

missoula connect

2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan

Residents' Guide

JUNE 2021

Missoula Connect is an update to our Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The 30-year plan looks at all modes of transportation and identifies priorities for projects and programs, as well as how funding should be allocated. Relying on previous planning work and extensive community outreach, Missoula Connect integrates existing plans and projects to create a sustainable and equitable transportation future that improves mobility and access for all Missoula area residents, workers, and visitors.

Missoula Connect includes five goals to reflect today's needs and priorities and the outcomes our region must achieve in the next 30 years. The goals are consistent with federal requirements and form the basis for the project and scenario evaluation process that helped refine our priorities and shape Missoula Connect's recommendations.



Improve safety and promote health to enhance quality of life



Advance sustainability and community resilience to protect natural resources and address climate change



Expand mobility choices to improve efficiency and accessibility for people and goods



Connect and strengthen communities to create a more equitable region



Maintain assets and invest strategically to boost economic vitality

Missoula Connect maintains the region's adopted mode share and trip-reduction targets. The mode share goals focus on providing people with better travel options and shifting some trips away from driving.



Reduce drive-alone commute share by **34% by 2045**



Triple bike and walk shares and **quadruple** transit share **by 2045**



Reduce drive-alone commute trips by **20,000 by 2045**



Achieve a **small increase** in carpool and work from home

The values of Missoula area residents are the foundation of Missoula Connect. Each recommendation in this long-range plan—whether a major project or a new program—has a hand in moving the region toward a safer, healthier, more sustainable, more equitable, and more connected future. Together, these individual projects and programs will help the Missoula region achieve our mobility vision. The Missoula Connect Recommended Scenario includes a mix of capital projects across the region that connect neighborhoods and key destinations, support inward growth, and advance regional equity.

The Recommended Scenario includes 71 projects:



21

Complete Streets



20

Urban Active Transportation Improvements



12

Shared-Use Paths and Trail Extensions



11

Safety Improvements and Enhanced Crossings



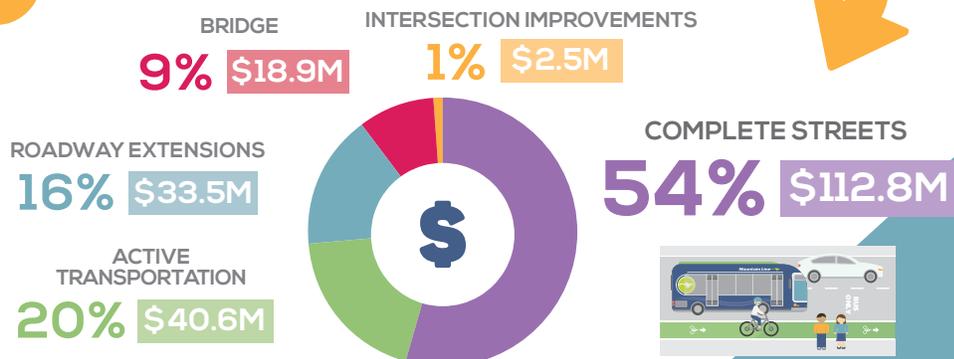
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Roadway Extensions



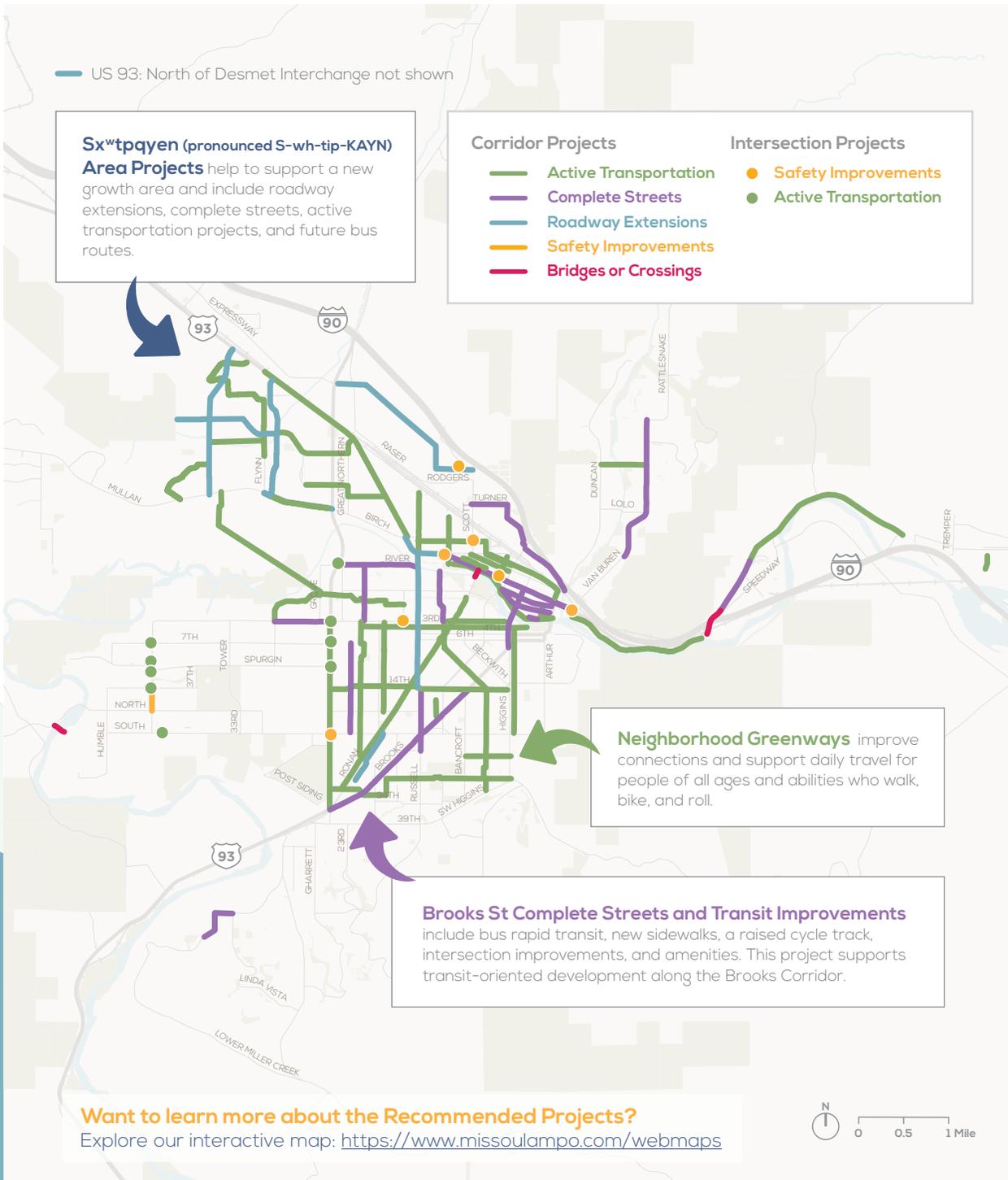
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Bridge or Crossing Improvements

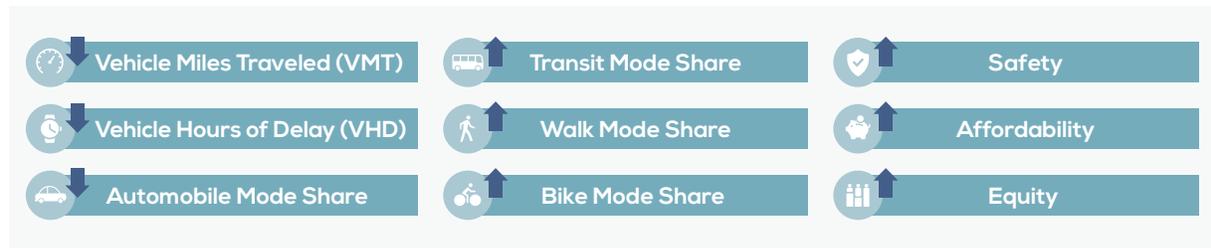


The projects included in the Recommended Scenario are all eligible for federal, state, or local funds, and there may be other funding sources available in the future. The Recommended Scenario also includes committed projects, which are those that have funding allocated within the current 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (federal funds) or the City's or County's Capital Improvement Programs (local funds). All projects that are not included in the Recommended Scenario are considered "illustrative."

Recommended Scenario Projects



The Recommended Scenario Projects have benefits across the Missoula Connect goals and will help to reduce vehicle miles traveled and vehicle hours of delay while moving the region toward its mode share goals. These projects will improve safety, increase affordability, and help to create a more equitable region.



Capital improvements—like new complete streets and commuter path connections—are only part of what is needed to implement the vision of Missoula Connect. Non-capital programs and policies will help Missoula deliver on the commitment to a transportation system that prioritizes more options for getting around the region. Programs and policies can improve people’s awareness of transportation choices, prioritize investments, and help to achieve Missoula’s mode split goals.

The long-range transportation plan includes 27 recommended programs and policies, including:

- Safe Routes for Seniors Program
- Transit First Policy
- Mobility Hubs Program

- Street Design Guidelines
- Community Carshare Program
- Transportation Options Policy



The recommendations included in Missoula Connect can help us secure lasting change. By focusing on active transportation, complete streets, and transit projects, we can provide more sustainable and more affordable travel options for our region’s residents. Complementing those projects with programs and policies that support inward growth and encourage people to try new travel options means that we can move toward our mode share targets.

There is much work to be done to achieve the Missoula region’s transportation vision, but there is a strong foundation on which to build. By working together, addressing current challenges, and thinking creatively about the future, we can make the Missoula Connect vision a reality.