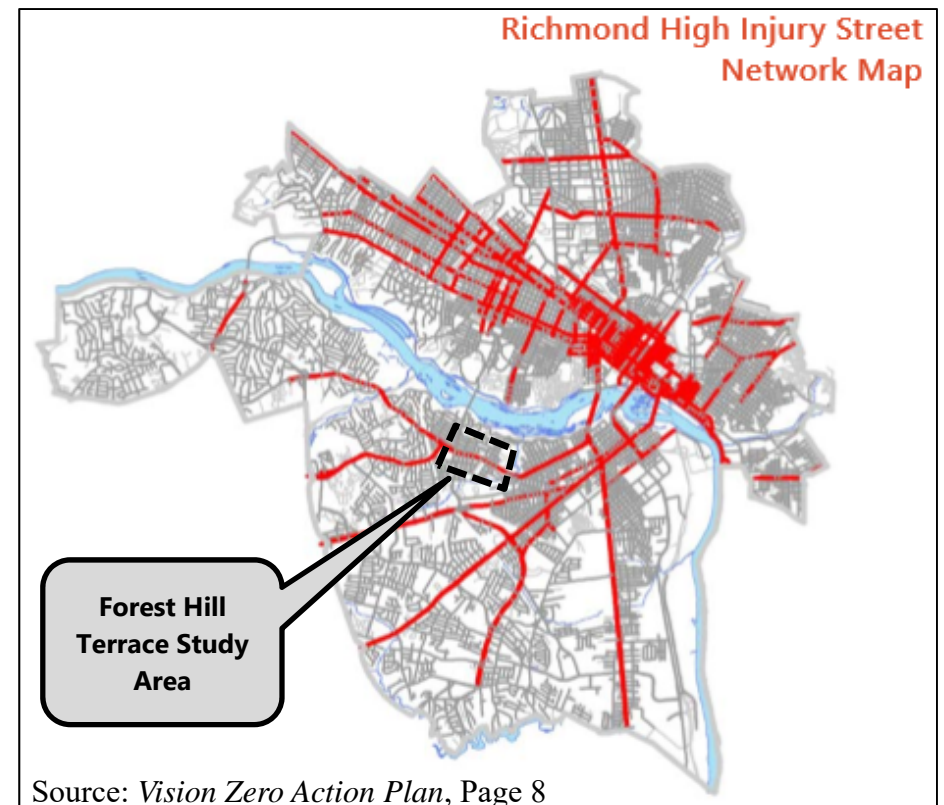




# Forest Hill Avenue (FHA)

## High Injury Street Network

- 1,000 KA (Fatality/Ambulatory) crashes City-wide 2015-2018
- One KA crash within study area
  - November 2018. Forest Hill Avenue at W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street



# Community Engagement

## Community Walkabout on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- Attendees:
  - Councilwoman Larson
  - Department of Public Works (DPW)
  - City of Richmond Police Department
  - Forest Hill Neighborhood Association
  - Bike Walk RVA
  - VHB
- Event Takeaways
  - Are drivers appropriately yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks?
  - Is traffic utilizing neighborhood residential streets as cut-through?
  - What can be done to improve pedestrian connectivity?





# Vehicle Impacts

“Speed is recognized and prioritized as the fundamental factor in crash severity.”

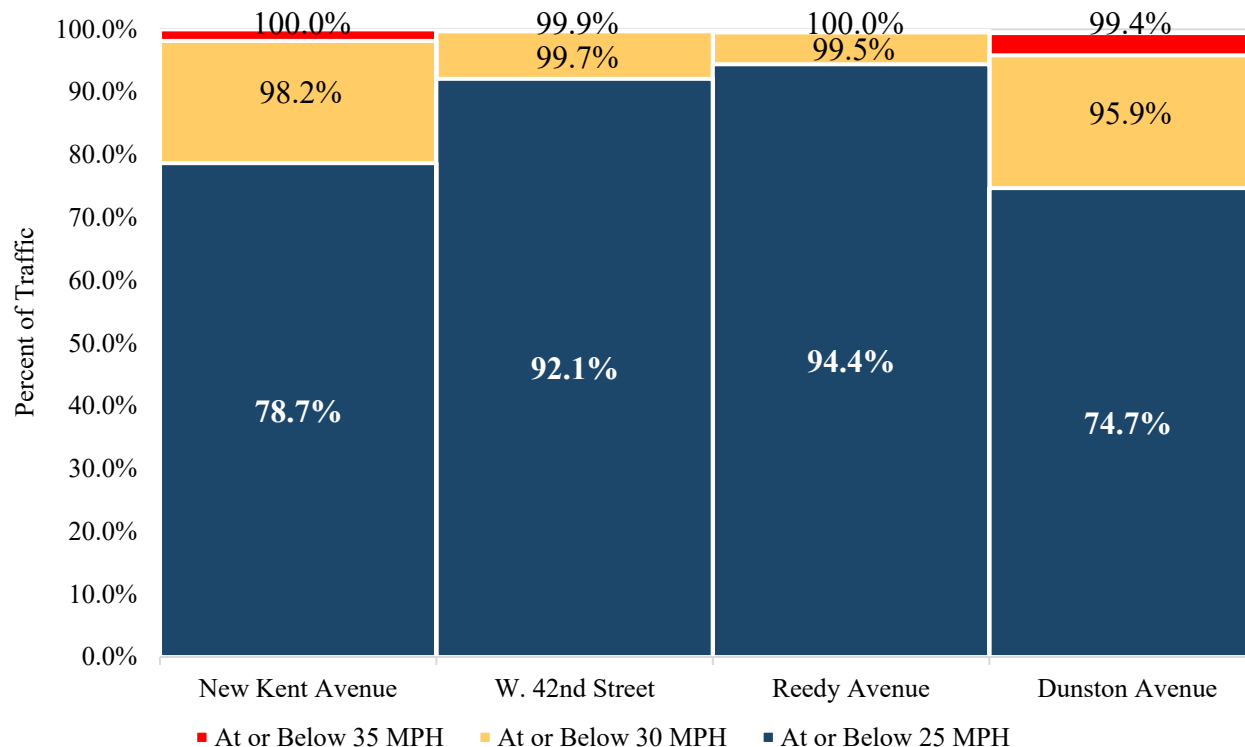
- One of the five fundamental principles of Richmond’s Vision Zero Action Plan





# Speed Data

- Richmond PD: 95% of FHA traffic going 42 MPH or less\*
- VHB collected speed data for other corridors in March
  - 95+% of traffic going less than 5 MPH over speed limit



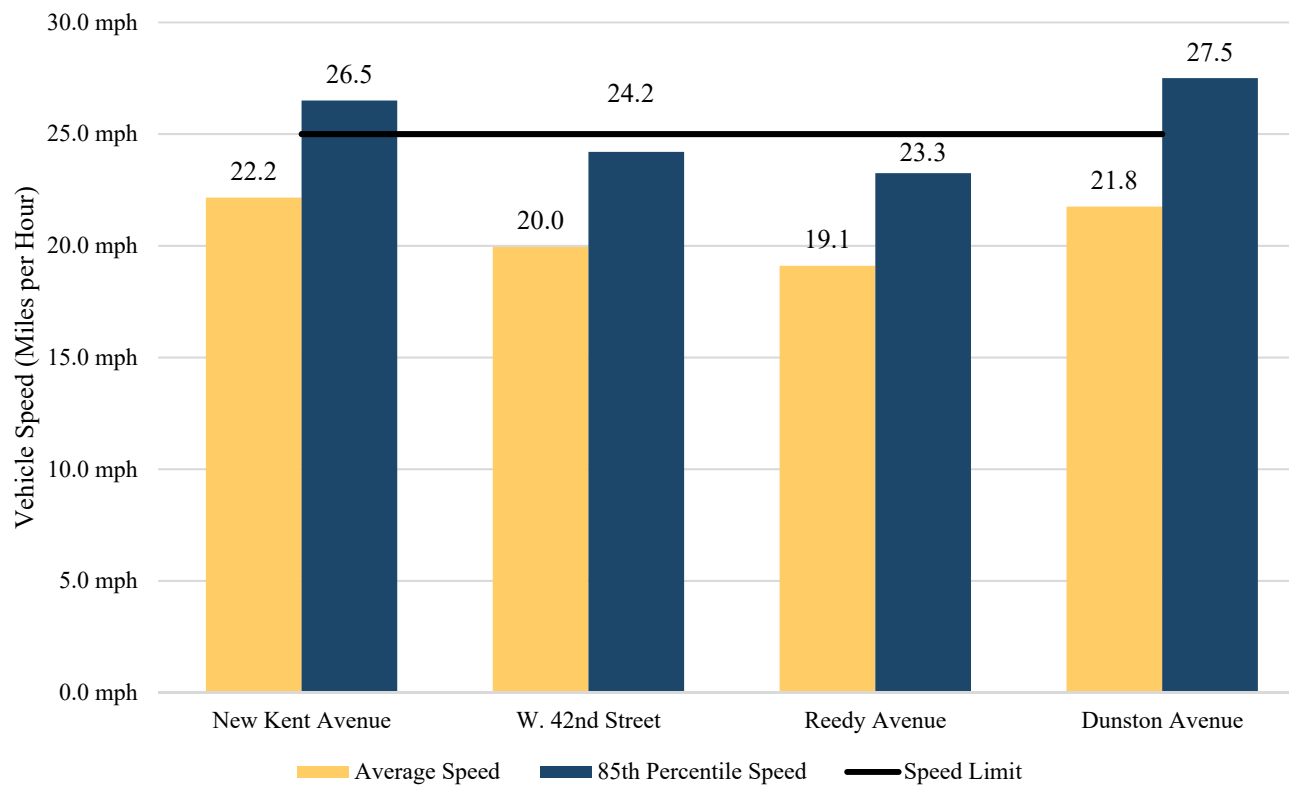
Speed limit of all four of these corridors is 25 MPH.

\* At time of Richmond PD speed study, speed limit on FHA was still 35 MPH.



# Speed Data Continued

- Average speed below the speed limit on all four corridors
- 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile speed +/- 2.5 MPH of the speed limit





# Speed Recommendations



## Media Advisory

Department of Public Works

Providing a clean, safe and healthy environment

Richmond, Virginia

The Honorable Mayor Levar M. Stoney

For Immediate Release  
March 25, 2019

Media Contact: Sharon North  
o: 804.646-5607  
c: 804.263-4325

### Speed Limit Reductions and Additional Transportation Safety Measures being Implemented in Targeted Areas

**RICHMOND, Va.** – Motorists who drive regularly around Richmond will need to take note of some changes in speed limits in some areas. In accordance with Mayor Levar M. Stoney’s Safe and Healthy Streets Challenge and the Vision Zero initiative, the Department of Public Works, Richmond Police Department and VCU Police are teaming up to promote the Mayor’s message as safety projects are underway.



### Changing Our Safety Culture: Develop Education and Awareness of a Safe Transportation System

Beyond designing a safe system, Richmond has an opportunity to advance transportation safety by promoting a culture of safety. Engaging partners in an ongoing discussion of Vision Zero and traffic safety will help with the implementation of actions and to inform the public on progress. The following actions establish initial activities in Fiscal Year 2019 that will lay the foundation for Vision Zero brand awareness for the years ahead.

Source: *Vision Zero Action Plan*, Page 23

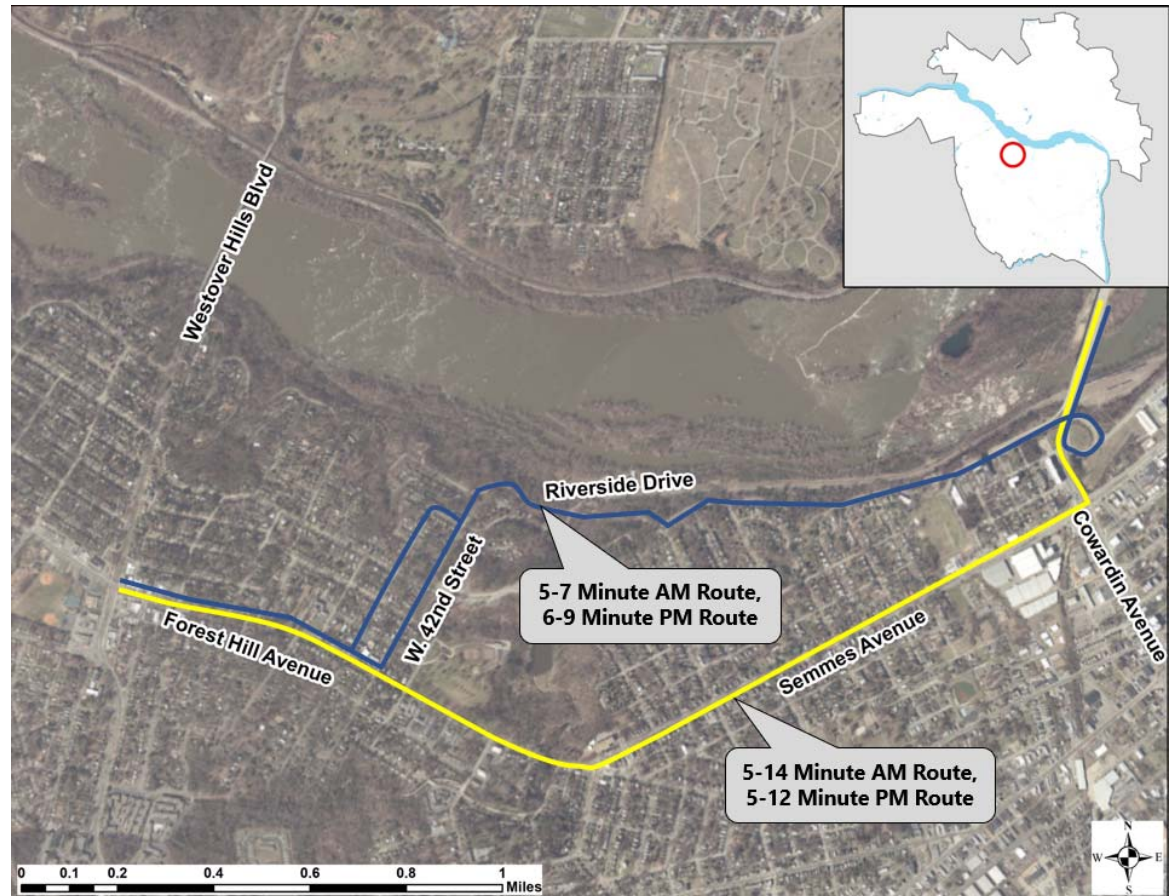
- City of Richmond lowered FHA speed limit from 35 to 30 MPH
- Data indicates that speeding is not a consistent concern on other corridors
- Vision Zero: Education



# Cut-Through Traffic

VHB computed an anticipated vehicle trip number for study corridors

- Based on Institute of Transportation Engineer's data
- Compared to actual corridor traffic counts
- Only discrepancy is W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Travel time reliability





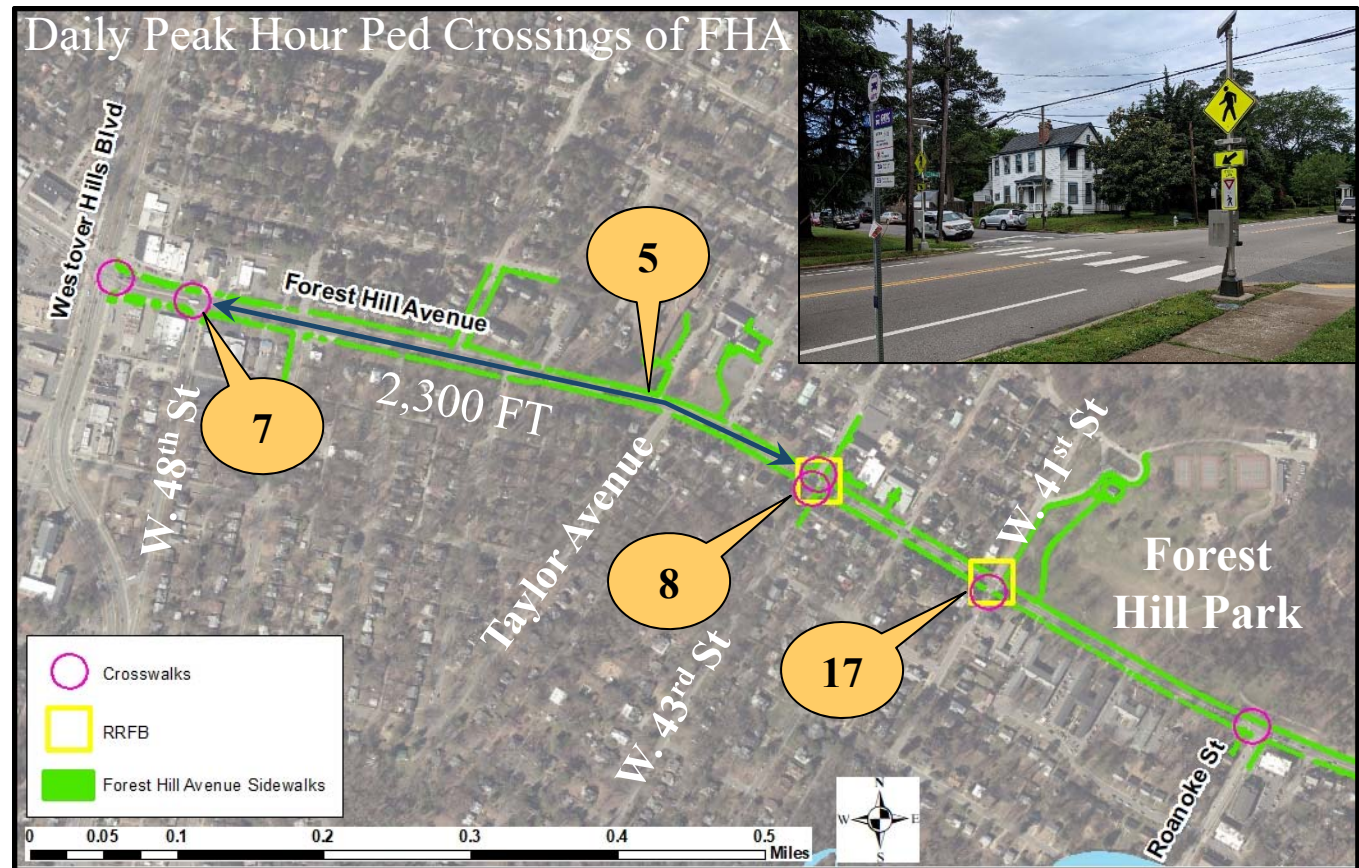
# Cut-Through Traffic Recommendations

- Non-recurrent cut-through likely occurs
- Recurrent cut-through only occurring on W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St.
- Riverside Drive traffic calming / corridor envisioning
  - Parkway Typology
  - Make “less attractive” as alternate cut-through route



# Pedestrian Analysis

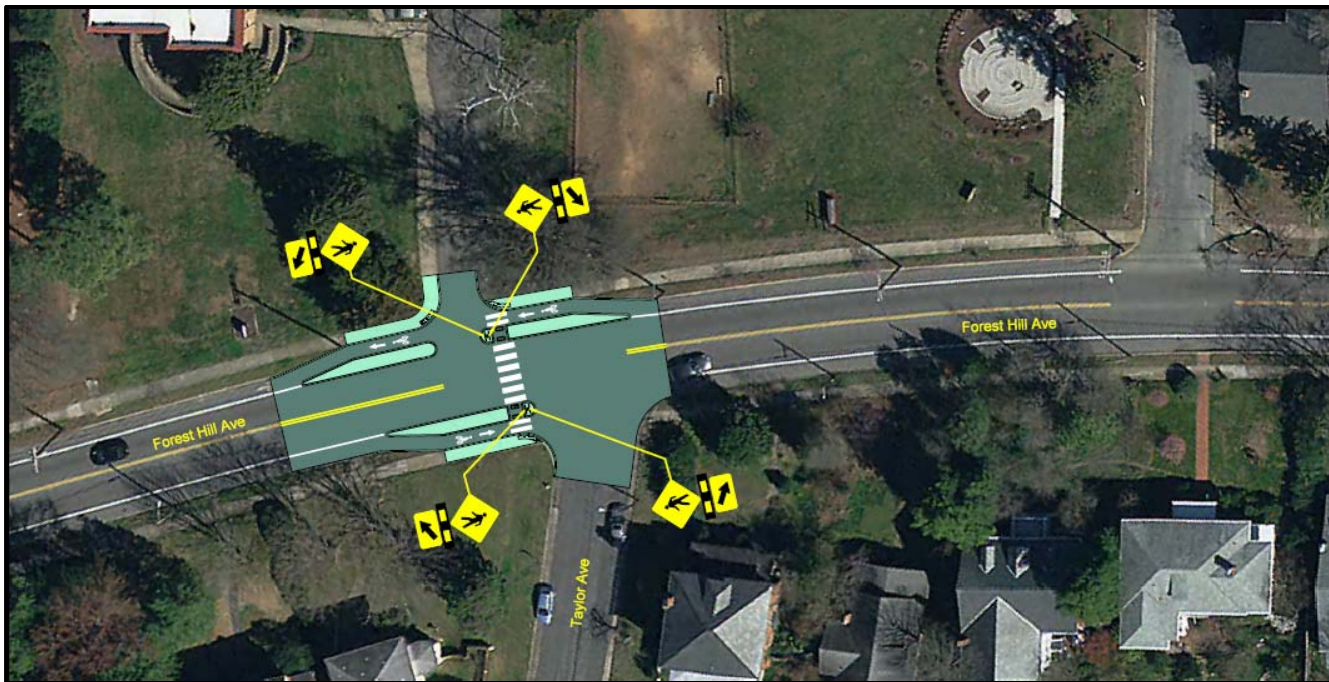
- Better Streets recommends max 800 ft between crossings
- Two Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)





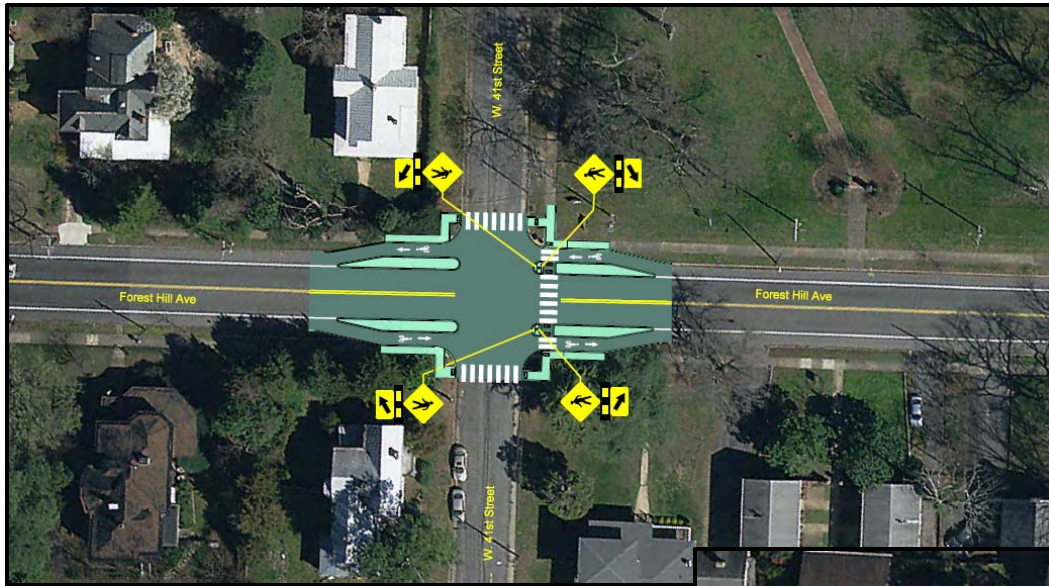
# Taylor Avenue Recommendation

- New pedestrian crossing with an RRFB
  - Connects GRTC bus stops, nursing home facility, etc.
- Shortens pedestrian crossing distance

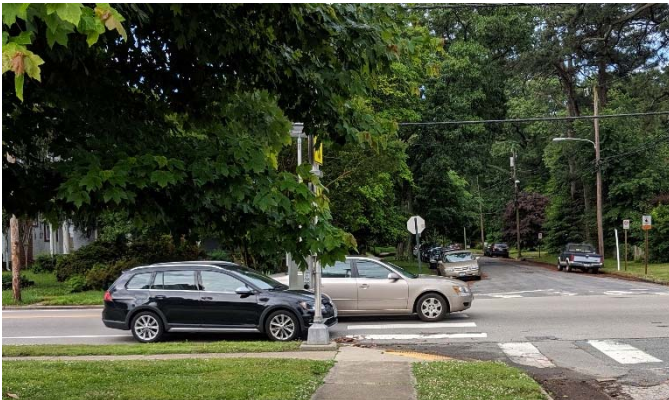




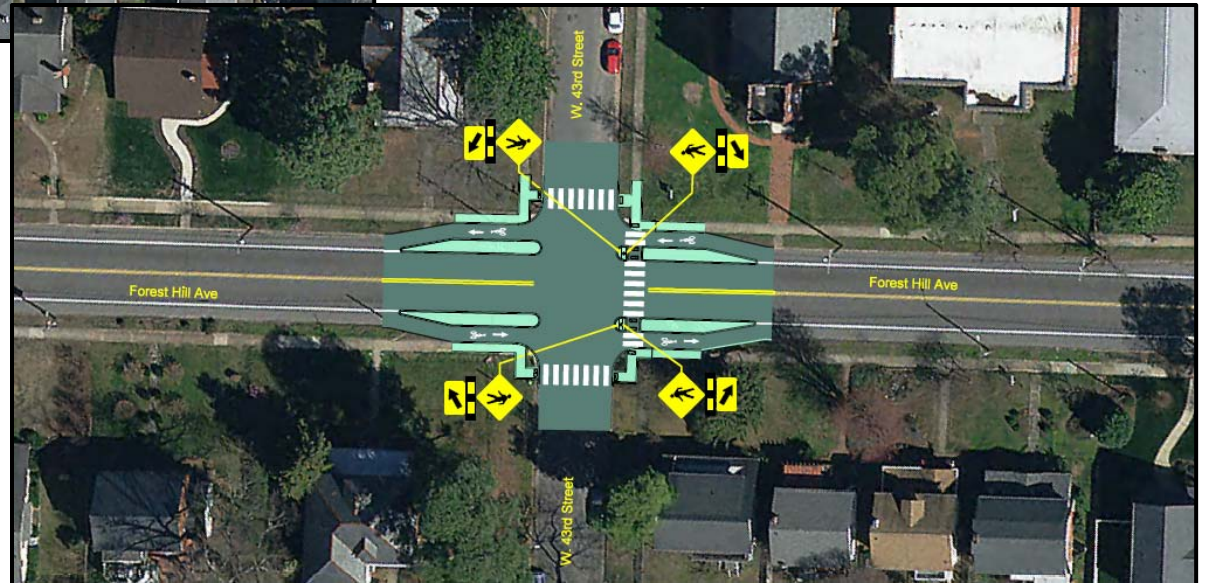
# W. 41<sup>st</sup> and W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Streets Recommendation



- Shortens pedestrian crossings
- Traffic calming
- Move RRFBs towards vehicle traffic
- Resolves vehicle conflict in bike lanes



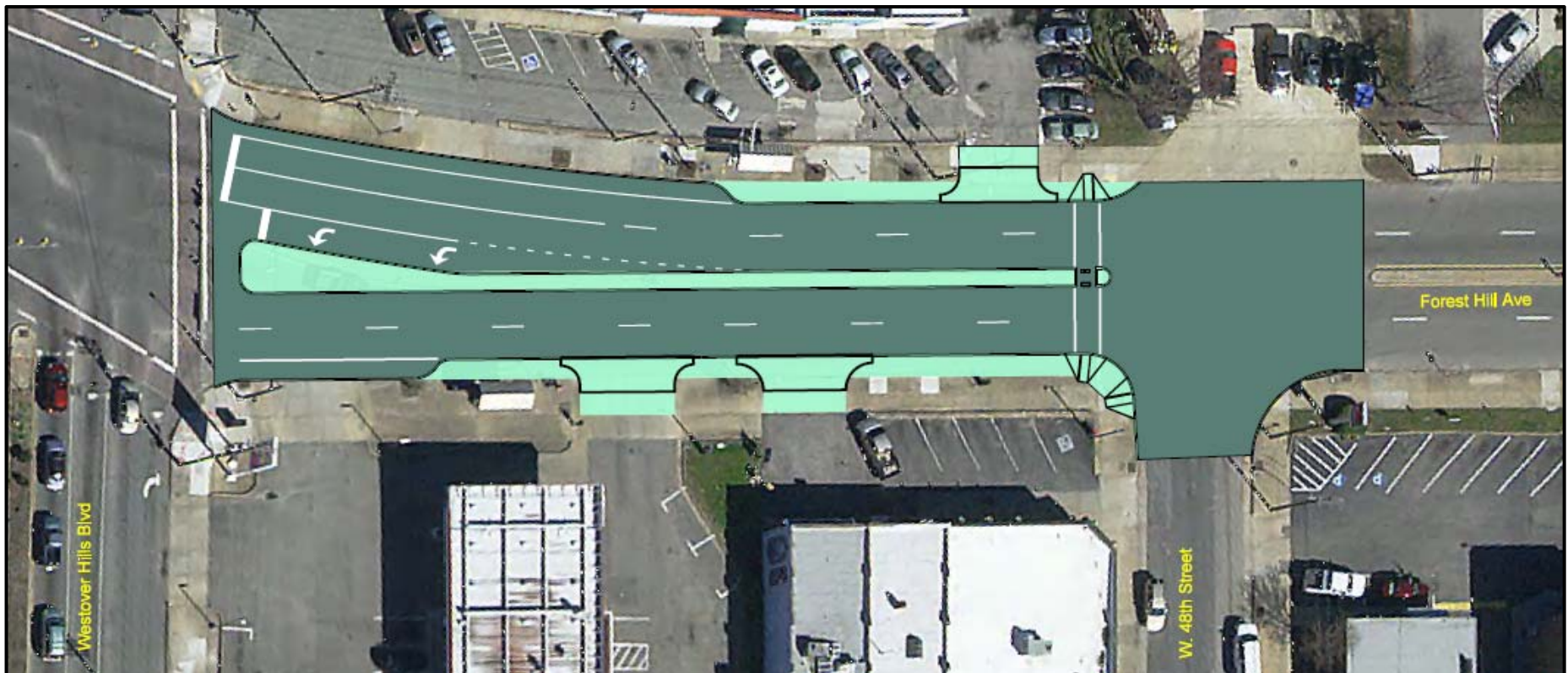
Vehicle / Bike Lane Conflict





# W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street Recommendation

- Crosswalk into ADA compliance
- Curb bump-outs shorten pedestrian crossing distance





# South of the James Farmer's Market

On-site management staff including parking assistants and a police officer at the intersection of New Kent Avenue / W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.



Parking extends several blocks outwards from Forest Hill Park. Pedestrians walk in street or in yards due to missing sidewalk. Streets effectively operate as “shared space.”



Cones demarcate a pedestrian walking path within the entrance to the market.



# Parking Recommendations

- Neighborhood vehicle circulation appears low...drivers find parking on first pass-through
- Additional parking supply could be created by...
  - Paving grass parking area in northwest corner of lot
  - Off-site satellite parking at George Wythe High School
- “Shared space” approach acts as natural traffic calming





# Pedestrian Recommendations

Few opportunities for permanent pedestrian facilities due to limited right of way



New Kent Avenue has 175-ft of “goat track” approaching W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street that could be converted to sidewalk

## Conceptual Sidewalk Design

- Fills in gap in sidewalk network
- Removes mature growth tree





# Conceptual Improvement Costs

Improvement Project	Construction Estimate
Forest Hill Avenue at W. 41 <sup>st</sup> Street	\$214,000
Forest Hill Avenue at W. 43 <sup>rd</sup> Street	\$214,000
Forest Hill Avenue at W. 48 <sup>th</sup> Street	\$219,000
Forest Hill Avenue at Taylor Avenue	\$197,000
New Kent Avenue Sidewalk	\$17,000
Total	\$860,000

- Physical improvement concepts will require construction dollars
- City Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Other funding sources

- Neighborhood education and outreach is essentially free!
- Talk to your neighbors
- Encourage them to slow down and stop for pedestrians





## Questions?

A full copy of the study report can be found on the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association website.