

WELCOME TO THE RTD RAIL REGIONAL TRAIL VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

We would have liked to meet in person, but want to ensure everyone stays healthy and safe, so we are running this meeting virtually instead.

[SIGN IN](#)

The Process:

- These meeting materials serve as our “meeting boards.” The boards give you information on various aspects of the project, and each links to additional opportunities to engage and learn more.
- This virtual public meeting will be live, on our website August 17-31.
- Use the engagement box options on the boards to fill out surveys, email us, submit a comment, or give us a call.
- And, if you’d like to have a real time conversation with project team members, we will be hosting virtual “Q&A Sessions” where you can call in and ask questions (no presentation, no agenda, just conversations to answer your questions).

Q&A Session:
Segments 1 & 2
Aug. 26: 4:30 - 5:30pm

Q&A Session:
Segments 3 & 4
Aug. 26: 5:45 - 6:45pm

Q&A Session:
General Public
Aug. 27: 4:30 - 6:00pm



RTD RAIL TRAIL



RTD RAIL TRAIL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT PURPOSE

Boulder County, in partnership with the City of Boulder and Town of Erie, is evaluating options for the creation of a new soft-surface regional trail connection along the RTD-owned rail corridor, which would provide an important low-stress east-west trail connection in eastern Boulder County.

ONE STEP IN AN OVERALL PROCESS

The first step in trail development is to conduct a master planning process to identify needs, opportunities, and constraints of constructing the regional trail. The outcome of the RTD Rail Regional Trail is identification of a preferred alternative alignment for the trail corridor. Following this project, the next step is to start the design process for the preferred alternative alignment.

PROJECT HISTORY

This connection was identified in the county's regional trails prioritization process in 2003 and is one of the regional trails eligible for funding through the Countywide Sales Tax Ballot passed by voters in 2007.

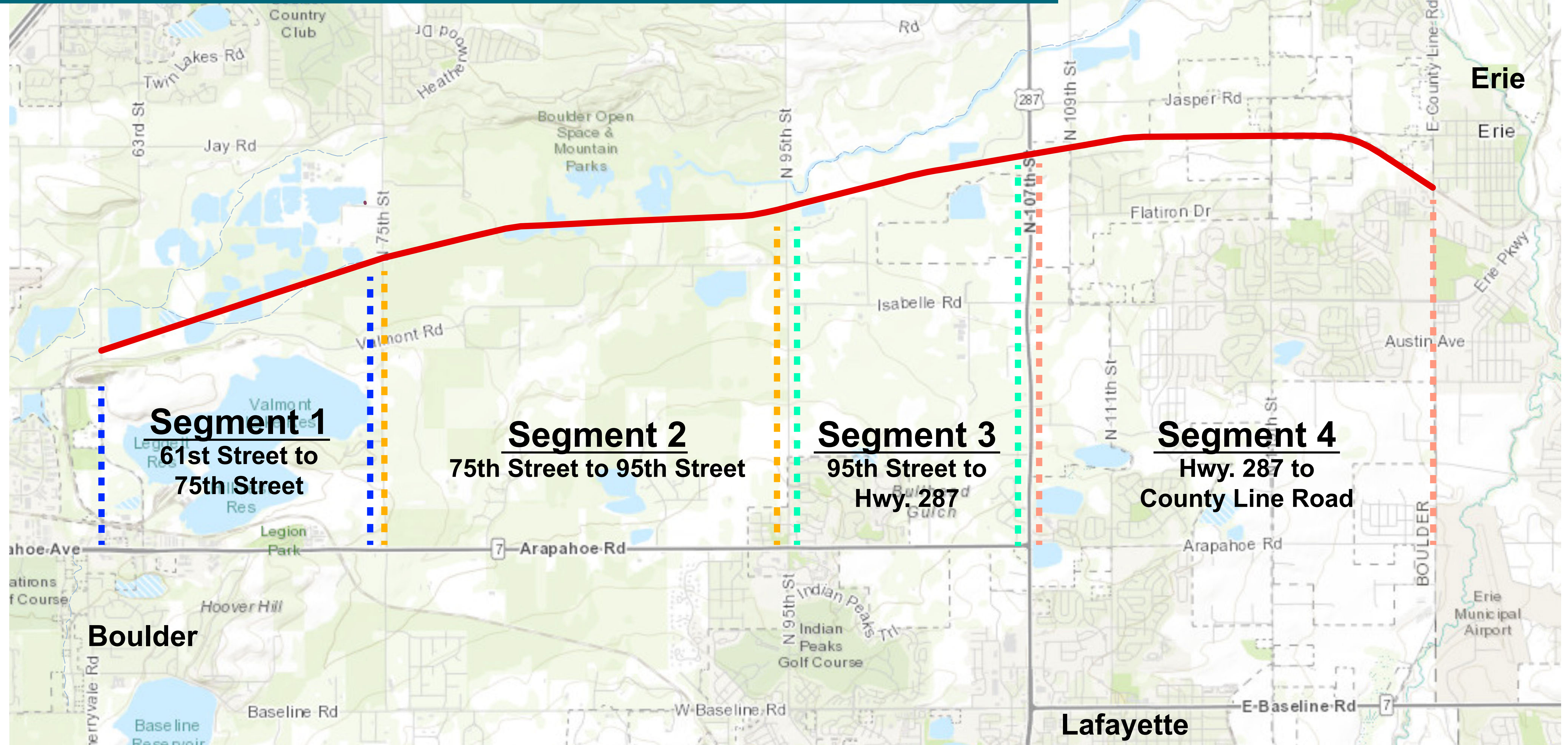


RTD RAIL TRAIL



PROJECT OVERVIEW - SEGMENTS

The full length of the alignment was divided into 4 segments for ease of communicating with adjacent land owners and community members along the corridor. The segments were divided using major roadways and served to split up neighborhood meetings geographically so as many interested parties as possible could have input on the process.

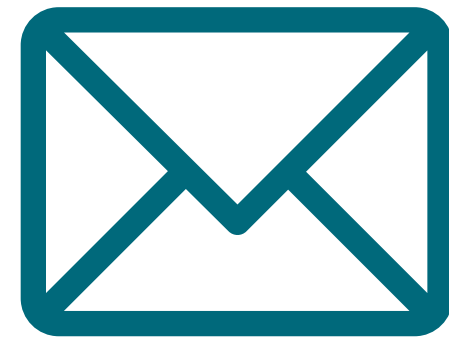


RTD RAIL TRAIL



PROJECT SCHEDULE

ENGAGE



CLICK HERE
Sign up for our
notifications list for
project updates.

2019

Q2

Q3

Q4

2020

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

2021

Q1

Q2

Data Collection

- Data Collection and Information
- Public, Stakeholder, Steering Committee Engagement (one on one's, community meetings)

Alignment Study

- Alternatives assessment and evaluation
- Public, Community Working Group, Stakeholder, Steering Committee Engagement

Preferred Alignment

- Identification of a Preferred Alternative
- Public, Stakeholder, Steering Committee Engagement
- Finalization of a Preferred Alternative

Final Master Plan

- Finalized RTD Rail Trail Master Plan
- Conceptual (15%) Design

← WE ARE HERE

1

DATA COLLECTION

Data was collected on things that would inform potential trail alignments, like property ownership, environmental concerns, other trails and trailheads in the area, floodplains, etc. All this data was mapped.

2

ALIGNMENT STUDY

Using the data collected and the information gained from the Neighborhood Workshops and other engagement, three preliminary alignments were developed for evaluation.

3

PREFERRED ALIGNMENT SELECTION

The preliminary alignments will be evaluated by the public, steering committee, and community working group in order to select one that is preferred and can be refined further.

4

FINAL MASTER PLAN

The preferred alignment will be refined and reevaluated with respect to specific environmental interactions, adjacent property, etc. and it will be detailed and presented in the final master plan.

THE RTD RAIL TRAIL MASTER PLAN
PROJECT HAS FOUR MAIN TASKS:

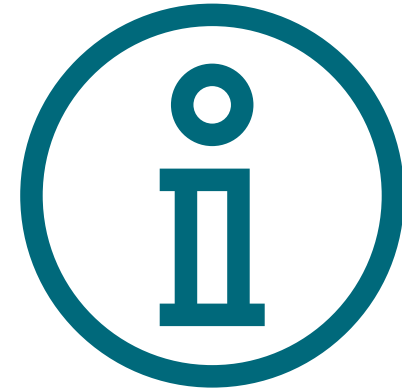


RTD RAIL TRAIL



OVERALL PROCESS - AKA - WHEN CAN WE USE THE TRAIL?!!

ENGAGE

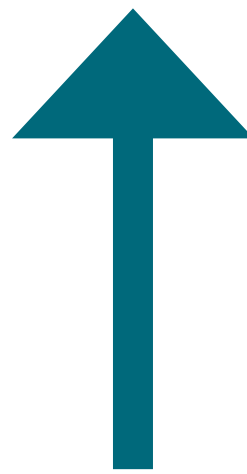


CLICK HERE
for more information
about the overall
process.

The RTD Rail Trail Master Plan project is an important step in creating a trail that we can walk, run, ride and enjoy between Boulder and Erie. However, it's not the only step and not the last step. To understand the complex process it will take before a trail is completed and ready to enjoy, take a look at this complex process.

We're in the "RTD Rail Trail Master Plan" phase. When the Master Plan is completed we will identify funding sources and potential phasing. After that we will move into final design and engineering. Throughout this process, Boulder County will work on obtaining all the necessary approvals and permitting. It is likely that the trail will be built in sections as funding allows.

When all segments are built, we'll be able to walk, run, ride, and enjoy the trail in its entirety.



WE ARE HERE

*** CLICK HERE**
for more information
about project
funding.



RTD RAIL TRAIL



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Since the public will be the users and neighbors of the RTD Rail trail, it's critical your input, understanding, concerns, and interests are part of the master planning process.

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS YOU CAN BE ENGAGED IN THE PROJECT THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT. SEE LINKS BELOW.

ENGAGE



PHONE



EMAIL



COMMENT FORM



COMMUNITY
WORKING GROUP



NEIGHBORHOOD
WORKSHOPS



PUBLIC
MEETINGS



RTD RAIL TRAIL



ENVIRONMENTAL

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE CORRIDOR?

WETLANDS AND WATERS

Wetlands, lakes, ponds, streams and riparian areas are located throughout and adjacent to the corridor. The western portion of the corridor has more streams, creeks, ditches and water pipelines, while most of the wetlands are located within the central portion of the corridor.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

A 'cultural resource' is defined as an archaeological site, structure, or building constructed 50 or more years ago. The corridor and adjacent properties contain resources associated with the early settlement and dry land agriculture of the region.



WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

The corridor provides habitat for a variety of species - from larger mammals such as mule deer and white-tailed deer, to smaller mammals including prairie dogs and the federally protected Preble's meadow jumping mouse. Raptors including red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, osprey and barn owls can also be seen along the corridor. Other birds seen along the corridor could include red-winged black birds, great blue heron, Canada geese, white pelican, and ring-necked pheasant. Adjacent ponds to the corridor also include known populations of the rare leopard frog.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has a long history within Boulder County and along the corridor. Preservation of agriculture is important for both the City of Boulder and Boulder County.



WHAT DO THESE RESOURCES MEAN FOR THE PROJECT?

During the selection of a preferred alignment the project team will consider potential adverse impacts to environmental resources. As the planning process progresses, consideration of environmental permits and requirements will also be considered into the project scope and schedule.



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NEIGHBORS/USERS/CONNECTIVITY

ADJACENT PROPERTIES



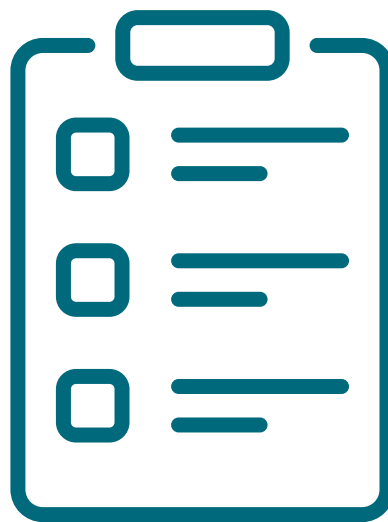
USER TYPES



CONNECTIVITY

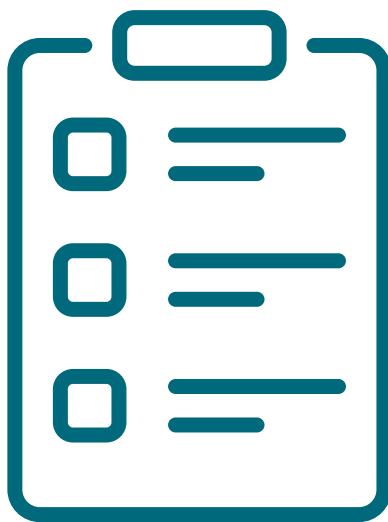


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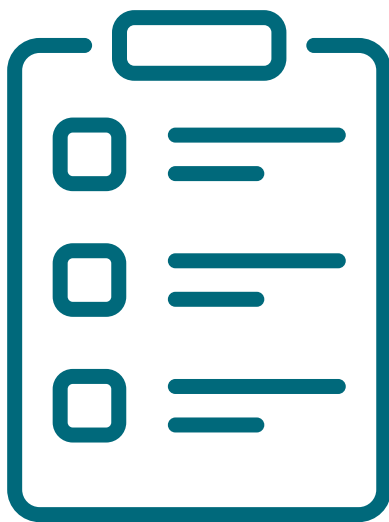
CLICK HERE
to fill out a survey
for adjacent property
owners.

ENGAGE



CLICK HERE
to fill out a survey for
trail users.

ENGAGE



CLICK HERE
to fill out a survey
about connectivity.

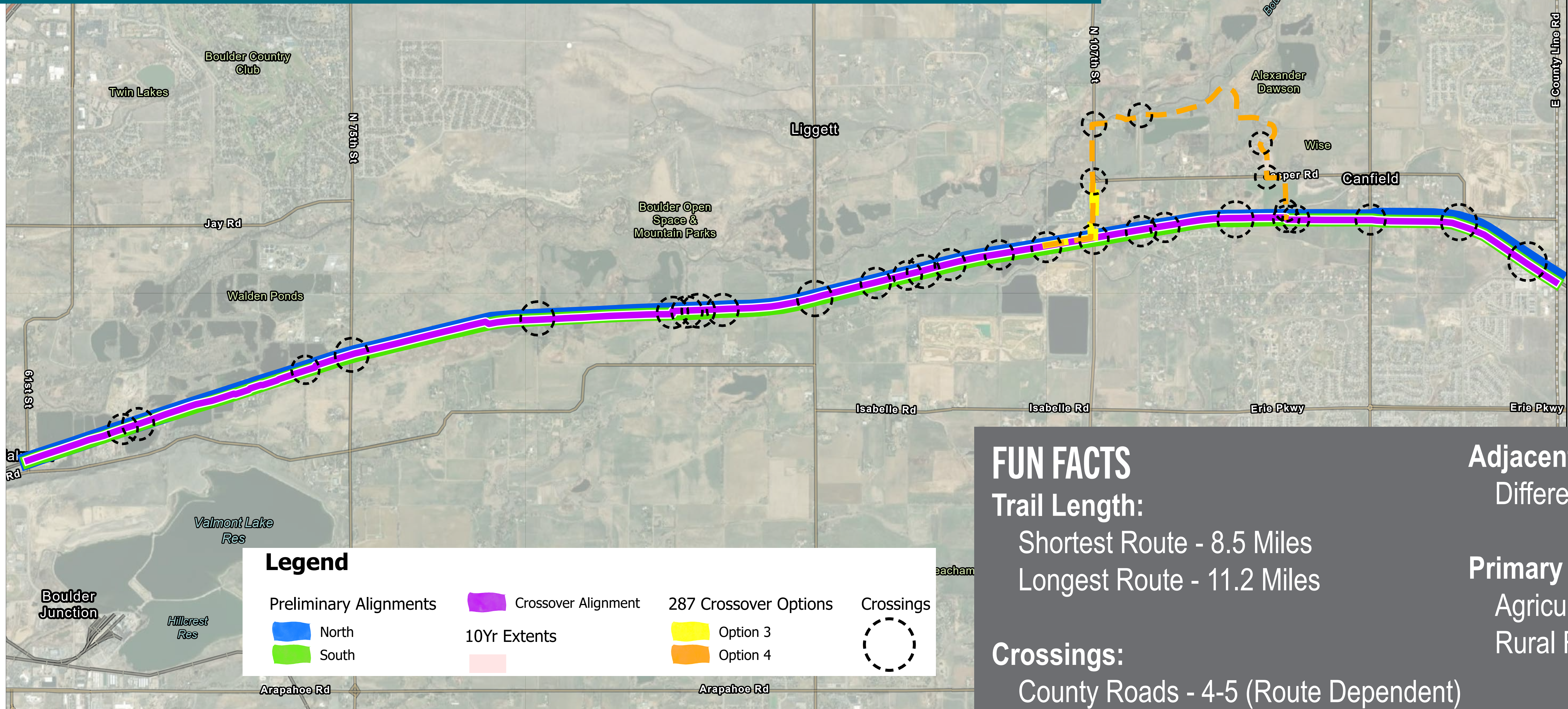


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TRAIL ALIGNMENT OVERVIEW

This map shows an overall view of the RTD Rail Trail corridor, with specific focus on two key issues - the three preliminary alignments and the places where those alignments cross other roads, driveways, or bodies of water. The following two slides zoom in to show specific examples of these issues.



FUN FACTS

Trail Length:

Shortest Route - 8.5 Miles
Longest Route - 11.2 Miles

Crossings:

County Roads - 4-5 (Route Dependent)
State Highways - 1
Private Road/Driveways - At least 9
Rivers/Creeks/Streams - 1
Ditches - 7-11 (Route Dependent)

Adjacent Property: Different Owners - 59

Primary Land Uses:
Agricultural
Rural Residential



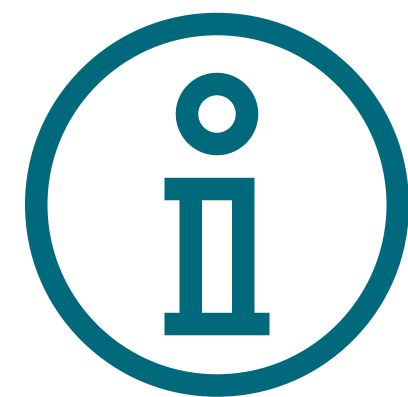
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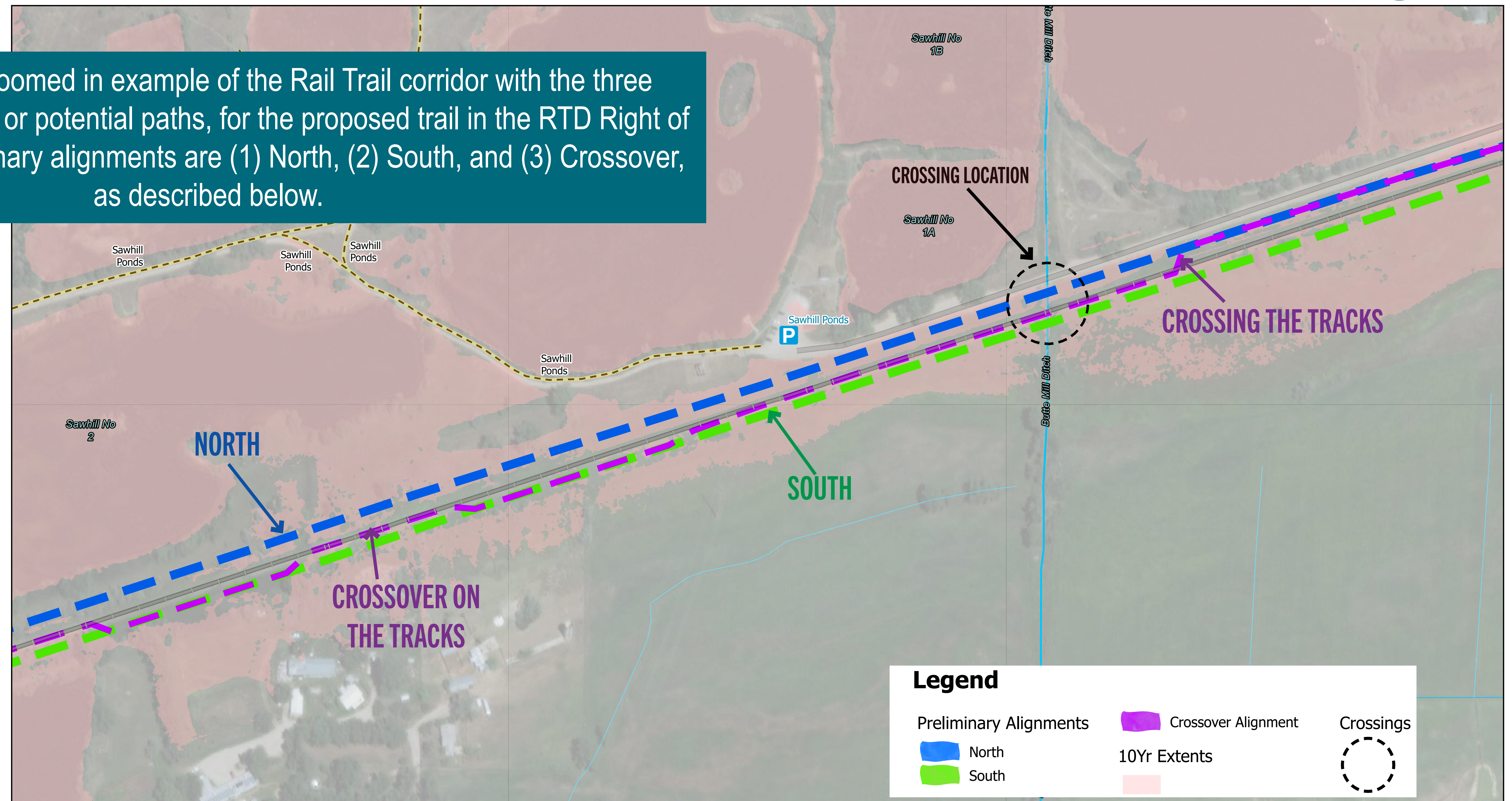
ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

This map shows a zoomed in example of the Rail Trail corridor with the three preliminary alignments, or potential paths, for the proposed trail in the RTD Right of Way. The three preliminary alignments are (1) North, (2) South, and (3) Crossover, as described below.

ENGAGE



CLICK HERE
for detailed
alignment studies for
the trail.



NORTH AND SOUTH ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

To develop these three preliminary alignments we started with an alignment fully on the north side of the rail bed (blue) and one fully on the south side (green) so as to disrupt the rail bed as little as possible as requested by RTD.

CROSSOVER ALIGNMENT OPTION

Then we looked at the floodplain in the area (pink) and developed another alignment (purple) that crosses over the rail bed to avoid floodplain and associated maintenance concerns as much as possible. This alignment also stays on the rail bed for limited stretches where there were floodplain concerns on both sides.



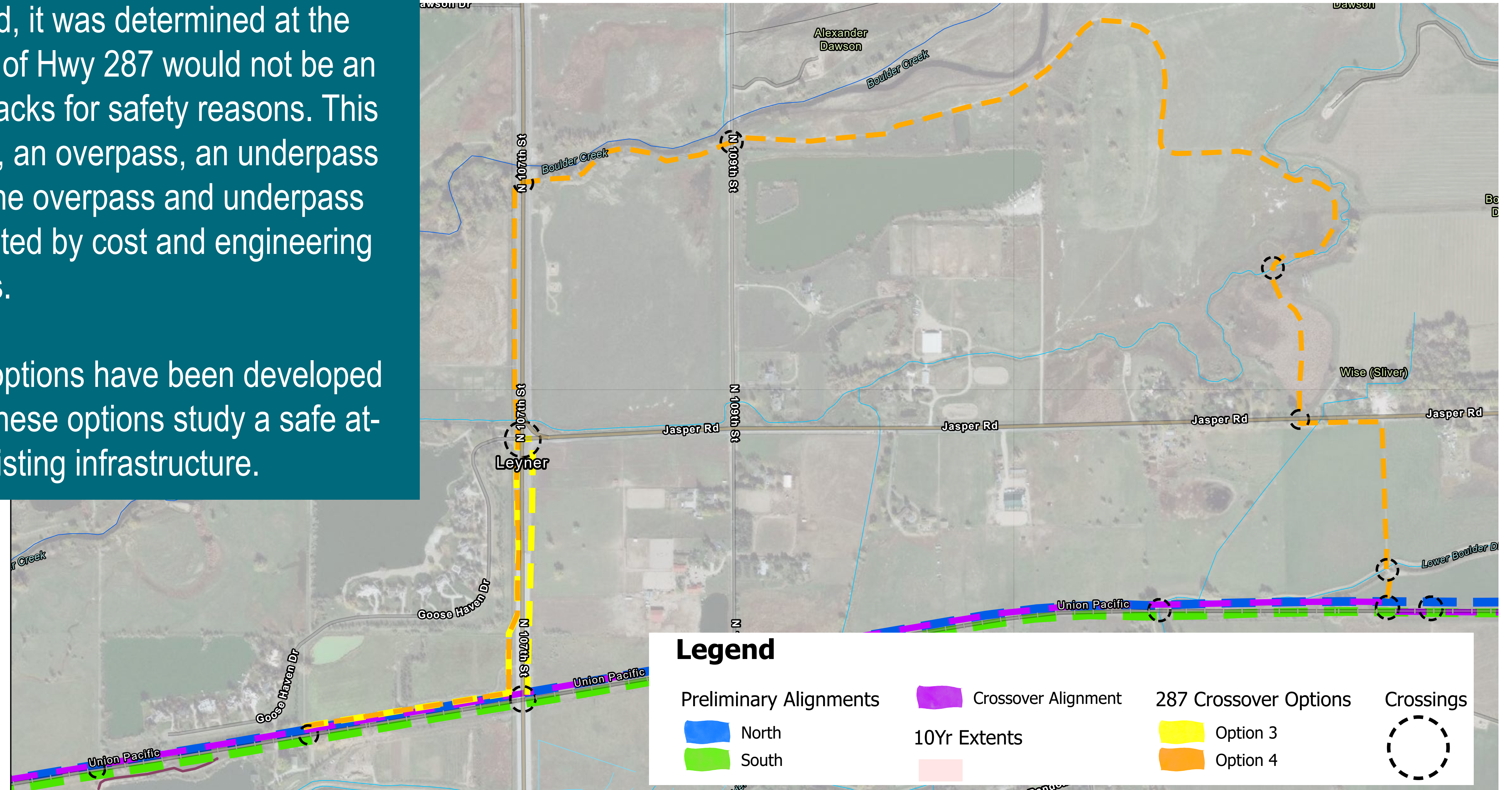
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HWY 287 CROSSING

Due to the traffic volumes and speed, it was determined at the outset of this project that the crossing of Hwy 287 would not be an at-grade crossing along the railroad tracks for safety reasons. This process looks at four crossing options, an overpass, an underpass and two additional routing options. The overpass and underpass options are along a straight route, limited by cost and engineering constraints.

The two additional Hwy 287 crossing options have been developed to provide a wider range of choices. These options study a safe at-grade crossing, and using existing infrastructure.



ENGAGE



CLICK HERE
to provide input
about the crossing
options.

The Yellow crossing option follows an easement along 287 until it ends at Jasper Road. It then crosses 287 at Jasper Rd at grade with a new traffic signal and heads south to meet up with the trail again on the other side. Since Hwy 287 is a state highway, the implementation of a new traffic light and trail crossing would require further study and CDOT approval.

Total Distance: .87 Miles

The Orange crossing option also follows the easement along 287 up to Jasper Rd, and then continues into Boulder County Open Space property until it reaches Boulder Creek. It then follows the creek for a more scenic route before making it's way back south across Boulder County Open Space with a crossing at Jasper Rd.

Total Distance: 2.7 Miles



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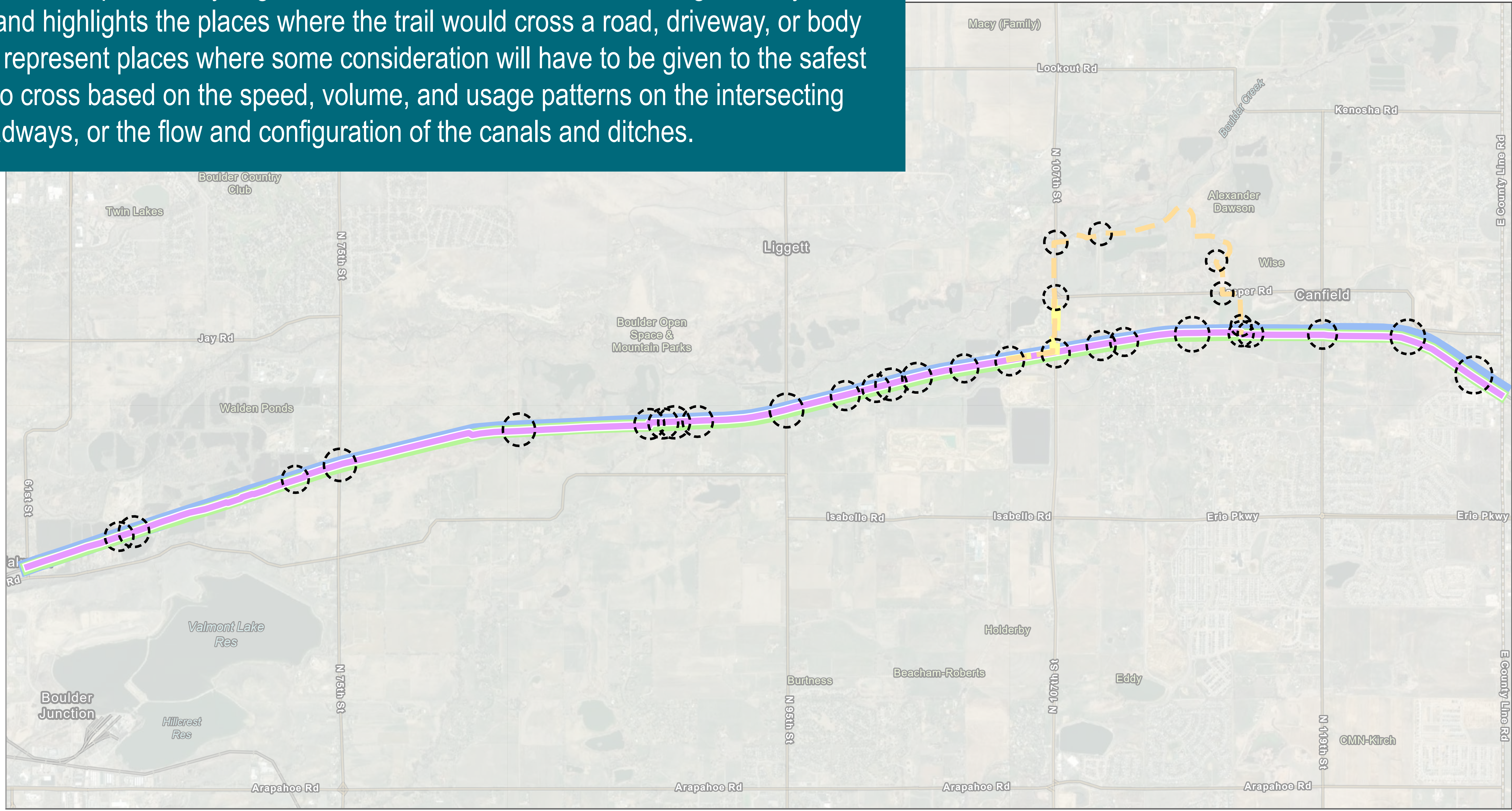
OTHER CROSSINGS

This map shows the three preliminary alignments for the RTD Rail Trail, including the Hwy 287 crossing options, and highlights the places where the trail would cross a road, driveway, or body of water. These all represent places where some consideration will have to be given to the safest way for the trail to cross based on the speed, volume, and usage patterns on the intersecting roadways, or the flow and configuration of the canals and ditches.

ENGAGE



CLICK HERE
to provide input
about the additional
crossings.



RTD RAIL TRAIL



OTHER CROSSINGS - EVALUATION APPROACH

The photos on this page represent examples of potential approaches to the various crossings along this trail corridor. Based on average daily traffic (ADT), number of lanes, and posted speed limits, a system will be developed to determine a typical format for crossings given their characteristics. This will be applied to any and all crossings as they are encountered along the trail as it is designed.



Lobo Trail Crossing at 83rd St in Niwot



55th St & White Pl in Boulder



75th St and Clubhouse Rd in Gunbarrel



Niwot Loop Trail Crossing at 79th St



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PROJECT NEXT STEPS

JOIN OUR Q & A SESSIONS

After reviewing this information, if you have additional questions for the project team, join our zoom conversations by using the information below.

**Q&A Session:
Segments 1 & 2
Aug. 26: 4:30 - 5:30pm**

**Link: <https://bit.ly/39OMusE>
Phone: 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 869 9614 9141
Password: 213966**

**Q&A Session:
Segments 3 & 4
Aug. 26: 5:45 - 6:45pm**

**Link: <https://bit.ly/39OMusE>
Phone: 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 869 9614 9141
Password: 213966**

**Q&A Session:
General Public
Aug. 27: 4:30 - 6:00pm**

**Link: <https://bit.ly/33nX3BI>
Phone: 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 873 9311 9659
Password: 714371**

NEXT STEPS

- Additional conversations with Stakeholders and Property Owners
- Advisory Board Meetings
- Preferred Alignment Selection Process



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