



# CITY OF WHEATLAND

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

September 13, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Pumpkin Farm Event

**PREPARED BY:** Dane H. Schilling, City Engineer

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### **Recommendation**

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt the report entitled *Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event, Revised September 8, 2022 (2022 Plan)* prepared by the City Engineer.

### **Background/Discussion**

Since 2015, Wheatland has been implementing traffic control/management plans during each season. The signs and traffic controls are placed prior to the beginning of the season, monitored throughout the season and removed at the end of the season.

City Staff meets several times before each season to plan for the upcoming season. From time to time the City has conducted public meetings to solicit input of the surrounding residents. This year public meetings were held on May 5th, June 15th and July 7th. Input from those meetings has been incorporated into the 2022 Traffic Management Plan ("2022 Plan").

On July 26, 2022, the City Engineer presented the 2022 Plan to the City Council and several comments were received that are now incorporated into the attached revised 2022 Plan.

Revisions to the 2022 Plan made since July 26<sup>th</sup> presentation to City Council include:

- Added more traffic barrels along Main Street.
- Replaced speed limit signs along Main Street with *Slow for the Cone Zone* signs.
- Added more notes to describe the traffic controls.
- Added text to be used for each Changeable Message Signs (CMS).
- Repositioned Resident Parking Only signs.

**Alternatives**

None – this is an information item only.

**Fiscal Impact**

None.

**Attachments**

1. *Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event, Revised September 8, 2022*



# City of Wheatland

## Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event

Revised September 8, 2022

2022 Season Dates:  
September 10 thru November 6

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111 C Street Wheatland, California 95692

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## Traffic Management Plan 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event

### **Introduction/Setting**

The Bishop Pumpkin Farm (BPF) is an agricultural oriented business located in the southwesterly corner of the City of Wheatland. BPF opened for business in 1973 by hosting school field trips in the fall. BPF has since expanded to include food and alcohol sales, amusement rides, shows, fireworks and movies. BPF has steadily grown in popularity and employs seasonal workers from the surrounding community.

In 2011, the BPF property was annexed into the city which, among other things, provided city water and sewer services to BPF and more opportunities for collaboration between BPF and the City on addressing traffic impacts. The City's first traffic management plan was implemented for the 2015 season.

BPF reported total attendance for the 2021 season at approximately 275,000 guests and the vehicle count at approximately 70,000 over 59-days from the second Saturday in September to the first Sunday in November.

The vast majority of visitors to BPF travel to the property via Highway 65 and then through City streets to reach BPF. Initially, all traffic to the farm was via a single point of access at the westerly end of Fourth Street which turns into Roddan Lane (private street) and Pumpkin Lane (private street). In recent years the main point of access has been at the end of Main Street and a secondary access via Wheatland Road during peak weekends.

Traffic flows are characterized as:

- Slower in September with a more even distribution of traffic
- Intensifying consistently leading up to the last weekend in October with marked increases on weekends
- School bus traffic only on weekdays, typically Monday thru Thursday
- Adverse weather conditions can significantly alter visitor traffic volumes
- Before hours traffic includes employees and deliveries
- Visitors will explore the use of any available routes in attempts to reduce travel time
- Visitor trips are more intense/condensed in the mornings and less in evenings
- Special evening events at BPF generate brief surges of traffic when the special event concludes
- Admissions/parking processes at BPF can cause queueing that spills into city streets if adequate admission booths and parking staff are not provided

Since 2015, Wheatland has been implementing a traffic control/management plan during the season. The signs and traffic controls are placed prior to the beginning of the season, monitored throughout the season and removed at the end of the season.

City Staff meets several times before each season to discuss planning for the upcoming season. Participants include the City Manager, Wheatland Police Department (Chief and Sergeant), Wheatland Fire Authority (Chief), Public Works Director and Superintendent, and the City Engineer. After formulating a draft plan for the season City Staff consults Caltrans Traffic Operations Staff and representatives from BPF in separate meetings. From time to time the City has conducted public meetings regarding BPF traffic to solicit input of the surrounding property owners/residents. Public meetings were held in 2022 on May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Traffic Management Plan 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event

Topics addressed in the development of each year's plan include:

- Ingress/egress of emergency vehicles.
- Police presence on Wheatland's streets
- Speed limits and speed controls
- Traffic signal timing adjustments
- Road closures
- Signs and sign placement
- Traffic control devices: barricades, signs, delineators, changeable message signs
- Caltrans encroachment permit
- Second entrance
- Inbound traffic from the west on Wheatland Road from Highway 70 and short-cutting down Oakley Lane.

The City's practice of advanced planning is helpful to a continuous improvement process that can provide opportunities to adapt and optimize the traffic management plan.

### **2022 Approach to Traffic Management**

The following description and the attached exhibits describe the City's approach to traffic management for the 2022 BPF season. For purposes of this year's plan, peak days are defined as the Saturdays and Sundays in October, as determined by the attendance estimates provided by BPF.

1. Follow and comply with published regulations such as the California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA-MUTCD) and the California Vehicle Code.
2. Segregate to the extent possible vehicle trips generated from north of Wheatland and south of Wheatland, especially on peak days, to reduce traffic conflicts.
3. Use traffic signals at Main Street and First Street to organize, direct and meter traffic entering or exiting Wheatland via Highway 65.
4. Direct traffic to arterial streets to the greatest extent possible to take advantage of the wider streets and stronger pavement structure present in arterial streets.
5. Reduce vehicle conflicts and cut-through traffic from intersecting streets by restricting or strongly discouraging the use of non-arterial streets.
6. Provide a visible law enforcement presence. See details in the following section.
7. Discourage use of E Street by placing road closed local traffic only signs at E Street and First Street, and E Street and Main Street (entire season).
8. Full closure (both directions) of E Street at First Street after 4pm on Fridays and re-open by 7am Monday (entire season).
9. Discourage use of E Street by placing road closed local traffic only signs along Highway 65 at Second Street, Third Street and Fourth Street.
10. Close the west end of Fourth Street at Roddan Lane (entire season).

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11. Open a second/northerly entrance on Wheatland Road for peak days and divert trips from the north to the second entrance via the First Street traffic signal.
12. Request that Caltrans implement alternative signal timing at the Main Street and First Street traffic signals.
13. Use semi-portable barricades at full street closures to allow for public safety response. (Note: Wheatland PD and Fire have confirmed that these type of barriers do not pose a significant hinderance to public safety response.)
14. Request that Caltrans modify signal timing at Main Street to allow more time for left turn from northbound Hwy-65 to westbound Main Street and right turns from eastbound Main Street to Hwy-65.
15. Request that Caltrans modify First Street signal timing as needed in coordination with modified flows from the Main Street signal. (Note: A planned Caltrans project on Hwy-65 may include installation of a new traffic signal at McDevitt Drive and traffic signal coordination of signals at Main, First and McDevitt.)
16. Employ the use of traffic barrels with slow for the cone zone signs on Main Street between E Street and the westerly end of Main Street for enhanced lane delineation and traffic calming.
17. Use temporary striping and restrict parking at the southwesterly corner of Main Street and Highway 65 to make a dedicated right-turn lane to southbound Highway 65.
18. Add more road signs along eastbound Wheatland Road for visitors coming from the west on Wheatland Road and Oakley Lane. (peak days)
19. Add more road signs along westbound Wheatland Road to guide visitors to the second entrance on Wheatland Road. (peak days)
20. Add a changeable message sign at westbound First Street west of E Street to guide visitors to Wheatland Road entrance. (peak days)
21. Add a changeable message sign at eastbound Wheatland Road east of Oakley Lane of E Street to guide visitors to Wheatland Road entrance. (peak days)
22. Restrict turns at the exit of the Wheatland Road gate to right-turns only onto eastbound Wheatland Road/First Street.
23. Monitor the effectiveness of this plan through the season and make minor adjustments as may be appropriate.
24. Collect traffic data including vehicle speed and traffic volumes by direction for future planning efforts.

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**Wheatland Police Department**

The Wheatland Police Department's (WPD) current full-time sworn budgeted personnel is:

- 1 Chief of Police
- 1 Sgt
- 1 Corporal
- 5 Patrol Officers
- 5 Part-Time Reserve Police Officers (budgeted at 10 hours per week)

Taking into consideration the above budgeted staff along with current staffing levels, WPD will always prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our entire community and all local businesses. WPD understands there is a significant increase in population, vehicle traffic and the potential for criminal activity during the BPF event season.

Current city-wide patrol staffing levels are:

- 1 dayshift officer 7am to 7pm
- 1 swing shift officer 1pm to 1am
- 1 graveyard officer 7pm to 7am

Taking into consideration the needs of our entire community, WPD will make every effort to provide one additional police officer to assist with traffic enforcement and security issues within the event on Fridays from 4pm to 10pm.

WPD will make every effort to provide two additional officers on Saturday and Sundays from 9am to 9pm, one will be assigned traffic enforcement in the neighborhoods around the event, and one will be assigned within the event.

WPD will consider parking a marked police car on Main Street Monday thru Thursday between the hours of 9am and 7pm, depending on the availability of vehicles those days.

**Points of Contact**

During the event, public safety concerns, comments and inquiries should be directed to the following:

All Public Safety Emergencies	911
Police Non-Emergency (dispatch)	530-633-2821
Fire Non-Emergency	530-633-0861
Public Works After 5pm and Weekends	530-633-0926
Public Works Normal Business Hrs. (M-Th)	530-633-2761

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**Conclusion**

To the greatest reasonable extent and under the direction of the City Engineer the City will: 1) implement this traffic management plan as described above, 2) monitor conditions during the event, and 3) make minor adjustments to the plan as needed during the event to address any issues or unforeseen circumstances. Any substantial changes to the plan will require the approval of the City Engineer and written modification of this plan.

This plan has been prepared under my responsible charge.



Dane H. Schilling, PE  
City Engineer  
City of Wheatland

Attachments:

2022 BISHOP PUMPKIN FARM TRAFFIC HANDLING (3 pages)

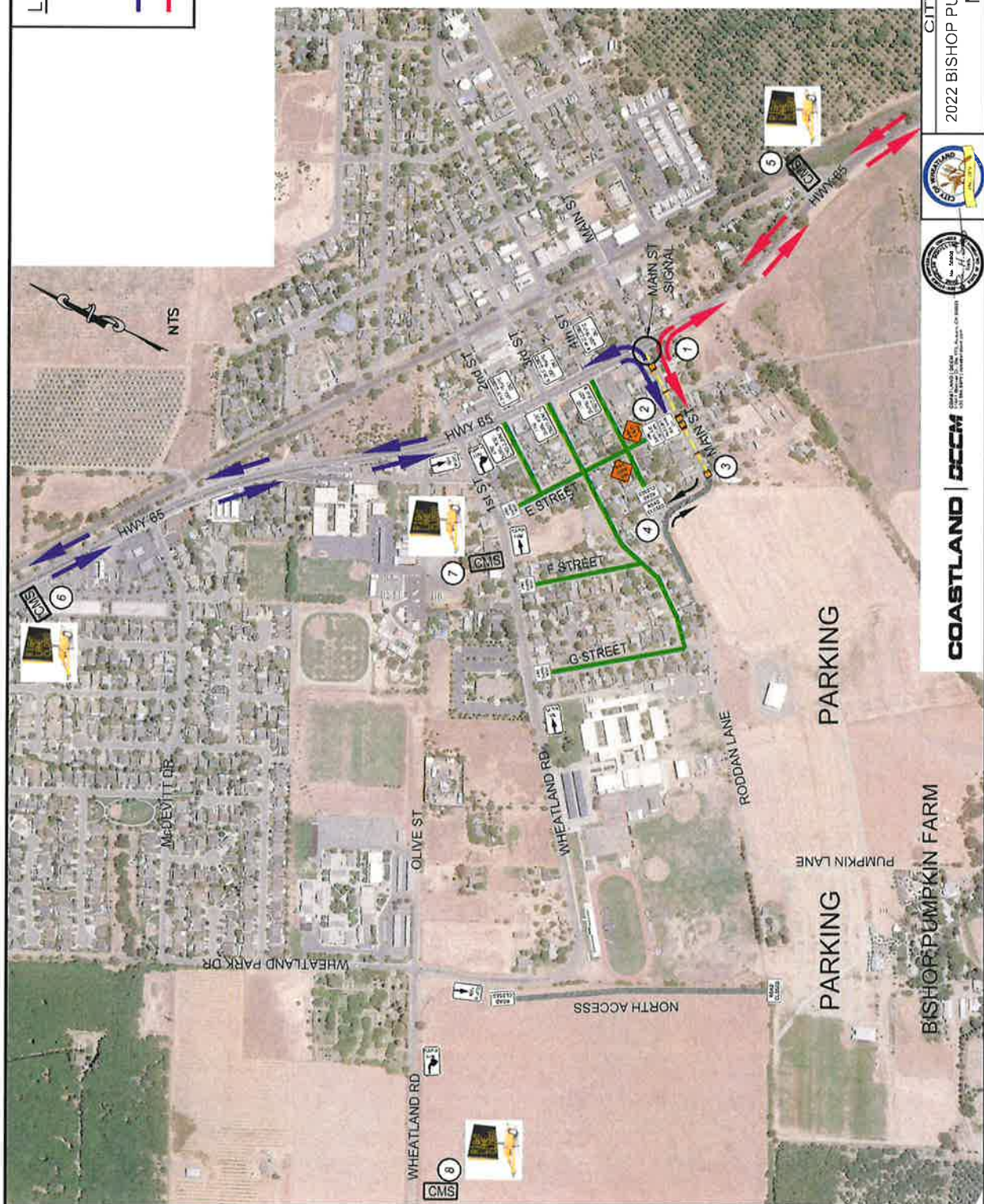


**LEGEND**

- STREET RESTRICTED TO LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY
- CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN
- TRAFFIC TO/FROM NORTH
- TRAFFIC TO/FROM SOUTH

**CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

- 1 TEMP. RIGHT TURN LANE PER DETAIL A/3.
- 2 SOFT CLOSURE: ONE TYPE 3 BARRICADE ON CENTERLINE WITH TWO SANDBAGS EACH LEG.
- 3 PLACE 3 TRAFFIC BARRELS TRANSVERSE AT 6 LOCATIONS (18 TOTAL) WITH 'SLOW FOR THE CONE' SIGN AT EACH END AND INTERSECTION (4 PLACES).
- 4 FULL CLOSURE: THREE-TYPE 3 BARRICADES WITH TWO SANDBAGS EACH LEG.
- 5 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN (CMS): "PUMPKIN FARM" "LEFT AT SIGNAL"
- 6 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN "PUMPKIN FARM" "RIGHT AT MAIN ST."
- 7 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN "NO PUMPKIN FARM ACCESS" "RETURN TO HWY 65" "FOLLOW SIGNS"
- 8 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN "PUMPKIN FARM TURN RIGHT" "THEN RIGHT AT SIGNAL"



Original Plot Date: 10/25/2022  
 Project: 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Traffic Handling  
 City of Wheatland  
 Scale: 1" = 100'



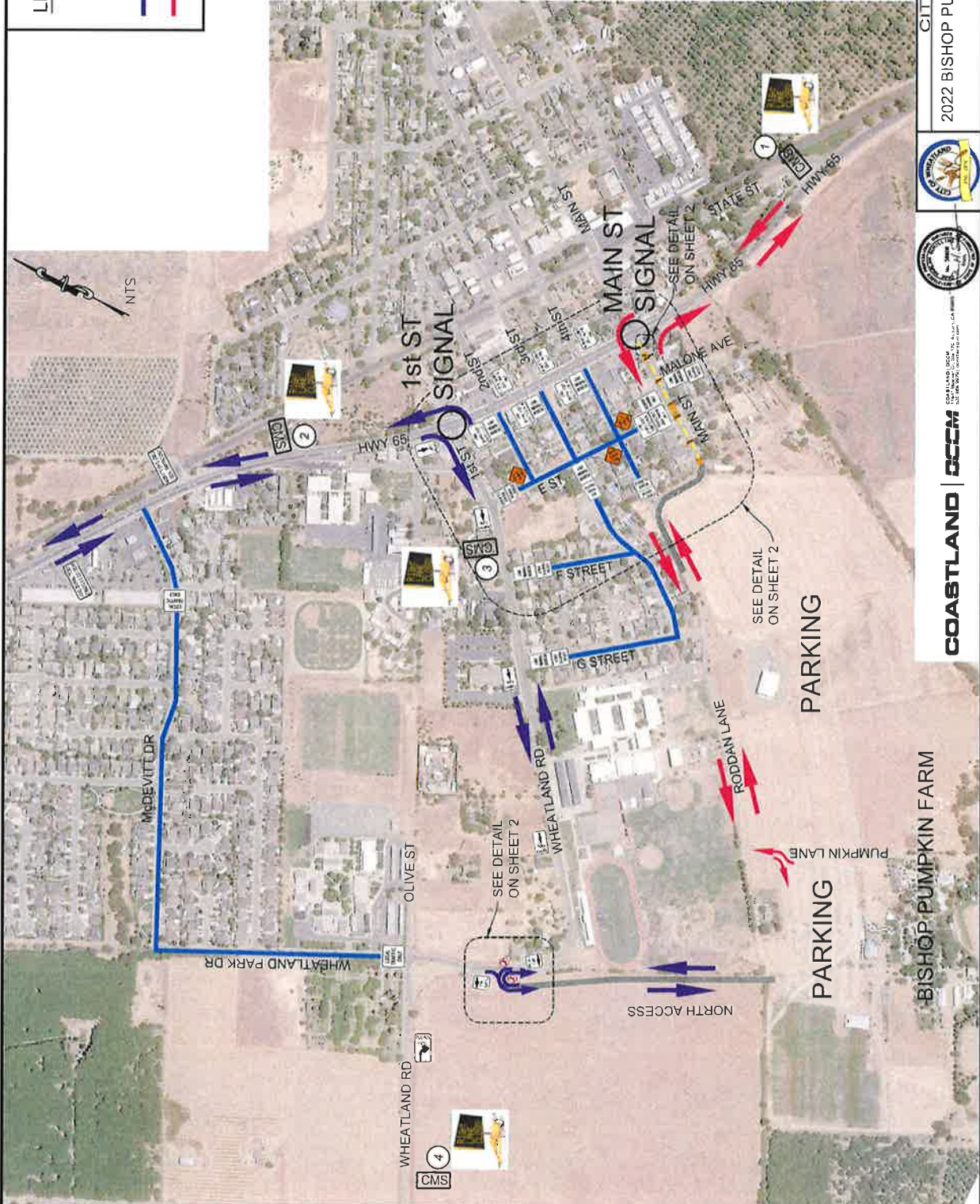




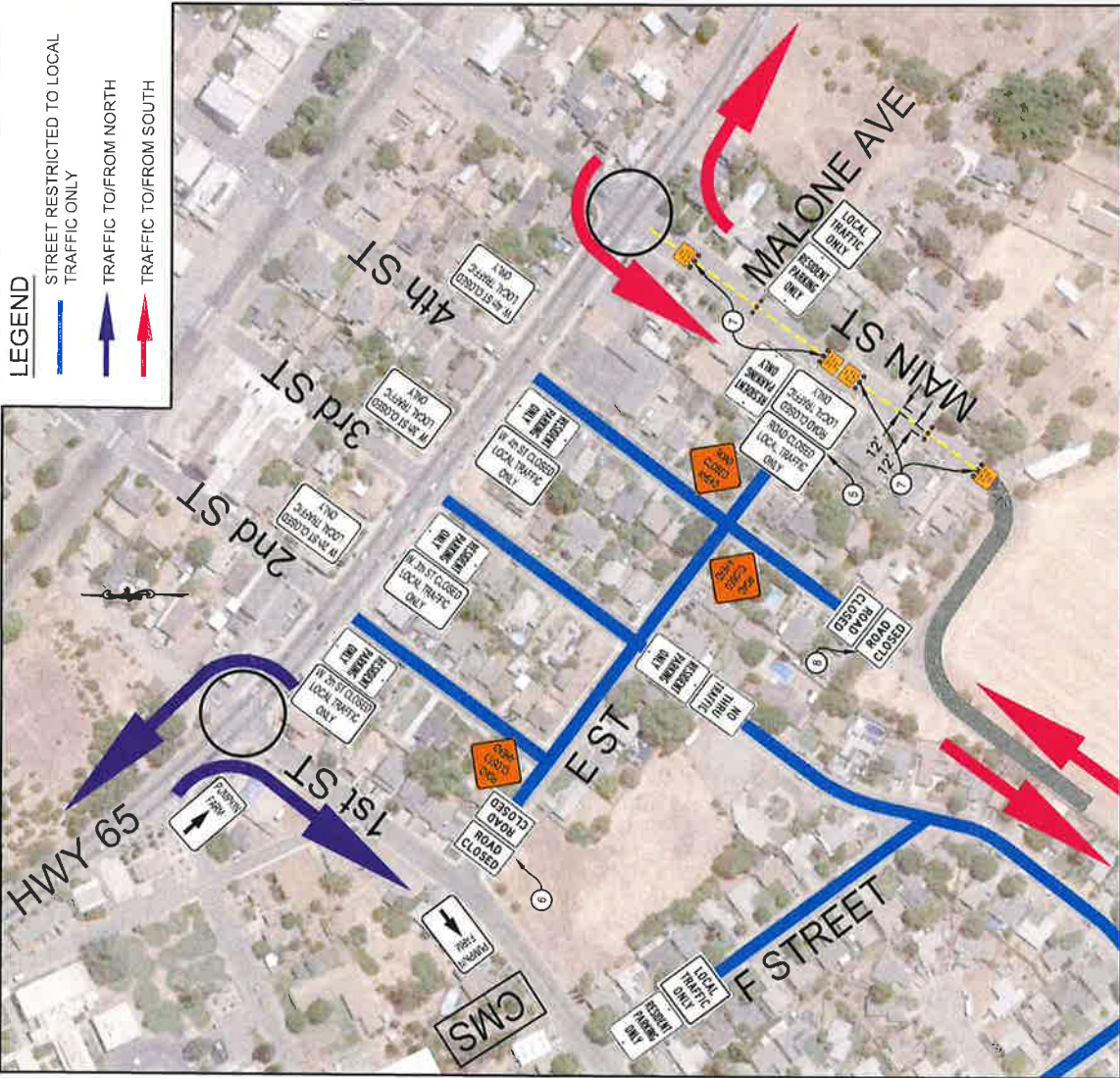
**LEGEND**

- STREET RESTRICTED TO LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY
- CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN
- TRAFFIC TO/FROM NORTH
- TRAFFIC TO/FROM SOUTH

- CONSTRUCTION NOTES**
- 1 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN (CMS):  
"PUMPKIN FARM"  
"LEFT AT SIGNAL"
  - 2 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN  
"PUMPKIN FARM"  
"RIGHT AT FIRST ST."
  - 3 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN  
"PUMPKIN FARM"  
"CONTINUE 0.5-MILES"  
"FOLLOW SIGNS"
  - 4 CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN  
"PUMPKIN FARM TURN RIGHT"  
"FOLLOW SIGNS"







**LEGEND**

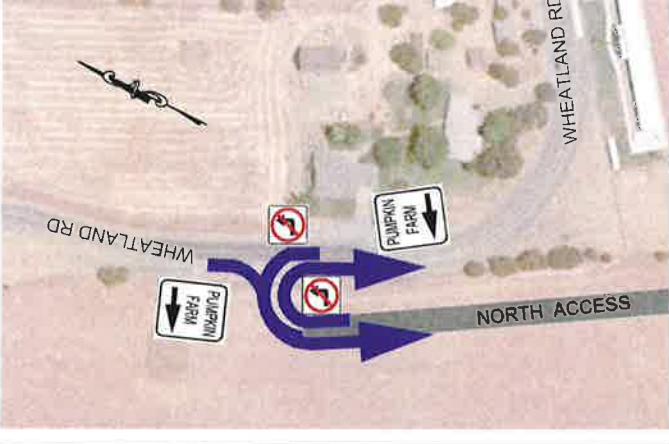
- Blue arrow: STREET RESTRICTED TO LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY
- Purple arrow: TRAFFIC TO/FROM NORTH
- Red arrow: TRAFFIC TO/FROM SOUTH

- CONSTRUCTION NOTES**
- BLACK-OUT RIGHT ARROW ON (E) TYPE III(B) MARKING.
  - PLACE TEMPORARY TYPE III(R) RIGHT TURN ARROW WITH STRIPING TAPE.
  - STRIPE 60" OF 6" (DETAIL 38A) WHITE STRIPE.
  - INSTALL "NO PARKING" SIGNS ON TYPE II BARRICADE (4 PLACES).
  - SOFT CLOSURE: ONE - TYPE 3 BARRICADE ON CENTERLINE WITH TWO SANDBAGS EACH LEG, POST TWO "NO PARKING" SIGNS ON EACH SIDE OF STREET ON TYPE 2 BARRICADES. 40-FT APART CENTERED ON CLOSURE SIGN.
  - FULL CLOSURE: FOUR - TYPE 3 BARRICADES WITH TWO SANDBAGS EACH LEG.
  - PLACE 3 TRAFFIC BARRELS TRANSVERSE AT 6 LOCATIONS (18 TOTAL) WITH "SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE" SIGN AT EACH END AND INTERSECTION (4 PLACES).
  - FULL CLOSURE: THREE - TYPE 3 BARRICADES WITH TWO SAND BAGS EACH LEG.

- GENERAL NOTES**
- ALL SIGN SHALL BE SECURED TO TYPE 2 BARRICADES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



**A) MAIN ST & HWY 65 TURN LANES**



**B) NORTH ACCESS TURN LANES**