



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: October 25, 2016
SUBJECT: **Comprehensive Plan(s) Transportation Element Certifications,
Resolution 11-16-29**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The RTC Board is asked to take action on Resolution 11-16-29 to certify Comprehensive Plan updates of local jurisdictions in Clark County as required by Washington State's Growth Management Act. Resolution 11-16-29 covers the Comprehensive Plan updates of Clark County and the cities of Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield and La Center. The City of Vancouver and the Town of Yacolt will update their Plans in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the Clark, Klickitat and Skamania County region. As an RTPO, RTC has responsibility for the regional transportation planning process. One of the duties of an RTPO is to certify the transportation element of local Comprehensive Plans and any update to these Plans. The certification process reviews the transportation element within the Comprehensive Plan to assure conformance with the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and meets the requirements of Washington State's Level of Service (LOS) Bill. The Certification Process embodies the spirit of the GMA which requires coordination between jurisdictions and transportation agencies when planning under the GMA and requires consistency between transportation plans.

HISTORY

The GMA Certification requirement was first addressed by the RTC Board in 1994 during development of the first Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County resulting from the State's Growth Management Act passed in 1990. The process to certify Comprehensive Plans was reviewed and updated by the RTC Board in 2003. Certification of local plans was ratified with subsequent updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County.

After working with Regional Transportation Advisory Committee members and planners from local jurisdictions, as well as review by the RTC Board, the Board adopted Resolution 03-16-05, a Guide to RTC's Certification Process, on March 1, 2016. The Guide clarifies RTC's role in certifying local plans as part of Washington State's growth management planning process and includes a checklist for local jurisdictions to complete to help them and RTC fulfill certification requirements. Both the Guide and the checklist are made available on [RTC's website](http://www.rtc.wa.gov).

RTC's GMA CERTIFICATION PROCESS

There are 4 key elements to the certification process:

- Guidelines and Principles for certifying the local transportation elements of Comprehensive Plans are established.
- RTC must certify conformity of local Comprehensive Plan transportation elements with the Growth Management Act's requirements.
- RTC must certify consistency between local Comprehensive Plans and RTC's Regional Transportation Plan.
- RTC must certify that local jurisdictions have met the requirements of the state's Level of Service Bill.

USE OF RTC'S CHECKLIST

RTC's Certification Process Guide includes a checklist for use by jurisdictions required to update their Growth Management Plans in 2016 and subsequent years. The checklist contains a series of questions related to the requirements of the GMA for developing transportation elements in local comprehensive plans and is used to determine the Plan's GMA compliance and consistency.

RTC has received updated Comprehensive Plans and completed certification checklists from local jurisdictions that have taken Comprehensive Plan update actions in 2016. Local jurisdictions submitted completed certification checklists to RTC acknowledging that their Comprehensive Plan update was coordinated with planning partners and the transportation element was coordinated with RTC, C-TRAN and WSDOT. The checklist asks for verification that transportation element update supports transportation policy themes found in federal, state and regional laws, guidance and plans as well as County-wide Transportation Planning Policies adopted by Clark County as part of its Comprehensive Growth Management Planning Process.

The Growth Management Act requires that the transportation elements of local Comprehensive Plans address certain issues. RTC's checklist requires local jurisdictions to acknowledge these issues are addressed in the transportation elements:

- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Goals and Policies including Consistency with County-Wide Planning Policies
- Inventory of Transportation System
- Land Use Assumptions Used in Estimating Travel Demand
- Data and Performance Measures including Level of Service
- Travel Forecasting
- Facilities and Service Needs
- Traffic Impacts to State-Owned Transportation Facilities Resulting from the Land Use Assumptions

- Demand Management Strategies
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Component
- Finance Plan

The transportation elements of local Comprehensive Plans also need to be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan. RTC's checklist requires local jurisdictions to confirm that the transportation element is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan regarding the following:

- Land Use Forecast
- Goals and Policies including Consistency with County-Wide Planning Policies
- Regional Travel Forecast Model Network and Transit Assumptions
- Level of Service Standards
- Goals and Policies
- Projects, Programs and Services
- Financial Plan and Funding Strategy
- Intergovernmental Coordination Efforts
- Transportation Demand Management and System Management Strategies

CERTIFICATION AND FINDINGS OF UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLANS AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENTS

RTC staff worked in coordination with local jurisdictions and their consultants throughout the comprehensive plan update processes leading up to 2016 adoption of Plan updates. RTC provided regional travel model output as a tool to determine future travel needs and transportation system improvements to support land uses. Overall, RTC recognizes the close cooperation between the state, region and locals in developing Plans within the Clark County region. RTC reviewed the completed checklists submitted by local jurisdictions and verified that the updated plans meet GMA requirements.

Resolution 11-16-29 recommends RTC's certification of the following comprehensive plan updates following RTC's verification of submitted checklist, review of the updated Comprehensive Plan and transportation element and recommendation from the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee:

Clark County

Clark County's 20 Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, 2015-2035 was adopted by the Clark County Council on June 21, 2016. The County's Comprehensive Plan update included review of Countywide Planning Policies as well as update to the Plan's Chapter 5 transportation element. A Clark County Comprehensive Plan map showing the identified transportation needs in unincorporated Clark County is attached.

Camas

The Camas 2035; A comprehensive plan to guide future growth and development for the City of Camas was adopted by the Camas City Council on June 20, 2016. The 2016 Camas Comprehensive Plan update focuses on policies and emphasizes the integration of land use and transportation. A map showing Camas's Transportation Comprehensive Plan Map is attached.

Washougal

The City of Washougal 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan, 2016 Update was adopted by the Washougal City Council on June 27, 2016. Update to Washougal's transportation element is only minor in scope with the addition of two transportation projects to Washougal's Capital Facilities Plan to allow the projects to be partially funded with local Transportation Impact Fees (TIFs). A more thorough update to Washougal's Comprehensive Plan and transportation Capital Facilities Plan is planned for later in 2016 and 2017. A map showing the City of Washougal's Transportation Circulation Plan: Proposed Roads and Road Improvements with Capital Facilities Projects Identified is attached.

Battle Ground

The City of Battle Ground Comprehensive Plan 2015-20135 was adopted by the Battle Ground City Council on June 27, 2016. Battle Ground has a separate Transportation System Plan (TSP) document which was last updated in 2015. Within the Battle Ground Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 9 focuses on transportation and summarizes the content of the TSP. A map showing Battle Ground's existing and proposed highway network is attached.

Ridgefield

The City of Ridgefield Comprehensive Plan update was adopted by the Ridgefield City Council on February 25, 2016. A map showing the functional classification of Ridgefield streets and key projects identified in the comprehensive planning process is attached.

La Center

La Center Comprehensive Plan 2016-2035 was adopted on March 23, 2016 and an update to its Capital Facilities Plan has advanced through Planning Commission hearing. A map showing planned transportation projects is attached.

POLICY IMPLICATION

RTC's certification of local comprehensive plans is consistent with State Growth Management planning process requirements and fulfills one of RTC's responsibilities for regional transportation planning and coordination under state statute (Chapter 47.80 RCW). The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the local jurisdictions' completed checklists and recommended RTC Board action to Certify the updated Plans.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

None. Work by RTC to complete Growth Management Act Certification requirements was anticipated and budgeted in the FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program under the Regional Transportation Plan work element.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Certifications, Resolution 11-16-29.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2016,
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Jack Burkman
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director

Attachments: Transportation element maps for each jurisdiction

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

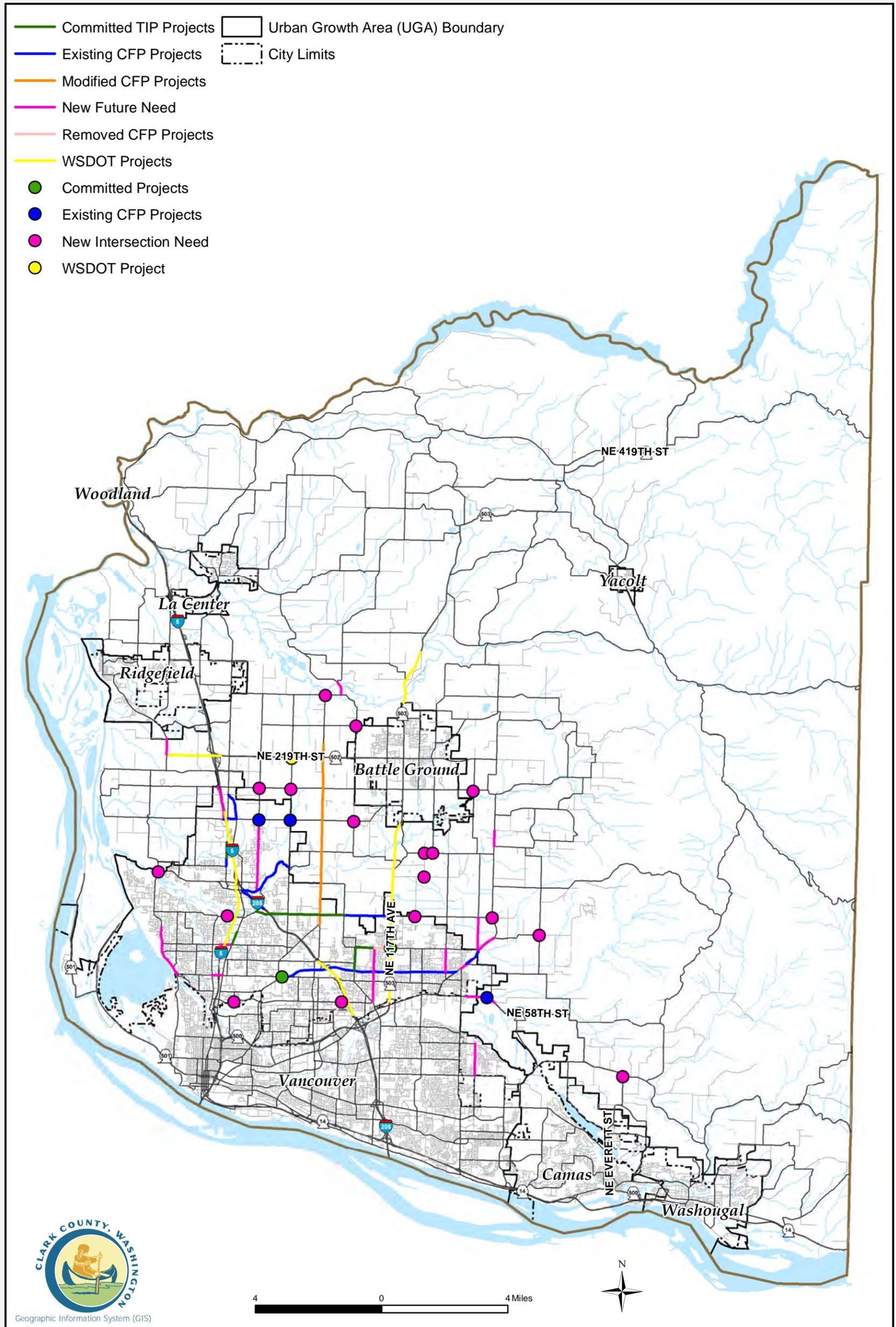
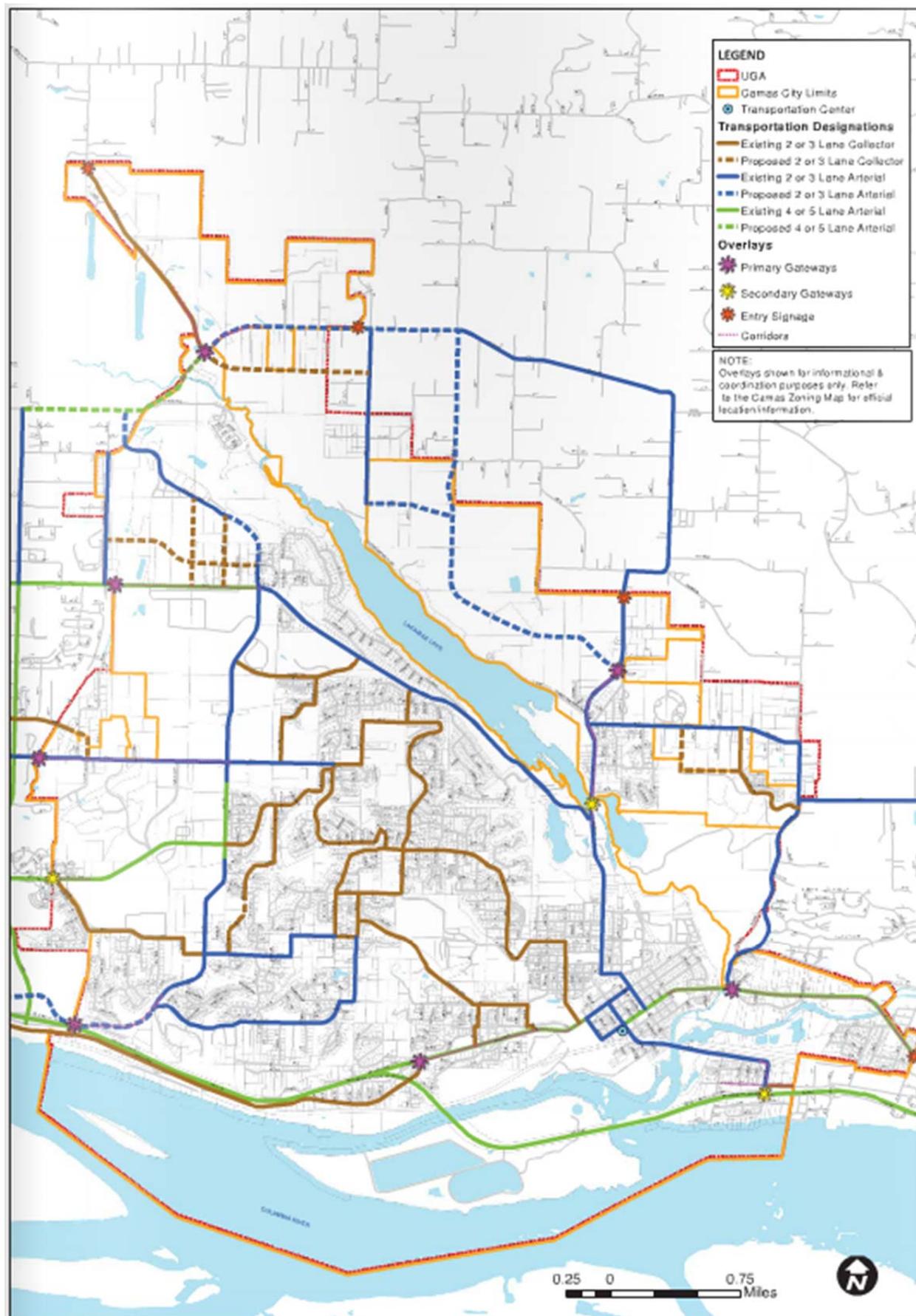


FIGURE 20



CAMAS TRANSPORTATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP
 CAMAS, WA | Ordinance 16-010 Adopted June 2016



Figure 11. Proposed Capital Improvements

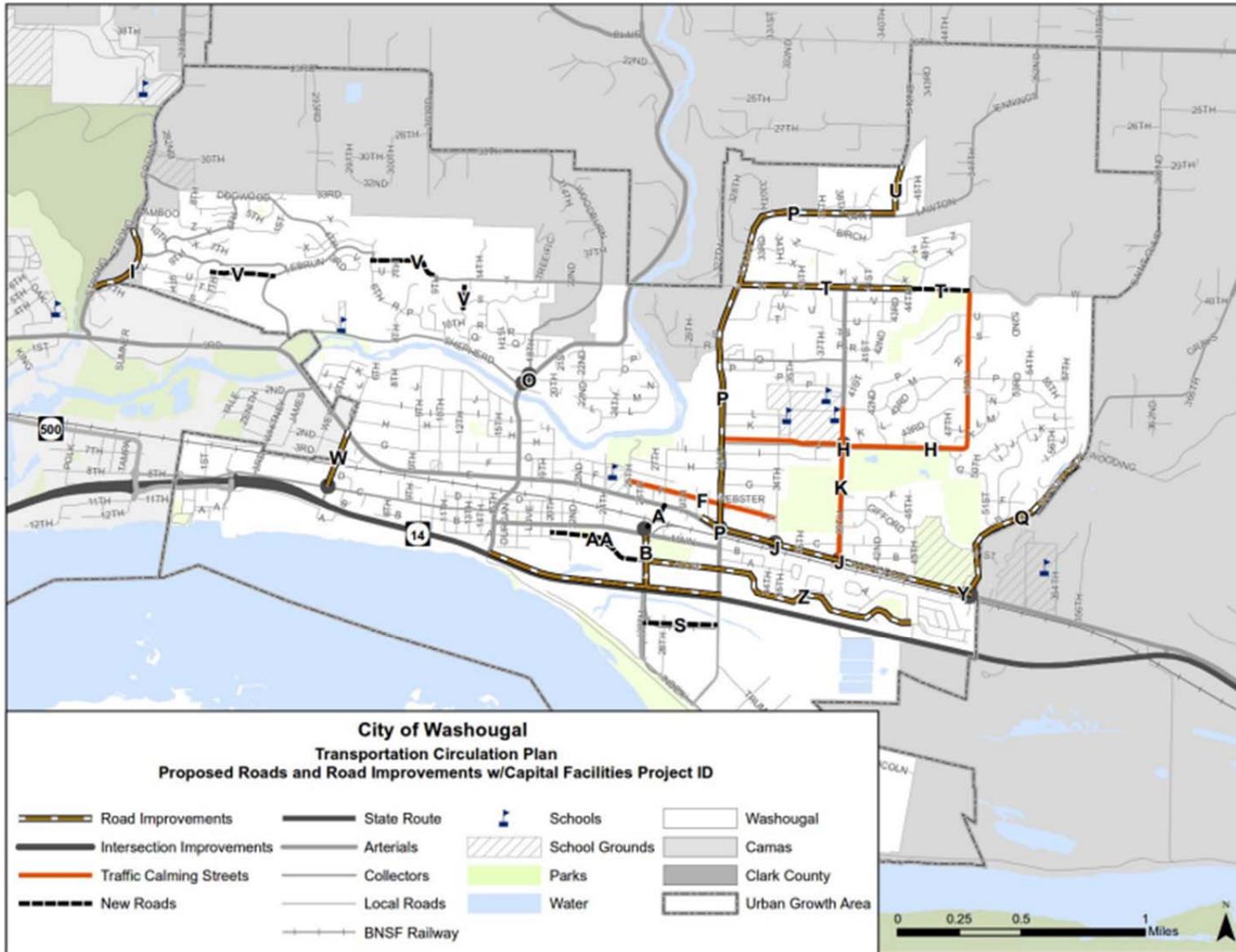
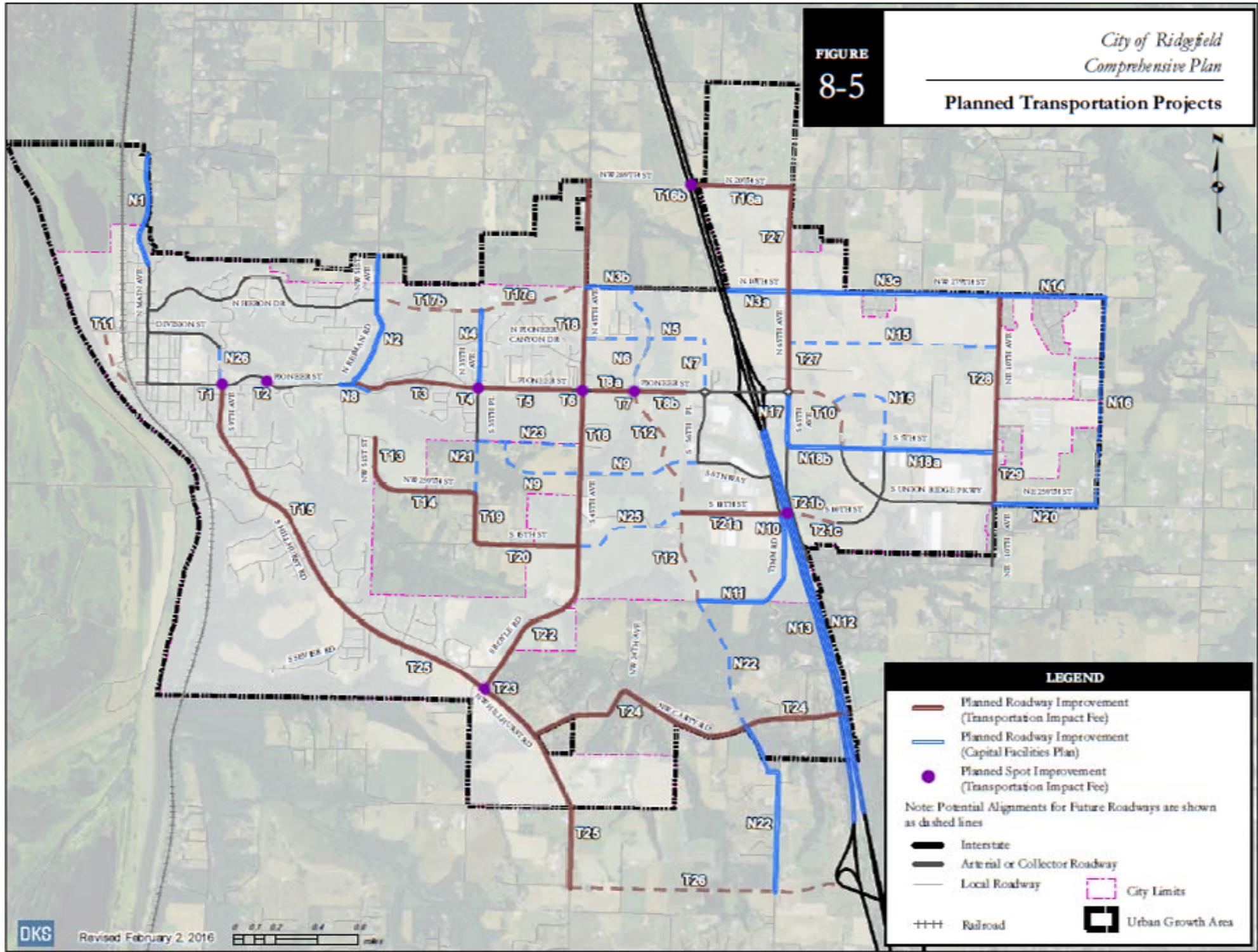


FIGURE
8-5

Planned Transportation Projects



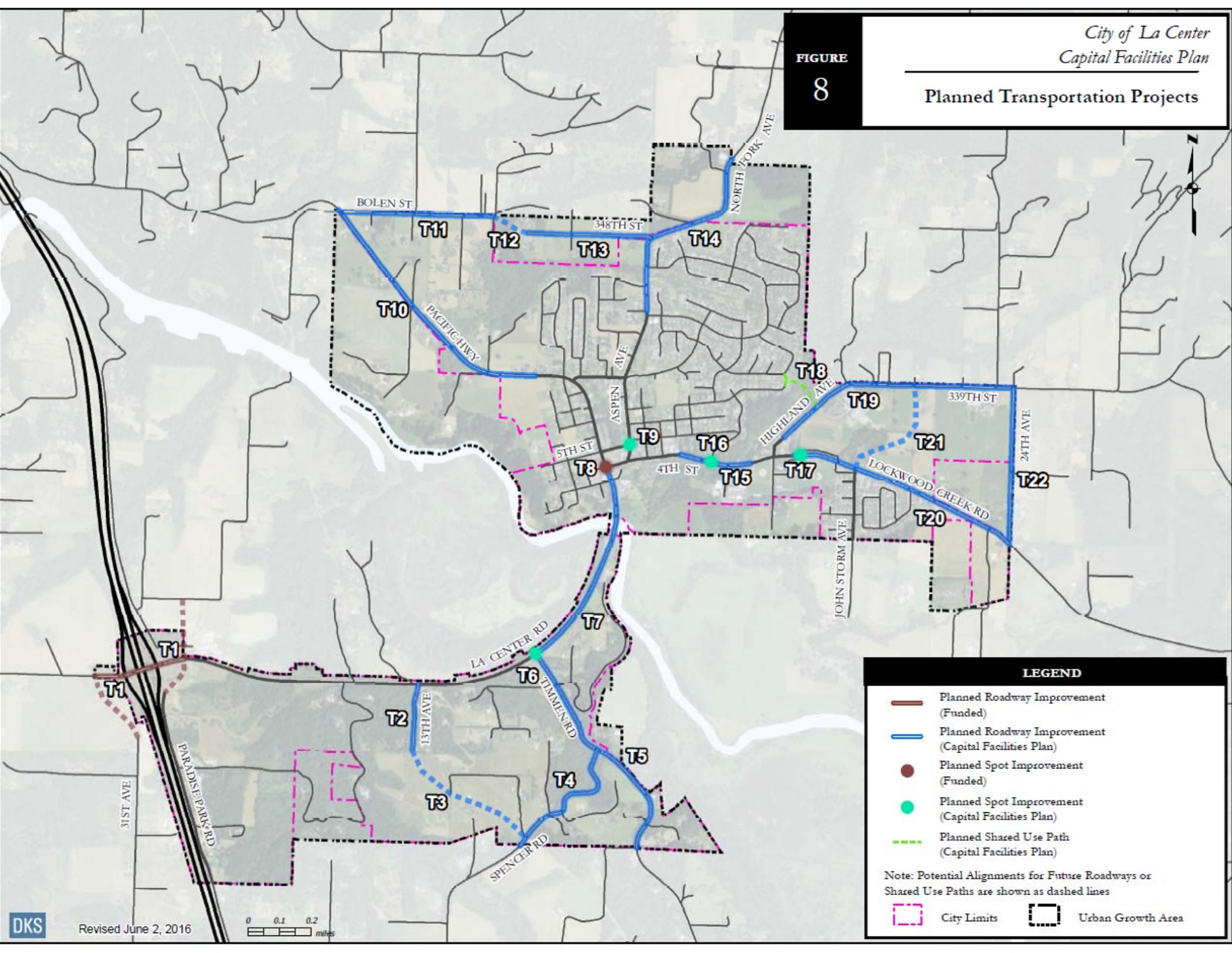
LEGEND

- Planned Roadway Improvement (Transportation Impact Fee)
- Planned Roadway Improvement (Capital Facilities Plan)
- Planned Spot Improvement (Transportation Impact Fee)
- Note: Potential Alignments for Future Roadways are shown as dashed lines
- Interstate
- Arterial or Collector Roadway
- Local Roadway
- City Limits
- Railroad
- Urban Growth Area

FIGURE

8

Planned Transportation Projects



LEGEND

- Planned Roadway Improvement (Funded)
- Planned Roadway Improvement (Capital Facilities Plan)
- Planned Spot Improvement (Funded)
- Planned Spot Improvement (Capital Facilities Plan)
- - - Planned Shared Use Path (Capital Facilities Plan)

Note: Potential Alignments for Future Roadways or Shared Use Paths are shown as dashed lines

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area