

# **Transportation Improvements & Studies**

## **In and Around the York Neighborhood**

**York Neighborhood Association Meeting**  
**Online – October 28, 2020**



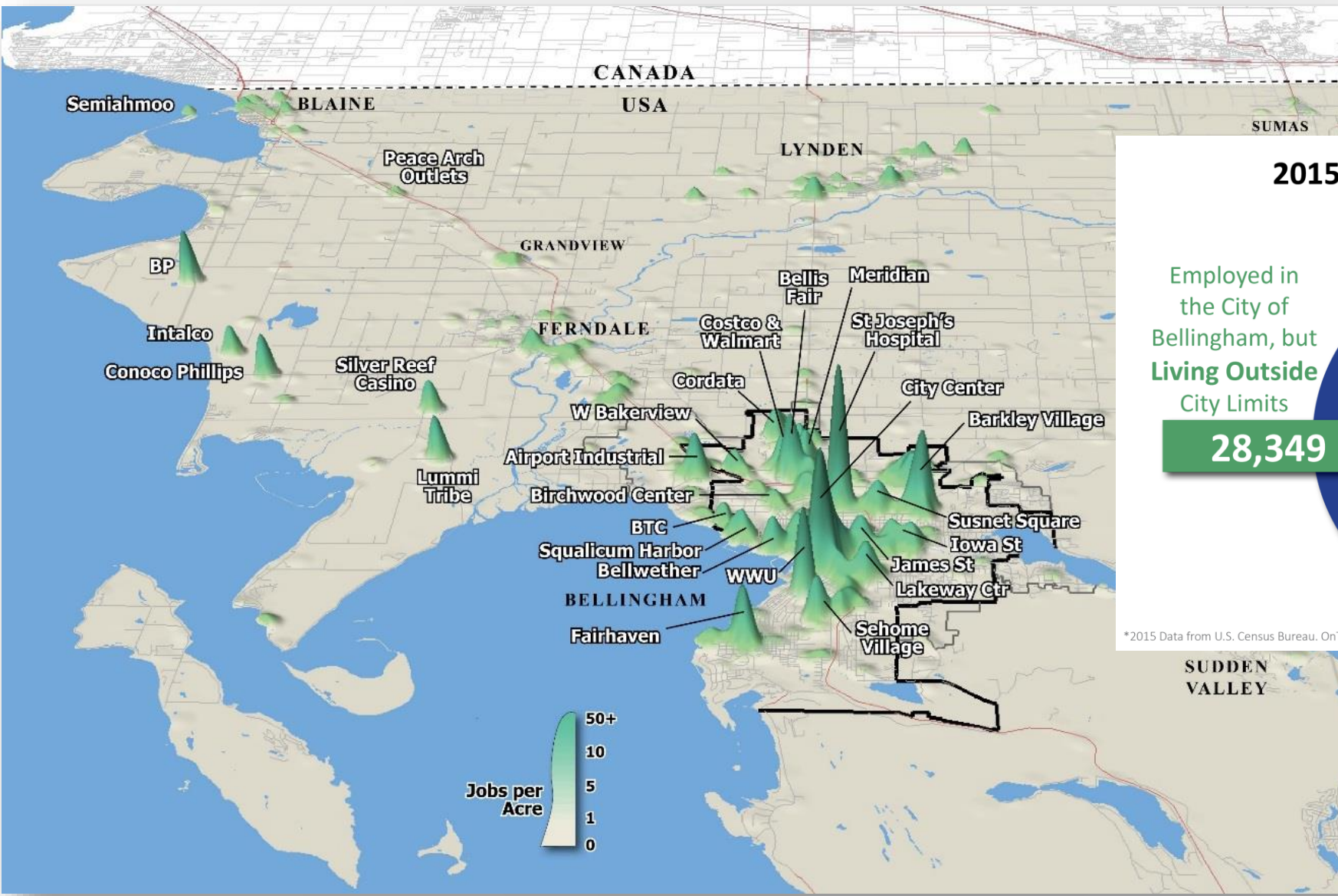
# Presentation Overview

- **Big Picture:** Bellingham's Citywide Transportation Planning Practice [*~ 2 mins*]
- **Recent:** Transportation Projects - York Neighborhood [*~ 3 mins*]
  - [2016-2017 Lakeway Drive Bikeway Study](#) → [2018 Lakeway-Lincoln Multimodal Improvements](#)
  - [2016-2017 Samish-Maple-Ellis Corridor Study](#) → [2020 Samish-Maple-Ellis Multimodal Improvements](#)
  - [2020 Transportation Benefit District Projects and 40<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk and Bike Lanes](#)
- **Today:** Future Transportation Improvements around York Neighborhood
  - [2020-2021 Lincoln-Lakeway Multimodal Transportation Study](#) [*~ 15 mins*]
- **Interstate 5 through Bellingham**
  - [I-5 Operations & TDM Study](#) (WSDOT staff) [*~20 mins*]
- **Questions/Discussion**

# Bellingham is the Regional Center

(Employment, Shopping, Education, Medical Services, etc.)

**Disproportionate  
Number of  
Vehicle Trips  
In/Out of City  
each day**



## 2015 Inflow/Outflow Job Counts: Bellingham City Limits

Employed in  
the City of  
Bellingham, but  
**Living Outside**  
City Limits

**28,349**

Employed &  
Living within  
Bellingham  
City Limits

**18,969**

Living in the City  
of Bellingham, but  
**Employed Outside**  
City Limits

**15,274**

\*2015 Data from U.S. Census Bureau. OnTheMap Application. Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program. <http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

**Out of town  
visitors generate  
a lot of sales tax**

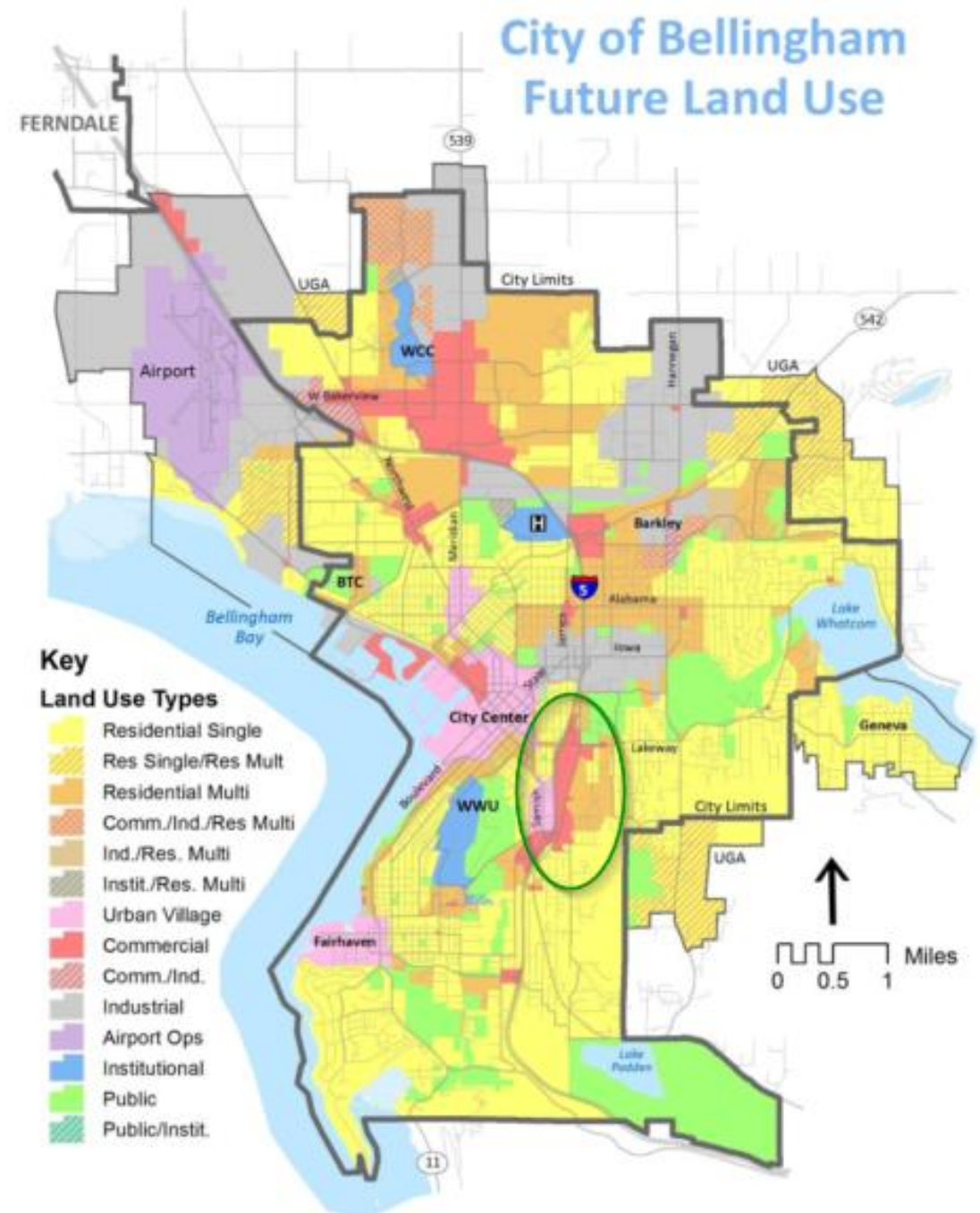
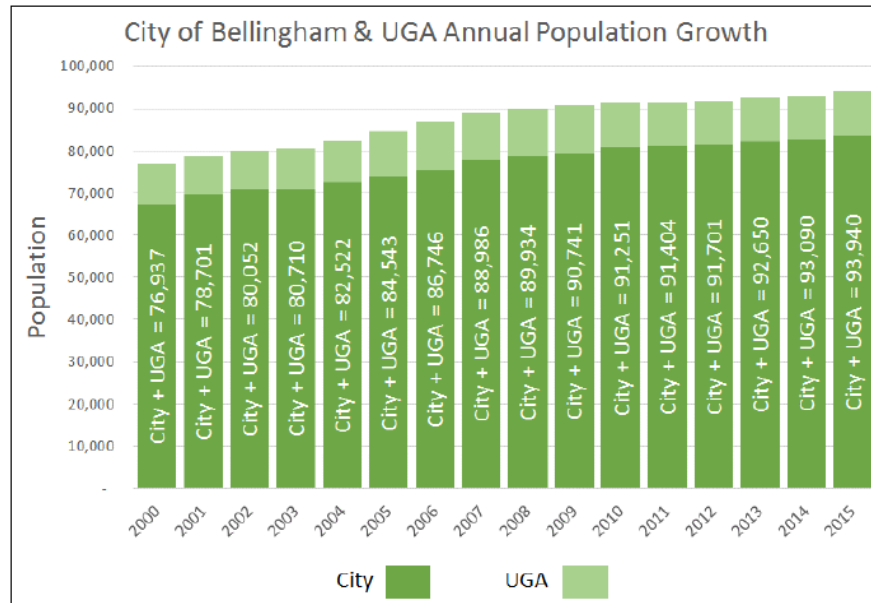




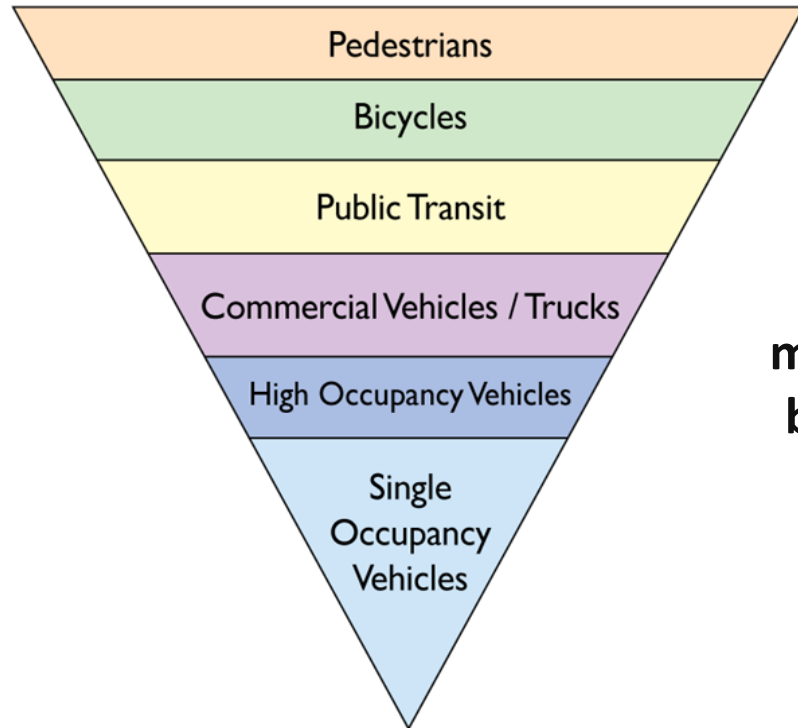
# Bellingham Plans to Continue Growing

## Past & Future Population Growth

- 1980 = 46,000
- 2000 = 67,000
- 2020 = 92,000
- 2040 = 125,000 (*Projected*)



# Bellingham: Who Are We Planning For? PEOPLE



## BALANCE:

**All** mobility needs for **all** modes must be carefully considered, balanced, and implemented so that the multimodal transportation system can provide space and safety for **everyone**.



So.... What should we measure? **Safe mobility for PEOPLE**

Source: [Multimodal Transportation Chapter – 2016 Bellingham Comprehensive Plan](#)



# Bellingham's Active Transportation Plans

## Pedestrian Master Plan (2012)

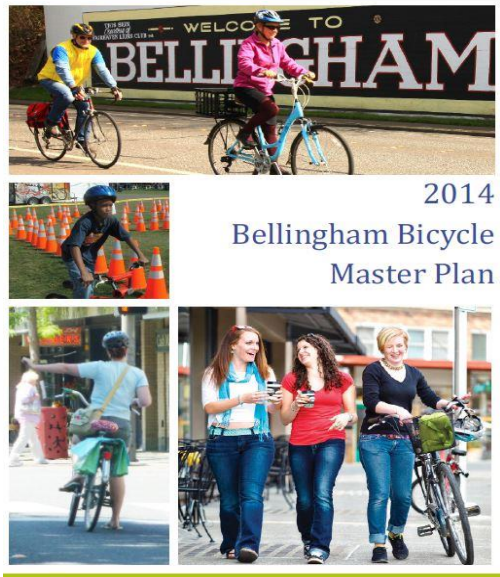
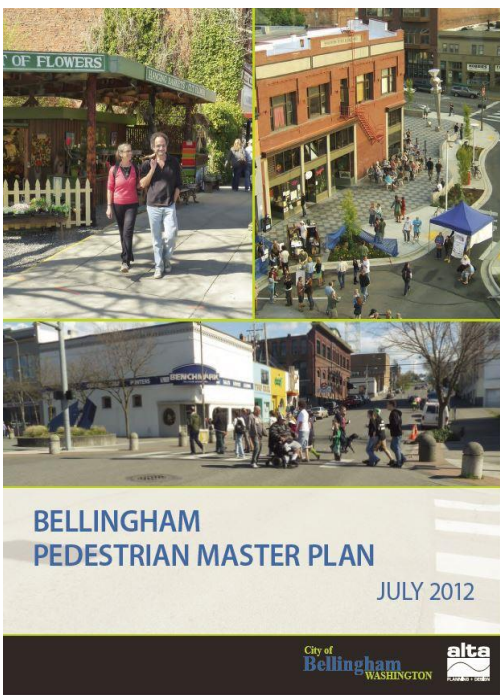
- 258-mile pedestrian network
- ~ 162 miles (63%) complete
- **343** Prioritized sidewalks + crossings

## Bicycle Master Plan (2014)

- 164-mile bicycle network
- ~ 87 miles (53%) complete
- **215** Prioritized bikeways + crossings

## Multise Greenways Trails (1990 x4)

- Extensive citywide trail system
- 80 miles existing multiuse trails
- **61** miles (76%) = secondary transportation

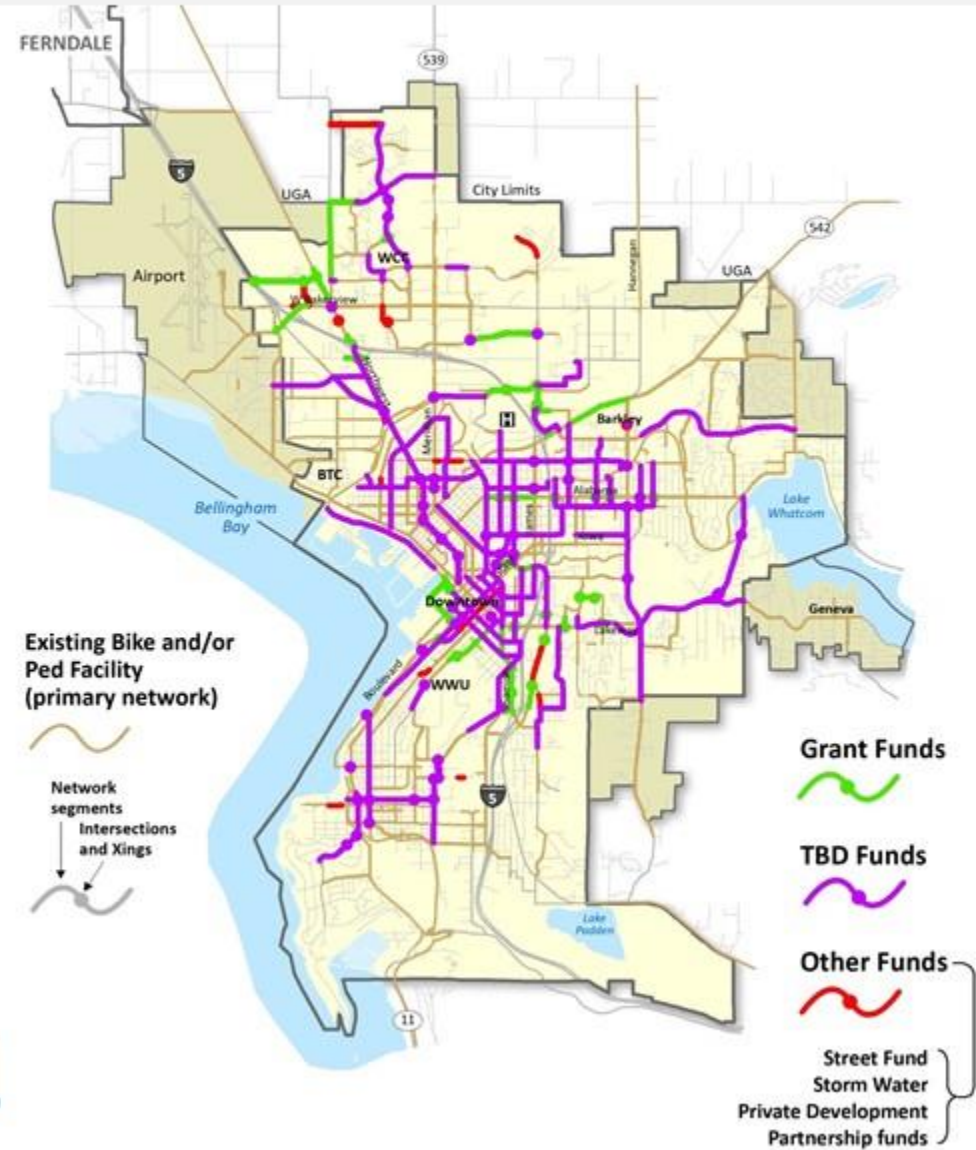




# All Projects 2010 - 2021

Bike / Ped Facility

Grant / TBD / Other Funded



2021



# 2016-2017 Lakeway Drive Bikeway Study

Assembling this complex puzzle,  
piece by expensive piece

## Short-term (2017 thru 2019)

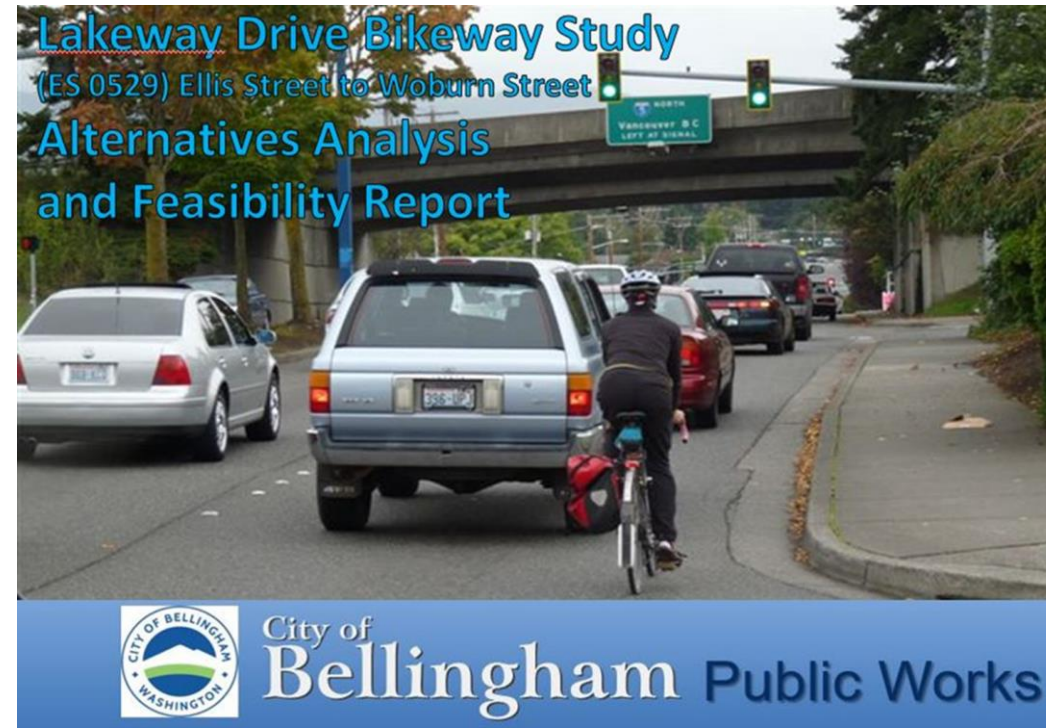
- 1.) 2017 - Uphill climbing lane on Woburn (Iowa to Lakeway); Green bike box at Woburn/Lakeway
- 2.) 2018 - HAWK signals at three locations on Lakeway Drive [Undine; Orleans; Grant]
- 3.) 2018 - Marked bike lanes from Undine HAWK to Puget - Green bike box north leg at Puget;
- 4.) 2019 - Lakeway shared bike-ped path from Undine HAWK to Old Lakeway Bike Blvd

## Mid-term (2020 thru 2025)

- 5.) 2020 - Old Lakeway Bike Blvd (Yew-Lakeway) connect to Woburn/Lakeway
- 6.) Work with BSD and Parks to re-organize Orleans-Lincoln block on Lakeway Drive
- Consider Safe Route to School grant with reconstruction of Carl Cozier ES (2024-2025)

## Long-term (2025 and beyond)

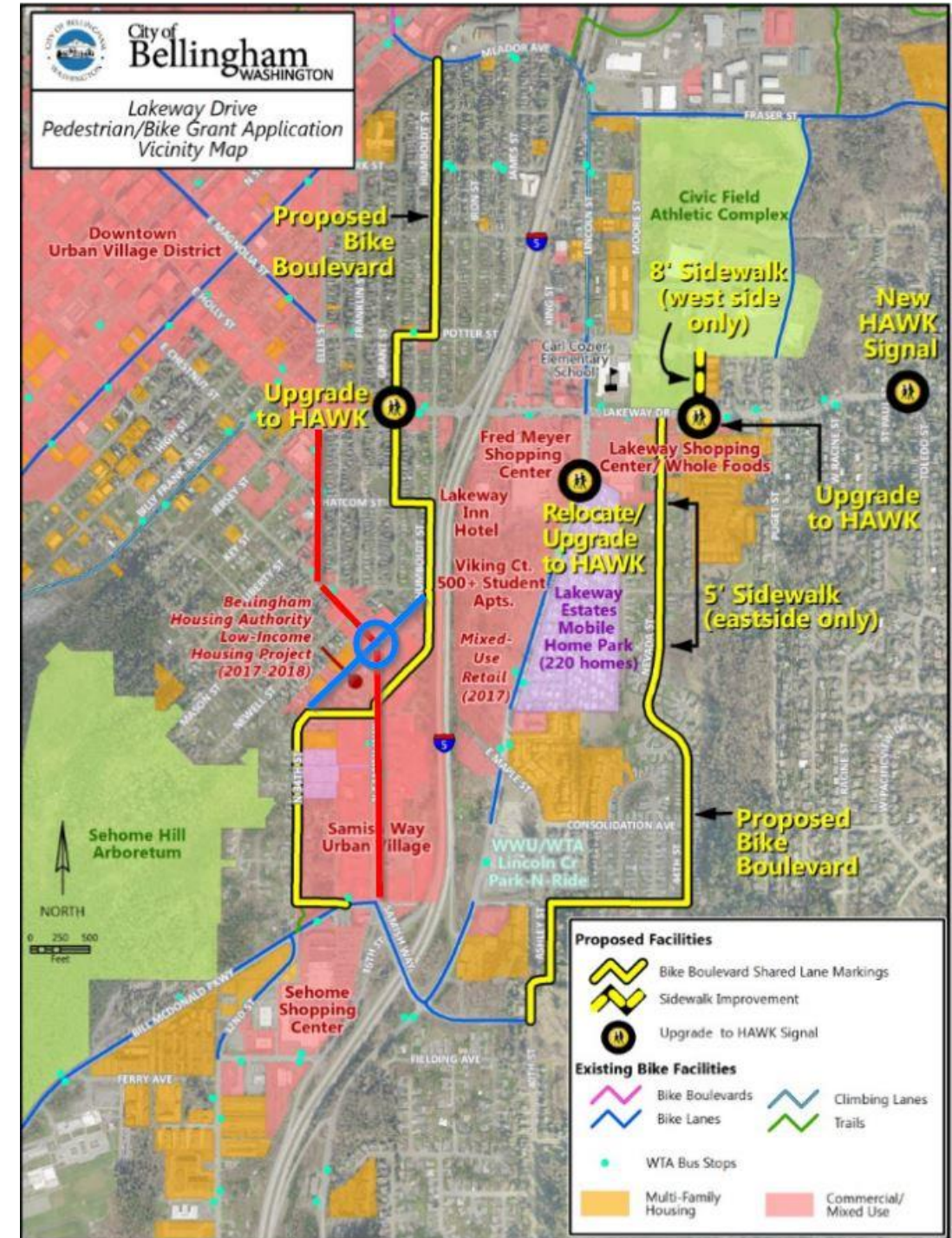
- 7.) Further Study Needed on Lakeway Drive corridor from Lincoln to Ellis





## 2018 Lakeway-Lincoln Multimodal Improvements

- **\$1,250,000** WSDOT Pedestrian-Bicycle Safety grant funds, plus local matching funds
- **Upgrade 3** flashing amber crossings to red **HAWK** signals
  - Lakeway/Grant
  - Lakeway/Orleans
  - Lincoln/Fred Meyer
- **New HAWK signal** at Lakeway on the west side of the Undine intersection
- **Sidewalk** on Orleans (west side) from Lakeway Drive to Potter Street
- **Sidewalk** on Nevada Street-44<sup>th</sup> Street (east side) from Whatcom Street to Thimbleberry
- Nevada-Byron-Ashley-Dumas-40<sup>th</sup> **Bike Boulevard** and traffic calming from Lakeway to Elwood
- Grant-Humboldt-Otis-34<sup>th</sup> **Bike Boulevard** from Meador Avenue to Bill McDonald Parkway
- **\$250,000** TIB grant for **new flashing crosswalk** at N. Samish/Otis





# Samish-Maple-Ellis Multimodal Safety Improvements

**\$1,007,000** WSDOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Grant + local matching funds

## What do these improvements include?

1.5-mile-long N. Samish-Maple-Ellis-York corridor from I-5/Samish interchange to Lakeway Drive (Red →) and then to Cornwall Avenue (Green →) will experience major changes, including:

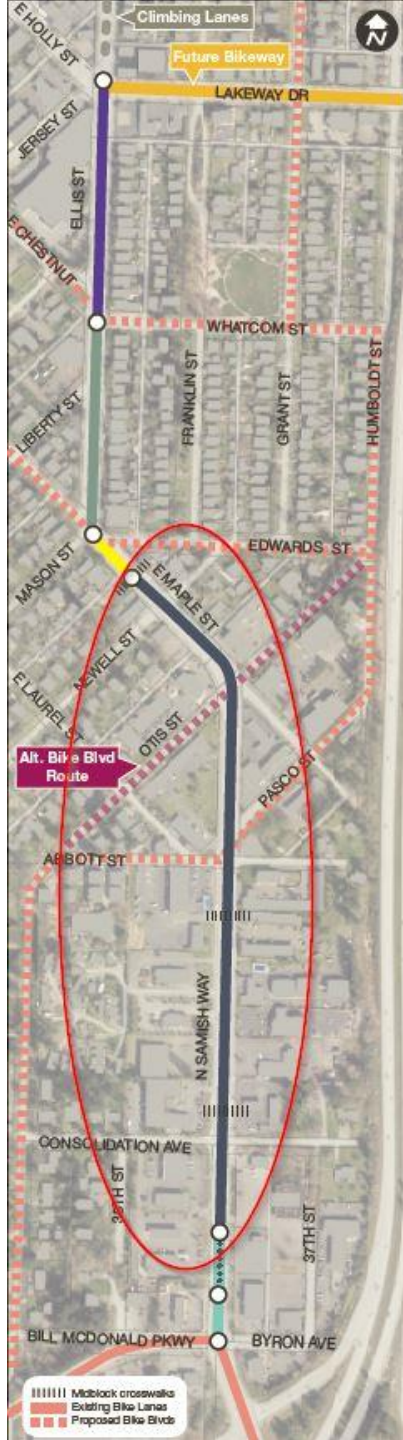
- **Bill McDonald Pkwy to Chestnut St:** 1 vehicle lane in each direction will be removed and replaced with **buffer-separated bike lanes**;
- **Chestnut St to Lakeway Dr and Cornwall Ave:** Vehicle lanes will be rechannelized for installation of **marked and buffered bike lanes**;
- **Bill McDonald Pkwy/35<sup>th</sup> St:** **Flashing crosswalk** installed across Bill McDonald Parkway between the Sehome Hagen and 35<sup>th</sup> Street, one of the busiest WTA bus stops serving WWU and Sehome High School;
- **Ellis St/Glastone St:** **Flashing crosswalk** installed across Ellis Street between York Neighborhood and Eleanor Senior Resident Apts; and,
- **Green bike boxes** installed at some signalized intersections where safety conflicts exist and bicycle connections are needed for people riding bikes.

See [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for study documentation, extensive public process, and transportation grant funding





## Corridor Segment 4



## MAPLE ST/215' E/O ELLIS ST TO (EAST OF MID-BLOCK XING) SAMISH WAY/ 300' N/O BILL MCDONALD PKWY

### Existing

56' curb-to-curb  
2 lanes NB, 2 lanes SB,  $\overline{CL}$   
Bus stop both sides



### Potential Options

A



Requires removal 1 NB and 1 SB travel lane

B



Requires removal 1 NB and 1 SB travel lane

C







Requires removal 1 NB and 1 SB travel lane



# Public Works Plan for Short-Term (2017-2020) and Long-Term (2021+)

## Connectivity of Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities between Puget Neighborhood and Downtown Bellingham

-  Bikeways (except red)
-  Trail connections
-  Intersection Improvements
-  Green Bike Boxes

### Mobility Barriers

2014 existing bicycle and  
intersection improvements

2015 - 2017 bicycle and  
intersection improvements

2018 bicycle and intersection  
improvements

2019 - 2020 bicycle and  
intersection improvements

Future unfunded links

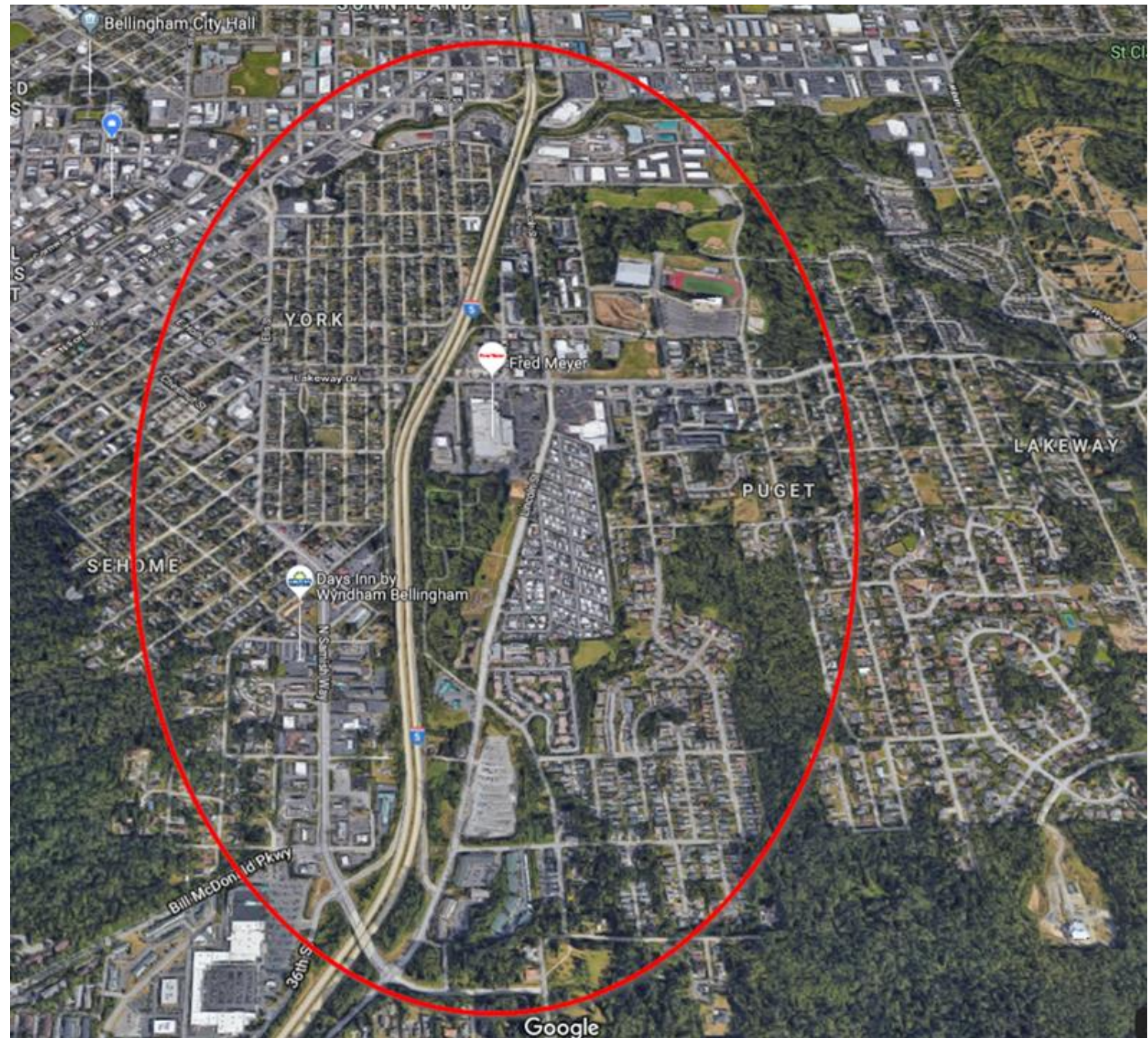
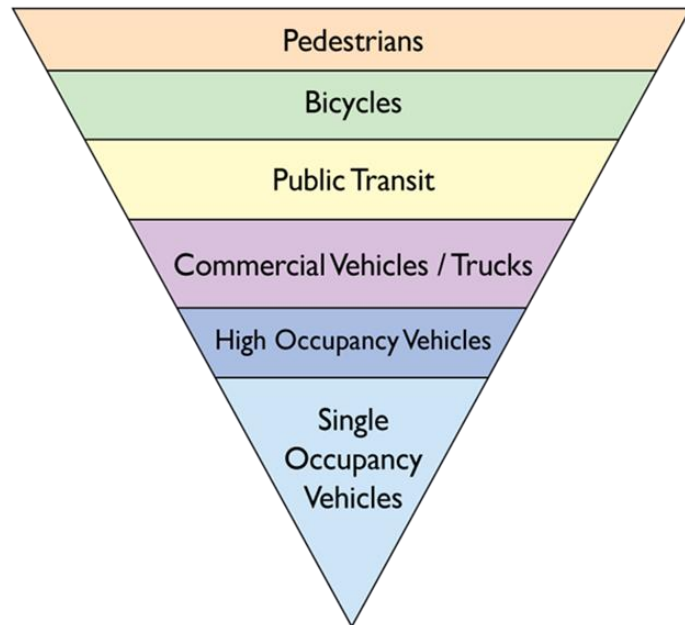




# 2020-2021 Lincoln-Lakeway Multimodal Transportation Study

Assessing existing & future conditions for:

- People walking
- People biking
- People walking to bus stops
- People driving vehicles





# Why Are We Doing This Study Now?

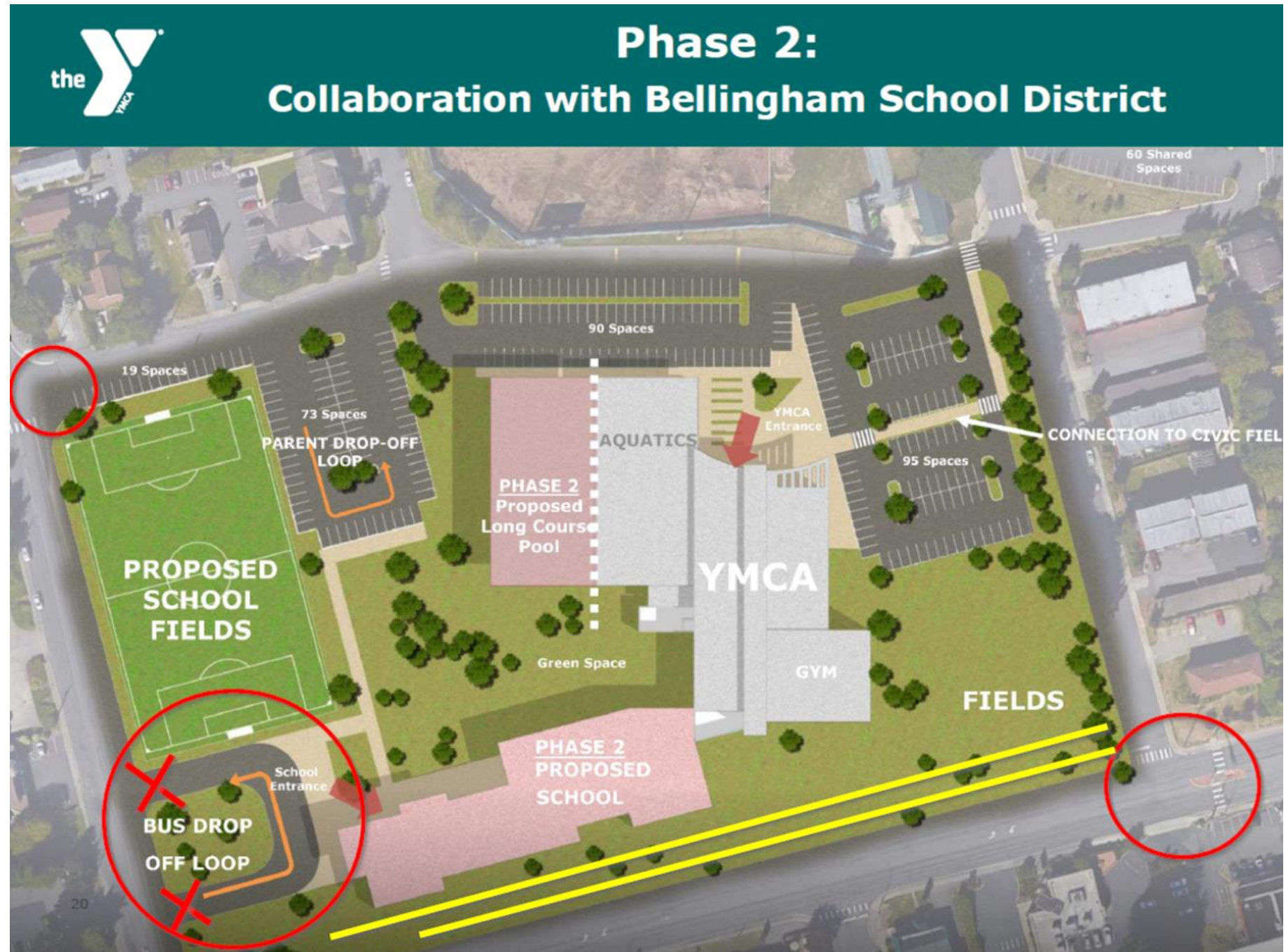
- YMCA Proposal Presented to Bellingham City Council in June 2019 – *Pre-COVID*
- Relocate YMCA from downtown to Civic Field
- Major transportation impacts at Lincoln/Lakeway, as well as surrounding streets.





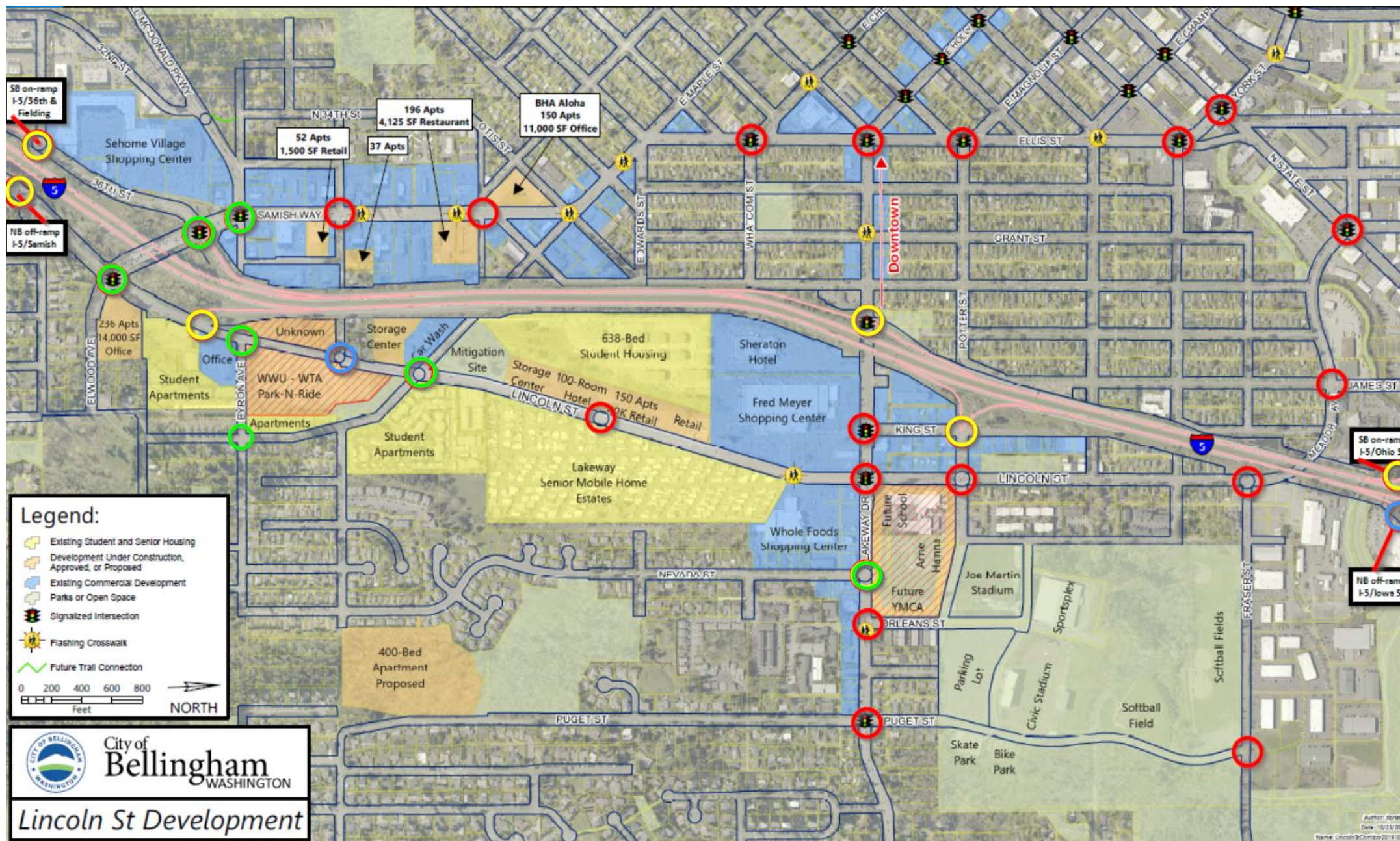
# But Wait! There's More .....

- Carl Cozier Elementary School will need to be reconstructed in mid-2020's and Bellingham School District is interested in a longer competitive swim pool
- This, combined with significant development already approved along Lincoln Street, N. Samish Way, and in surrounding neighborhoods led to **Lincoln-Lakeway Study**





# Lincoln-Lakeway Multimodal Transportation Study Area





## resources

- [Lincoln-Lakeway Study Survey PDF - English \(Survey Closed\)](#)
- [Lincoln-Lakeway Study Survey PDF - Español \(Encuesta Cerrada\)](#)

## Community Outreach Efforts

- Citywide Press Release Issued May 11
- Online Survey link on project web page, also available in Spanish
- Survey link emailed to six City Neighborhood Associations including Puget, Samish, Sehome, York, Downtown, Whatcom Falls
- Online Survey link emailed to Sudden Valley Community Association
- Paper copies mailed to Lakeway Estates Senior Mobile Home Park
- WWU Community Relations sent survey link to student apartments

# Community Survey: May 11 – June 1, 2020

## [Community Survey Report – August 2020](#)

- 11 Questions, Plus Comments
- **558 Survey Responses**
- Focus on 4 Transportation Modes
  - Pedestrian
  - Bicycle
  - Public Transit
  - Private Vehicles
- **Highest Improvement Needs/Concerns**
  - Sidewalks, Crossing Signals, Crosswalks
  - Bicycle facilities, Separated from Vehicles
  - Safe, accessible transit stops/shelters
  - Reduce vehicle traffic congestion
- **Discussion of Trade-Offs**
  - Urban densities beget urban amenities
    - *(Sidewalks, bike lanes come with more people)*
  - City can't build its way out of traffic congestion
    - *(Competition for limited physical street space)*

# Future Transportation Improvements Being Studied in Lincoln-Lakeway Multimodal Transportation Study

## **New Traffic signals at:**

- Lincoln/E. Maple
- N. Samish/Abbott
- N. Samish/Consolidation
- Lincoln/WWU Park-N-Ride (*maybe*)

## **New HAWK signal / Flashing crosswalk at:**

- Lincoln/Viking Circle

## **New or Enhanced Bikeways on:**

- **Lakeway Drive: Puget beneath I-5 to Ellis**
- Lincoln Street: Elwood to Lakeway
- N. State Street: York to Ohio

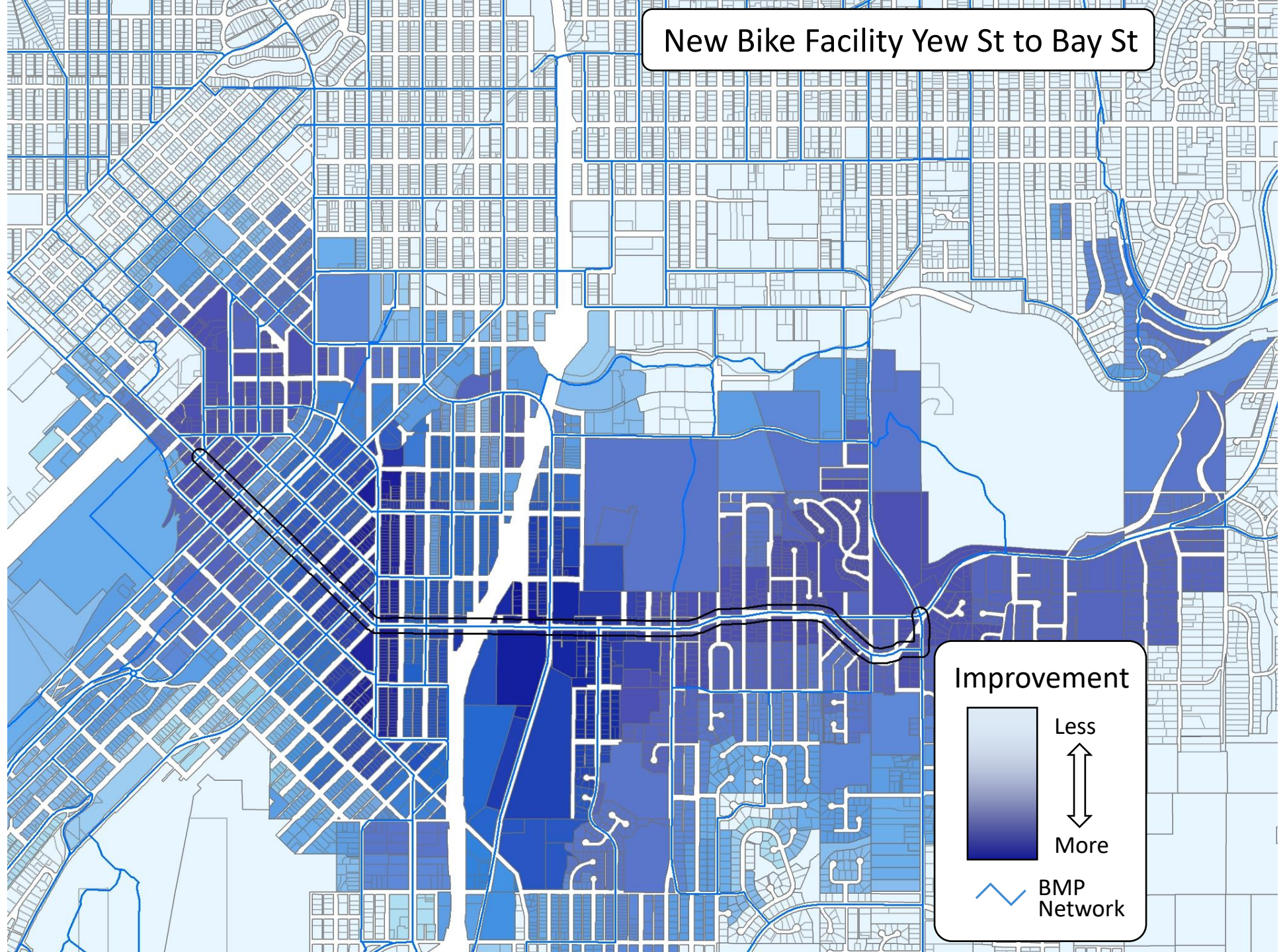
## **Future Feasibility Analysis for:**

- Possible safety Improvements at:
  - Lincoln/Lakeway intersection
  - Lakeway/King intersection
  - Lincoln/Potter intersection
  - Lakeway/Orleans intersection
- Possible driveway realignments at:
  - Fred Meyer Gas & Grocery
  - Whole Foods Grocery
- Possible traffic circulation changes at:
  - Lakeway/King intersection
  - I-5 northbound on/off-ramps
- Others Yet To Be Determined



## New Bike Facility Yew St to Bay St

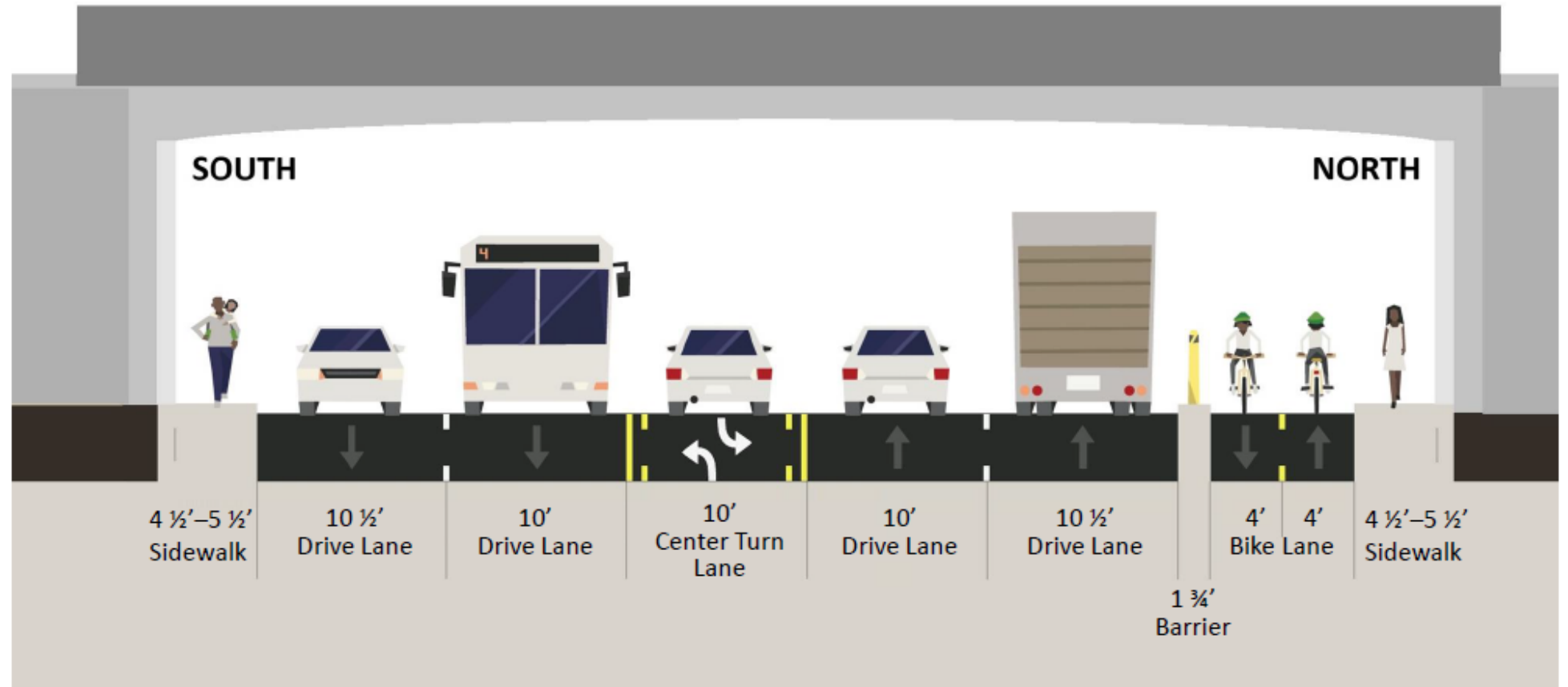
- **Lakeway Drive Bikeway from Puget to Ellis**
- **Ranked #2 of 185** individual projects in Bellingham Bicycle Master Plan
- 2016-2017 Bike Feasibility Study from Yew to Ellis
- Several bike links and crossings constructed from 2017-2019
- Western portion Puget to Ellis needs further study and support for bikeway under I-5





- **Lakeway Drive Beneath I-5**
- Recommended by City Bikeway Study
- Posted 25 mph
- Requires WSDOT to accept urban arterial lane widths rather than State Highway lane widths
- Lakeway is a city street, not just a freeway interchange
- Practical Solution
- Multimodal Street
- Complete Network
- Safety for Vulnerable Users on Bikes
- Helps Mode Shift and VMT Reduction

# Lakeway Under Interstate 5



# Lincoln-Lakeway Multimodal Transportation Study - What's Next?

- Intersection Traffic Counts
  - October 13-16, 2020
- Existing Conditions Report
  - October-November 2020
- Neighborhood Meetings
  - October-November 2020
- “[Engage Bellingham](#)” platform →
  - November-December 2020
- Future Transportation Modeling
  - December 2020-February 2021
- Stakeholder Interviews
  - Yet to be determined, 2021
- Future Improvement Recommendations
  - April-May 2021
- Transportation Grant Applications
  - Beginning June 2021 and beyond

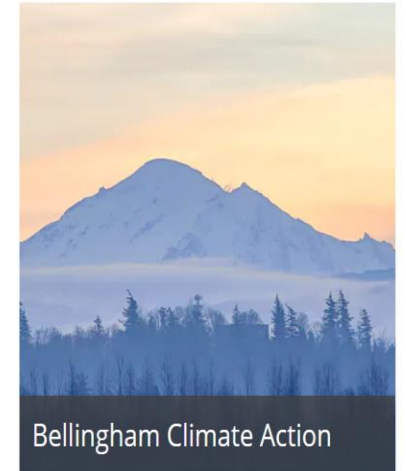


Engage Bellingham

Click on the tiles below to learn about projects, provide feedback and connect with staff. Register today to take advantage of all of the site's engagement opportunities!



[Click Here To Register!](#)





# Transportation Plans & Implementation

## Resources on City of Bellingham web site

[Multimodal Transportation Chapter – 2016 Bellingham Comprehensive Plan](#) = GMA 20-Year Plan

[2021-2026 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) = Annual 6-Year Plan for Capital Improvements

[2012 Pedestrian Master Plan](#) = Citywide sidewalks and crossing improvements

[2014 Bicycle Master Plan](#) = Citywide bikeways and crossing improvements

[2020 Transportation Report on Annual Mobility \(TRAM\)](#) = Annual Progress Report on Implementation

[Transportation Fund Story Map](#) = Online, interactive, graphic illustration of all above

**Questions or more information please contact:**

**Chris Comeau, AICP-CTP, Transportation Planner**

Bellingham Public Works Engineering

360.778.7946 [ccomeau@cob.org](mailto:ccomeau@cob.org)

