

Vine/Lemay/BNSF Project Public Meeting Summary

February 10, 2016
625 Ninth St, Streets Facility, 6-8 PM

MEETING OVERVIEW

The City of Ft. Collins hosted a public meeting on February 10th, 2016 from 6-8 PM, with a presentation at 6:30 PM and a subsequent question and answer period. 122 members of the public signed in to the meeting. The meeting was announced through a January 29th article in the Coloradan, a postcard mailer to residents in the project vicinity, a variable message board announcing the meeting (placed along Lemay) and an announcement on the website and through other social media

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Project Overview and History
- Existing Problems (Transportation Challenges in the Area)
- Alternatives (Possible Solutions)
- Next Steps and Project Schedule

Three alternatives were presented to the public for input; all assume a realignment of Lemay to the east. The alternatives differ based on whether Lemay would extend over, under or at-grade at the intersection with BNSF. The presentation is attached to this meeting summary for further information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

Both before and after the presentation/Q&A, the City invited the public to provide input through one-on-one discussions with City staff. Those comments were captured on Post-it notes and put up for all to see during the open house. The following is a summary of the comments. In many cases several members of the public provided the same comment, this is noted by the number shown next to the comment.

Alternative Preference

- Like the overpass. (13)
- No at-grade - good to keep new road separated from railroad. (3)
- Love the idea of a realigned Lemay.
- Make it happen!!! (3) - why has it taken over 3 decades to implement?
- Need diagrams of the overpass to imagine what it would look like from the ground.

Design and Aesthetics of Alternatives

- Need noise and visual barriers at the San Christo neighborhood.
- Not concerned with sound with bridge.
- Need curbs.
- Fix drainage issues, especially with Vine St. – challenging during winter.
- Must have easy connectivity with old Lemay & Vine.
- Concern: farm impacts - north of Vine (3); how will farm irrigation work if bifurcated?

Bicycle and Pedestrian

Problems

- Difficult to bike here. (2)
- Difficult for bicycles to left turns onto Vine (from Lemay).
- Hazardous due to a lack of curbs allowing for cars to pass on right.

Suggestions

- Leave access on old Lemay for bicycle/pedestrians crossing. (2)
- Create separation between bicycles and cars.
- Need bike lanes on Lemay.

Mobility – Local and Regional

Problems

- Difficult to turn left - always hard and dangerous without turn lanes (5); this is a bigger problem than train delays.
- Train delays. (4)
- People passing on the right while no left turn queuing.
- More traffic from the north.
- Cut through traffic in neighborhoods trying to avoid Vine/Lemay. (2)
- Crosswalk sign stays on too long and traffic backs up to tracks.
- Difficult to get out of neighborhoods.

Concerns

- Mobility challenges if Lemay is closed/cul-de-sac.
- Mobility challenges if Lemay goes from 2 to 4 lanes, back to 2 lanes.
- Lemay being 4 lanes by the school.

Suggestions

- Provide left turn lanes on new Lemay.
- Keep old Lemay open.
- Explore with PUC (sic) keeping “old” Lemay open across railroad for left turn.
- Keep a lane section past tie-in for school safety.
- Restore Lindenmeier road name for the stretch from Vine to Country Club if Lemay northbound stops at the tracks.

Other Comments on the Project

- Need a broader scope with study area.
- Keep old Lemay operational until all funds available.
- Restrict further occupancy permits north & east of project until project constructed. (2)
- Concern: Funding? Taxes? SID? Grants? (5) – build in phases.
- Concern: Developers not paying enough via impact fees.
- How much has the Hispanic community provided comments/concerns?
- Need to have commitment to Dark Sky as is prevalent in North Fort Collins

Other Projects and Other Neighborhood Improvements

Suggestions

- Add left turns at existing Vine/Lemay, north/southbound.
- Provide left turn signal at Vine/Lemay.
- Provide turn lanes north/south on Lemay.
- Install a signal at Willox & Lemay. (3)
- Provide bike/pedestrians connections on existing Vine/Lemay.
- Add a bike path to downtown from Tavelli school. (3)
- Install roundabout at Lemay/Suniga. (3)
- Provide roundabouts on Lemay, north of Suniga - Lemay/Willox & Lemay/Buckingham. (3)
- Connect College to Shields.
- Extend Turnberry to Vine or Suniga – to help relieve N/S traffic, especially with new developments. (14)
- Address issues at Vine/Timberline.
- Address issues at Lemay/Riverside - currently degraded. (2)

Comments on Suniga

- No need for Suniga.
- Need traffic calming on Suniga.
- Need a buffer between Alta Vista & Suniga
- Avoid use of Suniga as a truck route (3)
- Develop a truck route plan – will Suniga have a truck detour, will Country Club road be a truck route? (2)
- Provide a roundabout at Suniga & Lemay to prohibit trucks. (2)

COMMENT CARD COMMENTS - SUMMARY

Throughout the meeting the public were invited to provide comments on comment cards. Below is a summary of those comments (and not intended to be direct transcription):

- Do the project already
- Overpass alternative is ok/good
- Alleviate traffic pressure by extending Timberline and/or Turnberry
- Concerned with safety related to North Lemay being 4 lanes
- Need better bicycle/pedestrian mobility
- Suggestions:
 - Add roundabouts on Lemay (to increase mobility and slow traffic)
 - Keep Vine open
 - Keep Lemay open

PROJECT NEXT STEPS

Over the next few months, several additional meetings will be scheduled with the Alta Vista and Andersonville neighborhoods to gather additional input. The next community-wide public meeting is anticipated in late Spring.

APPENDIX A:

Presentation Given at the Public Meeting



Vine/Lemay/BNSF Project



Public Meeting #1

February 10th, 2016

Agenda - Tonight

- Presentation – History and Where We Are Now
- Clarifying Questions
- Provide your comments:
 - Stations: Mobility; Design & Aesthetics; Neighborhood Improvement (including ongoing projects)
 - Complete a Comment Card (tonight)



Vine/Lemay/BNSF Project



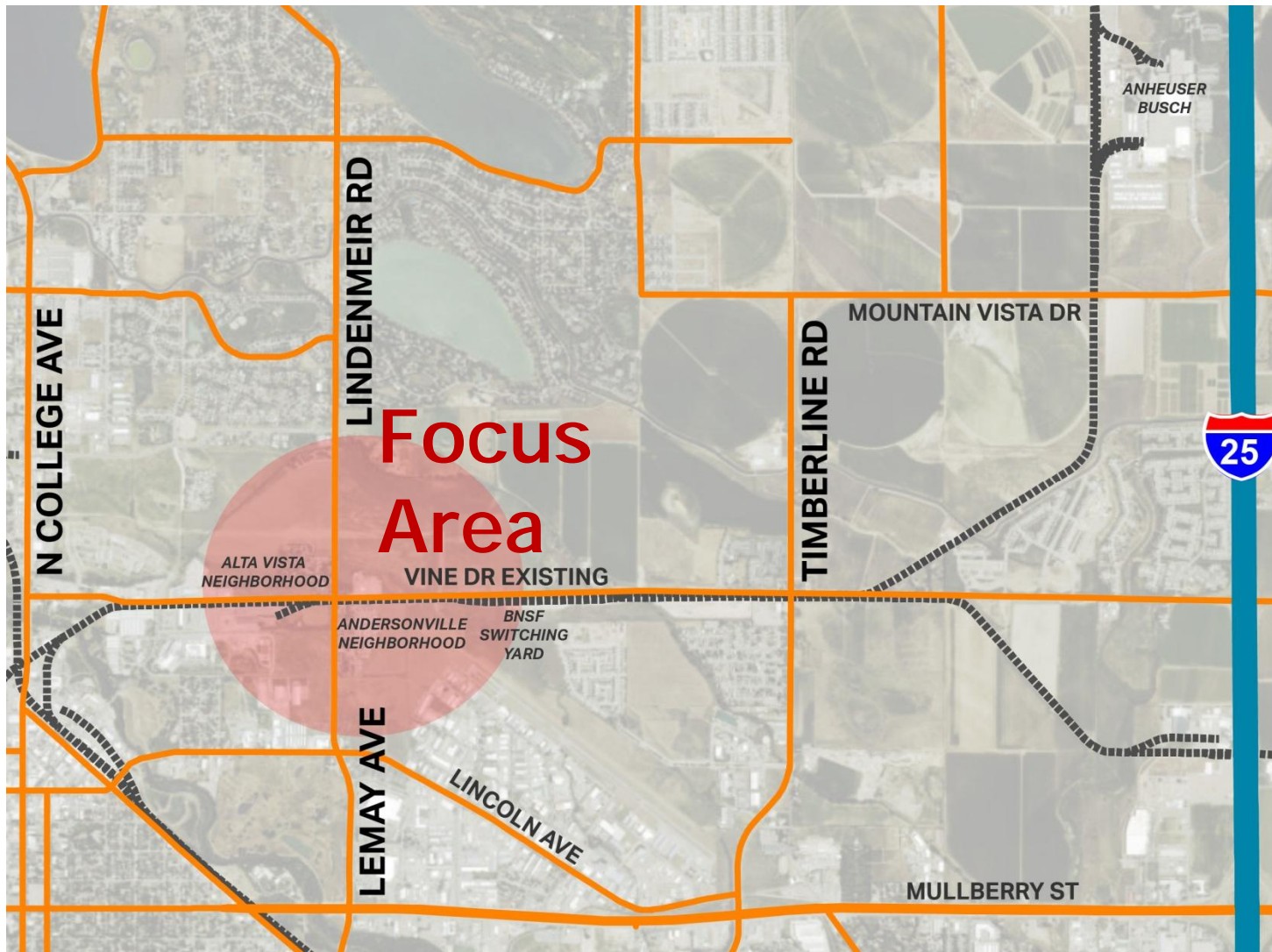
Welcome

Focus of this Presentation

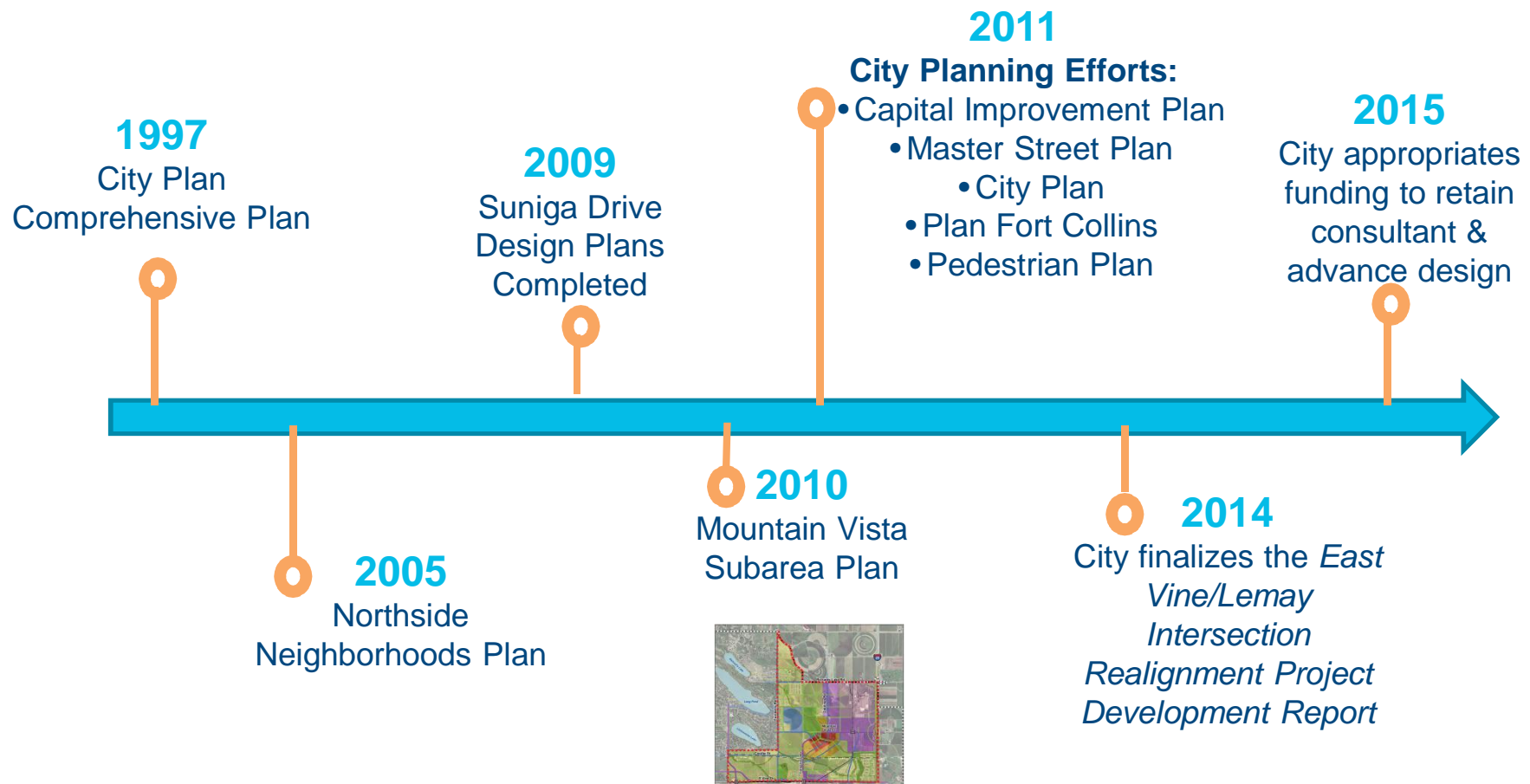
- History/Context
- Funding
- Existing Problems
- Alternatives under consideration



Project Overview



Project History/Timeline

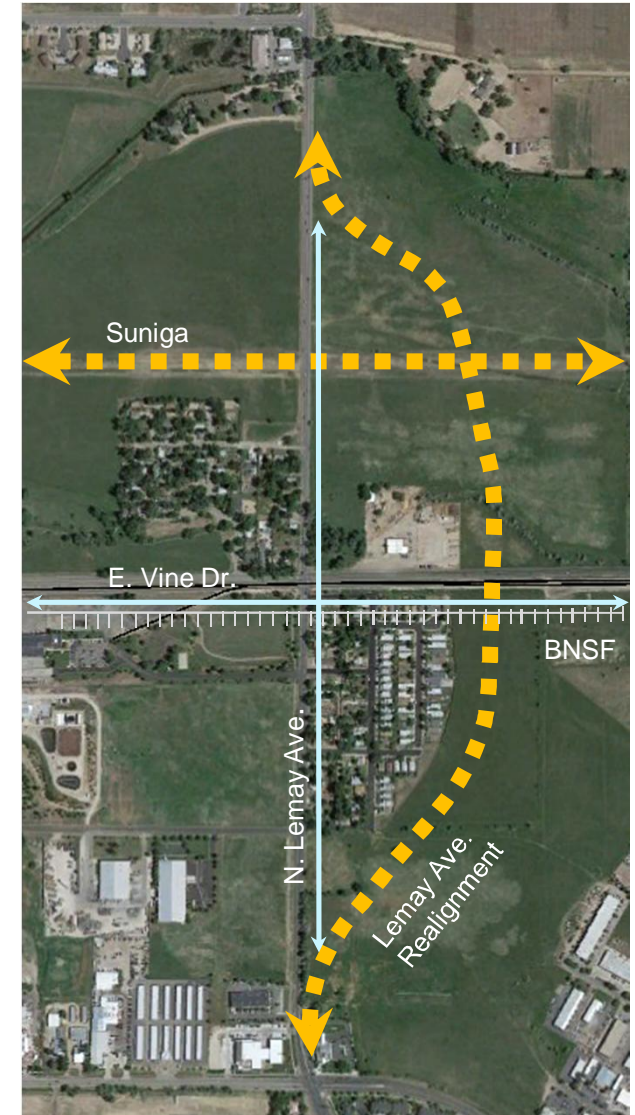


Project Funding

- Current City Funds for project: \$1.25 Million
 - Funds planning and design
- Expected Funds:
 - \$5-\$6 Million in development contributions (fees)
 - BNSF railroad contribution
- Construction not currently funded

Project Goals

- Relieve congestion
- Improve safety and access
- Enhance neighborhood livability
- Plan for smart growth



Safety

Vehicular:

- Existing at-grade safety is a concern
- 13 crashes per year at Lemay/Vine



Bicycle and Pedestrian:

- Lack of bicycle facilities
- Lack of sidewalks
- Railroad tracks pose a barrier

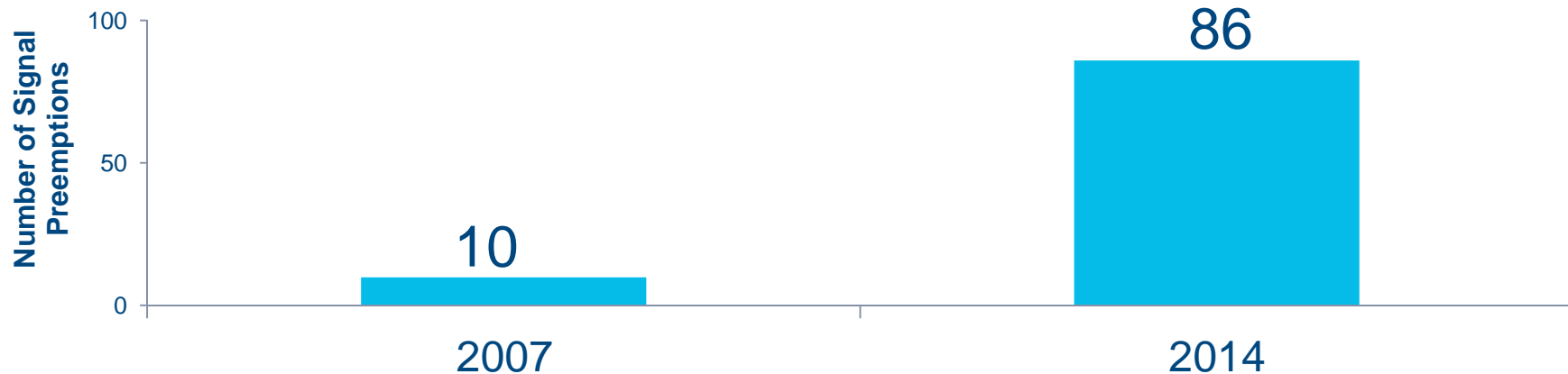


Roadway Capacity

- Capacity is constrained by train crossings



Number of Delays
(Greater than 15 Minutes)



Local Connectivity and Access

- Congestion at the intersection limits access to Alta Vista and Andersonville neighborhoods



Degraded Facilities

- Roadway facilities are in a poor state of repair





Vine/Lemay/BNSF Project



Alternative Scenarios

Why not widen existing Lemay?

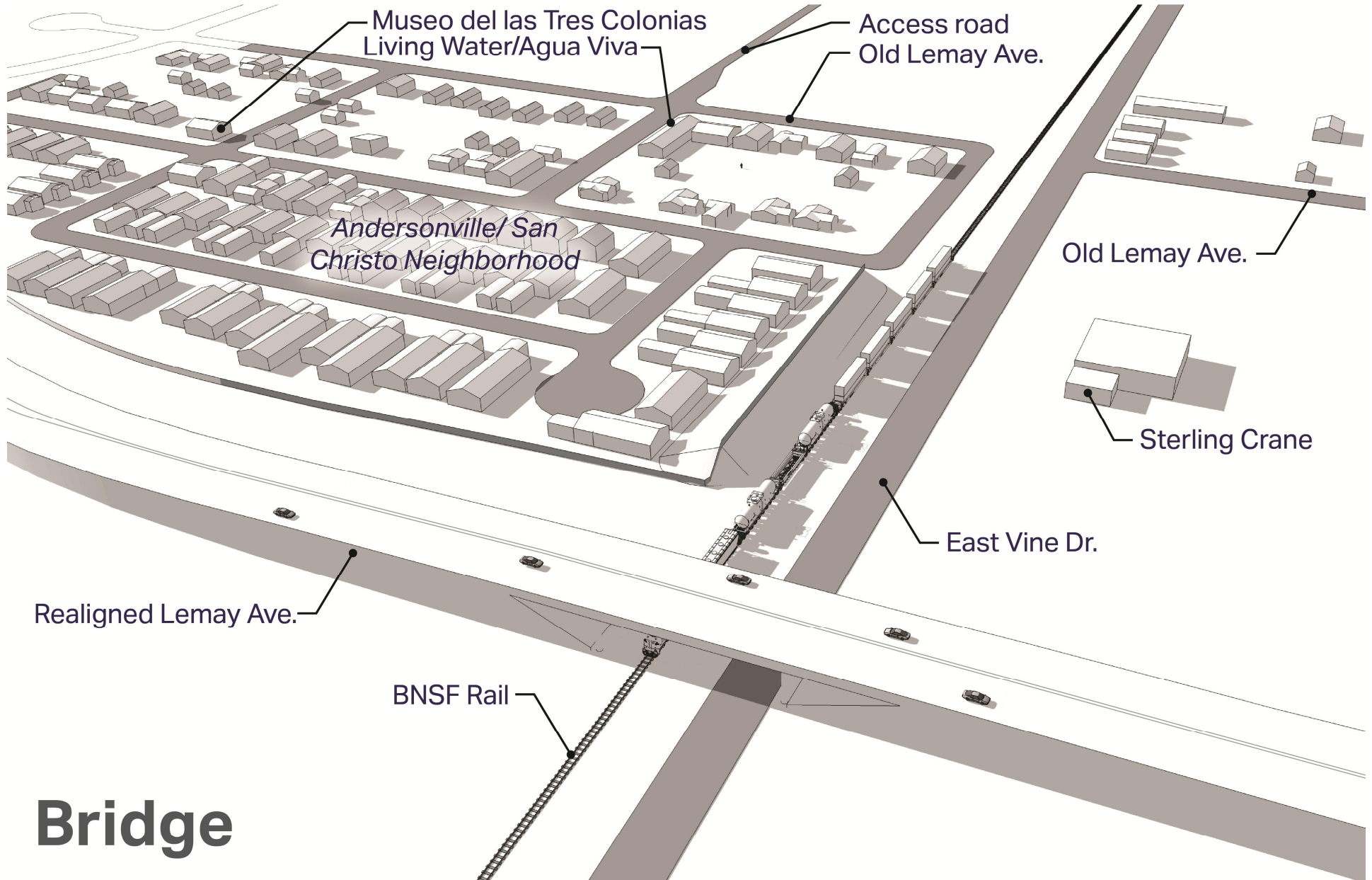
- Extensive right-of-way acquisition would be needed (property impacts to existing neighborhoods)
- Still have conflict between the railroad, Vine and Lemay
- Would not help congestion
- Would not improve safety



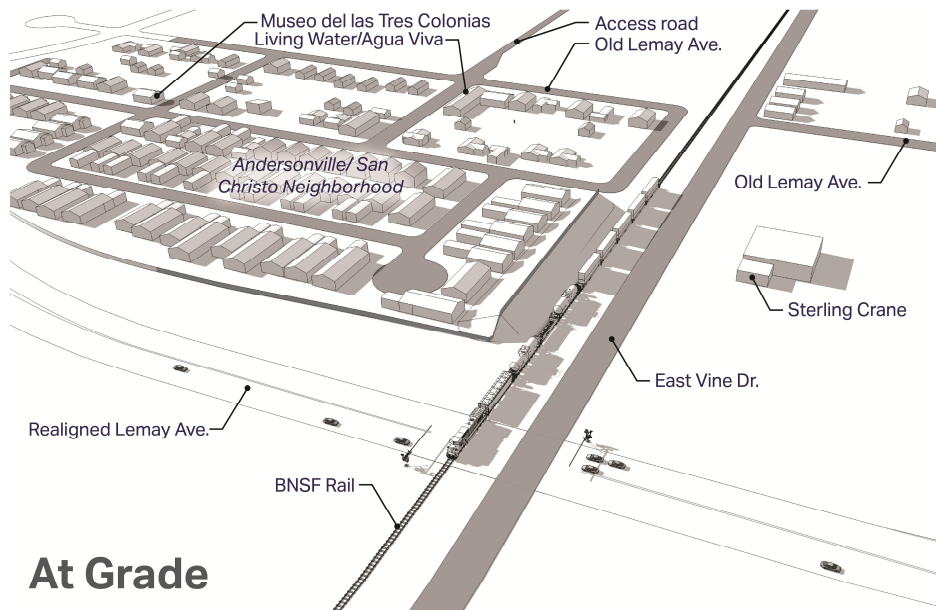
Realigned Vine and Lemay

- Reroutes Lemay east (upgraded to 4-lane road)
- Existing railroad crossing at Vine/Lemay closed
- New 4-lane Suniga
- New signalized intersection at Suniga and Realigned Lemay
- New bike lanes and sidewalks



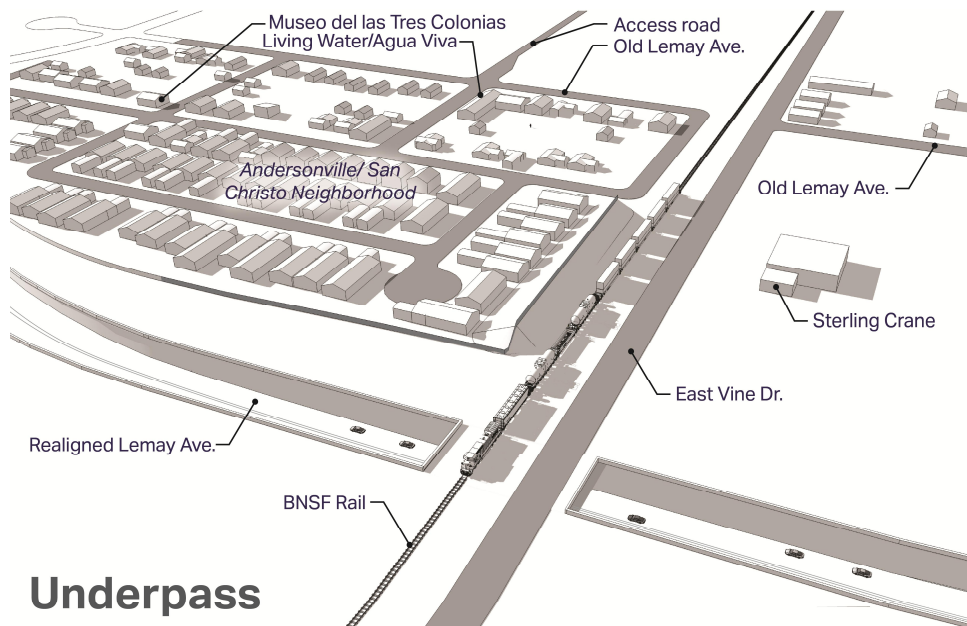


Bridge



Challenges

- Does not meet future roadway capacity needs
- May not be deemed acceptable by regulatory agencies or the railroad



Challenges

- Significant groundwater challenges & flooding risks
- Difficult to construct under BNSF
- Extensive costs



Screening Summary

	At-Grade	Bridge	Underpass
Capacity and Connectivity	Poor Would not alleviate train delays	Good	Good
Constructability and Construction Risks	Poor Difficult to keep BNSF operational during construction	Good	Poor Significant groundwater challenges; difficult to construct under BNSF
Permitting and Approval Risks	Poor Railroad approvals for a new crossing unlikely	Good	Fair Less preferable (for railroads) than bridge
Total Project Cost	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$\$
Noise	Fair	Fair	Good
Visual Quality/Aesthetics	Good	Fair Elevated roadway	Good
Water Resources, Flooding, Drainage	Good	Good	Poor High groundwater table
Summary	Severe Challenges	Least Challenges	Severe Challenges

Next Steps/Schedule

- Distribute meeting summary
- Continue further analysis
- One-on-one and neighborhood meetings
- Public Meetings (Spring & Summer 2016)
- Council consideration (end of 2016)



We Want your Input

Provide Comments:

- Complete a Comment Card (tonight)
- Contact the project team

For more information:

- Sign up for the project mailing list
- Visit <http://www.fcgov.com/engineering/vine-lemay.php>
- Contact Tim Kemp, City of Fort Collins Project Manager
Phone: 970-416-2719 tkemp@fcgov.com



Vine/Lemay/BNSF Project



Questions

Tonight

- Stations Around the Room:
 - Neighborhood and Regional **Mobility**
 - **Design and Aesthetics** of Alternatives
 - Other **Neighborhood Improvements** including ongoing projects