

VERDE CONNECT

Connecting People, Communities, and Services in the Verde Region

Add Your Voice!

YYV-0(209)Z



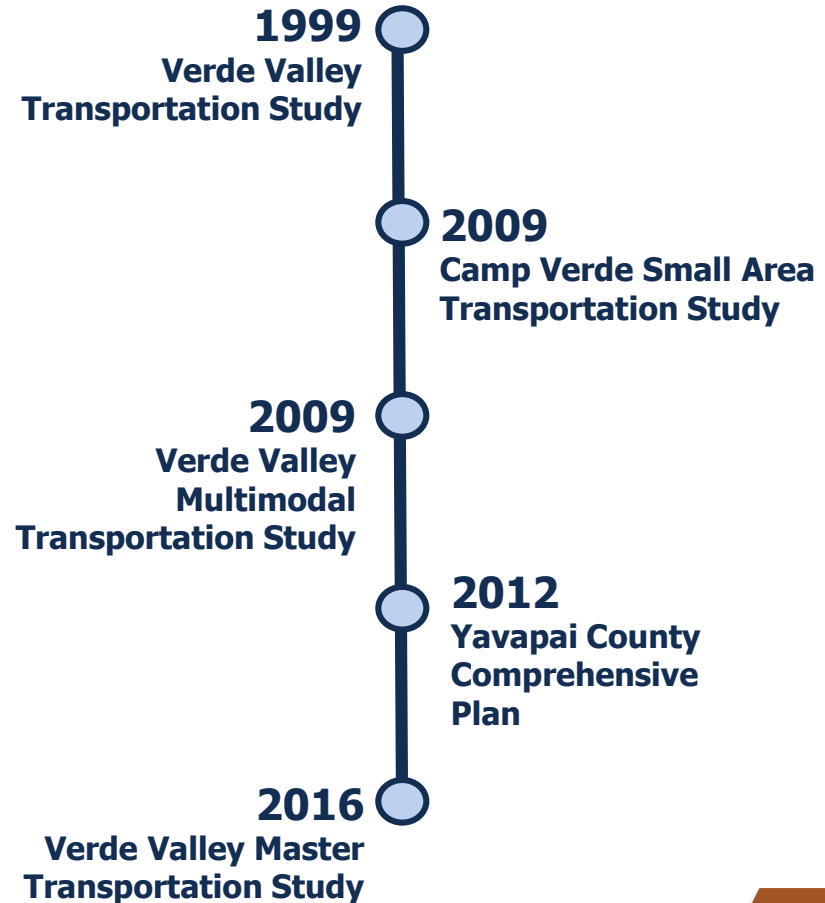
VERDE CONNECT

- ❑ **What is Verde Connect?**
- ❑ **Activities to date**
- ❑ **What has been going on since the public meetings last fall?**
- ❑ **Project Purpose**
- ❑ **Next steps**

A LONG-ENVISIONED INVESTMENT

WHAT IS VERDE CONNECT?

Verde Connect brings together a long-term vision for a north-south route to connect Cornville Road to State Route 260.



ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- ❑ **Yavapai County initiated and funded a Design Concept Report in the spring of 2018, with no funding available for final design or construction.**
- ❑ **Public meetings held in Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and on the Yavapai Apache Nation in September and October of 2018.**



WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE THE PUBLIC MEETINGS LAST FALL?



BUILD GRANT

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development

- ❑ Federal grant program for investments in road, rail, transit, and port projects.
- ❑ \$25 Million awarded to Yavapai County for the Verde Connect project in December 2018.
- ❑ Of the total 851 BUILD Grant applications submitted to the USDOT, only 91 projects were awarded. This project was the only one awarded in the State of Arizona.
- ❑ The Grant requires that all funds be fully expended by September 30, 2025.
- ❑ To obtain funding authorization from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the County must complete an environmental study that is compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act (**NEPA**).

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- ❑ Environmental Assessment (EA).
- ❑ Requests input on alignment alternatives the public would like us to evaluate and areas we should avoid.
- ❑ Close coordination with local, regional, state, and federal agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and Environmental Protection Agency, among many others.
- ❑ “Scoping” period initiates the EA process.
- ❑ Future Phases: Alternative Analysis, Preferred Alternative Selection, Draft EA, Public Hearing, Final EA.

SCOPING

Public Comments Requested through March 31, 2019

- ❑ Scoping is the process used to determine the appropriate scope of an EA study, such as the study area and the need for the project, and to identify issues and concerns.
- ❑ Public participation is an integral part of scoping.
- ❑ Input received during this time will be added to the hundreds of comments received since public involvement kicked off in June 2018.

WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW FOR SCOPING?

Public Comments Requested through March 31, 2019

- ❑ Coordination with local, state, and federal agencies.
- ❑ Conducting Verde Valley Community presentations to receive public input.
- ❑ Website updates to disseminate latest project information.
- ❑ Outreach to public using press releases, newspaper advertisements, radio, online survey, email blast, etc.

HOW CAN I ADD MY VOICE?



Mail comments to
Verde Connect
Project/Central
Creative, 24 W
Camelback Rd. #A-479,
Phoenix, AZ 85013



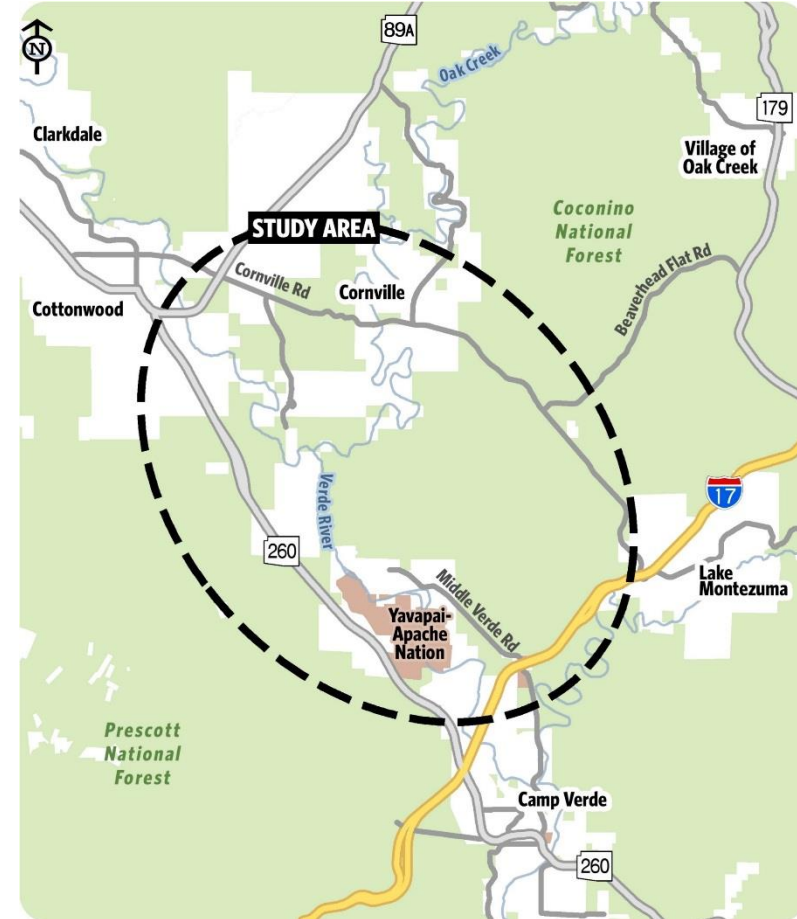
Visit our website at
www.verdeconnect.com
Click on “Get Involved” to
complete a short survey.
Click on “Contact Us” to
submit a written comment
and be added to the project
email list.



Call Public
Involvement
Manager Kristin Darr
at **602-750-7139** for
more information or
to be added to our
mailing list.

PROJECT PURPOSE

- ❑ **Connect areas divided by the Verde River**
- ❑ **Reduce out-of-direction travel**
- ❑ **Meet current and future travel demand**
- ❑ **Provide an alternative/emergency route**
- ❑ **Support planned economic development**
- ❑ **Manage access to the Verde River by providing a bridge crossing**

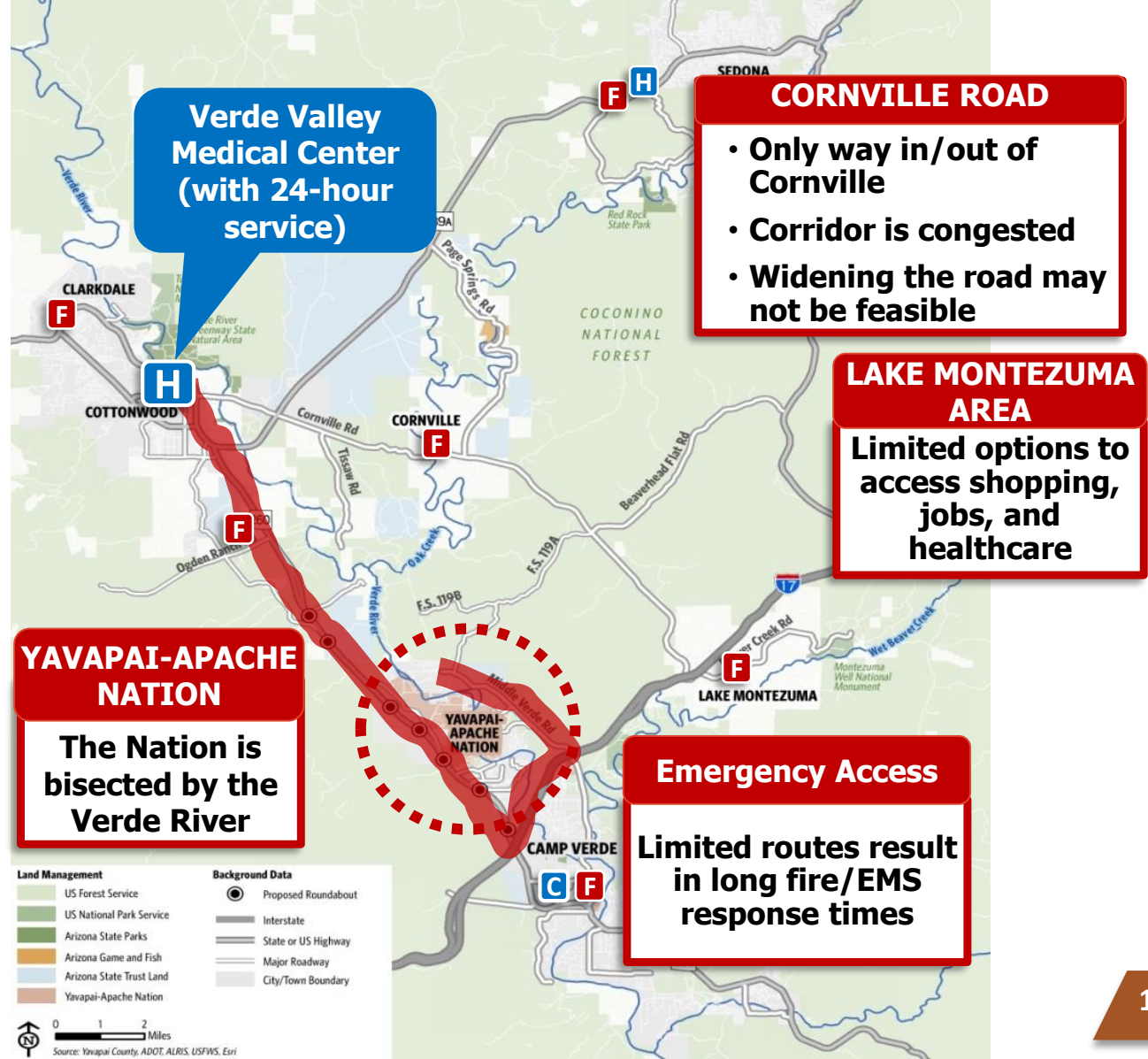


AREA ISSUES AND NEEDS

Long Commute Times

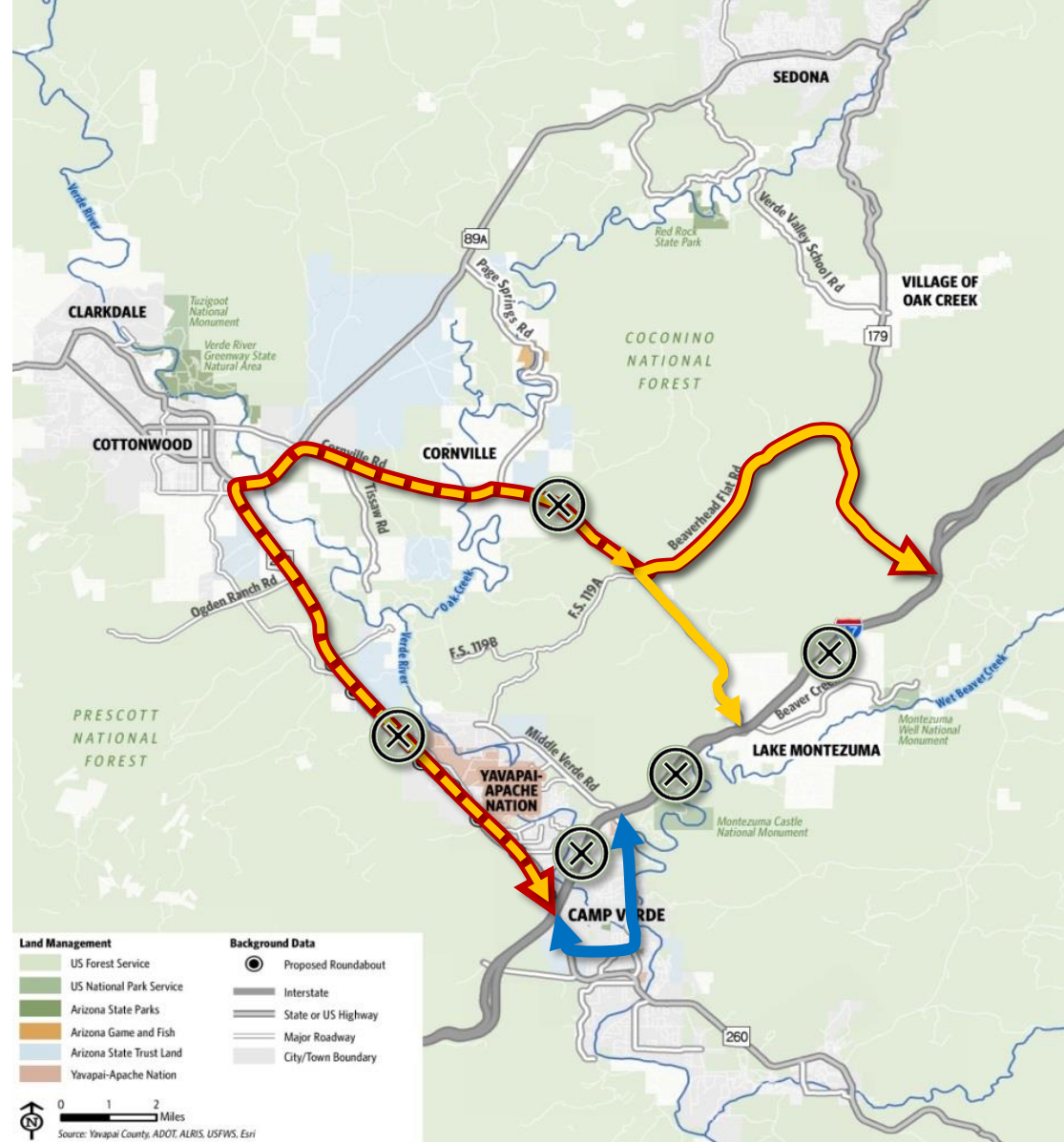
Long Fire and EMS Response Times

- F** Fire Station
- H** Hospital/Emergency Department
- C** Medical Clinic



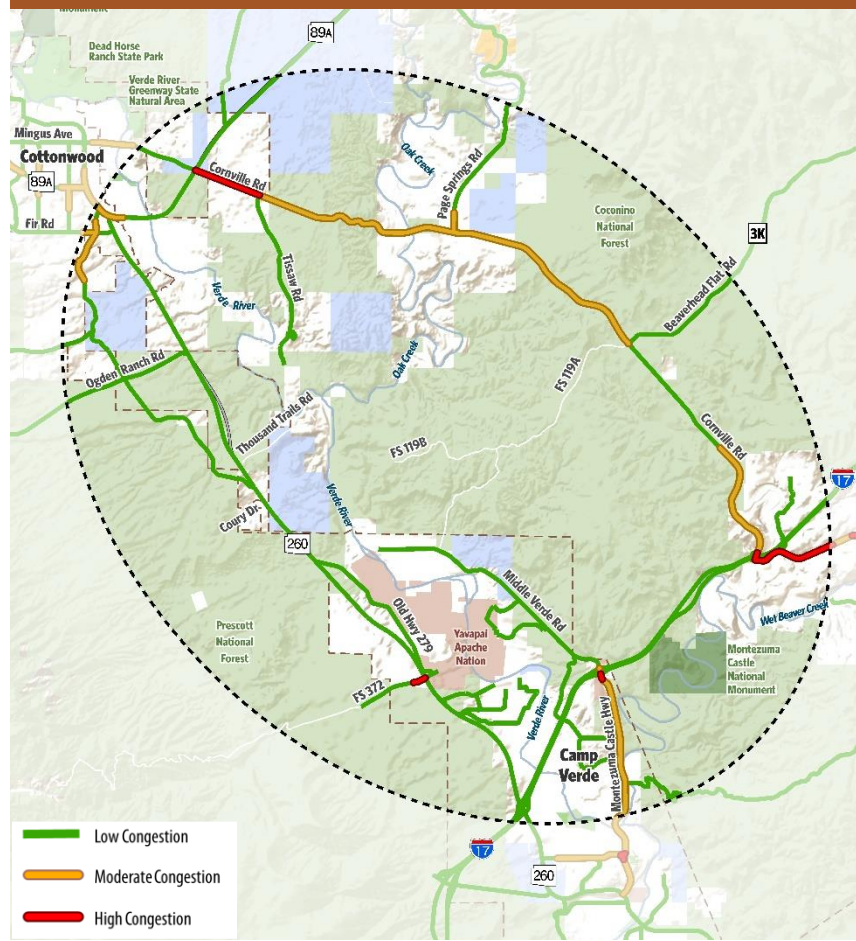
AREA ISSUES AND NEEDS

Detour lengths
if regional
highways are
shutdown

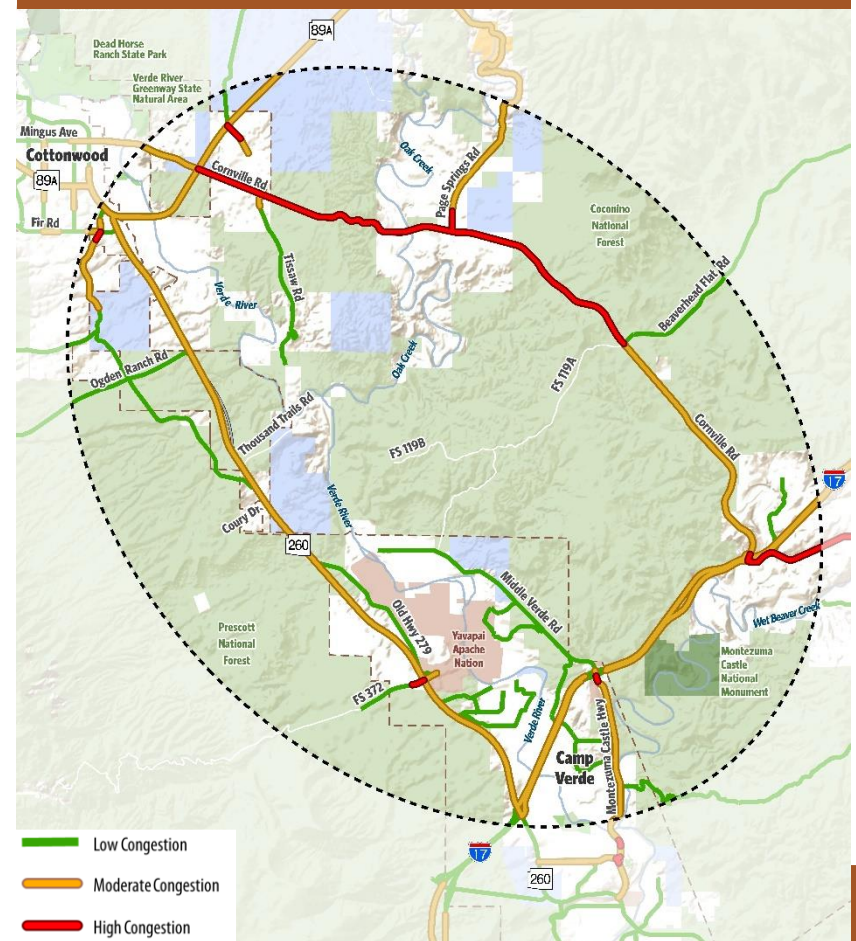


What Happens if we DO NOTHING?

Current Modeled Traffic Congestion



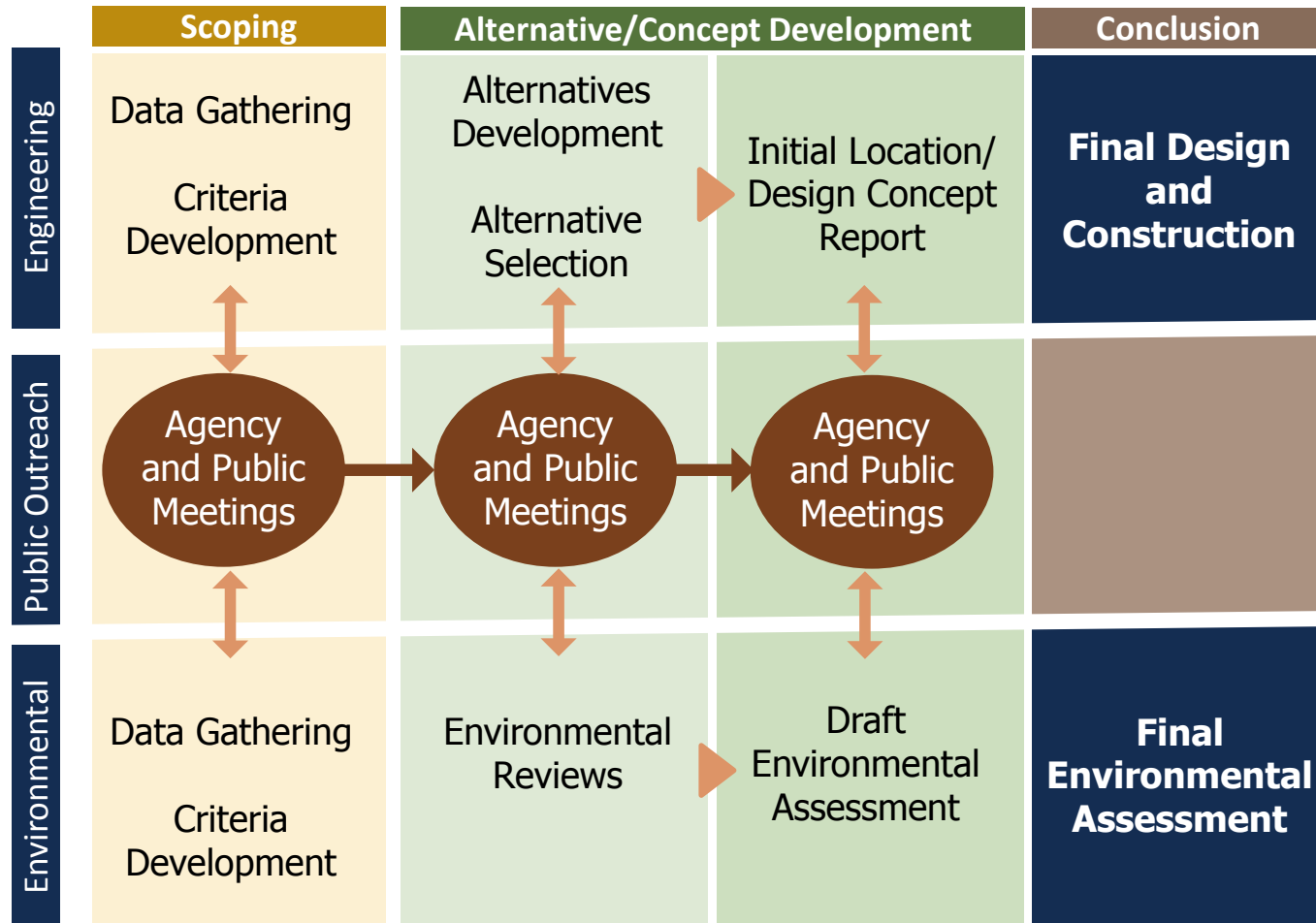
Modeled 2040 Traffic Congestion



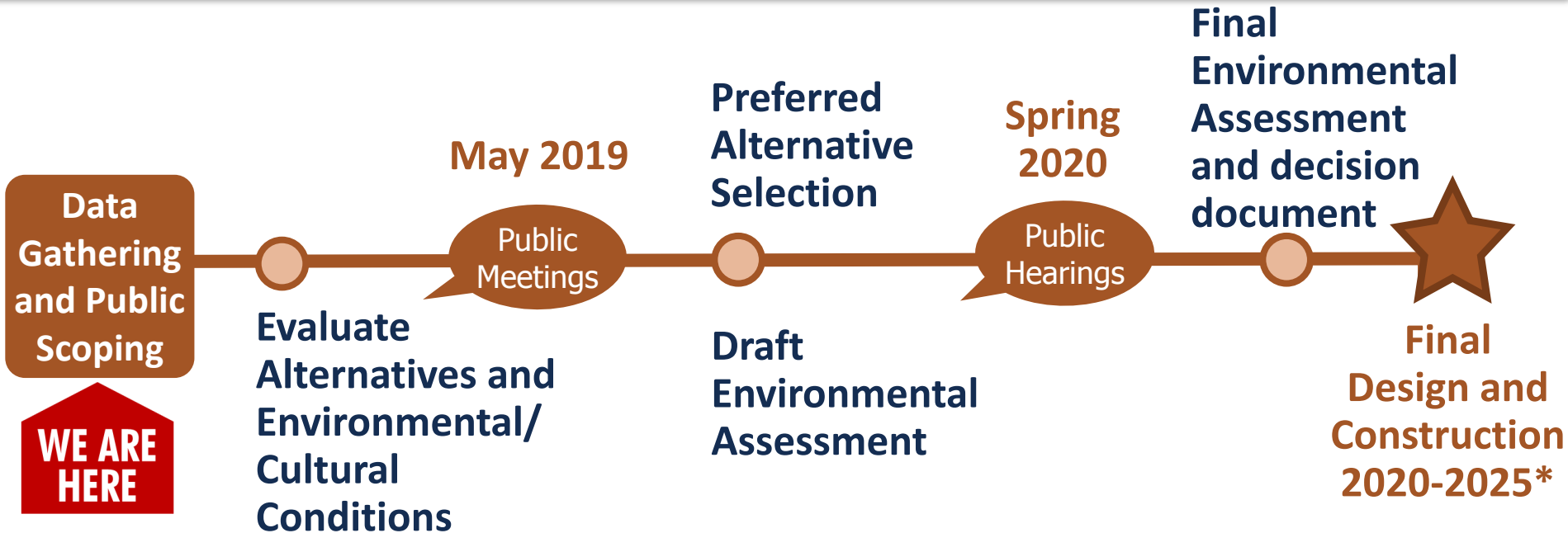
HOW ARE ALTERNATIVES IDENTIFIED?

- **Previous Studies**
- **Technical Analysis:** physical, environmental, cultural, built environment, impacts, etc.
- **Agency Input:** jurisdictions; regional, state and federal agencies
- **Public Input**

STUDY PROCESS



NEXT STEPS



**If a build alternative is selected.*

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Visit our website at
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