



RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

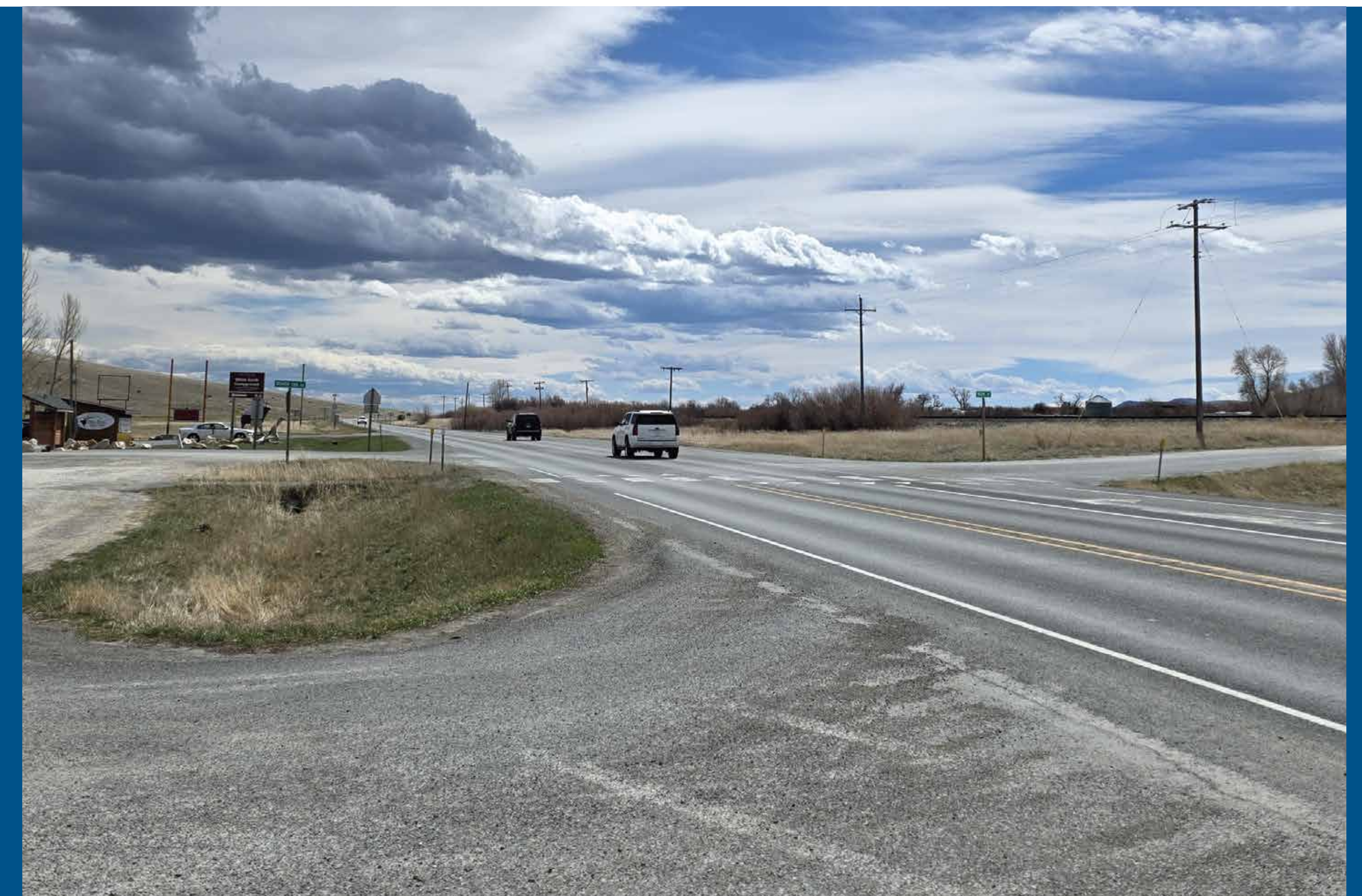


Welcome

The purpose of this meeting is to share information and gather input about the US 12/US 287 Spokane Creek to Townsend project multi-year planning and development process.

Today's meeting will provide you an opportunity to:

- Learn about the proposed improvements for three projects in this corridor.
- Learn about the steps required to develop the projects and the schedule of the multi-year project and development process.
- Ask questions and provide feedback on the projects.



Project Overview

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is developing plans to make several improvements on U.S. Highway 12 (US 12) and U.S. Highway 287 (US 287) between Spokane Creek and Townsend. These improvements are part of three separate projects that will reconstruct specific sections of the highway to address traffic congestion and vehicle crashes in the area.

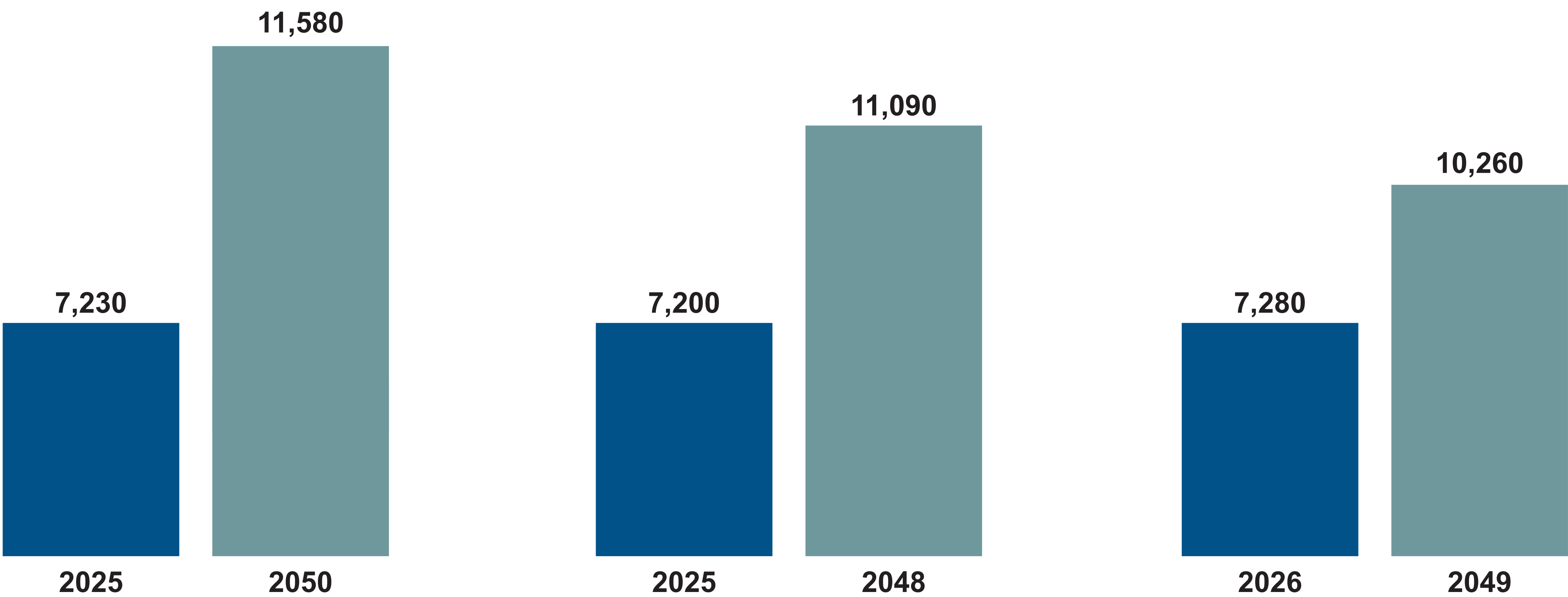


Planned projects and improvements include:

- **Winston – Northwest project:** Widening approximately 5 miles of US 12/US 287 between Spokane Creek and Winston.
- **Beaver Creek Road Left-Turn Lanes project:** Installing left-turn lanes at the intersection of Beaver Creek Road and US 12/US 287 in Winston.
- **Silos-South project:** Widening approximately 5 miles of US 12/US 287 between Silos Road and Cottonwood Campground northwest of Townsend.
- **All projects:** Adding new pavement markings, signage, rumble strips, and a seal and cover (chip seal).

Existing and Future Conditions

This highway was originally constructed in 1930 and reconstructed in 1960 and was designed as a two-lane highway. Since that time, traffic on this section of highway has increased dramatically leading to significant traffic congestion. Widening the highway and adding additional lanes will help alleviate traffic congestion and enhance safety features.



AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (ADT)

Winston-Northwest 2025 ADT – 7,230 (traffic study date) 2050 ADT – 11,580 (design year predicted ADT)	Beaver Creek 2025 ADT – 7,200 (traffic study date) 2048 ADT – 11,090 (design year predicted ADT)	Silos-South 2026 ADT – 7,280 (traffic study date) 2049 ADT – 10,260 (design year predicted ADT)
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CRASH DATA



Process and Schedule

MDT is in the design phase of the projects. Construction on these three projects will not occur until after the design is finalized and necessary right-of-way has been acquired. Currently, construction is projected to begin in 2030 or beyond, depending on availability of funds.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

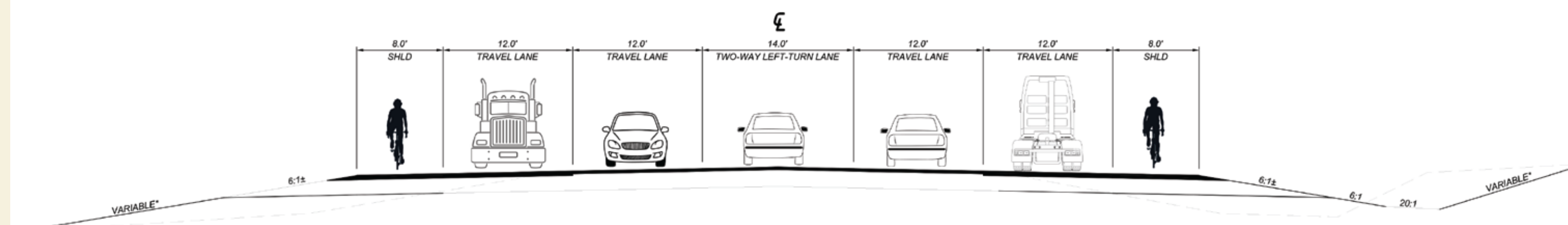
Preliminary Design	2025 - 2027
Final Design	2027 - 2029
Right-of-Way Acquisition	2027 - 2029
Projects Ready for Construction	2030 or later

Winston-Northwest Project

This project proposes reconstructing and widening approximately 5 miles of US 12/US 287 between Spokane Creek and Winston. Proposed improvements include 12-foot travel lanes, a 14-foot center turn lane in some areas, 8-foot shoulders, flattening the slopes on the sides of the highway, and realigning some curves.

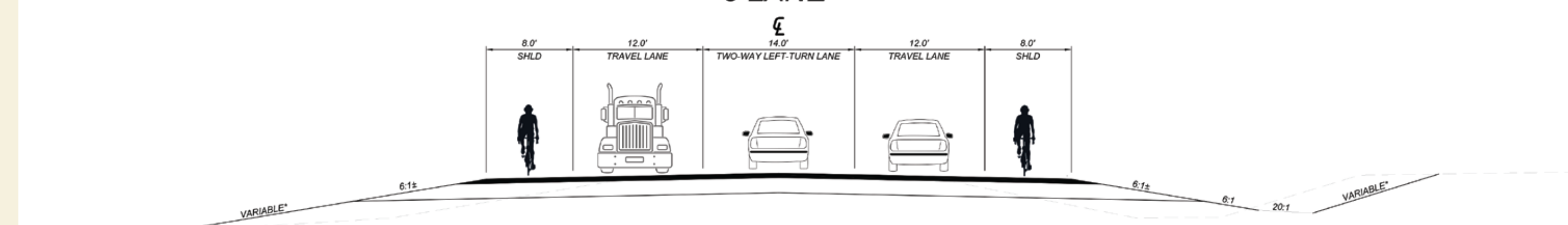
PROPOSED ROADWAY

5 LANE
PROPOSED ROADWAY
5 LANE



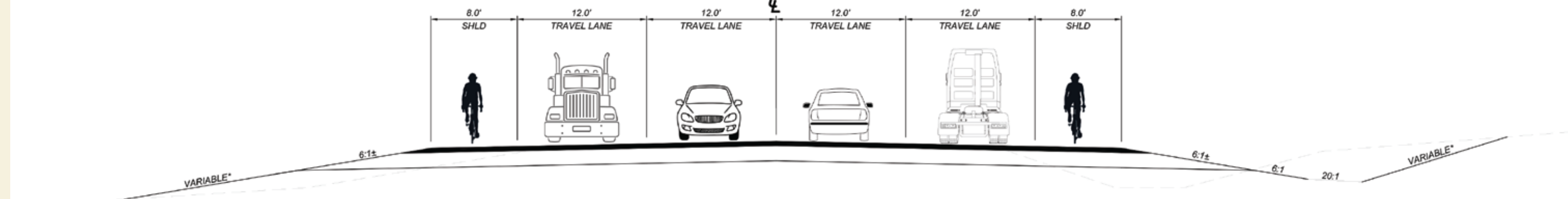
PROPOSED ROADWAY

3 LANE
PROPOSED ROADWAY
3 LANE



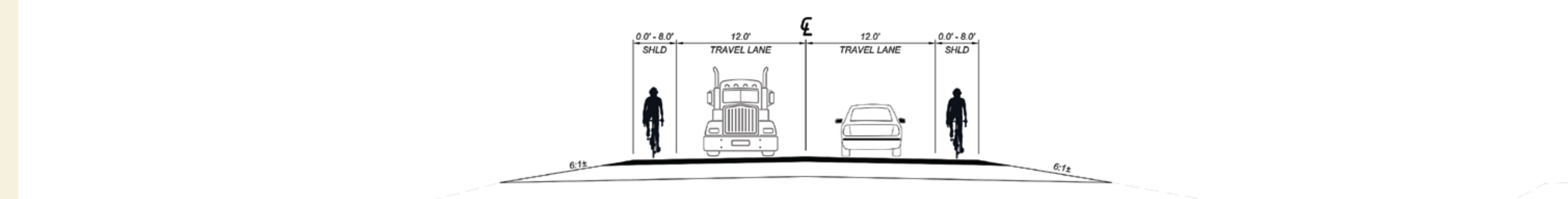
PROPOSED ROADWAY

4 LANE
PROPOSED ROADWAY
4 LANE



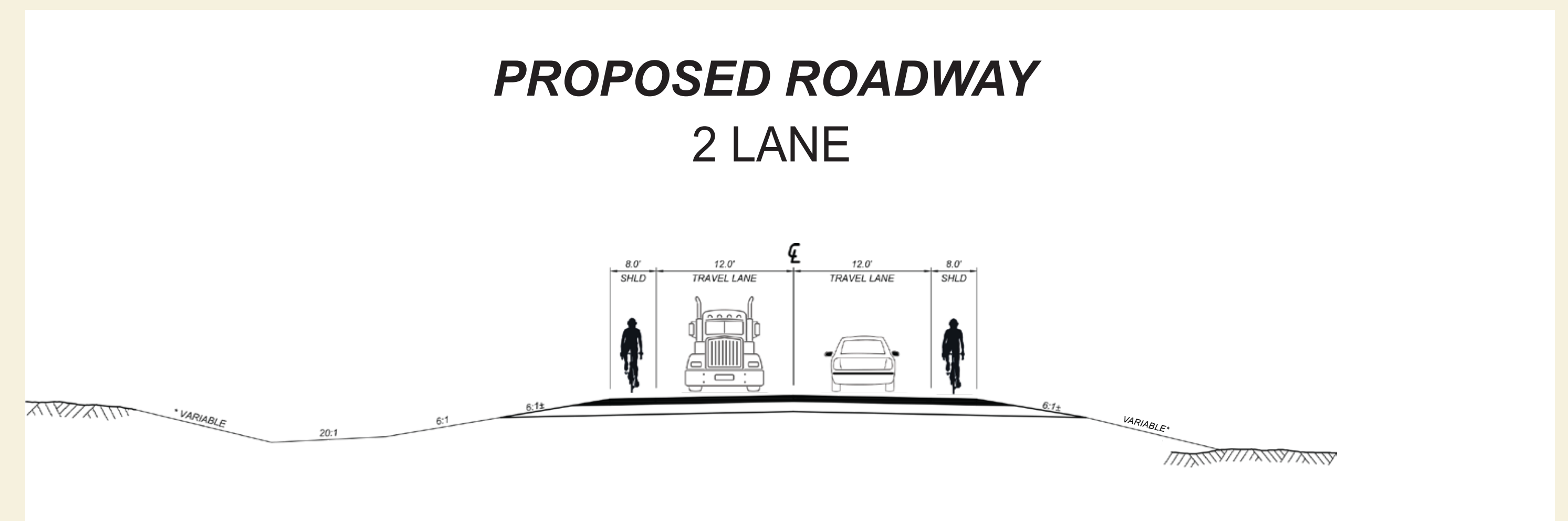
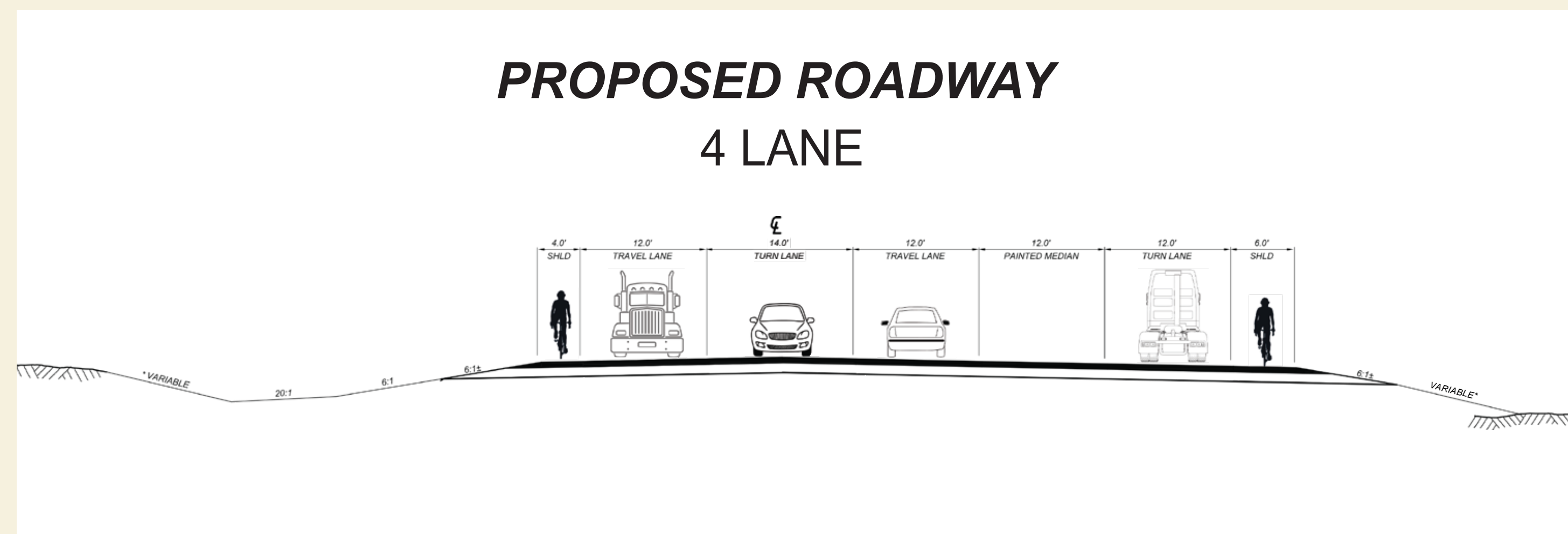
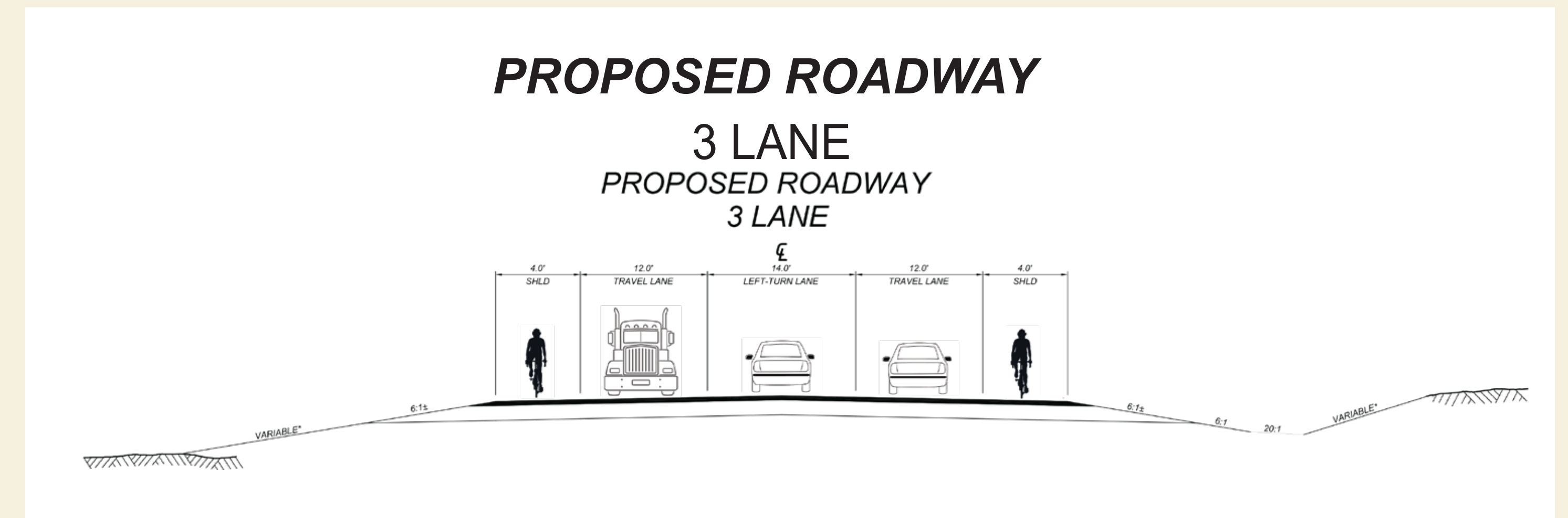
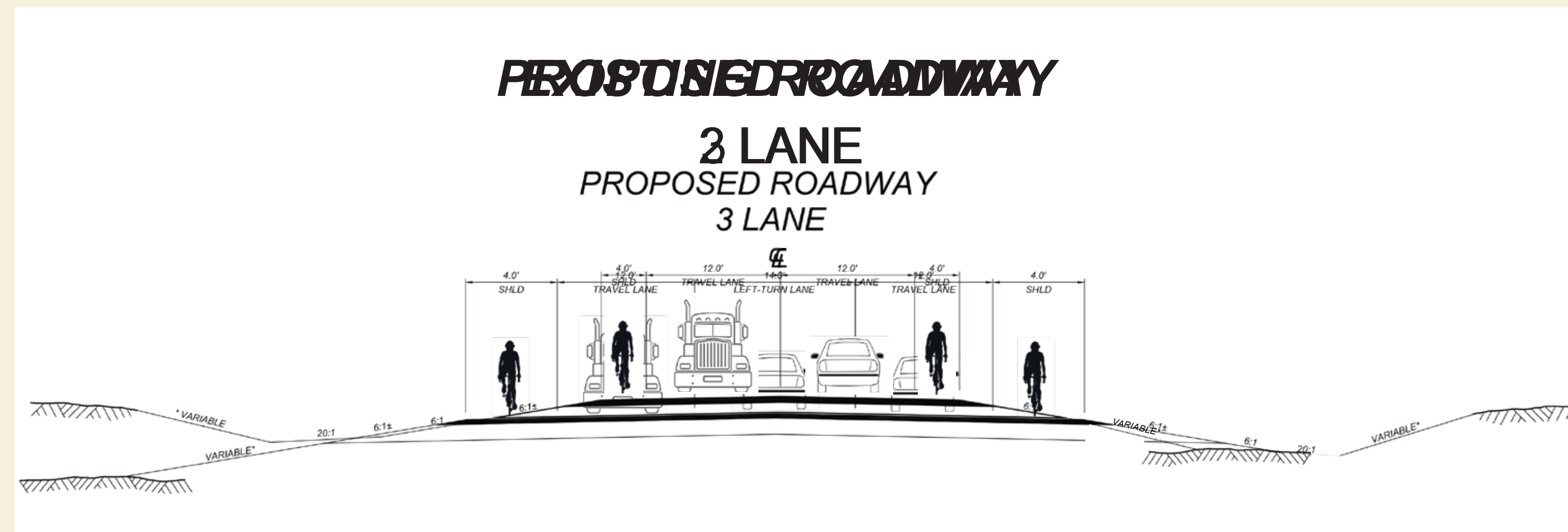
EXISTING ROADWAY

2 LANE
EXISTING ROADWAY
2 LANE



Beaver Creek Road Left-Turn Lanes Project

This project proposes installing left-turn lanes at the intersection of Beaver Creek Road and US 12/US 287 in Winston. Proposed improvements include 12-foot travel lanes, 4- to 8-foot shoulders, 14-foot northbound and southbound left-turn lanes, and a 12-foot southbound right-turn lane. This project will widen US 12/US 287 through Winston to accommodate the additional turn lanes.

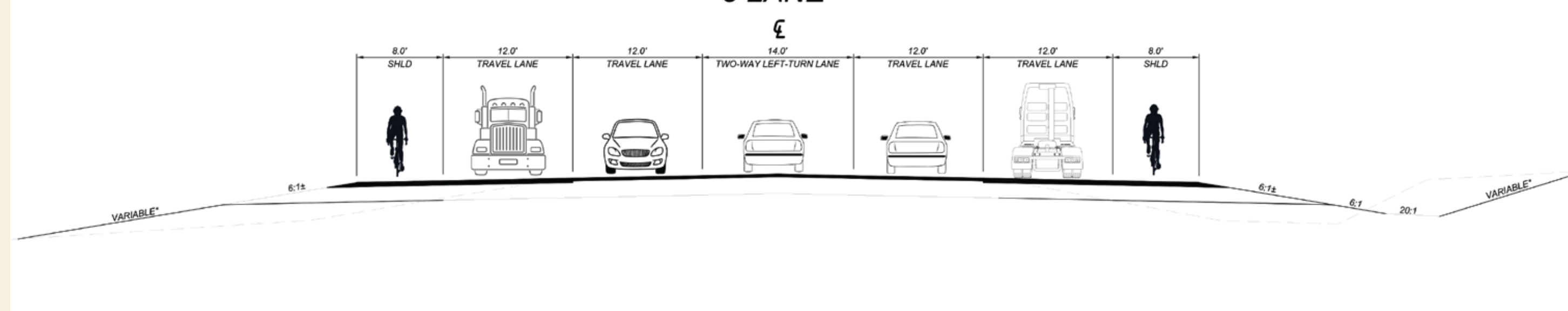


Silos-South Project

This project proposes widening approximately 5 miles of US 12/US 287 between Silos Road and Cottonwood Campground northwest of Townsend. Proposed improvements include 12-foot travel lanes, a 14-foot center turn lane, and 8-foot shoulders.

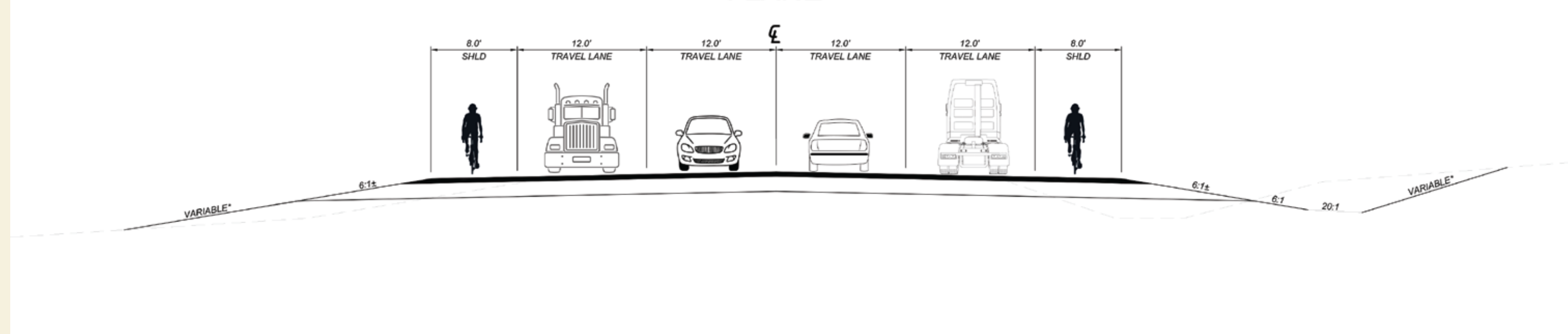
PROPOSED ROADWAY

5 LANE
PROPOSED ROADWAY
5 LANE



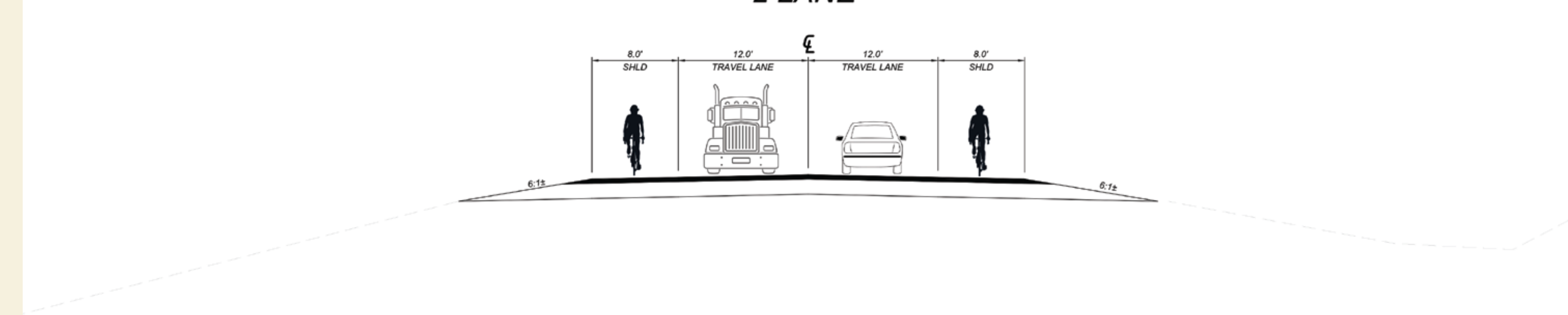
PROPOSED ROADWAY

4 LANE
PROPOSED ROADWAY
4 LANE



EXISTING ROADWAY

2 LANE
EXISTING ROADWAY
2 LANE



Speed Limit Process

How are speed limits changed?

MDT often receives requests to change speed limits. However, the process is more complicated than simply changing the speed limit.

1. Submit Request

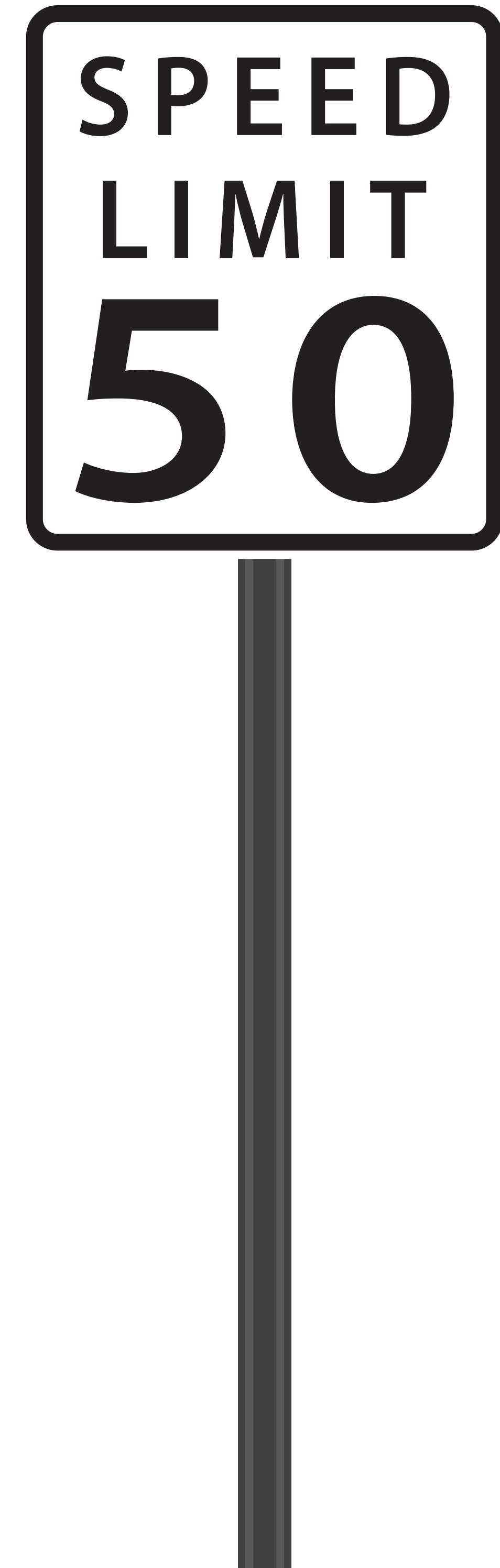
The process begins when a concerned citizen submits a request to their local county commissioners or other officials. Speed limit investigations are conducted in cooperation with local government officials.

2. Speed Study

After receiving a request from local government, MDT begins an investigation which follows nationally accepted principles. Roadway data is collected and analyzed. Considerations such as seasonal conditions, roadway location, traffic volumes, and crash history all contribute to this investigation.

3. Commission Action

MDT then submits the results of the speed study to the Transportation Commission along with findings and recommendations. The Transportation Commission is a governor-appointed board consisting of five members which hold the final authority on establishing and modifying speed limits.



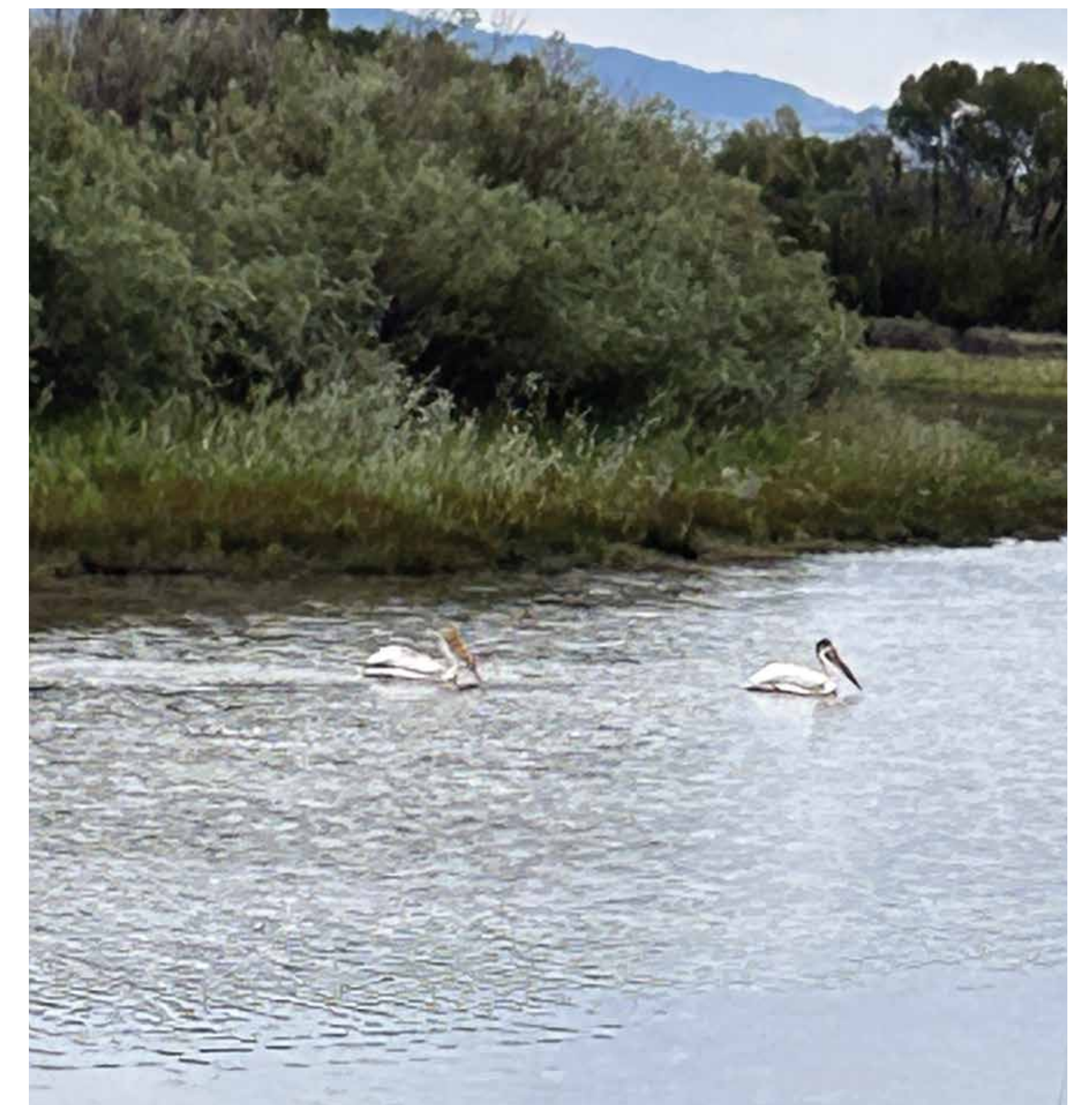
Environmental Considerations & Next Steps

MDT is evaluating these projects' potential impacts on the environment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

The evaluation considers impacts to threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, areas where wildlife crosses the highway, and wetlands.

What's Next?

- Following the public meeting, MDT will review the input received from the public and continue developing the design plans.
- MDT will also evaluate the right-of-way necessary to construct the improvements.
- A public meeting will be held to present the final proposed design and right-of-way plans.
- Once the design plans are finalized and the right-of-way acquired, the projects will be ready for construction.





RURAL RECONSTRUCTION



Thank you

Thank you for your participation in the project development process. Public involvement is important to MDT and the success of these projects.

STAY INFORMED:

Visit the project website for the most up to date information at

 mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/spokanecreek

Join the project's mailing list by submitting contact information to Brandon Coates at

 Brandon@rbci.net

Contact: Brandon Coates, Public Involvement Manager, RBCI

 406-465-3350  Brandon@rbci.net



SCAN ME