



2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan

**Technical Advisory Committee**

**Meeting #1 | March 6, 2020**





# Welcome & Introductions

# Meet the TAC

- Why are you excited to serve on the TAC?
- What is your agency or department's interest in the LRTP?

## WHO

The MPO, or Metropolitan Planning Organization, works to plan a safe transportation network for the Missoula area to ensure our home has comprehensive, cooperative, and connected transportation systems.



## WHAT

Because the Missoula Urban Area has more than 50,000 residents, the federal government requires that an organization be established to carry out metropolitan transportation planning.



## WHEN

The Missoula MPO was formed nearly 40 years ago, following the 1980 Census. Today the MPO is responsible for long-range planning and programming of federal transportation funds within the Missoula area.



## WHERE

The MPO serves the Missoula Urban Area, which is a larger area than the Missoula city limits but smaller than Missoula County.



# Role of the TAC

- In-reach to your colleagues and leadership
- Share relevant (and timely) information
- Provide data and background information
- Review technical work
- Advise at critical junctures





# Project Opportunities & Work Plan

# Building on a Strong Foundation

## Reflect what's been done before

- Updated travel demand model (including active transportation)
- Robust engagement foundation
- Clear articulation of goals
- Positive trends toward sustainable and multimodal transportation



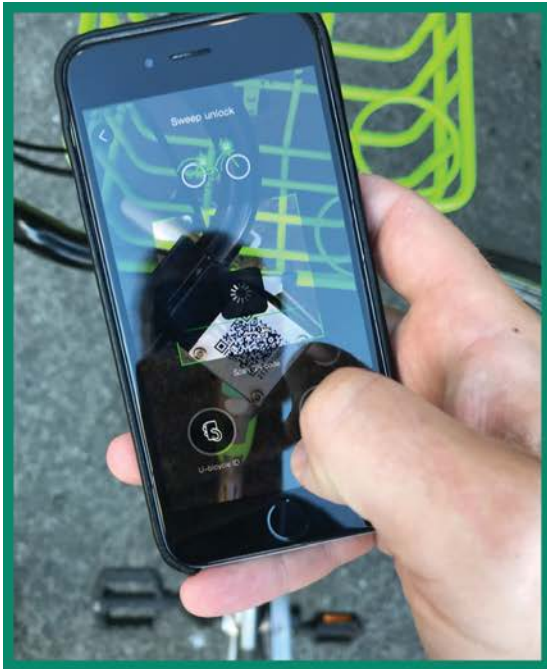
### **Activate Missoula 2045**

Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan  
March 2017



# Understanding Current Trends

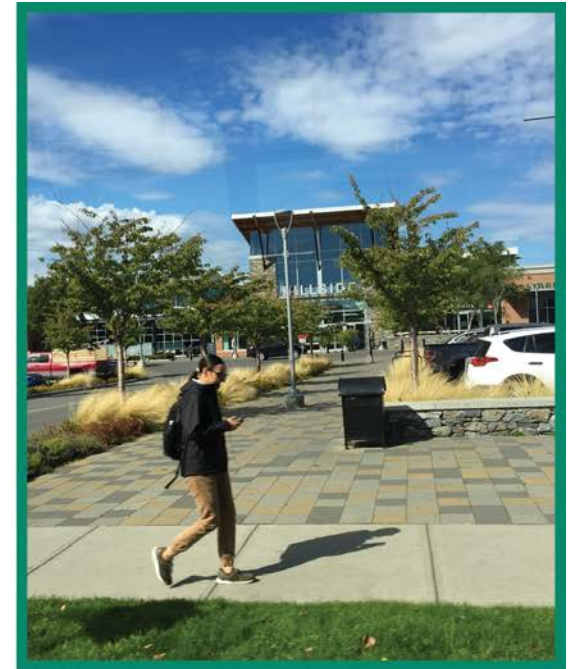
Technological, natural, and cultural forces



TECHNOLOGY AND DISRUPTORS



RESILIENCY



PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE

# Framing Growth, Density, and Affordability

## Understand who benefits

- Use the updated model to understand how investments impact people
- Connect project types and allocations to affordability
- Support existing industry and future jobs to enhance economic competitiveness





# Connecting Urban and Rural

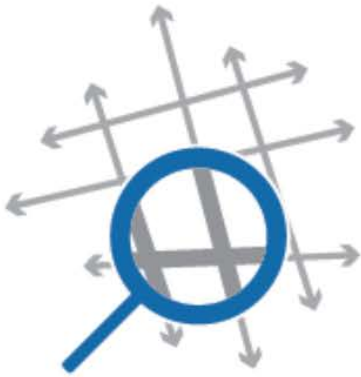
## Reflect unique contexts and identities

- Bring the whole County into the conversation
- Create tailored solutions
- Use new approaches to address shifting modal preferences
- Build on interest in active transportation and growing transit ridership

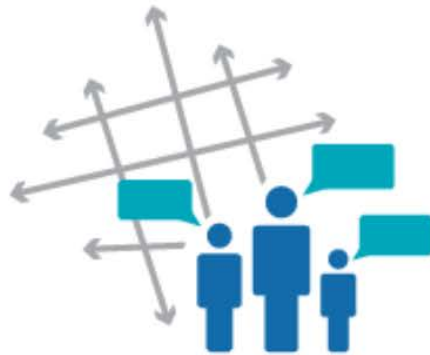


# Our Approach

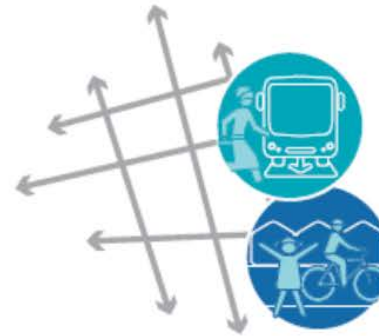
Four integrated phases



**Discovery**



**Desire**



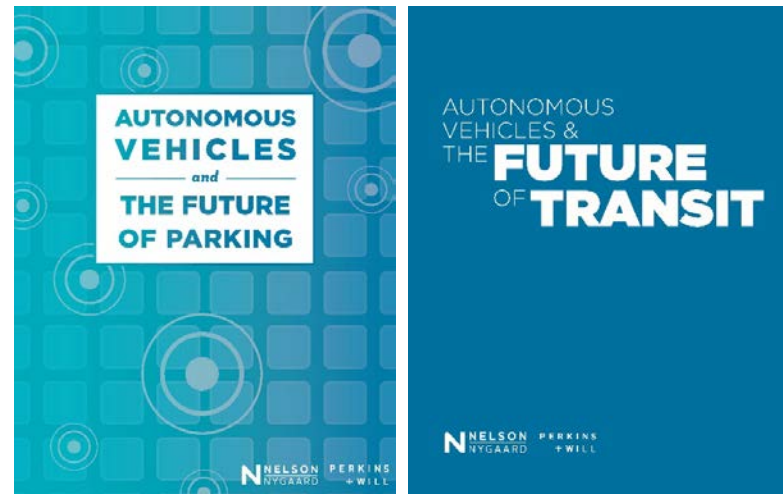
**Design**



**Document**

# Framing the Challenge and Establishing Outcomes

- Public Involvement Plan
- Existing Conditions Findings
- Goals & Performance Measures
- Evaluation Framework
- Emerging Mobility Playbook
- Project Identification



# Creating and Evaluating Solutions

- Project Evaluation Results
- Scenario Development & Review
- Recommended Scenario
- Project Descriptions & Cost Estimates

**HELE MAI MAUI  
GOALS & OUTCOMES**

**Goal #1:**  
Improve safety and promote health

- Eliminate injuries and fatalities
- Improve safety for people walking and biking
- Increase physical activity

**Goal #2:**  
Enhance cultural and natural resources, climate resilience, and sustainability

- Improve climate resilience and adaptability of infrastructure
- Reduce transportation-related air emissions
- Protect or enhance cultural resources

**Goal #3:**  
Expand mobility choices to reduce traffic congestion

- Reduce delay
- Increase street, trail/greenway, and sidewalk network connectivity
- Improve freight and transit movement

**Goal #4:**  
Connect and strengthen communities to improve quality of life

- Improve access to and resilience for town centers, schools, jobs, parks, and basic life needs
- Provide mobility benefits to vulnerable populations

**Goal #5:**  
Maintain assets and invest strategically for economic vitality

- Bring existing infrastructure and transit assets into a state of good repair
- Balance cost-effective, implementable projects with high-impact projects

SCENARIO EVALUATION RESULTS		
1 = PROVIDE NEW CONNECTIONS	2 = CREATE A MULTIMODAL SYSTEM	3 = TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE
LOW	HIGH	MED
LOW	HIGH	MED
MED	HIGH	MED
MED	HIGH	MED
LOW	MED	HIGH

# Reviewing Priorities and Recommendations

- Financial & Implementation Plan
- Programmatic Recommendations
- Draft & Final Plan

Protected bike lanes on Arlington Ave, from 10th St to 56th St

## Project Need

- » Provide key north-south bike connection for Warren and Lawrence Townships
- » Connect Pleasant Run and Fall Creek, via existing bike lanes south of 10th St, 46th St and Emerson Ave
- » Improve safety for all, as Arlington Ave overlaps with several high-crash zones
- » Increase connections to schools
- » Support future frequent transit service south of 42nd St

## Features

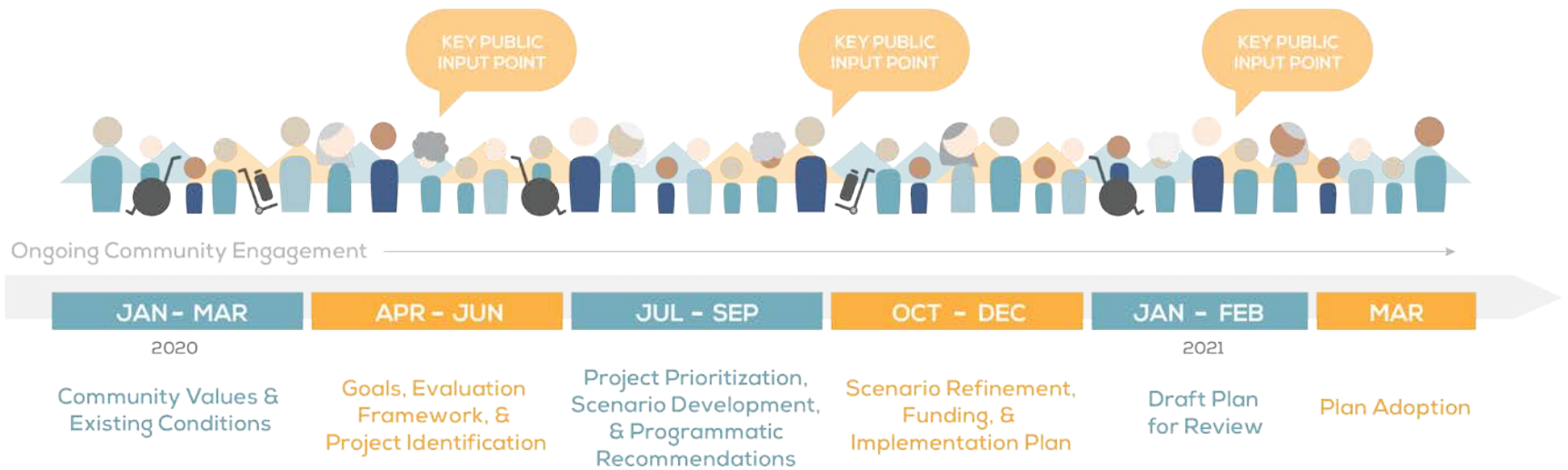
-  One-way protected bike lane on each side of the street
-  Intersection improvements, including protected intersection treatments, high-visibility crosswalks, and ADA-compliant curb ramps
-  Floating bus islands that route bikes away from traffic and behind people waiting at the bus stop
-  Traffic signal upgrades

## Key Considerations

- » Low vehicle volumes support repurposing outer travel lanes into one-way protected bike lanes
- » Focus intersection improvements at challenging locations such as the five-way intersection at E 34th and Massachusetts Ave
- » Frequent transit route should account for needs of transit and cyclists



# Project Schedule



# Your Turn

My big idea for the future of transportation in **MISSOULA** is ...



# Current Projects



# Your Projects

- What are the most important projects you have underway that overlap with the work anticipated through the LRTP?
- What are the opportunities for collaboration?





# Public Engagement

# Needs Assessment Findings

- Communicate the role of the MPO
- Front-load engagement opportunities to get the public involved early
- Use values-based metrics to guide decision making
- Set the backdrop to explain why we need an update every four years



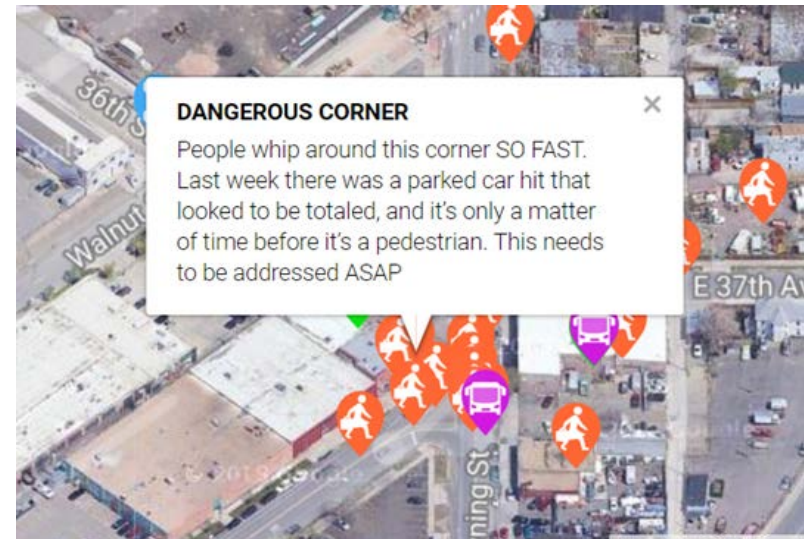
# Public Involvement Goals

- Create an informed public pertaining to Missoula Connect and the MPO's role
- Build public trust in the MPO and demonstrate the investment of the MPO in the larger planning area
- Form a more collaborative, positive relationship with leaders in the Missoula Valley



# Potential Tools

- Surveys and values exercises
- In-person and online open houses
- Pop-up events
- Community partner meetings
- Standing drop-in meetings
- Media relations and press releases



# Your Ideas

- What ideas do you have for engaging those you serve?
- Are there opportunities to partner?





# Initial Existing Conditions

# Recent Projects

- I-90 interchanges at Orange St & Van Buren St
- Bitterroot Trail completion through MRL Park and bridge over Reserve St
- Russell St
- Missoula ADA upgrades
- Reserve St barrier
- Madison St Bridge





# 2019 Transportation Survey

- Less than 1/3 of residents rated the transportation system as “fair” or “poor”
- City residents are more satisfied with the transportation system than County residents
- Transit and active mode commuters are more satisfied than auto commuters



# 2019 Transportation Survey

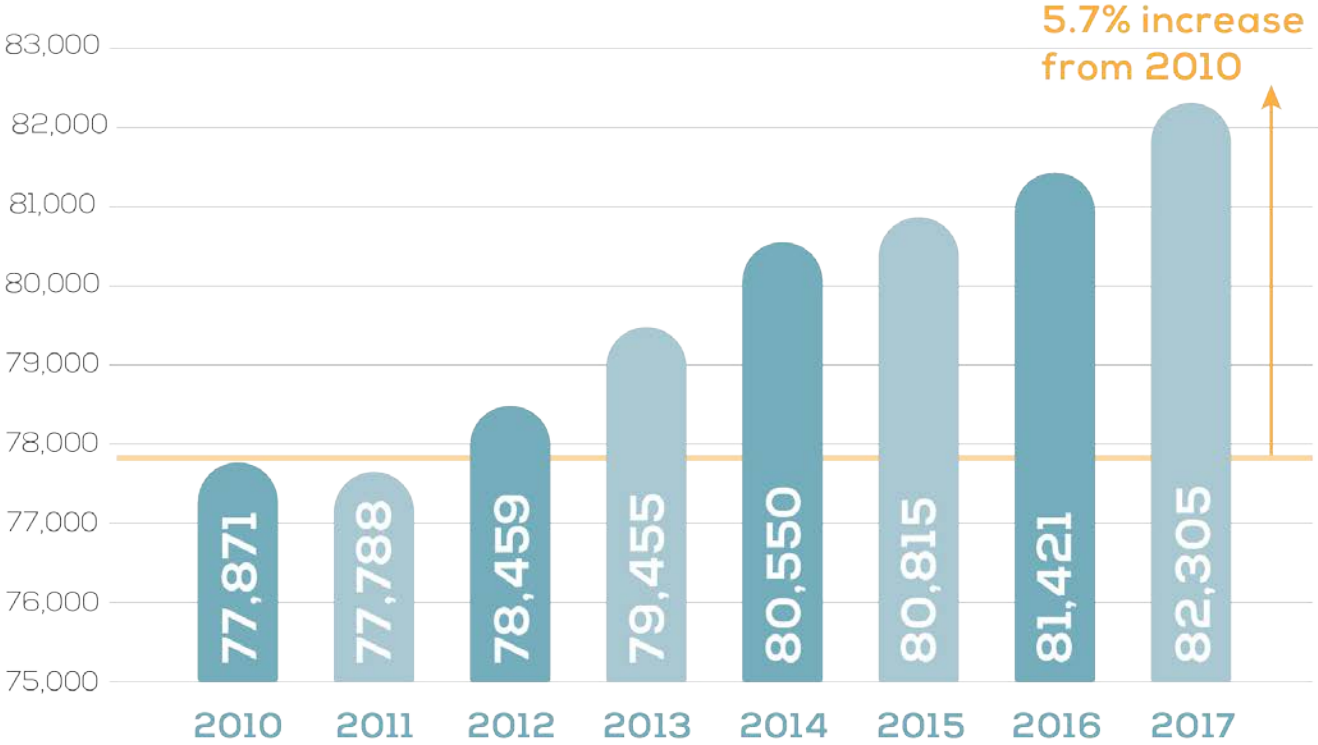
- **Top priority investments**
  - Transit (22%)
  - Roadway Maintenance (19%)
  - Bicycle/Ped Facilities (15%)
- **City residents prioritized transit and biking and walking investments, while County residents prioritized roadway maintenance**



# Getting to Know Missoula

## Missoula area residents

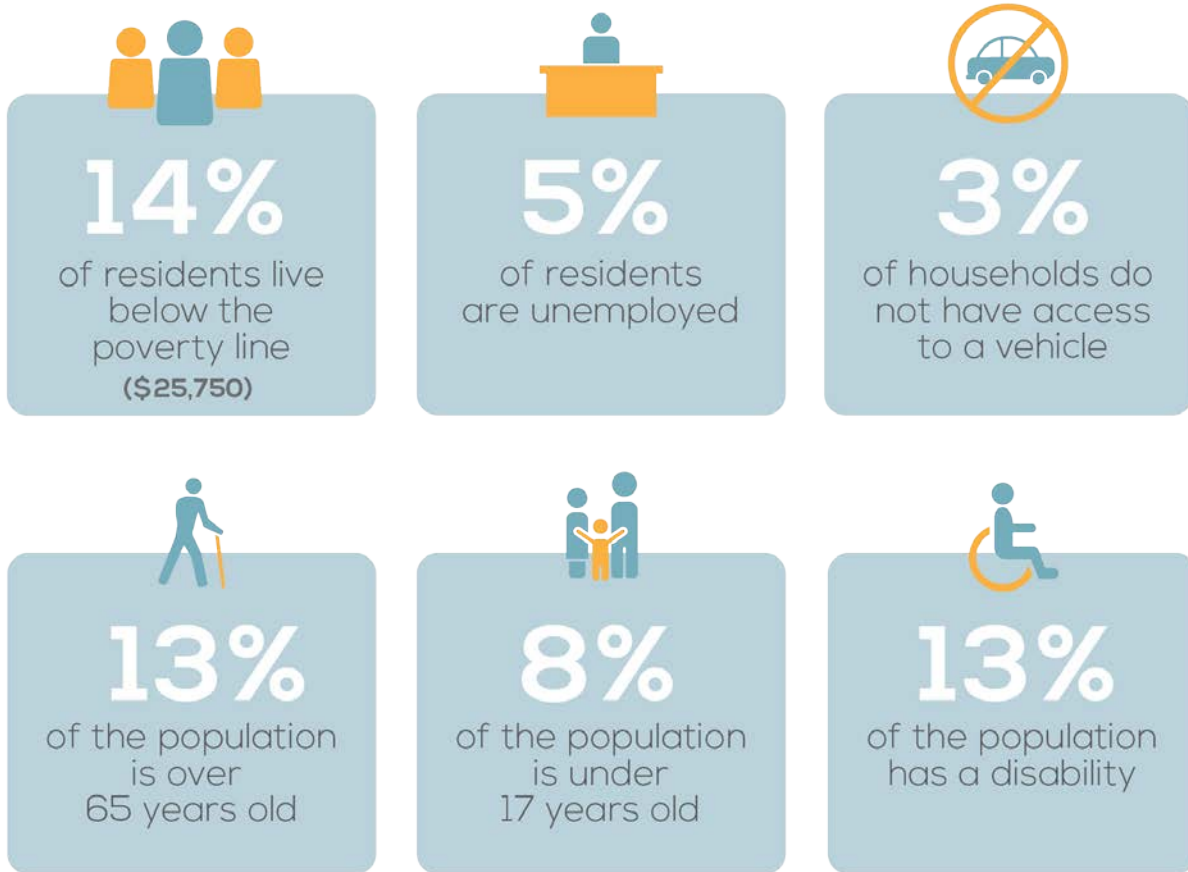
### Population Growth



Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Total Population

# Getting to Know Missoula

## Missoula area residents



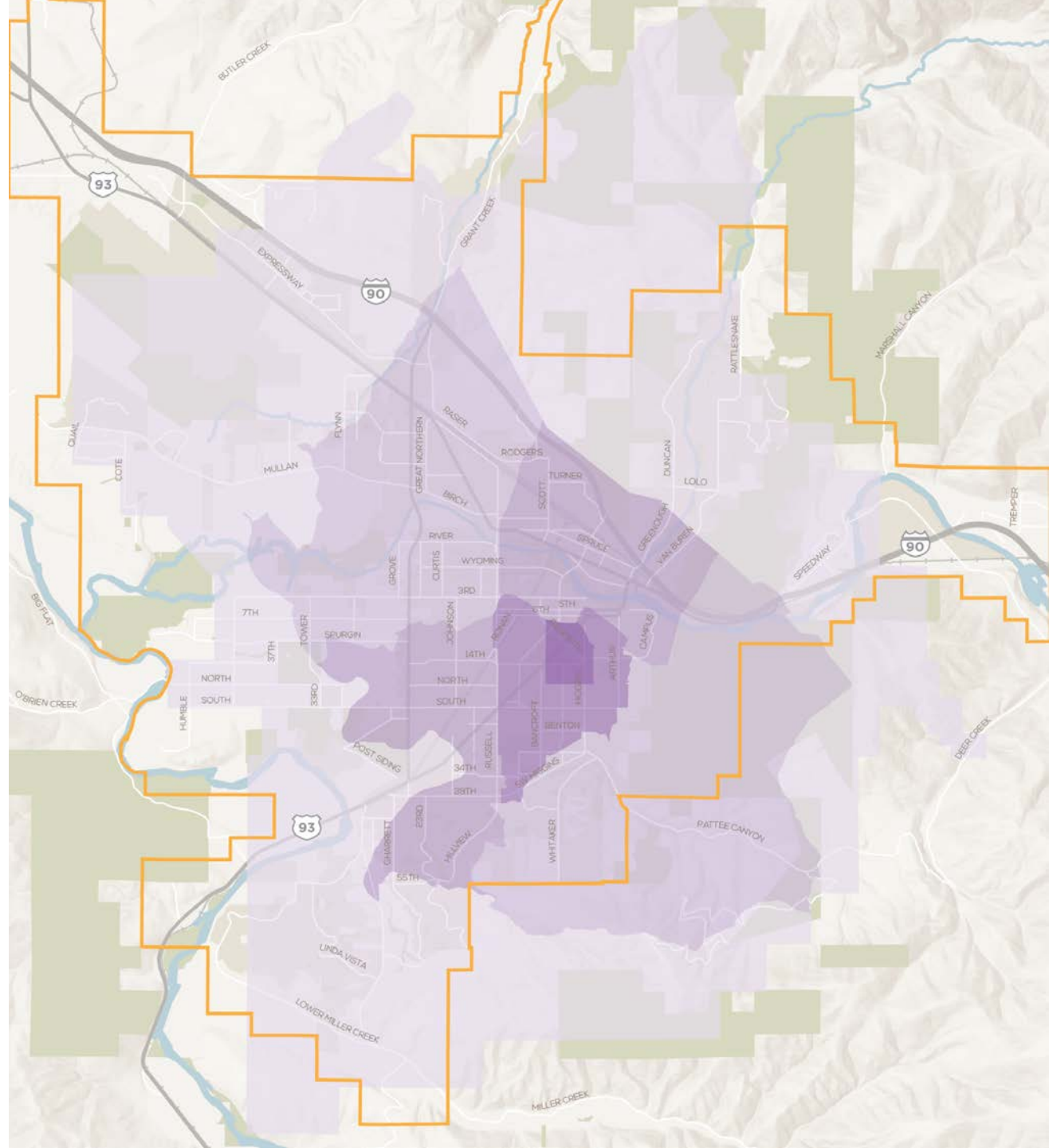
Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

# Draft Equity Index

## Factors

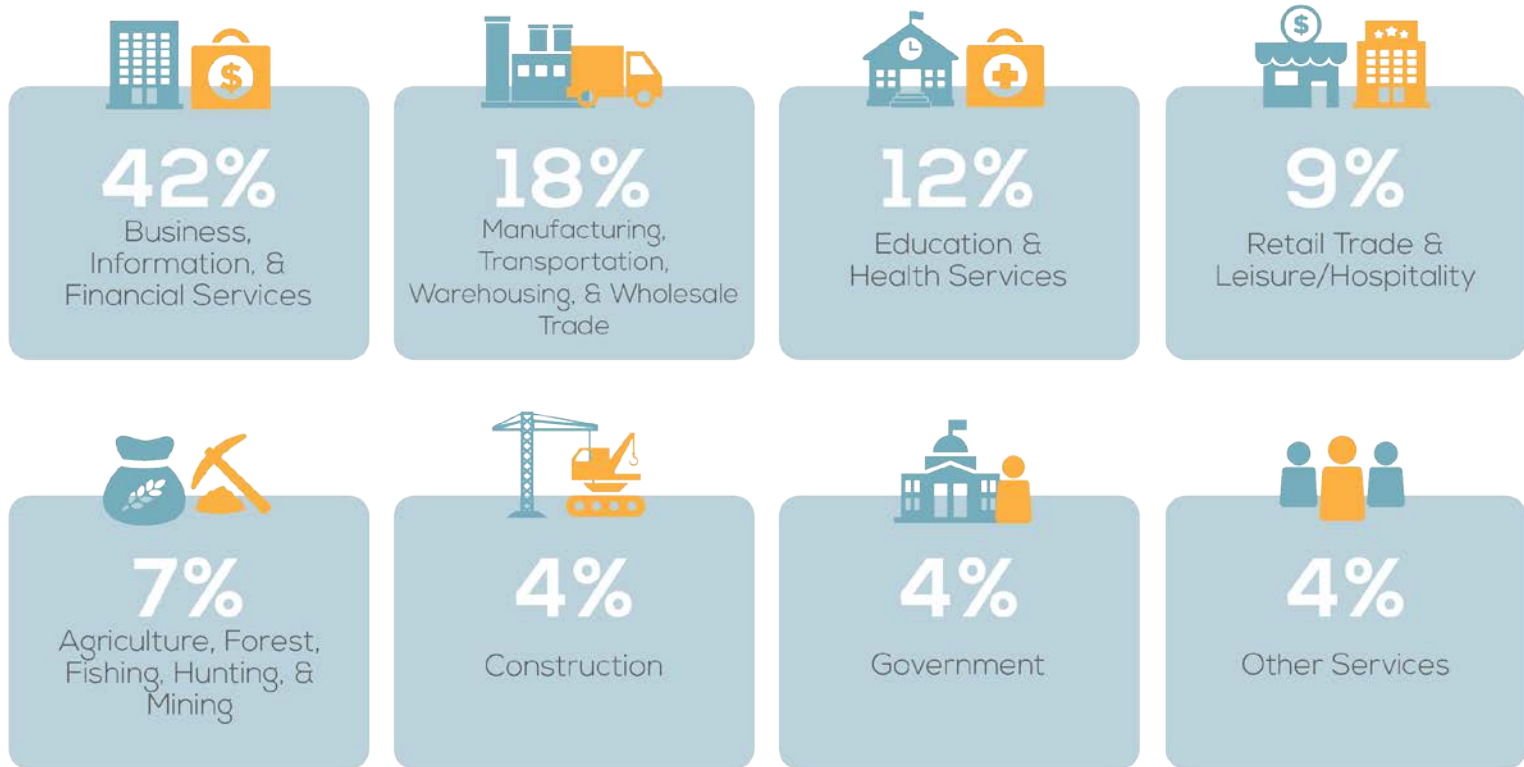
- Age 65+
- Age Under 18
- Low Income
- Disability
- Limited English Proficiency
- Race/Ethnicity
- Vehicle Access

- Missoula City Boundary
- UZA Boundary



# Getting to Know Missoula

## Missoula area workers

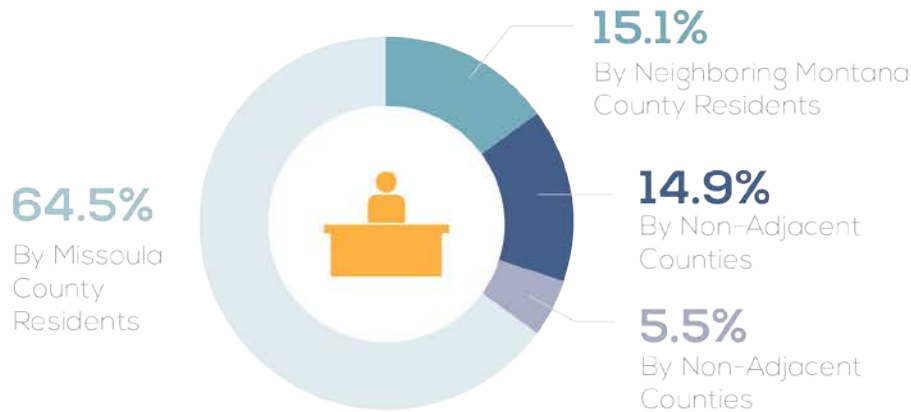


 **45% of all workers in Missoula County earn less than \$35,000**

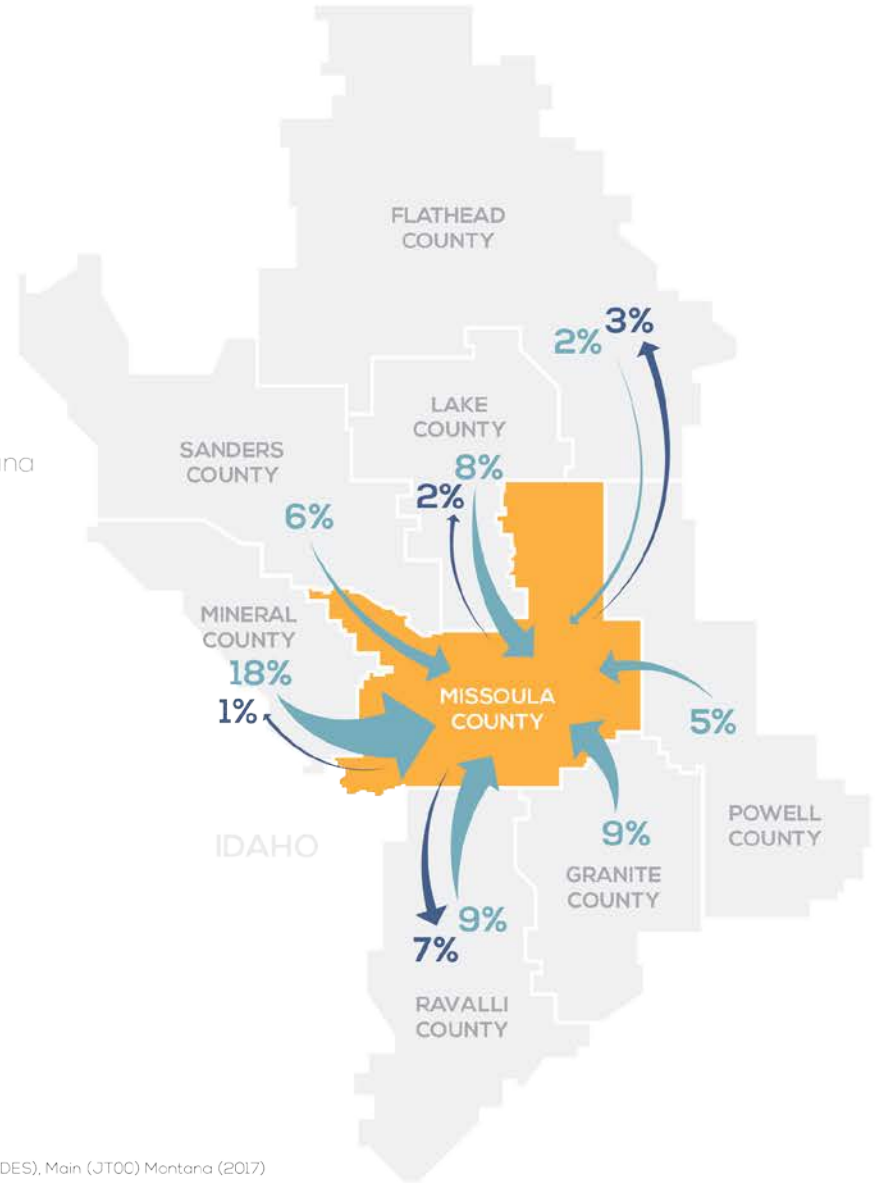
Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Industry by Occupation for the Civilian Population 16 Years and Older

# Commute Patterns

## Total Jobs in Missoula County Filled



“About a **third** of Missoula County workers commute from another county.”



Source: U.S. Census Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), Main (JT00) Montana (2017)

# Getting Around Missoula Today



**71.4%**  
Drive Alone



**9.2%**  
Carpool



**5.3%**  
Bike



**6.1%**  
Walk



**2.7%**  
Bus

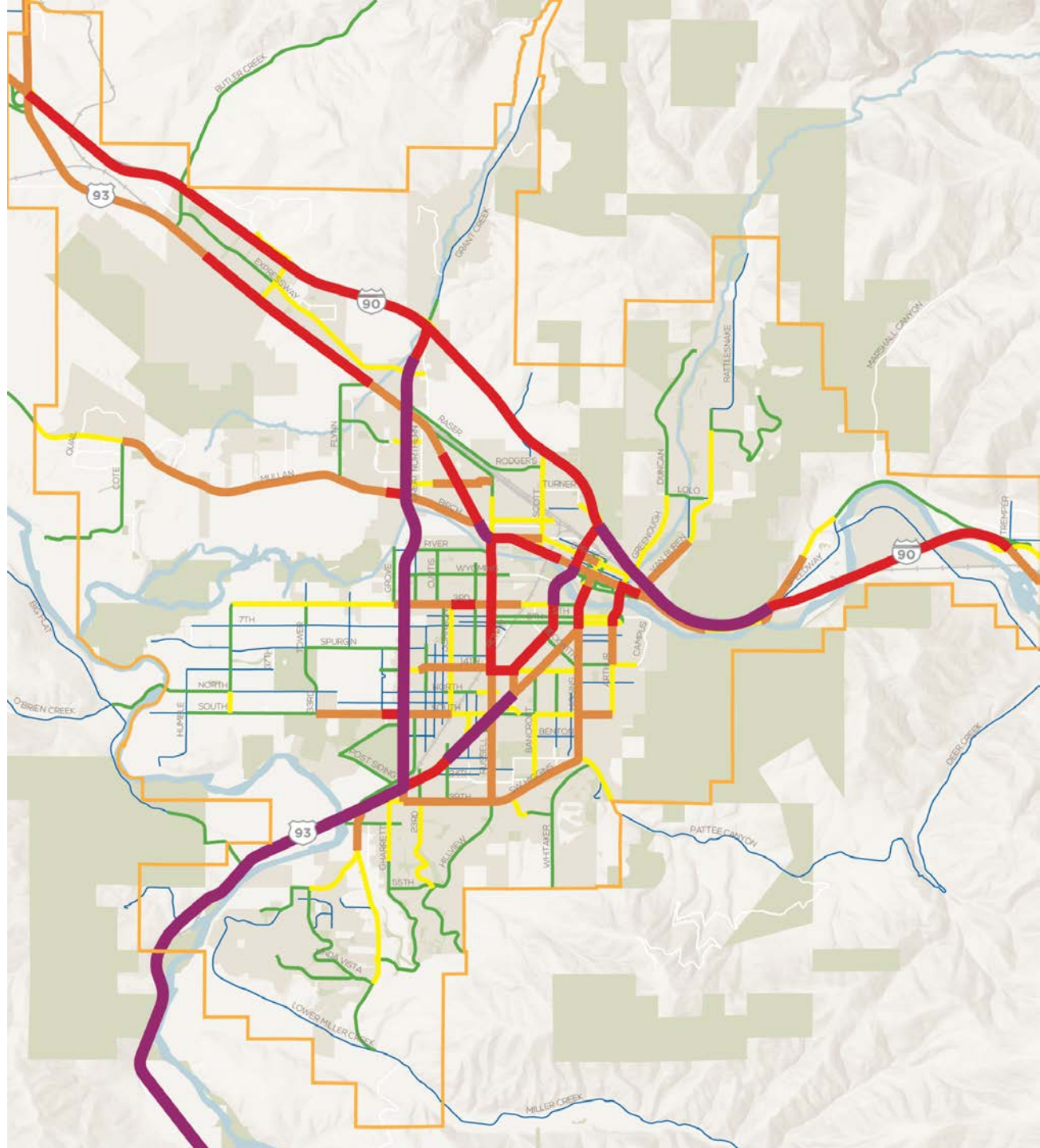
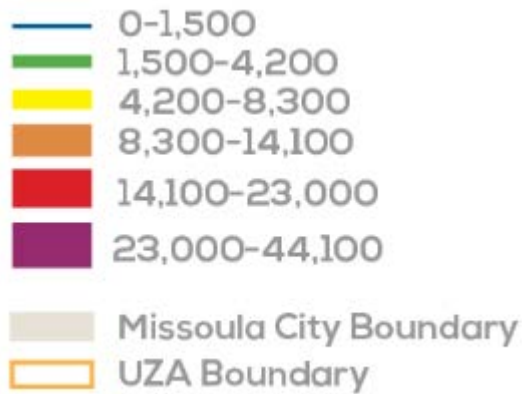


**5.3%**  
Other (taxi, telecommute, etc.)

Source: 2018 American Community Survey 5-year data



# Average Annual Daily Trips 2019



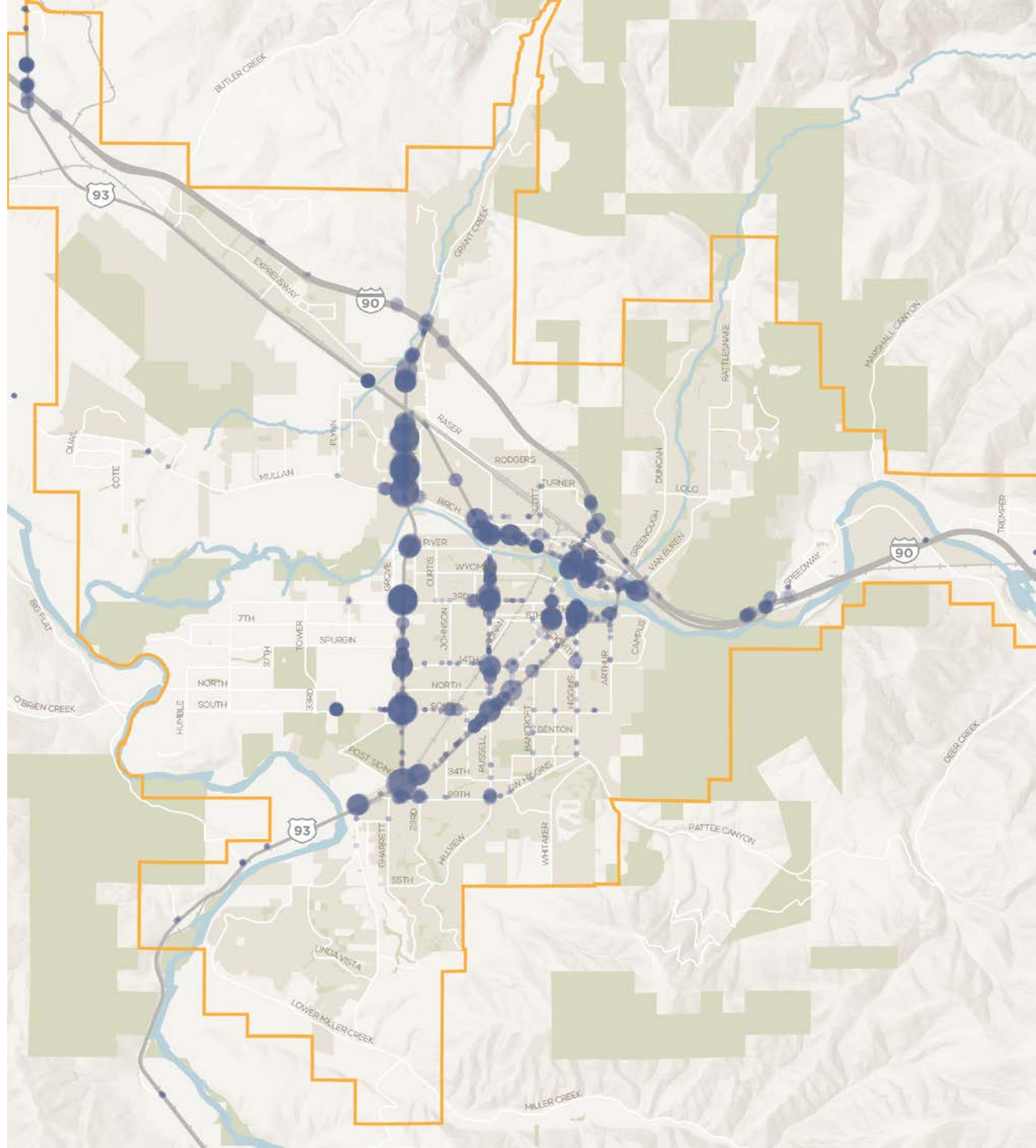
# Crash Density: All Modes

2013-2017

## Number of Collisions

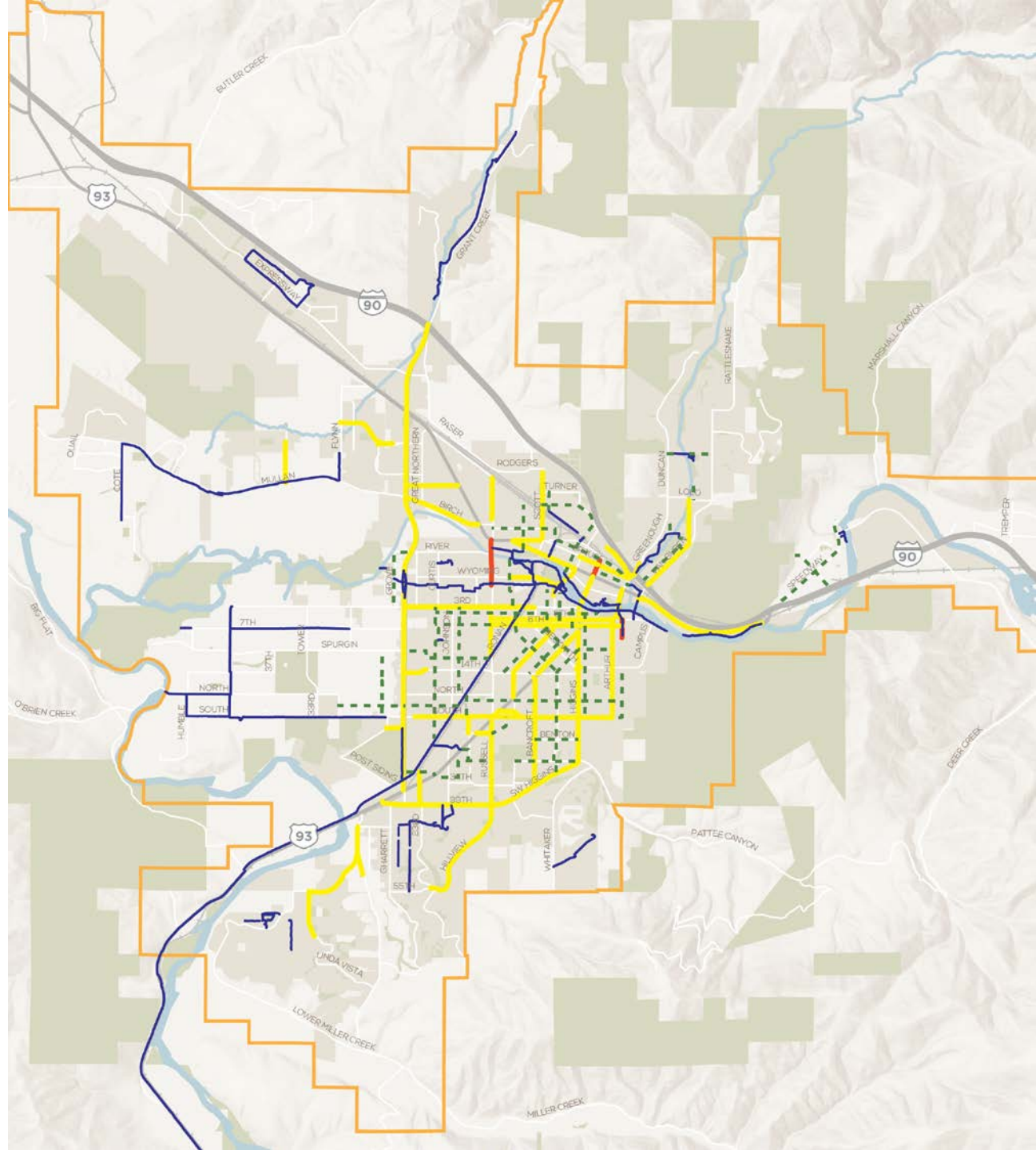
- 0-20
- 20-40
- 40-80
- 80-170
- 170-350

- Missoula City Boundary
- UZA Boundary



# Bicycle Network 2019

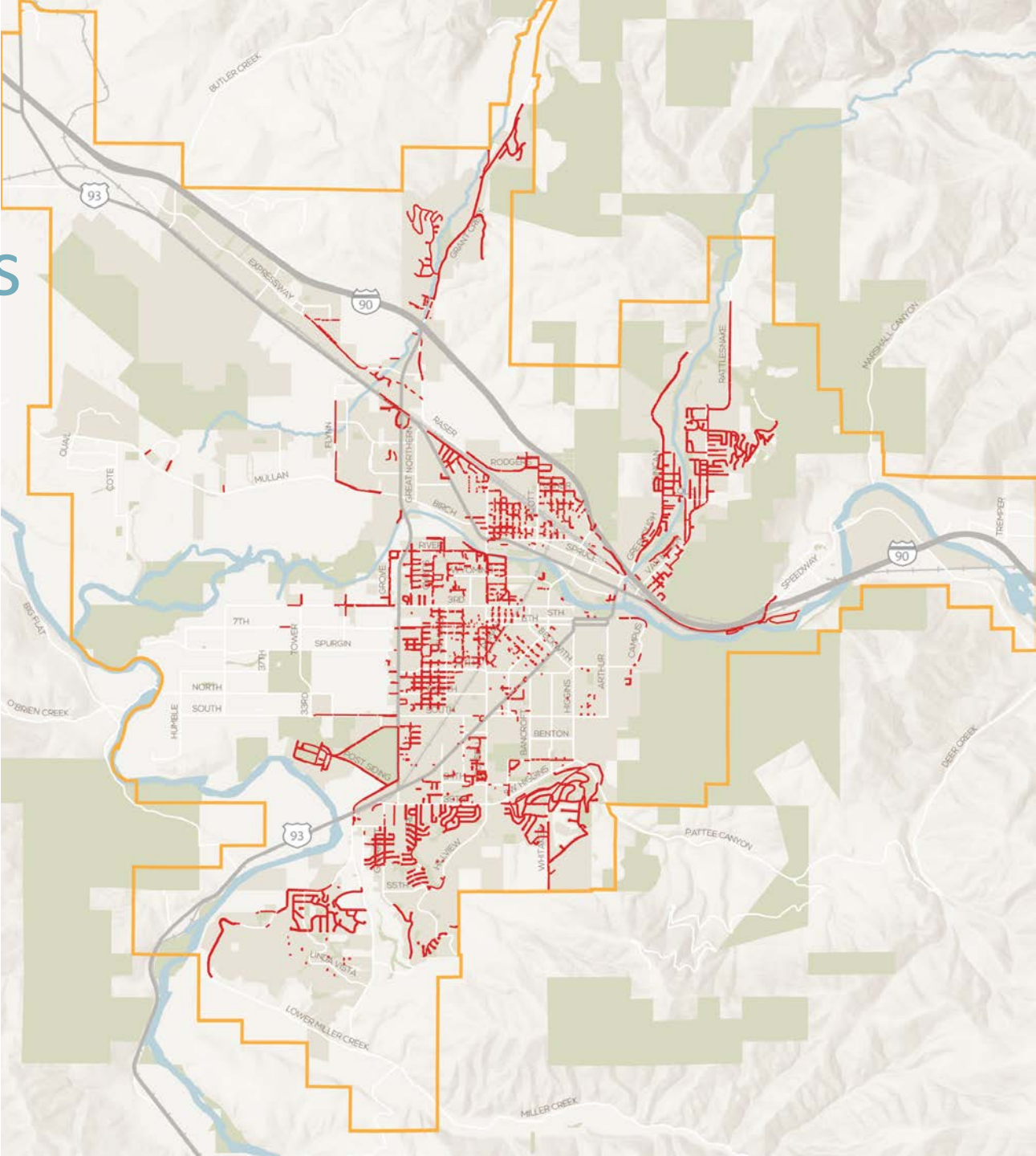
- Shared Use Trail
- Cycle Track
- Bike Lane
- Proposed Greenway
- Missoula City Boundary
- UZA Boundary



# Pedestrian Network Gaps

2019

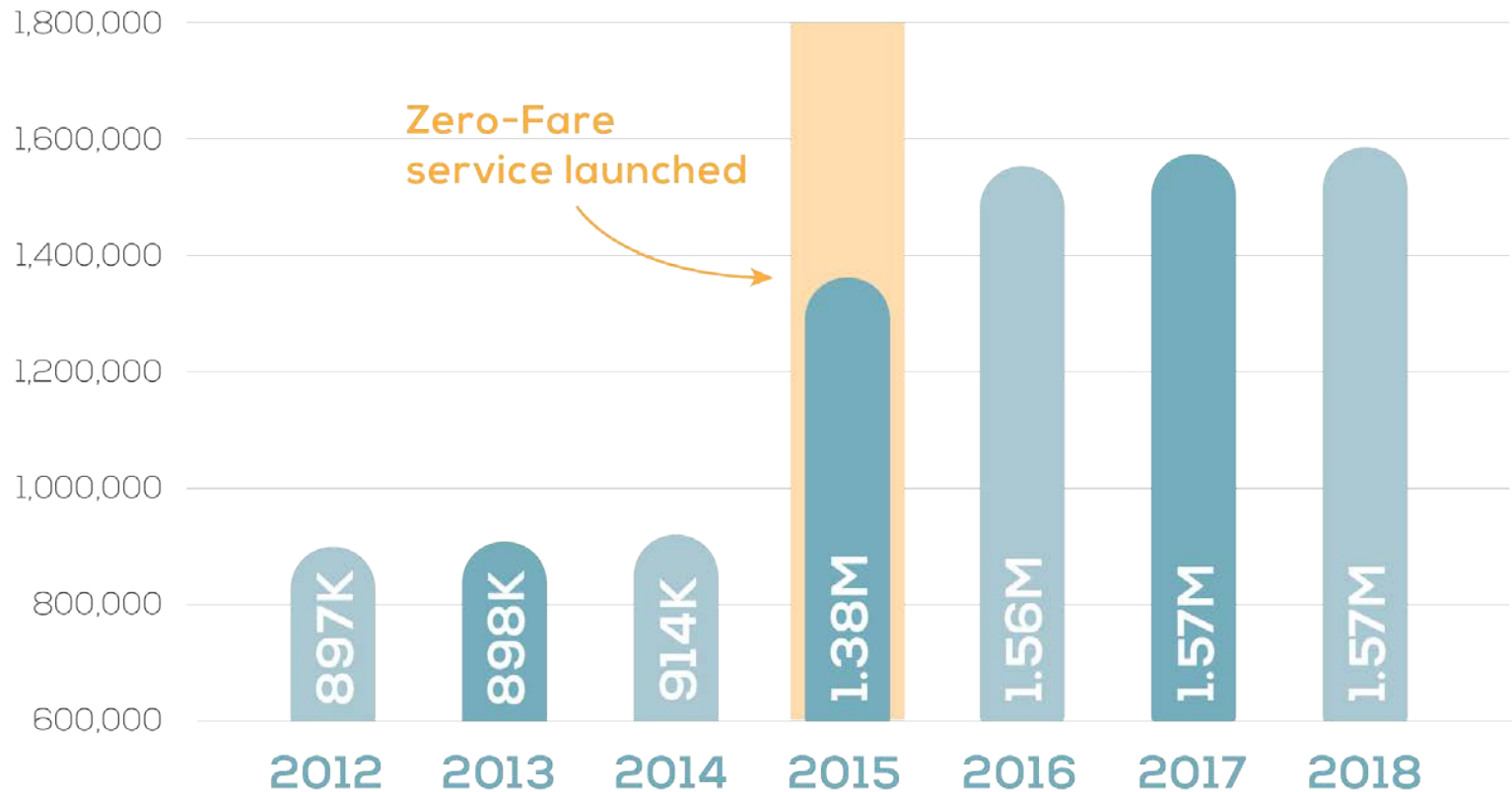
-  Missing Sidewalk
-  Missoula City Boundary
-  UZA Boundary



# Example Pedestrian Network Gaps



# Transit Ridership



Source: 2018 MUTD

# Your Feedback

- What haven't we covered that is important to you and your department or agency?
- What additional information would you like to see?
- What data do you have that we should be using?





# Potential Goals and Metrics



# Current LRTP Goals

## ACTIVATE MISSOULA 2045 GOALS

- **Maintain our existing transportation system**
- **Improve the efficiency, performance, and connectivity of a balanced transportation system**
- **Maximize the cost-effectiveness of transportation**
- **Promote consistency between land use and transportation plans to enhance mobility and accessibility**
- **Provide safe and secure transportation**
- **Support economic vitality**
- **Protect the environment**
- **Promote community health and social equity through the transportation system**

# Your Approaches

- What goals has your department or agency identified in current planning efforts?
- What performance measures or metrics are you tracking?





# Questions and Next Steps

# Priorities for March and April

- Hold public open house
- Continue existing conditions analysis and background research
- Highlight key challenges and opportunities to address
- Develop draft goals and performance measures
- Begin financial analysis



The Metropolitan Planning Organization and  
The Historic Preservation Office present



5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
First Friday, March 6, 2020

Lower Level of The Hammond Arcade, 101 S. Higgins Ave.  
(accessible entrance through Carousel Drive alley)

Signs of the Times, featuring vintage sketches of iconic  
Missoula businesses will be on display as well!

Photos from Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana - Missoula



# Thank you!

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[missoulampo.com/long-range-transportation-plan](http://missoulampo.com/long-range-transportation-plan)