

Utility Focus Group Meeting - Resilient NJ

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 24, 2021
TO: All Meeting Attendees
FROM: The Consultant Team
SUBJECT: Resilient NJ - Atlantic County Coastal Communities (ACCR)- Utility Focus Group Meeting

A meeting was held July 21, 2021 at 3 PM with the Utility Focus Group Members to discuss the Resilient NJ Project. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams. The following were in attendance:

Name	Organization
Joseph Pantalone	ACUA (Atlantic County Utilities Authority)
Chris Olson	NJ American Water
Safeer Quraishi	South Jersey Gas
Jennifer Young	Verizon
Christopher Moore	Verizon
Fred Deandrea	Comcast
Thomas Smith	Comcast
Vince Maione	Orsted
Madeline Urbish	Orsted
Jim Rutala	Regional Coordinator
Alyssa Curran	WSP
Jaclyn Flor	ENGenuity Infrastructure
Amanda Schermond	ENGenuity Infrastructure

The following was discussed at the meeting:

1. Jaclyn Flor, ENGenuity, started the meeting with introductions of the Consultant team and meeting participants.
2. Jaclyn Flor then went over the agenda, including the meeting objectives, key questions, project process and the discussion section of the agenda.
3. Alyssa Curran, WSP, gave a high-level overview of the Resilient NJ Atlantic County Coast Region Project overall. Alyssa Curran explained that the end goal is to formulate a plan that leads to implementation of specific actions. She went through the Key Milestones for the project and what has happened to date on the Resilient-NJ Project. Alyssa explained the plan development phase and the implementation phase. Alyssa explained what the Innovation Award is and how it could grant additional funding.

4. Alyssa Curran explained what the crowd source mapping tool was and that it allows the public to leave comments.
5. Alyssa Curran explained where the consultant Team is in the process and explained each of the groups taking part in the Engagement Plan and how each group will influence the Resiliency Plan.
6. Jaclyn Flor opened the meeting to the participants to identify important assets in their area.
7. Tom Smith, Comcast, asked if the info discussed in this meeting is protected from OPRA. Jaclyn Flor replied that the consultant team may be able to keep some data confidential but have them in the internal models. Jaclyn said she understands that utility assets can become vulnerable even by just locating them on a map. Alyssa Curran said she will confirm confidentiality with NJDEP. (Please see Action Items as an answer was received from NJDEP on this item)
8. Christopher Moore, Verizon, added that Verizon's policy is to withhold all info about their assets. However, if there is an ongoing project where Verizon's asset is conflicting with the project, they will mark up the project prints to show where the conflicts are. Jaclyn Flor explained that the goal is to protect critical assets during major weather events, so, understanding where the critical assets are located is very important. She added that if a utility company isn't comfortable sharing that data without assurances of how the data will be protected, that is understandable and the Consultant Team will get an answer on that.
9. Christopher Moore replied that more clarification is needed. He said Verizon can share location of some assets that are public knowledge such as the location of central offices. Assets that are off limits include underground fiber optic cables.
10. Jaclyn Flor replied that more clarification can be given after the meeting to identify assets that can be mapped. Alyssa Curran added that environmental social governance documents that are publicly available are a way we communicate about climate risk management.
11. Jaclyn Flor presented a utility asset map then asked ACUA to confirm that all their critical assets are shown and if not, to please identify any critical assets not shown.
12. Joseph Pantalone, ACUA, responded that the assets shown on the map are vulnerable and at risk. He said particularly the pump stations are at low lying areas so they are the most vulnerable. He also said that not shown on the map is an outfall line on the Ventnor- AC border that is critical infrastructure and if it ruptures could cause a lot of problems with millions of gallons of water flowing to an unknown location.
13. Jaclyn Flor asked if the line has ruptured since Hurricane Sandy. Joseph Pantalone said no and also responded that ACUA was fortunate in comparison to other municipalities that were inundated with flood water. He added access to the island is a critical asset during prolonged storm events.
14. Jaclyn Flor asked if the fuel brought in during these storm events were brought in by tanker trucks. Joseph Pantalone said that was the case and that the ACUA plant is located on route 30 which is a low-lying roadway. He said fortunately, you can still access the facility in a roundabout

way using different roadways, however if the bridge to the facility fails it will cause major problems.

15. Jaclyn Flor directed the meeting to NJ American Water to discuss their assets.
16. Chris Olson, NJ American Water, explained that their assets are in Pleasantville and Northfield. They also own systems in the surrounding areas with sources of supply utilizing ground water. He said their concerns aren't necessarily storm related since they have backup power in most, if not all, facilities and that their assets should be fairly protected during prolonged storm events. He said the biggest concern is quality of ground water over time. Jaclyn Flor asked if any of NJ American Water's facilities go under channels where after Sandy the lines had to be repaired or replaced or if there are any vulnerabilities related to that. Chris Olson replied that he isn't currently aware of facilities that would be affected in that way.
17. Joseph Pantalone added that most of ACUA's corridors from barrier islands to facility are under channels. This should be noted if dredging was to occur in these areas in the future.
18. Jaclyn Flor then directed the meeting to South Jersey Gas to discuss their assets. Safeer Quraishi, South Jersey Gas, said they would be interested in knowing what happens with any possible dredging project. He said South Jersey Gas has some pipe going underneath the bays and they have their corporate office in AC. He was unsure if there are compressor stations within this scope.
19. Christopher Moore added that Verizon would also want to know about any possible dredging projects since they may have some facilities in the bay.
20. Jaclyn Flor then directed the meeting to Comcast to discuss their assets. Thomas Smith, Comcast, explained that Comcast doesn't have critical facilities located anywhere on the map presented. He said a major obstacle is access into the island as well as getting access to the utility poles. He asked if the purpose of this meeting/project is to create a critical facility in the area that the national guard can be deployed to. Jaclyn Flor responded that's not the only purpose since the goal is to find short- and long-term solutions. Fred Deandrea, Comcast, added that he can identify one area with critical infrastructure on the map but, for competitive/security reasons, he can't disclose it during this meeting. He added that sharing info with other power utilities has benefited the area since power utilities might have different priorities than communication utilities. Thomas Smith added that there has been a push to ensure better coordination during storm events amongst the utilities and that one of the biggest assets would be the sharing of satellite/drone imagery by the state government during storm events. He said that it is important to have open communications between the utility and the municipality to ensure priority customers are accommodated.
21. Jaclyn Flor then directed the meeting to Orsted to discuss their assets. Vince Maione, Orsted, explained that they don't plan to have any critical electrical assets in Atlantic County. He said there will be an operating and maintenance facility located in Garden's Basin that will be critical infrastructure and that they are currently obtaining permits to reinforce the bulkhead around that property. He said USACE will be doing dredging in the mouth of the inlet and that access to the City through roadways is critical to maintain critical assets including ones in the ocean. Vince

Maione added that the operating and maintenance facility needs to be running within hours of a significant event because the wind turbines depend on it.

22. Jaclyn Flor asked if water access is also critical in addition to road way access. Vince replied that water access is also needed to service the turbines and assess damage during storm events.
23. Jaclyn asked if there is concern with boats and marine debris in terms of accessibility. Vince Maione replied that is definitely a concern. During storm events, a lot of the vessels will be sent out to sea in order to prevent damage.
24. Jaclyn Flor added that the depth of the channel seems to matter significantly. Vince Maione agreed. Jaclyn Flor added that marine debris contracts need to be considered to maintain accessibility and Vince Maione agreed.
25. Jaclyn Flor then moved the meeting to discuss what critical utilities were most vulnerable in past disasters and what gaps remain.
26. Thomas Smith explained that during recovery efforts after a storm event, fiber optic lines are sometimes cut in an urgency to open the roadway and that these fiber routes serve critical roles more so than just cable.
27. Jaclyn Flor then moved the meeting forward to discuss planned or currently funded projects that will address vulnerabilities as well as projects that will make the region more resilient.
28. Joseph Pantalone started the discussion by explaining that ACUA was the beneficiary of the Sandy Resiliency Fund so many assets including generators and sea walls are brand new. He said the concern was mostly about the bridge entering the ACUA island which is aging and that the facility is inaccessible without the bridge since the facility is surrounded by water. He added that this project would be expensive but it is being considered.
29. Jim Rutala, Regional Coordinator, added the route 40 causeway is a major recommendation of the back bay study by the USACE that will be released later this month. The project will be critical to supply both employees and goods to various utilities. He added that fiber optic is planned to be extended throughout the City. Additionally, he said Atlantic City has submitted an application for the back bay dredging project with hopes to start in the Fall of 2021 with most of the work coming in the Winter of 2022 to provide access. He added utilities are a big part of the solution to climate change.
30. Jaclyn Flor asked the meeting participants to discuss projects that help with climate change that are being led by the utilities.
31. Joseph Pantalone discussed green hydrogen which is currently being explored. He said Legislators are interested in this project due to the positive climate effects that can result from it.
32. Vince Maione added that Orsted is working with AC to address draft issues in the Gardner's basin inlet. He said they are currently obtaining a permit for bulkhead work on the property of operating and maintenance facility. Jaclyn Flor asked if Orsted is unable to keep manufacturing

facilities in this region due to the depths of the channel. Vince Maione said that would be an issue but also that there are no ports in the Atlantic County area to support drop off of size required for offshore wind projects. He said the state chose Lower Alloway's Creek as best location to bring ships in and that this project will require a lot of work but is important because this location will allow ships to pass through without having to deal with bridges.

33. Jim Rutala added that OEM facilities for Orsted and Atlantic Shore will be in AC and comes with multimillion-dollar investment in the waterfront that hasn't received investment in 30 years. He said the county college received a grant to build wind safety training center that has been awarded and that another grant was requested for turbine technician training center which has the support of union and elected officials. Jim Rutala added that Stockton has done MOUs with Orsted and Atlantic wind to do water research and testing and that research and workforce development are key areas for AC.
34. Jaclyn Flor asked participants to describe any other assets the engagement team should be considering to assist with resiliency.
35. Thomas Smith responded that Comcast is discussing starting exercises with state emergency operation centers so everyone knows what is expected from each other. He said one of the challenges is "getting a seat at the table" in order to have these discussions.
36. Jaclyn Flor and Alyssa Curran thanked the participants and then ended the meeting

Action Items:

1. Send presentation to Christopher Moore, Verizon.
2. The Consultant Team received an update from DEP regarding privacy and sharing information:
 - If stakeholders send WSP consultant team information directly that **does not** get transmitted to DEP (can offer NDA among parties as needed), we are able to treat those documents confidentially and separately from project documents shared with DEP
 - DEP asks us to reflect or portray data pertinent to Resilient NJ in public documents in some way where possible (e.g., aggregated/anonymized or generalized)
3. Next Utility Focus Group Meeting will be in the Fall of 2021.

Resilient NJ



Regional Planning for a Stronger New Jersey

Utility Focus Group Meeting

*Atlantic County Coastal Region
Focus Group Meeting #1 - Teams
07.21.2021*



Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Introduce participants to the project and our process
- III. Understanding Utility Assets that should be included in Analysis
- IV. Past Disasters- Where were the ACCR Utilities the most vulnerable
- V. Planned Projects of ACCR Utilities
- VI. Next Steps



I. Introductions

The following were invited and may be in attendance, please introduce yourself, organization, and role in your organization :

- *NJDEP*
- *The Consultant Team*
- *The ACCR Utilities:*
 - *Atlantic City Electric (ACE)*
 - *Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority (ACMUA)*
 - *Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA)*
 - *NJ American Water*
 - *South Jersey Gas*
 - *Verizon*
 - *Xfinity*
 - *Orsted*
 - *EDF/Shell*

Meeting Objectives

Today, we are seeking answers to these key questions:

- *What are the critical utility assets in the Region that we need to protect?*
- *In terms of the critical utilities that you provide, where were you vulnerable in past disasters? What gaps remain in the aftermath of response and recovery?*
- *Do you have any planned projects whether currently funded or in the planning stage that address these vulnerabilities?*
- *Are there any projects or policies that we should consider in this Region that would make your utility or the Region as a whole more resilient?*

II. Overview

Resilient NJ Project Area and Regional Team Members

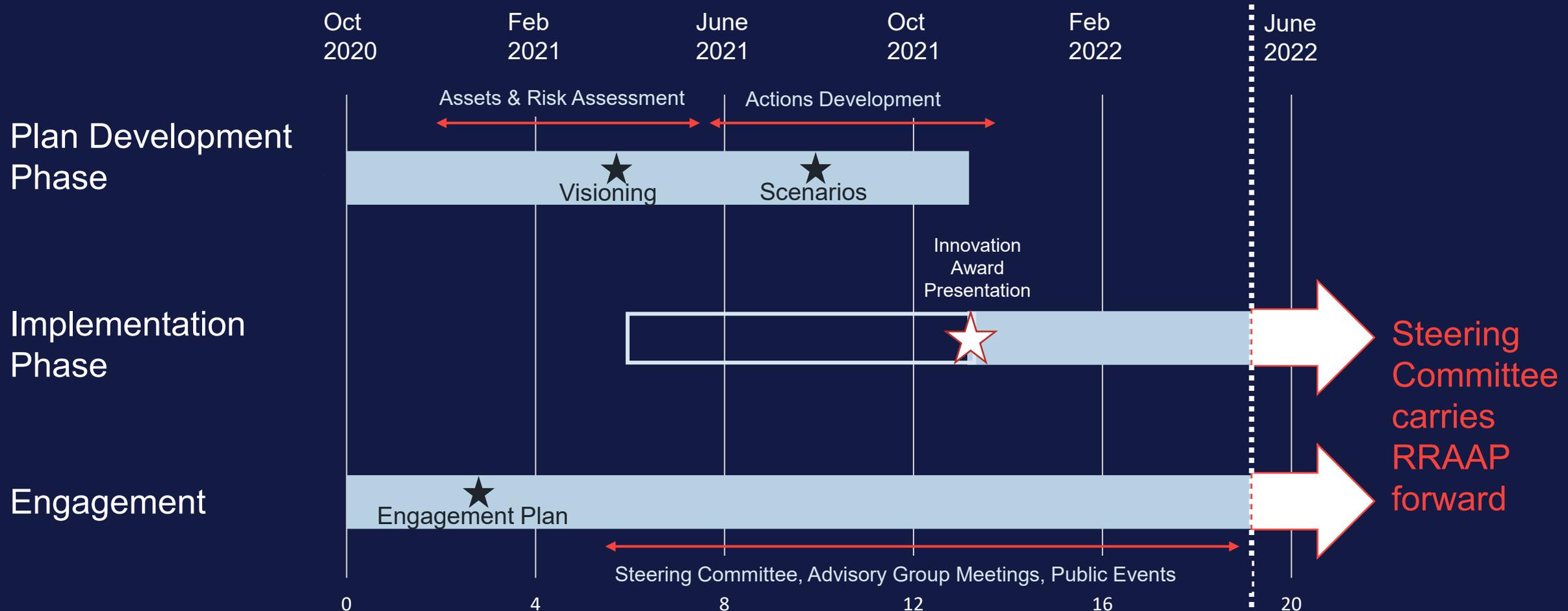


American Red Cross

PrepareNJ

Overview

Key Milestones for Project Engagement



May 31, 2022: HUD \$ Expiration

Resilient NJ

Progress Update & Next Steps



February
2021



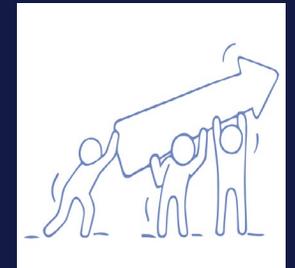
March
2021



April
2021



May
2021



June & July
2021

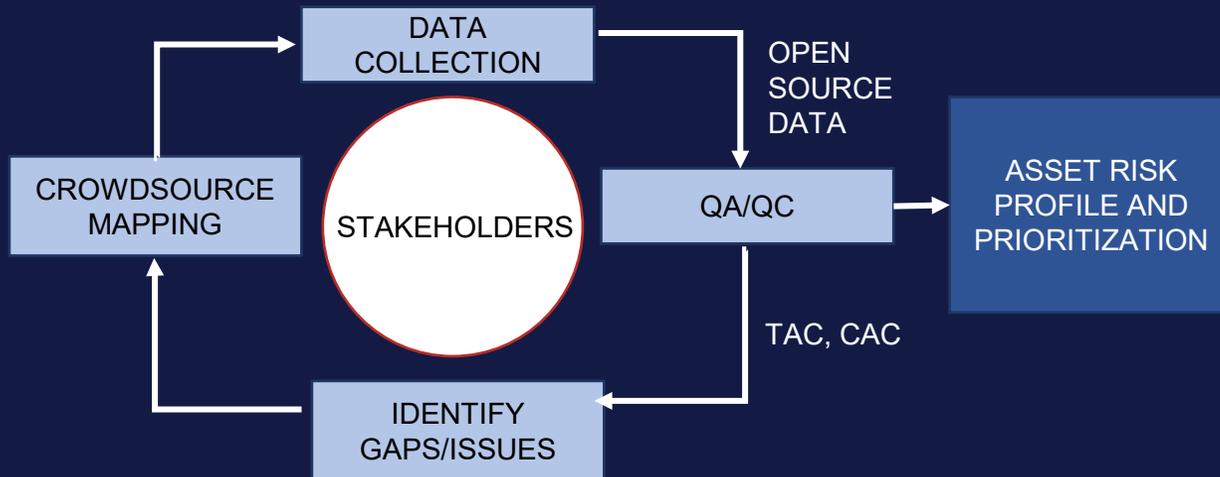


Updated asset maps	Focus group / resident advisory survey launched	CAC engagement, focus group outreach	Ongoing CAC/TAC and public engagement	Public Event/ Focus Groups
Resilient NJ inter-regional coordination	Planning Context review	Project visioning	Project visioning	Project visioning
Soft launched website	Project visioning	Vet risk assessment methods	Risk assessment & prioritization	Risk assessment & prioritization
CAC engagement	Asset collection / risk assessment	Lay groundwork for Scenarios development	Scenarios development	Scenarios development
Planning Context development				

Crowdsourcing Mapping Tool for Public Comment

SC

➤ Process:



- Better estimate key risk areas, asset damage estimate for development of risk profile and asset prioritization
- Data collected by leveraging local knowledge will be integrated into existing asset database

Transportation System Airports and Heliports Bike Paths Roads and Highways Truck Routes Bus Routes and Bus Stops Marina and Boat Launch Rail line and Rail Stations Emergency Evacuation Routes	Economic & Cultural Assets Casinos Major Employers Sports Tourism Place of worship Commercial Corridor Opportunity Zone Urban Enterprise Zone Fishing areas
Key Infrastructure Assets Govt. Facilities and Buildings Public Safety/Essential Services Places of Interest/Landmark Education Resident Services	Utility Infrastructure Power Generation facilities Wasterwater Treatment plant Recycle Facilities Sewer Serving Area ACUA Facilities
Natural & Cultural Environment Beach Conservation Area Natural Areas Parks and Recreational Areas Wetlands Historic Sites Wildlife refuge	Capital Projects Vegetative Shoreline Vertical Bulkhead SAndy Beach Seawall and Jettys

Asset categories and database organization

Overview

Resilient NJ Project

Goal: locally-driven action plan.

- a) Stakeholder involvement throughout project
- b) Ensure local needs and visions are collaboratively developed
- c) Ensure actions are best-fit to unique characteristics of neighborhoods
- d) Achieve coherent strategy across region and broader Resilient NJ program

ENGAGEMENT PLAN



**Steering
Committee (SC)**



**Technical
Advisory
Committee (TAC)**



**Community
Advisory
Committee (CAC)**



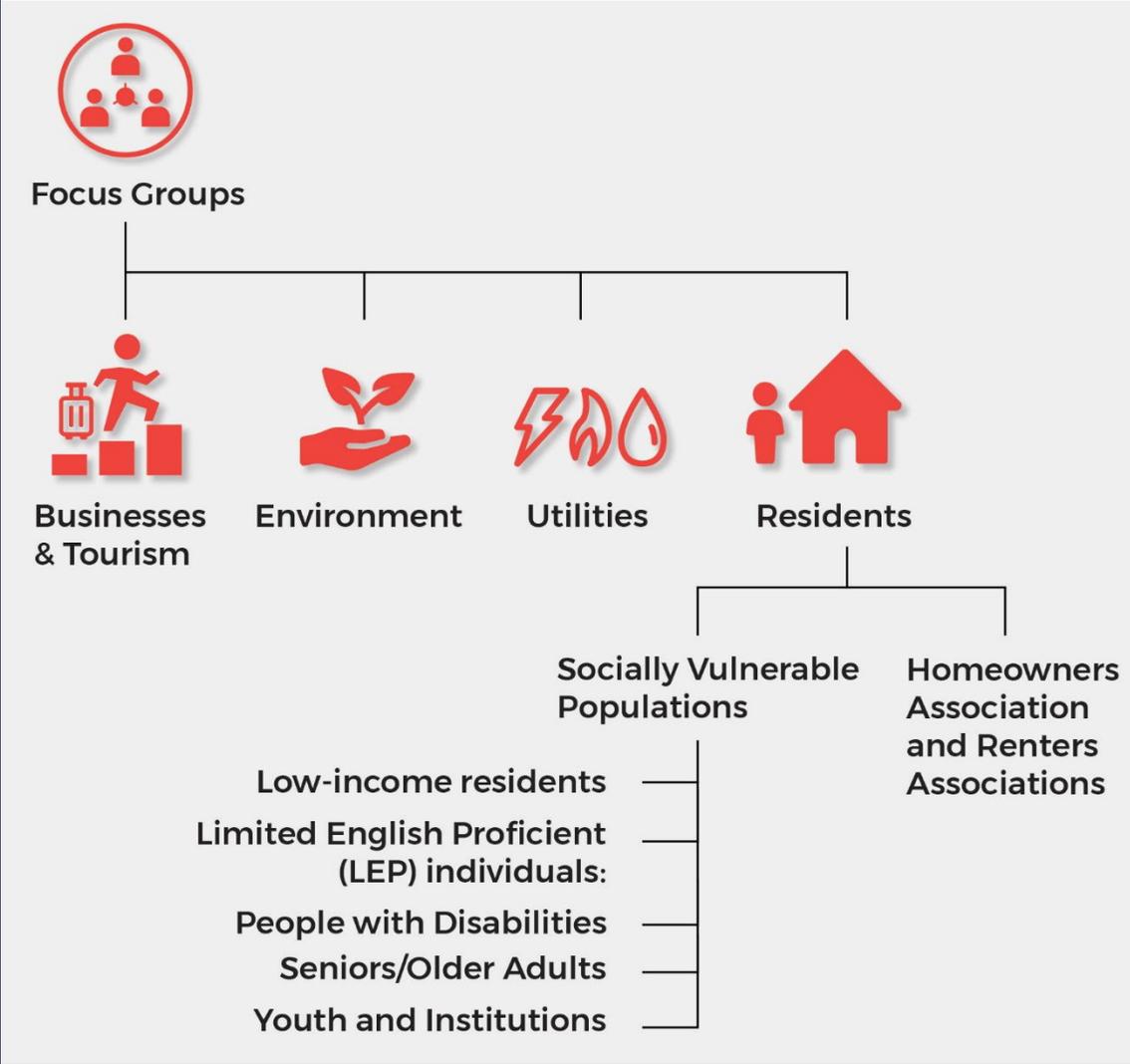
Focus Groups (FG)



You are in a
Focus Group

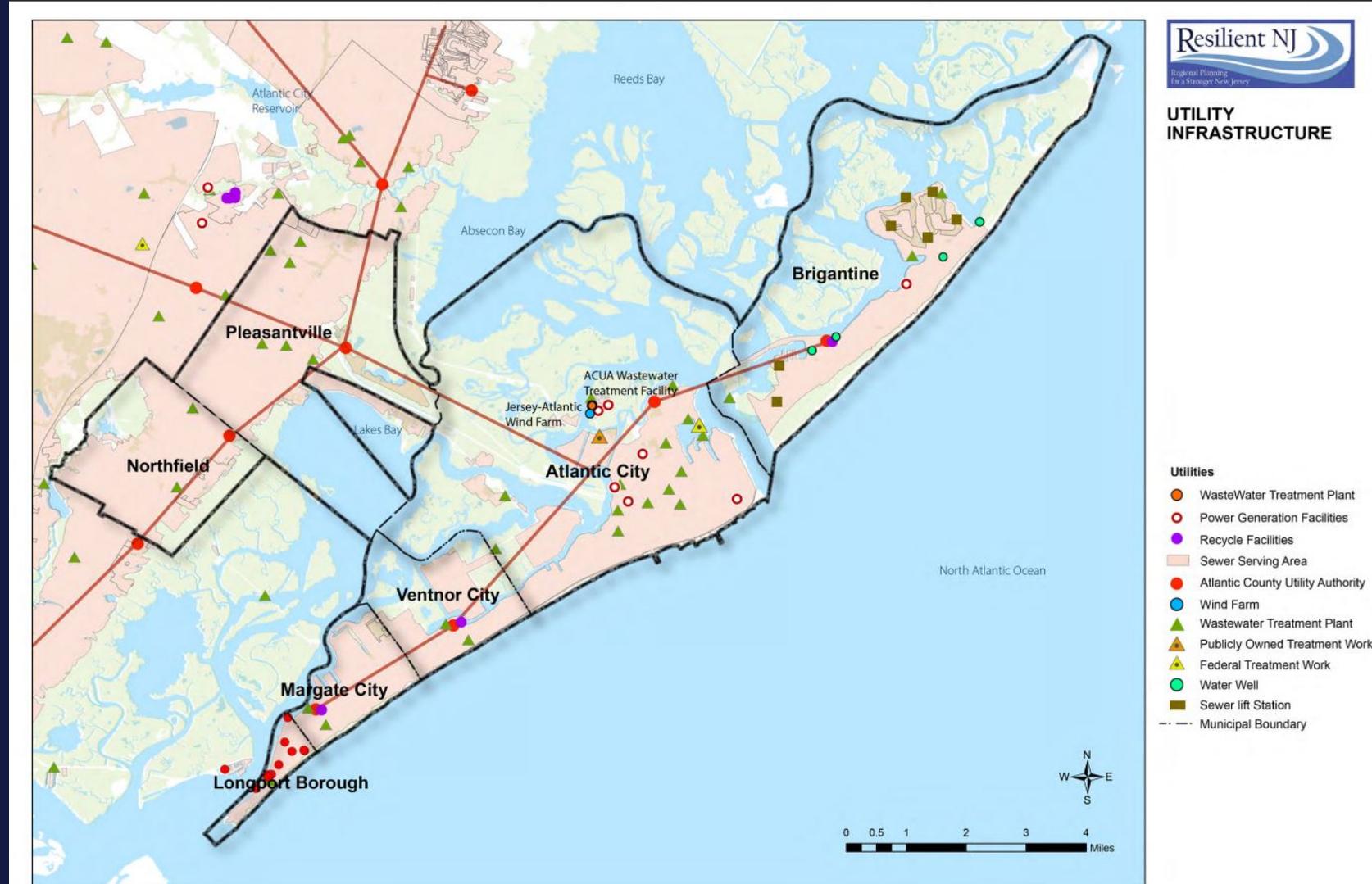
Overview

Resilient NJ Project



III. Understanding Utility Assets that should be included in Analysis

What are the critical Utility assets in the Region that we need to protect?



IV. Past Disasters- Where were the ACCR Utilities the most vulnerable

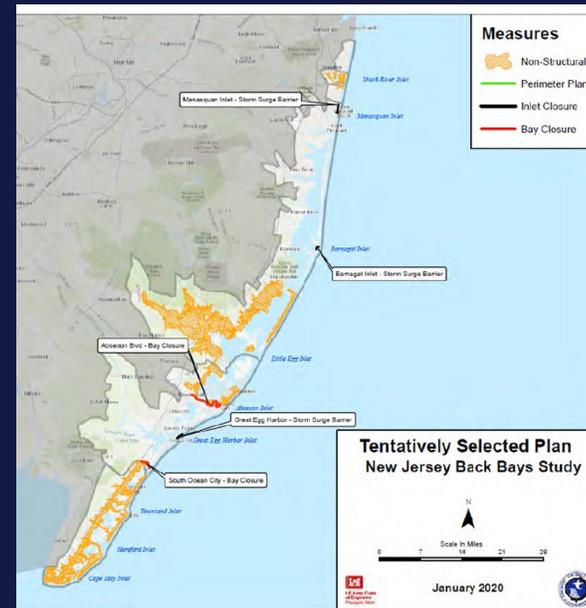
In the terms of the critical utilities that you provide, where were you vulnerable in past disasters? What gaps remain in the aftermath of response and recovery?



V. Planned Projects of ACCR Utilities

Do you have any planned projects whether currently funded or in the planning stage that address these vulnerabilities?

Are there any projects or policies that we should consider in this Region that would make your utility or the Region as a whole more resilient?



VI. Next Steps

Thank you!

Regional

Regional Transportation

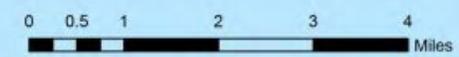


REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION



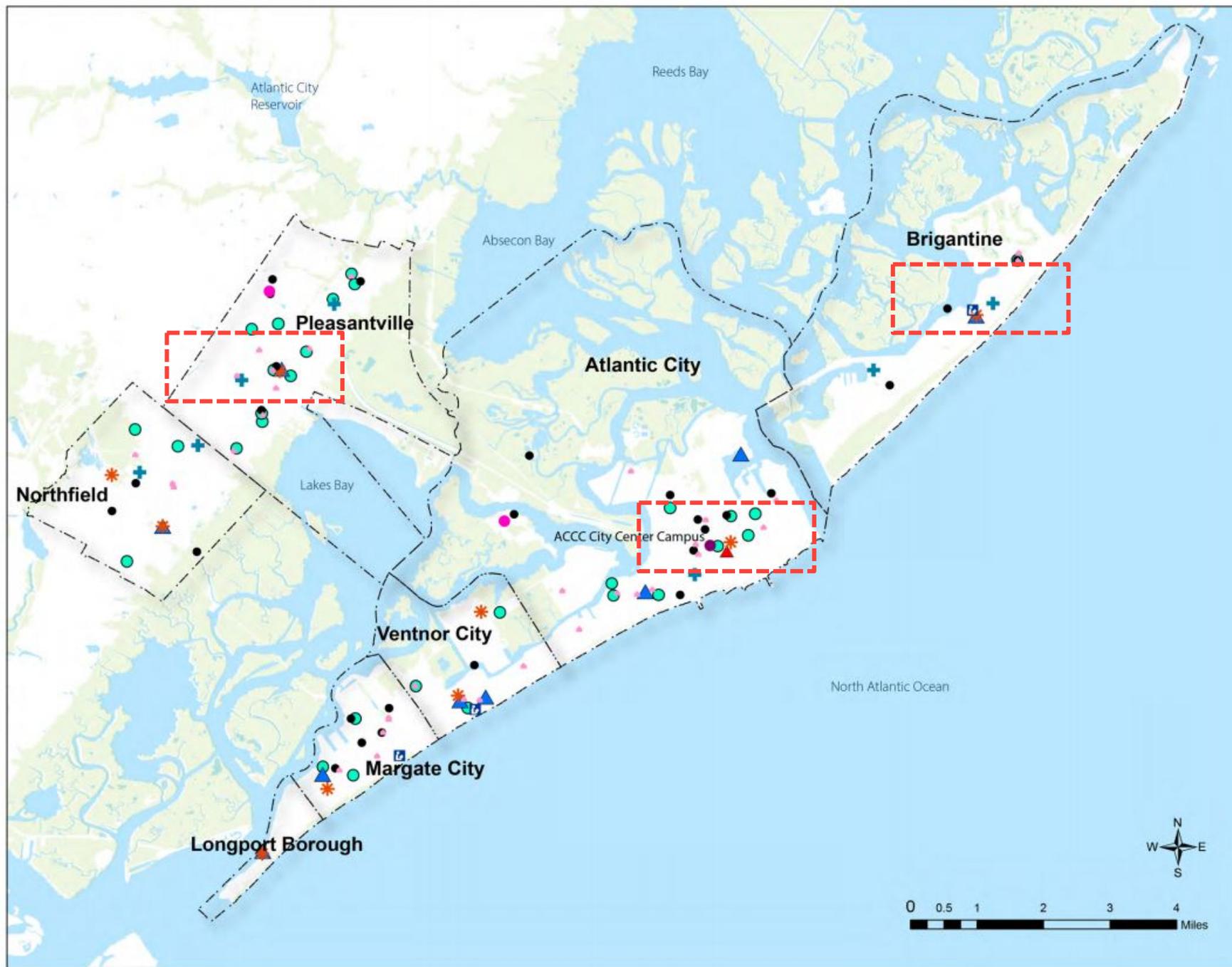
Legend

- Bike Path
- Bus Routes
- Jitney Routes
- Railway station
- Emergency Evacuation Routes
- Major Highways
- New Jersey Roads
- Passenger Rail Line
- Municipal Boundary
- Airport
- Heliport
- Marina (*Shows both public and private marinas)
- Parking Garage
- Boat Launch
- Key Bus Stops (Regional Private Bus Service (Greyhound))



Regional

Critical Facilities and Civic Infrastructure



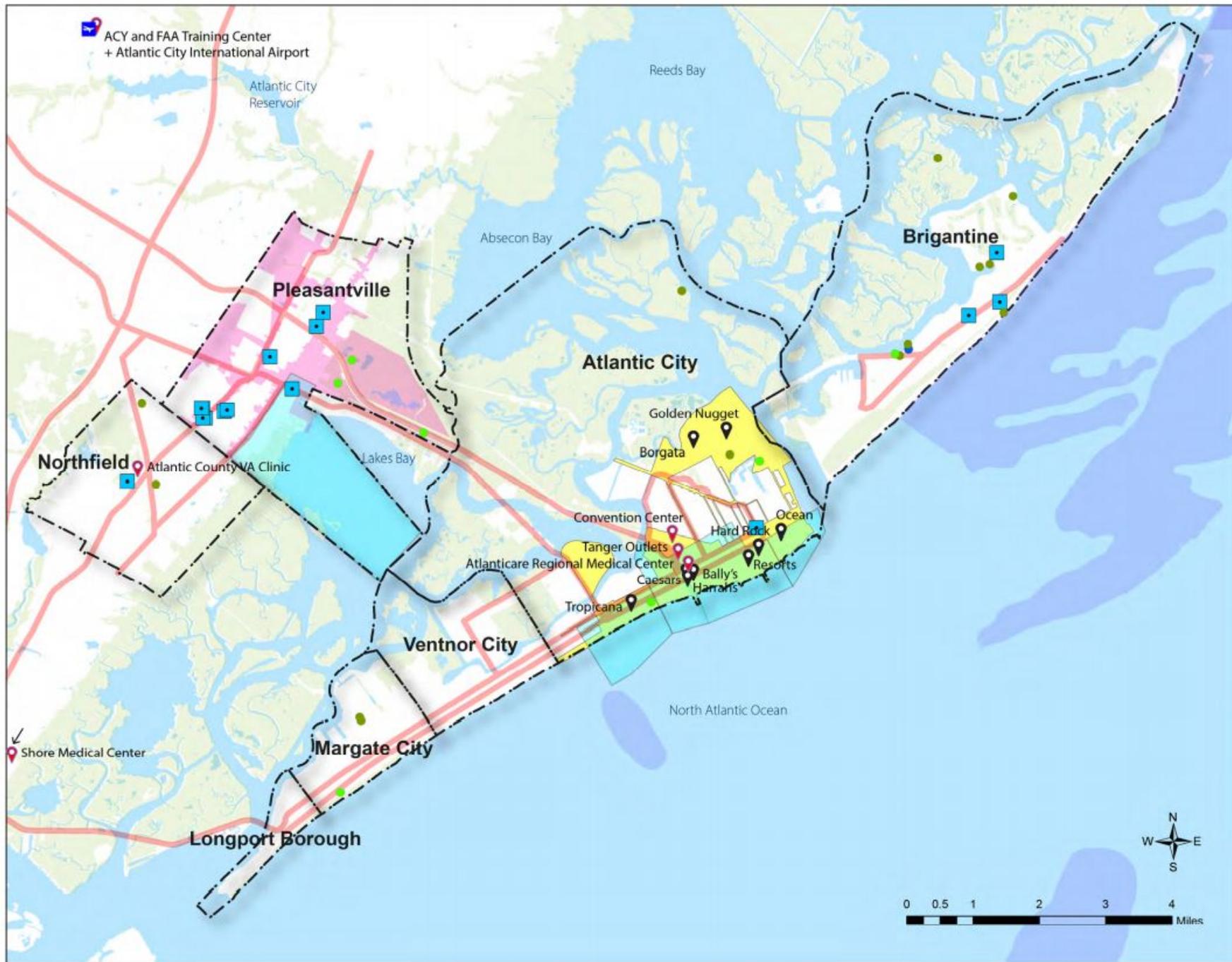
KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

Legend

- Govt. Facilities and Buildings**
 - ▲ City Hall
- Public Safety/Essential Services**
 - * Fire Station
 - ▲ Police Department
 - + Health care
- Education**
 - College
 - High School
 - Primary & Secondary schools
 - ▢ Library
- Resident Services**
 - Child Care
 - National Shelter System
- Municipal Boundary



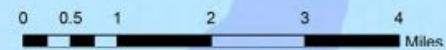
Regional Economic Assets



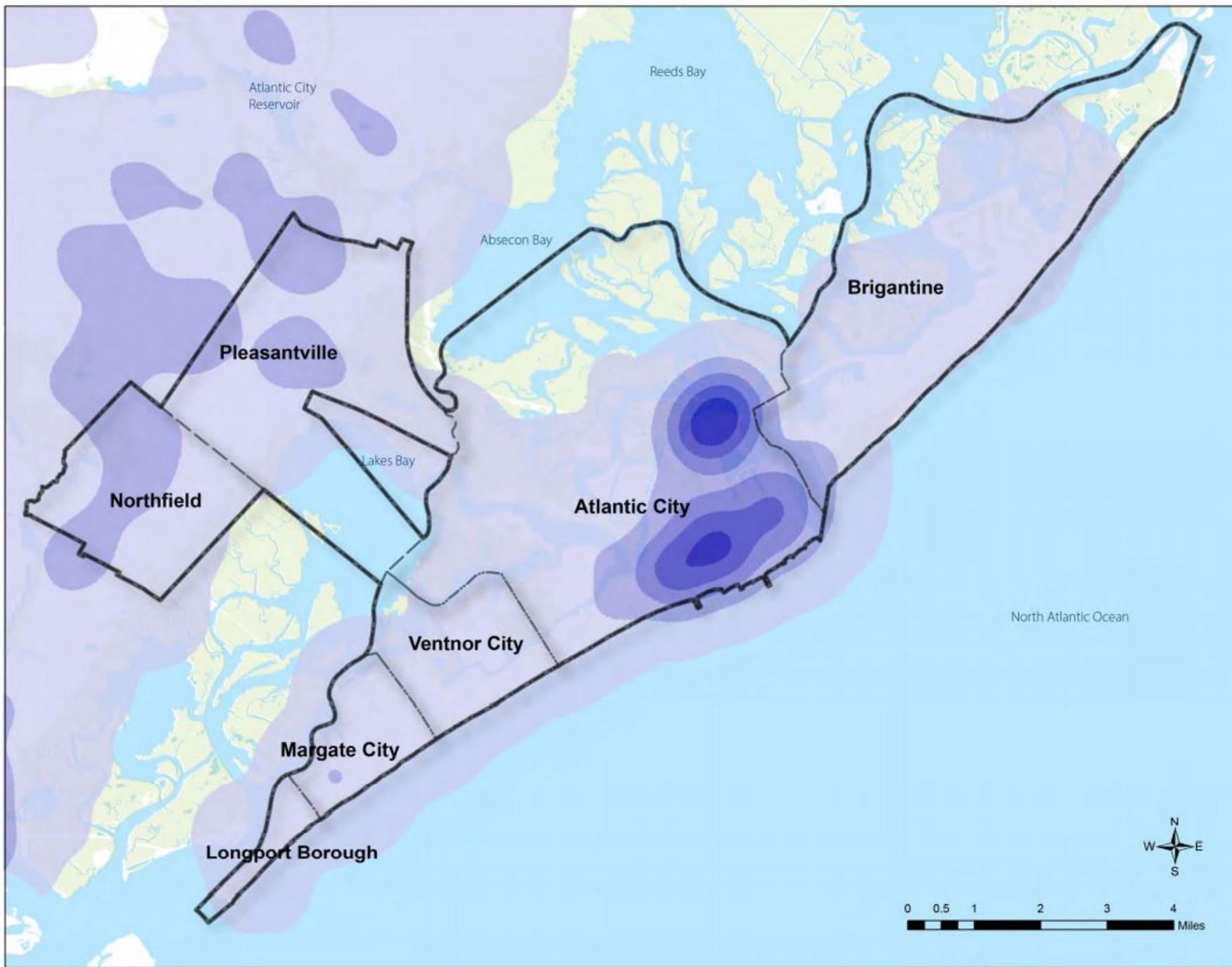
ECONOMIC ASSETS

Legend

- Casinos
- Major Employer
- Leisure
- Tourism
- Sports
- Urban Enterprise Zones (UEZ)
- Place of Worship
- Commercial Corridor
- Opportunity Zone
Low-Income Community
- Commercial & Recreational Fishing Area
- Predominated Tourism Trade Area
- Municipal Boundary



Regional Employment Density



EMPLOYMENT DENSITY

Legend

Jobs/Sq.Mile

- 5 - 964
- 965 - 3844
- 3845 - 8644
- 8645 - 15364
- 15365 - 24004

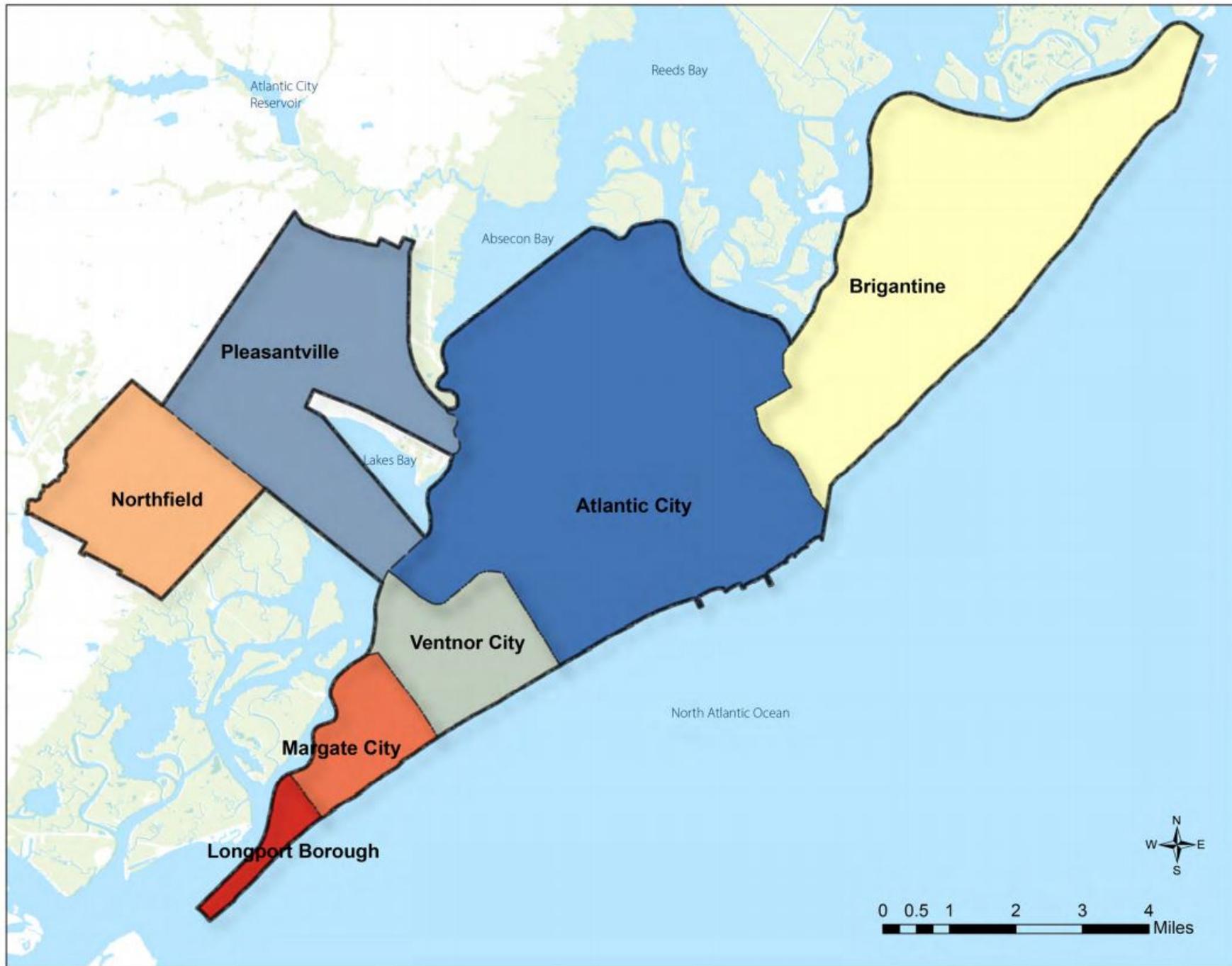


Regional

Median Household Income Change From 2010 - 2019



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHANGE FROM 2010 TO 2019



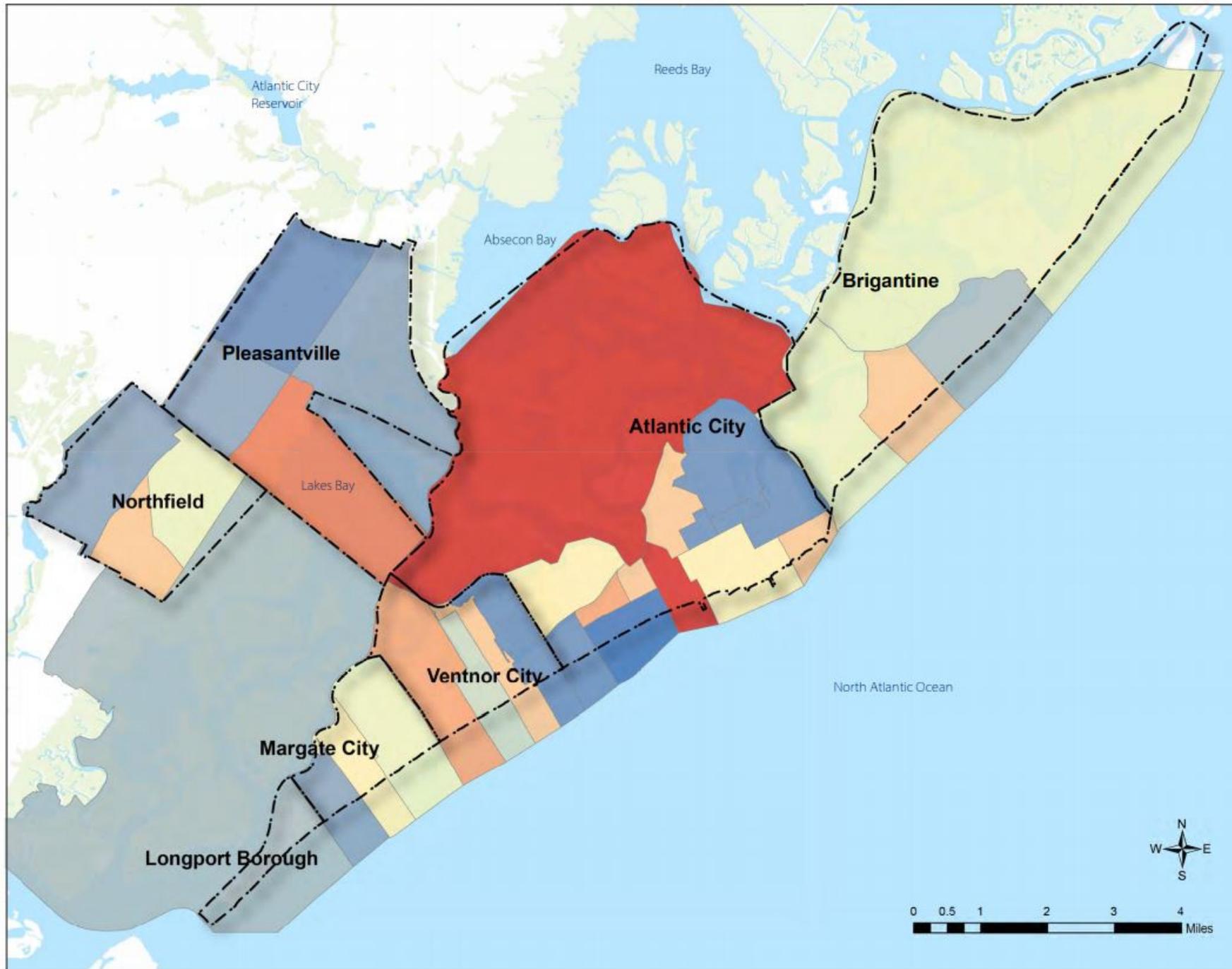
Legend

Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

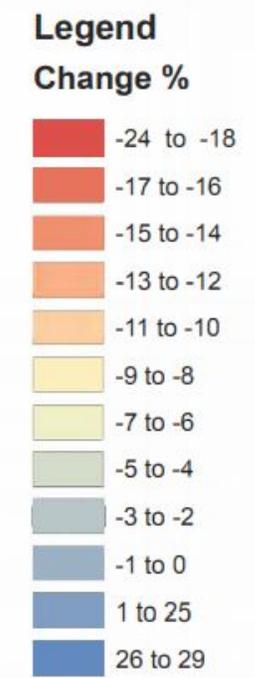
- 0.4
- 0.3 - 0.4
- 0.5 - 1.4
- 1.5 - 1.7
- 1.8 - 2.3
- 2.4 - 2.5
- 2.6 - 5.7

Regional

Population Change in Percentage from 2010 - 2019



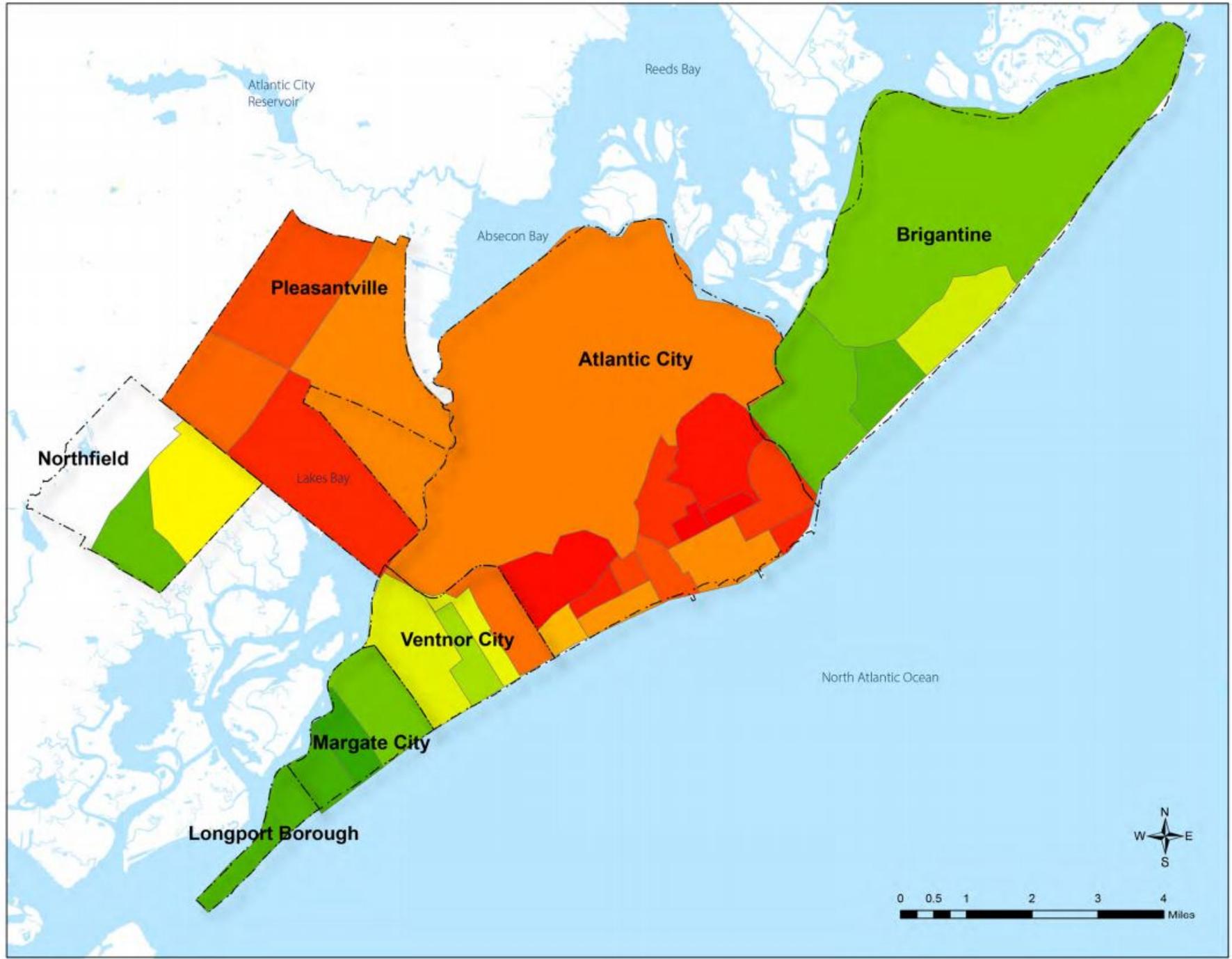
POPULATION CHANGE IN PERCENTAGE FROM 2010 TO 2019



Regional Socioeconomic Status



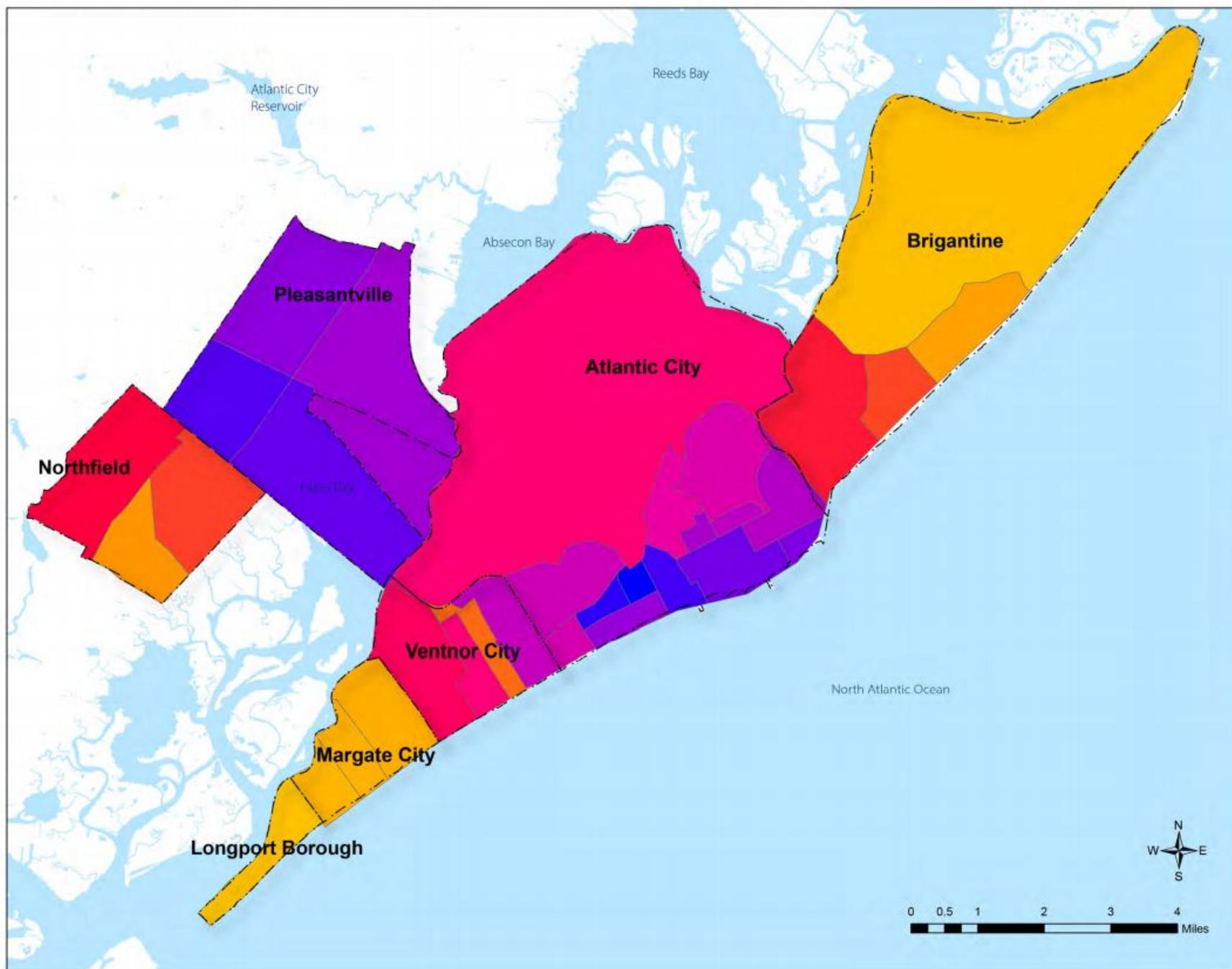
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS



Regional Minority Status and Language



MINORITY STATUS & LANGUAGE



LOW

- Minority
- Speaks English "Less than Well"

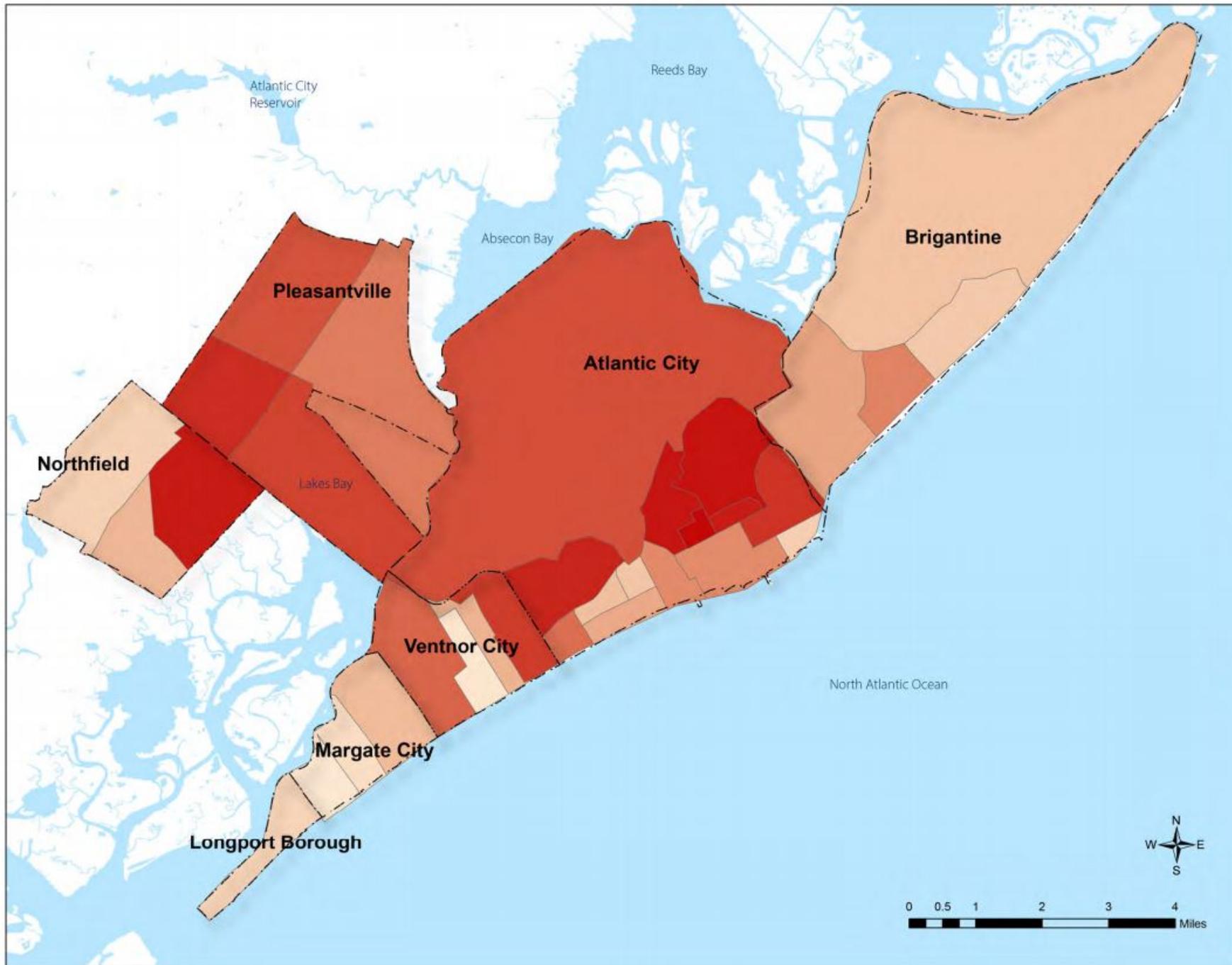
HIGH

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Regional Household Composition and Disability



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION & DISABILITY

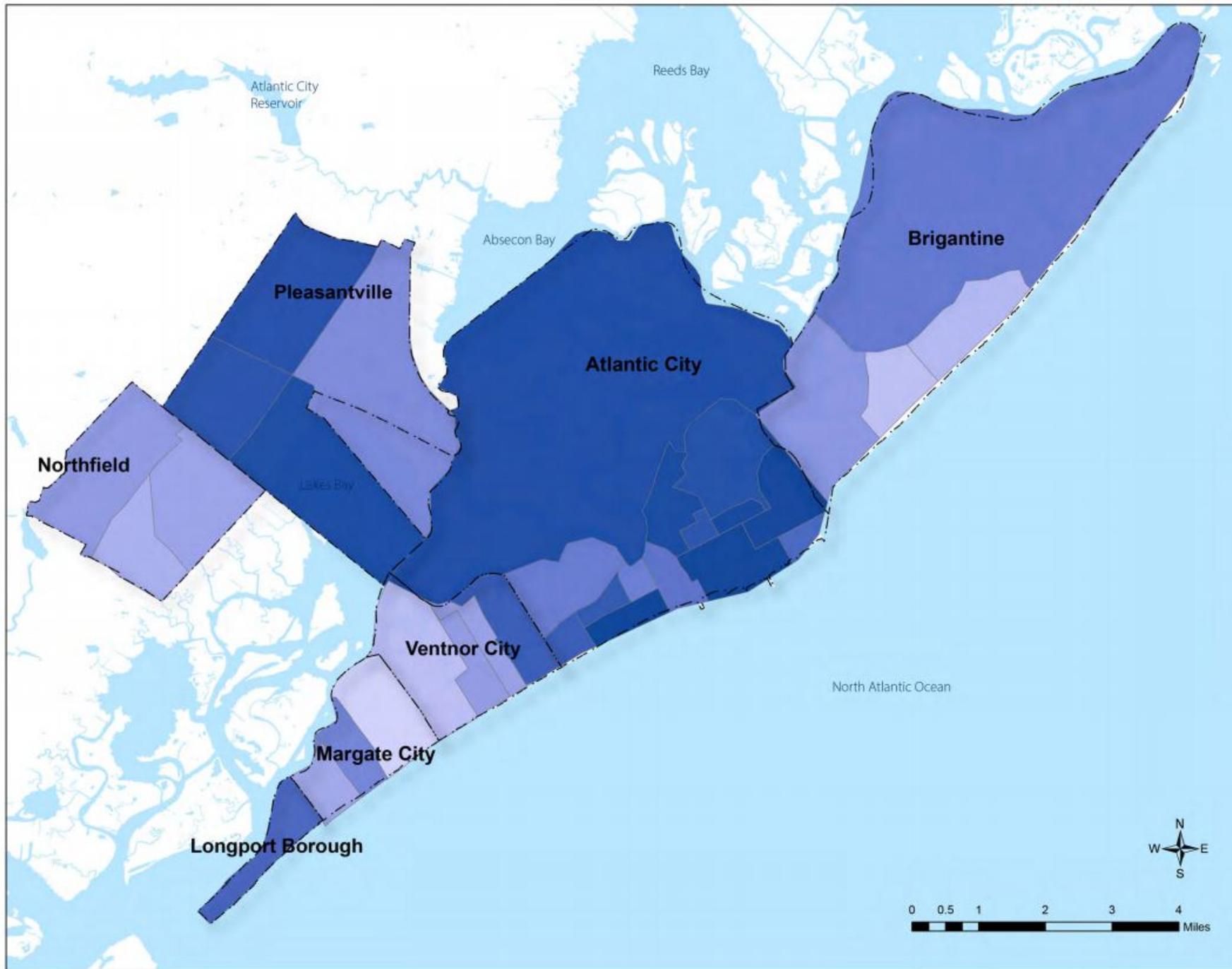


LOW

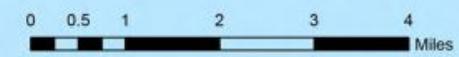
- Aged 65 or Older
- Aged 17 or Younger
- Civilian with a Disability
- Single-Parent Households

HIGH

Regional Housing Type and Transportation



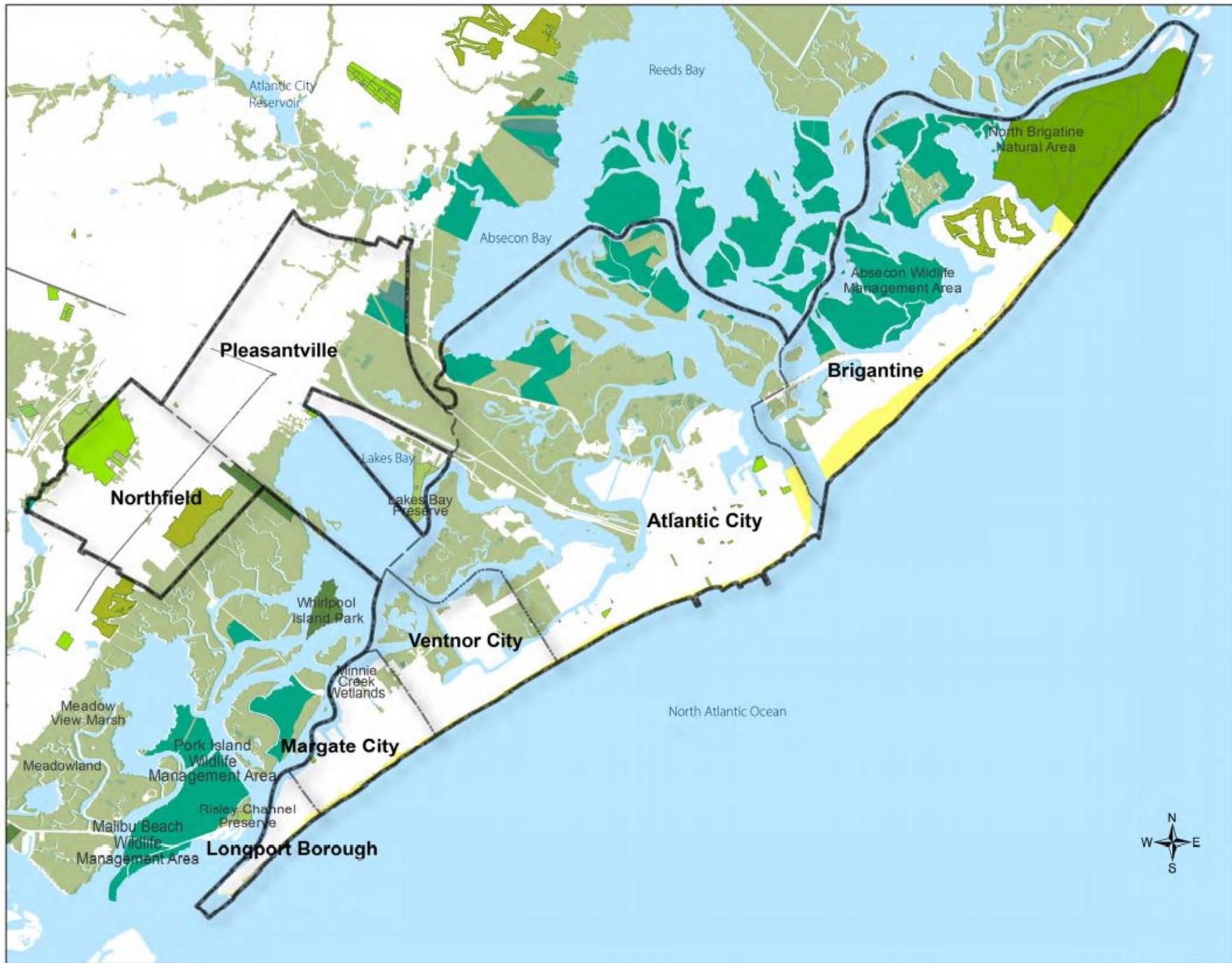
HOUSING TYPE & TRANSPORTATION



Regional Natural and Cultural Environments



NATURAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT



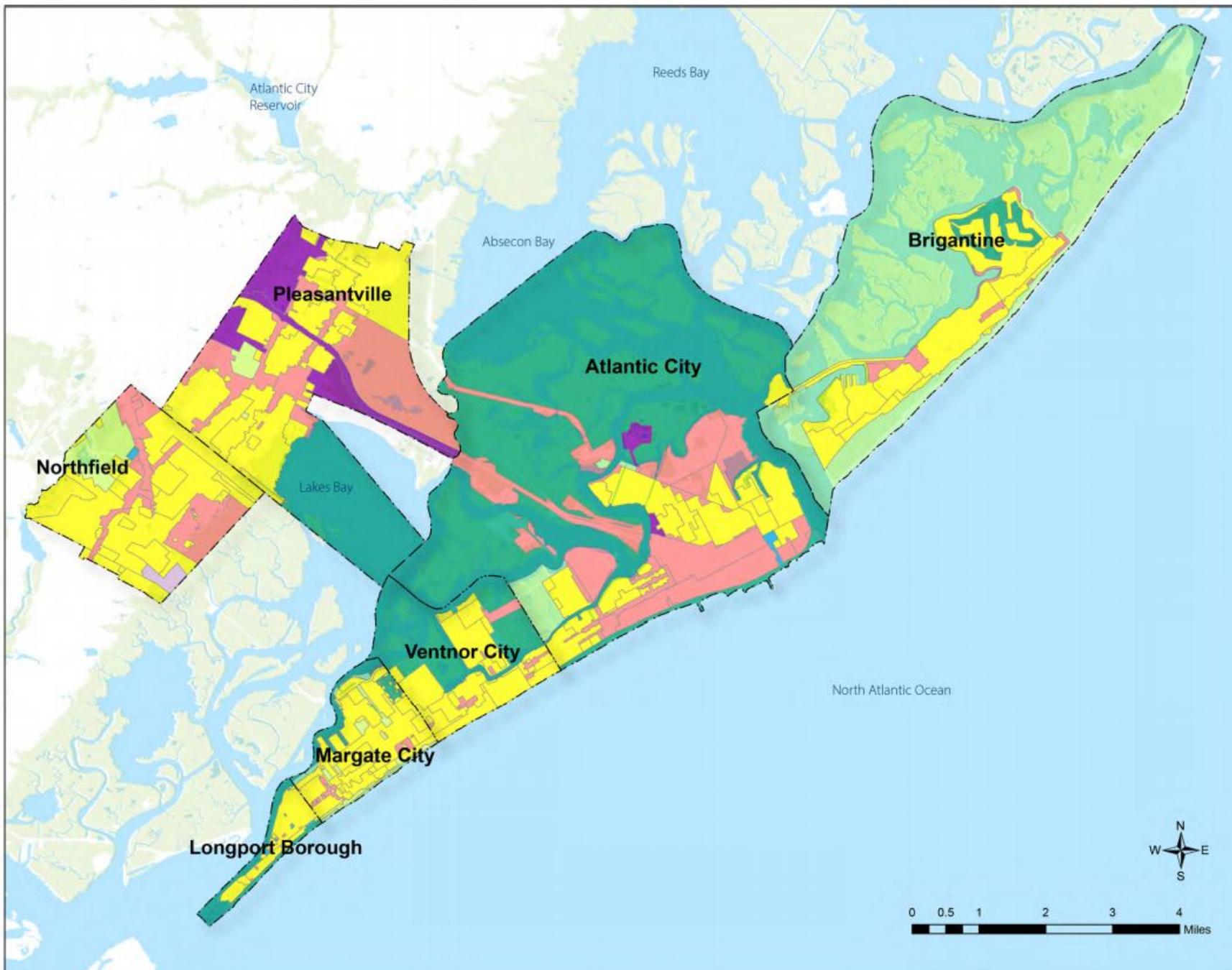
Legend

- Beach
- Conservation Area
- Estuary or Marsh
- Natural Area
- Park
- Wildlife Management Area
- Wildlife Refuge
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Golf Course/Country Club
- Municipal Boundary



Regional Land Coverage

LANDCOVER



Legend

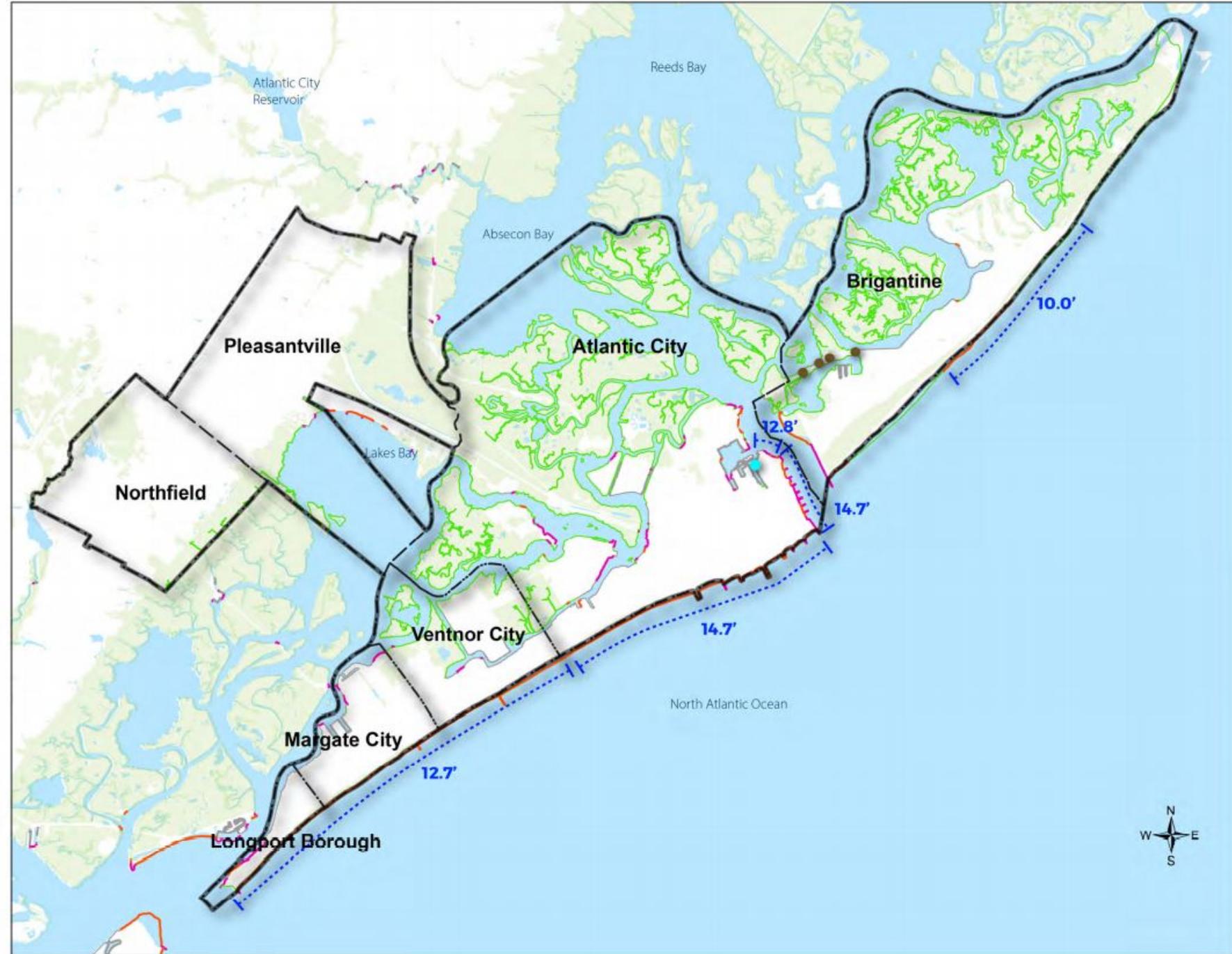
- COMMERCIAL
- CONSERVATION
- INDUSTRIAL
- INSTITUTIONAL
- PARK
- PRESERVATION
- RESIDENTIAL
- WETLANDS

Regional

Projects – Shoreline Type



PROJECTS - SHORELINE TYPE



Legend

- Vegetative Shoreline
- Vertical Bulkhead
- Sandy Beach
- Seawalls and Jettys
- - - Municipal Boundary
- Atlantic-Brigantine Blvd Shoreline Stabilization Project Site
- Gardners Basin Living Shoreline Installation

Regional FEMA Flood Zones

