

Welcome

2023 BILLINGS URBAN AREA LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Thank you for attending tonight's open house for the Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan. The purpose of this open house is to give you an opportunity to learn about the plan and provide comments on the proposed projects.



Your Views Are Important!
Please provide comments
on the interactive
map survey at [bit.ly/
billingslrtp2023projects](https://bit.ly/billingslrtp2023projects)

WHO IS INVOLVED?



The primary sounding board is the Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the above agencies.

The consultant team for the project includes Kittelson & Associates, Inc. and DOWL.



What is a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?

The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is preparing a long range transportation plan (LRTP) to address travel by people and goods and meet the local, state, and federal requirements. The plan is a blueprint to guide the development and implementation of transportation system projects for the Billings Urban Area.

MPOs are required to update their transportation plan every four to five years. The last plan for Billings was completed in 2018.

The LRTP includes:

- Planning for the next 20 years
- Engaging the public for input and comment
- Assessing facilities and operations of the different transportation modes
- Identifying transportation needs and a set of short- and long-range transportation projects
- Constraining the recommendations financially

LRTP TIMELINE



Fall 2022

Identify transportation needs and opportunities



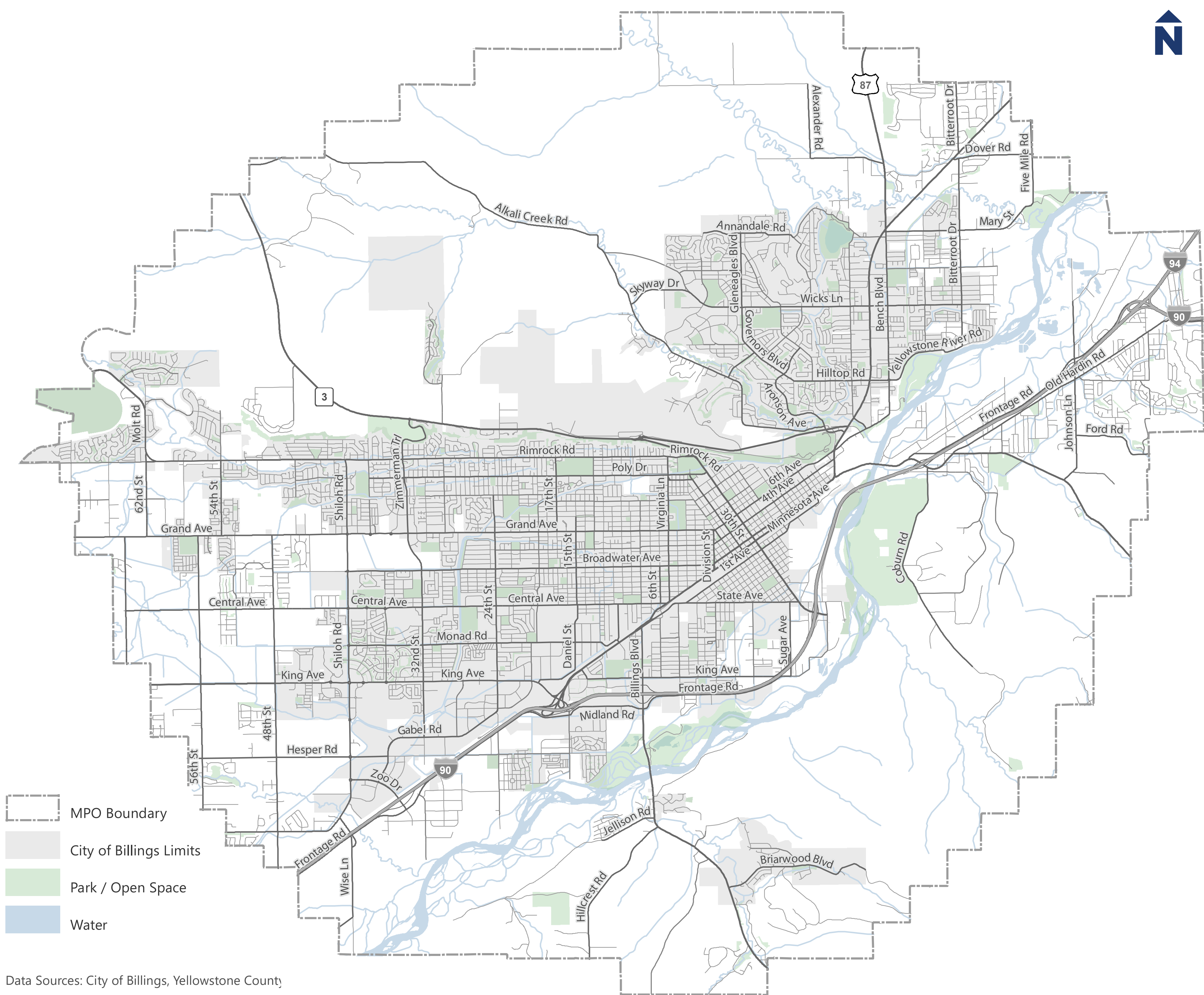
Winter 2023

Collect feedback on proposed projects and prioritization

Summer 2023

Final Plan Adoption

Planning Area, Vision, & Goals



VISION

Support a livable and economically vibrant community through a safer and more equitable multimodal transportation system.

GOALS



Safety – Develop a safer transportation system for all users.



Resiliency – Optimize, preserve, and enhance the existing transportation system to adapt with climate change, protect the natural environment, and promote a healthy and sustainable community.



Mobility – Create a transportation system that supports the use of transit, walking, biking, shared mobility, and vehicles.



Equity & Accessibility – Address the needs of transportation-disadvantaged populations through the provision of affordable, accessible, and reliable travel options.

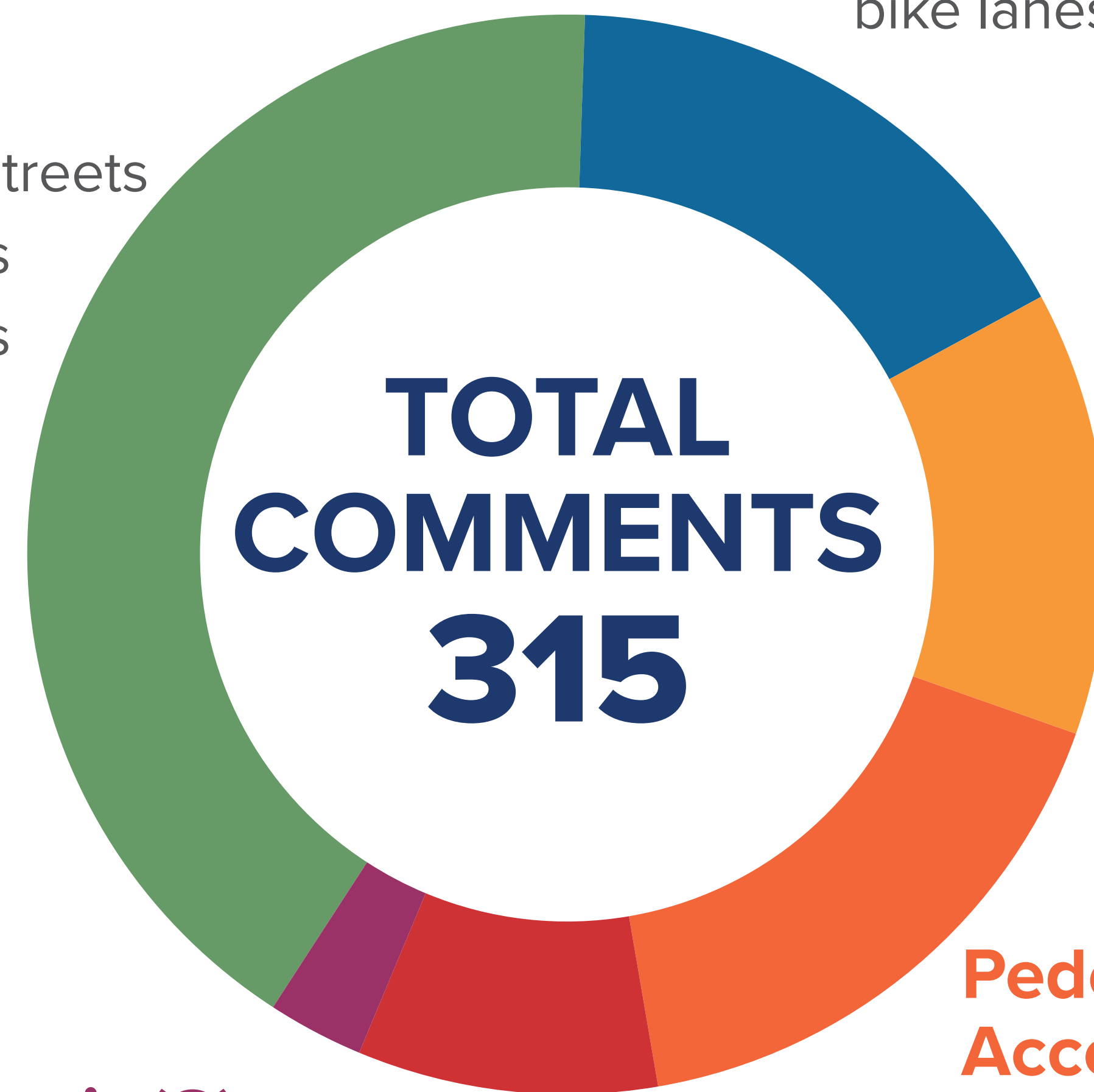


Economic Vitality – Provide transportation facilities to support the local economy and connect the Billings Urban Area to local, regional, and national commerce.

Phase 1 Public & Stakeholder Outreach

Safety (37)

- Excessive speeding
- Too wide streets
- Blind spots
- Dangerous signals



Transit (8)

- Bus service to more locations

Congestion (25)

- Various intersections and roadways noted

Bicyclist (46)

- Access to trails
- Safe and separated bike lanes

General (37)

- Increased wayfinding and informational signage throughout Billings
- Improved access and circulation around Billings Logan International Airport

Pedestrian (43) + Accessibility (4)

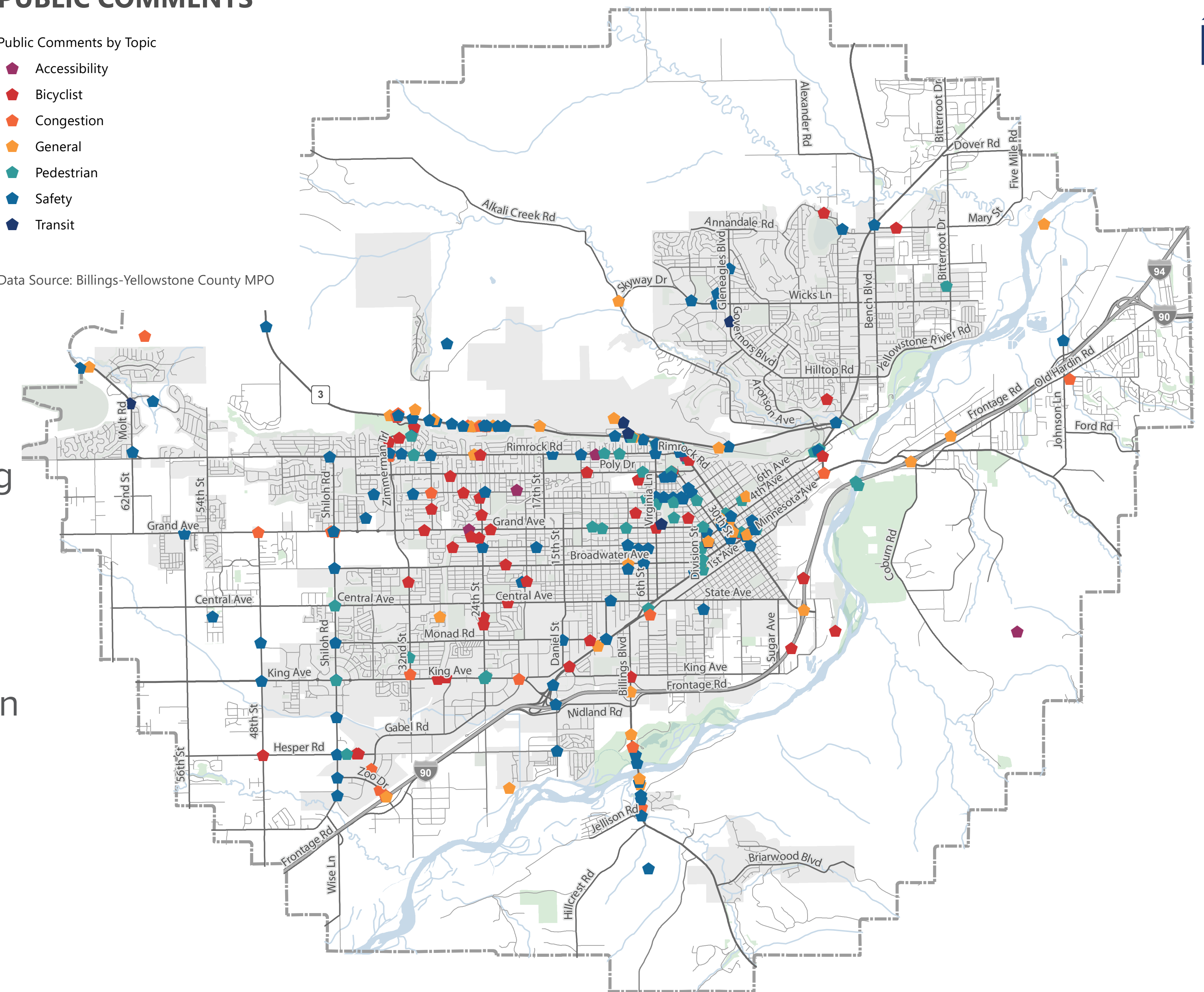
- Signs & access
- Crossings
- Sidewalk accessibility

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments by Topic

- Accessibility
- Bicyclist
- Congestion
- General
- Pedestrian
- Safety
- Transit

Data Source: Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

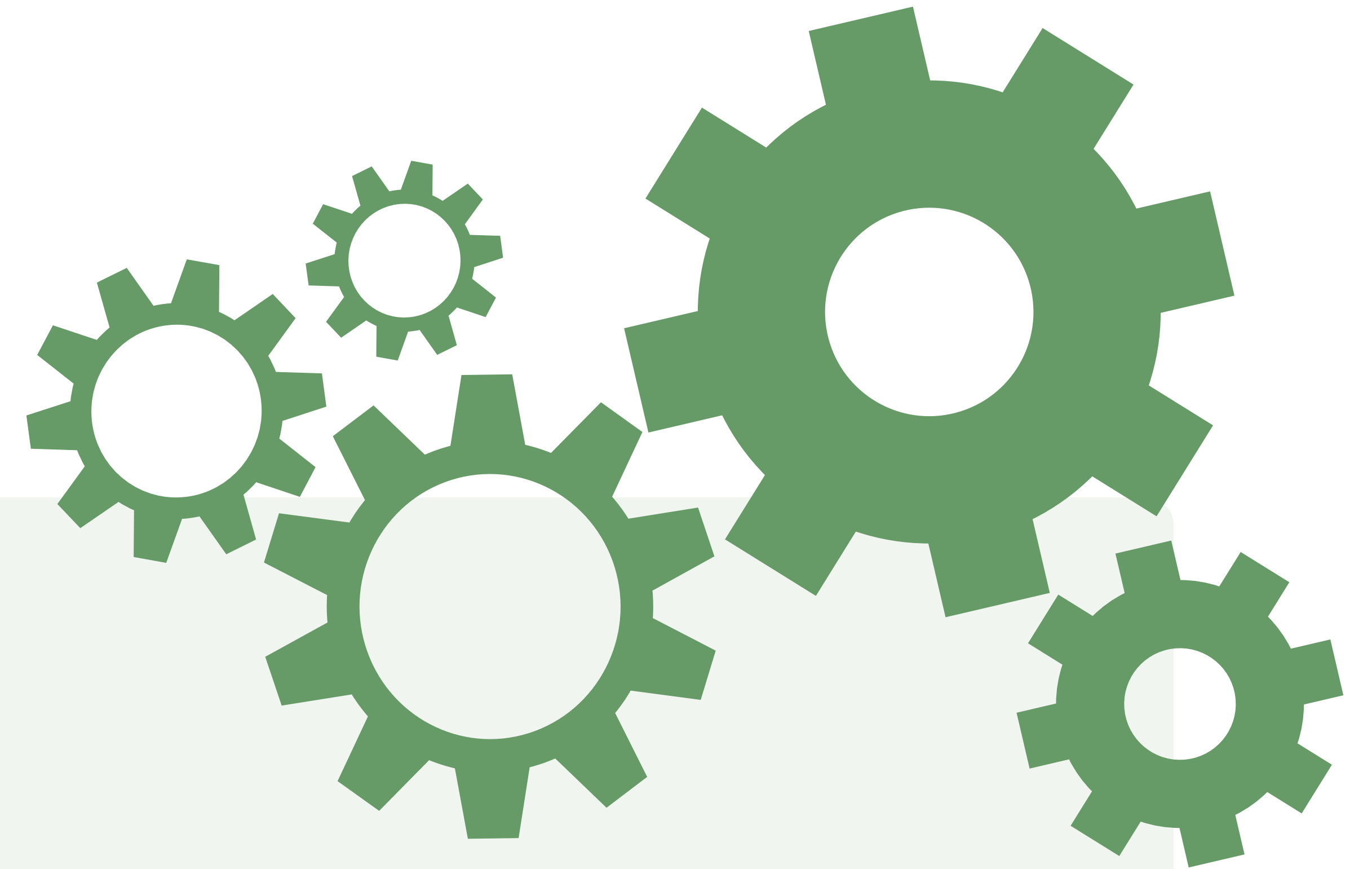


Stakeholders Met With:

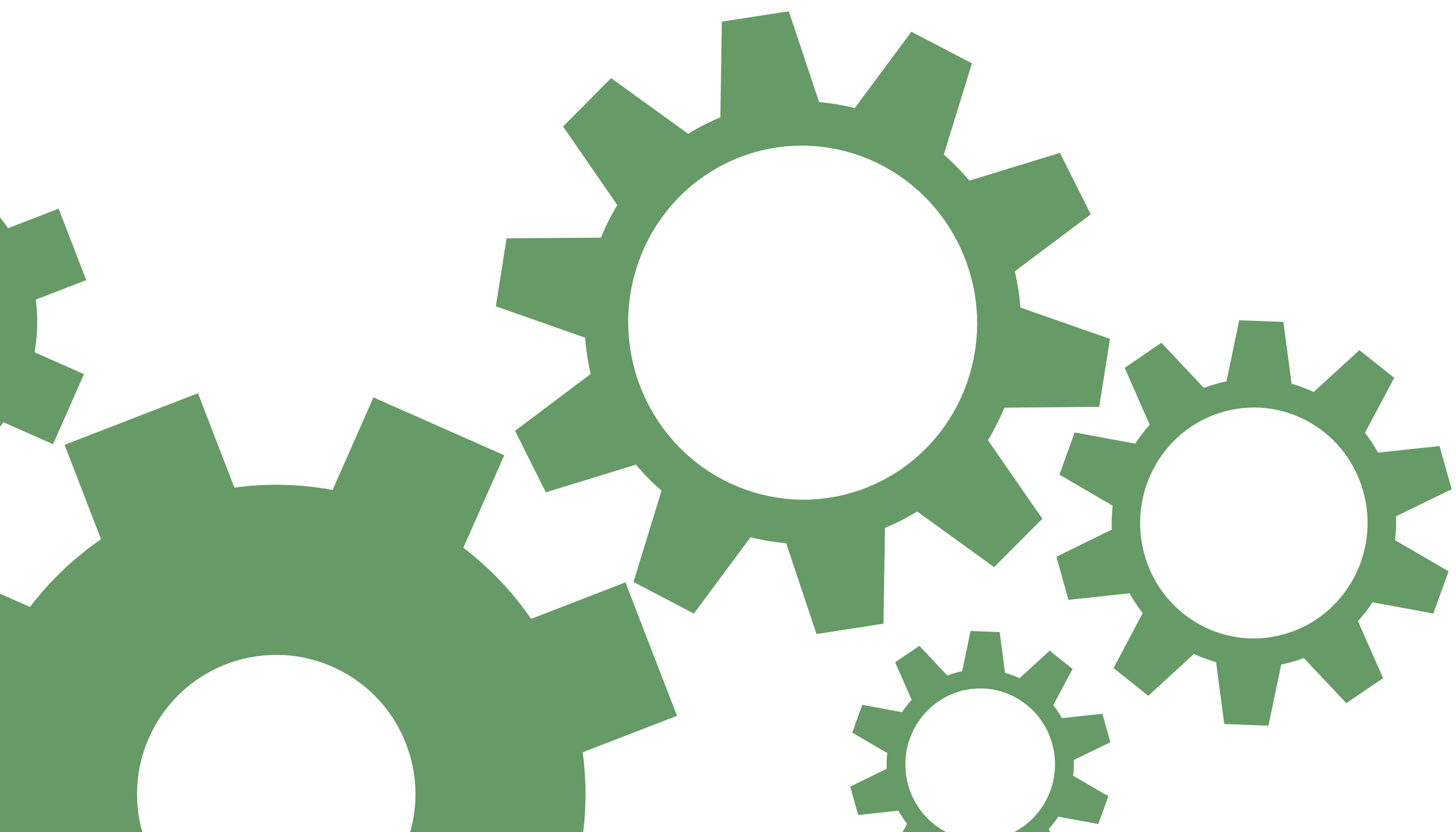
- Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT)
- Bike Walk Montana
- Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District
- Pioneer Park Task Force
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Lockwood Steering Committee
- All Task Force Joint Meeting

What Does the Future Conditions Analysis Consider?

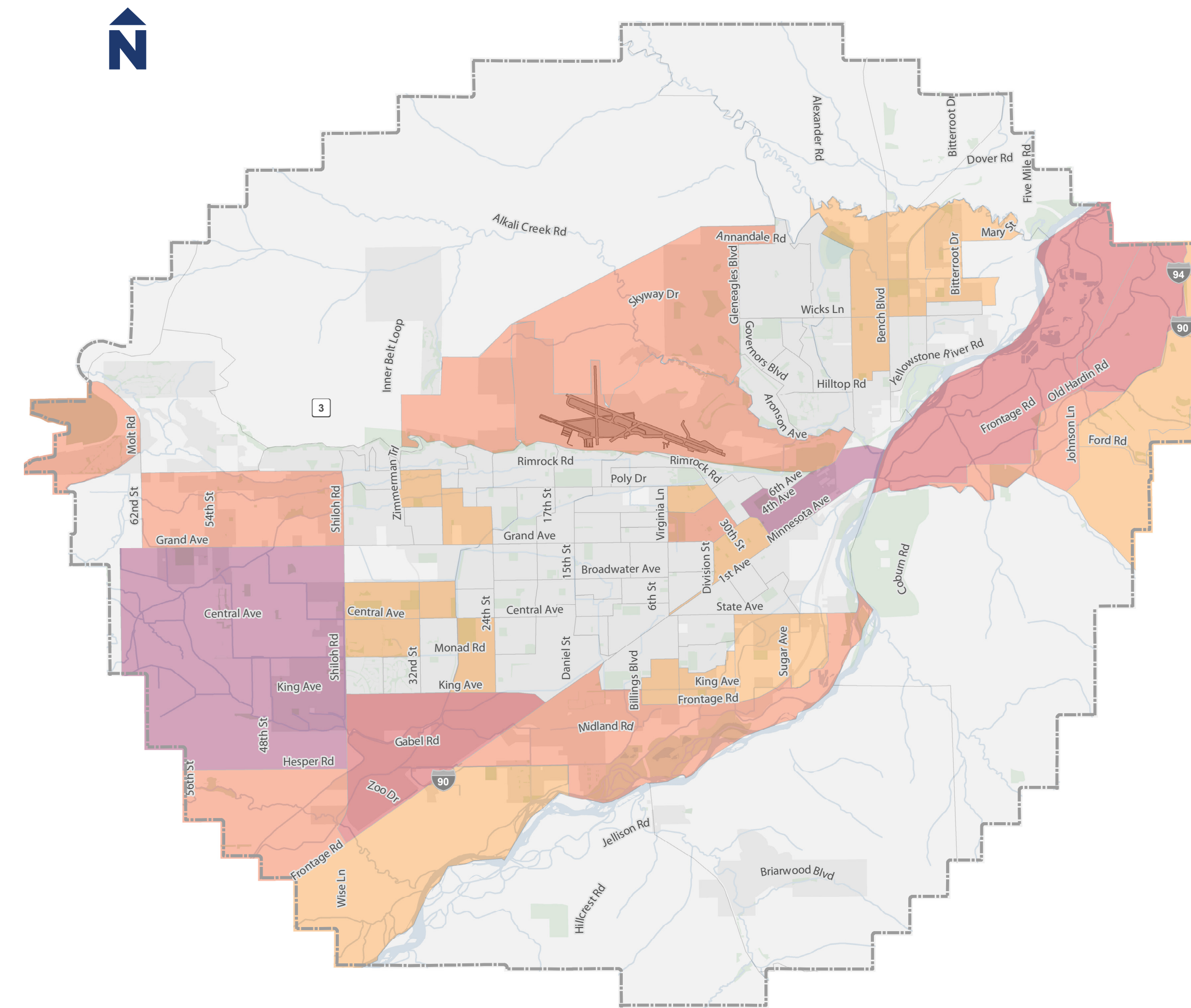
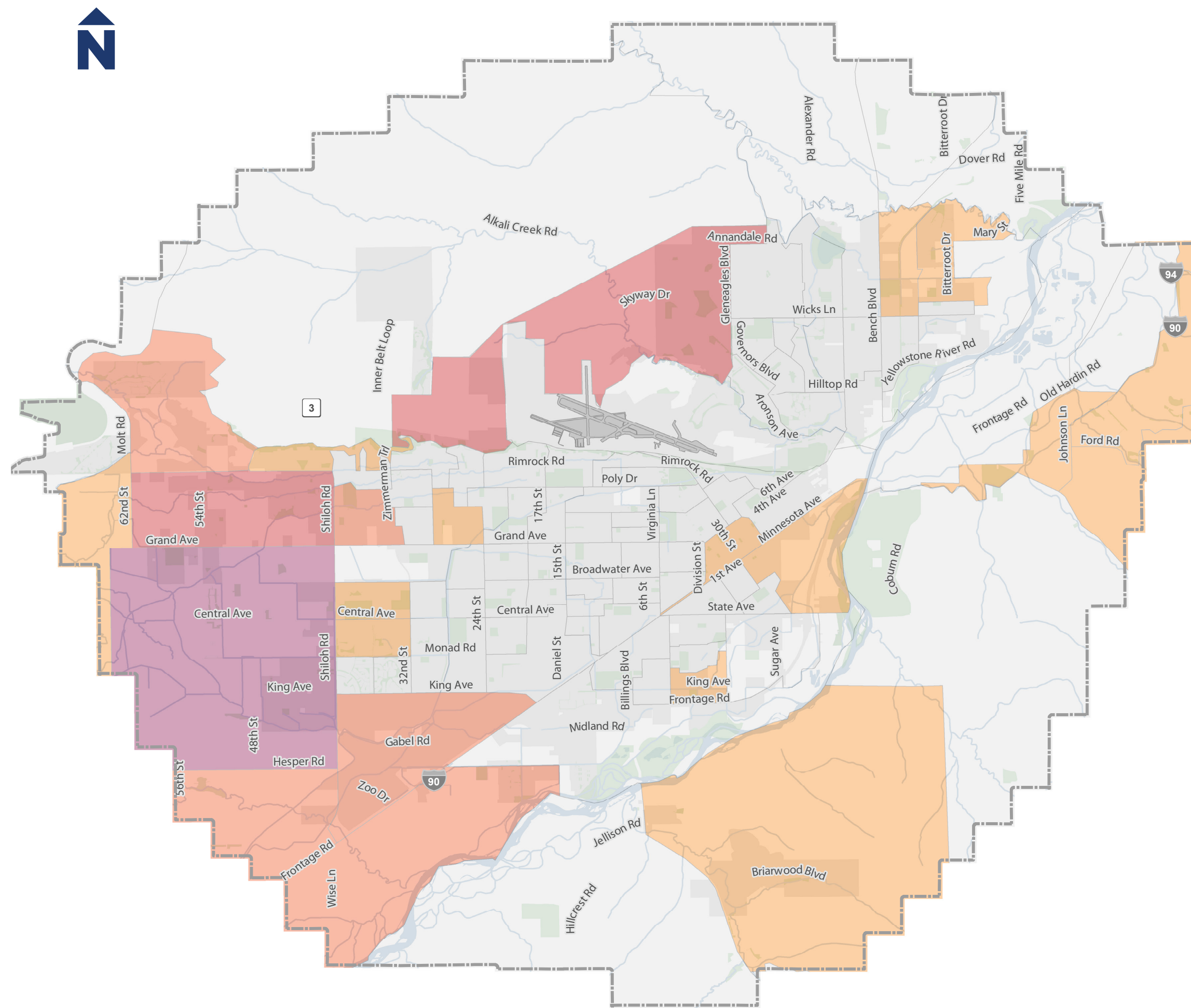
Looking ahead to the future empowers better planning to help achieve the Billings urban area vision.



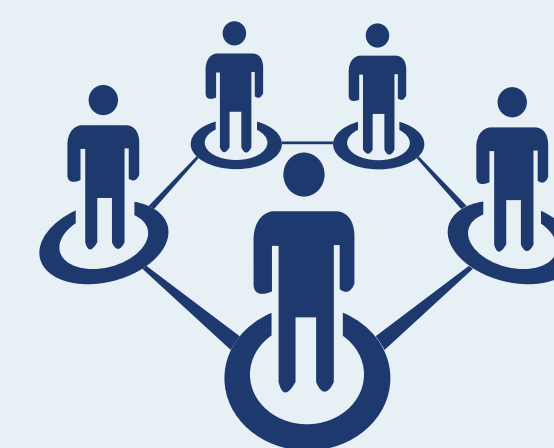
- Looks 20+ years into the future to 2045
- Investigates what the multimodal transportation system could be like
- Considers the impacts of:
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Natural disasters and climate change
 - Emerging technologies



Where is Growth Expected in 2045?



- Some infill development is projected throughout Billings, but most growth is projected in the west.
- Employment areas around arterial roadways and highways, as well as downtown and by the airport, will continue to be important economic drivers.

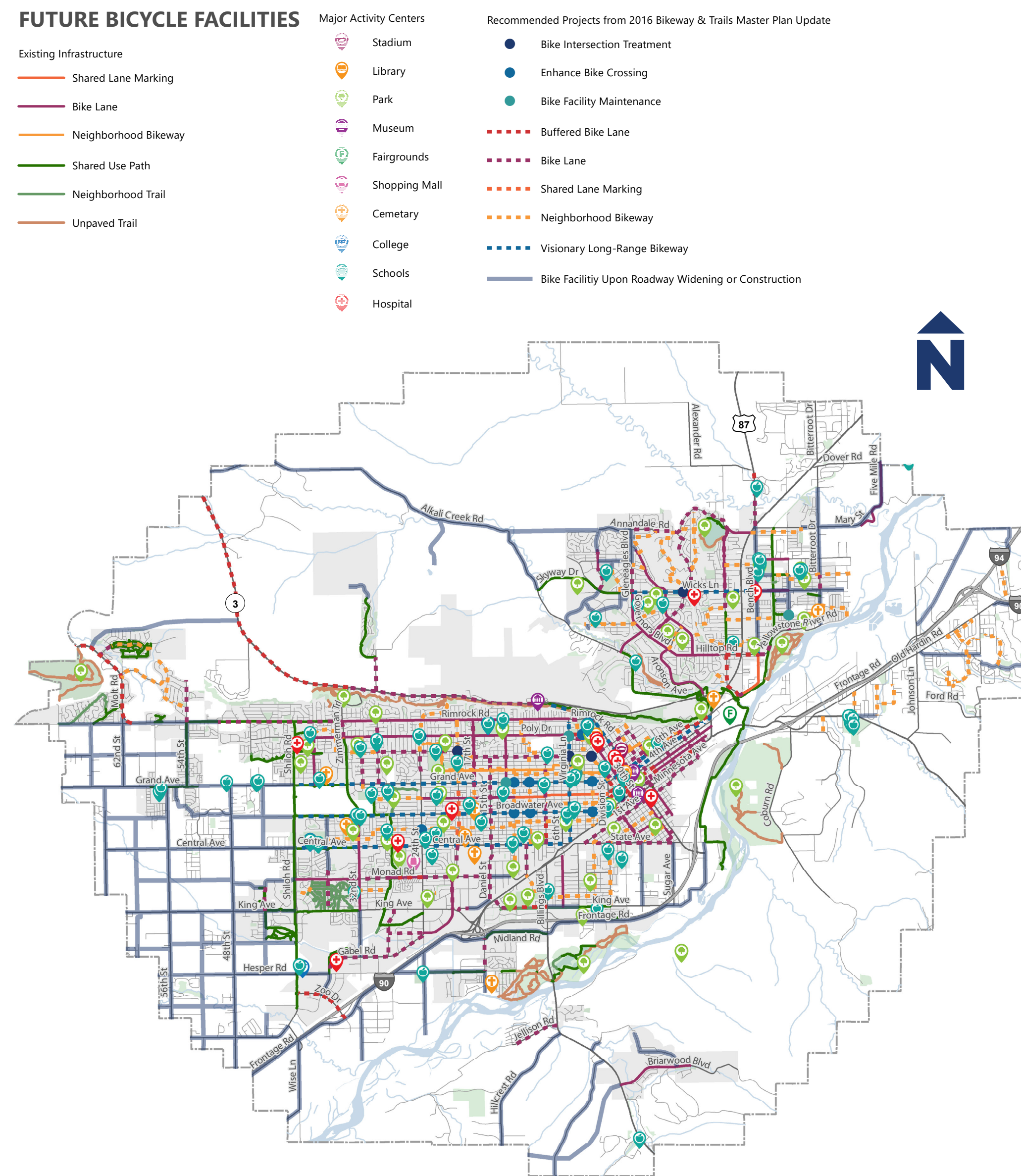


34% increase in Billings urban area population is projected to grow between 2021 and 2045 from 142,358 to 190,986.

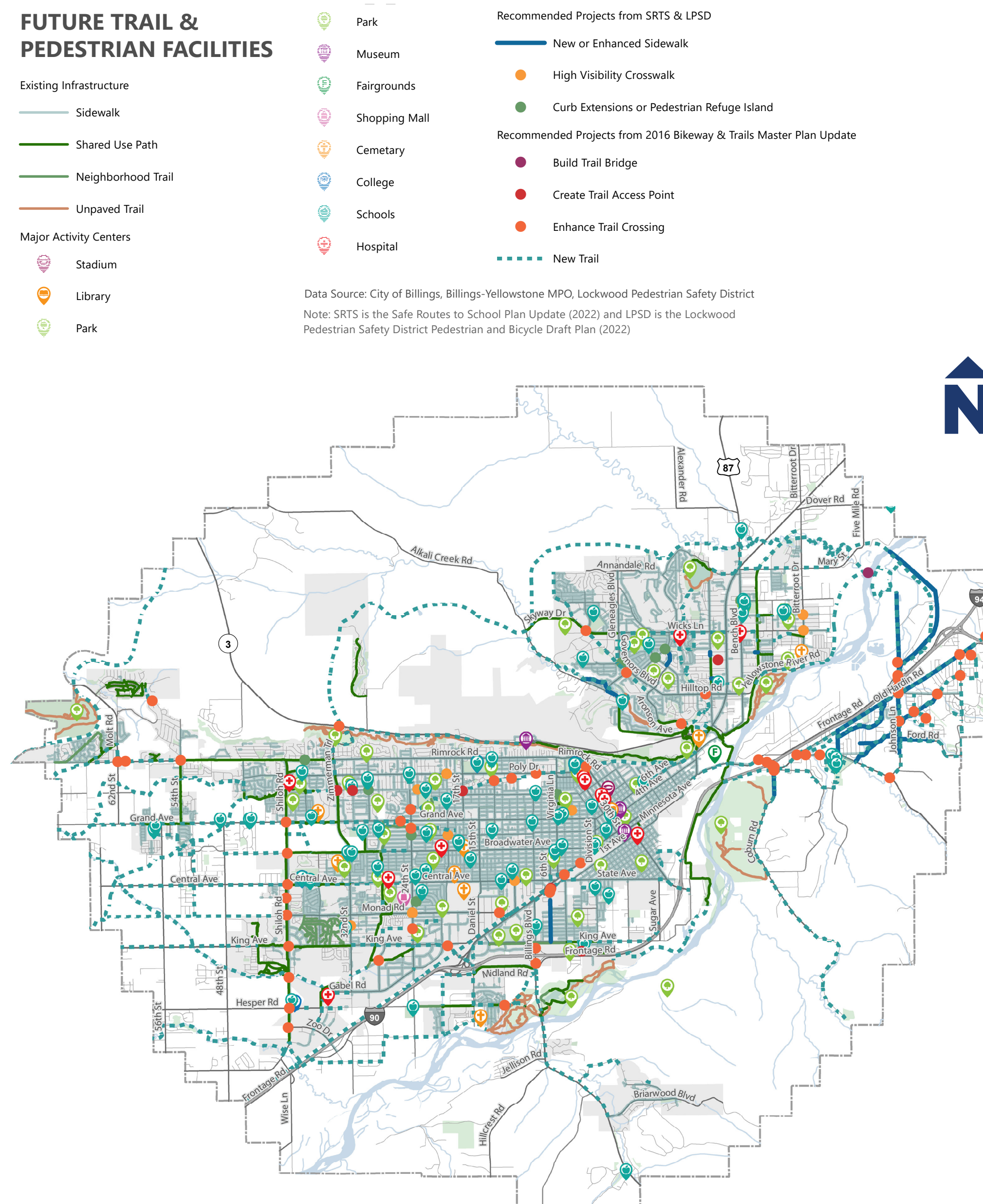


43% increase in employment projected between 2021 and 2045 from 74,848 to 106,819.

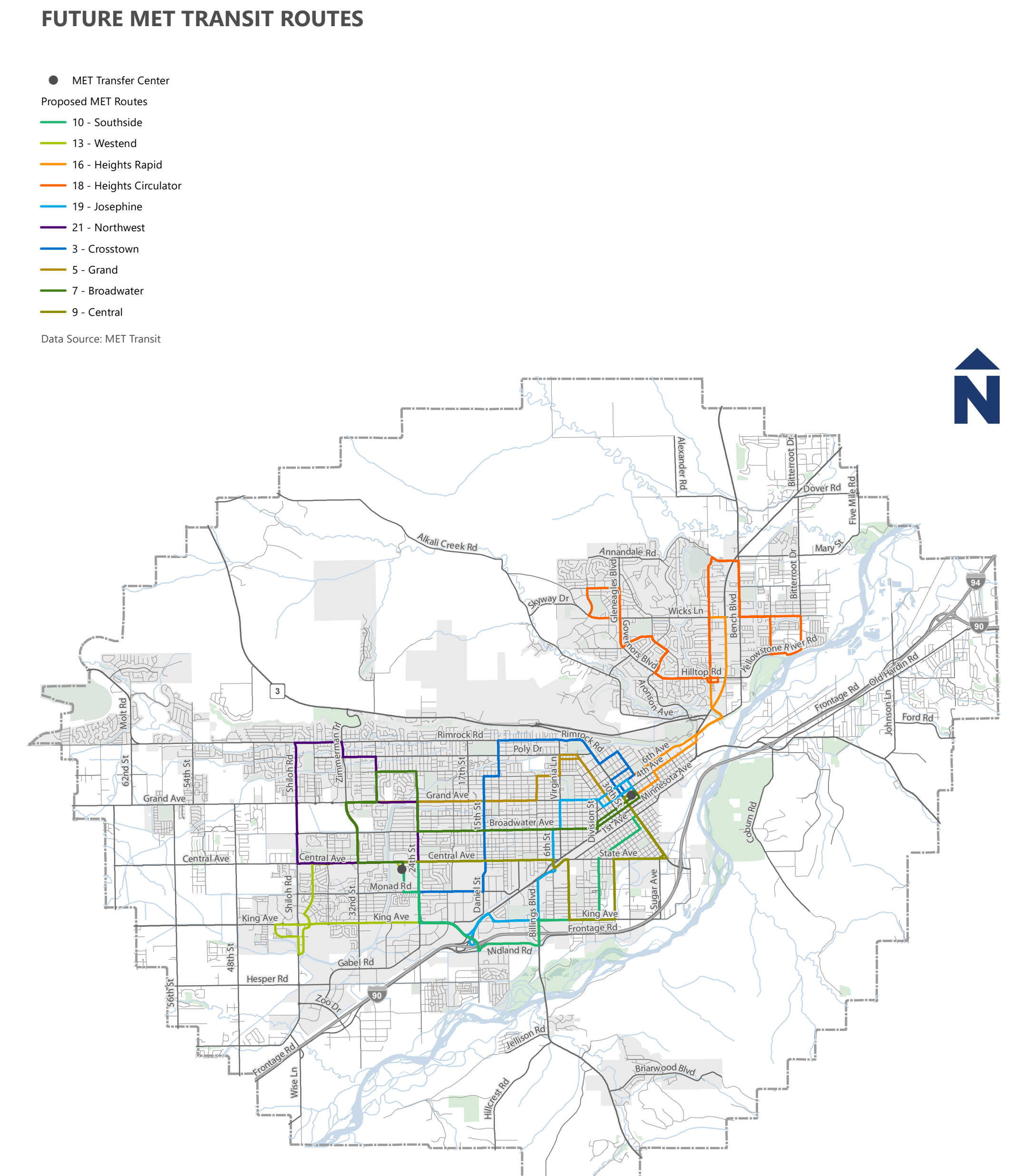
Where Might People Walk, Bike, Roll, and Ride Transit in 2045?



- Emphasis areas for bicycle facilities include increasing connectivity throughout Billings and Lockwood, with context-appropriate facilities, high visibility crossings, and connectivity with trails.

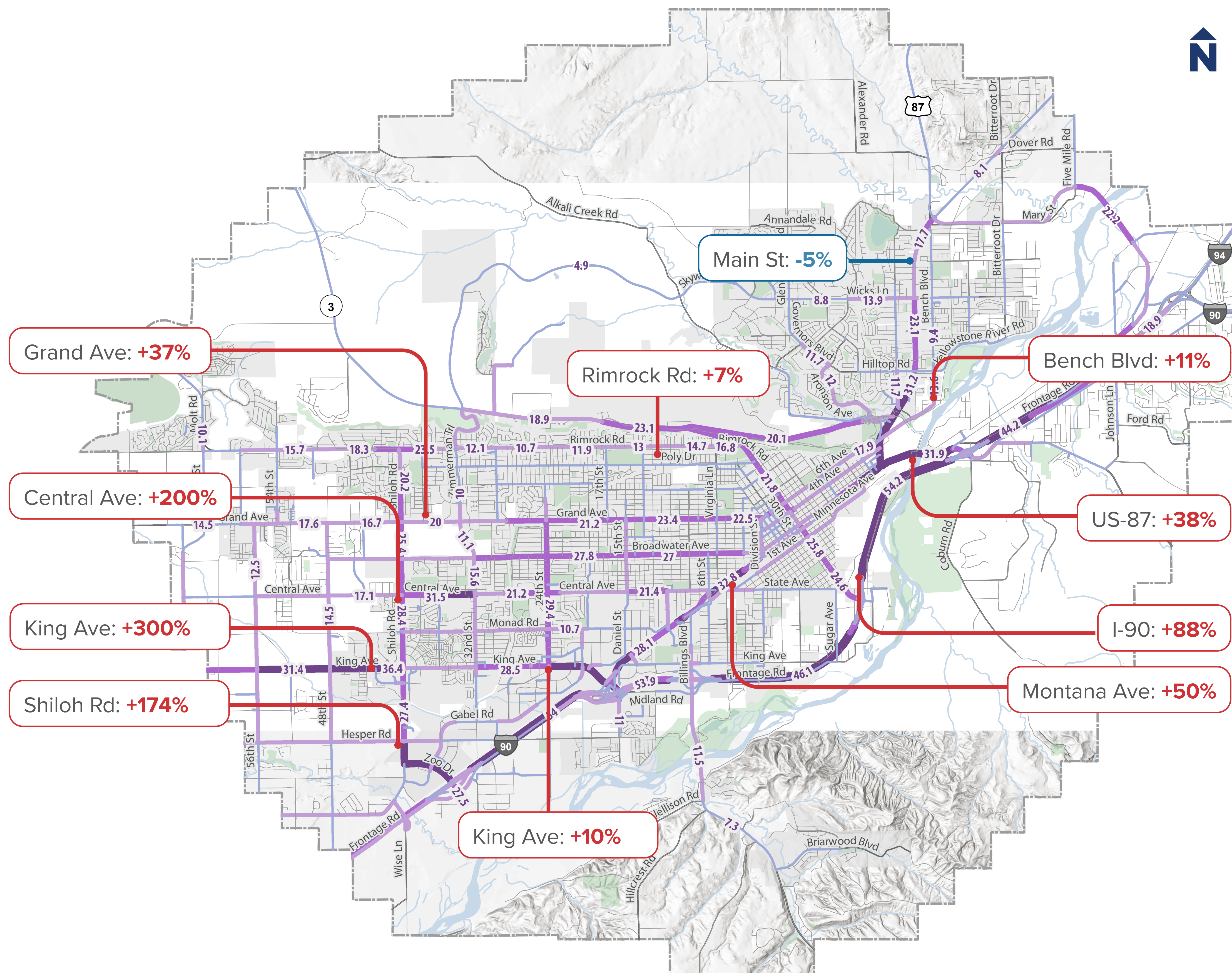


- Increasing sidewalk coverage in Lockwood and implementing high visibility crosswalks and curb extensions throughout Billings will improve pedestrian facilities.
- Building trail connections throughout the northwest, southeast, and western portions of the urban area and increasing trail access points will be important for the region.



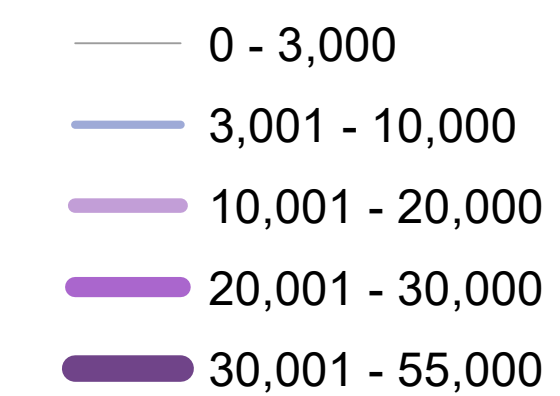
- In the future, MET Transit plans to implement a stop-based fixed-route system and collaborate with Lockwood to evaluate service opportunities.

Where is Traffic Expected in 2045?



FUTURE MODEL YEAR (2045) AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (ADT)

Year 2045 Daily Traffic Projections



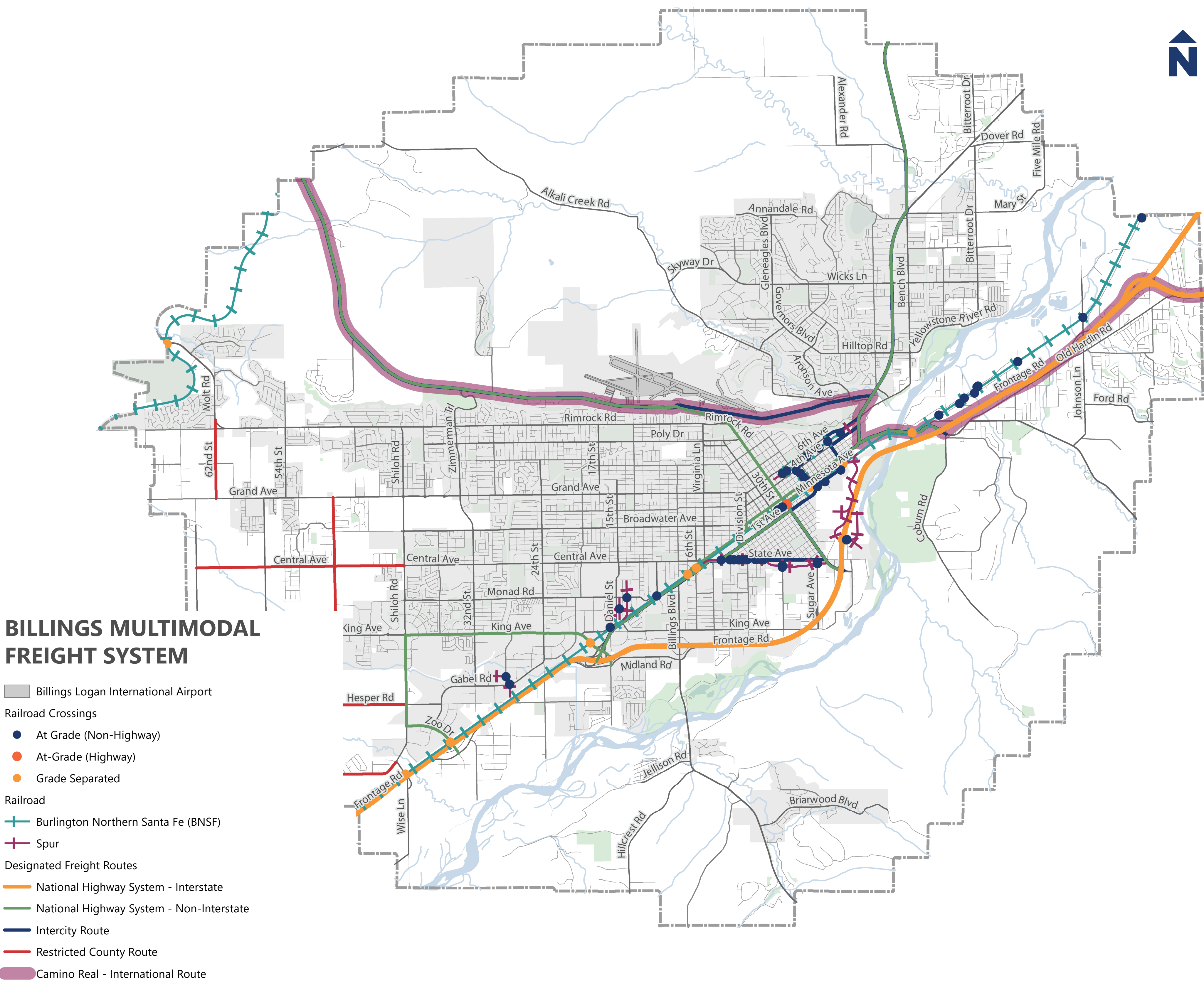
XX.X Average Daily Traffic Volume (x 1,000)

Data Source: Billings-Yellowstone MPO

Major modifications to the 2045 roadway network include:

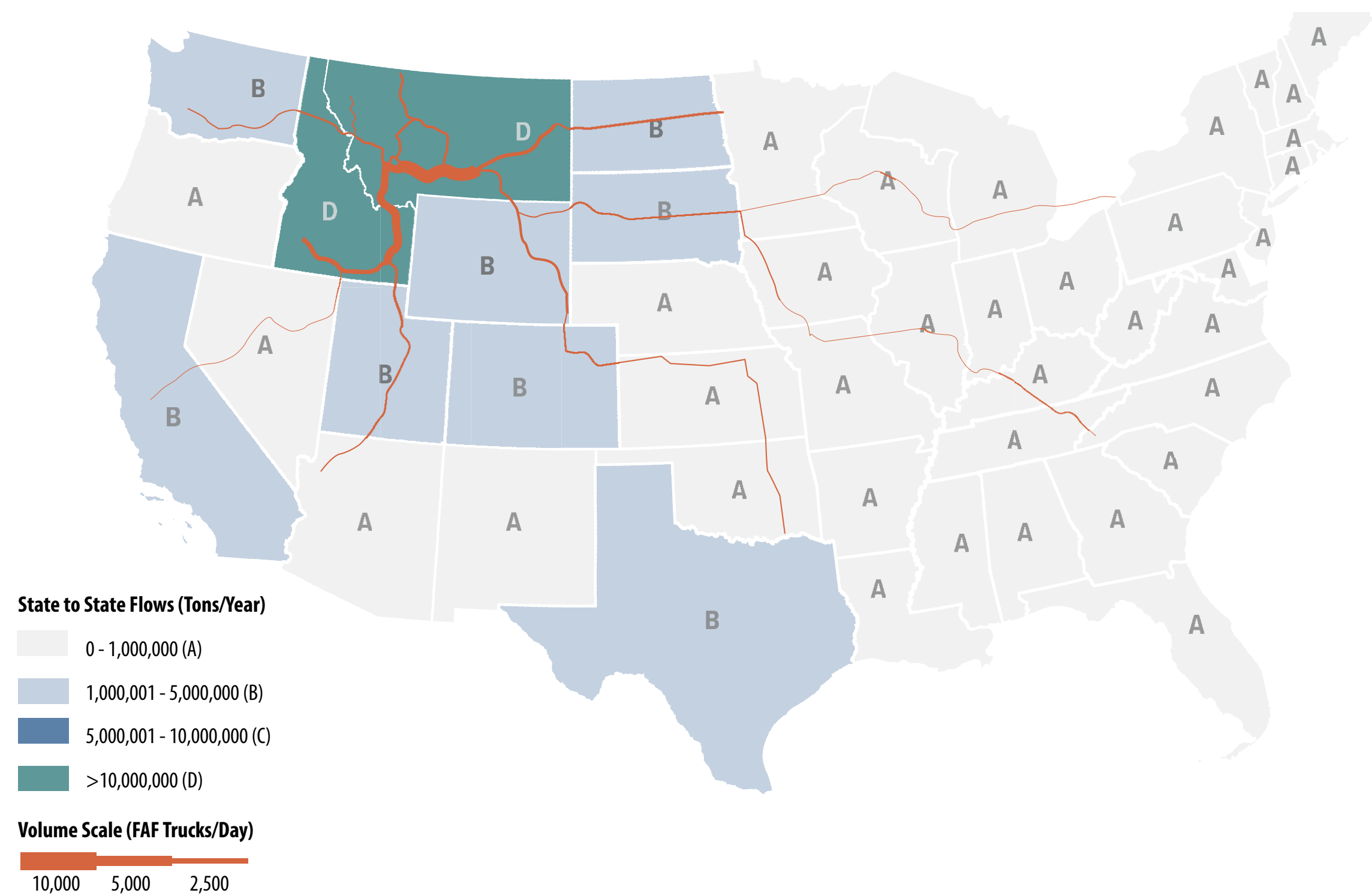
- Billings Bypass Project (On-Going MDT Project)
- Inner Belt Loop (City of Billings Project)
- Downtown Two-Way Conversions (City of Billings Project)
- New Collector Roadways (roadways that would be constructed via new development)

How is Freight Travel Expected to Grow

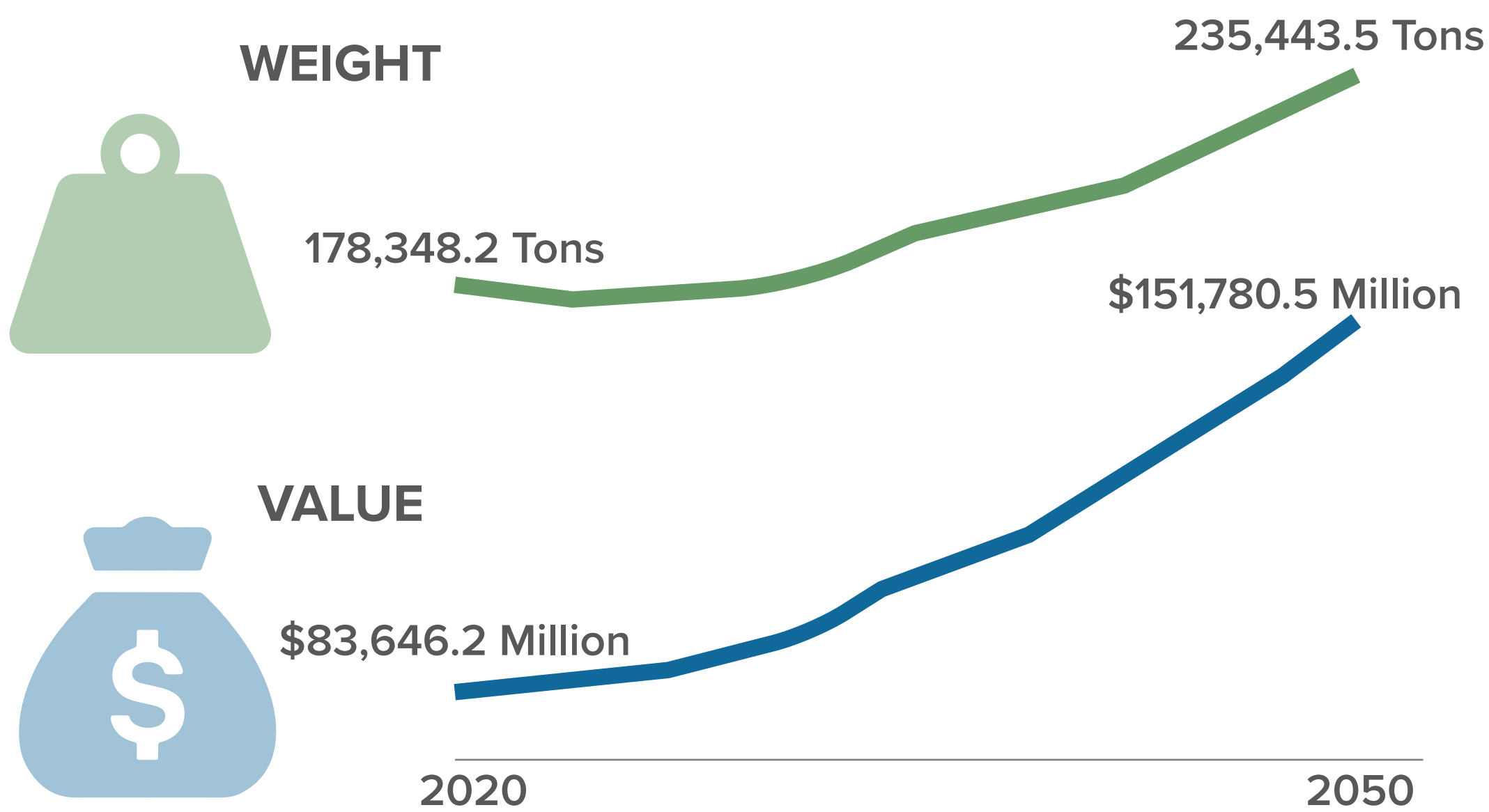


Data Source: Federal Highway Administration, Montana Department of Transportation, Yellowstone County, City of Billings

Where Freight Flows from Montana are Expected to Grow



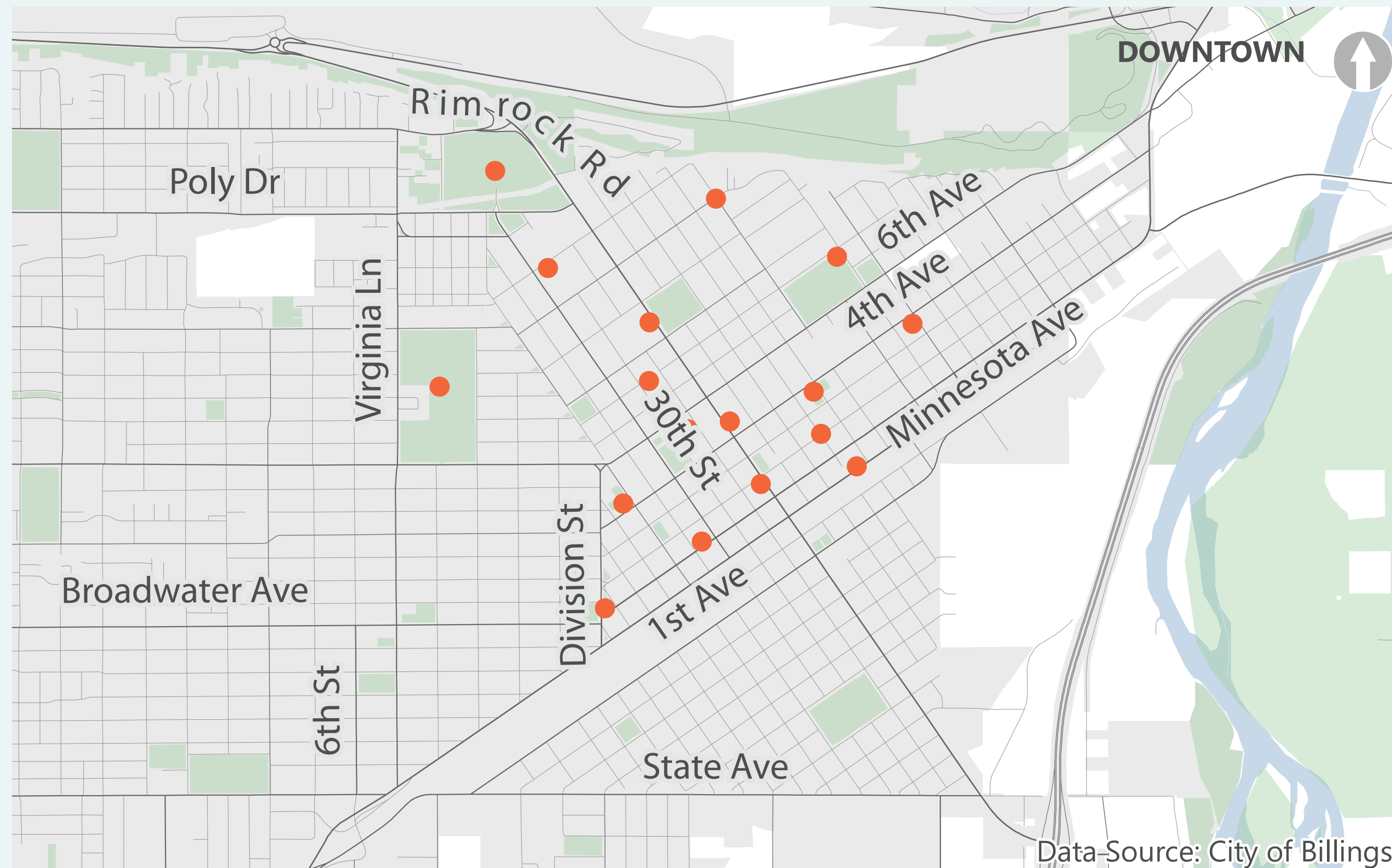
Freight Demand is Projected to Grow in Montana



What Transportation Technologies Might There Be in 2045?

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

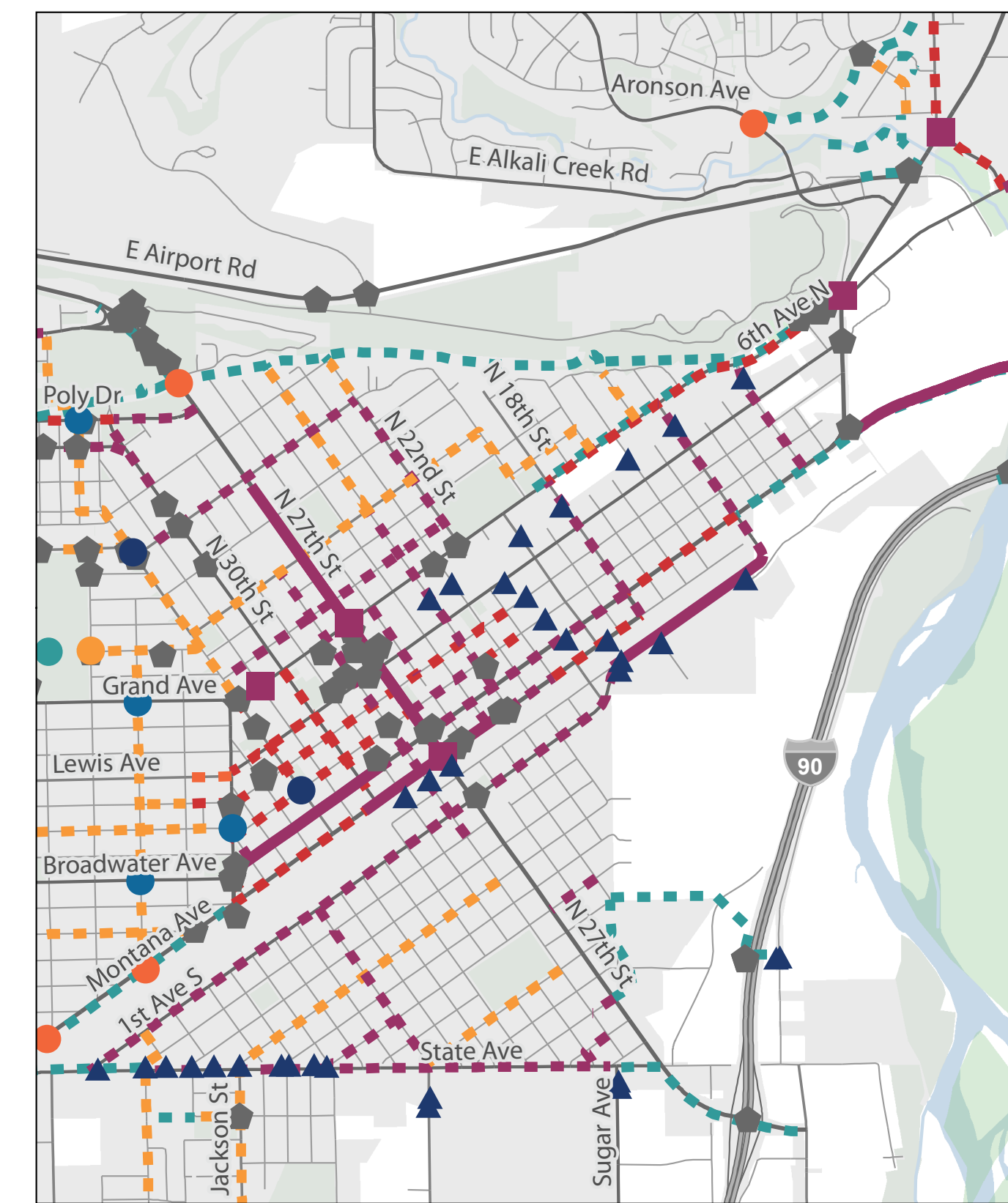
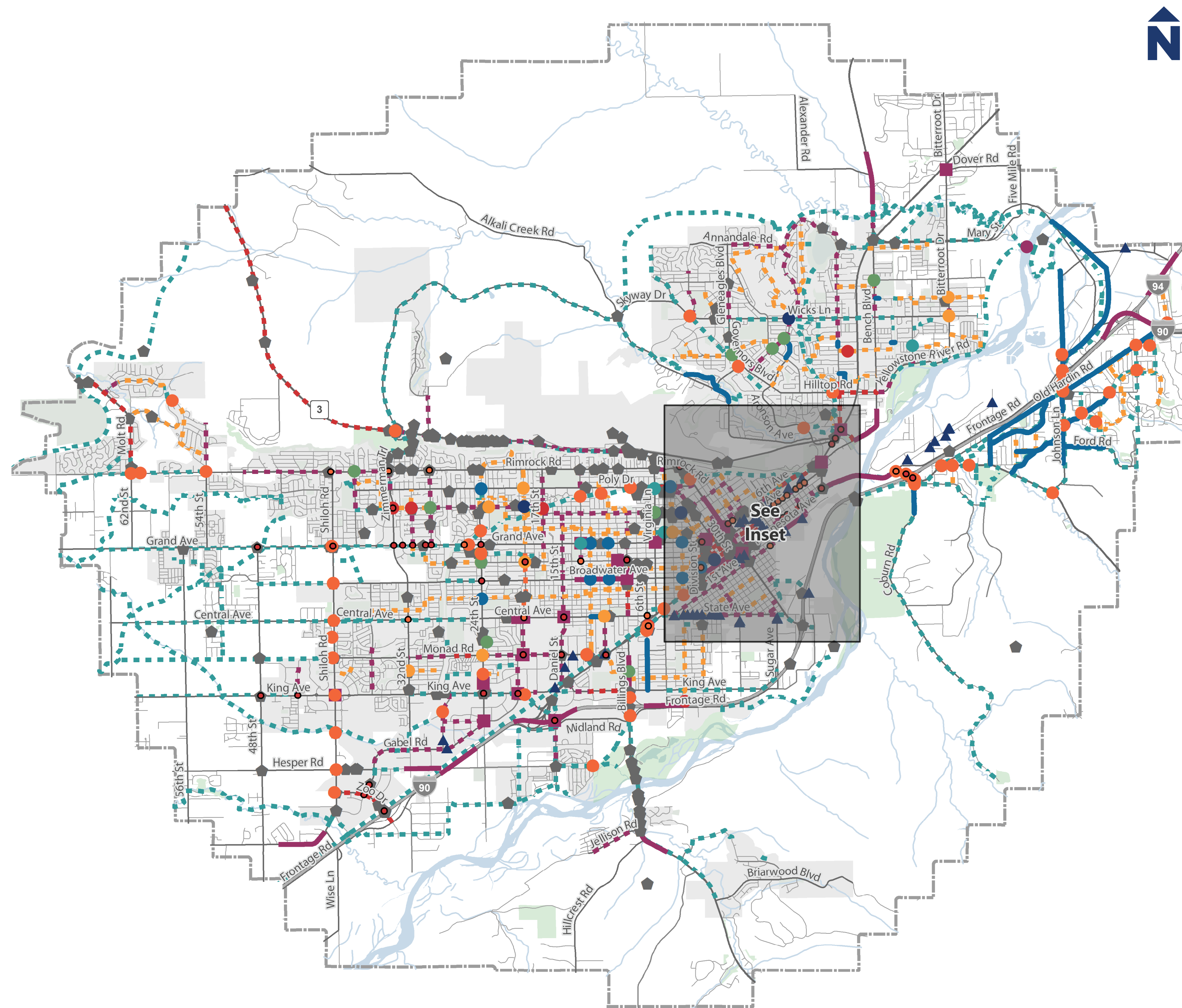
- By 2040, 9% (~87,000) of registered vehicles in Montana are projected to be electric vehicles.
- That's roughly 8,700 EVs in Billings in 2040.
- Substantial local investments in charging infrastructure and clean power systems will be necessary to accommodate charging demand.



SHARED MOBILITY & MICROMOBILITY

- Potential locations of bike and scooter share stations in the future.
- Bikeshare and Scootershare can be implemented to complement MET Transit services to facilitate connections.

What are the Identified Needs, Deficiencies, and Opportunities in 2045?



NEEDS, DEFICIENCIES, & OPPORTUNITIES

Other Identified Concerns	Recommended Bike Projects
Public Comment Location	Bike Intersection Treatment
At-Grade Railroad Crossing	Enhance Bike Crossing
	Bike Facility Maintenance
Safety	
High EPDO Intersection	Buffered Bike Lane
High EPDO Segment	Bike Lane
	Shared Lane Marking
Recommended Trail Projects	Neighborhood Bikeway
Build Trail Bridge	
Create Trail Access Point	Projected 2045 Intersection Operations
Enhance Trail Crossing	LOS E
Trail	LOS F
Recommended Pedestrian Projects	
High Visibility Crosswalk	
Curb Extensions or Pedestrian Refuge Island	
New or Enhanced Sidewalk	

The needs, deficiencies, and opportunities were identified from:

- Public comments gathered from the Open House #1
- The Existing Conditions analyses
- The Future Conditions analyses
- Input from regional stakeholders
- Field visits throughout the Billings urban area

These needs, deficiencies, and opportunities influenced the Project List.

How was the Project List Created?

Existing Programs, Plans, + Studies

70 projects from existing programs*

39 projects from recent plans and studies (since 2018 LRTP)

Previous LRTPs

226 projects from 2018 LRTP (includes several past plans and studies)

LRTP 2023 Analyses, Stakeholder + Public Input

33 projects from LRTP analyses, stakeholder input, and public input**

*CIP = City of Billings Capital Improvement Plan;
TIP = Billings-Yellowstone MPO Transportation Improvement Program;
STIP = Montana Department of Transportation Statewide Improvement Program
**Many identified issues from 2022 LRTP analyses are addressed by existing programs, recent plans and studies, and projects from the 2018 LRTP

368 projects

How are Projects Prioritized?

Projects are given a score of -1, 0, 1, or 2 for each criterion

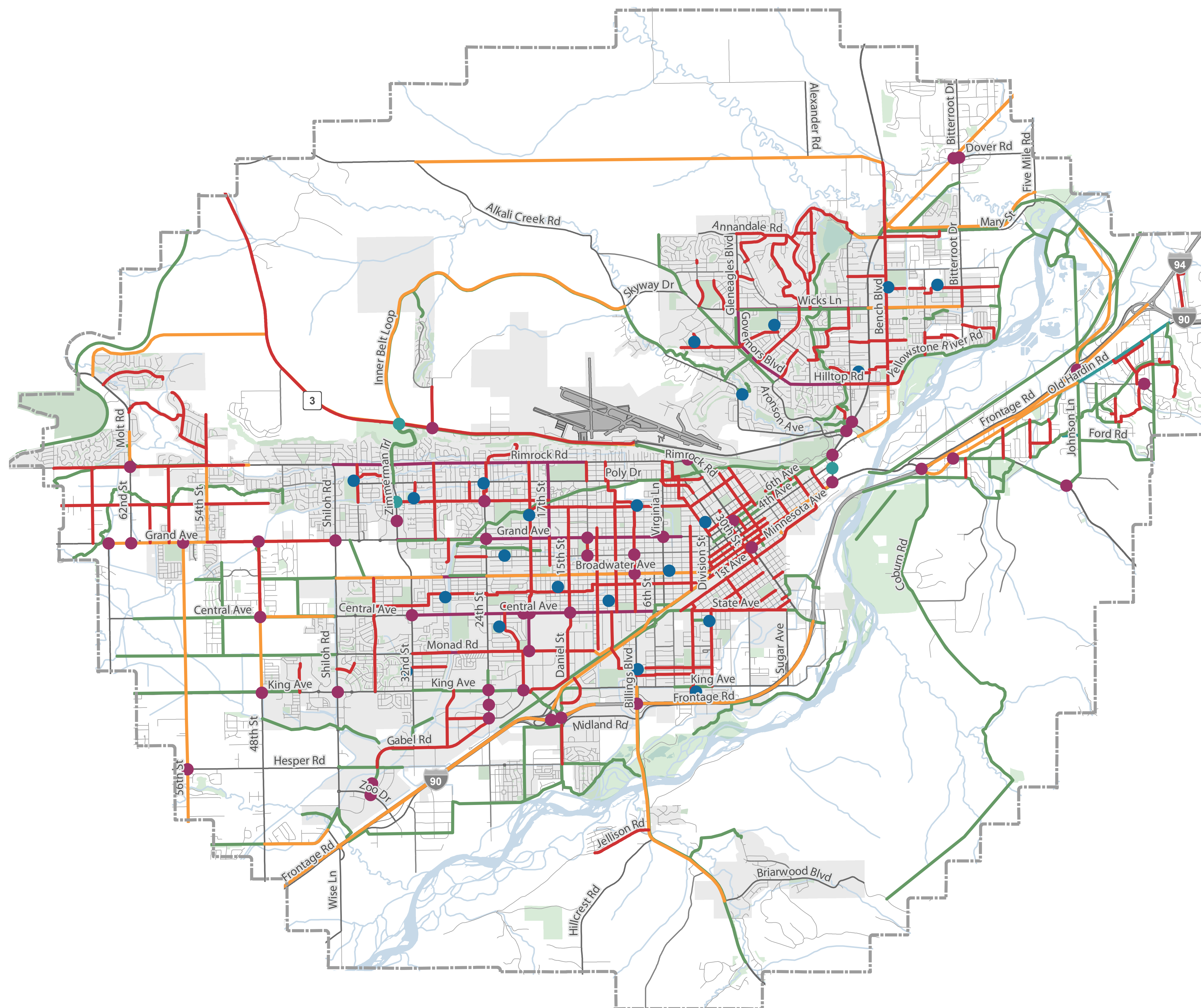
CRITERIA

- Stakeholder & Public Support
- Consistency with Adopted Plans & Studies
- Multimodal Safety
- Equity (Transportation Disadvantaged Populations)
- Sustainability (Low Carbon Modes & Green Infrastructure)
- Resiliency & Security Risks
- Right of Way Impacts
- Pedestrian Mobility
- Bicycle Mobility
- Transit Mobility
- Vehicular Level of Service (LOS)
- Freight Mobility & Safety

Total score is the sum of scores across all 12 criteria.



What is Included in the Project List?



PROJECT LIST



- MPO Boundary
- City of Billings
- Park
- Rivers and Lakes
- Billings Logan International Airport
- Pedestrian Projects
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Projects
- Intersection Projects
- Bicycle Projects
- Roadway Projects
- Trail Projects
- Pedestrian Projects
- Congestion Management Projects

Data Source: City of Billings, Lockwood Steering Committee, Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District, Yellowstone County, Billings-Yellowstone Metropolitan Planning Organization, Montana Department of Transportation,

Note: Transit projects are not included on this map, as MET Transit is working towards implementing a redesigned system.

Note: Some projects on this map are not visible because they overlap. Please access the online, interactive map to view all projects in the Project List.

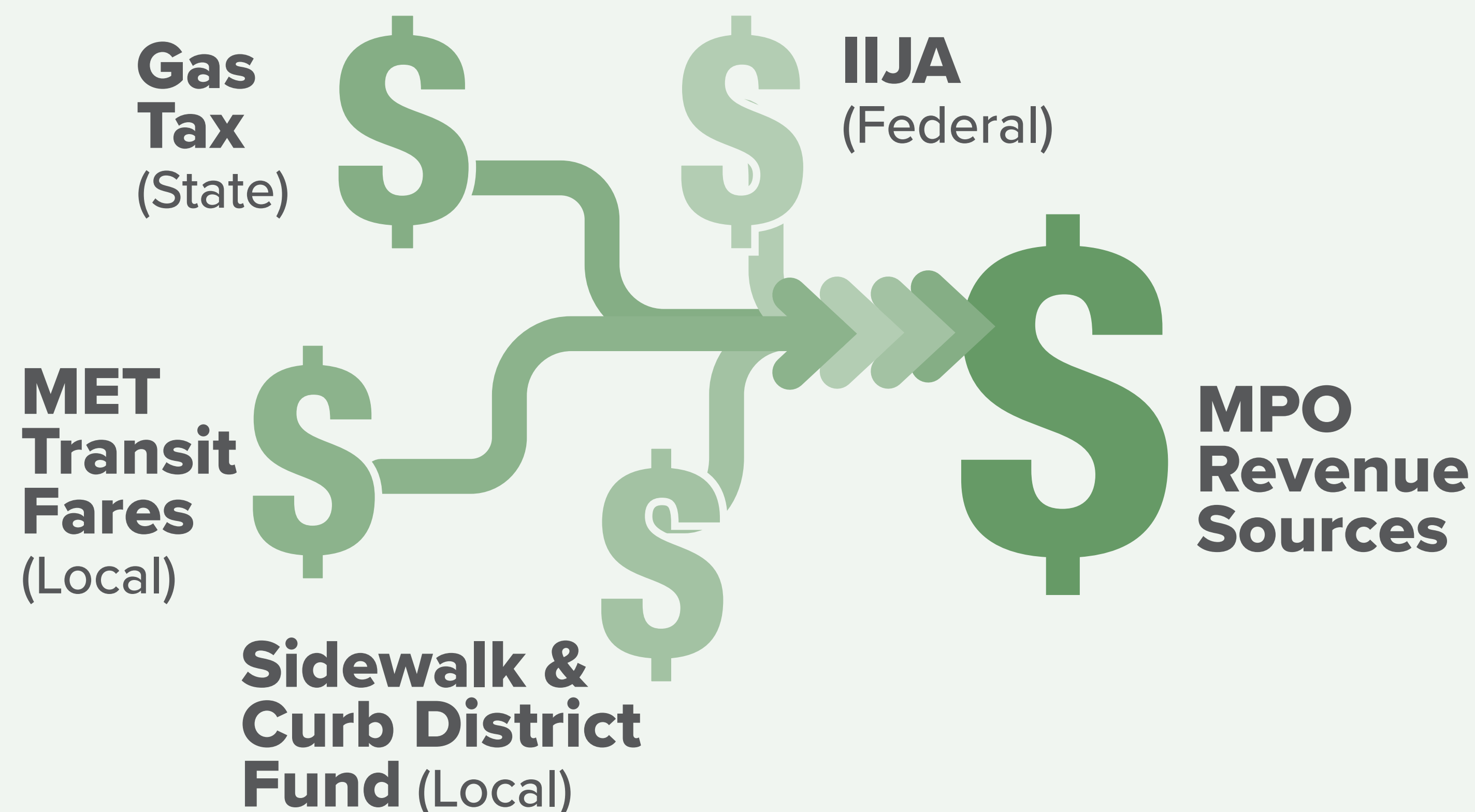


How is the Project List Funded?

The Billings-Yellowstone County MPO receives funding from a variety of federal, state, and local sources, such as:

- Federal Programs authorized by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Montana Gas Tax
- City of Billings Sidewalks and Curb District Fund
- MET Transit Fares

These revenue sources each have specific activities that are eligible for funding.



Note: There are more available funding sources than those displayed here.



Each project has cost estimate that includes anticipated costs of studying, planning, designing, and/or building the project.



The Project List is sorted into categories based on eligibility for each revenue source.



The MPO revenues are matched to project costs of the prioritized projects.



Resulting in a spending plan that is fiscally restrained.

Next Steps

WHAT IS NEXT?

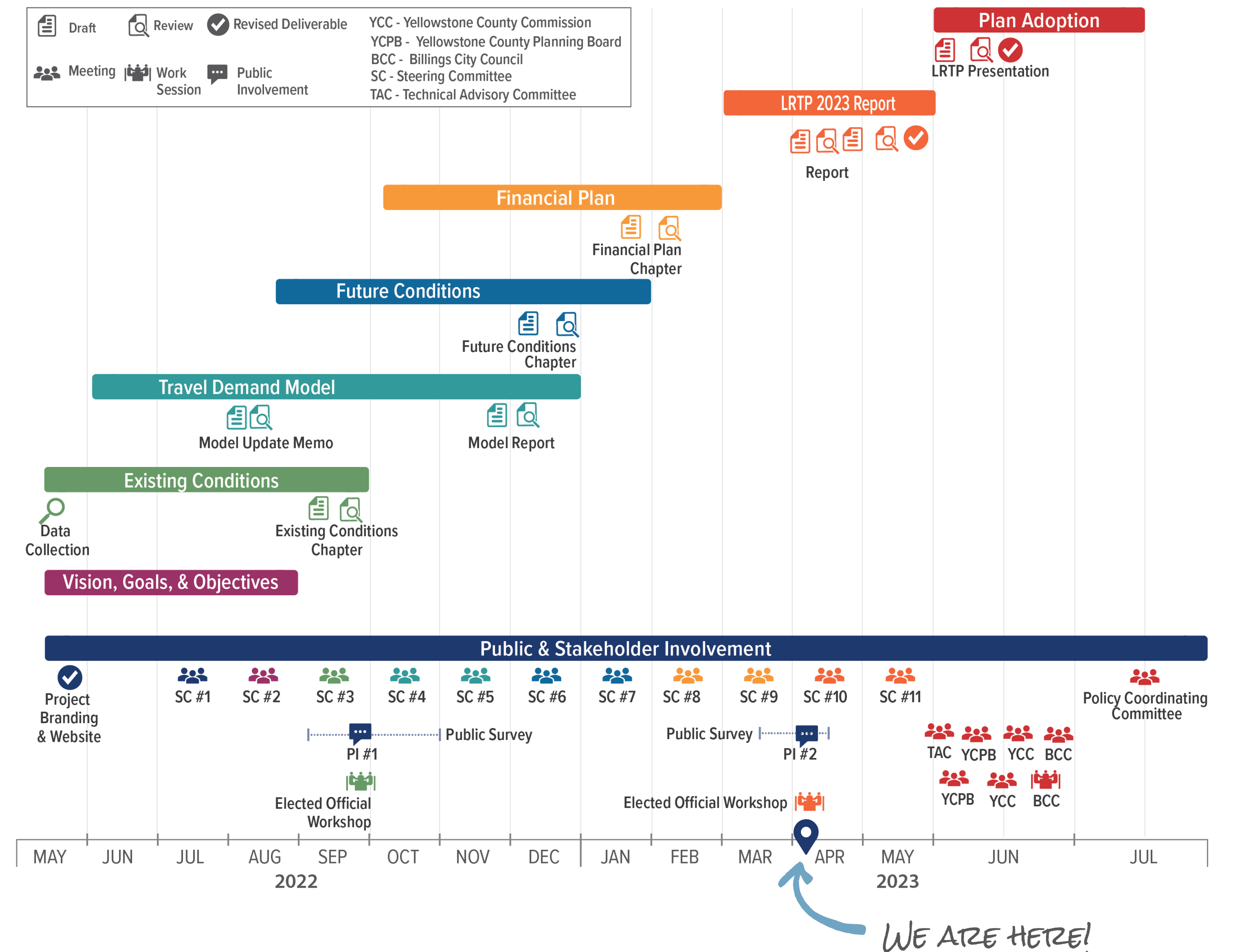
Following this meeting, our team will work to:

- Summarize Comments from Public Open House #2
- Incorporate Comments into the Final Prioritized Project List
- Prepare a Draft Plan for Review & Comment
- Address Comments for Final Plan Adoption

How to Stay Involved?

- Sign up on the “Notify Me” list on the City’s website: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/>
- Attend Public Meetings During Plan Adoption
- Check back frequently for updates on our project website at www.billingslrtp.com
- Contact **Lisa Olmsted** at 406.869.6329 or via email at lolmsted@dowl.com

Project Schedule



Thank you for participating!

- Provide comments via our interactive web map survey: <https://bit.ly/billingslrtp2023projects>

Tell us what you think!

SCAN THE QR CODE



Or visit bit.ly/billingslrtp2023projects and click the
'Provide Input' button

We Want Your Feedback!

The Billings-Yellowstone County MPO is currently updating the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which guides the development of the multimodal transportation system over the next 20 years.

As part of the LRTP, we've created a Project List that outlines improvements to the Billings Urban Area, and we would love to hear your thoughts on the projects!

To view the projects and provide feedback by April 19th, either scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/billingslrtp2023projects

You can also reach out to Lisa Olmsted at lolmsted@dowl.com or 406.869.6329 to provide comments.

If you're like to learn more about the LRTP, please visit us at www.BillingsLRTP.com

**PROVIDE YOUR
FEEDBACK BY
APRIL 19TH!**

