

DECEMBER 2025

# HIGHWAY 3 ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN



# AGENDA

**1**

**Planning Study Overview and Study Schedule**

**2**

**Improvement Options Summary**

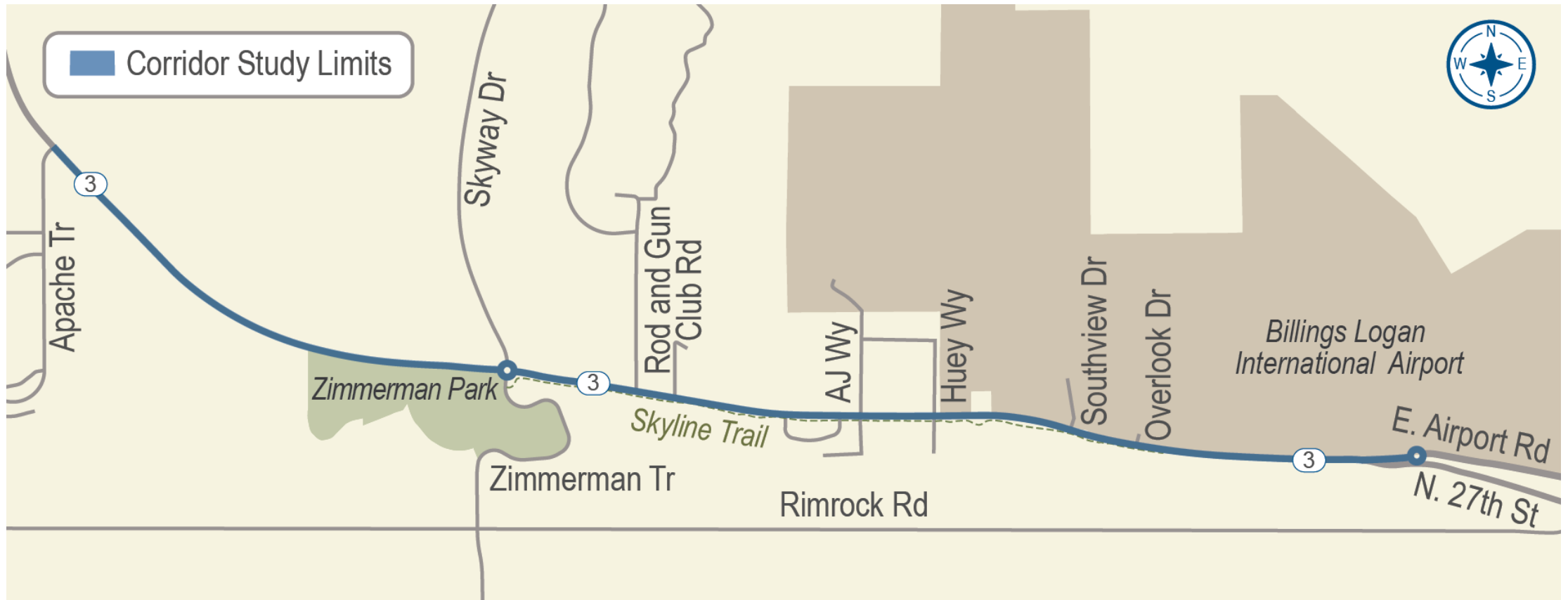
**3**

**Access Management Overview**

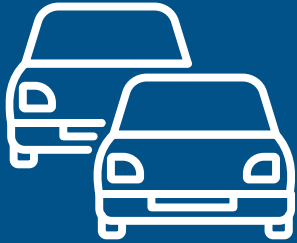
**4**

**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.**

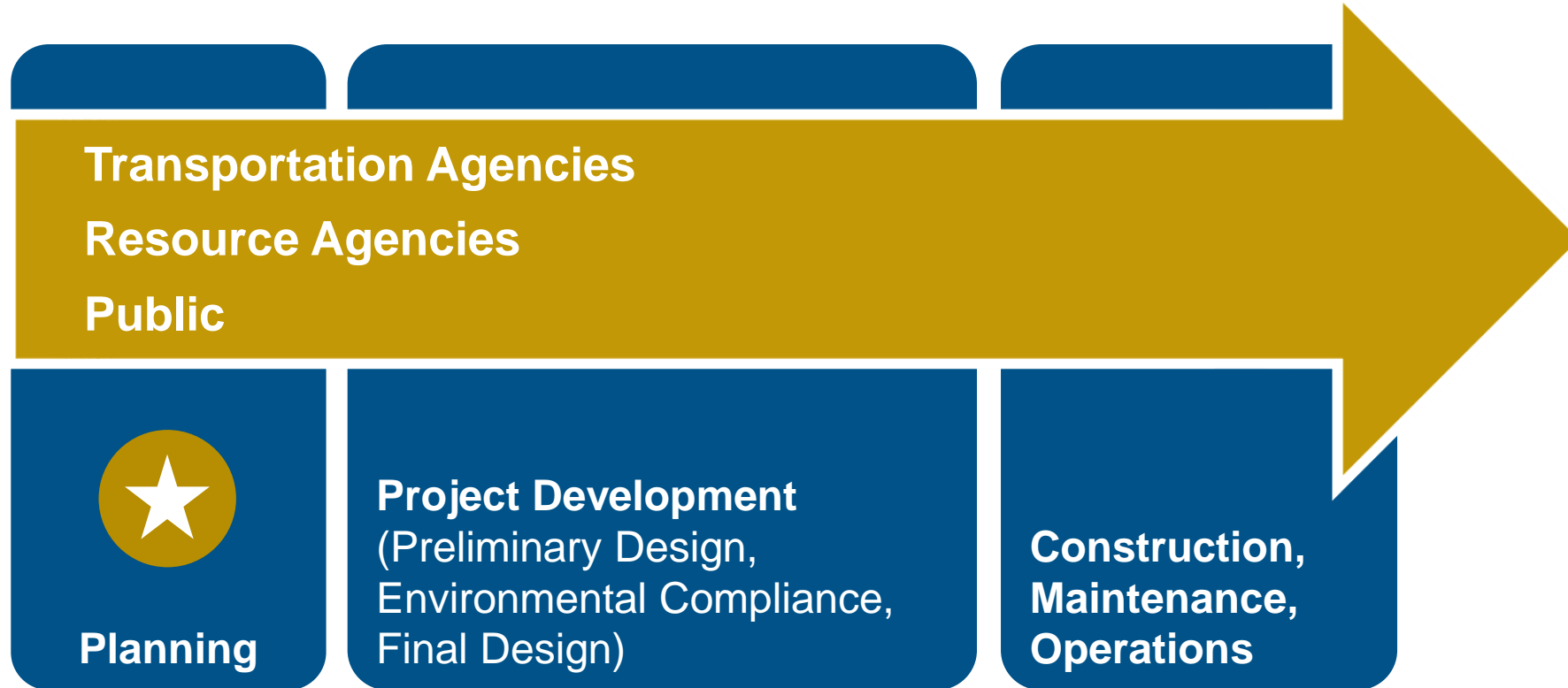


**Several regional trails converge at the intersection of MT 3 and Zimmerman Trail.**

# WHAT IS A CORRIDOR STUDY?

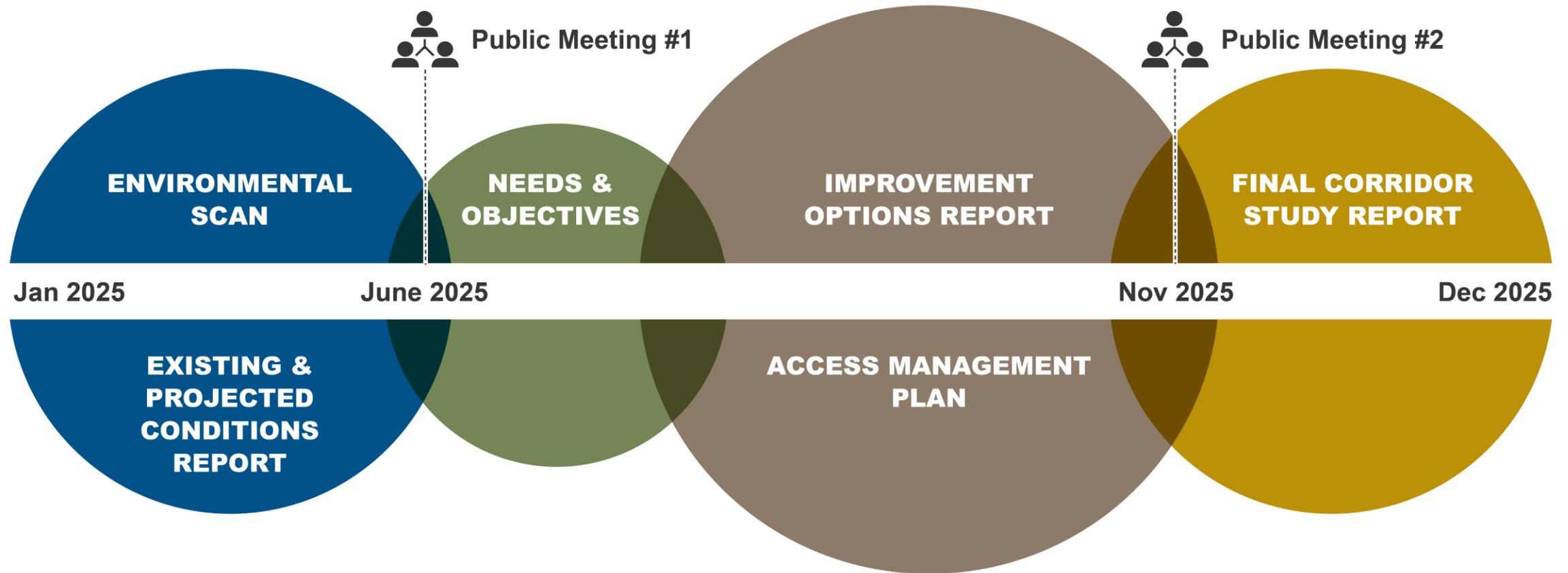


A corridor study is conducted **before** design, right-of-way acquisition, environmental compliance, and construction.





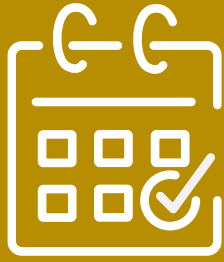
# SCHEDULE



# STUDY PURPOSE



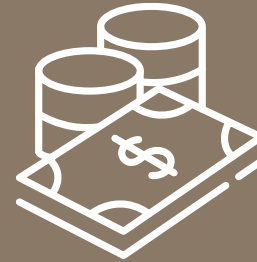
**Identify  
corridor needs  
and objectives**



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



**Develop  
planning level  
cost estimates**



**Identify funding  
sources**



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

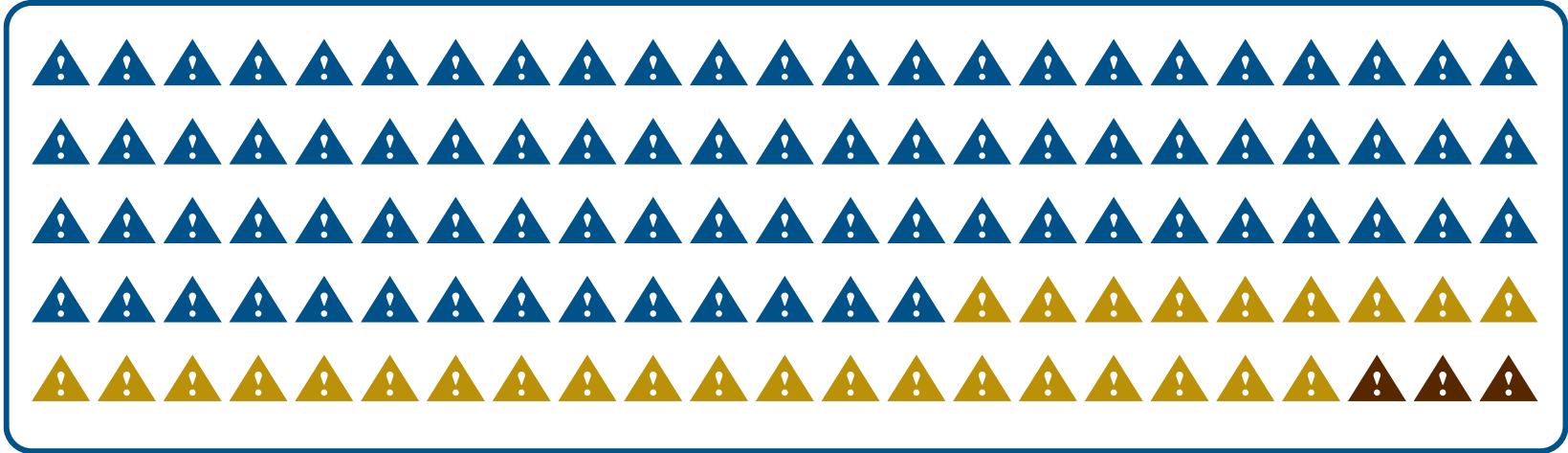
# NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

## 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



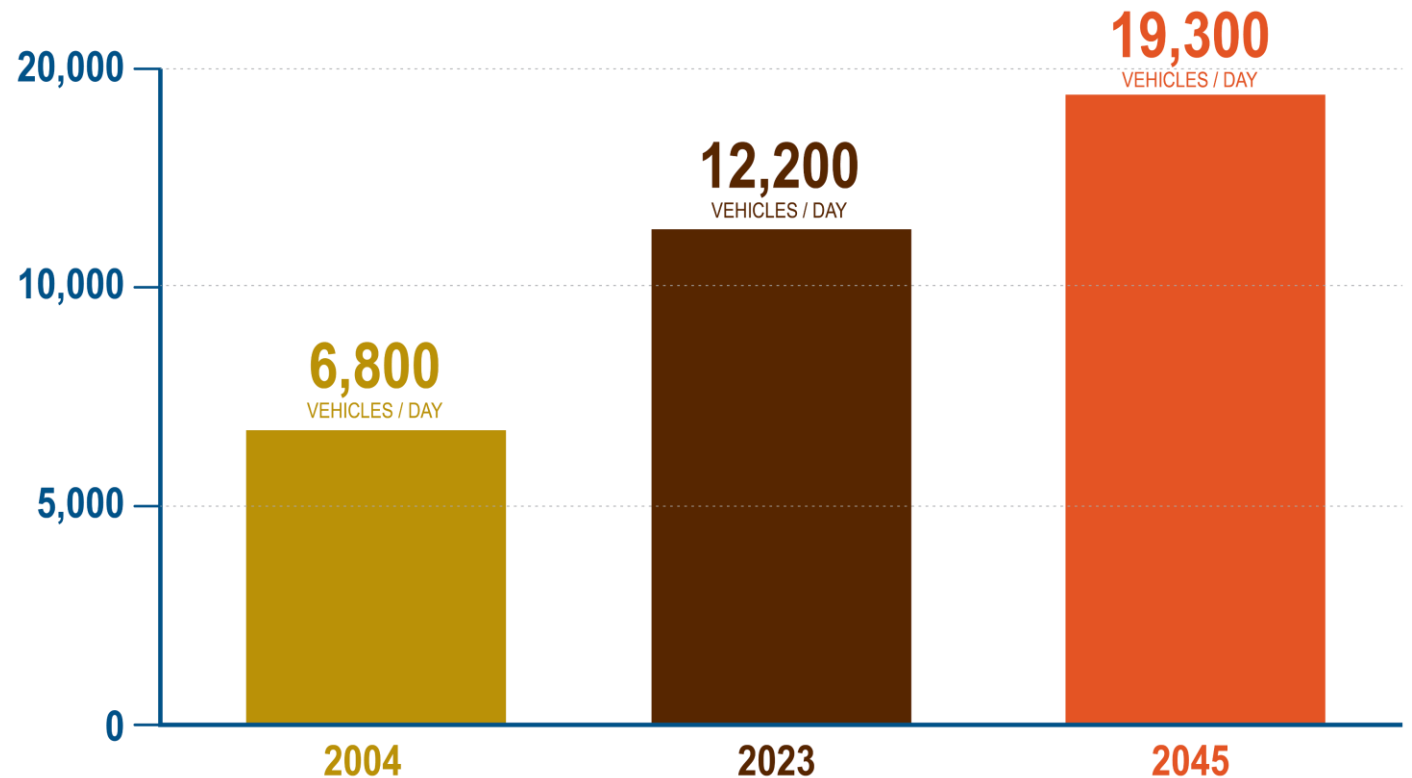
# NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

## 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

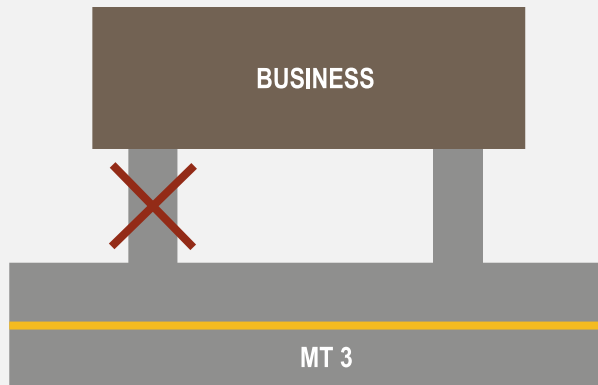
- **Safety:** Promote safe and convenient transportation for both motorized and non-motorized users in support of Vision Zero
- **Mobility:** Maintain efficient traffic flow, minimize delay for through-traffic, and reduce operating costs for freight and motor vehicles
- **Economy:** Preserve property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



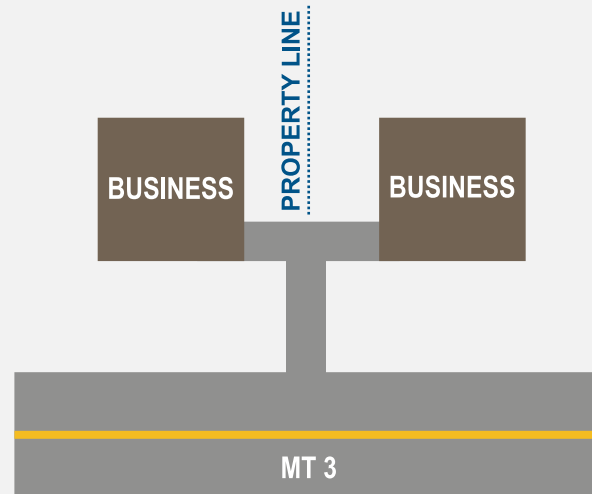
Source: NCHRP 1032

# ACCESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

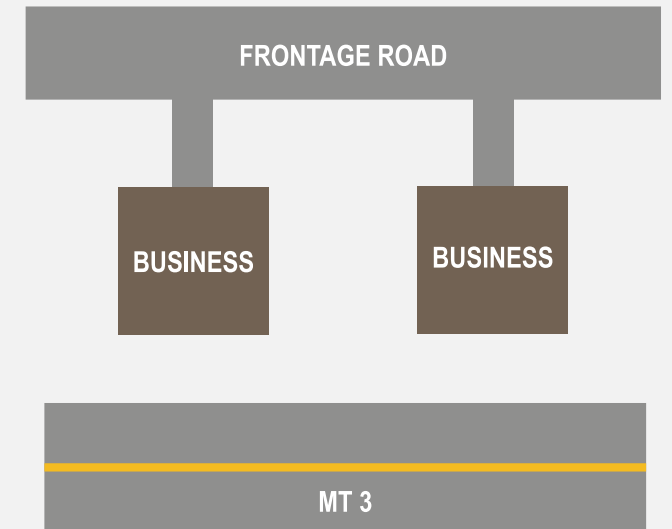
## Consolidate/Eliminate Approaches



## Shared Access on Property Line

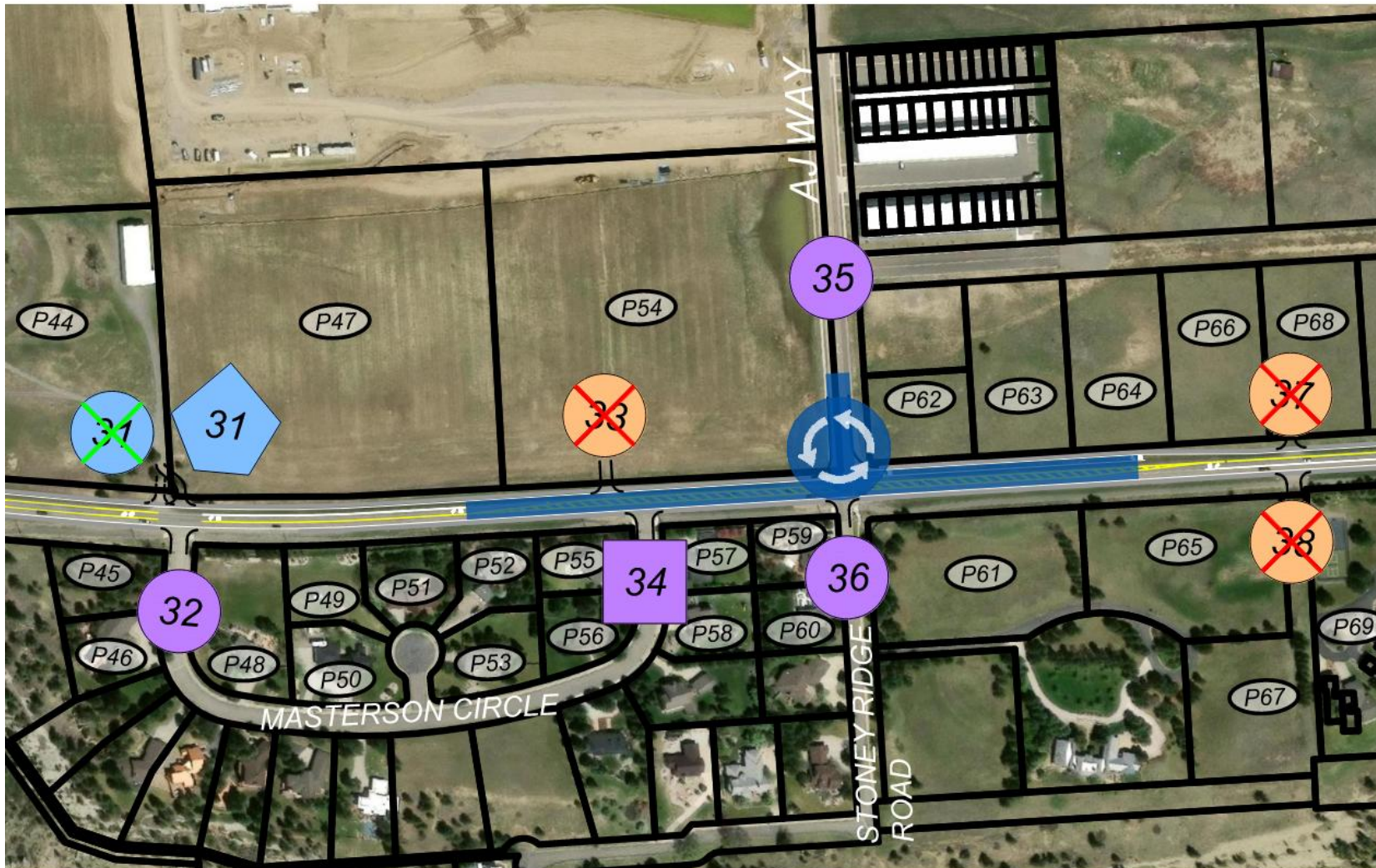


## Frontage/Rear Access



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

# ACCESS MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS - EXAMPLE



## Legend

- Private Approach
- Public Approach
- Field Approach
- Relocate Approach
- Close Approach
- 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

## Next Steps

- Address public comments and meet with landowners as needed
- City and County review and approval of draft Access Management Plan
- Transportation Commission review and approval



# STUDY CONTACTS



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Draft study documents available **online** at:



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



# QUESTIONS?

