



Naches-US 12 Active Transportation Connection Study

In partnership with:

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments and the Town of Naches



December 2024

South Central Region Planning

Why was this study developed?

US 12 runs through the Town of Naches and serves as a key east-west highway across the Cascades. As Naches grows, there is a strong need for a safe and connected active transportation network to accommodate all users, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, agricultural traffic and recreational traffic.

The Town of Naches partnered with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to develop this study to:

- Identify solutions that improve active transportation facilities and access along US 12 within the Town of Naches
- Enhance pedestrian and bicyclist mobility and access along US 12, while maintaining the safe and efficient operation of the transportation network
- Supply data and insights for grant applications and to support WSDOT's Complete Streets documentation

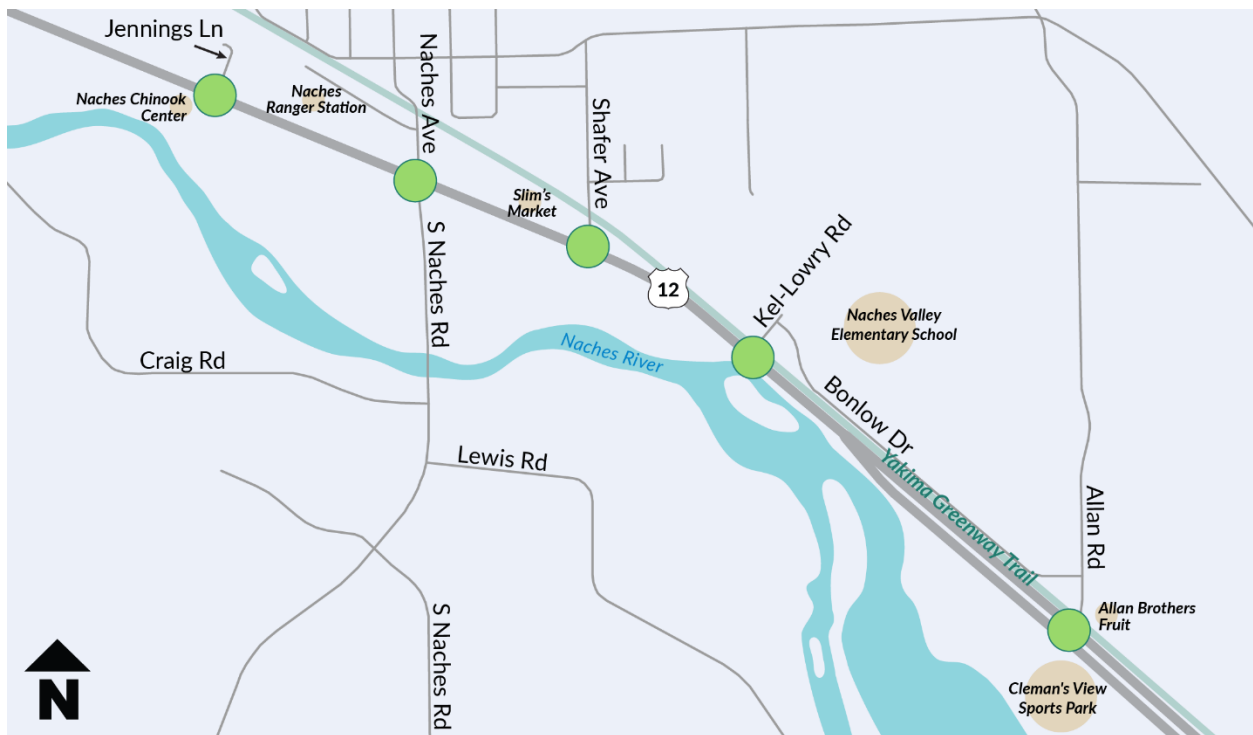


Figure 1: Intersections within the study area. (Left to right: Jennings Ln, S. Naches Ave, Shafer Ave, Kel-Lowry Rd, Allan Rd.) (Source: WSDOT)

How was the study conducted?

In Fall 2022, the WSDOT Study Team developed a Community Engagement Plan and convened the external advisory group Multimodal, Multidisciplinary, and Multi-agency (M3 Team) to define the study's purpose and need. The goals and objectives to meet the purpose and need were based on feedback from community engagement events and other data analysis. Proposed solutions were developed by the WSDOT Study Team, incorporating input from the community and the M3 Team. Each solution was evaluated and ranked based on its performance in addressing safety, mobility, Complete Streets, maintenance costs, and access management (see Chapter 3: Evaluation Process (Methodology) for more details).

What types of solutions were considered?

The study considered a total of thirty-four solutions ranging from constructing integrated active transportation facilities to adding features that contribute to the community's character.

The M3 Team agreed at Workshop #3 that:

- 7 solutions would be removed from consideration because the data indicated that they would not address a performance issue.
- 11 solutions be considered but not analyzed for performance because they would require more study by WSDOT and the Town of Naches. Implementation decisions for these solutions will be based on available funding.
- 20 solutions would be considered and analyzed because the data indicated that they would address a performance issue and the data could be quantified.

Recommendations

The Project Team scored 20 possible solutions using the criteria described in Chapter 3.

The M3 Team selected priority locations for future improvements as follows:

- **Priority Location 1: S. Naches Rd/Naches Ave to Kel-Lowry Rd**

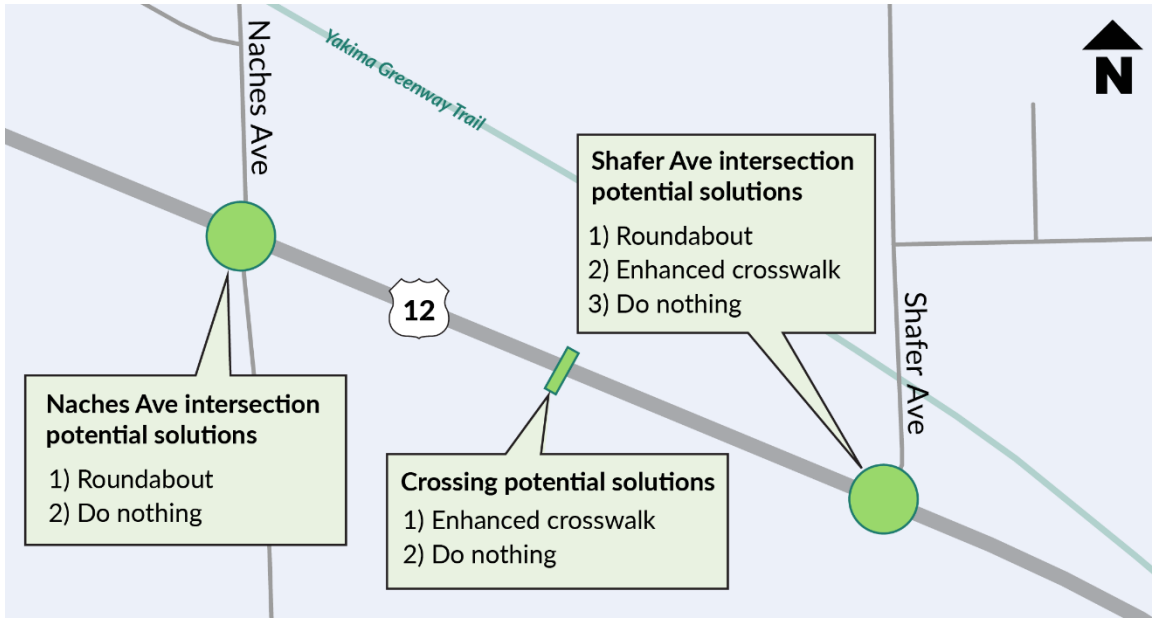


Figure 2: Potential solutions for intersections in study area- Naches Ave/ S Naches Rd to Shafer Ave (Source: WSDOT)

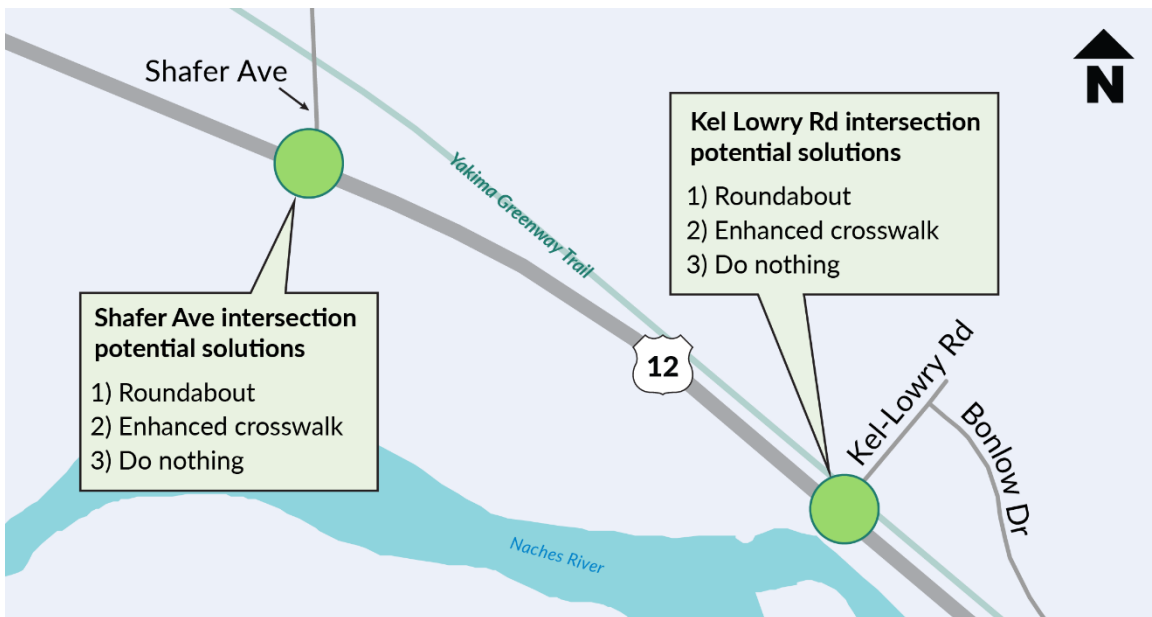


Figure 3: Potential solutions for intersections in study area-Shafer Ave to Kel-Lowry Rd (Source: WSDOT)

- **Priority Location 2: Kel-Lowry Rd to Allan Rd**



Figure 4: Potential solutions for intersections in study area-Kel-Lowry Rd to Allan Rd (Source: WSDOT)

- **Priority Location 3: Jennings Ln to S. Naches Rd/Naches Ave**

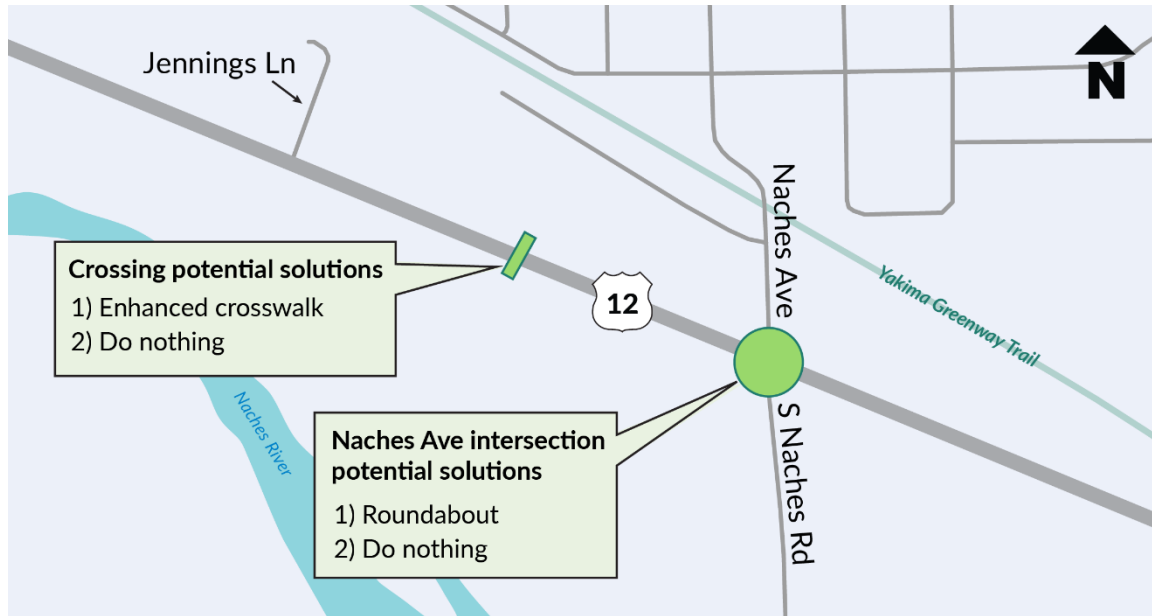


Figure 5: Potential solutions for intersections in study area-Jennings Ln to Naches Ave/ S Naches Rd (Source: WSDOT)

The Town of Naches agrees with the priority locations and prefers the following intersection improvements:

- Roundabout at S. Naches Rd/Naches Ave
- Roundabout at Shafer Ave
- Roundabout at Allan Rd

All solutions incorporated into a WSDOT project must be designed to support both bicycles and pedestrians, and must adhere to the specifications outlined in the Design Manual. The Town of Naches and the WSDOT Project Offices are encouraged to consult with the SCR Developer Services Office regarding access management before designs are finalized.

What are the Next Steps?

WSDOT

- Post final study to the website and in the WSDOT Library
- Consider recommended solutions in future programmed projects
- Conduct community engagement in future projects, focusing on local business outreach
- Pursue grant opportunities in cooperation with Town of Naches and YVCOG

Town of Naches

- Include WSDOT when developing parking strategies, stormwater options, access management, and community identity features in the study area
- Pursue grant opportunities in cooperation with WSDOT and YVCOG

YVCOG

- Post final study to website
- Consider adding proposed solutions to Regional Transportation Plan updates