

Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting #1: Land Use & Roadway Network

City of Shafter
October 2, 2025



Agenda



Call to Order



Introductions



About the EJWG



General Plan Overview



2021 Draft Environmental Justice & Health Program



Meeting Objectives & Project Schedule



Community Input, Market, & State Law



Design Exercise



Discussion



Conclusion and Next Steps

Introductions

EJWG & TEAM
MEMBERS

The Environmental Justice Working Group is...

- A formal group of Shafter residents and stakeholders that collaborates directly with City staff.
- Meetings are held with the Working Group and City staff, allowing for lengthy and detailed discussions.

Official Charge of the EJWG

- Share your unique perspectives and provide input on EJ issues
- Assist in identifying critical issues and discuss opportunities to overcome barriers
- Review and provide feedback on planning alternatives and recommendations
- Encourage other community members to participate in the public participation process

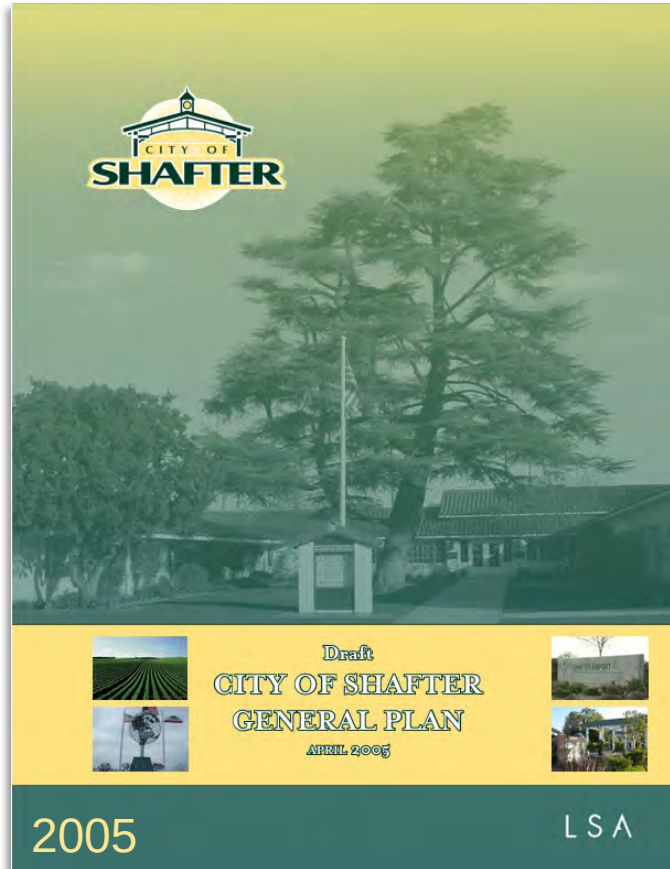
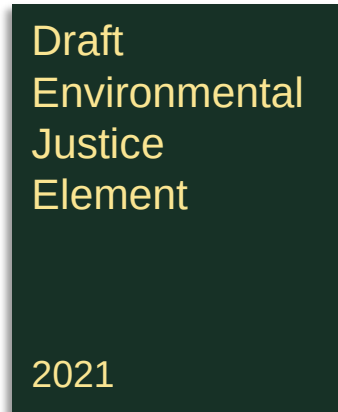
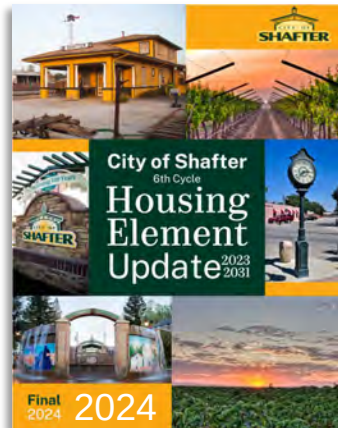
What the EJWG is not...

- A replacement for the City Council or Planning Commission
- A decision-making/legislative body
- A substitute for the public hearing process
- A public meeting
- Subject to the Brown Act

A photograph of a town square. In the foreground, there is a brick-paved plaza with shadows from trees. In the middle ground, there is a large tree with orange flowers, a black lamppost with a clock face, and a building with a sign that says "AFTER HOURS CARE". The sky is blue and clear.

General Plan Introduction

What is a General Plan?

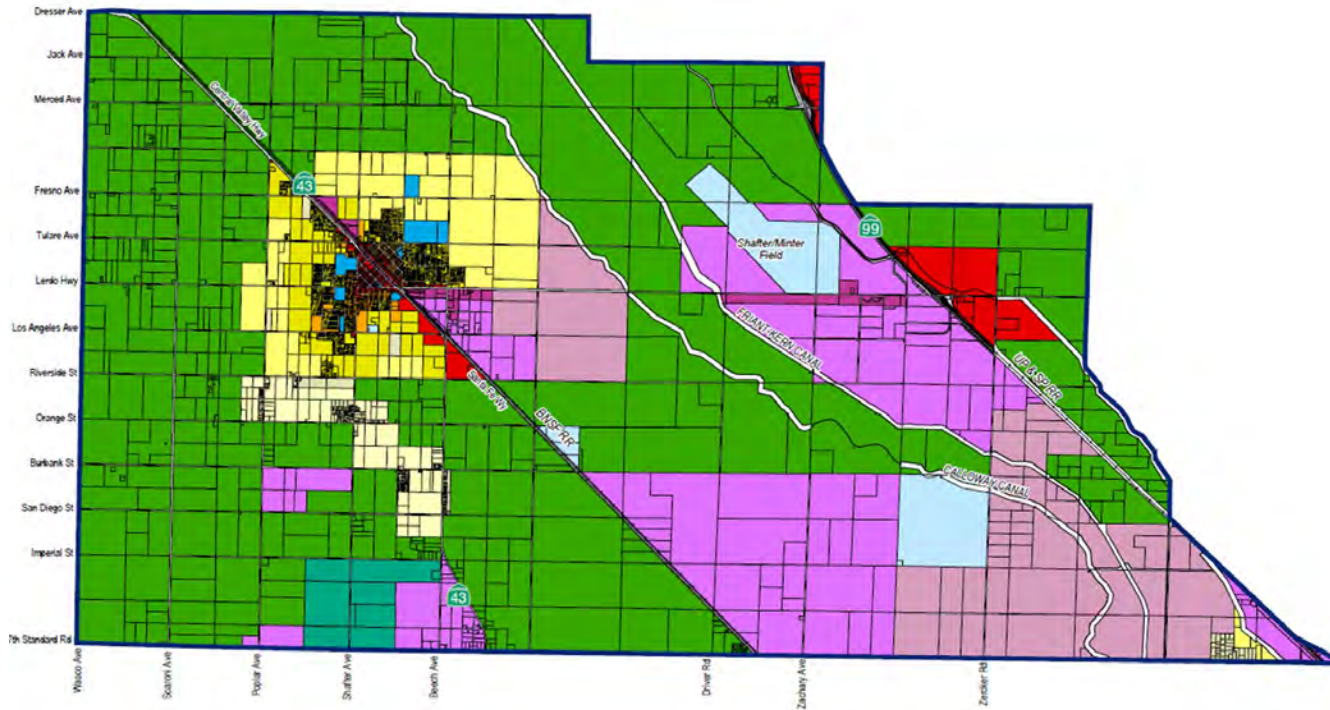


Comprehensive, long-term plan for the city's future

- Policy direction for decisions on land use, services, and capital improvements
- Guides city council, commissions, and staff
- Informs the public, service providers, and investors

Updating the current plan

What's changed in the last 20 years?



Current General Plan Land Use Plan (2005)

- Confirm and/or revise the vision.
- Address new issues and opportunities.
- Plan for growth and development given what we know now.
- Align with new state laws.

General Plan
Planning Area

City Sphere of
Influence (SOI)

Shafter City Limits

Gold's Ave

Cherry Ave

Shafter
43

Lerdo Hwy

99

Lecker Rd

Pogo Creek

Geographic Scope

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



SB 1000 Requirements

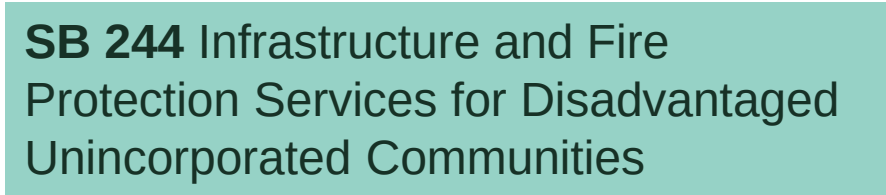
SB 1000 **requires, as part of general plans updates**, that general plans identify goals, objectives and policies that:

- Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in **disadvantaged communities (DACs and DUCs within the planning area)**.
- Promote **civil engagement** in the public decision-making process.
- **Prioritize** improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

SB 1000 Requirements (cont'd)

SB 1000 requires goals, objectives and policies to address:

- Reducing **pollution exposure**
- Improving **air quality**
- Promoting **public facilities**
- Promoting **food access**
- Promoting **safe & sanitary homes**
- Promoting **physical activity**
- **Other Local Issues**



SB 244 Infrastructure and Fire Protection Services for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

2021 Draft Environmental Health & Justice Element

WORKING DRAFT **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE &** **HEALTH PROGRAM**



April 2021

This document is a working draft, produced in April 2021. The information contained herein should not be considered final or comprehensive. Users of this document should be aware that it represents a work in progress and the content herein will be updated, revisited, and revised through the General Plan Update (GPU) process, which is currently underway and is expected to conclude in 2027.

For more information about the ongoing process and to see how you can engage with GPU effort, please visit PlanShafter.com.

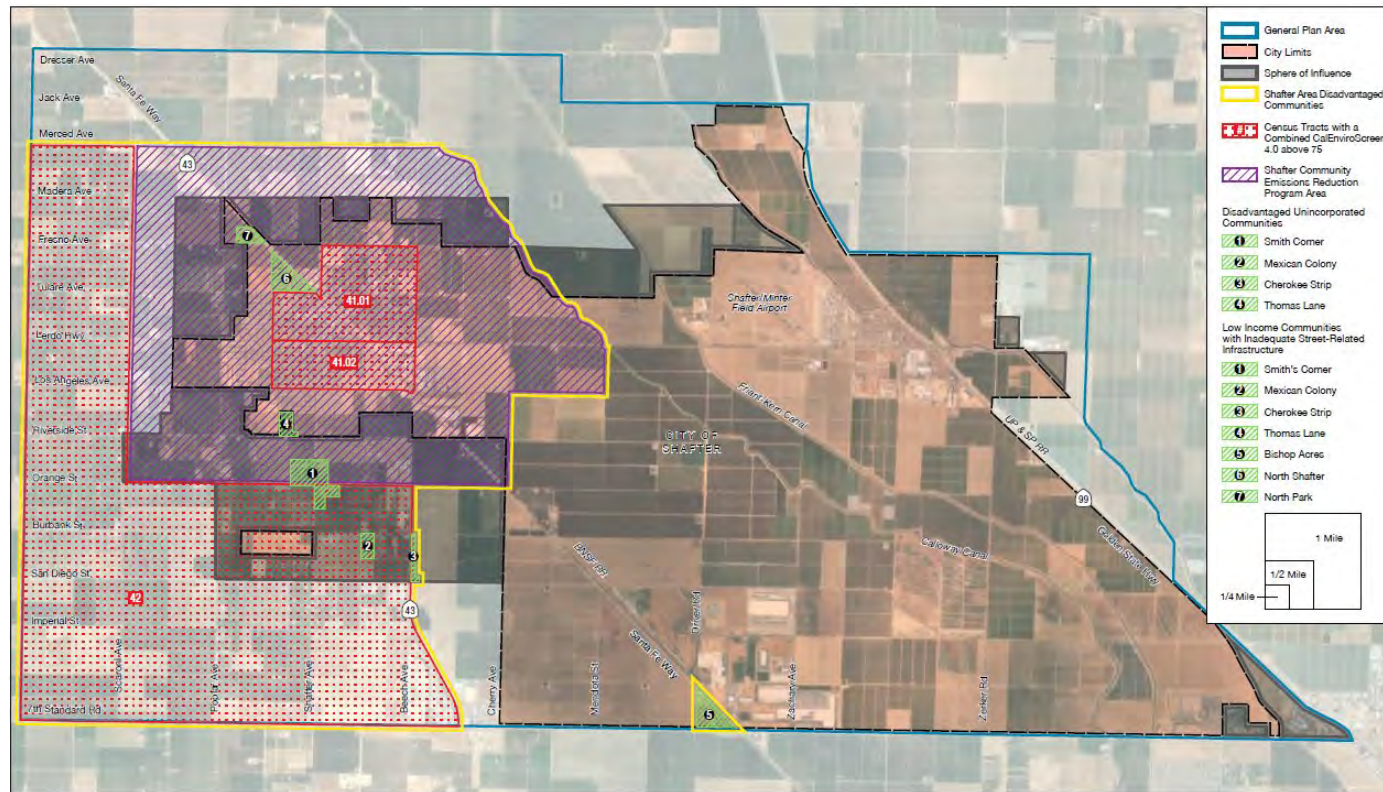


Establishes 4 core principles

1. Meaningful opportunities for community involvement,
2. Equity in the provision of community facilities and environmental protection,
3. A healthy community, and
4. Shared economic prosperity.

2021 Draft Environmental Health & Justice Element

The key issues identified include:



- **DACs**
- **Infrastructure issues**
- **Existing pollution from agricultural operations**
- **Historic water contamination**
- **Concerns about future pollution from industrial development**

What we're doing today

Meeting Outcome:

Draft an Alternative exploring different options for land use and regional roadway connectivity.

Adoption by April 2027 to meet State Requirements.



Path forward

Draft Land Use and Circulation Alternatives (Sep/Oct)

- GPAC (9/23)
- EJWG (TODAY)
- Refine alternatives for public review

Conduct Public Review (Nov)

- Open House
- Online Survey
- Stakeholder Meetings
- EJWG #2

Confirm Preferred Alternative (Dec - Jan)

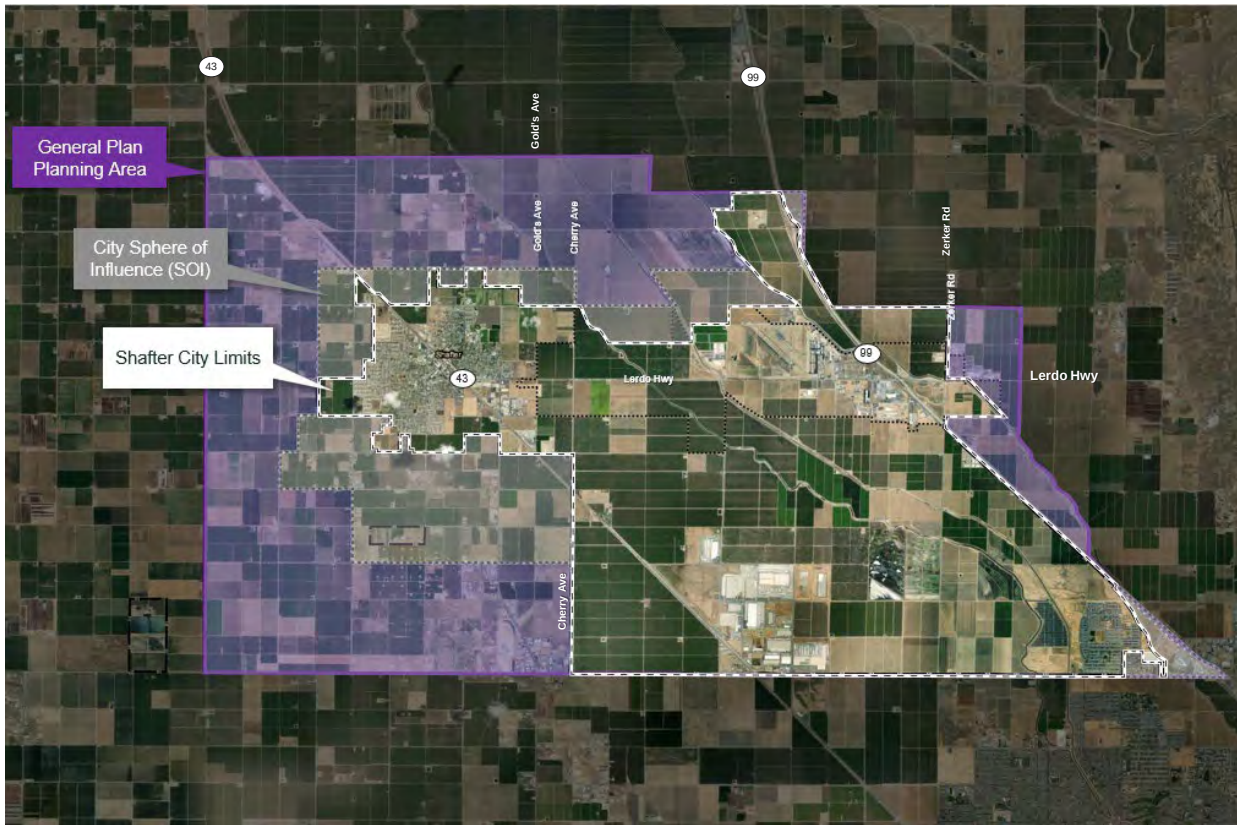
- Preferred alternative based on public input
- Confirm with GPAC, PC & CC

Update Policies and Conduct Environmental Studies

- Environmental studies (Jan 2026 – Feb 2027)
- Draft policies – Feb 2026 (GPAC #4, EJWG #3)
- Final GPAC policy review – April 2026 (GPAC #5, EJWG #4)
- Implementation – Summer 2026 (EJWG #5)
- Adoption hearings – March & April 2027

*Dates subject to change

Developing Land Use Alternatives: A Shared Vision for Shafter



- **Land use**
 - How and where to grow while retaining what makes Shafter special?
- **Roadway network**
 - How will new roadways affect existing and future residents and businesses?
- **Inputs**
 - Community, market, state law

A photograph of a community input event. A group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered under a white canopy tent. They are looking at a large informational poster. The poster has sections for 'Demographics', 'Today... Hoy...', 'Where do I live?', 'City of', 'Unincorporated', and 'Outside'. A man in a dark blue shirt and cap is pointing at the poster. The background shows a grassy area with other tents and people.

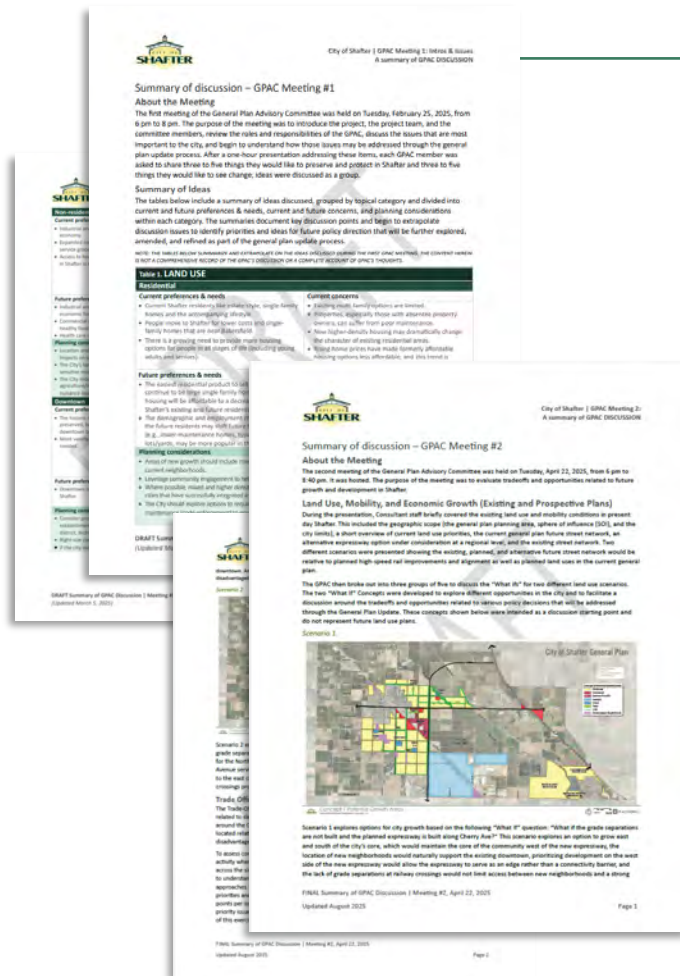
Community Input, Market, & State Law

Land Use & Circulation

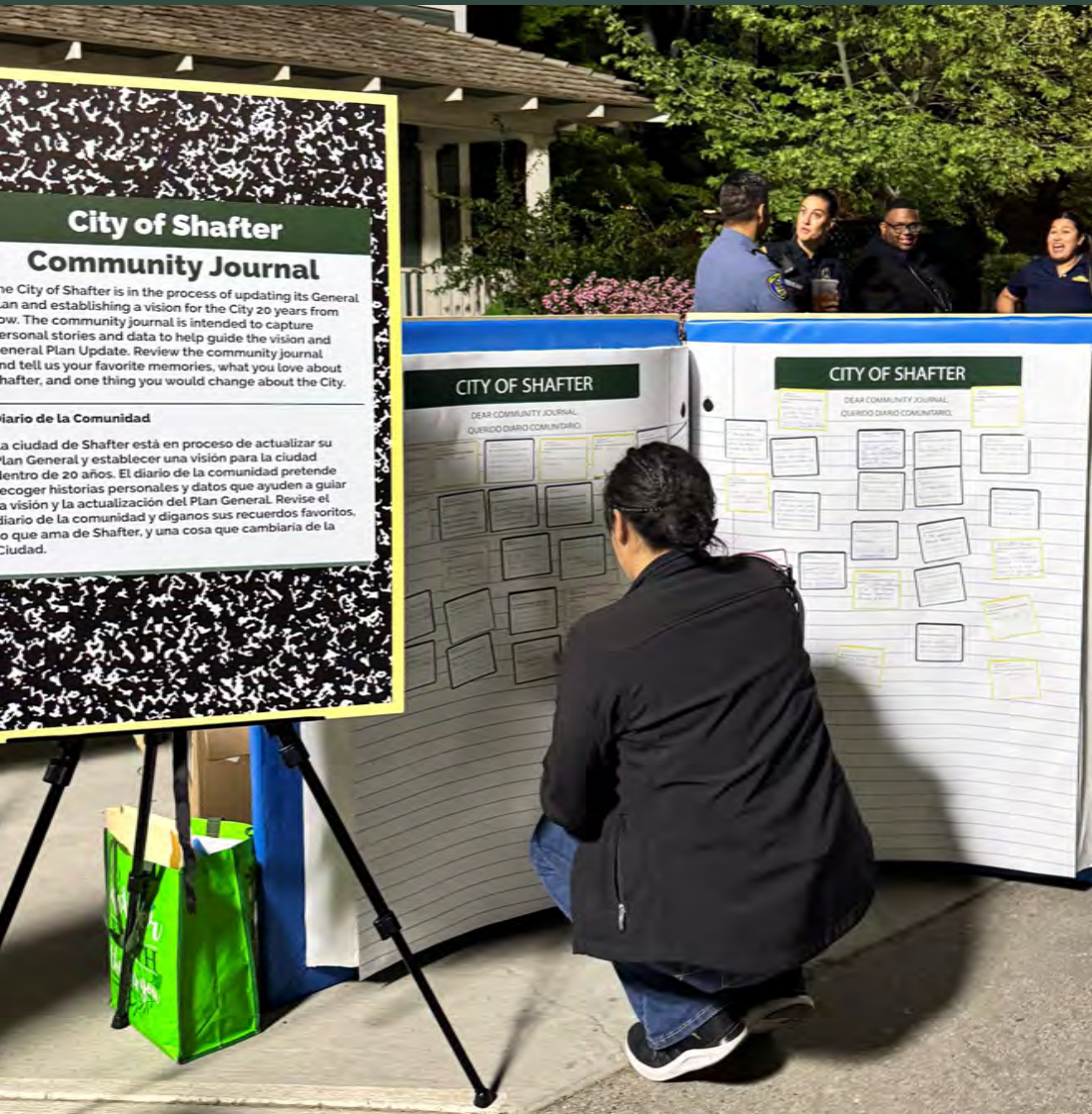
GPAC Feedback

Feb 25, Apr 22, Sep 23, 2025

- **Housing.** Integrate higher density housing the right way; allow a wider variety of housing where infrastructure is available.
- **Downtown.** A strong downtown is important, but new commercial growth should NOT be limited simply to improve chances for downtown's success.
- **Industrial and Ag.** Preserve and expand major economic drivers while proactively minimizing adverse impacts for existing and future development.
- **Annexation.** Not the best option to assist unincorporated EJ areas.
- **Public Facilities.** Expand parks and recreational opportunities; support regional roadway expansion along Cherry Avenue, but in a way that minimizes negative impacts on Shafter.



Pop-Up | First Friday 4/4/25



- 1** Maintaining Shafter's **small-town feel and peacefulness** as an asset.
Mantener la sensación de pueblo pequeño y la tranquilidad de Shafter como un activo.
- 2** Continuing to foster a **strong sense of community**, fostering close relationships and upholding community events and traditions.
Seguir fomentando un fuerte sentido de comunidad, propiciando relaciones estrechas y manteniendo los actos y tradiciones comunitarios.
- 3** A desire for **more diverse dining and retail options** (specifically various fast-food chains and shopping centers).
Deseo de una mayor diversidad de opciones gastronómicas y comerciales (en concreto, varias cadenas de comida rápida y centros comerciales).
- 4** A wish for **expanded recreational opportunities** (including more parks, dog parks, bike paths, and sports facilities like hardball and pickleball courts).
Un deseo de mayores oportunidades recreativas (incluyendo más parques, parques para perros, carriles bici e instalaciones deportivas como canchas de hardball y pickleball).
- 5** Keeping Shafter a **safe, clean, and family-oriented community**.
Mantener Shafter como una comunidad segura, limpia y orientada a la familia.

Shape our City Workshop Series



- **Local trails for connectivity.** Participants largely preferred the creation of additional local pedestrian and bicycle facilities compared to investing in a regional trail.
- **Support for some growth.** Participants at in-person events expressed support for residential and commercial growth, whereas slightly more survey respondents preferred limited development.
- **Continue to expand communication.** Residents would appreciate communication on potential City decisions and submitted projects through a variety of communication methods.
- **Route trucks away from the core.** Generally preferred routing trucks away from the city core and residential areas.
- **Improvements to public amenities/facilities.** More parks and recreation opportunities and improvements to transportation infrastructure that make it safer to walk and bike in Shafter.

Summary of Inputs

Community feedback

Market conditions and forecasts

State requirements

Community Feedback

- Integrate higher-density housing (don't isolate it); want additional housing options for young and aging households
- Strong desire for more places to shop (with Walmart and Grocery stores frequently noted), more dining options (a lot of interest in popular chains), and entertainment venues
- Preserve and allow ag/industrial uses to continue while minimizing land use compatibility conflicts

Demographic and Market Considerations

- Demographic trends indicate need for smaller housing types
- SPs in southeast already entitled / consistently building
- Shafter could support about 270,000 SF of new commercial
- WIP Expansion under consideration;

State Law (Housing Element & AB 98 Truck Routes)

- Need to implement Housing Element and zone for higher density residential that could support 931 lower income units (\$1,000 - \$1,800 mo. rent / \$130K - \$260K ownership)
- Identify truck routes that serve goods movement while minimizing exposure to sensitive receptors (homes, schools, parks, etc.)



Design Exercise

Collaboration starts here

- Your knowledge is important
- Share the space respectfully
- Trust (Bring big ideas! Nothing is too silly or too grand)
- Be open to learning from others; all points of view are valuable as we teach and learn from each other
- Ask questions (City staff and the consultant team are here to help guide your ideas)
- Have fun!

A landscape photograph showing a wide, green field in the foreground. In the middle ground, there is a dense line of trees. Behind the trees, several utility poles with power lines are visible. In the far background, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and open.

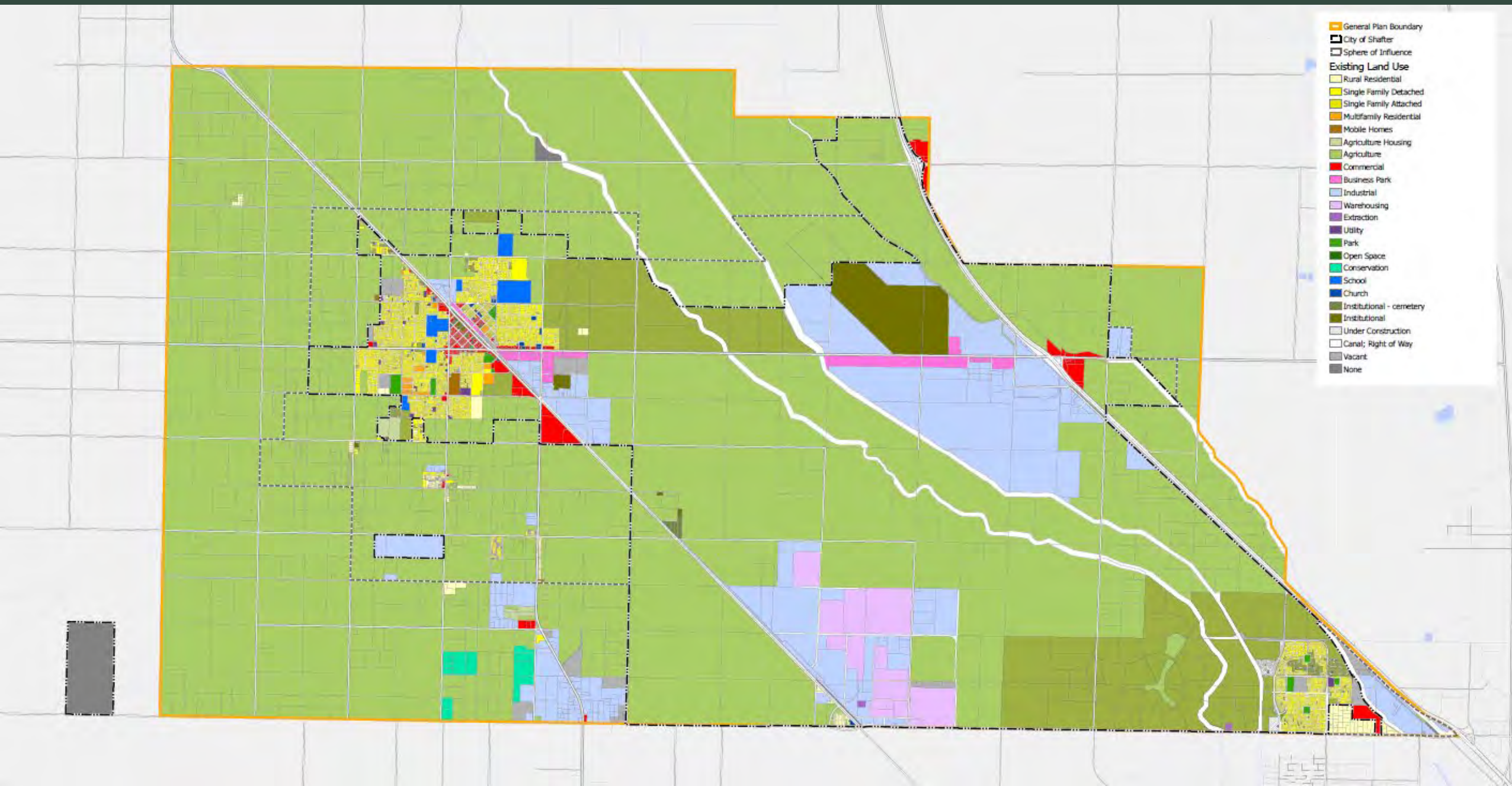
Design Considerations

Land Use & Circulation

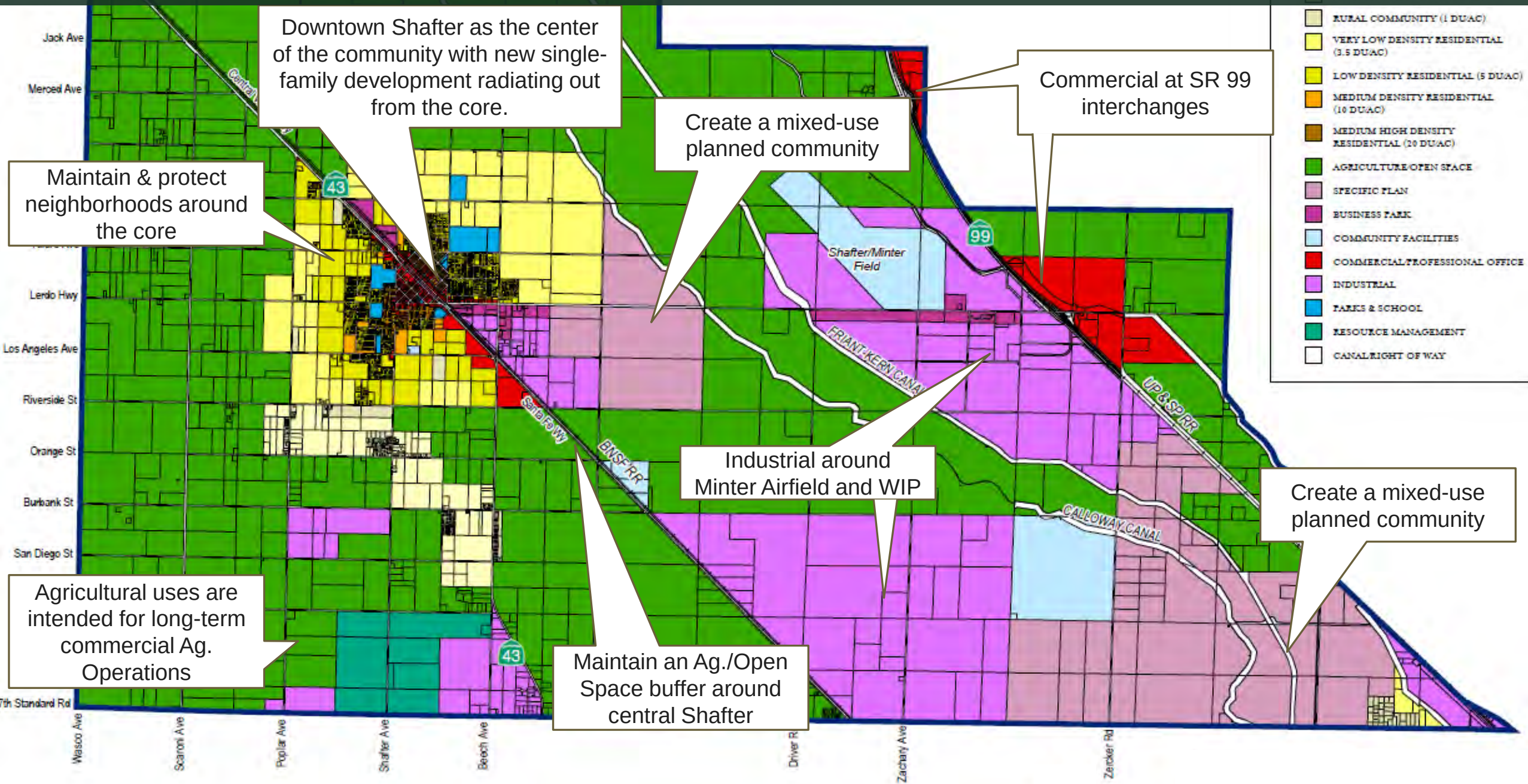
Land Use

CHANGE – HOW
MUCH, WHERE,
AND WHAT TYPE

Existing Land Use



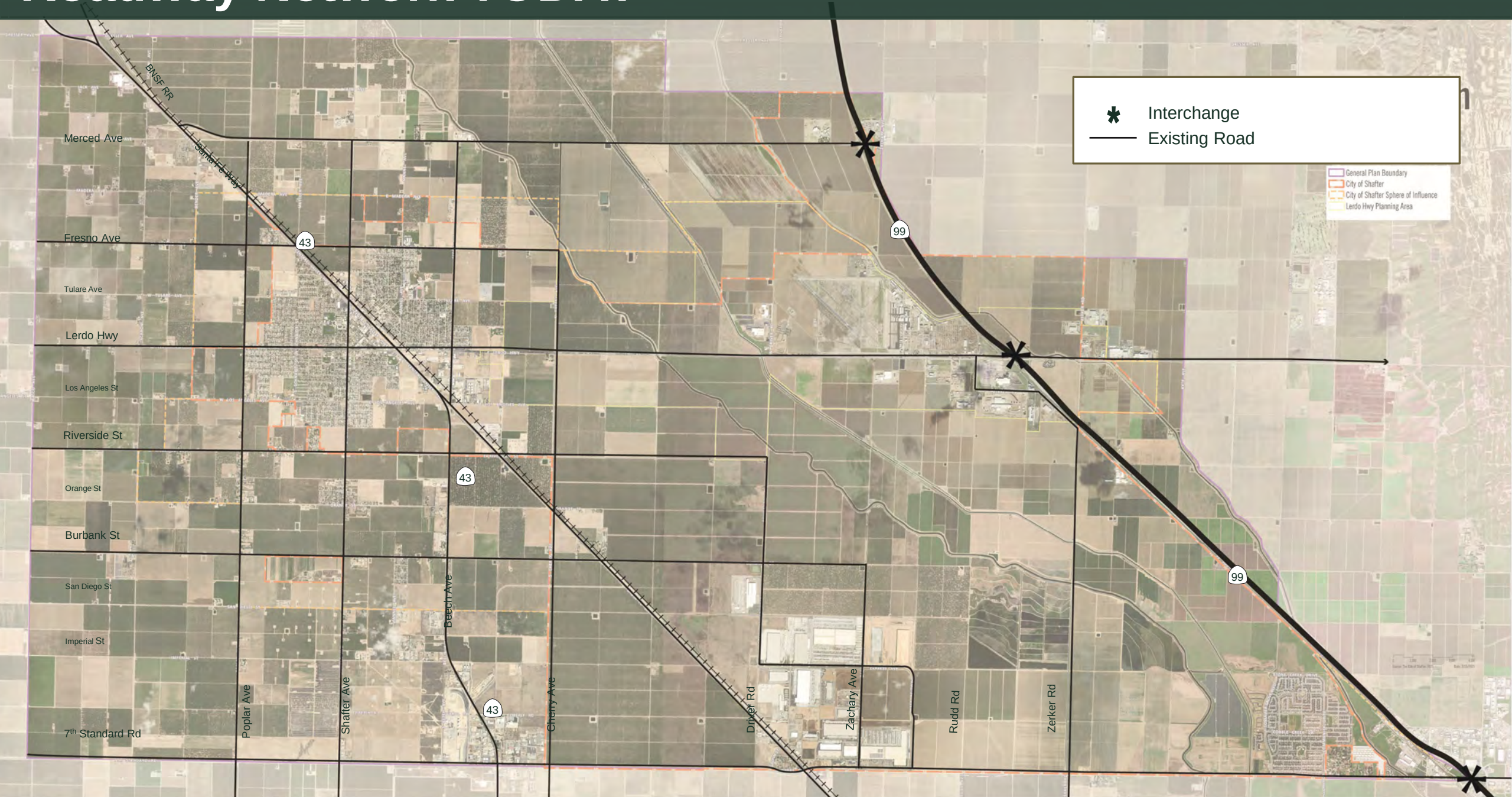
Current General Plan land use approach



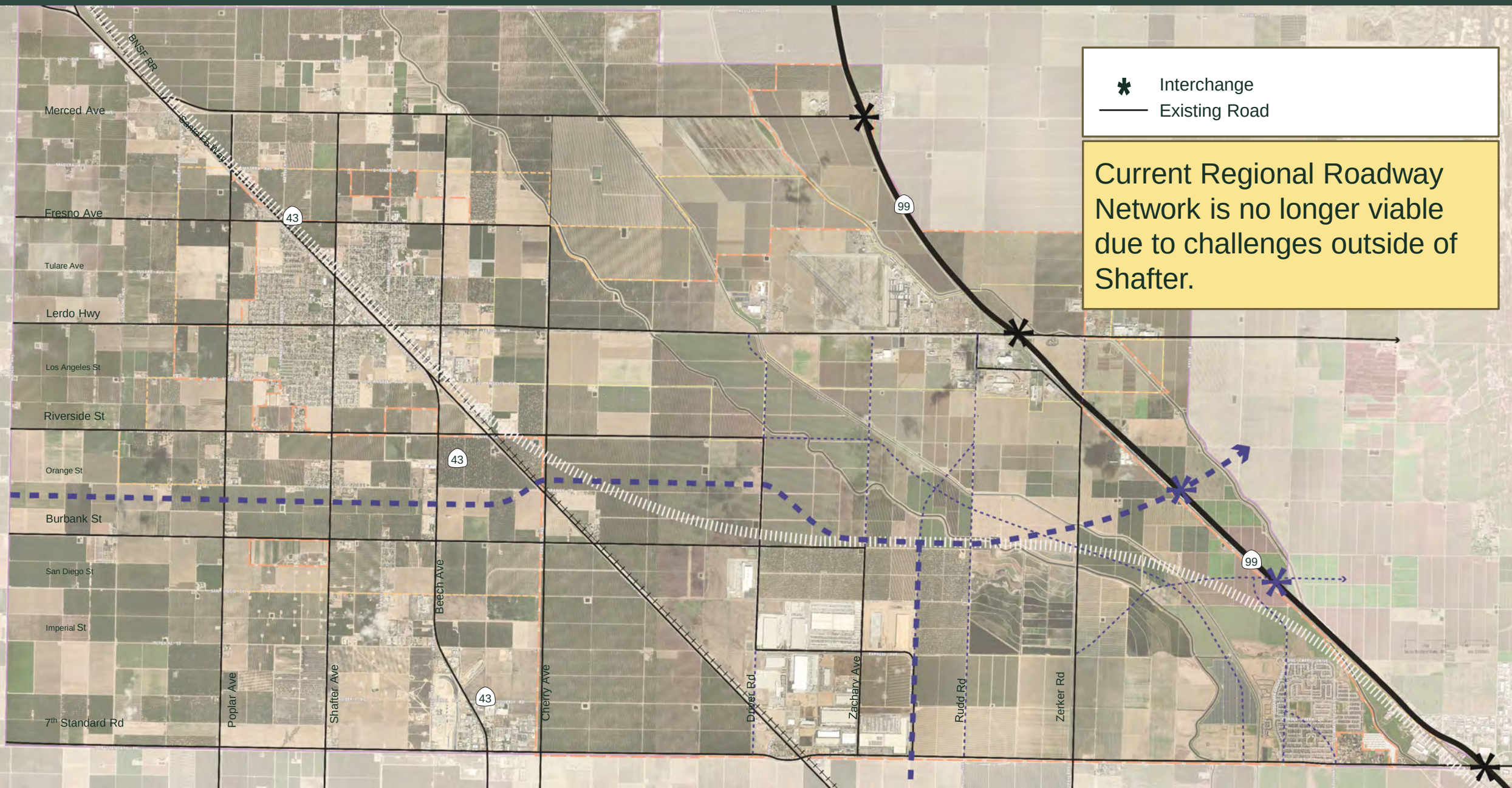
Roadway Network

EXPANDING
REGIONAL
CONNECTIVITY
WHILE ENSURING
LOCAL BENEFITS

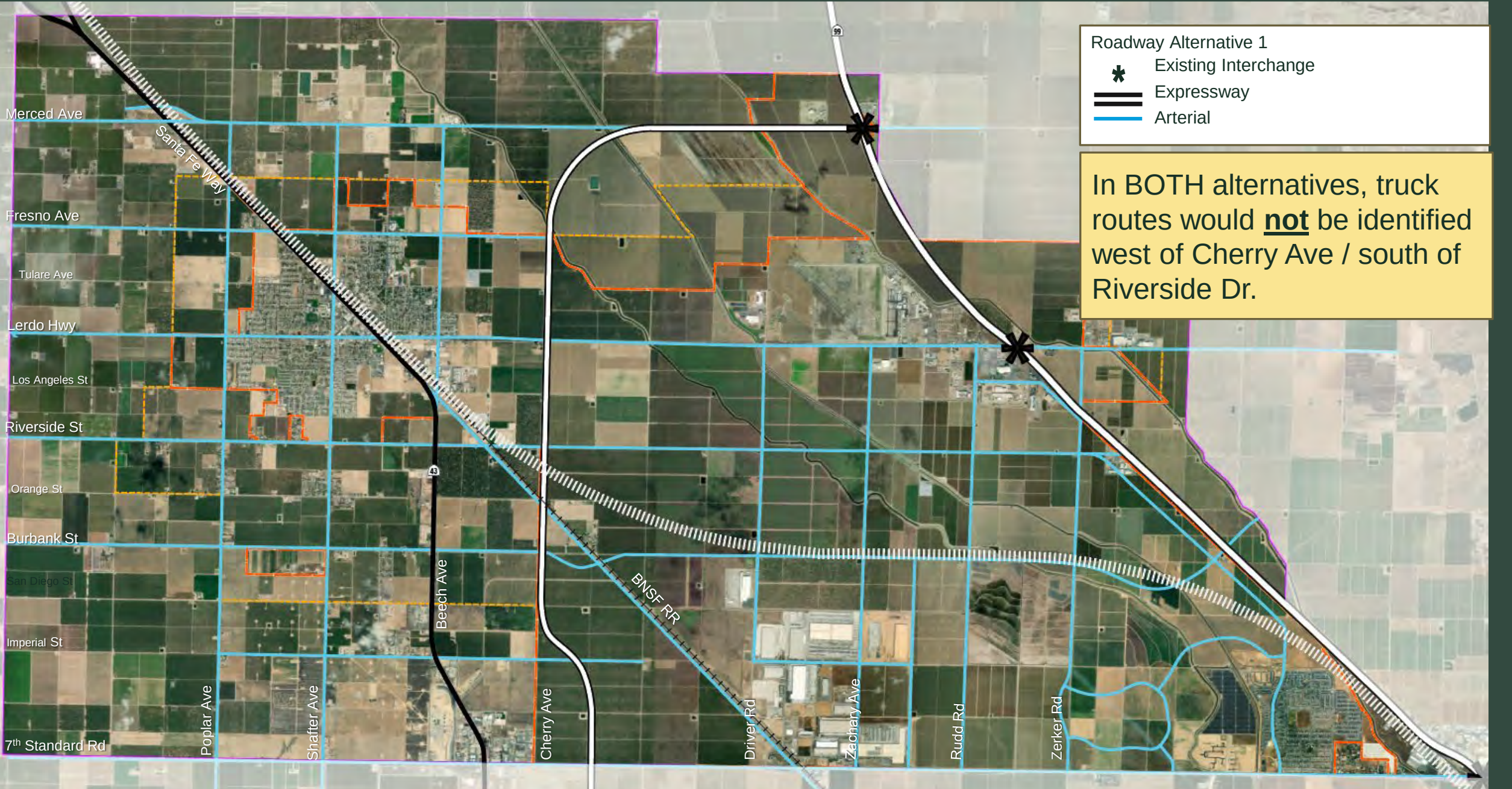
Roadway Network TODAY



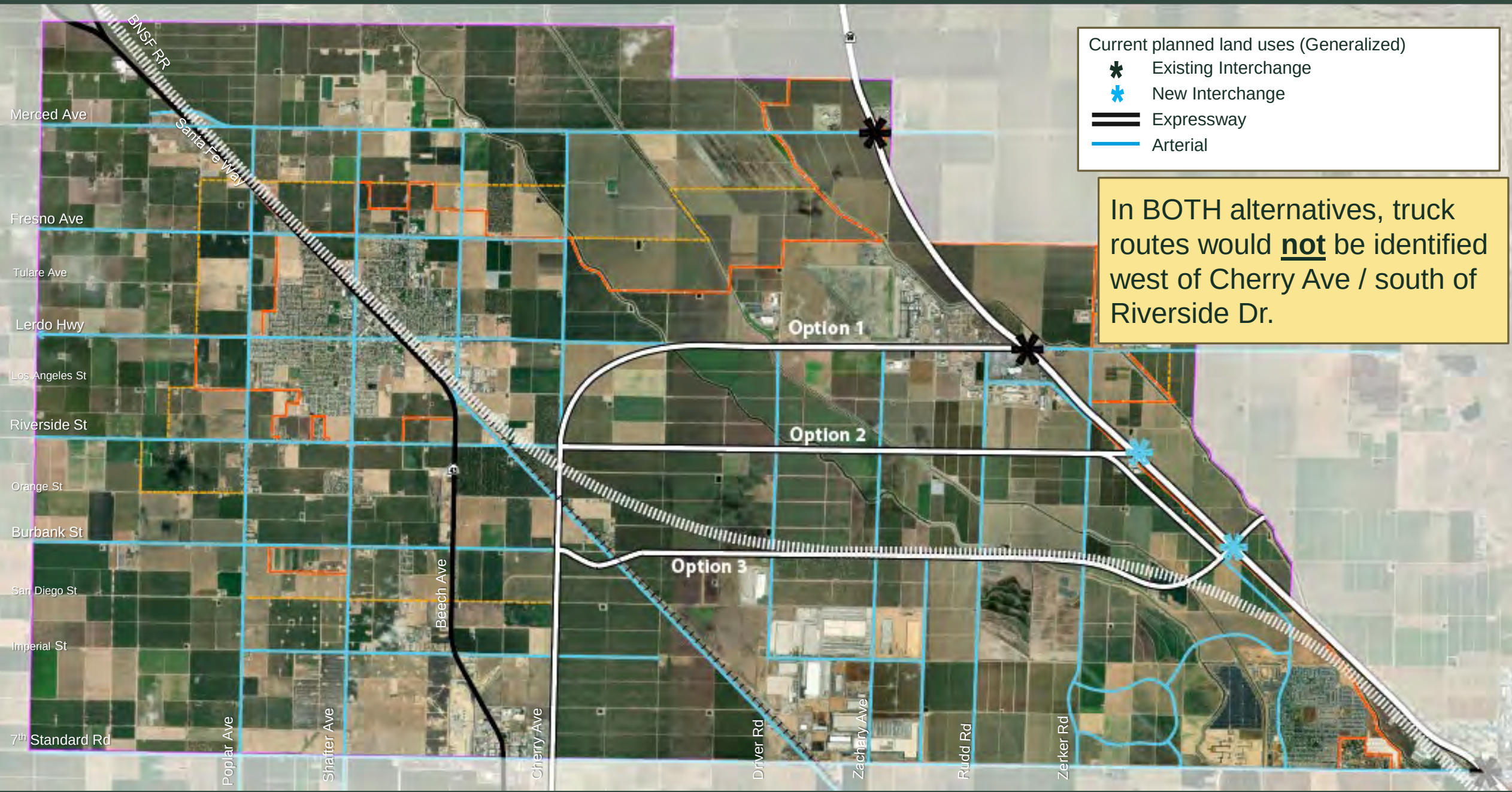
Roadway Network Current General Plan



Roadway Alternative 1



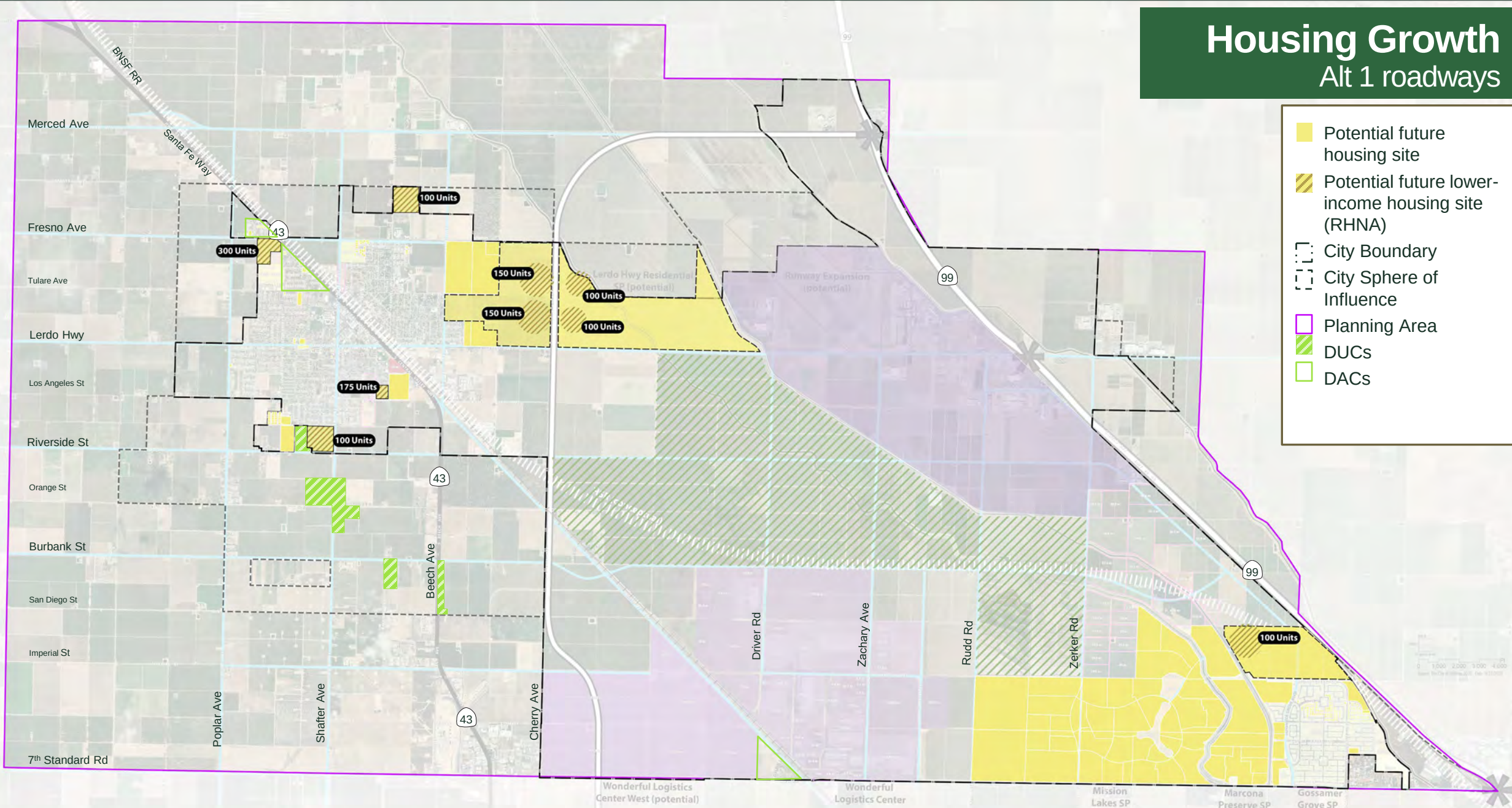
Roadway Alternative 2 (Multiple Considerations)



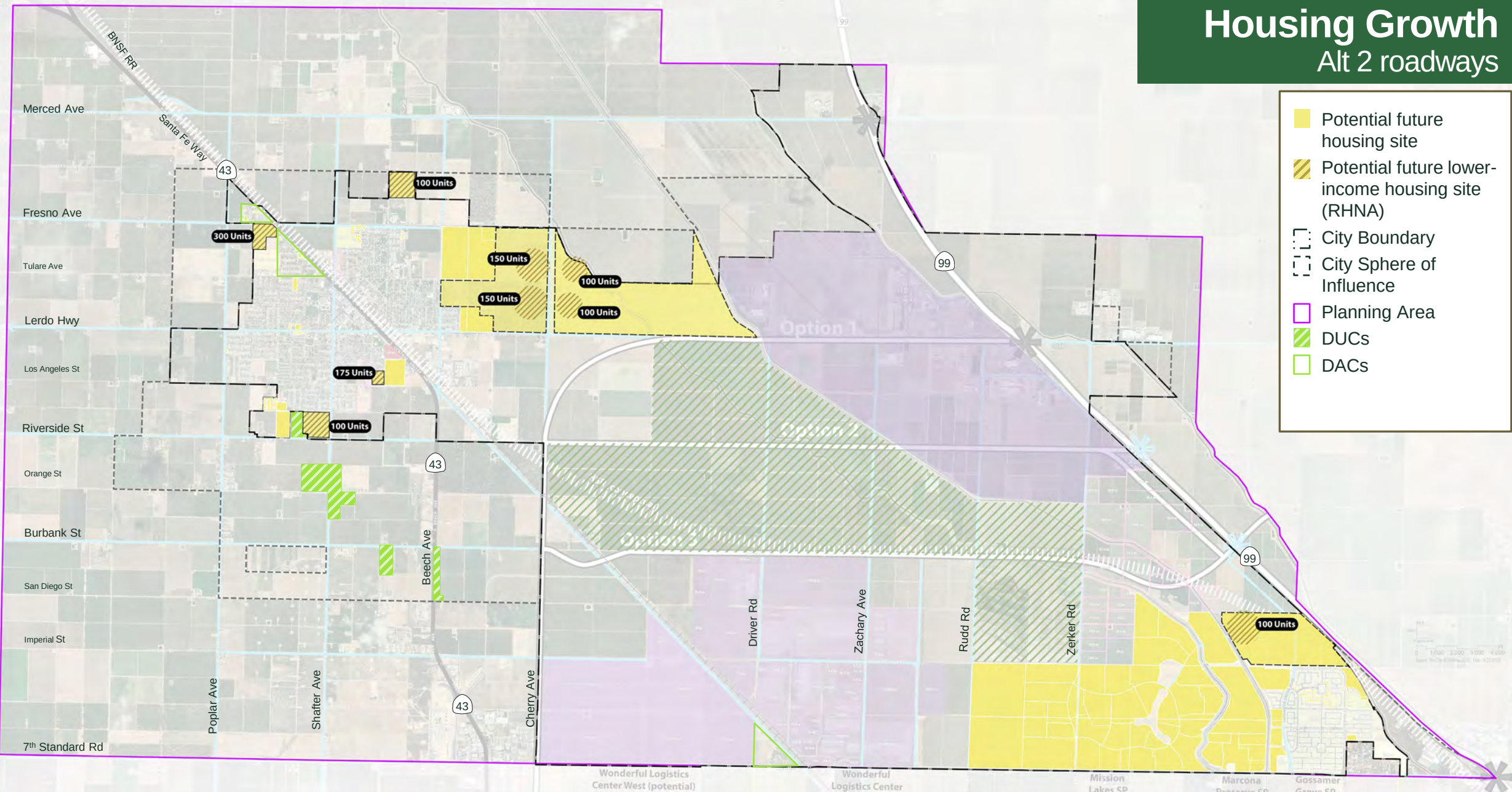
GPAC 3 Feedback

HOUSING AND
ROADWAY
ALTERNATIVES

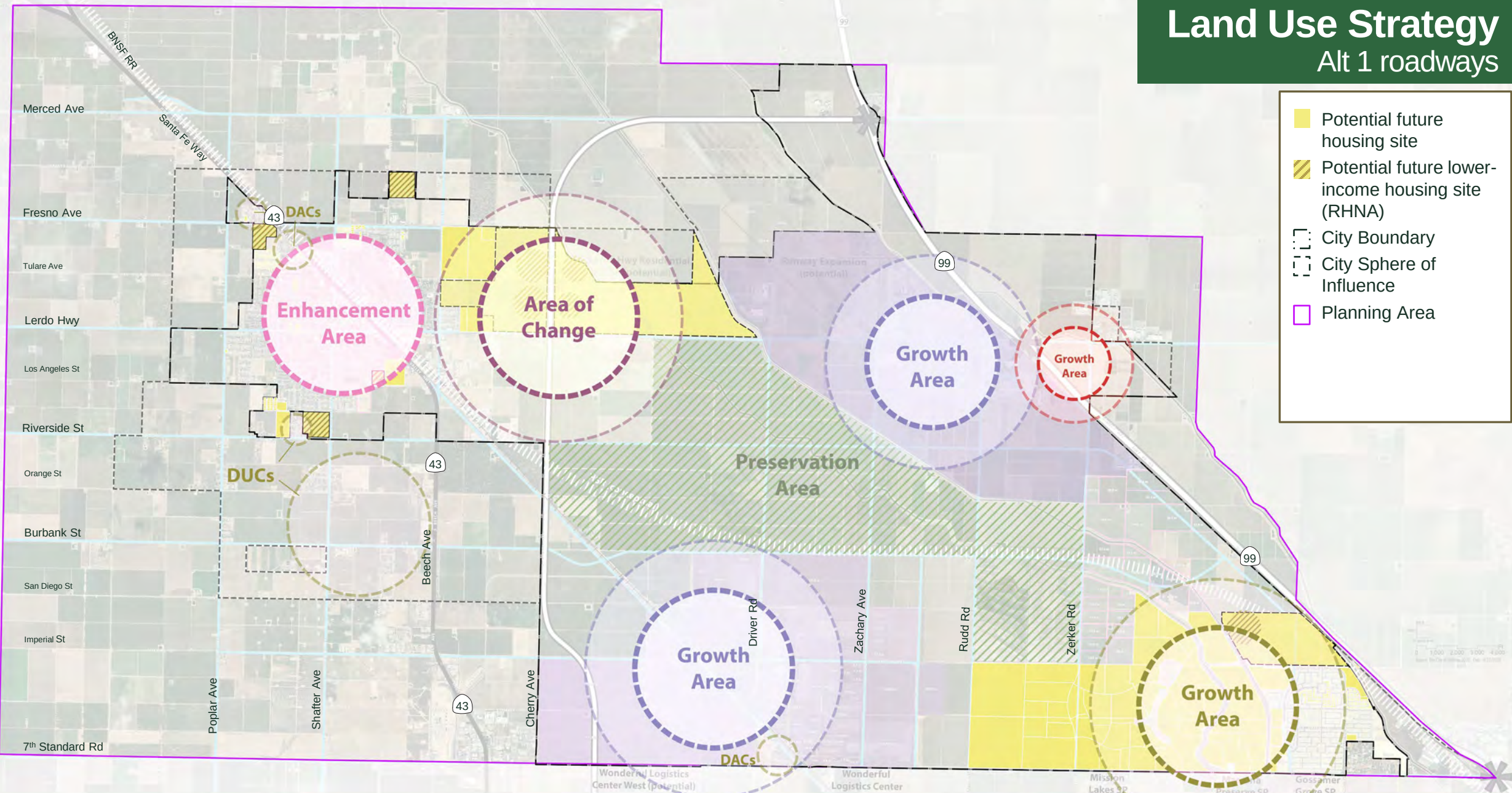
Housing Growth Alt 1 roadways



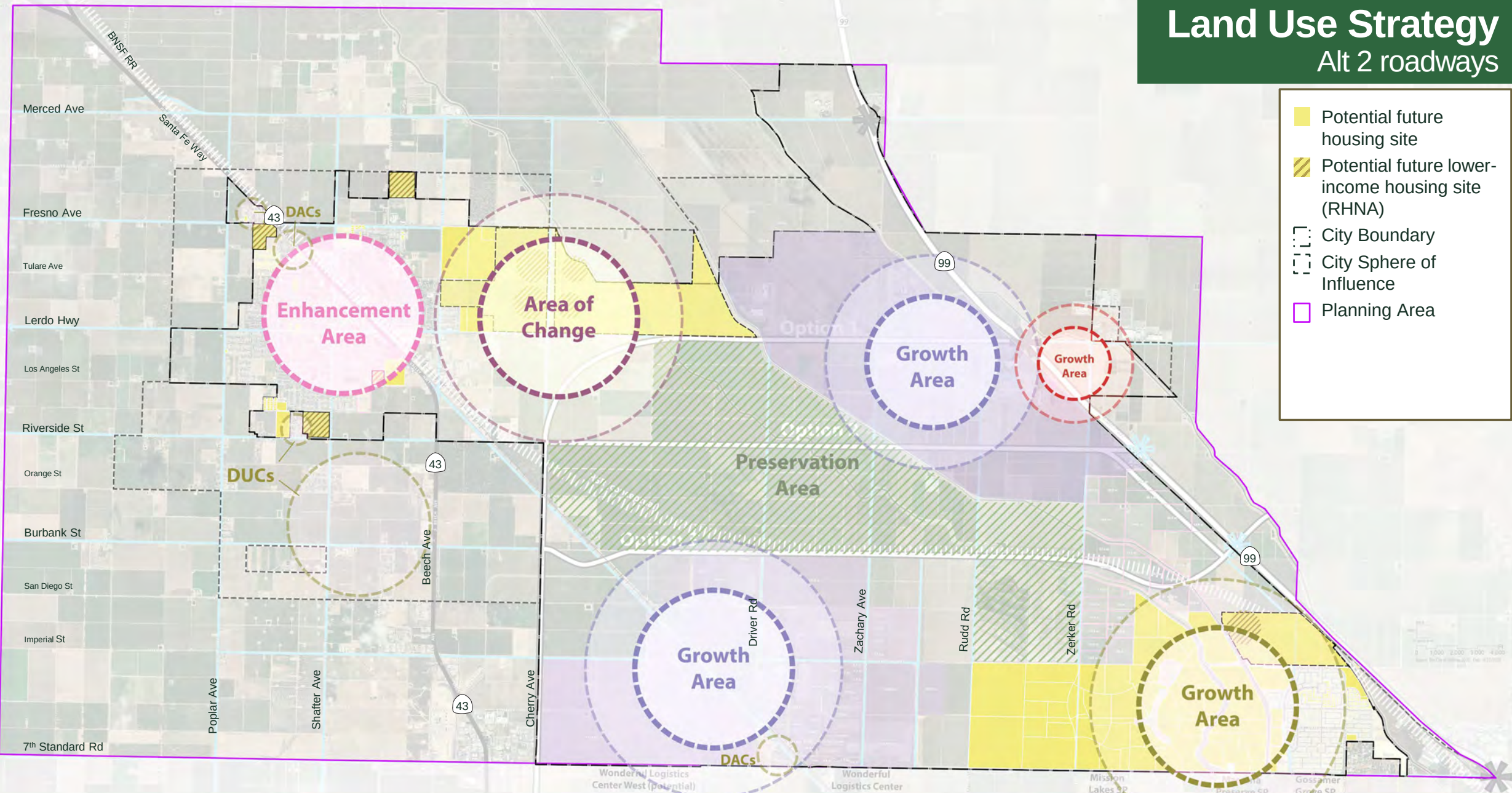
Housing Growth Alt 2 roadways



Land Use Strategy Alt 1 roadways



Land Use Strategy Alt 2 roadways



Discussion





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Visit the GPU
Project Website



PlanShafter.com

English

Plan Shafter

Follow us to receive notices, share your thoughts, and stay up to date about Shafter's plan for the future!

+ Follow



Para traducir esta página, seleccione el idioma deseado en la esquina superior derecha.

Tenga en cuenta que después de seleccionar un nuevo idioma, es posible que deba actualizar la página varias veces para que la traducción se complete y se muestre correctamente.

We're Updating Our General Plan

The City is updating it's General Plan, the primary document guiding the city's physical development, conservation, and improvement for the next 20 years.

Help us chart the course for the future of Shafter!

Frequently Asked Questions

+ What is a General Plan?

Project Links

- [Community Engagement](#)
- [GPAC](#)
- [Resource Library](#)

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

✉ Email myinput@planshafter.com



Thank you!
