



NorthWestern Energy
Presentation to ETIC – 9/9/2025

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Vice President - Transmission

The Joint Resolution

69th Legislature 2025

SJ 12



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CAPACITY ON PATHS 8, 18, 80, AND 83 TO ANALYZE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MONTANA'S CITIZENS AND INDUSTRY DUE TO THE OBSERVED CONGESTION AND CURTAILMENTS OF TRANSMISSION PATHWAYS; AND REQUIRING THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.



Importance of Connectivity

- Montana is distant from many regional resources
- Generation patterns in Montana are changing
 - Retired - Corette (150 MW) - 2015, Colstrip Units 1&2 (614 MW) – 2020
 - New generation resources seeking use of transmission system
- Customer Demand is increasing
 - Organic Growth
 - Potential Large Load Customers
- Transmission and Generation was developed together, over decades – as generation patterns change, transmission usage also changes
- Regional differences in weather patterns
- Resource Diversity/Markets
 - Experience in Western Energy Imbalance Market has been good both from a resource diversity standpoint and reliability
- Transmission constraints and contingencies

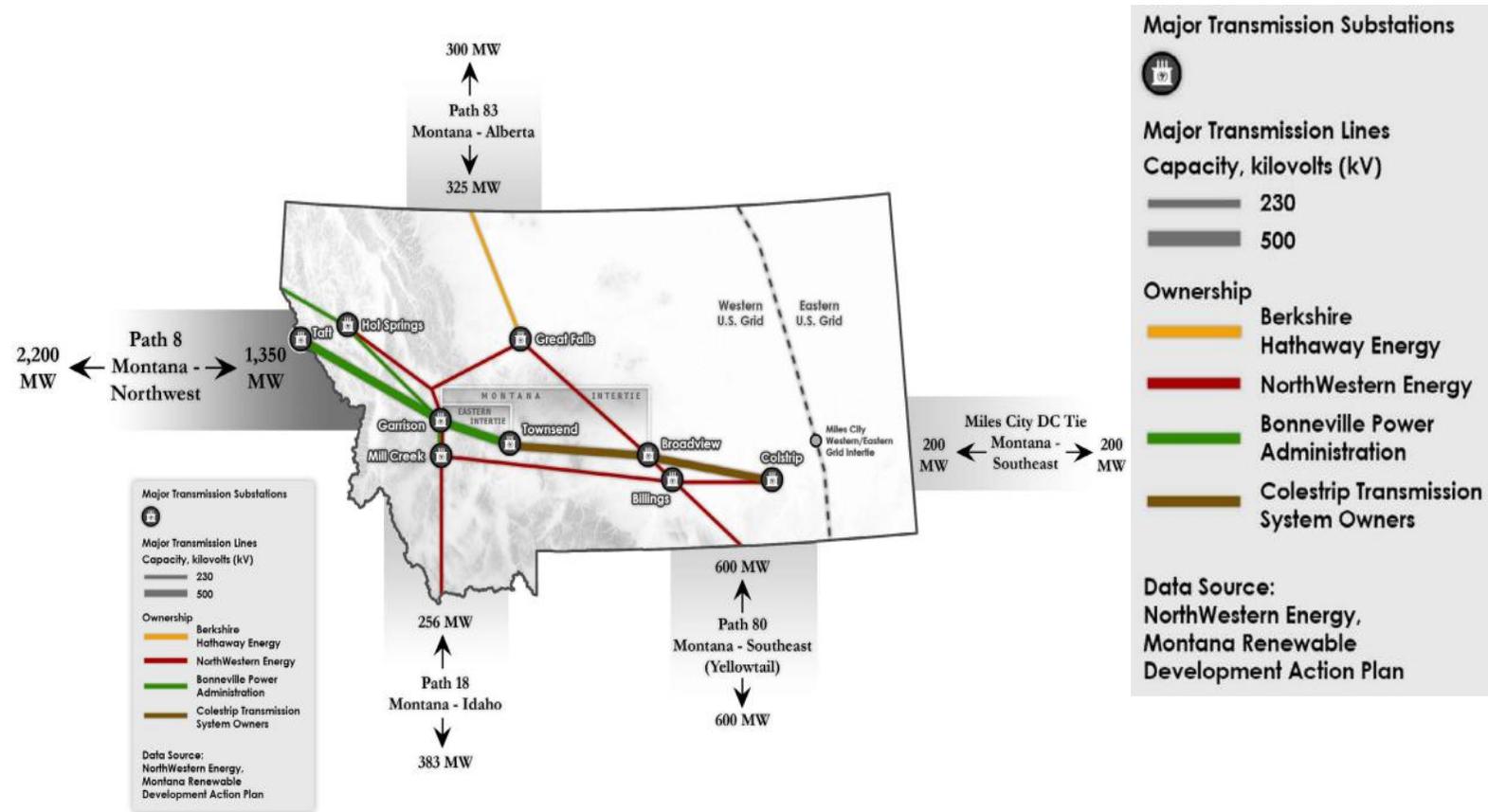


What Makes Regional Transmission Cooperation Difficult?

- Multi Jurisdictional
 - State vs Federal
 - State vs State
 - Multiple agencies
- Political and policy differences
- Extended Development Timelines
- Siting and Permitting
- Timing mismatch – generation vs transmission
- Cost allocation – who benefits, who pays?

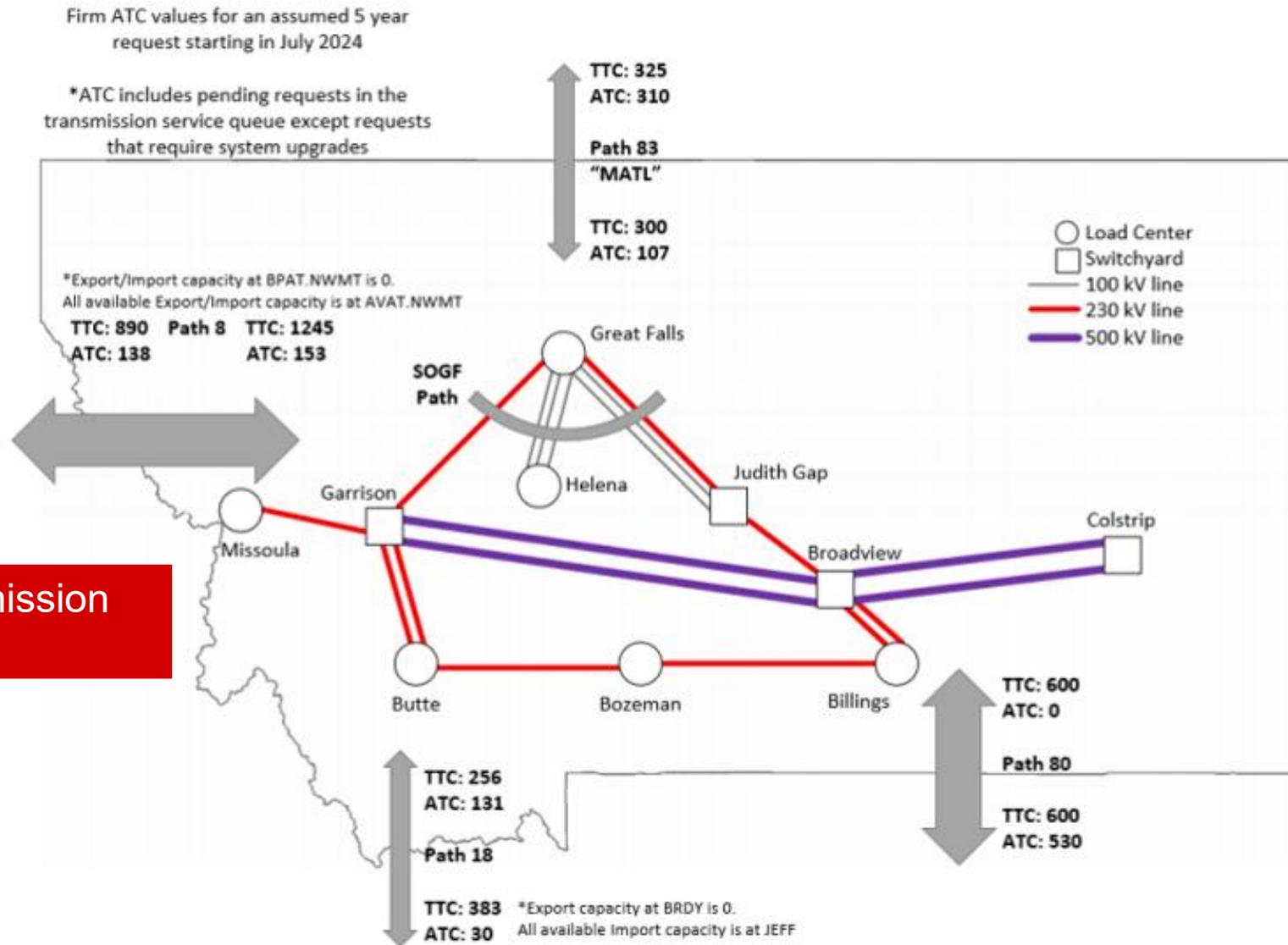
The Montana Electric Transmission System – WECC Paths and Connectivity

Total Transmission Capability - TTC





Available Transmission Capacity (ATC) is Limited



Available Transmission Capability - ATC



Available Transmission Capacity (ATC)

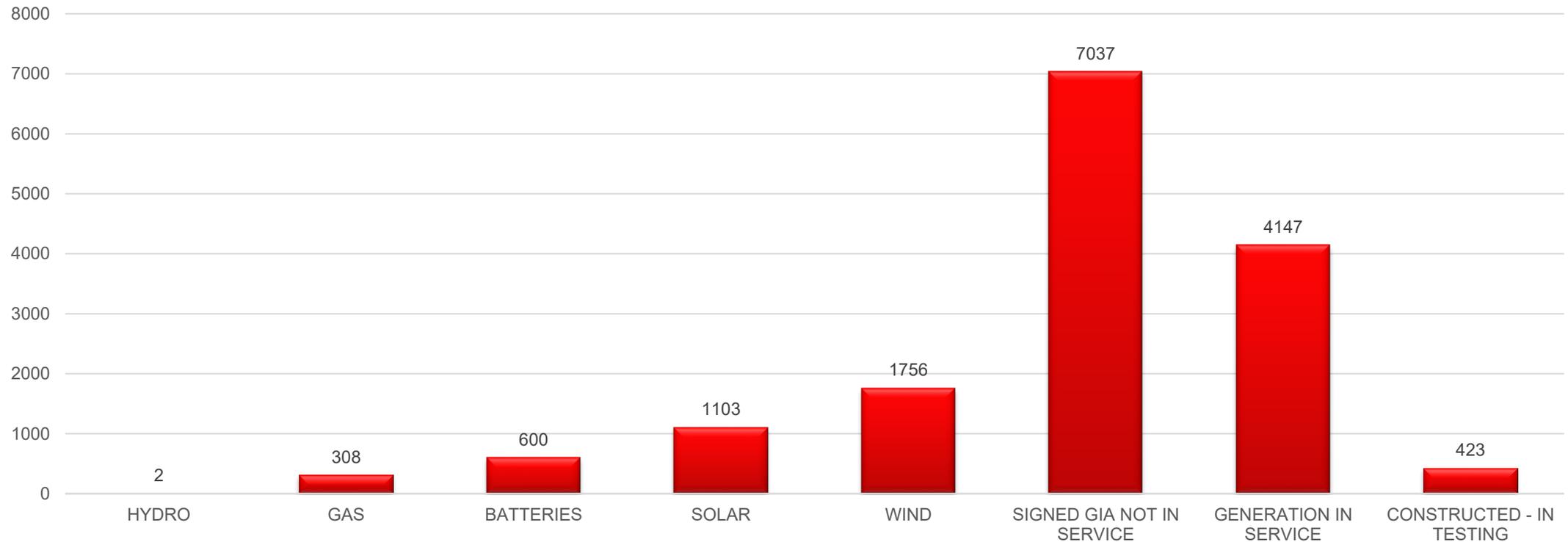
| Yearly ATC for 1 Year Request for Each Year | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|----|
| Yearly Firm ATC by Year (as of 2/06/2025) | | | |
| Path 8 | <i>BPA Import</i> | Yearly Firm ATC | |
| | 2025 | 39 | |
| | 2026 | 22 | |
| | 2027 | 22 | |
| | 2028 | 22 | |
| | 2029 | 20 | |
| | <i>AVAT Import</i> | | |
| | 2025 | 159 | |
| | 2026 | 109 | |
| | 2027 | 109 | |
| | 2028 | 159 | |
| | 2029 | 159 | |
| | Path 18 | <i>BRDY Import</i> | |
| | | 2025 | 34 |
| 2026 | | 34 | |
| 2027 | | 34 | |
| 2028 | | 34 | |
| 2029 | | 34 | |
| <i>Jeff Import</i> | | | |
| 2025 | | 47 | |
| 2026 | | 47 | |
| 2027 | | 47 | |
| 2028 | 47 | | |
| 2029 | 47 | | |
| Path 80 | <i>YTP/Crossover Import</i> | | |
| | 2025 | 0 | |
| | 2026 | 0 | |
| | 2027 | 0 | |
| | 2028 | 0 | |
| | 2029 | 0 | |
| | Firm Import ATC (2027) | 212 | |



NorthWestern Interconnection Queue – July 2025

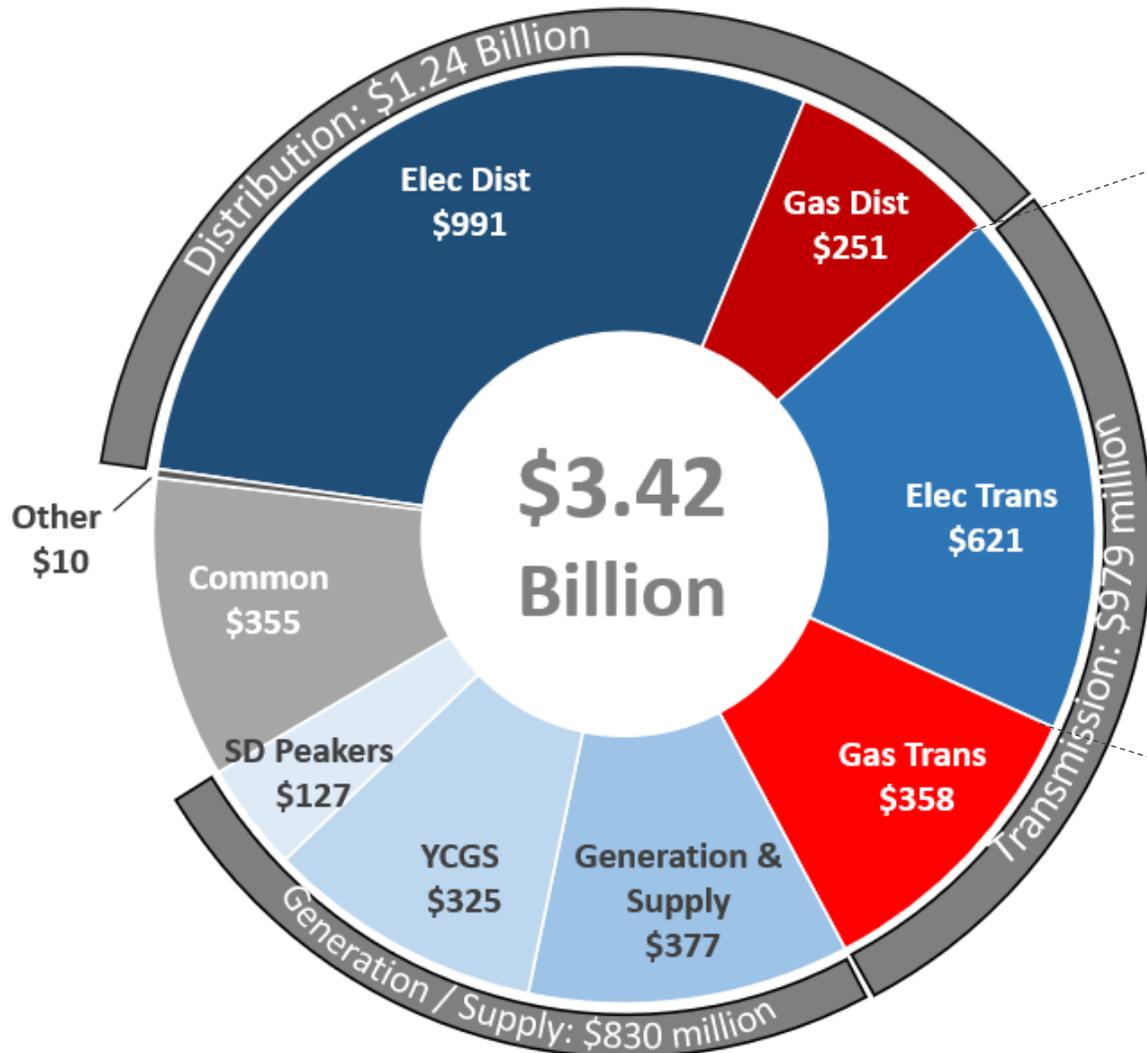
Significant Competition for Transmission Capacity

Montana Generation Statistics

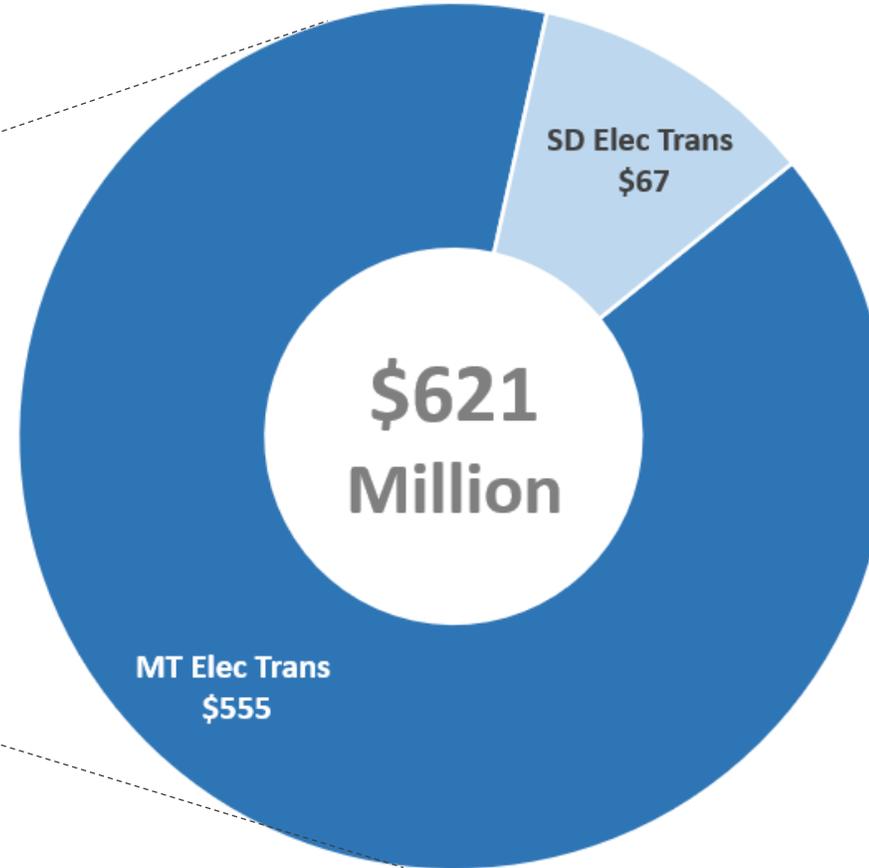


NorthWestern Energy – Historic Capex Spend 2019-2025F

2019-2025F Capital Investment
(\$ Millions)



2019-2025F Electric Transmission
Capital Investment (MT & SD)
(\$ Millions)

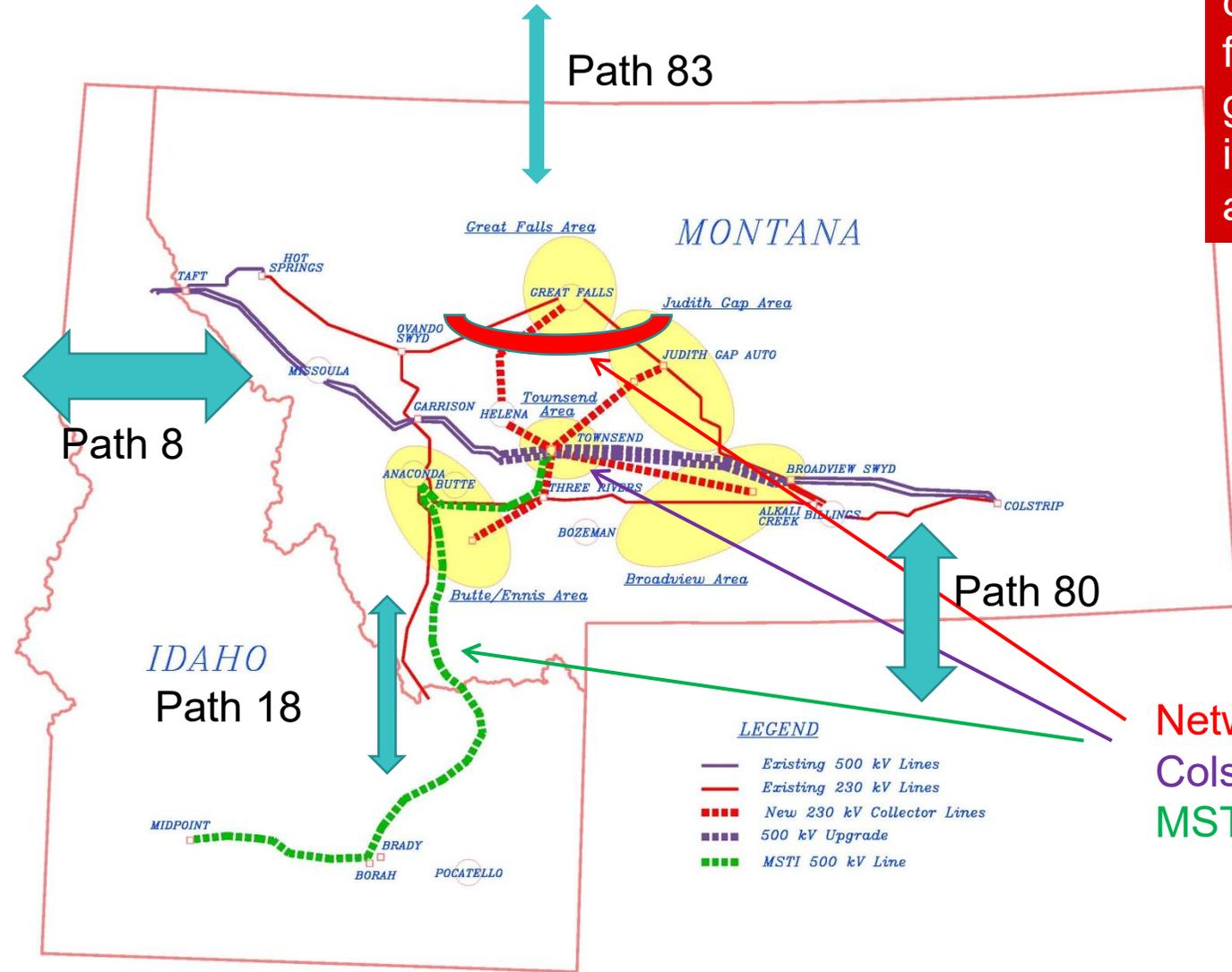


We are expected to invest ~\$3.4 billion in capex from 2019 through 2025 with ~\$621 million or 18% invested in our electric transmission system (MT & SD).

The MT transmission investment is \$555 million.

NorthWestern Past Proposed Transmission Projects

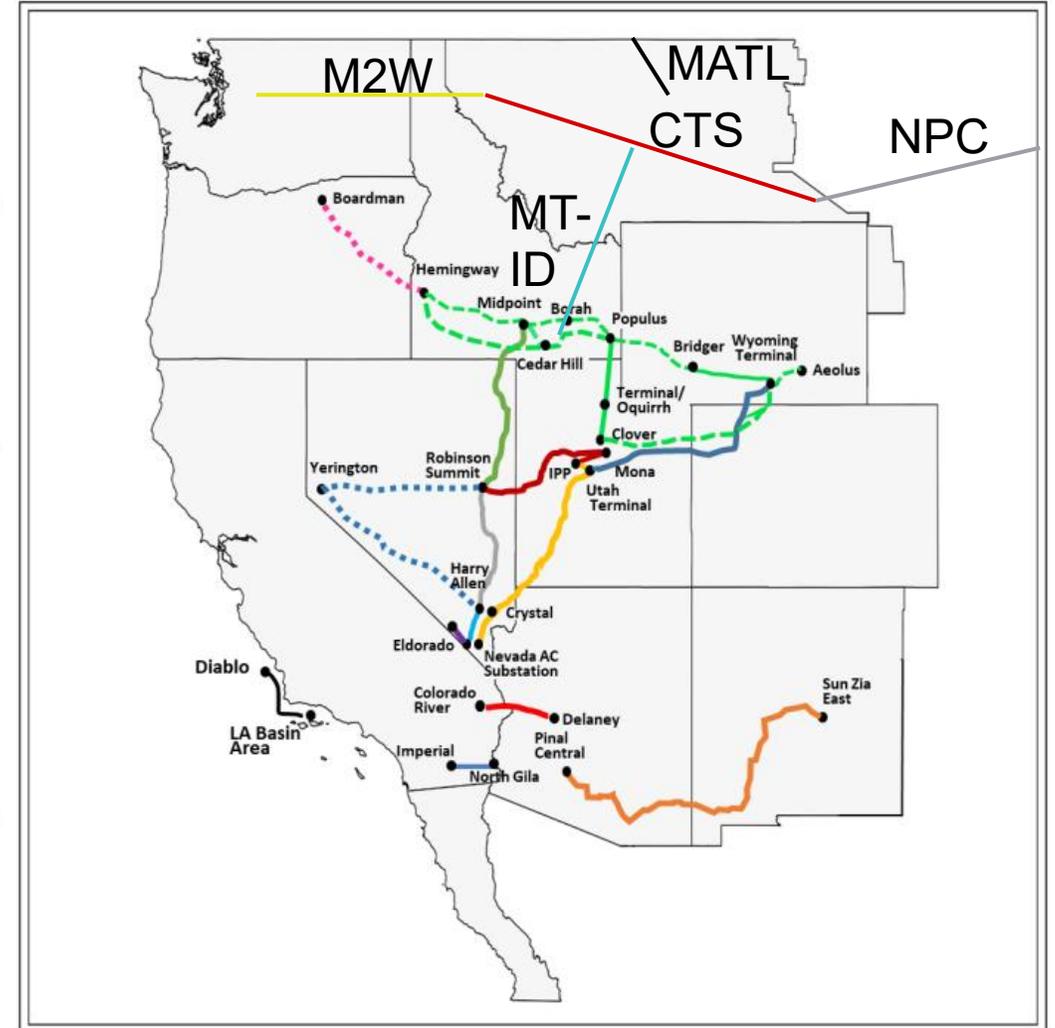
Some or all of these projects should be completed in MT to facilitate new generation growth, allow for critical imports/reliability, export and Market connectivity



Network Upgrades
Colstrip Upgrade
MSTI

Regional Developments

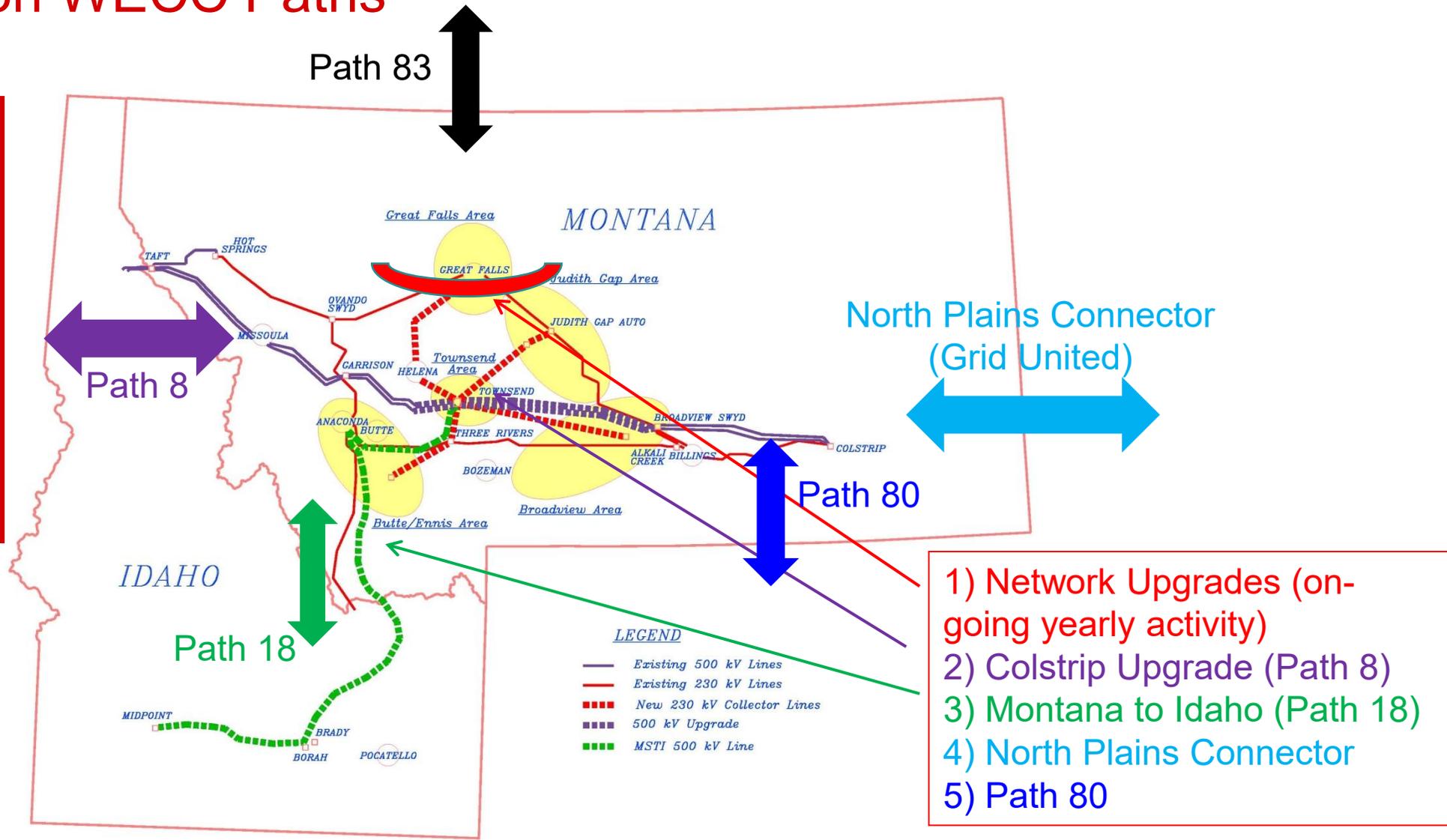
Montana Connections



Current Regional Transmission Development – Note Focus on WECC Paths

- In various stages of development on Regional Transmission
- Working with potential partners
- Coupled with needed upgrades within NorthWestern TX Network

Senate Bill 301 – a process for public utility to request a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) – greater than 69 kV



Transmission Bill – SB 301

If requested by Public Utility, SB 301 allows process for Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) for electric transmission (greater than 69 kV) to be issued by the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC)

- **Greater confidence of Project approval**
Bill allows greater confidence for Public Utility that project is needed and the critical capital necessary for the for the project will be available to continue to modernization of the transmission grid
- **Approvals**
MPSC shall determine if transmission projects are in public interest and may grant or deny a CPCN





Thank you

