

JANUARY 2026

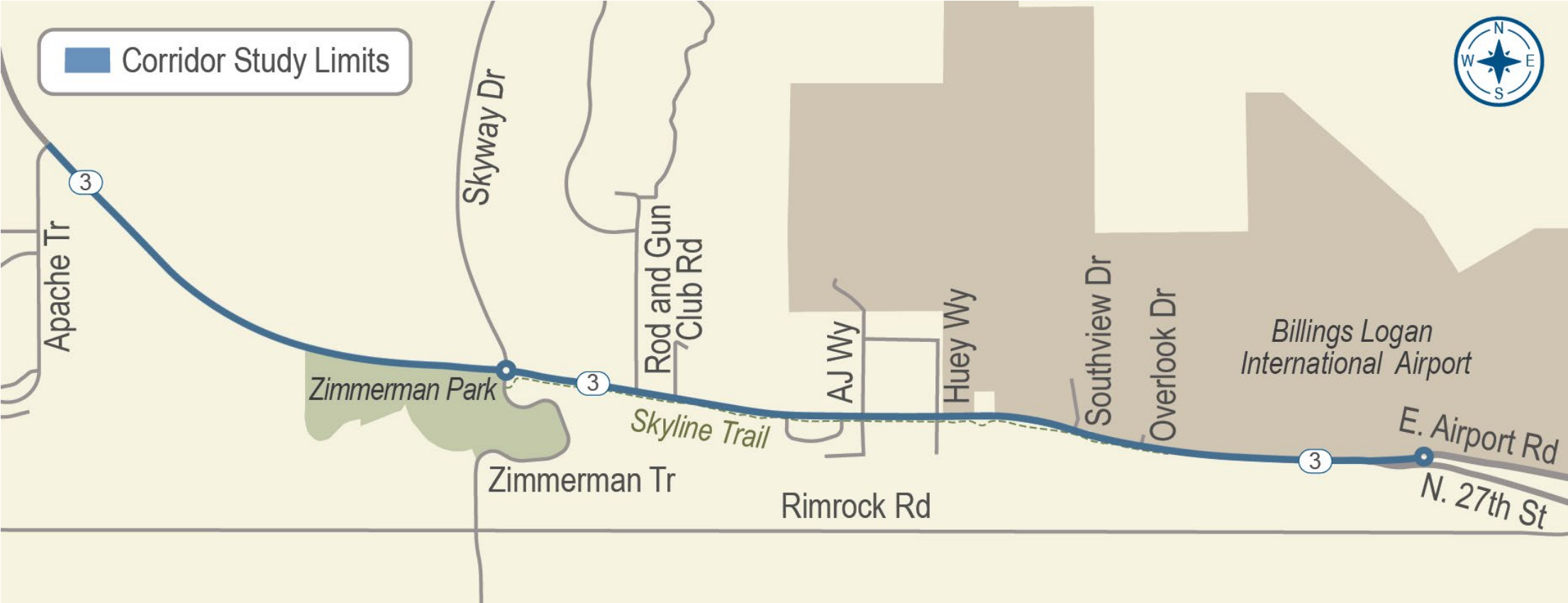
# HIGHWAY 3 ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN



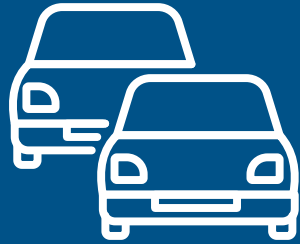
# AGENDA

- 1** Planning Study Overview and Study Schedule
- 2** Improvement Options Summary
- 3** Access Management Overview
- 4** Next Steps

# PROJECT MAP



# WHY IS THIS CORRIDOR BEING STUDIED?



MT 3 is a high-volume corridor and traffic is expected to increase with new development.



Understand projected impacts associated with recently completed Skyway Drive.

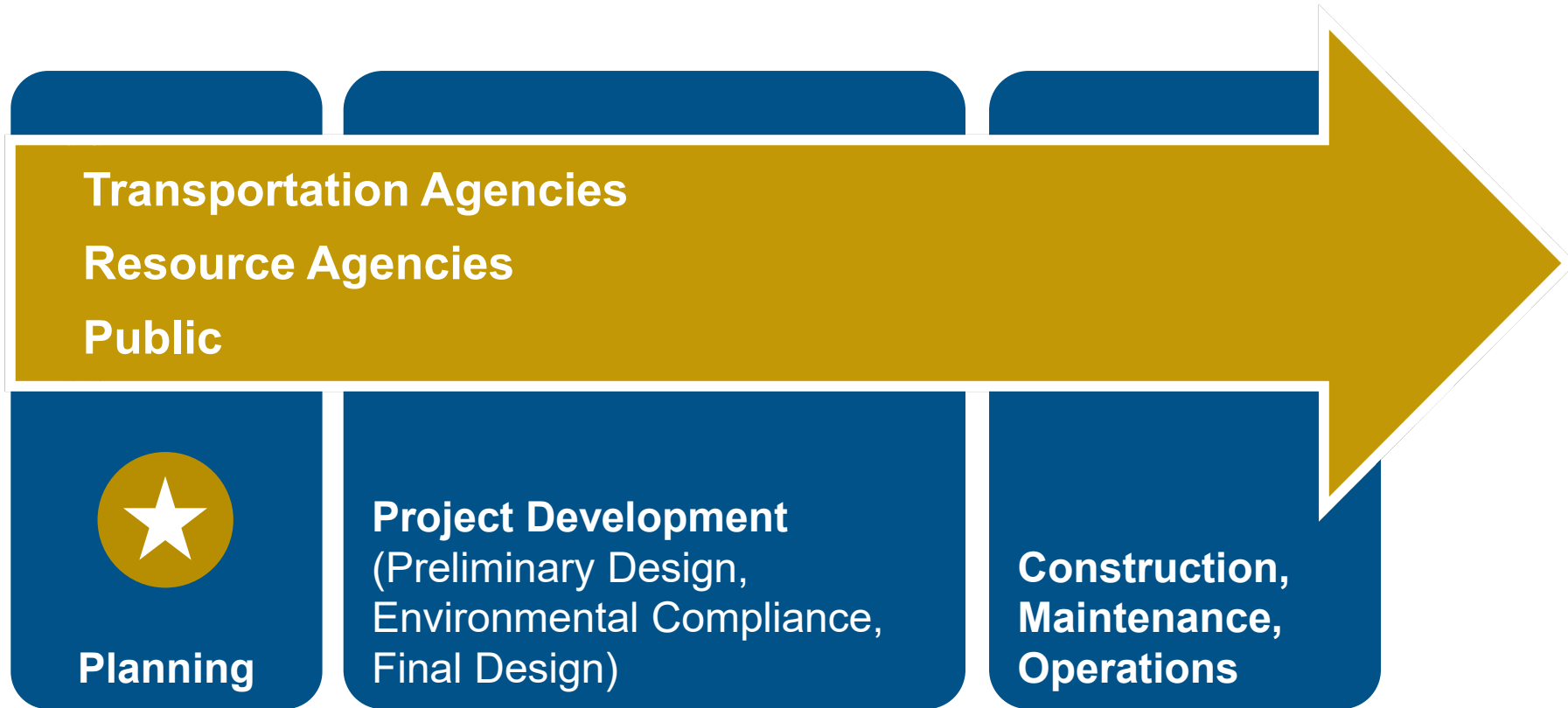


Several regional trails converge at the intersection of MT 3 and Zimmerman Trail.

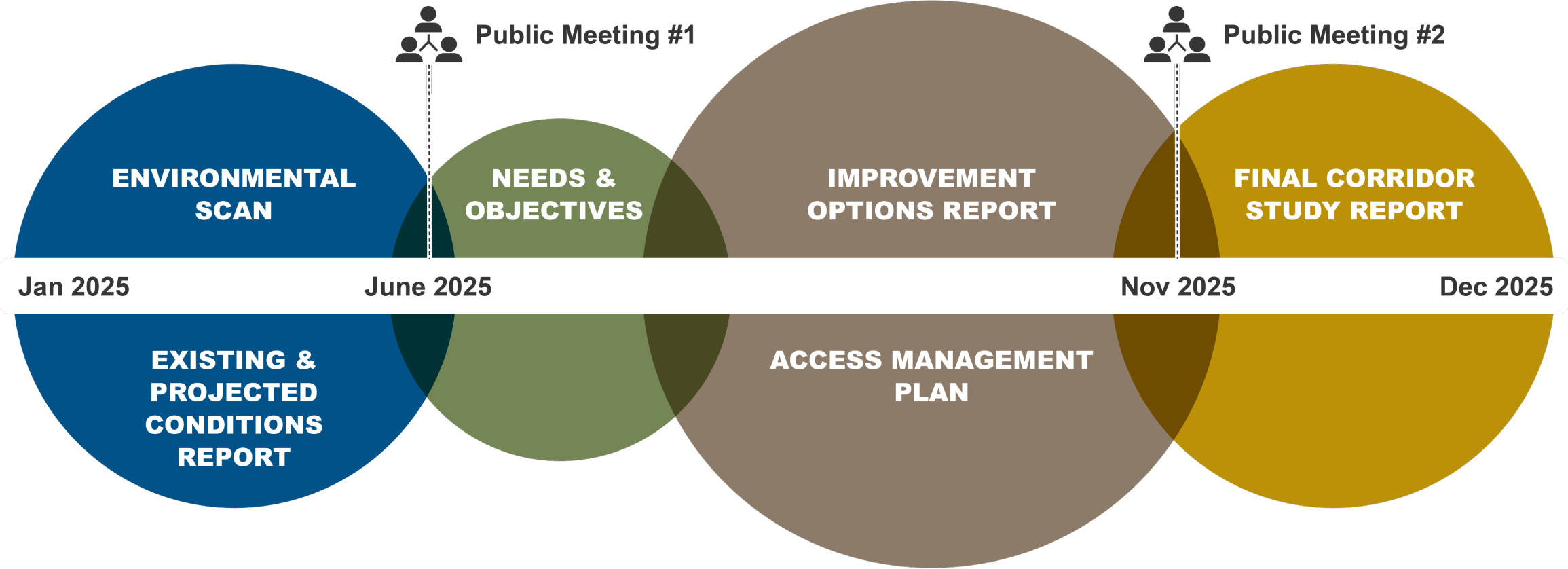
# WHAT IS A CORRIDOR STUDY?



A corridor study is conducted **before** design, right-of-way acquisition, environmental compliance, and construction.



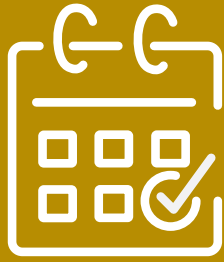
# SCHEDULE



# STUDY PURPOSE



**Identify  
corridor needs  
and objectives**



**Identify  
short-term and  
long-term  
improvement  
options**



**Develop  
planning level  
cost estimates**



**Identify funding  
sources**



**Develop  
an Access  
Management  
Plan for the  
corridor**

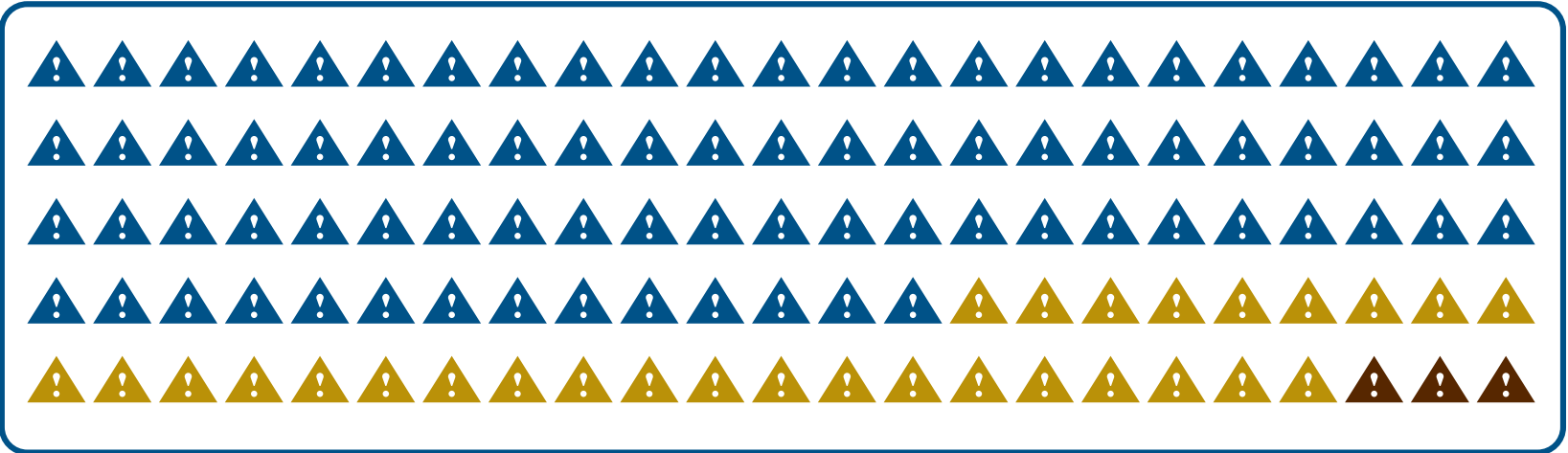
# NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

## NEED 1: IMPROVE CORRIDOR SAFETY

### Objectives

- Reduce fatalities and serious injuries in support of Vision Zero
- Reduce vehicle conflicts
- Improve safety at non-motorized crossings

 **115 Total Crashes (2019-2023)**



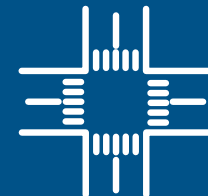
 **29** MINOR INJURY CRASHES

 **3** SERIOUS INJURY AND/OR FATAL CRASHES



**25%**

Rear-End Collisions



**51%** of crashes occurred

AT INTERSECTIONS

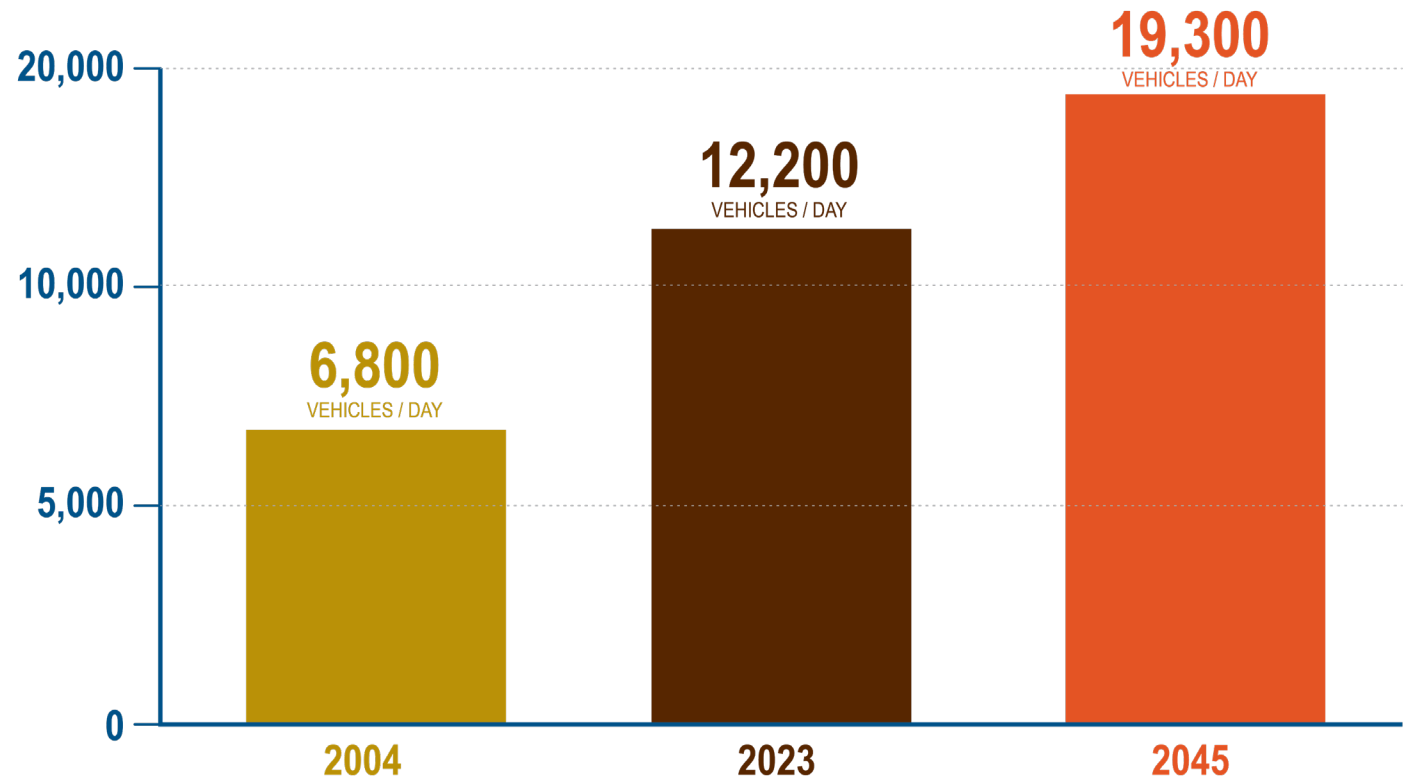
# NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

## NEED 2: IMPROVE CORRIDOR OPERATIONS

### Objectives

- Accommodate existing and future travel demand
- Improve intersection operations and level of service
- Improve non-motorized mobility and accessibility
- Maintain reasonable access to adjacent businesses and residences

Change in Daily Traffic on Corridor from 2023 to 2045 (↑7,100 vehicles)



**FAILING TRAFFIC**  
operations in 2045

**2.1%** GROWTH EXPECTED  
PER YEAR

# IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS SUMMARY



This study identified a

## RANGE OF IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

to address the corridor

## NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES



 New or Upgraded Roundabout  Added Turn Lanes  Pedestrian Tunnel  Improve Trail Crossing Sight Distance

Other recommended improvements not depicted:

- *Access Management*
- *Travel Demand Management*

# ACCESS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

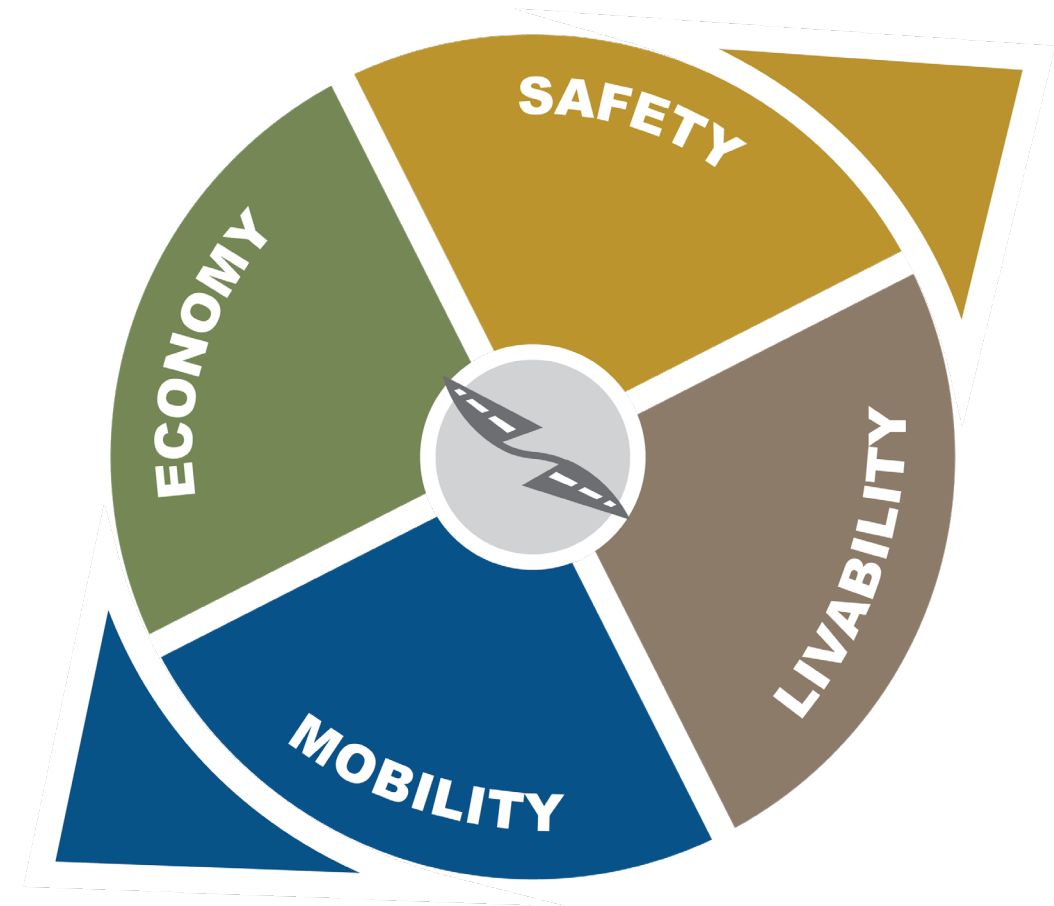
## What is Access Management?

- The coordinated planning, regulation, and design of access between roadways and land development
- Promotes efficient and safe movement of people and goods by reducing conflict points
- Without access management, growing corridors can deteriorate functionally and aesthetically



# ACCESS MANAGEMENT GOALS

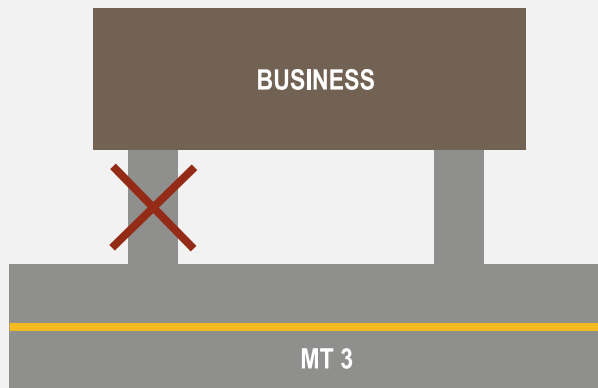
- **Safety:** Promote safe and convenient transportation for both motorized and non-motorized users in support of Vision Zero
- **Mobility:** Maintain efficient traffic flow, minimize delay for through-traffic, and reduce operating costs for freight and motor vehicles
- **Economy:** Preserve property values and attract economic development
- **Livability:** Support neighborhood livability and preserve the long-term functionality and investment in the transportation system



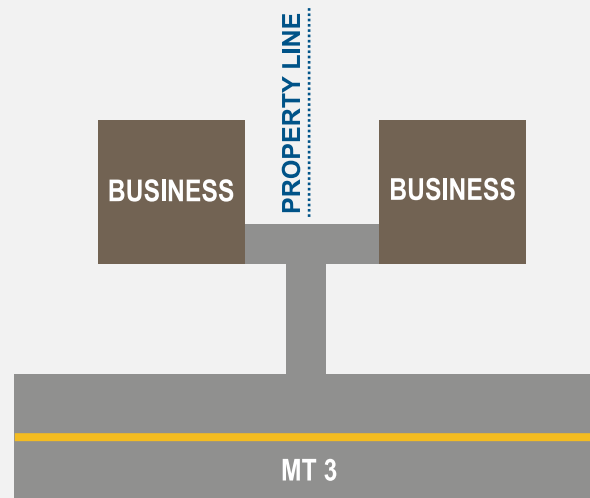
Source: NCHRP 1032

# ACCESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

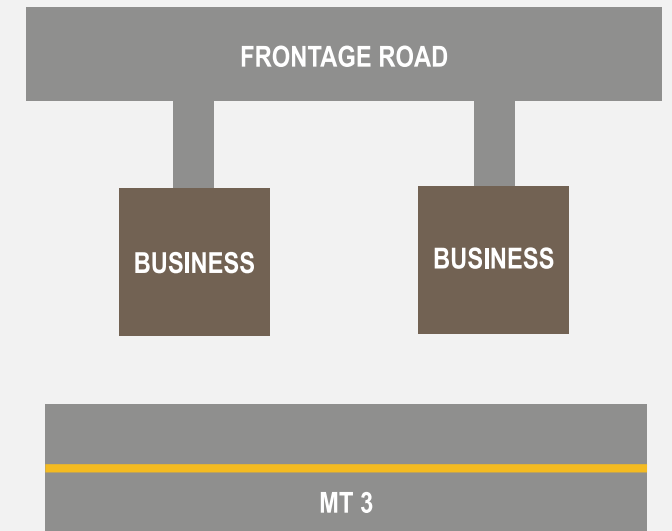
## Consolidate/Eliminate Approaches



## Shared Access on Property Line

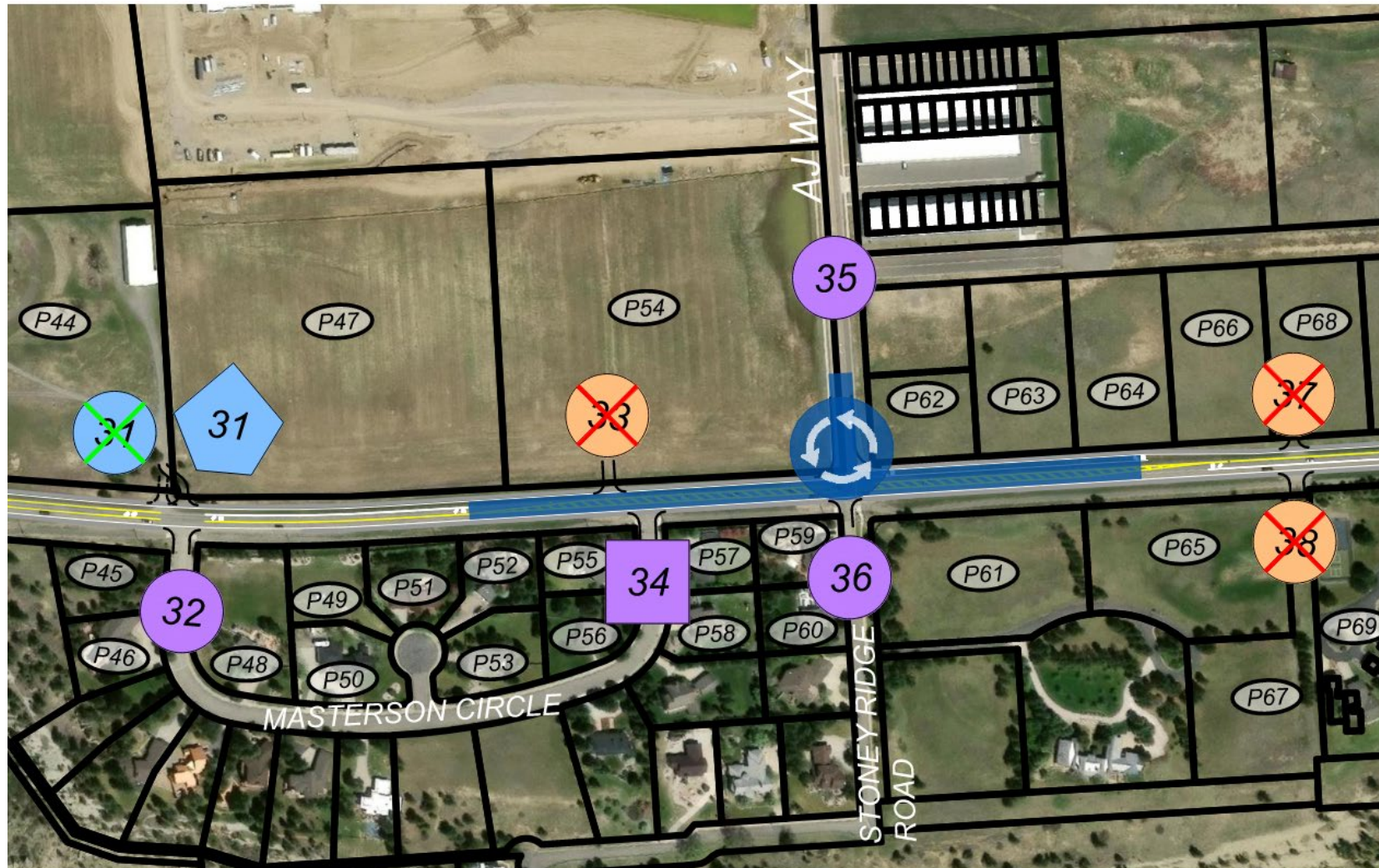


## Frontage/Rear Access



*Guidelines regulate the spacing, location, and design of approaches*

# ACCESS MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS - EXAMPLE



## Legend

- # Private Approach
- # Public Approach
- # Field Approach
- X Relocate Approach
- X Close Approach
- P# Parcel Number
- # Joint-Use
- # Right-In, Right-Out
- Property Line
- ⦿ Potential Future Roundabout
- Splitter Island Limits

# ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Public and Stakeholder Involvement

- Certified letter mailed to adjacent landowners on November 5
- Public meetings held on November 19 and 20
- Additional landowner meetings held in December

## Next Steps

- City and County review and approval of draft Access Management Plan
- Transportation Commission review and approval



# STUDY CONTACTS



**Lisa Olmsted**

DOWL Public Involvement

406-869-6329

[lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto:lolmsted@dowl.com)

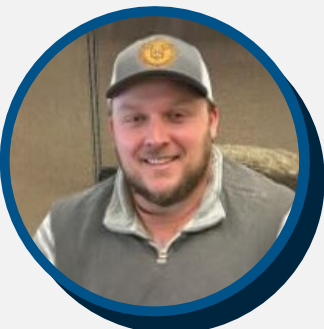


**Sarah Patterson**

DOWL Project Manager

406-324-7407

[spatterson@dowl.com](mailto:spatterson@dowl.com)



**Jackson Lang**

MDT Project Manager

406-444-3246

[jlange@mt.gov](mailto:jlange@mt.gov)

Draft study documents available **online** at:



<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/hwy3billings/>

# QUESTIONS?

