



Informational Meeting

Tuesday,
September 13, 2011

3rd Floor Meeting Room
Parmly Billings Library
510 N. Broadway



Welcome & Introductions



Purpose of Meeting

- Provide Overview of Corridor Planning Study Process
- Present Key Findings from Existing and Projected Conditions Report
 - Transportation System
 - Land Use
 - Environmental Resources
- Solicit Community Input



A Corridor Planning Study Is:

- A **planning-level assessment** of a study area that occurs before any project is forwarded for design or environmental review.

A Corridor Planning Study Is Not:

- A design, right-of-way acquisition, or construction project
- Environmental compliance document

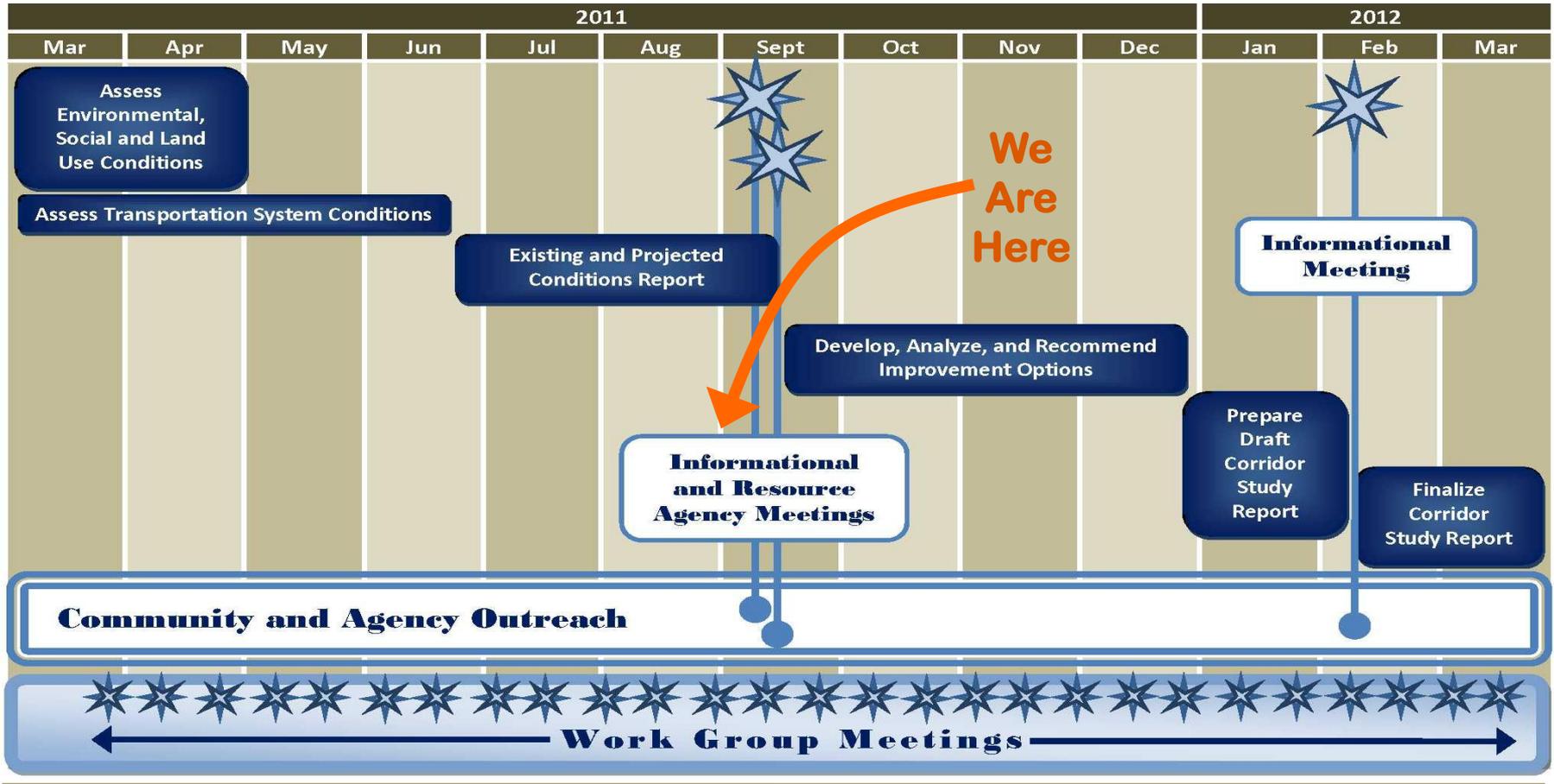


Montana's Corridor Planning Process

- Involves conducting an **overview of safety, operational, and geometric conditions and environmental resources** within a corridor in order to identify needs and constraints.
- This process allows MDT to **save time and money** in subsequent projects phases by:
 - Helping identify realistic strategies given funding or other constraints
 - Identifying fatal flaws before initiation of formal environmental process
 - Eliminating alternatives from further evaluation
- Provides a **link between early transportation planning and environmental compliance** efforts for project development.



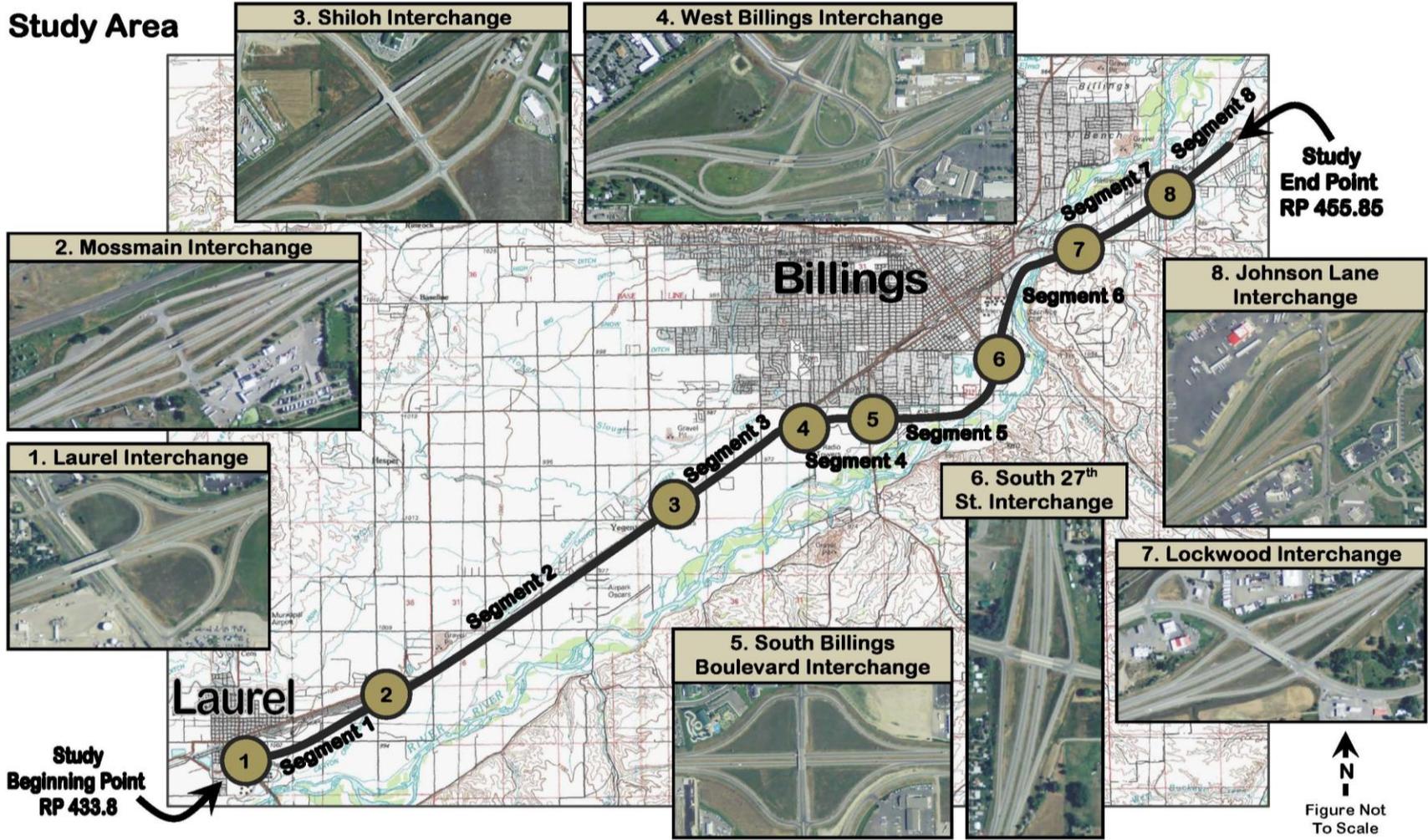
What are the Steps?





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Study Area





Function

- Interstate system is characterized by **controlled access, high traffic volumes and speeds, and long-distance trips.**
- I-90 serves as the **principal east-west route** in the Billings urban area and the surrounding area in Yellowstone County.



Traffic Volumes

- **Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)** ranges from **9,037 vehicles** at the Laurel Interchange to **27,453 vehicles** between the West Billings and South Billings Boulevard Interchanges (2010 volumes).
- **Primary users** of I-90 include local residents, commuters, commercial truck drivers, recreational users accessing the Yellowstone River, and tourists traveling to Yellowstone National Park and other regional attractions.
- **Vehicle mix** includes all types.



Physical Characteristics

● Roadway Width

- Four-lane divided highway generally consisting of two separate two-lane roadbeds
- Area between the West Billings Interchange and the South Billings Boulevard Interchange (RP 446.3 to RP 446.8) includes a third auxiliary lane in each direction.

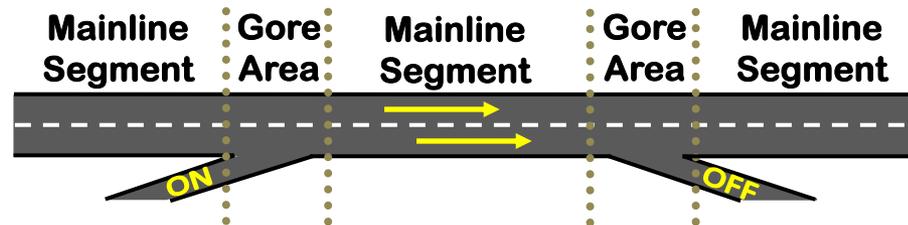
● Bridges

- 36 bridges within the study area
- 15 are functionally obsolete (6 of these eligible for rehabilitation)
- I-90 structures over the Yellowstone River are classified by MDT as “fracture critical.”



Analysis Locations

- **Mainline Interstate Segments** between interchanges and between merge/diverge (on-ramp and off-ramp) locations
- **Merge/Diverge Gore Areas** for on-ramps and off-ramps



- **Laurel and Mossmain Interchange Intersections**

(Note: All other interchange intersections except for the recently constructed West Billings Interchange were evaluated in the 2006 *Billings I-90 Interchanges Project* report)



Geometric Analysis Methodology

- Mainline Interstate
 - Ramp Gore Areas
 - Ramp Intersections for Laurel and Mossmain Interchanges
- **Horizontal Alignment Analysis**
 - Turns or bends in the road
 - **Vertical Alignment Analysis**
 - Grade or elevation changes and vertical curves (hills and valleys)

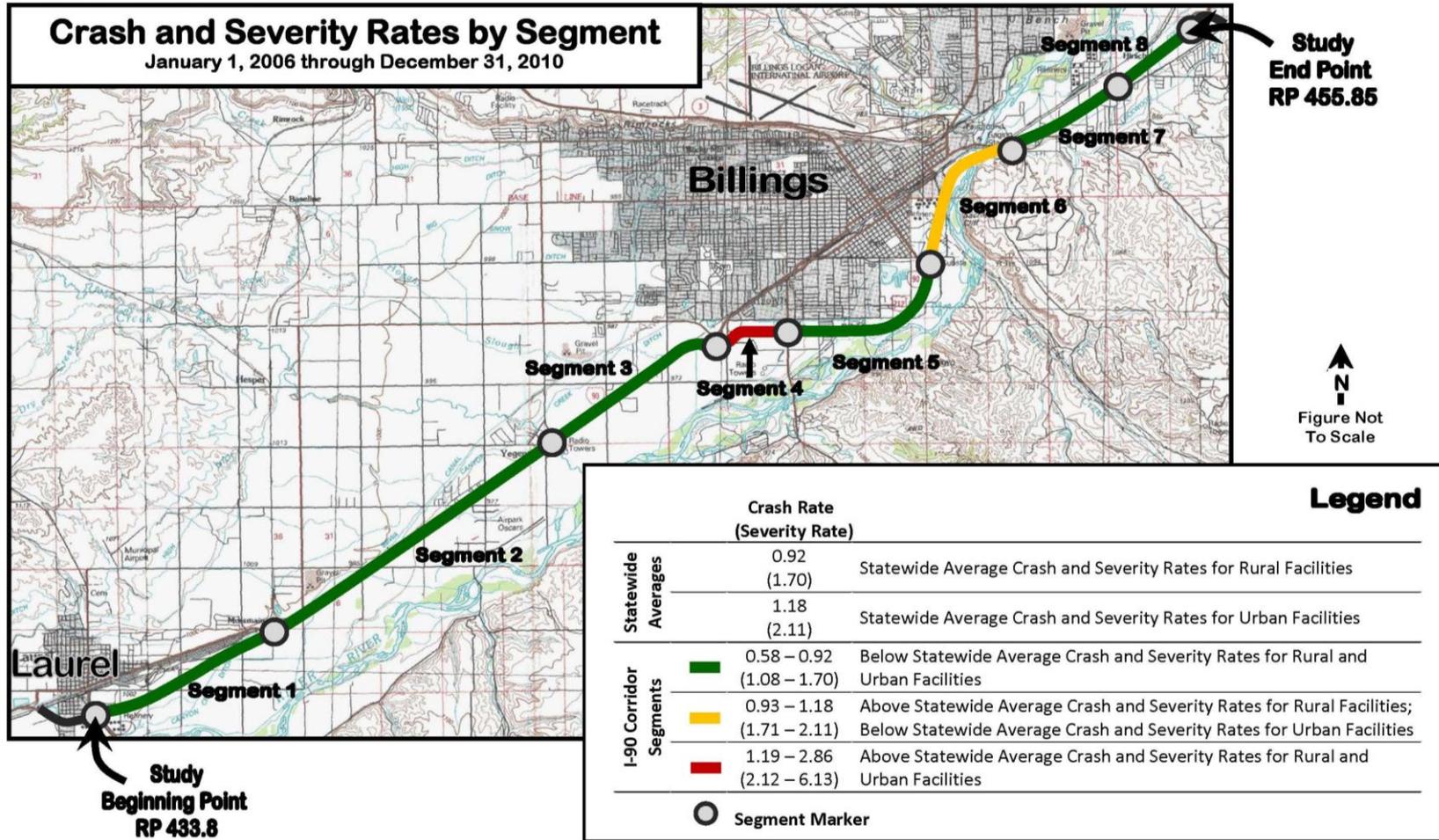


Analysis conducted according to MDT's Geometric Design Criteria for Freeways and Signalized/Non-signalized Intersections



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Safety Analysis





Operational Analysis Methodology

- **Level of Service (LOS)**

- Report Card Concept
- A = Best Conditions
- F = Worst Conditions

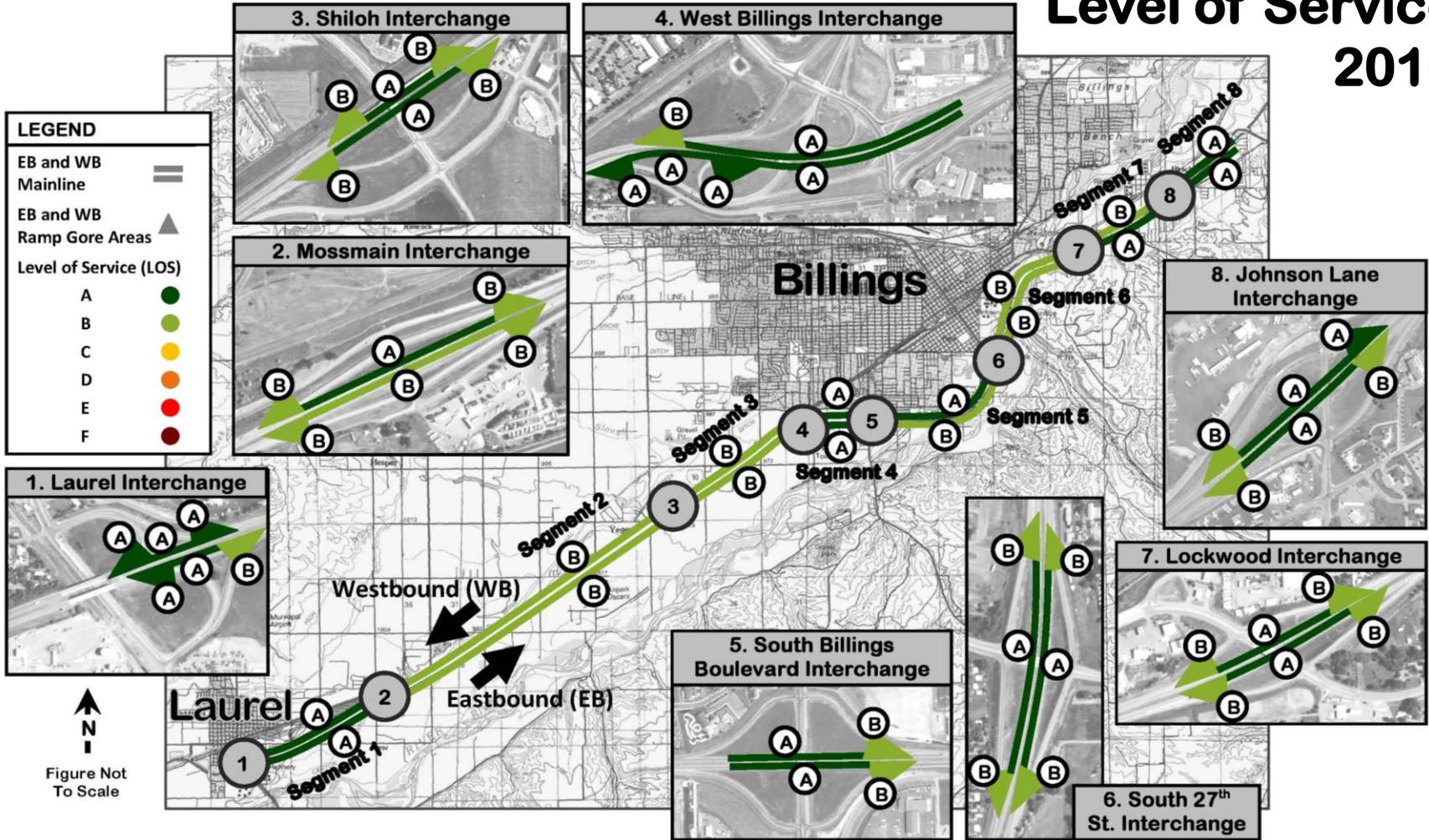
- Existing Conditions (2010)
and Projected Conditions (2035)

<u>Level of Service</u>	
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

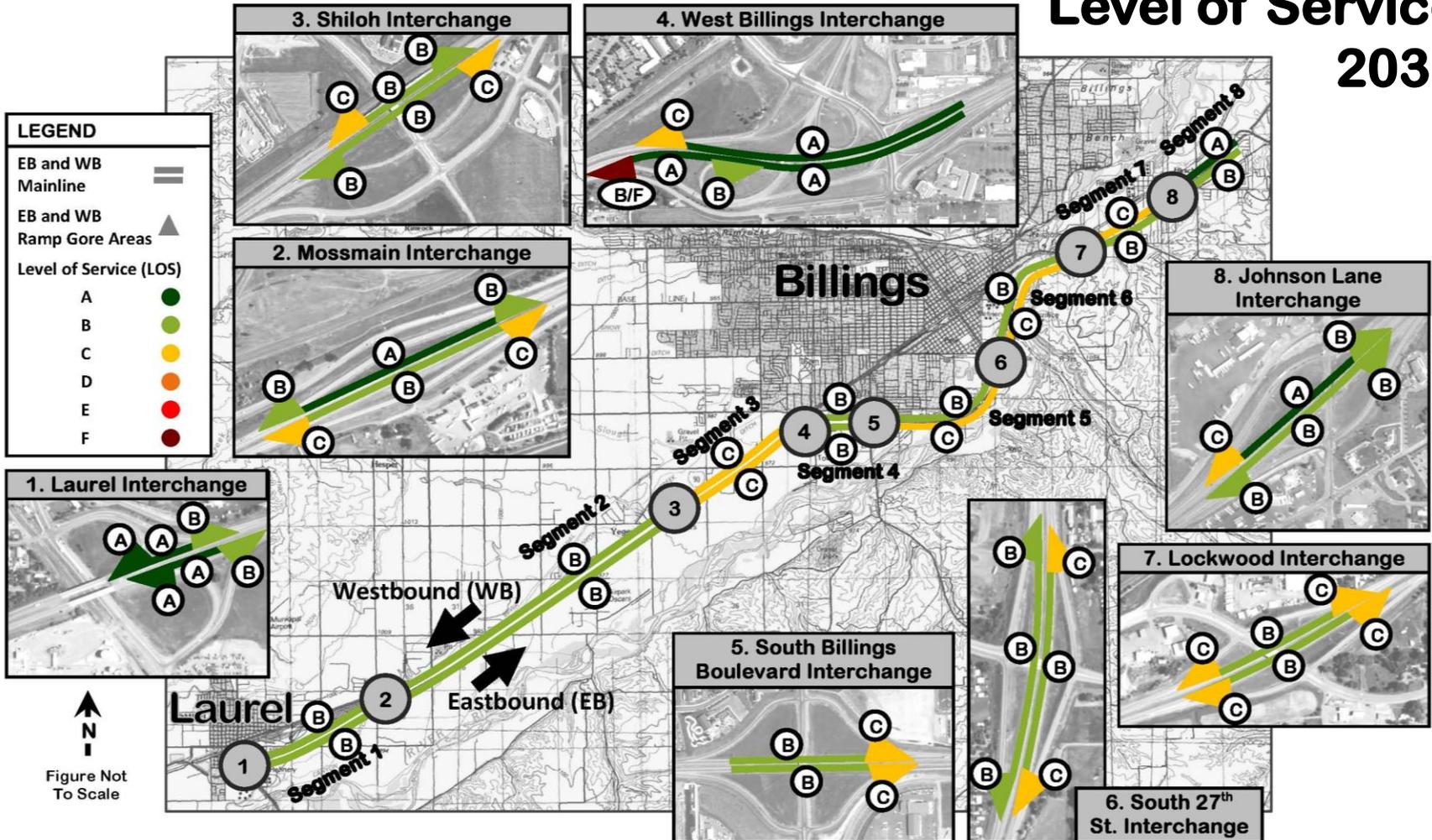
Level of Service 2010





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

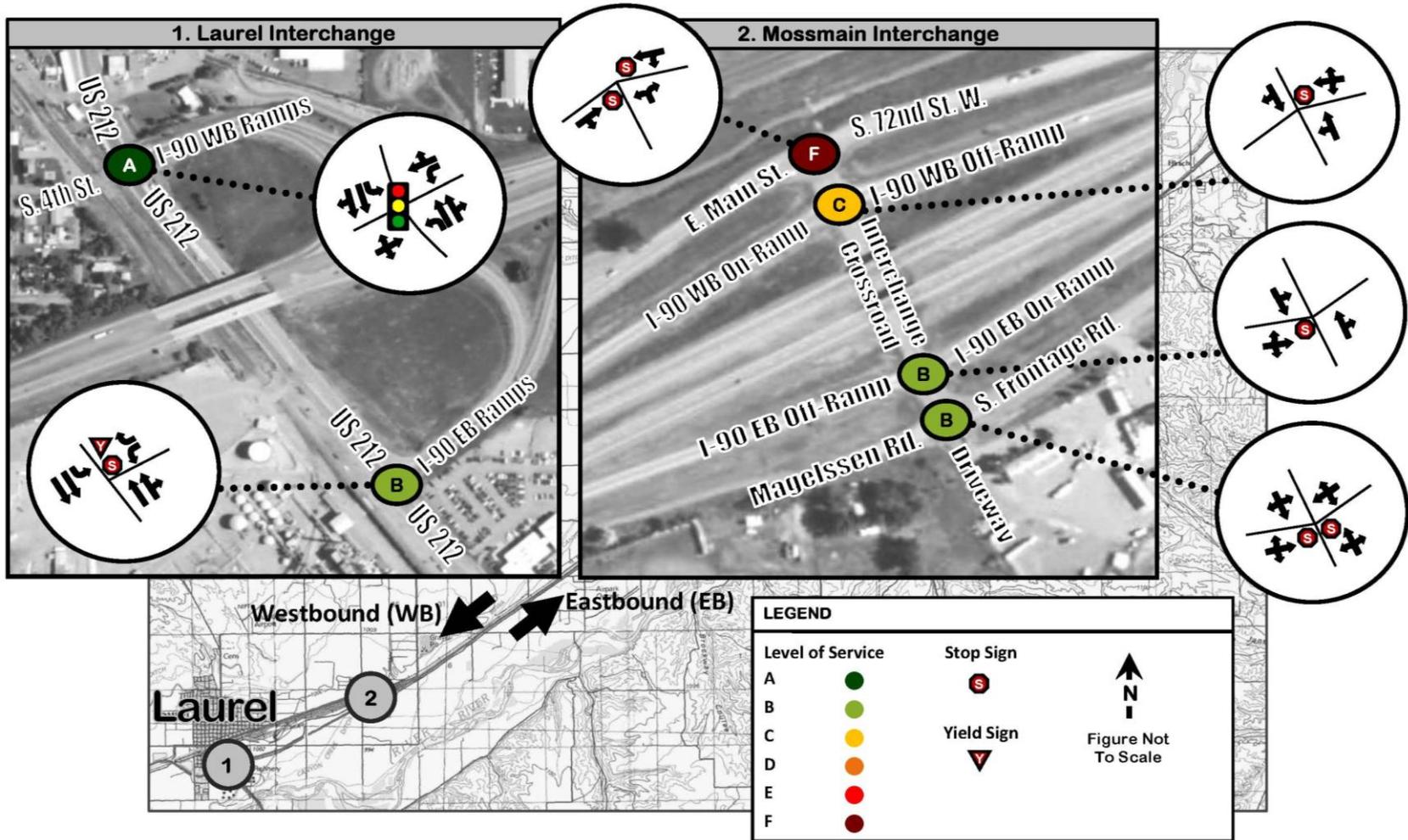
Level of Service 2035





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

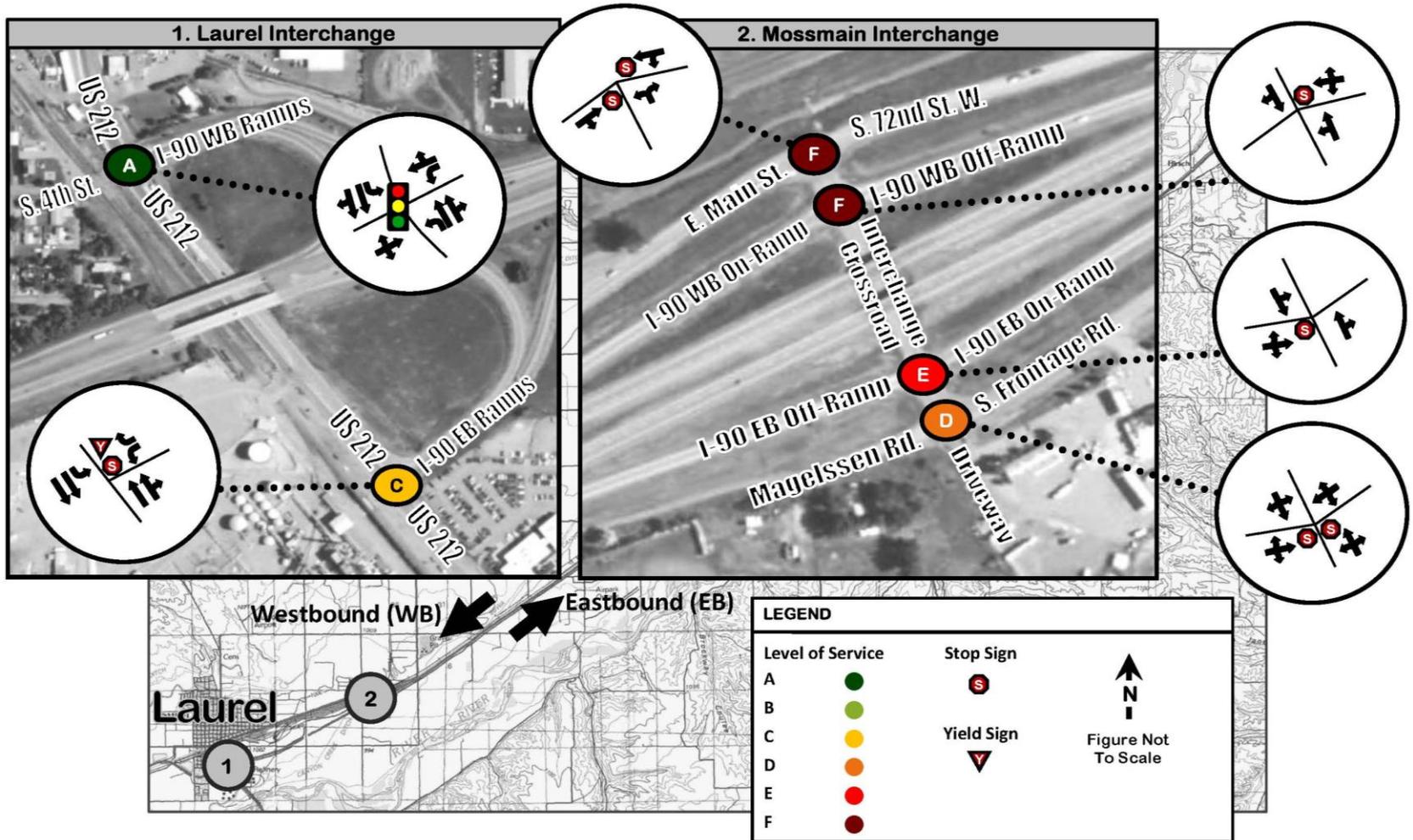
Laurel & Mossmain 2010





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Laurel & Mossmain 2035





Land Use Conditions

Existing Land Use in Corridor

- Current Zoning: heavy, light, and entryway industrial; highway and community commercial; single family, multi-family, and manufactured home residential; planned unit development; public use; and agricultural
- Main Land Uses in Corridor: industrial, commercial, and agricultural

Development/Growth Potential in Corridor

- Lockwood Interchange, South Billings Boulevard and Shiloh Interchange are zoned for commercial development and are expected to further develop over the study planning horizon year (2035).
- Future land use projections reported in the Billings Urban Area Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Yellowstone County and City of Billings Growth Policy were incorporated in the corridor study analysis.



Environmental Conditions

Physical Environment

- Soil Resources & Farmland
- Water Resources
- Floodplains
- Hazardous Substances
- Air Quality

Biological Resources

- Fish and Wildlife
- Vegetation

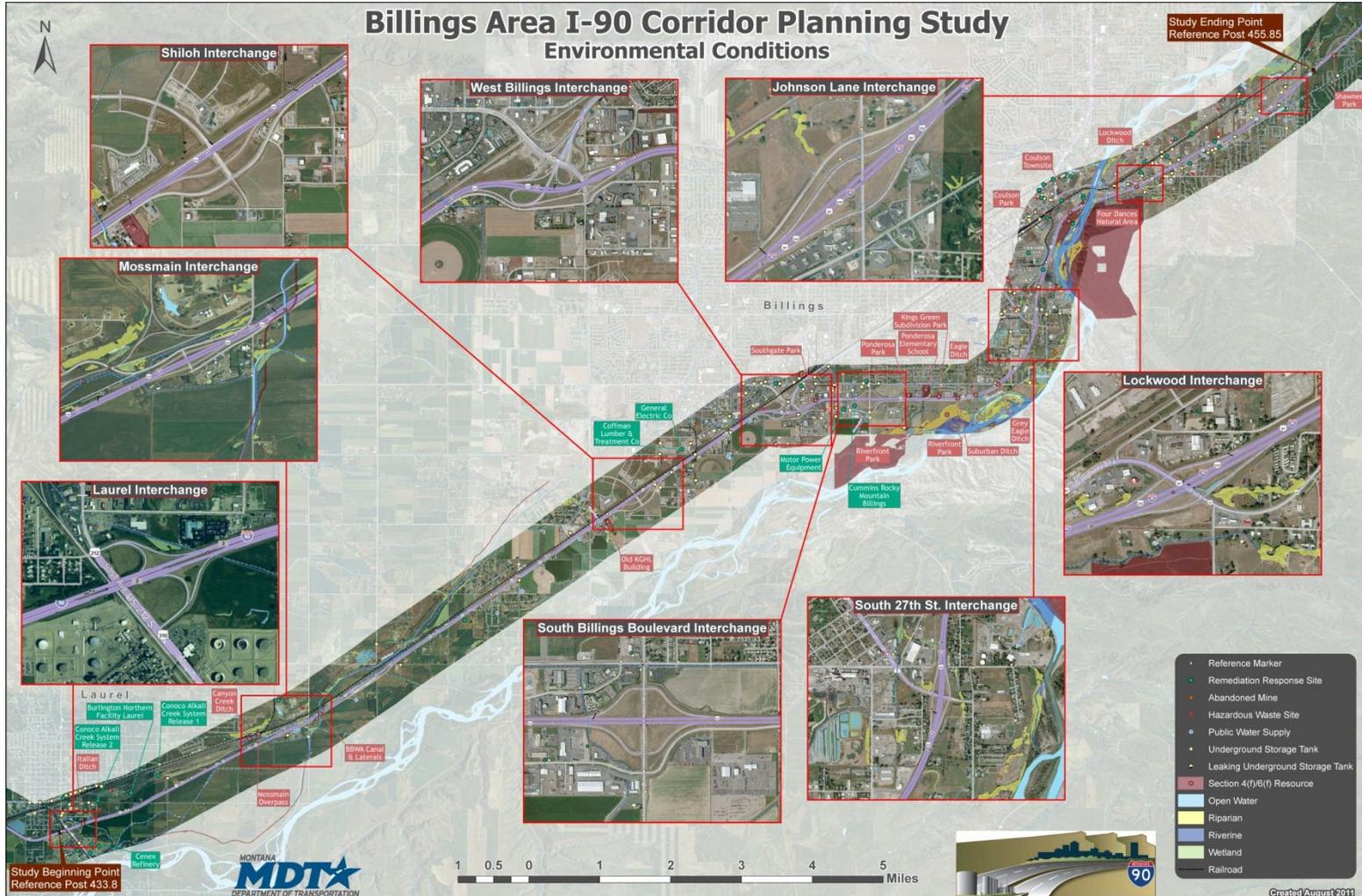


Social and Cultural Resources

- Demographic Conditions
- Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Resources
- Cultural and Archaeological Resources
- Noise
- Visual Resources



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Next Steps





Please Submit Comments!

- **Submit Comment Sheet Tonight**
- **Submit Comments on Website**
<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i90corridor>
- **Call or email:**
Gary Neville at 406.657.0232 or gneville@mt.gov
Sarah Nicolai at 406.442.0370 or snicolai@dowlhkm.com
Tom Kahle at 406.444.9211 or tkahle@mt.gov
- **Mail comments to:**
Sarah Nicolai
DOWL HKM
PO Box 1009
Helena, MT 59624

Comments Due October 13, 2011



Contacts

Gary Neville, MDT Billings District Engineer

406.657.0232

gneville@mt.gov

Sarah Nicolai, DOWL HKM Project Manager

406.442.0370

snicolai@dowlhkm.com

Tom Kahle, MDT Project Manager

406.444.9211

tkahle@mt.gov

Visit the website at:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i90corridor>