

A stylized map of the Van Aken District is shown in the background. It features a network of light gray lines representing roads and a curved dashed line indicating a specific area or boundary. The text "VAN AKEN DISTRICT" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, following the curve of the dashed line.

VAN AKEN DISTRICT

Connections Plan 2016

Executive Summary

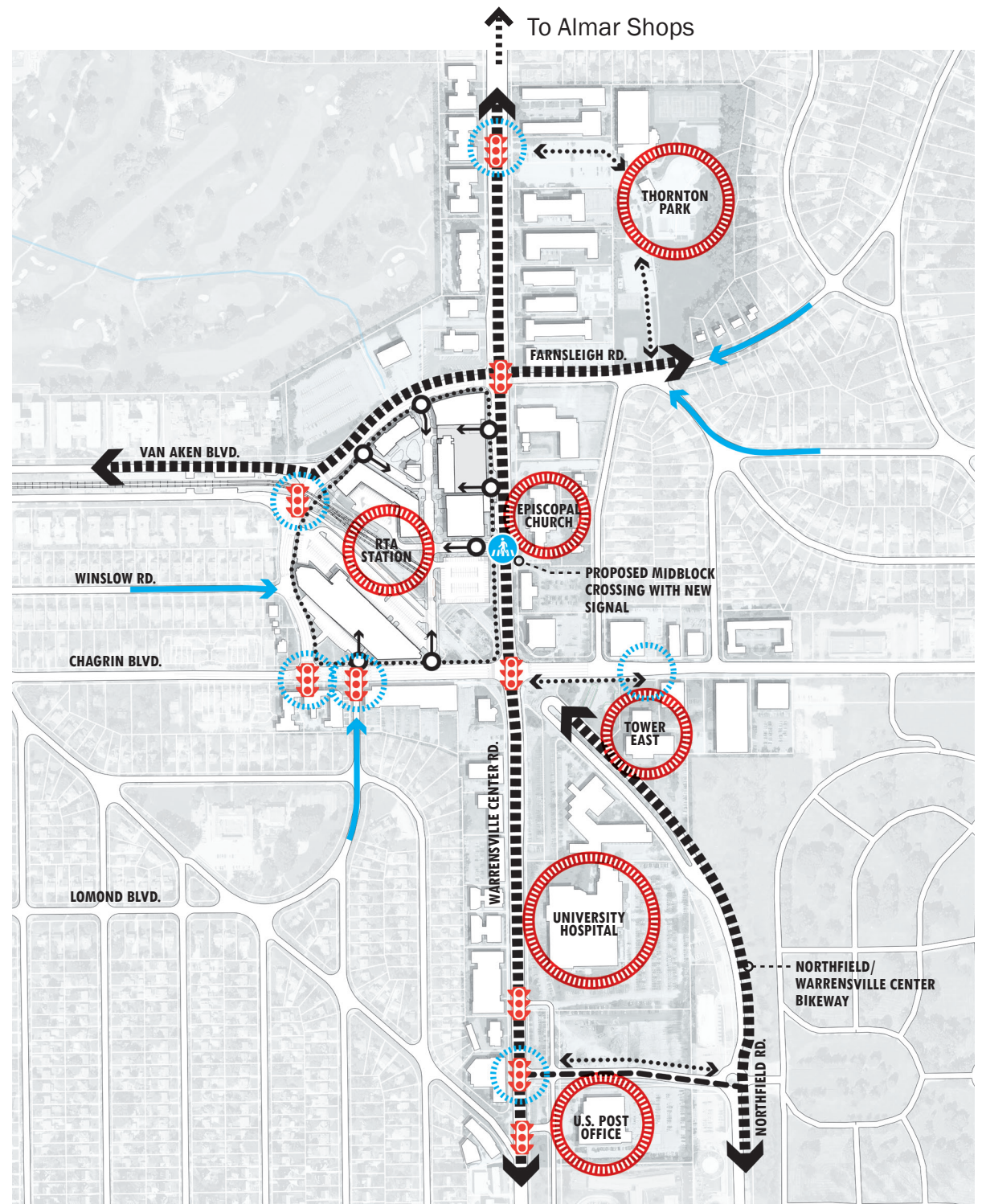
December 2016

DISTRICT CONNECTIONS FRAMEWORK

KEY

- Multi-Use Path
- Community Connector
- On-Street Bicycle Signage
- Primary Sidewalk Connector
- Pedestrian Connector
- Proposed Midblock Crossing
- Gateway
- Community Anchor
- Signaled Intersection

 To
St. Dominic
Church



The Van Aken District Connections Plan was developed to support creation of a vibrant, mixed-use downtown for Shaker Heights. This plan and pattern book will guide the selection of thoughtful, well-designed infrastructure and amenities and inform future development within the district over time. The plan includes recommendations that:

→ establish a unique identity and promote sense of place

→ create a dynamic pedestrian environment

→ support bicycle travel

→ activate and beautify public/civic spaces

The plan incorporates three sections, summarized below. The full plan is available at <http://bit.ly/1sYLDPB>.

Framework

Provides a vision for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to and from the district, and identifies gateway locations. Key infrastructure projects include:

- A 10' wide multipurpose sidewalk/path along the east side of Warrensville Center Road to provide north-south connections between community anchors in the district (University Hospitals, Tower East, the RTA station, Christ Episcopal Church and Thornton Park).
- A 10' wide multipurpose sidewalk/path along the north side of Farnsleigh Road to provide east-west connections between the district, Thornton Park and adjacent neighborhoods.
- A 10' wide multipurpose sidewalk/path along the north side of Van Aken Boulevard to provide east-west connections between the district and adjacent neighborhoods.
- Sharrows along new Northfield Road between Warrensville Center and the roundabout.
- A bikeway along old Northfield Road, to be coordinated with a separate Cuyahoga County planning initiative.

Street Typology

Classifies streets according to how they are used and by adjacent development type, and assigns appropriate design elements to each.

Design Elements Pattern Book

Provides a menu of design elements appropriate for specific locations within the street typology. This section of the plan recommends options and potential locations for:

- Landscape and green infrastructure
- Hardscape, including decorative pavement and crosswalks
- Lighting, at pedestrian and landscape scales
- Bicycle elements, such as bike racks, bike share and repair stops
- Signage and wayfinding for vehicles and pedestrians
- Public art and furnishings

