

Highway 197 Paul Bunyan Drive Corridor Improvements

PROJECT PURPOSE AND EQUITY RISK

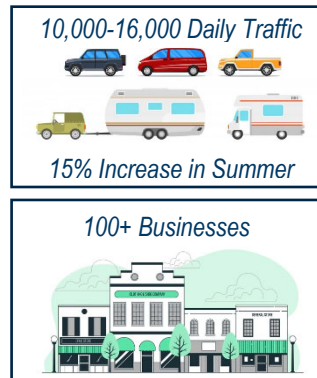
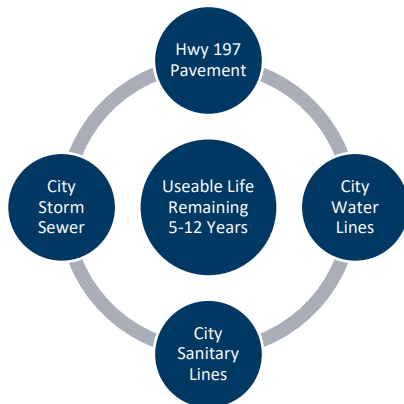
Bemidji is one of the most at-risk communities when addressing transportation infrastructure and equity. Within the project area, poverty ranges from 27 percent to 65 percent and minority populations range from 14 percent to 33 percent with a large American Indian population. It is important to have pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation options for these at-risk groups to allow residents to get safely to their places of employment, school, and businesses since they may not have access to a private vehicle.



COMMUNITY REVIEW PANEL (CRP)

Community stakeholders, representatives, and businesses along the Hwy 197 corridor formed a CRP to assess potential alternatives. The panel prioritized safety, business access, and multimodal improvements to the corridor. Alternatives were created addressing the unsafe corridor cross section and intersection improvements. A Recommended Alternative is expected to be presented to the Bemidji City Council in October 2021.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS ON HWY 197



MULTIMODAL FACILITY ISSUES

- The Hwy 197 Corridor is a Physical Barrier to Active Transportation
- Lack of Corridor Lighting Limits Multimodal Use at Night
- No Buffer or Shoulder Exists Between Pedestrians and Traffic
- Additional N-S Crossing Locations are Needed

MULTIMODAL FACILITY OPPORTUNITIES

- 35 Percent Would Walk or Bike with Improved Facilities
- 50 Percent of These Trips are Less Than 2 Miles
- Pedestrian Facilities Extended to Gillett Drive
- Four 2-stage Pedestrian Crossings Proposed

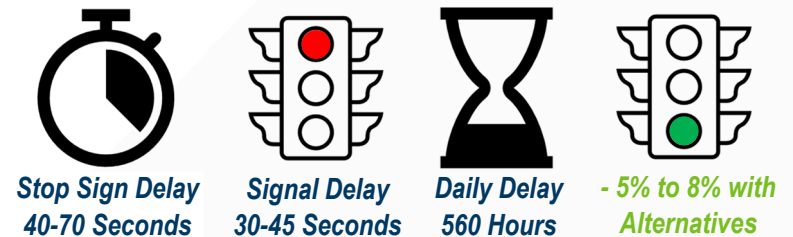
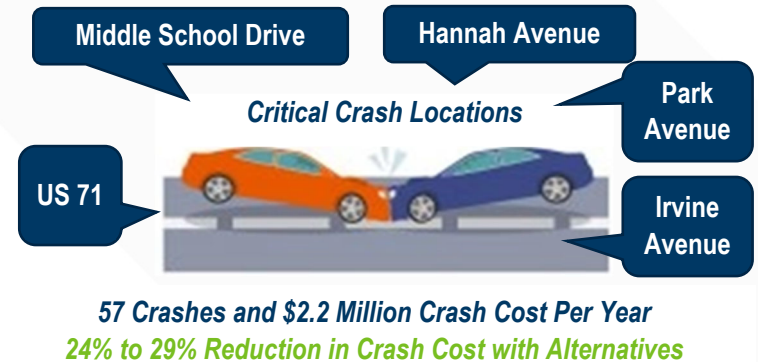
Hwy 197 Corridor
Project Schedule

Fall 2021
Corridor Study
Recommendation

2022 - 2026
Project Development
Project Programming

2026 - 2027
Expected Corridor
Construction

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND OPERATIONS



FUNDING AND BENEFITS

Expected Roadway Cost:	\$18.5 Million
Net Cost of Improvements:	\$6.5-8.0 Million
Expected Benefits to Safety:	\$11 Million,
Expected Benefits to Operations:	\$4.1 Million
Benefit-Cost Ratio:	1.9 to 2.5

