

CITY OF MERCED
Planning Department

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission
FROM: Bill King, Principal Planner
DATE: August 23, 2016
SUBJECT: Planning Project: “High Speed Rail”

BACKGROUND

The City of Merced is currently in the process of crafting a “High Speed Rail Station Area Plan.”

At your June 28, 2016 meeting, representatives from the City’s High Speed Rail consultant team presented an overview of the project to the Bicycle Advisory Commission and invited your comment and feedback. This report provides a foundational set of recommendations for your consideration, review and amendment. Staff will forward the final set of recommendations to Frank Quintero, the HSR Project Manager for the City of Merced.

DISCUSSION

Attachment 1 is the June 28, 2016 Staff Report (Item H) for the High Speed Rail (HSR) Station Area project. It contains relevant background information and maps.

Recommended Language for the Plan

Design Elements Depicted in the City’s Station Area Plan:

1. Multiple bikeway types (bike lanes, sharrows, bike paths, cycle tracks, bike boulevards) leading from the HSR Station to various areas of the City will be depicted in the City’s Station Area Plan. Bike Routes will not be utilized;
2. Include a secure bike station at the HSR station (i.e. bike valet, 24-hour indoor bicycle parking, bike rentals, professional repair services, a retail bike shop, free air). Example: <http://home.bikestation.com/bikestation-long-beach>; and,
3. Strong bikeway linkage between the Bear Creek Bikeway and the HSR station (either by one linkage comprised of a Class I bike path, cycle-track or bike boulevard, or combination thereof).

Bikeway Policies and Programs:

1. All new and reconstructed roads bridges and underpasses that are constructed as part of or as a result of the HSR project will be designed as complete streets for all forms of travel;
2. Where the HSR project results in a reduction in demand of existing road right-of-way for cars and trucks, said land area will first be considered for sidewalks and bikeways; and,
3. City-wide bike-share program (example...<http://www.santamonicabikeshare.com/>).

AGENDA ITEM I

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 23, 2016

ACTION

In an effort to enable increased dialog and interaction with the project plans among the public and other Commissioners, a design workshop will be held as part of this item. At the workshop, Staff will provide a workspace, markers and large printed copies of the project site plan. Using these tools, the BAC and participating members of the public will explore options and alternatives of bikeway and multi-use paths both on and adjacent to the project site. At the conclusion of the workshop, the Commission will be able to offer their findings and comments to Staff.

Attachments:

1. June 28, 2016 HSR Staff Report

CITY OF MERCED
Development Services

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission
FROM: Bill King, Principal Planner
DATE: June 28, 2016
SUBJECT: High Speed Rail Station Area Planning

ACTION REQUIRED:

Provide bike-related comments to the City's consultant who is preparing the High Speed Rail (HSR) Station Area Plan.

BACKGROUND

The City is in the process of crafting a plan for land use and circulation in the area surrounding the proposed High Speed Rail site, which will be bound by 16th Street, G Street, 14th Street, and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The provision for transit and active transportation will be key transportation-related improvements for the site. Included in the station design concept is the relocation of the Merced Transpo Center to a site immediately adjacent to the HSR Station.

The proximity and quality of bikeways and related facilities are important as well. The consultant has prepared a graphic to show planned bikeways in the context of the HSR Station Area Plan (Attachment A).

Preliminary ideas from the consultant include:

- Secure bike station at the HSR station (i.e. bike valet, maintenance area, etc., example <http://home.bikestation.com/bikestation-long-beach>;
- City-wide bike-share program (example...<http://www.santamonicabikeshare.com/>); and,
- Continuation of the Bear Creek Bikeway (Class 1) to the HSR station. Avenue L would be a reasonable link as it is currently planned as a possible location for a Bicycle Boulevard, but 16th street is only planned to be a Class II near the station.

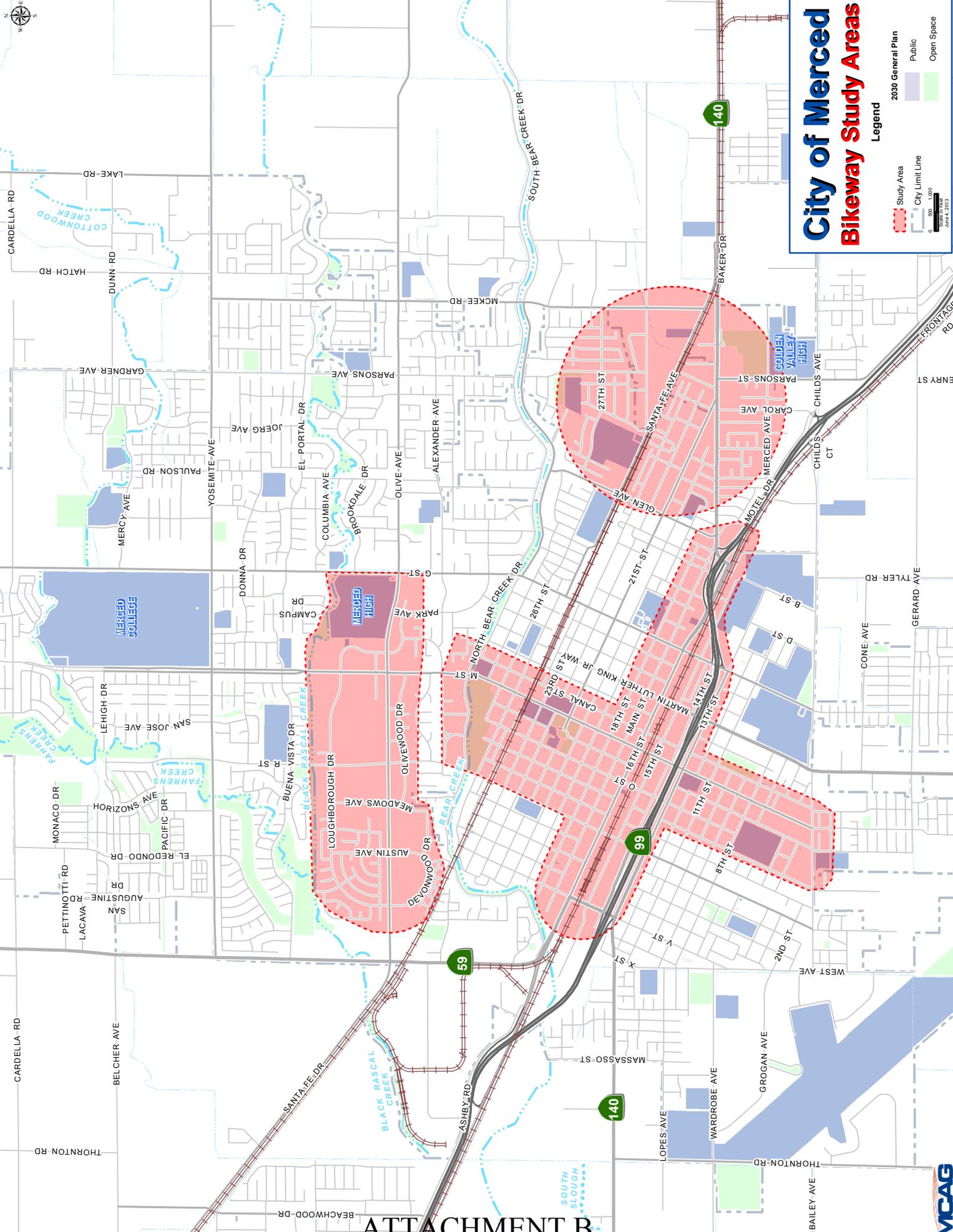
The consultant is very interested to hear your ideas and recommendations, and will be attending the June 28, 2016, BAC meeting.

RELATION TO THE 2013 BIKE PLAN

The downtown area was identified in the 2013 Bike Plan as an area that needed an assessment to improve north-south and east-west travel (Attachment A). The 2013 plan did not address the HSR project.

Attachment

- A. Consultant Bikeway ideas in the area of the HSR Station
- B. Bikeway Study Areas
- C. Close Up of Downtown Bikeways, 2013 BTP



City of Merced Bikeway Study Areas

Legend

- Study Area
- City Limit Line
- 2030 General Plan
Public
- Open Space

0 500 1,000
 Feet Miles
 Scale Date: June 4, 2013

ATTACHMENT B

