



Resource Agency Meeting

Thursday,
September 22, 2011

Montana Department of Transportation
West Auditorium
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT



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 Resource Agency Input
 - Existing and Projected Conditions Report
 - Environmental Scan



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.



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Corridor Planning





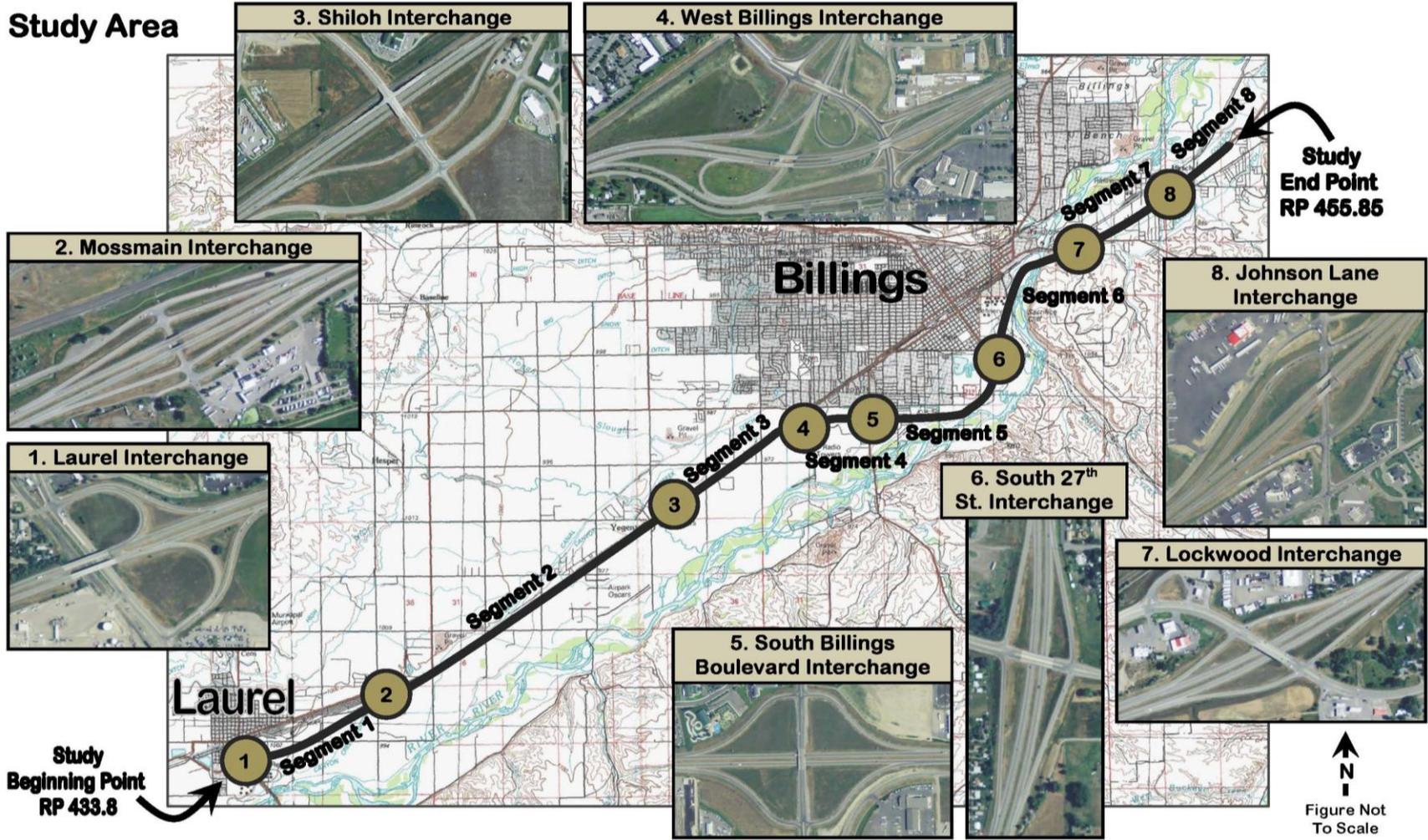
What are the Steps?





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Study Area





Transportation System



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

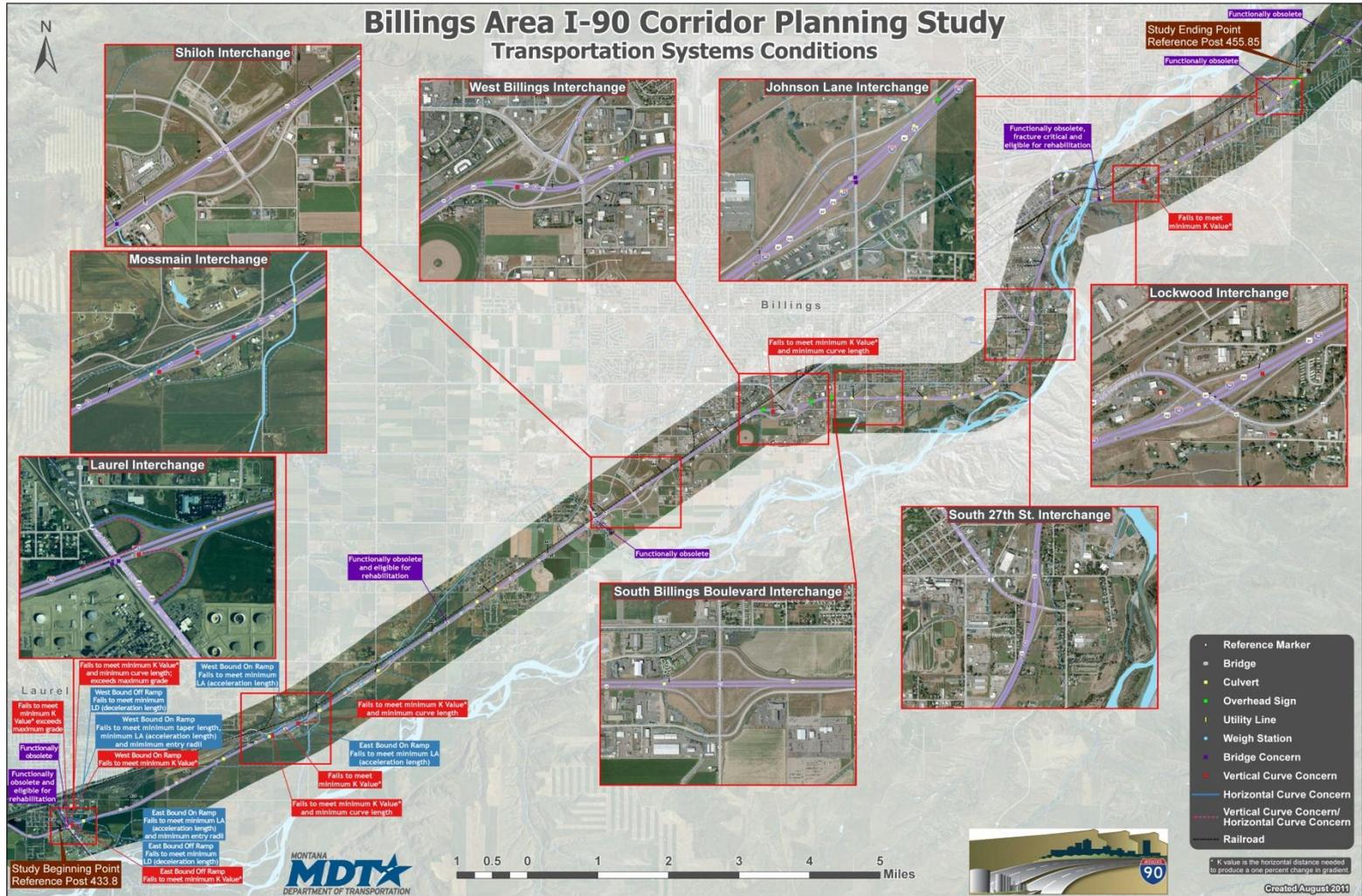
- Four-lane divided highway generally consisting of two separate two-lane roadbeds
- Area between the West Billings Interchange and the South Billings Boulevard Interchange (RP 446.3 to RP 446.8) includes a third auxiliary lane in each direction.

● 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.”



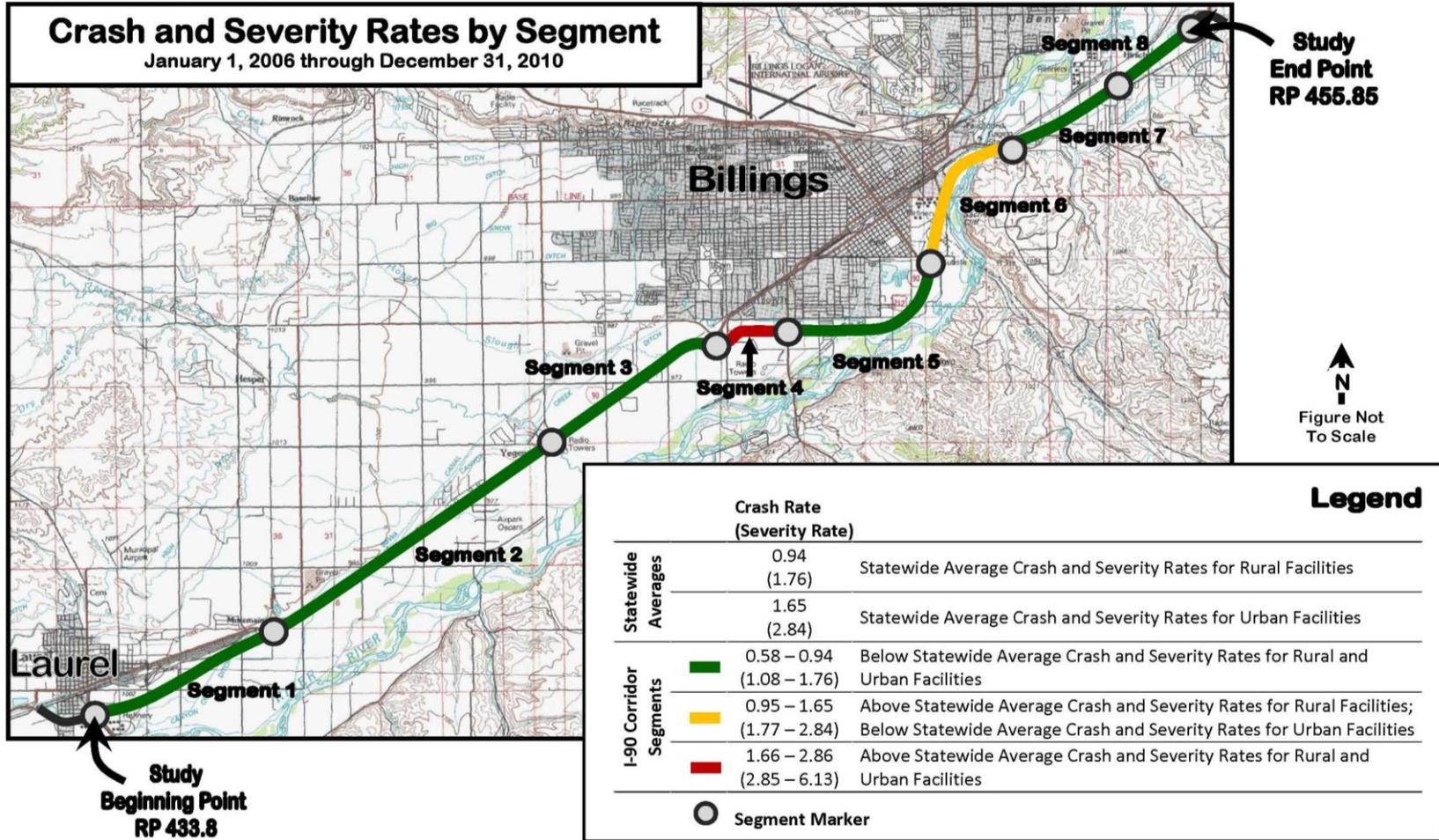
Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study





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

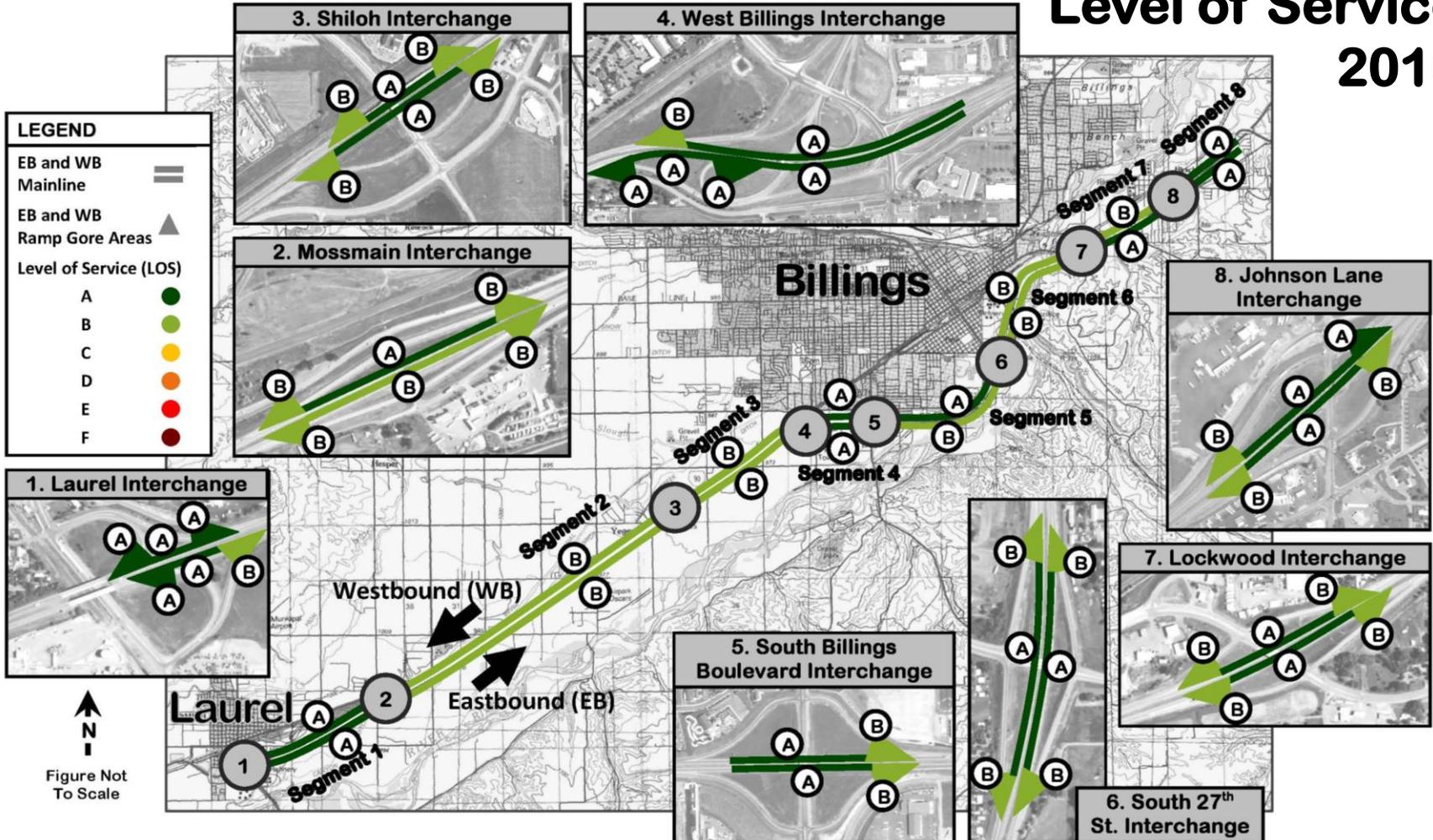
- Existing Conditions (2010)
and Projected Conditions (2035)

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



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

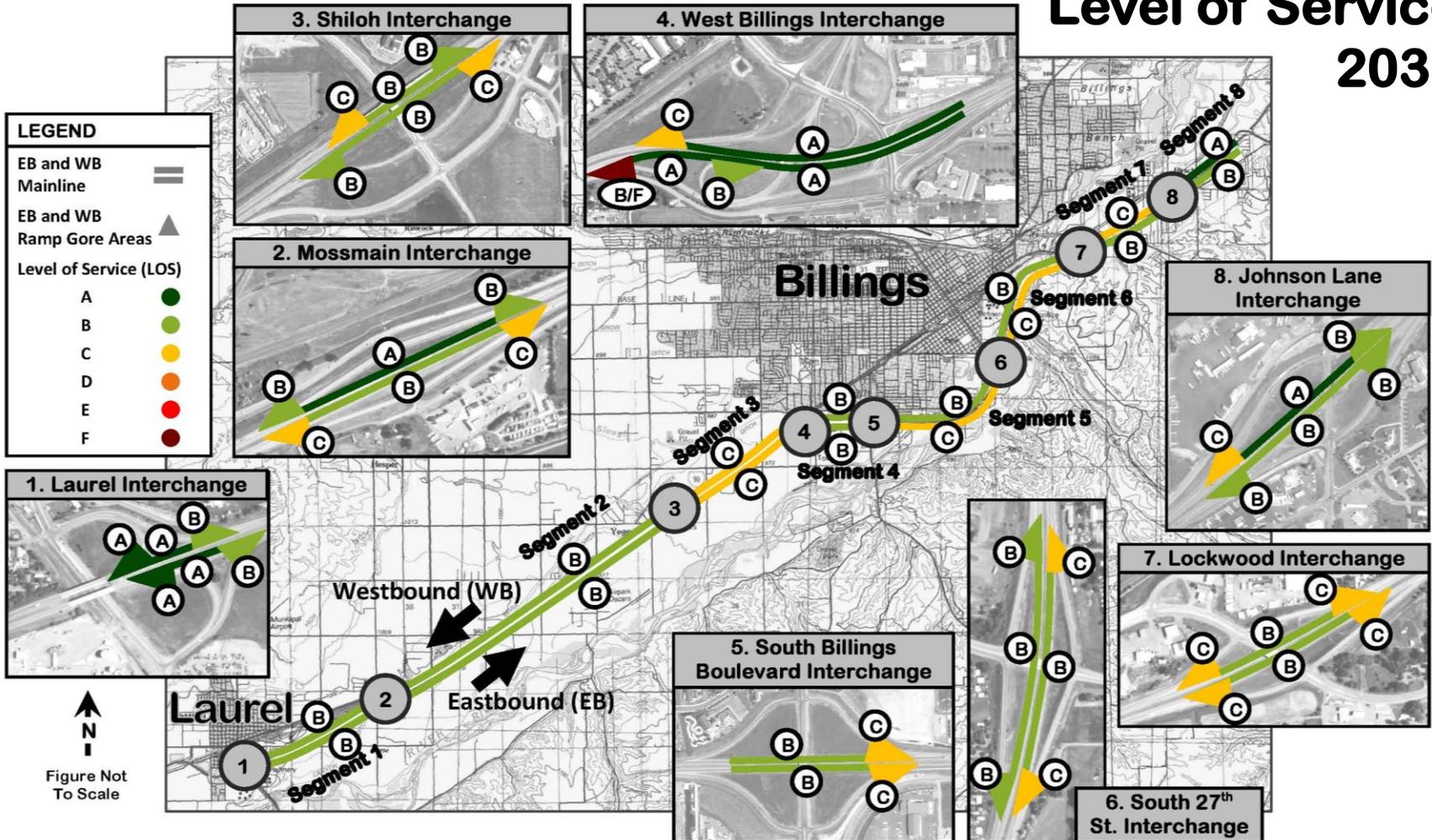
Level of Service 2010





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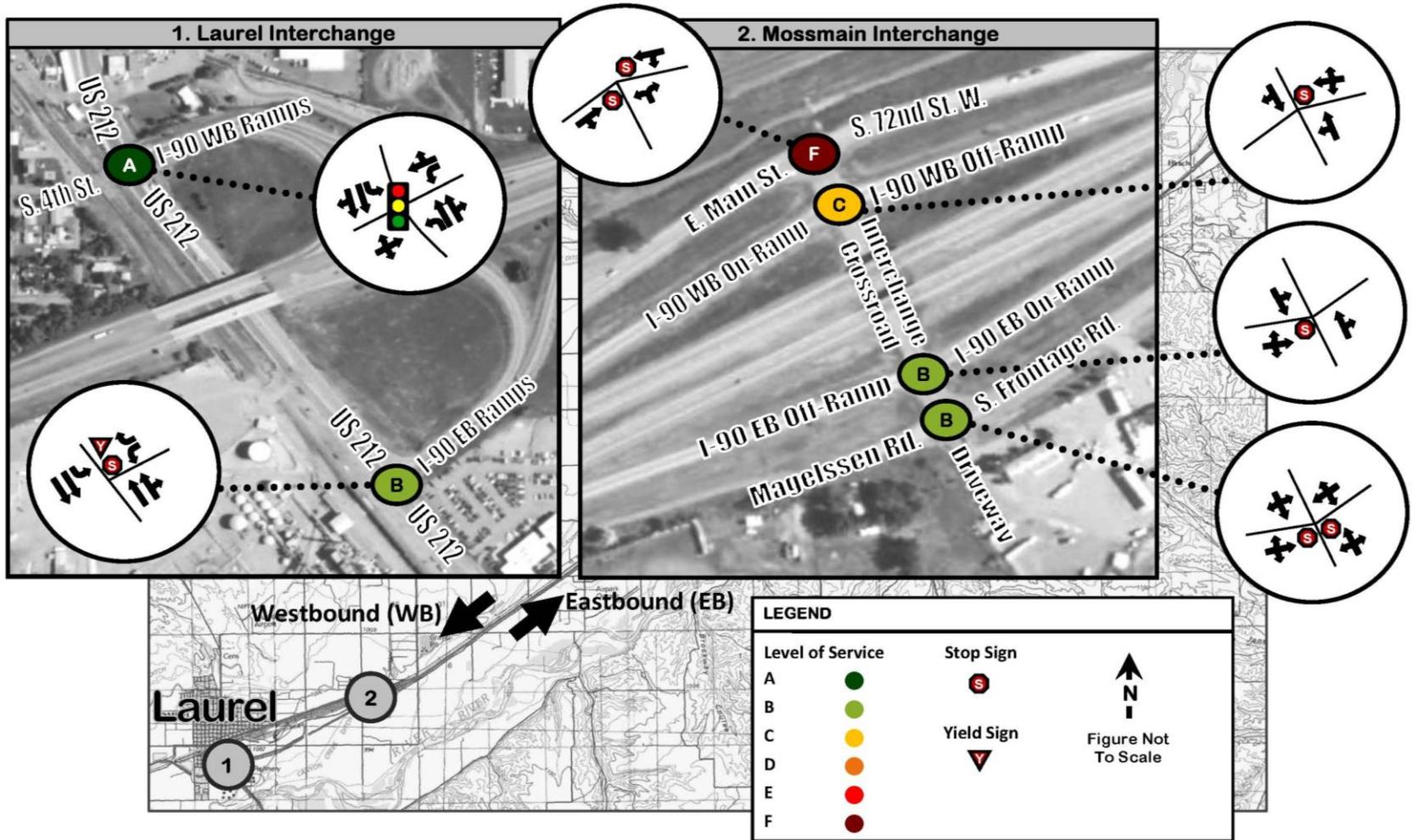
Level of Service 2035





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

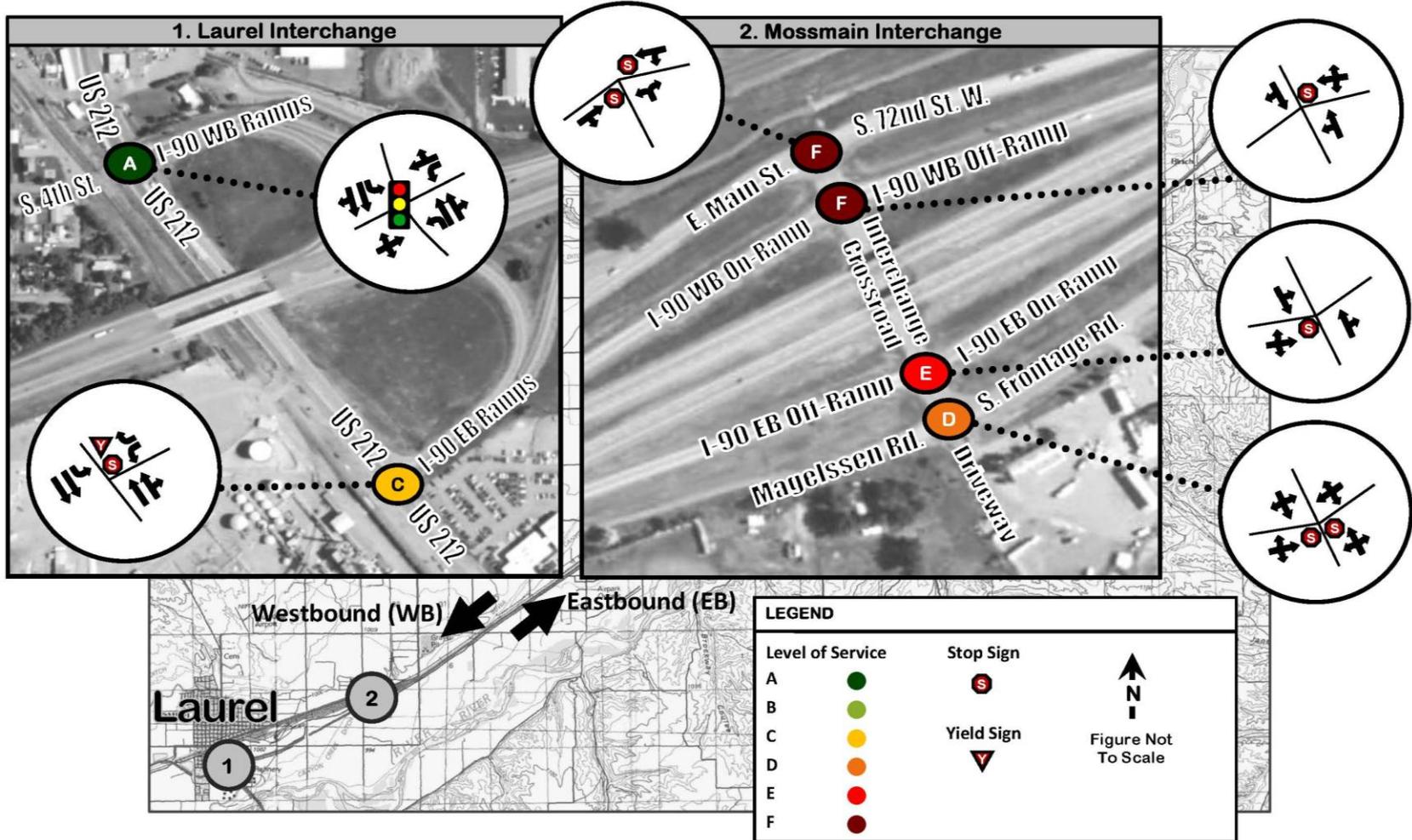
Laurel & Mossmain 2010





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Laurel & Mossmain 2035





Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

Land Use



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 Resources



Environmental Conditions

Physical Environment

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

Biological Resources

- Fish and Wildlife
- Vegetation
- T&E



Social and Cultural Resources

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



Environmental Conditions

○ Water Resources and Floodplains

- Yellowstone River, Canyon Creek, Hogan's Slough, the BBWA Canal, and several minor irrigation ditches

○ Hazardous Materials

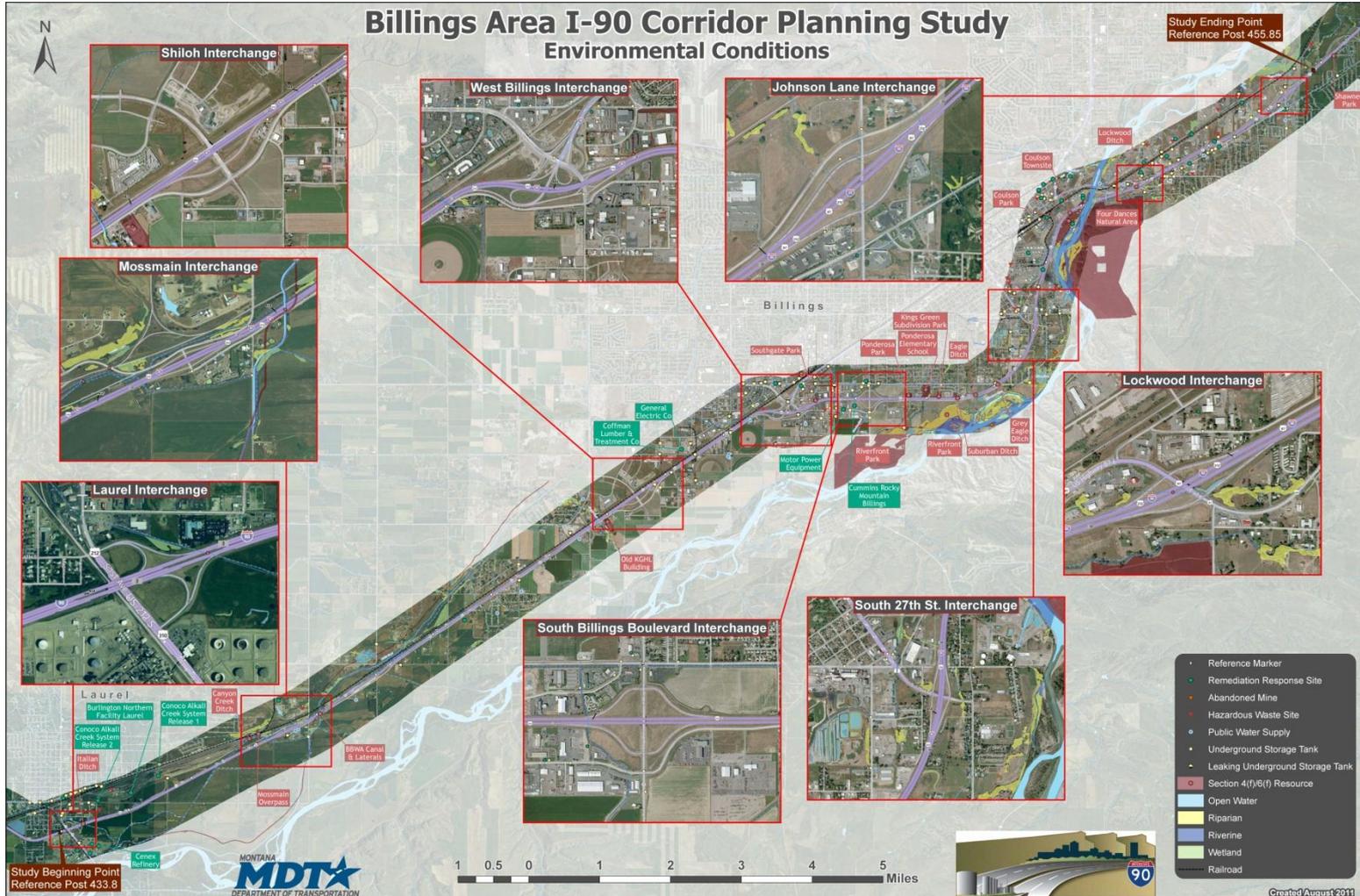
- LUST / UST Sites, Remediation Response Sites, petroleum pipelines

○ Section 4(f) and 6(f) Resources

- Parks, ditches, historic sites



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study





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Discussion



Please Submit Comments!

- **Mail comments to:**

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- **Questions:**

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Comments Due October 13, 2011

Visit the website at:

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