

A photograph of a public and stakeholder engagement event. Several people are gathered around informational displays on tripods. The displays feature maps and text, with titles such as "Safety", "Performance and Reliability", "MCT Transit", "Emerging Technologies", and "Railway Functional Classification & Year 2032 Traffic Operations". A table with water bottles and chairs is visible in the background. The room has large windows and modern lighting.

**PUBLIC &  
STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT  
MATERIALS**



# PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT

## Public Open House #2

- Sign-In Sheets
- Display Boards



Guest Register: Open House

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Name	Address	Email	Voluntary Information				
Barb Ramlow			<input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian/Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled	
Richard King			<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/Pacific Inlander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Herbert Mangis			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Howard Evans			<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SARAH PLATH			<input type="checkbox"/>	White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dax Simek			<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norm Tjettveit			<input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian/Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marc Fogelson			<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/Pacific Inlander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Mahan			<input type="checkbox"/>	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Shandera			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WYETH FRISAY			<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian/Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/Pacific Inlander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

# 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.

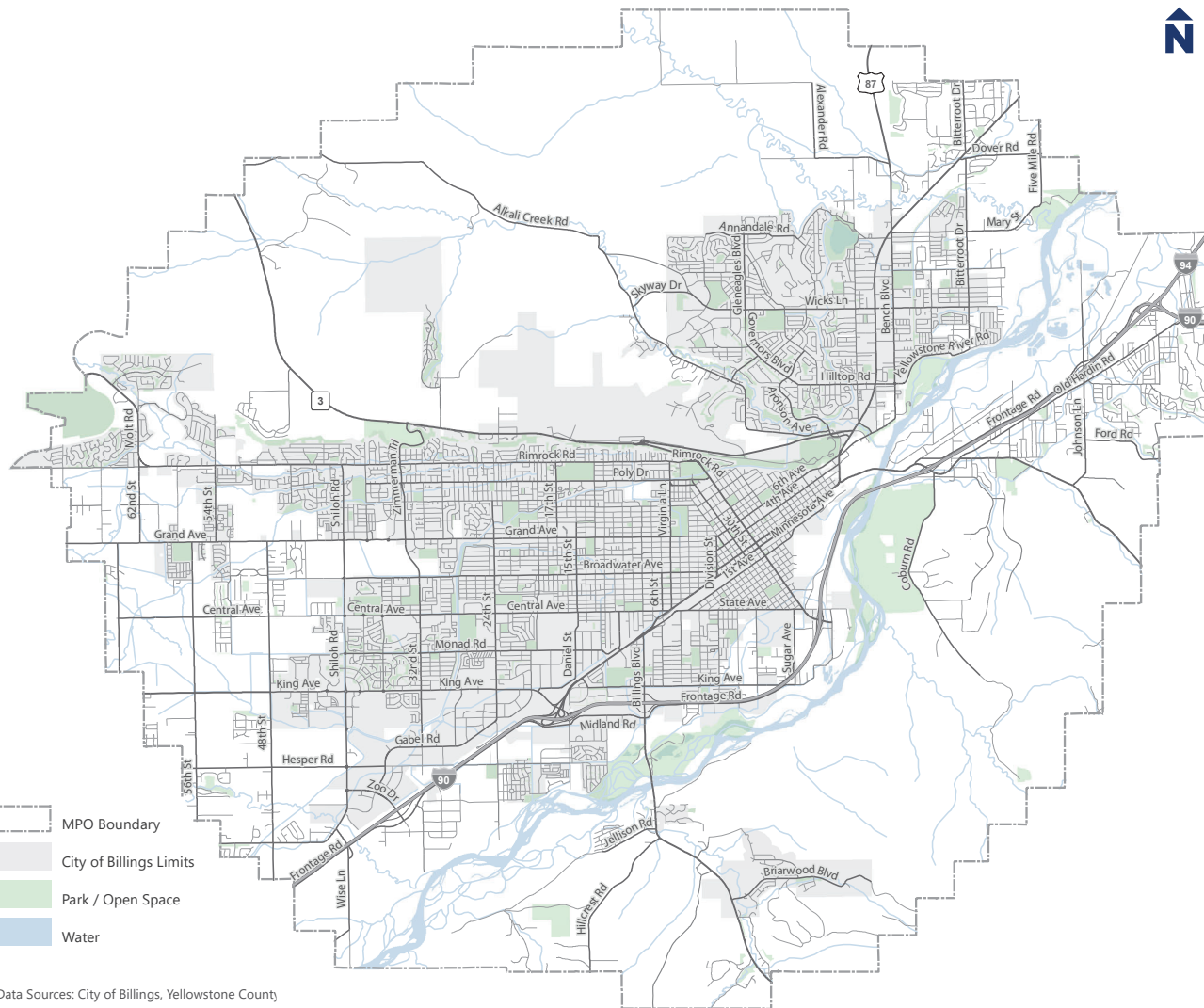
The LRTP includes:

- 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



# Planning Area, Vision, & Goals



Data Sources: City of Billings, Yellowstone County

## 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.



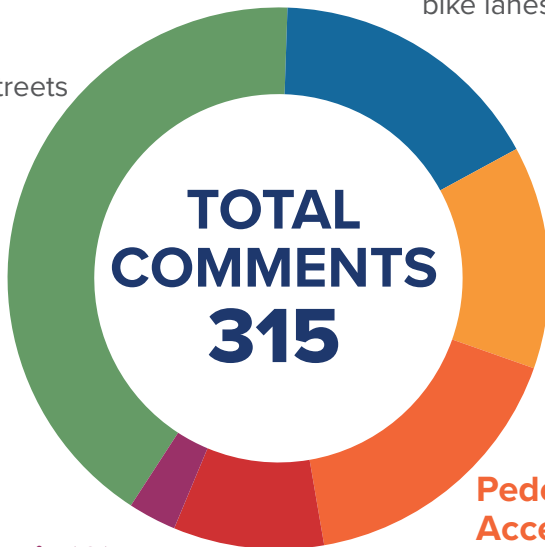
**Economic Vitality** – Provide transportation facilities to support the local economy and connect the Billings Urban Area to local, regional, and national commerce.



# Phase 1 Public & Stakeholder Outreach

## Safety (37)

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



## 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

## Transit (8)

- Bus service to more locations

## Congestion (25)

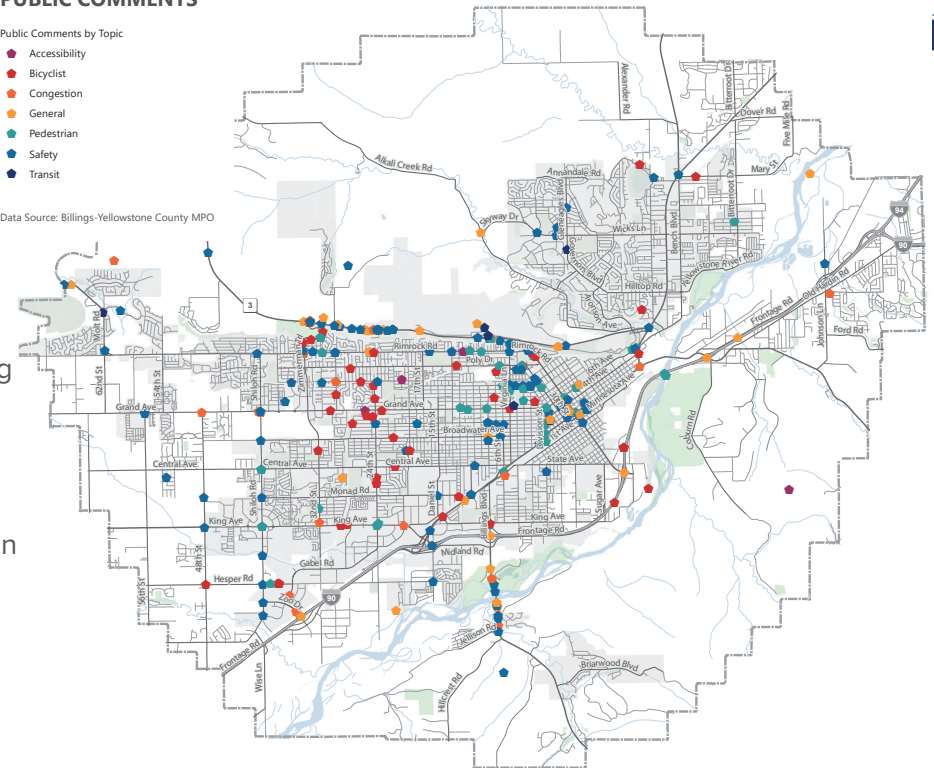
- Various intersections and roadways noted

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments by Topic

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

Data Source: Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

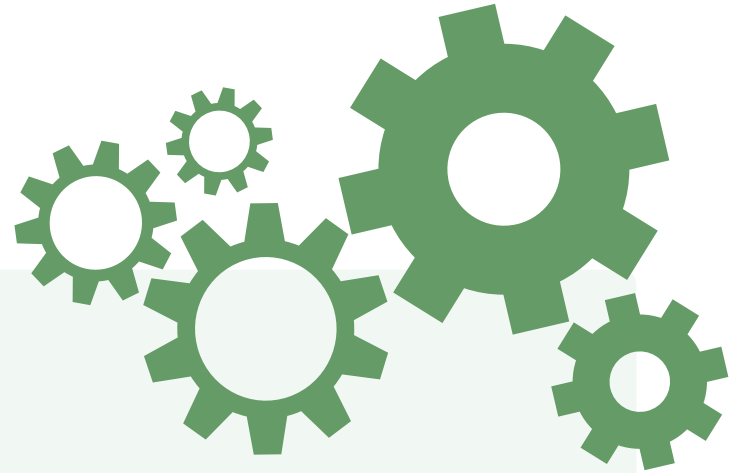


## Stakeholders Met With:

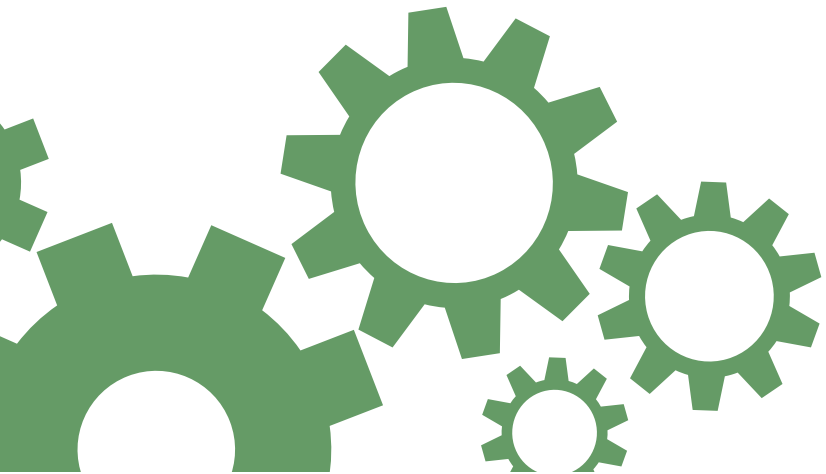
- Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT)
- Bike Walk Montana
- Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District
- Pioneer Park Task Force
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Lockwood Steering Committee
- All Task Force Joint Meeting

# What Does the Future Conditions Analysis Consider?

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

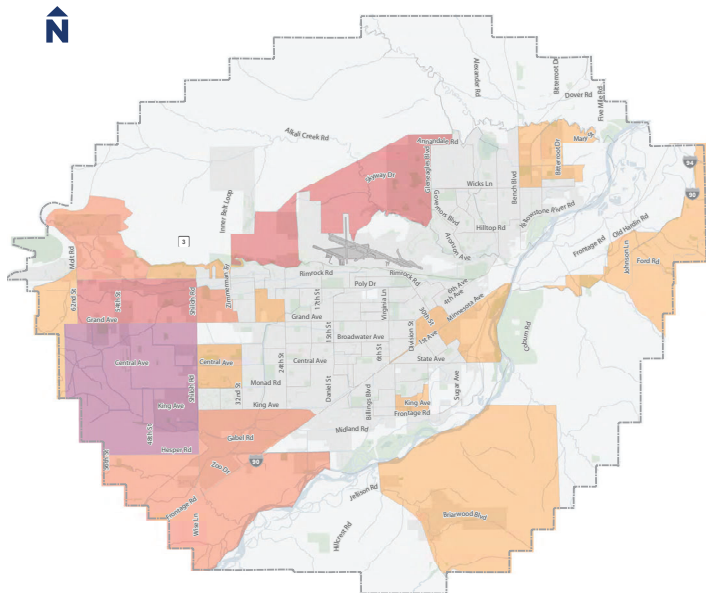


- Looks 20+ years into the future to 2045
- Investigates what the multimodal transportation system could be like
- Considers the impacts of:
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Natural disasters and climate change
  - Emerging technologies





# Where is Growth Expected in 2045?



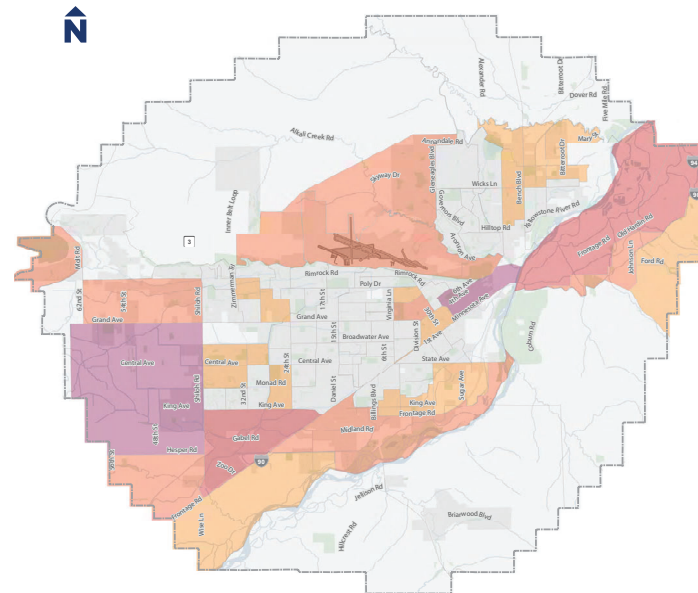
**PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH (2021 - 2045)**

Population Growth (By Census Block Group)

- >10,000
- 2,501 - 10,000
- 501 - 2,500
- 1 - 500
- 0

MPO Boundary  
 City of Billings  
 Park  
 Rivers and Lakes  
 Billings Logan International Airport

Data Source: City of Billings, Billings-Yellowstone Metropolitan Planning Organization



**PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (2021 - 2045)**

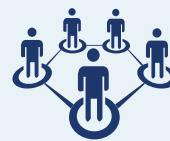
Employment Growth (By Census Block Group)

- >5,000
- 2,001 - 5,000
- 500 - 2,000
- 1 - 500
- 0

MPO Boundary  
 City of Billings  
 Park  
 Rivers and Lakes  
 Billings Logan International Airport

Data Source: City of Billings, Billings-Yellowstone Metropolitan Planning Organization

- 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.



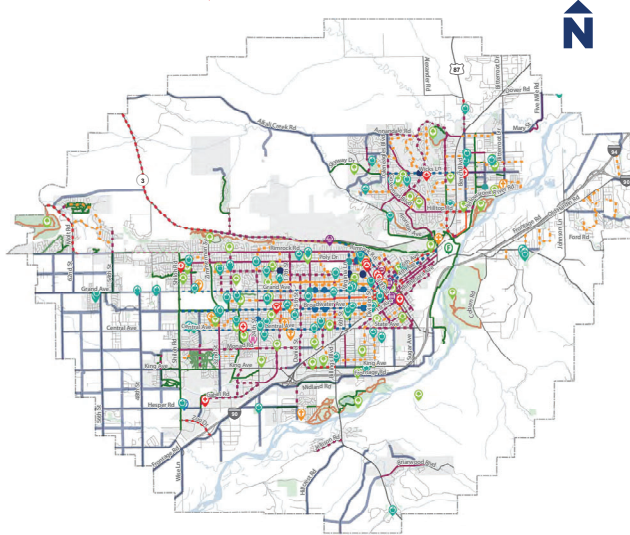
**34% increase** in Billings urban area population is projected to grow between 2021 and 2045 from 142,358 to 190,986.



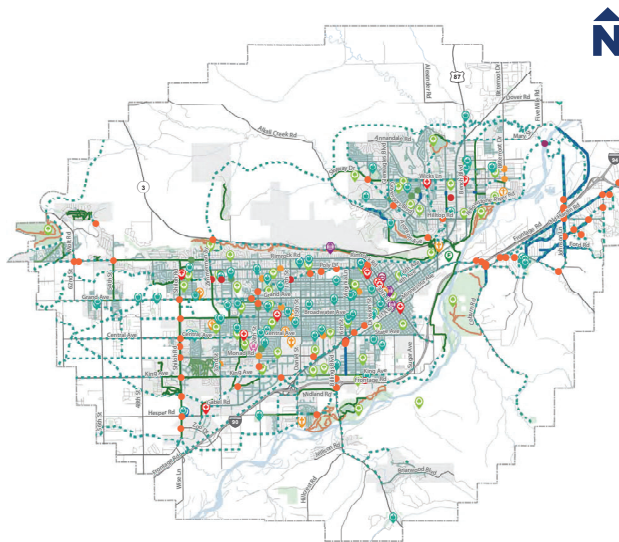
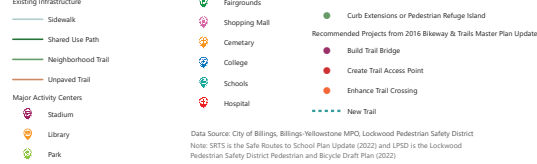
**43% increase** in employment projected between 2021 and 2045 from 74,848 to 106,819.

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

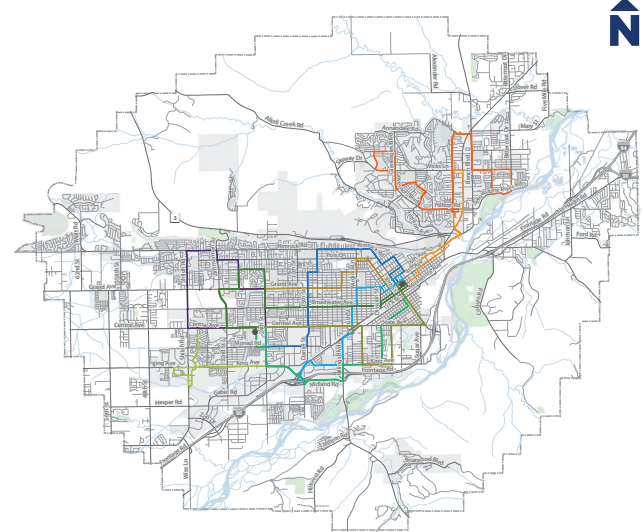
## FUTURE BICYCLE FACILITIES



## FUTURE TRAIL & PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES



## FUTURE MET TRANSIT ROUTES



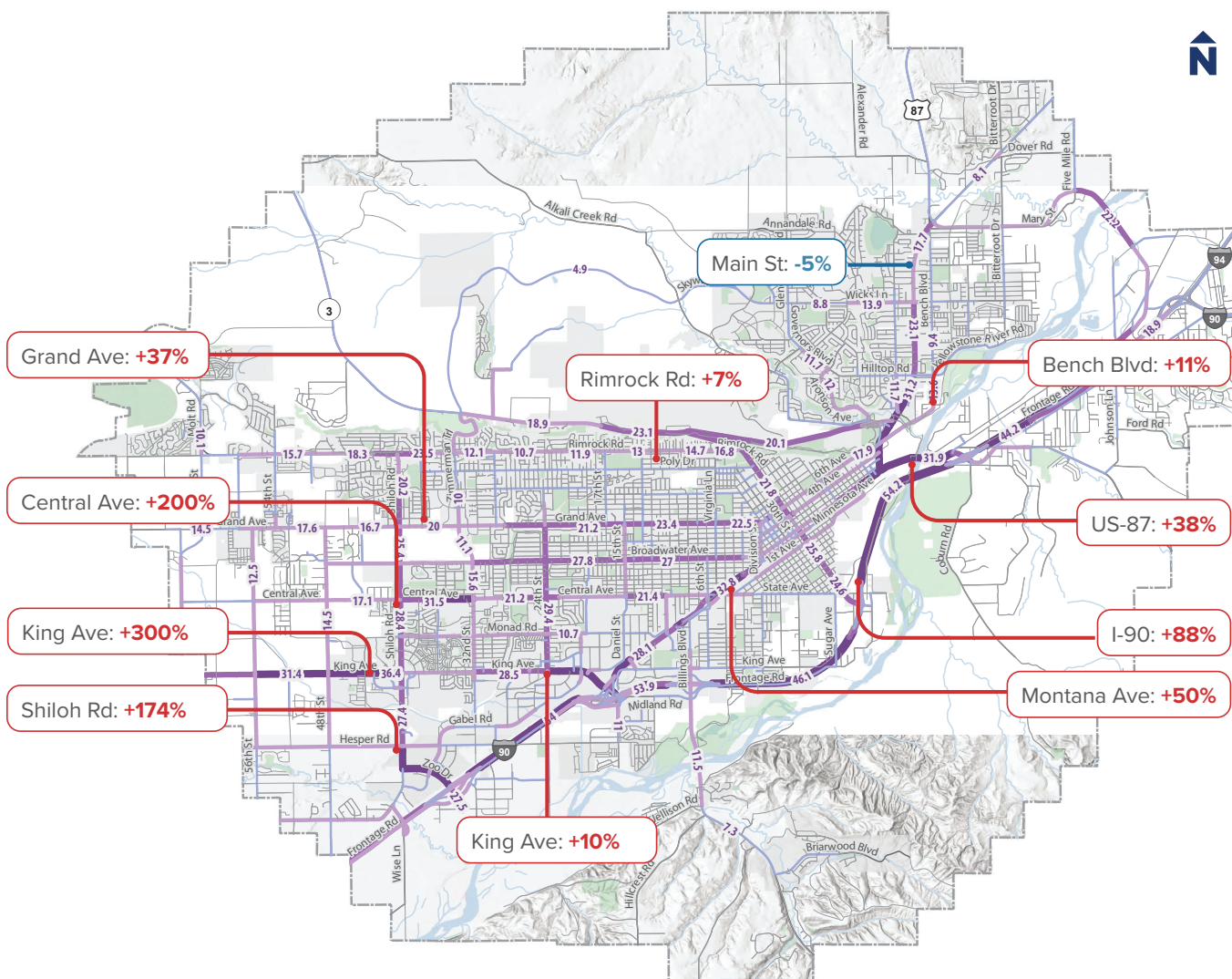
- Emphasis areas for bicycle facilities include increasing connectivity throughout Billings and Lockwood, with context-appropriate facilities, high visibility crossings, and connectivity with trails.

- 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

- 0 - 3,000
- 3,001 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 20,000
- 20,001 - 30,000
- 30,001 - 55,000

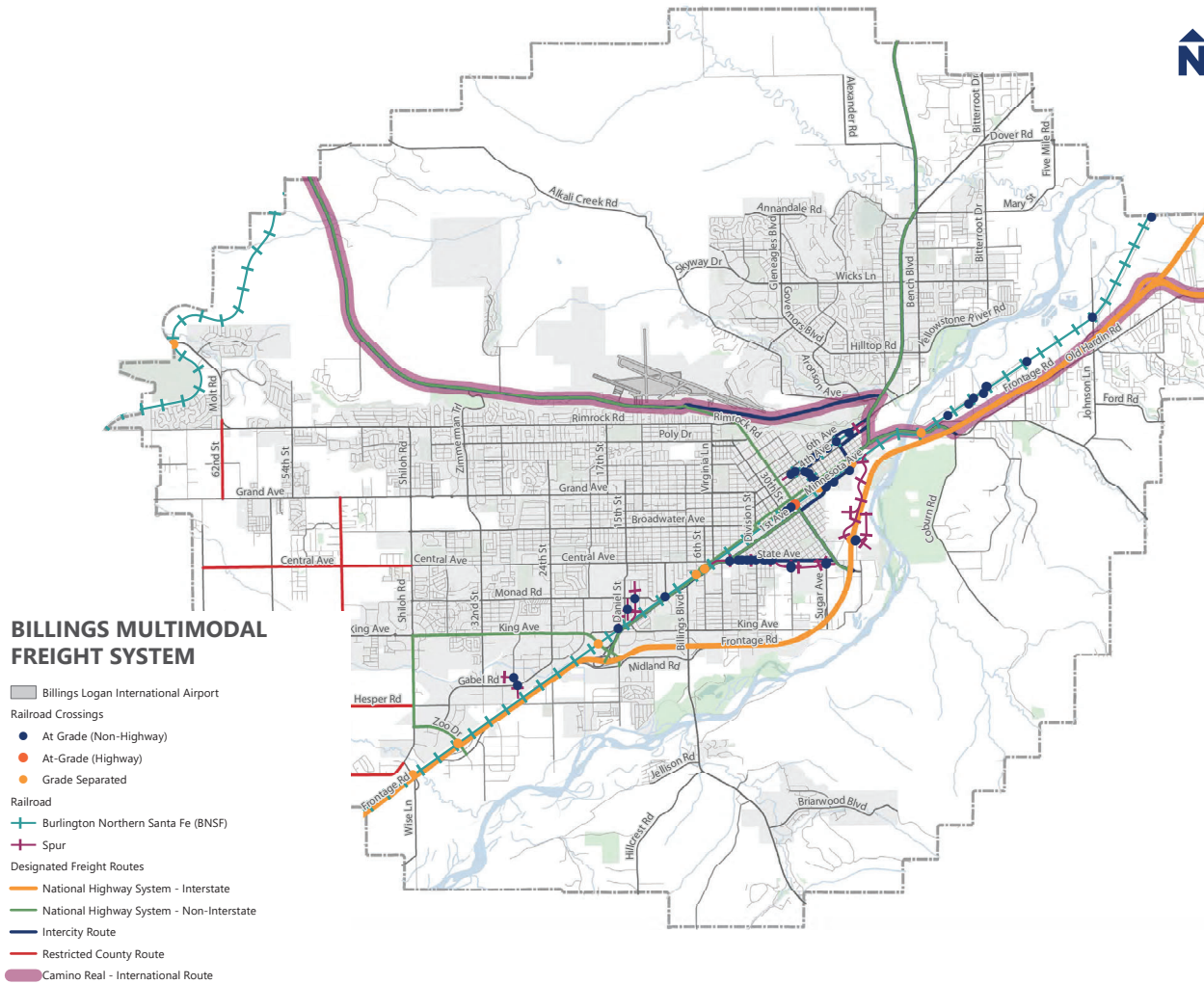
**XX.X** Average Daily Traffic Volume (x 1,000)

Data Source: Billings-Yellowstone MPO

Major modifications to the 2045 roadway network include:

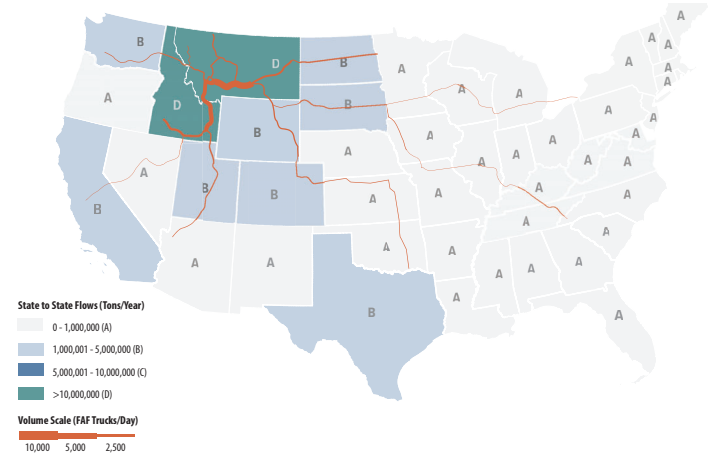
- Billings Bypass Project (On-Going MDT Project)
- Inner Belt Loop (City of Billings Project)
- Downtown Two-Way Conversions (City of Billings Project)
- New Collector Roadways (roadways that would be constructed via new development)

# How is Freight Travel Expected to Grow

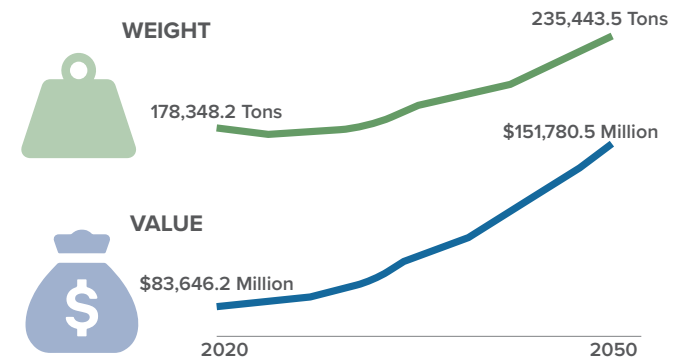


Data Source: Federal Highway Administration, Montana Department of Transportation, Yellowstone County, City of Billings

## Where Freight Flows from Montana are Expected to Grow



## Freight Demand is Projected to Grow in Montana

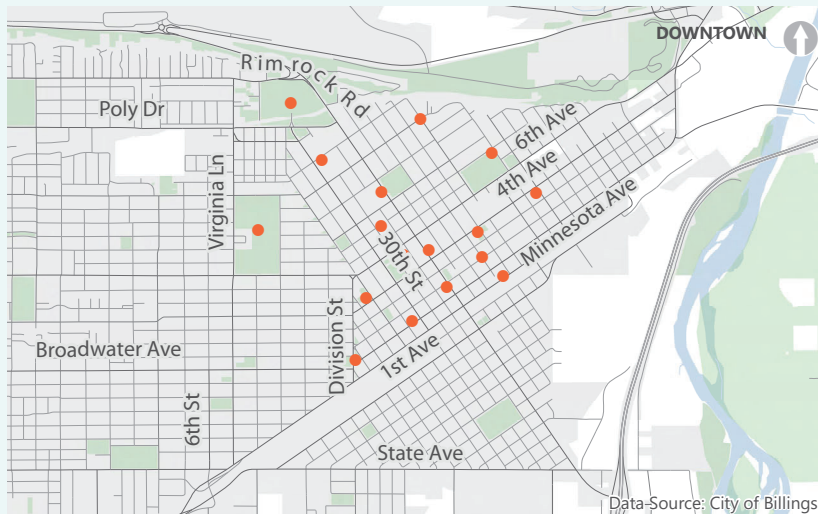




# What Transportation Technologies Might There Be in 2045?

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

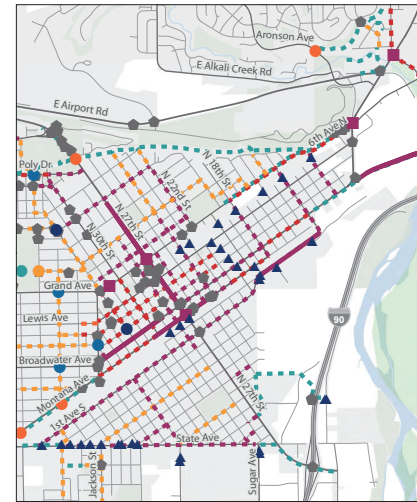
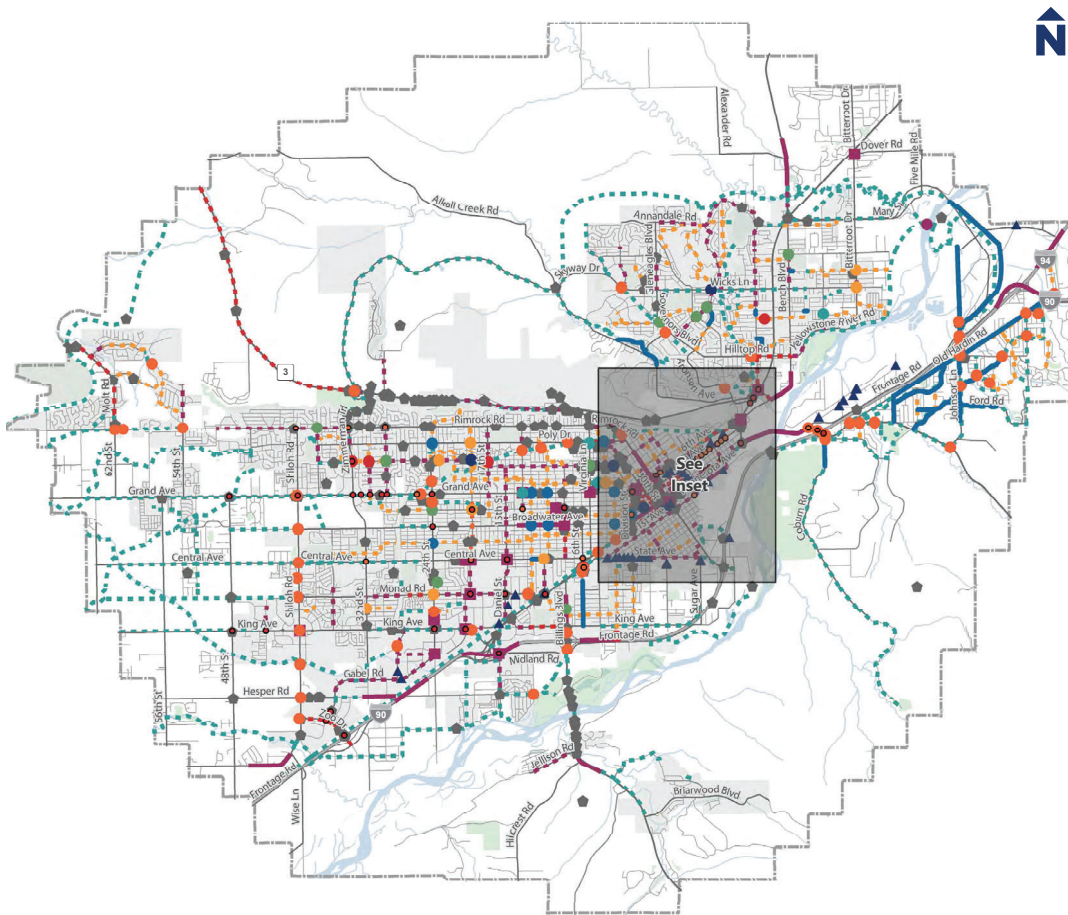
- By 2040, 9% (~87,000) of registered vehicles in Montana are projected to be electric vehicles.
- That's roughly 8,700 EVs in Billings in 2040.
- Substantial local investments in charging infrastructure and clean power systems will be necessary to accommodate charging demand.



## 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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Other Identified Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Public Comment Location</li> <li>▲ At-Grade Railroad Crossing</li> </ul> <p><b>Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ High EPDO Intersection</li> <li>■ High EPDO Segment</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended Trail Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build Trail Bridge</li> <li>● Create Trail Access Point</li> <li>● Enhance Trail Crossing</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended Pedestrian Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● High Visibility Crosswalk</li> <li>● Curb Extensions or Pedestrian Refuge Island</li> <li>■ New or Enhanced Sidewalk</li> </ul> | <p><b>Recommended Bike Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bike Intersection Treatment</li> <li>● Enhance Bike Crossing</li> <li>● Bike Facility Maintenance</li> </ul> <p><b>Projected 2045 Intersection Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Buffered Bike Lane</li> <li>● Bike Lane</li> <li>● Shared Lane Marking</li> <li>● Neighborhood Bikeway</li> <li>● LOS E</li> <li>● LOS F</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

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

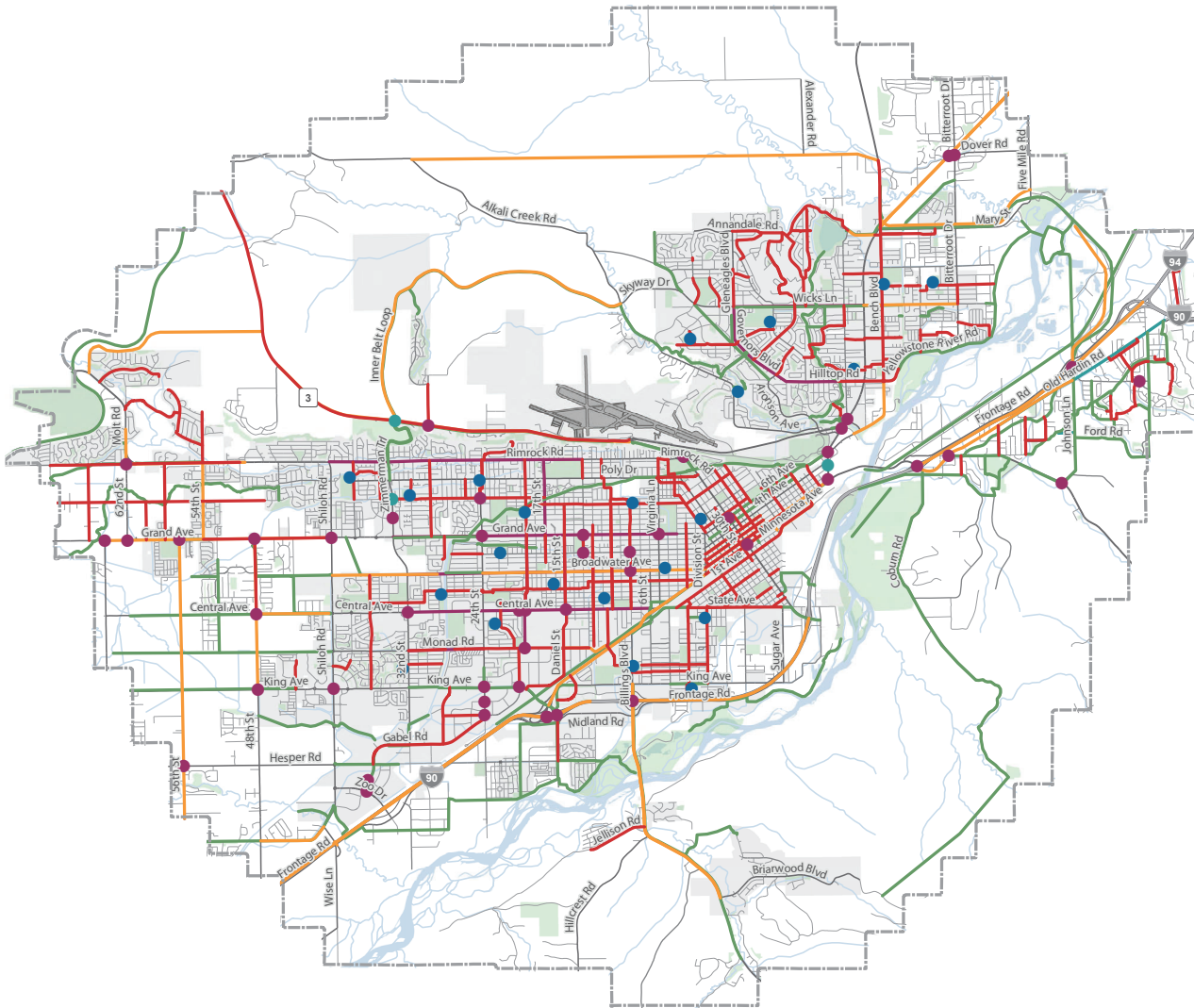
- Stakeholder & Public Support
- Consistency with Adopted Plans & Studies
- Multimodal Safety
- Equity (Transportation Disadvantaged Populations)
- Sustainability (Low Carbon Modes & Green Infrastructure)
- Resiliency & Security Risks
- Right of Way Impacts
- Pedestrian Mobility
- Bicycle Mobility
-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

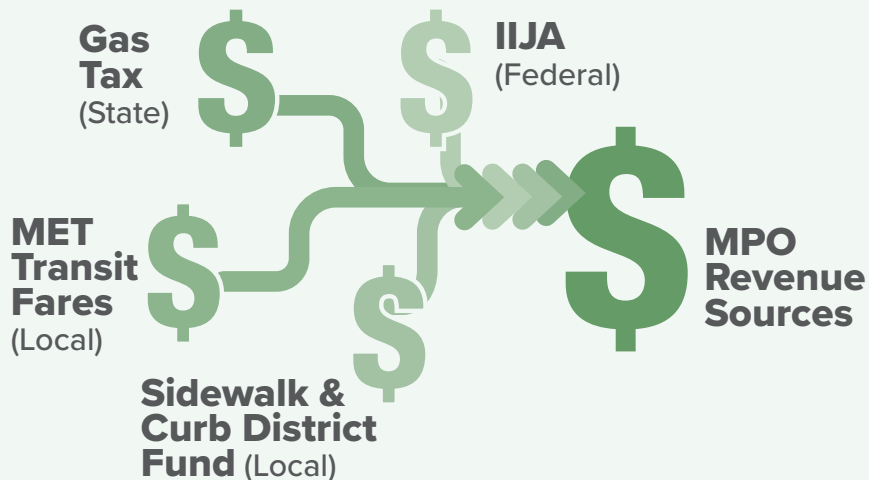


# How is the Project List Funded?

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:

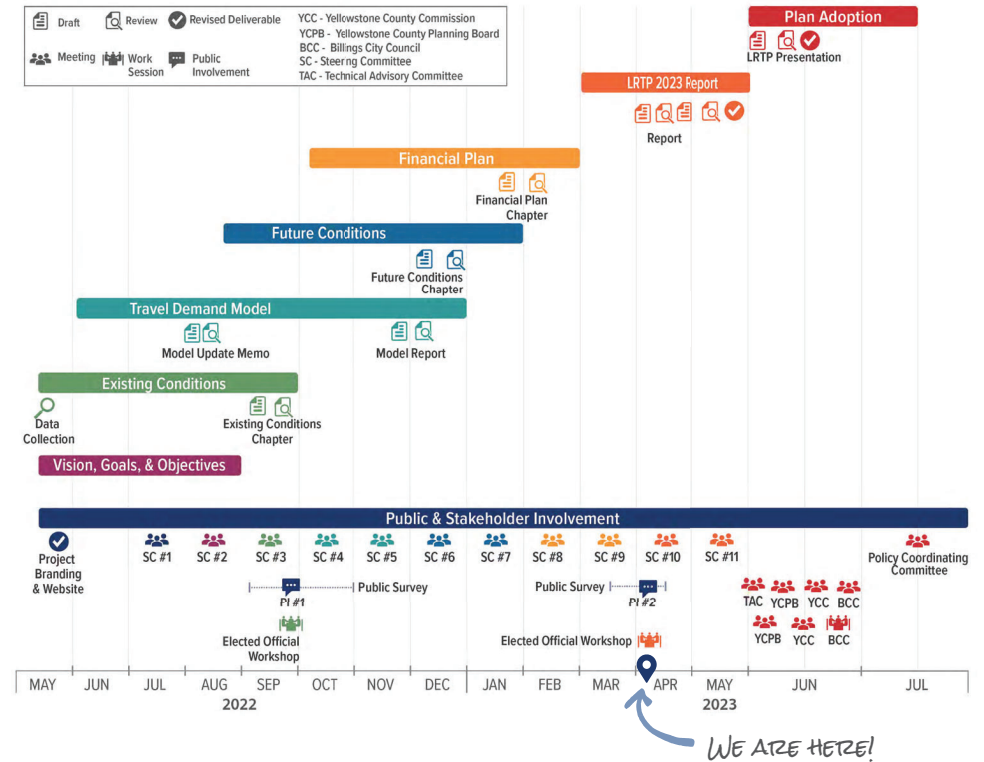
- Summarize Comments from Public Open House #2
- Incorporate Comments into the Final Prioritized Project List
- Prepare a Draft Plan for Review & Comment
- Address Comments for Final Plan Adoption



## 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](http://www.billingslrtp.com)
- Contact **Lisa Olmsted** at 406.869.6329 or via email at [lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto: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](https://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](https://bit.ly/billingslrtp2023projects)

You can also reach out to Lisa Olmsted at [lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto: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](http://www.BillingsLRTP.com)

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



# Stakeholder Engagement

- Meeting Summaries

## HEALTHY BY DESIGN

### Date & Location

The project team met with Michelle Harkins, the director of Billings Industrial Revitalization District (BIRD), on Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the DOWL office (222 N 32<sup>nd</sup> St Suit 700) to discuss important mobility, safety, and accessibility issues in the East Billings Neighborhood.

### Discussion

- Rachel Grosso (KAI) provided an overview of the long range transportation planning process and Katie Popp (KAI) provided an overview of the project list interactive map.
- Michelle discussed several projects that would address transportation issues within the BIRD:
  - Roadway Reallocation and Beautification – 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Street are the “main” streets the East Billings Neighborhood. Michelle shared that these streets need improvements to beautify and improve walkability as the main roadways within BIRD. A recent mural project on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street is an example of some beautification work that has positively impacted the community.
  - Crosswalks – Michelle shared that high visibility crosswalks are needed on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to enhance pedestrian safety. She’s not in favor of the proposed multi-million dollar MetroPark pedestrian bridge across Exposition Drive because of the high cost and time it would take to construct the bridge. Implementing crosswalks would be a lower cost option that are more feasible for implementation.
    - Andy Daleiden (KAI) shared that the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Exposition Drive intersection project will enhance the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossings.
  - Shared-Use Path – A shared-use path on Main Street (up to Airport Rd) would enhance walkability and provide additional connections to the BIRD.
  - Parking – The community continues to support free parking in the area. The recent change to back-in parking has not been an issue.
  - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – The most recent SRTS update did not include Head Start (Explorers) Academy at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This school serves low-income students and should not be overlooked in SRTS programming.
  - Traffic Flow/ Conflict Points – Michelle suggests bump outs at major intersections, daylighting curbs and sightlines, and reducing speeds on the main streets in BIRD.
  - Safety and Speed – A 4<sup>th</sup> Corridor Improvement Project/ Study and the removal of the left turn lane at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street/ 13<sup>th</sup> Street are desired.
- BIRD is also close in proximity to major businesses in the Downtown area such as UPS, Riverstone, and First Interstate Bank (FIB). Enhancing mobility and safety would provide additional economic opportunities within BIRD as employees of these major companies utilize facilities and visit businesses within the community.



# BILLINGS INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION DISTRICT (BIRD)

## Date & Location

The project team met with Michelle Harkins, the director of Billings Industrial Revitalization District (BIRD), on Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the DOWL office (222 N 32<sup>nd</sup> St Suit 700) to discuss important mobility, safety, and accessibility issues in the East Billings Neighborhood.

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  - Crosswalks – Michelle shared that high visibility crosswalks are needed on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to enhance pedestrian safety. She’s not in favor of the proposed multi-million dollar MetroPark pedestrian bridge across Exposition Drive because of the high cost and time it would take to construct the bridge. Implementing crosswalks would be a lower cost option that are more feasible for implementation.
    - Andy Daleiden (KAI) shared that the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Exposition Drive intersection project will enhance the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossings.
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  - Parking – The community continues to support free parking in the area. The recent change to back-in parking has not been an issue.
  - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – The most recent SRTS update did not include Head Start (Explorers) Academy at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This school serves low-income students and should not be overlooked in SRTS programming.
  - Traffic Flow/ Conflict Points – Michelle suggests bump outs at major intersections, daylighting curbs and sightlines, and reducing speeds on the main streets in BIRD.
  - Safety and Speed – A 4<sup>th</sup> Corridor Improvement Project/ Study and the removal of the left turn lane at 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue are desired.
- BIRD is also close in proximity to major businesses in the Downtown area such as UPS, Riverstone, and First Interstate Bank (FIB). Enhancing mobility and safety would provide additional economic opportunities within BIRD as employees of these major companies utilize facilities and visit businesses within the community.

*“It is really hard to get businesses to open on 6th, 4th, and 1st Avenues because the roads are too fast and dangerous. People are walking away from those opportunities because of those streets and it’s hurting the neighborhood.” – Michelle H., BIRD*

# BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (FACILITIES)

## Date & Location

The project team met with Scott Reiter (Executive Director of Facilities Service) and Megan Trevino (Facilities Coordinator) of the Billings Public School District on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Facilities office (101 Tenth Street West) to discuss transportation concerns across the school district.

## Discussion

- Rachel Grosso (KAI) provided an overview of the long range transportation planning process and Katie Popp (KAI) provided an overview of the project list interactive map.
- Scott and Megan provided input on the project list via the interactive map:
  - Beartooth Elementary - HAWK signal is needed at Bitterroot Drive and Elaine Street for elementary school pedestrian crossings
  - Ben Steele Middle School –
    - Pedestrian connections on Grand Ave are needed.
    - Extend trail for MT\_100 (Broadwater Ave) in the project list to connect to the school on 56<sup>th</sup> Street.
    - Both 56<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Streets need sidewalks.
    - 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Rimrock Rd needs a crossing device
  - Poly Elementary School – Supports projects along Poly Drive (BB\_07, BB\_66) and Colton Road/ 24<sup>th</sup> Street W Intersection Improvement (L\_50)
  - Medicine Crow Middle School and Bitterroot Elementary School – Sidewalks are needed on Barrett Rd from Bench Blvd to Bitterroot Dr
- Scott also shared concerns about speeding near schools in Billings. He referenced a Montana law that allows only a 20% reduction in posted speed limits for school speed zones and school speeds zones are only located at elementary schools. A 15mph speed zone at all schools, including middle and high schools, would be much safer.
- Scott and Megan support any new bike route so kids can bike to school.

## Leadership Workshop #2

- Sign-In Sheets
- Presentation



**2023** BILLINGS URBAN AREA  
**LONG RANGE**  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
**PLAN**       

Guest Register: Workshop

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Mike Black	YLC PW	[REDACTED]	
Ellie Lantz	Healthy By Design		
Woody Wood	PLANNING BOARD		
Tom Rypsis	City Council		
DANIEL TIDWELL	City Council		

**2023** BILLINGS URBAN AREA  
**LONG RANGE**  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
**PLAN** 

Guest Register: Workshop

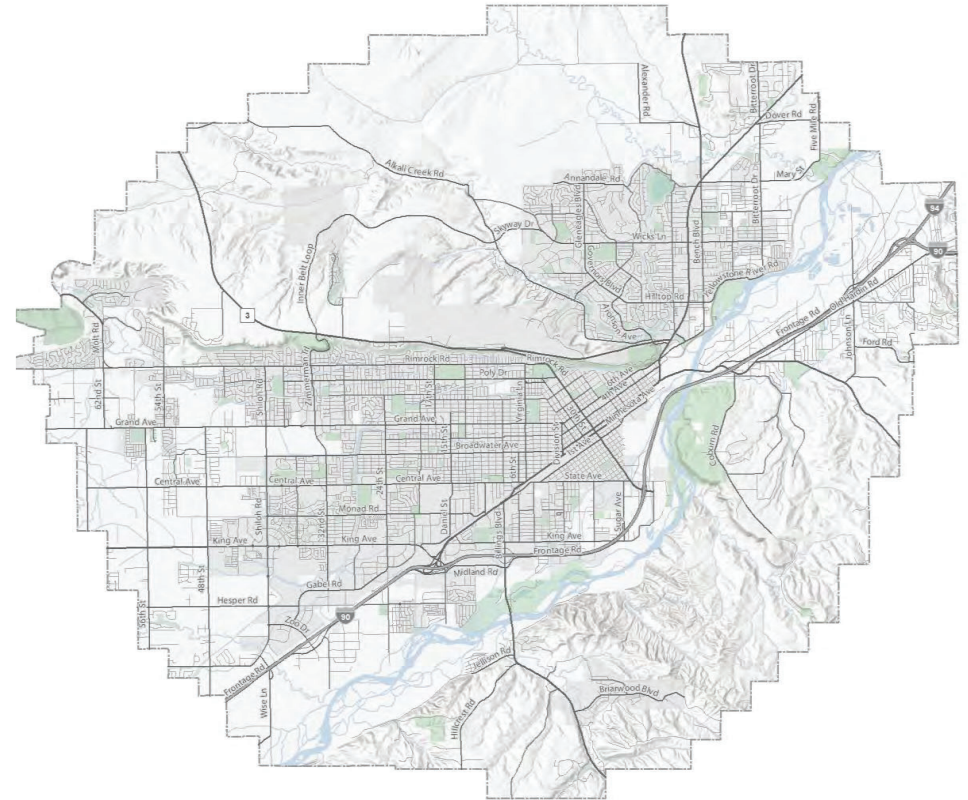
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Clank Snyder	RiverStone Health		
Amy Queen	HealthyByDesign		
Mark Morse	County Commissioner		
Randy Hunter	CM of COB		
Rusty Logan	COB - MET Transit		
Daletha Martonen	City PW-Engineering		
Bill Cole	City		
FD Givick	CITY COUNCIL		

# 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Leadership Workshop

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Overview
- Public and Stakeholder Outreach
- Project List
- Online, Interactive Web Map
- Next Steps





# Introductions



# What Is a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?

The **LRTP** is a framework that guides the development of **multimodal transportation** system projects in the urban area, that's updated every 4-5 years with a **20-year** planning horizon.

The **LRTP** must consider:

- Economic Vitality
- Security & Safety
- Movement & Connectivity of People & Goods
- Environment & Energy Conservation
- System Efficiency & Preservation
- Resiliency, Reliability, & Stormwater Management
- Travel & Tourism

Additional Focus Areas from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):

- Resiliency
- Equity
- Accessibility
- Multimodal Safety

# 2023 LRTP Vision

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

What is a livable community?

- + Innovate, equitable, and inclusive
- + Mix of transportation, housing, employment opportunities, and land uses
- + Clean and green landscape
- + Safe, secure, and affordable for residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds

# 2023 LRTP 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 practical and efficient 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

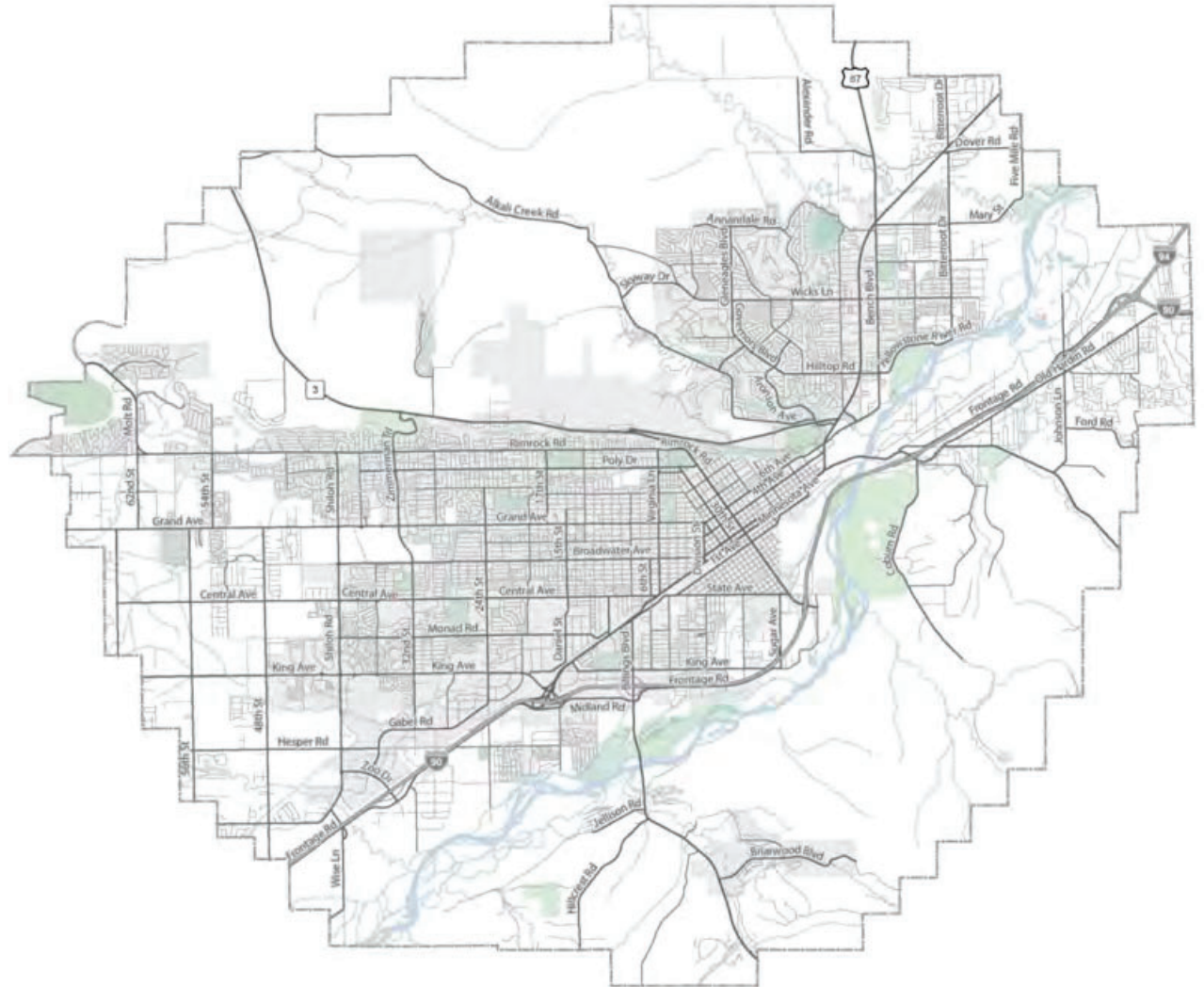
Provide transportation facilities to support the local economy and connect the Billings urban area to local, regional, and national commerce.



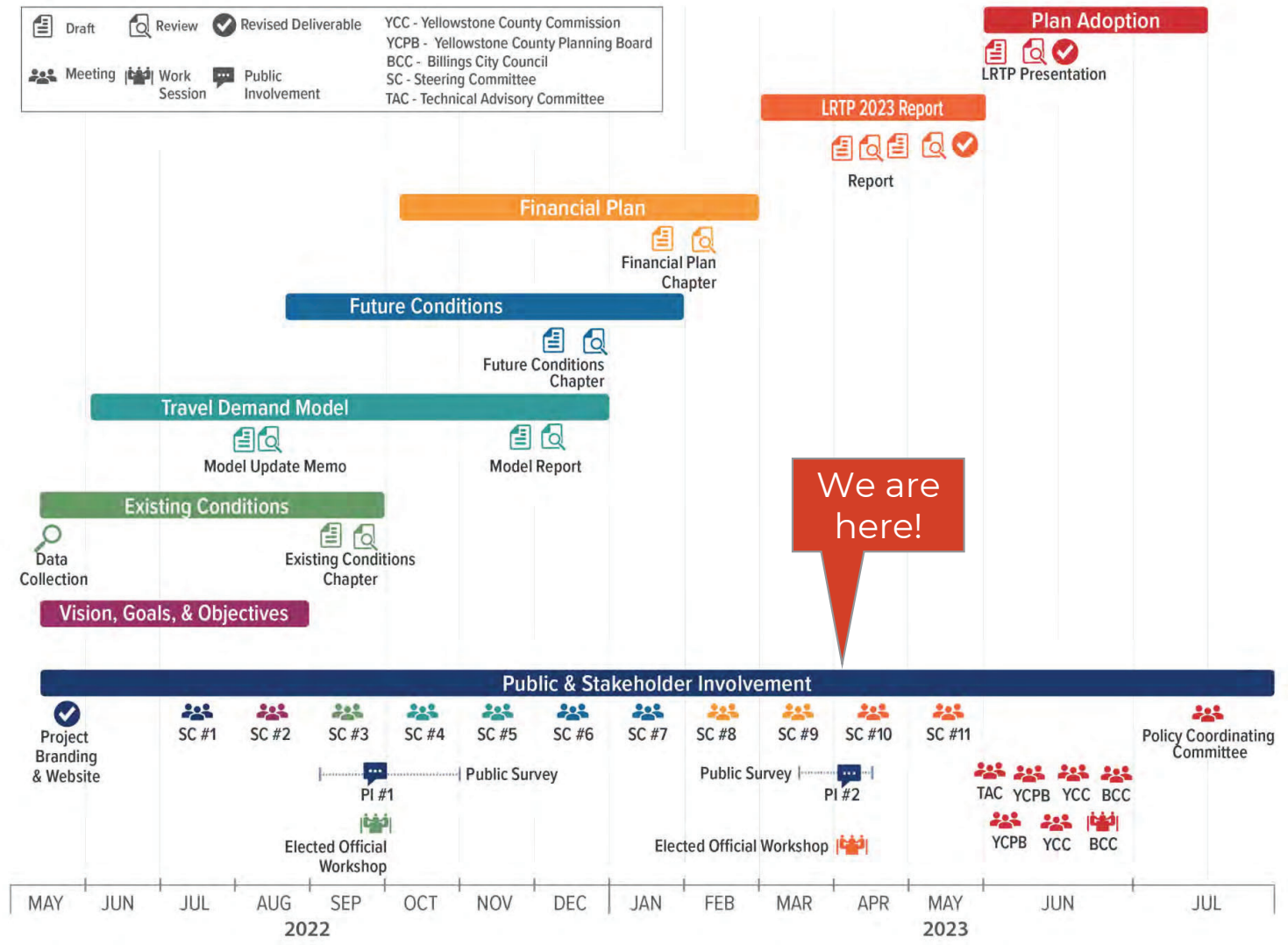
# Elements in the 2023 LRTP

Zoning & Activity Centers	Recently Completed Plans & Projects	Demographics	Employment	Commute Mode Share	Equity	Safety
Pedestrians	Bicyclists	Transit	Aviation	Vehicular Traffic	Trucking	Rail
Streets & Highways	Security	Resiliency	Emerging Technology	2045 Land Use & Traffic Forecasts	Revenue Forecasts	Projects List
Cost Estimates	Project Prioritization	Travel Demand Model	Implementation	Report	Public & Stakeholder Outreach	Plan Adoption

# Billings - Yellowstone County Planning Area



# Billings LRTP Project Schedule



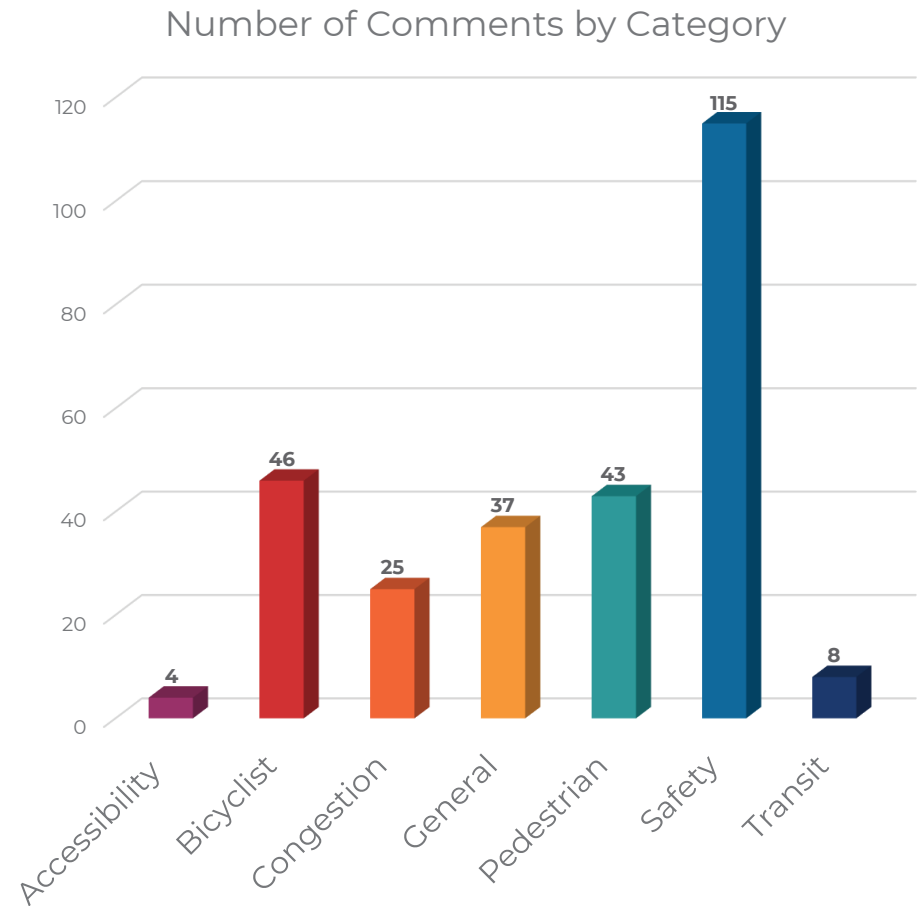


# Public & Stakeholder Outreach



# Public Outreach #1

- + Between October – November 2022, public comments were collected via an online, interactive map
- + Comments were self-categorized and geolocated on the map
- + The online map collected **315** total comments



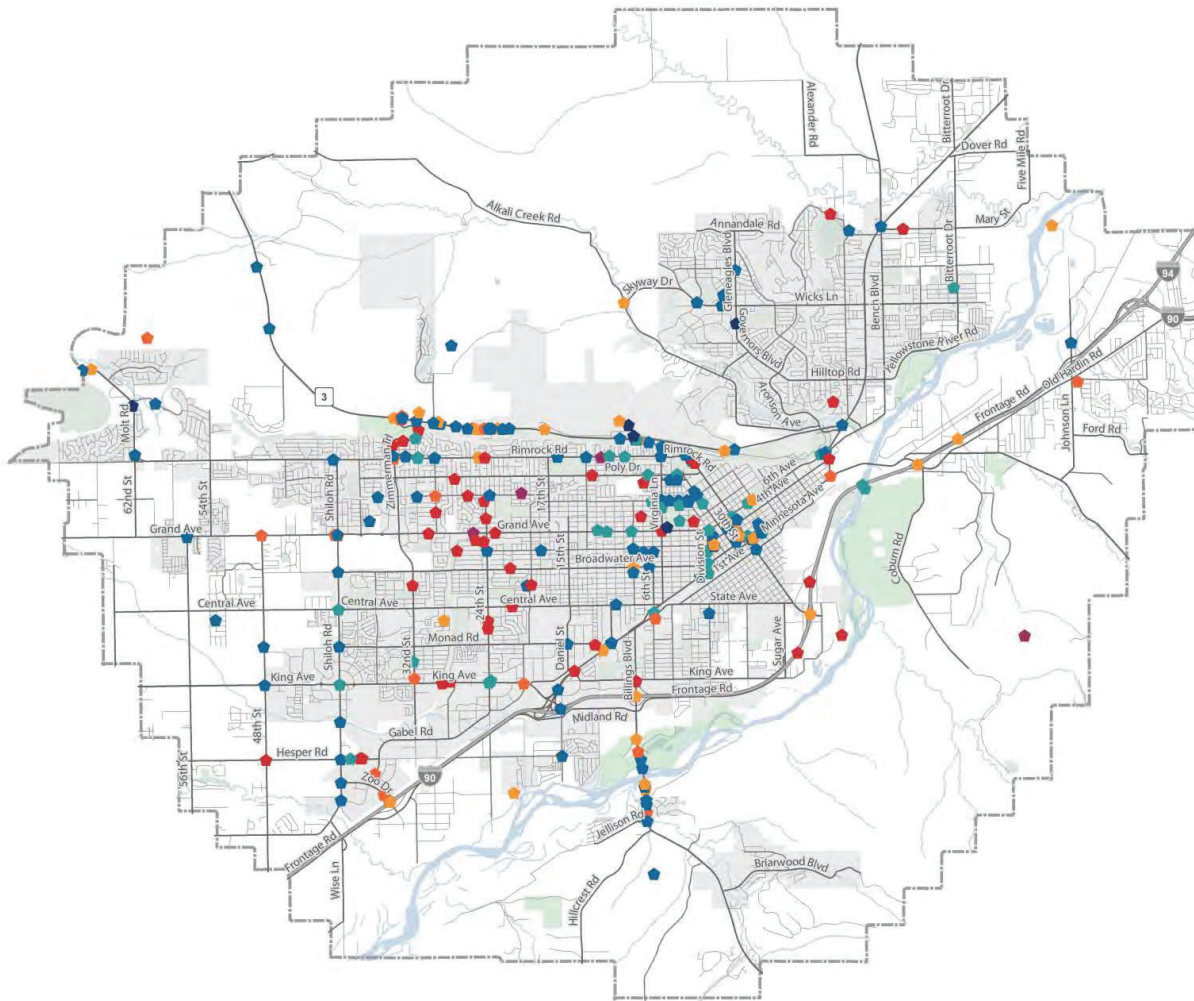


FIGURE 1  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**



Public Comments by Topic

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

Data Source: Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

**Accessibility**

- Sidewalks
- Curb Ramps

**Bicycle**

- Trail Access
- Safe & Separated Bike Lanes

**Congestion**

- Many Intersections

**General**

- Wayfinding & Navigation
- Difficult Intersections

**Pedestrian**

- Signs & Wayfinding
- Crossings
- Trail Access

**Safety**

- Excessive Vehicular Speeds
- Intersection Signalization
- Blind Spots

**Transit**

- Increased Service to More Locations

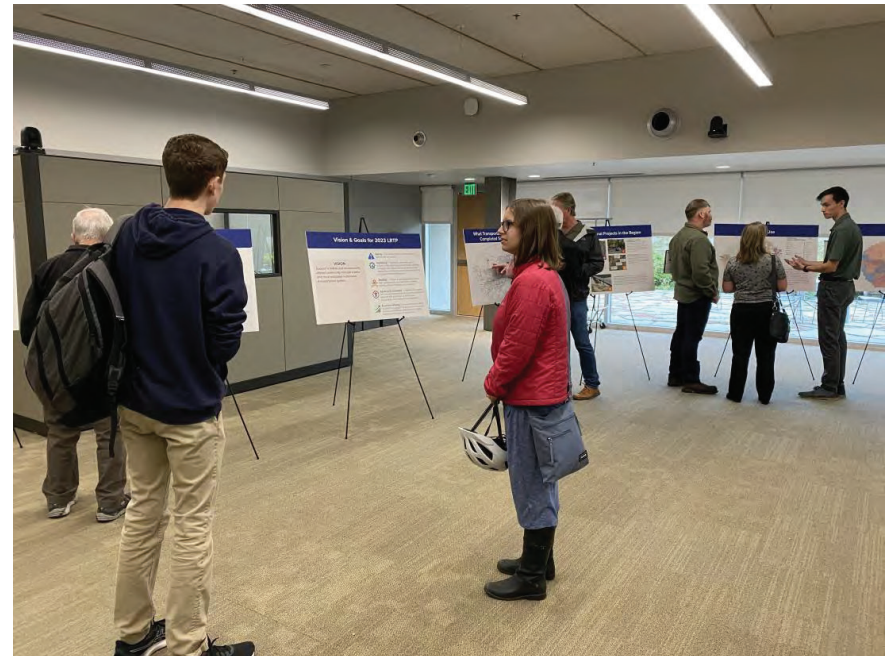
# Stakeholder Outreach



Met With:	Scheduled:	Coordinating With:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ LIFTT</li> <li>+ Bike Walk Montana</li> <li>+ Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District</li> <li>+ Pioneer Park Task Force</li> <li>+ All Task Force Meeting</li> <li>+ Lockwood Steering Committee</li> <li>+ Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Advisory Committee</li> <li>+ Billings Industrial Revitalization District (BIRD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Healthy by Design (April 6)</li> <li>+ Midtown Community Collaborative (April 11)</li> <li>+ Southside Task Force (April 20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ DBA</li> <li>+ Schools</li> <li>+ Billings Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>+ SBURD</li> <li>+ Billings TrailNet</li> </ul>

# Outreach Next Steps

- + April 5 (Today!)
  - + Leadership Workshop #2
  - + Public Open House #2 @ 5 PM
- + April 6
  - + Virtual Open House @ 11 AM (record and post online)
- + April 19
  - + Interactive Map Tool Closes
- + Summer 2023
  - + Public Hearings for Plan Adoption



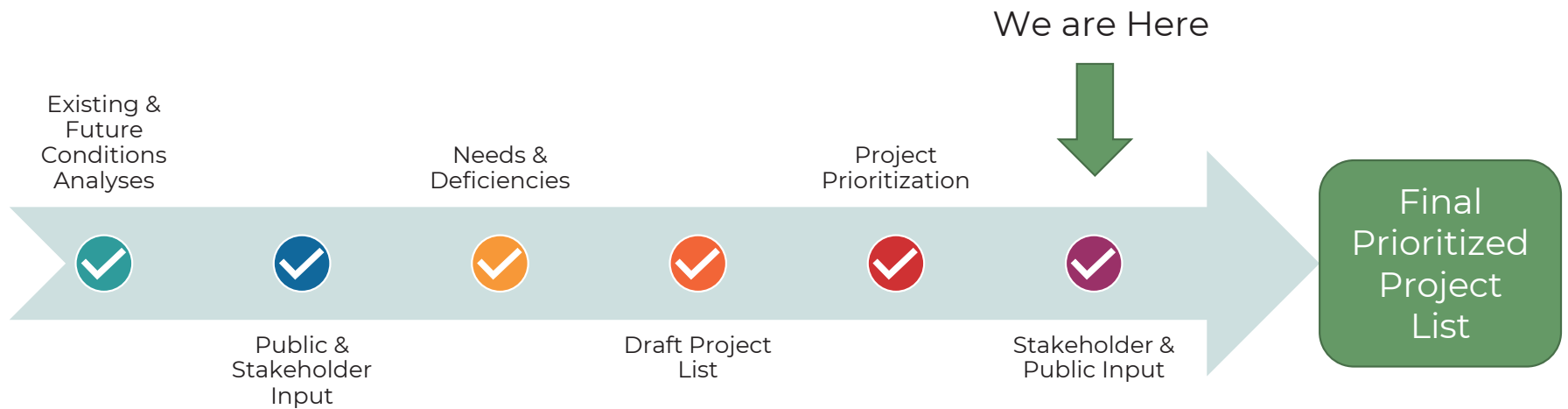
Public Open House #1 – October 6, 2022



# Project List



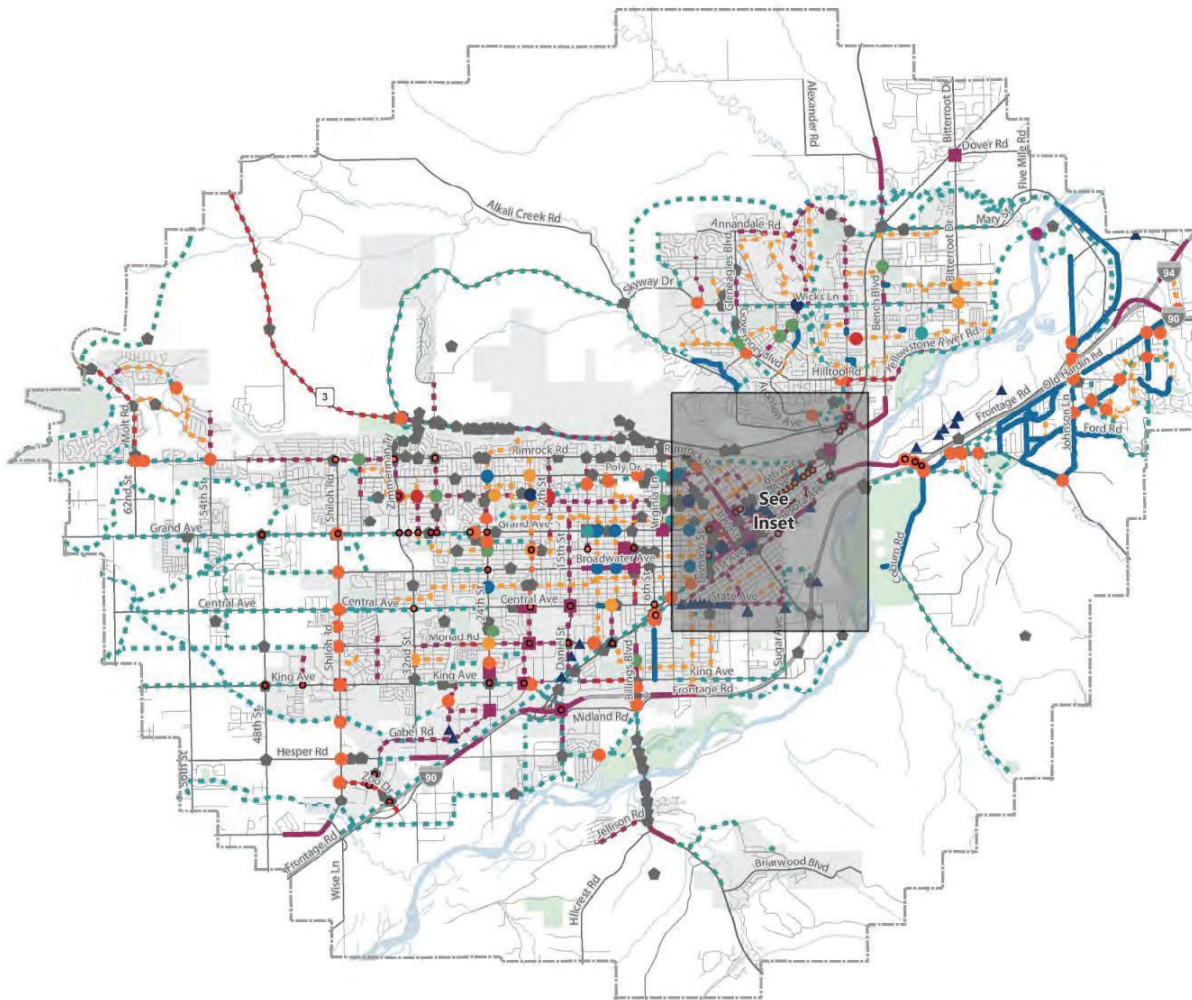
# Project List Development



# Needs, Deficiencies, & Opportunities

- + To formulate and refine the Draft Project List, barriers and issues faced by Billings urban area residents are summarized.
- + Needs and deficiencies draw from:
  - + Existing Plans
  - + Stakeholder Discussions
  - + Online Public Comment Map
  - + Steering Committee Feedback
  - + Existing Conditions Analysis
  - + Future Conditions Analysis

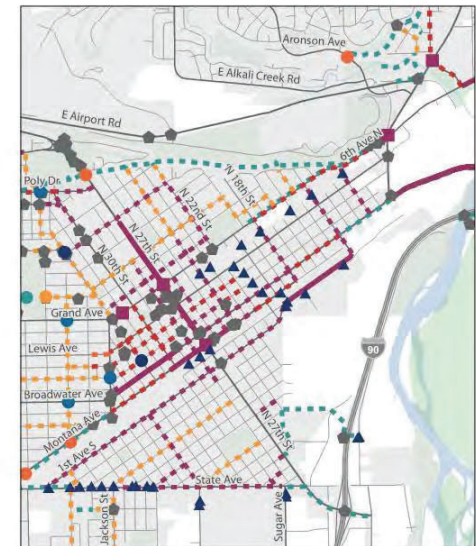




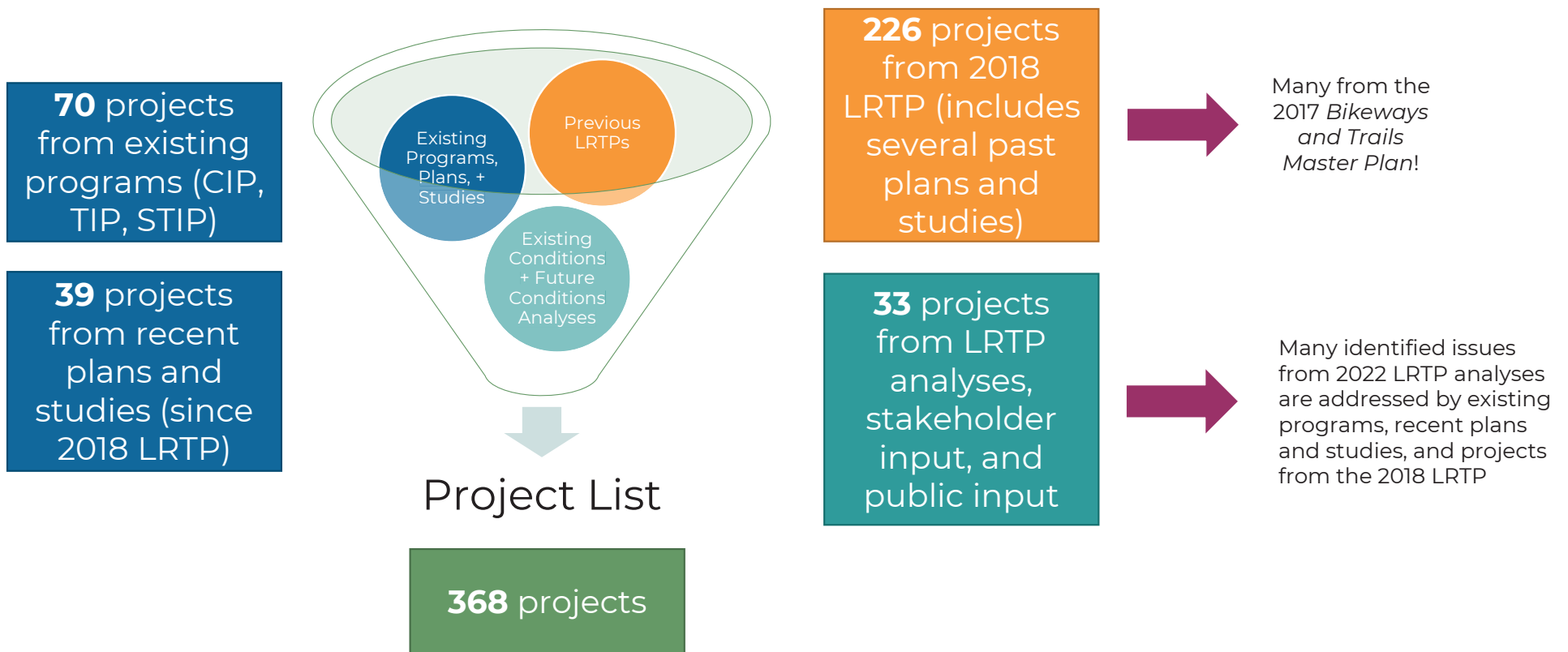
## NEEDS, DEFICIENCIES, & OPPORTUNITIES



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



# How was the Project List created?



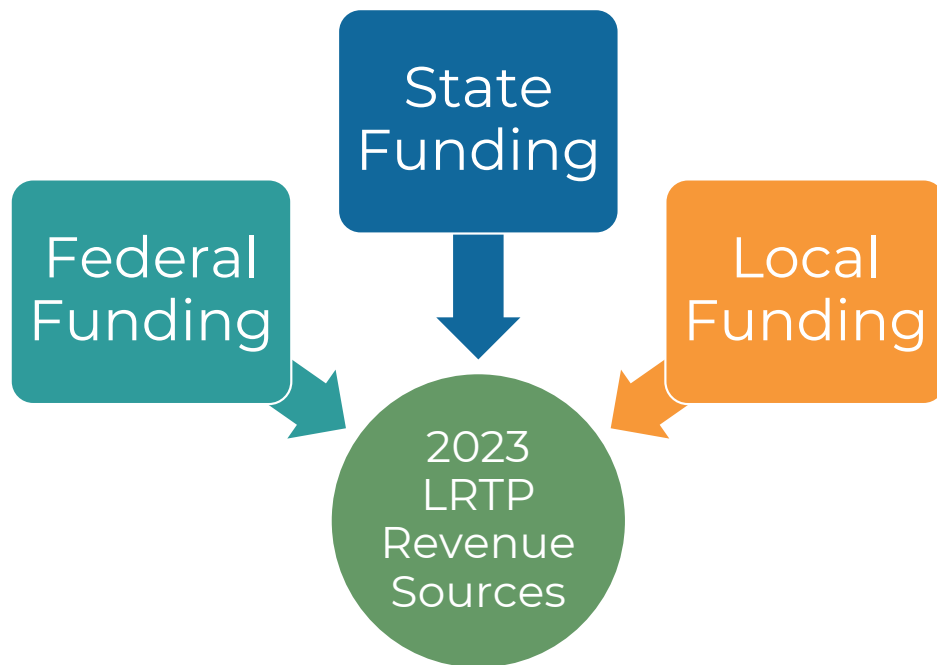
# How are projects prioritized?

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

- + Projects are given a score of -1, 0, 1, or 2 for each criterion
- + Total score is the sum of scores across all 12 criteria



# How are projects funded?



- + Projects will be sorted into categories based on eligibility for each funding source

# How are projects sorted?



**Committed Projects:** Projects already committed/ funded in the MDT STIP, MPO TIP, or City of Billings CIP



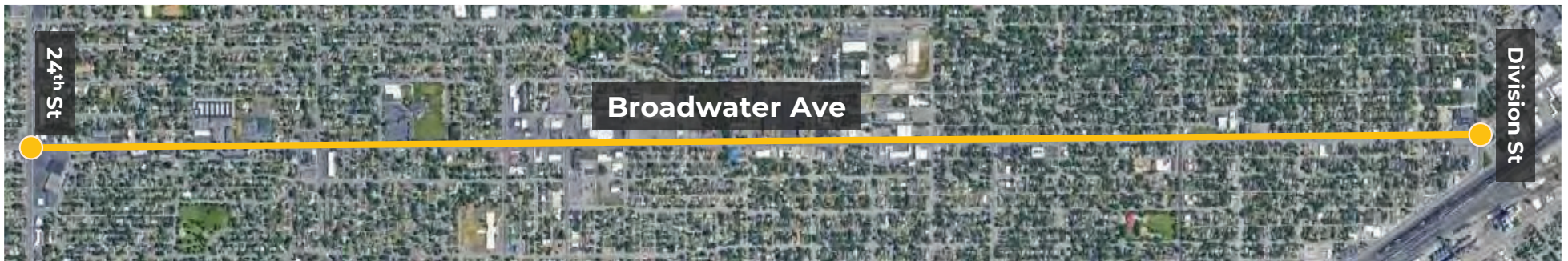
**Recommended Projects:** Projects that are expected to be fully funded by year 2040, but are not currently committed in the STIP, TIP, or CIP.



**Illustrative Projects:** Projects that are not expected to be fully funded by 2040 because of fiscal constraint but could be included if additional resources become available.

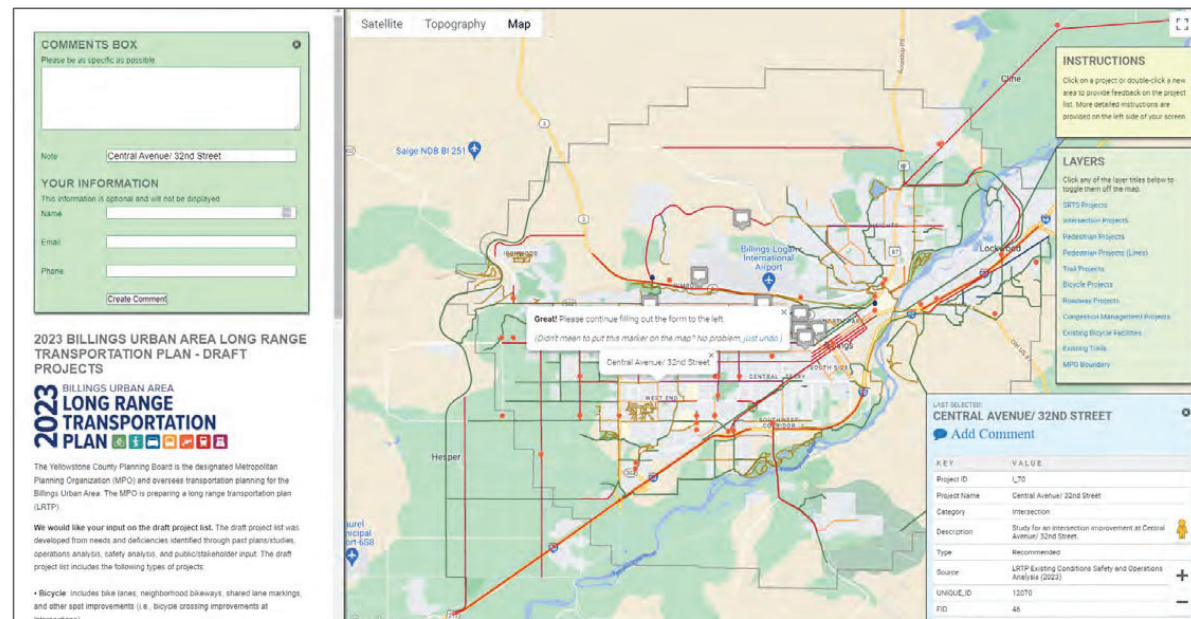
# Example: Broadwater Ave Corridor Plan

- + **Description:** Conduct a study on Broadwater Avenue from 24th St W to Division Street to assess potential operations, safety, and multimodal improvements.
- + **Project Type:** Recommended
- + **Project Category:** Roadway
- + **Project Type:** Recommended
- + **Planning-Level Cost:** \$500,000
- + **Project Source:** 2023 LRTP Existing & Future Conditions Safety/ Operational Analyses
- + **Project Prioritization Score:** 15  
*(Highest-Scoring Project)*

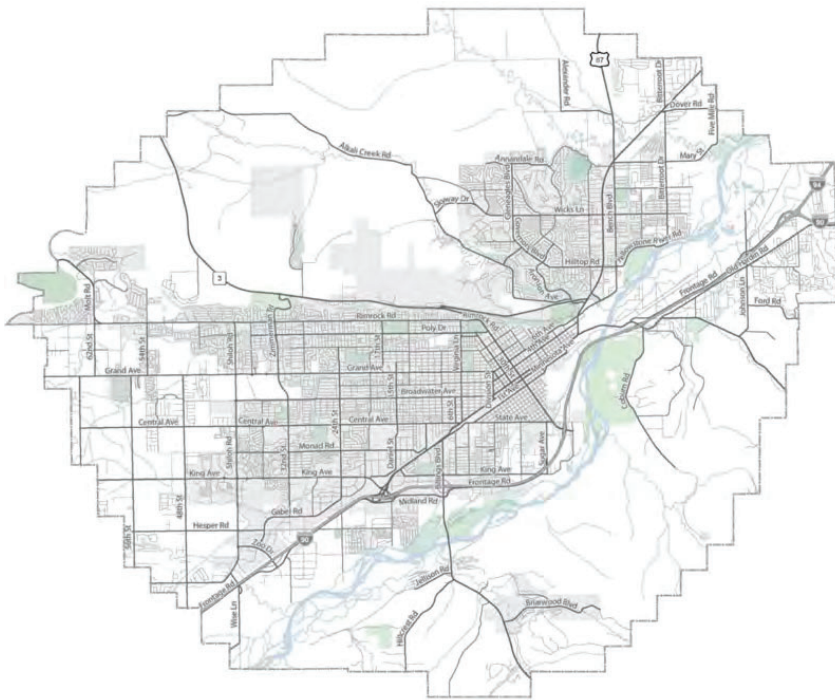


# Project Website & Interactive Map Tool

- + New interactive map tool for Public Outreach #2 is on the website
- + Includes:
  - + Draft project list, shown by category
  - + Allows commenting, “Liking”, and replying to other comments
  - + Layers can easily be turned on and off



[Interactive Map Link | Kittelson & Associates, Inc.](#)



# Thanks for coming!

- Please Provide Comments on the Interactive Map: [Interactive Map \(billingslrtp.com\)](http://billingslrtp.com)
- If you have any questions, reach out to

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[adaleiden@kittelson.com](mailto:adaleiden@kittelson.com)  
208.472.9804

Lisa Olmsted  
[lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto:lolmsted@dowl.com)  
406.869.6329





# Press Releases



March XX, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lisa Olmsted, Public Involvement Manager, (406) 869-6329, [lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto:lolmsted@dowl.com)

### **Billings Urban Area Long-Range Transportation Plan – Second Open House**

The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is in the process of updating the Billings Urban Area Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The LRTP process, including public input, will identify effective ways to build upon our existing transportation system and make strong investments for the future that provide transportation choices for the community.

Open house attendees will:

- Review and comment on identified projects and their current prioritization
- Learn about the LRTP process and why it matters

**Public input is important to this community effort.** The public is invited to an open house on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Billings Public Library Community Room, 510 North Broadway Avenue. The event will be open house format; please attend whenever is most convenient for you.

Those unable to attend the open house are also invited to provide input and review content on the project website: <https://maps.kittelson.com/billingslrtp2023projects>

Comments, questions, or concerns can be directed to Lisa Olmsted at [lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto:lolmsted@dowl.com) or by calling (406) 869-6329.



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