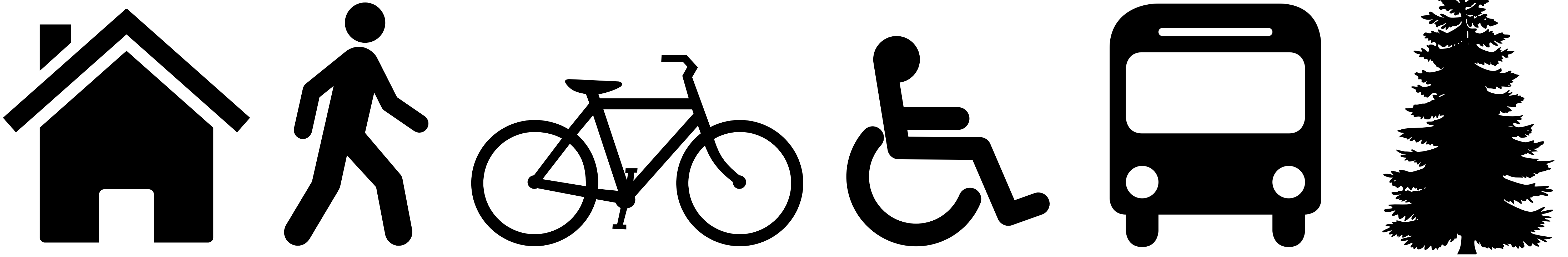


# Connecting Communities

Supporting healthier and more equitable access to active transportation and recreation.



## Benefits of Active Transportation and Recreation

- Lower transportation costs
- Healthier, happier, lower stress living
- More cohesive and active communities
- Environmental sustainability

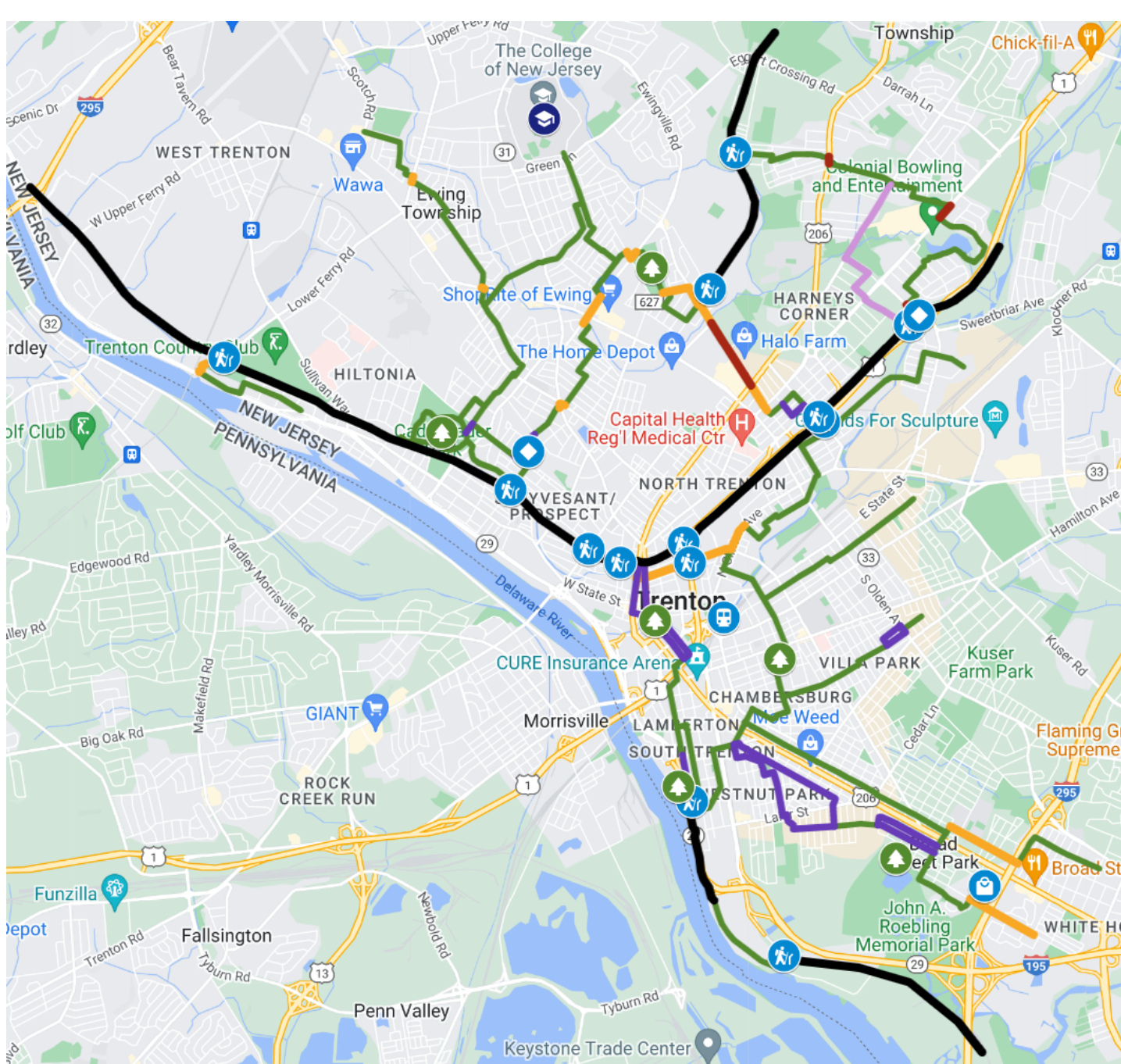
## Barriers to Active Transportation and Recreation

- Lack of safe infrastructure
- Trails are not maintained
- Feeling unsafe or unwelcome on the trails
- Lack of knowledge or incentive
- Unable to safely access the trails from their neighborhood

Both benefits AND barriers are exceptionally high in underserved neighborhoods.

**Access to a safe trail network is an equity issue.**

The Connecting Communities Project seeks to empower residents to more freely access their city's trail network by eliminating two major barriers to use:  
Lack of information and lack of safe access to the existing trail network.



Low-stress networks (visible on the left) are created using a combination of

- Traffic stress data
  - Number of lanes
  - Speed limit
  - Lane width
  - Bicycle infrastructure
- Google street view
- Local community knowledge

These maps are used to identify safe connections between trails and neighborhoods, as well as identify areas where pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements are needed.

These analyses were performed for four cities in the Greater Philadelphia area: • Norristown, PA • Pottstown, PA • Trenton, NJ • Willingboro, NJ



An example of a high stress street. N Olden Ave in Trenton, NJ has multiple travel lanes, a high speed limit of 35 mph, and would be highly unpleasant to bike or walk on.

Google Street View



An example of a low stress street. Weber Ave runs parallel to N Olden Ave. By taking a slightly longer route, pedestrians and bicyclists can avoid travelling along dangerous roads like Olden Ave (left).

Google Street View



An example of a shared use path which goes through a park, completely separated from motor vehicle traffic. This is much more accessible to younger, older, newer, and less confident bicyclists and pedestrians.

[https://www.trentonspaces.com/images/neighborhoods/MIH/MIHthumbs/MIH-HIPark\\_1.jpg](https://www.trentonspaces.com/images/neighborhoods/MIH/MIHthumbs/MIH-HIPark_1.jpg)



Imagery of the Delaware Canal State Park, a path on the Circuit Trail network. The network consists of high quality, wide trails that are sometimes completely separated from vehicle traffic. There are currently 370 miles of trails in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Google Street View