

# South End Connector Activate This Space



## **WELCOME to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting!**

6:20 pm Zoom overview

6:30 pm Meeting starts & welcome

6:40 pm Design presentation

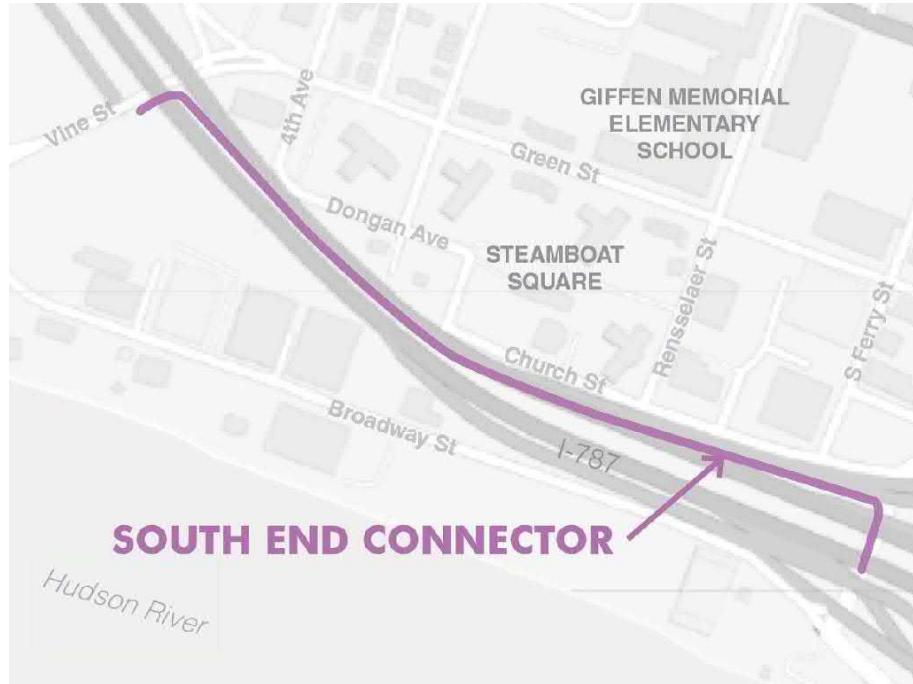
7:00 pm Small group breakout sessions

7:30 pm Report back

7:45 pm Adjourn

# Meeting Purpose

Discuss initial design ideas to **activate the South End Connector**, a new shared-use trail below I-787 in the South End.



# Who We Are: The Project Team

**City of Albany:**

**The Department of Planning and Development**

Yasmine Robinson

Lauren Alpert

**Creighton Manning Engineering, Albany NY**

Tony Christian

**Landing Studio, Somerville MA**

Marie Law Adams (leading presentation tonight)

Dan Adams (listening in)

Ryan Gagnebin (Q&A, managing the chat)

Gavin Zeitz (Managing breakouts & report back)



# South End Connector Activate This Space



## Tonight's Agenda

1. Project overview (20 minutes)
  - What we heard
  - Preliminary design ideas
  - Questions & answers
2. Small group breakout sessions (30 minutes)
  - What is liked, what is missing, priorities
3. Report back (15 minutes)

# Overall Project Schedule

We are here!

**Community Engagement**  
Fall 2020

**Design Development**  
Winter 2020-21

**Permits/Bidding**  
Spring 2021  
(TBD)



**Construction**  
Summer 2021  
(TBD)

Visit the project website for a copy of this presentation & updates:  
[southendconnector.weebly.com](http://southendconnector.weebly.com)

# Community Engagement Schedule

**Public Meeting 1**  
September 22



**We are here!**

**Public Meeting 2**  
November 10



**Public Meeting 3**  
December  
(date TBD)

## Goals

- Gather initial impressions and ideas

## Goals

- Present design options based on initial ideas
- Gather feedback (what is liked, what is disliked and/or missing)

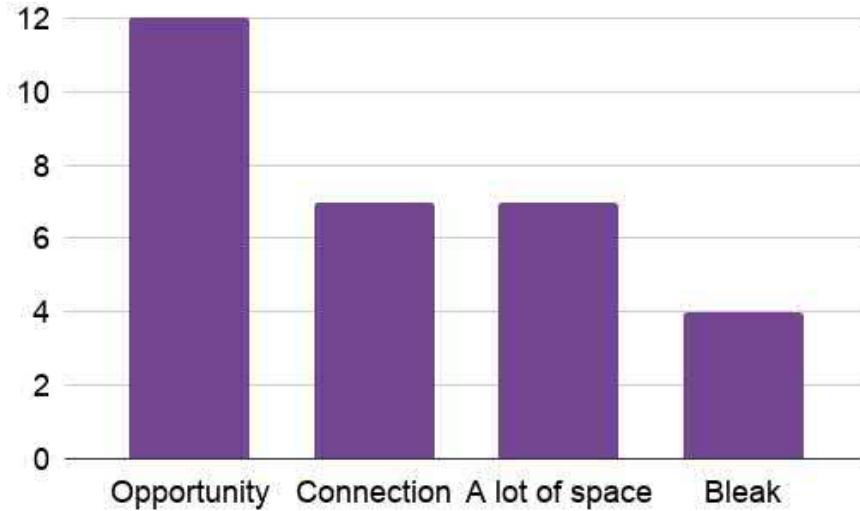
## Goals

- Present 1 design based on feedback
- Gather feedback to refine a final design



# What we heard – existing impressions

One word I would use to describe this place is \_\_\_\_\_.



"it's an opportunity  
waiting to happen"

"flowing"

"network"

"wide-open"

"unfinished"

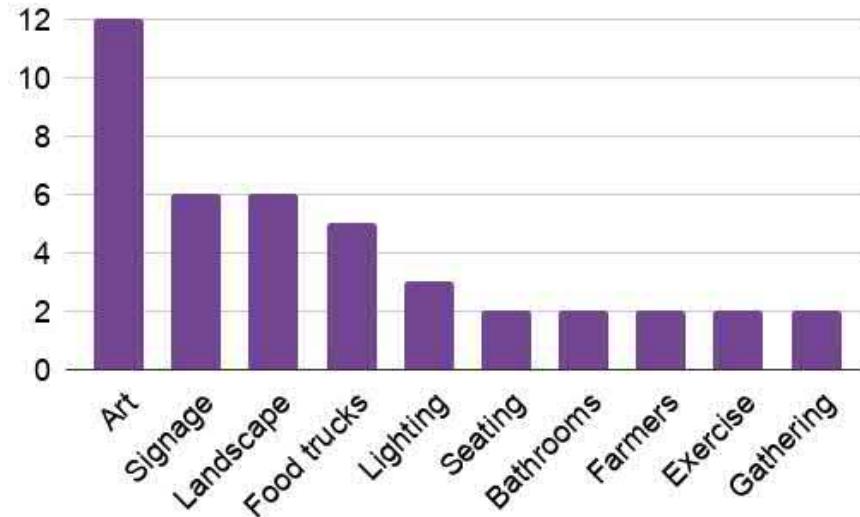
"a canvas"

"gray"

"challenging"

# What we heard – future vision, things

What would you be excited to see at the South End Connector?



"meeting and gathering space"

"bike amenities, racks"

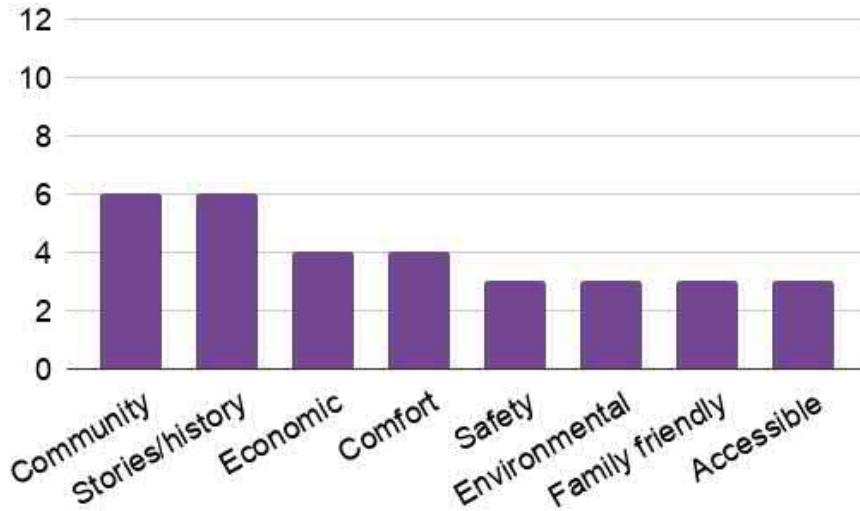
"litter control"

"skate park"

"climbing wall"

# What we heard – future vision, themes

What would you be excited to see at the South End Connector?



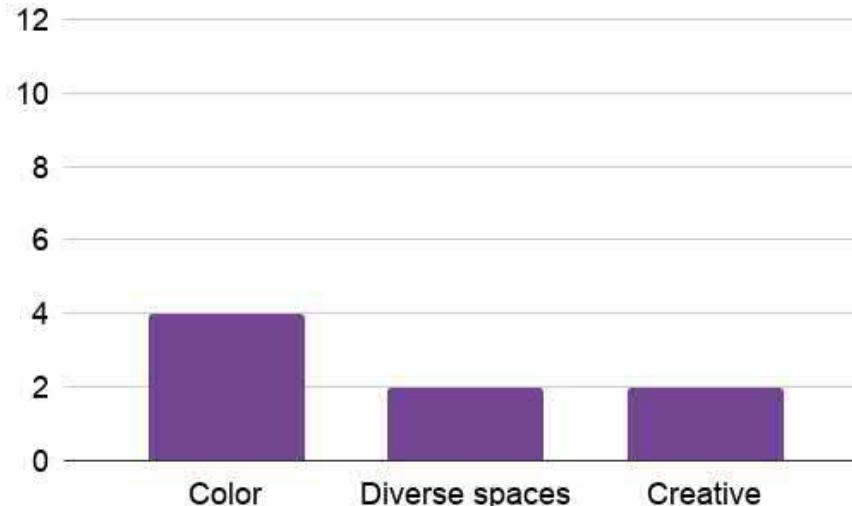
"tell BIPOC stories and history"

"create opportunities for people to start their business"

"history of the South End"

# What we heard – future vision, qualities

What would you be excited to see at the South End Connector?



"playful and fun"

"inviting"

"feel safe to pass through"

"emphasize the gateways into the space"

"family atmosphere"

# What we heard – Design Goals

## **Reflect Community**

The space should reflect the local South End community and their stories.

## **Gathering Space**

Create spaces for gathering and events, especially those that support neighborhood economic development and family activities.

## **Vibrant**

The design should bring color into the space.

## **Safe and Connected**

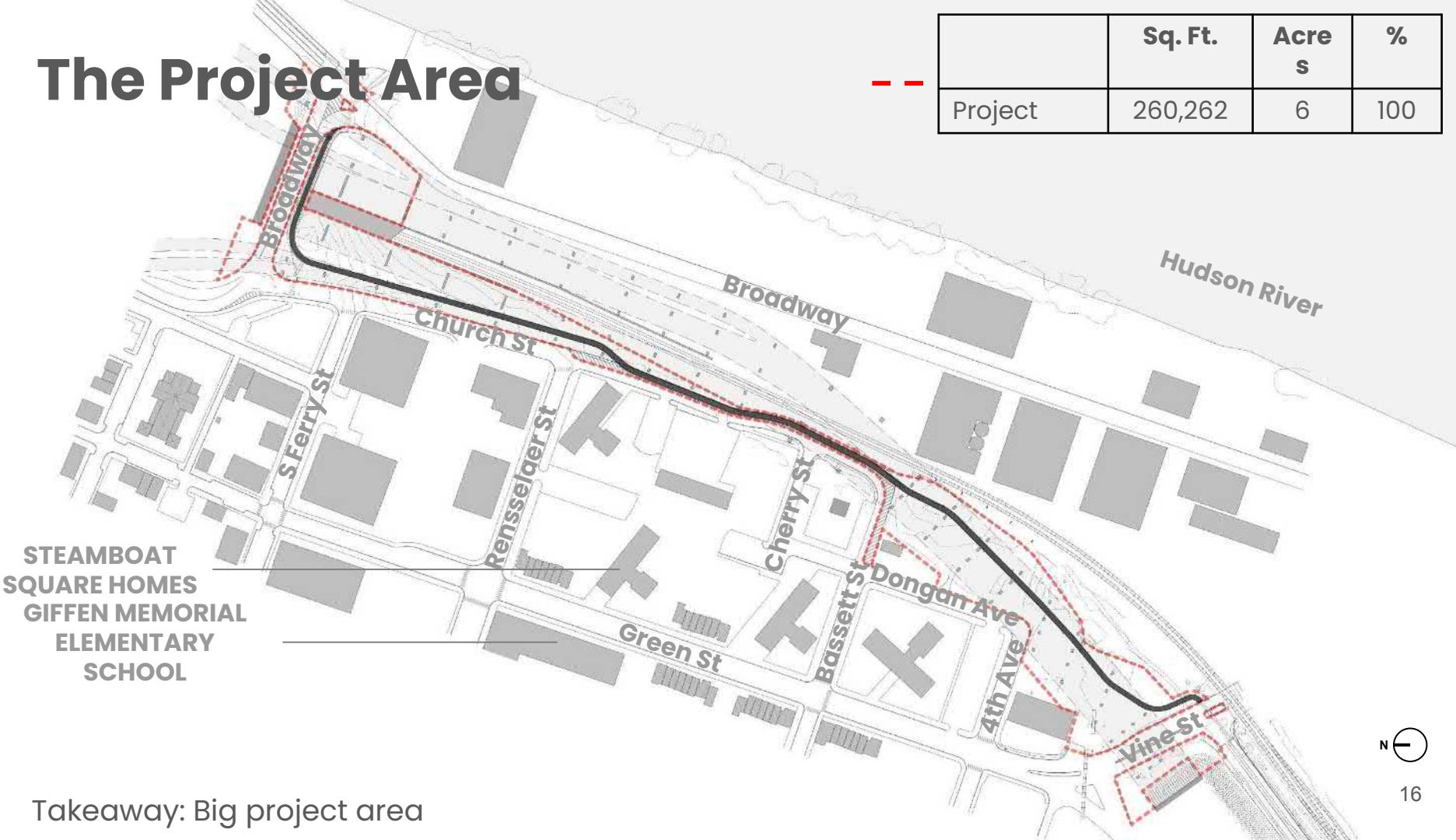
The space should be easy and safe to get to.

## **Green**

Landscape to bring color and softness, stormwater management and air quality.

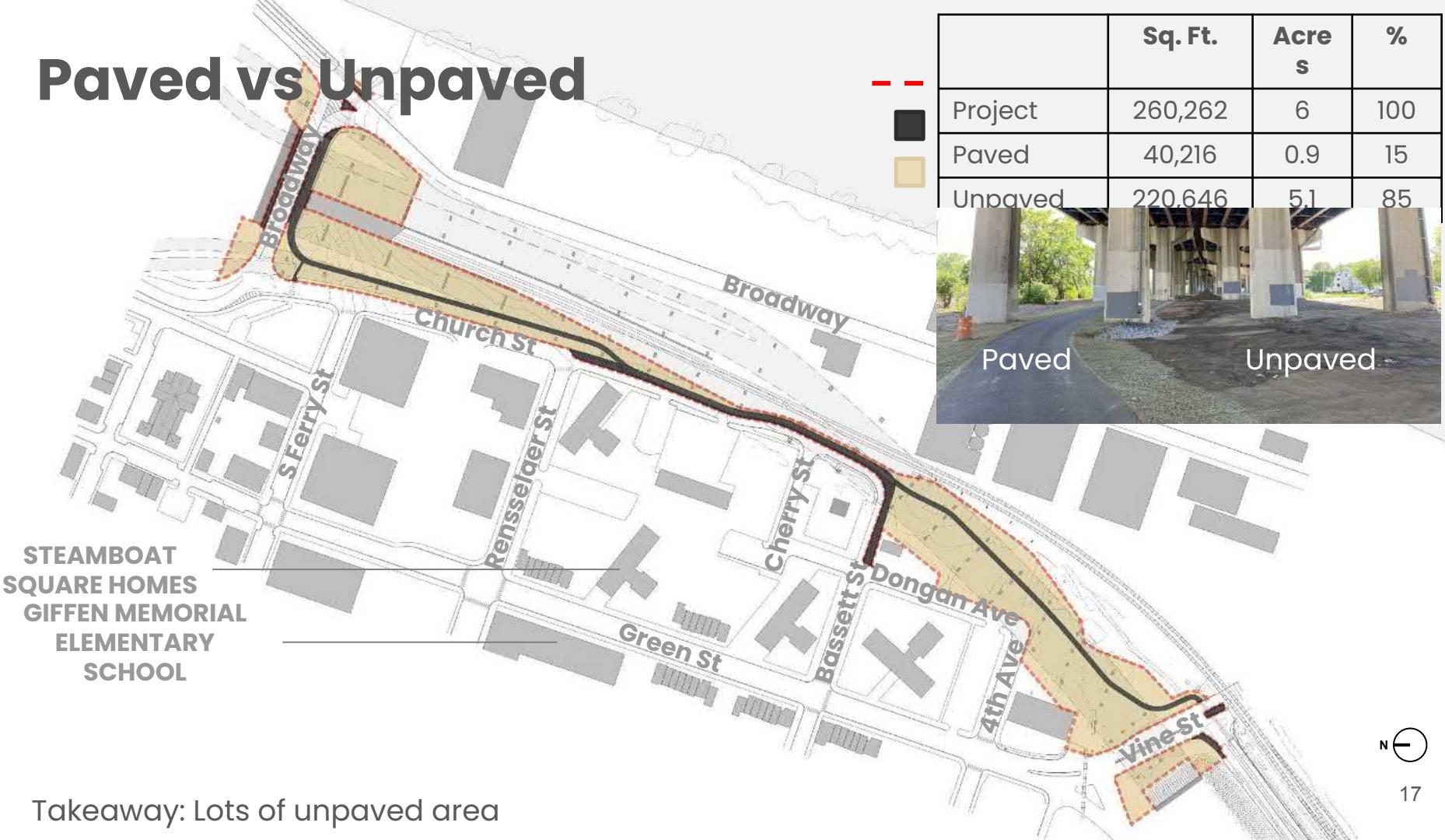
# The Project Area

	Sq. Ft.	Acre s	%
Project	260,262	6	100

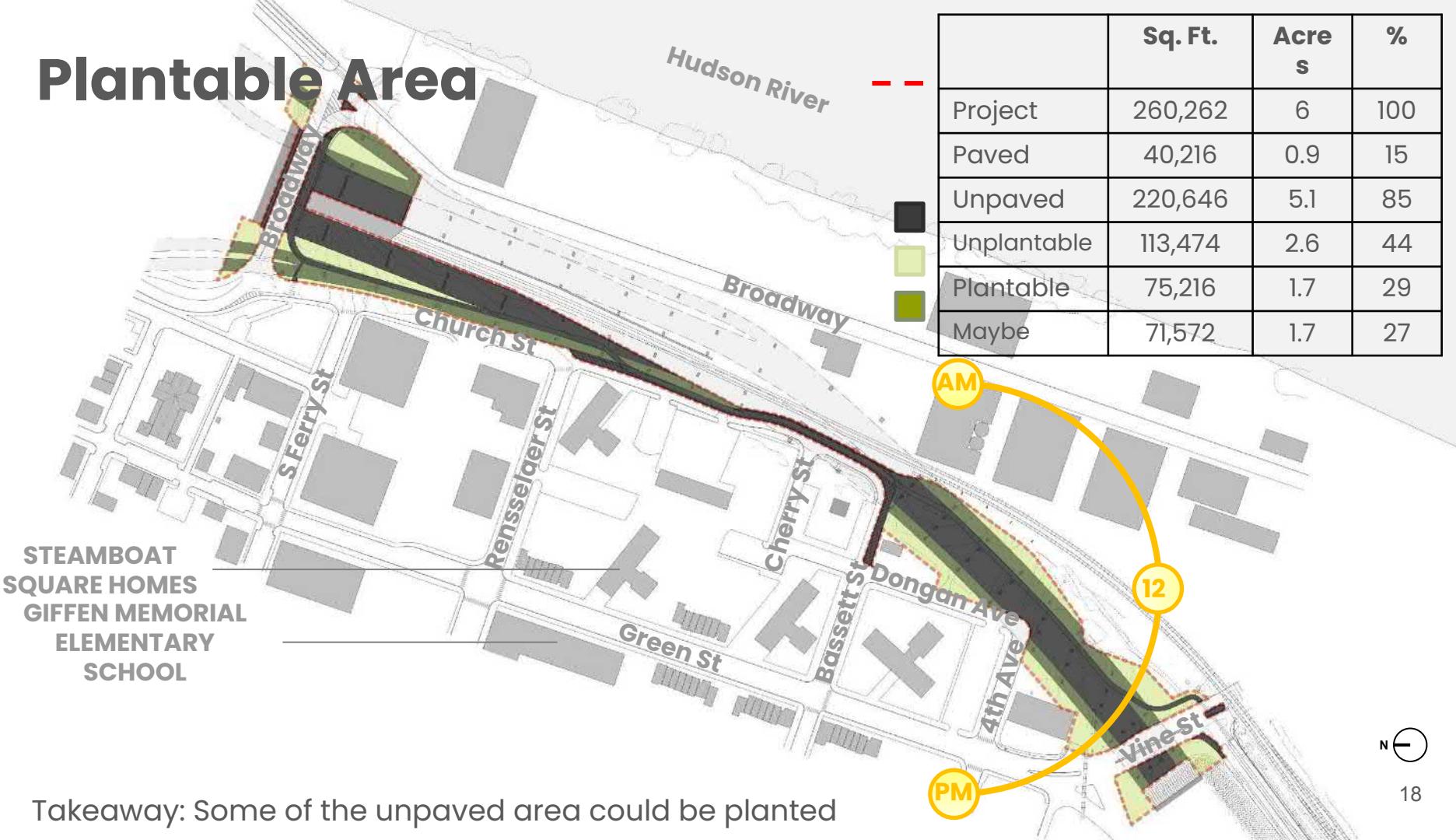


Takeaway: Big project area

# Paved vs Unpaved



# Plantable Area



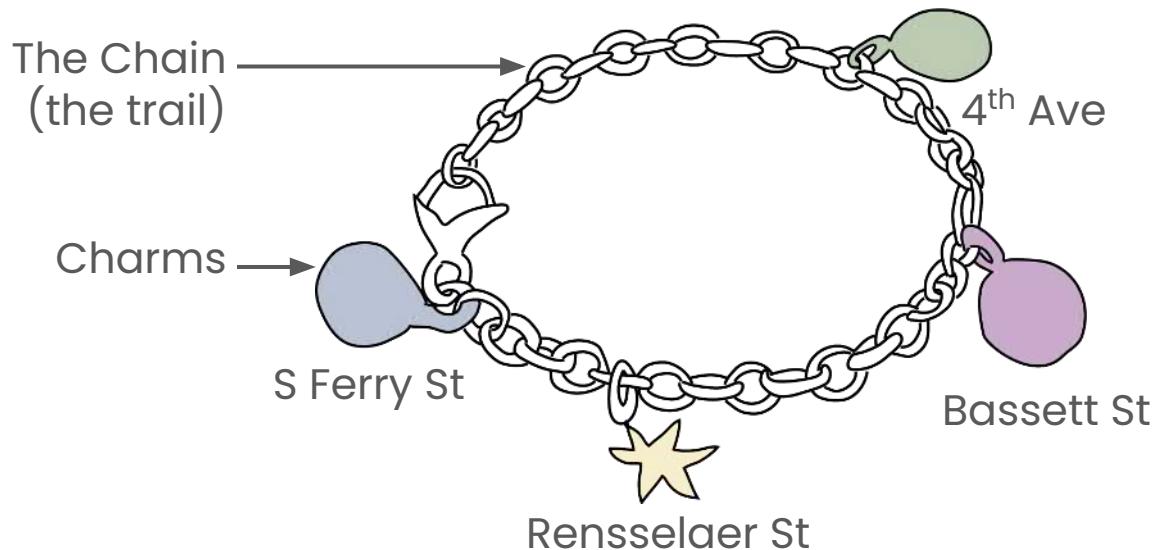
# Neighborhood Connectivity

— The South End Connector trail  
— Existing sidewalk/crossing



Takeaway: The South End neighborhood sidewalks could be better connected to the trail.

# Charm Bracelet analogy



# Charm Bracelet



STEAMBOAT  
SQUARE HOMES  
GIFFEN MEMORIAL  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

- The South End Connector trail
- Existing sidewalk/crossing
- Proposed sidewalk/crossing



# Kit of Parts

## Charm Parts:

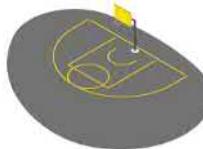
Public plaza



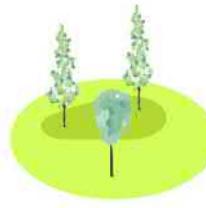
Furniture



Recreation area



Planted area



Crosswalk



Pathway connection



## Chain Parts:

Ornamental lighting



Wayfinding graphics



Ground painting



Wayfinding & community signage



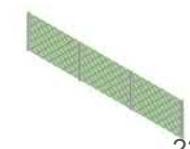
Mural art



Stone surfacing



Fencing windscreen



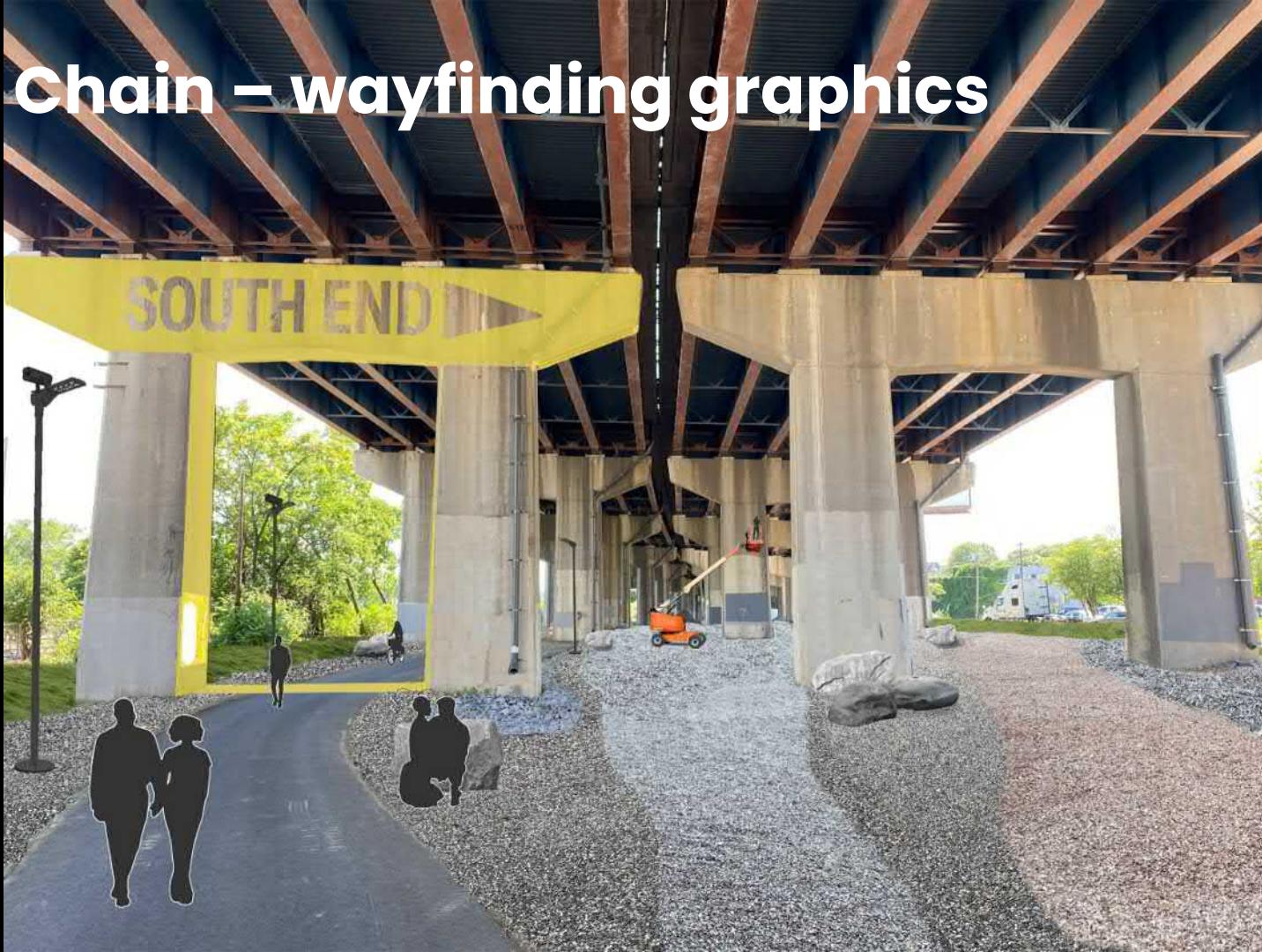
# The Chain - existing



# The Chain – stone surfacing



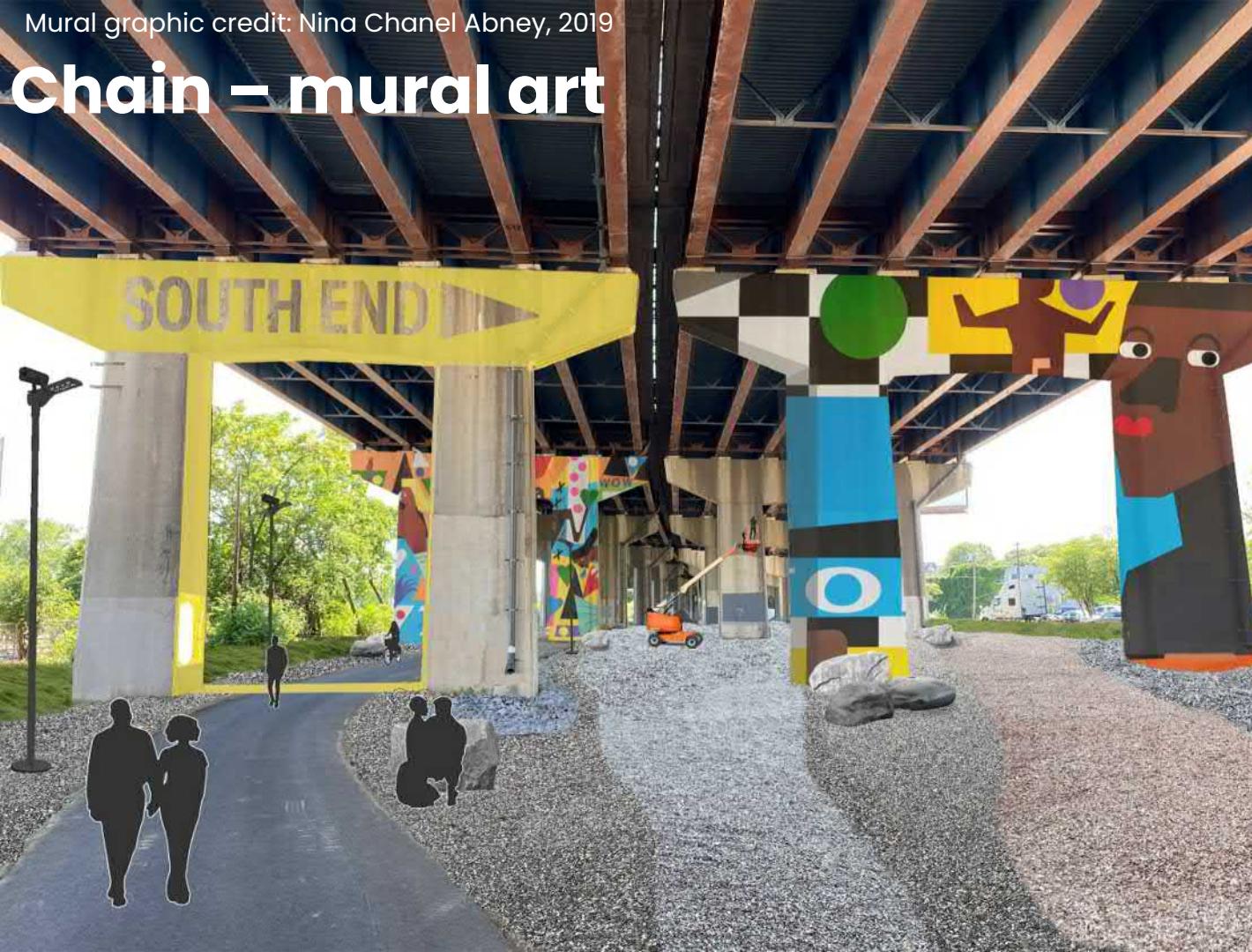
# The Chain – wayfinding graphics



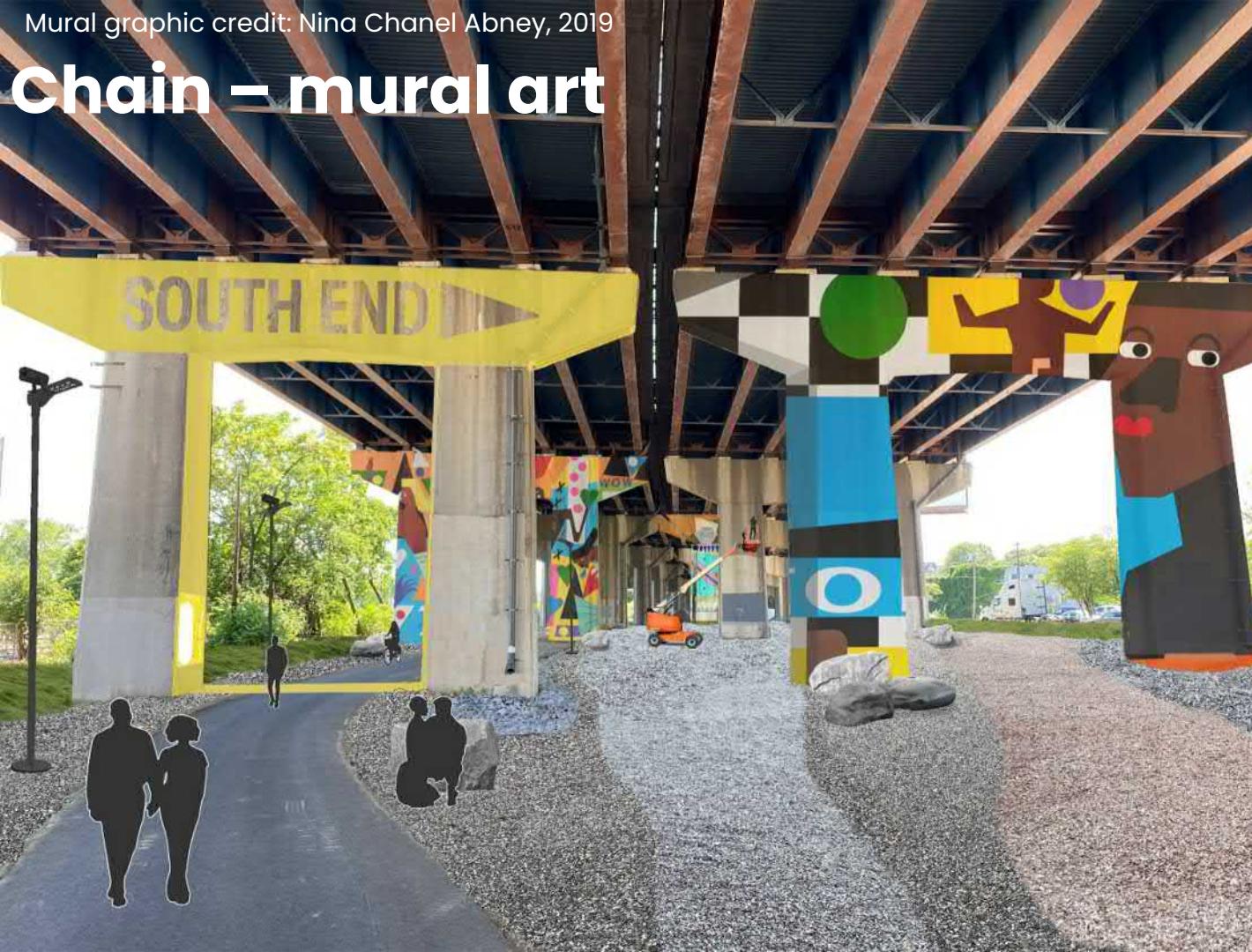
# The Chain – mural art



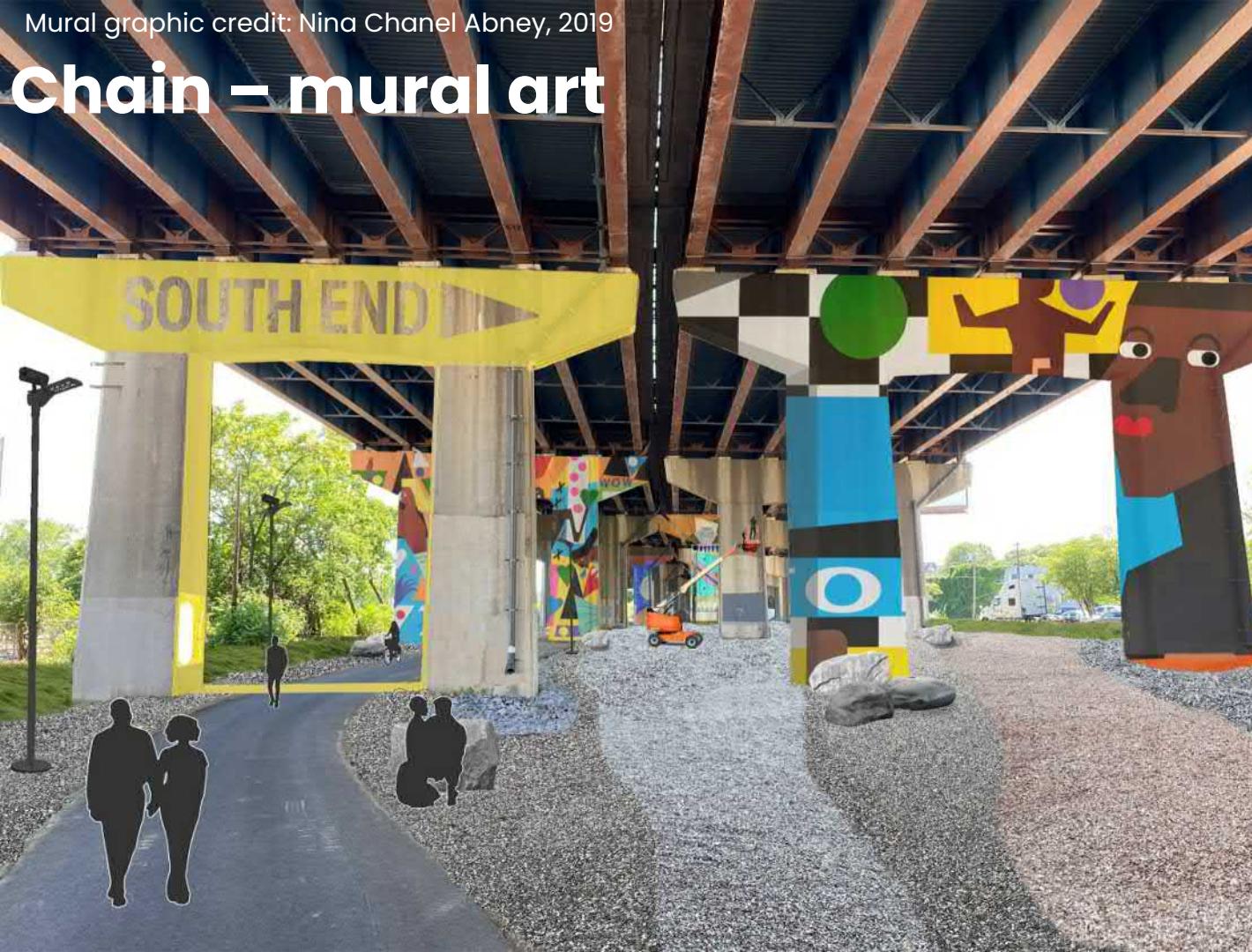
# The Chain – mural art



# The Chain – mural art



# The Chain – mural art



# S Ferry St Charm – existing



# S Ferry St Charm – paving & landscape



# S Ferry St Charm – trees



# S Ferry St Charm – wayfinding graphics



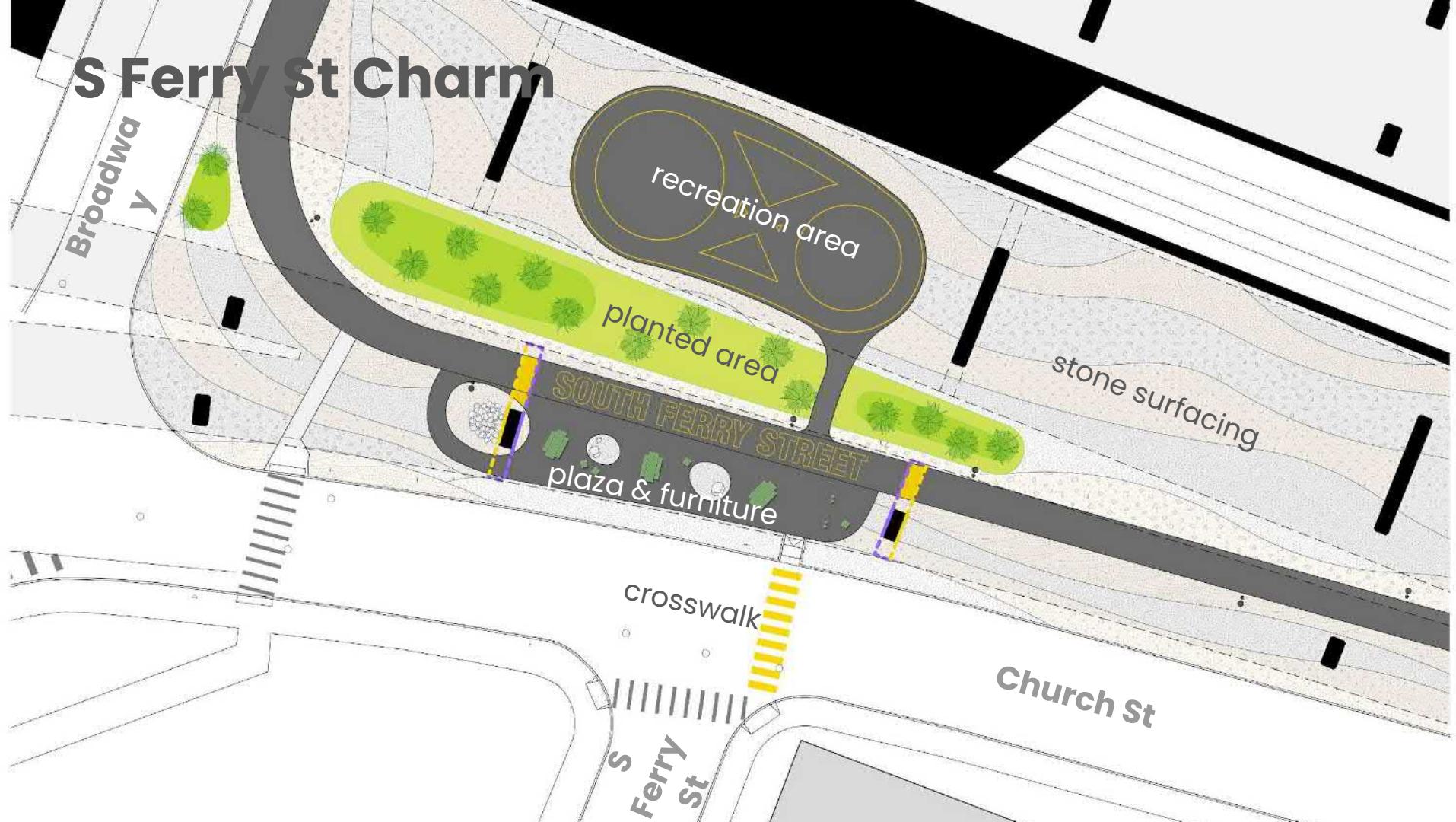
# S Ferry St Charm – mural art



# S Ferry St Charm – ornamental lighting



# S Ferry St Charm



# Rensselaer St Charm - existing



# Rensselaer St Charm – public plaza



# Rensselaer St Charm – wayfinding graphics & crosswalk



# Rensselaer St Charm – mural art



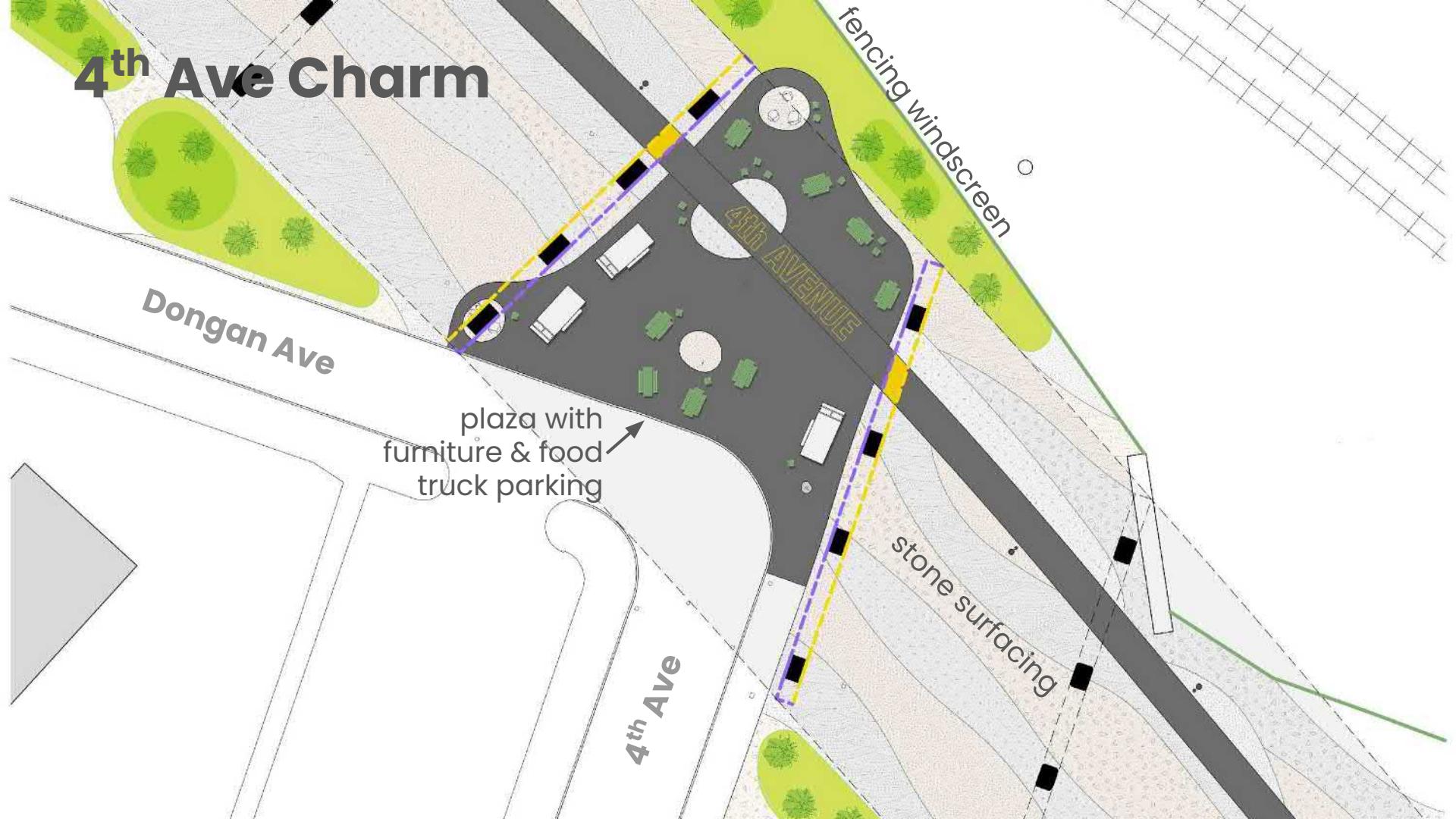
# Rensselaer St Charm



# Bassett St Charm



# 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Charm



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## Questions?

# South End Connector Activate This Space



## Breakout Session Questions

1. (3-4 minutes) Introduce yourself (name, and where you live) and share one thing you like to do when you're relaxing.
2. (5-7 minutes) What do you like about what you see? Why?
3. (5-7 minutes) What is missing? Why?
4. (5-7 minutes) What are your highest priorities for this project?  
(Name up to 3 things)

*In the last 5 minutes:* Choose one person to **report back a 2-minute summary of highlights** to the whole group.

# **South End Connector** **Activate This Space**



## **Report back**

Two-minute summary of highlights from each group's conversation.

# Thank you and stay tuned!

Stay tuned for news about the **next meeting**, where we will share a single design based on **what we heard** during today's meeting.



**Public Meeting 1**  
September 22



**Public Meeting 2**  
November 10



**Public Meeting 3**  
(date TBD)

Visit the project website for updates:  
[southendconnector.weebly.com](http://southendconnector.weebly.com)

Email any comments or questions to:  
[dpd@albanyny.gov](mailto:dpd@albanyny.gov)