

Twin Ports Interchange Reconstruction Project

Monthly Update Meeting

January 29, 2018



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Project Components



Purpose of Project

- Enhance safety by eliminating blind merges and left exits
 - Moving left exits to the right
 - Relocating merges
- Replace aging infrastructure
 - Reconstructing weight restricted and non-redundant bridges
 - Reduces maintenance and closures
 - Eliminates some bridge structure
- Improve freight mobility
 - Allow oversize/overweight freight on the Interstate

Other Potential Benefits

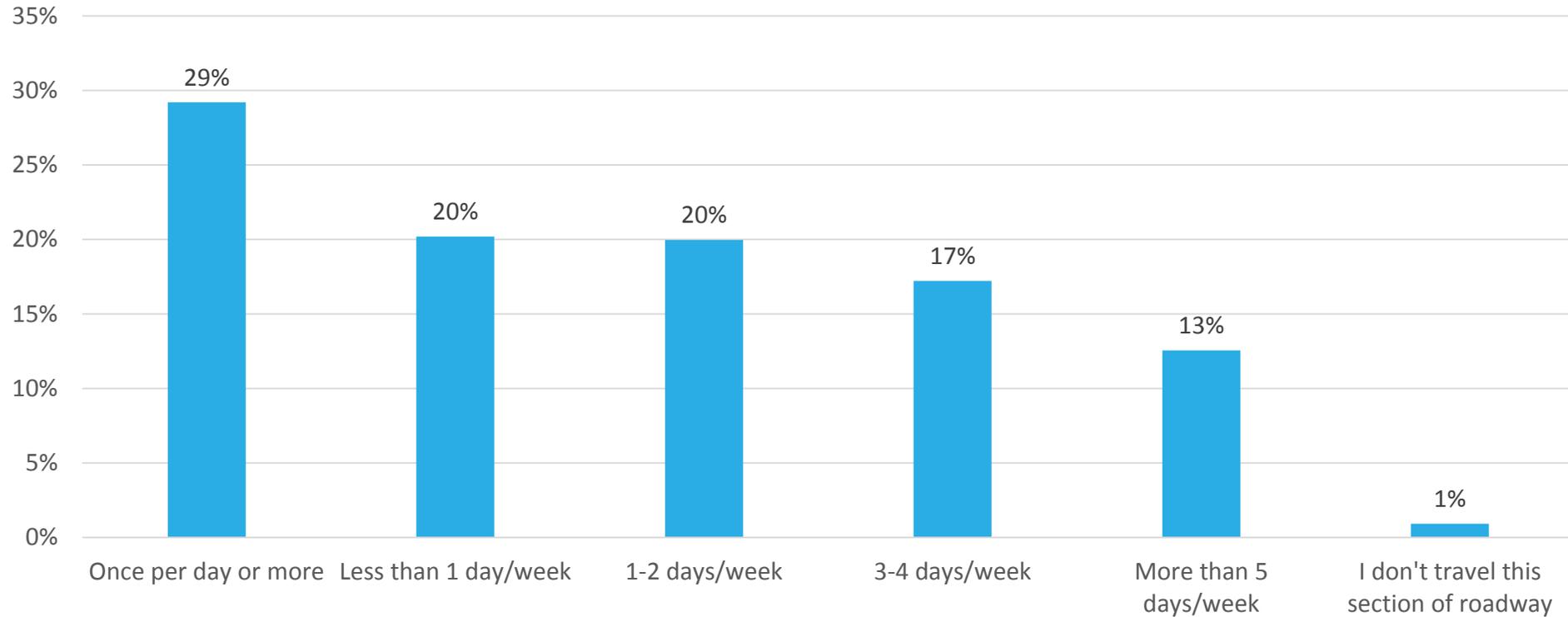
- Improved access at Courtland Street
- Better bicycle and pedestrian connections
- Safer and more comfortable spaces under the highway
- Opportunity for aesthetic improvements

Online Travel Survey

- Posted online from November 13 to December 11, 2017
- Received 881 responses

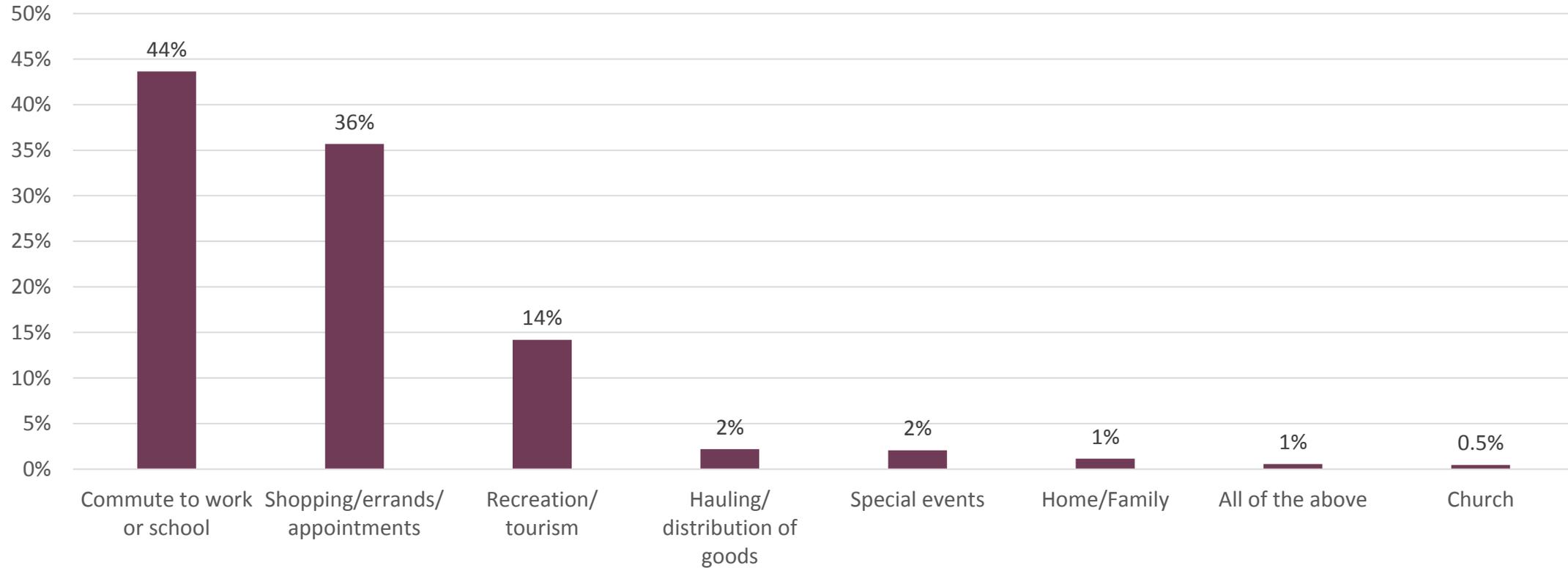
Online Travel Survey Results

How frequently do you travel through the Twin Ports Interchange area ("Can of Worms") consisting of I-35 / I-535 / US 53?



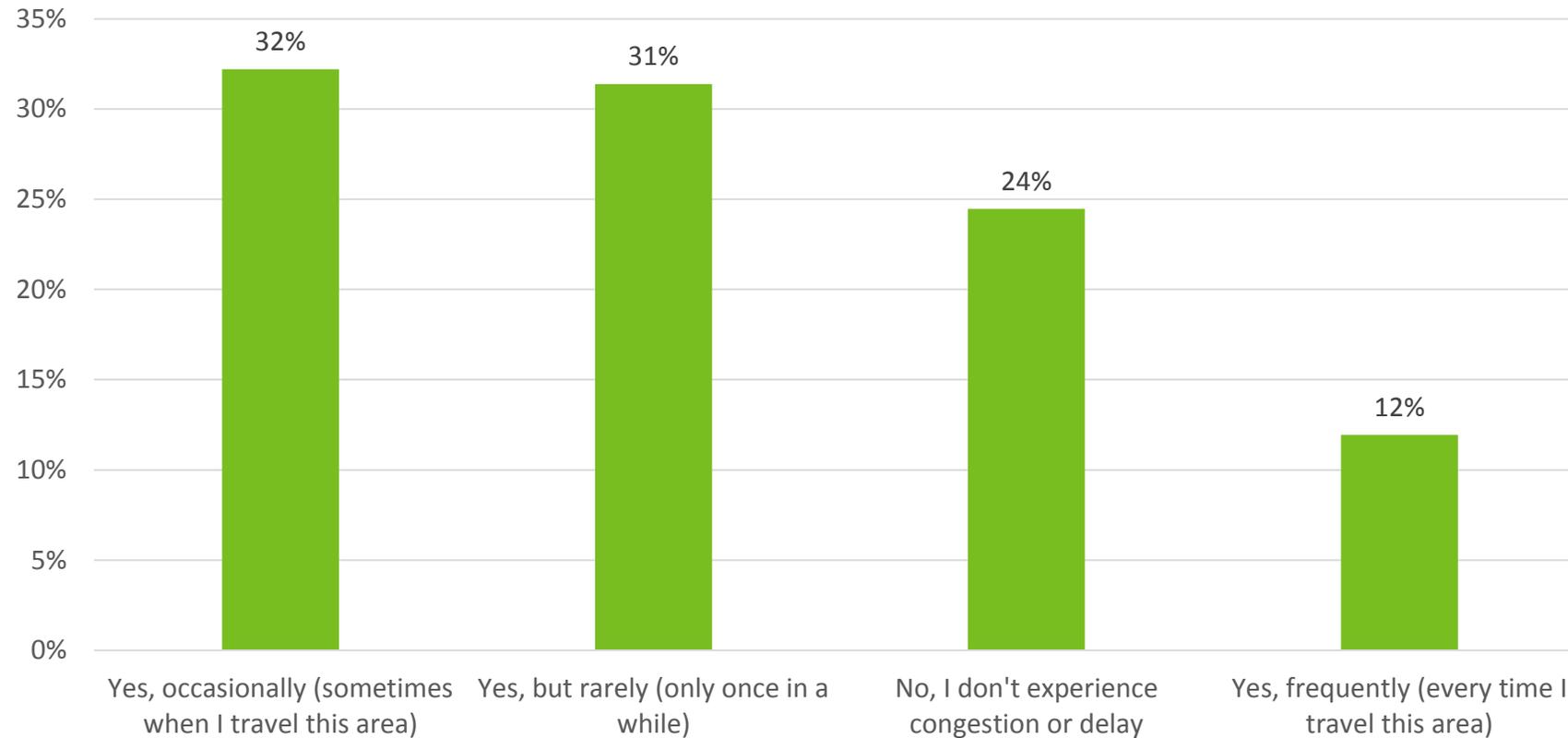
Online Travel Survey Results

What is your primary purpose for traveling through the "Can of Worms"?



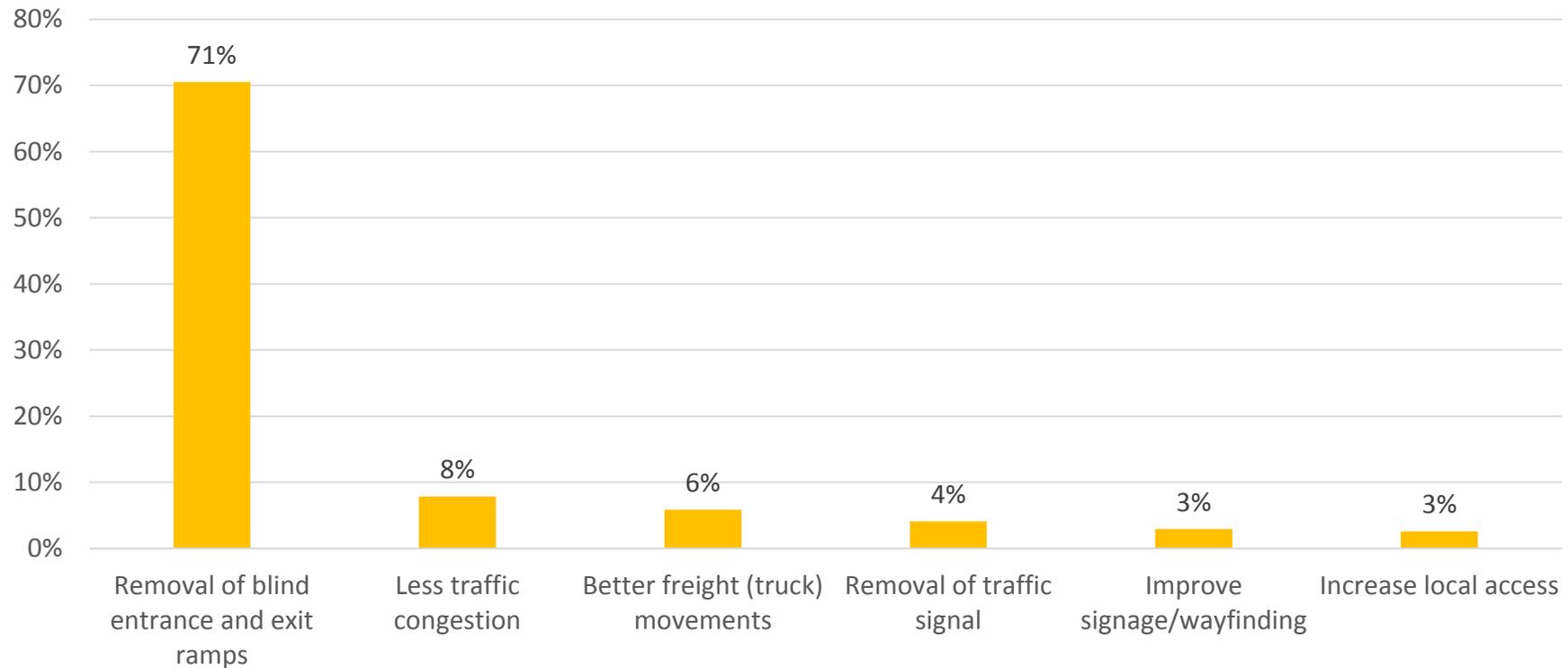
Online Travel Survey Results

Do you typically experience congestion or delay in these areas?



Online Travel Survey Results

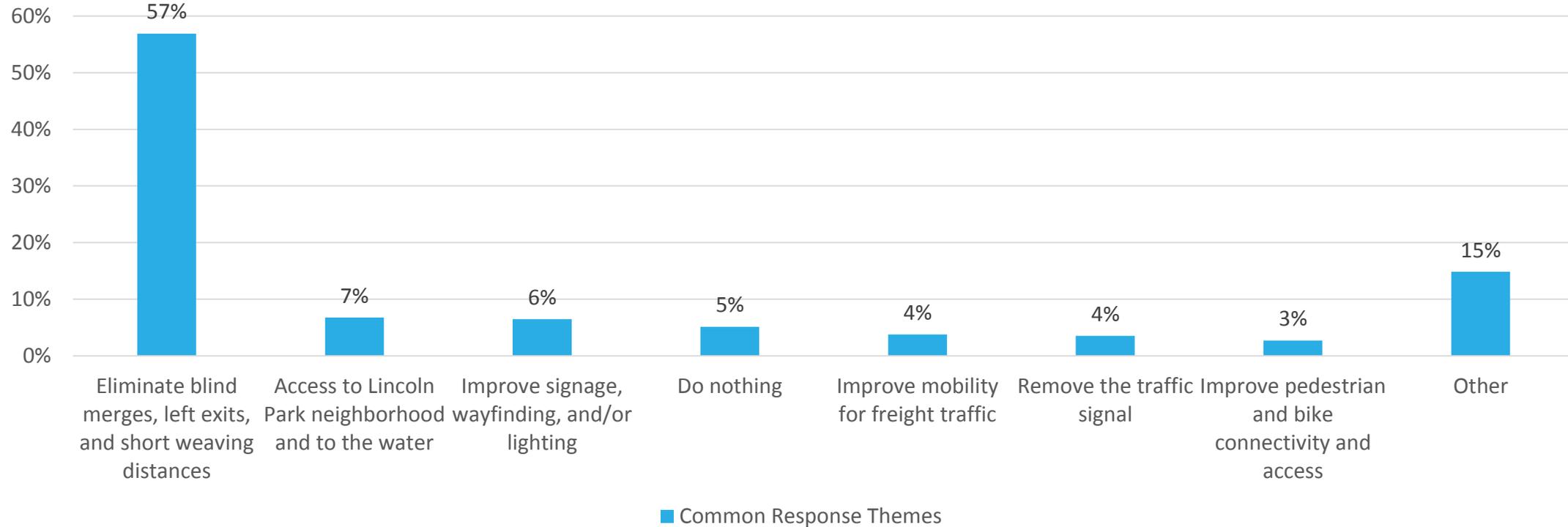
In your opinion, what is the highest priority or greatest need for MnDOT to address when reconstructing these interchanges?



Online Travel Survey Results- Written Comments

(339 responses)

Please share any additional thoughts for MnDOT to consider about the challenges you experience in this area, or your ideas for improvements

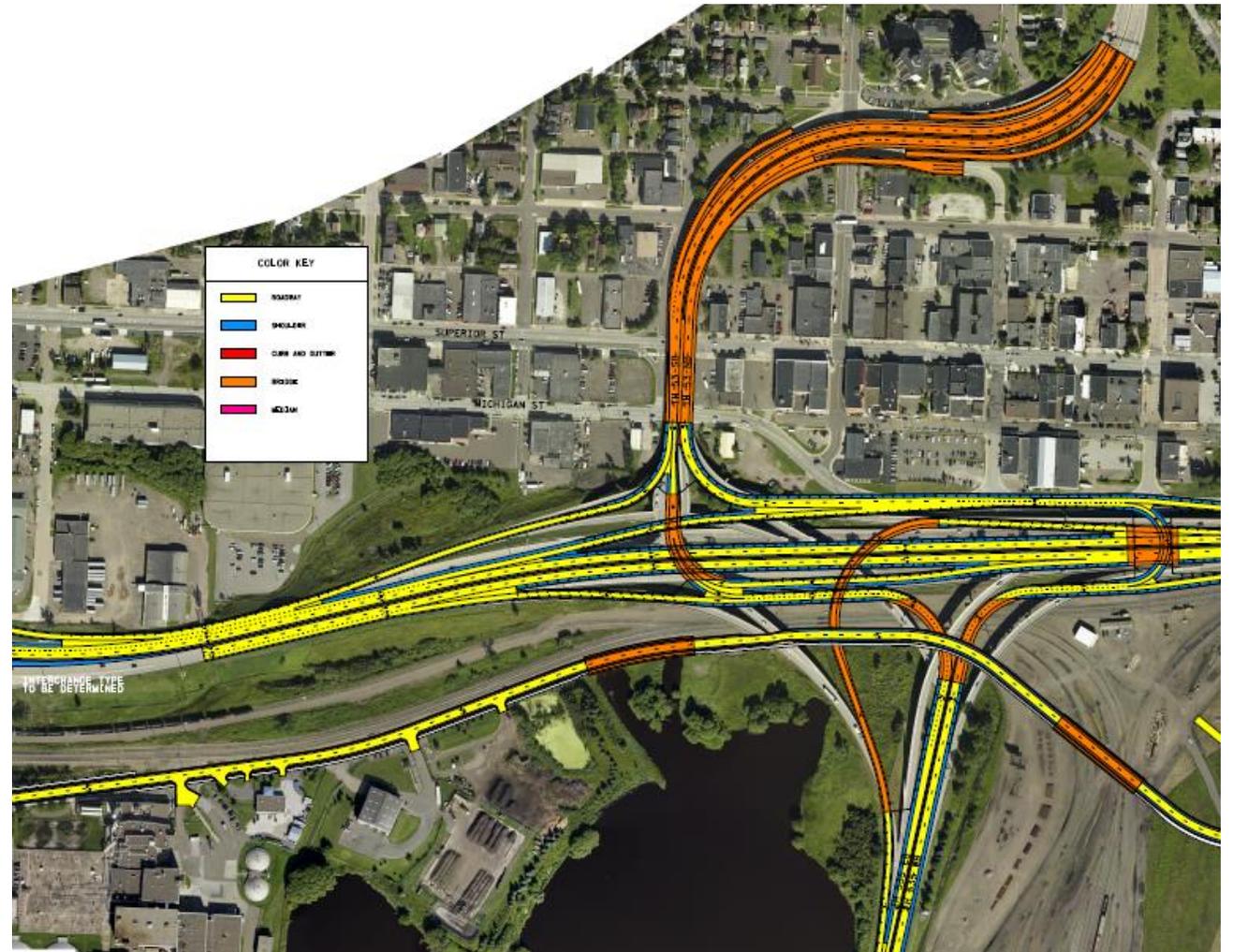


Main Interchange Concepts

- 4 concepts presented at November open house
 - Concept B
 - **Concept C – Selected**
 - Concept I
 - Concept O
- Concept C Benefits
 - Signal relocated to an expected location
 - Maintains all traffic movements
 - Minimizes Bridge Structure

Concept O - Eliminated

- Requires substantial right-of-way impact on Lower Michigan Street north of US 53
- Eliminates direct I-35 northbound to US 53 northbound movement



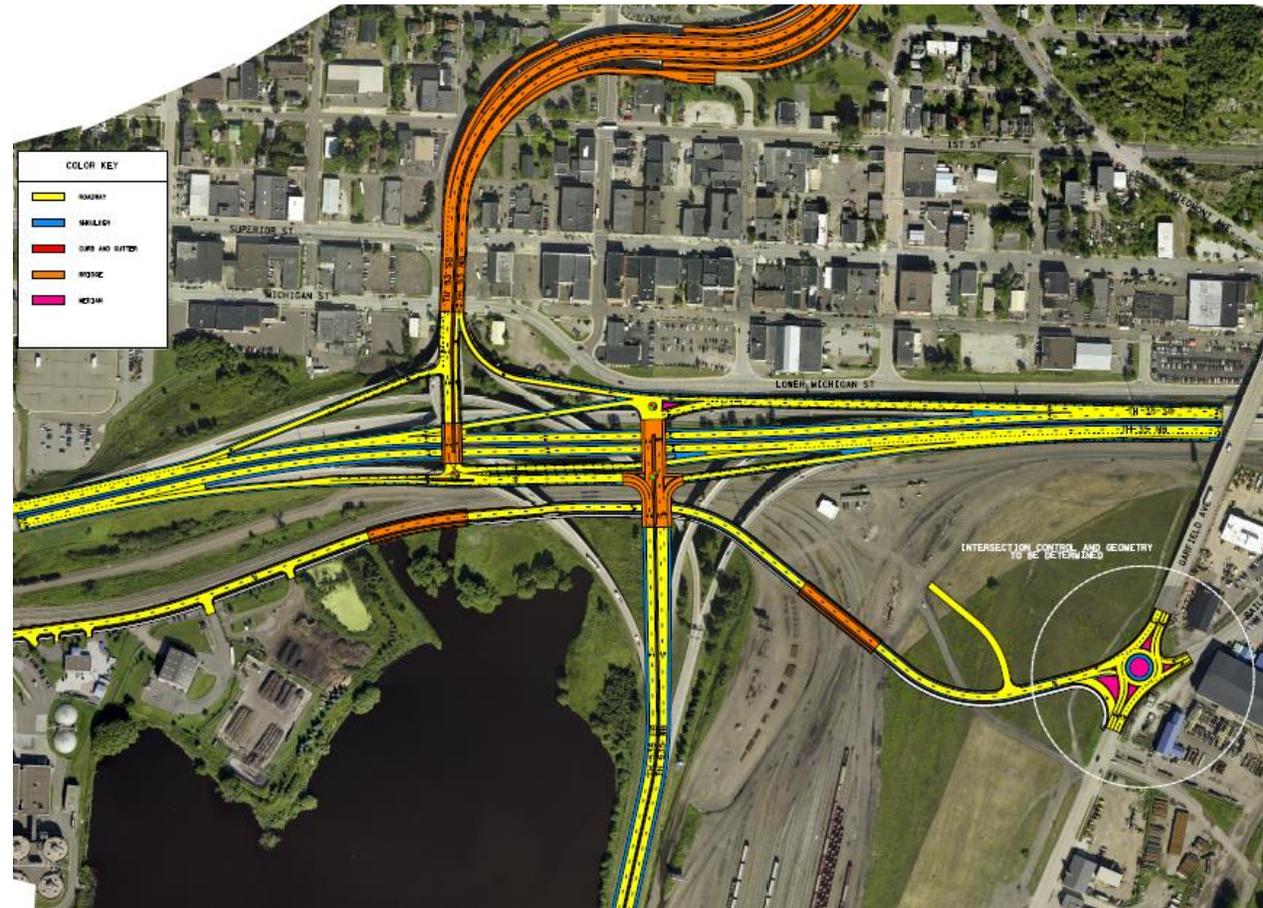
Concept I - Eliminated

- Complex bridges
- Most expensive
- No public support



Concept B- Eliminated

- 3 traffic signals
- Highest vehicle-hours of delay



Concept C – Selected



PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

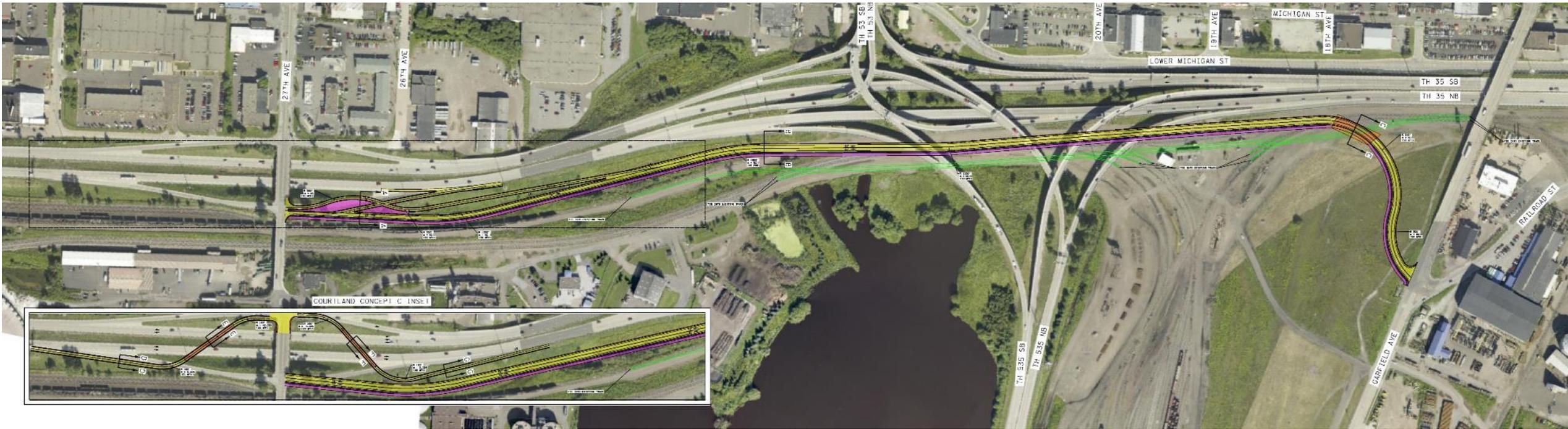
1905 Photo of RR Roundhouse along Garfield Avenue



Courtland Street Extension Issues

- Contamination from railroad
- Minimize impact to rail operations
- Mixing of pedestrians/bicycles with rail operations
- No at grade rail crossings allowed

Courtland Street Concept F



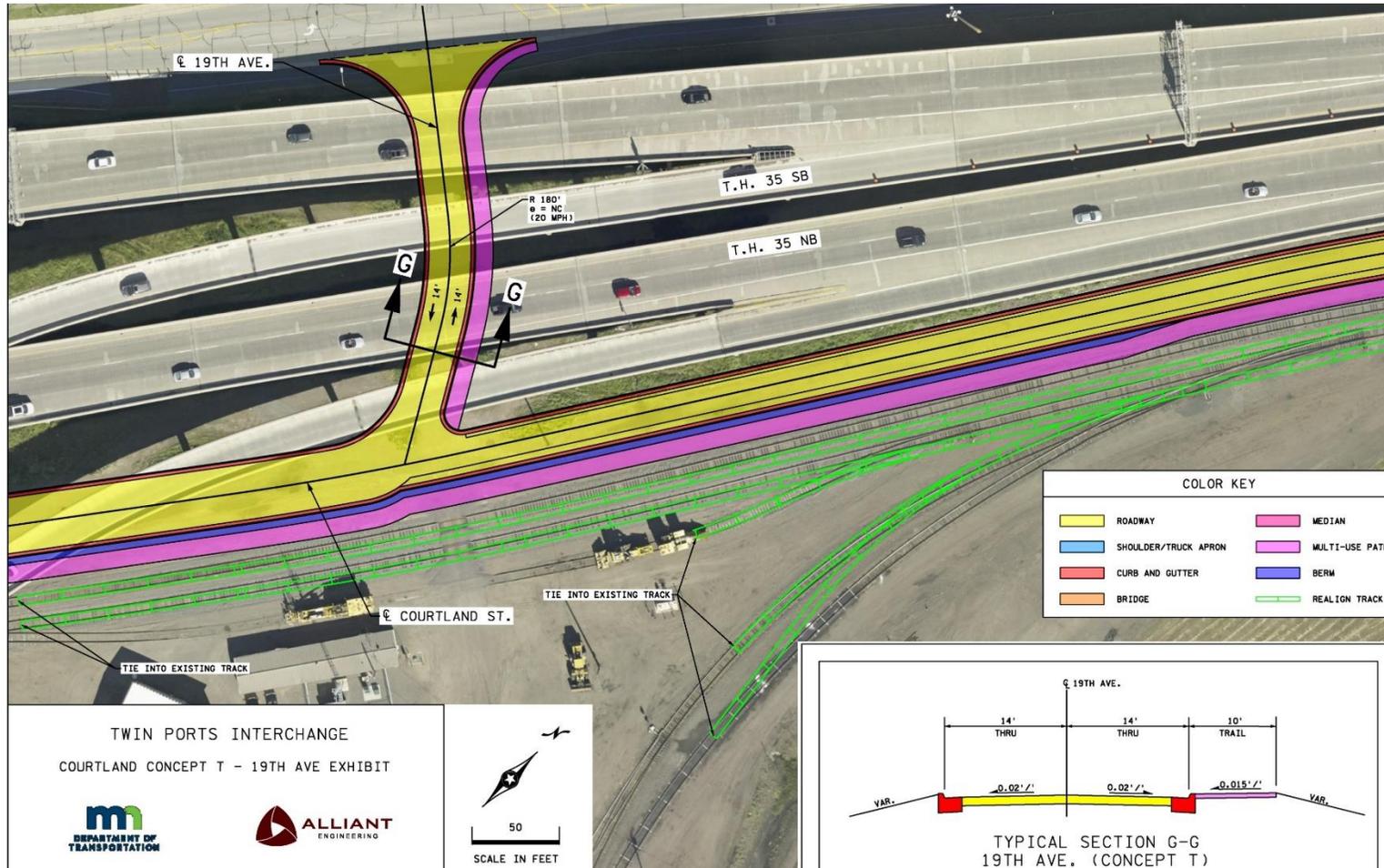
Courtland Street Concept H



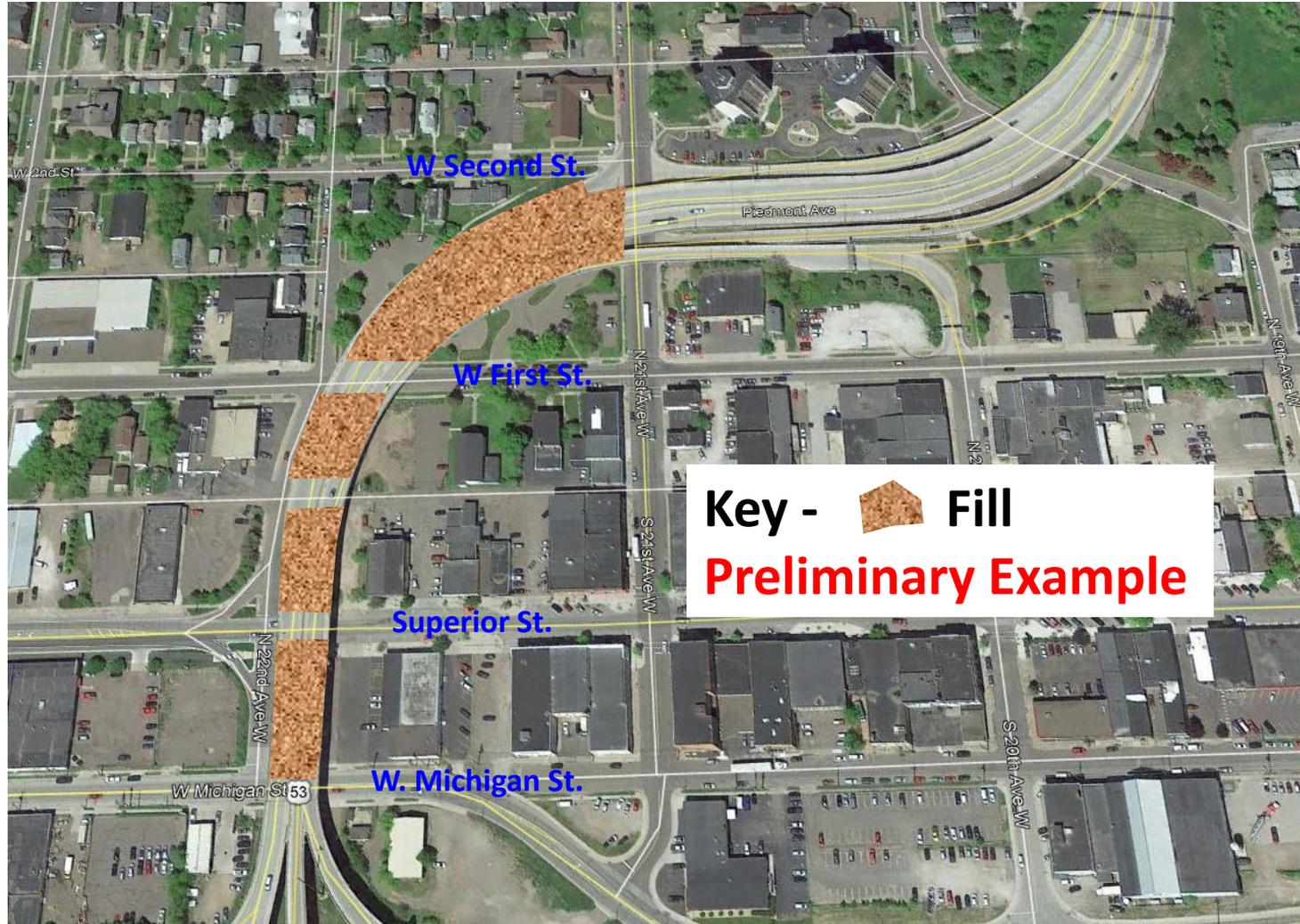
Courtland Street Concept J



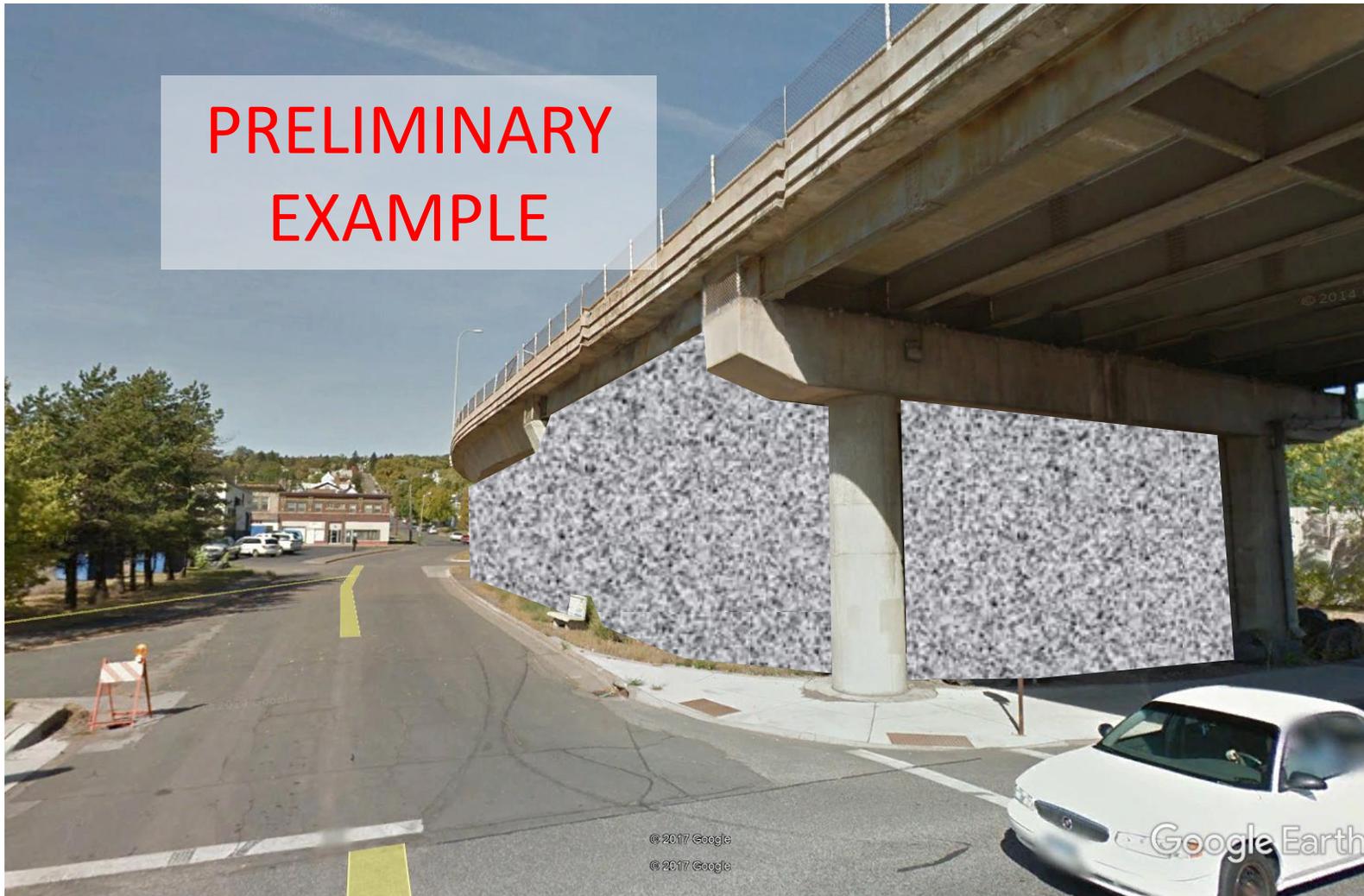
19th Avenue West



US 53 Option



US 53 – Replacing Bridges by Using Roadway Fills



- Options for art
- Wide openings at streets for safe passage.

Project Map – I-535/Garfield Interchange

Goals

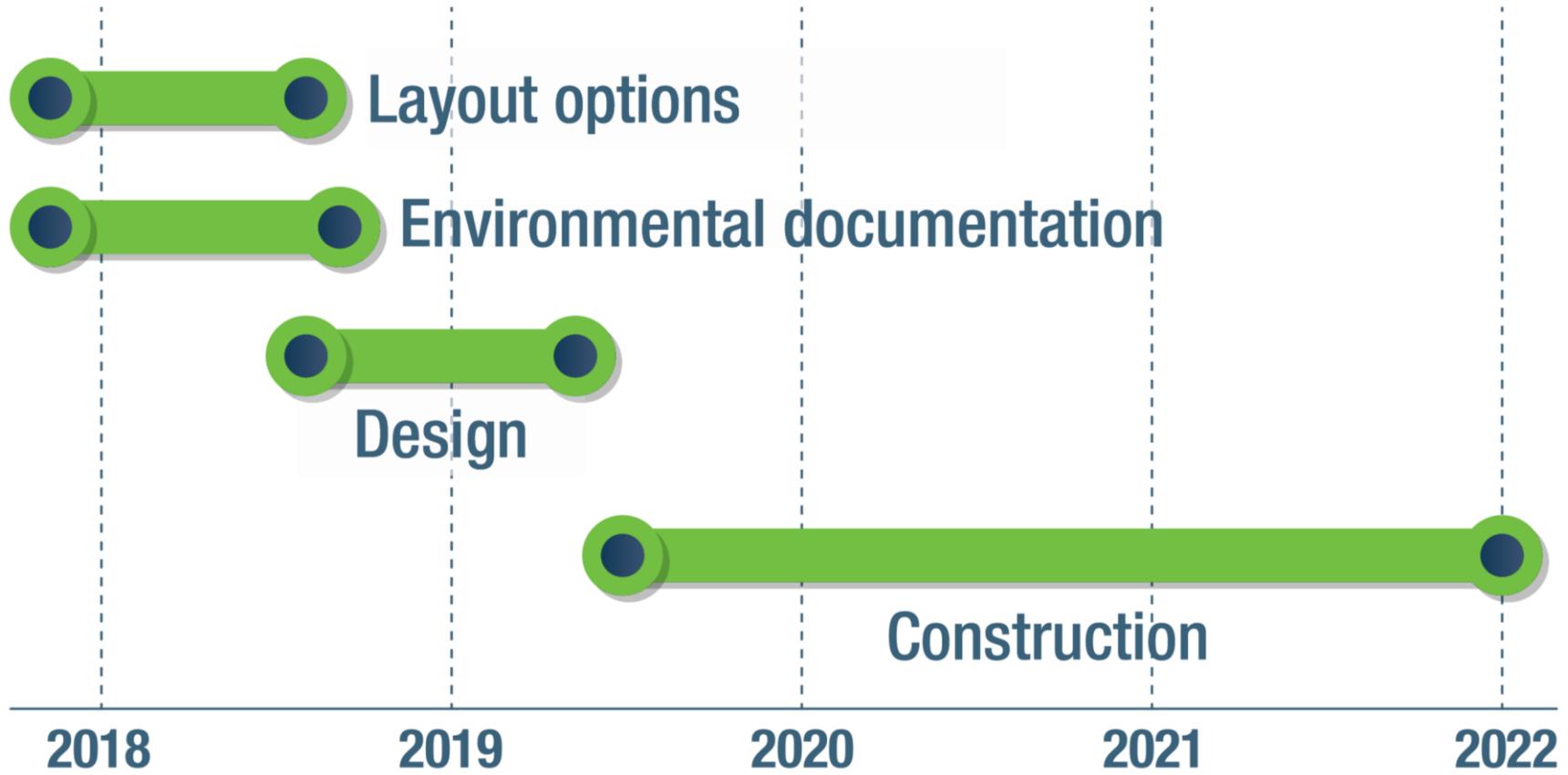
- Reduced footprint
- Remove sharp curves
- Layout forthcoming



Next Steps

- Advisory group to be formed
 - Agency and public stakeholders
- Upcoming events:
 - Duluth Boat, Sports and Travel Show – February 14-18 at DECC
 - Monthly update meeting – February 26
 - Time and location to TBD
 - Watch website for details
 - Will send out e-mail notifications

Project Schedule



Questions



Thank You!