



City of Santa Barbara
Transportation and Circulation Committee

Staff Report

DATE: April 25, 2024

TO: Transportation and Circulation Committee

FROM: Michelle Bedard, Project Planner

SUBJECT: Milpas Street Crosswalk Safety and Sidewalk Widening Project Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation and Circulation Committee receive an update and provide comments for the Milpas Street Crosswalk Safety and Sidewalk Widening Project.

BACKGROUND:

Milpas Street is a busy arterial street in the Eastside neighborhood. There are five lanes of traffic carrying over 23,000 vehicles per day. The Highway 101 interchange on the southern end of Milpas Street contributes to the high traffic volume. Milpas Street has the second highest number of pedestrian-involved collisions in the City of Santa Barbara (City). Because of the pattern of traffic collisions resulting in serious or fatal injury, the City has identified Milpas Street as a Vision Zero Priority Corridor in the City Council (Council) adopted Santa Barbara Vision Zero Strategy.

From 2019 through 2020, the City solicited community feedback from the Eastside on the walking experience on Milpas Street and worked with the community to develop a project scope addressing the community's concerns and collision pattern history. In 2020, Council directed City staff to apply for a grant from the State's Active Transportation Program (ATP) for corridor-wide safety enhancements, and the City was unsuccessful. California Transportation Commission Program staff advised making the grant application more competitive, so City staff revised the project to focus on safety enhancements at intersections. The community supported the revised scope in 2022 and Council again directed staff to apply for an ATP grant. In 2022, with the addition of \$2 million in City matching funds, the City was successfully awarded \$7.9 million of ATP grant funds for the design and construction of the Milpas Street Crosswalk Safety and Sidewalk Improvements Project (Project). City staff will continue to explore additional grant opportunities for larger corridor-wide improvements, which are anticipated to cost an additional \$20 million.

The Project will create a safe, comfortable corridor for residents with improved intersection sight lines, crossing enhancements, lighting, and widened sidewalks at street corners (Attachment). The Project is also paired with a street maintenance project which will include pavement grind and overlay, and significant sidewalk and accessibility repairs of damage

caused by tree uplifts along Milpas Street from Carpinteria Street to Anapamu Streets. Many of the existing Ficus trees along Milpas Street have outgrown their planting area and encroach into the space required for pedestrian accessibility. As a result, some tree replacements are anticipated to be included in the Project scope.

Since the grant award, City staff has held virtual and in-person bilingual community engagement meetings (October 2023) to recap the scope of the grant and to review anticipated issues that need to be resolved before the project design is finalized. Recent community feedback is included in the Discussion section of the report.

On November 7, 2023, Council approved the design contract with GHD, Inc. to assist with survey, design, and technical/environmental study support.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project includes the following enhancements:

- New curb extensions at eight intersections.
- High visibility crosswalks.
- Additional street lighting.
- Accessibility improvements between intersections.
- Widened sidewalks at street corners and transit stops.
- Installation of leading pedestrian intervals at signalized intersections.
- Mast arm-mounted rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at the Milpas and Yanonali Streets intersection.
- Additional median refuge island and RRFBs at the Milpas and Ortega Streets intersection.
- Three-foot-wide buffers added to the existing bike lanes between Cota and Canon Perdido Streets.
- Additional bicycle parking.

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in 2027.

DISCUSSION:

Community engagement along Milpas Street is documented in the 2006 Pedestrian Master Plan, the 2016 Bicycle Master Plan, and several project-specific engagements from 2019 to the present. In October 2023, two community engagement efforts were held, including a webinar on October 4, 2023, and an in-person meeting on October 18, 2023, at the Franklin Neighborhood Center. At these meetings, City staff reviewed the project scope of the recently awarded grant, concept plans, project schedule, and anticipated issues that need to be resolved prior to completion of design plans.

Below are highlights from the most recent community engagement meetings:

- Requests to provide a safer/enhanced pedestrian experience, including additional street lighting to increase visibility of pedestrians.
- Need for safe and clean sidewalks to improve walkability for pedestrians.

- Request safer streets and safe bike lanes for cyclists.
- Concerns regarding speeding vehicles.
- Requests to reduce automobile speed limits to increase safety for all road users.
- Requests to preserve the existing street trees.
- Requests to remove the existing trees, noting the trees are too large and too messy, that removal is necessary to provide increased visibility, safety, and existing sidewalk repairment.
- Concerns with what the replacement trees might be.
- Concerns with impacts to parking and requests to preserve street parking.
- Requests to enhance safety within the roundabout to improve safety for all road users.
- Requests to provide shelters over bus stops for weather protection.
- Requests for additional traffic signals at Ortega and Yanonali Streets.
- Request for installation of art panels to celebrate the Latino culture.

Given the community feedback, the Project scope includes the safety measures for intersection design. City staff will work with MTD on the bus stop locations and shelter locations. City staff is coordinating with Caltrans staff on adding pedestrian activated flashers to the Milpas Roundabout crosswalks.

City staff have heard that on-street parking is in high demand on and adjacent to Milpas Street. The changes at the intersections aim to minimize impacts to on-street parking. There will be tradeoffs between the amount of pedestrian space at the intersections and space for on-street parking near intersections.

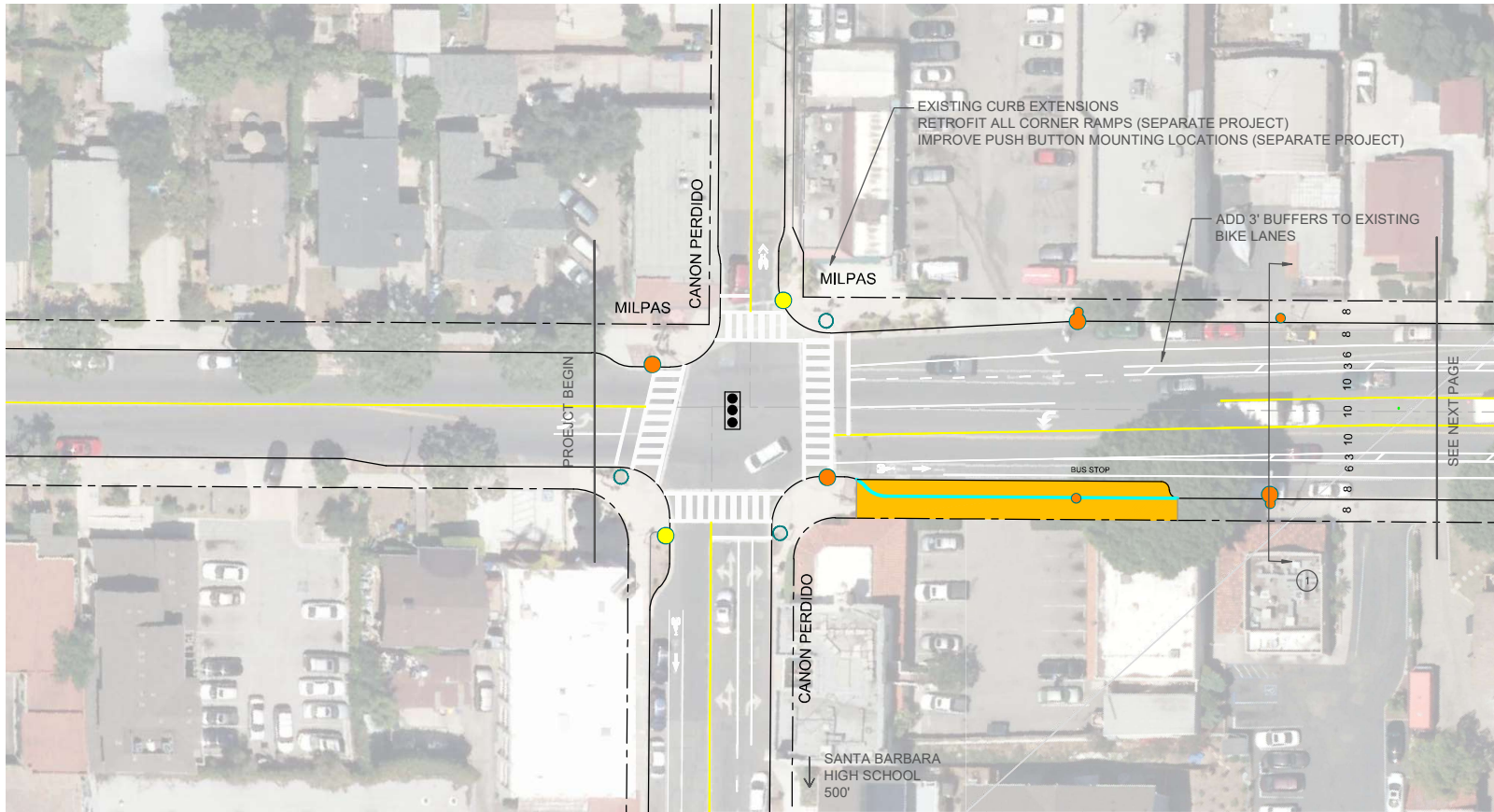
A project goal is to retain as much of the tree canopy along Milpas Street as possible. The trees provide character, shade, and have many environmental benefits to the City's urban forest in reducing the heat island effect, sequestering carbon, reducing pollution, and capturing and storing storm water. The project aims to improve pedestrian safety and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access along the Milpas corridor while minimizing impacts on Santa Barbara's urban forest. Working closely with the City's Parks and Recreation Forestry Division, trees will be individually assessed and removed only if it is determined that traffic safety, ADA access, and maintaining infrastructure cannot otherwise be accomplished. New trees will be planted along Milpas Street to help offset the loss of larger trees, with particular attention given to selecting species that will provide shade, diversity, and compatibility with infrastructure. The existing Laurel Fig Trees will continue to receive regular care to ensure their long-term health.














The consultants recently completed right-of-way topographical/utility surveys necessary for technical analysis and design. City staff will return to the community once the tree assessment and accessibility assessment have been reviewed. This issue must be resolved before the design is finalized.

NEXT STEPS:

Now through spring 2025, the project consultants will complete the design plans, technical analysis, and environmental review. During this time, City staff will continue to hold community engagement meetings and update the City's advisory boards and committees. Beginning in summer 2025 through winter 2027, the project consultants will complete the final design plans and right-of-way phases. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2027 and conclude by fall 2028.

ATTACHMENT: Concept Project Plans



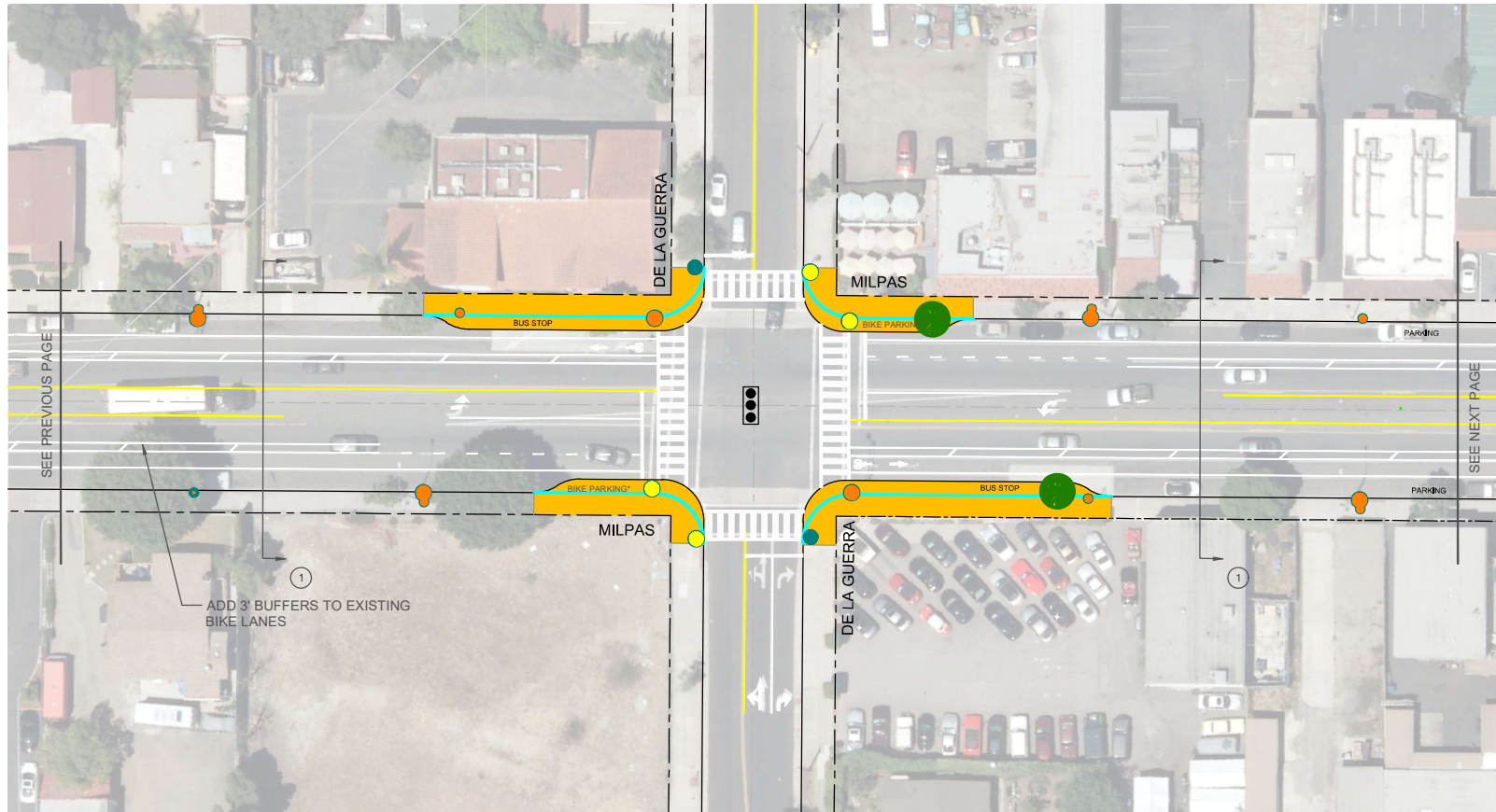
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|--|------------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|
|  | NEW CONCRETE (SIDEWALK OR RAMP) |  | POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION |  | NEW STREET LIGHT |
|  | EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED) |  | PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S) |  | EXISTING STREET LIGHT |
|  | RIGHT OF WAY LINE |  | TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS) |  | EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT |
|  | DRIVEWAY |  | EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION | | |
|  | FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE) |  | NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING | | |
- * BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADA/APS PUSH BUTTON SYSTEM AT CANON PERDIDO ST.
- 2 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD BUFFERS TO EXISTING BIKE LANES
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS
- 2 x PEDESTRIAN PUSH BUTTON POSTS FOR ACCESSIBLE PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
- WIDEN SIDEWALK THROUGH BUS STOP AREA

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 2 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB



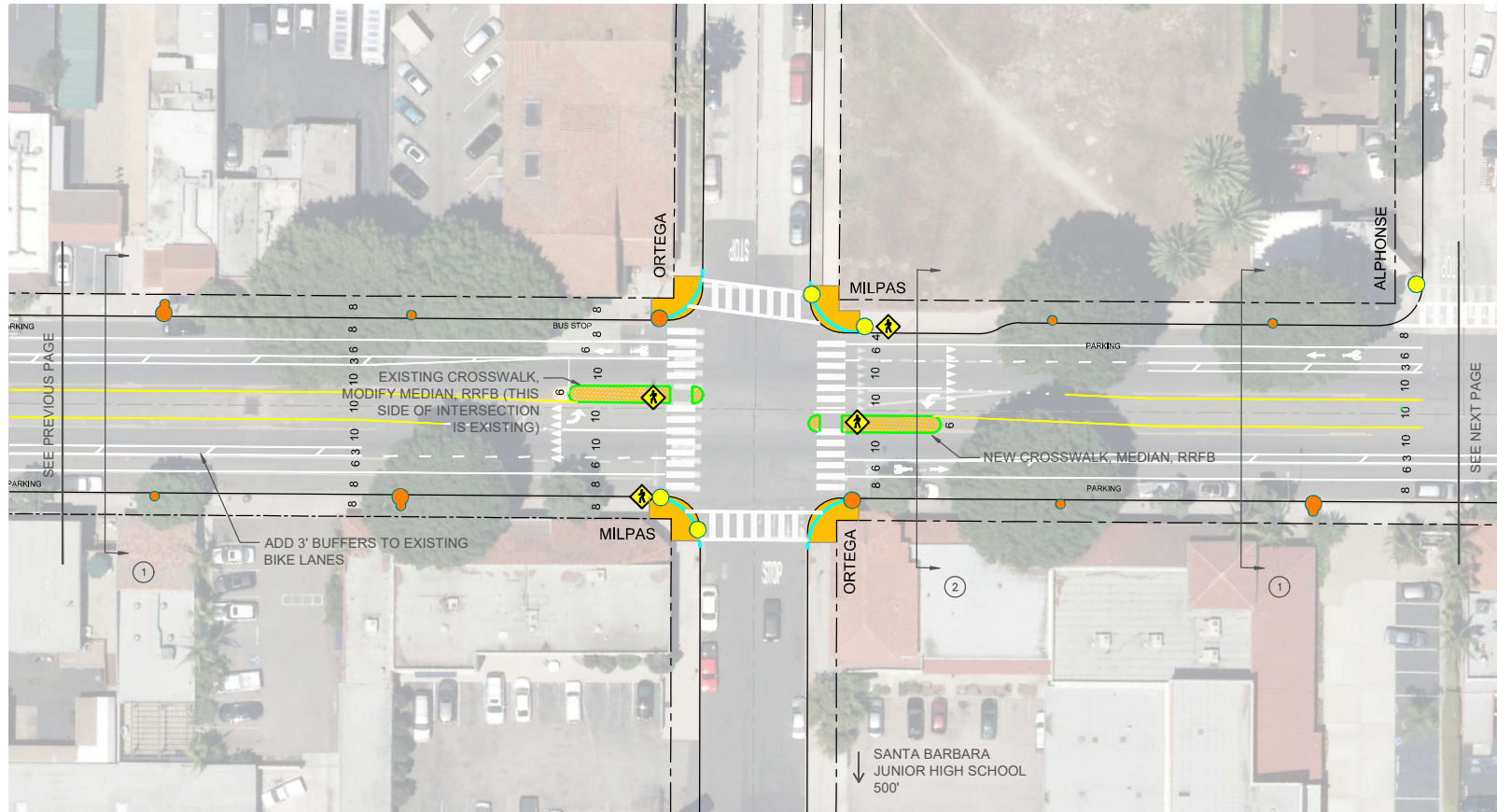


- NEW CONCRETE (SIDEWALK OR RAMP)
- EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
- RIGHT OF WAY LINE
- DRIVEWAY
- FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
- POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
- NEW STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
- PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
- TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
- EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
- NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- CURB EXTENSIONS AND DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS
- ADA/APS PUSH BUTTON SYSTEM AT DE LA GUERRA ST.
- 4 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- 2 X NEW 1-A-10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES FOR PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- ADD BUFFERS TO EXISTING BIKE LANES
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSIONS
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 3 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB



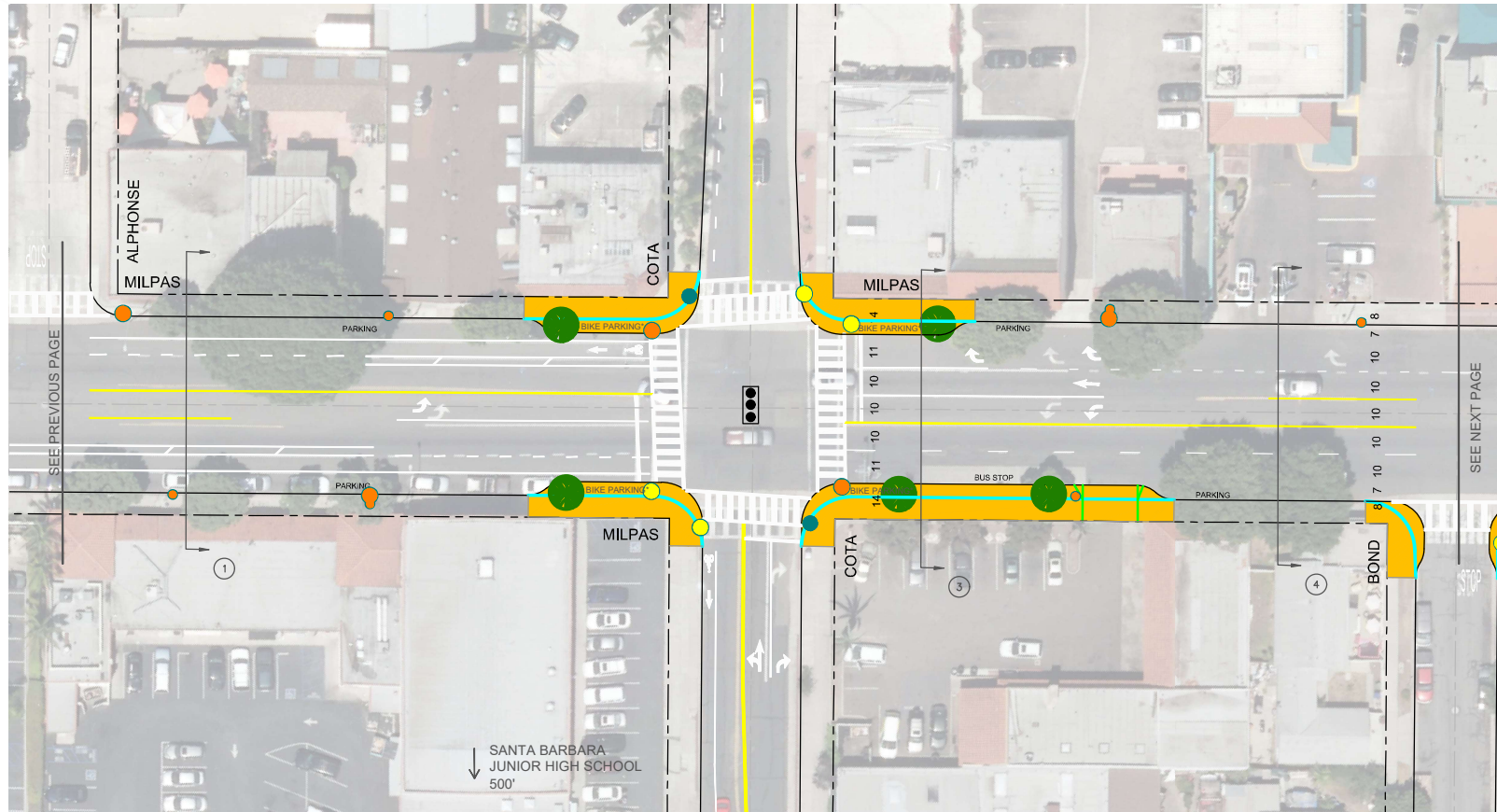
- NEW CONCRETE (SIDEWALK OR RAMP)
 - EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
 - RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - DRIVEWAY
 - FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
 - POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
 - PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
 - TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
 - EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
 - NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
 - NEW STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
- * BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADD CROSSWALK, MEDIAN, RRFB TO SOUTH LEG CROSSING
- 3 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD BUFFERS TO EXISTING BIKE LANES
- RECONSTRUCT SEC RAMP
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSIONS



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 4 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB



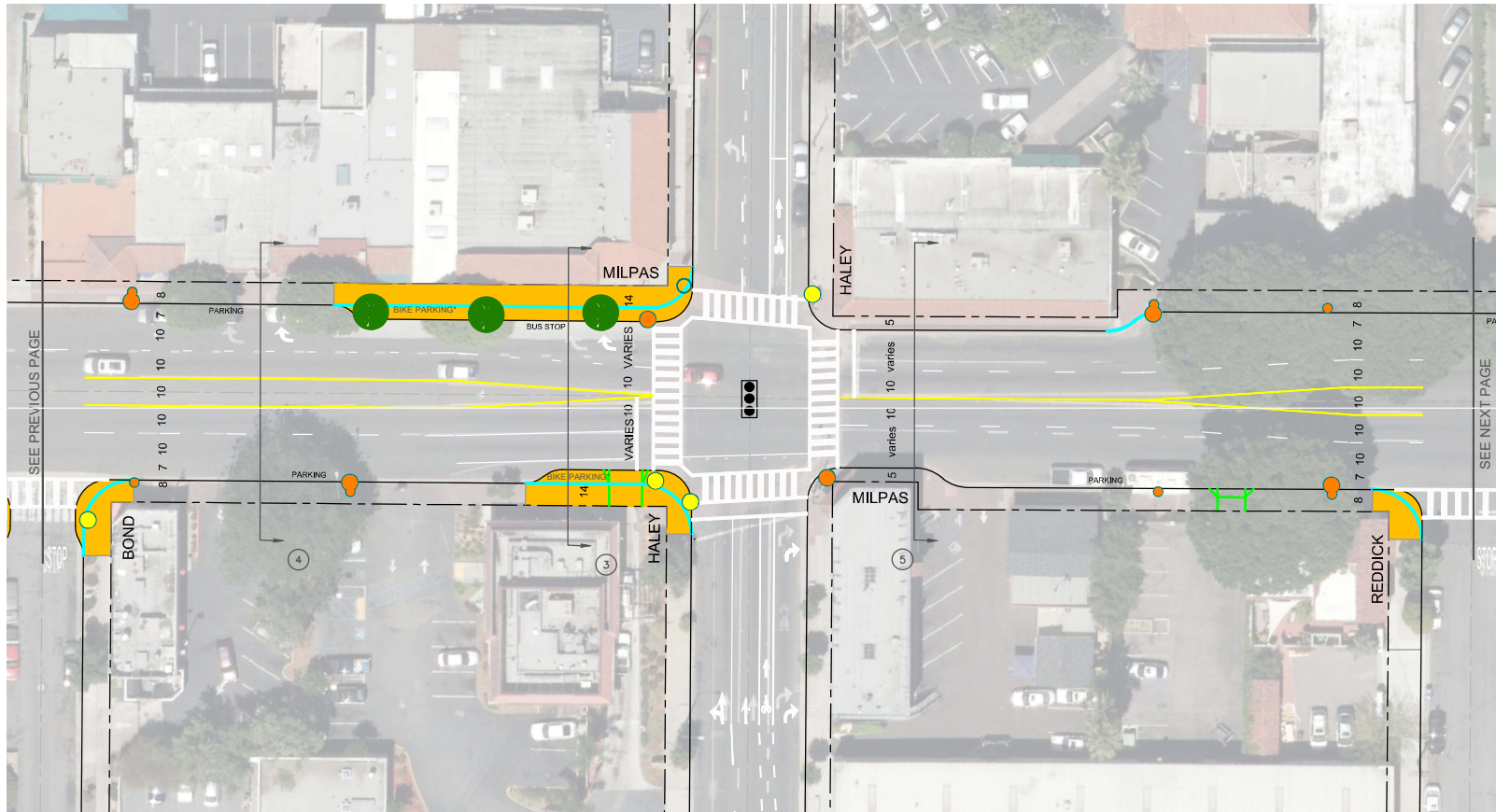
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 - EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
 - RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - DRIVEWAY
 - FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
 - POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
 - NEW STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
 - PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
 - ●
● TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
 - EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
 - NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- * BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADD CURB EXTENSIONS AND DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS TO FOUR CORNERS AT COTA ST.
- ADD CURB EXTENSION NWC AT BOND
- 5 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD BUFFERS TO EXISTING BIKE LANES NORTH OF COTA STREET
- ADD ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS AT COTA ST.
- 2 X NEW 1-A-10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES FOR ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSIONS
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 5 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB



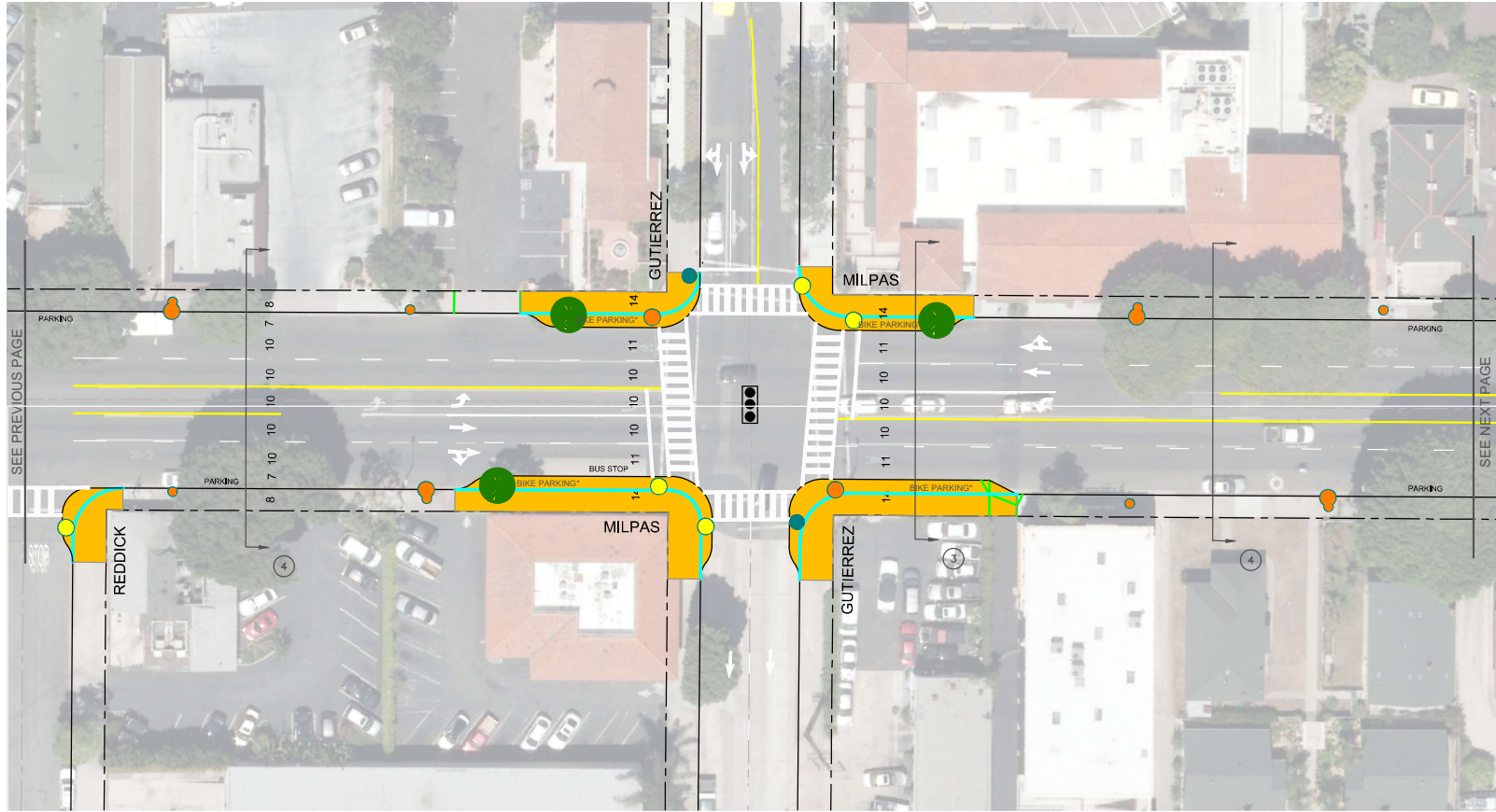
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- EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
- RIGHT OF WAY LINE
- DRIVEWAY
- FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
- POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
- NEW STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
- PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
- TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
- EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
- NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADD CURB EXTENSIONS WITH DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS TO NWC, NEC AT HALEY ST.
- ADD CURB EXTENSION TO SWC AT BOND AVE.
- REPLACE NWC RAMP AT REDDICK
- 4 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS AT HALEY ST.
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSIONS
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
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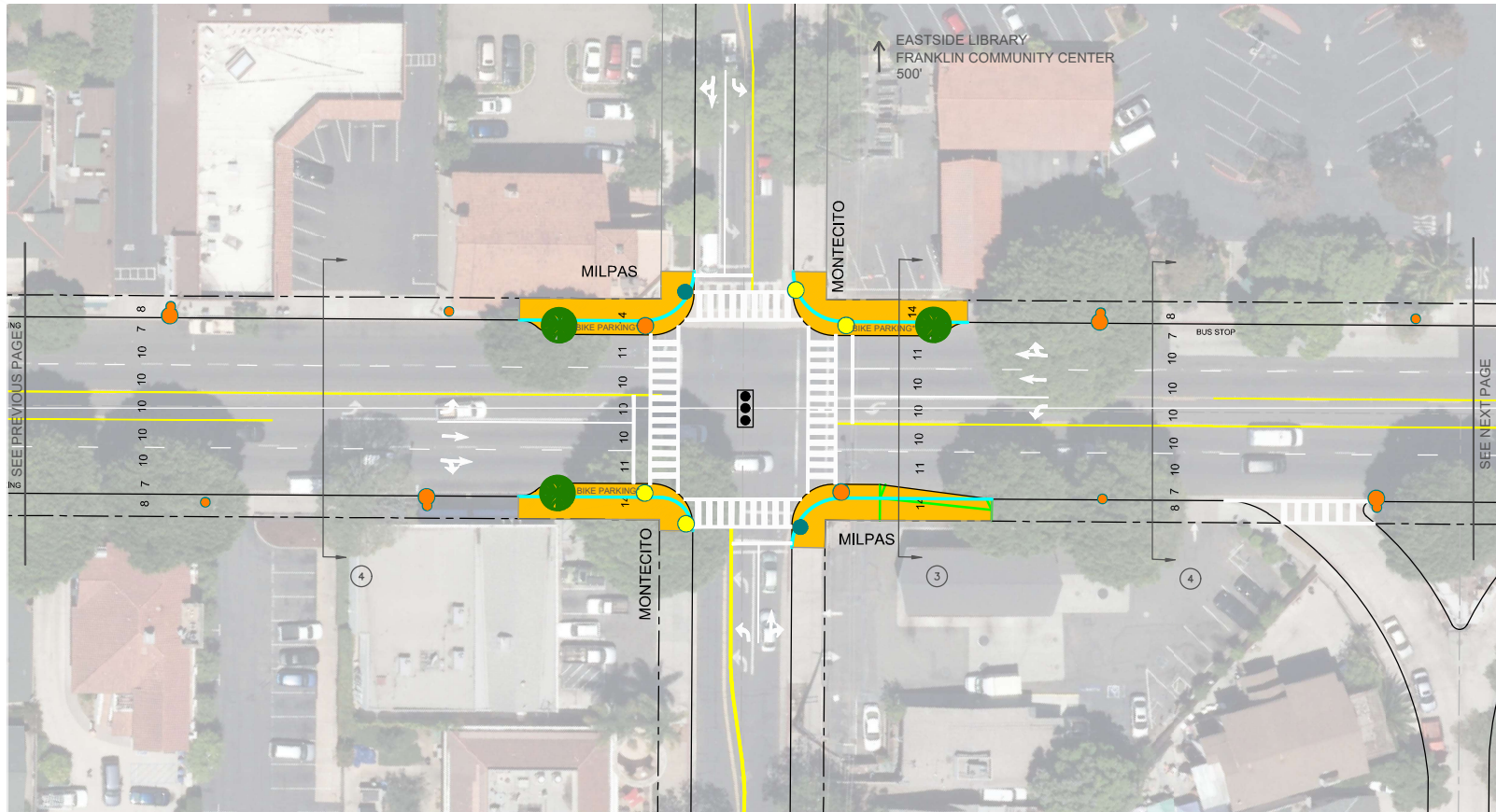
- NEW CONCRETE (SIDEWALK OR RAMP)
 - EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
 - RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - DRIVEWAY
 - FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
 - POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
 - NEW STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
 - PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
 - TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
 - EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
 - NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- * BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADD CURB EXTENSIONS WITH DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS TO ALL CORNERS AT GUTIERREZ ST.
- ADD CURB EXTENSION TO SWC AT REDDICK
- 5 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS AT GUTIERREZ ST.
- ADD TWO NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES (1-1-7, 1-A-10) FOR PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- ADD BIKE PARKING CURB EXTENSIONS
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 7 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB





- NEW CONCRETE (SIDEWALK OR RAMP)
 - EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
 - RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - DRIVEWAY
 - FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
 - POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
 - PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
 - TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
 - EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
 - NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
 - NEW STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
- * BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

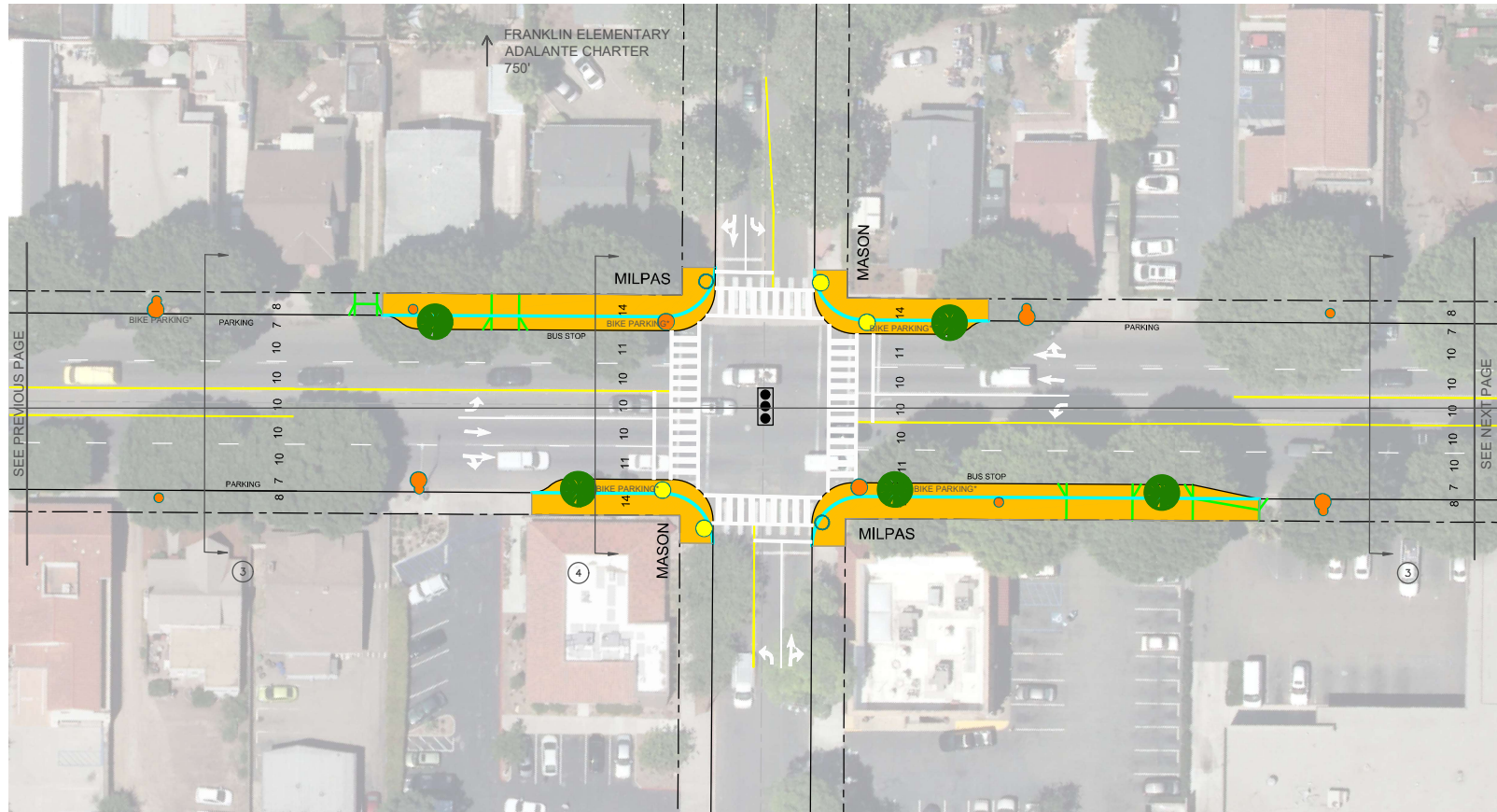
- ADD CURB EXTENSIONS WITH DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS TO ALL CORNERS AT MONTECITO ST.
- 4 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS AT MONTECITO ST.
- ADD TWO NEW 1-A-10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES FOR PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSIONS
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS

MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION

SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 8 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
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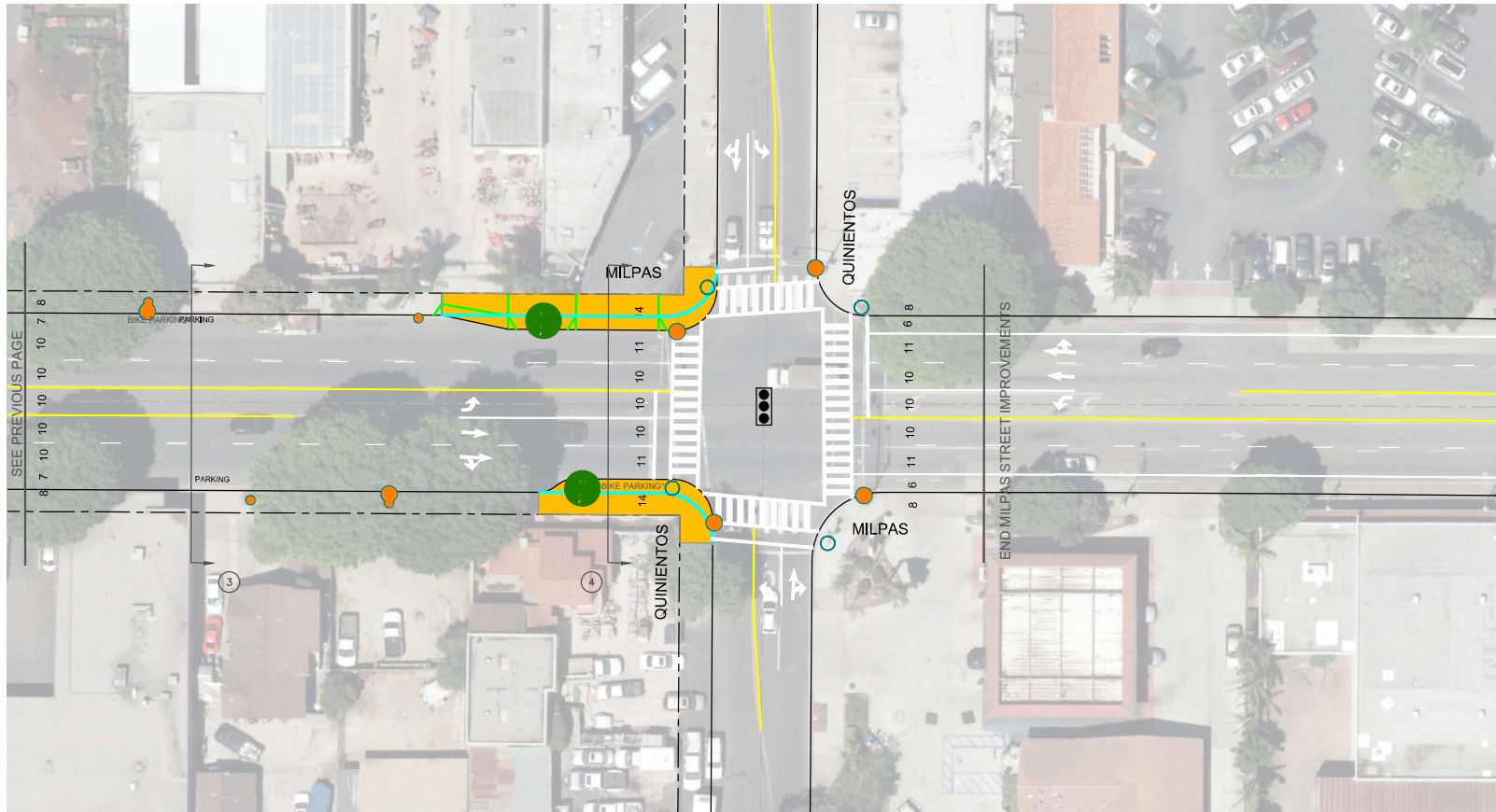
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 - EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
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 - ●
● TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)
 - EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
 - NEW STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING STREET LIGHT
 - EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
 - NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- * BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADD CURB EXTENSIONS WITH DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS TO ALL CORNERS AT MASON ST.
- 4 X NEW STREET LIGHTS
- ADD ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS AT MASON ST.
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSION
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 10 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB





- NEW CONCRETE (SIDEWALK OR RAMP)
- EXISTING CURB LINE (TO BE REMOVED)
- RIGHT OF WAY LINE
- DRIVEWAY
- FACE OF CURB (ULTIMATE)
- POTENTIAL NEW TREE WELL/PLANTING LOCATION
- NEW STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING SIDEWALK LIGHT
- PEDESTRIAN FLASHERS (RRFB'S)
- EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE/ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING LOCATION
- NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE OR PUSH BUTTON POST FOR ADA PUSH BUTTON MOUNTING
- TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION (ADA PUSH BUTTON MODIFICATIONS)

* BIKE PARKING WILL BE ADDED IN CURB EXTENSIONS (AS SIGHT LINE PERMIT)

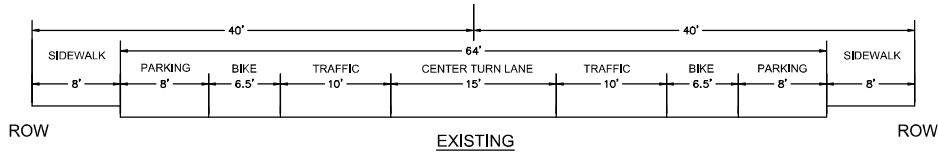
SCOPE OF WORK (THIS SHEET)

- ADD CURB EXTENSIONS WITH DUAL DIRECTIONAL RAMPS TO NWC, NEC AT QUINIENTOS ST.
- ADD ADA/APS PUSH BUTTONS
- ADD BIKE PARKING IN CURB EXTENSION
- ADD LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVALS

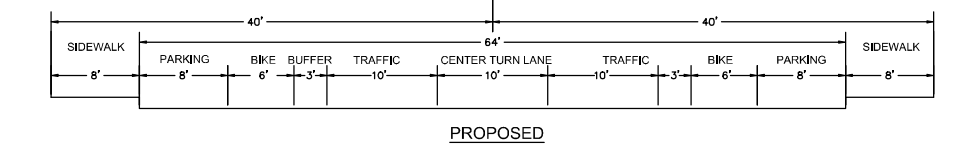
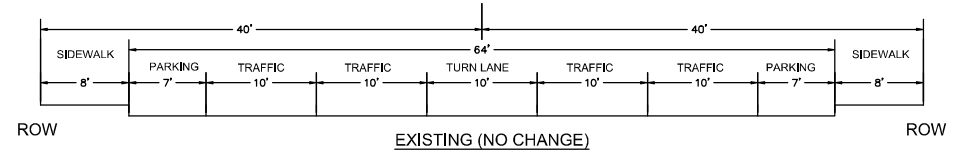


CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
MILPAS STREET ATP APPLICATION	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 11 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=40'	DRAWN BY: DB

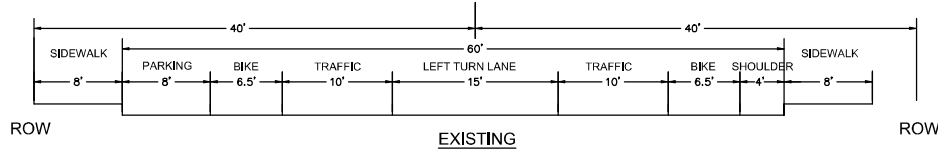
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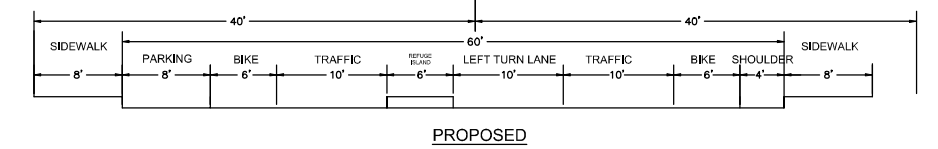
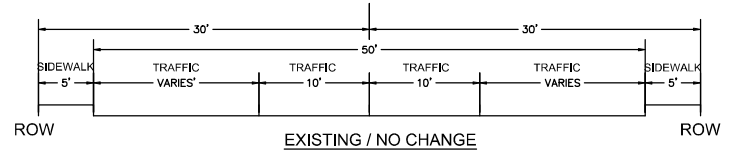
④ CROSS SECTION SCALE 1"=10'



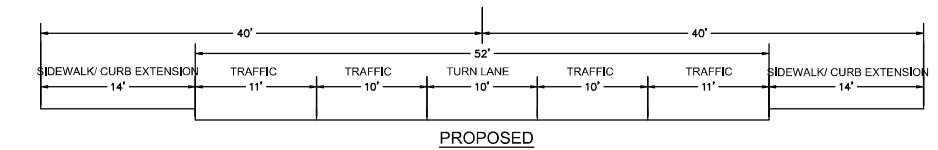
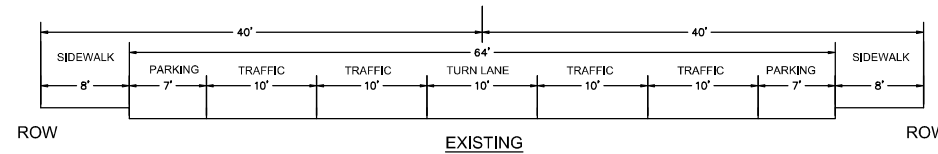
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⑤ CROSS SECTION SCALE 1"=10'



③ CROSS SECTION SCALE 1"=10'



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS	
CROSS SECTIONS	
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA
SHEET: 12 OF 12	DATE: 12/2021
SCALE: 1"=10'	DRAWN BY: DB