

Mora Hwy 65 and Hwy 23 Corridor Study

MnDOT District 3



City of Mora – City Council Work Session

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

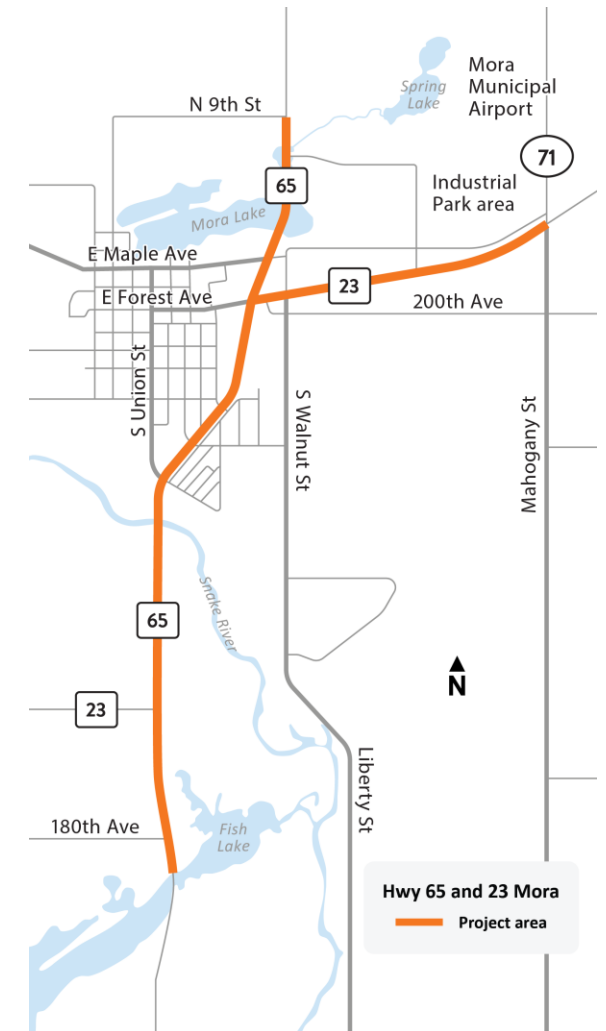
talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-65-23-mora-corridor-study

Study Overview

MnDOT, in partnership with the city of Mora, Kanabec County, and East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) is conducting a study to understand the corridor's needs, identify potential improvements and develop an ultimate vision for the future

- Study Limits

- Hwy 65 from the Fish Lake Bridge to N 9th Street
- Highway 23 from Hwy 65 to County Hwy 71/Mahogany Street
- * Study will also consider improvements to the local County and City systems



Study Goals

We developed a set of guiding values to describe our vision for the future of Hwy 65 and Hwy 23:



**Develop a safe
and equitable multimodal
transportation system**



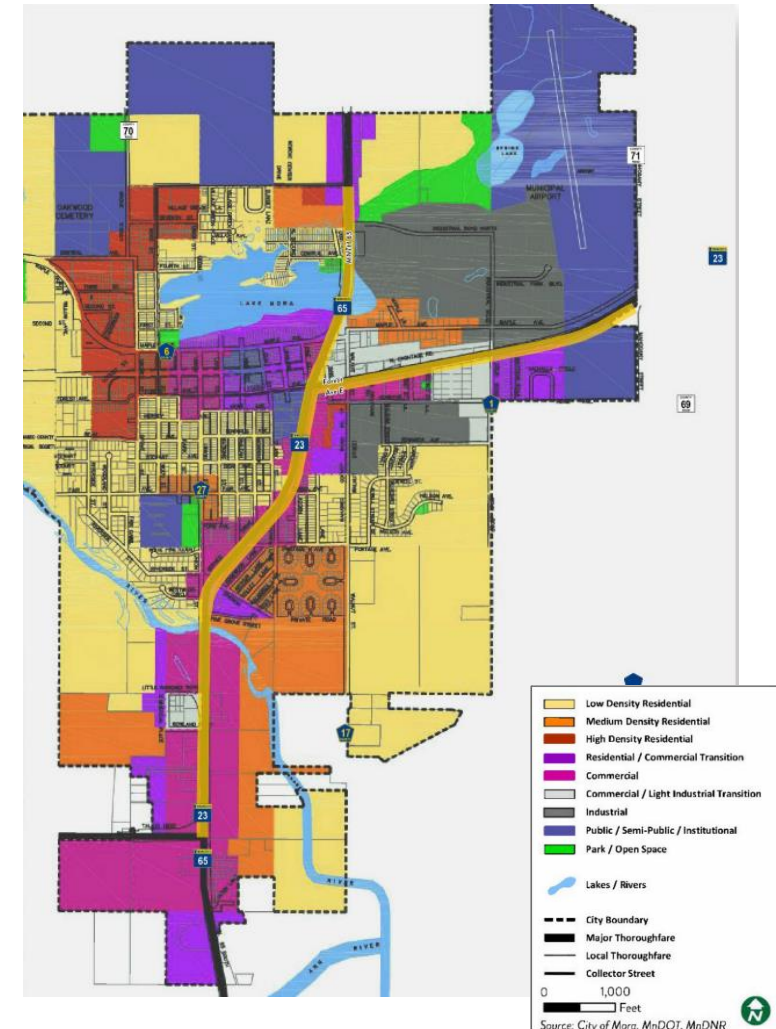
**Provide improvements that
are compatible and sustainable
with the environment**



**Support local
business community**

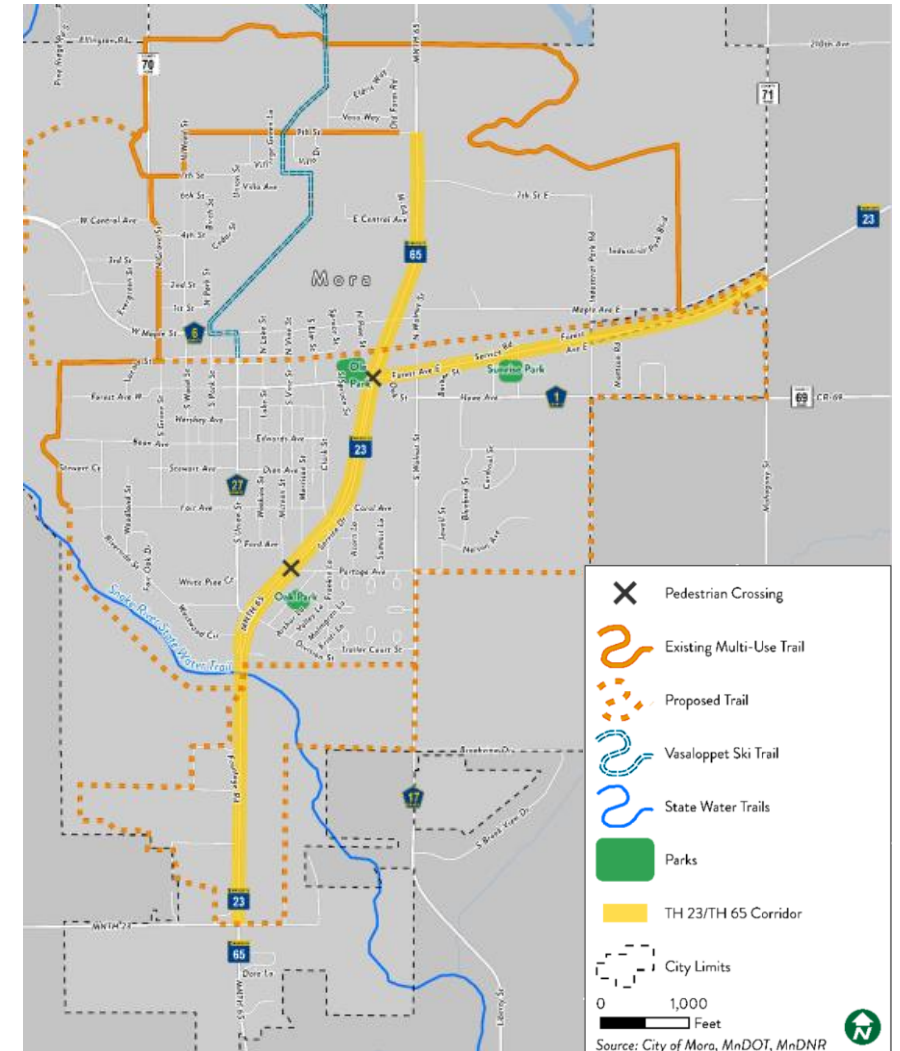
Existing Conditions Overview

- Traffic Operations
 - Existing Conditions Traffic Delays (Mainline | Sidestreet)
 - Normal versus Summer Peak Conditions
 - Future Land Use/Area Development
- Freight Traffic – A regional Junction
 - Hwy 23 is designated as an interregional heavy truck corridor, providing a key connection between Central Minnesota and the Ports of Duluth and Superior.
 - Hwy 65 is a major route from industrial centers in the Twin Cities to Central Minnesota.
 - Hwy 65 and Hwy 23 carry 1,800 heavy trucks per day. 4/5 trucks do not stop in Mora.



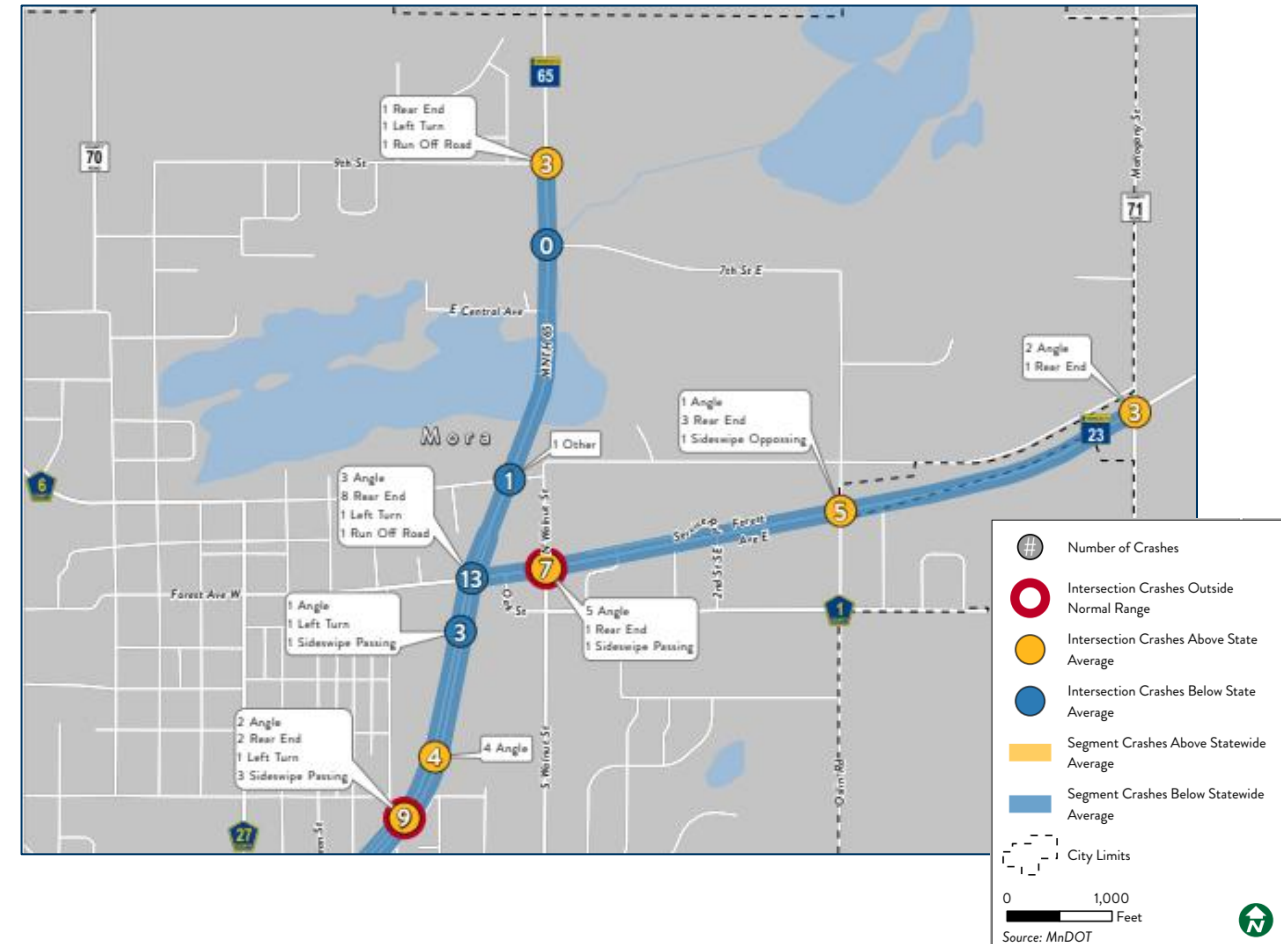
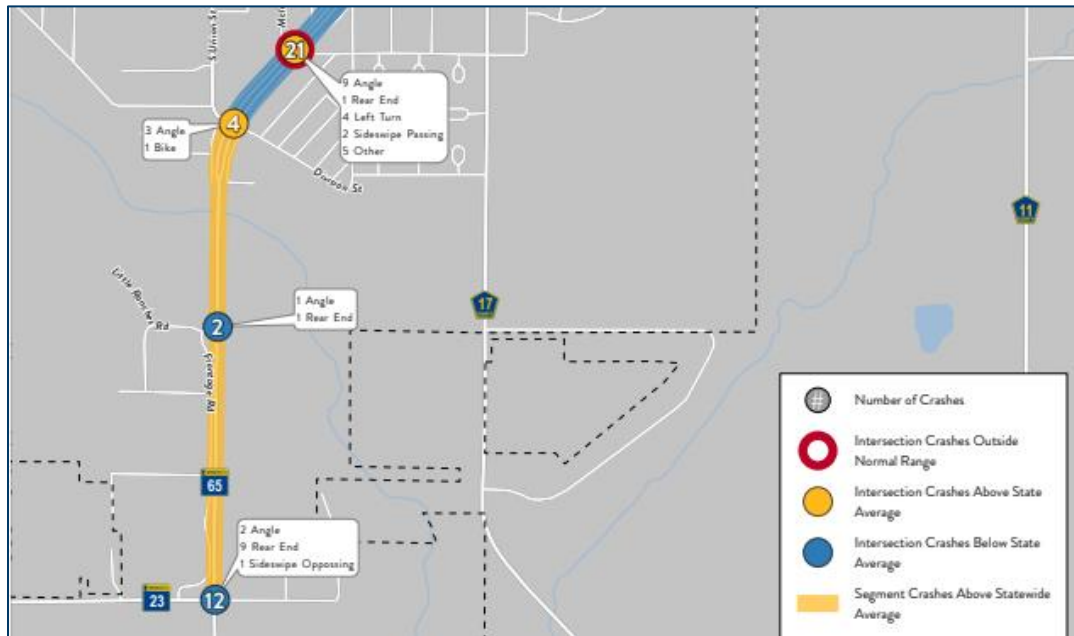
Existing Conditions Overview

- Non-Motorized Travel
 - Existing Trail/Sidewalk Network
 - Needed Connections and Crossings
 - Pedestrian/Bicyclist Safety
- Access Management
 - Planning and control of the location, spacing, design, and operation of driveways, median openings, and street connections to a roadway.
 - Designates where and how vehicles access and exit a roadway.
 - Helps protect public investment in roadways by reserving mobility, reducing delay, minimizing crashes, and reducing conflict points



Existing Conditions Overview

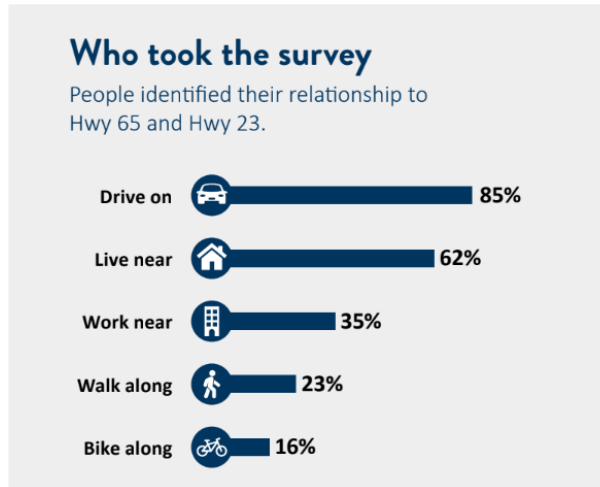
- Traffic Safety
 - Crash History and Trends
 - Vehicle Speeds



Existing Conditions Engagement Summary

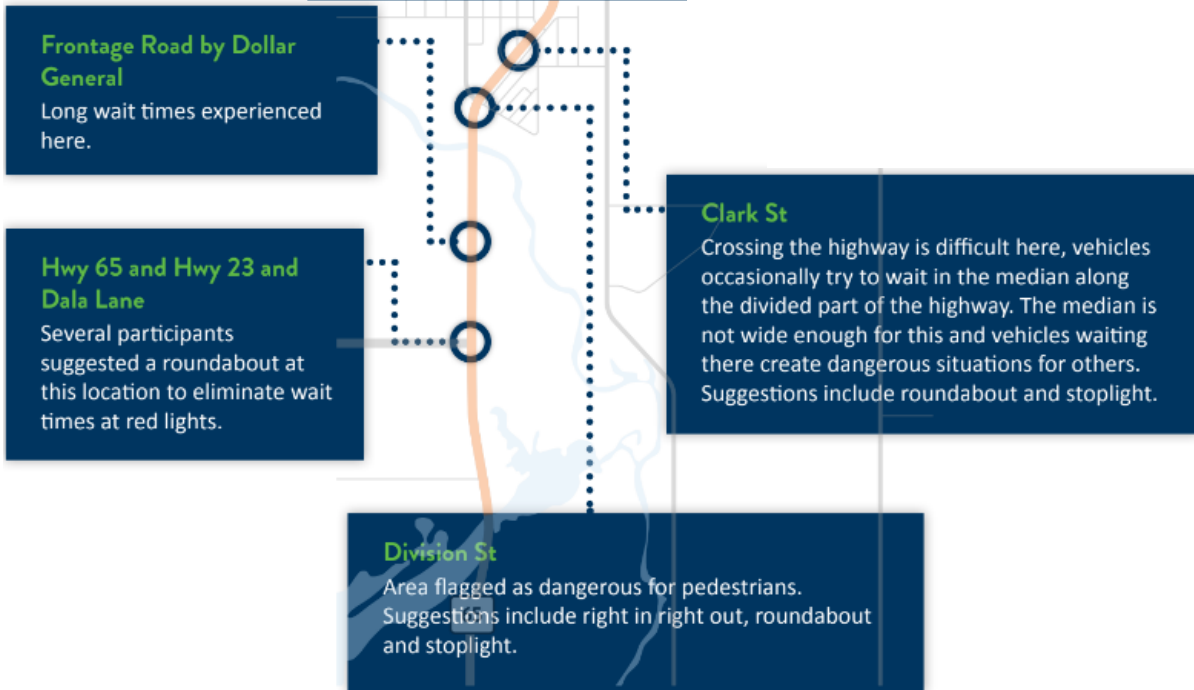
- Mailed Postcard (2,150+ residents and businesses)
- Business and Neighborhood Associates (139 notified)
- 2 Focus Group Meetings (30+ attendees)
- Targeted Stakeholder Interviews (3 meetings)

Meet & Greet #1
(March 30, 2023)

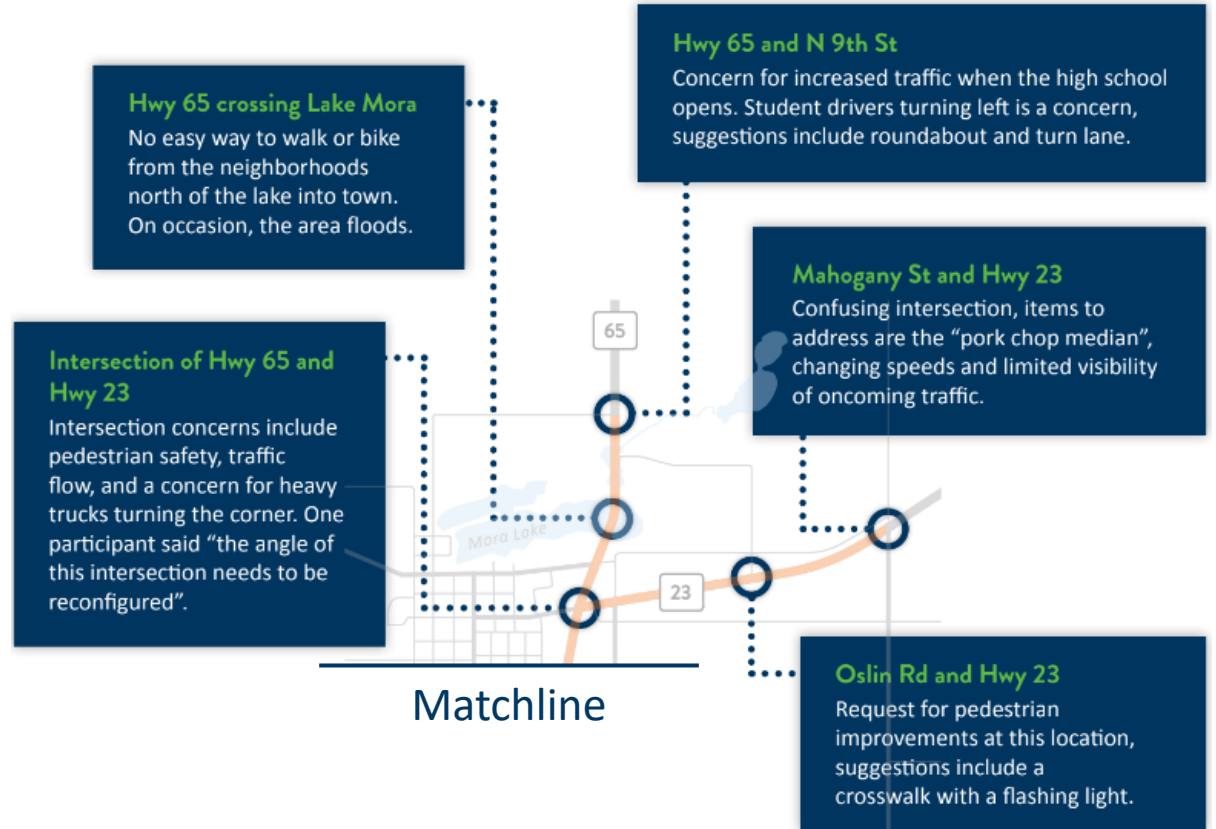


Existing Conditions Engagement Summary

Matchline



Matchline

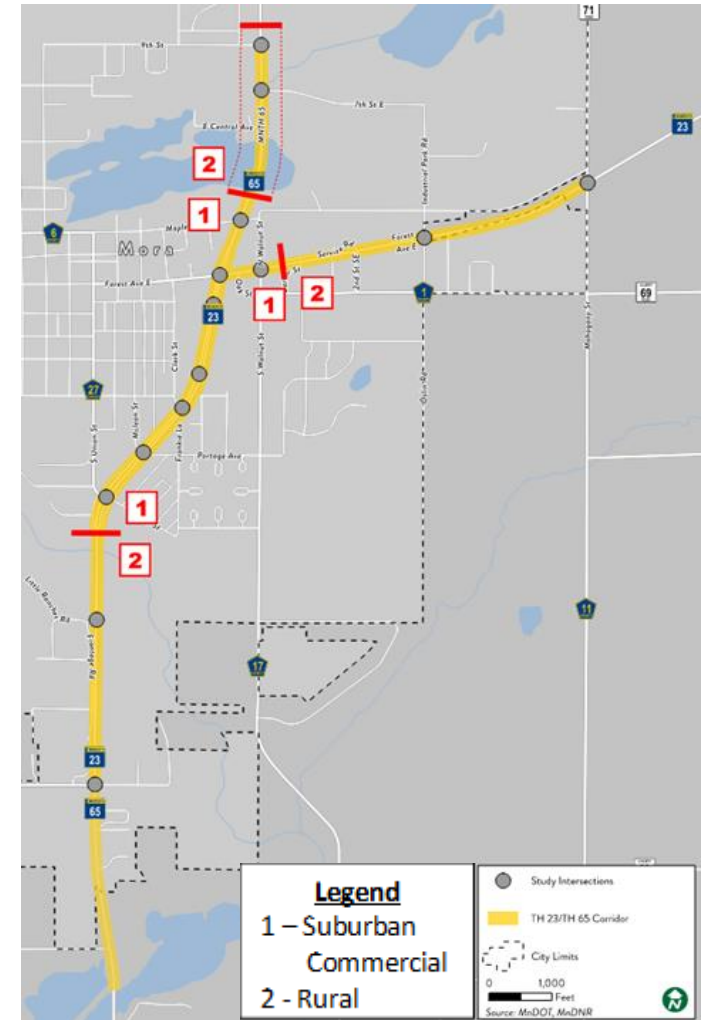


Project Goals and Objectives

Project Goals:

- Provide efficient and reliable vehicle mobility
- Safely accommodate all system users
- Provide a comprehensive transportation network that supports existing and future land development
- Provide infrastructure improvements compatible with the environment
- Develop a financially responsible implementation plan
- Develop an equitable improvement for all corridor users

**Project team to ensure compatibility with partner goals*



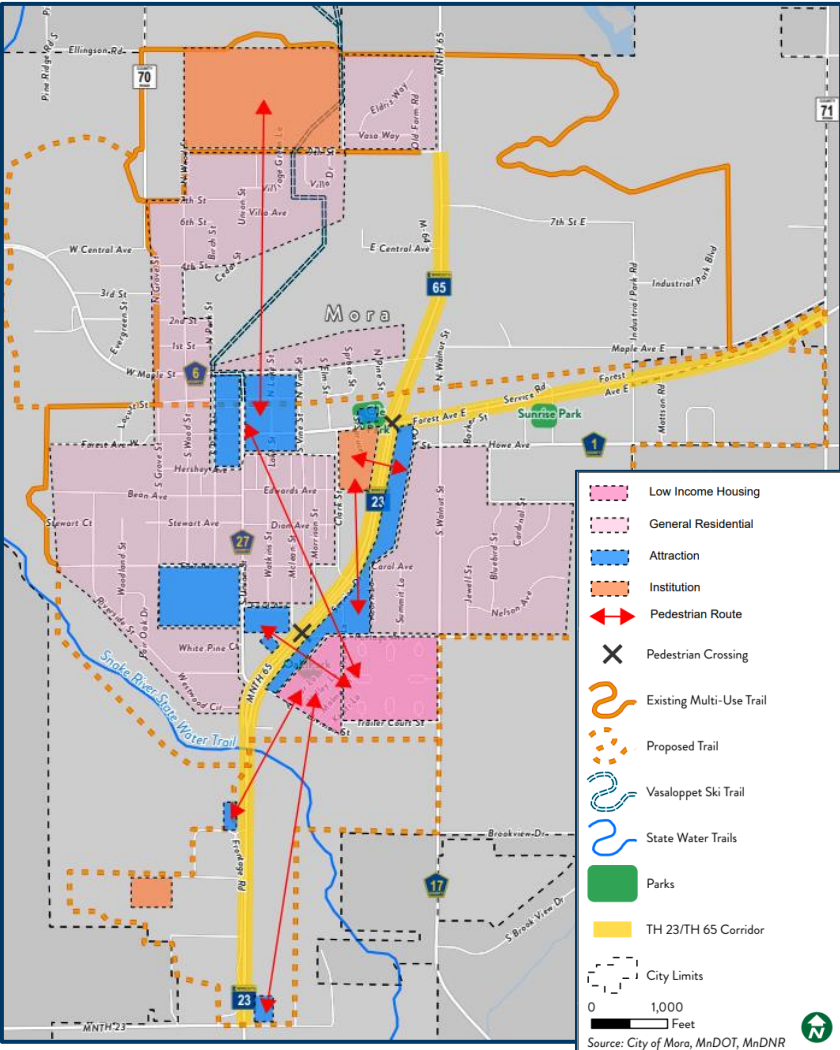
Concept Development: Pedestrian/Bicycle

Project Objectives:

- Accommodate safe pedestrian and bicycle travel at Hwy 23 and Hwy 65 and Forest Avenue Intersection
- Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle travel along and across roadways, to area schools, and to regional destinations.

Study Activities:

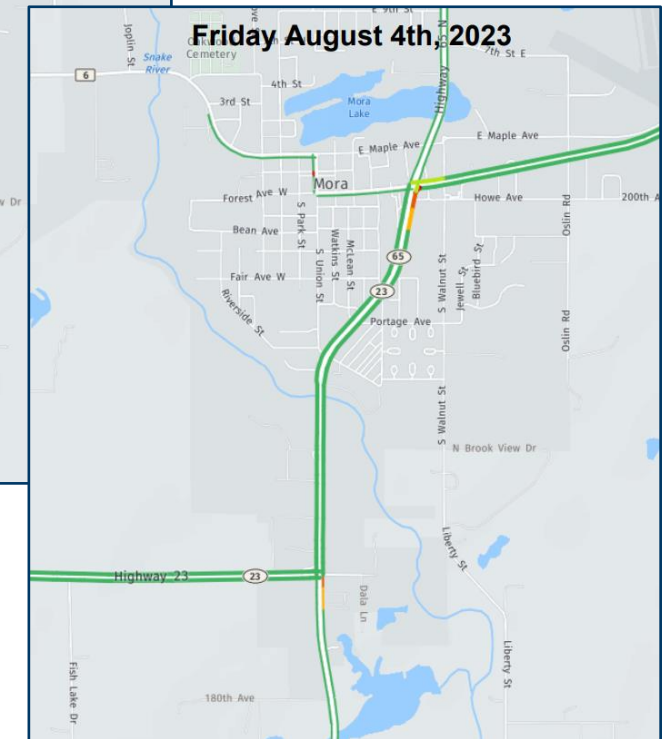
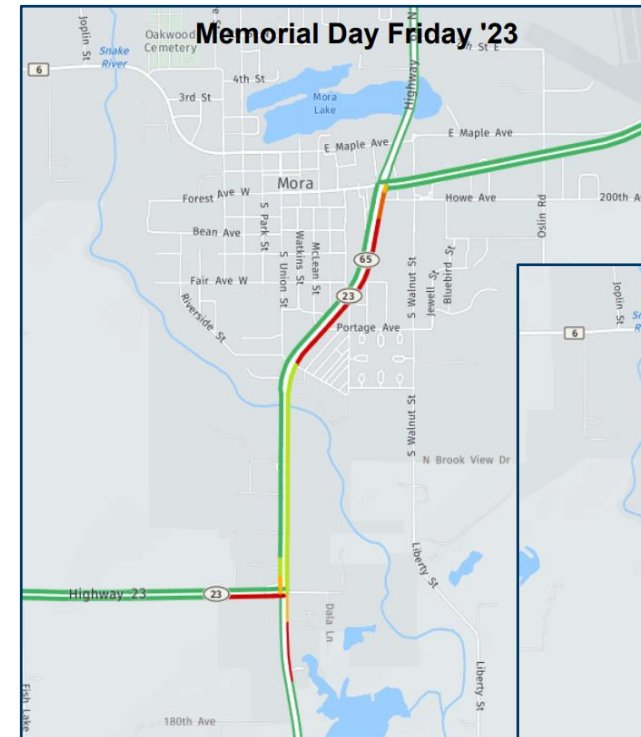
- Review pedestrian generators and receptors
- Assess existing pedestrian/bicycle facilities
- Align proposed sidewalks, trails, and crossing locations with areas of need.



Concept Development: Traffic Mobility

Study Activities:

- Identify AM, PM, and Recreation Peak hours
 - Summer peak based on average non-holiday summer Friday traffic volumes
- Traffic operations calibrate based on stakeholder feedback, public comment, GPS speed and volume data



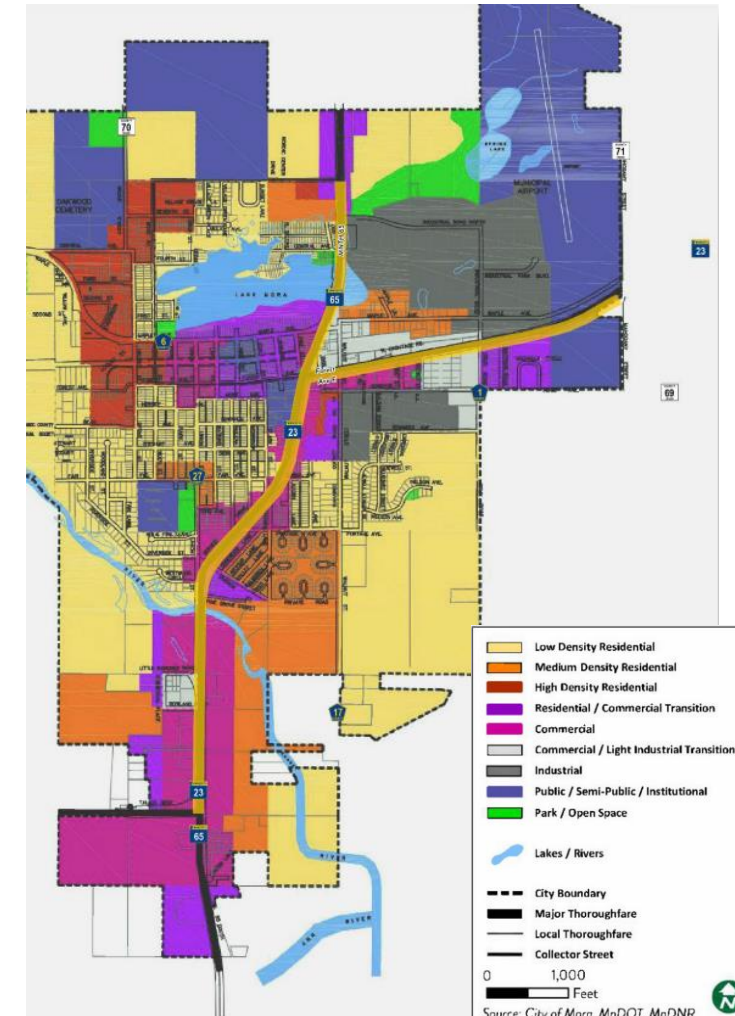
Concept Development: Traffic Mobility

Study Activities (continued):

- Forecast traffic growth to 2030 (project build year), and 2045 volumes
 - Accounts for regional growth, local development as informed by City staff
- Model no build and build alternatives to assess trunk highway and local road delays

A 2-lane corridor is recommended through
Downtown Mora.

(Access management, traffic control, turn lanes, frontage/backage roads, etc. needed to improve safety and mobility)



Concept Development Elements

Let's revisit the key elements to developing a corridor improvement that will support and enhance the City of Mora for all those traveling within and through the 23/65 Corridor for years to come:



Concept Development Elements

Complex Subarea Review

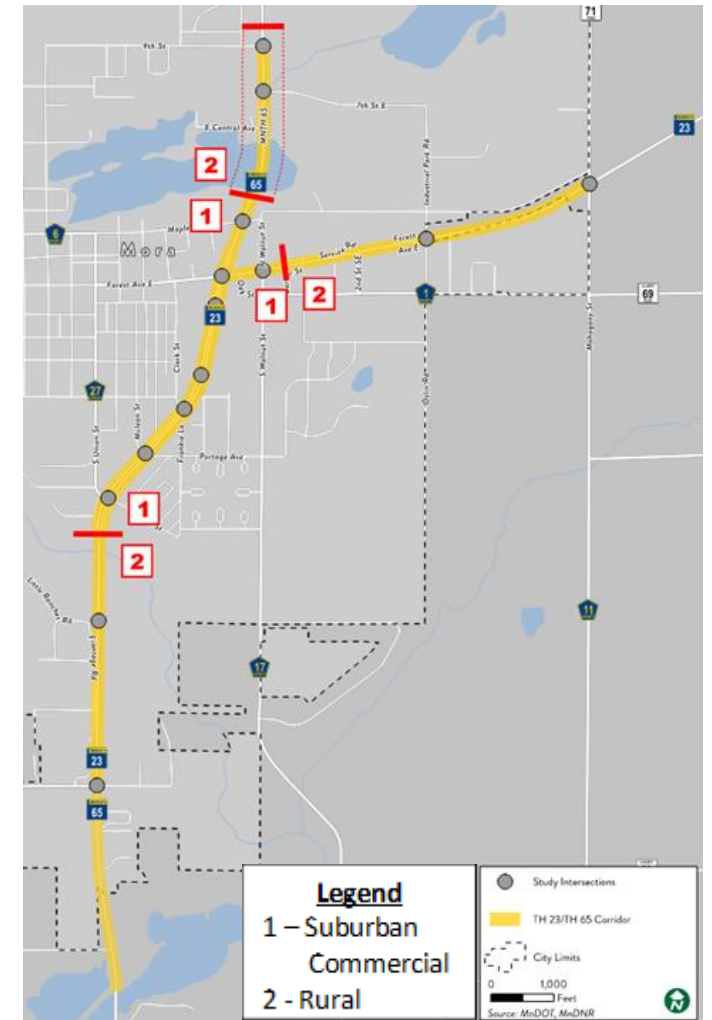
- TH 23/65 from Snake River Bridge to Mora Lake

Intersection Review

- TH 23 at 23/65 at Dala Lane
- TH 23 at Mahogany St (CSAH 71)
- TH 65 at 9th Street

Access Management/Typical Section Review

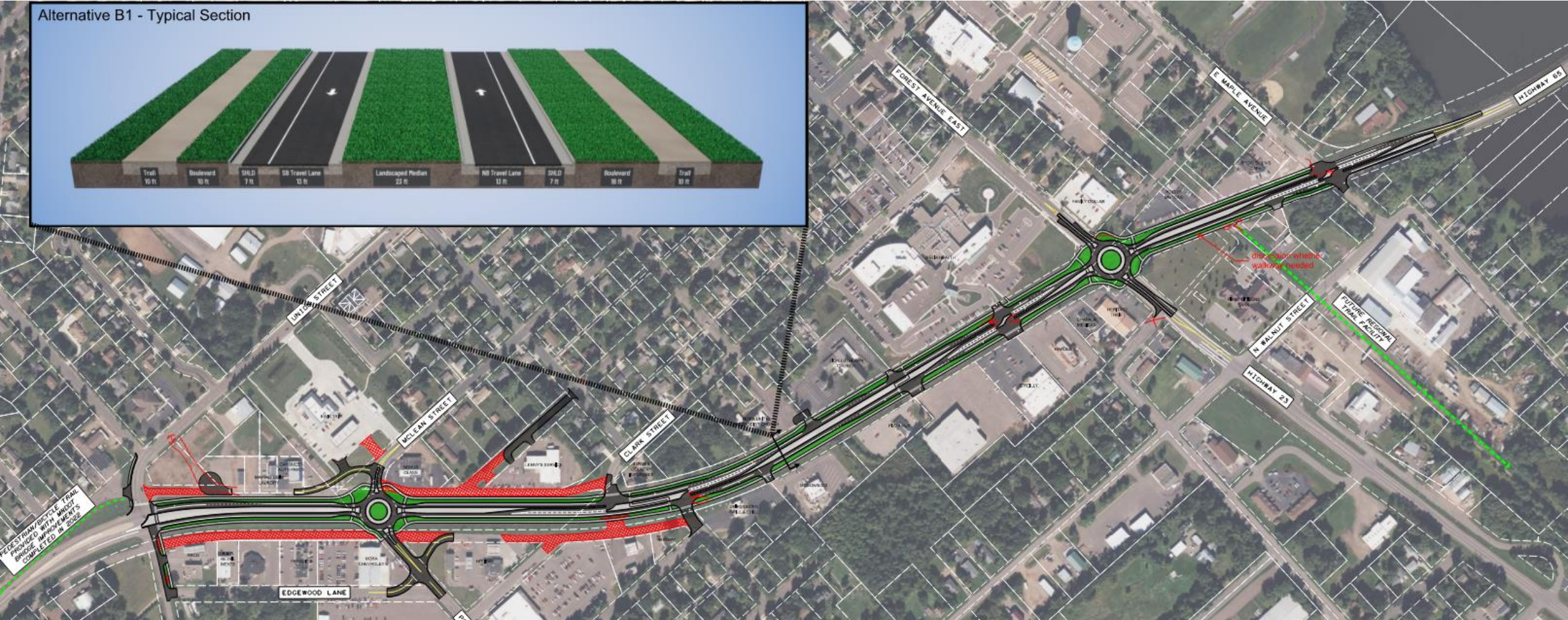
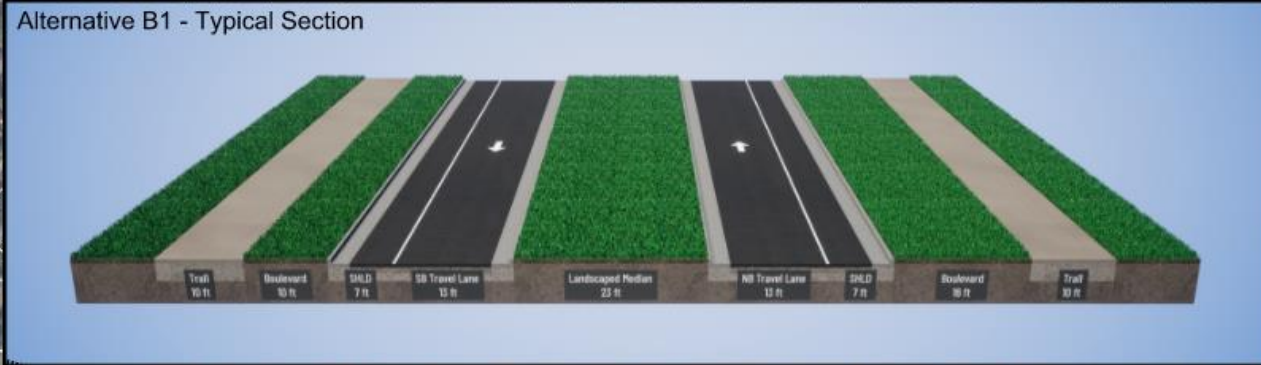
- TH 65 from Maple Avenue to 9th Street
- TH 23 from Walnut Street to Mahogany St (CSAH 71)
- TH 23/65 to Snake River Bridge



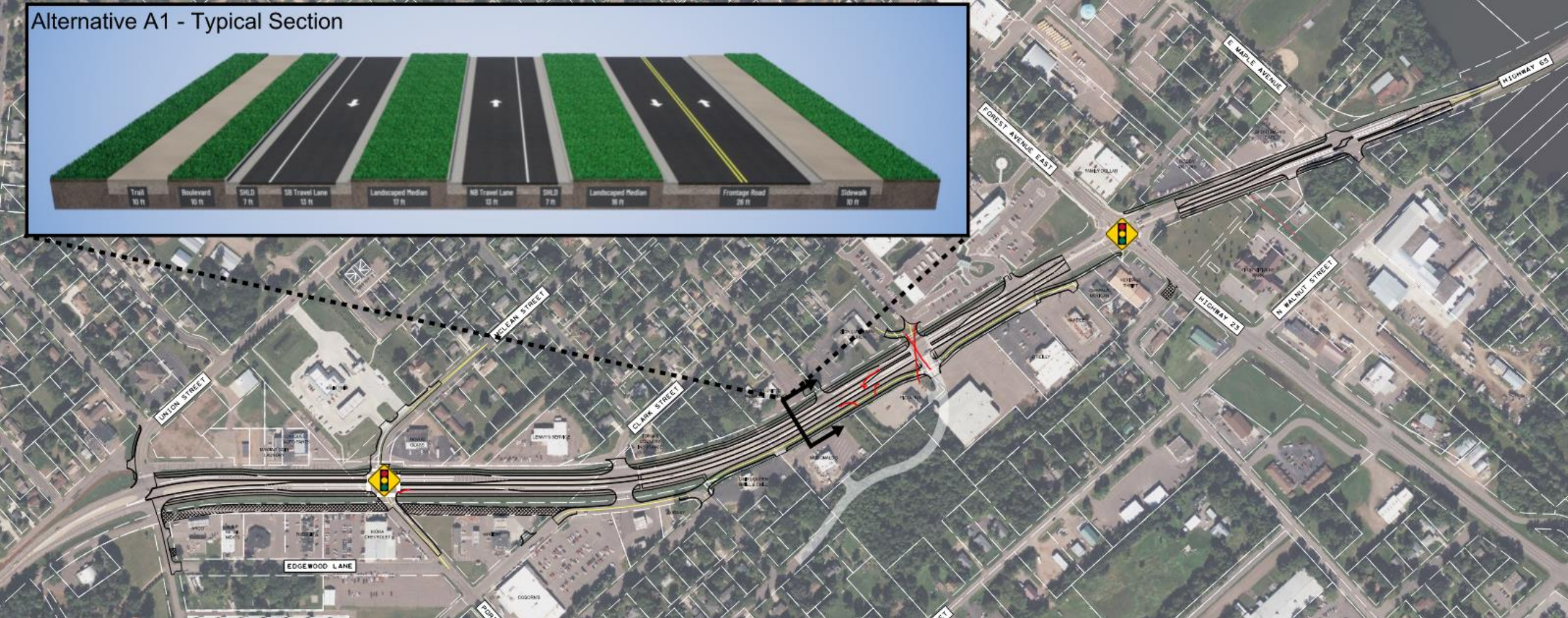
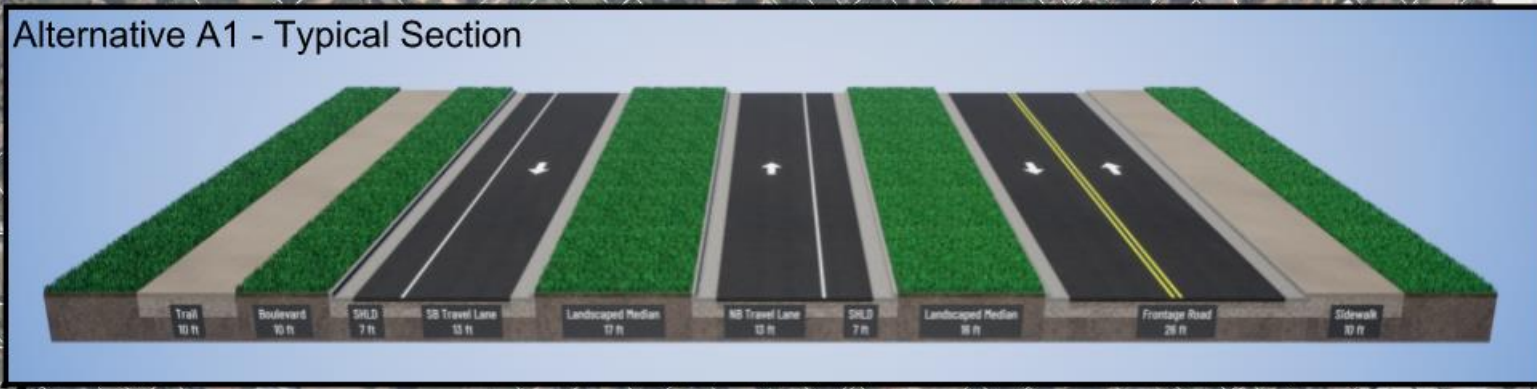
Subarea Review: TH 23/65 from Snake River Bridge to Mora Lake



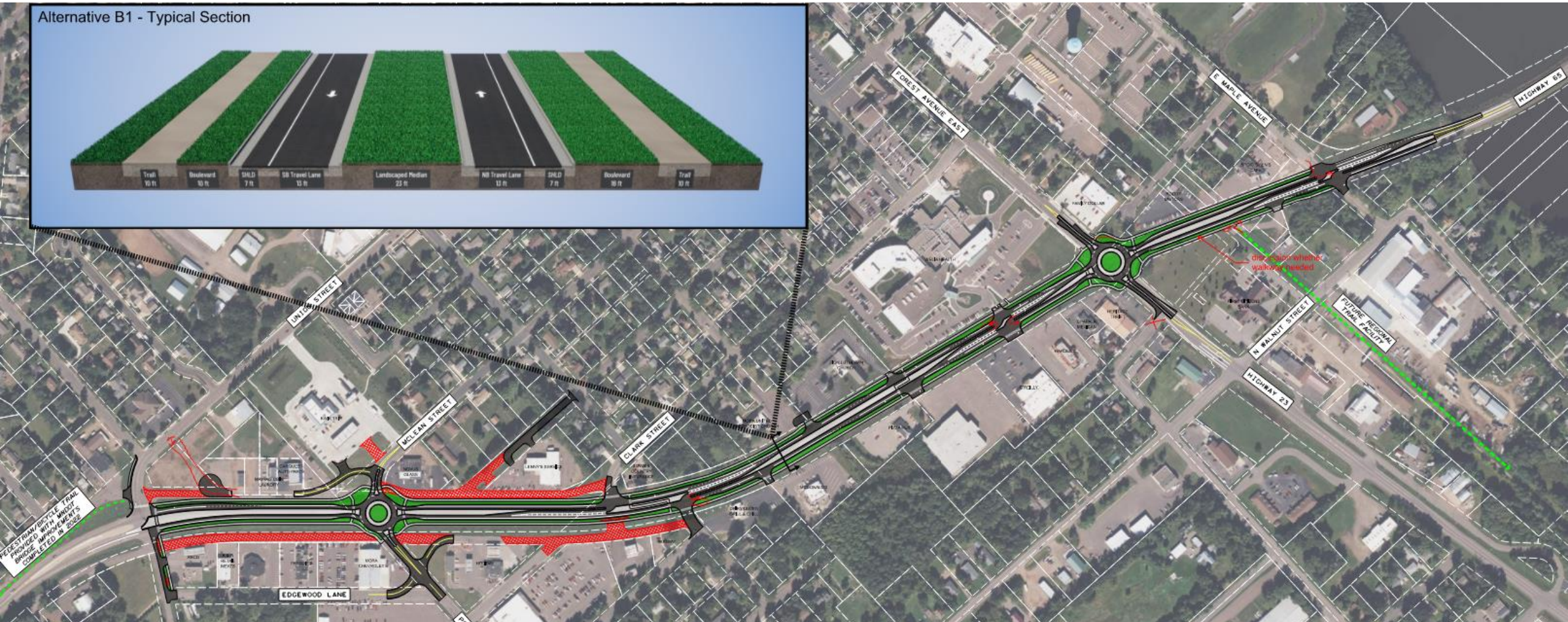
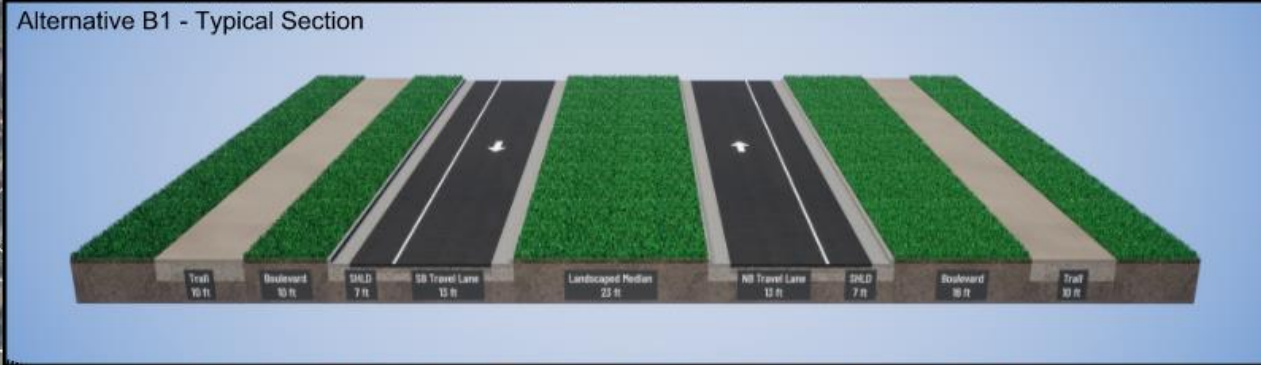
Subarea Review: TH 23/65 from Snake River Bridge to Mora Lake



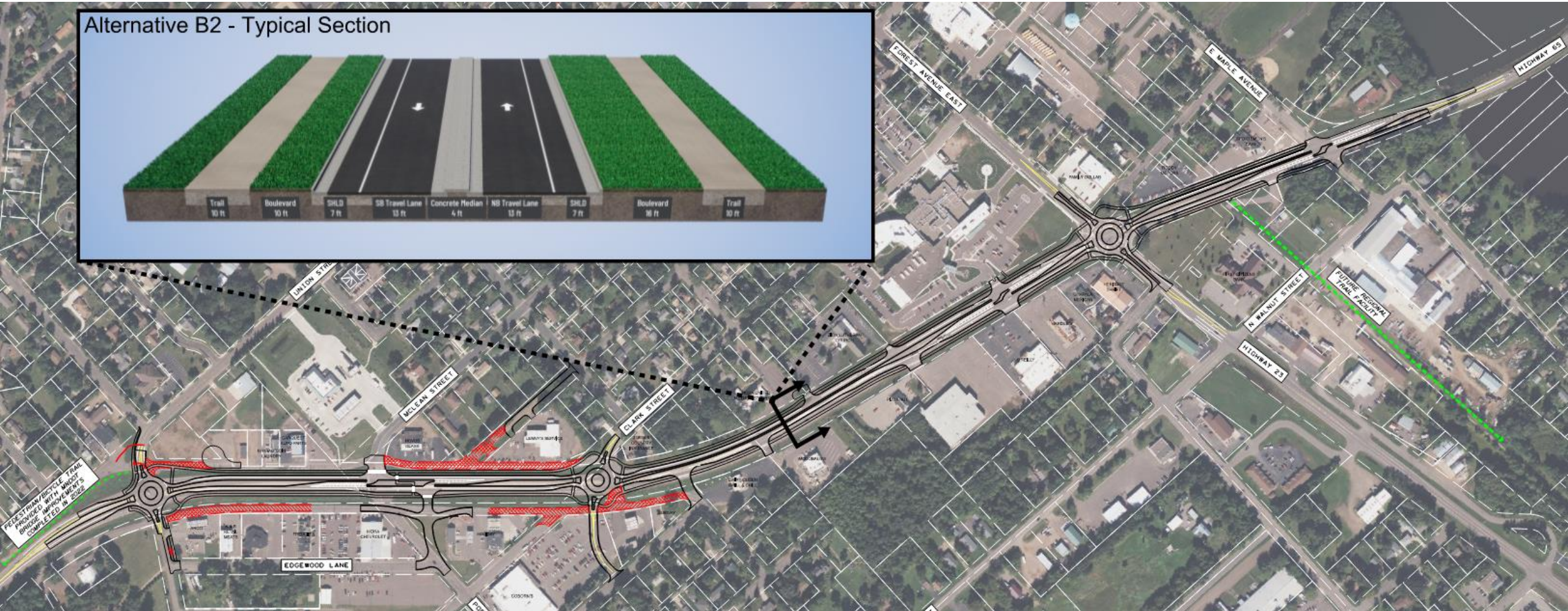
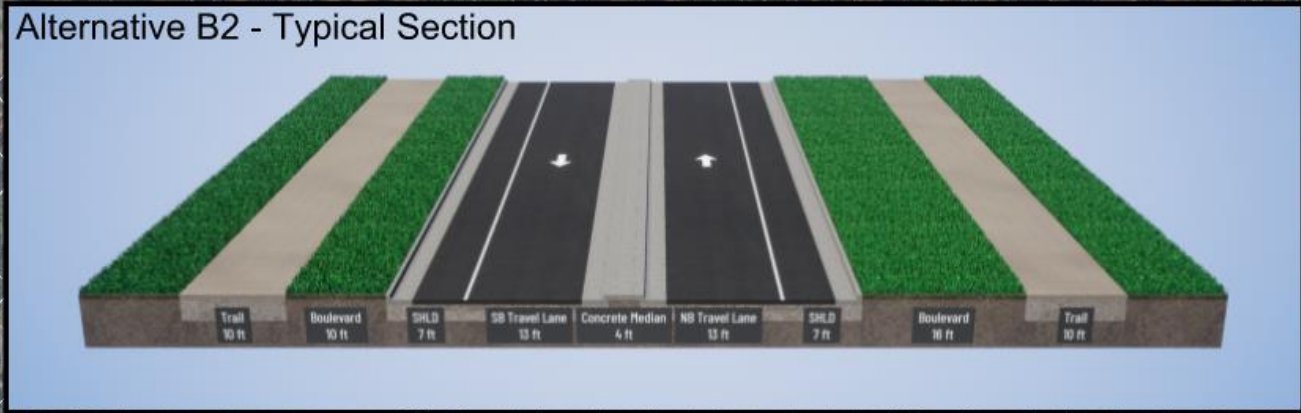
Subarea Review: Traffic Signal Corridor (A1)



Subarea Review: Roundabout Corridor (B1)



Subarea Review: Roundabout Corridor (B2)



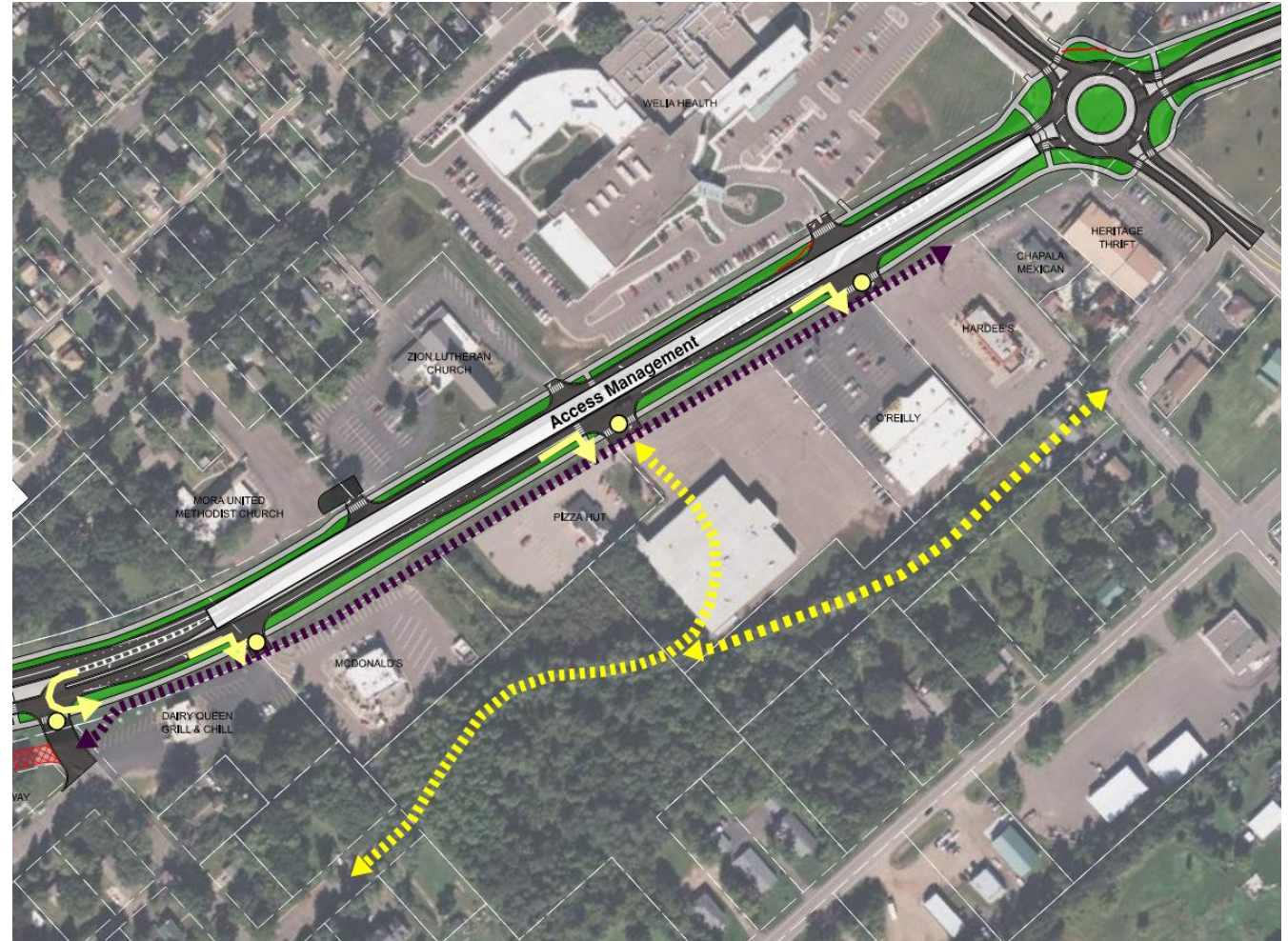
Subarea Review: Clark Street to Forest Avenue

Options Under Review

- Mainline Turn Lanes
- Frontage Road
- Backage Roads

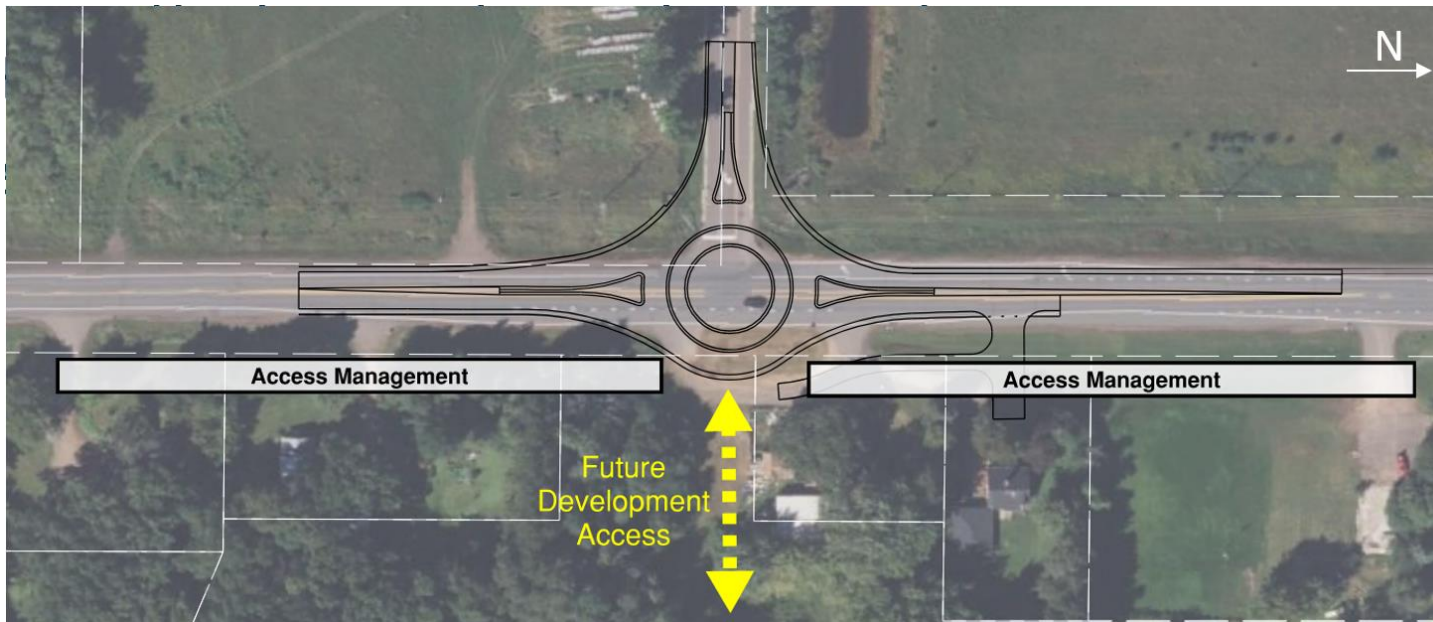
Area Considerations

- Highway Access Management
 - Traffic Flow and Safety
- Peak vs. Off-Peak Accessibility
- Business Access Needs
- Welia Health Access Needs
- MnDOT/City Project Costs
- Right-of-way Impacts



Greater Corridor Concept Development

- Hwy 65 at N 9th Street
 - Intersection Considerations
 - Planned/Possible Improvements
 - 2023 Turn Lane Improvements
 - Opportunity Project - Roundabout



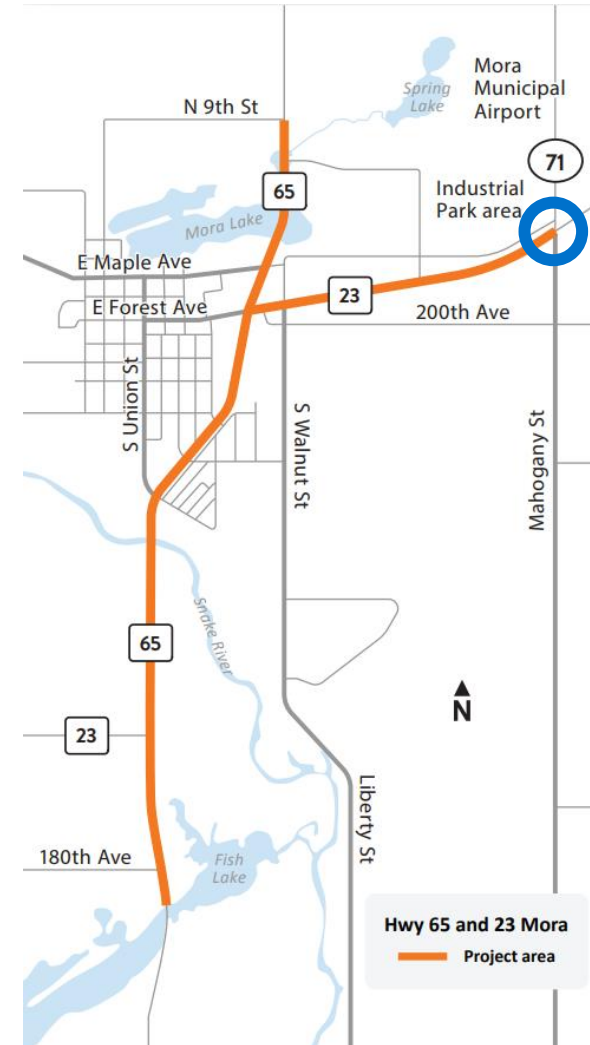
Greater Corridor Concept Development

- Hwy 23 at Mahogany Street (County Road 71)
 - Intersection Considerations
 - Planned/Possible Improvements

- Intersection Re-alignment



- Roundabout Alternative



Greater Corridor Concept Development

- Hwy 23 at Hwy 23/Hwy 65/Dala Lane
 - Intersection Considerations
 - Planned/Possible Improvements
 - Access Management (Frontage roads, development needs, etc.)
 - Opportunity Project - Roundabout

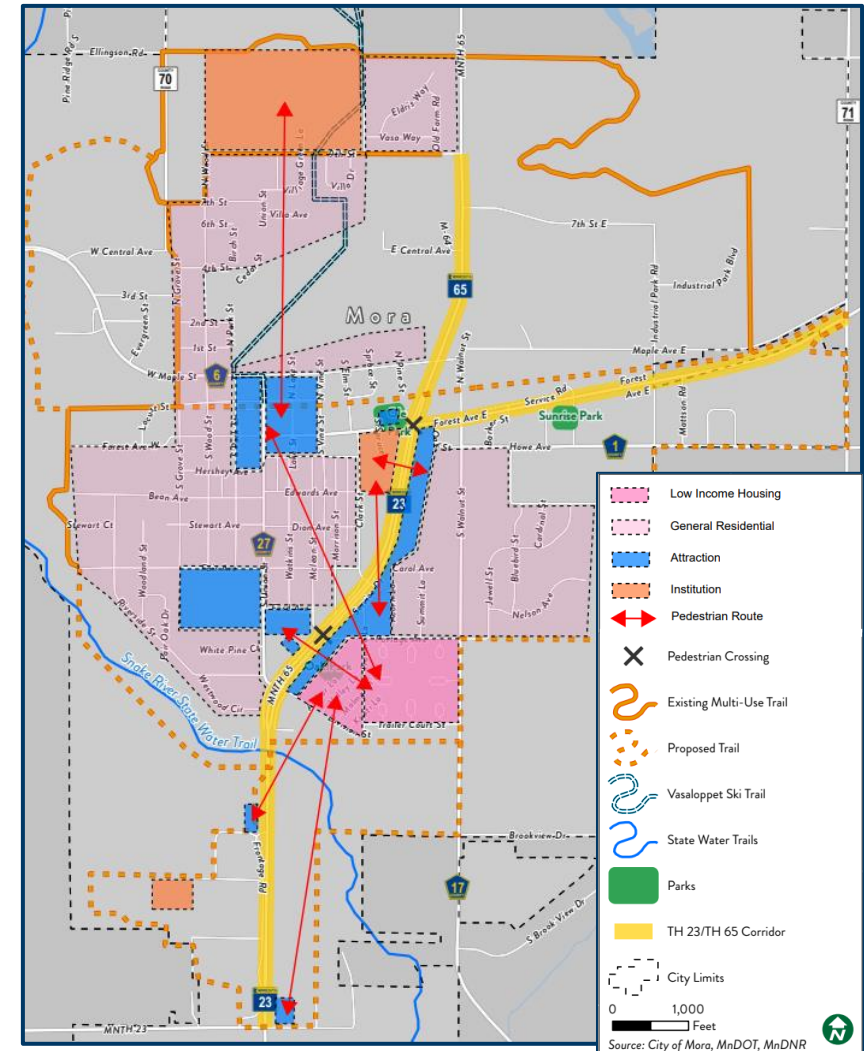
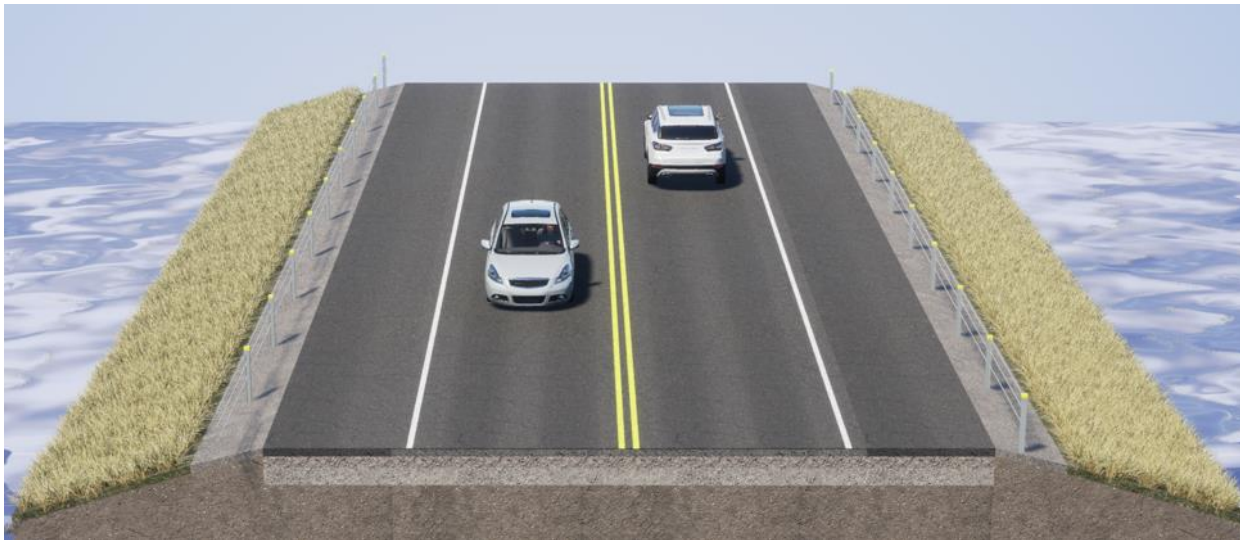


Area Overview

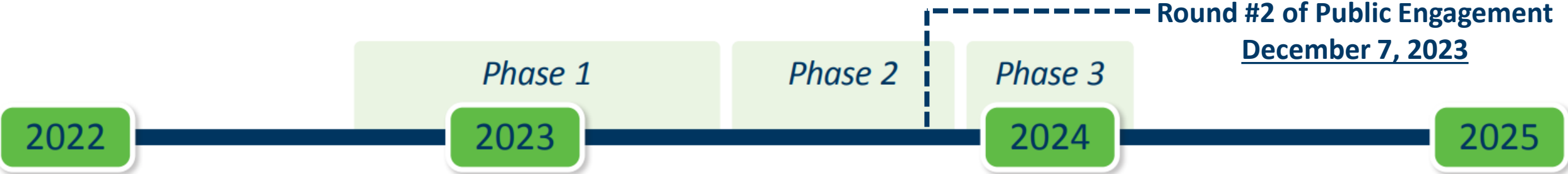


Greater Corridor Concept Development

- N 9th Street to E Maple Avenue Pedestrian Accommodations
 - Study Area Considerations



Study Timeline



Phase 1: Corridor study introduction

October 2022 - March 2023

Introduce the study, develop project goals, learn more about the current conditions/issues and ask for feedback.

Phase 2: Develop, evaluate, and establish a recommended design alternative

April - November 2023

Share design alternatives, ask for feedback, and provide recommendations.

Phase 3: Develop and share Implementation Plan and Study Report

November 2023 - January 2024

The final report will provide the framework to seek funding and municipal support for improvements to the Hwy 65 and Hwy 23 corridors, including the planned 2030 reconstruction project.

Overall Project Schedule

Winter 2022 → Winter/Spring 2024:
Mora Hwy 65 and Hwy 23 Corridor
Study

What's Next?

Complete Project Scoping Document →

Complete Data Collection and Environmental Work →

Complete Preliminary Design →

MnDOT Requests Municipal Consent From City of Mora →

Final Design of Hwy 23 and Hwy 65 and Right-of-Way Acquisition →

Project Advertising, Letting, and Construction →

Construction is currently planned for 2030

Questions/Comments?

talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-65-23-mora-corridor-study