Chapter 7: Town of Berthoud

The Town of Berthoud is located south of the City of Loveland in southeast Larimer County. US287 travels around the central portion of Berthoud for approximately 4.3 miles. Through Berthoud, the FLEX travels on two separate patterns. The FLEX to Longmont route travels through downtown Berthoud, while the FLEX to Boulder continues on the US287 Berthoud Bypass.

Road Network

South of Loveland, US287 traverses through unincorporated Larimer County, and then through the western edge of Berthoud. Prior to 2007, US287 traveled south on 1st Street and west on SH56. In 2007, a new section of US287 was opened as a limited-access higher speed highway. The FLEX Local route currently uses the old alignment on 1st Street.

Figure 7-1 shows bridges on state-maintained highways, the number of through lanes, and traffic signals in the Study Area. There are three bridges on this corridor, which are all rated in good condition by CDOT. The northern bridge carries US287 over the southbound ramp to 1st Street. A second bridge carries LCR10E over US287. The southern bridge carries US287 over Dry Creek.

There is generally a consistent number of through lanes in the corridor. North of SH60/42nd Street SW, the corridor is five lanes. From SH60 south, US287 has four through lanes: two in each direction, a center turn lane, and wide shoulders. SH56/Mountain Avenue and 1st Street has two through lanes.

Traffic signals are sparser in the US287 corridor through Berthoud. There are three directly on US287: one at SH60/42nd Street SW; one at LCR17; and one at the SH56/Mountain Avenue intersection. Three additional traffic signals exist on SH56/Mountain Avenue, and are located within the Study Area.

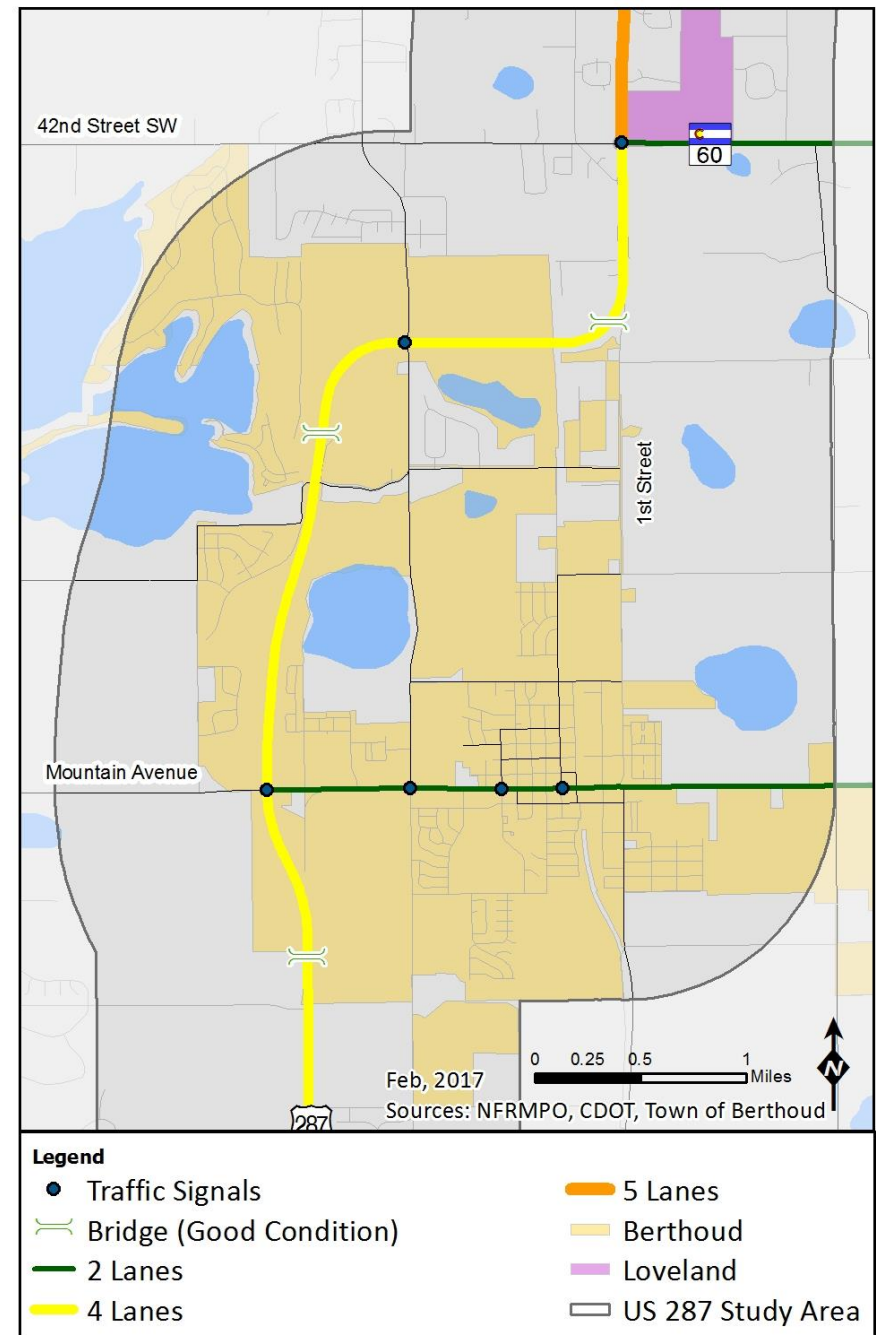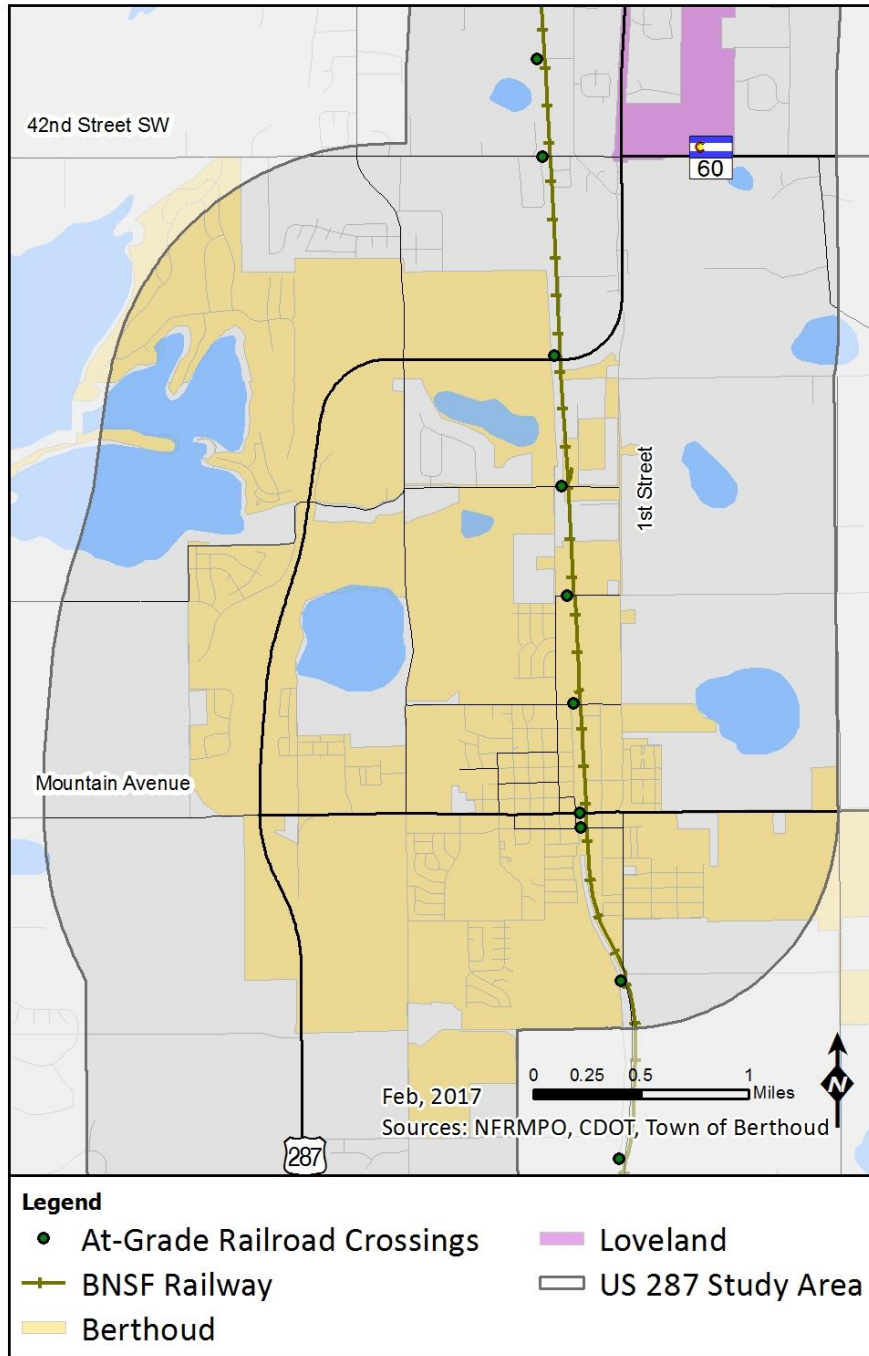*Figure 7-1 Berthoud Bridges, Number of Through Lanes, and Traffic Signals*

Figure 7-2 Berthoud Active Railroads and At-Grade Crossings

One major railroad bisects US287 in the north of Berthoud and bisects SH 56/Mountain Avenue in downtown Berthoud as shown in *Figure 7-2*. All active railroads and crossings are shown on the map. The BNSF Railway corridor runs generally parallel to US287.

As shown on *Figure 7-3*, Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on US287 is higher than on the SH60/42nd Street SW and SH56/Mountain Avenue corridors. Specifically, fewer than 9,000 vehicles use SH56/Mountain Avenue and SH60/42nd Street SW on an average day; however, approximately 18,000 vehicles use US287 daily.

Figure 7-3 Berthoud Annual Average Daily Traffic
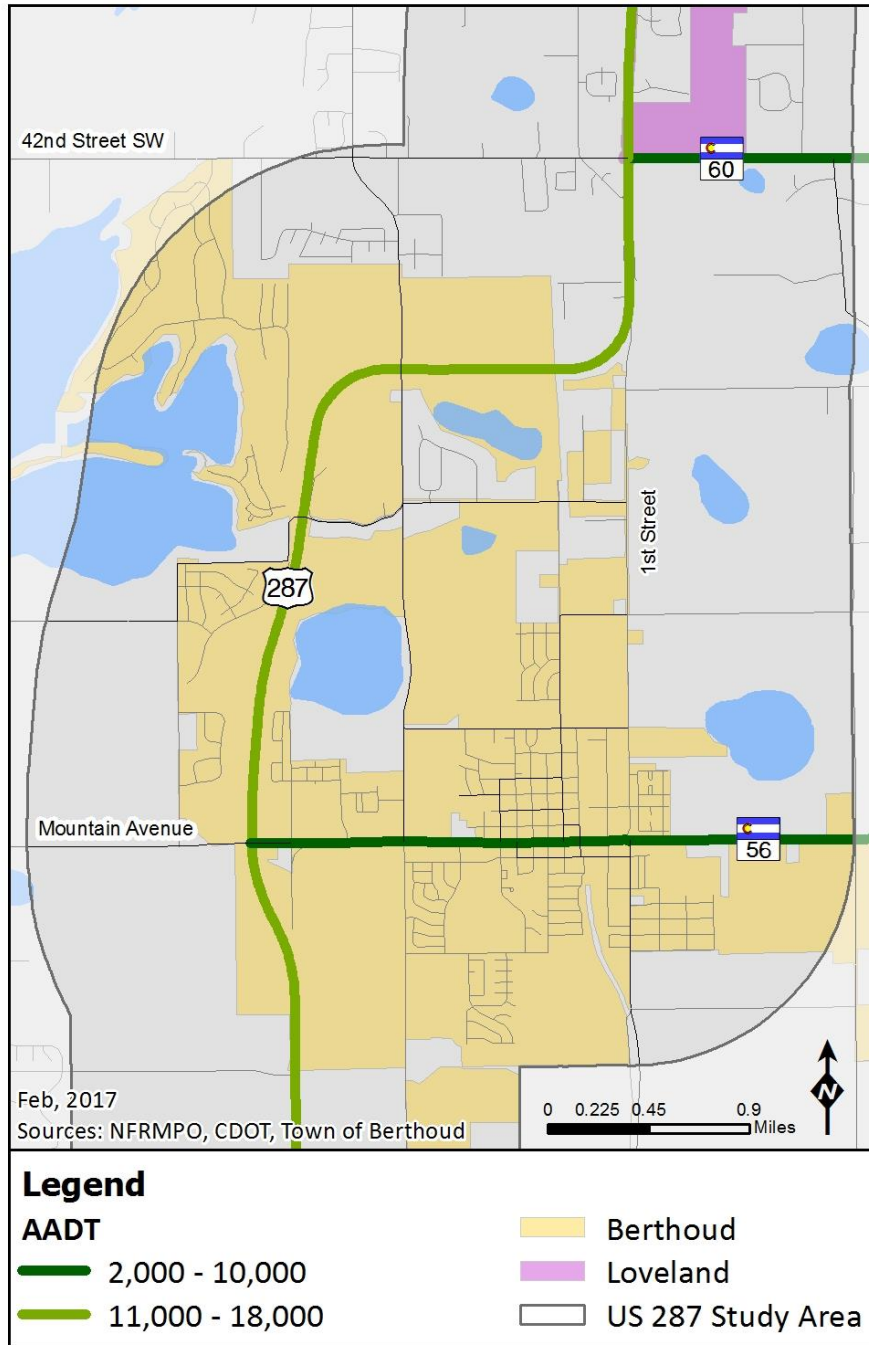
Similar to AADT, Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic is higher on US287 than on either SH56/Mountain Avenue or SH60/42nd Street SW as shown on *Figure 7-4*. Approximately 580 trucks travel per day on US287 in Berthoud.

Speed limits are shown on *Figure 7-5* and vary throughout the corridor by direction. Higher speeds are generally in the northbound direction from south of Berthoud to approximately LCR10E. Additionally, speeds generally slow inbound to downtown Berthoud and increase in the outbound direction.

CDOT measures pavement condition using its Drivability Life measure, which is shown on *Figure 7-6*. In the case of US287 in Berthoud, the corridor is generally rated as High Drivability Life. This section as noted before was opened in 2007, meaning much of the pavement is only 10 years old. SH56/Mountain Avenue west of 1st Street and SH60/42nd Street SW are Medium Drivability Life. East of 1st Street, SH56/Mountain Avenue is rated Low Drivability Life.

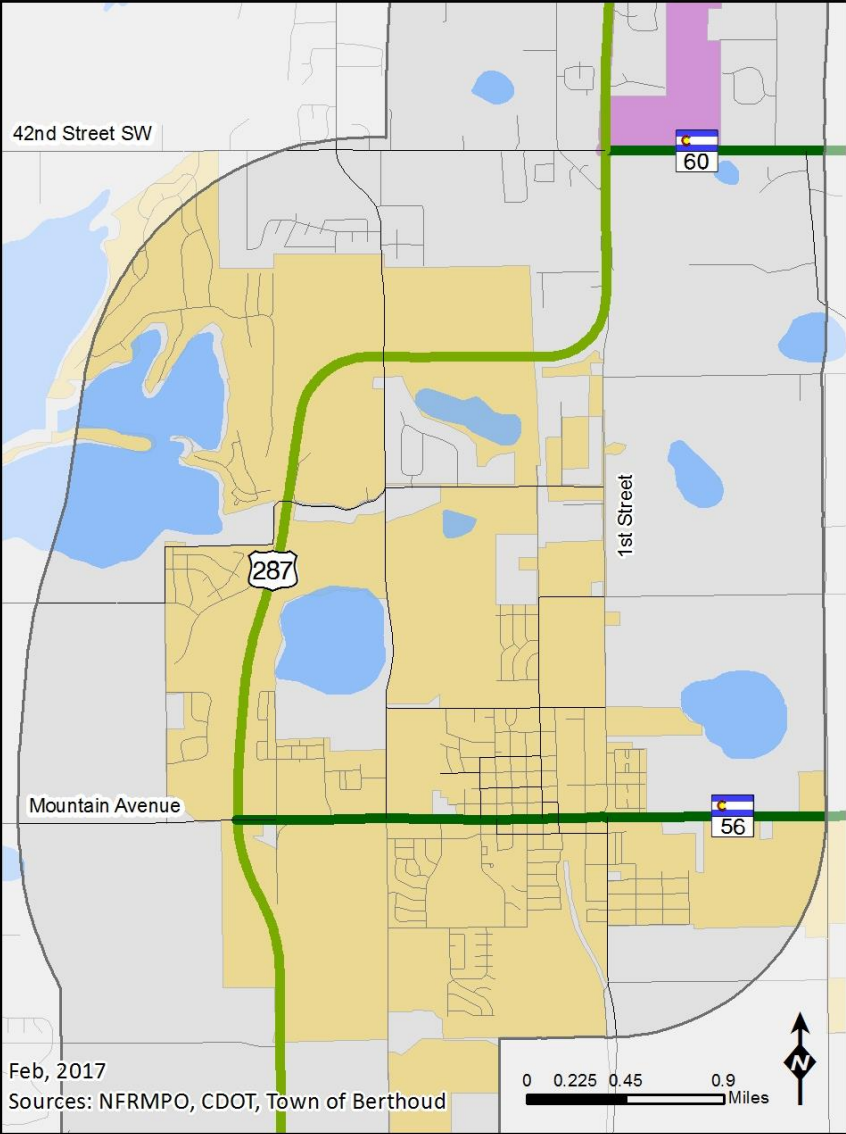## Figure 7-4 Berthoud Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic

Feb, 2017
Sources: NFRMPO, CDOT, Town of Berthoud

Legend

Truck AADT
- 120 - 500
- 520 - 840

- Berthoud
- Loveland
- US 287 Study Area

Figure 7-5 Berthoud Speed Limits

Feb, 2017
Sources: NFRMPO, CDOT, Town of Berthoud

Legend

Speed Limit (MPH)
- 30
- 45
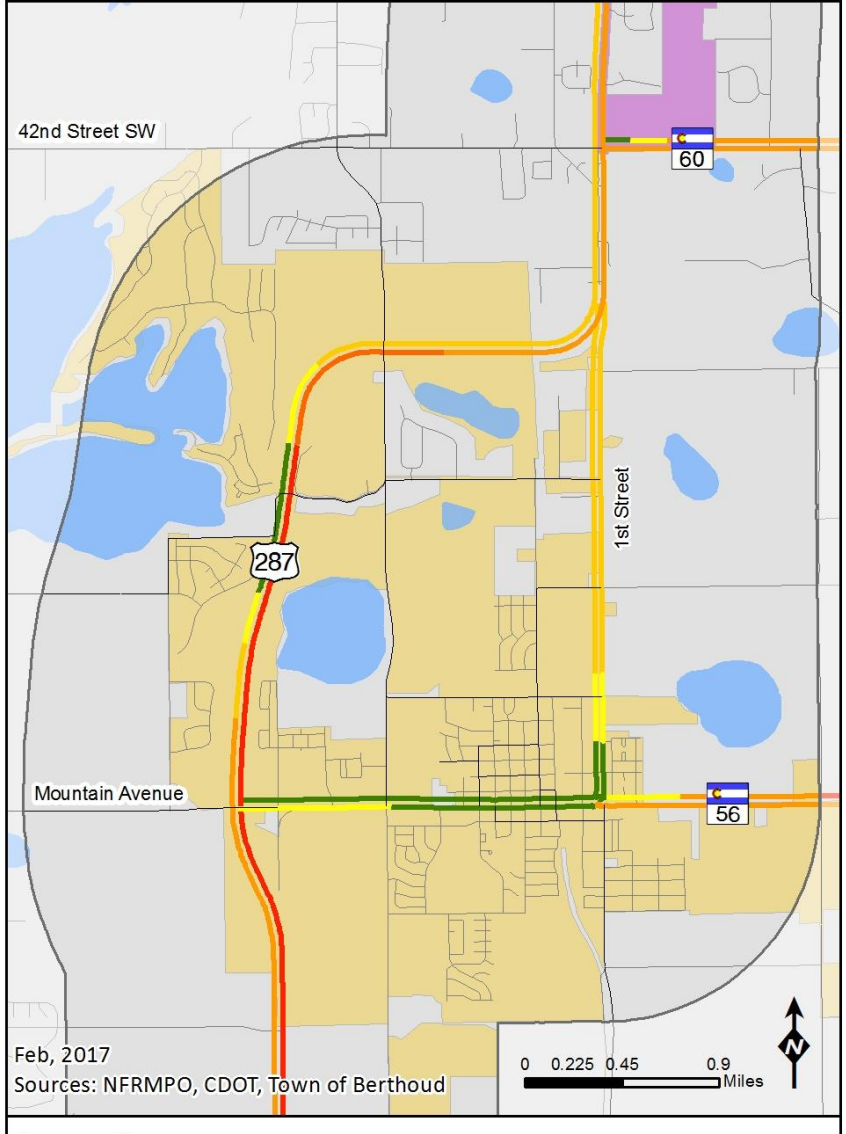- 55
- 60
- 65
- Berthoud
- Loveland
- US 287 Study Area

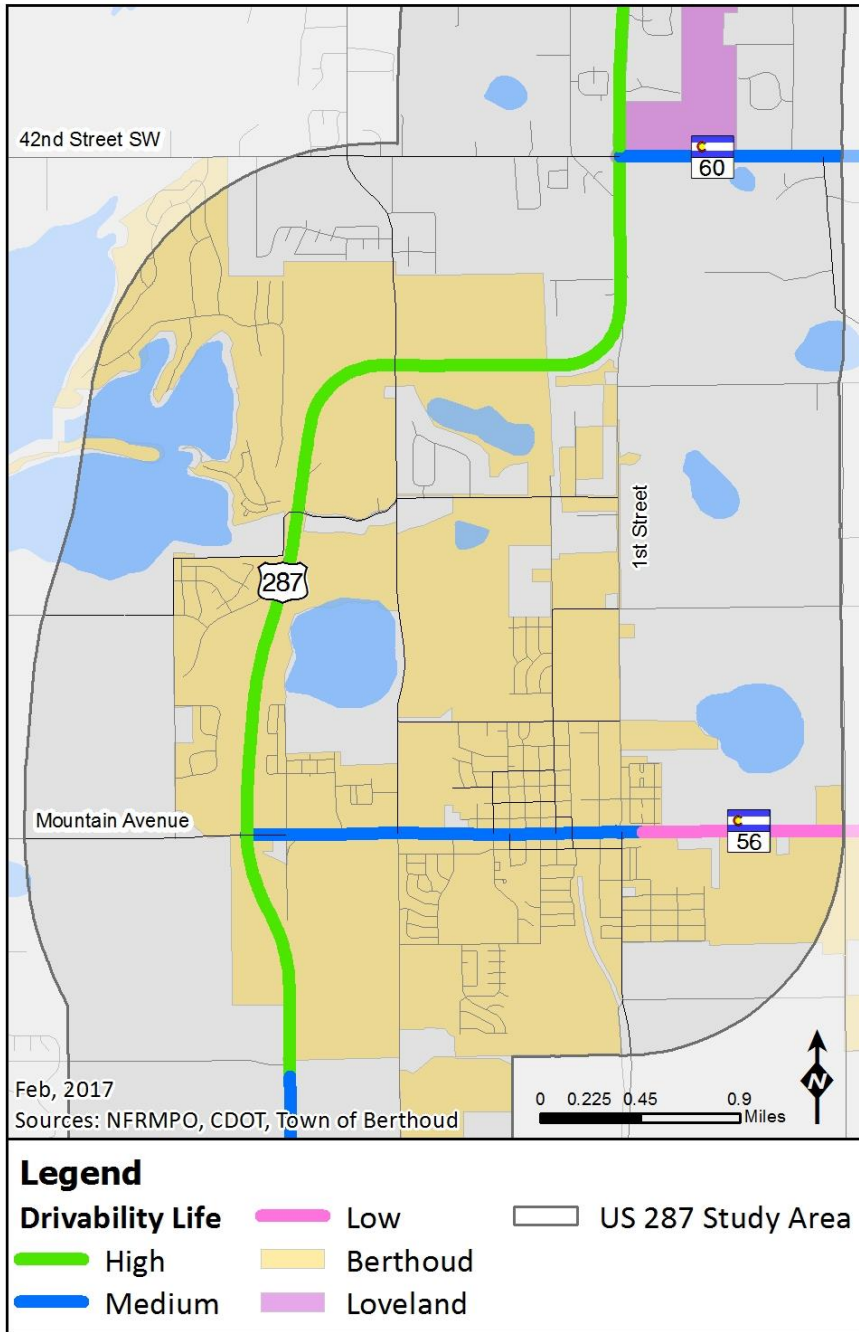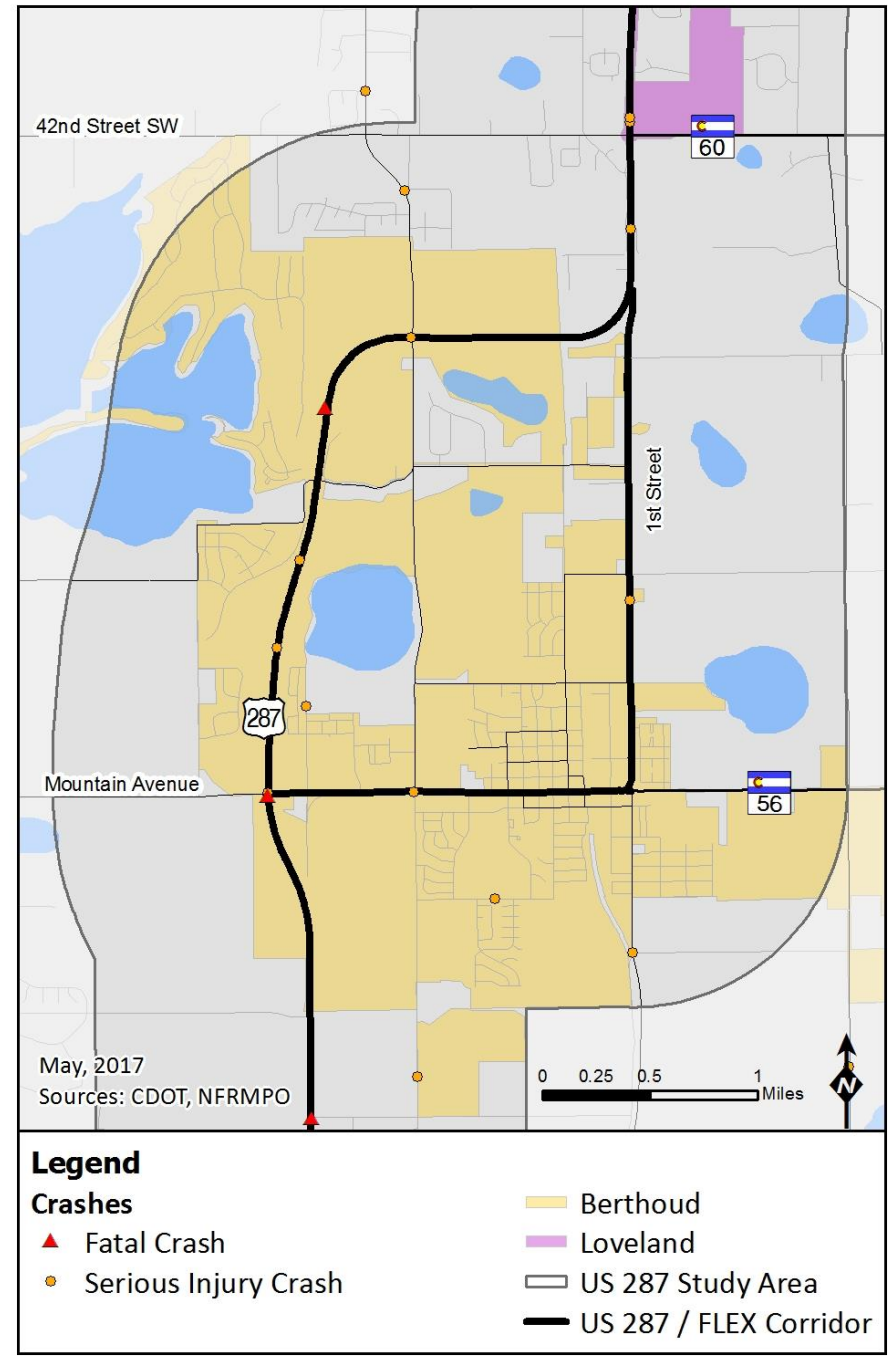*Figure 7-6 Berthoud Drivability Life*

Crash Data

Figure 7-7 identifies serious injury and fatal crashes from 2011 to 2015 in Berthoud. There were two fatal crashes and 14 serious injury crashes in the Berthoud Study Area during the five year time period.

*Figure 7-7 Berthoud Serious Injury and Fatal Crashes (2011-2015)*

Right-of-Way

An estimate of US287 right-of-way is shown on *Figure 7-8*. Based on Larimer County parcel data, the right-of-way is colored in between the parceled land. The width of the right-of-way estimate along US287 ranges from 240-515 feet in Berthoud. Due to the irregular borders of the right-of-way, a general map is presented in the figure. In-depth maps are available upon request.

Also shown is the land owned by the Town of Berthoud, Larimer County, the State of Colorado, or the US. CDOT is in the process of creating a right-of-way database, which will available in the future. The expected timeline is three to five years.
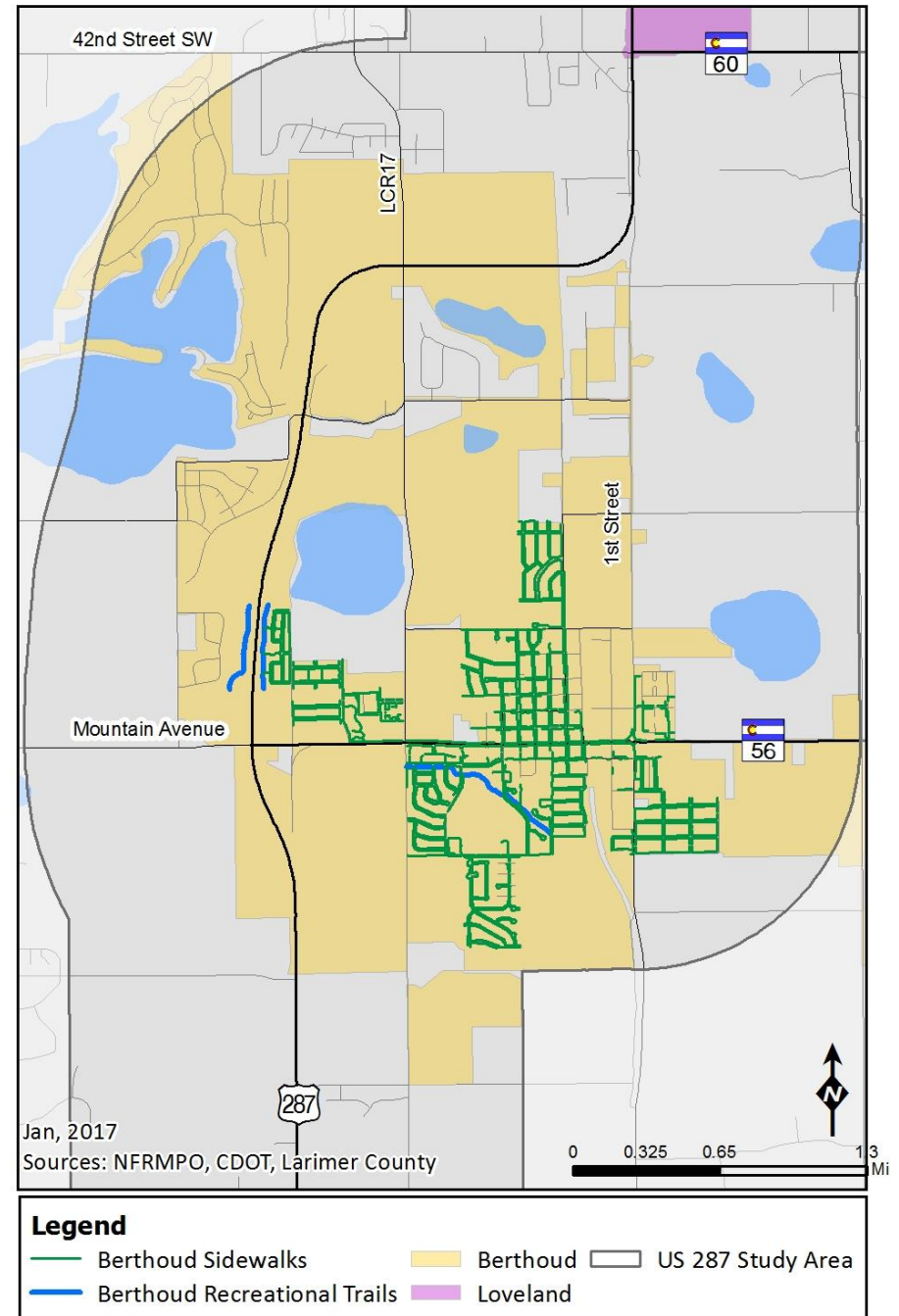
Figure 7-8 Berthoud US287 Right-of-Way and Publicly Owned Land
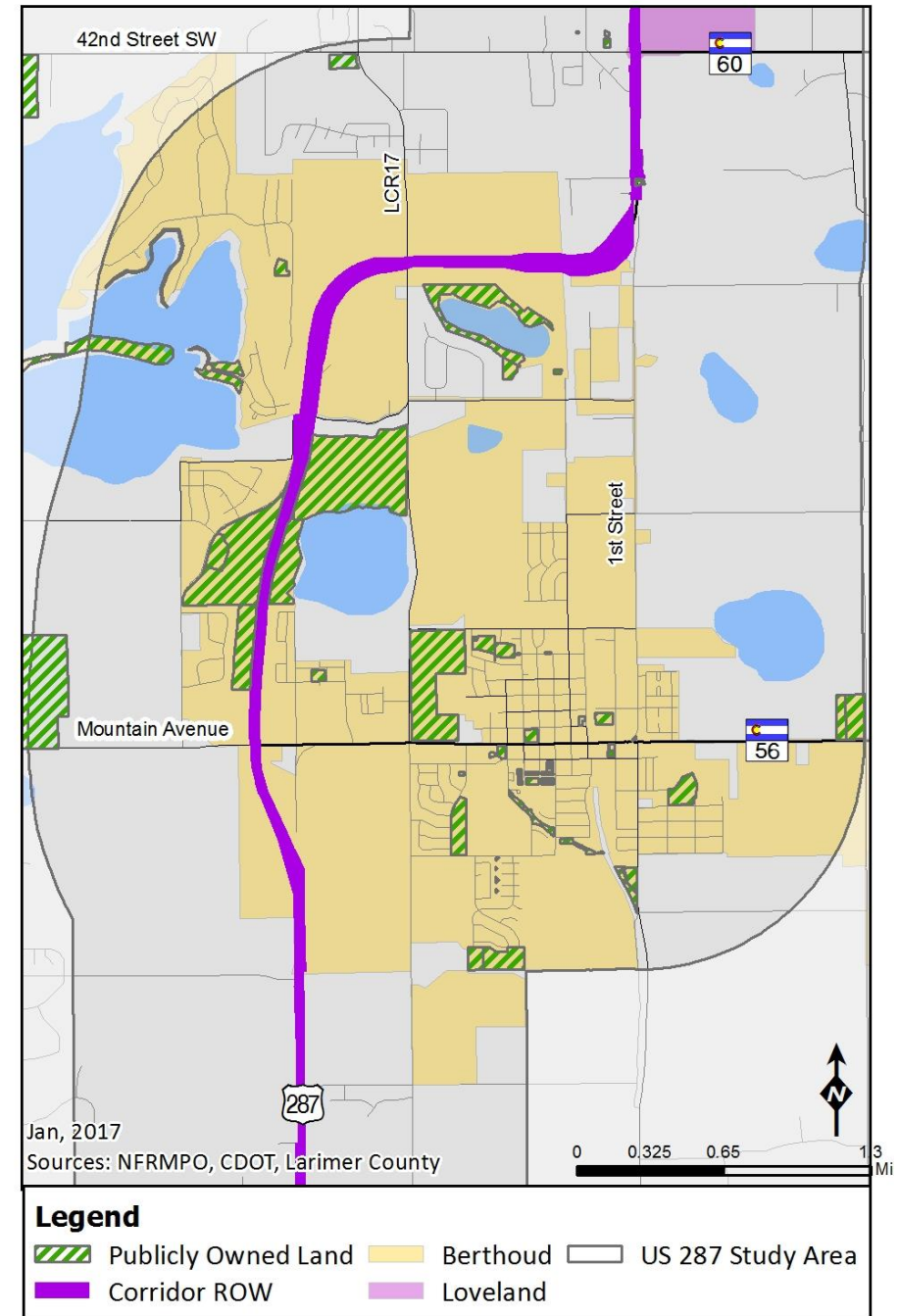
Bicycle and Pedestrian

As shown on *Figure 7-9*, sidewalks are readily available in the core of the Town, and less frequently available in newer developments. No sidewalks exist directly on the US287 corridor; however, some recreational trails exist. A recreational trail traverses Berthoud, generally southeast from Welch Avenue to South 5th Street at Nebraska Avenue.

Figure 7-9 Berthoud Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

Jan, 2017
Sources: NFRMPO, CDOT, Larimer County

Legend

— Berthoud Sidewalks   ▨ Berthoud   ☐ US 287 Study Area

— Berthoud Recreational Trails   ▨ Loveland

Transit

Transit routes are shown on *Figure 7-10*. The Town of Berthoud has one fixed-route service, which is the FLEX to Longmont route operated by Transfort. The one stop is located in downtown Berthoud on Mountain Avenue between the BNSF Railway and North 2nd Street. The FLEX to Boulder remains on US287 and bypasses the Town without stopping, primarily due to the lack of infrastructure, including sidewalks, parking, and bus stops, to safely connect the Town with the express route.

Berthoud operates the Berthoud Area Transportation System (BATS), which is a demand-response door-to-door service. The service is available to all residents. Rides should be scheduled before 4:00 PM the business day before the ride is needed. Riders age 60 and over are not required to pay, but donations are encouraged. For riders under 60, in-town trips are $1.00 per one-way trip and out-of-town trips are $4.00 per one-way trip. Out-of-town trips are offered on Monday mornings to Longmont, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays to Loveland.

An additional service named the Rural Alternative for Transportation (RAFT) operates within the Berthoud Fire Protection District, but outside of the BATS service pickup area.

For more information about the BATS system, visit the BATS website at http://bit.ly/2jNAL3i. For more information about the RAFT program, visit the RAFT website at http://bit.ly/2kQdeyg.
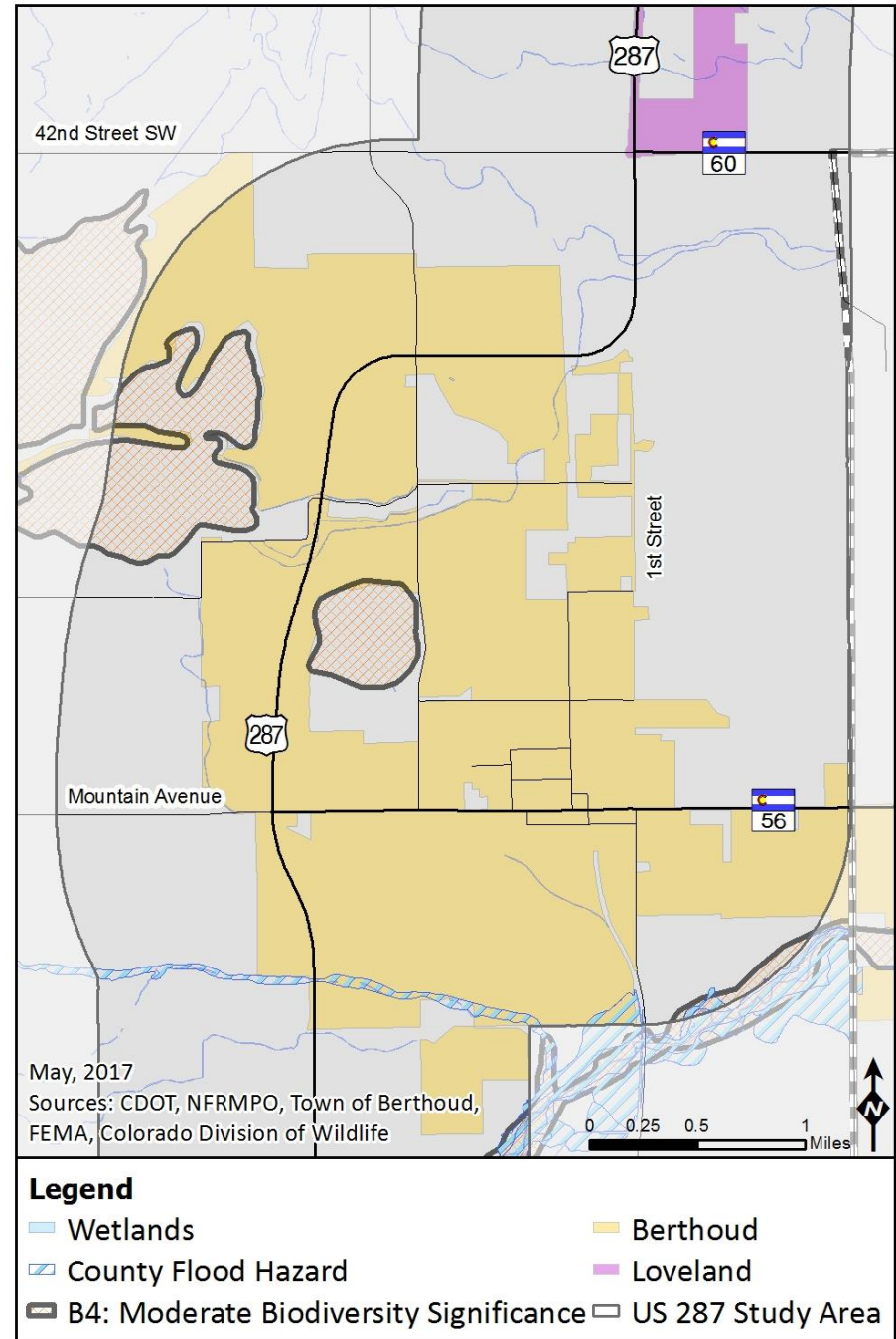

Figure 7-10 FLEX Route in Berthoud
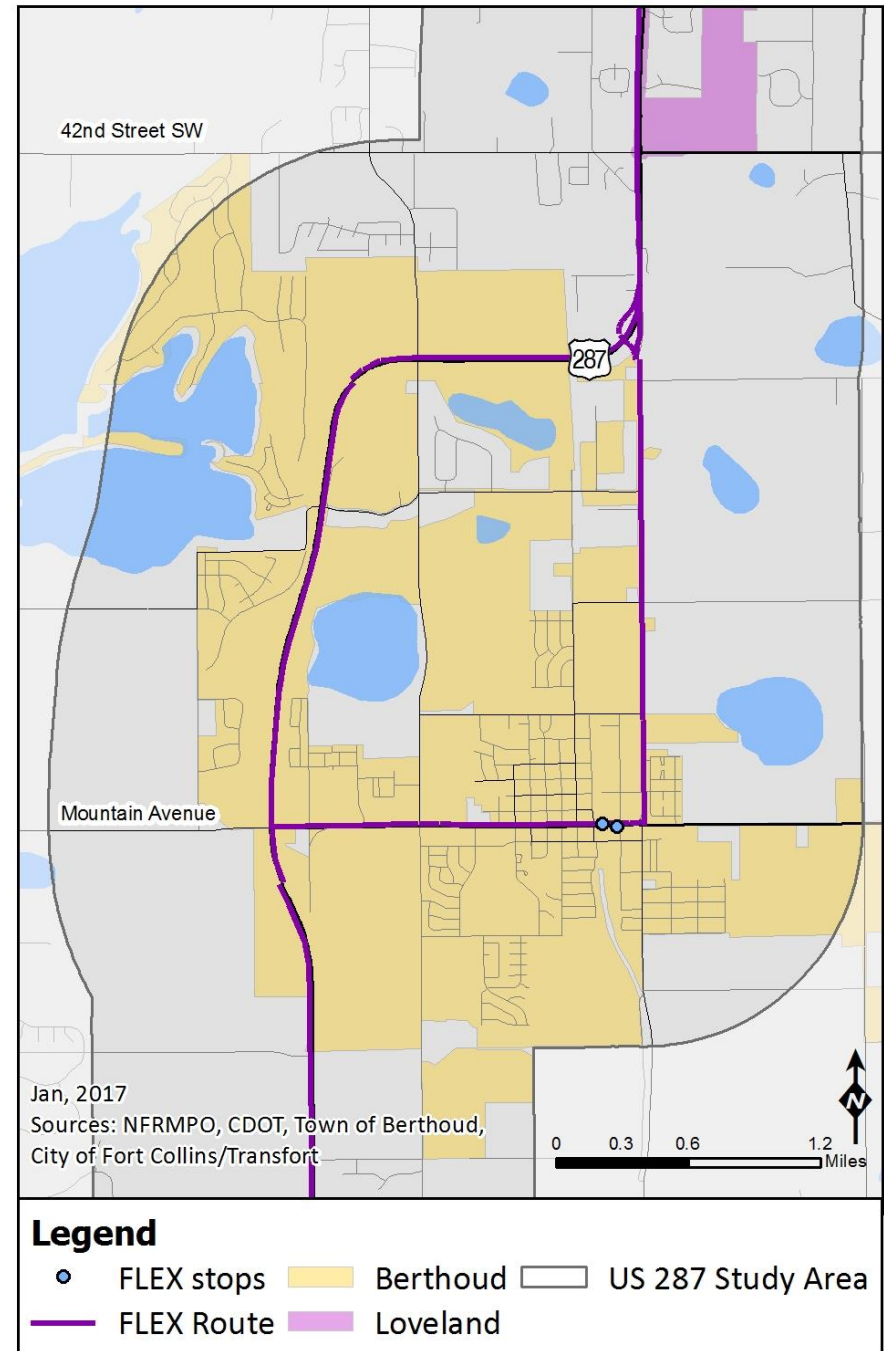
Environmental Features

Environmental features are shown on *Figure 7-11*. Due to the large amount of farmland located near the Town, a number of ditches are present in the area. Additionally, Dry Creek runs from the Dry Creek Reservoir west of Berthoud through southern Berthoud to the Little Thompson River. Dry Creek is considered a Larimer County Flood Hazard area, while the ditches are considered wetlands.

Lonetree Reservoir, Loveland Reservoir, and Welch Reservoir, located to the north and west of Town, are considered to have Moderate Biodiversity Significance. Moderate Biodiversity Significance means there are a variety of environmental features, allowing for a specific ecosystem to survive. In the southeast section of town, the Little Thompson River is both labeled a corridor with Moderate Biodiversity Significance and a Larimer County Flood Hazard.

*Figure 7-11 Berthoud Environmental Features*

May, 2017
Sources: CDOT, NFRMPO, Town of Berthoud, FEMA, Colorado Division of Wildlife

Legend

- Wetlands
- County Flood Hazard
- B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance
- Berthoud
- Loveland
- US 287 Study Area

Existing Land Use

The land uses displayed on *Figure 7-12* represent 2012 land uses as compiled for the NFRMPO 2040 Land Use Allocation Model. The Study Area in Berthoud includes Agricultural, Single Family Residential, Mixed-Use Commercial, Commercial, and Parks and Open Space land uses.

Figure 7-12 Berthoud Existing Land Use

Legend
- Agricultural
- Parks and Open Space
- Commercial
- Mixed Use - Commercial
- Multi Family Residential
- Single Family Residential
- US 287 Study Area
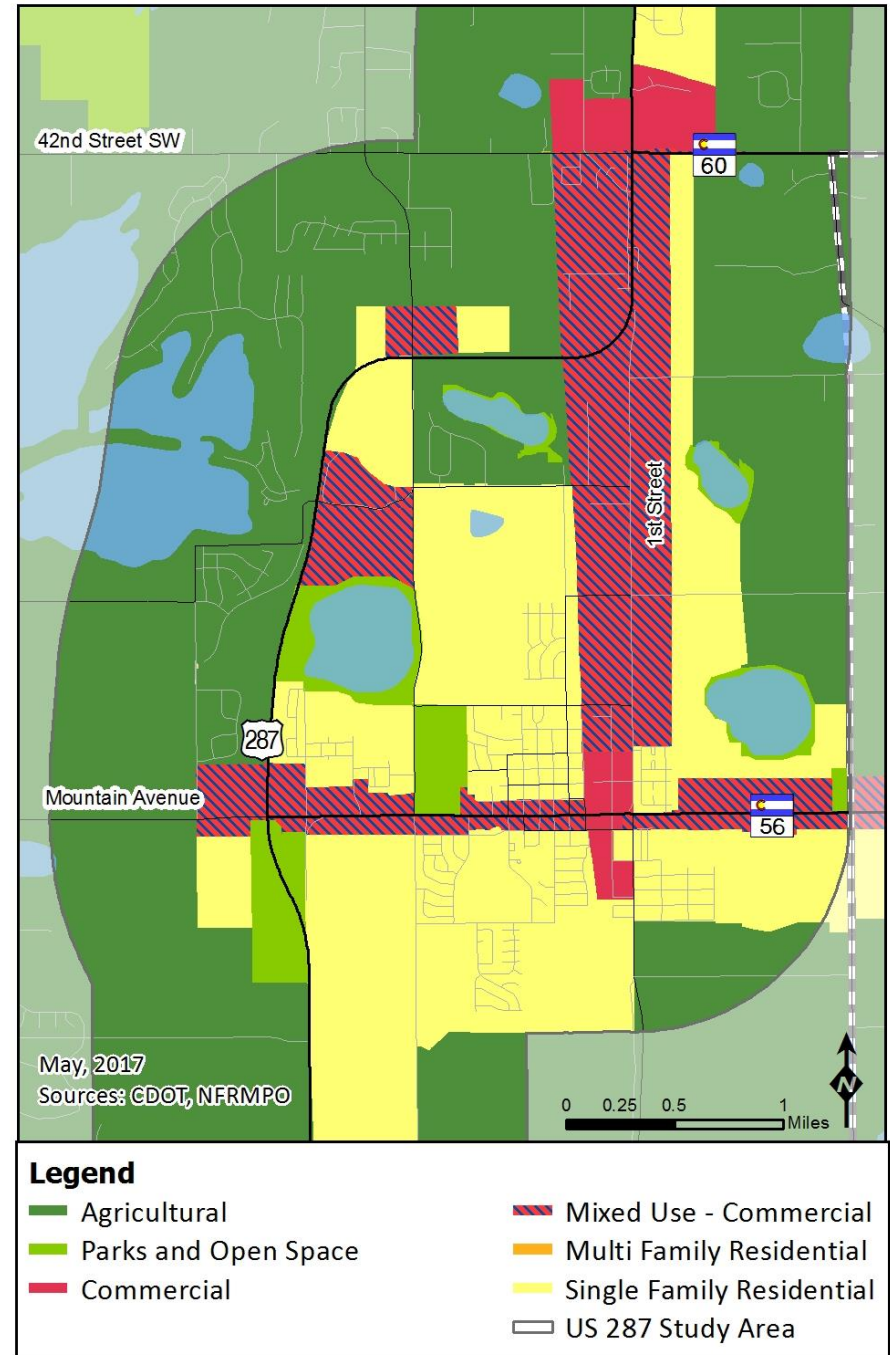
Future Land Use

The land uses displayed on *Figure 7-13* represent future land uses as compiled for the NFRMPO 2040 Land Use Allocation Model. Data was provided by Larimer County zoning (2013) and the 2007 Town of Berthoud Comprehensive Plan. The future land uses represent built out conditions identified by local communities, and does not adhere to a specific forecast year. Within the Study Area in Berthoud, future land uses primarily include Agricultural, Mixed Use – Commercial, Single Family Residential, Commercial, and Parks and Open Spaces.

Figure 7-13 Berthoud Future Land Use