



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Pumpkin Farm Event

PREPARED BY: Dane H. Schilling, City Engineer

Recommendation

The City Council should receive and file the report entitled *Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event* prepared by the City Engineer.

Background/Discussion

In 2011, the Bishop Pumpkin Farm (BPF) property was annexed into the City of Wheatland 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. Until recently, all traffic to the farm was via a single point of access at the westerly end of Fourth Street which turns into Roddan Lane and Pumpkin Lane (private streets). In recent years the main point of access has been at the end of Main Street with a secondary access via Wheatland Road which is opened during peak traffic days (typically Saturdays and Sundays in October).

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. Expenses incurred by the City for preparation, planning, equipment, signs and improvements needed to carry out each year's plan are charged against city funds that comes from BPF revenues.

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 16th and July 7th. Input from those meetings has been incorporated into the 2022 Traffic Management Plan ("2022 Plan").

Core principles of the 2022 Plan include:

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 turning 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 whenever possible.

Notable changes incorporated in the 2022 Plan:

- Added more road signs along eastbound Wheatland Road for visitors coming from the west on Wheatland Road and Oakley Lane. (peak days)
- Added more road signs along westbound Wheatland Road to guide visitors to the second entrance on Wheatland Road. (peak days)
- Add a changeable message sign at westbound First Street west of E Street to guide visitors to the Wheatland Road entrance. (peak days)
- Add a changeable message sign at eastbound Wheatland Road east of Oakley Lane of E Street to guide visitors to Wheatland Road gate. (peak days)
- Restrict turns at the exit of the Wheatland Road gate to right-turns only onto eastbound Wheatland Road/First Street.
- Collect traffic data including vehicle speed and traffic volumes by direction for future planning efforts.

Although not part of the city's plan, BPF is planning to use an employee-only entrance during the 2022 season, removing employee traffic from Main Street during the season.

Most of the changes above resulted from public comments received at the three public meetings held in May, June and July.

Alternatives

None – this is an information item only.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Attachments

1. Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event



City of Wheatland

Traffic Management Plan for the 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event

2022 Season Dates:
September 10 thru November 6

111 C Street Wheatland, California 95692

TELEPHONE (530) 633-2761
FAX (530) 633-9102

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 5th, June 15th and July 7th.

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 temporary speed limit 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.

Traffic Management Plan
2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Event

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.



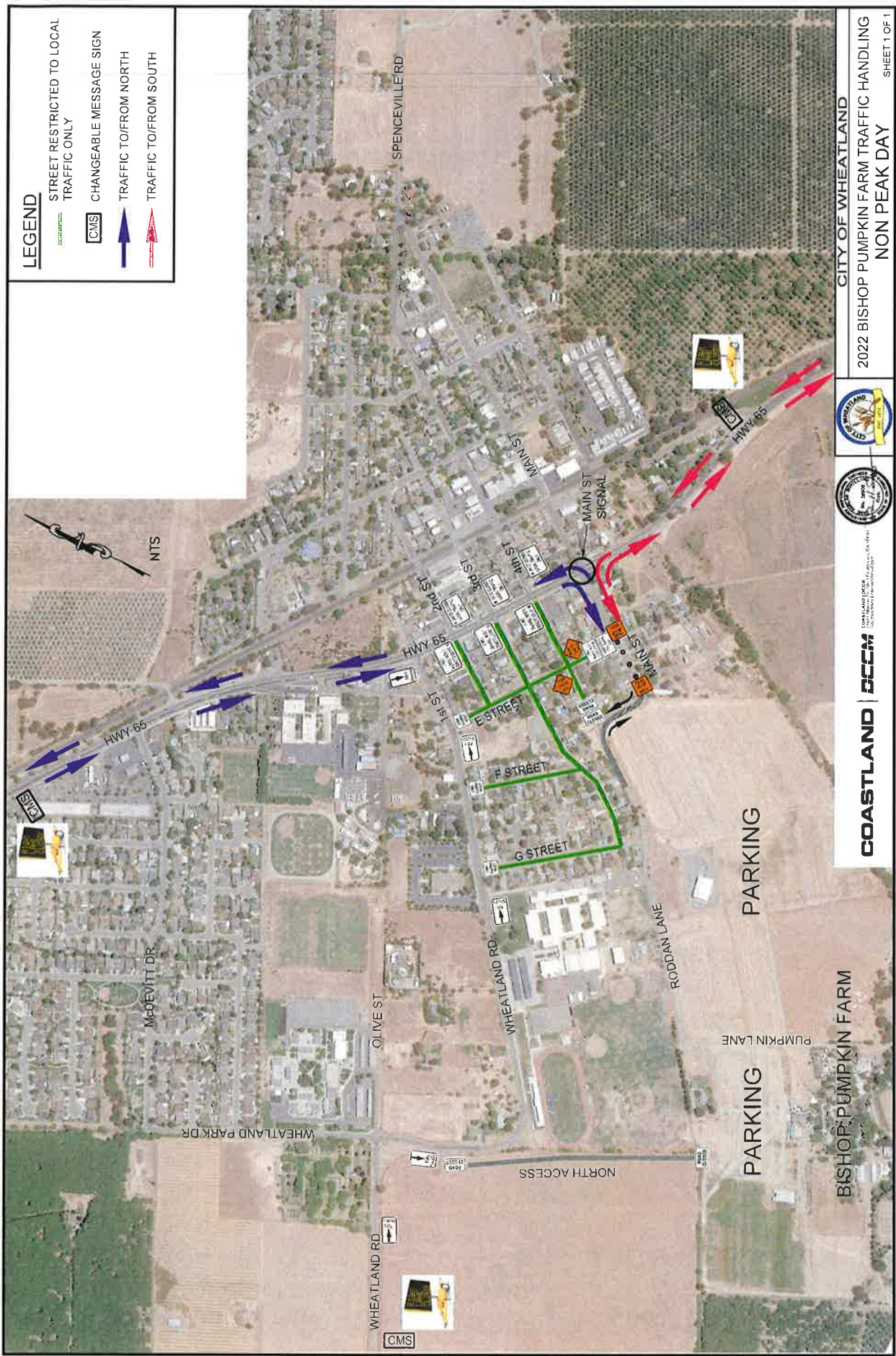
Dane H. Schilling, PE
City Engineer
City of Wheatland

Attachments:

- 2022 BISHOP PUMPKIN FARM TRAFFIC HANDLING – NON-PEAK DAY (1 page)
- 2022 BISHOP PUMPKIN FARM TRAFFIC HANDLING – PEAK DAY (2 pages)

LEGEND

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



Project: 053-0015-0001 - Bishop Pumpkin Farm Traffic Management Plan - Final Date: 11/15/2022 at 09:42 am
 File: 053-0015-0001 - Bishop Pumpkin Farm Traffic Management Plan - Final Date: 11/15/2022 at 09:42 am
 Original Plot Date: 11/15/2022 at 09:42 am

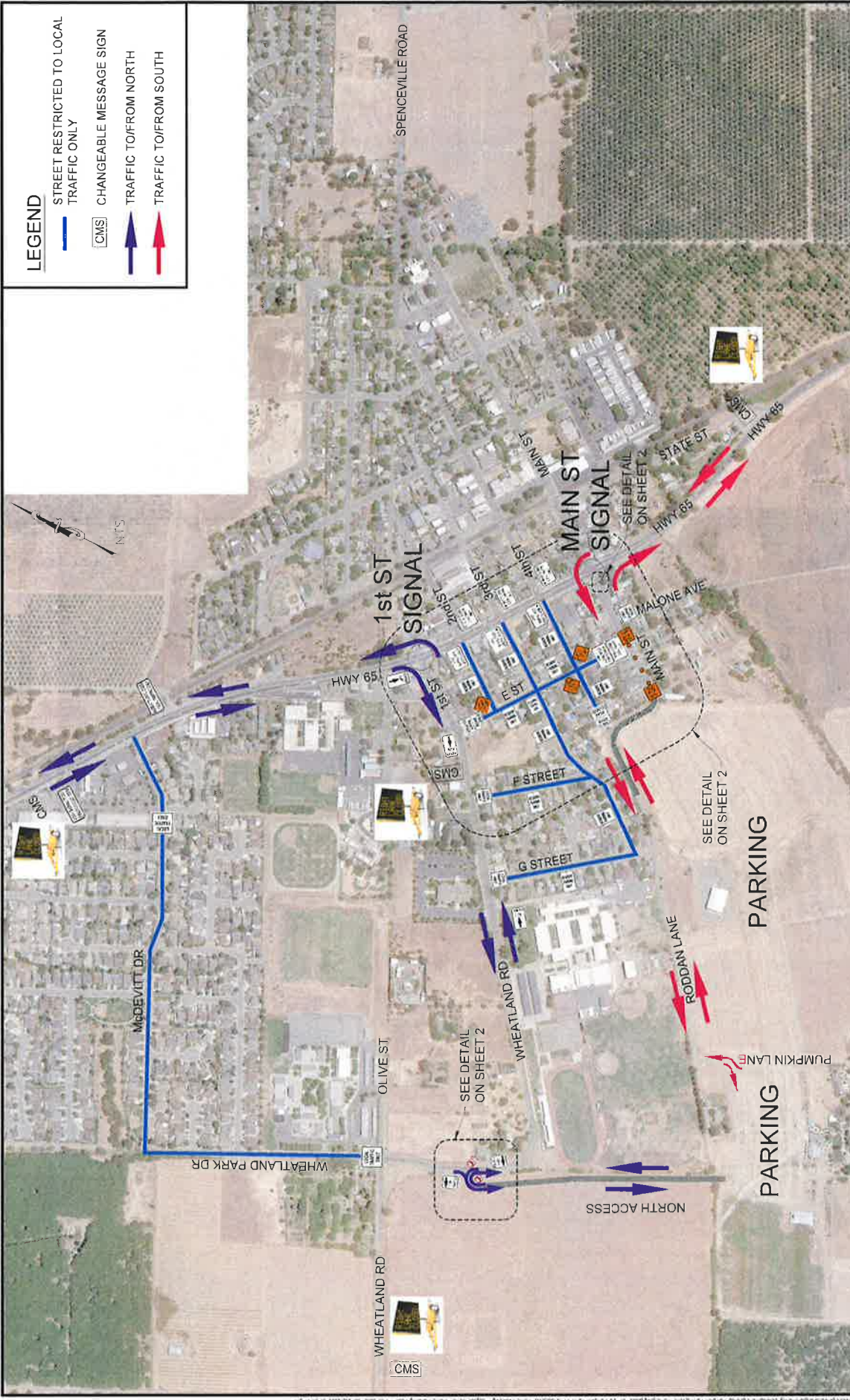
COASTLAND | **BCCM** | **CITY OF WHEATLAND**

2022 BISHOP PUMPKIN FARM TRAFFIC HANDLING
 NON PEAK DAY

SHEET 1 OF 1

LEGEND

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



Original Plot Date: 7-July-2022

Project: 2022 Bishop Pumpkin Farm Traffic Handling - Peak Day

Scale: 1" = 100'

Author: [Name]

Checked: [Name]

Approved: [Name]

Date: 7-July-2022

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

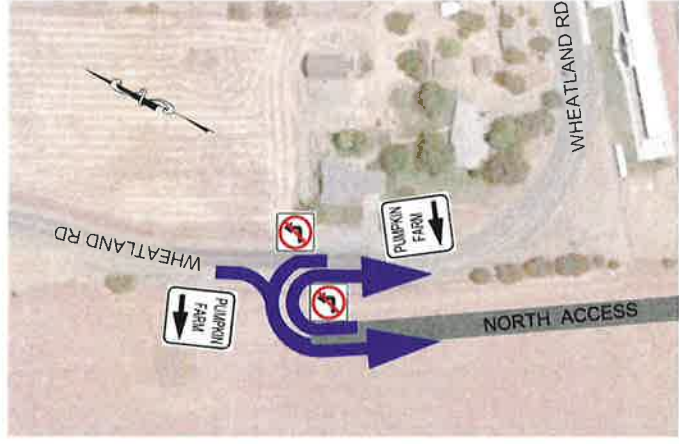
- 1 BLACK-OUT RIGHT ARROW ON (E) TYPE II(B) MARKING.
- 2 PLACE TEMPORARY TYPE III(R) RIGHT TURN ARROW WITH STRIPING TAPE.
- 3 STRIPE 60" OF 6" (DETAIL 38A) WHITE STRIPE.
- 4 INSTALL "NO PARKING" SIGNS ON TYPE II BARRICADE (4 PLACES).
- 5 SOFT CLOSURE: ONE - TYPE 3 BARRICADE ON CENTERLINE WITH TWO SANDBAGS EACH LEG.
- 6 FULL CLOSURE: FOUR - TYPE 3 BARRICADES WITH TWO SANDBAGS EACH LEG.
- 7 FOUR TRAFFIC BARRELS ON CENTERLINE WITH 25 MPH SIGN EACH END.
- 8 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.



MAIN ST & HWY 65 TURN LANES



NORTH ACCESS TURN LANES

LEGEND

- STREET RESTRICTED TO LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY
- TRAFFIC TO/FROM NORTH
- TRAFFIC TO/FROM SOUTH

