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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PLEASE POST UNTIL 5 P.M. ON MAY 3, 2016

FROM: City of Fresno
Development & Resource Mgmt. Dept.
2600 Fresno Street Room 3076
Fresno, California 93721-3604

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FILED

TO: X Fresno County Clerk
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, California 93721

APR 01 2016

APR 01 2016 TIME 9:30 AM

X Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
By *[Signature]* DEPUTY

Project Title: City of Fresno Environmental Assessment No. EA-15-028 for Herndon Avenue Westbound Improvements

Project Location: The 5-acre overall project area involves an expressway-level major street located in the City of Fresno, which is located in the County of Fresno. It encompasses the north half of West Herndon Avenue right-of-way between North Blythe and North Brawley Avenues; an abandoned turn pocket in the median island area of West Herndon Avenue (formerly serving a now-abandoned alignment of North Blythe Avenue) lying between the current alignment of North Blythe Avenue and North Milburn Avenues; the proximal 100 feet of North Doolittle Drive right-of-way on the north side of West Herndon Avenue; the segment of existing multipurpose trail (Class 1 bikeway/pedestrian path) on the north side of West Herndon Avenue between North Brawley Avenue and the Sierra Sky Park general aviation airport; two strips of property approximately 26 feet wide lying north of West Herndon Avenue on either side of North Doolittle Drive (portions of Assessor Parcels Nos. 501-044-04, addressed as 4232 West Herndon Avenue, and 501-048-01 addressed as 4415 West Spaatz Avenue), comprising 3.4 acres, on the planned multi-purpose trail route; and a segment of existing underground irrigation pipeline in an easement owned by Fresno Irrigation District (FID) on the north side of Herndon Avenue between Brawley and Blythe Avenues, with a 15-foot addition on the north side of that easement within the planned multi-purpose trail area. See attached vicinity map and project diagrams on aerial photos.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project involves modifying the above-described portion of the existing westbound Herndon Avenue right-of-way between Brawley and Blythe Avenues by relocating median island curbs and re-striping to accommodate three travel lanes (providing for continuity of the established striping pattern east and west of the project site), and by removing an abandoned turn pocket between North Blythe and North Milburn Avenues and replacing it with a landscaped median island. These project components will not widen the existing Herndon Avenue right-of-way or

increase its planned expressway traffic capacity rating. The street rehabilitation project will include replacing existing traffic signal loops; rehabilitating of pavement using asphalt grinding and overlay to a 0.2 foot depth; repairing ramps to meet current standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and replacing some median island landscaping with drought-tolerant smaller shrubs and trees more compatible with the nearby Sierra Sky Park. In addition, the project will involve acquiring the above-described strips of land and vacating the portion of North Doolittle Drive specified above (pursuant to a Public Works Vacation Feasibility Study including Public Works File No. 11515), to infill a missing segment of multipurpose trail, construction of that trail and rehabilitation of the above-described existing multipurpose trail segment on the north side of Herndon Avenue. Work in the trail area will include replacement of the 30-inch diameter underground Radin-Kamp No. 130 irrigation pipeline (with expansion of the FID easement by 15 feet of width on its north side to facilitate any future maintenance needed), new plantings and replacement of some landscaping to enhance drought-tolerance and to provide shrubs and trees more compatible with the irrigation pipeline easement and the nearby Sierra Sky Park airport, Project beneficiaries will be the general public.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Fresno

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Fresno
Department of Public Works

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial - PRC § 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines §15268
- Declared Emergency - PRC § 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines §15269(a)
- Emergency Project - PRC § 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines §15269(b) and (c)
- Categorical Exemption – Class 1 / CEQA Guidelines §15301, Class 2 / CEQA Guidelines §15302, and Class 32 / CEQA Guidelines §15332
- Statutory Exemption – PRC § _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

- Section 15301/Class 1 exempts the repair, maintenance...or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities, involving negligible or no expansion beyond that existing at the time a CEQA determination is made on the project. Subsection 15301(c) specifically notes that this exemption applies to existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities. The right-of-way width of Herndon Avenue, as adopted in the City of Fresno Official Plan Line for this street, and its General Plan Circulation Element classification as an expressway (see attached General Plan Figure MT-1) will not be changed by the project. The planned traffic capacity of Herndon Avenue will not be changed by the project, and it will not result in increased traffic volumes, just less congestion through median island modification and re-striping. Replacement of the turn pocket which had served a former segment of North Blythe Avenue whose alignment was relocated, and replacing that turn pocket with landscaped median island, will not change roadway capacity and will result in a reduced risk of accidents. Expansion

of the width of the FID irrigation pipeline easement will not have any effect on capacity or purpose of that line, but will merely enhance repair capability if repairs are needed. Modification of the median island, removal of the abandoned turn pocket, and rehabilitation of landscaping some portions of the median and along the multipurpose trail segment east of Sierra Sky Park will not change the planned use and planned capacity of the roadway or the trail.


- Section 15302/Class 2 exempts replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the existing structure replaced and will have the same purpose and capacity as the structure being replaced. The new 30-inch diameter pipeline for Fresno Irrigation District's Radin-Kamp No. 130 irrigation pipeline will be the same size as the previous irrigation pipe and will not expand water delivery capacity or change the use of the pipeline. It will merely provide a more durable and longer-lasting conveyance structure. Reconstruction of median islands will not change the height or functionality of the median island between eastbound and westbound lanes of West Herndon Avenue. The modified median island will continue to serve as a traffic safety barrier dividing directions of expressway traffic and preventing mid-segment turning movements.
- Section 15301/Class 32 exempts in-fill development projects. Vacating the 100-foot segment of North Doolittle Drive, acquiring the strips of property on the north side of Herndon Avenue east and west of Doolittle Drive, and developing a landscaped multi-purpose trail will fill in a missing segment of the planned multi-purpose trail on the north side of West Herndon Avenue as depicted in Figure MT-2 of the General plan (see attached). Trails may be developed in any zone district, and this project is necessary to develop the facility as required for a planned Class I Bicycle Pedestrian Path. The project is located entirely within City limits and can be served by all required public services and utilities. This component of the project encompasses less than five acres with no value as habitat for endangered, rare, or threatened species. It will not result in any significant adverse effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

Staff has determined that none of the exceptions as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines apply to the project: The subject property is not a designated Scenic Highway and is not visible from a Scenic Highway. No sensitive environments or habitats are on, or adjacent to, the subject property. The involved street right-of-way, existing trail segment, and planned trail segments are not on lists of hazardous waste sites. The project will not create any adverse cumulative impact, due to Public Works Department compliance with regulations of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (for fugitive dust control, construction equipment, asphalt paving, and indirect source review) and with regulations of the California Water Board and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District for construction stormwater management. The project will not cause any substantial adverse changes to an historic or cultural resource. Therefore, no adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of the proposed project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Will Tackett, Supervising Planner
City of Fresno Development & Resource Mgmt. Dep't.

Full telephone no (559) 621-8063

Signature:



Date: April 1, 2016

Printed Name and Title: Bonique Emerson, AICP, Planning Manager
City of Fresno Development & Resource Management Department.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by applicant

Attachments: Exemption Finding document
Vicinity map and aerial photos with project detail diagram
Fresno General Plan Figure MT-1, showing planned major streets
Fresno General Plan Figure MT-2, showing planned paths and trails

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 01 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

Receipt # E201610000102

Lead Agency: CITY OF FRESNO Date: 04/01/2016

County Agency of Filing: FRESNO COUNTY CLERK Document No: E201610000102

Project Title: CITY OF FRESNO EA-15-02⁸ FOR HERNDON AVENUE WESTBOUND IMPROVEMENTS

Project Applicant Name: CITY OF FRESNO Phone Number: (559) 621-8063

Project Applicant Address: DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE MGMT. DEPT., 2600 FRESNO STREET, ROOM 3076, FRESNO,

Project Applicant: LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY

ADMINISTRATION FEE	\$	50.00
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION	\$	0.00
Total Received	\$	50.00

Signature and title of person receiving payment: _____

Brittany Diaz

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. EA-14-028**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT
FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES

APPLICANT: Bradley Kerner, P.E., Supervising Professional Engineer
Design Services, Capital Management Division
City of Fresno Department of Public Works
2600 Fresno Street, Room 4016
Fresno, California 93721-3615

PROJECT LOCATION: The 5-acre overall project area involves an expressway-level major street located in the City of Fresno, which is located in the County of Fresno. It encompasses the north half of West Herndon Avenue right-of-way between North Blythe and North Brawley Avenues; an abandoned turn pocket in the median island area of West Herndon Avenue (formerly serving a now-abandoned alignment of North Blythe Avenue) lying between the current alignment of North Blythe Avenue and North Milburn Avenues; the proximal 100 feet of North Doolittle Drive right-of-way on the north side of West Herndon Avenue; the segment of existing multipurpose trail (Class 1 bikeway/pedestrian path) on the north side of West Herndon Avenue between North Brawley Avenue and the Sierra Sky Park general aviation airport; two strips of property approximately 26 feet wide lying north of West Herndon Avenue on either side of North Doolittle Drive (portions of Assessor Parcels Nos. 501-044-04, addressed as 4232 West Herndon Avenue, and 501-048-01 addressed as 4415 West Spaatz Avenue), comprising 3.4 acres, on the planned multi-purpose trail route; and a segment of existing underground irrigation pipeline in an easement owned by Fresno Irrigation District (FID) on the north side of Herndon Avenue between Brawley and Blythe Avenues, with a 15-foot addition on the north side of that easement within the planned multi-purpose trail area. See attached vicinity map and project diagrams on aerial photos.

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This project's components are exempt under Section 15301/Class 1, 15302/Class 2, and 15332/Class 32 of the State of California CEQA Guidelines.

EXPLANATION:

- Section 15301/Class 1 exempts the repair, maintenance...or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities, involving negligible or no expansion beyond that existing at the time a CEQA determination is made on the project. Subsection 15301(c) specifically notes that this exemption applies to existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities. The right-of-way width of Herndon Avenue, as adopted in the City of Fresno Official Plan Line for this street, and its General Plan Circulation Element classification as an expressway (see attached General Plan Figure MT-1) will not be changed by the project. The planned traffic capacity of Herndon Avenue will not be changed by the project, and it will not result in increased traffic volumes, just less congestion through median island modification and re-striping. Replacement of the turn pocket which had served a former segment of North Blythe Avenue whose alignment was relocated, and replacing that turn pocket with landscaped median island, will not change roadway capacity and will result in a reduced risk of accidents. Expansion of the width of the FID irrigation pipeline easement will not have any effect on capacity or purpose of that line, but will merely enhance repair capability if repairs are needed. Modification of the median island, removal of the abandoned turn pocket, and rehabilitation of landscaping some portions of the median and along the multipurpose trail segment east of Sierra Sky Park will not change the planned use and planned capacity of the roadway or the trail.


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Staff has determined that none of the exceptions as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines apply to the project: The subject property is not a designated Scenic Highway and is not visible from a Scenic Highway. No sensitive environments or habitats are on, or adjacent to, the subject property. The involved street right-of-way, existing trail segment, and planned trail segments are not on lists of hazardous waste sites. The project will not create any adverse cumulative impact, due to Public Works Department compliance with regulations of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (for fugitive dust control, construction equipment, asphalt paving, and indirect source review) and with regulations of the California Water Board and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District for construction stormwater management. The project will not cause any substantial adverse changes to an historic or cultural resource. Therefore, no adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of the proposed project.

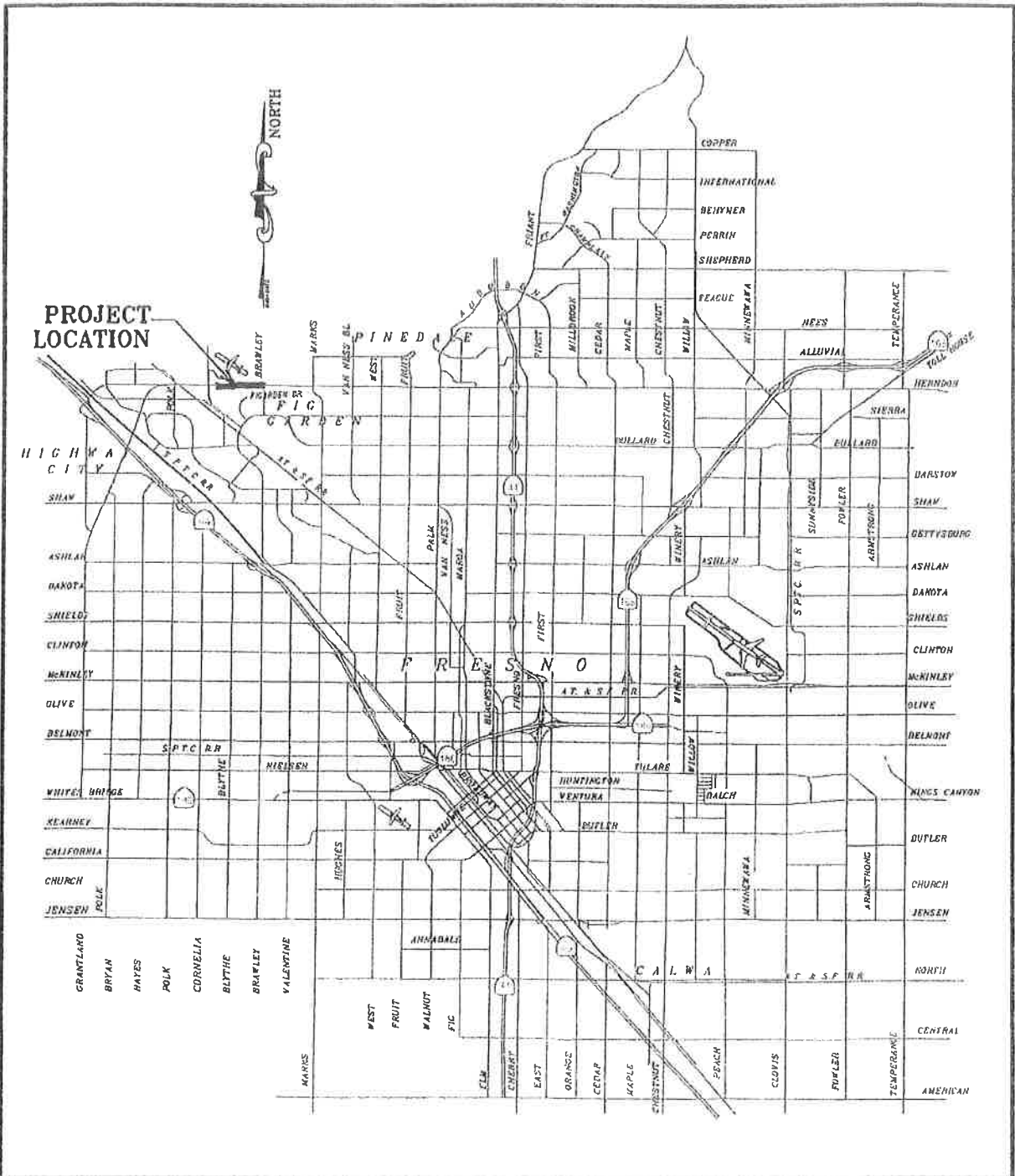
Date: March 29, 2016

Prepared By: Sandra Brock, Planner *SBrock*

Submitted By:


Will Tackett, Supervising Planner
City of Fresno
Development and Resource Management Department
(559) 621-8063

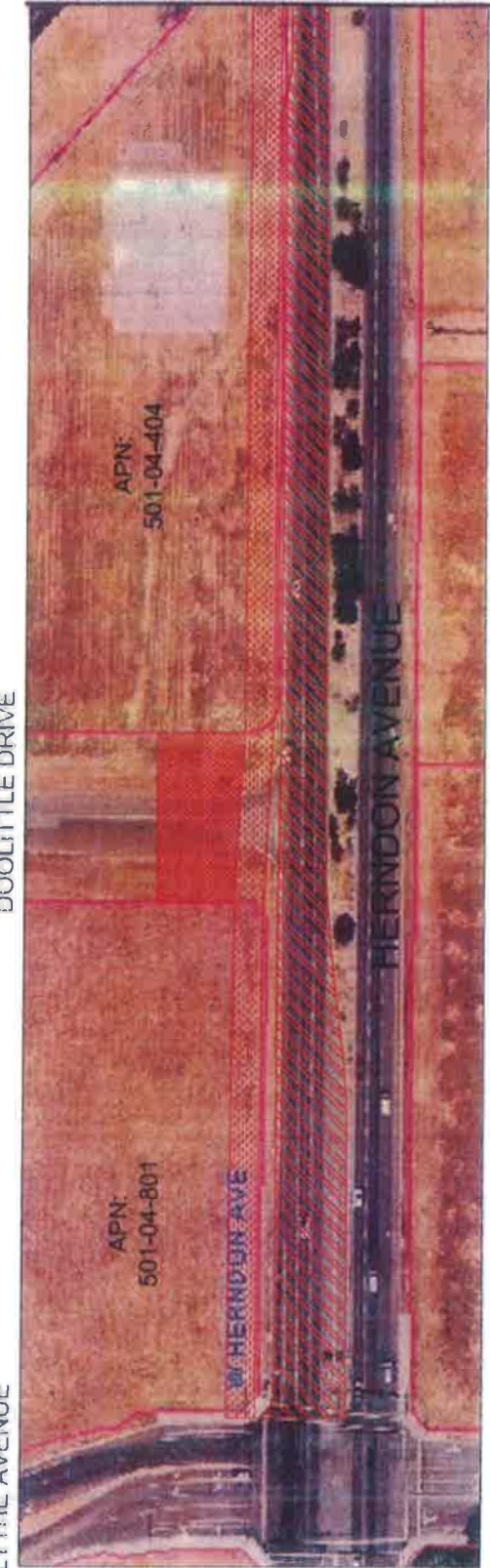
Attachments: Vicinity Map showing the project location in Fresno
And aerial photos showing project component details
Fresno General Plan Figure MT-1, showing planned major street classifications
Fresno General Plan Figure MT-2, showing planned Paths and Trails



<p>CITY OF FRESNO - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</p>	
<p>HERNDON AVENUE WESTBOUND WIDENING FROM BRAWLEY AVENUE TO BLYTHE AVENUE</p>	<p>COUNCIL DISTRICT <u>2</u></p>
<p>VICINITY MAP NOT TO SCALE</p>	
<p>DATE: <u>November 14, 2014</u></p>	

BLYTHE AVENUE

DOOLITTLE DRIVE



MATCH LINE - SEE BELOW LEFT

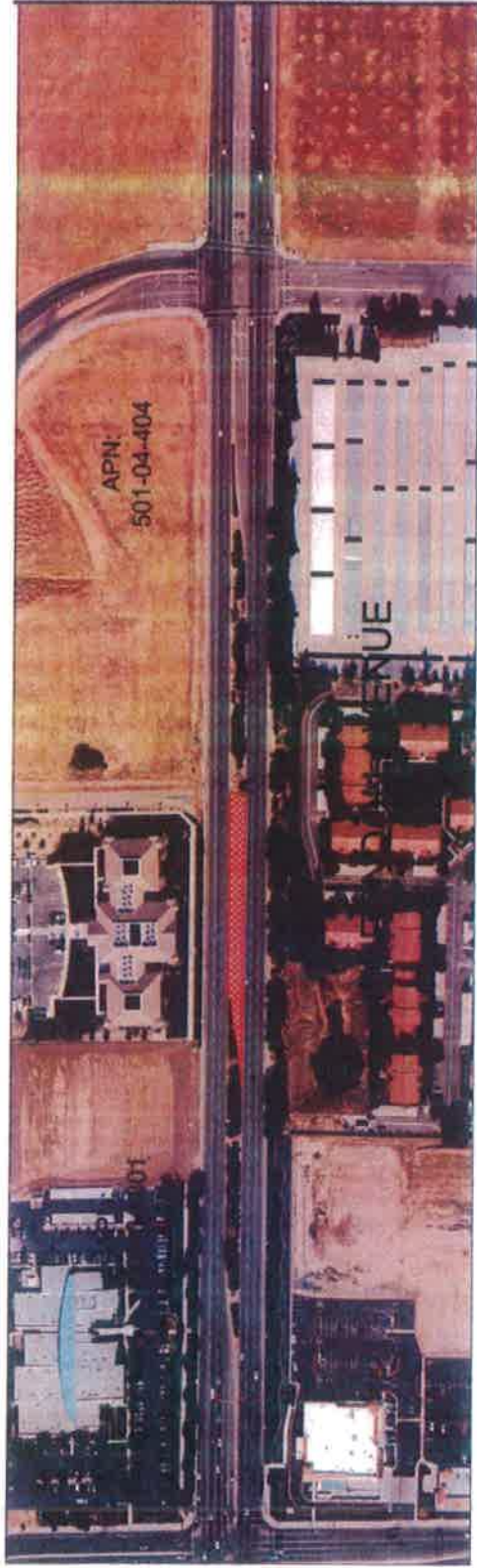
-  PROPOSED NEW EASEMENT
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BRAWLEY AVENUE



MATCH LINE - SEE ABOVE RIGHT

ABANDONED BLYTHE AVENUE




 UNDESIGNED, UNCONSTRUCTED TO
 BE ACCOMMODATED
 UNDESIGNED INFRASTRUCTURE

MILBURN AVENUE

HERNDON AVENUE

BLYTHE AVENUE

**Figure MT-1:
Major Street
Circulation Diagram**



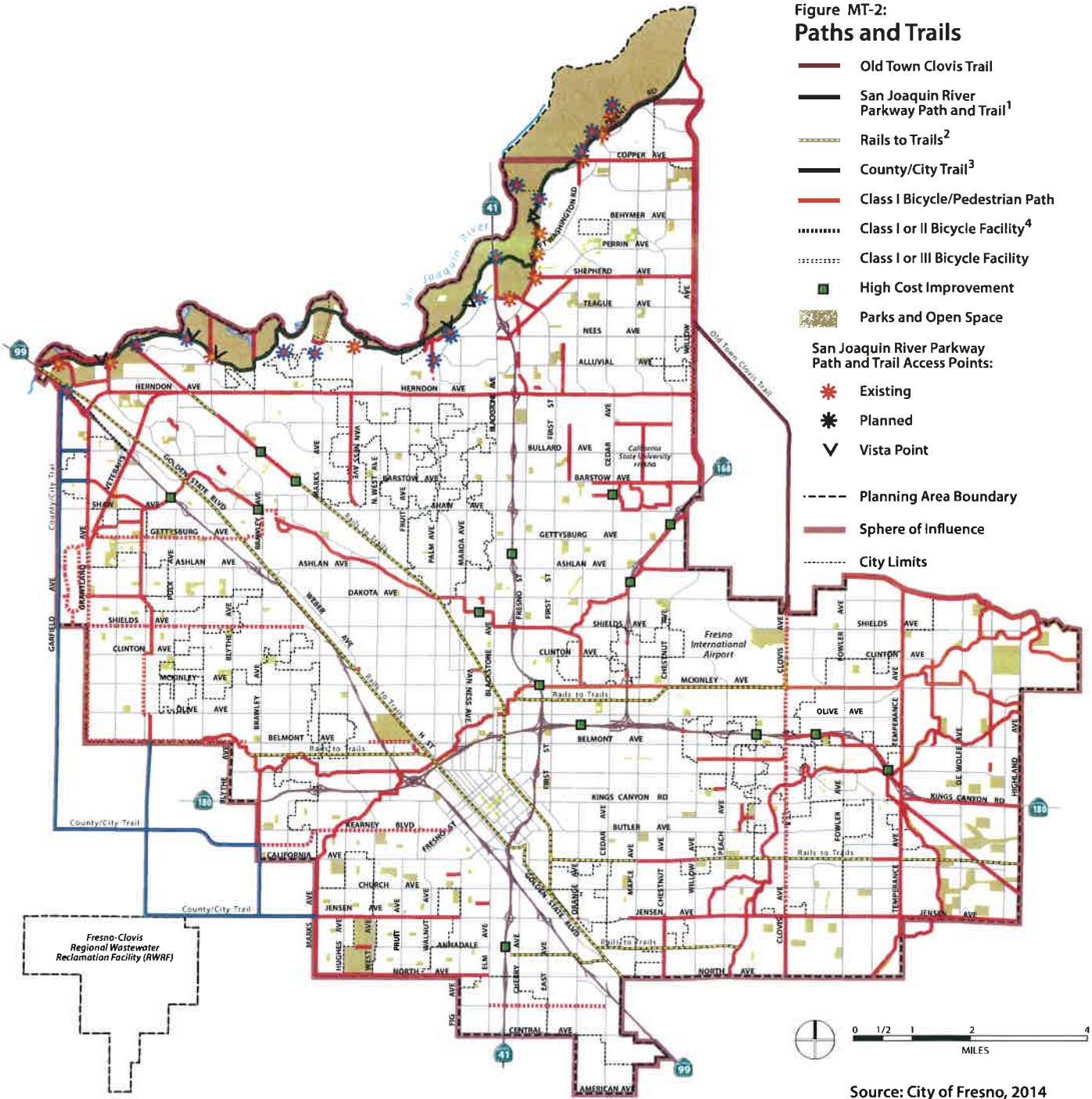
1. See Policies MT-3-a and MT-3-b for Scenic Corridors.

Note: The Fresno Air National Guard Base, a military airport, and the Fresno Yosemite International Airport are located in the area represented as Fresno Yosemite International Airport.



Source: City of Fresno, 2014.

Figure MT-2:
Paths and Trails



Source: City of Fresno, 2014

1. Conceptual alignment of existing and proposed path and trail. All planned Parkway access and projects, their features, uses, and locations, are subject to the acquisition of lands and/or easements from willing sellers, and project-specific, site-specific environmental review.
2. Required unless there is an existing railroad. Should existing railroad lines be vacated, they shall be converted to a greenbelt.
3. Conceptual alignment, subject to City/County cooperative planning adoption, and implementation. City preferred location depicted.
4. Alignments depicted as Class I or Class II facilities should always include Class II improvements with Class I improvements provided where possible as determined by the City, for an enhanced pedestrian/bicycle experience.

Note: Paths and trails adjacent to neighboring jurisdictions may be developed jointly with that jurisdiction.

Note: Complete detail of the proposed bike network can be found in the BMP.