

# **Circ-Williston Transportation Project Environmental Impact Statement**

## **Public Forums on Alternatives Screening June 28-30, 2005**

**Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration**



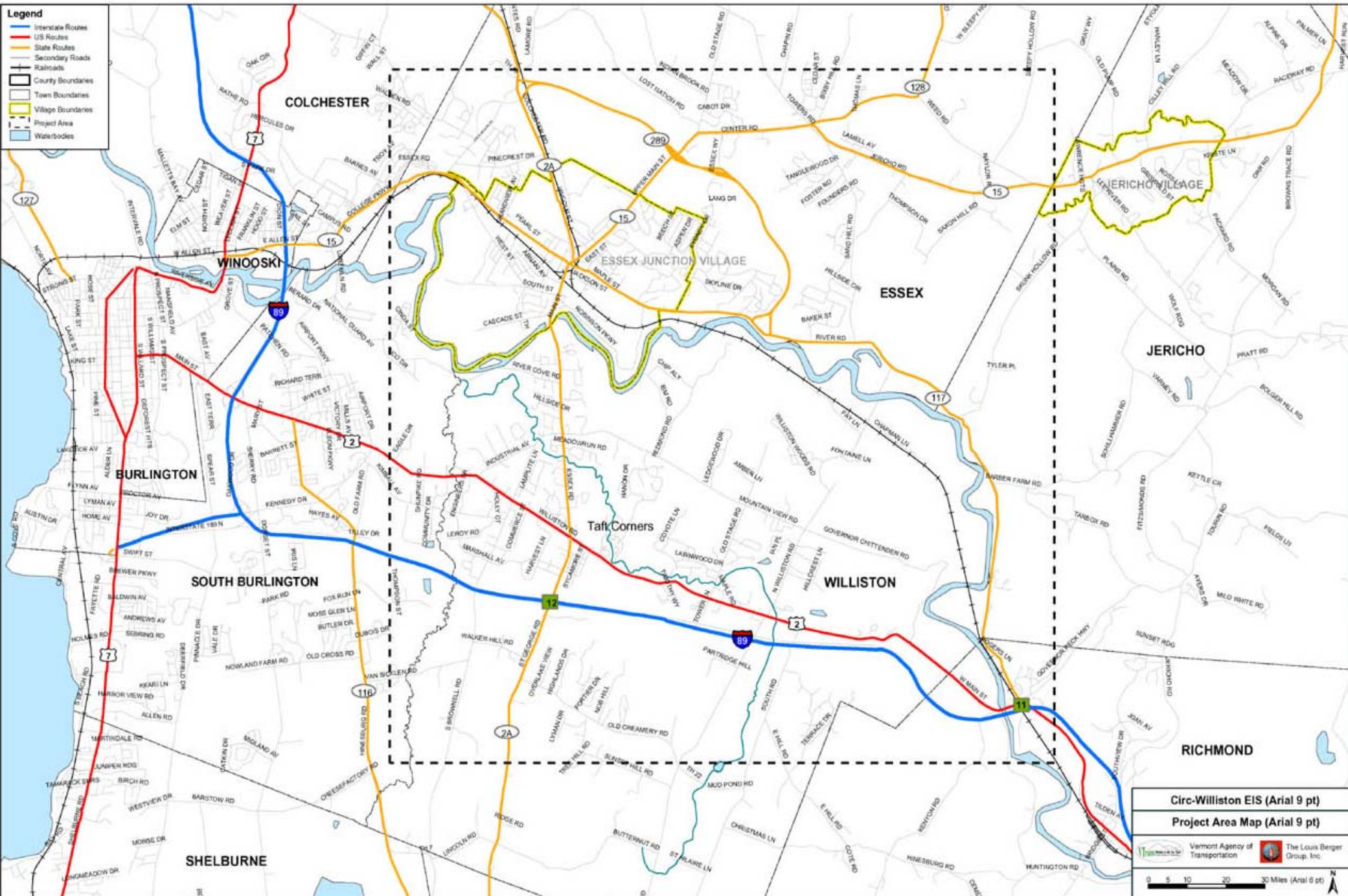
# Purpose of Public Forums

- To introduce and talk about screening the long list of alternatives.
- To listen to the public and help get answers to five questions.

# Questions to Answer

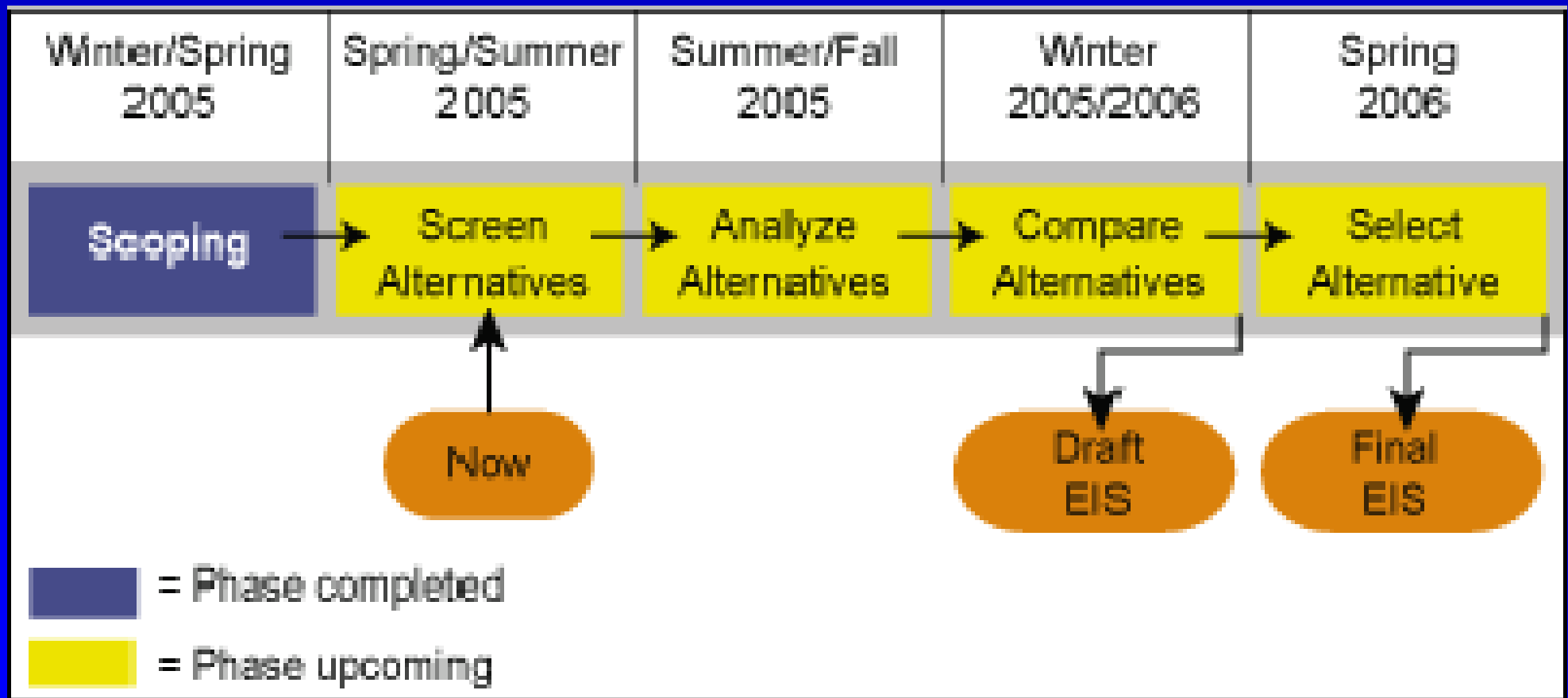
- Does the screening approach make sense to you?
- Are there concepts missing from the long list?
- What are your concerns about particular concepts?
- Do you see transportation or environmental problems with any concepts?
- Were any concepts eliminated that should be further screened?

# Project Area Map



Source: Vermont Center for Geographic Information

# 5-Step EIS Process



# Purpose & Need

- Context
  - Rapid Population and Employment Growth
  - Dispersion of Growth
  - Corresponding Traffic Growth Including Suburb-to-Suburb
  - VT 2A – North-South Spine of the Area and a Funnel
- Transportation Deficiencies (Needs)
  - Traffic Congestion
  - Inadequate Roadway Design Features
  - Safety
  - Inadequate Accommodation of Truck Traffic
  - Inadequate Mobility Between Business Centers

# Project Purpose

The purpose of the Circ-Williston Transportation Project is to improve access to, from, and within the project area and remedy existing and projected deficiencies including congestion, safety, and mobility issues (including movement of both people and goods) in the Circ-Williston corridor.

# Purpose of Alternatives Screening

- Identify long-list alternative concepts with potential.
- Assess their effects on transportation and the environment.
- Identify alternatives for detailed evaluation.

Note: Screening is not intended to determine which alternative should be **implemented**, but rather which alternatives should be **studied** in detail.

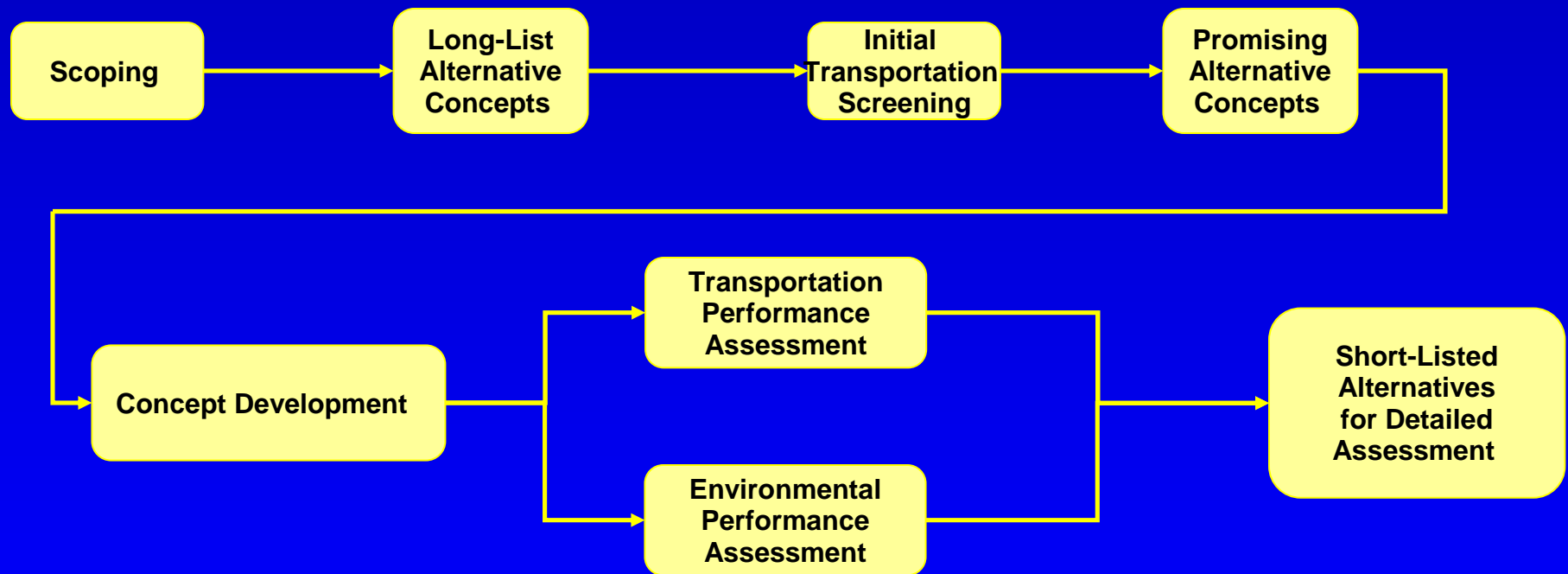
# Long-List Alternative Concept Categories

- TDM (Travel Demand Management)
- Public Transportation
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities
- Freight
- Improve Existing Roadway(s)
- Construct New Roadway(s)

# How Screening is Done

- Identify promising concepts.
- Combine concepts into logical alternatives.
- Develop concepts sufficiently to do the screening analysis.
- Perform screening-level transportation and environmental assessment.
- Compare results and make short list .

# Alternatives Screening: Overview



# Initial Transportation Screening

- Determines which concepts warrant quantitative analysis.
- Based on potential to:
  - Relieve congestion on Rte 2A and Five Corners
  - Meet Williston-Essex mobility needs
  - Improve safety on Rte 2A and Five Corners

# Initial Transportation Screening

- Based on concept's potential to meet needs (likely/possible/unlikely):
  - Advance as a Long List Alternative
  - Advance in combination with other concepts
  - Reintroduce as complementary concept with one or more Short List Alternatives
  - Eliminate from further consideration

# Final Transportation Screening

- Use CCMPO computer model.
- Estimate traffic demand in 2025 for alternatives and No-Action.
- Analyze intersections and roundabouts.
- Compare each alternative to No-Action.
- Advance most promising alternatives to the Short List.

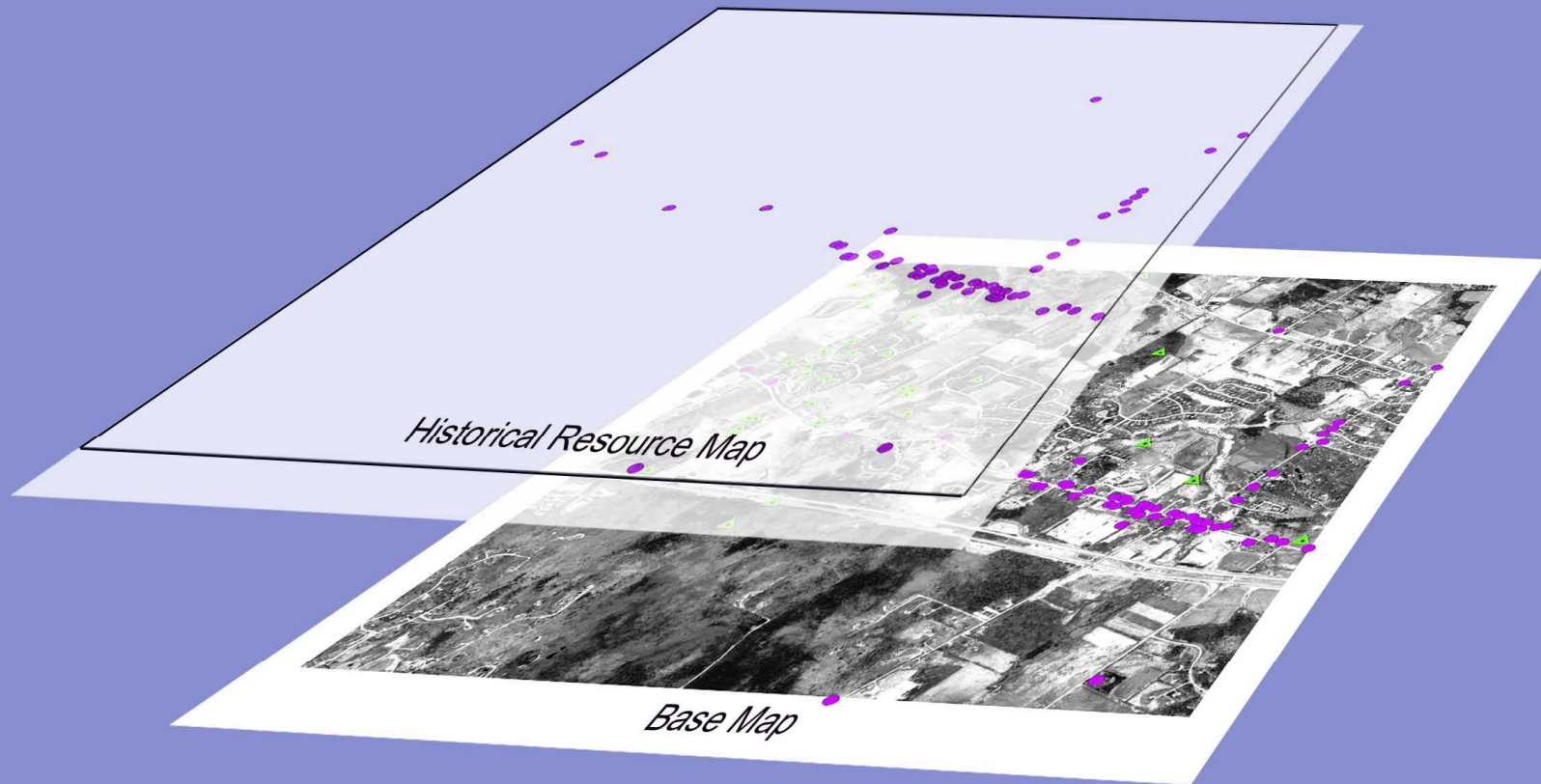
# Potential Transportation Screening Performance Measures

- **Relieve Congestion**
  - Congested operating speed
  - Vehicle volume/capacity
  - Level of Service
- **Meet Mobility Needs**
  - 2025 Build traffic volumes compared to 2025 No-Action volumes
  - Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
  - Trips by mode (auto, bus, etc.)
  - Travel time
- **Improve Safety**
  - Traffic volume reduction
  - Qualitative analysis of queuing
  - Design improvements to address hazardous conditions

# Environmental Screening

- Performance measures consider impacts to:
  - Water resources
  - Land Resources
  - Community and Cultural Resources
  - Air quality, energy, and noise
- Use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to overlay each alternative on maps of environmental resources.
- Use computer models to provide indicators of air pollution and energy use

# Example of GIS Overlay



# Water Resource Measures

- Change in impervious surfaces
- Floodplains
- Water supply areas and private wells
- Wetlands and riparian habitat
- Watersheds
- Number of stream/river crossings including impaired watercourses

# Land Resource and Habitat Measures

- Parkland
- Farmland
- Woodland/forest habitat
- Other habitat
- Number of occurrences of protected species

# Air Quality, Noise & Energy Measures

- Change in pollutant burden relative to No-Build
- Potential energy impacts associated with Vehicle Hours Traveled/Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Number and class of noise sensitive receptors

# Community & Cultural Resource Measures

- Potential business and residential displacements and functional impacts (such as loss of parking)
- Number of historic properties
- Number of archaeological sites
- Areas of potential archaeological interest and/or sensitivity
- Use of public parkland resources
- Number of hazardous waste sites

# Short List of Alternatives

- Alternatives that warrant detailed analysis, including No-Action Alternative.
- Screening memo documents process.
- Short-listed alternatives receive further development.

# Next Steps

- Review screening with state and federal resource agencies
- Complete screening in August
- Municipal briefings
- Public Forums in Fall on Screening Results
- Step 3 Detailed Analysis, Fall 2005
- Results and announcements on [www.circEIS.org](http://www.circEIS.org)

# Discussion Groups

- If your last name starts with **A–G**: start in **Session A, Public Transportation**
- If your last name starts with **H–P**: start in **Session B, Existing Roadway Improvements**
- If your last name starts with **Q–Z**: start in **Session C, New Roadways**
- Everyone rotates through all three sessions.