City of Houston
Bicycle Advisory Committee

City Hall Annex Council Chambers, 900 Bagby Street, Public Level
Wednesday, October 23, 2019
2:30-4:30pm

Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Following Items:

1. Director's Report
2. Chair's Report
3. Approval of July Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. Build 50 Challenge Update
6. Bikeway Maintenance Plans
7. Presentation on Houston Bike Plan Biennial Report
8. Announcements

The public is invited to speak for up to two (2) minutes each either at the beginning of the meeting or at the end. The public is also encouraged to submit written comments to bac@houstontx.gov. Updates and committee notes will be available

Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

October 23, 2019
Meeting held in
Council Chambers, Public Level, City Hall Annex
2:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Chair Maya Ford called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. with a quorum present.

Maya Ford, Chair	
Clark Martinson, Vice Chair	
Toloria Allen	
Kristine Anthony	Absent
Katrina Bayer	Absent
Oni Blair	Absent
Neil Bremner	
Robin Holzer	
Beth Martin	
Yuhayna Mahmud	
Veon McReynolds	Absent
Amar Mohite	
Alejandro Perez	
Ana Ramirez Huerta	
Sandra Rodriguez	Absent
Mike VanDusen	
Adam Williams	

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS

Ian Hlavacek
Jennifer Ostlind
Juvenal Robles

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
The Director's Report was given by Assistant Director Jennifer Ostlind. Ostlind reported that Planning & Development will meet with Maria Irshad of Park Houston/ARA to discuss the direction BAC has provided in terms of a No Parking in the Bike Lane ordinance and internal policy. We look forward to working closely with ARA on this and develop the policies in a timely manner.

Vision Zero Executive Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, October 15th, convening City Department directors and agency leaders to discuss coordination and collaboration needed for a Vision Zero strategy. At this meeting, the Executive Committee was charged with designating members for the Vision Zero Task Force and subcommittees of the Task Force, including the Data and Communications Subcommittees. The Task Force and Subcommittees will consist of street safety experts and advocates from across the Houston region who will recommend action items for the Executive Committee to pursue and implement. If you would like to suggest members to serve on the Task Force and/or Subcommittees, please reach out to Transportation Planning staff.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Maya Ford and Vice Chair Clark Martinson provided the Chair's Report. Chair Ford asked the chamber to join her in a moment of silence for people on bicycles who succumbed to fatal injuries or were killed in traffic crashes. Vice Chair Martinson shared what can be done during election season for bicycle advocacy. BikeHouston gathered names of candidates running for election earlier this summer and asked questions related to transportation, bikes and vulnerable road users. BikeHouston has prepared infographics of candidates' responses. BikeHouston is also hosting Bike to Vote events leading up to November 5th for bicyclists to ride to the polls together. Houston BCycle is also providing free rides on November 5th.

3. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Committee action: Approve the July 24, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting minutes.
Motion: **Holzer** Second: **Mahmud** Vote: **Unanimous** Abstaining: **None**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was invited after approval of the minutes and again at the end of the meeting.

David Dick said he witnessed the 1998 Bike Plan during which inferior, dangerous bike lanes were implemented. He has explored the new protected bike lanes and is disappointed in the quality of the bike lanes. He said that debris has accumulated in the lanes to the point where he must bike outside of them anyway in many parts. A car almost hit him head-on on Lyons Avenue because they were veering into the bike lane. Dick is willing to forgo extra bike lanes for proper maintenance of existing bike lanes. He said Denver has purchased a smaller street sweeper for bike lanes. He said Houston's lanes have debris, broken glass and parked cars in them. He also said parking protected bike lanes create conflicts at every intersection. He sees Austin, Hardy, and Elysian dangerous for him.

Justin Doak, resident of the Near Northside, moved to Houston in April of 2018. He said that Houston is the easiest city he has ever biked in, after living in Washington DC, Pittsburgh and Austin. He said the bikeability has sold him on Houston.

5. BUILD 50 CHALLENGE UPDATE

Staff member Melissa Beeler shared a brief update of construction in progress for Harris County Precinct 1 projects and progress towards City of Houston CIP-funded bike projects. Discussion ensued regarding future bikeway funding.

6. BIKEWAY MAINTENANCE PLANS

Vice Chair Clark Martinson led a discussion to brainstorm what maintenance may look like after bikeway projects under construction are turned over to the City of Houston. Ideas discussed included asking HPW to find dedicated funding for bikeway maintenance, coordinating with TIRZs and management districts on a maintenance schedule and measurement of success, and considering an "Adopt a Bikeway" strategy to invite residents and businesses to assist in keeping bikeways clean.

7. PRESENTATION ON HOUSTON BIKE PLAN BIENNIAL REPORT

Staff member Melissa Beeler presented preliminary data, maps and recommended strategies in the Bike Plan Biennial Report. Discussion ensued. Draft presentation can be found online at www.houstonbikeplan.org/bac.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Martin encouraged everyone to try the e-bikes available at select BCycle stations. There are five e-bikes in the system.

Alejandro Perez announced UHD Bike Club is hosting their first social ride October 23 at 6:30pm. He also announced Tour de Northside, taking place November 9 in Near Northside with 3-, 5-, and 7-mile routes. It is a great event for those new to riding.

BikeHouston recently hosted their Moonlight Ramble. Their next major event will be the Bike Summit in Spring 2020. Vice Chair Martinson is considering doing a ½ day or full day workshop during the event.

Early voting is underway through November 2. Go to Harrisvotes.org to find an early voting location. Election Day is November 5. BCycle will offer free rides on November 5. METRO will offer free rides October 26 and November 5.

The City of Houston will begin planning for Bike to Work Day and Bike Month in May 2020. Please contact us with any suggestions on how you'd like the City to celebrate.

Beth Martin announced Houston Bike Share's Corporate Sponsorship program as a way companies can subsidize bike share for their employees. Contact Henry Morris to learn more: hmorris@houstonbikeshare.org.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Maya Ford
Chair

Jennifer Ostlind
Executive Secretary

Houston Bike Plan Biennial Report

Melissa Beeler

Planning & Development Department

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DRAFT- For Discussion Purposes Only

Purpose & Scope

Purpose: To support and assess performance of Plan implementation

The Plan recommends the report include the following:

- Align with Plan Houston goals and approach for implementation
- Highlight progress made on implementation
- Determine relative performance against the previous two years and assess trends
- Make map exhibits publicly available online
- Determine if new metrics may be more relevant
  - Adjust current metrics if not aligned with overall goals
- Identify priority opportunities to continue to improve

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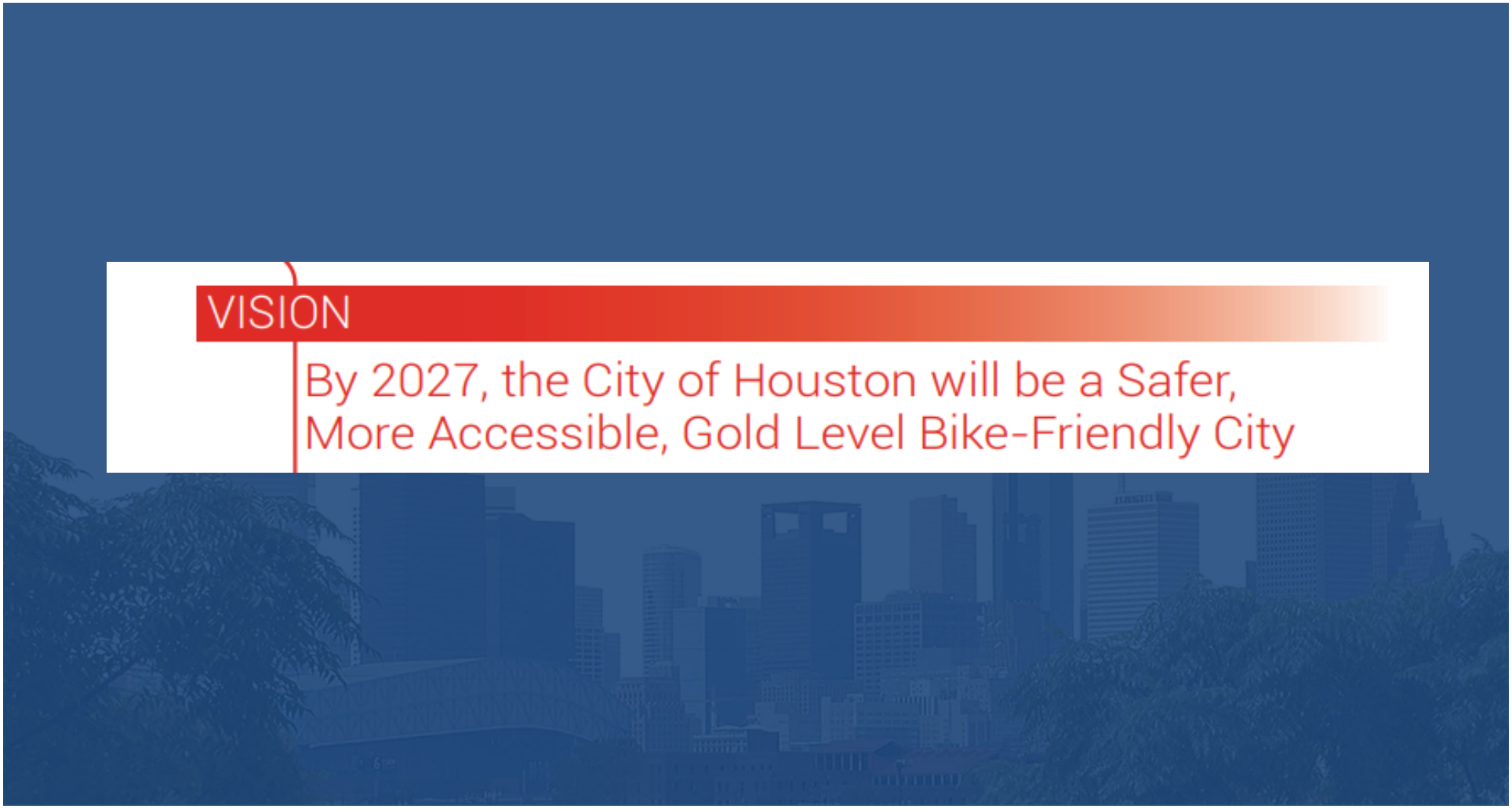
Bike Plan Vision



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Bike Plan Goals

GOALS

Improve Safety
To provide a safer bicycle network for people of all ages and abilities through improved facilities, education, and enforcement

Increase Access
To create a highly accessible, citywide network of comfortable bike facilities that connects neighborhoods to transit, jobs, and activity centers, including schools, universities, parks, and libraries

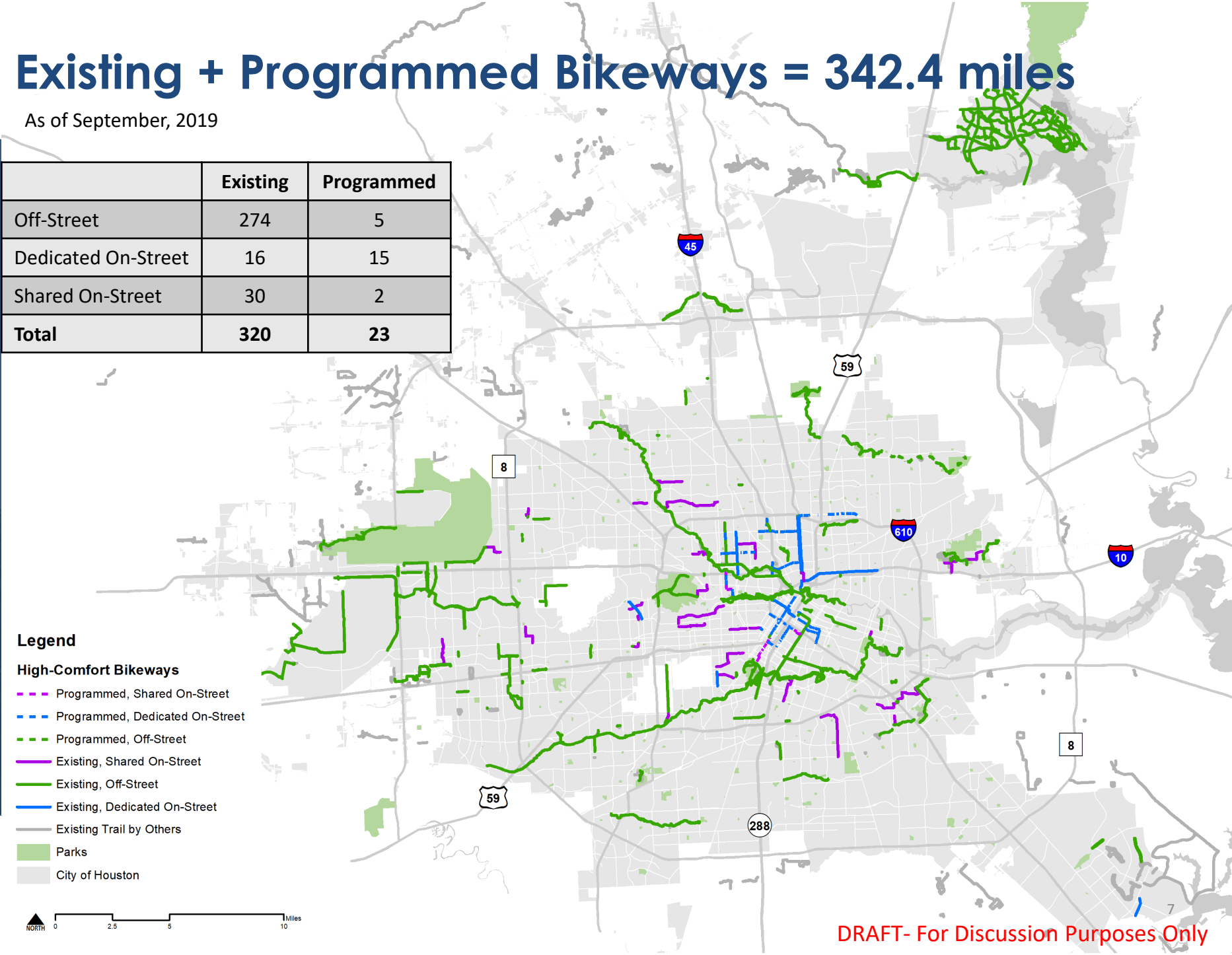
Increase Ridership
To exceed average ridership levels in peer cities by implementing policies and programs that enable more people to ride bicycles and encourage healthy, active transportation choices

Develop and Maintain Facilities
To develop and sustain a high-quality bicycle network, including both bikeways and end-of-trip facilities

Existing + Programmed Bikeways = 342.4 miles

As of September, 2019

	Existing	Programmed
Off-Street	274	5
Dedicated On-Street	16	15
Shared On-Street	30	2
Total	**320**	**23**



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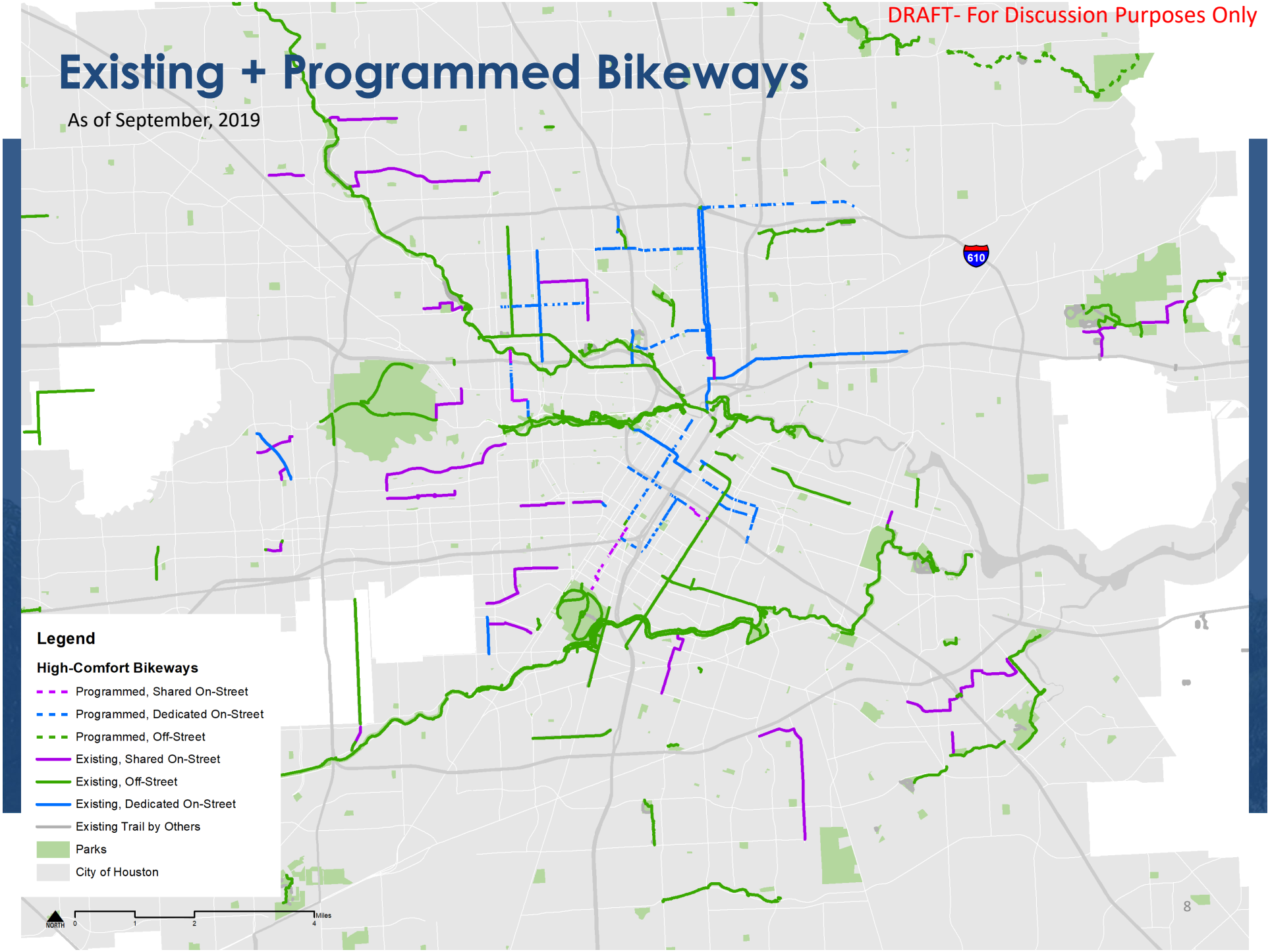
Existing + Programmed Bikeways

As of September, 2019



Change in Network Miles 2017-2019

Type	2017 Miles	2019 Miles	% Change	2019 Existing + Programmed	% Change
Dedicated On-Street - HC	8	16	98%	31	291%
Off-Street	232	274	18%	279	20%
Shared On-Street - HC	30	30	0%	33	8%
Grand Total	270	320	18%	342	27%

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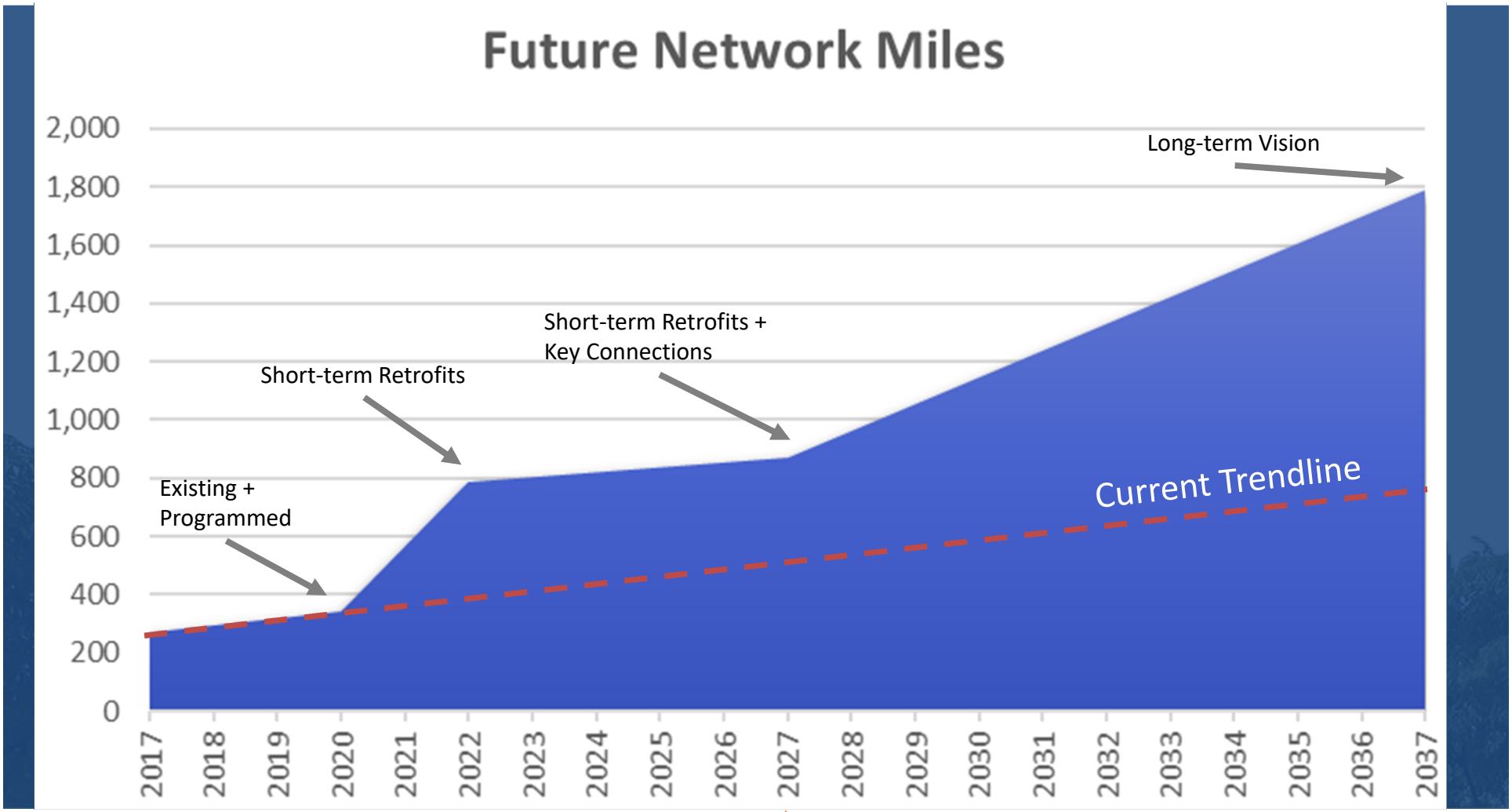
Building out the Bike Plan



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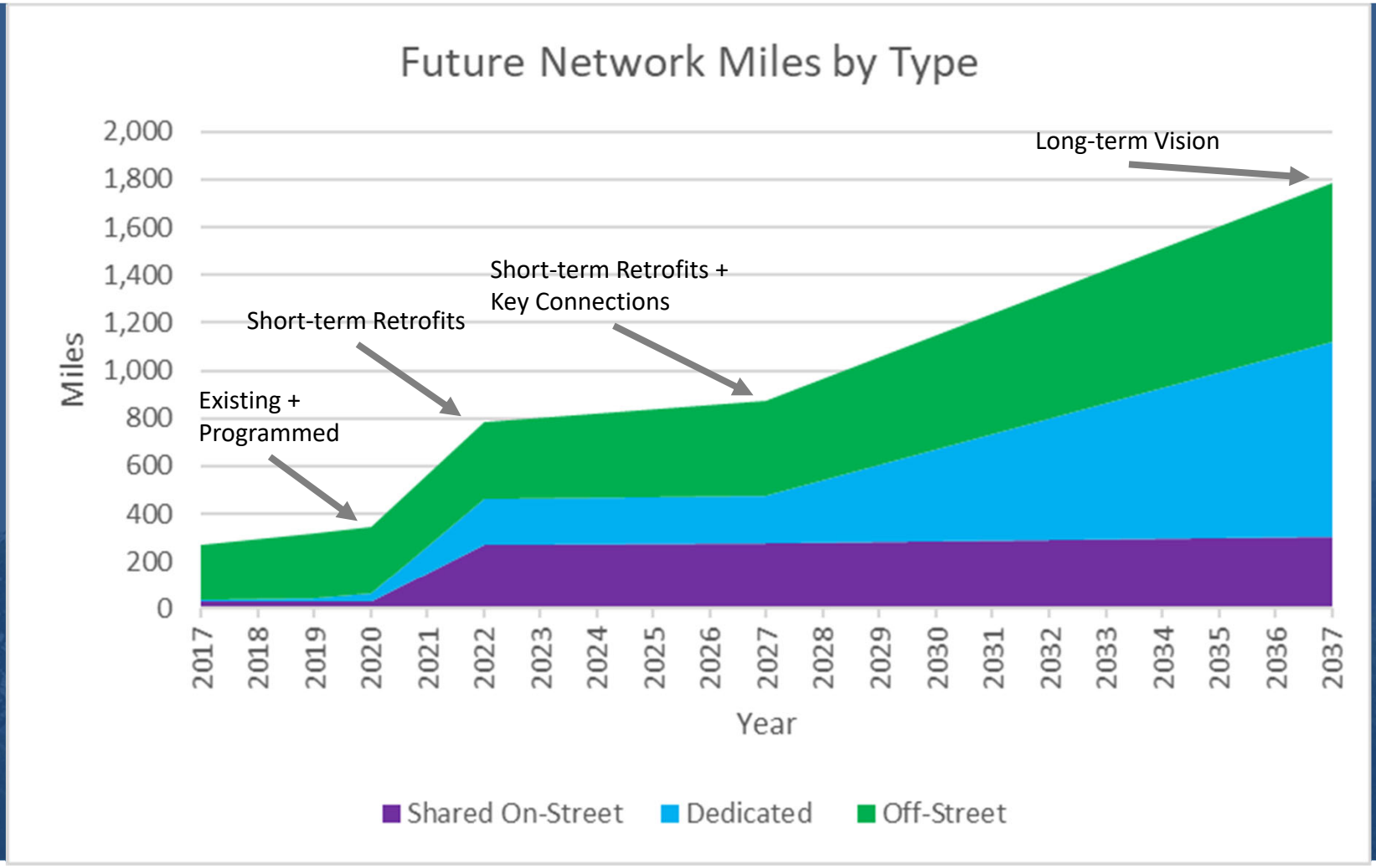
Building out the Bike Plan



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Goals Performance Metrics: Improve Safety

Performance Metrics	2016 (BP)	2018	Trend	Data Source
# of bicycle related crashes reported	361	485		HPD
# of bicycle fatalities per 10,000 commuters	7.4	11.5		HPD/Census
Disparity in bicycle mode share versus fatalities	3.8	TBD	TBD	HPD/Census
# of people who complete an approved bicycle education program (Learn to Ride, LCI classes)	TBD	TBD	TBD	BH/Bike League
# of "Bicycle Friendly Businesses" and Universities	4	8, plus 1 university		Bike League

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Goals Performance Metrics: Increase Access

Performance Metrics	2016 (BP)	2018	Trend	Data Source
% jobs within ½ mile of a high-comfort bike facility	46%	71%	↗	COH/LEHD 2017
% population within ½ mile of a high-comfort bike facility				
1. Overall population	38%	51%	↗	Census 2010
2. Minority population	32%	46%	↗	Census 2010
3. Low-income population (map)	32%	42%	↗	Census 2017

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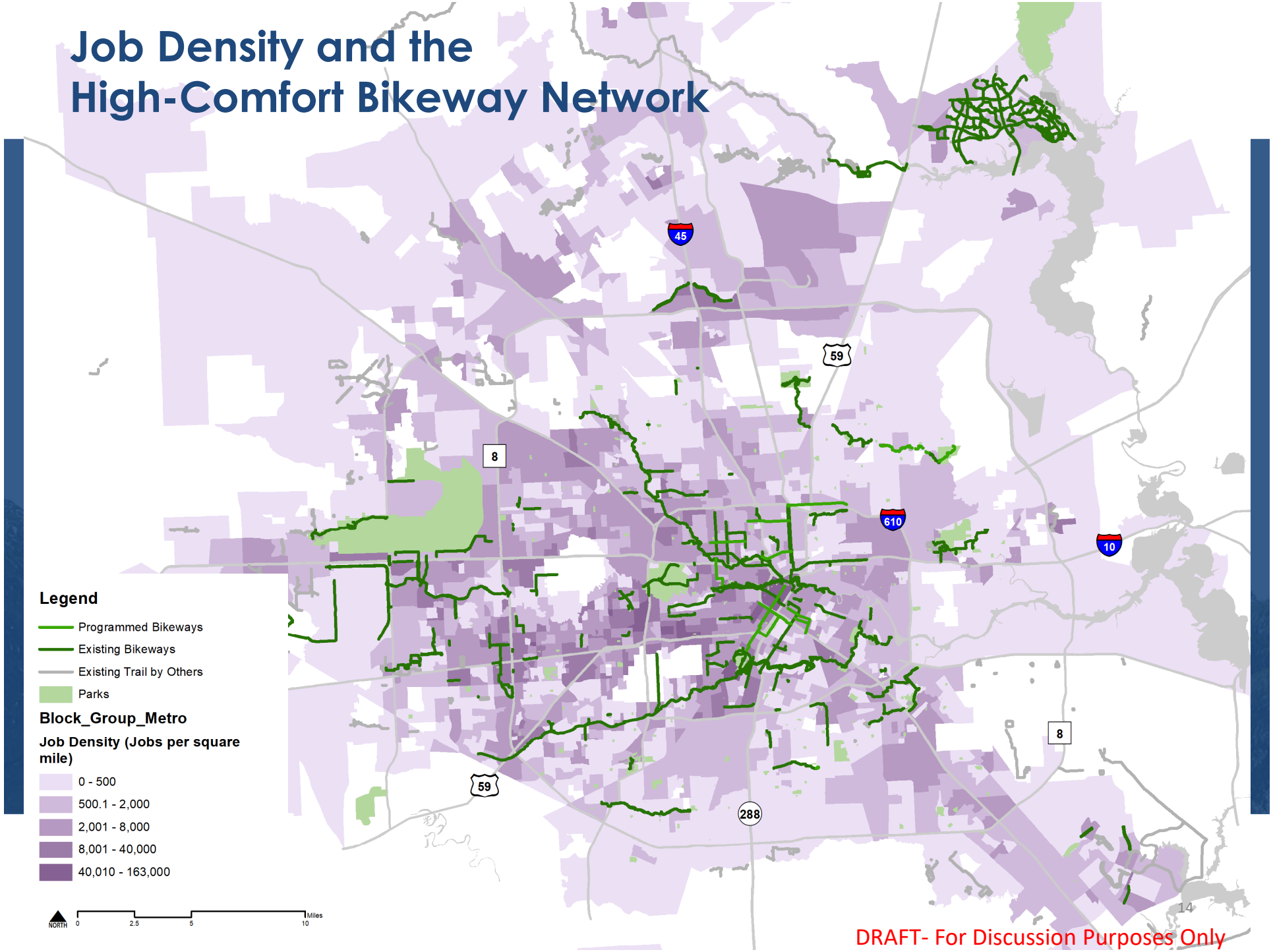
Job Density and the High-Comfort Bikeway Network



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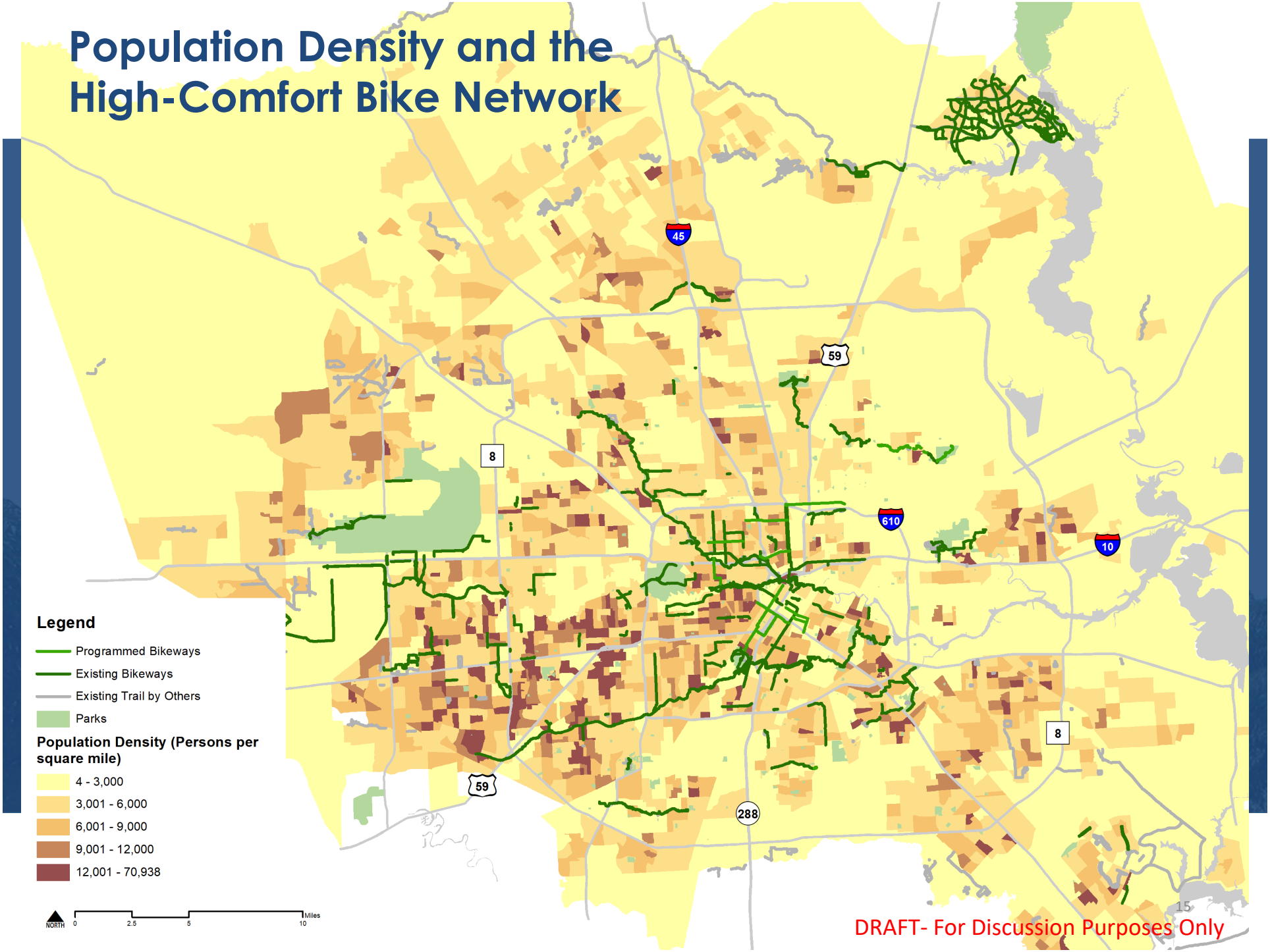
Population Density and the High-Comfort Bike Network



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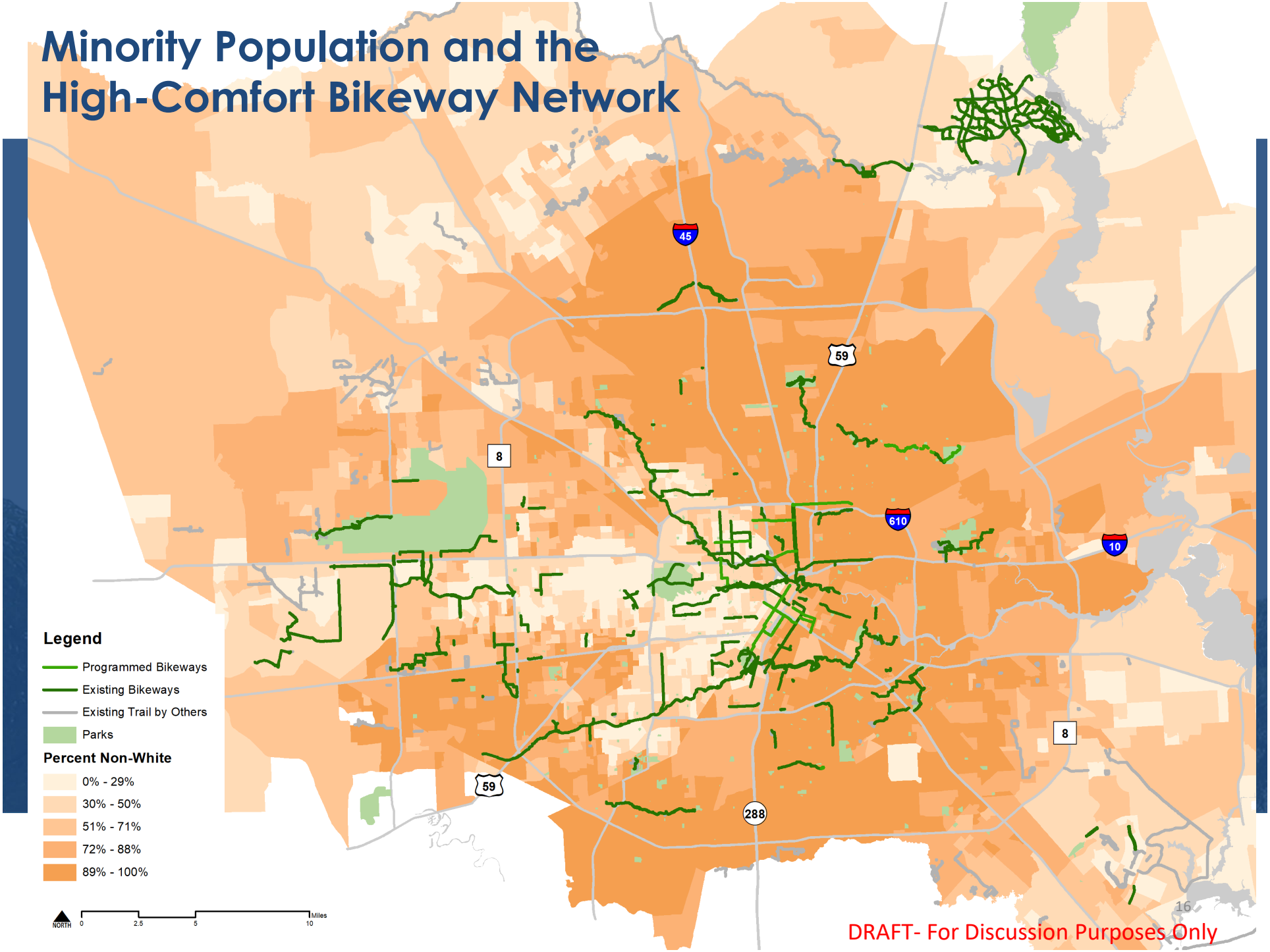
Minority Population and the High-Comfort Bikeway Network



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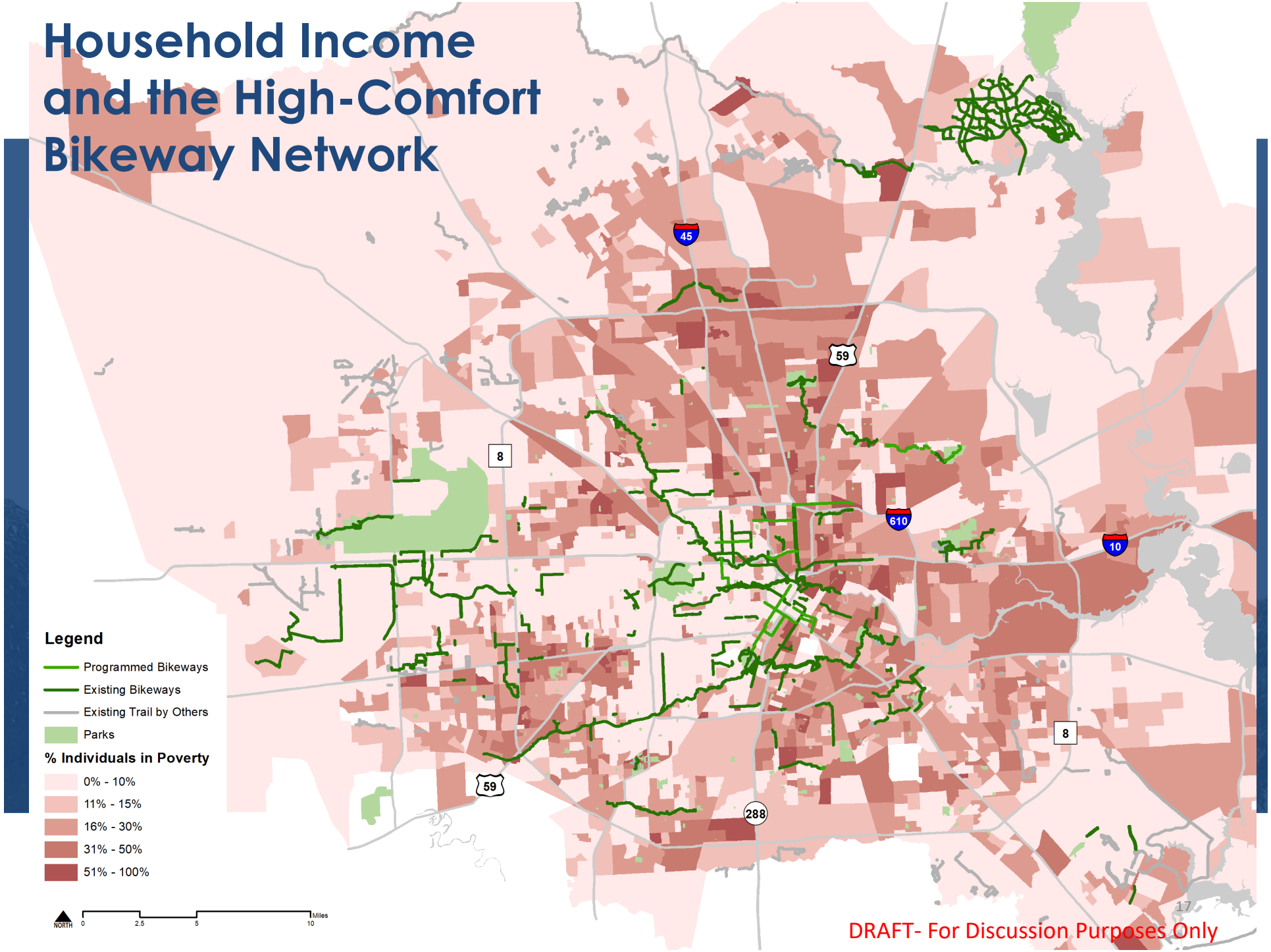
Household Income and the High-Comfort Bikeway Network



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Goals Performance Metrics: Increase Access

Performance Metrics	2016 (BP)	2019	Trend	Data Source
% of facilities within ¼ mile of a high-comfort bike facility: (map)				
1. Transit nodes (transit centers, Park & Rides, and light rail stations)	37%	51%		METRO/Bike Shapefile
2. Schools and libraries	23%	28%		COH
3. Community and multi-service centers	33%	39%		COH
% population with comfortable access to greenways system (bayous and other trails)	21%	42%		Houston Parks Board/COH

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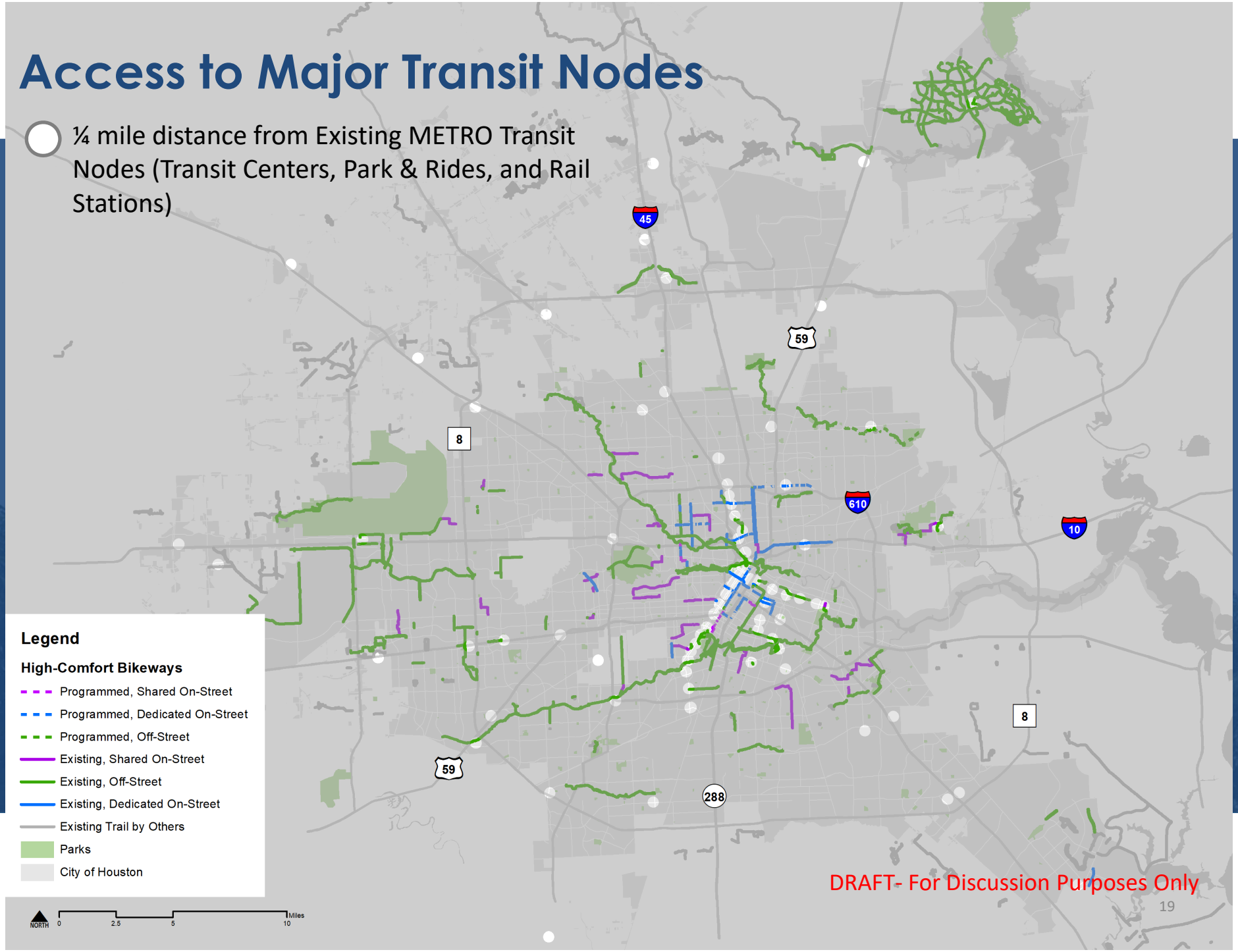
Access to Major Transit Nodes

- ¼ mile distance from Existing METRO Transit Nodes (Transit Centers, Park & Rides, and Rail Stations)



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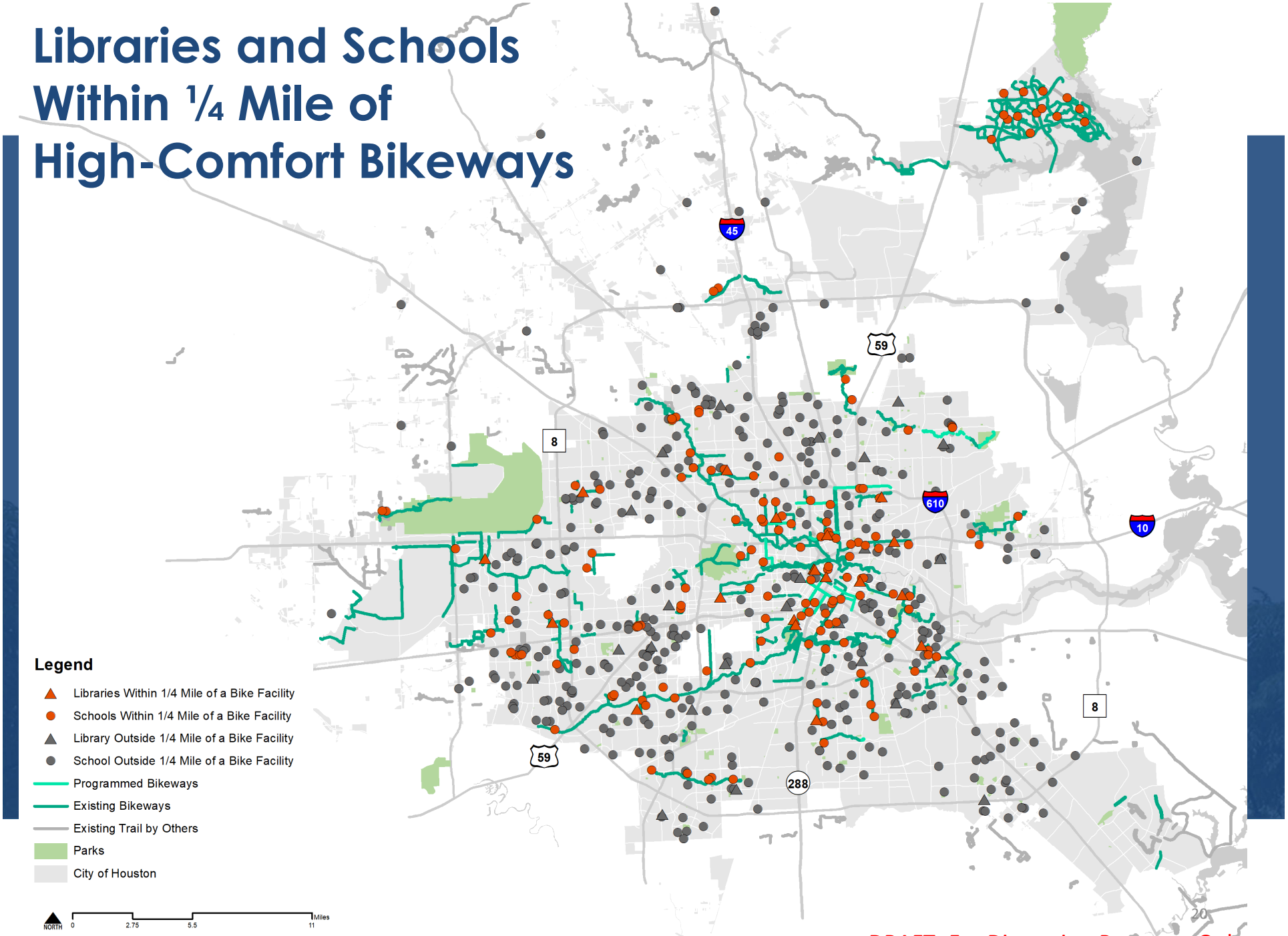
Libraries and Schools Within ¼ Mile of High-Comfort Bikeways



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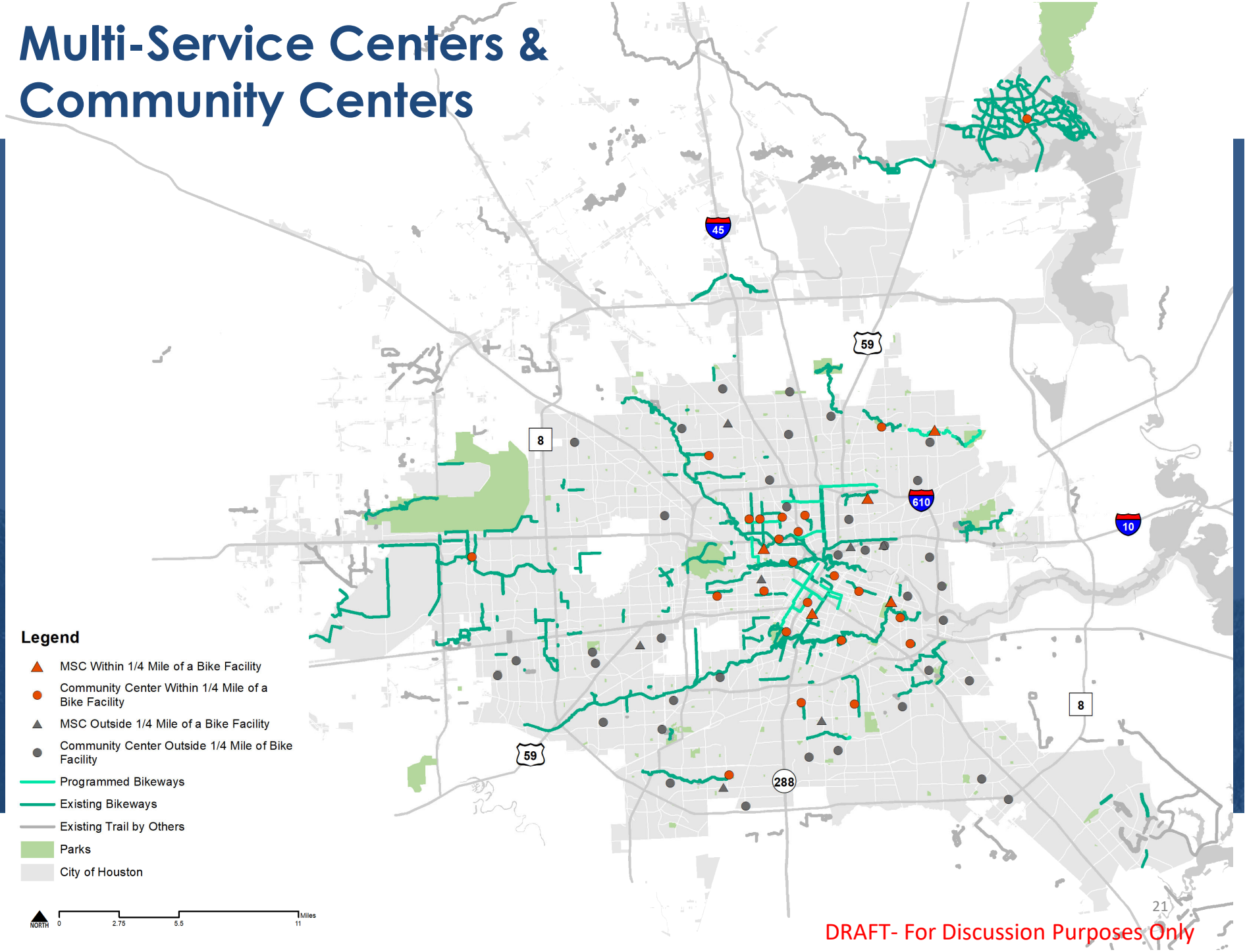
Multi-Service Centers & Community Centers



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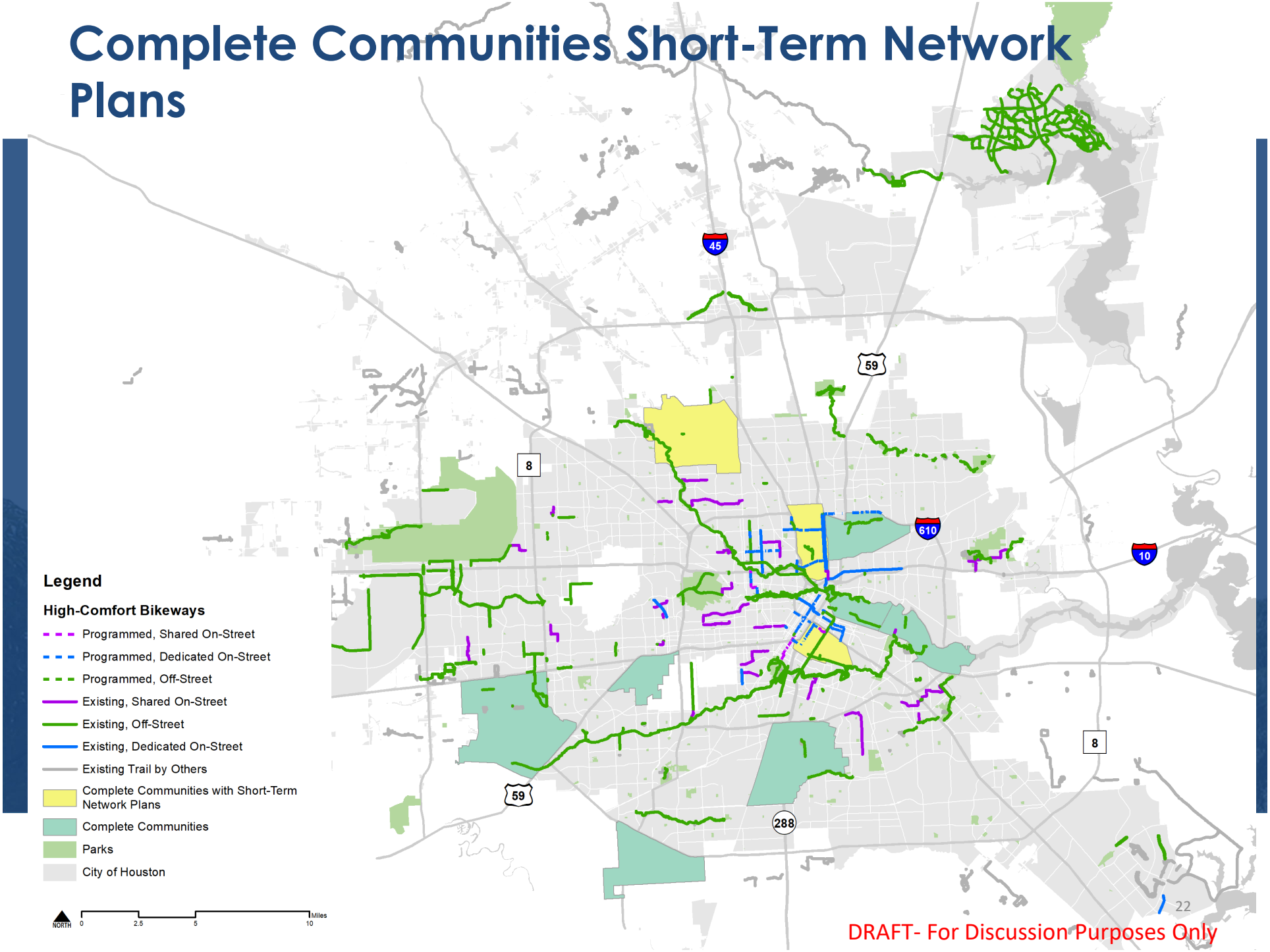
Complete Communities Short-Term Network Plans



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Goals Performance Metrics: Increase Ridership

Performance Metrics	2016 (BP)	2019	Trend	Source
Commute mode share	0.54%	0.53%	→	Census
# of permanent count stations	2	4	↗	H-GAC
% growth in bicyclists observed through permanent count stations	TBD	TBD	TBD	H-GAC
# of bike boardings on Metro per year	258,094	279,338	↗	METRO
# of bike share checkouts per year	98,449	165,585	↗	B-Cycle
Annual City events that support increased ridership (e.g., Bike to Work Day, Sunday Streets, Tour de Houston, Bicycle Advisory Committee meetings)	11	TBD	↗	COH/all

Goals Performance Metrics: Develop and Maintain Facilities

Performance Metrics	2016 (BP)	2019	Trend	Data Source
Miles of high comfort bikeways per capita (per 10,000 people) (constructed and programmed)	1.17	1.50	↗	COH/Census
~~% of bikeways in good or better condition~~	~~TBD~~	~~TBD~~		---
Population within ¼ mile of a bike share station	27,900	100,179	↗	COH/B-Cycle
Jobs within ¼ mile of a bike share station	155,600	417,294	↗	COH/B-Cycle
% of major transit nodes with secured bike parking	4%	~4%	→	METRO
Dedicated city staff (FTE) for bikeway program	1	5	↗	COH
% of bikeways that are high comfort	55%	60%	↗	COH

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Draft Strategies: Implement within 6 Months

Strategy	Priority	Category
Begin bike safety education as a routine part of education in schools	High	Education
Pass a No Parking in the Bike Lane ordinance and internal policy	High	Enforcement
Perform a comprehensive crash analysis to assist in guiding future bike/ped improvements to improve safety	High	Evaluation
Survey people's satisfaction with the network and programming (level of comfort evaluation). Continue incorporating bike rides as part of engagement strategy	High	Evaluation
Perform regular and robust counts on high-comfort bike facilities (on-street)	High	Evaluation
Establish milestone and goals for number of miles of bikeway network through 2027	High	Engineering/Evaluation
Planning & Development develop a consistent partnership with Sunday Streets to demonstrated bike facilities; Evaluate number of people reached and their perceptions of bike facilities	Medium	Encouragement/ Evaluation

Draft Strategies: Implement within 1-2 Years

Timeframe	Strategy	Priority	Category
1 year	Provide a clear internal process to ensure CIP-funded street reconstruction projects include high-comfort bike facilities	High	Engineering
	Revise Chapter 17 of the Infrastructure Design Manual	High	Engineering
	Address internal barriers to traffic calming restrictions and develop a bike boulevard program and toolkit. Prioritize routes to schools.	High	Engineering
	Dedicate funding for ongoing maintenance of new bike facilities	High	Engineering
2 years	Create Safe Routes to School programming for all K-12 schools	Medium	Engineering/ Education
	Pursue dedicated funding for multimodal mobility initiatives, including the build-out of the bikeway system	Medium	Engineering
	Pursue opportunities to secure bike and ped improvements during development process. Consider amending the MTFP and development code.	Medium	Engineering

Discussion

- What are reasonable short-term milestones to establish for the next two years?
- Are there any new metrics that may be more relevant, or are any current metrics not aligned with overall goals?
- What strategies do you think the City of Houston should prioritize in the next two years?

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Houston Bike Plan Biennial Report

Melissa Beeler

Planning & Development Department

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