



Updates for the Community

Riverton and Thermopolis Public Meetings

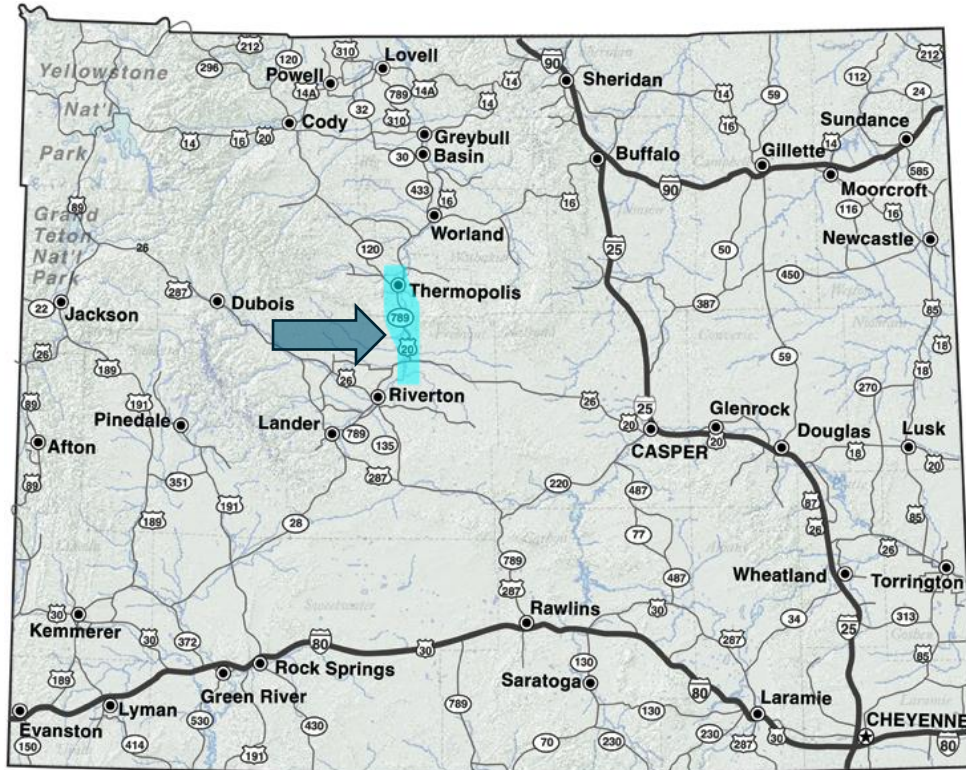
October 2026

Wind River Canyon

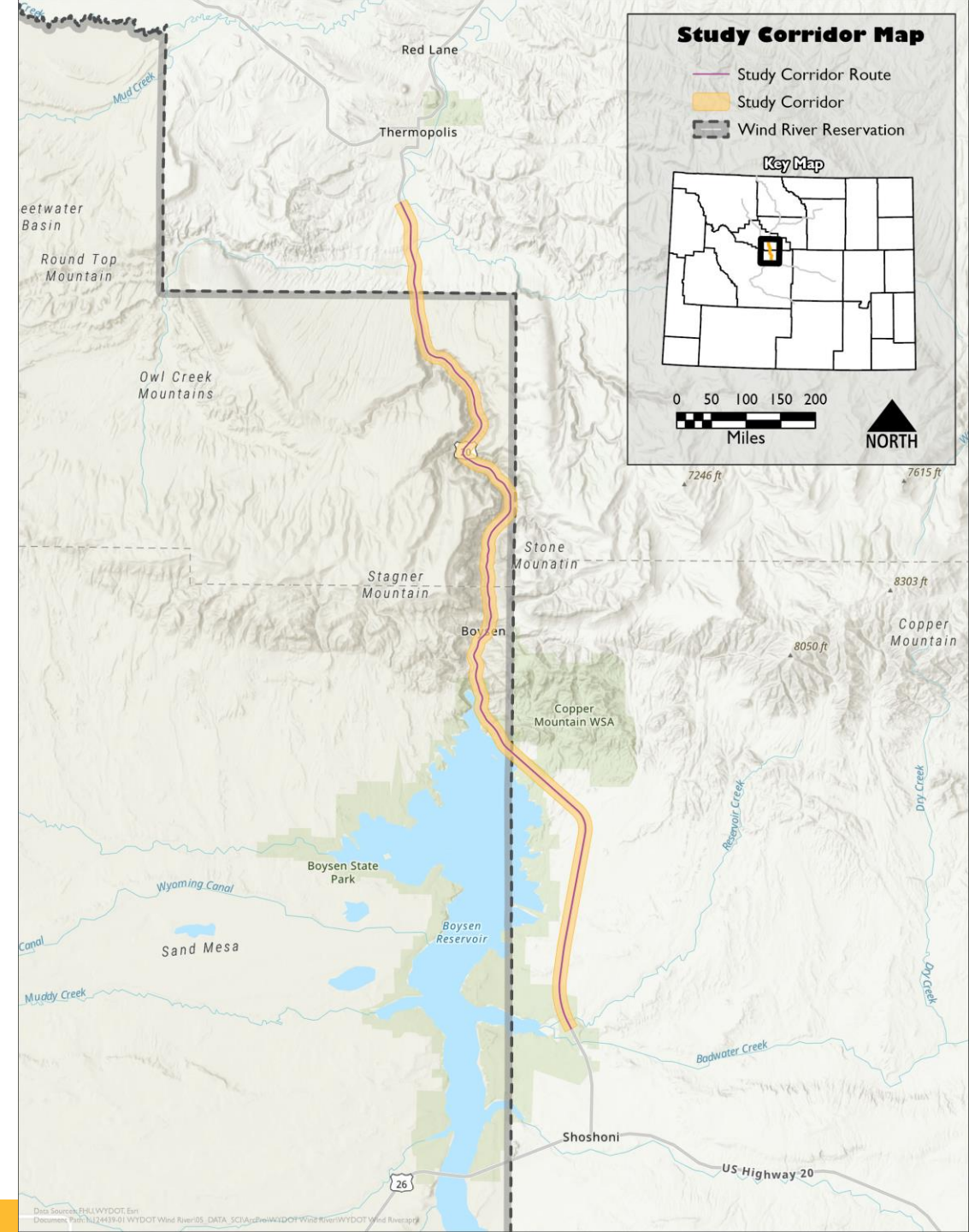


Welcome!

- Introductions
- Study Purpose
- Study Process
- Study Findings
- Potential Solutions
- Tonight's agenda



Wind River Canyon



Project Team Introductions



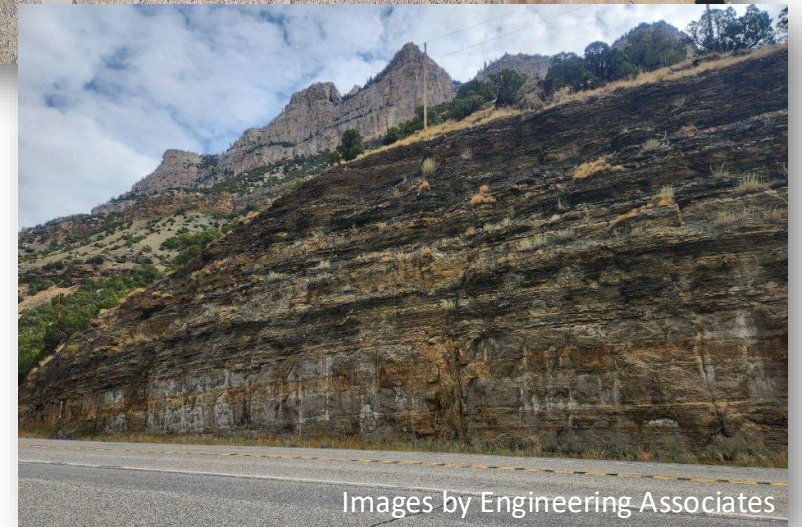
Study Participants

- Admiral Beverage
- Big Horn County
- Big Horn County Sheriff's Office
- BNSF Railway
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Eastern Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- Fremont County
- Fremont County Sheriff's Office
- Hot Springs County
- Hot Springs County School District #1
- Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office
- Northern Arapaho Natural Resources Office
- Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Riverton School District 25
- Ryan Bros Trucking
- Shoshone & Arapaho Fish and Game
- Shoshone Business Council
- Shoshoni Chamber of Commerce
- Shoshoni Police
- Shoshoni Schools, Fremont County School District #24
- Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Thermopolis Police
- Town of Shoshoni
- Town of Thermopolis
- Tribal Game & Fish
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Washakie County
- Wind River Inter-Tribal Council
- Wind River Inter-Tribal Council Dept of Transportation
- WYDOT District 5 and Headquarters
- Wyoming Game & Fish
- Wyoming Office of Tourism
- Wyoming State Parks
- Wyoming Trucking Association

Purpose

□ To advance a more resilient, reliable highway system for central Wyoming, for the next century through:

1. direct investment in the highway
2. investment in redundant routes that ease reliance on the canyon highway



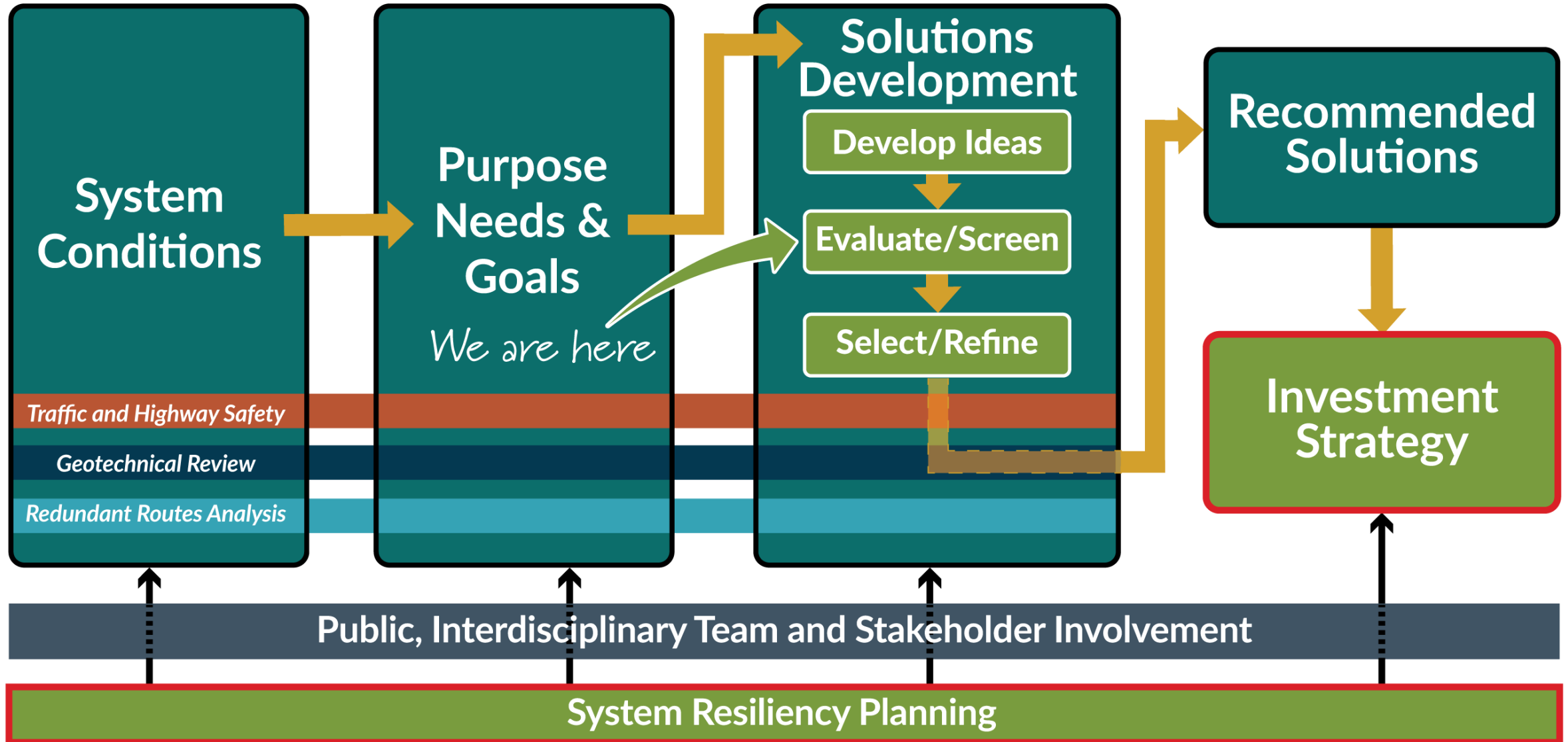
Images by Engineering Associates

Objectives

- Understand how the system is used today – and how it is expected to be used in the future
- Investigate rockfall, traffic flow, traffic safety and road design challenges
- Identify causes and extent of closures
- Create solutions that address the challenges
- Provide implementation path for communities



Study Progress



System Conditions Assessments

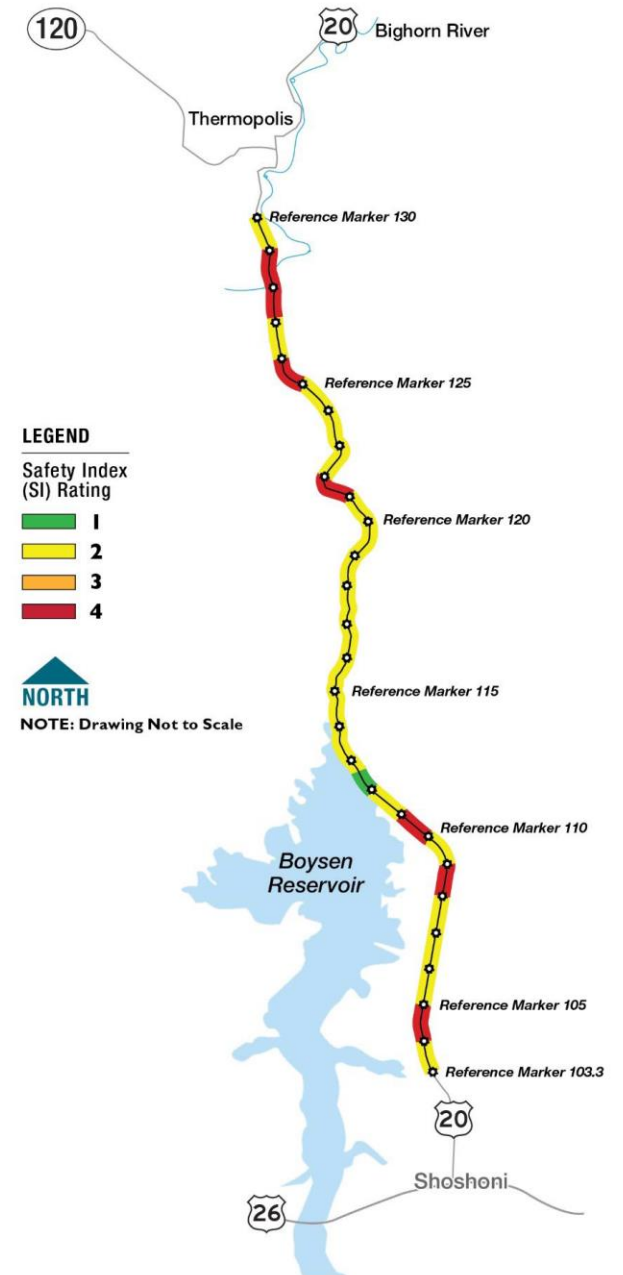
- Traffic & Highway Safety
- Geotechnical Review
- Highway Closures
- Redundant Routes



Decisions must balance transportation objectives with stewardship of the corridor's scenic, environmental, cultural, and historic resources.

Traffic and Highway Safety Takeaways

- US 20 accommodates current and future traffic adequately – additional travel lane(s) not needed
- Canyon's constrained setting creates localized safety concerns
- Identify targeted improvements to increase safety and reliability while preserving unique and sensitive character of canyon

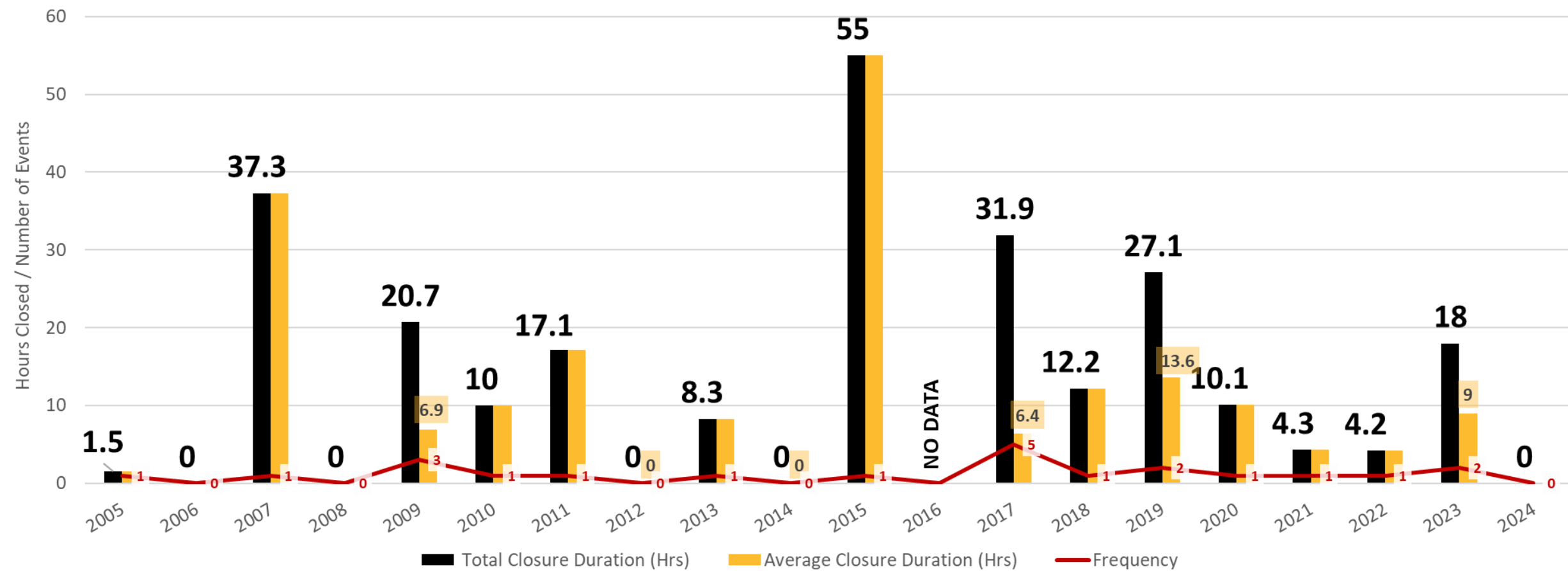


Geohazard Review Takeaways

- Canyon is naturally prone to falling rock, unstable slopes, and weather-induced geohazard events
- The highway can continue to operate safely with sustained inspection and monitoring, drainage maintenance, rockfall cleanup, and carefully targeted improvements

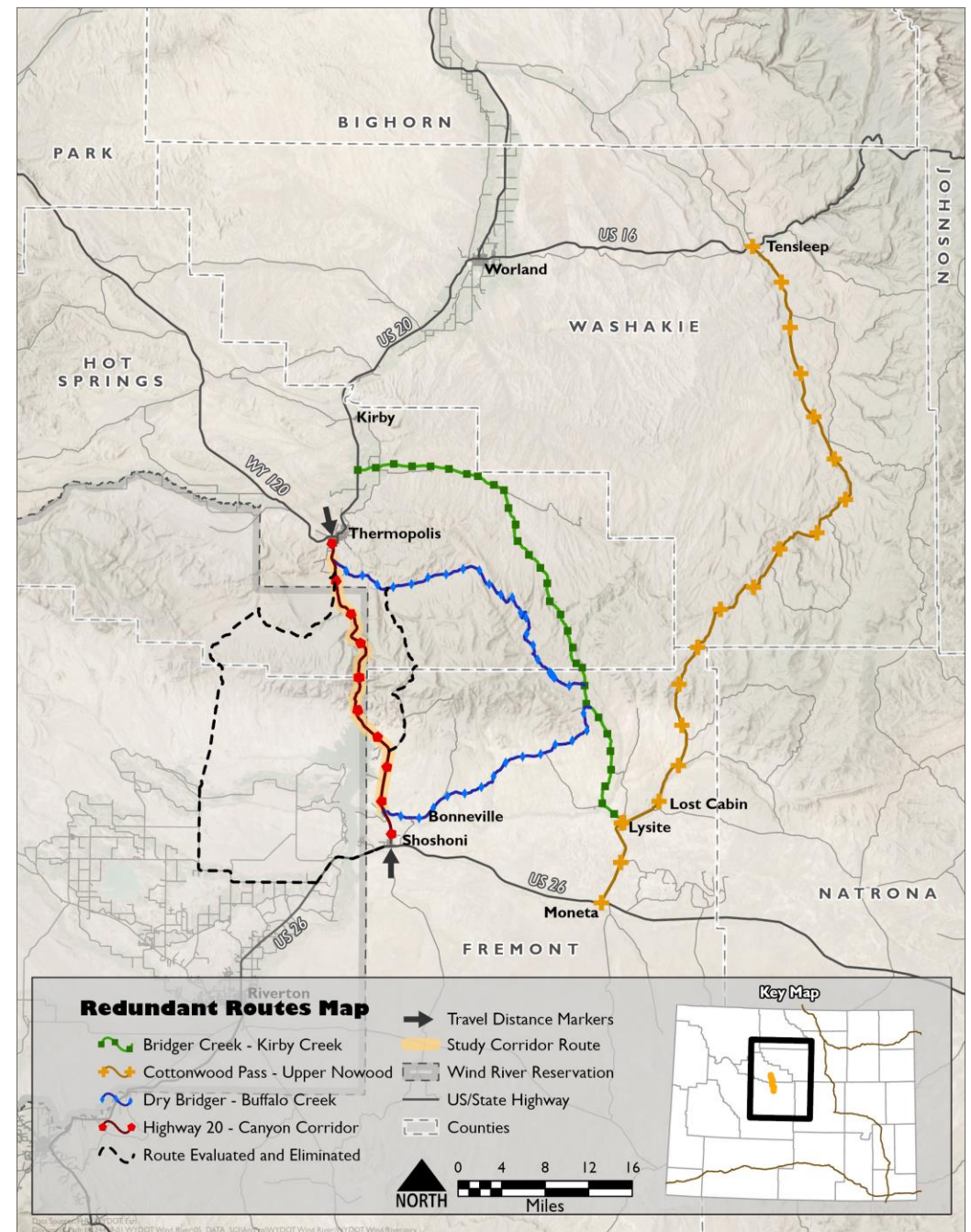


Canyon Highway Closures



Redundant Routes

- Challenges for all routes:
 - Maintenance: Not year-round, and limited resources
 - Weather events: Winter weather regional impacts
 - Terrain: Aggressive terrain, curves, and slopes do not meet highway standards
 - Surfacing: Mostly gravel surface
- Team is evaluating potential to bring routes to design standards to handle more traffic
- Likely recommendations:
 - Identify practical improvements to Kirby/Bridger Creek, Badwater, Cottonwood Pass
 - Position projects for funding opportunities



Solutions Development Process

1

Full Range of Solutions Considered

- Roadway design (15)
- Traffic and operations (5)
- Safety (18)
- Traveler information and alerts (6)
- Rockfall and landslide mitigation (9)
- Traveler experience (8)
- Regional connectivity (3)
- Walking and biking (4)
- Other strategies (4)

2

Potential Solutions

- No action
- Improve intersections
- Add passing or slow-moving vehicle lanes
- Add or improve walking connections at specific locations
- Stabilize slopes, provide rockfall recovery areas and monitor hazards within the highway right of way
- Expand tunnels
- Provide traveler information and monitor traffic
- Improve appearance, interpretive information and amenities

3

Recommended Solutions: Next Step

SAFE • SCENIC • SMART

- Identify a coordinated set of recommended actions
- Identify specific locations and preliminary design concepts
- Outline implementation steps
- Prioritize actions



How the Team Evaluates Solutions

Study goals and needs • Design feasibility • Traffic operations • Safety • Environmental, cultural and historic impacts • Construction cost

Solutions Not Carried Forward

- Shared-use path
- Bus service
- Add or widen travel lanes
- Open tunnels to daylight or reroute around them
- Increase passing zones
- High-friction pavement
- Motorcycle-specific treatments
- Bicycle facilities

System Vision



Safe | Scenic | Smart

Wind River Canyon Study



Safe | Scenic | Smart

Open House Next Steps



- See how findings and community priorities connect to recommendations
- Talk directly with technical experts and ask questions
- Share local knowledge
- Provide feedback on what WYDOT should consider as recommendations are refined



Thank you!

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