

River Drive Corridor Study

15th Street North to 38th Street North

Informational Meeting #1
January 21, 2016

Welcome and Introductions



Title VI Considerations

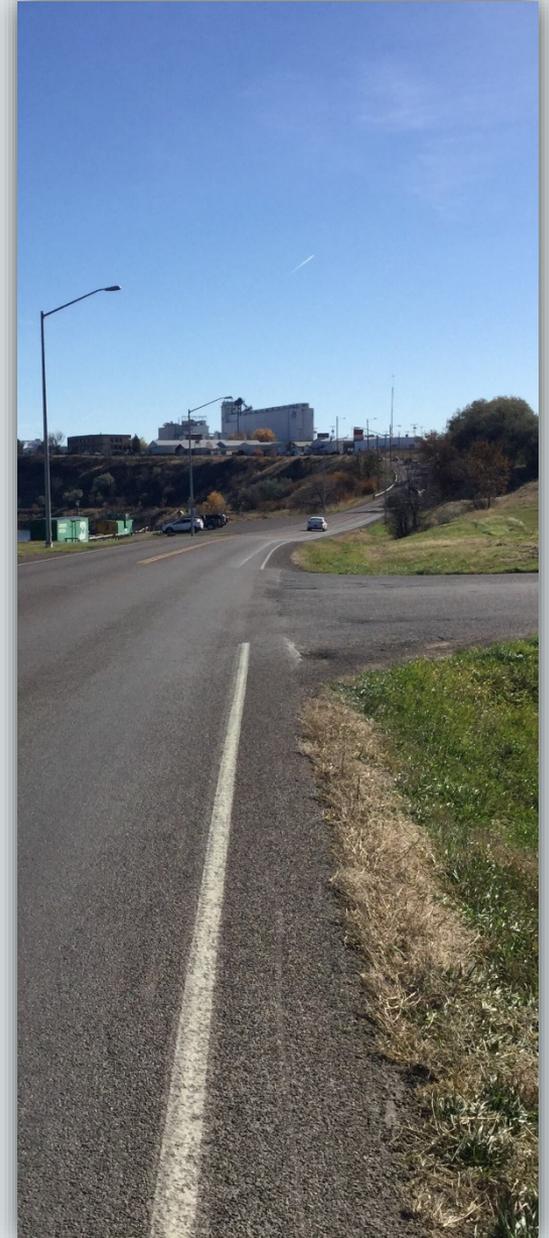
This meeting is held pursuant to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which ensures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination on the basis of a protected status during any MDT project.



Presentation

- What is a Corridor Study?
- Key existing and projected conditions findings
 - *Transportation System*
 - *Environmental Conditions*
- Next Steps

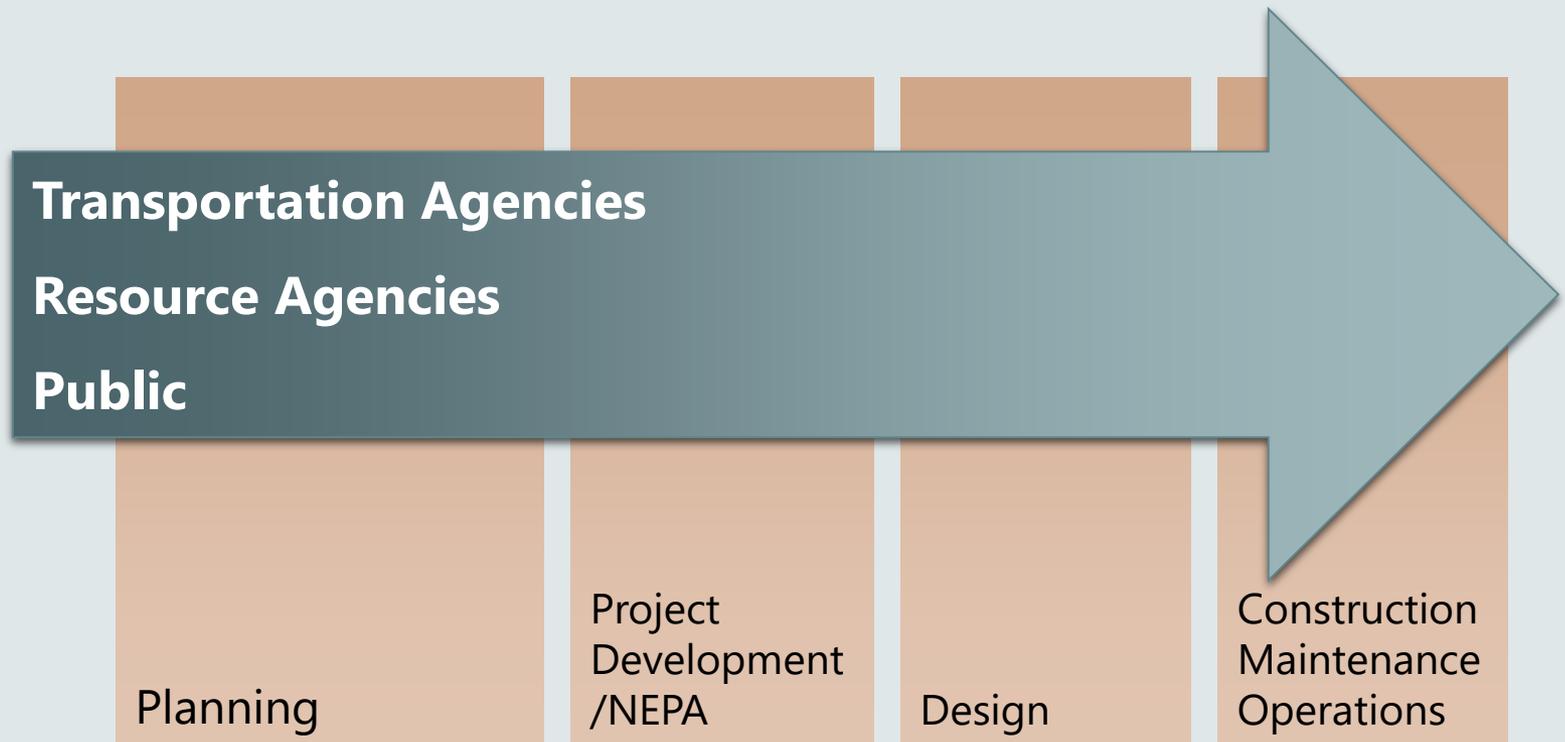
Discussion Period



A landscape photograph showing a road on the left, a dam in the middle ground, and a body of water on the right. A large, semi-transparent brown circle is overlaid in the center, containing the text 'What is a Corridor Study?'. The background features a clear blue sky, a utility pole with a street light, and some trees with autumn foliage. In the distance, there are industrial buildings and a dam structure with water behind it.

What is a Corridor Study?

What is a Corridor Study?

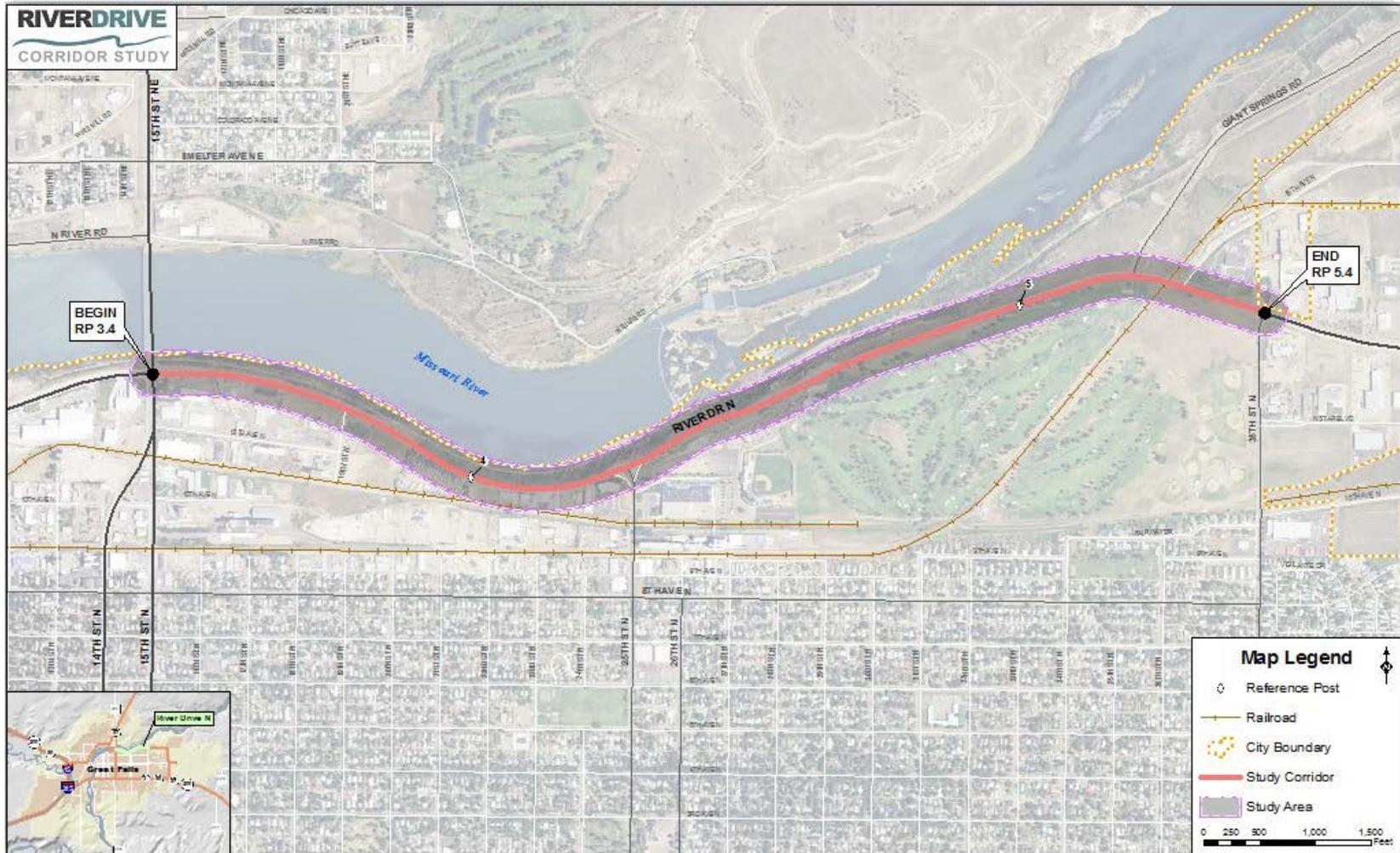


A corridor study is conducted before design, right-of-way acquisition, environmental compliance, and construction.

Study Area

River Drive North (2 miles)

- 15th Street North (RP 3.4)
- 38th Street North (RP 5.4)



Past Planning

- Past LRTPs
- Feasibility Study completed in 2009
- 2014 LRTP
 - Conduct a Corridor Study

Existing concerns

- Congestion
- Intersections
- Safety

Future concerns

- Growth
- Development

River Drive North Feasibility Study



Prepared By: George Mason University
Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics (TPOL)

Great Falls Area Long Range Transportation Plan - 2014

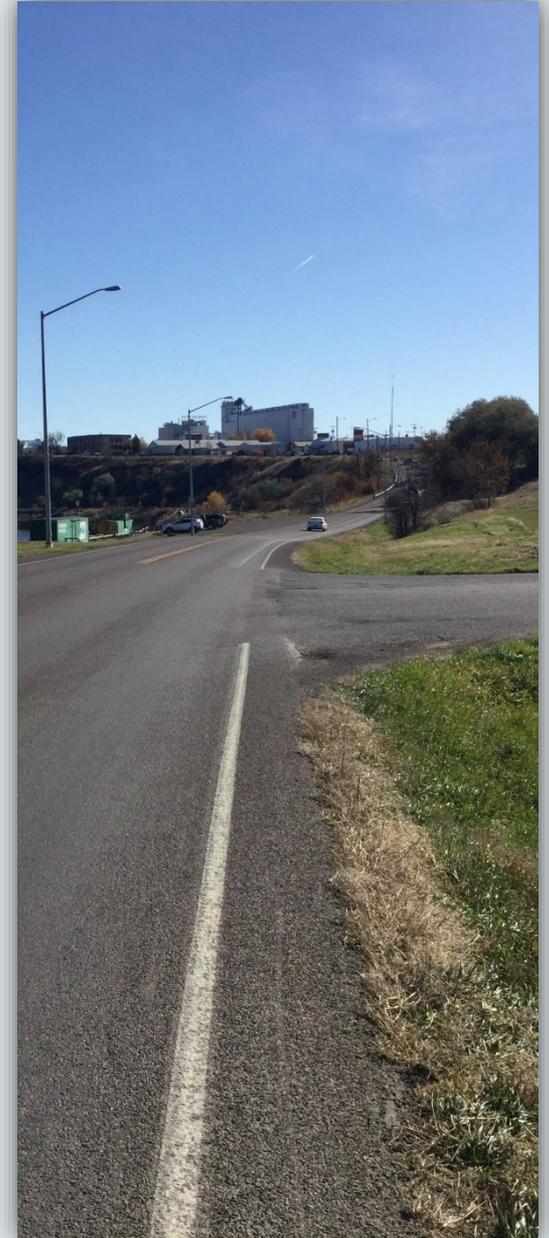
Great Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Great Falls, Montana



March 17, 2014

Goals and Purpose of Study

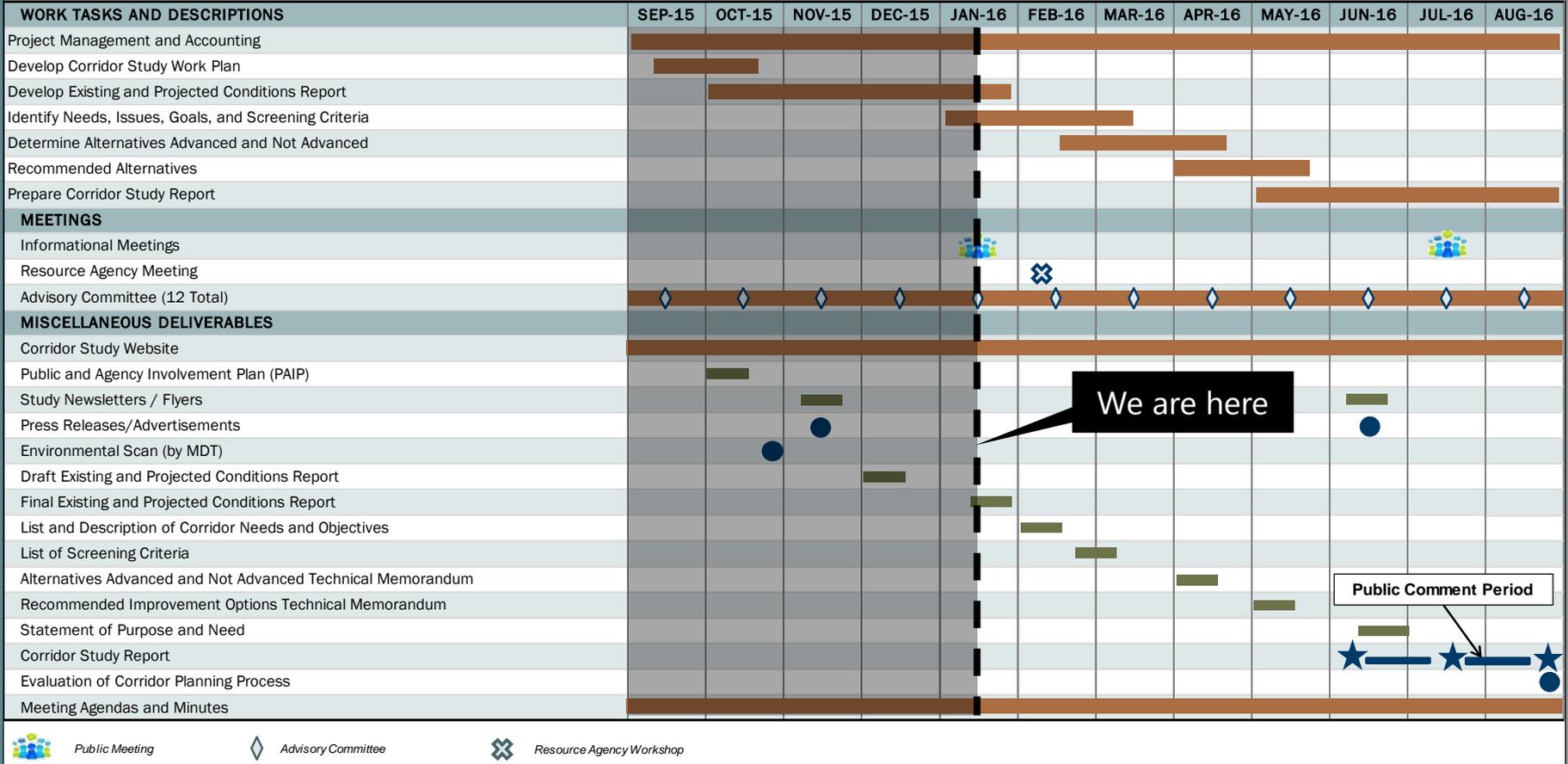
- Identify needs and objectives
- Identify potential impacts and constraints
- Identify short- and long-range improvements
- Develop planning level cost estimates
- Develop information and data to be forwarded into the environmental process if a project moves forward from the study (dependent on available funds)



Study Schedule

River Drive Corridor Study

STUDY SCHEDULE



Public Meeting

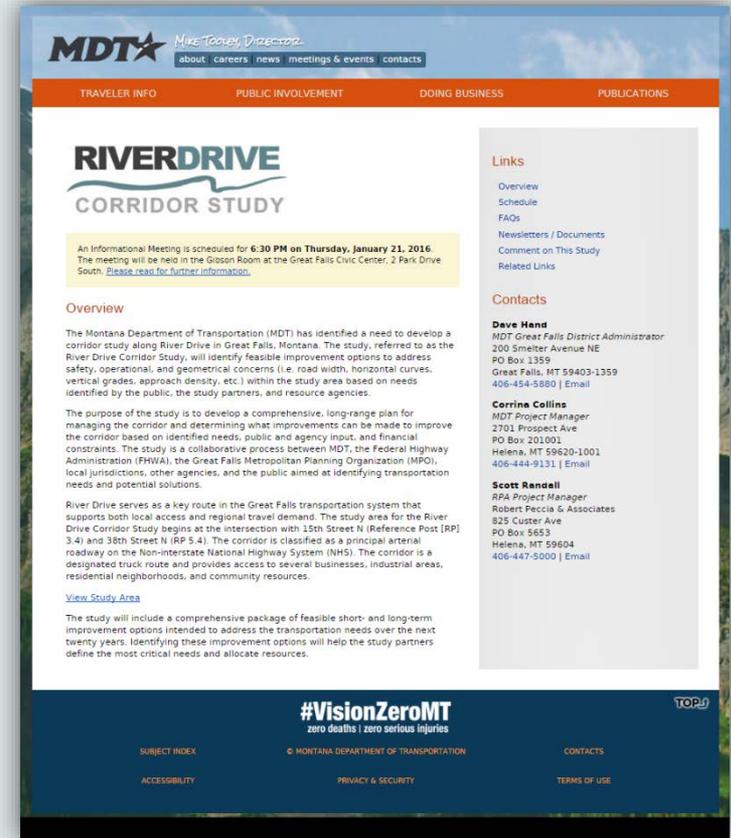


Advisory Committee



Resource Agency Workshop

- Two informational meetings
 - January 21, 2016
 - Summer, 2016
- Outreach to interested parties, stakeholders, resource agencies, as warranted
- Study newsletters
- Website
 - www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/riverdrive/
- Other as needed



The image is a composite of two photographs. The left side shows a paved road with a dark pickup truck parked on the shoulder, a utility pole, and some trees with autumn foliage. The right side shows a large dam structure with water behind it, and a guardrail in the foreground. A large, semi-transparent brown circle is centered over the image, containing the text 'Transportation System' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Transportation System

Principal arterial roadway

- National Highway System
- Designated truck route

Part of US Hwy 87 Bypass

- Connects 10th Ave S to 15th St N

Existing constraints

- Missouri River
- River's Edge Trail
- Park and recreational land
- Development

Two travel lanes

- Generally 4' shoulders
- Fair pavement condition

35 to 45 mph speed limit

Physical Characteristics

Looking East at Veteran's Memorial Park



Physical Characteristics

Looking West at Veteran's Memorial Park



Looking East at Golf Course



Historical marker and golf course

Looking East at Golf Course



Businesses between 15th St N and 19th St N

- 7 approaches

Caboose Trailhead

Big Stack Mobile Home Court approach

- On a hill
- Difficult to see

Business access west of 25th St N

- Businesses closely front roadway
- No defined parking or access

Scenic pull-outs

Looking West near 15th St N



Looking West



**Big Stack Mobile Home
Court approach**

Looking East



Lack of defined business approaches and parking

Looking West



Lack of defined business approaches and parking

River's Edge Trail

- North side of roadway
 - *Between 15th St N and Giant Springs Rd*
- Shared use path

19th St N crossing

- Trail spur terminates at 19th St N intersection
- No crossing treatments

Caboose Trailhead

- Parking area and access for River's Edge Trail

East of Giant Springs Road

- Shared use path
- Connects River's Edge Trail to 38th St N

Looking West near 19th St N



Caboose Trailhead



Rail

- BNSF rail line
- At-grade crossing between Giant Springs Rd and 38th St N
 - Post mounted flashing light signal

Freight

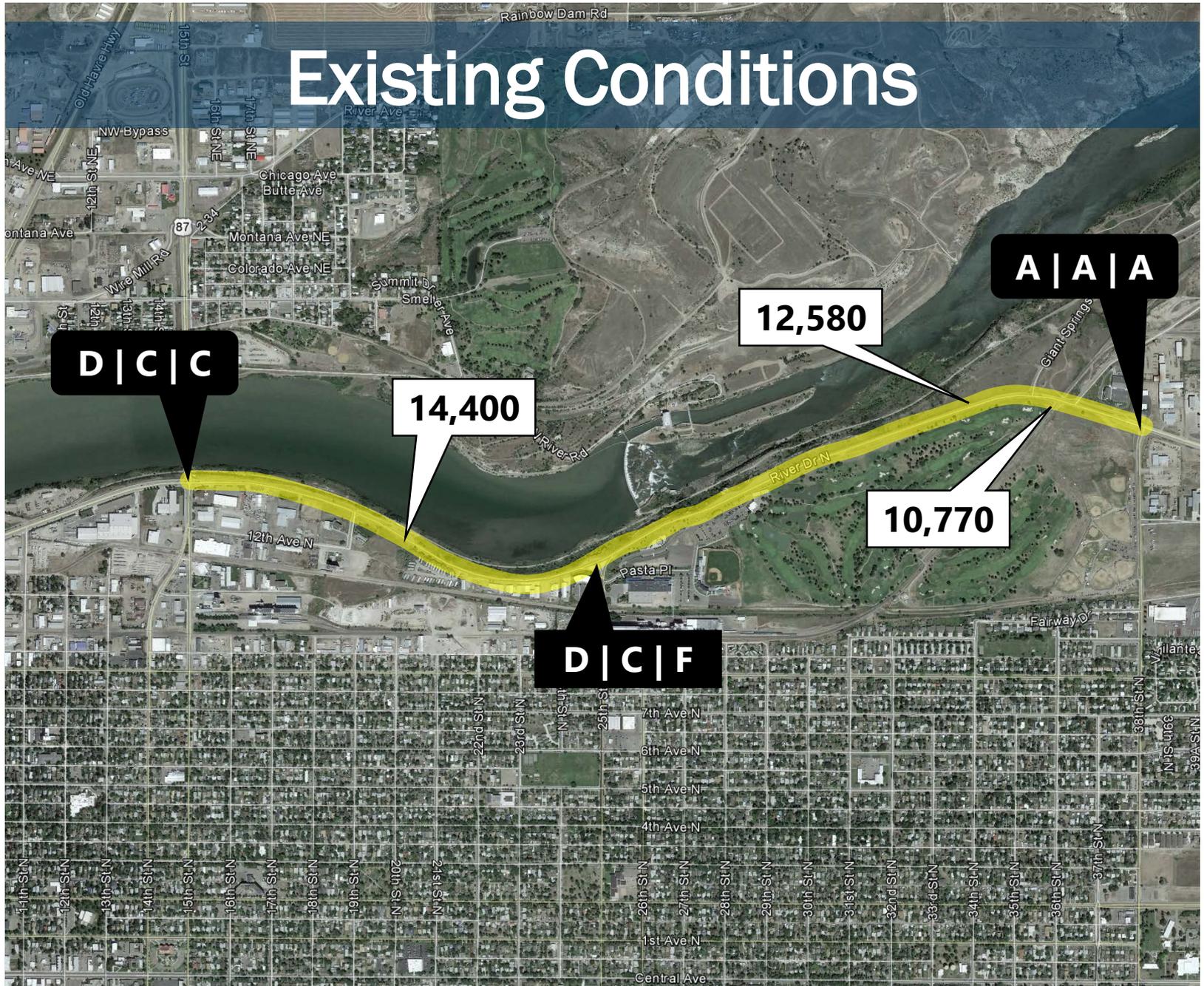
- Designated truck route
- Part of Northeast Bypass
- Local and regional freight traffic
- Multiple industrial and commercial freight generators
- New industrial park planned near 18th Ave N
- Approximately 7.2% truck traffic

Looking East at R/R Crossing



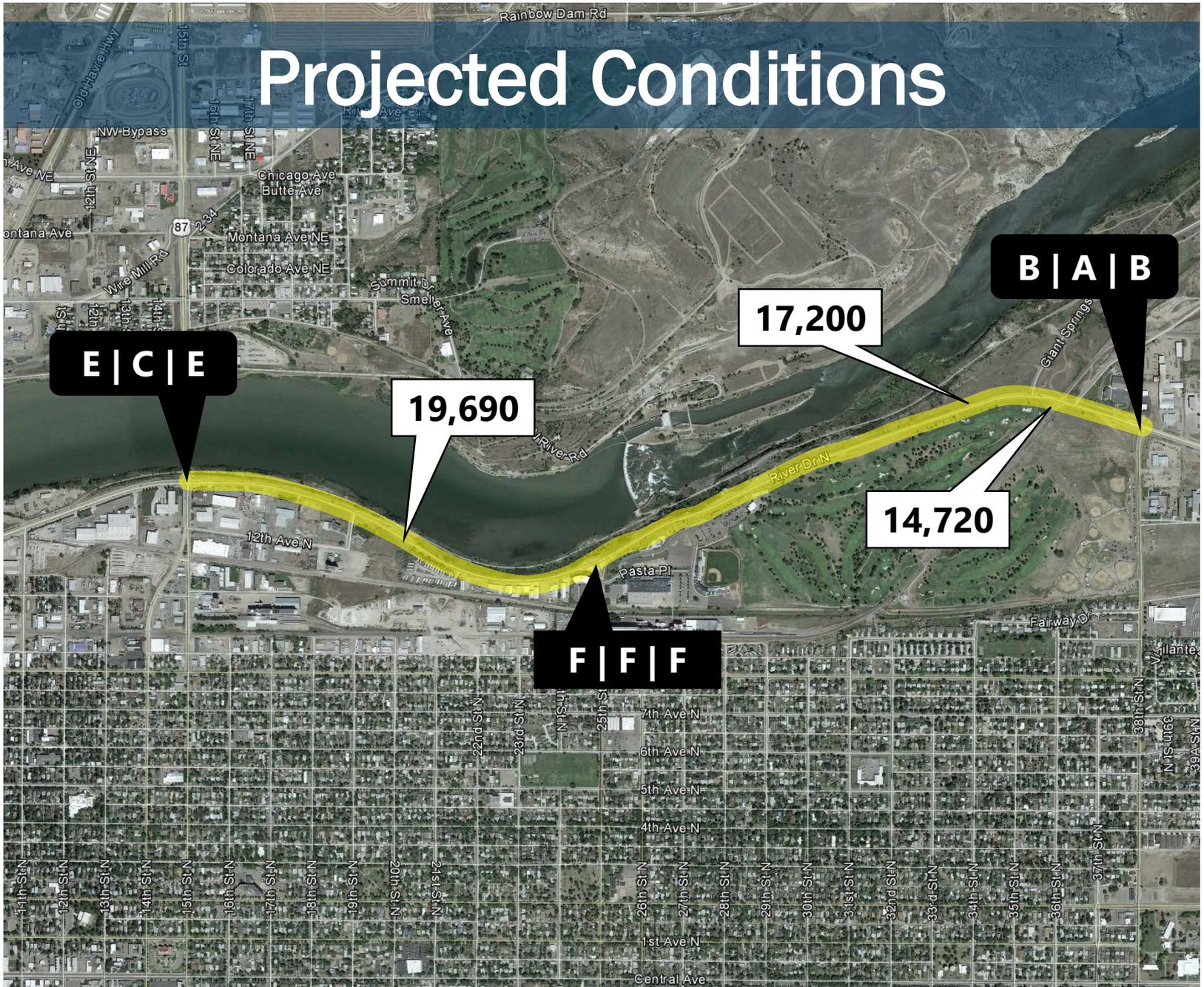
Looking West at R/R Crossing





Traffic Operations

River Drive Corridor Study
Slide: 30



Compare to existing standards

- Urban Principal Arterial

Roadway Alignment

- Horizontal
- Vertical
 - Steep grade

Intersections

- Turning movements
 - Trucks
- Vehicle storage

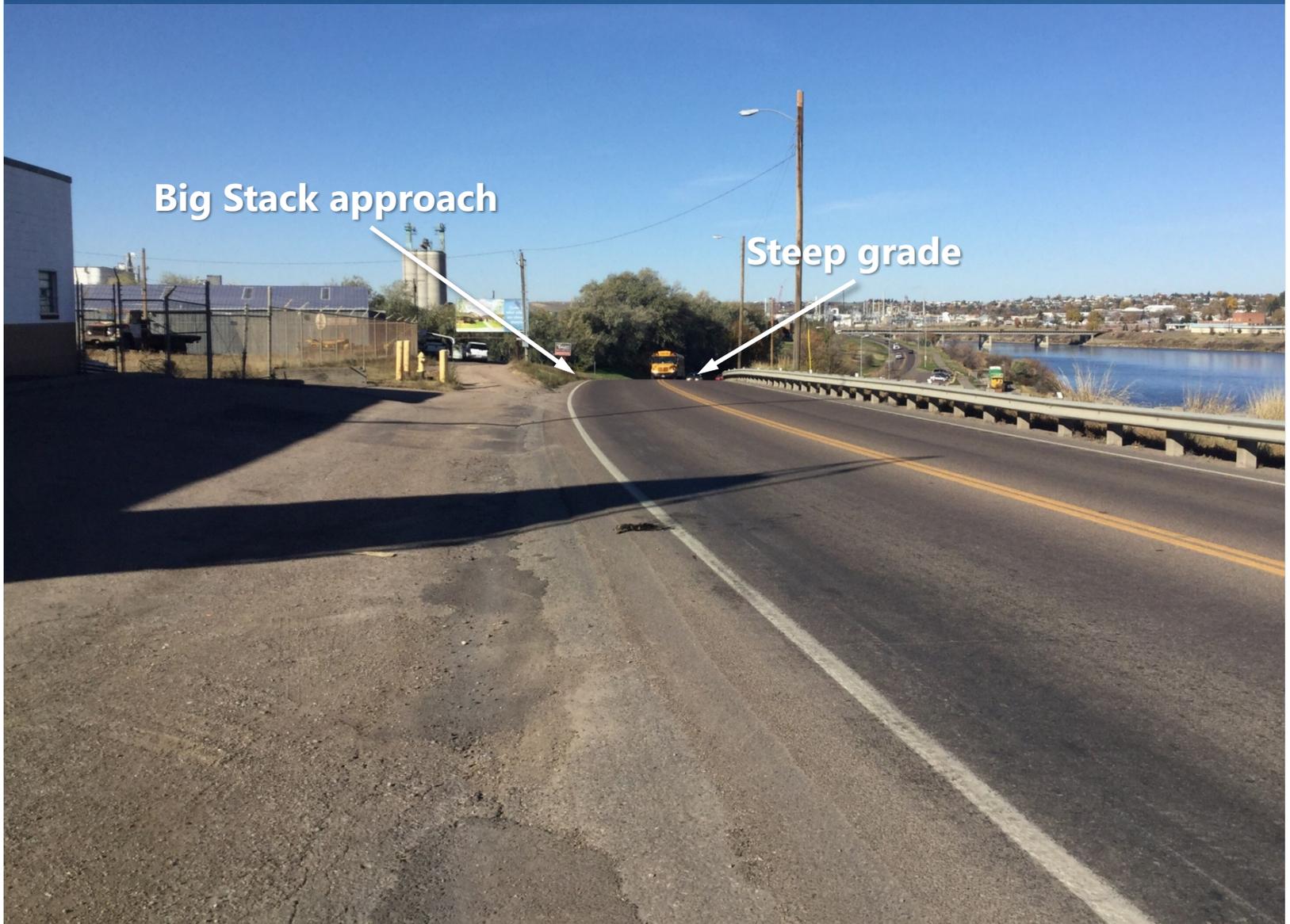
Looking West at 15th St N



Looking West Near Trailhead



Looking West

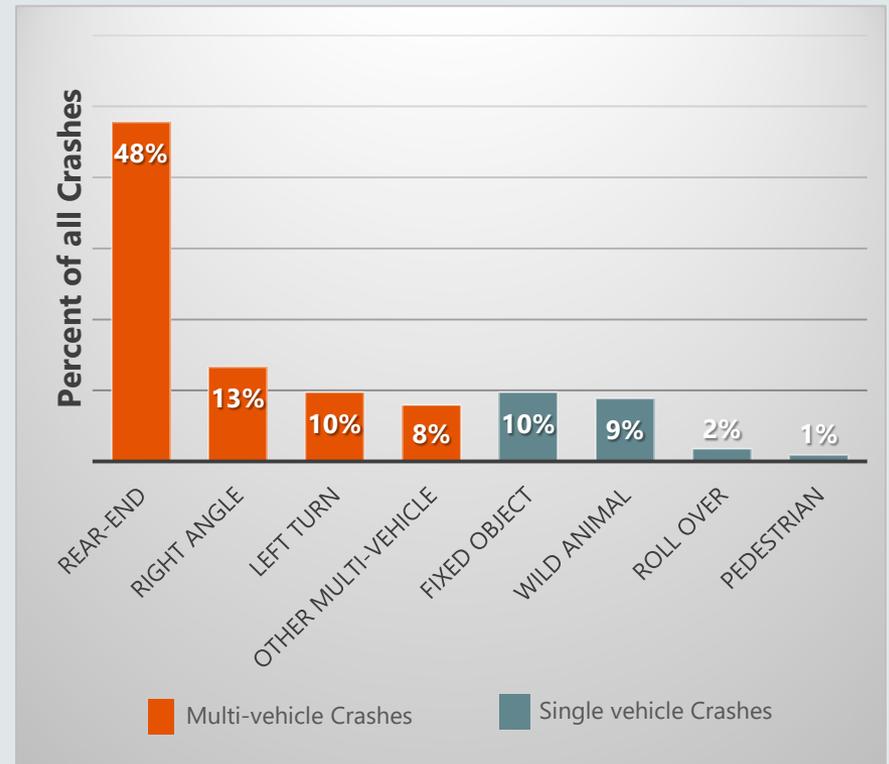


5 years of data*

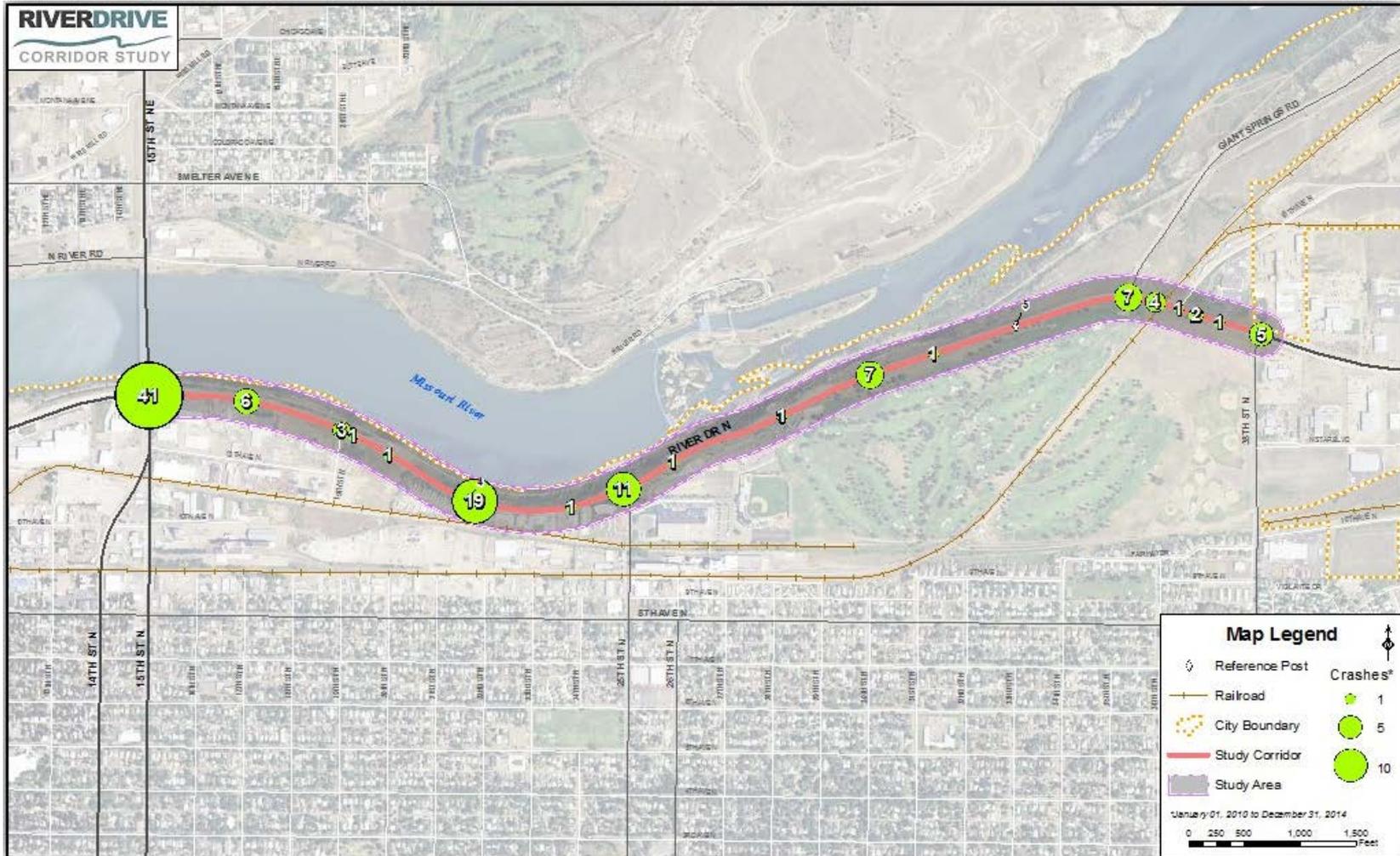
- No fatal
- Two incapacitating injury
- Six non-incapacitating injury

113 total reported crashes

- 79% multi-vehicle
- 48% rear-end
- No environmental trends noted



Crash Type Statistics



Noted clusters:

- 15th Street North
- Big Stack Mobile Home Court
- 25th Street North
- Scenic Pull-out
- Giant Springs Rd



Environmental Conditions

Physical Environment

- Soil Resources and Prime Farmland
- Geologic Resources
- **Water Resources**
- Air Quality
- Hazardous Substances

Biological Environment

- Vegetation
- **General Wildlife**
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- **Species of Concern**

Social and Cultural Environment

- **Population Demographics and Economics**
- **Land Ownership**
- **Recreational Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- Noise
- **Visual Resources**

Water Resources



Groundwater

- One public water supply well
- Two private wells

White-tail and mule deer

- Near golf course

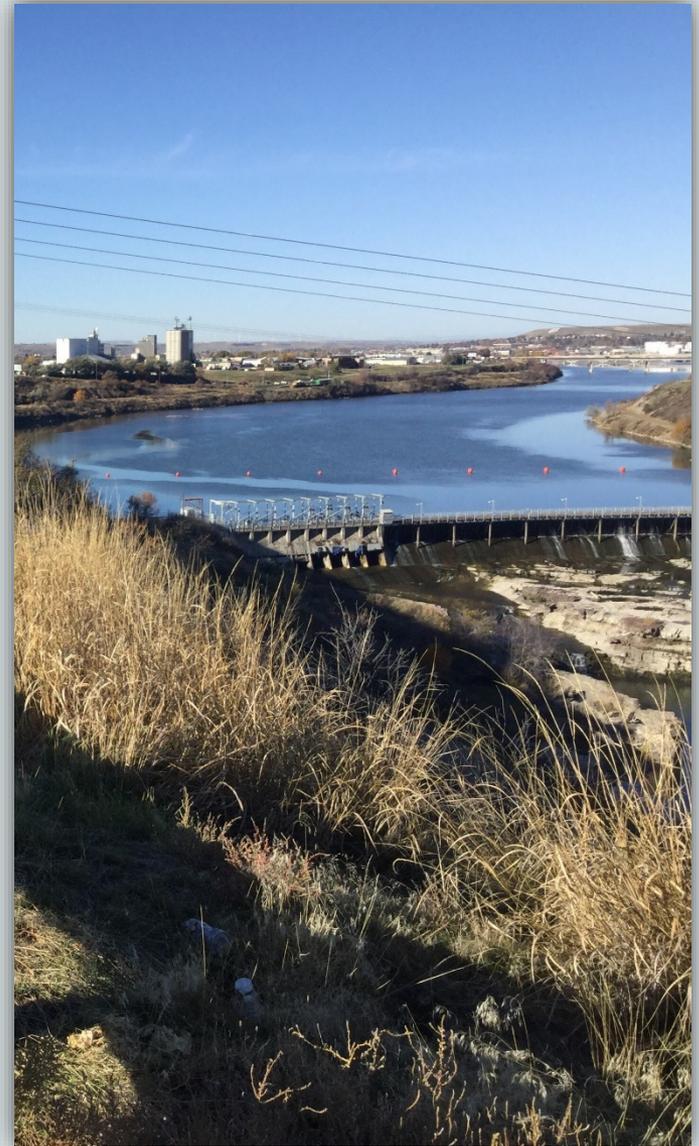
Missouri River fishery

Bald Eagle nests

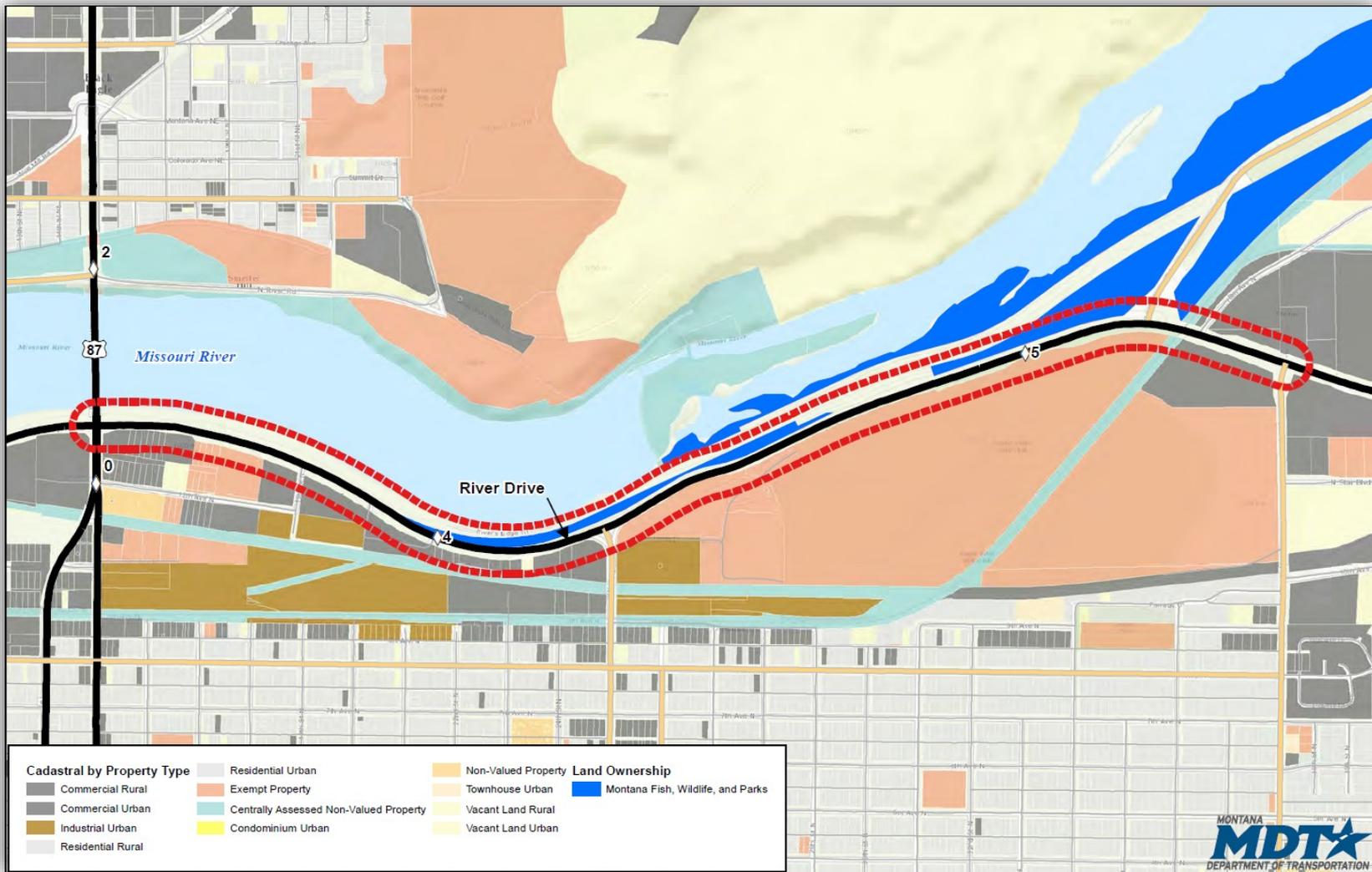
- Near study area

Plains Spadefoot

- Record from 1992 near railroad tracks



Land Ownership



- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park

- Government
- Residential

Recreational Resources



- River's Edge Trail
- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Eagle Falls Golf Course
- Centene Stadium
- Giant Springs State Park

Multiple scenic pull-outs

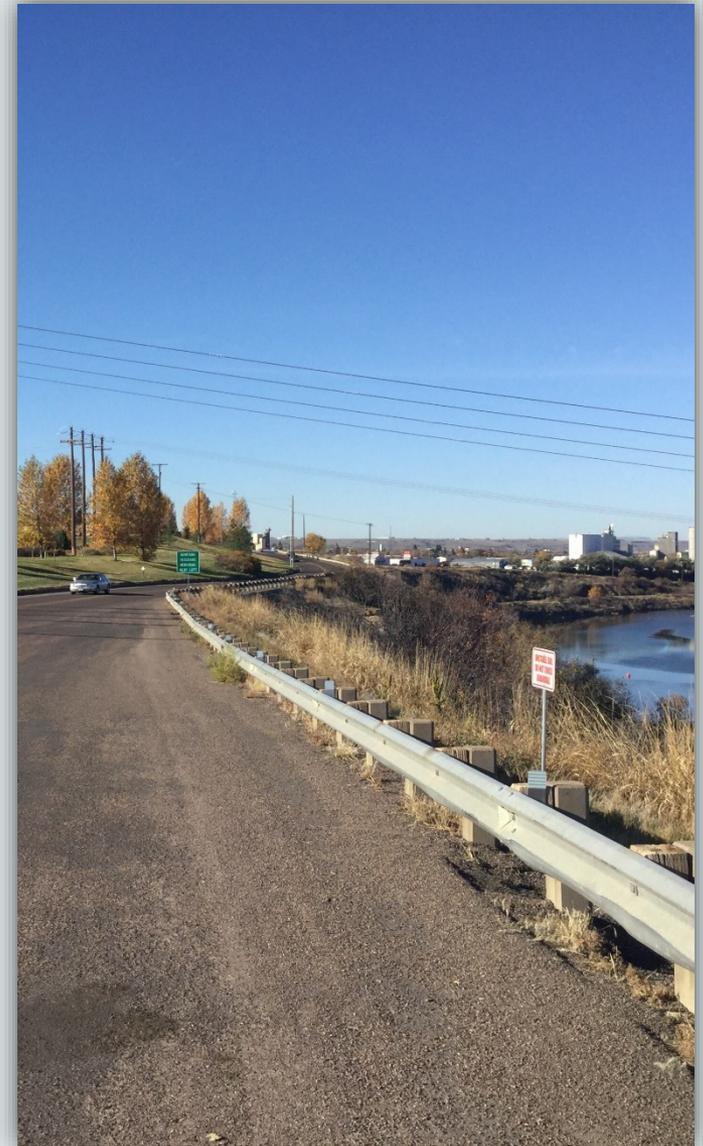
- Black Eagle Falls
- Cliffs

River's Edge Trail

- Caboose Trailhead

Parks

- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Eagle Falls Golf Course



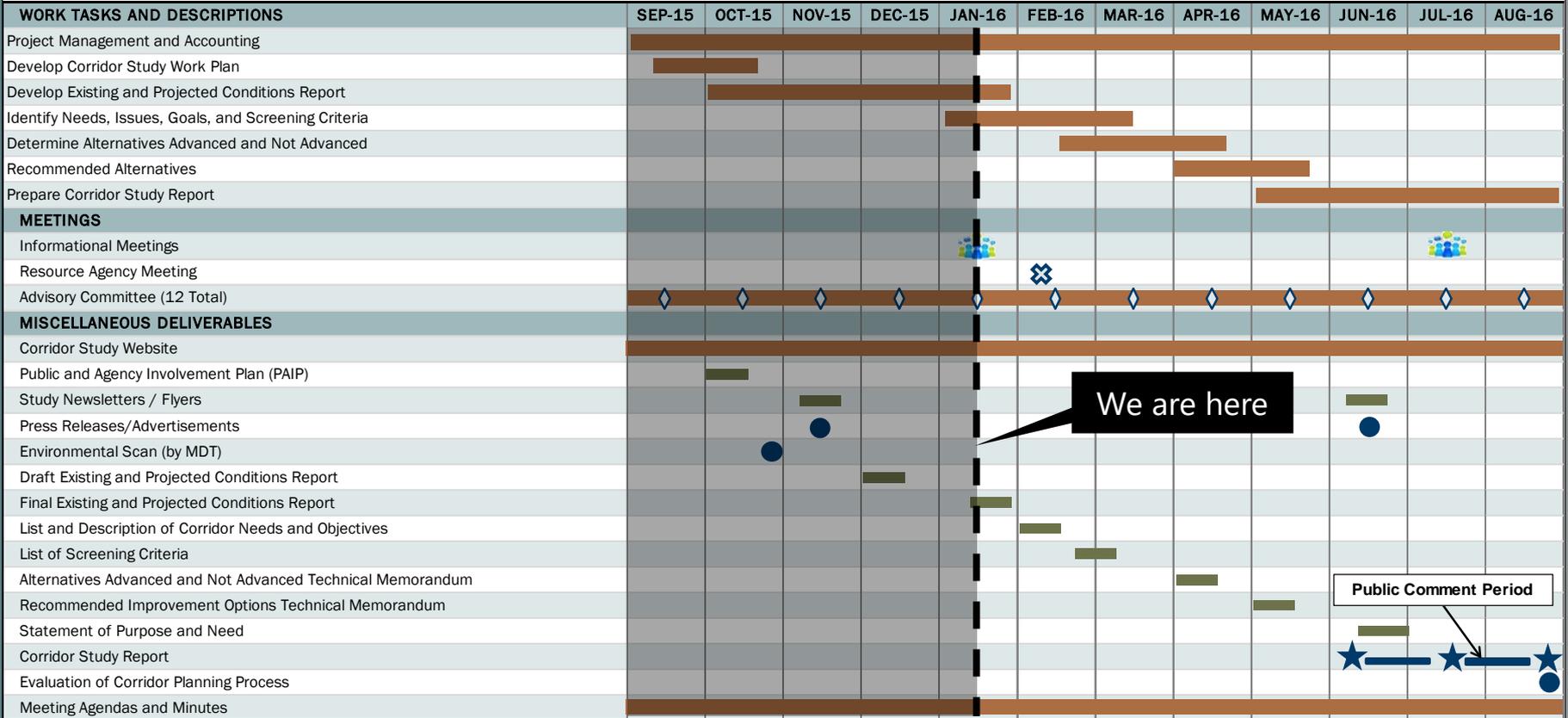


Conclusion and Next Steps



River Drive Corridor Study

STUDY SCHEDULE



We are here

Public Comment Period

 Public Meeting
  Advisory Committee
  Resource Agency Workshop

- Continue study coordination and outreach
- Finalize E-Scan and E&P report
- Continue analysis of transportation needs
- Identify potential improvement options
- Draft corridor study report
 - Summer 2016

- **Comment sheets**
- **Study website:**
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/riverdrive

- **Study Contacts:**

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- **Info on newsletter**