

-Public Information Session-

Fall 2020 Northeastern Elementary School Rezoning Study Presentation of Process and Timeline

June 12, 2019

CropperGIS

Welcome and Introductions

Who We Are

Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

K-12 school planning is our business and our passion. Our specialty is school rezoning.

Cropper works with K-12 school districts to:

- develop rezoning plans,
- facilitate community engagement,
- research, map and write demographic studies,
- prepare long-range facility master plans,
- author site feasibility studies,
- conduct & publish housing impact and yield factor studies, and
- provide GIS implementation & training.

Cropper GIS is an ESRI Authorized Business Partner



Recent Projects:

- Frederick County Public Schools, VA
- Richmond Public Schools, VA
- Henrico County Public Schools, VA
- Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
- Union County Public Schools, NC
- Brunswick County Public Schools, NC
- Frederick County Public Schools, MD
- Baltimore County Public Schools, MD
- Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
- Meridian Public School District, MS
- Kershaw County School District, SC
- Calhoun County Public Schools, SC
- Akron Public Schools, OH



Matthew Cropper

- 20 years experience providing GIS mapping and analysis services to school districts and other clients.
- Manages and Facilitates K-12 rezoning and facility planning projects across the U.S.
- Expert consultant for U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Right's Division
- Published numerous papers about using GIS in master planning and educational planning.

Who We Are

Why We're Here

1. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) are constructing a new Elementary School:
 - a) Jordan Springs Elementary School will have a 500 student capacity
 - b) Redbud Run Elementary and Stonewall Elementary Schools are both overcrowded
 - c) The expectation is that this rezoning will only impact elementary schools, with no impact on middle or high school boundary lines.
2. These factors necessitate a comprehensive look at attendance boundaries.
3. The implementation of these boundary changes are expected to take effect the Fall 2020 (2020-21) School Year.

Project Objectives

1. To explore and develop elementary school rezoning options through a community-based process.
2. Focus on developing options that best meet the FCPS rezoning criteria.

Why We're Here

Cropper GIS Consulting were hired by the district to facilitate and manage the project. Our firms are tasked to:

- A. Develop supporting materials to help facilitate the study.
- B. Facilitate a community-based process of developing an elementary school rezoning plan.
- C. Empower the community throughout the process.
- D. Leverage expertise to develop logical, efficient, and effective student rezoning options with the committee.

Rules to Follow

The Frederick County Public Schools has a set of criteria to follow when evaluating elementary school rezoning options. These are rules to follow when considering any potential attendance zone adjustment.

The rezoning committee will be oriented on these criteria and will follow them as best as possible as they consider rezoning options.

- **Balance building utilization.**
 - Schools should be at similar percentages of capacity when the next elementary school is planned to be opened. Allow for increasing attendance in high growth areas. Keep future capital projects in mind.
 - Building utilization does not include the use of portable or semi-permanent spaces in the total building capacity.
 - Avoid additional rezonings before the next elementary school opens.
 - Economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity should be considered to ensure schools are inclusionary and not adversely affected by rezoning decisions.
 - Special needs populations should be evenly distributed across all schools in a manner consistent with sound educational practices.

- **Minimize impact on students.**
 - Minimize the number of students impacted by a boundary adjustment.
 - Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.
 - Establish a clean feeder pattern system; reduce the number of schools at the next level any single school feeds. When splits are necessary, the attendance zone should be divided in a balanced manner, so that students continue to the next level with their peers. Eliminate existing splits and/or improve split balance.
 - Minimize the number of times any single child must be moved by rezonings.
- **Minimize impact on communities.**
 - Keep all students from each neighborhood/community together at the same school.
 - Minimize the division of clearly identifiable community components (i.e. villages, settled areas, etc.)

- **Maximize student transportation efficiency.**

- Account for school bus routes when determining a boundary adjustment.
- Minimize travel times and costs. Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.
- Use major roads and natural boundaries when feasible to define attendance zones. Minimize the number of students crossing major intersections and other barriers to maximize their safety and security. Contain bus routes within natural boundaries to avoid traffic delays and late arrivals.
- Make all effort to establish contiguous attendance zones. Avoid creating satellite zones, which are not connected to the primary attendance zone. Attempt to eliminate existing satellite zones.



Project Approach

Four Project Phases

Cropper has identified four phases of a community-driven rezoning study for FCPS:

1. Data Collection
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation
3. Options Development
4. Committee and Public engagement

1. Data Collection



- School District–
 - Geocoded enrollment databases by address.
 - Maps of current boundaries and schools
 - School facility information
 - Projected enrollment



- City / County Sources– Base GIS data (address pts, municipalities, subdivisions, existing and planned road networks, etc.)

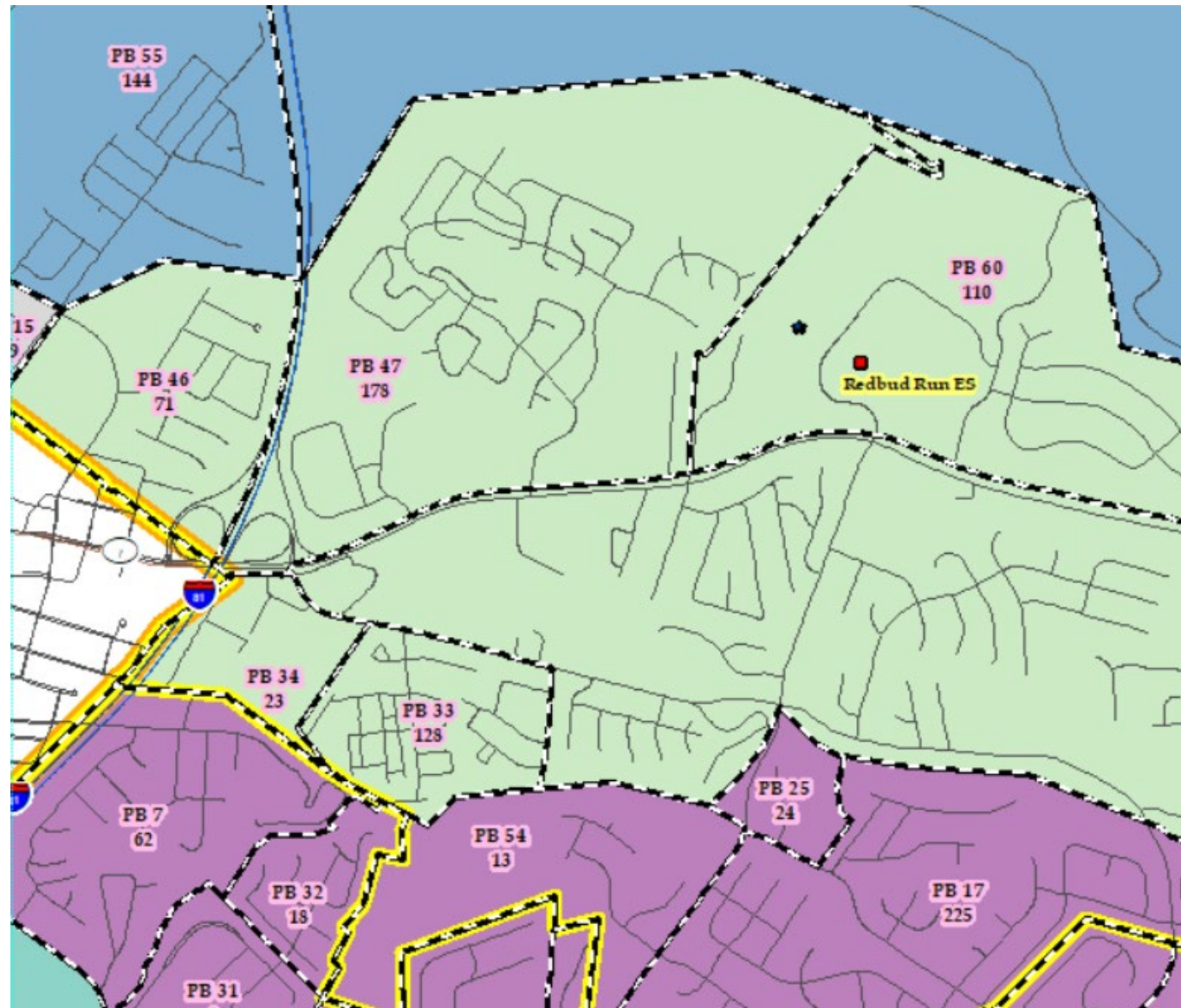
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

- All data was incorporated into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enable quick, accurate, and efficient analysis, and also to help facilitate rezoning options.

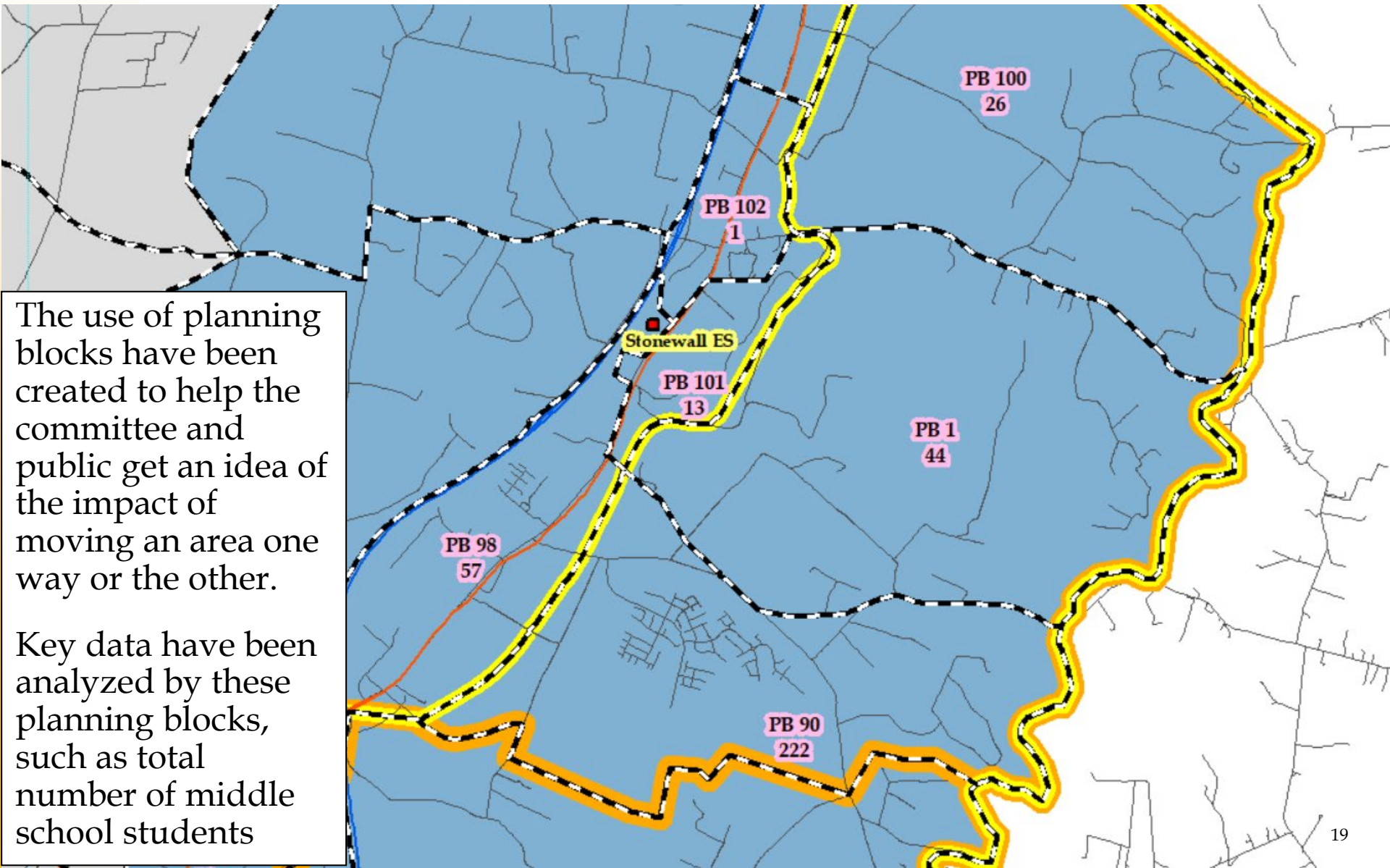
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

The use of planning blocks were created to help the committee and public obtain an understanding of the impact on moving an area one way or the other.

Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of students living within each block.



2. Data Analysis / Assimilation



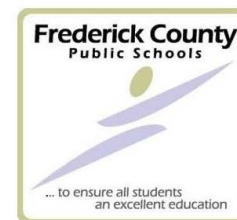
The use of planning blocks have been created to help the committee and public get an idea of the impact of moving an area one way or the other.

Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of middle school students

2. Data Analysis / Assimilation: Background Report

Each committee member will be provided with a background report. The report expands the extensive knowledge each committee and public member already has about Frederick County.

The background report helps committee members share a message with the community that is consistent and accurate.



**Frederick County Public Schools, VA
Rezoning Study**

Background Report

2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

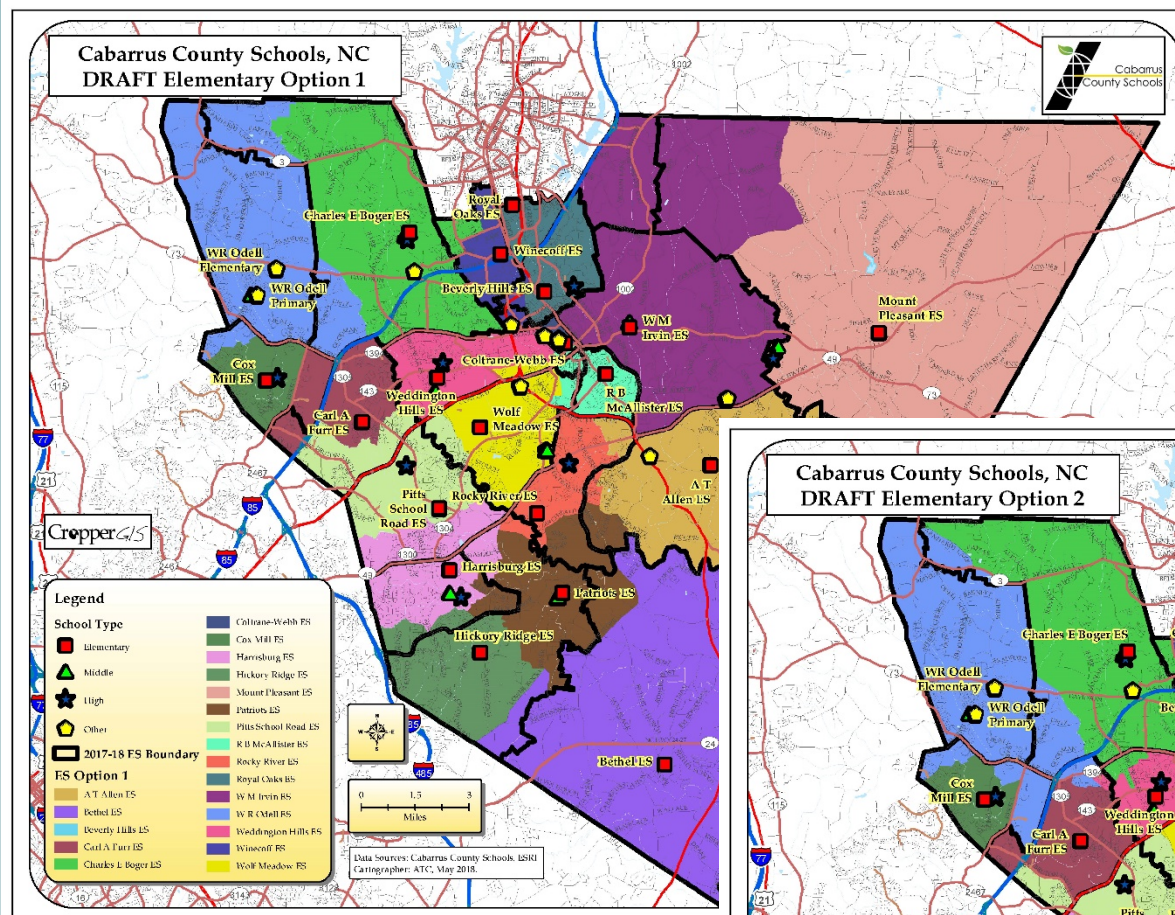
Online Map

- An online map has been developed to further inform the committee and public on the work of the committee.
- Current zones and options can be viewed on the map.
- Other features can be turned on/off on the map, including planning blocks.
- Map is customizable, and can/will be updated during the process to show new options along with other information requested by the committee.
- Site can be viewed on any device, including mobile devices and tablets (with internet connection).
- Site address is:

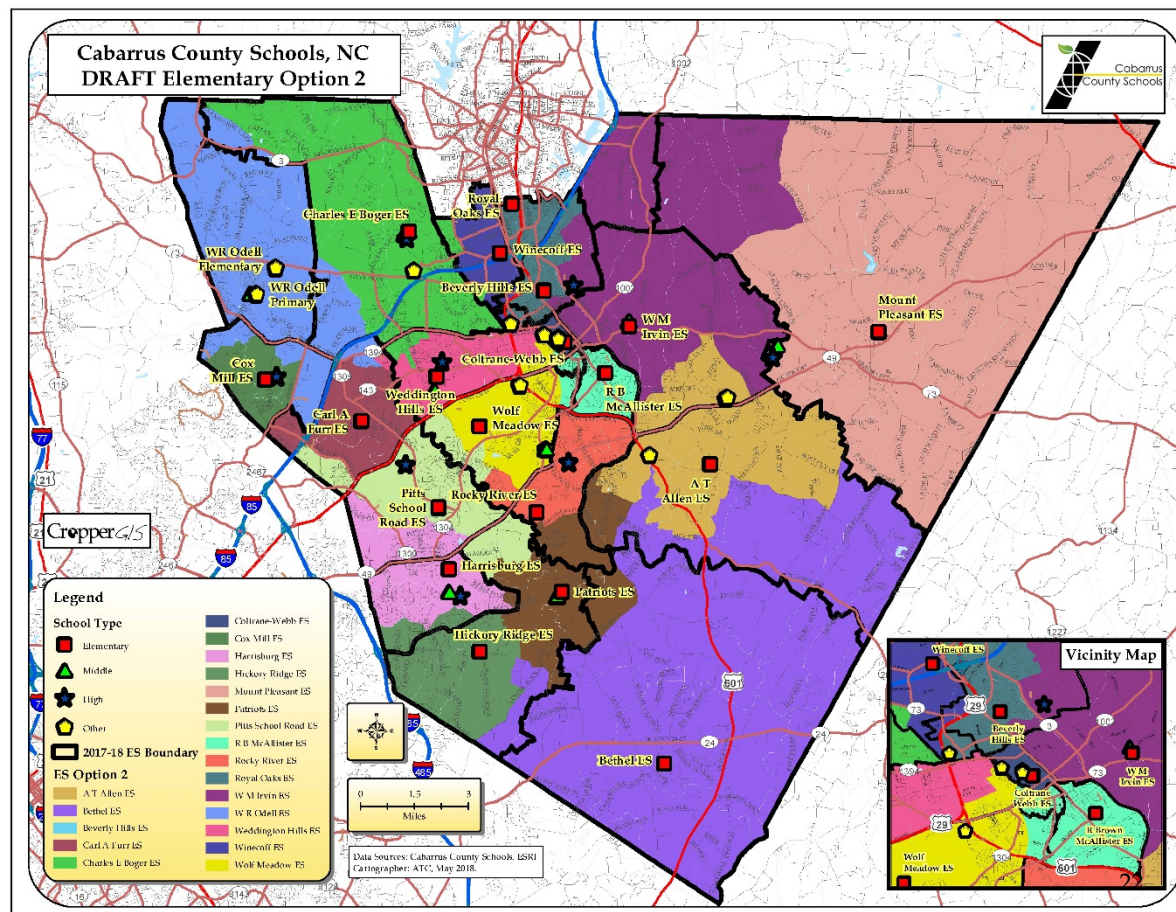
www.croppermap.com/fcpsva

3. Options Development

To expedite the process and empower the community, it is best to begin with a series of baseline rezoning options.

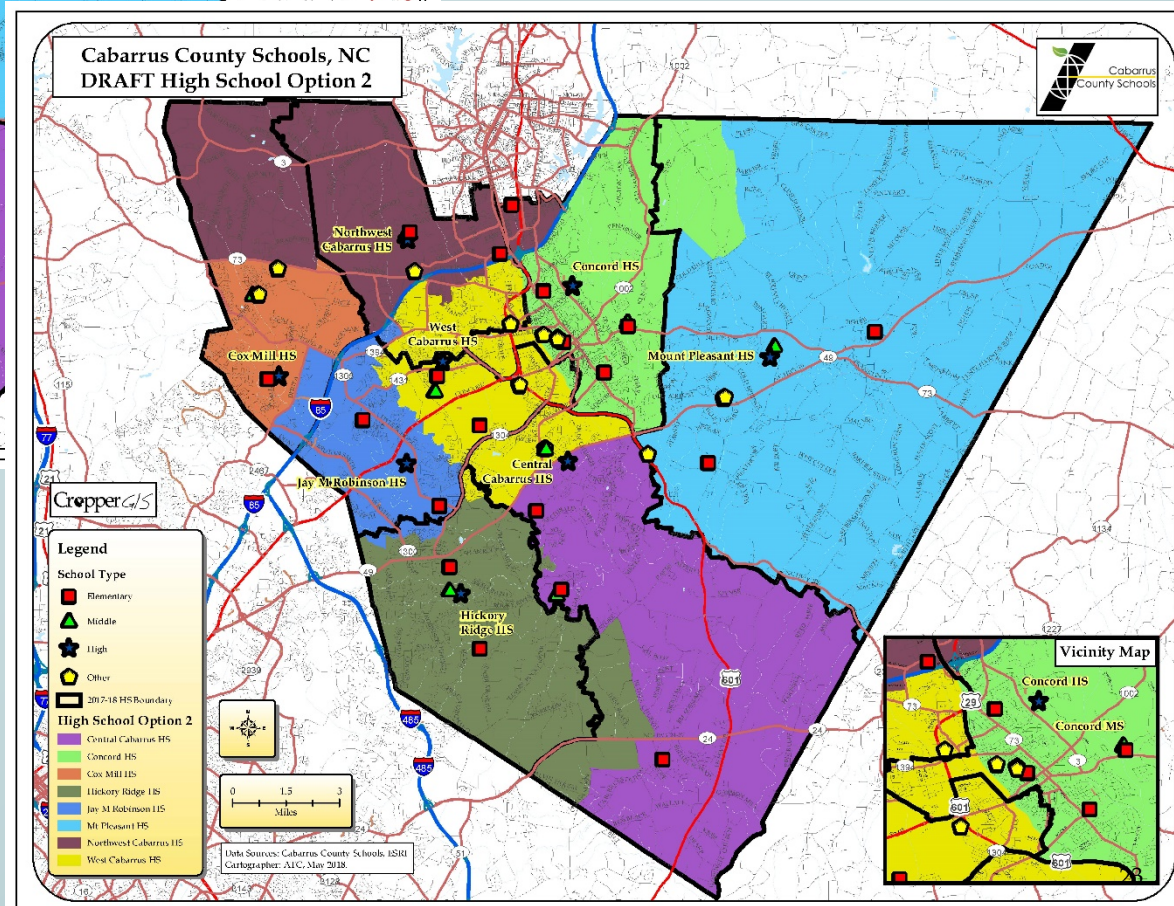
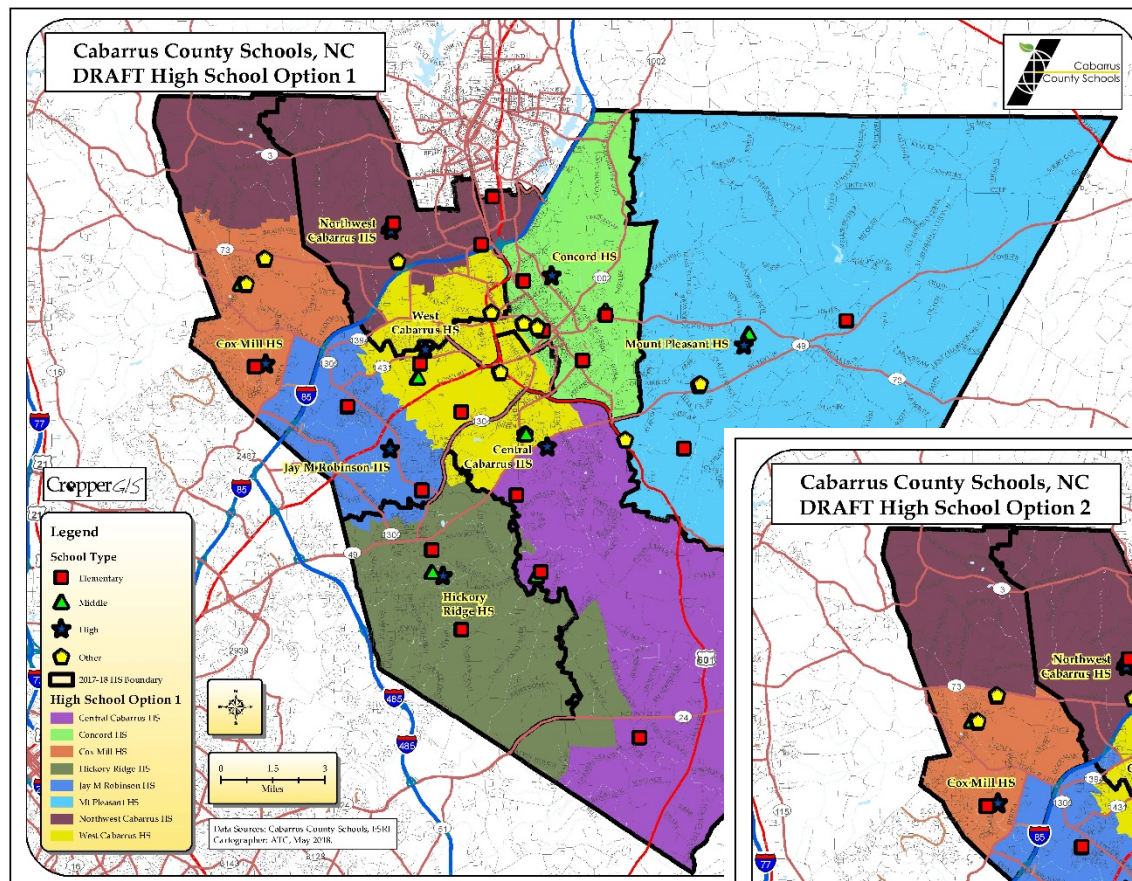


Baseline options will be shared with the committee at their 1st meeting.



3. Options Development

Options will be developed with FCPS rezoning criteria in mind.



The committee have the option to modify or disregard the baseline options, or create new options. All with a focus on the rezoning criteria.

4. Committee and Public Engagement

The most important factor when working on a rezoning study is to keep all lines of communication open.

Project Approach



4. Committee and Public Engagement

The district has formulated a 22-person committee to work on developing rezoning options.

Selection of the rezoning committee was based on many factors including:

- Objectivity
- 9 public volunteer committee members
 - Parents from Stonewall and Redbud Run Elementary Schools
- 9 voting staff members
 - Administrative staff such as teachers and principals, and those who work on school planning, student assignment, and transportation, and special programs.
- 4 support staff
 - Higher level staff, including the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

Review of Timeline

Process & Timeline for Northeastern Area Elementary Rezoning Study									
	March '19	April '19	May '19	June '19	July '19	Aug. '19	Sept. '19	Oct. '19	Nov. '19
<i>Data Collection</i>									
<i>Data Analysis / Assimilation</i>									
<i>Internal Logistics Planning with district</i>									
<i>Committee Application / Selection</i>									
<i>Background Report Development</i>									
<i>Baseline Options Development</i>									
<i>Public Information Session #1: Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Rezoning Objectives to Community. Information meeting to public, without public comments.</i>				6/12					
<i>Committee Meeting 1</i> <i>- Review Background Data, Introduce Baseline Options</i>				6/13					
<i>Committee Meeting 2</i> <i>- Discuss Background Data & Baseline Options, Q&A</i>					7/31				
<i>Committee Meeting 3</i> <i>- Options Development, Prepare for Public Information Session #2</i>						8/22			
<i>Public Information Session #2: Present Preliminary Rezoning Options to Community for Comment/Feedback</i>							9/10		
<i>Committee Meeting 4</i> <i>- Review public input, modify options</i>								10/8	
<i>Committee Meeting 5</i> <i>- Finalize Recommendations & Prepare for Board Presentation</i>								10/29	
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i>									11/6

We are here

How can you participate?

Members of the public have the opportunity to participate in the process in many ways:

- All materials shared with the committee will be made available on the Elementary School Rezoning Study webpage, located at www.fcpsvarezoning.com
- The rezoning web-page contains a feedback form that allows the public to provide any feedback regarding the process at any time. This information will be shared with the committee, and will be made public.
- The Public Input Session on September 10, 2019 is designed to share with the public the DRAFT options that are under consideration, and to solicit feedback on the options from you. At this meeting, we will be presenting the options and allowing you to review large maps and discuss your thoughts with the committee and/or consultants.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with the public on this important process!