

Wilton Center
Geographic Focus Area
Workshop #1
Wilton, CT
May 11, 2010

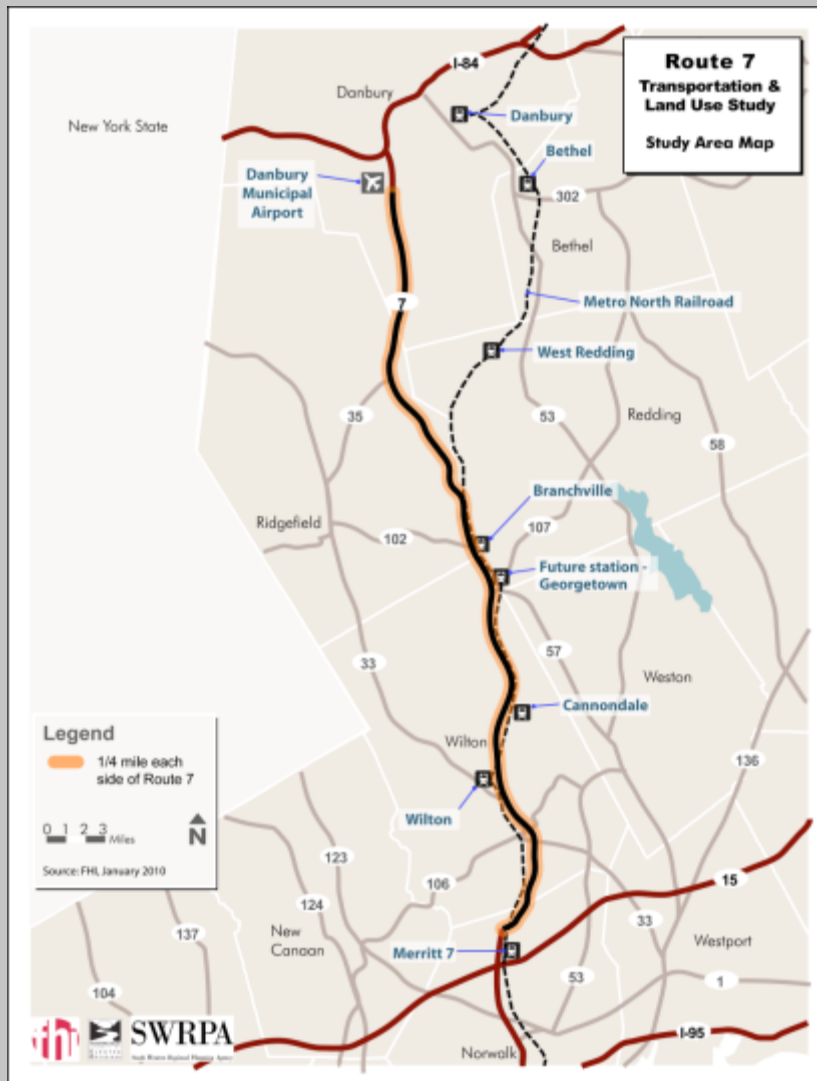
What's Happening Tonight?

1. Meet the team
2. Study background and process
3. Review of POCD and Goals
4. Working session:
Planner for an Evening – table top mapping exercise
5. What happens next?

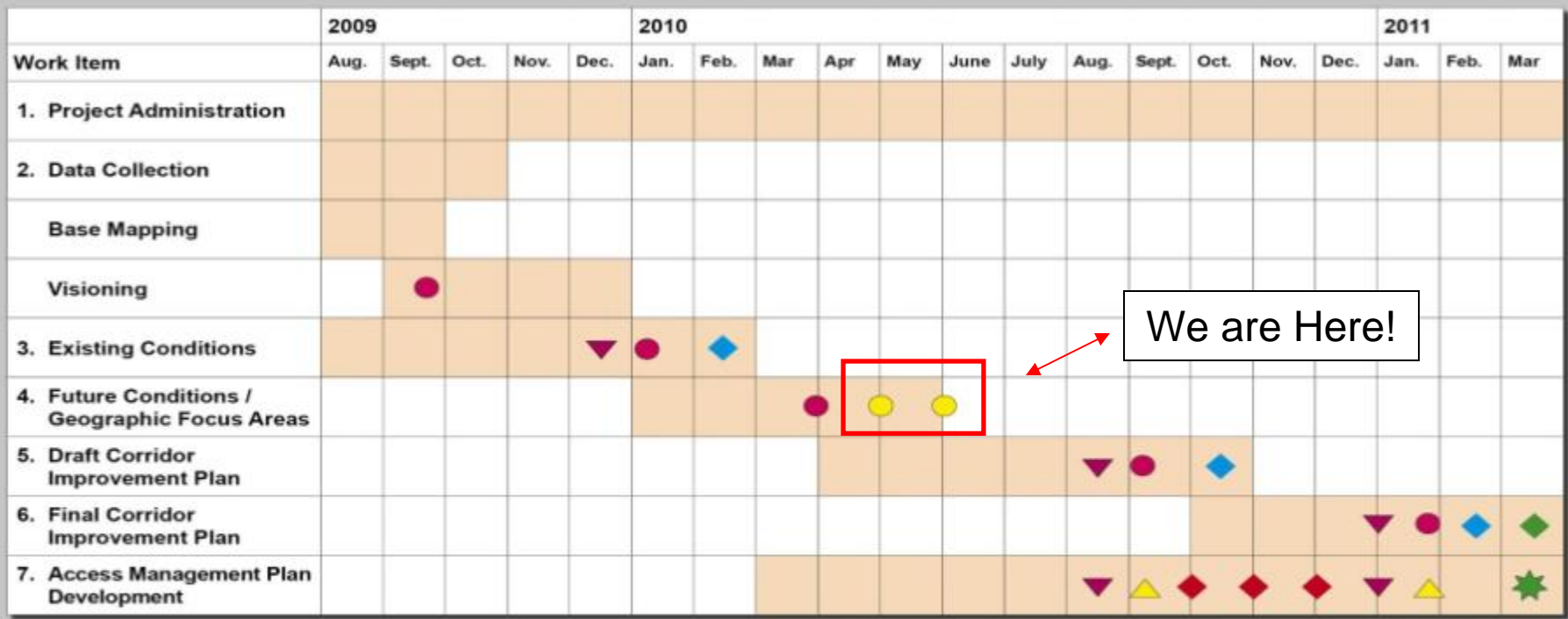


Overall Study Purpose:

- Establish a *vision* for the corridor
- Evaluate current transportation and land use conditions and investigate opportunities to make improvements
- Explore opportunities for continued economic growth
- Develop recommendations for transportation and land use aimed to achieve the corridor *vision*
- Apply Smart Growth planning principles to the process
- *This study will NOT consider the construction of "Super 7"*



Study Process



We are Here!

- Technical Committee Meetings (5)
- Geographic Focus Area Design Charrettes (2 sets of 3)
- ◆ Public workshops (3)
- ◆ MPO meetings (2)
- ▼ Deliverables
- ★ P&Z Access Management Meetings (up to 4)
- ◆ Access Management Workshops (3)
- ▲ Access Management Subcommittee Meetings

2030 Overall Corridor Vision

The Transportation System Will:

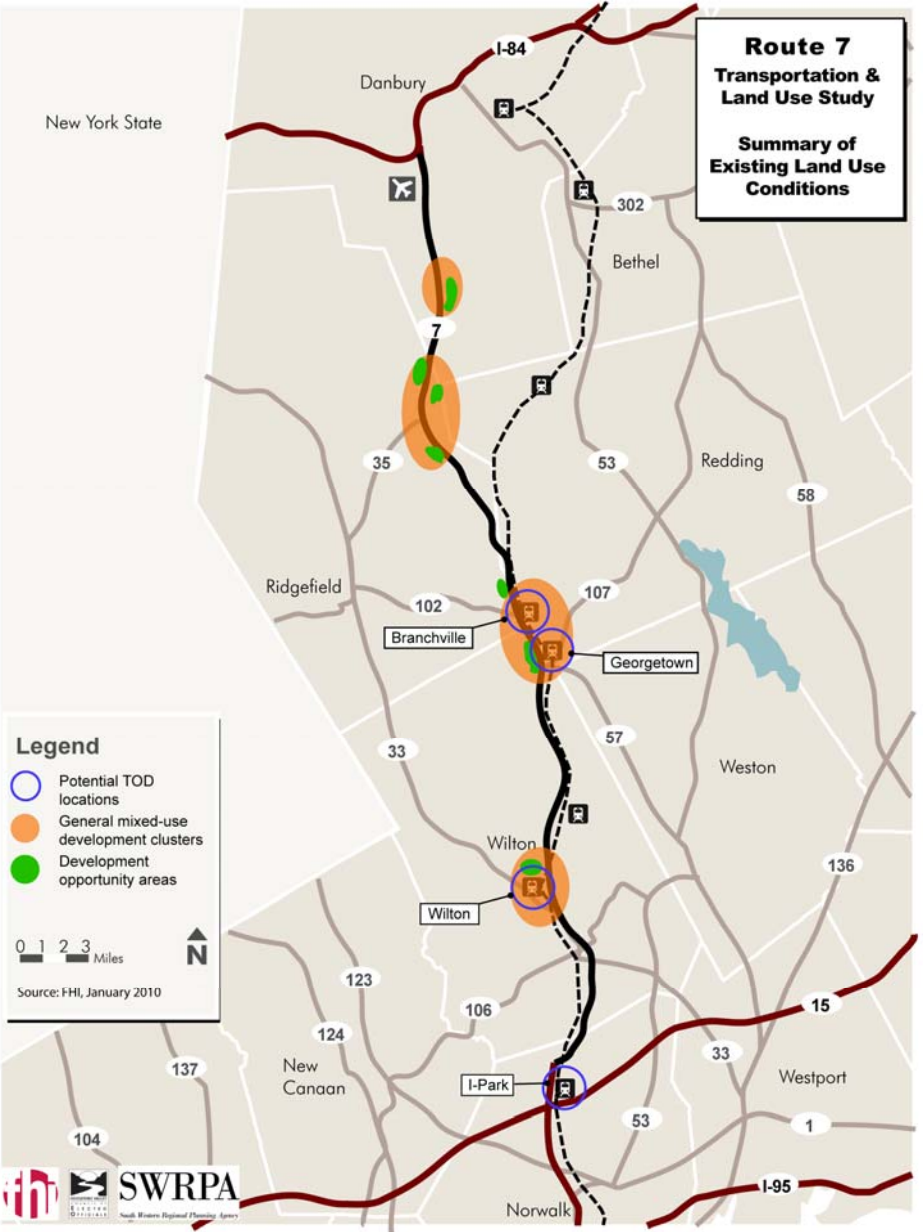
- *Provide a balance between local and regional travel needs*
- *Provide multi-modal choices with strong connectivity between modes*
- *Provide connectivity between major destinations*
- *Be safe for all users*

Land Use and Development Patterns Will:

- *Be well defined in form and be focused in clusters*
- *Provide a mix of uses and services that are economically and environmentally sustainable*
- *Allow for land outside development clusters to be preserved*



Summary of Existing Land Use Conditions



Purpose of Workshops

Workshop #1: To understand your issues and ideas for this focus area – Your Vision

Workshop #2: To review a *draft concept* for the future form and character of the area to include in overall corridor plan



NOTE: Three focus areas are being studied as part of the overall corridor study

Wilton Center Focus Area



Wilton Center Today

Wilton Center Characteristic

- Busy hub of activity
- Mix of uses
- Strong sense of place
- Largely built out
- Desire for improved pedestrian environment, circulation and access
- Concerns about traffic















CVS/pharmacy

Actions for Wilton Center 2010 POCD

- Main Street Program
- Improved pedestrian connections
 - Train station
 - Route 7
- Complete uniform sidewalk network
- River Walk
- Other pedestrian amenities
- Public transit to Center
- Slow traffic – Old Ridgefield Road
- Hubbard Road Connector
- Shared centralized parking
- Wilton Center Tree Plan
- Larger landscaped setbacks

Preliminary Goals for Wilton Center – the Transportation Context

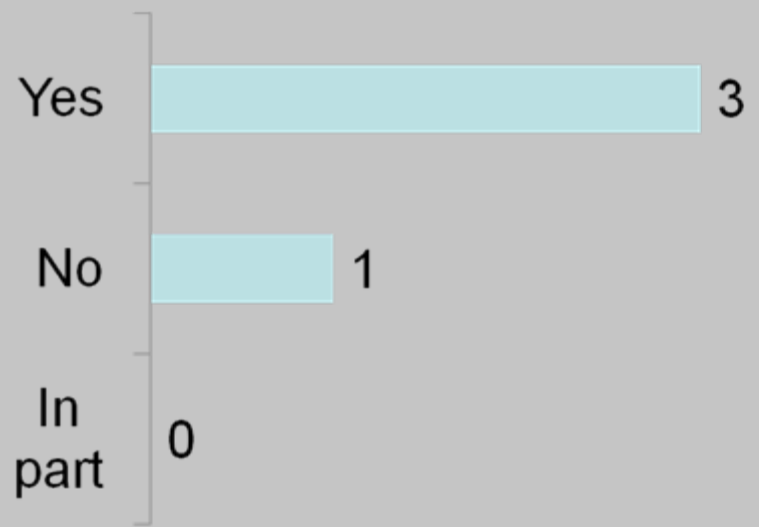
1. Create a more attractive “gateway” to Wilton Center from Route 7
2. Provide better connections
 - to the train station
 - to nearby neighborhoods
 - from and across Route 7
3. Provide more pedestrian amenities
4. Improve transit access
5. Better integrate train station into the Center
6. Develop a stronger Transit Oriented Neighborhood
7. Preserve and enhance “sense of place”

Let's test these preliminary goals

Your Goals for the Area

Do you agree, in general, with the goals suggested?

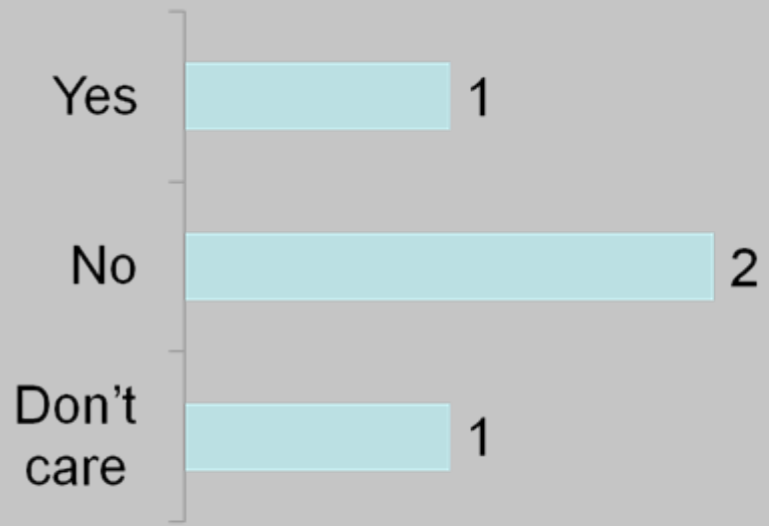
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. In part



Gateway

Would you like a more attractive “gateway” to Wilton Center from Route 7

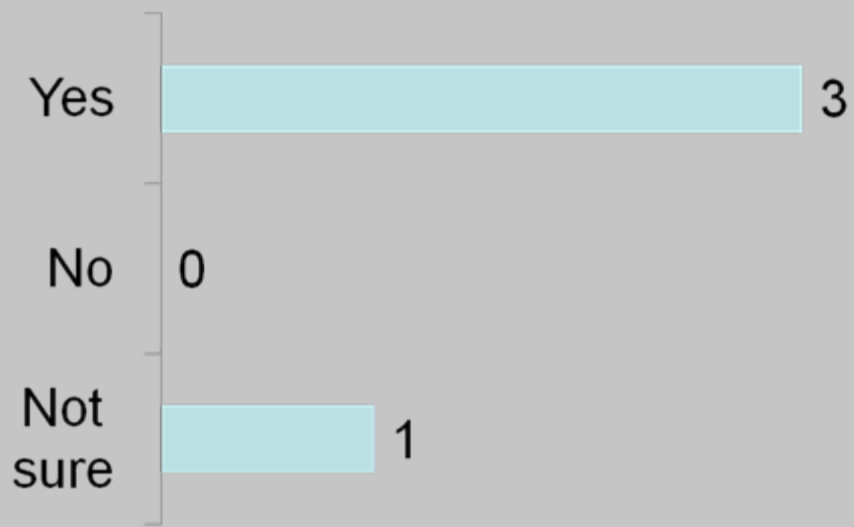
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't care



Connectivity

Do you agree that there is a need to improve connections to the Center from the Train Station?

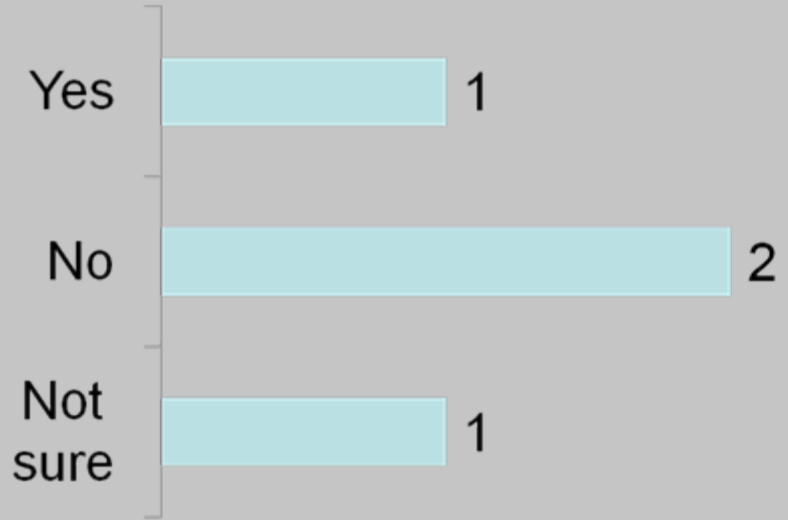
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not sure



Connectivity

Do you agree that there is a need to improve connections to the Center from nearby neighborhoods?

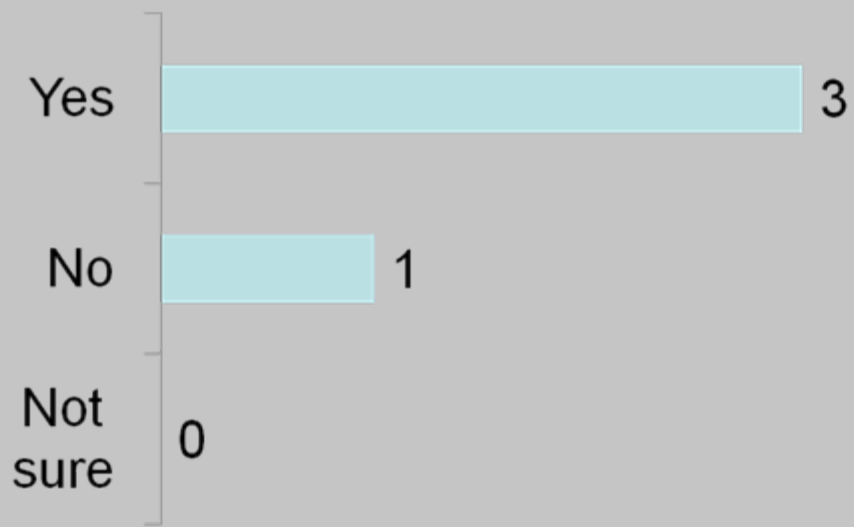
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not sure



Connectivity

Do you agree that there is a need to improve connections to the Center from (and across) Route 7?

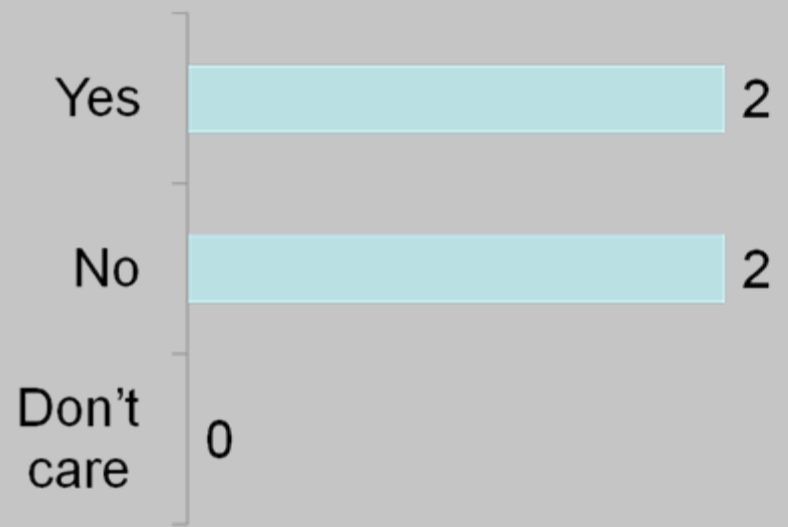
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not sure



Amenities

Are more pedestrian amenities, such as benches and lighting, needed in Wilton Center?

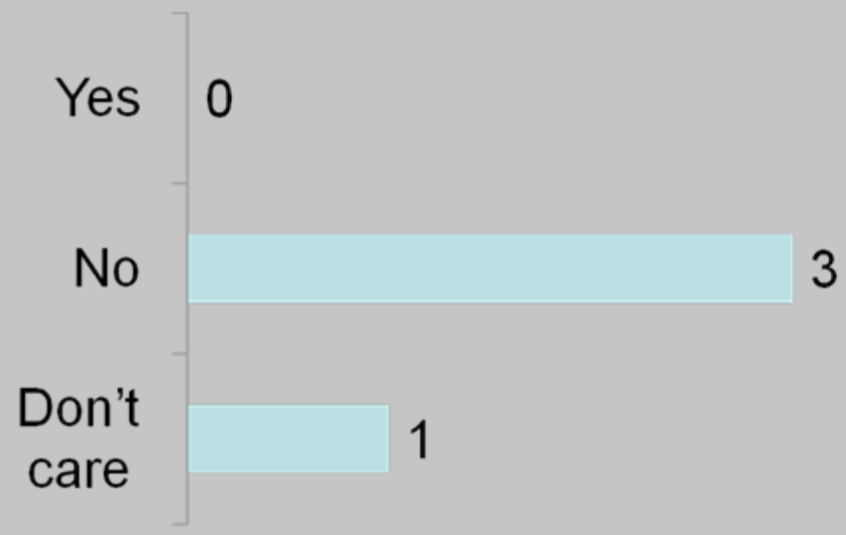
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't care



Transit Access

Would you like better transit access to and from the Center?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't care



The Train Station

In what ways would the train station be a stronger resource for Wilton (choose up to 3)?

1. More parking
2. Better walking connections
3. More services on site
4. More attractive
5. Other

Parking

Is there enough parking in the Center?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not sure

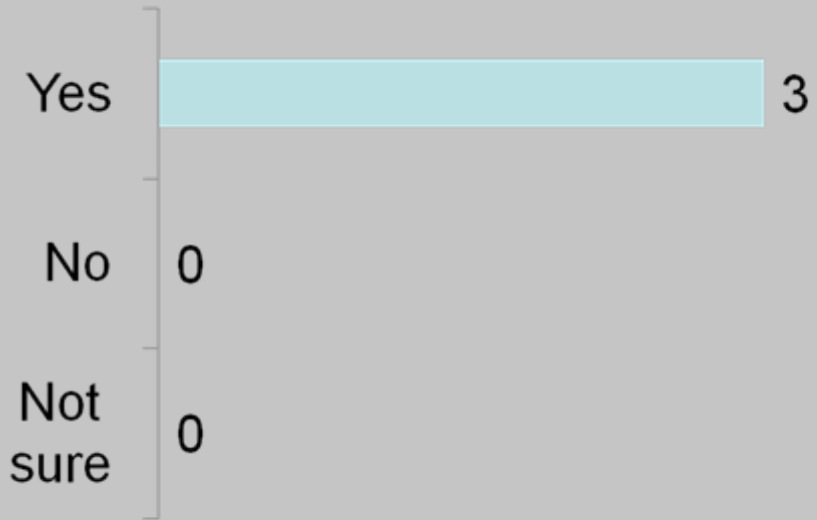


Table Top Mapping Exercise “Planner for an Evening”

- Work in small groups to identify issues and opportunities for the focus area
- Answer series of questions to help us understand your concerns and ideas
- Mark up maps to help us envision your ideas



To get your planning team started

1. Select a **secretary** who will take notes of your discussion (and for us to keep afterward)
2. Select a **map-maker** who will mark up the map on the table with your ideas
3. Select a **reporter** – someone who will stand up after we are done and present your groups findings to the rest of us

A few requests please...

- Try to reach a consensus as a group – but have your secretary record all ideas; even those that might be different or at odds with one another
- Feel free to answer a question with ‘Do Nothing’ , but explain why this is your answer
- Put both sketches and notes on the maps to help locate your ideas

Question 1

How would you make distinctive gateways for the edges of Wilton Center on Route 7 (or elsewhere?) to announce you are entering Wilton's Downtown? How about things like.....

- Decorative archways over the road?
- Signage?
- Adding a landscaped median?
- More landscaping on the roadway edges?
- On-street parking?

Question 2

How would you connect places like Town Hall on the east side of Route 7 with Wilton Center on the west side for pedestrians and bicyclists?

Question 3

How would you make Wilton Center more of a Transit-Oriented Neighborhood – and better connect it to the train station? What about things like.....

- Walking and bicycling paths
- Footbridges
- Bicycle lanes
- Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Parks and plazas
- Bus/shuttle/streetcar connections
- Transit shelters
- Apartments as a second or third story on existing buildings?
- Night-time lighting, benches, gazebos, etcetera
- Information kiosks
- Public art

Question 4

What would you do to make the parking better? Would you.....

- Relocate the existing parking?
- Add public parking?
- Remove parking?
- Build a parking deck or garage?
- Consider a parking garage with new retail space on the ground floor?
- Consolidate all the parking in one or two places?
- Have many small parking lots?
- Add on-street parking?

Question 5

Please list what your group thinks are the three to four highest transportation or land-use related priorities for Wilton Center

Small Group Summaries

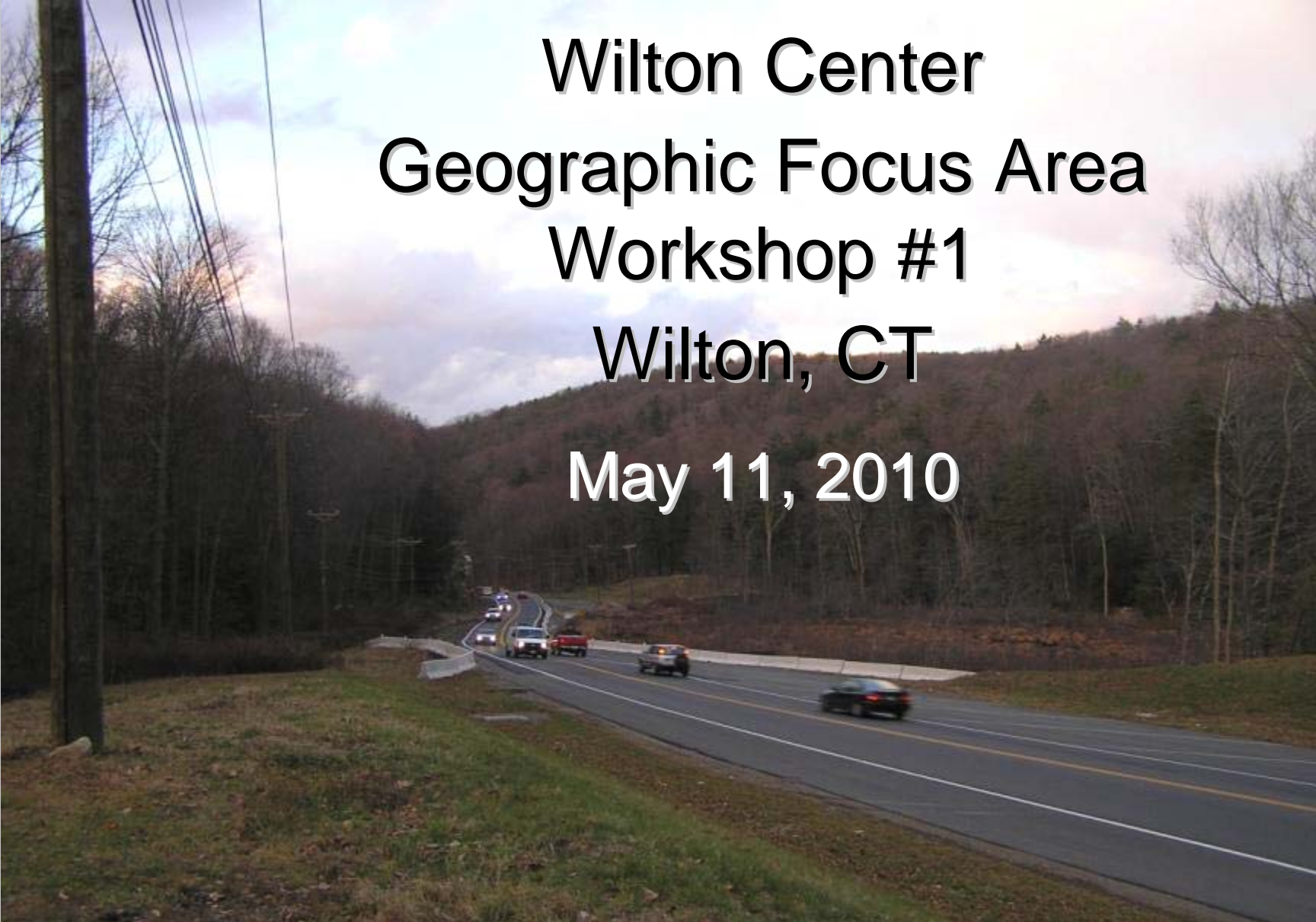


What's Next?

1. Team will take your ideas and preferences (your “vision”) for this area and develop a draft concept
2. Concept to be presented at next meeting
3. Review and refine concept for inclusion in overall corridor improvement plan

Next Meeting:

***Tuesday, June 22, 2010: 4:30-8:00 PM
(Wilton Library)***



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