PLAISTOW COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION STUDY

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

MAY 22, 2014

LOCATION: PLAISTOW TOWN HALL

Plaistow Commuter Rail Extension Study

OVERVIEW OF STUDY

- The goal of the Plaistow commuter Rail Extension Study is to evaluate the extension of the MBTA Haverhill Line commuter rail service from Haverhill, MA to Plaistow, NH.

- The objective of the study is to develop information and analysis that can form the basis of an informed decisions making process regarding whether or not to advance the project.

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- **PAC MEMBERS**
  - **Town of Plaistow** – Sean Fitzgerald; (Alternate) Tim Moore
  - **Town of Atkinson** — David Harrigan; (Alternate) Robert J. Clark
  - **Merrimack Valley Planning Commission** — Todd Fontanella
  - **Rockingham Planning Commission** — Cliff Sinnott
  - **Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority** — Ron Morgan
  - **Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority** — Jim Russell
  - **Pan Am Railways** — Cynthia S. Scarano
  - **City of Haverhilll** —
- **NHDOT TEAM**
  - Shelley Winters
- **HDR ENGINEERING TEAM**
  - Ron O'Blenis, John Weston, Kris Erikson, Katie Rougeot, Jamie Paine

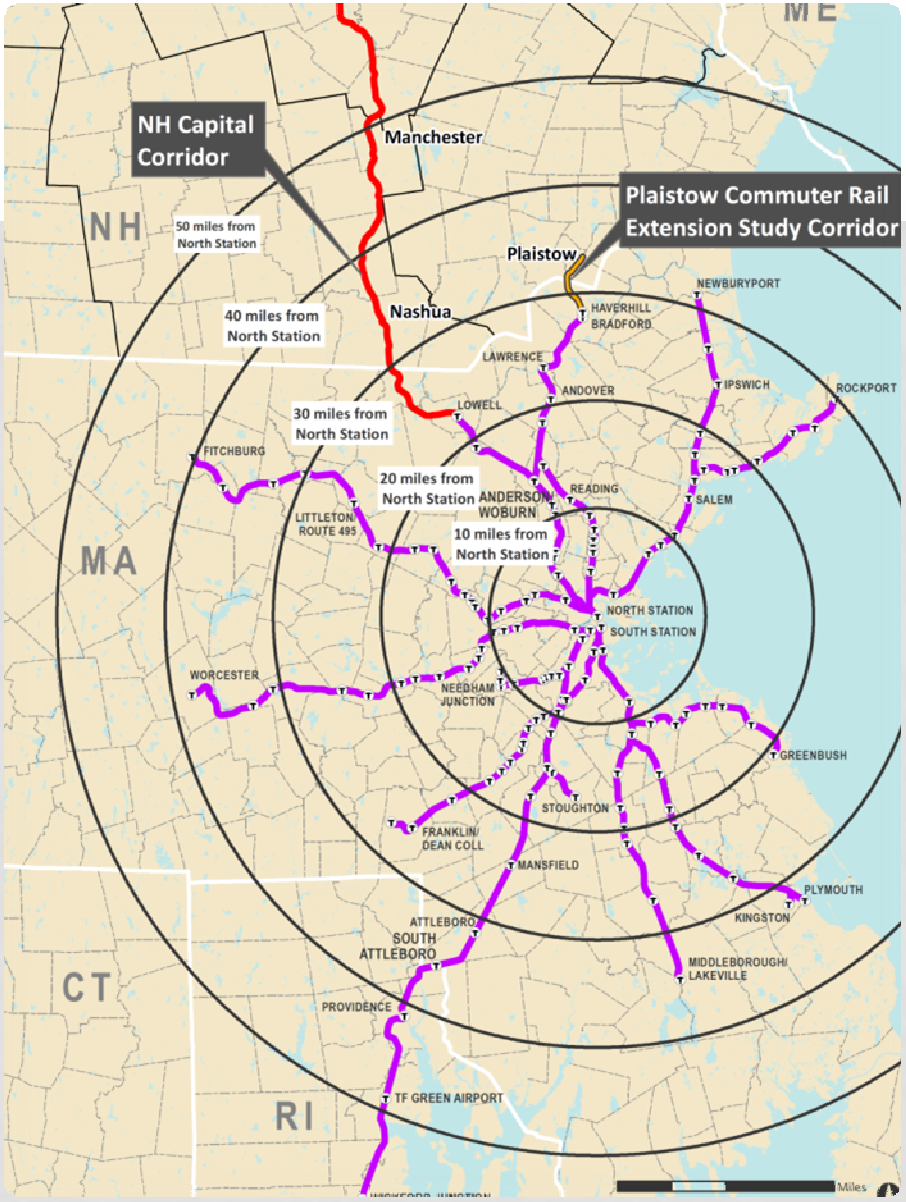
PUBLIC & PAC MEETINGS

- **Public Kickoff – Listening Session**
- **Project Advisory Meetings**
  - **Meeting #1**
  - Project Scope
  - Project Purpose and Need
  - Project Agreement
  - **Meeting #2**
  - Review of Purpose and Need
  - Initial Site Options and Requirements
  - **Meeting #3**
  - Site Option Discussion
  - Site Option Attributes
  - Alternatives Evaluation Criteria

PURPOSE AND NEED

- **PURPOSE**
  - Provide an additional travel mode options that increase overall mobility in Plaistow and surrounding communities.
- **NEED**
  - Travel mode options for Plaistow and surrounding communities are needed to improve mobility and access to employment for residents and businesses in the Plaistow area while increasing opportunities for economic development.

MBTA COMMUTER RAIL LINES

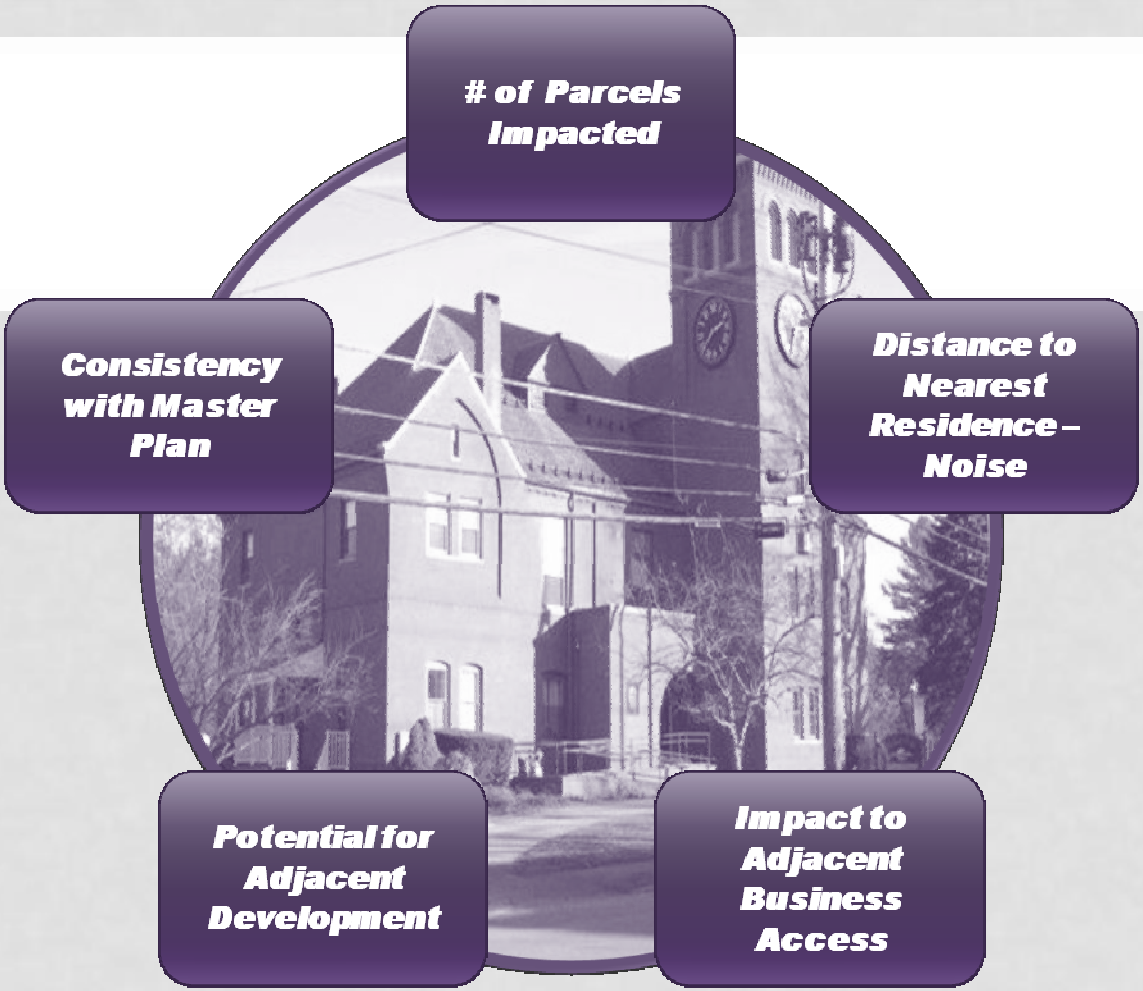


SITE OPTION ATTRIBUTES

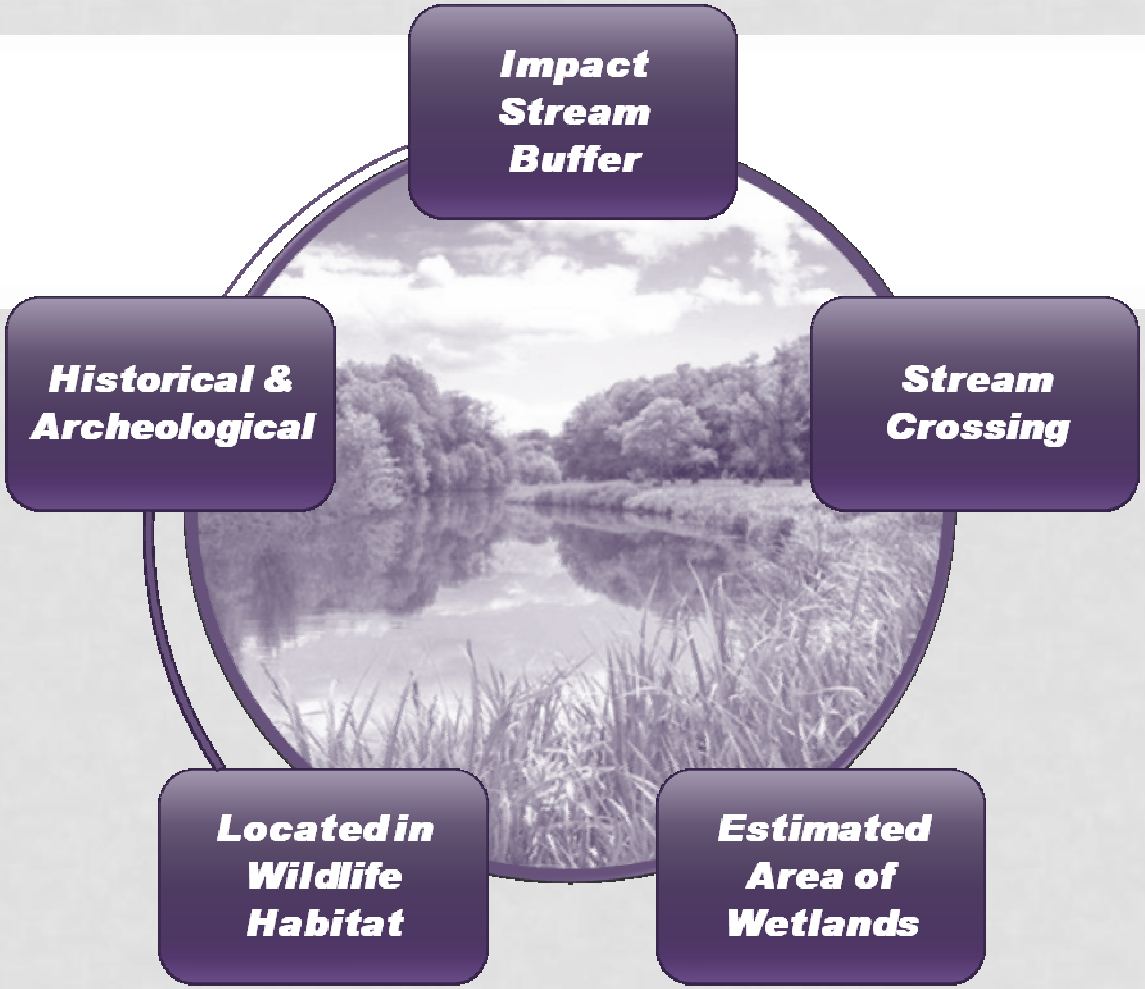
Community

Environmental

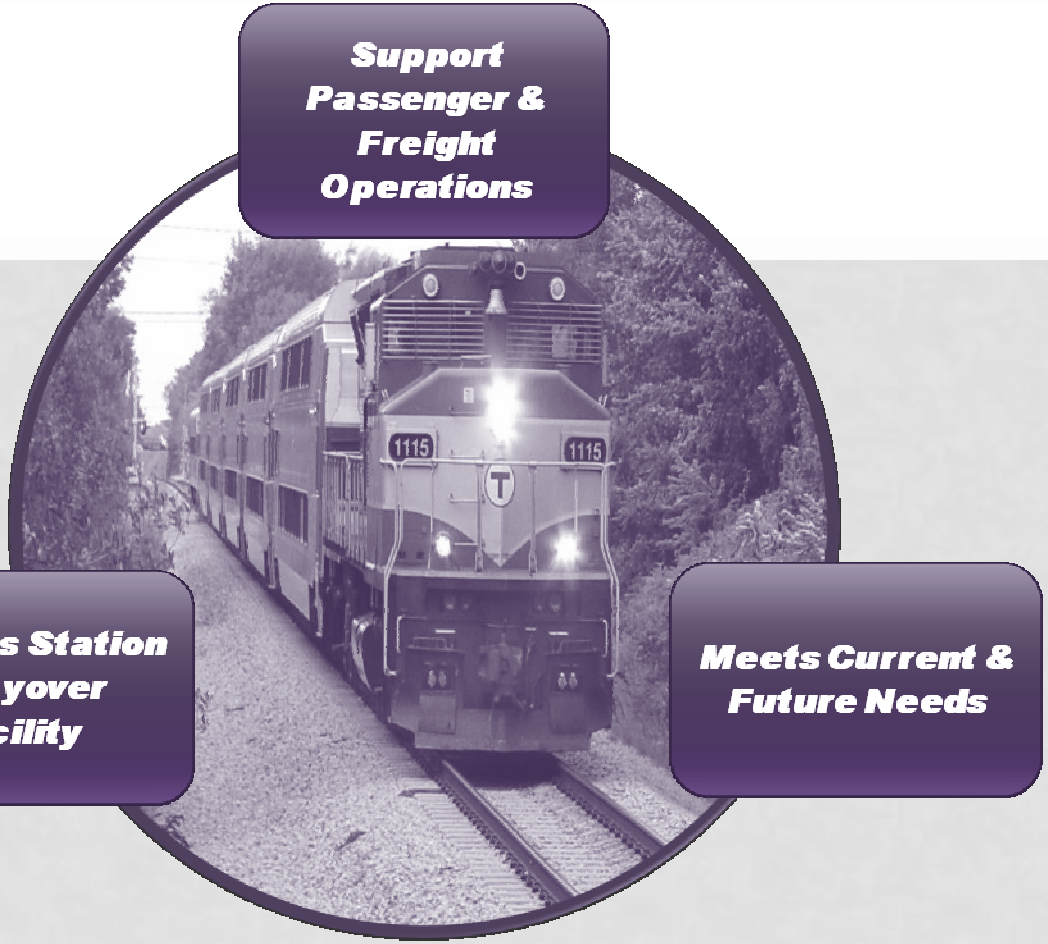
Service Operations



COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES



ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES



Support Passenger & Freight Operations

Provides Station & Layover Facility

Meets Current & Future Needs

SERVICE OPERATIONS

STATION REQUIREMENTS

- **STATION**
- Includes platform, parking, & pickup/drop-off
- Requirements based on MBTA Standards.
- Will be terminal station – train holding capacity
- Located on a separate track from the main line
- The platform must be a minimum length of 815-ft
- Station provide parking and access road

LAYOVER REQUIREMENTS

- **LAYOVER FACILITY**
- Trains stored from last trip to first trip of next day.
- Located directly off the mainline ,as close as possible to the station, and same side as station
- Requirements meets MBTA Standards.
- Tracks for 6 train sets - minimum length of 815-ft
- Alternate15-ft and 35-ft spacing for maintenance
- Employee parking area and access road required

NEWBURYPORT COMPARISON

STATION PLATFORM

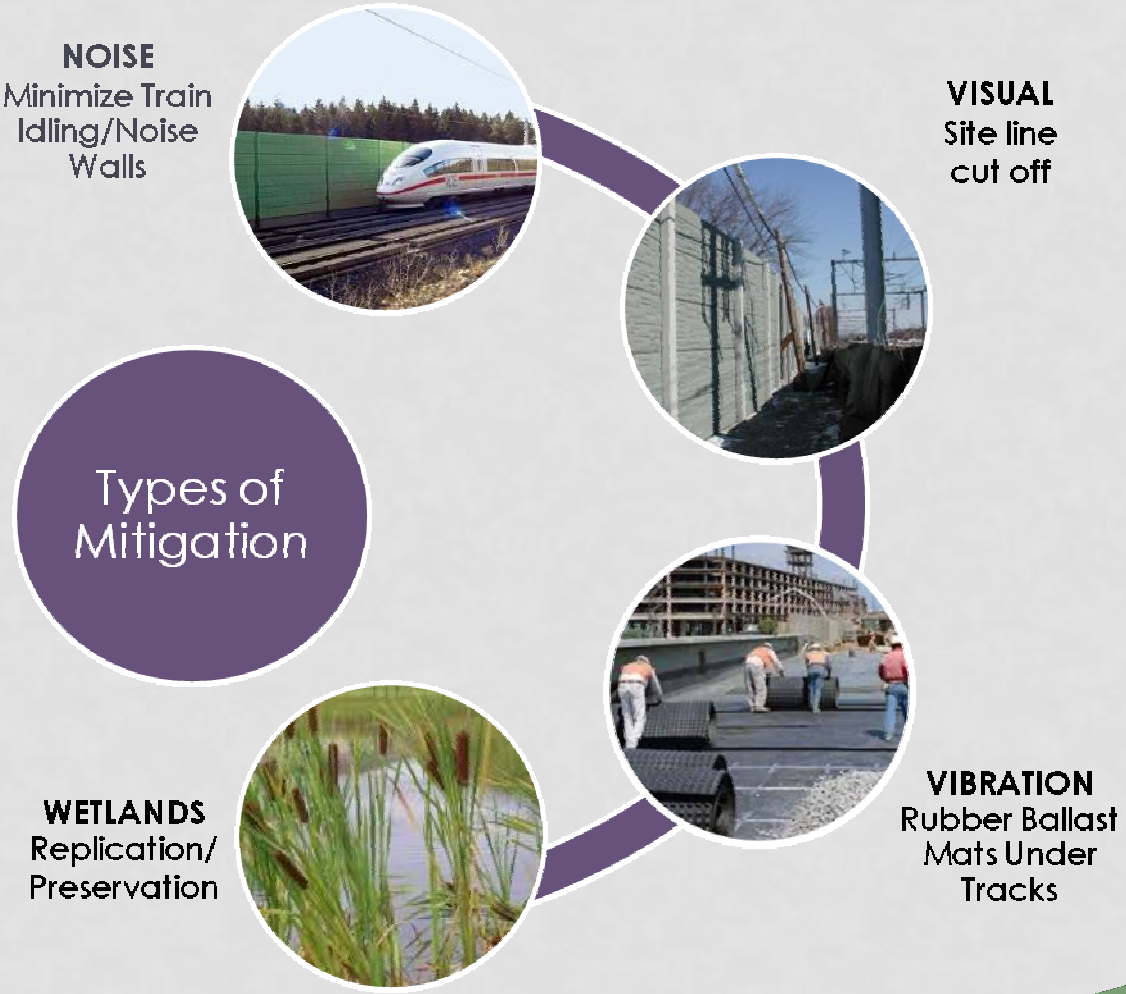
STATION

LIGHTING & ACCESS

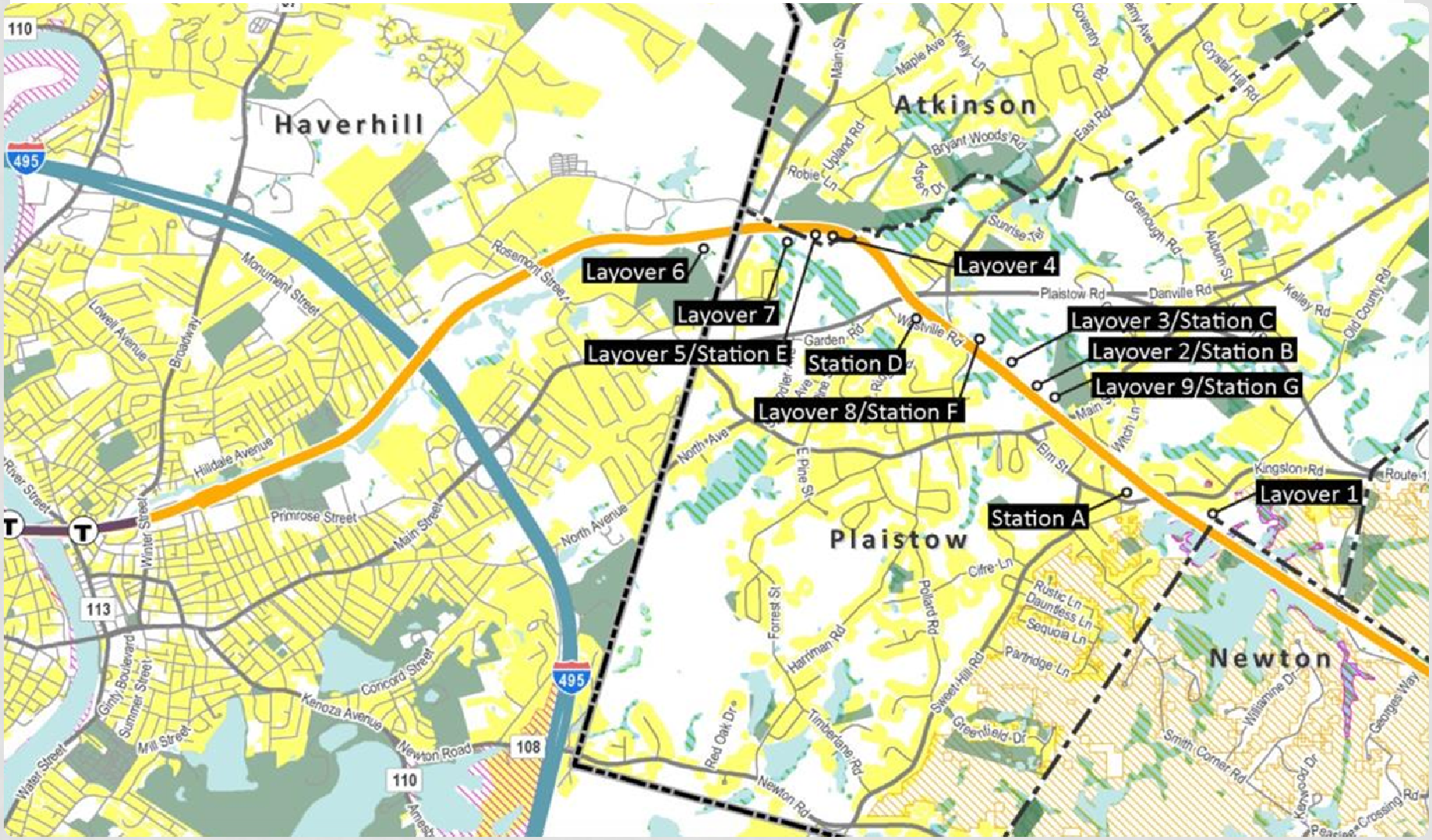
HOTEL POWER

MITIGATION

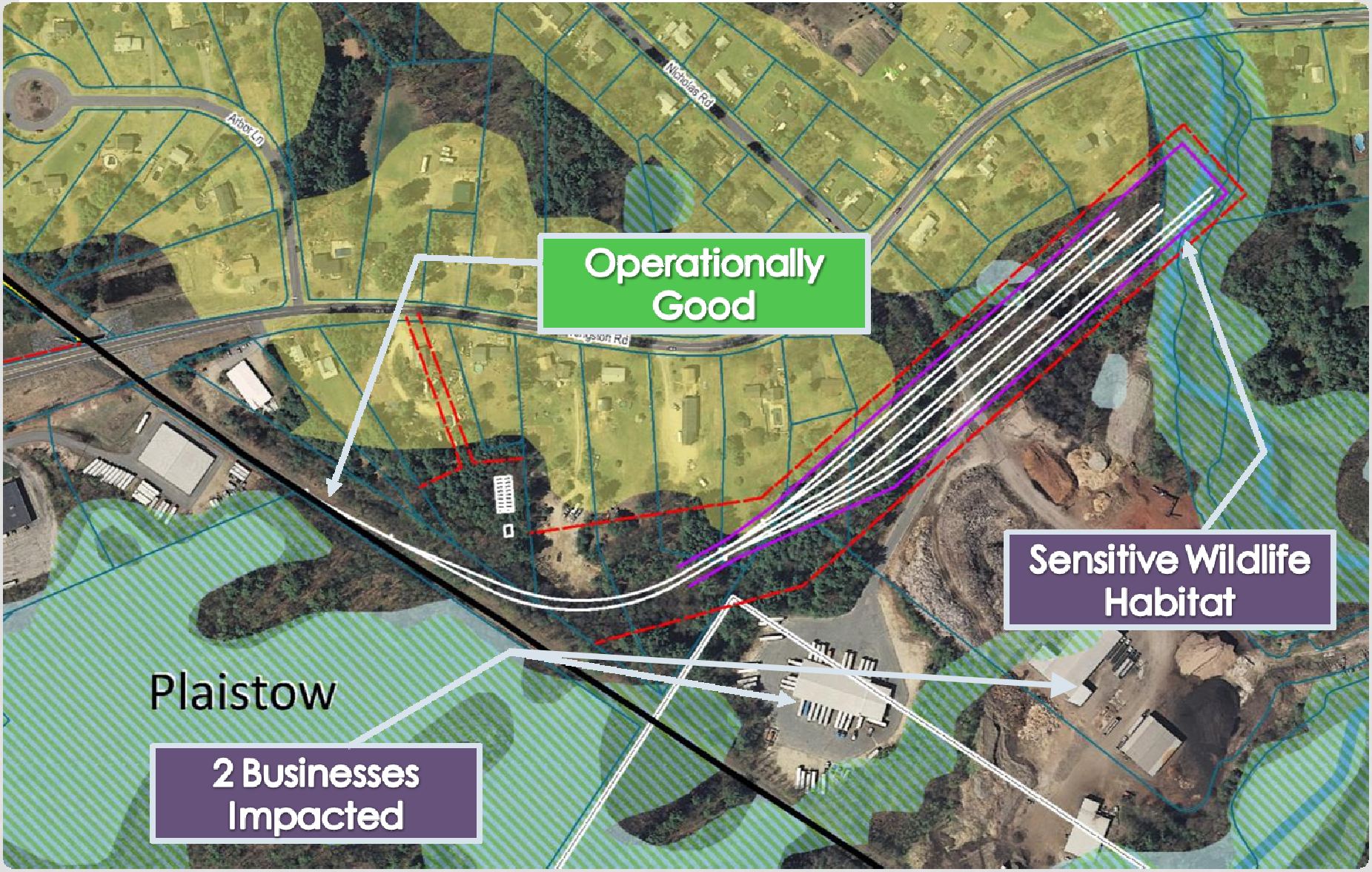
- Station and layover options have environmental impacts
- Mitigation can reduce the impacts
- Further investigation for applicable mitigation for each site



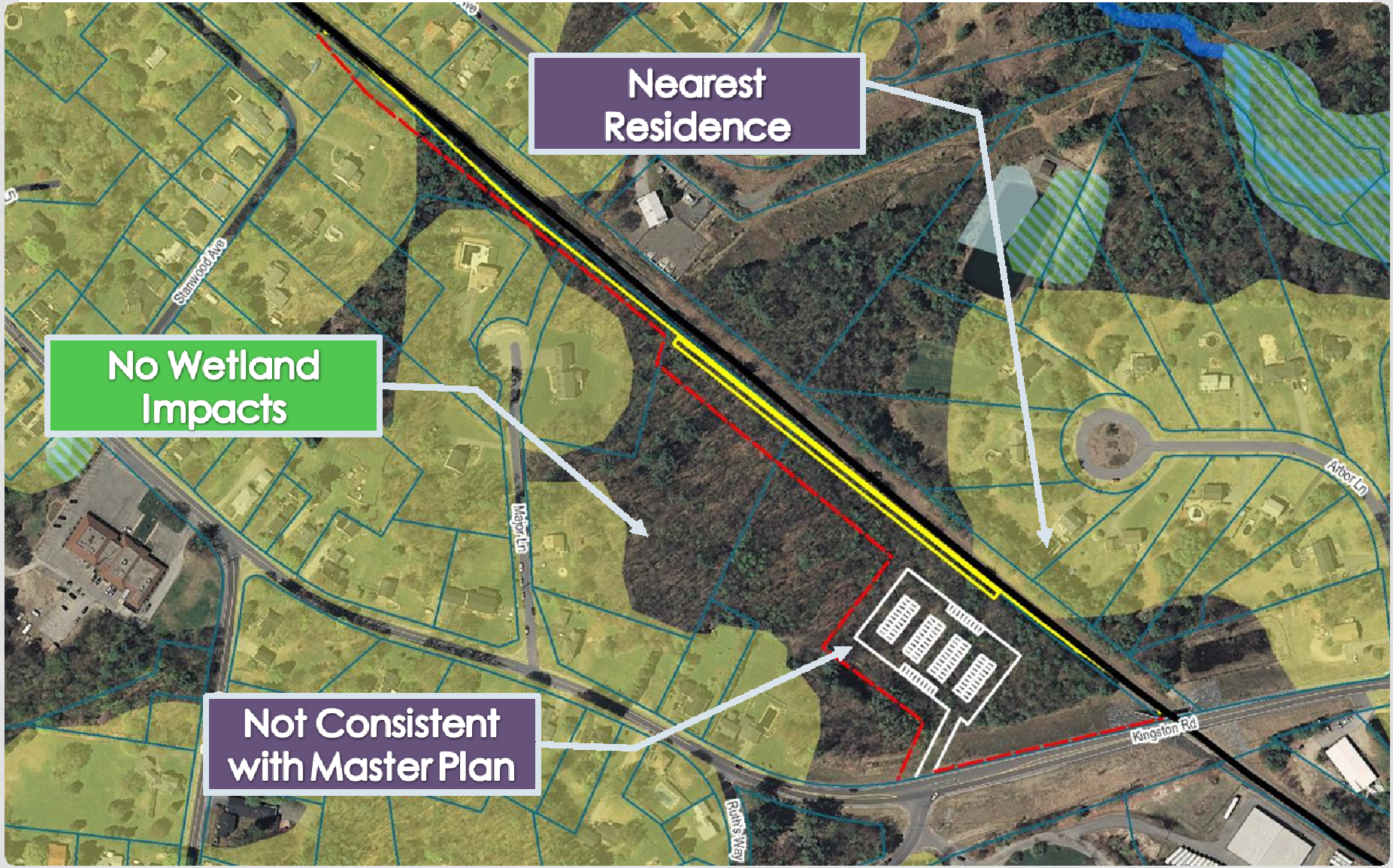
OVERVIEW MAP



LAYOVER 1


Arbor Ln
Nicholas Rd
Operationally Good
Sensitive Wildlife Habitat
Plaistow
2 Businesses Impacted

STATION A


Nearest Residence
No Wetland Impacts
Not Consistent with Master Plan
Stanwood Ave
Major Ln
Ruth's Way
Kingston Rd
Arbor Ln

KINGSTON ROAD SITE ATTRIBUTES

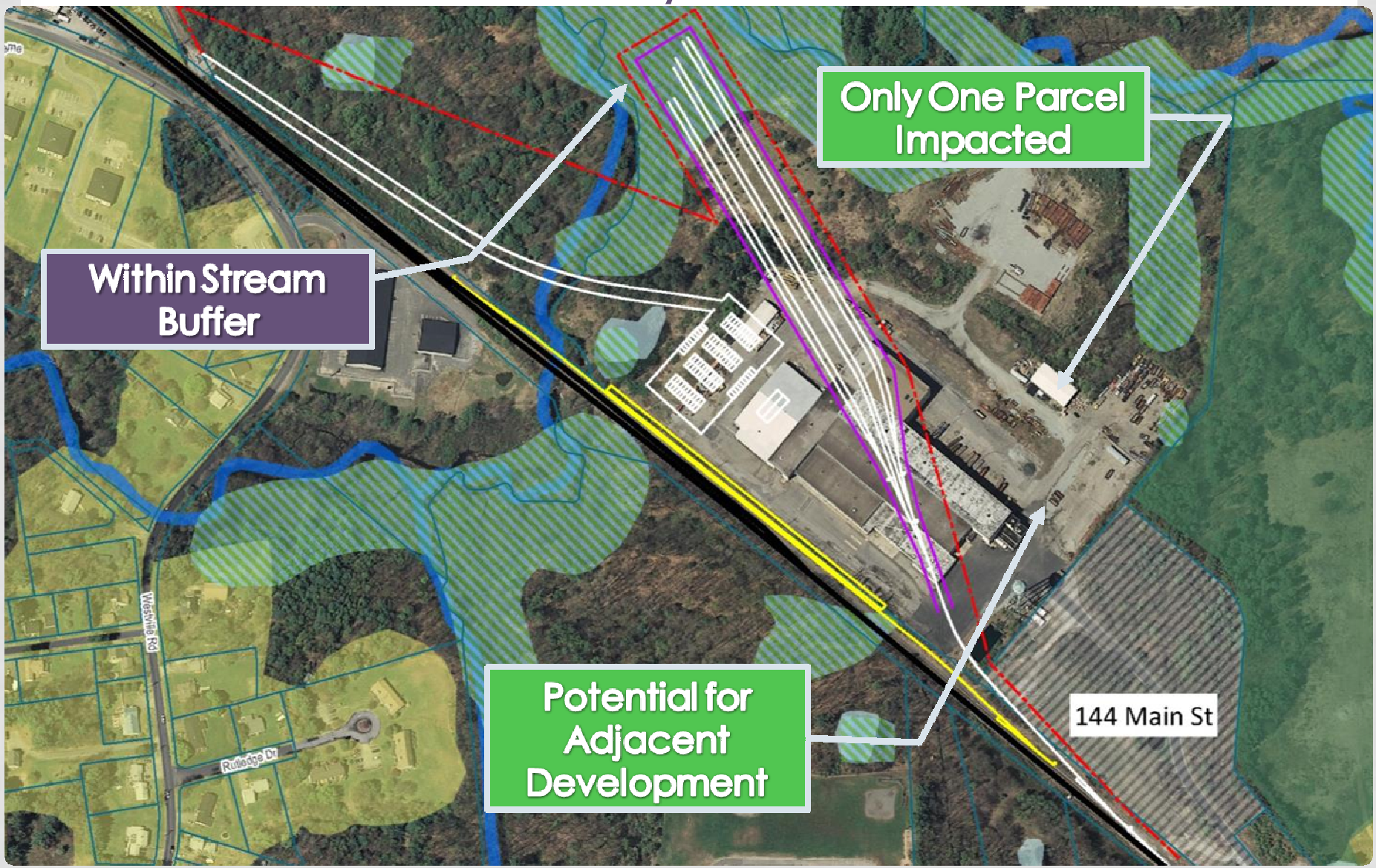
Layover/ Station	# of Parcels	Distance to Residence	Impact to Adjacent Business Access	Potential for Adjacent Develop-ment	Consistency to Town Master Plan	Opera-tional Ability	Avoids Stream Buffer	Avoids Stream Crossing	Estimated Area of Wetlands	Not located in Wildlife Habitat
Layover 1	9	107-ft	2	✗	✓	Good	✗	✗	2,770-ft^2	✗
Station A	6	148-ft	0	✗	✗	--	✓	✓	0-ft^2	✓

Community

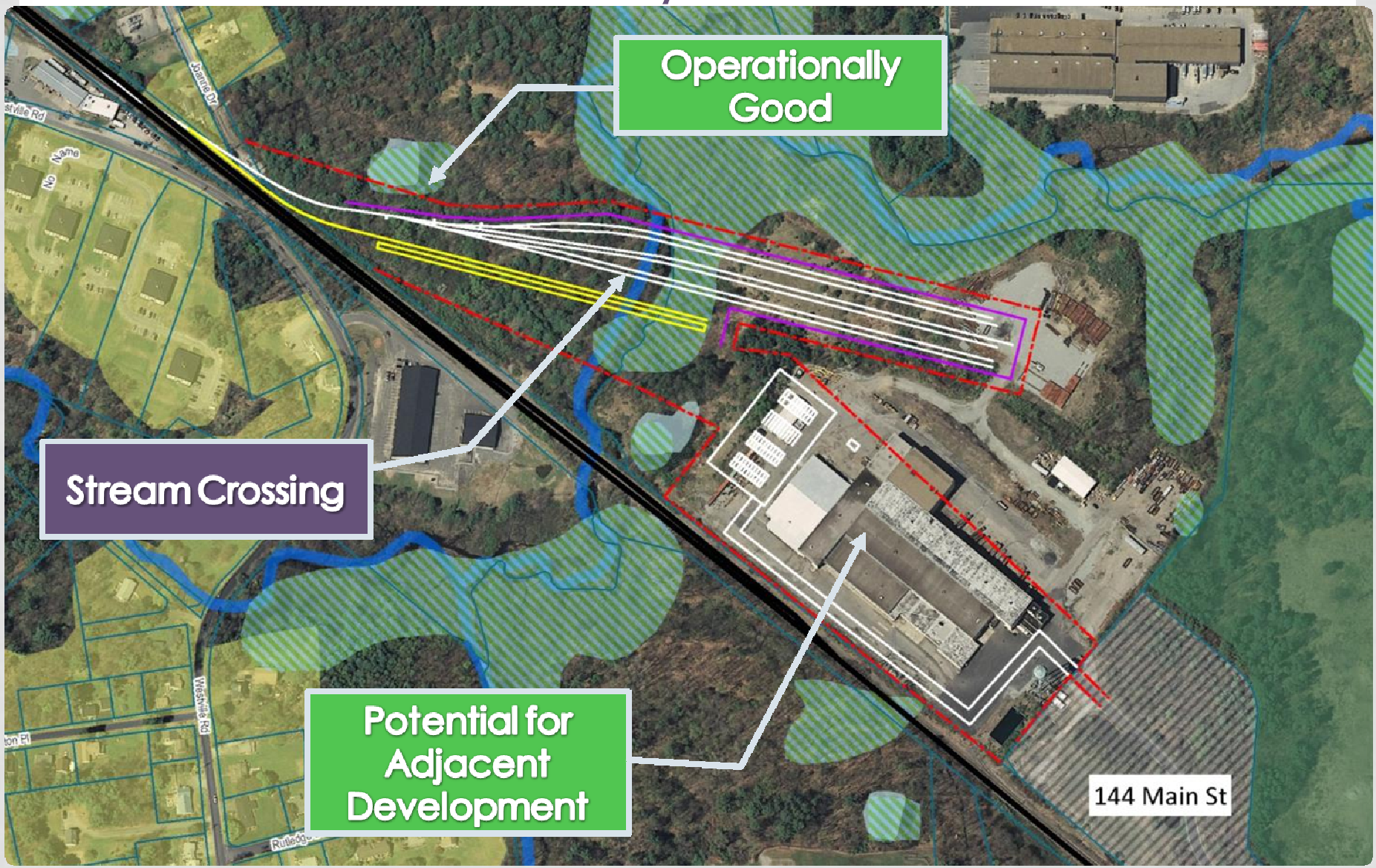
Operations

Environmental

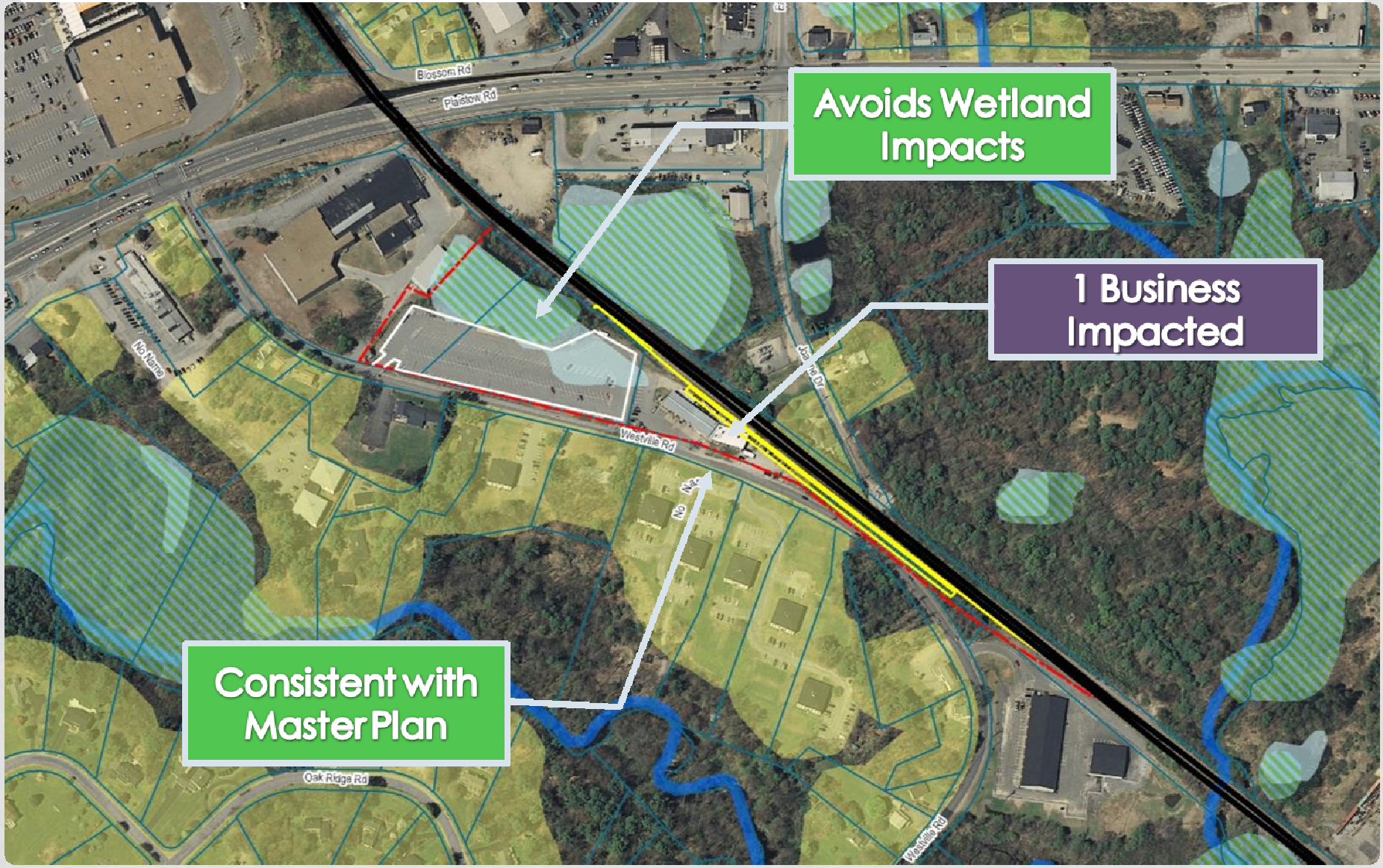
LAYOVER 2 / STATION B



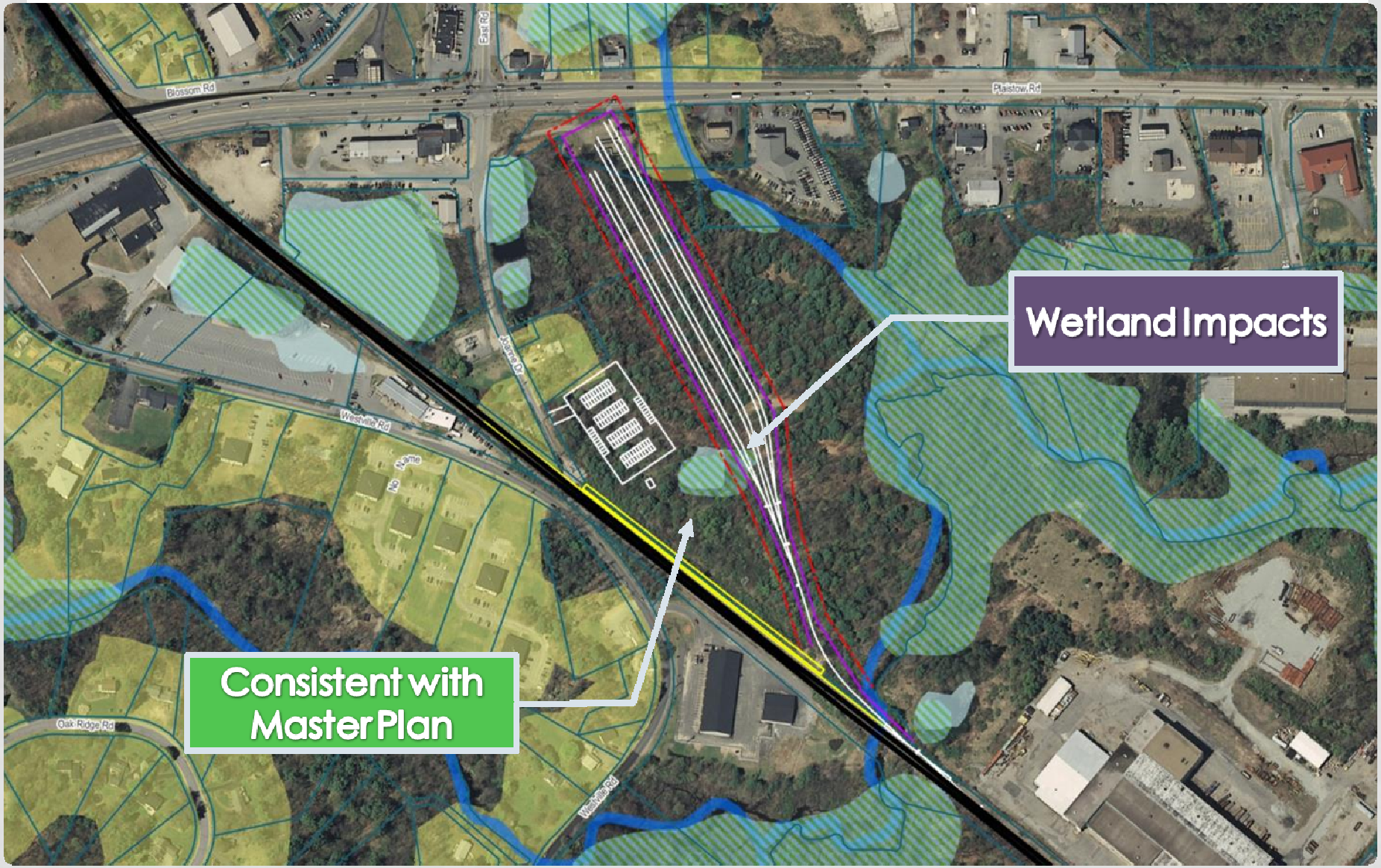
LAYOVER 3 / STATION C



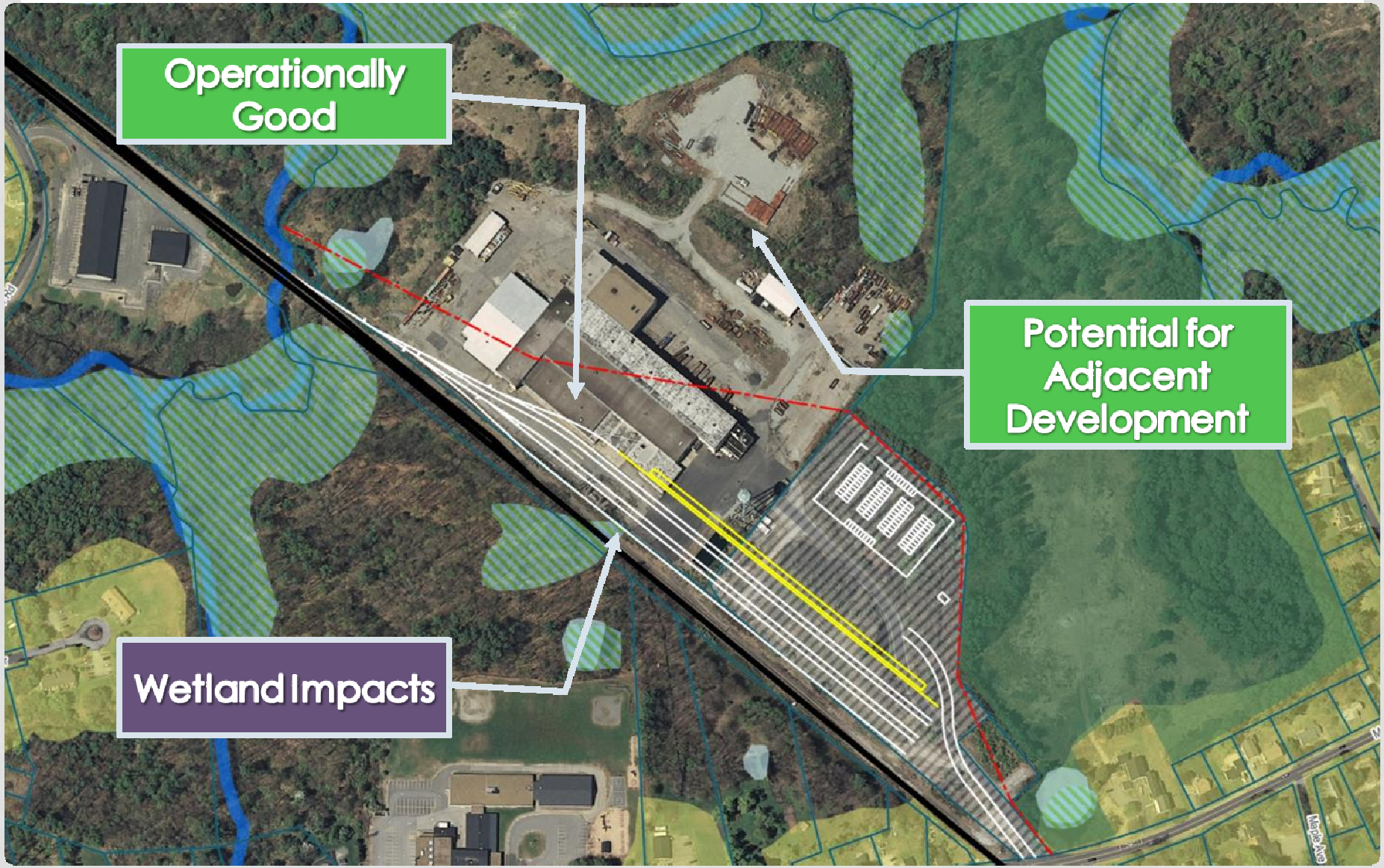
STATION D


Avoids Wetland Impacts
1 Business Impacted
Consistent with Master Plan
Blossom Rd
Plaistow Rd
Westville Rd
Oak Ridge Rd
No Name

LAYOVER 8 / STATION F



LAYOVER 9 / STATION G



MID AREA SITE ATTRIBUTES

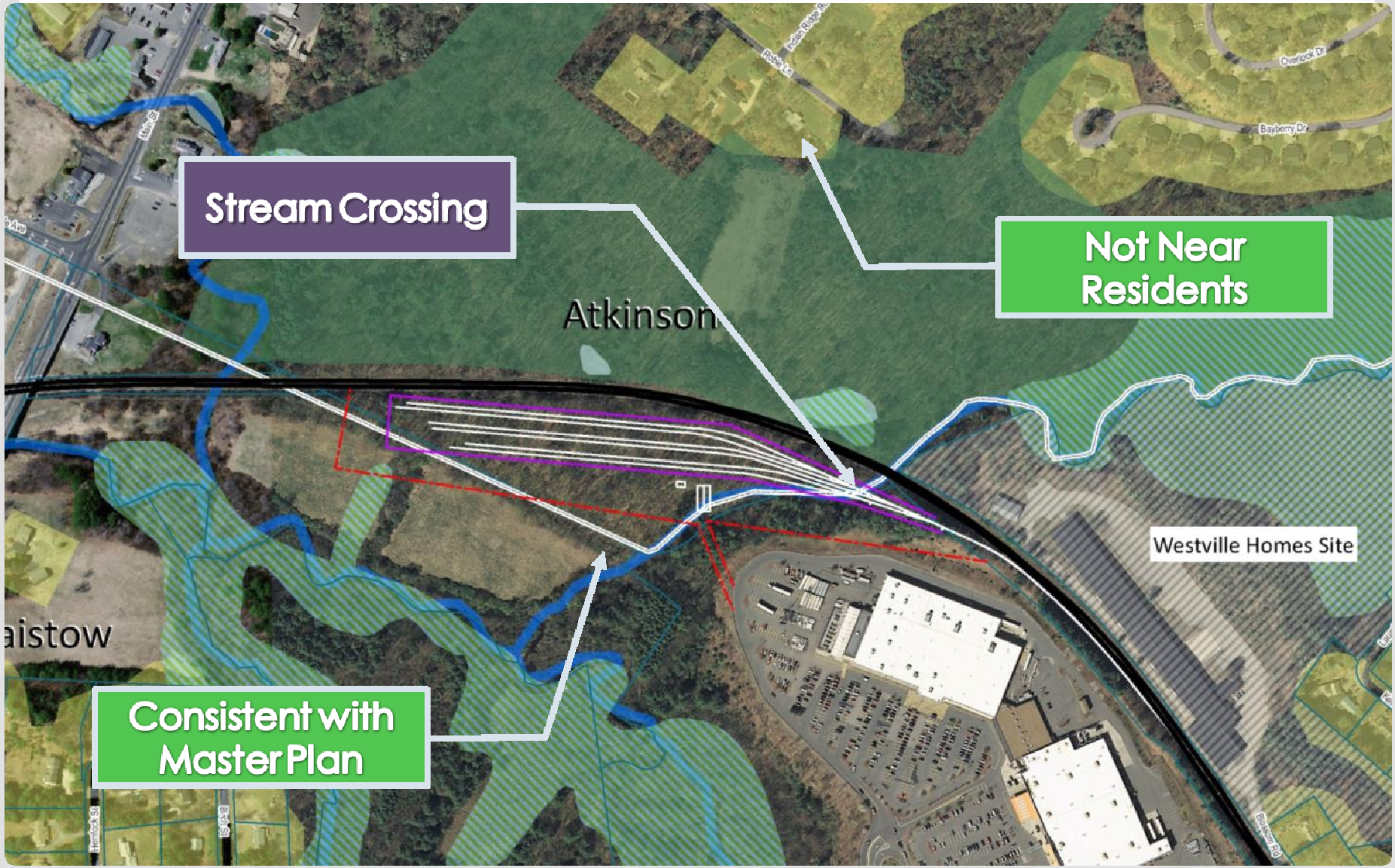
Layover/ Station	# of Parcels	Distance to Residence	Impact to Adjacent Business Access	Potential for Adjacent Develop-ment	Consistency to Town Master Plan	Opera-tional Ability	Avoids Stream Buffer	Avoids Stream Crossing	Estimated Area of Wetlands	Not located in Wildlife Habitat
Layover 2/ Station B	3	730-ft	1	✓	✗	Poor	✗	✓	53,020-ft^2	✓
Layover 3/Station C	2	131-ft	1	✓	✗	Good	✗	✗	35,500-ft^2	✓
Station D	2	88-ft	1	✗	✓	--	✓	✓	0-ft^2	✓
Layover 8/Station F	3	81-ft	1	✗	✓	Poor	✗	✓	4,000-ft^2	✓
Layover 9/Station G	2	210-ft	1	✓	✓	Good	✗	✗	1,500-ft^2	✓

Community

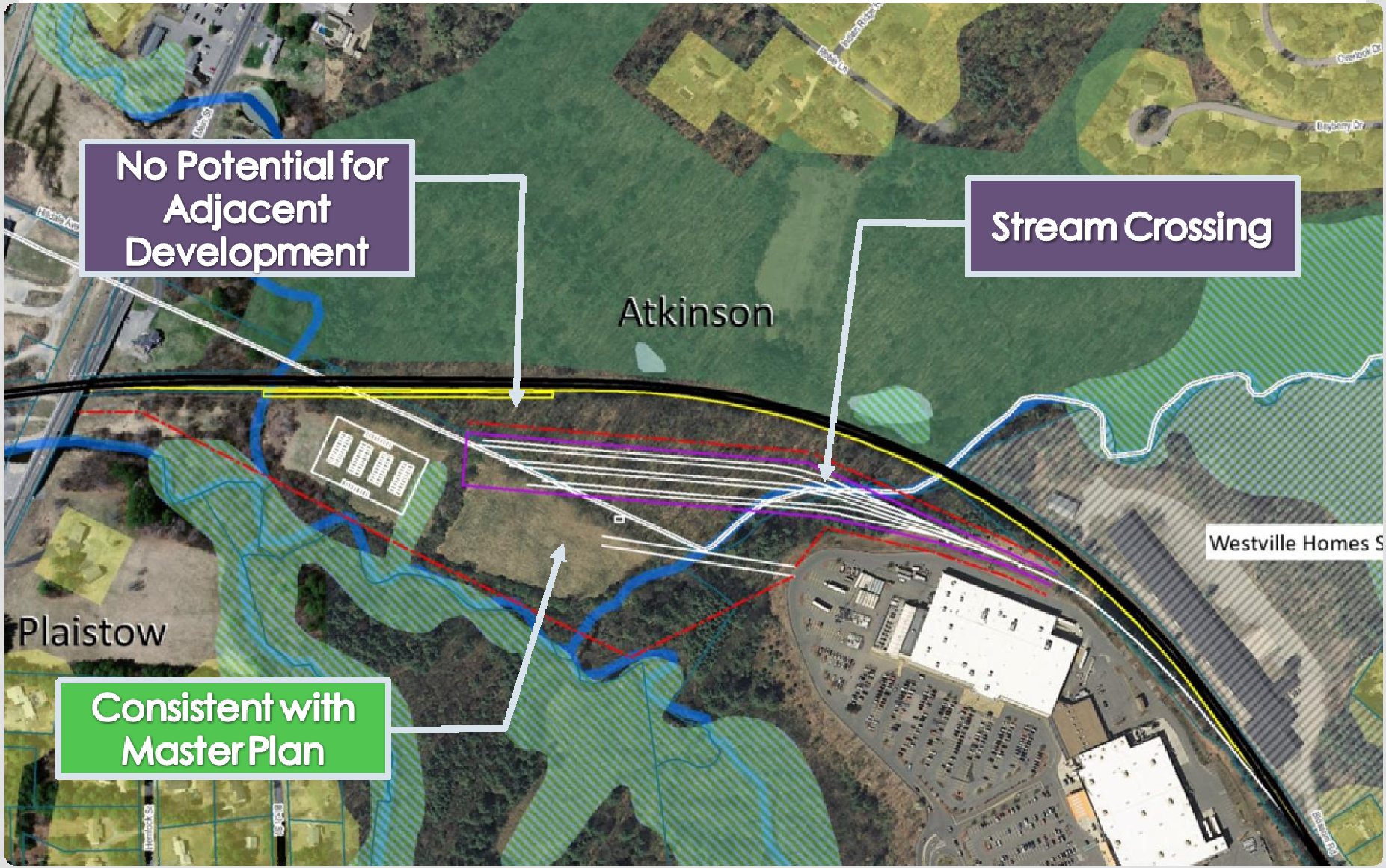
Operations

Environmental

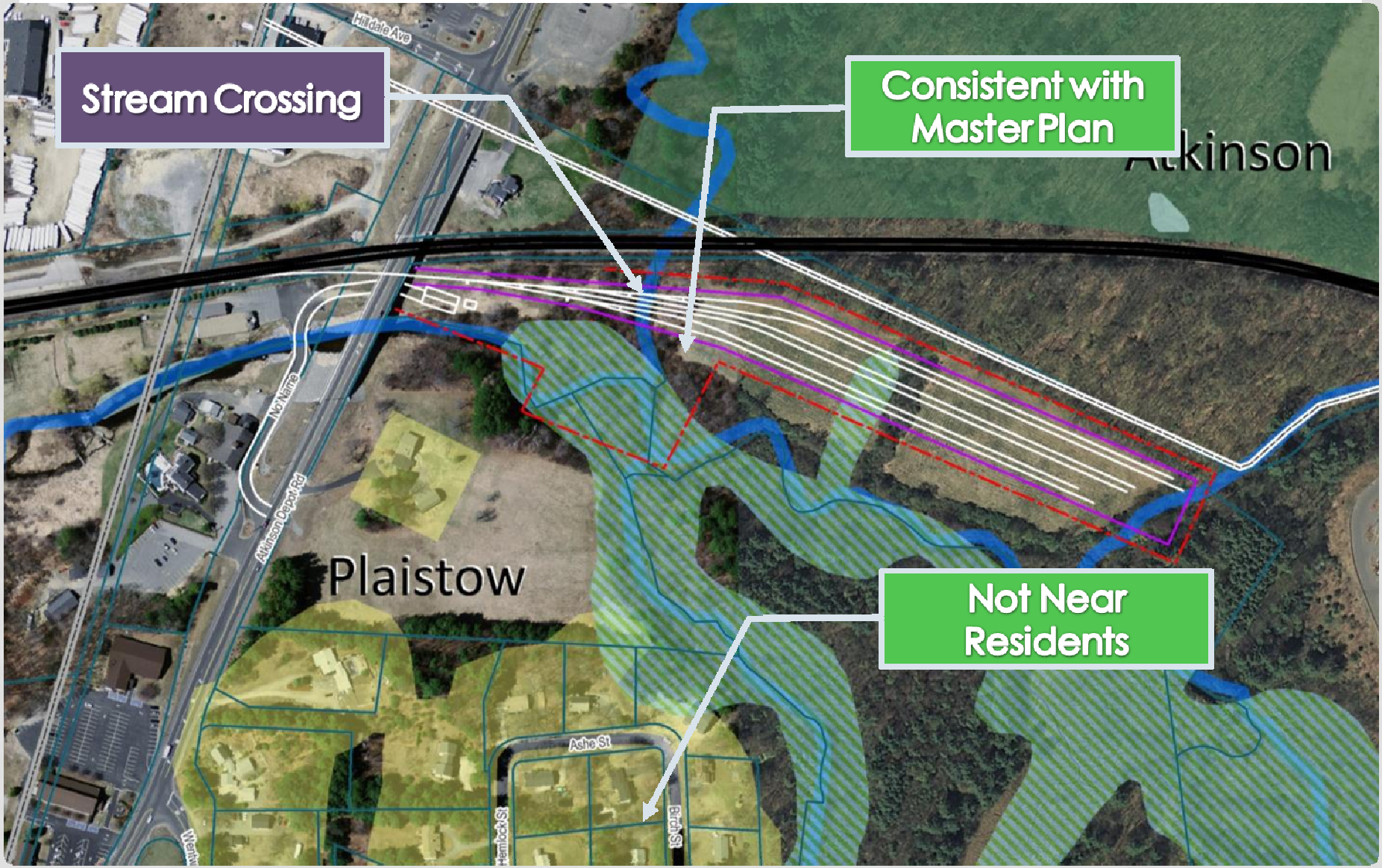
LAYOVER 4


Stream Crossing
Not Near Residents
Atkinson
Westville Homes Site
Consistent with Master Plan
Overlook Dr
Bayberry Dr
Indian Ridge Rd
Robin Ln
Main St
Hemlock St
Rollins Rd

LAYOVER 5 / STATION E



LAYOVER 7


Stream Crossing
Consistent with Master Plan
Not Near Residents
Atkinson
Plaistow
Hillside Ave
Atkinson Depot Rd
Ashe St
Hemlock St
Birch St

SOUTHERLY SITE ATTRIBUTES

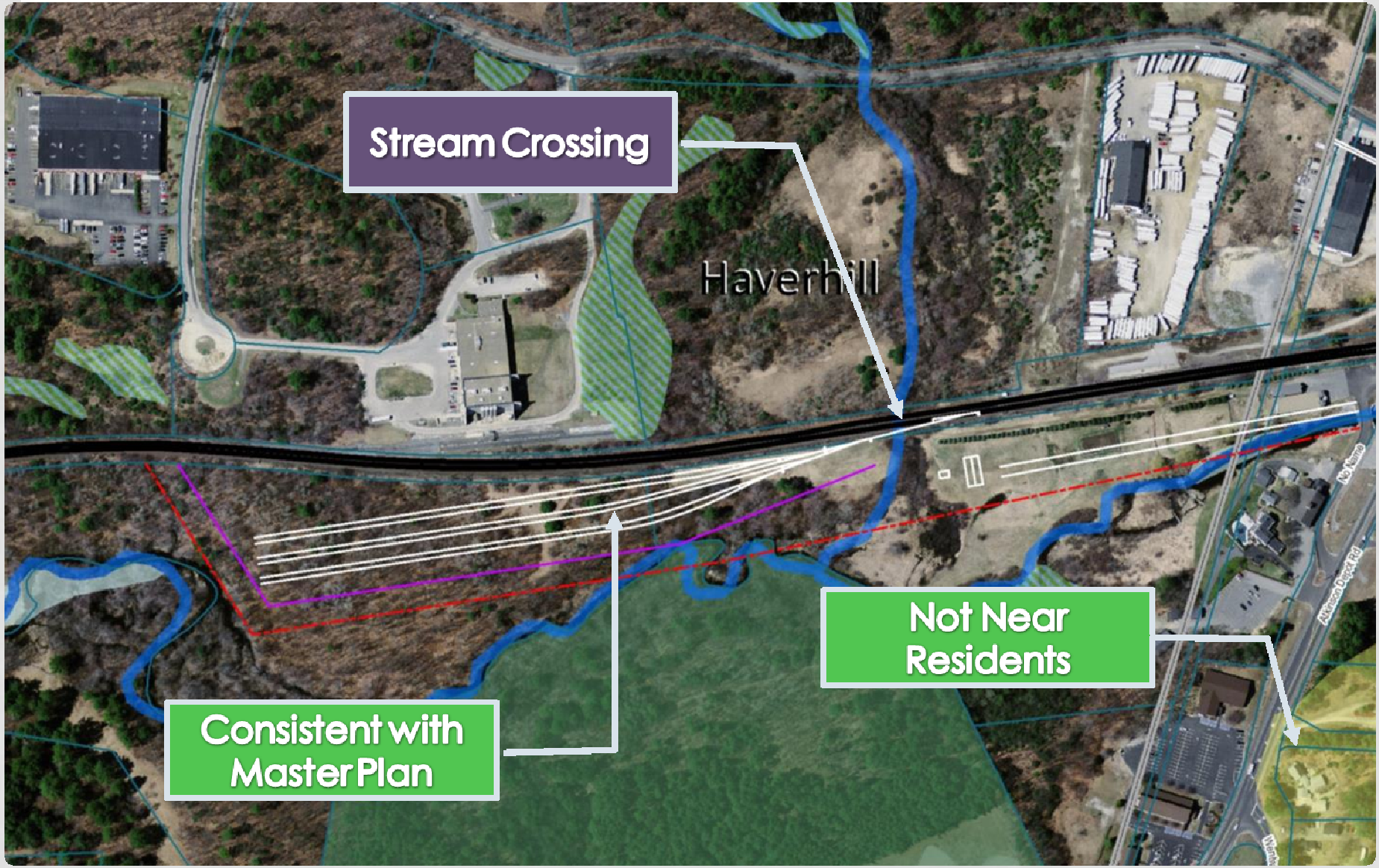
Layover/ Station	# of Parcels	Distance to Residence	Impact to Adjacent Business Access	Potential for Adjacent Develop-ment	Consistency to Town Master Plan	Opera-tional Ability	Avoids Stream Buffer	Avoids Stream Crossing	Estimated Area of Wetlands	Not located in Wildlife Habitat
Layover 4	3	887-ft	1	✗	✓	Fair	✗	✗	0-ft^2	✓
Layover 5/Station E	3	940-ft	0	✗	✓	Fair	✗	✗	0-ft^2	✓
Layover 7	3	165-ft	0	✗	✓	Fair	✗	✗	9000-ft^2	✓

Community

Operations

Environmental

LAYOVER 6


Stream Crossing
Haverhill
Not Near Residents
Consistent with Master Plan

HAVERHILL SITE ATTRIBUTES

Layover/ Station	# of Parcels	Distance to Residence	Impact to Adjacent Business Access	Potential for Adjacent Develop-ment	Consistency to Town Master Plan	Opera-tional Ability	Avoids Stream Buffer	Avoids Stream Crossing	Estimated Area of Wetlands	Not located in Wildlife Habitat
Layover 6	2	2,250-ft	0	✗	✓	Fair	✗	✓	0-ft^2	✓

Community

Operations

Environmental

NEXT STEPS

- **Public comments used to refine alternative designs**
- **Evaluate Alternatives**
  - Land Use/Neighborhood Character/Zoning
  - Land Acquisitions and Displacements
  - Socio-economic/Environmental Justice
  - Transportation
  - Air Quality
  - Nosie and Vibration
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Visual Resources/Aesthetics
  - Natural and Cultural Resources
  - Operational Feasibility
- **Ridership Estimate**
- **Land Use Impact Assessment**

FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Project Advisory Committee Meeting #4**
  - July 28, 2014
- **Public Informational Meeting #2**
  - September 15, 2014
  - Presentation of Recommended Site(s)

THANK YOU

Question and Responses

www.plaistowstudy.org