

# GAP

## CLOSURE TRAIL STUDY

Plainville • Southington • New Britain

### Spring 2017 Update

The Gap Closure Trail Study is moving forward! This spring we compiled the ideas from last fall's public discussions into **a long list of 20 possible alternatives**, and then **applied screening criteria** to identify **a shortlist of 6 practical and feasible alternatives**.

We shared these results with over 100 community members during our public meeting on May 22nd. **Thank you to all that attended!** We are using feedback from this meeting and data collected for the project to **evaluate the shortlisted alternatives**. Our next public meeting will share the evaluation results and seek input in refining the preferred alternative(s).

**Stay tuned for the time and location of the next public meeting this summer!**

### Public Engagement Efforts



JULY 2016 FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS



STEERING/ TECHNICAL TEAM MEETINGS



JULY 2016 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS



OCTOBER 2016 PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS

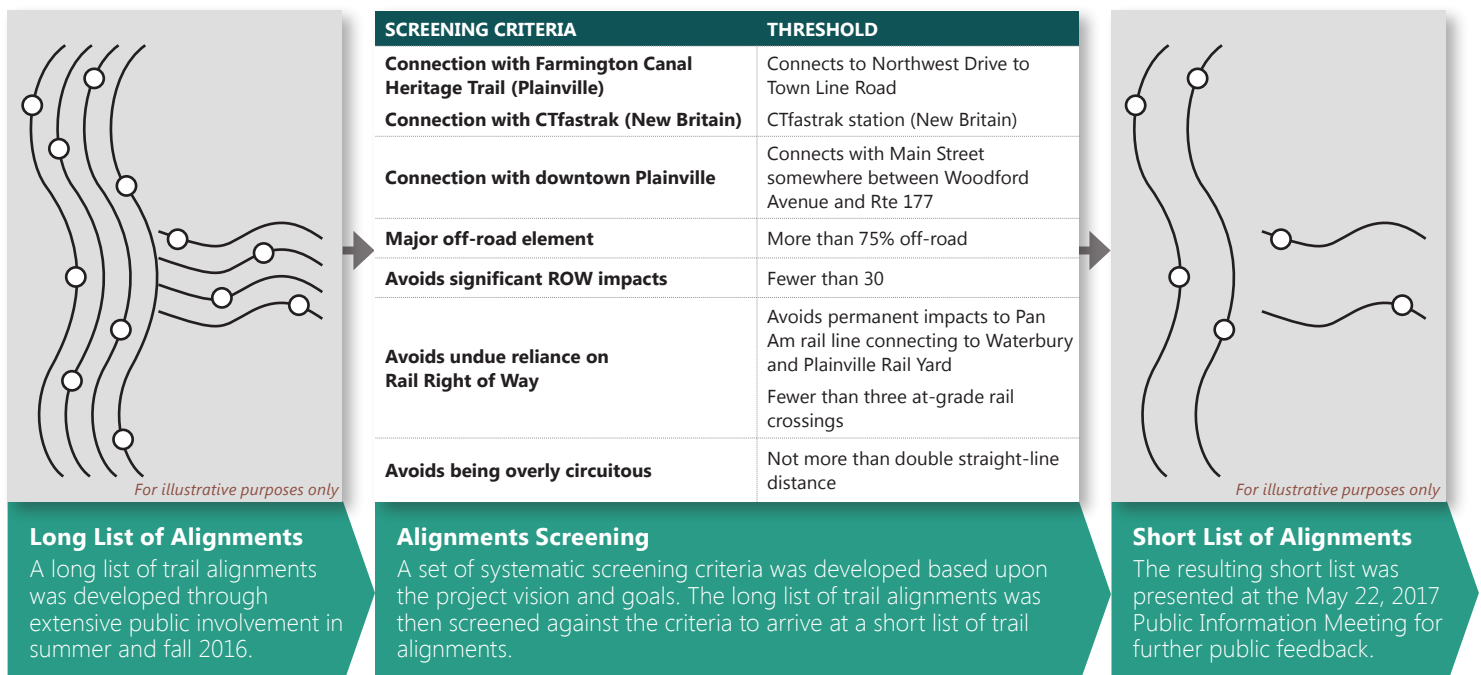


PLAINVILLE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL OUTREACH



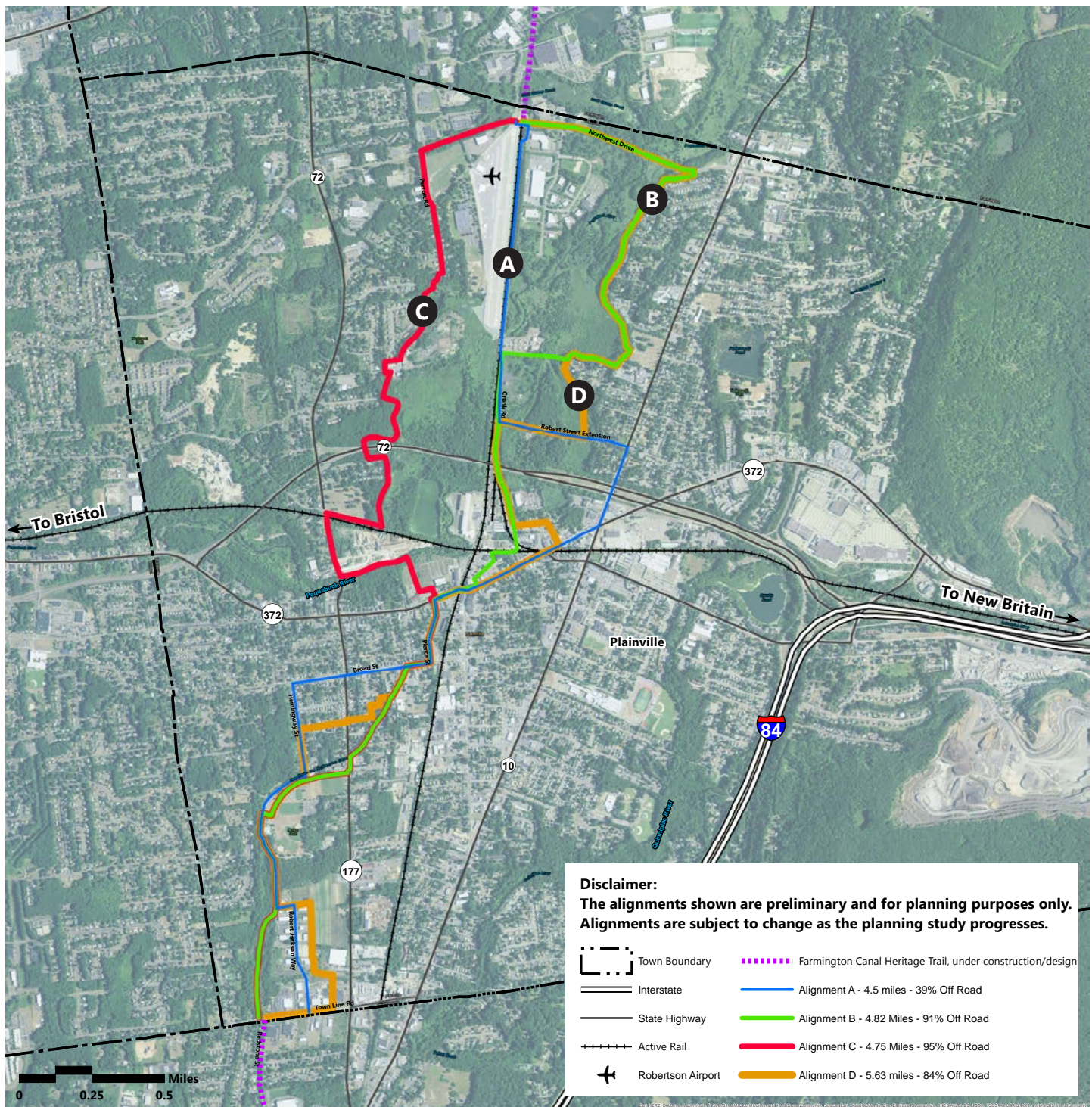
MAY 2017 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

### Alignments Screening Process





# Plainville Short List Alignments



## Alignment A

- › 39% off-road, 4.5 miles
- › Uses Pan Am right of way at north end
- › Minimizes property impacts by staying in public right of way
- › Connects with downtown Plainville and Norton Park
- › Largely an on-road alignment from Roberts Street Extension south

## Alignment B

- › 91% off-road, 4.82 miles
- › Uses existing side path on Northwest Drive and weaves in back of homes and businesses west of Farmington Road
- › Flyover over rail yard and Waterbury Branch rail line
- › Connects with downtown Plainville and Norton Park

## Alignment C

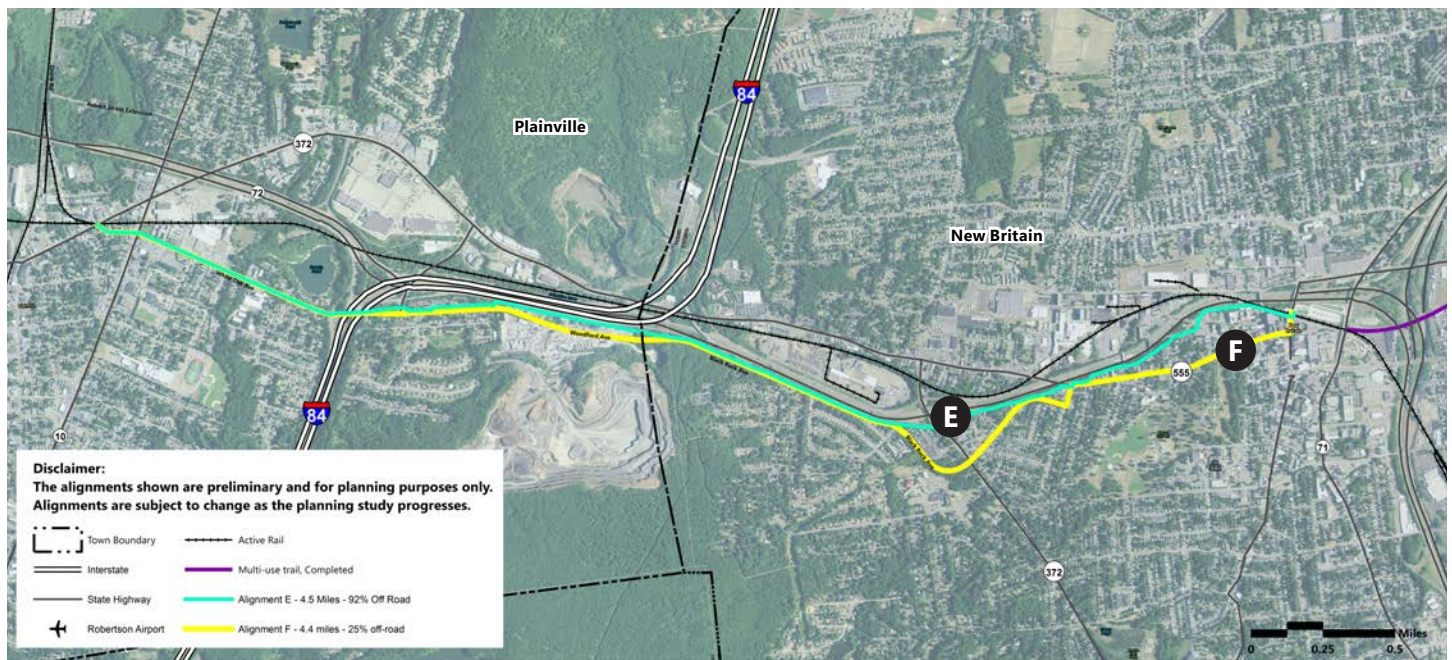
- › 95% off-road, 4.75 miles
- › Called the "Western Alignment" as it is the only alignment that goes west of Robertson Airport
- › Uses public right of way where possible
- › Connects with downtown Plainville, Tomasso Nature Park and Norton Park

## Alignment D

- › 84% off-road, 5.63 miles
- › Uses existing side path on North West Drive and weaves in back of homes and businesses west of Farmington Road
- › Stays at-grade and weaves around rail yard
- › Connects with downtown Plainville and Norton Park



# New Britain Short List Alignments



## Alignment E

- › 92% off-road, 4.5 miles
- › Called the New Britain “off road” alignment
- › Assumes “road diet” on Woodford Avenue
- › Mainly relies on state-owned right of way between Rte 72 and Black Rock Avenue

## Alignment F

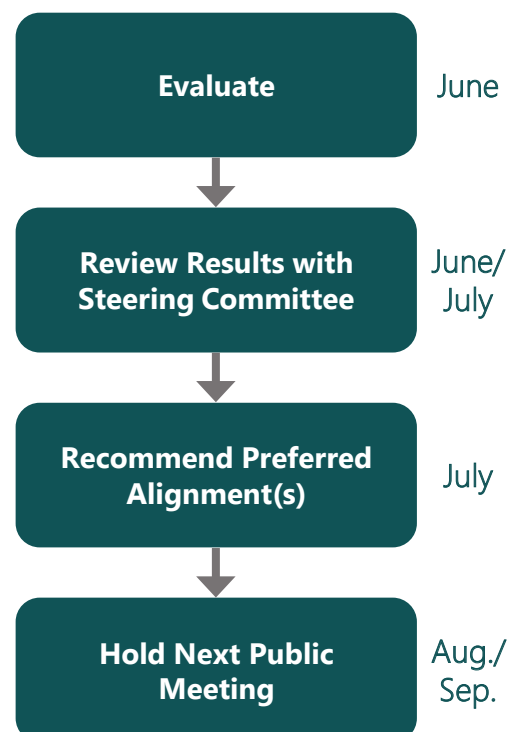
- › 25% off-road, 4.4 miles
- › Called the New Britain “on road” alignment
- › Assumes “road diet” on Woodford Avenue
- › Mainly relies on existing bike lanes on Black Rock Avenue in New Britain, and construction of new bike lanes on Black Rock Avenue in Plainville

## Next Step: Evaluate Short List and Recommend Preferred Alignment

### Evaluation Framework

EVALUATION CRITERIA	FACTORS CONSIDERED
<b>Connectivity</b>	Connections to people and recreational resources
<b>Safety</b>	Traffic speeds, crash history, number of driveways, and traffic volumes
<b>Security</b>	Options for access/egress
<b>Potential Property Impacts</b>	Easements needed, ease of construction
<b>Potential Environmental Impacts</b>	Floodplains, wildlife habitat, hazardous materials, historic/cultural, and recreational
<b>Estimated Costs</b>	Order of magnitude lifecycle costs

### Evaluation Steps



## Study Timeline

### Phase 1:

#### Identify Alternative(s)



Spring 2017

### Phase 2:

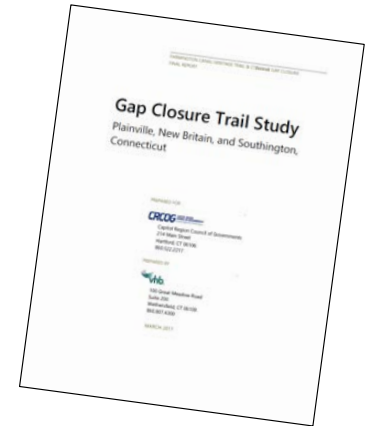
#### Refine Alternative(s)



Summer 2017

### Phase 3:

#### Prepare Concept Plan



Fall 2017

## Upcoming Decision Points

### JULY 11, 2017

#### Steering Committee / Technical Team Meetings

Evaluate short list alignments.

### LATE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017 - **STAY TUNED!**

#### Public Workshop (tentatively in late August/September)

Refine the alignments - Help the Study Team determine how the trail will look when finished.

### SEPTEMBER 2017

#### Steering Committee / Technical Team Meetings

Review refined alignments from Public Workshop.

### FALL 2017

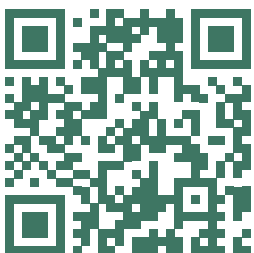
#### Town Council Meetings

Present for consideration refined alignments.

#### Steering Committee / Technical Team Meetings

Review Draft Concept Plan.

#### Present Draft Concept Plan for public comment.



To learn more about the study and progress to date, please visit:  
[www.gapclosurestudy.com](http://www.gapclosurestudy.com)

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