



GREATER HELENA MPO | TPCC

November 10, 2025

Zoom Online Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7867151323?omn=81628514240>  
(City/County Building Room 226)

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment on the Agenda / General Public Comment

- A. Comment in person.
- B. Comment online.

**1. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Time allotted</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Transportation Plan Project Update	Kerry Lynch (RPA)	1:00 – 1:15

**2. ACTION ITEMS**

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Time allotted</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transportation Alternative (TA) Funds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The committee will consider approving the proposal to allocate Transportation Alternative Funds, as recommended by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Supporting Documents<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Transportation Alternative Memorandum</li><li>▪ Transportation Scoring Summary</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	Ty Weingartner (MPO) Manager	1:15 – 1:45

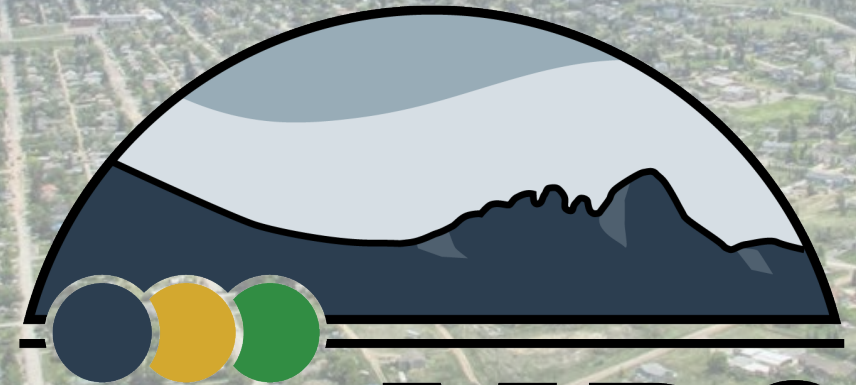
**Member Communications and Discussion Topics**

**Adjournment**

It is the policy of the Greater Helena MPO to take public comment on any action item. For further information on any of the items mentioned above, please contact the MPO Manager at 447-8406 or [tweingartner@helenamt.gov](mailto:tweingartner@helenamt.gov).

The MPO is committed to providing access to persons with disabilities for its meetings, in compliance

with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Montana Human Rights Act. The MPO will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them the City's services, programs, or activities. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the MPO's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Anne Pichette, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following: Phone: (406) 447- 8490 TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711 Email: [citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov](mailto:citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov) Mailing Address & Physical Location: 316 North Park Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.



Greater  
**Helena** **MPO**

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**TPCC Meeting**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

# Agenda



Public & Stakeholder Outreach



Existing Conditions



Safety



Schedule & Next Steps





# Public & Stakeholder Outreach

**Needs Assessment**



# Public Outreach – Needs Assessment

- **Purpose**

- Gather **broad community input** about the future of the transportation system.
- Understand community **values, travel behaviors, and priorities**.
- Focus on **long-term aspirations** rather than specific problem-solving.



Virtual Open House (30 days)



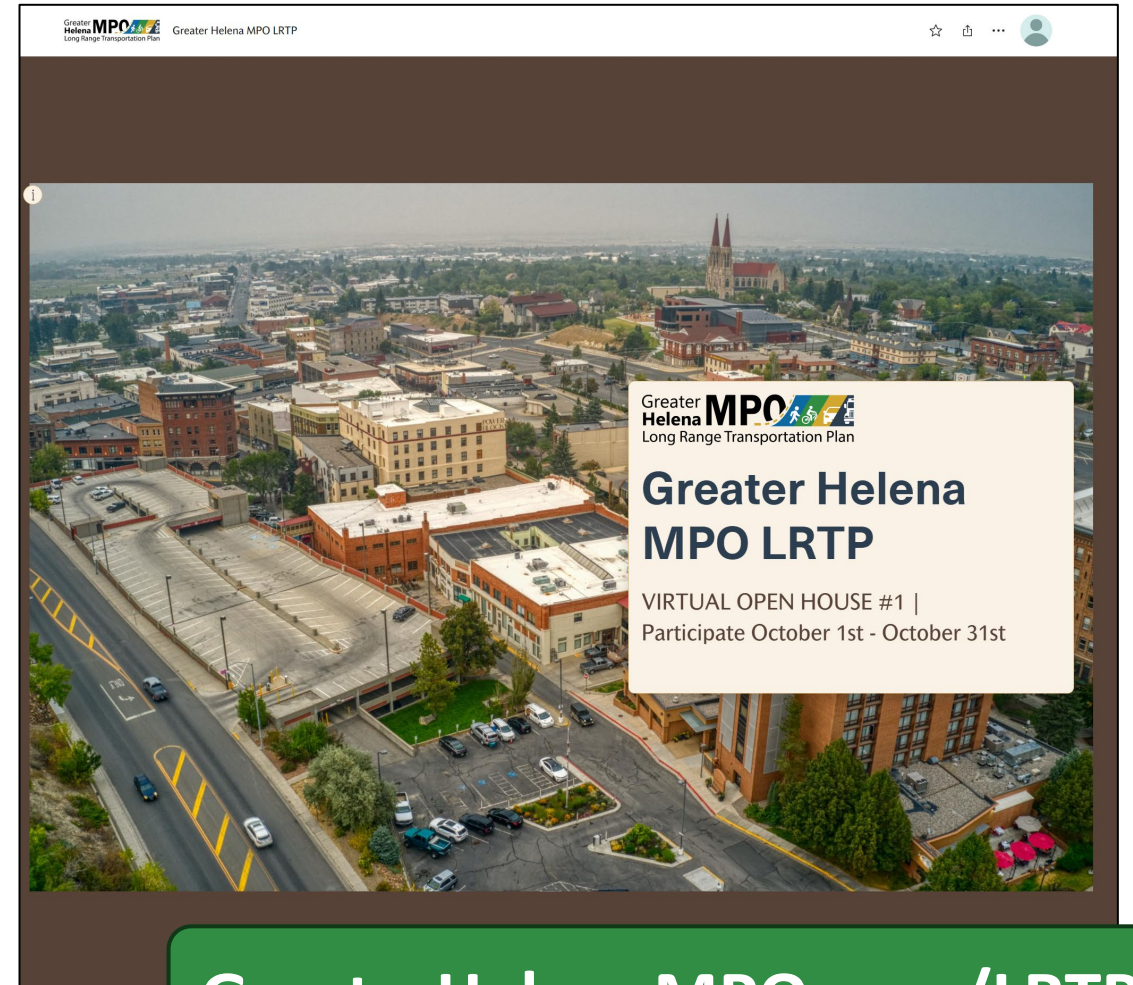
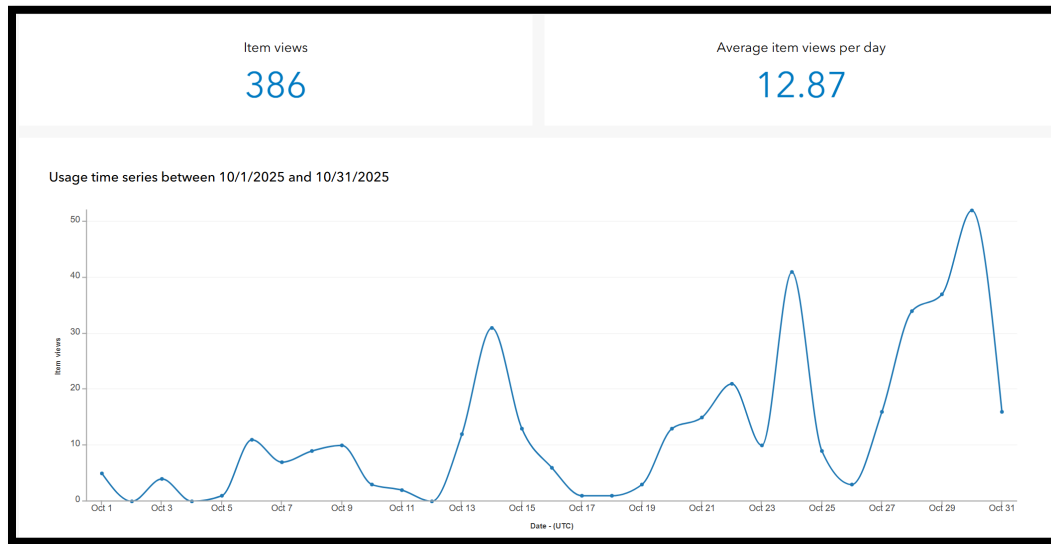
In-Person Open Houses (2)



Stakeholder Meetings (2 days)

# Virtual Open House

- **Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>
- **What's Included:**
  - Overview Video
  - Background information
  - Survey
  - Commenting Map



[GreaterHelenaMPO.com/LRTP](https://GreaterHelenaMPO.com/LRTP)

# Virtual Open House

## Greater Helena MPO LRTP Survey

### WELCOME!

We want to hear from you! Your input will help shape the future of transportation in the Greater Helena Area.

**A lot can change in 20 years—now is your chance to be part of the vision.**

- This survey takes just **5-10 minutes**, and your feedback will guide planning for roads, transit, biking, and walking improvements across the region.
- **Your responses are anonymous.** No identifying information is required, and individual answers will not be reported.
- **Survey deadline:** October 31, 2025.
- Please be sure to complete the survey and click **SUBMIT** at the end to record your responses.

For more information about the **Greater Helena MPO Long Range Transportation Plan**, visit the project website [www.greaterhelenampo.com/LRTP](http://www.greaterhelenampo.com/LRTP) to explore background materials and learn about other opportunities to share your ideas.

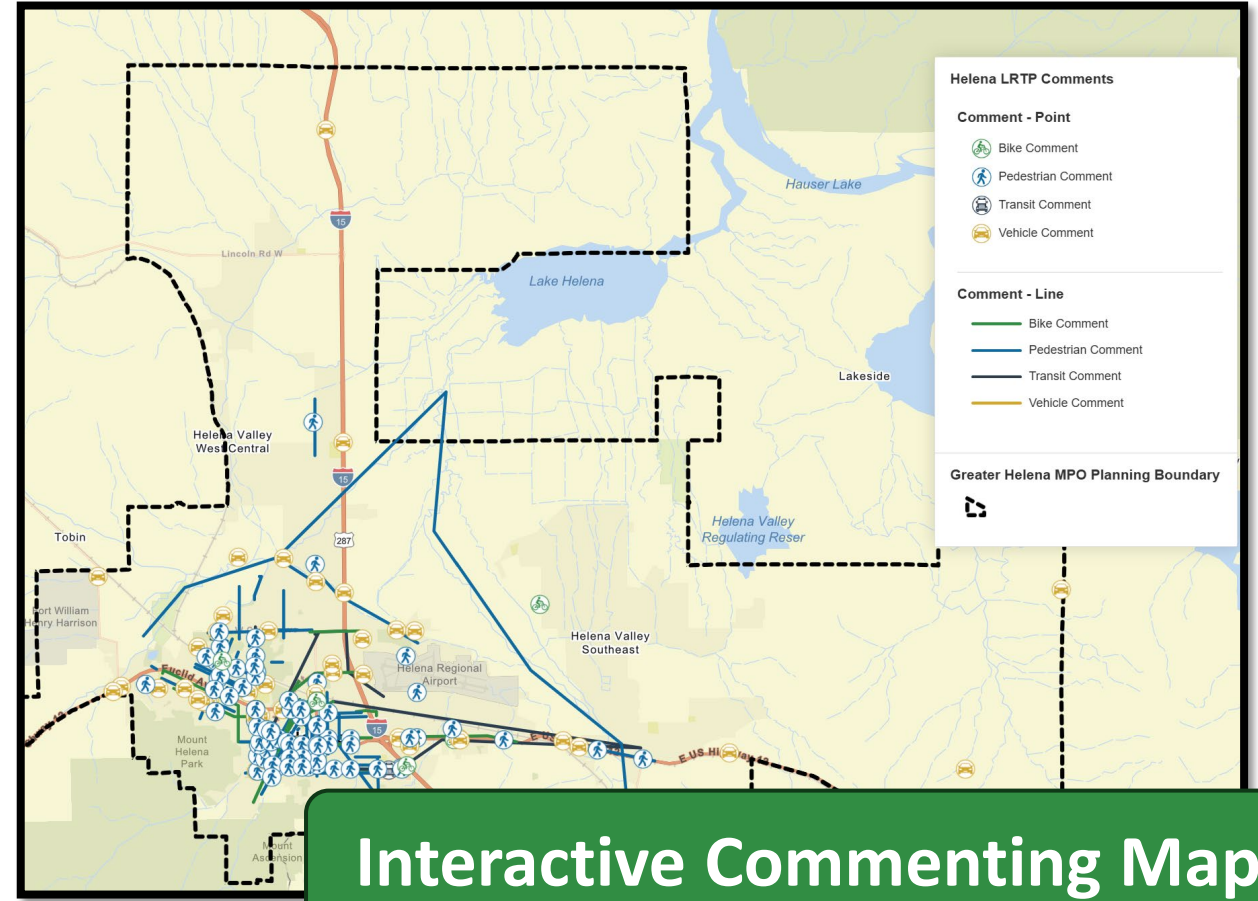
Thank you for helping plan the future of transportation in our community!

Next

Page 1 of 7

Survey

103 Responses



224 Individual Comments  
12 Replies to Comments 39 Likes/Dislikes



# In-Person Open Houses



- **What was included:**

- Interactive visioning activities
- Comment map/roll plot for spatial feedback
- Exhibits with LRTP overview information

## Helena

Helena Civic Center Ballroom (340 Neill Avenue)  
**Tuesday, October 21st, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**51** Participants

## East Helena

Fireman's Recreation Hall (2 E. Pacific Street)  
**Wednesday, October 22nd, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

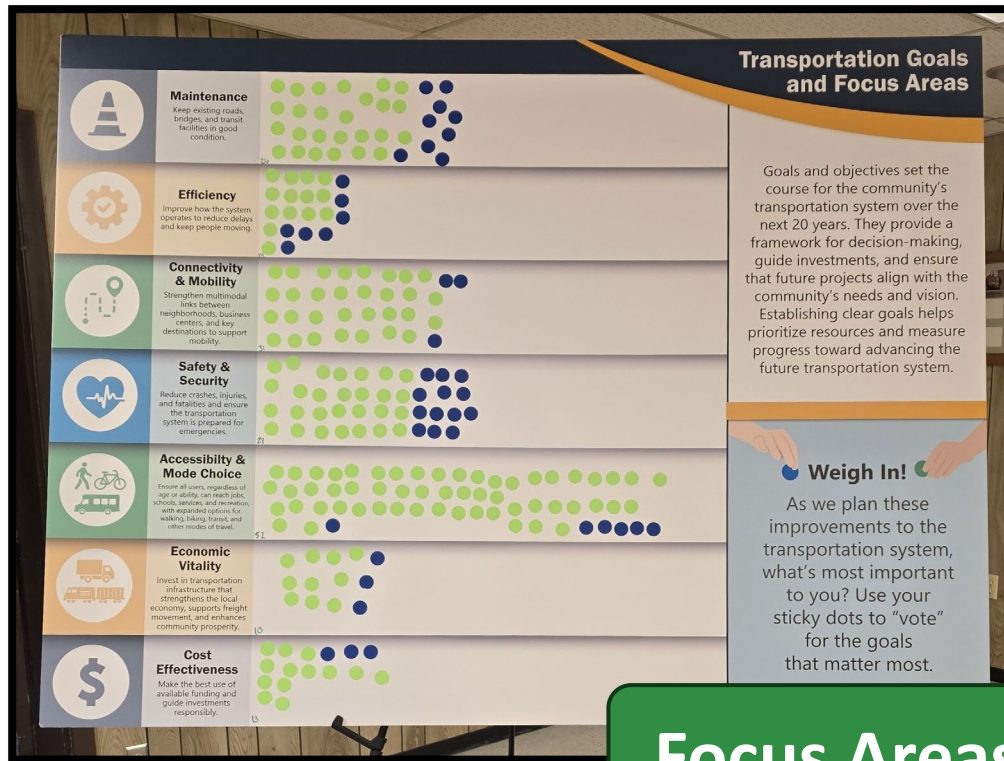
**12** Participants

# In-Person Open Houses

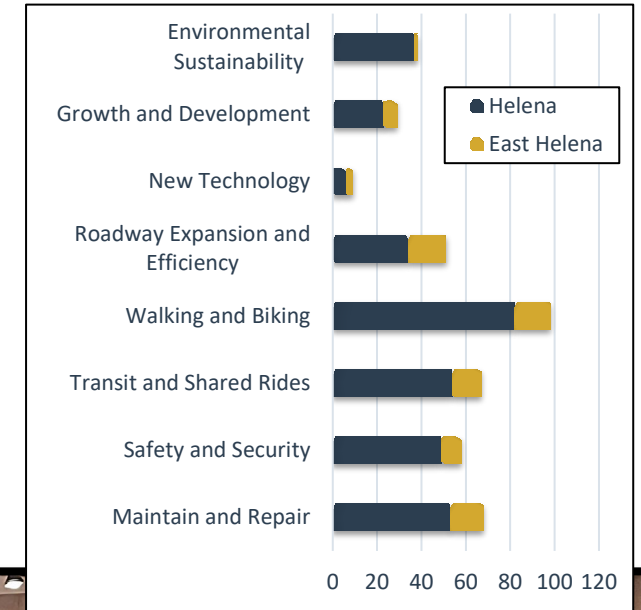
## Photo Booth



## Focus Areas



## Value Spending





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# VISIONING THE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Help us imagine what the **Greater Helena** area's **transportation system** should look like **20 years** from now. Think about your daily life, your community, and how you want to move around in the future.

**What do you see?**

- 1** Safer streets with fewer crashes?
- 2** New technologies like electric vehicles or self-driving cars?
- 3** Diverse travel options (walking, biking, transit, driving, mobility hubs, or even passenger rail)?
- 4** Systems that support jobs, schools, healthcare, and recreation?
- 5** Easier and faster ways to get around?
- 6** Transportation Networks that improve quality of life for everyone?

**Network of shared-use paths & bike lanes that is not on arterial or major collector**

**Train bridge or underpass**

**Bus system that doesn't require a cell phone to access**

**Bus Routes, Bus System accessible to all that doesn't have wheelchair ramps, sunshades, bicycle racks, etc.**

**Non-motorized community traveling by or by bike - safe connections!**

**Connected pedestrian and bicycle routes**  
Connect sidewalk islands  
Remove blocking bottlenecks.  
Ditto:  
Treating bikes & walking as transportation ~~not~~ recreation

**A bus system that works for everyone's needs.** (e.g. expanded hours)

**Mass transit (bus + you) to airport is needed.**

**Fixed bus routes offering more options to more ppl.**

**Please consult with Helena United Cycling regarding bike routes & better needs.**  
Represent Transit, gravel & mm bikers around town & can provide input on what cyclists need to get to the on for town - engineering of plans.  
In 20 years (2045), I'd like to see a more livable city & can see community which has grown by building thoughtful denser neighborhoods with and supporting a strong local economy & our beautiful trails & park system. Encourages walkable bike practices (not too, thought - tolerance) and the network of green infrastructure that is a part of our community produces a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future.

**Get rid of the urban highways (freeways) and freeways that disconnect our city.**

**Amtrak rail service returns.**  
Traffic slowed by narrowing streets and providing safe (protected) bike lanes. Ditto

**Traffic flow enhanced - i.e. trains across main roads**

**ADA side walk access**  
Street lights that acknowledge light loads

**Support EV technology.**  
Support for electric bikes

**Diversity of options - walk, bike, drive, bus, fly, take a train... and inclusion of access.**  
Available to all ages, abilities, & app or on-app users.  
Ditto: for routes to connect Helena, Valley, downtown Helena

**Safety especially around schools.**  
Sidewalks & block roads at least - crosswalks

**more walkability - sidewalks better biking options around town more maintenance to the existing sidewalks & roads better biking options more crosswalks @ busy spots like leading to the civic center**

**Share your vision! Write your thoughts, draw pictures**

9

# Stakeholder Meetings

- **Date:** October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Where:** RPA office or Virtual


## 7 meetings scheduled:

- Helena Chamber of Commerce
- Montana Trucking Association
- L&C County Sheriff's Office
- Helena Regional Airport
- Big Sky Rail Authority
- East Helena Schools
- Bike Walk Montana

### Greater Helena MPO Long Range Transportation Plan

#### ✓ SELECT A SERVICE

VIRTUAL Stakeholder Meeting (30 min) ☐

Take some time to chat with a member of t... [Read more](#)  
30 minutes 

IN-PERSON Stakeholder Meeting (30 min) ☒

Take some time to chat with a member of t... [Read more](#)  
30 minutes

Booking for **IN-PERSON Stakeholder Meeting (30 min)**

October 21

 **DATE**

 **TIME**

< > October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

10:30 AM

11:00 AM

11:30 AM

12:00 PM

12:30 PM

1:00 PM

1:30 PM





# Existing Conditions

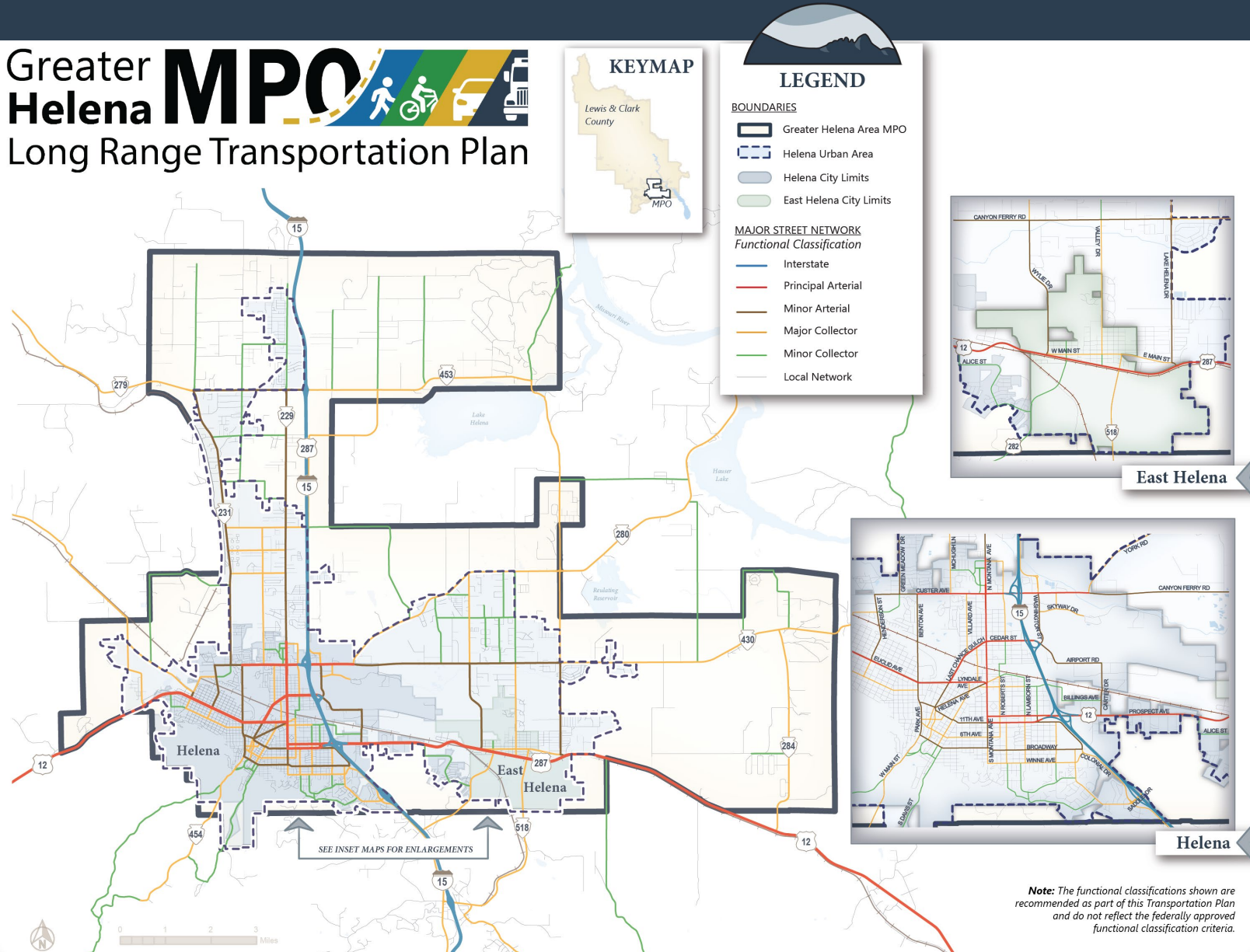


# Major Street Network

## Functional Classification

- Incorporates input from:
  - City of Helena
  - City of East Helena
  - L&C County
  - MDT
  - RPA
- Reflects the “Local Perspective”
- Focus of the LRTP

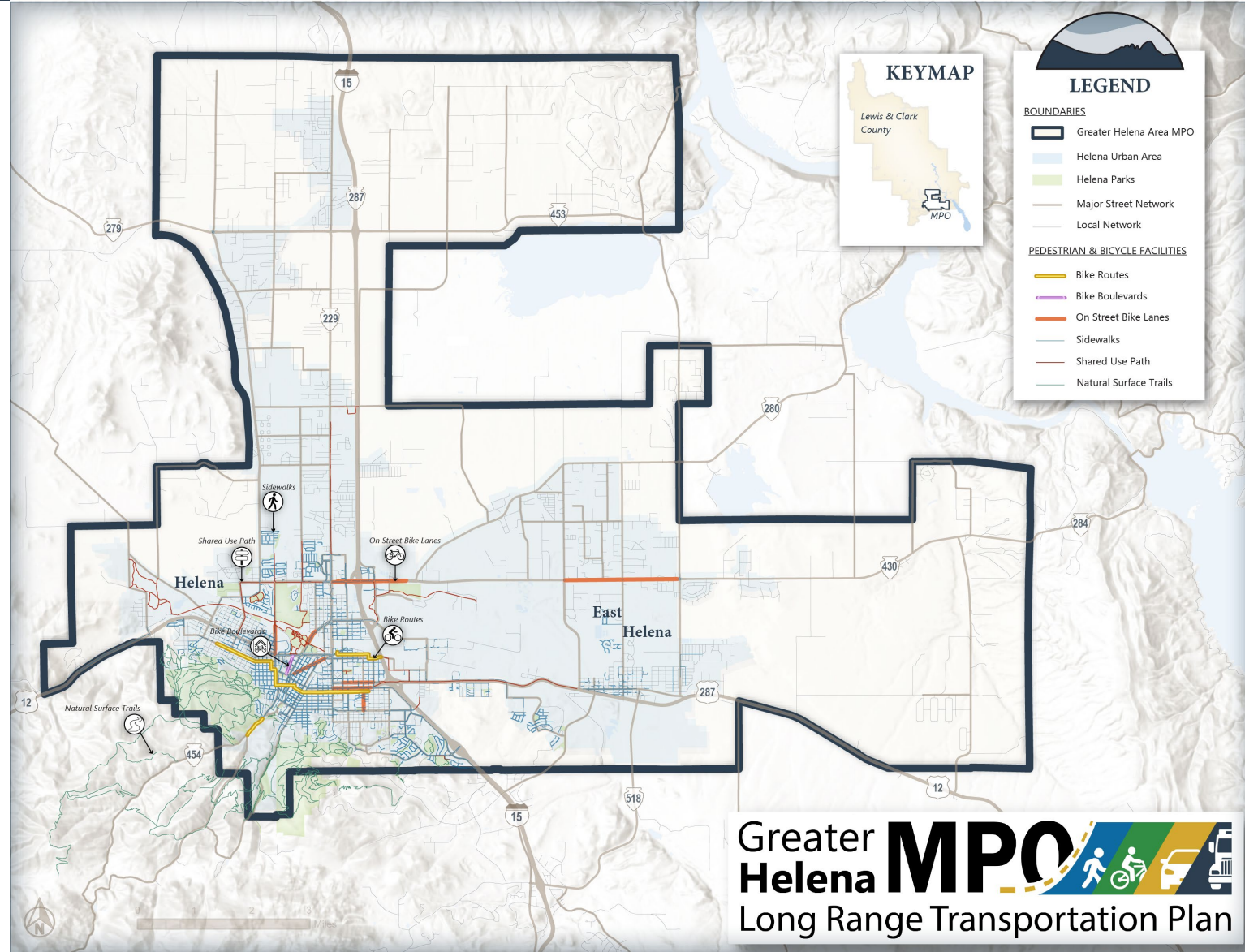
## Greater Helena MPO Long Range Transportation Plan



# Non-Motorized Network

## Existing Facilities

- Incorporates:
  - City of Helena/L&C County GIS data
  - RPA “ground truthing” & updates
- Includes:
  - Signed bike routes
  - Bike boulevards (shared routes)
  - Bike lanes
  - Sidewalks
  - Shared use paths
  - Trails
  - Crosswalks (*pending*)



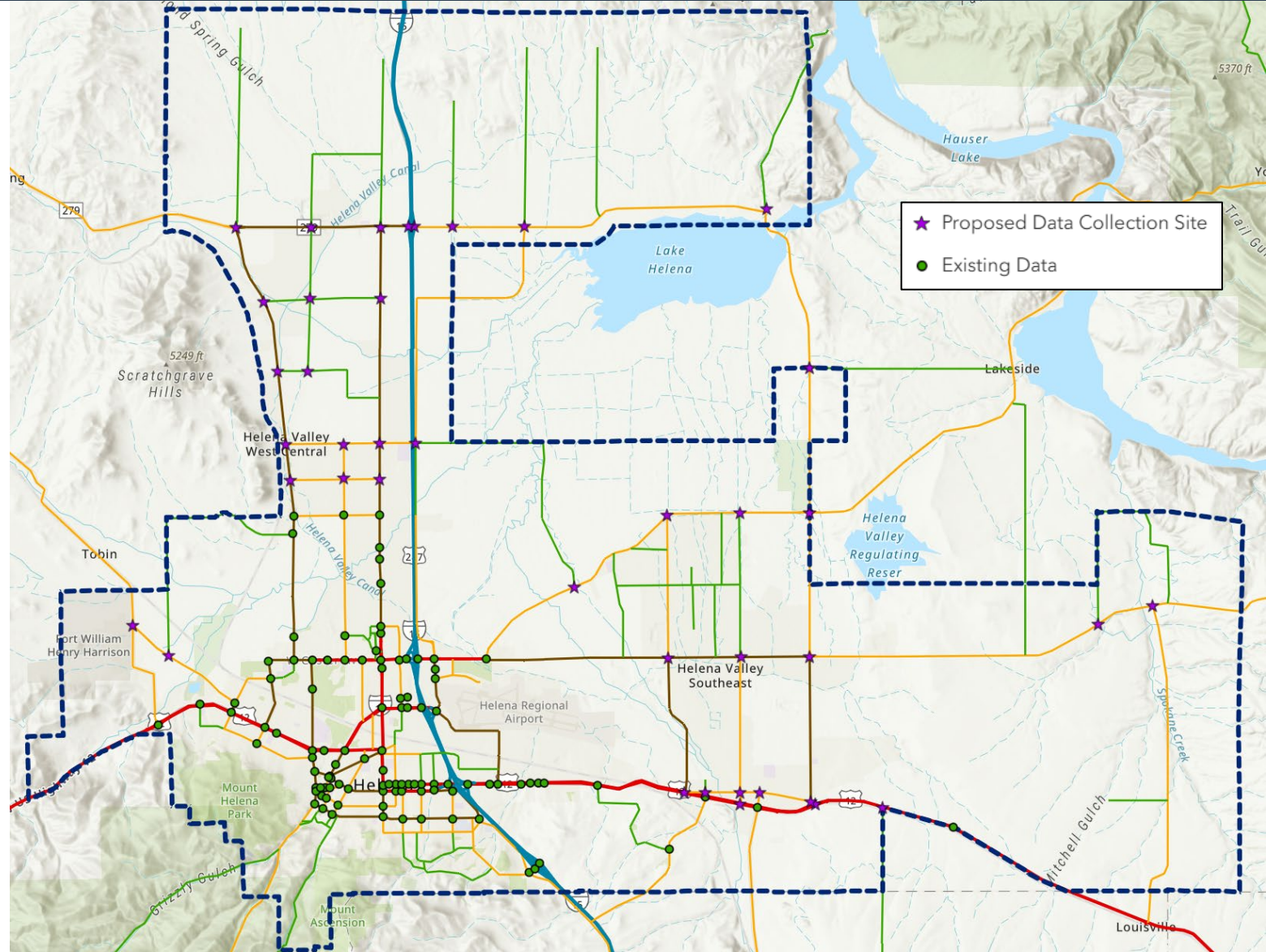


# Data Collection

## 40 Sites

- Incorporates input from:
  - City of Helena
  - City of East Helena
  - L&C County
  - RPA
- Focus on major street network intersections

**Collection Complete**

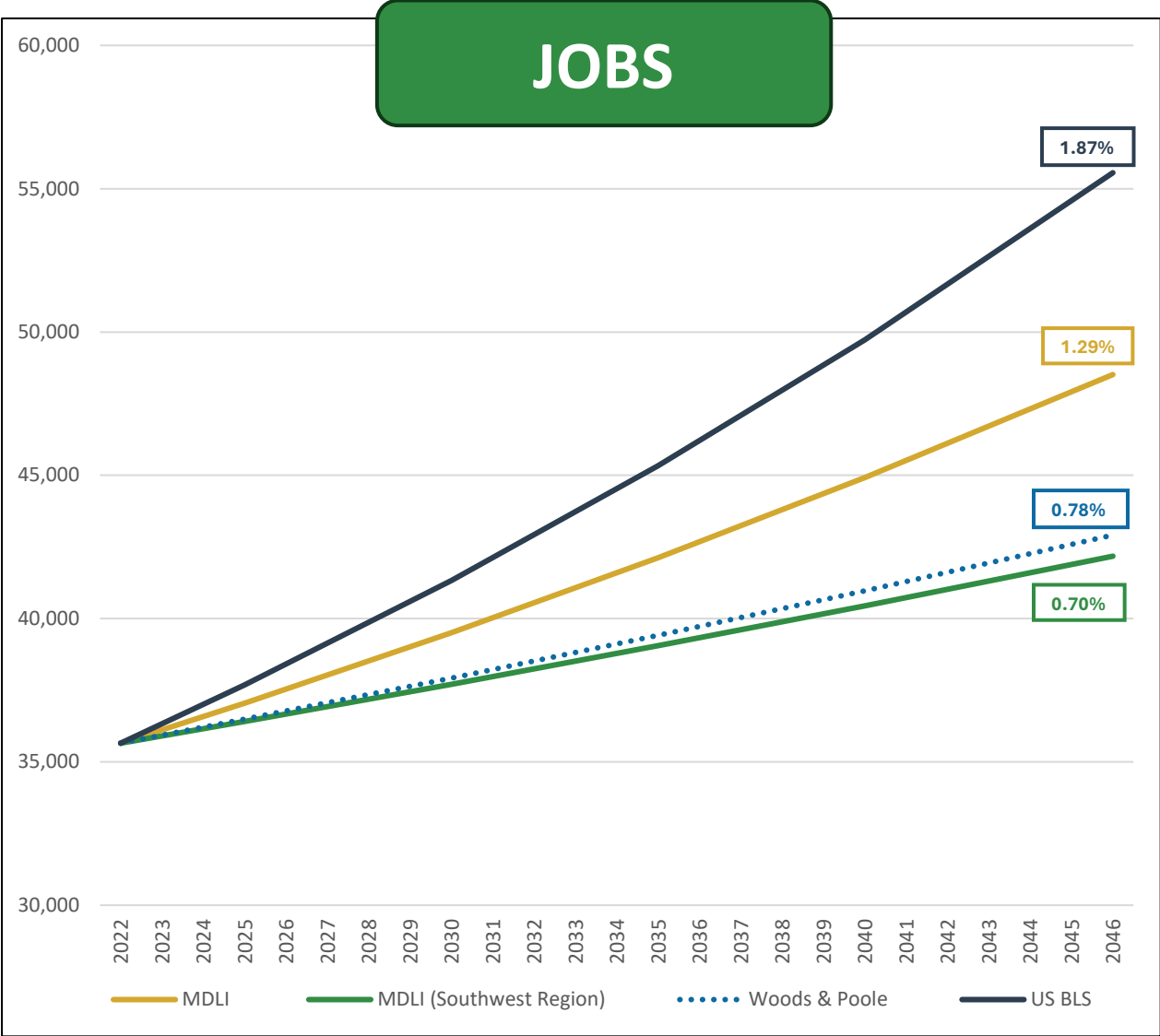
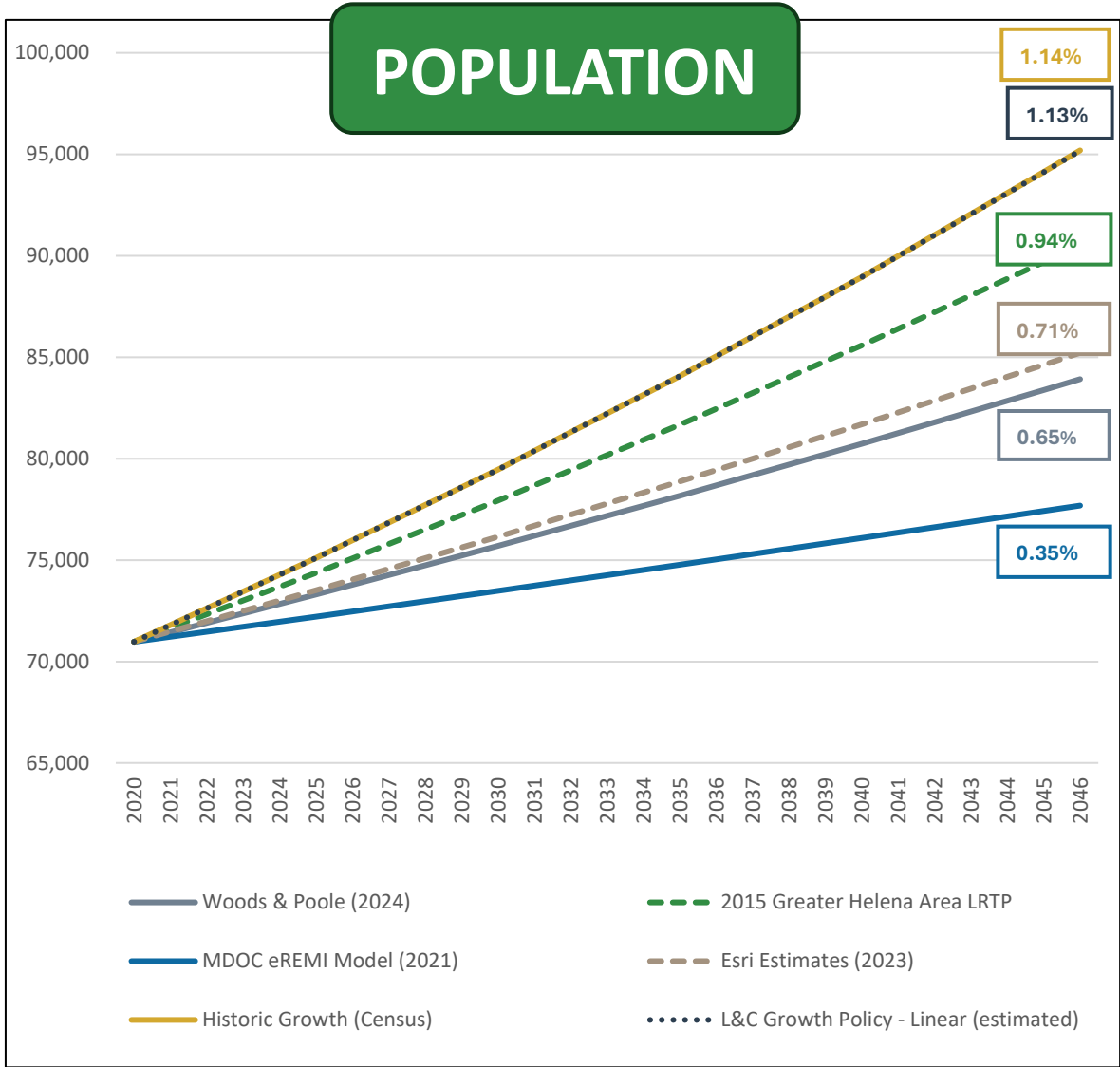




# Land Use Forecasting Workshop

- **Date:** October 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Attendees:**
  - City & County Planning Board
  - Local Planning Staff
  - LRTP Project Management Team
- **Process:**
  - Select appropriate growth rates (population & employment)
  - Convert population growth to housing growth
  - Identify current housing/employment density (based on travel demand model)
  - Assign future growth based on known/anticipated development
- **Informs the Travel Demand Model**

# Future Projections





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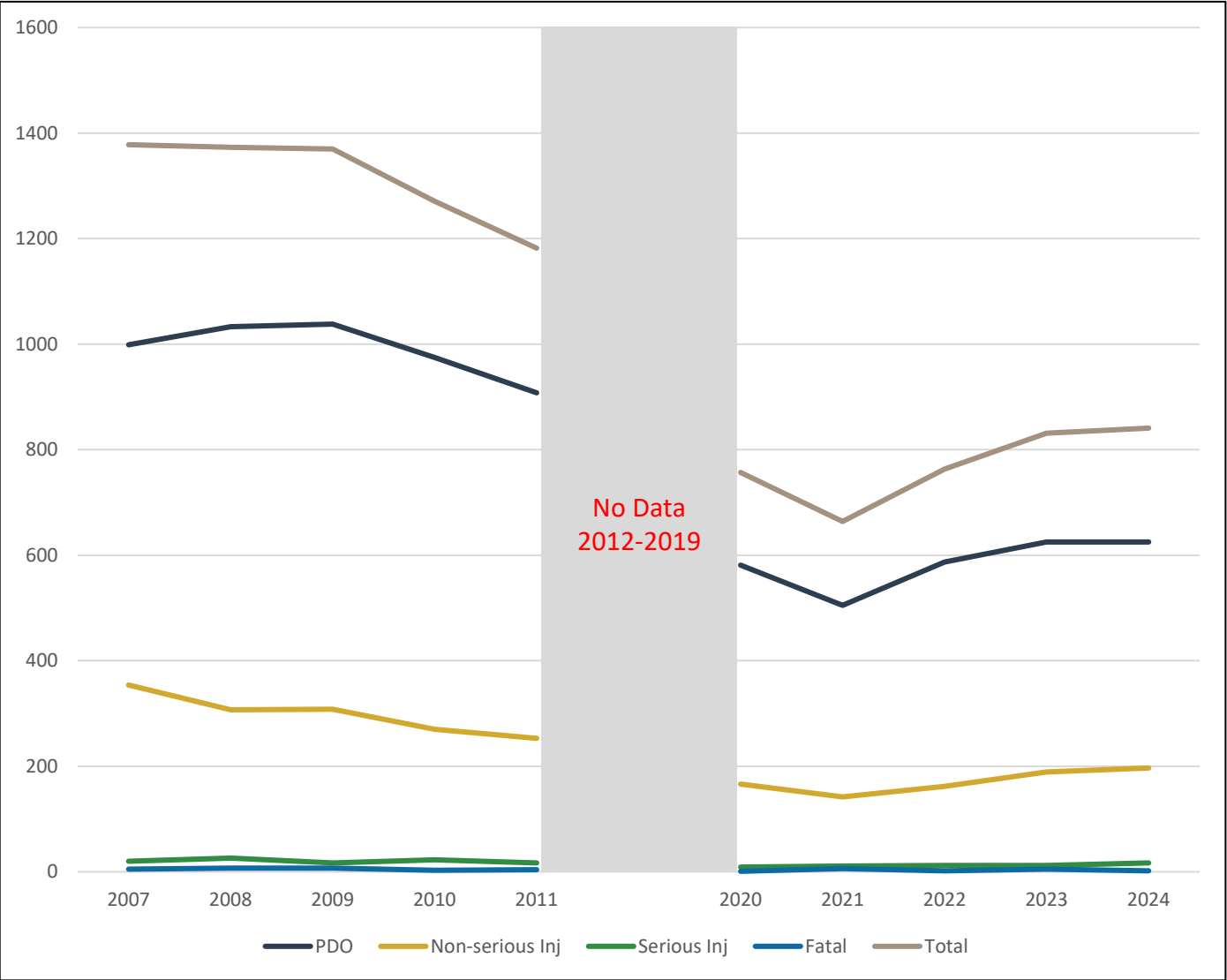




# Safety



# Safety Analysis



## Comparison to 2013 CTSP:

Crashes	2007-2011	2020-2024	% Change
PDO	991	585	-41%
Non-Serious Injury	298	171	-43%
Serious Injury	21	12	-43%
Fatal	5	3	-40%
Total	1,315	771	-41%

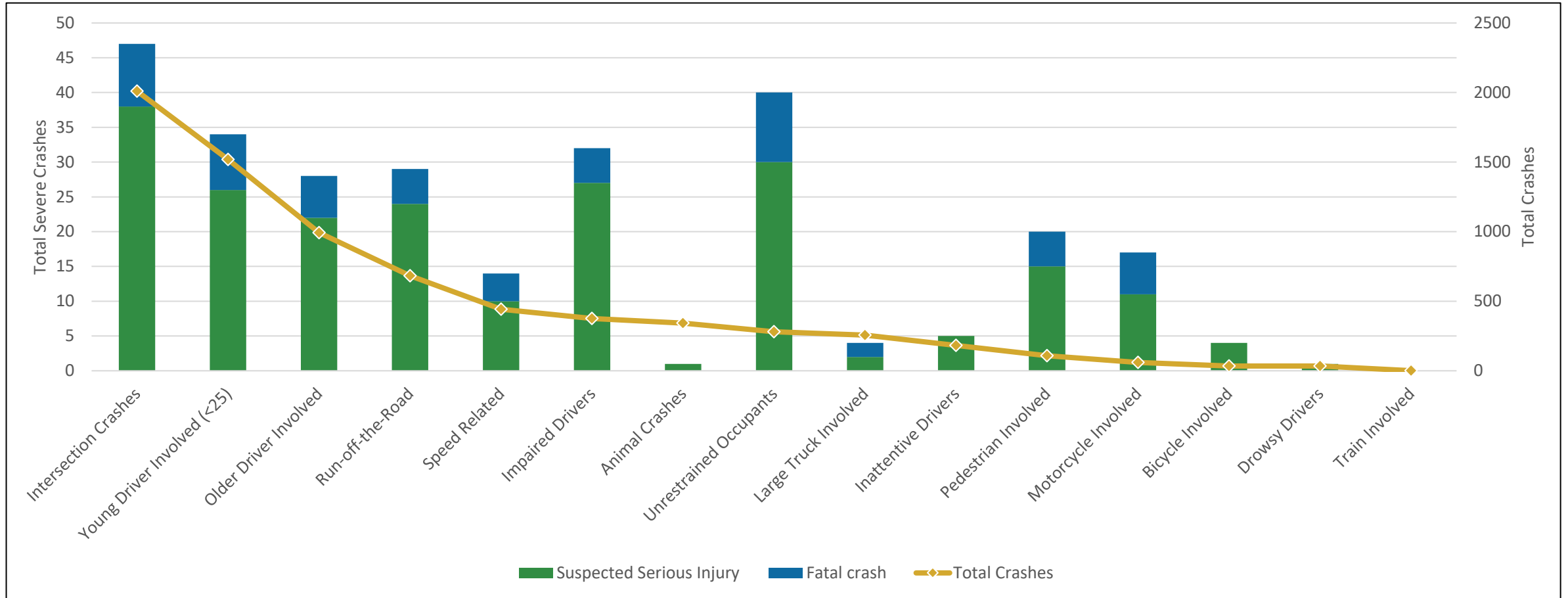
(Based on 2010 urban boundary)

**2013 Goals**

**Goal:** Zero Fatalities

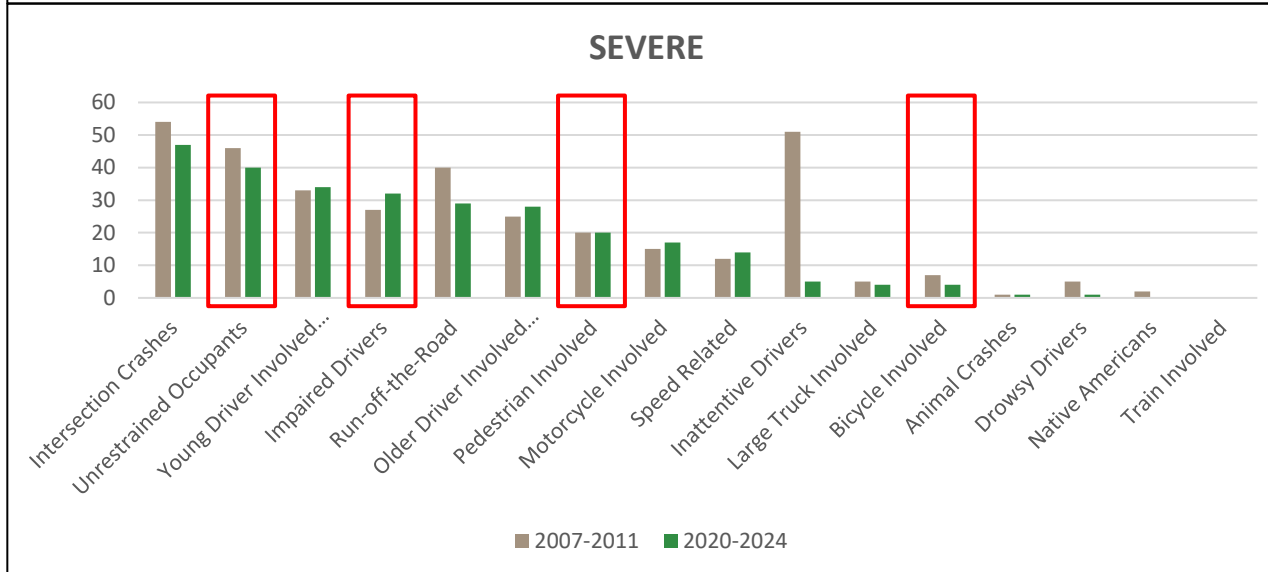
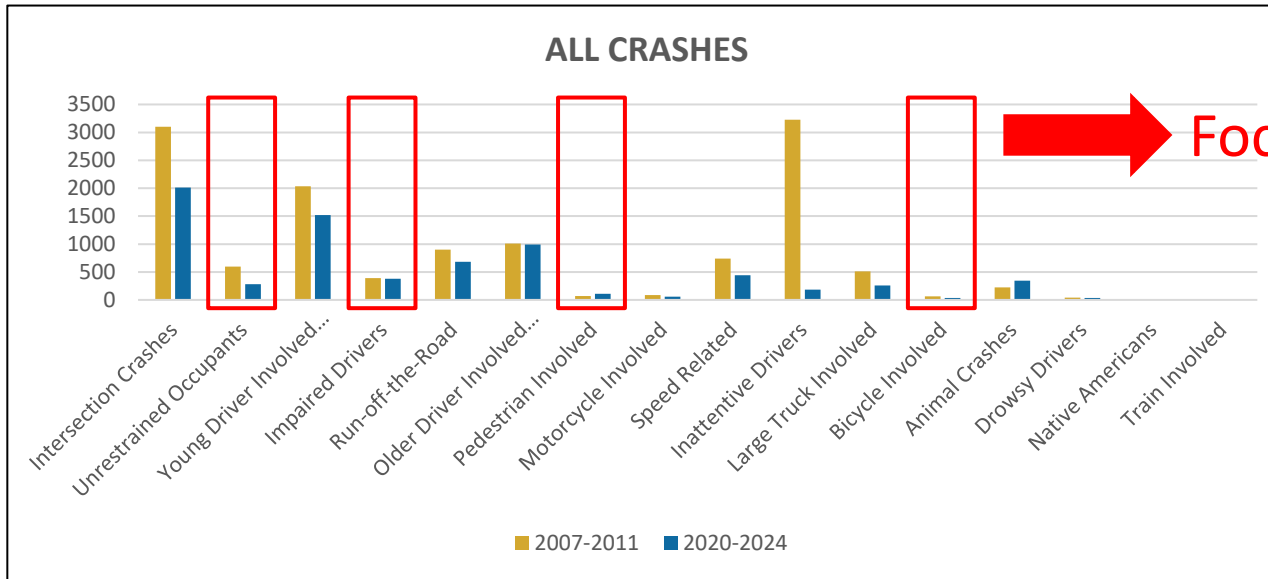
**Interim Goal:** Reduce crashes in the Greater Helena Area by **25% by 2018** (5-yr avg: 986 crashes)

# Focus Areas





# Focus Areas



## Focus Areas for CSAP:

1. **Intersection Crashes** (*urban focus*)
2. **Run off the Road Crashes** (*rural focus*)
3. **Non-Motorized Users** (*multimodal focus*)
4. **High Risk Behaviors** (*behavioral based*)
  - a) Impaired Drivers
  - b) Unrestrained Occupants
  - c) Inattentive Drivers
  - d) Speed-Related Crashes

*\*Incorporate age-based strategies as appropriate\**

# Schedule & Next Steps





# Memorandum

<b>To:</b>	Greater Helena Area MPO Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee
<b>From:</b>	Ty Weingartner, MPO Manager
<b>Subject:</b>	Awarding Transportation Alternative Funds
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 10, 2025
<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	Transportation Alternative Funding
<b>Background:</b>	<p>The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) has made a recommendation regarding the allocation of \$1,349,833.00 in Transportation Alternative (TA) Funds for the Greater Helena MPO. Based on the recommendation from the Scoring Committee, the TTAC voted to approve East Helena Public Schools' request for the full amount of <b>\$581,600.23</b>. This funding is intended for the construction of a new 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk and the establishment of a safe pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>The TA Scoring Committee highlighted the importance of this project in enhancing student safety and accessibility in East Helena. The new sidewalk and crossing are expected to significantly benefit the community by promoting safe pedestrian movement, particularly for schoolchildren.</p> <p>Additionally, the TTAC has agreed with the Scoring Subcommittee that the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County should determine how to allocate the remaining \$768,232.77 between their two initiatives, as both proposals have merit and would improve the MPO. In a collaborative approach, the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County have reached an agreement to strategically use the funds. They agreed to allocating <b>\$344,138.73</b> to Lewis and Clark County for improvements to the North Montana Avenue/Lincoln Road Trail, while <b>\$424,094.03</b> will be directed towards enhancing ADA accessibility at key intersections along school routes in the City of Helena.</p>
<b>Summary of Proposed Awards</b>	
<i>Greater Helena MPO Available TA Funds</i>	<i>\$1,349,833.00</i>
<b>East Helena Public Schools</b>	<b>\$581,600.23</b>
<b>City of Helena</b>	<b>\$424,094.03</b>
<b>Lewis and Clark County</b>	<b>\$344,138.73</b>



# GREATER HELENA MPO TA SCORING SUMMARY

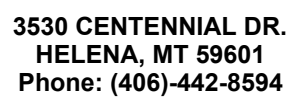
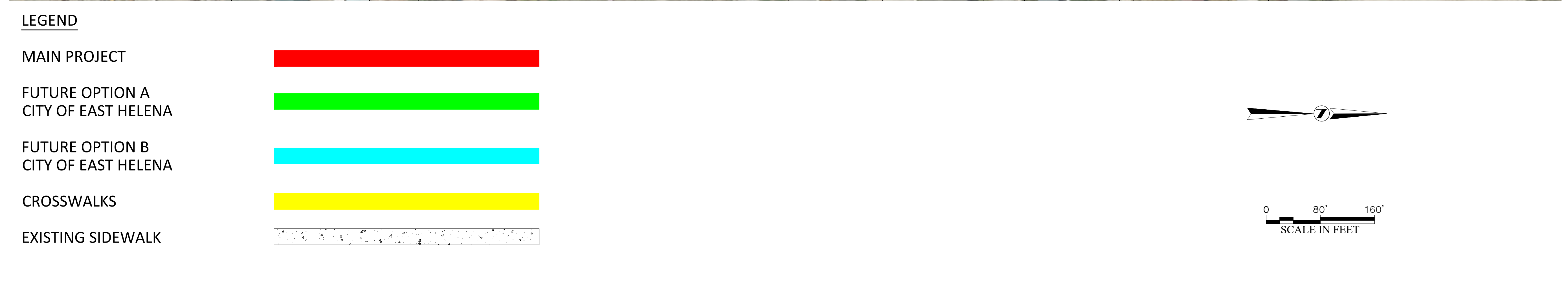
Scoring Criteria		
Project Description		10 Points
Project Benefits		40 Points
Operation and Maintenance Plan		10 Points
Project Readiness		40 Points
Transportation Alternative Funding Applications		
East Helena Public Schools Safe Route to East Valley Middle School		
Project Summary	East Helena Public Schools (EHPS) is proposing the construction of new 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalks and safe pedestrian crossings in East Helena to enhance safety and traffic flow. The project aims to improve walkable access to East Valley Middle School (EVMS), benefiting nearly 500 students who currently lack sidewalk connectivity. It will also support local residents, including those from the growing Prickly Pear Subdivision, and improve access to businesses and parks. Additionally, the project aligns with a vision for a regional “greenway” promoting safe, non-motorized travel across communities.	
Breakout of TA Requested Funding for East Helena Public Schools		
Total Project Cost		\$671,748.94
TA Federal Share		\$581,600.23
Local Match		\$90,148.71
Average Evaluated Score for East Helena Public Schools		
Project Description		9.4
Project Benefits		37.6
Operation and Maintenance Plan		7.2
Project Readiness		35.8
Total		90
City of Helena Safe Routes to School – ADA Ramp Improvement Project		
Project Summary	<p>The City of Helena aims to enhance ADA accessibility at key intersections along school routes to improve pedestrian access, connectivity, and safety. The project includes the installation of 202 individual ramps and 225 total improvements to existing sidewalks and walkways near schools, addressing the need for better accessibility from residential areas to educational facilities.</p> <p>The list of schools involved in this project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kessler Elementary</li><li>• Four Georgians Elementary</li><li>• Bryant Elementary</li><li>• Central School</li><li>• Jefferson Elementary</li><li>• Smith Elementary</li><li>• Helena Middle School</li><li>• Capital High School</li></ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helena High School</li> <li>• Broadwater to CRA</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout of TA Requested Funding for the City of Helena</b>	
Total Project Cost	\$1,296,239.67
TA Federal Share	\$1,122,284.31
Local Match	\$173,955.36
<b>Average Evaluated Score for City of Helena</b>	
Project Description	9.2
Project Benefits	36.4
Operation and Maintenance Plan	8
Project Readiness	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.6</b>
<b>Lewis and Clark County – Lincoln Rd. N Montana Ave. Path Maintenance and Improvements</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The County is seeking funding from the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program to improve the North Montana Avenue/Lincoln Road Trail, which was originally constructed under the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP). The primary objectives are to enhance safety, address ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) concerns, and strengthen non-motorized transportation infrastructure for the community. The project includes the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintenance and minor reconstruction of the asphalt trail from Applegate Drive to North Montana Avenue.</li> <li>- Activities such as vegetation removal, crack sealing, seal coating, upgrading ADA accessibility, and the installation of pedestrian crossing signage along with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs).</li> <li>- Upgrading a 4-foot-wide gravel trail segment from Lucchese Road to Ropers Road into an 8-foot-wide paved shared-use path.</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout of TA Requested Funding for the City of Helena</b>	
Total Project Cost	\$550,829.00
TA Federal Share	\$476,907.00
Local Match	\$73,922.00
<b>Average Evaluated Score for Lewis and Clark County</b>	
Project Description	9
Project Benefits	29.8
Operations and Maintenance Plan	7
Project Readiness	33.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>79.4</b>
<b>Average Evaluation Score Summary</b>	
East Helena Public Schools	90
City of Helena	87.6
Lewis and Clark County	79.4
<b>Transportation Alternative Funding Award</b>	

<b>Greater Helena MPO Available TA Funds</b>	<b>\$1,349,833.00</b>
<b>East Helena Public Schools</b>	<b>\$581,600.23</b>
<b>City of Helena</b>	<b>\$424,094.03</b>
<b>Lewis and Clark County</b>	<b>\$344,138.73</b>



SHEET

## C1.0



