

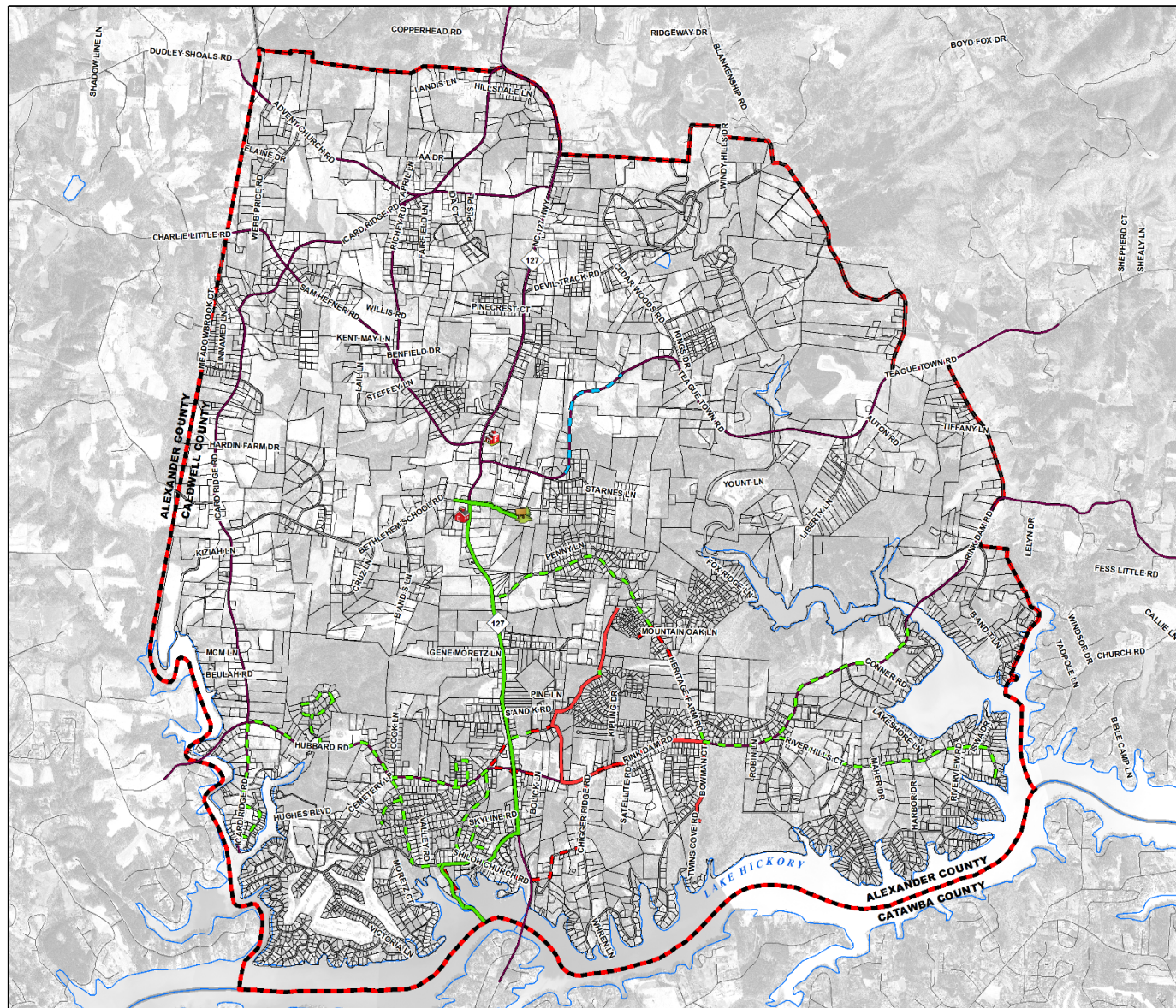


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# Bethlehem Community Plan

May 9, 2019



# **Bethlehem Community Plan** **FUTURE AND PROPOSED** **WATER / SEWER** **IMPROVEMENTS**

## **Legend**

-  Study Area Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Regional Lakes
-  Parcels
-  Existing Sewer Lines\*
-  Proposed Sewer Line
-  Proposed Water Line
- Sewer Expansion and Pump Station Upgrade Project**
-  New Force Main Location
-  New Gravity Sewer Location
-  Bethlehem Major Roads
-  Roads
-  Bethlehem Elementary
-  Bethlehem Fire Department
-  Bethlehem Park

\*Note: Existing sewer line data provided by N.C. Rural Economic Development Center (1998).

**BETHLEHEM**  
 A SHINING COMMUNITY

This map is a graphic representation and should only be used for illustrative purposes. Map created with data provided by WPCOG Planning Department, Alexander County GIS, and ESRI.



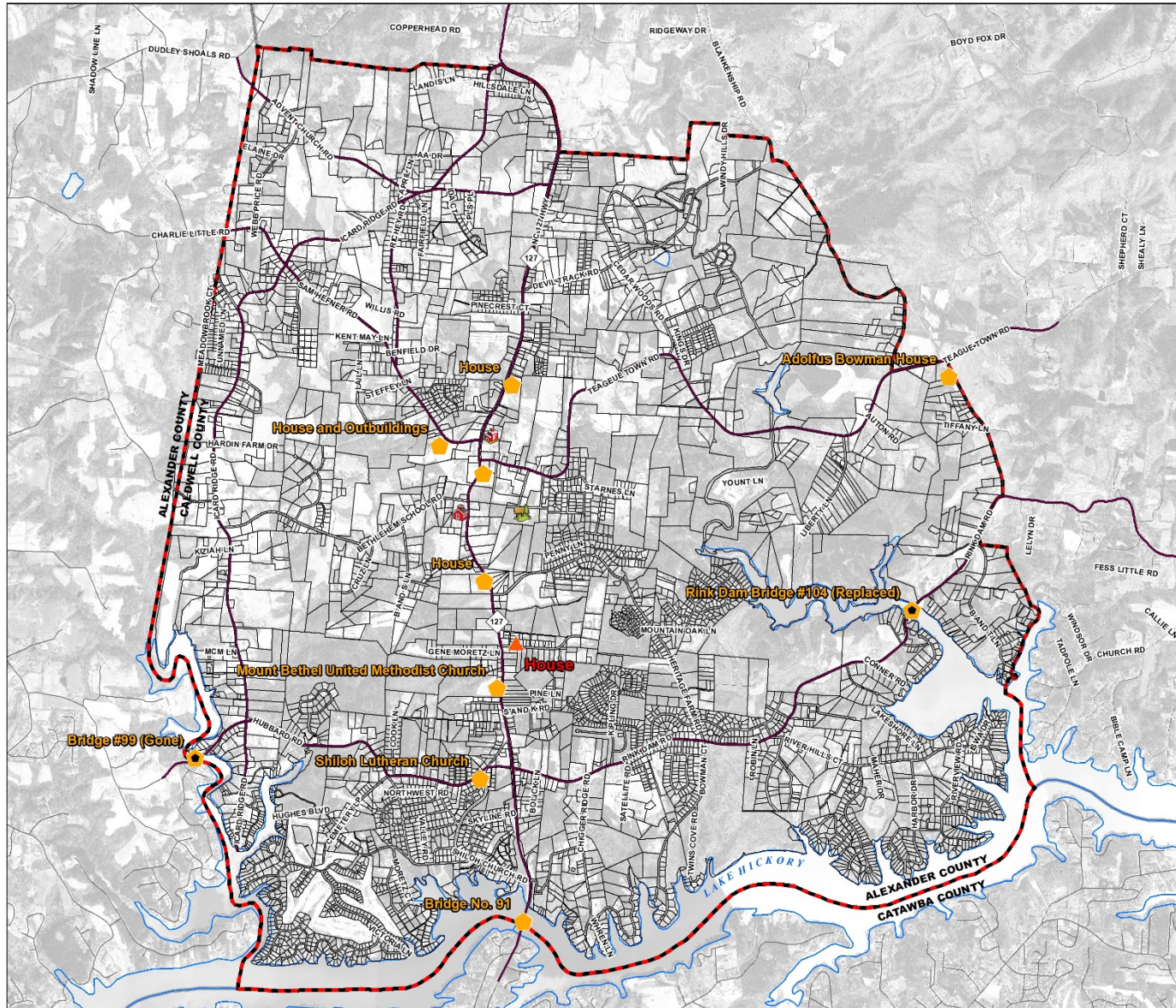
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## Bethlehem Community Plan HISTORIC SITES

### Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- County Boundary
- Regional Lakes
- Parcels
- Bethlehem Major Roads
- Roads
- Bethlehem Elementary
- Bethlehem Fire Department
- Bethlehem Park

### State Historic Preservation Office Point Status

- Determined Eligible (DOE)
- Surveyed Only
- Surveyed, Gone

**BETHLEHEM**  
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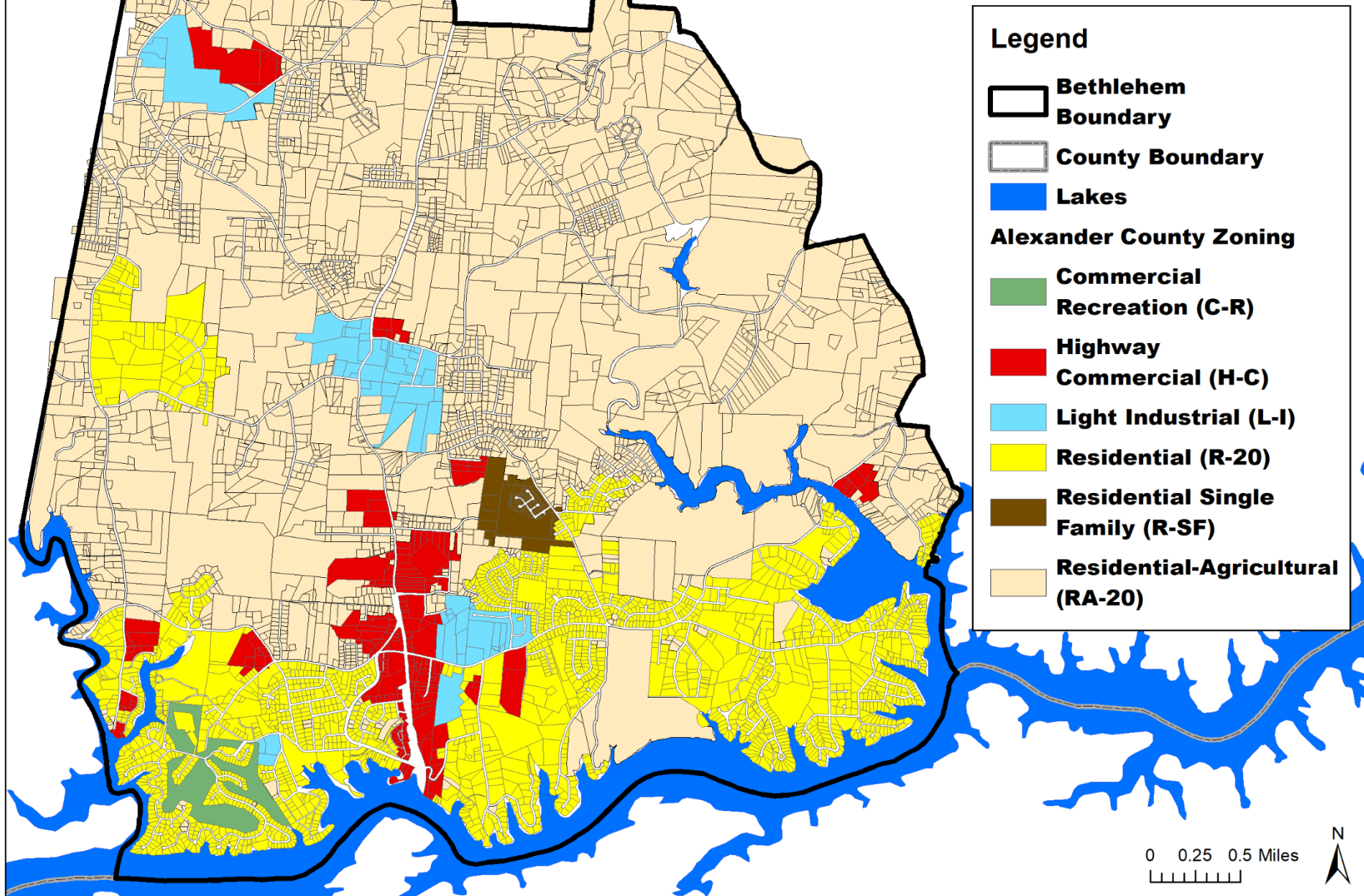
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# Future Land Use

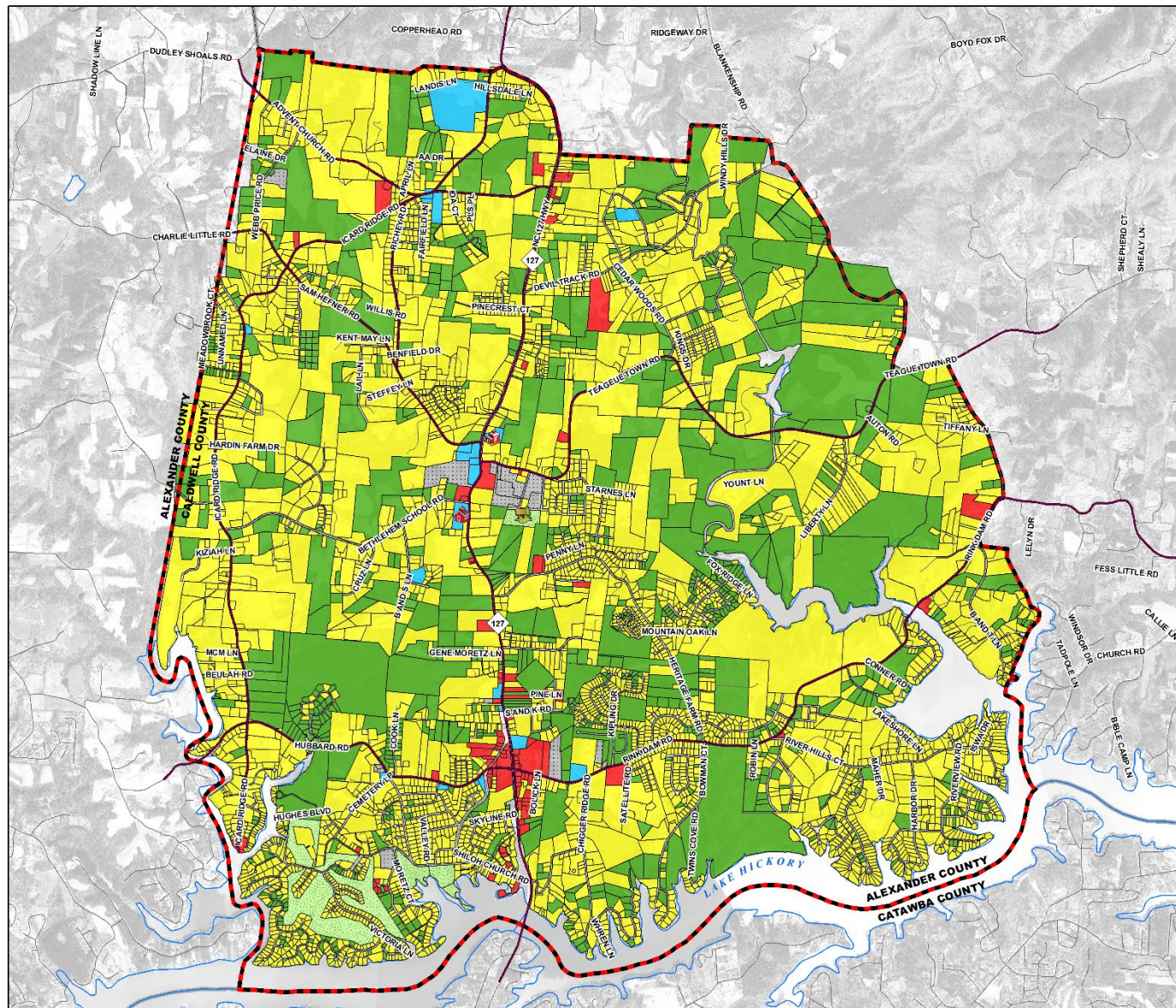




# Bethlehem Small Area Plan Zoning Districts







## Bethlehem Community Plan EXISTING LAND USE

### Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- County Boundary
- Regional Lakes
- Parcels
- Existing Land Use**
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional & Schools
- Open Space or Park
- Residential
- Undeveloped
- Bethlehem Major Roads
- Roads
- Bethlehem Elementary
- Bethlehem Fire Department
- Bethlehem Park

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






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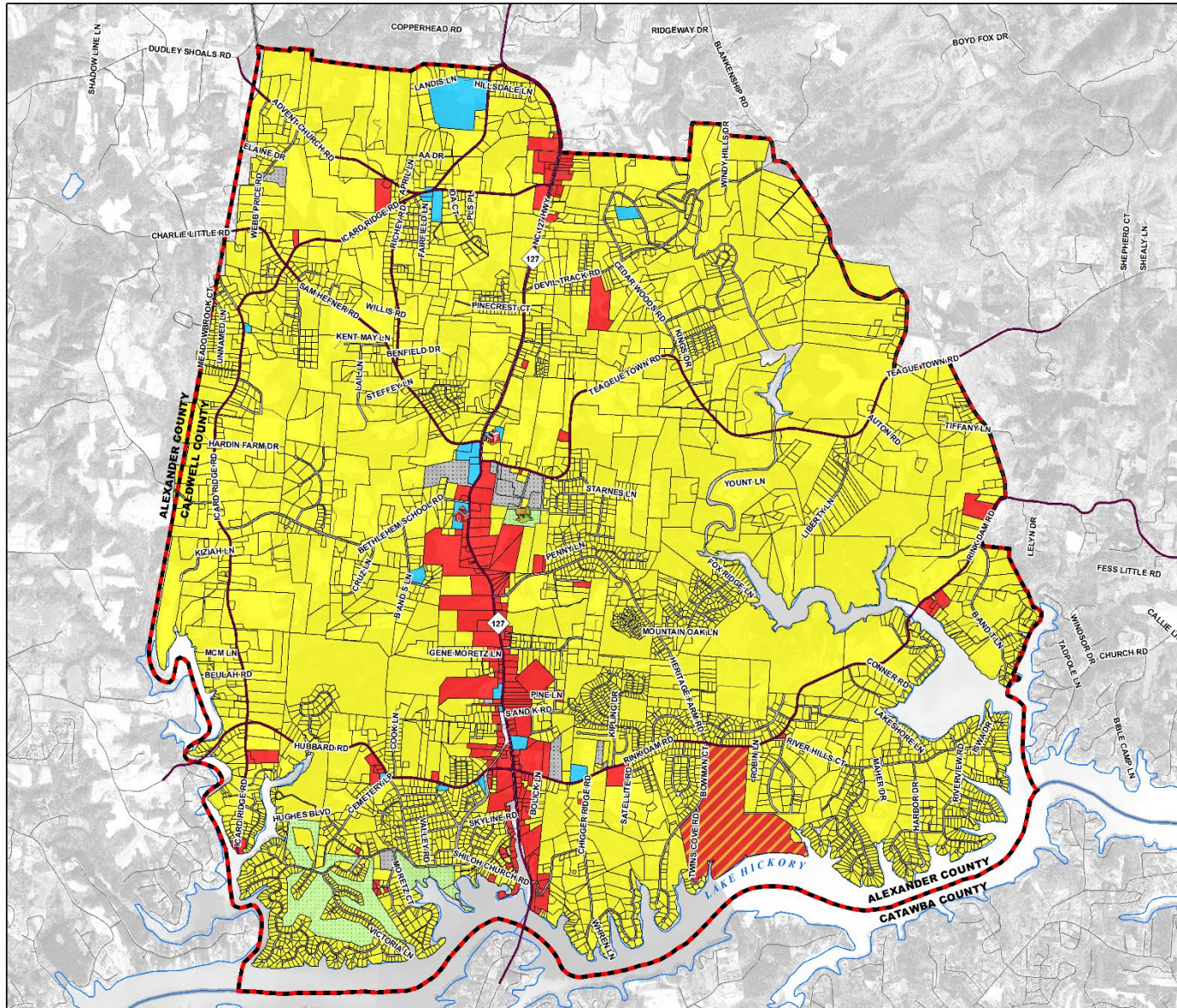
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# Bethlehem Community Plan FUTURE LAND USE

## Legend

-  Study Area Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Regional Lakes
-  Parcels
- Future Land Use**
  -  Commercial
  -  Industrial
  -  Institutional & Schools
  -  Mixed-Use Development
  -  Open Space or Park
  -  Residential
-  Bethlehem Major Roads
-  Roads
-  Bethlehem Elementary
-  Bethlehem Fire Department
-  Bethlehem Park



**BETHLEHEM**  
A SHINING COMMUNITY

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# Recommendations





# Land Use and Growth Management Recommendations:

- Develop innovative strategies and incentives to encourage commercial development within the Community, specifically retail and boutique establishments, restaurants, grocery stores and medical offices.
- Encourage the use of multi-family housing as an affordable housing option to attract younger residents along the business corridor on Highway 127.
- Encourage continued use of existing manufacturing facilities, and limit new manufacturing to appropriate places.
- Review and update land use regulations to ensure it is compatible for desired types of development outlines in this plan.
- Ensure that future land use decisions are compatible with the Future Land Use Map (Map XX).

# Land Use and Growth Management Recommendations:

- Establish a cohesive, identifiable commercial center in the Community and create a destination that encourages economic development.
- Add a new Zoning Highway127 Overlay District to include historical architectural features such as additional sidewalks, structural aesthetics, and façade development.
- Prioritize sidewalks along thoroughfares. As development occurs, new sidewalks should be required to be constructed along existing thoroughfares, following adopted streetscape standards.
- Maintain and enhance the “streetscape” at the Town Center, as well as pedestrian access across Hwy 127.
- Seek public/private opportunities to create civic plazas, pedestrian-scaled lighting, and street furniture as elements throughout the Town Center. These will serve as meeting and gathering places for the community.



# Transportation Recommendations:

- Maintain a good working relationship with NCDOT-Division 12 and WPCOG, in order to coordinate land use and transportation planning for new and updated roadway corridors.
  - A. Promote continued road improvements on unimproved streets and continue to seek dedication of private streets to help improve residential and emergency vehicle access.
  - B. Work with NCDOT on the following programmed projects:
    - NC 127: Cloninger Mill to Richey Road (STIP ID: R-3603A)
    - NC 127 right turn lane on Bethlehem School Road (STIP ID: U-6040).
  - C. Consider the following recommended modernizations:
    - NC 127: Richey Road to US 64/ NC 90
    - Hubbard Road/Shiloh Church Road/Icard Dam Road modernization with new location
    - Rink Dam Road and Friendship Church Road modernization
    - Teague Town Road, Church Road, and Alspaugh Dam Road modernization
  - D. Look into possible pedestrian crossing for updated intersection at NC 127 and Rink Dam Road.
  - E. Require adequate transportation access to all developments in order to provide orderly and efficient traffic flow and maintain current and minimum design standards for new subdivision road construction.

# Transportation Recommendations:

- Incorporate adopted plans to create a community-oriented environment that encourages walking, while also supporting other modes of transportation.
  - Promote the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along NC 127 from Cloninger Mill Road to Richey Road.
  - Consider the Western Piedmont Bicycle Plan recommendations for future bicycle facilities to create connection to Mountains to Sea Trail:
    - Highest Priority Segments: NC 127. Rink Dam Rd, Church Rd, Bowmans Cutover Rd, Teague Town Rd, and Liledoun Rd; and sharrows on Liledoun Rd.
    - Medium Priority: NC 127, Richey Road/Sam Hefner Road, and Hubbard Road/Shiloh Church Road/Icard Dam Road
  - Ensure safer pedestrian crossings for the intersection of NC 127 and Rink Dam Road.
  - Promote sidewalks connecting residential areas to NC 127.
  - Promote bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the programmed NC 127 improvements from Cloninger Mill Road to Richey Road.
  - Apply for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant in 2020 to develop a comprehensive sidewalk pedestrian plan working in conjunction with Alexander County and the Town of Taylorsville.



# Resources & Services Recommendations:

- Participate in the Alexander County Recreational Plan.
- Explore the possibility of providing a youth and/or senior community center.
- Identify and acquire land in strategic locations to encourage open space preservation, greenways, parks and other passive recreation opportunities (See Map XX).
- Provide a community walking trail using sidewalks, greenways and multi-use paths along Hwy 127 from the Town Center to the Wittenberg Access (See Map XX).

# Resources & Services Recommendations:

- Apply for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant to develop a comprehensive sidewalk pedestrian plan working in conjunction with Alexander County.
- Continue to support the Police, Fire, Sheriff, and EMS Departments.
- Maintain relationships with Alexander County, City of Hickory, and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.
- Continue to work with City of Hickory on future public water and sewer projects outlined on Map XX.

# Natural Resources Recommendations:

- Work with planners at Western Piedmont Council of Governments to evaluate land acquisition proposals that may be eligible for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) or Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant funding.
- Protect Bethlehem's natural environment through orderly growth management techniques that preserve the rural character of the Community and safeguard its natural resources.
- Identify and acquire land in strategic locations to encourage appropriate development, including open space preservation, greenways, parks and other passive recreation opportunities.



# Economic Development Recommendations:

- Evaluate available properties throughout the Community and encourage commercial development projects in appropriate areas.
- Provide economic development information and local assistance to help recruit viable businesses and service industry activities.
- Create commercial marketing materials to promote available commercial sites.
- Support and partner with Alexander County Economic Development Corporation in bringing additional employment opportunities in, or close to Bethlehem.

# Economic Development Recommendations:

- Work to attract young adults and boutique businesses by encouraging development that enhances its role as a destination.
- Work to attract young adults, new residents, and tourism by increasing the number of parks, open spaces, and walking trails/sidewalks/greenways.
- Work with the City of Hickory to expand water and wastewater extension to areas with high economic development potential.
- Inventory vacant commercial sites and buildings and make the information available to interested parties through printed materials or websites.



# Recommendation Tables

Bethlehem		
Community Plan		
RECOMMENDATION 2		
Transportation		
Strategy Narrative:	Incorporate adopted plans to create a community-oriented environment that encourages walking while also supporting other modes of transportation.	
Key Actions:		Project Initiator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along NC 127 from Cloninger Mill Road to Richey Road.</li> <li>Consider the Western Piedmont Bicycle Plan recommendations for future bicycle facilities to create connection to Mountains to Sea Trail:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest Priority Segments: NC 127, Rink Dam Rd, Church Rd, Bowmans Cutover Rd, Teague Town Rd, and Liledoun Rd; and sharrows on Liledoun Rd.</li> <li>Medium Priority: NC 127, Richey Road/Sam Hefner Road, and Hubbard Road/Shiloh Church Road/Icard Dam Road</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ensure safer pedestrian crossings for the intersection of NC 127 and Rink Dam Road.</li> <li>Promote sidewalks connecting residential areas to NC 127.</li> <li>Promote bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the programmed NC 127 improvements from Cloninger Mill Road to Richey Road.</li> <li>Apply for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant in 2020 to develop a comprehensive sidewalk pedestrian plan working in conjunction with Alexander County and the Town of Taylorsville.</li> </ul>		<p>Those serving on Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) Alexander County</p> <p>WPCOG</p>
Potential Partners:	Resources/Technical Assistance Needed:	Timeframe
<p>NCDOT</p> <p>WPCOG</p> <p>Planning Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning staff</li> <li>GIS/Mapping</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Measureable Performance Indicators:		New bicycle and pedestrian facilities as recommended by adopted plans



# Conceptual Renderings

## Route 127 & Rink Dam Road Intersection



# Conceptual Overview: Intersection Aerial



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



# Conceptual Overview: Route 127 Facing Northeast



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



# Conceptual Overview: Route 127 Facing North



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



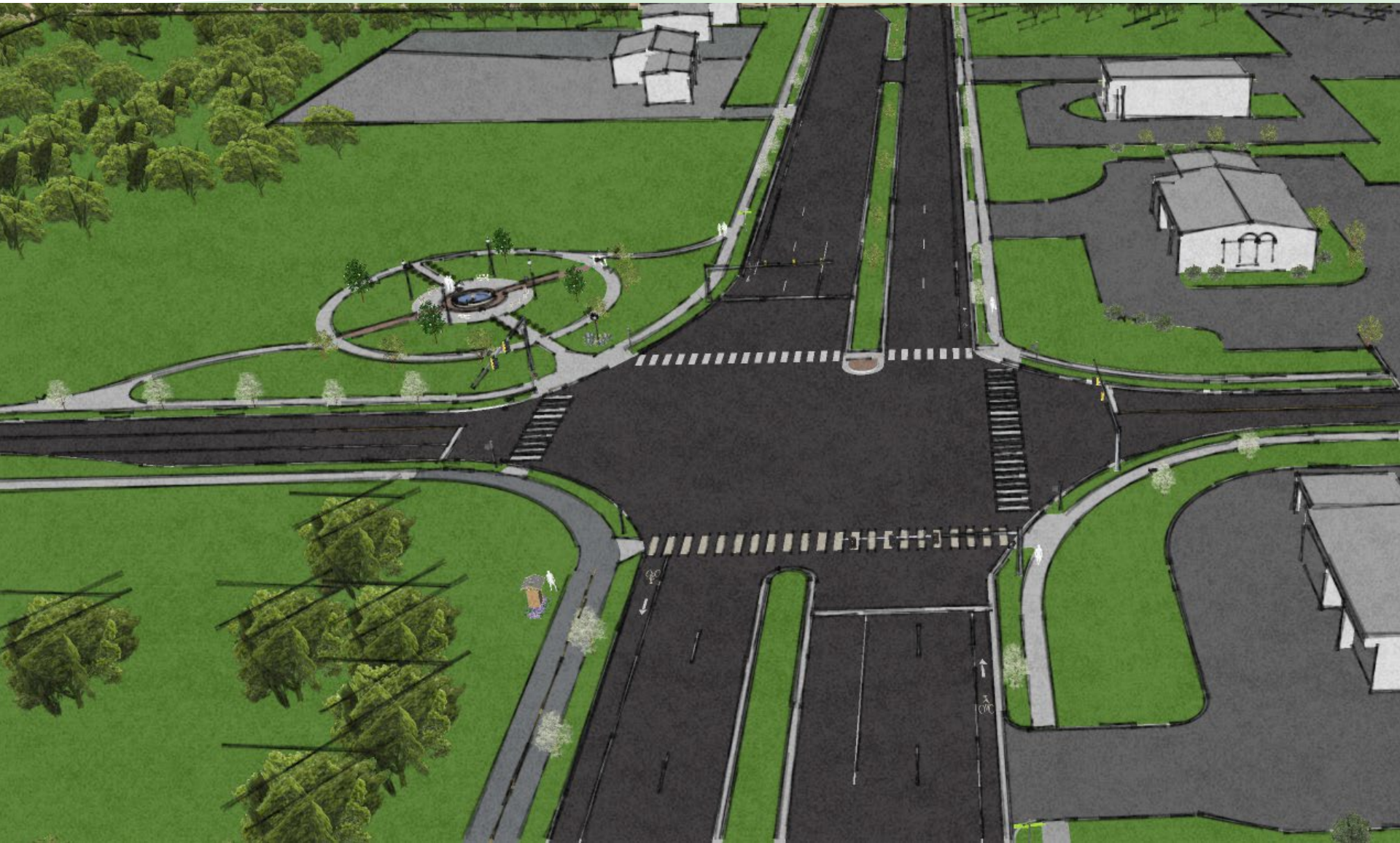
# Conceptual Overview: Rink Dam Road Facing East



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



# Conceptual Overview: Intersection Aerial



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



# Conceptual Overview: Crosswalk Facing West



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



# Conceptual Overview: Route 127 Facing South



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*



# Conceptual Overview: Community Park Space



*These are conceptual renderings only. They do not represent NCDOT plans or WPCOG plans.*