



# Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting #1

June 27, 2019



BILLINGS  
AIRPORT ROAD  
& MAIN STREET  
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# Agenda

- ◉ Introductions
- ◉ Overview of Roles and Responsibilities
- ◉ Airport & Main – The Big Picture
  - Who does it serve – Regional and local
  - Problems to be solved – Local and Community
- ◉ From Your Perspective
- ◉ Moving Forward - Concepts
- ◉ Next Steps

# **Airport & Main – The Big Picture**

Who Does It Serve?  
Local and Regional Importance

# Study Area



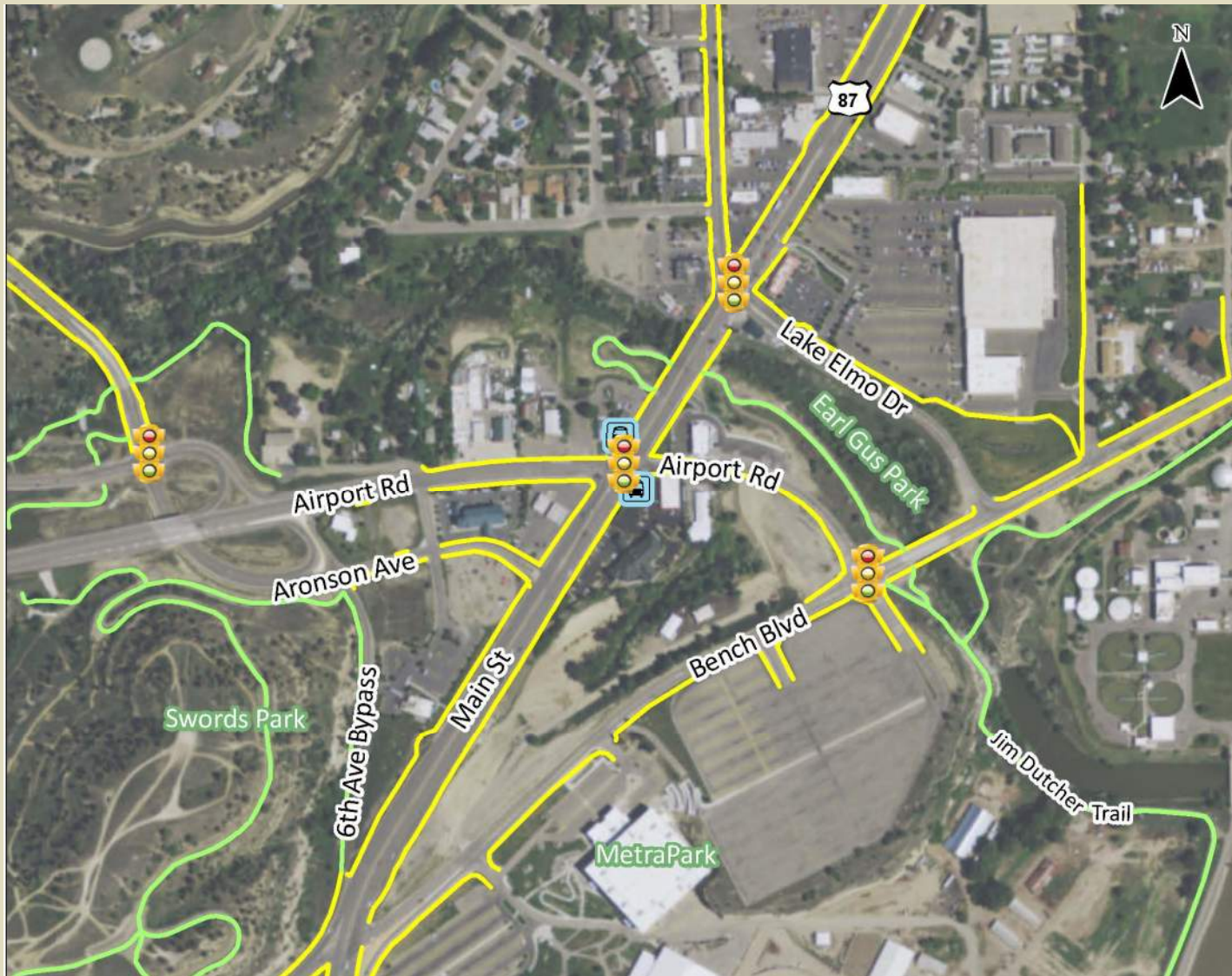
# Traffic



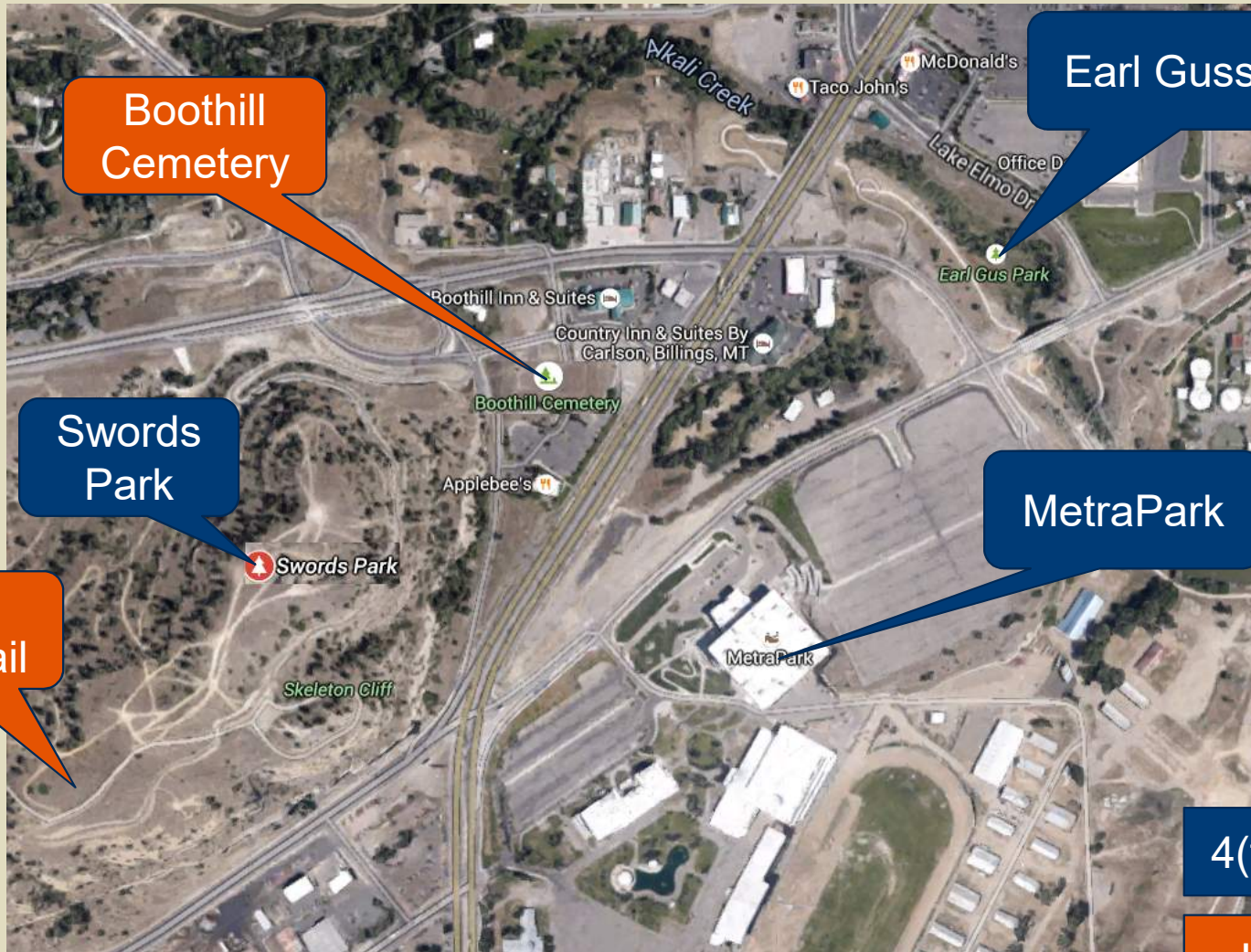
# Major Truck Route



# Pedestrians & Bicyclists



# Events and Recreation



Black Otter Trail

Swords Park

Boothill Cemetery

Earl Guss Park

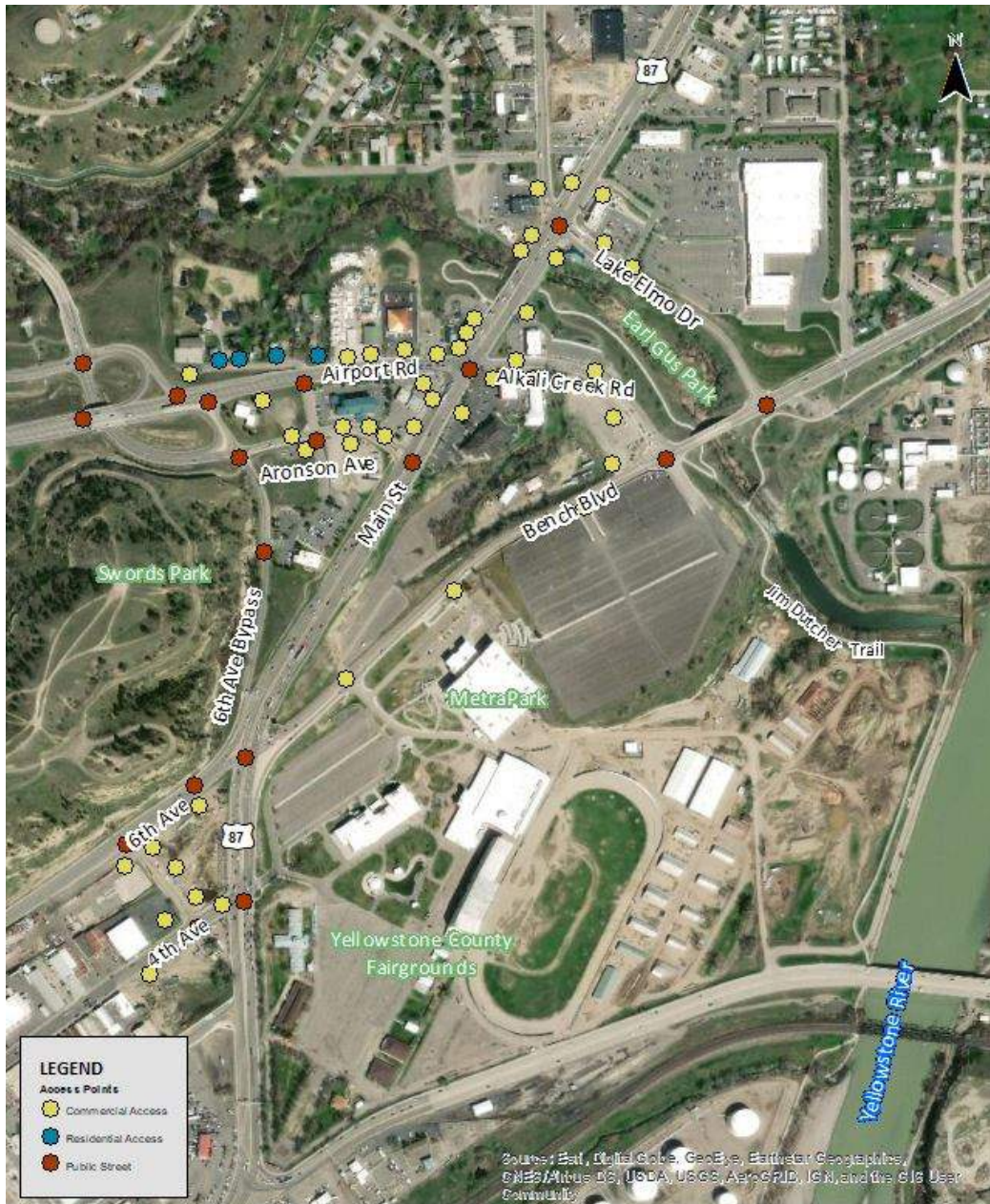
MetraPark

4(f) property

Historical



# Business & Residential Driveways



- 68 Driveways
  - Airport Rd - 12 Commercial
  - Main St - 10 Commercial

# **Airport & Main – The Big Picture**

Problems to be solved?  
Balancing Local and Community Needs

# Project Goals

- ◎ A roadway that serves all users by:
  - Improving Mobility (reduces congestion & delay)
  - Improving Safety (fewer crashes)
  - Minimizing Impacts to Adjacent Properties

# Traffic Will Continue to Increase

From 63,500 to 92,500 ADT in 2040. An Increase of 29,000 vehicles

This assumes the Billings Bypass is built.



**The results of doing nothing to address increased traffic:**

**Trips will take longer**

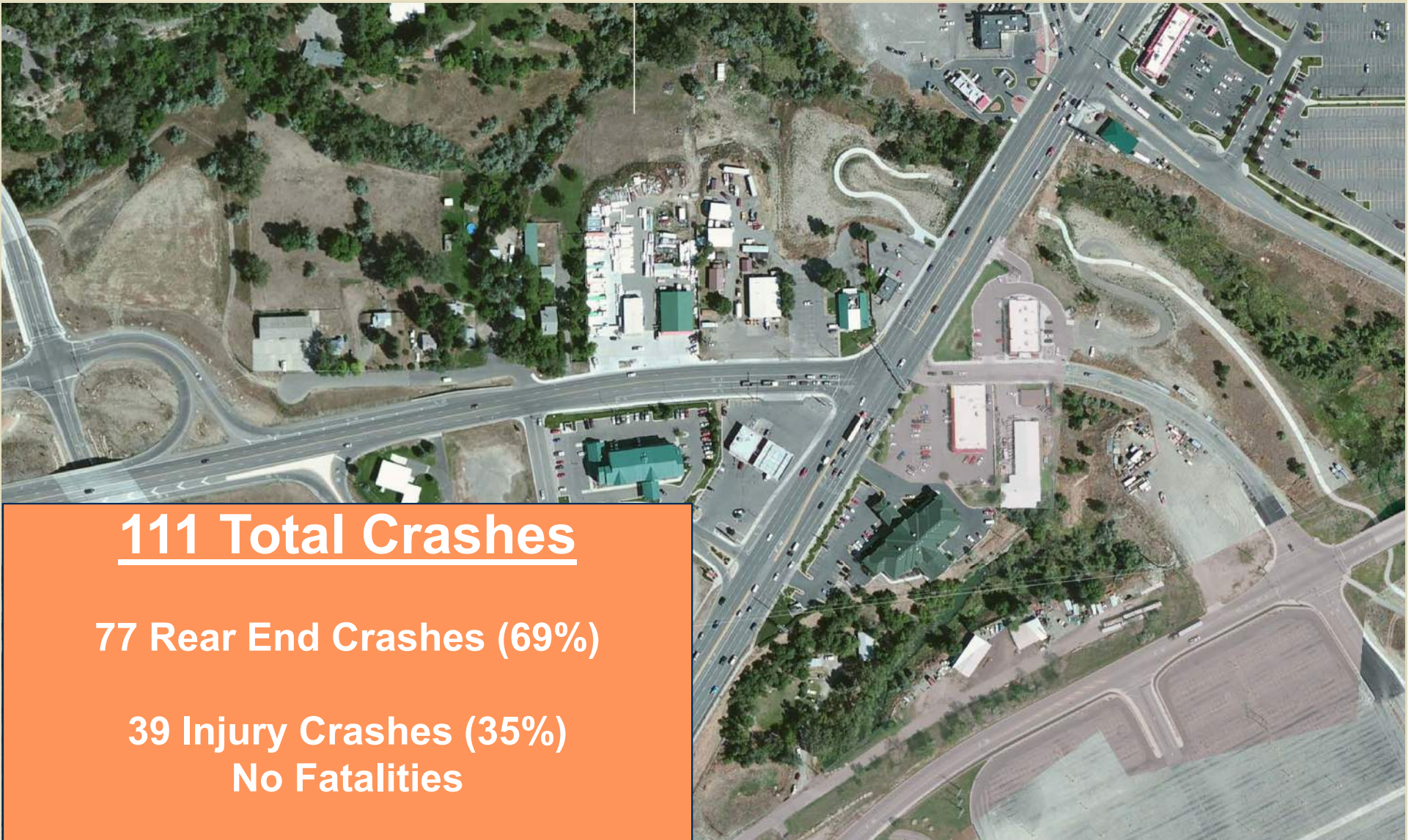
- Increased waiting at signals
- Difficulty accessing businesses/properties
- More crashes

# Critical Traffic Patterns



- Morning and Afternoon commutes
  - Northeast Neighborhoods to Downtown
  - Airport to the Northeast Neighborhoods
  - Northeast Neighborhoods to the Airport
  - Downtown to the Airport

# High Crash Intersection



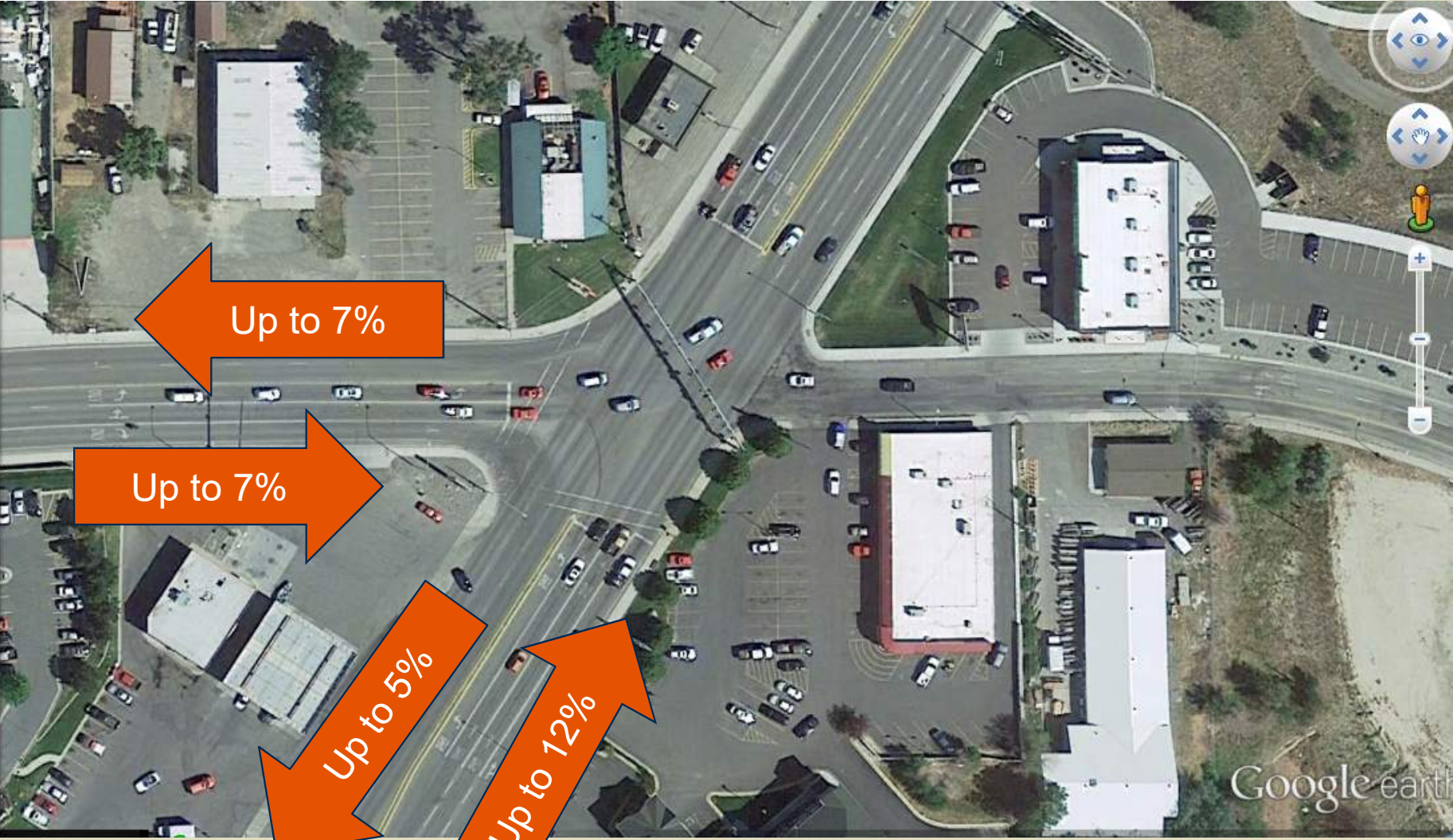
**111 Total Crashes**

**77 Rear End Crashes (69%)**

**39 Injury Crashes (35%)**

**No Fatalities**

# Critical Truck Route



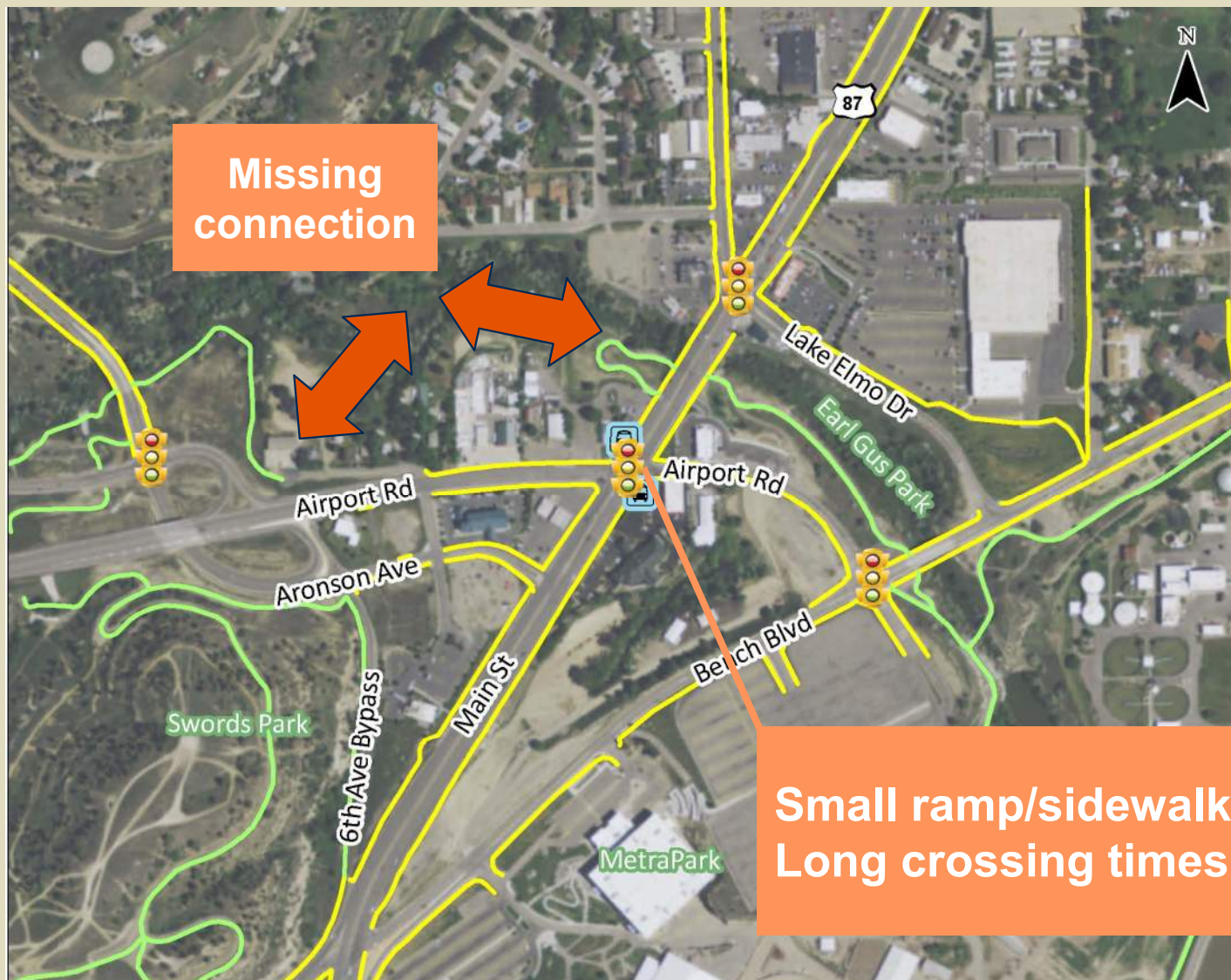
Up to 7%

Up to 7%

Up to 5%

Up to 12%

# Gaps in Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections







**From Your Perspective**

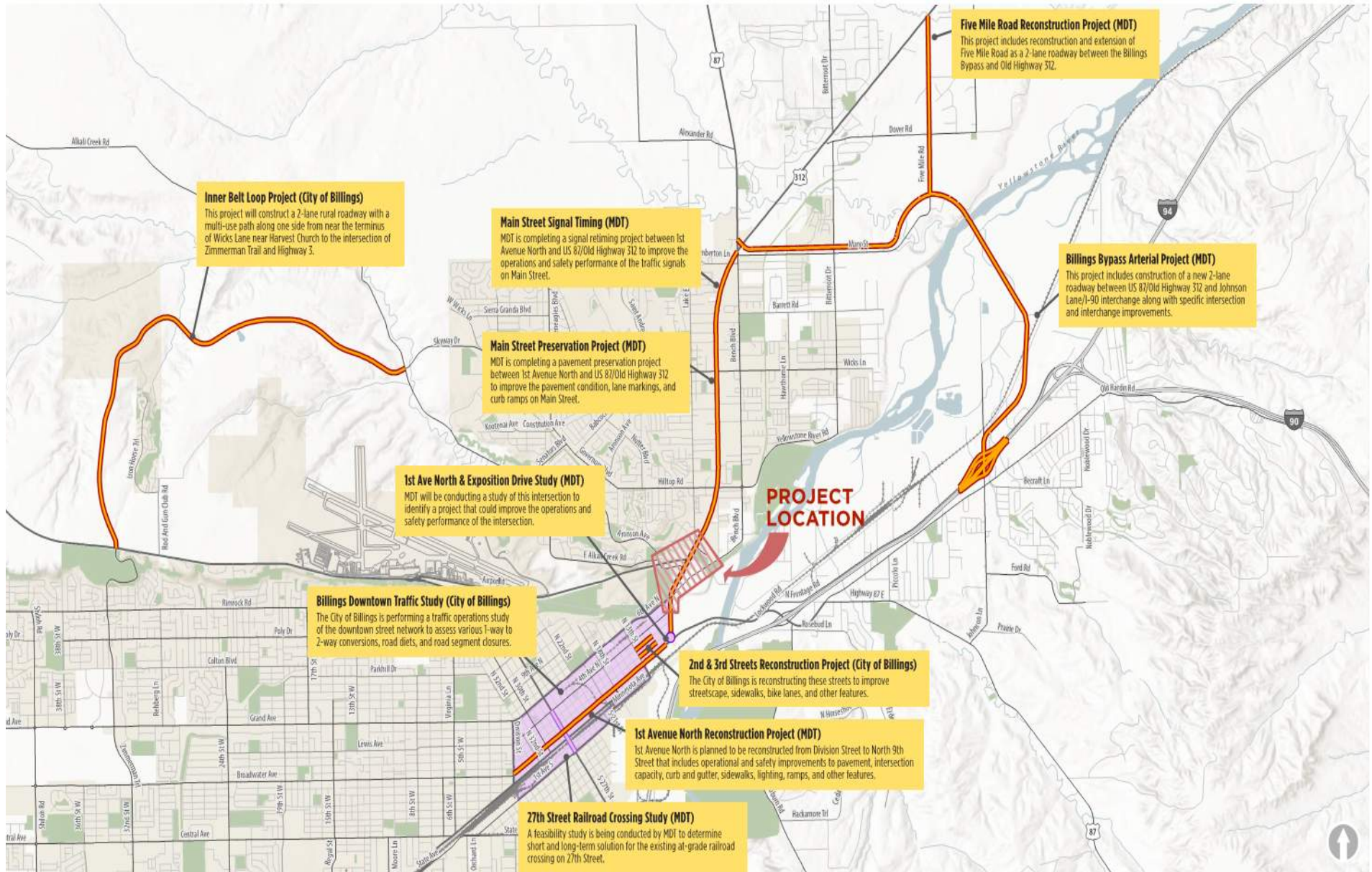
**What Works Well?  
What Can Be Improved?**

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# Moving Forward Concepts

Solving the Problems

# On-Going & Planned Projects



**Inner Belt Loop Project (City of Billings)**  
 This project will construct a 2-lane rural roadway with a multi-use path along one side from near the terminus of Wicks Lane near Harvest Church to the intersection of Zimmerman Trail and Highway 3.

**Main Street Signal Timing (MDT)**  
 MDT is completing a signal retiming project between 1st Avenue North and US 87/Old Highway 312 to improve the operations and safety performance of the traffic signals on Main Street.

**Main Street Preservation Project (MDT)**  
 MDT is completing a pavement preservation project between 1st Avenue North and US 87/Old Highway 312 to improve the pavement condition, lane markings, and curb ramps on Main Street.

**1st Ave North & Exposition Drive Study (MDT)**  
 MDT will be conducting a study of this intersection to identify a project that could improve the operations and safety performance of the intersection.

**Billings Downtown Traffic Study (City of Billings)**  
 The City of Billings is performing a traffic operations study of the downtown street network to assess various 1-way to 2-way conversions, road diets, and road segment closures.

**2nd & 3rd Streets Reconstruction Project (City of Billings)**  
 The City of Billings is reconstructing these streets to improve streetscape, sidewalks, bike lanes, and other features.

**1st Avenue North Reconstruction Project (MDT)**  
 1st Avenue North is planned to be reconstructed from Division Street to North 9th Street that includes operational and safety improvements to pavement, intersection capacity, curb and gutter, sidewalks, lighting, ramps, and other features.

**27th Street Railroad Crossing Study (MDT)**  
 A feasibility study is being conducted by MDT to determine short and long-term solution for the existing at-grade railroad crossing on 27th Street.

**Five Mile Road Reconstruction Project (MDT)**  
 This project includes reconstruction and extension of Five Mile Road as a 2-lane roadway between the Billings Bypass and Old Highway 312.

**Billings Bypass Arterial Project (MDT)**  
 This project includes construction of a new 2-lane roadway between US 87/Old Highway 312 and Johnson Lane/I-90 interchange along with specific intersection and interchange improvements.

■ Study  
■ Project  
 Billings City Limits  
■ Park



# How Did We Get Here

**1**

Develop and screen  
initial alternatives  
(20) based on  
the fatal flaw  
assessment

**2**

Apply evaluation  
criteria to a  
smaller group of  
alternatives (7)

**3**

Select preferred  
alternative

# Step 1: Fatal Flaw Analysis

## From 20 Concepts to 7

### ⦿ Traffic Operations

- Does it accommodate future volumes?

### ⦿ Environmental

- Does it have a significant impact on an environmental resource?

### ⦿ Project Advisory Committee

- Does it have significant negative regional impact?

# Step 2 Evaluation: Getting to a Preferred Concept

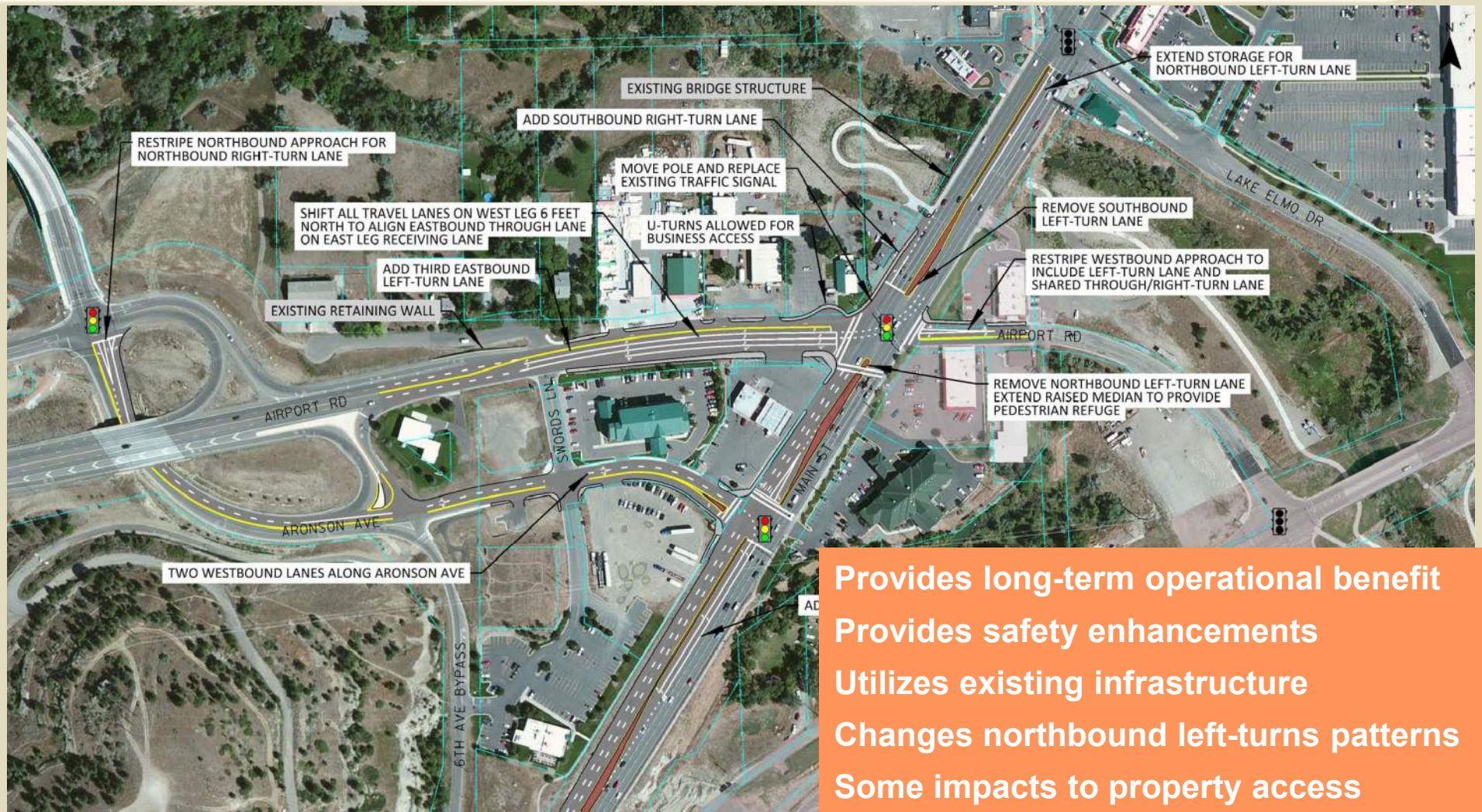
- **MOBILITY:**
  - Improves operations
  - Accommodates critical traffic patterns
- **SAFETY:**
  - Reduces crash potential
  - Improves/balances accessibility and connectivity for all users
- **LAND USE:**
  - Provides reasonable access to properties
  - Limits environmental impacts
- **IMPLEMENTATION:**
  - Is consistent with adopted plans and policies
  - Can be built

# Moving Forward

Taking a Second Look at 4 Concepts

Can they be modified to solve the problems

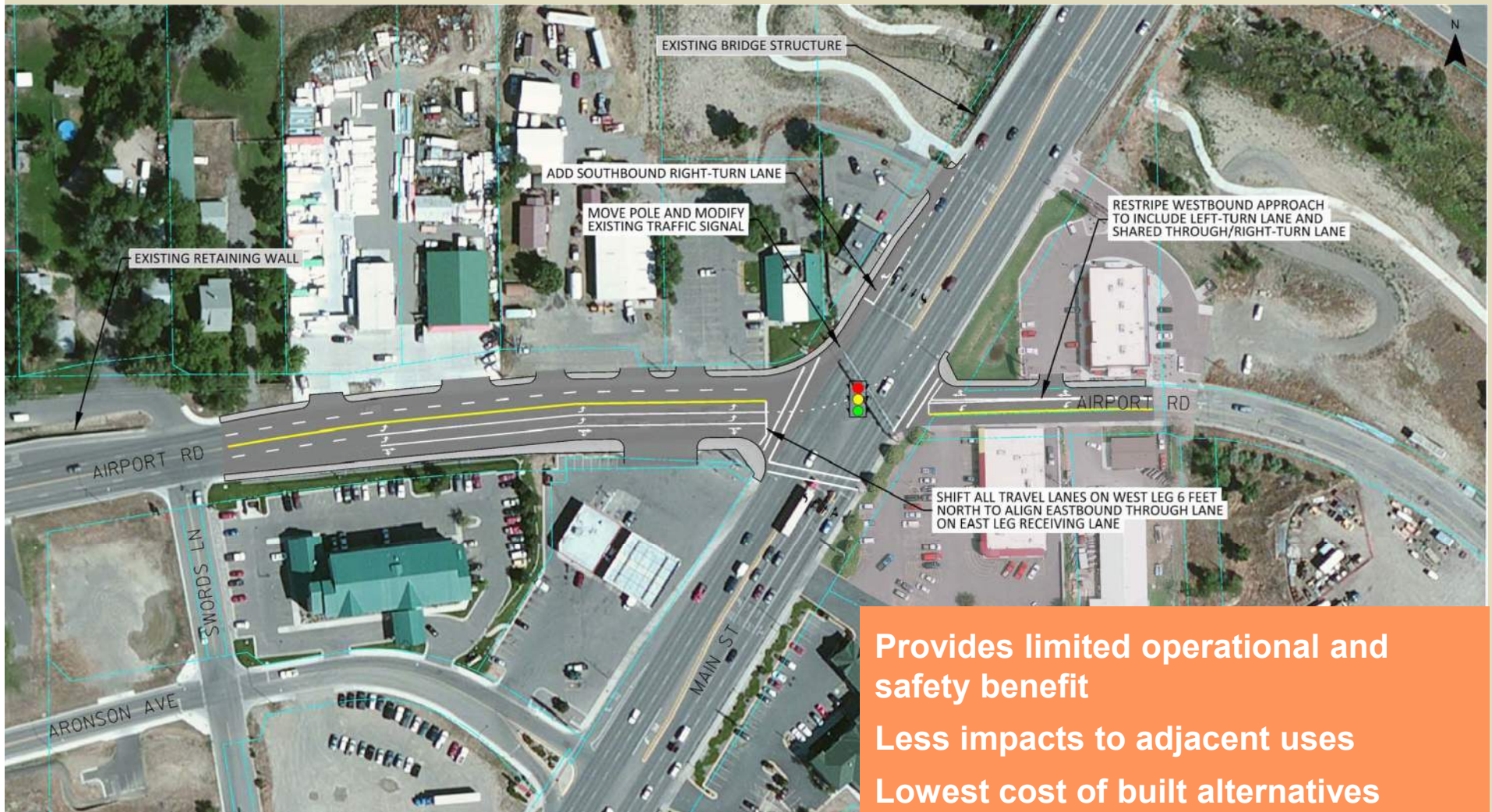
# PREFERRED: SOUTHWEST QUADRANT LOOP



- Provides long-term operational benefit
- Provides safety enhancements
- Utilizes existing infrastructure
- Changes northbound left-turns patterns
- Some impacts to property access
- Moderate cost



# TWO EASTBOUND LEFT TURNS



Provides limited operational and safety benefit

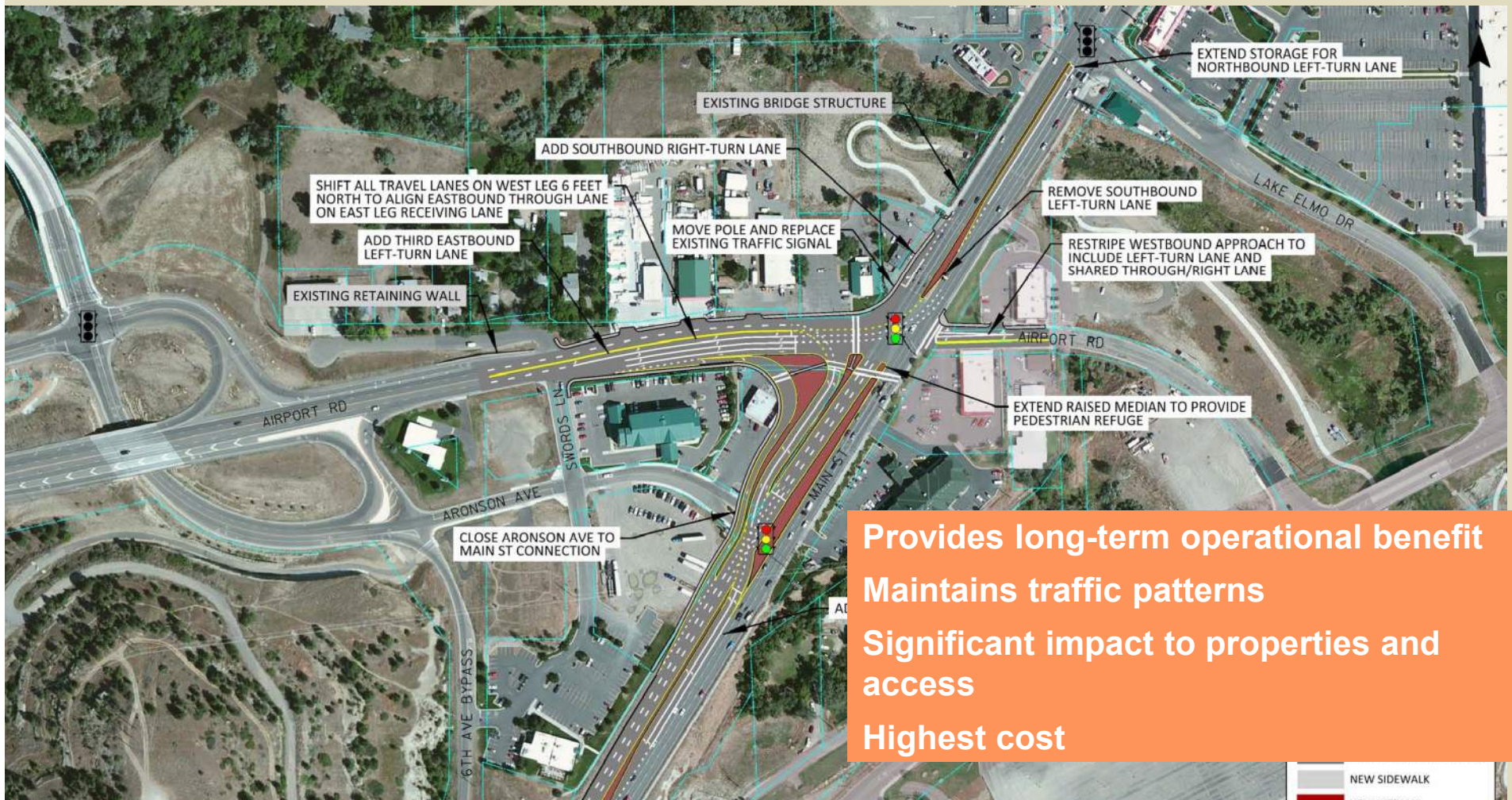
Less impacts to adjacent uses

Lowest cost of built alternatives

# THREE EASTBOUND LEFT TURNS



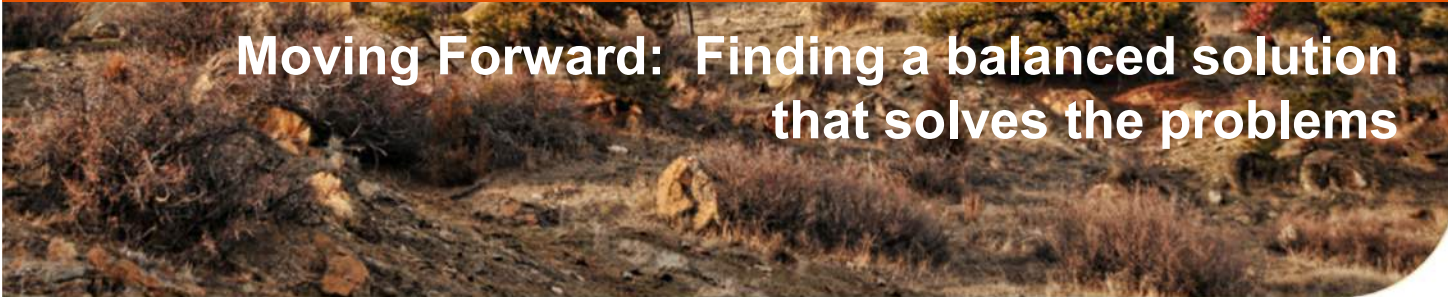
# DISPLACED NORTHBOUND LEFT TURN LANES





# From Your Perspective

**Moving Forward: Finding a balanced solution  
that solves the problems**



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# Next Steps



Refine Concepts  
Homework  
CAC Meeting #2

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