



Highway 22 - Interstate 40
Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas

I-49 Stakeholder Kick-Off Meeting

December 5, 2017



AGENDA

I-49 Stakeholder Kick-Off Meeting

- Welcome & Introductions
- Study Overview & History
- Study Scope and Schedule
- Public Involvement
- Q & A



Highway 22 - Interstate 40
Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas



STUDY OVERVIEW & HISTORY

Overview

- ArDOT and FHWA are preparing an environmental re-evaluation and refining the alignment
- Will provide a critical connection between Highway 22 in Sebastian County and the I-40/I-49 interchange in Crawford County
- Length of 13.7 miles
- Project purpose is to complement the existing interstate system, accommodate safe travel, and promote economic development



Highway 22 - Interstate 40
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STUDY OVERVIEW & HISTORY

History

- Originally part of a larger environmental study known as the “U.S. 71 Relocation”
- Extended from Highway 70 in DeQueen, Arkansas to I-40 near Alma, encompassing approximately 125 miles
- The relocation of U.S. 71 in Arkansas is part of Congressionally-Designated High Priority Corridor 1 & Corridor 72
- Runs from Shreveport, Louisiana to Kansas City, Missouri



Highway 22 - Interstate 40
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Arkansas I-49 Corridor



STUDY OVERVIEW & HISTORY

History

- A Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared and a Record of Decision issued in December 1997
- Design and construction of sections of the corridor have been completed as funding has become available



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Arkansas I-49 Corridor



STUDY OVERVIEW & HISTORY

Project Objectives:

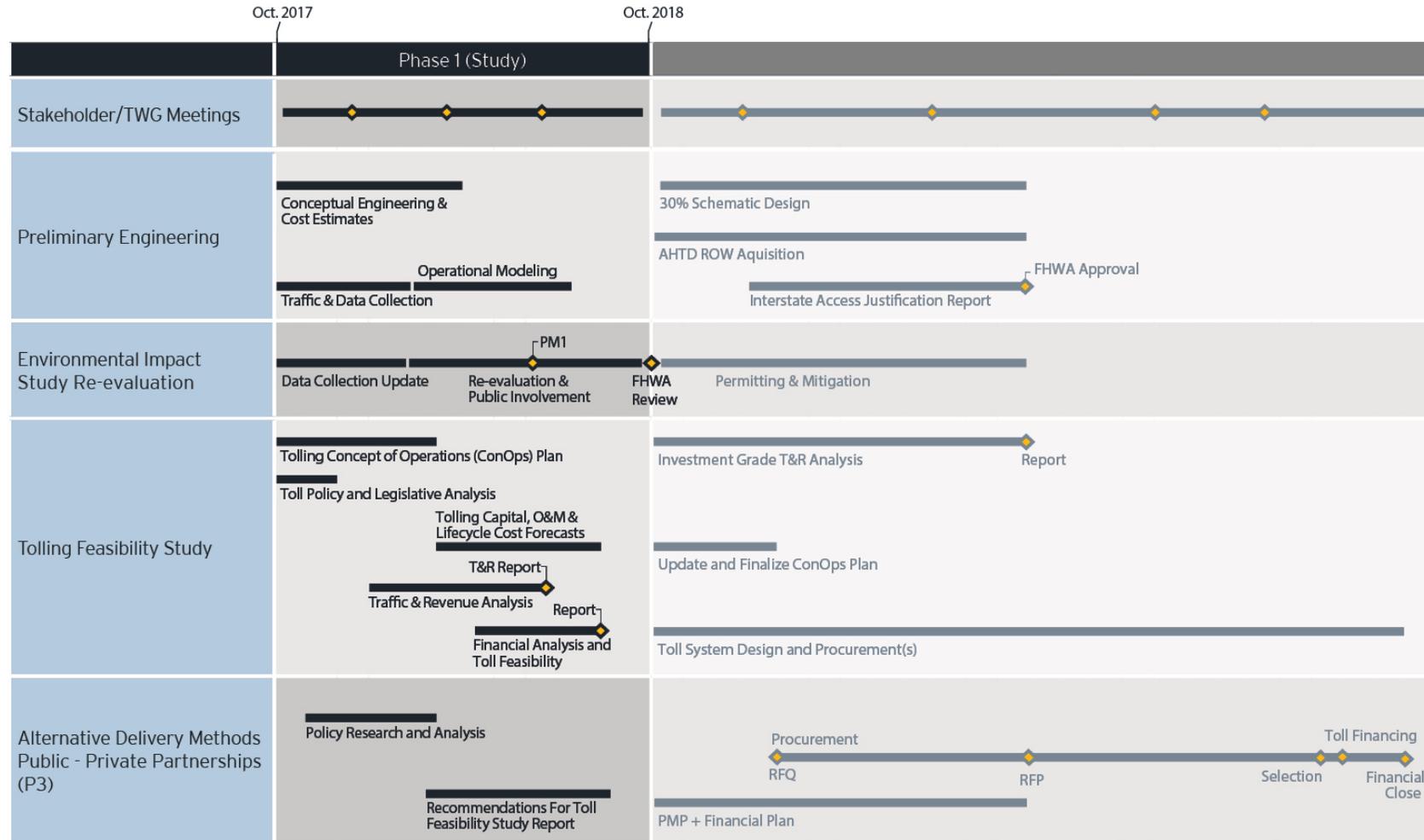
- Conduct an environmental re-evaluation
- Develop a preliminary design
- Conduct a toll feasibility analysis
- Conduct alternative delivery analysis



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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Overview



* Phase 2 contingent on available funding and tolling contribution



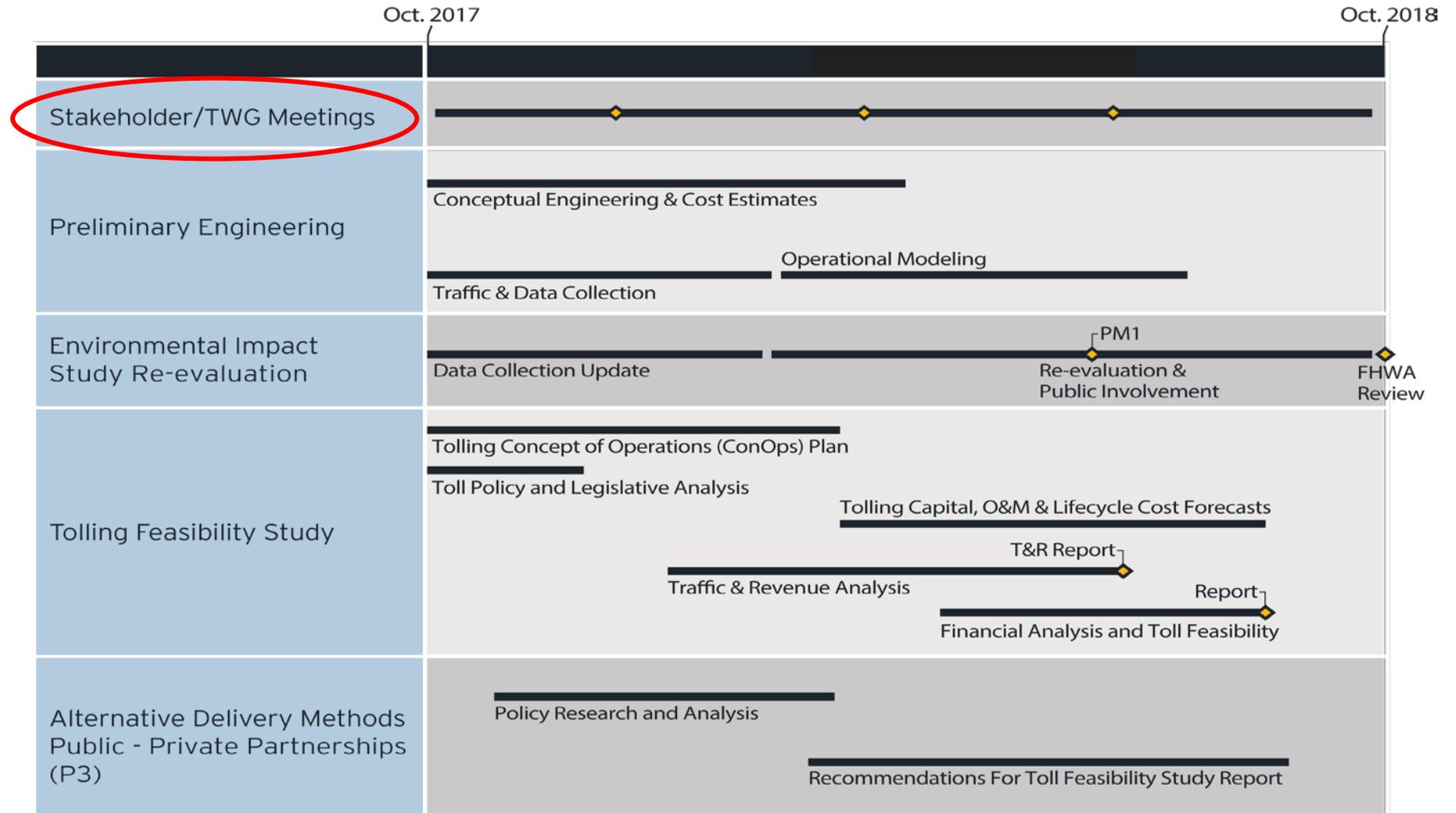
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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Stakeholder/ TWG Meetings

- Integral part of the planning process
- Three meetings



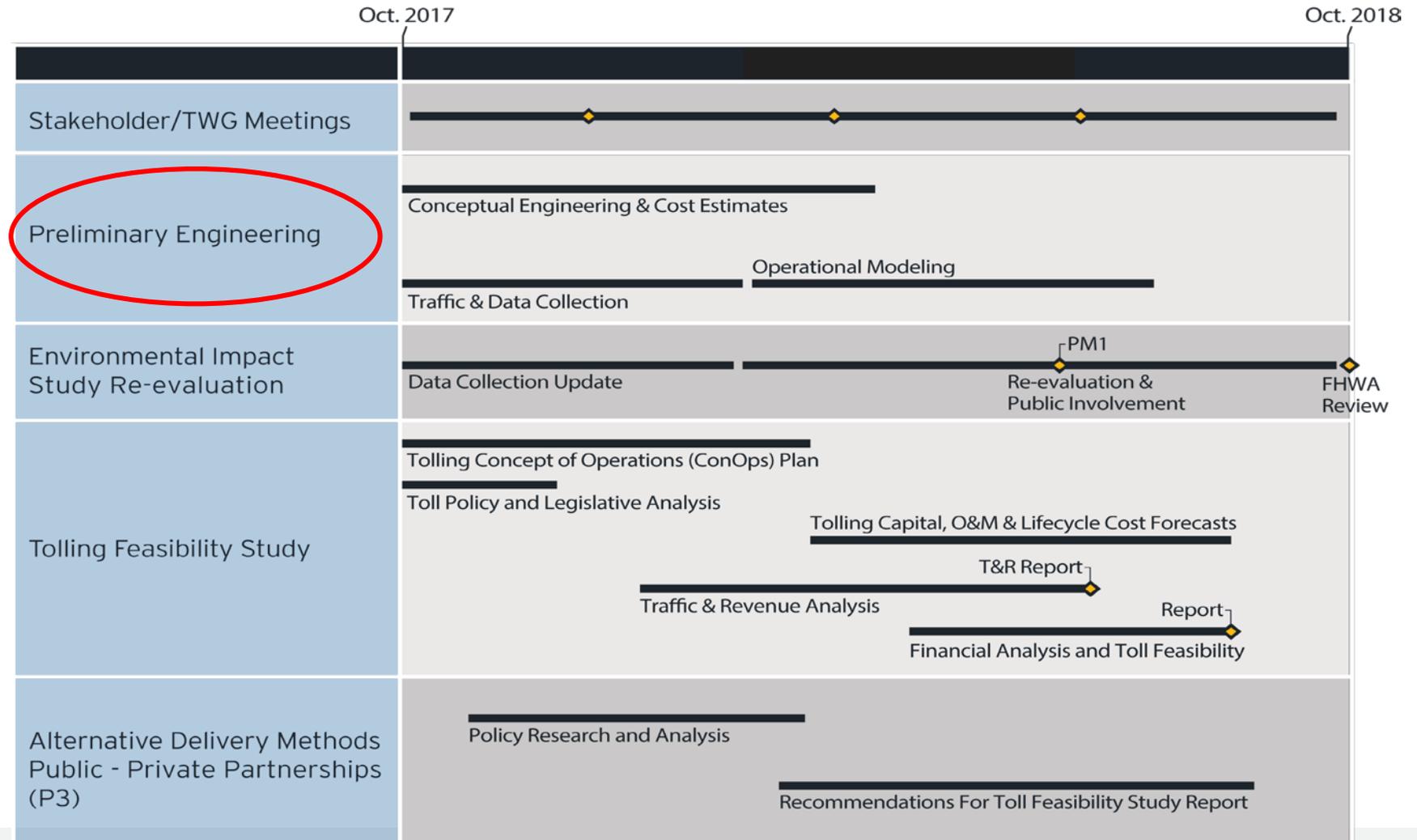
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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Preliminary Engineering

- Refine selected FEIS alignment
- Develop interchange configurations
- Define proposed ROW
- Develop project cost estimates



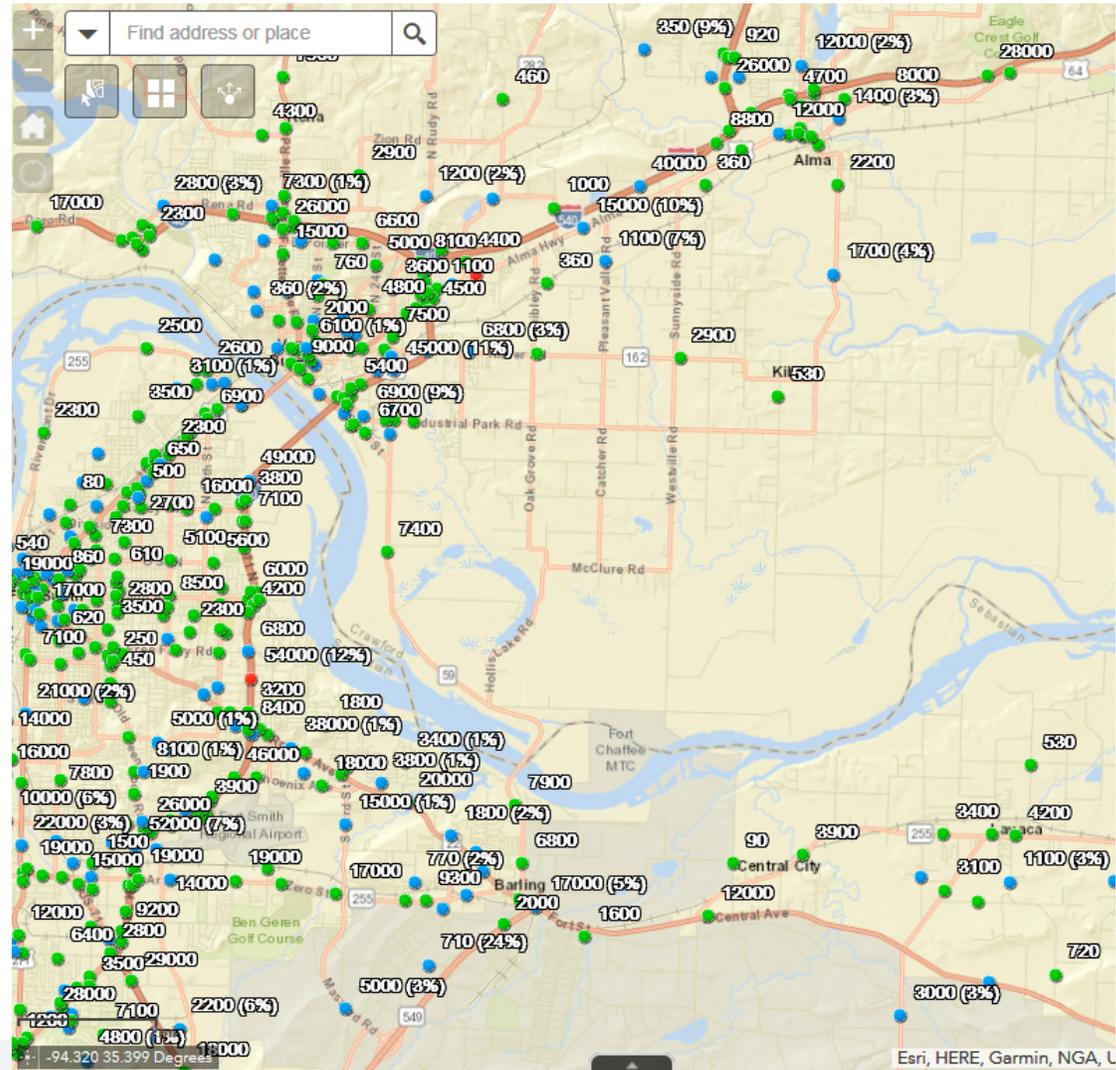
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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Traffic and Safety

- Traffic and Safety Purpose
- Study Area
- Data Collection
- Work Tasks

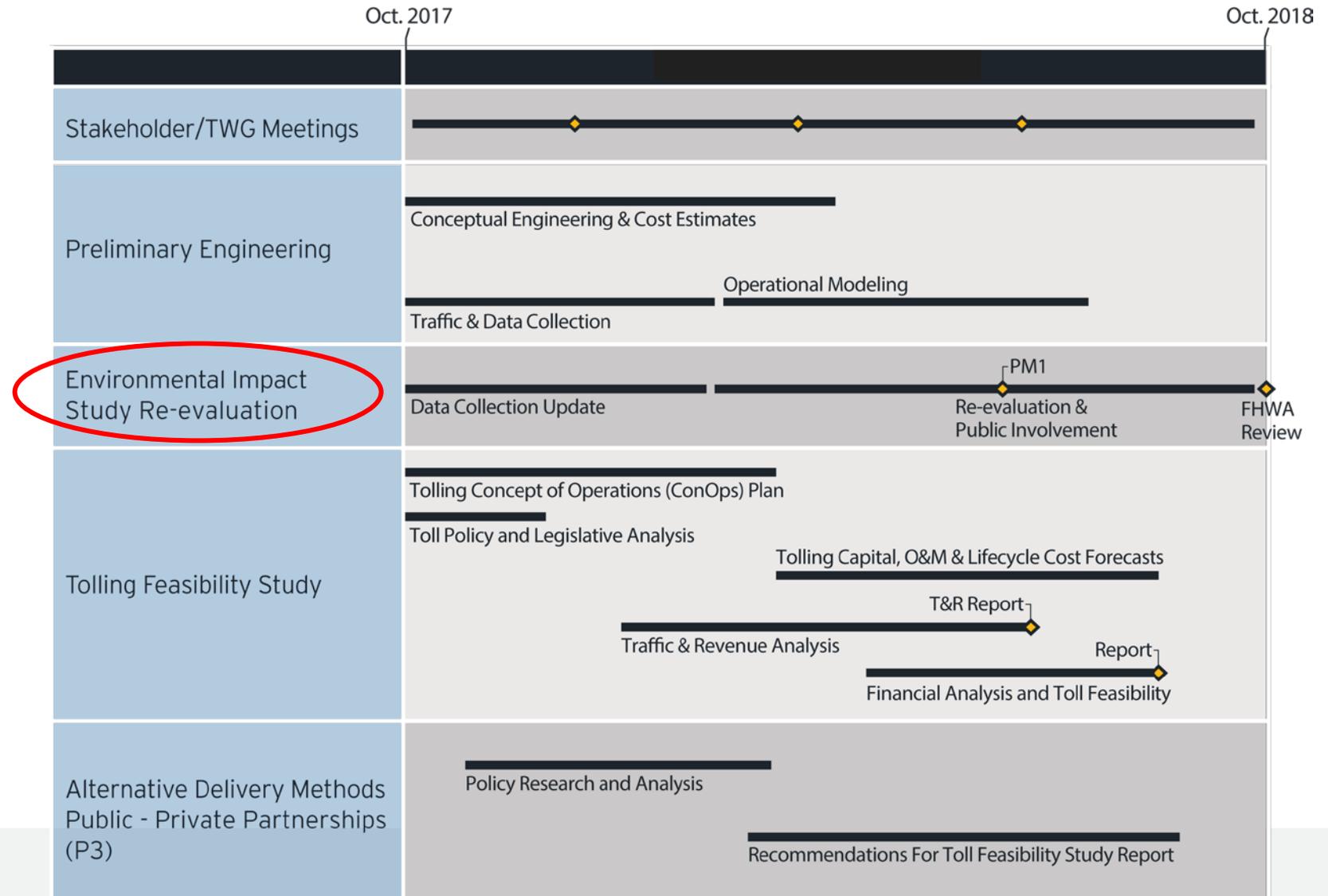


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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Environmental Impact Study Re-evaluation



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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

- **Environmental Scope of Work**
 - Environmental re-evaluation of this segment of I-49
- **Environmental Constraints Identification**
- **Potential Issues/Concerns**
 - Waters of the US
 - Right of way/Displacements
 - Threatened and endangered species
- **Additional Local Issues/Concerns**

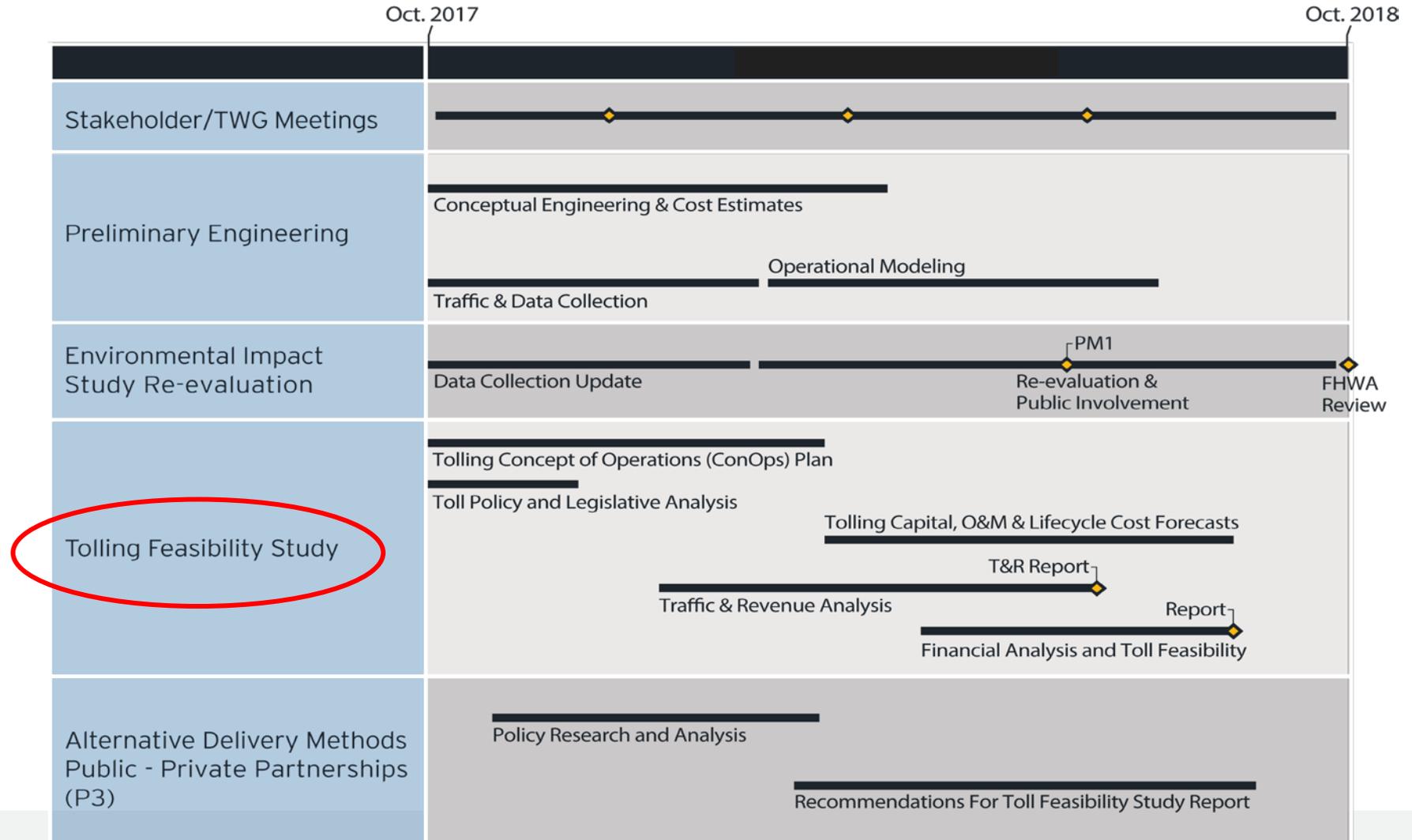


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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Tolling Feasibility Study



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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Tolling

- Tolling is a user fee, not a tax, that could help accelerate construction
- Being evaluated as a possible new funding source
- Project would provide a new and reliable route that travelers could **choose** to use
- Existing I-540 and Highway 59 would remain non-tolled
- Travel times on I-540 would improve if I-49 constructed

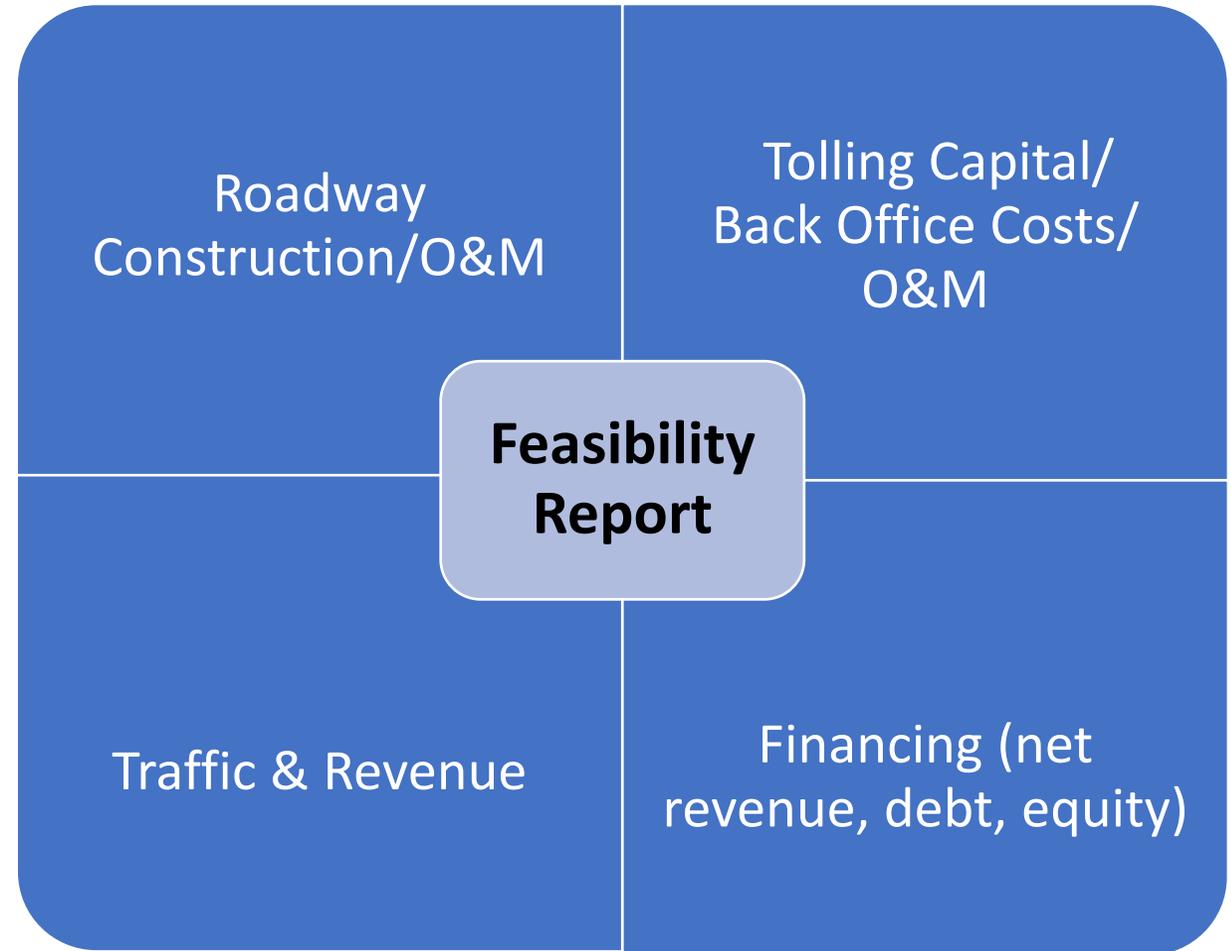


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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

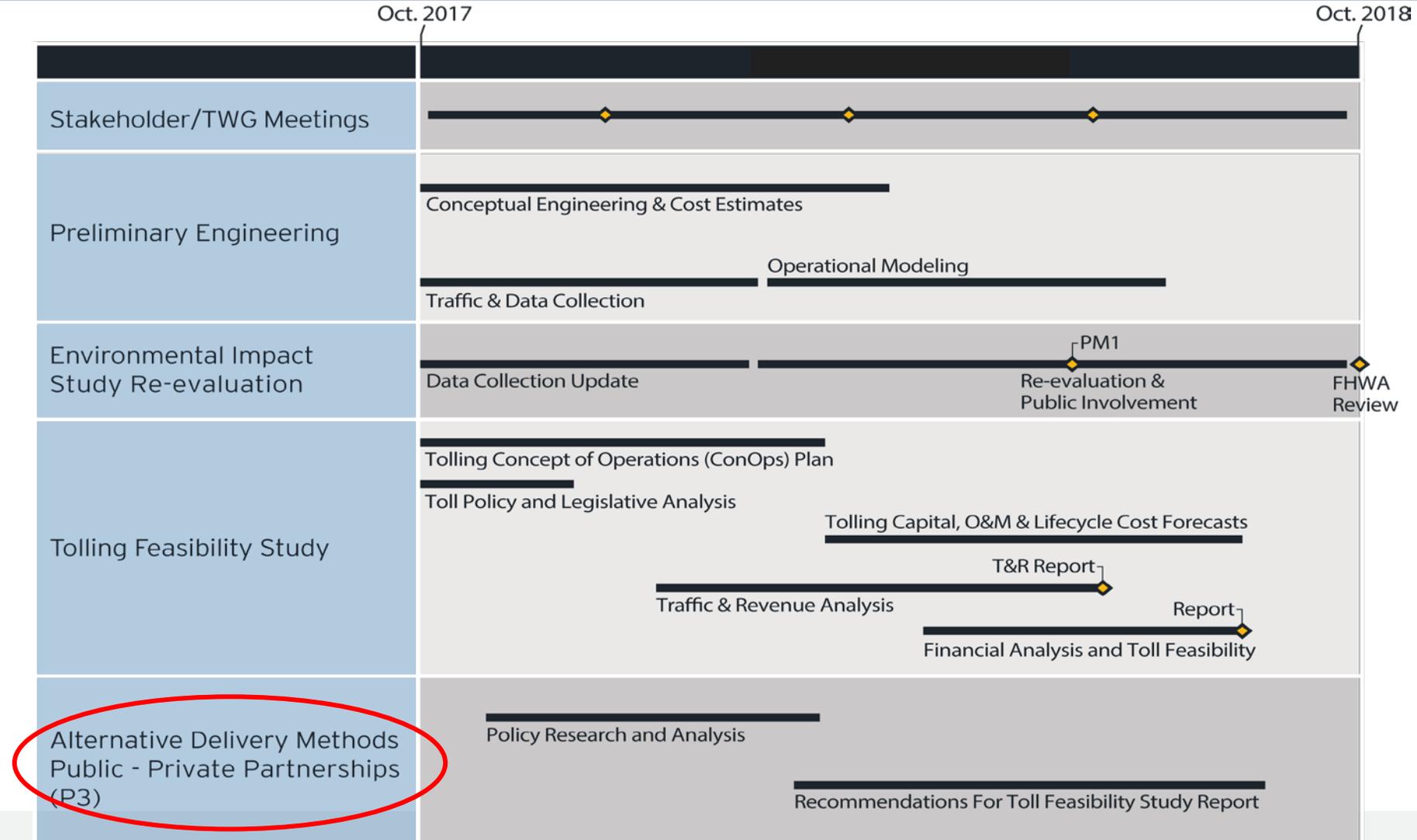
Toll Feasibility

- Answers the questions
 - “Can tolls be efficiently implemented on the facility?”
 - “Can tolls provide funding for ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) and/or fund a portion of construction costs?”



STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Alternative Delivery Methods – Public Private Partnerships (P3)



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STUDY SCOPE & SCHEDULE

Tolling and Alternative Delivery Policy Report

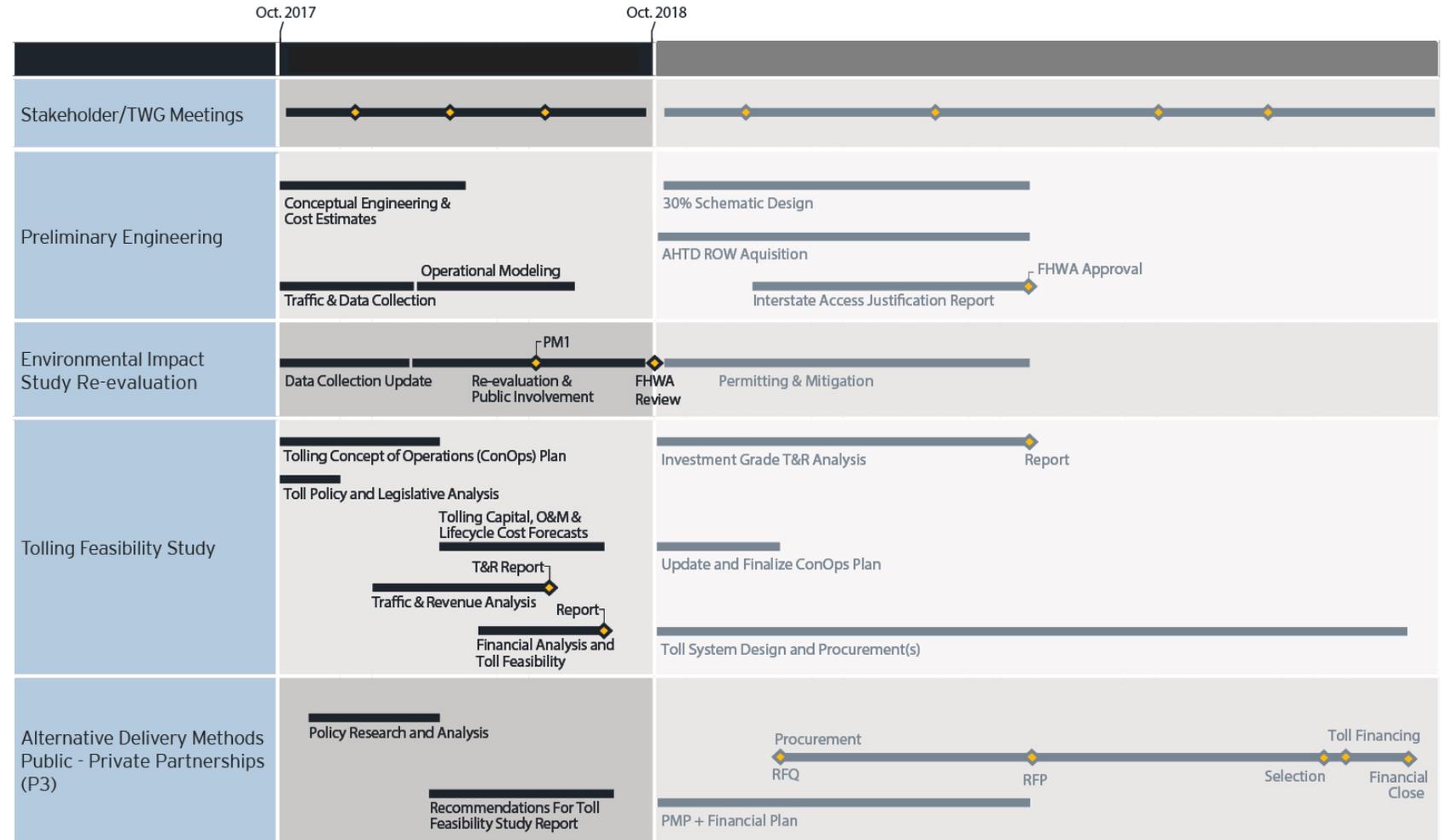
- **Tolling and Alternative Delivery**
 - Identify major policy decisions required to implement
 - Assess Arkansas' current legislation
 - Provide best practices from other states on how to craft legislative language



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Future Activities

- Contingent on available funding
- Continue Stakeholder/TWG meetings
- Develop to 30% design
- ArDOT would progress into ROW acquisition upon environmental approval
- Tolling
 - Traffic and revenue
 - Toll system design and operations
- Alternative delivery
 - Procurement



* Phase 2 contingent on available funding and tolling contribution



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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Ongoing, throughout study
- Public Involvement Plan
- Stakeholder and TWG meetings
- Public meeting - spring 2018
- Web page - www.ardot.gov/I-49.aspx

Contact information

Jonathan Gardea, Public Involvement Representative

Phone: (972)628-3042

Email: jgardea@hntb.com



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Questions & Answers



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I-49 Technical Work Group Meeting #1

December 5, 2017



AGENDA

Technical Working Group Meeting #1

- Role and responsibilities of Technical Work Group (TWG)
- Break out session
- Final comments and questions
- Next meeting (tentative)
- Adjourn



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TECHNICAL WORK GROUP

Roles & Responsibilities

- Attend and participate in TWG meetings
- Serve as a resource for the I-49 study
- Provide timely information and input
- Participate in the environmental process and advise on:
 - Upcoming planning and programming studies
 - Work that may influence traffic and travel patterns
 - Concerns regarding potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts
 - Corridor vision, goals, and alternatives



BREAKOUT SESSION

Goal: To collaboratively identify possible issues, concerns and constraints along the study area.

Ground Rules:

- **Go to your assigned table**
- **Open discussion for 30 minutes**
- **Write on the maps**
- **Summarize findings and report back to the group**



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BREAKOUT SUMMARIES

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?



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NEXT STEPS

- Comment Forms
- Final Comments & Questions
- Next Meeting
- Adjourn

