Bay County TPO Ped Bike Trail

2025 MASTER PLAN

Advisory Kick Off Meeting – March 25, 2025, 10-11am

AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Overview/Purpose
- Project Schedule
- Review Recommended Goals & Objectives
- Area Profile – Existing Conditions
- Challenges/Opportunities
- Discussion/ Questions/Next Steps

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Thank you for joining us to discuss the Bay County TPO Bike/Ped/Trail Master Plan Update!



PURPOSE

- Review recommended goals and objectives
- Assess current conditions/infrastructure
- Identify priorities/needs – Gather input to prioritize future bike/ped/trail projects and improvements
- Consider emerging trends and best practices



PLAN OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

BAY COUNTY TPO

The Bay County Transportation Planning Organization is the local, intergovernmental transportation policy board for Bay County, Florida. The board is comprised of local government officials who make decisions regarding transportation at a regional level. The Bay County TPO is required by state and federal law to establish a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing planning process. The TPO also works to increase safety, security, accessibility, mobility, and connectivity for people and goods.

PEDESTRIAN, BIKE, & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Is to provide a resource for Bay County citizens, planners, developers, and political leaders to establish and promote pedestrian and bicycle-friendly communities.

As an initiative of the Bay County TPO, this plan will update the TPO's Pedestrian, Bicycle & Trail Master Plan by adding a Trail element to create a more comprehensive active transportation network.









TIMELINE

Local Working Group Committee Meeting #1
03/25/2025 10:00 am -11:00 am (virtual)

Public Workshop April

Local Working Group Committee Meeting #2
05/28/2025 9:30 am (hybrid)

Local Working Group Committee Meeting #3
08/27/2025 (hybrid)

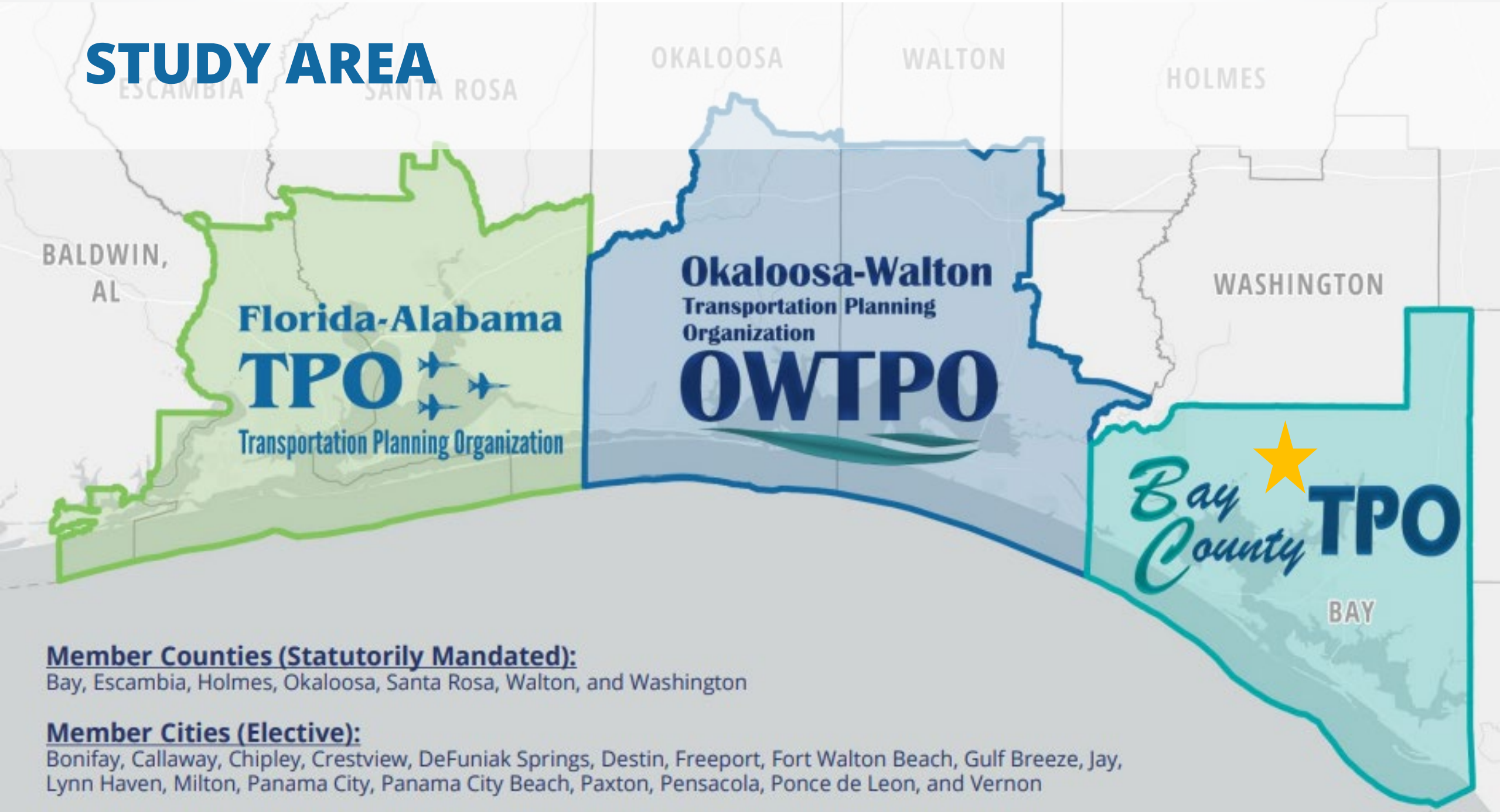
PROJECT SCHEDULE/ PLANNING PROCESS



PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Project Schedule	Vison/Goals/ Objectives	Marketing & Outreach Tools & Resources
Outreach Summary	GIS Interactive Maps	Policies for Implementation
Cost Feasible Summary	Matrix for Prioritized Projects	Final Adopted Plan

STUDY AREA



Member Counties (Statutorily Mandated):
Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington

Member Cities (Elective):
Bonifay, Callaway, Chipley, Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Destin, Freeport, Fort Walton Beach, Gulf Breeze, Jay, Lynn Haven, Milton, Panama City, Panama City Beach, Paxton, Pensacola, Ponce de Leon, and Vernon

LOCAL WORKING GROUP

The role of Local Working Group Committee Member will be the following:

- Have input, review, and identification of the Vision, Goals, and Objectives.
- Provide feedback throughout the marketing and outreach process.
- Provide feedback to update criteria and methodology for identifying and prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle projects.
- Provide feedback that will develop the criteria and methodology for prioritizing the trail network.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

VISION

The **Regional Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan for the Bay County TPO** will guide the development and implementation of the region's walking and bicycling environments for years to come. The foundation for recommendations and implementation strategies are directly informed by this plan's vision statement, goals, objectives, and policies.

- A vision statement is a broad inspirational statement for the desired future environment.
- Goals are general statements of what the plan hopes to achieve over time.
- Objectives are more specific statements that mark progress toward the goal.

Vision Statement

- **The vision statement for this master plan is as follows:**

The TPO Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan will improve the quality of life for all communities within the TPO planning area by providing education, engineering, enforcement, and encouragement of multi-modal transportation choices.

PURPOSE

The purpose and goal of the Bay TPO Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Trail Master Plan is to:

- Develop a shared vision for all communities.
- Promote active transportation, enhancing safety, and improving connectivity.
- Set specific goals, such as increasing bicycle, pedestrian, trail infrastructure, promoting health, and reducing traffic congestion.
- Develop strategies that support the integration of safe and well-connected pedestrian and bicycle networks into the overall transportation system.
- Identify and prioritize bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as trail projects included on the SUN Trail network and the Florida Greenways and Trails Priority network.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **Goal 1 : To create safe, convenient, and connected routes to all destinations and between land uses for bicyclists and walkers**
  - *Objective 1.1 - All jurisdictions within the Bay County TPO area should have incorporated the relevant policies and projects from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan into their Comprehensive Plan (including CIP/TIP) and land development regulations by October 2007.
  - Objective 1.2 - To integrate bicycle/pedestrian facilities into design of all transportation projects.
  - Objective 1.3 - To provide bicycle/pedestrian networks which safely serve major attractors such as schools, shopping malls, residential subdivisions, retirement areas, and recreational facilities.
  - Objective 1.4 - To provide multi-modal linkages to increase the range and choice of trips. To provide bicyclists and pedestrians the support facilities necessary to connect with other modes of travel.
  - Objective 1.5 - To provide safe and convenient bicycle parking at destinations.
  - Objective 1.6 - To provide maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities as part of the regular transportation maintenance program.
  - Objective 1.7 - Regional roadway projects will support the creation of “complete streets.”

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (CONT.)

- **Goal 2 : To encourage bicycle and pedestrian travel as viable transportation modes.**
  - *Objective 2.1-To support the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the TPO.
  - Objective 2.2 -To support sponsorship of Bicycle and Pedestrian Public Service Announcements (PSAs) by local corporations, organizations, and governments.
  - Objective 2.3 -To support employers who encourage/reward employees using alternate transportation.
  - Objective 2.4 -To make information on local bicycling and walking facilities available to the public.
- **Goal 3 : To reduce bicycle/pedestrian crashes through education and enforcement.**
  - Objective 3.1- To train bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists to safely coexist.
  - Objective 3.2- To train law enforcement professionals in the specific bicycle and pedestrian related skills and knowledge required to perform their duties effectively and efficiently.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (CONT.)

- **Goal 4 : To maintain a current Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.**
  - Objective 4.1 To have a data base available to transportation planners for evaluating the bicycle and pedestrian systems safely meeting the travel needs of the community.
- **Goal 5 : To reach a point with no increase in vehicle miles of travel (VMT) within the TPO area even with increasing population.**
  - Objective 5.1 To support and encourage regional development and redevelopment using mixed land uses and traditional street patterns to maximize the number of trips that can be made by alternative modes such as walking and bicycling.

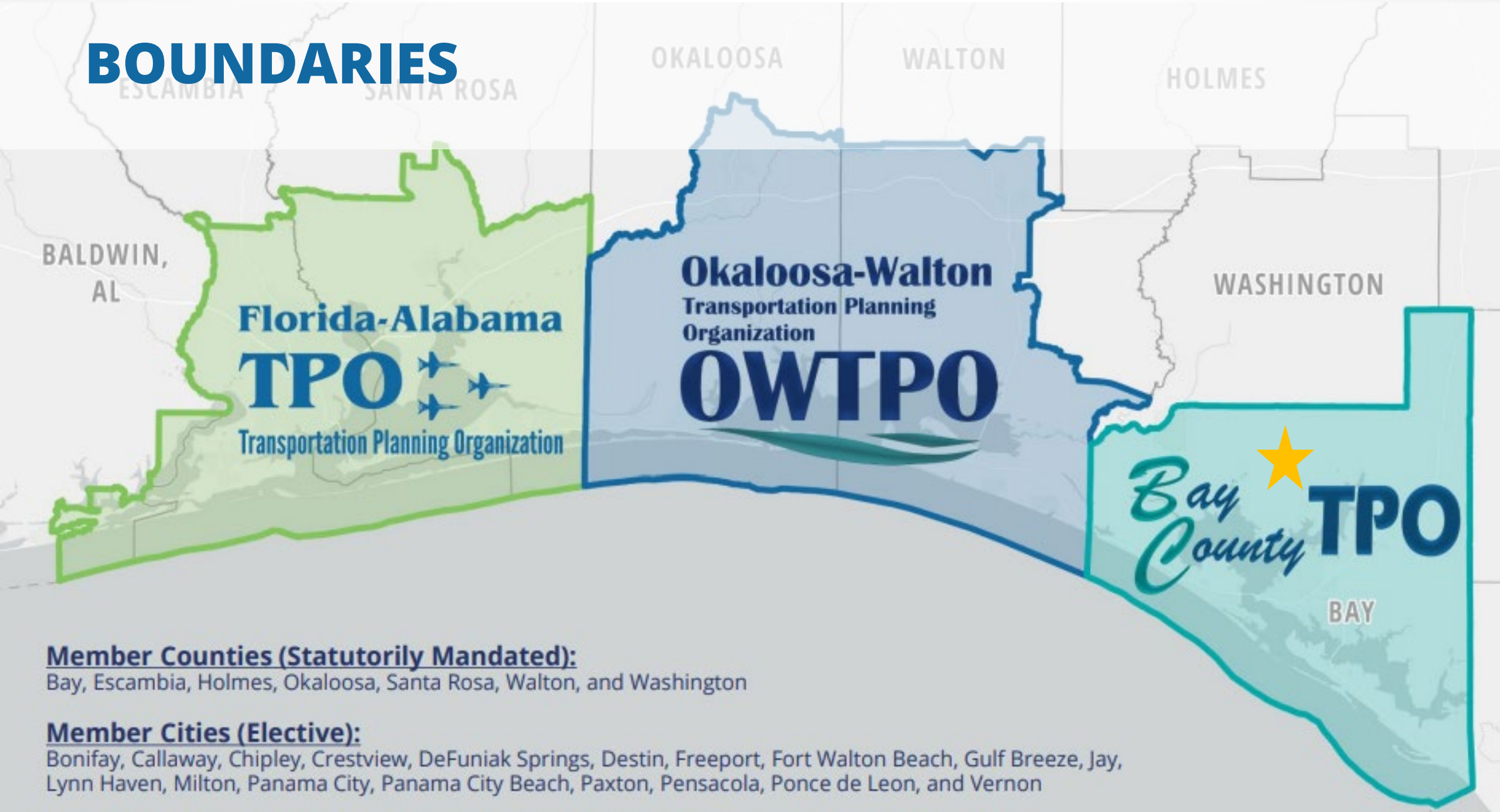
2006 Bay County TPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Goals and Objectives3

While the 2025 and 2011 update of the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan does not have specific goals and objectives associated with it, these 2006 previously adopted goals and objectives should remain, with two minor changes noted:

1) the specific date associated with objective 1.1 is no longer appropriate, and
2) the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee referenced in Objective 2.1 has been merged into the TPO's Citizens Advisory Committee.

AREA PROFILE

BOUNDARIES



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Bay County TPO Data Profile

POPULATION & HOUSEHOLDS

186,383
Total Population

75,503
Total Households

2.43
Average Household Size

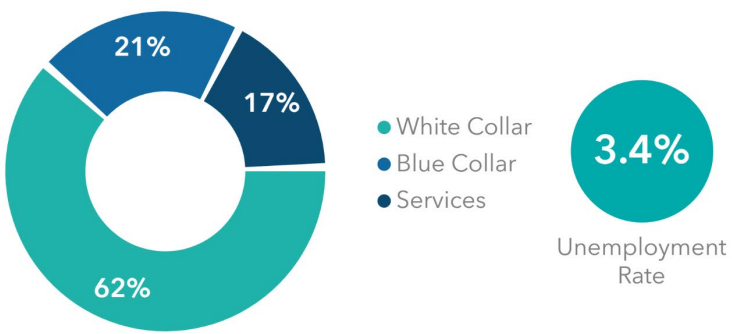
INCOME

$70,800
Median Household Income

$40,281
Per Capita Income

13%
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP

EMPLOYMENT



3.4%
Unemployment Rate

EDUCATION

92%
High School Grad or Higher

30%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher

TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

78.1%
Drove Alone

11.1%
Carpooled

0.6%
Took Public Transportation

0.3%
Biked to Work

1.1%
Walked to Work

0.7%
Other Means

Source: 2024 Esri Estimates;
Census ACS 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022 (food stamps, language, vehicles, disability, transportation to work)

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

20%
Population Age 65+

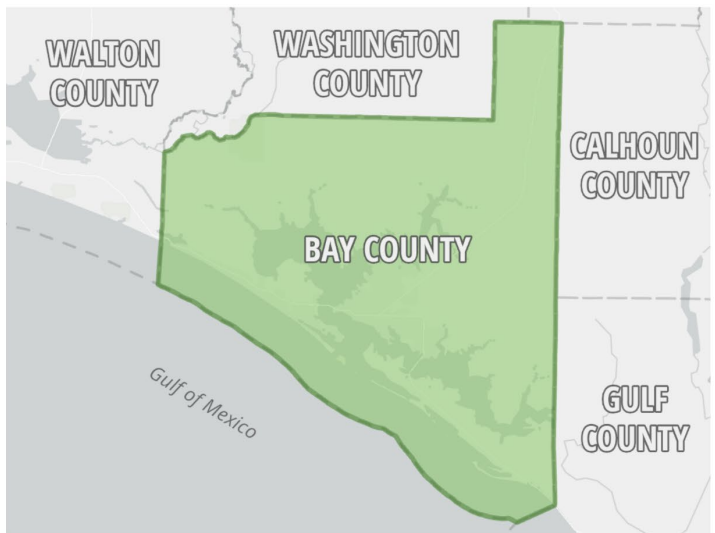
35%
Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability

22%
Minority Population*

3%
Owner Households with No Vehicles

7%
Renter Households with No Vehicles

*Minority population is the population that lists their racial status as a race other than white alone and/or lists their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.



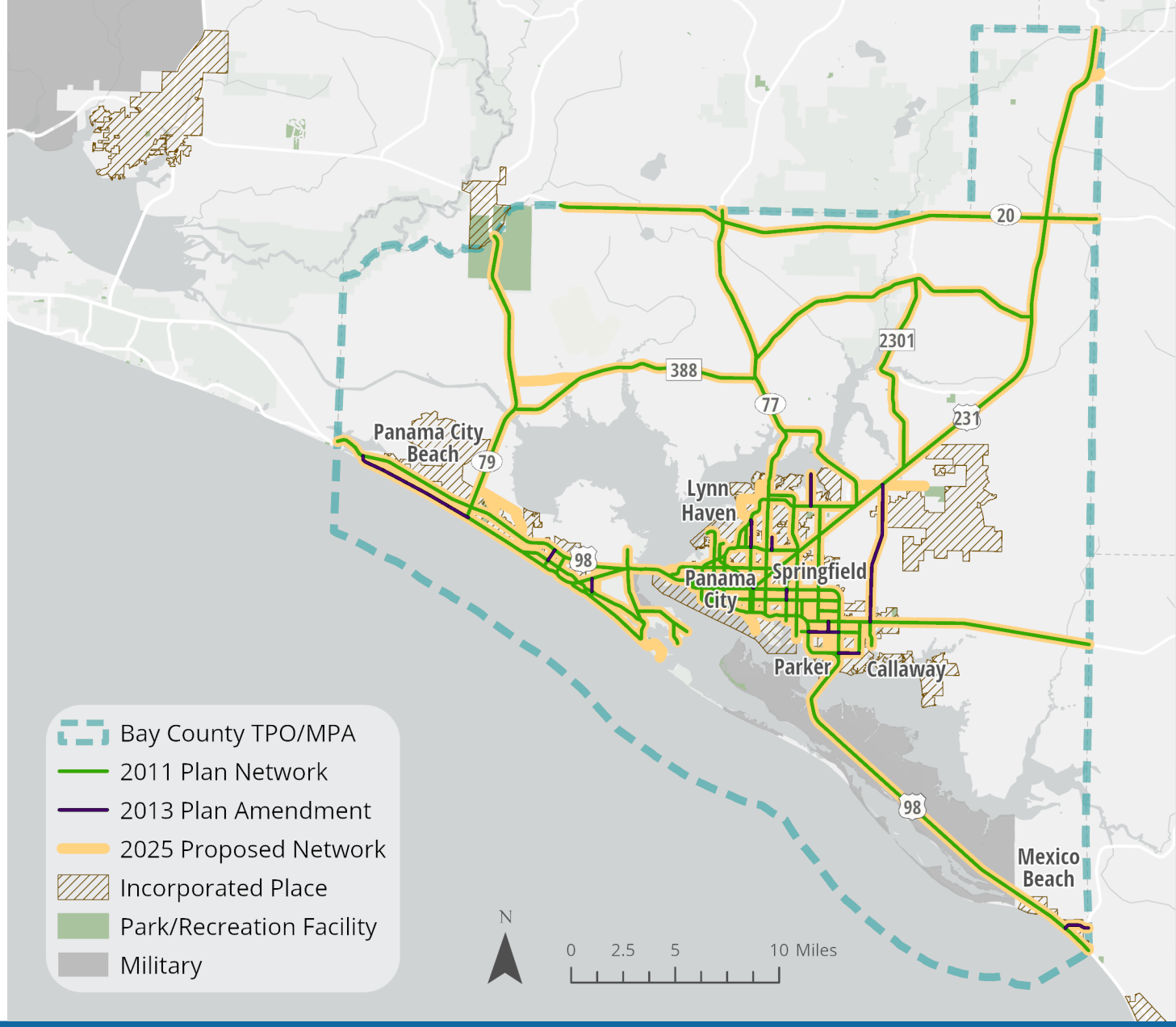
Total Land Area (Square Miles): **759**

Bay County TPO

AREA PROFILE

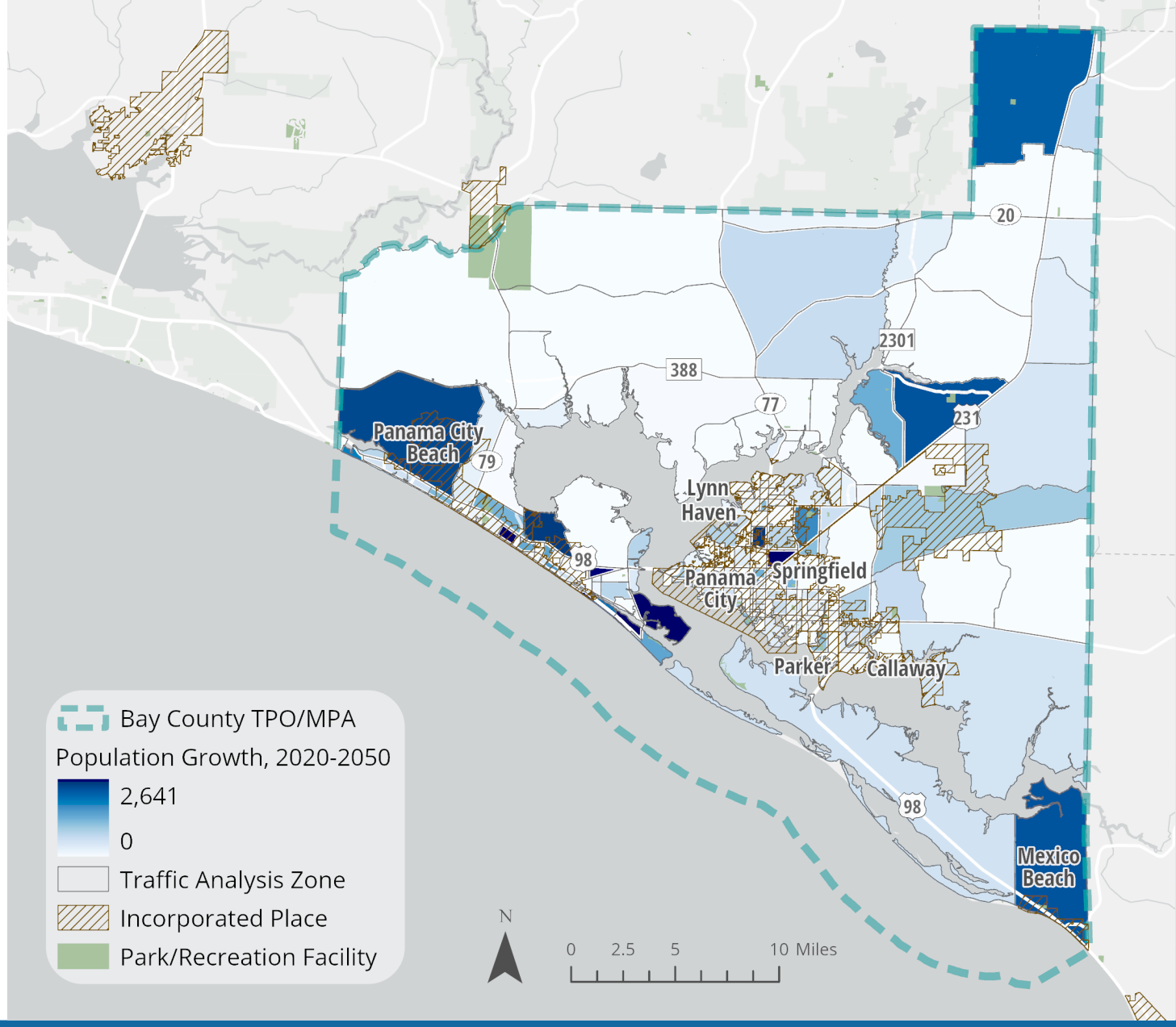
Previous Plan

- **Analysis network from previous study (2011/2013)**
- **Proposed 2025 study network includes previous study network, plus additional arterial and collector roads**



AREA PROFILE
Population Growth

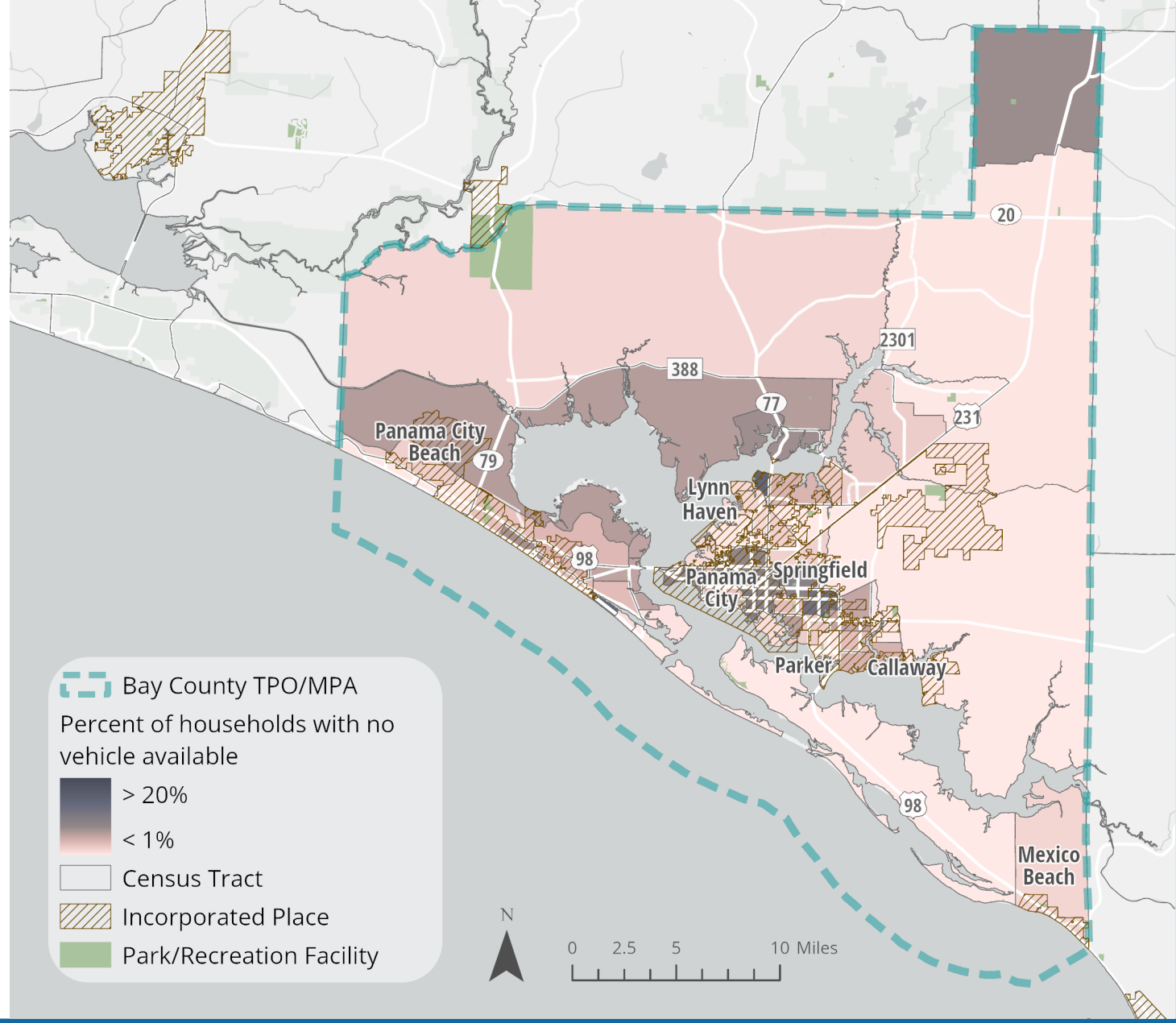
- **Population growth by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)**
  - Northwest Florida Regional Planning Model
  - Growth on US 231, Mexico Beach, and Westbay



AREA PROFILE

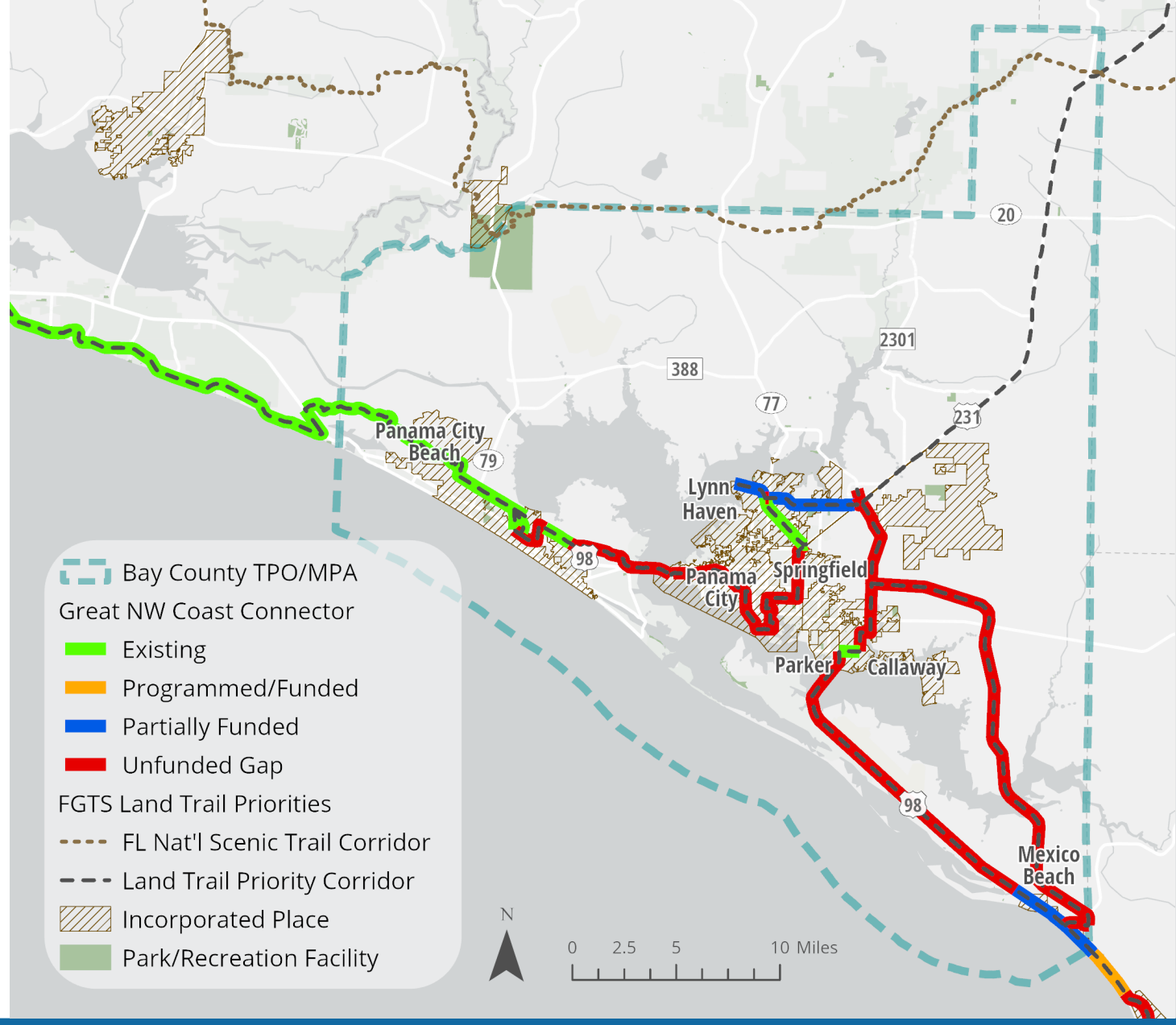
Zero Car Households

- **Percent of households with no vehicle available, from the American Community Survey (ACS). These are 5-year estimates (2019-2023) shown by Census Tract.**



AREA PROFILE
Trail Priorities

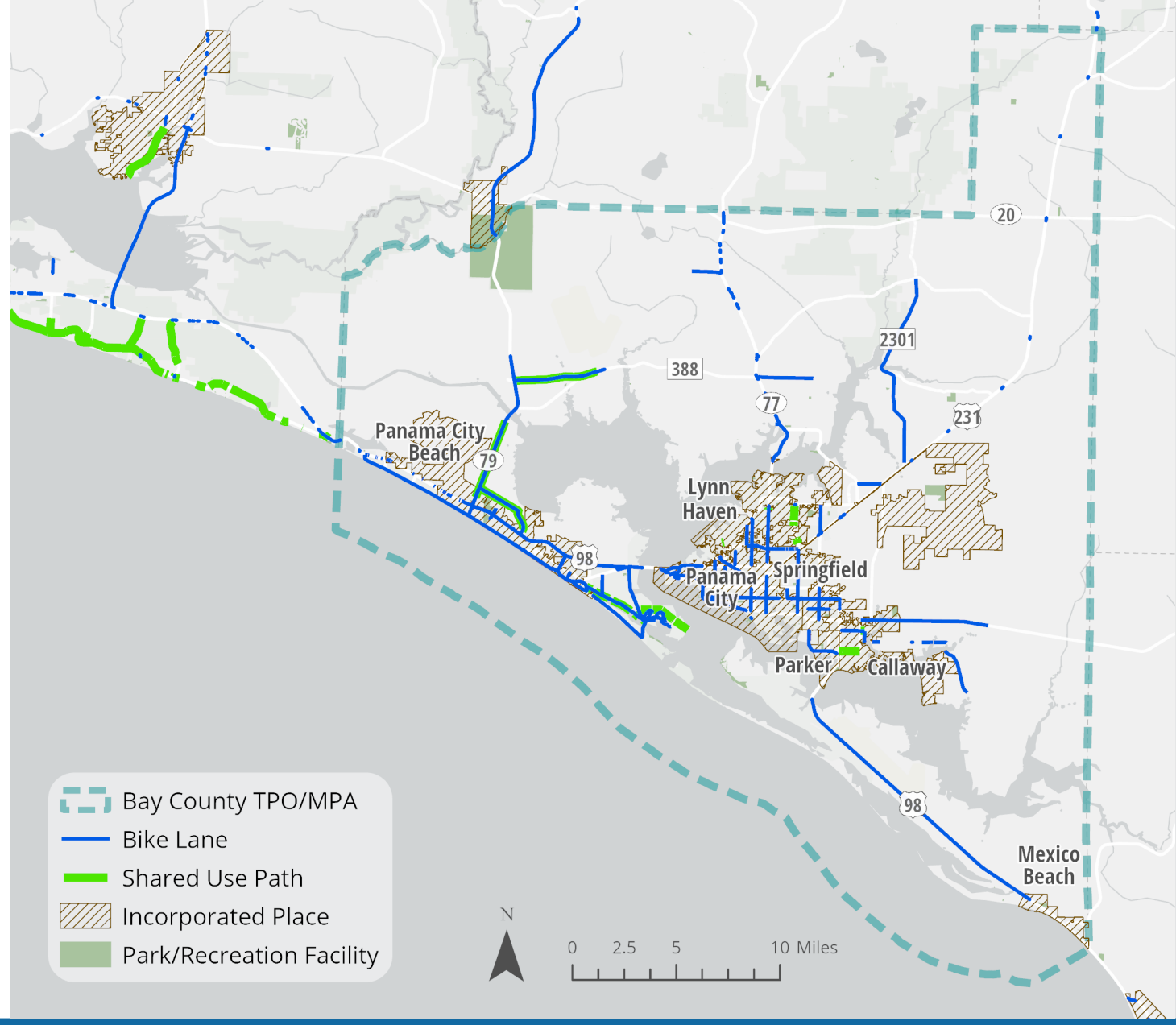
- **The Great Northwest Coast Connector is part of the SUN Trail Network**
- **Trails are initially on the Florida Greenways & Trails System (FGTS) and the city or county can recommend portions for SUN Trail funding**



AREA PROFILE

Existing Bike Facilities

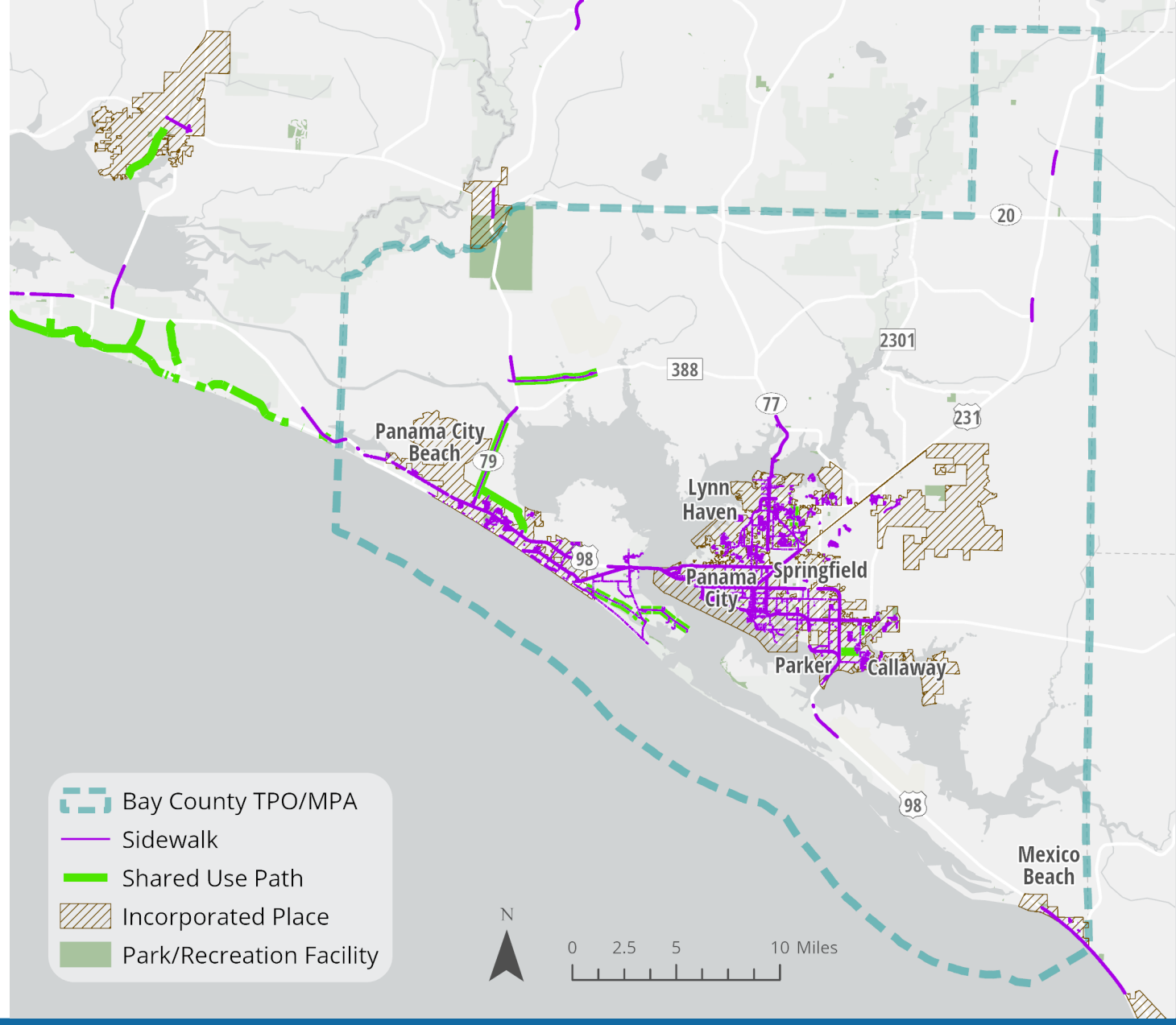
- **Facilities shown are from FDOT and Bay County GIS**
- **ECRC is conducting an assessment to determine where additional bike infrastructure is needed**



AREA PROFILE

Existing Pedestrian Facilities

- **Facilities shown are from FDOT and Bay County GIS**
- **Determine pedestrian level of service (LOS)**



OPEN DISCUSSION

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Challenges**
  - Are there any unexpected obstacles that have emerged since the last update?
  - How can we address concerns related to safety for cyclists and pedestrians?
  - How can we overcome the resistance or lack of awareness from community members regarding biking and walking safety initiatives?
- **Opportunities**
  - Where do we see the biggest opportunities for expanding bike and pedestrian networks within the county?
  - How can we leverage new technologies or innovations to improve bike and pedestrian experiences?

QUESTIONS

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

Local Working Group Committee Meeting #1
03/25/2025 10:00 am -11:00 am (virtual)

WE ARE HERE

Public Workshop April

- Public Input on Vision, Goals, Objectives, Public Survey, Public Challenges & Opportunities Discussion

THIS IS NEXT

Local Working Group Committee Meeting #2
05/28/2025 9:30 am (hybrid)

Local Working Group Committee Meeting #3
08/27/2025 (hybrid)

THANK YOU

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