# Implementing Your Trail Vision
## *Making it the Next Success Story*

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DOUGLAS COUNTY, GEORGIA 1870

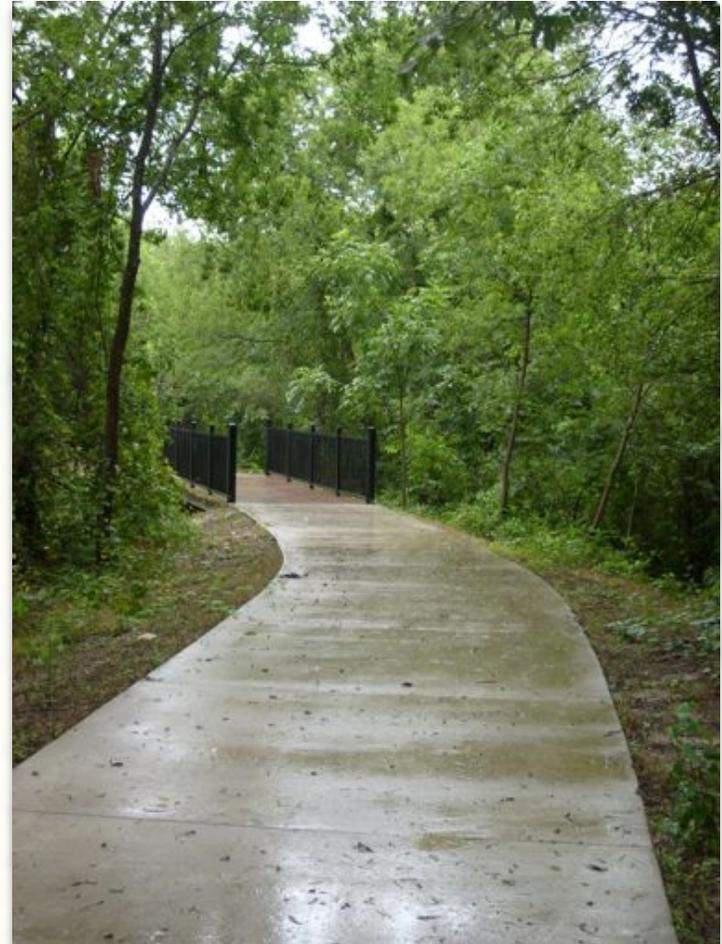*20th American Trails National Symposium*

# Presentation Overview

**Part I**

- Trail Development from Local Government Perspective

- Traditional vs. Streamlined Planning Approach

**Part II**

- Real-world Applications

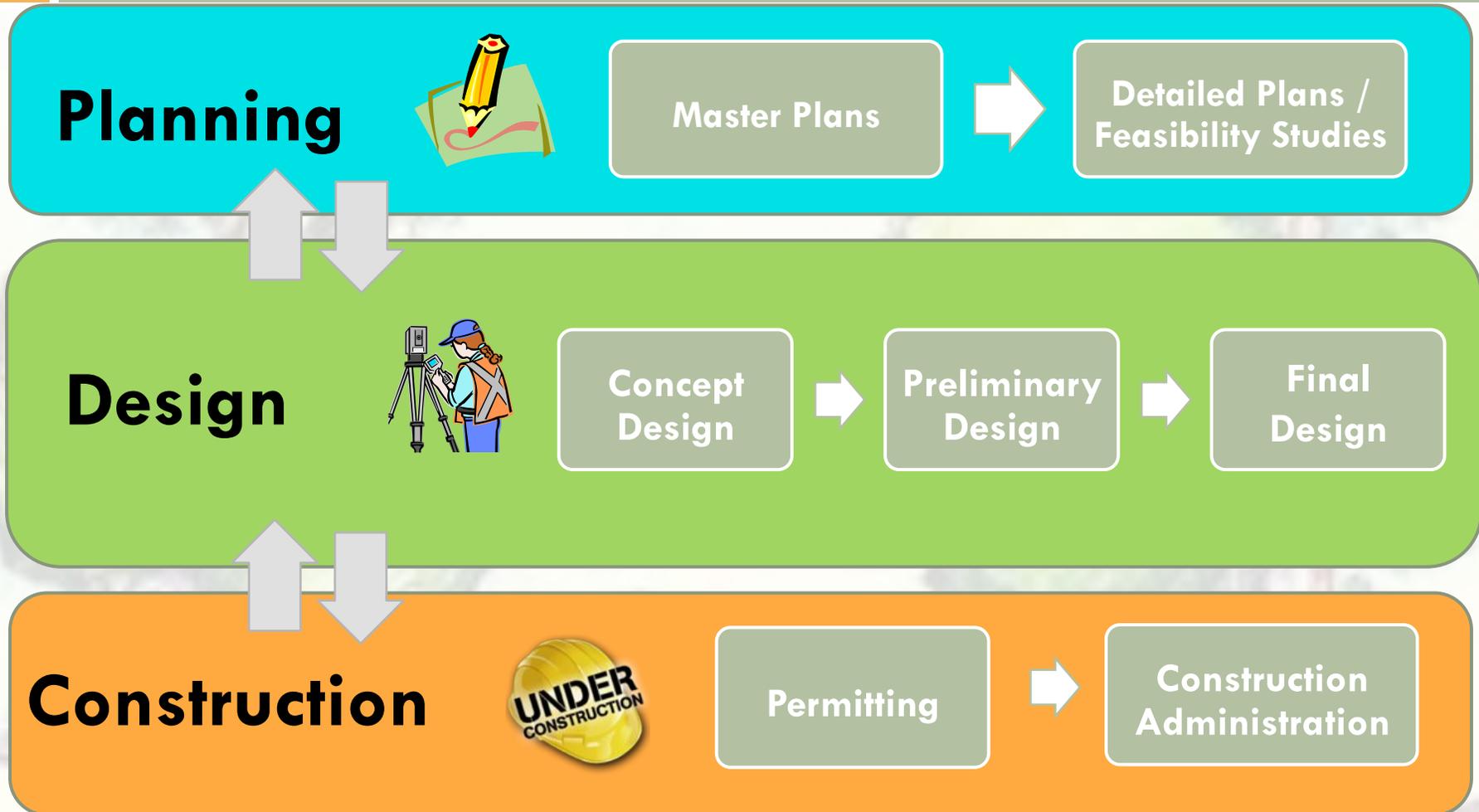- Why is this Important?

- Group Discussion

# You have to know where you're going…



## …in order to get there

# Traditional Trail Development

**Planning**
Master Plans → Detailed Plans / Feasibility Studies

**Design**
Concept Design → Preliminary Design → Final Design

**Construction**
Permitting → Construction Administration

# Challenges of Traditional Approach

- Increased Cost
- Less Efficient
- Missed Opportunities
- Future Conflicts/Challenges

**Planning**

**Design**

**Construction**

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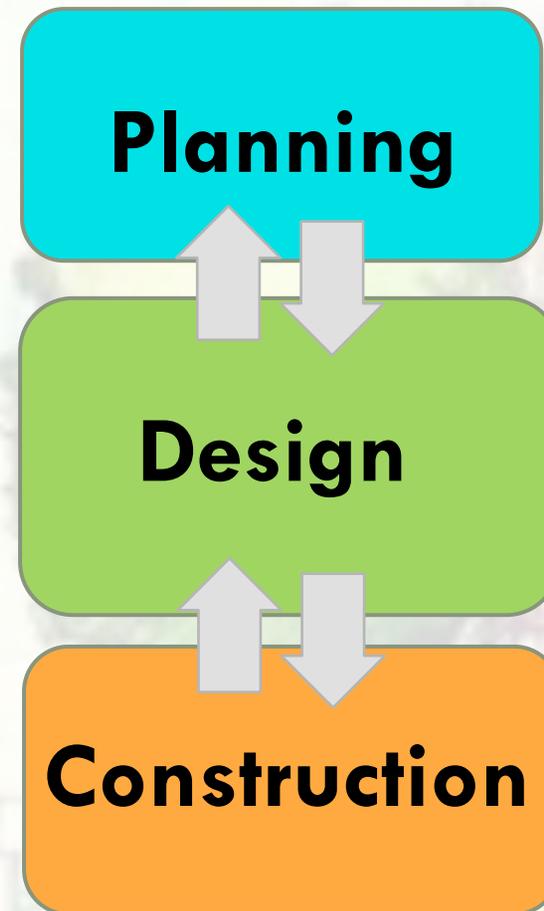
# Streamlined Process

**Integrate Planning with Design and Construction**

- Visioning
- Policy Development
- Utilize Available Expertise
  - Public/Stakeholder Input
  - Agency Coordination
  - Land Owner Coordination
  - Implementation
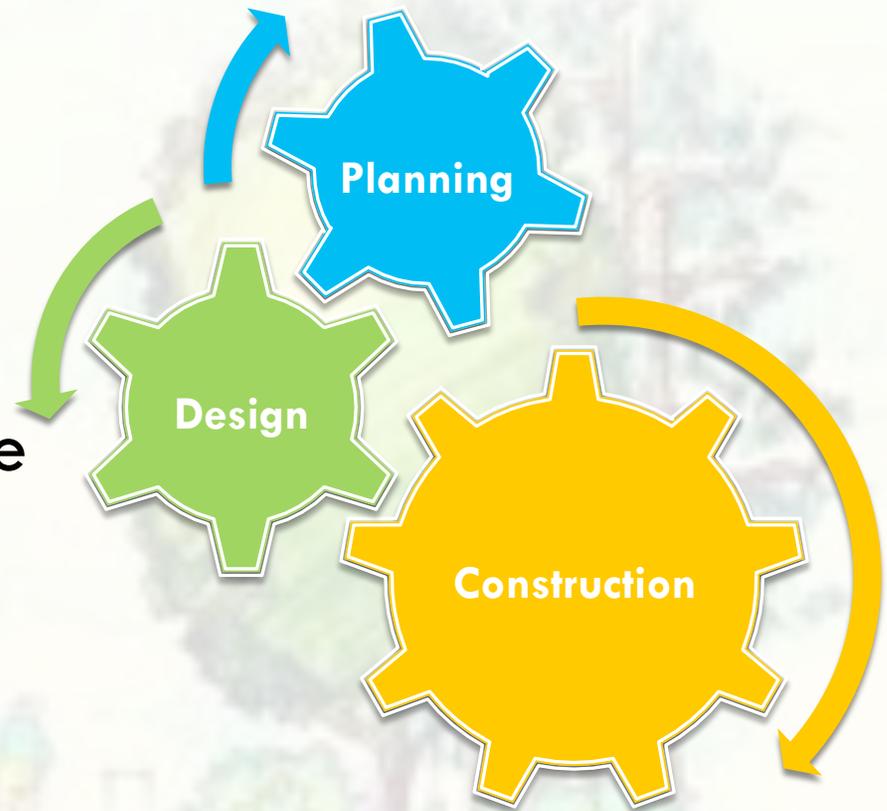
# Planning Framework: Keys to Success

- Keys to Success:
  - Establish Vision
  - Early Coordination
  - Isolate Potential Alternatives
  - Early Identification

# Planning Framework: Keys to Success

☐ Keys to Success:
  ☐ *Establish Vision*
  ☐ Early Coordination
  ☐ Isolate Potential Alternatives
  ☐ Early Identification

How?    Who?

Why?    What?

Where?

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# Establish Vision

- **Why** is the Trail Desired?

- **Who** will it serve?

- **Where** will it be located?

- **What** type of facility is best?

- **How** will it be funded?

- **Who** will maintain it?

# Planning Framework: Keys to Success

□ **Keys to Success:**

  ◻ Establish Vision

  ◻ *Early Coordination*

  ◻ Isolate Potential Alternatives

  ◻ Early Identification

# Early Coordination

- Who should be involved?
    - Key partners and stakeholders
        - Business Community
        - Developers
        - State and Regional Entities
        - Advocacy Groups
    - Project Champions
    - Local Governments
        - Planners
        - Engineers
        - Decision Makers



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# Planning Framework: Keys to Success

☐ Keys to Success:

- ☐ Establish Vision
- ☐ Early Coordination
- ☐ *Isolate Potential Alternatives*
- ☐ Early Identification

# Isolate Potential Alternatives

- Identify Study Area
  - Logical Termini
  - Look for Opportunities
  - Identify Conflicts
- Consider Existing and Future Land Uses
- Develop Trail Typical Section(s)
- Pinpoint Connections
  - Schools
  - Parks
  - Neighborhoods
  - Other Trail Facilities

# Planning Framework: Keys to Success

□ Keys to Success:

- ❑ Establish Vision
- ❑ Early Coordination
- ❑ Isolate Potential Alternatives
- ❑ *Early Identification*

# Early Identification

- Capitalize on Opportunities
  - Previous Planning Efforts
  - Technical Team
  - Champions/Decision Leaders
  - Partners
- Minimize/Avoid Obstacles
  - Environmental Constraints
  - Required Structures
  - Funding Shortfalls
  - Right of Way
  - Regulations and Policies

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# Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail

- 90-mile planned trail

- Traverses suburban Atlanta counties and cities

- Project History
  - Master Plan – September 2003
  - Stakeholder Committee:
    - Unified Vision
    - Amenities Selection
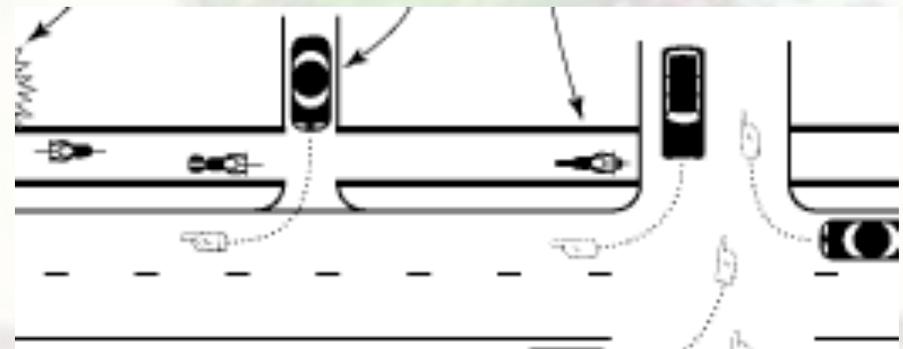  - $2M Congressional Earmark, for each jurisdiction to develop a pilot project

# Cobb County: Silver Comet Trail & Noonday Creek Trail Extensions
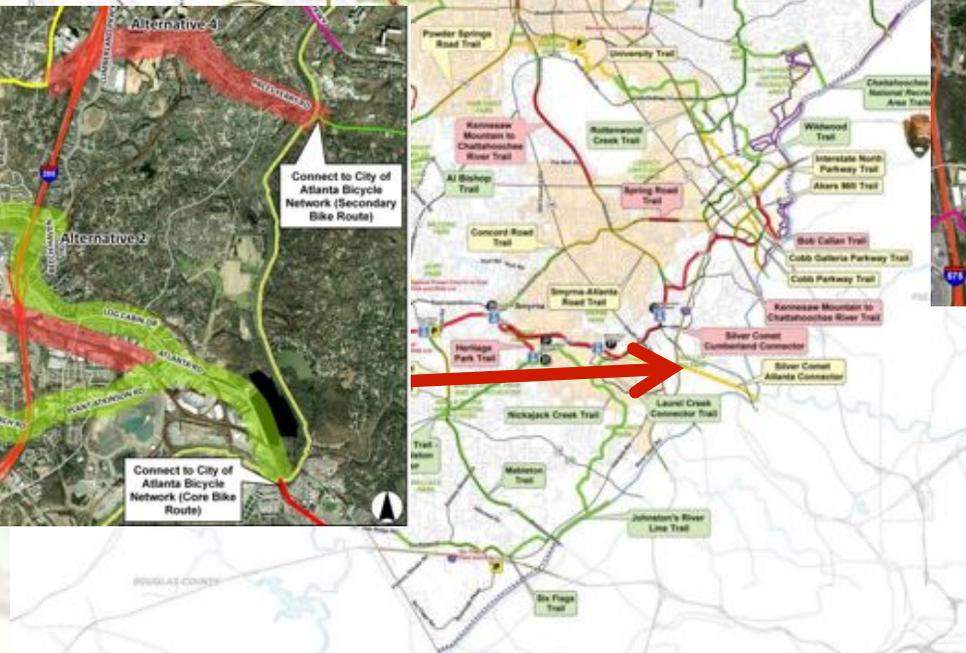
# City of Roswell – Hardscrabble Loop



- Public desires a "Sidepath"
- Client is aware of documented safety issues associated with Sidepaths
- RS&H Team proposing an innovative design to meet public expectations **without** compromising safety!

# Paulding County Trails and Greenways Master Plan

- RS&H completed a comprehensive greenway and trail master plan in 2008

- Plan will add over 70 miles of trails

- Uses the Silver Comet Trail as a spine



Paulding County Trails and Greenways Master Plan

# Why is this Process Important?

- Reduce Costs

- Minimize Schedules

- Capitalize on Opportunities

- Minimize/Avoid Obstacles

- Achieve Consensus





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# Thank you!
## *Questions?*