



# East Coast Greenway: Connecting (rural) Communities from ME to FL

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# 23 Years in the Making

2,900-mile urban (meets rural) Appalachian Trail



American Tobacco Trail  
Durham, North Carolina

# 23 Years in the Making

Connecting cities. . .



Washington, DC

# 23 Years in the Making

And linking rural communities



Tobacco Heritage Trail  
South Hill, Virginia

Why are rural  
communities so  
important?

# Bountiful Resources



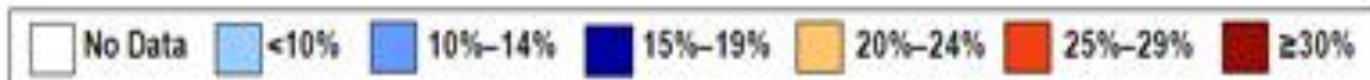
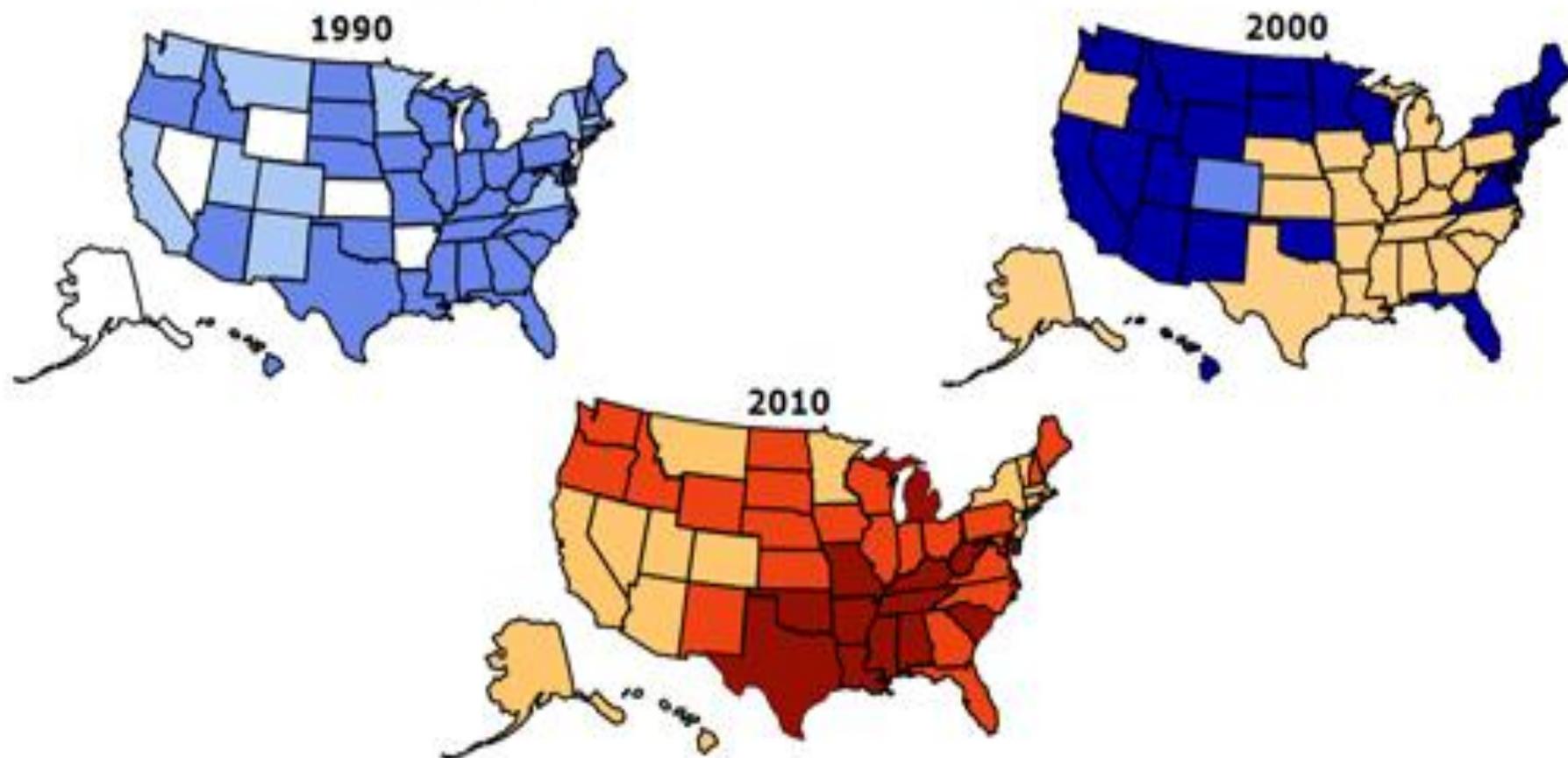
- Cultural
- Historical
- Natural beauty



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

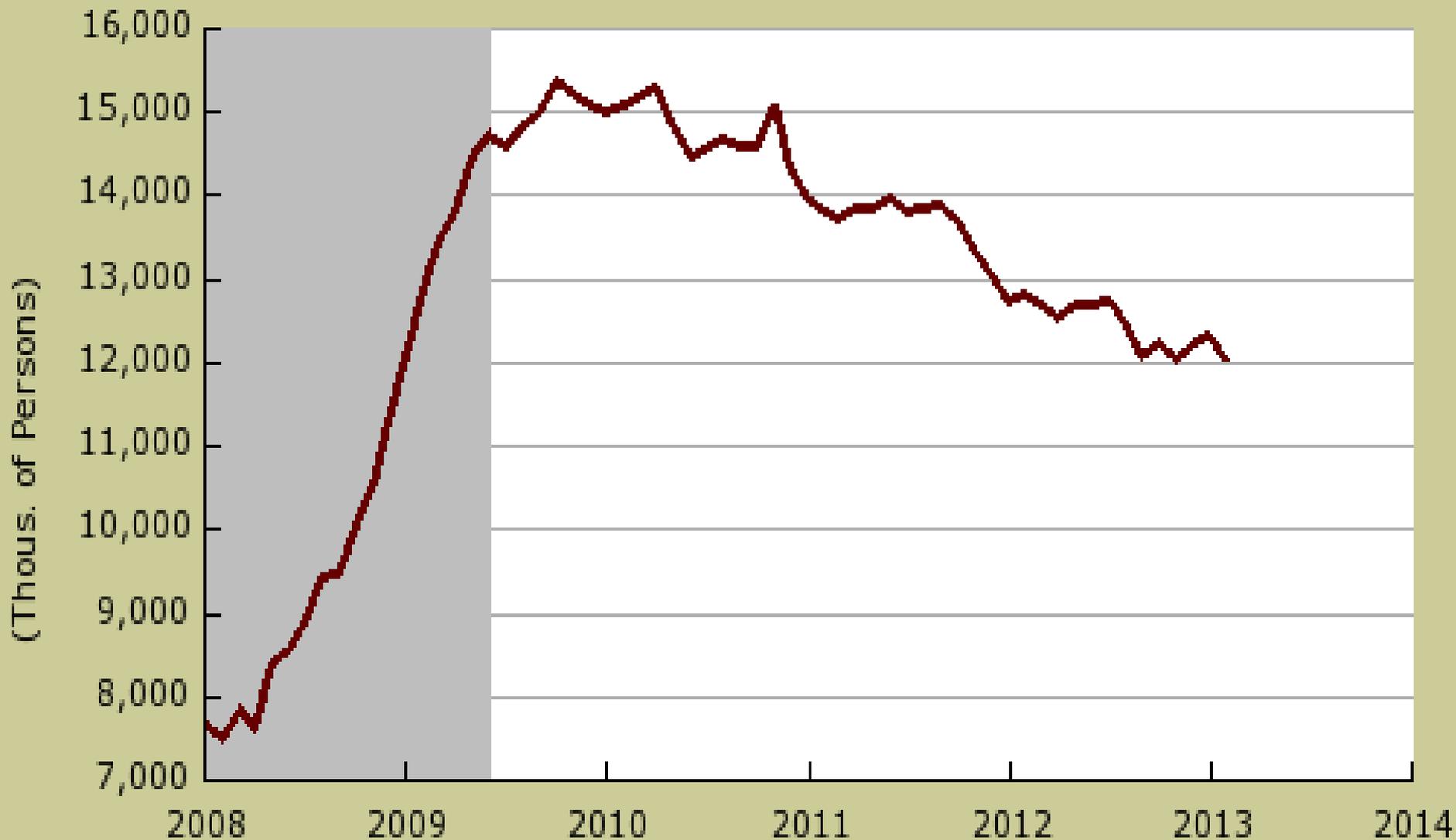
## BRFSS, 1990, 2000, 2010

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5'4" person)



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC.

# Unemployed (UNEMPLOY)



Shaded areas indicate US recessions.

2013 [research.stlouisfed.org](http://research.stlouisfed.org)

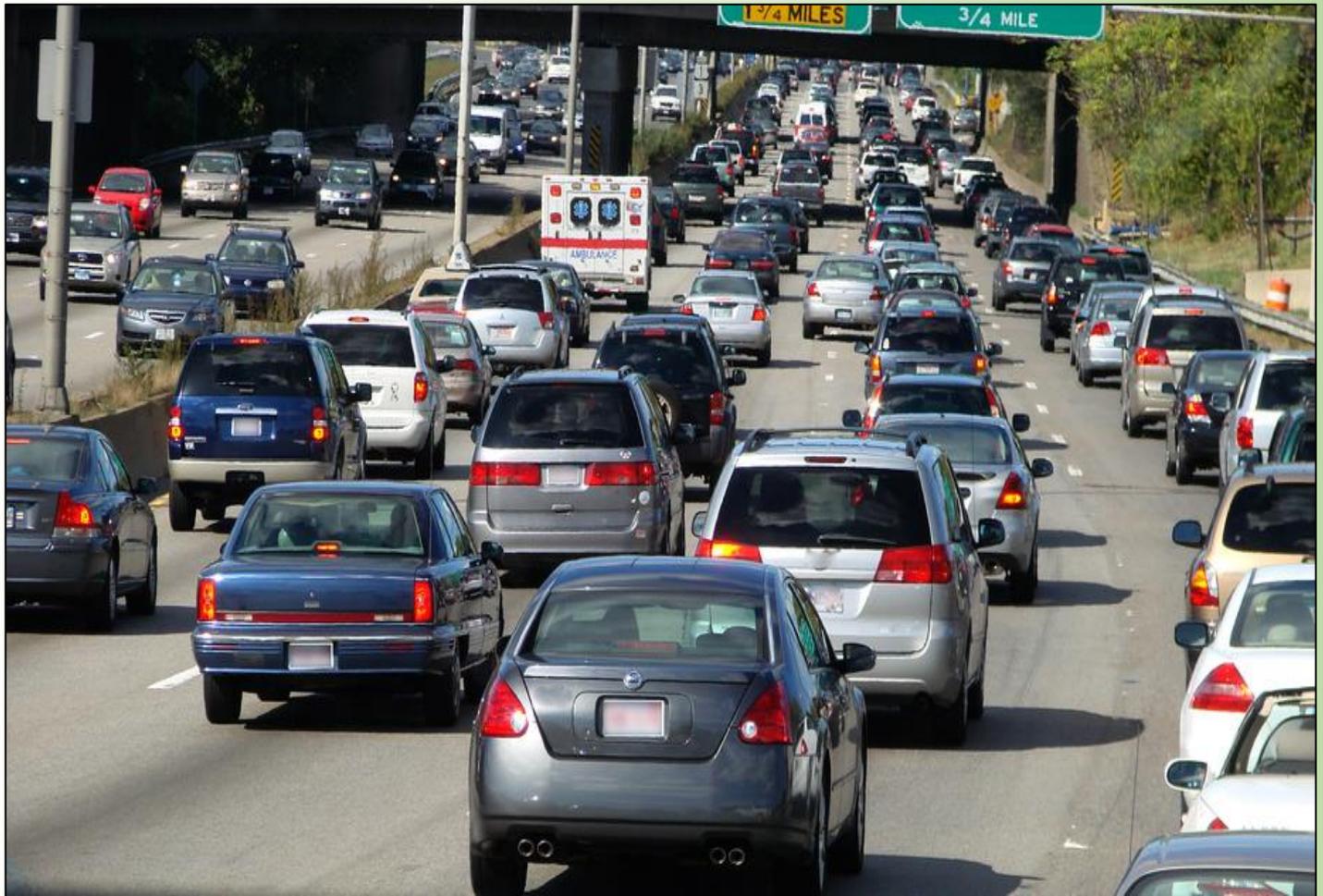
# Gateway to an Active Life

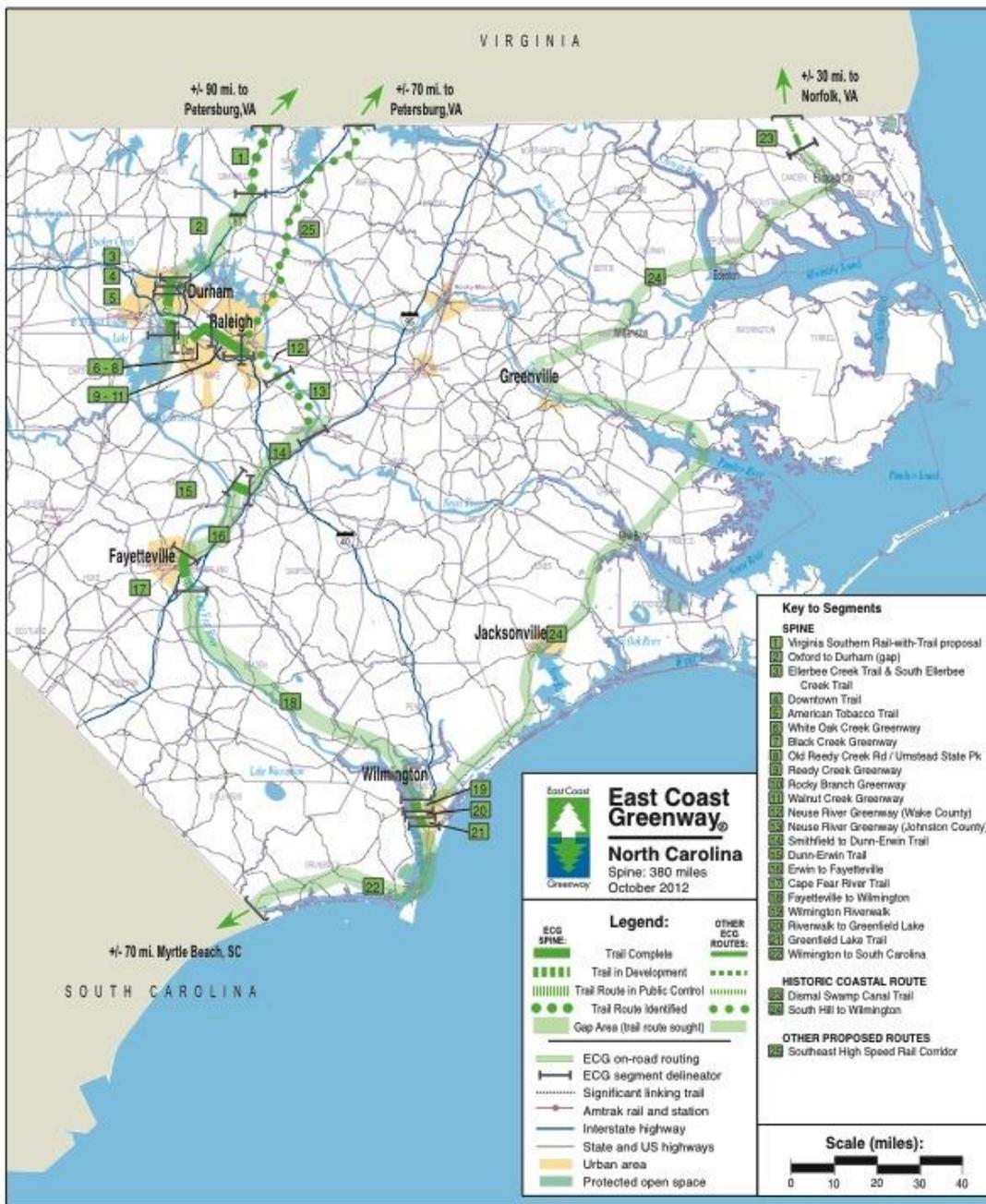


The South Tar River Greenway  
Greenville, NC

# The Greenway Solution

- Lowers health costs
- Lowers transportation costs
- Lowers pollution from transport





## North Carolina Route:

### Stats:

- 387 mile spine
- 420 mile alternate route
- 23% complete
- 7% in development

### Highlight:

- Triangle section is over 90% complete for 75 miles

# Rural success in NC



Watch nature, go fishing, or picnic along the river on this 3 mile greenway that travels along the Spring Branch to the Neuse River in the Smithfield Commons and then along Buffalo Creek. Trail entrances are located throughout Historic Downtown Smithfield and at the back of Smithfield Community Park.

## Smithfield Neuse Riverwalk & Buffalo Creek Greenway

1. Jaycee Kiddie Park
2. Girl Scout Hut
3. Spring Branch
4. Historic Town Commons
5. Boy Scout Hut
6. Boat Ramp
7. Talton Park
8. Buffalo Creek
9. Buffalo Road
9. Community Park & Smithfield Recreational & Aquatic Center
10. Community Park & Smithfield Recreational & Aquatic Center

Trail Heads

SRAC  
Smithfield Recreational & Aquatic Center

Downtown SMITHFIELD

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Buffalo Creek Greenway (3 miles)  
Smithfield, NC



# Rural success in NC



Copywrite@NancyPiercePhoto

Dunn Erwin Greenway (5 miles)  
Harnett County, NC

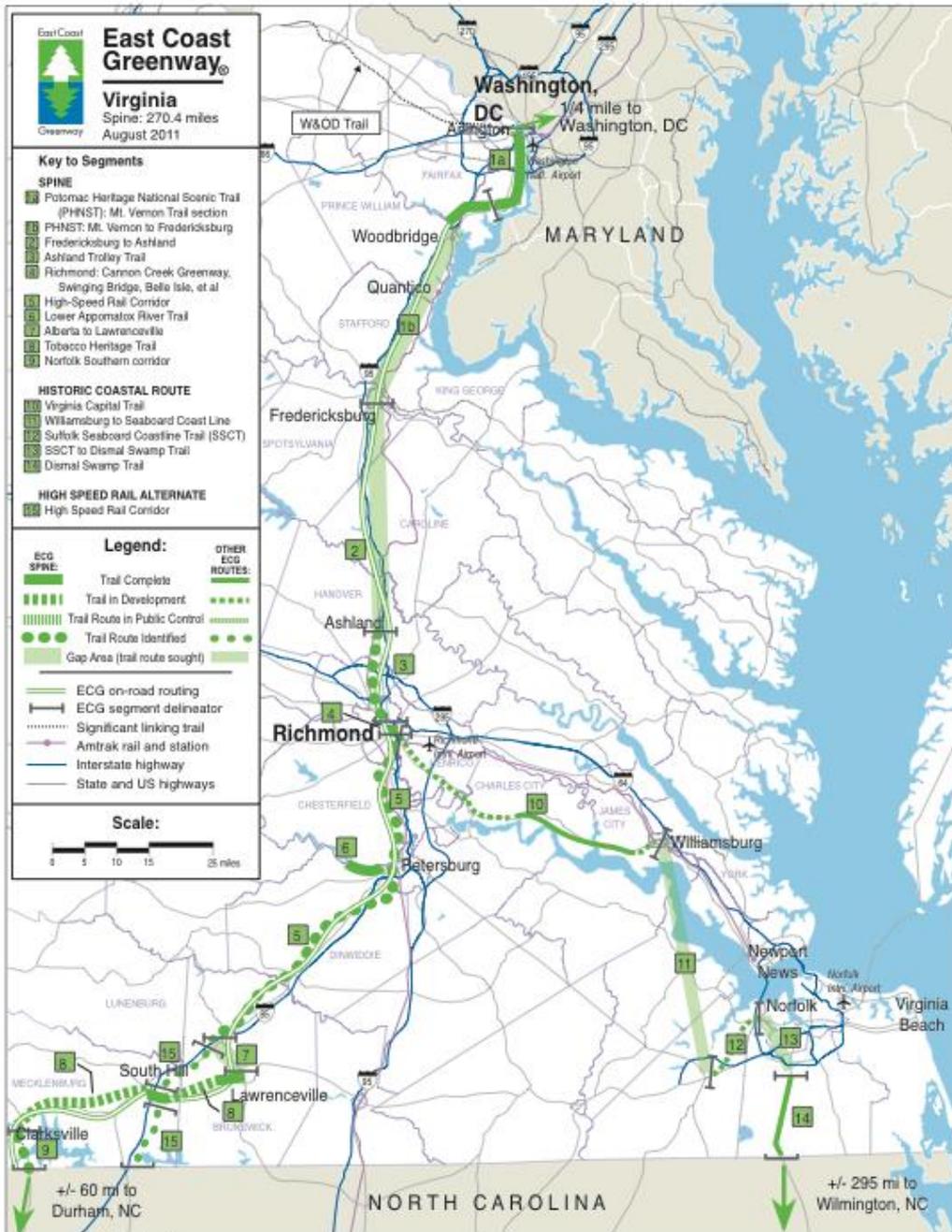
# Funding challenge: Paying for greenways in NC



# What can we learn from VA?



- Link tourism to complete streets
- Market trails (and capture the responsibility in job descriptions)
- Unearth ways to work collaboratively with rail companies and private landowners
- Communicate & collaborate across departments and sectors (DOT, Parks, Commerce, NGO's, etc.)



## Virginia Route:

### Stats:

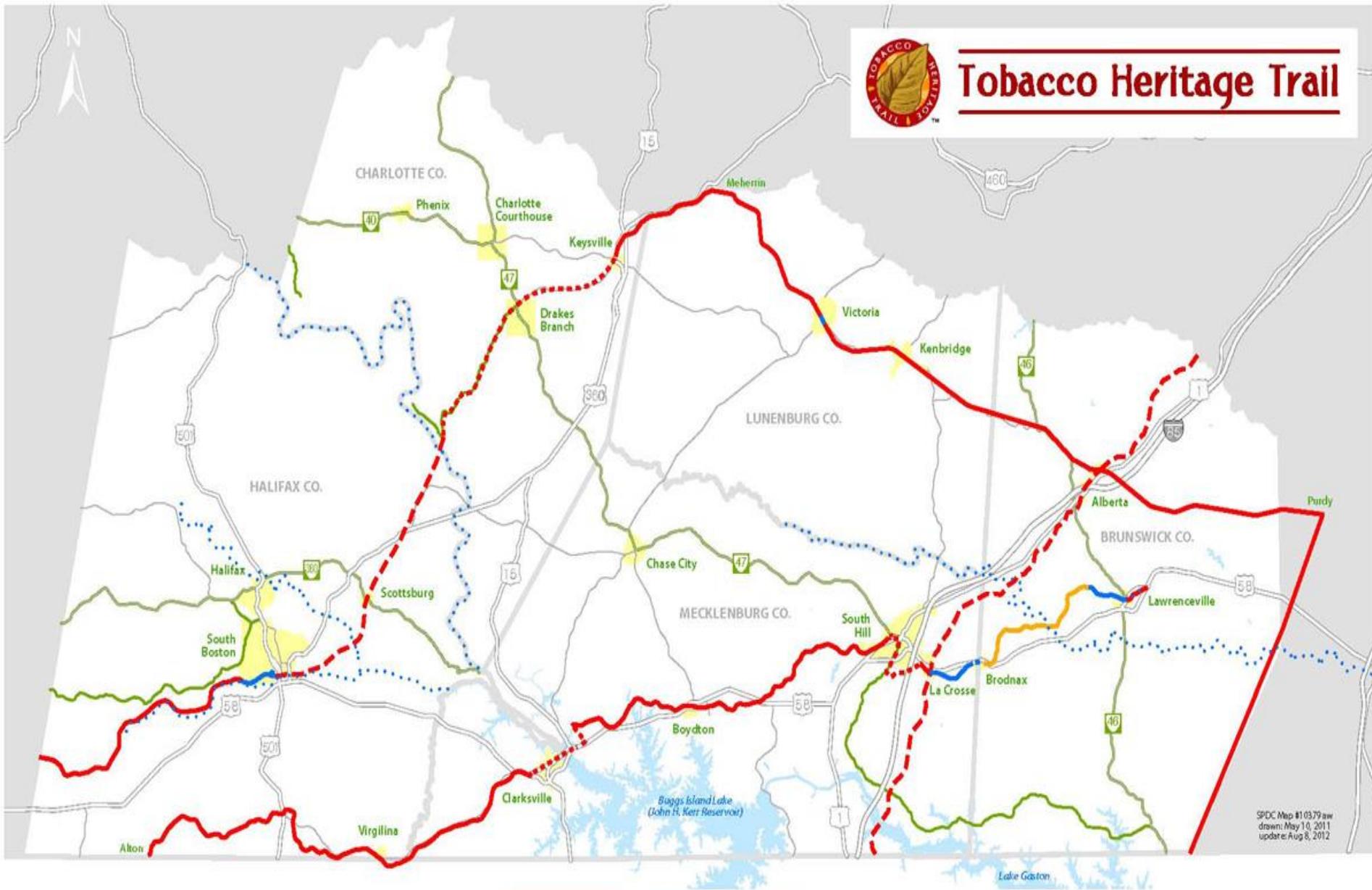
- 270 mile spine
- 130 mile alternate route
- 18% complete
- 20% in development

### Rural highlight:

- Tobacco Heritage Trail in Southern VA
- ECG will utilize 55 miles of the 174 mile trail stretching across 5 Southside counties.



# Tobacco Heritage Trail



SPDC Map #1 03.79 aw  
drawn: May 10, 2011  
update: Aug 8, 2012

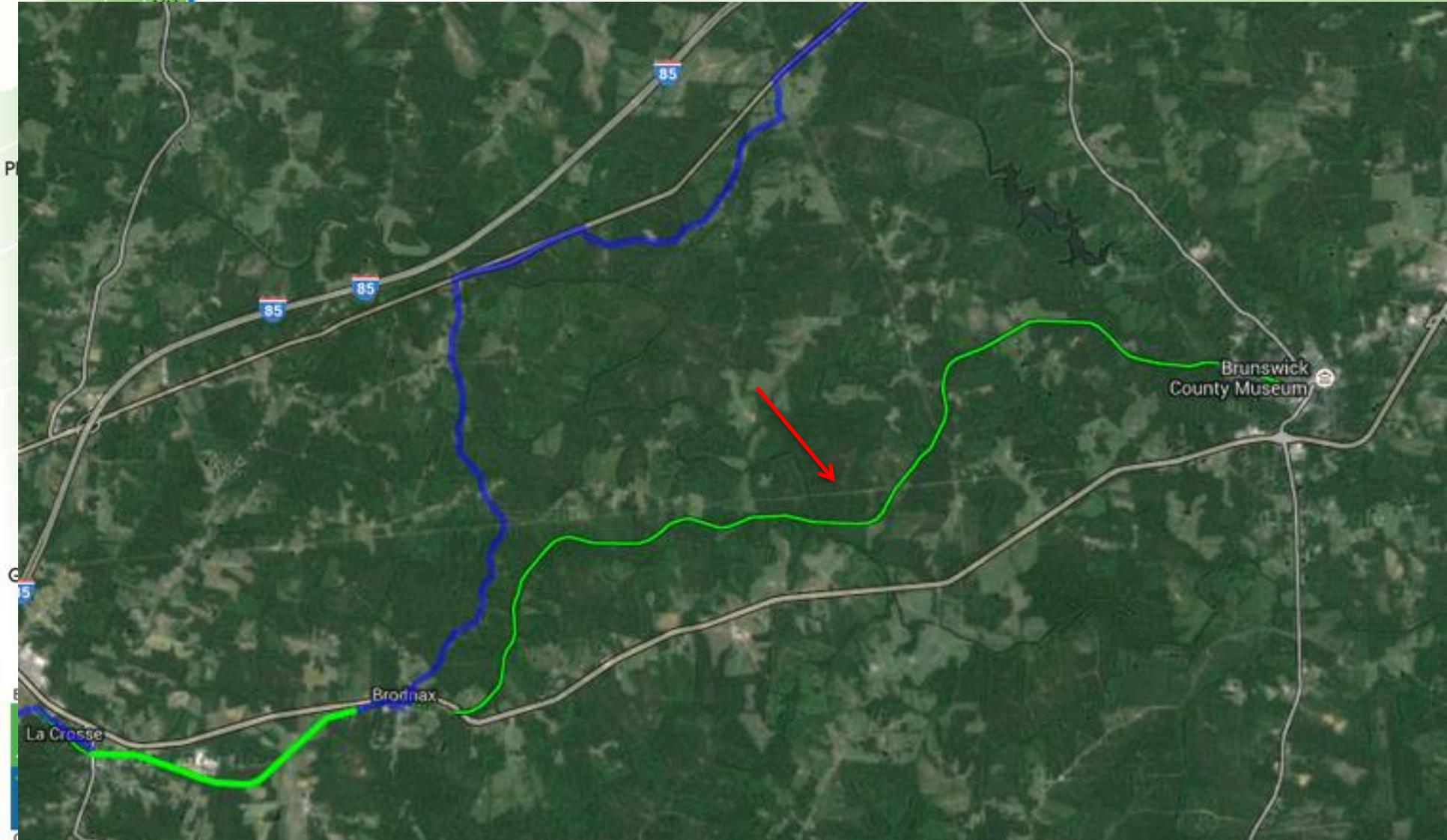
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- Va. Primary Highway
- Va. Scenic Byway

- Off-Road Trail Complete
- On-Road Trail Complete
- Off-Road Trail Under Construction
- On-Road Trail Under Construction
- Off-Road Future Trail
- Rail with Trail Future Trail
- On-Road Future Trail

- Incorporated Town
- Blueway



# Tobacco Heritage Trail



# Tobacco Heritage Trail











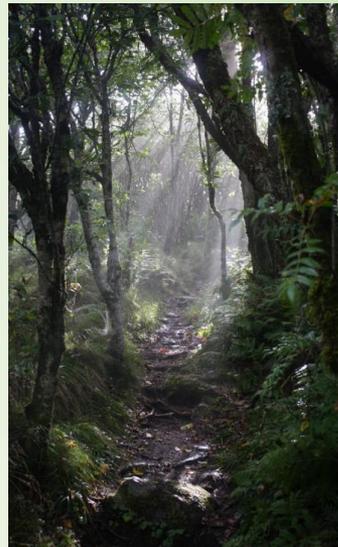
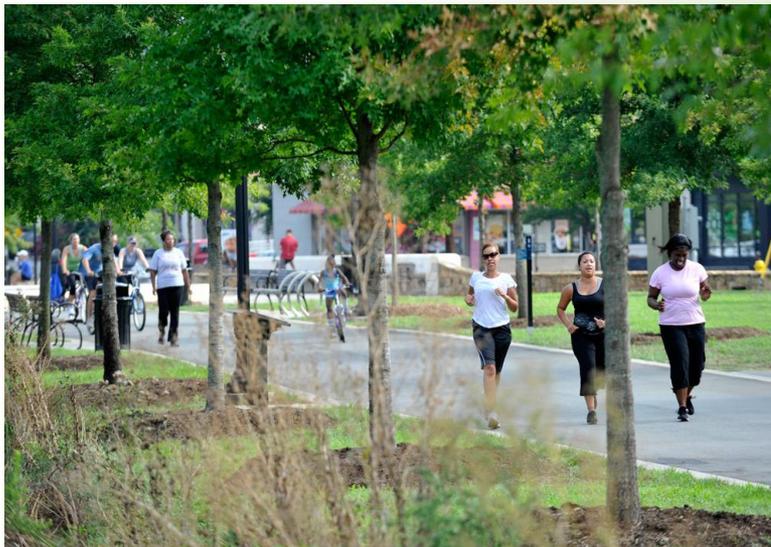
East Coast



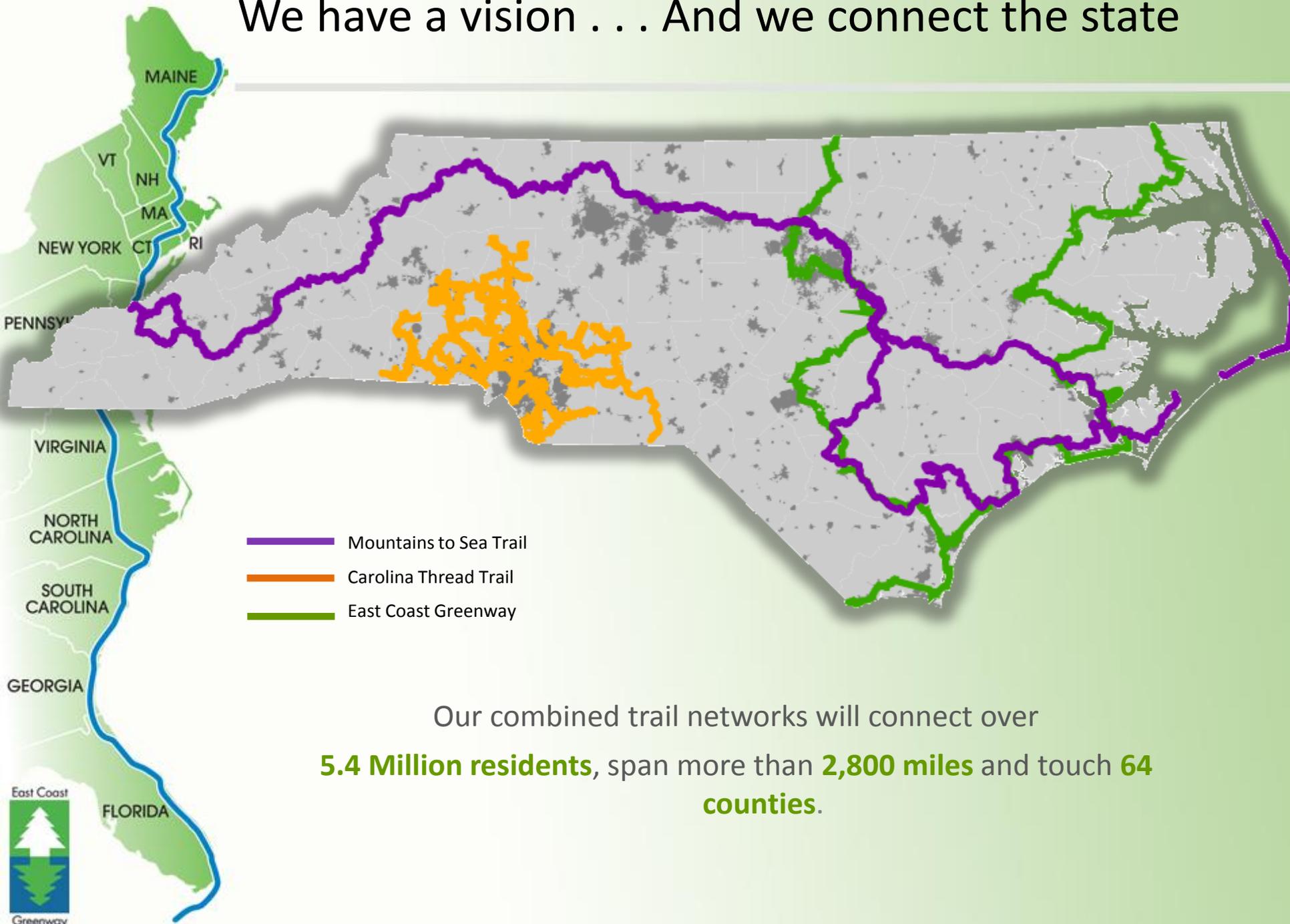
Greenway

www.greenway.com

# NC: Becoming The Great Trails & Greenways State



# We have a vision . . . And we connect the state



Our combined trail networks will connect over **5.4 Million residents**, span more than **2,800 miles** and touch **64 counties**.

# Partnering with the Governor's Cabinet



# Work with us!

Questions?

East Coast Greenway Alliance

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[www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org)



Creating  
Sustainable + Healthy  
Communities