

Whitefish Rail Corridor Crossing Study



Study Review Committee (SRC) Role + Responsibilities



» You were selected due to your unique insight and for the role you play in the community as it relates to this project.



» Examine the project through the lens of your respective disciplines to help identify potential risks, threats, benefits, and opportunities for collaboration and efficiency.



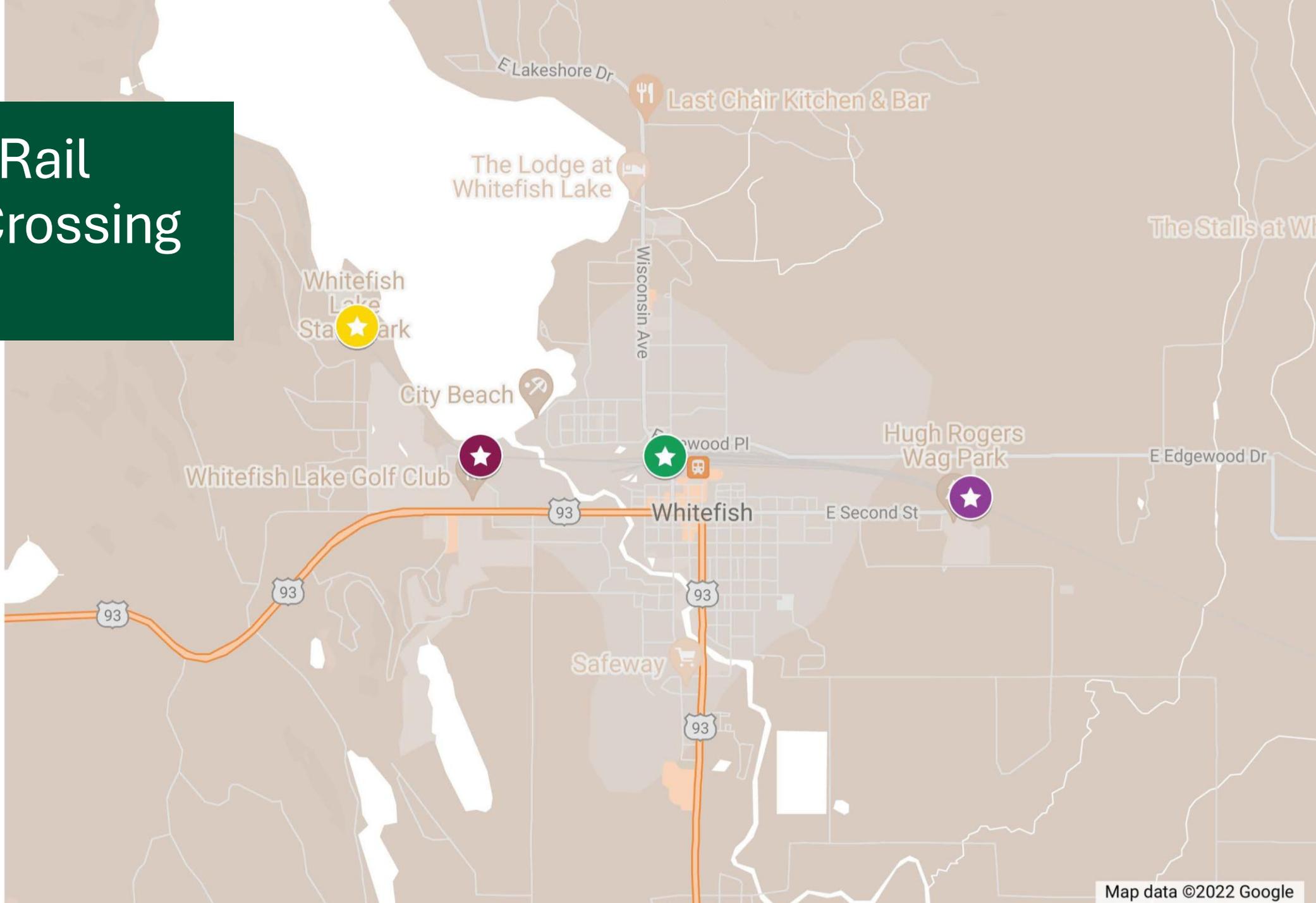
» This meeting plus 2 additional SRC meetings to be scheduled between December and March 2026.



Whitefish Rail Corridor Crossing Study

Railroad Crossings

- State Park Road
- Birch Point Drive
- Viaduct/Baker Avenue
- East Second Street



Background



» The crossings in Whitefish were identified as competitive for discretionary funding made available through the BIL



» The City and BNSF provided the required matching funds for an application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program



» FY 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCE) Planning Grant



Study Components

The components of the study will include



- » Safety and access analysis for each of the existing crossings for businesses, housing, education, recreation and health services
- » Identification of barriers to emergency services with analysis of how the crossings contribute to emergency service delays
- » Analysis of wildfire evacuation routes constrained by the current crossings
- » Public outreach and involvement to promote equity in project planning and produce workable recommendations for the affected community

Study Goals

The goals of the study are to identify and study improvements that:



Support potential elimination/replacement of at-grade crossings with accident and incident history located in close proximity to a BNSF yard.



Provide for reliable passenger rail service to the Whitefish Amtrak station during any recommended study component activities.



Improve railroad corridor safety, security, and hardening and related reduction in the potential for trespassing on BNSF property.



Enhance freight and passenger railroad operating safety, efficiency, and velocity.



Improve public safety, multimodal mobility and connectivity, and access.



Remove of barriers to equity, community development, and economic opportunity.



Progress to Date

Signed
June 2024



Grant Agreement

Approved
June 2025



Project Management Plan

Approved
October 2025



Stakeholder Coordination Plan

Submitted for
FRA review
September 2025



Existing Conditions Report



Existing Conditions Report

» Basic Field Survey

Roadway and geographic geometries

» Data Collection

Rail Crossings, Roadway Infrastructure, Regional Parks and Trails, Rail Infrastructure and Operations, Whitefish Yard Operations and Crossing Blockages, Structures, Safety, and Demographics and Environmental

» Plans and Studies

» Field Visit Summary



Next Steps



Stakeholder
Coordination/
Public Involvement
Efforts



Alternatives
Analysis



Future
Funding

Next Steps:

Stakeholder Coordination/ Public Involvement Efforts

» **SRC Meeting**

- SRC Kickoff 11/4
- Two Additional Meetings to review Alternatives Analysis and provide Recommendations

» **Virtual Public Meeting**

- December Launch



Next Steps:

Alternatives Analysis

- » **Conceptual Engineering**
- » **Transportation Analysis**
- » **Preliminary Environmental Impact Analysis**
- » **Conceptual Cost Estimates**
- » **Recommendations**
- » **FRA Review**



Next Steps:

Federal Reviews and Funding

» FRA Submissions and Reviews

» Funding Needs and Opportunities

- National Railroad Partnership – 1/7
- RCE and CRISI early next year

