



**JOINT OPEN MEETING OF THE
KAWEAH DELTA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND THE VISALIA CITY COUNCIL**

**Monday, June 23, 2008
5:00pm-6:30pm**

**Kaweah Delta Medical Center {400 W. Mineral King}
Blue Room {Basement Conference Room}**

OPEN MEETING AGENDA

Call to order

Approve agenda

Public participation – Members of the public may comment on agenda items before action is taken and after the item has been discussed by the Board. Members of the public wishing to address the Board concerning items not on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdictions of the Board are requested to identify themselves at this time.

Medical Staff participation – Members of the Medical Staff wishing to address the Board concerning items within the subject matter jurisdictions of the Board are requested to identify themselves at this time.

Action & Informational Items

Time

1. Kaweah Delta Health Care District:

30

A) Downtown Campus

- 1. Medical Center Master Plan** – Review and discussion of master plan for the Kaweah Delta Medical Center campus.
- 2. North Expansion** – Progress report on the North Expansion project on the Kaweah Delta Medical Center Campus.
- 3. Co Generation Plant** – Report on progress, schedule and benefits of the co generation plant project.
- 4. West Street Power Easement** – Discussion of power easement for West Street to connect the Support Services Building to the Kaweah Delta Medical Center Co-Generation plant.
- 5. Helipad / Trauma Designation** – Discussion of trauma designation status and helipad development on the Kaweah Delta Medical Center campus.
- 6. Mill Creek – Linear Park** –Review of plans for the linear park along Mill Creek on the Kaweah Delta Medical Center campus.

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**Kaweah Delta Medical Center {400 W. Mineral King}
Blue Room {Basement Conference Room} (continued)**

B) West Campus

1. **Laurel Court** – Presentation of information and location of Laurel Court project on the West Campus.
2. **Cypress Surgery Center** – Information relative to the future planning for the Cypress Surgery Center.

C) South East Campus

1. **Conceptual Plans** – Review of conceptual plans for the South East campus.

D) Kaweah Delta Medical Residency Program – Review information relative to the status of a proposed medical residency program development of Kaweah Delta in concert with the University of California, Irvine.

2. City of Visalia:

30

A) General Plan Process – Presentation of Council's recent direction to initiate a comprehensive, community-wide update of the City's General Plan.

B) Downtown Planning – Overview of planning efforts currently underway in the downtown, including updates on the East Downtown implementation, Civic Center Master Plan, East Central Framework Plan, and Downtown Parking Task Force

C) Southeast Area Planning – Update on the status of the Southeast Area Specific Plan (800 acres located south of Caldwell, between Lovers Lane and Santa Fe)

D) Conyer / Stevenson Area Planning – Discussion of the master planning of the two city-owned blocks bounded by Acequia, Conyer, Johnson and Mineral King (City Hall West, Fire Station #1, Police Headquarters, and Barbis Building)

E) Circulation Planning

1. **Cal Trans 198 / Central Visalia Off Ramp** – Status report of eastbound State Route 198, Central Visalia Exit Ramp improvement project
2. **Cypress / Akers Turn Lane** – Status report of Cypress/Akers dual left turn lane and street widening project
3. **Santa Fe Bridge** – Status report of Santa Fe/State Route 198 overcrossing project Acequia Street
4. **Acequia Street** – Status of planning and development, completion timeframe.
5. **Downtown Circulation Planning** – Discussion of circulation planning relative to accommodating future growth in the downtown area.

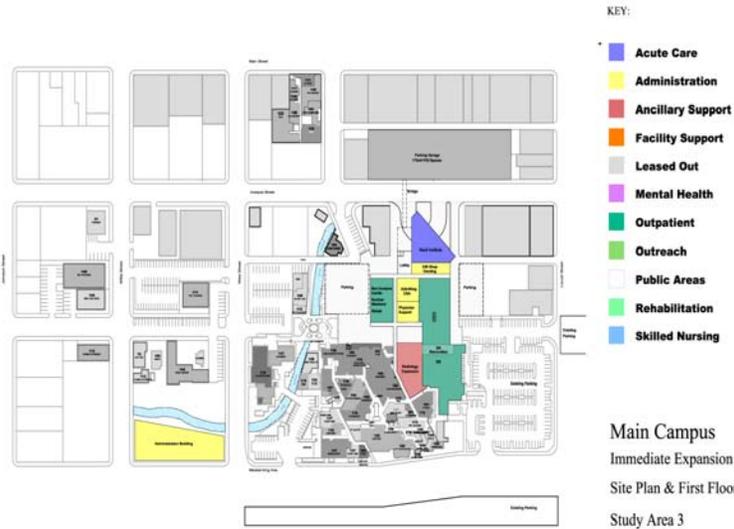
Adjourn

More than medicine. Life.

KAWEAH DELTA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT OVERVIEW



Medical Center Master Plan



Main Campus
Immediate Expansion
Site Plan & First Floor
Study Area 3

The Innova Group





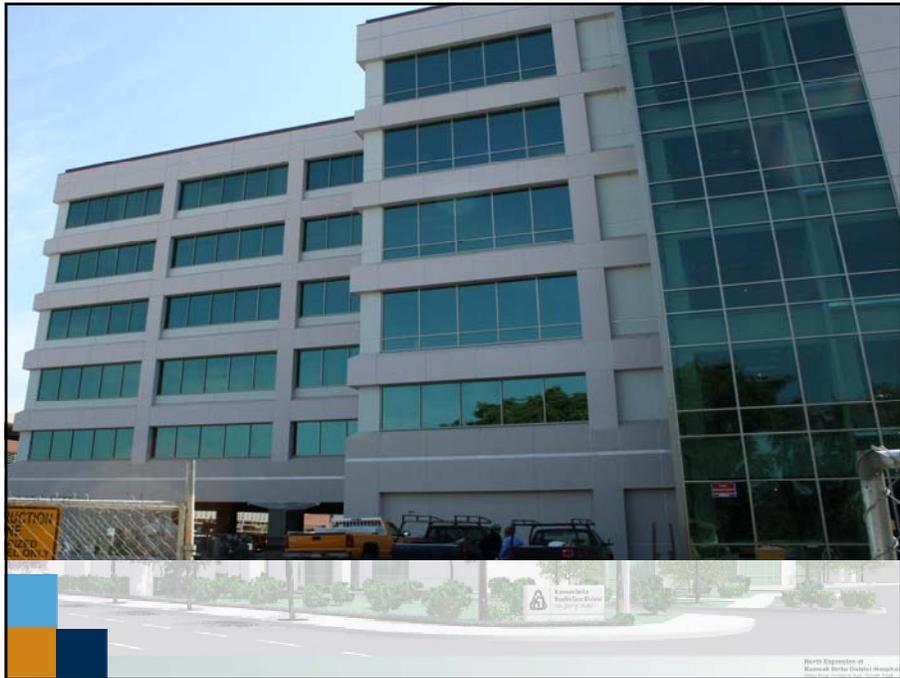
E. Street Closures. Implementation of the Facility Development Plan / contemplates the full or partial closure of West, Willis, Floral and Willow Streets. KDHC and CITY agree to use their best efforts to achieve closure of these streets consistent with implementation of the Facility Development Plan. Specifically, the parties agree:

- a. CITY initiates appropriate proceedings to exercise its power to close and abandon such streets. The parties both acknowledge that the CITY must comply with specific legal procedures in order to close or abandon a street and that it must conduct environmental reviews in connection therewith. KDHC shall cause its project environmental impact report to evaluate the effect on traffic and the environment resulting from the proposed street closure.

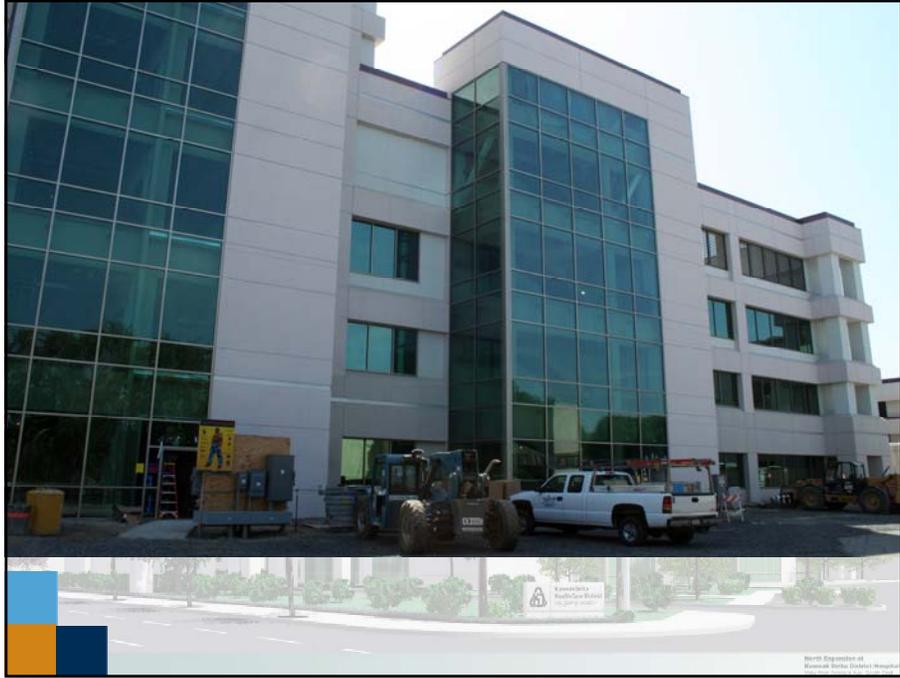


North Expansion

















Activity description	Early Start	Early Finish	Occupied Date
North East Expan.- Activation Sched.			
Prepare For Occupancy			
Ground Floor			
Emergency Department : Prepare For Occupancy	13NOV08 .	27FEB09 .	27FEB09 .
Construct Temporary 1st Floor Corridor	02MAR09 .	11APR09 .	11APR09 .
Lobby & Entrance : Prepare For Entrance	14NOV08 .	13APR09 .	13APR09 .
3rd Floor			
Mother/ Baby Unit : Prepare For Occupancy	13NOV08 .	22APR09 .	22APR09 .
4th Floor			
Telemetry Unit: Prepare For Occupancy	13NOV08 .	21MAY09 .	21MAY09 .
2nd Floor			
Pre & Post Procedure : Prepare For Occupancy	23DEC08 .	27MAY09 .	27MAY09 .
3rd Floor			
ICU: Prepare For Occupancy	13NOV08 .	03JUN09 .	03JUN09 .
2nd Floor			
Cath Lab 1 & 2 : Prepare For Occupancy	08DEC08 .	10JUN09 .	10JUN09 .
Cardiac OR's : Prepare For Occupancy	08DEC08 .	23JUN09 .	23JUN09 .
Cath Lab 3 : Prepare For Occupancy	11JUN09 .	23JUL09 .	23JUL09 .
Cath Lab 4 : Prepare For Occupancy	23JUL09 .	10SEP09 .	10SEP09 .
 <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Kaweah Delta District Hospital North East Expan.- Activation Sched.</p> </div>			

Co-Generation Plant



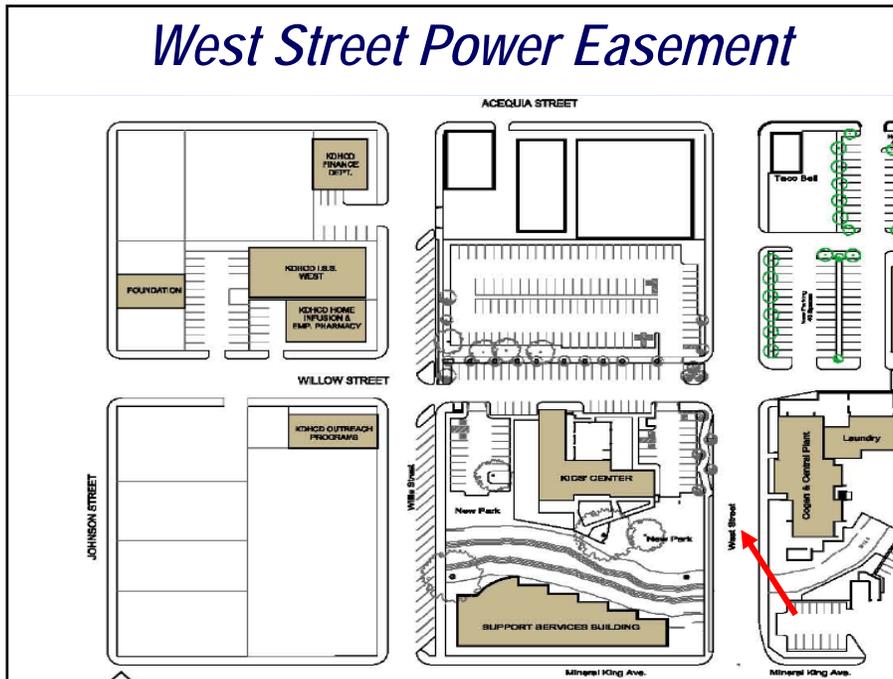




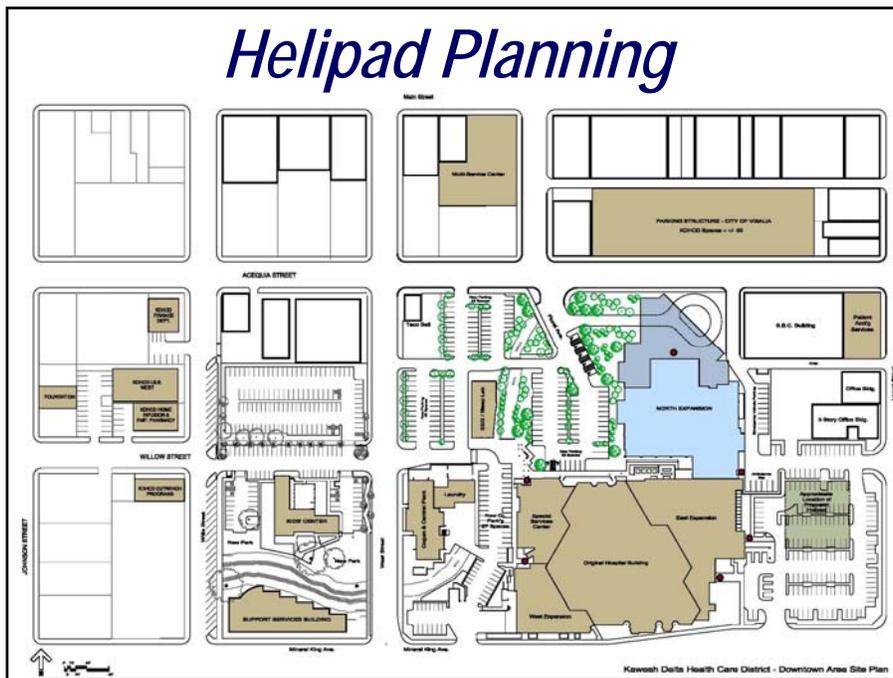
**SUPPORT
SERVICES
BUILDING**



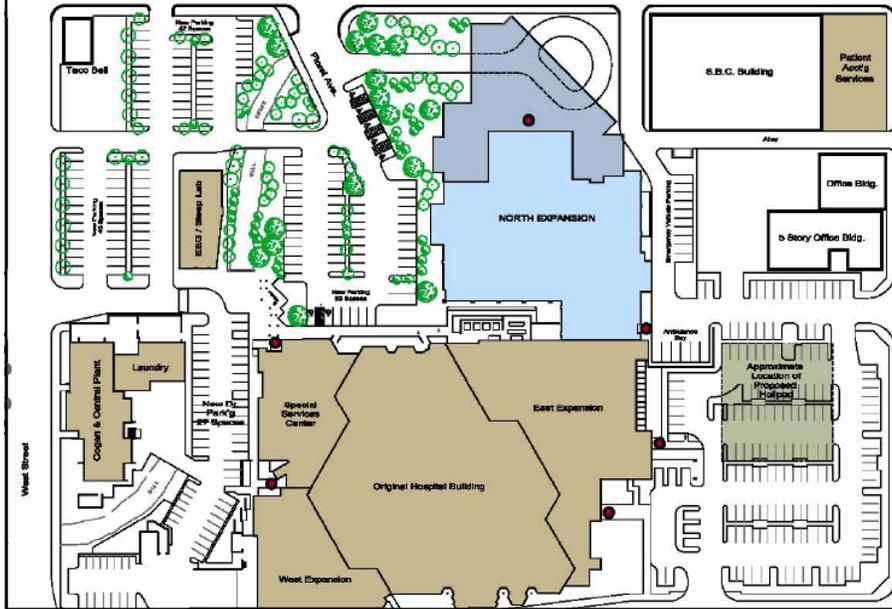
West Street Power Easement



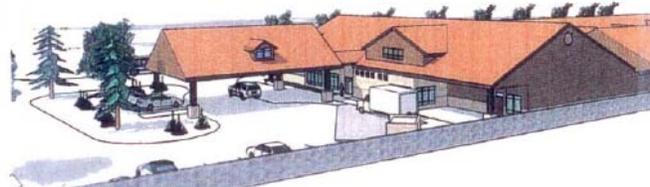
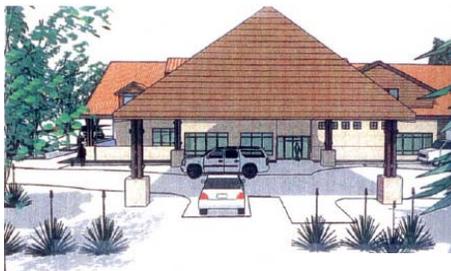
Helipad Planning

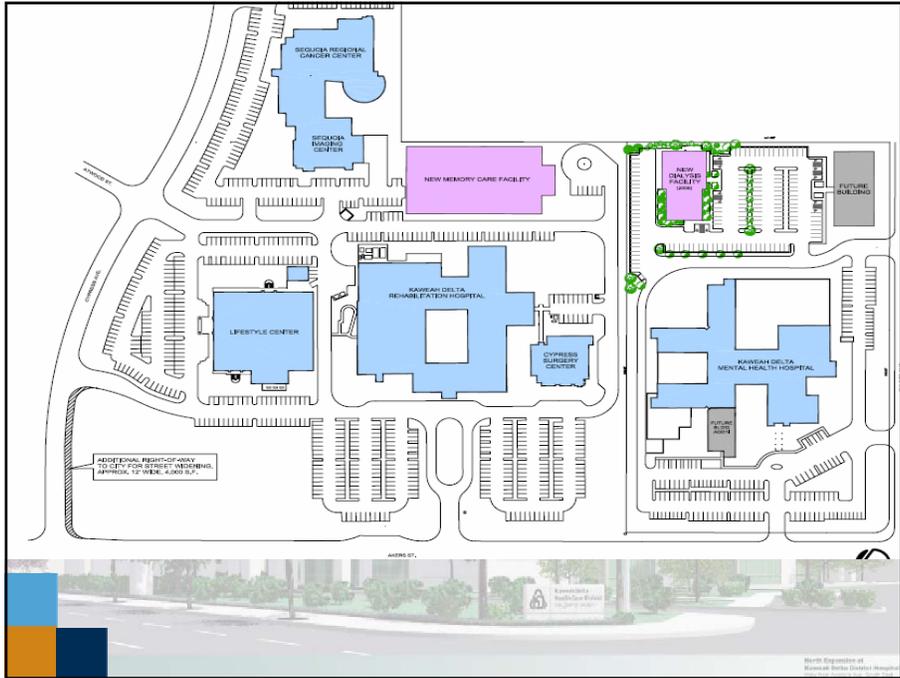


Linear Park Development Plan

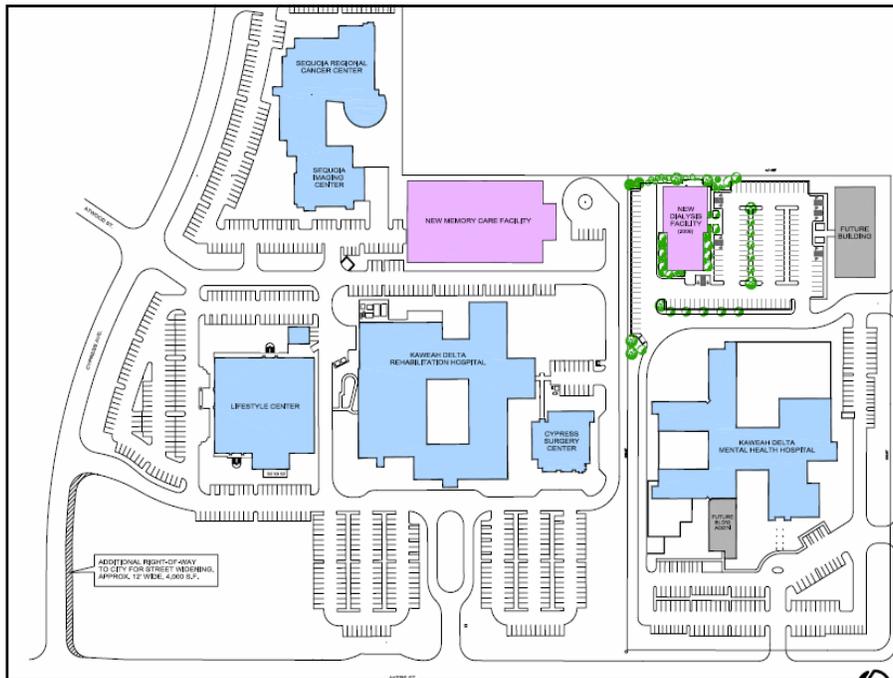


Laurel Court





Cypress Surgery Center



More than medicine. Life.

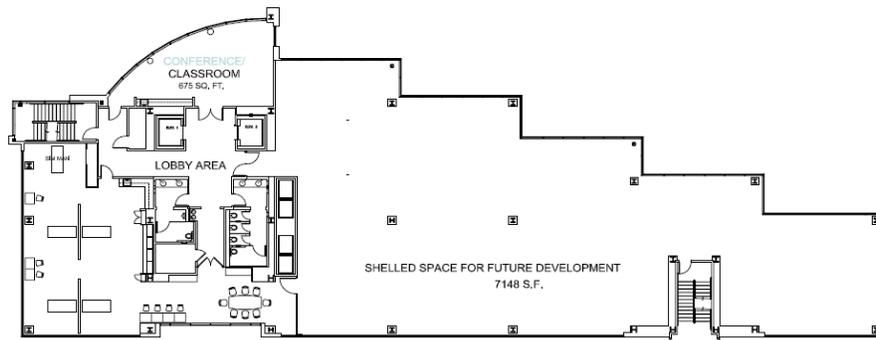
University of California Irvine Medical Residency



North Expansion of
Kaweah Delta Health Care District

More than medicine. Life.

Space Designated for Development as a Health Education Center



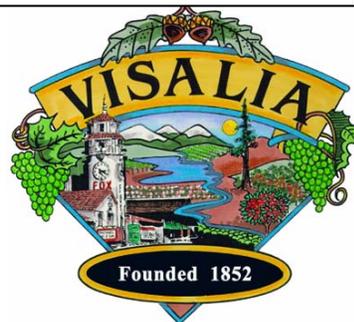
SKILLS LAB SCHEME
5th FLOOR S.S.B.

South East Campus



City of Visalia

Memo



To: Visalia City Council/ Kaweah Delta Hospital
Board

From: Staff
Community Development Department

CC: Michael Olmos
Steve Salomon

Date: June 23, 2008

Re: Focused Update to the General Plan (2020 Plan) and Program
Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Supplement

SUMMARY: The City Council has directed staff to undertake a focused update to the current General Plan, known as the 2020 Plan. This effort will reflect recent policy decisions regarding growth management, and to incorporate the most recent state and regional agency regulations and thresholds of significance. As these efforts will result in substantial amendments to the City's General Plan, a supplement to the 1991 General Plan Environmental Impact Report will be prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

BACKGROUND: The cornerstone of the 2020 Plan is to facilitate orderly growth outward from the City's Core Area (including the Downtown Hospital campus). This is accomplished by directing development within progressive Urban Development Boundaries (UDBs) that radiate from the Core Area. The UDBs have population thresholds and certain development criteria that must be satisfied before development and annexations may progress to the next UDB.

The criteria to move past the 98,700 UDB were reached in December 2003. The current UDB has a population threshold of 129,000. The current City population is approximately 123,000. Calculated at the average historic growth rate of 3.25%, the City could move to the next 165,000 UDB as early as 2010. However, much of the land within the 98,700 and 129,000 UDBs is vacant or underutilized. This has caused the City to re-consider the population and land absorption criteria in the 2020 Plan, in favor of a growth strategy that emphasizes efficient conservation-oriented land absorption. This strategy follows contemporary Smart Growth practices being employed by cities throughout the state and country in an effort to address energy and water conservation, protection of farmland, air quality deterioration, and traffic congestion resulting from urban sprawl.

Beginning in early 2007, the City Council reviewed and conceptually favored a number of strategies to maximize the development density potential of the current 129,000 UDB as a way to facilitate the City's inevitable and desirable population and economic growth, while minimizing the potentially adverse effects of urban sprawl. Additionally, the City is responsible for incorporating new and substantially more stringent state regulations pertaining to global warming and greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, water conservation, and congestion management. Further, a review of the other five mandatory General Plan elements found them to be outdated. For example, the Safety Element predates the 2020 Plan and has not yet incorporated the community-based policing and expansion of emergency services made possible through Measure T, passed by the City's voters in 2004, and recent and future facilities expansion at Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

A comprehensive update of all of the General Plan Elements and initiation of a new Program EIR would be the preferred method to address the City's policies to make growth more efficient, and to address new regulatory requirements passed to the City from the state and regional agencies. However, an estimated cost of over \$1,000,000 is cost prohibitive under the present economic circumstances.

FOCUSED UPDATE: The City Council has commissioned an alternative approach that involves a General Plan Amendment (GPA) to consider formally adopting those measures already conceptually favored to extend the life of the 129,000 UDB, and to maximize the efficiency of development within the current UDBs. These measures may include:

- Increasing the 129,000 UDB population threshold by 10% to 142,000, and the 165,000 UDB to 181,500.
- Making the land absorption criteria (vacancy factor) more stringent.
- Increasing the minimum residential development densities to the mid range densities allowed in the General Plan land use category (e.g. five units per acre in the single-family residential zone).
- Strategies to promote infill development projects.

Under the focused update approach, the City will also update the Housing Element this fiscal year in order to comply with state mandates. The City will also incorporate new flood zone maps into the Safety Element to comply with federal requirements, which will ensure the City can continue to receive federal grant funding.

In addition, the City will contract with a consultant to prepare a supplement to the 1991 Program EIR to incorporate the population and development densities directed by the City Council. The Program EIR supplement will factor in the new residential development opportunities that being created, but have not yet been incorporated into the City's growth projections. These include the East Downtown Master Plan area and the Southeast Area Specific Plan project area. Finally, the supplement will address new environmental requirements regarding air quality, greenhouse gas reduction and global warming, as well as review longstanding environmental issues such as water, farmland protection, and traffic.

The focused update approach will be initiated after adoption of the new City budget in July. It is anticipated that the process will take between 18 and 24 months, including preparation of the Program EIR supplement. The estimated cost is between 15% to 25% of the cost of a comprehensive General Plan update and new program EIR. Separately, consultants will be contracted to prepare the Housing Element update. City staff will perform the majority of the 2020 Plan amendment work using existing in-house resources.



City of Visalia

Memo

To: Visalia City Council/ Kaweah Delta Health Care District

From: Ricardo Noguera, Housing & Economic Development Director
Fred Brusuelas, Assistant Community Development Director
Chris Young, Assistant Public Works Director

CC: Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager

Date: June 23, 2007

Re: DOWNTOWN AND EAST DOWNTOWN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

This report provides a status on four (4) planning activities underway in Downtown and East Downtown Visalia:

- A. Parks & Infrastructure Master Plan
- B. Civic Center Master Plan
- C. East Central Framework Plan
- D. Downtown Parking Task Force

A. Parks & Infrastructure Master Plan. This Plan encompasses a total of eighty (80) acres extending from Center Street northbound to Goshen/Murray Street and from Ben Maddox westward to Santa Fe Street. The Plan has received extensive community input and includes two major parks (Civic Center Park and Central Park), new roads and infrastructure. EDAW, Inc. based in San Francisco, has prepared the plan.

B. Civic Center Master Plan. This plan has been prepared by Race Studios, based in Berkeley. The plan encompasses the area between Oak and School streets. It will include a new Civic Center supporting a new public safety facility, city hall, parking structure and outdoor plaza.

C. East Central Framework Plan. This Plan is a work in progress and concepts of the plan were recently presented to the City Council for review and comment. The plan area comprises 182 acres of land and is located north of Murray Avenue, east of Santa Fe Avenue, east of Ben Maddox and generally south of Douglas and Roosevelt Avenues. A final Concept Plan will be prepared and sent to the City Council for their review within the next 90 days. The Framework Plan will be comprised of land uses and street alignments to create new residential neighborhoods, commercial areas and mixed use projects.

Other key activities in the East Downtown area include:

- The City will soon embark on a Programmatic EIR which encompasses 180 acres of East Downtown and should be completed by Fall 2009;
- The City has engaged the services of Brownfield consultants to test and remediate portions of East Downtown;
- Extension of School Street. This involves completion of an environmental document currently underway. It may also involve acquisition of land from the Gas Company to build out the road;
- Railroad Improvements along Oak Avenue. The City is currently working with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Union Pacific, and San Joaquin Railroad Authority to complete design and improvements to the railroad right-of-way along Oak Avenue between Tipton and

- Burke streets. The design is underway and will require PUC approval. Construction should commence by Spring 2009;
- Undergrounding of utilities along Burke Street This will extend northward from Mill Creek to Goshen Avenue.

D. Downtown Parking Task Force. This Task Force was appointed by the City Council in June 2007. This committee has met three times this year to discuss issues related to downtown parking (as identified by the City Council). The next meeting is scheduled for July 2nd. The issues being discussed include the following:

- Identifying revenue sources for downtown parking (maintenance and new facilities)
- Identify areas where additional on-street parking can be created
- Analyze those City Ordinances related to downtown parking
- Review differences in the downtown core parking requirements and the parking requirements for the east downtown

The committee will be making specific recommendations to the City Council in the next several months.

Attachments:

- Civic Center Master Plan
- Parks & Infrastructure Master Plan



City of Visalia

Memo

To: Visalia City Council/ Kaweah Delta Health Care District

From: Staff - Community Development Department

Fred Brusuelas, AICP, 713-4364

Andrew J. Chamberlain, AICP, 713-4003

CC: Michael Olmos

Steve Salomon

Date: June 23, 2008

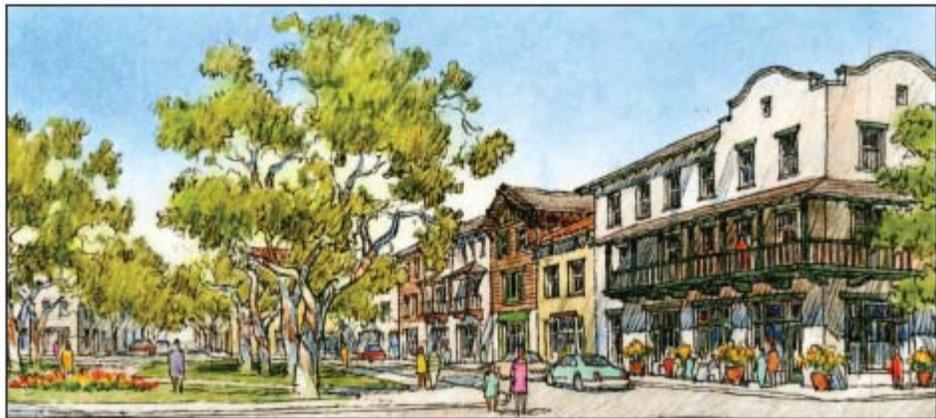
Re: Project Update: Southeast Area Specific Plan

The 850 acre specific plan area is bounded by Caldwell Avenue, Santa Fe, Lovers Lane, and Avenue 272.

Background:

In 2004, the City Council made a determination that alternatives to conventional development should be considered as an objective to Visalia's long term continuing growth. There was recognition that recent development resulted in insufficient connectivity between neighborhoods, walls and rear facing houses defined streetscapes, and utilitarian storm water basins were created without open space or recreational opportunities.

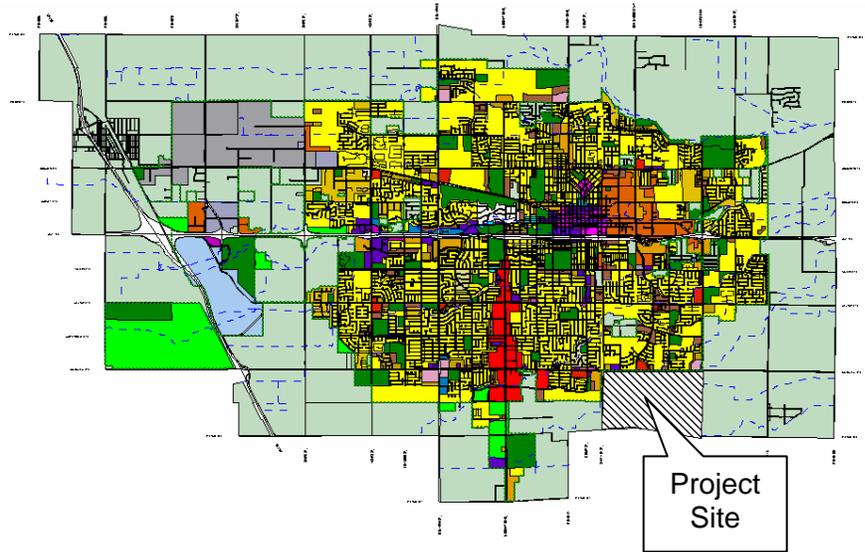
It was concluded that proper master planning of large areas would produce better results in creating new neighborhoods and communities. The emphasis of the Southeast Area Specific Plan is to prepare a land use and street circulation



alternative to conventional development. The Southeast Area Specific Plan approach is the emphasis of well constructed streets, walk-ability, mixed use development, sustainability, open space, and community-oriented place making. The resulting Plan provides an alternative to creating neighborhoods through a series of subdivisions, rather it begins with the neighborhood(s) as a street and land use pattern which provides the opportunity to increase densities, increase open space, and provide pedestrian connectivity through the elimination of

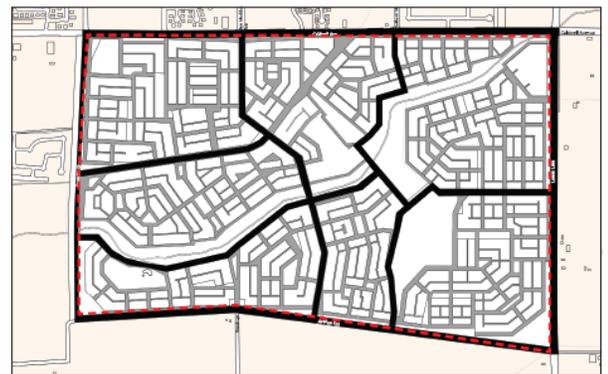
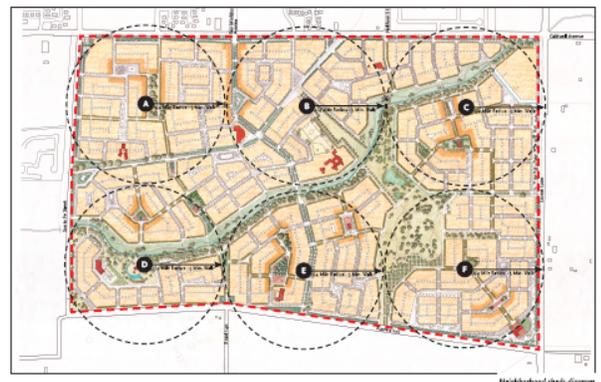
cul-de-sacs, and similar closed loop streets, with well-connected land use patterns. Walls are also eliminated as the predominant exterior subdivision feature.

The City Council initiated 850 acre Southeast Area Specific Plan remains the most significant departure from conventional development in the regional area and central valley. The area is within the current Urban Development Boundary (129,000 UDB), and the southern portion of the area is outside the Visalia Sphere of Influence Boundary. There are 14 property owners and 30 parcels of land in the Specific Plan area, ranging in size from ½ acre to over 100 acres.



The Specific Plan has been developed based upon a series of plan wide policies:

1. Neighborhoods have a clear center
2. Civic buildings at prominent sites
3. Shops and offices are adjacent
4. There is a five minute walk from dwellings to center
5. Small ancillary buildings are encouraged
6. Streets are sustainable for pedestrians
7. A variety of dwelling types
8. Schools are located within walking distance
9. Places of gathering and community decision making in each neighborhood
10. Buildings create outdoor rooms
11. Small playgrounds are distributed
12. Parking provided at the rear of buildings



Discovery Workshop session with Southeast Area Task Force

These policies are combined with six steps to achieve the proposed plan:

1. Conserve natural resources
2. Establish neighborhood walking sheds
3. Adjust existing property boundaries
4. Establish a well-connected roads network and great streets
5. Establish a variety of development intensities
6. Integrate sustainable design

The culmination of these elements is reflected in the Southeast Area specific Plan which integrates policies and strategies to develop a specific plan which is centered on the policies and not the development of stand alone subdivisions.

Medical District – The Kaweah Delta Health Care District was included as a member of the Plan Area Task Force. The Staff and consultants worked directly with the Hospital District to integrate their goals into the plan area while maintaining the intent and character of the plan. The Hospital District's property is approximately 100 acres at the southwest corner of Caldwell Avenue and Lovers Lane of which the majority is designated as Medical District. The Plan includes a policy allowing deviations from the Plan based upon a Medical District Master Plan being prepared by the District which is found to be consistent with the intent and character of the plan by the Planning Commission and City Council.



Next Steps:

The final comments for the Administrative Draft were submitted to the consultant in early June of 2008, and are expected to be incorporated into the Final Document by July 2008. The Final Document will be used as the basis for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report, which staff anticipates will take approximately 9 months (April 2009). Upon completion of the EIR, the enabling actions would occur over the following 60 to 90 day period, with final adoption in summer of 2009.

Annexation and Sphere of Influence Boundary Amendment: The Hospital District currently owns approximately 100 acres at the southwest corner of Lovers Lane and Caldwell Avenue. Approximately 70 acres of the property is within the current Tulare County Sphere of Influence for the City of Visalia. Prior or concurrently with annexation, the Sphere of Influence Boundary would need to be amended to include the southerly 30 acres of the Hospital District property. Upon adoption of the Southeast Area Specific Plan, the Hospital District would be able to apply for a boundary amendment to the Sphere and annexation.

Timing on applications for amendments to the Sphere of Influence and annexations are controlled by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which is under the jurisdiction

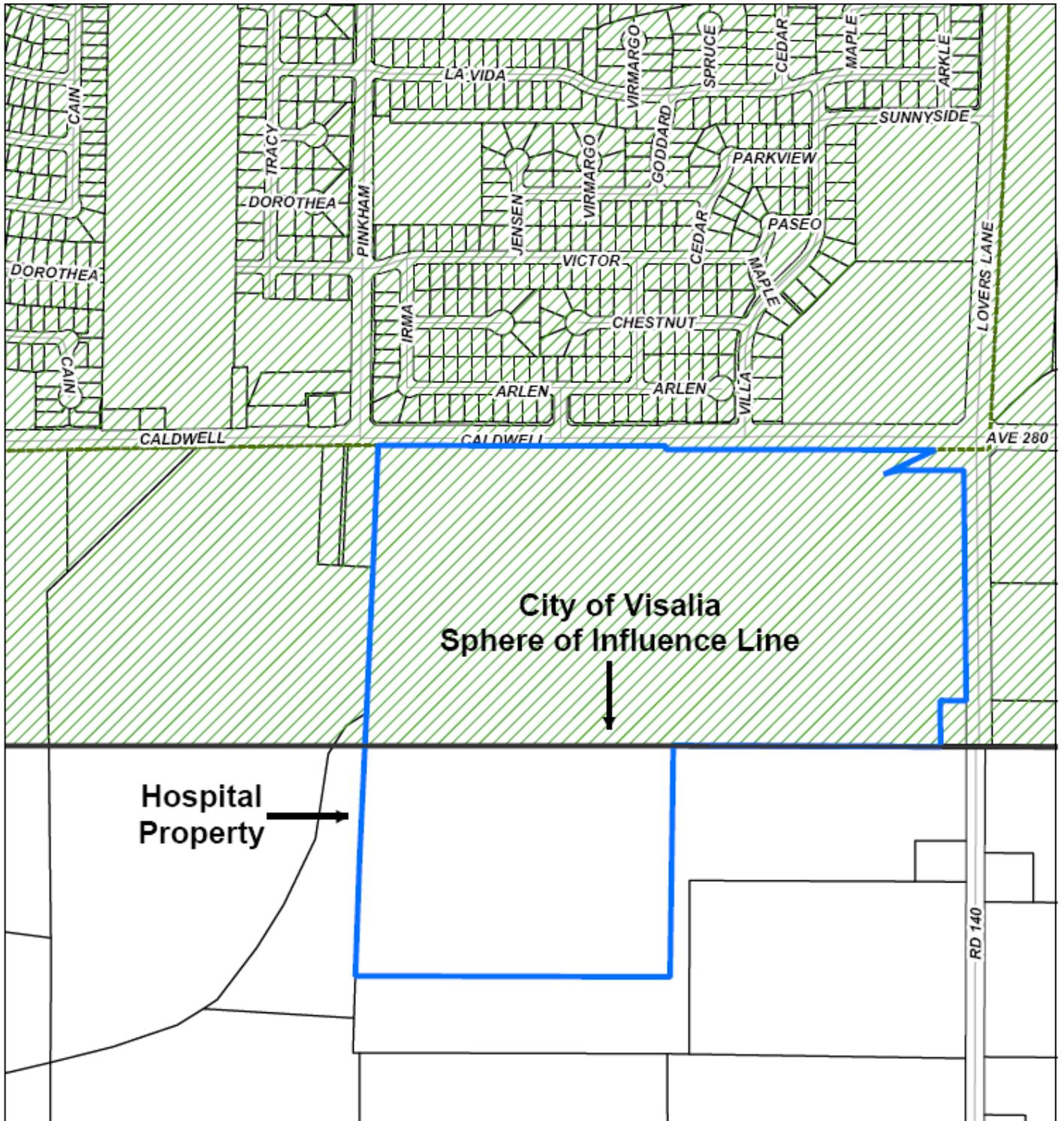
of Tulare County. The Hospital District annexation and boundary amendment process could take place in the summer of 2009, and be completed by December 2009.

Development: Development of the Kaweah Delta Health Care District property will be based upon completion of the annexation process and the availability of urban services infrastructure in the area. Typically sanitary sewer is the primary infrastructure which regulates the amount and pace of development. Storm sewer is less critical since temporary (short or long term) storm water run-off can usually be accommodated on-site until such time as planned infrastructure is available in the area.

Consultants:

Moule and Polyzoides – Southeast Area Specific Plan

Crawford Multari and Clark Associates – Environmental Impact Report



Tulare County Sphere



City of Visalia

Memo



To: Visalia City Council/ Kaweah Delta Hospital
Board

From: Ricardo Noguera, Housing & Economic Development Director
Fred Brusuelas, Assistant Community Development Director

CC: Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager

Date: June 23, 2007

Re: ACEQUIA CONYER PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

This report consists of status reports on three planning and development activities currently being pursued by the City of Visalia:

a. West Downtown Master Plan

For the past several months the City has been working on the development of a vision plan for the two-block area encompassing Mineral King northward to Acequia Avenue and from Johnson westward to Conyer Street. The intent is to formulate a vision for the city-owned properties once city hall is relocated to the East Downtown location. The vision plan should be completed by the end of August. It will provide development concepts related to building size, density, site layout, setbacks, open space, parking circulation, etc.

b. Acequia Conyer Office Development

On December 7, 2007, the City released a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the selection of a developer to acquire the city-owned lot situated at the southeast corner of Acequia and Conyer streets. The lone response came from a group of individuals led by a local businessman, Tom Gaebe. The response called for the acquisition and development of the entire city-owned parking areas north of the creek between Stevenson and Conyer streets (except for the privately owned two-story building). Following several meetings between the development team and city staff, it was recommended that staff return to Council to discuss a re-release of the Request For Proposal and include the entire block between Mineral King and Acequia Avenue (excluding the privately owned building situated at the southwest corner of Acequia and Stevenson streets). If this approach is approved by Council, the City intends to release the RFP in September along with the Master Plan to share with interested developers the potential to develop the entire block. The City seeks to attract professional medical offices which can support the expanding Kaweah Delta Health Care District facilities. Additionally, the City plans for the development to include a publicly accessible pedestrian path along Mill Creek and develop both ground floor retail with two to three floors of professional office and the potential for high end residential dwellings on the upper floors. A parking structure will also be included in the development to support the project.

c. Assessment of the Existing Public Safety Facility

The City is in the process of completing a physical analysis on the existing public safety facility to determine which portion of the building can be severed (projected to eliminate the police functions) once the new public safety facility is constructed in East Downtown. The analysis will determine what section of the building which currently supports both police and fire administrative functions can be demolished in anticipation of a sale to the private sector.

Attachments:

- Aerial illustrating the two-block area encompassing Mineral King northward to Acequia and from Johnson westward to Conyers Street.

City of Visalia

Memo



To: Visalia City Council/ Kaweah Delta Health
Care District Board

From: Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director
Chris Young, Assistant Public Works Director

CC: Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager

Date: June 23, 2008

Re: Circulation Planning

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide status reports for four upcoming streets projects within the City of Visalia and to briefly discuss downtown circulation planning.

1. Eastbound State Route 198 and Central Visalia Off Ramp Improvements

Caltrans' engineers are designing improvements for eastbound State Route 198 traffic exiting at the Central Visalia off ramp. The design includes a signal at the intersection of the exit ramp with Noble Avenue and Watson Avenue. Traffic sensors will be installed on the northbound approach of Watson Avenue. The new signal will be coordinated with the existing signal on Noble Avenue. The off ramp will be widened to two lanes. The profile of the existing off ramp is being studied to see if it can be updated to improve driver's sight distance.

Caltrans is the lead agency for this project. They have estimated the total cost of construction to be \$1.2 million. The City of Visalia's total contribution will be approximately \$80,000 which will fund one-half of the estimated cost of the traffic signal. Both Caltrans and the City of Visalia have allocated funds for this project and it is anticipated that the project will be completed within the next two calendar years. Public Work's staff is working closely with Caltrans to do everything possible to expedite the design and construction of this project.

2. Cypress Avenue/Akers Street Dual Turn Lanes and Street Widening

This project will add one additional left-turn lane southbound on Akers that will turn left onto eastbound Cypress (for a total of two left-turn lanes). The dual left-turn lanes will improve the flow of traffic through the intersection especially during periods of high volume traffic to the Kaweah Delta Health Care Facility. The proposed widening will require the acquisition of right-of-way from the Kaweah Delta Health Care District along the south side of Cypress Avenue.

This project will include the widening of approximately 350 linear feet of Cypress Avenue east of Akers Street. The south side of Cypress will be widened 18 feet in order to accept traffic from the dual left-turn lanes southbound on Akers Street. Other improvements include striping, pavement markings, median curb and modifications to the traffic signals.

Money for this project is coming from transportation impact fee and Proposition 1B funding. This project is scheduled to go to bid in July 2008, with construction being completed by December 2008. The estimated cost of the project is \$200,000.

3. Santa Fe Street/State Route 198 Overcrossing

This project will remove the existing railroad bridge at the Santa Fe Street alignment (over the 198) and install a five lane vehicular/pedestrian bridge in its place. Santa Fe Street will be widened for one-half block north of Mineral King Avenue and one-half block south of Noble Avenue to align with the new bridge. Two traffic signals will be added on Santa Fe Street as part of this project (at its intersections with Noble Avenue and with Mineral King Avenue). These signals will be coordinated with the existing signals (at Bridge Street) one block to the west.

This project will connect south Santa Fe Street to downtown Visalia and will enhance traffic circulation and improve bus, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the proposed Civic Center Complex, the existing Transit Center, and businesses in the downtown area.

With architectural features including brick entry towers, sweeping steel arches, and stately valley oak silhouettes, the bridge over Highway 198 at Santa Fe Street will provide an elegant amenity to Downtown Visalia.

The City of Visalia has completed the environmental review process and has adopted a mitigated negative declaration. Following the Caltrans project development process, the City has completed initial studies, a project study report, and a project report. Meetings were conducted with downtown business owners and discussions were held before City Council to develop an architectural vision for the bridge. A professional team of geotechnical, structural, civil, traffic, and architectural engineers was engaged to design the project. Most of the right-of-way has been acquired and negotiations are continuing to complete the remaining purchases. To avoid construction conflicts and improve the appearance of the area, Southern California Edison and AT&T are relocating some of their facilities underground.

The project is fully funded by Measure-R and is included in the current City of Visalia Capital Improvement Budget. Ground breaking is scheduled for January 2009 with the bridge ready for use by December 2009. A preliminary estimate for the project is \$9.2 million.

4. Acequia Avenue Two-Way Traffic Conversion

This project will convert Acequia Avenue to a two-way street (from a one-way street) and add Class II and Class III bicycle routes between Conyer Street and Bridge Street. This project will require modifications/additions to striping, signals, signage, pavement markings and add a new signal at the intersection of Acequia Avenue and Willis Street. The project design has been completed by the consultant and is currently being reviewed by both City staff and Caltrans (for the intersections with State Route 63).

City staff has prepared the documentation required for the General Plan Amendment (needed to update the Circulation Element) and also an update to the Bicycle Plan. These documents are scheduled for a public hearing at the Planning Commission on June 23, 2008. It is anticipated that following the Planning Commission public hearing, the proposed General Plan Amendment and Bicycle Plan update will be presented to City Council at the July 14, 2008 meeting.

The cost of this project is estimated at \$600,000.00. The project is scheduled to go to bid in August 2008. Completion of construction is scheduled for December 2008.

5. Downtown Circulation Planning

Traffic circulation and parking management planning, as well as appropriate related improvements, need to keep pace with future development and growth within the downtown area. A joint planning effort to identify issues and plan for the improvements necessary to provide the required traffic, pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and parking infrastructures may be considered. These stakeholders could include the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Visalia Alliance, Visalia Economic Development Corporation, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia Unified School District, Caltrans, developers, downtown merchants, Parks and Recreation Commission, Bicycle Committee, Downtown Visalians, and the City of Visalia.

Attachments:

- Exhibit A – Project location map (Central Visalia off ramp)
- Exhibit B - Project location map (Cypress/Akers dual lefts)
- Exhibit C - Project location map (Santa Fe Street overcrossing)
- Exhibit D - Rendering of Santa Fe Street overcrossing at State Route 198
- Exhibit E - Acequia Avenue two-way conversion