



Whittier Moves Transportation Master Plan

TAC Meeting No. 2

JANUARY 2026

Agenda



- ① **Introductions**
- ② **TAC Roles**
- ③ **Whittier Moves Overview**
- ④ **Prioritization & Evaluation**
- ⑤ **Project Development Overview**
- ⑥ **Group Project Development Activity**
- ⑦ **Next Steps**



Planning Team Introductions



Scott Maybrier, Project Manager

Judy Chapman, Planning Lead



CITY OF
WHITTIER
ALASKA

Jackie Wilde, City Manager

Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager



Renee Whitesell, PTP, Project Manager

Marie Heidemann, Sr. Transportation Planner

Kendal Ramage, Transportation Planner

Talli Vittetoe, Public Involvement



Pat Cotter, AICP, Senior Planner

Maija DiSalvo, Staff Planner

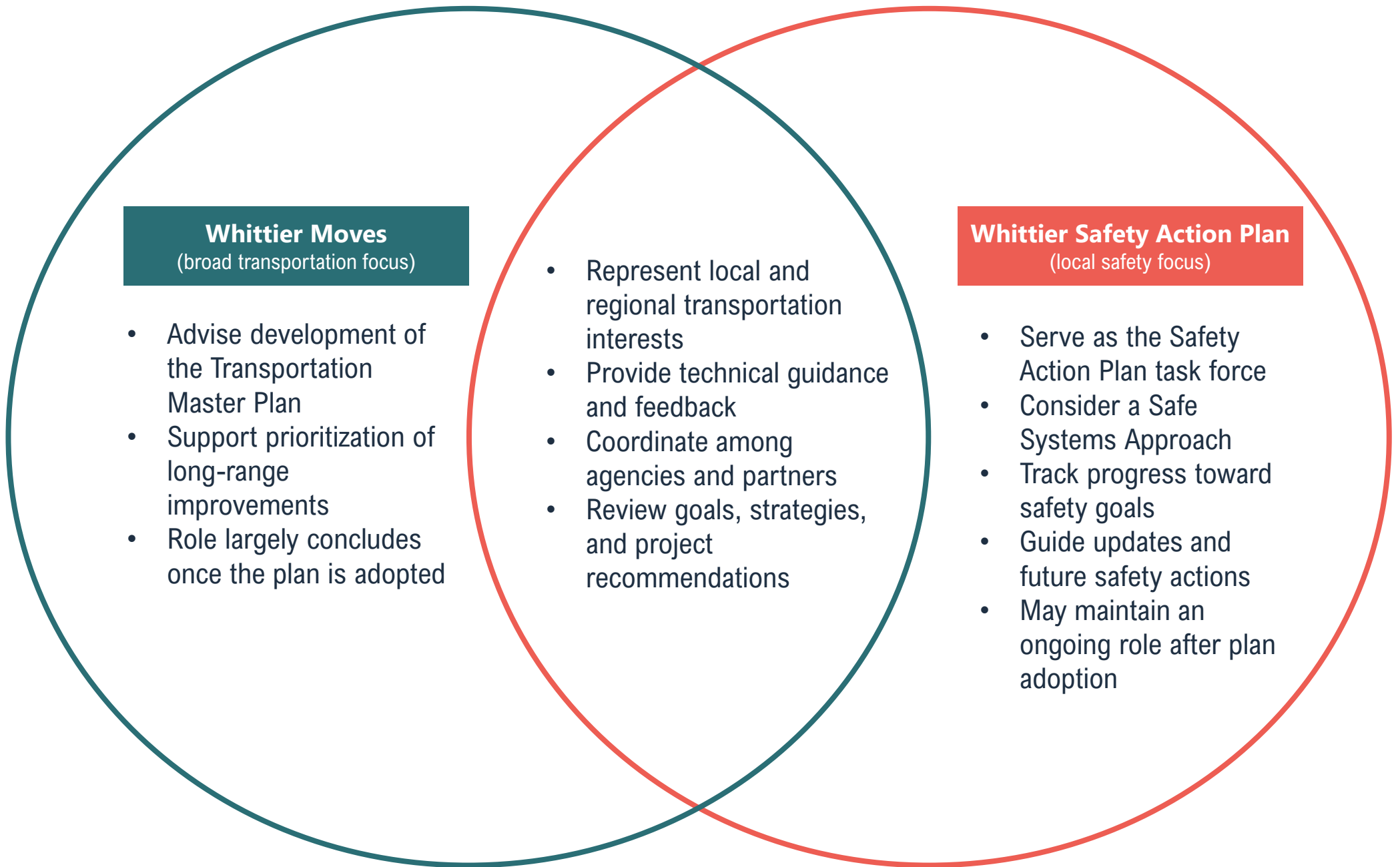
Let's Get to Know You

Please share the following:

- Your Name
- Your Role
- One improvement you'd love to see for Whittier's transportation system



Your Role as a Technical Advisory Committee Member



Whittier Moves Overview



What is Transportation Master Planning?



Transportation Master Planning is...

- A **long-term vision** for how a community's transportation system should grow and improve.
- A process that **gathers input** from residents, businesses, and stakeholders.
- A way to **identify priorities** (safety, access, connectivity, economic growth, environmental concerns).
- A **coordinated framework** that guides future funding, design, and policy decisions.
- A tool to **balance needs** for all users: drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, transit, freight.
- A plan that can **be updated** based on community input and needs.

Transportation Master Planning is not...

- A **construction plan** with specific projects ready to build right away.
- A plan created **behind closed doors** without community involvement.
- A guarantee that **every idea or project** will be funded and built.
- A **short-term “to-do list”** for maintenance or quick fixes.
- A plan focused only on **one mode** of travel.



Objectives



Establish a Transportation Vision: Define a clear and compelling vision for Whittier's future transportation system that aligns with the City's strategic goals and future land use.



Explore Funding Options: Identify and evaluate innovative funding opportunities to support the realization of transportation improvements.



Identify Incremental Improvements: Outline specific improvement projects that support future usage needs and improve movement to and between the various activities within the City of Whittier.



Practical Implementation: Provide an actionable plan that remains relevant and usable, with the use of short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5 years and beyond) timescales.

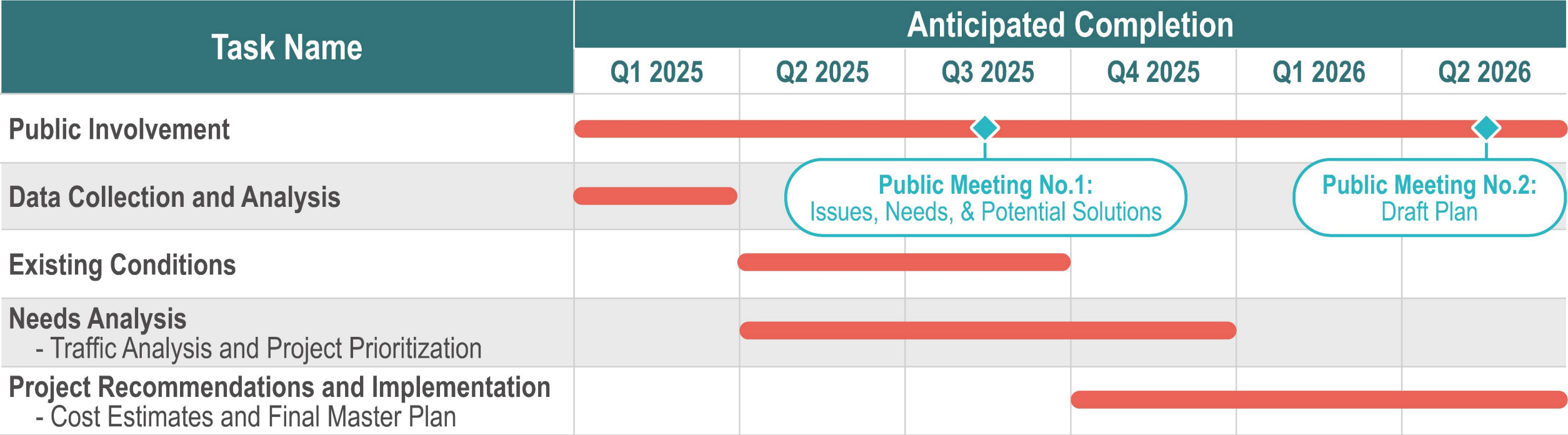


Incorporate Stakeholder Input: Incorporate a plan that actively gathers and uses feedback from a broad range of stakeholders and the public.

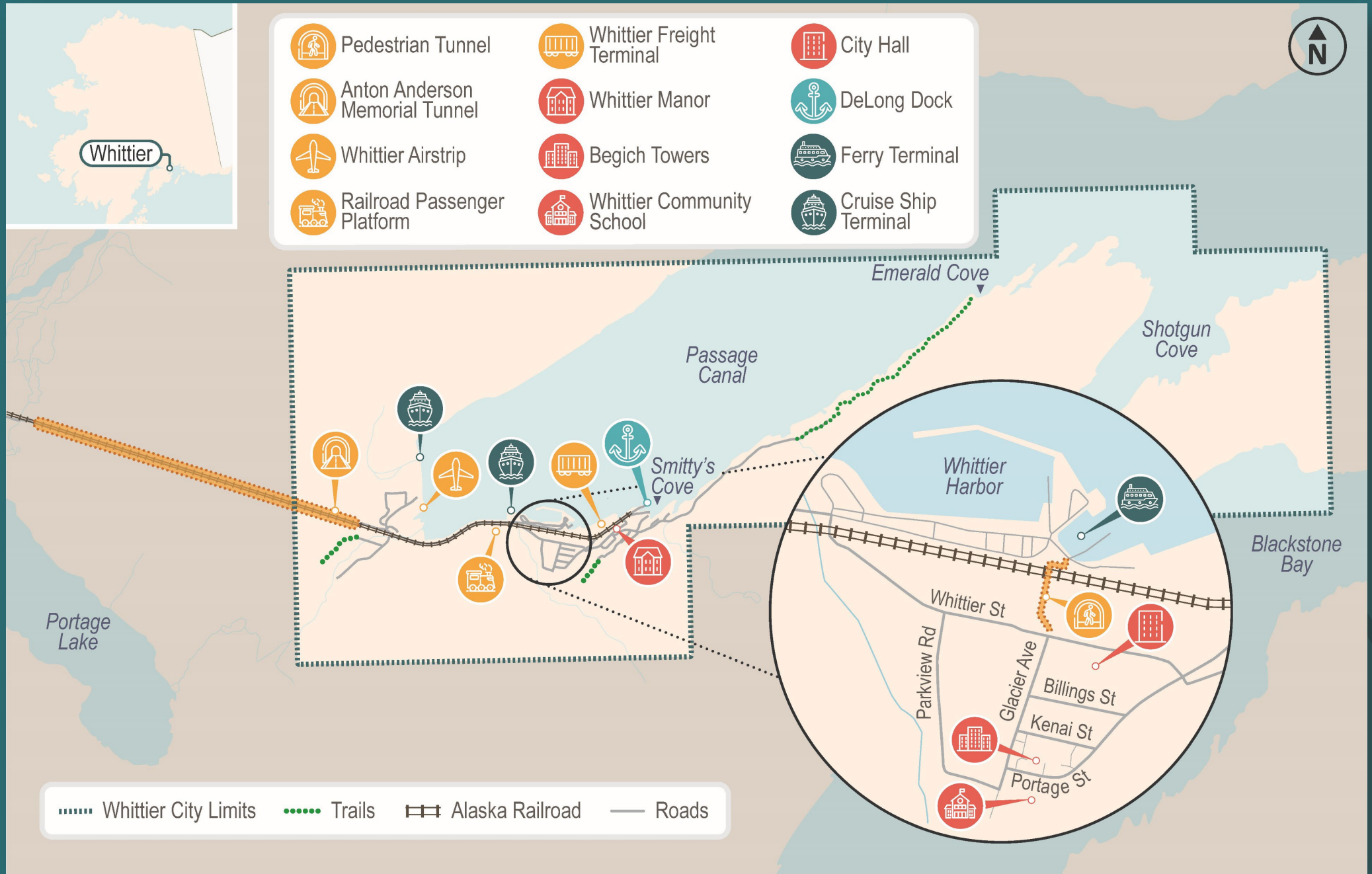


Promote Multimodal Transportation and Intermodal Connectivity: Create a plan that identifies and improves multimodal transportation and intermodal connectivity for the wide range of users.

Anticipated Schedule



Planning Area



Whittier Safety Action Plan Overview



The City of Whittier is developing a Safety Action Plan to **improve transportation safety** for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the community.



The plan is funded through the **Federal Highway Administration's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program**, which helps communities reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries.



The Safety Action Plan will:

- 1) Identify existing transportation safety issues
- 2) Analyze roadway and safety data
- 3) Recommend strategies and projects to improve safety for people walking, biking, driving, and operating commercial vehicles
- 4) Incorporate a Safe System Approach



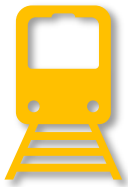
Prioritization & Evaluation



Themes from Public Feedback



Safety



Tunnel Access/Delays



Maintenance & Ownership



Parking



Wayfinding/Signage



Community Access

TAC Meeting No. 1 Activity

Prioritization Matrix



Effort

- **High Effort:** Recommended project/program requires a project description, cost estimate, AND concept design.
- **Low Effort:** Recommended project/program requires a project description and/or a cost estimate.

Impact

- **High Impact:** Recommended project/program is likely to have a significant positive impact on the Master Plan area while meeting the needs established by the stakeholders and project team.
- **Low Impact:** Recommended project/program has low-level positive or neutral impact on the Master Plan area while still meeting the needs established by the stakeholder's and project team.

	Low Effort	High Effort
High Impact	3 5 8	2 4 11 6 7 12 9
Low Impact	1	10

1. **Review fees and taxes:** tunnel, harbor, parking, and local tax structures
2. **Upgrade harbor facilities:** slips, launches, staffing, signage, staging
3. **Improve navigation infrastructure:** walkways, wayfinding, info centers
4. **Expand recreation access:** scenic roads, trails, and outdoor amenities
5. **Encourage local business and mixed land use:** transition harborside parking/storage to land for businesses
6. **Adjust tunnel operations:** extended/flexible hours, traffic by mode, resident/commuter priority
7. **Explore major infrastructure:** gondola, traffic-only tunnel, relocating ferry terminal
8. **Expand shuttle service:** link cruise terminals, train, harbor, and town
9. **Upgrade roadways:** lanes, crossings, maintenance, enforcement
10. **Reschedule freight rail:** shift to off-peak hours
11. **Increase cruise passenger rail use:** reduce bus/motorcoach reliance
12. **Improve city and landowner coordination**

13. Completion of Shotgun Cove Road
14. Railroad Terminal Master Plan.
15. Alaska Marine Highway System - Whittier as a key connection to national highway system

Project Development



Safety & Preparedness

Projects that improve safety and readiness for natural and man-made hazards

Project ID	Description
SP-1	Helipad: Evaluate feasibility to support emergency response and tour operations.
SP-2	Emergency Evacuation Plan: Establish clear plans and evacuation routes, additional tsunami signage, and provide a public safety education campaign.
SP-3	Water System Reliability: Install a loop water system to serve cruise ships without impacting local water service.



Traffic Safety

Projects that improve traffic safety

Project ID	Description
TS-1	Traffic Enforcement: Improve enforcement of parking, speeding, and other traffic violations, and establish fines.
TS-2	Right Turn Lane at Whittier Street: Add a right turn lane to prevent traffic backups caused by boats and trailers.
TS-3	Ferry Terminal Relocation: Explore relocating the ferry terminal to Emerald Cove to reduce Harbor Triangle conflicts.
TS-4	Blackstone Road & Depot Road Visibility: Clear brush that causes the blind turn to improve sight distance.

Project ID	Description
TS-5	Gateway Drive / Portage Glacier Drive Sight Distance Improvements: <i>Near term:</i> Improve sight distance by replacing the yield sign with a stop sign and clearing vegetation at the intersection. <i>Long term:</i> Study Glacier Creek Terminal intersection impacts and potential curve flattening.
TS-6	Traffic Calming: Add traffic calming measures near the harbor, terminals, City Hall, and school walking routes, including speed bumps near City Hall and student walking routes.
TS-7	Tunnel Traffic Study: Detailed traffic and circulation study on movement of vehicles exiting the tunnel to understand impacts from Head of the Bay development.

Pedestrian Safety

Projects enhance pedestrian safety

Project ID	Description
PS-1	Harbor View Drive / Camp Road Pedestrian Space: Convert angled parking to parallel parking to increase sidewalk width and space for furnishings and landscaping.
PS-2	Camp Road Crosswalk Improvements: Relocate the stop bar and add a marked crosswalk at the tunnel pathway crossing.
PS-3	Blackstone Road Pedestrian Warning: Replace the yield sign with a stop sign and pedestrian warning signage at Blackstone Road and Depot Road.

Project ID	Description
PS-4	Grade-Separated Rail Crossing: Consider a south-side road along the tracks to provide a grade-separated crossing at Whittier Street.
PS-5	Pedestrian Tunnel Upgrades: Improve lighting and drainage in the pedestrian tunnel beneath the train tracks.
PS-6	Harbor Triangle Pedestrian Access: Restrict or remove parking to improve pedestrian access and consider conversion to a park or visitor space.
PS-7	Additional Marked Crossings: Marked pedestrian crossings in areas with high pedestrian activity.
PS-8	ADA Sidewalk Compliance: Identify and reconstruct sidewalks that do not meet ADA accessibility standards.

Tourism & Community Connections – Part 1

Project ID	Description
TCC-1	ARRC Passenger Platform Crossing: Improve railroad and pedestrian safety at the ARRC Passenger Platform through enhanced crosswalks, ADA-compliant ramps, advance stop bars, and improved warning signage.
TCC-2	Waterfront Bike and Scooter Share: Develop a local bike or scooter share program to improve mobility along the waterfront.
TCC-3	Wayfinding and Directional Signage: Implement the Economic Development Corporation Wayfinding Plan to improve directional signage for key destinations, parking areas, access points, and year-round users, using durable signage suitable for coastal conditions.

Projects enhance visitor experience and connections

Project ID	Description
TCC-4	Visitor Information Services: Add a visitor center or expand public information signage.
TCC-5	Shuttle Connections: Create shuttle services to better connect cruise docks, harbor, train, trailheads, airport, and town, and pursue grant funding for implementation.
TCC-6	Rail Use for Cruise Passengers: Encourage greater use of rail to move cruise passengers.
TCC-7	Cruise Origin and Destination Identity: Strengthen Whittier’s role as a cruise origin and destination, distinct from Anchorage.
TCC-8	Multi-Use Pathway: Head of the Bay to Harbor Triangle: Provide a continuous multi-use pathway from the Glacier Bay Terminal area to Ferry Terminal Road and the Harbor Triangle, including the Whittier Creek Bridge and north side of Harbor Road.

Tourism & Community Connections – Part 2

Projects enhance visitor experience and connections

Project ID	Description
TCC-9	Whittier Street Multi-Use Pathway: Provide a continuous multi-use pathway on Whittier Street from Harbor Road to Glacier Street.
TCC-10	Tunnel to Harbor Triangle Pedestrian Connection: Create a clear pedestrian pathway connecting the tunnel to the Harbor Triangle.
TCC-11	Visitor Education and Wayfinding: Use high-visibility locations such as the tunnel, cruise docks, ferry terminal, and train platform to educate visitors and support wayfinding and pedestrian safety.
TCC-12	Covered Walkways: Add covered walkways through town to improve year-round pedestrian comfort.



Maintenance & Collaboration

Project ID	Description
M-1	Interagency Coordination: Strengthen coordination between the City, Alaska Railroad, and DOT&PF to address land ownership and management challenges.
M-2	Pavement and Snow Management: Develop a coordinated annual maintenance approach that includes pavement management, routine maintenance, snow removal responsibilities, and designated snow storage areas.
M-3	Pavement Management Plan: Collaborate between the City and DOT&PF to implement a Pavement Management Plan that includes routine maintenance such as crack sealing and overlays.
M-4	Traffic Management Plan: Develop and maintain an annual Traffic Management Plan addressing tunnel hours, routes, signage, parking, pedestrian paths, and enforcement.

Projects focus on improving maintenance with an emphasis on stronger agency coordination



Facility Improvements

Projects that improve circulation, update aging infrastructure, and enhance overall experience

Project ID	Description
FI-1	Harbor and Core Area Roadway Improvements: Rehabilitate or replace roads and sidewalks.
FI-2	Head of the Bay Terminal Road: Pave the road to the Head of the Bay terminal to address rutting from RV and bus traffic and explore partnership with Huna Totem.
FI-3	Public Kayak Launches: Install public kayak launches with parking and kayak racks between Head of the Bay and Smitty's Cove.
FI-4	Shotgun Cove Small Boat Harbor: Develop a small boat harbor at Shotgun Cove.

Project ID	Description
FI-5	Head of the Bay Boat Launch and Parking: Develop a boat launch facility with large-scale parking to reduce congestion and transportation conflicts.
FI-6	DeLong Dock Replacement
FI-7	Airport Infrastructure Improvements: Improve airport infrastructure to support emergency and weather-dependent operations, including runway extension, winter maintenance capability, a larger apron with aircraft tie-downs, upgraded weather equipment and windsock, and a small camping or lodging area. Explore the ability to provide aviation fuel at the airstrip.

Project ID	Description
P-1	Harbor Triangle Business Parking: Designate parking and access in the Harbor Triangle for business use only.
P-2	Ferry Terminal Parking: Provide additional parking for city use at the ferry terminal.
P-3	Parking Payment and Signage: Improve parking signage and evaluate mobile payment options.
P-4	Parking Time Limits and Enforcement: Enforce two-hour parking limits and increase enforcement during peak periods.
P-5	Visitor and Oversized Vehicle Parking: Identify additional parking locations for visitors and designate spaces for trailers, snow machines, and other oversized vehicles.
P-6	Motorcoach and Shuttle Parking: Designate parking and waiting areas for motorcoaches and shuttle buses.

Parking

Projects that improve parking access, safety, and convenience



Tunnel Infrastructure & Improvements

Projects focus on modernizing the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel to improve operations, resilience, and experience

Project ID	Description
T-1	Resident-Focused Tunnel Operations: Evaluate ways to better serve Whittier residents, including adjusted tunnel hours and the feasibility of free or reduced tunnel fares.
T-2	Tunnel Capacity for Tourism Growth: Improve tunnel infrastructure and services to support future tourism growth, including upgrades to ventilation, lighting, and safe houses to increase vehicle throughput during tunnel openings.
T-3	Tunnel Staging Area Pavilion: Add a pavilion at the tunnel staging area to provide a designated, safe waiting space for visitors outside their vehicles.



We want your feedback!

Project Contacts:

DOT&PF

- Scott Maybrier, Project Manager
- Judy Chapman, Planning Lead

City of Whittier

- Jackie Wilde, City Manager
- Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager

DOWL

- Renee Whitesell, Project Manager
- Talli Vittetoe, Public Involvement

Website: www.WhittierMoves.com

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