



2026 City Council Budget Hearing BioDistrict New Orleans

City of New Orleans
October 29th

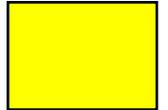


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Status on 2025 Stated Goals

Review of 2025 Goals

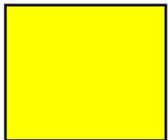
Goal Support Redevelopment of Charity Hospital



Goal Tulane Avenue Improvements



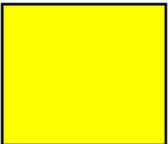
Goal Public Space Improvements & Activation under Claiborne Avenue / I-10



Goal Invest In Placemaking And Activation Opportunities



Goal Convene Partners To Develop District Research Strategy



Review of 2025 Goals (Continued)

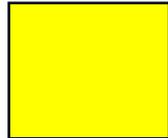
Goal

Provide targeted funding to support researchers and entrepreneurs



Goal

Provide targeted funding to support workforce development and training



Goal

Promote more safety & security in the district



Goal

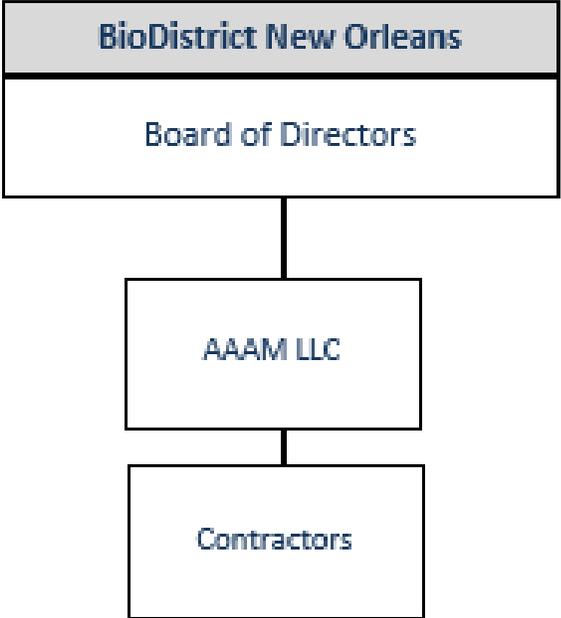
Advance branding & communications plan



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Personnel

The BioDistrict does not have plans to hire any personnel in 2026. We receive administrative support from AAAM LLC and will invest the bulk of our budgeted resources via contract with other partners (DDD, DPW, RTA, nonprofit partners), etc.



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2026 Department Goals



Real Estate

	Pre-Startup <i>First 100 days</i>	Startup <i>100 days – Year 1</i>	Stabilization <i>Year 2 - 3</i>	Long-Term <i>Year 3+</i>
1.1 Define real estate role		Define real estate goals and the BioDistrict’s role in leading development.	Track and market available space to prospective tenants; facilitate development deals.	Identify opportunities for investment, acquisition, land banking, etc.
1.2 Advance Charity Hospital redevelopment		Facilitate discussions with partners around Charity Hospital Redevelopment.	Utilize development incentives audit as framework for policy recommendations to elected officials.	Continue to leverage Charity for programming to meet needs of institutions and the community.
1.3 Champion incentives to spur development		Complete audit of incentives to attract bioscience tenants and development partners.	Use incentives audit to craft policy recommendations for revised or new incentives tools target to biosciences.	Continue to refine incentives toolkit to meet the evolving needs of the district and biosciences industry.
1.4 Identify opportunities for shared collaborative space		Convene institutions and partners to discuss creation of collaboration space and joint- programming.	Develop MOU between institution partners aligning interest in collaborative space and programming and agreement to pursue joint- funding to develop.	Continue to identify funding and opportunities in new development projects to create shared spaces across institutions.
1.5 Champion affordable and workforce housing		Convene regional housing Partners to advocate for affordable and workforce housing preservation and creation.	Issue RFP to develop district-wide housing needs assessment; convene partners to identify underutilized properties.	Continue to advocate for affordable housing, considering additional development and policy tools.
1.6 Champion retail and amenities			Issue RFP for retail gap analysis; work with community and small business associations to identify local small businesses to meet retail gaps within the district.	Continue to work with partners to support local small businesses with technical assistance and anti-displacement strategies.



Activation & Placemaking

	Pre-Startup <i>First 100 days</i>		Startup <i>100 days – Year 1</i>	Stabilization <i>Year 2 - 3</i>	Long-Term <i>Year 3+</i>
2.1 Tulane Avenue improvements	Develop short-list of tactical enhancements along Tulane Avenue; propose a budget request for Tulane Corridor enhancements to the city and state for the allocation of TIF resources; issue RFP to advance priority projects.			Oversee completion of tactical projects; draft longer-term strategy for infrastructure and public realm improvements.	Oversee additional large-scale projects and market Tulane Avenue as a signature amenity and economic driver.
2.2 Champion Duncan Plaza redevelopment			Advance discussions to develop a short-term strategy to champion redevelopment.	Identify implications from public realm and resilience plans for the Plaza.	Identify opportunities to partner and host events at Duncan Plaza with partners.
2.3 Champion Claiborne Avenue Corridor	Support implementation of Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District Master Plan.			Work with partners to extend lighting, public safety, and beautification efforts south to Tulane Avenue.	Advocate and champion future opportunities for funding to implement the CID master plan and explore joint-programming.
2.4 Seize economic development opportunities	Convene district partners and facilitate investments in placemaking and activation throughout the district to support business and economic development as needs and strategic opportunities arise, such as Super Bowl LIX in 2025 and other large events.			Continue to convene district partners around strategic opportunities as they arise. Retain flexibility and nimbleness to fully leverage strategic opportunities.	
2.5 Invest in placemaking and activation opportunities	Convene district partners and facilitate investments in placemaking and activation throughout the district as new needs and strategic opportunities arise that accelerate district goals in alignment with the vision.			Continue to convene district partners around new needs and strategic opportunities as they arise. Retain flexibility and nimbleness to fully leverage strategic opportunities.	
2.6 Engage City Planning Commission			Engage the City to discuss approval and regulatory process for master planning efforts.	Designate a liaison to lead relationship with the city planning commission.	Revisit and revise processes regularly to ensure they are meeting the district's evolving needs.



Activation & Placemaking

	Pre-Startup <i>First 100 days</i>	Startup <i>100 days – Year 1</i>	Stabilization <i>Year 2 - 3</i>	Long-Term <i>Year 3+</i>
27 Execute branding strategy		Draft and issue RFP for a brand and communications consultant to craft brand guidelines. Board selects consultant that engages advisory working groups to update brand and establish strategy.	Execute branding and public affairs strategy; may require retaining third-party marketing consultant to execute.	Refine messaging and communications to ensure BioDistrict grows its brand.
28 Develop design guidelines		Issue RFP for landscape architecture/urban planning firm to develop design guidelines. Board approves proposal and selected firm engages working groups to develop design guidelines recommendations.	Retain legal counsel to pursue zoning overlay district to allow enforcement of design guidelines.	BioDistrict conducts periodic review and refinement of plans.
29 Execute additional planning studies to guide future investment		Draft and issue RFPs for public realm, transportation, resiliency, safety, and arts & culture plans.	Board approves proposals and selected firms engage working groups to develop plans.	Operational staff work with public and private development partners to implement plans.



Partnerships

	Pre-Startup <i>First 100 days</i>		Startup <i>100 days – Year 1</i>	Stabilization <i>Year 2 - 3</i>	Long-Term <i>Year 3+</i>
3.1 Joint anchor institution research network	Convene and facilitate an anchor institution network within the district that convenes the district’s research institutions and health systems to align on a district-wide research strategy that would also advance institutional interests and priorities.			Work with the network to develop a research strategy for the district that articulates the research goals and metrics for success.	Expand joint strategy to include regional institutional partners.
3.2 Champion NCI designation and NeuroNOLA		Continue advocacy and support for NCI designation; champion NeuroNOLA and efforts to grow neurosciences.		Continue to convene key partners around these focus areas; champion state and federal funding and support.	Serve as core convener of partners to advance transformative programming.
3.3 SLDBE growth and development	Work with community and small business organizations to evaluate technical assistance, business development, and support needs of small businesses and entrepreneurs. Convene institutions to draft an MOU articulating district-wide SLDBE procurement goals.			Establish a small business support program; program includes procurement goals, technical assistance, business development, commercial affordability and anti-displacement strategies.	Develop target metrics to measure the impact of program and refine strategies as district and small business community needs evolve.
3.4 Entrepreneur and researcher funding	Propose a budget request to the city and state for allocation of TIF resources to provide matching funds for recipients of SBIR and STTR grants and offering direct support to entrepreneurial ecosystem partners.	Assess funding gaps for current and prospective entrepreneurs and researchers and identify the potential role that the BioDistrict can play in addressing those needs.		Board approves funding recommendations as aligned with approved business plan; operational staff works with institutional partners to execute funding strategies.	Refine approach over time and market ongoing opportunities.



Partnerships (Cont'd)

	Pre-Startup <i>First 100 days</i>	Startup <i>100 days – Year 1</i>	Stabilization <i>Year 2 - 3</i>	Long-Term <i>Year 3+</i>
3.5 Cross-institutional collaborative programming		Convene anchor institutions to identify programmatic gaps and opportunities for collaboration.	Advisory working group establishes cross-institutional programs to address gaps; may require an audit of existing programs funded by BioDistrict.	Continue to support institutions in expanding workforce, resident, and student programming; advocate for state or private funding to support.
3.6 Community engagement strategy		Formalize community advisory working group, develop a work plan, and develop a broader community engagement strategy.	Refine strategy as plans are executed and update communications, improving transparency and information sharing.	Continue to refine community engagement strategy as needs evolve and establish metrics to measure impact.
3.7 Workforce development programming		Create forum partners to collaborate towards an enhanced workforce development strategy.	Fund a joint, multi-institutional audit of existing and planned educational and career pathways to assess gaps in the talent pipeline.	Serve core job creation function within the BioDistrict as go-to recruitment and job training resource for biosciences and allied industries.
3.8 Regional growth and business attraction		Audit existing marketing and business attraction efforts across partners to develop a regional business attraction strategy.	Advisory working group provides recommendations to the Board to approve the strategy, including goals and tactics to achieve, partner roles and responsibilities, and proposed sources of funds for execution.	Operational staff to create a detailed regional economic strategy to be revised annually to meet evolving needs of the BioDistrict.

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**2025 Budget Summary
and 2026 Proposed
Budget**

2025 Budget Summary and 2026 Budget Request

CITY EDD FUNDS

	Personal Services	Other Operating	Total
2025 Projected Actuals	\$0	\$390,814	\$390,814
2025 Adopted Budget	\$0	\$1,805,198	\$1,805,198
2026 Proposed Budget	\$0	\$2,995,198	\$2,995,198
Variance	(0)	(\$1,414,384)	(\$1,414,384)

EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE

Personal Services

Other Operating

- 2025 Actuals vs Adopted: We only received owed City funds from 2024 in Mid September this year, and have not received the owed City funds for 2025, so we were not able to expend them



2025 Budget Summary and 2026 Budget Request

STATE EDD FUNDS

	Personal Services	Other Operating	Total
2025 Projected Actuals	\$0	\$1,122,661	\$1,122,661
2025 Adopted Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0
2026 Proposed Budget	\$0	\$2,155,262	\$2,155,262
Variance	(0)	(\$1,122,661)	(\$1,122,661)

EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE

Personal Services

Other Operating

- 2025 Actuals vs Adopted: We have not collected the State match funds from 2024 and 2025, since we first need to collect the City funds for the State to match



Questions?

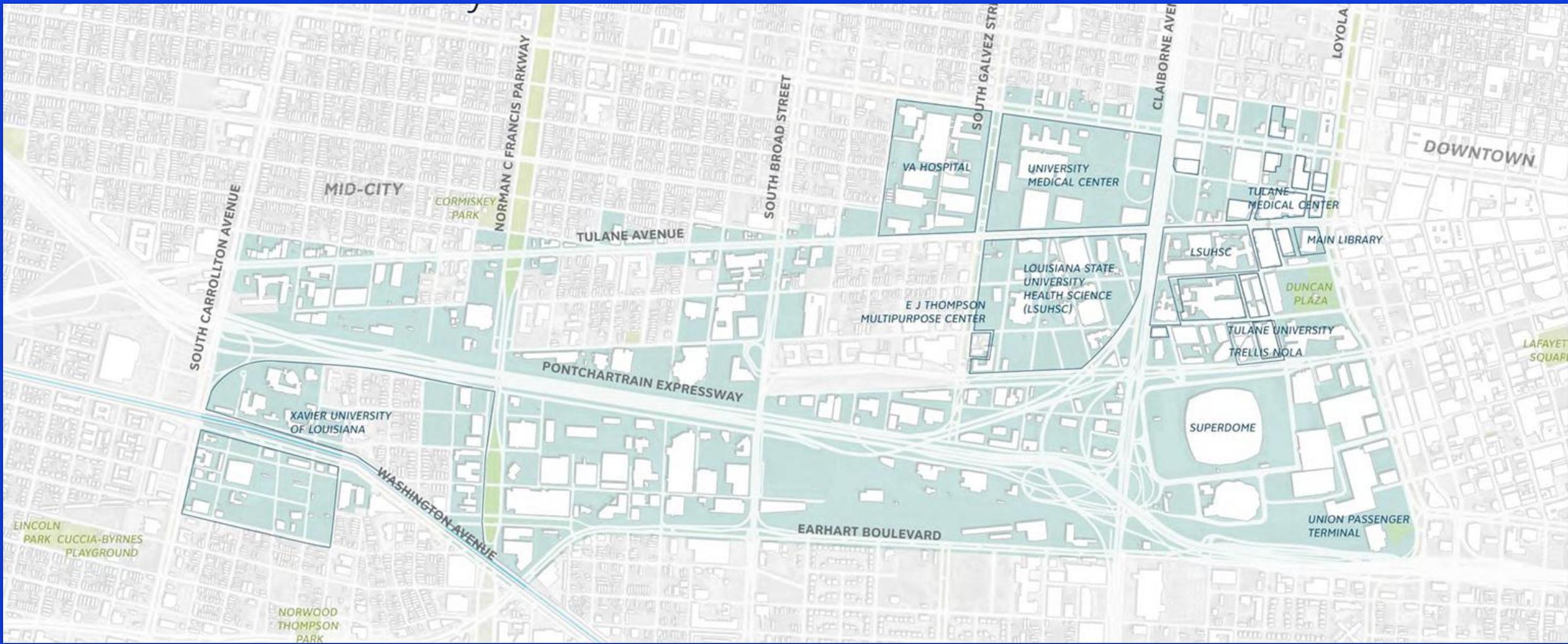
City of New Orleans

BIODISTRICT MAP



- University Medical Center
- VA Hospital
- Tulane University Hospital (To Be Redeveloped)
- New Orleans BiInnovation Center
- Louisiana Cancer Research Center
- LSU Medical School
- Tulane Medical School
- Original Delgado School of Nursing Site
- Xavier University
- Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM) & Ochsner Administrative Offices
- New Orleans Charter Science & Math High School

DETAILED BIODISTRICT MAP



SUPPORTIVE PARTNERS



RECENT WINS

- Partnered with Downtown Development District to do \$300,000 worth of landscaping improvements
- Approved \$90,000 contract with Groundwork NOLA to rebuild the tree canopy on Tulane Avenue
- City of New Orleans announced \$20M redevelopment grant and \$14M affordable housing grant to help de-risk the Charity Hospital Redevelopment
- Partnered with Kresge Foundation on Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC) Learning Exchange and Richard Florida visit to New Orleans to meet with key community stakeholders and anchor institutions
- Convened five local banks to create a New Orleans BioDistrict Investment Fund modeled after the fund created by the MMDC
- Working in tandem with RTA on new Tulane Ave bus stop infrastructure



2.1 Undertake tactical improvements along Tulane Avenue in advance of larger projects.

Pre-Startup & Startup Phase:

Utilize the initial landscape, lighting, stormwater, and safety enhancements recommended for Tulane Avenue (included in the pages that follow) to identify tactical enhancements along Tulane Avenue. The district should engage advisory working groups, particularly those that represent neighboring communities, to understand which smaller-scale, tactical improvements would most benefit residents and workers, business owners, and students traversing the corridor. Propose a budget request for Tulane Corridor enhancements to the city and state for the allocation of TIF resources.

Draft and issue an RFP for selected projects and offer the community opportunities to engage directly in implementation (e.g. community design charrettes, community clean-up and build projects, etc.)

Stabilization Phase:

Operational staff oversee completion of projects, and market the improvements in promotional materials. Draft a longer-term strategy for infrastructure and public realm improvements along Tulane Avenue using findings from completed transportation, resiliency, and public realm master plans.

Long-term Phase:

Oversee additional larger-scale projects and market Tulane Avenue as a signature amenity and economic driver within the BioDistrict.

Why is this important?

Tulane Ave is the spine of the BioDistrict and plays a critical role in providing connectivity and access throughout the district. Infrastructure improvements along Tulane can also have a measurable impact on stormwater management and urban heat effects, offering a tangible benefit to the surrounding community. Before the resources and planning needed to mobilize development are available, the BioDistrict should advance tactical enhancements along Tulane Avenue, as investments in smaller enhancements like painted streets, parklets, and other small-scale features will drive short-term activation and engender support for larger projects in the long term.

BioDistrict Role:

Lead and Partner

Investment:

\$\$

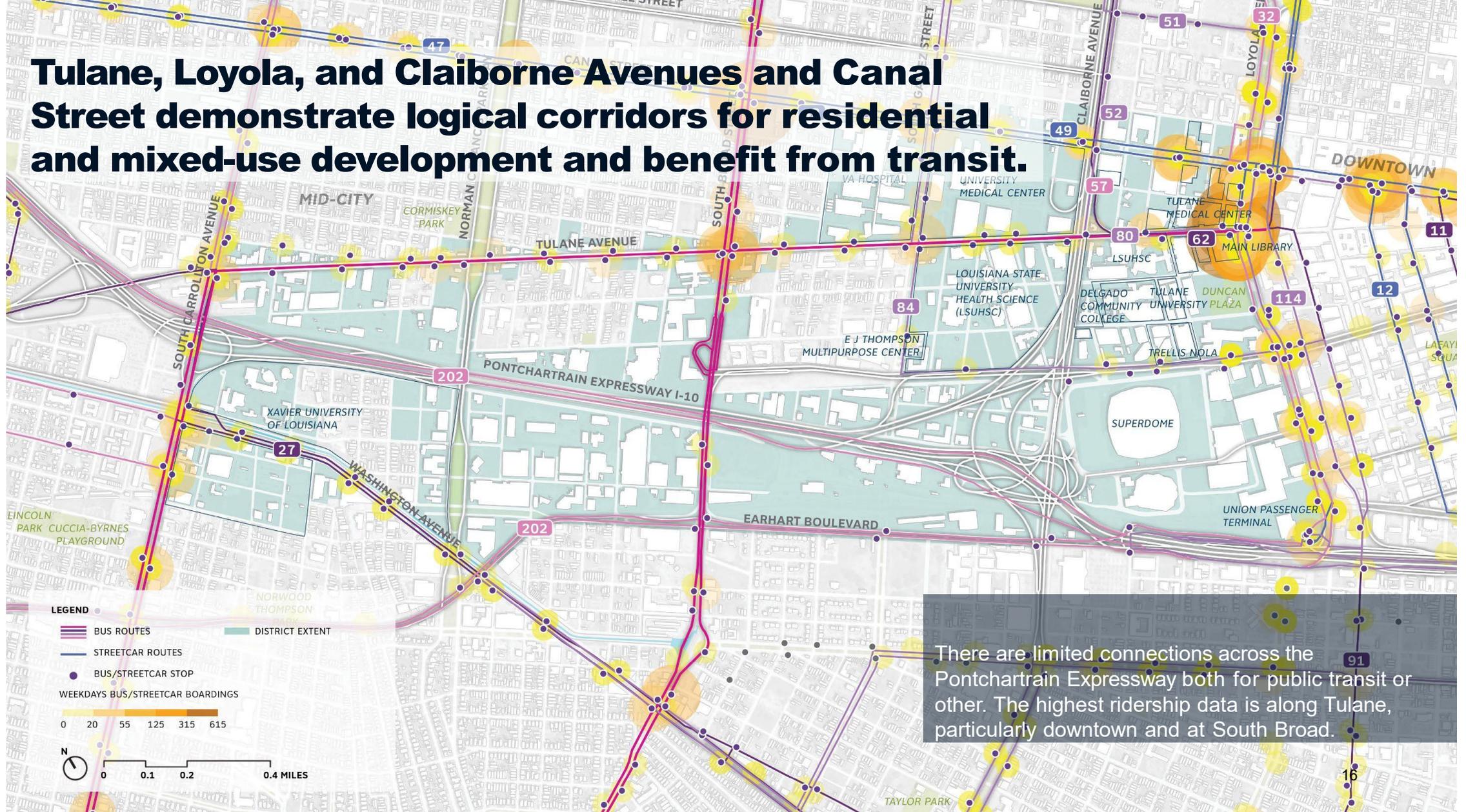
Key Partners:

City of New Orleans, DDD, institutional partners, neighborhood and community groups

Community Benefits:

Pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, improved public safety, increase access to jobs, and provide additional green space.

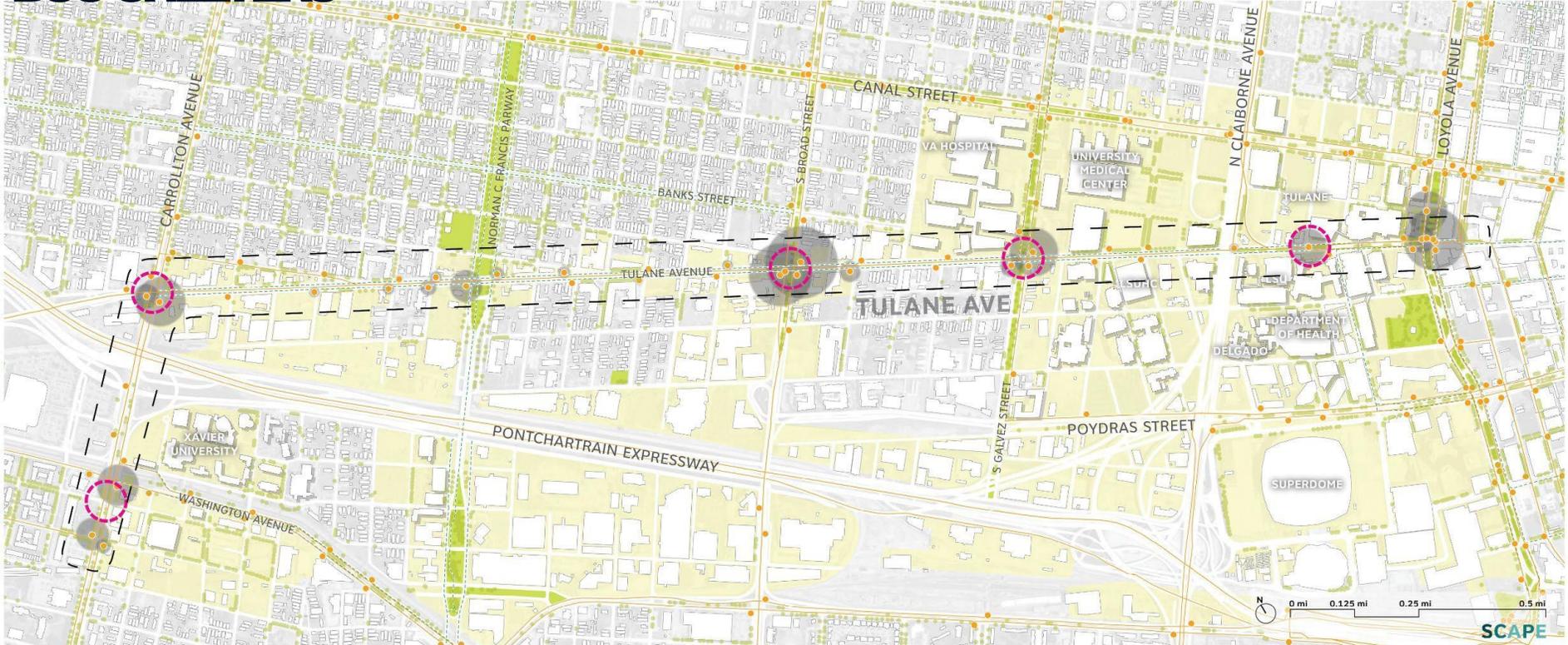
Tulane, Loyola, and Claiborne Avenues and Canal Street demonstrate logical corridors for residential and mixed-use development and benefit from transit.



There are limited connections across the Pontchartrain Expressway both for public transit or other. The highest ridership data is along Tulane, particularly downtown and at South Broad.

*Preliminary bus shelter placements informed by RTA ridership data and critical investment sites

BUS SHELTERS



LEGEND

- RTA stop
- RTA line
- Bike lane
- Proposed super stop

RIDERSHIP DATA*

- 10 or fewer daily boardings
- 20 daily boardings
- 105 daily boardings (max)

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	COST (ESTIMATE)
New Bus Shelters and (5) "Super Stops" along Tulane Avenue BioDistrict Line from Hospitals, Medical Schools to Xavier University	\$2.2M



“Super Stops” with additional amenities



Unique Materiality

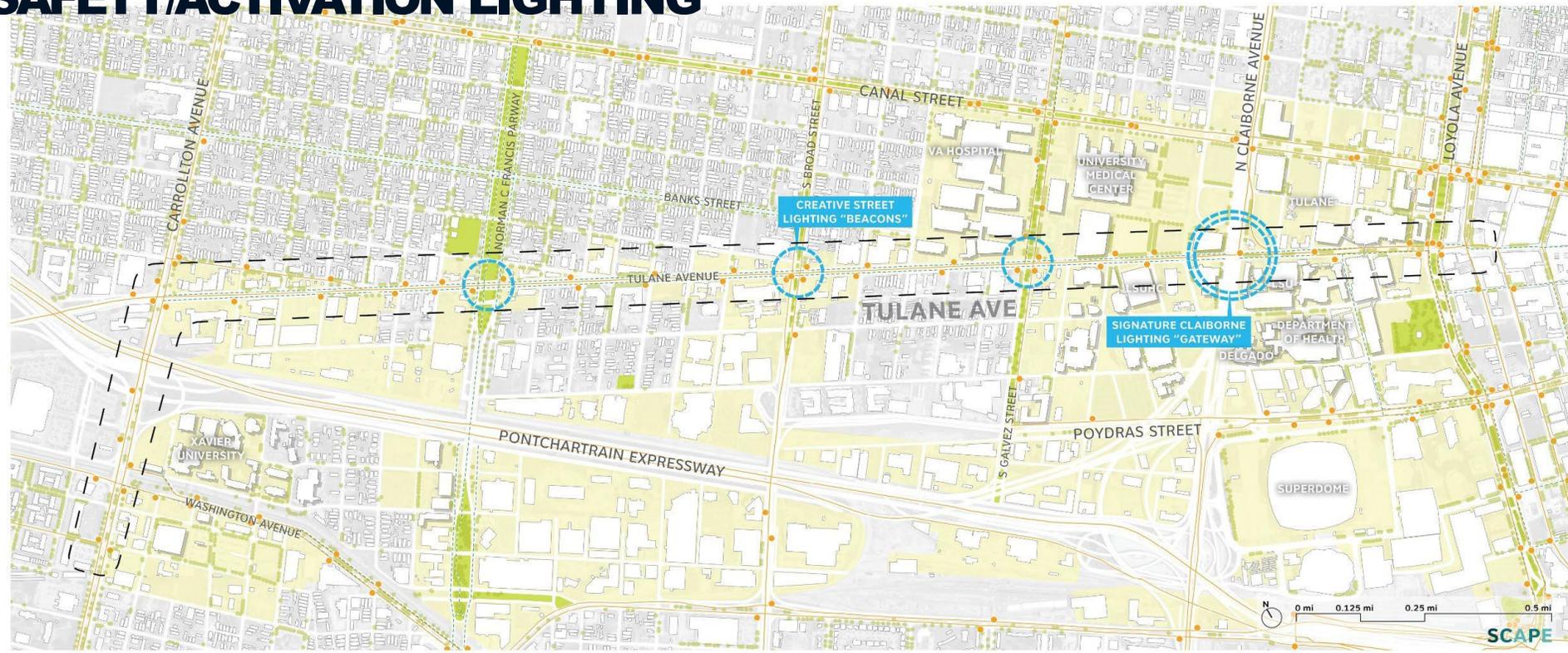


Safety / Activation Lighting



Locally-Specific Art and Icons

SAFETY/ACTIVATION LIGHTING



LEGEND

- RTA stop
- RTA line
- Bike lane
- Public green space
- BioDistrict extent
- Proposed lighting zone

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	COST (ESTIMATE)
Safety Lighting at key Gateways: Lighting at Tulane Ave. Claiborne overpass; Beacon Lighting at Norman C. Francis Pkwy, N. Broad St and N. Galvez Street	\$1M



Safety Lighting for Underpass "Gateway"



Safety Lighting for Underpass "Gateway"

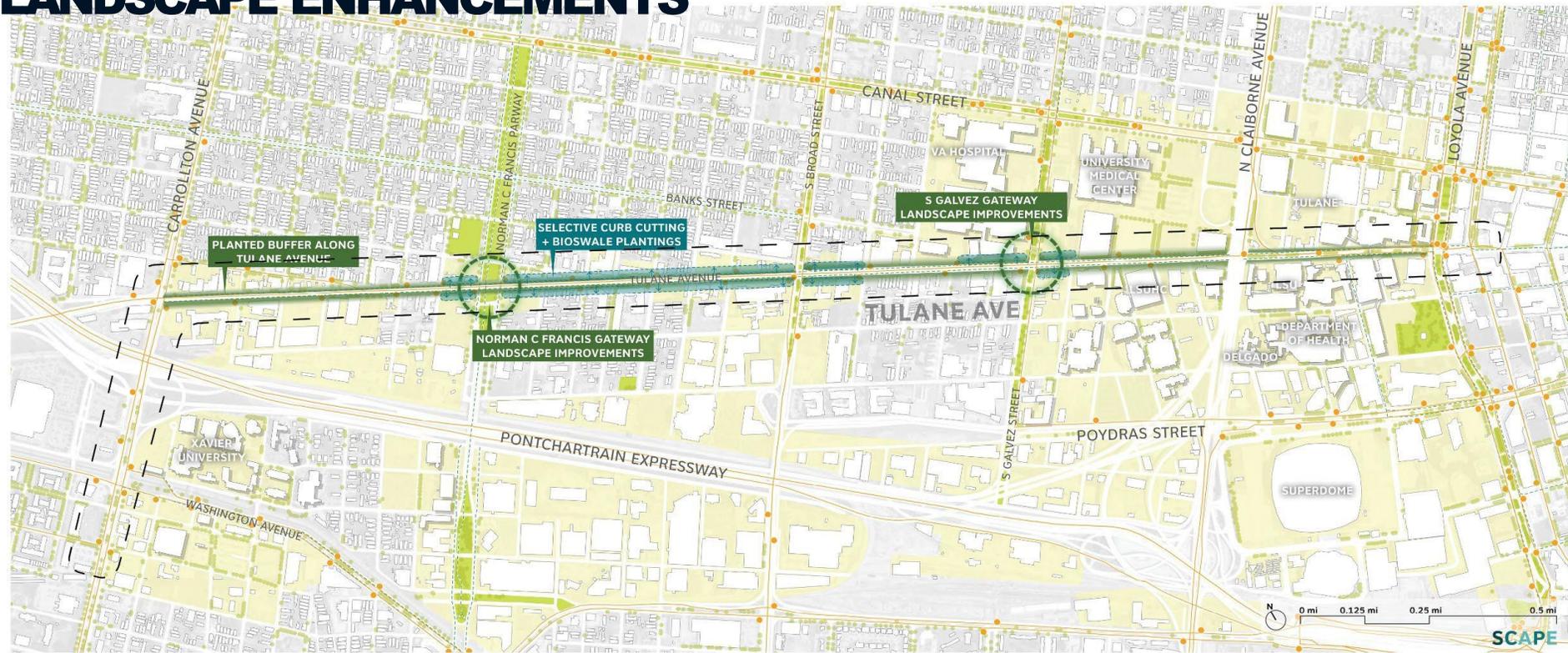


Sculptural Beacon Implements



District Branding

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS



LEGEND

- RTA stop
- RTA line
- - - Bike lane
- Public green space
- BioDistrict extent
- Streetscape planting
- Stormwater improvement
- Proposed landscape zone

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	COST (ESTIMATE)
Park Improvements at Norman C. Francis Pkwy and N. Galvez St neutral grounds; Landscape Enhancements, including Green Infrastructure, along Tulane Ave.	\$2.7M



Pedestrian Pull-offs + Pocket Parks



Iconic Streetscape Design

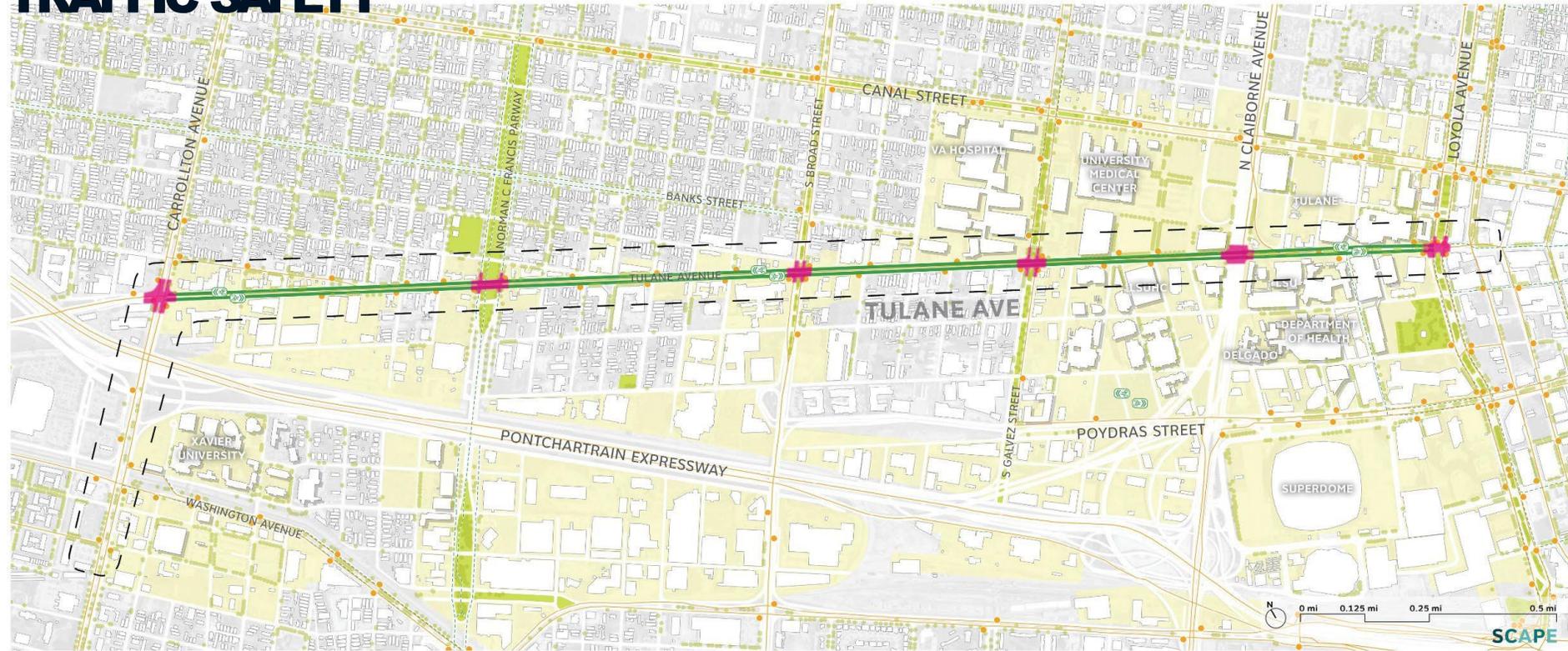


Planted Neutral Grounds + Swales



Regionally Specific Planting

TRAFFIC SAFETY



LEGEND

- RTA stop
- RTA line
- - - Bike lane
- Public green space
- BioDistrict extent
- Proposed crosswalk
- Bike lane improvements

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	COST (ESTIMATE)
Crosswalks at key intersections; Bike lane improvements including painting existing bike lanes and addition of physical lane delineators	\$750K



Cross Walk Murals



Thermoplastic Stencils

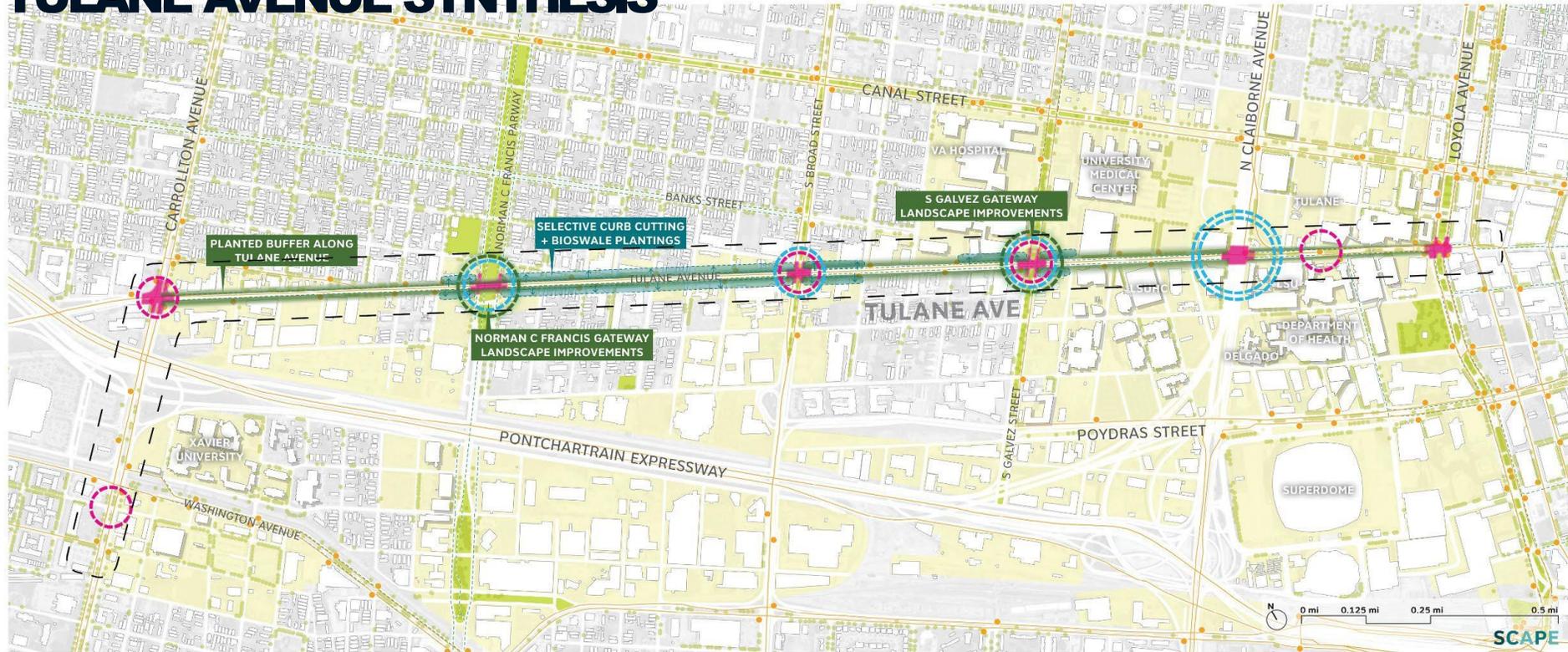


Painted + Protected Bike Lanes



Dedicated Signaling

TULANE AVENUE SYNTHESIS



The combined landscape, lighting, stormwater and safety enhancements improve public safety access along the BioDistrict's Tulane Avenue corridor and strengthen its potential for retail and other economic development activities.

LEGEND

- RTA stop
- RTA line
- - - Bike lane
- Public green space
- BioDistrict extent
- Streetscape planting
- Stormwater improvement
- Proposed crosswalk
- Proposed super stop
- Proposed landscape zone
- Proposed lighting zone

Quick Win Opportunities for the BioDistrict Today

Support the redevelopment of Charity Hospital: Work with LSU Real Estate and Facilities Foundation (REFF), Tulane University, development partners, the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana to advocate for a development plan for Charity Hospital that addresses BioDistrict, institutional, and community space needs such as, commercial wet lab space, coworking spaces for entrepreneurs and researchers, workforce housing, affordable commercial space, etc. *Refer to strategy 1.2.*

Prioritize Tulane Avenue Improvements: Building off initial placemaking concepts, engage partners and planning consultants to confirm priority improvements along Tulane Avenue that would most benefit BioDistrict workers, students and surrounding residents and begin creating more connections and synergies throughout the district. Perform additional transportation infrastructure planning work to design and implement priority improvements. *Refer to strategy 2.1.*

Pursue public space improvements and activation under Claiborne Avenue/I-10: Work with the Ujamaa Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Downtown Development District (DDD) to advance a lighting and beautification plan under the Claiborne Ave. underpass at Tulane Avenue that creates a welcoming and safer environment to encourage increased activation. Explore opportunities to strengthen connections with the Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District and provide joint-programming. *Refer to strategy 2.3.*

Seize economic development opportunities: Convene district partners and facilitate investments in placemaking and activation throughout the district to support business and economic development as needs and strategic opportunities arise, such as Super Bowl LIX in 2025 and other large events. *Refer to strategy 2.4.*

Invest in placemaking and activation opportunities: Convene district partners and facilitate investments in placemaking and activation throughout the district as new needs and strategic opportunities arise that accelerate district goals in alignment with the vision and spirit of this strategic planning document. *Refer to strategy 2.5.*

Quick Win Opportunities for the BioDistrict Today

Convene institutional partners to develop a research strategy for the district : Establish and facilitate an anchor institution network within in the BioDistrict to assess research priorities and assets, identify multi-institutional opportunities, create district goals, and provide tools and resources to connect researchers to opportunities. *Refer to strategy 3.1.*

Provide targeted funding to BioDistrict researchers, entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurial support organizations: Identify and commit funds to continue advancing the city's research and entrepreneur ecosystem. Initial priorities should include providing matching grants for SBIR and STTR recipients to promote commercialization and tech innovation in the district and funding to entrepreneurial support organizations, such as the New Orleans BioInnovation Center (NOBIC), the Tulane Innovation Institute, The Idea Village, Propeller, TechPlug, and others, to expand program offering and increase access to technical assistance for entrepreneurs and small businesses. *Refer to strategy 3.4.*

Provide targeted funding to BioDistrict education and workforce development initiatives: Identify and commit funds to amplify the efforts of organizations engaged in education and workforce development from K-12 through adult and higher education (STEM NOLA, YouthForce NOLA, New Orleans Career Center (NOCC) and others) to allow them to scale and expand access to programming for youth/students, and adult learners/workers at all levels, including upskilling and reskilling. *Refer to strategy 3.7.*

Promote more safety and security in the district: Convene partners already leading safety efforts to identify where the BioDistrict can partner and provide resources to increase safety and security in the district, particularly in the Central Business District. *Refer to strategy 2.7.*

Advance a branding & communications plan: Engage a branding and communications consultant to update the BioDistrict's brand and communications strategy into one that rallies BioDistrict leaders and partners around one identity, strengthens narratives for business attraction, and fosters tailored and transparent messaging for all BioDistrict stakeholders. *Refer to strategy 2.9.*