WTA RAPID TRANSIT CORRIDOR STUDY

04/06/2023 Board Meeting

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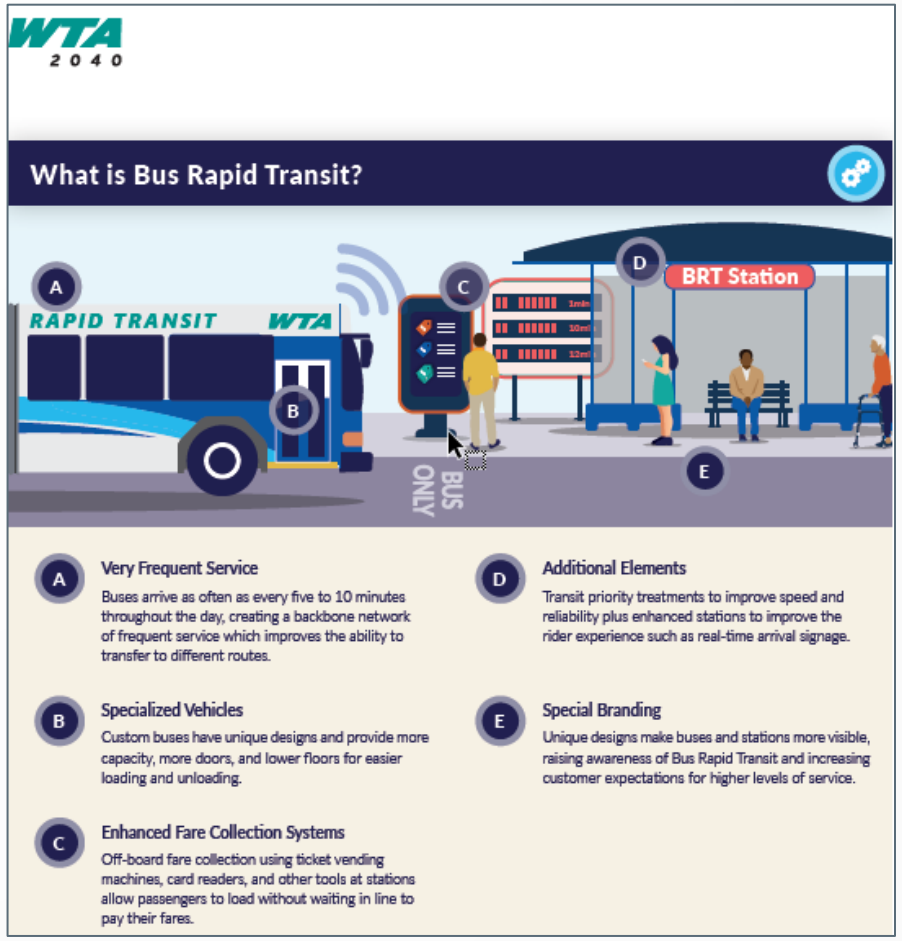
WHAT TRANSPORTATION CAN BE.

BACKGROUND

- Board's Discussion on Transformation
- Project recommended in WTA 2040
- Study included in 2022 budget
- WTA-City of Bellingham Partnership
- Consultant-led (Transpo)
- Technical Advisory Committee



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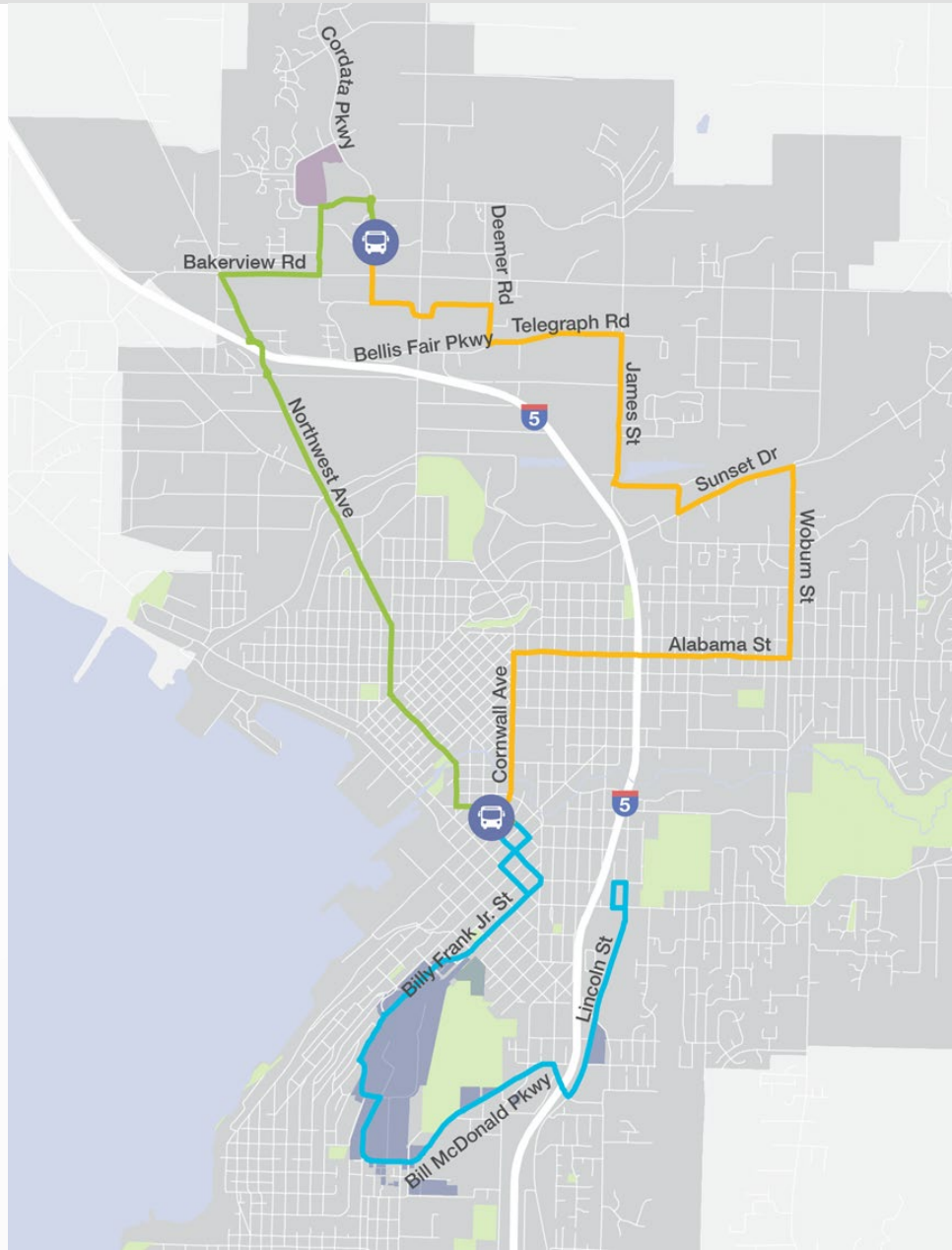
PURPOSE

- Improve riding experience for all
- Determine feasibility of building a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line
- Evaluate two corridors – Green/Blue & Gold Go Lines
- Identify short term speed & reliability improvements
- Eligibility for federal & other grants
- Community engagement & support



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RAPID TRANSIT DEFINITION

COMMON BRT ELEMENTS

Very Frequent Service (10 minutes or less)

60-Foot Articulated Buses

Efficient Boarding Process

Transit Street Treatments

Special Branding

BRT FIELD TRIP

A RANGE OF STREET DESIGNS FOR BUSES

- Shared lanes
- Business Access Transit (BAT) lanes
- Bus/bike lanes
- Queue jumps
- Dedicated curbside bus lane
- Median bus ways

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ROUTE 120/H LINE STREET REDESIGN

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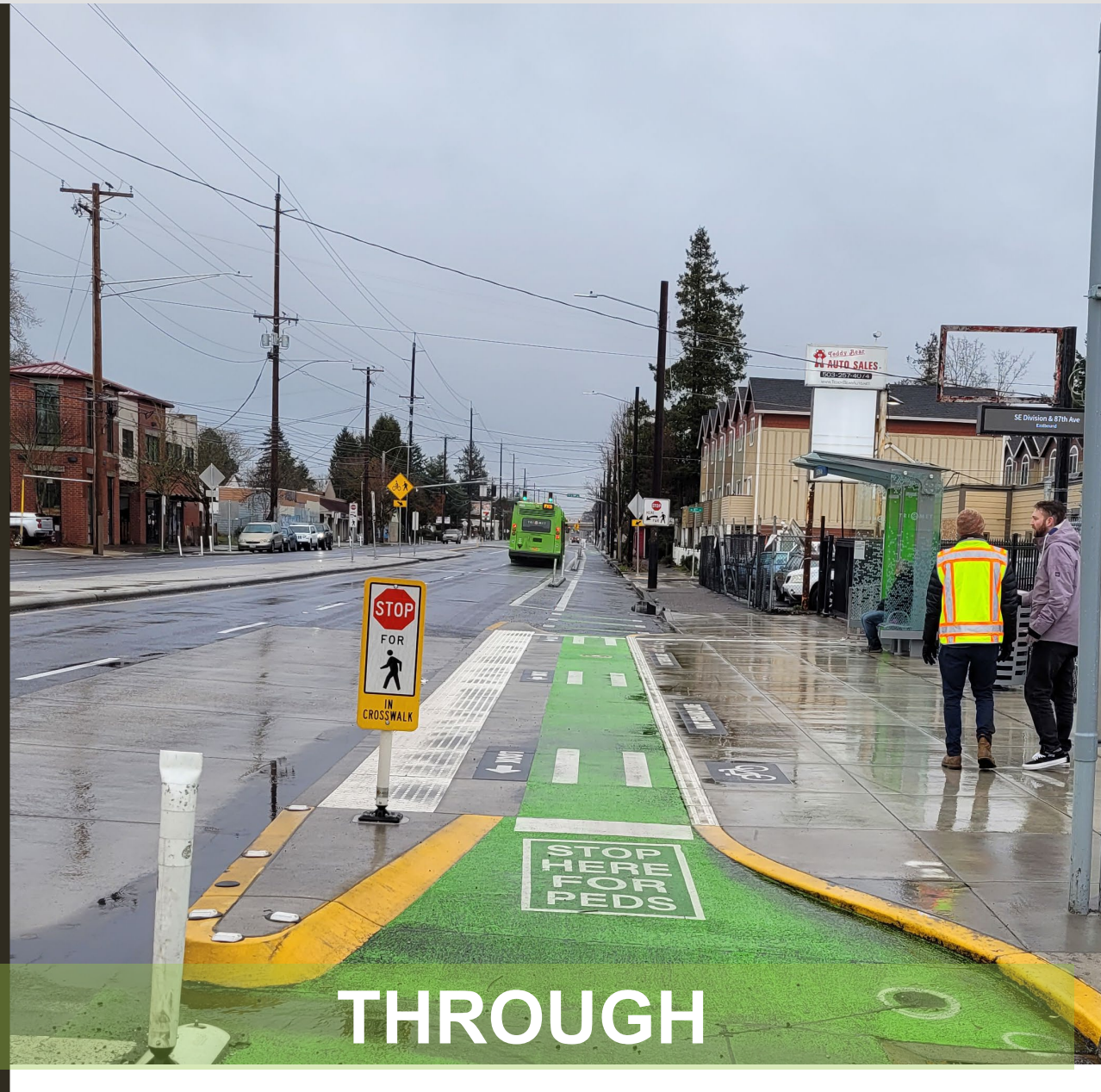
TRIMET (PORTLAND) BIKE LANE CONFIGURATIONS



PARTNERSHIPS

- Local jurisdictions
- Developers
- Utility Companies
- Businesses
- General Public
  - Community input
  - Education

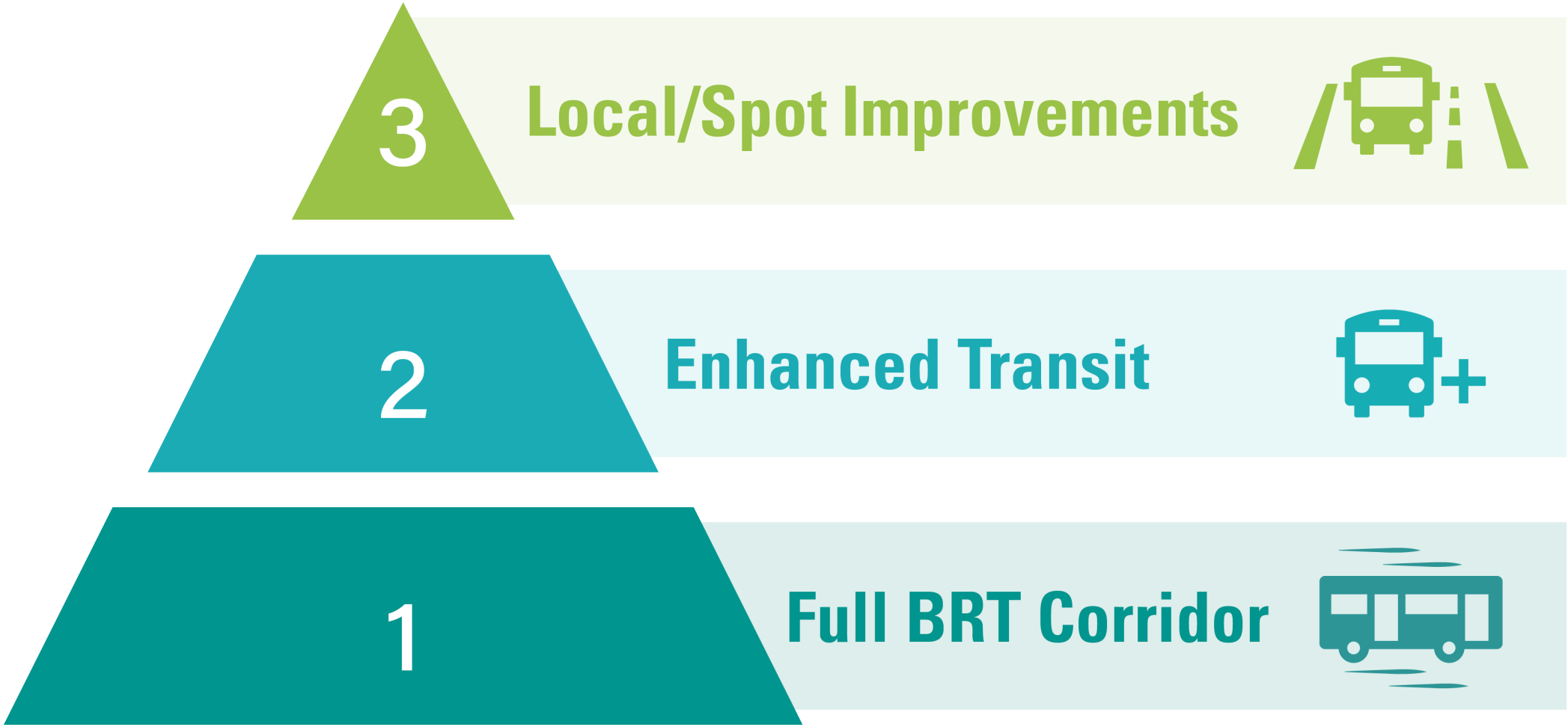
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

- Massive infrastructure projects
- All stops transformed into costly stations
- Street configuration adjustments
- Limited eminent domain to meet local/federal standards

RETHINKING APPROACH TO BRT

- Shift from capital intensive corridor projects to smaller scale improvements
  - Time (7-10 years to BRT)
  - Cost
  - Suitability for BRT
- BRT is evolving concept

TIERED BRT DEFINITION



TIER 1 – FULL BRT CORRIDOR

Service Frequency

- 10 min or less frequency weekdays
- 30 min or less on weekends
- Late night service

Street Design Treatments

- Dedicated transit, BAT lanes or bus/bike lanes
- Transit signal priority & queue jumps

Land Use

- Mixed-Use
- Near TOD

Stops

- Optimized stop spacing
- Level boarding
- Amenities (bike lockers, bike share, pedestrian lighting, enhanced crossings, mobility hubs)
- Branded vehicles and stops
- Off-Board/No Fare Payment
- Real-time bus information

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TIER 2 – FULL BRT CORRIDOR

Service Frequency

- 10 minutes or less frequency for majority of the day (weekdays)
- 30 min or less on weekends
- Late night service

Street Design Treatments

- Dedicated transit, BAT lanes or bus/bike lanes
- Transit signal priority & queue jumps

Land Use

- Mixed-Use
- Near TOD

Stops

- Optimized stop spacing
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings
- Off-Board/No Fare or Multiple on-board readers for both door loading
- Real-time bus information
- Branded vehicles and stops
- Level boarding
- Amenities (bike lockers, bike share, pedestrian lighting, enhanced crossings, mobility hubs)

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TIER 3 – LOCAL/SPOT IMPROVEMENTS

Strategic, Localized Improvements

- Transit signal priority & queue jumps
- Off-Board/No Fare or Multiple on-board readers for both door loading
- Real-time bus information
- Other localized improvements at key hot spots

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GOALS

GOALS

Improve safety and comfort for bus operations, riders and other transportation system users

Provide for more efficient transit operations along corridor

Use transit to increase access to opportunities along corridor

CASCADING EVALUATION EXAMPLE

GOAL

Provide for more efficient transit operations along corridor

OBJECTIVE

Maintain or improve on-time performance for transit

MEASURES

- Opportunity to consolidate stops
- Transit Signal Priority effectiveness
- Opportunity to add business access/transit lanes

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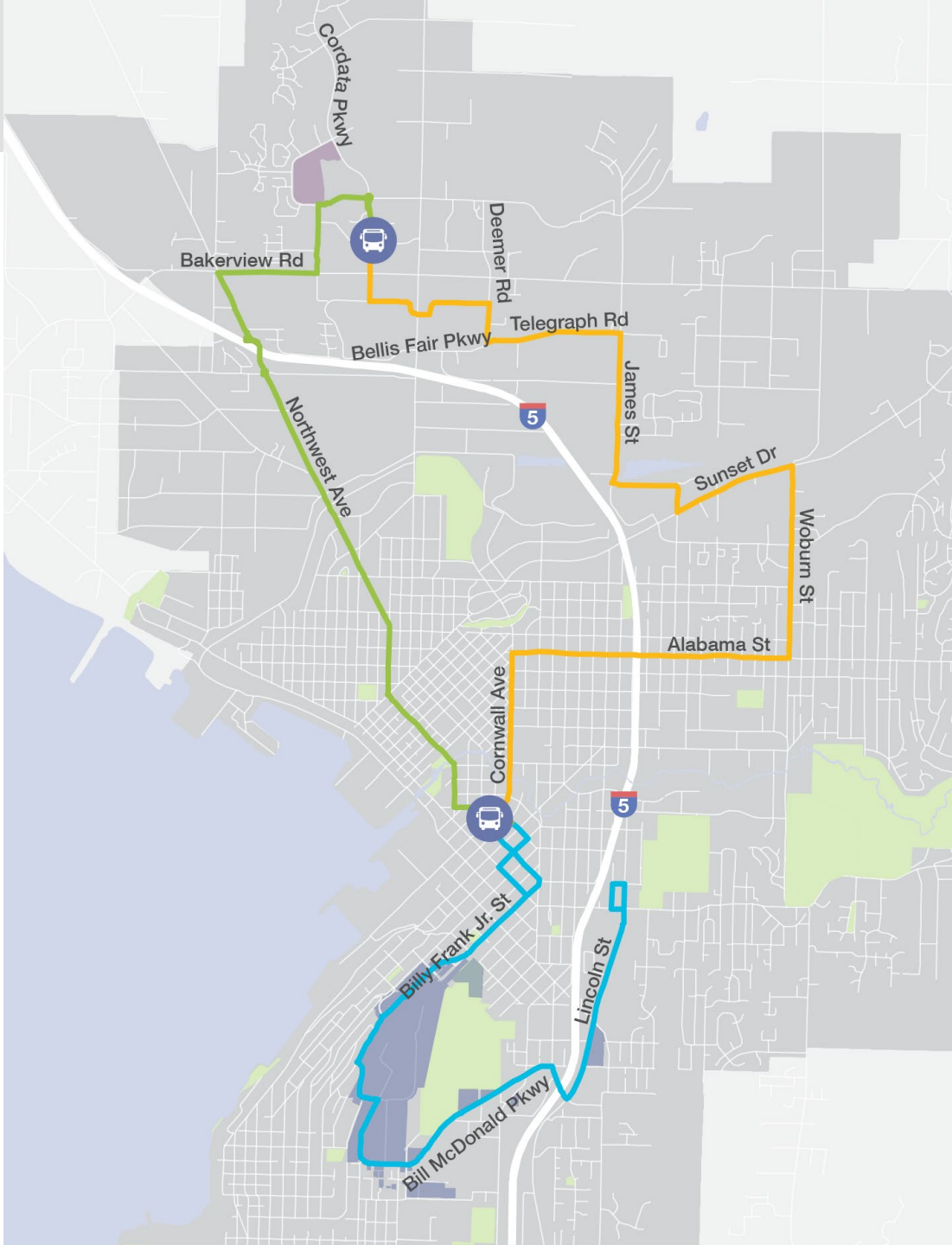
CORRIDOR REVIEW AND HOT SPOTS

Mapping Analysis

INITIAL KEY FINDINGS

- Green/Blue corridor:
  - Limited ROW
  - More direct alignment
  - Major constraint is thru WWU
- Gold corridor:
  - Limited ROW
  - Transit supportive development opportunities
  - Will need substantial street improvements



HOT SPOT EXAMPLES

WOBURN NEAR HAGGEN

HIGH STREET NEXT TO VU

NEXT STEPS

TAC Meeting Follow-up Work

Transpo/WTA Refine Corridor Analysis and up to 5 Near-term improvements

TAC Coordination

Share information through webpage

Meeting 3 – Final Recommendations & Near-term Improvements

Consultant Work

Final Alternatives analysis

Near-term Priorities & Concepts

Community Engagement

Online Engagement Platform Project (under construction)

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QUESTIONS?