



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1

Seward Hwy & Alyeska Hwy Intersection Improvement Project

Project No. Z546190000

DECEMBER 10, 2020 @ 6:00 PM via ZOOM



PROJECT TEAM



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES:



- Christina Huber, PE, Project Manager
- Scott Thomas, PE, Regional Traffic & Safety Engineer
- Orion LeCroy, PE, Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Danika Simpson, ROW Property Management
- David Post, Surface Transportation Planning Manager
- Shawn Gardner, Anchorage Area Planner
- James Sowerwine, ROW Project Coordinator



KINNEY ENGINEERING

- Jeanne Bowie, PE, PhD, PTOE, Traffic Engineering Analyst

R&M CONSULTANTS, INC:



- Tim Grier, PE, Project Manager
- Marc Frutiger, PE, PTOE, Engineer Lead
- Van Le, AICP, Stakeholder Coordinator/CSS Process Lead
- Taryn Oleson-Yelle, AICP, Stakeholder Coordinator

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SCOPE



The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is starting the Seward Hwy & Alyeska Hwy Intersection Improvement project which seeks to improve the capacity, operation and safety of the intersection.

Scope: DOT&PF has funded the project for engineering, environmental and public involvement activities through the selection of an alternative and development of the design to the 30% level, including compliance with the Municipality of Anchorage's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Seward Hwy & Alyeska Hwy Intersection Improvements

Project Overview
November 18, 2020



AERIAL IMAGE DATES: 2015 & 2020

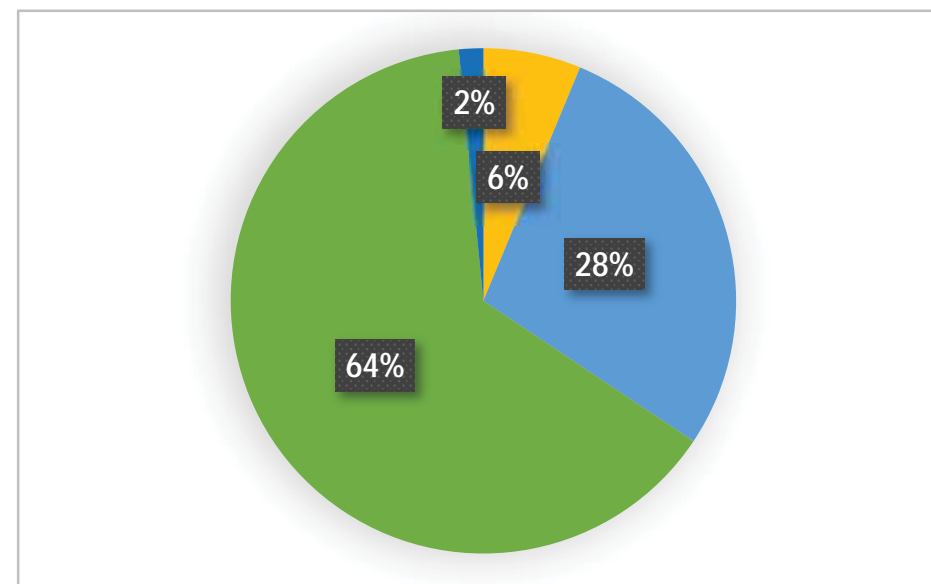
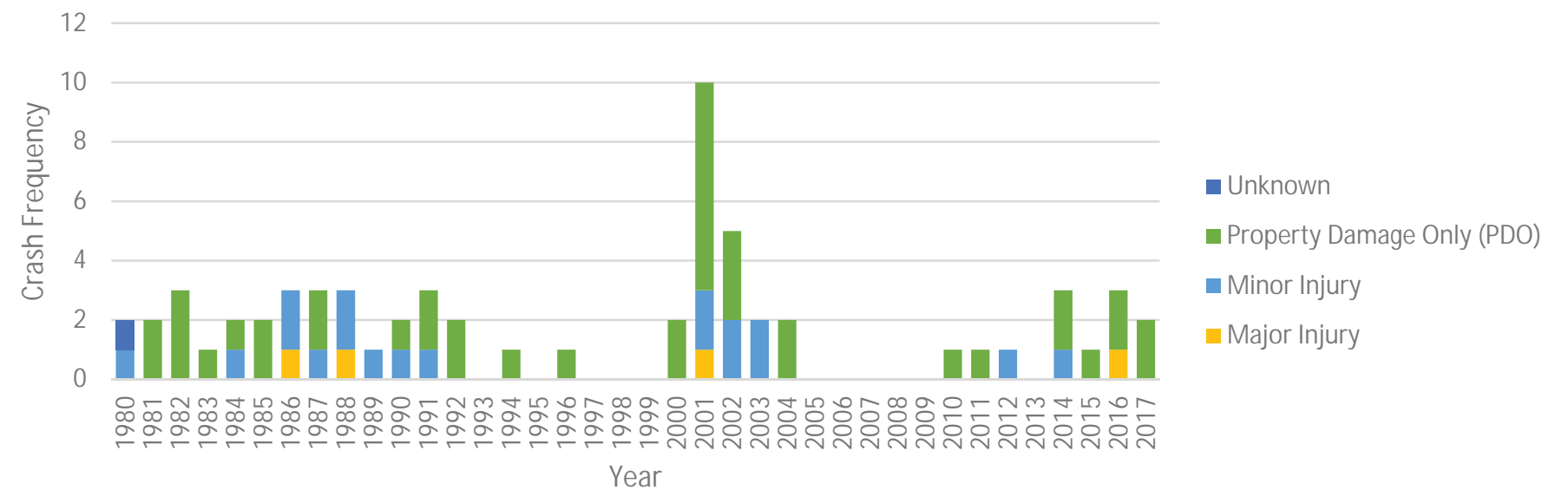
WHAT WE KNOW

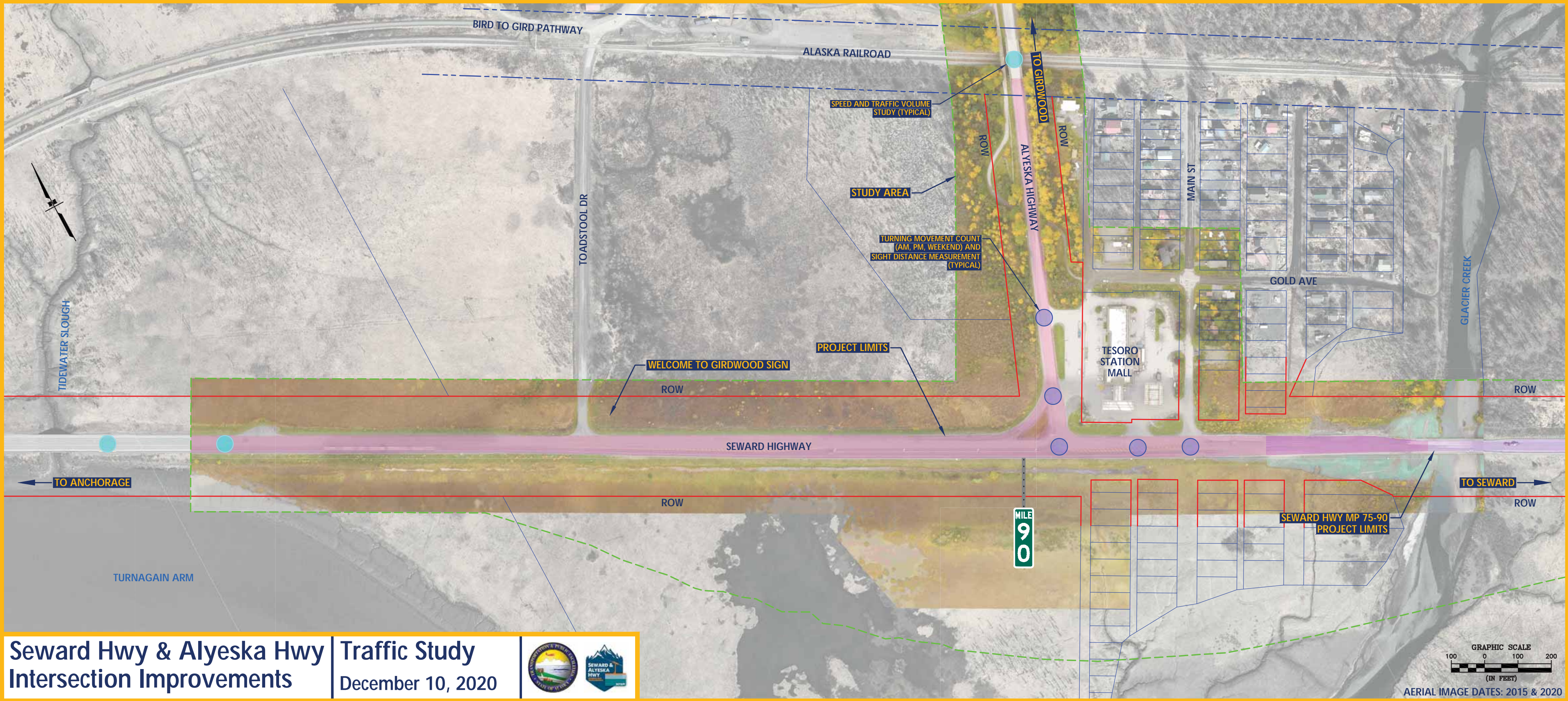
EXISTING CONDITIONS & DATA COLLECTED



- Traffic data
 - Crashes
 - Speeds
 - Volume
 - Turning movements
 - Non-motorized
- Environmental Constraints
 - Wetlands
- Topography
 - Field survey
 - Aerial data acquisition

Seward Highway and Alyeska Highway Crash Severity by Year
(1980 to 2017)



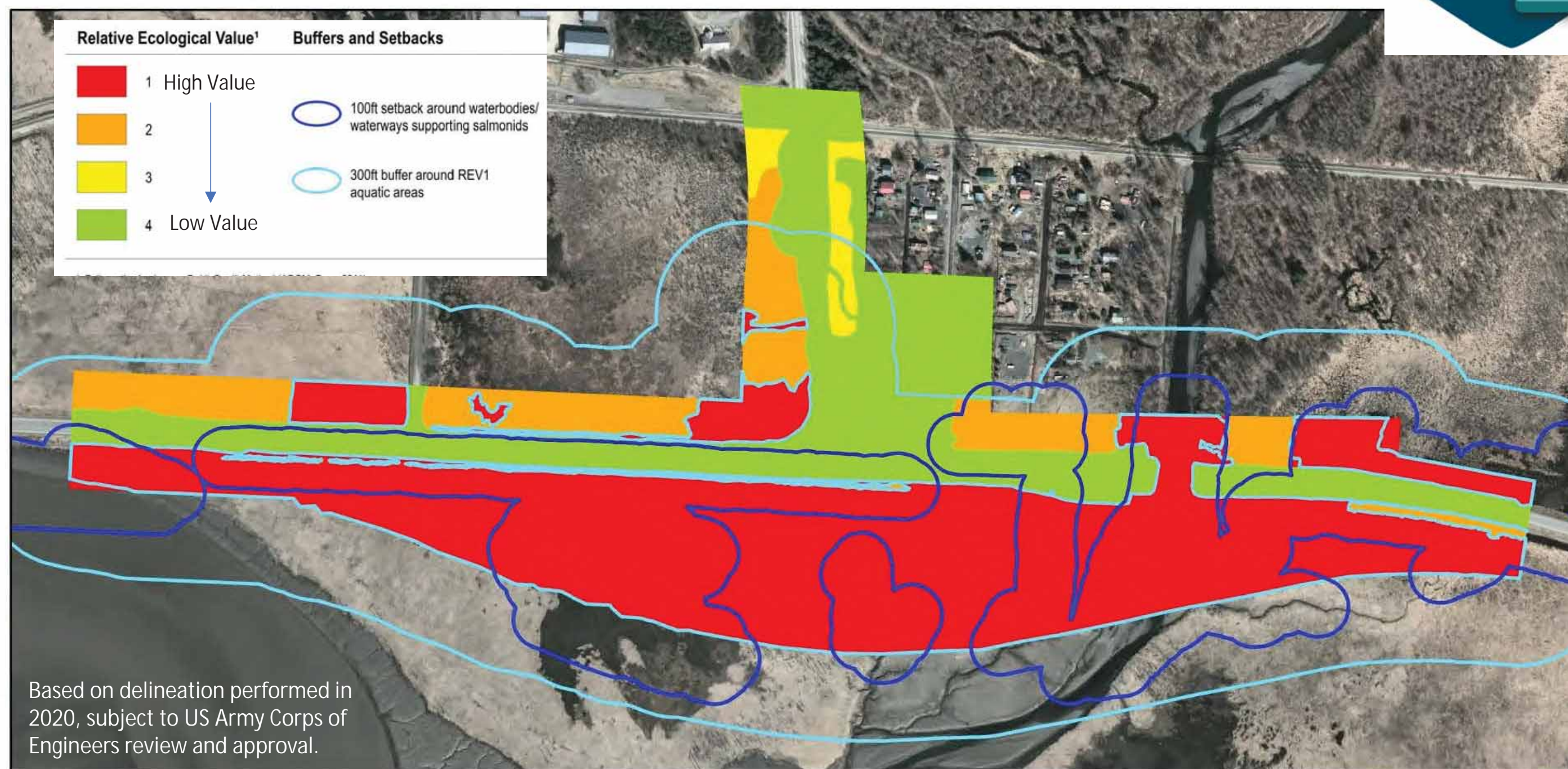


Seward Hwy & Alyeska Hwy | **Traffic Study**
Intersection Improvements | December 10, 2020



WHAT WE KNOW

WETLANDS



WHAT WE HEARD

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SO FAR



ISSUES

Toadstool Drive

- Girdwood Sign at Toadstool is an attraction, increases stopping/turning movements
- Traffic stopping at Toadstool, pedestrians running across highway to photograph Turnagain Arm
- Used as a bypass for intersection, creating more traffic for local residents

Main Street

- Used as a bypass for intersection by locals
- Local street, not improved

Gold Avenue

- Issue with accessing Alyeska Highway from Gold Ave.
- Old Girdwood townsite has to use the gas station parking lot for through access

Girdwood Station & Commercial Mall

- Pedestrian/Bicycle traffic – kids, dogs, people, especially at Alyeska/Gold Avenue pathway connection
- 3 Driveways at Tesoro can cause conflicts
- Mall access can be difficult
- ROW is being used by vendors to sell seafood, other items

Safe ingress/egress for Trucks at Tesoro

- Creates situation where they park along the shoulders of the Seward Highway
- No dedicated parking for big rigs

Viewsheds to Turnagain Arm

- Do not block or change viewsheds for any alternative
- Concerns about the area south of the highway
- Desire for scenic view pullouts on Arm side of Seward Hwy to address parking along shoulders

WHAT WE HEARD

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



ISSUES (continued)

Speeding along Alyeska Highway after turning off of Seward Highway

July and December are the most congested months

Strong opposition to gravel sourcing from Girdwood Valley

OPPORTUNITIES

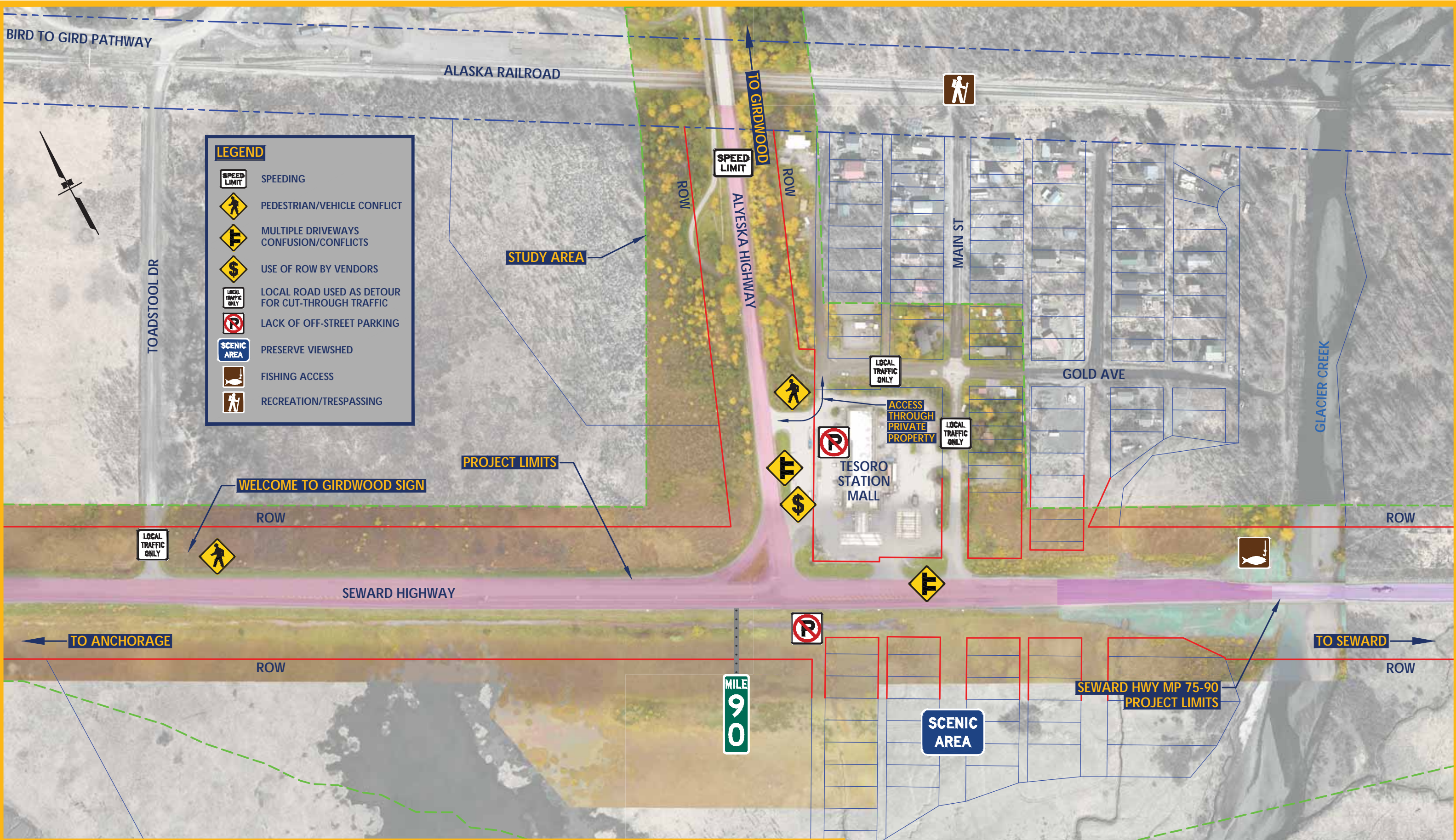
Recreation use and need for safe parking or pullouts

- Tide lands for skating in winter
- Fishing under Glacier Creek Bridge
- Would like a boardwalk in the tidal flats

Non-Motorized facilities

- Consider a bike path connection (continue Bird to Gird trail)
- Coordination with National Historic Iditarod Trail





Seward Hwy & Alyeska Hwy Intersection Improvements

Identified Issues

December 10, 2020



GRAPHIC SCALE
100 0 100 200
(IN FEET)
AERIAL IMAGE DATES: 2015 & 2020

WHAT WE HAVE SEEN

CONDITIONS AT THE INTERSECTION



WHAT WE HAVE SEEN

CONDITIONS AT THE INTERSECTION

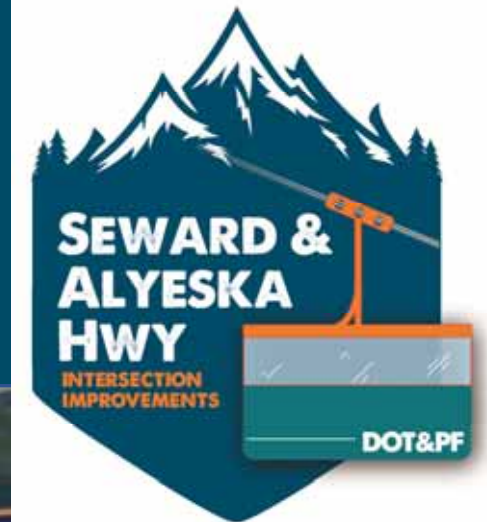
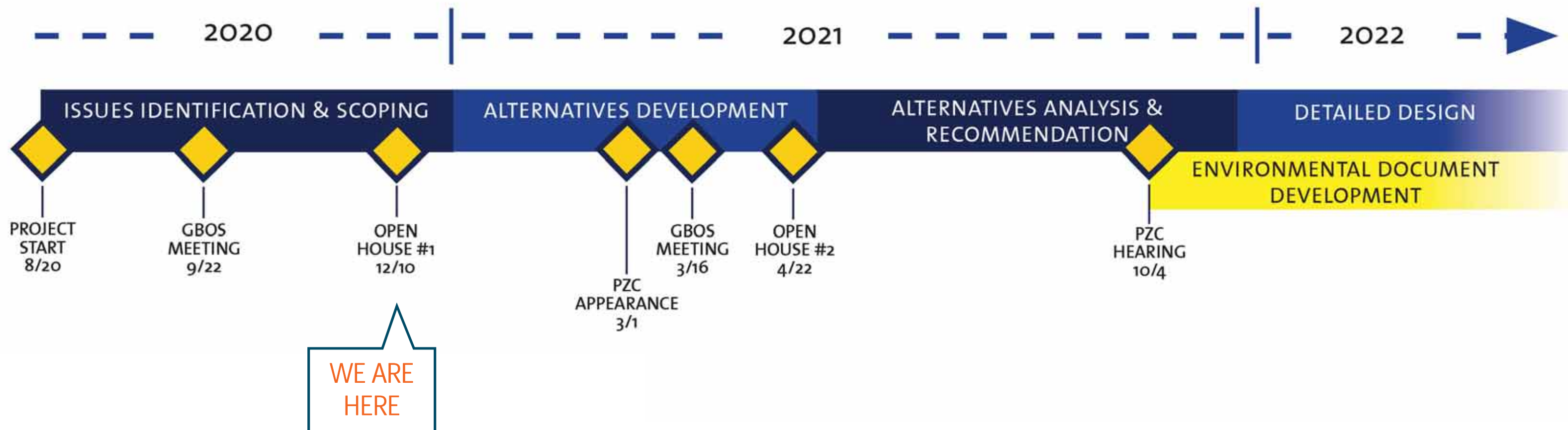


Image capture: Sep 2011 © 2020 Google

WHERE WE ARE GOING

PROJECT SCHEDULE



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WELCOME

PROJECT WEBSITE:

www.sewardalYESkahwyintersection.com

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