NYMTC
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

PALISADES SHARED USE PATH STUDY

Community Visioning Workshops

March 2024

WHAT IS A VISIONING WORKSHOP?

Community Visioning Workshop

NYMTC
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

- Generally, ***community visioning*** is
  - a **collaborative** process of . . .
  - giving the people who live, work, and play in a place the **opportunity** to have a say about what they want their community to be like in the future.
- For our workshop, we will be focusing on issues of walking and biking in your communities.

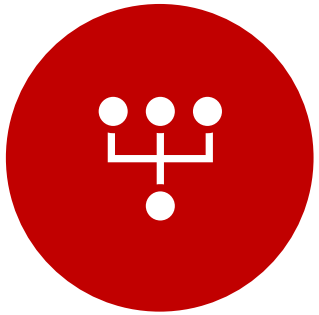
WHO IS UNDERTAKING THE STUDY?

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)

A *METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION* FOR NEW YORK CITY, LONG ISLAND & THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY

A REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONSISTING OF NINE VOTING & SEVEN ADVISORY MEMBERS

AN ORGANIZATION REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LEGISLATION WHICH AUTHORIZES FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION



AN ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANDATED METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

NYMTC Membership

NYMTC
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Westchester County, New York

Nassau County, State of New York

Putnam County

Rockland County Seal

Suffolk County Seal, New York

NYMTC
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

NYC PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING CITY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY DOT

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Transportation

MTA Metropolitan Transportation Authority
State of New York

Advisory

PORT AUTHORITY NY NJ
AIR LAND RAIL SEA

NJTRANSIT
The Way To Go.

NJTPA
NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY

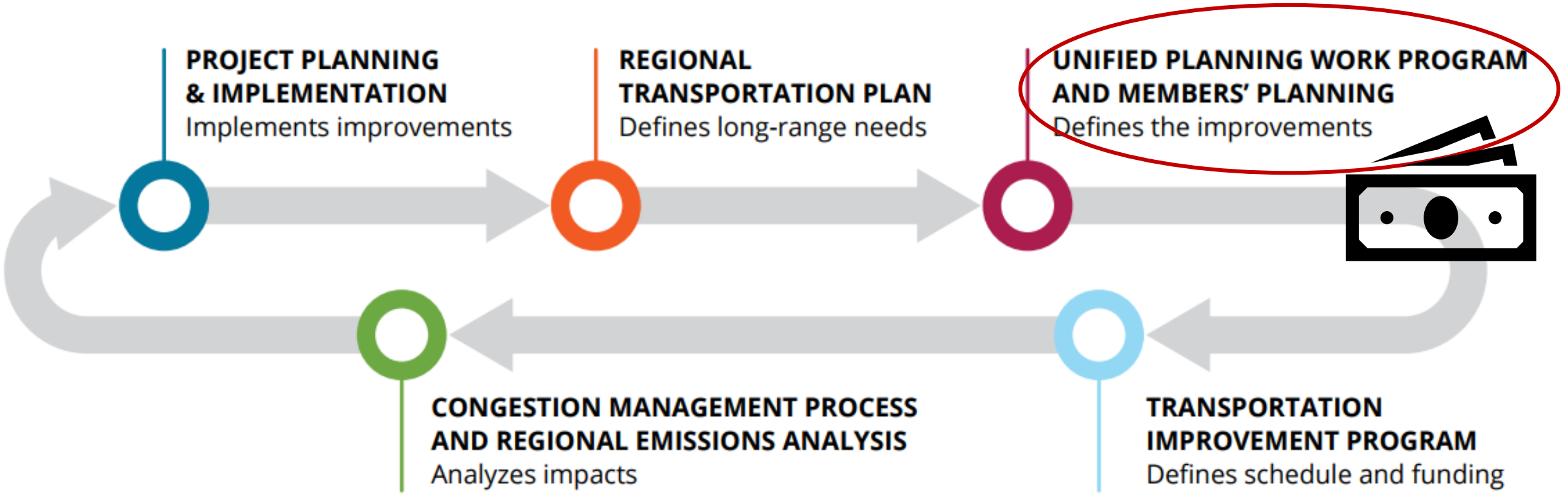
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Environmental Conservation

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Transit Administration

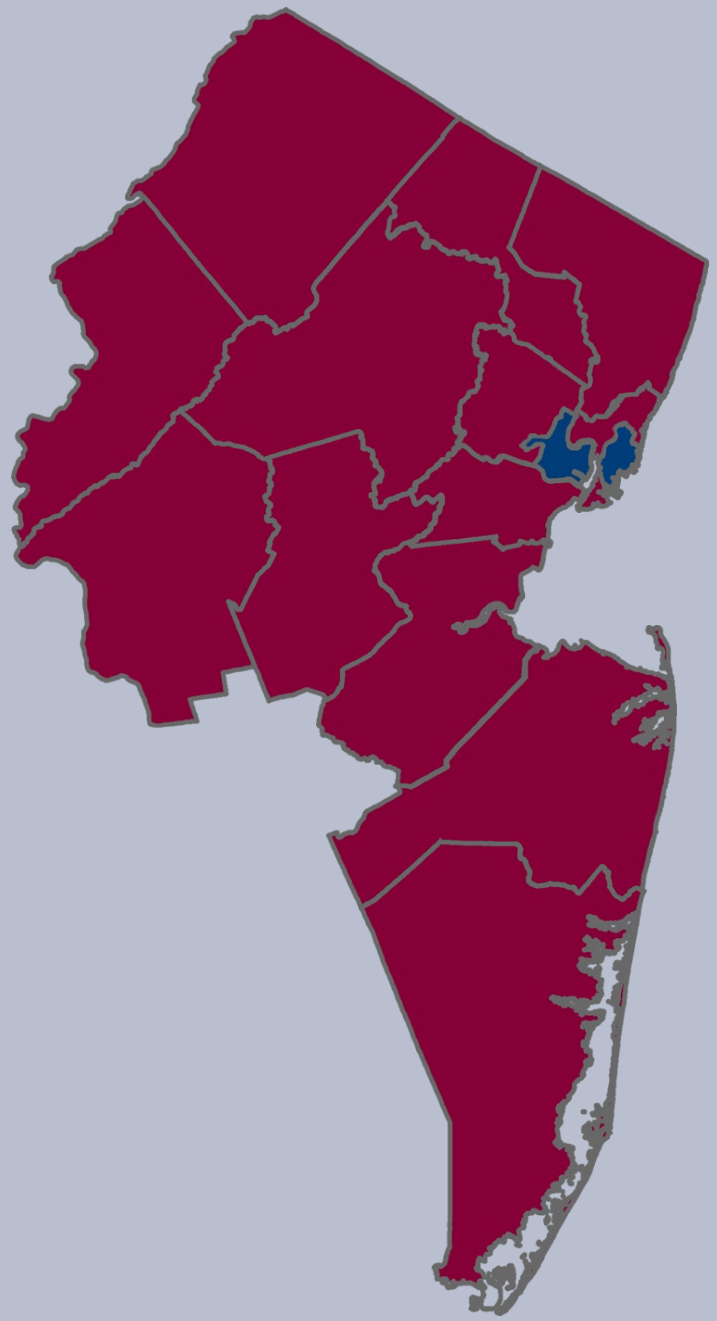
United States Environmental Protection Agency

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process



NJTPA Region

Bergen
Essex
Hudson
Hunterdon
Jersey City
Middlesex
Monmouth
Morris
Newark
Ocean
Passaic
Somerset
Sussex
Union
Warren



NJTPA

NJTPA Board and Committees

Bergen Essex Hudson Hunterdon Jersey City Middlesex Monmouth

Morris Newark Ocean Passaic Somerset Sussex Union Warren

NJDOT NJ TRANSIT Port Authority Governor's Rep. Citizens' Rep.

Standing Committees

Planning & Economic Development Committee

Project Prioritization Committee

Freight Initiatives Committee

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

NJTPA

NJTPA Board Executive Committee

From left to right: Morris County Commissioner **Stephen Shaw, Secretary**

Warren County Commissioner **Jason Sarnoski, Second Vice Chair**

Ocean County Commissioner **John P. Kelly, Chair**

Middlesex County Commissioner **Charles Kenny, First Vice Chair**

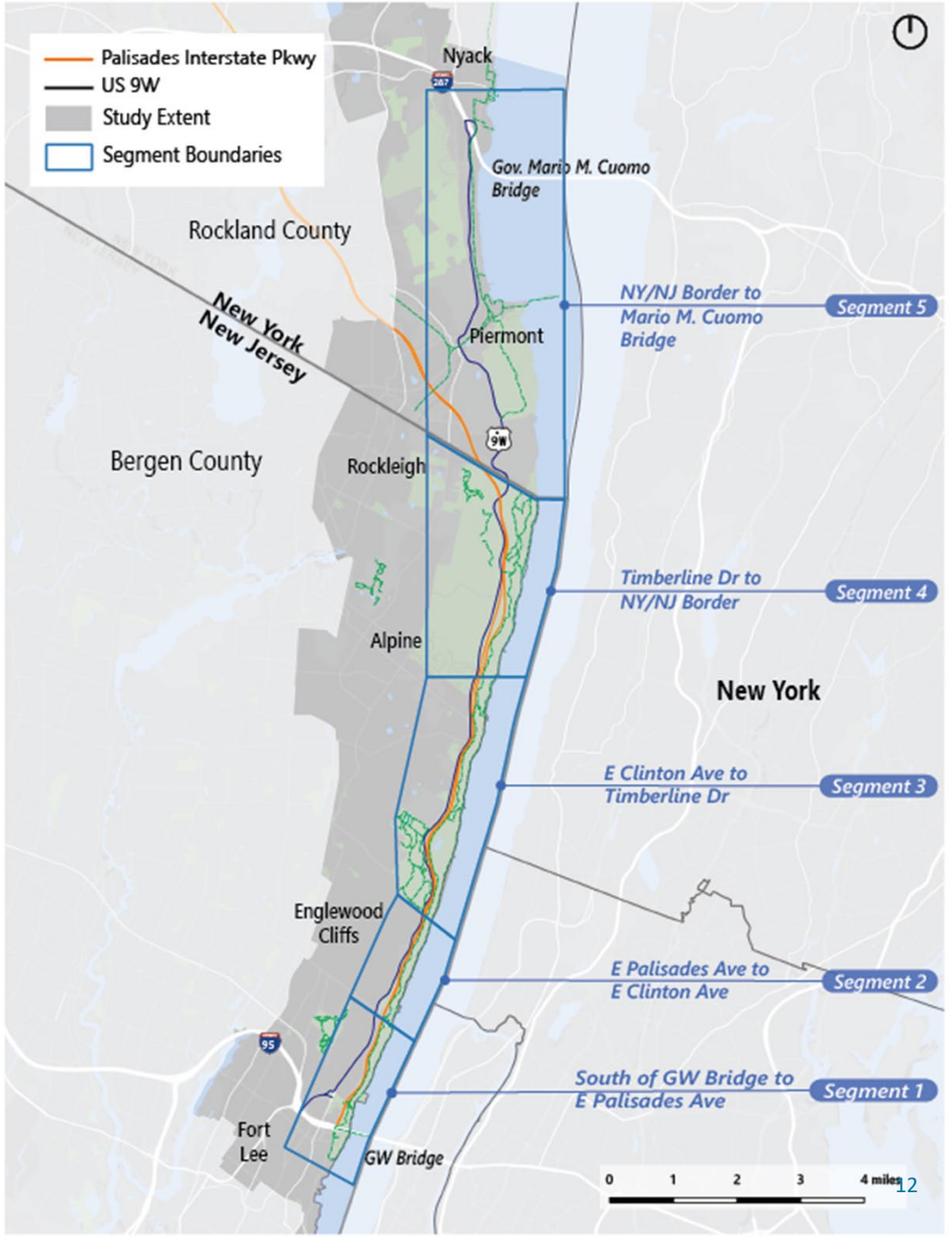
Union County Commissioner **Bette Jane Kowalski, Third Vice Chair**

NJTPA

STUDY SCOPE

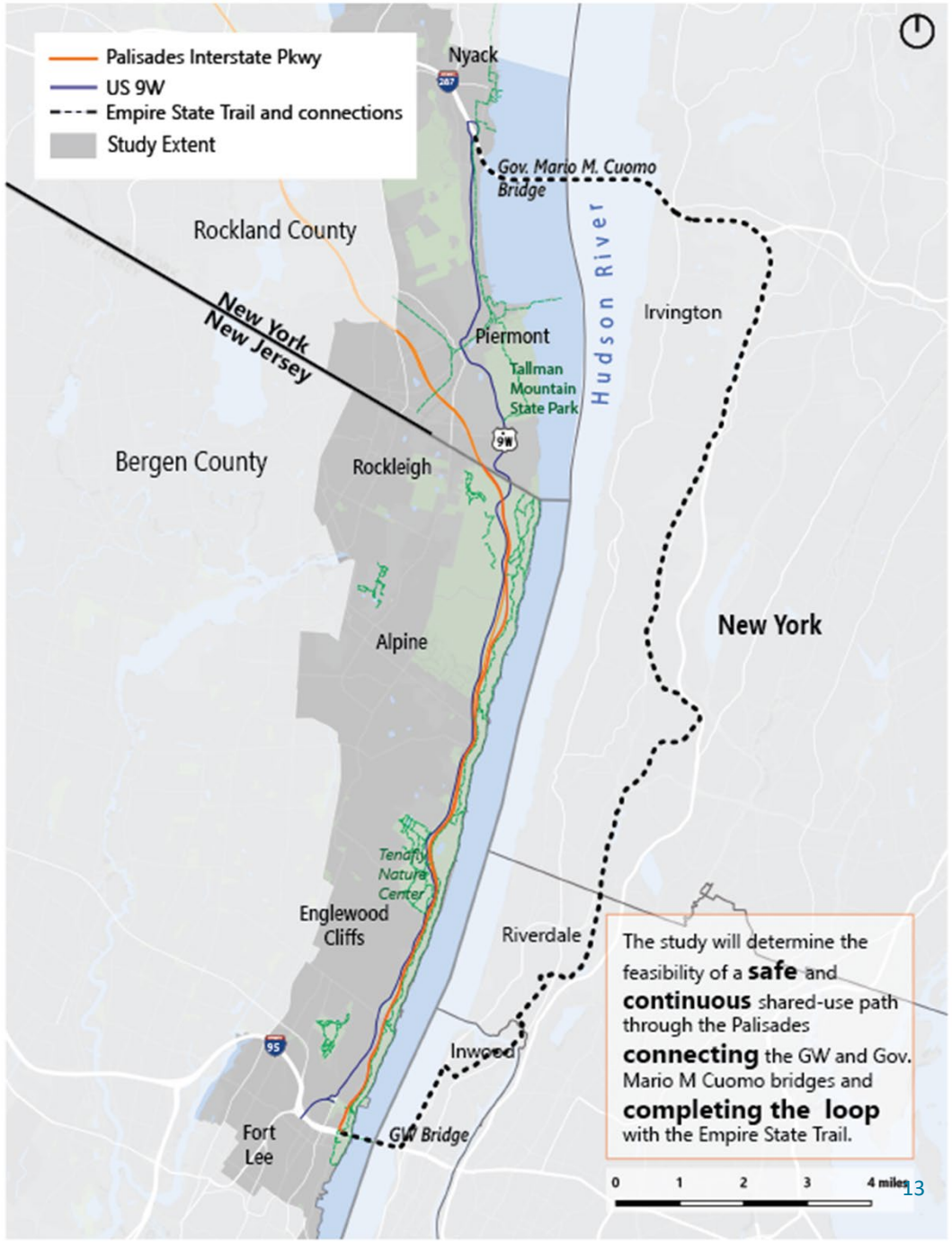
Study Area

- Divide into five distinct segments
  1. Fort Lee
  2. Englewood Cliffs
  3. Tenafly
  4. Alpine
  5. Rockland County



Study Scope

- Determine if a Shared Use Path connection from the George Washington Bridge to the Governor Mario Cuomo Bridge is **feasible.**
- The feasibility of the path should be based on the following:
    1. Physical Geography
    2. Needs, Modalities & Safety (balancing the needs and conveyances of potential path users)
    3. Community Character



Study Scope

- Overall feasibility
- Potential alignments
- Opportunities for amenities, gathering spaces, and aesthetic elements
- Identification of next steps

Study Timeline

We are here now!

Background research and existing conditions

Findings and draft recommendations

Public review of findings and draft recommendations

What happens next?

Consideration of future opportunities by the member agencies of NYMTC and NJTPA. This could mean:

- *No future action or*
- *Detailed design*
- *Environmental impact study*
- *Programmed funding*

Poll

Two Ways to Join

1. Join the poll at
   www.menti.com
   Use Code: 6981 8790

2. Or scan the QR Code

CURRENT STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

Current Conditions

- Walking, hiking, and biking routes
- The trail network features several trails, some paved and some meant more for walking

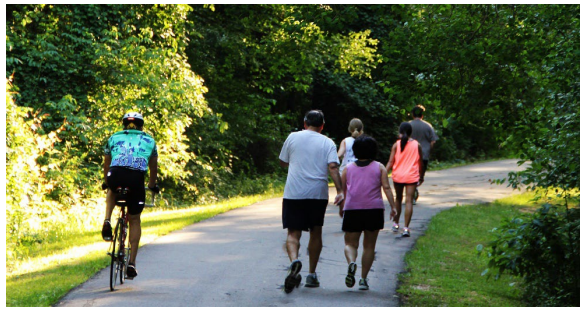
Different Users and Uses

Users

- Walkers, joggers, runners
- Bikers, e-bikers, scooters, rollerblades, rollers
- Strollers, wheelchairs
- Children, elderly

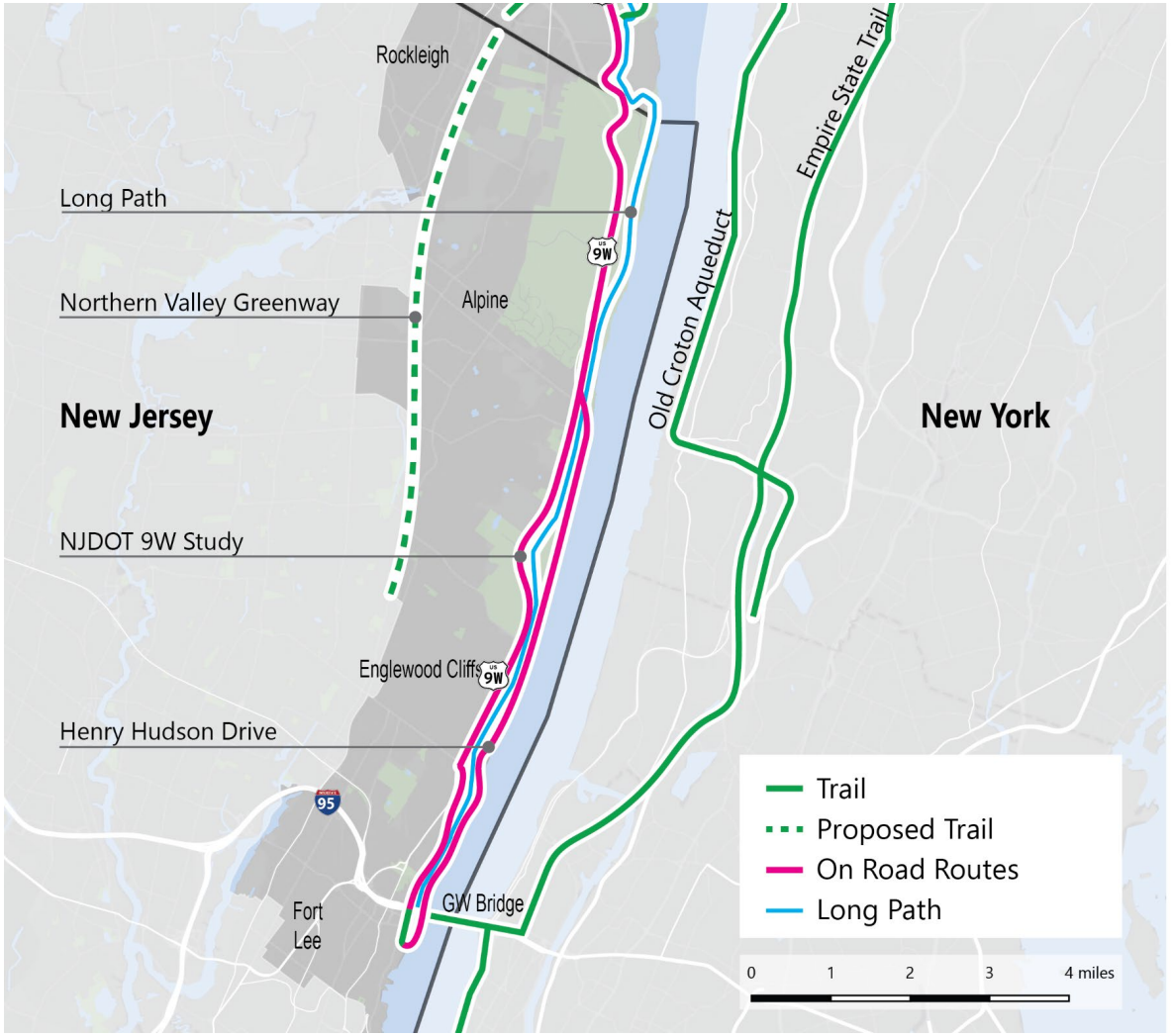
Uses

- Individuals, groups, families
- Recreation, exercise, relaxing, commuting, to be in nature, birding, dog walking



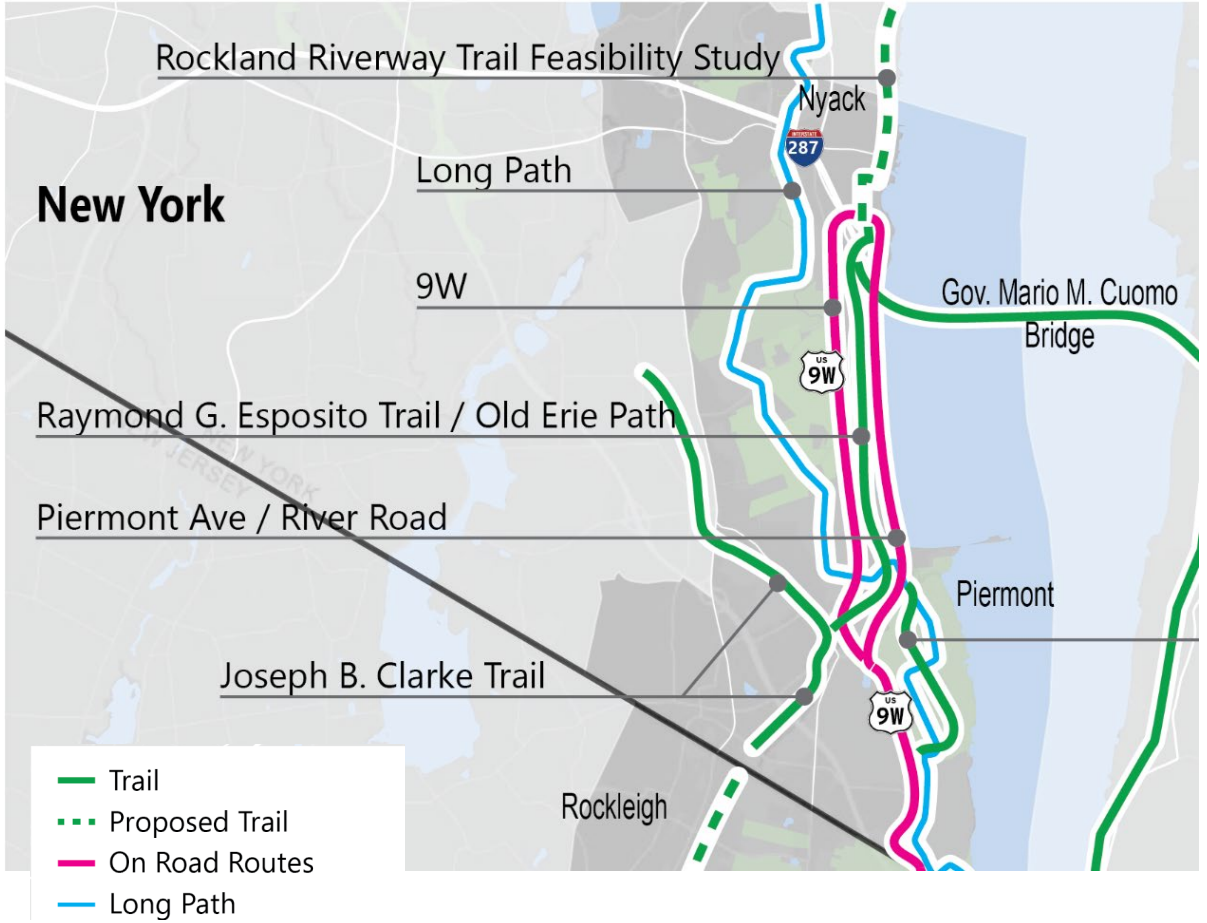
New Jersey

- Long Path
- Northern Valley Greenway
- Route 9W
- Henry Hudson Drive



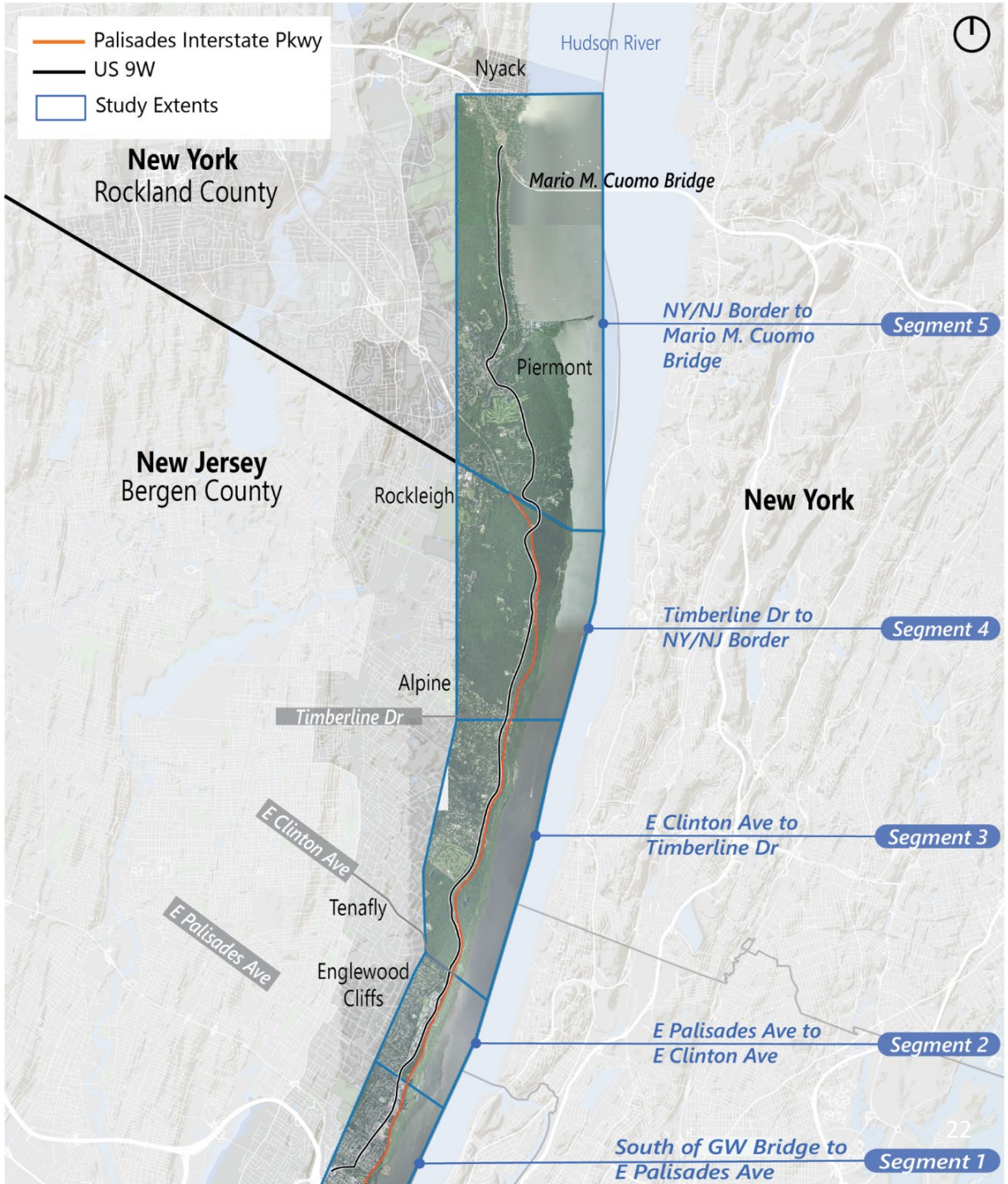
New York

- Rockland Riverway Trail Feasibility Study
- Long Path
- Route 9W
- Raymond G. Esposito Trail / Old Erie Path
- Piermont Ave / River Road
- Joseph B. Clarke Trail
- Tallman Bike Path



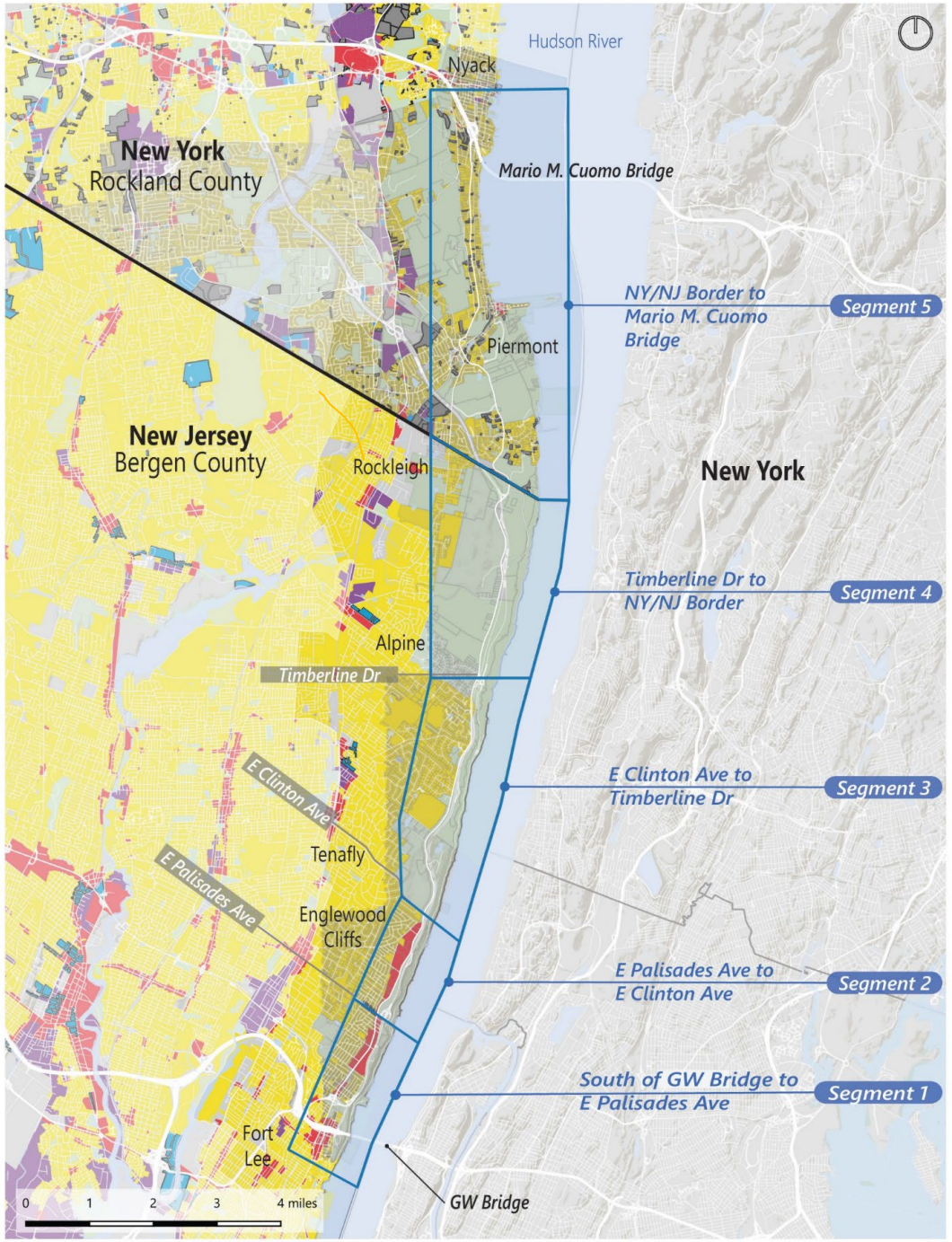
Current Conditions

- Land Use
- Topography
- Demographics
- Equity
- Crash Analysis



Land Use

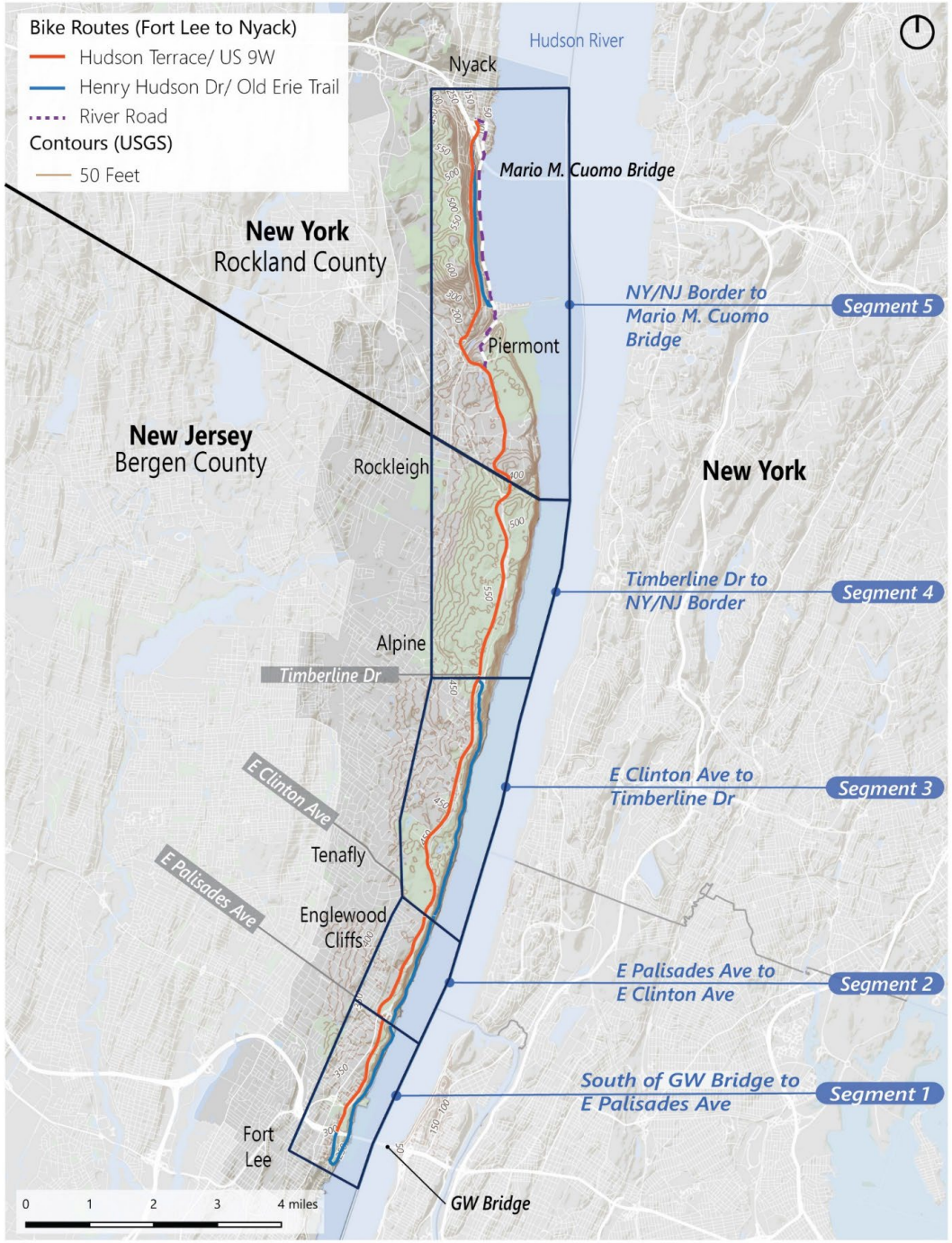
1. **Fort Lee**: Dense, urban, mixed-use, major junctions of roads and bridge
2. **Englewood Cliffs**: Office parks along 9W, single-family housing upland
3. **Tenafly**: low density residential
4. **Borough of Alpine**: mostly parkland with dispersed single-family homes
5. **Rockland County**: Downtowns of Piermont and Nyack separated by Grand View, Tallman Mtn SP



Topography

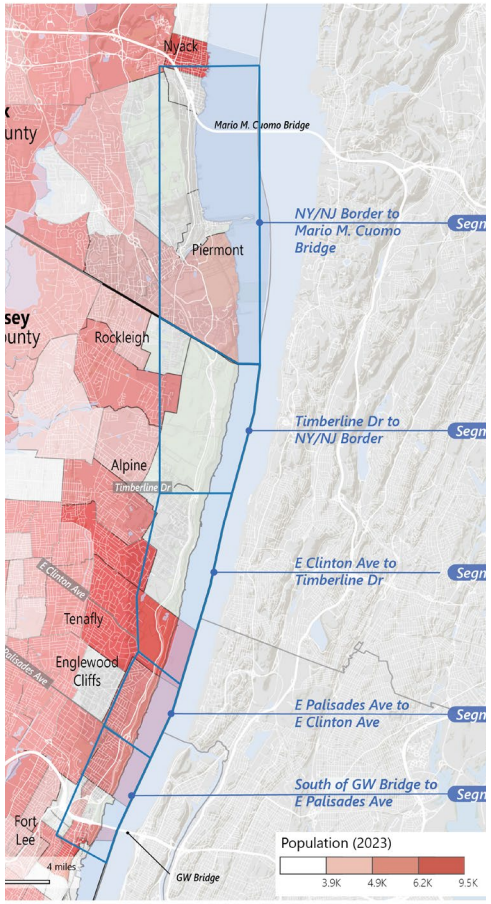
The Palisades provide beautiful scenery, viewpoints, and challenging terrain

- 9W is mostly flat
- Henry Hudson Dr is mostly car-free but very hilly
- Rail trails are mostly flat
- Long Path is hilly over rough terrain

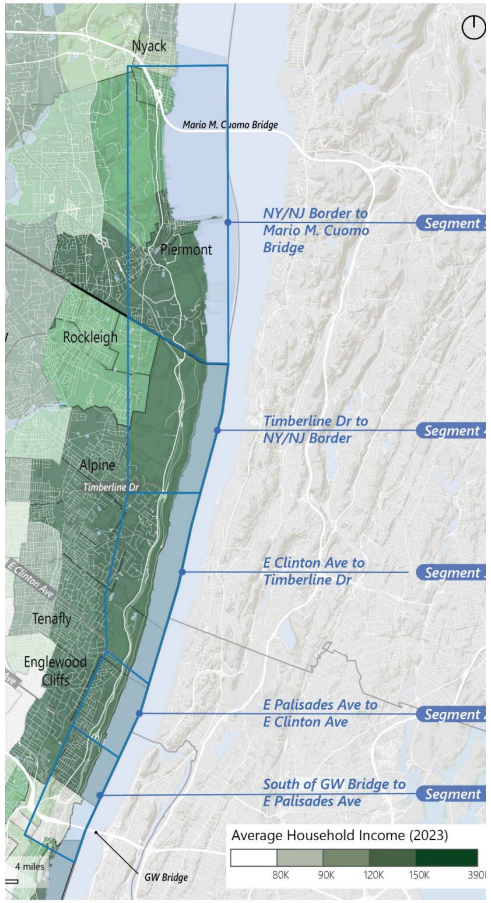


Demographics

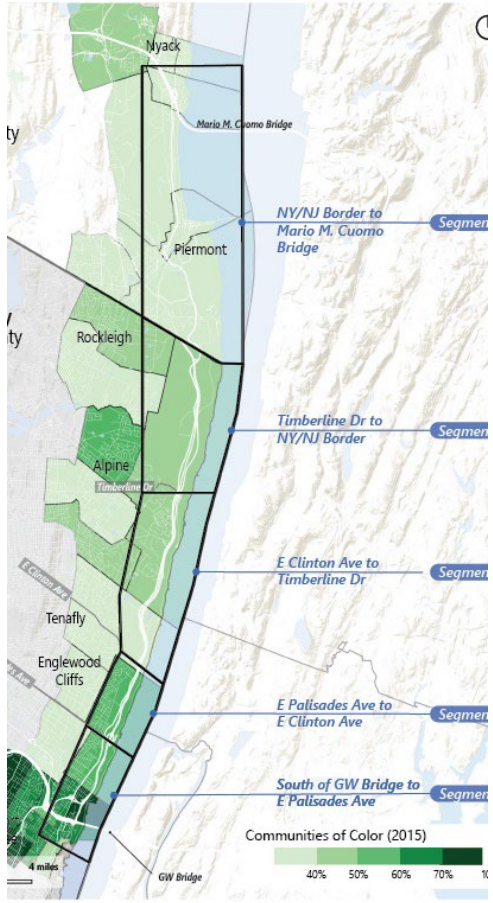
Population



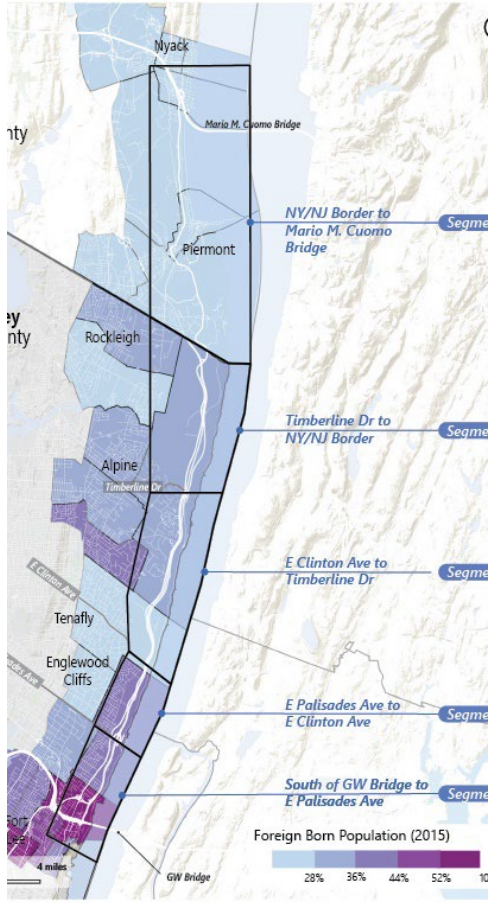
Household Income



Communities of Color

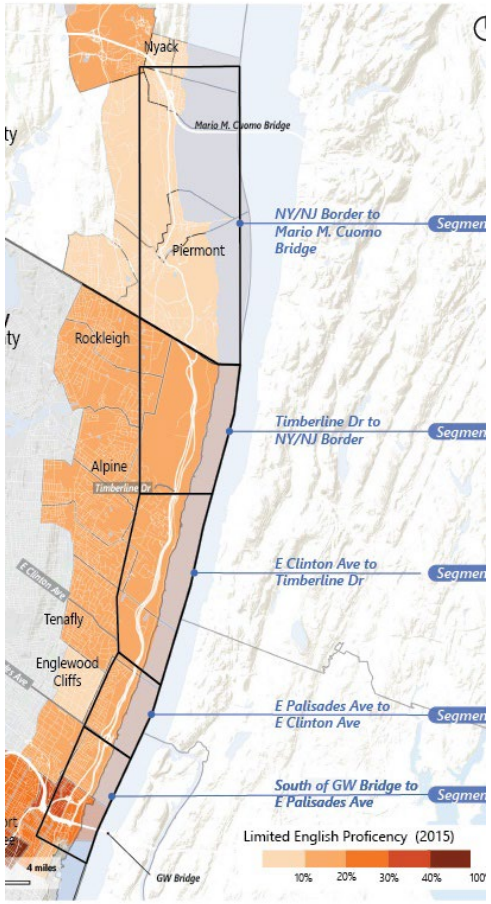


Foreign Born Population

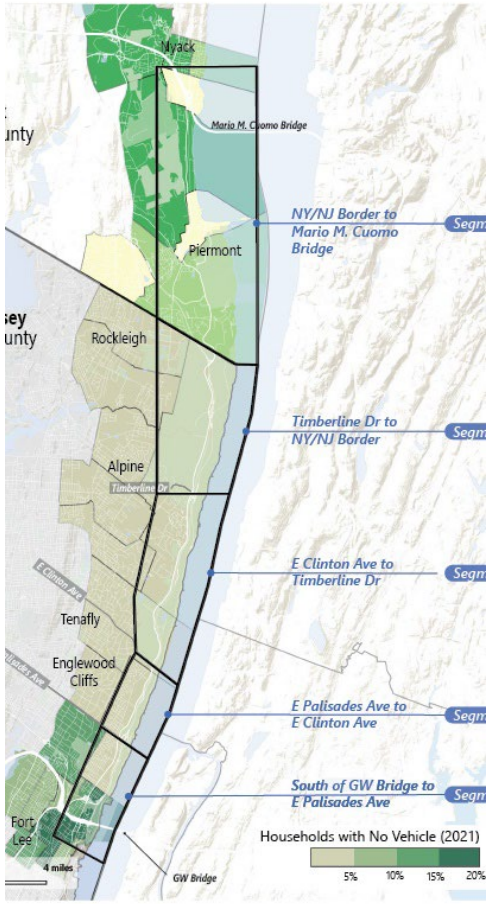


Demographics

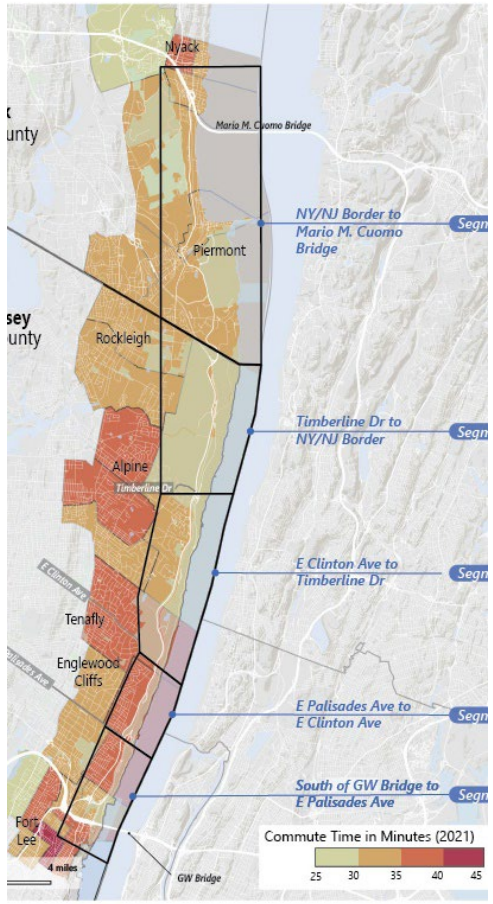
Limited English Proficiency



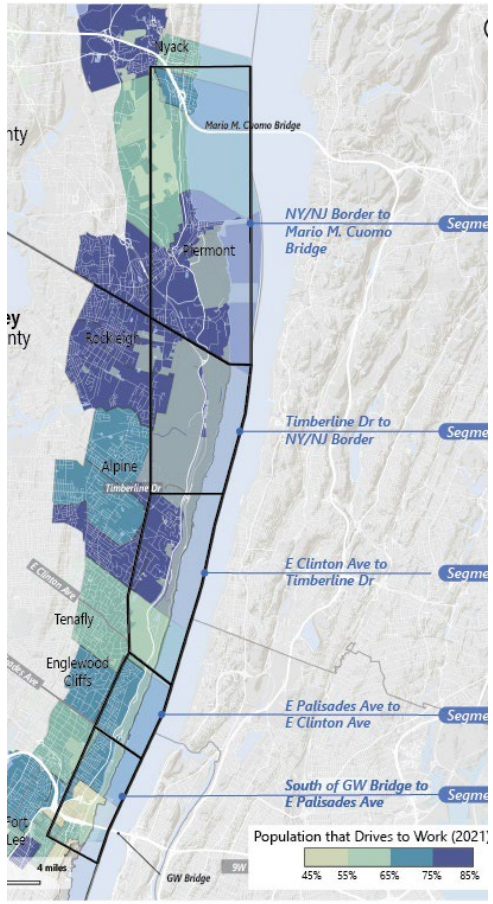
Car-Free Households



Commute Time

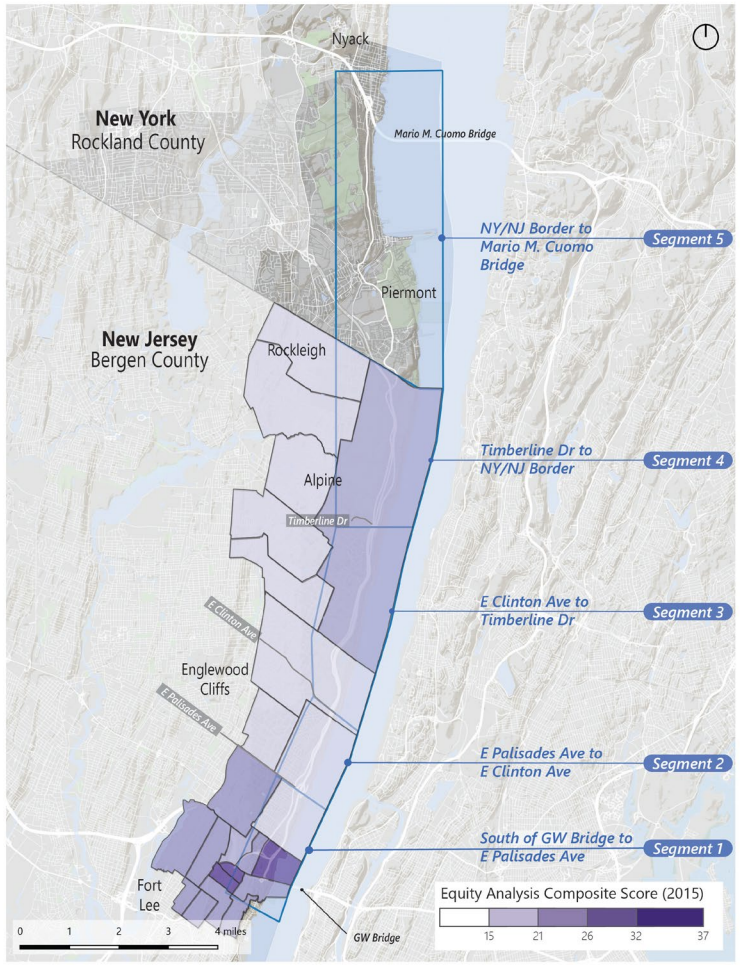


Drive to Work



Equity

New Jersey



New York

Low-Income Community

Tracts where 14% or more of the population earned an income in 2018 at or below the poverty level.

Data from the 2018 ACS, 5-year estimates.

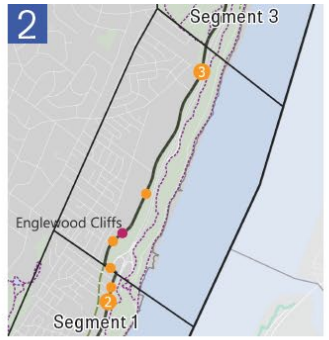
Minority Community

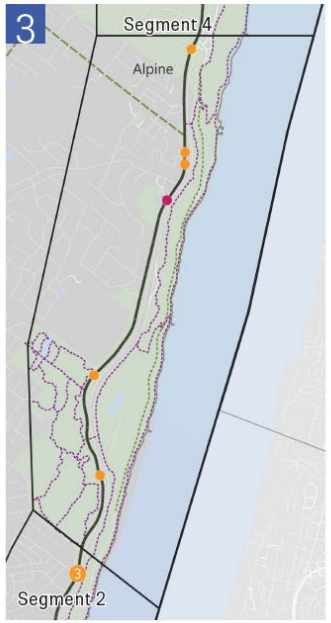
Tracts where the minority population (all racial and ethnic groups excluding non-Hispanic Whites) in 2018 was 57% or more of the regional average.

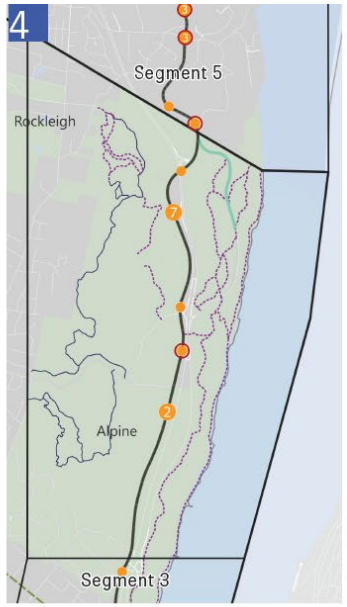
Data from the 2018 ACS, 5-year estimates.

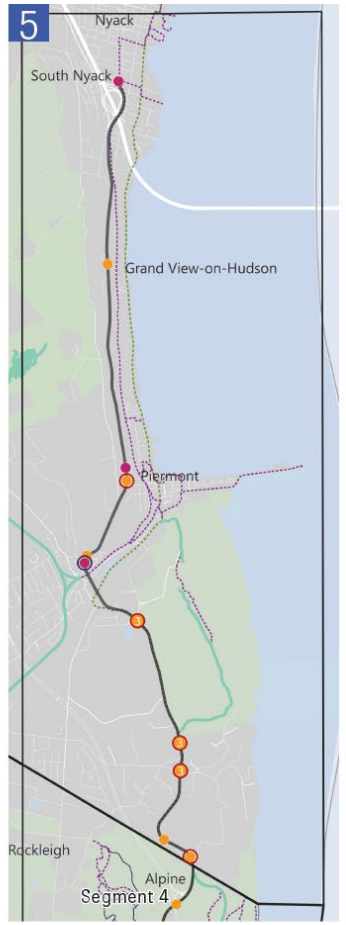
Crash Analysis

- Crashes that involved people walking and biking
  - 4 severe crashes in the 5-year study period
- Most common crashes:
  - At intersections
  - During weekend daylight hours
  - Men ages 30-59









US 9W

Crash Analysis:
Segment 1- 4 (2016 - 2020) Segment 5 (2018-2023)

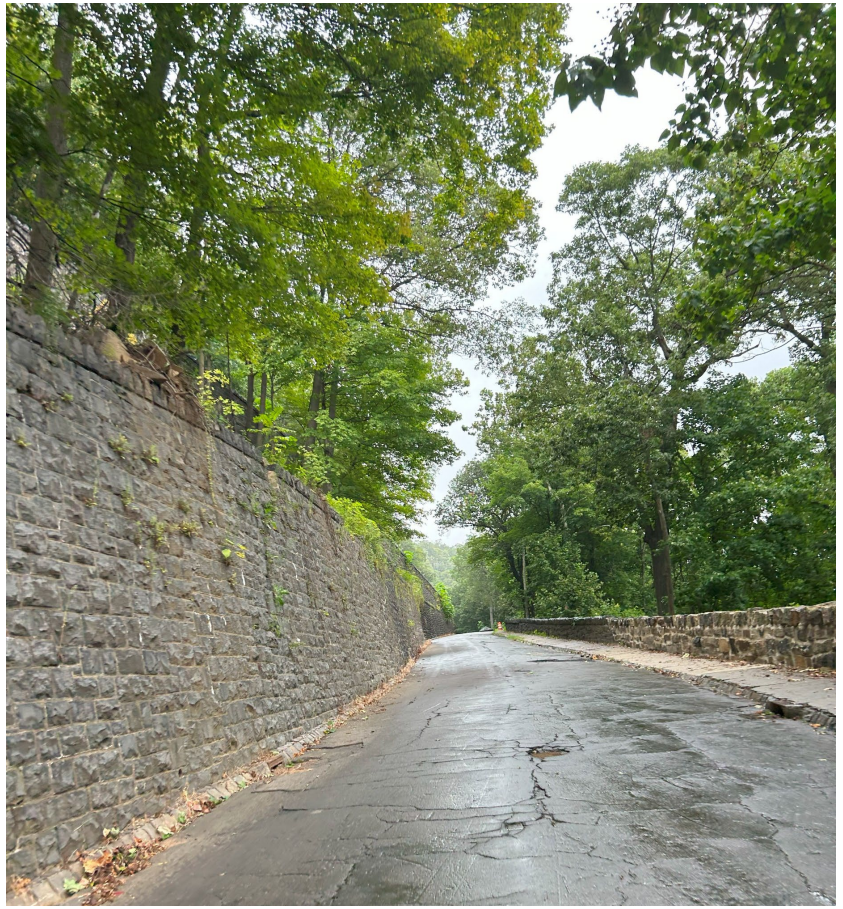
- Pedestrian Crash
- Pedestrian Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI)
- Bicyclist Crashes
- Bicyclist Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI)

FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Involving and collaborating with individuals, groups, or communities in the study area

Discussion Questions

1. Top of mind issues, aspirations, or concerns?
2. What improvements to walking, hiking, biking and/or rolling are needed in the study area?
3. What benefits from improved walking or biking in the study area would you like to see for your community?
4. How would you measure the success and impact of walking and biking improvements in your community?
5. In your view, what are the barriers or challenges to implementing walking and biking improvements in the study area?
6. Any remaining questions?



Open Questions

Two Ways to Join

1. Join the poll at
   www.menti.com
   Use Code: 7752 6426

2. Or scan the QR Code

1. TOP OF MIND ISSUES, ASPIRATIONS, OR CONCERNS?

2. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS TO WALKING, HIKING, BIKING AND/OR ROLLING ARE NEEDED IN THE STUDY AREA?

3. WHAT BENEFITS FROM IMPROVED WALKING OR BIKING IN THE STUDY AREA WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

4. HOW WOULD YOU MEASURE THE SUCCESS AND IMPACT OF WALKING AND BIKING IMPROVEMENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

5. IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS OR CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTING WALKING AND BIKING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STUDY AREA?

ANY LAST QUESTIONS?

Next Steps

- In-person workshops in May
  - One each in NJ and NY

THANK YOU!

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PALISADESPATHSTUDY@GMAIL.COM