

# TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

## May 22, 2019

### APPROVED AS AMENDED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Dunning, Dan Brooks, Lt. Brian Korell, John Armstrong, Sondra Baker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nicole Cromwell

STAFF SUPPORT: Dakota Martonen, Erin Claunch, Mike Dotson, Lora Mattox

GUESTS: None

#### BUSINESS MEETING:

**Call to order:** Jerry Dunning called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dan Brooks for approval of the March 2019 minutes. Seconded by John Armstrong. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Erin reminded the board members about the current vacant spot on the board and if they knew anyone interested to apply for the position.

#### BOARD REPORTS:

- Lora reported on the Planning Department projects. Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study is underway to look at access management, zoning, topography, trail placement and etc. City's 2019 Greater Billings Non-motorized Trail System map has been approved and going through the final update. This project includes a creation of a mobile application. A Wayfinding Signage plan to will begin in the next month. The Department hired a consultant to help with the Build grant application. The Build Grant application will include a request for funding to complete the Inner Belt Loop and the Marathon trail system.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North traffic updates: The Street/Traffic Division has installed most of the signs along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. They also looked at the signal at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and North 18<sup>th</sup> St because of timing issues. They found the conduit in the ground was collapsed due to rust/age and needs to be replaced. They are looking into solutions to figure out the problem.
2. Concerns from P. Jomini: Pierre emailed Jerry about concerns on a variety of issues that were discussed in previous meetings when Pierre was on the Board. Erin and Jerry

communicated via email the resolutions of these discussions and any additional information requested. Jerry will alert the Board if there are any follow-up questions from Pierre.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Downtown Traffic Study:** This study was done by Kittleson & Associates to look at the impact of traffic in the downtown area. Various alternatives were analyzed to determine the impact to traffic in the Downtown. The outcome of the study is to determine what alternatives would be deemed acceptable for traffic. Alternatives included the following: (a) convert north/south streets from one-way to two-way; (b) convert 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues North from one-way to two-way; (c) eliminate one travel lane from Montana Avenue; (d) eliminate one travel lane from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North – east of North 13<sup>th</sup> Street; (e) convert North 13<sup>th</sup> Street from a four-lane road to a 3-lane road; and (f) a full street closure of North Broadway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues North. The study did not prioritize/program the alternatives or locate funding for the alternatives. The study was to determine which alternatives would be acceptable for future implementation if/when the alternative was vetted through the public. For more details please see the PowerPoint presentation attached.

Items for Future Agendas

1. Road and lane rentals
2. Residential intersections

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.



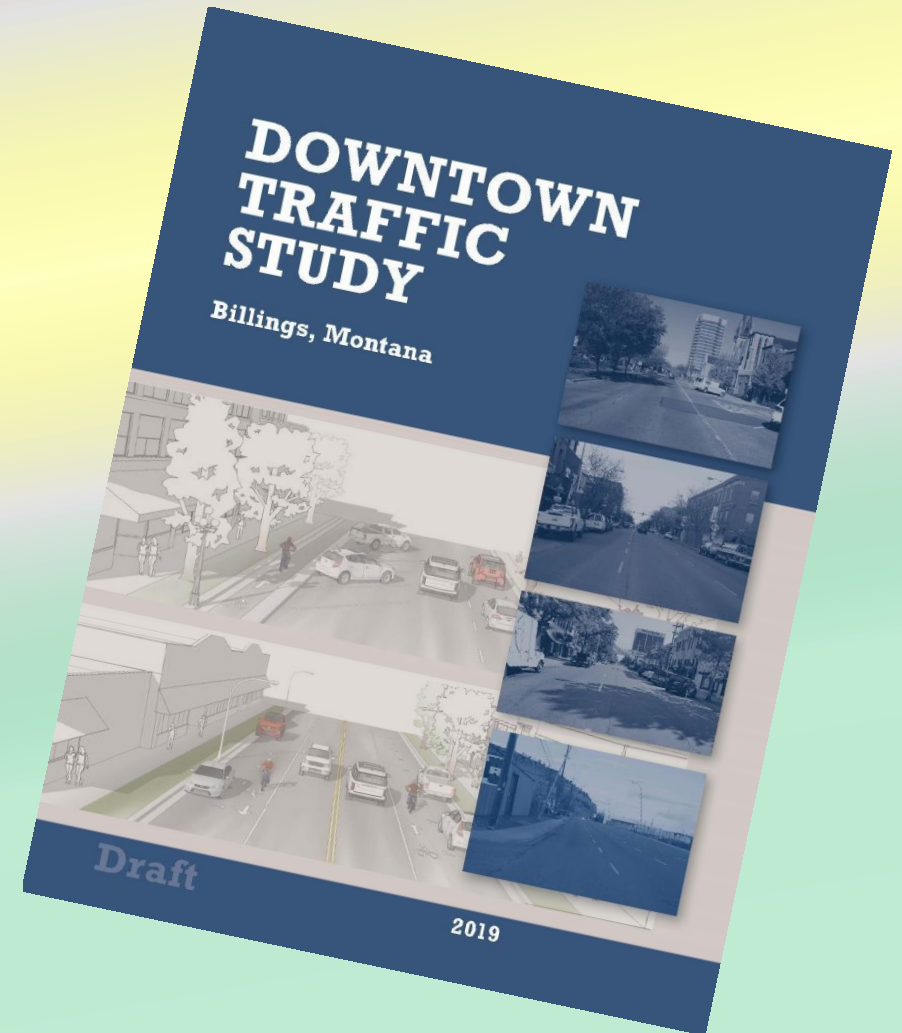
# Downtown Traffic Study

Traffic Control Board

May 22, 2019

# Agenda

- Project History
- Project Team
- Alternatives Analyzed
- Next Steps



# Project History

- Pre-2012 to Present: Various requests for lane closures, angled parking, bike lanes, road diets, closures, etc.
- 2012: City sends letter to MDT regarding Montana Avenue traffic speeds
- 2016: CC tasks staff with studying pedestrian and traffic safety in Downtown
- 2018: Start contract with Kittelson & Associates for Downtown Traffic Study
- 2019: Finalize report, take to public



# Downtown Traffic Study

- Can't look at one alternative at a time
  - Road diet on Montana and 4<sup>th</sup>?
  - Two-way conversions on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>?
- PWE wanted list of alternatives that are feasible both individually, but also layered on top of one another.
- Study does not make recommendations on “preferred alternative”, but acceptable alternatives

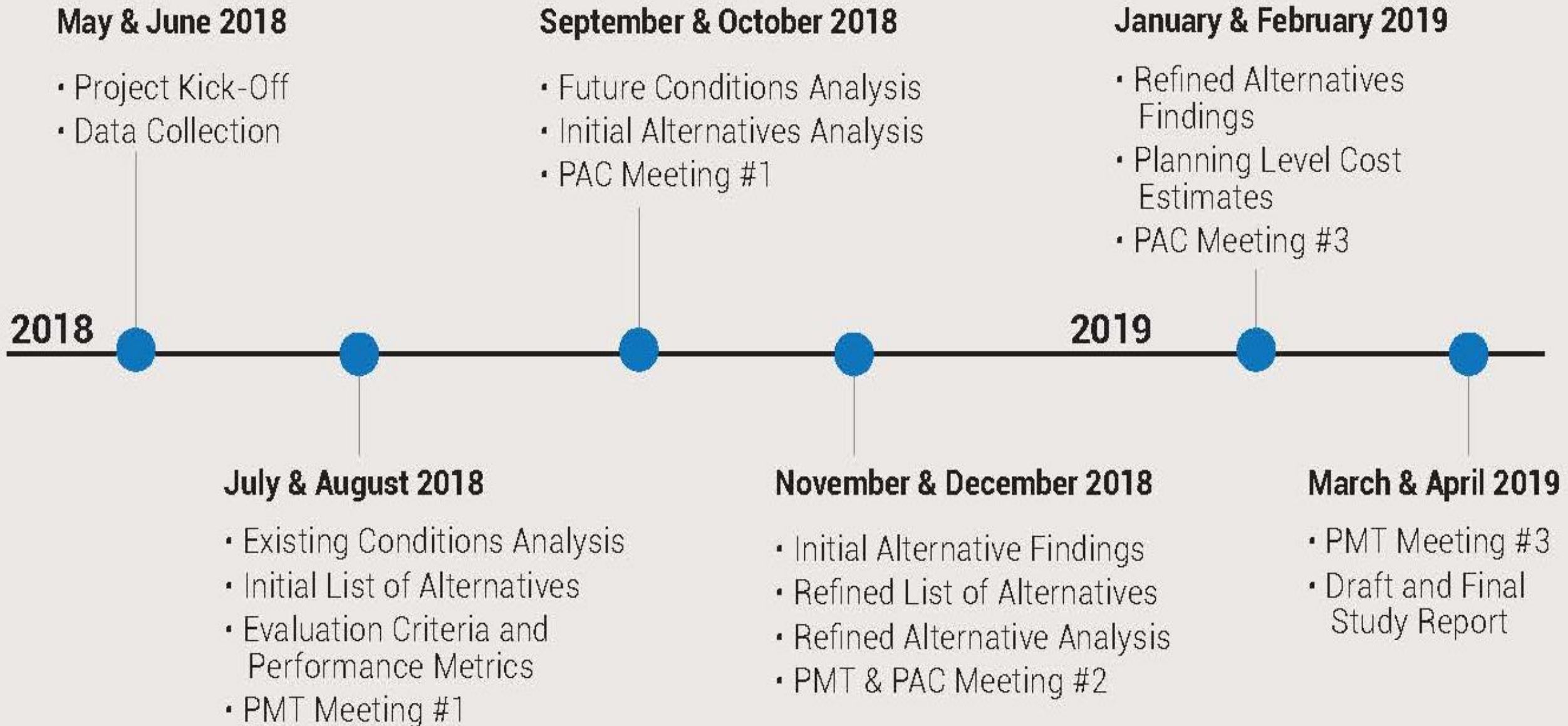
“What can we build?” Not “What will we build?”

# Downtown Traffic Study



- Project Management Team (PMT)
  - Public Works – Engineering (PWE)
  - Kittelson & Associates (KA)
  - DOWL
- Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - PWE
  - KA + DOWL
  - Planning
  - DBA
  - BSEDA
  - Billings Chamber
  - MET
  - CTA
  - BPD
  - MDT
  - MRL
  - EBURD

# Schedule

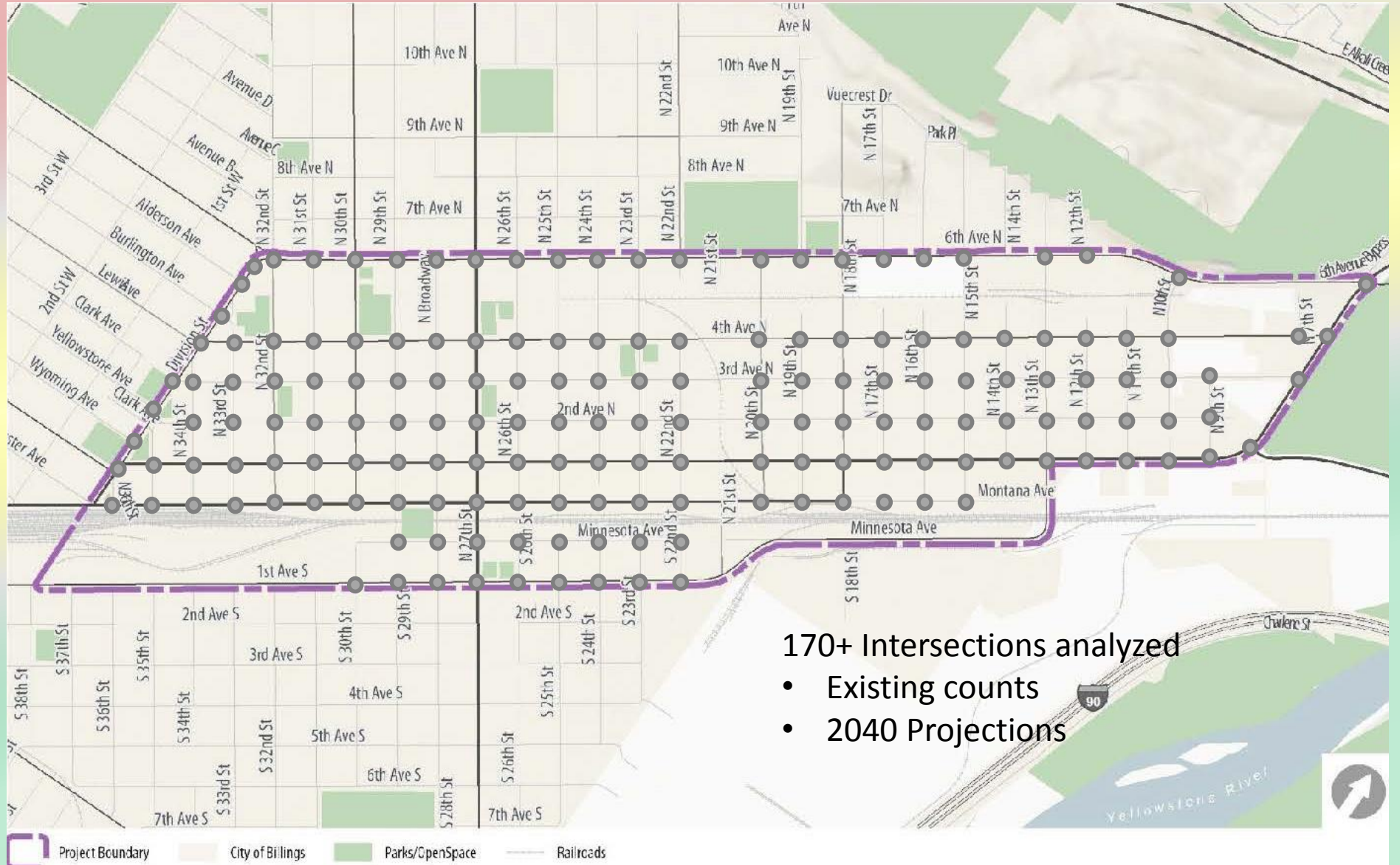




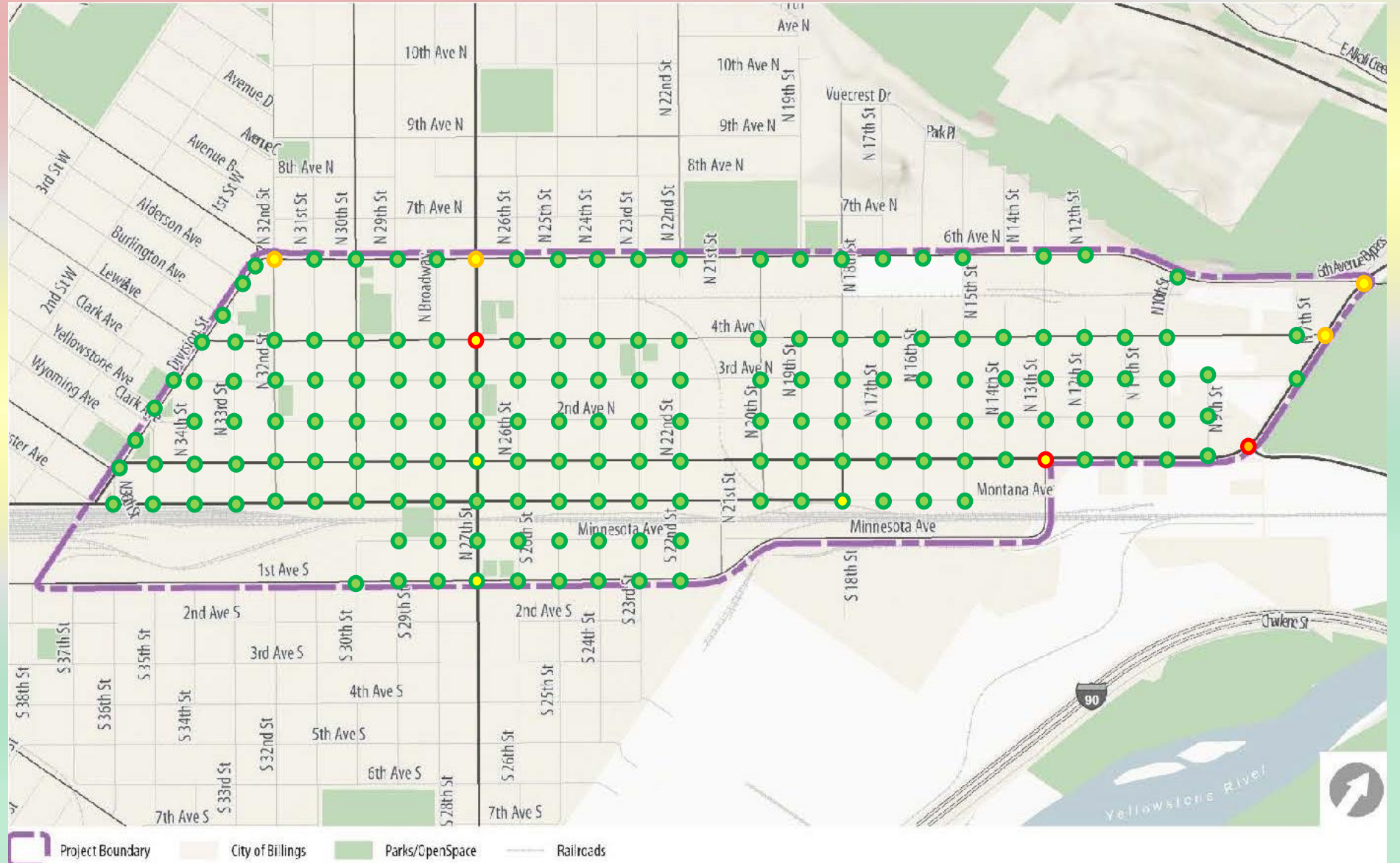
# Downtown Traffic Study Boundaries



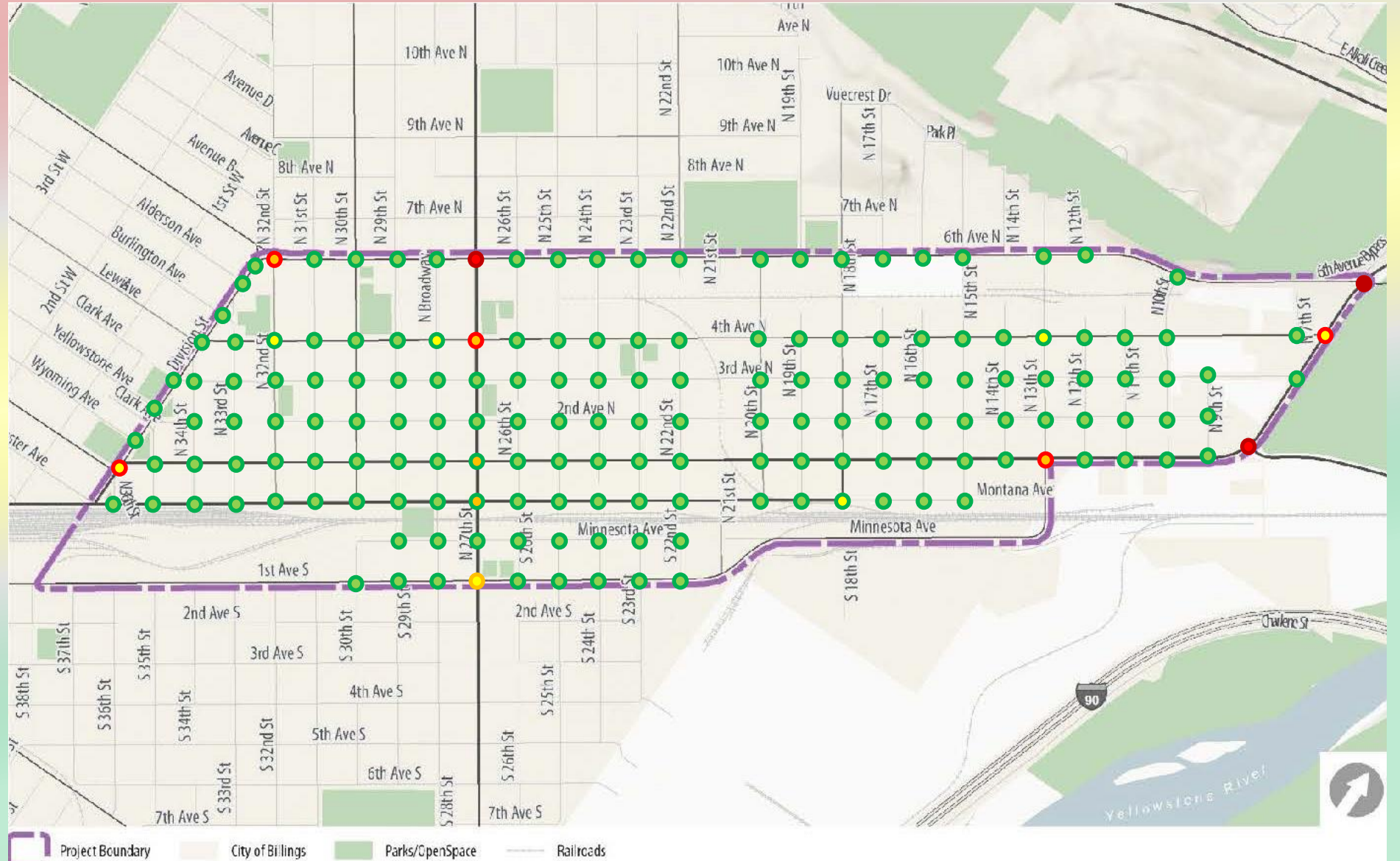
# DTS Process



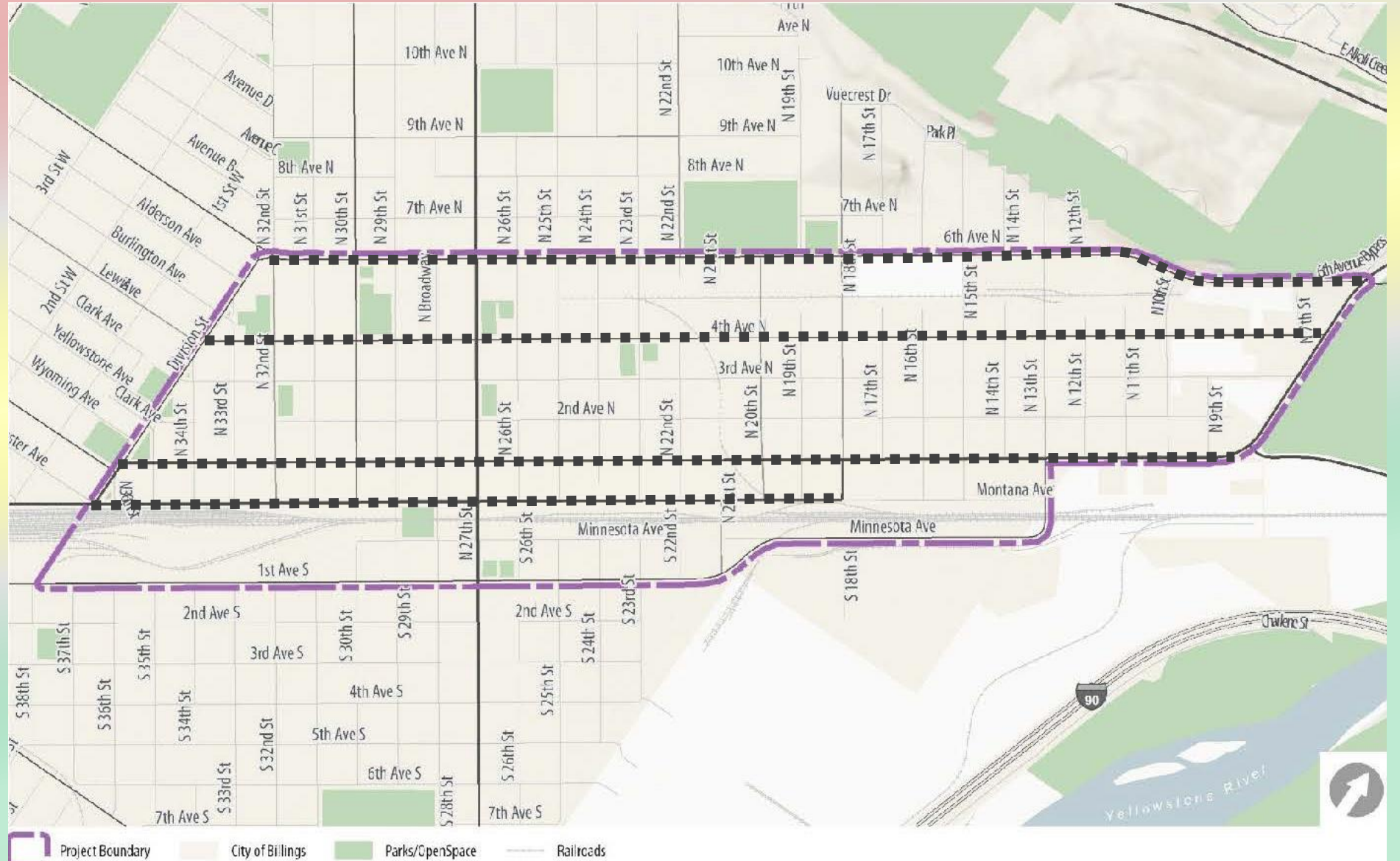
# Baseline Projection - Existing



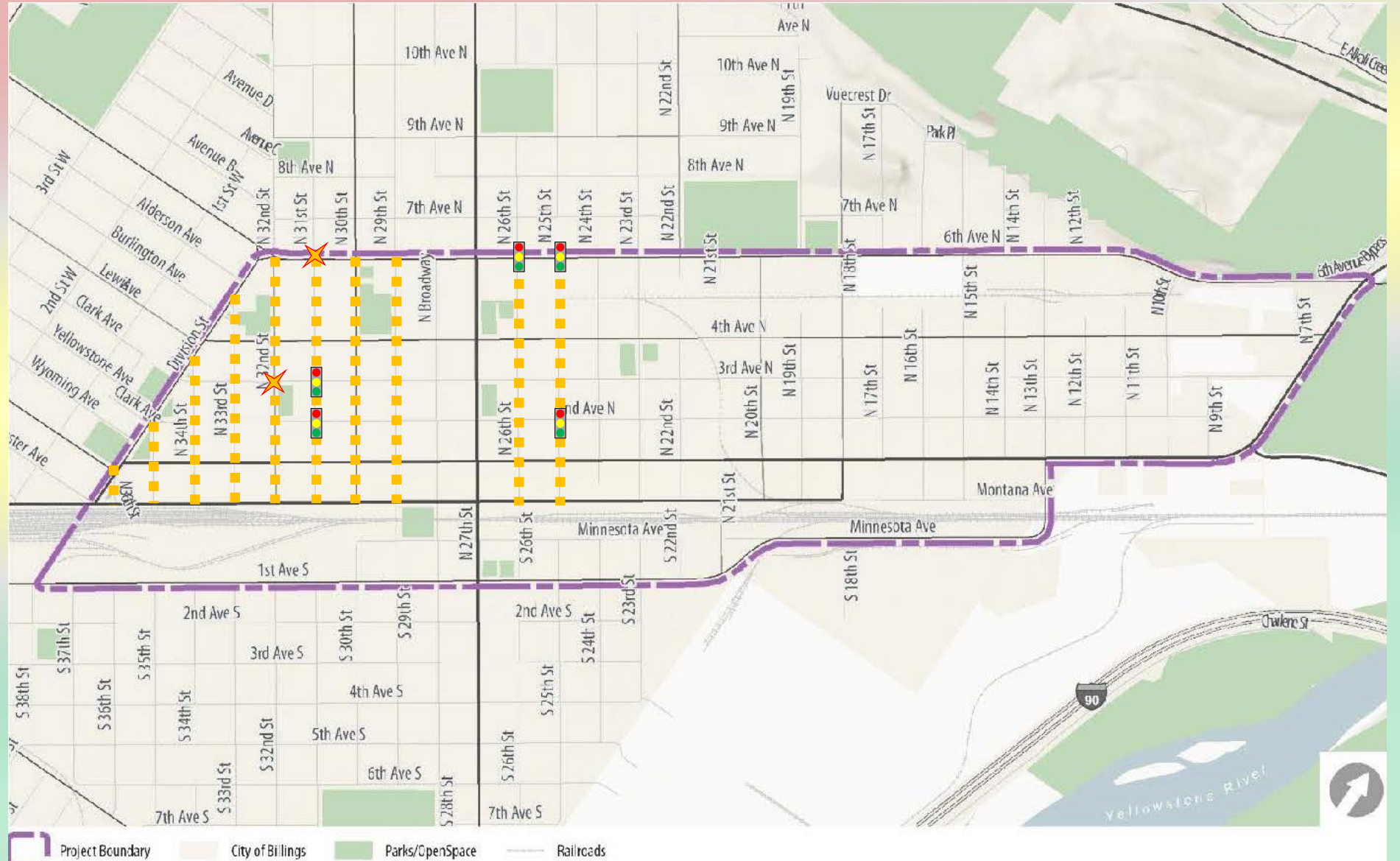
# Baseline Projection - 2040



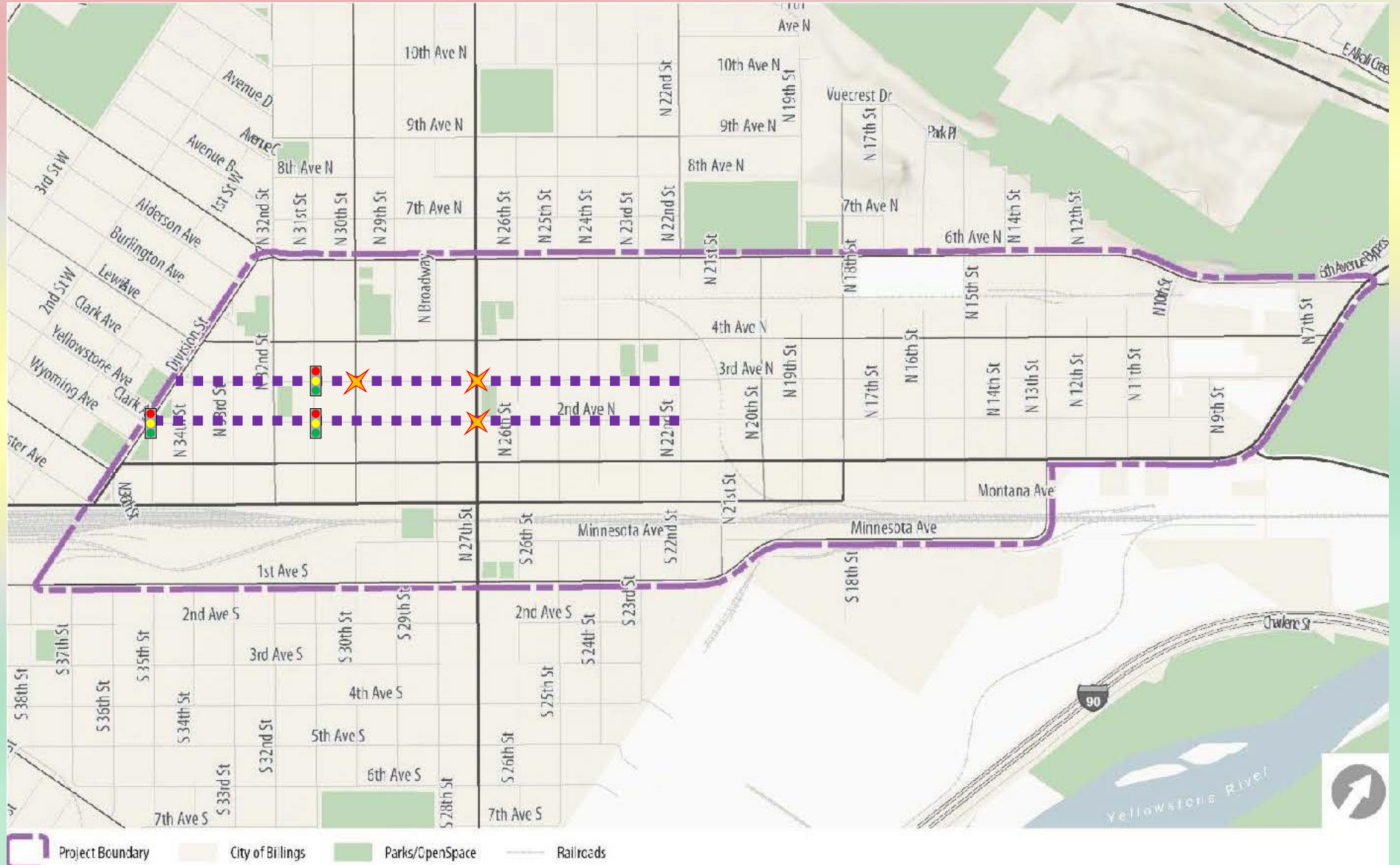
# Fatal Flaws - 2-ways



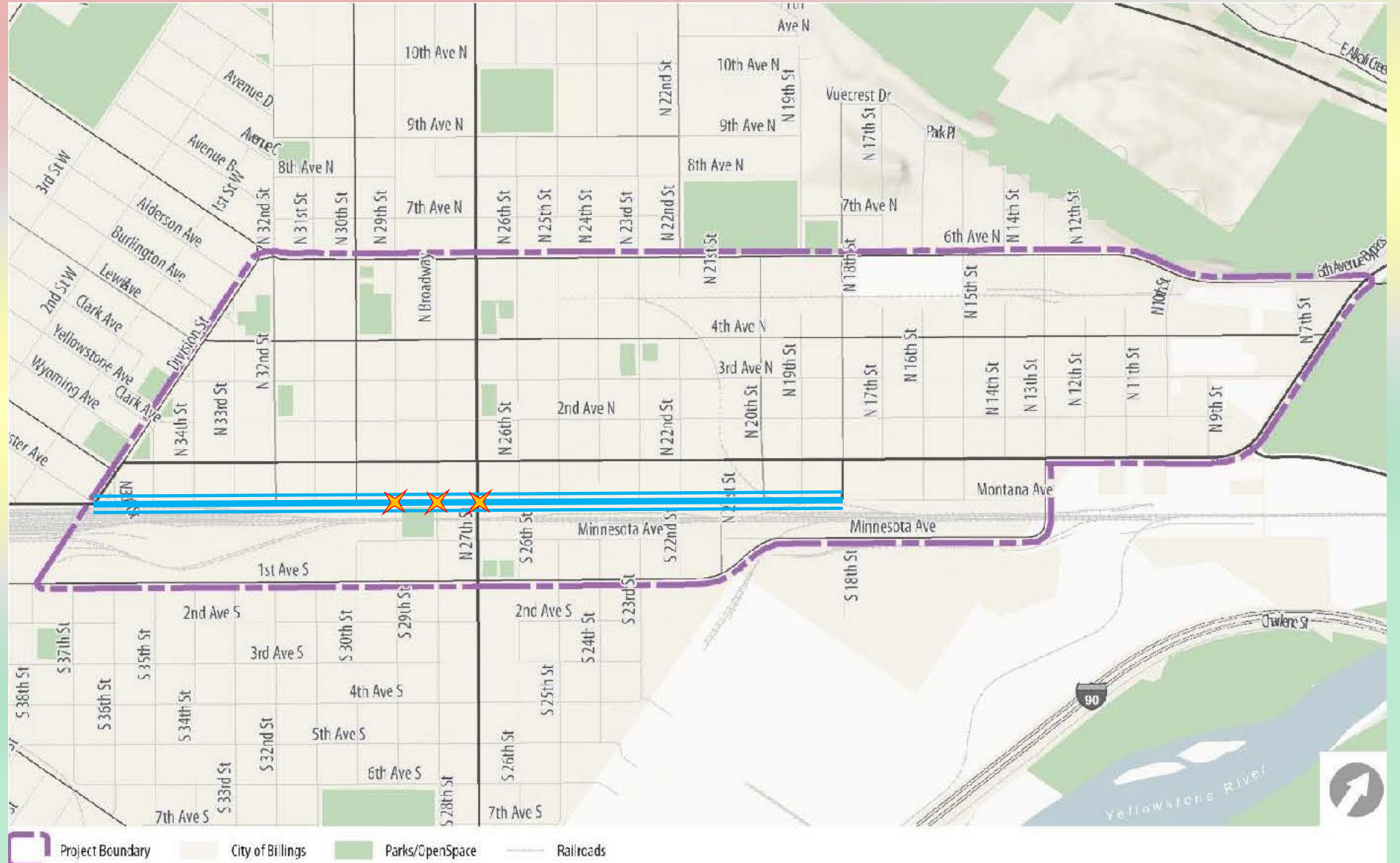
# North/South 2-Ways



# 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N. 2-Ways

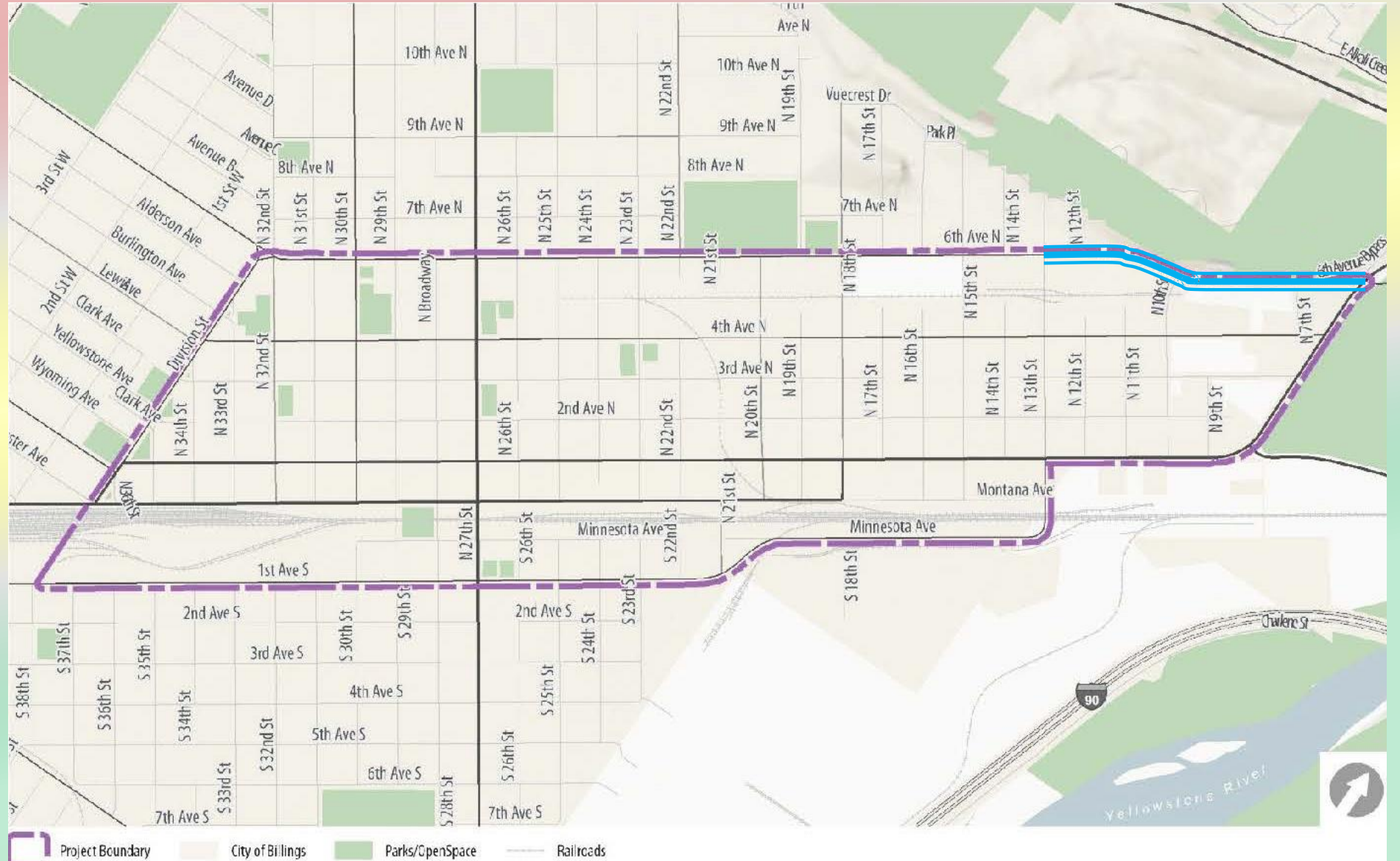


# Montana Avenue Road Diet

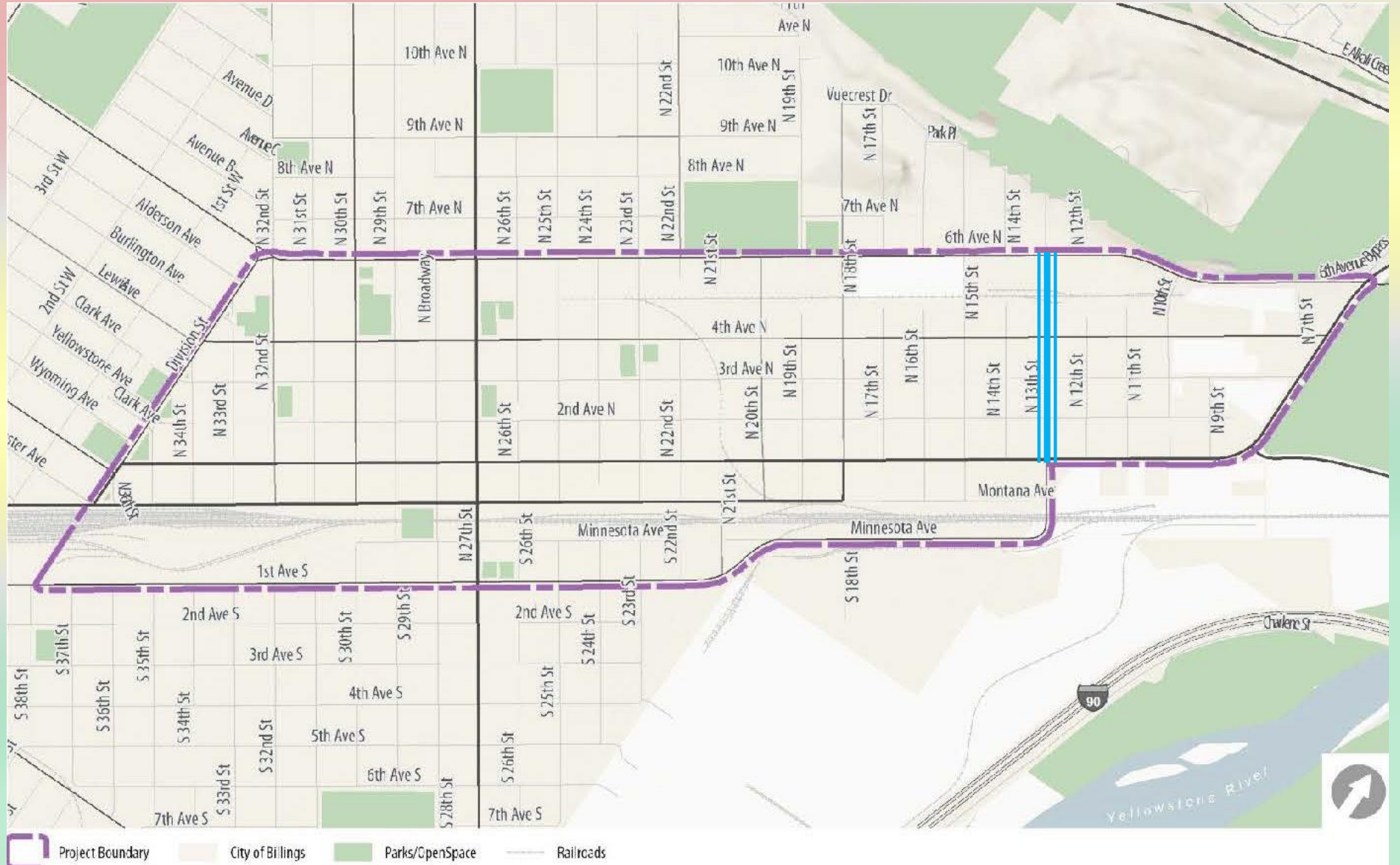




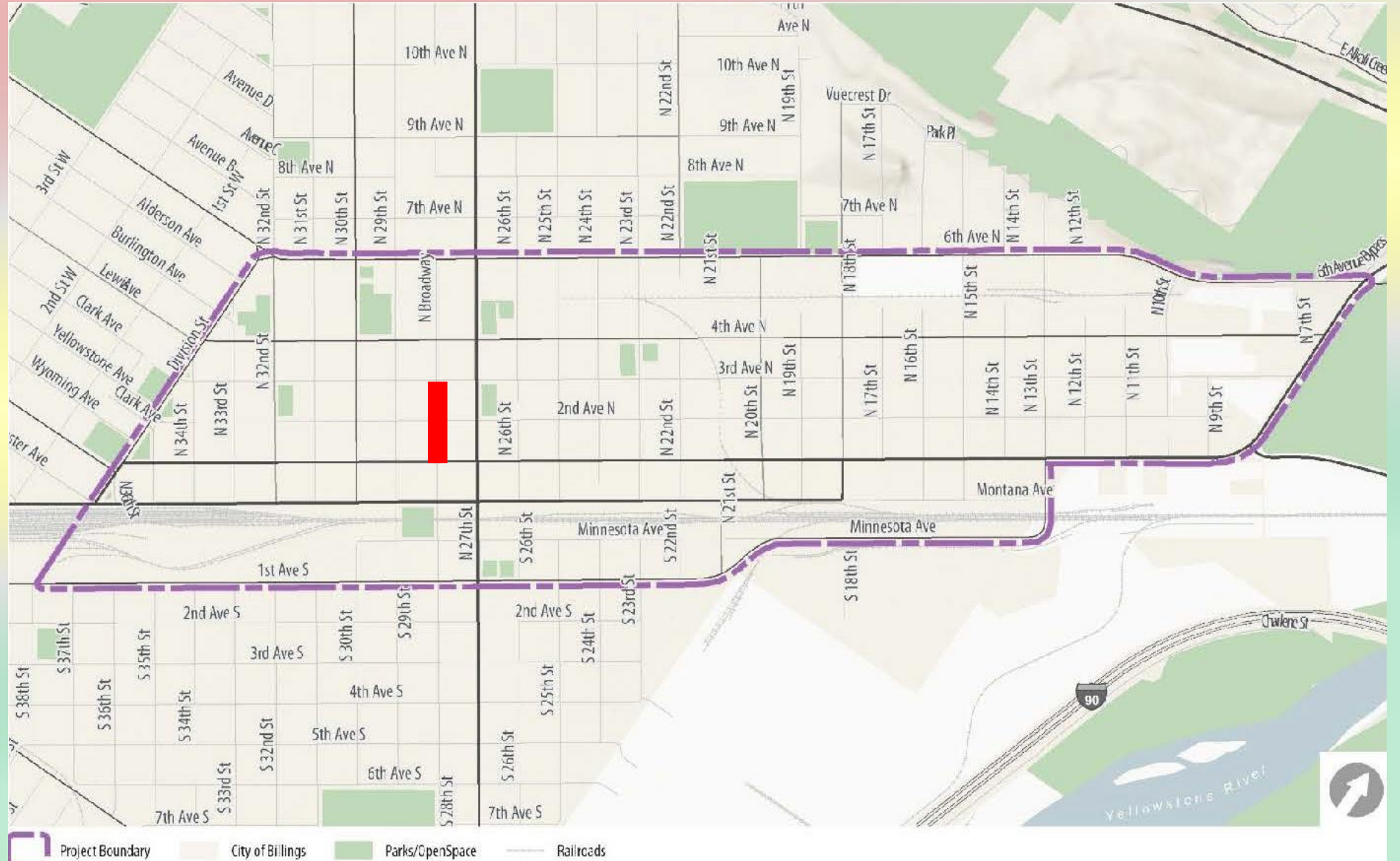
# 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Road Diet



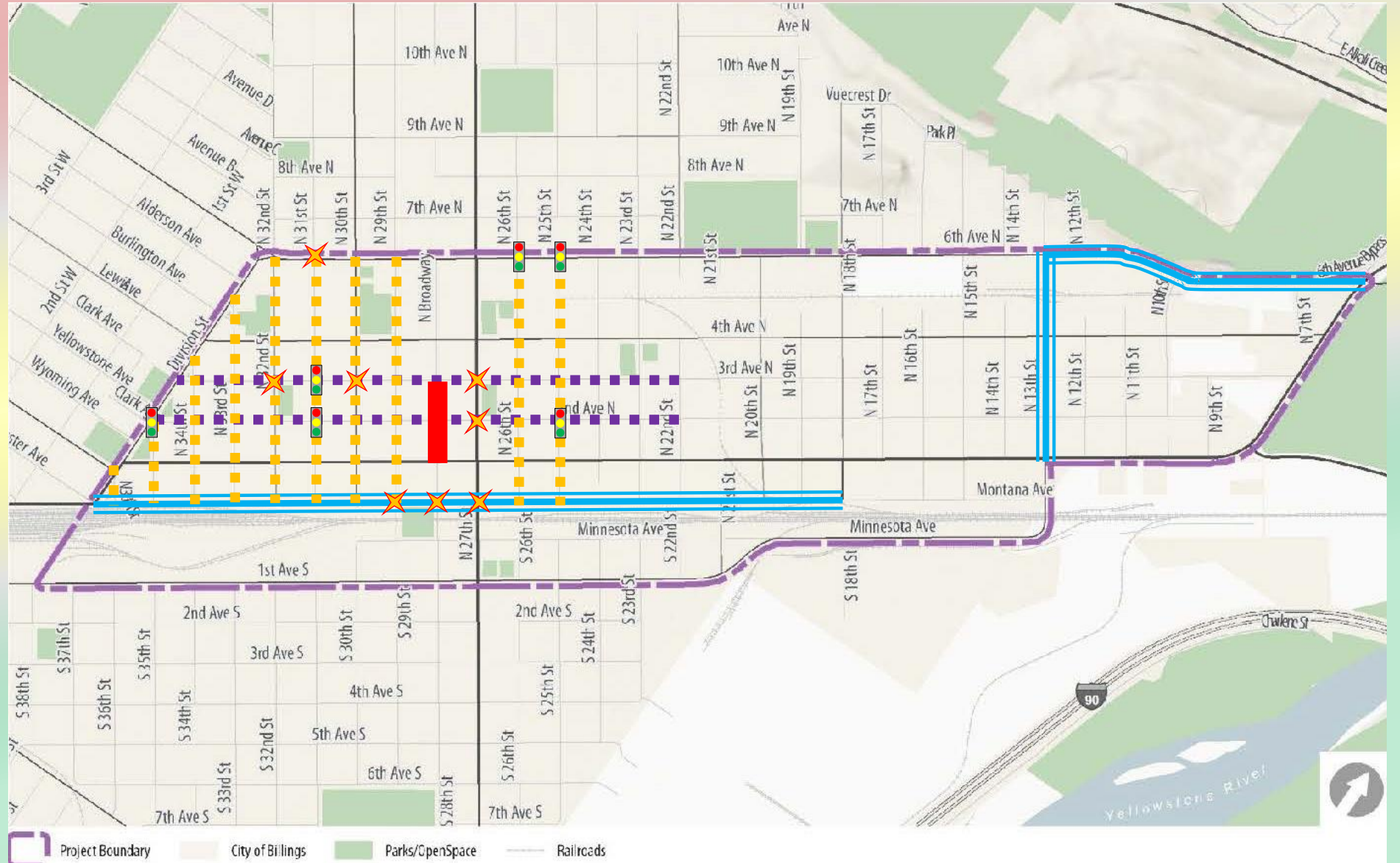
# N. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Road Diet



# Broadway Closure



# All Alternatives



# Next Steps

- Remember the goal of the study:
  - “What can work?”
  - Not “What will we build?”
- KA to finalize Report
- Planning Department to start a Public Outreach
- Find funding for desired alternatives



# QUESTIONS?

