



URBAN CONNECTIVITY AND TRANSFORMATIVE PLACEMAKING

Esther Manheimer | Mayor | City of Asheville, NC

SUMMER
2024

The River Arts District

Transformative Placemaking

Esther Manheimer, Mayor
City of Asheville

August 1, 2024



Asheville's River Arts District (RAD)

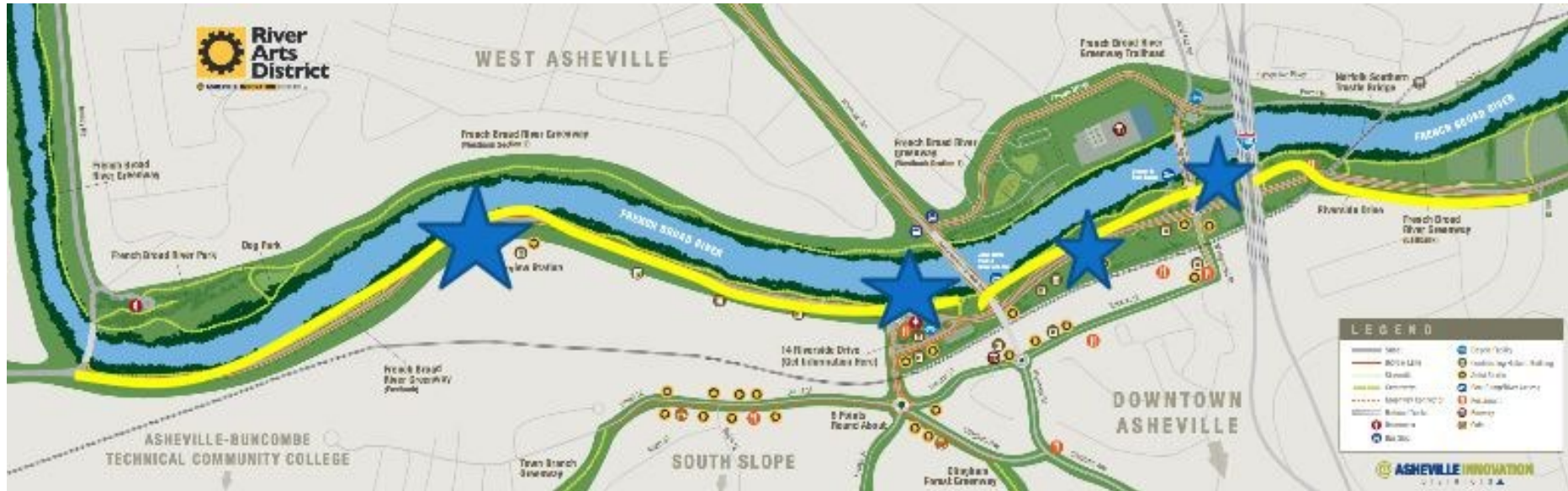


Asheville's River Arts District History

Historic Cotton Mill at 159 Riverside Drive

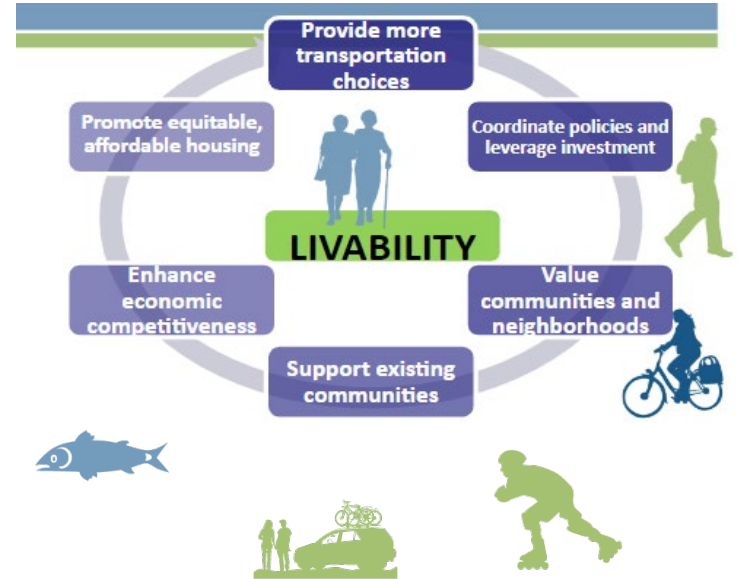


River Arts District Transportation Improvement Project (RADTIP)



RADTIP- Project Goals

- Create a unique gateway
- Connect adjacent neighborhoods
- Promote “Smart Growth” principles
- Increase multimodal choices
- Enhance economic competitiveness and sustainability
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Improve environmental protection and water quality
- Develop opportunities for streetscapes, amenities and public art
- Minimize conflict points for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Preserve future mobility through access management



RADTIP Project Elements



- Reconfigured unsafe road intersections for better traffic flow
- Multi-use path along the river
- New stormwater management network
- Upgraded the area's power transmission network
- Wide sidewalks for pedestrians
- Bike lanes including the City's first protected bike lane
- Almost 200 new public parking spaces
- Provided about 9 acres of new parkland and several new pieces of public art

Major RAD Funding Partners

The RADTIP project was made possible due to our visionary and diligent community members, staff and elected officials from the City of Asheville, and a host of other government agencies; and with the help of the following funders:

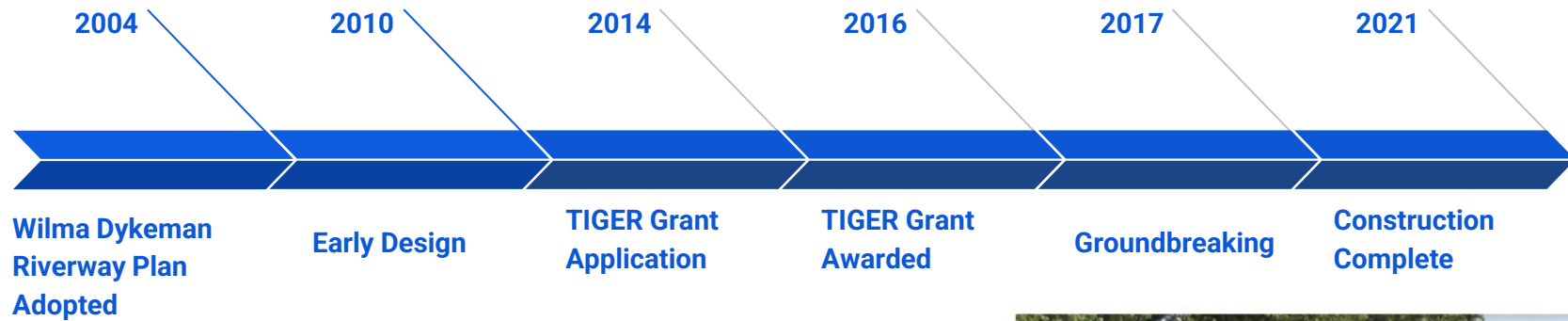
United States Department of Transportation

North Carolina Stormwater Management Trust Fund

Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund





Placemaking: Places to Walk/Ride/Skate and Linger



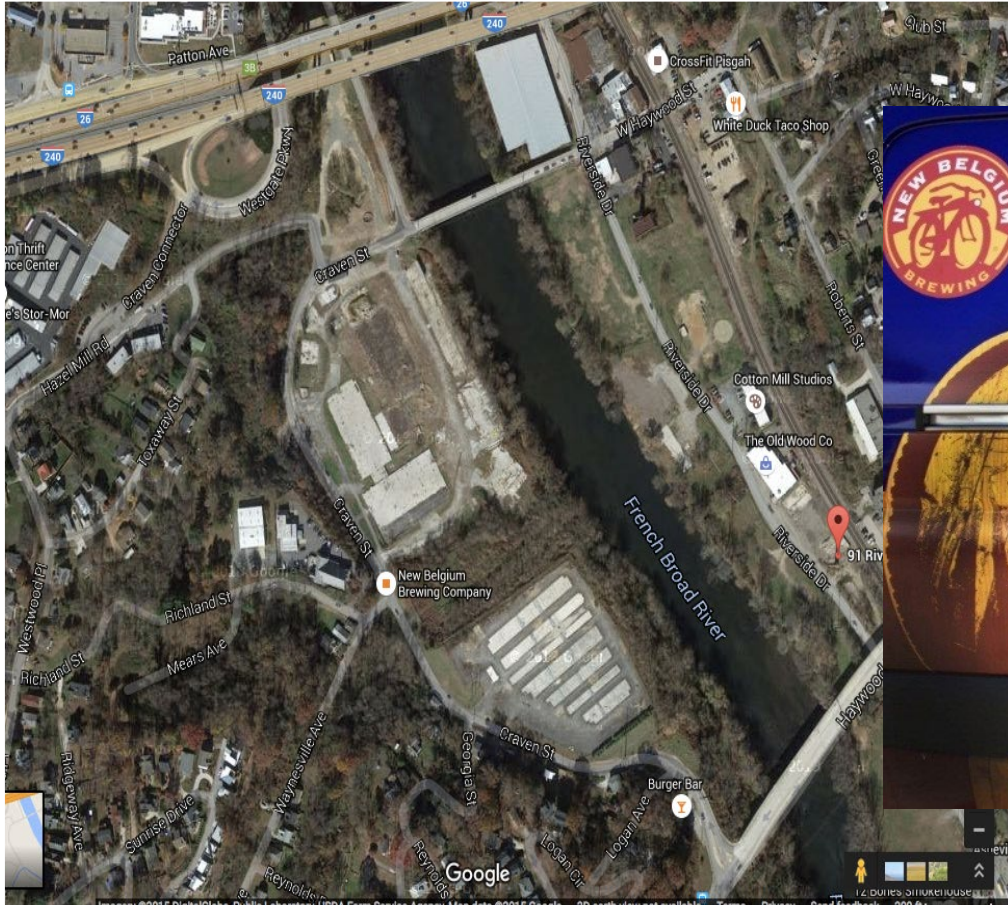


Stormwater Management Network



(Source: Andrea Webster/NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency)

New Belgium Brewery







- Doubled the amount of artists
- Tripled Commercial space
- Over 700 units of housing in the pipeline





RAD Lofts

- 237 new residential units
- 10% are affordable at 80% AMI for a minimum of 10 years.



An updated June 2024 rendering of the "Riverside Residences" project proposed for 179 Riverside Drive. *Provided By MHA Works, Public Document*

Riverside Residences

- 240 new residential units
- 5% of the units being affordable at 80% area median income



Thank you!