

MANITOBA-MINNESOTA TRANSMISSION PROJECT

DORSEY TO IRON RANGE INTERNATIONAL POWER LINE OPERATIONAL ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

February 2021

Prepared by:

Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department



Version – Final 1.01

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1. Introduction

Consistent with its corporate Environmental Management Policy, Manitoba Hydro has committed, within the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to developing an operational access management plan (AMP) as part of a larger suite of mitigation measures to minimize potential negative environmental and socio-economic effects. The AMP is a direct response to recommendations made by Project study team specialists in supporting technical reports, key person interviews, stakeholder, public and engagement and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ATK) studies. This AMP for the Dorsey to Iron Range (D604I) International Power Line is a component of the overall Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project Operational and Maintenance Environmental Protection Program.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this AMP is to address issues of concern expressed by provincial regulators, stakeholders, the public, and Indigenous peoples during the project's public and indigenous engagement activities, regulatory review, and by the environmental assessment team. The focus of this AMP is on the Operations and Maintenance phase of the development.

The objectives of the AMP are to:

- Provide for safe, coordinated access onto and along the right of way;
- Support sustainable use through the protection of natural resources within the Project area;
- Support the preservation of socio-economic, cultural, spiritual and heritage values within the Project area;
- Allow Manitoba Hydro staff and contractors to operate and maintain the transmission line year-round (where applicable); and
- Prescribe strategies and mitigation measures to minimize potential negative direct and indirect effects of transmission line access.

2.1 Access Management Plan Coverage

From a geographic perspective the scope of this AMP includes the Dorsey to Iron Range (D604I) International Power Line Right of Way (ROW) and access routes and bypass trails as delineated in map book located in Appendix A.

3. Environment Act Licence Conditions

There are numerous licence conditions that apply to the operation and maintenance of the development and can be found on the Manitoba Public Registry or from the Manitoba Hydro Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department. Below is a list of those licence conditions that apply to operational access management on the Dorsey to Iron Range International Power Line:

24. The Licencee shall, prior to completion of construction of the transmission line component of the Development, submit an operations access management plan for Crown lands for review by the Eastern Region IRMT and approval of the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch. If changes to the plan are proposed, they shall be reviewed with the Eastern Region IRMT and an updated plan shall be submitted for approval of the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch. The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) the location of roads, trails, and water crossings required to access the Dorsey international power line right-of-way for maintenance and ongoing operations purposes;*
- b) the identification of roads, trails, and water crossings to be decommissioned at the completion of construction, and the methods and timeframes for conducting decommissioning and rehabilitation works; and*
- c) access methods to be used for managing vegetation along the Dorsey international power line right-of-way.*

25. The Licencee shall inform all private landowners whose property is crossed by the Dorsey international power line new right-of-way in forested areas that when a specific, related access issue has been identified, measures to limit access to their property from the right-of-way (e.g. fencing with a gate and signage), will be included in an agreement with Manitoba Hydro and supplied and installed at the Licencee's expense.

26. The Licencee shall annually inspect the Dorsey international power line right-of-way for the effectiveness of access controls implemented in association with the Development, until otherwise directed by the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch. Annual reports on the results of the inspections shall be submitted to the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch. Where access controls are not effective, the Licencee shall work with either the private landowners or the Eastern Region IRMT to address the issue.

35. The Licencee shall carry out activities associated with the Development that may disturb wetlands in the Caliento, Sundown, and Piney Bogs only under frozen ground conditions. Maintenance activities within these bogs shall be conducted under frozen ground conditions unless required to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the Development, in which case mitigation measures to reduce impacts to the bogs shall be implemented.

38. The Licencee shall, during construction and operation of the Development, prevent the introduction and spread of foreign aquatic biota. Equipment shall be cleaned in accordance with the requirements of Manitoba Regulation 173/2015 respecting Aquatic Invasive Species, or any future amendment thereof.

The above licence conditions are to be upheld during any and all operations and maintenance activities, if you require any assistance in interpreting or implementing these conditions please contact your departments Environmental Specialist or Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department at LEAProjects@hydro.mb.ca or 1-877-343-1631

4. Indigenous and Stakeholder Interests and Issues

The primary concerns from indigenous organizations, stakeholders, regulators and environmental assessment team are protection of the environment, wildlife species, interference with resource use practices/activities, and safety. It is important to note that the majority of access routes to the ROW were pre-existing of the development and are of great interest to variety of resource users, Manitoba Hydro staff and contractors must exercise due care when conducting its maintenance activities with respect to these pre-existing access routes and the resource users ability to utilize them.

5. Approved Access Routes and By-pass Trails

In the attached map book (Appendix A) approved access routes and bypass trails are identified. If changes to the plan on Crown Land are proposed, they shall be reviewed with the Eastern Region IRMT and an updated plan shall be submitted for approval of the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch. For additional access routes or by-pass trails on private lands seek authorization from landowner.

6. Access Decommissioning

Transmission development on the landscape often requires the creation of or improving of existing access roads and trails to facilitate construction and operation of the development. Manitoba Hydro's preference is to utilize existing roads and trails to the extent possible prior to development of any new access routes. All of the access routes identified in the Operational Access Management Plan Mapbook were utilized during construction are required for ongoing Operational access. Any access routes that were identified in the Construction Access Management Plan Mapbook that are not identified in the Operational Access Management Plan Mapbook were either not used during the construction phase or were only used by small off-road vehicles for survey and hand clearing crews during the early phases of construction and are being allowed to return to previous state.

7. Right of way Vegetation Management

The long-term objective of the Vegetation Management Program is the conversion of the right of way from dense stands of tall growing vegetation, into low-growing stable plant communities compatible with the safe and reliable operation of the Transmission System. Manitoba Hydro uses a

variety of industry standard techniques to manage target vegetation on and off the ROW. Specifically; the integrated vegetation management practices focus on vegetation that can or have the potential to grow and/or fall, into or within the arcing distance of the transmission lines and or facilities. The natural regeneration of woody incompatible tree species must be controlled to maintain a safe and reliable transmission system.

Access methods to be used for managing vegetation along the right of way include both aerial and ground methods. Access from the air will be by various sized helicopter depending on crew size. Access from the ground will utilize access roads and trails as identified in Appendix A and by a variety of equipment including pick-up or medium duty truck, tractor trailer, flex track sprayer, rubber tired or tracked mower or mulcher, tracked feller buncher, snowmobile, ATV/UTV;

APPENDIX A Map Book

Manitoba - Minnesota Transmission Project

Project Infrastructure Access

- Tower Location
- Angle Tower Location
- New Approach - Installed by MH
- Existing approach
- Existing Gravel Road
- Existing Gravel/Dirt Road
- HMQ
- HMQ (May require crown land work permit)
- MH Ownership
- Private (Easement)
- Private (May require landowner permission)
- Restricted Access
- Load Restriction
- Underground Infrastructure (Caution: Load restrictions may apply)
- Final Preferred Route
- Right-of-way

Rivers/Creeks Crossing

- Water Crossing
- Water Crossing

Landbase

- Trans-Canada Highway
- Provincial Trunk Highway
- Provincial Road
- Municipal Road
- Rail
- Crown Lands
- Rural Municipality

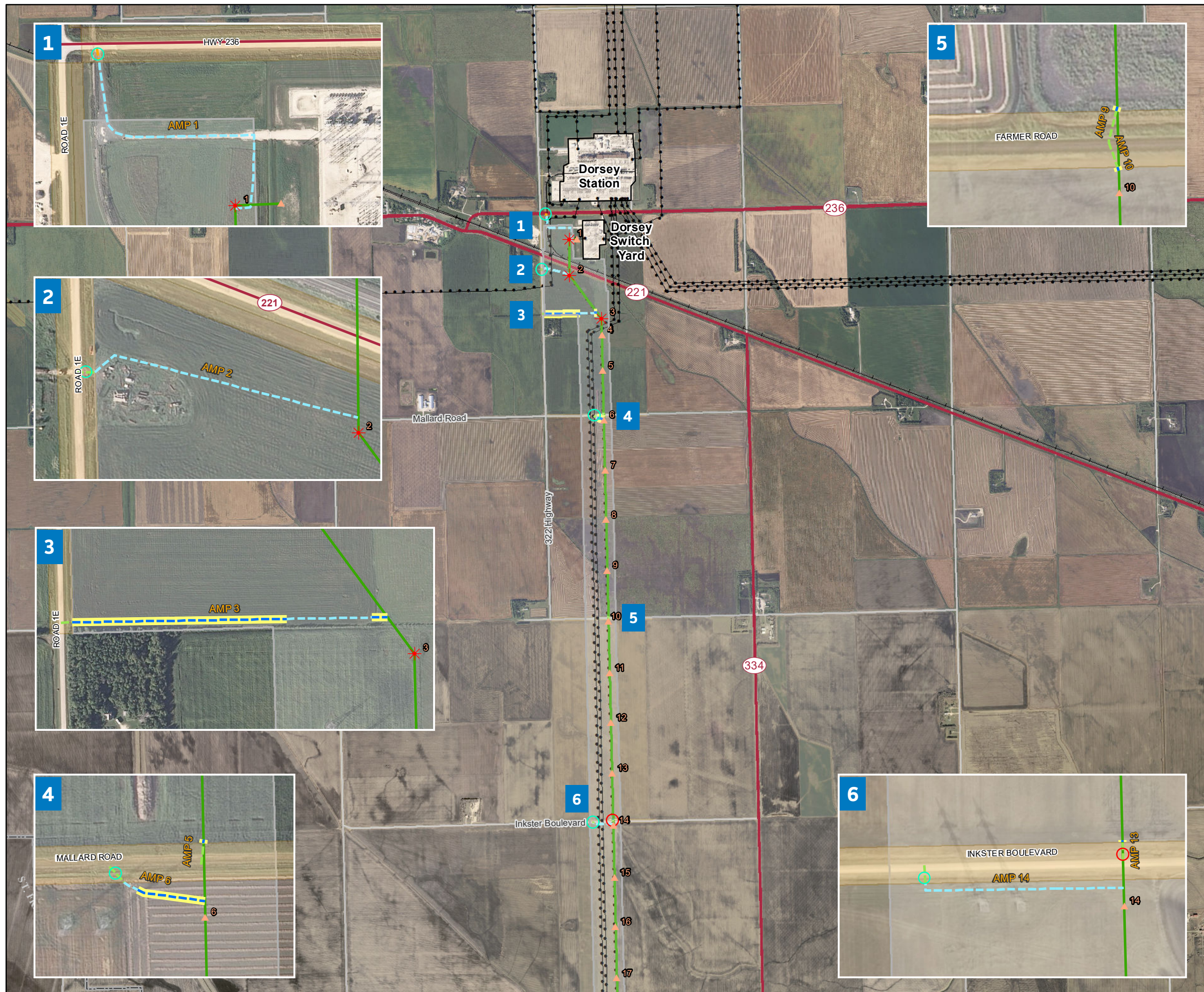
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Operation and Maintenance Access Management Plan



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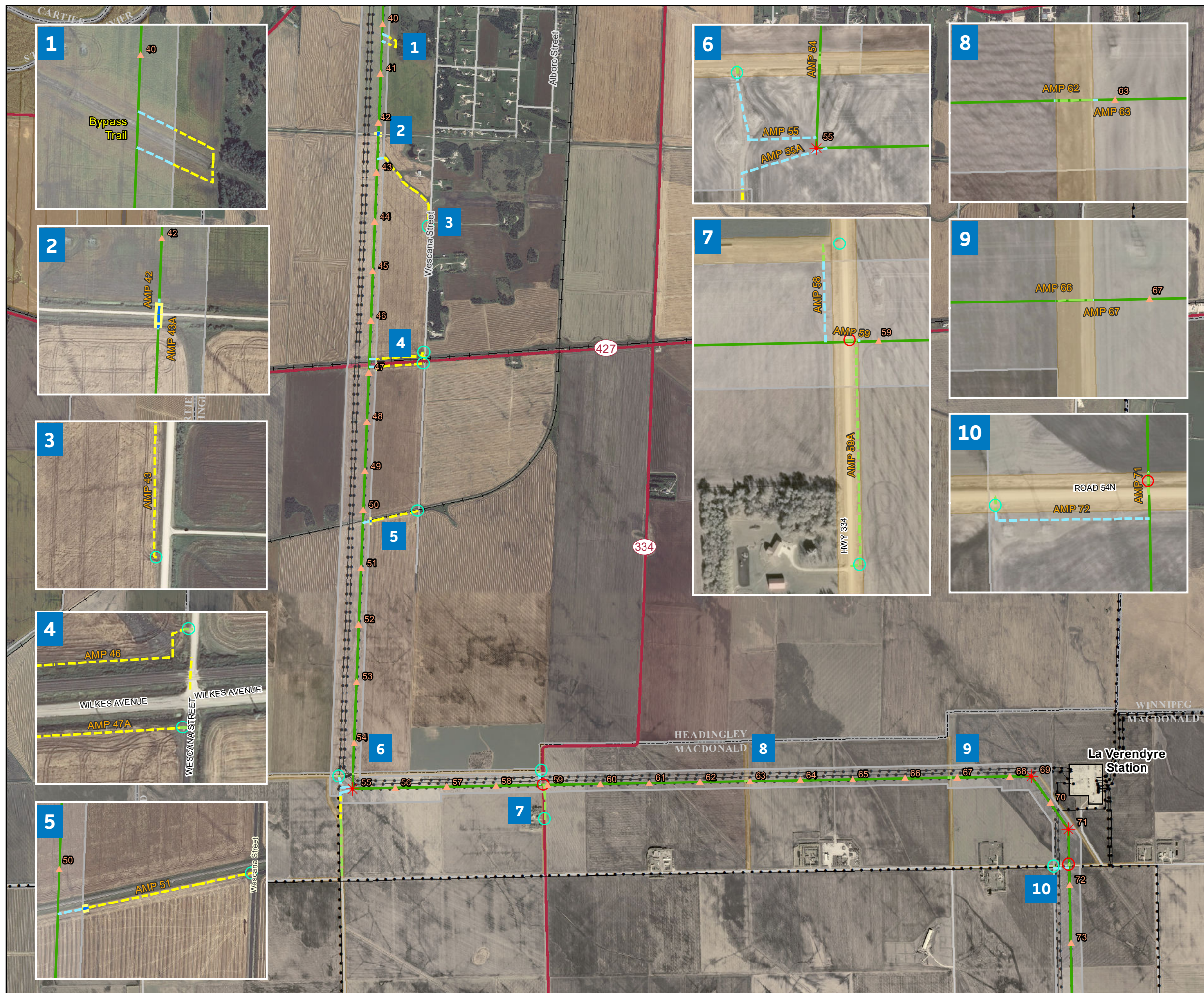
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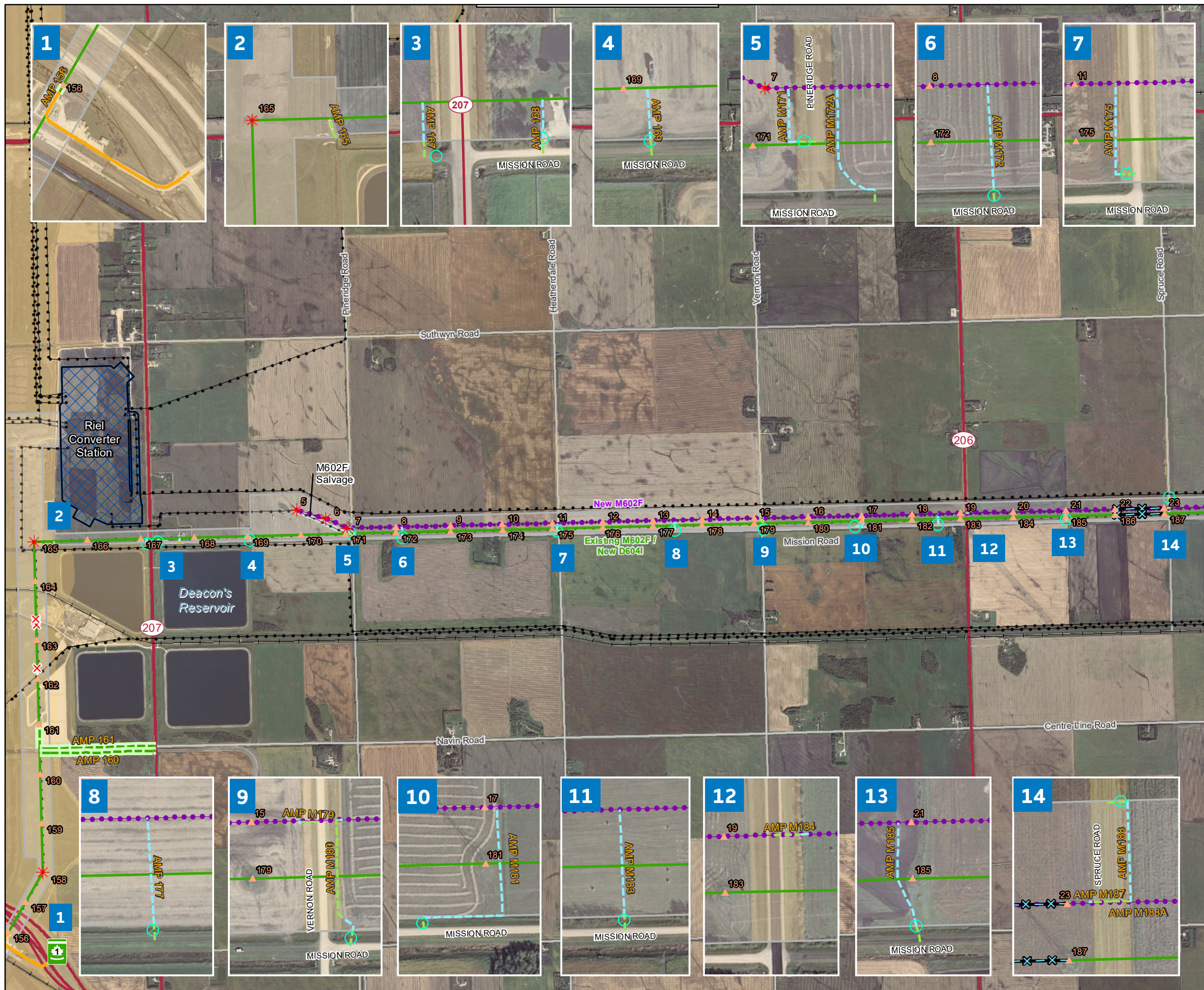
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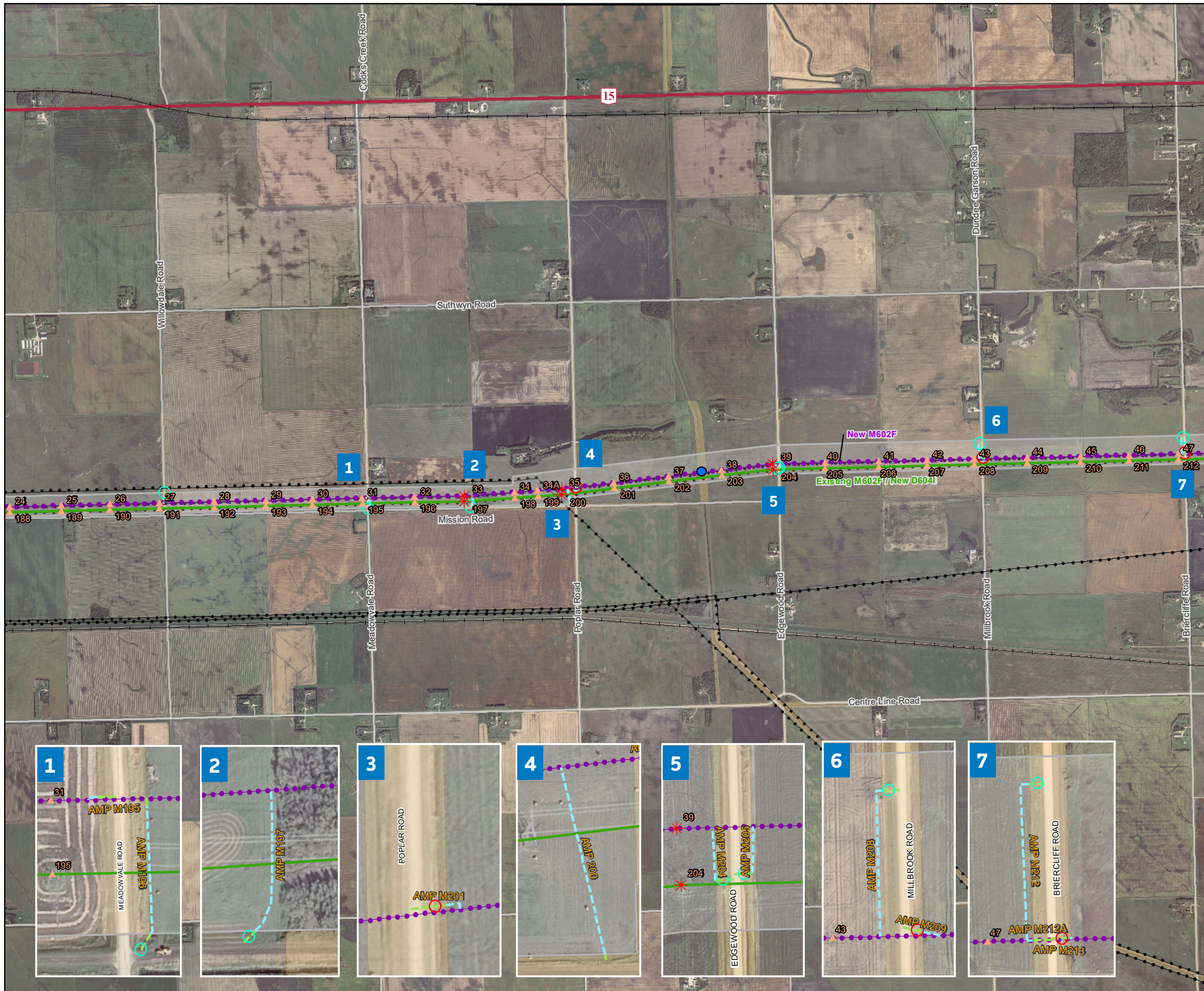
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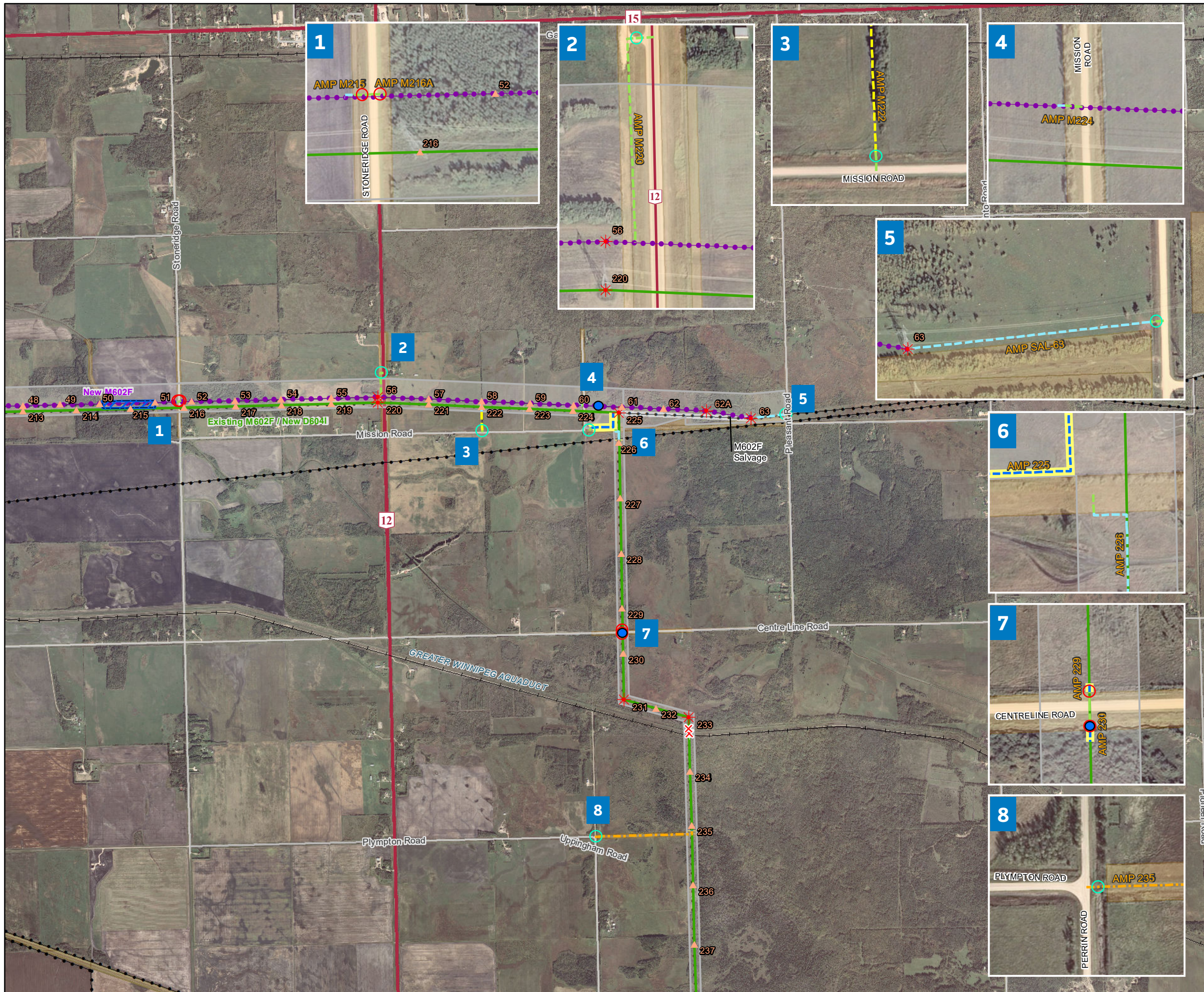
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


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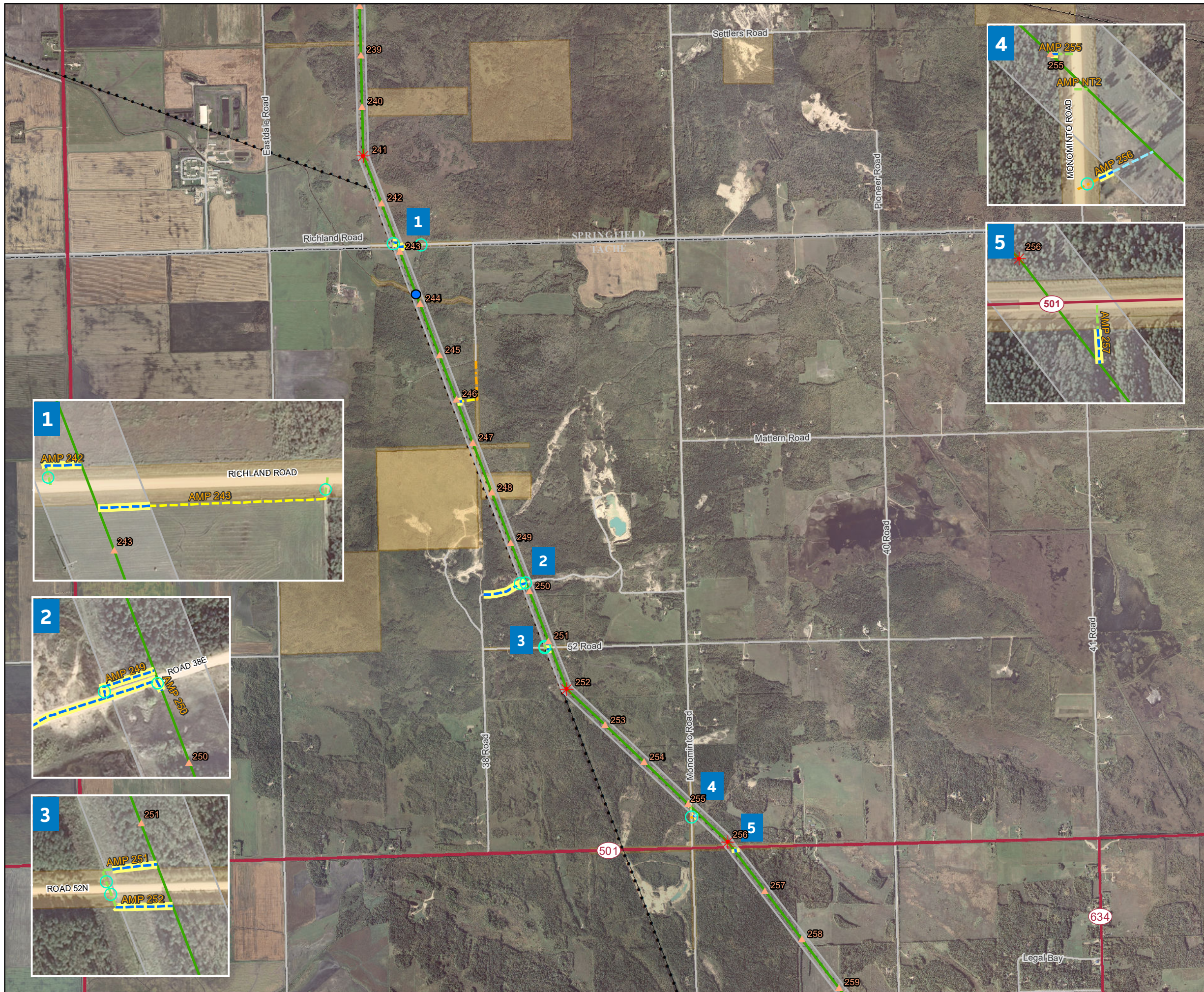
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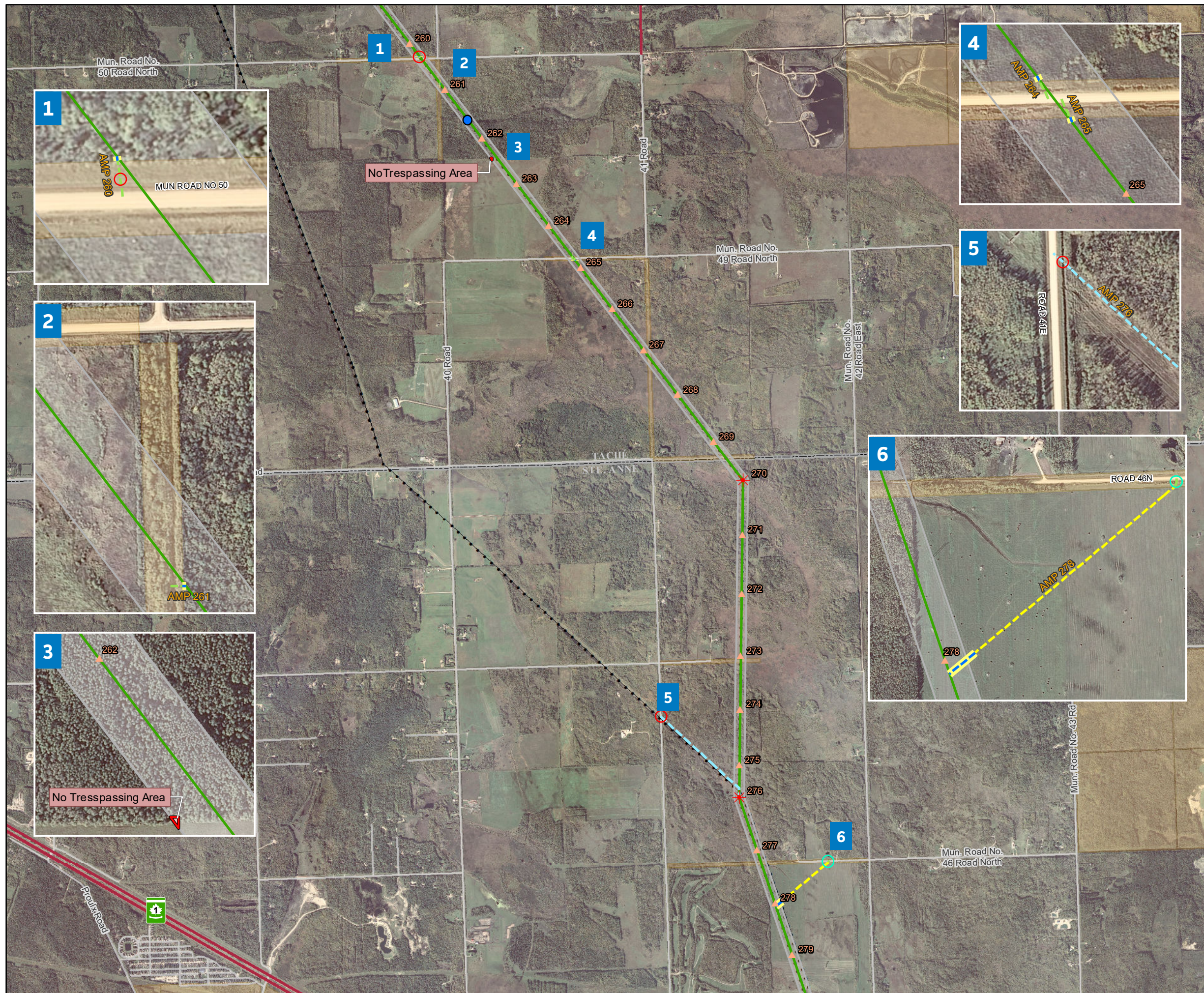
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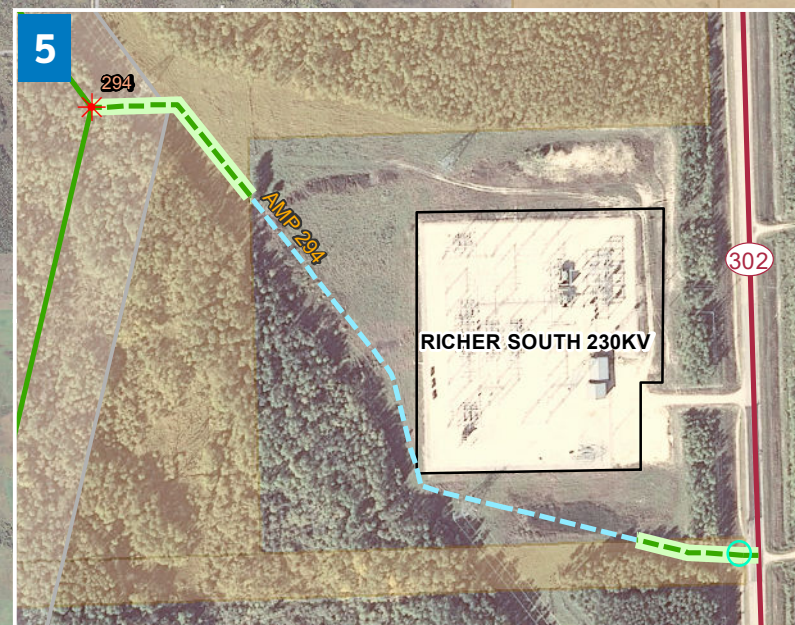
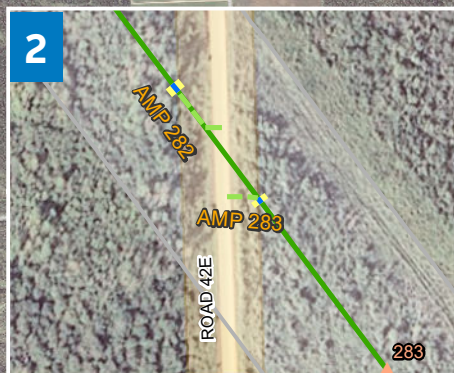
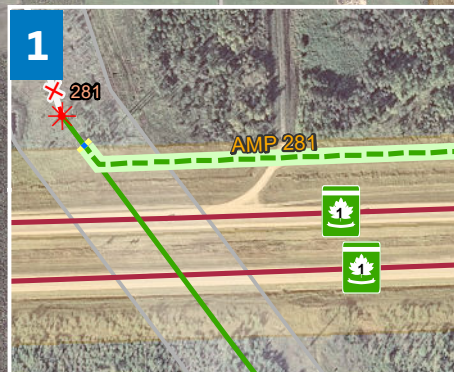
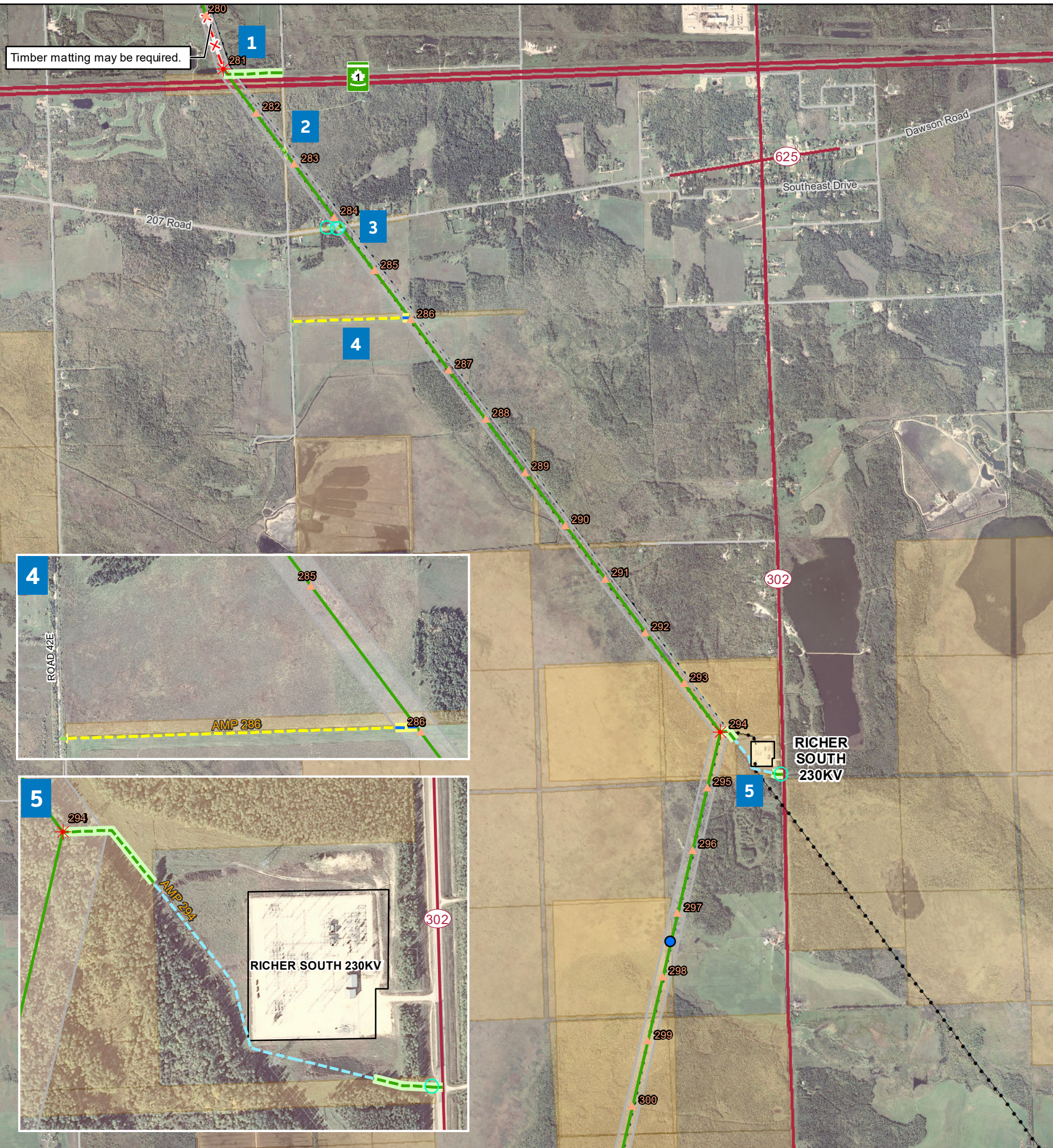
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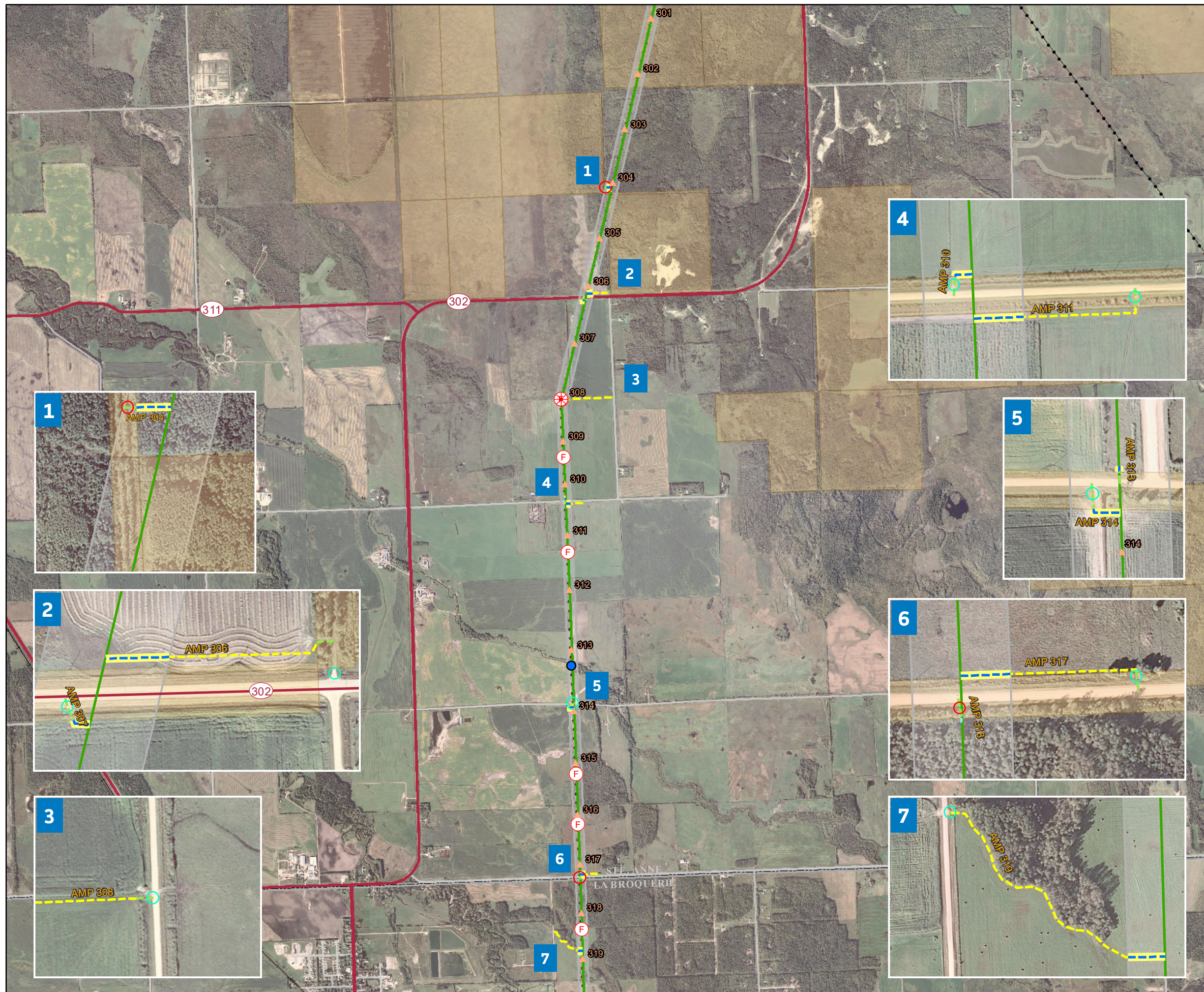
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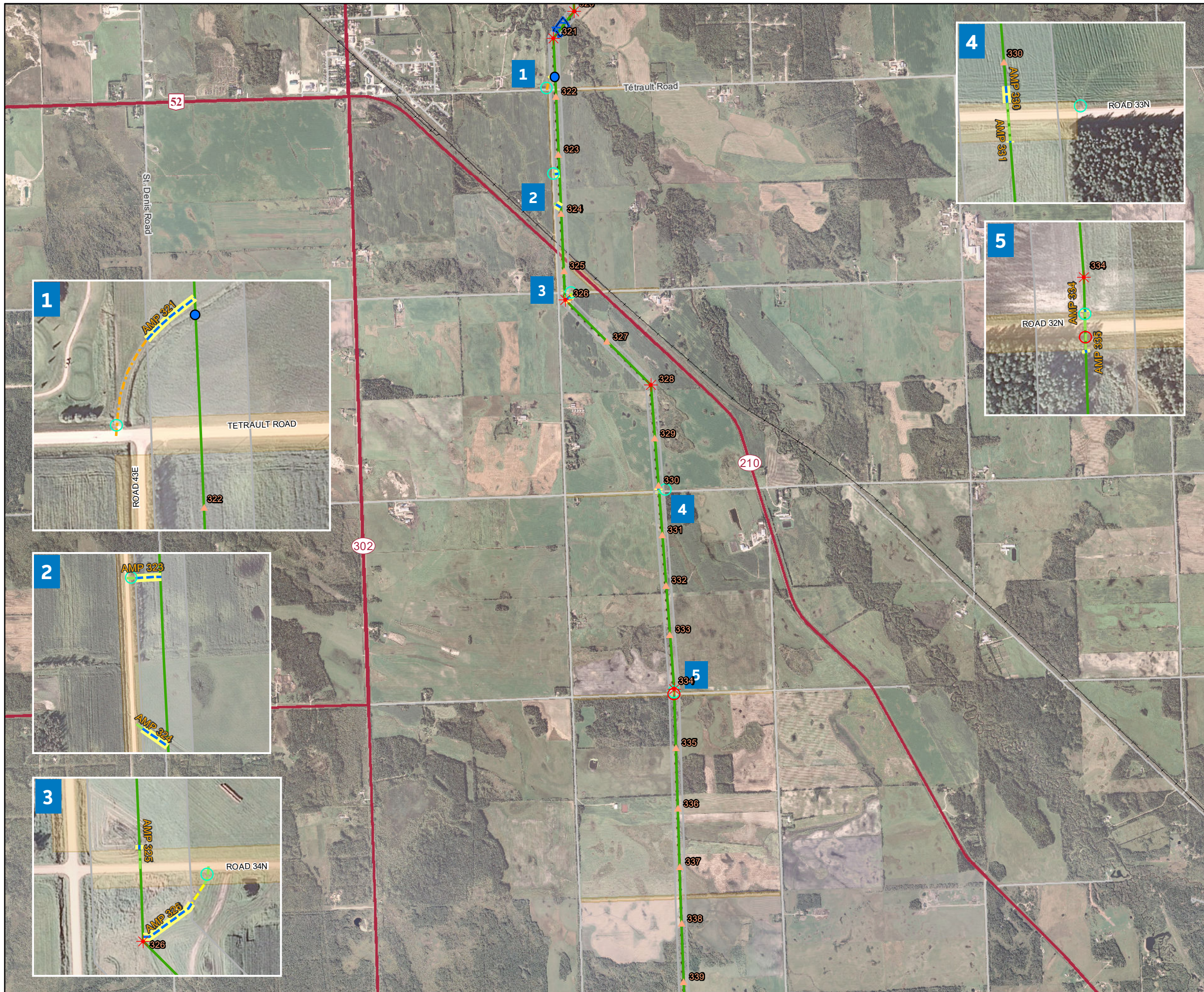
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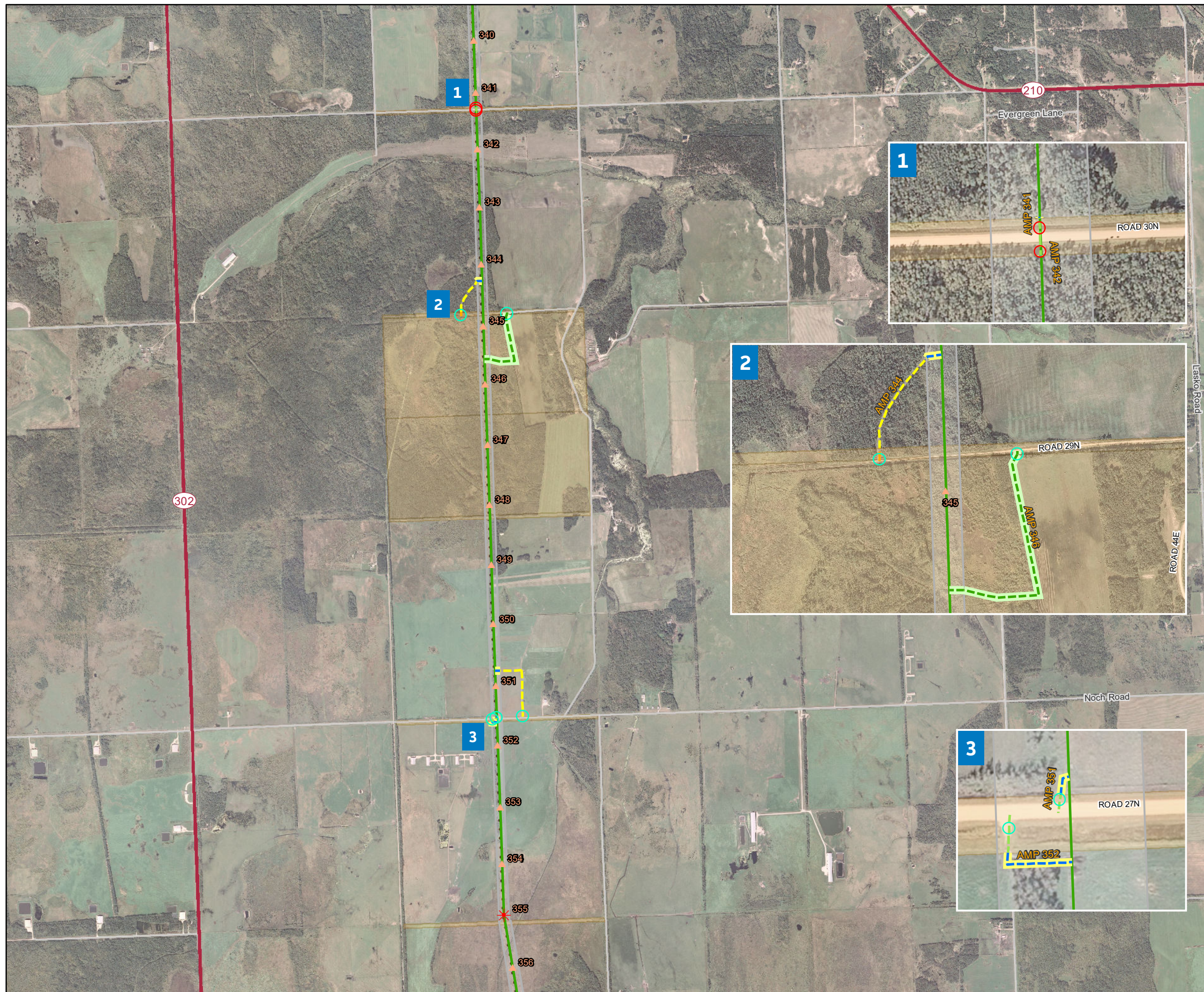
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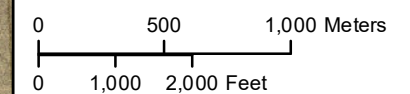
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Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB
Date Created: August 05, 2020



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Operation and Maintenance Access Management Plan





Manitoba - Minnesota Transmission Project








Project Infrastructure Access

-  Tower Location
-  Angle Tower Location
-  New Approach - Installed by MH
-  Existing approach
-  Existing Gravel Road
-  Existing Gravel/Dirt Road
-  HMQ
-  HMQ (May require crown land work permit)
-  MH Ownership
-  Private (Easement)
-  Private (May require landowner permission)
-  Restricted Access
-  Load Restriction
-  Underground Infrastructure
(Caution: Load restrictions may apply)
-  Final Preferred Route
-  Right-of-way

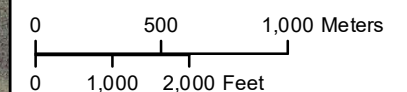
Rivers/Creeks Crossing

-  Water Crossing
-  Water Crossing

Landbase

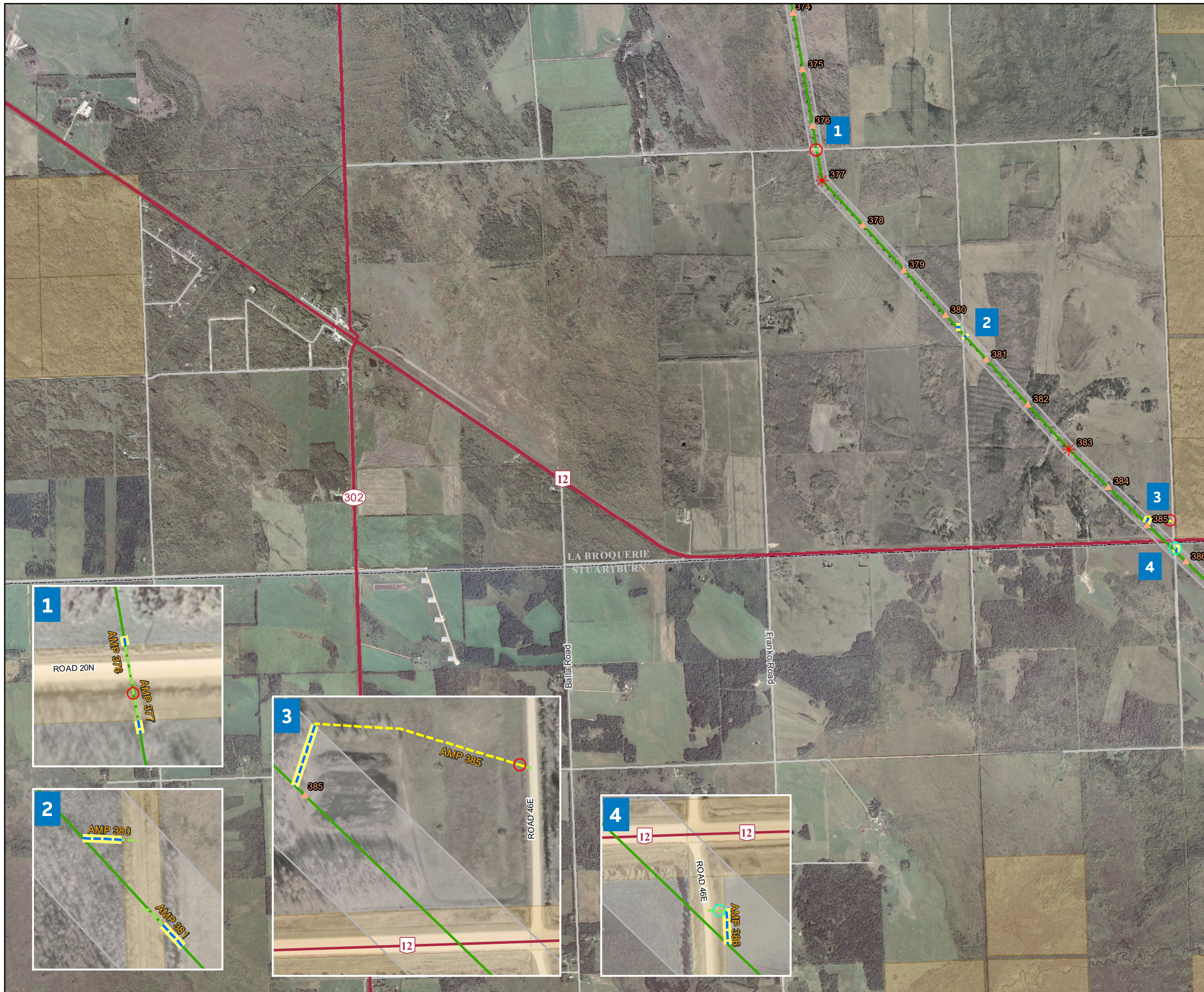
-  Trans-Canada Highway
-  Provincial Trunk Highway
-  Provincial Road
-  Municipal Road
-  Rail
-  Crown Lands
-  Rural Municipality

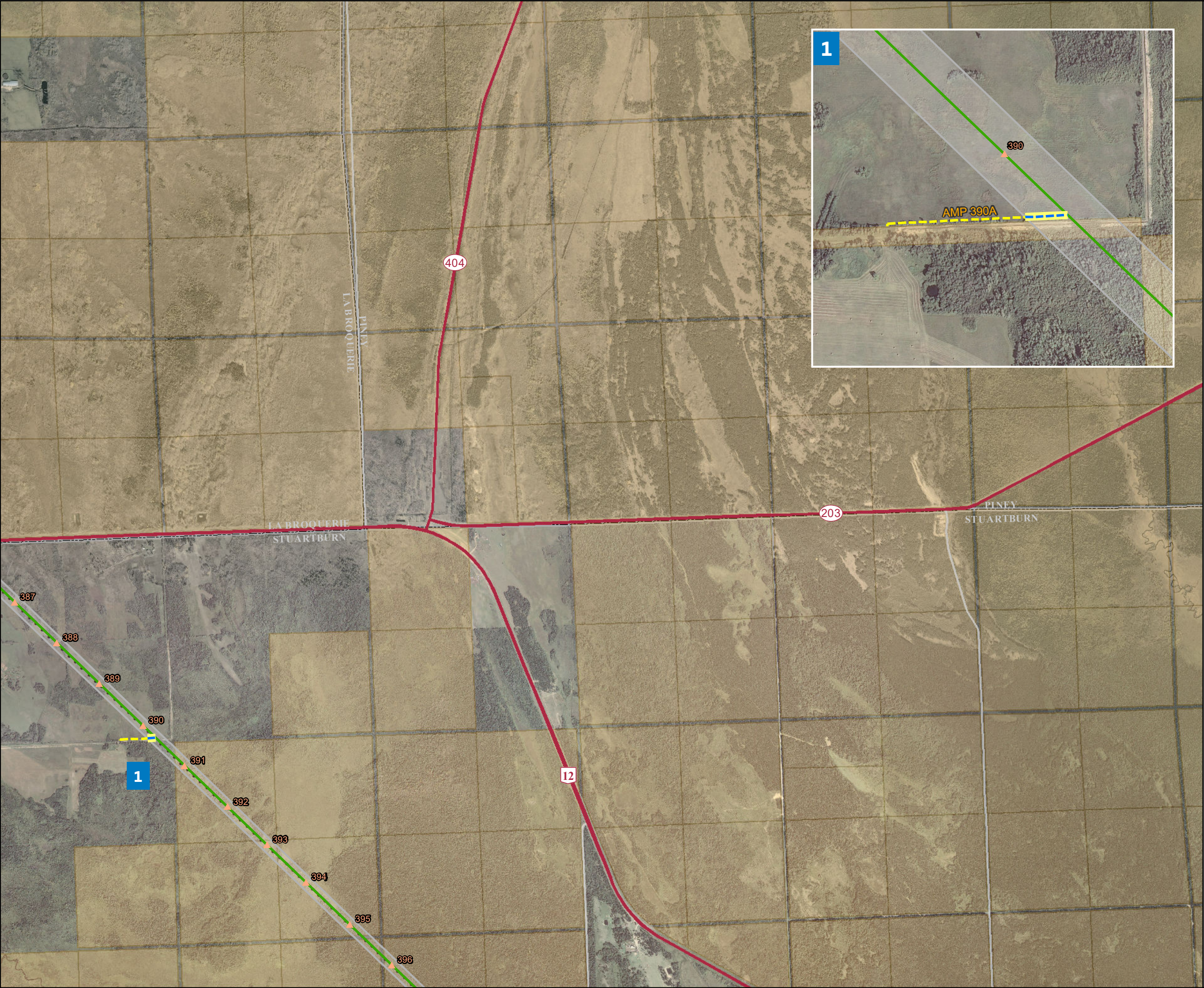
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Operation and Maintenance Access Management Plan





Manitoba - Minnesota
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0 500 1,000 Meters
0 1,000 2,000 Feet

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Operation and Maintenance
Access Management Plan

Manitoba - Minnesota Transmission Project








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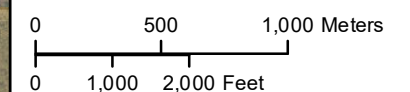
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Operation and Maintenance Access Management Plan





**Manitoba - Minnesota
Transmission Project**








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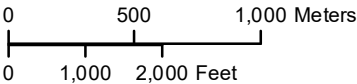
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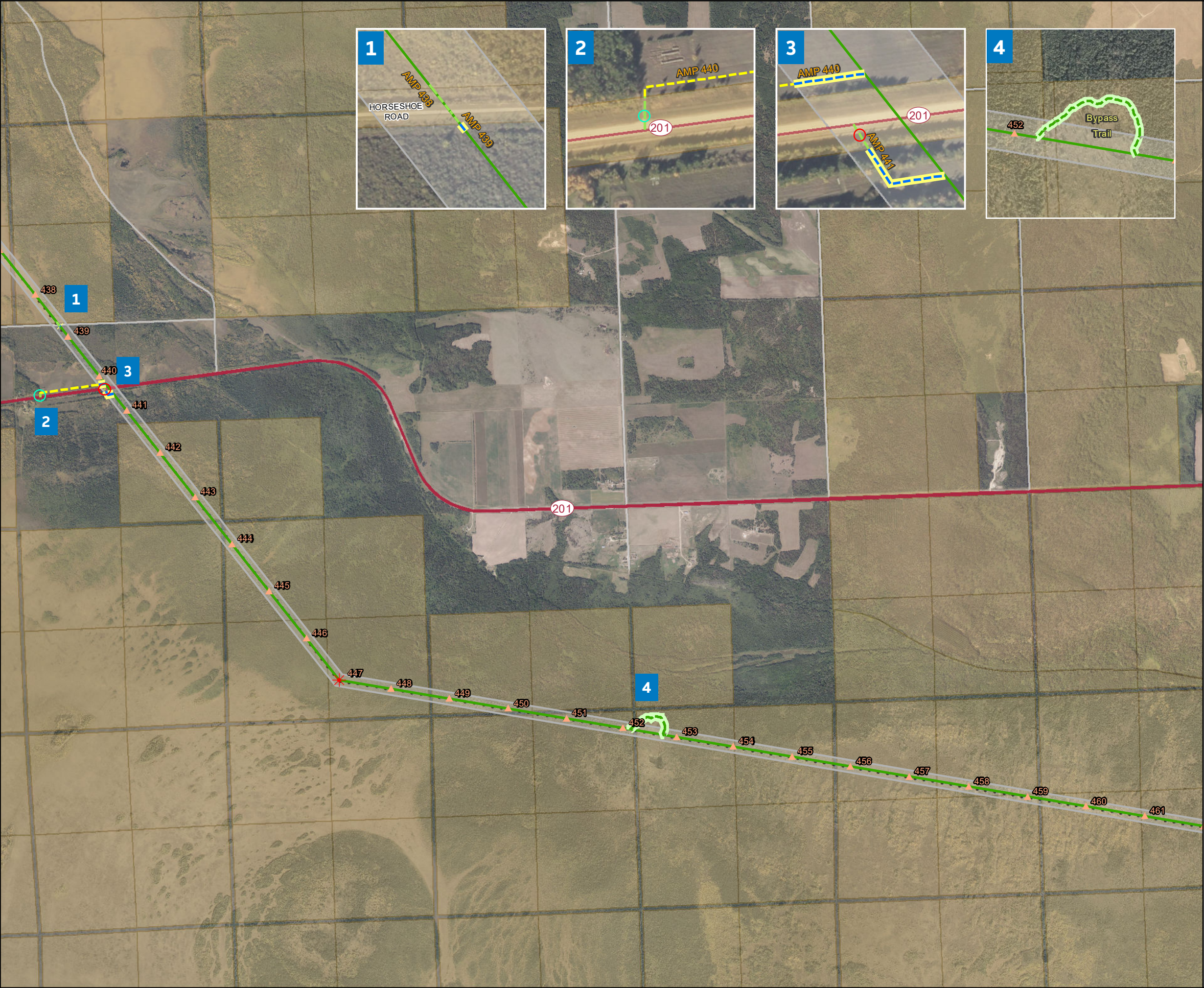
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**Operation and Maintenance
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Manitoba - Minnesota
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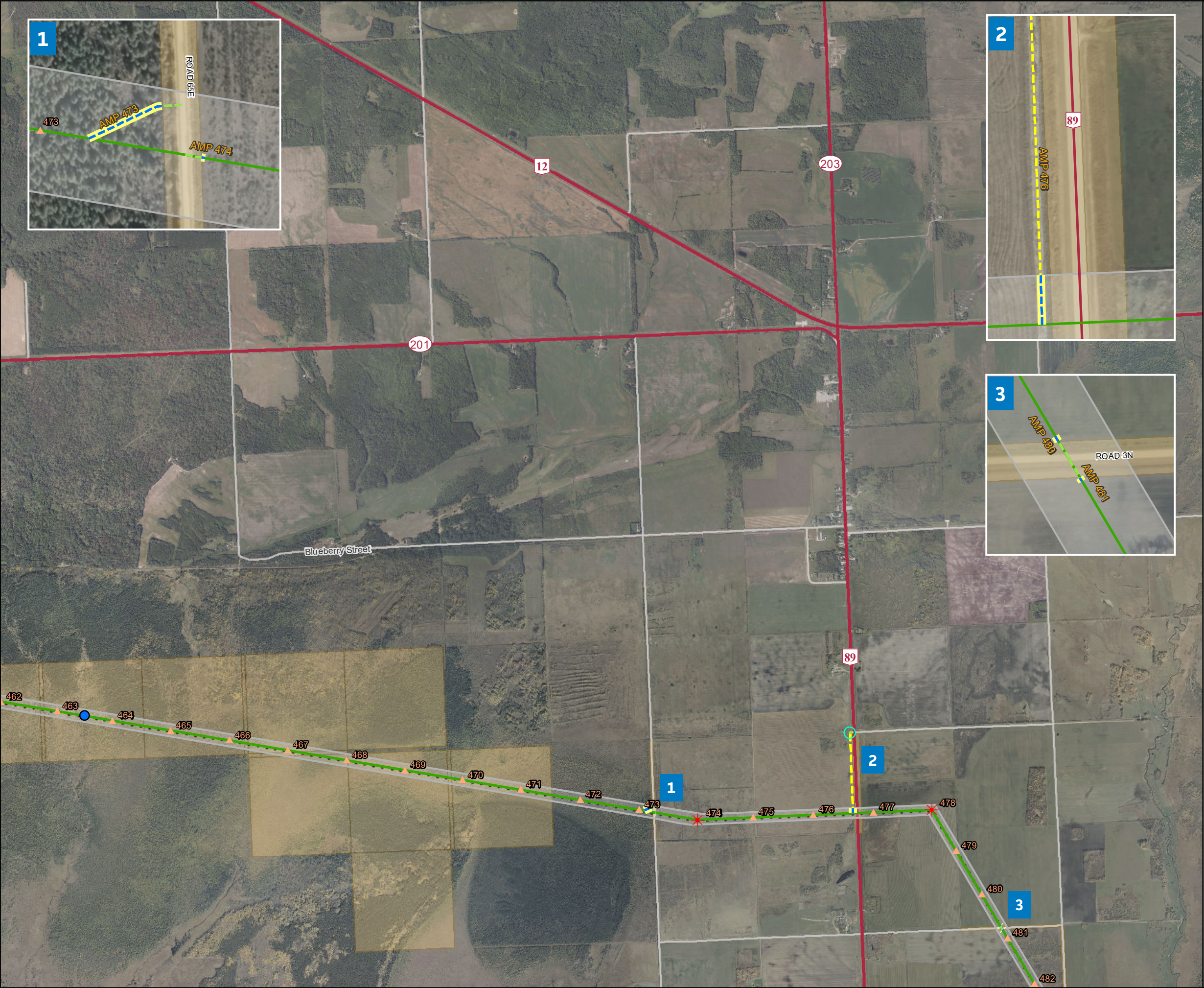
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Operation and Maintenance
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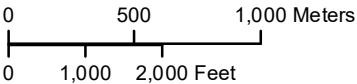
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