CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
July 2, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Sonora was held this date in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 94 North Washington Street, at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Connie Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Garaventa, Councilmembers Matt Hawkins, Mark Plummer, George Segarini; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, City Attorney Nubia Goldstein, Fire Chief Aimee New. Absent: Police Chief Turu VanderWiel, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg, Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 4:00 p.m. on the 28th day of June, 2018, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting scheduled for this date was posted outside City Hall for public view.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Consideration of Resolution No. 07-02-2018-A. The Council considered adoption of Resolution No. 07-02-2018-A which certifies the results and declares those elected in the 2018 General Municipal Election. Administrator Miller reported that he had received the canvas of the votes cast in Election from County Elections Official Debbie Bautista which certifies that Colette Such and Jim Garaventa were the top two vote getters and elected to the City Council. There was no public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Plummer, second by Councilmember Hawkins, and unanimously carried that said Resolution be approved and adopted as presented.**

Administration of Oaths of Office. City Clerk Cassinetto administered Oaths of Office to elected City Councilmembers Jim Garaventa and Colette Such for four-year terms and they assumed their seats on the Council.

Selection of Mayor. The Council considered the appointment of a Councilmember as Mayor to serve a two-year term. There was no public comment, and upon **MOTION by Councilmember Hawkins, second by Councilmember Such, it was unanimously carried that Jim Garaventa be appointed to serve as Mayor for a two-year term.**

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Garaventa appointed Councilmember Hawkins to serve as the Mayor-Pro Tem for a two-year term. There was no public comment, and upon **MOTION by Councilmember Plummer, second by Councilmember Such, it was unanimously carried the Mayor's appointment be confirmed by the Council.**

ROLL CALL

Clerk Cassinetto called the Roll with the new Councilmembers seated. Present: Mayor Jim Garaventa, Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Hawkins, Councilmembers Mark Plummer, Colette Such, Connie Williams.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation to George Segarini. Councilmember Williams presented a Proclamation to Segarini for his four years of service as a Councilmember commenting that it has been a pleasure working with him, wishing him all the best for his future, and asking that he not to be a stranger and come back and see us. Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins said that it has been a great two years working with him; he has enjoyed the debates, and that his business knowledge has helped him very much. Councilmember Plummer thanked him very much for instruction, restraint and the very useful comments adding to the discussions. Councilmember Such commented that she is sorry she will not be able to work with him but is looking forward to meeting with him on downtown matters. Administrator Miller said that it his commitment to downtown will be hard to replace, he has enjoyed the four years working with him, and he looks forward to his continued participation in the issues that matter most to him. Mayor Garaventa reminisced about some of the matters they worked on together, commented that he was going to miss him on the Council, and that he wants to stay in touch. Segarini thanked Administrator Miller, Department Heads, Staff and employees commenting that they have been more than helpful to him, and said, "I'm not going anywhere, and I will be here to bug you guys as much as you need bugging".

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elena Linehan, downtown property owner, commented on the necessity to address the crosswalk at Elkin Street. A copy of Linehan's comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" for reference. **Dana Vaccarezza** representing Sonora High School District commented on the necessity of the Council to seriously consider any plan for the intersection at Elkins Street; that it will significantly impact the ability to get students to and from the High School. **Barbara Dresslar** asked the Council to take seriously the Grand Jury Report in relation to its findings on the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority. A copy of Dresslar's comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" for reference. **Derrick Nunes**, owner of Phone Smart, commented that the Council has neglected and overlooked the plea of downtown business owners who do not want bulb-outs on Washington Street, and has shown a lack of consideration for their input.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Williams requested that approval of the Minutes for the Regular Session Council Meeting of June 18, 2018, be pulled from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Plummer, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. **Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Closed Session Meeting of June 18, 2018;**
2. **Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on July 3, 2018, in the amount of $196,110.91; and**
3. **Approval of disbursements in the amount of $138,841.45, on June 22, 2018, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.**

There was no public comment, and the **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Williams; Abstain: Such.**

Councilmember Williams asked that the Minutes for the Regular Session Meeting of June 18, 2018, regarding her comments about the plaque given to the Council be amended as follows: "Mayor Williams reported that she attended Christian Heights Church's Hero Event noting that a plaque was given by the Church to the City Council saluting them as heroes". There was no public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Plummer, second by Councilmember Williams, that said Minutes as amended be approved; the MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Williams; Abstain: Such.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Intent Re: Joint Active Transportation Grant Application. The Council considered authorizing the City Administrator to sign a Letter of Intent to partner with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) to submit a joint Active Transportation Grant Application for Cycle Four funds for the Washington Street Improvements Project based upon the conceptual design presented. Reporting that the deadline to submit the Grant Application is July 31, 2018, TCTC Executive Director Darin Grossi reviewed Project history, CalTrans requirements and reported that at its Meeting in April 2018, the Vision Sonora Committee directed that the Consultant, Wood Rodgers, Inc., submit the Project Grant Application. Grossi's report and the Conceptual Plan are attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and made a part hereof for reference (Exhibit "C" does not include pedestrian counts, household income estimates, geographical Project limits with regard to its location in Tuolumne County, or the Active Transportation Program Grant Application all of which were included in Grossi's report).

Consultant representative Mark Rayback presented the Conceptual Design which includes six crosswalk intersections, reviewed options and the public input process and results, and noted that the focus is primarily on crosswalk public safety. Councilmembers asked questions regarding flashing lighting in the crosswalks, paving issues and costs, drainage issues, elimination of parking spaces, maintenance responsibility, landscape design including trees, and water availability for landscaping. Administrator Miller reviewed the public input process which will follow Grant approval.

The Mayor asked for public comment which was limited to five minutes per person. **Elena Linehan** opposed action on the Grant Application at this time, commented on the way the City has handled the Vision Sonora Plan, and urged that the Council wait until the next grant cycle to allow time to find answers to public concern issues, and to hold a special session where the concepts can be discussed. A full copy of Linehan's comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "D" and made a part hereof for reference. **Laurie Lehmann** said that she believes the City has been doing its due diligence and has reached out to the public which responded that they do want bulb-outs; she commented that the downtown merchants have a problem with safety, why not partner with the TCTC to get the funding for downtown Sonora. **Sharon Marovich** appeared on behalf of the Tuolumne Heritage Committee commenting that the Committee has consistently spoken out against exactly what the City is doing. They understand there are crosswalk safety issues, but the design of the curb-outs and landscaping is not in keeping with historic Sonora and suggests that only one old-fashioned tree be placed in each bulb-out without any other landscaping. She commented that the Committee has concerns that valuable parking spaces will be lost, design will detract from an old-fashioned look, it is not a fan of flashing crosswalks and instead encourages the use of historic pole lighting, the landscaping as presented cannot be sustained by the Public Works Department, and modification to having one tree and no other landscaping in the bulb-outs would save money and water, and hopes that the landscaping will be modified.

David Tozer representing Sonora High School District, said that he appreciates the work put into this; he has previously informed the Council about its concerns that busses will not be able to maneuver the intersections safely. Encouraging the Council to do the best considering the busses, he reviewed downtown bus routes and noted that there are at least two busses on Washington Street twice a day. **Derrick Nunes** said that this is an over complicated solution to what was first proposed; he commented that the Vision Sonora Design Committee Meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, which he and others have a difficult time attending due to their businesses, and he has heard of negative feedback. **David Morgan** commented that only 60% of the Grant Application has been completed, and how can the Council make a decision with only that percentage of information; he also was concerned that the length of

time the crosswalks flash may impact vehicle movement with already busy downtown traffic. **Councilmember Plummer** read a letter from Mary Ann Wright requesting that trees be planted in the ground with a surrounding metal grate as all other downtown improved streets have; to keep as clean and as simple as possible from a design aspect leaving clear sight for pedestrians, and to leave streets as they are where there is gridlock.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins said that he has met with many businesses, and he agrees with Sharon Marovich's comments about limiting landscaping to one tree, to keep maintenance simple and small. He asked Marovich if there are any historic sidewalks. Marovich replied that she knows at the corner of Norlin and Washington Street there is slate under the cement sidewalks, also the iron shutters in the sidewalks became a part of the storm drainage. There was no further public comment.

Councilmember Williams said that she is in favor of trees but is concerned about whether there is dirt in the area for the trees to grow, and she is concerned about parking and has thought that lost parking spaces could be provided by the red zones but just now sees that may not be possible with this conceptual plan, and she assumes that a plan for lost spaces will come in the future. Mayor Garaventa commented that it is difficult to turn down after the fact because there is intent when applying for and getting the Grant; it is important to do things that keep people coming because heritage travel to Sonora is important, and he is very concerned how final designs come out and feels that simplifying is a good thing. Councilmember Such commented that in her experience with grants the intent can be changed when the grant is received; we could do that, and the plan is a way to get trees on Washington Street. She said she would like to see this go through. Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins said that the City has to do something, but we need to keep it historic. Councilmember Plummer commented that one to two bulb-outs would be okay, but a whole street of them would be pretty heavy, and it needs to be simplified; it changes the feel of Washington Street completely. Mayor Garaventa brought up Mr. Morgan's question on the length of time the crosswalk lights will flash. Rayback responded that the requirement is 1-1/2 seconds per foot, and that they can be designed to respond to either the push button style or a beam that would be broken. Councilmember Williams asked when the Grant would be awarded and commented that the environmental work is so far out. Grossi replied that the award will be sometime in early Fall, that there is a lot of latitude on design issues, and he noted that the award will be based on the aspects of safety.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Plummer, and unanimously carried that the City Administrator be authorized to sign a Letter of Intent to partner with the TCTC to submit a joint Active Transportation Grant Application for Cycle Four funds for the Washington Street Improvements Project.

Resolution No. 07-02-2018-B, Rate Increase and Recycling Contamination Fee. The Council considered adopting Resolution No. 07-02-20-8-B which approves a 3.34% CPI increase and adds a recycle contamination charge to the refuse collection rates for Waste Management. Administrator Miller reported that for a typical residential subscriber having one 35-gallon cart, the current rate will increase by $0.85, from $25.32 per month to $26.17 per month. Waste Management is also requesting a Recycling Contamination Fee charge of $20.00 for residential customers and $50.00 for commercial customers for contamination of the recyclables. Joe Cadelago, Public Sector Manager for Waste Management, reported that the recycling industry is in a crisis on a global scale; China is phasing out acceptance of recyclables and is not going to receive any recyclables as of 2021. Cadelago reviewed Cal Sierra's proposal which incorporates a program to mitigate contamination in the recycling stream and introduces a new "Recycle Right" public education campaign with a strong outreach process. There was discussion between the Council and Cadelago regarding the proposal, the education campaign and clarification of what will be considered recyclable.

There was no public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins, and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 07-02-2018-B be approved and adopted as presented.**

MONTHLY REPORTS
None

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT
None

COMMUNICATIONS
None - No public comment.

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS
Fire Chief New reported that one engine has been sent to the fire in Yolo County. **Administrator Miller** wished everyone a safe Independence Day, and he gave an update on the street light replacement downtown noting that PG&E is doing well on the project. He reported that the Councilmember appointments for committees and commissions will be on the Agenda for the next Meeting. **Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins** thanked his children for being so quiet during this Council Meeting, and he thanked former Mayor Williams for being an example to his daughter who says she wants to be Mayor when she grows up. **Councilmember Williams** thanked Administrator Miller for his perseverance on the street light replacement project, she requested that the Mayor send a letter of appreciation to PG&E, said that she will be chairing the Townhall/Merchants Meetings, announced that the League of California Cities will be holding its Annual Conference on September 12 through 14, 2018, and she feels there may be a benefit to look into the National Registry of Historic Places designation for Sonora which attracts people to visit. She also said

that it has been an honor to be the third woman Mayor for the City. **Councilmember Such** said that she is happy to be on the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Regular Session Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. to the to the next Regular Meeting on Monday, July 16, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Minutes Subject To Council Approval

_____

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date

Elena Linehan, downtown property owner of the historic Burnham home of Linoberg Street.

I read in the Union Democrat that there's been another vehicle / pedestrian collision on the Elkin Street crosswalk.

It reminded me that our previous Police Chief pointed to that crosswalk as one that needs to be addressed for safety sake.

The city is currently using tax payer's hard earned money to pay a design firm to redo the Red Church intersection.

Unfortunately, the favored design addressed every crosswalk at that intersection *expect* for the Elkin Street where the danger lies.

This City Council is so in love with the Vision Sonora plan that they are willing to put a park out in the middle of the street while turning a blind eye to what must be addressed at the Elkin Street crosswalk.

We are often told that Vision Sonora is not the City Council's plan, but one that sprang from the people. Yet decisions are made by a small group. They point to input at a workshop of 100 to 200 people (the number varies depending on who you talk to), while the city ignores a petition with signatures of 385 people stating that they do *not* want Vision Sonora with the loss of parking and street closures.

Collette is new to the council, so I brought her her own copy of that petition. You'll likely to see some familiar names in the listing.

Please remember as you making plans to Disney-fy the downtown,

Pretty pink sidewalks do not increase safety.

Petunias won't protect you.

I'll leave a copy of my comments with the City Clerk to include with the minutes of the council meeting.

EXHIBIT "A"

Page 1 of 1

June 30, 2018

To: Connie Williams, George Segarini, Jim Garaventa, Mark Plummer, Matt Hawkins

From: Barbara Dresslar

Re: Grand Jury report on TCEDA

The report from the Grand Jury on TCEDA is damning for your irresponsible oversite of city funds and permitting no transparency of TCEDA procedures.

1. Connie Williams and George Segarini, for years you voted funding for TCEDA despite your representing the City of Sonora on the TCEDA board with foreknowledge of Larry Cope's unethical management of TCEDA. In addition, you voted funding for TCEDA in the current budget despite Cope's refusal to provide documentation, and now maintain you are absolved of your responsibility as a TCEDA board member to protect city funds. TCEDA's misuse of funds makes your focus at your last meeting on finding $27k for a Resource Officer a farce.

2. TCEDA had not been reviewed since 2009 during which time you ignored your duties as custodians of community funds.

3. George, last Monday you stated Larry Cope 'did a good job', knowing you had no evidence to support that, and now a 183 page Grand Jury report confirms you approved how poorly Cope managed TCEDA.

4. Larry Cope must be removed immediately as charges are investigated against him for misuse of city funds and a long list of illegal practices. It is criminal, and I mean that in the sense you are complicit, that you allowed him to approve his own travel and expense reports, paid him for a month he spent in England and allowed him to accrue and then paid him for 720 hours of vacation time, and permitted him to refuse to provide documentation of his work when it is required for government transparency and best practices by all other agencies. He is likely in violation of the Brown Act, likely in collusion with government staff.

5. TCEDA must be suspended until an audit of expenditures, investigation of misappropriation of funds, and actual operating procedures are confirmed.

6. The City of Sonora should not use city funds or attorneys of any kind to fight Ken Perkins's lawsuit requesting documentation by TCEDA of operations. The Grand Jury report provides ample evidence that the lawsuit requiring Larry Cope and TCEDA to provide documentation is valid, so the information requested by Ken Perkins' lawsuit should be provided to the public immediately.

EXHIBIT "B"

Page 1 of 1

Michael Ayala
Chairman

Darin Grossi
Executive Director

TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

June 25, 2018

City Council Members
City of Sonora
94 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Subject: Consider signing a Letter of Intent to partner with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council to submit a joint Active Transportation Program Grant application for Cycle Four for the Washington Street Improvements Project based upon the conceptual design presented.

Dear City Council Members,

After an extensive community outreach effort, in December and January, TCTC staff has worked with our consultant Wood Rodgers Inc. to draft a preferred concept based upon the community and City Council input. Our consultant Wood Rodgers has drafted a corner bulb-out design with Caltrans input for the SR 49-Washington Street/Bradford Street Intersection (Attachment 1).

This draft bulb-out proposal for the intersection of Bradford/Washington Street would similar design to the other 5 crosswalk intersections in the project area boundaries including Theall Street, Linoberg Street, Jackson Street, Dodge Street, and City Hall Crosswalk. This bulb-out will extend the sidewalk and curb along Washington Street and will shorten the distance pedestrians will have to walk in the crosswalk. The extended sidewalk and curb will improve sight distance for automobile drivers so they can see pedestrians who are about to cross the intersection. The Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Application provides points to projects that provided safety countermeasures.

Regarding, the proposed in-roadway lights in the crosswalk, Caltrans is requiring TCTC to follow the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA-MUTCD) in order to justify the lights. The CA MUTCD states that a pedestrian count must be performed with 40 people crossing per hour for at least two hours per day. On Friday April 27th and Saturday April 28th Wood Rodgers performed six pedestrian and bicycle counts at the six intersection/crosswalk in Downtown Sonora that are within the project area boundaries. All six intersections met the warrant for the Saturday counts and four of the six intersections met the warrants for the Friday counts. TCTC will propose all six in-roadway lights in the ATP application.

EXHIBIT "C"
Page 1 of 10

A.N. Francisco Building
5603 48 West Yaney Street

Mailing: 2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Phone: 209/533-
Fax: 209/533-5698

Wood Rodgers has created a bus/truck turning movement diagram, which shows that 40 foot trucks/bus cannot legally make right turns from Bradford Street onto Washington Street without crossing into the adjacent lane (Attachment 2) under existing conditions. The narrow streets are part of the charm of Downtown Sonora and help provide a walkable environment for pedestrians. In order to accommodate 40 foot wide turning radius for trucks, a significant amount of right of way would be required including removing buildings. Accommodating 40 foot trucks/buses is not a Context Sensitive Solution for the Downtown Sonora intersections within the Project Area Boundaries. Caltrans understands the predicament and has stated that the local agency will need to apply for a design exception to avoid having to accommodate 40' school buses in the final design.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) released the call for projects for Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle Four on May 18th and the deadline to submit projects would be on July 31st.

On March 22, the TCTC and the consultant presented the proposed conceptual design to Caltrans functional units at District 10. It should be noted, Caltrans representatives gave 100% support for the project at the meeting. A Letter of Support from Caltrans District 10 is included as an attachment. On May 31, the TCTC staff met with the Police Chief and the Fire Chief and presented the proposed conceptual design. It should be noted, the chiefs supported the project.

At the April meeting, the Visions Sonora Committee unanimously recommended directing the consultant to submit an Active Transportation Program Grant Application for Cycle Four.

Sincerely,

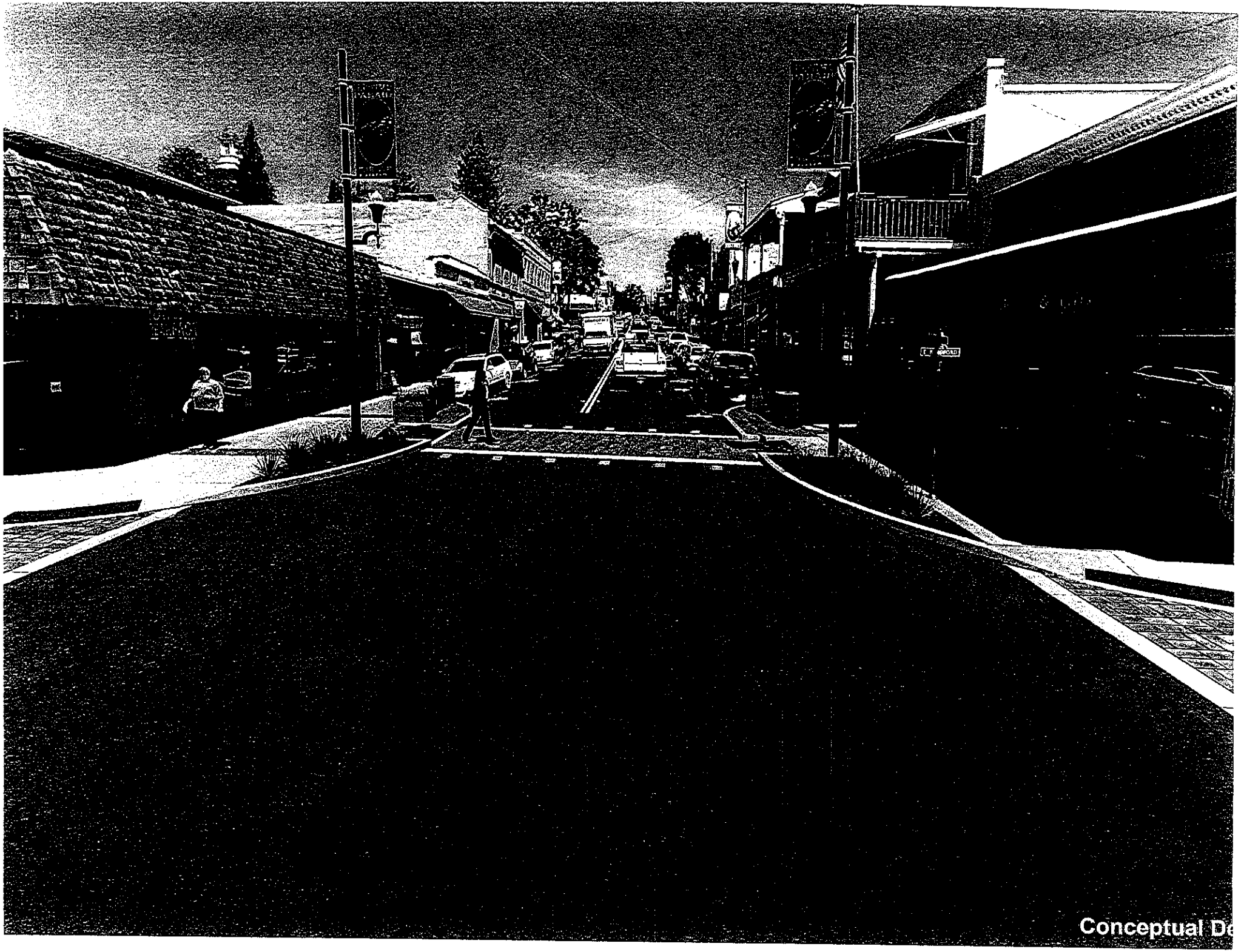
Darin Grossi
Executive Director

CC: Tim Miller - City Administrator
Rachelle Kellogg - Community Development Director

Attachments:

1. Draft Intersection Bulb-Out & In-Roadway Lights- Washington Street/Bradford St
2. 40 Ft Bus/Trucks Turning Movement Graphic - Washington Street/Bradford St
3. Letter of Support – Caltrans District 10
4. Letter of Intent – City of Sonora
5. Preliminary Draft ATP Grant Application

Exhibit C
Page 2 of 10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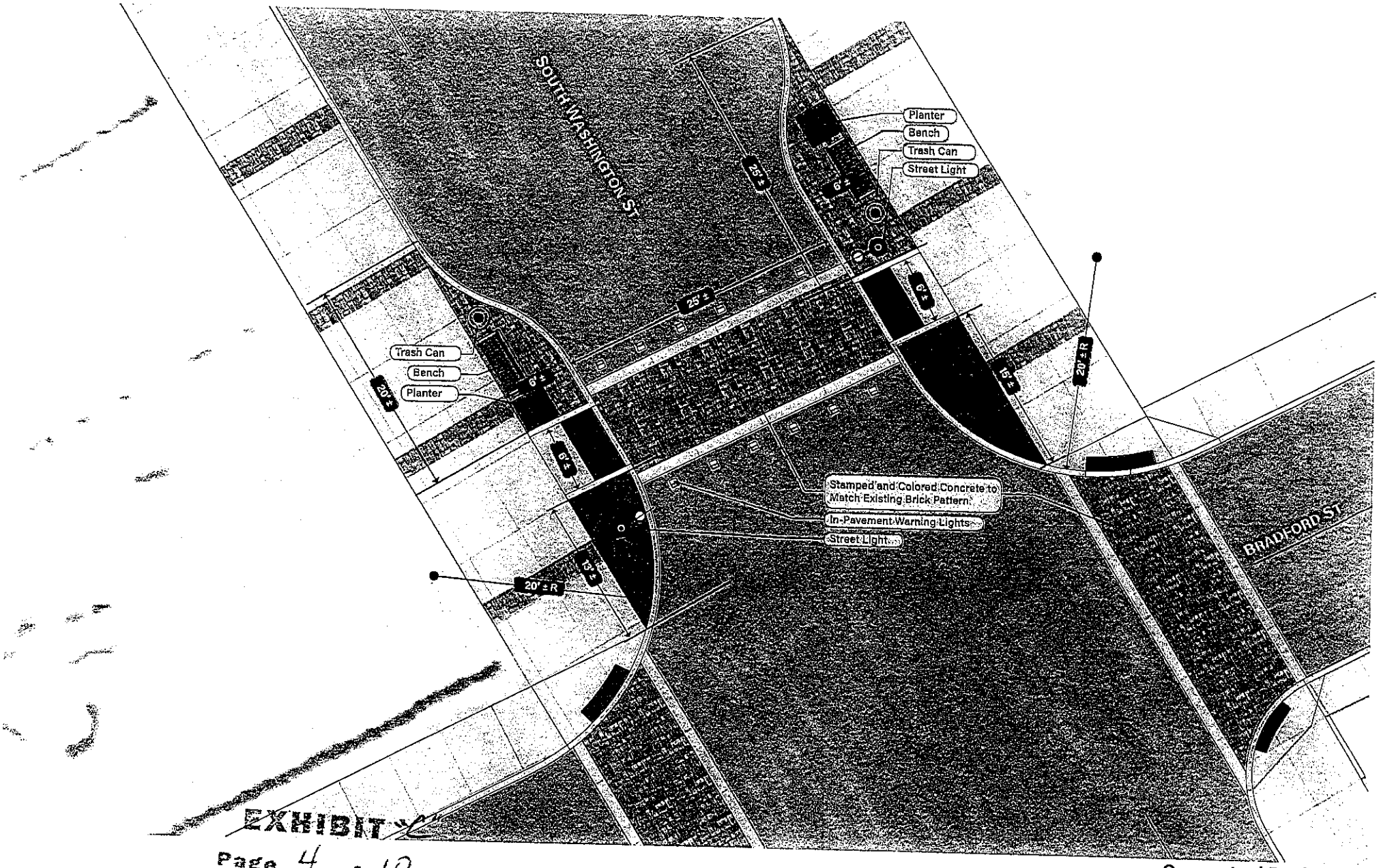

EXHIBIT "C"

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Conceptual Design

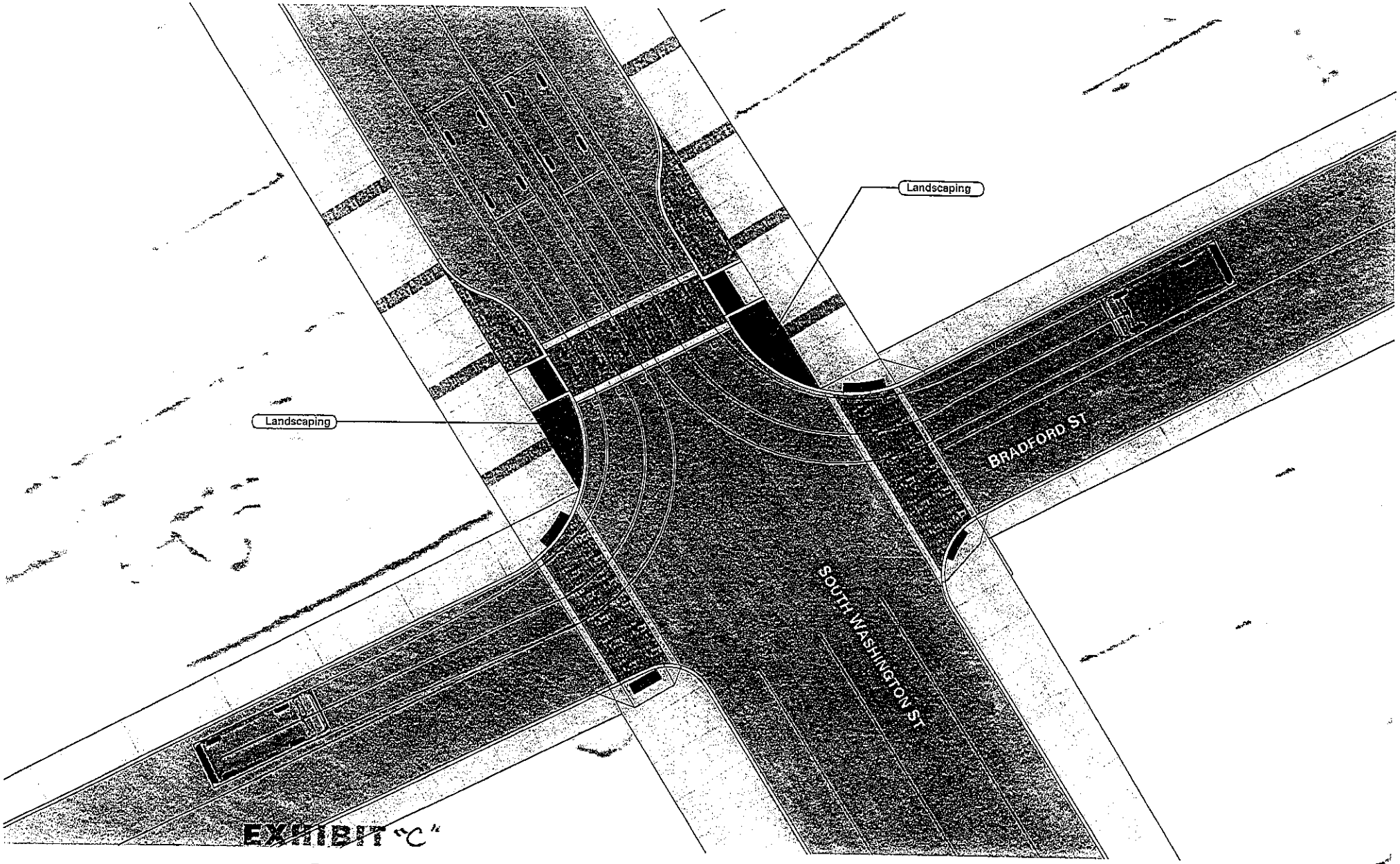

EXHIBIT "C"

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Conceptual Design

SCHOOL BUS TURNING MOVEMENT

S WASHINGTON ST & BRADFORD ST

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

SONORA **CALIFORNIA**

JANUARY 2018

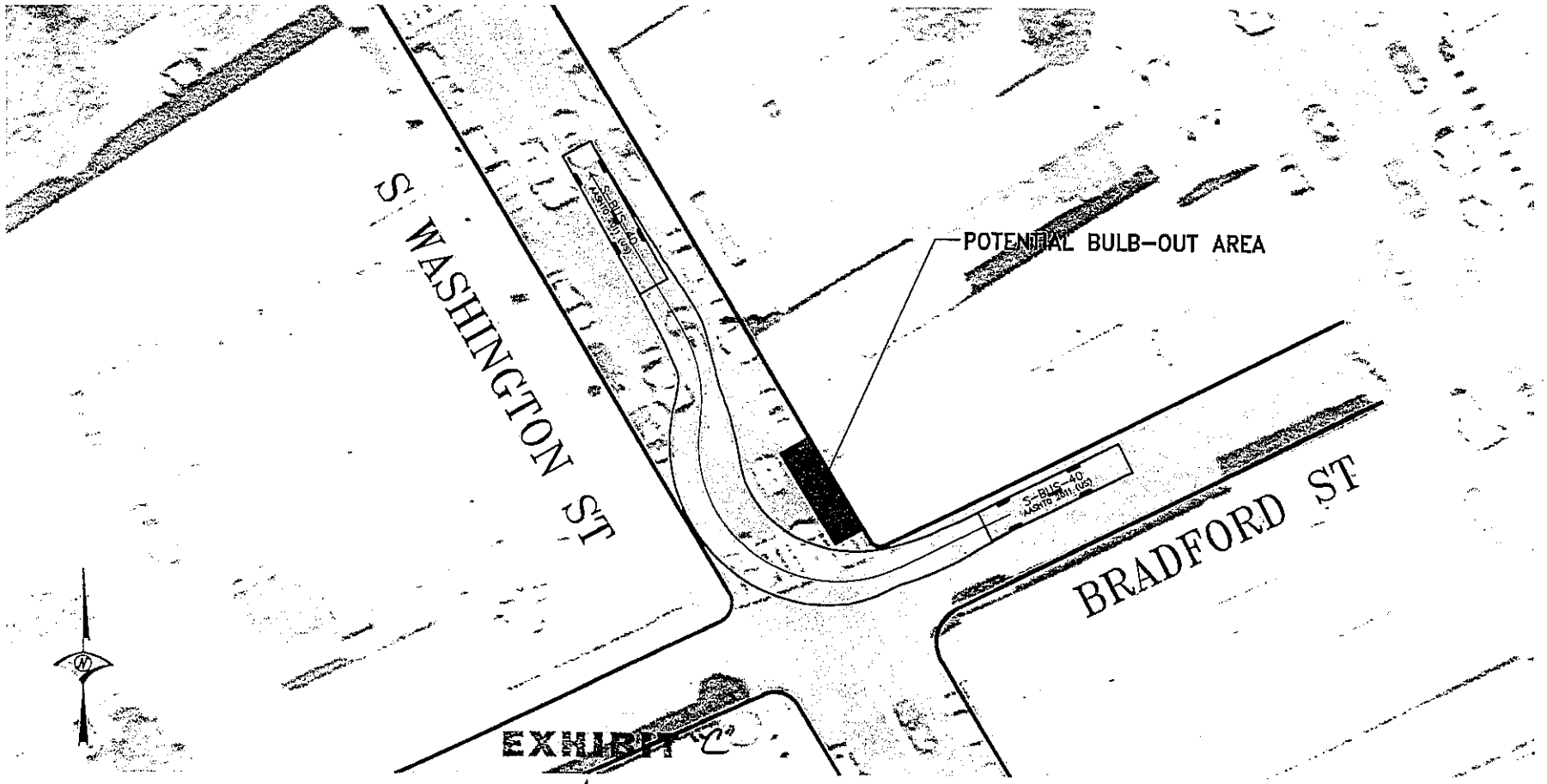

EXHIBIT "C"

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WOOD RODGERS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

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PASSENGER VEHICLE TURNING MOVEMENT AND BULBOUT DETAIL

S WASHINGTON ST & BRADFORD ST

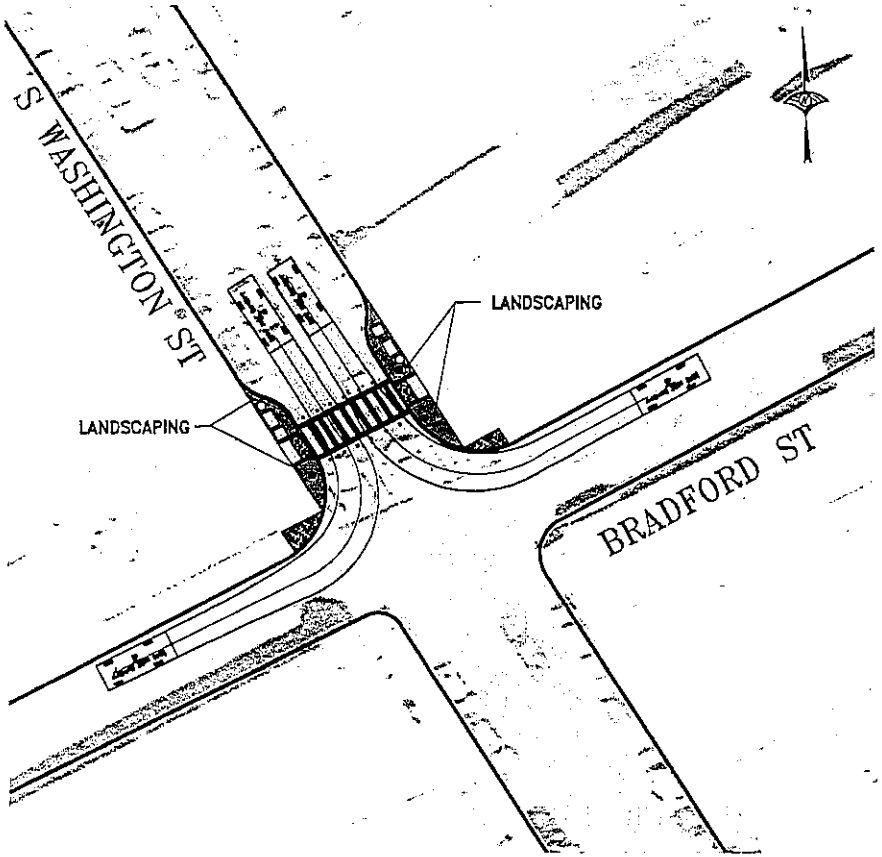
TUOLUMNE COUNTY

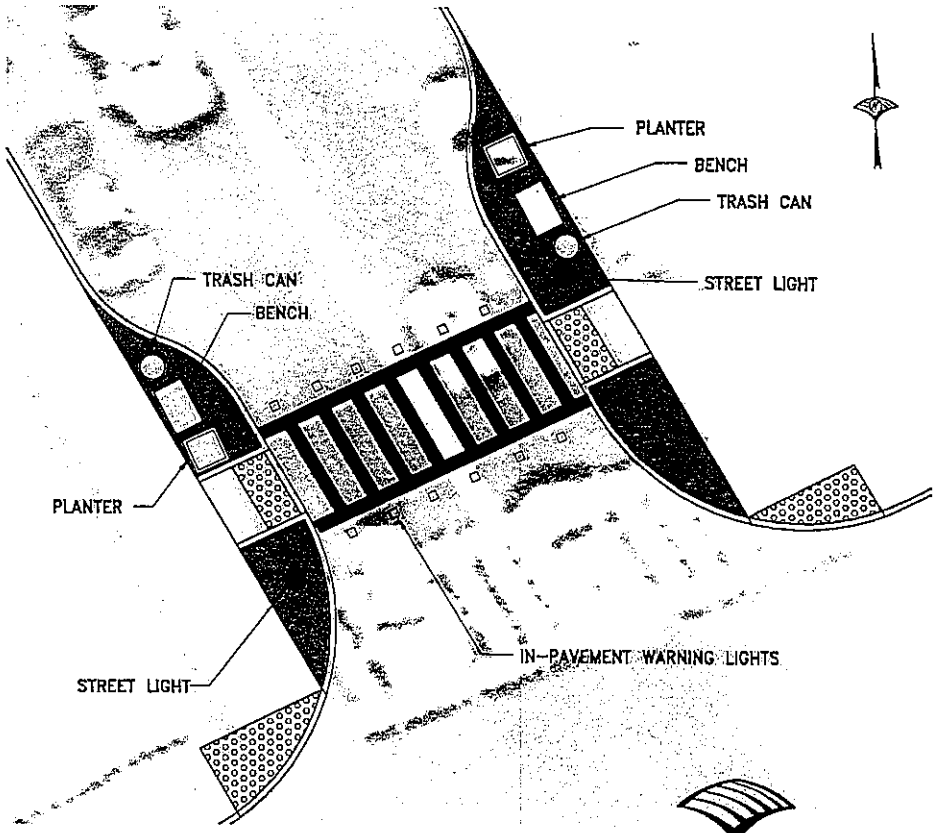
SONORA CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 2018

30' 15' 0 30'

SCALE: 1" = 30'





10' 5' 0 10'

SCALE: 1" = 10'

EXHIBIT "C"

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WOOD RODGERS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE PROJECT AT A TIME
3301 C ST, BLDG. 100-B TEL 916.341.7760
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816 FAX 916.341.7767

J:\Jobs\8341_Tuolumne_County\014_Washington_Street\Washington_Street_OA\Civil\Dwg\BRADFORD TRUCKTURN.dwg 2/13/2018 9:03 AM Katie Alexandreva

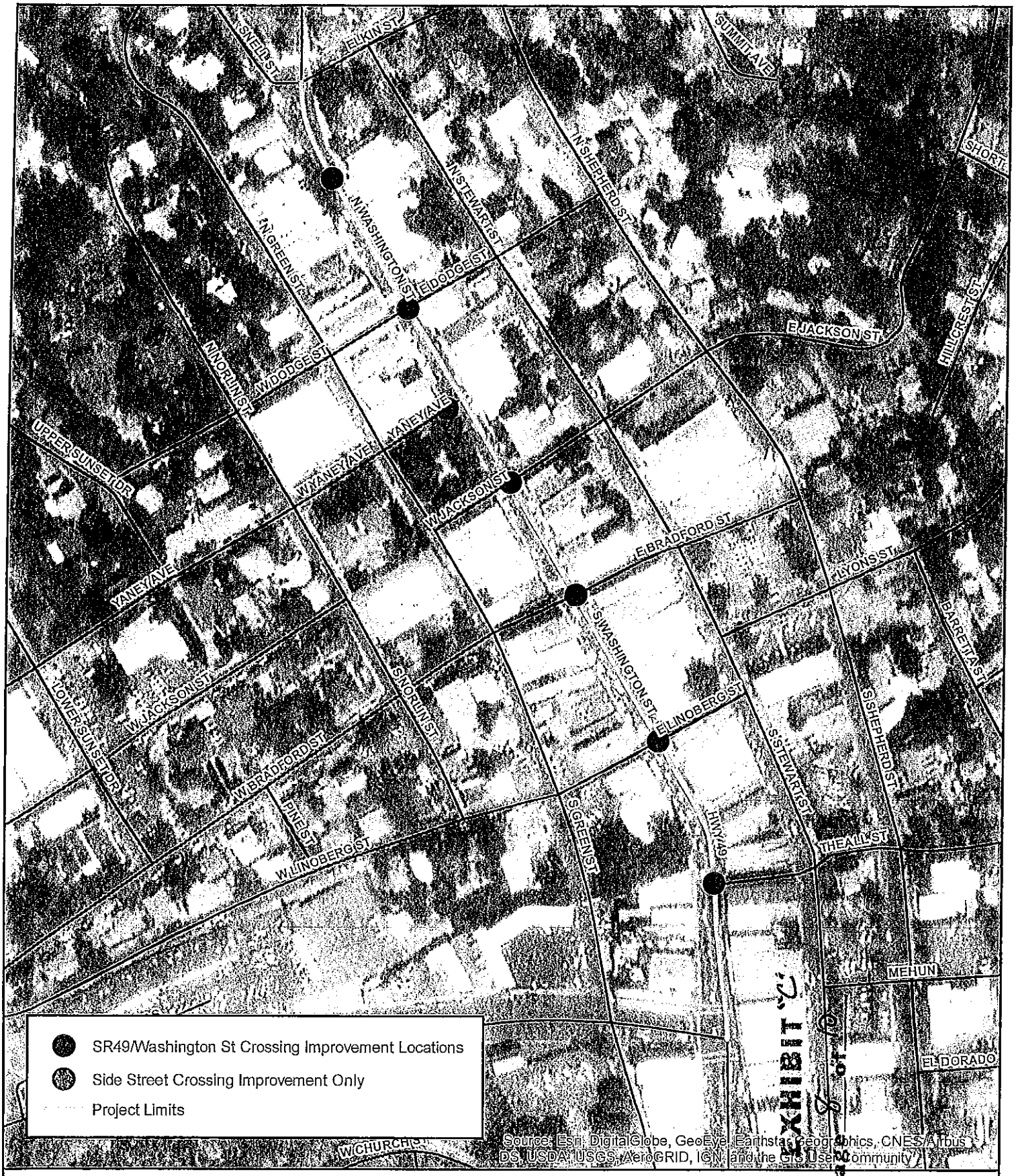

EXHIBIT "C"
Page 1 of 2

SONORA SR 49 / WASHINGTON ST

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

SONORA, CA

JUNE, 2018

NOTES

NORTH

0 100 200

FEET

WOOD RODGERS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE PROJECT AT A TIME
1361 Corporate Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502
Tel: 775.823.4068
Fax: 775.823.4066

A Collection of Community Trends from the Community Design and Mobility Workshop December 14, 2017

Community Input Trends:

#1) Improve Cross Walks
- 100% of comments in support of (approx. 15 comments received)
- Add runway lights (almost all comments in favor of, few comments about maintenance issues)
- Add colored pavers or brick to cross walks
- Improve lighting

#2) Corner bulb-outs
- 75% of comments in support of (approx. 16 comments received)
- Opposition (concerned about street width and bulb outs too large)
- Use historic brick
- Comments regarding sizing the bulb-outs correctly
- Use to shorten cross walk length by the Red Church

#3) Mid-Block Bulb-outs
- 60% of comments in support of, 40% opposed (approx. 14 comments received)
- Opposition was mainly concerns of losing parking

#4) More Parking
- 90% of comments in support of (approx. 12 comments received)
- Comments supported the following:
  - One-way street with parking (4 out of 5 comments in favor of)
  - Build new parking garage or off-street lot (3 comments)
  - Increase parking off-street before removing parking on main street (4 Comments)

#5) Improve Pedestrian/Street Furniture
- 100% of Comments in support of (approx. 8 comments received)
- Fix placement of street furniture
- Need more street furniture
- Add more outdoor seating for restaurants

#6) Add Landscaping
- 80% of comments in support of (approx. 6 comments received)
- Type of landscape is important
  - Olive Tree (Evergreen)
  - Roots could damage utilities
  - Ongoing maintenance

#7) Improve Sidewalks
- 100% of comments in support of (approx. 5 comments received)
- Improve damaged sections
- Create uniform sidewalk with current brick/concrete to keep historic feel

Other Trends with less than 5 Comments
- Keep historic feel of main street/Sonora (4 comments)
- Improve pedestrian safety near high school (3 comments)
- Implement a truck route to remove the truck traffic from main street (2 comments)

EXHIBIT C
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 942873, MS–49
SACRAMENTO, CA 94273–0001
PHONE (916) 654-5266
FAX (916) 654-5266
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

April 18, 2018

APR 25 2018

Mr. Darin Grossi
Executive Director
Tuolumne County Transportation Council
2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Mr. Grossi:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 10, is in support of Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) application for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 4 on Washington Street, State Route 49 in downtown Sonora. Caltrans supports the conceptual design for pedestrian improvements presented by TCTC and Wood Rodgers Consultant on March 22, 2018. The project would support Caltrans goals of promoting transportation safety for all road users and community health within the State Highway System through active transportation. We understand that the scope of the project is still in the conceptual stage, subject to further studies and review in the project development and design phase. We look forward to continuous collaboration and cooperation between Caltrans, TCTC, and City of Sonora in developing the project that meets the community needs.

If you have any questions, you may contact Samuel Jordan, Deputy District Director, at (209) 948-7883 or by email at samuel.jordan@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DENNIS T. AGAR
District 10 Director

c: Samuel Jordan, Deputy District Director, Maintenance and Operations
Ken Baxter, Deputy District Director, Planning, Local Assistance and Environmental
Vu Nguyen, Chief, Traffic Operations
Sinaren Pheng, Senior Transportation Engineer, Traffic Operations
Larry Hernandez, Chief, Traffic Safety

EXHIBIT C
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Vision Sonora is like a face tattoo for the city. It sounded like a cool idea when someone suggested it. But it's permanent and something you'll regret doing further down the line.

I'm Elena Linehan, property owner in downtown Sonora. I first came to Sonora as your Main Street Manager to help revitalize the downtown.

During our time we hosted monthly retail events, established the farmers market, purchased our Christmas decorations and saw the downtown go from 27 vacant store fronts to two. So I know of whence I speak.

Here we are on another holiday week discussing vast changes to our downtown. You typically hold this on a Tuesday night after a three day weekend when few are in town to see the notice on late-Friday afternoon or early-Saturday.

Under Connie Williams' leadership, the Vision Sonora program has been designed to discourage disagreement. I hear from business owners who tell me the city's approach to include them consists of e-mails twice a month announcing meetings that they can't attend while their shops are open.

Matt Hawkins made a campaign promise that he would convene a workshop for the people supporting Vision Sonora to meet with those who oppose it. That hasn't happened yet.

Jim Garaventa says these downtown design issue need greater discussion, but here we are again, with a looming deadline to submit a grant and no discussion of the greater impact.

Because you should discuss how the turning radius for large trucks, school buses and recreational vehicle will force these vehicles to drive into oncoming traffic.

The proposal before you says that this will have to be resolved in the final design.

Gee that's swell! Why create a greater danger while trying to solve another?

Why wait? Why not find a solution *first?* Let this grant cycle pass by until we can find the answer. There will be other grants available.

EXHIBIT "D"

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Some people have unkindly said that this is the city's "quest to garner money."

Or as one person said to me, "Something happens to people spending someone else's money. They just go nuts."

It's hard to argue with their thoughts when we see how the City Council's approaches the problem.

I've brought pictures. Here are the bulb-outs in Jamestown. I've reported to you in the past on the high number to tire marks on their bulb-outs. Now I bring you pictures of great chunks of concrete knocked off the bulb-outs by vehicles. This is the future that Vision Sonora promises the city residents.

If you don't believe me, take a look at the landscaping that you have trouble maintaining across from the High School.

But you are not alone is seeking this grant funding. There was an interesting editorial in Sunday's Modesto Bee discussing the same issues you are considering here tonight.

Their comment was that what they called "pregnant sidewalks" seemed more gimmick than necessity. And they questioned whether the city was trying to make it harder to drive downtown.

Don't do this. Take more time and have more open and honest discussion.

Wait for a time when you have agreement on what you really want to see downtown and not piecemeal at an urgent pace to meet a grant deadline.

Hold a special session where these concepts can be discussed with the larger view of what needs to happen downtown. Don't be surprised if you hear more about sidewalk and road repairs than the Disneyland approach.

To those of us who have sought out a life in rural California, the proposed changes of Vision Sonora smack of urban strip mall design and we don't like it.

I'll leave a copy of my comments with the City Clerk to include with the minutes of the meeting.

EXHIBIT "D"

EXHIBIT "D"