

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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GREAT FALLS



*The Montana
Metropolis*

Transportation Network

- **Roadways** - Most major roadways in Great Falls are “Federal Aid” routes. Minor maintenance on some Federal Aid-Urban (FAU) routes are performed by the City, with the remainder of Federal Aid routes maintained by the State (39 miles). The City maintains all other streets and alleys, and the County others within the Urban Area.
- **Sidewalks** – Sidewalks adjoining new developments are constructed by the adjoining property. Sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the adjoining property owner or tenant. Gaps on major roadways may be constructed by City or State.
- **ADA Curb Ramps** – City and State are steadily upgrading corners to provide for ADA access, with priority going to major roadways and routes to school.
- **Bike Paths** – maintained by the City, FW&P with assistance from non-profit
- More than \$1,000,000 a year for the last 25 years has been expended on new or replaced sidewalks, trails and ADA ramps in and near the City of Great Falls.



Transportation Planning Process

Great Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) guides local cooperative transportation planning process

- MPO process required by Federal law for cities over 50,000, in order to receive Federal transportation dollars and spend them on “Federal-Aid” roads
- City and County Commissions appoint commissioners to represent them on the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC), which makes ultimate decision on Transportation Planning issues and plans
- PCC is made up of representatives from County Commission; Federal Highway Administration; City Commission; Montana Dept. of Transportation; Transit District; City and County Planning Boards
- PCC is advised by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of staff members from the City, County, State, City-County Health, Airport, Transit District and Malmstrom AFB.
- City Planning & Community Development Department provides staff for the MPO, performs day-to-day business

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Bob Kelly, City Commission Designee

Carl Donovan, Great Falls Transit District Chairman

Dave Bertelsen, City Planning Advisory Board Chairman

Jim Wingerter, MDT Great Falls District Administrator

Elliott Merja, Cascade County Planning Board President

Joe Briggs, County Commission Designee

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Kevin Angland	Planner, Cascade County Planning Department
Russell Brewer	Civil Engineer, City of GF Engineering Division
Ryck Cayer	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
John Faulkner	Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority
Andrew Finch	Senior Transportation Planner, City of GF
Nadine Hanning	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Sandy Johnson	Superfund Coordinator, City-County Health Department
Eric Boyd	Street Supervisor, City of GF Street Division
Jay Manuel	Operations Engineer, Great Falls District - MDT
Tom Micuda	Deputy Director, City of GF Planning & Community Development
Jesse Patton	City Engineer, City of GF Engineering Division
Les Payne	Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Geoff Streeter	Planner, Statewide & Urban Planning - MDT
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division
Chris Gaub	Director, City of GF Public Works Department
Chris Ward	District Projects Engineer, Great Falls District - MDT
Charity Yonker	Director, Cascade County Planning Department



Transportation Plan

- A local **Long Range Transportation Plan** identifies needs over the next 20 years, and recommends projects for implementation. Includes “Urban Area” around the city, and concentrates on Major Street Network.
- Every 5 years, an update to the area’s Long Range Transportation Plan is performed. An update is just kicking off – NC’s will be notified of meetings.
- Plan is followed by a 5-year capital improvements program, called a **Transportation Improvements Program (TIP)**. This document balances all the various projects, project phases and funding sources, and is the means to move a project forward.



Long Range Transportation Planning



GREAT FALLS AREA

Long Range Transportation Plan - 2018 Update



Adopted by:

GREAT FALLS METROPOLITAN PLAN
Great Falls **MPO** Great Falls, Montana
(Pending)

Prepared by:



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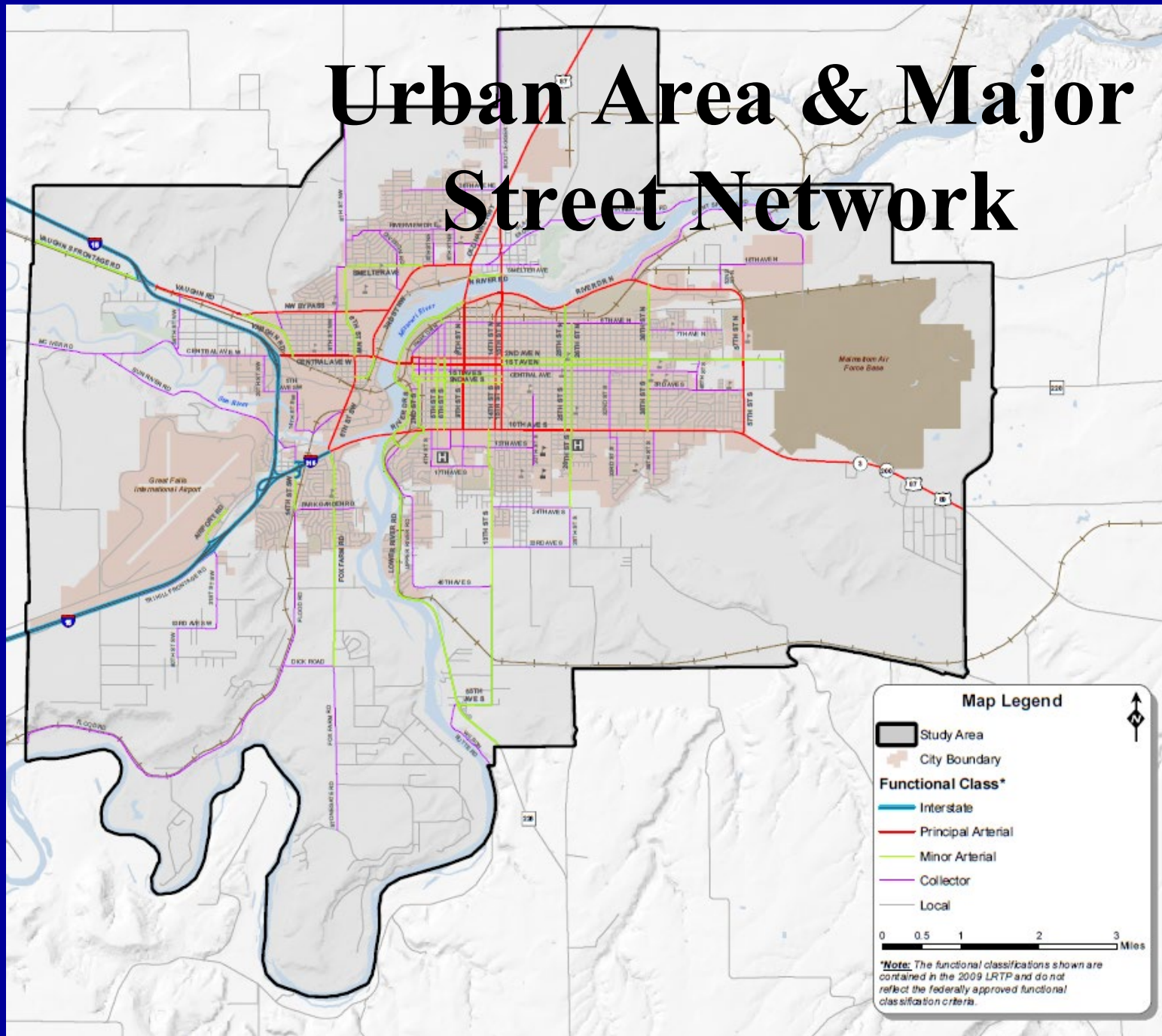
APRIL 2022

NORTH
GREAT FALLS
SUB-AREA
TRANSPORTATION
STUDY

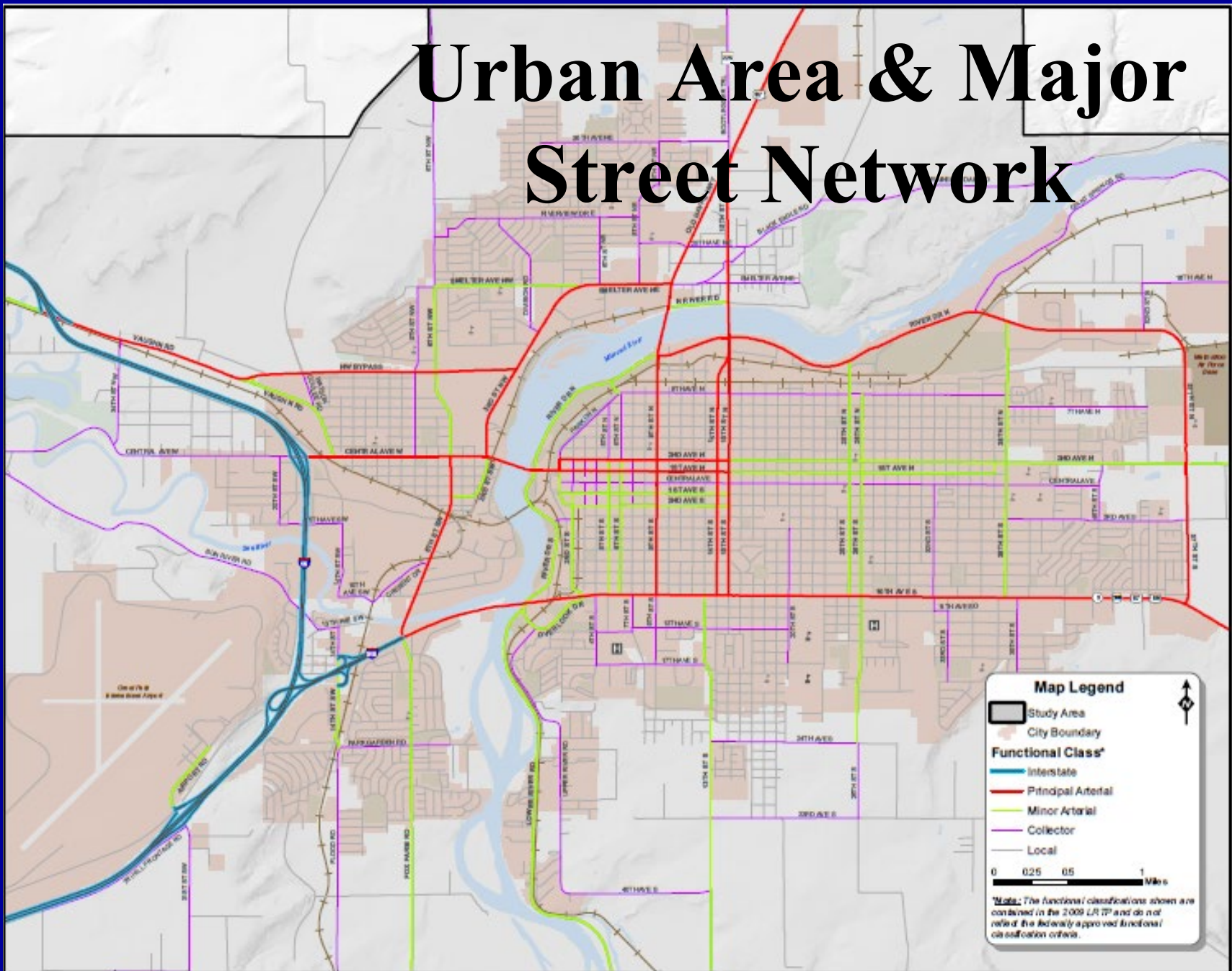


**GREAT
COMMUNITY
PLANNING**

Urban Area & Major Street Network



Urban Area & Major Street Network



Map Legend

- Study Area
- City Boundary
- Functional Class***
- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Collector
- Local

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

*Note: The functional classifications shown are contained in the 2009 LRTP and do not reflect the federally approved functional classification criteria.

Intersection Level of Service

Table 4.3: Existing Signalized Intersection LOS

ID	Intersection	AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour	
		Delay (Sec)	LOS	Delay (Sec)	LOS
1	3 rd Street NW / 14 th Avenue NW	12.3	B	14.2	B
2	9 th Street N / 8 th Avenue N	18.5	B	19.7	B
3	9 th Street N / 2 nd Avenue N	15.0	B	15.4	B
4	9 th Street N / 1 st Avenue N	11.3	B	15.1	B
5	9 th Street / Central Avenue	18.2	B	21.6	C
6	9 th Street S / 1 st Avenue S	9.1	A	11.8	B
7	9 th Street S / 2 nd Avenue S	6.8	A	10.6	B
8	10 th Avenue S / Fox Farm Road	44.5	D	41.8	D
9	10 th Avenue S / 26 th Street S	14.1	B	32.3	C
10	10 th Avenue S / 32 nd Street S	18.3	B	25.9	C
11	14 th Street SW / 16 th Avenue SW	12.6	B	15.0	B
12	14 th Street SW / Marketplace Drive	14.4	B	20.8	C
13	14 th Street SW / Ramp B	12.7	B	15.9	B
14	38 th Street N / River Drive N	11.6	B	11.1	B
15	57 th Street N / 10 th Avenue N	21.7	C	25.5	C
16	Central Avenue W / 3 rd Street NW	31.5	C	37.8	D
17	Park Drive N / 1 st Avenue N	14.9	B	20.2	C
18	River Drive N / 1 st Avenue N	30.2	C	109.1	F
19	Smelter Avenue / 6 th Street NE	12.9	B	10.4	B
20	Smelter Avenue / 10 th Street NE	58.2	E	70.3	E
Intersections Counted by MDT					
M.1	10 th Avenue S / 2 nd Street S	20.4	C	36.9	C
M.2	10 th Avenue S / 5 th Street S	14.0	B	28.0	C
M.3	10 th Avenue S / 7 th Street S	10.5	B	15.0	B
M.4	10 th Avenue S / 9 th Street S	15.3	B	25.4	C
M.5	10 th Avenue S / 11 th Street S	7.6	A	5.0	A
M.6	10 th Avenue S / 13 th Street S	11.4	B	16.5	B
M.7	10 th Avenue S / 14 th Street S	17.9	B	21.2	C
M.8	10 th Avenue S / 15 th Street S	7.1	A	12.6	B
M.9	10 th Avenue S / 20 th Street S	9.4	A	15.2	B

ID	Intersection	AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour	
		Delay (Sec)	LOS	Delay (Sec)	LOS
M.10	10 th Avenue S / 23 rd Street S	12.7	B	23.1	C
M.11	10 th Avenue S / 25 th Street S	19.4	B	24.1	C
M.12	10 th Avenue S / 38 th Street S	16.7	B	19.2	B
M.13	10 th Avenue S / 39 th Street S	6.5	A	8.3	A
M.14	10 th Avenue S / 43 rd Street S	8.8	A	9.0	A
M.15	10 th Avenue S / 49 th Street S	4.5	A	5.6	A
M.16	River Drive N / 9 th Street N	25.3	C	29.6	C
M.17	River Drive N / 15 th Street N	49.1	D	46.9	D
M.18	Central Avenue NW / 6 th Street NW	22.4	C	25.4	C
M.19	NW Bypass / 3 rd Street NW	17.2	B	29.4	C

Crash Rate & Severity

Table 6.1: Intersection Crashes

ID	Intersection	Total Crashes	Fatal	Incap. Injury	Injury	Crash Rate	Severity Index	Severity Rate
1	3 rd Street NW / 14 th Avenue NW	19	0	0	6	0.65	1.63	1.06
2	9 th Street N / 8 th Avenue N	13	0	0	4	0.75	1.62	1.21
3	9 th Street N / 2 nd Avenue N	32	0	2	13	1.64	2.25	3.70
4	9 th Street N / 1 st Avenue N	25	0	0	6	1.01	1.48	1.50
5	9 th Street / Central Avenue	16	0	0	7	0.83	1.88	1.56
6	9 th Street S / 1 st Avenue S	23	0	0	10	1.30	1.87	2.43
7	9 th Street S / 2 nd Avenue S	12	0	0	4	0.63	1.67	1.05
8	10 th Avenue S / Fox Farm Road	149	0	0	41	2.88	1.55	4.47
9	10 th Avenue S / 26 th Street S	78	0	0	22	1.53	1.56	2.39
10	10 th Avenue S / 32 nd Street S	66	0	2	21	1.80	1.85	3.33
11	14 th Street SW / 16 th Avenue SW	6	0	0	1	0.37	1.33	0.50
12	14 th Street SW / Marketplace Drive	23	0	0	6	1.58	1.52	2.41
13	14 th Street SW / Ramp B	21	0	0	6	0.89	1.57	1.40
14	38 th Street N / River Drive N	3	0	0	1	0.20	1.67	0.33





Other items in Plan

- Transit (bus) needs
- Volumes and congestion
- Projected conditions, based upon traffic model
- Bicycle plan, pedestrian needs (“Active” transportation)
- Safety
- Freight (movement of goods)
- Context appropriate design – environmental, access management, etc.
- Security
- Financial Plan
- **Short-Range and Long-Range list of recommended projects**



Major Projects – recent and planned

- Fox Farm Rd. Pavement Preservation (completed).
- Sidewalk/Trail/Bike Facility projects –
 - River Drive South Trail Segment (Broadwater Bay to Water Park)
 - NW Great Falls Sidewalk Infill project
- Stuckey Road paving (completed).
- Watson Coulee Rd. reconstruction (w/roundabout at Vaughn Rd)
- Airport Interchange Improvements
- 9th St. NW – reconstruct, upgrade to urban standards
- 4th Ave S/Gibson Park Entrance pedestrian improvements (completed)



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**An Update to the Long Range Transportation Plan
is just beginning – look for input opportunities
through a project website and future public meetings.**

Questions?