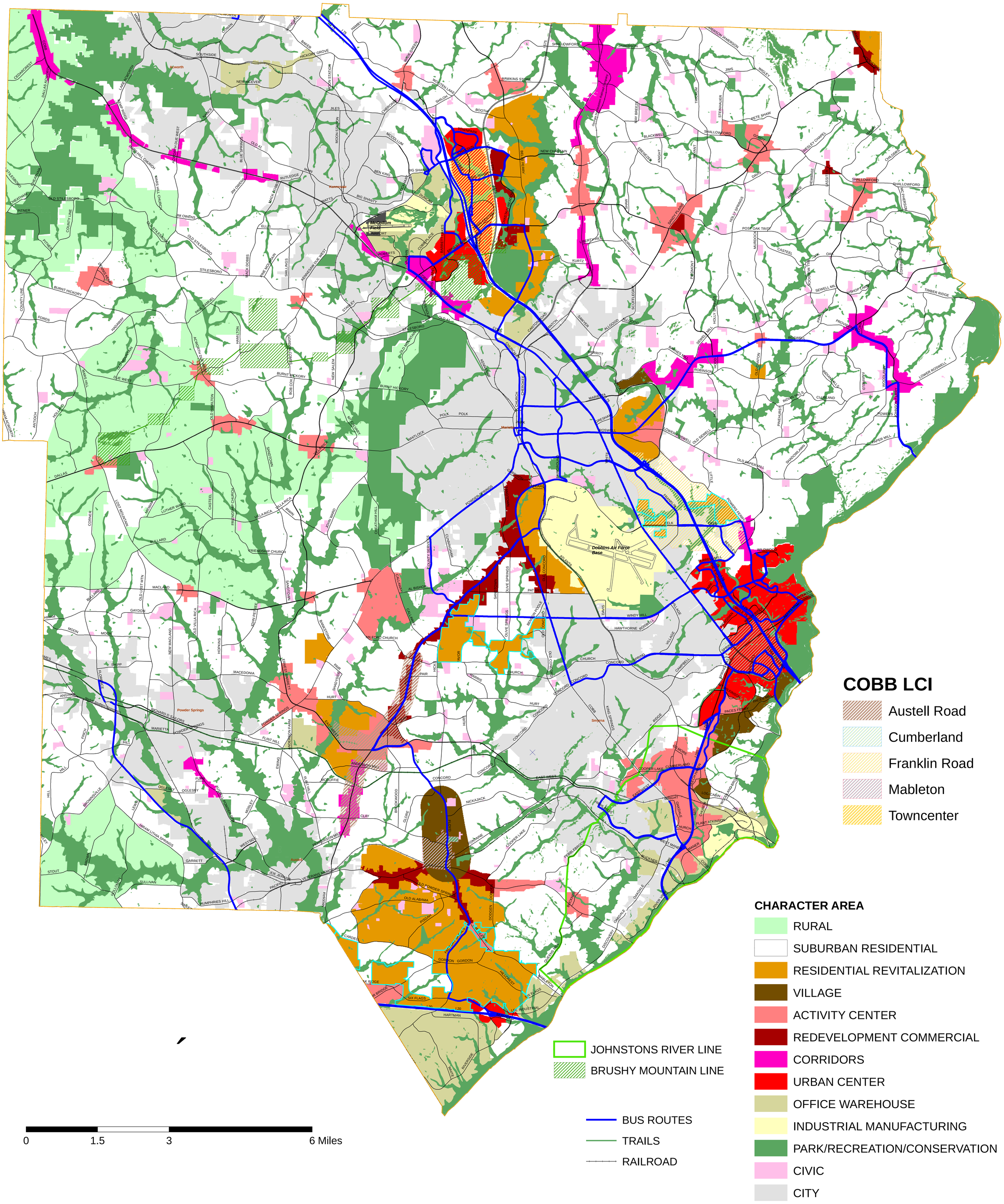CHARACTER AREA