

Preliminary Siting Analysis for Proposed Suffolk Train Station

Presented to Suffolk City Council

By Robert B. Case, PhD, PE

June 4, 2025

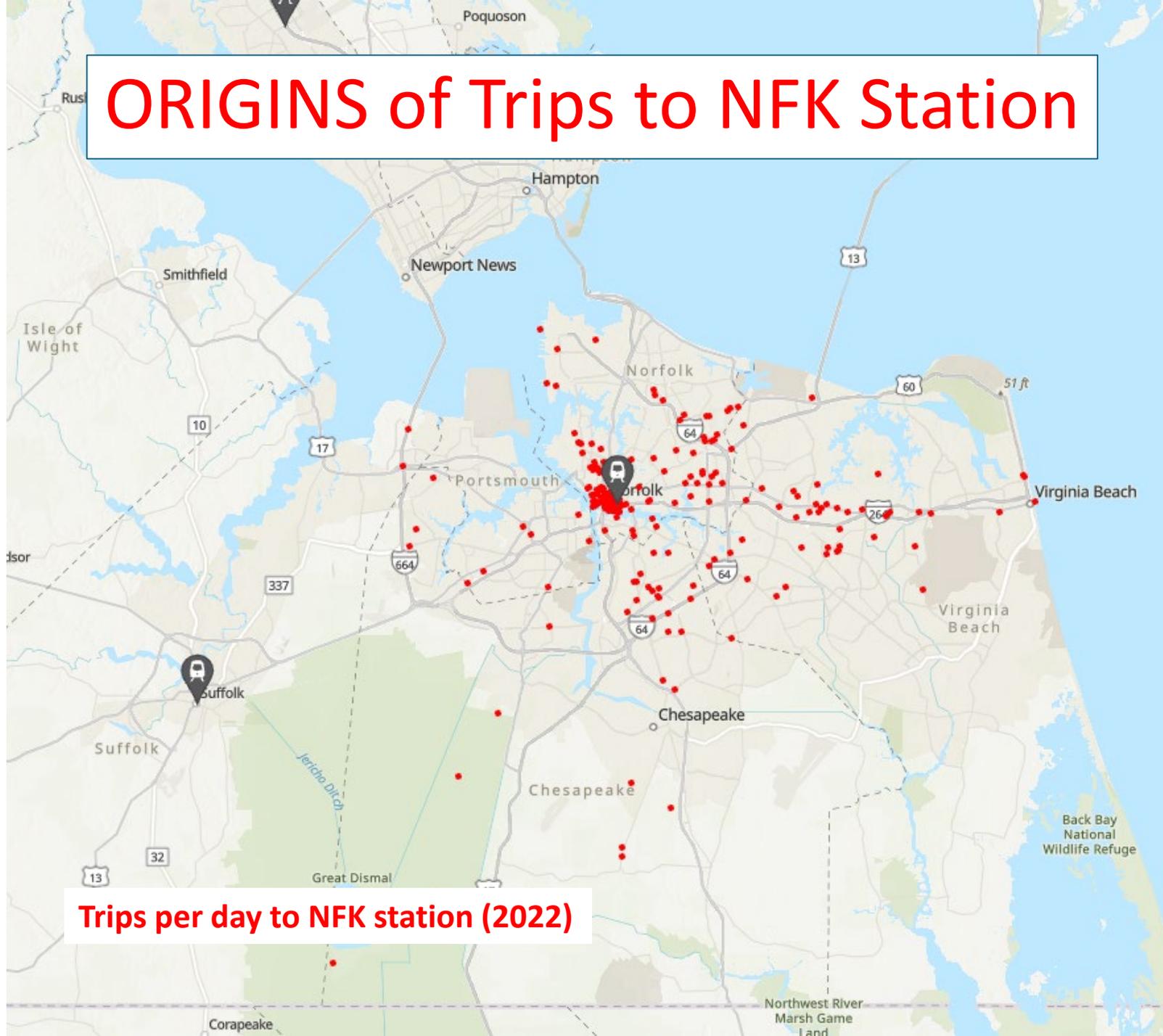


State work

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is currently in the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) **Corridor Identification & Development** (CID) process for the Commonwealth Corridor (Norfolk and Newport News to Christiansburg), including **potential station locations**.

- The work is expected to start in early-mid 2026.

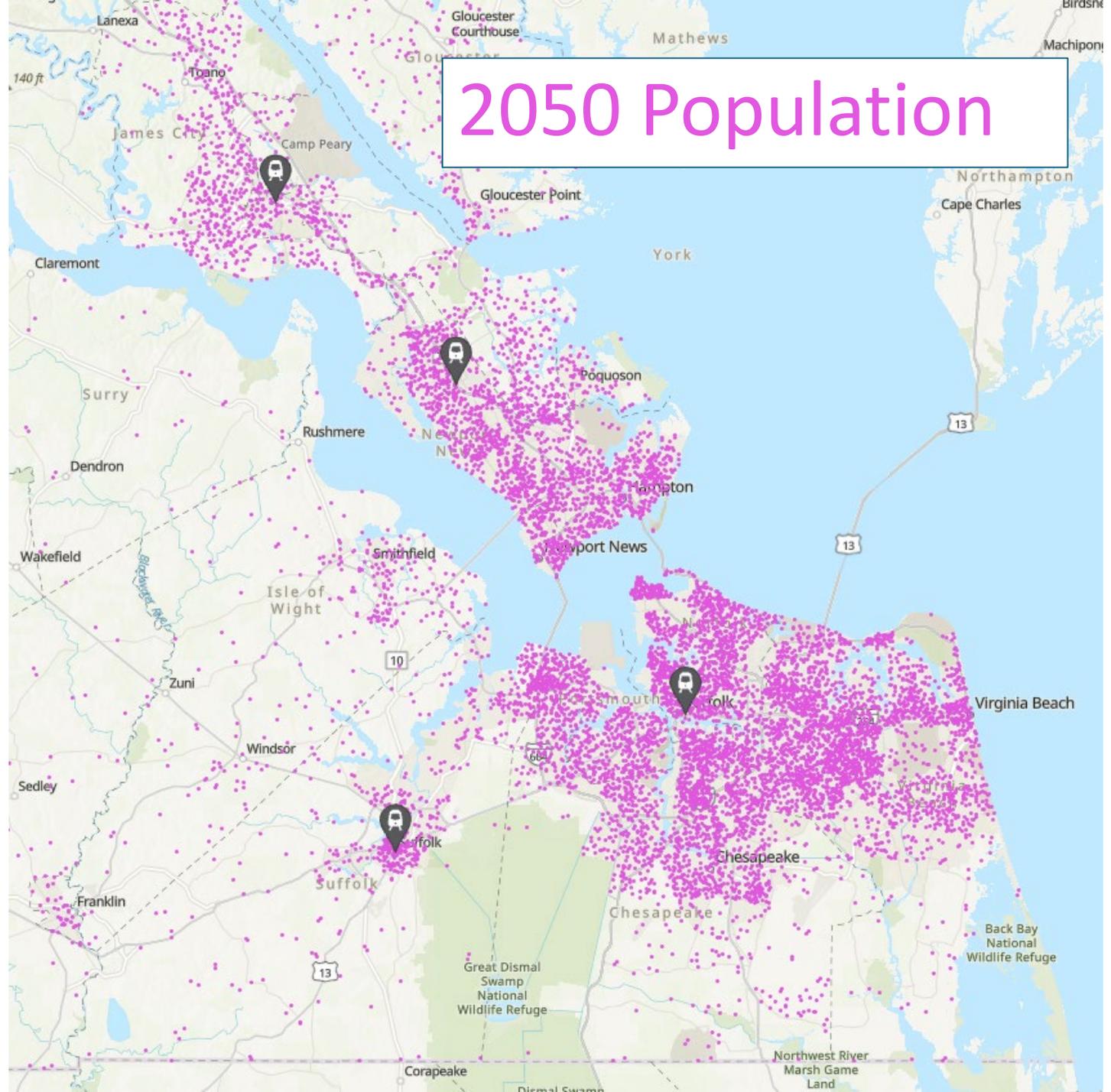
ORIGINS of Trips to NFK Station



Trips per day to NFK station (2022)

Few trips to the Norfolk station (NFK) come from Suffolk.

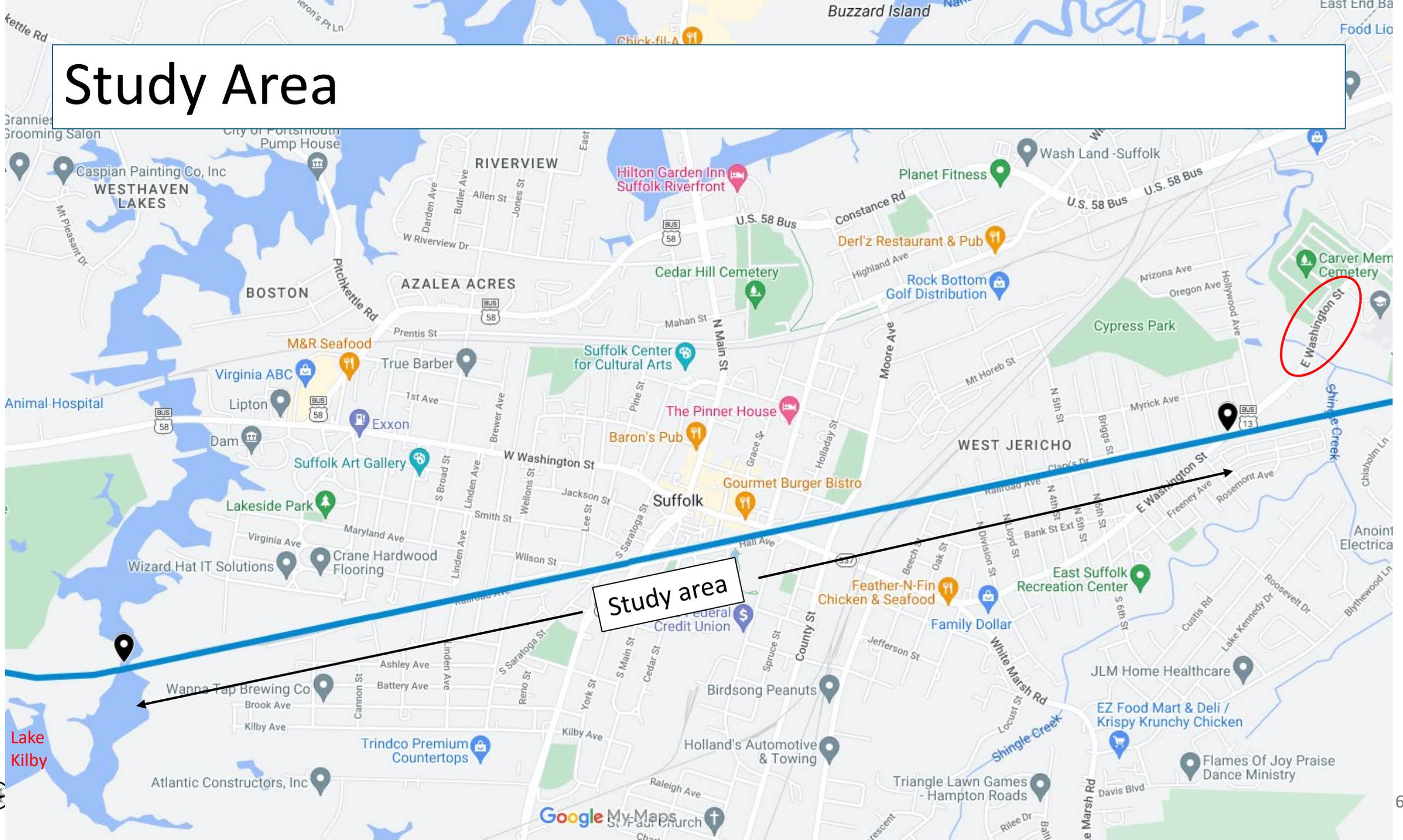
2050 Population



Identification of Candidate Station Sites- requirements

- Minimum space for train while in station: **1,100'**
- Platform length: **725'**
- Platform width: **12'**
- Minimum siding length: **double-ended- 1,600'; dead-end- 1,300'**
- Minimum site size: **2 acres**

Study Area



Washington/Liberty Triangle



Source: Google Maps

- Space for Train while in Station
 - 640' available vs. 1,100' required: **NG**

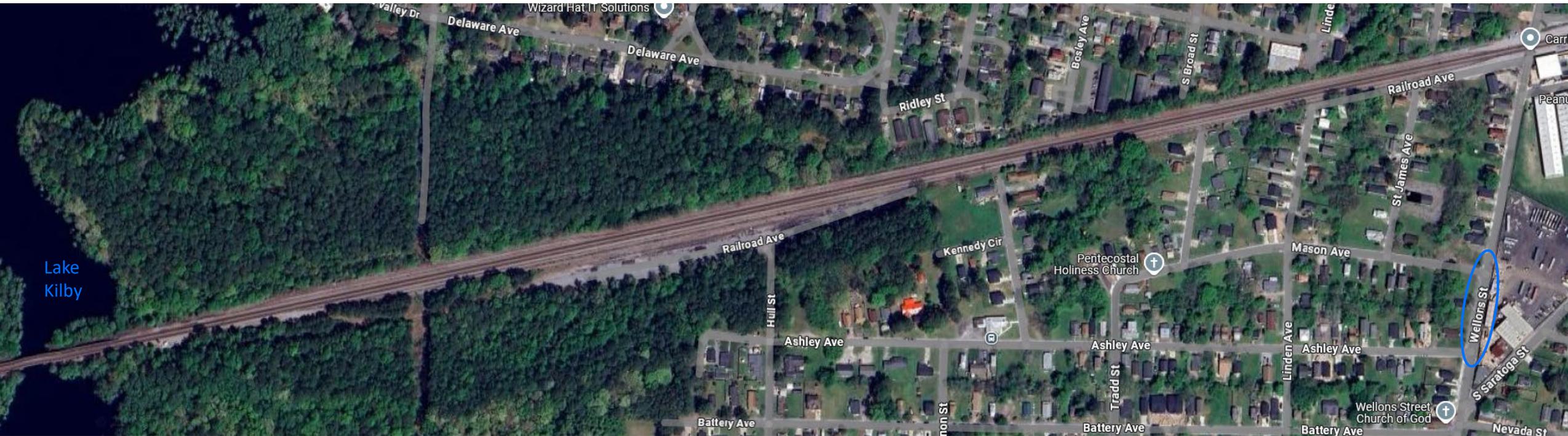
Hall Ave



Source: Google Maps

There is an **existing siding** along Hall Ave, but building a station along here would require obliterating Hall Ave, therefore this site was **rejected**.

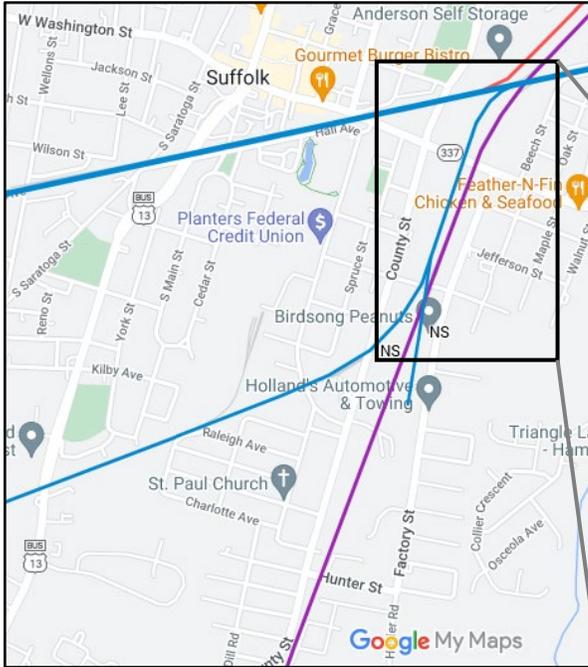
Saratoga Place



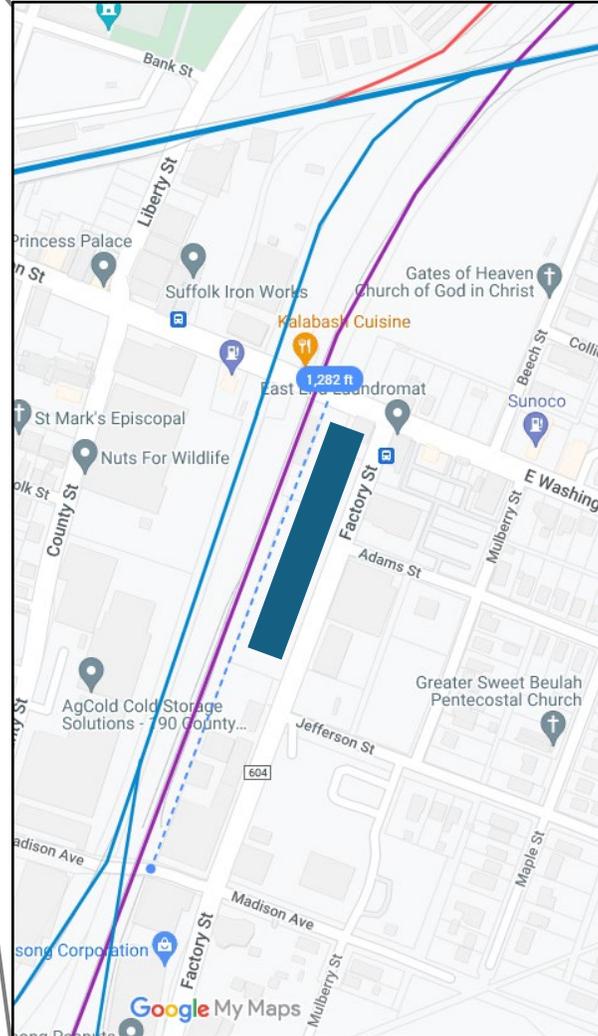
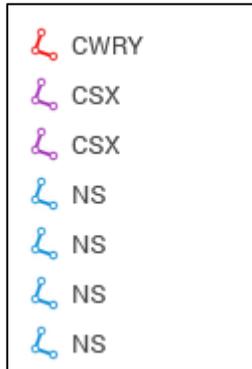
Source: Google Maps

Along the **south side of the mainline tracks**, multiple sidings exist between **Lake Kilby** and **Wellons St**, but a station along there would require takings in, or access through, a **neighborhood**, therefore this site was **rejected**.

Former CSX Industrial Lead Track (ILT)



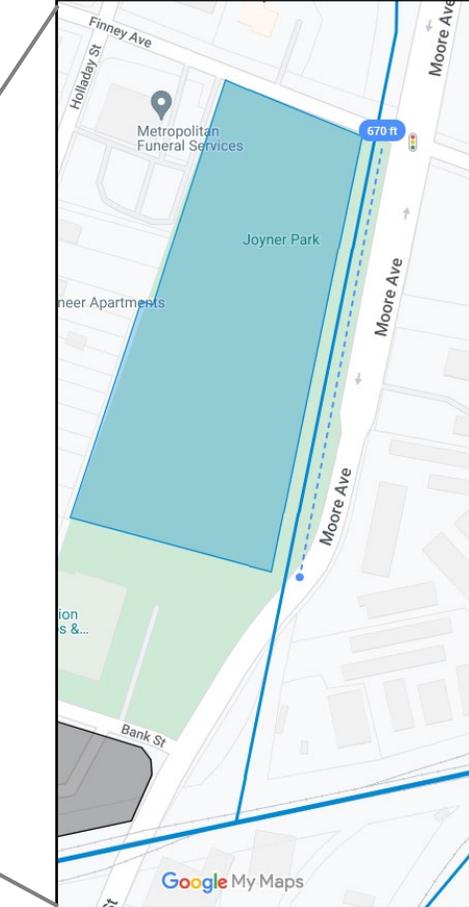
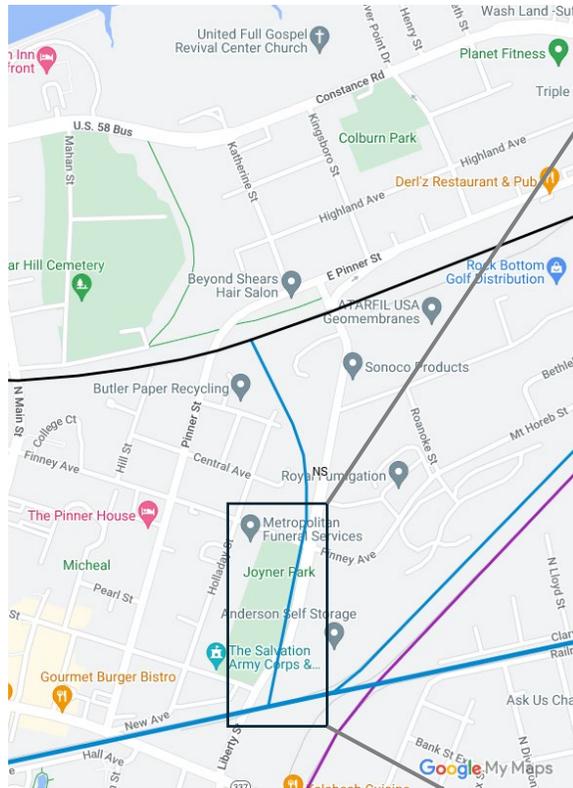
CSX right of way (no tracks)



Candidate station location

- Space for Train while in Station
 - 1,250' available vs. 1,100' required: **OK**
- Platform Length
 - There is adequate room for a 725' platform: **OK**
- Siding Length
 - 0.7 mile available vs. 1,300' required: **OK**
- Site Size
 - 2.5 ac. available vs. 2 ac. required: **OK**
- Note: Being on a rail spur, this location would require trains to back into or out of station, **increasing travel times.**

Norfolk Southern (NS) Spur along Moore Ave

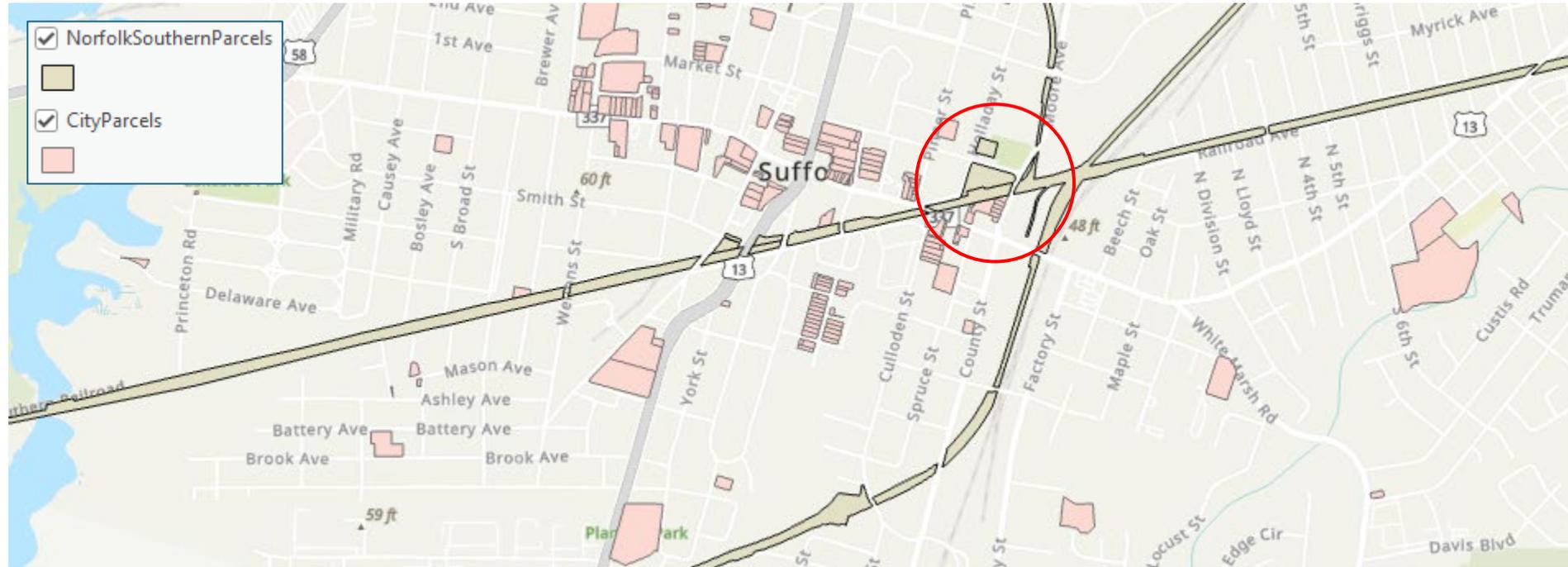


- Space for Train while in Station
 - 670' available vs. 1,100' required: **NG**



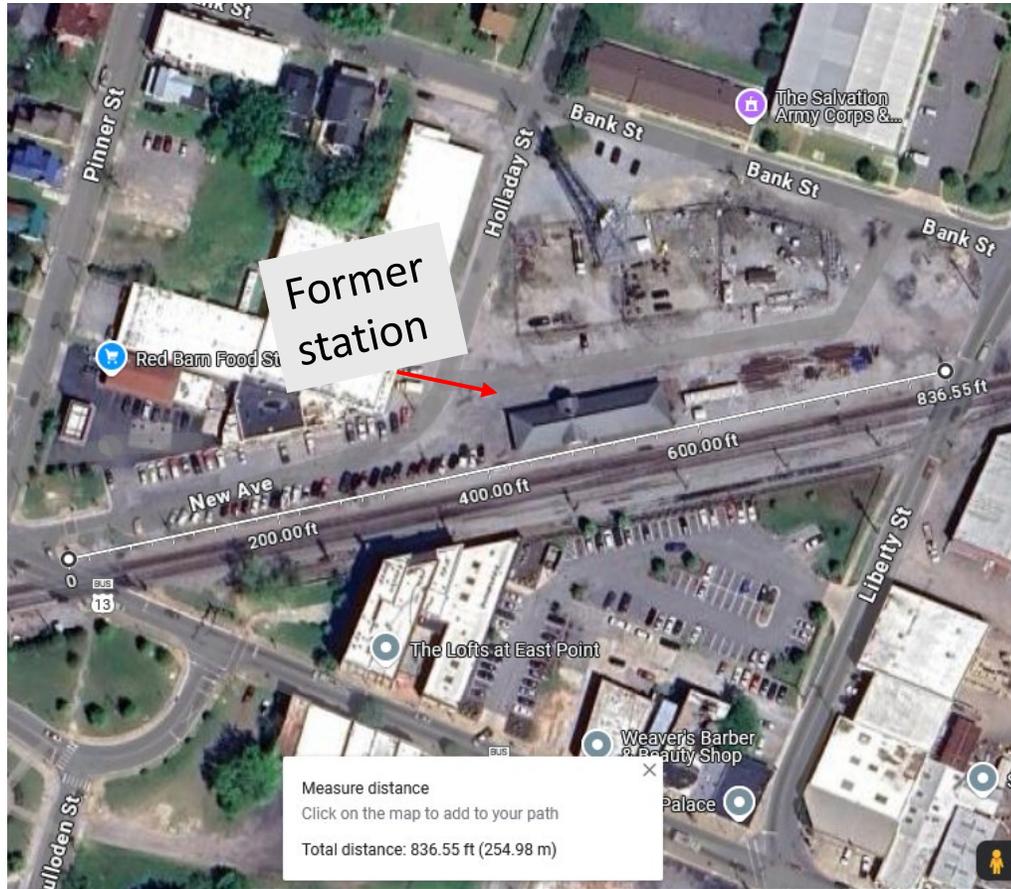
Candidate station location

Owner: City of Suffolk or Norfolk Southern (NS)



Source: HRTPO staff via ArcGIS Pro

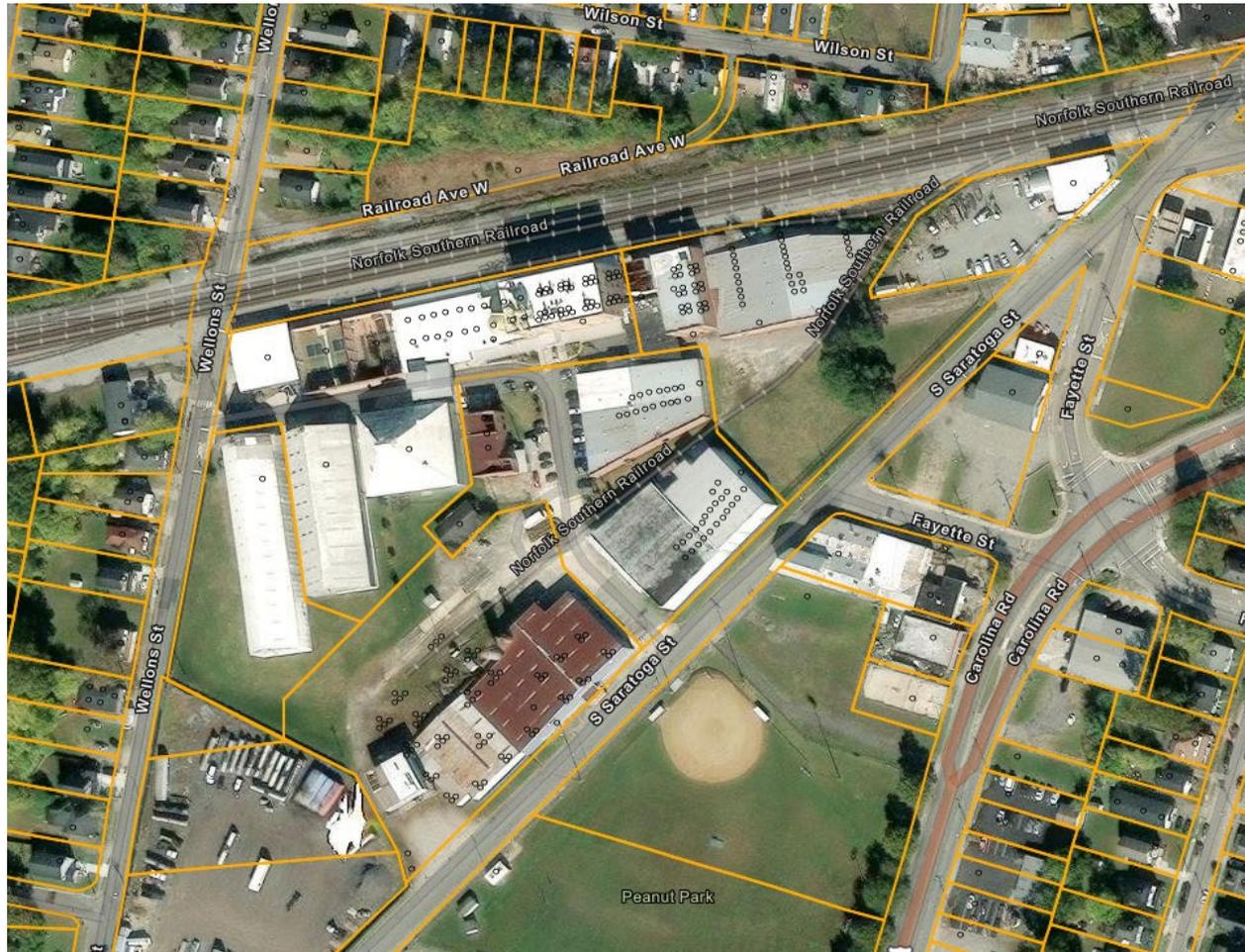
Old Station Support Parcel



Source: Google Maps

- Space for Train while in Station
 - 835' available vs. 1,100' required: **NG**

Golden Peanut Site



Source: Suffolk VA Parcel Data Viewer

- Space for Train while in Station
 - 1,125' available vs. 1,100' required: **OK**
- Platform
 - Adequate room for a 725' platform; it appears that a 12' platform could be constructed in existing r.o.w.: **OK**
- Siding Length
 - 1,800' planned vs. 1,300' required: **OK**
- Site Size
 - 2.1 ac. (parcel 1) vs. 2 ac. required: **OK**

Due to redevelopment of the site, City staff suggested examining properties **across the tracks**. That analysis follows.

Wellons /Wilson Site

Note: Most (if not all) of these **homes** are occupied.

Source: Suffolk VA Parcel Data Viewer



- Space for Train while in Station

- 1,200' available vs. 1,100' required: **OK**

- Platform Length

- There is adequate room for a 725' platform: **OK**

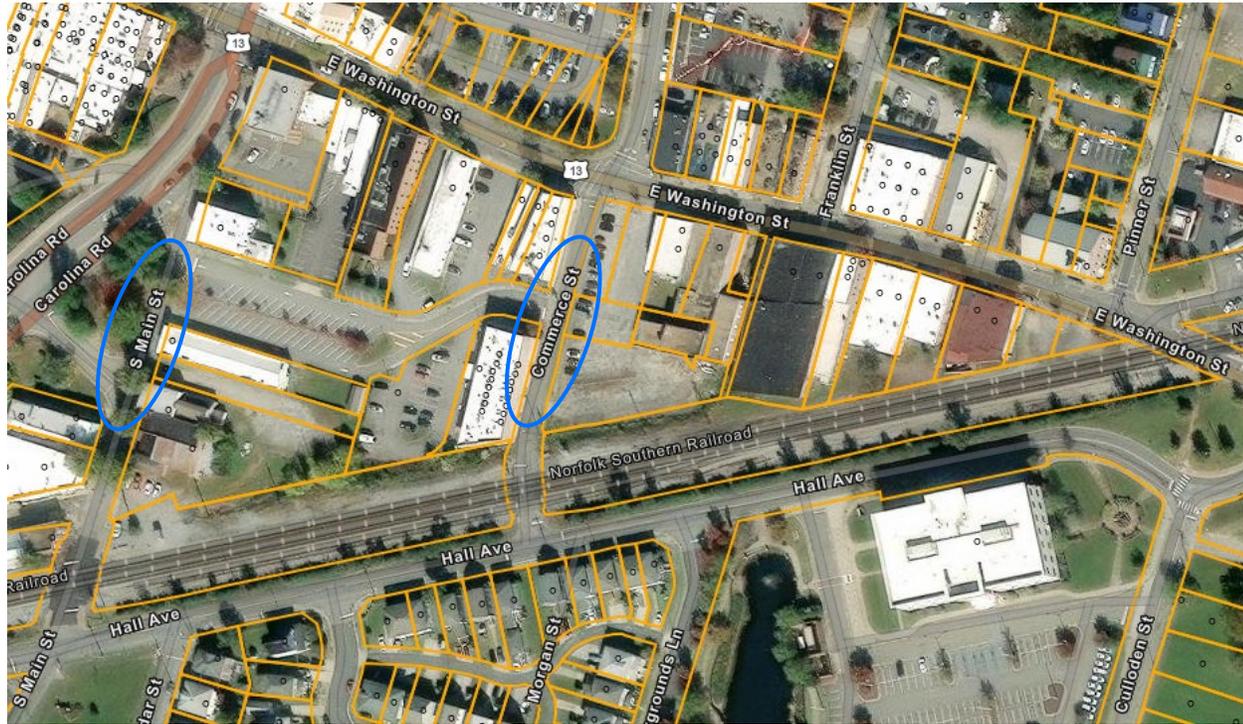
- Siding Length

- 2,100' planned vs. 1,600' required: **OK**

- Site Size

- 3.1 ac. available (parcels 1 thru G) vs. 2 ac. required: **OK**

Main/Commerce



Source: Suffolk VA Parcel Data Viewer

Note: City staff indicated a willingness to close **Commerce St** at the tracks.

- Space for Train while in Station
 - 1,175' available vs. 1,100' required: **OK**
- Platform
 - Adequate room for a 725' platform: **OK**
- Siding Length
 - 1,600' planned vs. 1,600' required: **OK**
- Site Size
 - Compiling city-owned parking lot with parcels between it and the railroad track would provide a total of 2.2 acres, greater than the 2 acre requirement: **OK**

Summary

Sites **NOT meeting subject requirements:**

- Washington/Liberty Triangle
- NS Spur along Moore Ave
- Old Station Support Parcel

Sites **rejected for other reasons** (above):

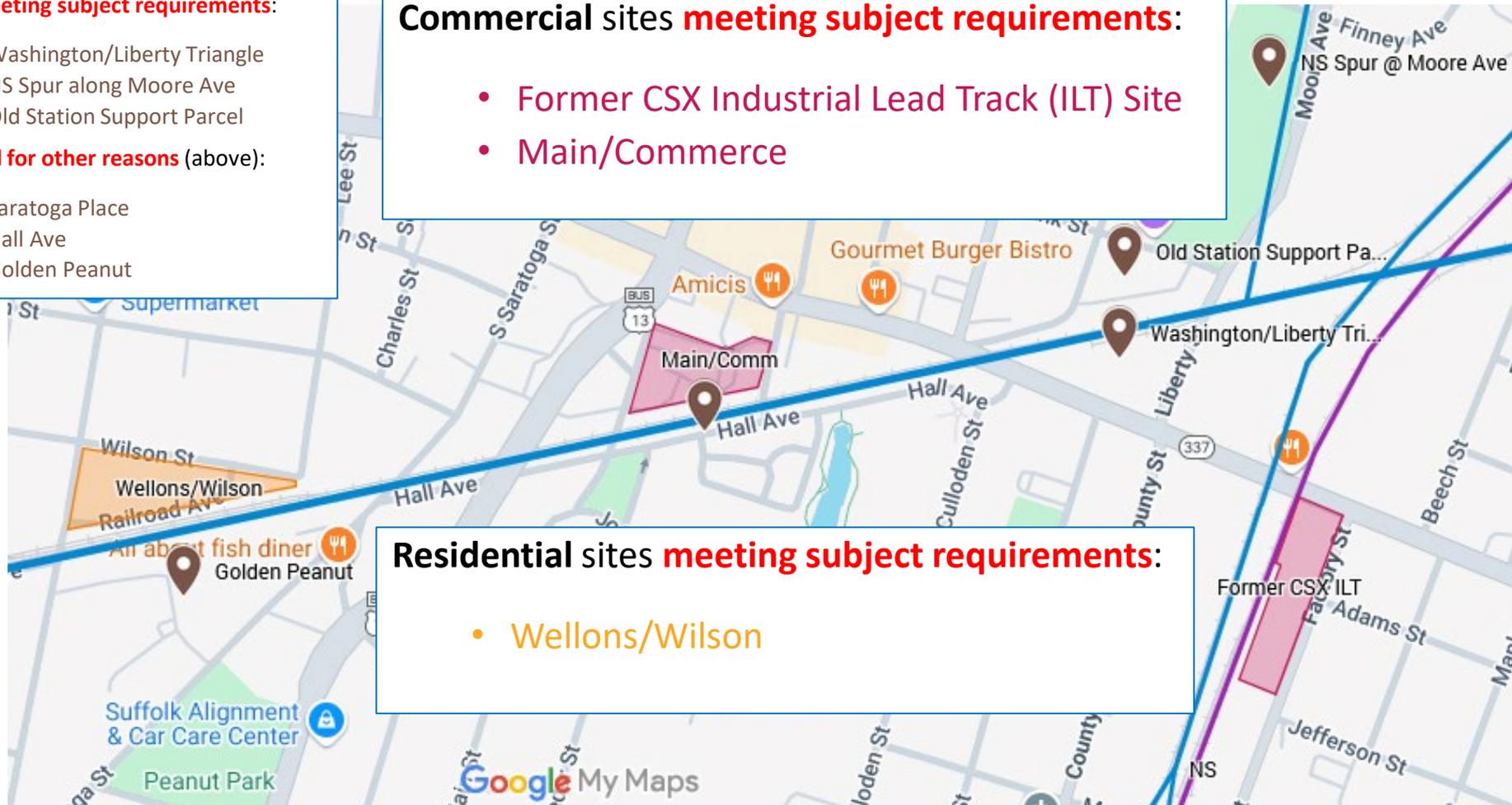
- Saratoga Place
- Hall Ave
- Golden Peanut

Commercial sites **meeting subject requirements:**

- Former CSX Industrial Lead Track (ILT) Site
- Main/Commerce

Residential sites **meeting subject requirements:**

- Wellons/Wilson



Questions?

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