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ALAMOSA TO ANTONITO TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY AND INCREASE SAFETY

WELCOME!

Xcel Energy is hosting this open house to accept comments on this project.

We appreciate your feedback.

To stay informed and participate in the project...

Xcel Energy is committed to open dialogue with landowners, providing consistent updates and project information, and creating opportunities for the community to provide feedback and ask questions.

- **Visit** the project web page to learn more and review open house materials: **xcelenergy.com/AlamosaToAntonito**

- **Ask** questions and provide comments to Xcel Energy representatives

- **Make an appointment** by phone or email to speak with an Xcel Energy representative between March 14 and March 24 to discuss specific comments or questions

- **Write** a comment on the comment form and return this evening, by email at **alamosatoantonito@xcelenergy.com** or by mail to:

Larry Claxton
Xcel Energy
1800 Larimer Street, Suite 400
Denver, Colorado 80202

Please submit comments postmarked by March 24, 2022. Thank you!

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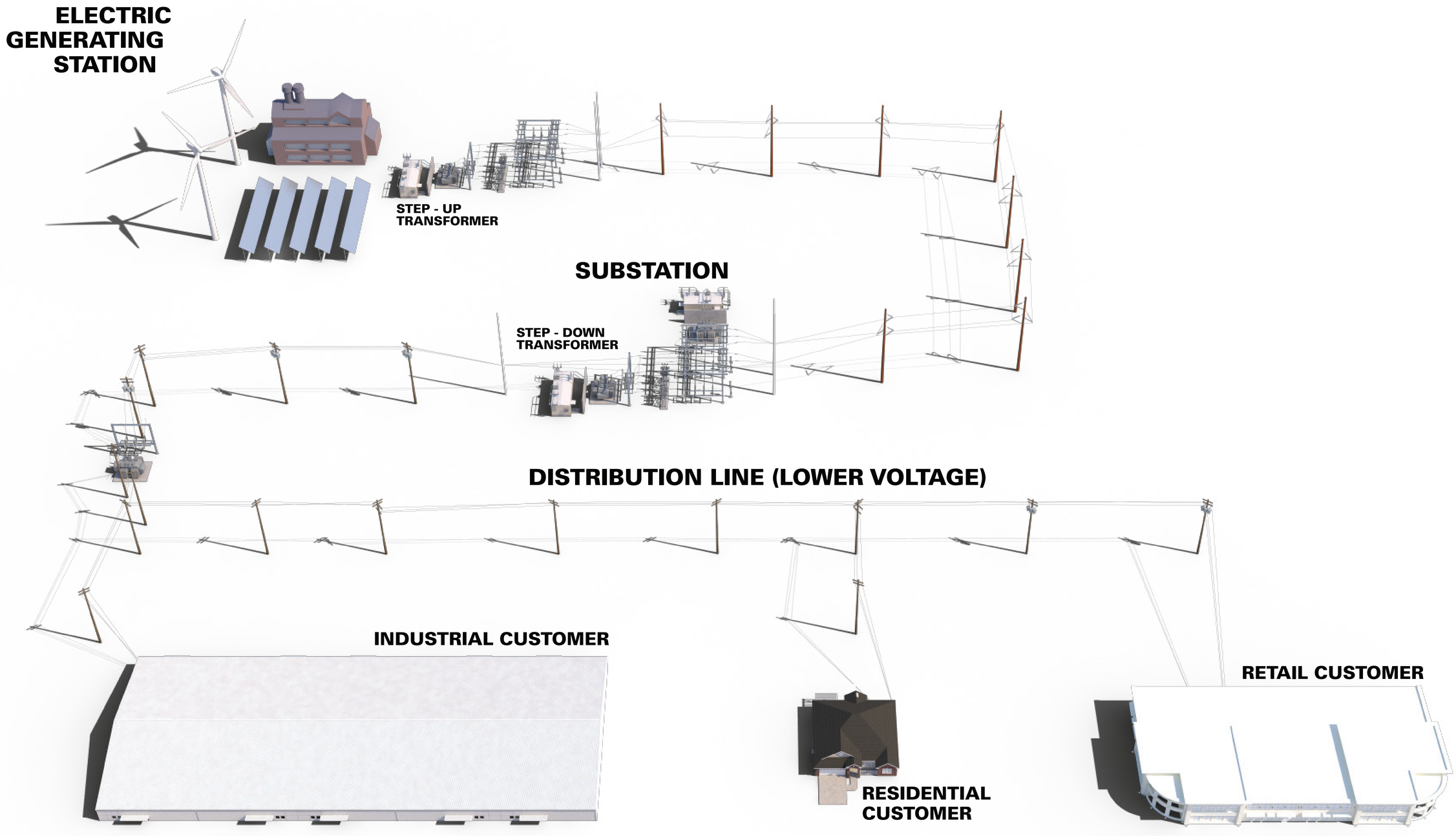
Electricity: From the Generating Source to the Customer



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Project Need

Xcel Energy is proposing to replace the 60-year-old Alamosa to Antonito 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in the San Luis Valley to improve electric reliability and reduce potential safety risks associated with aging poles and equipment.

The line is critical to providing reliable service to customers and cannot be taken out of service to be replaced. For that reason, we need to build a new power line in the area, either in a new corridor adjacent to the existing line or in a separate corridor near the current location.

To accomplish this, we are performing a transmission line routing study – a comprehensive process to develop a plan for replacing and improving facilities in the current aging system to:

- Improve electric power service reliability and safety.
- Meet energy needs of Alamosa and Conejos counties.
- Enhance system technology to achieve a smarter, more responsive grid.

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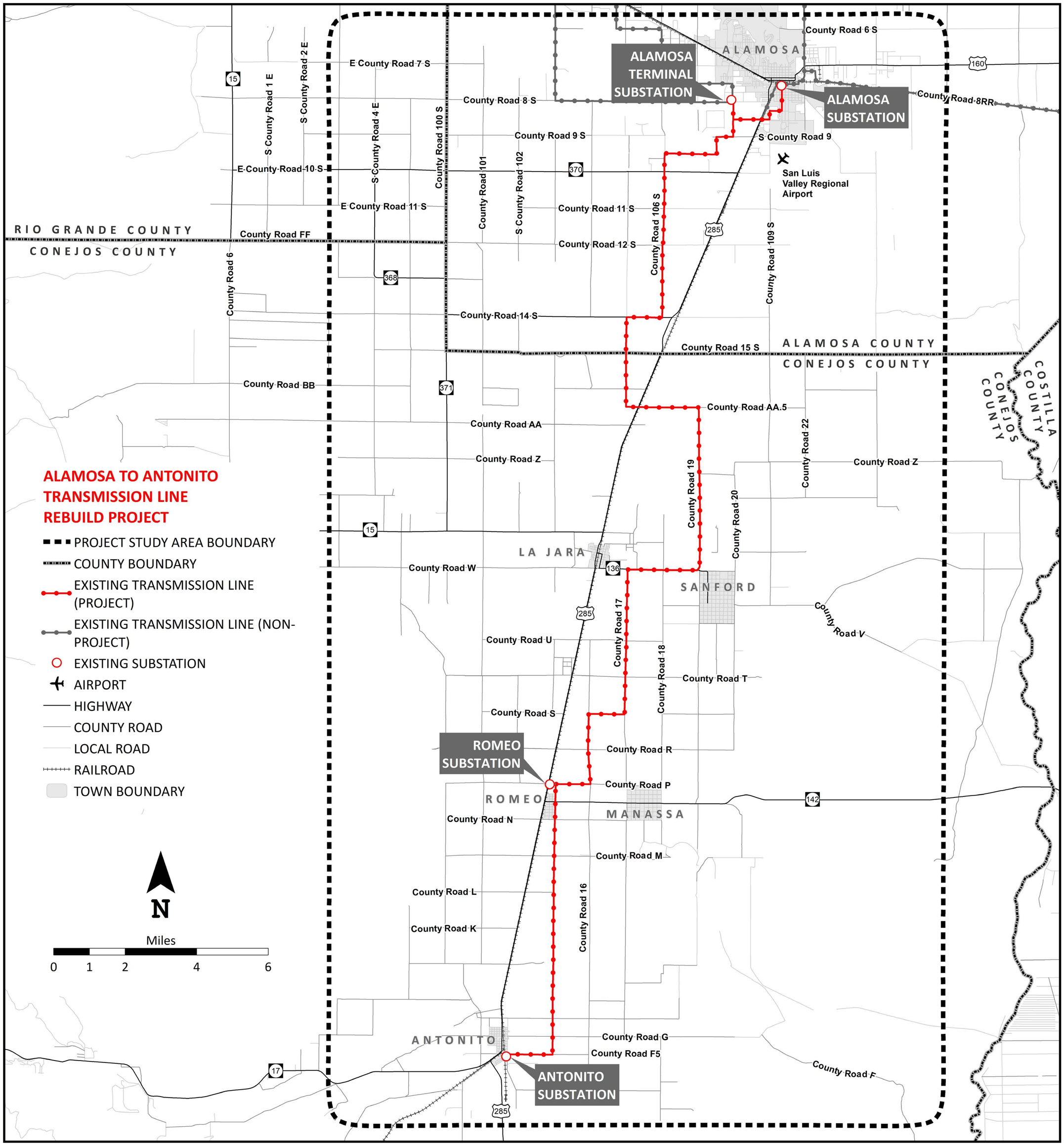
Project Study Area



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Proposed Transmission Structure

- Fire-resistant, single-pole structure
- 69 kV single-circuit
- Distance between structures – 400 to 600 feet
- Average height range – 70 to 120 feet
- Pole diameter – 18 to 48 inches
- Transmission line right-of-way: 75 feet in most locations; may reduce to 60 feet in select locations

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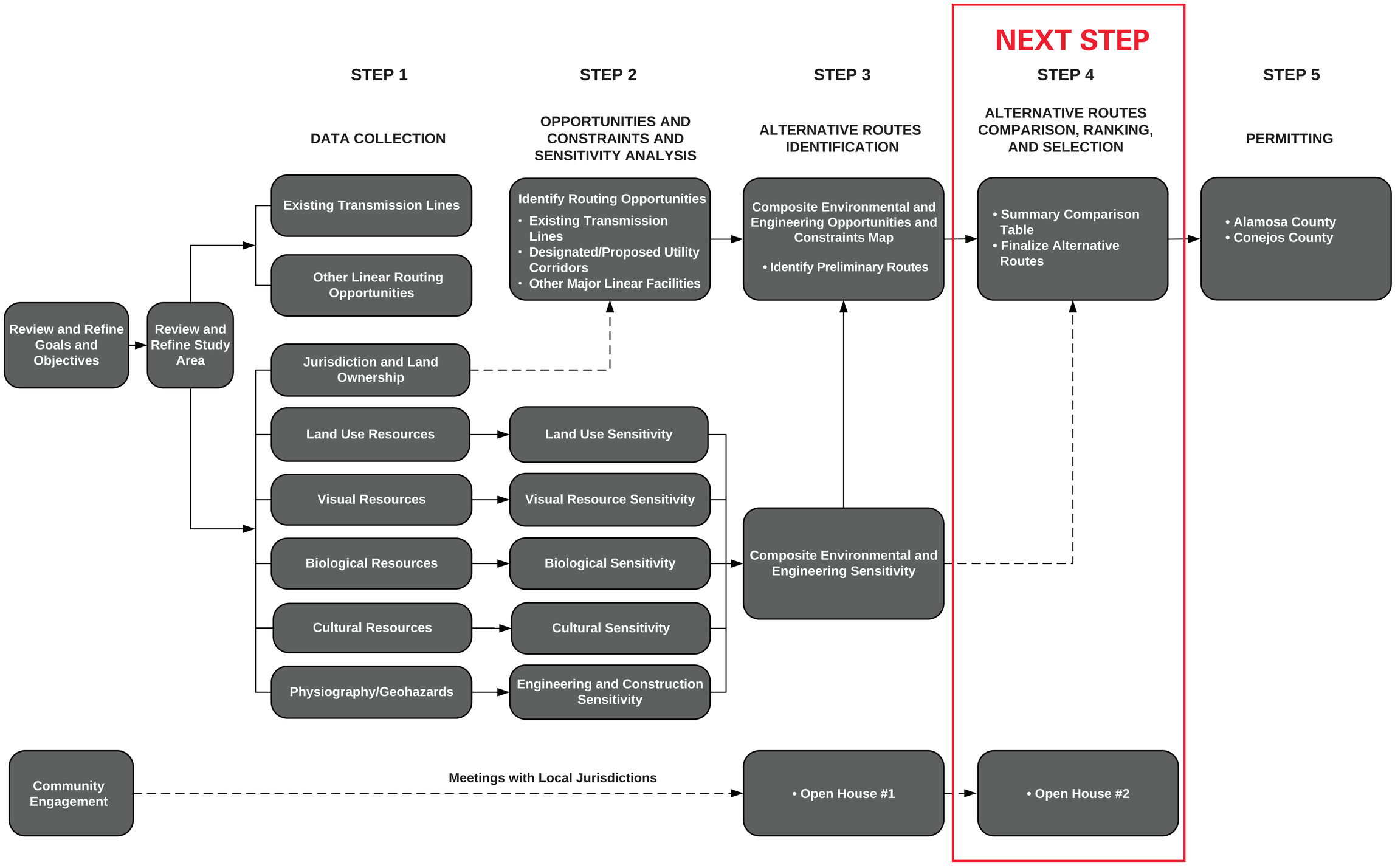
Routing Process



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Facility Routing Criteria Worksheet
Environmental Resources

RESOURCE CATEGORY	SENSITIVITY/ CONSTRAINT LEVEL		OPPORTUNITY AREA
LAND USES - EXISTING LAND USE			
Airport/Airstrip Airspace (FAA Regulations)	Exclusion *(incompatible)*		
Residential - Low Density	High *(displacement of homes)*	Moderate *(use of property for ROW)*	
Residential - Medium Density	High *(displacement of homes)*	Moderate-High *(use of property for ROW)*	
Residential - High Density	High *(displacement of homes)*	Moderate-High *(use of property for ROW)*	
Rural Residential in Agricultural Areas	Moderate-High *(use of property for ROW)*		
Schools/Educational Facilities	Moderate-High		
Church	High		
Cemetery	Moderate-High		
Parks, Trails, Golf Courses	Moderate		
Designated Conservation Areas	Moderate-High		
Open Space - Designated	Moderate		
Vacant/Undeveloped	Low		X
Agriculture - Center Pivot	High *(bisecting field)*	Moderate *(edge of field)*	
Agriculture - Irrigated Cultivated Lands (flood, drip)	High *(bisecting field)*	Low *(edge of field)*	
Agriculture - Dry Farm/Rangeland/Fallow Lands	Low		X
Centennial Farm	High		
Commercial Retail	Moderate		
Commercial Business Park/Office	Moderate		
Light Industrial	Low		X
General Industrial	Low		X
Industrial - Extraction (Gravel, Sand)	Moderate		
Oil and Gas Wells within 200 feet	High		
Scenic Roads/Parkways	Moderate-High		
Transportation Routes - Highways/Major Arterials	Low		X
Existing Utility Facilities (Substations, Water, Wastewater Treatment, Etc.)	Low		X
Existing Utility Corridors (Pipeline, Overhead>44kV, Railroad, Canal)	Low		X

Note: Sensitivity depends on tree screening, view orientation, presence of existing transmission facilities, and right-of-way clearing.

Environmental Sensitivity and Constraint Levels

Identification of environmental constraints will be based on an analysis of the sensitivity of each resource from the introduction of a transmission line. Sensitivity is defined as the measure of probable adverse response of each resource to potential direct or indirect effects associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of a transmission line. Criteria used to make determinations of environmental sensitivity include the following:

- **RESOURCE VALUE:** A measure of rarity, high intrinsic worth, singularity, or diversity of a resource within the area.
- **PROTECTIVE STATUS**: A measure of the formal concern expressed for a resource either through legal protection or by assignment of special status designation.
- **PRESENT AND FUTURE USE:** A measure of the level of conflict based on land-management policies and/or use and may include issues of specific concern to the agencies and public.

Considering the criteria described above, the environmental data will be evaluated and assigned a sensitivity level of low, moderate, high, and exclusion as defined below. The lower the sensitivity of a resource, the more compatible it would be for siting a transmission line in a given area.

EXCLUSION:
Areas where legal status (i.e., wilderness areas, jurisdictional policy [e.g., active airports]) would prohibit, or most likely prohibit, the location of transmission facilities. Locations of exclusion areas are considered to be undesirable for location of a transmission line.

HIGH SENSITIVITY:
Areas determined to be less suitable because of unique, highly valued, complex, historic, or protected resources and significant potential conflict with use, or areas posing substantial hazards to construction and operation of the transmission line. Locations of high sensitivity are considered to be high constraint or least desirable for location of a transmission line.

MODERATE-HIGH SENSITIVITY

MODERATE SENSITIVITY:
Areas of potential environmental effects on important or valued resources, resources assigned special status, or some conflict with use. Locations of moderate sensitivity are considered to be moderate constraint areas and less desirable for siting a transmission line.

LOW-MODERATE SENSITIVITY

LOW SENSITIVITY:
Areas where resource conflicts identified through the feasibility study process are minimal. These areas of low sensitivity are considered to be of minimal constraint, or high opportunity, for locating a transmission line, particularly in association with existing transmission line corridors.

Opportunity Area

Locations where there are opportunities for the introduction of a transmission line. Siting opportunities generally include areas of low sensitivity and locations in proximity to, or including, existing or planned linear facilities and corridors that have been disturbed previously or designated for future use as utility corridors or industrial use(s). Typically, such opportunities include existing transmission line (44 kV and greater), major transportation corridors (county roads and state highways), pipeline corridors, and railroads that potentially allow for parallel linear facilities.

Facility Routing Criteria Worksheet
Environmental Resources

RESOURCE CATEGORY	SENSITIVITY/ CONSTRAINT LEVEL	OPPORTUNITY AREA
CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Sites or properties listed or eligible to the National Register of Historic Properties or State Register	Moderate-High	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
Threatened or Endangered Species Critical Habitat	Moderate-High	
Wetlands or Riparian Areas	Moderate	
100-Year Floodplains	Moderate	
Bald Eagle Roosting or Nesting Sites (and raptor nests) Within 0.5 Mile	Moderate	
VISUAL RESOURCES - VIEWS FROM RESIDENCES		
Immediate Foreground (0-300 feet)	High	
Foreground	Moderate-High *(300 - 660 feet)*; Moderate *(660 feet - 0.25 mile)*; Moderate *(0.25 mile - 0.5 mile)*	
Middle Ground (0.5 mile - 4 miles)	Low - Moderate	
Background - Assumes View of Line (≥ 4 miles)	Low	X
VISUAL RESOURCES - VIEWS FROM RECREATION AREAS AND TRANSPORTATION ROUTES		
Immediate Foreground (0-300 feet)	Low - Moderate	
Foreground (300 feet - 0.5 mile)	Low	X
Middle Ground (0.5 mile - 4 miles)	Low	X
Background - Assumes View of Line (≥ 4 miles)	Low	X
SCENIC ATTRACTIVENESS		
Distinctive	Moderate-High	
Typical	Low	X

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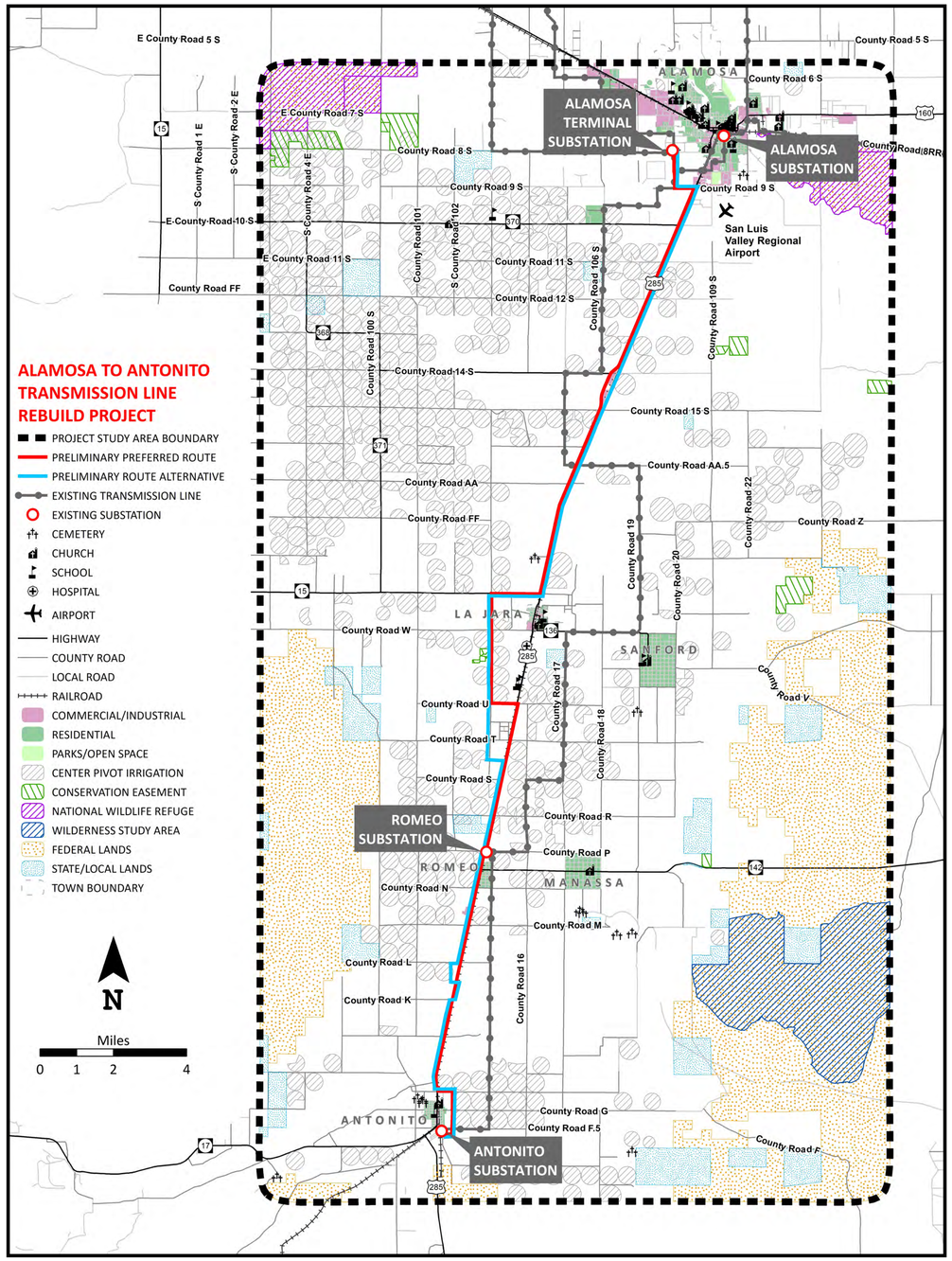
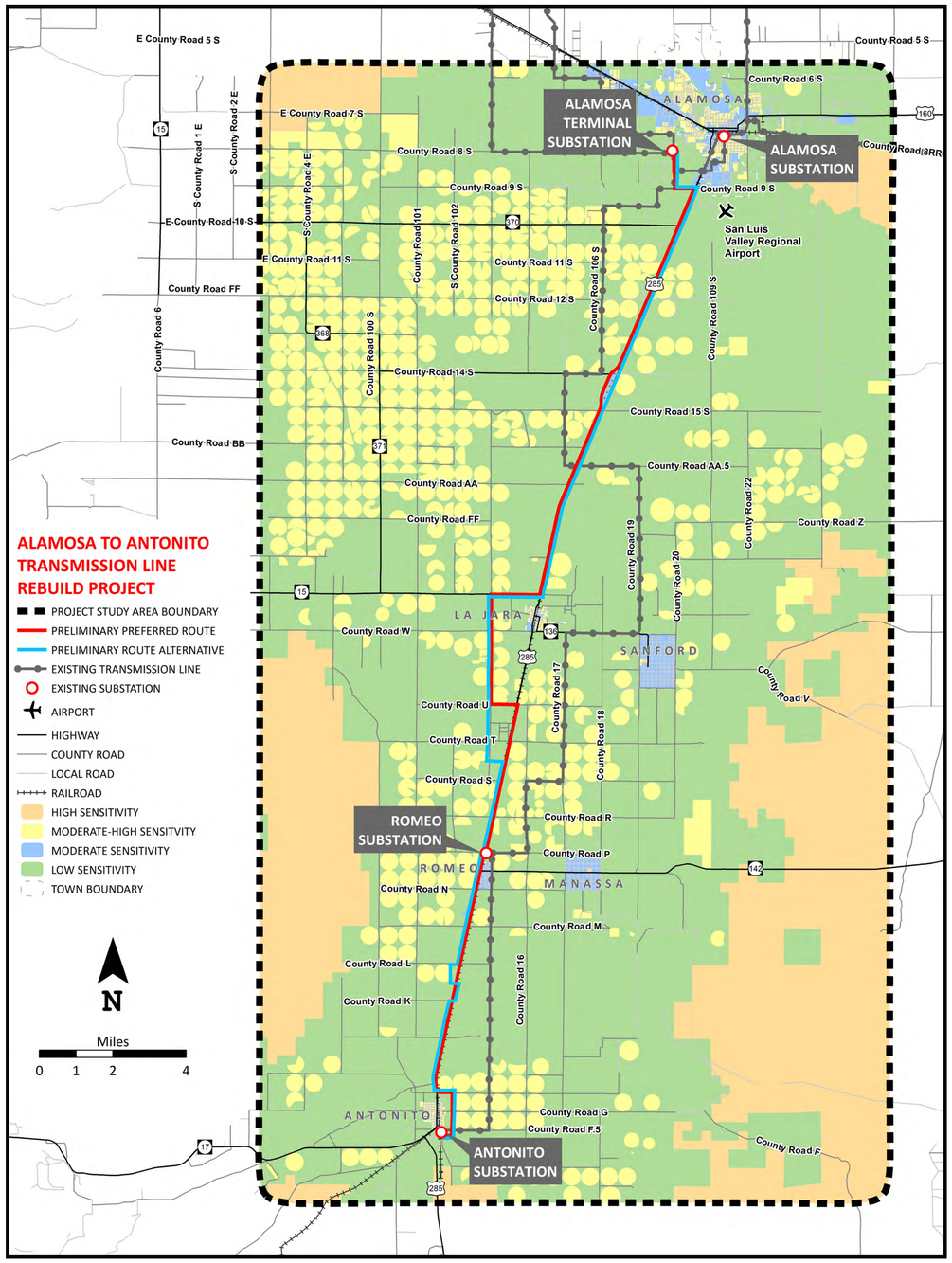
Existing Land Use

Existing Condition



Resource Sensitivity



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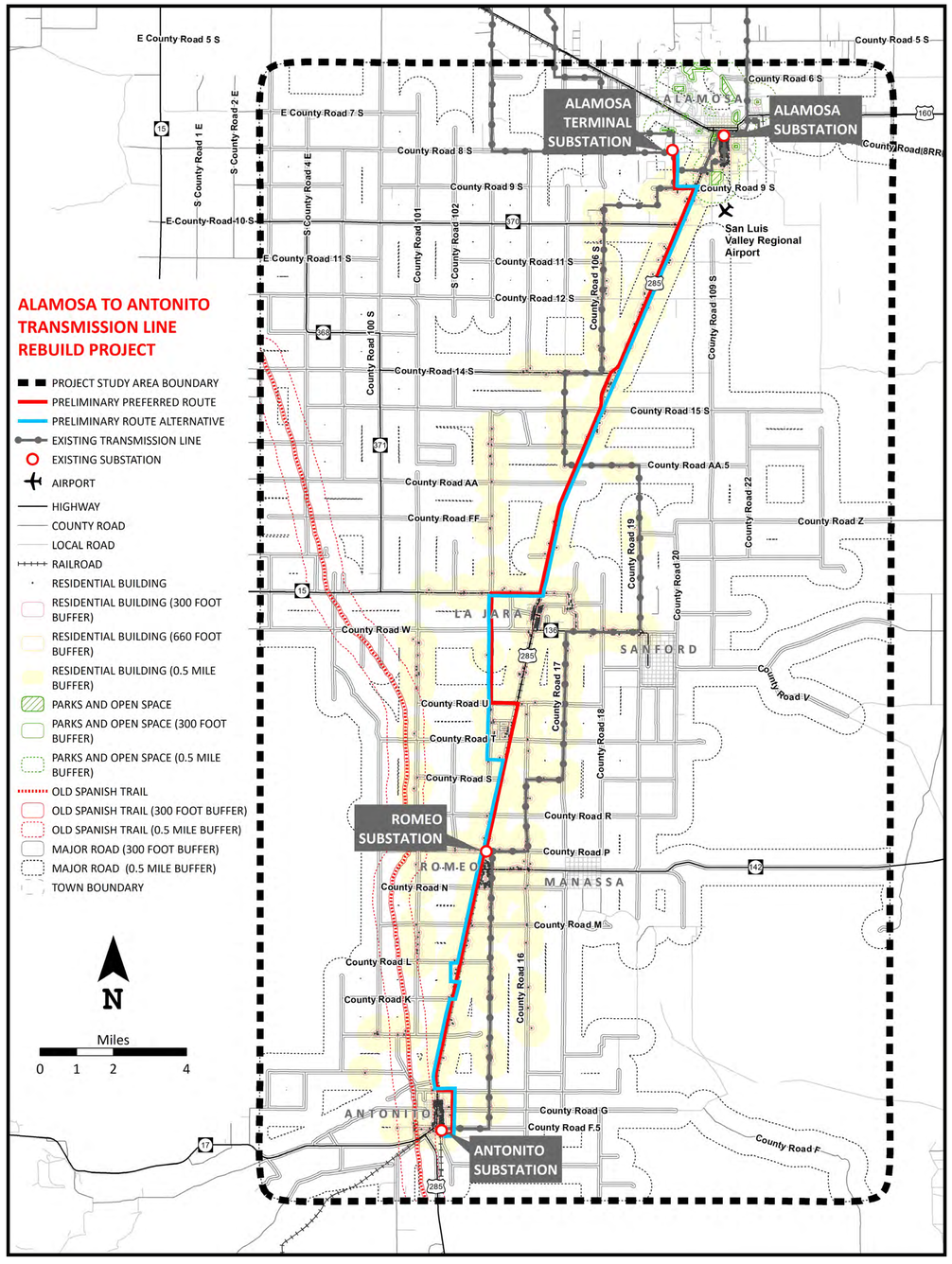
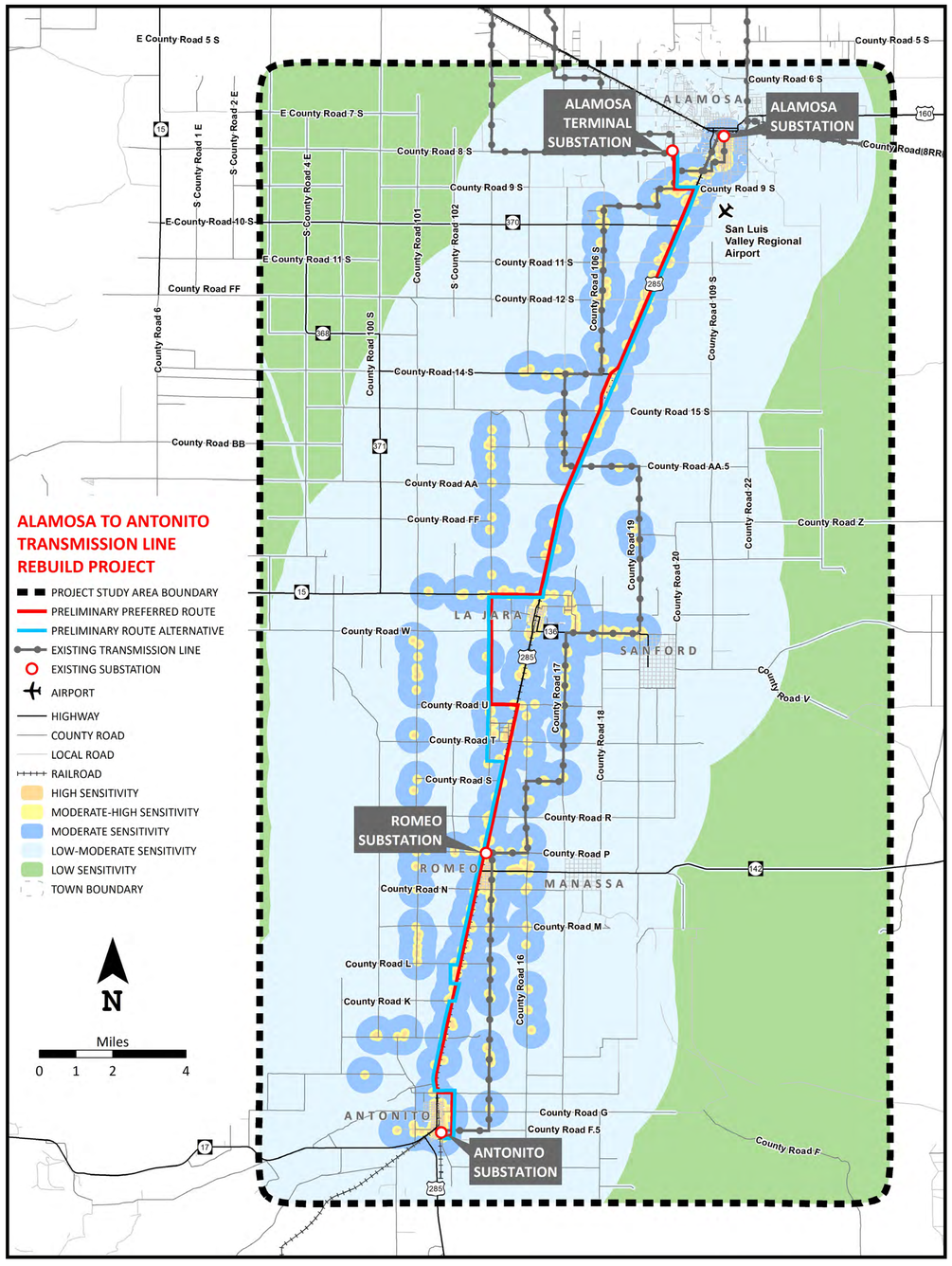
Visual Resources

Existing Condition



Resource Sensitivity



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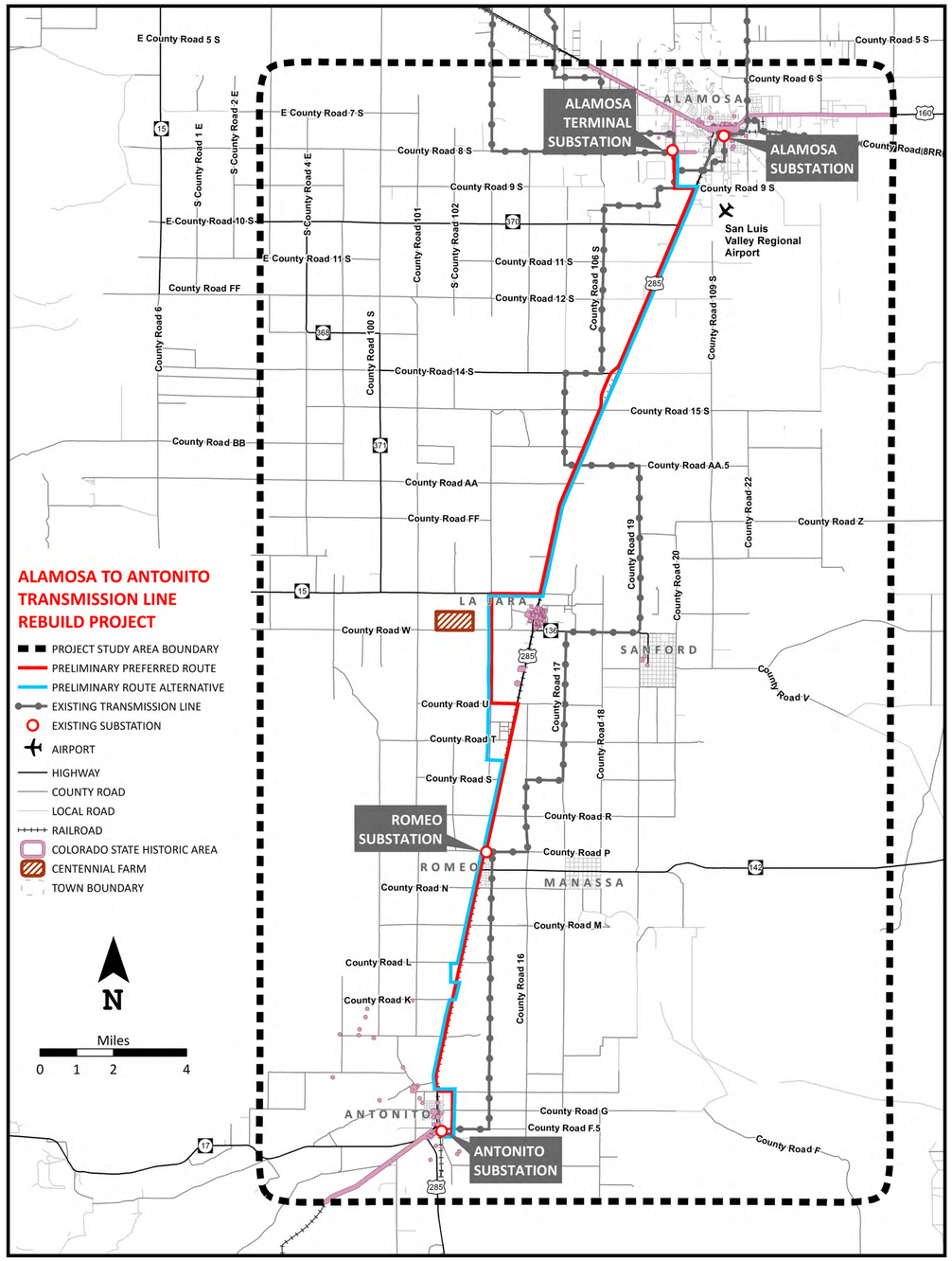
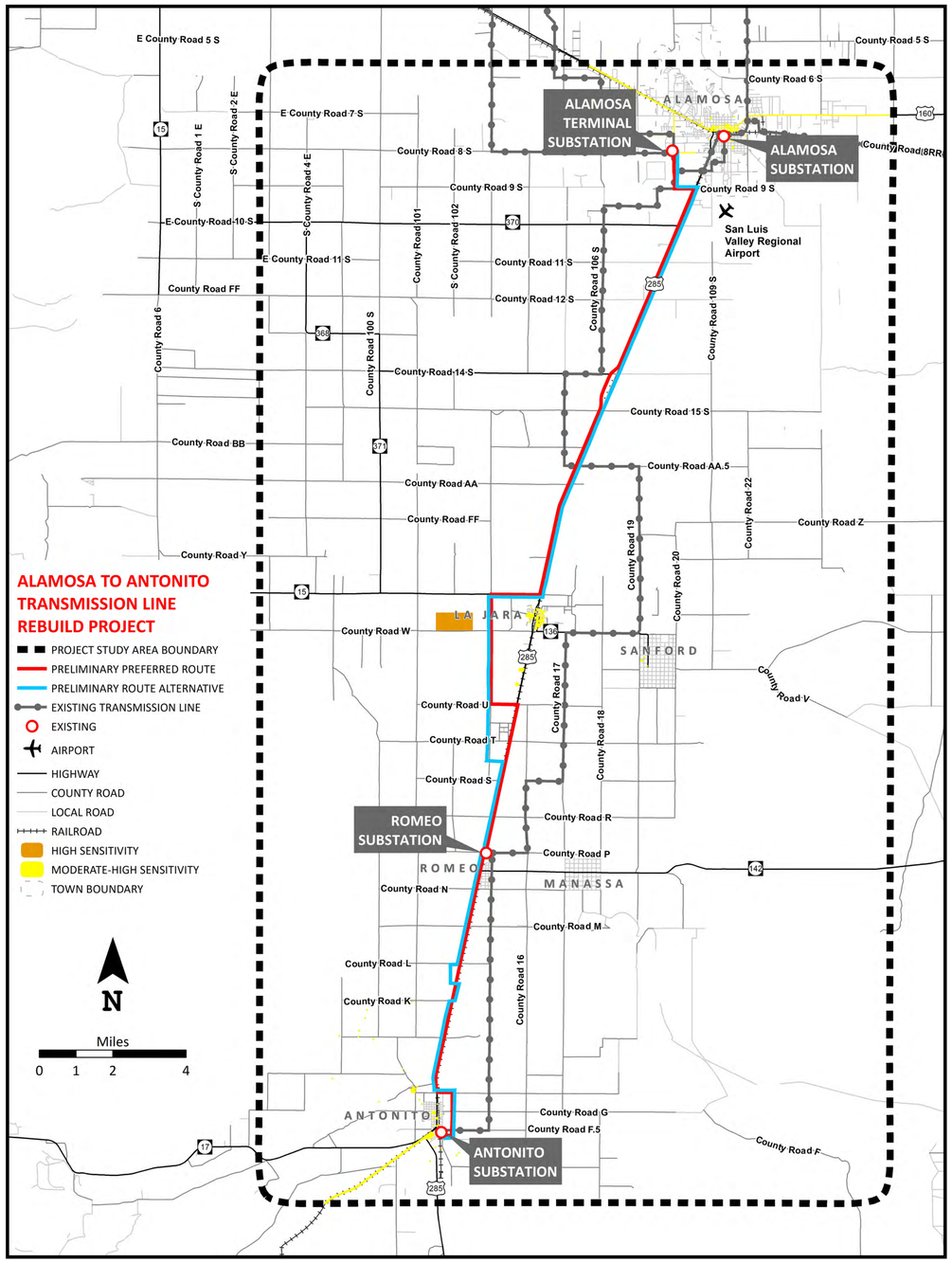
Cultural Resources

Existing Condition



Resource Sensitivity



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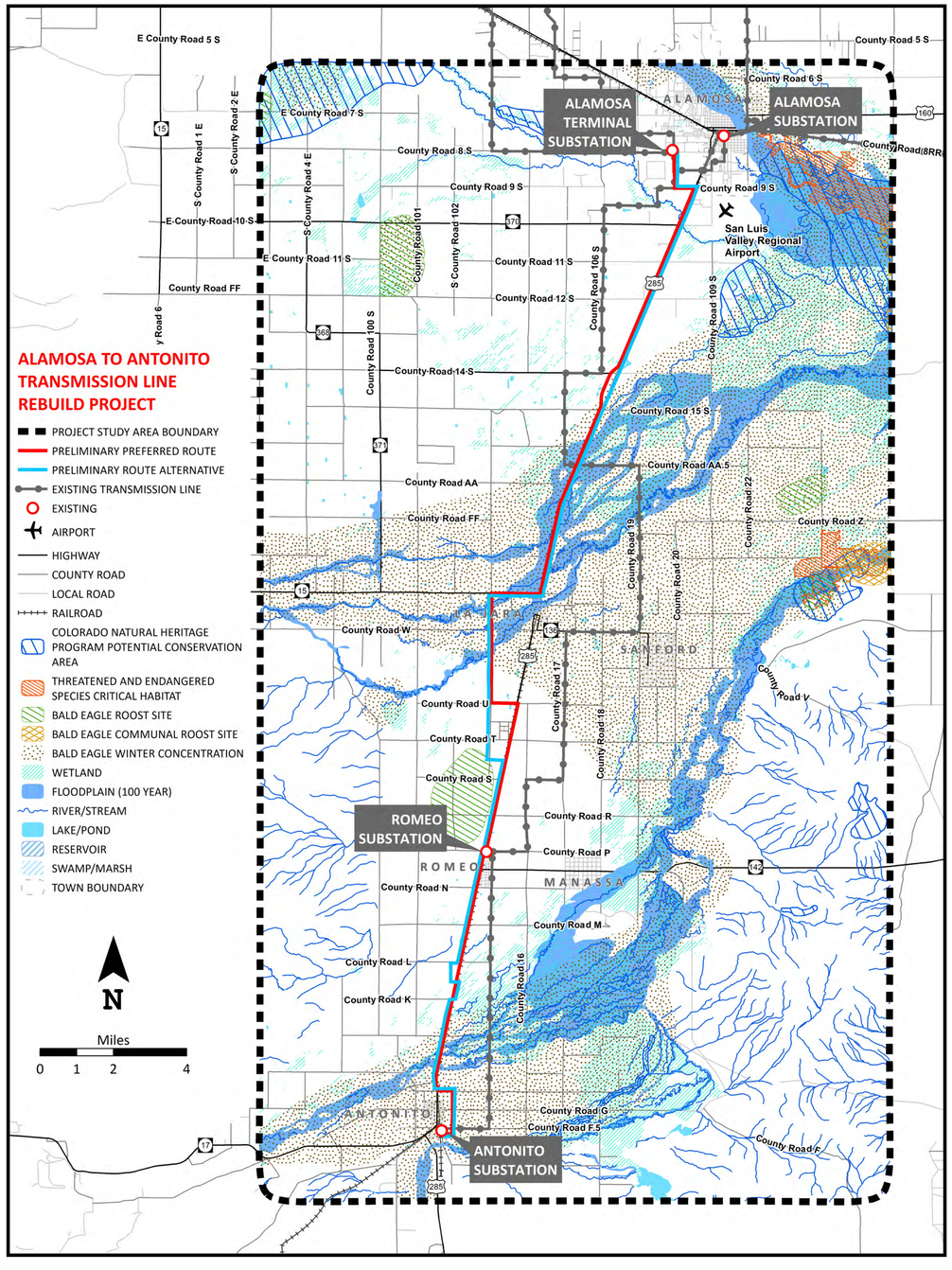
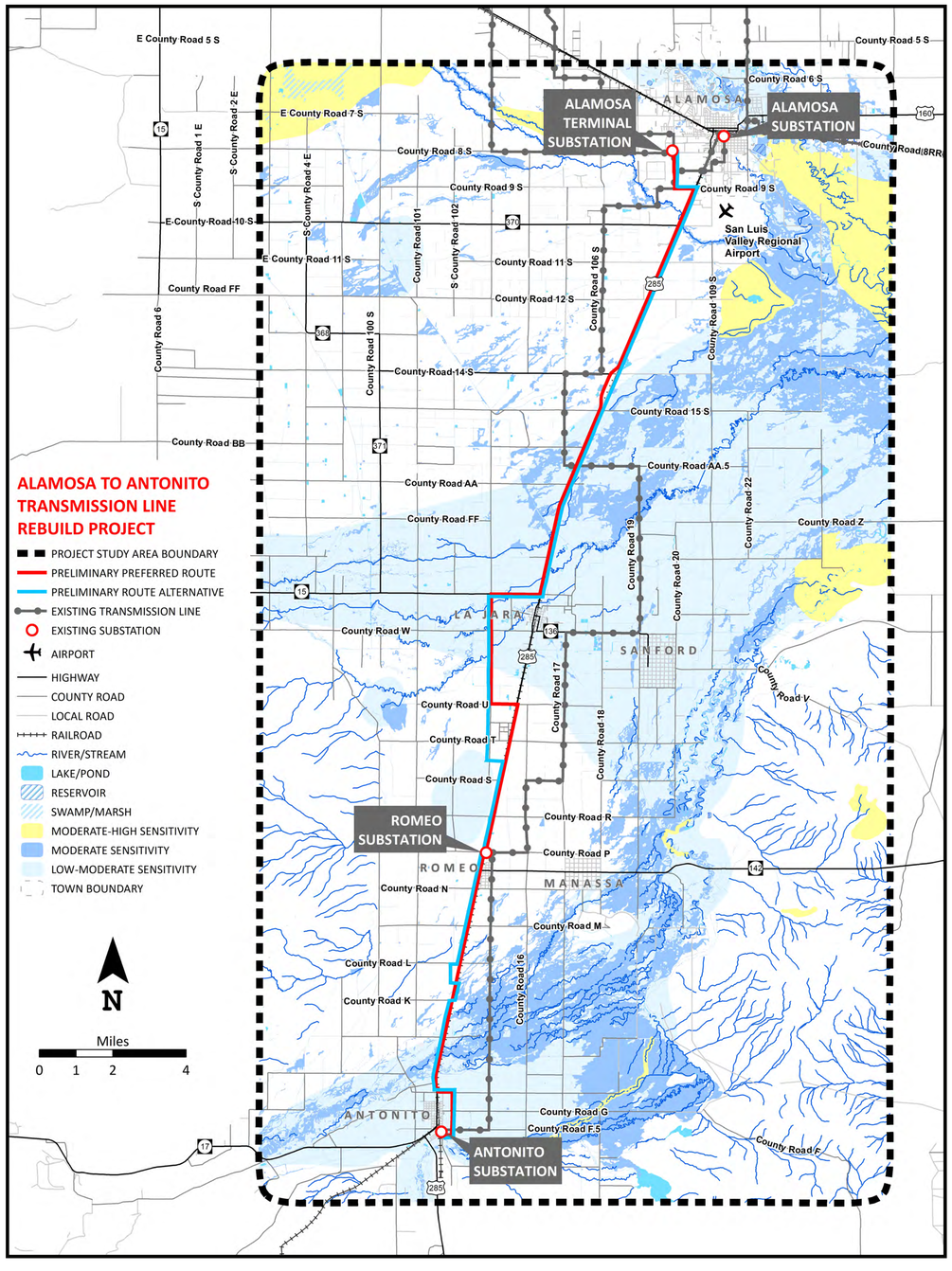
Wildlife Habitat

Existing Condition



Resource Sensitivity



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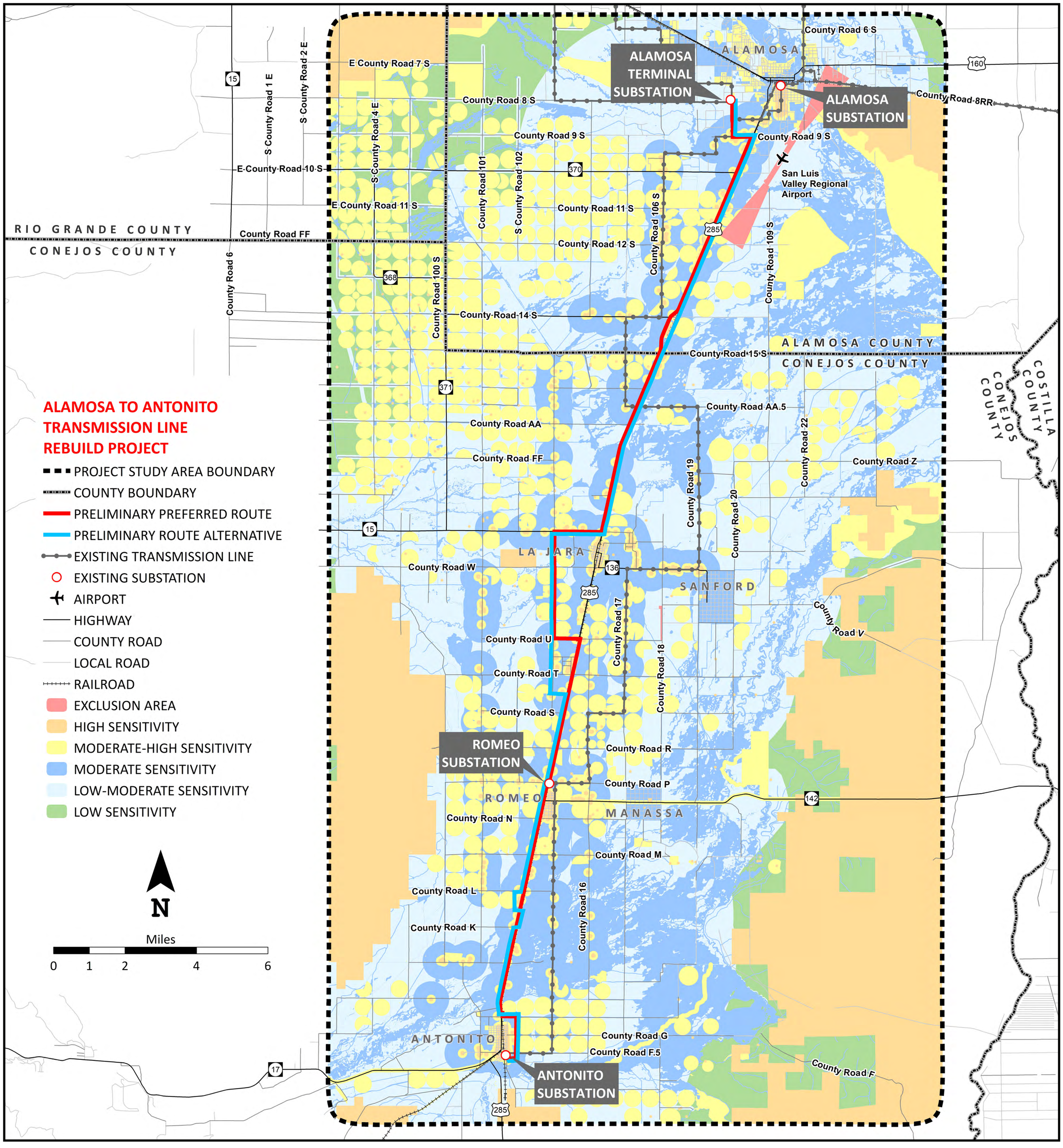
Composite Sensitivity



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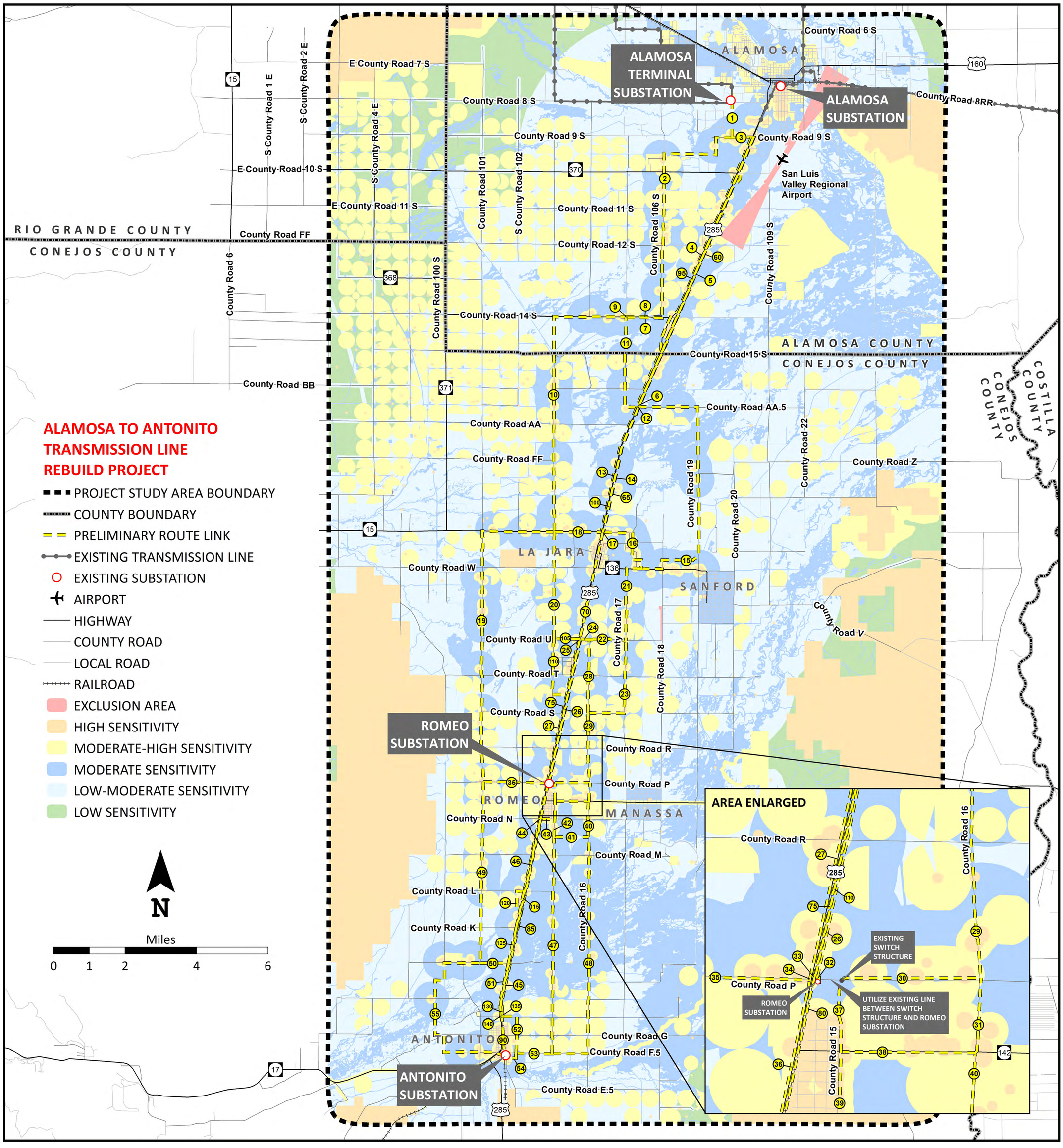
Composite Sensitivity with Route Alternatives



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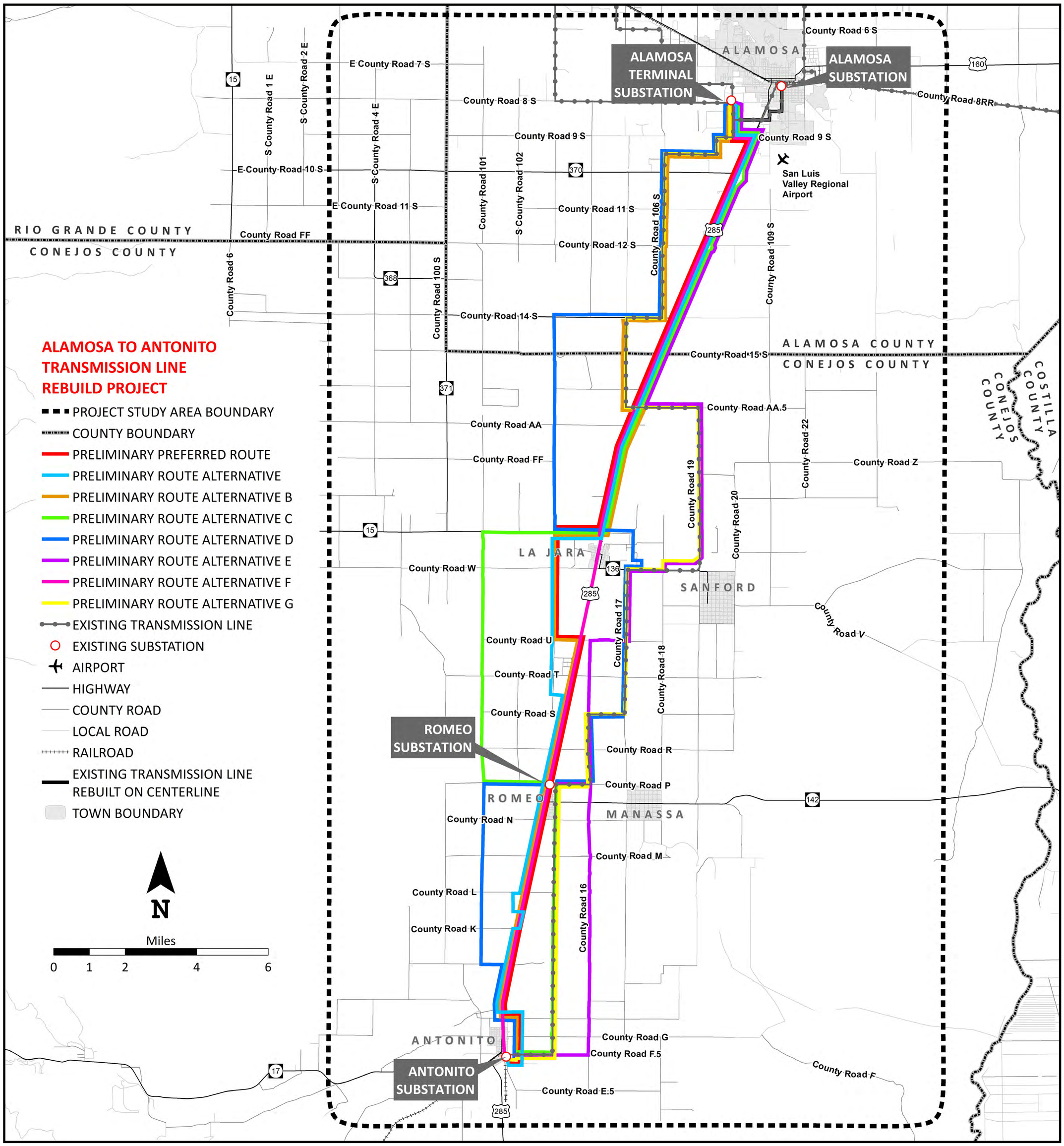
Preliminary Route Alternatives Studied



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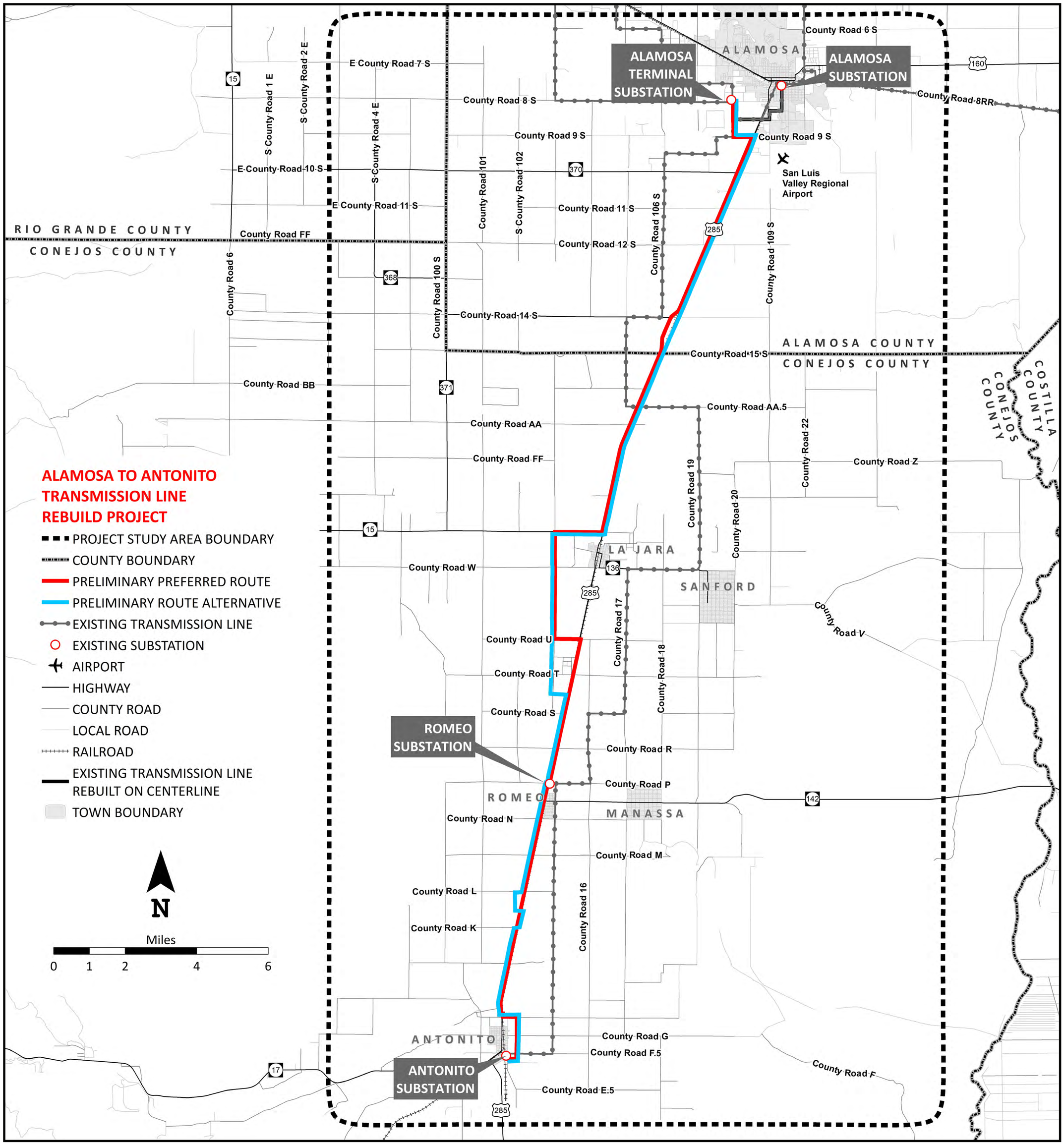
Preliminary Proposed Route and Route Alternative



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Community Outreach and Engagement

Xcel Energy is committed to reach out and listen to what the public has to say about the project. Comments received from you help Xcel Energy make better decisions.

Briefings…Xcel Energy arranged briefings with local officials to introduce the project and identify permitting requirements.

- Alamosa County: Nov. 3, 2021
- Conejos County and Towns of La Jara, Romeo, and Antonito: Nov. 3, 2021
- City of Alamosa: Nov. 4, 2021

Public Open Houses…Xcel Energy hosted two sets of public open houses.

The purpose of the first set of open houses was to introduce the project and solicit comments on preliminary alternative routes.

- La Jara: Nov. 16, 2021
- Alamosa: Nov. 17, 2021

The purpose of the second set of open houses is to share the preliminary route alternatives and solicit comments on the preliminary preferred routes.

- Virtual Meeting: Mar. 7, 2022
- Alamosa, Alamosa Recreation Center: Mar. 9, 2022
- La Jara, Knights of Columbus: Mar. 10, 2022

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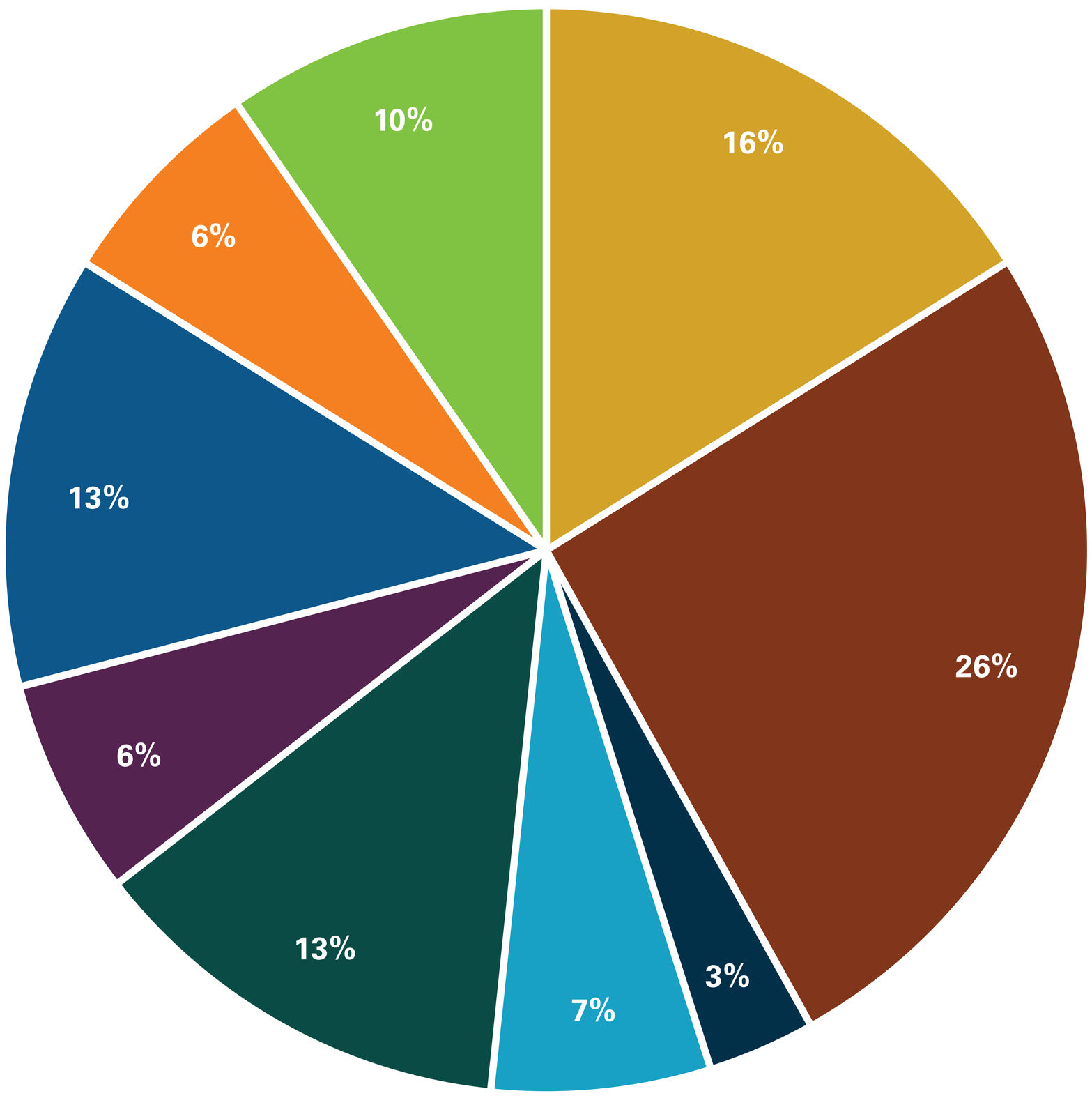
Comments Received

Summary of Comment by Category:

- Agriculture: 5 (16%)
- Comments on Specific Routes: 8 (26%)
- Health and Safety: 1 (3%)
- Land Acquisition and Construction Process: 2 (7%)
- Property Value: 4 (13%)
- Purpose and Need: 2 (6%)
- Study Process: 4 (13%)
- Visual Effects: 2 (6%)
- Wildlife Habitat: 3 (10%)



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Preliminary Proposed Route and Route Alternative Results

Preliminary Preferred Route

- Adjacent to Highway 285 except near La Jara and Antonito
- Parallels existing linear features 92 percent of route
- Minimizes effects on:
    - residences
    - agricultural operations
- Most direct route

Preliminary Preferred Route Alternative

- Within existing railroad right-of-way where possible
- Minimized effects on:
    - residences and private parcels
    - agricultural land and operations
- Shortest, most direct route

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Schedule

September 2021 –March 2022	November 2021– March 2022	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Summer 2022	2023
Transmission Routing Study	Public Outreach	Preferred Route Announcement	Permitting	Surveying & Easement Procurement	Construction

We want to hear from you...

In particular, we encourage you to share your thoughts and comments that are:

- Specific and direct to a particular area or component of the project
- Offer specific reasons why a particular area or component would or would not work
- Offer reasonable suggestions that would help meet the need
- Provide information about land use considerations in the project area

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