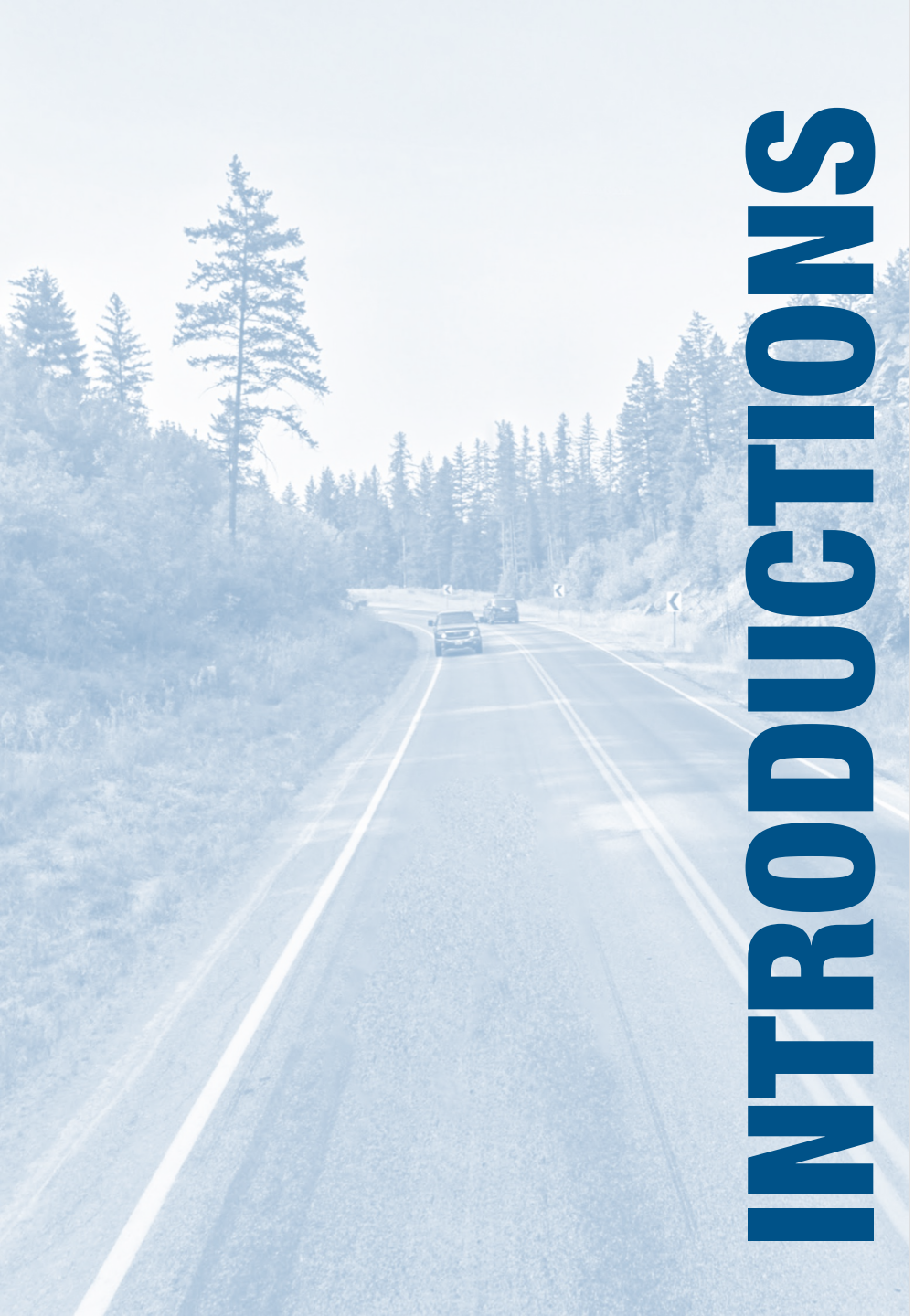
VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 24, 2023

MONTANA
Department of Transportation

WGMGROUP
Community Values. Inspired Futures.



INTRODUCTIONS

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AGENDA

- Vision Zero
- Project Location
- Project Improvements Overview
- Cross-Sections
- Environmental Assessment Re-Evaluation
- Project Schedule
- Contact Information / Q&A Session

VISION ZERO

Vision Zero is a multi-pronged initiative with the goal of eliminating deaths and injuries on Montana Highways.

VISION ZERO FOCUSES ON:

- EDUCATION
- ENFORCEMENT
- ENGINEERING
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

Learn more at www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero

PROJECT LOCATION

The Ice Box Canyon project will reconstruct more than one mile of Montana Highway 35 from just south of the intersection with Peaceful Drive to just north of the intersection with Chapman Hill Road.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OVERVIEW

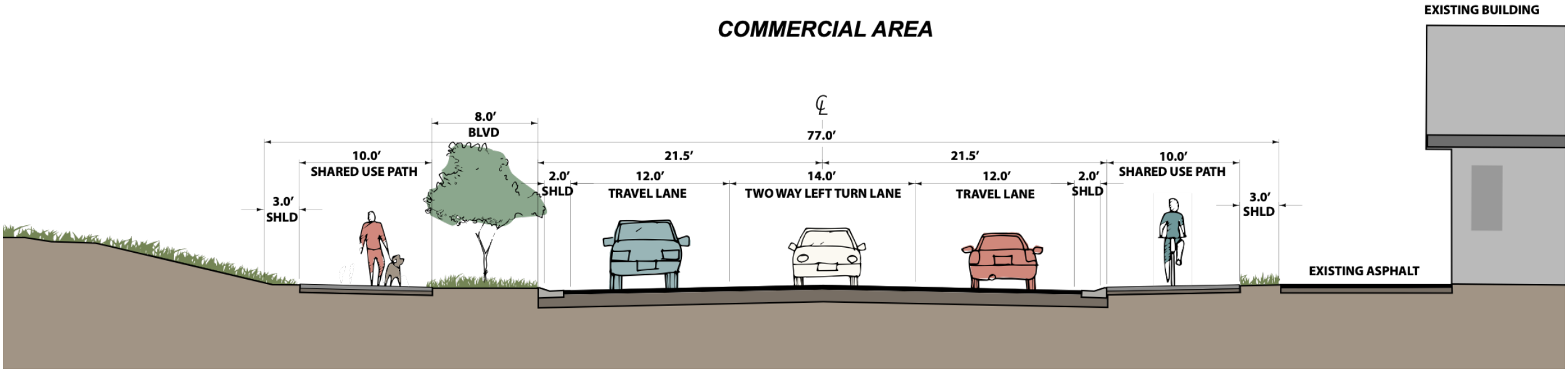
- One 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction.
- Curb and gutter from the project start (south of Peaceful Drive) north through Ice Box Canyon.
- 8-foot-wide paved shoulders.
- A center left-turn lane from south of Peaceful Drive to Branding Iron Station.
- Raised median and improved roadway alignment.
- Dedicated northbound left-turn lane at Chapman Hill Road.
- Drainage improvements.
- 10-foot-wide shared-use path.

  -A shared-use path will be installed on the east and west sides of MT 35, extending from the project start south of Peaceful Drive to approximately Branding Iron Station.

  -From Branding Iron Station to Chapman Hill Road, a shared-use path may be added on the east side of MT 35 if a maintenance funding solution can be found.

MT 35 Improvements

Sliters Lumber & Building Supply to Conrad Floral



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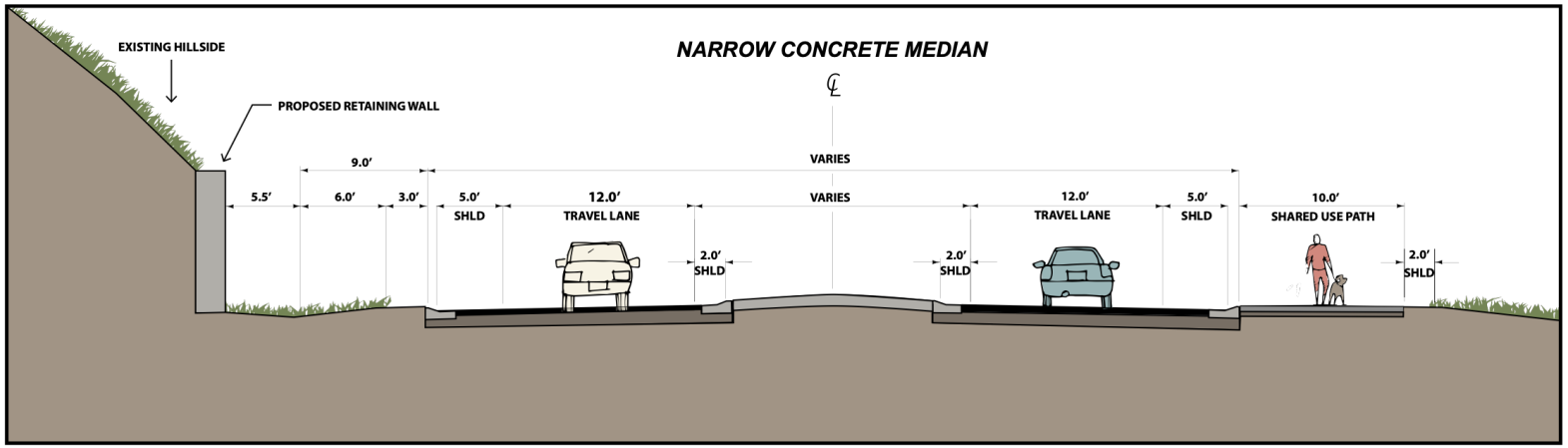
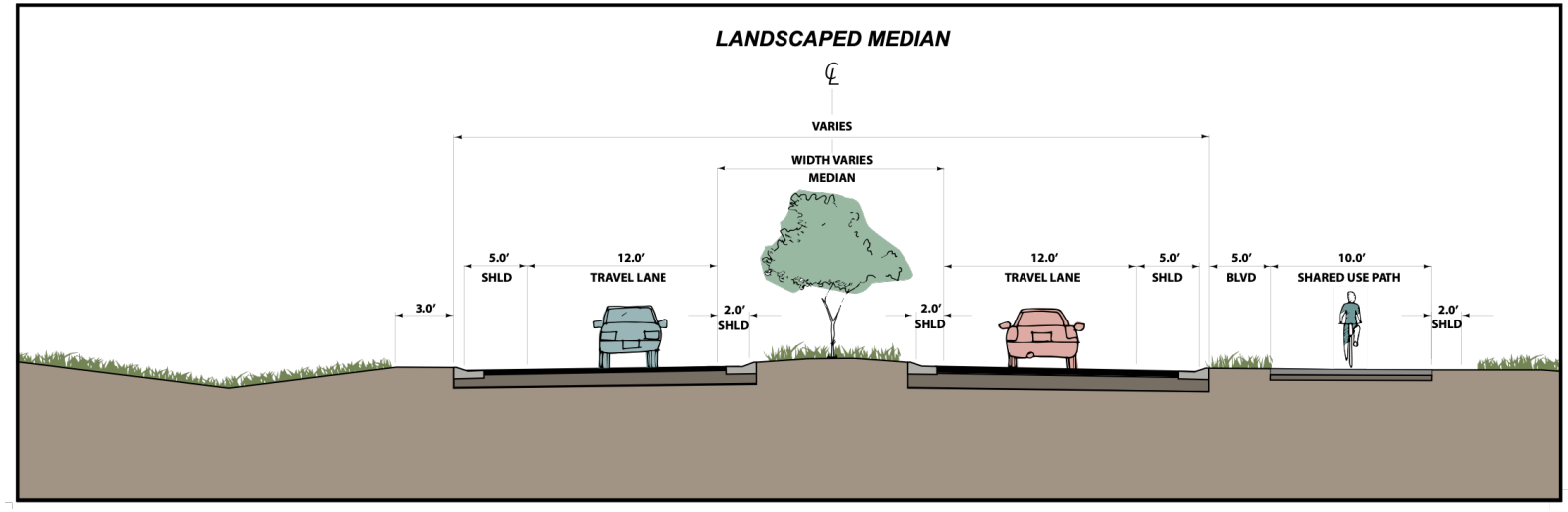
MT 35 Improvements

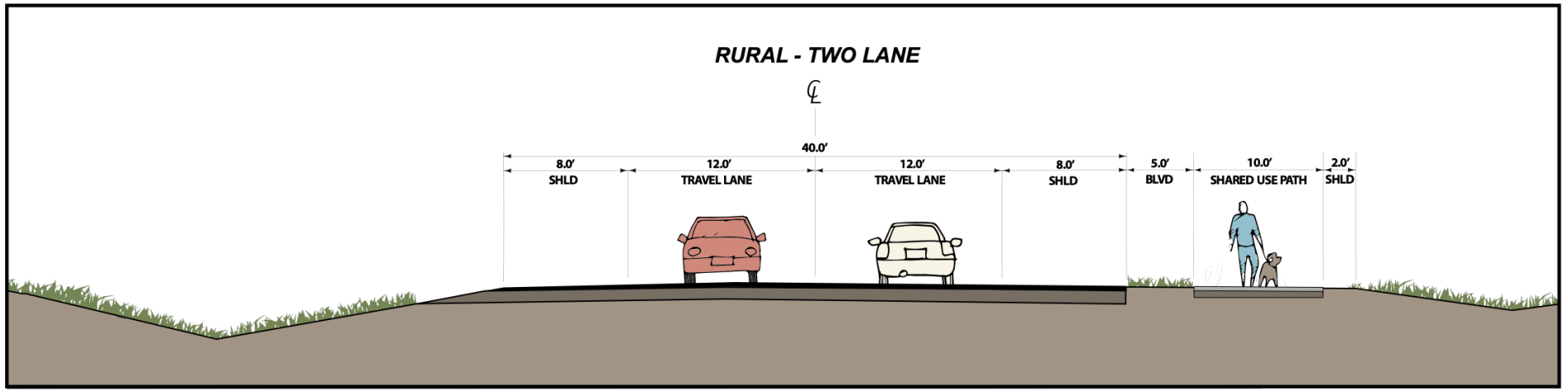
Conrad Floral to South of Bear Hollow Drive

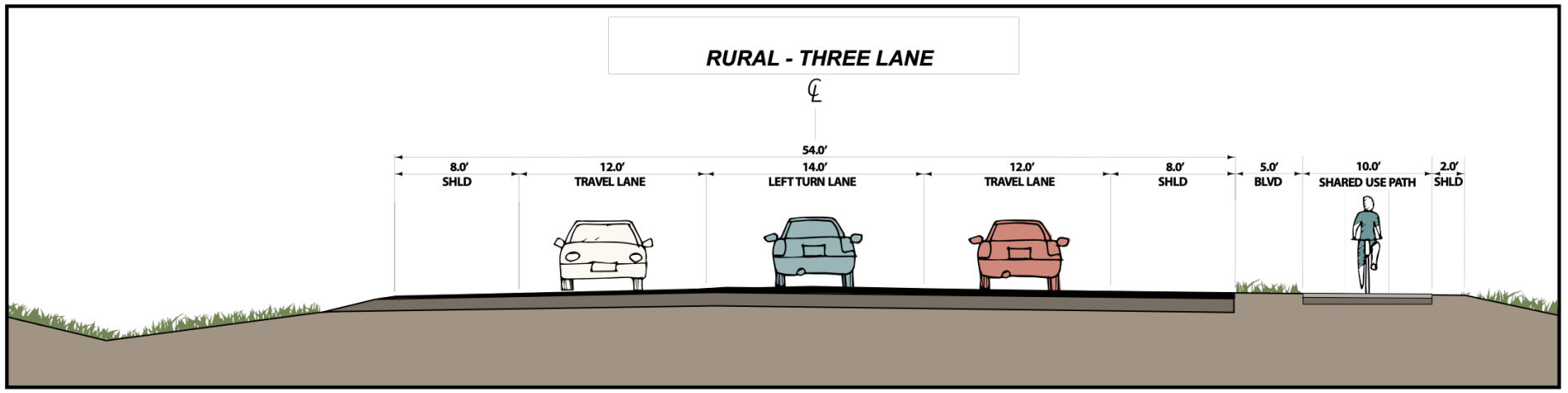




MT 35 Improvements

South of Bear Hollow Drive to South of Chapman Hill Road





Environmental Assessment Re-Evaluation Overview

Why is an Environmental Assessment (EA) Re-Evaluation necessary?

Feedback from previous public meetings resulted in design changes not included in the original EA. The changes are being evaluated now as part of the EA Re-Evaluation process.

What area does this Re-Evaluation impact?

The current EA Re-Evaluation includes only the Ice Box Canyon project area and south to Grand Avenue/Holt Drive.

Why does the Re-Evaluation include parts of MT 35 that are not in the current design project?

Design decisions being considered for the Ice Box Canyon project will affect future improvements to MT 35 in the Bigfork area.

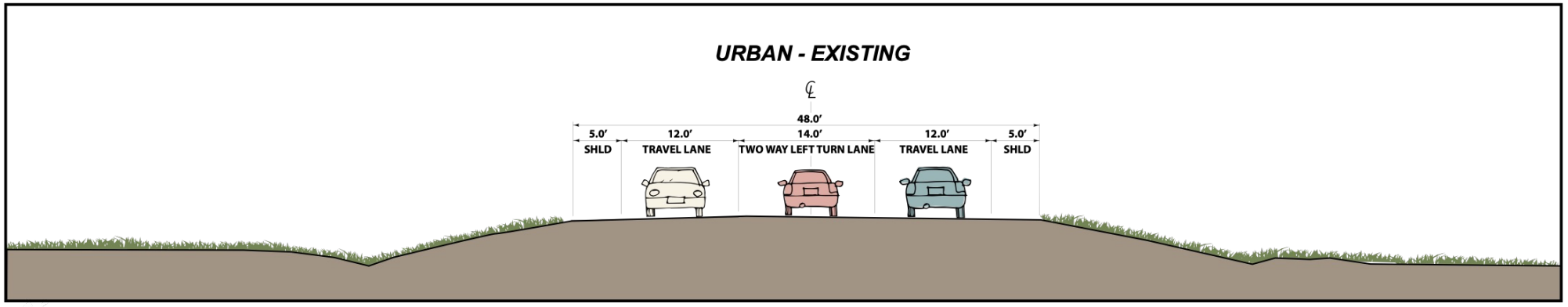
Environmental Assessment Re-Evaluation Items

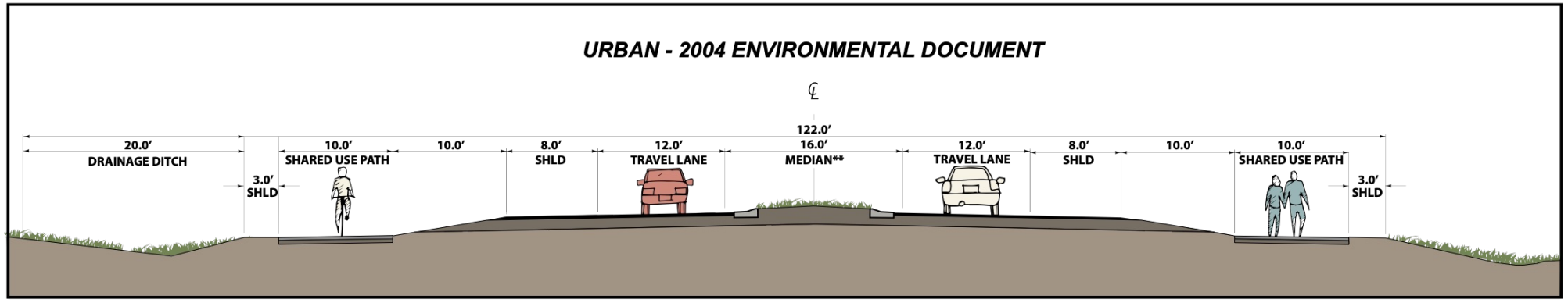
Design changes under consideration:

- Reducing the overall width of the improvements by eliminating roadside drainage ditches and replacing them with curb and gutter.
- Eliminating a large, proposed entry feature in the MT 35 median at the south end of the Canyon at the present site of Branding Iron Station.
- Removing from consideration right-turn lanes on MT 35.
- Extending the shared-used path on the east side of the roadway to the north end of the project. *

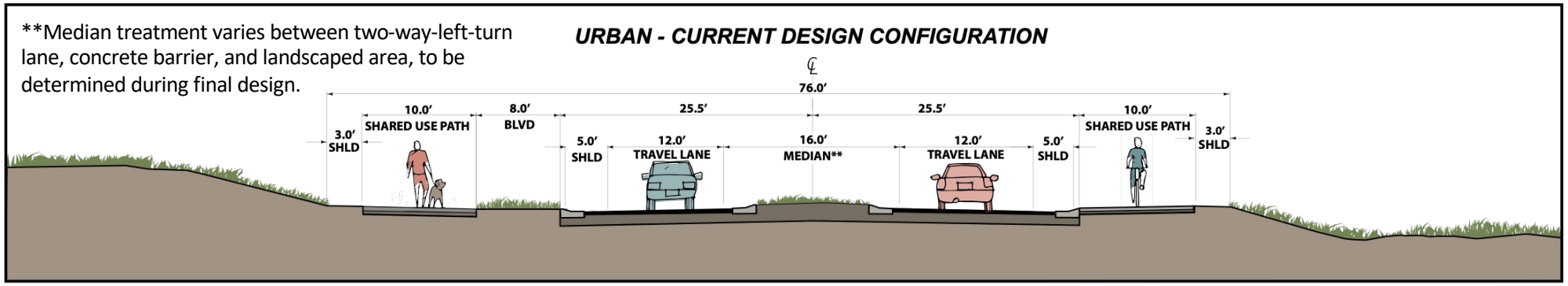
** The path extension can only be built if a maintenance funding solution can be found.*

Roadway Typical Cross-Sections for EA Re-Evaluation





**Median treatment varies between two-way-left-turn lane, concrete barrier, and landscaped area, to be determined during final design.



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PHASE I **Survey Phase**	Initial Environmental Assessment	2004-2011
PHASE II **Design Phase**	Preliminary Design	2018 - 2021
	Public Open House #1	May 2019
	Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting	March 2021
	Individual Landowner Meetings	August 2021
	Environmental Re-Evaluation	September 2021 – December 2023
	Public Open House #2	August 2023
	Final Design	TBD
	Future Public Open House	TBD
PHASE III **Construction**	Construction	TBD

STAY THE KNOW

To ask questions, provide further feedback, and sign up for future project updates:

EMAIL
sloane@bigskypublicrelations.com

PROJECT HOTLINE
406-207-4484, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

VISIT
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/iceboxcanyon/

SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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