



SR68
SCENIC ROUTE 68
Corridor Improvements Project

Scenic Route
68 Corridor
Improvement
Project



From the Beginning...



The Transportation Safety and Investment Plan: June 2016

- cornerstone for the passage of Measure X
- identified the need to address safety issues and improve traffic flow along State Highway 68.

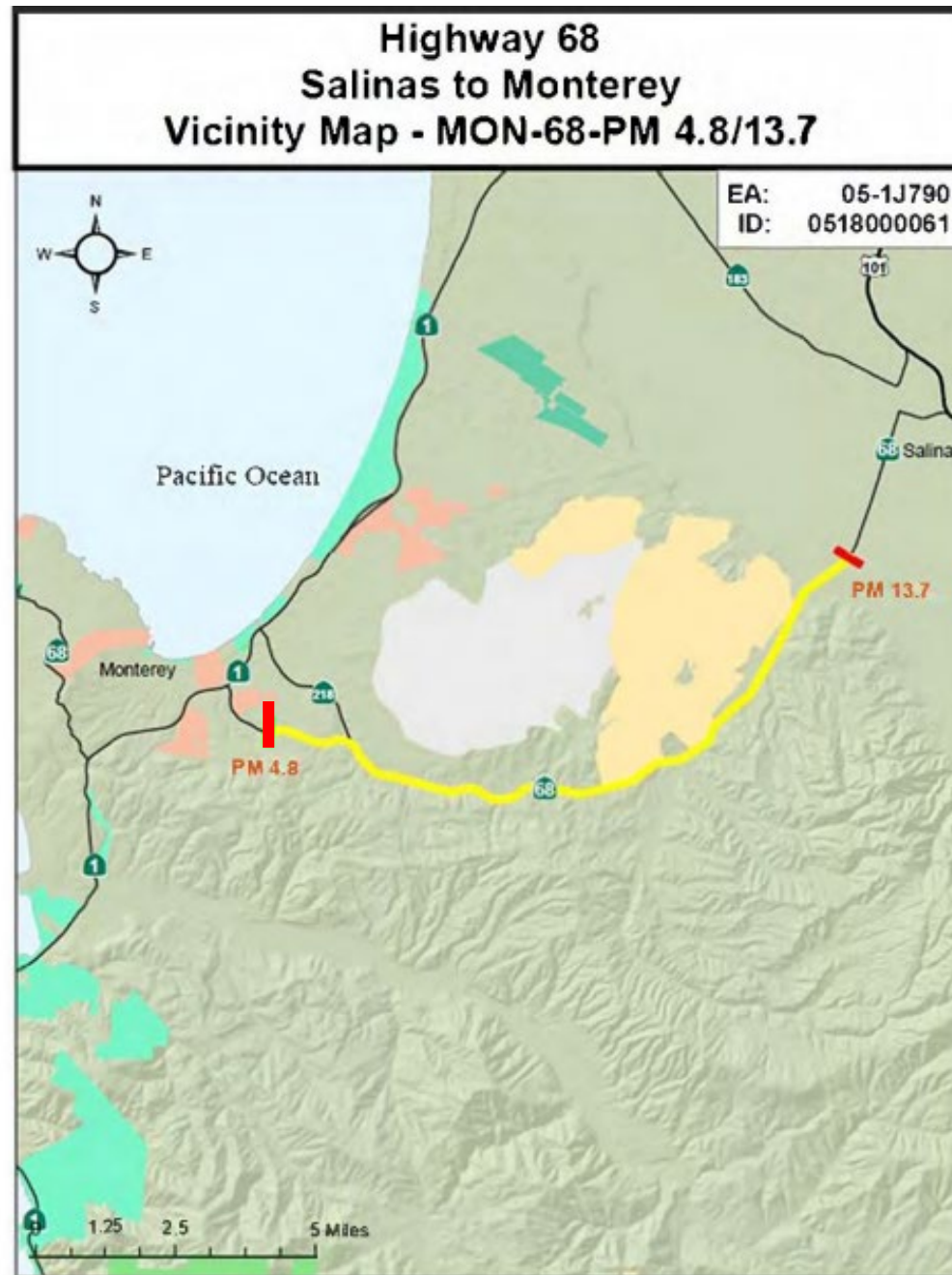
The Scenic Route 68 Scenic Highway Plan: August 2017

- *...the regional importance of the SR 68 corridor combines with its diminishing quality of service has been a key issue for Caltrans, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), the County of Monterey and cities along the corridor.*
- *...SR 68 can serve as a barrier to wildlife attempting to cross between habitats on each side of the highway*

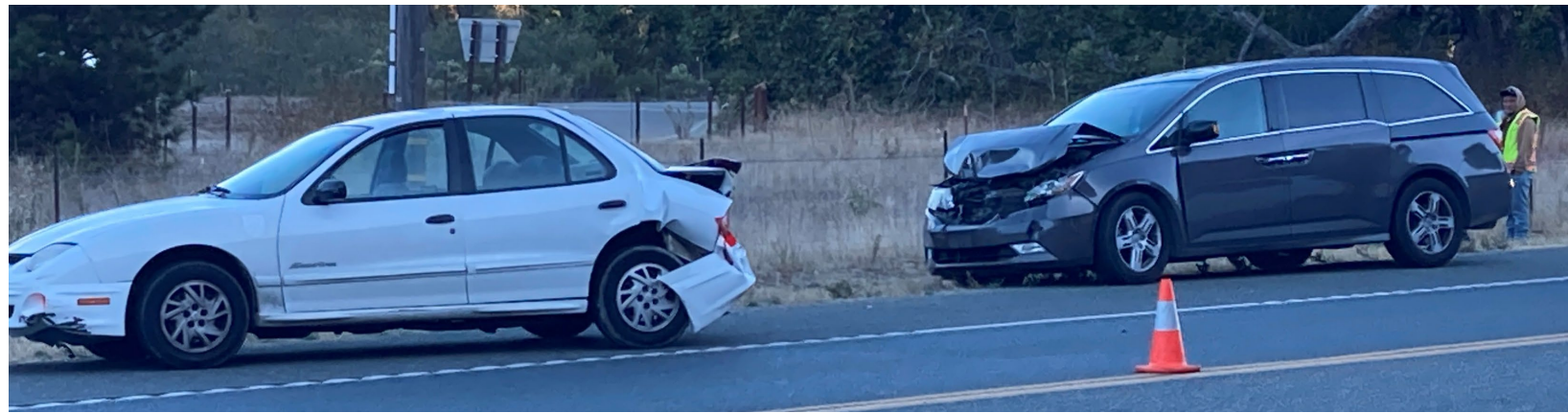
The Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project

- identifies traffic improvements and wildlife crossings along the nine signalized intersections between Josselyn Canyon Road and San Benancio Road.

Project Study Area



Project Objectives



1. Address safety concerns
2. Improve traffic flow
3. Connect wildlife

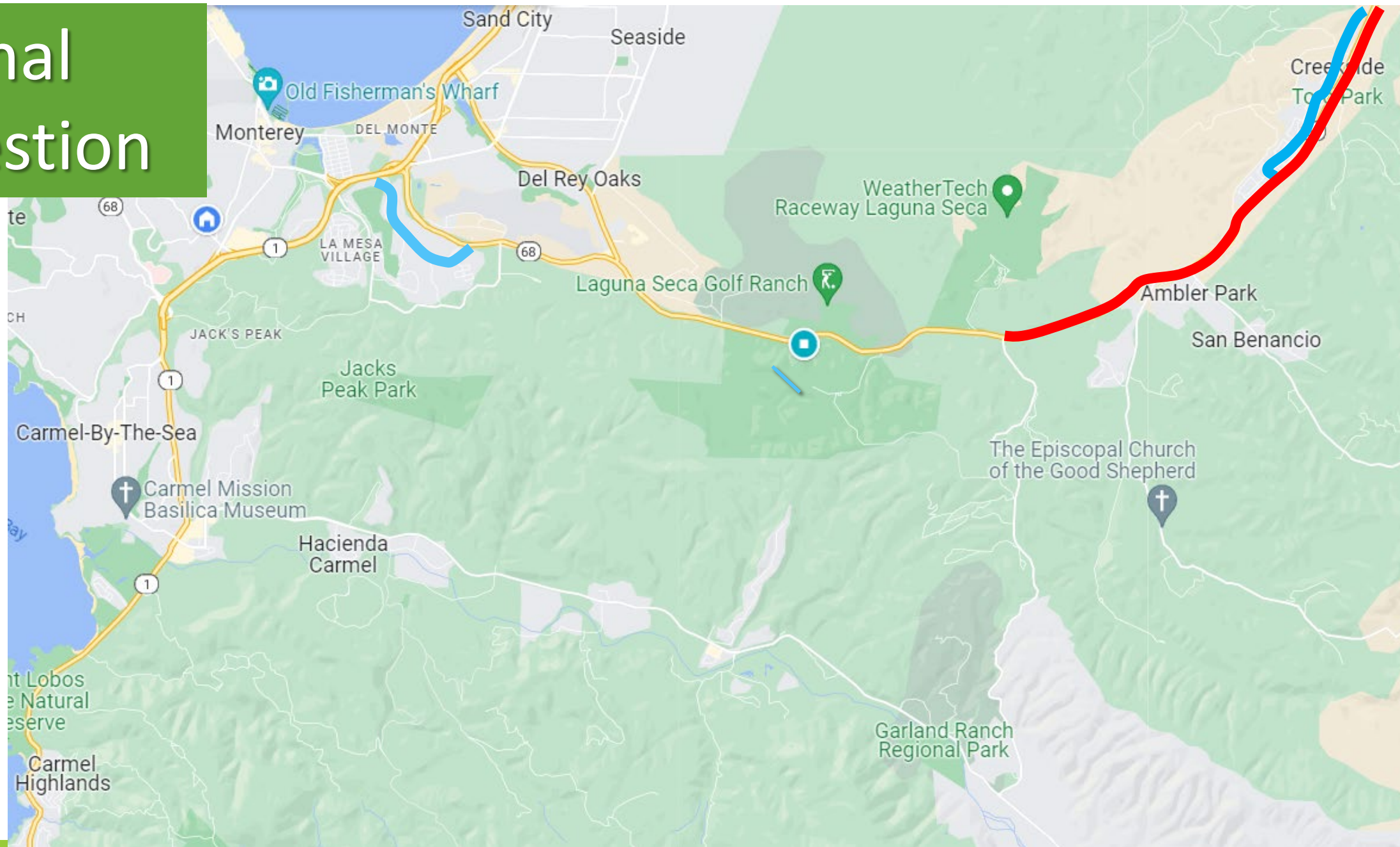


Do we need to
do something on
Highway 68?



Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project

Regional Congestion



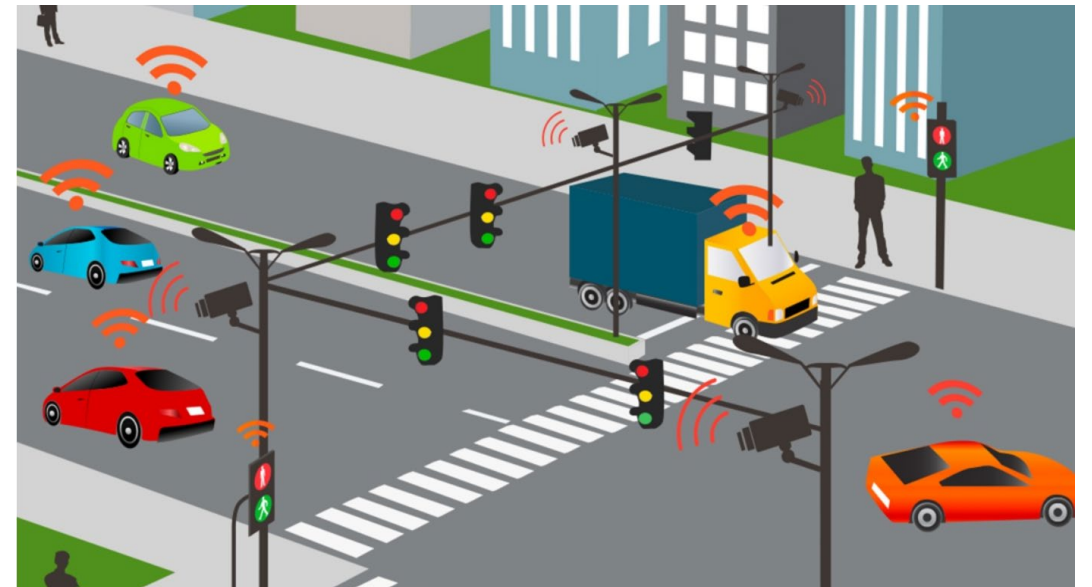
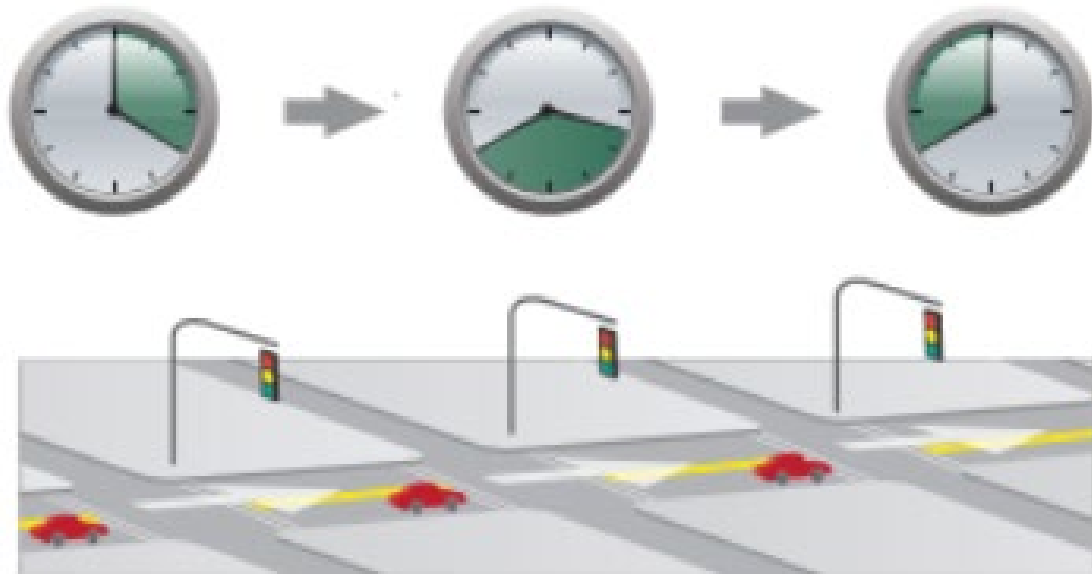
Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project

Getting the Most With What We Have: Implement Adaptive Signal Control Now



What Can Adaptive Signals Do?

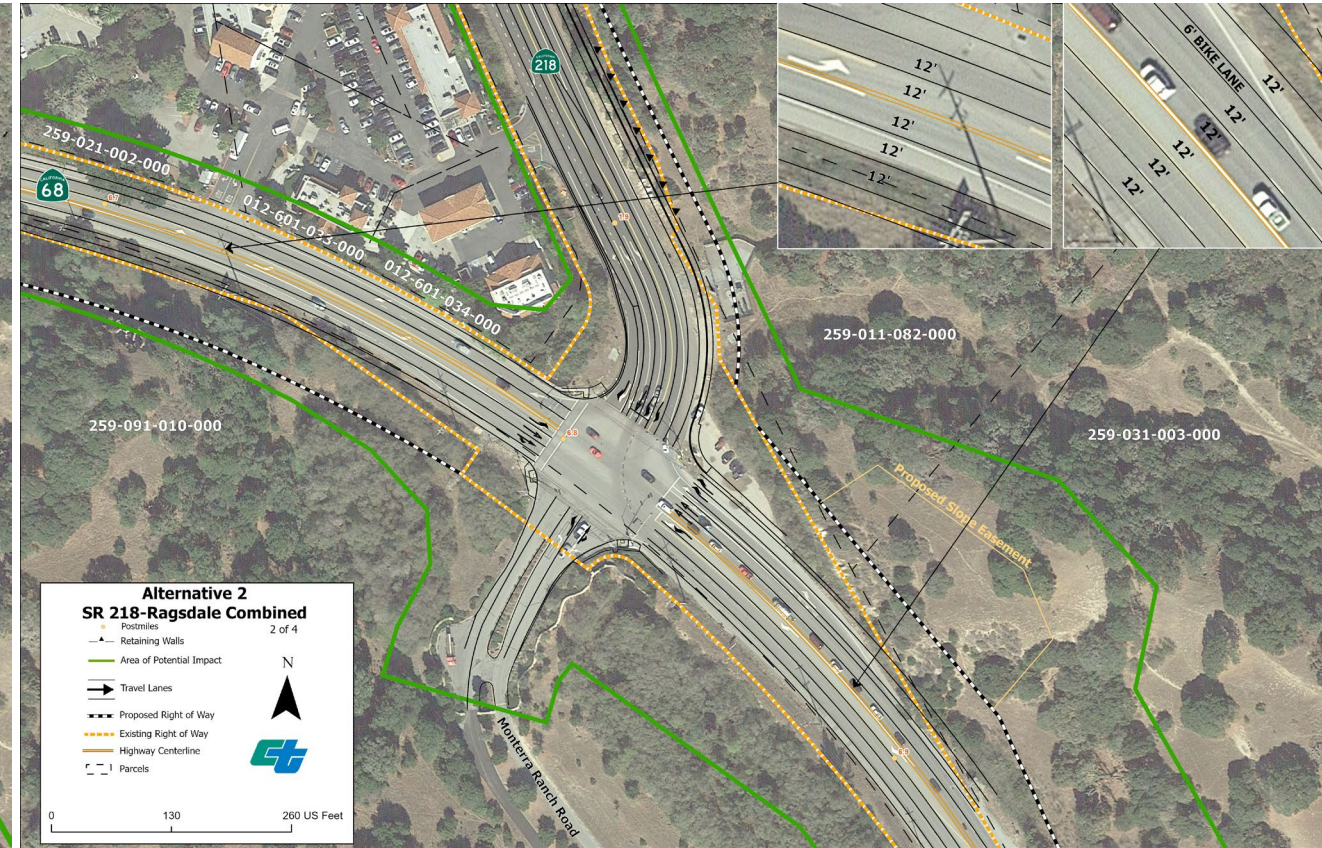
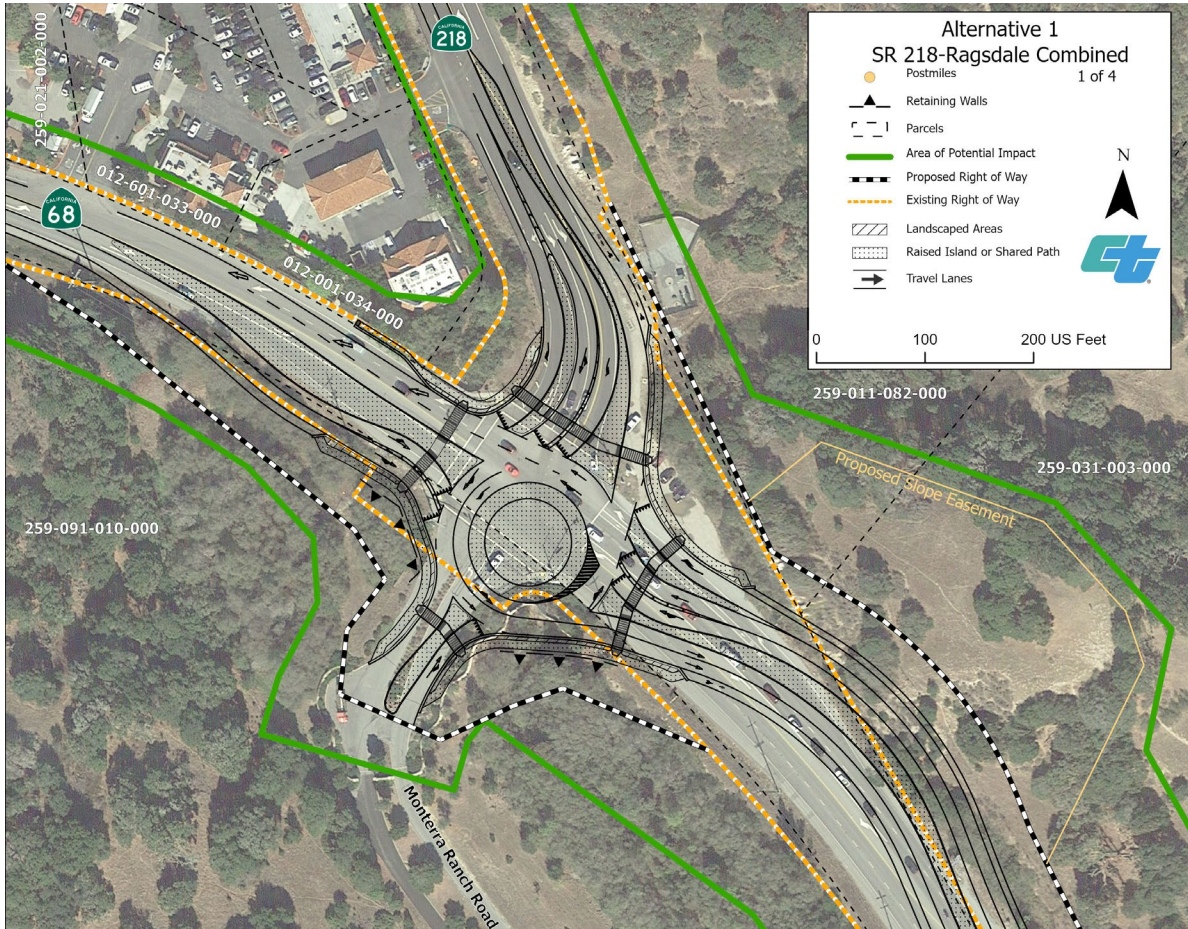
- They coordinate the green lights to serve the primary traffic flow
- They adjust coordination patterns as traffic flows change
- Takes time from side street to better serve mainline



We Still Need a Long-Term Solution

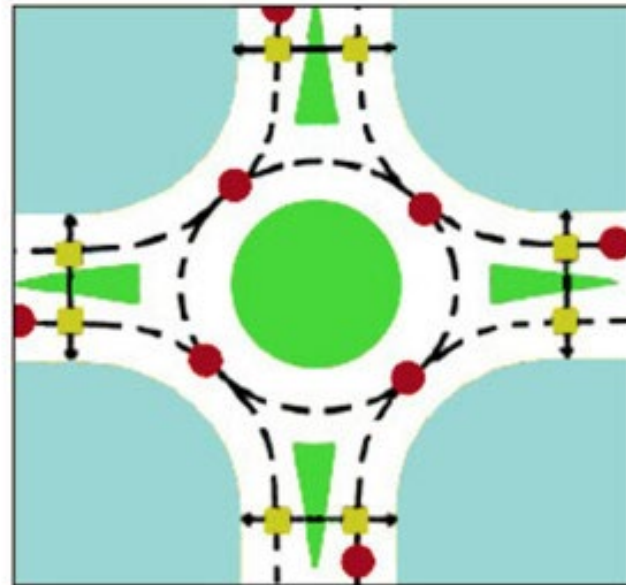
ALTERNATIVE 1: ROUNDABOUTS

ALTERNATIVE 2: SIGNAL MODIFICATION



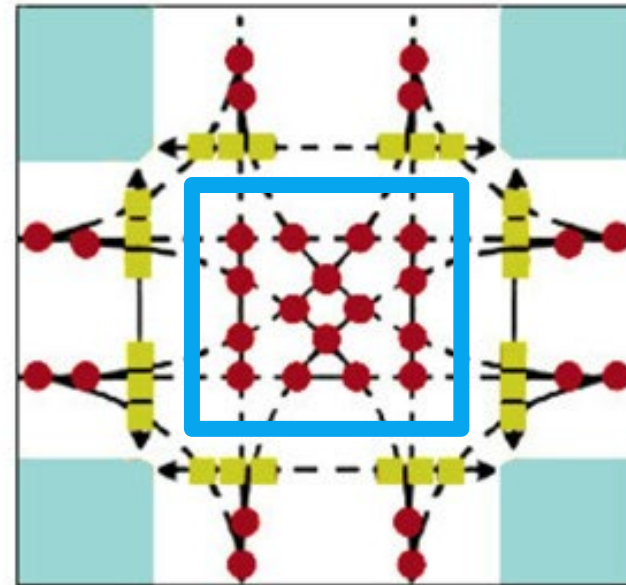
Conflict points

Roundabout



- 8 Vehicle conflicts
- 8 Pedestrian conflicts

Intersection



- 32 Vehicle conflicts
- 24 Pedestrian conflicts

Issues with Signals



- Coordination good in one direction
- Serves only 2 non-conflicting movements at a time
- 10%-20% “Lost Time” and inefficient use of green time
- Environmental impacts and high cost

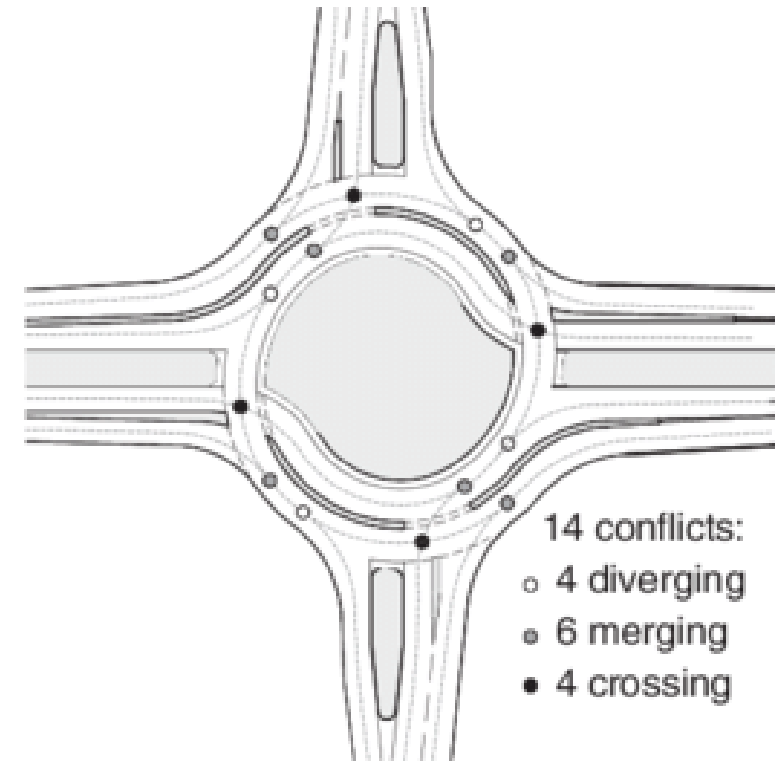
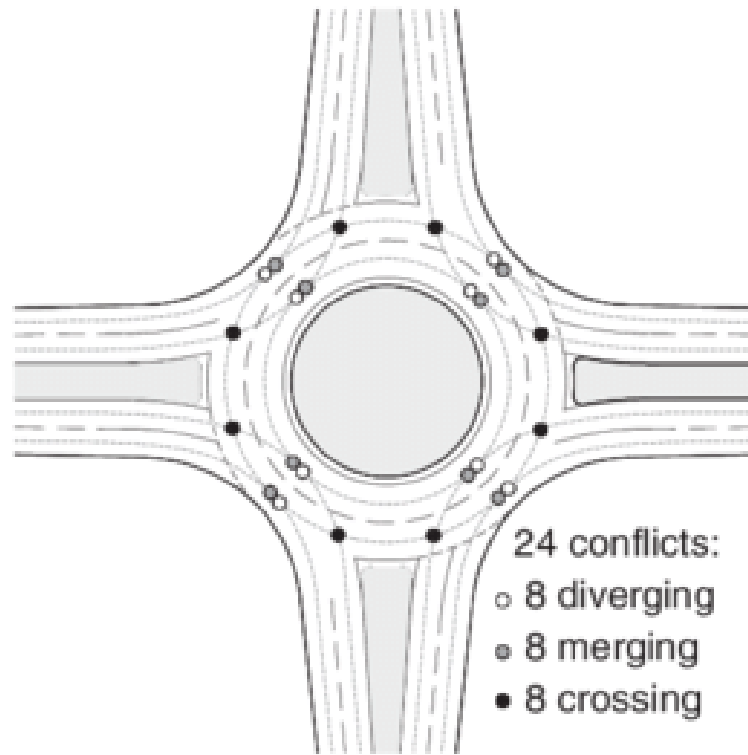
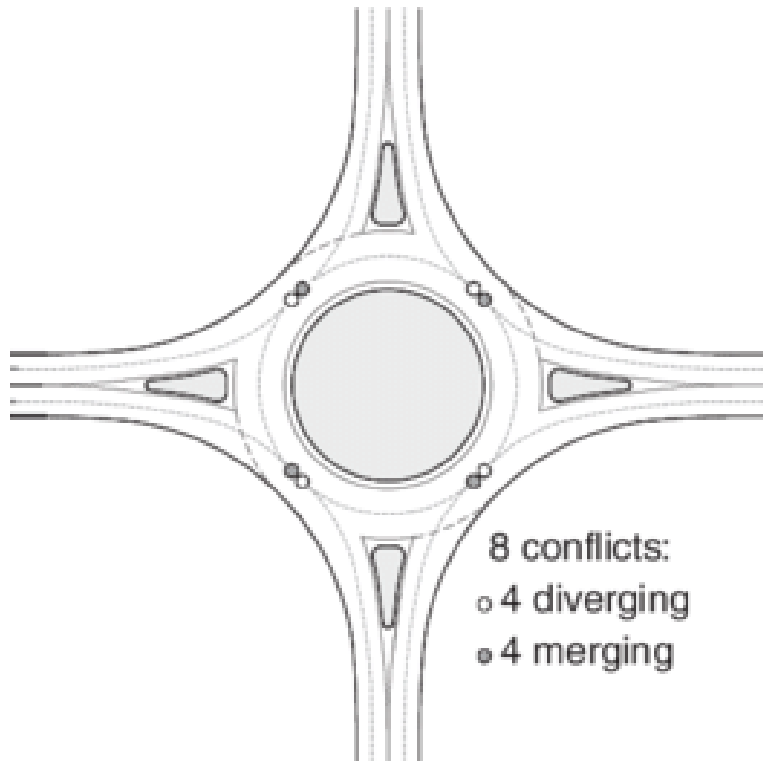
Issues with Roundabouts



- Side street waits for gaps to enter
- Always slows down traffic- even when traffic is very light
- Slows down emergency vehicles
- Environmental impacts and high cost

Roundabout Design

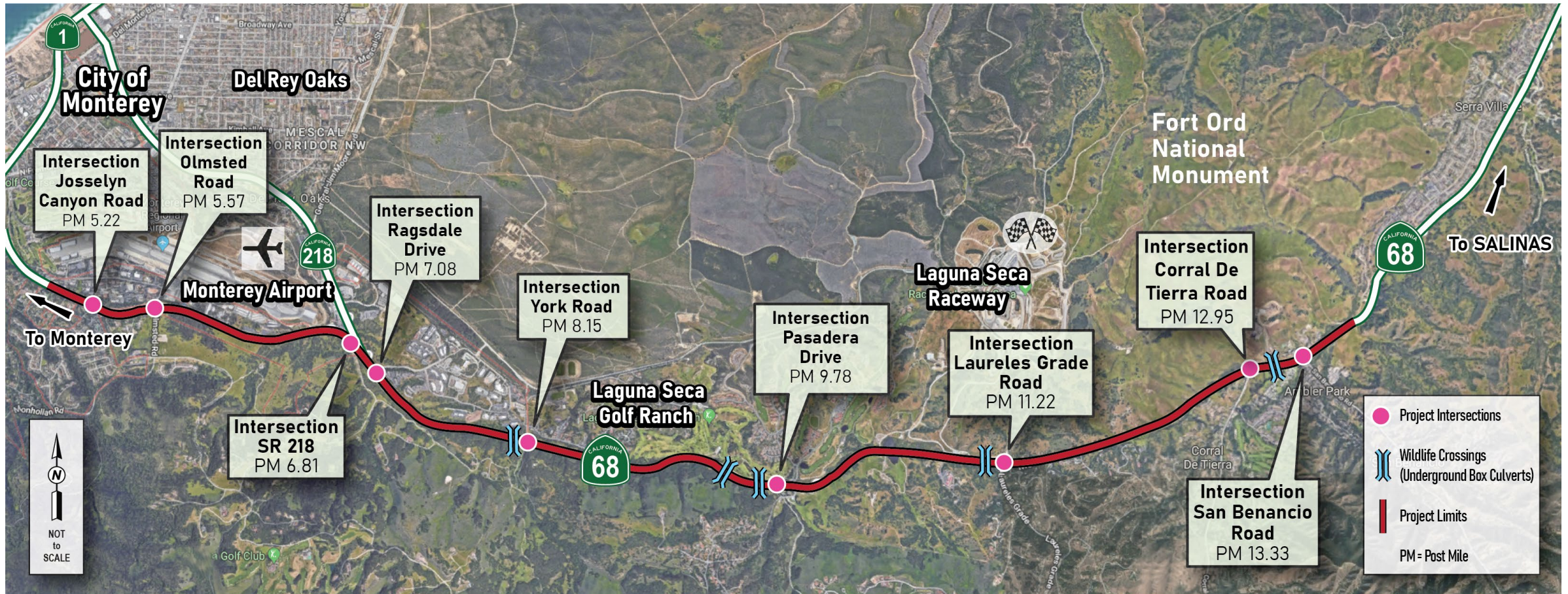
Single-Lane, Multilane and Hybrid



Why Hybrids Now?

- Hybrid design added to first phase
- Builds on the success of the Holman Highway Project
- Design started prior to new Highway Design Manual
- Will be evaluated in the Final Environmental Document

Wildlife Crossings: 5 new, 3 upgrades



Wildlife Crossings:



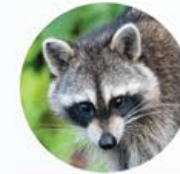
WILDLIFE OBSERVED AT CROSSINGS



BOBCATS



DEER



RACOONS



COYOTES



OPOSSUMS



RABBITS



SKUNKS



GRAY FOXES



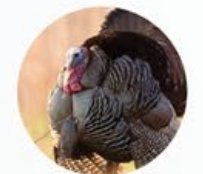
RED TAILED
HAWKS



CALIFORNIA
QUAIL



GREAT
HORNED OWL

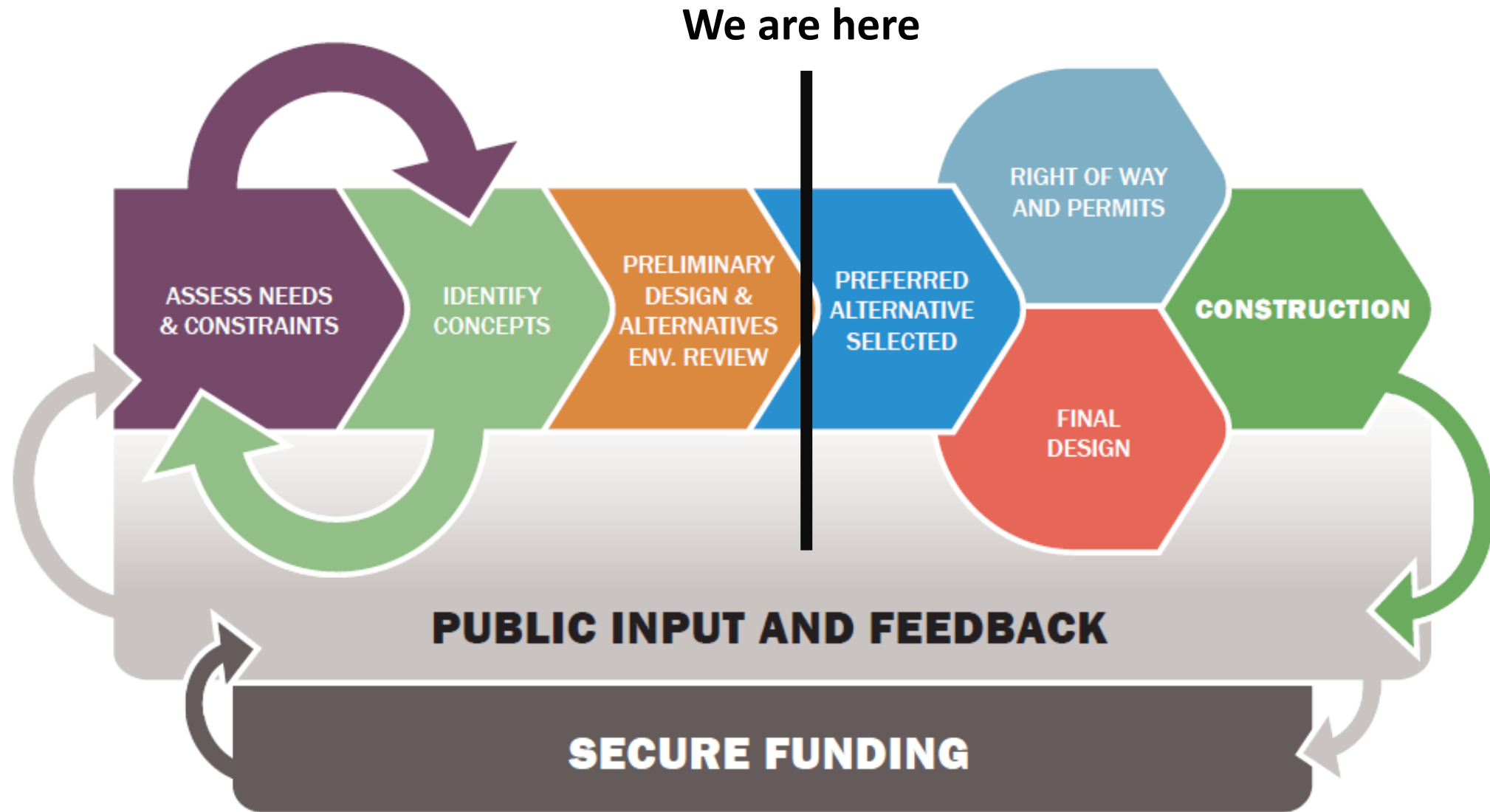


WILD
TURKEYS

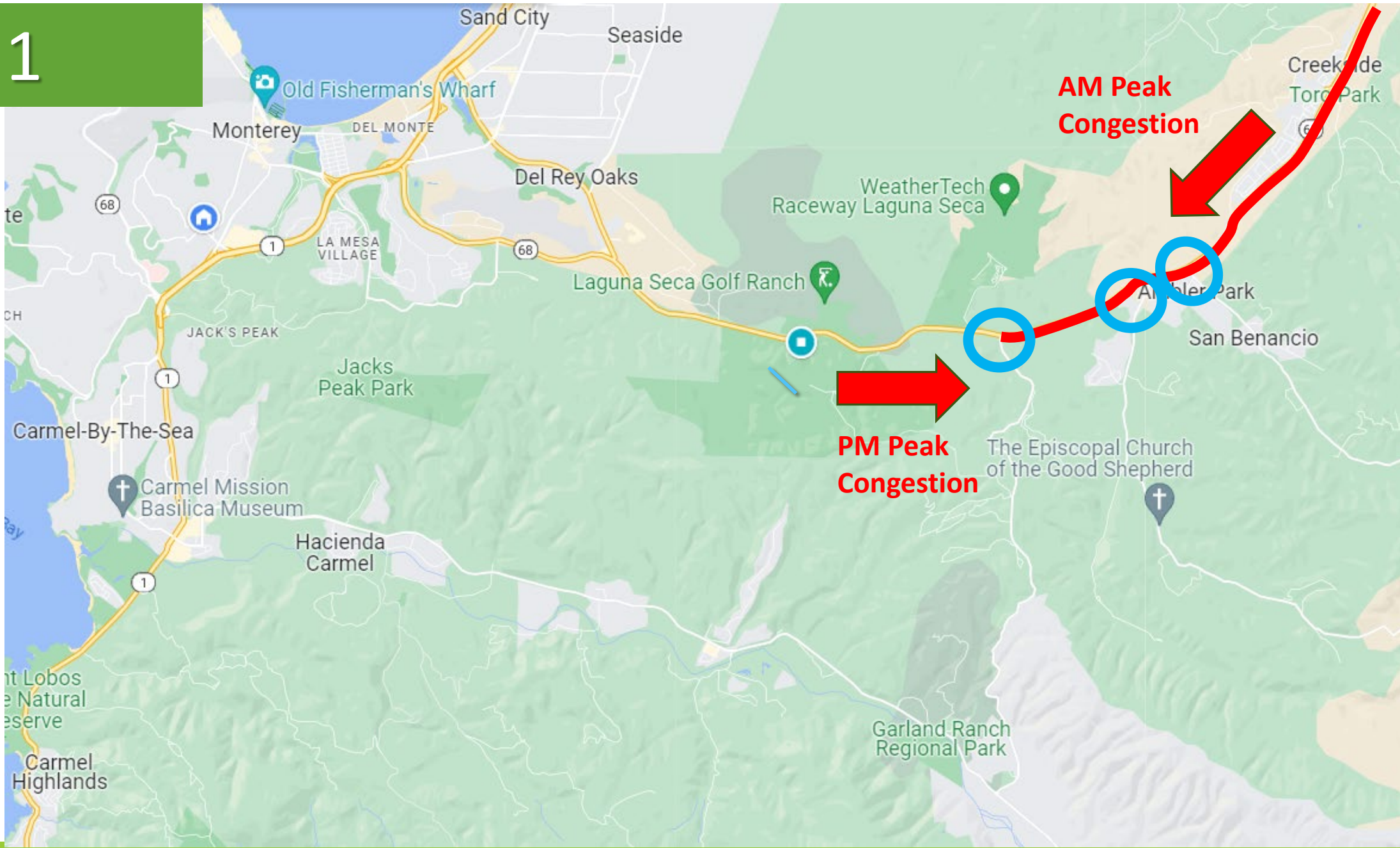
Extensive Community Engagement Effort



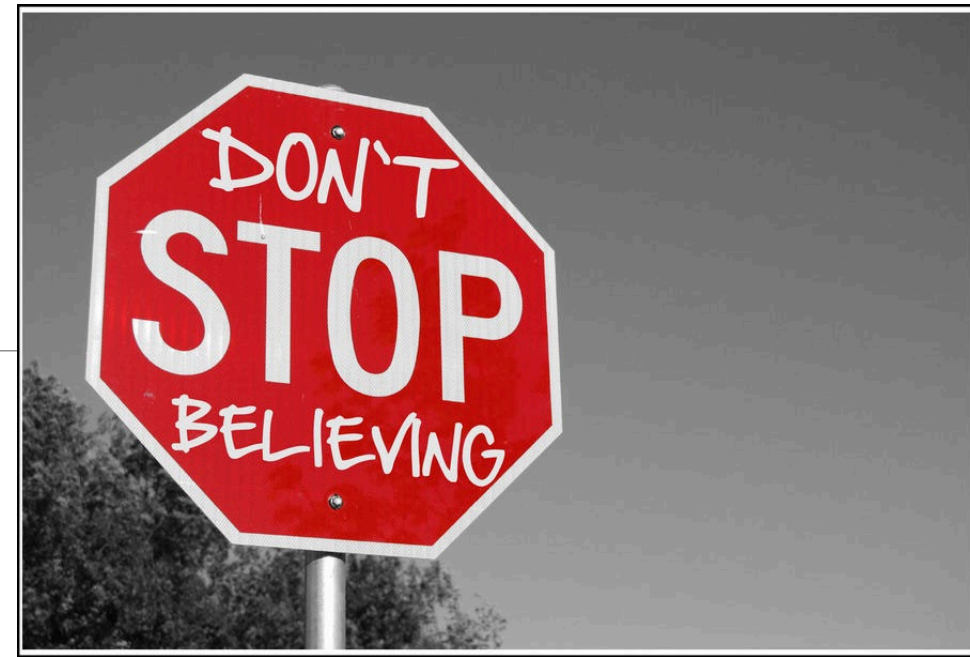
STAGES TO DELIVERING PROJECTS



Phase 1



Next Steps



- Assist Caltrans implement Adaptive Signal Pilot Project
- Complete work on preferred alternative (roundabouts)
- Complete final design on Phase I and look for funding opportunities
- Work with Toro Park community to resolve cut-through traffic

Staff Recommendation:



AUTHORIZE the Executive Director to submit recommendations to Caltrans for the project to:

1. Select Alternative 1 (Roundabouts) as the preferred project alternative that best meets the project objectives;
2. Identify and pursue funding for a Phase I that includes improvements to the intersections at San Benancio Road, Corral de Tierra, and Laureles Grade and constructs associated wildlife crossings;
3. Ensure that roundabout designs for Alternative 1 (the preferred alternative) enable upgrades to hybrid roundabouts for the Phase I intersections;
4. Continue to work with emergency responders to address project impacts on emergency response times; and
5. Request that Caltrans pursue interim operational improvements along the corridor focused on signal coordination including a pilot project to implement adaptive signal operations.

Questions