

Welcome

I-25 Speer Boulevard and 23rd Avenue Bridge and Interchange Project

Meeting Purpose



Recap Alternatives and Public Involvement



Share Results of Alternatives Evaluation



Provide
Rationale/Approach
for Alternatives



Explain Alternative Refinements



Learn What You Think

Project Contacts



Speer.23rd.Bridges@gmail.com



720-515-3311



Share Your Input



To take the survey, visit the project website or scan the QR code. www.codot.gov/projects/studies/i25speerand23rd/publicmeeting

Note: Green boxes on information boards indicate which survey question the content relates to (i.e. Q1)

Public Involvement Activity

Overview

A goal of the project is to find solutions that balance the needs of all local stakeholders. In addition to engaging local residents and organizations, the project collaborated with local agency partners, such as the City and County of Denver.

Engagement Data

335 Individual In-Person and Virtual Open House Attendees

220+ Surveys and Comments Submitted (online and in-person)

1,325+ Online Comments Submitted

2,760+ Individual Project Web Page Users

Stakeholders & Community Members



Neighborhood Organizations



Local Businesses



Mile High Stadium District



Faith Organizations



Area Property Owners



Dining & Recreation Destinations



Economic Development Organizations



Police & First Responders

Engagement Activities



In-Person & Virtual Open House



Survey



Email Newsletters



Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings



Presentation to Jefferson Park United Neighbors (JPUN)



Tabling at JPUN Broncos Event



Dia de los Muertos Table (Denver North High School)



Bike to Work Day Stations



Offered opportunities for individuals and organizations to meet with CDOT; hosted several small conversations when requested







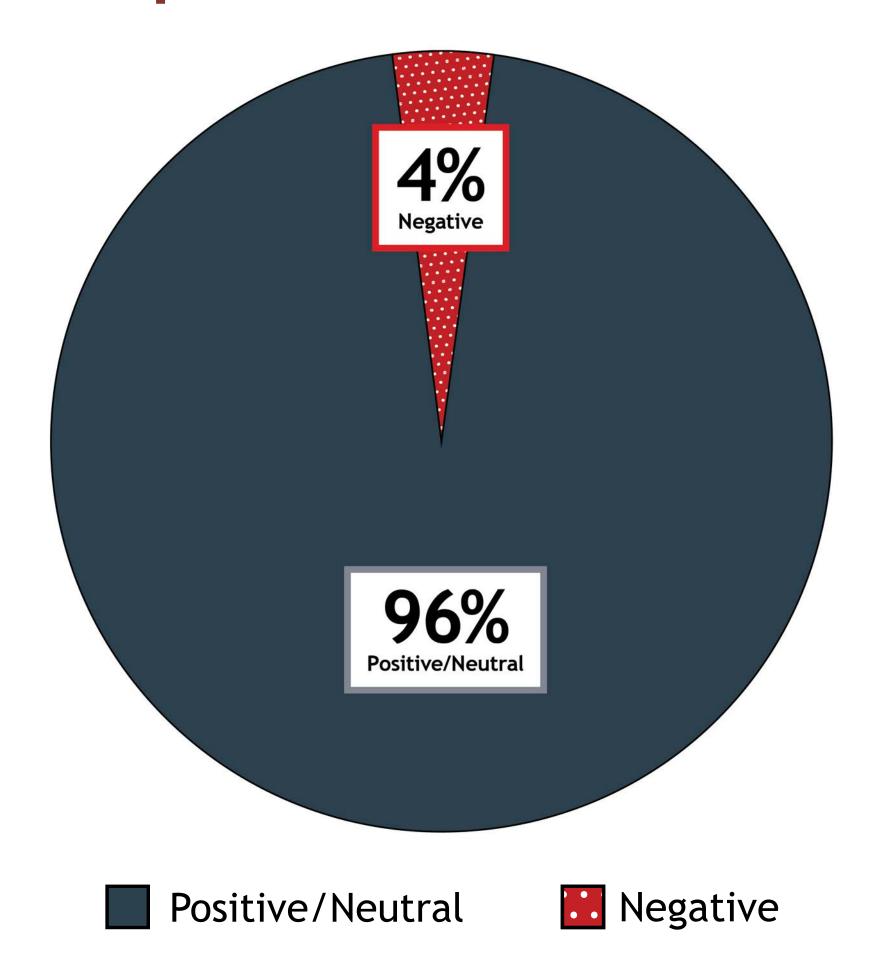


Public Feedback

Overview

Public and stakeholder input was collected via email, online surveys and comment forms, formal letters, general comments to the project team and a stakeholder coalition representing various entities. This input was organized into overarching themes. The overwhelming majority of public feedback—96% expressing positive or neutral sentiment—demonstrates broad community support for the project's Purpose and Need, reinforcing its relevance and urgency in addressing regional transportation challenges.

Purpose & Need



Overarching Themes





Increased Community Connectivity



Access to Businesses



Improvements to Traffic Flow and Congestion



Construction Timeline and Impact Questions



Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety

Sustainability and
Environmental Cor **Environmental Considerations**



Continued Public Engagement



Integration of Public Transportation Options



Aesthetic Design





Purpose and Need Statement

A Purpose and Need Statement describes what a project is seeking to accomplish and why it is necessary. All potential improvements, including a "No Action" alternative are evaluated against the Purpose and Need, leading to the selection of a "Proposed Action."

Purpose

The purpose of the I-25: Speer Boulevard and 23rd Avenue Bridge and Interchange project is:

- To address the increasing maintenance needs and deteriorating condition of the aging 23rd Avenue and Speer Boulevard bridges over I-25.
- * To provide crossings with adequate vertical clearance over I-25 for interstate travelers.
- To improve the transportation connection across I-25 for all road users.
- To improve the safety issues identified within the interchange complex.



Existing Speer Boulevard bridge.

Need

The need of the I-25: Speer Boulevard and 23rd Avenue Bridge and Interchange project is:

- To improve safety in interchange complex.
- ◆ To provide interstate crossings that have adequate clearance over I-25 and structural integrity.
- ◆ To accommodate pedestrians, bicycles and other micromobility devices (small, low-speed, human-or electric-powered transportation devices) across I-25 and along Speer Boulevard and 23rd Avenue.





NEPA Analysis

The NEPA document will be made available for public review and comment at CDOT and on the project website.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that projects using federal funds, requiring a federal permit or linked to a federal action, analyze effects on the natural and social environment. Since CDOT is using federal funding for this project, once a Recommended Proposed Action, including the No Action, is selected, the project will go through NEPA review and documentation.

The NEPA document will disclose impacts, necessary permits and mitigation of those impacts for the Proposed Action. Public involvement will continue throughout the NEPA process.

The following are resources of interest:

Cultural Resources

- Economic Environment
- Air Quality

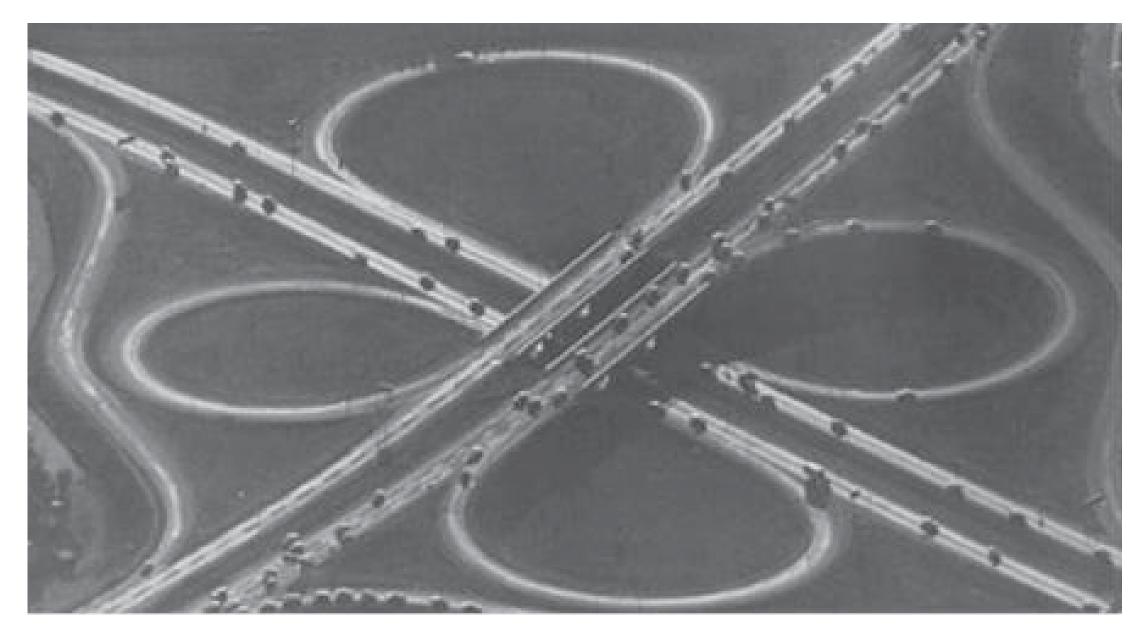
- Social Environment
- Biological Resources

Noise

All applicable resources will be assessed during the NEPA process.



Historic Brewmaster's House located on 7th Street adjacent to I-25, 1983.



Historic Speer Boulevard Bridges over the Valley Highway, 1962.

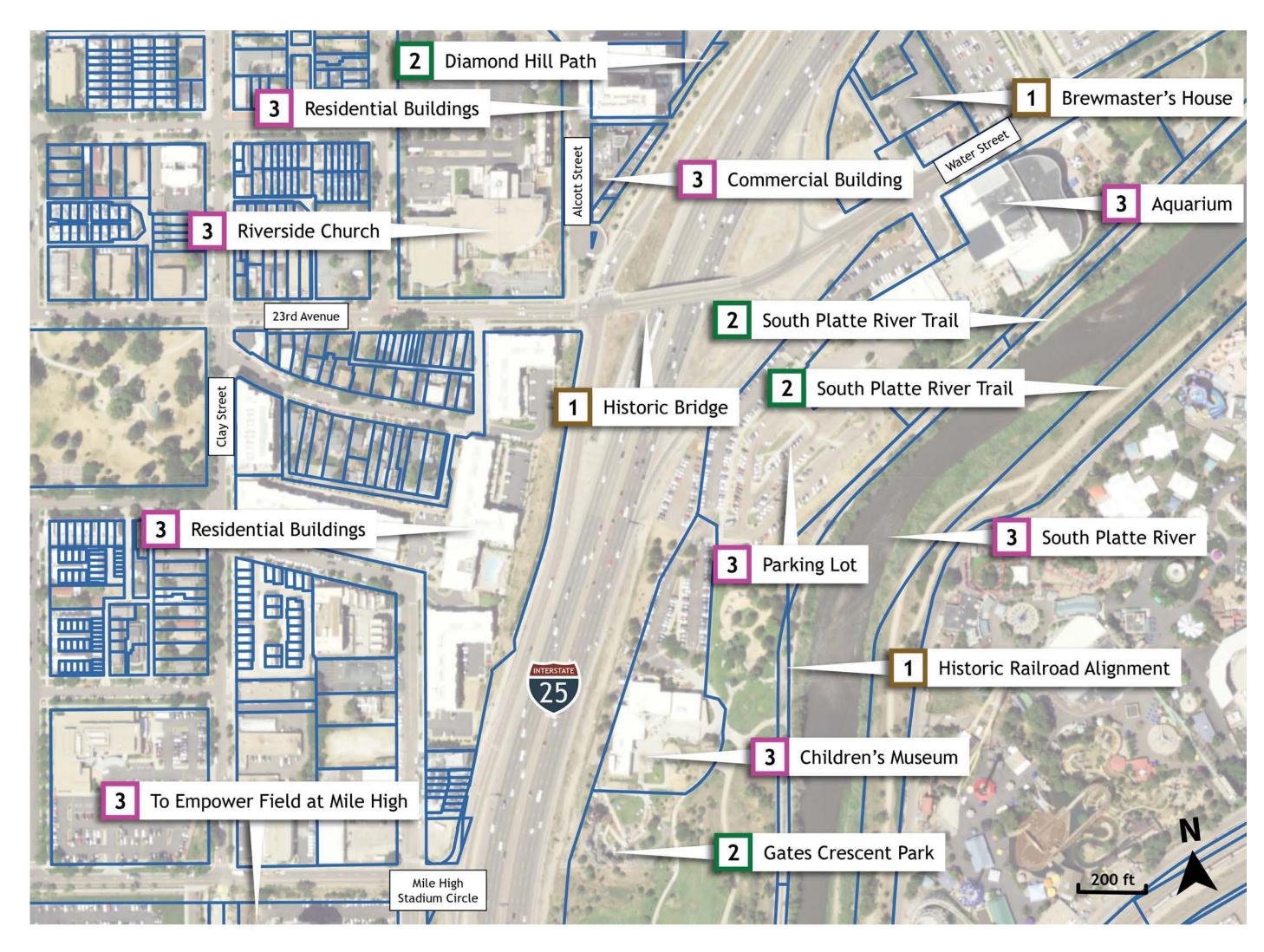




Adjacent Resources & Land Use

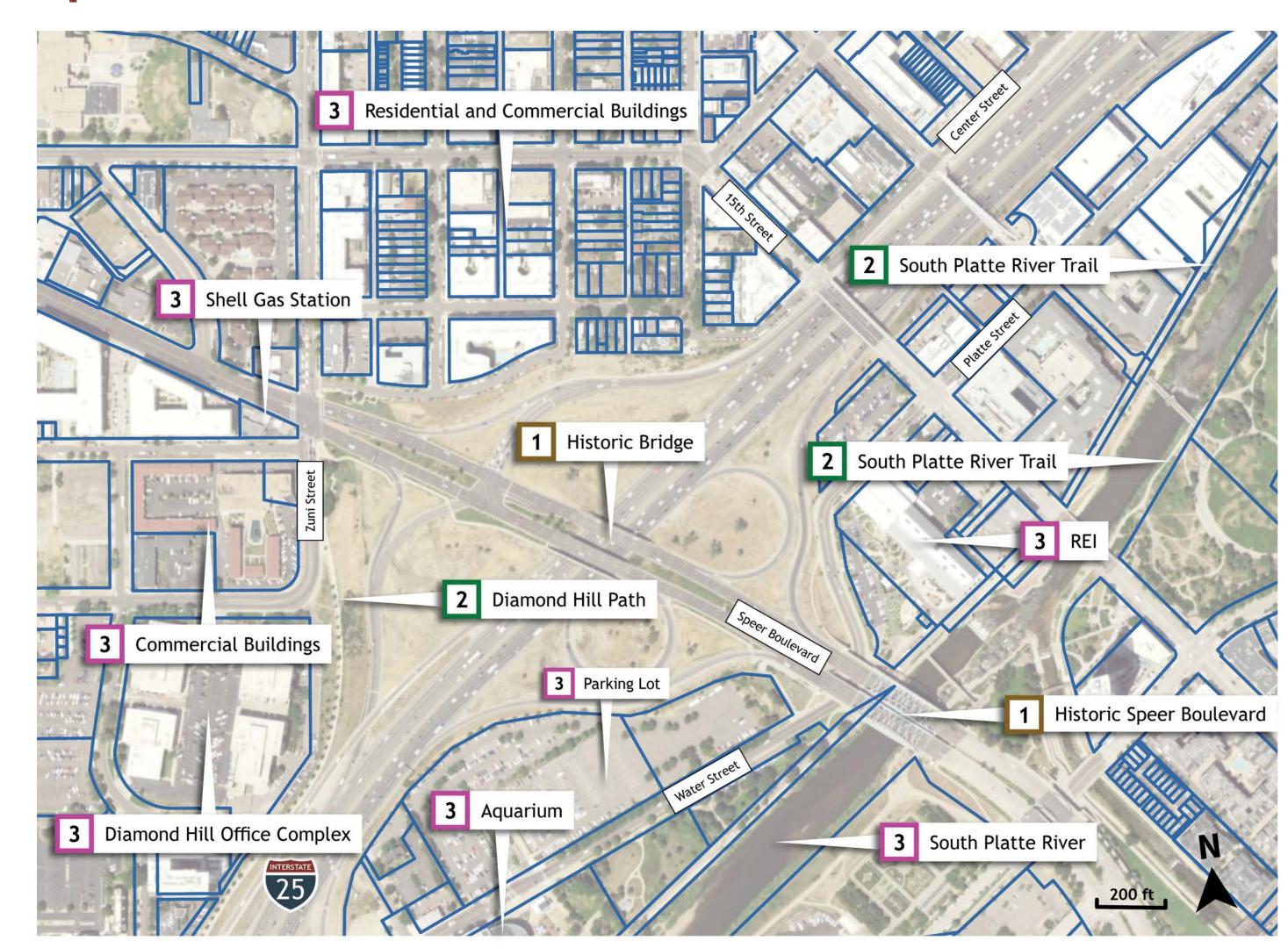
During the screening process, the project team considered ways to avoid and minimize impacts to adjacent resources and land uses.

23rd Avenue



showing
the project
area near
the 23rd
Avenue
and I-25
interchange
that
highlights
historic
resources,
recreation
resources
and other
adjacent
land uses.

Speer Boulevard



Legend

1 Historic Resources

2 Recreation Resources

3 Other Adjacent Land Uses

Adjacent Parcel Boundaries

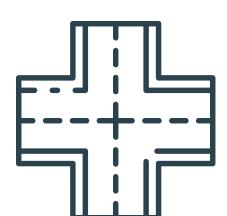




and other adjacent

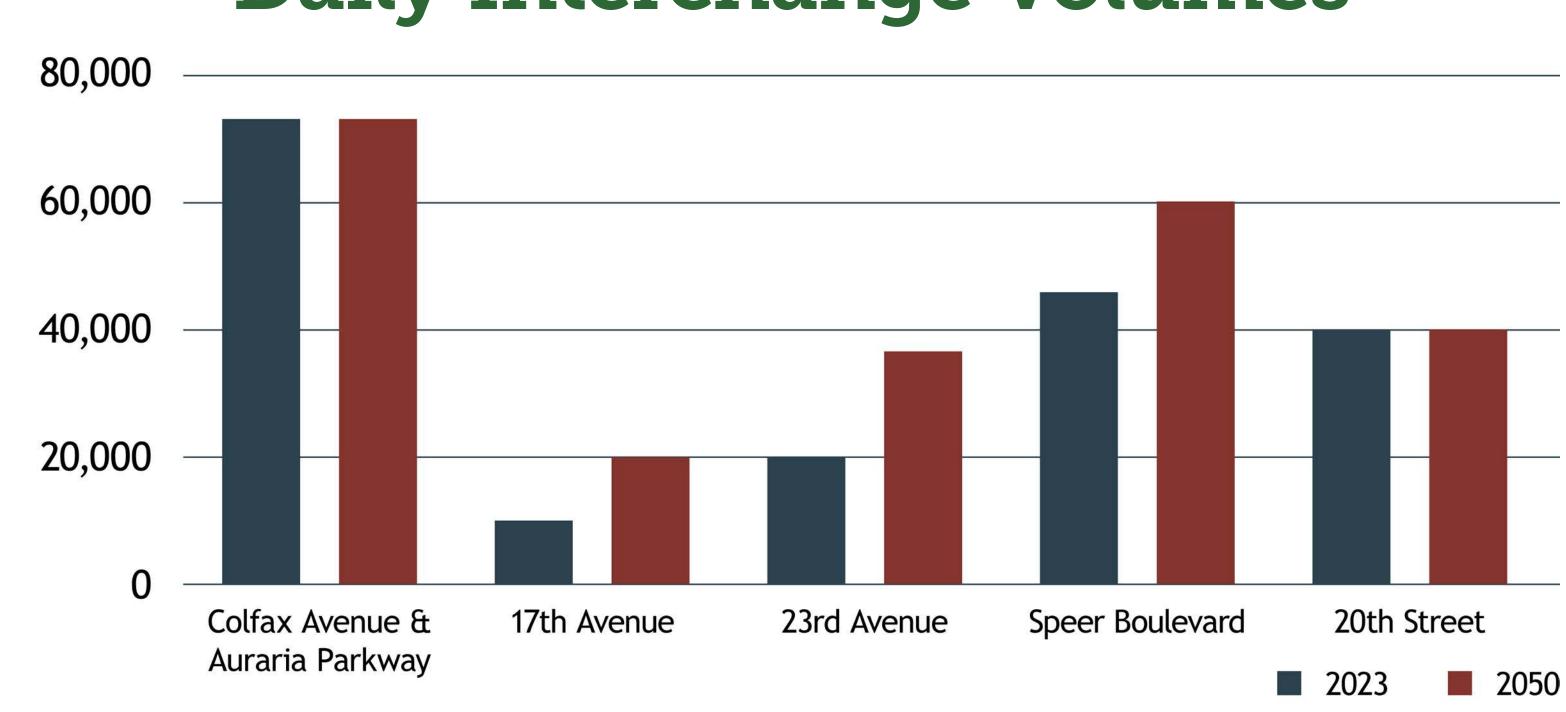
Traffic Data

Today, I-25 near 23rd Avenue and Speer Boulevard carries approximately **250,000 vehicles per day.** By 2050, this number is expected to rise to almost **300,000 vehicles per day.**



Traffic projections through 2050 indicate that ramp volumes at 17th Avenue, 23rd Avenue and Speer Boulevard will continue to increase.

Daily Interchange Volumes





Existing conditions on 23rd Avenue show that nearly 600 bicyclists and 200 pedestrians crossed I-25 per day.*

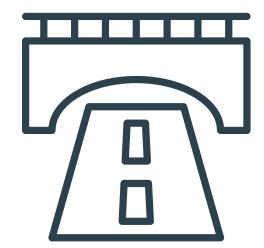
*Bike and pedestrian counts on 23rd Avenue were captured in 2023.



Existing conditions on Speer Boulevard show that approximately 100 bicyclists and 200 pedestrians crossed I-25 per day.**

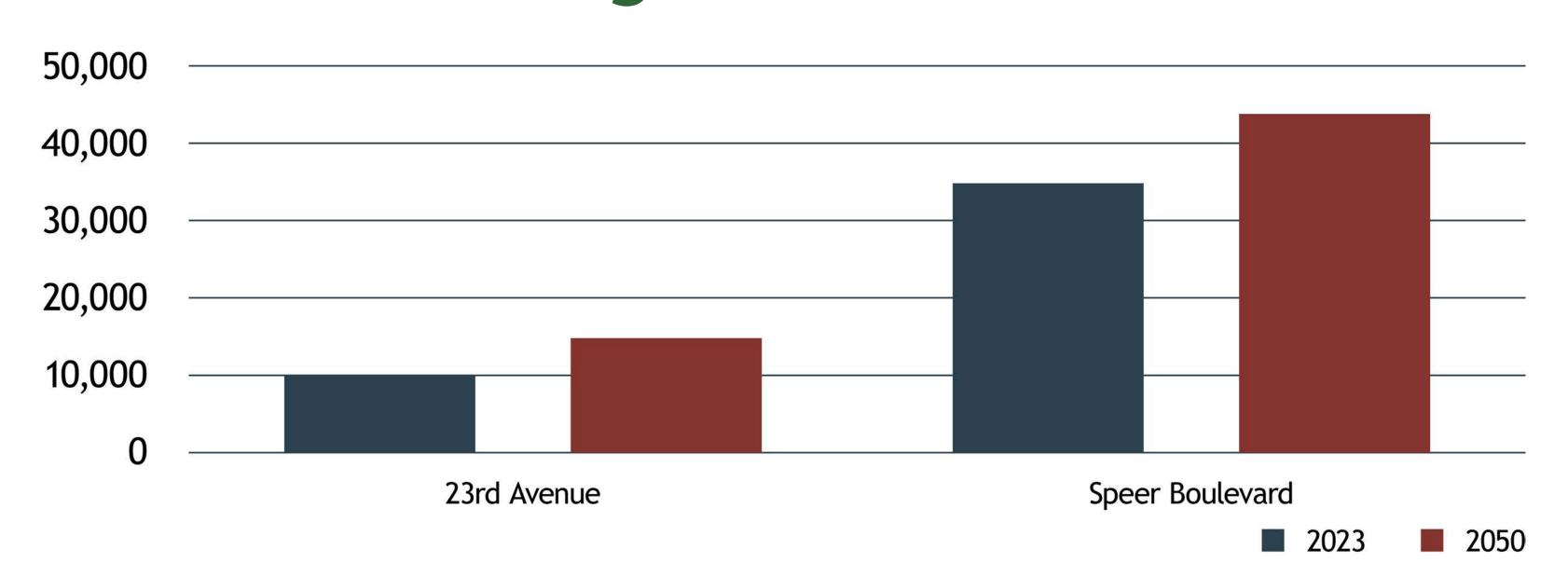
**Speer Boulevard bike and pedestrian data are from 2021.

No updates were needed in 2023, as no facility changes occurred.



By 2050, traffic on the 23rd Avenue and Speer Boulevard bridges over I-25 is also expected to increase.

Daily Vehicle Volumes on the Bridges Over I-25

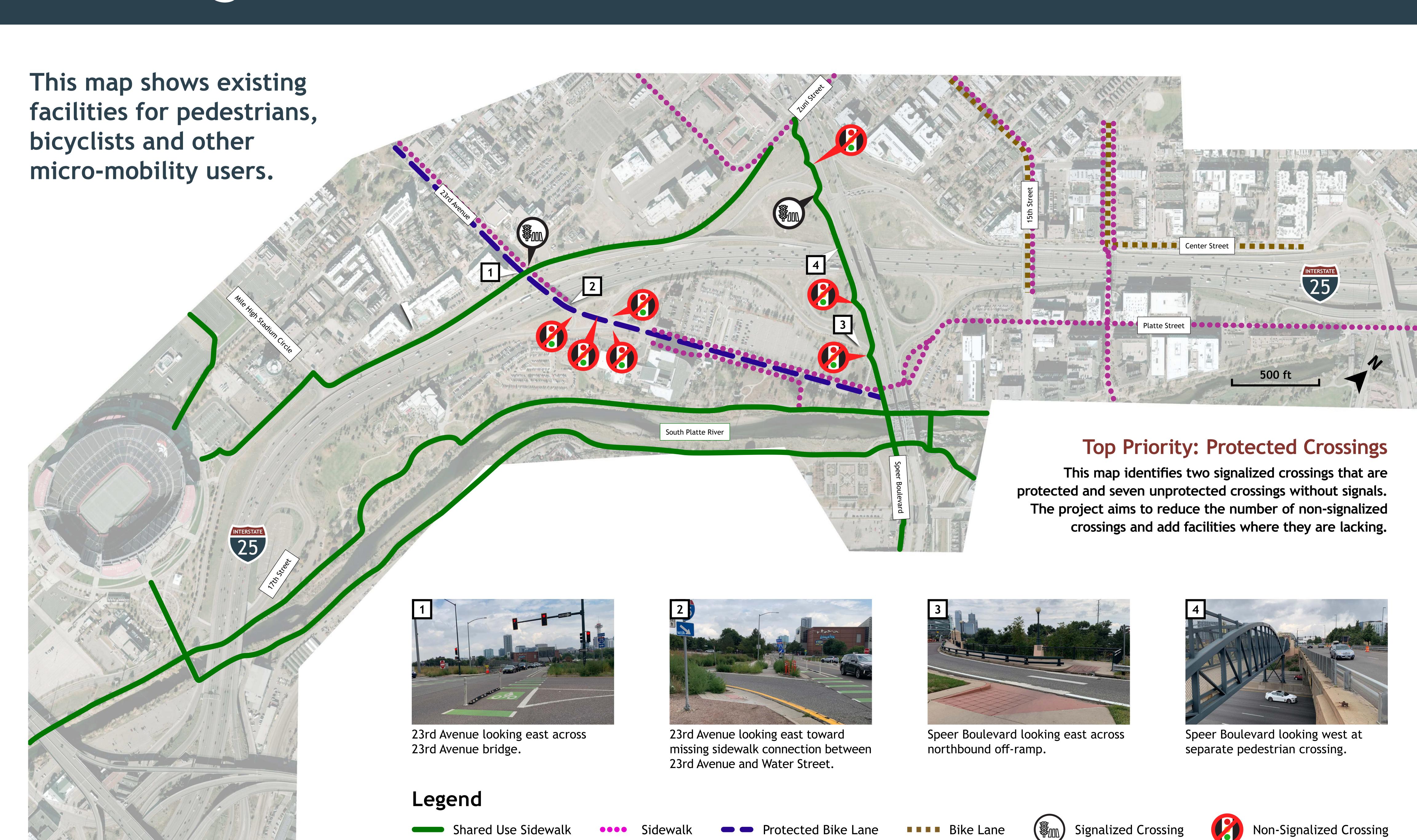








Existing Bike and Pedestrian Facilities



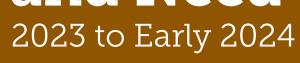


Alternatives Screening Process

A key project milestone has been reached. Based on the evaluation, a proposed solution has been identified that combines the two interchanges. This option, along with a No Action Alternative, will move forward for further study as part of the environmental review process.

Screening Level

Purpose and Need



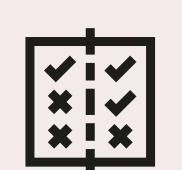




Screening Metrics



- Safety
- Structural Clearance and Integrity
- Bike and Pedestrian Accommodations



- Vehicular Safety
- Bike and Pedestrian Safety
- Operational Performance
- Environmental Impacts
- Community Resources Impacts
- Constructability and Cost
- Maintenance



- Vehicular Safety
- Bike and Pedestrian Safety
- Operational Performance

Alternatives Evaluated

(For the Bridges and Interchanges)

Started with	23rd Avenue — 3 Alternatives
	Speer Boulevard — 5 Alternatives
Ended with	23rd Avenue — 2 Alternatives
	Speer Boulevard — 5 Alternatives



23rd Avenue — 2 Alternatives **Speer Boulevard** — 5 Alternatives

Ended with

23rd Avenue — 1 Alternative **Speer Boulevard** — 2 Alternatives

Started with

Speer Boulevard — 2 Alternatives

Ended with

Speer Boulevard — 1 Alternative







Purpose and Need Screening

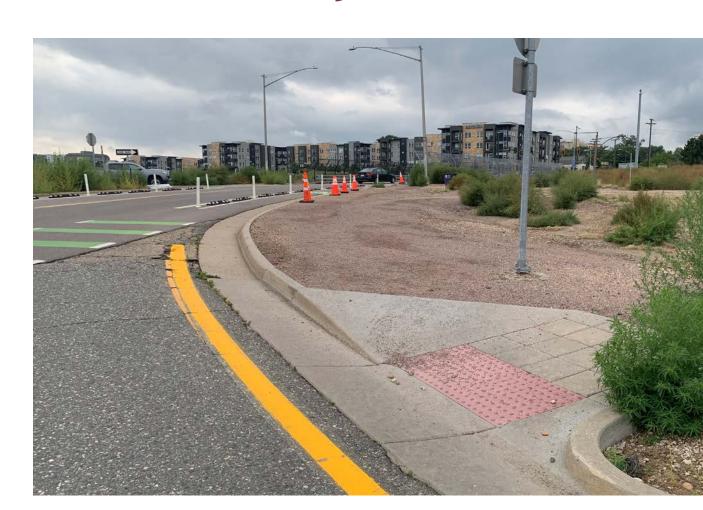
The following questions were used to measure how well each alternative met the Purpose and Need. Alternatives with a response of "no" to any of the questions were not carried forward to the Comparative Screening. This is considered a fatal flaw analysis.

Interstate Crossing Needs



- Does the alternative provide a crossing of I-25 with adequate vertical clearance of at least 16.5 feet over travel lanes and shoulders?
- Does the alternative reduce the ongoing maintenance requirements and improve the structural integrity of the bridges?

Pedestrian, Bicycle and Micromobility Device Needs



 Does the alternative improve pedestrian, bicycle and micromobility connections on 23rd Avenue and Speer Boulevard and connect to local networks west and east of I-25?

Safety Needs



- Does the alternative enhance safety by improving access to and from I-25 at the following locations:
 - Northbound weave between the 23rd Avenue on-ramp and eastbound Speer Boulevard off-ramp.
 - Northbound weave between the eastbound Speer Boulevard on-ramp and westbound Speer Boulevard off-ramp.
 - Southbound acceleration lane from Speer Boulevard on-ramp.





Comparative Screening Metrics

Alternatives carried forward from the Purpose and Need Screening and the No Action Alternative were compared using seven screening metrics.

Screening Metrics	Was it a Differentiator?
Vehicular Safety	Yes: Alternatives have different safety characteristics including vehicle crossing and merging conflict points and ramp spacing on I-25.
Bike and Pedestrian Safety	Yes: Alternatives have different bike and pedestrian safety characteristics, including the number and nature of conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians and motorists.
Operational Performance	Yes: Alternatives have different operational characteristics including the removal of I-25 ramp terminals on 23rd Avenue and the addition of a signalized intersection on Speer Boulevard that would operate using either a two-phase or three-phase signal.
Environmental Impacts	No: Alternatives are not anticipated to have substantial or different impacts to wetlands, floodplains, water quality, or threatened and endangered species and wildlife. Hazardous materials, noise and air quality were considered at a high level, but were not considered differentiators and will be assessed further during the NEPA process.
Community Resources	Yes: Alternatives are anticipated to have effects to historic resources, have temporary impacts to recreational parks or trails and benefit and impact bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and access to local businesses and neighborhoods.
Construction Cost	No: Level of detail for design is not enough to differentiate between the range of construction costs between alternatives.
Maintenance	No: The difference in effort and cost to maintain alternatives was not enough to differentiate between alternatives





23rd Avenue Screening Results

Legend



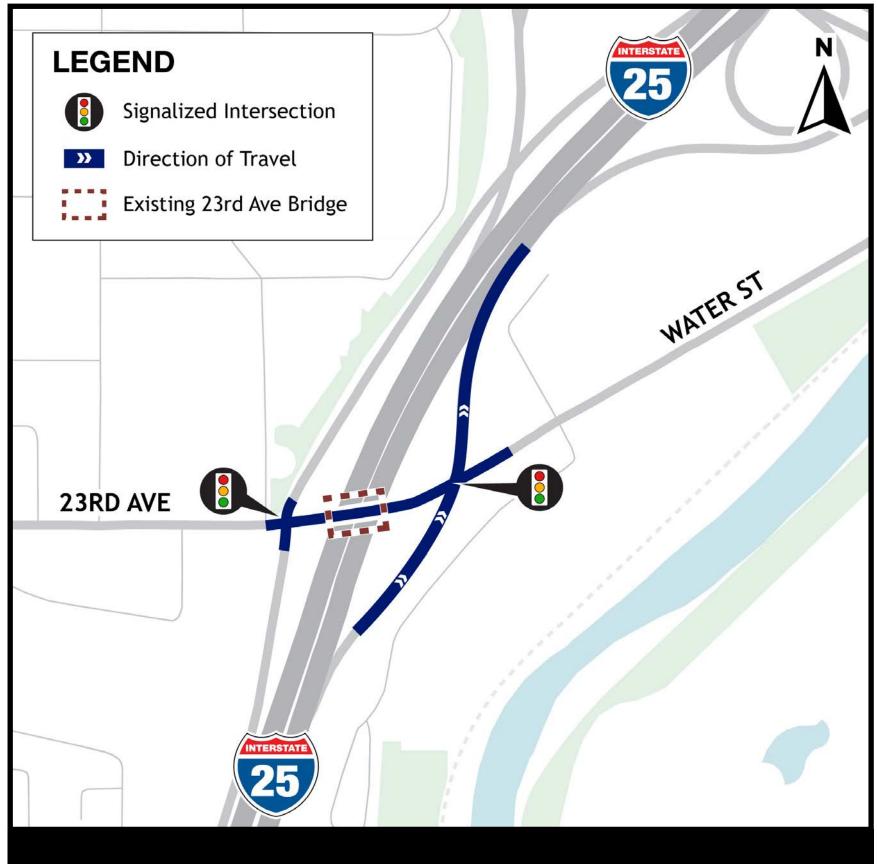
Carry Forward



Do Not Carry



Not Applicable



23rd Avenue Bridge Replacement Only



Does Not Meet Purpose and Need

Does not improve safety at existing northbound I-25 weave length between 23rd Avenue on-ramp and Speer Boulevard off-ramp.



Close 23rd Avenue Access to I-25 (Ramps)



Meets Purpose and Need



23rd Avenue Braid



Meets Purpose and Need

Purpose and Need Screening



Not Applicable

Not App



Not Carried Forward

Removes existing access to businesses and neighborhoods.

Vehicular Safety on 23rd Avenue Improves safety on 23rd Avenue by removing I-25 ramp conflicts.

Vehicular Safety on I-25 Improves safety on I-25 by removing

merging conflict points on I-25.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety
Improves safety for people walking/rolling and biking
by removing ramp conflicts and adding sidewalks, bike
lanes and a new signal at 23rd Avenue.

Operational Performance
Improves traffic operations by removing existing signal.

Community Resources

Out-of-direction travel required for businesses, community resources and neighborhoods that currently rely on direct I-25 access at 23rd Avenue. May create negative economic impacts for businesses that are located near 23rd Avenue with the expectation of interstate visibility and access.



Carried Forward

Vehicular Safety on 23rd Avenue Improves roadway layout and adds an additional signal.

Vehicular Safety on I-25
Improves safety on I-25 by improving short weaving distances.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety
Improves safety while maintaining access

to neighborhood and businesses.

Operational Performance

Adding dedicated left-turn lanes to improve turning movements.

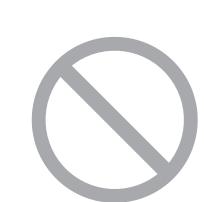
Community Resources

Maintains I-25 access for local
businesses and neighborhoods.

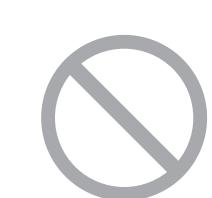
Refined Screening

Comparative

Screening



Not Applicable



Not Applicable



Recommended Alternative







23rd Avenue Refined Screening Results

23rd Avenue Braided Ramp



Recommended Alternative

Recommended as the Proposed Action to be evaluated during the NEPA process by balancing the needs to improve safety for all users and maintain access to businesses, community resources and neighborhoods.

Improves Safety on I-25

- Improves northbound ramp connections with I-25.
- Braided ramp design provides increased distance to merge on and off of I-25.

Community Access

- Maintains I-25 access for nearby homes, community resources and businesses.
- Does not require out-of-direction travel for customers, employees, visitors or residents.
- Preserves existing connections within the community.

Improvements for Bike and Pedestrian

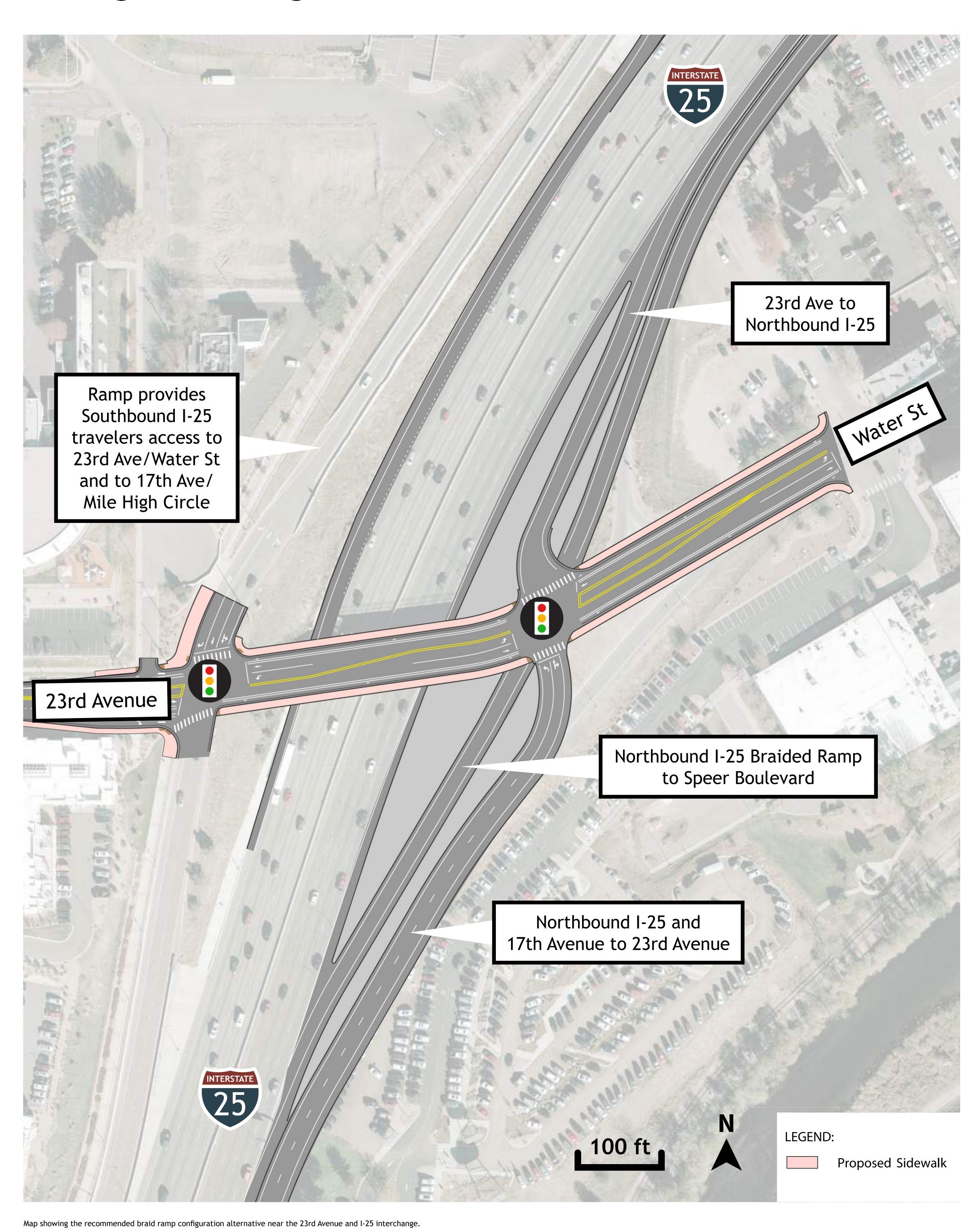
- Adds sidewalks and bike lanes to increase comfort and visibility.
- New signal at the northbound I-25 ramps supports safer ramp terminal crossings.
- Enhances safety for everyone using 23rd Avenue — whether walking, biking or driving.

Designed with the Community in Mind

This alternative was shaped by input from a variety of people who rely on 23rd Avenue every day:

- Residents and families in nearby neighborhoods.
- Business owners and their customers.
- People walking and biking.
- Emergency services and city operations.

Design Configuration



Representative Typical Section

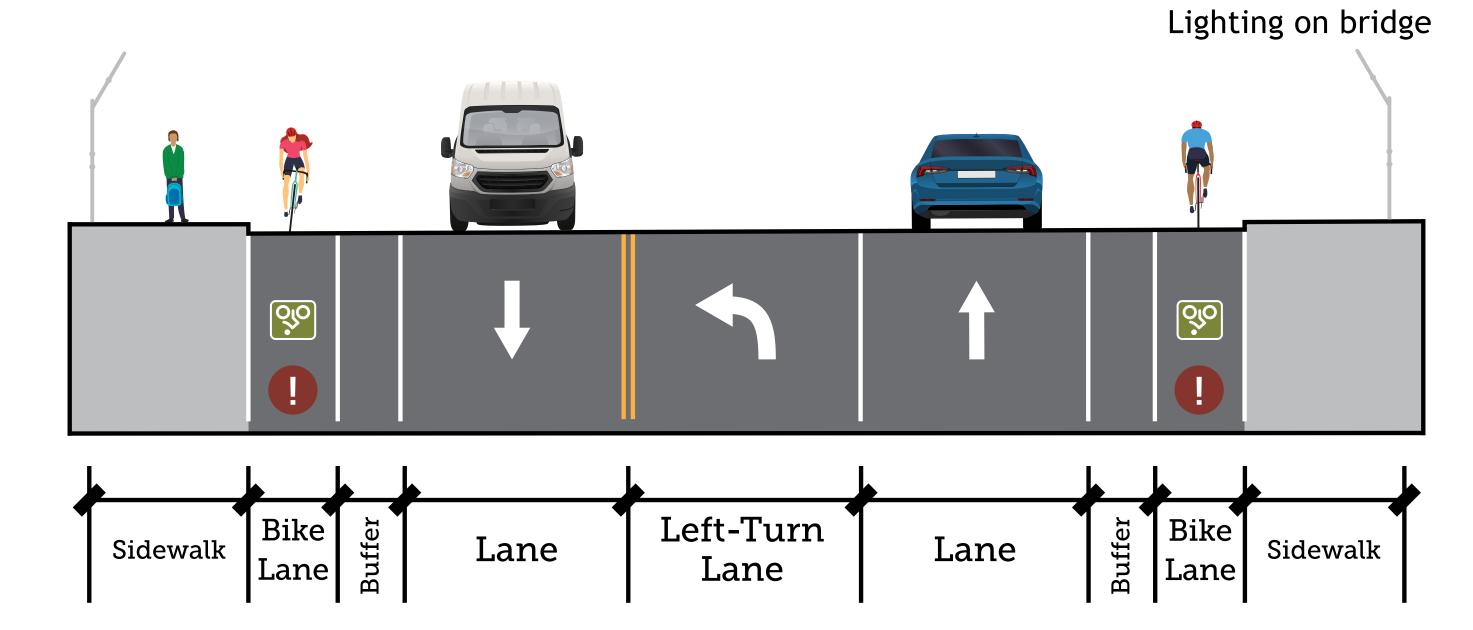
23rd Avenue **Looking East**



Treatment to be determined with public input and in coordination with the Denver Office of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI).



For additional non-motorized design details, refer to the "Bike and Pedestrian Safety Solutions: 23rd Avenue" board.



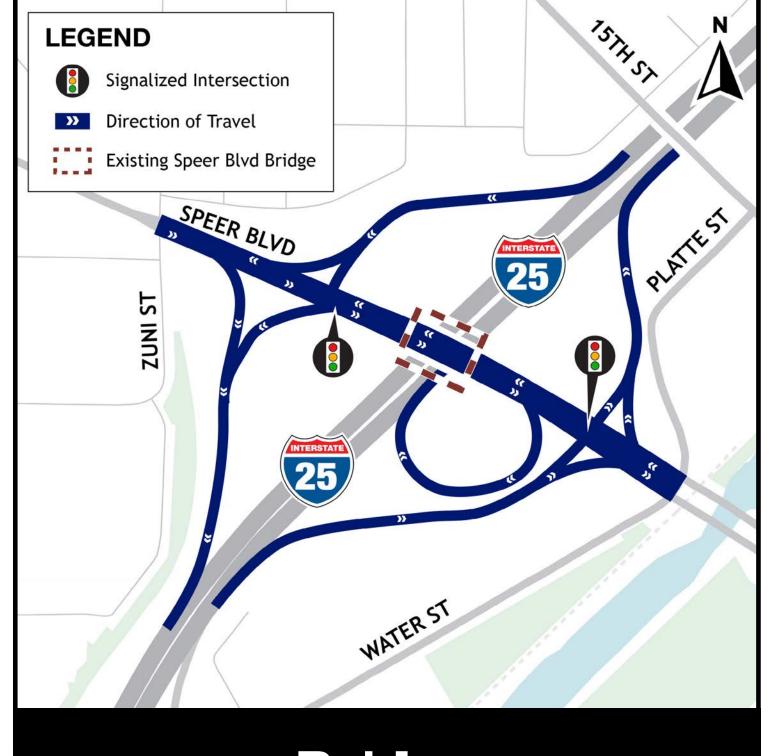


Speer Boulevard Screening Results

Legend

Carry Forward

Not Applicable

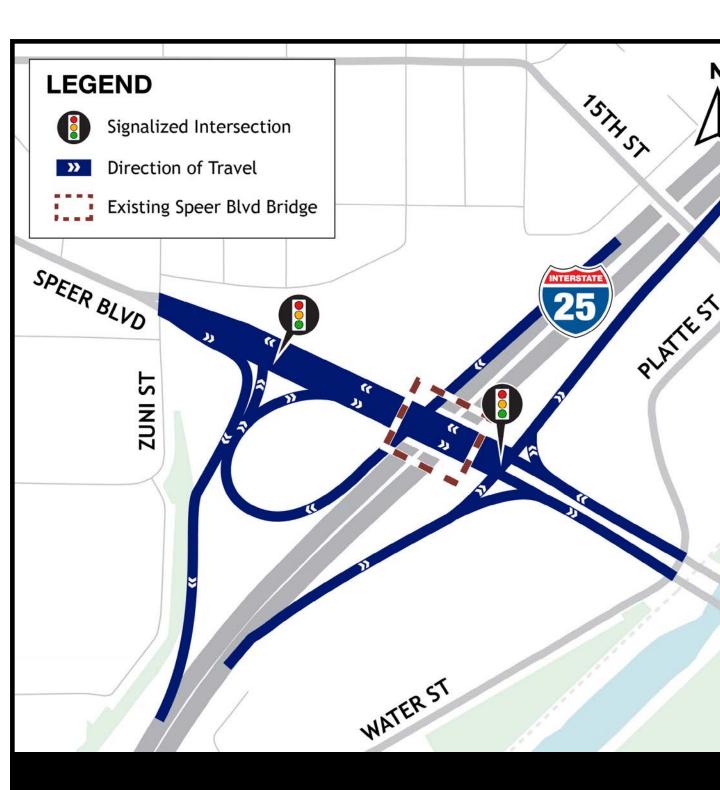


Purpose and Need

Screening



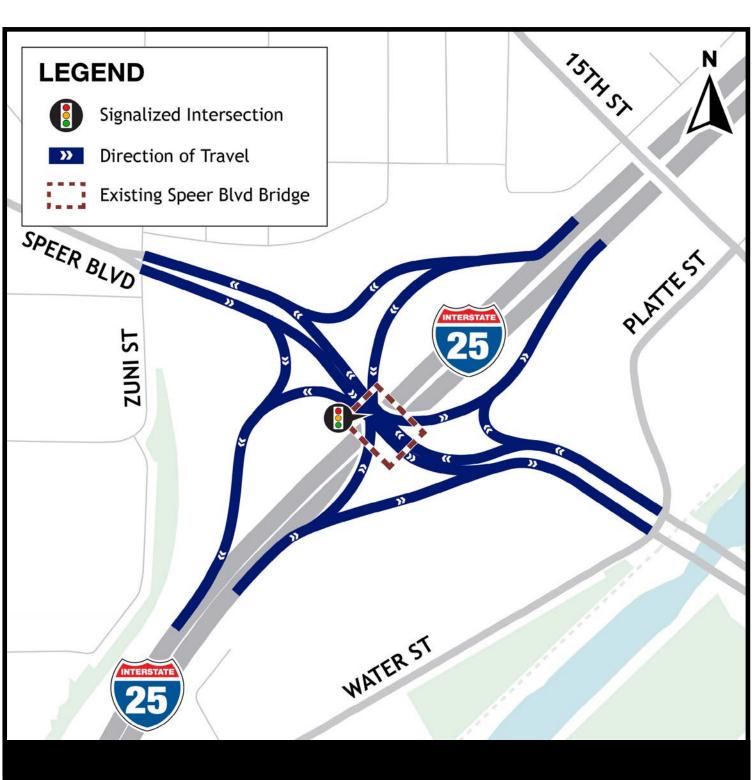
Meets Purpose and Need



Partial Clover Leaf Interchange



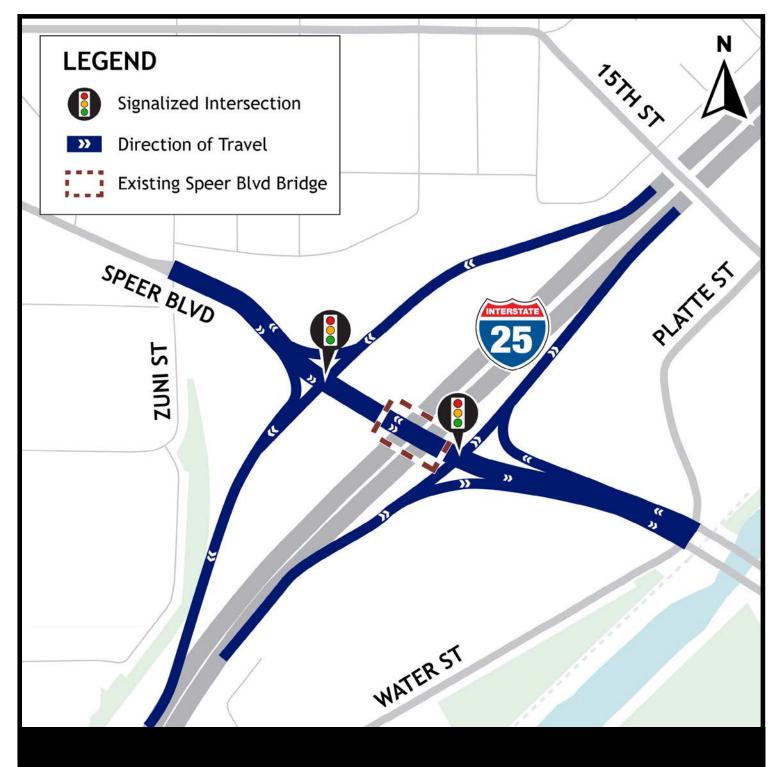
Meets Purpose and Need



Single-Point **Urban Interchange**



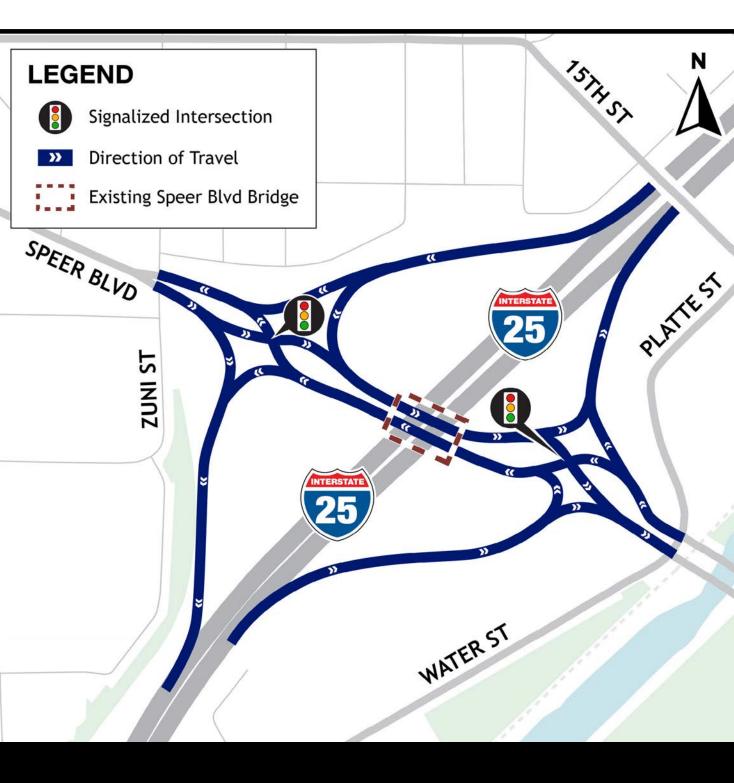
Meets Purpose and Need



Speer Boulevard Diamond Interchange



Meets Purpose and Need



Speer Boulevard Diverging Diamond Interchange



Meets Purpose and Need

Comparative Screening



Not Carried Forward

Comparative increase in non-motorist conflict points and additional delay on Speer Boulevard. Vehicular Safety on Speer Boulevard

Not a differentiator.

Vehicular Safety on I-25 Not a differentiator.

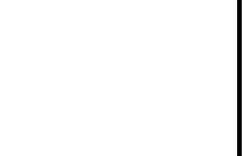
Bike and Pedestrian Safety

Greater number of non-motorist conflict points compared to alternatives carried forward.

Operational Performance Increases delay by adding a signal at the northbound I-25 intersection.

Community Resources

Maintains I-25 access for local businesses and neighborhoods. Impacts the eligible historic Diamond Hill Office Complex.



Not Carried Forward

Comparative increase in conflict points and additional delay on Speer Boulevard.

> Vehicular Safety on Speer Boulevard Not a differentiator.

> > Vehicular Safety on I-25 Not a differentiator.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Greater number of non-motorist conflict points and motorist conflict points compared to alternatives carried forward.

> **Operational Performance** Increases delay by adding a signal at the northbound I-25 intersection.

Community Resources Maintains I-25 access for local businesses and neighborhoods.



Not Carried Forward

Comparative increase in conflict points and additional delay on Speer Boulevard.

Vehicular Safety on Speer Boulevard Not a differentiator.

> Vehicular Safety on I-25 Not a differentiator.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Comparative increase in conflict points and additional delay on Speer Boulevard.

> **Operational Performance** Not a differentiator.

Community Resources Maintains I-25 access for local businesses and neighborhoods.



Carried Forward

Vehicular Safety on Speer Boulevard Not a differentiator.

> **Vehicular Safety on I-25** Not a differentiator.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Ten total conflict points.

Operational Performance

Increases delay more than Diverging Diamond Interchange by adding a three-to-four-phase signal at the northbound I-25 ramp intersection.

> **Community Resources** Maintains I-25 access for local businesses and neighborhoods.



Carried Forward

Vehicular Safety on Speer Boulevard Not a differentiator.

> Vehicular Safety on I-25 Not a differentiator.

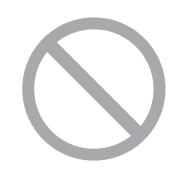
Bike and Pedestrian Safety Eight total conflict points.

Operational Performance

Increases delay by adding a two-phase signal at the northbound I-25 ramp intersection.

> **Community Resources** Maintains I-25 access for local businesses and neighborhoods.

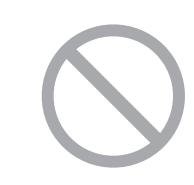
Refined Screening



Not Applicable



Not Applicable



Not Applicable



Not Carried Forward

Comparable traffic operations to the Diverging Diamond Alternative. However, it provides less safety benefit.



Recommended Alternative

Comparable traffic operations to the Traditional Diamond Alternative. However, national crash data shows that diverging diamond interchanges have 15% fewer overall crashes and 45% fewer fatal and injury crashes than traditional diamond type interchanges. Reduced non-motorist conflict points with improved directional driver site distance without left turns across oncoming traffic and crosswalks.





Speer Boulevard Refined Screening Results

Diamond Interchange at Speer Boulevard



Not Carried Forward

Safety

National crash data indicates that traditional diamond interchanges generally experience a similar number of crashes as partial cloverleaf interchanges (which is what the Speer Boulevard interchange is today).

Non-Motorist Road User Safety

From Zuni St. to S. Platte River

Traveling on north side of the bridge:

- Total travel length: 1,800 feet
- Number of times a person has to cross vehicle traffic: 4
- Total number of vehicles lanes to be crossed: 8

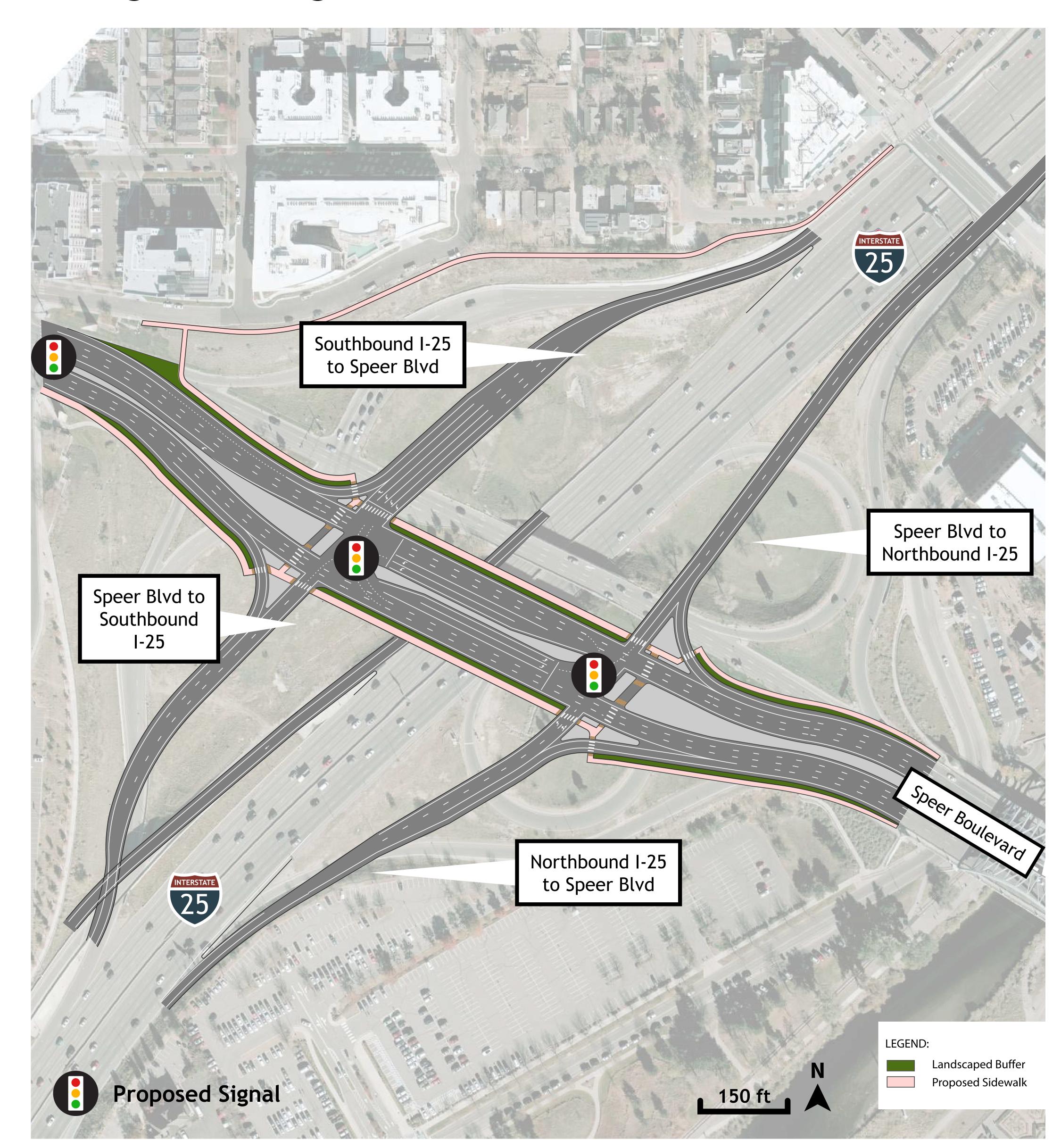
Traveling on south side of the bridge:

- Total travel length: 1,700 feet
- Number of times a person has to cross vehicle traffic: 4
- Total number of vehicles lanes to be crossed: 6

Operations

Preliminary traffic analysis shows that the traditional diamond interchange would have a similar overall delay as the diverging diamond interchange (DDI). During the evening commuting period, it is anticipated there may be additional congestion caused by eastbound left-turns and westbound right-turns.

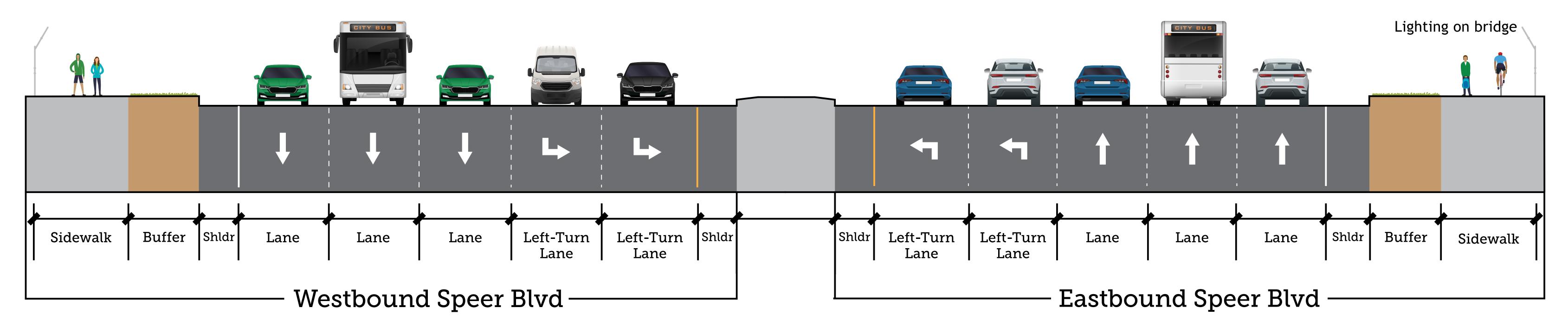
Design Configuration



Map showing the diamond design configuration alternative near the Speer Boulevard and I-25 interchange

Representative Typical Section

Speer Boulevard Looking East



Speer Boulevard Refined Screening Results

Speer Boulevard Diverging Diamond Interchange



Recommended as the Proposed Action to be evaluated during NEPA process.

Safety

National safety data indicates that diverging diamond interchanges (DDI) generally experience 15% fewer crashes than traditional diamond interchanges. DDIs generally have 45% fewer crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury compared to traditional diamond interchanges.

Non-Motorist Road User Safety

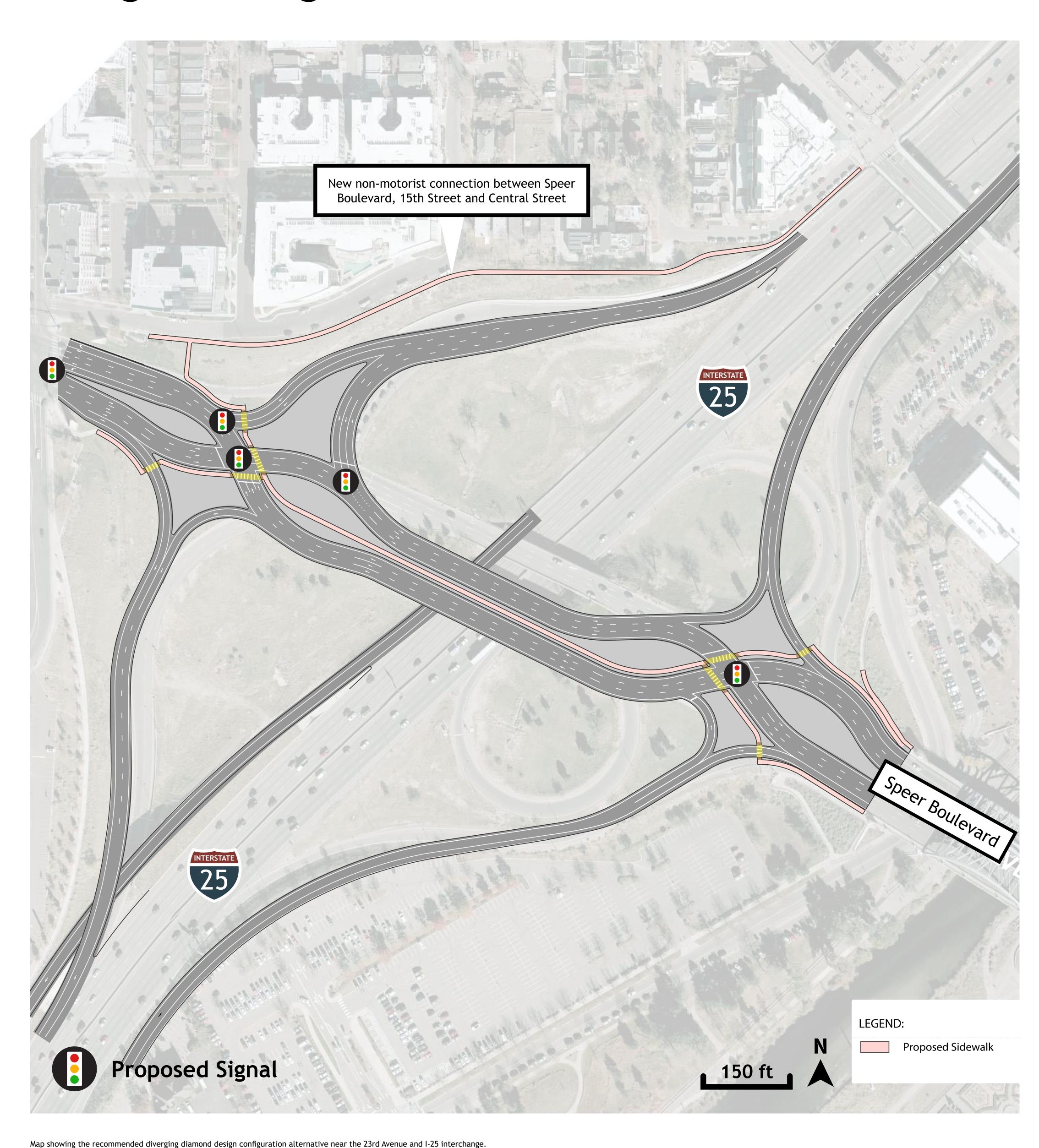
From Zuni St. to S. Platte River

- Total travel length: 1,900 feet
- Number of times a person has to cross vehicle traffic: 4
- Total number of vehicles lanes to be crossed: 8-9

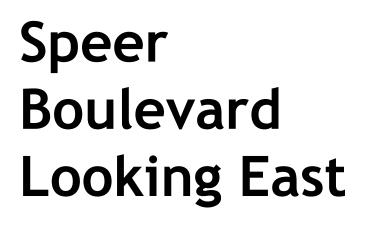
Operations

Preliminary traffic analysis completed on the DDI indicates that it would have a similar overall amount of delay as the traditional diamond interchange. However, the short distance between traffic signals at the southbound I-25 ramp and Zuni Street may cause congestion.

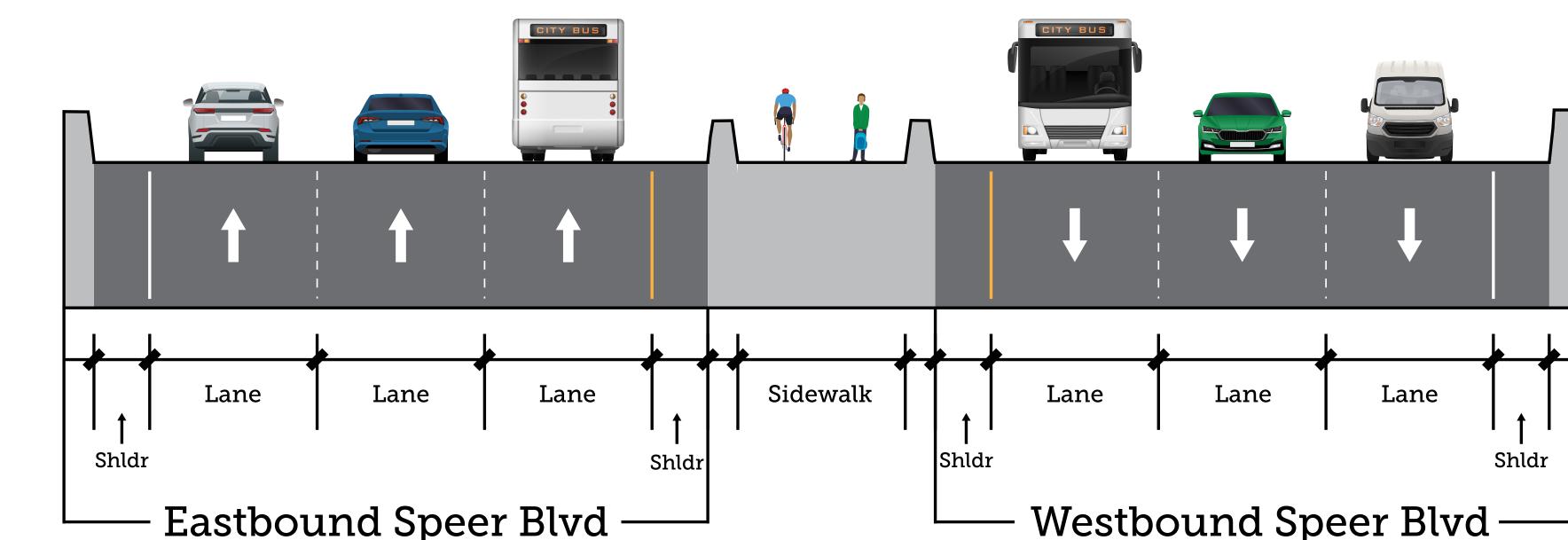
Design Configuration



Representative Typical Section



For additional nonmotorized design details, refer to the "Non-Motorized Safety Solutions: Speer Boulevard" board.



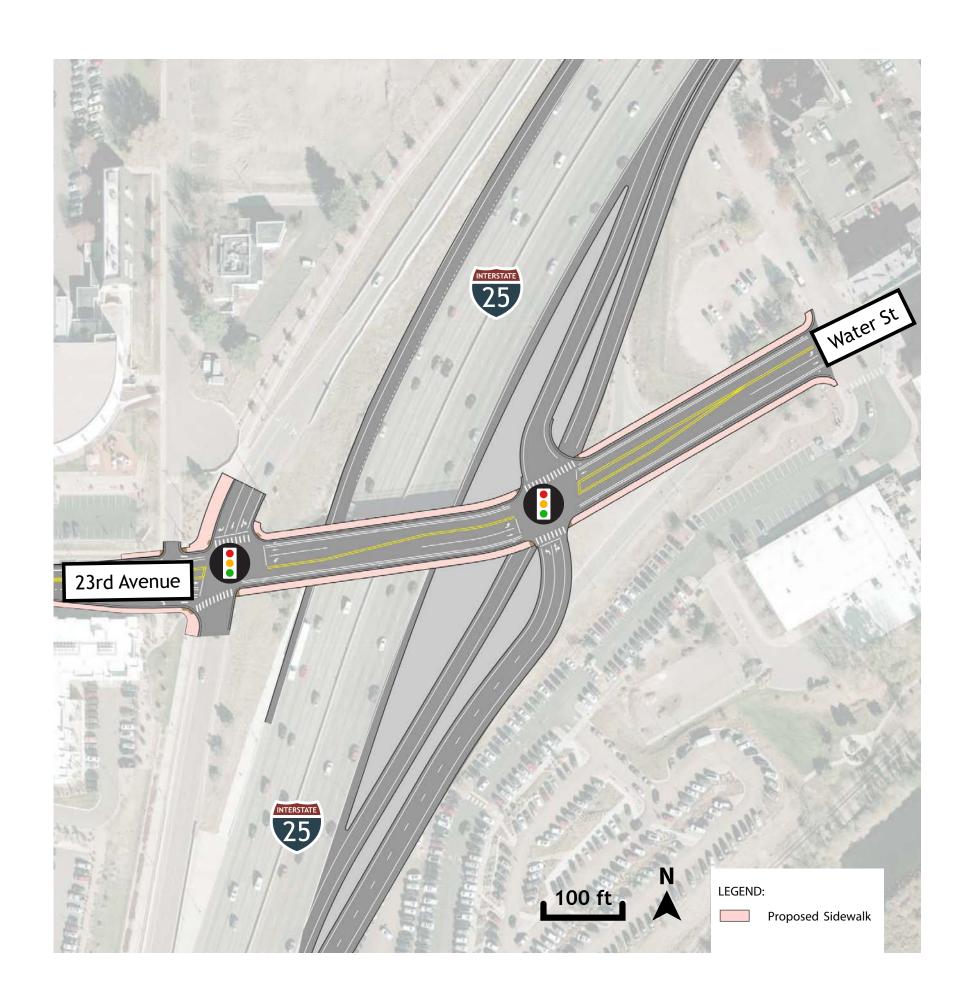
Alternatives Selection Summary

For an alternative to be chosen as the best option, it needs to improve safety for everyone—whether walking, biking, or driving. It should also provide a safe way to cross the interstate with enough height clearance and meet key design standards. Additionally, it must consider the needs and feedback from the community and stakeholders.

The screening process determined the best option for 23rd Avenue and the best option for Speer Boulevard. The combination of these two options is the Recommended Proposed Action.

23rd Avenue

This alternative was selected after the Comparative Screening because it met a broad range of criteria related to safety, operations and community and stakeholder needs. Both alternatives improve safety for everyone. This design in particular provides enhanced safety for all users—especially people walking and biking—while maintaining access for local residents, businesses and commercial motor carriers.



Speer Boulevard

This alternative was selected after the Refined Screening because it better supports safety for everyone—especially people walking and biking. It includes protected crossings for those most at risk, such as kids, older adults and people biking or using mobility aids. By removing left-turn conflict points, the design improves safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.







Diverging Diamond Interchange

Learn how it works by watching this video filmed at McCaslin Boulevard and US36 in Superior, CO

Thank You for Attending!

Design and Study Schedule



2023

Data collection and preliminary alternatives development



Early 2024

Purpose and Need Screening



Mid 2024 to Early 2025

Comparative and Refined Screening



Late 2025 to Mid 2026

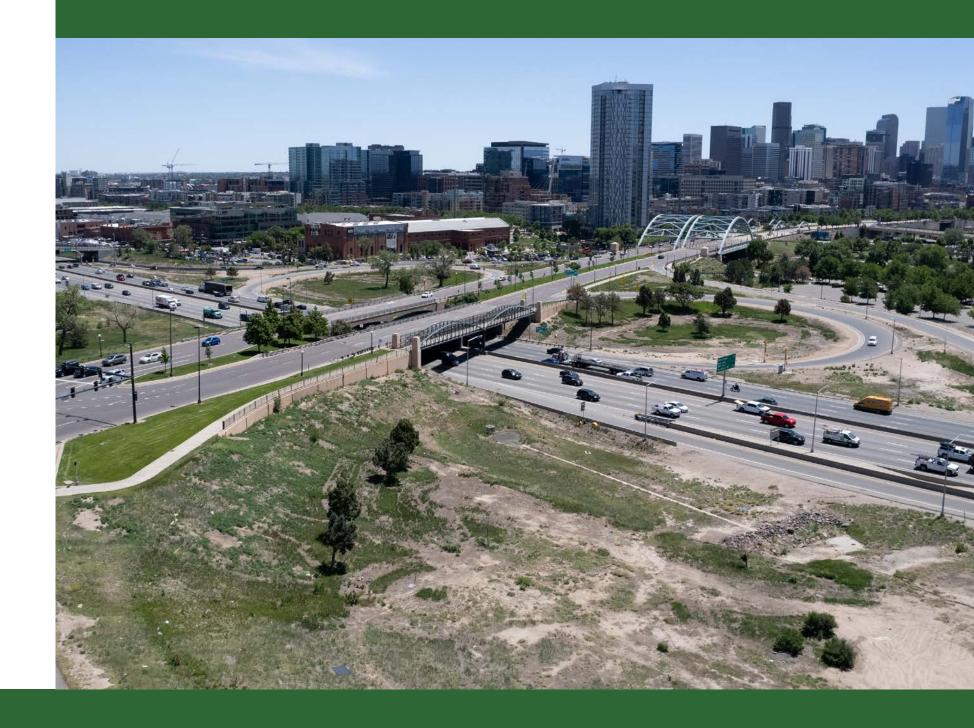
NEPA analysis and documentation; initiate preliminary design



2026 and Beyond: Final Design and

Construction

Identify construction delivery method, identify construction funds and finish design.



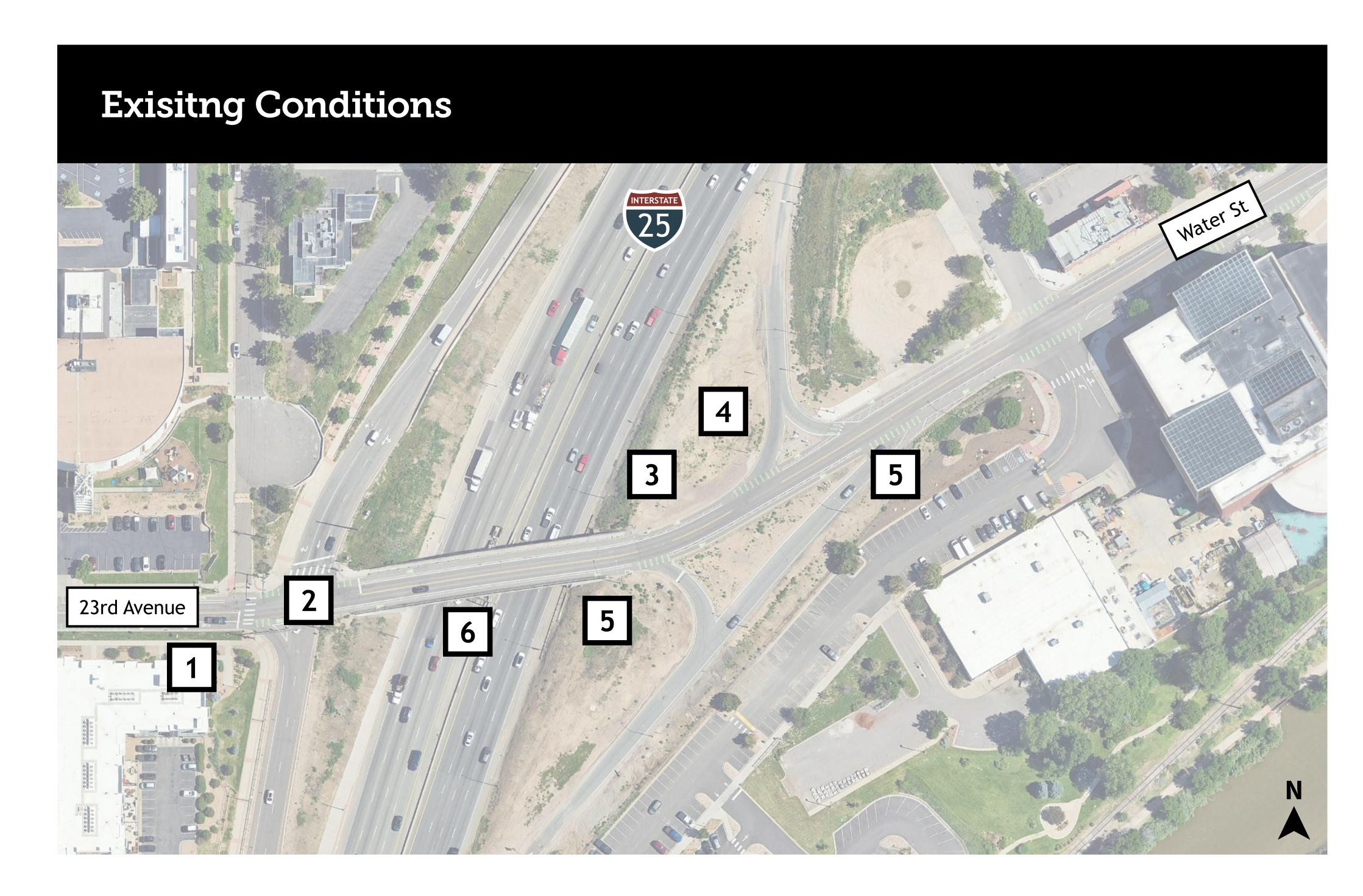
Share Your Input



To take the survey, visit the project website or scan the QR code. www.codot.gov/projects/studies/i25speerand23rd/publicmeeting

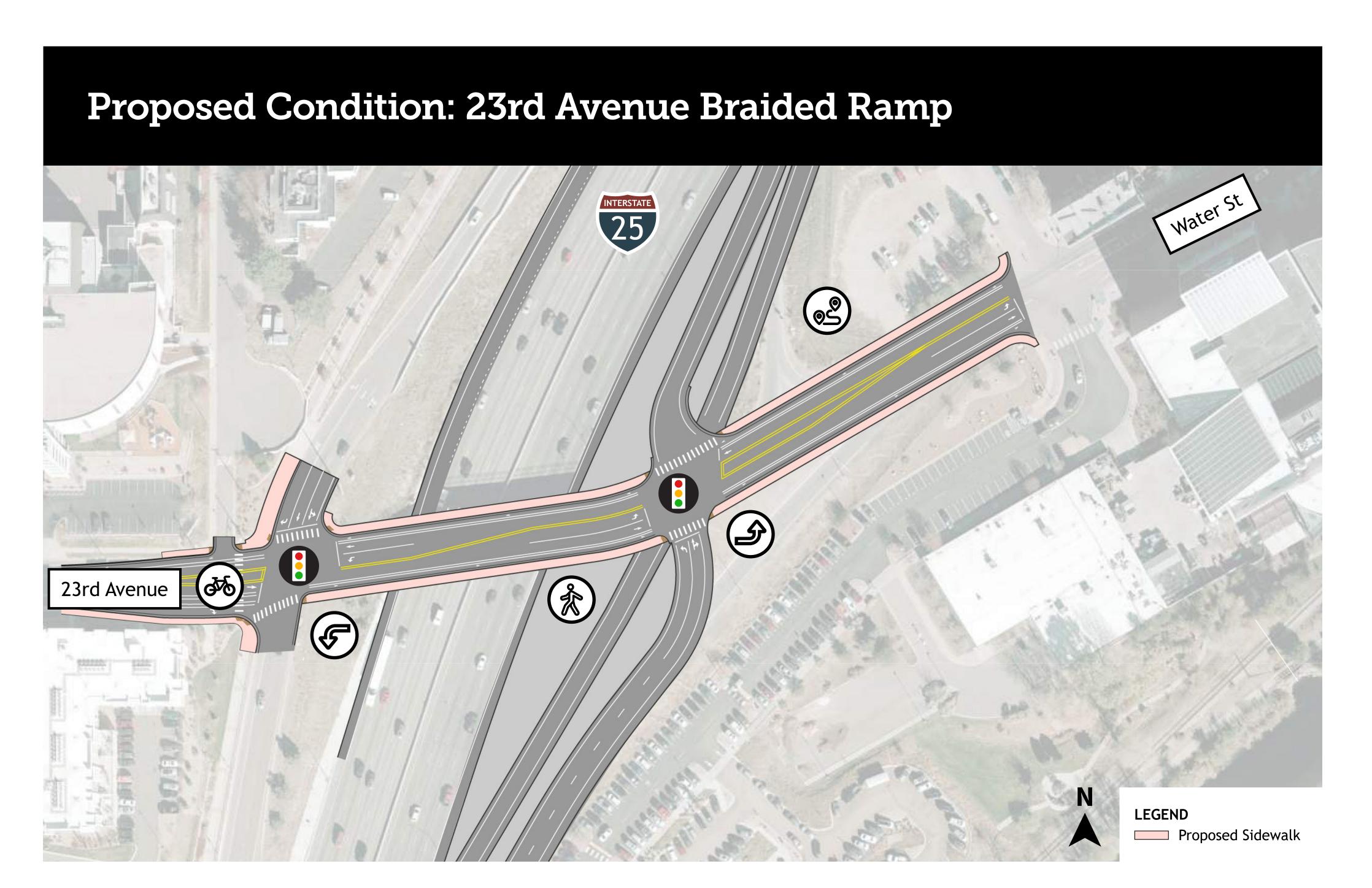
23rd Avenue

Problems



- Eastbound bicyclists must share a lane with rightturning vehicles. High traffic volumes make this uncomfortable for some bicyclists.
- Vehicles have a free left turn (WB 23rd to SB I-25 on ramp) and drivers can misjudge the gap for bikes coming down the hill going into downtown, resulting in near misses.
- There is a gap in the sidewalk through this section forcing pedestrians to walk in the dirt shoulder. This does not meet current accessibility standards.
- In the evening, westbound traffic backs up from the existing traffic signal. These cars leave a gap to allow for eastbound traffic to turn left onto the I-25 on-ramp; however, these eastbound cars cannot easily see westbound bicyclists. This results in near-misses.
- The placement of the stop sign and the geometry of the roadway makes it difficult for drivers exiting I-25 to see oncoming eastbound vehicles and bicyclists.
- There is no sidewalk on the south side of the bridge. This forces pedestrians to either cross the street or walk in the bicycle lane.

Potential Solutions





The existing bicycle lane could be extended to the intersection eliminating the need for eastbound bicyclists to mix with right-turning vehicles. This could be paired with a leading pedestrian interval (LPI) at the traffic signal, which would allow pedestrians and bicyclists to begin crossing the intersection a few seconds before vehicles are given a green light. LPIs are a proven safety countermeasure to reduce conflicts between people and turning vehicles.



A dedicated westbound left-turn lane would create the opportunity for a protected leftturn arrow to be installed at the intersection. Only allowing left-turns on a green arrow would prevent conflicts between left-turning vehicles and eastbound traffic (including pedestrians and bicyclists).



Addition of a sidewalk on the south side.



A dedicated eastbound left-turn lane would create the opportunity for a protected leftturn arrow to be installed at the intersection. Only allowing left-turns on a green arrow would prevent conflicts between left-turning vehicles and westbound traffic (including pedestrians and bicyclists).



New sidewalk to close the existing north sidewalk gap between the ramp and 7th Street.





23rd Avenue

Example Design Solutions



Concrete curbprotected twoway bike lane.



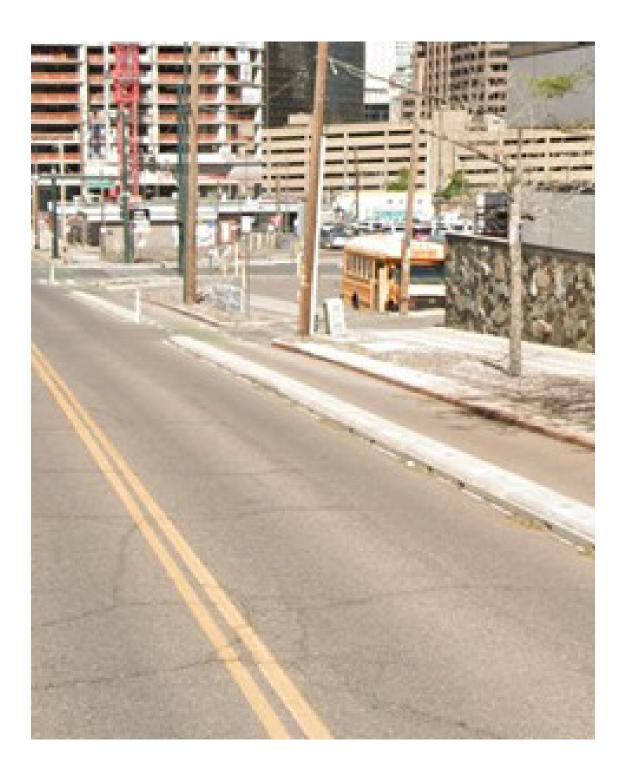
Concrete barrier with striped buffer-protected bike lane. Painted barrier makes the design more aesthetically pleasing.



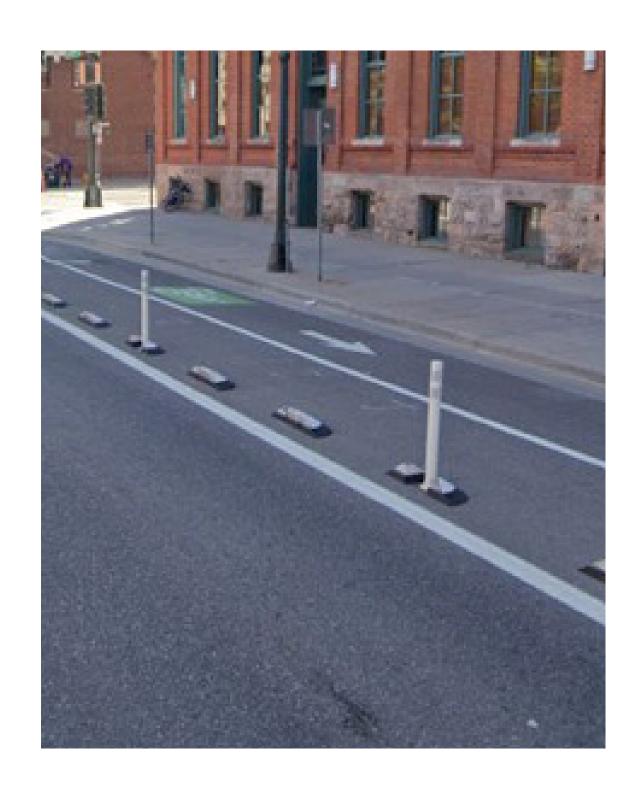
Raised, sidewalk-level bike lane with streetside buffer. Different colors of pavement are used to distinguish between the bike lane and pedestrian route.



Concrete curbprotected bike lane with colored buffer.



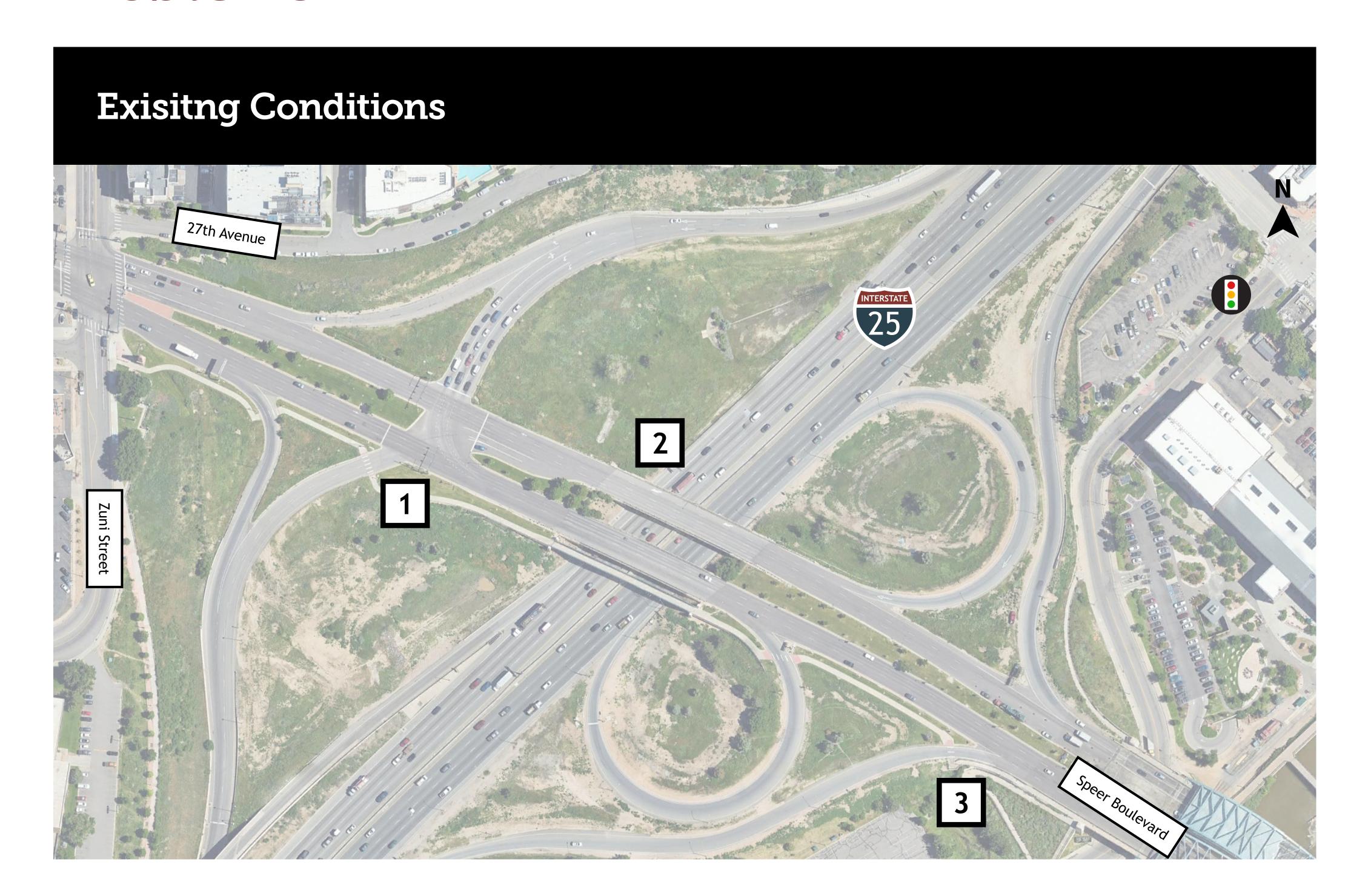
Continuous concrete curb-protected bike lane.



Bike lane with flex posts and Zicla curbs.
Reflective posts and curbs are more visible to drivers at night.

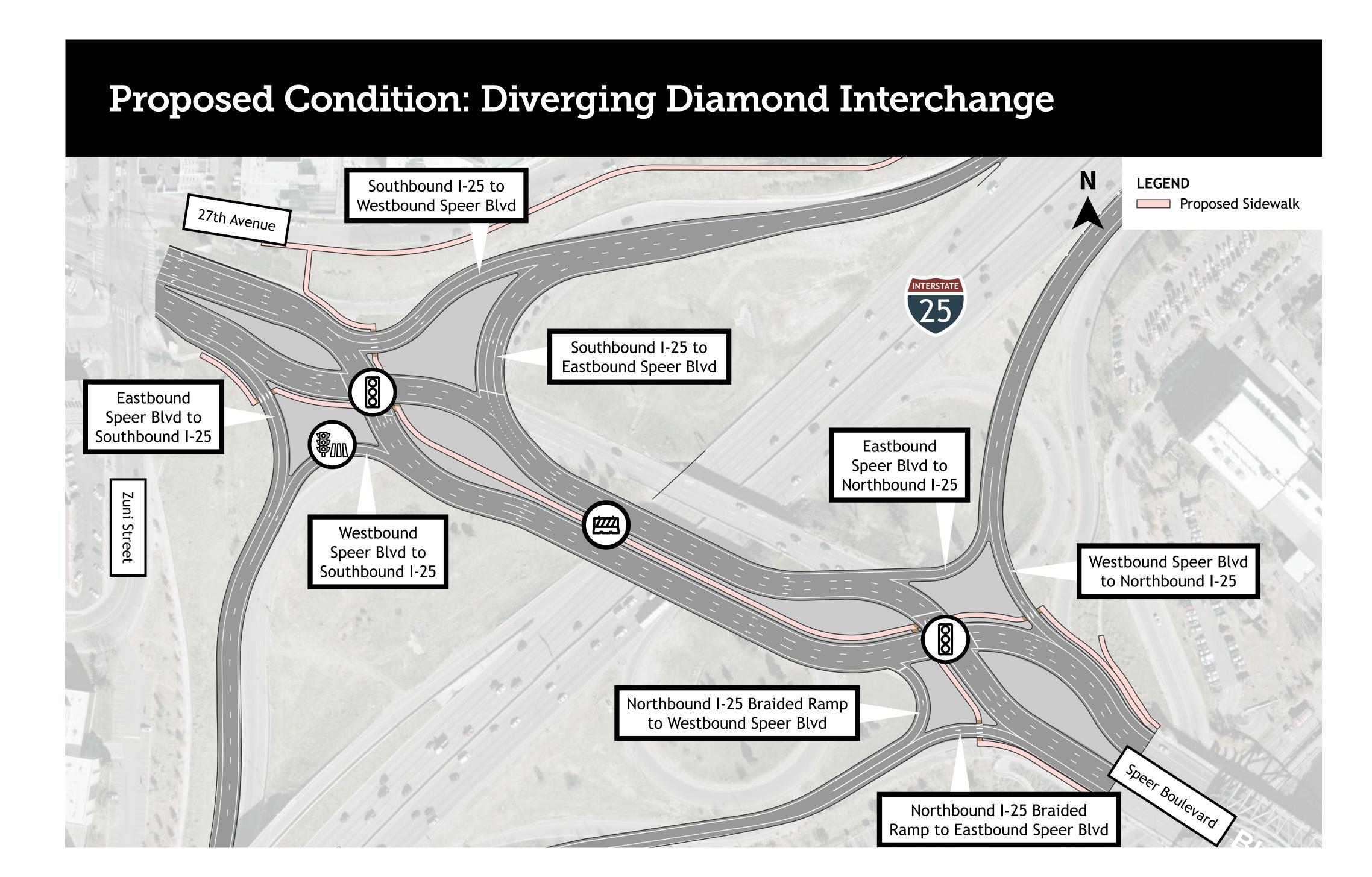
Speer Boulevard

Problems



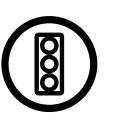
- Large distance between left-turning vehicles and pedestrian crossing.
- Vehicles exiting I-25 are at higher speeds when approaching the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing.
- No sidewalk on the north side of the bridge.

Potential Solutions





Signalized non-motorist crossing.



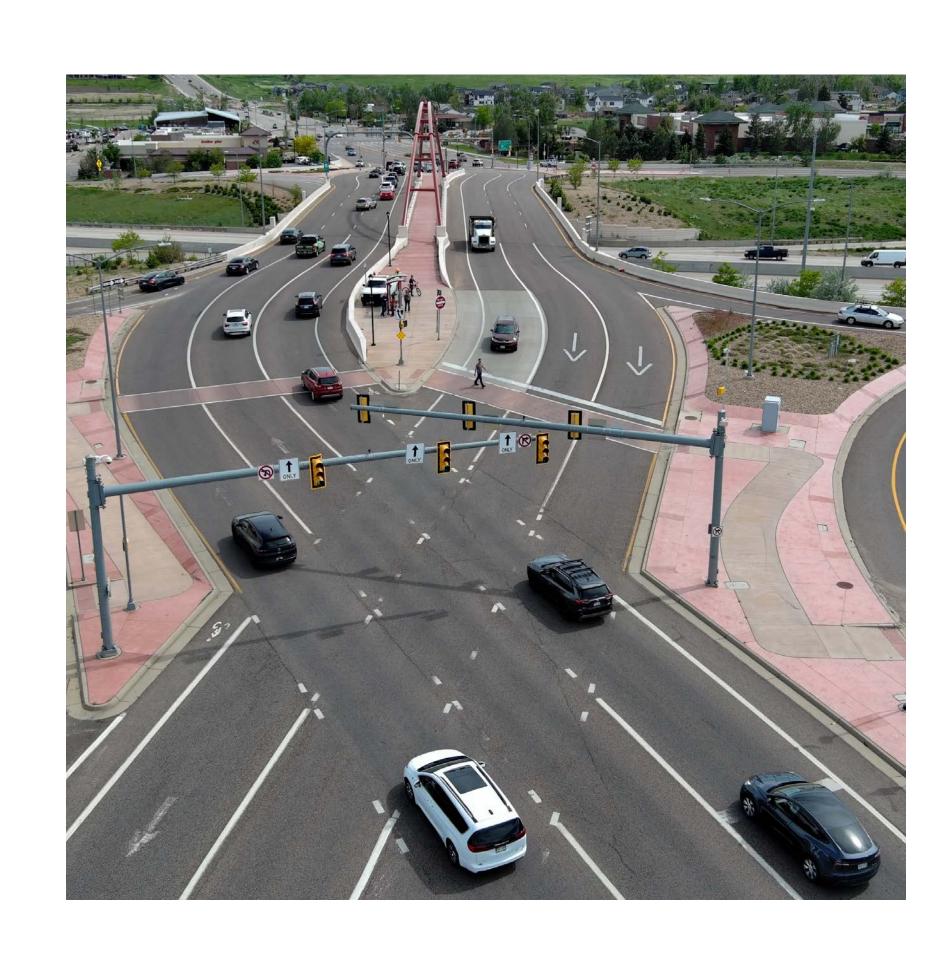
Signalized non-motorist crossing.



Barrier-separated area for non-motorist users.

Speer Boulevard

Example Design Solutions



A Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) in Superior, CO near US36 at McCaslin Boulevard Bridge.



Features of a DDI include a center walk and bikeway as a multi-use path(a wide center path, which provides safe and comfortable travel for bikes, pedestrians and micromobility users).





Recommended Proposed Action

23rd Avenue Braided Ramp and Speer Boulevard Diverging Diamond Interchange

What's Moving Forward?

The 23rd Avenue Braided Ramp and the Speer Boulevard Diverging Diamond Interchange have been combined into one recommended design.

This combined option, called the Proposed Action, will move forward for further study and detailed design.

As part of the NEPA process analysis, the recommended Proposed Action will be compared to the No Action (No Build/Do Nothing).

Potential impacts will continue to be assessed, necessary permits will be obtained and efforts will be made to minimize any negative effects. Public Involvement will remain a key part of the process every step of the way.

Design Configuration

