BACKGROUND

LOCATION

Argonne Road is a principal arterial serving the Town of Millwood (Town) and surrounding communities including Spokane County to the north and the City of Spokane Valley to the South (**See Figure B-1**). The limits of this study are the length of the Argonne Road corridor within the Town of Millwood, from the Trent Avenue intersection to the South Riverway intersection.

PURPOSE & NEED

As only one of three vehicle crossings over the Spokane River east of the City of Spokane and a direct connection to the I-90 corridor, Argonne Road has an important role in moving regional traffic. Significant residential growth to the north of Millwood and improvements to Argonne Road to the north and south of the Town Limits have resulted in high levels of traffic congestion and concerns about the safety, livability and quality of the corridor and its relationship to the adjacent businesses and surrounding neighborhoods.

In response to a questionnaire distributed to Town residents by newly-elected Mayor Daniel Mork in 2006, the residents identified Argonne as the number one issue that should be addressed.

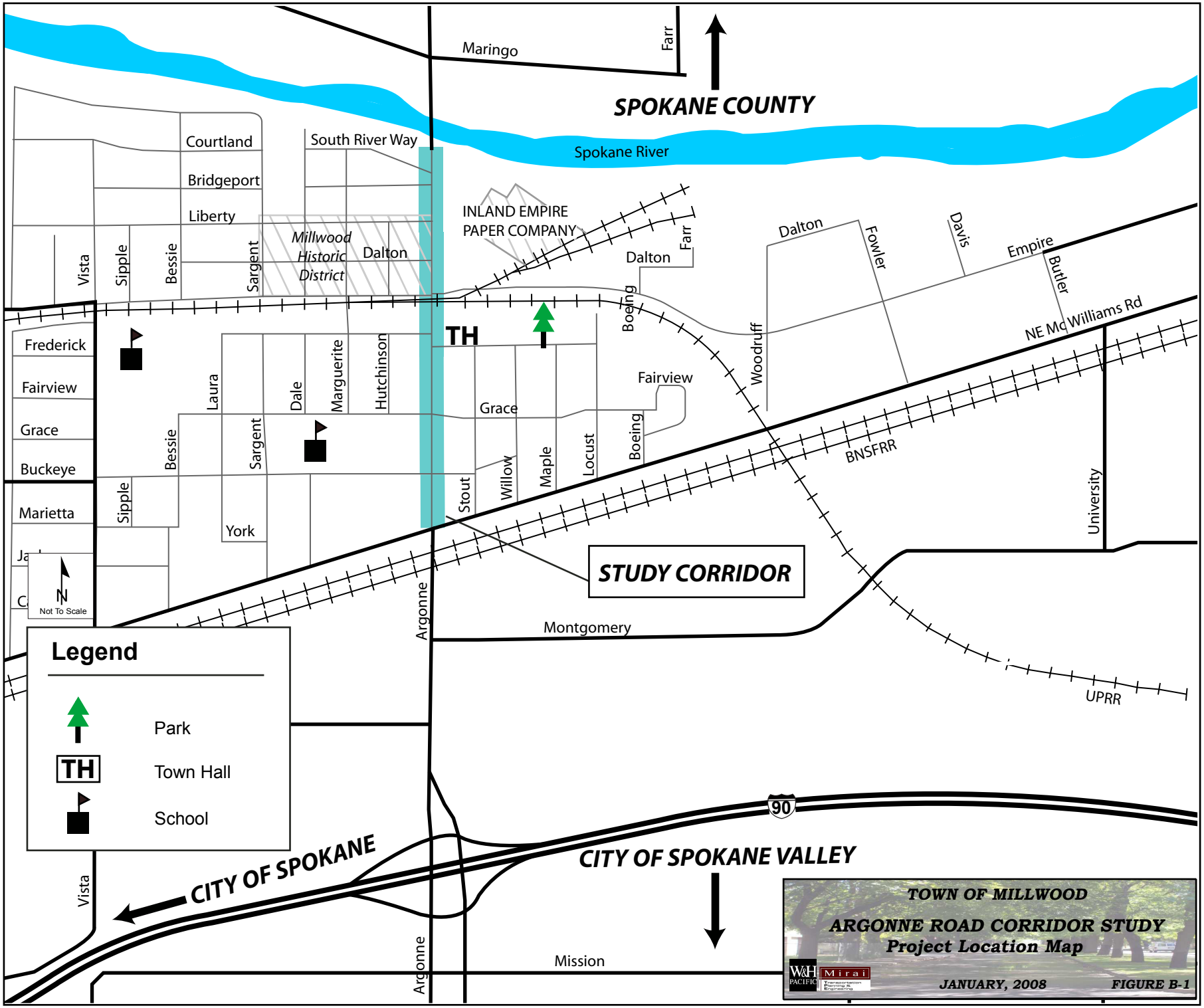
The Argonne Road Corridor Study (the Study) was initiated by the Town of Millwood in order to begin to address congestion-related issues that have developed within the corridor. At the highest level, the study serves to:

- Fully investigate and define the baseline conditions on Argonne Road currently, and for predicted future conditions
- Identify, evaluate and document viable primary corridor transportation improvement concepts that support the Town's traffic and non-traffic related goals and objectives

STUDY GOALS

At the onset of the Study, Town Council and the consultant team developed a set of project goals to be used to guide the study process and measure the Study's ultimate success. The project goals are as follows:

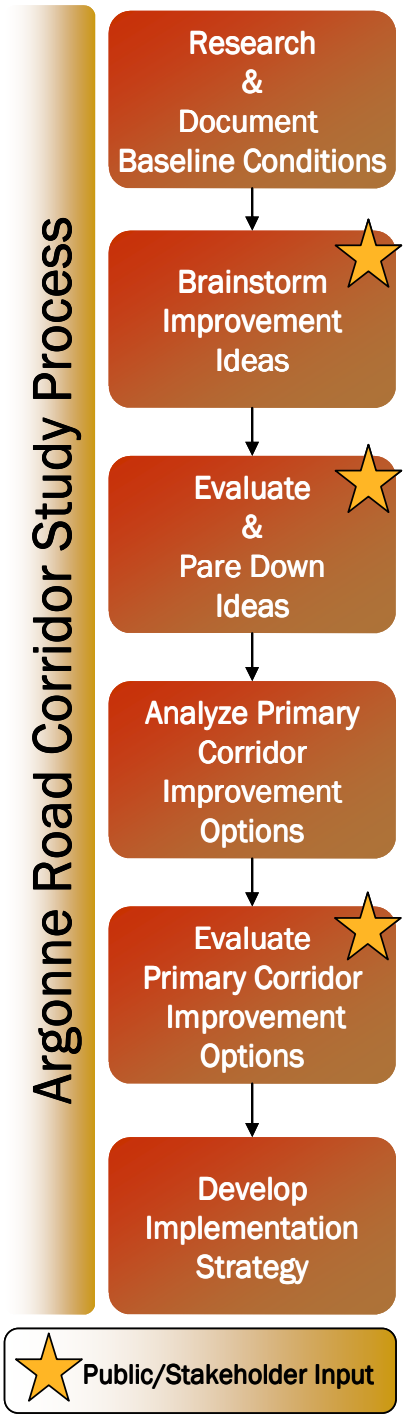
1. Develop and document the Town's vision for the Argonne Road corridor in terms of viable, primary transportation/traffic improvement concepts.
2. Improvement concepts shall endeavor to meet the Town's Primary Objectives:
    - Manage Traffic
    - Improve Safety
    - Improve Livability for Neighborhoods within the Corridor
    - Foster the Local Economy
    - Enhance Environmental Quality


SPOKANE COUNTY
Spokane River
Maringo
Farr
Courtland
Bridgeport
Liberty
South River Way
Millwood Historic District
Dalton
INLAND EMPIRE PAPER COMPANY
Vista
Sipple
Bessie
Sargent
Frederick
Fairview
Grace
Buckeye
Marietta
Laura
Dale
Marguerite
Hutchinson
TH
Boeing
Fairview
Grace
Stout
Willow
Maple
Locust
Woodruff
Fowler
Davis
Empire
Butler
NE Mc Williams Rd
BNSFRR
University
STUDY CORRIDOR
Argonne
Montgomery
UPRR
Not To Scale
Legend
Park
Town Hall
School
90
CITY OF SPOKANE
CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY
Mission
TOWN OF MILLWOOD
ARGONNE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY
Project Location Map
JANUARY, 2008
FIGURE B-1

STUDY PROCESS

A tailored process was established to guide the Town through the Study and successfully accomplish the Study Goals. The process featured guidance through crucial decision points via a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), and touch points with Town residents and general public to promote two-way communication and understanding.

The process is the basis of organization for the study, and for this document. The process is outline and illustrated as follows. Note the key steps of the process where public/stakeholder inputs were required, as indicated with a star symbol.



1.0 Research and Document Baseline Conditions. In order to address the congestion-related issues in the Argonne Corridor, it was necessary to fully comprehend the baseline issues as they exist for Argonne Road in its current configuration today, and ahead into the future planning horizon.

2.0 Brainstorm Improvement Ideas. Once the issues and sensitivities were understood and documented, improvement ideas were developed by identifying opportunities for transportation improvements while ascertaining the Town's vision for the corridor. Interactive meetings with the SAC and public were held to generate ideas.

3.0 Evaluate & Pare Down Ideas. A long list of thoughtful ideas was categorized and evaluated using criteria that were developed strictly from the Project Goals and Objectives. The criteria served as initial sieves to pare down numerous ideas into four Primary Corridor Improvement Options, based on traffic operations/management functionality.

4.0 Analyze Primary Corridor Improvement Options. Conceptual layouts were developed for each of the four options that included applicable traffic calming, non-motorized, transit, business access, placemaking, and emergency vehicle access enhancements. Each option was analyzed for traffic operations, and conceptual cost estimates and funding strategies were developed.

5.0 Evaluate Primary Corridor Improvement Options. The four options were again compared and evaluated by the SAC using the Project Goal-based criteria for the purpose of identifying a recommended option. The options were ranked and the SAC concurred with the results of the Evaluation.

6.0 Develop Implementation Strategy. Once the preferred transportation corridor improvement option was identified, the next step was to identify strategies for implementation. This effort looked at near-term strategies, mechanisms for funding future Argonne Road Improvements Projects as well as strategies for funding of enhancements.