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**MIDDLETON CITY COUNCIL AND P&Z COMMISSION  
ITD OPEN HOUSE SH44  
JANUARY 11, 2024**

Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

Time: 4:30-7:00 p.m. (Open House)


Location: Middleton Middle School 511 W Main Street, Middleton, ID 83644

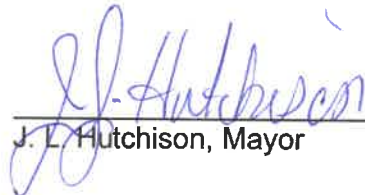
Idaho Transportation Department SH44 from ITD to Star Road

*Out of an abundance of caution, this public Special Meeting notice is being posted proactively to ensure compliance with Idaho Open Meeting Law, as multiple members of City Council and Planning and Zoning may be present. No meeting will officially be called to order, and neither body has any other discussion or action items to take up.*

No meeting was called to order, no action items or decisions were discussed when a quorum of either board was present. Attached are the information boards presented by ITD.

ATTEST:

  
Jennica Reynolds, Deputy Clerk  
Minutes Approved: February 7, 2024

  
J. L. Hutchison, Mayor





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SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD

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# WELCOME

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# OPEN HOUSE







# ABOUT THE PROJECT



With traffic volumes projected to almost double by 2050, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is studying State Highway 44 (SH-44) from I-84 to Star Road to evaluate needs and identify transportation improvements to enhance safety, operations and multimodal connectivity to meet travel demands.

## PROJECT HISTORY



### 2004-2011

Planning efforts to improve SH-44 from Caldwell into Eagle begin after the highway is identified as one of five high-priority corridors for improvement in the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) Communities in Motion transportation plan.

### 2012-2022

An environmental assessment (EA) identifies a new highway alignment south of the City of Middleton as the preferred alternative to improve the SH-44 corridor.

The Middleton City Council eliminates the proposed highway alignment from the City's Comprehensive Plan, halting the planning work west of Star Road.

SH-44 planning from Star Road to West State Street moves forward in an EA, with new project limits.

### 2023-2024

ITD elects to use the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) public process to re-analyze the SH-44 corridor for improvements to reduce congestion and enhance safety before moving into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public process.

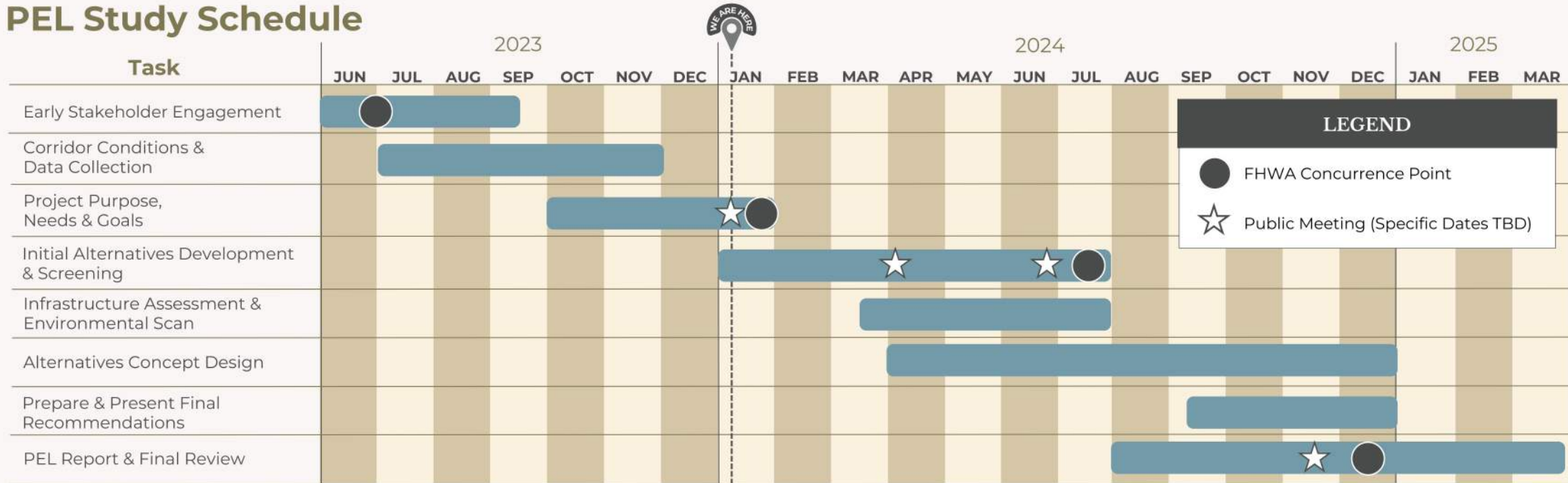




# PROJECT TIMELINE



## PEL Study Schedule



## Estimated Overall Project Schedule



NOTE: PEL Study is currently funded. Subsequent phases are dependent on funding. Schedule is subject to change..

SH-44, I-84 TO STAR RD

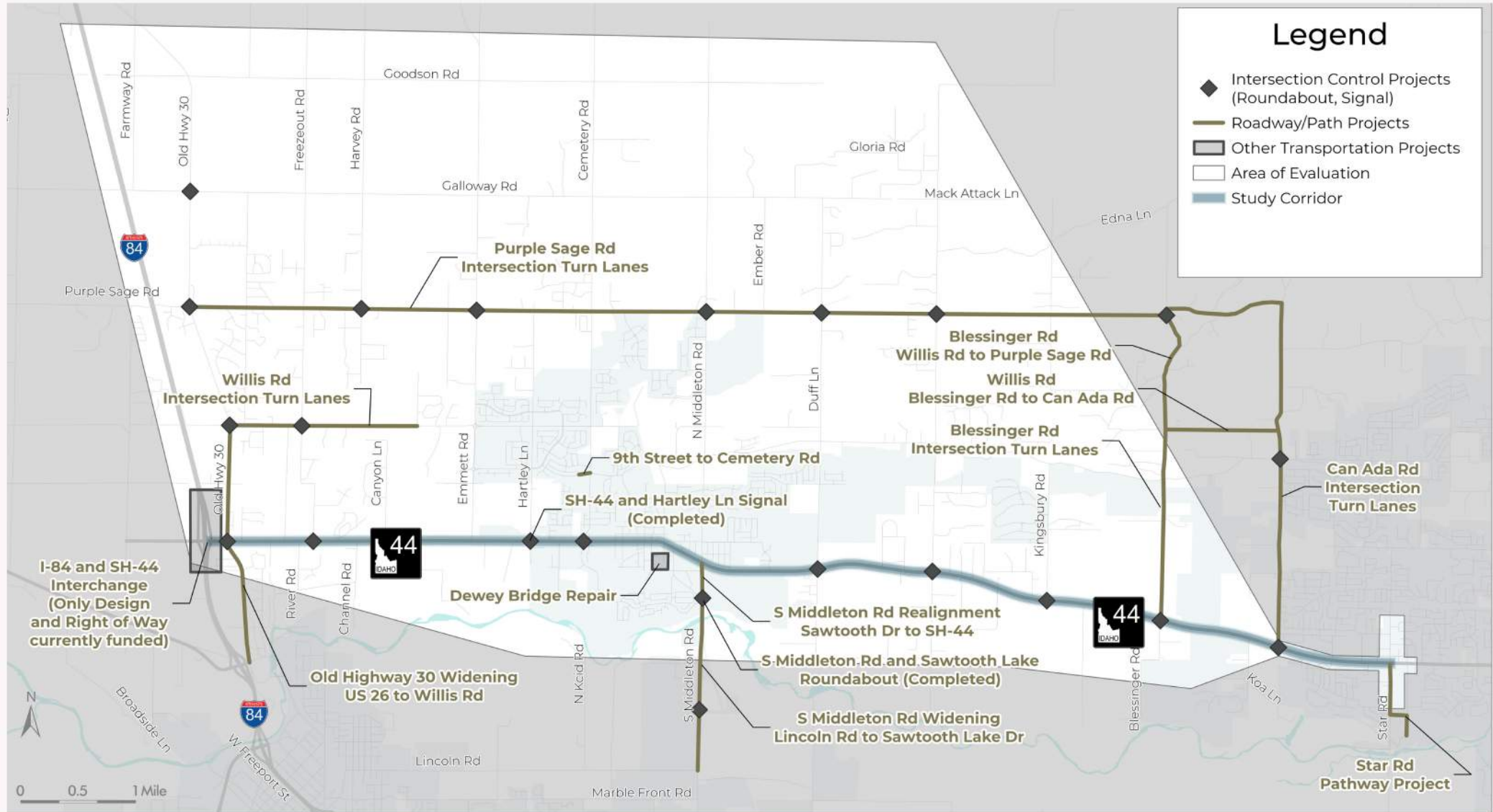




SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD



# AREA FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR RD



# PEL PROCESS

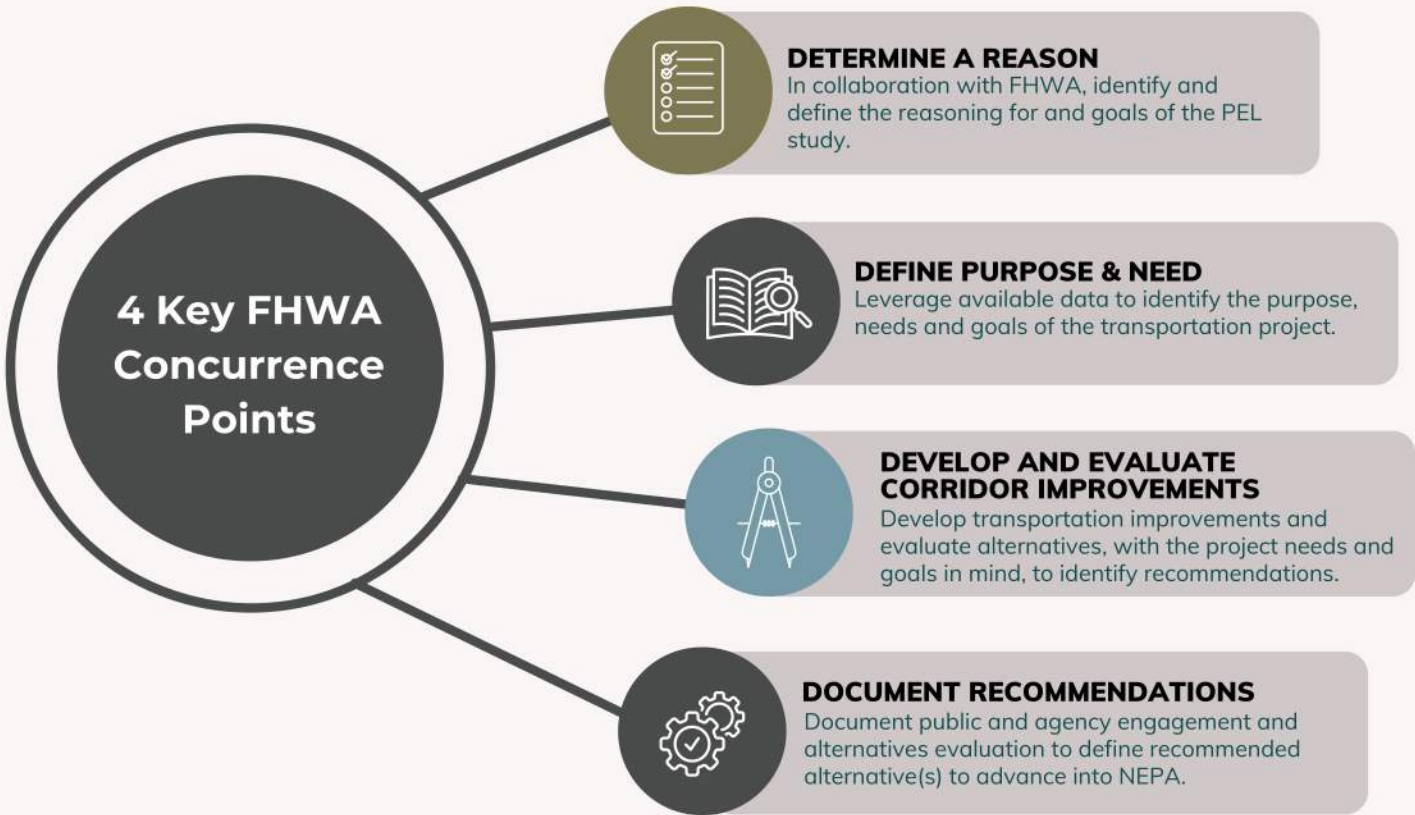
A PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY

The Planning and Environmental Linkages process is a collaborative approach to decision making for transportation projects. It is used to gather data and input from the community and government agencies to define a project’s goals and identify solutions before moving into the detailed analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The PEL process helps identify:



The PEL process follows guidelines defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) so that public and agency input, documentation and evaluations may be used for the project to advance into a streamlined NEPA process.

**Coordinating with the FHWA to meet concurrence requirements documents the process so that the project can efficiently advance through federal approvals.**







# DRAFT PURPOSE, NEEDS & GOALS

**The public is invited to share their feedback on the project's draft purpose, needs and goals to identify solutions that reflect the community's needs.**

Informed by updated data, the draft project purpose, needs and goals were developed in collaboration with local planning experts and city and county officials to reflect the current state of the corridor and its evolving travel patterns.

## PURPOSE

*What do we want to achieve with the transportation project?*

The purpose of the transportation projects recommended by this study is to improve travel safety and operations along the SH-44 highway corridor and enhance pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity along, adjacent to, and across SH-44 in Canyon and Ada Counties from east of the I-84 interchange through the Star Road intersection.

## NEEDS

*What are the problems we are trying to solve?*

- **Recurring congestion** along the SH-44 corridor
- **Existing and future travel demands** along the SH-44 corridor
- **Safety** concerns for vehicular and multimodal travel along the SH-44 corridor
- **Lack of multimodal connectivity** along, adjacent to, and across the SH-44 corridor

## GOALS

*What non-transportation goals are important to consider?*

- Provide consistency with local and regional transportation and land use plans
- Avoid or minimize environmental impacts
- Complement local community surroundings and context
- Balance local access needs and regional travel flow through access management
- Facilitate project delivery with realistic funding and phasing opportunities



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD

# RECURRING CONGESTION

DEFINING THE NEED



There is existing congestion during the peak morning and evening commuting hours, particularly through downtown Middleton between Cemetery Road and North Middleton Road.



Of 20 intersections along the study corridor analyzed during peak commute hours, 12 are close to exceeding capacity with extensive delays and poor traffic flow, and eight intersections already exceed capacity as drivers experience severe delays and congestion.



During peak hours, there are long queues on the side roads of unsignalized intersections, particularly for southbound left turns. In the morning peak hour, drivers waiting to turn onto SH-44 can currently experience delays over six minutes.



Midday traffic volumes at the SH-44 intersections in Middleton and Star are higher than morning and evening peak hours, showing that congestion is occurring beyond the typical peak commute hours.

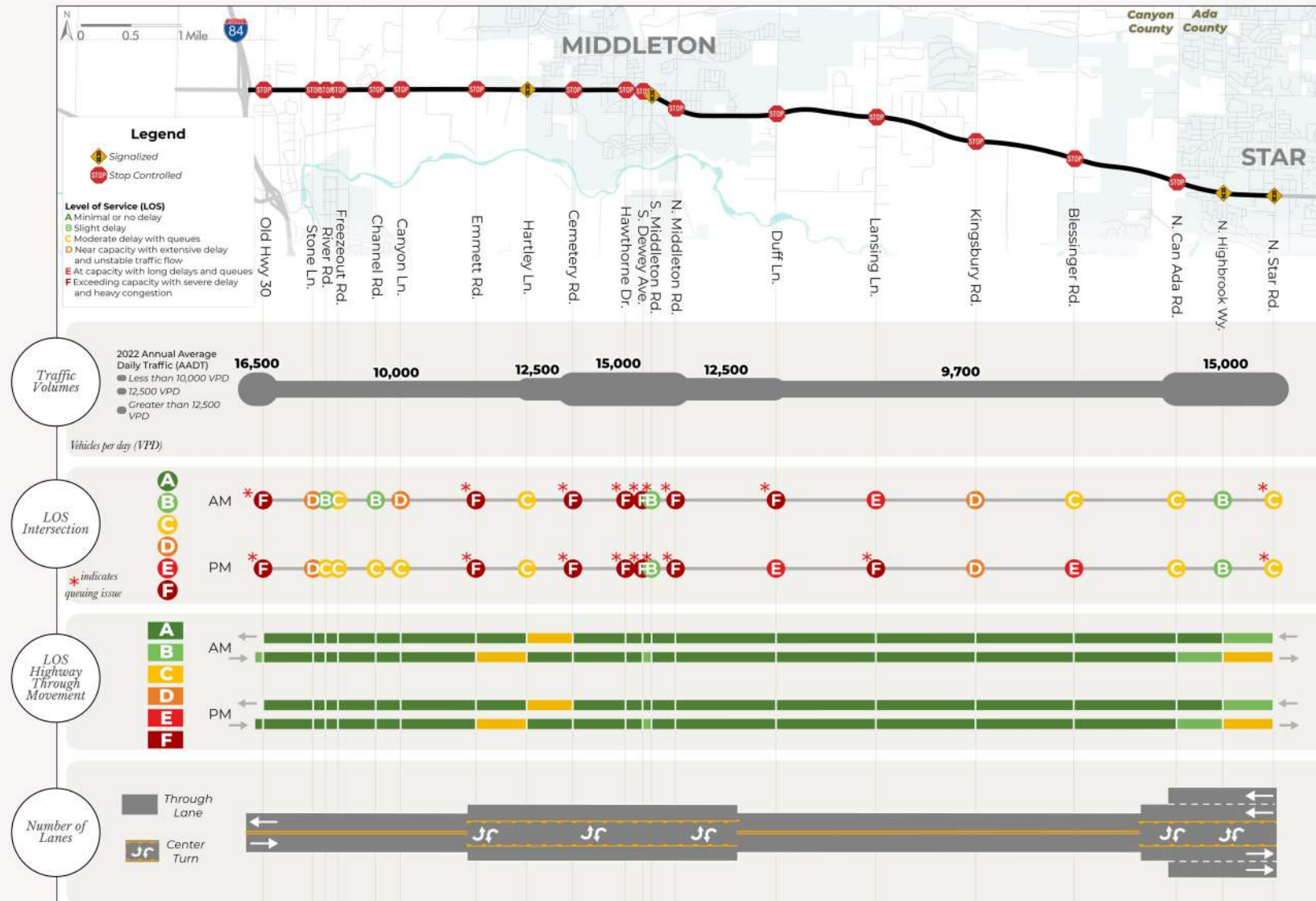




SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD

# EXISTING TRAFFIC & ROADWAY CONDITIONS

## DATA SUMMARY



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR RD



# TRAVEL DEMANDS

DEFINING THE NEED

## EXISTING DEMAND



An origin-destination analysis of vehicular travel patterns using data collected in 2021 shows that most of the traffic along the SH-44 study corridor is local, turning on or off the highway somewhere between I-84 and Star Road.



Data from a 2021 travel survey found that work-related travel only comprises 20% of trips on the SH-44 study corridor, and work-related trips last an average distance of about 22 miles. Most trips start or end outside the area.

## FUTURE DEMAND








Area population and employment growth are contributing to new areas and periods of congestion. Forecasted travel demand shows traffic volumes along SH-44 are expected to increase despite the completion of other area highway improvements (e.g., SH-44 east of Star Road, SH-16, and US-20/26).



Evaluation of crash data along the study corridor from **2018 - 2022** found the following key data points to inform project needs:

## Crash data from **2018 - 2022**

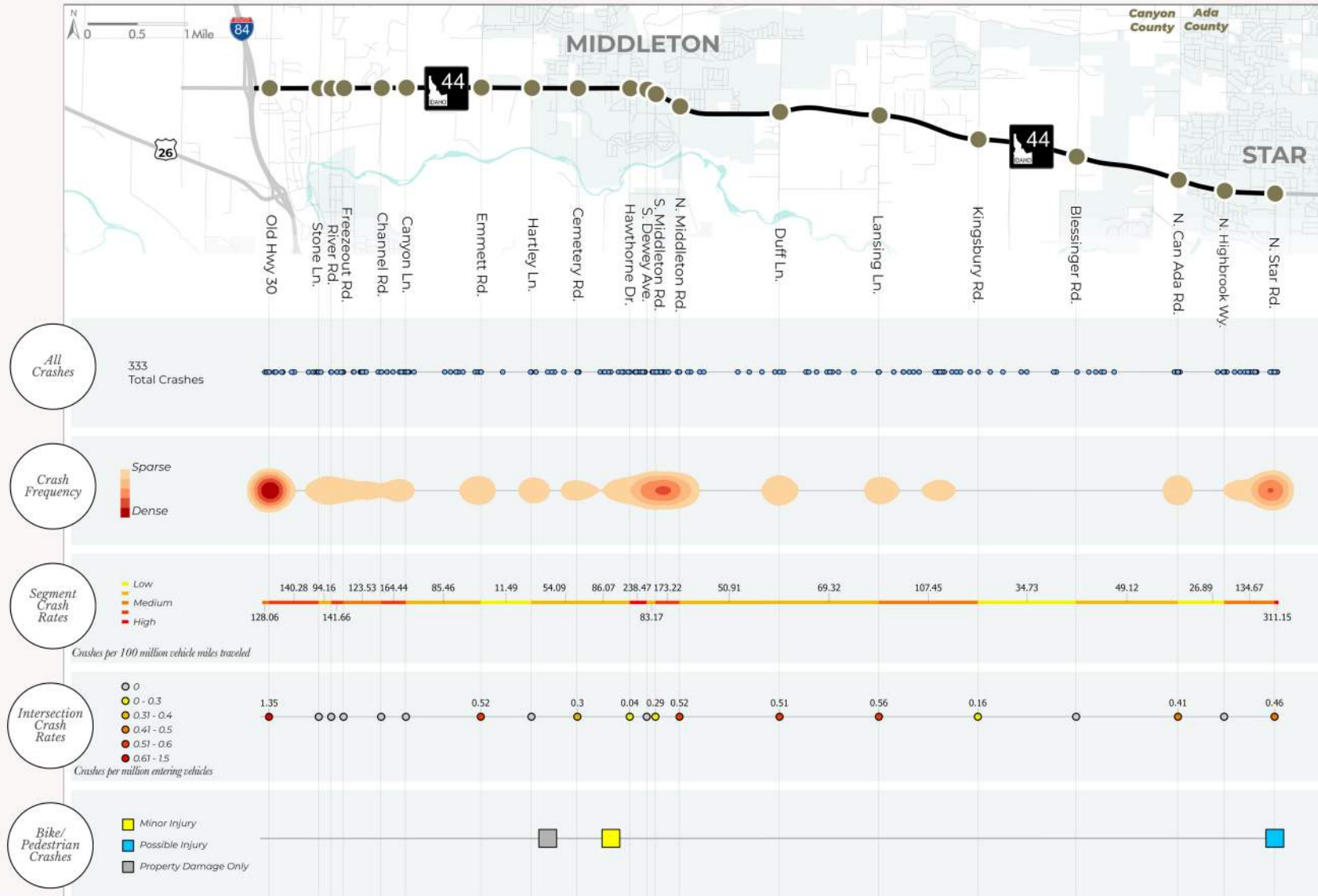
	Peak times of day for crashes along the corridor were 7:00 – 9:00 AM and 4:00 – 6:00 PM and the most prominent crash type was rear-end, indicating stop-and-go traffic as the leading cause.
	Intersection-related crashes accounted for over 60% of all crashes. Other prominent crash types were turning and angle-turning, indicating side street delays are leading to impatience and risky turning movements.
	The total number of crashes per year doubled, while traffic volumes increased between 3% and 35%.
	Almost 70% of the crashes resulted in damage only to property. Less than 5% of the crashes were serious injury crashes and all of those occurred between the urbanized areas of Middleton and Star.
	Three crashes involved bicyclists and none involved pedestrians. Two of the bicyclist-related crashes occurred in Middleton and one in Star. All three happened at intersections during the peak evening commute with drivers failing to yield while turning.



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD

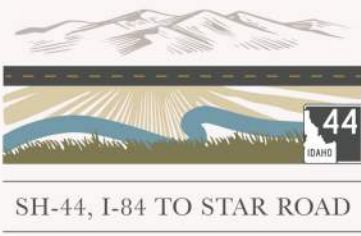
# CRASH HISTORY EVALUATION

DATA SUMMARY (2018-2022 REPORTED CRASHES)



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR RD





# MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY

DEFINING THE NEED



**Sidewalks, crosswalks, and multiuse paths** along the SH-44 study corridor are generally clustered within the city limits of Middleton and Star.



**There is no dedicated bicycle infrastructure** along SH-44 outside the urban areas. But, there is a paved shoulder of varying widths in rural and transitioning areas. Paved shoulders have been eliminated to accommodate turn lanes at intersections, and bicyclists and pedestrians are forced onto the gravel shoulder or into the travel lane.



**Data shows pedestrians and bicyclists** traveling along and adjacent to SH-44 within Middleton and Star where multimodal facilities exist.



**Multimodal facilities are included** in local and regional plans within the area of the SH-44 study corridor. The addition of transit, pedestrian, and bicyclist facilities along SH-44 and local crossing streets is a goal as areas urbanize and funding is obtained.



**Currently, no fixed bus transit route exists** along or across the SH-44 study corridor. As regional growth continues, future transit improvements may include park-and-ride facilities and/or transit service within the SH-44 corridor area as funding allows.

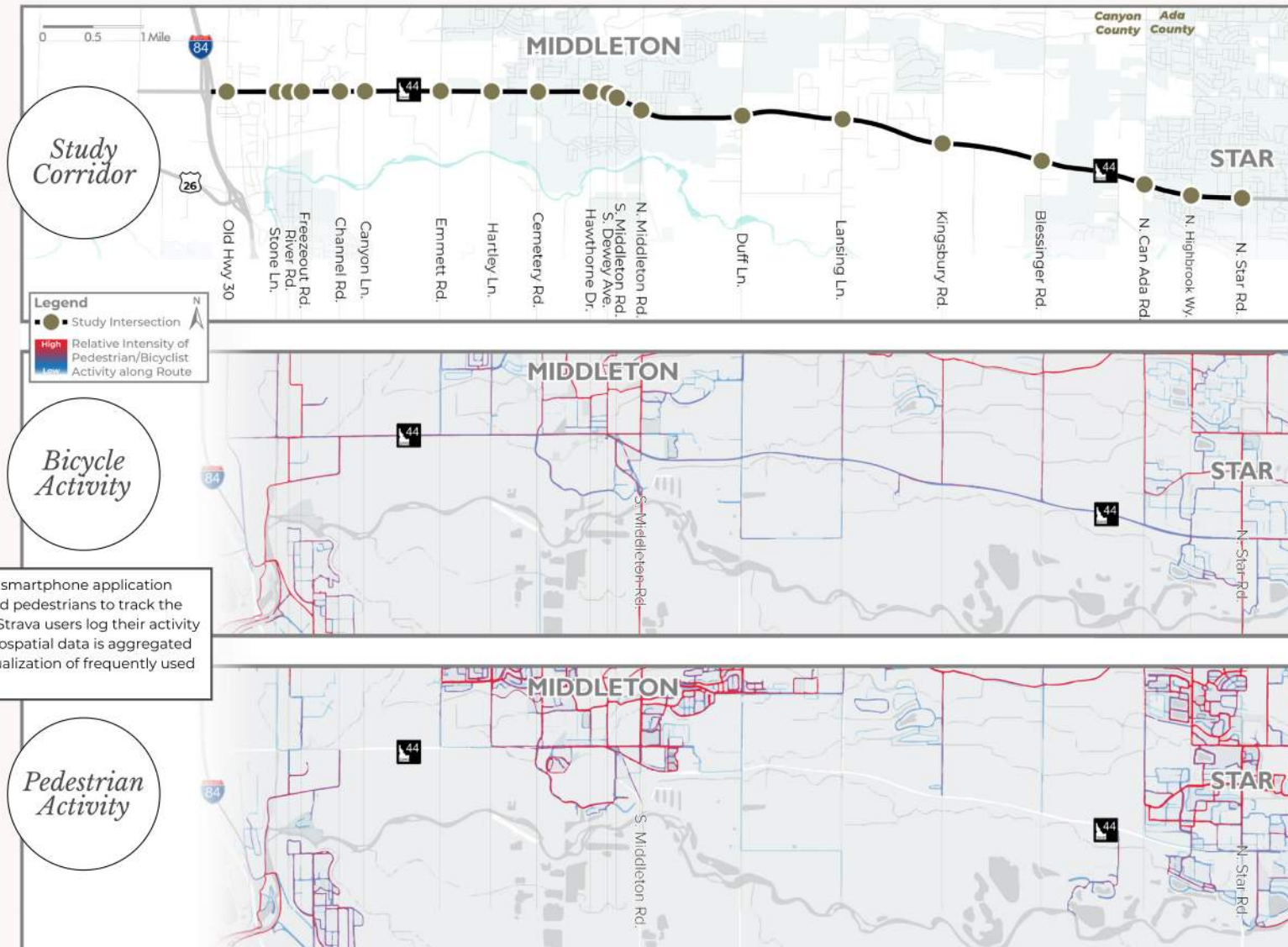


SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD



# MULTIMODAL ACTIVITY

## DATA SUMMARY



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR RD





SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD



# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Thank you for attending the SH-44, I-84 to Star Rd Open House.

**Your input is an important part of the process. Please take some time to review the project information and fill out a comment form. We value your feedback.**



1

**Sign in at the  
welcome  
table**



2

**View displays  
and ask  
questions**



3

**Provide input**

Online by  
scanning the  
QR code below



**or** Complete a  
survey available  
at the welcome  
table



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR RD