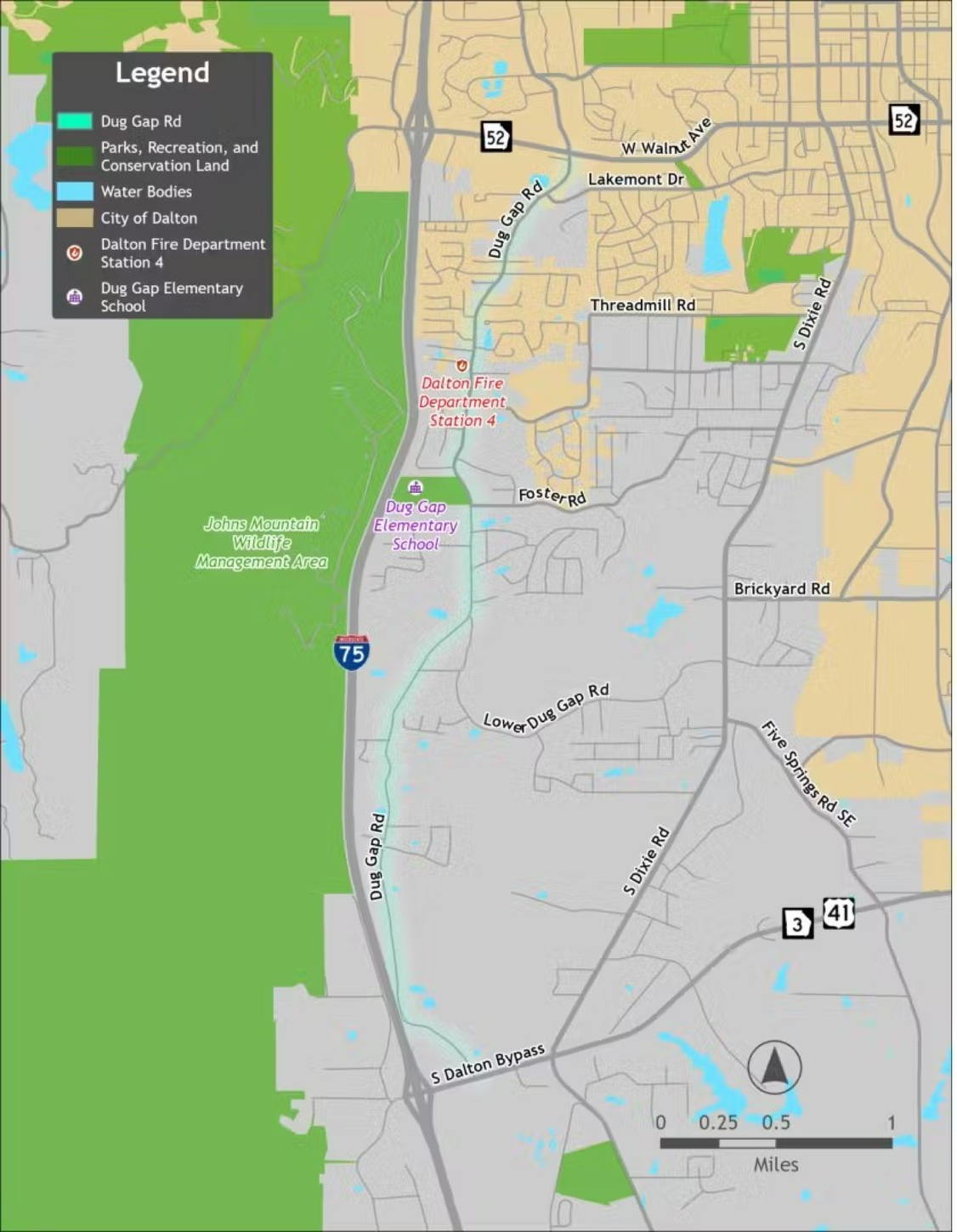
Dug Gap Road Corridor Study

Project Advisory Group Meeting #2

February 12, 2026

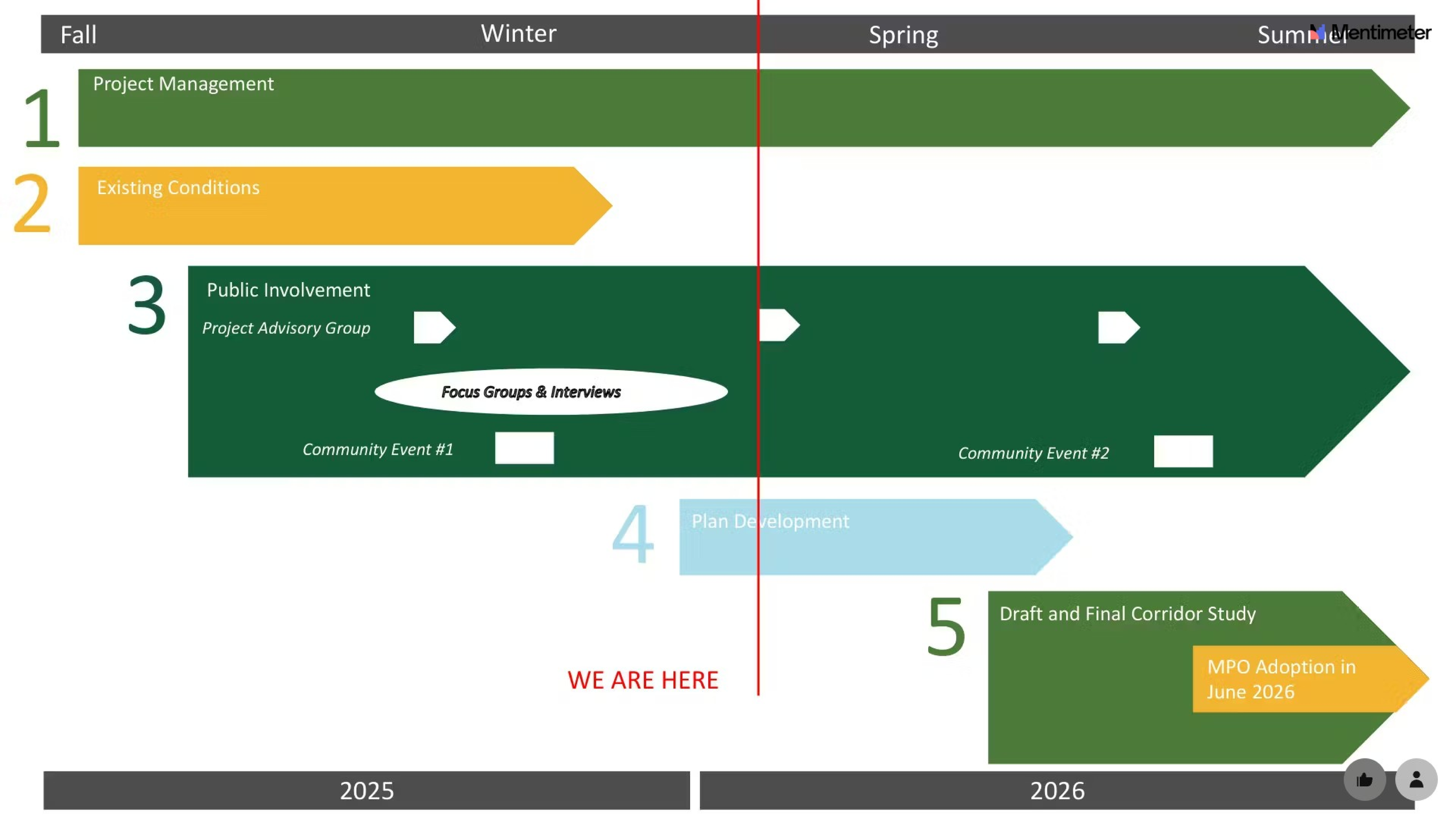
Agenda

- Team Introductions
- Housekeeping
- Recap of Existing Conditions Key Findings
- What We Have Heard So Far
- Draft Project Ideas
- Discuss
- Draft Prioritization Framework



Study Area

- 5.3-mile corridor
- Parallels I-75
- Home to numerous residential areas and places of worship
- Dug Gap Elementary School
- Commercial on both ends of the corridor
- Some industrial near the bypass


Fall
Winter
Spring
Summer
Mentimeter
1
Project Management
2
Existing Conditions
3
Public Involvement
Project Advisory Group
Focus Groups & Interviews
Community Event #1
Community Event #2
4
Plan Development
5
Draft and Final Corridor Study
MPO Adoption in June 2026
WE ARE HERE
2025
2026

Mentimeter

Mentimeter Instructions

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Please share your name and organization.

DU

Misty - County

Matt Daniel Dalton Fire

Kent Benson Whitfield County

Recap of Existing Conditions

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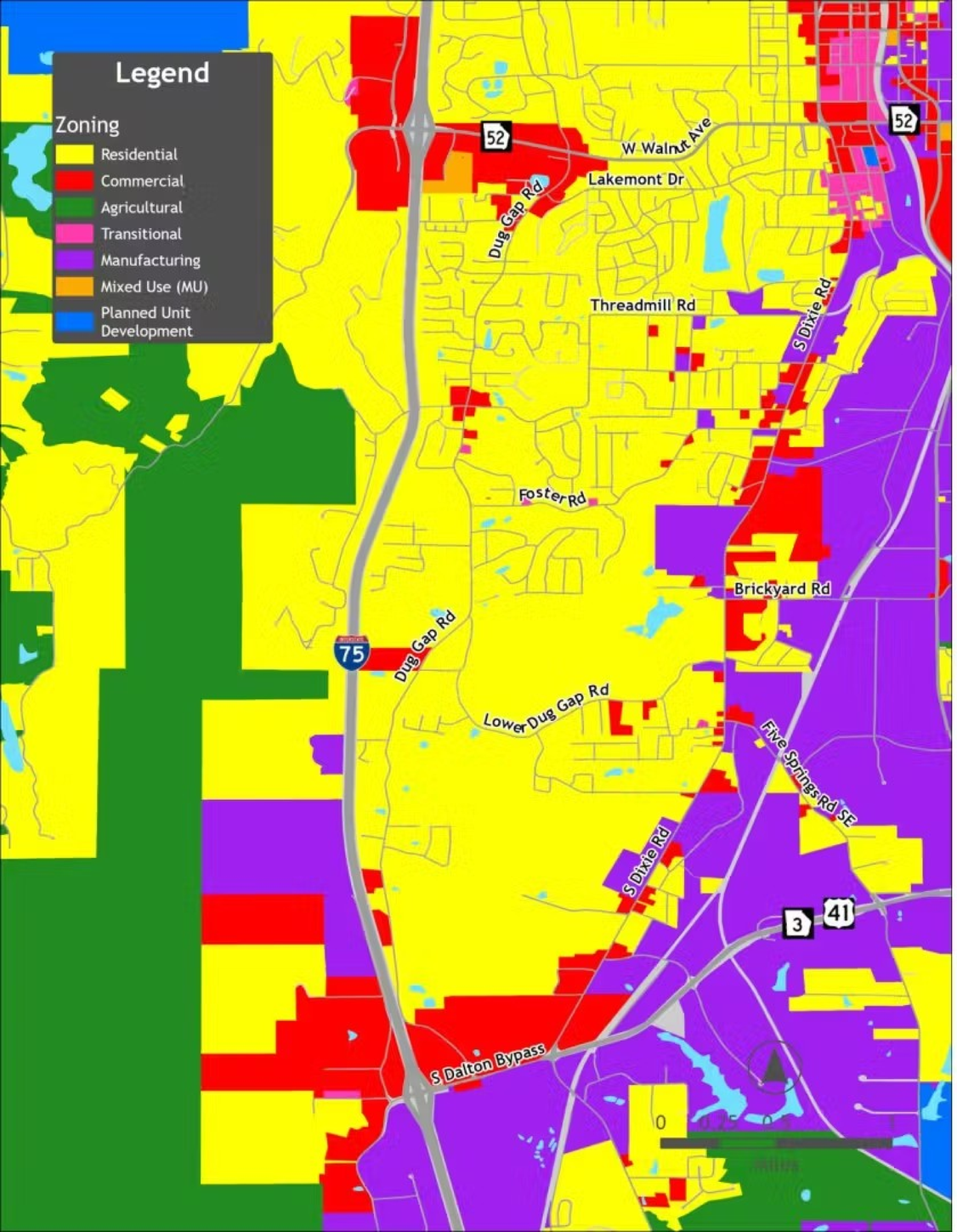
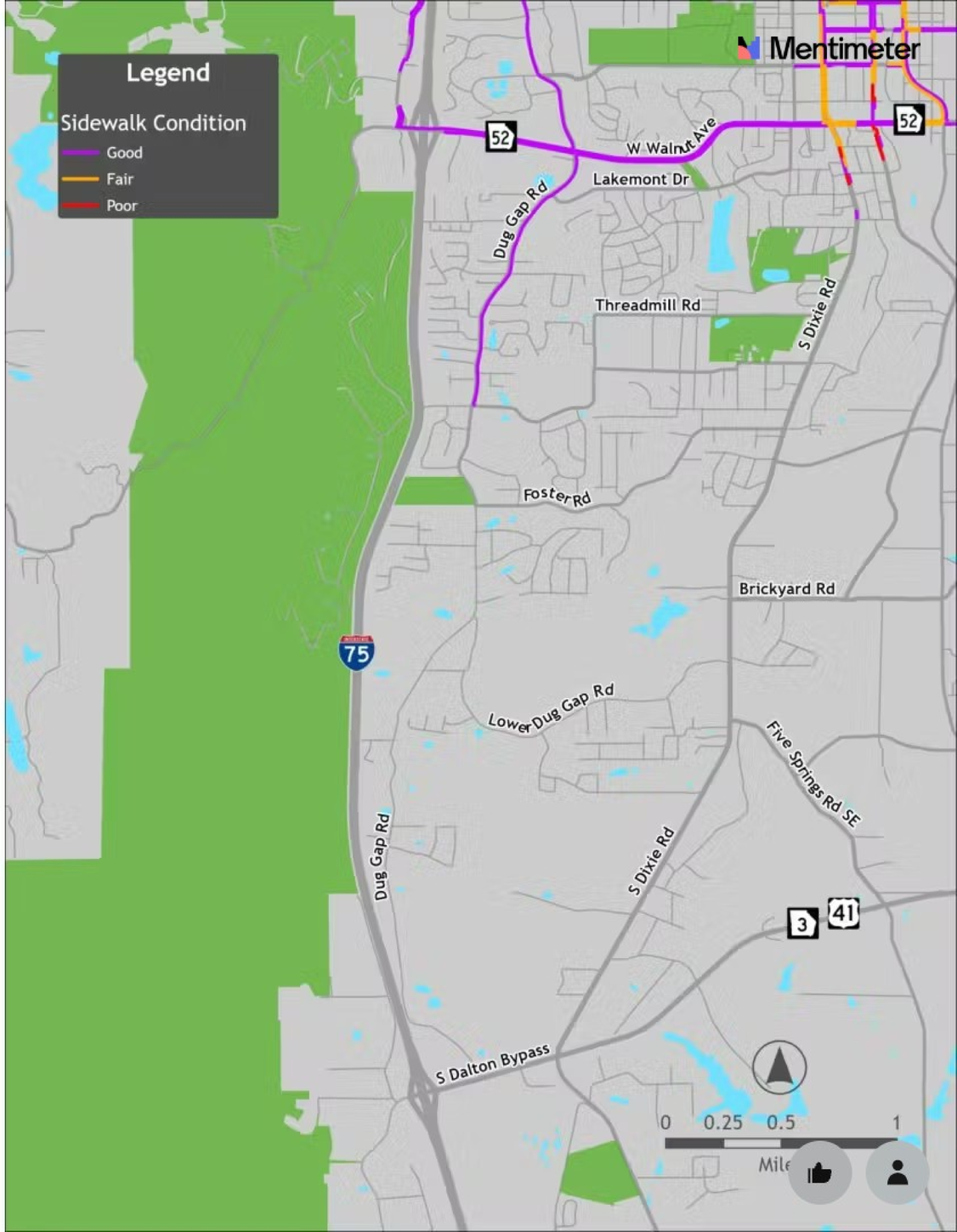


Land Use

- Most parcels along corridor are zoned as low-density single-family residential
- Commercial-zoned parcels appear in clusters near major intersections
- Industrial-zoned parcels are concentrated mainly in the southern reaches of the corridor
  - Together with big-box commercial uses, this area generates higher truck traffic volumes

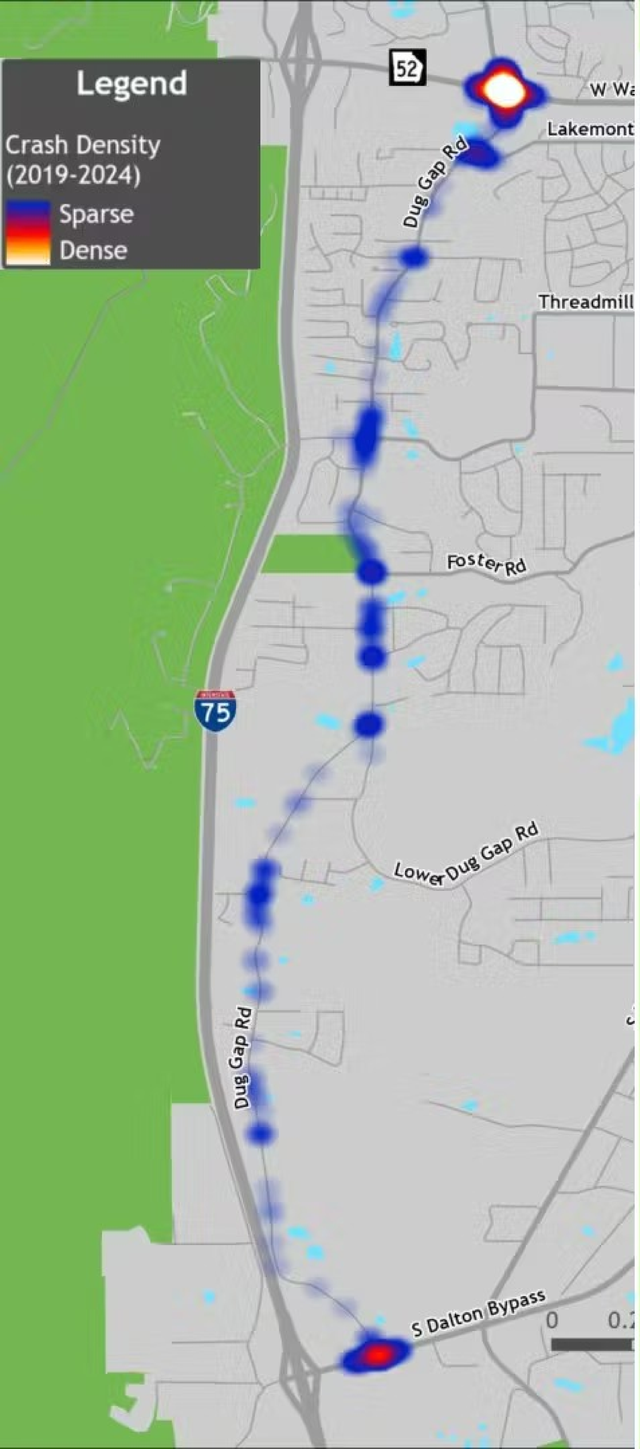
Sidewalks & Pedestrian Infrastructure

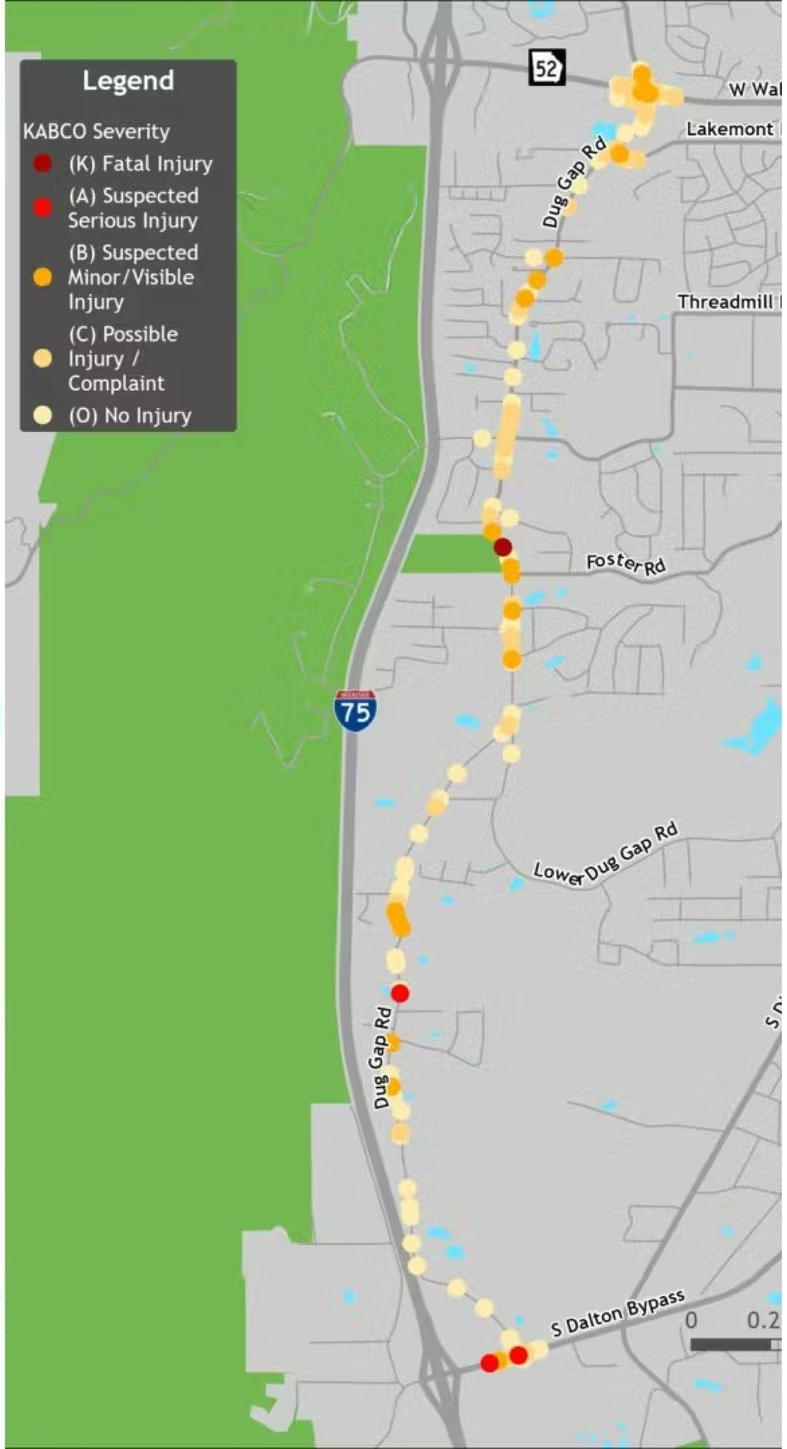
- Largely without continuous sidewalks
- Infrastructure at several intersections do not meet ADA standards
- Sidewalk gaps and inconsistent crossing treatments present systemic barriers to safe pedestrian mobility along the corridor



Traffic & Congestion

- No significant congestion
    - However, at the intersection with Walnut Avenue (SR 52), there are noticeable delays during the mid-day and PM peak periods
- The middle of the corridor, between the residential, commercial, and industrial land uses to the north and south, may benefit from additional access management controls, noise abatement, and intersection and safety improvements





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Crash Density & Severity

- Areas with highest overall crash density are on the northern and southern ends of corridor
- Higher concentrations at intersections with collector roads and where the road alignment has curvature
- Fatal and serious injury crashes
  - 1 fatal crash near Dug Gap Elementary School
  - 3 serious injury crashes, two of which involved vulnerable road users

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Safety

- Portions of the corridor, especially within Dalton city limits, experience crash rates higher than average statewide crash rates
- Many places along the corridor have outdated signage and obsolete signal technology

Draft Project Ideas & Recommendations

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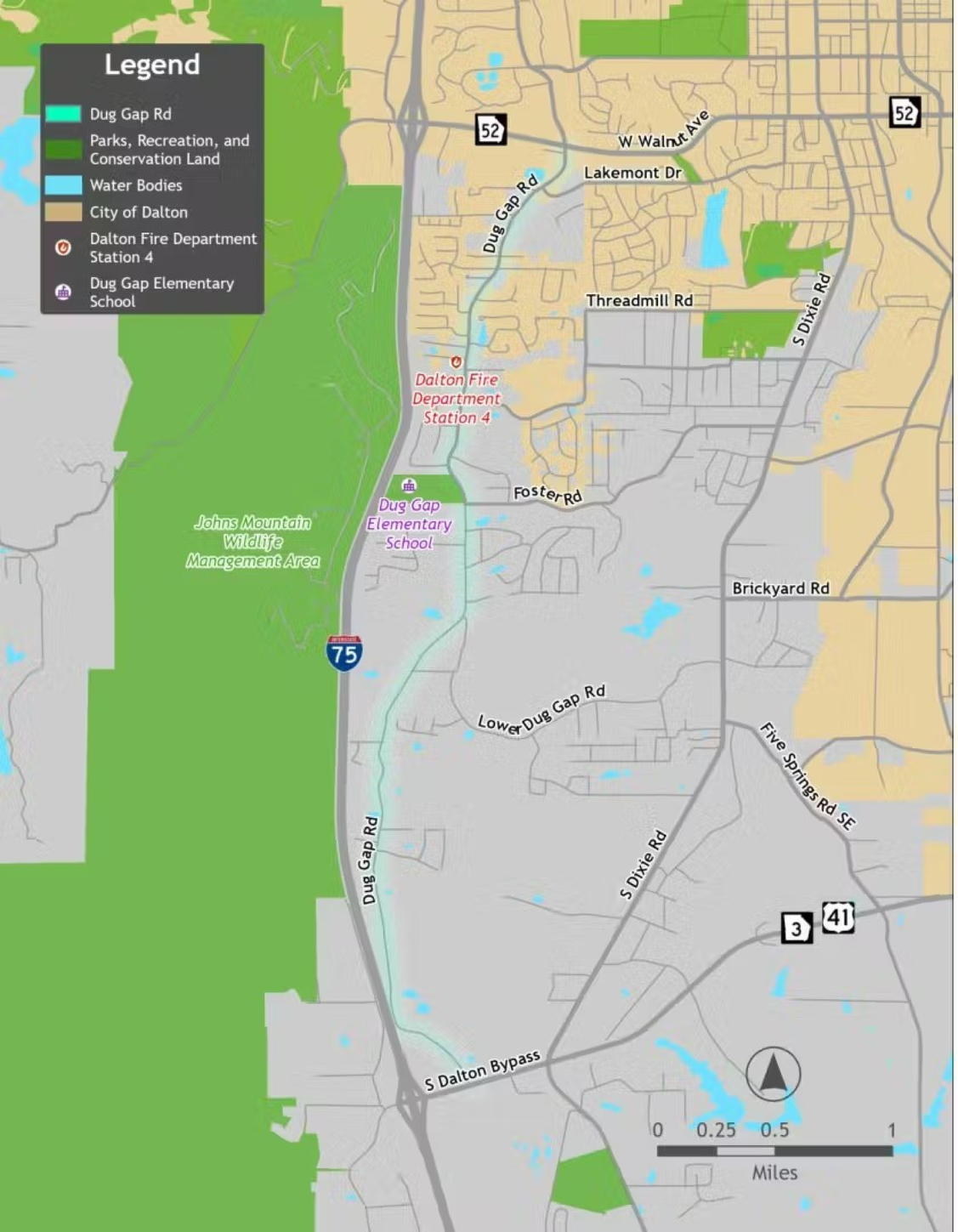

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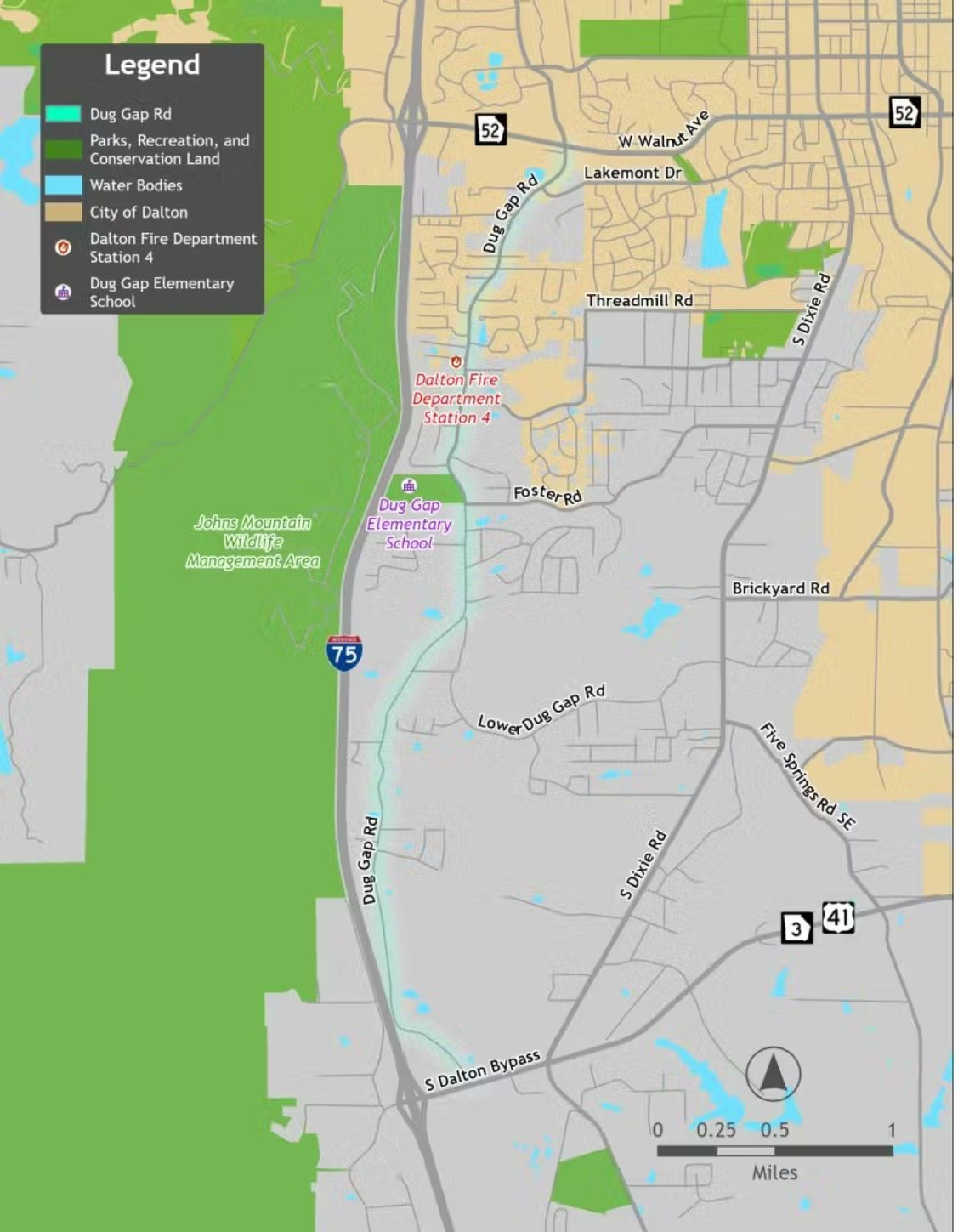
Project Ideas Overview

- Corridor-wide recommendations
- Segment recommendations
- Key intersection recommendations



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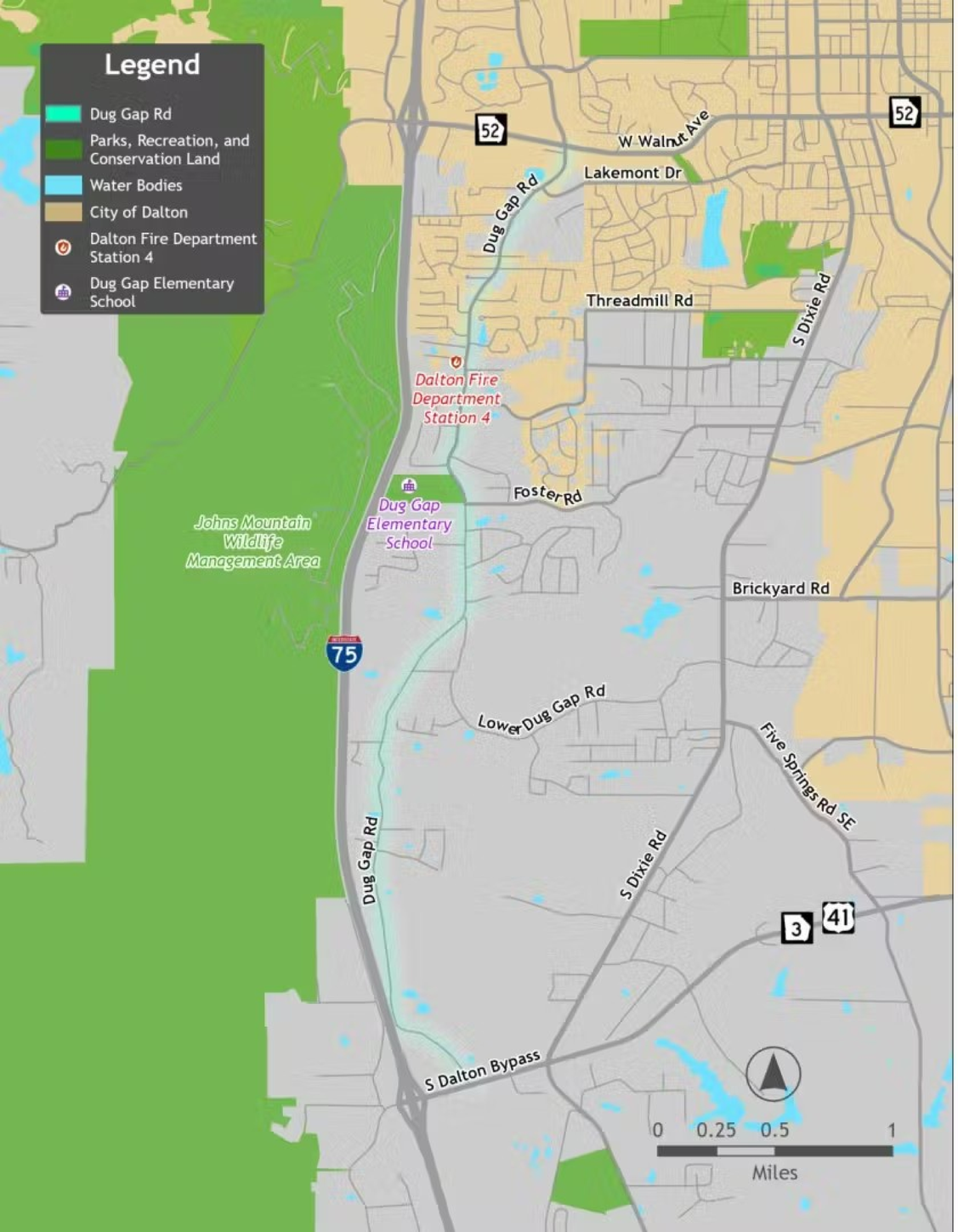
Corridor-Level Draft Recommendations (1)

Project Name	Description	Limits
Widen Edge Lines	• Wide (6-inch) edge lines to reduce roadway departures	Corridor-wide
Sidewalk Crossing Enhancements	• Improve crossings (crosswalk markings, detectable curb cut warning pads, signage) at all roadways and commercial driveways along the existing sidewalk	Walnut Ave to Threadmill Rd/ W Dug Gap Mtn Rd
Sidewalk Streetscaping	• Streetscaping elements (seating, plantings, way-finding signage) at intersections along the existing sidewalk • Approximately every quarter-mile	Walnut Ave to Threadmill Rd/ W Dug Gap Mtn Rd
Street Lighting	• Street lighting • Prioritizing implementation at intersections, pedestrian crossings, and curvy areas	Corridor-wide

Ideas are subject to change per PMT and PAG feedback



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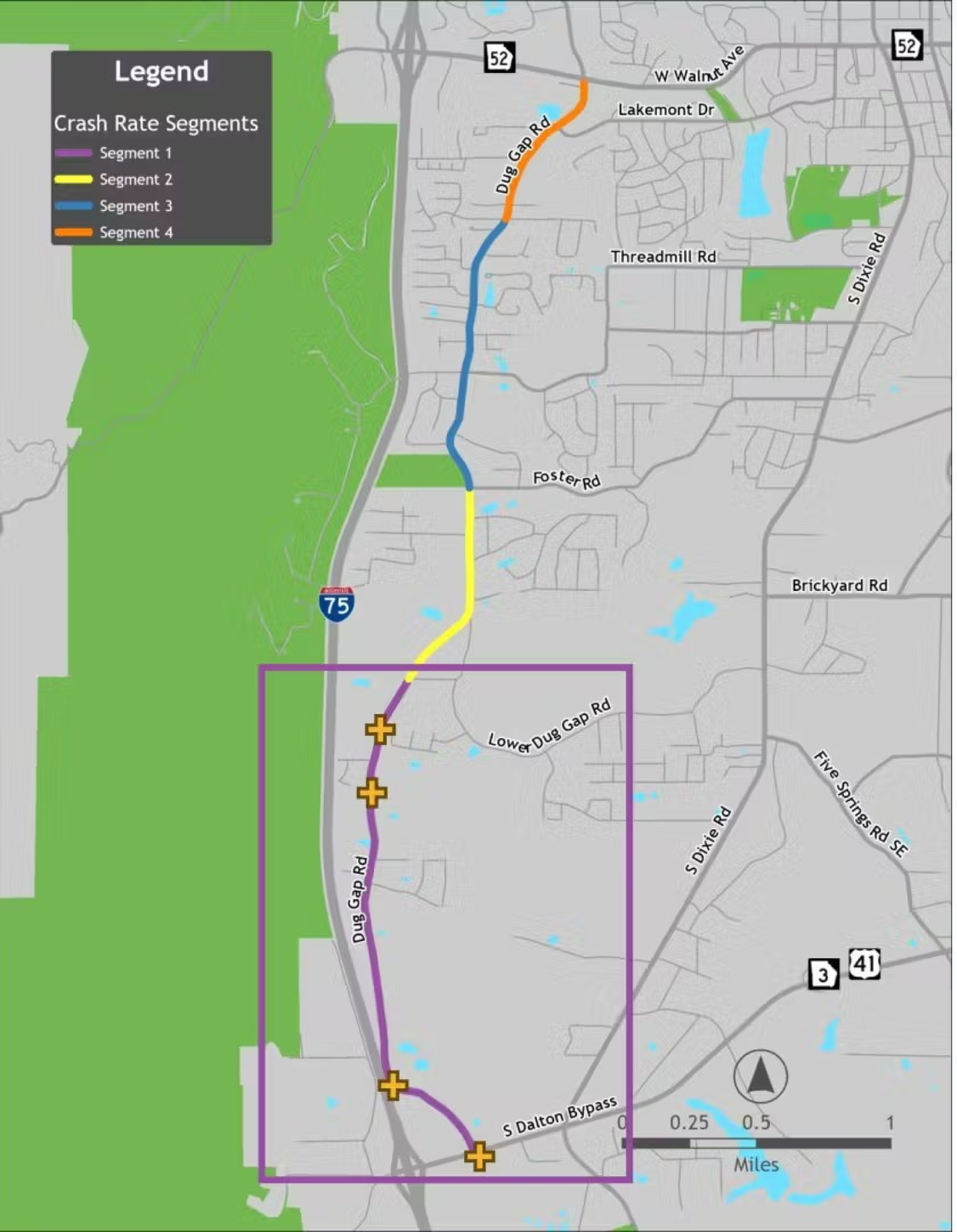
Corridor-Level Draft Recommendations (2)

Project Name	Description	Limits
Multi-Use Path and Sidewalk	• Multi-use path with amenities • Extend existing sidewalk	Walnut Ave to Old Dug Gap Rd (N)
Curb and Drainage Improvements from Threadmill Rd to Foster Rd	• Curb and gutter • Drainage improvements	Threadmill Rd to Foster Rd

Ideas are subject to change per PMT and PAG feedback



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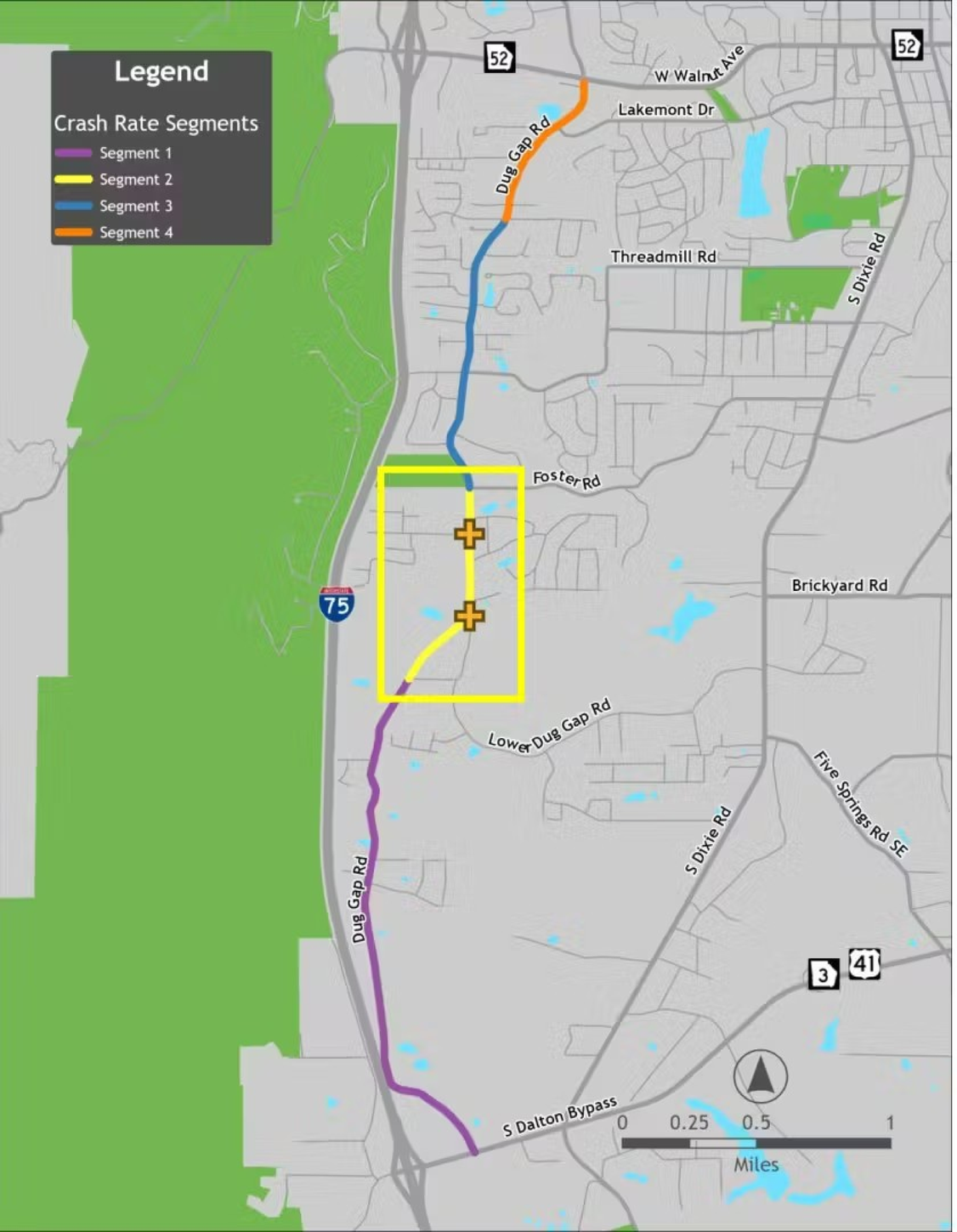
Segment Recommendations

- Segment 1
  - Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements North of S Dalton Bypass
  - Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements North of Williard Way
  - Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements South of Seminole Drive
  - Intersection Improvements – Dug Gap Road and S Dalton Bypass



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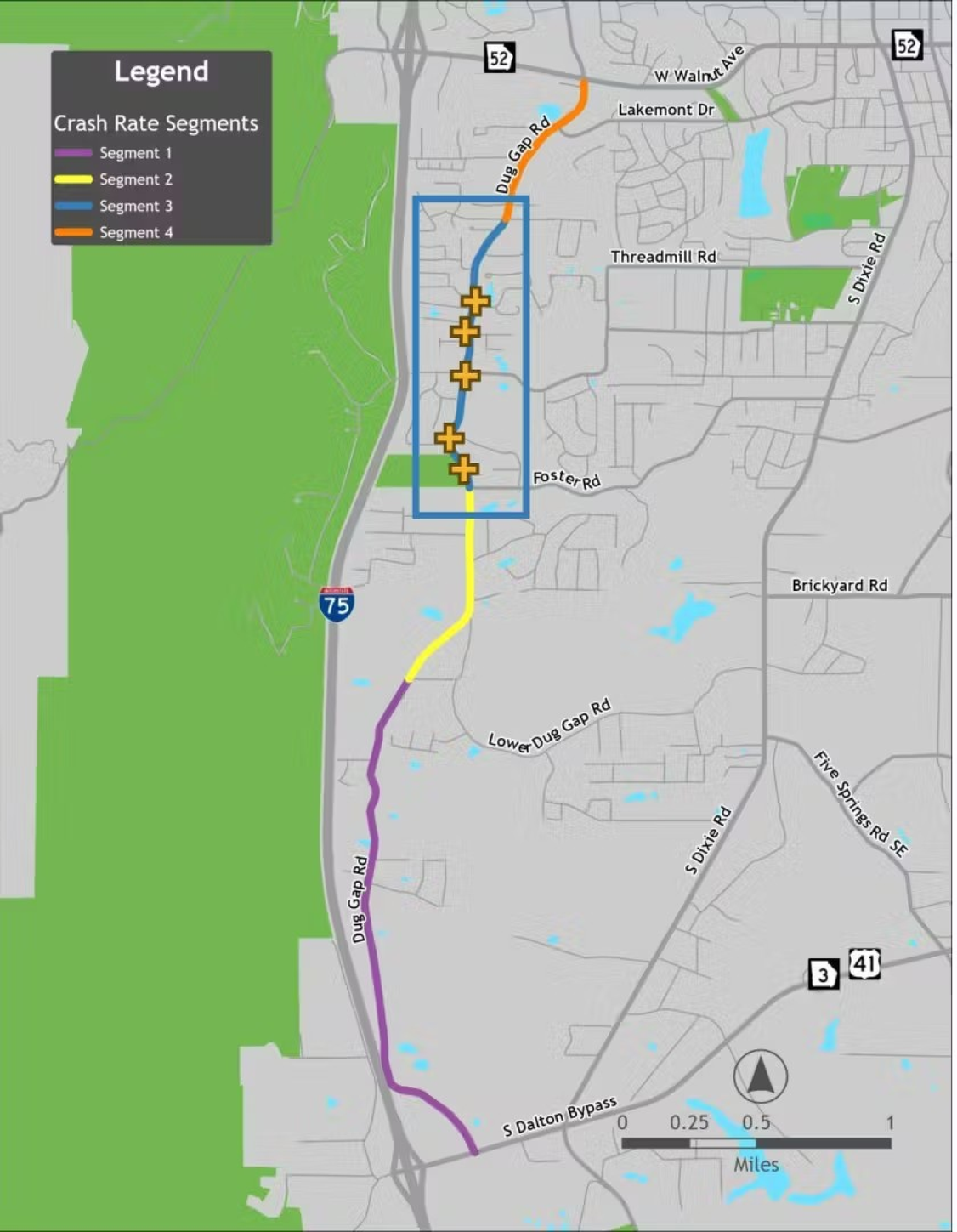
Segment Recommendations

Segment 2

- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Old Dug Gap Road (N)
- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Cavender Drive



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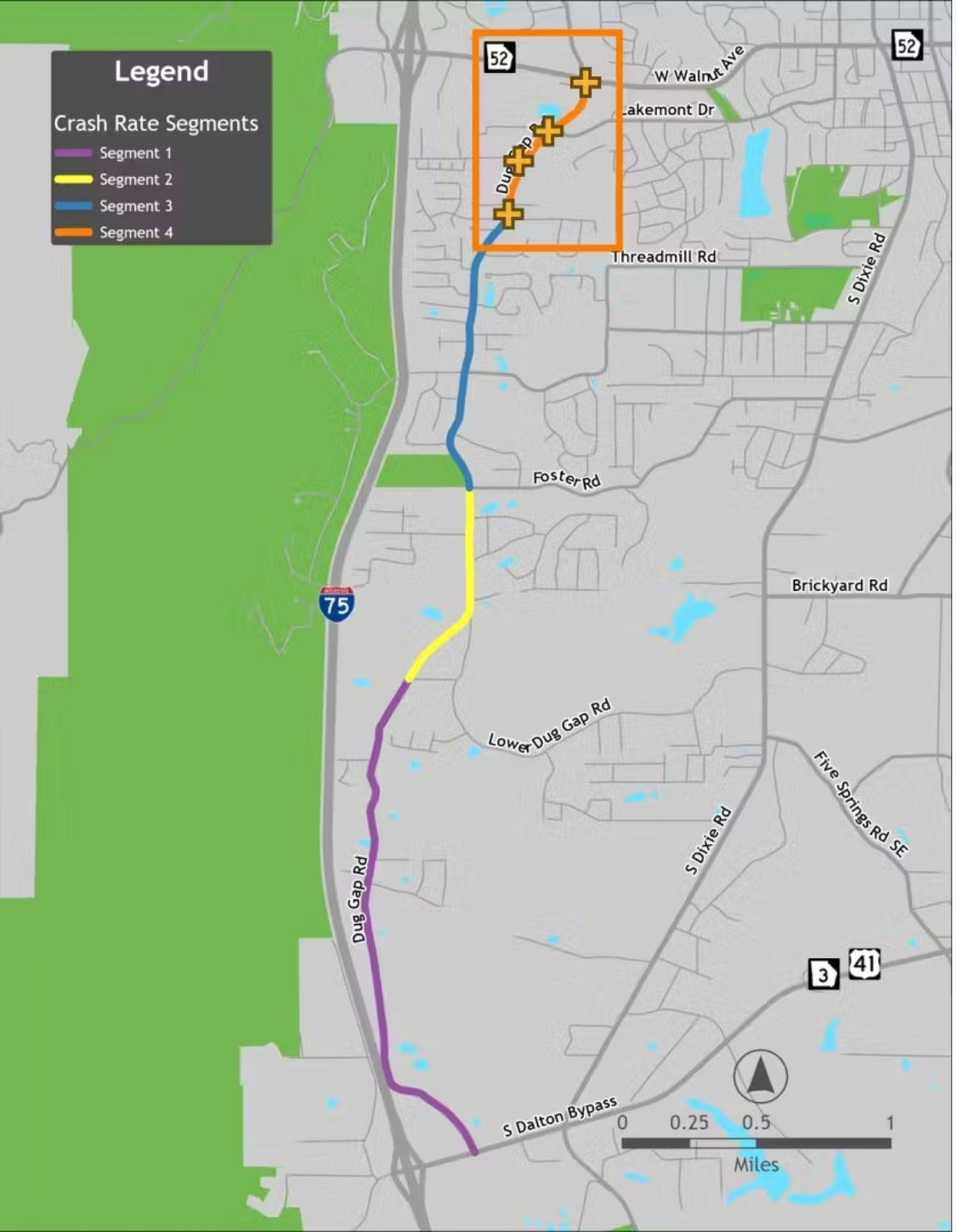
Segment Recommendations

Segment 3

- Curve Safety and Visibility Improvements Near Valley Brook Drive
- Dug Gap Elementary School Crosswalk Improvements
  - Conversion to RRFB crossing
- School Zone Safety Enhancements
  - Add signage and decrease zone speed limit to 25 MPH
- Pedestrian Crossing at Dug Gap Road and Ryman Ridge Road
- Pole Relocation at Dug Gap Road and Wisteria Drive



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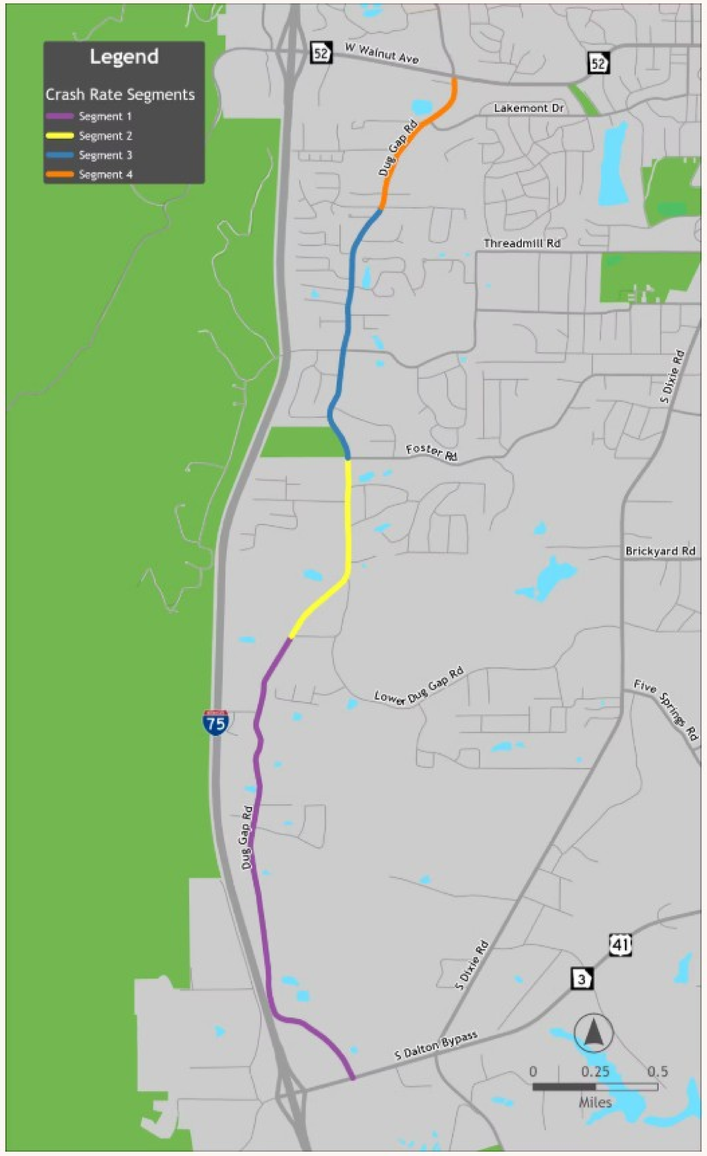
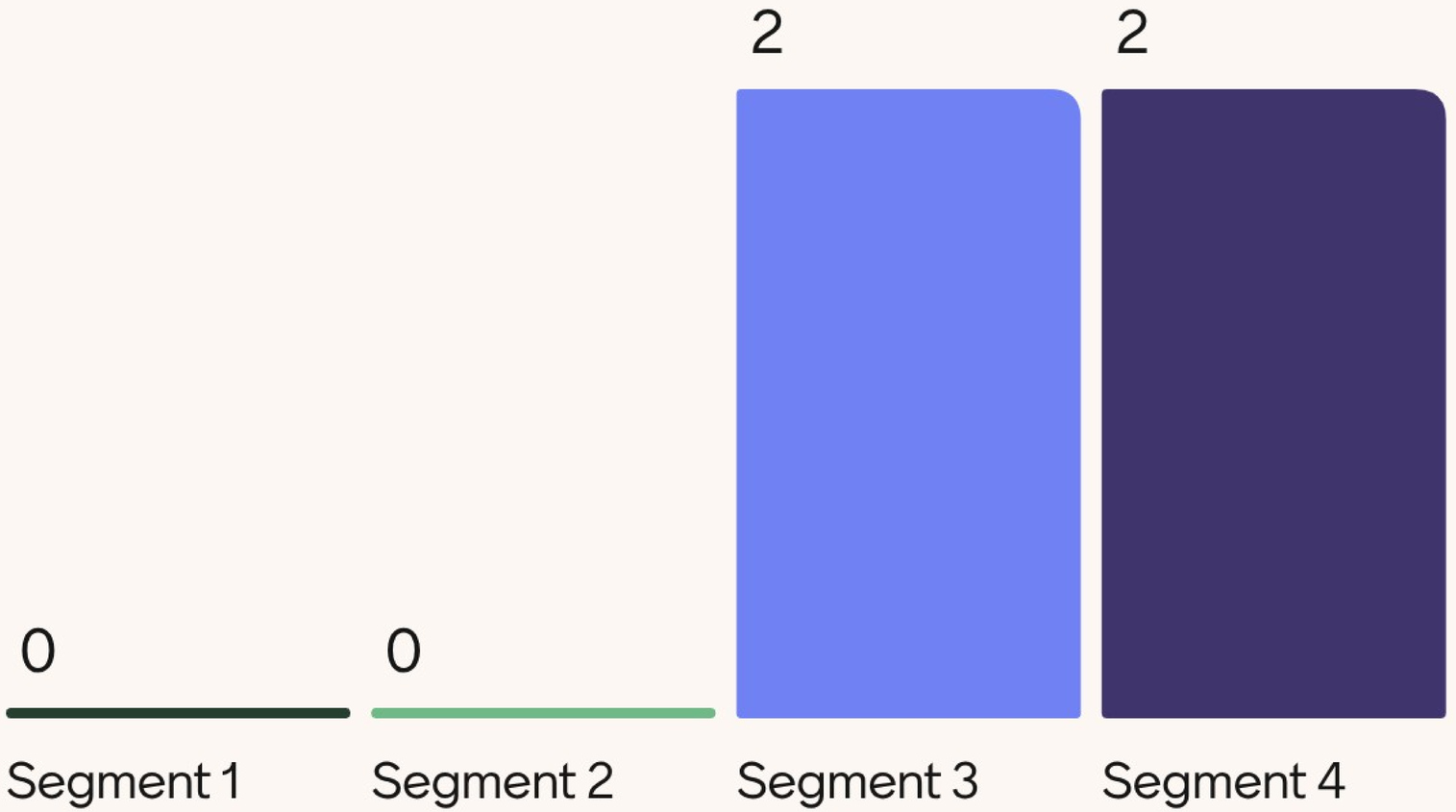
Segment Recommendations

Segment 4

- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Hackney Drive/Southmont Drive
- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Mineral Springs Road
- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Lakemont Drive/Shields Drive
- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Dalton Plaza Driveway
- Intersection Improvements - Dug Gap Road and Coffey Drive
- Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements at Walnut Avenue



What corridor segments do you think should be prioritized over others?



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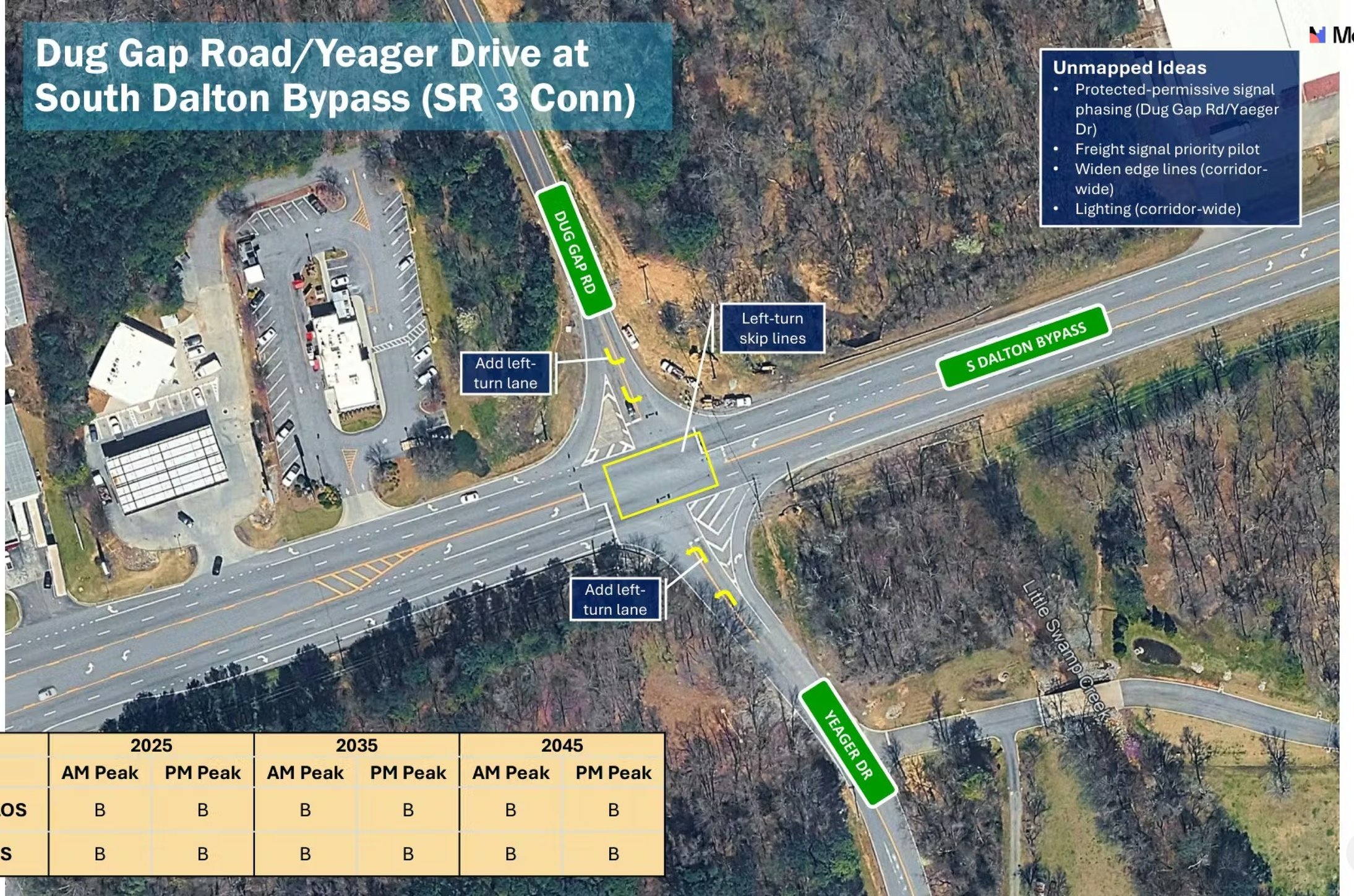
Dug Gap Road/Yeager Drive at South Dalton Bypass (SR 3 Conn)



Unmapped Ideas

- Protected-permissive signal phasing (Dug Gap Rd/Yaeger Dr)
- Freight signal priority pilot
- Widen edge lines (corridor-wide)
- Lighting (corridor-wide)

	2025		2035		2045	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
No Build LOS	B	B	B	B	B	B
Build LOS	B	B	B	B	B	B

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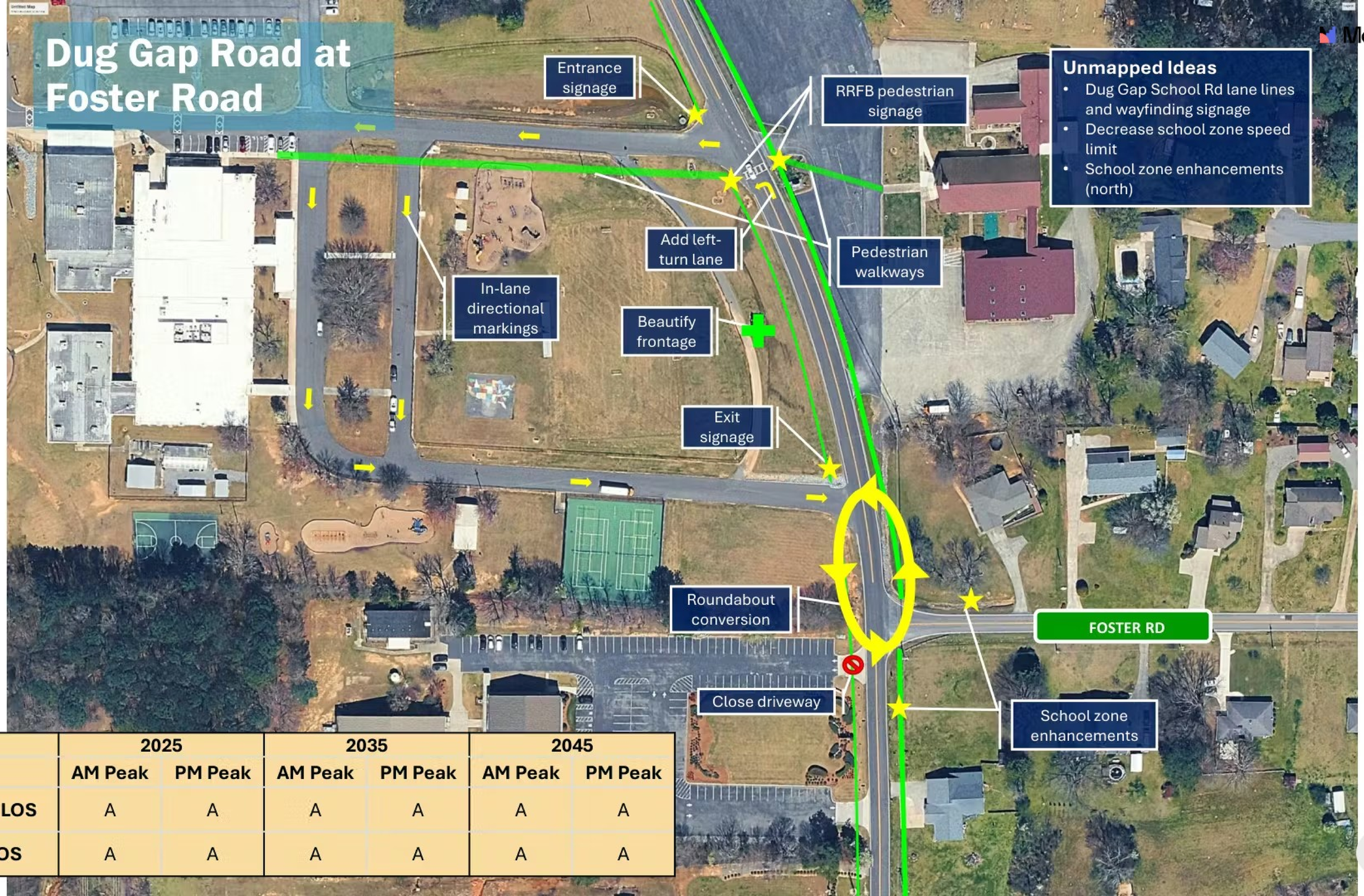
Dug Gap Road at Foster Road



	2025		2035		2045	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
No Build LOS	A	A	A	A	A	A
Build LOS	A	A	A	A	A	A

Dug Gap Road at Threadmill Road/ W Dug Gap Mountain Road

	2025		2035		2045	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
No Build LOS	B	B	B	B	B	B
Build LOS	B	B	B	B	B	B

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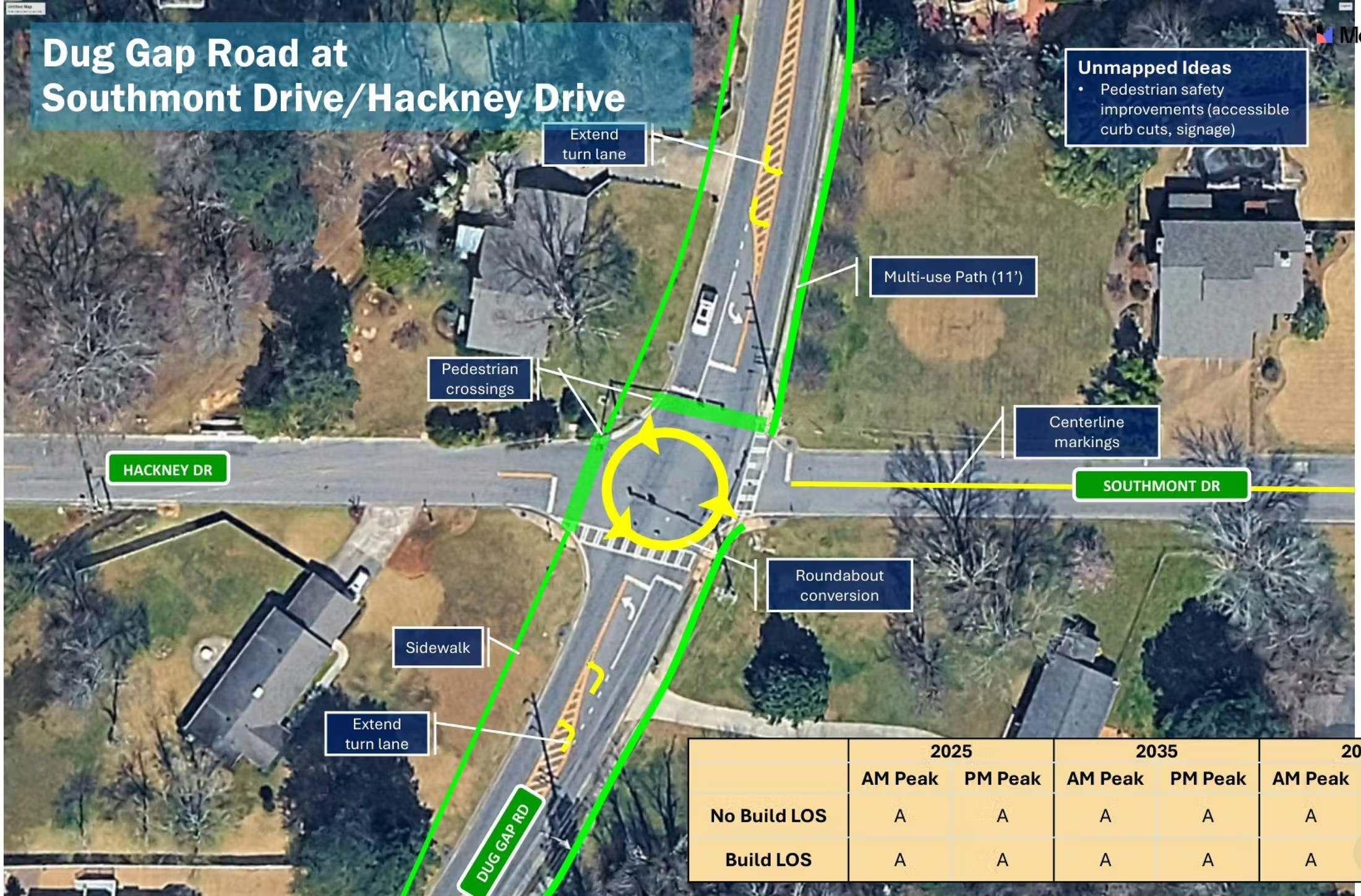
Dug Gap Road at Southmont Drive/Hackney Drive



Unmapped Ideas

- Pedestrian safety improvements (accessible curb cuts, signage)

	2025		2035		2045	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
No Build LOS	A	A	A	A	A	A
Build LOS	A	A	A	A	A	A

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Dug Gap Road at Dalton Plaza Driveway and Coffey Drive

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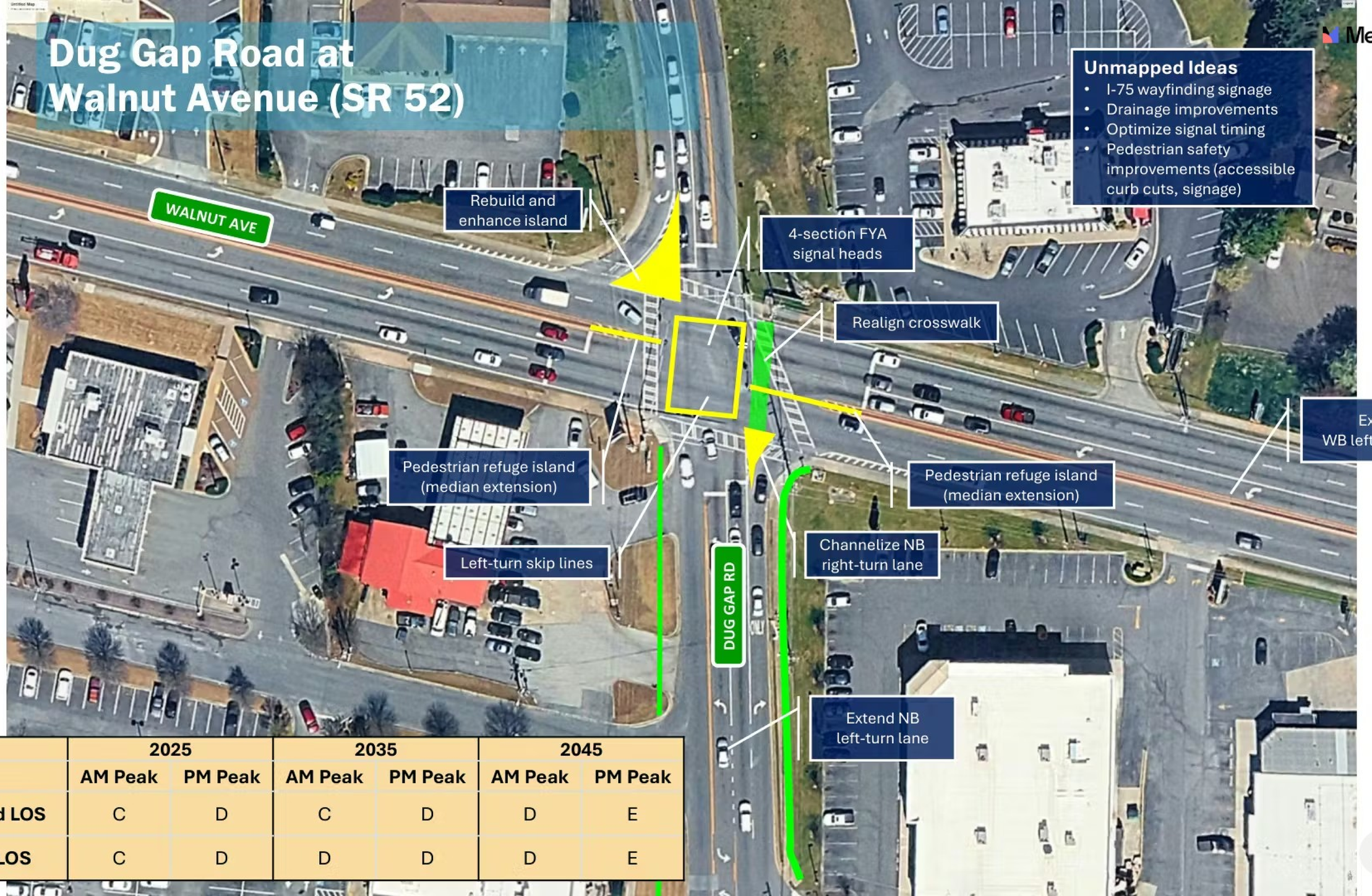
Unmapped Ideas

- Clearly mark all driveways in proximity to medians as RIRO

	2025		2035		2045	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
No Build LOS	A	B	A	D	A	F
Build LOS	A	A	A	A	A	

Dug Gap Road at Walnut Avenue (SR 52)



	2025		2035		2045	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
No Build LOS	C	D	C	D	D	E
Build LOS	C	D	D	D	D	E

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What intersection recommendations are you most excited about?

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What, if any, ideas do you have for the Dug Gap Road corridor do you have that you did not see in today's presentation?

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Open Discussion

Draft Performance Measures & Prioritization Framework

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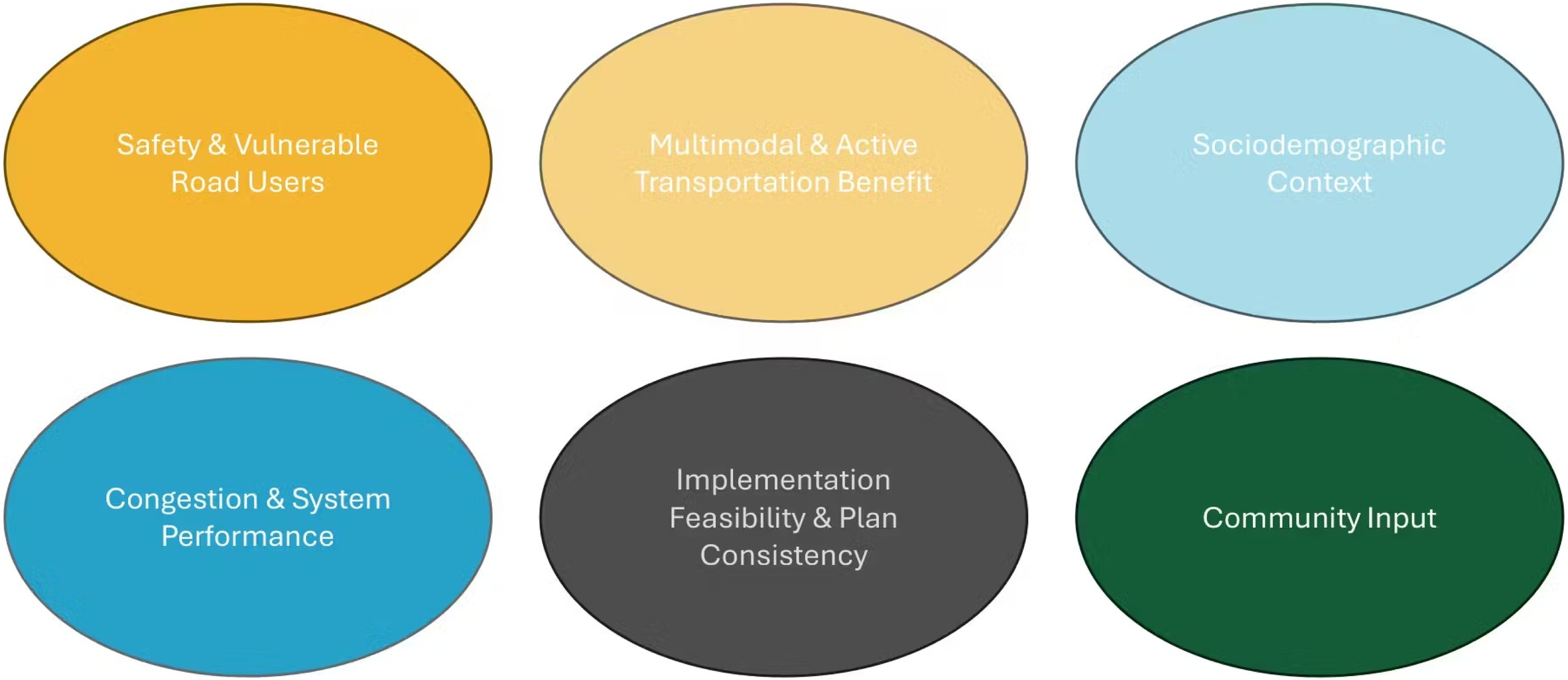
Draft Prioritization Framework



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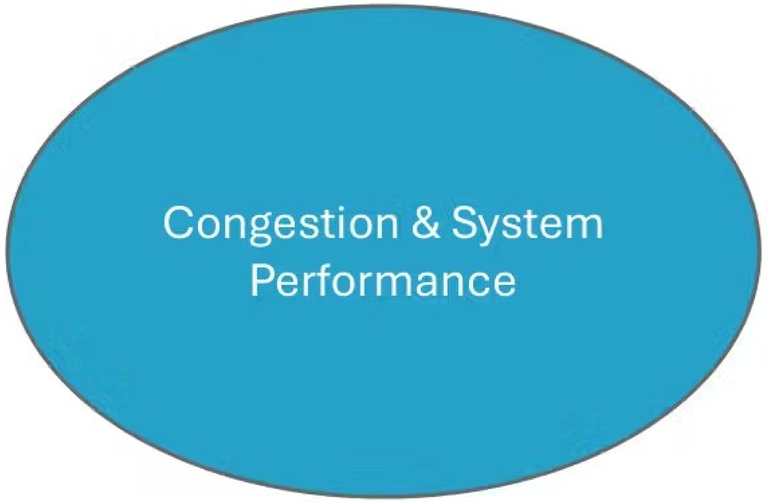
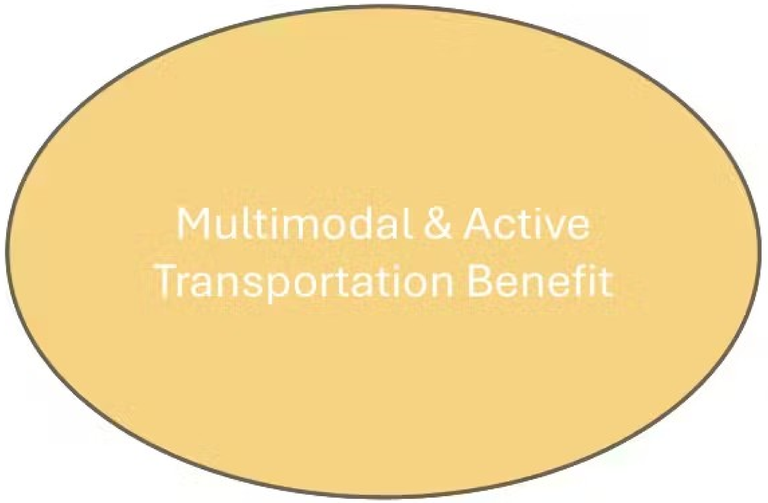
Draft Prioritization Framework

- Measures a project's effectiveness in **reducing crash risk and improving safety for all users**, emphasizing corridors and intersections with documented high crash frequency and severity.
- **1-3 points** depending on number of crashes and crash rate compared to statewide average



- Evaluates improvements to **traffic flow, reliability, and bottleneck mitigation,** especially at congested intersections such as Walnut Avenue.
- **1-3 points** depending on multimodal benefits with more points awarded to projects that mitigate known congestion spots or complement programmed TIP projects

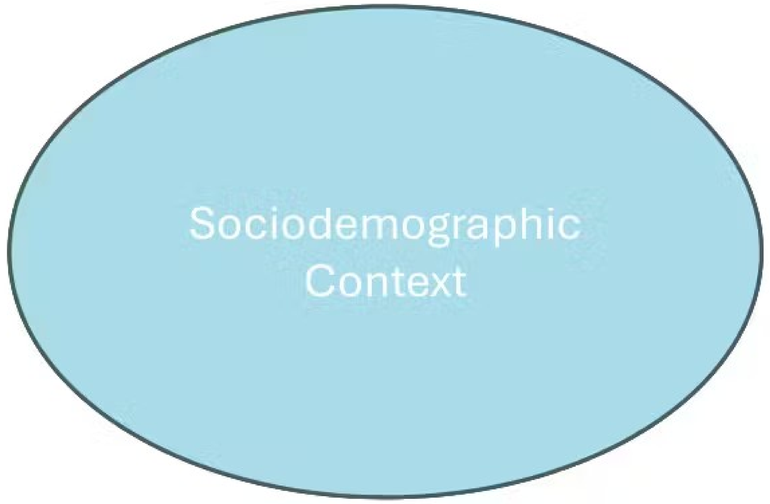
Draft Prioritization Framework



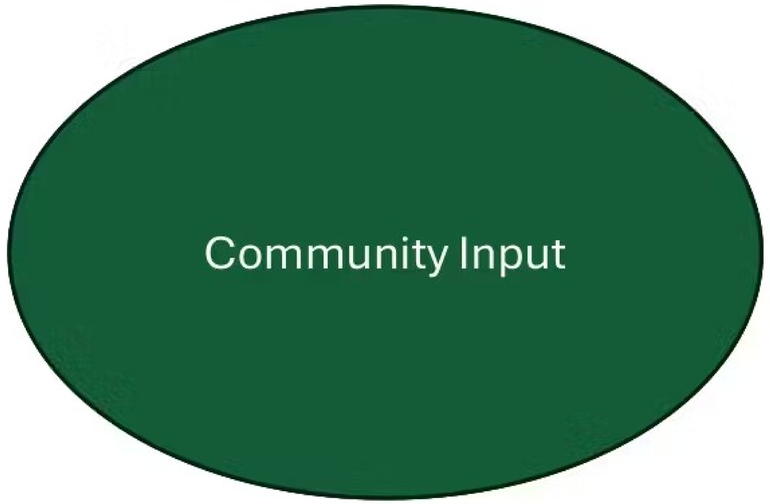
- Evaluates a project's contribution to expanding safe and continuous walking, biking, and transit-supportive infrastructure.
- **1-3 points** depending on project's proximity to existing infrastructure and potential to fill gaps in walking and bicycling network

- Considers cost, complexity, and alignment with existing plans and programmed projects.
- **1-3 points** depending on project costs such as construction, preliminary engineering, ROW/utilities, and contingency with lower cost projects receiving more points

Draft Prioritization Framework

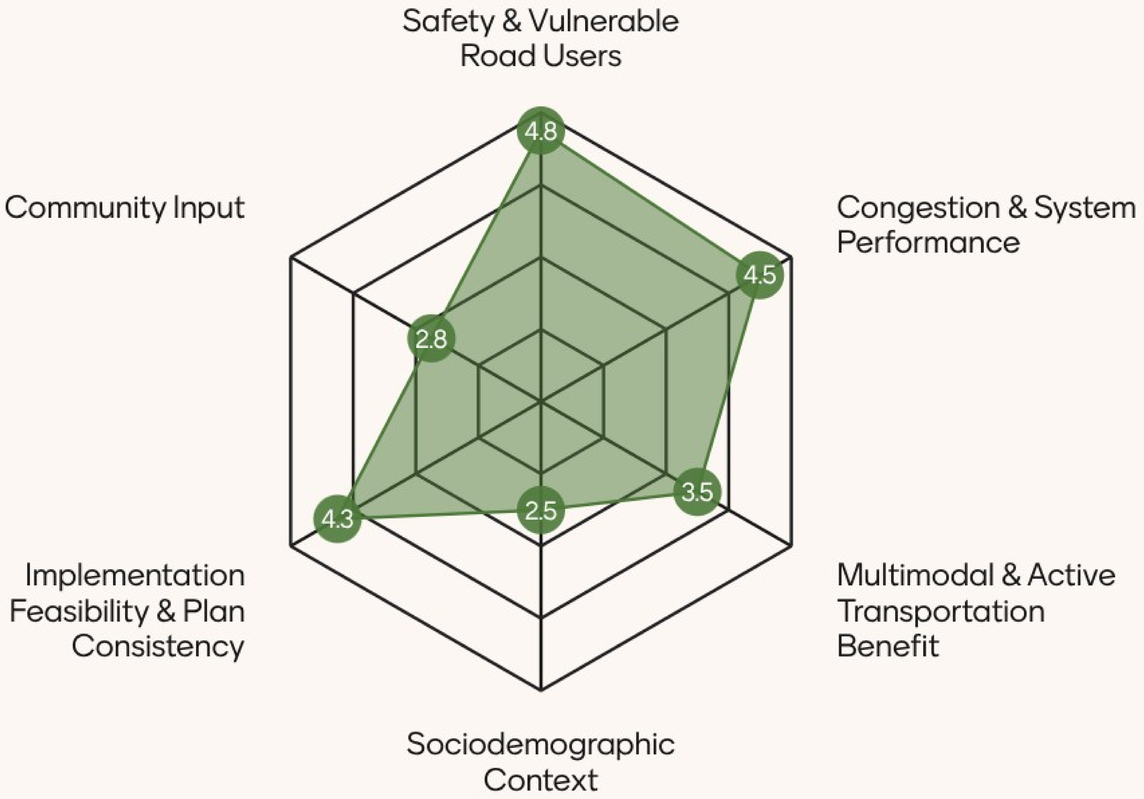


- Assesses whether a project benefits vulnerable populations based on detailed corridor demographics.
- **1-3 points** depending on project's proximity to Census tracts with higher concentrations of zero-vehicle households, higher transportation cost burdens, and minority populations, among other characteristics



- Incorporates **community input** highlighting speeding, pedestrian safety concerns, and congestion at key nodes, along with detailed crash and demographic data
- Ensures project evaluation reflects both technical analysis and community priorities
- **1-3 points** depending on prevalence for need in online map, pop-up events, PAG feedback, and Spring community open house

Rate each of the prioritization categories on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) based on your perceived level of importance



Upcoming Engagement Activities

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Upcoming Engagement Activities

- Spring 2026 Community Open House
  - Tuesday, April 14, 2026
  - Dug Gap Elementary School Cafeteria
- Project website:

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Thank you!

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