

CITY OF MERCED
Planning Department

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission
FROM: Bill King, Principal Planner
DATE: February 23, 2016
SUBJECT: Planning for Bikeways on the Mission Avenue Interchange

BACKGROUND

The City of Merced Bicycle Master Plan includes a Class I (off-street) Bikeway in South Merced, which utilizes the Mission Avenue Interchange as the means to cross Hwy 99. A bikeway crossing at the Mission Avenue Interchange is a key link for the travelling public to access the aforementioned commercial, recreational, and employment sites through use of Active Transportation facilities.

Eastern Leg

The eastern leg of the pathway exists on the north side of Campus Parkway between Parsons Avenue and Childs Avenue. As the road gets extended north, the pathway will likewise be constructed all the way to UC Merced. From UC Merced, other planned Class I Bikeways will connect to Lake Yosemite, run alongside the larger vernal pool nature reserve, and serve nearby neighborhoods.

Western Leg

The western leg of the South Merced Class I Bikeway will traverse within a landscaped open space corridor, and connect area parks, schools and retail sites. While no creeks exist in South Merced, the provision for this type of bikeway is aimed to provide a similar high-quality pathway as is found in North Merced.

INTERCHANGE DESIGN

Although the Mission Avenue Interchange primarily serves regional automobile and truck traffic, it is located within an urban setting. The City's adopted policy documents and the Regional Transportation Plan of Merced County both encourage the use of alternative and active forms of transportation. The pedestrian and bicycle facilities on the bridge are described below.

Pedestrian Facilities

A sidewalk exists on the south side of the bridge; no pedestrian facilities are located on the north side.

Bicycle Facilities

No bikeway facilities are present on the bridge. While a Class I Bikeway currently exists on the east and is planned on the west, the bridge is not designed to include a Class I Bikeway; rather, other “on-street” bikeway facilities can be considered.

ACTION

Depending upon the outcome of the discussion with Caltrans Staff, the Commission may take a host of actions including advising Staff to begin collaboration with Caltrans on a project to install on-street bikeways on the bridge. Inquiries of Caltrans Staff about tools to attain the objective to install on-street bikeways are encouraged. Such tools may include the identification of: 1) funding sources; 2) project review procedures; 3) improvement project lists in plans or other documents that identify future projects to undertake; and, 4) context –sensitive programs that would enable “urban” designs on regional highway projects.

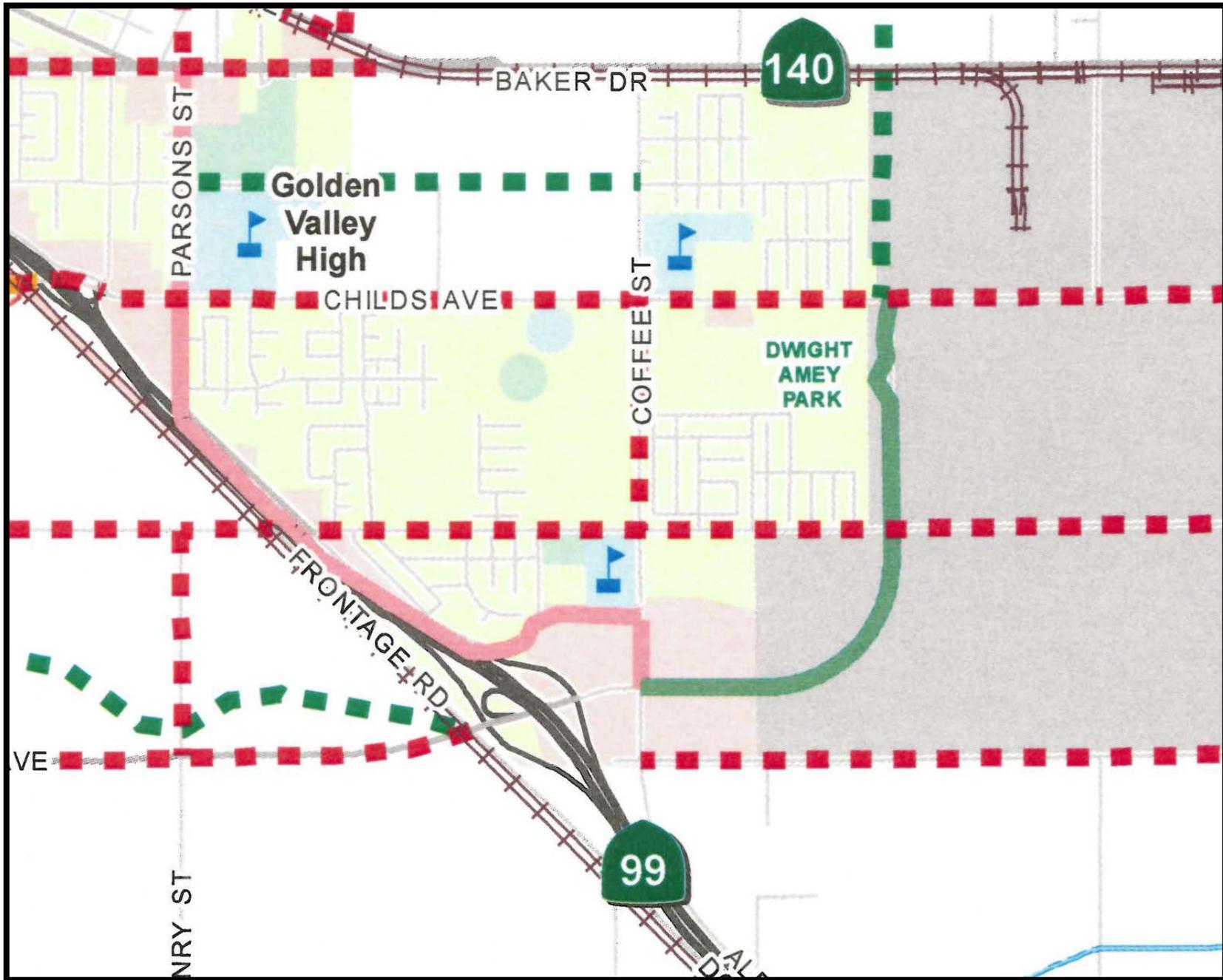
Attachments:

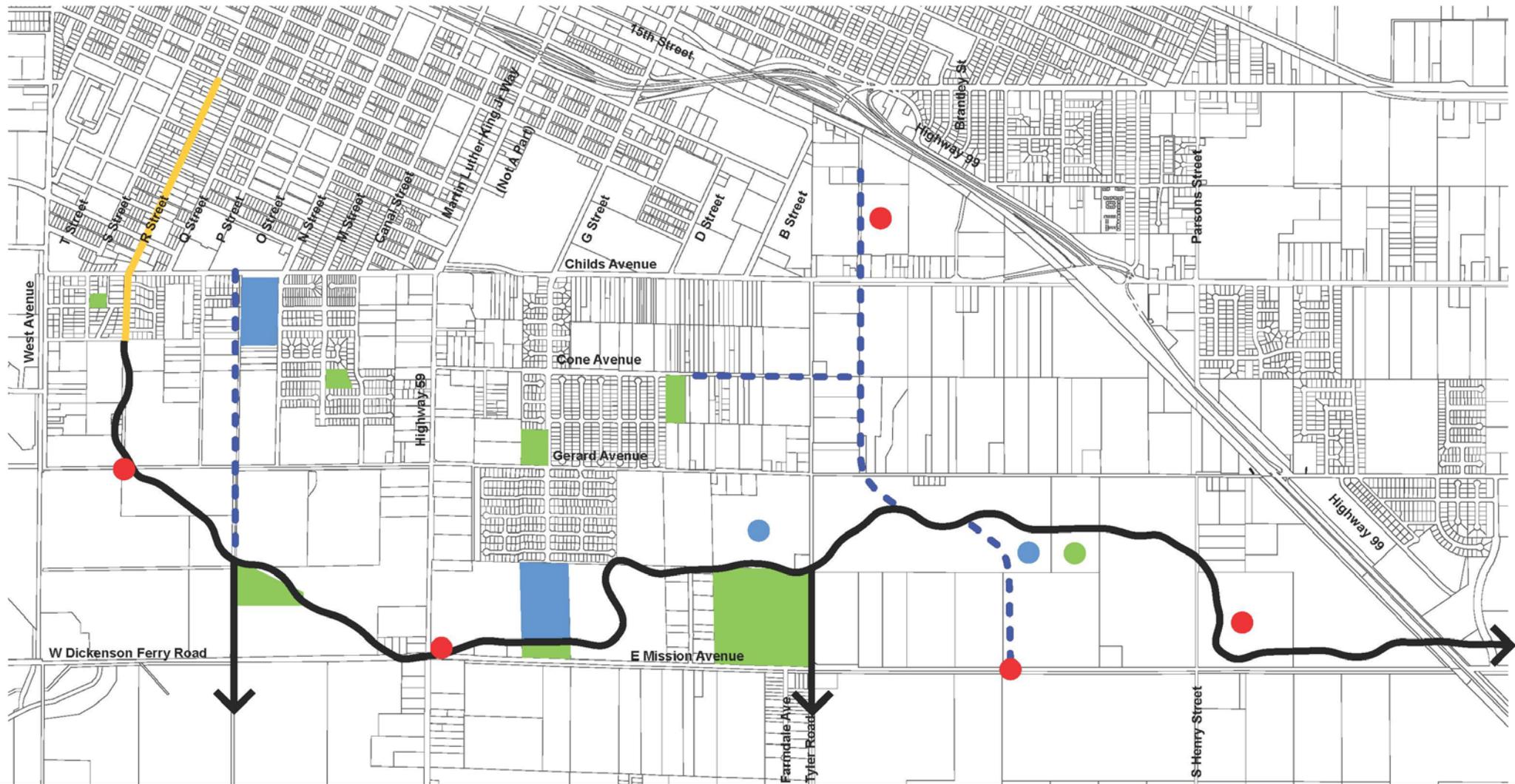
1. Mission Avenue Interchange Bikeway Planning

Mission Avenue Interchange Bikeway Planning



ATTACHMENT 1



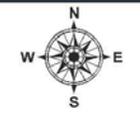


SOUTH MERCED COMMUNITY PLAN - OFF STREET BICYCLE PATH CONCEPT Figure IV-6



LEGEND

- Community Plan Boundary
- Primary Class 1 Bicycle Path
- Secondary Class 1 Bicycle Path
- "R Street" Class 2 Bicycle Path
- Schools
- Parks
- Retail Commercial Sites



Not to Scale

Prepared map by permission of the City of Merced, 2005.

