# Valdosta and Lowndes County Complete Streets Suitability



Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization Valdosta and Lowndes County

### **Complete Streets Suitability**

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#### I. Introduction

Mobility is becoming an essential part of community infrastructure and planning, and the need for bike and pedestrian infrastructure, in particular, is growing. "Complete Streets" are those corridors that not only meet the needs of automobiles and other motorized vehicles but also include amenities for cyclists and pedestrians. According the to National Complete Streets Coalition, these streets "integrate people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of transportation networks."<sup>1</sup> This also includes utilities, public transit, and road users of all abilities.<sup>2</sup>

The benefits of Complete Streets are documented in a variety of publications, and these range from public health to higher quality of life. Positive economic benefits, such as increased property values and better access to local businesses, are frequently cited as reasons to consider transforming a city street into a road that incorporates multimodal transportation. They tend to spur private investment in properties located along or near the corridor.<sup>3</sup> Transportation equity and walkable neighborhoods are other common rewards from designing and retrofitting existing roads into Complete Streets. Perhaps the most important benefit of a Complete Street is increased safety for all people who traverse the corridor, especially those with disabilities and of old age.<sup>4</sup>

For cities like Valdosta, Complete Streets are essential to ensure that needs are met for a variety of commuters, including those that may not have access to a motor vehicle. In addition to the recommendations made in this report for individual corridors, local governments should consider adopting a Complete Streets ordinance. This is becoming a common tool in municipalities throughout the state to require that Complete Streets attributes become a part of the overall design scheme for a street project.

This report will examine and rank arterial and collector streets that appear on multiple project lists and maintenance schedules including:

- 1. City of Valdosta 2016 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program
- 2. City of Valdosta Street Evaluation Map
- 3. City of Valdosta FY2017 Stormwater Project List
- 4. City of Valdosta Stormwater Master Plan Capital Improvement Project List
- 5. Lowndes County SPLOST Project List
- 6. Lowndes County Thoroughfare Plan
- 7. VLMPO FY2015-18 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

This report is in response to the 2040 VLMPO Transportation Vision Plan (TVP) which calls for "a list of streets for future projects that promote sustainable safety and accessible infrastructure."<sup>5</sup> It also falls under Common Community Vision Aspiration Goal 8 in the TVP, which seeks to implement bicycle and pedestrian projects that promote an active, healthy lifestyle. In addition, the VLMPO

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup><u>https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-</u> <u>complete-streets-coalition/</u>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> GDOT Design Policy Manual Ver. 4.6, pg. 9-19. 2016.
 <sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/app/legacy/documents/cs/factsheets/cs-economic.pdf</u>
 <sup>4</sup> <u>http://www.ipa.udel.edu/healthyDEtoolkit/complet</u>
 estreets/sectionPDFs/chapter3.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, page 30.

Complete Streets Strategy calls for all projects listed in the TVP which receive federal funding to incorporate Complete Streets elements.

### II. Complete Streets Policies and Attributes

Increased bicycling and walking is included within several federal transportation planning policies along with legislation like the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). On the state level, the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) Design Policy Manual devotes the entirety of Chapter 9 to Complete Streets design considerations. GDOT's Complete Streets policy is simply to "routinely incorporate bicycle, pedestrian, and transit (user and transit vehicle) accommodations into transportation infrastructure projects as a means for improving mobility, access, and safety for the traveling public."<sup>6</sup> Essentially, streets that meet this design are suitable for all users, regardless of age or ability.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 62 million Americans will be over the age of 65, and transportation options are expected to diversify among this segment of the population.<sup>7</sup> While many will continue to drive

to their destinations, other senior citizens will utilize bicycling and walking to reach places. Currently, transportation infrastructure in many places does not meet those particular needs, and the Complete Streets approach to project design and retrofitting major thoroughfares aims to mitigate this challenge.

Locally within the Valdosta area, there are policies and goals promoted by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) and the VLMPO operating within it. The SGRC Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan contains multiple policies that are consistent with the goals of this report and are as follows:<sup>8</sup>

- 4. Encourage the implementation of bike and pedestrian facilities along identified transportation corridors connecting major activity centers.
- 7. Provide a safe bicycle and pedestrian transportation system within adequate rights-of-way that connects major public and private facilities, natural and cultural resources, parks and recreation facilities and schools in order to promote active lifestyles and local economic development and tourism.
- 9. Promote connecting existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other modes of transportation.

Area Land Use Characteristics	Bike Lanes	Shared Lane	Shared Use Path	Sidewalks and Pedestrian Paths	Transit
CBD	×	×		X	×
Commercial	×	×		×	×
Residential	×	×		x	2
Suburban	×	×	×	x	
Rural			×	1	1

Table 1: Appropriate Complete Street Amenities for Specific Land Use Characteristics

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> GDOT Design Policy Manual Ver. 4.6, pg. 9-1. 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> AARP. *Complete Streets in the Southeast: A tool kit,* page 1. 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> SGRC Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, pages 5-9.

In addition to these policies, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure provide opportunities for active modes of transportation and help to reduce automobile travel and promote healthy lifestyles. Developing and improving bicycle and pedestrians paths, lanes, sidewalks and associated amenities can facilitate transportation to work, downtown areas, restaurants, shopping, recreation and schools. Facilities that are suitable for a particular street are variable depending on the land use characteristics of an area. Table 1 is originally from the SGRC "Best Practices for Complete Streets in Rural Communities" report showing which features are appropriate in a central business district along with commercial, residential, suburban, and rural areas.<sup>9</sup>

The Valdosta-Lowndes Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, completed in March 2007, focuses upon the need for implementing Complete Streets design features within the community. Multiple goals from this plan are related to the scope of this report, including increasing designated walking areas in Lowndes County, improving connections between logical destinations and walking areas, improving safety for walking and cycling, and adequately maintaining a bike/pedestrian system designed to increase mode share of non-auto travel options.<sup>10</sup> This publication goes on to describe key walkability features, such as sidewalks and traffic volumes.

The SGRC Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan goes on to describe that "while strictly bicycle or pedestrian focused projects can and do get funded and implemented all the time, projects can be more effectively and successfully done when combined with other transportation improvement projects."<sup>11</sup> Whether it be with a street widening, bridge repair, or routine maintenance, combining projects and Complete Streets additions yields a more efficient use of resources, and results in a more complete and comprehensive product. Therefore, bicycle and pedestrian projects should be incorporated into other, larger transportation projects. This report builds upon this recommendation ranks proposed projects along major streets through a diverse set of criteria that illustrate the specific needs for each corridor.

#### **III. Scoring Methodology**

This report is a prioritization of Valdosta and Lowndes County arterial and collector streets, which should be considered for Complete Streets design implementation. The scoring methodology used in this report is based on a set of scoring criteria used for the compilation the Reno-Washoe County of Regional Transportation Commission's July 2016 Complete Streets Master Plan. The Reno, Nevada MPO considered a wide range of criteria that examined bikeability, public transit ridership and routes, and employment access. This served as an overall starting point for the VLMPO staff to develop criteria that was applicable to Lowndes County and the Valdosta urbanized area. VLMPO staff developed a scoring matrix that incorporated multiple criteria from various data sources and was consistent with local and GDOT standards and policies. The result of this effort is a three-page document called the "VLMPO Complete Streets Scoring Sheet" and is included in Appendix A. Altogether, the criteria combine to make a maximum score of 200.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> SGRC Best Practices for Complete Streets in Rural Areas, page 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Valdosta-Lowndes Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, page 2.

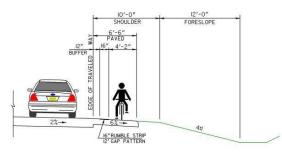
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> SGRC Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, pages 5-9.

#### A. Street Classification

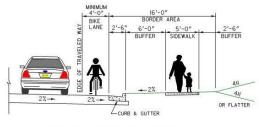
For this ranking only arterial and collector streets were identified based upon GDOT's Functional Classification Map tool.<sup>12</sup> The classifications of principal arterial, minor arterial, principal collector, and minor collector were labeled on this map and are consistent with FHWA Planning Processes.<sup>13</sup> For the purposes of the scoring process, projects along roads that were identified as either principal or minor arterials received 10 points while principal and minor collectors received 5 points.

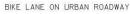
- o Arterial
  - 10 points
- o Collector
  - 5 points

#### **B. Bicycle Infrastructure**



BIKEABLE SHOULDER ON RURAL ROADWAY





## Figure 1: Bike Lane on Urban Roadway (Source: GDOT Design Policy Manual)

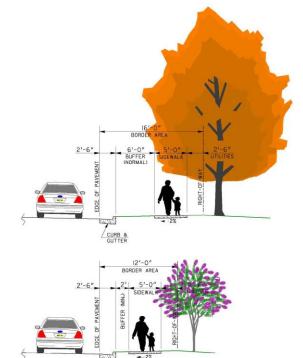
This is the first of two subjective and openended questions in the VLMPO's Complete Streets scoring sheet. It simply asks "Does the road exhibit bike-friendly qualities?" Three answer options were available and are as follows:

- o Yes, no needed improvements
  - 0 points

Ο

- Yes, but improvements recommended
   5 points
  - No, this road is not bicycle-friendly 10 points

#### C. Pedestrian Infrastructure





This is the second subjective and open-ended questions in the VLMPO's Complete Streets scoring sheet. It simply asks "Does the road exhibit pedestrian-friendly qualities?" Three

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>https://itos.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/in dex.html?id=962a2591f91a4303aeafe016ba8db96b
 <sup>13</sup>https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/sta tewide/related/highway\_functional\_classifications/s ection03.cfm#Toc336872980

answer options were available and are as follows:

- o Yes, no needed improvements
  - 0 points
- Yes, but improvements recommended
   5 points
- No, this road is not pedestrian-friendly
  - 10 points

#### **D.** Mobility

This section of the scoring sheet utilizes statistical data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates.<sup>14</sup> For this set of criteria, Census data from throughout Lowndes County was examined on the block group level. Percentages of people biking and walking to work along with no vehicle ownership were collected for all 69 block groups (maps shown in Appendices H and I) within the county as defined by the 2010 Census and were plotted on bar graphs (Appendices F and G). For scoring purposes, blocks groups that were either bordered by or contained a street were averaged to come up with the exact number of points assigned to each street.

# a. High percent of people who bike to work

The percentage of people who biked to work in Lowndes County had a wide range on the block group level of the available Census data, and this was from 0 to 10.30 percent with the average being 0.65%. Given the maximum and minimum values, natural breaks were used to create the scoring criteria for this category as shown below:

o 0−4%

1 point

# b. High percent of people who walk to work

The percentage of people who walk to work in Lowndes County had a wide range on the block group level of the available Census data, and this was from 0 to 11.32 percent with the average being 1.72%. Given the maximum and minimum values, natural breaks were used to create the scoring criteria for this category as shown below:

#### c. High percentage of people who do not have access to a motor vehicle

The percentage of people who do not own a vehicle in Lowndes County by block group ranged from 0 to 37.01 percent with the average being 8.30%. Given the maximum and minimum values, natural breaks were used to create the scoring criteria for this category as shown below:

#### 10 points

#### E. Destination and Networks

Local knowledge of the community combined with retail trade area and GIS sidewalk data assisted in scoring this set of criteria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> www.factfinder.census.gov

# a. Does the corridor connect to existing bike and pedestrian networks?

Connectivity to existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure was considered to be of high importance in the creation of this criterion since projects should build upon the current network and not be isolated and difficult to access. This includes, but is not limited to, on-road bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and shared use paths such as the Azalea City Trail. Those projects that connected to existing bicycle and pedestrian paths received higher prioritization.

- o Yes (both)
  - 10 points
- Yes, but not both bike and pedestrian networks
  - 5 points

o No

0 points

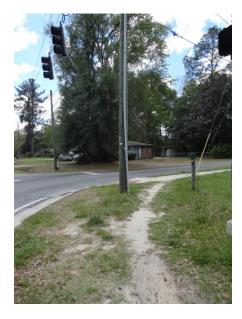


Figure 3: Desire path connecting to a sidewalk showing the need for additional sidewalks on Forrest Street at Woodlawn Drive

# b. Does adjacent land use require access for freight deliveries?

Land uses and zoning boundaries were essential in determining the degree of freight planning and access necessary for each corridor of interest.<sup>15</sup> Local signage dictating whether or not freight vehicles could utilize a road was also taken into consideration when assigning a score for this question. Since people and vehicles should coexist, those roads that have high frequencies of freight deliveries or are zoned for commercial uses received a higher score.

- o Yes
  - 5 points
- o No
  - 0 points
- c. Does the road pass by or within <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile of a major destination center?



Figure 4: Lowndes High School main entrance on Norman Dr.

The destination centers considered for this criterion is diverse but also not entirely inclusive. The specific places considered were primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, healthcare facilities, industrial

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup><u>http://www.valdostacity.com/Data/Sites/1/media/depts/planning-zoning/zoning-1.pdf</u>
<u>http://www.lowndescounty.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/133</u>

complexes, retail and business clusters, parks, and military installations.

- Yes15 points
- 0 **No**
- 0 points

#### F. Roadway Characteristics

a. Does the road contain bike-able shoulders?



Figure 5: Bike lane on Lankford Drive

A bike-able shoulder is a shoulder that is wide enough to safely accommodate a cyclist and vehicular traffic.<sup>16</sup> There should be at least striping and signage notifying a driver that a bicycle lane or facility exists along a roadway. A buffer such as rumble strips, a landscaped median, or delineator posts are a bonus in most cases. Since Lowndes County does not have many bike lanes or bike-able shoulders, most roads along this stretch did not perform well. The scores were set based on the percentage of the road that has a bike-able facility or shoulder and are as follows:

- $\circ$  0 30% of segment
  - 1 point

- 30 60% of segment
  - 3 points
- o 60% to 90% of segment
  - 5 points

#### b. How much extra available ROW is there on each side of the road?

A plethora of available right-of-way space is another desirable feature for a road that is in need of bike and pedestrian accommodations. Wider ROW on either side of the street translated to a higher score in this category. For this section, Lowndes County property and tax parcel data were used to delineate where ROW ended and where private property began.<sup>17</sup> Anything over 10 feet was considered adequate for Complete Streets at the very least.

- o 0 10 feet
  - 2 points
- o 10 20 feet

0

- 5 points
- 20 feet or greater
  - 10 points
- c. Does ROW contain open ditches for stormwater?



Figure 6: Stormwater ditches, like along Eager Road, are not conducive to immediate Complete Street projects

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> GDOT Design Policy Manual.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> <u>http://qpublic.net/ga/lowndes/search.html</u>

This section, along with the next one, builds upon the previous question regarding ROW in that it considers what is contained in the extra ROW space. If there were no open ditches for stormwater, this was exceptional because of higher costs for capping the ditches and installing pipes and other water and sewer infrastructure.

- o Yes
  - 0 points
- Yes, but only in portions
  - 2 points
- o **No**
- 5 points
- d. Is there utility infrastructure that hinders development of bike/pedestrian network along existing ROW?



Figure 7: Utility poles on the ROW along River Street

If there were no utility poles or other major hindrances to future road widenings or development, then those streets scored better in this category.

- o Yes
- 0 points
- Yes, but only in portions
  - 2 points
- o No
- 5 points

# e. How wide are the road's existing lanes?

Roads with narrow lanes are less suitable for a Complete Streets project since there is little existing asphalt to work with. Lanes that are wider than 12 feet but less than 14 feet may be adequate for additional bike or pedestrian infrastructure, but this depends on the type of traffic that exists along the road and the speed limit at which it is traveling. Lanes that are 14 feet or greater are in the best position to be retrofitted for a bike lane.

- o 10 feet or less
  - 1 point
- o 10 to 12 feet
  - 2 points
- o 12 to 14 feet
  - 3 points
- o 14 feet or greater
  - 5 points

#### G. Gaps and Connectivity

It is essential that a road have continuous sidewalks for pedestrian, especially in areas where residents may not have ready access to a vehicle for shopping or commuting. This builds upon the vehicular access question in Section D and instead asks about sidewalk gaps and approximately where those gaps are located.

a. Does aerial imagery show signs of a need for sidewalks?



Figure 8: Aerial imagery showing desire path, or dirt in place of sidewalk, along St. Augustine Rd. (Source: Google Earth)

#### VALDOSTA-LOWNDES MPO

To introduce this part of the scoring process, this question asks about whether or not the need for a sidewalk exists. This primarily focuses upon desire paths, or sides of roads that do not have a sidewalk but have lawns worn down to dirt because of heavy foot traffic. An example of where this is located is along Norman Drive in front of Lowndes High School.

- o Yes
- 15 points
- o **No**
- 0 points

#### b. Do sidewalk gaps exist?



Figure 9: Dead-end sidewalk on Bemiss Road (Source: Google Street View)

Sidewalk gaps were grouped based on if they occurred on sides of the street, one side, or neither side of the street, with the latter option receiving the lowest score. Since the Valdosta Land Development Regulations require only one side of most city arterial and collector streets to contain a sidewalk, this was considered in the scoring process; however, if there were amenities located along a side of a street on which no sidewalk was present, then this was noted. Baytree Road in front of the movie theater for instance, does not have a sidewalk nor is there a safe way to cross from the mall. This is where a sidewalk or crossing mechanism may need to be installed to allow pedestrians and customers of nearby hotels and businesses to traverse the area without the need of a car.

- o Neither Side
  - 0 points
  - One Side

0

- 3 points
- o Both Sides
  - 5 points
- c. What is the estimated gap length?

This is where gap lengths were estimated based on available GIS data and field observations. It can be as simple as there being a 50% gap due to one side having a sidewalk and not the other or as complex as tiny gaps along one sidewalk. Due to this wide variability between each street, general categories were established as follows:

- o 0 to 25% of sidewalk length
  - 1 point
- 25 to 75% of sidewalk length
  - 3 points
- o 75 to 100% of sidewalk length
  - 5 points

#### H. Signed/Unsigned Bicycle Route

This section asks whether or not the road is part of a local or state bicycle route. Most of the bicycle routes in this community are signed and part of the state network of numbered bicycle routes. Georgia Bike Routes 10 and 15 pass through Lowndes County, but are not on a single continuous street. Therefore, a bike route may align with a local street, but that local street is not entirely a bike route. The map below shows a general depiction of the bike routes in Lowndes County. The assigned numerical values for this category immediately follow.

### Lowndes County Bike Routes



- Yes, the entire road segment is part of a bike route
  - 0 points
- Yes, but only a portion of the road is part of a bike route.
  - 10 points
- o No
- 15 points



Figure 10: Georgia Bike Route 10 along Skipper Bridge Road in northern Lowndes County (Source: Google Street View)

#### I. Crash & Traffic Data

The traffic and crash data for Lowndes County used in this report was downloaded from the Georgia Electronic Accident Reporting System (GEARS) and considers all crashes that took place within the last 5 years from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016.<sup>18</sup> All traffic counts were recorded by GDOT in 2015.<sup>19</sup>

#### a. How many crashes were there along this stretch of highway in the past 5 years?

Roads that were the sites of 50 or more crashes received more points than those with fewer than 50 crashes. Crashes over the past five calendar years (2012 to 2016) for roads examined in this report ranged from 16 to 720.

- o Less than 50 crashes
  - 5 points
- o More than 50 crashes
  - 10 points

# b. What is the approximate AADT for this road segment?

Roads with higher annual average daily traffic (AADT) counts were given a higher score to account for safety of drivers, bikers, and pedestrians, alike.

- o Less than 10,000 AADT
  - 1 point
- o 10,000 to 15,000 AADT
  - 3 points
- o Greater than 15,000 AADT
  - 5 points

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> www.gearsportal.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> <u>http://geocounts.com/gdot/</u>

# c. Did any of these crashes involve cyclists or pedestrians?

Regrettably, many crashes examined for this report involved injuries or fatalities, some of which were exclusively to bicyclists or pedestrians. If there were any crashes involving bicyclists or pedestrians, 10 points were added to the proposed road project.

- Yes
  15 points
  No
  - O points

#### J. Planning Considerations

a. Does the roadway include design standards set forth in the GDOT Design Policy Manual, SGRC Complete Streets Best Practices, or the Valdosta-Lowndes Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan?

For the final section of the scoring criteria, Design Policies and schematics from GDOT and local planning publications were used to determine if the road exhibited certain Complete Streets standards. The default answer to this question was no, but in a few cases, such as Lankford Drive, there were Complete Street standards and designs already in place.

- o Yes
  - 5 points
- o No
- 10 points

#### **IV.** Results

The following two pages show the results of this scoring methodology and how each proposed road project was ranked in terms of Complete Streets suitability. There are two separate prioritized lists of projects for the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. The highest overall scoring road was North Lee Street between Central Ave. and Ann St. earning 174 points out of 200 possible points. Good Hope Rd. in the eastern portion of the county was the lowest scored overall with 75 out of 200 points. Appendices B and D show detailed scores for each criteria on all evaluated roads.

One page profiles of the top ten road projects that should consider incorporating complete street elements are included in Appendices C and E for the city and county, respectively. These include their final score, crash data, major points of interest along the road or within ½ mile of the road, project list appearances, and key recommendations for making the road friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians.



Rank	Corridor	Points (out of 200)
1	N. Lee St. (Ann St. to Central Ave.)	174
2	E. Park Ave. (Jaycee Shack Rd. to Perimeter Rd.)	156
3	N. Forrest St. (E. Hill Ave. to Pineview Dr.)	155
T4	River Street (Norman Dr. to Wells St.)	151
T4	N. Forrest St. (Pineview Dr. to Perimeter Rd.)	151
6	Norman Dr.	150
7	Baytree Rd. (Gornto Rd. to Oak St.)	147
8	Jerry Jones Dr./Eager Rd. (Gornto Rd. to Jadan Pl.)	145
9	Park Ave. culvert improvements (Lee St. to Forrest St.)	141
T10	S. Lee St. (MLK Dr. to Griffin Ave.)	138
T10	Ashley St. culvert improvements (College St. to Ann St.)	138
12	Gornto Rd. (St. Augustine Rd. to Jerry Jones Dr.)	136
T13	Country Club Dr. culvert improvements	132
T13	Jerry Jones Dr. (Gornto Rd. to Baytree Rd.)	132
15	E. Gordon St. (Patterson St. to Forrest St.)	131
16	Park Ave. (Oak St. to Ashley St.)	126
T17	Clay Rd. (Old Statenville Rd. to Hill Ave.)	124
T17	Gornto Rd. (Jerry Jones Dr. to Oak St.)	124
19	North Lee St (Vallotton to Ann)	123
20	West Street (Gordon St. to Hill Ave.)	121
21	W. Gordon St. – Oak St. to Patterson St.	118
22	Dampier St. culvert improvements	112
T23	Gordon St. (Lankford Dr. to West St.	105
T23	Berkley Dr. culvert improvements	105
T25	Patterson St. culvert improvements (Georgia Ave. to Brookwood Dr.)	103
T25	Lankford Dr. culvert improvements	103
27	Old Clyattville Rd. (Gil Harbin Industrial Blvd. to ME Thompson Dr.)	102
28	Cherry Creek Rd. (Oak St. Ext. to Orr Rd.)	100
29	Gordon St. (West St. to Oak St.)	99

Table 2: City of Valdosta Prioritized Ranking of Proposed Projects for Complete Street Design Attributes

Rank	Corridor	Points (out of 200)
1	Lakes Blvd. (GA 376) – Loch Laurel Rd. to W. Marion Ave. (US 41)	154
2	Old Clyattville Rd. – I-75 to Clyattville-Nankin Rd.	132
3	Cat Creek Rd –Berrien Co. line to Bemiss Rd	130
4	Knights Academy Rd. – Bemiss Rd. to US 221	127
T5	Shiloh Rd. – Morven Rd. to I-75	126
T5	Skipper Bridge Rd. – Cook Co. Line to Bemiss Rd.	126
7	Coleman Rd. N – Crooked Cir to Stewart Cir	124
8	Lake Park-Bellville Rd. – E. Marion Ave (US 41) to I-75	123
9	Howell Rd. – Griffin Ave. to Perimeter Rd.	118
10	GA 122 – Morven Rd. to Hagan Bridge Rd.	117
11	Rocky Ford Rd. – US 84 to Clyattville-Nankin Rd.	110
12	Old US 41 Widening Phase II – Dasher Grove Rd. to North Valdosta Rd.	108
T13	Morven Rd – county line to GA 122	107
T13	Studstill Rd. – Bemiss Rd. to Knights Academy Rd.	107
15	Clyattville-Nankin Rd – Brooks Co. line to Madison Hwy. (GA 31)	101
T16	Loch Laurel Rd Madison Hwy to GA 376	100
T16	Stafford Wright Rd. – Cherry Creek Rd. to Skipper Bridge Rd.	100
T18	Coffee Rd – Morven Rd. to Old Valdosta Rd.	99
T18	Briggston Rd. – Old Clyattville Rd to GA 31	99
T18	James Rd. – GA 133 to US 84	99
21	Val Del Rd. – GA 122 to N. Valdosta Rd.	96
22	Hickory Grove Rd North – US 41 to Echols Co. line	95
23	Ousley Rd. – US 84 to Old Clyattville Rd.	94
T24	Old State Rd. – US 221 to Good Hope Rd.	90
T24	Bethany Rd. – Bethany Dr. to Val Del Rd.	90
T24	Howell Rd. – Perimeter Rd. to Grand Bay Cr	90
27	Old Quitman Rd. – Ousley Rd. to US 84	87
28	Thompson Rd. – Union Rd. to Old US 41	85
29	Staten Rd. – Orr Rd. to Skipper Bridge Rd.	81
30	Good Hope Rd. – Lanier Co. line to GA 135	75

Table 3: Lowndes County Prioritized Ranking of Proposed Projects for Complete Street Design Attributes

#### V. Discussion and Conclusion

As seen through Tables 2 and 3 in the Results section along with Appendices B - E, the scoring methodology used here yielded scores that show improvements needed to make Valdosta and Lowndes County friendlier to bicyclists and pedestrians. This was a data driven process that examined multiple sources of geographical and sociological information. Some common themes throughout the community include a lack of roads with bikeable shoulders, many corridors with sidewalk gaps, and a need to implement design policies from GDOT and SGRC Complete Streets Best Practices.

Corridors that pass through census block groups where inhabitants bike or walk to work are largely underserved in terms of bike and pedestrian infrastructure. This variable was weighed heavily in the scoring process because Complete Streets design should take into account the needs of area residents. Considerations for connectivity to existing bike/pedestrian networks is paramount in improving these conditions and the quality of life for residents who depend on these networks for commutes, recreation, and other purposes.

Roads that appear low on these prioritized lists should not be wholly ignored for Complete Streets makeovers as they may have certain features that allow for an uncomplicated transition. An example of such a road is Gordon Street between West and Oak Street where wide shoulders currently exist. The most visible need here is restriping to allow for a dedicated bike lane.

While many county roads that are included in the Lowndes County prioritization are two-lane

collectors, many pass through residential subdivisions and near schools. Consequently, this necessitates more bike and pedestrian features to improve safety and accessibility. Skipper Bridge Road is a good example in that it connects neighborhoods and businesses with Pine Grove Elementary and Middle Schools, and it is also part of the Georgia Bike Route network. In some places, this road has simple fixes such as striping near the Withlacoochee River to supplement the existing wide shoulders. For recreation, county roads with smaller traffic counts are good environments for cycling and other forms of exercise.

These proposed projects in the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County outlined here will all provide plentiful benefits to not only the neighborhood residents, but to the entire community. It is essential that planning for active modes of transportation is a priority, especially for those areas where walking and biking to work are the only options available for residents. This report serves as a guide for the communities within the Valdosta urbanized area and Lowndes County on where an emphasis on Complete Streets designs would be most advantageous for residents and visitors, alike. The next step is determining how to implement Complete Streets corridors in the community and to encourage community leaders to include Complete Streets elements in the design and planning steps for upcoming road projects in the community.

Street Name				Max Score	SCORE
Beginning Point					
End Point				200	200
Project List Appearance				200	200
	SCORING CRITERI	Α			POINTS
Street Classification (Arterials and Collectors C	inly)				
Is the road classified as an arterial	or collector street by GDOT?				
Arterial - 10 points					
Collector - 5 points					10
Bicycle Infrastructure -Does the road exhibit b	icycle-friendly qualities?		Comments		
Yes, no needed improvements (i.e.	bike lanes, side path, etc.)	0 points			
Yes, but improvements recommen		5 points			
No, this road is not bicycle-friendly		10 points			10
Pedestrian Infrastructure - Does the road exhi	pit pedestrian-friendly qualities	?	Comments		
Yes, no needed improvements (i.e.	sidewalks, shared paths, etc.)	0 points			
Yes, but improvements recommen	ded	5 points			
No, this road is not pedestrian-frie	ndly	10 points			10
Mobility - Is the road in an area with high leve	s of multimodal transportation	?			
High percentage of people who bik	e to work (based on 2015 U.S. (	Census ACS Estimates)	RAW VAL	UES	
Block Groups					
0 - 4%		1 point	Beg. Point	10	
4 - 8%		5 points	End Point	10	
8 - 12%		10 points	Average	10	10
High percentage of people walking	to work (based on 2015 U.S. Ce	ensus ACS Estimates)	RAW VAL	UES	
Block Groups					
0 - 4%		1 point	Beg. Point	10	
4 - 8%		5 points	End Point	10	
8 - 12%		10 points	Average	10	10
Percent of people who do not own	a vehicle (based on 2015 U.S. C	Census ACS Estimates)	RAW VAL	UES	
Block Groups					
0 - 10%		1 point	Beg. Point	10	
10 - 25%		5 points	End Point	10	
>25%		10 points	Average	10	10

Destinations and Networks		
Does the corridor connect to existing bike/pedestrian networks?		
Yes (both) - 10 points Yes, but not both - 5 points	No - 0 points	10
Does adjacent land use require access for freight deliveries?		
Yes - 5 points No - 0 points		5
Does the road pass by or near (within 1/2 mile) a destination center	er, such as a school,	
college/university, industrial complex, retail/business, military insta	allation, etc.?	
Yes - 15 points No - 0 points		15
Roadway Characteristics		
Does the road in question contain bikeable shoulders?		
0 - 30 % of segment	5 points	
30 - 60% of segment	3 points	
60 - 90 % of segment	1 point	5
How much extra available right-of-way (ROW) width is there on eac	ch side of the road?	
0 - 10 feet	2 points	
10 - 20 feet	5 points	
20 feet or greater	10 points	10
Does the road right-of-way contain open ditches for stormwater?		
Yes -0 points Yes, but in portions - 2 points	No - 5 points	5
Is there utility infrastructure (i.e. poles) that hinder the development	nt of bike/ped	
infrastructure within existing ROW?		
Yes -0 points Yes, but in portions - 2 points	No - 5 points	5
How wide are the existing lanes along this road?		
10 feet or less	1 point	
10 - 12 feet	2 points	
12 - 14 feet	3 points	
14 feet or greater	5 points	5
Gaps & Connectivity		
Does aerial imagery show signs of a need for sidewalks (desire path	ns)?	
Yes - 15 points No - 0 points		15
Do sidewalk gaps exist on one-side, both, or neither side of the roa	d?	
Neither	0 points	
One Side	3 points	
Both Sides	5 points	5

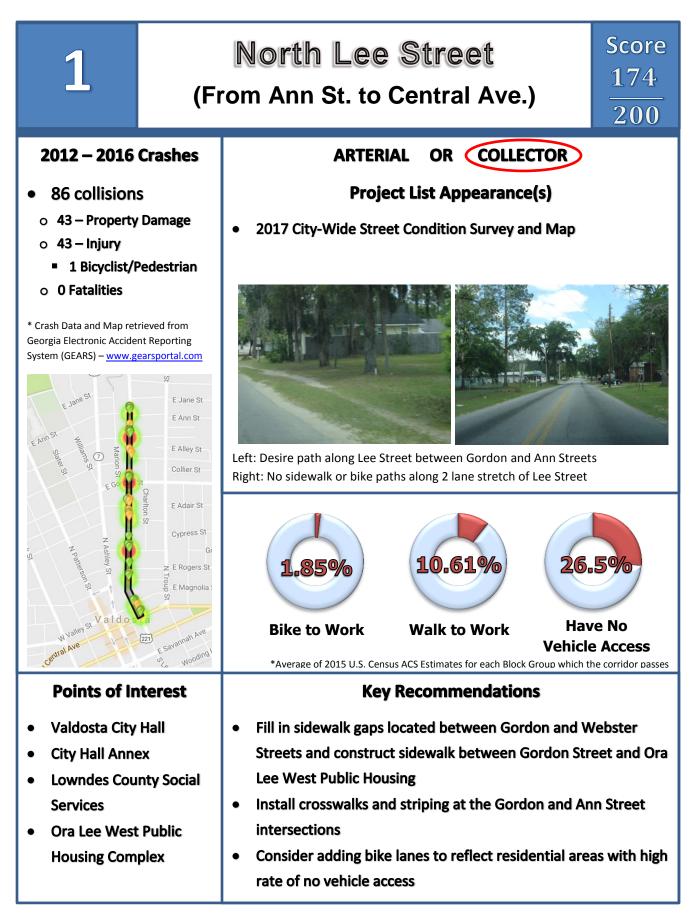
What is the estimated gap length according	ng to GIS analysis?										
0 - 25%		1 point									
25 - 75 %		3 points									
75 - 100%		5 points			5						
Signed/Unsigned Bicycle Route											
Is the road part of a signed and/or unsign	ed bicycle route?										
Yes - 0 points Yes, bu	t in portions - 10 points	No - 15 points			15						
Motor Vehicle Crash & Traffic Data											
How many crashes were there along this	road in the past five (5) ye	ears?									
Less than 50 crashes - 5 points	;										
More than 50 crashes - 10 po	ints				10						
What is the approximate AADT for this roa	ad segment (2015 GDOT )	AADT data)?									
Less than 10,000		1 point									
10,000 - 15,000		3 points									
Greater than 15,000		5 points			5						
Did any of these crashes involve bicyclists	or pedestrians?										
Yes - 15 points	No - 0 po	oints			15						
Planning Considerations											
Does the roadway include Design Standar	ds in GDOT Design Policy	Manual,									
SGRC Complete Streets Best Practices rep	ort or identified in the Bi	ke/Pedestrian									
Master Plan?	Master Plan?										
Yes - 5 points	No - 10 p	oints			10						

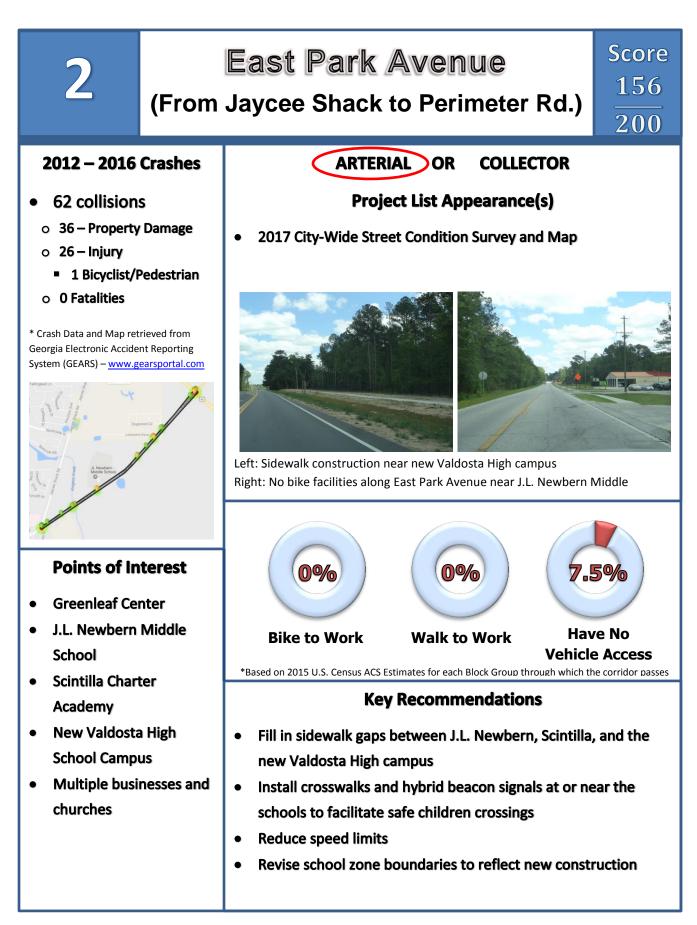
ADDITIONAL NOTES:

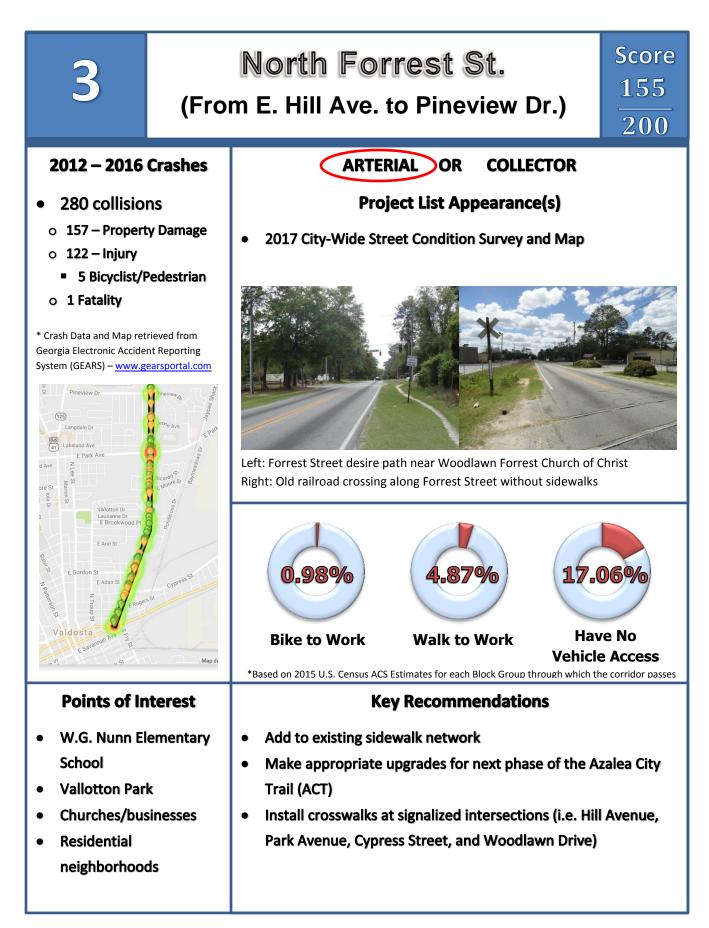
### Appendix B: Complete Streets Suitability Scoring Summary Sheet – City of Valdosta

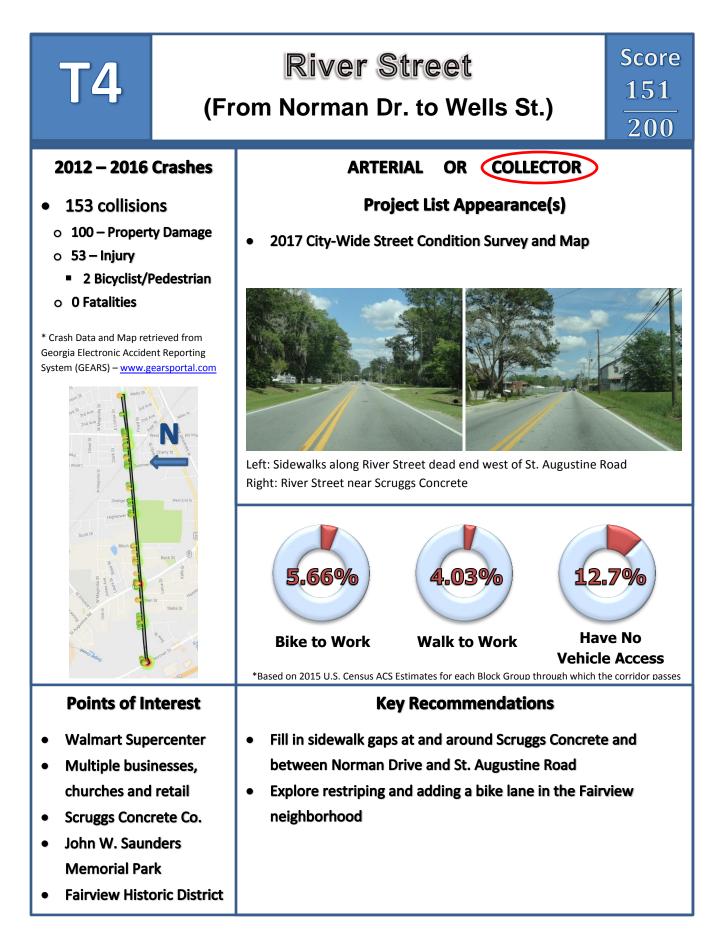
Please see scoring sheet for specific point values and their specific connotation.	Arterial or collector?	Does the road exhibit bike-friendly qualities?	Does the road exhibit pedfriendly qualities?	High percentage of people who bike to work?	High percentage of people who walk to work?	Percent of people who do not own a vehicle?	Does corridor connect to other existing bike/ped networks?	Does land use require freight delivery access?	Does road pass by or near destination center?	Does road contain bikeable shoulders?	How much extra available ROW width is there?	Does Row contain open ditches for stormwater?	Do utilities hinder bike/ped development?	How wide are existing lanes along this road?	Does aerial imagery show signs of a need for sidewalks?	One side, both, or neither side have sidewalk gaps?	What is estimated gap length according to GIS analysis?	Is the road part of a signed and/or unsigned bicycle route?	Number of crashes in past five years?	Approximate AADT for this road segment?	Did crashes involve bicyclists or pedestrians?	Does roadway include design standards from GDOT, SGRC, or other Bike/Ped Plan?	TOTAL POINTS
N. Lee St. (Ann St. to Central Ave.)	5	10	5	10	10	10	10	0	15	5	10	5	0	3	15	5	3	15	10	3	15	10	174
E. Park Ave. (Jaycee Shack Rd. to Perimeter Rd.)	10	10	5	1	1	1	10	5	15	5	10	0	5	2	15	5	5	15	10	1	15	10	156
N. Forrest St. (E. Hill Ave. to Pineview Dr.)	10	10	5	1	5	5	5	0	15	5	10	5	5	2	15	3	3	15	10	1	15	10	155
River Street (Norman Dr. to Wells St.)	5	10	5	5	5	5	10	0	15	5	5	2	0	3	15	5	5	15	10	1	15	10	151
N. Forrest St. (Pineview Dr. to Perimeter Rd.)	10	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	15	5	10	0	5	2	15	5	5	15	10	1	15	10	151
Norman Dr.	5	10	5	1	5	1	10	5	15	5	2	5	5	3	15	5	5	10	10	3	15	10	150
Baytree Rd. (Gornto Rd. to Oak St.)	10	10	5	1	1	1	10	5	15	5	5	5	0	3	15	3	3	10	10	5	15	10	147
Jerry Jones Dr./Eager Rd. (Gornto Rd. to Jadan Pl.)	10	10	10	1	1	1	10	0	15	5	10	0	5	2	15	5	5	15	10	5	0	10	145
Park Ave. culvert improvements (Lee St. to Forrest St.)	10	5	5	1	1	5	10	5	15	5	5	5	5	3	0	3	5	15	10	3	15	10	141
S. Lee St. (MLK Dr. to Griffin Ave.)	5	10	5	5	10	10	10	0	15	5	10	5	5	2	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	138
Ashley St. culvert improvements (College St. to Ann St.)	10	10	5	1	5	5	10	5	15	5	5	5	0	2	0	0	0	15	10	5	15	10	138
Gornto Rd. (St. Augustine Rd. to Jerry Jones Dr.)	10	10	5	1	1	1	10	0	15	5	5	5	5	2	0	3	5	15	10	3	15	10	136
Country Club Dr. culvert improvements	10	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	15	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	10	3	15	10	132
Jerry Jones Dr. (Gornto Rd. to Baytree Rd.)	10	10	5	1	1	1	10	0	15	5	2	2	5	2	15	5	5	15	10	3	0	10	132
E. Gordon St. (Patterson St. to Forrest St.)	5	5	5	1	5	5	10	0	15	3	5	5	5	5	0	3	3	15	10	1	15	10	131

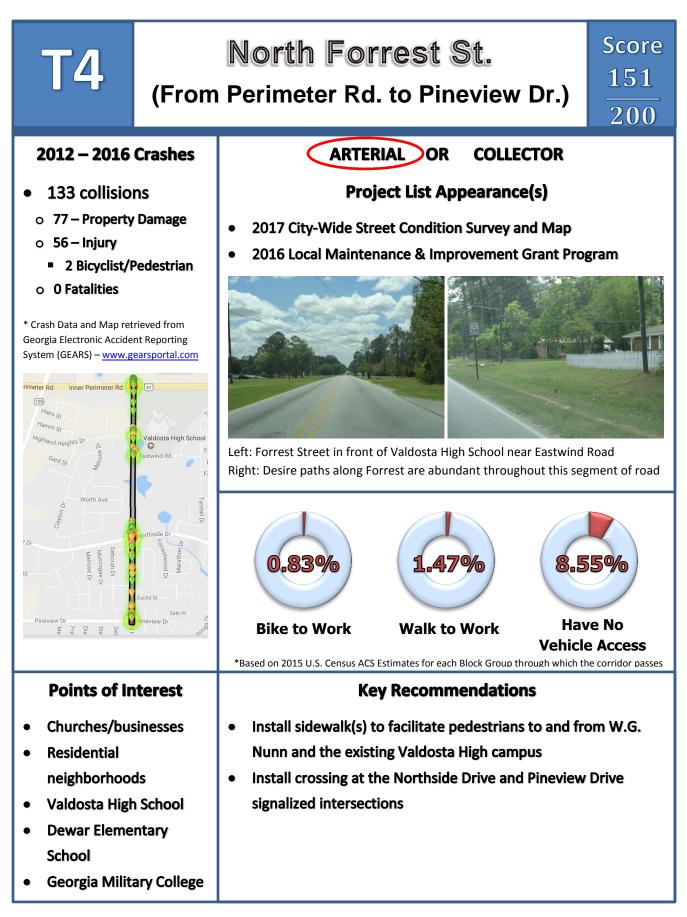
	Arterial or collector?	Does the road exhibit bike-friendly qualities?	Does the road exhibit pedfriendly qualities?	High percentage of people who bike to work?	High percentage of people who walk to work?	Percent of people who do not own a vehicle	Does corridor connect to existing bike/ped networks?	Does land use require freight delivery access?	Does road pass by or near destination center?	Does road contain bikeable shoulders?	How much extra available ROW width is there?	Does Row contain open ditches for stormwater?	Do utilities hinder bike/ped development?	How wide are existing lanes along this road?	Does aerial imagery show signs of a need for sidewalks?	One side, both, or neither side have sidewalk gaps?	What is estimated gap length according to GIS analysis?	Is the road part of a signed and/or unsigned bicycle route?	Number of crashes in past five years?	Approximate AADT for this road segment?	Did crashes involve bicyclists or pedestrians?	Does roadway include design standards from GDOT, SGRC, or other Bike/Ped Plan?	TOTAL POINTS
Park Ave. (Oak St. to Ashley St.)	10	10	5	1	5	1	10	0	15	5	5	5	5	3	0	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	126
Clay Rd. (Old Statenville Rd. to Hill Ave.)	10	10	10	1	5	5	0	5	15	5	10	0	5	2	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	124
Gornto Rd. (Jerry Jones Dr. to Oak St.)	10	10	5	1	1	1	10	0	15	5	5	0	0	2	15	3	5	15	10	1	0	10	124
North Lee St (Vallotton to Ann)	5	5	5	1	5	5	10	0	15	3	5	5	0	3	0	3	5	15	5	3	15	10	123
West St. (Gordon St. to Hill Ave.)	5	5	10	5	5	5	10	0	15	3	5	5	5	2	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	121
W. Gordon St. (Oak St. to Patterson St.)	5	10	10	1	1	5	10	0	15	5	2	5	5	2	0	3	3	15	10	1	0	10	118
Dampier St. culvert improvements	10	5	10	1	1	5	10	0	15	1	2	5	5	5	0	3	3	15	5	1	0	10	112
Gordon St. (Lankford Dr. to West St.)	5	5	5	1	1	5	10	0	15	5	2	5	0	2	0	3	5	15	10	1	0	10	105
Berkley Dr. culvert improvements	5	5	5	1	1	1	0	0	15	1	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	15	5	1	15	5	105
Patterson St. culvert improvements (Georgia Ave. to Brookwood Dr.)	10	10	5	1	5	5	10	5	15	5	5	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	10	103
Lankford Dr. culvert improvements	10	0	5	1	1	1	0	0	15	1	2	5	5	1	15	3	5	0	10	3	15	5	103
Old Clyattville Rd. (Gil Harbin Industrial Blvd. to ME Thompson Dr.)	10	5	10	1	1	1	0	5	15	1	10	0	5	2	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	5	102
Cherry Creek Rd. (Oak St. Ext. to Orr Rd.)	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	15	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	10	5	1	0	10	100
Gordon St. (West St. to Oak St.)	5	5	5	5	1	5	10	0	15	5	2	5	5	5	0	0	0	15	5	1	0	5	99
AVERAGE SCORES	7. 93	8.1	6.55	1.86	3	3.41	7.59	1.38	15	4.24	6	3.41	3.69	2.55	5.69	3.72	4.07	13.45	8.28	2.03	7.76	9.31	129.03

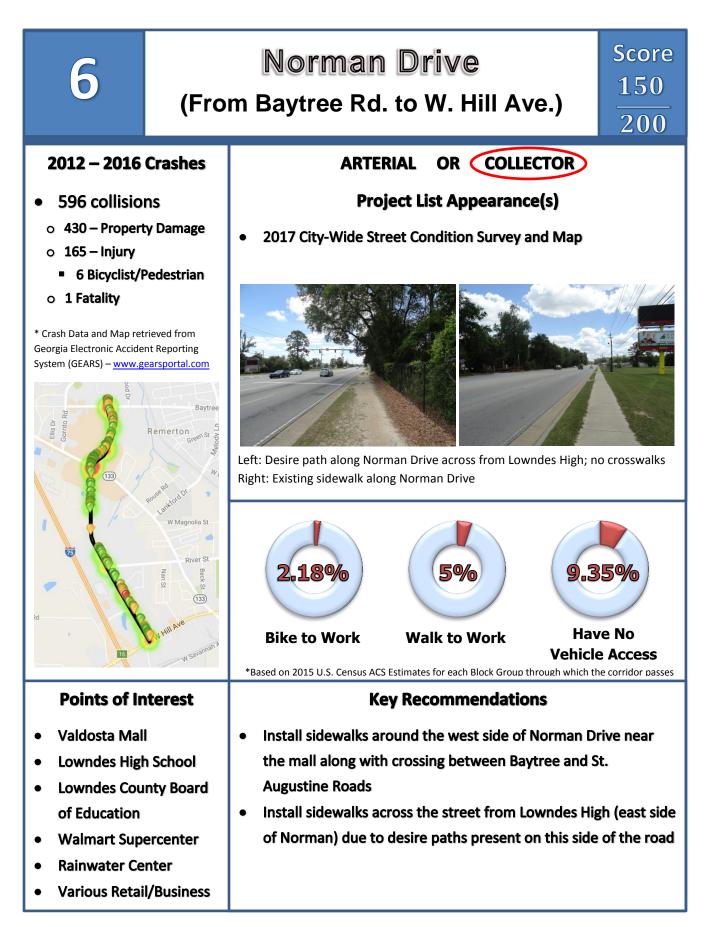


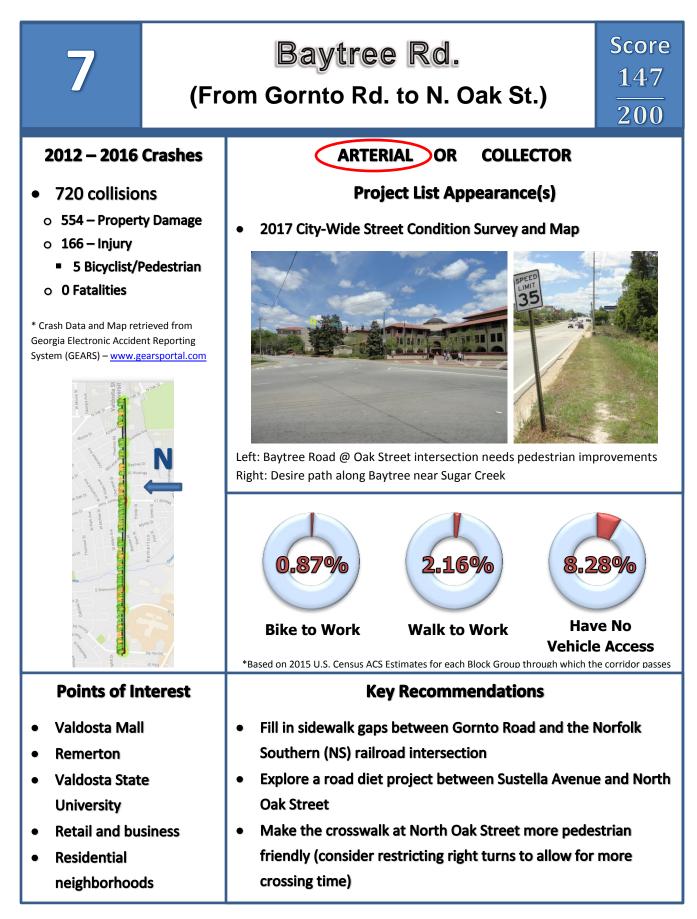


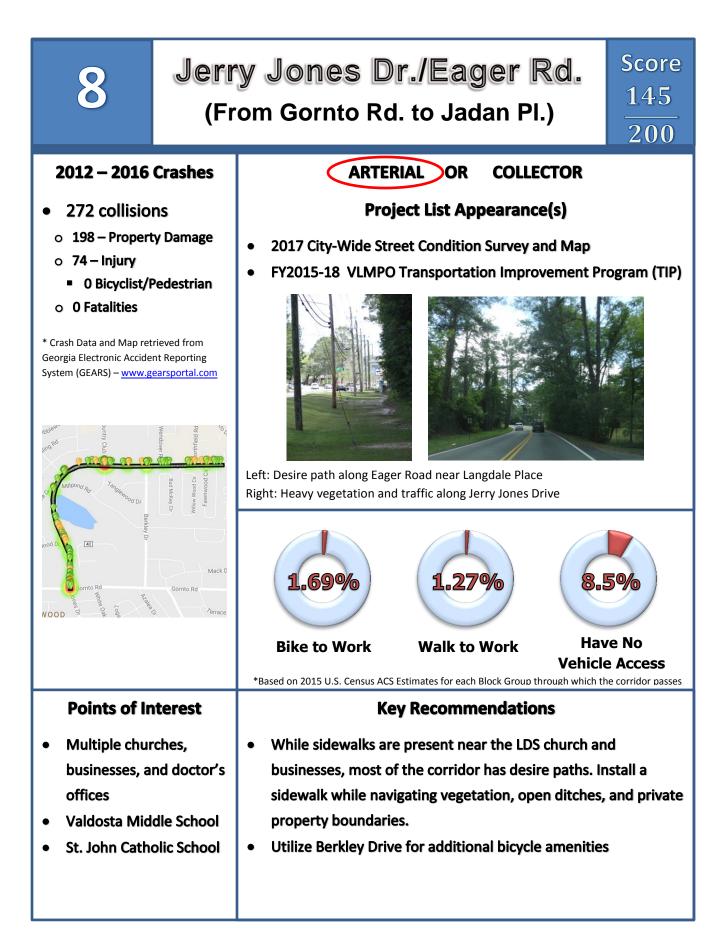


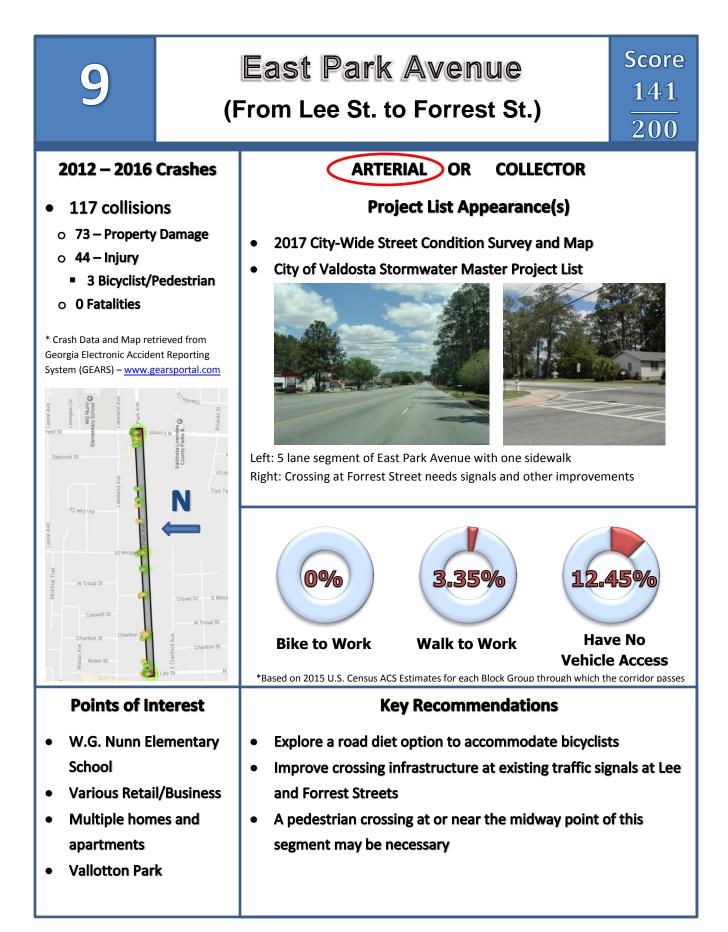


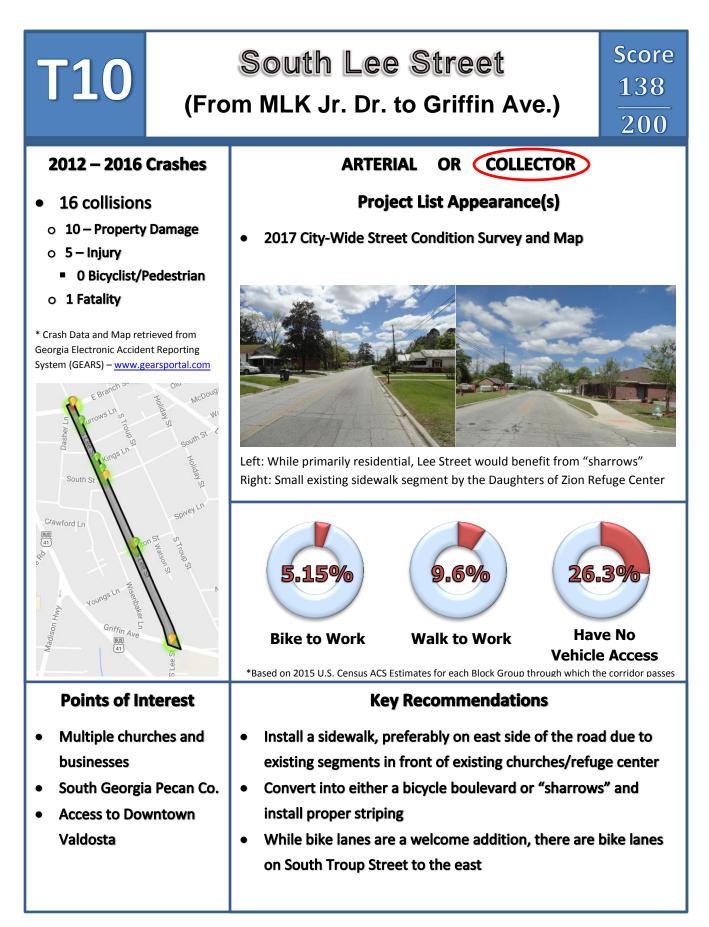


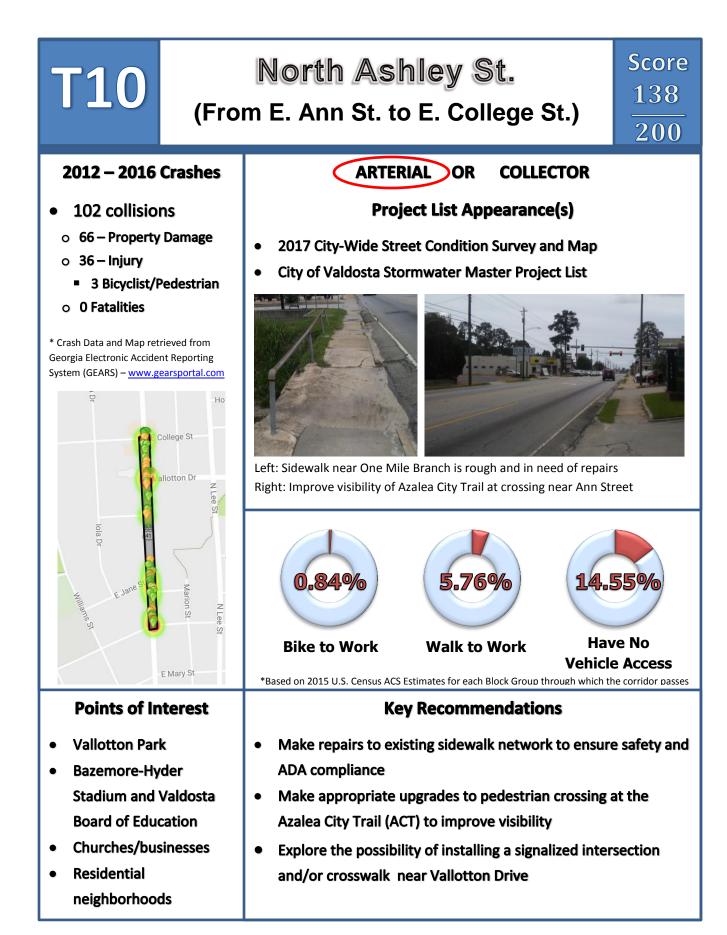








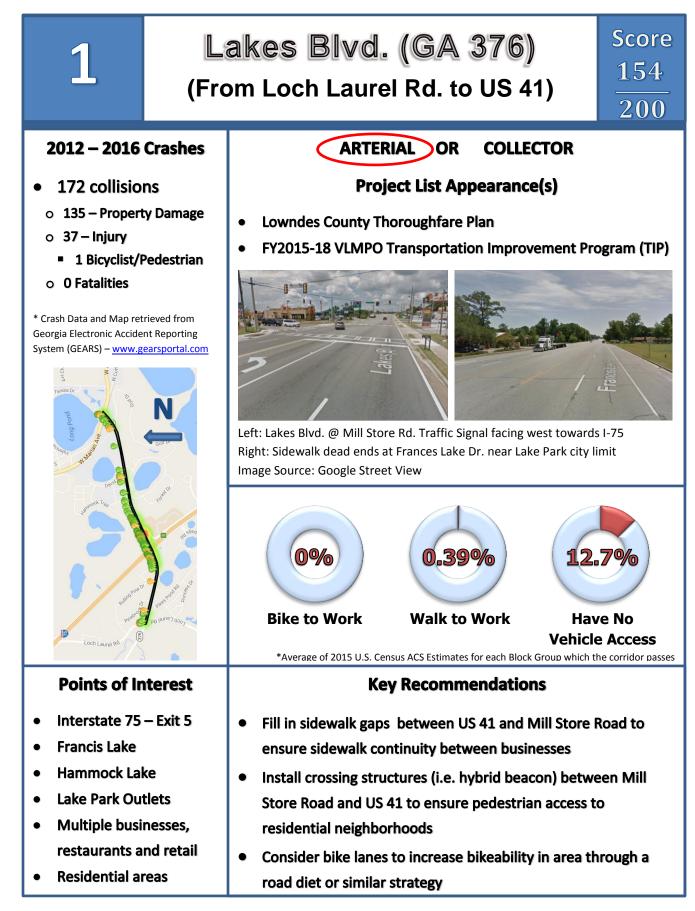


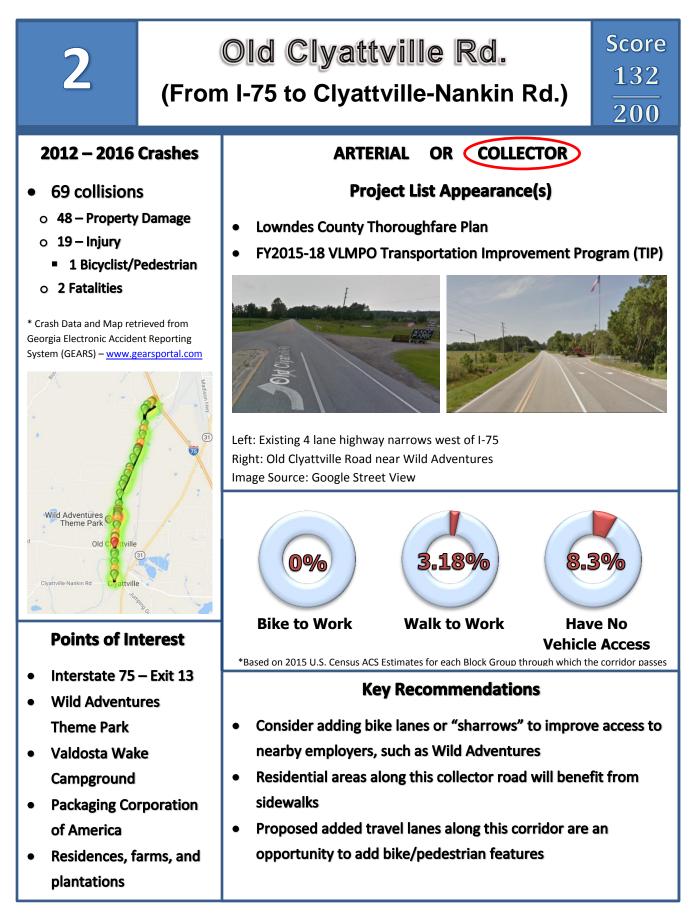


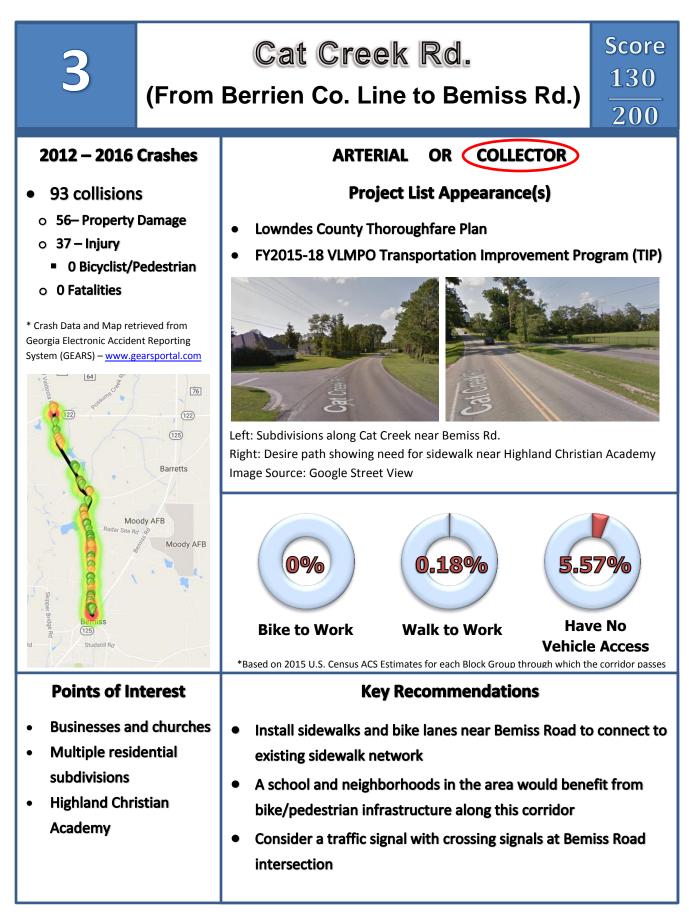
### Appendix D: Complete Streets Suitability Scoring Summary Sheet – Lowndes County

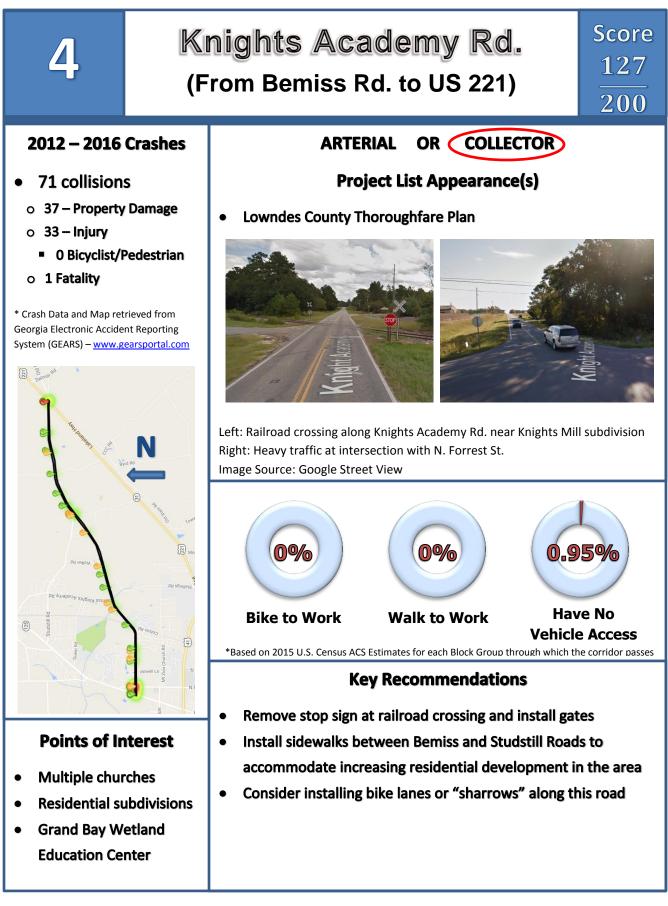
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Lakes Blvd. (GA 376) – Loch Laurel Rd. to W. Marion Ave. (US 41)	10	10	5	1	1	5	5	5	15	5	5	5	5	3	15	5	3	15	10	1	15	10	154
Old Clyattville Rd. – I-75 to Clyattville-Nankin Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	5	15	5	10	0	5	3	0	5	5	15	10	1	15	10	132
Cat Creek Rd –Berrien Co. line to Bemiss Rd	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	15	5	10	0	5	1	15	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	130
Knights Academy Rd. – Bemiss Rd. to US 221	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	15	5	10	0	2	1	15	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	127
Shiloh Rd. – Morven Rd. to I-75	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	15	5	10	0	5	2	0	5	5	15	10	1	15	10	126
Skipper Bridge Rd. – Cook Co. Line to Bemiss Rd.	5	5	10	1	1	1	10	0	15	3	10	2	5	2	15	5	5	10	10	1	0	10	126
Coleman Rd. N – Crooked Cir to Stewart Cir	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	5	15	5	5	2	2	1	15	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	124
Lake Park-Bellville Rd. – E. Marion Ave (US 41) to I-75	5	10	10	1	1	1	10	5	15	5	10	0	2	2	0	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	123
Howell Rd. – Griffin Ave. to Perimeter Rd.	10	10	10	1	5	5	0	0	15	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	118
GA 122 – Morven Rd. to Hagan Bridge Rd.	10	5	5	1	1	1	10	5	15	3	5	2	5	2	0	5	1	10	10	1	15	5	117
Rocky Ford Rd. – US 84 to Clyattville-Nankin Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	15	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	110
Old US 41 Widening Phase II – Dasher Grove Rd. to North Valdosta Rd.	10	10	10	1	1	1	0	5	15	5	10	0	5	2	0	5	5	0	10	3	0	10	108
Morven Rd – county line to GA 122	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	15	5	10	0	2	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	107
Studstill Rd. – Bemiss Rd. to Knights Academy Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	0	5	10	0	2	1	15	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	107
Clyattville-Nankin Rd – Brooks Co. line to Madison Hwy. (GA 31)	5	5	10	1	5	1	0	0	15	5	10	0	2	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10 31	101

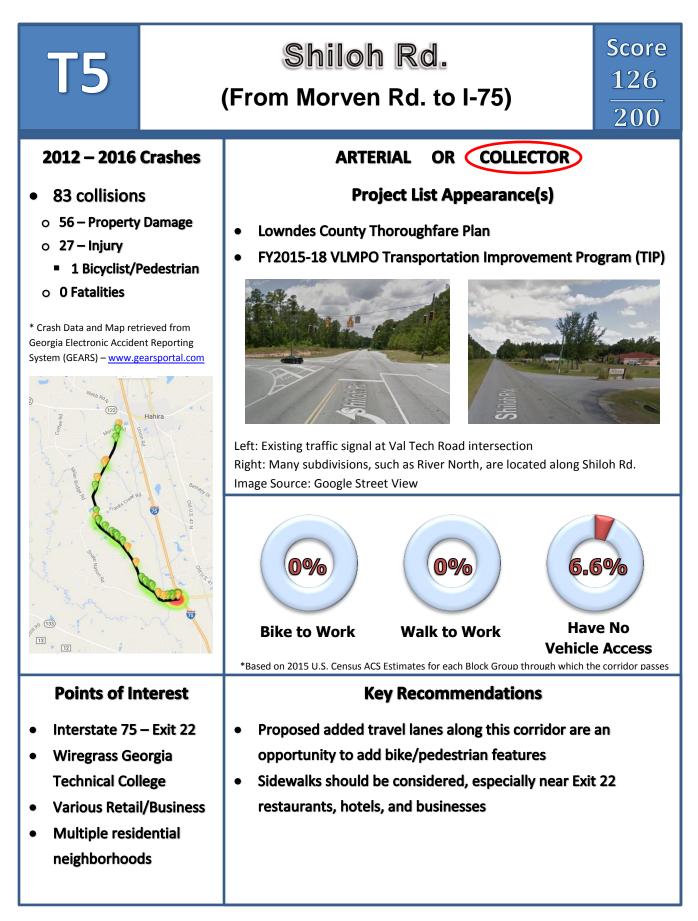
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Loch Laurel Rd Madison Hwy to GA 376	5	10	10	1	1	5	0	0	0	5	10	0	5	2	0	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	100
Stafford Wright Rd. – Cherry Creek Rd. to Skipper Bridge Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	15	5	5	0	0	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	100
Coffee Rd – Morven Rd. to Old Valdosta Rd.	5	10	5	1	1	5	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	15	10	99
Briggston Rd. – Old Clyattville Rd to GA 31	5	10	10	1	1	5	0	0	15	5	5	0	0	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	99
James Rd. – GA 133 to US 84	5	10	5	1	1	5	0	0	15	5	2	5	5	3	0	3	3	15	5	1	0	10	99
Val Del Rd. – GA 122 to N. Valdosta Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	10	0	5	2	0	5	5	15	10	1	0	10	96
Hickory Grove Rd North – US 41 to Echols Co. line	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	0	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	95
Ousley Rd. – US 84 to Old Clyattville Rd.	5	10	10	1	5	1	0	0	0	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	94
Old State Rd. – US 221 to Good Hope Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	90
Bethany Rd. – Bethany Dr. to Val Del Rd.	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	90
Howell Rd. – Perimeter Rd. to Grand Bay Cr	5	10	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	10	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	90
Old Quitman Rd. – Ousley Rd. to US 84	5	5	5	1	1	1	0	0	15	5	2	0	5	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	87
Thompson Rd. – Union Rd. to Old US 41	5	10	10	1	1	1	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	85
Staten Rd. – Orr Rd. to Skipper Bridge Rd.	5	5	10	1	1	1	5	0	0	3	10	0	2	2	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	5	81
Good Hope Rd. – Lanier Co. line to GA 135	5	5	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	0	5	5	15	5	1	0	10	75
AVERAGE SCORES	5.67	9	9.17	1	1.4	1.8	2.68	1	9	4.8	8.13	0.53	3.47	1.47	3	4.93	4.73	14.17	7.17	1.07	2.5	9.67	106.33

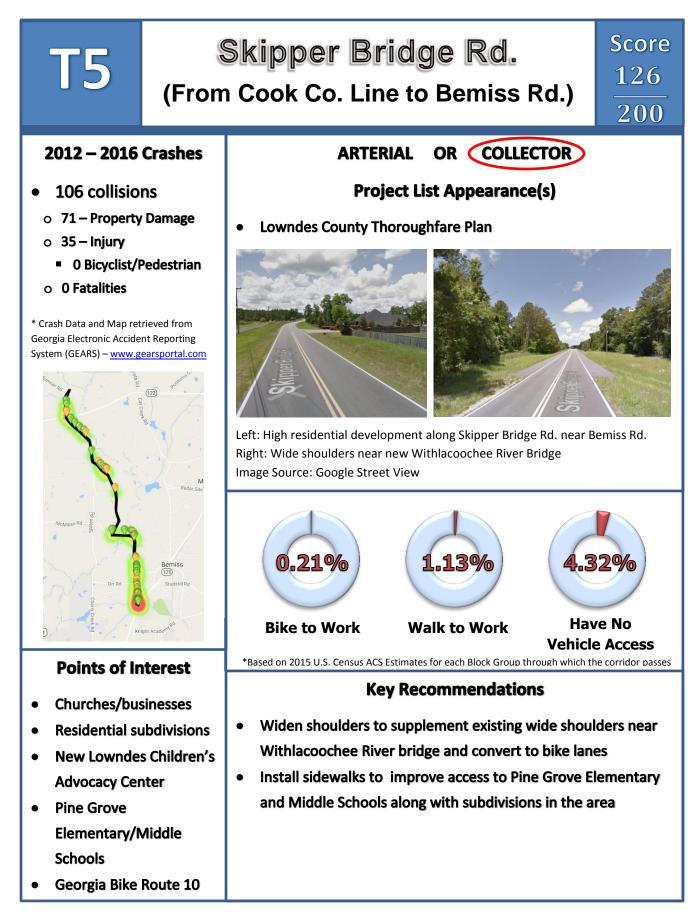


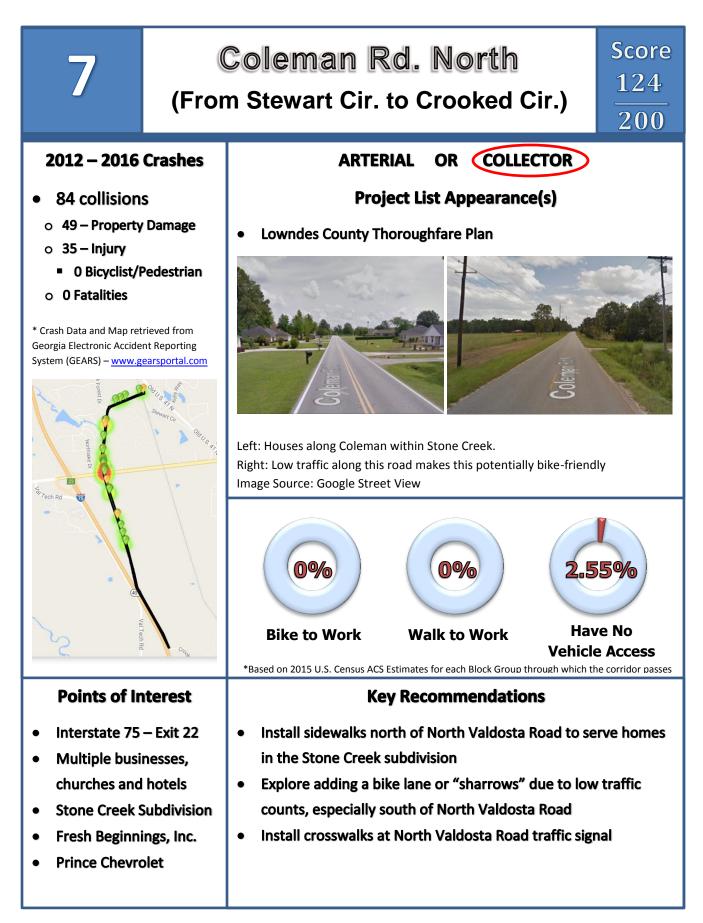


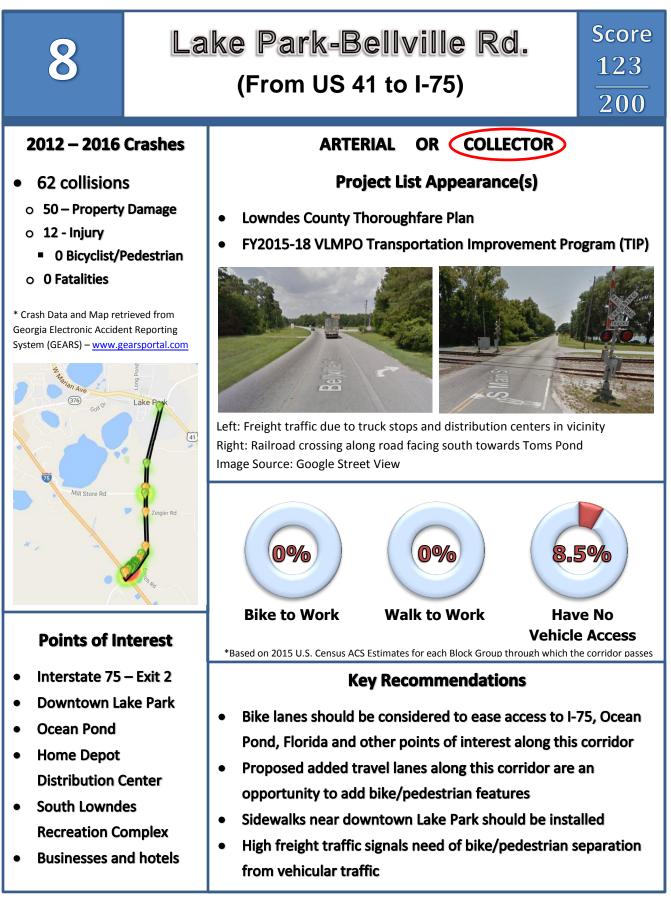


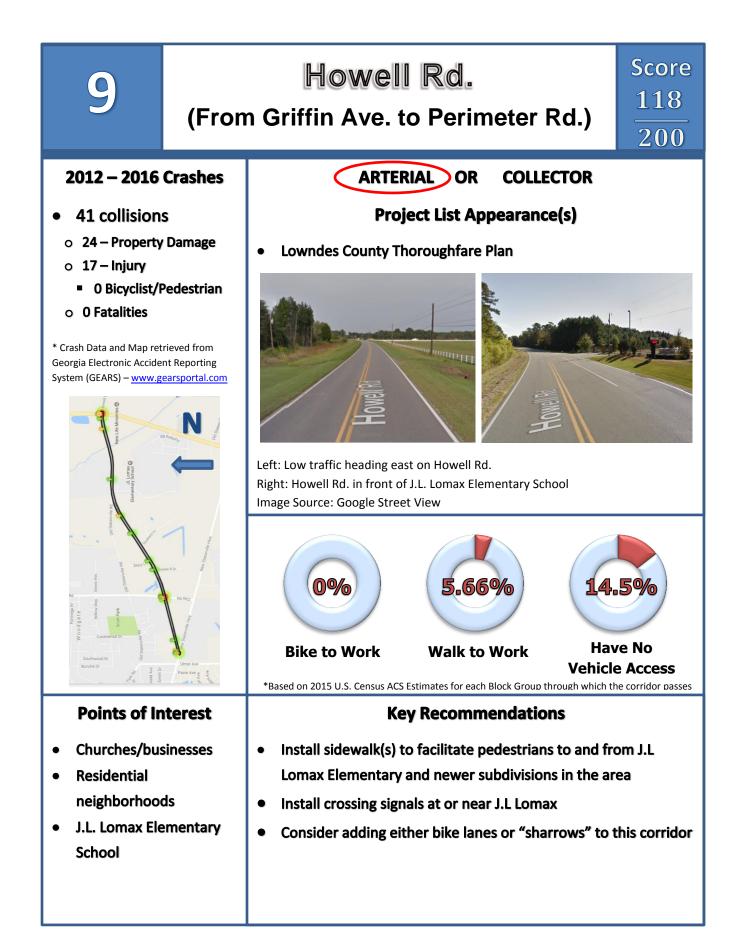


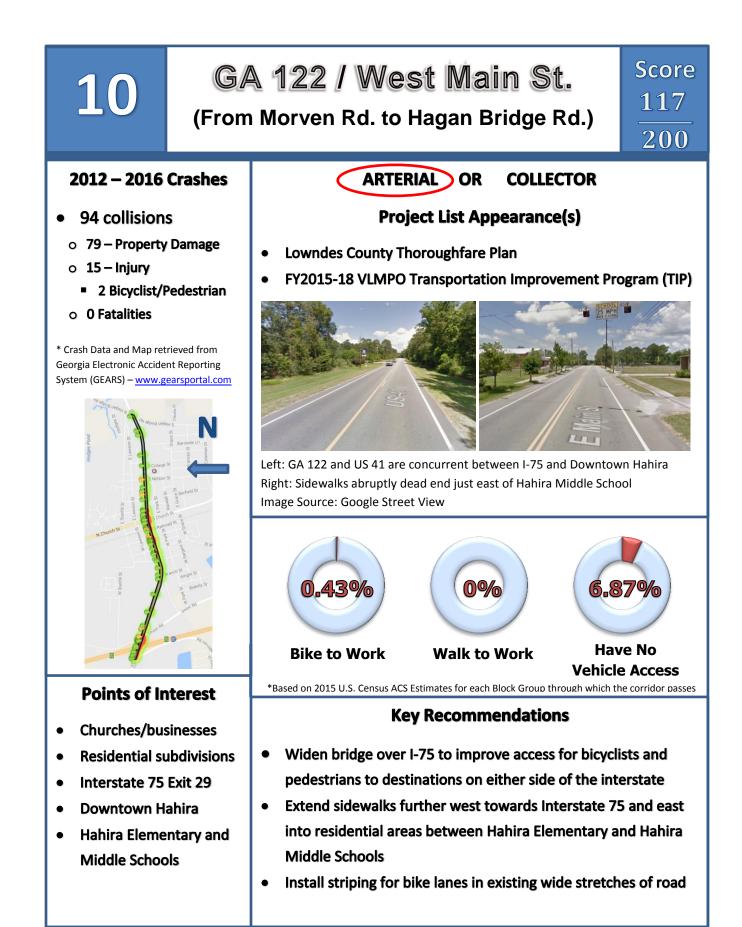




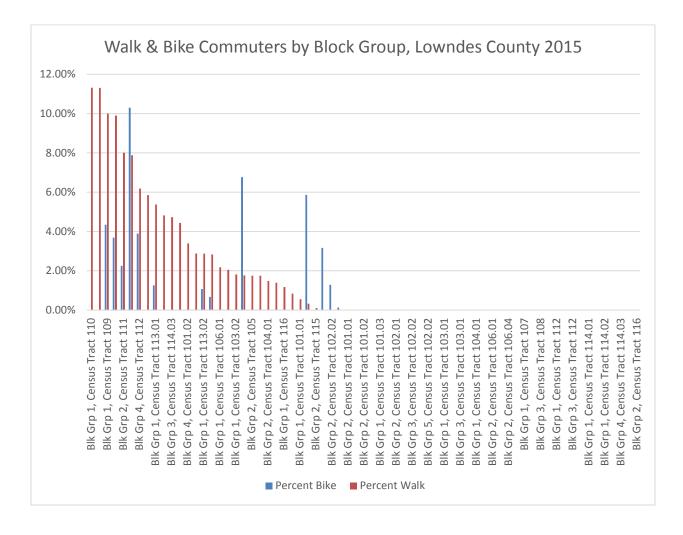




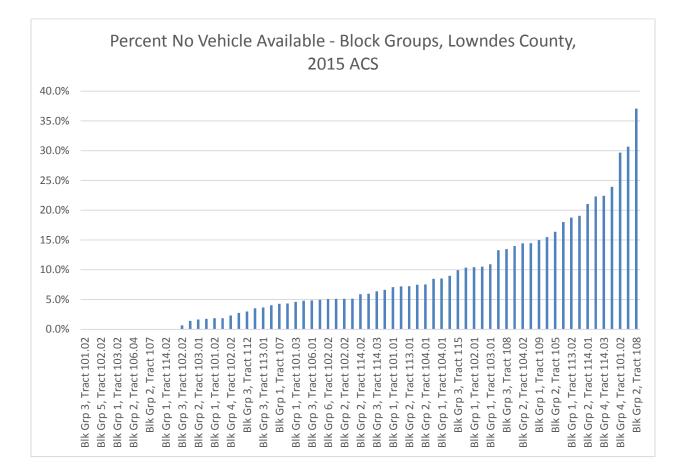




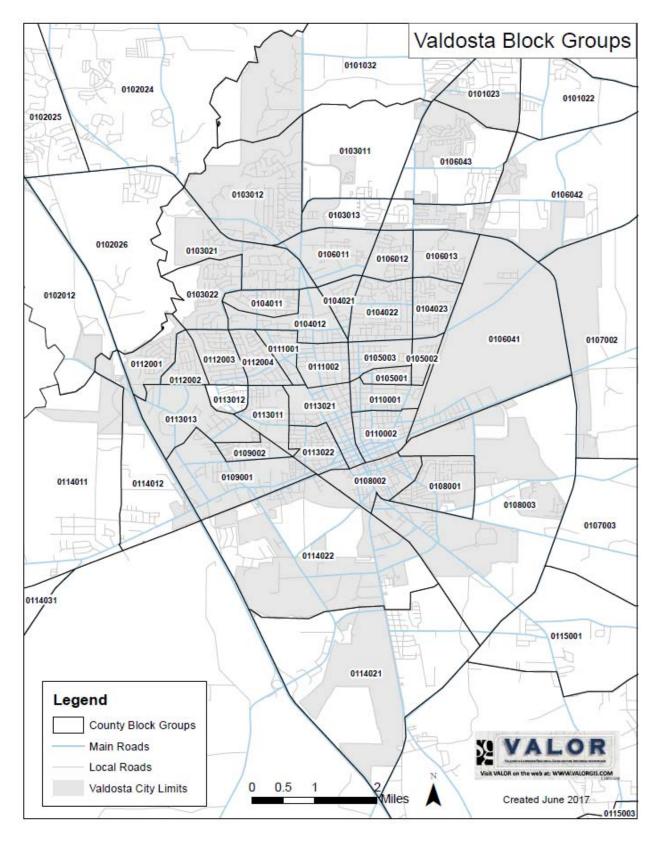
## **Appendix F**



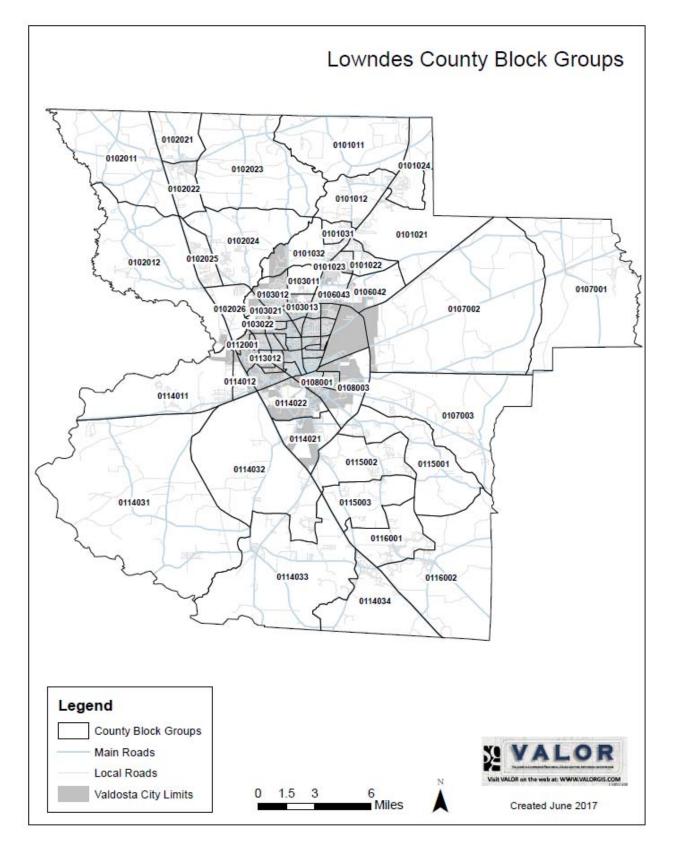
## Appendix G



### **Appendix H**

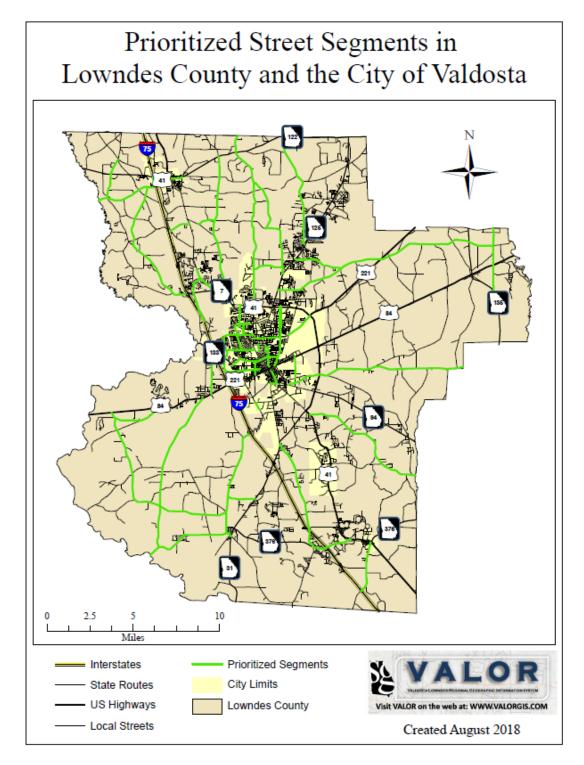


# **Appendix I**

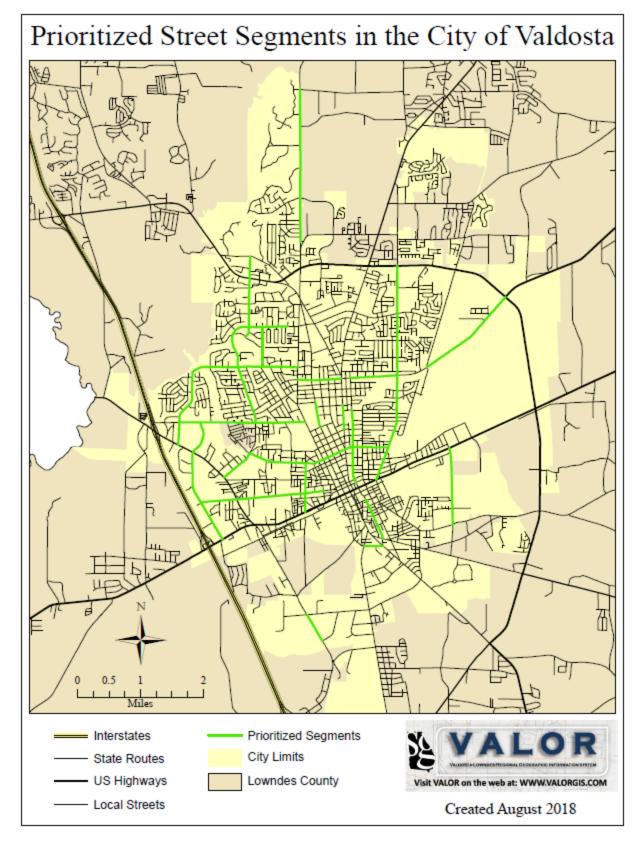


#### Addendum

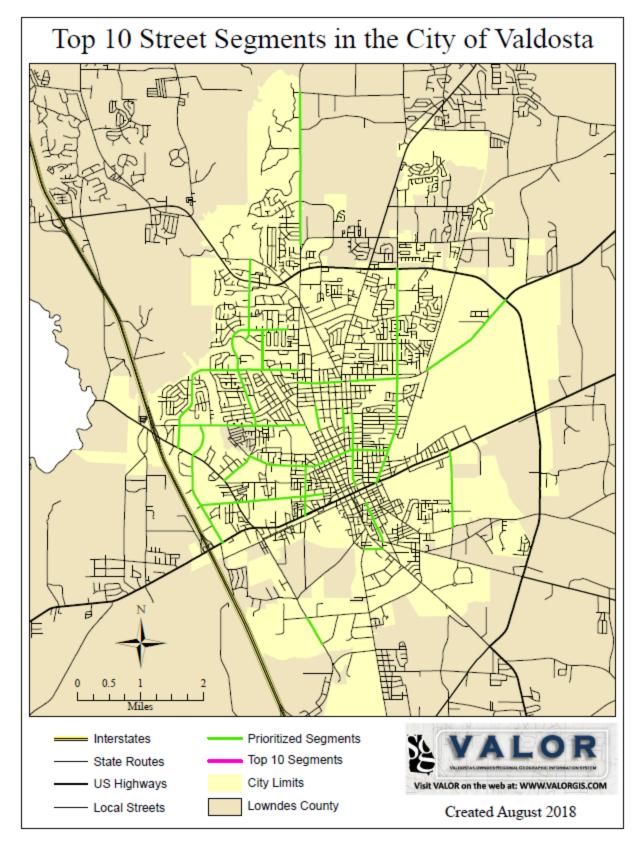
After further review, the following maps were added in August 2018 to further assist in the narrative of this report.



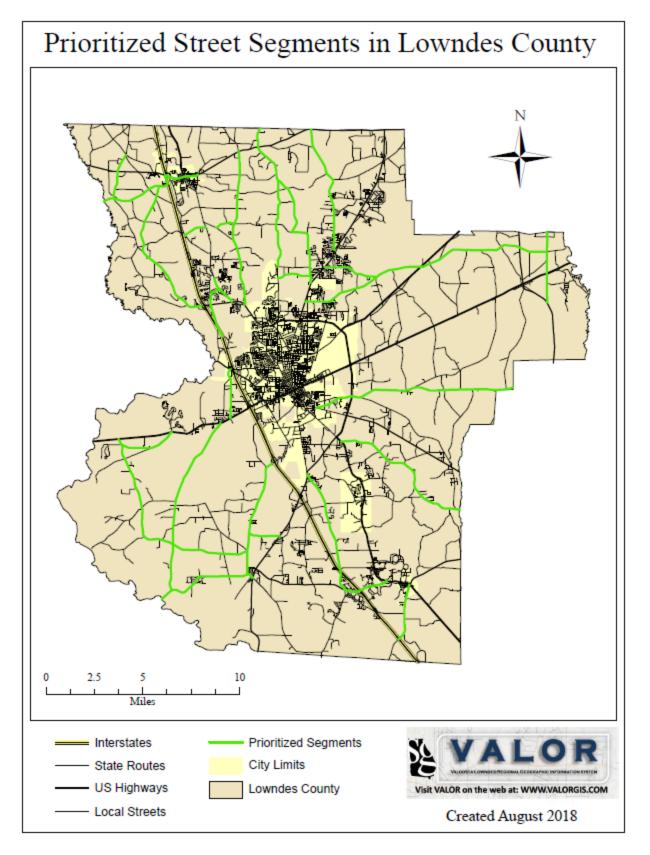
Map 1: Prioritized Street Segments in Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta



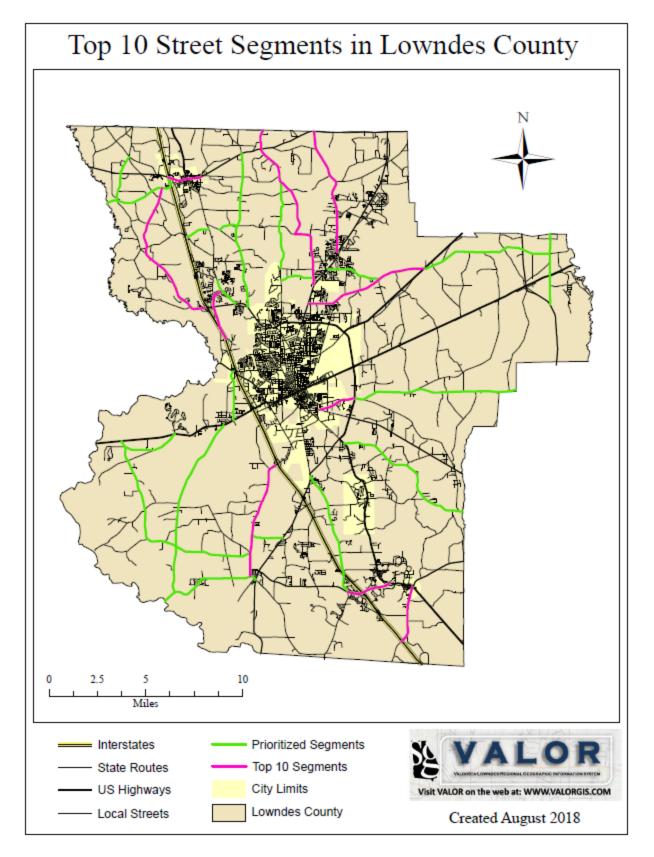
Map 2: Prioritized Street Segments in the City of Valdosta



Map 3: Top 10 Street Segments in the City of Valdosta



Map 4: Prioritized Street Segments in unincorporated Lowndes County



Map 5: Top 10 Street Segments in unincorporated Lowndes County