

August 2022

Meade County

Master Transportation Plan





The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grant(s) from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, under the State Planning and Research Program, Section 505 and Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(f) of Title 23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation

The preparation of this report has been financed through the South Dakota Department of Transportation’s SPR Funding for Local Agencies program. The contents and recommendations of this report do not necessarily reflect official views, policy, or endorsement of the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation and the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provide services without regard to race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability, according to provisions contained in SDCL 20-13, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 and Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations, 1994.

To request additional information on the SDDOT’s Title VI/Nondiscrimination policy or to file a discrimination complaint, please contact the Department’s Civil Rights Office at 605-773-3540. Any person who has questions concerning this policy or who believes they have been discriminated against should contact the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Title VI Coordinator, Kip Harrington, at 605-394-4120.

Meade County Master Transportation Plan

Prepared for:

Meade County

1300 Sherman Street

Sturgis, SD 57785

Prepared by:

KLJ

330 Knollwood Drive

Rapid City, SD 57701

Project Manager: Steve Grabill, PE, PTOE

KLJ Project Number 2102-00279

August, 2022



Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....ES-1

- Introduction ES-1
- Public Engagement ES-1
- Study Advisory Team (SAT) ES-1
- Baseline Conditions Analysis..... ES-2
- Projected Conditions Analysis..... ES-2
- Project Recommendations..... ES-5
- Short-Range Projects ES-5
- Long-Range Roadway Projects..... ES-6
- Special Roadway Projects ES-8
- Bike/Ped Projects ES-11
- Bridges ES-14
- Financial Scenarios..... ES-15
- Standards ES-16

Chapter 1: Introduction 1

- Purpose 1
- Background 1
- Planning Process 2
- Study Advisory Team (SAT) 2
- Study Area..... 2
- Policy Framework..... 4
- Transportation Vision..... 4
- Goals and Strategies 4

Chapter 2: Public Engagement 8

- Introduction 8
- Stakeholders 8
- Methods and Activities 8
- Public Input Meetings (PIMs)..... 9
- Project Website..... 9
- Interactive Issues Map Engagement Results 10



Comment Clusters and Summary	10
Transportation Plan Goals Survey.....	13
Chapter 3: Baseline Conditions	14
Introduction	14
Population Growth Trends.....	14
Future Growth Areas	15
Rural Development Growth.....	15
Ellsworth Air Force Base	16
Subdivision Growth.....	17
Roadway Conditions	17
Jurisdictional Ownership.....	18
Functional Classification	20
Roadway Surface and Pavement Management.....	26
Existing County Road Graveling Plan	28
Roadway Surface Decisions	28
Traffic Volumes	29
Turning Movement Counts.....	31
Crash and Safety Analysis	33
Study Area Crash Trends.....	33
Crash Severity	35
Crash Type.....	36
Crash Occurrence Period	36
Crashes Involving Impaired Drivers	38
Crashes Involving Wild Animals	39
Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes.....	41
Highest Crash Frequency Intersections	41
Culverts and Bridges	45
Condition of Culverts and Bridges	45
Freight Systems.....	48
Multimodal Facilities.....	50
Chapter 4: Projected Conditions Analysis.....	51
Introduction	51



Segment Volumes	51
Traffic Operations	54
Study Intersections for Traffic Operations.....	56
Intersection Data Collection	66
Intersection and Traffic Operations.....	67
StreetLight Origin-Destination Analysis and ADT	70
Safety Operations	76
Summary and Conclusion	79
Chapter 5: Project Development, Identification, and Prioritization.....	80
Introduction	80
Paving of Gravel Roads	80
Roadway Projects.....	82
Short-Range Projects	82
Long-Range Roadway Projects.....	85
Special Roadway Projects	86
Bike/Ped Projects.....	89
Bridges	92
Chapter 6: Financial Analysis.....	93
Background	93
Financial Scenarios.....	95
Chapter 7: Standards	97
Introduction	97
Typical Roadway Cross-Sections	97
Access Spacings.....	101

Figures

Figure ES-1: Short-Range Project Locations.....	ES-7
Figure ES-2: Long-Range and Unique Projects.....	ES-10
Figure ES-3: Bike/Ped Projects.....	ES-13
Figure 1: Meade County MTP Study Area.....	3
Figure 2: Interactive Issues Map Comment Word Cloud	10
Figure 3: Social Pinpoint Map Comments.....	12
Figure 4: South Dakota’s Top 20 Counties by Population Growth (2010 – 2020)	14
Figure 5: Meade County Population Growth throughout the 20th Century	15



Figure 6: Meade County Rural and Urban Population, 2010 and 2020 15

Figure 7: Meade County Rural and Urban Population Growth from 2010 to 2020..... 16

Figure 8: Subdivisions Planned for Completion in 2022 17

Figure 9: Meade County Roadway System by Jurisdiction 19

Figure 10: Functional Classification: Access vs Mobility 20

Figure 11: FHWA Functional Classification within Meade County..... 24

Figure 12: Meade County Functional Classification..... 25

Figure 13: County Roads Surface Type Percentages..... 26

Figure 14: County Roads by Surface Type..... 27

Figure 15: Traffic Count Locations and Volumes within Meade County 30

Figure 16: Study Intersections 32

Figure 17: Relative Crash Density within the Study Area 34

Figure 18: Crash Summary (2016 – 2020)..... 35

Figure 19: Crashes by Crash Type (2016 – 2020) 36

Figure 20: Crashes by Time of Day (2016 – 2020)..... 37

Figure 21: Crashes by Day of Week (2016 – 2020) 37

Figure 22: Crashes by Month (2016 – 2020)..... 38

Figure 23: Crashes by Month, by Analysis Year 38

Figure 24: Crashes Involving a Wild Animal by Month (2016 – 2020)..... 39

Figure 25: Locations of Crashes Involving a Wild Animal (2016 – 2020) 40

Figure 26: Crashes Involving Pedestrians and Bicyclists (2016 – 2020)..... 42

Figure 27: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations (2016 – 2020)..... 44

Figure 28: Sufficiency Rating for County Maintained Bridges and Culverts 45

Figure 29: Bridge Sufficiency Rating vs Year Bridge was Built 46

Figure 30: Bridge and Culvert Condition within the Study Area..... 47

Figure 31: Condition of County-Maintained Pipe Culverts 48

Figure 32: Meade County Major Freight Corridors and Airports..... 49

Figure 33: Study Intersections 55

Figure 34: StreetLight Data Analysis Zones..... 71

Figure 35: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations (2016 – 2020)..... 78

Figure 36: Default 20-Year Agency Cost Models (per mile)..... 81

Figure 37: Short-Range Project Locations..... 84

Figure 38: Long-Range and Unique Projects..... 88

Figure 39: Bike/Ped Projects..... 91

Figure 40: 5-Year Plan Project Cost by Category 94

Figure 41: Average 5-year Plan Expenditures..... 94

Figure 42: Meade County Revenue Increases by Source..... 95

Tables

Table ES-1: Traffic Volume Locations by 2045 ADT Estimate ES-2

Table ES-2: Short-Range Roadway Projects ES-5

Table ES-3: Long-Range Roadway Projects ES-8

Table ES-4: Special Roadway Projects..... ES-9



Table ES-5: Bike/Ped Projects	ES-12
Table ES-6: Bridge Project Priorities	ES-14
Table 1: Meade County MTP Goal Areas	5
Table 2: Study Advisory Team Member Agencies.....	8
Table 3: Goals Survey Results	13
Table 4: FHWA Roadway System Miles by Functional Classification.....	22
Table 5: County-Based Functional Classification Miles.....	22
Table 6: Study Intersections.....	31
Table 7: Top Five States for Claims from a Collision with an Animal (2020) ⁸	39
Table 8: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations	43
Table 9: Twenty Highest Traffic Volume Locations by 2045 ADT Estimate	52
Table 10: Study Intersections.....	54
Table 11: Intersection Delay and Level of Service (LOS).....	67
Table 12: Intersection TMC Base Volumes per Hour	68
Table 13: Study Intersections Operation Results (2021)	68
Table 14: Study Intersections Operation Results (2045)	69
Table 15: Traffic Projections	72
Table 16: OD 2020 (1)	74
Table 17: OD 2020 (2)	75
Table 18: OD 2045 (1)	75
Table 19: OD 2045 (2)	76
Table 20: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations	77
Table 21: Long-Range Roadway Projects – Gravel to Paved.....	81
Table 22: Short-Range Roadway Projects	83
Table 23: Long-Range Roadway Projects	86
Table 24: Special Roadway Projects.....	87
Table 25: Bike/Ped Projects	90
Table 26: Bridge Project Priorities	92
Table 27: 5-Year Plan Project Costs by Category	93
Table 28: Typical Cross-Section Standards for Roadways in Meade County.....	97
Table 29: Meade County Access Spacing Guidelines.....	102

Appendices

Appendix A: Public Input Materials

Appendix B: Study Advisory Team (SAT) Materials

Appendix C: Turning Movement Counts (TMC)



Executive Summary

Introduction

The Meade County Master Transportation Plan (MTP) is a key planning document that will guide transportation investment and policy through the year 2045. This plan serves as an update to the current MTP, which was completed in 2016. The MTP was a collaborative effort involving stakeholders, agency partners, and community members, and provides a blueprint for development of the transportation system using the community’s goals and priorities as a foundation.

The Meade County MTP emphasizes a balanced approach to meeting future transportation demands. A focus on improving sustainable transportation options such as biking, walking and public transit reduces roadway congestion and supports stewardship of the County’s natural resources. The MTP considers a range of project recommendations to address the community’s diverse transportation needs.

Public Engagement

Public Input Meetings (PIMs) were held to engage stakeholders and the public. Two PIM series were hosted during the planning process. Separate stakeholder meeting opportunities were also provided during the PIM meeting days. The consultant team organized and coordinated promotion, activities, and materials for these events.

PIM #1

The first PIM series consisted of two sessions, with the first held on September 29th (Piedmont American Legion) and the second held on September 30th (Meade County Courthouse). This introductory PIM series was designed to inform the public about the project background, baseline conditions, and Goal Areas, and to generate discussion on transportation needs and issues. PIM #1 was advertised through a variety of media channels, including newspaper ads, website, social media, and e-blast channels.

Public Input Opportunity #2

The second PIM series consisted of two sessions, with the first held on May 25th (Piedmont American Legion) and the second held on May 26th (Meade County Courthouse). This PIM series provided an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft Meade County MTP.

During the sessions, the project team gave a presentation on the analysis and recommendations contained in the draft MTP. PIM #2 was advertised through a variety of media channels, including newspaper ads, website, social media, and e-blast channels.

Study Advisory Team (SAT)

Development of the Meade County MTP was guided by the SAT, which was formed at the onset of the planning process. The SAT played a central advisory role throughout the planning process by providing direction at key decision points and helping to assure that the plan was reflective of the County’s transportation vision. SAT members included staff and representatives from the County, SDDOT, and the MPO. The SAT met on six occasions throughout the planning process.



Baseline Conditions Analysis

An analysis of baseline conditions was completed to evaluate existing conditions relative to all modes of travel. The baseline conditions analysis included a review of growth within the County, roadway conditions, traffic and crash data, culvert and bridge conditions, freight considerations, and multimodal facilities.

Population and subdivision growth within the County has been growing at a rapid pace over the past five years and has put additional stress on the existing transportation system. Generally speaking, traffic capacity issues are isolated to the urban corridors and intersections. Crash data indicates that the high frequency crash sites are occurring at the busiest intersections, also located within the County’s cities and towns. The primary multimodal needs were identified as gaps within sidewalk and shared use paths located near urban communities and schools.

Projected Conditions Analysis

Twenty-year traffic projections were developed to evaluate potential traffic capacity concerns for the future. The top 19 traffic volume locations provided by SDDOT and selected StreetLight count locations by estimated 2045 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) are shown in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1: Traffic Volume Locations by 2045 ADT Estimate

Site ID	Source	Corridor	Description	2021 ADT	2045 Estimate	2045 With Development
547041	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Stage Stop Rd	Between J B Rd & I-90W	3,320	4,731	5,013
547042	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between Hills View Dr & I-90W	2,713	3,866	4,097
547303	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Whitewood Rd	Between Us14A & 20Th St - Sturgis	1,714	2,442	2,588
547062	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Erickson Ranch Rd	Between Peaceful Pines Rd & West Ridge Rd	1,320	1,881	1,993
547304	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Whitewood Rd	Between Industry Rd & Meade/Lawrence County Line	1,058	1,508	1,598
547302	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Vanocker Canyon Rd	South of Junction Ave - Sturgis	1,032	1,471	1,558
547050	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between Ricard Rd & Golden Valley Dr	815	1,161	1,231
547060	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between Red Top Rd & Curlew Rd	679	968	1,025



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

552921	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	150 PI	Between Airway Ct & 225 St - Box Elder	524	747	791
547072	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between 209 St & Alkali Rd	469	668	708
547067	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Avalanche Rd	Between Eden Rd & Elm St	445	634	672
547073	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between Hay Draw Rd & Wilcox Rd	378	539	571
547049	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Vale Rd	Between Prairie Meadows Rd & Horseshoe Rd	354	504	535
547295	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Vanocker Canyon Rd	Between 1st Ave & Otter Rd - Sturgis	321	457	485
547070	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Alkali Rd	Between 135 Ave & 132 Ave	244	348	368
547045	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Pleasant Valley Rd	Between 130 Ave & I-90E	214	305	323
547014	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between School Rd & Horseshoe Rd	210	299	317
547064	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between 144 Ave & Elk Vale Rd	198	282	299
547046	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Cemetery Entrance Road	Main Black Hills National Cemetery Entrance	164	234	NA
1010	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Fort Meade Way	Between Pleasant Valley Rd & SD Hwy 34	900	1,300	1,350
1020	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Alkali Rd	West of Junction with 139 Ave	250	350	400
1030	StreetLight Analysis Zone	134th Ave/Pleasant Valley Rd	North of Junction with Tilford Rd	230	350	350
1040	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Tilford Rd	East of Junction with Ricard Rd	-	-	-
1050	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale Rd	Between Tilford Rd & Alkali Rd	200	300	300
1060*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale Rd S	Between Tilford Rd & Elk Creek Rd	250	350	400



1070	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	Between Sturgis & Rapid City	18,400	24,500	25,600
1080*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Erickson Ranch Rd	Between Peaceful Pines Rd & West Ridge Rd	1,450	2,100	2,200
1090*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Haines Ave	Between Peterson Rd & Virginia Ln	1,500	2,150	2,300
1100*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale South S	Between Prairie Meadows Rd & Horseshoe Rd	900	1,300	1,400
1110*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd North	Between Hope Rd & Hay Draw Rd	600	900	900
1120*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd Center	Between West Elm Springs Rd & Alkali Rd	700	1,000	1,050
1130*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd South	Between Red Top Rd & Curlew Rd	800	1,150	1,200
1140*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elm Spring Rd North	Between Boneita Rd & Hay Draw Rd	150	200	250
1150	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elm Spring Rd	North of Pennington County Line	200	300	300
1160	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Antelope Creek Rd	Between Elk Creek Rd & 224 St	650	950	1,000
2010	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	NW of Sturgis	12,200	16,200	17,000
2020	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 79	South of Butte County Line	2,000	2,700	2,800
2030	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 34	East of Junction with Elm Springs Rd	700	950	1,000
2040	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	East of Rapid City	8,000	10,600	11,100
2050	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 73	South of Faith	800	1,100	1,100
2060	StreetLight Analysis Zone	US 212	West of Faith	500	700	700

It is noteworthy that no future roadway capacity concerns were identified based on future traffic volumes. This does not mean that addition of turn lanes at some key intersections should not be considered, as turn lanes can improve both traffic operations and safety.



Project Recommendations

The project identification process was used to define three categories of projects: Roadways, Bridges, and Multimodal (Bike and Ped) projects. This process is outlined below:

- First, a preliminary set of project recommendations was developed in coordination with the Study Advisory Team and county staff. These preliminary recommendations were based on available data, transportation priorities as expressed by the county, the 2016 transportation plan, and public input received during the planning process.
- Second, the set of project recommendations was assessed against current and historical conditions, such as roadway safety within the study area.
- Third, the set of project recommendations was assessed against projected conditions, including future traffic operations, and forecast areas of concentrated population and employment growth.
- Fourth, the set of projects was refined by working closely with stakeholders and staff.

This process provided a progressive approach by which the project team could narrow, adjust, and refine the universe of projects based on existing and projected conditions.

Short-Range Projects

Short-Range projects were drafted from the county's 5-year plan and condensed where applicable. It is assumed that these will remain the county's priority in the short term. Short-range projects are listed with a location, brief description, and cost. Projects with a listed year of 2021 were assumed to have been completed and have been omitted. Short range projects are listed in Table ES-2. Short range project locations are shown in Figure ES-1.

Table ES-2: Short-Range Roadway Projects

Corridor/Project Location	Description	Total Project Cost (in Thousands)	Source
Multiple Projects	Chip Seal	1,510	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-541-100, 9 mi. S. & 5 mi. E. of Maurine	Replace Structure (Already in Progress)	1,867	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-635-190, 6 mi. E. & 12 mi. N. of White Owl on Whitetail Rd.	Replace Structure	550	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-549-149, 21.1 mi. W. & 13.9 mi. S. of Faith on Pine Creek Rd.	Replace Structure	462	County 5-Year Plan
Rolling Hills Rd from Nemo Road North 2 mi.	Fix Drainage	34	County 5-Year Plan
N Haines Ave. from Pennington Co. line 6.12 mi. North to Elk Creek Rd.	Change to 24' Deck with 4' Shoulders	6,500	County 5-Year Plan
Alkali Rd from Ft. Meade Way east 5 mi. to Titan Rd.	2" overlay	2,000	County 5-Year Plan



New Underwood Rd from Pennington Co. line to Elk Creek Rd 7 miles	Reconstruct & New AC Surfacing	7,500	County 5-Year Plan
Mnt. Shadows Rd. off of 2nd Street in Piedmont	Chip Seal	31	County 5-Year Plan
Norman Ave. from Peaceful Pines N to end of county asphalt	Chip Seal	78	County 5-Year Plan
Deadwood Ave and Peaceful Pines east of I-90 to Pennington County Line	Chip Seal	67	County 5-Year Plan
Sidney Stage Rd	Full depth reclamation and AS Surfacing	1,100	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-460-128, 11.8 mi S of Hwy 212 on Stoneville Rd.	Replace Bridge	400	County 5-Year Plan
Avalanche Rd from Alder Pl. N 3 mi to Eden Rd	Reconstruct & New AC Surfacing	3,200	County 5-Year Plan
Ft. Meade Way from Hwy 34 2.4 miles South	Regrade	1,000	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-060-305, 3 mi. E & 12.5 mi. N of Sturgis (130th Ave)	Replace Bridge	500	County 5-Year Plan
Engineer North 2.4 miles Ft. Meade Way	PE Engineering	35	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-114-553, 8.4 mi. E & 12.3 mi. S. of Sturgis (Deerview Rd.)	Replace Bridge	750	County 5-Year Plan
Deerview Rd.	Reconstruct & New AC Surfacing	6,000	County 5-Year Plan

Long-Range Roadway Projects

Long-Range Projects were created by first carrying forward projects from the 2016 Meade Moving Forward Transportation Plan. Projects that no longer apply were deleted and additional projects were identified through the processes identified at the beginning of this chapter.

Each project is listed with a corresponding Map ID, location information, a brief description, and a source, which details whether the project came from the 2016 plan or from efforts of this plan. The projects are not listed in any order of priority, and it will be up to the County to decide in the future which projects should be implemented over time. Approximate costs have also been listed. Long-range projects are shown in Table ES-3 and shown in Figure ES-2.

Figure ES-1: Short-Range Project Locations

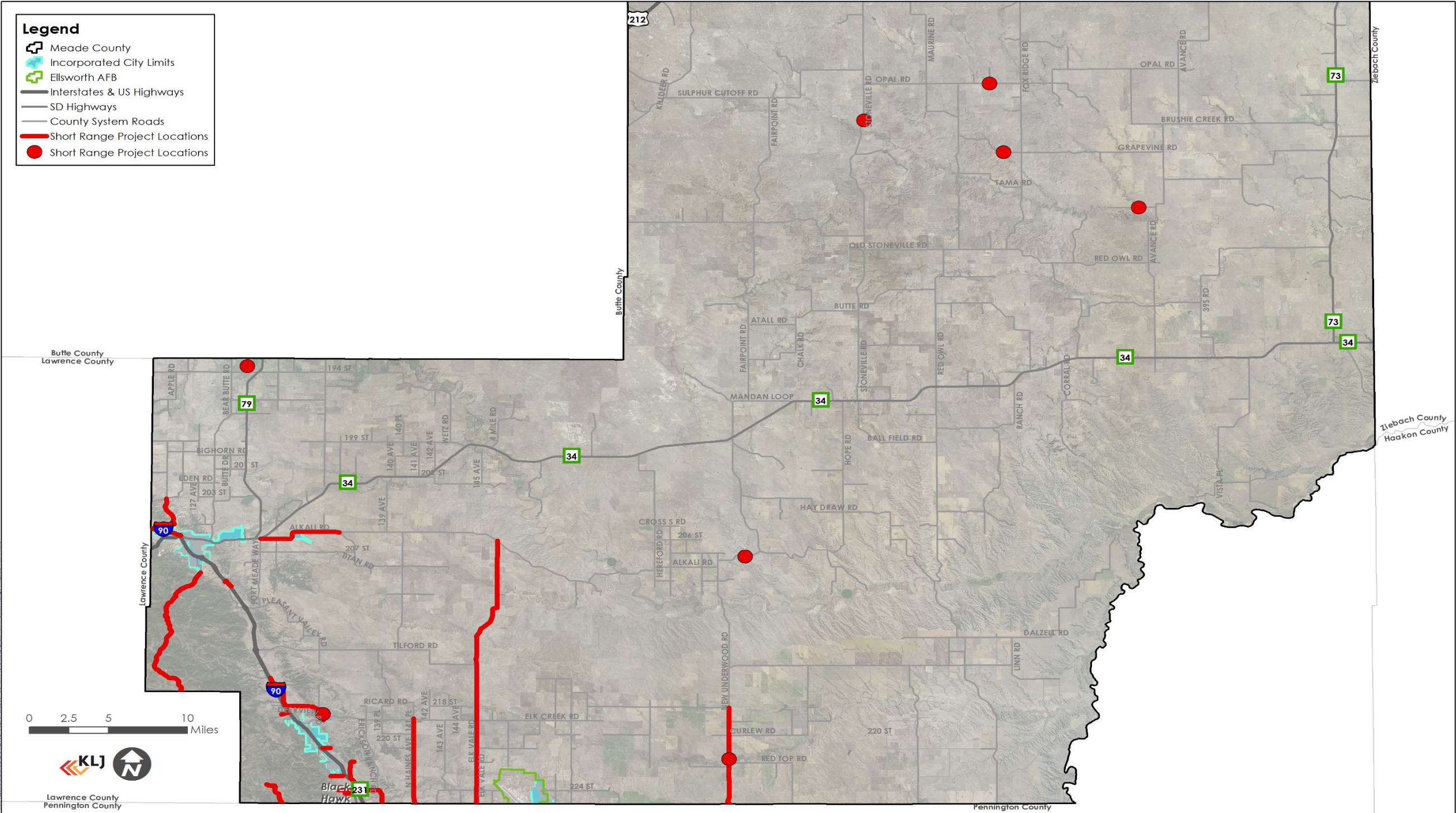


Table ES-3: Long-Range Roadway Projects

Map ID	Corridor	From	To	Description	Source	Estimated Cost (\$M)
1	Antelope Creek Road	Pennington County Line	Elk Creek Road	Asphalt paving	2016 Transportation Plan	10.2
2	Elk Creek Road	I-90 Exit 46	Edgewood Place	Acquire ROW for improvements, Realignment of roadway	2016 Transportation Plan	4.8
3	Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road	Antelope Creek Road	Asphalt paving	2016 Transportation Plan	10.2
4	I-90 Service Road	Exit 40	Vanocker Canyon Road	Corridor Preservation	2016 Transportation Plan	12.8
5	Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road	Haines Avenue	Asphalt paving to rural arterial	2016 Transportation Plan	6.9
6	New Corridor	Erickson Ranch Rd	143 rd Ave	New collector road	MCC Study 2020	7.5
7	Pleasant Valley Road	Tilford	Fort Meade Way	Asphalt Paving	Newly Identified	13
8	Haines Ave	Pennington County Line	Elk Creek Road	Reconstruct	Newly Identified	10.4

Special Roadway Projects

Throughout the planning process of this plan, a few key corridors have drawn the attention of SAT members and planning staff. These corridors present unique challenges as they are not strictly under the county’s jurisdiction, or the county has expressed an interest in the state taking over jurisdiction. Each unique corridor is listed below and is listed in Table ES-4 and shown in Figure ES-2.

Fort Meade Way

Fort Meade Way has long been an identified corridor need east of Sturgis. The corridor runs from Pleasant Valley Rd to SD 34 near the Buffalo Chip campground. Previous efforts from the county to turn the corridor over to the SDDOT have not been successful. The corridor is unpaved but high traffic volumes indicate the need for paving. Although the county may not be interested in taking on the project itself, the project is listed here to support future coordination efforts.

Quaal Road

Quaal Road is roughly parallel to I-90 on the east side of Summerset between Stagestop Road and Norman Avenue. The road serves rural subdivision housing and was not constructed to be a major connection for the County. Quaal Road is maintained by a Road District, but they possess insufficient



funds to upgrade the corridor as a major through corridor. This plan identifies Quaal Road as a potential candidate for conversion to a three-lane corridor: two-lanes with a center lane turning lane. Further coordination between Summerset, the Road District, and the County will be needed to ensure proper planning and usage of Quaal Rd, and to identify needed funding.

150th Avenue

This project was moved from the list of long-range projects to the special projects as this road was deemed by SAT members to be of greater importance to the City of Box Elder and Pennington County, even though the landfill at the end of this corridor is in Meade County. Coordination is needed to determine jurisdictional responsibilities and to prioritize implementation.

Sly Hill Road

Sly Hill Road leaves the City of Sturgis and heads north into surrounding Meade County. The road transfers to Meade County jurisdiction at the top of the hill at city limits. This road serves current and future development and may need to be paved in the future.

New Underwood Road

Additional study will be needed to assess needs along the entirety of the New Underwood Road corridor from I-90 in Pennington County to its junction with SD 34.

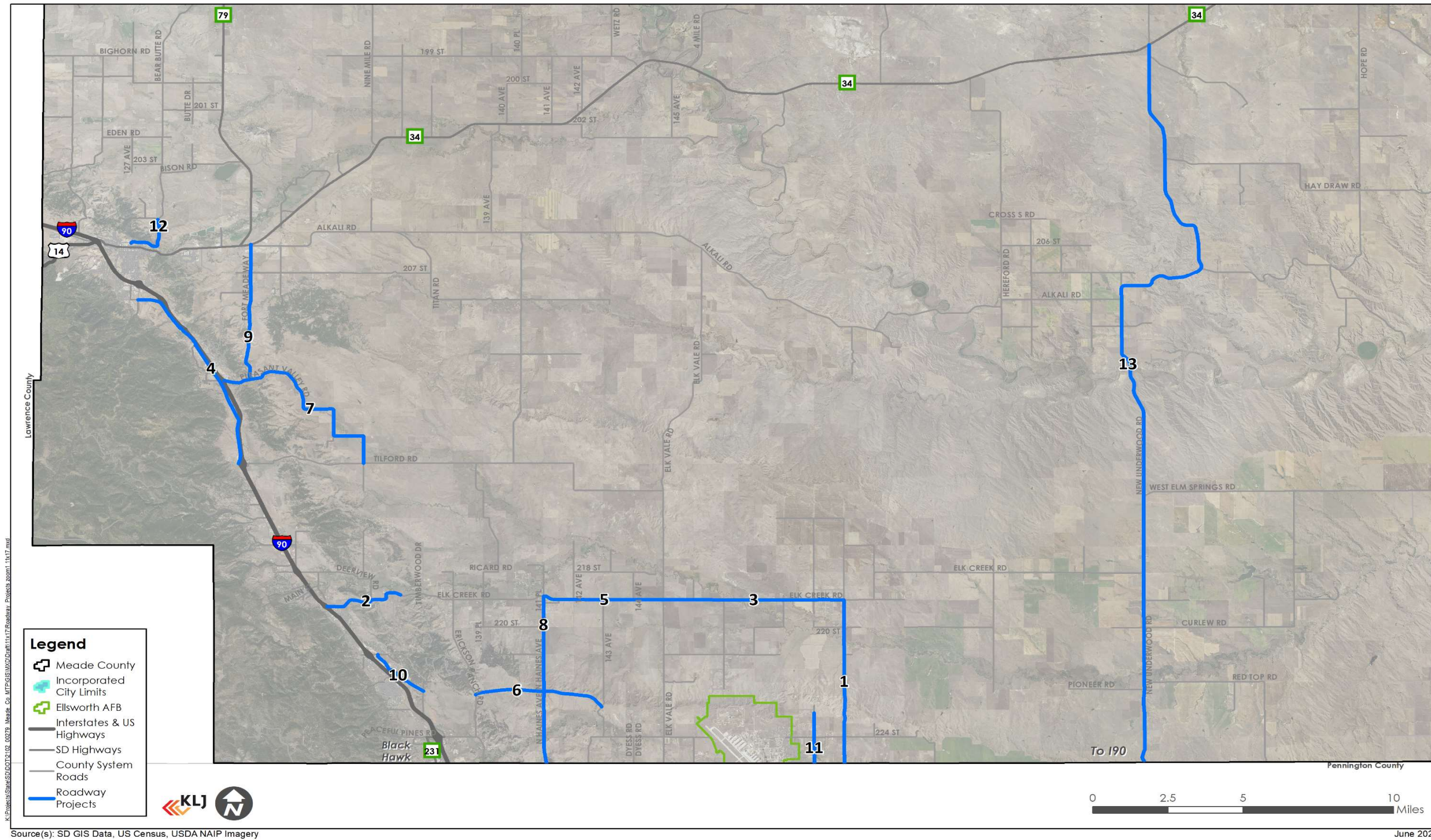
Table ES-4: Special Roadway Projects

Map ID	Corridor	From	To	Description	Source	Estimated Cost (\$M)
9	Fort Meade Way	Pleasant Valley Road	SD 34	Pave Roadway	Public Meeting Feedback	8.7
10	Quaal Road	Stagestop Road	Norman Avenue	Convert to three-lane with TWCLTL	Public Meeting Feedback	3.5
11	150th Avenue	Pennington County Line	North (Eagle Ranch Rd)	Asphalt paving as minor arterial	2016 Transportation Plan	3.1
12	Sly Hill Rd	Junction Ave	Foothills Rd	Pave Roadway	SAT Feedback	3.3
13	New Underwood Rd	I-90	SD 34	Corridor Study, Assess Needs	SAT Feedback	0.2

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure ES-2: Long-Range and Unique Projects





Bike/Ped Projects

In addition to roadway projects, the MTP sought to identify potential project needs for non-automobile transportation. These projects often coincide with roadway projects and should be considered along with them when planning for roadway projects. This will help to ensure funding in cases where bike and pedestrian needs should be addressed. Also, planning for bike and ped users will help to serve more residents of Meade County, especially those who cannot drive or need off-street infrastructure for general travel or for recreational purposes.

Projects for UTV users were considered however input from county staff and the SAT concluded that projects for UTVs were not a Meade County priority. The County is amenable to UTV users however limited funding is available to improve facilities for these users.

Bike/Ped projects were considered regardless of whether they would be a County-led project as in many instances a project may require cooperation among more than one jurisdiction and include the County. Projects were developed using the following criteria:

- Filling in sidewalks around area schools
 - Some schools in the county lack complete sidewalk access.
 - These projects were developed to aid in access to the school for bike and ped users.
 - Gaps were filled to connect the schools to already existing sidewalk networks.
 - Rural schools with no surrounding housing were not considered.
- Creating shared use for community use
 - Potential sites for shared use paths or sidewalks were identified to connect existing networks or to bridge gaps.
 - A potential link from the Pennington County line north through the communities of Black Hawk, Summerset, and Piedmont was identified for a shared use path to roughly parallel Sturgis Rd, making use of existing shared use path where it exists.

School Sidewalk Gaps

- 1) Approximately 0.2 miles to connect Black Hawk Elementary to housing with an existing sidewalk network on the east side of Sturgis Road.
- 2) Construct 350 ft of sidewalk in the City of Faith to connect the school to the sidewalk at Main St.

Shared Use Paths

- 3) Construct 3 miles of shared use path (SUP) from the Pennington County line to connect to an existing SUP that terminates at Leisure Ln/Castlewood Dr in Summerset. This project is part of a series of projects parallel to Sturgis Rd.
- 4) Construct 1.2 miles of SUP to continue where the SUP in Summerset terminates at High Meadows Rd and continue north to the existing SUP at approximately Stagestop Rd.
- 5) Construct the final 2.1 miles of SUP along Sturgis Rd to connect where project 5 leaves off and connect to the city of Piedmont.
- 6) Construct a sidewalk or SUP to connect housing subdivision on the east side of I-90 east of the community of Summerset. The bridge over I-90 already contains a separated sidewalk, however, the approaches on either side would be difficult for bike/ped users.



- 7) Construct new facilities to connect housing across I-90 and to connect to the SUP proposed in Project 6. Currently, the bridge over the interstate has no bike/ped facilities. This project would involve at a minimum three jurisdictions: Meade County, Summerset, and Piedmont.

Table ES-5: Bike/Ped Projects

Map ID	Corridor	From	To	Length (Miles)
1	Elm St in Black Hawk	Black Hawk Elementary	Meadow Rose Ln	0.2
2	W 1st Ave in Faith	5th St	1st St	0.07
3	Sturgis Rd	County Line	Leisure Ln/Castlewood Dr	3.1
4	Sturgis Rd	High Meadows Rd	Stagestop Rd	1.19
5	Sturgis Rd	Stables Dr	Park St	2.14
6	Stagestop Rd	Renata Dr	I-90 Bridge	0.53
7	Elk Creek Rd	Sturgis Rd	Glenwood Dr	0.67



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

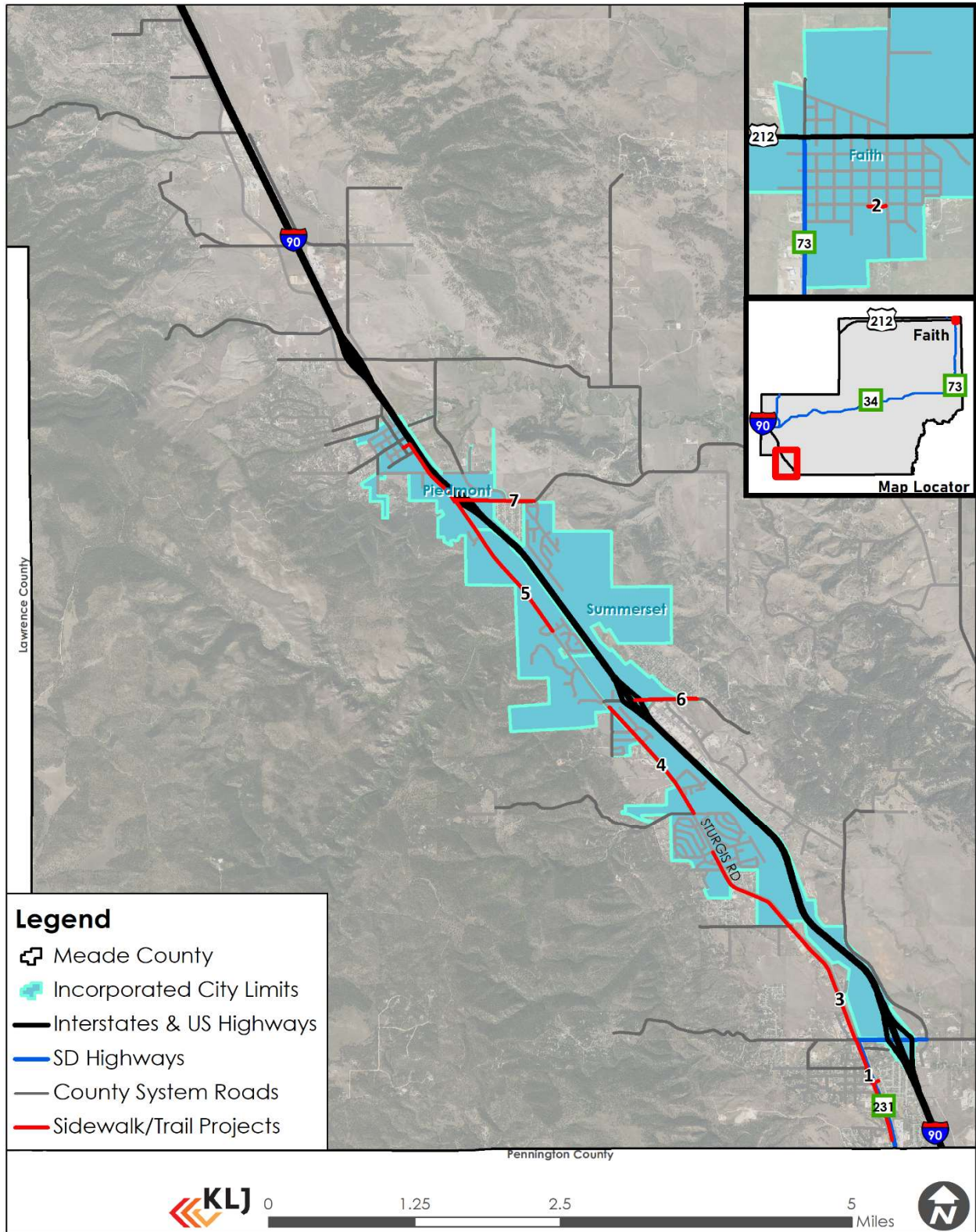


Figure ES-3: Bike/Ped Projects



Bridges

Bridge project priorities were developed from bridge inspection data and input from County staff. Three categories were established for the 30 lowest ranked bridges in the County, primary system, secondary system, and single access routes. Bridge project priorities within each category were developed using Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) scoring criteria developed by the SDDOT, as well as other factors. Bridge project priorities are listed in Table ES-6.

Table ES-6: Bridge Project Priorities

Route Type	Bridge Number	Rural Collector	Struct. Deficient	Load Posted	Low Condition	Daily Traffic	B.I.G. Score	Budgetary Replacement Cost
Primary System	47-460-128	x	x		4	233	37.0	\$600,000
	47-378-444	x			5	233	36.0	\$4,074,000
	47-459-135	x	x		3	233	25.3	\$1,050,000
	47-750-132	x		x	5	29	36.5	\$814,000
	47-499-460	x	x		3	60	27.3	\$431,000
	47-065-619	x			6	500	35.0	\$1,115,000
	47-170-612	x			7	1895	30.0	\$777,000
	47-363-476	x			6	280	29.2	\$3,675,000
	47-117-558	x			6	240	21.0	\$494,000
	47-050-322	x	x		4	33	14.5	\$440,000
Secondary System	47-183-390		x	x	1	50	50.0	\$339,000
	47-549-149		x	x	2	18	56.7	\$582,000
	47-541-100		x	x	4	59	54.5	\$1,302,000
	47-093-404		x	x	4	33	46.7	\$524,000
	47-060-305		x	x	4	33	44.0	\$370,000
	47-270-575		x		4	56	37.0	\$840,000
	47-475-100			x	6	60	55.8	\$592,000
	47-375-253		x		4	65	31.6	\$339,000
	47-580-338			x	5	10	54.9	\$499,000
	47-320-392			x	5	55	47.3	\$872,000
Single Access	47-377-117		x	x	2	30	67.0	\$539,000
	47-110-518		x	x	1	10	60.9	\$539,000
	47-635-190		x	x	3	10	58.9	\$1,124,000
	47-320-585		x	x	4	10	45.9	\$599,000
	47-243-401		x	x	4	10	52.9	\$1,176,000
	47-120-441			x	0	5	58.0	\$630,000
	47-689-123			x	5	21	60.0	\$432,000
	47-382-368		x	x	4	15	44.9	\$490,000
	47-088-539		x		4	30	38.0	\$615,000
	47-079-547			x	6	11	49.9	\$524,000



Financial Scenarios

Based on existing County Highway Department revenue, two scenarios were developed to allocate resources to meet system wide transportation needs. One scenario assumes the County continues its recent population growth for the next 20 years, the other scenario assumes similar growth and revenues with the addition of newly available federal monies.

Scenario 1 – Use of Known Funding

Base year, or existing condition investments in the Meade County highway system are the basis for the development of this future potential funding scenario. Meade County has a current annual average investment in the 5-year plan of nearly \$7 million per year. Existing known revenues for Meade County are approximately \$4.6 million per year. This will allow Meade County to complete roughly 2/3 of their programmed projects using available funding. The remaining projects in the 5-year plan may either be moved further out into the long range or can be completed if additional funding becomes available.

Other options exist for completing projects with limited funding. These could include phasing, with phases of less deficient segments being moved into the long range. Also, partnerships that spread the costs among multiple jurisdictions can help to complete the projects in the short term.

Using four percent inflation, the \$7 million per year would grow to about \$15.2 million by 2042. If population and revenue continue to grow, most transportation needs of the county are reasonable as the 5-year plan is non-binding and commissioners are allowed to pick and choose projects. As such, some projects on the 5-year plan are considered “must haves” while others are much lower in priority and were added to the list in the interest of completeness and to be eligible for funding.

Scenario 2 – Influx of New Funding

Scenario 2 assumes an increase in federal funding availability. In this scenario, county revenues increase as in scenario 1, however new federal funding creates significant new opportunities to fund projects. With the likely incoming of large amounts of previously unavailable federal funding due to recent congressional infrastructure bills, Meade County may be able to fund projects which were previously not feasible.

In the event new federal monies become available, the county will need to act quickly and decisively to apply for grants and other funding sources and to have “shovel ready” projects applicable for funding. One such project is a potential corridor study on New Underwood Road. County staff and SAT members have noted a potential future need for improvements on the corridor between I-90 in Pennington County and SD 34 in Meade County. At a minimum, the corridor could be studied to determine what future project improvements should be considered, whether the project should be phased, and how multiple jurisdictions should work together to see the improvements implemented.

Other projects from the long-range list of road projects that are currently considered to be low priority may suddenly have the opportunity to become fully funded, and the county will need to be prepared. Under scenario 2, the County simply adopts a more aggressive stance with regards to project planning and design.



Funding Strategy Recommendations

Having considered both scenarios, it would be appropriate for Meade County to be prepared for either scenario to occur. Meade County should look for ways to phase or delay some projects, or to choose a lesser improvement on some short-range projects if possible. Meade County should also be aggressive in pursuing other funding sources, including grants, to increase their financial resources for completing projects. This may require more emphasis on early project planning and completion of design to be more competitive for grants that require “shovel ready” projects.

Standards

Typical section and access standards contained in Ordinance 10 were reviewed and recommendations are provided within the MTP. Modified typical sections were provided to give the County more options when approached by developers who wish to propose either rural or urban developments within Meade County. The County may wish to adopt these new, modified typical sections as part of Ordinance 10. Access spacing standards were reviewed and found to be consistent with those used by the SDDOT. No revisions were recommended.



Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose

The Meade County Master Transportation Plan (MTP) is a key planning document that will guide transportation investment and policy through the year 2045. This plan serves as an update to the current Meade Moving Forward Transportation Plan, which was completed in 2016. The MTP was a collaborative effort involving stakeholders, agency partners, and community members, and provides a blueprint for development of the transportation system using the community's goals and priorities as a foundation.

The plan marks a period of rapid growth for the County driven by strong investment, new residents, and the area's enduring cultural appeal for tourists and visitors. While this vibrance and vitality should be celebrated, they introduce new pressures on the existing transportation system. Important considerations include subdivision growth along the I-90 corridor and throughout rural areas within the county, economic development spurred by increasing population and expansion of the Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB), and an intensifying need for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. These factors have produced changes in traffic volumes and patterns, warranting a detailed evaluation of the efficiency, condition, and safety of the existing system. The MTP update responds to the changing conditions within Meade County. It considers current trends, anticipates future needs, and presents recommendations to support the County in accommodating future growth.

The Meade County MTP emphasizes a balanced approach to meeting future transportation demands. A focus on improving sustainable transportation options such as biking, walking and public transit reduces roadway congestion and supports stewardship of the County's natural resources. The MTP considers a range of project recommendations to address the County's diverse transportation needs.

Background

Meade County is located in western South Dakota, with most of its land area lying to the north and east of Rapid City. The County encompasses more than 2 million acres, making it the largest county in South Dakota in terms of land area. Although the County measures 140 miles from its northeast corner to its southwest corner, it is sparsely populated. The total land area of Meade County is 3,482 square miles with an estimated population of 29,852 (2020). Sturgis is the largest city in the County with approximately 7,020 (2020) residents. The County's remaining residents reside in smaller towns along Interstate 90 (I-90), in the City of Faith located in the County's northeastern corner, and within rural areas throughout the rest of the County. The number one industry in the County is agriculture. Meade County is also home to Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB). In addition to the agriculture industry and military, the County hosts up to one-half million tourists each August for the world's largest motorcycle rally, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The purpose of the County transportation system is to move people and goods in a safe and efficient manner. A variety of travel needs must be considered to fulfil this purpose, including travel within the County, trips that pass through the County, and trips between rural parts of the County and between the County's cities. The County roadway system is a critical component of the transportation system, serving most of the travel needs outside city limits.



The County roadway network has been designed and constructed to serve rural and regional needs. Ongoing growth and development in the County have created increased traffic demands on this roadway network, with some facilities struggling to accommodate growing traffic volumes. The Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally further heightens travel demand in the western portion of the County.

Planning Process

The Meade County MTP is a collaborative effort between Meade County, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), and the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designed to identify needs and establish priorities with respect to the Meade County transportation system. The plan addresses existing issues and anticipated concerns for traffic congestion, safety, access, and connectivity. The planning process involved collaboration between multiple jurisdictions, key stakeholders, and citizens, and was designed to create an open dialogue within the County on transportation.

Study Advisory Team (SAT)

Development of the Meade County MTP was guided by the SAT, which was formed at the onset of the planning process. The SAT played a central advisory role throughout the planning process by providing direction at key decision points and helping to assure that the plan was reflective of the County's transportation vision. SAT members included staff and representatives from the County, SDDOT, and the MPO. The SAT met on six occasions throughout the planning process. SAT meeting presentations and summaries are included in Appendix B.

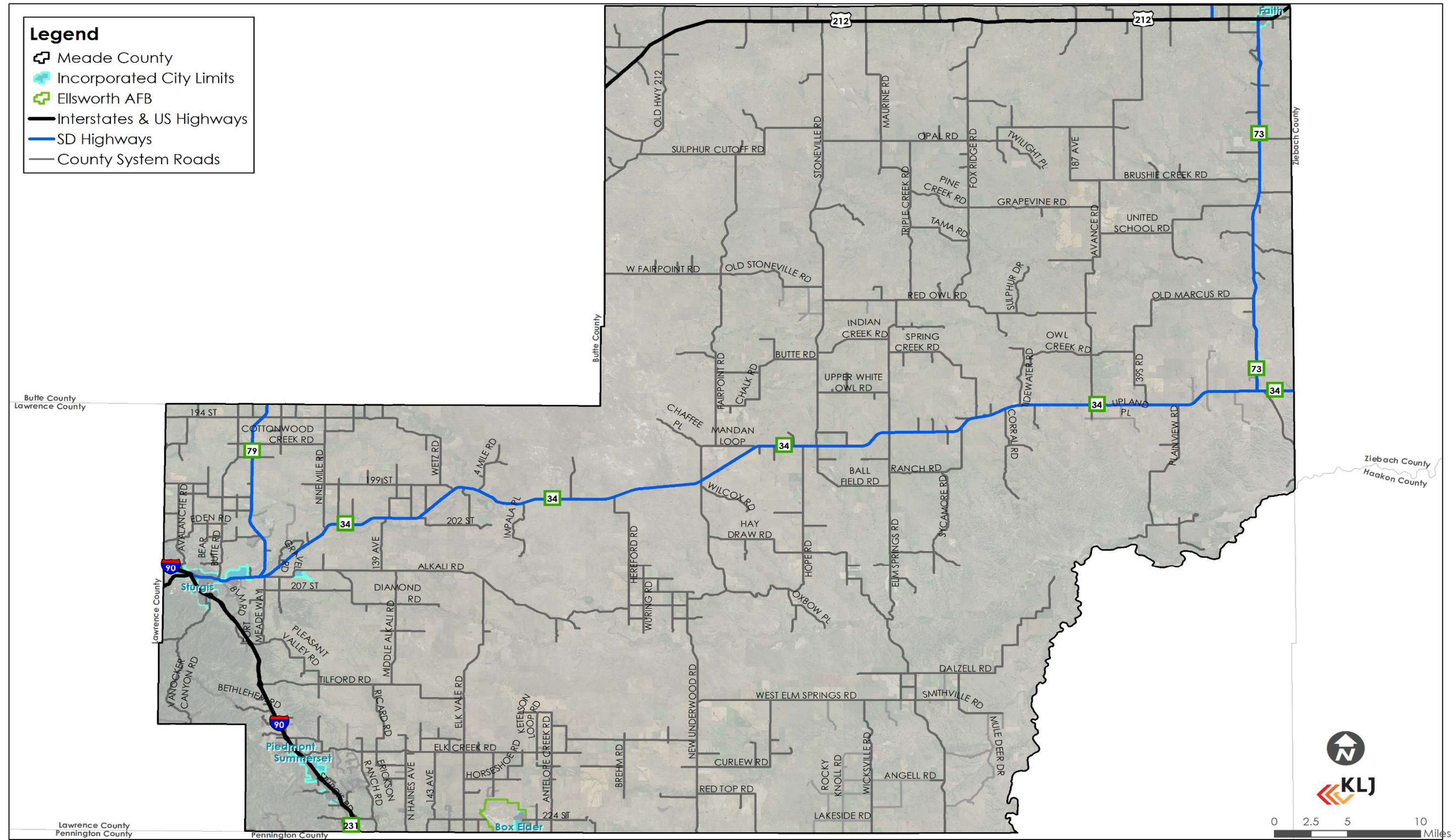
Study Area

The study area for the project includes all of Meade County. Transportation facilities under the jurisdiction of the County are the central focus of this plan. However, the relationship and connectivity of the County system to other transportation systems – municipal, state, federal, and those under jurisdiction of road districts – have also been considered and incorporated throughout the planning process. The project study area is shown in Figure 1.

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 1: Meade County MTP Study Area



Policy Framework

The Meade County MTP policy framework serves as the plan’s policy foundation and charts a course for future transportation investment within the study area. The framework is designed to be long-range and comprehensive, reflecting the transportation system as a whole and incorporating the County’s priorities to support current and future residents.

The framework was developed in close coordination with the SAT, local governments and stakeholders throughout the County, and the SDDOT. It incorporates input collected through the community engagement process, as well as the policy direction put forth in local and regional planning documents.

The policy framework consists of three elements: Vision, Goals, and Strategies.

- **Vision:** The transportation vision communicates the aspirations and priorities that will guide the County’s transportation investments in order to achieve its desired future.
- **Goals:** Goals are broad statements that describe a desired end state. The goals represent key priorities for desired outcomes for the transportation system, and for the wellbeing and prosperity of the county. Goals are visionary statements that reflect key priority areas.
- **Strategies:** Strategies are specific statements that support the achievement of goals. Strategies “operationalize” the goals: they refine goals into discrete, policy-based actions that are used to guide decision making towards achievement of the vision. There are multiple strategies for each goal.

Transportation Vision

The transportation vision will serve as an anchor for future development of the Meade County transportation system. The transportation vision is as follows:

Meade County will develop a transportation system that incorporates high network connectivity, supports commerce, and provides efficient, safe, and dependable mobility for people and goods. The transportation system will be a driving force for the County’s growth and prosperity, supporting livable and vibrant communities that serve existing residents while creating an attractive environment for investment, tourism, and new residents.

Goals and Strategies

The project team defined six goal areas in collaboration with the SAT, stakeholders, and the public. In addition, the goal areas presented in SDDOT’s 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan¹ (LRTP) served as a basis for the Plan goal areas. The goal areas were used to develop the final set of six MTP goals.

¹ <https://dot.sd.gov/media/documents/FinalSDLRTP.pdf>



The public involvement process was fundamental in establishing the MTP goal areas. Input collected during engagement events allowed for the project team to craft a set of goals that closely reflect the needs, preferences, and priorities of the County.

The six goal areas are shown in Table 1, where they are presented in relation to the SDDOT 2045 LRTP goals. The goal areas, as presented here, do not imply an order of priority.

Table 1: Meade County MTP Goal Areas

Meade County MTP Goal Area	SDDOT 2045 LRTP Goals
Safety	Improve Transportation Safety and Security for all Modes of Transportation
System Preservation	Preserve and Maintain the Transportation System
Mobility, Reliability, & Accessibility	Improve Mobility, Reliability and Accessibility
Economic Vitality	Improve Mobility, Reliability and Accessibility
Environmental Sustainability	Promote Environmental Stewardship
Innovative Transportation Technologies	Promote Innovative Transportation Technologies

The goal areas were used to define the final set of six MTP goals. For each goal, various strategies are defined.

1. Safety

Goal: Create a transportation system that incorporates safety and security throughout all modes and for all users.

- Support the mission of South Dakota’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan to save lives and reduce serious injuries.
- Reduce the incidence of all motor vehicle and non-motor vehicle (pedestrian and cyclist) crashes, with an emphasis on serious injury and fatal crashes.
- Regularly review and update emergency routes, coordinating as needed with city governments and SDDOT to facilitate the rapid movement of first responders and support incident management during times of emergency.
- Target safety improvement projects, if applicable, to address the Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations as identified within the Meade County MTP.
- Enhance crash data integration and analysis to support decision making and issue identification.
- Recommend that sidewalks be included on both sides of new streets in neighborhood and business districts, and that they be incorporated into major construction projects for existing streets within these districts.
- Improve education on bike safety and increase the awareness of both bicyclists and motorists regarding bike related laws, rules, and responsibilities.
- Incorporate street trees into projects to buffer pedestrians from traffic, improve community and neighborhood aesthetics, and provide shade.



2. System Preservation

Goal: *Proactively preserve and maintain existing transportation system infrastructure.*

- Continue to employ a road maintenance plan to inventory road conditions, prioritize projects, allocate investment, and comply with the functional classification standards as described within Meade County Ordinance 10.
- Employ a systematic, data-driven process to support decisions on when and where to pave a gravel roadway.
- Seek to invest in cost-effective preventative maintenance projects to reduce the need for more costly structural improvements.
- Develop a capital improvement program that implements the project recommendations developed and prioritized within the Meade County MTP.

3. Mobility, Reliability, & Accessibility

Goal: *Create a transportation system that optimizes mobility and connectivity, allowing users to move from one place to another in a direct route with minimal travel times and delays.*

- Improve system-wide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity by prioritizing investments that address network gaps and help traverse barriers.
- Implement operational improvements to optimize the efficiency of the transportation system, including geometric improvements, access management, and updated intersection control.
- Implement a consistent approach for investment, design, connectivity, and maintenance of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Identify and consider accessibility and connectivity needs on improvement projects for roads, paths, and sidewalks.
- Utilize the development review process to require new developments to provide adequate pedestrian and bicycle access to essential services, amenities, and destinations.
- Work with Prairie Hills Transit to improve route efficiency while continuing to serve major employment centers, education facilities, medical offices, commercial developments, and tourist destinations.
- When improving sections of street, upgrade existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities or construct such facilities if desired and none are present.
- Provide an integrated system of bike and pedestrian trails and greenways to future neighborhoods, employment centers, and recreational amenities.

4. Economic Vitality

Goal: *Create a transportation system that supports economic competitiveness, vitality, and prosperity by providing for the efficient movement of people and goods.*

- Enhance the efficient and safe movement of freight and goods by investing in roadway maintenance and safety improvements on critical freight corridors.
- Promote investments in network connectivity to allow industrial areas immediate access to air, rail, and arterial or collector streets.
- Support projects that decrease travel time between major activity centers.



- Give priority to transportation projects that improve and provide access to area tourist destinations and amenities.
- Improve right-of-way preservation and access management standards to support the reliability of collector and arterial roadway systems to efficiently distribute and move traffic.
- Improve north-south and east-west vehicle connectivity by upgrading key corridors used to travel within and to/from the County.
- Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities along key corridors connecting activity centers to promote tourism and support pedestrian access to local businesses.

5. Environmental Sustainability

Goal: *Prioritize environmental stewardship in the development, maintenance, and operation of the transportation system.*

- Encourage sustainability in all aspects of the transportation system to meet the needs of the present and ensure that future generations enjoy equal or improved opportunities.
- Maintain Meade County's air quality for the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors. Continue to explore ways to reduce air pollution further.
- Maintain a planning process that integrates and coordinates transportation planning with land use, water, and natural resource conservation.
- Adopt infrastructure design standards that minimize impervious surfaces, preserve and encourage native plant landscaping, and align with stormwater planning.
- Foster positive working relationships with resource agencies and stakeholders through early coordination and consultation.

6. Innovative Transportation Technologies

Goal: *Utilize new and innovative transportation technologies to create new opportunities and increase mobility and access.*

- Encourage the use and adoption of new technologies to facilitate transportation needs in the County where possible.
- Create relationships with nearby communities to determine whether innovative technologies that they are using, such as electric car charging stations, have applications within Meade County.



Chapter 2: Public Engagement

Introduction

Meaningful public engagement involves two-way communication with project stakeholders. A cornerstone of the planning process, engagement provides access to project information, addresses questions and concerns raised by community members and project partners, and helps define the study priorities. Public engagement should have a measurable effect on the study's outcomes.

The Meade County MTP public engagement process was designed to engage with participants in a way that is open and respectful, while collecting input that is useful to the development of the project. The objectives were to educate stakeholders on the planning process and its importance, provide multiple, flexible opportunities for feedback, empower stakeholders to take an active role in shaping the plan, and incorporate stakeholder input to guide recommendations. Developing a sense of ownership among stakeholders is vital for implementation of the plan's recommendations over time.

Stakeholders

Meade County's residents represent a variety of perspectives, interests, and priorities with respect to transportation. The project team designed its public engagement approach to target diverse stakeholders throughout the County, including community members, local governments, neighborhoods, underserved populations, and business owners, among others.

Key project stakeholders included:

- Members of the general public
- Cities of Sturgis, Piedmont, Summerset, Faith, and Box Elder
- Pennington and Lawrence Counties
- A Study Advisory Team (SAT) consisting of local government representatives. The specific agencies that participated in the SAT are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Study Advisory Team Member Agencies

SAT Member Agencies
South Dakota Department of Transportation
Meade County Planning
Meade County Commission
Meade County Highway Department
Meade County Equalization & Planning
Meade County Sheriff
Rapid City Area MPO

Methods and Activities

The Meade County MTP sought to provide ample opportunities for engagement with the community, leveraging a range of strategies to collect input on priorities, challenges, and needs relevant to the



County's transportation system. The information collected was used to inform the study Vision, Goals, and Objectives, identify opportunities, and develop recommendations. An overview of the engagement methods and activities is provided below.

Public Input Meetings (PIMs)

The PIMs were intended to engage stakeholders and members of the general public. Two PIM series were hosted during the planning process. The consultant team organized and coordinated promotion, activities, and materials for these events.

PIM #1

The first PIM series consisted of two sessions, with the first held on September 29th, 2021 (Piedmont American Legion) and the second held on September 30th, 2021 (Meade County Courthouse). This introductory PIM series was designed to inform the public about the project background, baseline conditions, and Goal Areas, and to generate discussion on transportation needs and issues.

During the sessions, the project team gave a presentation on existing conditions within the county and led a discussion to identify transportation needs. Additionally, meeting attendees were invited to participate in a goal prioritization activity, which allowed them to rank the plan goals in order of relative importance.

PIM #1 was advertised through a variety of media channels, including newspaper ads, website, social media, and e-blast channels. Public meeting materials and a meeting summary is included in Appendix A.

Public Input Opportunity #2

The second PIM series consisted of two sessions, with the first held on June 28th, 2022 (Piedmont American Legion) and the second held on June 29th, 2022 (Meade County Courthouse). This PIM series provided an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft Meade County MTP.

During the sessions, the project team gave a presentation on the analysis and recommendations contained in the draft MTP. PIM #2 was advertised through a variety of media channels, including newspaper ads, website, social media, and e-blast channels. Public meeting materials and a meeting summary is included in Appendix A.

Project Website

The project website played a key role in the public engagement effort, acting as a repository for project resources and providing convenient opportunities for the public to share input. Visitors to the site were encouraged to identify transportation needs using an online interactive map, or if they preferred, send comments to the project team by email. Visitors also had the opportunity to rank the project goals by completing an online goals prioritization survey. All public meeting presentations and draft plan documents were made available for download from the website. The website remained active throughout the project lifecycle.

Input received through the project website aided the project team in developing plan recommendations. A summary of the engagement results is provided in the following paragraphs.



Interactive Issues Map Engagement Results

The interactive issues map was hosted on the project website starting in August 2021. Visitors to the map were able to explore the study area, add location and issue-specific comments, view and discuss comments left by others, and react to others' comments with an "up vote" or "down vote". In total, 11 stakeholders interacted with the map, leaving 23 comments.

One approach for quickly perceiving the most prominent themes highlighted within stakeholder comments is a word cloud. The larger the word, the more often it was repeated. The word cloud is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Interactive Issues Map Comment Word Cloud

Comment Clusters and Summary

22% of comments were at Elk Creek and Galaxy Rd. Public comments included:

- The S curve is dangerous. There's been a fatality and a serious injury.
- Not maintained in the winter
- Guardrails needed
- The bridge is outdated

17% of the comments were along County Hwy C-21/Underwood Ave. Public comments included:

- Signage is needed here at 167th Ave. for the turn into Lake Curlew. Drivers miss the turn, then U-turn which creates a safety hazard. Also, place a second sign for the lake at Niagara Pl.
- Some existing signage along the road near culverts make it impossible for large agricultural equipment to move to the shoulder which is a safety hazard for oncoming traffic.
- Sign is needed that Elk Creek Rd. comes to an end here. Drivers plow straight through the T-intersection and the private property owner has repaired their fence several times.
- Southbound drivers approaching Elk Creek Rd. go too fast and have hit deer. There are also large trucks entering and exiting this area.
- There has been a fatality near Elk Creek Rd. intersection.

13% of the comments were about Elk Creek Rd. Public comments included:

- Pavement is needed from Haines Ave. to Elk Vale



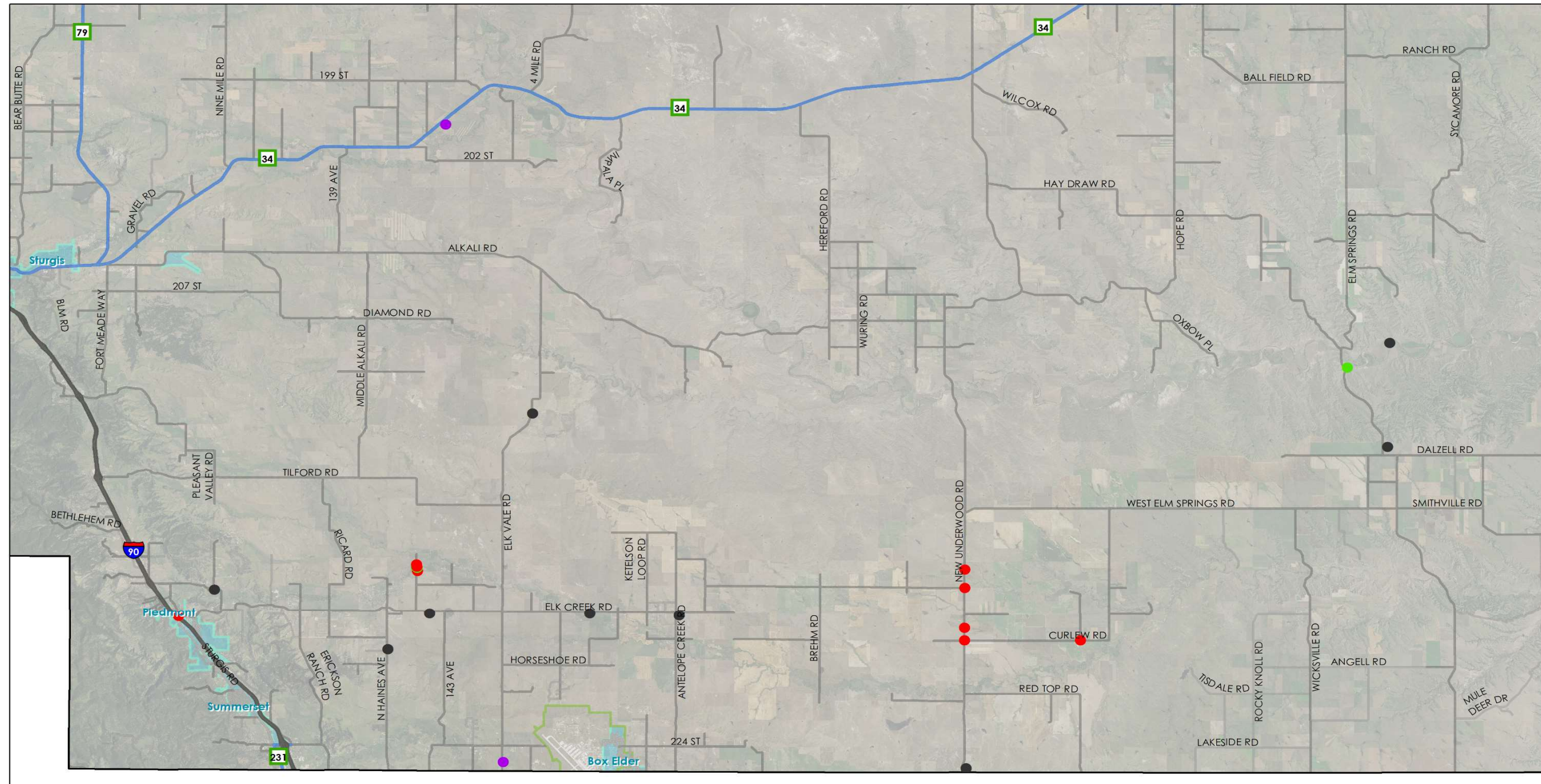
- This is the only major east-west connector in the southern part of the county and residential base is growing. It should be paved between Haines Ave. and New Underwood Rd (It is noted that east of Antelope Creek Road the section is currently very rural in nature).

Other comments included:

- Connect Elk Vale Rd with Hwy 34. Another main route to Rapid City is needed that avoids going through Sturgis.
- Upgrade the Elk Creek Rd. interchange with I-90.
- Deerview and McIntosh should be upgraded to paved roads with the amount of increased local traffic.
- Elk Vale Rd. from Lone Tree Rd to Alkali Rd. south needs gravel.
- The guardrail at Elm Springs Rd. and Bull Creek has been taken out from an accident and never replaced. This is a dangerous curve and narrow.
- A half inch of rain can make Elm Springs Rd. impassible.

Comments received from Social Pinpoint within the project website are shown by location and comment type in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Social Pinpoint Map Comments



Legend

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Meade County | Interstates & US Highways | Comment Type | Traffic Safety |
| Incorporated City Limits | SD Highways | Bridge Condition | Other |
| Ellsworth AFB | County System Roads | Road Condition | |





Transportation Plan Goals Survey

The goals survey was hosted on the project website from June 2021 through November 2021. Survey participants were asked to rate each of the project goal areas from “highest priority” to “lowest priority”. Participants were also given the option to specify any additional transportation goals that they felt were missing.

Results of the goals survey aided the project team in establishing plan priorities, developing solutions, and prioritizing project recommendations. In total, 20 stakeholders completed the survey. The goals survey results are shown in Table 3. Six participants listed optional additional goals.

Table 3: Goals Survey Results

	Safety	System Preservation	Mobility, Reliability, & Accessibility	Economic Vitality	Environmental Sustainability	Innovative Transportation Technologies
Highest Priority	12	5	9	5	3	5
High-Moderate Priority	5	8	7	6	6	8
Moderate Priority	2	5	4	8	6	3
Moderate-Low Priority	1	1	0	1	2	3
Lowest Priority	0	1	0	0	3	1



Chapter 3: Baseline Conditions

Introduction

Meeting the goals of the of the Meade County MTP depends upon the region’s ability to move people and goods from place to place through a quality comprehensive transportation system. An analysis of the existing transportation network is important in helping understand the system’s current strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement. Similarly, evaluation of population totals, distributions, and historical growth trends is necessary to anticipate where transportation investment can best support future development.

The Baseline Conditions element presents an inventory of data associated with Meade County’s existing transportation system and its users. This inventory considers the physical condition of the roadways as well as its operations. The following sections are included in this chapter:

- Population Growth Trends
- Roadway Conditions
- Freight Systems
- Multimodal Facilities

Population Growth Trends

Meade County has seen the second fastest population growth among South Dakota counties² within the last decade, only following Lincoln County. The total population of Meade County grew from 25,434 in 2010 to 29,852 in 2020, an increase of 4,418 (17.4%) residents. South Dakota’s top 20 counties by population growth during the previous decade are summarized in Figure 4.

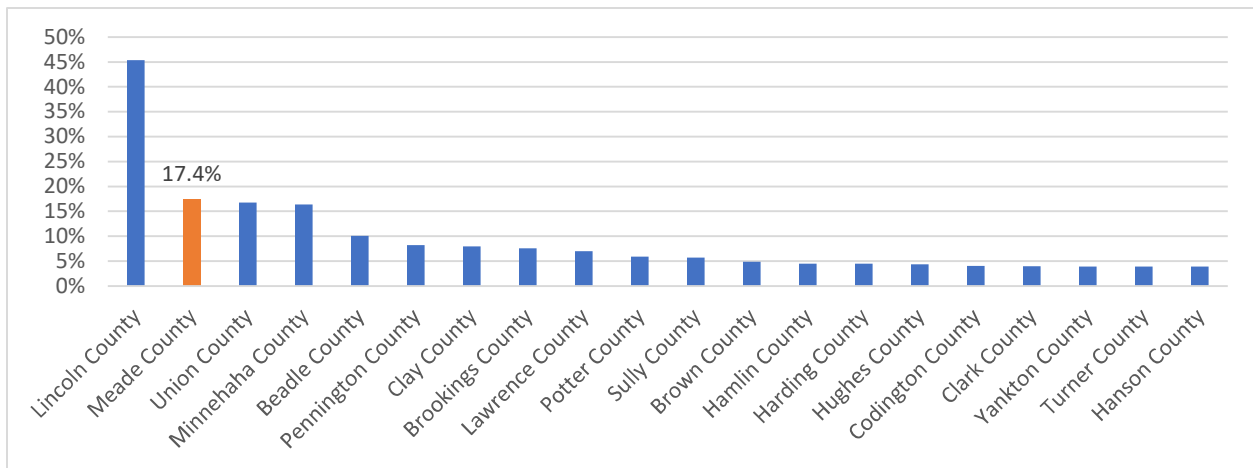


Figure 4: South Dakota’s Top 20 Counties by Population Growth (2010 – 2020)

² <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-counties-total.html>



Overall population trends during the last century indicate steady growth in the County, punctuated by short periods of slow or no growth associated with regional and national economic downturns. Meade County’s growth throughout the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century is shown in Figure 5.

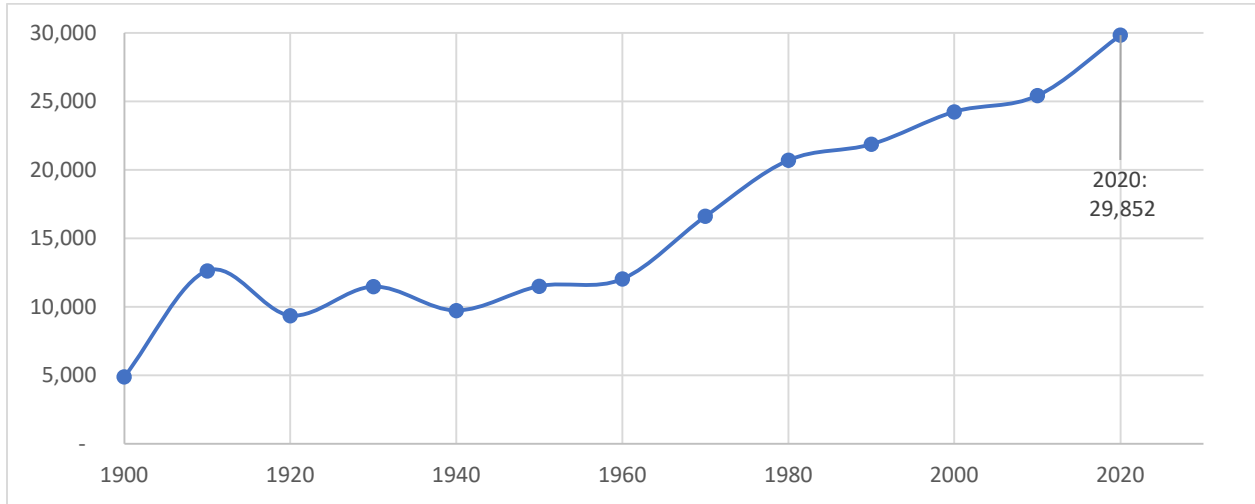


Figure 5: Meade County Population Growth throughout the 20th Century

Future Growth Areas

While population trends can be one indicator of future conditions, it is equally important to understand the location and nature of the growth. The project team considered future growth distribution within Meade County to support the future needs analysis and aid in the development of project recommendations.

Rural Development Growth

Meade County’s population grew by 4,418, or 17.4 percent, between 2010 and 2020. As shown in Figure 6, the County’s rural share of the population fell slightly, and its urban share³ grew slightly, over this period. Still, Meade County remains largely rural, with nearly 60 percent of residents living outside of cities.

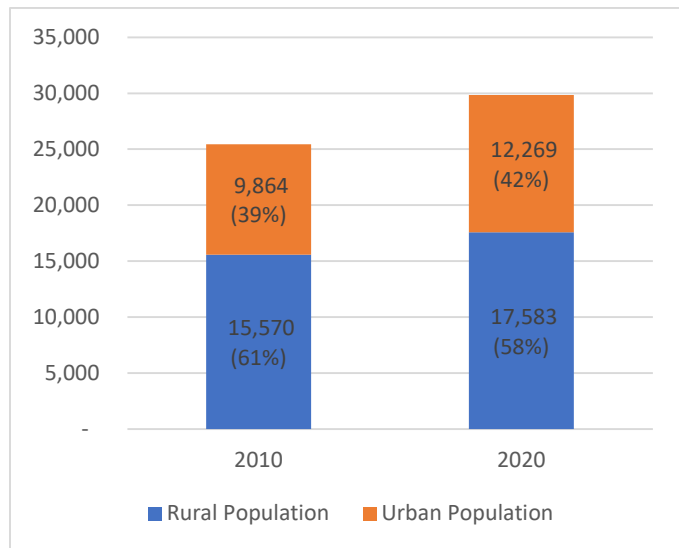


Figure 6: Meade County Rural and Urban Population, 2010 and 2020

³ The County’s urban population was approximated using the combined populations of Sturgis, Summerset, Faith, Piedmont, and the portion of Box Elder within Meade County.



The relationship between rural and urban growth is further illustrated in Figure 7. Of the 4,418 individuals added to Meade County over the last decade, approximately 55 percent reside within the boundaries of Sturgis, Summerset, Piedmont, and the portion of Box Elder within Meade County (the City of Faith shrunk slightly over the last decade). Despite the strong growth concentrated around cities, nearly 45 percent of the County’s population increases occurred within rural areas over the last 10 years. Recent and projected subdivision trends, as well as the expansion of Ellsworth Air Force Base, suggest that rural development growth will persist and even increase within the coming years.

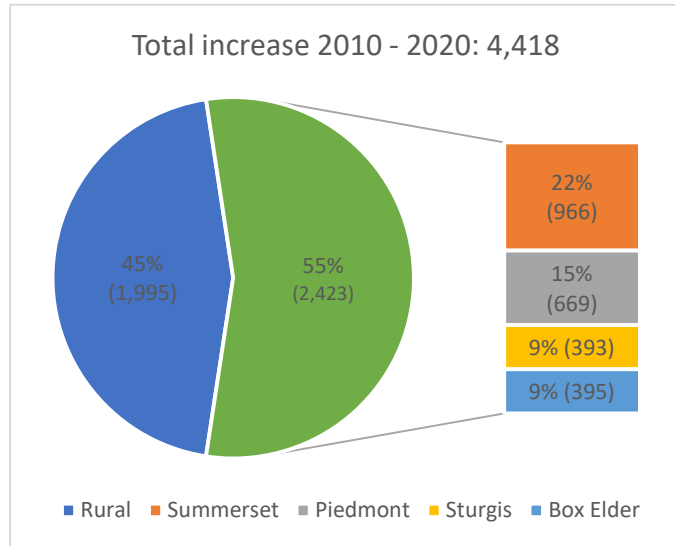


Figure 7: Meade County Rural and Urban Population Growth from 2010 to 2020

It is important that the County continue to anticipate and accommodate new development near it’s cities by planning transportation projects that serve areas of higher population density. At the same time, the County should continue to improve and maintain the infrastructure serving current and future rural residents to support sustained rural development growth into the future.

Ellsworth Air Force Base

A key growth area surrounds Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is located 4 miles east of Rapid City and adjacent to Box Elder. In March of 2019, the United States Air Force announced that Ellsworth Air Force Base would be the nation’s first home to the new B-21 training and operational squadrons. The announcement indicated Ellsworth Air Force Base was selected as the “Main Operating Base 1” for the B-21, which will include B-21 operational squadrons, a B-21 formal training unit, and a weapons generation facility. The B-21 Raider is expected to make its first flight in December 2021, and an environmental impact study looking toward the roll out of the B-21 bomber is currently underway.

Personnel Associated with the B-21 Mission:

- ▶ Includes military personnel, contractors, and dependents associated with two Operational Squadrons and one B-21 Formal Training Unit
- ▶ Approximately 3,900 military personnel
- ▶ Approximately 200 contractor personnel
- ▶ Approximately 2,300 spouses
- ▶ Approximately 6,700 children

The Environmental Impact Statement, published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2020, outlines the projected population increase as shown above. The full notice and the population project excerpt can be found at www.boxelderbuildqrant.com.

This addition at Ellsworth Air Force Base is expected to bring hundreds of new personnel and their families to Meade County. This growth will result in new infrastructure needs, including weapon storage facilities, hangars, schools, housing, and transportation. According to the Ellsworth Economic Impact Statement, Ellsworth currently has an annual economic impact of \$359,475,786 and employs 10,622 personnel. This impact will increase as the base continues to emerge as an economic anchor within the region.



Subdivision Growth

High rates of subdivision growth are anticipated within southwest Meade County during the coming years. Subdivision growth will likely continue to concentrate along I-90 and the secondary north-south corridors connecting Rapid City and Sturgis, with clusters of development becoming more prominent adjacent to the small urbanizing areas between and around the two cities. The highest subdivision growth is expected closer to the Rapid City area and areas adjacent to the Ellsworth Air Force Base, as discussed above. These high-growth areas include the Black Hawk Area, the city of Summerset, the city of Piedmont, and the city of Box Elder.

Figure 8 shows subdivisions which are under construction or planned, and which are slated for completion in 2022. For each subdivision, the maximum number projected lots are specified.

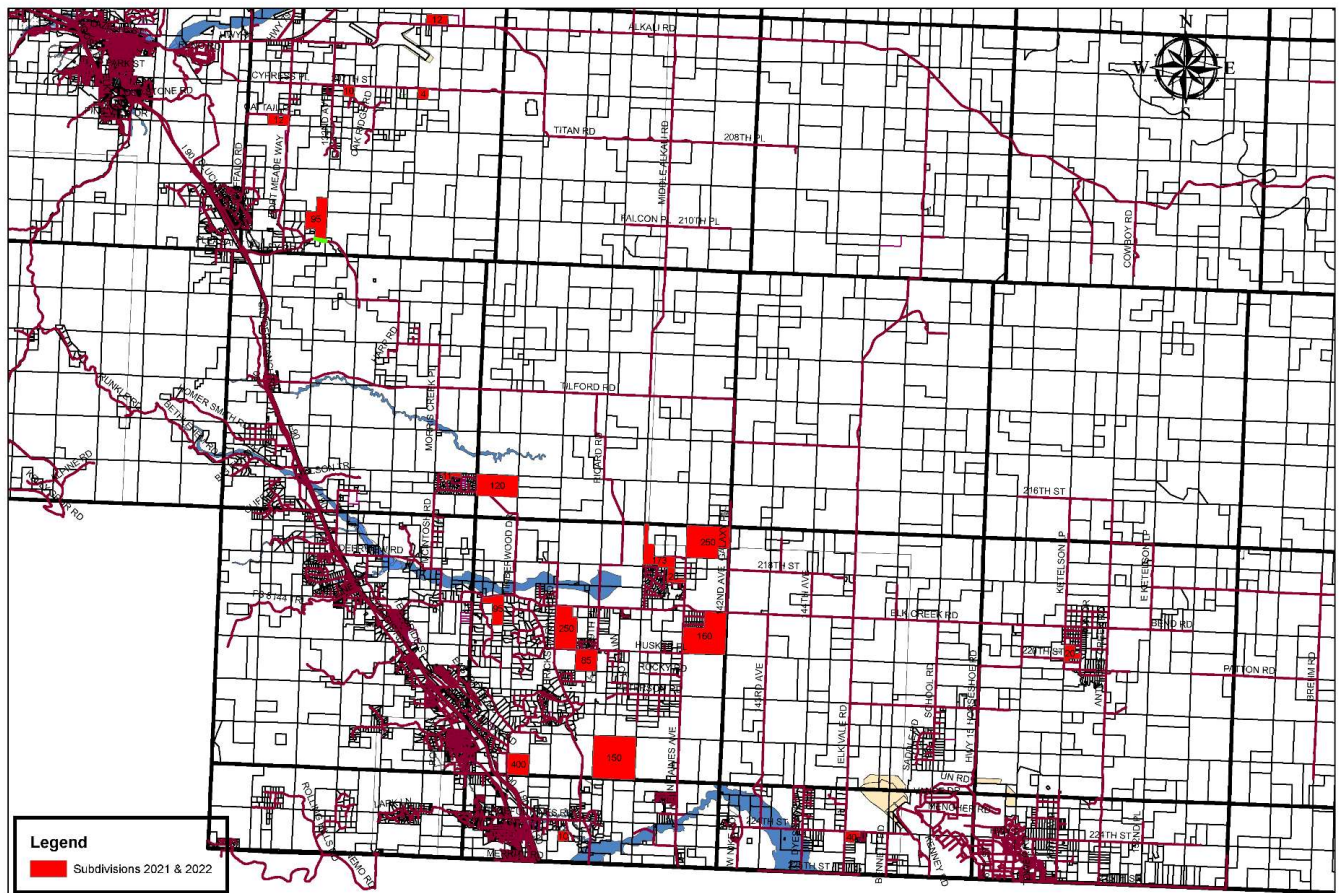


Figure 8: Subdivisions Planned for Completion in 2022

Roadway Conditions

While a roadway conditions analysis was beyond the scope of this study, roadway conditions was considered a critical element in prioritizing project needs for the future. Project priorities to address deficient roadway conditions were established based on visual inspections and input from County staff and public stakeholders.



Jurisdictional Ownership

Within the Meade County study area, there are a variety of highway and road systems under different jurisdictions. The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is responsible for maintaining the Interstate and State Highway systems, which move people and freight efficiently across the region, state, and country.

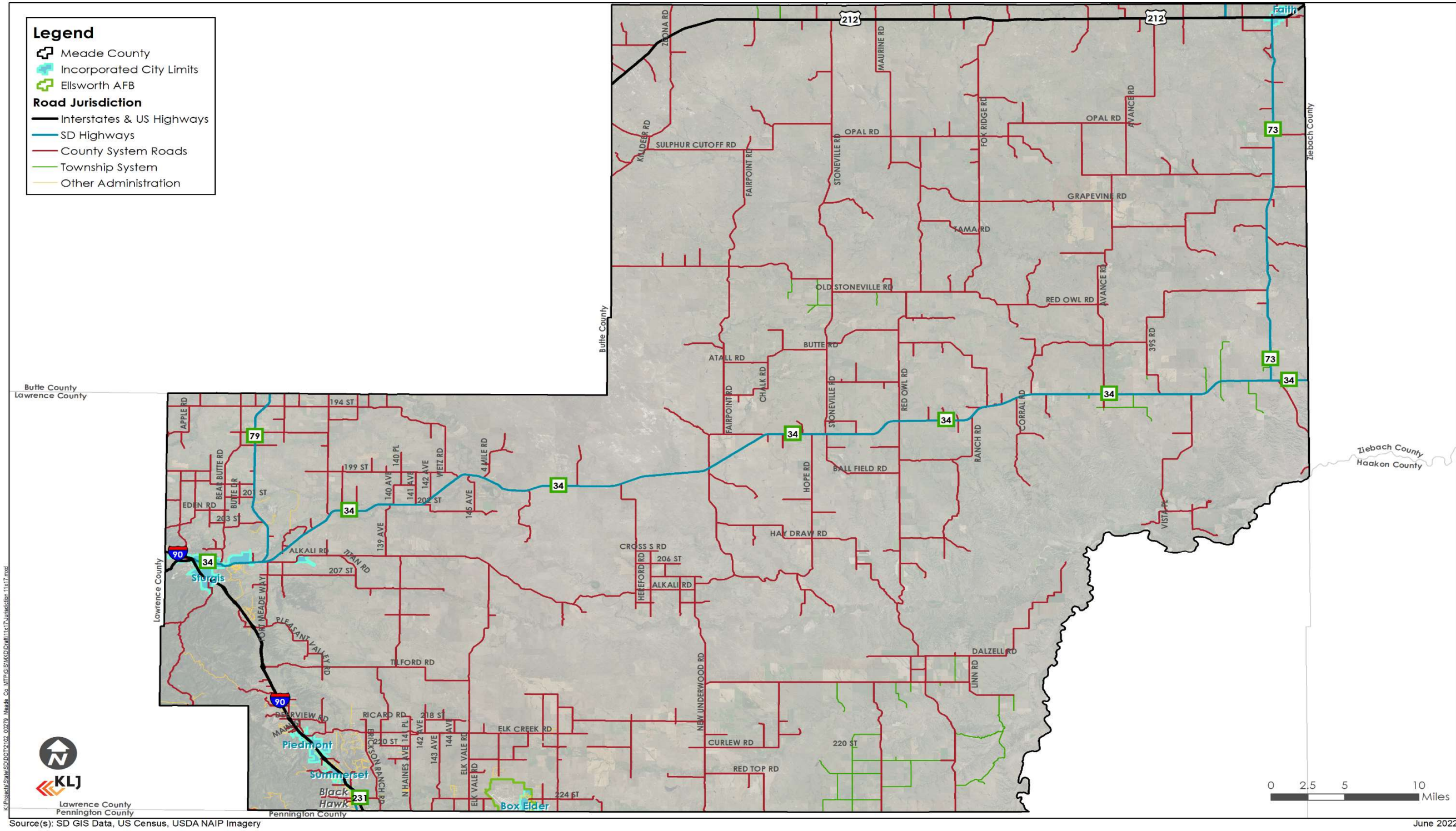
County and Township roadways distribute traffic to home, work, and businesses (collectors), and provide rural roads to farms and rural residencies. Within the County's cities, a system of local streets composes the traditional grid system typically found across the Midwest. Depending on jurisdiction, these roadways draw from different funding sources for maintenance and improvements.

The Meade County roadway system is shown by jurisdiction in Figure 9.

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 9: Meade County Roadway System by Jurisdiction





Functional Classification

Overview

The operation of a county's transportation network is supported by the functional classification of its roadway system. This classification defines the role that each road segment is intended to play in serving the flow of traffic through the study area. By defining a functional classification system, the operation of traffic can be conducted in a logical and efficient manner. The FHWA organizes roadways into a hierarchy of five general functional classifications. Figure 10 demonstrates the relationship between access and mobility for each functional classification.

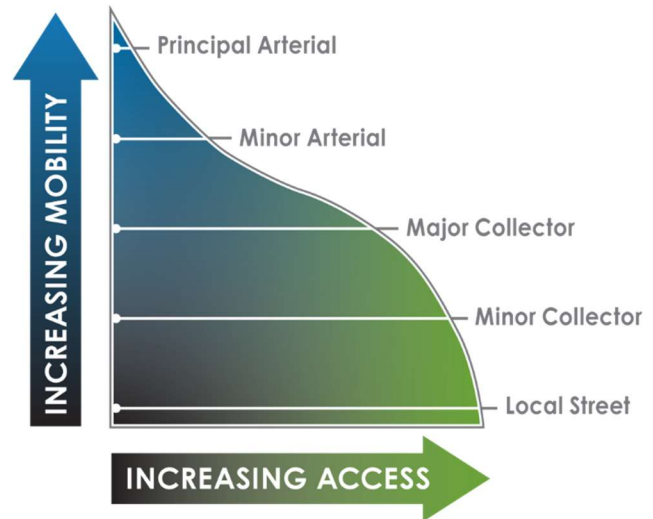


Figure 10: Functional Classification: Access vs Mobility

Most streets and highways have one of two predominant functions: either they provide the motorist with access to abutting land, or they promote optimum mobility through an area. Traffic that provides access to abutting land is considered “local,” while all other traffic is considered “through.” Through traffic neither originates nor terminates within a designated area, but simply traverses it. Conversely, local traffic has origins or destinations within a designated area.

A general definition for each of the FHWA functional classifications is provided below.

Principal Arterials - Principal Arterials provide for regional and interstate transportation of people and goods. This is done by designing facilities to accommodate high speeds and long, uninterrupted trips. In urban areas, Principal Arterials constitute high-volume corridors with a large portion of regional trips.

The FHWA specifies three subcategories within the Principal Arterial classification:

- Interstates are the highest classification of Arterials, designed for high-speed, long-distance travel. I-90 is the county's only interstate, running generally north-south through the southwest corner of the county and east-west across South Dakota.
- Other Freeways & Expressways, while not included in the Interstate system, operate similarly to Interstate roadways. Roads in this classification generally have directional travel lanes that are separated by a physical barrier, with access points limited to on- and off-ramp locations or a limited number of at-grade intersections.
- Other Principal Arterials serve major metropolitan areas and can also provide mobility through rural areas. Unlike their access-controlled counterparts, Other Principal Arterials occasionally directly serve abutting land uses.



Minor Arterials - Minor Arterial routes within the street system provide connections and support the Principal Arterial system. Trips using these facilities are generally shorter and spread out over a smaller geographic area. Minor Arterials allow more access than their Principal Arterial counterparts. In Meade County, there are rural and urban arterials.

Major and Minor Collectors - Collectors serve a critical role in the roadway network by gathering traffic from Local Roads and funneling them to the Arterial network. Within the context of functional classification, Collectors are broken down into two categories: Major Collectors and Minor Collectors.

The distinctions between Major Collectors and Minor Collectors are often subtle. Generally, Major Collector routes are longer in length, have higher access control, have higher speed limits, have higher annual average traffic volumes, and may have more travel lanes than Minor collectors. In general, Major Collectors offer more mobility, while Minor Collectors provide more access.

Local Streets - Local streets provide basic access to residential, commercial, and industrial properties. These streets have slower speeds and often include traffic calming measures. Local streets are the largest element in the public road network in terms of mileage.

In October 2008, the FHWA added a designation to all functional classifications: urban or rural. This designation reflects the particular characteristics of a roadway with respect to its surrounding urban/rural development patterns. A detailed description of urban and rural characteristics for each functional classification can be found in FHWA's *Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures*.⁴

Federal legislation continues to use functional classification in determining eligibility for funding under the Federal-aid program. At present, roads functionally classified as a "rural major" or "urban minor" collector or higher are eligible for Federal assistance – these are referred to as "Federal-aid Highways".

Functional Classification within the Study Area

There are 1,783 miles of roadway within Meade County, 1,267 miles of which are maintained by the County. The county has two functional classification systems concurrently. The county's system comes from South Dakota's ordinance 10 which laid out functional class similar to the methodology used by FHWA. The MTP reviewed the county's system and compared it to the FHWA-based system. This plan proposes moving forward with two systems. The county will keep its definitions for county arterials and collectors for planning purposes.

County Arterial – Meade County's system will include county designated arterials but will not include federal and state highways

County Collectors – Meade County will also designate collectors. There is minimal difference in the county plan between major and minor collectors.

The number of roadway miles defined under each FHWA functional classification is shown in Table 4. A map of the FHWA functionally classified system is presented in Figure 11. Functional classification based

⁴ <https://dot.sd.gov/media/documents/HwyFunctionalClassification.pdf>



on the county’s road classifications is presented in Figure 12. County functional classifications differ from FHWA classifications and are therefore designated as County Arterials or County Collectors. This was desired by the County Highway Department for establishing their own priorities for maintenance and future improvements.

Table 4: FWHA Roadway System Miles by Functional Classification

Functional Classification	Total Miles within Study Area	% of Total Miles within Study Area	Total County-Maintained Miles	% of Total County-Maintained Miles
Principle Arterial				
Urban	34	2%	0	0%
Rural	204	11%	0	0%
Minor Arterial				
Urban	9	1%	0	0%
Rural	0	0%	0	0%
Major Collector				
Urban	18	1%	5	<1%
Rural	359	20%	358	28%
Minor Collector				
Urban	0	0%	0	0%
Rural	168	9%	166	13%
Local Roads				
Urban	86	5%	7	<1%
Rural	905	51%	731	58%
Total	1,783	100%	1,267	100%

Table 5: County-Based Functional Classification Miles

Functional Classification	Total Miles within Study Area	% of Total Miles within Study Area
Principle Arterial	225	11%
Minor Arterial	427	21%
Major & Minor Collectors	442	22%
Local	941	46%
Total	2,034*	100%

**Includes Ellsworth AFB roads and other private access roads*

Primary and Secondary Road Classifications

In addition to the functional classification systems that exist for roadways, most roads in Meade County are classified as either a Primary or a Secondary Road. Currently, approximately 910 miles of county roads are on the Primary System, and 364 miles of county roads are on the Secondary System.

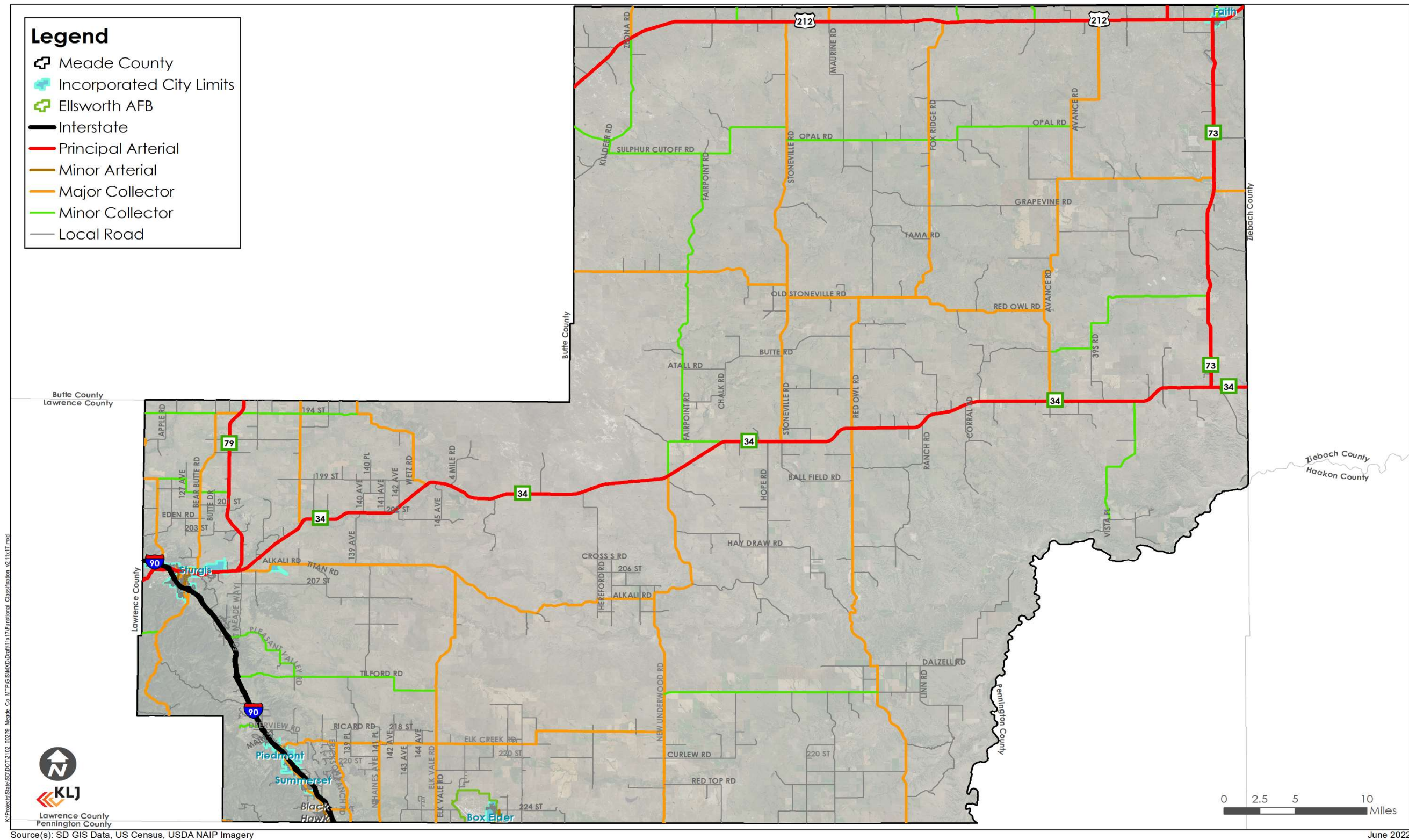
Primary roads have maintenance funded through the County’s general fund, whereas secondary roads are funded through a secondary mill levy. The current high proportion of primary system roads has placed a high demand on the limited general funds available for road improvements within the County. If some of the Primary System roads were moved to the Secondary System, more secondary mill levy funds could



be raised and applied to better maintain the roads within Meade County. This could be done without changing the maintenance level of service for those roads.

It was beyond the scope of this MTP to modify the primary and secondary road systems within the County. This effort was being undertaken through a collaborative effort between the County and SDDOT during the formation of this MTP. It is recommended that the County proceed with updating its primary and secondary road systems.

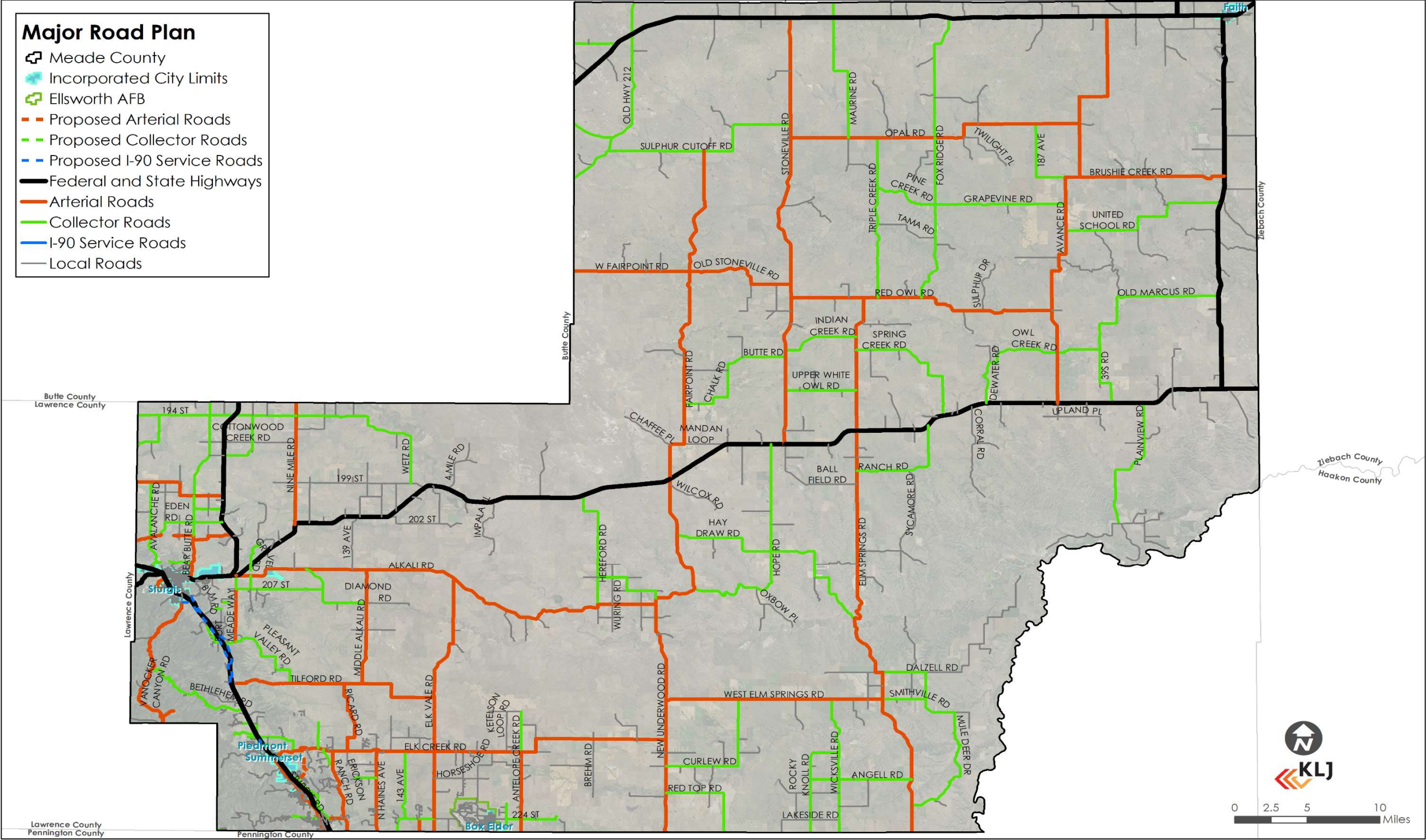
Figure 11: FHWA Functional Classification within Meade County



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 12: Meade County Functional Classification





Roadway Surface and Pavement Management

South Dakota's transportation network includes over 83,000 miles of roads, of which about 10 percent are state-controlled, and 3 percent are federal routes. This leaves about 72,000 miles of roadway to be maintained by counties, townships, and municipalities, and most of these are considered low-volume roads (LVR), defined by AASHTO as local or minor collector roads carrying a daily traffic volume of 2,000 vehicles or less⁵. These roads are primarily either bituminous- or gravel-surfaced, with the more rural and lower volume roads typically being gravel-surfaced and the more heavily traveled roads being bituminous-surfaced.

In Meade County, 93 percent (1,180 miles) of County-maintained roadway are unpaved (gravel, drained earth, trail/primitive, or unimproved). The roughly 7 percent (87 miles) of County roads that are paved have a bituminous surface, except for one small 1/3-mile section of concrete on Peaceful Pines Road. A breakdown of County road surface type percentages is provided in Figure 13. A map of County roads by surface type is shown in Figure 14.

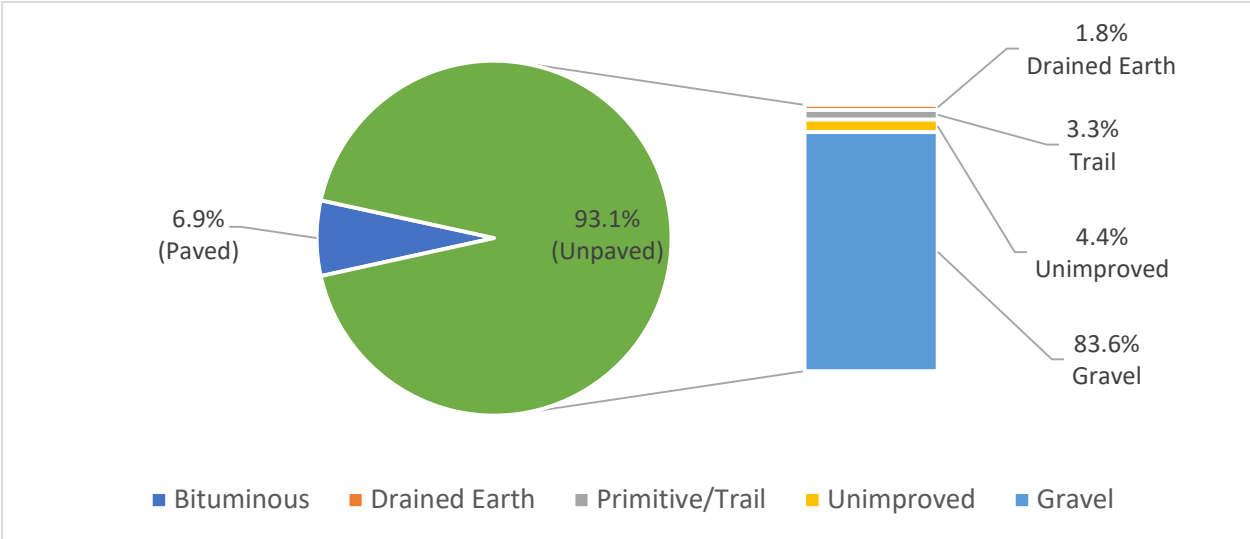
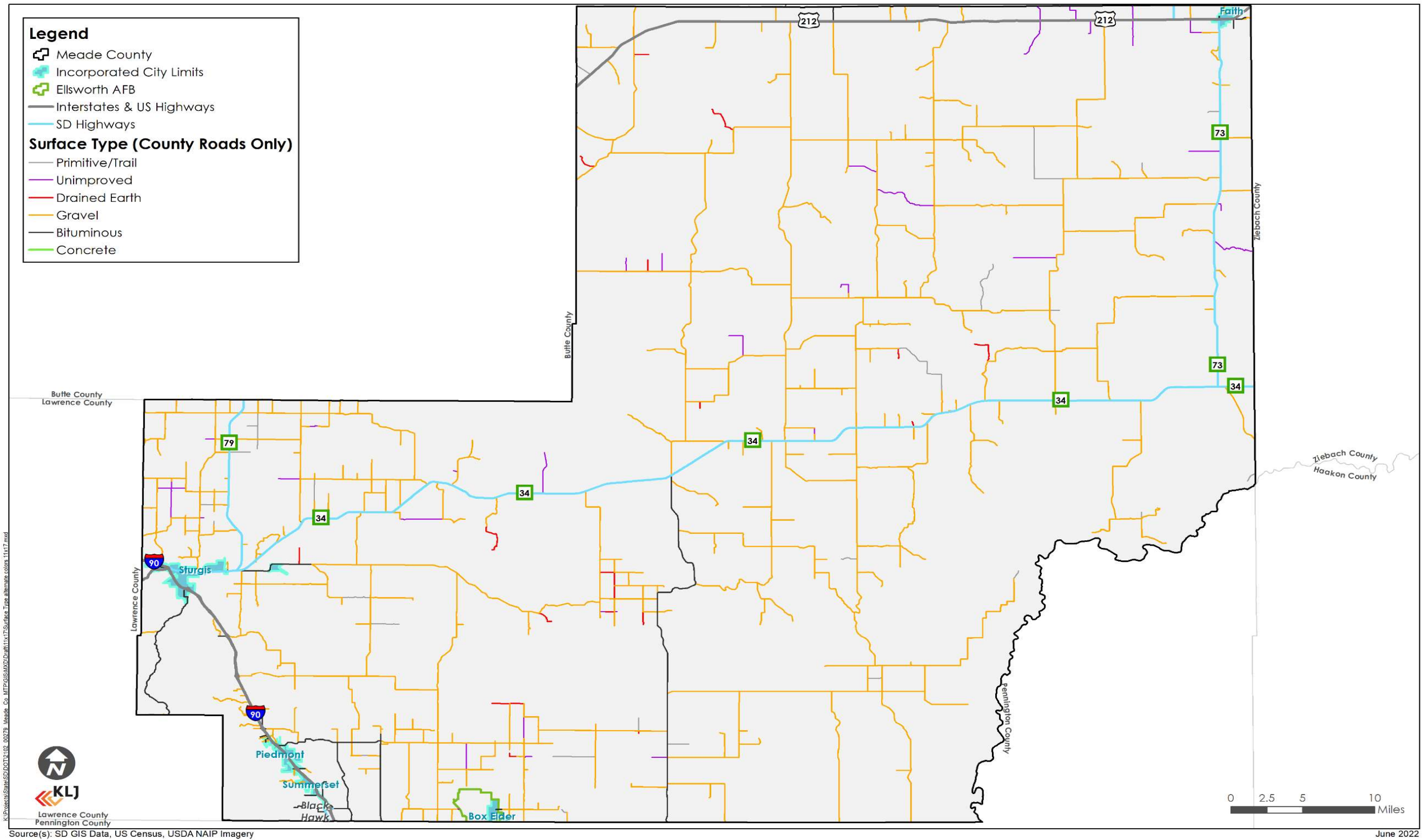


Figure 13: County Roads Surface Type Percentages

⁵ AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Low-Volume Roads (2019).



Figure 14: County Roads by Surface Type



K:\Projects\StateSD\DOT\102_00270_Meade_Co_MTP\GIS\MapDocs\fig14\Surface_Type_Altimate_color_11x17.mxd



KLJ

Lawrence County
Pennington County

Source(s): SD GIS Data, US Census, USDA NAIP Imagery

Existing Gravel Road Surfacing Plan

Ruts, potholes, and displaced gravel are an eventual concern on even lightly traveled gravel roads. Many gravel roads have seen accelerated deterioration due to increased tire pressures, which are necessary to accommodate heavier, larger, and more powerful commercial vehicles and agricultural equipment⁶. While all gravel roadways may require periodic re-grading, a regular maintenance program that supports the strength and integrity of the road can reduce the frequency of grading.

Meade County currently uses a Microsoft Excel-based graveling tool to prioritize roadway segments for maintenance, establish maintenance schedules, and forecast maintenance costs. Cost forecasts are based on various inputs including travel, labor, and material cost estimates. The tool assumes a regraveling frequency of 10 years for Federal-aid secondary highway system (FAS system) and major collector routes, 12 years for urban minor collector routes, 14 years for rural minor collector and urban local routes, 16 years for rural local routes, and 20 years for “minimum maintenance” routes.

Roadway Surface Decisions

Paved roads provide several improvements over gravel roads, including more dependable winter surfaces, increased safety from enhanced delineation, higher skid resistance, a smoother surface that increases user satisfaction and reduces vehicle maintenance costs, redistribution of traffic away from gravel roads, and an increased tax base on adjacent property.

The decision to pave a roadway requires the consideration of several factors. The County’s current approach to determining when to pave a roadway was presented in the 2008 Meade County Transportation Plan and was carried forward within the 2016 Transportation Plan. This approach includes the following considerations:

- **Daily traffic volumes and type of traffic along the roadway** – SDDOT data indicates that it is economically viable to provide surface treatment to gravel roads carrying in excess of 250 to 300 vpd. Roads carrying in excess of 660 vpd are typically reviewed to determine whether an alternate roadway surface should be considered.
- **Continuity and functional classification of the roadway** – Arterial roads should generally be paved before collector or local roads. As another consideration, a local street may be economically sealed or paved while a road with heavy truck usage may best be surfaced with gravel and left unpaved until sufficient funds are available to place a thick load-bearing pavement on the road.
- **Tendency of drivers to divert away from gravel surfaces and onto paved surfaces to make their trip** – If the new paved roadway would provide the first paved surface serving a particular demand pattern within Meade County, it should be designed to accommodate higher levels of traffic. Routes leading to it may require some improvement to provide adequate traffic safety.
- **Traffic safety** – Paved roads encourage higher travel speeds. Sight distance, curvature, lane width, surface friction, and super-elevation should be tailored to the anticipated travel speed.

⁶ <https://blog.midwestind.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ots15002.pdf>

- **Stormwater drainage** – It is important to build up the road base and improve drainage before paving. If water is not drained away from the road, the pavement will fail.
- **Public opinion** – Public opinion should be weighed in the decision process, and leaders should inform the public about the factors considered in the decision process.
- **Accommodation of non-motorized modes** – Consideration of whether non-motorized users, such as bicyclists and pedestrians, would be inclined to use the paved route, and if so, what type of accommodation is appropriate (bicycle- and pedestrian-focused signing and striping, inclusion of bike lanes and shared-use paths, etc.).

Traffic Volumes

Segment Volumes

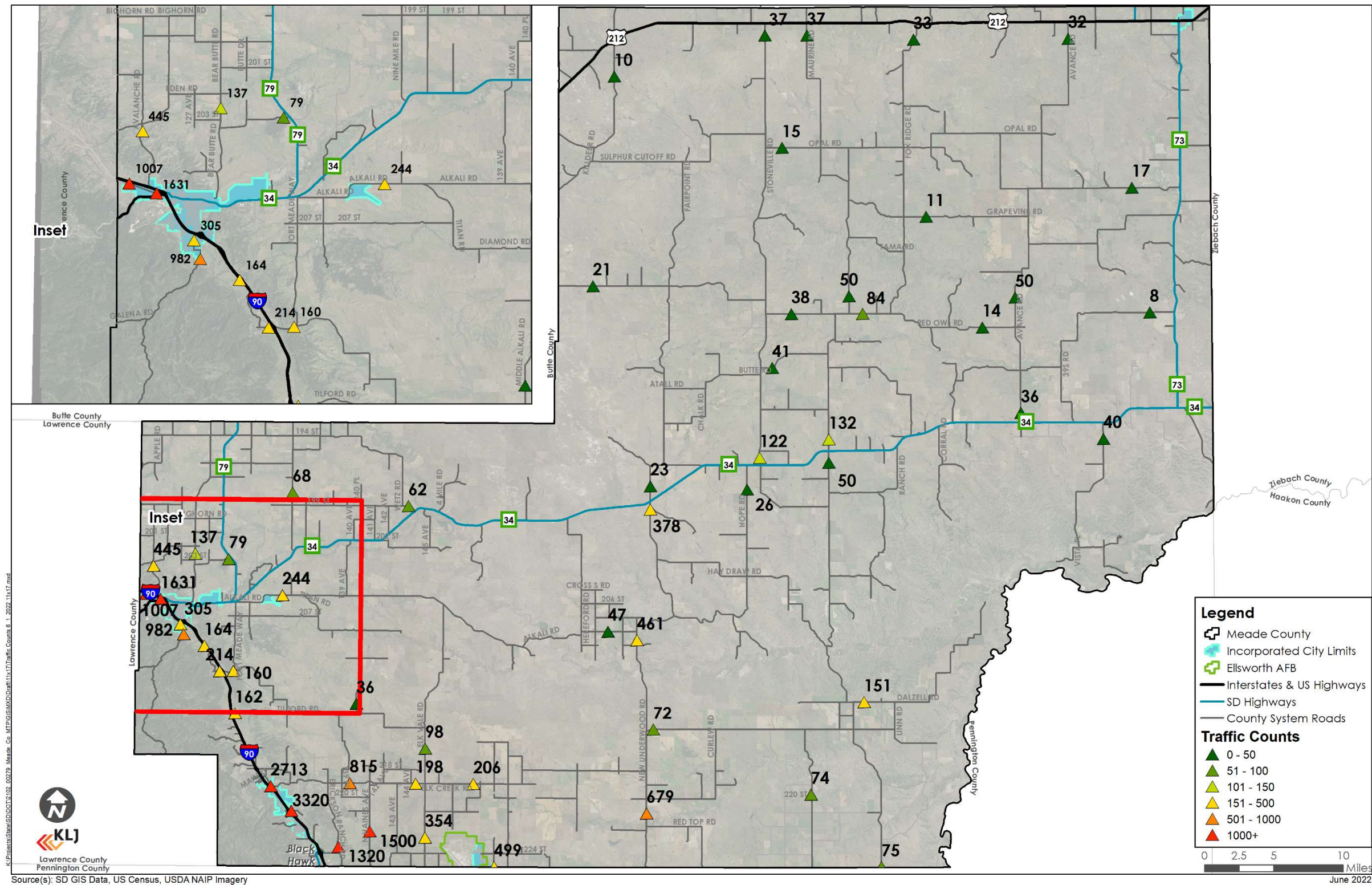
Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes show how many vehicles travel on the road on an average day. The project team assembled traffic volume information provided by SDDOT for County roadway segments within the study area. Traffic count data is generally current, with most count locations providing counts from 2020 and 2019, and five locations providing counts from 2017.

The highest recorded traffic volumes surround the I-90 corridor in southwest Meade County, which connects the City of Sturgis with the Cities of Piedmont, Summerset, and Rapid City. Only two county-maintained facilities carry more than 2,000 vehicles per day (ADT) at any recorded location. Some north-south connections (alternative to I-90) display higher volumes, with segments of Erickson Ranch Road/Deadwood Avenue showing volumes of more than 1,300, and segments of N Haines Avenue showing volumes of more than 1,500. The most traveled gravel-surfaced road, according to StreetLight Data, is Fort Meade Way, which runs north from Pleasant Valley Rd and carries an estimated 900 vehicles per day. This volume is much higher during the Sturgis Rally. Traffic count locations and recorded volumes are shown in Figure 15.

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 15: Traffic Count Locations and Volumes within Meade County



K:\Projects\Share\SD\DOT\102_00279_Meade_Co_MTP\GIS\MapXDoc\Draft\11717Traffic_Counts_6.1.2022_11x17.mxd

Source(s): SD GIS Data, US Census, USDA NAIP Imagery

Turning Movement Counts

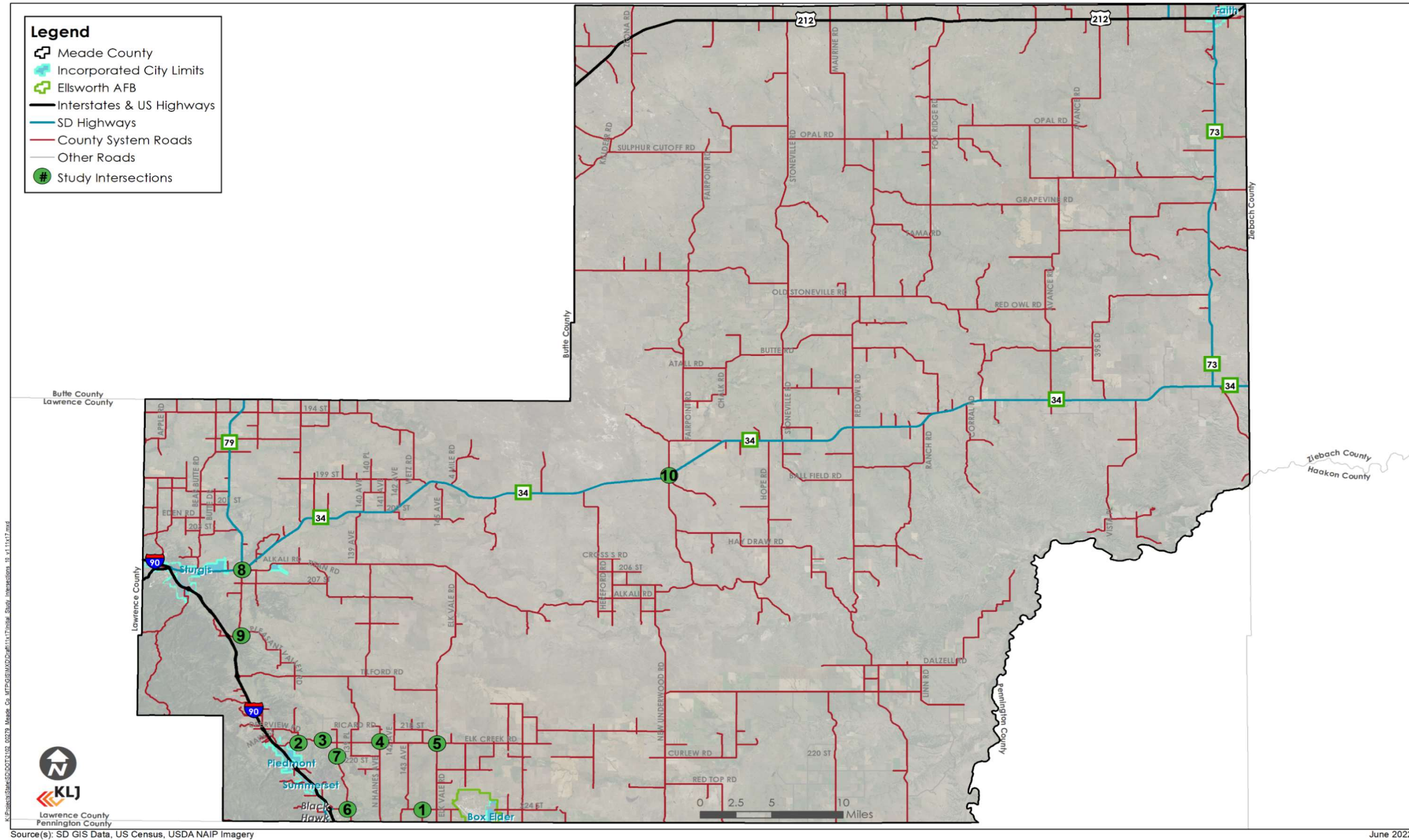
The project team collected turning movement counts (TMCs) for 10 study intersections within the Meade County study area. TMC data was sourced from the StreetLight platform, and additional in-field counts were conducted to validate the StreetLight data. In-field TMC counts were conducted at three study intersections from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. during September 2021. Peak hour volumes for all study intersections were determined on a per-intersection basis and representative of the PM peak hour. Following the data collection, Highway Capacity Software (HCS) computer software was used to analyze current level of service (LOS) for the intersections. The results of this analysis are provided in the next chapter of this report.

This data was used as a baseline for analysis of future traffic conditions and development of project recommendations, as presented later in this document. The ten study intersections are listed in Table 6 and shown in Figure 16.

Table 6: Study Intersections

Map ID	Road #1	Road #2
1	Dyess Road	224 th Street
2	Elk Creek Road	Deerview Road
3	Elk Creek Road	Timberwood Drive
4	Elk Creek Road	Haines Avenue
5	Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road
6	Erickson Ranch Road	Peaceful Pines Road
7	Erickson Ranch Road	220 th Street
8	Fort Meade Way	SD 34
9	Fort Meade Way	Pleasant Valley Road
10	New Underwood Road	SD 34

Figure 16: Study Intersections



Crash and Safety Analysis

An examination of transportation safety is an essential component of the transportation planning process. Improving transportation safety requires more than just fixing a road or increasing police patrols. To be most effective, safety improvements need to consider the “four Es” of transportation safety: Education, Enforcement, Engineering, and Emergency Services. The objective of the safety analysis is to improve the safety of all users of the transportation system and work towards achieving the mission of the South Dakota Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP): save lives and reduce serious injuries.

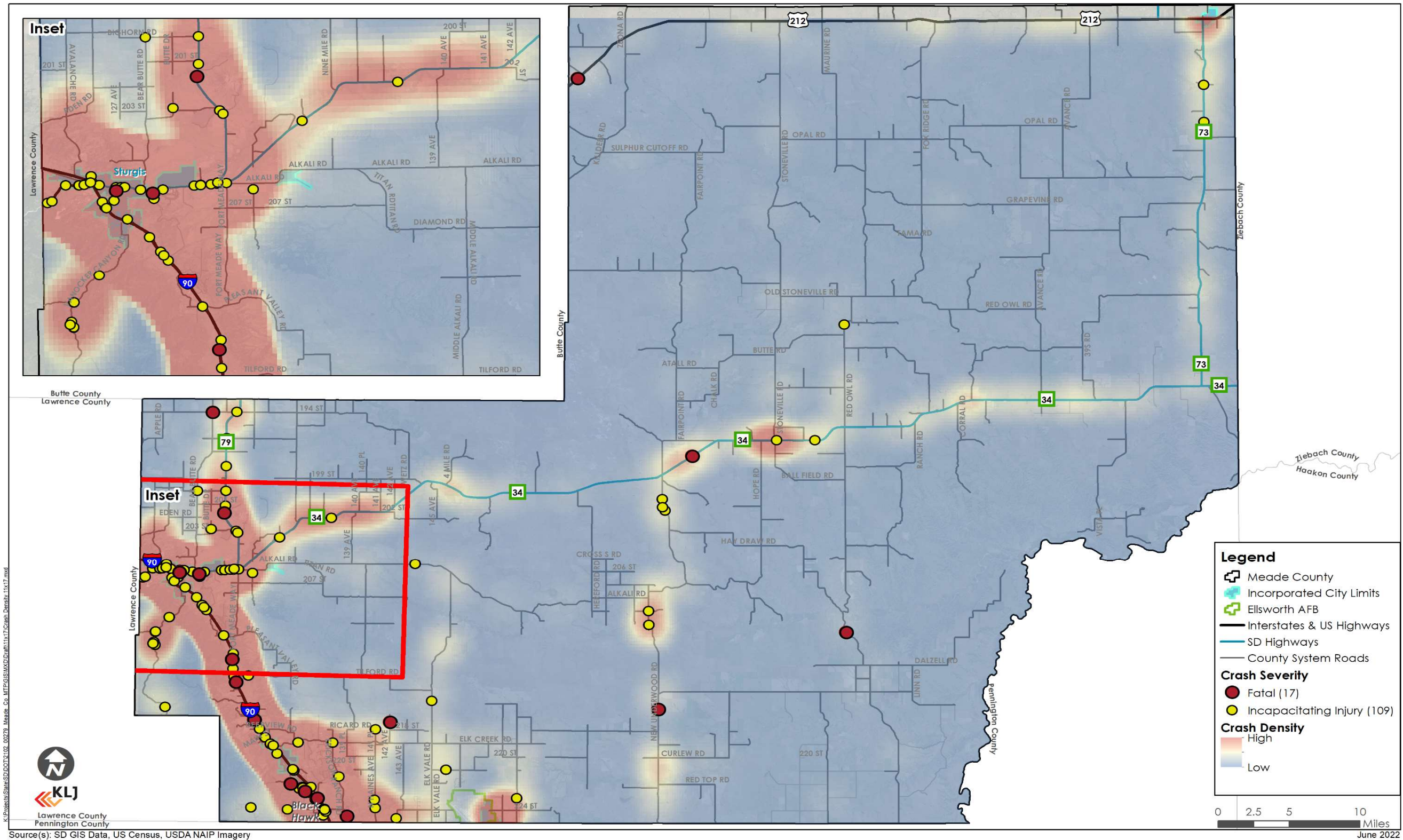
Study Area Crash Trends

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety (SDDPS) manages crash records in South Dakota. The law enforcement departments of the respective agencies around the state are responsible for reporting crashes to the SDDPS. Five years of crash records from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020 were provided by the SDDPS to aid in the analysis of traffic crash trends within the study area. During the five-year analysis period, 2,403 crashes were reported in Meade County. The high-level trends from this data are discussed below, with more detailed information provided later in the section.

- There were 17 crashes that resulted in a fatality and 109 crashes that resulted in an incapacitating injury.
- There were 12 crashes that involved a pedestrian, of which one was fatal and five were serious injury type crashes.
- There were six crashes that involved bicyclist, of which two were serious injury type crashes.
- About 37-percent of crashes occurred within cities in Meade County. Cities comprise only about 0.4 percent of the County’s area.
- About 12-percent of crashes were intersection related.
- Roughly 41-percent of crashes occurred along I-90 that (including interchange areas).
- Total crashes rose sharply from 2016 to 2017 and plateaued through the middle of the analysis period before seeing a significant, steady decline from 2018 to 2020.
- Total fatal and injury crashed rose sharply from 2016 to 2017, before steadily declining over the remainder of the analysis period.

The crash data included spatial records which were analyzed to understand patterns of motorized vehicular crashes and identify high-risk areas. This was done through a hot-spot analysis which identifies clusters of dense accident occurrence, as shown in Figure 17.

Figure 17: Relative Crash Density within the Study Area



K:\Projects\GIS\SD\DOT\102_00729_Meade_Co_MTP\GIS\MXD\Map117_Crash_Density_11x17.mxd

Source(s): SD GIS Data, US Census, USDA NAIP Imagery



Crash Severity

Consideration of crash severity is important for understanding the current safety conditions of the system and developing recommendations to address specific problem areas. The SDDOT crash data categorized reported crashes by the following severity levels:

- Fatal
- Incapacitating Injury
- Non-Incapacitating Injury
- Minor Injury
- Property Damage Only (PDO)

Crash severity is categorized based on the most severe injury of the crash. For example, if a crash involved two vehicles that resulted in one serious injury and two possible injury crashes, the crash is reported as a suspected serious injury crash. A suspected serious injury crash is defined as an injury, other than fatal which prevents the injured individual from walking, driving, or normally continuing the activities they could perform before the injury. There were 17 crashes reported that resulted in death, 501 crashes that resulted in an injury (109 Incapacitating, 230 non-incapacitating, and 162 possible injury), and 1,885 crashes that resulted in PDO. Figure 18 shows that crashes resulting in injury or PDO have decreased over the five-year analysis period, with PDO crashes declining steadily after 2018 and injury crashes decreasing gradually after 2017. While decreased driving during the COVID-19 pandemic may be a factor in 2020 having the lowest total crashes during the five-year analysis period, the 2020 total is generally in line with the downward trend beginning in 2018 (total crashes decreased by about seven percent from 2018 to 2019 and about ten percent from 2019 to 2020).

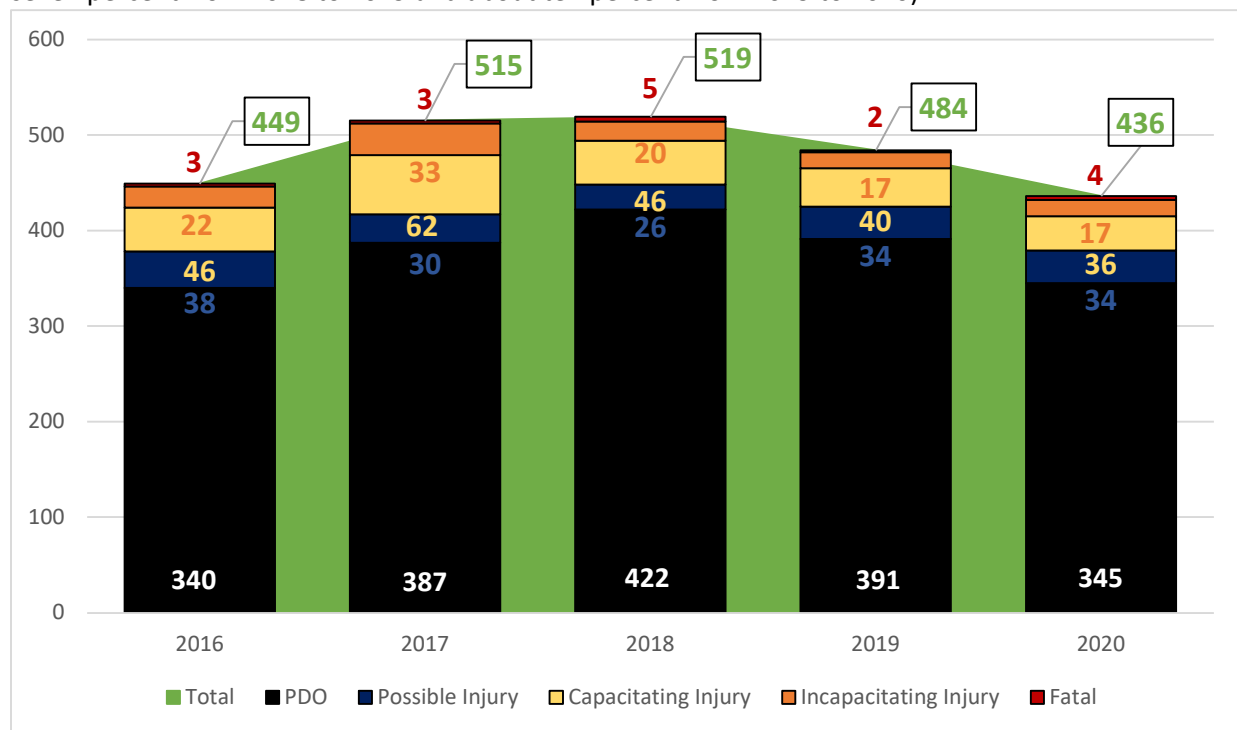


Figure 18: Crash Summary (2016 – 2020)



Meade County observed an increase of two traffic-related fatalities from 2019 to 2020. The County averaged 3.4 fatal crashes per year over the five-year analysis period. The County’s increase in fatal crashes in 2020 follows a national trend of increased roadway deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, with traffic fatalities increasing by 7.2 percent nationally from 2019 to 2020⁷.

Crash Type

Analyzing crash type aids in understanding the conditions that contribute to injury and fatality crashes and supports development of countermeasures to mitigate or minimize these conditions. During the analysis period, single vehicle related (1,851), angle (280), and rear-end (165) were the most predominant crash types in the County. Figure 19 shows crashes by crash type during the five-year analysis period.

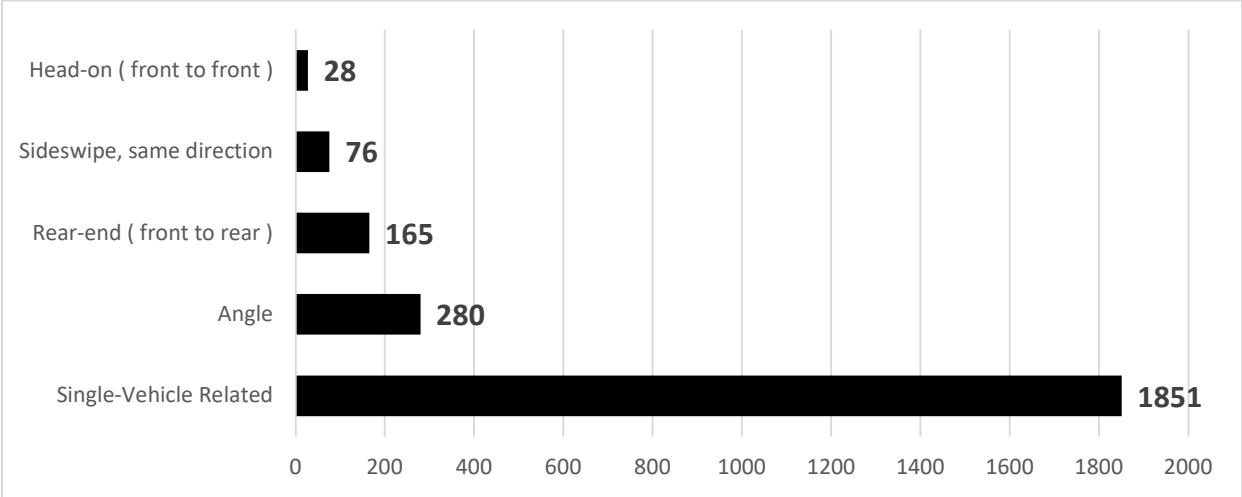


Figure 19: Crashes by Crash Type (2016 – 2020)

Crash Occurrence Period

Crash occurrence statistics assist in refining patrol deployment decisions. Typically, traffic varies significantly by time of day and day of the week, particularly during weekday peak hours. Crash data for the study area was evaluated based on the period of occurrence on the crash with respect to time of the day, week, and month.

- Approximately 63 percent of crashes occur between 7AM and 7PM. Crashes typically occur during peak travel periods, with a notable increase from 9PM to 10PM. Crashes by time of day are shown in Figure 20.
- Around 72 percent of crashes occur during weekdays. The fewest crashes occur on Sundays, and the most on Fridays. Crashes by day of week are shown in Figure 21.
- The highest number of vehicular crashes occur between October and December and during the month of August, with 43 percent of crashes occurring during these months over the analysis

⁷ <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813115>



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

period. Challenging winter road conditions including snow, sleet, and ice can contribute to a higher number of crashes during the winter months.

- The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, consistently bringing near half a million visitors to the County, would logically increase crashes during the month of August. Crashes by month of the year, aggregated over the analysis period, are shown in Figure 22. Further detail is provided on the number of crashes by month for each analysis year in Figure 23.

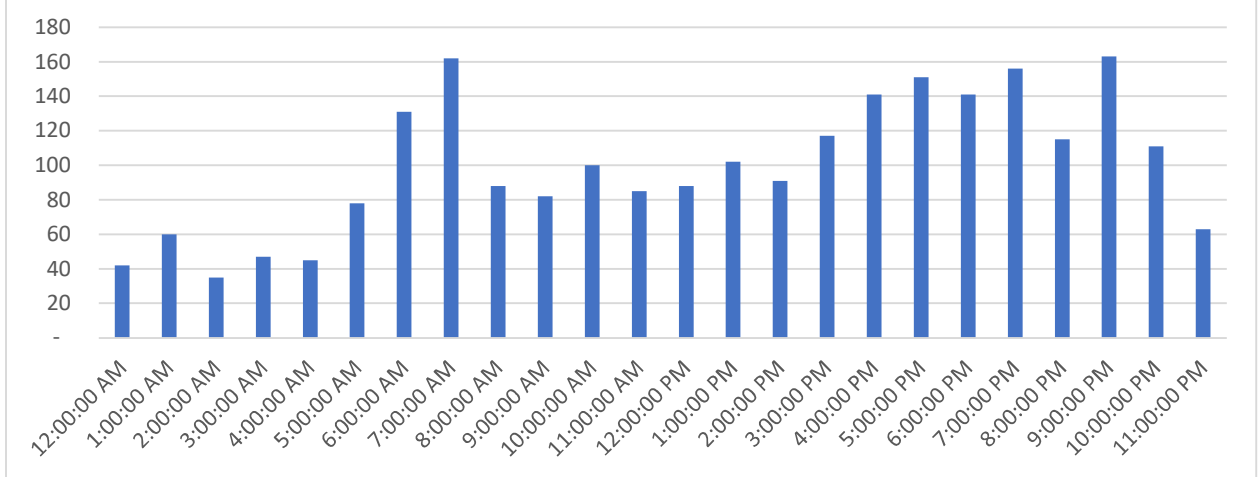


Figure 20: Crashes by Time of Day (2016 – 2020)

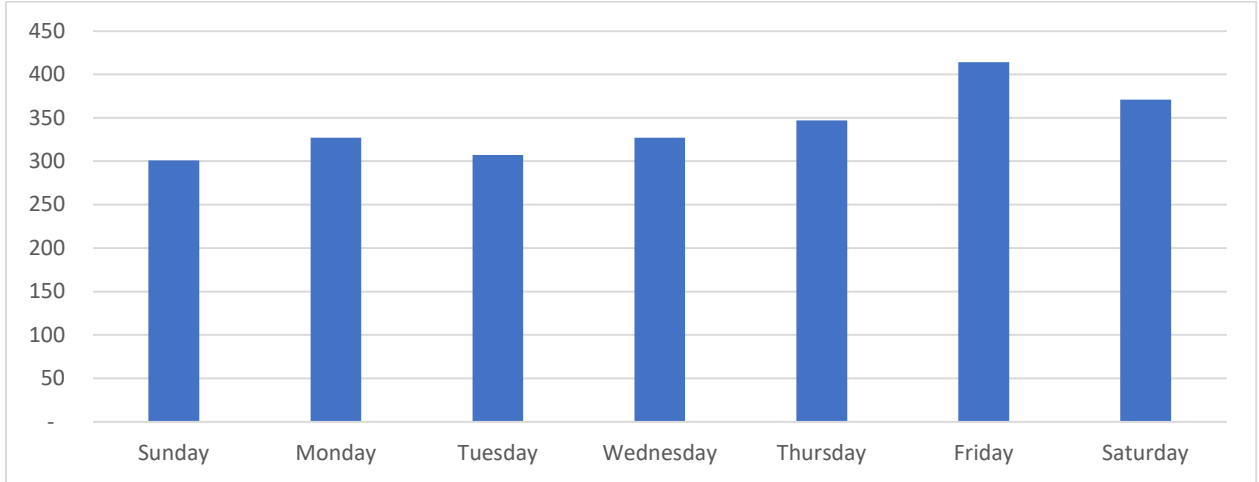


Figure 21: Crashes by Day of Week (2016 – 2020)



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

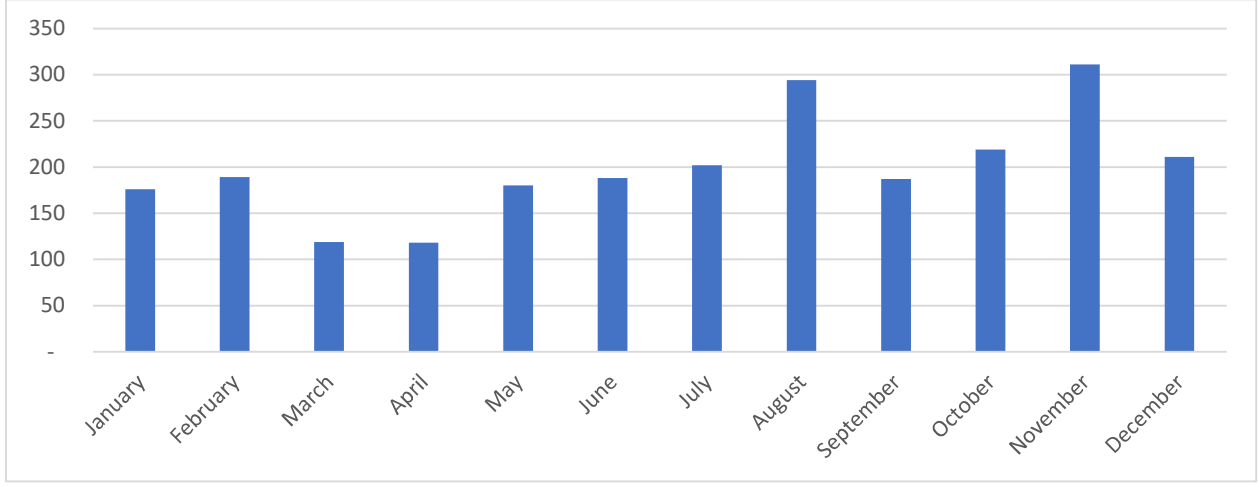


Figure 22: Crashes by Month (2016 – 2020)

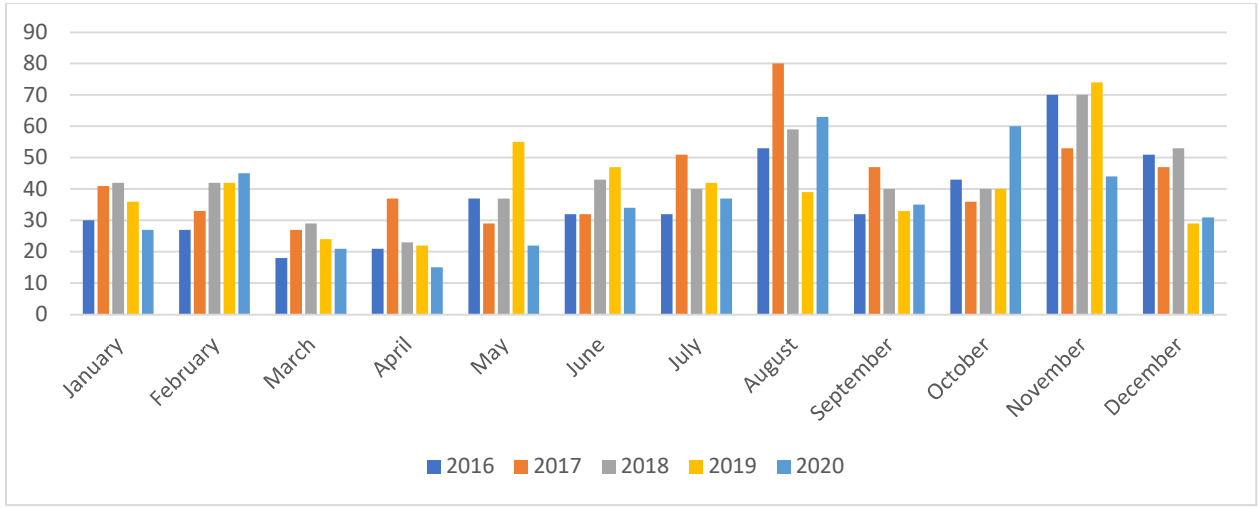


Figure 23: Crashes by Month, by Analysis Year

Crashes Involving Impaired Drivers

From 2016 to 2020, there were 155 crashes that involving impaired drivers. This corresponds to 6.5 percent of all crashes in Meade County. The statewide average crashes involving impaired drivers during the same time frame was 5.5 percent. Nine of the 17 fatal crashes were alcohol related, which corresponds to 53 percent of all fatal crashes in Meade County over the analysis period. The statewide average fatal crashes involving impaired drivers during the same time frame was 43 percent.

Crashes Involving Wild Animals

From 2016 to 2020, there were 849 crashes that involved wild animals which corresponds to an average of 170 such crashes per year. This is likely understated as many animal-vehicle collisions go unreported if the crash does not involve property damage or injury. South Dakota is the fourth-ranked state in the Nation for insurance claims from a collision with an animal (Table 7).

Rank	State
1	West Virginia
2	Montana
3	Pennsylvania
4	South Dakota
5	Michigan

Table 7: Top Five States for Claims from a Collision with an Animal (2020)⁸

Meade County sees the highest number of wild animal-related crashes in November (Figure 24), which is in line with the deer breeding season that runs from October and into December (peaking in mid-November). Of the animal-vehicle collisions within the study area, the majority occurred on high-volume, high-speed roadways, with over 50% occurring on I-90 alone. Wild animal crash locations are shown in Figure 25.

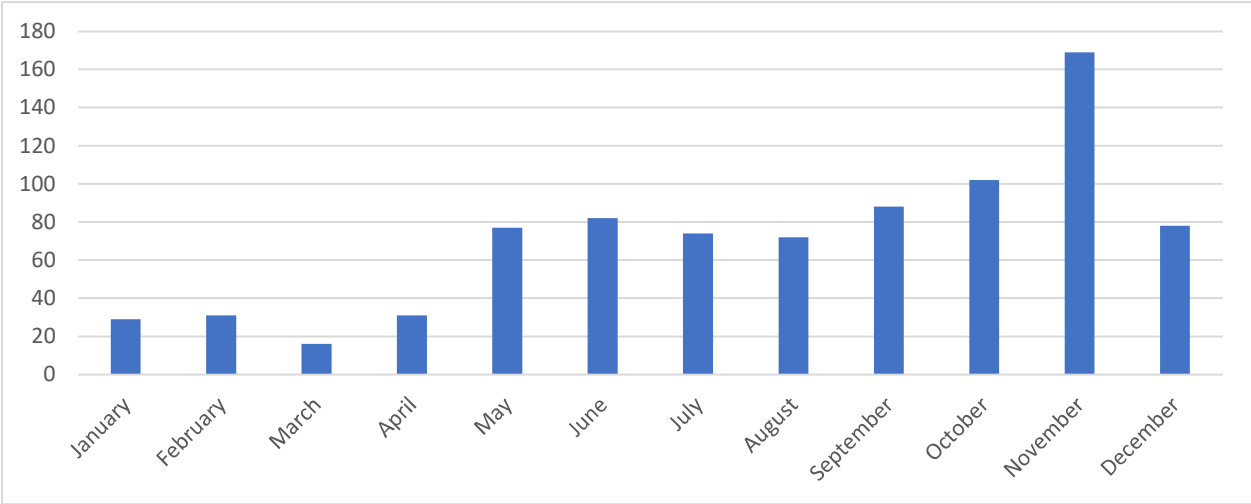
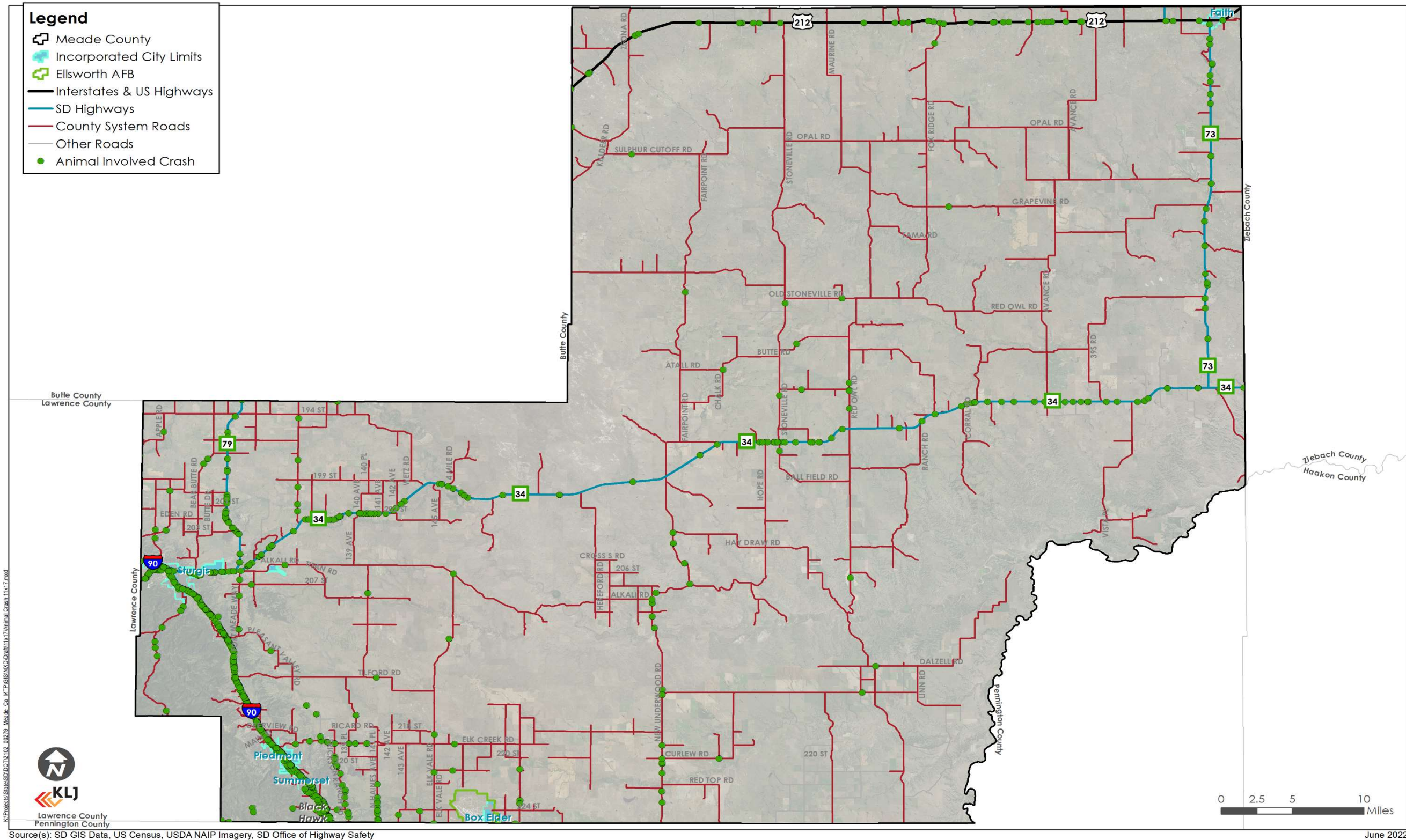


Figure 24: Crashes Involving a Wild Animal by Month (2016 – 2020)

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 25: Locations of Crashes Involving a Wild Animal (2016 – 2020)





Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes

From 2016 to 2020, there were 12 crashes that involved pedestrians, and six crashes that involved bicyclists. Pedestrian crashes included one fatal and five serious injury type crash. Bicyclist crashes included two serious injury type crashes. The crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists (non-motorized crashes) are shown in Figure 26. Eleven of the 18 non-motorized crashes were experienced in Sturgis. There were two crashes that occurred within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of Sturgis Intermediate School.

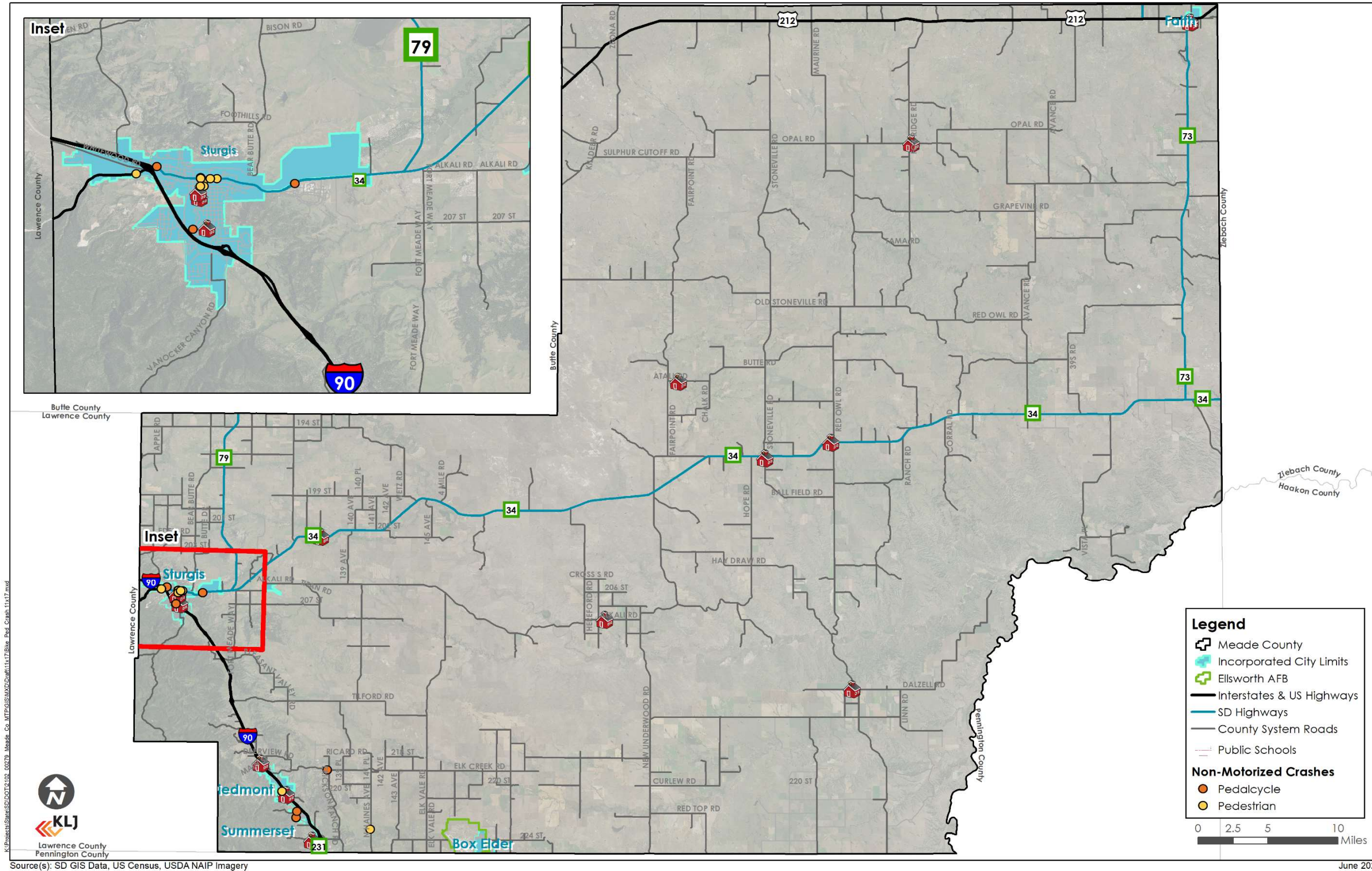
Highest Crash Frequency Intersections

To assess the safety performance of intersections within the study area, ten intersections were identified with the highest number of crashes during the analysis period. Table 8 summarizes the number of crashes for each high-crash intersection, with Figure 27 showing the location of the intersections. The intersection of Peaceful Pines Road with Sturgis Road experienced the highest number of crashes (16), followed by the intersection of Sturgis Road with Elk Creek Road (13). Five intersections along SD Hwy 34 were among the top 10 highest crash intersections in the County.

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 26: Crashes Involving Pedestrians and Bicyclists (2016 – 2020)



K:\Projects\StateSD\DOT\2102_00276_Meade_Co_MTP\GIS\MXD\Crash1117\Blk_Ped_Crash_1117.mxd



Source(s): SD GIS Data, US Census, USDA NAIP Imagery



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Table 8: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations

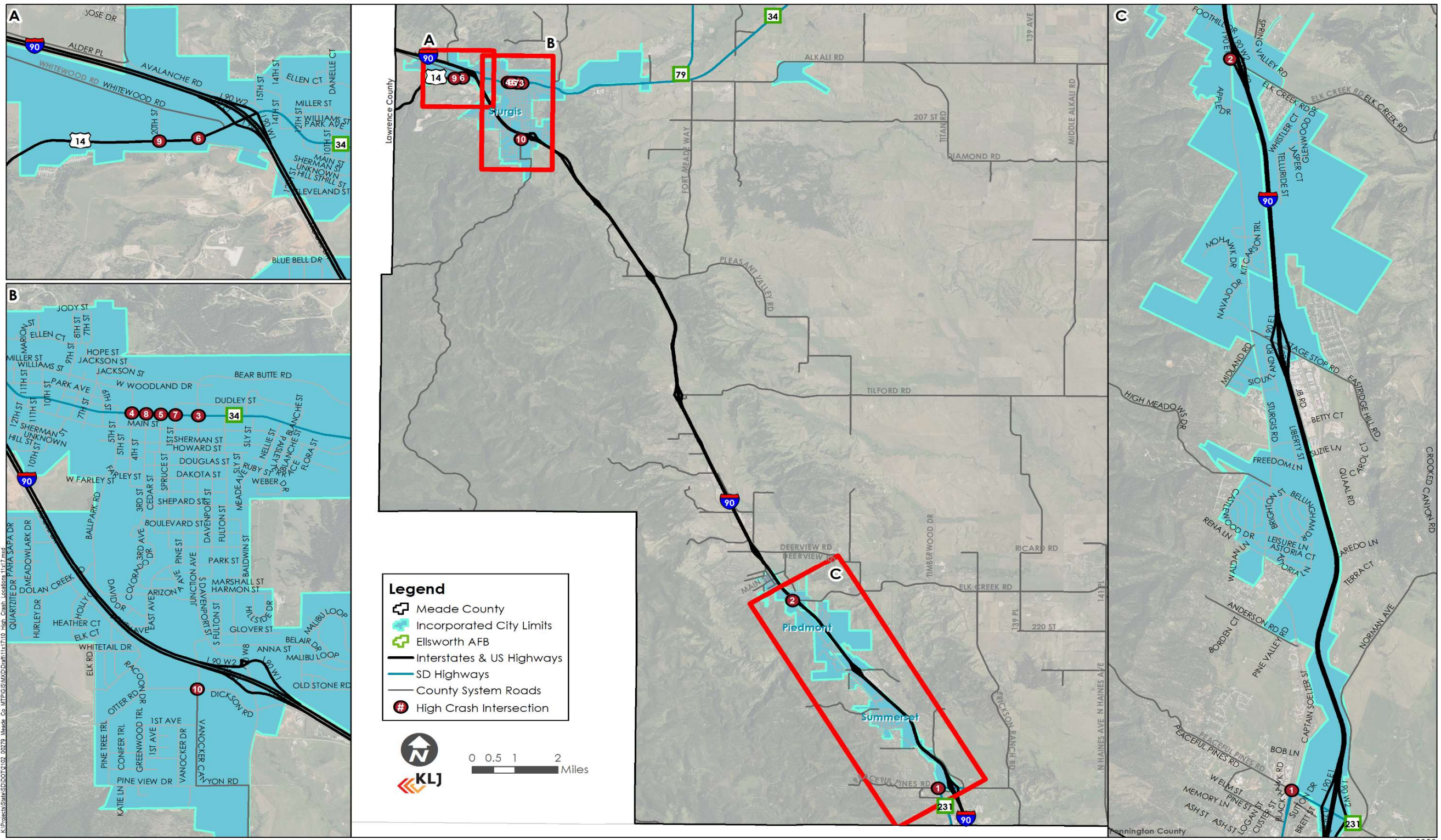
Rank	Intersection	Traffic Control	Frequency
1	Peaceful Pines Rd & Sturgis Rd	Signal	16
2	Sturgis Rd & Elk Creek Rd	TWSC ¹	13
3	SD Hwy 34 & Junction Ave	Signal	11
4	SD Hwy 34 & 4th St	Signal	8
5	SD Hwy 34 & 2nd St	Signal	8
6	US Hwy 14A & Moose Dr	TWSC ¹	8
7	SD Hwy 34 & 1st St	TWSC ¹	7
8	SD Hwy 34 & 3rd St	TWSC ¹	5
9	US Hwy 14A & 20th St	TWSC ¹	5
10	Vanocker Canyon Dr & Otter Rd	TWSC ¹	5

1. TWSC- Two way Stop Controlled

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 27: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations (2016 – 2020)



Culverts and Bridges

Culverts and bridges are important supporting components of a transportation system. Culverts allow a roadway to cross minor waterways and irrigation ditches, whereas bridges allow a roadway to cross more significant features such as other roads, railroads, and major waterways. Meade County manages 118 bridges and box culverts, in addition to approximately 2,700 documented corrugated metal pipe (CMP) and reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culverts.

Condition of Culverts and Bridges

A bridge's sufficiency rating measures a bridge's overall condition based on regular required inspections. The ratings are used to determine when a bridge is eligible for rehabilitation or replacement. A bridge with sufficiency rating greater than 80 is generally considered in good condition. A new bridge will have a sufficiency rating of 100, whereas a sufficiency rating of less than 50 is candidate for replacement. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) inspects and assigns bridge sufficiency ratings to all structures that fall within the definition of "bridge,"⁸ including County bridges and most County box culverts. The inspection of bridges and determination of sufficiency is conducted in accordance with the FHWA national bridge inspection standards⁹.

Of the 118 federally inspected bridges and culverts maintained by the County, 67 (57 percent) have a sufficiency rating of 80 or greater, 33 (28 percent) have a sufficiency rating between 50 and 80, and 18 (15 percent) have a sufficiency rating below 50 (Figure 28). As shown in Figure 29, bridge sufficiency rating is generally correlated with the age of a bridge. Current Bridge sufficiency ratings for the study area are shown in Figure 30.

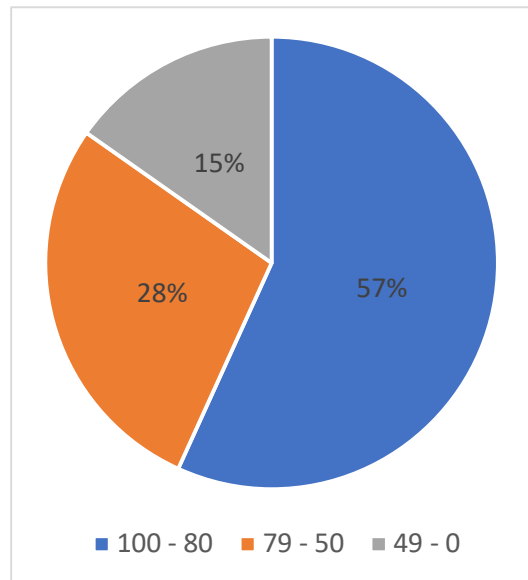


Figure 28: Sufficiency Rating for County Maintained Bridges and Culverts

⁸ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/23/650.403>

⁹ <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/nbis.cfm>

MEADE COUNTY South Dakota

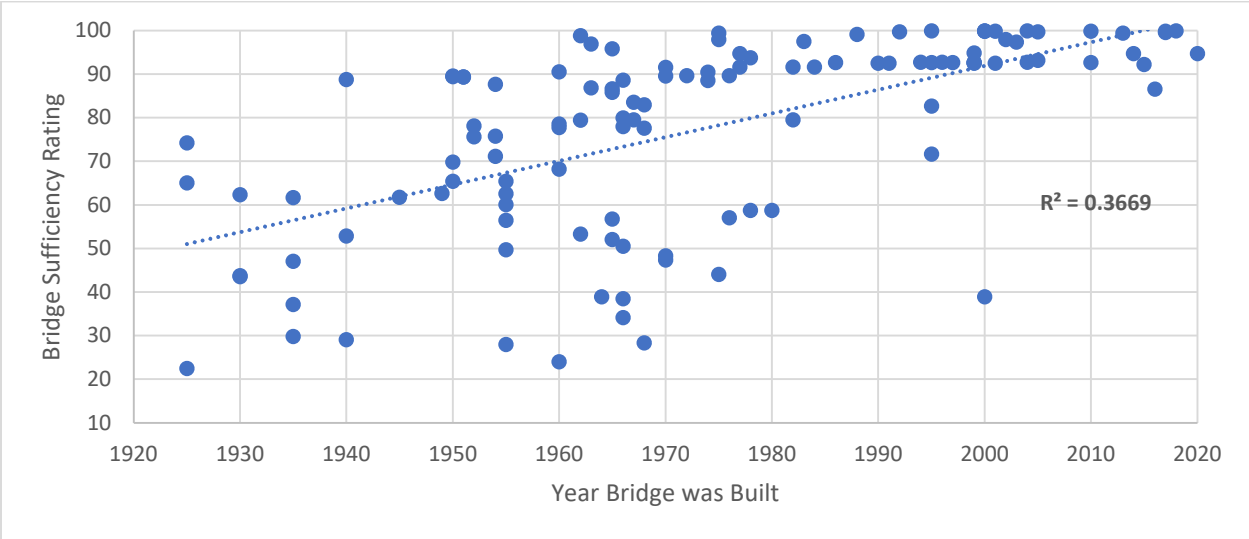
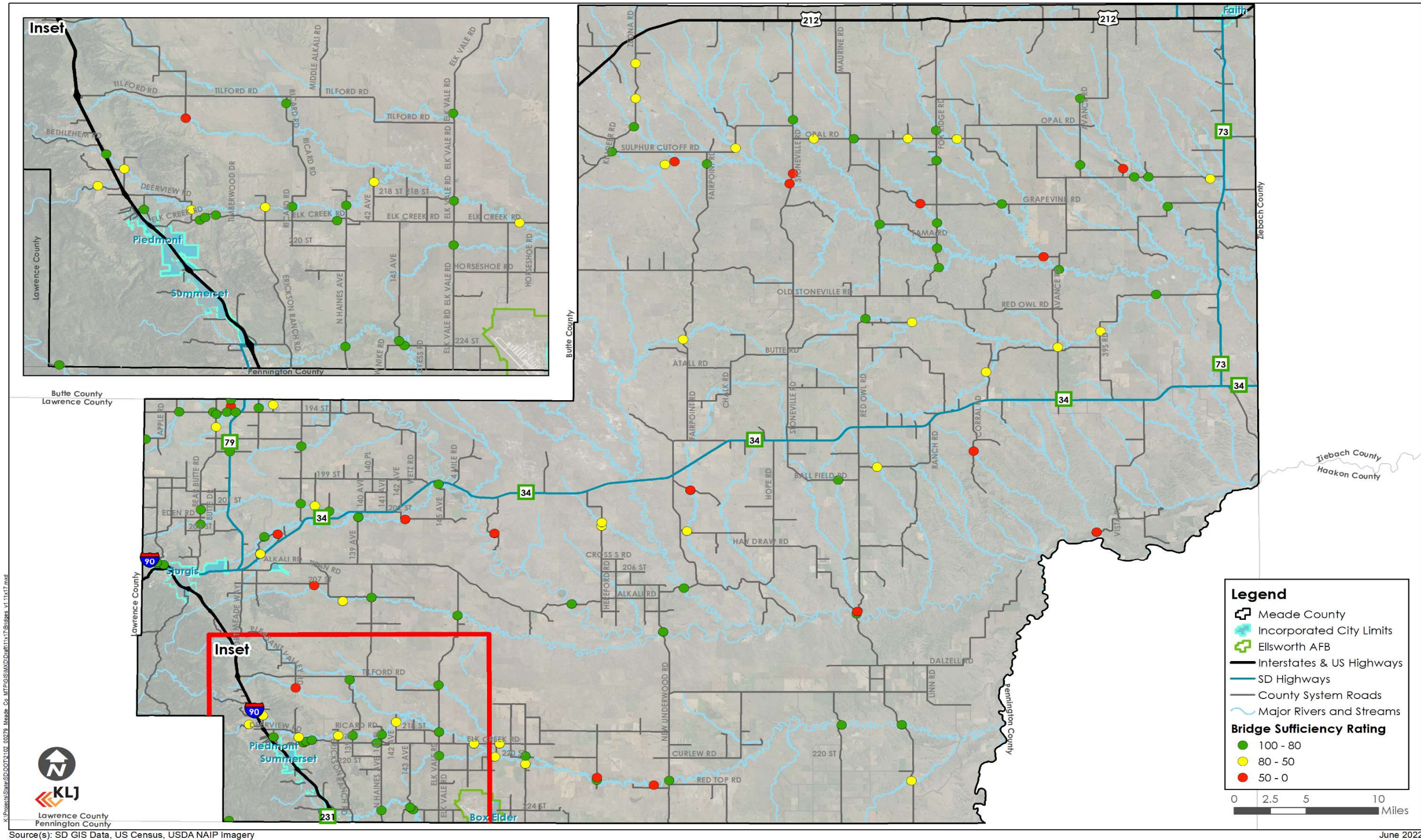


Figure 29: Bridge Sufficiency Rating vs Year Bridge was Built

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 30: Bridge and Culvert Condition within the Study Area



K:\Projects\SHA\SDDOT\2102_20220_Meade_Co_MTP\GIS\MapDocs\Map1117.mxd



Lawrence County
Pennington County

Source(s): SD GIS Data, US Census, USDA NAIP Imagery



There are approximately 2,700 County-maintained pipe culverts which are not assigned a bridge sufficiency rating by the FHWA. These are checked periodically by the County and assigned a condition rating of good, fair, or poor. The condition distribution of County-maintained pipe culverts is shown in Figure 31.

Freight Systems

Trucks

Most freight travel through Meade County occurs along I-90. I-90 is an interstate roadway passing through the County's southwest corner which serves longer cross-country trips. Truck ADT along I-90 averages around 1,300 south of Sturgis and about 850 west of Sturgis with 625 along the portion of US 14 A within Meade County. Freight travel also occurs along state highways through Meade County including US 212, SD 34, SD 79, and SD 73. SD 79 has the highest truck ADT outside of the I-90 corridor with the most recent count of 400 truck ADT. County highways play an important role in circulating freight traffic to and from destinations within the county, which are mainly agricultural destinations.

Truck ADT data were unavailable from DOT counting locations other than US and State highways. Additionally, Streetlight data did not provide truck ADT for county roads such as Fort Meade Way.

The Interstate, U.S., and State highway facilities mentioned above constitute the National Highway System (NHS) within Meade County. NHS routes are designated as such because of the critical role they serve in national defense, mobility, and economic activity. The importance of NHS roadways is underscored by the priority they are given for federal funding, including funding available through the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act's largest formula program, the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP). Given the large and growing military presence within Meade, as well as its agricultural industry, the County will continue to rely on the NHS as the backbone of its freight infrastructure.

Airports

Meade County is home to two municipal airports. The Sturgis Municipal Airport is a city-owned, public use airport located approximately 4 miles east of Sturgis off SD 34. The Faith Municipal Airport is a city-owned, public-use airport located approximately 1-mile northeast of Faith.

Meade County is also home to Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is located just north of the city of Box Elder. Ellsworth Air Force Base's population is approximately 8,300 and includes military members, family members, and civilian employees. No new airport facilities are anticipated to develop in Meade County in the near term.

Meade County's major freight corridors and airports are shown in Figure 32.

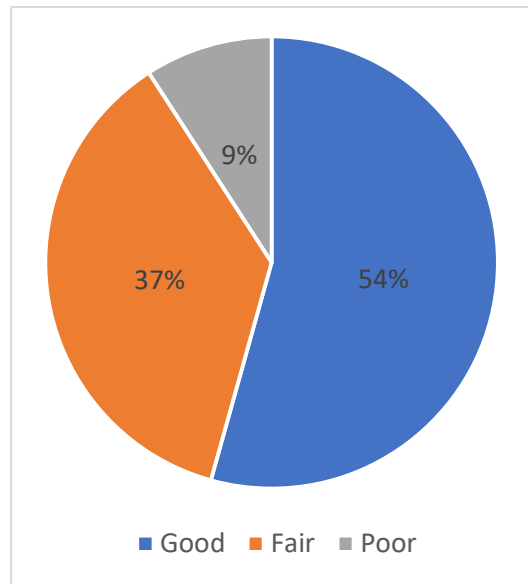
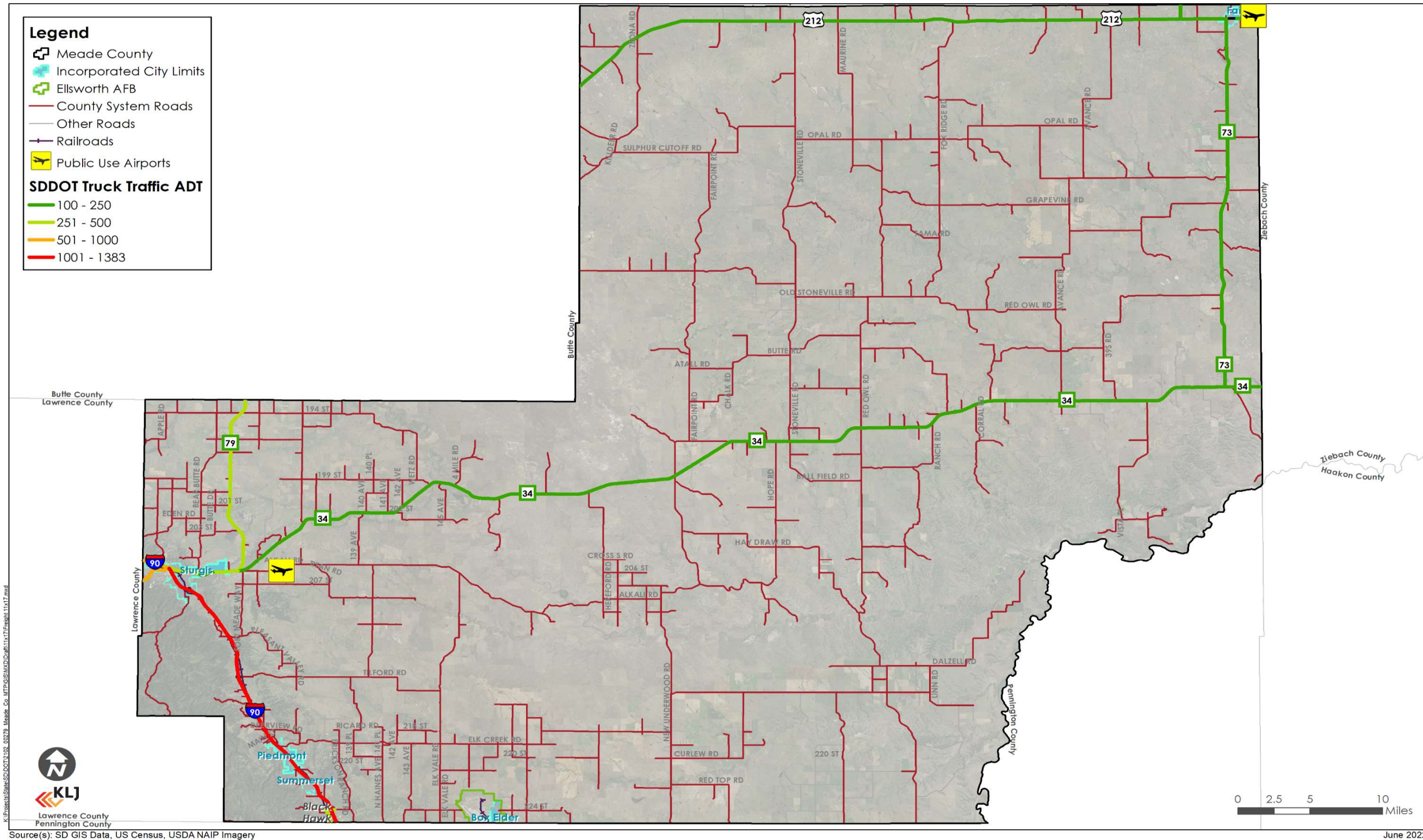


Figure 31: Condition of County-Maintained Pipe Culverts

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 32: Meade County Major Freight Corridors and Airports



Multimodal Facilities

Transit

Prairie Hills Transit (PHT) currently provides transit service in portions of Meade County. PHT provides public transportation to anyone of any age and ability for any trip purpose. PHT provides in-town service in Sturgis, as well as to Fort Meade and to Rapid City. PHT also provides service from Piedmont to Rapid City. PHT fares range from \$2 to \$10 based on starting point and final destination. Meade County does not currently provide countywide transit services, nor do any county funds go toward providing a local match for federal transit funding such as PHT.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

Because the Meade County roadway system is primarily rural, non-motorized users are often forced to travel within the vehicular travel lanes, which can create a safety hazard for all travel modes. Some roadways provide wide shoulders, but no continuous network of wide-shouldered roadways or detached paths are currently available in the County. Despite this, bicyclists and pedestrians can be found commuting to work or school. For example, Sturgis Road increasingly serves the more suburbanized communities of Summerset and Piedmont as a route to school for children.

Non-motorized activity in Meade County is generally increasing. Mountain biking and hiking trails are becoming a greater attraction in the western portion of Meade County, particularly in the Black Hills National Forest. Ongoing efforts by trails advocates are seeking to increase the reach of the trail network and fill gaps between key destinations. Trail users have highlighted the challenges of traveling within the region, including from Sturgis to nearby communities, where a lack of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities increases the risk of conflict with motor vehicles. For example, travel from Sturgis to Tilford requires that bicyclists use I-90. While there is a service road running parallel to I-90 between Sturgis and Whitewood, this provides no shoulder for bicyclists. Public input regarding the existing trail system is discussed in more detail later in this document.

Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) Travel

The use of utility task vehicles (UTVs) for recreation has grown in Meade County during the last decade. This activity is mostly practiced in and around the Black Hills National Forest, the northeast corner of which is located within Meade County.

The Black Hills National Forest is considered among the best locations for UTV use within the state of South Dakota. Among the most popular trailheads for UTV use within the Forest are the Antelope Springs Trailhead, the Bluebird Trailhead, and the South Boxelder Trailhead, which is located just east of Meade County near the community of Nemo. In all, the Forest has 21 designated motorized trailheads and over 3,600 miles of roads and trails designated as open for UTV travel.



Location: Northern Black Hills National Forest

Chapter 4: Projected Conditions Analysis

Introduction

A projected conditions analysis helps determine the nature and location of future transportation issues. Results of the analysis aid in developing projects that will anticipate and mitigate these issues as the County grows.

The projected conditions analysis performed for the Meade County MTP focused on ten study intersections as well as roadway segments throughout the study area. The analysis considered recent traffic data and incorporated land use trends to glean an understand of where, and by how much, traffic volumes will grow in the future. The project team conducted the projected conditions analysis in coordination with the SAT, County staff, and SDDOT.

This chapter is comprised of three sections, which are summarized below:

- **Segment Volumes:** Presents the future conditions analysis conducted for County roadways, including the methodology used for projecting traffic volumes and the analysis results.
- **Study Intersections:** Presents and describes the ten study intersections. Discusses the data collection, traffic operations and safety analysis that was conducted for the study intersections.
- **Summary:** Summarizes the results of the projected conditions analysis for the study intersections and roadway segments. Provides an interpretation of the results and discusses conclusions.

Segment Volumes

The project team projected traffic volumes for study area roadway segments using the same growth assumptions used to evaluate future intersection operations. A 25-year growth factor of 1.425 based on SDDOT projections was used.

In addition to this projected traffic growth, additional growth was added to address the isolated growth associated with planned subdivisions described earlier in the report in Figure 8. Trips generated by these developments were estimated and then assigned to the roadway network based on engineering judgment.

The top 19 traffic volume locations by estimated 2045 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) are shown in Table 9. These locations are presented in the table below along with StreetLight-based traffic projections for other locations. More information on StreetLight is provided later in this chapter.

Table 9: Twenty Highest Traffic Volume Locations by 2045 ADT Estimate

Site ID	Source	Corridor	Description	2021 ADT	2045 Estimate	2045 With Development
547041	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Stage Stop Rd	Between J B Rd & I-90W	3,320	4,731	5,013
547042	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between Hills View Dr & I-90W	2,713	3,866	4,097
547303	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Whitewood Rd	Between Us14A & 20Th St - Sturgis	1,714	2,442	2,588
547062	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Erickson Ranch Rd	Between Peaceful Pines Rd & West Ridge Rd	1,320	1,881	1,993
547304	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Whitewood Rd	Between Industry Rd & Meade/Lawrence County Line	1,058	1,508	1,598
547302	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Vanocker Canyon Rd	South of Junction Ave - Sturgis	1,032	1,471	1,558
547050	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between Ricard Rd & Golden Valley Dr	815	1,161	1,231
547060	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between Red Top Rd & Curlew Rd	679	968	1,025
552921	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	150 Pl	Between Airway Ct & 225 St - Box Elder	524	747	791
547072	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between 209 St & Alkali Rd	469	668	708
547067	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Avalanche Rd	Between Eden Rd & Elm St	445	634	672
547073	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between Hay Draw Rd & Wilcox Rd	378	539	571
547049	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Vale Rd	Between Prairie Meadows Rd & Horseshoe Rd	354	504	535
547295	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Vanocker Canyon Rd	Between 1St Ave & Otter Rd - Sturgis	321	457	485
547070	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Alkali Rd	Between 135 Ave & 132 Ave	244	348	368
547045	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Pleasant Valley Rd	Between 130 Ave & I-90E	214	305	323

547014	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between School Rd & Horseshoe Rd	210	299	317
547064	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between 144 Ave & Elk Vale Rd	198	282	299
547046	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Cemetery Entrance Road	Main Black Hills National Cemetery Entrance	164	234	NA
1010	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Fort Meade Way	Between Pleasant Valley Rd & SD Hwy 34	900	1,300	1,350
1020	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Alkali Rd	West of Junction with 139 Ave	250	350	400
1030	StreetLight Analysis Zone	134th Ave/Pleasant Valley Rd	North of Junction with Tilford Rd	230	350	350
1040	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Tilford Rd	East of Junction with Ricard Rd	-	-	-
1050	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale Rd	Between Tilford Rd & Alkali Rd	200	300	300
1060*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale Rd S	Between Tilford Rd & Elk Creek Rd	250	350	400
1070	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	Between Sturgis & Rapid City	18,400	24,500	25,600
1080*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Erickson Ranch Rd	Between Peaceful Pines Rd & West Ridge Rd	1,450	2,100	2,200
1090	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Haines Ave	Between Peterson Rd & Virginia Ln	1,500	2,150	2,300
1100*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale South S	Between Prairie Meadows Rd & Horseshoe Rd	900	1,300	1,400
1110*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd North	Between Hope Rd & Hay Draw Rd	600	900	900
1120*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd Center	Between West Elm Springs Rd & Alkali Rd	700	1,000	1,050
1130*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd South	Between Red Top Rd & Curlew Rd	800	1,150	1,200
1140*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elm Spring Rd North	Between Boneita Rd & Hay Draw Rd	150	200	250

1150	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elm Spring Rd	North of Pennington County Line	200	300	300
1160	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Antelope Creek Rd	Between Elk Creek Rd & 224 St	650	950	1,000
2010	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	NW of Sturgis	12,200	16,200	17,000
2020	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 79	South of Butte County Line	2,000	2,700	2,800
2030	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 34	East of Junction with Elm Springs Rd	700	950	1,000
2040	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	East of Rapid City	8,000	10,600	11,100
2050	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 73	South of Faith	800	1,100	1,100
2060	StreetLight Analysis Zone	US 212	West of Faith	500	700	700

**Duplicate Count Location with SDDOT Traffic Count Locations*

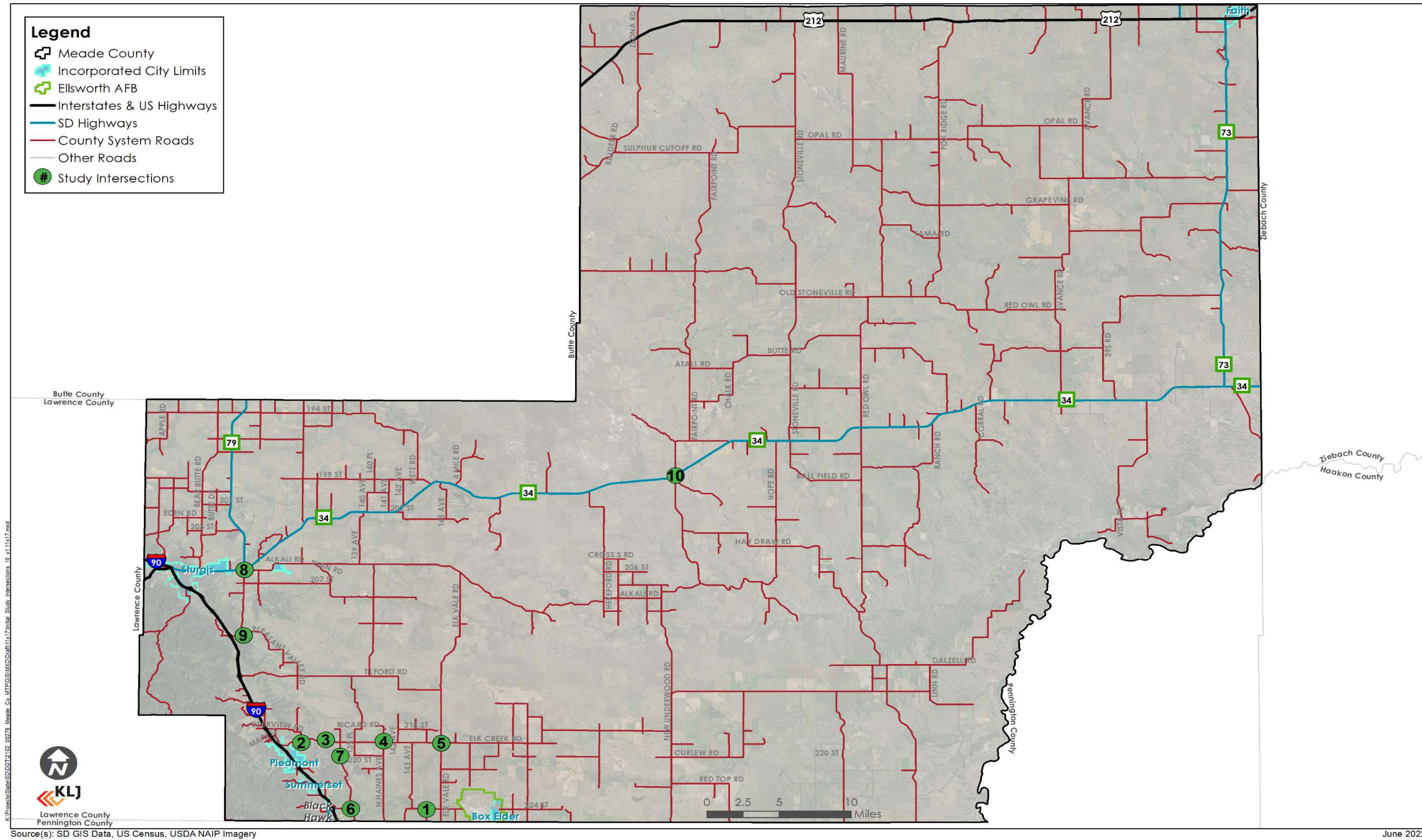
Traffic Operations

A key component of the projected conditions analysis was a detailed evaluation of ten intersections to evaluate traffic operations. The ten intersections were selected in coordination with County staff and the SAT and represent locations with particular importance to the County regarding safety, mobility, and development trends. The ten study intersections are listed in Table 10 and shown in Figure 33.

Table 10: Study Intersections

Map ID	Road #1	Road #2
1	Dyess Road	224 th Street
2	Elk Creek Road	Deerview Road
3	Elk Creek Road	Timberwood Drive
4	Elk Creek Road	Haines Avenue
5	Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road
6	Erickson Ranch Road	Peaceful Pines Road
7	Erickson Ranch Road	220 th Street
8	Fort Meade Way	SD 34
9	Fort Meade Way	Pleasant Valley Road
10	New Underwood Road	SD 34

Figure 33: Study Intersections



Study Intersections for Traffic Operations

Site visits were conducted for each of the ten study intersections at the project outset to evaluate traffic operation analysis. The visits were necessary to assess existing issues and establish a baseline for evaluating future conditions. A summary of observations for each intersection is provided below.

Location #1: Dyess Road and 224th Street

The Dyess Road and 224th Street intersection is located near the southern border of Meade County. Photos taken during the site visit are shown on the next page.

Location #1 Analysis

Severe downgrade on south approach. Improper traffic control, with stop on north approach and yield on south approach. Poor intersection sight distance. Recommend north-south stop control and improvements to correct limited sight distance.



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota





MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Location #2: Elk Creek Road and Deerview Road

The Elk Creek Rd and Deerview Rd intersection is located about one mile east of Summerset. Photos taken during the site visit are shown below:

Location #2 Analysis

Elk Creek Road has horizontal curvature and appears to have adequate sight distance. No Issues identified.

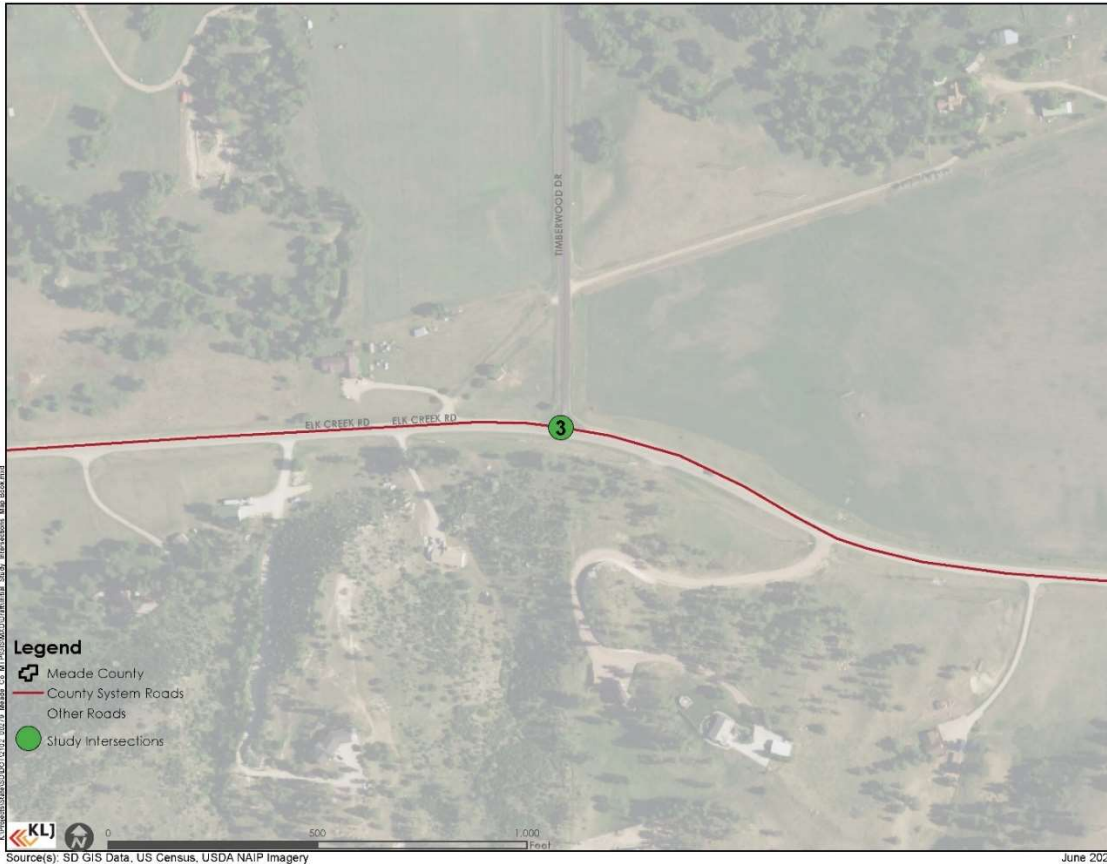


Location #3: Elk Creek Road and Timberwood Drive

The Elk Creek Rd and Timberwood Dr intersection is about 2.5 miles east of Summerset and about one mile west of Erickson Ranch Rd. Photos taken during the site visit are shown below:

Location #3 Analysis

Timberwood Drive and Elk Creek Road are paved. Elk Creek Road has significant horizontal curvature and Timberwood Drive has steep upward approach to intersection, but sight distances appear to be good. No issues identified.





MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Location #4: Elk Creek Road and Haines Avenue

The Elk Creek Rd and Haines Ave intersection is located about 6.5 miles east of Summerset and 6 miles north of Pennington County. Photos taken during the site visit are shown below:

Location #4 Analysis

Four-way stop condition, no turn lanes. East approach is gravel. Stop warning sign is present for west approach stop sign. This is needed due to lack of visibility. The intersection may benefit from turn lanes in the future.



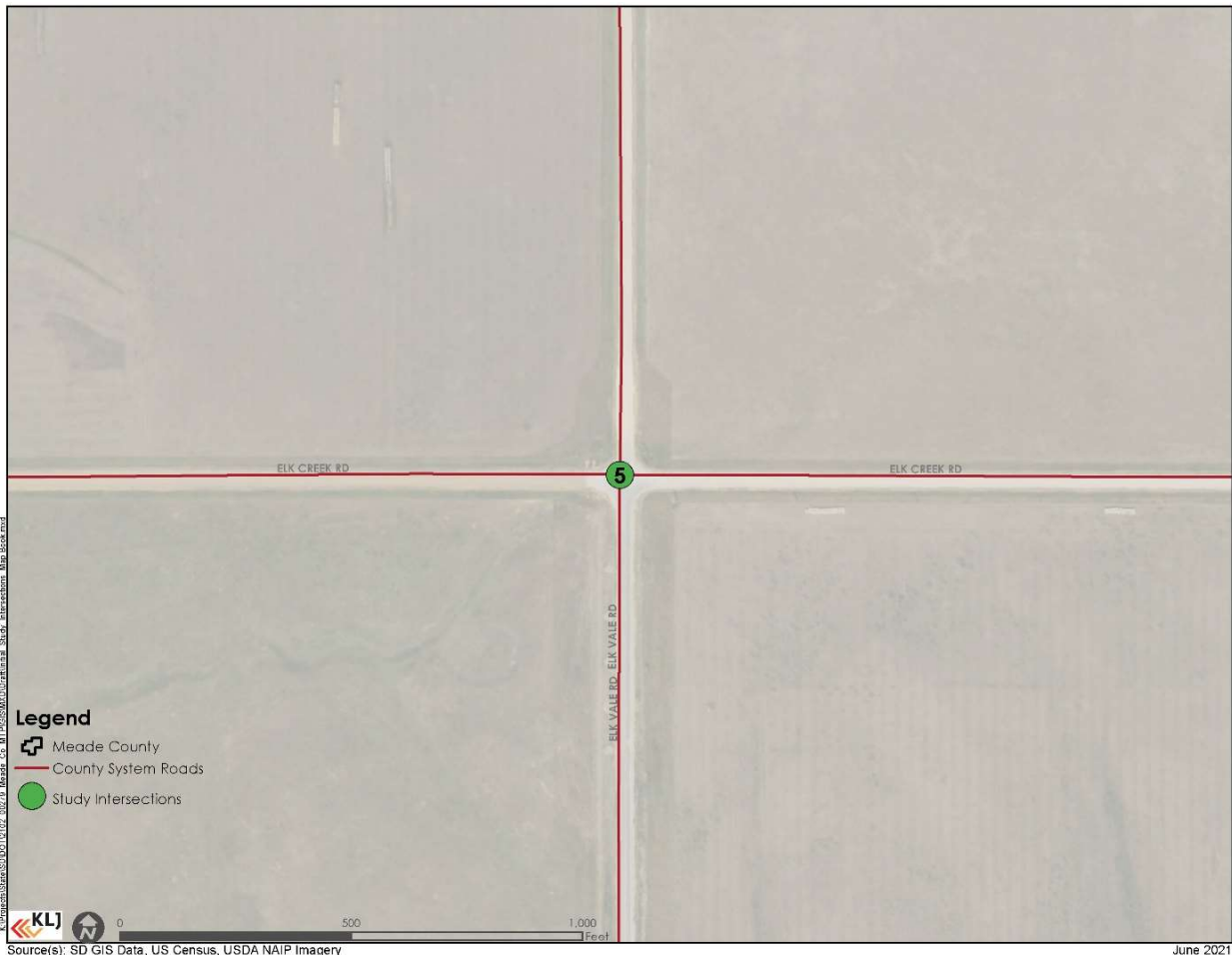


Location #5: Elk Creek Road and Elk Vale Road

The Elk Creek Rd and Elk Vale Rd intersection is located north of Ellsworth AFB, about six miles north of Pennington County. Photos taken during the site visit are shown below:

Location #5 Analysis

East-west stop control. Only the intersection and the road going south are paved. No turn lanes. Crest of hill is south of the intersection; else it is relatively flat, and it appears to have good sight distance.





MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Location #6: Erickson Ranch Road and Peaceful Pines Road

The Erickson Ranch Rd and Peaceful Pines Rd intersection is about one mile east of the Black Hawk exit of I-90. An aerial of the site is shown below:

Location #6 Analysis

Horizontal curve to the east of the intersection. This is a busy intersection surrounded by development. Better access management, especially on the east approach would improve intersection safety.



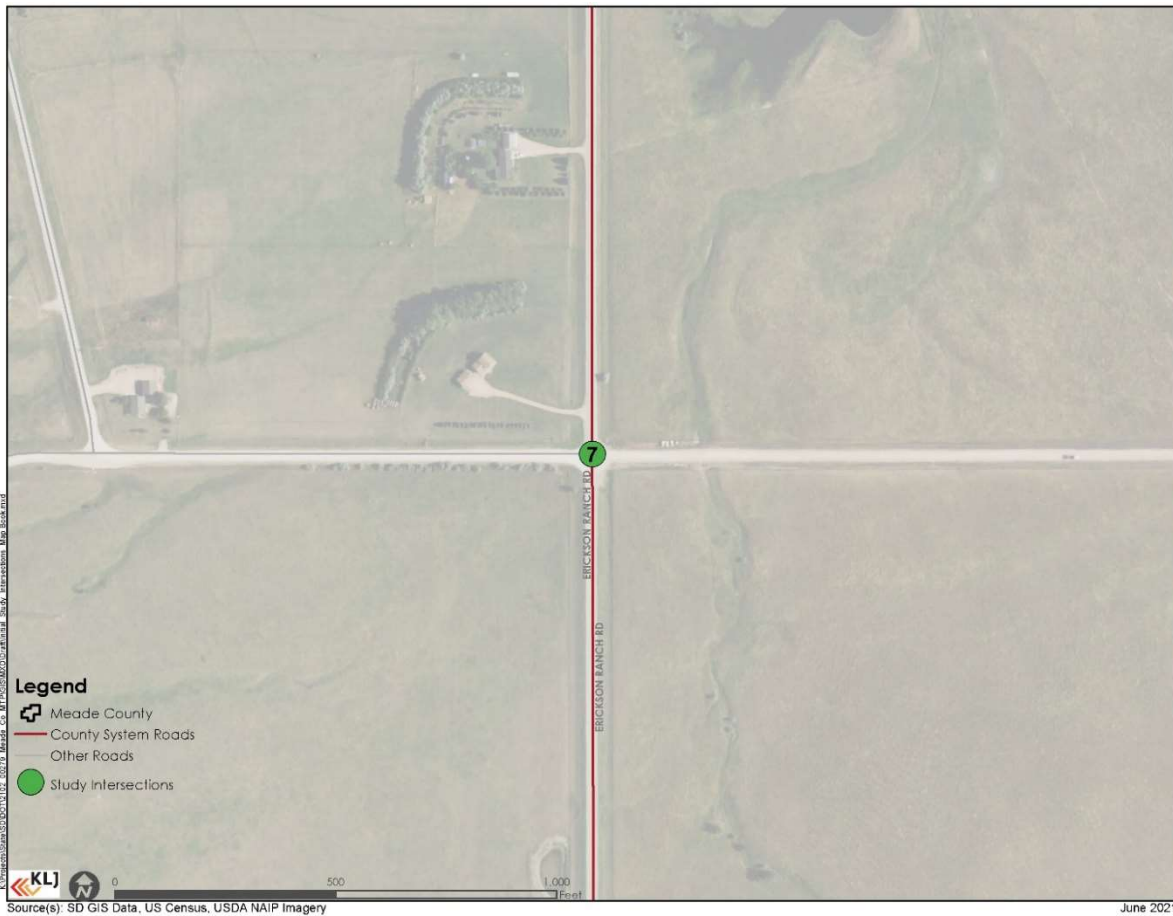


Location #7: Erickson Ranch Road and 220th Street

The Erickson Ranch Road and 220th Street intersection is located east of Summerset, about one mile south of Elk Creek Rd. Photos taken during the site visit are shown below:

Location #7 Analysis

East-west stop control. Lack of turn lanes on Erickson Ranch Road. The corridor is relatively flat with good sight distances. Turn lanes may be a safety benefit but no issues were identified.





MEADE COUNTY

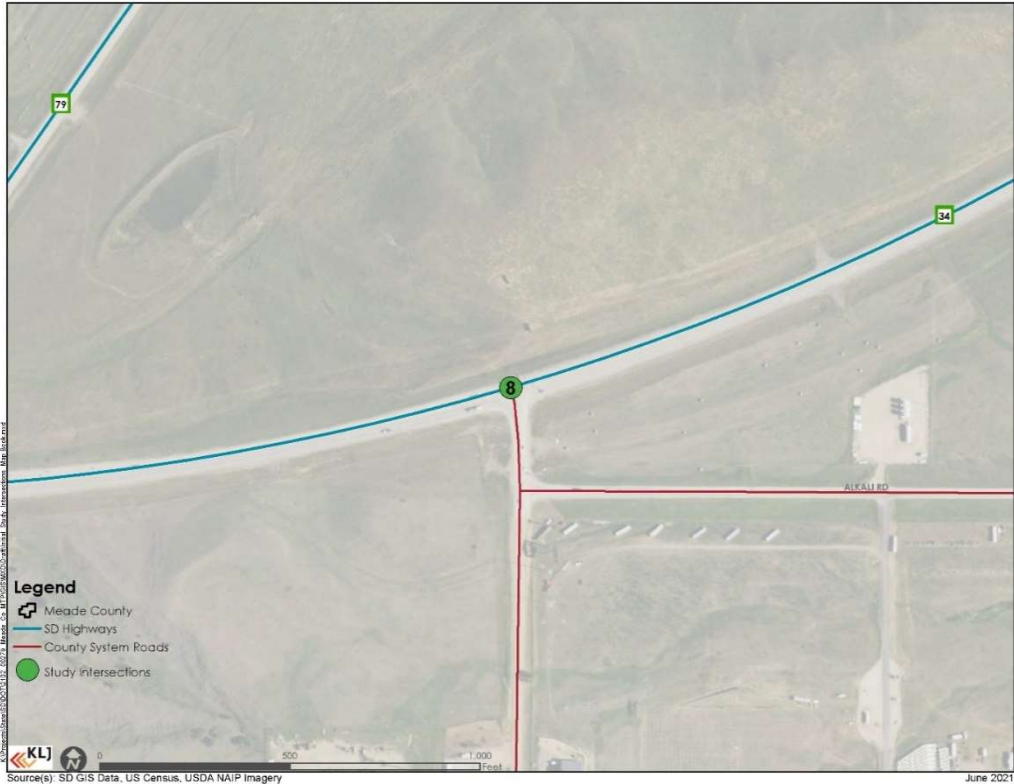
South Dakota

Location #8: Fort Meade Way and SD 34

The Fort Meade Way and SD 34 intersection is located about one mile east of Sturgis city limits. Photos taken during the site visit are below:

Location #8 Analysis

The intersection is near the crest of a hill along SD 34, as well as being located within a horizontal curve. There appears to be adequate sight distance and turn lanes are present. Fort Meade Way becomes gravel a short distance south of the intersection. Other than the 206th Street intersection being rather close, issues were identified.





Location #9: Fort Meade Way and Pleasant Valley Road

The Fort Meade Way and Pleasant Valley Rd intersection is located east of I-90 exit 37 at the southern terminus of Fort Meade Way. Photos taken during the site visit are shown below:

Location #9 Analysis

The intersection exists as an all-gravel, tee intersection with stop control on the north approach. There appears to be adequate sight distance and no issues were identified.





MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Location #10: New Underwood Road and SD 34

The New Underwood Road and SD 34 intersection is located about 30 miles east of Sturgis on SD 34. An aerial photo of the site is shown below:

Location #10 Analysis

The intersection has north-south stop control but has a significant skew. Other than visibility concerns with the skew, the intersection appears to have adequate sight distances. Ideally, the skew should be corrected, especially given that the intersection carries a high amount of traffic. Turn lanes should also be considered along SD 34 to improve safety.



Intersection Data Collection

The project team collected turning movement counts (TMCs) for each of the 10 study intersections. The counts were used as a baseline for future traffic operations analysis, as presented in the next section of the Report. TMC data was sourced from the StreetLight platform, and additional in-field counts were conducted to validate the StreetLight data. In-field TMC counts were conducted at three study intersections from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. during September 2021. Peak hour volumes for all study intersections were determined on a per-intersection basis and representative of the AM and PM peak hours. In-Field TMC Counts included:

- Dyess Ave and 224th St
- Elk Creek Rd and Haines Ave
- New Underwood Rd and SD 34

Detailed TMC data is available in Appendix C.

Intersection and Traffic Operations

Traffic operations were evaluated for the ten study intersections using methodologies from the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) within the PTV Vistro software package. As noted above, peak hour turning movement counts were sourced from StreetLight data and validated by in-field TMCs. Traffic operations are described in terms of level of service (LOS), with levels of service ranging from LOS A to LOS F. Intersection LOS calculations incorporate traffic volumes, intersection geometry, and other parameters to estimate the delay per vehicle at the intersection. LOS A indicates near free-flow traffic conditions with little delay and LOS F indicates breakdown of traffic flow with very high amounts of delay. At oversaturated intersections and approaches, the delay may only reflect the vehicles that can be processed in the analysis period and not the total delay for that intersection, thus underreporting the actual delay experienced by drivers. LOS C or better is considered acceptable. The LOS thresholds for intersection delay are shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Intersection Delay and Level of Service (LOS)

Level of Service	Average Delay (Seconds per Vehicle)		Description
	Unsignalized Intersection	Signalized Intersection	
A	≤ 10	≤ 10	Near free-flow traffic.
B	> 10 and ≤ 15	> 10 and ≤ 20	Minor delays.
C	> 15 and ≤ 25	> 20 and ≤ 35	Some delays, but not resulting in significant traffic congestion.
D	> 25 and ≤ 35	> 35 and ≤ 55	Delays with some traffic congestion.
E	> 35 and ≤ 50	> 55 and ≤ 80	Significant delays with significant traffic congestion, approaching capacity.
F	> 50	> 80	Breakdown of traffic flow, major traffic congestion.

All ten study intersections are unsignalized in the 2021 base year. Overall intersection LOS is undefined for two-way stop-controlled intersections within the HCM. The LOS for the two-way stop-controlled intersections in the analysis is based on the delay experienced by each movement within the intersection, rather than on the overall stopped delay per vehicle at the intersection. This difference from the method used for signalized intersections is necessary since the operating characteristics of stop-controlled intersections are substantially different. Driver expectation and perceptions are entirely different. For two-way stop-controlled intersections the through traffic on the major (uncontrolled) street experiences no delay at the intersection. Conversely, vehicles turning left and going across the major street from the minor street experience more delay than other movements and at times can experience significant delay. Vehicles on the minor street which are turning right from the minor street experience less delay than those turning left or going across from the same approach. Due to this situation, the LOS assigned to a two-way stop-controlled intersection is based on the average delay for vehicles turning left and going

across the major street from the minor street approach and turning left from the major street to the minor street.

Highest Volume Study Intersection

Of the 10 study intersections, four had base vehicle counts per hour greater than 100. However, TMCs at these four intersections remain LOS A except for the southbound leg of Peaceful Pines Rd at Erickson Ranch Rd which is the only LOS B of the ten study intersections. Base volumes are listed in Table 12.

Table 12: Intersection TMC Base Volumes per Hour

Intersection		NB			SB			EB			WB			Total
Primary Road	Secondary Road	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	
224 ST	DYESS AVE				41		11	3	21			8	5	89
DEERVIEW RD	ELK CREEK RD	1	2	3	3	22	1	1	2	9	5	1	1	51
ELK CREEK RD	TIMBERWOOD DR	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	5	27	1	1	55
ELK CREEK RD	HAINES AVE N	17	6	2	1	16	4	1	3	40	5	4	1	100
ELK CREEK RD	ELK VALE RD	1	24			26	1	1		24				77
PEACEFUL PINES RD	ERICKSON RANCH RD	6		1				6	21			76	6	116
ERICKSON RANCH RD	MEADOW RETREAT DR	1	1	1	10	1	5	5	16	1	1	72	1	115
SD HWY 34	FORT MEADE WAY				1		16	16	1			1	1	36
FORT MEADE WAY	PLEASANT VALLEY RD	77		4				18	24		6	58		187
SD HWY 34	NEW UNDERWOOD RD	2	1	23	1	1	1	1	14	1	22	23	1	91

Existing Traffic Operations Results

Year 2021 was selected as the base year for traffic operations analysis of the study intersections. Results of the analysis show all study intersections and their approaches to operate with acceptable delay and LOS at present, with no intersections or approaches operating at a LOS lower than B during either peak hour. Results of the existing operations analysis are shown in Table 13.

Table 13: Study Intersections Operation Results (2021)

Intersection		PEAK	NB	SB	EB	WB	INT
Primary Road	Secondary Road						
224 ST	DYESS AVE	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
DEERVIEW RD	ELK CREEK RD	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
ELK CREEK RD	TIMBERWOOD DR	AM	-	A	A	A	A
		PM	-	A	A	A	A
ELK CREEK RD	HAINES AVE N	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
ELK CREEK RD	ELK VALE RD	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
PEACEFUL PINES RD	ERICKSON RANCH RD	AM	-	A	A	A	A
		PM	-	B	A	A	A

ERICKSON RANCH RD	MEADOW RETREAT DR	AM	A	A	A	-	A
		PM	A	A	A	-	A
SD HWY 34	FORT MEADE WAY	AM	A	-	A	A	A
		PM	A	-	A	A	A
FORT MEADE WAY	PLEASANT VALLEY RD	AM	-	A	A	A	A
		PM	-	A	A	A	A
SD HWY 34	NEW UNDERWOOD RD	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A

2045 Traffic Operations Results

Year 2045 represents the future year for traffic operations analysis of the study intersections. The 2045 traffic projections are based on a 25-year growth factor of 1.425. This growth factor reflects the growth assumptions established for Meade County by SDDOT. The growth factor was applied to each individual approach turning movement to represent the projected 2045 conditions. Results of the analysis show all study intersections and their approaches to operate with acceptable delay and LOS in 2045, with no intersections or approaches operating at a LOS lower than B during either peak hour. Results of the 2045 operations analysis are shown in Table 14.

Table 14: Study Intersections Operation Results (2045)

Intersection		PEAK	NB	SB	EB	WB	INT
Primary Road	Secondary Road						
224 ST	DYESS AVE	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
DEERVIEW RD	ELK CREEK RD	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	B	B	A	A	A
ELK CREEK RD	TIMBERWOOD DR	AM	-	A	A	A	A
		PM	-	B	A	A	A
ELK CREEK RD	HAINES AVE N	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
ELK CREEK RD	ELK VALE RD	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A
PEACEFUL PINES RD	ERICKSON RANCH RD	AM	-	A	A	A	A
		PM	-	B	A	A	A
ERICKSON RANCH RD	MEADOW RETREAT DR	AM	A	A	A	-	A
		PM	A	A	A	-	A
SD HWY 34	FORT MEADE WAY	AM	B	-	A	A	A
		PM	A	-	A	A	A
FORT MEADE WAY	PLEASANT VALLEY RD	AM	-	A	A	A	A
		PM	-	A	A	A	A
SD HWY 34	NEW UNDERWOOD RD	AM	A	A	A	A	A
		PM	A	A	A	A	A



StreetLight Origin-Destination Analysis and ADT

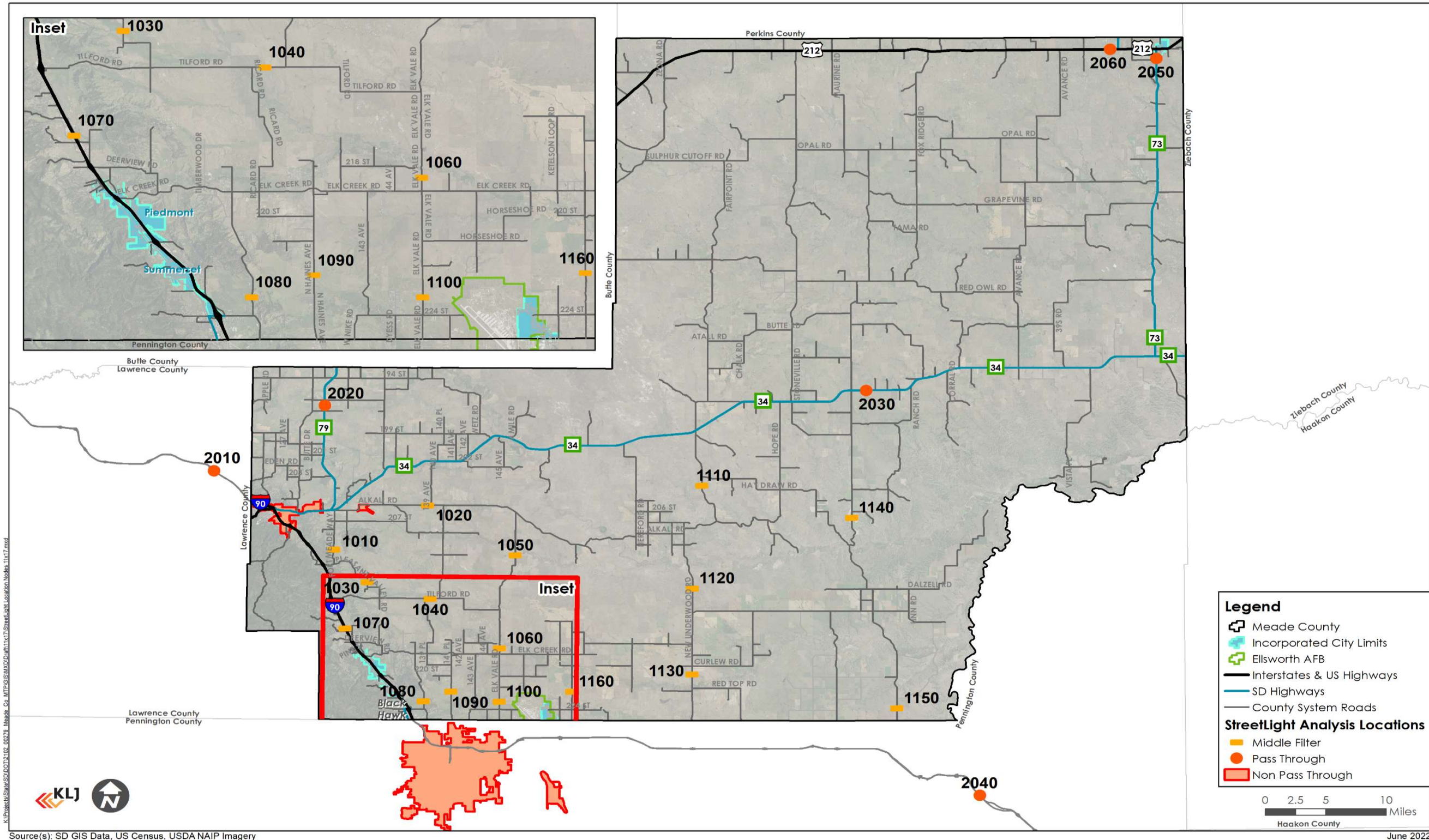
In addition to intersection-level analysis, streetlight was used to analyze origin-destination traffic counts at select locations in Meade County. Streetlight Analysis zones can be seen in Figure 34. Streetlight analyses were performed for both 2020 and 2045. Origin-Destination tables can be seen below with their accompanying ID number from the map.

StreetLight data was gathered at selected points for traffic volumes. Data were collected for 2020 and used the 1.425% growth rate to project traffic to 2045. An increased growth rate was used in the event of subdivision growth and development. StreetLight results along with projected volumes at SDDOT count locations are presented in the table below.

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 34: StreetLight Data Analysis Zones



Source(s): SD GIS Data, US Census, USDA NAIP Imagery

June 2022

Table 15: Traffic Projections

Site ID	Source	Corridor	Description	2021 ADT	2045 Estimate	2045 With Development
547041	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Stage Stop Rd	Between J B Rd & I-90W	3,320	4,731	5,013
547042	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between Hills View Dr & I-90W	2,713	3,866	4,097
547303	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Whitewood Rd	Between Us14A & 20Th St - Sturgis	1,714	2,442	2,588
547062	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Erickson Ranch Rd	Between Peaceful Pines Rd & West Ridge Rd	1,320	1,881	1,993
547304	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Whitewood Rd	Between Industry Rd & Meade/Lawrence County Line	1,058	1,508	1,598
547302	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Vanocker Canyon Rd	South of Junction Ave - Sturgis	1,032	1,471	1,558
547050	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between Ricard Rd & Golden Valley Dr	815	1,161	1,231
547060	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between Red Top Rd & Curlew Rd	679	968	1,025
552921	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	150 Pl	Between Airway Ct & 225 St - Box Elder	524	747	791
547072	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between 209 St & Alkali Rd	469	668	708
547067	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Avalanche Rd	Between Eden Rd & Elm St	445	634	672
547073	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	New Underwood Rd	Between Hay Draw Rd & Wilcox Rd	378	539	571
547049	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Vale Rd	Between Prairie Meadows Rd & Horseshoe Rd	354	504	535
547295	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Vanocker Canyon Rd	Between 1St Ave & Otter Rd - Sturgis	321	457	485
547070	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Alkali Rd	Between 135 Ave & 132 Ave	244	348	368

547045	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Pleasant Valley Rd	Between 130 Ave & I-90E	214	305	323
547014	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between School Rd & Horseshoe Rd	210	299	317
547064	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Elk Creek Rd	Between 144 Ave & Elk Vale Rd	198	282	299
547046	SDDOT Traffic Count Location	Cemetery Entrance Road	Main Black Hills National Cemetery Entrance	164	234	NA
1010	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Fort Meade Way	Between Pleasant Valley Rd & SD Hwy 34	900	1,300	1,350
1020	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Alkali Rd	West of Junction with 139 Ave	250	350	400
1030	StreetLight Analysis Zone	134th Ave/Pleasant Valley Rd	North of Junction with Tilford Rd	230	350	350
1040	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Tilford Rd	East of Junction with Ricard Rd	-	-	-
1050	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale Rd	Between Tilford Rd & Alkali Rd	200	300	300
1060*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale Rd S	Between Tilford Rd & Elk Creek Rd	250	350	400
1070	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	Between Sturgis & Rapid City	18,400	24,500	25,600
1080*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Erickson Ranch Rd	Between Peaceful Pines Rd & West Ridge Rd	1,450	2,100	2,200
1090*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Haines Ave	Between Peterson Rd & Virginia Ln	1,500	2,150	2,300
1100*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elk Vale South S	Between Prairie Meadows Rd & Horseshoe Rd	900	1,300	1,400
1110*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd North	Between Hope Rd & Hay Draw Rd	600	900	900
1120*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd Center	Between West Elm Springs Rd & Alkali Rd	700	1,000	1,050
1130*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	New Underwood Rd South	Between Red Top Rd & Curlew Rd	800	1,150	1,200
1140*	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elm Spring Rd North	Between Boneita Rd & Hay Draw Rd	150	200	250

1150	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Elm Spring Rd	North of Pennington County Line	200	300	300
1160	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Antelope Creek Rd	Between Elk Creek Rd & 224 St	650	950	1,000
2010	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	NW of Sturgis	12,200	16,200	17,000
2020	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 79	South of Butte County Line	2,000	2,700	2,800
2030	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 34	East of Junction with Elm Springs Rd	700	950	1,000
2040	StreetLight Analysis Zone	I-90	East of Rapid City	8,000	10,600	11,100
2050	StreetLight Analysis Zone	Hwy 73	South of Faith	800	1,100	1,100
2060	StreetLight Analysis Zone	US 212	West of Faith	500	700	700

*Duplicate Count Location with SDDOT Traffic Count Locations

Table 16: OD 2020 (1)

Origin - Destination																	
Origin	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	Destination
Rapid City							2215	1	2								2010
Rapid City	93						164										2020
Rapid City							2				70	72	55				2030
Rapid City							1										2040
Rapid City							1				59	60	48				2050
Rapid City	1						5				1	1	1				2060
Sturgis							4										2010
Sturgis																	2020
Sturgis																	2030
Sturgis	1						64										2040
Sturgis																	2050
Sturgis																	2060

Table 17: OD 2020 (2)

Origin - Destination																	
Origin	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	Destination
2010	1						2189	1	1								Rapid City
2020	72				5	2	148			1							Rapid City
2030											113	119	100				Rapid City
2040							1										Rapid City
2050							1				93	97	83				Rapid City
2060	1						1			6		4	4				Rapid City
2010							13										Sturgis
2020	1																Sturgis
2030																	Sturgis
2040	1						70										Sturgis
2050																	Sturgis
2060																	Sturgis

Table 18: OD 2045 (1)

Origin - Destination																	
Origin	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	Destination
Rapid City							2935	2	3								2010
Rapid City	133						218										2020
Rapid City							3				100	103	79				2030
Rapid City							2										2040

Rapid City								2						85	86	69				2050
Rapid City	2							7						2	2	2				2060
Sturgis								6												2010
Sturgis																				2020
Sturgis																				2030
Sturgis	2							85												2040
Sturgis																				2050
Sturgis																				2060

Table 19: OD 2045 (2)

Origin - Destination																	
Origin	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	Destination
2010	2						2901	2	2								Rapid City
2020	103				8	3	197			2							Rapid City
2030											162	170	143				Rapid City
2040							2										Rapid City
2050							2				133	139	119				Rapid City
2060	2						2			9		6	6				Rapid City
2010							18										Sturgis
2020	2																Sturgis
2030																	Sturgis
2040	2						93										Sturgis
2050																	Sturgis
2060																	Sturgis

Safety Operations

Another key component of the projected conditions analysis was a detailed evaluation of high frequency crash intersections. To assess the safety performance of intersections within the study area, ten intersections were identified with the highest number of crashes during the five-year analysis period

between January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020. Table 20 summarizes the number of crashes for each high-crash intersection, with Figure 35 showing the location of the intersections. The intersection of Peaceful Pines Road with Sturgis Road experienced the highest number of crashes (16), followed by the intersection of Sturgis Road with Elk Creek Road (13). Five intersections along SD Hwy 34 were among the top 10 highest crash intersections in the County.

Table 20: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations

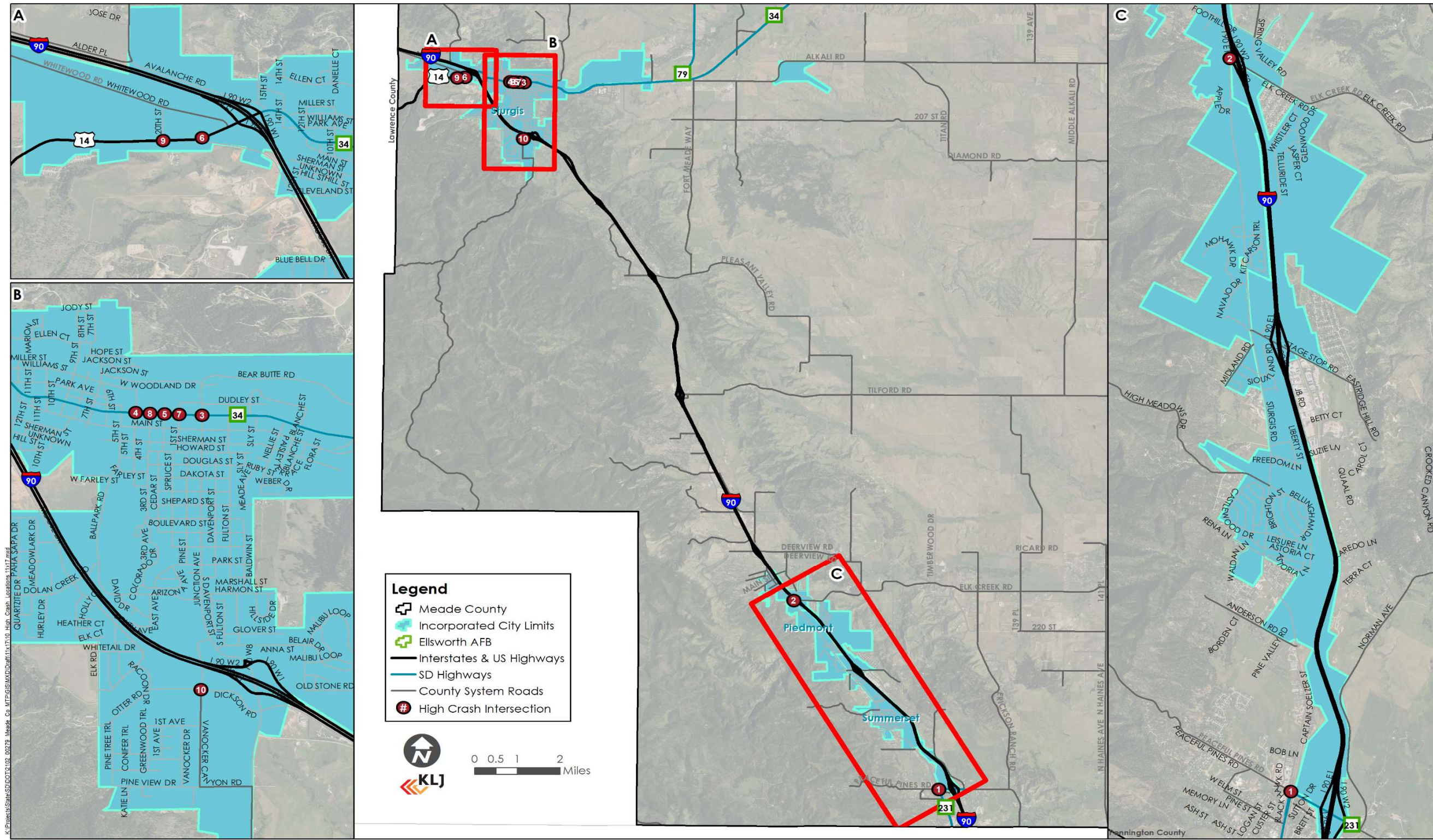
Rank	Intersection	Traffic Control	Frequency (Number of Crashes)
1	Peaceful Pines Rd & Sturgis Rd	Signal	16
2	Sturgis Rd & Elk Creek Rd	TWSC ¹	13
3	SD Hwy 34 & Junction Ave	Signal	11
4	SD Hwy 34 & 4th St	Signal	8
5	SD Hwy 34 & 2nd St	Signal	8
6	US Hwy 14A & Moose Dr	TWSC ¹	8
7	SD Hwy 34 & 1st St	TWSC ¹	7
8	SD Hwy 34 & 3rd St	TWSC ¹	5
9	US Hwy 14A & 20th St	TWSC ¹	5
10	Vanocker Canyon Dr & Otter Rd	TWSC ¹	5

2. TWSC- Two way Stop Controlled

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 35: Top 10 High Frequency Crash Locations (2016 – 2020)



Summary and Conclusion

Ten intersections were selected in coordination with County staff and the SAT to evaluate the existing and 2045 traffic operations. Based on the analysis conducted, all ten intersections are expected to operate with acceptable delay and LOS, with no intersections expected to operate worse than LOS A through 2045.

Crash records between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020 were analyzed to identify top ten high frequency crash intersections. The intersection of Peaceful Pines Road with Sturgis Road experienced the highest number of crashes (16), followed by the intersection of Sturgis Road with Elk Creek Road (13). Five intersections along SD Hwy 34 were among the top 10 highest crash intersections in the County.

Chapter 5: Project Development, Identification, and Prioritization

Introduction

The project identification process was used to define three categories of projects: Roadways, Bridges, and Multimodal (Bike and Ped) projects. This process is outlined below:

- First, a preliminary set of project recommendations was developed in coordination with the Study Advisory Team and county staff. These preliminary recommendations were based on available data, transportation priorities as expressed by the county, the 2016 transportation plan, and public input received during the planning process.
- Second, the set of project recommendations was assessed against current and historical conditions, such as roadway safety within the study area.
- Third, the set of project recommendations was assessed against projected conditions, including future traffic operations, and forecast areas of concentrated population and employment growth.
- Fourth, the set of projects was refined by working closely with stakeholders and staff.

This process provided a progressive approach by which the project team could narrow, adjust, and refine the universe of projects based on existing and projected conditions. It should be noted that future roadway projects developed should include accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian users as this will aid in securing funding and provide for those users as well.

Paving of Gravel Roads

One of the key challenges facing Meade County is the decision on whether to pave a gravel road. Several gravel corridors were identified either through public input or from SAT members as being good candidates for paving. The benefits of paving are numerous, but planners must also consider long term maintenance. Upkeep on any kind of paved surface is significantly more expensive than for a gravel road. SDDOT has researched return on investment for paving of gravel roads throughout South Dakota¹⁰. Low Volume Roads (LVR) present a unique challenge to South Dakota counties. SDDOT determined that an asphalt road is not cost effective until the road reaches an ADT of 650, while a blotter surface is cost effective starting at an ADT of 150.

A review of this model shows that when only average agency costs are considered, gravel, blotter, and HMA seem to be the most cost effective surface between ADT ranges of 0 to 150 vpd [vehicles per day], 150 to 660 vpd, and 660 vpd and greater, respectively. The findings are in line with values expected by the research team and

¹⁰ Local Road Surfacing Criteria. SDDOT. 2004



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

correspond with other current studies on this subject matter. As mentioned in the literature review section of this report, researchers working on a study for MnDOT determined that an ADT range of 100 to 200 vpd provided an acceptable traffic level for upgrading a gravel road...

The results of SDDOT’s findings can be seen in Figure 36 below. The point where two linear trend lines cross is the point where switching from one surface treatment to another becomes feasible. For example, the 20-year average costs for gravel approach \$40,000 as ADT approaches 150. At this point, a blotter treatment costs the same on average.

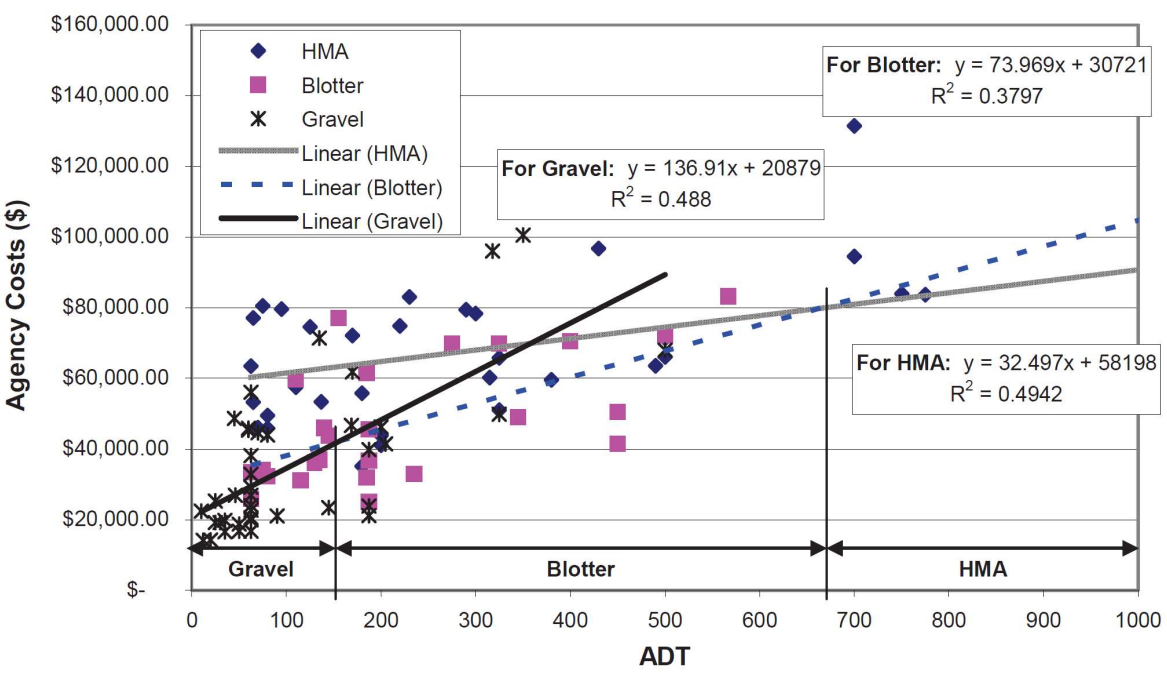


Figure 36: Default 20-Year Agency Cost Models (per mile)

Some projects on the long-range road projects list are currently listed as candidates for paving from gravel. Where available, their most recent ADT has been listed in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Long-Range Roadway Projects – Gravel to Paved

Corridor	From	To	ADT	Year Collected
Antelope Creek Road	Pennington County Line	Elk Creek Road	NA	NA
Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road	Antelope Creek Road	120	2017
Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road	Haines Avenue	136	2015
Pleasant Valley Road	I-90 Exit 37	Fort Meade Way	249	2015

Roadway Projects

The roadway recommendations list reflects improvements that have been identified as necessary for a corridor to meet the needs of the county in terms of its growth and connectivity or to ensure maintenance of a functioning system. Recommended projects on this list include larger corridor-level investments such as infrastructure upgrades, major overlay and rehabilitation projects, and the addition of new connections or extensions.

Projects were included regardless of their initial feasibility and have been separated into three categories

- 1) Short—Range Projects. These projects exist in the county’s 5-year highway plan and are listed here as short-range, although funding may not exist to cover all projects.
- 2) Long-Range Projects. These projects illustrate needs in the county’s overall system and areas where good management or new construction would help meet the county’s goals. It is expected that they will not be implemented within the next 5 years and could be completed within 5-20 years or more.
- 3) Special Projects. These projects are known issues in the county and have been brought to the attention of SAT and county staff but are not necessarily a county-led project. These projects include projects that are not county jurisdiction. Unique projects are shown in Table 24 and shown in Figure 37.

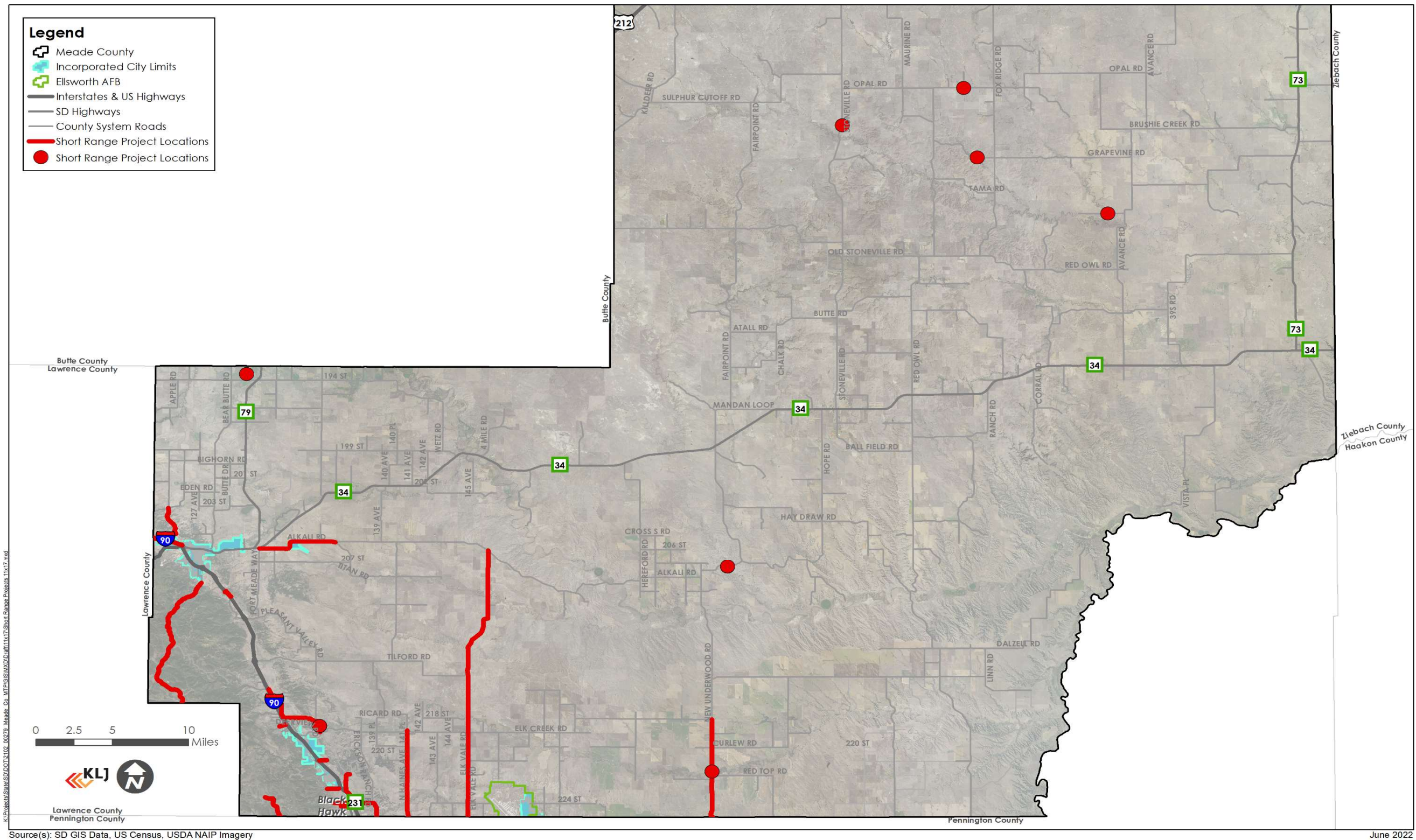
Short-Range Projects

Short-Range projects were drafted from the County’s 5-year plan and condensed where applicable. It is assumed that these will remain the county’s priority in the short term. Short-range projects are listed with a location, brief description, and cost. Projects with a listed year of 2021 were assumed to have been completed and have been omitted. Short range projects are listed in Table 22.

Table 22: Short-Range Roadway Projects

Corridor/Project Location	Description	Total Project Cost (in Thousands)	Source
Multiple Projects	Chip Seal	1,510	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-541-100, 9 mi. S. & 5 mi. E. of Maurine	Replace Structure (Already in Progress)	1,867	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-635-190, 6 mi. E. & 12 mi. N. of White Owl on Whitetail Rd.	Replace Structure	550	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-549-149, 21.1 mi. W. & 13.9 mi. S. of Faith on Pine Creek Rd.	Replace Structure	462	County 5-Year Plan
Rolling Hills Rd from Nemo Road North 2 mi.	Fix Drainage	34	County 5-Year Plan
N Haines Ave. from Pennington Co. line 6.12 mi. North to Elk Creek Rd.	Change to 24' Deck with 4' Shoulders	6,500	County 5-Year Plan
Alkali Rd from Ft. Meade Way east 5 mi. to Titan Rd.	2" overlay	2,000	County 5-Year Plan
New Underwood Rd from Pennington Co. line to Elk Creek Rd 7 miles	Reconstruct & New AC Surfacing	7,500	County 5-Year Plan
Mnt. Shadows Rd. off of 2nd Street in Piedmont	Chip Seal	31	County 5-Year Plan
Norman Ave. from Peaceful Pines N to end of county asphalt	Chip Seal	78	County 5-Year Plan
Deadwood Ave and Peaceful Pines east of I-90 to Pennington County Line	Chip Seal	67	County 5-Year Plan
Sidney Stage Rd	Full depth reclamation and AS Surfacing	1,100	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-460-128, 11.8 mi S of Hwy 212 on Stoneville Rd.	Replace Bridge	400	County 5-Year Plan
Avalanche Rd from Alder Pl. N 3 mi to Eden Rd	Reconstruct & New AC Surfacing	3,200	County 5-Year Plan
Ft. Meade Way from Hwy 34 2.4 miles South	Regrade	1,000	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-060-305, 3 mi. E & 12.5 mi. N of Sturgis (130th Ave)	Replace Bridge	500	County 5-Year Plan
Engineer North 2.4 miles Ft. Meade Way	PE Engineering	35	County 5-Year Plan
Structure No. 47-114-553, 8.4 mi. E & 12.3 mi. S. of Sturgis (Deerview Rd.)	Replace Bridge	750	County 5-Year Plan
Deerview Rd.	Reconstruct & New AC Surfacing	6,000	County 5-Year Plan

Figure 37: Short-Range Project Locations





Long-Range Roadway Projects

Long-Range Projects were created by first carrying forward projects from the 2016 Master Transportation Plan. Projects that no longer apply were deleted and additional projects were identified through the processes identified at the beginning of this chapter.

Each project is listed with a corresponding Map ID, location information, a brief description, and a source, which details whether the project came from the 2016 plan or from efforts of this plan. The projects are not listed in any order of priority, and it will be up to the County to decide in the future which projects should be implemented over time. Approximate costs have also been listed. Long-range projects are shown in Table 23 and shown in Figure 38.

Table 23: Long-Range Roadway Projects

Map ID	Corridor	From	To	Description	Source	Estimated Cost (\$M)
1	Antelope Creek Road	Pennington County Line	Elk Creek Road	Asphalt paving	2016 Transportation Plan	10.2
2	Elk Creek Road	I-90 Exit 46	Edgewood Place	Acquire ROW for improvements, Realignment of roadway	2016 Transportation Plan	4.8
3	Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road	Antelope Creek Road	Asphalt paving	2016 Transportation Plan	10.2
4	I-90 Service Road	Exit 40	Vanocker Canyon Road	Corridor Preservation	2016 Transportation Plan	12.8
5	Elk Creek Road	Elk Vale Road	Haines Avenue	Asphalt paving to rural arterial	2016 Transportation Plan	6.9
6	New Corridor	Erickson Ranch Rd	143 rd Ave	New collector road	MCC Study 2020	7.5
7	Pleasant Valley Road	Tilford	Fort Meade Way	Asphalt Paving	Newly Identified	13
8	Haines Ave	Pennington County Line	Elk Creek Road	Reconstruct	Newly Identified	10.4

Special Roadway Projects

Throughout the planning process of this plan, a few key corridors have drawn the attention of SAT members and planning staff. These corridors present unique challenges as they are not strictly under the county's jurisdiction, or the county has expressed an interest in the state taking over jurisdiction. Each unique corridor is listed below and is listed in Table 24 and shown in Figure 38.

Fort Meade Way

Fort Meade Way has long been an identified corridor need east of Sturgis. The corridor runs from Pleasant Valley Rd to SD 34 near the Buffalo Chip campground. Previous efforts from the county to turn the corridor over to the SDDOT have not been successful. The corridor is unpaved but high traffic volumes indicate the need for paving. Although the county may not be interested in taking on the project itself, the project is listed here to support future coordination efforts.

Quaal Road

Quaal Road is roughly parallel to I-90 on the east side of Summerset between Stagestop Road and Norman Avenue. The road serves rural subdivision housing and was not constructed to be a major connection for the county. Quaal Road is maintained by a Road District, but they possess insufficient funds to upgrade the corridor as a major through corridor. This plan identifies Quaal Road as a potential

candidate for conversion to a three-lane corridor: two-lanes with a center lane turning lane. Further coordination between Summerset, the Road District, and the County will be needed to ensure proper planning and usage of Quaal Road, and to identify needed funding.

150th Avenue

This project was moved from the list of long-range projects to the special projects as this road was deemed by SAT members to be of greater importance to the City of Box Elder and Pennington County, even though the landfill at the end of this corridor is in Meade County. Coordination is needed to determine jurisdictional responsibilities and to prioritize implementation.

Sly Hill Road

Sly Hill Road leaves the City of Sturgis and heads north into surrounding Meade County. The road transfers to Meade County jurisdiction at the top of the hill at city limits. This road serves current and future development and may need to be paved in the future.

New Underwood Road

Additional study will be needed to assess improvement needs, jurisdictional responsibilities, and funding participation along the entirety of the New Underwood Road corridor from I-90 in Pennington County to its junction with SD 34.

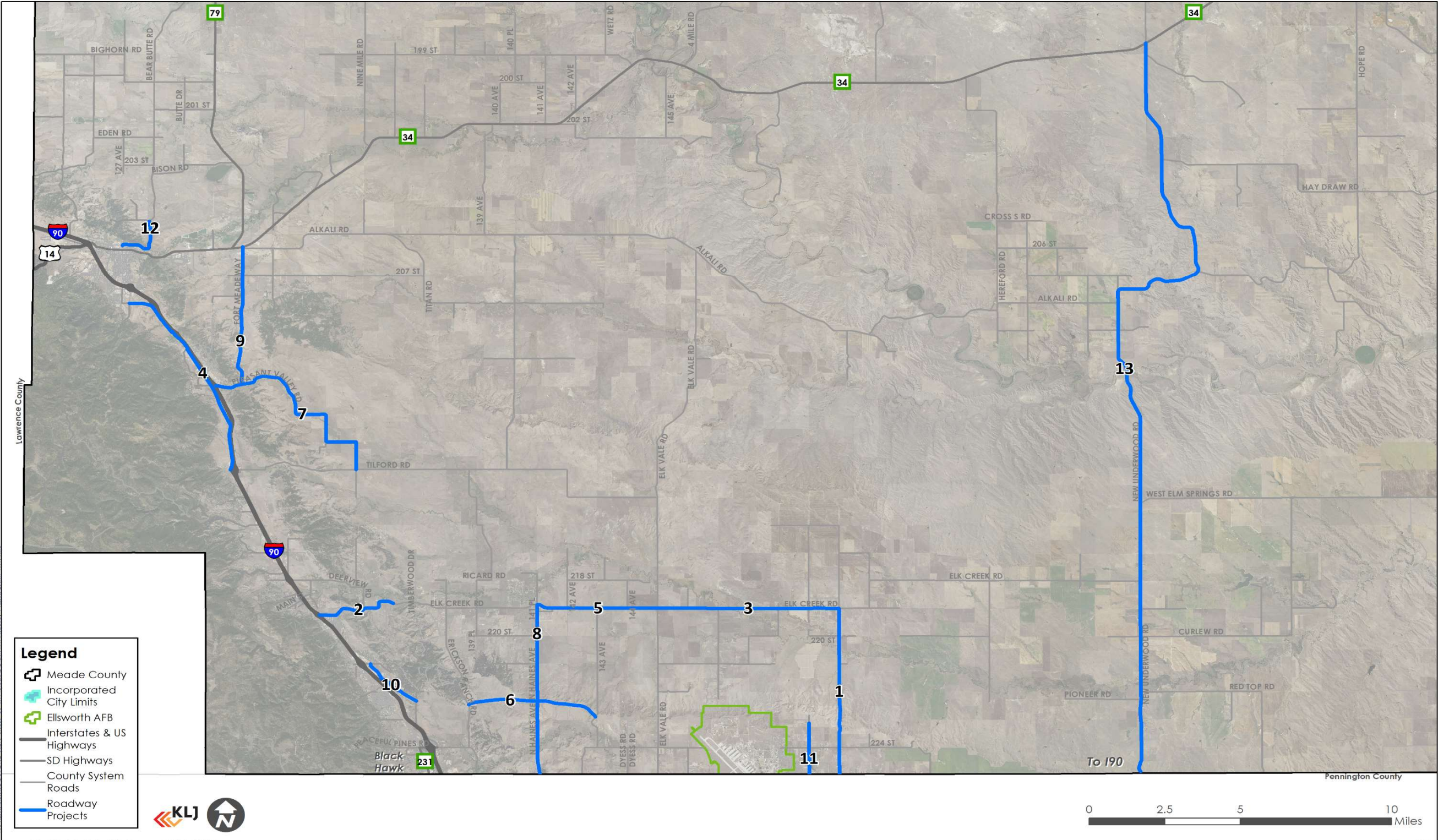
Table 24: Special Roadway Projects

Map ID	Corridor	From	To	Description	Source	Estimated Cost (\$M)
9	Fort Meade Way	Pleasant Valley Road	SD 34	Pave Roadway	Public Meeting Feedback	8.7
10	Quaal Road	Stagestop Road	Norman Avenue	Convert to three-lane with TWCLTL	Public Meeting Feedback	3.5
11	150th Avenue	Pennington County Line	North (Eagle Ranch Rd)	Asphalt paving as minor arterial	2016 Transportation Plan	3.1
12	Sly Hill Rd	Junction Ave	Foothills Rd	Pave Roadway	SAT Feedback	3.3
13	New Underwood Rd	I-90	SD 34	Corridor Study, Assess Needs	SAT Feedback	0.2

MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

Figure 38: Long-Range and Unique Projects



Bike/Ped Projects

In addition to roadway projects, the master transportation plan sought to identify potential projects needs for non-automobile transportation. These projects often coincide with roadway projects and should be considered along with them when planning for roadway projects. This will help to ensure funding in cases where bike and pedestrian needs must be addressed. Also, planning for bike and ped users will help to serve more residents of Meade County, especially those who cannot drive or need off-street infrastructure for general travel or for recreational purposes.

Projects for UTV users were considered however input from county staff and the SAT concluded that projects for UTVs were not a Meade County priority. The county is amenable to UTV users however limited funding is available to improve facilities for these users.

Bike/Ped projects were considered regardless of whether they would be a county-led project. In many instances a bike/ped project may require cooperation among more than one jurisdiction and include the county. Projects were developed using the following criteria:

- Filling in sidewalks around area schools
 - Some schools in the county lack complete sidewalk access.
 - Gaps were filled to connect the schools to already existing sidewalk networks.
 - Rural schools with no surrounding housing were not considered.
- Creating shared use for community use
 - Potential sites for shared use paths or sidewalks were identified to connect existing networks or to bridge gaps.
 - A potential link from the Pennington County line north through the communities of Black Hawk, Summerset, and Piedmont was identified for a shared use path to roughly parallel Sturgis Rd, making use of existing shared use path where it exists.

School Sidewalk Gaps

- 1) Approximately 0.2 miles to connect Black Hawk Elementary to housing with an existing sidewalk network on the east side of Sturgis Rd.
- 2) Construct 350 ft of sidewalk in the city of Faith to connect the school to the sidewalk at Main St.

Shared Use Paths

- 3) Construct 3 miles of shared use path (SUP) from the Pennington County line to connect to an existing SUP that terminates at Leisure Ln/Castlewood Dr in Summerset. This project is part of a series of projects parallel to Sturgis Rd. The sections closest to Pennington County are considered the most feasible.
- 4) Construct 1.2 miles of SUP to continue where the SUP in Summerset terminates at High Meadows Rd and continue north to the existing SUP at approximately Stagestop Rd.
- 5) Construct the final 2.1 miles of SUP along Sturgis Rd to connect where project 5 leaves off and connect to the city of Piedmont.
- 6) Construct a sidewalk or SUP to connect housing subdivision on the east side of I-90 east of the community of Summerset. The bridge over I-90 already contains a separated sidewalk, however, the approaches on either side would be difficult for bike/ped users.



- 7) Construct new facilities to connect housing on across I-90 and to connect to the SUP proposed in Project 6. Currently, the bridge over the interstate has no bike/ped facilities. This project would involve at a minimum three jurisdictions: Meade County, Summerset, and Piedmont.

Table 25: Bike/Ped Projects

Map ID	Corridor	From	To	Length (Miles)
1	Elm St in Black Hawk	Black Hawk Elementary	Meadow Rose Ln	0.2
2	W 1st Ave in Faith	5th St	1st St	0.07
3	Sturgis Rd	County Line	Leisure Ln/Castlewood Dr	3.1
4	Sturgis Rd	High Meadows Rd	Stagestop Rd	1.19
5	Sturgis Rd	Stables Dr	Park St	2.14
6	Stagestop Rd	Renata Dr	I-90 Bridge	0.53
7	Elk Creek Rd	Sturgis Rd	Glenwood Dr	0.67



MEADE COUNTY

South Dakota

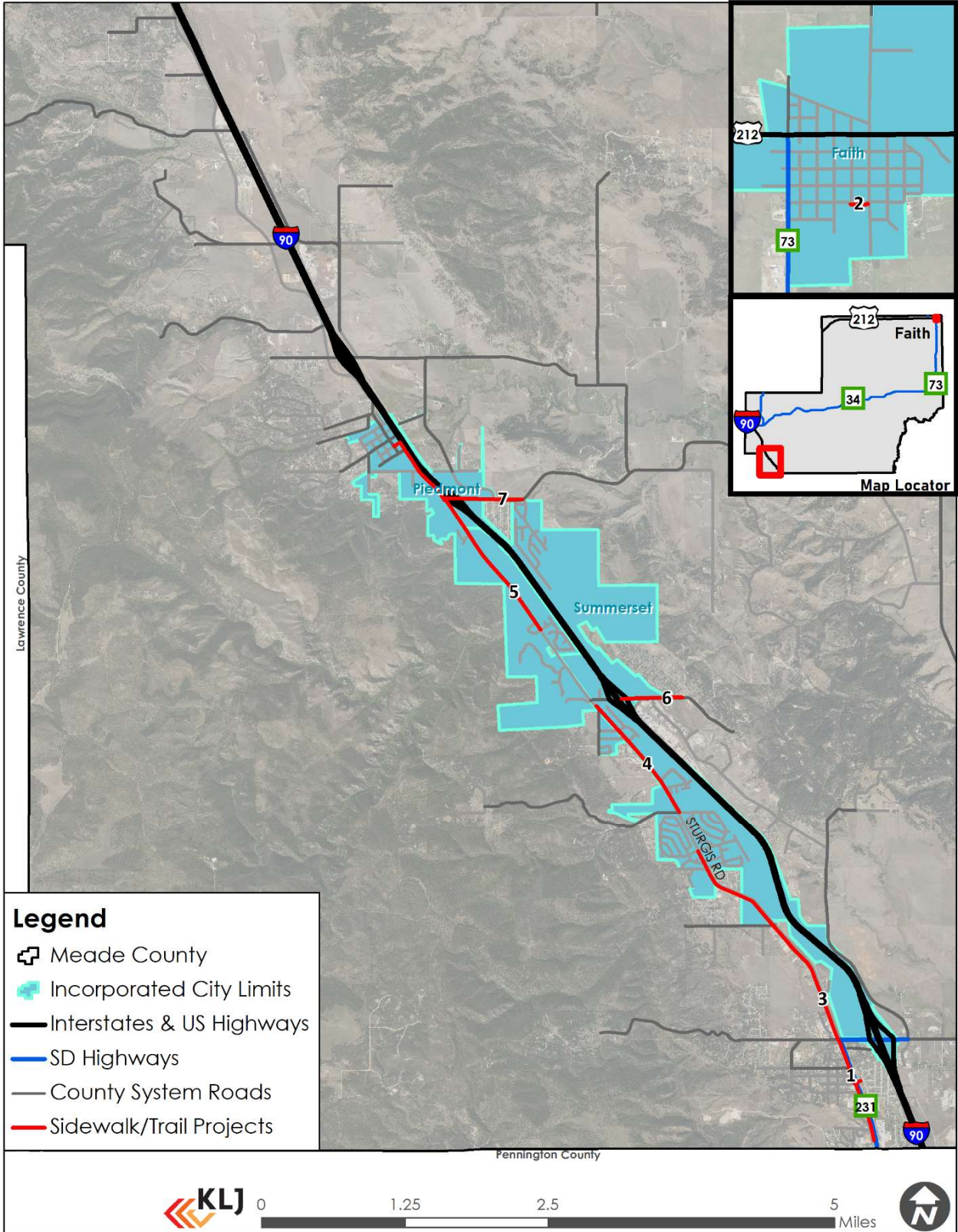


Figure 39: Bike/Ped Projects

Bridges

Three categories were established for the 30 lowest ranked bridges in the County: primary system, secondary system, and single access routes. Bridge project priorities were developed using Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) scoring criteria, as well as other factors. Bridge priorities are listed Table 26.

Table 26: Bridge Project Priorities

Route Type	Bridge Number	Rural Collector	Struct. Deficient	Load Posted	Low Condition	Daily Traffic	B.I.G. Score	Budgetary Replacement Cost
Primary System	47-460-128	x	x		4	233	37.0	\$600,000
	47-378-444	x			5	233	36.0	\$4,074,000
	47-459-135	x	x		3	233	25.3	\$1,050,000
	47-750-132	x		x	5	29	36.5	\$814,000
	47-499-460	x	x		3	60	27.3	\$431,000
	47-065-619	x			6	500	35.0	\$1,115,000
	47-170-612	x			7	1895	30.0	\$777,000
	47-363-476	x			6	280	29.2	\$3,675,000
	47-117-558	x			6	240	21.0	\$494,000
	47-050-322	x	x		4	33	14.5	\$440,000
Secondary System	47-183-390		x	x	1	50	50.0	\$339,000
	47-549-149		x	x	2	18	56.7	\$582,000
	47-541-100		x	x	4	59	54.5	\$1,302,000
	47-093-404		x	x	4	33	46.7	\$524,000
	47-060-305		x	x	4	33	44.0	\$370,000
	47-270-575		x		4	56	37.0	\$840,000
	47-475-100			x	6	60	55.8	\$592,000
	47-375-253		x		4	65	31.6	\$339,000
	47-580-338			x	5	10	54.9	\$499,000
	47-320-392			x	5	55	47.3	\$872,000
Single Access	47-377-117		x	x	2	30	67.0	\$539,000
	47-110-518		x	x	1	10	60.9	\$539,000
	47-635-190		x	x	3	10	58.9	\$1,124,000
	47-320-585		x	x	4	10	45.9	\$599,000
	47-243-401		x	x	4	10	52.9	\$1,176,000
	47-120-441			x	0	5	58.0	\$630,000
	47-689-123			x	5	21	60.0	\$432,000
	47-382-368		x	x	4	15	44.9	\$490,000
	47-088-539		x		4	30	38.0	\$615,000
	47-079-547			x	6	11	49.9	\$524,000

Chapter 6: Financial Analysis

Background

This plan seeks to incorporate planning produced from the previous transportation plan (2016) and the county’s 5-year highway plan, as well as project needs based on analysis for this MTP. Meade County produces a 5-year plan to help prioritize highway and bridge projects. Projects on the 5-year plan are non-binding and the County Commission can pick and choose projects to pursue as funding allows. Project costs on the current 5-year plan outpace available known funding, including local, state, federal, and BIG grants. The current plan costs exceed funding by \$6 million.

This financial plan used the existing 5-year plan (excluding plan year 2021) as the basis for creating annual project costs as well as annual project funds. The County’s ability to construct roads is constrained due to lack of funding. 30 percent of the County’s 5-year plan is currently used for maintenance and repair of existing roads. The remaining 70 percent is slated towards larger projects including replacing bridges and complete reconstruction of roads. The County has a high number of road miles serving a large geographic area of somewhat low density, with most development occurring in the southwest portion of the County along the I-90 corridor.

In broad categories, the 5-year plan allocates funding to the following types of projects:

- Bridge/Drainage
- Chip/Crack Seal
- Gravel Work
- Miscellaneous
- Reconstruction (Roads)

Reconstruction is by far the largest expenditure in the plan, representing 77 percent of the costs of the plan. On average, road reconstruction costs \$6.1 million per year, with the next largest category being bridge/drainage, at \$1.1 million per year. A list of project categories and their average annual costs is available in Table 27, with percentages shown on Figure 40.

Table 27: 5-Year Plan Project Costs by Category

Category	Average Investment	Percent of Total
Bridge/Drainage	\$1,141,000	14.3%
Chip Seal/Crack Seal	\$422,000	5.3%
Gravel	\$250,000	3.1%
Miscellaneous	\$9,000	0.1%
Reconstruct/Overlay	\$6,163,000	77.2%
Total	\$7,984,000	100.0%

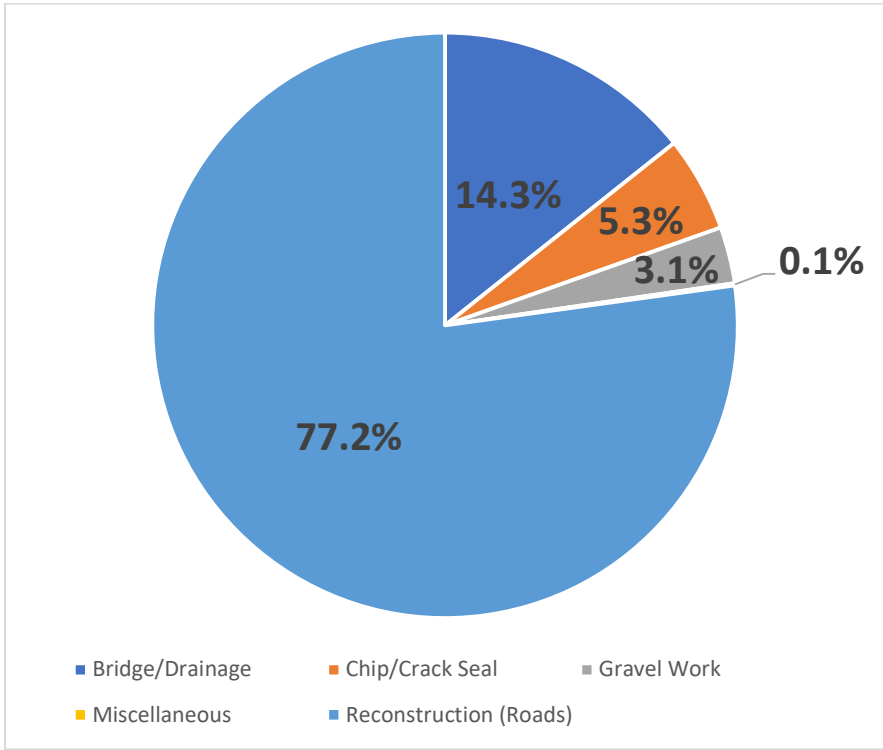


Figure 40: 5-Year Plan Project Cost by Category

Meade County has a current annual average investment in the 5-year plan of nearly \$7 million per year. Assuming four percent inflation in project costs, the \$7 million per year would grow to about \$15.2 million by 2042. Average 5-year plan expenditures can be seen in Figure 41.

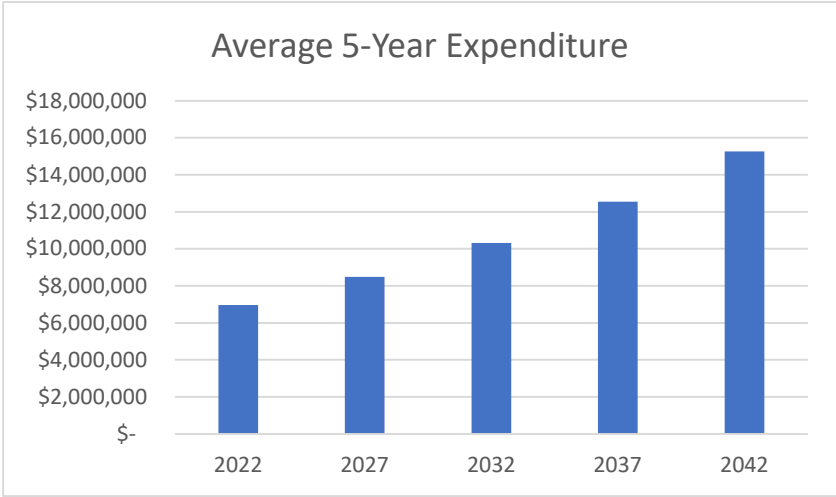


Figure 41: Average 5-year Plan Expenditures

Current (2022) revenue is approximately \$4.6 million per year. By 2045, assuming only increases in local funding (and no increase in wheel tax), revenues increase to \$4.8 million per year. This increase can be seen in Figure 42. The current 5-year plan projects total costs are about \$6 million more than available funding.

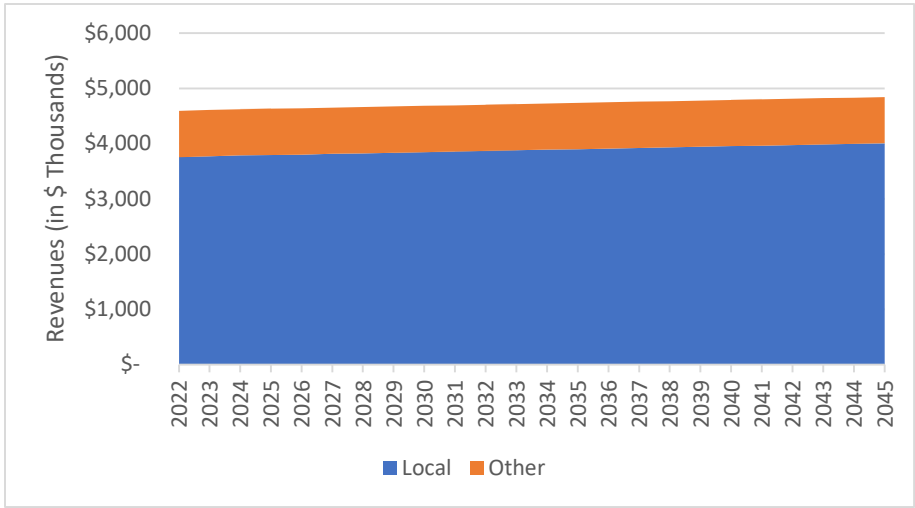


Figure 42: Meade County Revenue Increases by Source

Financial Scenarios

Based on existing Highway Department revenue, two scenarios were developed to allocate resources to meet system wide transportation needs. One scenario assumes the county continues its recent population growth for the next 20 years, the other scenario assumes similar growth and revenues with the addition of newly available federal monies.

Scenario 1 – Use of Known Funding

Base year, or existing condition investments in the Meade County highway system are the basis for the development of this future potential funding scenario. Meade County has a current annual average investment in the 5-year plan of nearly \$7 million per year. Existing known revenues for Meade County are approximately \$4.6 million per year. This will allow Meade County to complete roughly 2/3 of their programmed projects using available funding. The remaining projects in the 5-year plan may either be moved further out into the long range or can be completed if additional funding becomes available.

Other options exist for completing projects with limited funding. These could include phasing, with phases of less deficient segments being moved into the long range. Also, partnerships that spread the costs among multiple jurisdictions can help to complete the projects in the short term.

Using four percent inflation, the \$7 million per year would grow to about \$15.2 million by 2042. If population and revenue continue to grow, most transportation needs of the county are reasonable as the 5-year plan is non-binding and commissioners are allowed to pick and choose projects. As such, some projects on the 5-year plan are considered “must haves” while others are much lower in priority and were added to the list in the interest of completeness and to be eligible for funding.

Scenario 2 – Influx of New Funding

Scenario 2 assumes an increase in federal funding availability. In this scenario, county revenues increase as in scenario 1, however new federal funding creates significant new opportunities to fund projects. With the likely incoming of large amounts of previously unavailable federal funding due to recent congressional infrastructure bills, Meade County may be able to fund projects which were previously not feasible.

In the event new federal monies become available, the county will need to act quickly and decisively to apply for grants and other funding sources and to have “shovel ready” projects applicable for funding. One such project is a potential corridor study on New Underwood Road. County staff and SAT members have noted a potential future need for improvements on the corridor between I-90 in Pennington County and SD 34 in Meade County. At a minimum, the corridor could be studied to determine what future project improvements should be considered, whether the project should be phased, and how multiple jurisdictions should work together to see the improvements implemented.

Other projects from the long-range list of road projects that are currently considered to be low priority may suddenly have the opportunity to become fully funded, and the county will need to be prepared. Under scenario 2, the County simply adopts a more aggressive stance with regards to project planning and design.

Funding Strategy Recommendations

Having considered both scenarios, it would be appropriate for Meade County to be prepared for either scenario to occur. Meade County should look for ways to phase or delay some projects, or to choose a lesser improvement on some short-range projects if possible. Meade County should also be aggressive in pursuing other funding sources, including grants, to increase their financial resources for completing projects. This may require more emphasis on early project planning and completion of design to be more competitive for grants that require “shovel ready” projects. County efforts in grant applications should be coordinated with the SDDOT to seek support and to avoid potential overlaps or issues with other projects and priorities.

Chapter 7: Standards

Introduction

The chapter defines county standards for roadway cross-sections. It also discusses access management and level of service standards. The transportation system principles and standards included in this Plan create the foundation for developing the transportation system, evaluating its effectiveness, determining future system needs, and implementing strategies to fulfill the goals and objectives identified.

Typical Roadway Cross-Sections

This MTP reviewed and provided recommendations to the functional classification systems, both federal and county. Functional classification is relevant to establishing standards for roadways that fall within each functional classification. This section of the report provides updated recommendations for roadway cross sections with the various functional classification designations.

Roadway cross-sections are essential for understanding the function, capacity and speed, as well as the road’s look and feel. Geometric design standards are directly related to a roadway’s functional classification and the amount of traffic that the roadway is designed to carry.

For both Arterials and Collectors there are different cross-sections shown for roads in urban and rural areas. Urban cross-sections, for both Arterial and Collectors, include curbs, gutters and sidewalks adjacent to the travel lanes, while rural cross-sections have paved shoulders but no curb, gutter or sidewalk. Cross sections are also provided for rural unpaved (gravel) arterial and collector roadways. These are typical cross-sections; however, particular road segment cross-sections may vary depending on specific intersection improvements, topographical and environmental features, or roadside constraints.

Table 28 presents the typical cross-section standards for roadways in Meade County. The application of these standards is up to the judgment of the County Engineer.

Table 28: Typical Cross-Section Standards for Roadways in Meade County

Road Classification	Arterials		Collectors		Hwy Service Rd	Local
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban		
Surface Material	Gravel	Paved	Gravel	Paved	Gravel	Gravel
Surface Width	24'	24'	24'	24'	24'	24'
Minimum Lane Widths	12'	12'	12'	12'	12'	12'
Shoulder Material	Gravel	Paved	Gravel	Paved	Gravel	Gravel
Shoulder Widths ^(A)	2'	4'	2'	2'	2'	2'
Min ROW	100'	100'	80'	80'	66' ^(B)	66' ^(B)
Max Grade	No more than 10% on any portion of road, and 12% for mountainous roads					
Max Degree of Curvature	Shall not exceed 21%					
Min Crown Rate	4%	2.5% for Asphalt, and 2% for Concrete	4%	2.5% for Asphalt, and 2% for Concrete	4%	4%
Max Super Elevation Rate	Must meet current AASHTO Standards					

- A. If the truck traffic exceeds 40%, the Minimum Shoulder Width shall be 4.0' (feet) from the edge of the road.
- B. 50' dedicated public ROW is acceptable for roads within a High-Density Multi-Family-Residential subdivision

Updates to Typical Sections

Working closely with Meade County, typical sections were produced which were based off of the existing typical sections included in ordinance 10 with some key changes.

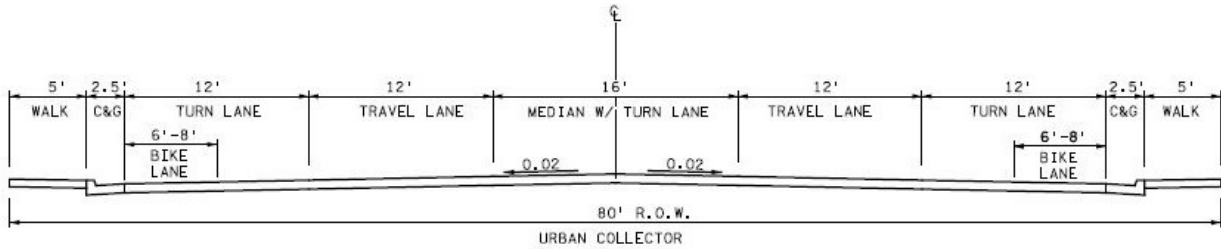
- Urban Collector
 - 120' ROW reduced to 80'
 - ROW width subject to approval of Meade County
- Rural Collector (Paved)
 - 80 to 120' ROW
 - ROW width subject to approval of Meade County
- Rural Collector (Gravel)
 - 80 to 120' ROW
 - ROW width subject to approval of Meade County
- Rural Local (Paved)
 - Nearside ditch width changed from 11' to 12'
- Rural Local (Gravel)
 - 28' feet total for travel lanes optionally narrowed to 24' to provide room for ditch
 - ROW may be increased to accommodate ancillary lanes (i.e. ATV/bike)
- Local with Curb and Gutter
 - ROW may be increased to accommodate ancillary lanes (i.e. ATV/bike)
- Rural Arterial (Paved)
 - In addition to center left turn lane, a right turn lane may be provided as needed
- Arterial with Curb and Gutter
 - In addition to center left turn lane, a right turn lane may be provided as needed

Updated typical sections are provided in the figures below:

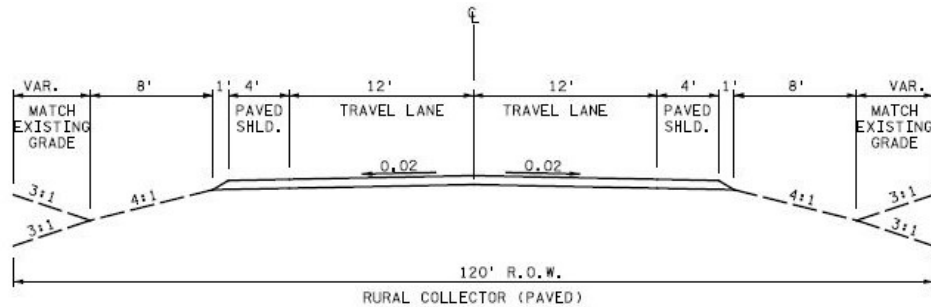


MEADE COUNTY

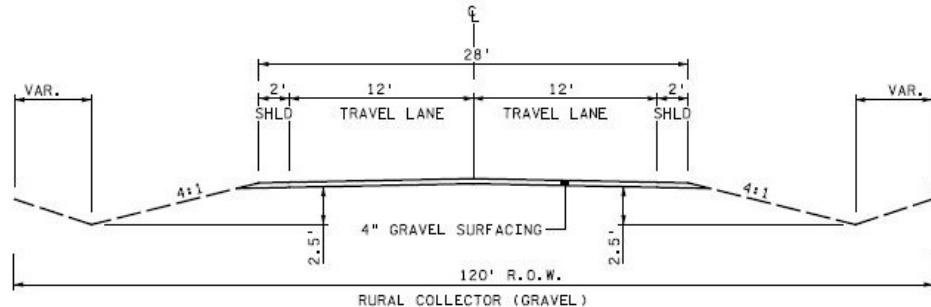
South Dakota



RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MEADE CO.



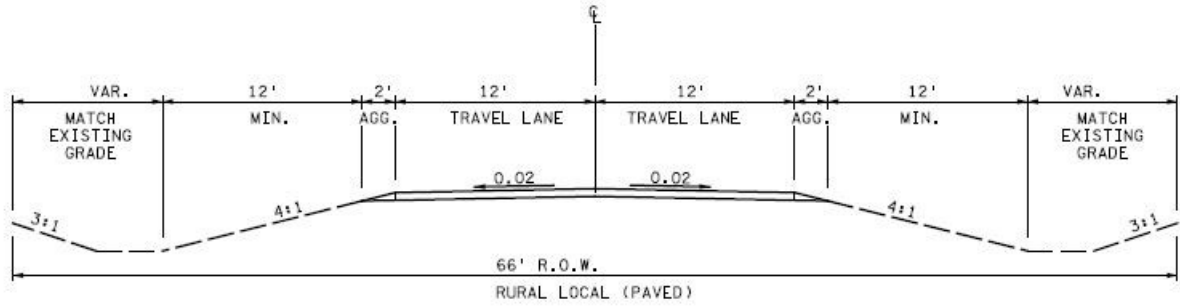
RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY BE INCREASED TO ACCOMMODATE ACCILLARY LANES (I.E. ATV/BIKE) OR TURN LANES
 RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MEADE CO.



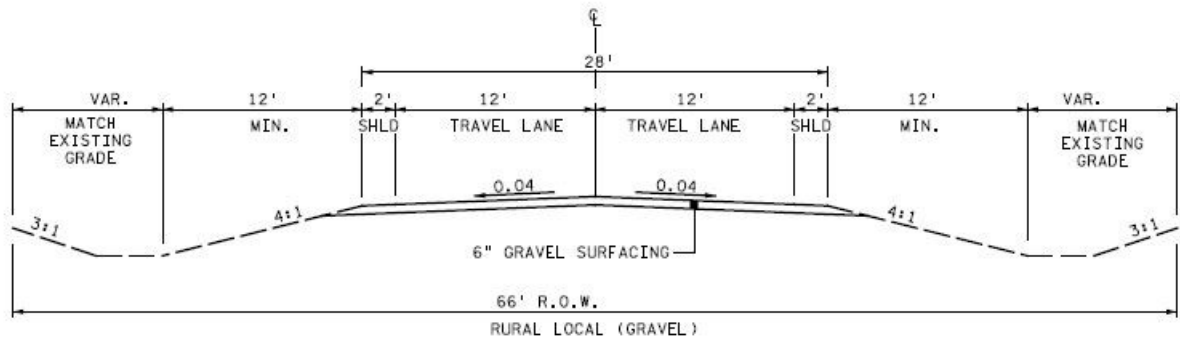
MAXIMUM SLOPE IS 4 TO 1, CURRENT STANDARD OF S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
 STEEPER SLOPES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MEADE CO.
 RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MEADE CO.

MEADE COUNTY

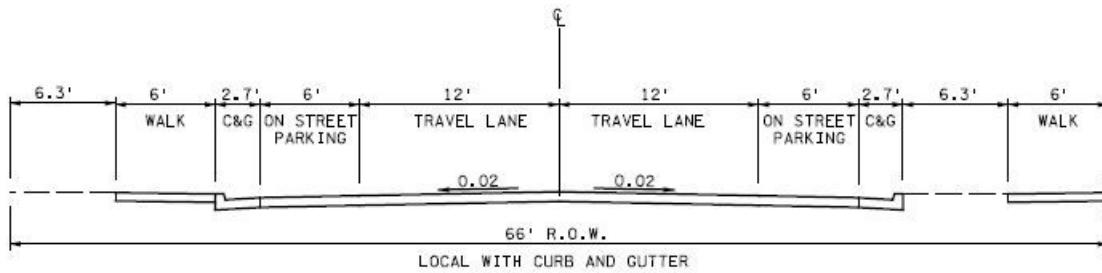
South Dakota



RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY BE INCREASED TO ACCOMMODATE ACCILLARY LANES (I.E. ATV/BIKE) OR TURN LANES

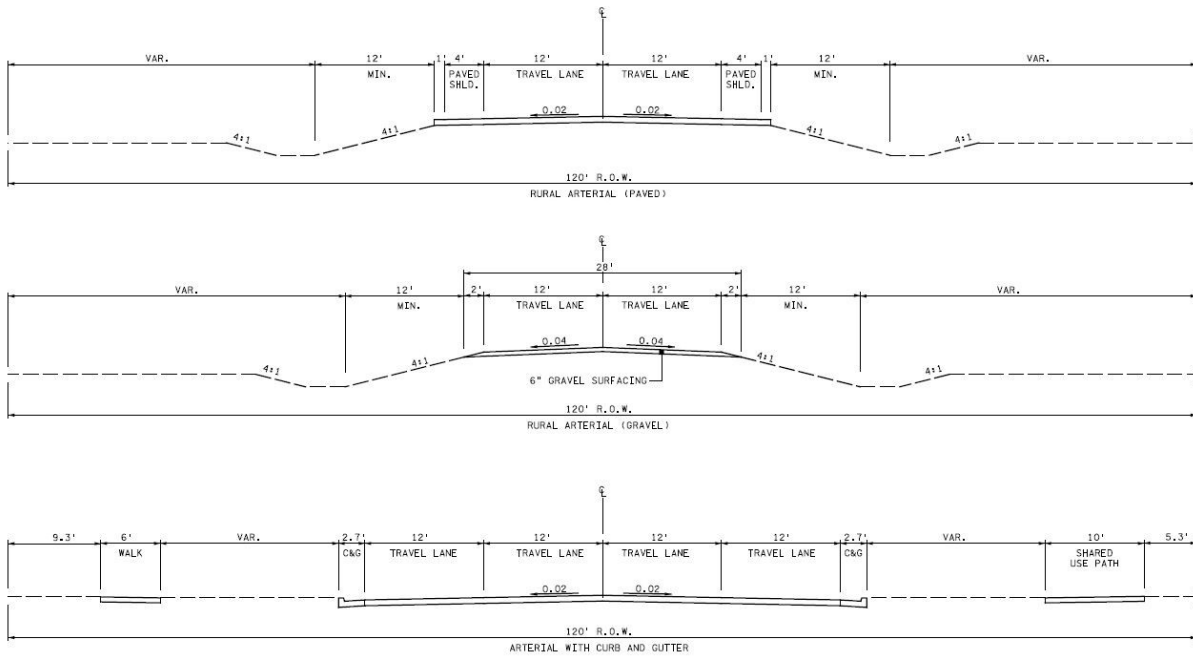


RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY BE INCREASED TO ACCOMMODATE ACCILLARY LANES (I.E. ATV/BIKE) OR TURN LANES



MAXIMUM SLOPE IS 4 TO 1, CURRENT STANDARD OF S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
 STEEPER SLOPES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MEADE CO.

RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY BE INCREASED TO ACCOMMODATE ACCILLARY LANES (I.E. ATV/BIKE) OR TURN LANES



SHOULDER WIDTH DEPENDS ON ALTERNATE MODE DEMAND
 CENTER LEFT TURN LANE AND OR RIGHT TURN LANE TO BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED
 MAXIMUM SLOPE IS 4 TO 1, CURRENT STANDARD OF S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
 STEEPER SLOPES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MEADE CO.

Access Spacings

Access management policies and spacing guidelines are developed to maintain traffic flow on the roadway network so each roadway can provide its functional duties while providing adequate access for private properties to the transportation network. The degree of mobility depends on many factors, including the ability of the roadway system to perform its functional duty, the capacity of the roadway, and the operational level of service on the roadway system. Access is the relationship between adjacent land use and the transportation system.

The SDDOT’s Road Design Manual includes access management standards. For rural roadways, the standard number of accesses is five per side per mile, or accesses spaced approximately 1,000 feet apart. This is an appropriate standard for Meade County’s rural roads as well. Many sections of the Meade County Road system already meet the standard. It is appropriate for urbanized roads to allow for shorter access spacing on low volume access points.

Highway volume access locations may become signalized in the future as traffic grows. Traffic signal spacing is typically recommended to be 1/8 to 1/2-mile apart. as population and commerce continue to grow in Meade County, access requests will increase, and county standards should be expanded to include recommended spacing of accesses along roadways of various classifications.

The following table presents the Meade County Access Spacing Guidelines, including direction for signal spacing, intersection spacing, driveway access density, and direct property access.

Table 29: Meade County Access Spacing Guidelines

Road Class		Cross Street	Signal	Access Density	Direct Access
Arterial	Rural	1,000	1/4-mile	5 per mile	Exception Only
	Urban	2,640 Full 1,320 Partial	1/2-mile	1/4-mile	Exception Only
Collector	Rural	1,000	1/4-mile	5 per mile	Yes
	Urban	1,320	1/4-mile	5 per mile	Yes
Local	Local	Not Applicable			

Access management guidelines and practices should generally be implemented at the county and local levels (cities and townships with active land use planning programs) as these agencies are typically involved at the planning stages of development proposals. However, effective access management requires mutual support and effective communication at all governmental levels. Therefore, it is important to consider how access management guidelines are implemented as part of county planning and development review procedures.