



# **CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS SOUTH DOWNTOWN RAILROAD UNDERPASS RECONSTRUCTION**

*May 20, 2020*

# Purpose

The City of Colorado Springs has initiated a study to determine the best approach for **optimal location and design** of two railroad bridges at the south end of downtown Colorado Springs. The aging bridges over South Nevada Avenue (70 years old) and S. Tejon Street (115 years old) are in **poor condition and require replacement**.



# Goals

- Gain understanding of the **long-term needs** and **opportunities** for this **public infrastructure**
- Effectively address **railroad operational, maintenance and safety needs**
- Maintain and improve **traffic operations** on Nevada Avenue, Tejon Street, and intersecting streets
- Complete a **Quiet Zone study** and implement the findings
- Address **pedestrian and bicycle connectivity** and **safety** across the railroad tracks
- Design bridges and associated improvements that are compatible with and improve access to surrounding **neighborhoods and land uses**, and are supportive of **development opportunities**
- Design bridges and underpasses to be **welcoming and attractive**
- Address **cost effectiveness** to construct and maintain the bridges
- Develop an **improvement program and funding strategy** to provide financing through a combination of City, regional, federal, state and railroad sources
- Develop beneficial **internal and external City partnerships**
- **Inform the public and engage stakeholders** potentially impacted by the project



# Alternatives Development & Screening Process



# Alternative H (Within Existing RR ROW)

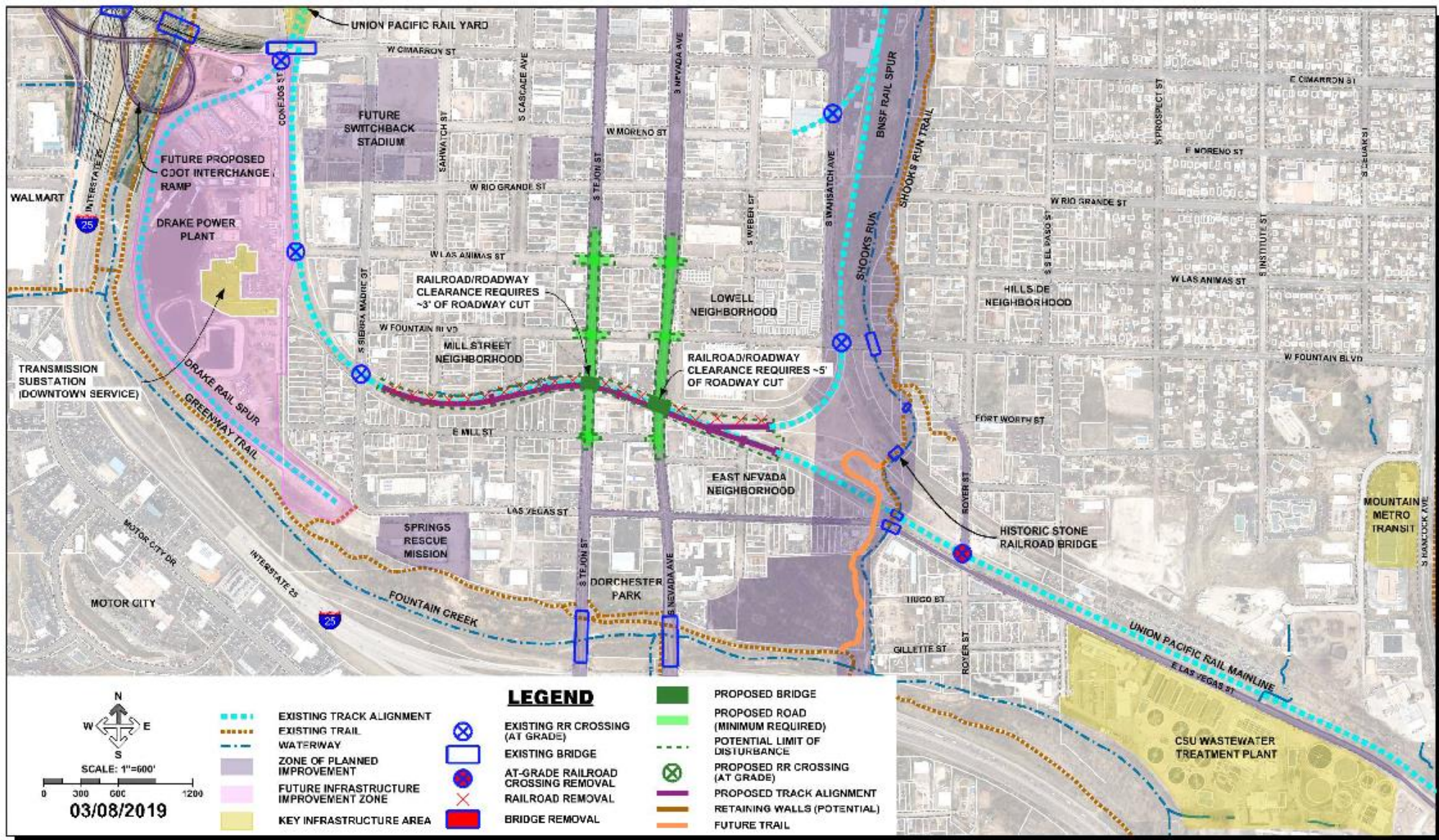


## South Downtown Rail Underpass Reconstruction

Alternative H - South Shift Alignment A (Inside Existing Railroad Right-of-Way)

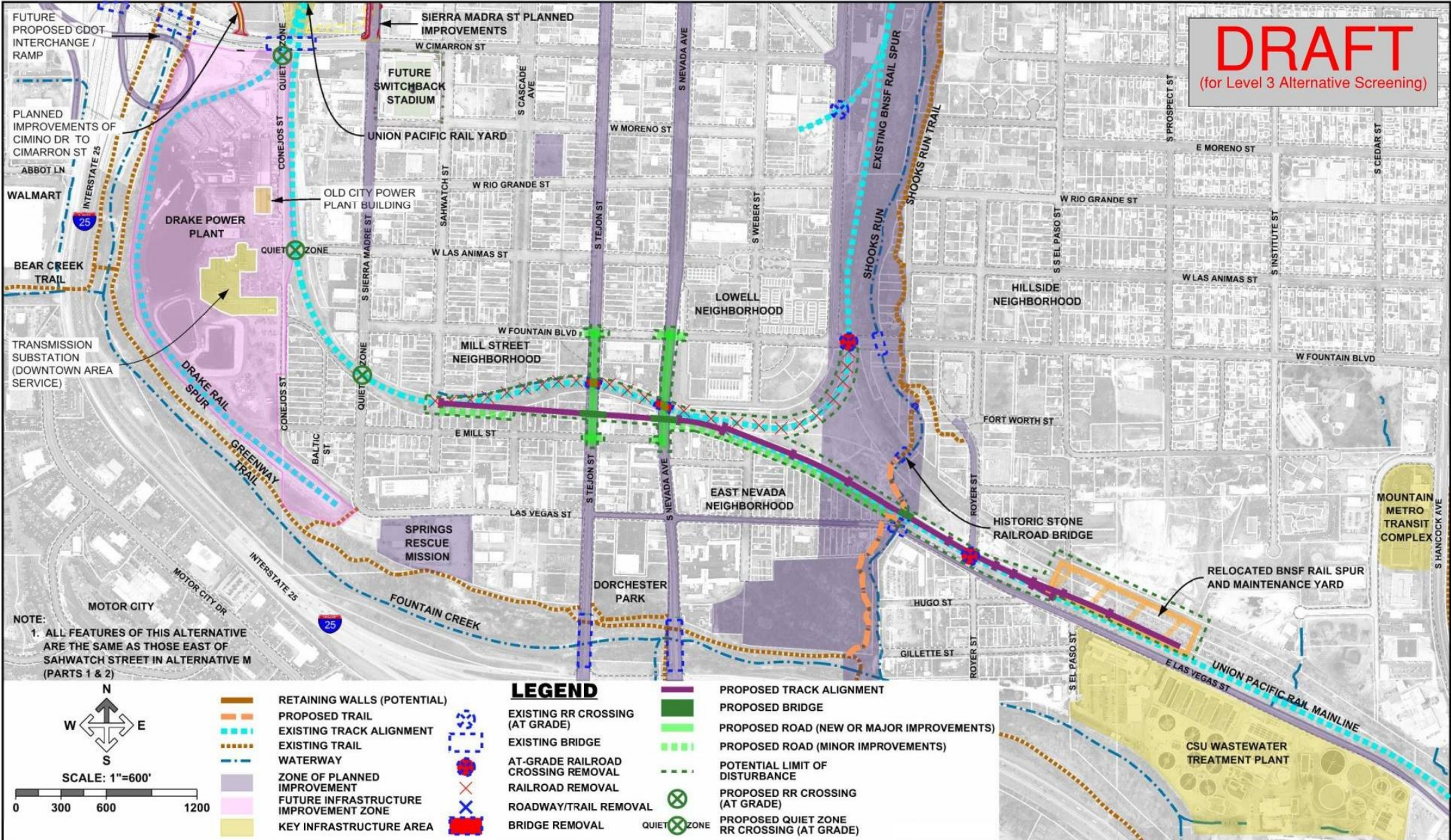


FIGURE H



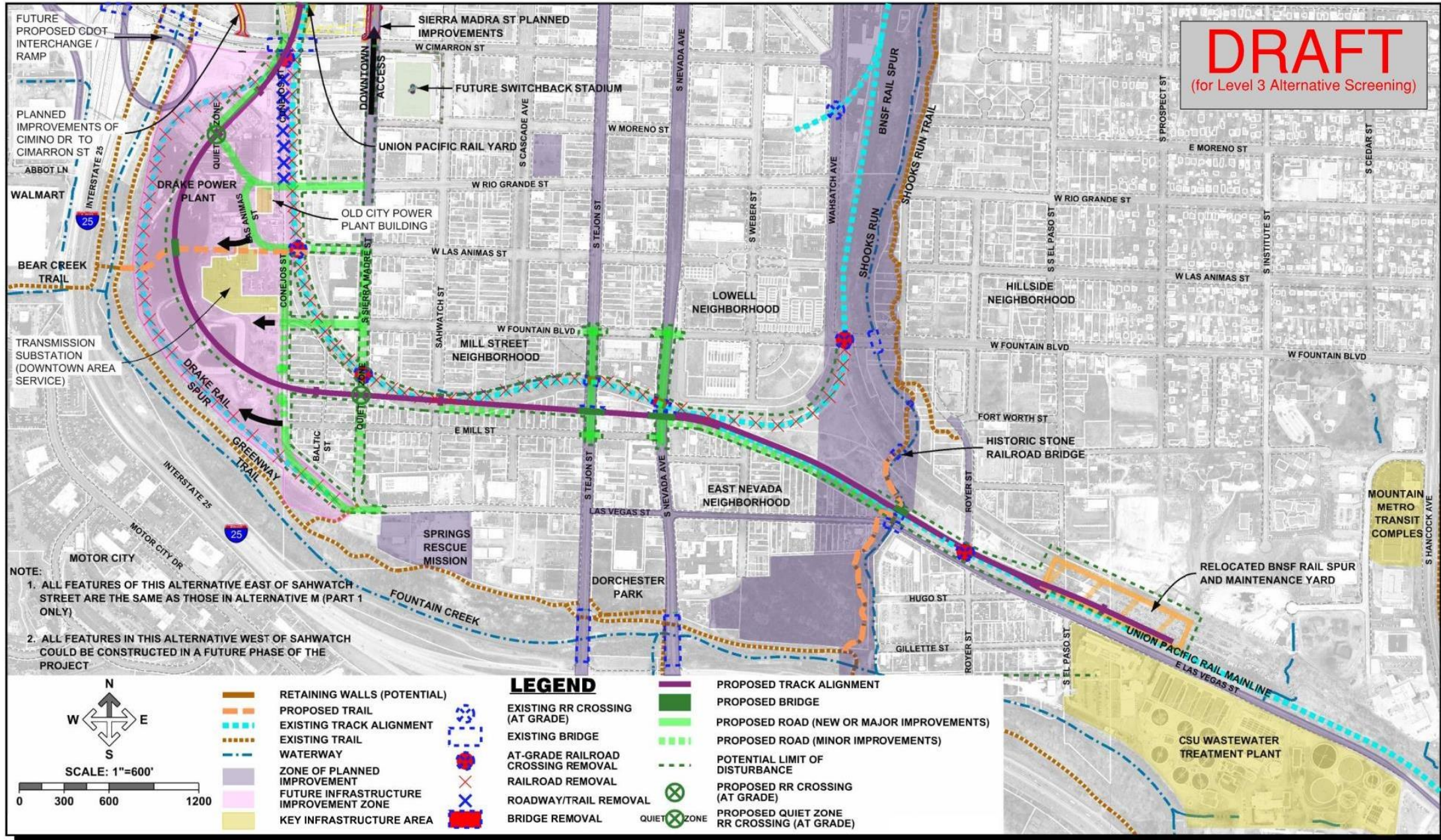


# Alternative M1 (Part 1 Only)



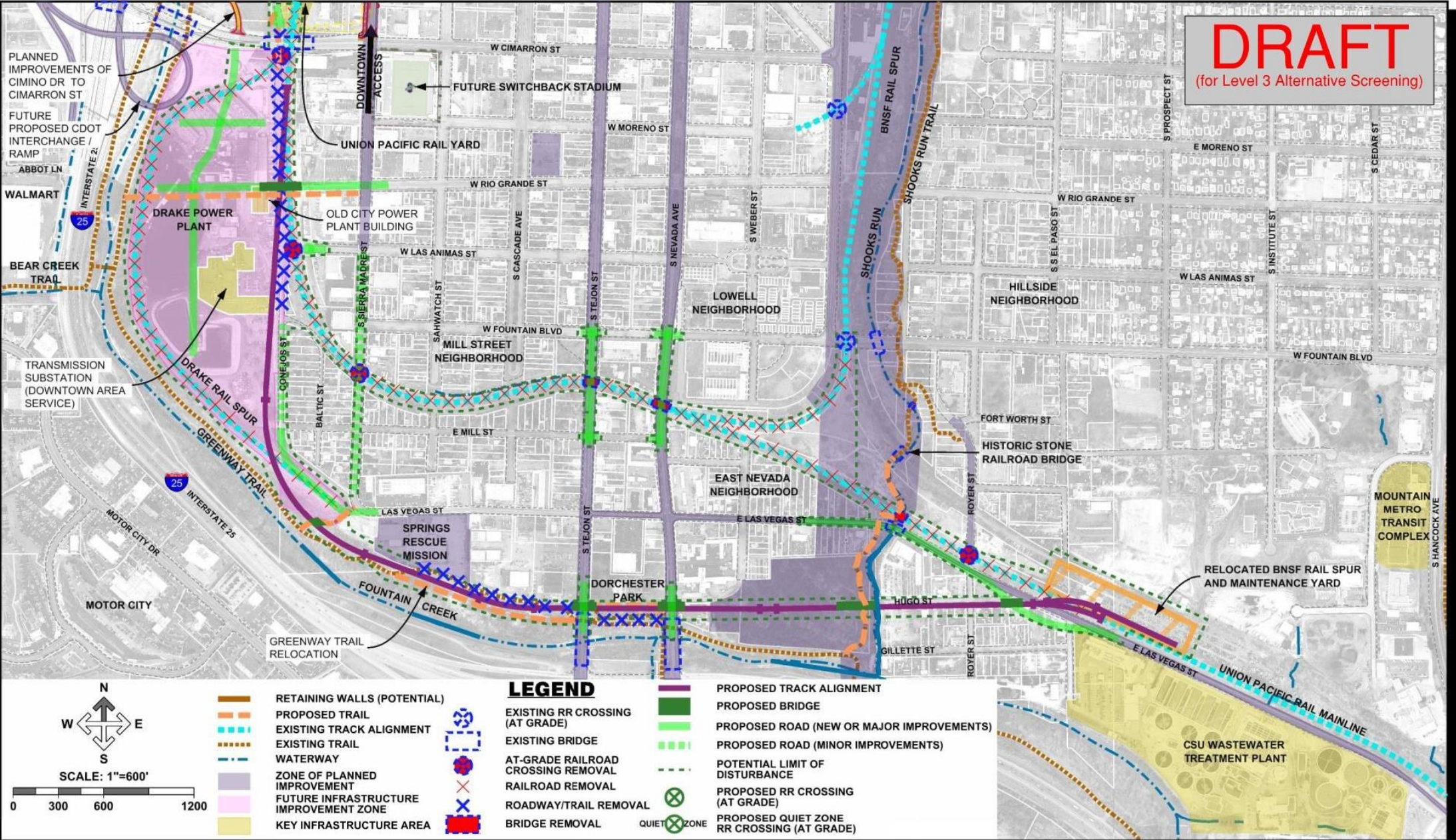


## Alternative M (Parts 1 & 2)



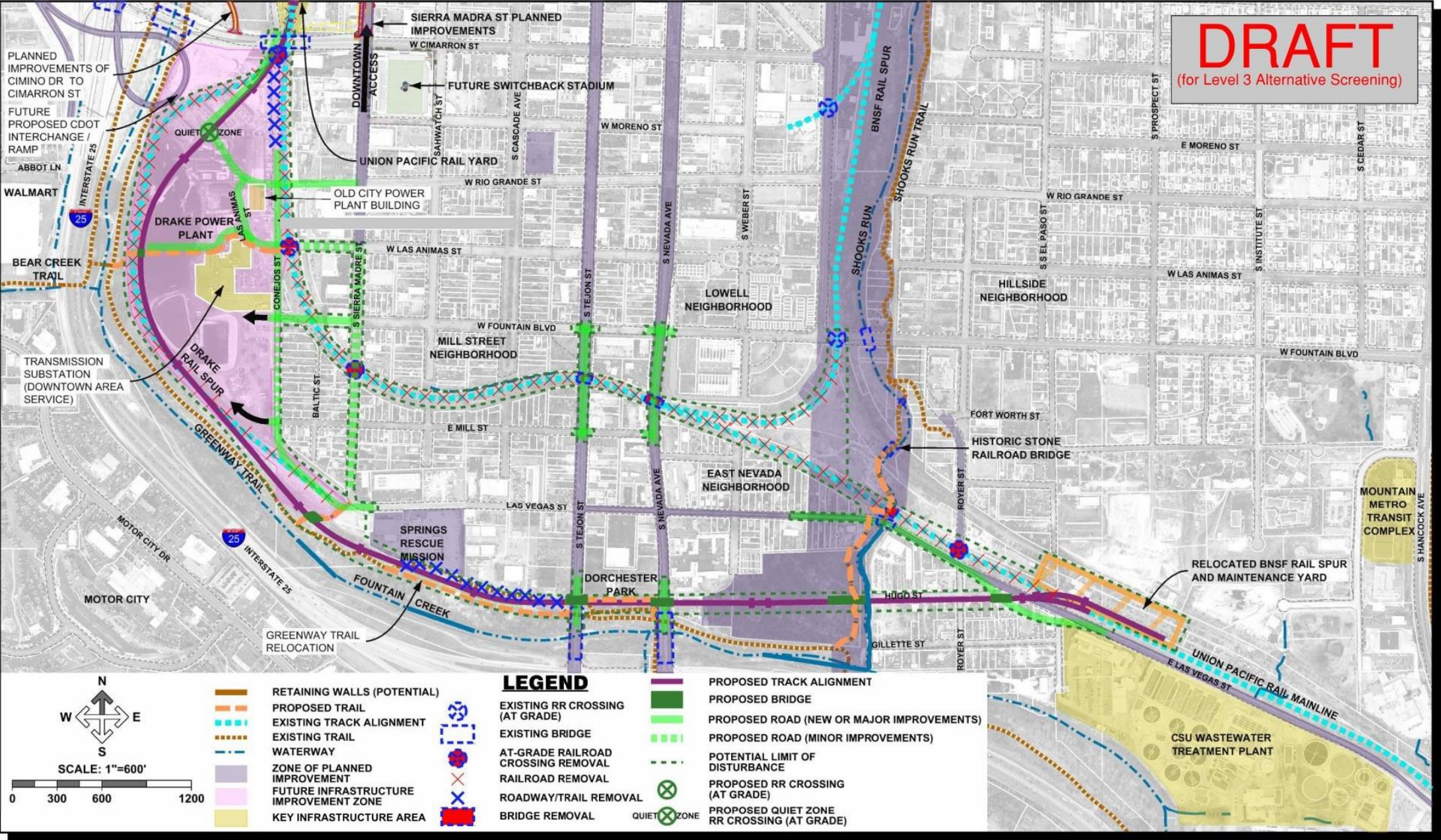


# Alternative N





# Alternative O



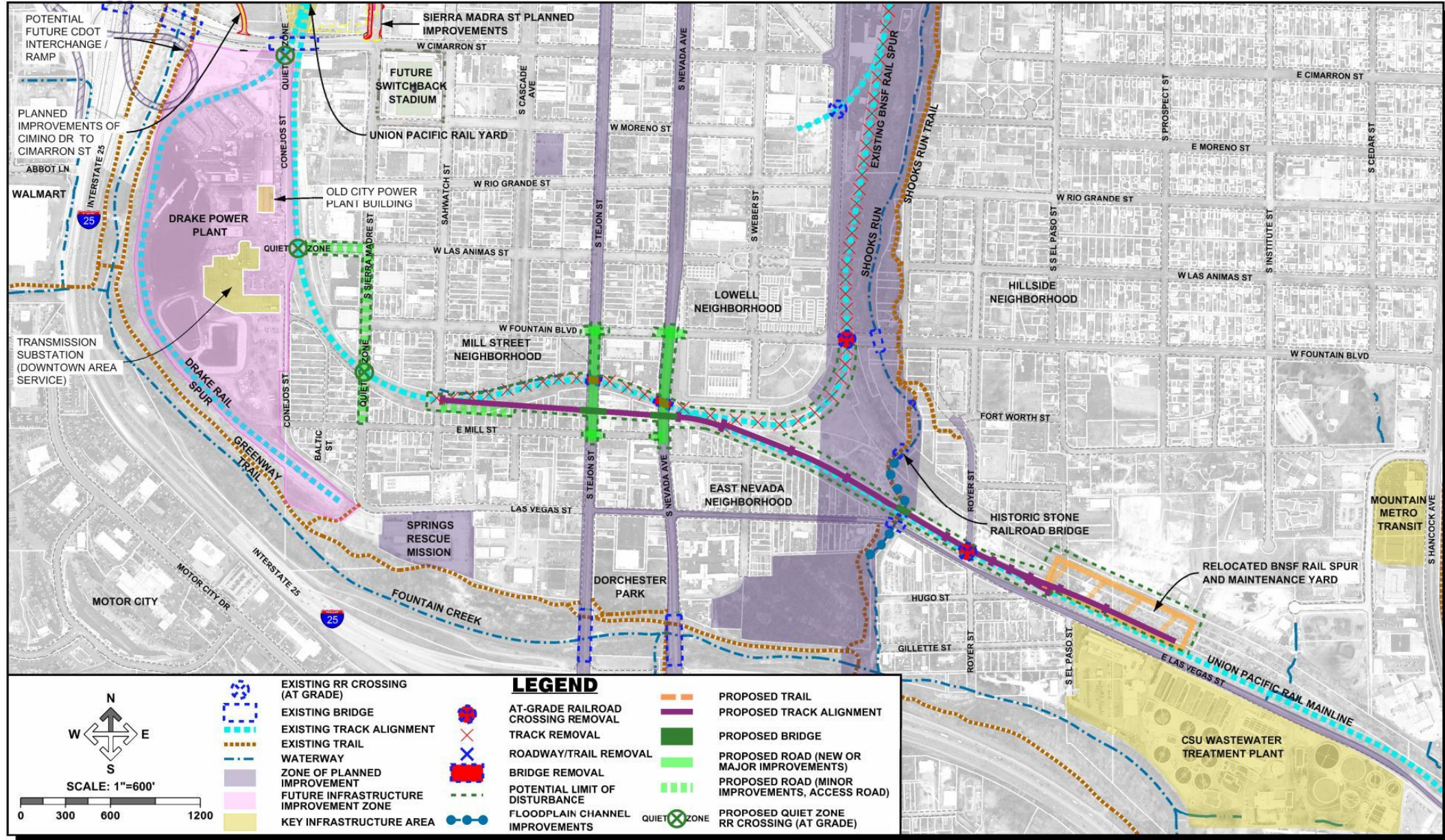


## **Cost Estimates**

<b>Alternative H</b>	<b>\$53.7 Million</b>
<b>Alternative M1</b>	<b>\$42.0 Million</b>
<b>Alternative M2</b>	<b>\$47.0 Million</b>
<b>Alternative N</b>	<b>\$111.0 Million</b>
<b>Alternative O</b>	<b>\$122.0 Million</b>



# Preferred Alternative





## South Downtown Rail Underpass Reconstruction

### Progress Report - April 2020

#### PROJECT PLANNING

- Completed Final Planning Reports (copy of Planning Alternatives Evaluation Report attached)

#### PROJECT COST & FUNDING

- Cost: \$40M to \$48M
- Potential Funding Sources:
  - BNSF Railway
  - Union Pacific Railroad
  - Local (Requires ballot initiative voter approval)
  - Others? (i.e. Federal Railroad Administration Grant)

#### PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Preliminary Design: 2020
- Local Funding Ballot Initiative: November 2022
- Final Design: May be postponed until November 2022 vote
- Construction: No earlier than 2025

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED IN PROJECT?

- Track Realignment
- Nevada Avenue and Tejon Street Bridge Replacements
- Bike & Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Nevada Avenue & Tejon Street
- Quiet Zone At-Grade Crossings - Conejos-Las Animas-Sierra Madre
- Shooks Run Bridge Replacements
- Legacy Loop Trail Connection at Shooks Run
- Shooks Run BNSF Yard Relocation
- Other safety/mobility improvements (sidewalks/fencing)

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

- Preliminary Design – Roadway/Bridge/Track/Trail Layouts and Plans
- Ongoing City/Railroad Coordination via Skype Conferences

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

- Engagement activities to resume in line with State COVID-19 social distancing guidelines
- Initial Engagement focus will be one-on-one property owner meetings



