

Public Outreach Records

Steese Expressway and Johansen Expressway Interchange Z607320000/0002337

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF)
Notice of Intent/Request for Public Comment
Steese Expressway and Johansen Expressway Interchange
Project No.: Z607320000/0002337

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, proposes to reconstruct the Steese Expressway and Johansen Expressway intersection. The project is needed to improve safety, traffic flow and drainage. Forty-four (44) crashes occurred at the intersection between 2008 and 2012 including one fatal crash involving a car and a pedestrian and one major injury crash. Left turning traffic at the intersection backs up during commuting hours, often requiring drivers to sit through multiple traffic signal cycles. Ditches and culverts no longer have capacity to adequately drain runoff water.

A public open house is scheduled for **Thursday, October 12, 2017** at the Event Center and Lounge, 1288 Sadler Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701 from **5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**. The project team will be available to answer questions about the project. DOT&PF requests general public comments on the proposed project as well as information and comments on resources in the project area that may be affected including historic properties and archaeological sites.

Details of the proposed project, including an online survey, can be reviewed as it is developed at the project webpage found at <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/steese-johansen/>.

This proposed project will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Executive Orders: 11990 (Wetlands Protection), 11988 (Floodplain Protection), 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11593 (Historic Preservation), 13084 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments), 13112 (Invasive Species); the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and U.S. DOT Act Section 4(f).

Construction for the proposed project is anticipated to begin in 2022. To ensure that all possible factors are considered, please provide written comments to the following address **by November 13, 2017**.

Brett Nelson, Regional Environmental Manager
 DOT&PF Preliminary Design & Environmental
 2301 Peger Road
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Lauren Little, P.E., Project Manager, at 451-5371 or lauren.little@alaska.gov. You may also fax your comments to (907) 451-5126. Individuals with a hearing impairment can contact DOT&PF at our Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (907) 451-2363.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Attachments, History, Details

Attachments

None

Revision History

Created 10/2/2017 10:06:33 AM by csfrye

Details

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Department: | Transportation and Public Facilities |
| Category: | Public Notices |
| Sub-Category: | |
| Location(s): | Fairbanks |
| Project/Regulation #: | Z607320000/0002337 |

Appendix F.1 - 3

Publish Date: 10/2/2017
Archive Date: 10/13/2017

Events/Deadlines:

**State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Steese Expressway / Johansen Expressway Interchange
Project No. Z607320000/0002337**

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

*Event Center and Lounge
1288 Sadler Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Stop by anytime between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM*

DOT&PF invites you to attend an Open House to discuss the proposed upgrade of the intersection of the Steese and Johansen Expressways. We are currently working on preliminary engineering and environmental studies and seeking input on the proposed project.

TAKE THE SURVEY

*The link can be found on the project website at:
<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/steese-johansen/>*

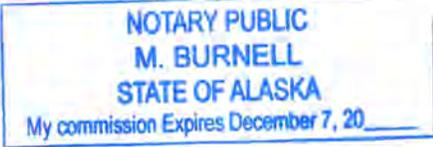
SUBMIT COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 13!

*To submit comments outside the open house contact:
Lauren Little, P.E., Engineering Manager
(907) 451-5371 or lauren.little@alaska.gov
Text Telephone (TDD): (907) 451-2363*

DOT&PF also requests information on potential impacts to historic properties, archaeological sites, wetlands, & floodplains. DOT&PF complies with the following Executive Orders:

EO11990, Notice of Wetland Involvement
EO12898, Environmental Justice
EO11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
EO11988, Floodplain Management
EO13112, Invasive Species

DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids or services to participate in this public open house should contact the project manager listed above. Requests should be made at least 10 days before the accommodation is needed to make any necessary arrangements.



AFFP
State of Alaska Department of

Affidavit of Publication

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA }
STATE OF ALASKA } SS.
FOURTH DISTRICT }

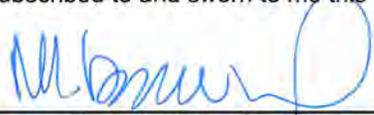
Before me, the undersigned, a notary public, this day personally appeared Tameka Ambersley, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, says that he/she is an Advertising Clerk of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, a newspaper (i) published in newspaper format, (ii) distributed daily more than 50 weeks per year, (iii) with a total circulation of more than 500 and more than 10% of the population of the Fourth Judicial District, (iv) holding a second class mailing permit from the United States Postal Service, (v) not published primarily to distribute advertising, and (vi) not intended for a particular professional or occupational group. The advertisement which is attached is a true copy of the advertisement published in said paper on the following day(s):

October 01, 2017, October 08, 2017, October 12, 2017

and that the rate charged thereon is not excess of the rate charged private individuals, with the usual discounts.



Advertising Clerk

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 12th day of October 2017.


Marena Burnell, Notary Public in and for the State Alaska.

My commission expires: December 07, 2017

00009647 00043193
JENNIFER SCHMETZER
KENNEY ENGINEERING
505 ILLINOIS ST UNIT 1
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

Ad 43193
State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Steese Expressway / Johansen Expressway Interchange
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NOTARY PUBLIC
M. BURNELL
STATE OF ALASKA
My commission Expires December 7, 20____

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Publish: Oct 1, 8 & 12

State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Steese Expressway / Johansen Expressway Interchange
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DOT&PF operates without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: http://dot.alaska.gov/tvi_statement.shtml. DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids or services to participate in this public open house should contact the project manager listed above. Requests should be made at least 10 days before the accommodation is needed to make any necessary arrangements.

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES
Steese Expressway / Johansen Expressway Interchange
Project No. Z607320000/0002337

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State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Preliminary Design & Environmental Section

Lauren Little, PE
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

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Project No. Z607320000/0002337

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FACT SHEET

Steese Expressway / Johansen Expressway Interchange Project No. Z607320000/0002337

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated preliminary engineering on a project to upgrade the intersection of the Steese Expressway and the Johansen Expressway.

Project Purpose

Enhance user safety and motorized and non-motorized mobility at the Steese/Johansen Intersection.

Project Need

This intersection has a history of collisions with one fatality and numerous injuries. Traffic volumes around and through this intersection are among the highest in the Fairbanks area. The Johansen Expressway serves as a major thoroughfare for traffic moving east and west and provides a prominent link to developable lands, both to the north and to the south. Historic data shows rapid growth within the last 20 years as large tracts of property adjacent to the intersection have experienced significant increases in development including properties in the Bentley Trust, the Northside Business District, and Lazelle Estates. As development continues, traffic volumes will continue to increase. The Steese Expressway is the only route providing the trucking industry access to the Dalton Highway and the North Slope and is the principal arterial for traffic moving north and south between residential and commercial developments.

Project Background

The Steese/Johansen Intersection is a primary junction in the Fairbanks area road network serving a variety of users including commuters, freight haulers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Over the ten-year period from 2005 to 2014, there were 65 crashes at the intersection. During high traffic periods, the volume of vehicles trying to move through the intersection exceeds the volume of vehicles that the intersection can handle. Some vehicles wait more than one cycle of the traffic signal before being able to continue through the intersection.



Two traffic studies have been conducted near the intersection. The first evaluated traffic operations in and around the Bentley Trust commercial development area. The second evaluated mobility and safety issues along the Richardson/Steese Corridor through the urban area from Badger Road to Chena Hot Springs Road. These studies identified numerous concerns and mitigation strategies. An interchange at the Steese/Johansen Intersection is one strategy identified in both studies and is the basis of this project.

Take the **online survey!** Link available at: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/steese-johansen/>

Intersection Facts

- Land uses around the intersection include residential neighborhoods, commercial developments, religious establishments, the Birch Hill Cemetery, Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, and the US Army Fort Wainwright.
- The intersection is a major junction for commuters between the residential areas north and east and the commercial and business centers west and south. More than 2,000 vehicles move through the intersection during the peak hour of the morning commute and over 3,000 vehicles move through during the peak hour of the evening commute.
- The intersection is along the principal route for freight haulers traveling between Anchorage or other southern ports and the mines of Interior Alaska or the oil fields on the North Slope. On average, about 1,600 heavy vehicles, such as semi-trucks and tractor trailers, move through the intersection each day.
- The intersection is a critical node in the area's non-motorized network, connecting multi-use paths along both expressways. The intersection also connects these paths to Lazelle Estates and Shannon Park. Multi-use paths see year-round pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Most of the crashes occurring at the intersection are rear end collisions or crashes between left turning vehicles and those continuing straight along their path.

Project Schedule

Preliminary analysis will identify the issues that are causing safety and mobility problems and develop an upgrade solution that will provide long-term efficient and safe intersection operation. Based on public comments, and environmental and engineering analysis, a preferred alternative will be identified for construction and appropriate environmental documentation will be prepared. The public is invited to provide comment throughout project development through open house meetings and web-based surveys.

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Public Involvement | Preliminary Open House Date: Oct 12, 2017 | Alternatives Open House Date: TBD | Preferred Alternative / Environmental Open House Date: TBD |
| Preliminary Analysis | Aug – Oct | | |
| Alternatives Development | Nov - Mar | | |
| Preferred Alternative | | Apr - Jan | |
| Environmental Document | | Aug- Jun | |

For more information, visit the project website at <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/steese-johansen/> or contact:

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Fairbanks Freight Mobility Plan

Creates a coordinated plan to address short- & long-term freight transportation needs in the region. Draft Plan 02/17!

<http://fmats.us/freight-mobility-plan/>

Steese/Johansen Intersection

- National Highway System and National Highway Freight Network
- Critical to the Fairbanks freight network:
 - Steese connects to North Slope oil fields / Fort Knox Mine
 - Johansen provides local commercial service and connections to the Parks Highway
- Critical issues to consider:
 - Freight bottlenecks and congestion
 - Roadway safety
 - Conflicts with pedestrians or bicycles
 - Winter conditions

- Total Truck % of Daily Traffic:

| Location | Trucks per day | % of total vehicles |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Steese Expressway south of Johansen | 1,200 | 8% |
| Steese Expressway north of Johansen | 2,000 | 8% |
| Johansen Expressway west of Steese | 1,300 | 7% |

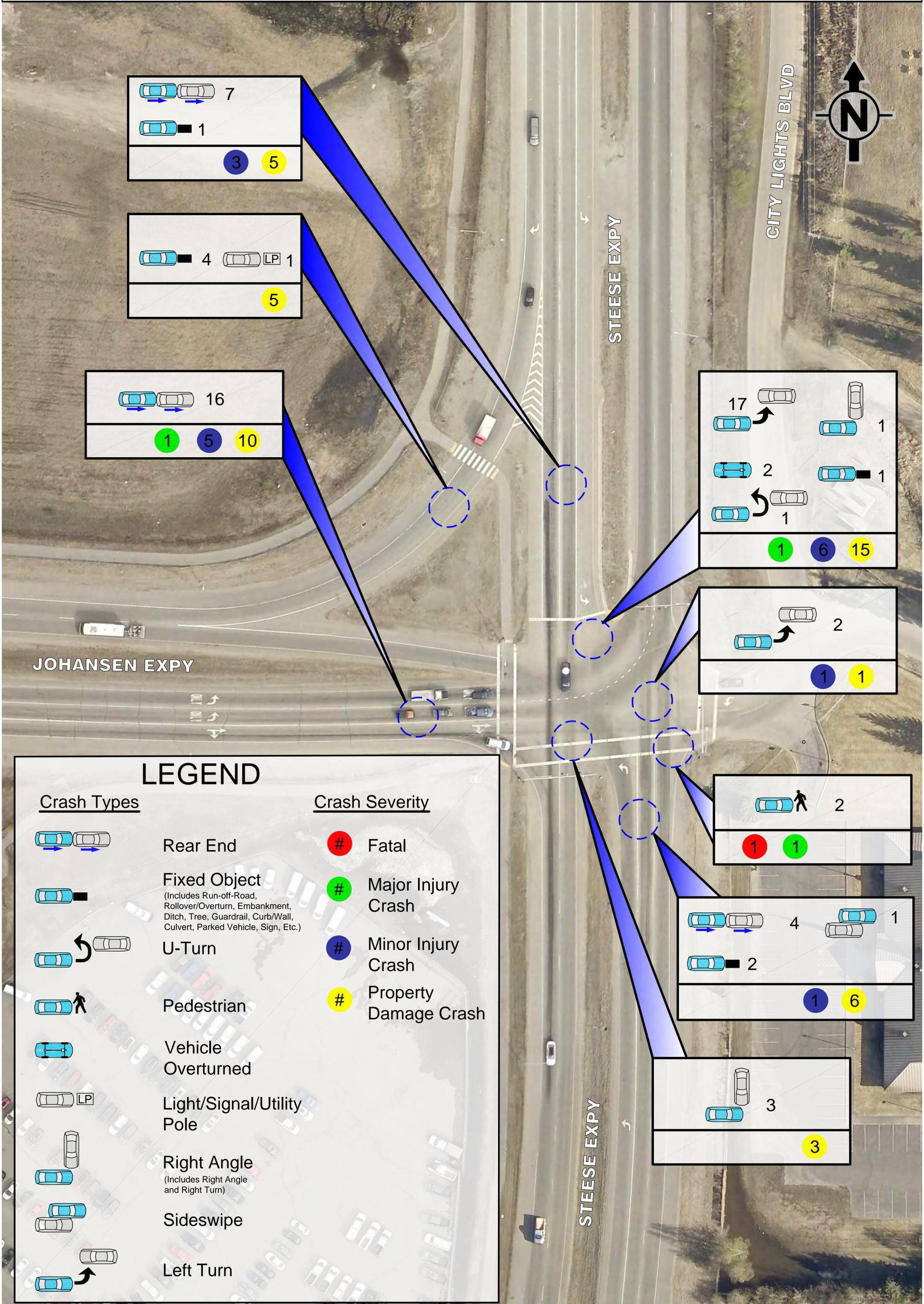
- Truck traffic expected to grow up to 45% by 2040

- Deficiencies Identified:

- Traffic signal lights have insufficient vertical clearance for oversize loads

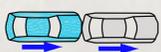
CRASH HISTORY 2005 TO 2014 STEESE EXPRESSWAY / JOHANSEN EXPRESSWAY INTERCHANGE

PROJECT NO.: 0002337/Z607320000



LEGEND

Crash Types



Rear End



Fixed Object

(Includes Run-off-Road, Rollover/Overturn, Embankment, Ditch, Tree, Guardrail, Curb/Wall, Culvert, Parked Vehicle, Sign, Etc.)



U-Turn



Pedestrian



Vehicle Overturned



Light/Signal/Utility Pole



Right Angle
(Includes Right Angle and Right Turn)



Sideswipe



Left Turn

Crash Severity



Fatal



Major Injury Crash



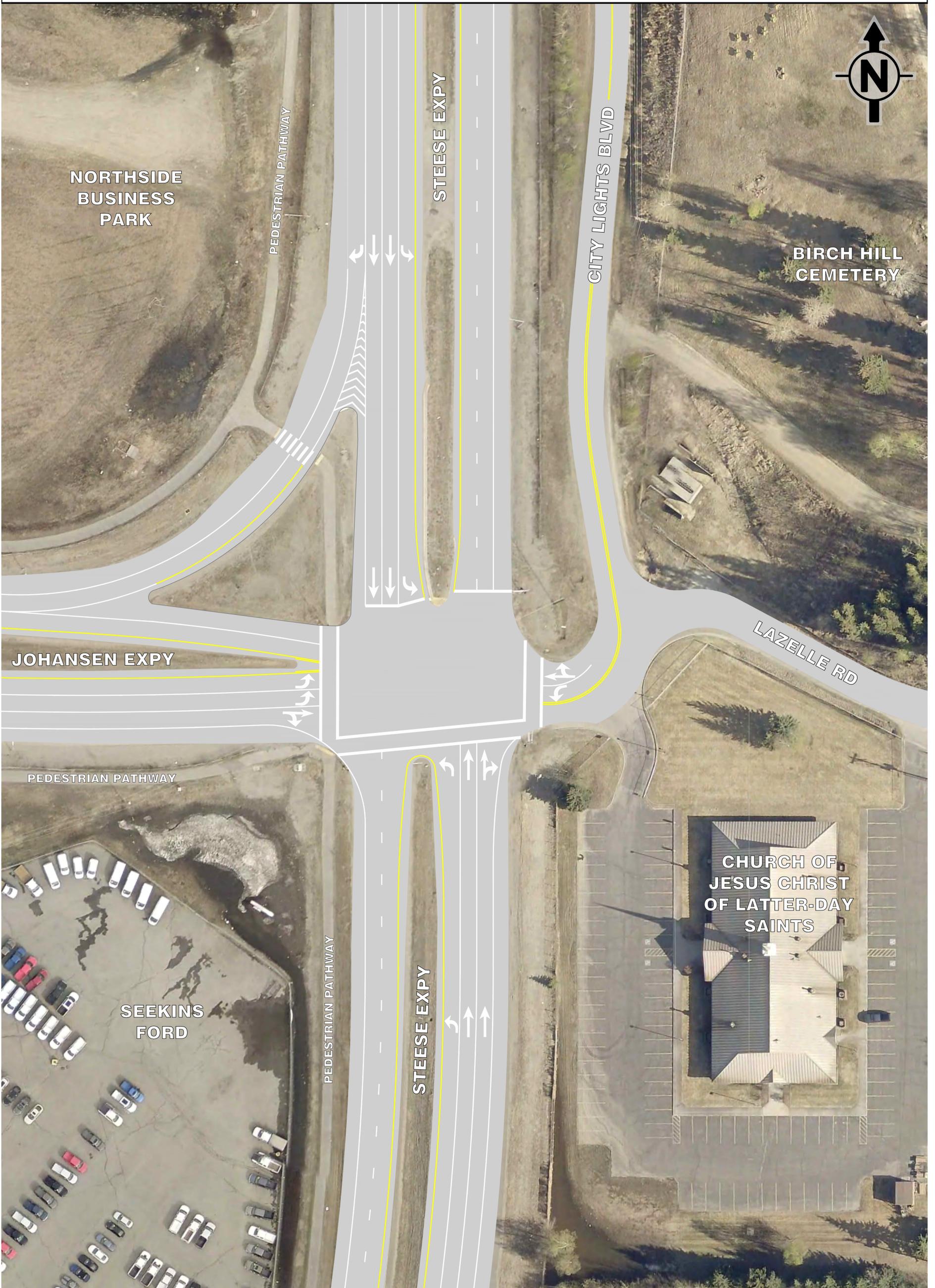
Minor Injury Crash



Property Damage Crash

EXISTING INTERSECTION CONDITIONS STEESE EXPRESSWAY / JOHANSEN EXPRESSWAY INTERCHANGE

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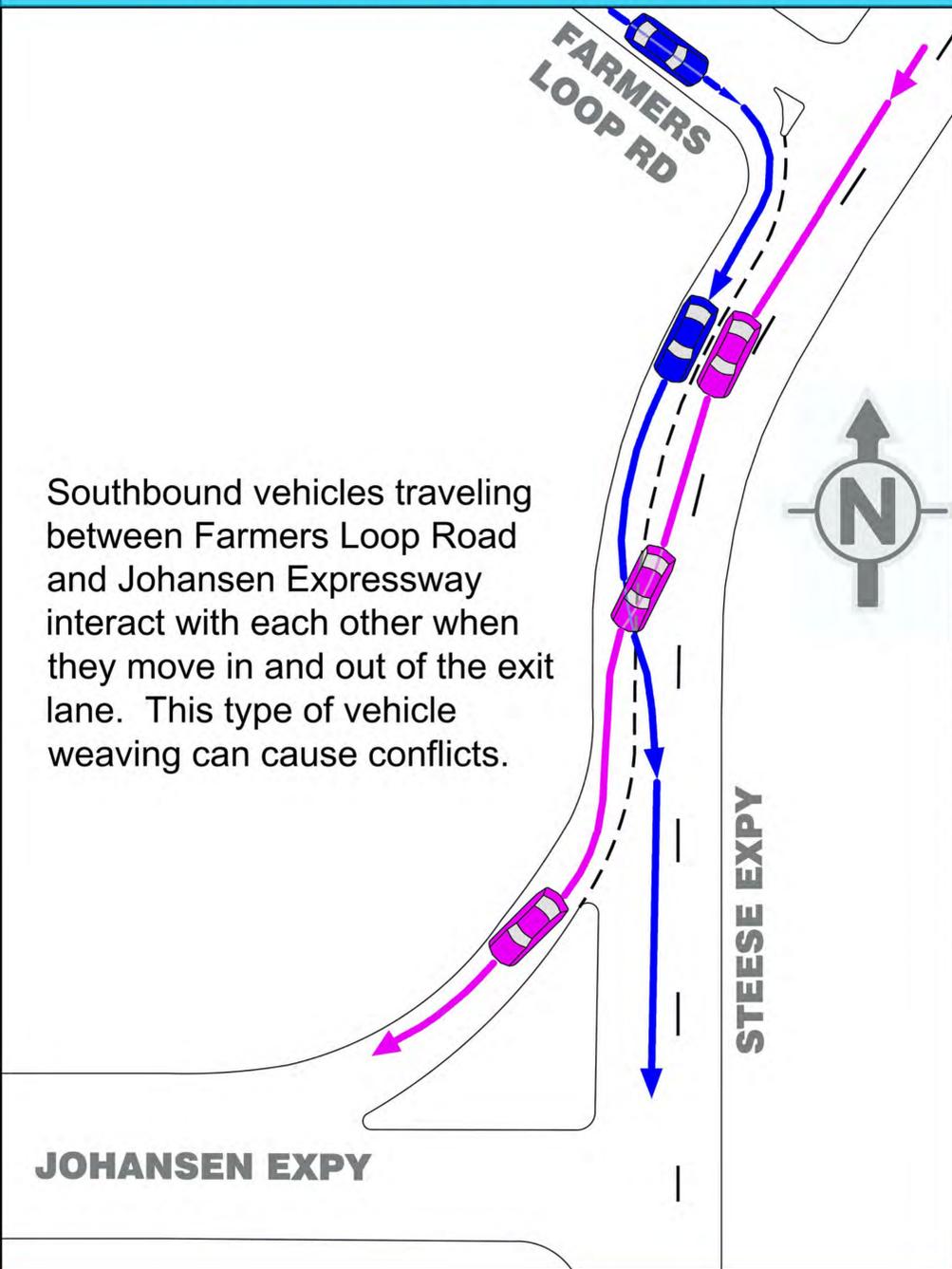


IDENTIFIED CONCERNS STEENSE EXPRESSWAY / JOHANSEN EXPRESSWAY INTERCHANGE

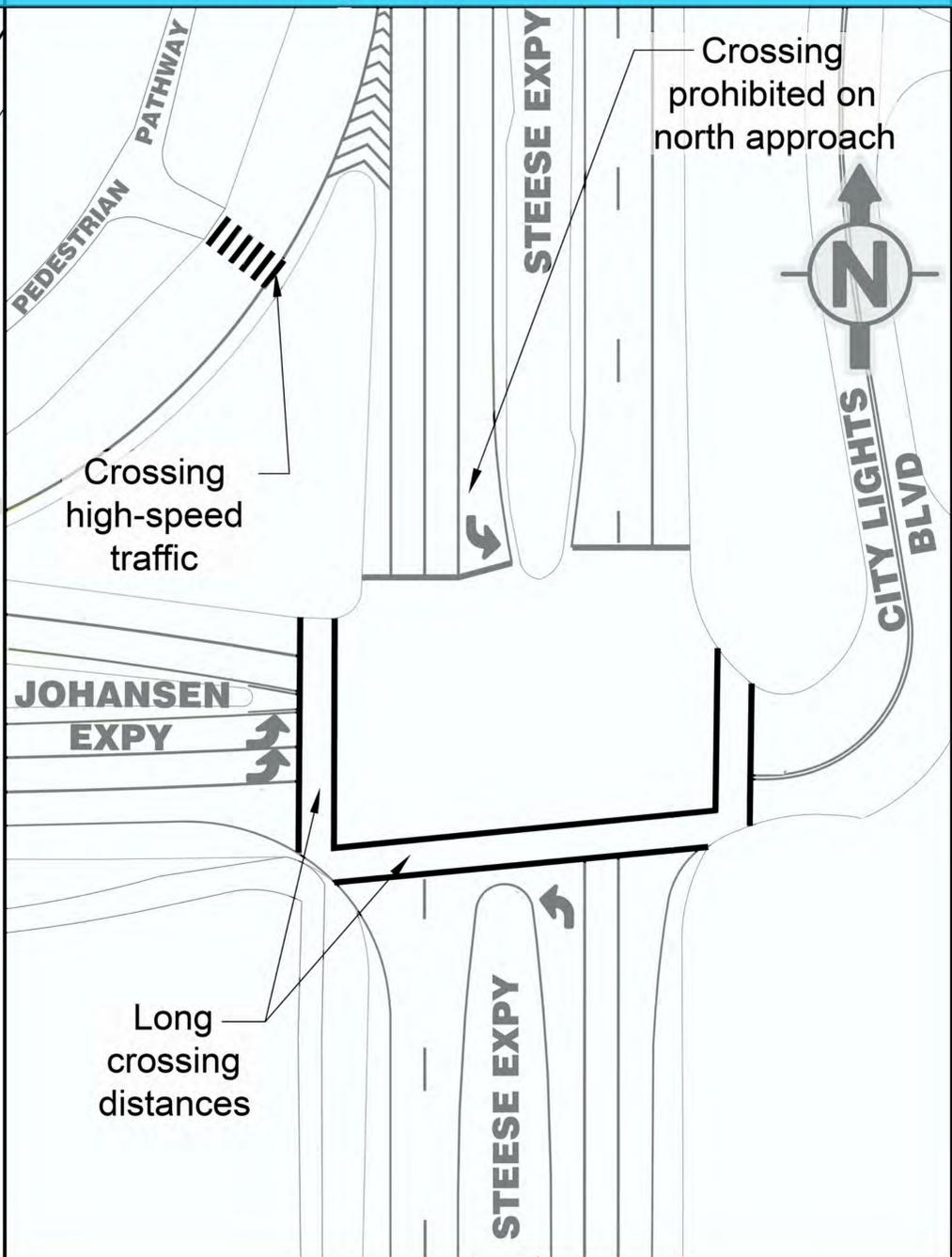
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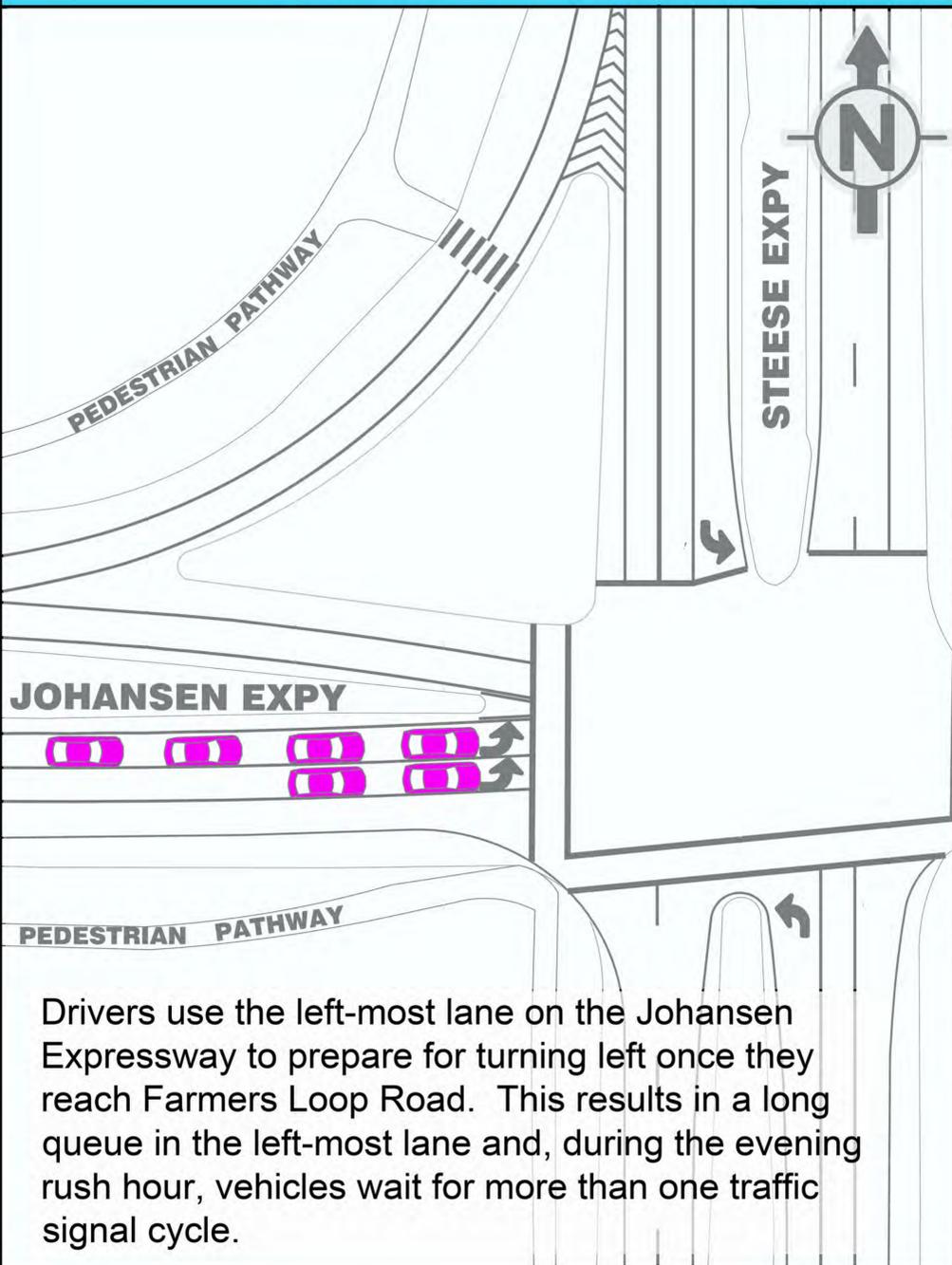
LANE CHANGE CONFLICTS



PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



VEHICLE DELAY



TRUCK TRAFFIC

