



Los Angeles County  
Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director of Regional Planning

Dennis Slavin  
Chief Deputy Director,  
Regional Planning

July 23, 2019

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

76 August 13, 2019

  
CELINA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**HEARING ON CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TRANSIT ORIENTED DISTRICT  
SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT  
PROJECT NO. 2016-000317  
PLAN NO. RPPL2016002080  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2017009622  
WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT ZONED DISTRICT  
(SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Connect Southwest LA: A Transit Oriented District Specific Plan for West Athens Westmont Plan (Specific Plan) proposes changes to land use and zoning to encourage transit oriented development and promote active transportation in the area between Metro's Green Line Vermont/Athens Station and Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC). The Specific Plan would potentially accommodate an additional 1,061 residential units and about 1.7 million square feet of non-residential land use.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING,**

1. Indicate its intent to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and find that it has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the state and local agency guidelines related thereto and reflects the independent judgment of the Board of Supervisors (Board);

2. Find that where significant adverse environmental effects of the project, as described in the FEIR, have not been reduced to a level of less than significant, the Specific Plan benefits, such as specific social, economic, legal, technological or other considerations outweigh the environmental effects of the project as stated in the attached CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project;
3. Indicate its intent to adopt the Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project, included in the FEIR;
4. Indicate its intent to adopt the Specific Plan, Project No. 2016-000317 and related actions and determine that the recommended land use amendments, zone change and zone amendments to the West-Athens Westmont Community Plan (Community Plan) serve the public health, safety and general welfare and are in conformity with good zoning practice and are compatible with and supportive of the goals and policies of the Los Angeles County General Plan (General Plan); and
5. Instruct County Counsel to prepare the final ordinance amending Title 22: Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code to add Section 22.46.3300 – Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission (Commission) and to submit the final ordinance to the Board for its consideration.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In 2015, the Board adopted the General Plan. One of the main policy areas of the General Plan is to encourage transit oriented development by establishing Transit Oriented Districts (TODs) that promote infill development and active transportation strategies. The General Plan designates eleven TODs that are areas located within a half-mile radius of an existing Metro station. The General Plan update also repealed earlier TOD regulations and established the Transit Oriented District Program. This program calls for the preparation of a specific plan for each of the TODs. The Specific Plan is the third plan developed to implement this program and was initiated in January 2016.

The Specific Plan area comprises approximately 658 acres adjacent to the Metro Green Line Vermont/Athens Station. This area was selected because of the station's proximity to the 64-acre campus of LASC, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Southwest Station and adjacent municipal service center, and its broader proximity to the aerospace industries in the City of Hawthorne as well as the Los Angeles Stadium and Entertainment District in the City of Inglewood.

The Specific Plan offers an opportunity to create more engaging and vibrant places by leveraging the community's assets, connecting uses and activities, and laying the

groundwork for attracting future investment. The Specific Plan provides for mixed use areas with aesthetically pleasing building design and enhanced connectivity. It recommends bicycle and pedestrian improvements and revises parking requirements to promote active transportation and make it easier to use public transportation. The Specific Plan will guide future transit oriented development throughout the project area expanding opportunities for more compact, infill development that will provide new housing and business opportunities while remaining compatible with existing neighborhoods.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Specific Plan supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal I: Make Investments that Transform Lives
- Goal II: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities

The proposed Specific Plan establishes standards to encourage new housing, including affordable housing, and jobs in proximity to transit. Additionally, the Specific Plan promotes active and healthy lifestyles by encouraging active transportation modes within an integrated, multi-modal transportation system.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The recommended action had no fiscal impact to the County as it was completed under a grant from Metro and as part of the Department of Regional Planning's (Department) implementation of the General Plan. The adoption of the updated Specific Plan will not result in the need for additional departmental staffing.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

A public hearing by the Board is required for this project pursuant to Section 22.232.040.B. of the County Code and Section 65856 of the California Government Code. The required notice must be given pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth in Section 22.222.120.B.2 of the County Code. These procedures exceed the minimum standards of Sections 6061, 65090, and 65856 of the California Government Code related to the notice of public hearing.

The project was presented to the Commission on September 12, 2018, and November 14, 2018. During the public hearing on September 12, 2018, Department staff presented an overview of the Specific Plan, the findings of the FEIR including the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations. The zone change map, Zoning Ordinance and Community Plan land use amendments were also included. In addition to four other speakers, a representative of the Southwest Community Association also provided testimony and submitted a letter to the Commission expressing concerns. Department

staff requested additional time to respond to constituents' concerns, clarify plan objectives, and incorporate certain revisions into the Specific Plan related to housing affordability, mobility and sustainability. On November 14, 2018, the Commission continued the public hearing off-calendar to allow Department staff additional time to fully address the concerns.

On May 29, 2019, the Commission held a duly-noticed public hearing to consider the proposed Specific Plan. During the hearing, Department staff provided a detailed response to the constituent letter submitted at the September 12, 2018 hearing. Department staff also presented an overview of the revisions completed. All revisions were within the scope of the completed environmental review. The changes did not affect the zone change map, zoning ordinance entry, or land use amendments. The only documents affected were the Commission Resolution (Attachment 1) and the Specific Plan document (included in Attachment 2). Therefore no changes resulted to the FEIR, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, or the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

After hearing testimony, the Commission closed the public hearing and voted 4 to 0 in favor (one absent) of the recommendation that the Board certify and adopt the FEIR, hold a public hearing to consider the proposed Specific Plan, adopt the recommended Community Plan land use amendments, zone change and zone amendments and determine that the Specific Plan is consistent with the goals and policies of the General Plan.

#### **Additional Edits/Information**

Since the public hearing, Department staff has incorporated minor edits and corrections for clarity as follows:

- Clarified potential strategies for the Vermont Station Corridor District in Chapter 3;
- Added a reference to the County's Density Bonus Ordinance under the Special Requirements Section in Chapter 4;
- Worked with Metro to ensure Mobility Strategy 6 reflected the most current language in Chapter 6; and
- Corrected a formatting error in the medium and long-term implementation Strategies Table in Chapter 8.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was circulated for public review and comment from May 16, 2018, to June 29, 2018, pursuant to CEQA reporting requirements. The DEIR was posted online as well as at the Wood Crest Library and the A.C. Bilbrew Library. The Notice of Completion/Availability was mailed and emailed to more than 3,931 postal addresses and 54 email addresses and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on May 15, 2018. A public meeting to take comments on the DEIR

was held on May 24, 2018. No comments were received from the two attendees. The County received four comment letters prior to the close of the comment period. All comments are addressed in the Response to Comments Section of the FEIR.

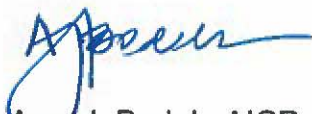
The FEIR contains a summary of the potential environmental effects of the Specific Plan, the recommended mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid those effects, and the level of significance after mitigation. Implementation of the mitigation measures, as detailed in each environmental analysis section presented in the EIR, would reduce most of the potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. However, even with the implementation of the mitigation measures, the plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to the following: air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation and traffic. The FEIR, which includes the DEIR, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and Response to Comments is included as Attachment 5.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the Specific Plan will not impact current services or projects. Per the applicability provisions in the Specific Plan, applications filed prior to the effective date of the ordinance may be reviewed for consistency with the Specific Plan land use and zoning or the land use and zoning in effect prior to adoption of the ordinance.

For further information, please contact Leon D. Freeman, AICP, Community Studies East Section, Advance Planning Division, at (213) 974-6406 or [LFreeman@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:LFreeman@planning.lacounty.gov).

Respectfully submitted,



Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director of Regional Planning

AJB:DS:MK:LF:es

#### Attachments:

1. Regional Planning Resolution
2. Draft Zoning Ordinance (Includes entire Specific Plan)
3. Community Plan Land Use Amendments
4. Community Plan Zone Change
5. Commission Staff Reports and Correspondence
6. Final Environmental Impact Report

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

July 23, 2019

Page 6

C: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Assessor  
Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Public Works

S\_AP\_072319\_BHL\_W\_ATHENS\_WESTMONT\_TOD\_PLN

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 23, 2019  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
ATTACHMENT 4

West Athens-Westmont Community Plan  
Zone Change





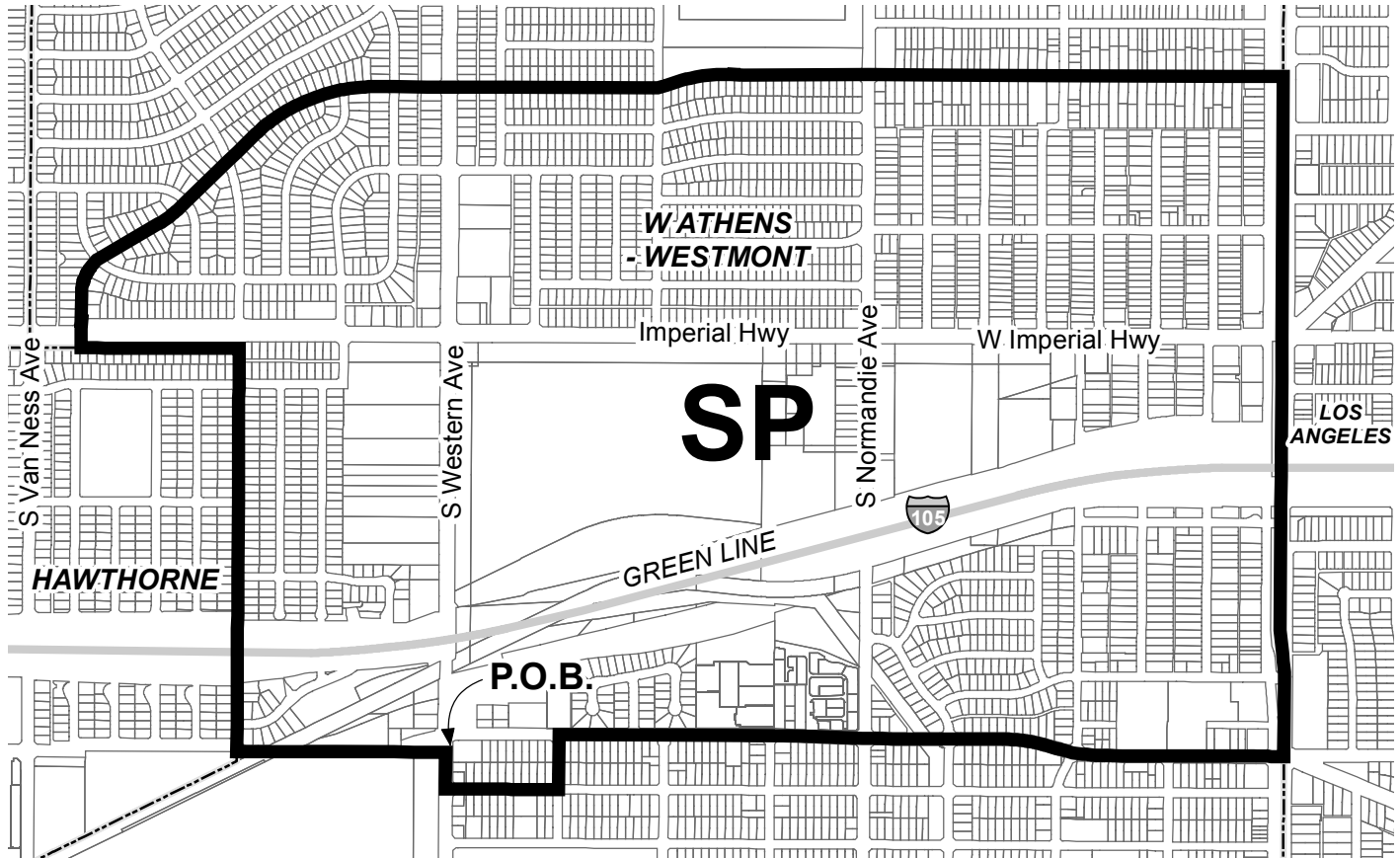
CHANGE OF PRECISE PLAN  
WEST ATHENS - WESTMONT ZONED DISTRICT

**ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZONING CASE: RPPL 2016002080**




AMENDING SECTION: 22.06.070 OF THE COUNTY CODE



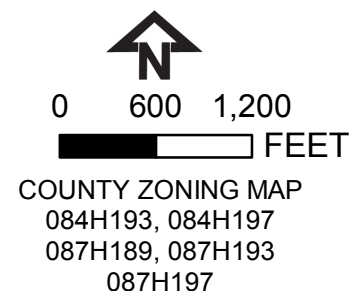
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

(see following pages)

**LEGEND:**

-  ZONE CHANGE AREA
-  PARCELS
-  METRO RAIL

**DIGITAL DESCRIPTION:** \ZCOZD\_WEST\_ATHENS\_WESTMONT\  
THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
ELVIN W. MOON, CHAIR  
AMY J. BODEK, AICP, DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PLANNING



**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF WILTON PLACE, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF TRACT 16578 RECORDED IN BOOK 487 PAGES 37 TO 47 INCLUSIVE OF MAPS IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES WITH THE NORTH EASTERLY CORNER OF "MORRIS ANNEXATION" FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON AUGUST 25, 1954 IN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES; THENCE:

S.89-37-57W. 43.032'	N.0-17-54E. 33.2'
N.89-38-4W. 63.418'	N.0-17-55E. 17.303'
N.89-38-4W. 98.085'	N.0-20-37E. 17.116'
N.89-48-33W. 123.352'	N.0-20-57E. 21.584'
S.89-50-31W. 36.659'	N.0-22-49E. 63.007'
N.89-47-23W. 42.309'	N.0-21-54E. 24.191'
N.89-47-23W. 67.65'	N.0-25-30E. 6.986'
N.89-47-23W. 314.297'	N.0-16-34E. 36.491'
N.89-47-23W. 91.119'	N.0-17-9E. 108.514'
N.89-47-23W. 92.82'	N.0-6-7E. 77.875'
N.89-48-51W. 25.899'	N.0-5-8E. 0.439'
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N.89-47-48W. 124.485'	N.89-49-42W. 55'
N.0-18-28E. 171.471'	N.89-49-2W. 55'
N.0-17-57E. 449.686'	N.89-49-4W. 55'
N.0-18-37E. 156.168'	N.89-46-33W. 55.01'
N.0-18-4E. 81.932'	N.89-49-49W. 54'
N.0-19-2E. 245.446'	N.89-49-48W. 54'
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N.0-18-16E. 5.803'	N.89-49-48W. 54'
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N.89-46-11W. 73.261'  
N.0-43-11E. 42.508'  
N.0-43-11E. 190.878'

TO THE P.O.B.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 23, 2019  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
ATTACHMENT 3

West Athens-Westmont Community Plan  
Land Use Amendments

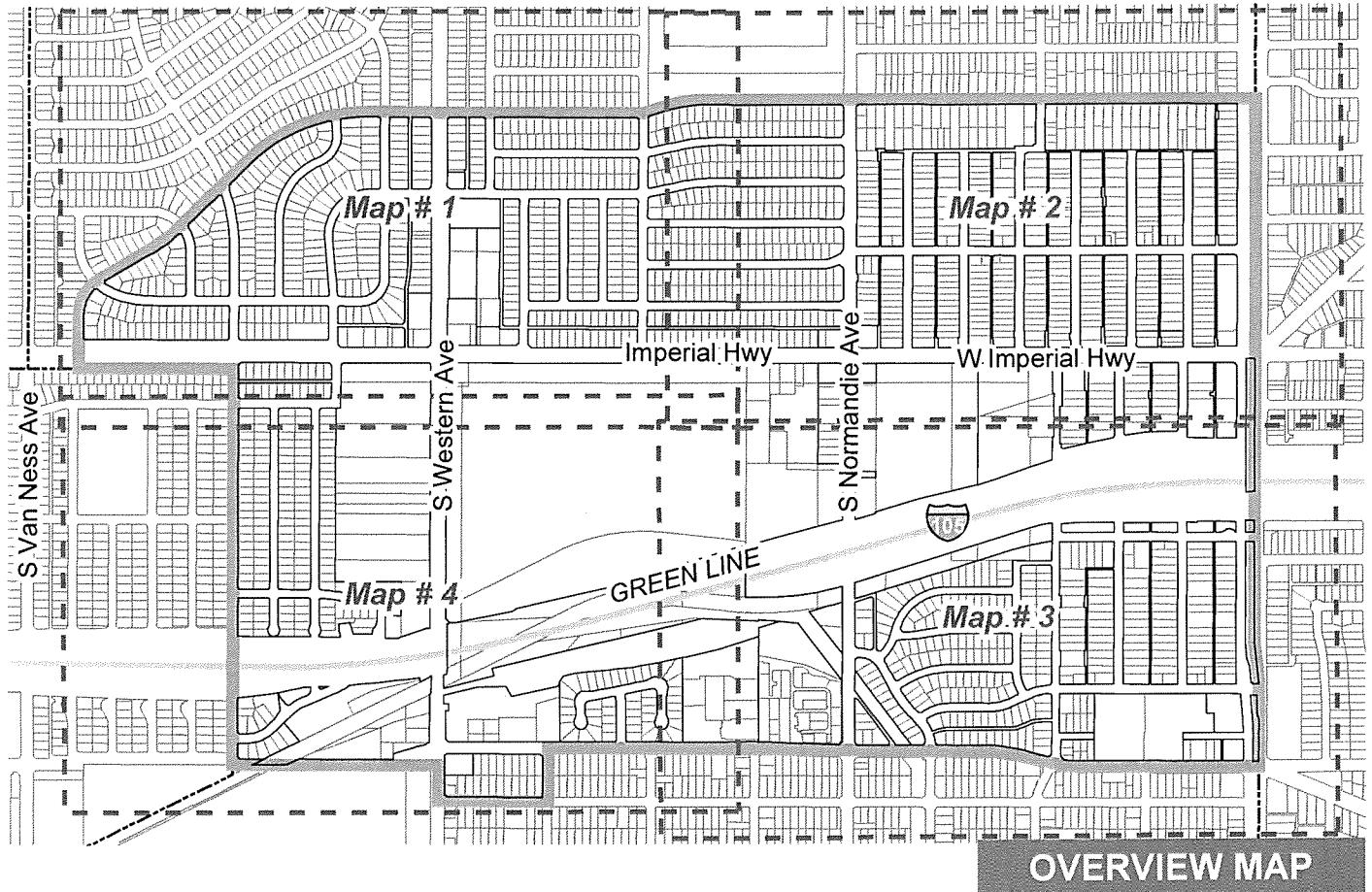


AMENDMENT TO COUNTYWIDE GENERAL PLAN  
**WEST ATHENS - WESTMONT COMMUNITY PLAN**  
**PLAN AMENDMENT: RPPL 2016002080**







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**CATEGORY CHANGES - SEE DETAIL MAPS**



(PROPOSED: COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, MIXED USE, PUBLIC)



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-  PLAN AMENDMENT AREA
-  SPECIFIC PLAN BOUNDARY
-  DETAIL MAP EXTENT
-  METRO RAIL
-  CITY / COMMUNITY BOUNDARY
-  PARCEL BOUNDARY

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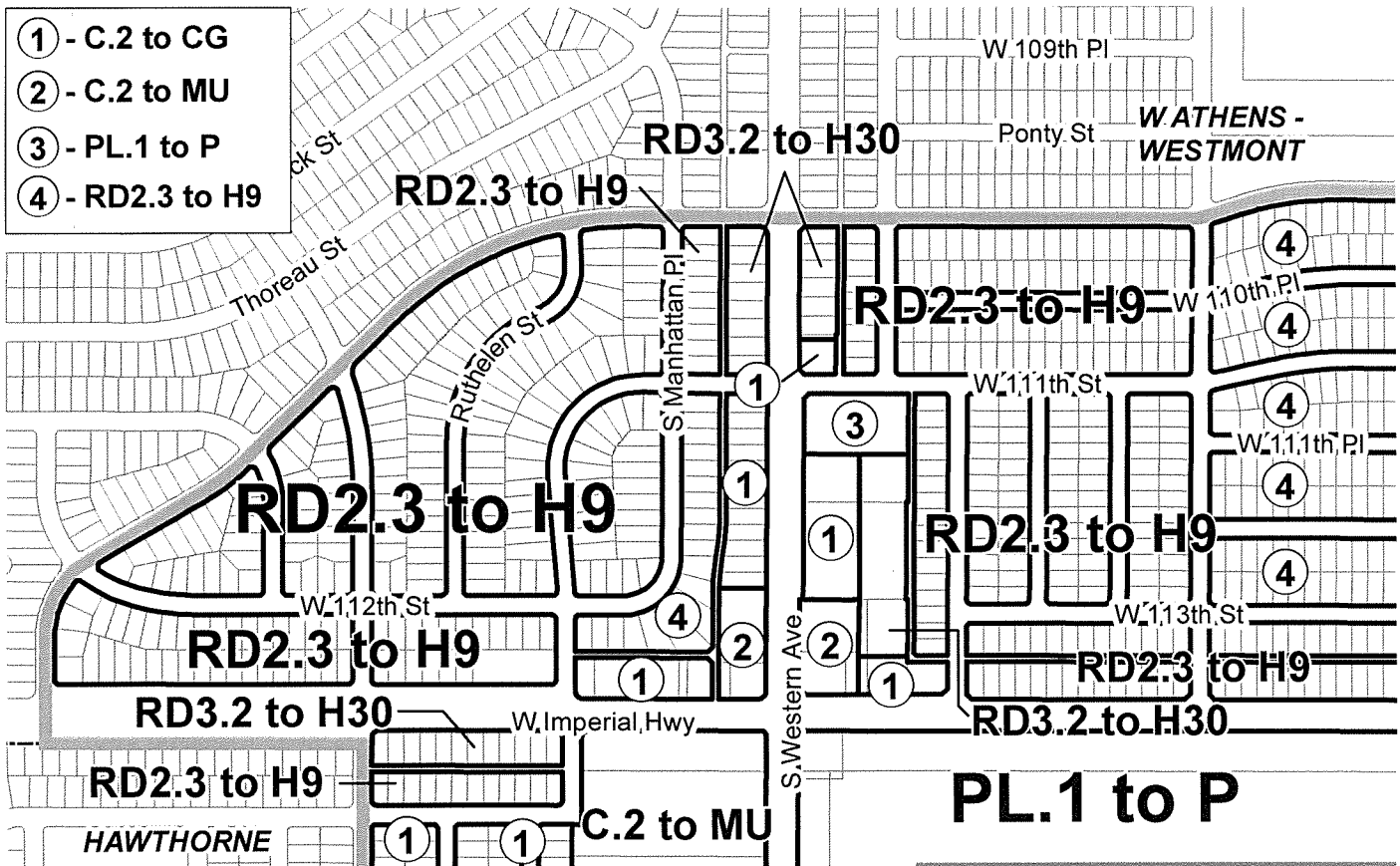
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**CATEGORIES CHANGES - SEE BELOW**

(PROPOSED: COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, MIXED USE, PUBLIC)

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- ② - C.2 to MU
- ③ - PL.1 to P
- ④ - RD2.3 to H9

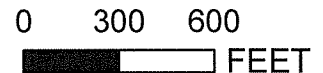


**MAP 1 (PAGE 1 OF 4)**

**Legend**

- PLAN AMENDMENT AREA
- SPECIFIC PLAN BOUNDARY
- METRO RAIL
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- PARCEL BOUNDARY

Previous Land Use Policy - West Athens - Westmont Community Plan	Proposed Land Use Policy - General Plan 2035
C.2 - Community Commercial	CG - General Commercial
PL.1 - Public/Quasi-Public Use	H18 - Residential 18
RD 2.3 - Single Family Residence (1 to 8 du/ac)	H30 - Residential 30
RD 3.1 - Two Family Residence (8 to 17 du/ac)	H9 - Residential 9
RD 3.2 - Medium Density Bonus (17 to 30 du/ac)	MU - Mixed Use
TC - Transportation Corridor	P - Public and Semi-Public



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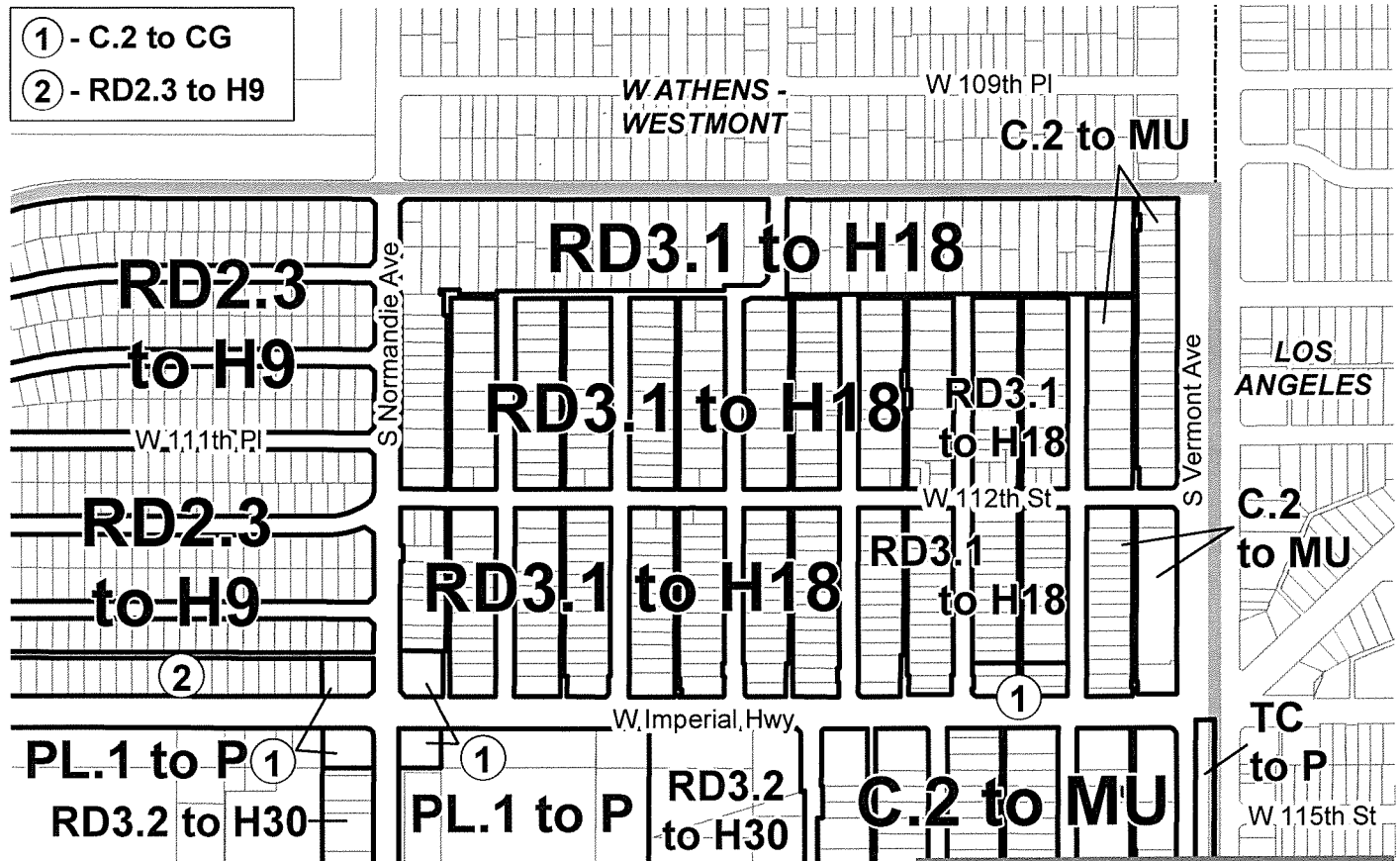
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- ① - C.2 to CG
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**MAP 2 (PAGE 2 OF 4)**

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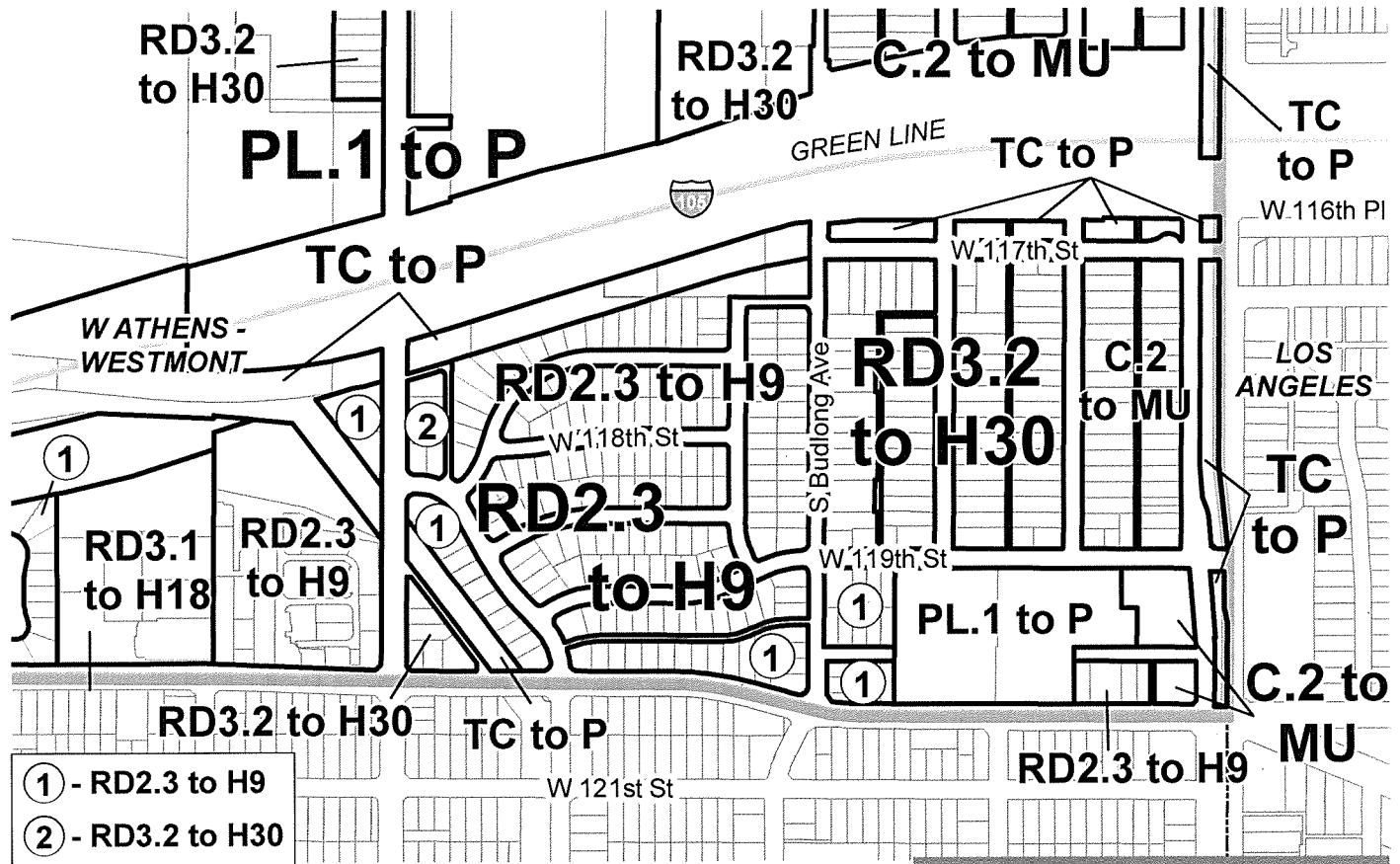
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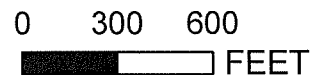


**MAP 3 (PAGE 3 OF 4)**

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<u>Previous Land Use Policy - West Athens - Westmont Community Plan</u>	<u>Proposed Land Use Policy - General Plan 2035</u>
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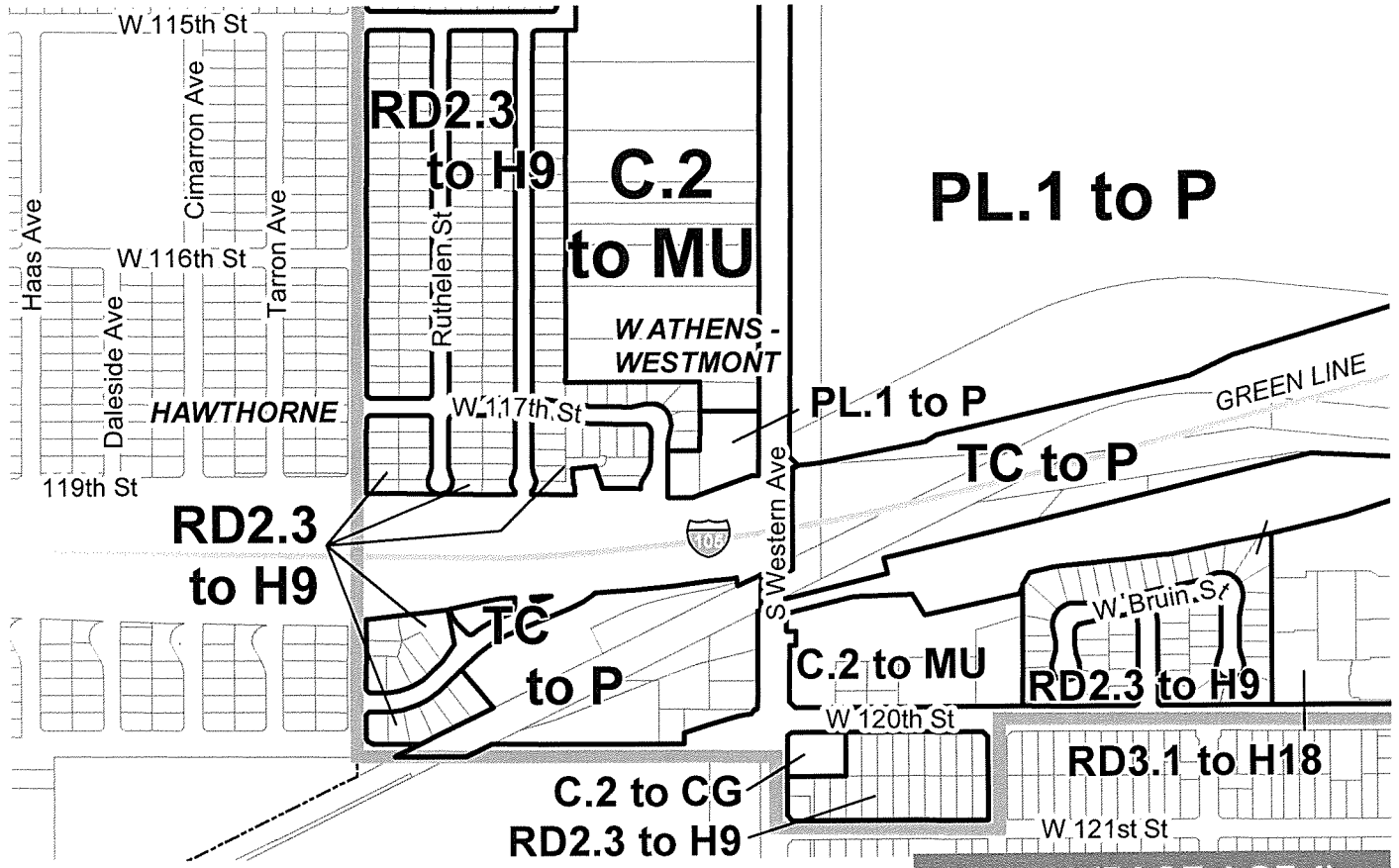
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**MAP 4 (PAGE 4 OF 4)**

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COUNTY ZONING MAP  
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 087H197



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 23, 2019  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
ATTACHMENT 2

Draft Zoning Ordinance  
Includes the *Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont -*  
Final Draft – March 2019

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Title 22 – Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code to create a specific plan known as Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont, including changes to land use and zoning to encourage transit oriented development and promote active transportation that would potentially accommodate additional dwelling units and non-residential land uses in proximity to Los Angeles Southwest College and the Vermont/Athens Station.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Part 6 of Chapter 22.46 is hereby added to read as follows:

**PART 6**

**22.46.3300 Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont**

**[Insert PDF: Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont – Final Draft – March 2019]**



# CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA

A **TOD** SPECIFIC PLAN FOR  
WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT

*Final Draft: March 2019*



Prepared for the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning  
Prepared by PlaceWorks, IBI Group, and HR&A Advisors





# CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA

## A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT

---

FINAL DRAFT: March 2019



**Metro**<sup>®</sup>

Prepared for Los Angeles County Department  
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Prepared by PlaceWorks, IBI Group, and HR&A Advisors



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Right of Way Division

Environmental Planning Division

Hazardous Waste Division

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER 1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Overview .....	1-1
1.2 Specific Plan Organization.....	1-2
1.3 Purpose and Background .....	1-3
1.4 How to Use the Specific Plan.....	1-26
1.5 Administration of the Specific Plan.....	1-27
1.6 Review & Approvals.....	1-31
<b>CHAPTER 2 Vision, Goals &amp; Policies .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	2-1
2.2 Vision.....	2-1
2.3 Guiding Principles.....	2-2
2.4 Goals and Policies .....	2-2
<b>CHAPTER 3 Land Use &amp; Urban Design Framework .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	3-1
3.2 Specific Plan Districts .....	3-1
<b>CHAPTER 4 Development Standards .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	4-1
4.2 Application of Development Standards .....	4-3
4.3 Special Requirements.....	4-3
4.4 Regulating Code.....	4-7
4.5 General Use Regulations and Standards.....	4-47
<b>CHAPTER 5 Design Guidelines .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	5-1
5.2 Private Development Site Design .....	5-1
5.3 Public Realm .....	5-20
<b>CHAPTER 6 Mobility &amp; the Public Realm.....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1 Introduction.....	6-1
6.2 Mobility Strategies .....	6-1
6.3 Street Network.....	6-7
6.4 Transit Circulation.....	6-20
6.5 Pedestrian Circulation.....	6-24
6.6 Bicycle Circulation .....	6-31



6.7	Signage and Wayfinding.....	6-35
6.8	Safe Routes to School.....	6-35
6.9	First/Last Mile Strategies .....	6-37
6.10	Parking.....	6-39
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>Infrastructure.....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
7.1	Introduction .....	7-1
7.2	Water .....	7-1
7.3	Sewer Services .....	7-5
7.4	Storm Water .....	7-10
7.5	Green Streets.....	7-14
7.6	Solid Waste .....	7-15
7.7	Electrical Services .....	7-16
7.8	Natural Gas .....	7-16
7.9	Telecommunications and Cable .....	7-16
<b>CHAPTER 8</b>	<b>Implementation.....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
8.1	Introduction .....	8-1
8.2	Market Context.....	8-1
8.3	Implementation Strategy.....	8-12

## FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Regional Context .....	1-5
Figure 1.2: Local Context.....	1-6
Figure 1.3: Specific Plan Area .....	1-7
Figure 1.4: General Plan Opportunity Areas .....	1-8
Figure 1.5: West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Policy (1990).....	1-14
Figure 1.6: Proposed Land Use Policy.....	1-35
Figure 3.1: Framework Plan.....	3-2
Figure 3.2: Land Use Districts Map.....	3-3
Figure 3.3: Conceptual Site Plan for “Transit Hub Development” .....	3-6
Figure 3.4: Conceptual Site Plan For Park Space.....	3-8
Figure 3.5: Conceptual Site Plan for Pocket Park .....	3-9
Figure 3.6: Conceptual Massing Model for Pocket park .....	3-9
Figure 3.7: Conceptual Site Plan for the Civic Center/Mixed Use District.....	3-11
Figure 3.8: Conceptual Site Plan for the Western Avenue Commercial Corridor District .....	3-13
Figure 3.9: Conceptual Site Plan of Attached Residential .....	3-16
Figure 4.1: Regulating Plan .....	4-2
Figure 4.2: CSLA R-1 Zone Map .....	4-8
Figure 4.3: CSLA R-2 Zone Map .....	4-11
Figure 4.4: CSLA R-3 Zone Map .....	4-14
Figure 4.5: CSLA RPD-500-1OU Zone Map .....	4-19
Figure 4.6: CSLA NC Zone Map .....	4-20
Figure 4.7: CSLA CC Zone Map .....	4-23
Figure 4.8: CSLA MXD-1 Zone Map .....	4-27
Figure 4.9: Building Height and Stepback Requirement for CSLA MXD-1 Zone.....	4-32
Figure 4.10: CSLA MXD-2 Zone Map .....	4-36
Figure 4.11: CSLA IT Zone Map .....	4-44
Figure 4.12: CSLA B-1 Zone Map.....	4-46
Figure 5.1: Shopfront Frontage Type .....	5-7
Figure 5.2: Forecourt Frontage Type .....	5-9
Figure 5.3: Terrance Frontage Type .....	5-11
Figure 5.4: Stoop Frontage Type .....	5-13
Figure 5.5: Streets With Tree Planting Requirements .....	5-22
Figure 5.6: Landscape and Planting Design Palette .....	5-23
Figure 6.1: West Athens-Westmont Street Network.....	6-8
Figure 6.2: Existing Imperial Highway Streetscape .....	6-9
Figure 6.3: Proposed Imperial Highway Streetscape Improvements .....	6-10
Figure 6.4: Existing Vermont Avenue Streetscape (Overpass) .....	6-11

Figure 6.5: Proposed Vermont Avenue Streetscape Improvements (North of Overpass, Short Term)... 6-12

Figure 6.6: Proposed Vermont Avenue Streetscape Improvements (North of Overpass, Long Term) ... 6-12

Figure 6.7: Proposed Vermont Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Overpass) ..... 6-13

Figure 6.8: Proposed Vermont Avenue Streetscape Improvements (South of OverPass, Short Term).. 6-13

Figure 6.9: Proposed Vermont Avenue Streetscape Improvements (South of Overpass, Long Term)... 6-14

Figure 6.10: Existing Normandie Avenue Streetscape ..... 6-14

Figure 6.11: Proposed Normandie Avenue Streetscape Improvements ..... 6-15

Figure 6.12: Existing Western Avenue Streetscape (North)..... 6-16

Figure 6.13: Existing Western Avenue Streetscape (South) ..... 6-16

Figure 6.14: Proposed Western Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Short term)..... 6-17

Figure 6.15: Proposed Western Avenue Streetscape Improvements (Long Term) ..... 6-18

Figure 6.16: Existing 120th Avenue Streetscape ..... 6-19

Figure 6.17: Proposed 120th Street Streetscape Improvements ..... 6-20

Figure 6.18: Transit Network Map ..... 6-21

Figure 6.19: Floating Bus Stop and Bike Channel Design ..... 6-22

Figure 6.20: Floating Bus Stop and Bike Channel in Seattle ..... 6-23

Figure 6.21: Pedestrian Network Map ..... 6-26

Figure 6.22: Sidewalk Zones..... 6-27

Figure 6.23: Bicycle Network Map ..... 6-32

Figure 6.24: Conceptual First/Last Mile Connection to LASC ..... 6-34

Figure 6.25: Multi-Use Path Section (Alternative 1) ..... 6-35

Figure 6.26: West Athens Elementary School Safe Routes to School Map ..... 6-36

Figure 6.27: First- and Last-Mile Pathway Network ..... 6-38

Figure 6.28: Existing Parking Locations ..... 6-40

Figure 7.1: Water System Pipe Material ..... 7-2

Figure 7.2: Water System Pipe Size..... 7-3

Figure 7.3: Water System and Areas of Concern ..... 7-6

Figure 7.4: Sanitary Utilities..... 7-8

Figure 7.5: Sanitary Utilities and Areas of Concern ..... 7-9

Figure 7.6: Storm Drain System ..... 7-12

Figure 7.7: Storm Drain System and Areas of Concern ..... 7-13

## TABLES

Table 1.1:	Modifications.....	1-32
Table 4.1:	Development Potential of the Specific Plan.....	4-3
Table 4.2:	Use Regulations for CSLA R-1 Zone .....	4-9
Table 4.3:	Site Development Regulations for CSLA R-1 Zone.....	4-10
Table 4.4:	Use Regulations for CSLA R-2 Zone .....	4-12
Table 4.5:	Site Development Regulations for CSLA R-2 Zone.....	4-13
Table 4.6:	Use Regulations for CSLA R-3 Zone .....	4-15
Table 4.7:	Site Development Regulations for CSLA R-3 Zone.....	4-16
Table 4.8:	Use Regulations for CSLA NC Zone .....	4-21
Table 4.9:	Site Development Regulations For CSLA NC Zone .....	4-22
Table 4.10:	Use Regulations for CSLA CC Zone .....	4-24
Table 4.11:	Site Development Regulations For CSLA CC Zone .....	4-25
Table 4.12:	Use Regulations for CSLA MXD-1 Zone .....	4-28
Table 4.13:	Site Development Regulations For CSLA MXD-1 Zone .....	4-29
Table 4.14:	Frontage Categories for CSLA MXD-1 Zone.....	4-30
Table 4.15:	Use Regulations for CSLA MXD-2 Zone .....	4-37
Table 4.16:	Site Development Regulations For CSLA MXD-2 Zone .....	4-39
Table 4.17:	Frontage Categories for CSLA MXD-2 Zone.....	4-40
Table 4.18:	Use Regulations for CSLA IT Zone .....	4-45
Table 4.19:	Site Development Regulations For CSLA IT Zone .....	4-45
Table 4.20:	Use Regulations for CSLA B-1 Zone.....	4-47
Table 4.21:	Number of Bicycle Parking Spaces Required.....	4-51
Table 5.1:	Shopfront Frontage Type .....	5-6
Table 5.2:	Forecourt Frontage Type .....	5-8
Table 5.3:	Terrace Frontage Type .....	5-10
Table 5.4:	Stoop Frontage Type .....	5-12
Table 6.1:	Parking Strategies .....	6-42
Table 6.2:	Parking Requirements .....	6-43
Table 8.1:	Summary of Specific Plan Area Demand (2016-2035).....	8-2
Table 8.2:	Potential Ongoing Engagement Activities .....	8-6
Table 8.3:	Near-Term Strategies .....	8-7
Table 8.4:	Medium- and Long-Term Strategies (3-10 Years and Beyond) .. <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>	

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# 01



**CHAPTER 1**

**INTRODUCTION**



# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan (General Plan) provides a policy framework for the implementation of smart growth development to create healthy, livable, and equitable communities. Los Angeles County identified eleven Transit Oriented Districts (TODs) for future specific plan development in order to address each community's needs and priorities in regard to land use, mobility, housing, infrastructure, open spaces, and market conditions. Each of the TOD specific plans offer the opportunity to leverage the community's assets, connect uses and activities, and attract future investment to create more engaging and vibrant places. Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont (Specific Plan) is one of eleven TOD specific plan areas identified in the General Plan.

The Los Angeles County DRP identified the following goals to guide each TOD specific plan:

- Increase walking, bicycling, and transit ridership and reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMTs);
- Facilitate compact, mixed use development;
- Increase economic activity;
- Facilitate the public investment of infrastructure improvements;
- Streamline the environmental review process for future infill development projects.



*Existing entrance to the Vermont/Athens Station.*

### WHAT IS A SPECIFIC PLAN?

The specific plan is one of several policy or regulatory tools used by local governments to guide community development. While the general plan sets forth goals, objectives, policies, and programs for the entire jurisdiction, the specific plan does so for a localized area and in greater detail. The authority for preparing a specific plan is in the California Government Code §§ 65450 through 65457. The law allows, but does not require, the planning agency to prepare and adopt specific plans for the systematic execution of the general plan. According to state law, all specific plans must be consistent with the adopted general plan, and all subdivision and development activity must be consistent with the specific plan.



## 1.2 SPECIFIC PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Specific Plan includes the following topics:



*Sidewalk adjacent to the existing entrance to the Vermont/Athens Station.*



*Terracina Apartments on Budlong Avenue at Imperial Highway.*

**Chapter 1 – Introduction:** Defines the purpose and context for the Specific Plan, provides an overview of the planning process and the Specific Plan’s relationship to other relevant plans and programs. The chapter also provides guidance on the administration including development review and approvals procedures.

**Chapter 2 – Vision, Goals, and Policies:** Defines the vision for the Specific Plan area and the overarching goals and policies to achieve it.

**Chapter 3 – Land Use and Urban Design Framework:** The chapter provides a land use and urban design framework for the Specific Plan area. This includes recommendations for subarea districts within the Specific Plan area and includes conceptual plans for opportunity areas for infill development and revitalization.

**Chapter 4 – Development Standards:** Permitted land uses, regulations, and development standards for each of the Specific Plan Zones are provided in this chapter. This includes regulations for building height, density, parking, site configuration, building design, open space and landscaping requirements, and other design standards.

**Chapter 5 – Design Guidelines:** Design guidelines promote aesthetically pleasing development that supports the vision and guiding principles of the in the Specific Plan area.

**Chapter 6 – Mobility:** This chapter focuses on establishing a well-defined and safe network for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists in the Specific Plan area. Specific topics covered in this section include access to the transit station, pedestrian circulation, bicycle circulation, and parking.

**Chapter 7 – Infrastructure:** This chapter provides an overview of existing infrastructure and projected needs in the Specific Plan area, including water, sewer, stormwater, solid waste, and public services.

**Chapter 8 – Implementation:** Identifies mechanisms for economic development in the Specific Plan area and associated community benefits.

## 1.3 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Specific Plan provides comprehensive direction for development that implements the goals and policies of the General Plan, and its vision for the TOD priority areas. The Specific Plan also lays the foundation to create a more walkable, transit-oriented area with a mix of land uses that is accessible by all modes of transportation with an emphasis on transit, walking, and bicycling.

Furthermore, the Specific Plan provides ways to expand opportunities for new, compact development that is sensitive to the existing development character. The plan increases housing opportunities and employment-generating uses in focused areas to take advantage of the significant local and regional transit services already provided in its vicinity. This achieves several important regional and state goals including such as increasing housing opportunities close to transit, increasing transit ridership, and reducing greenhouse gases.

The Specific Plan includes policies, development standards, and design guidelines that will help to achieve the vision. An implementation and financing strategy are also included to support implementation of the plan.

### 1.3.1 SPECIFIC PLAN LOCATION

West Athens-Westmont is located in the southwestern portion of the Metro Planning Area, described in the 2035 General Plan as the geographic center of Los Angeles County (Figure 1.1: Regional Context). The Community Plan Area is approximately 3.1 square miles, and is bounded on the north and east by the City of Los Angeles, on the south by the City of Gardena, and on the west by the Cities of Hawthorne and Inglewood (Figure 1.2: Local Context). The Glen Anderson (I-105) Freeway divides the Community Plan Area into two distinct subareas. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro's) Green Line runs in the median of the 105 freeway for the majority of its route, extending from the City of Norwalk to the City of Redondo Beach. The Vermont/Athens Green Line Station platform is located in the median of the 105 freeway below Vermont Avenue.

#### Specific Plan Area

The Specific Plan area (Figure 1.3: Specific Plan Area) is contained within the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan area. TODs are described in the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 as the area within an approximately half-mile radius from an existing transit station. This combined with other opportunities identified in the General Plan (see Figure 1.4: General Plan Opportunity Areas) and described below,



Existing commercial office on Vermont Avenue.



Existing bus stop at Vermont Avenue at the Vermont/Athens Station.

are why the Specific Plan is limited to the area reasonably accessible to the transit station.

In West Athens-Westmont, one of the major community assets, Los Angeles Southwest College offers a large potential transit ridership but is just beyond the half-mile radius from the station. At the community workshops held during the preparation of the Specific Plan, participants expressed support for creating a neighborhood center at the intersection of Imperial and Western with new retail and housing opportunities in a "college town" atmosphere that could serve the campus and the surrounding single-family neighborhoods. Preserving these neighborhoods provides greater connectivity and more opportunities for walking and biking. Participants also supported providing a better First/Last Mile connection from the station on to the campus. The boundaries of the TOD area largely follow an established Link Shuttle route that circulates between the Vermont/Athens Station to several stops including LASC and points west in the City of Inglewood and back to the Station. These neighborhoods and areas within the boundary were generally regarded as being within a comfortable biking or walking distance to LASC and adjacent neighborhood center and connections to the Vermont/Athens Station. The limits of the Specific Plan area are defined as follows:

- North Boundary: Lohengrin Street / West 110th Street
- South Boundary: West 120th Street / West 121st Street
- East Boundary: Vermont Avenue
- West Boundary: Lohengrin Street/Imperial Highway/South Wilton Place/Western Avenue
- City of Los Angeles Adjacent Context

The area to the east of Vermont Avenue falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles, and is not included within the Specific Plan boundaries. The area is within the South Los Angeles Community Implementation Overlay, which designates transit-oriented land uses on the east side of Vermont Avenue. The Los Angeles Department of City Planning identified targeted improvements that will facilitate new uses that are compatible in scale and form to existing development, a more transparent entitlement process, and foster implementable long-range Community Plans.

FIGURE 1.1: REGIONAL CONTEXT

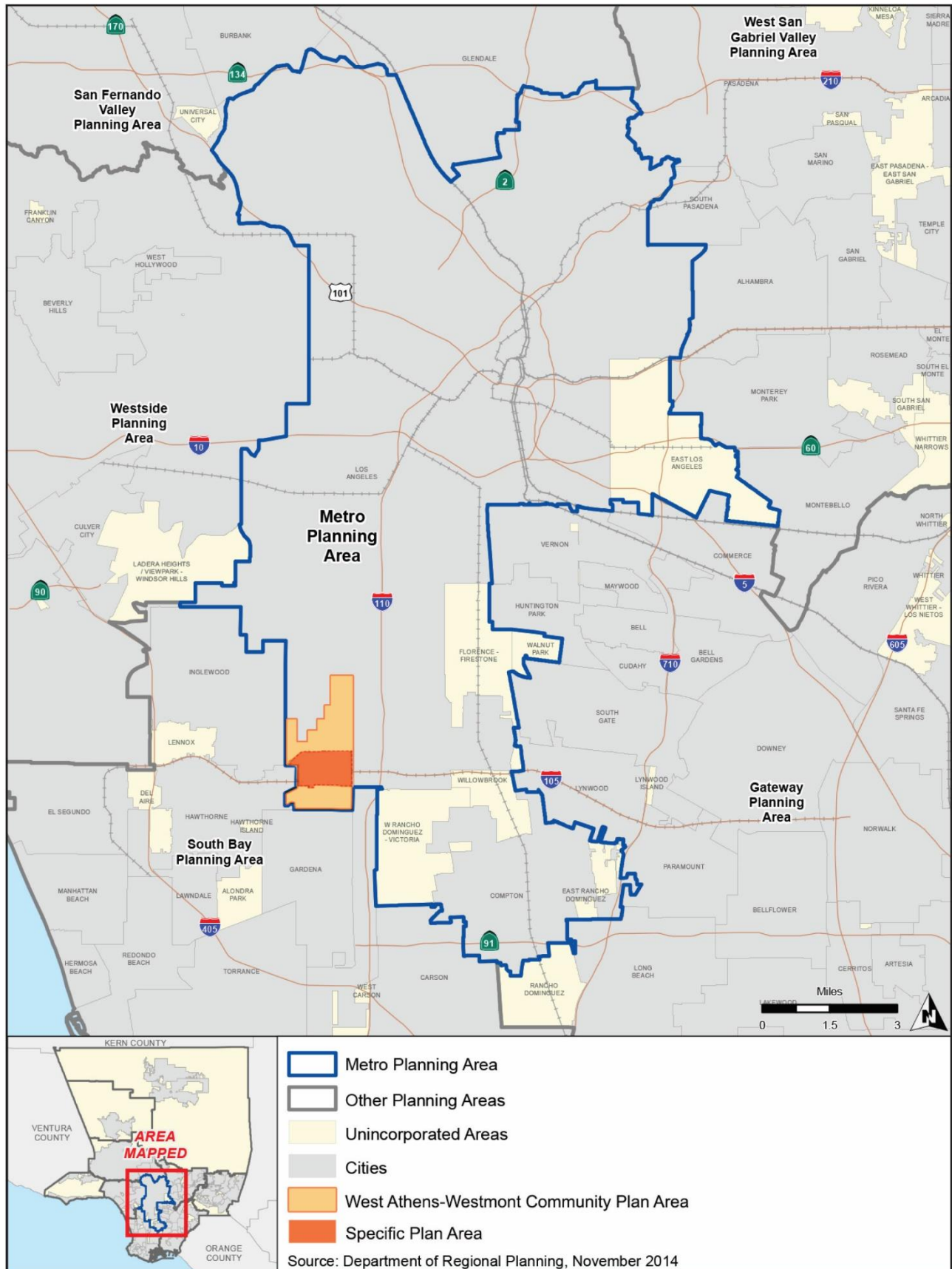
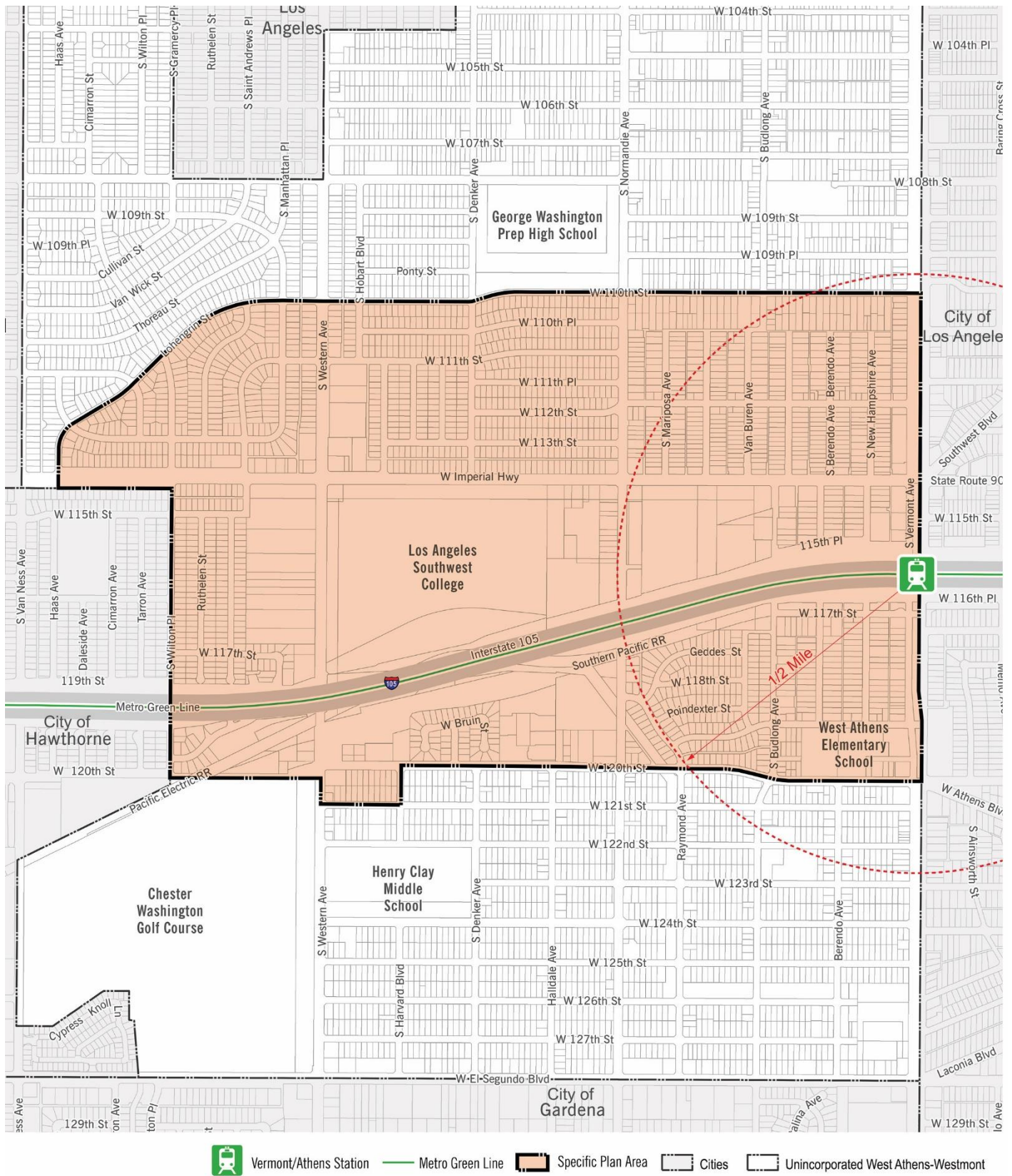


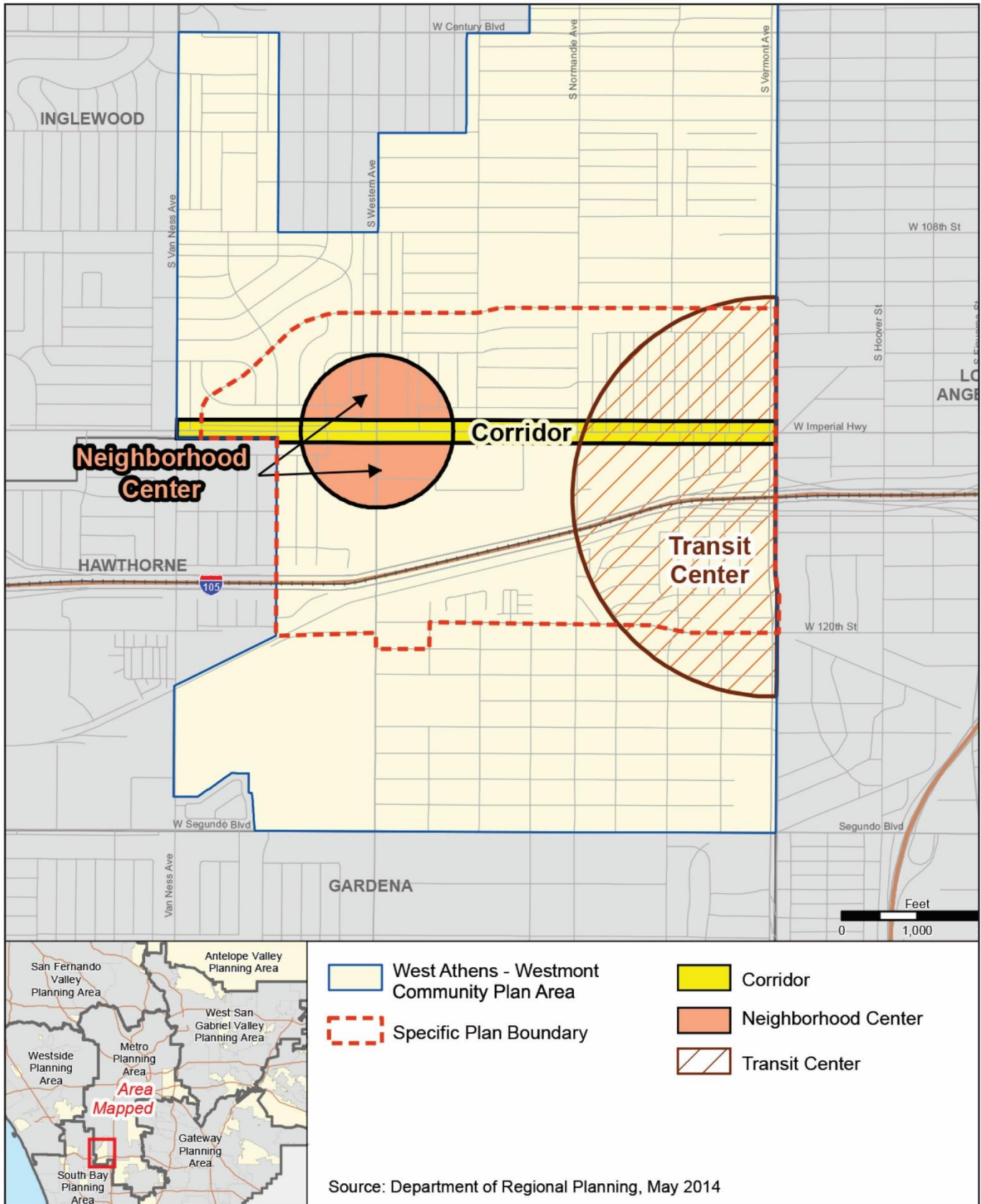
FIGURE 1.2: LOCAL CONTEXT



**FIGURE 1.3: SPECIFIC PLAN AREA**



**FIGURE 1.4: GENERAL PLAN OPPORTUNITY AREAS**



## 1.3.2 PROJECT SETTING & BACKGROUND

The Specific Plan area includes auto-oriented commercial corridors, single-family neighborhoods and multi-family residential areas within close proximity of job centers, amenities and attractions in the region.

The Vermont/Athens Green Line Station's proximity to numerous community facilities, including Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC), creates many opportunities for improving the built environment and overall community livability, but there are also many challenges in the study area that must be addressed as part of a successful planning process.

### Land Use and Urban Design Character

The majority of existing land use (52%) in the Specific Plan area is designated as residential. A variety of uses, such as convenience stores, retail shops, restaurants, and schools, are within walking distance (one-quarter mile) of residential uses. A notable portion (18%) of the Specific Plan area is institutional uses, including LASC, Los Angeles County Probation Department, and Los Angeles County Sheriff.

Commercial uses make up 11% of the total Specific Plan area. Much of the commercial portion of the Specific Plan area is composed of auto-oriented uses such as gas stations, drive-through restaurants, automotive repair shops, as well as vacant parcels and low-density residential uses. These auto-oriented uses do not promote pedestrian activity or transit use and are generally inconsistent with TOD goals. Some properties and structures in the area suffer from a lack of maintenance and upkeep. The result of such deterioration is an unsafe neighborhood environment that discourages new development and investment.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to transit riders is the location of the Vermont/Athens Station platform within the median of the right-of-way of the 105 freeway under Vermont Avenue. There is no land use, design, or aesthetic relationship between the Vermont/Athens Station and adjacent development. The physical barriers to pedestrian access are exacerbated by the width of Vermont Avenue and the surrounding concrete and hardscape environment.

### Mobility

The West Athens-Westmont community is well served by bus transit, regional arterial roadways, and the I -105 and 110 freeways. Roadways function well overall, with congestion occurring primarily along Imperial Highway and Vermont Avenue. It has main bus transit corridors with



*Bus boarding adjacent to the Vermont/Athens Station.*



multiple bus routes from various local transit agencies and a Green line station located below grade under the 105 freeway at Vermont Avenue. Narrow sidewalks, highway on-ramps, and the significant width of Vermont Avenue make walking to the station difficult. The station's relative isolation from activity occurring on the street above it eliminates visibility and general surveillance creating significant personal safety concerns.

Although there is a complete sidewalk network, the overall pedestrian and bikeway network is limited and somewhat disconnected. The current pedestrian environment is not very conducive for walking, due to the design of the public realm with narrow sidewalks, lack of street trees and pedestrian amenities.

### **Socio-Economic Conditions**

As of 2015, approximately 9,900 residents live within the Specific Plan area, roughly 24 percent of all residents in West Athens-Westmont, which has a population of just over 41,100 residents. Between 2000 and 2015, the population in the Specific Plan area decreased by 7.5 percent while the population increased by 1.0 percent overall in West Athens-Westmont. West Athens-Westmont residents represent approximately 5 percent of total residents living within the Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay area (refer to Figure 1.1). The Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay area today has a population of almost 869,000 residents and has grown 4.8 percent since 2000.

In 2015, there were approximately 2,875 households in the Specific Plan area, or roughly 22 percent of the 12,380 households in West Athens-Westmont. Between 2000 and 2015, the number of households in the Specific Plan area decreased by roughly 1 percent, while increasing by roughly 5 percent in West Athens-Westmont over the same period. In comparison, the Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay area had over 267,000 households in 2015, having grown by 3 percent since 2000.

The median annual household income in West Athens-Westmont is \$32,680, with 39 percent of households earning less than \$25,000, and in excess of 25 percent earning less than \$15,000. The Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay area also shares similar characteristics, with 36 percent of households earning less than \$25,000, as compared to only 24 percent in Los Angeles County. Compared to Los Angeles County and the Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay area, West Athens-Westmont is noticeably less affluent, with median household incomes 67 percent lower than Los Angeles County (\$54,690) and 10 percent lower than the Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay area (\$35,960). A greater share of West Athens-Westmont households, at 34 percent, live

in poverty compared to those in Greater South Los Angeles-South Bay, at 28 percent.

### Infrastructure

Current water supply, sanitary systems, and drainage systems in West Athens-Westmont are in good condition, and capacities are sufficient to serve the existing community. Los Angeles County will review future projects developed under this specific plan on a project-by-project basis to determine if localized improvements to these systems may be required in the future. Solid-waste-processing facilities serving West Athens-Westmont and the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a whole lack capacity to handle expected future volumes of waste.

### Geology

A portion of the Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone traverses the Specific Plan area in a northwest-southeast direction. This is an active fault trace and part of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 1986). The siting of new buildings within the Specific Plan area would be required to comply with the requirements of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.

## 1.3.3 RELATIONSHIP TO THE GENERAL PLAN

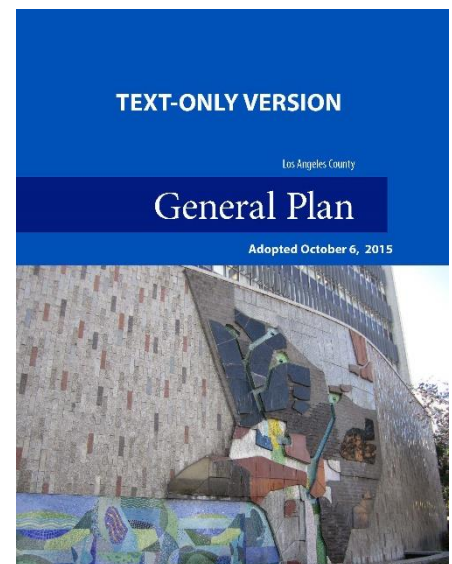
The Specific Plan is related to a number of policy and regulatory documents at the local, county, and state level. As a Specific Plan, it is intended to implement the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan and will serve as the primary regulatory framework for development in the planning area. The Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances and Zoning Map will be amended to implement land use changes proposed under the Specific Plan. The regulations in the Specific Plan shall serve as the zoning, development, and design standards for all projects in the Specific Plan area.

This section describes the current and past planning efforts establishing the policy and regulatory framework for developing the Specific Plan.

### Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan, 2015

*(Los Angeles County)*

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan on October 6, 2015. The General Plan establishes the Planning Areas Framework to provide a mechanism for



**“The transit center around the [Vermont/Athens] Station for the Metro Green Line in West Athens-Westmont presents an opportunity to capitalize on infrastructure investments in a community with high ridership.**

Vermont Avenue has the potential for increased economic vitality through the creation of employment-rich activities along the commercial corridors that are adjacent to the Metro station. In addition, the residential areas within the transit center would benefit from increased pedestrian amenities and design improvements.”

*–Los Angeles County 2015 General Plan*

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local communities to work with Los Angeles County to develop plans that respond to their unique and diverse character. The West Athens-Westmont Community is located within the Metro Planning Area and is identified as an “Opportunity Area” in the General Plan due to the area’s potential for redevelopment as an employment hub with increased pedestrian amenities (Figure 1.4: General Plan Opportunity Areas).

The General Plan identifies a “Transit Center”, “Neighborhood Center” and “Corridor” in the Opportunity Area. The Vermont/Athens Station area is identified as a “Transit Center Opportunity Area”, to leverage its location and transit ridership. Transit Centers are identified based on opportunities for higher intensity development, including multi-family housing, employment and commercial uses; infrastructure improvements; access to public services and infrastructure; playing a central role within a community; or the potential for increased design; and improvements that promote living streets and active transportation, such as trees, lighting, and bicycle lanes. The Transit Center Opportunity Area is a half-mile radius centered on the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station.

“Neighborhood centers” are areas intended to serve local residents for community- serving uses, including commercial only and mixed-use development that combine housing with retail, service, office and other uses. Neighborhood centers are identified based on opportunities for a mix of uses, including housing and commercial; access to public services and infrastructure; and playing a central role within a community. The Neighborhood Center in West Athens-Westmont was identified within a quarter-mile of Western Avenue and Imperial Highway.

“Corridors” are areas along boulevards or major streets that provide connections between neighborhoods, employment and community centers. Corridors are identified based on opportunities for a mix of uses, including housing and commercial; access to public services and infrastructure; playing a central role within a community; or the potential for increased design, and improvements that promote living streets and active transportation, such as trees, lighting, and bicycle lanes. Imperial Highway is identified as a Corridor in the General Plan.

### **1.3.4 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RELEVANT STUDIES, PLANS AND INITIATIVES**

#### **West Athens-Westmont Community Plan, 1990**

*(Los Angeles County)*

The West Athens-Westmont Community Plan (Figure 1.5: West Athens-Westmont Community Land Use Policy (1990)) was last updated in 1990. The Plan aims to preserve and improve the quality of life in the community, based on input received from local residents during the plan's preparation. The land use policies provide guidance for infill development and redevelopment to improve the economic base, while precluding intensification of existing residential neighborhoods. In summary, the Community Plan policies supported the following:

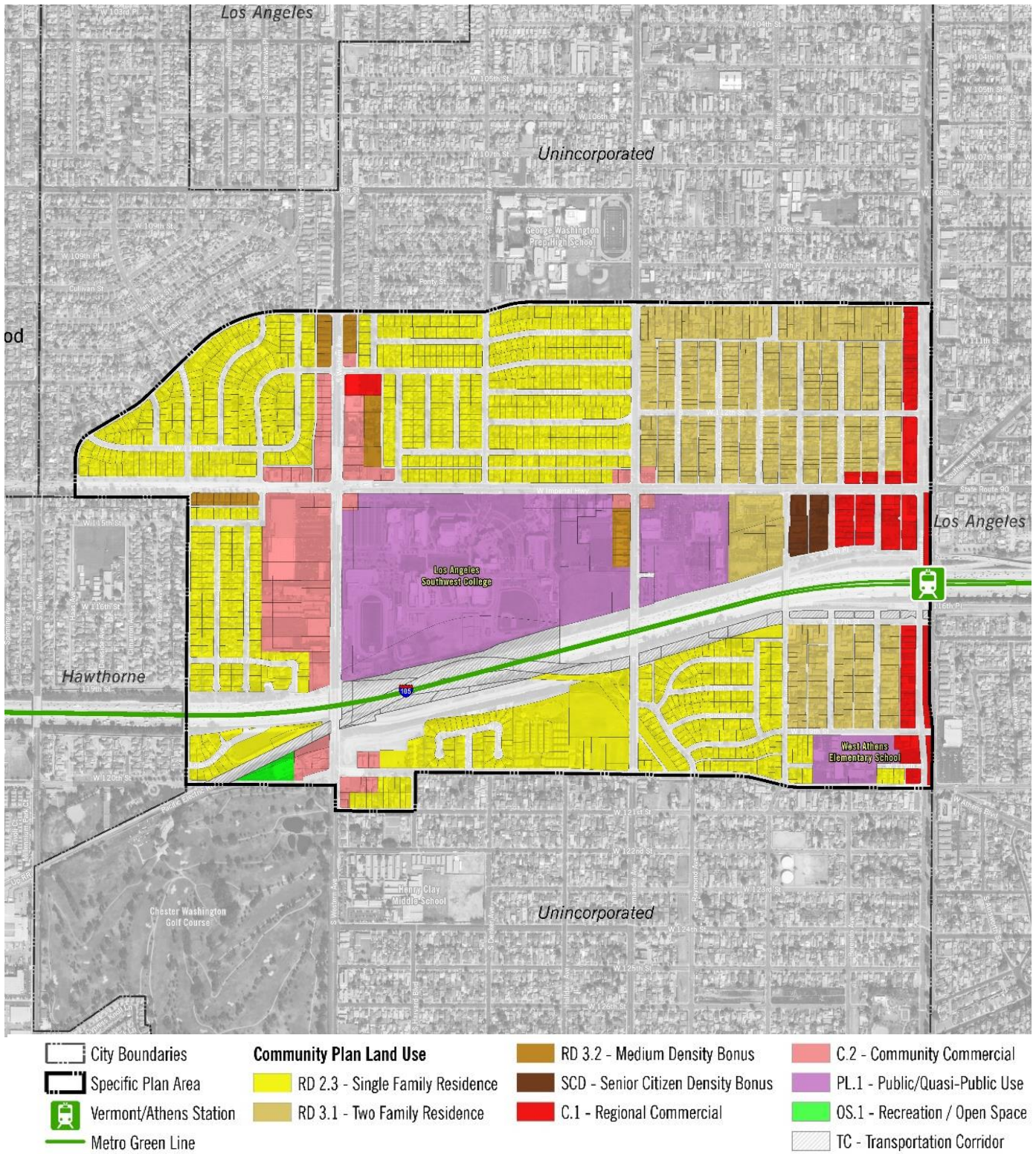
- Mixed-use development, particularly near the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station, that bolsters economic activity and employment opportunities for the community.
- The preservation of the existing residential neighborhoods, and the renovation of deteriorated housing stock that is safe and affordable for residents.
- Economic incentives for small businesses that improve job opportunities for local residents.
- Multimodal transit infrastructure supporting the transit dependent population.
- Improved parks and open space in the neighborhood providing recreational opportunities for residents.

#### **Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances**

*(Los Angeles County)*

Since the area is unincorporated, the zoning for West Athens-Westmont is currently subject to the provisions of Title 22 of the Los Angeles Code of Ordinances (Zoning Code). The provisions of the Specific Plan shall prevail and supersede the applicable provisions of the Los Angeles County Code for the Specific Plan area, unless otherwise specifically noted in this Specific Plan.

**FIGURE 1.5: WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT COMMUNITY PLAN LAND USE POLICY (1990)**



## West Athens-Westmont Community Standards District (CSD), 1990

*(Los Angeles County)*

The West Athens-Westmont Community Standards District (CSD) is a zoning overlay district established to provide a means of implementing special development standards necessary to ensure the goals and policies of the 1990 West Athens-Westmont Community Plan. Property in the CSD may be used for any purpose permitted in the basic zone, unless expressly noted otherwise. The CSD restricts the height of all residential development to a 35 foot, or two-story maximum, and requires all residences to maintain 50 percent landscaped front yards.

In the CSD, the parcels bounded by New Hampshire Avenue, Berendo Avenue, Imperial Highway and the 105 freeway were reserved for the development of senior citizen housing at a maximum density of 50 dwelling units per net acre, pending a conditional use permit. However, this anticipated development did not occur.

## Los Angeles Southwest College Master Plan, 2003

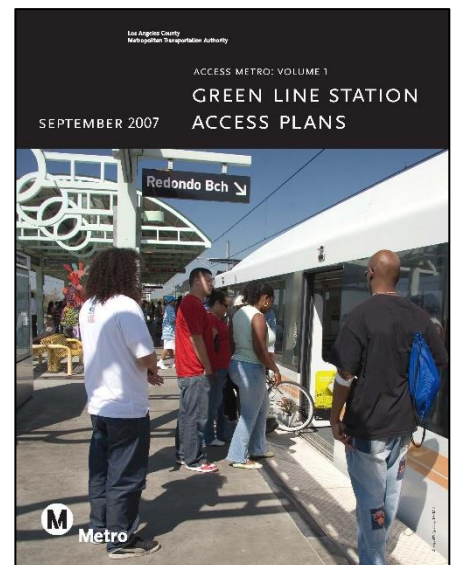
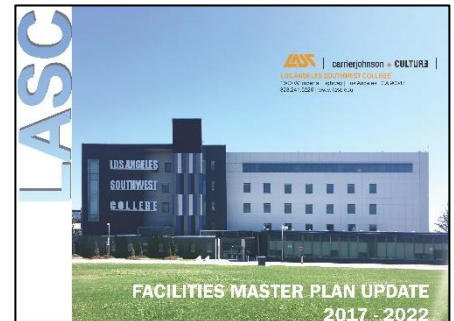
*(Los Angeles Community College District)*

The Los Angeles Southwest College Master Plan (2003) established a near- and long-term vision for expansion and improvements on the 64 acre campus. The plan provides for the development of new and updated academic, student support, and athletic facilities as well as landscape and pedestrian improvements. Proposition A and AA Bond Measures were committed to funding the improvements proposed in the 2003 Master Plan. The plan provides for the demolition of several academic buildings due to the presence of hazardous earthquake fault lines traversing the campus. The Master Plan was updated in 2008, 2010 and 2017 to guide future construction projects. The Specific Plan supports development completed in the campus master plan.

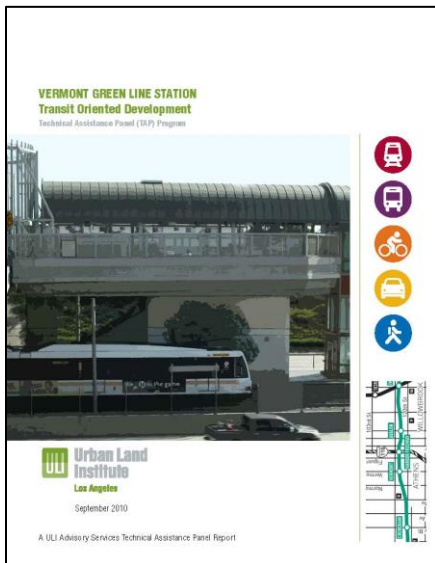
## Green Line Station Access Plan, 2007

*(Metro)*

The Green Line Station Access Plan assesses and recommends physical infrastructure and safety improvements to increase walking and bicycling to four selected Metro Green Line stations located in the South Bay, including the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. Recommendations include improved coordination among Metro, Caltrans, Union Pacific Railroad, Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles to facilitate pedestrian infrastructure improvements and beautification projects along Vermont Avenue. Proposed physical improvements include:



- The removal of the barrier walls on 117th Street, and the installation of formal sidewalks that connect in and out of the cul-de-sac south of the station
- The reconfiguration of the sidewalks, travel lanes, and the central median along Vermont Avenue south of the station from the railroad tracks to El Segundo Boulevard.
- The addition of traffic calming measures, like curb extensions or general widening of sidewalks, at intersections adjacent to the Vermont/Athens Station such as curb extensions or general widening of the sidewalks.
- The creation of a formal or informal bike route (such as with shared use lane arrows) on 117th Street from Vermont Avenue to Main Street and 118th Street from Main Street to Avalon Boulevard as a possible alternative to riding on Imperial Highway.
- The implementation of noise abatement measures for the station platform.
- Install clear signage to indicate the location of the station along major corridors within the station area.



## Vermont Green Line Station TOD Technical Assistance Panel Report, 2010

*(Urban Land Institute)*

The Vermont Green Line Station TOD Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) Report was commissioned in 2010 to generate innovative ideas and plans for future investment and development in the station area. The panel of experts proposed the following strategies for the study area, which have been re-evaluated through this process and incorporated:

- Develop a multimodal plaza that reduces the wide center median and expands the sidewalks to link the communities north and south of the freeway
- Improve the Vermont Avenue median by developing a linear park to create a sense of identity and place for the community
- Encourage higher density mixed use development on existing commercial nodes to create transit supportive commercial uses, while buffering and protecting the existing single family neighborhood
- Coordinate local community shuttles to increase linkages with the Vermont Metro Station

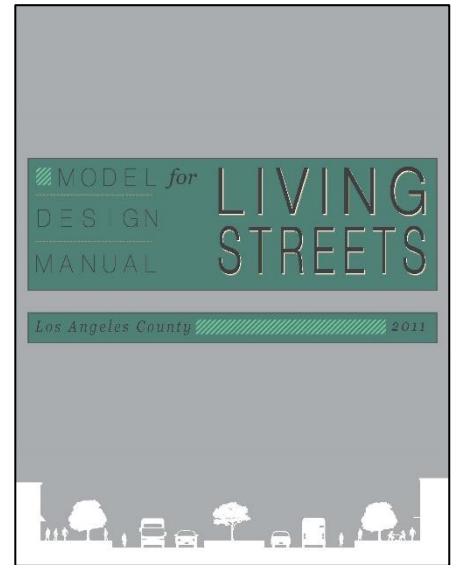
## Los Angeles County Model Design Manual for Living Streets, 2011

*(Los Angeles County Department of Public Health)*

The Los Angeles County Model Design Manual for Living Streets aims to design streets that which provide safe, multimodal transportation options. It starts with the premise that any changes or improvements to streets should add value to the adjacent land and neighborhoods.

Los Angeles County uses the manual to facilitate compliance with the new requirements of the California Complete Streets Act, which mandated that the 2035 General Plan Mobility Element be based on complete streets principles. Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

The manual also provides guidance on new stormwater management techniques to reduce runoff into rivers, streams, and the ocean while recharging underground water supplies. This helps Los Angeles County and local jurisdictions comply with a Regional Water Quality Board mandates to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff by retaining more water on site.



## Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan, 2012

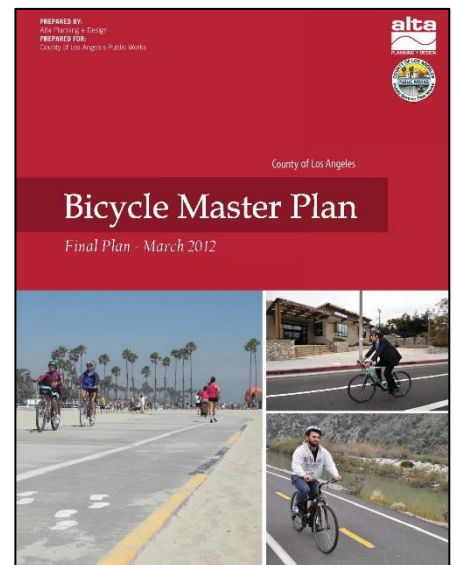
*(Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)*

This plan provides direction for improving mobility of bicyclists and encouraging more bicycle ridership within Los Angeles County by expanding the existing network, connecting gaps, addressing constrained areas, and providing for greater local and regional connectivity. Bikeway improvements specified in the Bicycle Master Plan applicable to the Specific Plan area are addressed in Chapter 6 - Mobility.

## Healthy Design Ordinance, Los Angeles County, 2012

*(Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning)*

The ordinance changed Los Angeles County's zoning and subdivision regulations to increase levels of physical activity and reduce obesity rates. The plan aims to provide better walking environments, encourage more bicycling, and improve access to healthy foods through enhanced project review requirements. Relevant provisions have been incorporated in the Specific Plan. If any provisions of the Healthy Design Ordinance conflict with regulations in this Specific Plan, the Specific Plan shall take precedence.





## Los Angeles County TOD Access Study, 2013

(Southern California Association of Governments)

The Los Angeles County TOD Access Study assesses station access capacity and needs of nine proposed TODs in Los Angeles County to inform the creation of the TOD Program in the 2035 General Plan. At the Vermont/ Athens Station this study recommends significant signalization and crosswalk improvements, as well as curb extensions and bulb-outs at the following intersections:

- 110th and Vermont Avenue
- 112th and Vermont Avenue
- Imperial Highway and Budlong Avenue
- Imperial Highway, Vermont Avenue, and Southwest Boulevard
- I-105 Westbound Ramps and Vermont Avenue
- I-105 Eastbound Ramps/116th Place and Vermont Avenue
- 120th Street and Vermont Avenue

These intersections were analyzed as part of the mobility analysis conducted for this Specific Plan. Specific recommendations for crosswalk improvements, pedestrian islands, curb extensions and pedestrian crossing signage are described in Section 6.5.2 of the Specific Plan.

## First/Last Mile Strategic Plan, 2014

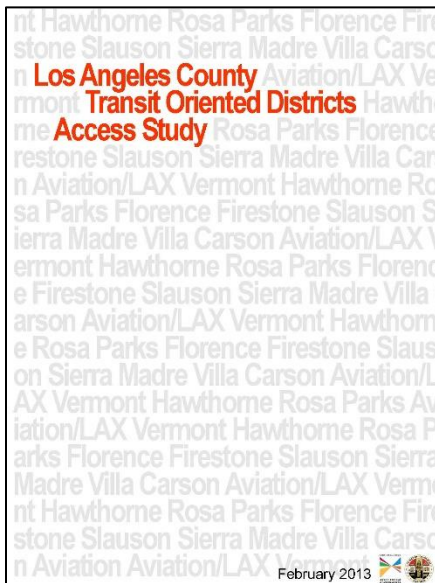
(Metro)

The First/Last Mile Strategic Plan outlines an infrastructure improvement strategy that expands the reach of transit through the creation of the “Metro Pathway”, a network of streets that connect to transit and maximizes multimodal benefits and efficiencies. The Metro Pathway is intended to facilitate easy, safe, and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access to the Metro system. The guidelines serve as a resource to the Specific Plan to capture potential ridership and take full advantage of Los Angeles County’s significant investments in the public transportation network.

## Los Angeles Countywide Park Needs Assessment, 2016

(Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation)

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a comprehensive assessment of the park land and infrastructure needs and opportunities in the planning area. A program of community engagement resulted in a prioritized list of park projects for the County, as well as the West Athens-Westmont community. According to the Park Needs Assessment, unincorporated West Athens-



Westmont has a Very High park need. Public realm improvements, like the addition of parks and open space, could increase walkability of a neighborhood and improve connections to the transit station.

**West-Athens Westmont Community Park and Recreation Plan, 2017**

*(Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation)*

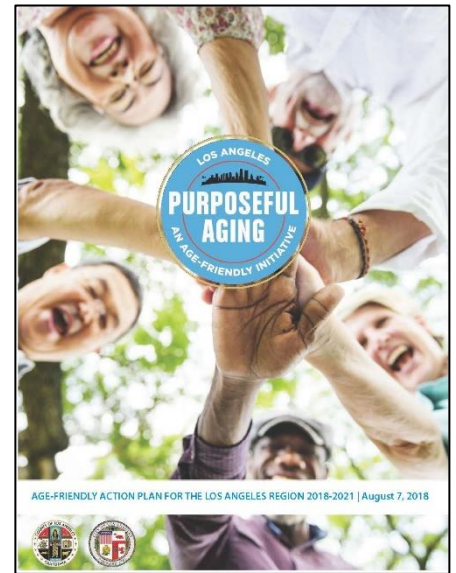
The Department of Parks and Recreation completed the Community Parks and Recreation Plan to envision greener futures for the following six unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County: East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Lennox, Walnut Park, West Athens-Westmont, and Willowbrook. As part of the public outreach process for the West Athens-Westmont Community Parks and Recreation Plan, residents expressed the need for a wide variety of recreational amenities, including: multi-use fields for sports; basketball courts; gymnasium; event center; exercise equipment; walking paths; community room; shaded areas to sit and play; security lighting; and community gardens.



**Purposeful Aging Los Angeles Action Plan, 2018**

*(Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles)*

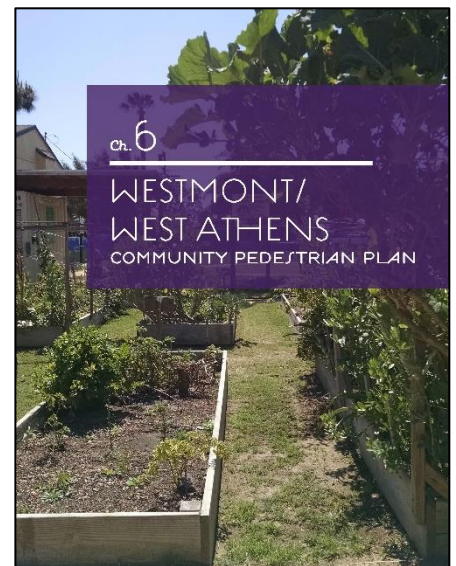
The Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) Action Plan seeks to prepare the Los Angeles region for a rapidly aging population through an innovative, sustained initiative that unites public and private leadership and strategies. As part of the PALA Initiative, Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles released the Age-Friendly Action Plan for the Los Angeles Region 2018-2021, which guide efforts over a three-year period to enhance the region’s age-friendliness in key areas such as transportation, housing, emergency preparedness, social participation and outdoor spaces. Relevant provisions have been incorporated in the Specific Plan.



**Step by Step Community Pedestrian Plan – Westmont/West Athens, anticipated 2019**

*(Los Angeles County Department of Public Health)*

Step by Step is a Pedestrian Plan for unincorporated Los Angeles County that presents a vision for enhancing the County’s pedestrian policies, procedures, programs, and facilities. Its purpose is to make comfortable and safe pedestrian environments so that walking becomes an easy and desirable choice for travelling in Los Angeles County communities. This effort is led by the Policies for Livable Active Communities and Environments (PLACE) Program within the County’s Department of Public Health - Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. The PLACE Program is working in partnership with the



Department of Public Works to reduce collisions involving people walking and increase the rates of walking in unincorporated communities.

A pedestrian plan was developed for the unincorporated community of West Athens-Westmont in 2017. Community based organizations working together with a planning consultant, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works engaged community members to identify physical barriers to walking, needed infrastructure improvements and solutions to other barriers to walking such as crime and violence to improve connectivity and reduce the potential for pedestrian related collisions. When adopted, the specific recommendations shall be incorporated into new development projects in conjunction with this Specific Plan.

### **Vision Zero Initiative**

*(Los Angeles County Department of Public Health)*

Vision Zero is an initiative which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2025 through policies, programs, and built environment interventions. In February 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion directing County staff to move forward with a Vision Zero initiative for unincorporated areas. The motion instructed staff to implement the strategies described in the Vision Zero Report. These included: establishing a Vision Zero Steering Committee; developing a Vision Zero Action Plan with specific engineering, enforcement, education, and evaluation strategies and timelines; and identifying opportunities to secure long term funding to sustain the initiative. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is leading this initiative in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

### **Our County (Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan)**

*(Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office)*

The Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office is leading the development of Our County to address pressing sustainability issues using a regional approach. Our County will outline a bold, inclusive vision for growth that balances the co-equal values of environment, equity, and economy. It will present a comprehensive pathway to sustainability addressing a wide range of subjects including climate change, water, energy, resource management, land use, transportation, open space, biodiversity, public health, economy and workforce development, housing, resilience, and governance. Our County is currently in development.

## **Metro Joint Development Program: Policies and Process**

*(Metro)*

Metro's Joint Development Program outlines a strategy designed to secure the most appropriate private and/or public sector developments for Metro-owned properties. The policies aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase transit ridership by attracting new riders and increasing the number of transit trips generated from joint development projects. Within the planning area, Metro operates a surface park-and-ride lot adjacent to the Vermont/Athens Station that provides 155 parking spaces dedicated for transit patrons. This property may be a potential future joint development site.

## **Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, 2018**

*(Prepared for the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles by Western Economic Services, LLC)*

To comply with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) housing and community development programs, the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) formed a joint effort to prepare, conduct, and submit to HUD their certification for affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH), which is presented in this Analysis of Impediments.

The Analysis outlines a list of impediments that have been identified as contributing to fair housing issues pertaining specifically to the Urban County and HACoLA's service areas. These items are prioritized according to High, Moderate and Low impact on fair housing choice. Impediments/contributing factors deemed High and Moderate are especially impactful in racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAPs), which the Athens and Westmont neighborhoods are designated.

The impediments/contributing factors outlined in the Analysis that are deemed most relevant to the Specific Plan area, and summarized below, are:

- Barriers to mobility
- Lack of affordable housing in a range of sizes
- Land use and planning decisions that restrict fair housing choice for persons with disabilities and affordable housing in general

- Poor land use and zoning situating sources of pollution and environmental hazards near housing

### **Barriers to mobility (High Priority)**

The ability for persons with disabilities to access infrastructure, public facilities, and housing units is limited by barriers to mobility, such as physical accommodations for access. Barriers to mobility limits access to opportunities, creating a disproportionate access and contributing to fair housing issues. As such, this factor has been rated as a high priority

This Specific Plan seeks to address this impediment by including as one of its Guiding Principles, and incorporating relevant strategies, to improve access to the transit station for all users. Additional Goals and Policies, and associated mobility strategies, address improving the public realm for the comfort and safety and of all users. The plan also identifies a Policy of working with developers to build and modify buildings to create welcoming, functional environments for all generations (including intergenerational play areas and improved access for those with physical and cognitive challenges) and outlines the need for developers to offer universal design features as one of the near-term implementation strategies.

### **Lack of affordable housing in a range of sizes (High Priority)**

According to the 2017 HUD AFFH data, approximately 74 percent of family households with five or more members experience housing problems such as cost burdens or overcrowding. The high percentage of families that need appropriately sized housing makes this contributing factor a high priority. Although the CDC has encouraged the development of affordable units for special needs and low income households, the need for additional housing options is striking compared to available units.

The Specific Plan identifies as one of its Goals to improve affordable housing options. Accompanying Policies, and associated development standards, encourage the development of different housing types in a range of sizes that are affordable to the community and the development of affordable unites for special needs and low income households. Additional Policies identified under Goal 3 address housing for homeless individuals, streamlining of approvals, preserving existing affordable housing and inclusionary housing policies that would increase the supply of affordable housing units.

**Poor land use and zoning situating sources of pollution and environmental hazards near housing (High Priority)**

Land use and planning decisions restricting fair housing choice for persons with disabilities and affordable housing in general plays an immediate impact on fair housing issues by limiting housing choices, diminishing access to opportunity, and further exacerbates segregations among minorities and for persons with disabilities.

This Specific Plan seeks to avoid such impediments by increasing the supply of affordable housing and encouraging the creation of welcoming, functional environments for all generations (including intergenerational play areas and improved access for those with physical and cognitive challenges) as described above.

**Land use and planning decisions restrict fair housing choice for persons with disabilities and affordable housing in general (High Priority)**

The disparity in access to healthy neighborhoods shows a marked disparity for racial and ethnic minorities in accessing healthy neighborhoods. The location of housing adjacent to environmental hazards may continue to allow for disparities to exist and limit household access to lower pollution levels. Poor land use and zoning policies diminish access to opportunity and healthy neighborhoods. Siting decisions increase the disproportionate level of access to unhealthy neighborhoods for racial and ethnic minorities and low-income households, particularly those in R/ECAPs.

This Specific Plan seeks to address improved access to healthy neighborhoods by identifying as Goal 6 the creation of A Safe and Healthy Community, and associated Policies. The plan also seeks to limit exposure to environmental hazards by establishing development standards for multi-family residential neighborhoods that mandate a 200' buffer from the freeway right-of-way and orientation to local streets.

**1.3.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In developing the Specific Plan, County staff from the DRP facilitated a robust program of community outreach events that helped shape the Specific Plan.



Community members participate in small group discussions at the introductory public workshops.



Stakeholders discuss the proposed plan area at the introductory public workshops.



Community members participate in a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) at the introductory public workshops.

## Connect Southwest LA Specific Plan Task Force

The Connect Southwest LA Specific Plan Task Force was convened for five meetings to guide and provide input for the preparation of this plan. The complex challenges contained within the plan area required a concentrated effort by a team of professionals and community liaisons to create change and improve the study area. The Task Force was empowered to:

- Share information with the project consultant team including other studies or planned projects occurring in the Specific Plan area
- Act as a conduit for their respective organization, taking information back to their organizations for review and comment
- Respond to the project team’s ideas and provide feedback
- Review draft documents, reports, and maps

The Task Force consisted of DRP staff; representatives from other Los Angeles County agencies, and other key stakeholders, including:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Los Angeles County Arts Commission
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments
- Los Angeles Southwest College
- City of Inglewood
- City of Hawthorne
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Gardena
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
- Second Supervisorial District
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

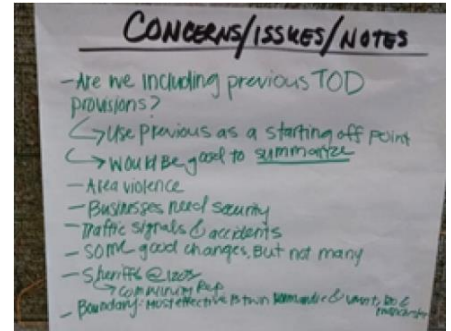
## Community Workshops

Two community workshops were held on April 7, 2016, and May 14, 2016, to introduce the policy objectives of the project and review the scope and existing opportunities and concerns within the Specific Plan area. Forty members of the community attended and provided insights and local knowledge about the challenges and opportunities in the Specific Plan area. The following themes were raised as important outcomes:

- Security and safety with more coordination between Los Angeles County and adjacent cities for enforcement presence and visibility
- The area around Los Angeles Southwest College should be more focused toward the campus to create a “college town” atmosphere
- Business development to encourage and support new businesses, such as casual dining restaurants, as well protecting local businesses
- Green improvements including community gardens on underutilized or vacant parcels
- Mobility improvements including new sidewalks and lighting around LASC
- Clear communication of the plan throughout the planning process
- Take previous planning efforts into consideration
- Revitalization to encourage and promote the development of new affordable housing
- Avoid gentrification and tailor the plan to meet the needs of existing community members and the unique place that exists today

A follow-up workshop was held on October 6, 2016, and DRP staff reviewed and discussed themes from the early workshops, a draft Vision Statement, as well as Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives for the Specific Plan.

At the final workshop, conducted on December 8, 2016 prior to release of the draft Specific Plan, a comprehensive existing conditions report, a refined Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives document, an Opportunity Areas map, Proposed Specific Plan Zone Descriptions and a Proposed Zoning Map were presented in draft form for discussion.



Stakeholder notes from discussions at the introductory public workshops.



Stakeholders marked up maps as part of groups activities at the introductory public workshops.



## Stakeholder Outreach

Throughout the planning process, DRP staff met with and received input from the following community groups and stakeholders:

- Local residents and business owners
- Los Angeles County Second District Board Office
- Los Angeles Southwest College
- Southwest Community Association
- West Athens-Westmont Best Start
- West Athens-Westmont Task Force
- West Athens Victory Garden

DRP staff attended meetings with the West Athens-Westmont Task Force on March 22, 2016, and the West Athens-Westmont Best Start on March 24, 2016, to announce the project and discuss scheduled public workshops to kick off the Specific Plan study effort. In addition, the DRP staff hosted a table distributing project information and materials at the Weingart YMCA Wellness & Aquatic Center Healthy Kids Community Day on April 30, 2016, the 74th Street/Raymond Elementary School Fair on June 3, 2016, and the Juneteenth Community Celebration in Willowbrook on June 25, 2016.

DRP staff attended the following stakeholder meetings:

- Southwest Community Association on September 12, 2016, and March 13, 2017.
- HawthorNEXT Specific Plan for the nearby Metro Green Line Crenshaw Station on March 21, 2016, and June 20, 2016.
- Second District Empowerment Congress, Economic Development Committee on March 17, 2016.
- Meetings on April 9, 2016, and April 23, 2016, with plot-owners at the West Athens Victory Garden, which is managed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust.

## 1.4 HOW TO USE THE SPECIFIC PLAN

Under California Law (Government Code § 65450 et seq.), cities and counties may adopt specific plans to develop policies, programs, and regulations to implement the jurisdiction’s adopted general plan. The Specific Plan, therefore, serves as a bridge between the general plan and individual development projects.

Specific plans are similar to development zoning ordinances in that they establish implementation through the use of development regulations. However, unlike the County Code, the Specific Plan is targeted to a specific planning area to allow for greater flexibility and specificity.

The Specific Plan is adopted by resolution and ordinance and intended to be used by residents, business and property owners, developers, designers, County staff, and elected officials in the review of proposed development projects in the Specific Plan area. The Specific Plan shall be used in conjunction with the goals, policies, and regulations in the General Plan and County Code in order to guide users through the development review process. It is important to note that the Specific Plan establishes zones, regulations, and standards for development. It does not acquire private property or identify privately-owned property as “being available” by the private owners for new development. Any particular development proposals would occur through private investment following the adoption of the Specific Plan.

## **1.5 ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPECIFIC PLAN**

### **1.5.1 SPECIFIC PLAN ADOPTION**

The Specific Plan shall be adopted by ordinance and resolution according to the procedures established in Chapter 22.222 of the Los Angeles County Zoning Code.

### **1.5.2 AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFIC PLAN**

A Specific Plan Amendment may be initiated by the Board of Supervisors, the Regional Planning Commission, or upon application by a property owner or their designated representative. An amendment to the Specific Plan shall be processed in accordance with the Los Angeles County Code Chapter 22.222.

### **1.5.3 ENFORCEMENT**

The Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Director) is responsible for the overall administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Specific Plan.

### **1.5.4 APPLICABILITY**

The Specific Plan shall apply to all new development projects for which a complete application has been filed on or after the effective date of the ordinance containing these new or revised regulations. Complete applications that were filed before the effective date of this Specific Plan

shall comply with the regulations and applicable Title 22 provisions that were in effect at the time that the respective complete applications were filed.

### **1.5.5 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Specific Plan or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the other Specific Plan provisions, clauses, or applications thereof which can be implemented without the invalid provision, clause, or application, and to this end the provisions and clauses of this Specific Plan are declared to be severable.

### **1.5.6 RELATIONSHIP TO TITLE 22**

The provisions contained in the Specific Plan shall be considered to be in combination with the other applicable provisions of Title 22. Where provisions of this Specific Plan conflict with any other provision of Title 22, the Specific Plan shall govern. Where provisions of the Specific Plan are silent, the other applicable provisions of Title 22 shall govern.

### **1.5.7 INTERPRETATION**

The Director or designee has the authority to interpret the intent of this Specific Plan if ambiguity arises concerning the meaning or appropriate application of the provisions of the plan. In so doing, the Director shall demonstrate the following factors (as applicable):

- The case is similar to previous interpretations of similar provisions.
- The interpretation reflects satisfactorily the vision, intent, and purpose of the Specific Plan.
- The resulting project is consistent with the General Plan.
- The decision constitutes sound precedent for other similar situations.

Such interpretations may be appealed to the Regional Planning Commission and ultimately the Board of Supervisors in accordance with the appeal procedures of Chapter 22.222 of the Los Angeles County Zoning Code.

### **1.5.8 NONCONFORMING USES**

The nonconforming status of uses that were previously rendered nonconforming, and which will continue to be nonconforming in the Specific Plan zones, shall be considered uninterrupted for the purposes

of complying with the nonconforming provisions of Title 22, Section 22.172. Legal single family and two-family residences rendered nonconforming at any time may continue in perpetuity subject to the nonconforming provisions of Title 22. Nonconforming apartments in MXD zones are exempt from the nonconforming provisions of Title 22. For the purposes of this Specific Plan, they are considered conforming and therefore allowed by right in those zones.

### **1.5.9 ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is primarily a source of environmental information and disclosure for Los Angeles County, the lead agency for the project. The EIR describes the potential impacts from the adoption of the Specific Plan. Subsequent development projects in the Specific Plan are anticipated as it builds out. The EIR has been prepared as a Program EIR (PEIR), as defined by Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, and subsequent projects that are within the scope of this EIR may be subject to a more limited environmental review process, as guided by the provisions of CEQA.

Use of a PEIR provides Los Angeles County with the opportunity to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures. It also affords greater flexibility to address project-specific and cumulative environmental impacts comprehensively. Agencies generally prepare PEIRs for programs or a series of related actions that are linked geographically; are logical parts of a chain of contemplated events, rules, regulations, or plans that govern the conduct of a continuing program; or are individual activities carried out under the same authority and having generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways.

This approach is consistent with the tiering provisions in California Public Resources Code Section 21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183 for “Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan or Zoning.” This tiering opportunity is only available for plans (e.g., specific plan) for which a PEIR has been prepared.

Note that tiering under these provisions will require environmental review and documentation to substantiate that a subsequent project does not result in any new potentially significant impacts. Such review (under 21083.3/15083) could be documented in the form of an Initial Study to ensure “topic by topic” review and substantiation. Once consistency has been substantiated and review shows that the project would not result in new significant impacts, neither a mitigated negative declaration nor an EIR would be required.

Additionally, no formal public review would be required. Projects may also be exempt from CEQA review pursuant to other sections of CEQA (e.g., exemptions for residential infill projects statutory exemptions, or categorical exemptions) depending on the size of the project and type of development. The type of CEQA review needed for each project will be determined by County staff in their sole discretion during their review of the type of project or the development proposed.

In addition to a more limited review process, infill and transit-oriented infill projects may qualify for streamlined environmental review. CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.3 allows eligible projects to streamline the environmental review process by limiting the topics subject to review at the project level. Public Resources Code Section 21099 and 21155.4 also limit review of environmental topics

### **1.5.10 SPECIFIC PLAN EIR MITIGATION MONITORING**

Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21091.6, a summary of conditions of a project approval shall be prepared to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The EIR for the Specific Plan includes a Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP) that will be completed prior to adoption of the Specific Plan.

### **1.5.11 TIERING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS CONSISTENT WITH THE SPECIFIC PLAN AND EIR**

2015 CEQA Guidelines § 15183 (excerpt):

- (a) CEQA mandates that projects which are consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan, or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified shall not require additional environmental review, except as might be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific significant effects which are peculiar to the project or its site. This streamlines the review of such projects and reduces the need to prepare repetitive environmental studies.
- (b) In approving a project meeting the requirements of this section, a public agency shall limit its examination of environmental effects to those which the agency determines, in an initial study or other analysis:
  - (1) Are peculiar to the project or the parcel on which the project would be located,

- (2) Were not analyzed as significant effects in a prior EIR on the zoning action, general plan, or community plan, with which the project is consistent,
  - (3) Are potentially significant off-site impacts and cumulative impacts which were not discussed in the prior EIR prepared for the general plan, community plan or zoning action, or
  - (4) Are previously identified significant effects which, as a result of substantial new information which was not known at the time the EIR was certified, are determined to have a more severe adverse impact than discussed in the prior EIR.
- (c) If an impact is not peculiar to the parcel or to the project, has been addressed as a significant effect in the prior EIR, or can be substantially mitigated by the imposition of uniformly applied development policies or standards, as contemplated by subdivision (e) below, then an additional EIR need not be prepared for the project solely on the basis of that impact.

## 1.6 REVIEW & APPROVALS

### 1.6.1 APPLICATIONS

No new development or use shall be established under the Specific Plan, and no grading or building permits shall be issued for these uses, until an application has been approved for the required permit type listed in the Use Regulation tables in Chapter 4, Regulating Code, and pursuant to the applicable procedures set forth below.

### 1.6.2 MINISTERIAL SITE PLAN REVIEW

- A. **Review Authority.** For uses that are permitted in the respective Use Regulation table, the Director shall have the authority to review projects subject to a Ministerial Site Plan Review for compliance with the Specific Plan and other provisions of Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- B. **Application Requirements.** A Ministerial Site Plan Review application shall include all information required by the DRP, and the payment of the required fee established in Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- C. **Determination.** If the project complies with the provisions of the Specific Plan and other applicable provisions of Title 22, the Director shall grant the Ministerial Site Plan Review approval. Otherwise, the Director shall deny the application for a Ministerial Site Plan approval.

### 1.6.3 MINOR MODIFICATIONS

Minor modifications, as defined herein, shall not require a Specific Plan Amendment, but will be subject to the following “substantial conformance” determination.

- A. **Review Authority.** The Hearing Officer shall have the authority to review projects requesting a modification to the development standards identified in subsection 4, Determination, below, for substantial compliance with the applicable requirements of the Specific Plan and other provisions of Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- B. **Application Requirements.** A modification application shall include all information required by the DRP, and the payment of the required fee.
- C. **Procedures.** A modification request shall be subject to the public hearing procedures and requirements set forth in Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- D. **Determination.** If the Hearing Officer determines that the request for a modification is consistent with the principles and standards of Section 22.228.050 in the Los Angeles County Code, the Hearing Officer may approve the modification. Notwithstanding the foregoing, only the following development standards may be modified:

**TABLE 1.1: MODIFICATIONS**

Requirement	Maximum Modifications
Setback	10%
Building Height	10%
Building Size / Massing	15%
Open Space Area / Landscaping	15%
Sign Height / Width / Area	10%
Parking Spaces	10%
Loading Areas	May be modified or waived

- E. **Appeals.** The decision of the Hearing Officer may be appealed or called up for review pursuant to the procedures and requirements of Chapter 22.240 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- F. **Revisions to Modification.** Revisions to a modification grant may be approved by the Director if the revisions do not affect the intent of the original approval. Revisions that would deviate from the intent of the original approval shall require approval of a new modification.

## 1.6.4 SPECIFIC PLAN MODIFICATION REVIEW

- A. **Review Authority.** The Hearing Officer shall have the authority to review projects subject to a Specific Plan Modification Review for substantial compliance with the applicable standards and implementing options of this Specific Plan and other applicable provisions of Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- B. **Application Requirements.** A Specific Plan Modification Review application shall include all information required by the DRP, and the payment of required fees established in Chapter 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- C. **Procedures.** A Specific Plan Modification Review shall be subject to the public hearing procedures and requirements set forth in Section 22.222.120 of the Los Angeles County Code.
- D. **Burden of Proof.** The applicant shall substantiate to the satisfaction of the Hearing Officer that:
- » Approval of the project conforms with the applicable provisions of this Specific Plan and other applicable provisions of Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.
  - » Approval of the project is in the interest of the public health, safety, and general welfare.
  - » Site layout, open space, orientation and location of buildings, vehicular access, circulation and parking, setbacks, heights, and walls and fences that encourages increased pedestrian activity compatible with neighboring land uses.
  - » Architectural character, scale, quality of design, building materials, colors, screening of exterior appurtenances, and signs are compatible with the Specific Plan and neighborhood character.
  - » Project landscaping, including its location, type, size, color, texture, and coverage of plant materials at the time of planting are designed and developed to provide visual interest, complement buildings and structures, and provide an attractive environment through maturity. The project landscaping shall also include measures to provide for irrigation, maintenance, and protection of the landscaped areas.
  - » Parking areas are designed and developed to buffer surrounding land uses, complement pedestrian-oriented development, enhance the environmental quality of the site such as to



minimize stormwater run-off and the urban heat-island effect, and ensure safety.

- » Exterior lighting and lighting fixtures are designed to complement buildings, are of appropriate scale, avoid creating glare, and provide adequate light over walkways and parking areas to foster pedestrian safety.

E. **Appeals.** The decision of the Hearing Officer for the Substantial Conformance Review may be appealed or called up for review pursuant to the procedures and requirements of Chapter 22.240 of the Los Angeles County Code.

G. **Revisions to Specific Plan Modification Review.** Revisions to the Substantial Conformance Review may be approved by the Director if the revisions do not affect the intent of the original approval. Revisions that would deviate from the intent of the original approval shall require the approval of a new Specific Plan Modification Review.

### 1.6.5 CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

When a conditional use permit is required under this Specific Plan or otherwise required under Title 22, the review procedures for a conditional use permit shall be the same as those prescribed in Chapter 22.158 of the Los Angeles County Code.

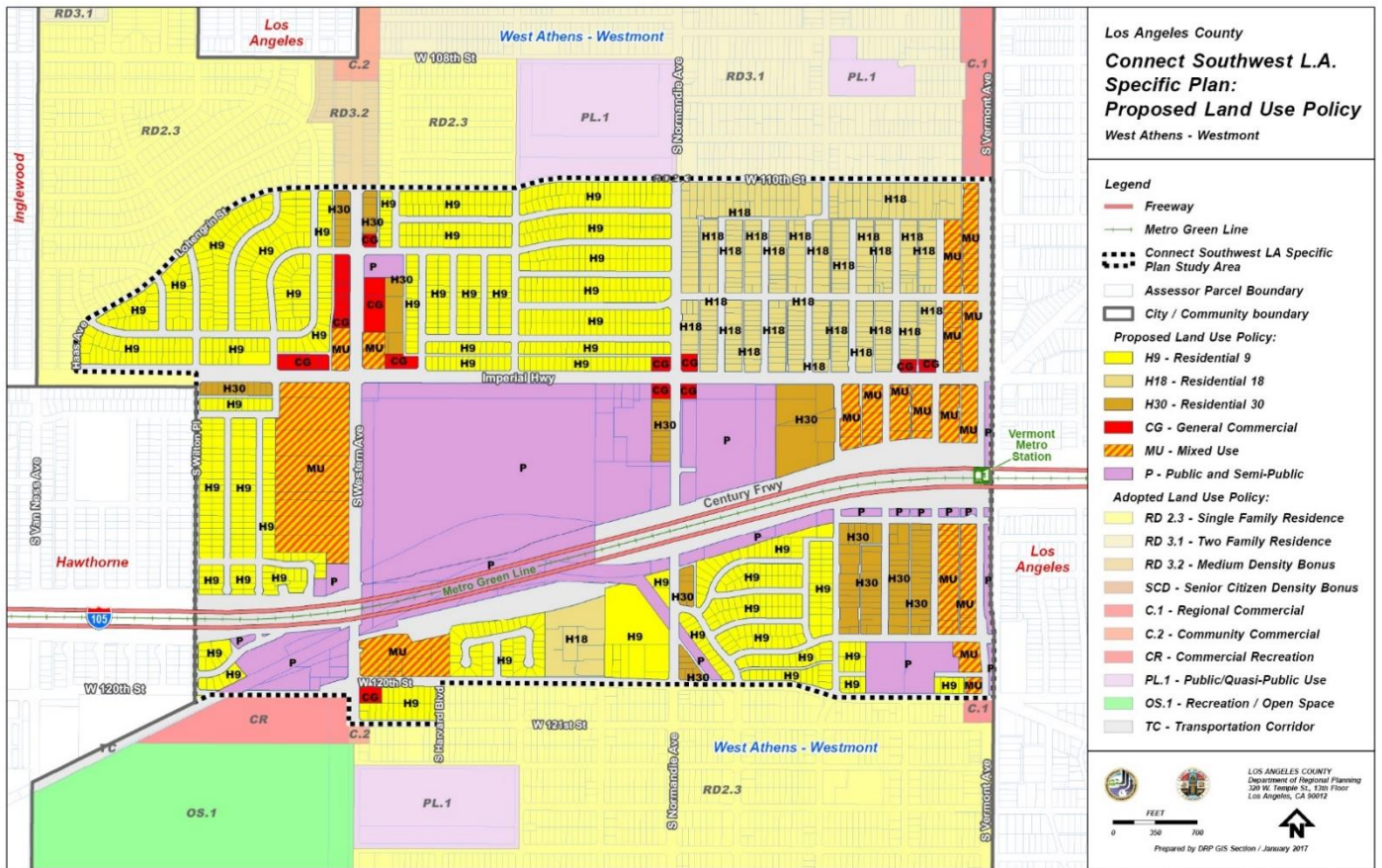
### 1.6.6 GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

The California Government Code grants authority to cities and counties to adopt Specific Plans for purposes of implementing the goals and policies of a jurisdiction's General Plan (Title 7, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 8, Sections 65450 et seq.). The Los Angeles County Code establishes the purpose and process for adoption of Specific Plans.

Los Angeles County amended the Community Plan Land Use designations established in the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan to reflect the associated land use categories from the 2035 General Plan land use legend (See Figure 1.6) which were needed to implement the Specific Plan.

Similarly, Los Angeles County amended the Community Plan Zone designations established in the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan. The zone for the entire Specific Plan area is changed to "SP" which indicates that the area is regulated by a separate Specific Plan document that contains a comprehensive land use and zoning to guide development in the Specific Plan area.

FIGURE 1.6: PROPOSED LAND USE POLICY



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# 02



## CHAPTER 2

# VISION, GOALS & POLICIES



# CHAPTER 2 VISION, GOALS & POLICIES

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Specific Plan sets a vision that describes the West Athens-Westmont community's key values and aspirations for the future. This chapter provides a detailed vision statement with guiding principles and sets specific goals and policies to help guide the community in achieving that vision.

## 2.2 VISION

The Vision Statement paints a picture of how the planning area will develop for years to come. This is a vision for how the area will appear 20 years from now as future development decisions and public improvements are guided by the Specific Plan.

### VISION STATEMENT

The Connect Southwest LA Specific Plan area is connected, comfortable, and thriving. It offers a blend of commercial uses that serve the neighborhoods of West Athens and Westmont. Street and pedestrian improvements have made it easier and safer to access the transit station, employment centers, shopping areas, and the schools in the neighborhood. Improvements to the station and better connections into the community have increased ridership and reduced commuting by private automobiles. Residents are able to access affordable housing options that grant stability, security, and a sense of community. Pocket parks and other creative uses of underutilized open space address the need for additional green space and outdoor recreation.

## 2.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Specific Plan establishes a framework for the future of the area between LASC and the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. Below are five guiding principles to create a more walkable, sustainable, and accessible TOD.

1. **Guiding Principle 1:** Accommodate uses in proximity to the transit station, along major streets, and at significant intersections that benefit from the economic opportunities afforded by the presence of the Green Line and major educational and public facilities. Development opportunities, particularly near the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station and LASC offer housing, shopping, and healthy food options for residents and visitors.
2. **Guiding Principle 2:** Improve access to the transit station for all users.
3. **Guiding Principle 3:** Improve the public right-of-way to increase mobility options for pedestrians and bicyclists. New sidewalks and bike facilities should create attractive, safe and secure connections to destinations that are along the transit system.
4. **Guiding Principle 4:** Create safer and more inviting spaces with design and programmatic improvements that promote safety, decrease criminal activity, and seek to eliminate pedestrian accidents.
5. **Guiding Principle 5:** Ensure compatible development. New development should respect and respond to the existing scale and density of adjacent neighborhoods.

## 2.4 GOALS AND POLICIES

The following goals and policies support a diverse mix of land uses, create affordable housing options, build and maintain a diverse economy, and provide a variety of mobility options. These policies are aimed at increasing transit ridership, improving community safety, and providing a cohesive sense of place. For policies that require implementation actions outside of the County's jurisdiction or control, we have indicated the responsible partners.

### **Goal 1: Build on the Distinct Identity of West Athens-Westmont**

**Policy 1.1:** Work with Metro to enhance the park-and-ride lot to activate the space so that it is an asset to the community.

**Policy 1.2:** Require developers to design buildings with entrances and windows oriented to the street to emphasize a community, pedestrian-oriented atmosphere.

**Policy 1.3:** Preserve the character of residential neighborhoods.

**Policy 1.4:** Allow for new development that increases housing and commercial opportunities along corridors and in proximity to transit while respecting the character of surrounding neighborhoods.

**Policy 1.5:** Work with LASC to integrate into and support the activities of the surrounding community through its expansion and renovations.

**Goal 2: A Diverse Mix of Land Uses and Transit Oriented Development**

**Policy 2.1:** Facilitate opportunities for adaptive reuse of existing buildings in the planning area.

**Policy 2.2:** Require mixed use development that is compatible in scale with existing adjacent residential uses.

**Policy 2.3:** Support for the development of a neighborhood commercial center that serves as a destination for LASC students, while accommodating residents and other stakeholders that live, work, and gather in the community.

**Policy 2.4:** Focus new development and mixed use projects in areas adjacent to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station and at the intersection of Imperial Highway and Western Avenue, as those areas have been identified as strategic opportunity areas.

**Policy 2.5:** Promote a mix of uses and services to support the needs of families, youth, seniors, and a growing population.

**Policy 2.6:** Support land uses and infrastructure improvements that can reduce the need for parking and promote alternative modes of transportation, such as transit, walking, or biking.

**Policy 2.7:** Ensure adequate utilities including broadband internet to serve all residents

**Goal 3: Affordable Housing Options**

**Policy 3.1:** Accommodate the development of different housing types in a range of sizes that are affordable to the community.

**Policy 3.2:** Encourage the development of affordable units for special needs and low income households.



**Policy 3.3:** Allow for the integration of novel housing strategies such as Single Room Occupancy (SROs) units and “housing for homeless” solutions including “bridge” or temporary housing units to address homelessness in the plan area.

**Policy 3.4:** Support the conversion of “nuisance” motels into supportive housing for the homeless population in the neighborhood.

**Policy 3.5:** Coordinate with private and non-profit organizations to streamline and expedite affordable housing projects through the project and environmental review process.

**Policy 3.6:** Ensure there is no net loss of restricted or naturally occurring affordable housing units in the community.

**Policy 3.7:** Discourage the conversion of affordable housing units to condominiums.

**Policy 3.8:** Ensure that any loss of existing affordable units (including market rate affordable units) are replaced at a minimum rate of one-for-one.

**Policy 3.9:** Support inclusionary housing policies that would increase the supply of affordable housing units.

#### **Goal 4: A Diverse Economy**

**Policy 4.1:** Accommodate the development of employment-generating uses and commercial uses along the major corridors.

**Policy 4.2:** Encourage the expansion and retention of LASC, and supportive educational and service industries.

**Policy 4.3:** Require that the street frontages of commercial uses are located and designed to foster active pedestrian activity supporting their economic activity.

**Policy 4.4:** Work with LASC to offer job-training, continuing education courses, recreational opportunities and programs for local residents.

#### **Goal 5: A Variety of Mobility Options**

**Policy 5.1:** Work with Metro and other transit agencies to develop a balanced, integrated, multimodal transportation system that is efficient and safe with frequent service connecting to destinations, employment centers, and residential areas.

**Policy 5.2:** Collaborate with Metro and other transit agencies to provide a variety of transportation choices that promote accessible alternatives to the automobile including walking, bicycling, and taking transit.

**Policy 5.3:** Work with developers to design streetscapes that are attractive and inviting by incorporating sufficient lighting, street trees/shade, landscaping, benches, and other amenities that are pleasant, offer visual stimulation, and promote activity for all users.

**Policy 5.4:** Collaborate with Metro and other transit agencies to ensure that current and new public transportation systems reflect the needs of a growing older adult population (including individuals with physical and/or cognitive impairments).

**Policy 5.5:** Support walking and biking as First/Last Mile solutions to transit by providing amenities such as bicycle parking, bike racks, street lights, seating, and wayfinding maps and signage.

**Policy 5.6:** Provide a safe and comfortable pedestrian network linking the transit station with LASC, commercial centers, county facilities, and residential neighborhoods.

**Policy 5.7:** Implement parking strategies that encourage travel by public transit and other sustainable modes of transportation, such as priced parking, parking time limits, or prohibited or restricted on-street parking.

**Policy 5.8:** Implement more accurate and flexible parking standards that reflect the parking demand for the area.

**Policy 5.9:** Work with Metro to provide secure bicycle parking adjacent to the Vermont/Athens Station and ensure new development provides effective bicycle parking.

**Goal 6: A Safe and Healthy Community**

**Policy 6.1:** Incorporate more lighting and visibility along streets and pedestrian ways.

**Policy 6.2:** Implement traffic calming features along main corridors to increase pedestrian safety.

**Policy 6.3:** Support safer routes to schools and parks through increased signage, lighting, landscaping, crosswalks and pedestrian connections around schools.

**Policy 6.4:** Work with Metro to locate transit stops in areas that are active and visible to maximize personal security and safety of waiting transit riders.

**Policy 6.5:** Support initiatives to combat juvenile crime including after-school programs and gang and drug intervention programs.

**Policy 6.6:** Improve community health by supporting policies and programs aimed at promoting physical fitness and increasing access to healthy foods.

**Policy 6.7:** Promote the production and distribution of locally grown food such as by allowing farmers markets, food cooperatives, and public right-of-ways for urban agriculture.

**Policy 6.8:** Work with developers to build and modify buildings to create welcoming, functional environments for all generations (including intergenerational play areas and improved access for those with physical and cognitive challenges).

**Policy 6.9:** Improve underutilized sites – such as parking lots and vacant property with community gardens, farmers markets, and pocket parks.

**Policy 6.10:** Seek out opportunities to enhance the Metro park-and-ride lot, to activate the space so that it is an asset to the community.

### **Goal 7: Public Realm and Quality Open Space**

**Policy 7.1:** Work with Metro to improve the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station to make it more inviting to transit users. Exterior improvements to the west-bound station should create a comfortable and safe public place for transit users.

**Policy 7.2:** Work with Metro to improve visibility and access to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station through increased lighting, signage, public art, and street furniture.

**Policy 7.3:** Redesign the west-side entrance of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station with ample amenities, including public restrooms, to improve the comfort and safety of transit users.

**Policy 7.4:** Reallocate excess portions of right-of-way, such as wider than necessary vehicular travel lanes, to design sidewalks and bicycle facilities for the comfort and safety of all users.

**Policy 7.5:** Increase recreational opportunities for the community by creating neighborhood pocket parks and finding other creative uses for underutilized open space.

### **Goal 8: A Sustainable Environment**

**Policy 8.1:** Encourage resource-efficient building techniques, materials, and other principles of green building design in new construction, renovation, and landscaping.

**Policy 8.2:** Incorporate “green” building practices into the planning, design, construction, and operation of County-owned facilities.

**Policy 8.3:** Maximize energy efficiency, indoor air quality, energy-efficient lighting, building orientation, and shading through local and state standards and ensuring new buildings meet or exceed CalGreen standards.

**Policy 8.4:** Incorporate water-efficient design features and practices such as xeriscaping, permeable surfaces, collection devices, biofiltration devices, green rooftops, cisterns, berms, and bioswales.

**Policy 8.5:** Work with developers to design on-site waste, water, stormwater, and utilities facilities that meet growth needs and reduce off-site impacts.

**Policy 8.6:** Design sustainable and energy-efficient streetscapes with low-impact development strategies including sustainable stormwater practices, permeable paved surfaces, drought-tolerant plant species, and solar lighting fixtures.

**Policy 8.7:** Promote tree planting in the public and private realm for shade, cooling, and aesthetic benefits.

**Policy 8.8:** Promote and incentivize solar installations for new and existing homes, commercial buildings, carports and parking areas, water heaters, and warehouses.

**Policy 8.9:** Promote innovative, low-interest financing for energy efficiency projects for existing development.

**Policy 8.10:** Continue to implement multifamily home retrofits through the County’s Affordable Multifamily Rental Housing Program and Home Improvement Program.

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# 03



## CHAPTER 3

# LAND USE & URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK



# CHAPTER 3 LAND USE & URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter describes the approach to land use and urban design that will promote and allow transformation of the Specific Plan area into a vibrant, transit-oriented community, while strengthening its connections to adjacent residential neighborhoods.

## 3.2 SPECIFIC PLAN DISTRICTS

The Specific Plan area is divided into five subareas that support a range of land uses, including residential, retail, office, as well as institutional and educational facilities and services. Potential strategies for uses and building form are described for each subarea and depicted with illustrations to show how each of the subareas may evolve over time.

### 3.2.1 FRAMEWORK PLAN

Figure 3.1 illustrates the three broad categories of change envisioned for the Specific Plan area: Preserve, Enhance, Transform. Areas identified as “Preserve” are generally comprised of the established single- and multi-family residential neighborhoods in the plan area. The majority of the properties that are located in single-family and multi-family residential neighborhoods and the core of Los Angeles Southwest College will not experience any significant land use change. The development standards articulated in Chapter 4 regulate new development in these areas by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements that are intended to preserve established neighborhoods, improve connectivity, and provide screening and landscape design along roadways.

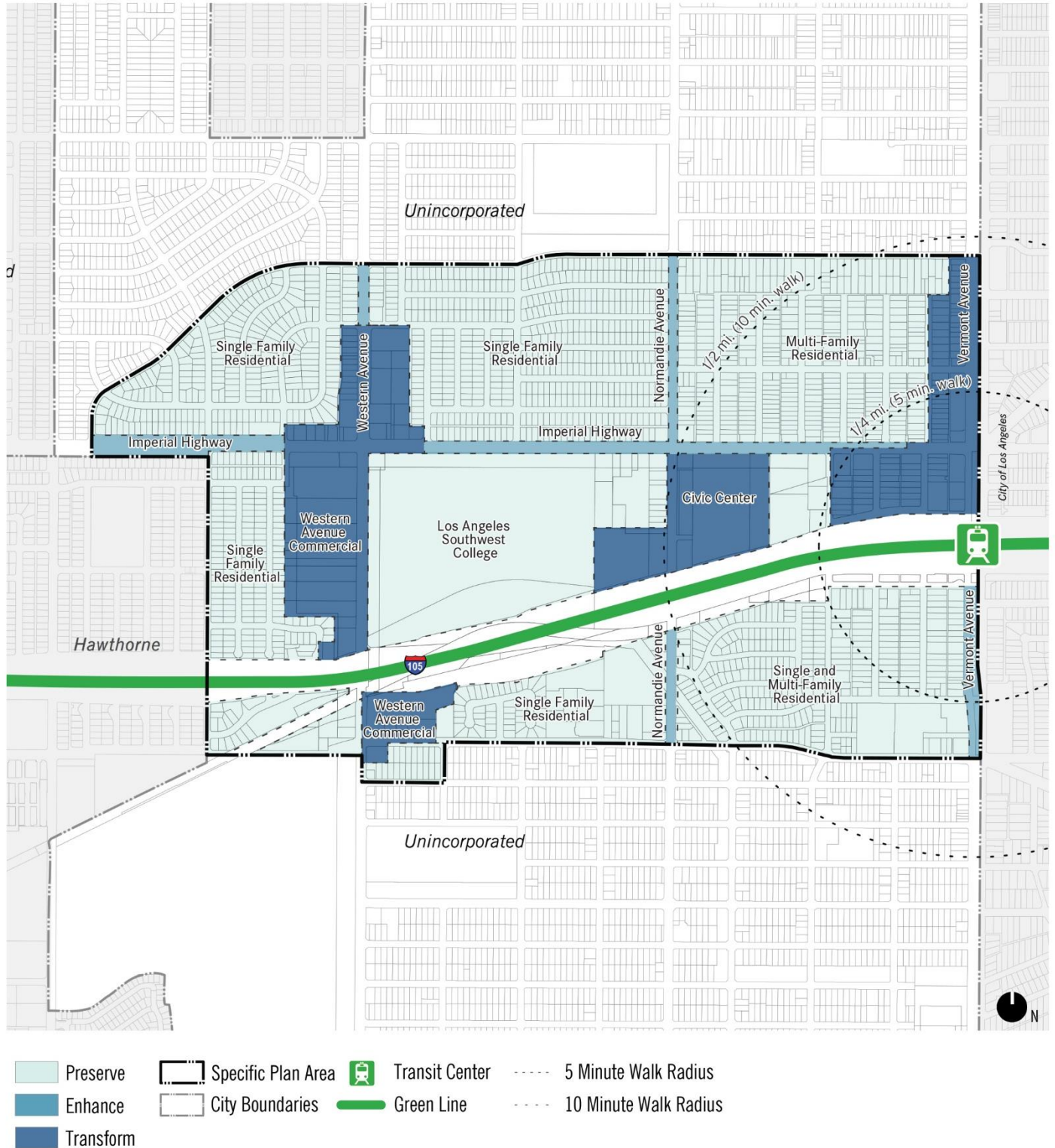
Areas identified as “Enhance” are generally associated with the major arterials that bisect the plan area. Improvements envisioned for Imperial Highway, Normandie Avenue, Vermont Avenue and Western Avenue, and articulated in Chapter 6, are intended to transform the existing auto-oriented streetscape into a more sustainable, multimodal design.

Areas identified as “Transform” demonstrate the potential for significant change over time. On the following pages of this chapter, transformational changes are proposed for the Civic Center/Mixed Use District, the Western Avenue Commercial District, and the Vermont Station Corridor that leverage opportunities for infill development and public investment to provide additional community-serving uses and



neighboring gathering places, encourage a more a transit-supportive environment and supply new housing options.

**FIGURE 3.1: FRAMEWORK PLAN**

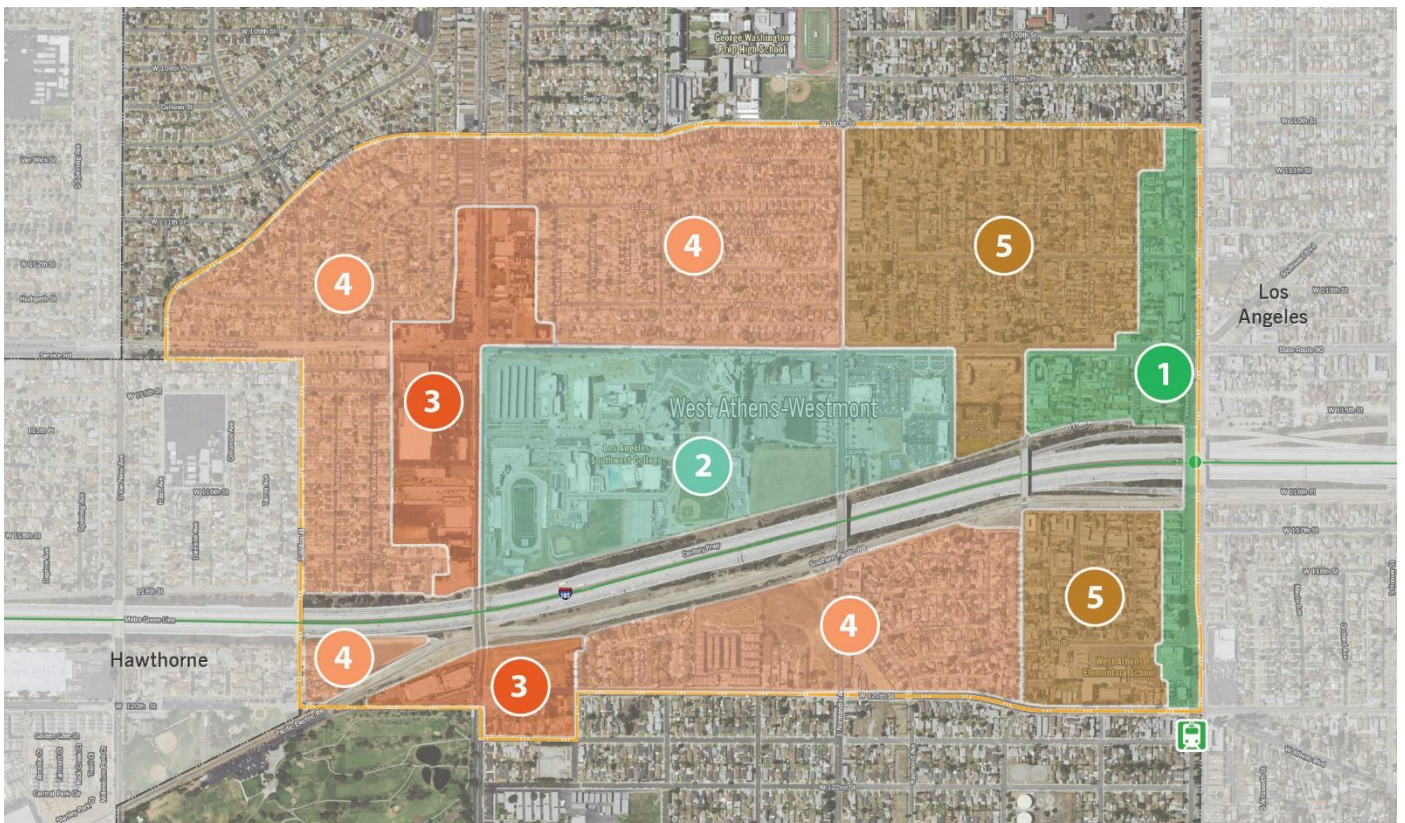


### 3.2.2 LAND USE DISTRICTS OVERVIEW

The Specific Plan area is broken down into five districts to better address community needs and issues within the Specific Plan area (Figure 3.2). Districts are defined as areas of a different scale and unique characteristics that may be the result of the location, quantity or relationship of different elements, such as land use patterns, density, architecture, and age.

An existing conditions summary for each district is presented in this chapter, along with a strategy for implementing the vision and goals of the Specific Plan. Opportunities for land use changes, urban design enhancements, and connectivity improvements utilizing a placemaking approach will help to implement the changes at the appropriate scale and location within each district.

**FIGURE 3.2: LAND USE DISTRICTS MAP**



- 1** Vermont Station Corridor
- 2** Civic Center/Mixed Use
- 3** Western Avenue Commercial
- 4** Single Family Residential
- 5** Multi-Family Residential

## Development Potential for Opportunity Areas

The illustrations on the following pages depict potential building locations, streetscapes and the relationship between buildings and open spaces. These portray one possible example of how the Specific Plan recommendations could be implemented. They are not intended as a defacto design project, nor do they indicate that any privately-owned properties “depicted” are available for development. The exact location, scale and design character of future public and private improvements may differ from these plans and should respond to scale, form, and architectural design per each block.

As noted in Section 1.3.2, a portion of the Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone traverses the Specific Plan area in a northwest-southeast direction. This is an active fault trace and part of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 1986). The siting of new buildings within the Specific Plan area would be required to comply with the requirements of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.

### 3.2.3 VERMONT STATION CORRIDOR DISTRICT

#### Existing Conditions

The Vermont Station Corridor District encompasses the properties fronting Vermont Avenue from 110th Street to 120th Street, including the Vermont/ Athens Green Line Station and a center median (refer to Figure 3.2). The Vermont/Athens Green Line Station is located at the intersection of the 105 freeway, in the freeway median below street level. The station is accessed through an entrance located on the Vermont Avenue bridge.

A lack of signage and streetlights make the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station difficult to access. Furthermore, the overall aesthetic of the station area is not welcoming to transit users and deters potential riders. The station platform located in the freeway median exposes transit users to excessive noise and traffic exhaust.

The west side of the corridor, north of Imperial Highway, is occupied by buildings directly adjacent to the public right of way. The properties at the Vermont Avenue/Imperial Highway intersection have variable building setbacks that accommodate vehicular access, with surface parking between the building frontages and the street.

South of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station, development transitions to deep rectangular parcels featuring buildings with varying setbacks, and few that accommodate vehicular access.



Existing Vermont/Athens Station signage.



Existing view of transit station boarding area.

## Potential Strategy for the Vermont Station Corridor District

The Vermont/Athens Green Line Station should be improved and modernized to provide better access and visibility from Vermont Avenue. The improvements of the station would be the responsibility of Metro, with Los Angeles County Public Works improving the public right-of-way. These should include consideration of the following:

- Upgrade the elevators, escalator and stairs to the Metro Green Line platform and reduce sound and pollution exposure for riders on the platform.
- Improve the station entry to create a safer and more comfortable area for patrons.
- Widen the sidewalk to allow a more prominent entrance into the station and to allow opportunities for more streetscape amenities including benches, water fountains, and restrooms.
- Add new bus canopies, trees and shading elements along the bridge overpass for a more comfortable passenger waiting area
- Improve lighting, landscaping and signage throughout area

The Vermont Station Corridor District is intended to be developed over time as a transit-supportive environment, providing a higher-intensity mix of retail, office, restaurant uses and residential development in a compact, walkable setting.

Residential housing would include a range of multi-family residential housing types in a vertical mixed-use configuration that has retail or office with residential above. Vertical mixed use development along Vermont Avenue, with storefronts opening on to sidewalks, engaging facades, and a dynamic retail mix, would help create a more consistent pedestrian-oriented environment. Residential uses within 500' of the freeway are discouraged unless properly mitigated for noise and air pollution risks.

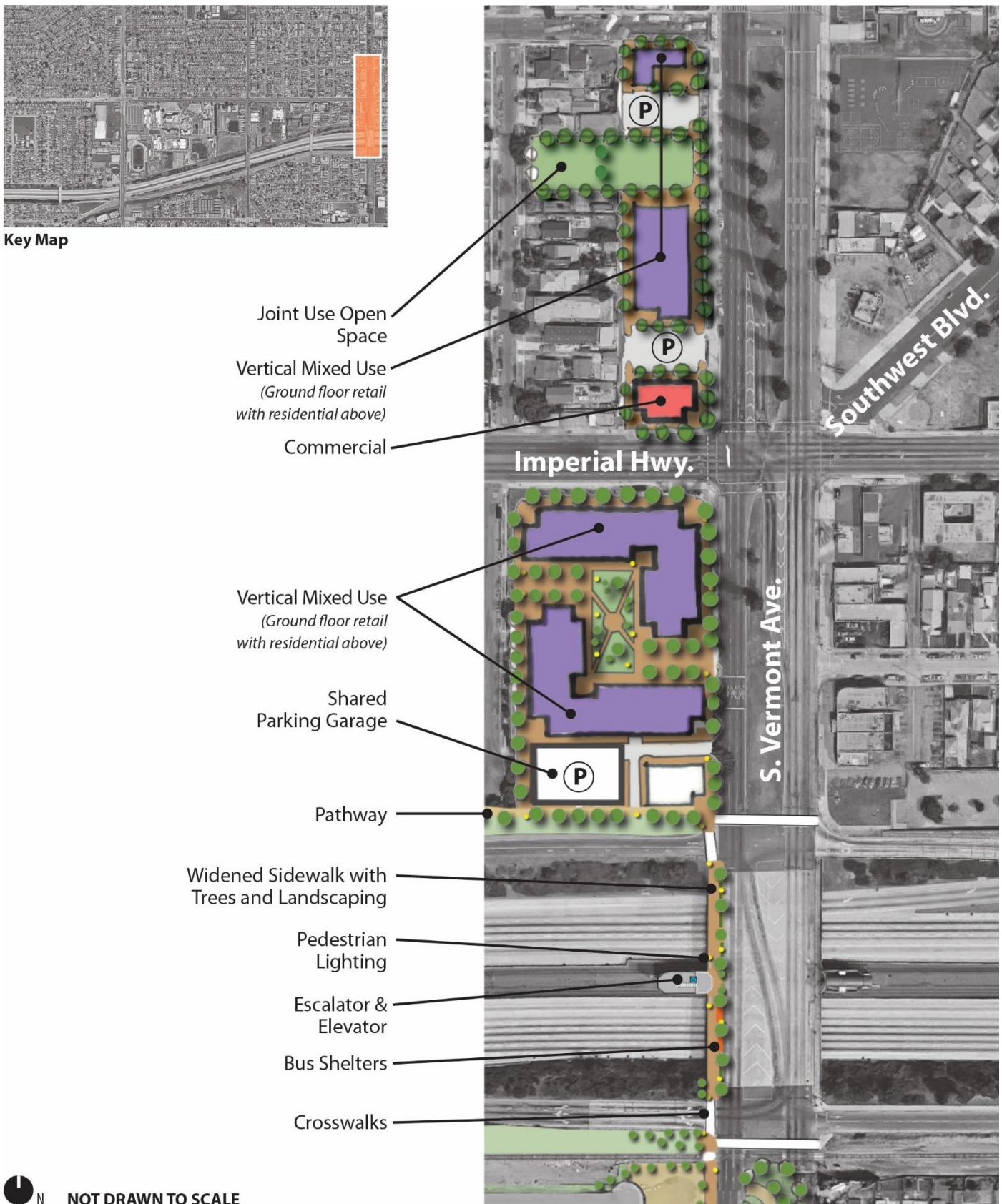
Figure 3.3 illustrates how properties could be developed for new uses, buildings and open spaces. Low-to mid-rise buildings, integrating commercial and office/professional uses would include residential units above. A mixed use building depicted on the existing Metro Park and Ride lot site south of Vermont Avenue and Imperial Highway would include structured parking for residents, visitors, and transit riders.

A variety of open space opportunities, such as pocket parks and urban plazas could also be developed in this district as discussed in section 3.2.8, New Park Opportunities.



*Existing Metro park and ride lot has 155 parking spaces for transit patrons.*

FIGURE 3.3: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN FOR “TRANSIT HUB DEVELOPMENT”



 NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

## New Park Opportunities

West Athens-Westmont is considered park poor with only one community park, Helen Keller Park, which is outside of the Specific Plan area. It is located in the southeast corner of the community and only serves a limited portion of residents. Parks outside of the community are not within close enough proximity to provide ample access. Today, only 18.7% of West Athens-Westmont’s population can reach parks by foot. The remaining 81.3 percent of the population is not within a half-mile walking distance.

There are various informal green spaces, both publicly and privately-owned, running through the area, including a utility corridor in the southern part of the neighborhood. The corridor includes large electrical towers and above ground wires; however, the open space beneath the towers could be used for walking and exercise or gathering and garden spaces.

A variety of open space opportunities, such as pocket parks and urban plazas could also be developed in this Specific Plan area. In Figure 3.4, a conceptual design for an improved median on Vermont Avenue directly south of I -105 would create more usable public open space and increase pedestrian connectivity with proper management, maintenance and security.

Figures 3.5 & 3.6 illustrate a concept design for a small park north of Imperial Highway that would provide residents opportunities for passive and active recreation. The design and programming of these spaces, which must include proper use management, maintenance and security, should follow new development and be based on the input of neighborhood residents.



*Example pocket park.*

### 3.2.4 CIVIC CENTER/MIXED USE DISTRICT

#### Existing Conditions

The Civic Center/Mixed Use District encompasses the properties located on the south side of the Imperial Highway between Western Avenue and Budlong Avenue (refer to Figure 3.2). This district is occupied by institutional land uses that share similar building form, massing, architectural design, and relation to street fronts. Auto-oriented development is concentrated at the intersection of Imperial Highway and Normandie Avenue. LASC is located on about 64 acres in the center of the Specific Plan area. Approximately 12,000 commuter students attend classes at LASC. Signage is visually prominent at the entrances for vehicular traffic to easily view. The buildings are setback significantly from the street. The campus stands apart from the scale and aesthetic of the surrounding community as an institutional superblock.



*Existing Los Angeles County Sheriff's Southwest Station along Imperial highway.*

**FIGURE 3.4: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN FOR PARK SPACE**



 N **NOT DRAWN TO SCALE**



**Key Map**



*Example linear public park.*

**FIGURE 3.5: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN FOR POCKET PARK**



**FIGURE 3.6: CONCEPTUAL MASSING MODEL FOR POCKET PARK**







LASC Campus.

The design of the campus supports pedestrian activity, with sidewalks, buildings, and plazas that serve as gathering places. Pedestrian access to the campus from the surrounding street network is limited to Denker Avenue to the north and Western Avenue to the west. A transit stop is located on the edge of the campus block at Denker and features significant pedestrian amenities: a covered bus stop, street furniture, trash receptacles, and a tree canopy.

Despite the college's proximity to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station, it is not used by the majority of students. Better pedestrian infrastructure and safety improvements connecting the station to LASC could improve ridership.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department and Sheriff's Department occupies three separate structures on approximately 15 acres at the southeast corner of Normandie Avenue and Imperial Highway. These single-story buildings are setback an average of 160 feet from Imperial Highway and separated by a surface parking lot that features landscaped parking medians. The buildings are oriented towards the surface parking lots.

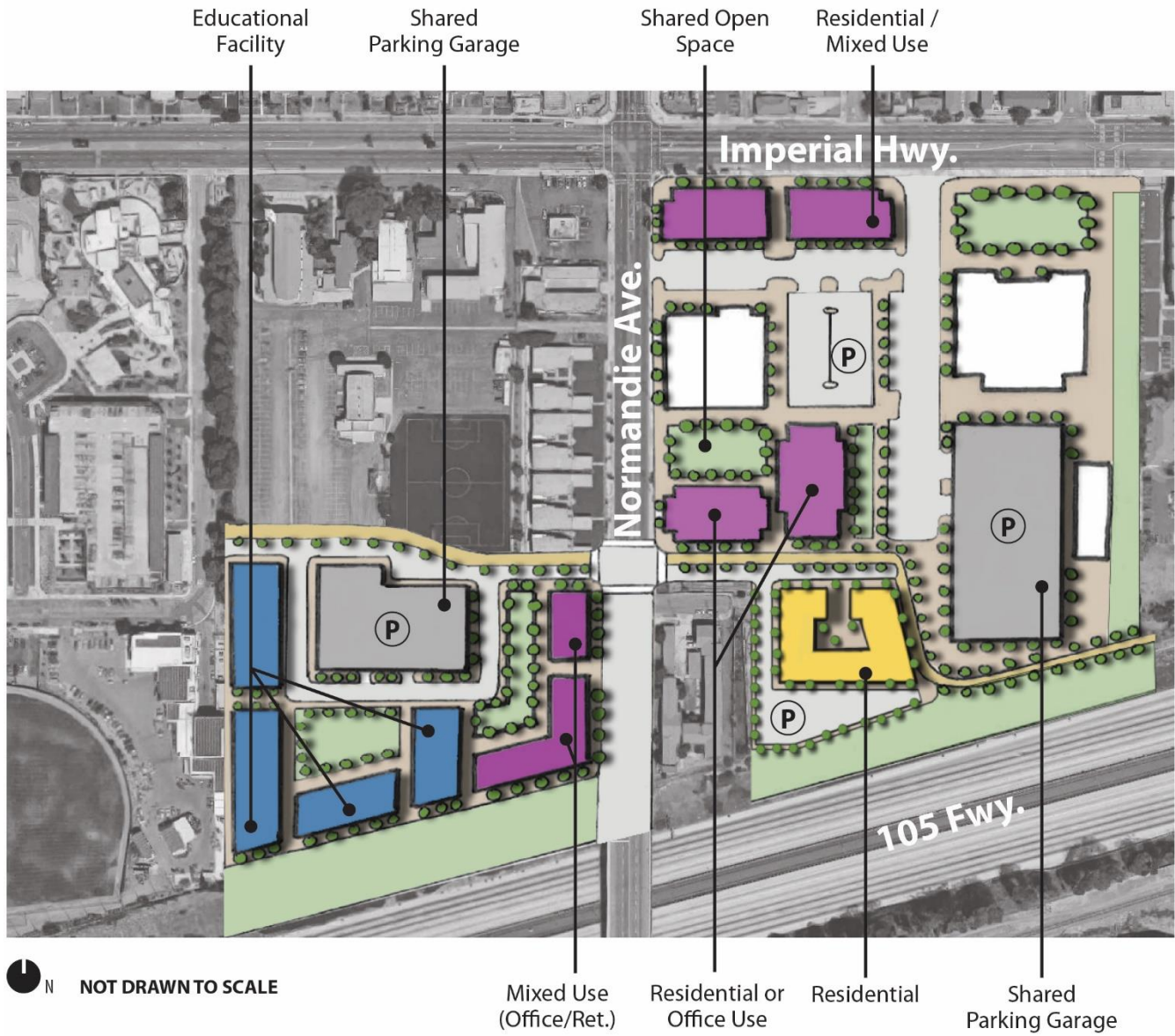
### **Potential Strategy for the Civic Center/Mixed Use District**

Underutilized land owned by Los Angeles County at the corner of Imperial Highway and Normandie has the potential to accommodate additional community-serving uses and become a neighboring gathering place. A short-term strategy for this site is to develop a bridge housing project to address transitional homelessness in the area while the market for longer-term investment in the area stabilizes.

In order to achieve the long-term vision of the community, the Specific Plan permits the transition of the existing uses to higher intensity development in this area. Several buildings would likely be retained or replaced, such as the Los Angeles County Probation Department offices and Sheriff's Department. Permanent residential uses within 500' of the freeway are discouraged unless properly mitigated for noise and air pollution risks.

The Conceptual Site Plan (Figure 3.7) illustrates how this area could be redeveloped over the long-term to become a distinct place under the development regulations and standards of the Specific Plan. Through lot consolidation and new development of a unified project, a mix of uses could be developed and integrated with public institutional and non-civic uses, including commercial, limited residential, and public open space along Imperial Highway and Normandie. The Civic Center/Mixed Use District would integrate housing development with a civic use, such as a recreation center or library.

**FIGURE 3.7: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN FOR THE CIVIC CENTER/MIXED USE DISTRICT**



**Key Map**



*Example of shared open space in a commercial development*

Over time, the integration of existing civic uses and the multifamily residential areas to the east would create a more walkable, pedestrian-oriented district that is well connected to the Vermont/Athens Station. New housing options, including workforce or senior housing, could be developed in proximity to both employment uses and transit.

### 3.2.5 WESTERN AVENUE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT

#### Existing Conditions

The Western Avenue Commercial Corridor district is located on the north side of the 105 freeway along Western Avenue opposite the LASC campus (refer to Figure 3.2). This area was identified by the General Plan as an Opportunity Area for a Neighborhood Center. These areas are considered suitable for community-serving uses, including commercial and/or mixed-use development that integrates housing with retail, service, office and other uses.

The commercial area is focused south of Imperial Highway along the west side of Western Avenue, with concentrations of development at the street intersection of Western and Imperial Highway. Properties north of Imperial Highway on the west side of Western Avenue are typical of neighborhood commercial located close to the street with minimal setbacks from the sidewalk, creating an uninterrupted street wall between Imperial Highway and 111th Street.

Properties south of Imperial Highway on the west side of Western Avenue are generally automobile-oriented with buildings setback an average of 60 feet from the roadway. Surface parking lots are located between the building frontages and Western Avenue, and all the buildings face the parking lots. The buildings are setback far from Western Avenue, providing poor spatial definition to the public realm.

#### Potential Strategy for the Western Avenue Commercial Corridor District

The conceptual site plan shown in Figure 3.8 illustrates how the Western Avenue Commercial Corridor District could be developed with properties north of Imperial Highway exhibiting a development character similar to a neighborhood-focused retail district with uses serving local residents and students. Infill of commercial buildings on underutilized lots and mixed use development would be designed to respect the existing scale and character of the district. New development, as well as the adaptive reuse of existing buildings, would help activate the street with new uses and promote more pedestrian activity along Western Avenue and Imperial Highway in this area.

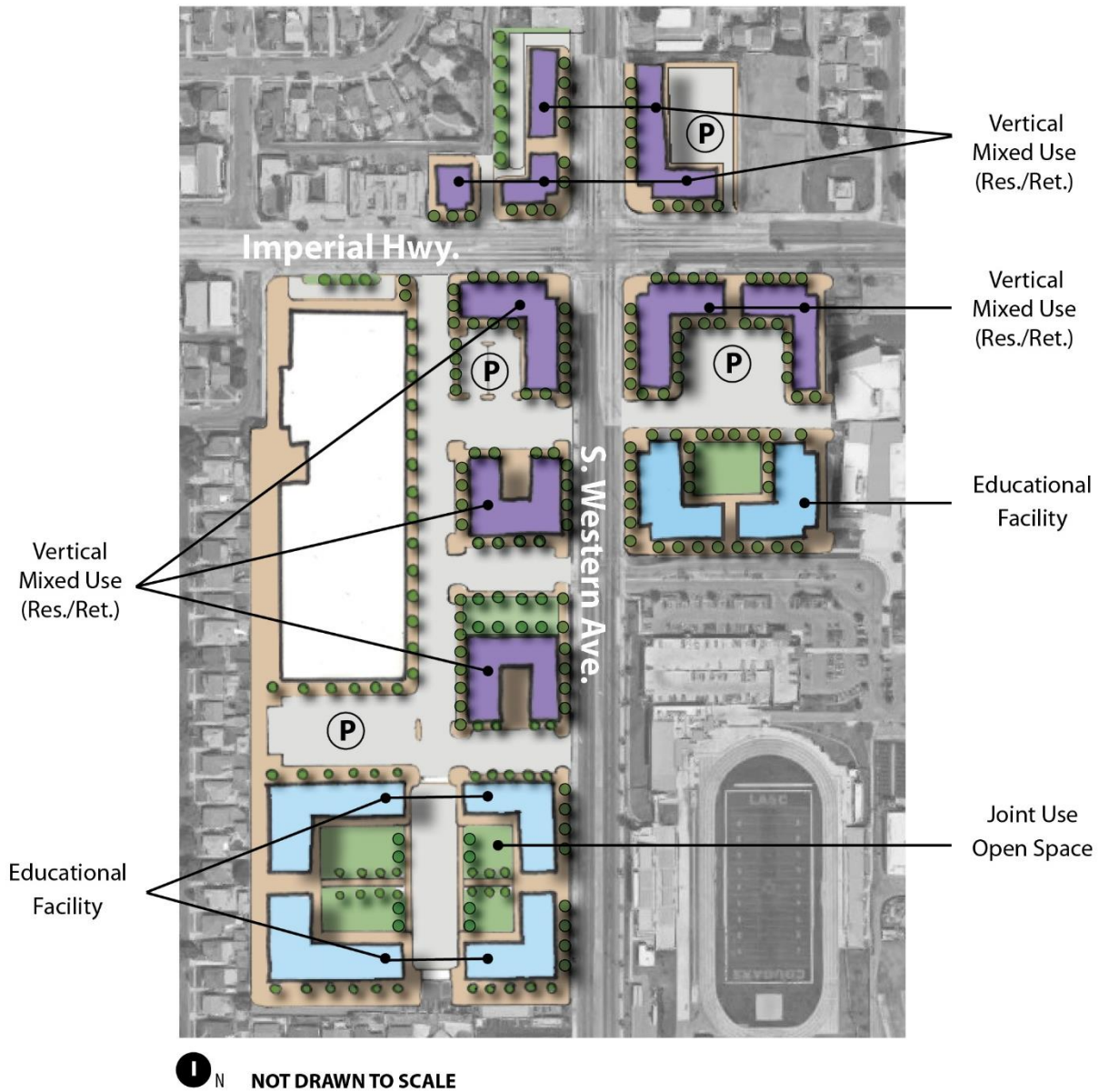


Existing view of LASC entrance from Western Avenue.



Existing Food4Less Supermarket facing Western Avenue.

**FIGURE 3.8: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN FOR THE WESTERN AVENUE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT**



**Key Map**



*Example of public open space in a mixed use development*

Through lot consolidation and development of a unified project at higher densities in the Food4Less shopping center, this could offer the potential to create a campus-oriented commercial village with new retail, residential, and employment opportunities for college students and local residents. Where adjacent to residential uses, buildings would maintain lower heights to provide appropriate transitions to adjacent residential properties.

### **3.2.6 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

#### **Existing Conditions**

The Single-Family Residential District encompasses the residential neighborhoods north of the 105 freeway/west of Normandie Avenue and south of the 105 freeway/west of Budlong Avenue (refer to Figure 3.2). These were largely developed between 1947 and 1955, apart from the two gated subdivision developments located north of 120th Street between Western and Normandie that were constructed in 1987 and 2012.

The older single-family homes are typical of post-war housing in Southern California; bungalows or ranch style homes with gable-styled pitched roofs. These homes were constructed as tract housing developments, by various real estate developers. The homes are mostly single-story structures setback 15 feet from the right-of-way, oriented towards the street, and accessed by a driveway. Many of these homes have accessory units located to the rear of the property, used for storage space or additional living space.

#### **Potential Strategy for the Single Family Residential District**

The Single-Family Residential District is an established neighborhood and will continue to consist of detached single-family homes and duplexes. The Specific Plan aims to preserve and enhance these uses.

### **3.2.7 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

#### **Existing Conditions**

The Multi-Family Residential District encompasses residential neighborhoods north of the 105 freeway/east of Normandie Avenue and south of the 105 freeway/east of Budlong Avenue (refer to Figure 3.2). These neighborhoods mainly consist of multi-family duplexes, triplexes, and apartment buildings, constructed between 1920 and 1960.

These vary significantly in size, orientation, setback, lot coverage, design and materials. Most structures are separated from the sidewalk by a security fence, ranging in size and design. The average front-yard

setback is 12 feet, and side-yard setback averages 5 feet. Street-facing structures and side-yard facing structures feature pedestrian walkways that link to the sidewalk, as the majority of on-site tenant parking is accessed via the alley network.

### **Potential Strategy for the Multi-Family Residential District**

The Specific Plan provides opportunities for the development of housing with multiple units, as either apartments, rowhouses, townhouses, or condominiums. The intent is to increase opportunities for sufficient densities to promote transit ridership, as illustrated in Figure 3.9. The development standards promote a variety of housing types given the range of lot sizes and configurations. It is intended to encourage the development of affordable and workforce housing to serve the needs of the West Athens-Westmont communities, as well as Los Angeles Southwest College.

**FIGURE 3.9: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN OF ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL**



**Key Map**



*Example of multi-family residential development.*

# 04



## CHAPTER 4

# DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS





# CHAPTER 4 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

## 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The development standards in this Chapter are intended to achieve a specific pattern of development in accordance with the future of the West Athens-Westmont community. The standards in this section regulate the development of buildings, streets, and public spaces with a focus on the physical, built environment including the relationship between the private and public realms. Certain standards may apply only to specific planning areas or streets, and are indicated as such in this section.

Development standards established in this Specific Plan are tailored to each zoning designation based on its location, adjacent streets, and intended use, as shown in Figure 4.1: Regulating Plan. The Specific Plan’s capacity for housing units and non-residential buildings are based on the standards established in the Regulating Plan as shown in Table 4.1.

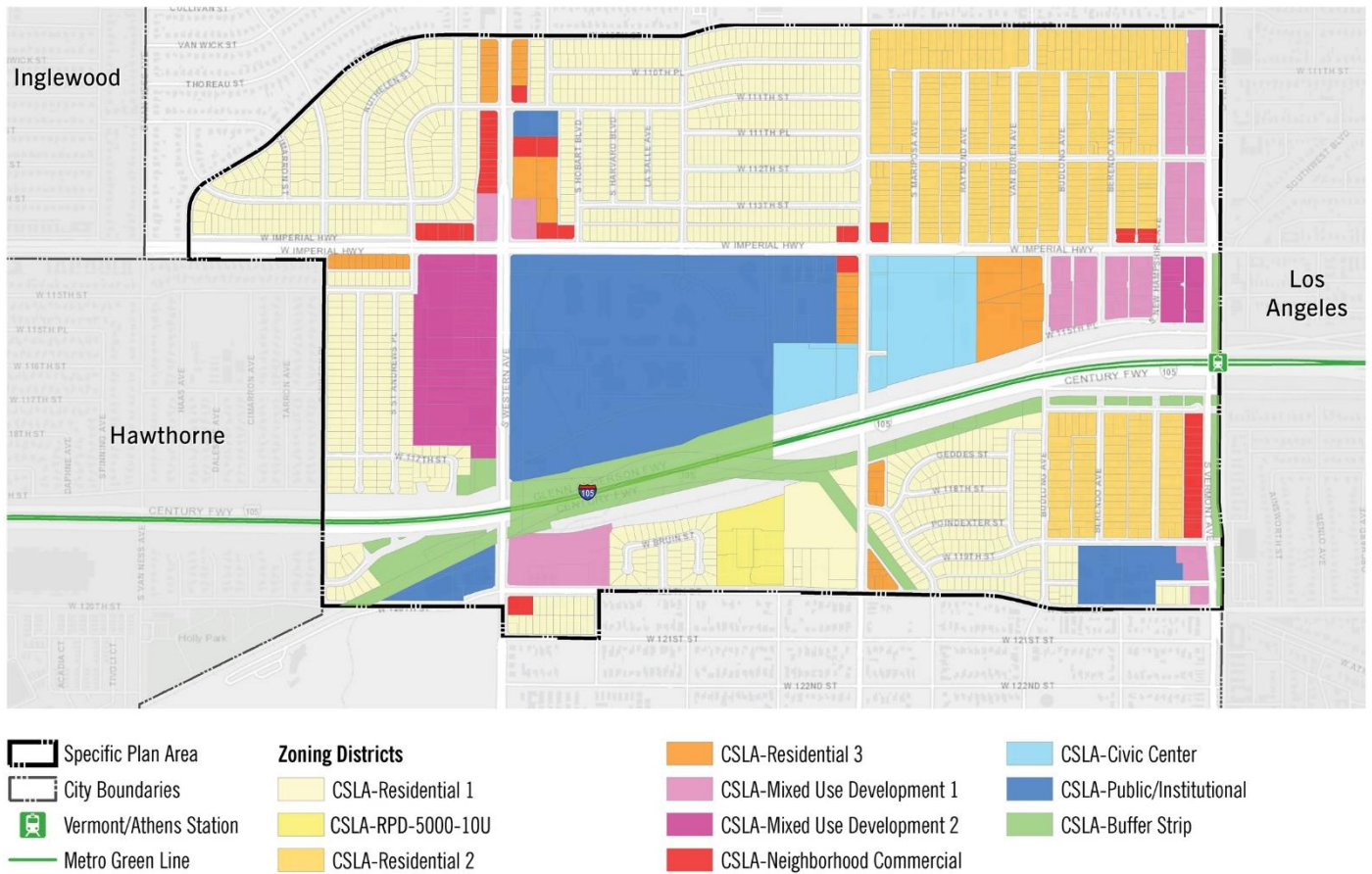


*Existing Residential homes in the Specific Plan area.*

- The regulating code below includes development standards for each applicable planning area, as follows:
- Use regulations, which provide permitted and conditionally permitted uses in the Specific Plan area. Those uses not specifically listed are subject to a determination by the Director as either permitted, permitted subject to a conditional use permit, or prohibited consistent with the intent of the planning area and the Specific Plan. Decisions of the Director are appealable to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC).
- Built form standards, which address specific aspects of site development, including building mass and placement adjacent to streets and other buildings.
- Building frontage standards, which identify permitted frontage types per applicable street. Frontages dictate the relationship between the street (back of right-of-way) and the facade of the ground-floor of the building.
- Open space standards, which address the required amount of private and public open space for residential and nonresidential developments.

- Landscape standards, which address the placement and type of vegetation, for residential and nonresidential developments.
- Other design standards addressing streetscape elements such as lighting, furnishings, public art, outdoor dining, etc.

**FIGURE 4.1: REGULATING PLAN**



**TABLE 4.1: DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE SPECIFIC PLAN**

Zoning Description	Acres	% Of Total	Estimated Buildout	
			Residential	Non-Residential
CSLA Residential 1	167	35.3%	1,278 units	0 sq. ft.
CSLA Residential 2	80	16.8%	1,432 units	0 sq. ft.
CSLA Residential 3	18	3.9%	478 units	0 sq. ft.
CSLA RPD-5000-10U	7	1.4%	67 units	0 sq. ft.
CSLA Neighborhood Commercial	11	2.3%	0 units	164,363 sq. ft.
CSLA Mixed Use Development 1	27	5.6%	536 units	574,580 sq. ft.
CSLA Mixed Use Development 2	23	4.9%	559 units	1,217,935 sq. ft.
CSLA Civic Center	22	4.7%	168 units	731,244 sq. ft.
CSLA Public / Institutional	83	17.5%	0 units	786,925 sq. ft.
CSLA Buffer Strip	35	7.4%	0 units	0 sq. ft.
<b>Total</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,518 units</b>	<b>3,475,047 sq. ft.</b>

Note: Right-of-way not included in total acres

## 4.2 APPLICATION OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The provisions in this Chapter are applicable to all parcels in the Specific Plan area and shall supersede the provisions in the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances (Los Angeles County Code). The County shall administer the Development Standards in accordance with the State of California Government Code and the Los Angeles County General Plan and Los Angeles County Code. Where the Development Standards differ from provisions in the Los Angeles County Code, the provisions herein shall prevail. If the Specific Plan is silent on an issue, the provisions of the Los Angeles County Code shall be consulted.

The Development Standards in Chapter 4 shall be used in concert with the Design Guidelines in Chapter 5 of the Specific Plan. No construction, modification, addition, placement, or installation of any building or structure shall occur, nor shall any new use commence on any lot, on or after the effective date of this Specific Plan, except in conformity with the provisions of this Specific Plan.

## 4.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

The following special requirements shall be deemed not to conflict with the Specific Plan when they are adopted or implemented.

### **4.3.1 HOUSING ELEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

California law requires that cities and counties zone land to encourage and facilitate their fair share of housing growth—referred to as the regional housing needs assessment (RHNA). The land use and zoning changes included in this Specific Plan support the development of new affordable units toward meeting regional housing needs.

### **4.3.2 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS**

On January 1, 2017, California State Senate Bill 1069, Assembly Bill 2299, and Assembly Bill 2406 went into effect making several changes to address barriers to the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and expanding capacity for their development in zones where housing is allowed by right. An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is a secondary dwelling unit with complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and generally takes three forms: detached (separate from the primary structure), attached (connected to the primary structure), and repurposed existing space (space such as a master bedroom within the primary residence converted into an independent living unit).

### **4.3.3 COMPACT LOT SUBDIVISIONS**

The Compact Lot Subdivision Ordinance, scheduled for adoption in late 2019, will allow the creation of smaller, fee-simple single-family residential lots, or “compact lots,” in areas zoned for two-family and multi-family housing where infill development is encouraged. The Ordinance will amend Title 21 (Subdivisions) of the Los Angeles County Code to exempt compact lots from the street frontage requirement. The Ordinance will also amend Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the County Code to establish new development standards for single-family residences on compact lots. These new development standards include but are not limited to: required lot area and lot width, setbacks, floor area, height, private usable open space, landscaping, tree planting, and parking, including the allowance of a separate parking-only lot where some or all required parking spaces are provided.

Compact lot subdivisions provide a space efficient and economical alternative to traditional options for homeownership. Compact lot subdivisions reduce the amount of land required for new single-family residences, which potentially create opportunities for affordable homeownership through lower land costs. In addition, compact lot subdivisions allow a greater variety in lot sizes and flexibility in lot configuration, which promote urban infill, a diversity of housing types, and neighborhood stability.

#### **4.3.4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESERVATION ORDINANCE**

Affordable housing preservation seeks to maintain the supply of lower-cost housing to avoid displacement of tenants. The Board of Supervisors initiated an ordinance to preserve existing affordable housing that considers a variety of anti-displacement strategies, such as the regulation of condominium conversions and mobile home park closures, and one-for-one replacement or “no net loss” policies. The Affordable Housing Preservation Ordinance is currently being developed.

#### **4.3.5 INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ORDINANCE**

Inclusionary Housing policies require new residential projects that meet certain criteria to set aside a percentage of units for affordable housing. These requirements are to be set at a level that can be supported on a financially feasible basis, as determined through an economic feasibility study. The County is currently developing an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance to establish a policy that outlines the applicability, set-aside requirements, development standards, alternatives, and developer incentives.

#### **4.3.6 INTERIM AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ORDINANCE**

The Interim and Supportive Housing Ordinance will encourage the development of housing that is critical to ending homelessness. Interim housing provides short-term stays and various services for people experiencing homelessness until they are connected with permanent housing. Supportive housing is affordable housing combined with a comprehensive array of services that help people who face the most complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy, and dignity. The Interim and Supportive Housing Ordinance is currently being developed.

#### **4.3.7 BY-RIGHT ORDINANCE**

The intent of the By-Right Housing Ordinance is to streamline multi-family residential developments by allowing them “by-right” in certain zones where appropriate (e.g. commercial zones). The Ordinance will reflect a new State law which requires the availability of a streamlined ministerial approval process for eligible multi-family infill residential developments. This Ordinance will include additional local policies to further incentivize and streamline multi-family residential developments.

### 4.3.8 DENSITY BONUS ORDINANCE

Under the State Density Bonus Law, local jurisdictions must grant a density bonus to housing developments of five or more units if they include a percentage of affordable or senior citizen housing. The County is updating its Density Bonus Ordinance to reflect changes in state law including revised findings for incentives, reduced parking requirements for projects near transit, a replacement requirement, affordability for 55 years, and equity sharing upon resale of affordable for-sale units. In addition, the following local policies designed to further incentivize and streamline the review of density bonus projects are included: an extremely low income household category with set aside requirements, corresponding density bonuses, incentives and no required parking; ministerial review of density bonus projects that meet the certain criteria, exemptions in commercial zones, and updated requirements for fees and agreements.

### 4.3.9 EXISTING STRUCTURES

Reuse of existing structures shall comply with applicable codes, including but not limited to the California Building Code as amended by Los Angeles County, State of California Title 24 Access Compliance, and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Prior to the issuance of use and occupancy permits for adaptive reuse and renovations of existing buildings, open space areas and other site improvements shall be aesthetically upgraded through architectural and landscape improvements. Such improvements may include, but are not limited to:

- Upgraded treatments to building facades, including the use of plaster, brick, stone, and/or other approved materials and expressly excluding rough-coat stucco.
- Updated building facade painting.
- Upgraded window types and window treatments
- Upgraded roofing materials and roof overhangs.
- Decorative treatment of all exposed site walls with new materials.
- Enhancement of the design and placement of private patios and balconies.
- Upgraded appearance of entrances, including doorways, walkways, driveways, and decorative paving.
- Extensive planting of trees and shrubs throughout the site, including parking areas and common open space areas.
- Improved landscape design of front yards and common areas and/or along building perimeters and entries.
- Improvements to common recreational areas including provision of shelters, lighting, and refurbishing of facilities.
- Addition of pedestrian amenities including paths, benches, shade trees, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, lighting, and decorative paving.

- Addition of bicycle facilities including bike racks/and storage areas.
- Creation of project entryways through signage and landscape design, as applicable.
- Creation of signage program for building identification and directional signs.
- Upgraded and consistent signage, including tenant project identification, addressing, and directional signs.
- Enhanced lighting scheme for building entrances, common areas, paths, and parking areas.
- Application of defensible space techniques in landscaping and lighting to deter criminal activity.

### 4.3.10 ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES

“Alternative Financial Service” means a use, other than a state or federally chartered bank, credit union, mortgage lender, savings and loan association, or industrial loan company, that charge a percentage fee to provide a loan or check cashing service. The term "Alternative Financial Service" includes, but is not limited to, deferred deposit transaction (payday loan) businesses, check cashing businesses, and motor vehicle title lenders who offer a short-term loan secured by the title to a motor vehicle. The term "Alternative Financial Service" does not include: 1) non-profit financial institutions, or 2) retail businesses primarily selling consumer goods, with incidental check cashing for a minimum fee, not exceeding two dollars (\$2.00), as a service to its customers. Alternative Financial Services are prohibited within the Specific Plan area.

## 4.4 REGULATING CODE

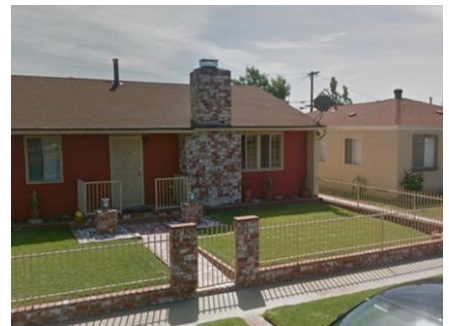
### 4.4.1 CSLA RESIDENTIAL 1 (CSLA R-1) ZONE

#### Purpose and Intent

The CSLA R-1 Zone is applied to preserve the scale and form of the area’s existing single-family residential neighborhoods. The CSLA R-1 Zone provides primarily for single-family detached homes, up to 9 dwelling units per acre.

#### Development Potential for CSLA R-1 Zone

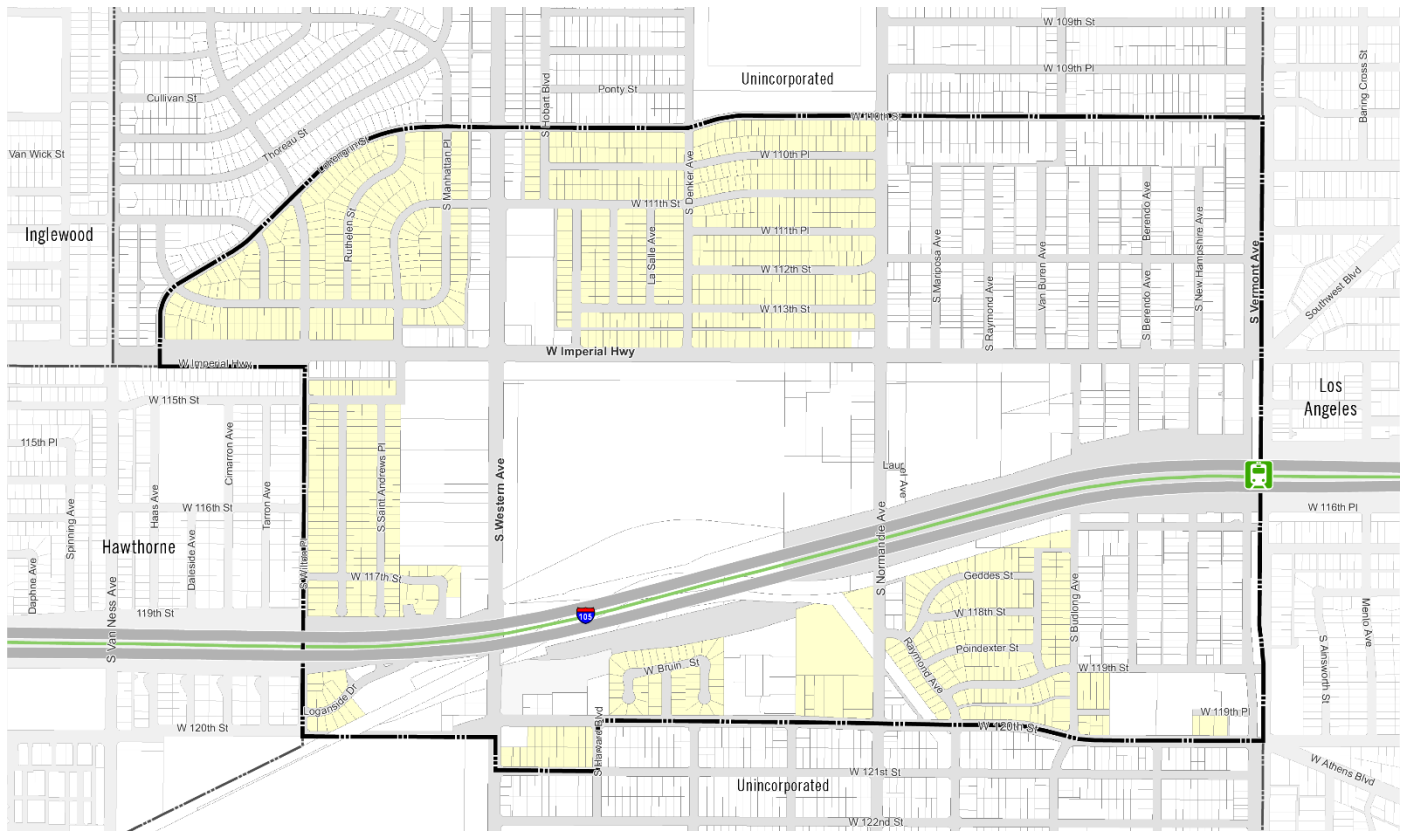
- Total Developable Area: 167 acres
- Residential: 1,278 units
- Non-Residential: None



Existing housing in CSLA R-1 Zone.



**FIGURE 4.2: CSLA R-1 ZONE MAP**



**Use Regulations for CSLA R-1 Zone**

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the CSLA Residential 1 Zone, as shown in Table 4.2, Use Regulations for CSLA R-1 Zone. Use regulations shall remain consistent with Chapter 22.18, R-1 Single Family Residence Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

Accessory uses and structures are permitted when associated with, and subordinate to, a permitted use on the same site, and would include:

- Carport
- Garage/garage conversions to Accessory Dwelling Units
- Home occupation subject to provisions of Los Angeles County Code Chapter 22.140.290
- Patio cover/trellis
- Swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi

**TABLE 4.2: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA R-1 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Single family dwelling units and duplexes, attached/detached; residential planned unit developments	Permitted
Multiple-family dwelling unit (including apartment houses)	Prohibited
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
School	Conditional
Parks and playgrounds with appurtenant facilities found in conjunction therewith	Permitted
<b>Commercial</b>	
Juvenile halls	Prohibited

### Development Standards for CSLA R-1 Zone

Development standards for the CSLA R-1 Zone shall be consistent with Chapter 22.18, R-1 Single Family Residence Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section and Chapter 5, Design Guidelines. The following development standards regulate new development by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements. The development standards accommodate the single-family residential uses anticipated in this zone. They are intended to preserve established single-family neighborhoods, improve connectivity, and provide screening and landscape design along roadways.

**TABLE 4.3: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA R-1 ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Density</b>		
Dwelling Units per Acre	1 du/ac	9 du/ac
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Front Setback	15 feet	None
Side Setback	5 feet <sup>1</sup>	None
Rear Setback	10 feet	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	None	2 Stories
Building Height	None	35 feet <sup>2</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Where a lot or parcel of land is less than 50 feet in width, such lot or parcel of land may have interior side yards equal to 10 percent of the average width, but in no event less than three feet in width.

<sup>2</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

### Landscaping

- Front Yard Landscaping: With the exception of a walkway and the required paved driveway, all areas within the street-fronting yard shall be landscaped and maintained.
- Sustainable site design shall be employed as specified in Section 4.4.5.

### Fences

- If street fencing is required for security reasons, wrought-iron-style fences that do not obscure views to or from the public right-of-way may be permitted up to five feet high in front yards and corner side yards, subject to a Site Plan review.
- Fence design may include a combination solid wall and open fencing as long as over 50 percent of the wall is transparent.
- The use of barbed wire, electrified fence, and chain-link fence in conjunction with any fence, wall, roof, or hedge is prohibited unless required by any law or regulation of the Los Angeles County, federal government, or agency thereof, as applicable.

### Utility and Mechanical Equipment

- Utility and mechanical equipment as specified in Section 4.4.2.

## 4.4.2 CSLA RESIDENTIAL 2 (CSLA R-2) ZONE

The CSLA R-2 Zone is applied to provide opportunities for medium density housing containing multiple units up to 18 dwelling units per acre. The development standards for this designation promote a variety of attached housing types, including courtyard housing, row homes, townhomes, and garden apartments, to provide a variety of housing options.

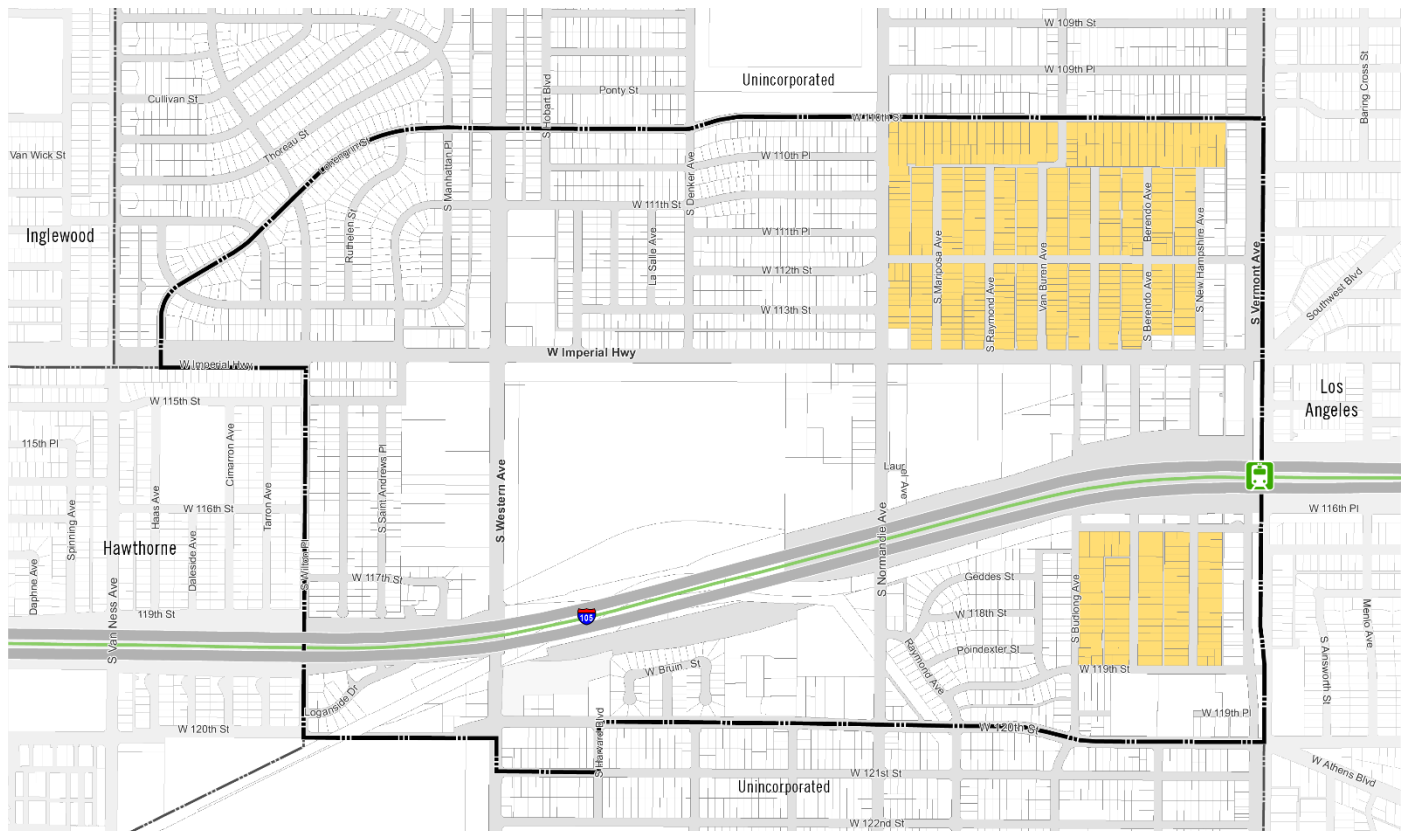


Example of attached housing that may be allowed in the CSLA R-2 Zone.

### Development Potential for CSLA R-2 Zone

- Total Developable Area: 80 acres
- Residential: 1,432 units
- Non-Residential: None

### FIGURE 4.3: CSLA R-2 ZONE MAP



### Use Regulations for CSLA R-2 Zone

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in CSLA Residential 2 Zone, as shown in Table 4.4, Use Regulations for CSLA R-2 Zone. Use regulations shall be consistent with Chapter 22.18, R-2 Two-Family Residence Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

Accessory uses and structures are permitted when associated with, and subordinate to, a permitted use on the same site, and would include:

- Carport
- Garage/garage conversions to Accessory Dwelling Units
- Home occupation subject to provisions of Los Angeles County Code Section 22.140.290
- Patio cover/trellis
- Swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi

**TABLE 4.4: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA R-2 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Single family dwelling units, attached/detached; residential planned unit developments	Permitted
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
School	Conditional
Parks and playgrounds with appurtenant facilities customarily found in conjunction therewith	Permitted
<b>Commercial</b>	
Juvenile halls	Prohibited

### Development Standards for CSLA R-2 Zone

Development standards for the CSLA R-2 Zone shall remain consistent with Chapter 22.18, R-2 Two-Family Residence Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section and Chapter 5, Design Guidelines. The following development standards regulate new development by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements. Housing types that can be accommodated in this zone include single-family, duplexes, and townhouses. The standards are intended to preserve established residential character, improve connectivity, and provide screening and landscape design along roadways.

**TABLE 4.5: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA R-2 ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Density</b>		
Dwelling Units per Acre	10 du/ac	18 du/ac
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Front Setback	15 feet	None
Side Setback	5 feet	None
Rear Setback	10 feet	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	None	2 Stories
Building Height	None	35 feet <sup>1</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

**Landscaping**

Front Yard Landscaping: With the exception of the required paved driveway and walkway, all areas within the street-fronting yard shall be landscaped and maintained.

Sustainable site design shall be employed as specified in Section 4.4.5.

**Fences**

If street fencing is required for security reasons, wrought-iron-style fences that do not obscure views may be permitted up to five feet high in front yards and corner side yards, subject to a Site Plan review.

Fence design may include a combination solid wall and open fencing as long as over 50 percent of the wall is transparent.

The use of barbed wire, electrified fence, and chain-link fence in conjunction with any fence, wall, roof, or hedge is prohibited unless required by any law or regulation of the Los Angeles County, federal government, or agency thereof, as applicable.

**Utility and Mechanical Equipment**

Utility and mechanical equipment as specified in Section 4.4.2.



## Use Regulations for CSLA R-3 Zone

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the CSLA R-3 Zone as shown in Table 4.6, Use Regulations for CSLA R-3 Zone. Use regulations shall remain consistent with Chapter 22.18, R-3 Limited Multiple Density Residence Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

Accessory uses and structures are permitted when customarily associated with, and subordinate to, a permitted use on the same site.

Residential units shall not be located within 200' of the freeway right-of-way. Other uses such as parking are allowed. Developments north of the I-105 Freeway shall be oriented toward Imperial Highway to the extent feasible.

**TABLE 4.6: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA R-3 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Single family dwelling units, attached/detached; residential planned unit developments	Permitted
Multiple-family dwelling unit (including apartment houses)	Permitted
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
School	Conditional
Churches, temples, and other places of worship	Conditional
Childcare center	Conditional
Parks, playgrounds with appurtenant facilities customarily found in conjunction therewith	Permitted
<b>Commercial</b>	
Hospital (including convalescent home, nursing home, and maternity home)	Conditional
Golf courses	Prohibited

## Development Standards for CSLA R-3 Zone

Standards for the CSLA R-3 Zone shall remain consistent with Chapter 22.18, R-3 Limited Density Multiple Residence Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section and Chapter 5, Design Guidelines. The following development standards regulate new development by establishing standards for development intensity, building height, open space, and other site design elements. The standards accommodate the single- and multi-family residential uses anticipated in this zone. They are intended



to buffer established residential neighborhoods from non-residential uses, provide screening and landscape design along roadways, and provide connectivity. Residential uses within 500 feet of the freeway are discouraged unless properly mitigated for noise and air pollution risks.

**TABLE 4.7: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA R-3 ZONE**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>Density</b>		
Dwelling Units per Acre	19 du/ac	30 du/ac
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Front Setback	10 feet	None
Side Setback	5 feet	None
Rear Setback	10 feet	None
Interior Yard Adjacent to Single-Family Residential (Side or Rear)	15 ft.	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	None	3 Stories
Building Height	None	40 feet <sup>1</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

### Landscaping

- Required Open Space: 200 sq. ft./du for multi-family developments for common recreational-leisure areas, private areas, or a combination of both.
  - » Minimum dimension for private areas is 7 feet.
  - » Minimum dimension for common areas is 20 feet.
  - » Side and rear yards may be included in the calculation of open space, but not required front yard setback area.
  - » Open space areas shall have no parking, driveway, or right-of-way encroachments.
  - » All common areas shall be improved as either active or passive facilities, with landscaping or hardscape elements designed to serve the residents of the project. All common areas shall be developed and professionally maintained in accordance with approved landscape and irrigation plans.
  - » Pedestrian walkways within a project shall be a minimum of four feet in width.

- » Private usable open space shall be contiguous to the residential units served and screened for privacy.
- » Courtyard internal to a project, or enclosed on at least three sides, shall have a minimum of width of forty feet.
- Front Yard Landscaping: With the exception of the required paved driveway and walkway, all areas within the street-fronting yard shall be landscaped and maintained.
- Sustainable site design shall be employed as specified in Section 4.4.5.

### **Fences**

- If street fencing is required for security reasons, wrought-iron-style fences that do not obscure views may be permitted up to five feet high in front yards and corner side yards, subject to a Site Plan review.
- Fence design may include a combination solid wall and open fencing as long as over 50 percent of the wall is transparent.
- The use of barbed wire, electrified fence, and chain-link fence in conjunction with any fence, wall, roof, or hedge is prohibited unless required by any law or regulation of the Los Angeles County, federal government, or agency thereof, as applicable.

### **Utility and Mechanical Equipment**

- Utility and mechanical equipment as specified in Section 4.4.2.

### **Circulation and Parking**

- Larger projects shall incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect with a comprehensive network of integrated open spaces throughout the Specific Plan area.
- Parking shall not be located in the street-fronting yard area.
- Carports shall be architecturally compatible with the design of the main structures in the project.
- Parking structures shall be architecturally integrated with the project design and shall be screened from view at street level by architectural detailing, facade treatment, artwork, landscaping, or similar visual features to enhance the street facade.

- Bicycle parking shall be provided as specified in Section 4.4.4.
- Vehicle circulation and access as specified in Section 4.4.7 and 5.2.2.
- Parking facilities as specified in Section 4.4.6 and 5.3.8.



*Olive Glen by Williams Homes.*

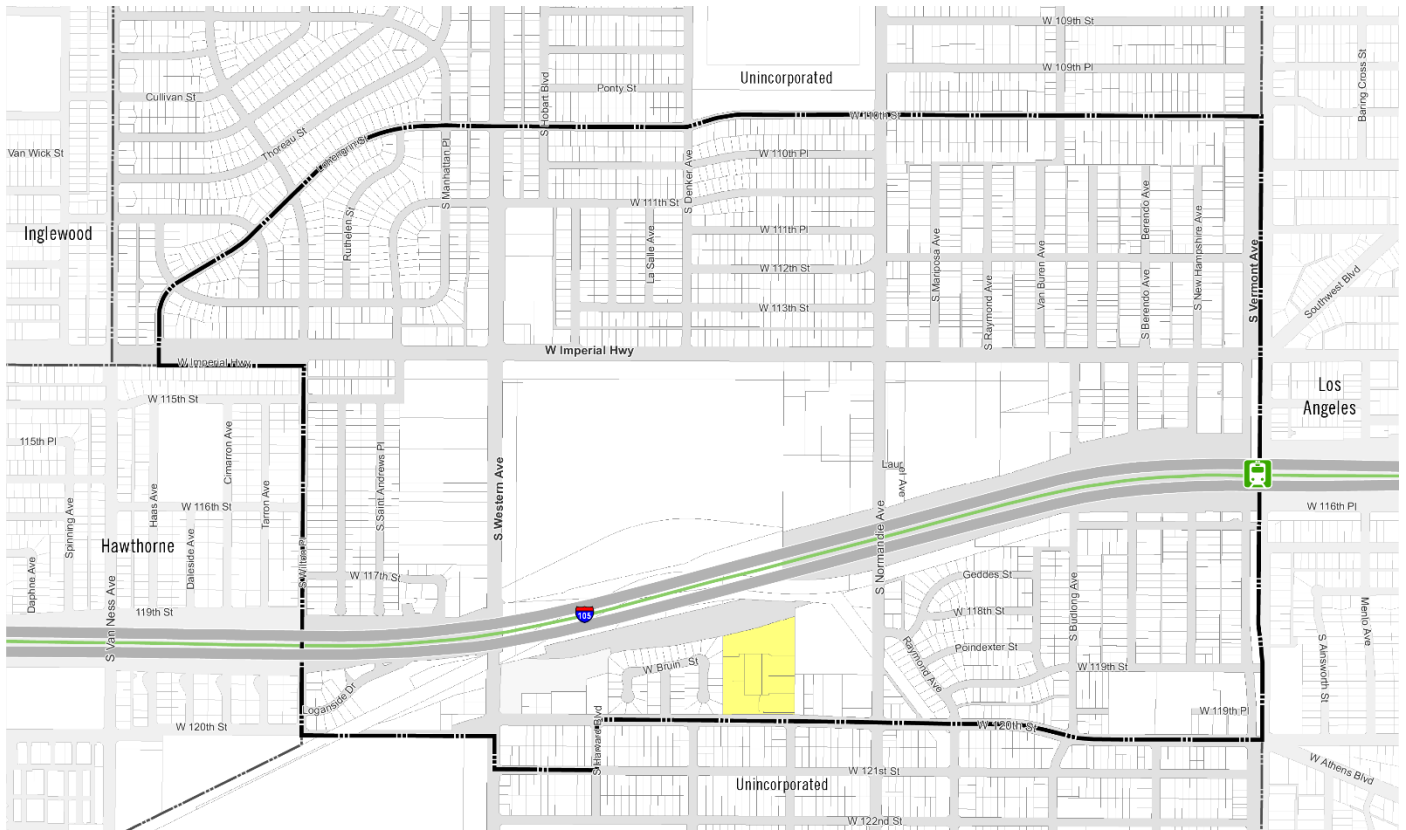
#### **4.4.4 CSLA RESIDENTIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-5000-10U (CSLA RPD-5000-10U)**

Consistent with Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code, the CSLA RPD-5000-10U zone promotes residential amenities beyond those expected under conventional single-family development, to achieve greater flexibility in design, to encourage well-planned neighborhoods through creative and imaginative planning as a unit, and to provide for appropriate use of land that is sufficiently unique in its physical characteristics or other circumstances to warrant special methods of development. This zone was established to accommodate Olive Glen by Williams Homes; a planned unit development on 120th Street. The creation of this zone shall have no effect on the prior project approval beyond including it in the Specific Plan.

#### **Development Potential for CSLA RPD-5000-10U Zone**

- Total Developable Area: 7 acres
- Residential: 67 units
- Non-Residential: None

**FIGURE 4.5: CSLA RPD-500-10U ZONE MAP**



**Use Regulations for CSLA RPD-500-10U Zone**

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the CSLA RPD-500-10U Zone shall remain consistent with Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.

**Development Standards for CSLA RPD-500-10U Zone**

Standards for the CSLA RPD-500-10U Zone shall remain consistent with Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.

**4.4.5 CSLA NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL (CSLA NC) ZONE**

The CSLA NC Zone is established to serve the local retail and service needs of the residents, employees, and students in the area. This zone is suited for small scale retail service developments and restaurants that serve the daily needs of adjacent neighborhoods. The intent is to maintain and promote the continuation of the neighborhood-service commercial uses.



*Example of development in the CSLA NC Zone.*



**TABLE 4.8: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA NC ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Mixed use developments (retail/office)	Conditional
Multi-family dwelling unit	Prohibited
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
School	Conditional
Fire station	Conditional
<b>Service Commercial</b>	
Alternative financial service	Prohibited
Automobile service station	Prohibited
Automobile battery and repair shops	Prohibited
Amusement rides and devices	Prohibited
Bulk recycling	Prohibited
Car wash	Prohibited
Drive-through establishments and drive-through lanes	Prohibited
Check cashing, auto title loans, short-term lending	Prohibited
Offsite alcoholic beverage sales	Prohibited
Onsite alcoholic beverage sales	Conditional
Parking lots and parking garages as primary use	Prohibited
Smoking-oriented, tobacco, pipe and vape shops	Prohibited

**Development Standards for CSLA NC Zone**

Standards for the CSLA NC Zone shall remain consistent with Chapter 22.20.030, C-2 Neighborhood Business Zone, unless otherwise specified in this section and Chapter 5, Design Guidelines. The following development standards regulate new site and building development by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements. They have been developed to accommodate new and existing neighborhood-serving retail and service uses.

**TABLE 4.9: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA NC ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Floor Area Ratio</b>		
All Buildings	0	0.35
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Vermont Ave.	10 ft.	None
Imperial Hwy	10 ft.	None
Western Ave.	10 ft.	None
Normandie Ave.	10 ft.	None
<b>Interior Yard (Side or Rear)</b>		
Interior Yard Adjacent to Residential (Side or Rear)	15 ft.	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Building Height	None	45 feet <sup>1</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

### Landscaping

- A minimum of 20 percent of the lot shall be landscaped with trees, ground cover, shrubbery and flowers, and shall be continuously maintained in good condition. Required landscaping within parking lots does not count toward this requirement. Pedestrian walkways, plazas, and outdoor dining areas may be developed in the landscape area.
- Chapter 22.12.6 establishes tree planting requirements, including those for surface parking lots.
- Sustainable site design shall be employed as specified in Section 4.4.5.

### Circulation and Parking

- Larger projects shall incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect with a comprehensive network of integrated open spaces throughout the Specific Plan area.
- Bicycle parking shall be provided as specified in Section 4.4.4.
- Vehicle circulation and access as specified in Section 4.4.7 and 5.2.2.
- Parking facilities as specified in Section 4.4.6 and 5.3.8.

## Utility and Mechanical Equipment

- Utility and mechanical equipment as specified in Section 4.4.2.

## 4.4.6 CSLA CIVIC CENTER (CSLA CC) ZONE

The CSLA CC Zone is intended to allow opportunities for non-civic uses, including commercial, interim and supportive housing, multifamily residential uses and public open space, where appropriate, to occur with civic uses located along Imperial Highway. The CSLA CC Zone allows multifamily residential uses as an incentive for the development of affordable housing. Over time, the CSLA CC Zone will integrate the existing civic uses and the multifamily residential areas east toward the station, into a walkable, safe district. Residential uses are intended to provide for housing options and affordability, particularly workforce housing in proximity to both employment uses and transit.

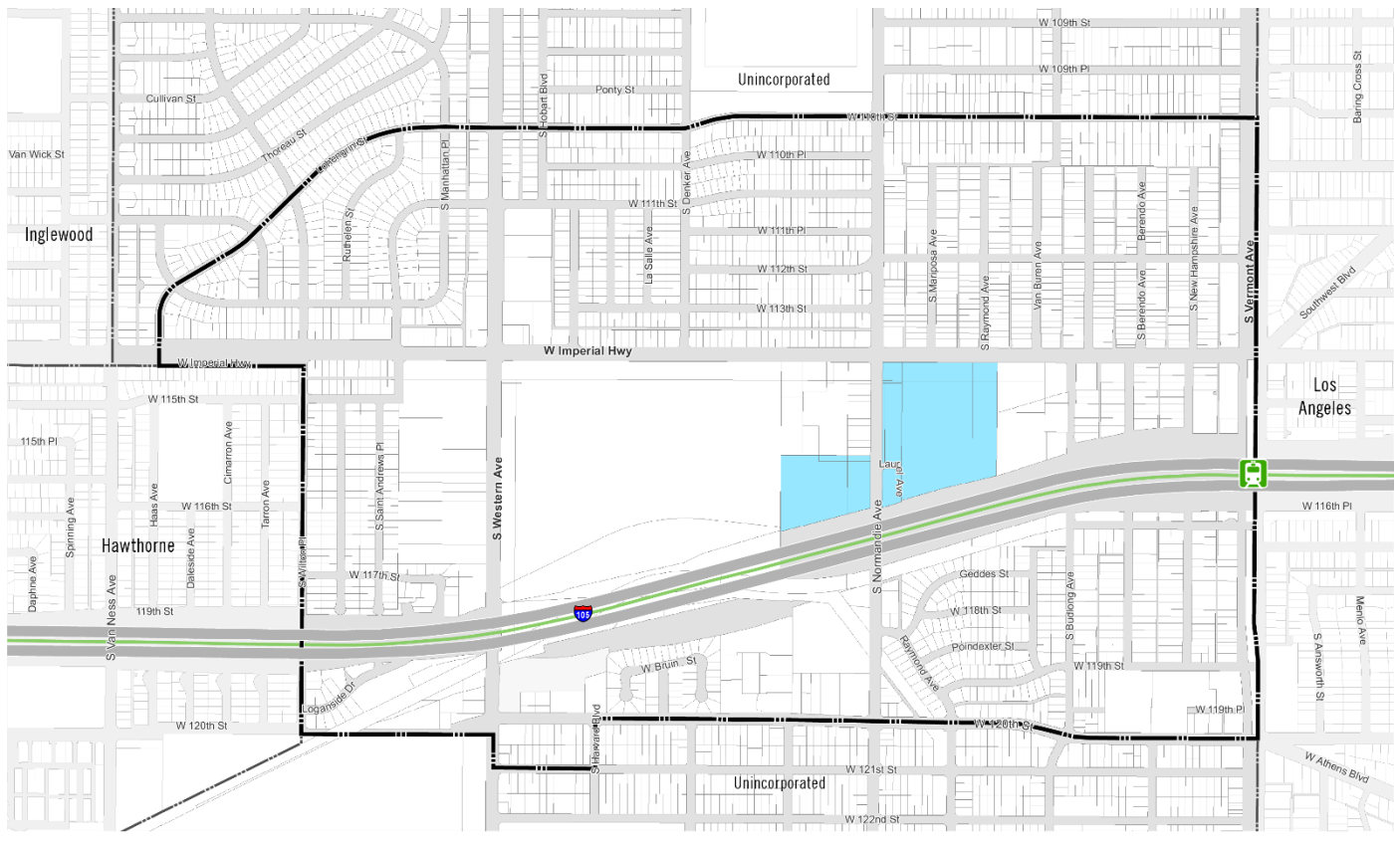


Example campus with landscaping and quality architectural features.

## Development Potential for CSLA CC Zone

- Total Developable Area: 22 acres
- Residential: 168 units
- Non-Residential: 731,244 sq. ft.

FIGURE 4.7: CSLA CC ZONE MAP





## Use Regulations for CSLA CC Zone

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the CSLA CC zone, as shown in Table 4.10, Use Regulations for CSLA CC Zone. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

**TABLE 4.10: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA CC ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Multi-family dwelling unit	Permitted
<b>Homeless Shelters</b>	
Domestic Violence Shelters	Permitted
Interim and Supportive Housing	Permitted
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
Art and cultural facility	Permitted
Churches, temples, and other places of worship	Permitted
<b>Fire station</b>	
Park, open space, playground and accessory use	Permitted
School	Permitted
<b>Service / Retail Commercial</b>	
Alternative financial service	Prohibited
Automobile service station	Prohibited
Automobile battery and repair shops	Prohibited
Amusement rides and devices	Prohibited
Bakery, coffee house/café, delicatessen/cafeteria	Permitted
Bank and financial institution	Permitted
Childcare facility or nursery school	Conditional
Commercial recreational facility	Permitted
Drive-through establishments and drive-through lanes	Prohibited
Check cashing, auto title loans, short-term lending	Prohibited
Grocery	Permitted
Health club	Conditional
Hotel	Conditional
Offsite alcoholic beverage sales	Prohibited

**TABLE 4.10: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA CC ZONE**

Use	Regulation
Onsite alcoholic beverage sales	Conditional
Restaurant, family, specialty, without drive-through lanes	Permitted
Smoking-oriented, tobacco, pipe and vape shops	Prohibited
<b>Office</b>	
Professional office	Permitted

**Development Standards for CSLA CC Zone**

The site configuration regulations included in Table 4.11 regulate new site and building development by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements. They have been developed to accommodate a mix of public institutional, commercial, office, and other uses.

**TABLE 4.11: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA CC ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Density</b>		
Residential	None	30 du/ac
<b>Floor Area Ratio (FAR)</b>		
All Buildings	None	1.0
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Imperial Hwy.	5 ft.	None
Normandie Ave.	5 ft.	None
Internal Roadway	15 ft.	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	1	3/4 stories <sup>1</sup>
Building Height	None	50 ft <sup>2</sup>
Floors	None	3 stories
Building Height	None	45 ft <sup>2</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Three stories maximum for stand-alone residential configuration, four stories allowed in a mixed-use or interim/supportive housing configuration.

<sup>2</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

Site, building, and landscaping design standards are as follows:

### Urban Form and Landscaping

- Permanent multi-family dwelling units shall not be located within 200 feet of the freeway right-of-way. Other uses such as commercial-only development, the commercial component of a mixed use development, and parking are allowed. Projects shall be oriented toward Imperial Highway to the extent feasible.
- Large facades/walls of structures within 20 ft. of a roadway, such as parking structures, operations plants, or other buildings, shall be screened with trees, large shrubs, and other vegetation to soften and buffer.
- Landscaping along Imperial Highway shall be permeable and open to the street to allow visibility; encourage access and connectivity through the site; and create an attractive, inviting pedestrian experience.

### Circulation and Parking

- Larger projects shall incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect with a comprehensive network of integrated open spaces throughout the Specific Plan area.
- Bicycle parking shall be provided as specified in Section 4.4.4.
- Vehicle circulation and access as specified in Section 4.4.7 and 5.2.2.
- Parking facilities as specified in Section 4.4.6 and 5.3.8.

### Utility and Mechanical Equipment

- Utility and mechanical equipment as specified in Section 4.4.2.

## 4.4.7 CSLA MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT 1 (CSLA MXD-1) ZONE

The CSLA MXD-1 Zone promotes development of a mix of commercial, office, and residential, with an emphasis on neighborhood serving uses. The CSLA MXD-1 Zone provides for a range of smaller to medium scale retail, horizontal and vertical mixed use developments, and multiple family residential uses up to 30 dwelling units per acre. Developments have private/public open space components and strong bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Vermont/Athens Station, LASC campus, and the community.



*Example mixed use building with ground floor commercial and residential above.*



- Caretaker’s quarters
- Enclosed, screened, incidental outdoor storage
- Maintenance/storage facility and structure
- Patio cover/trellis
- Swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi
- Tennis court, basketball courts, and other multi-purpose sports courts

**TABLE 4.12: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA MXD-1 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Mixed use developments (including apartment houses)	Permitted
Multi-family dwelling unit	Permitted
Non-confirming apartments	Permitted
Homeless Shelters	Permitted
Domestic Violence Shelters	Permitted
Interim and Supportive Housing	Permitted
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
Art and cultural facility	Permitted
Churches, temples, and other places of worship	Permitted
Fire station	Conditional
Park, open space, playground and accessory use	Permitted
School	Conditional
<b>Service / Retail Commercial</b>	
Alternative financial service	Prohibited
Automobile service station	Prohibited
Automobile battery and repair shops	Prohibited
Amusement rides and devices	Prohibited
Bakery, coffee house/café, delicatessen/cafeateria	Permitted
Bank and financial institution	Permitted
Childcare facility or nursery school	Conditional
Commercial recreational facility	Permitted
Drive-through establishments and drive-through lanes	Prohibited
Check cashing, auto title loans, short-term lending	Prohibited

**TABLE 4.12: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA MXD-1 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
Grocery stores/supermarkets	Permitted
Health clubs/gymnasium	Permitted
Hotel	Permitted
Movie theater	Permitted
Offsite alcoholic beverage sales	Prohibited
Onsite alcoholic beverage sales	Conditional
Parking lots and parking garages as primary use	Prohibited
Restaurant, family, specialty, without drive-through lanes	Permitted
Theater, including live performance	Permitted
Smoking-oriented, tobacco, pipe, vape shops	Prohibited
<b>Office</b>	
General office	Permitted
Medical office	Permitted

**Development Standards for CSLA MXD-1 Zone**

The following development standards regulate new site and building development by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements. They have been developed to accommodate a mix of commercial, office, and residential uses. The standards are intended to encourage the development of medium-density housing as well as retail and service commercial uses to serve the daily needs of the community. Development standards include building frontage standards to ensure a pedestrian-friendly focus. The following development standards apply in conjunction with Chapter 5, Design Guidelines.

**TABLE 4.13: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA MXD-1 ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Density</b>		
Residential	18 du/ac	30 du/ac
<b>Floor Area Ratio (FAR)</b>		
All Buildings	1.0	1.5
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Vermont Ave	5 ft.	15 ft.
Imperial Hwy.	5 ft.	15 ft.
Local Road	15 ft.	None

**TABLE 4.13: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA MXD-1 ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
Interior Yard (Side or Rear)	0 ft.	None
Interior Yard Adjacent to Residential (Side or Rear)	15 ft.	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	None	3 stories
Building Height	None	45 ft <sup>1</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

### Frontages

Frontages dictate the relationship between the street (back of right-of-way) and the facade of the ground-floor of the building (see Section 5.3.1, Frontage Types for building frontage design standards and guidelines). All new development adjacent to a street with frontage requirements shall have a primary building facade and entry from the identified street and must adhere to the following building frontage requirements.

- Building orientation shall be determined by the location of the primary entrance, which shall indicate the front of the building.
- Pedestrian access to public right-of-way is required either through common corridors or courtyards from buildings adjacent to the road.
- Decorative, open fencing is allowed up to six feet high; a solid wall is allowed up to three feet high.

**TABLE 4.14: FRONTAGE CATEGORIES FOR CSLA MXD-1 ZONE**

Frontage Type	Vermont Avenue	Western Avenue	Imperial Highway
<b>Shopfront</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>Forecourt</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>Terrace</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>Stoop</b>	Not permitted	Permitted	Permitted

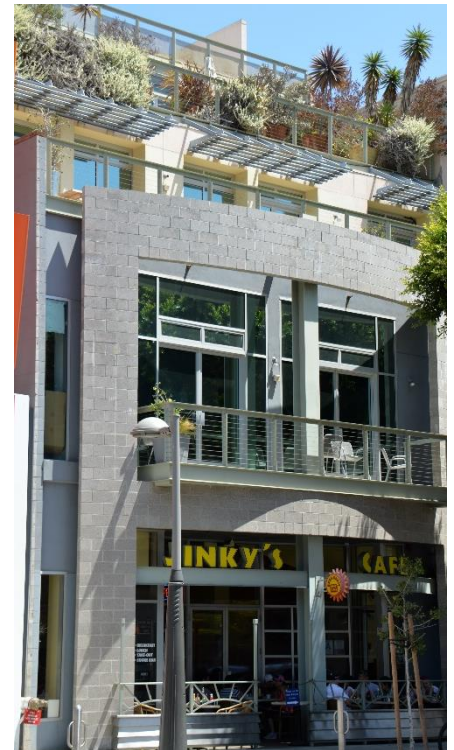
Notes: See Section 5.3 for building frontage design standards and guidelines.

## Urban Form & Landscaping

- When sharing a property line with an existing single-family zone, the following requirements, illustrated in Figure 4.9, shall apply:
  - » Windows, balconies, or similar openings shall be oriented so as to minimize any direct line-of-sight into adjacent units or onto private patios or backyards adjoining the property line.
  - » The third floor shall be stepped back by a minimum of 10 ft.
  - » A minimum 20 feet landscape buffer shall be installed along the inside property line of the mixed use development to provide a visual and aesthetic buffer.
- Residential units shall not be located within 200 feet of the freeway right-of-way. Other uses such as commercial-only development, the commercial component of a mixed use development, and parking are allowed. Projects north of the I-105 Freeway shall be oriented toward Imperial Highway or Vermont Avenue to the extent feasible.
- Building frontages shall include variations in wall planes (projections and recesses), wall height (vertical relief), and roof forms and heights to reduce the perceived scale of the structure.
- Developments shall provide benefits for the greater community exceeding minimum standards specified by this Plan as approved by the Director and may include street trees, public art, wayfinding signage, bicycle racks, street furniture and other features.
- Large development projects shall be designed to appear as a collection of appropriately scaled buildings to create a pedestrian-oriented environment, integrating public open space, paseos, plazas, and pocket parks.

## Facades

- Street wall facades shall use arcades, colonnades, recessed entrances, window details, bays, and variation in building materials, color, and other details.
- The maximum total blank wall area (without windows or entrances) shall not exceed 30 percent of the first-story wall for non-residential and 50 percent for residential.
- The facade detailing of mixed-use buildings shall visually differentiate ground-floor uses from upper-story uses. The base



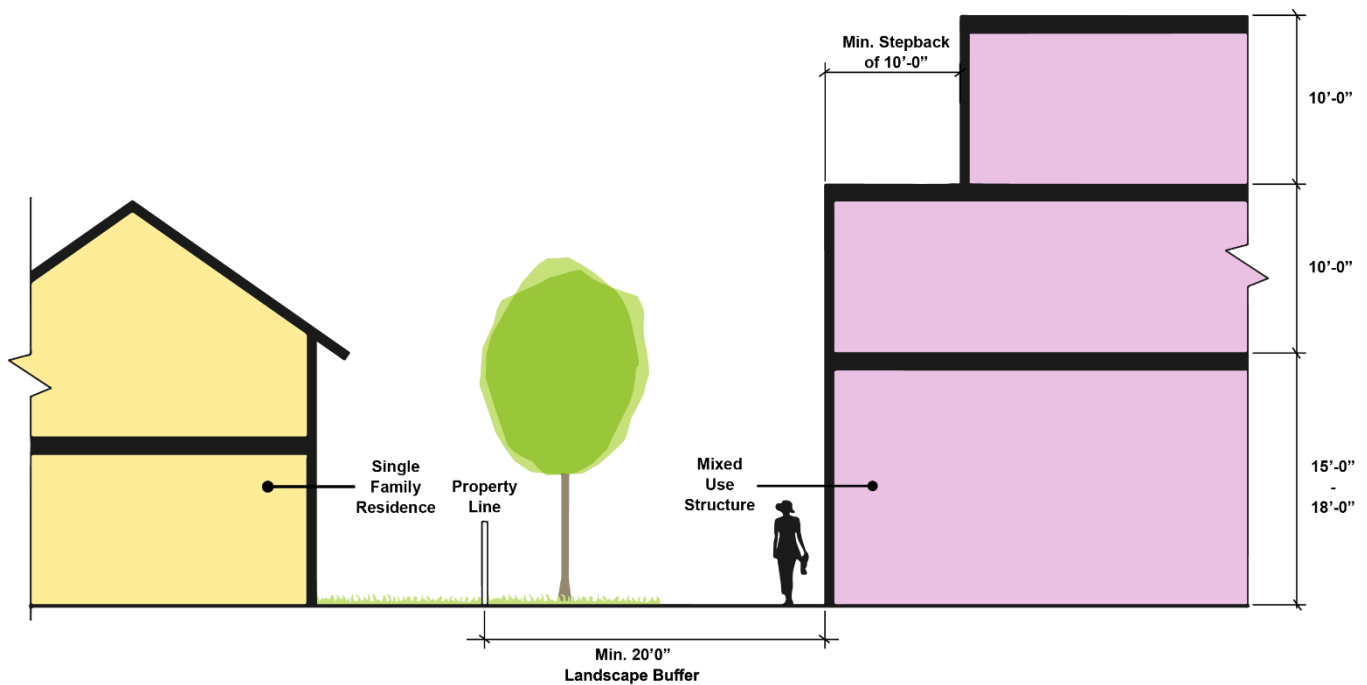
Example of street-facing mixed use development.



shall visibly anchor the building to the ground with a treatment of higher quality materials excluding stucco.

- Commercial or retail and residential entries shall be clearly identifiable and differentiated from one another.
- Primary building facades shall align with the right-of-way, property lines, or easement line unless setbacks are allowed.

**FIGURE 4.9: BUILDING HEIGHT AND STEPBACK REQUIREMENT FOR CSLA MXD-1 ZONE**



### Design Features

- Private balconies shall be screened to shield personal items from public view.
- All primary ground-floor common entries for individual dwelling unit or commercial entries fronting on streets shall be or oriented to the street, not to the interior or to a parking lot.
- Buildings having 100 feet or more of street frontage shall be designed to provide roofs of varying heights.

- All glass in windows or entrances on the first two stories shall be either clear or lightly tinted to maximize visibility of building interiors from the sidewalk area. Mirrored, highly reflective, or densely tinted glass shall be prohibited for use in windows and entrances.
- Rough-coat stucco is prohibited.

#### **Utility and Mechanical Equipment**

- Utility and mechanical equipment information can be found in Section 4.4.2.

#### **Required Residential Open Space**

- 100 SF per dwelling unit for common recreational-leisure areas, private areas, or a combination of both.
- Minimum dimension for private areas is 7 feet.
- Minimum dimension for common areas is 20 feet.
- Side and rear yards may be included in the calculation of open space.
- Open space areas shall have no parking, driveway, or right-of-way encroachments.
- All common areas shall be improved as either active or passive facilities, with landscaping or hardscape elements designed to serve the residents of the project. All common areas shall be developed and professionally maintained in accordance with approved landscape and irrigation plans.
- Common recreational space shall be located on the same property as the residential use it serves and shall be available exclusively for the use of all residents of the development.
- Where a rooftop is used for common recreational space, the rooftop shall incorporate landscaping, decorative paving and materials, and amenities. Mechanical equipment and/or storage areas shall not be counted toward meeting the requirement.
- Pedestrian walkways within a project shall be a minimum of four feet in width.
- Private useable open space shall be contiguous to the residential units served and screened for privacy.



*Example non-residential open space.*

- Courtyards internal to a project, or enclosed on at least three sides, shall have a minimum dimension of forty feet.
- Light fixtures installed in the interior of a private development project shall be pedestrian-scaled and directed towards the ground to avoid light pollution and spill-over to surrounding residential areas

### **Required Non-Residential Open Space**

- 500 SF non-residential open space requirement for projects less than 2 acres.
- 2,500 SF non-residential open space requirement for projects greater than 2 acres.
- Non-residential open space requirement may be satisfied by outdoor dining areas, plazas, or other usable outdoor areas as approved by the Director.
- Plazas, urban pocket parks, outdoor dining, promenades, and other outdoor amenities accessible to the public shall be designed to enable active pedestrian use.
- Open spaces shall be designed to provide shade through the placement of trees or other shade devices, including umbrellas, awnings, trellises, and canopies that are integrated into the building or over the open space.
- Light fixtures installed in the interior of a private development project shall be pedestrian-scaled and directed towards the ground to avoid light pollution and spill-over to surrounding residential areas

### **Circulation and Parking**

- Larger projects shall incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect with a comprehensive network of integrated open spaces throughout the Specific Plan area.
- Parking structures shall be architecturally integrated with the design of occupiable buildings and screened from view at street level by architectural elements, artwork, landscaping, or similar visual features.
- Site access shall be defined with special paving treatments such as stamped concrete, pavers, and color, and lighting and/or landscape treatments.

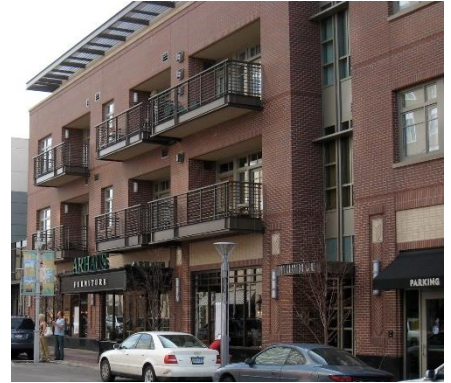
- Bicycle parking shall be provided as specified in Section 4.4.4.
- Vehicle circulation and access as specified in Section 4.4.7 and 5.2.2.
- Parking facilities as specified in Section 4.4.6 and 5.3.8.

#### **4.4.8 CSLA MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT 2 (CSLA MXD-2) ZONE**

The CSLA MXD-2 Zone is intended to be developed over time as a transit-supportive environment, providing a higher-intensity mix of retail, office, restaurant uses and residential development in a compact, walkable setting. This designation encourages multiple family residential, in a vertical mixed-use configuration, up to 60 dwelling units per acre. The development standards and design requirements address vital private/public open space components, and pedestrian facilities. The MXD-2 Zone is intended to promote community redevelopment through higher intensity, transit supporting infill development.

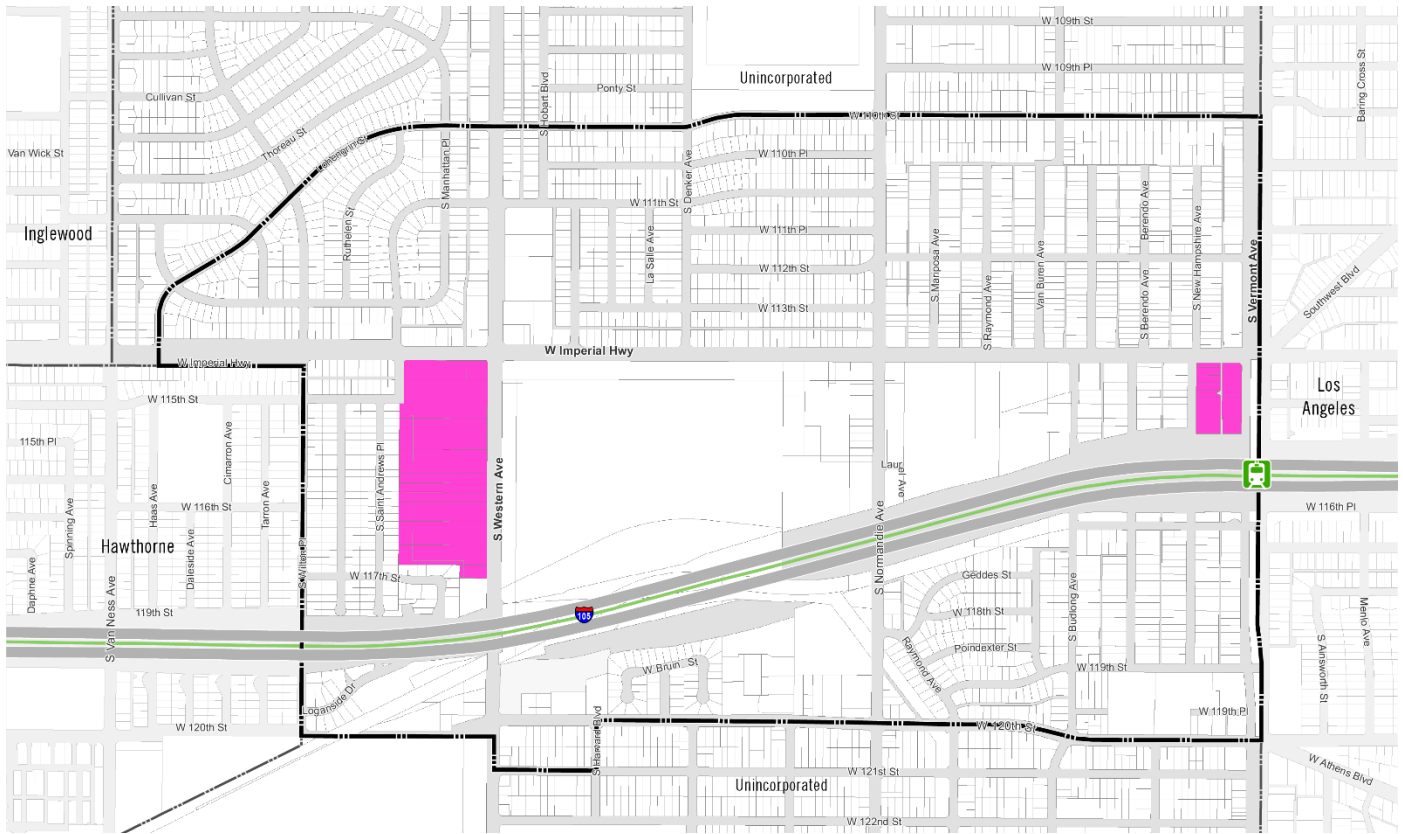
##### **Development Potential for CSLA MXD-2 Zone**

- Total Developable Area: 23 acres
- Residential: 559 units
- Non-Residential: 1,217,935 sq. ft.



*Example ground floor commercial with shopfront frontage and residential above.*

**FIGURE 4.10: CSLA MXD-2 ZONE MAP**



### Use Regulations for CSLA MXD-2 Zone

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the CSLA MXD-2 zone, as shown in Table 4.15, Use Regulations for CSLA MXD-2 Zone. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

Accessory uses and structures are permitted when customarily associated with, and subordinate to, a permitted use on the same site, and would include:

- Administrative office
- Assembly/multi-purpose room or building
- Caretaker’s quarters
- Enclosed, screened, incidental outdoor storage

- Maintenance/storage facility and structure
- Patio cover/trellis
- Swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi
- Tennis court, basketball courts, and other multi-purpose sports courts

**TABLE 4.15: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA MXD-2 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Residential</b>	
Mixed use developments (including apartment houses)	Permitted
Multi-family dwelling unit	Permitted
Non-conforming apartments	Permitted
Homeless Shelters	Permitted
Domestic Violence Shelters	Permitted
Interim and Supportive Housing	Permitted
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
Art and cultural facility	Permitted
Churches, temples, and other places of worship	Permitted
Fire station	Conditional
Park, open space, playground and accessory use	Permitted
School	Conditional
<b>Service / Retail Commercial</b>	
Alternative financial service	Prohibited
Automobile service station	Prohibited
Automobile battery and repair shops	Prohibited
Amusement rides and devices	Prohibited
Bakery, coffee house/café, delicatessen/cafeteria	Permitted
Bank and financial institution	Permitted
Childcare facility or nursery school	Conditional
Commercial recreational facility	Permitted
Drive-through establishments and drive through lanes	Prohibited
Check cashing, auto title loans, short-term lending	Prohibited
Grocery stores/supermarkets	Permitted
Health clubs/gymnasiums	Permitted
Hotel	Permitted
Movie theater	Permitted

**TABLE 4.15: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA MXD-2 ZONE**

<b>Use</b>	<b>Regulation</b>
Offsite alcoholic beverage sales, establishment less than 10,000 sf	Prohibited
Offsite alcoholic beverage sales, establishment more than 10,000 sf	Conditional
Onsite alcoholic beverage sales	Conditional
Parking lots and parking garages as primary use	Prohibited
Restaurant, family, specialty, without drive-through	Permitted
Theater, including live performance	Permitted
Smoking-oriented, tobacco, pipe, vape shops	Prohibited
<b>Office</b>	
General office	Permitted
Medical office	Permitted
Professional Office	Permitted

### Development Standards for CSLA MXD-2 Zone

The following development standards regulate new site and building development by establishing standards for intensity, building height, open space, and other elements. They have been developed to accommodate a mix of retail, office, restaurant, and residential uses. The standards are intended to encourage the development of high density housing and retail and service commercial uses to serve the daily needs of the community. Development standards include building frontage standards to ensure a pedestrian-friendly focus. The following development standards apply in conjunction with Chapter 5, Design Guidelines.

**TABLE 4.16: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA  
MXD-2 ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Density</b>		
Residential	31 du/ac	60 du/ac
<b>Floor Area Ratio (FAR)</b>		
Residential and Non-Residential	0.5	2.0
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Imperial Hwy.	10 ft.	25 ft.
Vermont Avenue	10 ft.	25 ft.
Western Avenue	10 ft.	25 ft.
Interior Yard Adjacent to Residential (Side or Rear)	15 ft.	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	None	4/5 stories <sup>1</sup>
Floors, adjacent to Single Family	None	3 stories
Building Height	None	65 ft <sup>2</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Four stories maximum for stand-alone residential configuration, five stories allowed in a mixed use configuration.

<sup>2</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

### Frontages

Frontages dictate the relationship between the street (back of right-of-way) and the facade of the ground-floor of the building (see Section 5.4 for building frontage design standards and guidelines). All new development adjacent to a street with frontage requirements shall have a primary building facade and entry from the identified street and must adhere to the following building frontage requirements.

- Building orientation shall be determined by the location of the primary entrance, which shall indicate the front of the building.
- All building sides shall require architectural treatment.
- Pedestrian access to public right-of-way is required either through common corridors or courtyards from buildings adjacent to the road.
- Decorative, open fencing is allowed up to six feet high; a solid wall is allowed up to three feet high.



**TABLE 4.17: FRONTAGE CATEGORIES FOR CSLA MXD-2 ZONE**

Frontage Type	Vermont Avenue	Western Avenue	Imperial Highway
<b>Shopfront</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>Forecourt</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>Terrace</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>Stoop</b>	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted

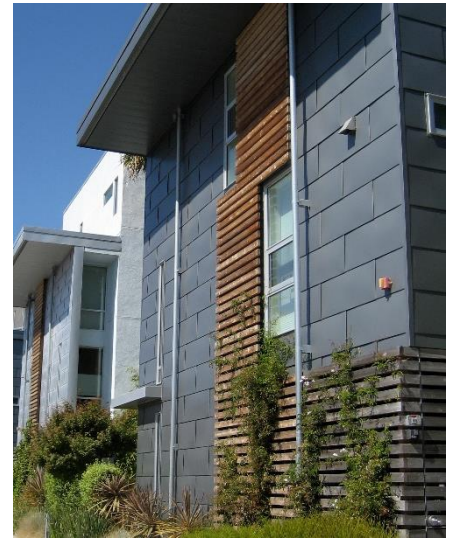
Notes: See Section 5.3 for building frontage design standards and guidelines.

### Urban Form & Landscaping

- When sharing a property line with an existing single-family zone, the following requirements shall apply:
  - » Windows, balconies, or similar openings shall be oriented so as to minimize any direct line-of-sight into adjacent units or onto private patios or backyards adjoining the property line.
  - » The third floor shall be stepped back by a minimum of 10 ft.
  - » A minimum 20 feet landscape buffer shall be installed along the inside property line of the mixed use development to provide a visual and aesthetic buffer.
- Building frontages shall include variations in wall planes (projections and recesses), wall height (vertical relief), and roof forms and heights to reduce the perceived scale of the structure.
- Developments shall provide benefits for the greater community exceeding minimum standards specified by this Plan as approved by the Director and may include street trees, public art, wayfinding signage, bicycle racks, street furniture and other features.
- Development at the corner of the intersections of Vermont Avenue and Imperial Highway and Western Avenue and Imperial Highway shall provide a corner entrance or an entrance oriented toward each street, which shall be visually differentiated by incorporating an articulated entrance, tall first story, or prominent roof forms.
- Large development projects shall be designed to appear as a collection of appropriately scaled buildings to create a pedestrian-oriented environment, integrating public open space, paseos, plazas, and pocket parks.

## Facades

- Street wall facades shall be architecturally enhanced by the use of arcades, colonnades, recessed entrances, window details, bays, and variation in building materials, color, and other details.
- The maximum total blank wall area (without windows or entrances) shall not exceed 30 percent of the first story wall for non-residential and 50 percent for residential.
- The facade detailing of mixed-use buildings shall visually differentiate ground-floor uses from upper-story uses. The base shall visibly anchor the building to the ground with a treatment of higher quality materials.
- Commercial or retail and residential entries shall be clearly identifiable and differentiated from one another.
- Primary building facades shall align with the right-of-way, property lines, or easement line unless setbacks are allowed.



*Example variation of materials and textures.*

## Design Features

- Private balconies shall be screened to shield personal items from public view.
- All primary ground-floor common entries or individual dwelling unit or commercial entries fronting on streets shall be oriented to the street, not to the interior or to a parking lot.
- Buildings having 100 feet or more of street frontage shall be designed to provide facade articulation and roofs of varying heights.
- All glass in windows or entrances on the first two stories shall be either clear or lightly tinted to maximize visibility of building interiors from the sidewalk area. Mirrored, highly reflective, or densely tinted glass shall be prohibited for use in windows and entrances.
- Rough-coat stucco is prohibited.

## Utility and Mechanical Equipment

- Utility and mechanical equipment as specified in Section 4.4.2.

## Required Residential Open Space

- 100 sf/du per dwelling unit for common recreational-leisure areas, private areas, or a combination of both.
- Minimum dimension for private areas is 7 feet.

- Minimum dimension for common areas is 20 feet.
- Side and rear yards may be included in the calculation of open space.
- Open space areas shall have no parking, driveway, or right-of-way encroachments.
- All common areas shall be improved as either active or passive facilities, with landscaping or hardscape elements designed to serve the residents of the project. All common areas shall be developed and professionally maintained in accordance with approved landscape and irrigation plans.
- Common recreational space shall be located on the same property as the residential it serves and shall be available exclusively for the use of all residents of the development.
- Where a rooftop is used for common recreational space, the rooftop shall incorporate landscaping, decorative paving and materials, and amenities. Mechanical equipment and/or storage areas shall not be counted toward meeting the requirement.
- Pedestrian walkways within a project shall be a minimum of four feet in width.
- Private useable open space shall be contiguous to the residential units served and screened for privacy.
- Courtyards internal to a project, or enclosed on at least three sides, shall have a minimum of dimension of forty (40) feet.
- Light fixtures installed in the interior of a private development project shall be pedestrian-scaled and directed towards the ground to avoid light pollution and spill-over to surrounding residential areas

#### **Required Non-Residential Open Space**

- 500 SF non-residential open space requirement for projects less than 2 acres.
- 2,500 SF non-residential open space requirement for projects greater than 2 acres.
- Non-residential open space requirement may be satisfied by outdoor dining areas, plazas, or other usable outdoor areas, as approved by the Director.

- Plazas, urban pocket parks, outdoor dining, promenades, and other outdoor amenities accessible to the public shall be designed to enable active pedestrian use.
- Open spaces shall be designed to provide shade through the placement of trees or other shade devices, including umbrellas, awnings, trellises, and canopies that are integrated into the building or over the open space.
- Light fixtures installed in the interior of a private development project shall be pedestrian-scaled and directed towards the ground to avoid light pollution and spill-over to surrounding residential areas

### **Circulation and Parking**

- Larger projects shall incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect with a comprehensive network of integrated open spaces throughout the Specific Plan area.
- Parking structures shall be architecturally integrated with the design of occupiable buildings and screened from view at street level by architectural elements, artwork, landscaping, or similar visual features.
- Bicycle parking shall be provided as specified in Section 4.4.4.
- Vehicle circulation and access as specified in Section 4.4.7 and 5.2.2.
- Parking facilities as specified in Section 4.4.6 and 5.3.8.

### **4.4.9 CSLA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL (CSLA IT) ZONE**

The CSLA IT Zone provides for established public uses including schools, parks, and other public uses. This designation is intended to promote the integration of publicly-owned land and facilities into the public realm to the extent feasible to extend pedestrian open space and provide safe connections to points of destination. The CSLA IT Zone shall accommodate the development, redevelopment, and expansion of accredited schools and colleges and public facilities contemplated in an adopted or approved campus and/or facilities master plan.

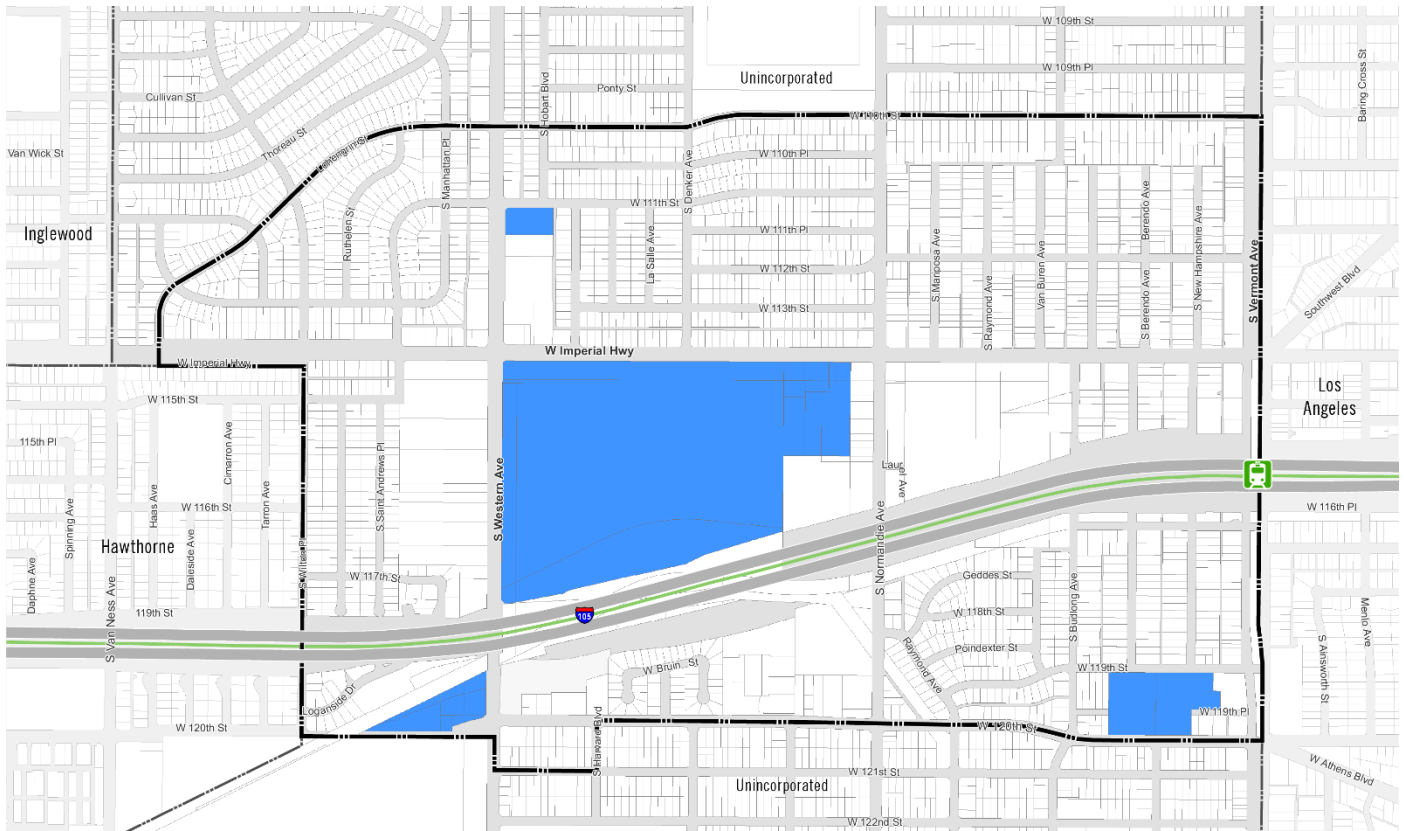


*Public space and building at LASC.*

### **Development Potential for CSLA IT Zone**

- Total Developable Area: 83 acres
- Residential: None
- Non-Residential: 786,925 sq. ft.

**FIGURE 4.11: CSLA IT ZONE MAP**



### Use Regulations for CSLA IT Zone

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the Public Institutional Zone, as shown in Table 4.18, Use Regulations For CSLA IT Zone. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

Accessory uses and structures are permitted when incidental permitted use would include:

- Restaurants
- Service retail
- Other vendors a campus may deem appropriate
- Administrative office
- Assembly/multi-purpose room or building
- Caretaker’s quarters

- Enclosed, screened, incidental outdoor storage
- Maintenance/storage facility and structure
- Patio cover/trellis
- Swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi
- Tennis court, basketball courts, and other multi-purpose sports courts

**TABLE 4.18: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA IT ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
Park, open space, playground and accessory use	Permitted
School	Permitted
Government buildings and offices	Permitted

**Development Standards for CSLA IT Zone**

The development standards in Table 4.19, Site Development Regulations For CSLA IT Zone, regulate new development by establishing standards for intensity, open space, and other elements. The development standards for the CSLA IT Zone have been tailored to its future use as additional recreational opportunities in the community occur and should be used in conjunction with Chapter 5, Design Guidelines.

**TABLE 4.19: SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR CSLA IT ZONE**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Floor Area Ratio (FAR)</b>		
All Buildings	None	3.0
<b>Building Setback</b>		
Front	None	15 ft.
Rear	10 ft.	None
Side	10 ft.	None
<b>Building Height</b>		
Floors	None	6 stories
Building Height	None	80 ft <sup>1</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Building height shall be determined from the finished grade within 5 feet of the structure to the highest point of the structure, excluding chimneys and rooftop antennas.

## 4.4.10 CSLA BUFFER ZONE (CSLA B-1)

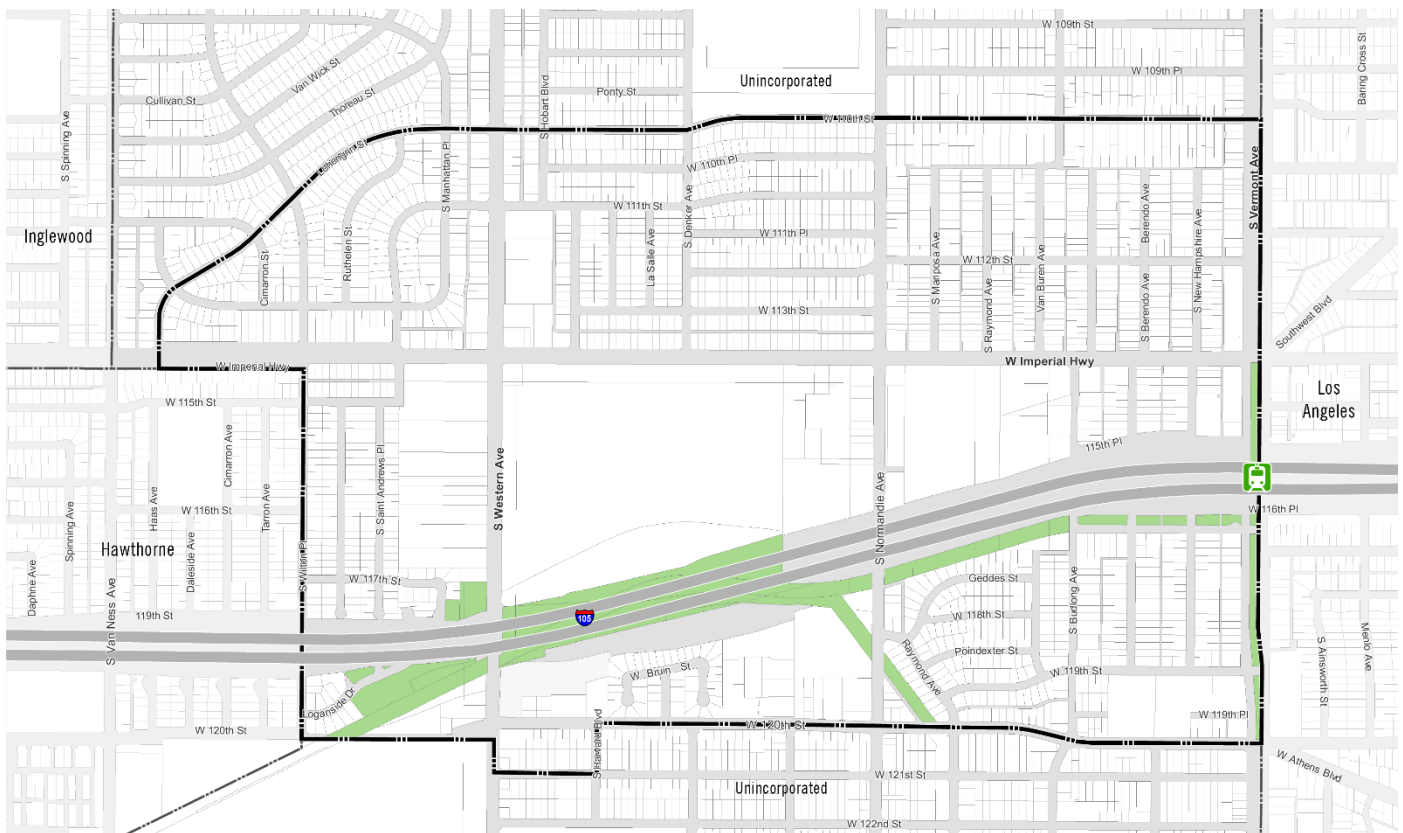
### Purpose and Intent

The CSLA B-1 Zone provides a buffer from the 105 freeway by accommodating public infrastructure and open space in the Specific Plan area. Allowed uses in this zone include passive recreation, bike lanes and walking paths, landscaping, and parking lots. Buildings or permanent structures are not permitted under this category.

### Development Potential for CSLA B-1 Zone

- Total Developable Area: None
- Residential: None
- Non-Residential: None

FIGURE 4.12: CSLA B-1 ZONE MAP



## Use Regulations for CSLA B-1 Zone

The land use regulations define uses that are permitted by-right, permitted per a conditional use permit, and prohibited in the CSLA B-1 Zone shall remain consistent with the B-1 Zone in Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code. Land uses are not limited to the general intended uses listed below. For other specific use types, permitting procedures and development standards, please refer to Title 22.

**TABLE 4.20: USE REGULATIONS FOR CSLA B-1 ZONE**

Use	Regulation
<b>Public / Institutional</b>	
Buildings or permanent structures including residential uses	Not Permitted
Park, open space, playground and related use	Permitted
Wholesale Nursery	Permitted
Parking Lot	Permitted

## Development Standards for CSLA B-1 Zone

Standards for the CSLA B-1 Zone shall remain consistent with the B-1 Zone in Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code.

# 4.5 GENERAL USE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

The following general use regulations and standards shall apply to new development and the reuse of existing structures and facilities, unless specific exceptions are described elsewhere in the Specific Plan.

## 4.5.1 USE REGULATIONS

### Alcohol Beverage Sales

Los Angeles County established standards for all on- and off-site alcoholic beverage sales establishments to promote and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare and preserve and enhance the quality of the community. Applicants shall refer to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 22.158, Alcohol Beverage Sales and Consumption, for standards and guidelines relating to establishments that include the sales of alcoholic beverages for on- and off-site consumption. Alcohol beverage sales require a conditional use permit, as identified in the use regulations of the zone in which the establishment is located.



## Outside Storage

All uses shall be conducted within a completely enclosed building, except for off-street parking, loading, approved nursery accessory uses, approved temporary uses, and any outdoor dining specifically permitted in conjunction with eating establishments. Minor ancillary outdoor storage (service vehicle parking, materials storage, or limited equipment assembly associated with a permitted use) may be located outside a building in certain planning areas as an accessory use, provided that there is solid screening and no negative noise or aesthetic impacts on adjacent properties.

## Interim and Temporary Uses

Interim uses on County-owned properties shall be permitted in all areas subject to a license agreement or formal contract. Other interim uses on private property shall require approval of a temporary use permit or a special event permit regulated pursuant to Los Angeles County Code.

## 4.5.2 UTILITIES AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

### Utilities

All utility lines serving a new development, with the exception of interim uses, shall be placed underground by the developer in accordance with the County's policies for locating utilities underground.

- Existing utility lines shall also be placed underground with development as required by Los Angeles County.
- All ground mounted utility boxes and satellite dishes shall either be placed in locations that are not exposed to view from the street or screened from view.
- Utility screening elements shall be an integral part of the buildings design.
- Utilities, trash and recycling receptacles, and mechanical equipment shall be screened by landscaping or site-appropriate materials and shall not be located within any front setback areas, any public right-of-way or private street or pedestrian/bicycle path, or within 50 feet of a corner.
- No structures shall be permitted to be developed over active pipelines, abandoned lines, or utility easements, except where approved by County Engineer.



*Example roof-mounted solar collector panels.*

## Mechanical Equipment

- Compressors, air conditioning units, vents, exhausts, or similar mechanical equipment located outside a building shall comply with the following:
- All such equipment shall be screened from view from any abutting street or adjacent use. Screening shall be an integral part of the overall architectural design of the project. The top of any screening shall be a minimum of six inches above the top of any mechanical equipment.
- All mechanical equipment shall be maintained in a clean and proper condition to prevent breakdown that might release noxious or toxic materials or create excessive noise, and to avoid accumulation of litter, filth, and materials that would be noxious or unsafe.
- Equipment, including ground mounted air conditioners, may be located within the side and rear yard setbacks if a 3-foot minimum setback to the property line is maintained.
- Ground-mounted air conditioners are not permitted in any portion of the front yard setback or between the front of the structure and the public right of way.

## Roof-Mounted Solar Collector Panels

- Roof-mounted solar collector panels shall be mounted flush with the surface where possible. Where panels cannot effectively perform if flush mounted, justification in the form of efficiency calculations may be submitted to the DRP for consideration of alternative mounting configurations.

## Refuse Collection Facilities

- All outdoor refuse collection facilities shall be screened from public rights of way. Collection areas shall be shielded from view in all directions, either within a building or within a solid masonry wall of sufficient height to conceal materials temporarily accumulated for collection. The enclosure shall be designed to complement the main building materials.

## 4.5.3 ENCROACHMENTS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

### Encroachments

The following encroachments into setback areas are allowed, subject to the California Building Code:

- Architectural features
- Eaves
- Fireplaces
- Mechanical equipment in accordance with Section 4.4.2
- Steps and staircases (open)
- Covered patio trellis or canopies, unenclosed on at least two sides, may encroach into the required side- or rear-yard setback provided they do not cover more than 50 percent of the private yard or open space area on a residential property and comply with the California Building Code related to distance requirements between adjacent structures.

### Park Provisions

- Requirements and standards in the Los Angeles County Subdivision Ordinance, Title 21, will be utilized in reviewing public or private park proposals per parkland dedication requirement.

## 4.5.4 BIKE PARKING AND RELATED FACILITIES

### Definitions

Bike parking and related facilities shall follow the Los Angeles County Zoning Code Chapter 22.110. A summary of the County's requirements are show below.

- “Bicycle parking space” means an area at least six feet in length by at least two feet in width to accommodate secured storage for one bicycle;
- “Bicycle rack” means a fixture on which one or more bicycles can be secured;
- “Long-term bicycle parking” means bicycle parking intended for a period of two hours or longer, appropriate for residents, employees, transit users, and visitors to hotels in the nearby area; and
- “Short-term bicycle parking” means bicycle parking intended for a period of two hours or less, appropriate for persons making short visits to commercial establishments such as grocery and convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops, bars and clubs, and offices such as medical, dental, and post offices.



*Bike lockers and bike corral at a transit station.*

## Number of Bicycle Parking Spaces Required

The minimum number of bicycle parking spaces for a particular use shall be provided in accordance with Table 4.21 below. For a combination of uses on a single lot, the number of required bicycle parking spaces shall be equal to the combined total of the required bicycle parking spaces for each of the individual uses.

**TABLE 4.21: NUMBER OF BICYCLE PARKING SPACES REQUIRED**

Use	Short-term	Long-term
<b>Residential</b>		
Multi-family residential including apartments, attached condominiums, and townhouses (five dwelling units or more)	One space per 5 dwelling units (two spaces minimum)	One space per 2 dwelling units (one space minimum)
<b>Commercial</b>		
General retail, including restaurants	One space per each 4,000 square feet of gross floor area (two spaces minimum)	One space per each 6,000 square feet of gross floor area (two spaces minimum)
Office	One space per each 13,000 square feet of gross floor area (two spaces minimum)	One space per each 6,000 square feet of gross floor area (two spaces minimum)
<b>Industrial/Institutional</b>		
Institutional uses, including hospitals, convalescent hospitals, adult residential facilities, and group homes for children	One space per each 20,000 square feet of gross floor area (two spaces minimum)	One space per each 10,000 square feet of gross floor area (two spaces minimum)
Schools, including trade schools, colleges, universities, and private elementary, middle, and high schools	Four spaces per each classroom (four spaces minimum)	One space per each 10 classrooms (two spaces minimum)
Churches, temples, and other places of worship	One space for each 50 intended visitors based on occupant load of largest assembly area within the facility (two spaces minimum)	One space for each 100 intended visitors based on occupant load of largest assembly area within the facility (two spaces minimum)

## Showers and Changing Facilities

All new commercial and mixed-use projects must provide and continually maintain secured, ground-floor restrooms that are accessible to the public and available for changing. A minimum of one shower must be provided for developments with a gross non-residential area between 10,000 and 24,999 square feet, two showers for projects between 25,000 square feet and 124,999 square feet, and four showers for projects over 125,000 square feet. Accompanying dressing facilities shall be provided and lockers for clothing and personal effects must be provided at a rate of one per every long-term bicycle parking space required. The size and location of the facilities shall be deemed appropriate by the Director.

## Development Standards for Bicycle Parking Spaces

### General Requirements

- All bicycle parking spaces shall be:
- Directly adjacent to a bicycle rack or within a secure, single bicycle locker and shall allow for convenient, unobstructed access to such bicycle rack or locker; and
- Located so as to not block pedestrian entrances, walkways, or circulation patterns in or around nearby facilities or structures;

### Bicycle Racks

When using bicycle racks, they shall be:

- Located and installed to support an entire bicycle, including its frame and wheels, so that the frame and wheels can be locked without damage when using a customary, heavy-duty cable or u-shaped bicycle lock
- Securely anchored to a permanent surface; and
- Installed to allow bicycles to remain upright when locked, without the use of a kickstand;

### Bicycle Lockers

When using bicycle lockers, they shall be:

- Of sufficient size to hold an entire bicycle; and
- Securely anchored to a permanent surface;



*Example of short term bicycle parking.*

### Short-Term Bicycle Parking

Short-term bicycle parking spaces shall be:

- Located to be visible from public areas such as public streets, store fronts, sidewalks and plazas, and to be convenient to the target users of the bicycle parking to the maximum extent feasible;
- Installed as close to a structure's main entrance as feasible;
- Separated with a barrier from areas where vehicles park, such as with a curb or wheel stop; and
- Located in a well-luminated area.

### Long-term bicycle parking

Long-term bicycle parking spaces shall be:

- Located in a well-luminated, secure, and covered area;
- Accessible to and from nearby public streets and sidewalks for the target users of the bicycle parking, who may or may not include the general public;
- Located at surface levels near main pedestrian entrance(s) to nearby facilities or structures, or in the parking garages of such facilities or structures;
- Accessible only to residents and owners, operators, and managers of a residential facility when the involved use is residential; and
- Accessible only to employees, tenants, and owners of a commercial structure or facility when the involved use is commercial.
- Signage identifying the location of long-term bicycle parking shall be included in the project design. Preferred signage locations are building access ways, street and sidewalk approaches, and nearby bicycle paths or facilities.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

### Site Design

- Irrigation systems shall incorporate water conserving methods and water efficient technologies such as drip emitters,



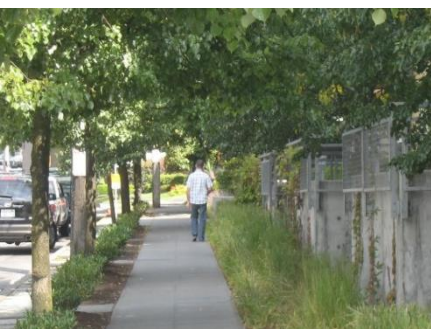
*Illustrative photo of trees providing shading along street.*



*Illustrative photo of landscape barrier framing streetscape.*



*Illustrative photo of stormwater infiltration planter and drainage grate.*



*Illustrative photo of trees providing shading along street.*

evapotranspiration controllers, moisture sensors, rain water, and gray water for irrigation.

- Irrigation systems shall be designed to apply water slowly, allowing plants to be deep water systems.
- Low-volume irrigation drip systems should be used in all areas except turf irrigation and small ornamental planting.
- Street trees shall be watered by independent supply lines with each tree having at least two deep watering bubblers.
- Drainage shall be directed to permeable areas onsite to minimize discharge to the storm drain system.
- Pervious paving shall be used for driveways, walkways and parking areas with the use of asphalt prohibited.
- Drought-tolerant landscaping requirements shall be consistent with Section 4.106.5 in Title 31 (Green Building Standards) of the Los Angeles County Code.

### **Building Design**

- New development shall meet or exceed Cal-Green green building requirements for greater energy efficiency and reduced energy consumption.
- Buildings and development projects within the Specific Plan area shall be designed and constructed using sustainable, energy efficient materials and incorporate strategies for the conservation of water, energy, and other natural resources.
- All new mixed use and commercial buildings of 10 floors or less are required to install solar photovoltaic or solar water panels on a minimum of 15% of their roof area.

### **4.5.5 PARKING FACILITIES**

- The perimeter of parking areas and driveways adjacent to streets and pedestrian pathways shall be screened from street views with a low street wall, berms, fences, or landscaping.
- The facade of parking structures shall include vertical features to break up those facades and horizontal features to separate each floor.
- Projecting elements, awnings, lighting, signs, or other features shall be used to highlight pedestrian entrances into parking structures.

- Shared parking structures for mixed use developments shall provide secure access and parking areas for residential tenants.
- Parking structures shall have shaded structures, preferably photovoltaic arrays, on the top deck to reduce heat island effects.
- Electric vehicle parking stations shall be placed in parking garages to encourage the use of zero emission vehicles. Appropriate signage and striping should be used to demarcate EV stalls. Parking garages shall accommodate level two electric vehicle charging stations. The number of EV spaces shall total six percent of the total parking garage spaces (per CalGreen Code Section 5.106.5.3). Exceptions occur only where there is insufficient electrical supply. The location of the electrical outlets shall be specified on building plans, and proper installation shall be verified by the Building Division prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

#### **4.5.6 CIRCULATION AND ACCESS**

- Ground floor spaces of commercial and mixed-use buildings shall consist of street-activating commercial uses that embrace the public right-of-way and provide an engaging and interesting pedestrian experience.
- Pedestrian amenities, such as special paving materials, landscaping, pedestrian-scaled lighting, water fountains, shade, trash and recycling receptacles, and street furniture shall be provided along sidewalks and bike and pedestrian paths.
- The selected plant species and design and placement of landscaping shall provide for natural surveillance of pedestrian areas and should avoid the creation of hiding places.
- Distinguishable walking paths shall be provided as part of a wayfinding system targeted to pedestrians.
- Transit amenities such as bus stops, seating, bike racks, bike storage, and showers shall be integrated into new projects.
- Buffers of street furniture, trees, and other sidewalk infrastructure shall separate pedestrians from moving vehicles.



- Safe, convenient, and accessible non-motorized access and circulation, including bicycle and pedestrian routes and connections to transit shall be prioritized within the specific plan area.
- Make connections through pedestrian thru-ways at the end of cul-de-sacs to provide more direct access to schools, trails, recreation centers, and other neighborhood destinations.

# 05



## CHAPTER 5

# DESIGN GUIDELINES



# CHAPTER 5 DESIGN GUIDELINES

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The design guidelines contained in this section promote aesthetically pleasing and compatible development within the Specific Plan area that supports the vision and guiding principles of the Specific Plan. These design guidelines enhance the built environment by guiding the aesthetic appearance for existing and new developments. The design guidelines are flexible to allow architects and designers creative freedom. Design Guidelines provide a framework for property owners, architects, and County staff to follow when planning and reviewing development projects. These guidelines create a distinct character for the Specific Plan area and a positive community aesthetic.

## 5.2 PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT SITE DESIGN

Site design is an important process critical to any development that may occur in the Specific Plan area. The resulting outcome, conveyed in a projects site plan, will determine how buildings are placed on a site, where access will occur, and how structures and spaces are located in relation to each other and to adjacent off-site uses. The following standards and guidelines shall be integrated in the site design of all new projects. Alternatives will be permitted only if the intent of the design standard is met.

### 5.2.1 BUILDING PLACEMENT & ORIENTATION

- Buildings should be oriented toward public streets, pedestrian pathways, or public open spaces to create a strong presence and encourage pedestrian activity along the street frontage and invigorate the public realm.
- The footprint of new buildings should be consistent in size with adjacent structures along the street frontage.
- In residential districts, a new dwelling's front and side yards should approximate that of adjacent residences, while meeting the minimum front and side yard depths. The front and side yard pattern on the block shall be identified and respected to help unify the neighborhood.
- Buildings should be oriented for energy efficiency (e.g., to capture day lighting, minimize heat gain, take advantage of prevailing breezes, and for natural ventilation).



*Illustrative photo showing how buildings are oriented towards public street.*

- Multiple buildings on the same site should be designed and grouped to provide a visual relationship among buildings and cohesive open space areas.
- New development should be designed to create outdoor spaces for active and passive use.
- When configuring the site, the impact of shade and shadow, lighting, noise, and other elements should be considered and minimized, particularly when projects are adjacent to existing single-family residential uses.
- Landscaping should be used at the edges of paths, plazas, and seating areas as appropriate to help define the spatial organization of the site while avoiding obstruction of visibility.



*Example of distinguishable vehicle access.*



*Example entry paving treatments.*

## 5.2.2 CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

- Vehicular access points should be designed to minimize conflicts with pedestrians through the consideration of curb-cut locations and widths, sight lines, and lighting. Entrance and exit points should be well marked and lit.
- To slow traffic and enhance the overall site design, site entry and edge design features should be incorporated, such as colored or textured paving treatments, landscaping, signage, and monuments.
- Areas between buildings and open spaces should be linked to and connected by safe, convenient, and accessible pedestrian and bicycle Nonresidential uses—especially multi-building development projects—should use shared driveways to reduce conflicts with pedestrians.
- There should be an accessible, well-marked, and well-lit travel path of a minimum of four feet in width provided between parking, buildings, and sidewalks.
- Development projects should be designed to minimize vehicle traffic and emphasize walking, biking, and other forms of non-motorized active transportation for access and internal circulation.
- Bicycle and pedestrian circulation facilities should provide connections to surrounding uses and to existing/planned pedestrian and bicycle networks. Access to these networks on and at the edges of the site should be prioritized in site design.

- Buildings and open spaces within a development should be linked to and connected by highly visible sidewalks, bike and pedestrian paths, and public rights-of-way.
- Large development projects and owners should develop and utilize shared driveways wherever possible.
- Colored, textured, and/or permeable paving treatments should be used for entry drives.

### 5.2.3 UTILITY, SERVICE, STORAGE AND RECYCLING AREAS

- Electrical meters, cable boxes, junction boxes, and irrigation controllers should be designed as an integral part of the building on a rear or side elevation or otherwise screened from public view.
- Building forms, fences, trellises, and landscaping should be used to screen above ground utility transformers, pull boxes, and termination cabinets, where allowed by utility providers.
- Where feasible, access to service and loading areas should be provided from a secondary or service road.
- Service and loading areas should be located behind primary structures or properly shielded through fences, gates, landscaping, berms, etc.
- Access to service and loading areas shall be clearly marked and shall not block adjacent vehicular or pedestrian circulation.
- Service and loading areas should be located away from residential properties or have restricted hours of use to reduce noise impacts on adjacent properties.
- Loading and service access areas should be located on the rear portion of a lot or development, screened from the public right-of-way, open space, or adjacent properties. Loading and service areas should not be a hazard to or conflict with the movement of pedestrians or bicycles.

### 5.2.4 FENCES, WALLS AND HEDGES

- Walls and fences shall be constructed of durable materials and designed to complement the surrounding architecture.
- Landscaping, including street trees, planters, and other forms of vegetation, should be used to frame the streetscape, provide a



*Illustrative photo of service areas shielded by landscaping.*



*Illustrative photo of service areas screened from public right-of-way.*



*Illustrative Photo of landscape screening.*

physical barrier between automobile traffic and pedestrians, and be utilized to maximize the cohesiveness of each block and to develop a unifying pattern throughout the Specific Plan area.

## 5.2.5 OPEN SPACE



*Illustrative photo showing distinguishable vehicle access.*



*Illustrative photo of entry paving treatments.*

- Where possible, existing on-site trees should be maintained.
- Private useable open space should be contiguous to the residential units served and screened for privacy.
- Non-residential open space requirement may be satisfied by outdoor dining areas, plazas, or other useable outdoor use, as approved by the Director.
- Buildings should be oriented in a manner to provide a landscape or open space buffer to increase yard areas next to adjacent residential properties.
- corners of buildings adjacent to transit station areas is encouraged to provide public open space for residents, visitors, and transit users.
- Common and/or public open space shall be designed to respect and not negatively impact adjacent residential uses.
- Public open spaces should be designed and programed to serve residents, employees, and visitors with a variety of needs, age groups, and interests, including the incorporation of space for physical activity and recreation, relaxation, and socialization.
- Public open spaces should be directly accessible from the public right-Of-way. Outdoor dining areas are encouraged to foster active pedestrian use of sidewalk frontages.
- Recreational amenities should provide activity options for various age groups. Spaces could include areas for physical activity, community gardens, and community gathering space.
- Front yard trees should be planted adjacent to sidewalks to create a Private Development Building Design

The guidelines for building design address the elements of a building that help create an interesting public realm, including building frontage treatment, facade design and composition, colors and materials, windows, doors, and roofs. New buildings should contribute to defining the character of the street and should represent a single architectural style that all materials and details are true to. Architects are encouraged to innovate, but with full awareness of and respect for appropriate

height, massing, variety, and quality of materials that result in a building with architectural integrity.

## 5.2.6 FRONTAGES

This Specific Plan identifies permitted ground-floor frontage types per applicable streets in the specific plan area including Vermont Avenue, Imperial Highway, Western Avenue, and Normandie Avenue. This section provides design standards for each frontage type to ensure that proposed development relates to the street and meets community design objectives. Frontages dictate the relationship between the street (back of right-of-way) and the facade of the ground floor of the building. Along each applicable roadway, buildings shall be designed with at least one of the permitted frontage types based on the street it fronts, per Table 5.1 through Table 5.4. Frontage types include the following:

- **Shopfront.** A shopfront is a frontage wherein the building facade and entrance are at sidewalk grade and close to the pedestrian zone.
- **Forecourt.** A forecourt is a frontage wherein a portion of the building facade is recessed from the primary building facade.
- **Terrace.** A terrace is a frontage wherein the building facade is set back from the street, paseo, or open space, by an elevated open area that is paved or planted.
- **Stoop.** A stoop is a frontage wherein the building facade is separated from the street, a courtyard, or open space by an entrance to the elevated ground floor of the building.

All new development adjacent to a street with frontage requirements, shall have a primary building facade and entry from the identified street and must adhere to the following building frontage standards. These frontage standards shall be used along with other development and design standards herein. While this Specific Plan provides for a variety of frontage types, the actual choice, design, and architectural style are the decision of the property owner based on the proposed uses, site plan, and building design.

Guidelines for all frontage types are provided below. Tables 5.1 to 5.4 on the following pages describe the intent of each frontage type and provide guidelines for application to the building facade and street front.

- Non-primary building walls should be consistent in design with the primary building front to the extent possible. Non-primary building walls are not required to use frontage types provided in this Specific Plan.



*Illustrative photo of outdoor dining area and pedestrian realm activation.*



- Building orientation should be determined by the location of the primary entrance, which should indicate the front of the building.

**TABLE 5.1: SHOPFRONT FRONTAGE TYPE**

**Description**

A shopfront is a frontage wherein the building facade and entrance are at sidewalk grade and close to the pedestrian zone. Shopfronts include large areas of transparent openings and doors and are commonly equipped with cantilevered roof(s) or awning(s). Shopfronts typically provide access directly from sidewalks and are oriented to display ground-level commercial uses.

This frontage type is conventional for a commercial use. This frontage type can be used in conjunction with terrace and/or forecourt to create a more engaging street.

**Guidelines**

A great variety of shopfront designs are possible, but the following should apply:

- a. Desirable shopfront facade area is at least 15 feet tall, as measured from the adjacent walk, and minimum 10 feet wide.
  - b. Shopfronts may be recessed from the primary building facade by up to five feet. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.1.)
  - c. The shopfront should provide clear views of merchandise displays.
  - d. A base of similar or visually “heavier” materials than the walls is recommended below display windows.
  - e. Doors should be substantial, well detailed, and match the materials, design, and character of the display windows.
  - f. Canopies and awnings should be integrated to shopfront openings.
  - g. Remaining open areas within the frontage zone shall be landscaped per Section 5.2.5, Open Space. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.1.)
-

**FIGURE 5.1: SHOPFRONT FRONTAGE TYPE**



Example photo of shopfront type.



Example photo of shopfront type.



Images for illustrative purposes only.

**TABLE 5.2: FORECOURT FRONTAGE TYPE**

**Description**

A forecourt is a frontage wherein a portion of the building facade is recessed from the primary building facade. The forecourt may be used as an entry court and open space for residential uses, or as additional shopping or seating areas for commercial uses. Forecourts with large trees and lush landscaping offer visual and environmental variety to the urban streetscape.

This frontage type is appropriate for either residential and/or commercial uses. A combination of both uses can be achieved by using the forecourt as a residential entrance while commercial uses occupy street adjacent building space. This type can be used in conjunction with shopfronts and stoops as a transition into residential frontage.

**Guidelines**

A variety of forecourt designs are possible, but the following should apply:

- a. A minimum of ten feet and maximum of 40 feet deep clear.
- b. A minimum of 20 feet and maximum of 50 feet wide or 50 percent of the lot width, whichever is less.
- c. One building entry must front onto the forecourt.
- d. The forecourt may also be raised from the sidewalk, creating a small retaining wall at the property line with entry steps to the forecourt, but shall not exceed three feet in height from the adjacent sidewalk grade. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.2.)
- e. The proportions and solar orientation of the forecourt should be carefully considered for user comfort. Canopies of large trees placed within the forecourt may overhang into the pedestrian zone. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.2.)
- f. A fence or wall at the property line may be used to define the private space of the court and shall comply with per Section 5.2.4, Fences, Walls and Hedges. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.2.)
- g. Entrances and pedestrian “gateways” may be announced by posts or pilasters, and may be combined with trellises, special landscaping, decorative lighting, public art, or other special features. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.2.)
- h. Remaining open areas within the frontage zone shall be landscaped per Section 5.2.5, Open Space. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.2.)

**FIGURE 5.2: FORECOURT FRONTAGE TYPE**



Example photo of forecourt type.



Example photo of forecourt type.



Images for illustrative purposes only.

**TABLE 5.3: TERRACE FRONTAGE TYPE**

**Description**

A terrace is a frontage wherein the building facade is set back from the street, paseo, or open space, by an elevated open area that is paved or planted. This frontage type can effectively buffer building uses from the sidewalk.

This type is recommended for residential and commercial uses as it allows for semi-private use of frontage areas.

**Guidelines**

A variety of terrace designs are possible, but the following should apply:

- a. A minimum of five feet to maximum of eight feet deep clear. Terrace design should take into consideration landscape areas, where adjacent to public landscape easement, to the extent possible.
  - b. Terraces should be raised to transition into the building. Terraces should not be raised more than three feet from the adjacent grade of the pedestrian zone. A retaining wall may be built around the terrace per Section 5.2.4, Fences, Walls and Hedges.
  - c. A minimum of six feet wide clear for entry landing.
  - d. Fences defining the terrace should not exceed three feet in height from the highest adjacent grade of the terrace and comply with Section 5.2.4, Fences, Walls and Hedges.
  - e. Planted terraces and remaining open areas within the frontage zone shall be landscaped per Section 5.2.5, Open Space. (Not explicitly illustrated in Figure 5.3.)
-

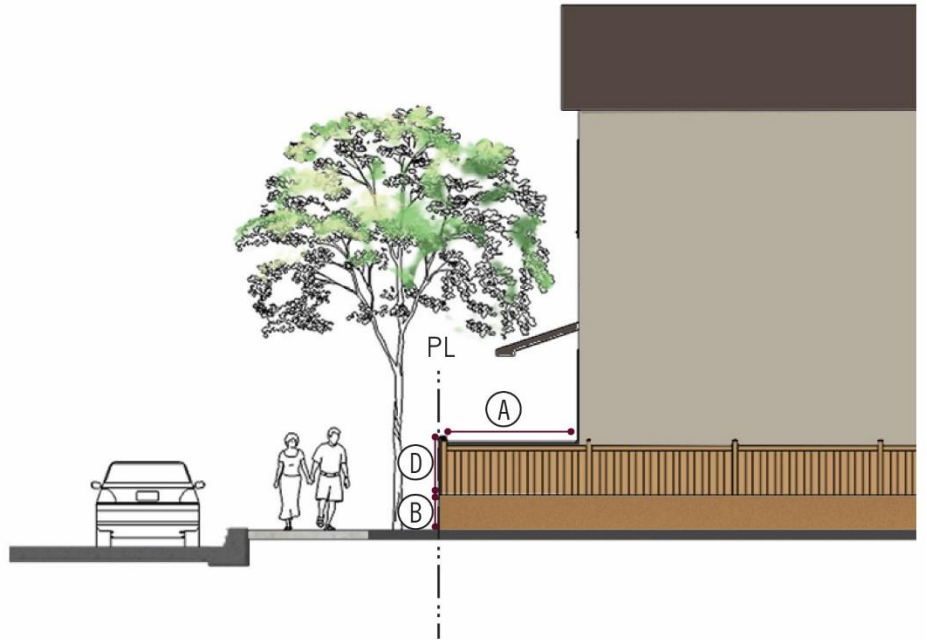
**FIGURE 5.3: TERRACE FRONTAGE TYPE**



Example photo of terrace type.



Example photo of terrace type.



**TABLE 5.4: STOOP FRONTAGE TYPE**

**Description**

A stoop is a frontage wherein the building facade is separated from the street, paseo, or open space by an entrance to the elevated ground floor of the building. The entrance is usually an exterior stair and landing and may be covered.

This type is recommended for ground-floor residential use as it facilitates a transition onto more residential frontage.

**Guidelines**

A variety of stoop designs are possible, but the following should apply:

- a. A minimum of three feet and maximum of five feet deep clear.
  - b. Fences or walls defining the stoop should not exceed three feet from the highest adjacent grade of the stoop and shall comply with Section 5.2.4, Fences, Walls and Hedges.
  - c. Stoops should be raised to transition into the building. The ground-story entry should not be elevated more than 3 feet above the adjacent sidewalk.
  - d. Stoops should correspond directly with the building entry(s) and be at least three feet wide (perpendicular to or parallel with the adjacent walk).
  - e. Building facade may be set back the depth of the entry stair from the sidewalk.
  - f. The stoop may include a covered roof, awning, or door inset within the building front.
  - g. Remaining open areas within the frontage zone shall be landscaped per Section 5.2.5, Open Space.
-

**FIGURE 5.4: STOOP FRONTAGE TYPE**



Example photo of stoop type.



Example photo of stoop type.



Images for illustrative purposes only.



## 5.2.7 SCALE AND MASSING



*Example of varied scale and massing.*

Building massing refers to how the development program is shaped into a structure that gives a building its architectural form. For example, a building can have a higher mass in one wing, step down in another wing, and have a tower that emphasizes its entrance—all of which is achieved by modeling its massing. Building massing can be used to frame public spaces, step down to adjacent uses, and provide architectural variety. It is generally more interesting to see multiple buildings with a variety of heights and massing rather than a uniform large building block.

- Balance the massing and design of the structure(s) so that the ground level is designed at the human scale, and upper levels are visually less massive than the ground level.
- Massing breaks, such as entry courts and stepped-back corners, are encouraged to promote more visibility into a building
- For facilitating high quality single-family residential development, the following design guidelines apply in the CSLA R-1 and CSLA R-2 Zones.
- The scale and mass of a new dwelling should be similar to that of neighboring houses and not overwhelm the neighborhood with disproportionate size or a design that is out of character.
- Height and rooflines should be consistent with the style of architecture of the house and complement qualities of neighboring residential structures such as type, slope, size, material, and color.
- Additions and accessory uses should respect the architectural style, scale, rhythm, and building elements of the existing primary structure. They should complement and balance the overall form, mass, and composition of the existing primary structure on the property.

## 5.2.8 BUILDING MODULATION/ARTICULATION AND DETAILING



*Illustrative photo showing strong pedestrian scale presence.*

- Changes in facade materials, textures, colors, and window patterns should be used to enhance visual interest and encourage pedestrian activity. Blank face walls should be used as opportunities for public art.
- Encourage buildings to express a variety of architectural styles, and compliment height, mass, articulation, and materials of the older buildings that surround them.

- Architectural style and use of quality materials should be consistent throughout an entire mixed-use project; however, variations in materials and details may be used to differentiate between the residential and commercial portions of the project.
- Streetwalls should be consistent along Vermont and Imperial Highway with articulation used primarily for entrances and outdoor dining areas.
- Building facades shall include three-dimensional detailing such as cornices, belt courses, window moldings, bay windows, and reveals to create shadows and facade relief and, articulated doors and windows create visual interest and allow one to see inside.

## 5.2.9 BUILDING ENTRANCES

- Each individual storefront entrance should be clearly defined and distinct from others.
- In mixed-use buildings, entrances to residential units shall use a separate main entrance located on the primary street.
- Residential uses shall have secured entrance areas that are separate from non-residential uses, but accessible from pedestrian pathways and residential parking areas.
- Primary, non-residential entrances should be visible from and connected to the public right-of-way and other streetscape, and not through a vehicle parking area.
- Pedestrian and bicycle amenities should be located near building entrances to promote the visibility and safety of people and property.
- Incorporate CPTED design principles to create well-lit and active entryways. Physically intimidating security features, such as window grills or spiked gates, are prohibited. See Section 5.4.3 for more information.



*Illustrative photo of secure bike parking visible from building entrance.*

## 5.2.10 WINDOWS, DOORS & BALCONIES

- At least 30 percent of the ground floor of nonresidential buildings facade of buildings fronting a public or private street, pedestrian path or public open space shall consist of transparent, non-reflective windows or doors allowing for a direct visual connection between pedestrians outside and activities occurring inside the buildings.



*Example of balconies facing the sidewalk, which provide "eyes on the street."*



*Illustrative photo of building modulation and articulation.*

- For residential buildings, windows shall be of high quality and afford a shadow line as well as depth. This can be achieved through inset windows with an integral frame or inseting the window into the exterior wall.
- Non-reflective coatings, low-emissivity glass, and external shade structures should be used to control heat and glare.
- Windows and doors should be incorporated strategically throughout the building facade to provide visual interest from the exterior and to take advantage of daylight on the interior.
- Windows should be staggered from fronting windows in neighboring residential buildings, particularly in the case of bedrooms.
- Projecting features, such as balconies, porches, bays, and dormer windows, are encouraged to create distinction between units and to provide visual orientation to the street.
- Clear glass shall be used on the ground floor of nonresidential buildings. Windows on the ground floor facing streets should constitute a minimum of 30% of the building facade, with minimal obstruction from signs or interior walls or displays to ensure views into the space.

## 5.2.11 BUILDING FACADES



*Example of coordination of materials, textures, and massing.*

Building facades generally refers to a building’s external wall that faces a public street or open space. The design and composition of facades involves the arrangement of architectural elements, such as doors, windows, balconies, caps, and pilasters, on the walls of buildings. The facade and ground floor of a building are the most visible components seen by pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. How the mass of the building “meets the street” should be well detailed. The design of the facade is what humans experience most intimately when on the sidewalk and is the biggest contributor to district character.

- Building facades shall be well defined with a distinct base, body, and roof or parapet that allow adjacent buildings to relate to each other.
- Facade elements such as materials, textures, patterns, colors, and detailing should be used to lessen the perceived mass of larger buildings.

- The highest level of architectural detailing and quality shall be focused at the ground floor and areas visible from the public realm.
- Buildings and development shall be designed to respect, enhance, and be compatible with existing adjacent and surrounding development, while also introducing innovative architectural design into the area.
- Roofs should be designed and considered as an integral part of the overall building design and should add visual interest and diversity among buildings while also contributing to sustainable design strategies.
- Building facades and roofs visible from adjacent properties shall be designed and constructed with the same quality and detail as those elements visible from the public right-of-way.

### 5.2.12 ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING

- Lighting shall enhance a building's form and enhance the pedestrian experience at night.
- Lighting shall not aim directly at the open sky or project off-site or onto adjacent uses.
- Architectural lighting shall highlight main building entrances and special architectural elements along the building facade.
- Internal and external storefront lighting shall be designed for ground-floor retail and restaurant spaces to augment the pedestrian space.
- Blinking, flashing, and oscillating lights are prohibited. Warm white light shall be preferred, and colored lights shall only be used if they are part of the architectural theme of commercial areas or establishments.
- Lighting shall be located at all building entryways, parking areas, seating areas, transit stops, open space areas, and pedestrian paths.
- Lighting fixtures shall be compatible with the architectural style of surrounding buildings to reflect the character of the area.
- Lighting shall be provided at intervals adequate for safety.
- Light fixtures shall use energy-efficient technology, such as solar-powered lighting and energy-efficient fixtures and bulbs.



*Illustrative photo of architecturally compatible lighting.*

- Use of natural light shall be maximized, to limit the use of and reliance on artificial light sources.
- Pocket lighting shall be incorporated into walls, stairs, or bollards as appropriate.

### 5.2.13 PARKING FACILITIES

- Above-ground parking structures should be internalized, screened, or wrapped with other active ground-floor uses (e.g., retail, office, or residential) along public streets so they are only visible at access points for vehicles and less visible from major streets.
- The facades of parking structures that are not lined with active uses should be screened using compatible architectural solutions and/or landscaping that is integrated into the structure’s design (e.g., perforated panels, landscape/vine screens, columnar trees, or public art elements).
- Parking structures should be designed with materials, color, and detail compatible with the principal building and surrounding buildings.
- Parking structures should incorporate usage technology to assist visitors and minimize the time spent searching for a space.
- Parking should be located behind, at the side, or at the rear of buildings (away from the street) and can be provided in underground garages, above-ground garages, or interior parking courts.
- Surface parking lots should be designed to take advantage of adjacent building shade, or shall provide sufficient tree coverage with either shade trees or solar panel canopies, to reduce the urban heat island effect and provide shade for vehicles and pedestrians.
- Subterranean parking facilities may extend to all property lines.



*Illustrative photo of parking lot tree coverage.*



*Housing overlooking a neighborhood park can provide natural surveillance.*

### 5.2.14 CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

Urban form impacts how people interact with public spaces, affects their sense of safety and security in the public realm, and encourages or discourages behaviors. Developments shall be designed using the principles CPTED. CPTED is a crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that proper design and effective use of the built environment

can lead to a reduction in fear and incidence of crime thereby improving quality of life. It is not a program or system of ready-made solutions and instead emphasizes understanding and changing the physical environment. CPTED relies on the concept of “defensible space”, which suggests that all space in the human environment is defensible; a guardian can take responsibility for the space and take action to defend it from non-legitimate, criminal, or unintended use. To help defend a location, there are four overlapping CPTED strategies that need to be employed: 1) Natural Surveillance, 2) Territorial Reinforcement, 3) Access Control, and 4) Maintenance.



*Outdoor dining, clear pedestrian zones, and well-kept sidewalks signal that this area is looked after.*

### **Natural Surveillance**

- Design buildings and open space so they are naturally surveyed in view of residents, workers, shoppers, and passersby.
- Properly trim and maintain landscaping to allow for visibility. Scale lighting for the pedestrian environment.
- Site new fire and police stations adjacent to parks, trails, and schools.

### **Territorial Reinforcement**

- Design spaces that clearly define boundaries and ownership.
- Define as public, private, or semi-public/semi-private.
- Install low decorative fencing around the semi-private outdoor patio of a business.
- Install proper signage that communicates the ownership of a space and the rules of its use.

### **Access Control**

- Design physical controls to limit physical movement to and from a space. Use strategic placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping, locks, and other barriers.
- Design well-marked pedestrian pathways through parking lots to give direction to its users and create a safer path of travel by alerting drivers to pedestrian zones.
- Place bollards near the entrance of a park to prevent vehicle entry but allow pedestrian entry.

## Maintenance

- Ensure the upkeep of an area or building over time to demonstrate that someone cares about a space, is watching, and will defend the property against crime.
- Provide ongoing cleaning and security personnel when warranted.

## 5.3 PUBLIC REALM

The public realm is essential to the Specific Plan because it helps facilitate the creation of places beyond an individual building.



*Illustrative photo of art installation.*

### 5.3.1 PUBLIC ART

The County is currently developing a Percent for Art in Private Development Ordinance (PDPA). The ordinance will allocate one percent of project costs from eligible commercial and industrial developments to fund a civic artwork installation, cultural facility, conservation, artistic and cultural services or pay a fee associated with their project to be used to support the creation of artwork or provide cultural services within its district.

- Public art should provide visual interest to the pedestrian realm and enrich the pedestrian experience in the Specific Plan area.
- Public art should be incorporated early during the design process, and be located to maximize the number of tenants, visitors, and other passersby who enjoy it.
- Public art should be incorporated into blank walls and buildings in the form of murals and other installations, as well as in streetscape elements.
- Public art should not disrupt vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian movement or safety.



*Illustrative photo of wide sidewalks and pedestrian spaces.*

### 5.3.2 OPEN SPACE

- Buildings, signs, landscaping, and outdoor furniture should work together to create a pleasant pedestrian environment. Trees that provide shade are especially important and should be incorporated in public outdoor spaces.
- Light fixtures installed in the public right-of-way, in parking areas, and along pedestrian or bicycle paths should be pedestrian-scaled and directed towards the ground to avoid light pollution and spill-over to surrounding residential areas.

### 5.3.3 STREET TREES

Coordinated planting along the streets can provide shade, introduce seasonal color, define the street edge, and invite pedestrian activity. The following recommendations for the landscape and planting design palette, shown in Figures 5.5 and 5.6, are based on the Department of Public Works' Tree Selection Catalog, Los Angeles County's Drought Tolerant Plant List. The landscape recommendations in this Specific Plan are conceptual only on a case by-case basis.

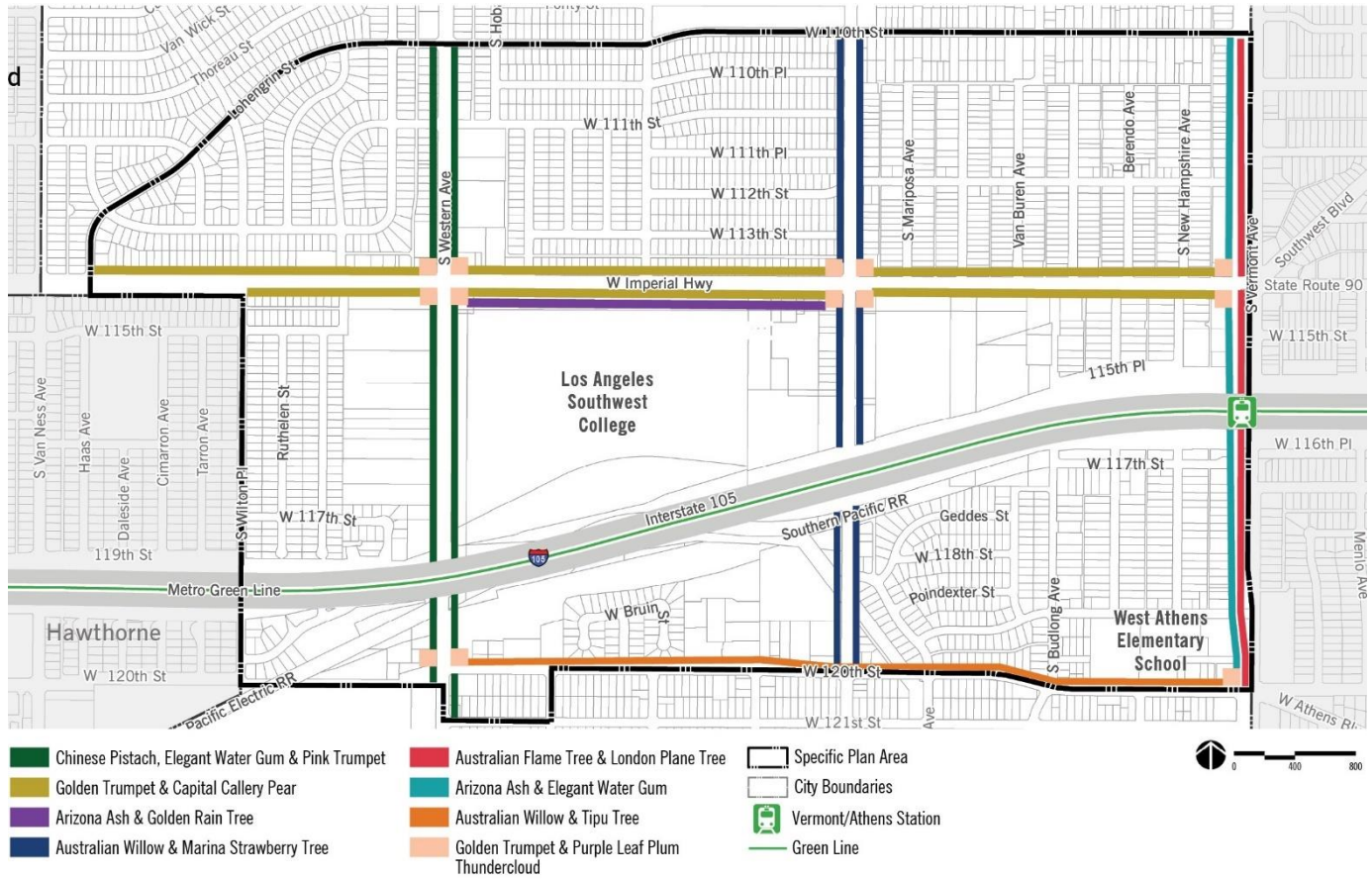
- Major streets will be composed of signature plantings from the plant palette to create clearly defined identities unique to each street, improve wayfinding, and announce arrival into the West Athens-Westmont communities.
- Plantings will be arranged along parkways at intervals appropriate with street scale and canopy cover in order to provide a sense of rhythm and movement.
- Flowering trees and trees with seasonal color denote the passing of time and create visual interest.
- The plant palette shall incorporate deciduous plant material to provide shade canopies during the warm season while allowing penetration of sunlight during the cooler months.
- The placement of trees and portions of planted parkways shall provide separation for pedestrians from vehicle traffic to create a comfortable sidewalk experience.



*Illustrative photos of Pedestrian-oriented streetscape.*



**FIGURE 5.5: STREETS WITH TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS**



**FIGURE 5.6: LANDSCAPE AND PLANTING DESIGN PALETTE**



**Arizona Ash**



**Australian Flame Tree**



**Australian Willow**



**Chinese Pistache**



**Elegant Water Gum**



**Golden Rain Tree**



**Golden Trumpet Tree**



**London Plane Tree**



**Marina Strawberry Tree**



**Pink Trumpet Tree**



**Purple Leaf Plum Thundercloud**



**Tipu Tree**



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# 06



## CHAPTER 6

# MOBILITY & THE PUBLIC REALM



# CHAPTER 6 MOBILITY & THE PUBLIC REALM

## 6.1 INTRODUCTION

The Mobility Strategy for the Specific Plan describes the circulation improvements needed to support transit oriented development within the Specific Plan area. A key component of the Specific Plan is the transformation of the current circulation network, which focuses on vehicular travel, to a network of complete streets. The strategies set forth provide a framework for establishing and maintaining a sustainable circulation network that supports both motorized and non-motorized modes of transportation together in an integrated system.

The Specific Plan area provides access to an extensive network of public transportation that includes light rail and local bus services. Metro operates the Green Line light rail service and local bus routes within the planning area. Despite these factors, first/last mile connections to the transit network have yet to overcome the existing built environment. Of key significance is the auto-centric design of primary transit corridors such as Vermont Avenue and Imperial Highway. The corridors' existing geometry consists of multiple travel lanes and wide medians that impair the perceived safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

This chapter examines the existing conditions of the Specific Plan area in terms of the overall street network, transit circulation, pedestrian and bicycle circulation, and parking. It also proposes strategies and recommendations to enhance multimodal design, increase transit ridership, and improve safety for all users.

## 6.2 MOBILITY STRATEGIES

The following mobility recommendations provide direction for future decision-making and development activities in the Specific Plan area. The strategies were developed from input received from community members, stakeholders, and County staff during the community engagement process and County Task Force meetings. These strategies include elements from and are consistent with existing County plans, policies, and initiatives such as Vision Zero, the Complete Streets Model Street Design Manual, Healthy Communities, Neighborhood Preservation CDBG Action Plan, and Purposeful Aging. Compliance with these mobility strategies, including construction of improvements, will be required as part of development projects.



*Existing Vermont Avenue streetscape.*



Multimodal street example.

**Strategy 1:** Improve accessibility to transit through the provision of streetscape improvements, high quality bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, wayfinding signage, and other enhancements consistent with Metro’s First/Last Mile Strategic Plan.

- Support walking and biking as first/last mile solutions to increase transit ridership.
- Improve visibility and access to the Metro Vermont/Athens Green Line Station through increased lighting, signage, and improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- Reduce crime by incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into all improvements.
- Design streetscapes that provide a comfortable buffer or sense of separation from vehicular traffic.
- Incorporate strategies from the Vision Zero Initiative, which aims to reduce traffic fatalities while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all.
- Reallocate excess portions of right-of-way, such as overly wide vehicular travel lanes, to improve sidewalks and bicycle facilities.
- Utilize wayfinding, signage, and other amenities that allow pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes to be easily identifiable.
- Design streetscapes that are attractive and inviting by incorporating sufficient lighting, street trees, landscaping, benches, and other amenities that are pleasant, offer visual stimulation, and promote activity.

**Strategy 2:** Design streets to facilitate safe, accessible, connections between major destinations for multiple modes of transportation.

- Implement complete streets designs that promotes a multimodal network of streets and prioritizes safety.
- Prioritize roadway improvement projects that improve access to transit and the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station.
- Incorporate streetscape improvements as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities that support transit operations and facilitate pedestrian circulation.

- Provide safe and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle connections between the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station and LASC.
- Provide safe and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle connections between the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station and LASC.
- Locate new transit stops in areas that are active and visible to maximize personal security and safety of waiting transit riders.
- Create safe, comfortable, and accessible transit waiting areas through the provision of transit amenities such as shelters, benches, shade structures, lighting, system maps, and transit timetables.

**Strategy 3:** Develop and incorporate parking management strategies that encourage efficient use of parking resources and support programs that can reduce the parking supply needed.

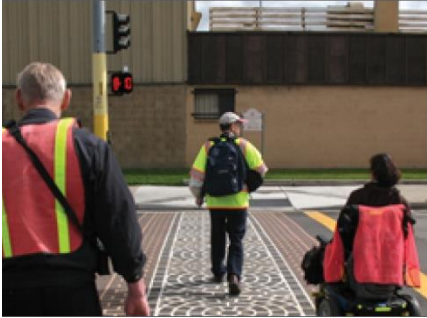
- Support land uses and infrastructure improvements that can reduce the need for parking and promote alternative modes of transportation, such as transit, walking, or biking.
- Implement parking policies that encourage travel by public transit and other sustainable modes of transportation, such as priced parking, parking time limits, or prohibited on-street parking.
- Implement more accurate and flexible parking standards that reflect the parking demand for the area.

**Strategy 4:** Ensure that current and new public transportation systems reflect the needs of a growing older adult population (including individuals with physical and cognitive needs).

- Increasing regional alignment among the current menu of transportation services available for older adults and dependent adults (i.e., Access Services, Dial-A-Ride, City Ride, City Door-to-Door Transportation Program, and County New Freedom Program) and expanding transportation options that cross jurisdictional lines.
- Exploring innovative collaborations with transportation network companies (TNC) such as GoGoGrandparent, which connect individuals seeking transportation services with available drivers, frequently using mobile applications or websites.



**Strategy 5:** Support the ability of older adults to safely walk in their communities as a means of transportation, through infrastructure enhancements in areas with a high-density of older adults, that may include:



*Signalized crosswalk with decorative paving entrance visibility.*

- Increasing pedestrian crossing times at signalized intersections.
- Adding leading pedestrian intervals to provide individuals a head start when crossing intersections.
- Creating pedestrian safety islands in wide streets to reduce crossing distances.
- Adding curb extensions to shorten crossing distances, and slow vehicles before turning;
- Ensuring intersections incorporate pedestrian ramps.
- Adding raised cross walks to intersections with a high volume of pedestrian traffic
- Adding accessible pedestrian signals at signalized intersections to help older adults with vision impairment.
- Proactively inspect and repair sidewalks in areas with a high-density of older adults, older adult housing or older adult serving land uses.
- Placing benches at strategic locations to provide a space for older adults to rest while walking, such as near senior centers, libraries, parks, and other public facilities utilized by older adults.

**Strategy 6:** Promote TOD strategies.

- Preserve affordable housing near TODs.
- Coordinate land use regulations that leverage new transit oriented development (both market rate and affordable).
- Apply Metro first/last mile strategies that connect and invest in supportive pedestrian, bicycle, parking improvements, accessibility, traffic calming strategies and land use planning efforts that remove barriers in using the Vermont/Athens Station. Other features may include observations on landscape, lighting, wayfinding, accessibility and station amenities.
- Coordinated workforce and economic development strategy that considers both business attraction and job training near transit.

**Strategy 7:** Improve pedestrian facilities as recommended in the Step by Step Westmont/West Athens Community Pedestrian Plan.

- Implement crossing and sidewalk/path improvements in identified locations.
- Install ADA compliant curb ramps where currently missing to allow better access for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
- Initiate any necessary corridor studies in the future to facilitate pedestrian-scale lighting, shade trees, roadway configuration of road diet, landscaping, and other facilities along identified streets.

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## 6.3 STREET NETWORK

The Specific Plan recognizes the role that the built environment and street design plays on a community's health and wellness. Well-designed streets can provide safer and more attractive settings for people to walk and bike, as well as to encourage more transit use.

This section describes the existing street network and provides a comprehensive and context sensitive street improvement plan. The existing street network from the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways is illustrated in Figure 6.1. The street network within the Specific Plan area will remain the same with streetscape improvements proposed along key arterials. These improvements are intended to transform the existing auto-oriented streetscape into a more sustainable, multimodal design. Where feasible, two options are suggested: a short term and a long term option. The Specific Plan's roadway and circulation network plans and streetscape improvement measures are described below.

To ensure adequate emergency access, future streetscape improvements are subject to approval from the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Land Development Unit. The Specific Plan proposes the following streetscape improvements to promote more livable and sustainable streets.

### 6.3.1 COMPLETE STREETS

For the Specific Plan, a Complete Streets approach means providing mobility for all modes of transportation and serves users of all ages and abilities. Given that the current transportation network is primarily focused on the movement of automobiles, this Specific Plan, in accordance with other county policies, provides a plan for infrastructure focused on balancing both motorized and non-motorized transportation modes of travel. Providing enhanced mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders will help improve accessibility to and within the Specific Plan area which is a key component of this Plan's Vision.

Additionally, a Complete Streets approach aligns with the County's Living Streets Manual's goals to provide transportation options for people of all ages, physical abilities, and income levels, as well as enhance the safety and security of streets, from both a traffic and personal perspective. A sustainable complete street network provides a pattern of multimodal streets that gives priority to non-motorized modes, resulting in a distribution of traffic that is consistent with the desired function of the street, offering many route choices that connect origins with their destinations. Because the existing network in the Specific Plan area primarily serves automobiles, it is important that these route choices also include other modes of transportation options.

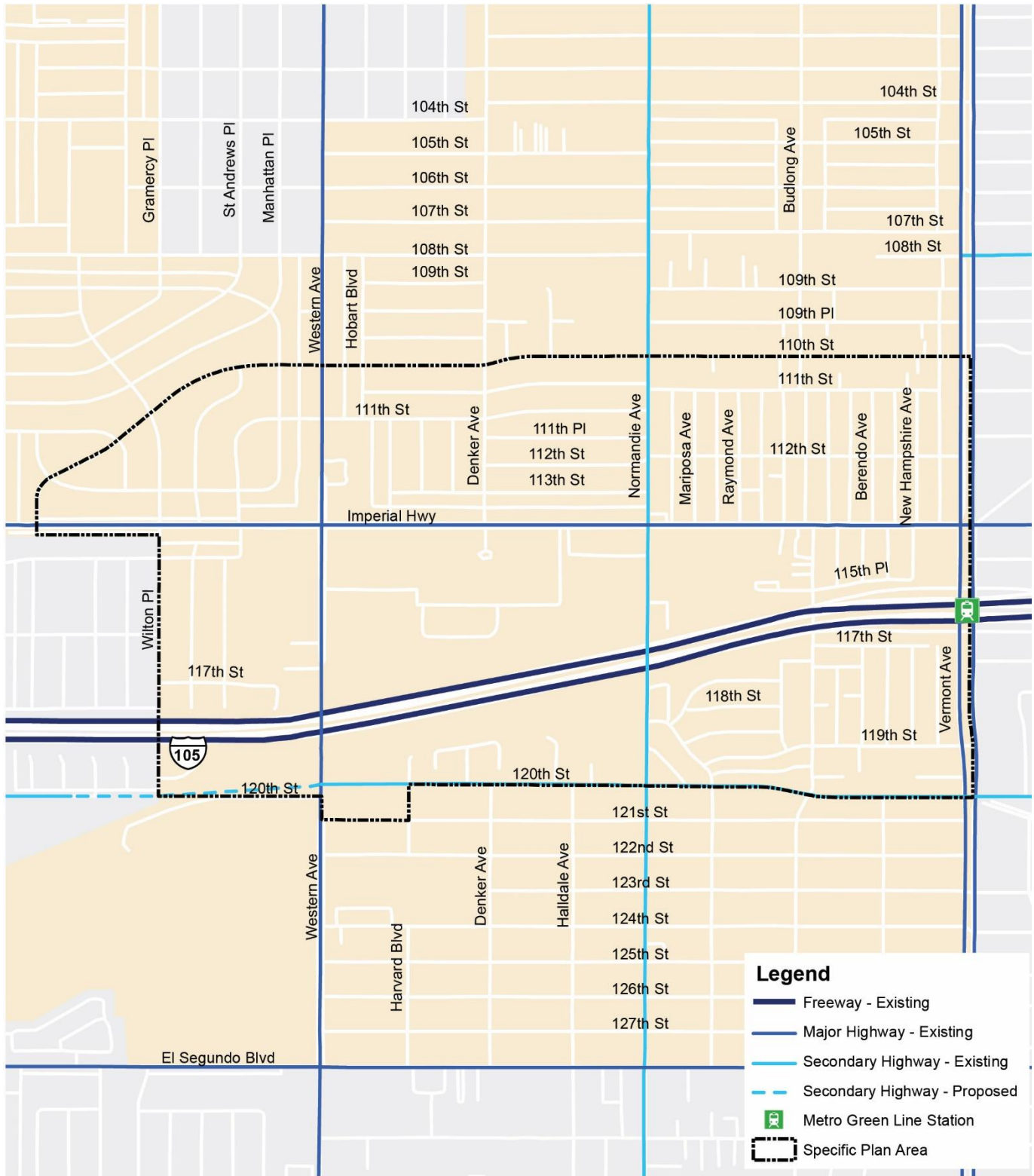


*Complete Street example.*

**Complete Streets have been defined as "...streets for everyone.** They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from transit stops."

*–The National Complete Streets Coalition*

**FIGURE 6.1: WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT STREET NETWORK**



Source: Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways

## 6.3.2 IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

### Existing Conditions

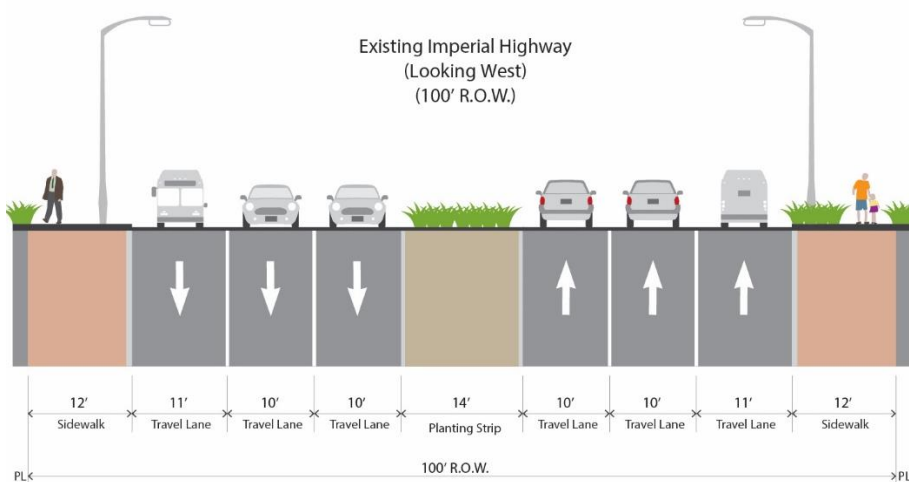
Imperial Highway is classified as a Major Highway on the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways and runs east and west within the Specific Plan boundary. The corridor currently meets the minimum 100-foot width right-of-way standards for a Major Highway classification.

Imperial Highway serves as both a major arterial and transit corridor. The corridor is lined primarily by residential and commercial land uses. The posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour. Within the Specific Plan area, the roadway consists of three travel lanes in each direction with a raised median in the center. On-street parking is permitted along the corridor, but is limited in some areas within the Specific Plan area. Metro and the City of Gardena operate bus lines along the corridor. Existing streetscape conditions are illustrated in Figure 6.2.



Existing view of Imperial Highway.

**FIGURE 6.2: EXISTING IMPERIAL HIGHWAY STREETScape**



### Vision

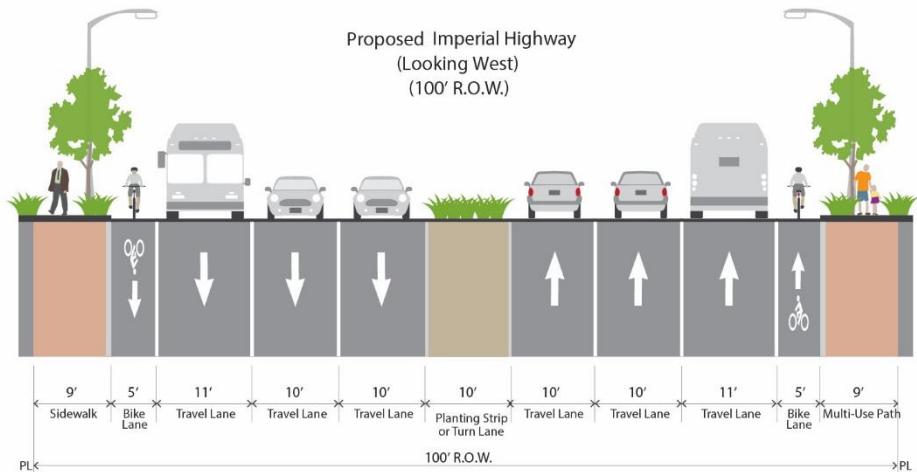
Imperial Highway serves as a primary corridor for vehicles, transit, and pedestrians. Improved landscaping would enhance the pedestrian environment along Imperial Highway, improving walkability and access to bus transit connections as well.

### Plan Strategy

The Specific Plan proposes reducing the existing sidewalk and planting strip widths to accommodate a 5-foot bicycle lane in each direction, as illustrated in Figure 6.3. The corridor should be designed to support high levels of bicycle and pedestrian activity with additional landscaping and street trees placed to provide a buffer between the sidewalk and the

busy corridor. Improved bicycle and pedestrian amenities would encourage increased active transportation and social interactions among the various residential and commercial land uses along Imperial Highway, as well as proposed mixed use on the eastern end of the Specific Plan area both north and south of Imperial Highway.

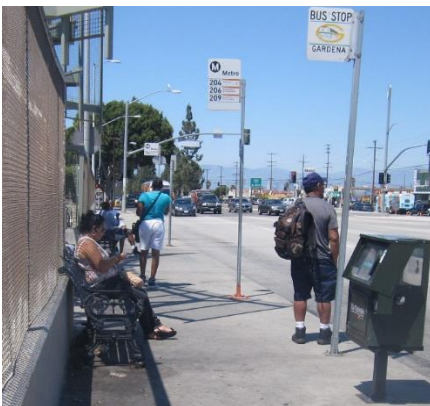
**FIGURE 6.3: PROPOSED IMPERIAL HIGHWAY STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS**



### 6.3.3 VERMONT AVENUE

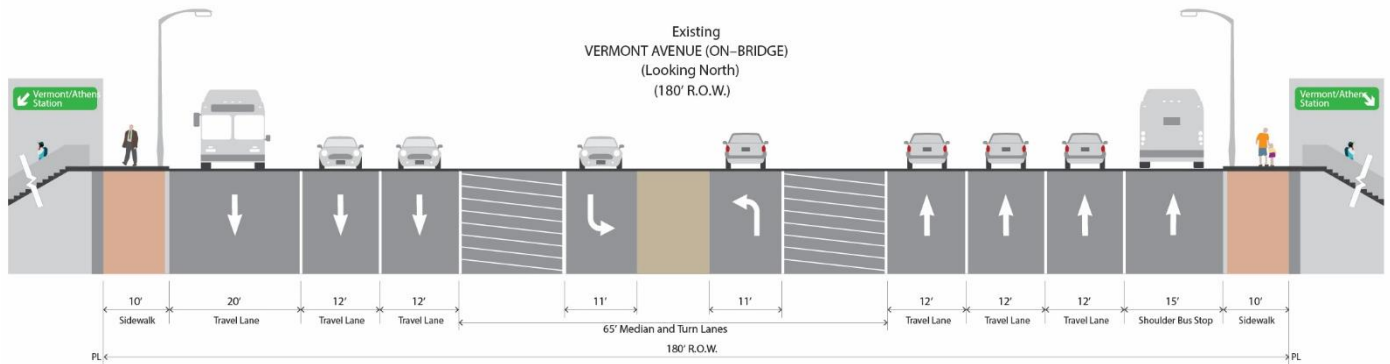
#### Existing Conditions

Vermont Avenue is classified as a Major Highway on the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways and runs north and south within the Specific Plan area. At 180 feet wide, the corridor currently greatly exceeds the minimum 100-foot width right-of-way standards for a Major Highway classification. The corridor serves as the jurisdictional boundary between unincorporated West Athens-Westmont and the City of Los Angeles and is lined with commercial land uses. The posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour and 25 miles per hour in school zones when children are present. Within the Specific Plan area, the roadway consists of three travel lanes in each direction with a wide raised median in the center. Class II striped bike lanes also exist in portions of the Specific Plan area. On-street parking is permitted along much of the corridor. Metro and the City of Gardena operate bus lines along the corridor. The existing Vermont/Athens Green Line station can be accessed from the section of Vermont Avenue that functions as an overpass above the 105 freeway, at the center of the study area's eastern boundary. The existing conditions along the overpass are illustrated in Figure 6.4.



Conditions along Vermont Avenue Bridge.

**FIGURE 6.4: EXISTING VERMONT AVENUE STREETScape (OVERPASS)**



## Vision

Vermont Avenue is a major transit corridor with multiple bus routes from various local transit agencies. Metro plans major transit improvements that may include bus rapid transit (BRT) along Vermont Avenue to link up to four rail lines along its route between the Sunset/Vermont Red Line station to 120th Street, near the I-110 and 105 freeway interchange. The planned BRT service would also serve the existing Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. The Specific Plan’s vision for Vermont Avenue highlights the corridor’s role in connecting people to transit by expanding the pedestrian environment with wider sidewalks and reduced vehicle travel lane widths. Additionally, pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure should include improved landscaping and buffered bike lanes to improve safety and accessibility to the area’s rich transit network.

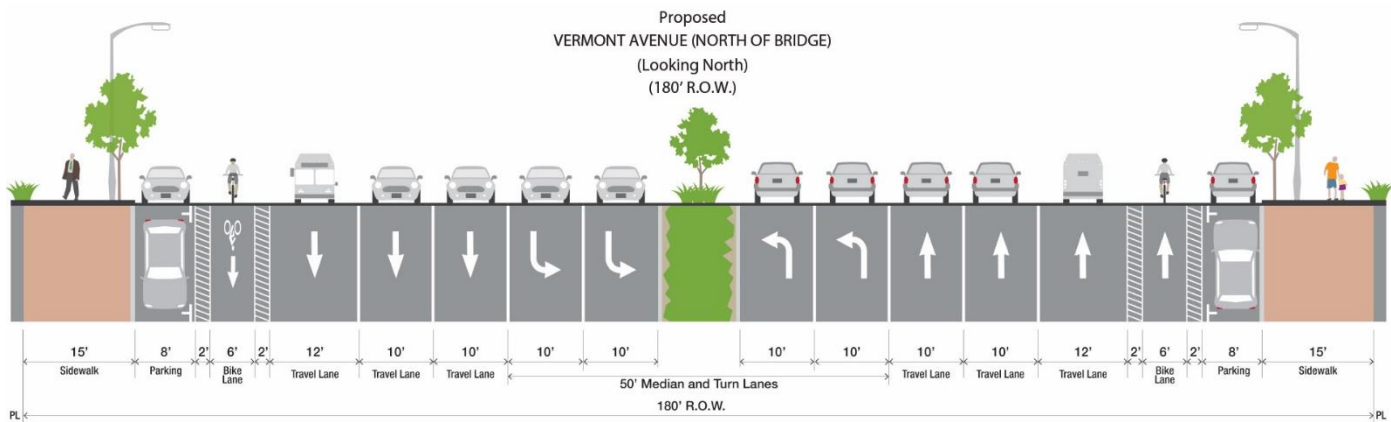
## Plan Strategy

The Specific Plan proposes a range of strategies to improve multimodal access and promoted pedestrian activity. These strategies include: widening the existing sidewalk on and north of the 105 freeway overpass; an implementation of buffered bike lanes on both sides of the corridor; the reduction of lane width; and the implementation of improved landscaping.

As the 105 freeway overpass runs along the center of Vermont Avenue in the study area, the Specific Plan recognizes the corridor varies in three different sections. North of the overpass portion of Vermont Avenue, improved landscaping is recommended, as illustrated in Figure 6.5, to enhance the streetscape and promote pedestrian activity.

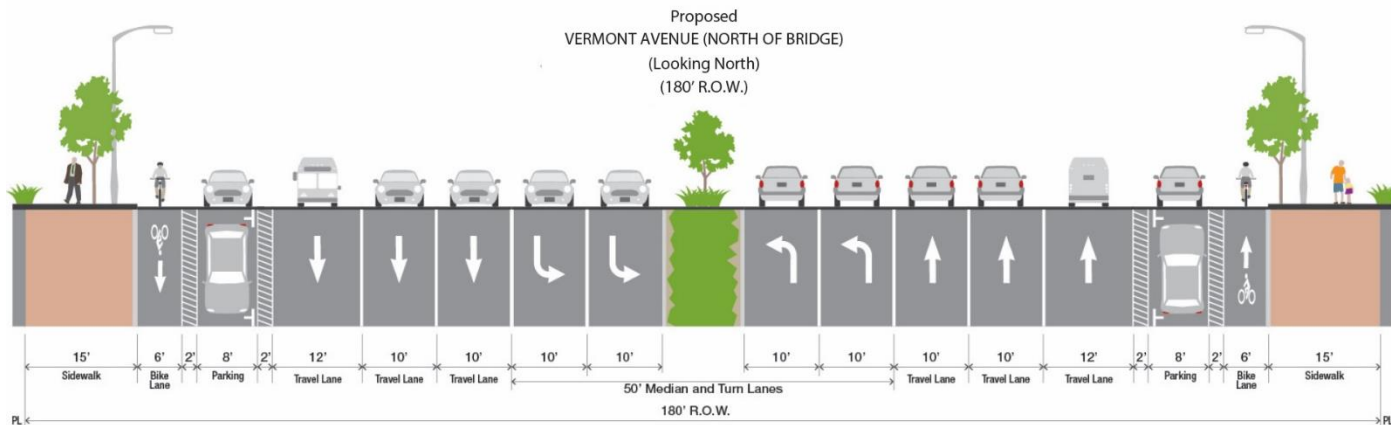


**FIGURE 6.5: PROPOSED VERMONT AVENUE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS (NORTH OF OVERPASS, SHORT TERM)**



In Figure 6.6, a long term option is presented in which the bike and parking lanes are switched to increase biking comfort.

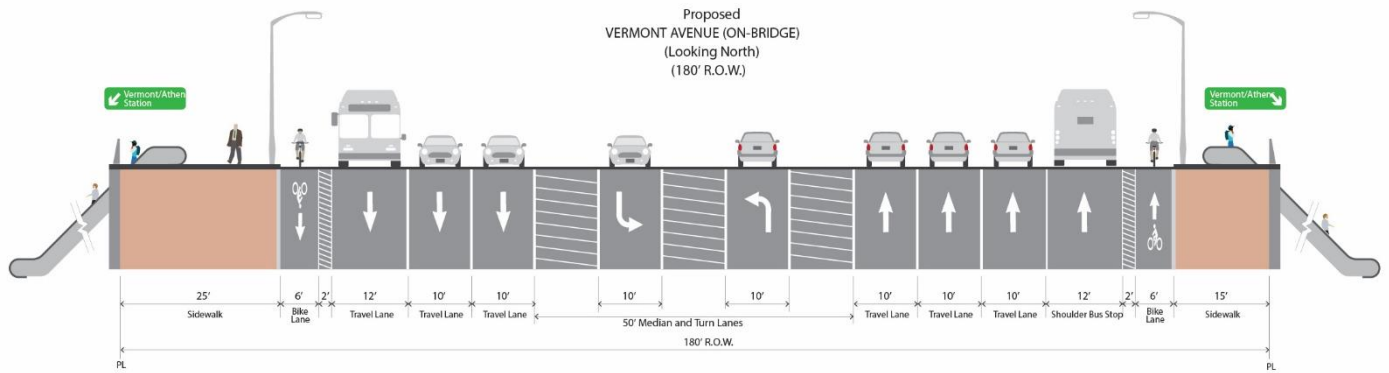
**FIGURE 6.6: PROPOSED VERMONT AVENUE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS (NORTH OF OVERPASS, LONG TERM)**



Along the overpass portion of Vermont Avenue, the Specific Plan proposes widening the existing sidewalk to 25 feet on the western side of the right of way belonging to Los Angeles County, as illustrated in Figure 6.7. The sidewalk on the opposite side as well as north of the overpass should be increased to a width of 15 feet. Widening the sidewalks along this segment of Vermont will not only support high levels of pedestrian activity, but will also increase visibility of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. 6-foot bike lanes are proposed on each side of the corridor along its entire length, with 2-foot striped

buffers. Travel lanes on each side of the corridor should be reduced in width to 10 feet while allowing 12 feet for shoulder bus lanes.

**FIGURE 6.7: PROPOSED VERMONT AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS (OVERPASS)**



South of the overpass portion of Vermont Avenue, the Specific Plan also proposes a wider median and merges the existing parkway with the sidewalk on the eastern side of the corridor, as illustrated in Figure 6.8.

**FIGURE 6.8: PROPOSED VERMONT AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS (SOUTH OF OVERPASS, SHORT TERM)**

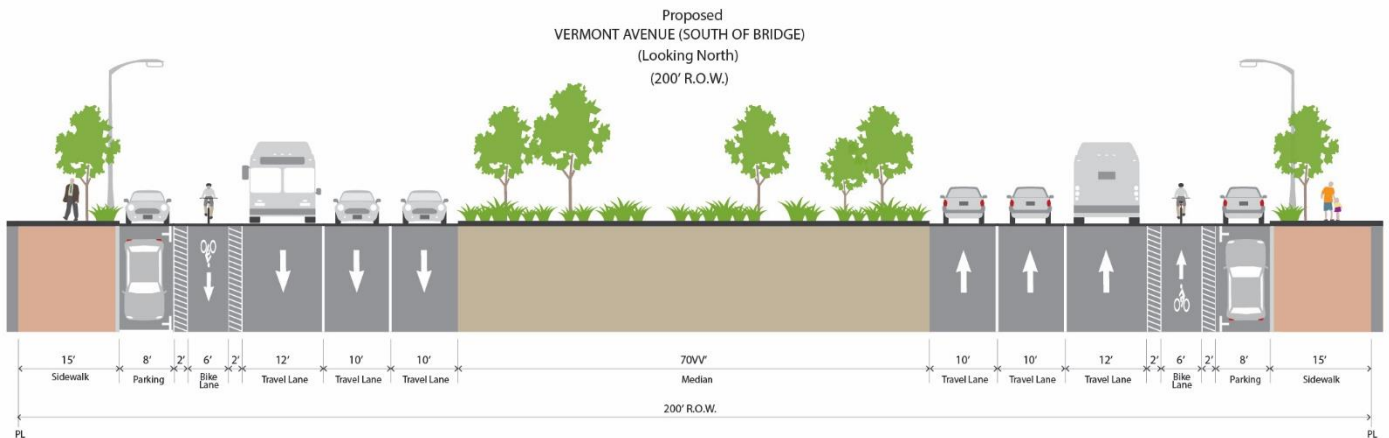
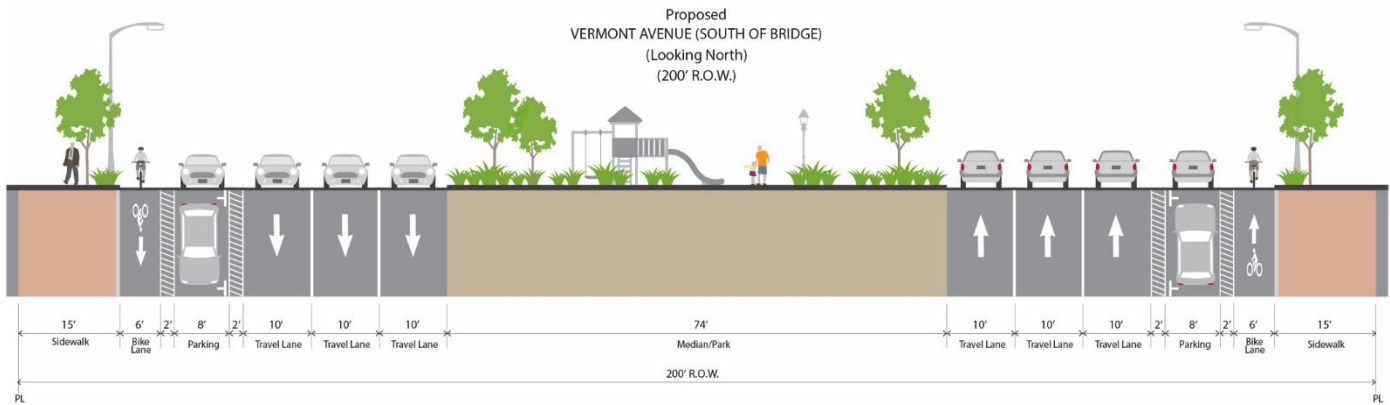


Figure 6.9 shows the long term option in which the bike and parking lanes are switched to increase biking comfort and public amenities are incorporated into the existing median.

**FIGURE 6.9: PROPOSED VERMONT AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS (SOUTH OF OVERPASS, LONG TERM)**



### 6.3.4 NORMANDIE AVENUE

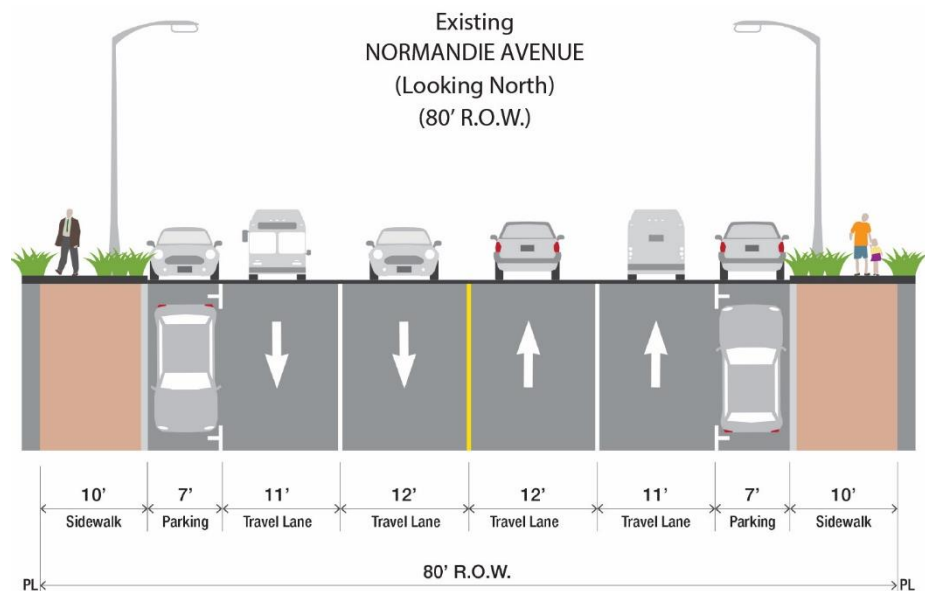
#### Existing Conditions



Existing Normandie Avenue.

Normandie Avenue is classified as a Secondary Highway in the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways and runs north and south within the Specific Plan area. The corridor currently meets the 80-foot minimum width right-of-way standards for a Secondary Highway classification. The posted speed limit is 40 miles per hour north of Imperial Highway and 45 miles per hour south of Imperial Highway. Metro operates bus lines along the corridor and on-street parking is permitted in some areas. The existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 6.10.

**FIGURE 6.10: EXISTING NORMANDIE AVENUE STREETScape**



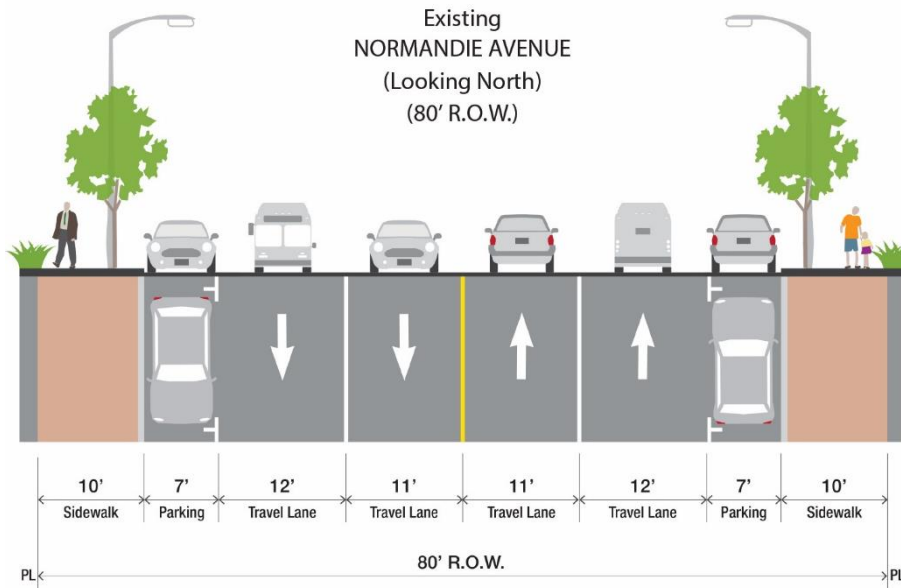
## Vision

Normandie Avenue is a secondary connector throughout the Specific Plan area. As it is located in the middle of the Specific Plan area, streetscape improvements should enhance the safety and pedestrian connectivity.

## Plan Strategy

In order to improve the pedestrian environment along this busy corridor, the Specific Plan recommends improving landscaping along the length of Normandie Avenue by adding street trees between the sidewalks and parking areas on each side of the corridor to enhance the pedestrian environment, as illustrated in Figure 6.11.

**FIGURE 6.11: PROPOSED NORMANDIE AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS**



## 6.3.5 WESTERN AVENUE

### Existing Conditions

Western Avenue is classified as a Major Highway on the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways and runs north and south within the Specific Plan boundary. The corridor currently meets the 100-foot minimum width right-of-way standards for a Major Highway classification.

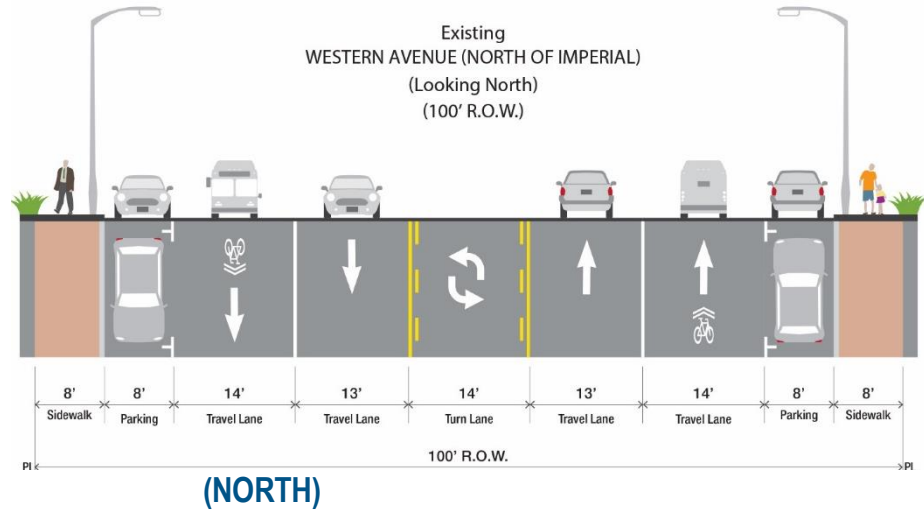
Within the Specific Plan area, the roadway consists of two travel lanes in each direction with a center two-way left turn lane. The posted speed limit is 40 miles per hour and 25 miles per hour in school zones when children are present. Western Avenue currently functions differently



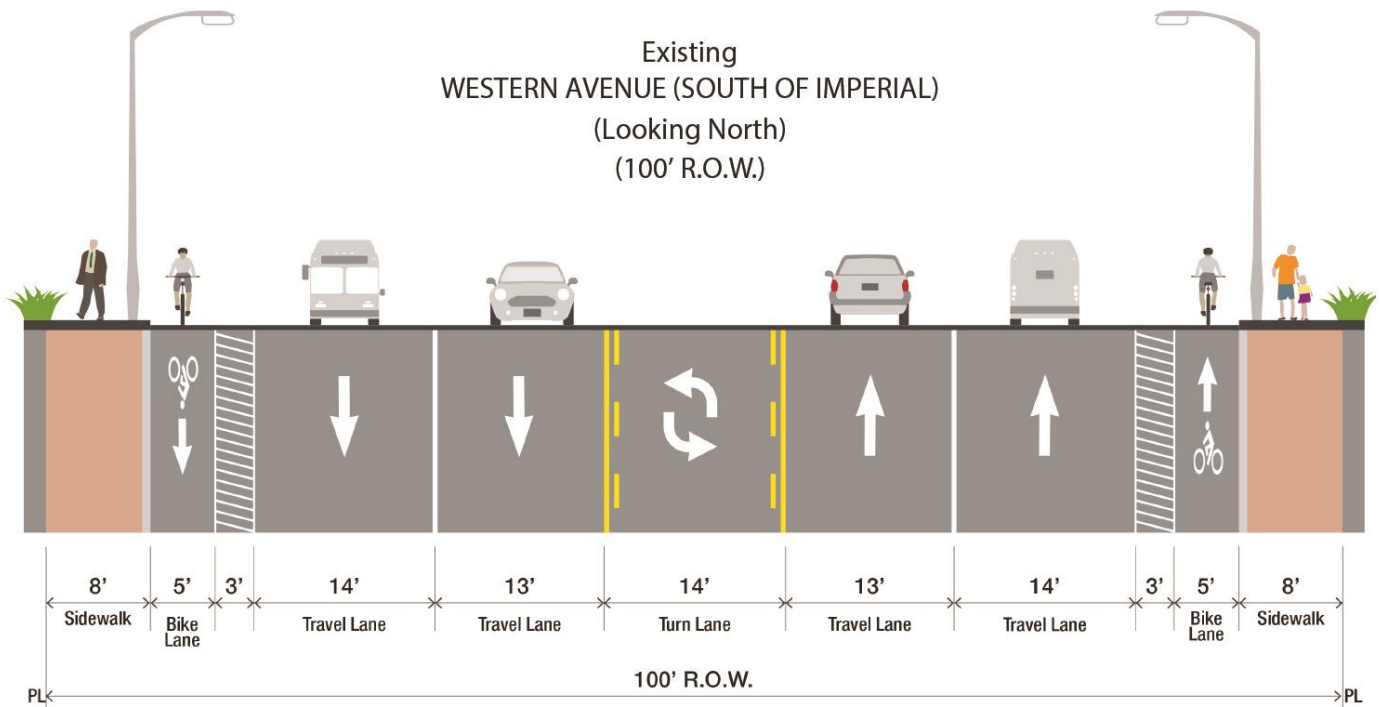
Existing view of Western Avenue at the entrance of Los Angeles Southwest College.

north of Imperial Highway as compared to south of Imperial Highway in terms of on-street parking and separation of bike lanes. On-street parking is permitted primarily north of Imperial Highway. There are bicycle sharrows north of Imperial Highway and buffered bike lanes south of Imperial Highway. Metro and the City of Gardena operates bus lines along the corridor. The existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 6.12 and Figure 6.13.

**FIGURE 6.12: EXISTING WESTERN AVENUE STREETScape**



**FIGURE 6.13: EXISTING WESTERN AVENUE STREETScape (SOUTH)**



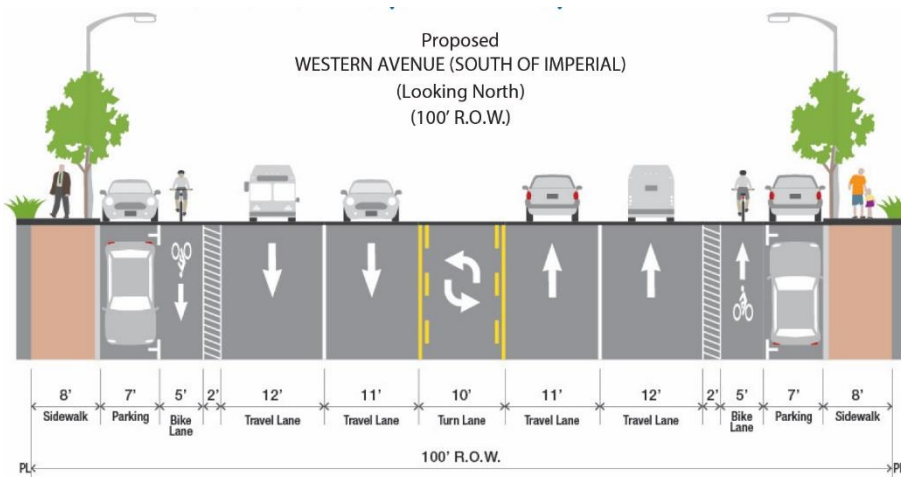
## Vision

The vision for Western Avenue is a consistent multimodal street design that extends the length of the corridor within the plan area from 110th Street to 120th Street.

## Plan Strategy

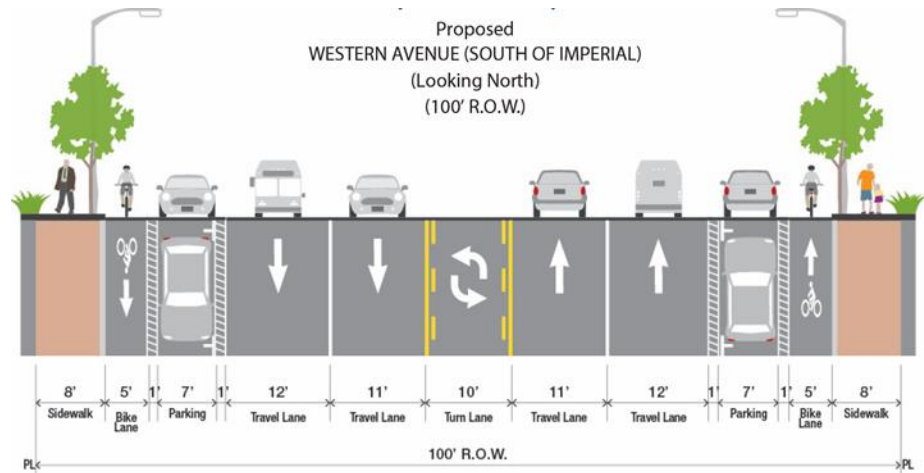
Streetscape improvements proposed for Western Avenue are illustrated in Figure 6.14 and include continuing the buffered bike lanes that currently exist south of Imperial Highway onto the northern portion of Western Avenue, adjacent to the existing on-street parking on either side. This makes the streetscape on Western Avenue more consistent along the length of the corridor by simply reducing travel lane widths by 2 feet the turn lane to 10 feet in width.

**FIGURE 6.14: PROPOSED WESTERN AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS (SHORT TERM)**



In Figure 6.15, the long term option shows modified parking and bike lanes to increase biking comfort for users.

**FIGURE 6.15: PROPOSED WESTERN AVENUE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS (LONG TERM)**



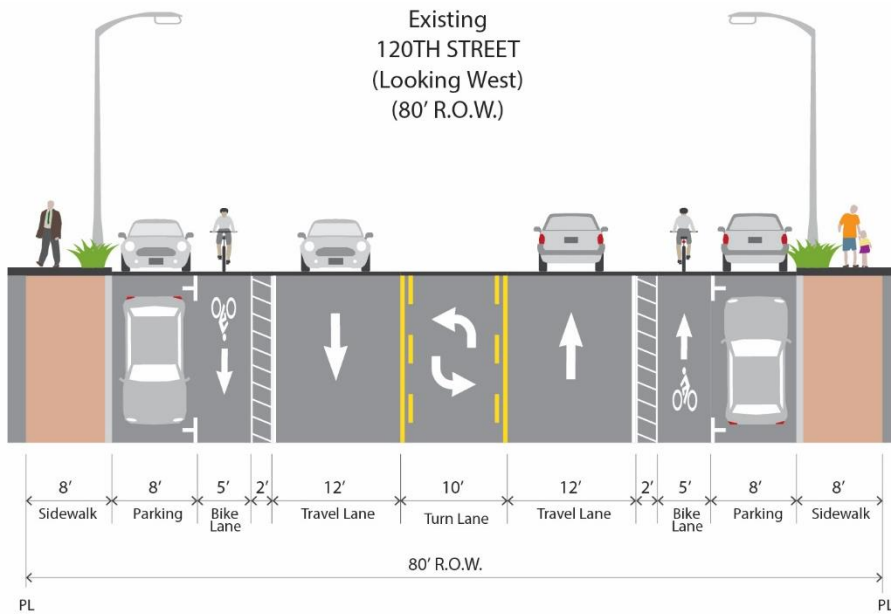
### 6.3.6 120TH STREET

#### Existing Conditions

120th Street is located just south of West Athens Elementary School and west of Vermont Avenue. The corridor is lined primarily by residential and commercial land uses. Within the Specific Plan area, the roadway consists of one travel lane in each direction with a turn lane in the center. 5-foot buffered bicycle lanes travel on both sides of the corridor, separated from the traffic lanes and adjacent to on-street parking, which is permitted along most of the street. The posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour and 25 miles per hour in school zones when children are present.

120th street is classified as a Secondary Highway on the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways and runs east and west within the Specific Plan boundary. It currently terminates at Western Avenue and an extension through the City of Hawthorne Jurisdiction is unlikely. The corridor currently meets the 80-foot minimum width right-of-way standards for a Secondary Highway classification as set forth in the Los Angeles County General Plan. The existing conditions are illustrated in Figure 6.16.

**FIGURE 6.16: EXISTING 120TH AVENUE STREETSCAPE**



**Vision**

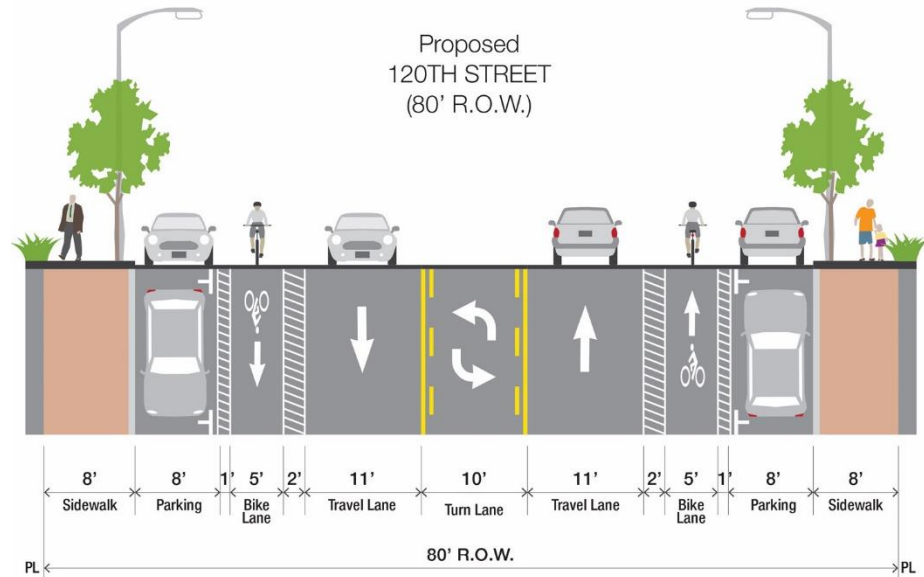
The vision for 120th Street enhances the pedestrian and bicyclist experience along the roadway as it connects with the portion of 120th Street east of Vermont Avenue in the City of Los Angeles Jurisdiction.

**Plan Strategy**

To improve safety for bicyclists traveling along the busy corridor, travel lanes should be reduced to 11 feet in both directions and a 1-foot safety buffer should be placed between the bike lanes and parking areas on each side of the street. This will provide enough space to maintain parking while increasing biking comfort along the roadway. Landscaping enhancements should be added along the sidewalks to improve pedestrian comfort, creating a buffer between sidewalks and the busy corridor. Streetscape improvements proposed for 120th Street are illustrated in Figure 6.17.



**FIGURE 6.17: PROPOSED 120TH STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS**



## 6.4 TRANSIT CIRCULATION



*Existing Metro bus route along Vermont.*

A key component of the Specific Plan is to enhance the transit experience by improving access to and from transit stops and the areas spent waiting for the next bus or train. Existing transit services are illustrated in Figure 6.18.

### 6.4.1 LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The Specific Plan area is served by an extensive network of public transportation, including eight local bus routes operated by Metro and the City of Gardena and the Metro Green Line that runs in the median of the 105 freeway. The Green Line provides light rail services connecting the South Bay, Harbor Gateway, and Norwalk communities to a nearby transfer to the Blue Line for north/south regional connections.

The existing Vermont/Athens Green Line Station is located underneath the Vermont Avenue overpass in the median of the 105 freeway. It is accessible from Vermont Avenue via stairways and elevators. Although transit amenities, including benches, wayfinding maps, and shelter, exist at the station, it lacks transparency and has been described as hiding in plain sight. The degree to which an individual can see or perceive what lies beyond the edge of a street or public space in order to feel safe is inhibited by its placement under the overpass and lack of presence at the street-level.

FIGURE 6.18: TRANSIT NETWORK MAP



Primary transit corridors within the study area boundary consists of Imperial Highway, Vermont Avenue, and Western Avenue. Seven bus routes travel along Imperial Highway (Metro bus routes 120, 206, 207, 209, 757, and City of Gardena bus route 2), five bus routes travel along Vermont Avenue (Metro bus routes 204, 206, 209, 754, and City of Gardena bus route 2), and three bus routes travel along Western Avenue (Metro bus routes 207, 209, and City of Gardena bus route 2).

The Specific Plan recommends coordinating operating schedules between local feeder bus routes and the Metro Green Line to improve transit service. Schedule improvements, such as reducing wait times between transfers, can help improve efficiency.

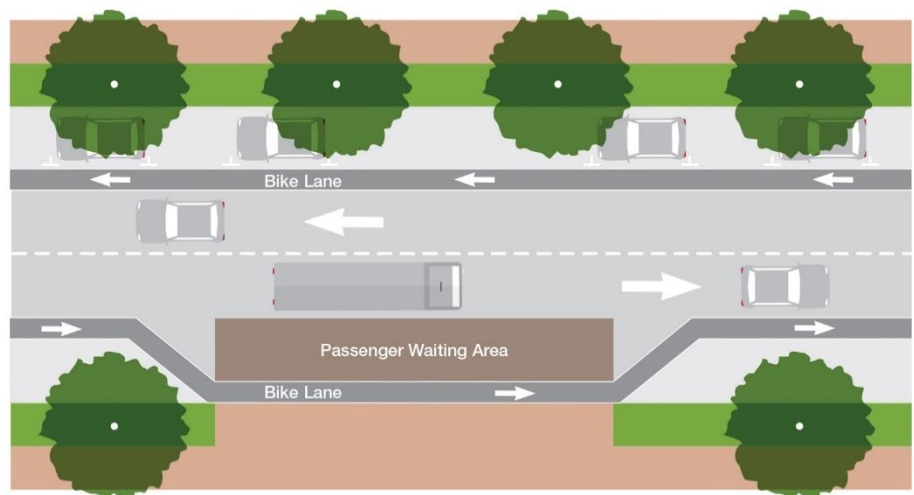
## 6.4.2 BUS AND BIKE INTERFACE

The Specific Plan also acknowledges that alternative modes of transportation, such as transit and bicycling are complementary and must often interact with one another on urban and suburban streets. The coexistence between buses and bikes on roadways, however, can present significant challenges due to differences in size, average speed, and stopping patterns. Conflicts often arise as bicyclists must share the right-hand lane and curb with stopping buses. To minimize these types of conflicts, the Specific Plan encourages the implementation of alternative bus stop designs beyond conventional curbside stops. One such design includes creating a short bike channel that diverts bicycle traffic behind transit stops as depicted in Figures 6.19 and 6.20.



Illustrative photo of a multi-use path next to transit corridor.

**FIGURE 6.19: FLOATING BUS STOP AND BIKE CHANNEL DESIGN**



**FIGURE 6.20: FLOATING BUS STOP AND BIKE CHANNEL IN**



**SEATTLE**

### 6.4.3 TRANSIT AMENITIES

Transit stop amenities improve the transit experience. Amenities can include shelters, benches, lighting, transit information, bicycle racks, and public art. Well-designed transit stops can improve patron comfort and convenience and attract new riders. Potential improvements to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station to provide better access and visibility and enhance passenger comfort are outlined in Section 3.2.3 and illustrated in Figure 3.3. Installation of transit stop amenities should be done in consultation with the local transit agencies servicing the area, which includes Metro and Gardena Municipal. These improvements would also require coordinating with Caltrans.

Bus shelters play an important role in transit operations. They provide patrons shelter from varying weather conditions and provide a place to rest and wait. Bus shelters should provide other amenities such as benches, stop ID, route information, and lighting. Additionally, shelter placement should not obstruct the loading and unloading of passengers or the pedestrian pathway.

Transit information is also an important amenity at transit stops. Whenever possible, transit stops should include information on service routes and schedules, as well as local area maps and wayfinding information. Providing transit information at stops allow patrons to determine whether or not they are waiting at the correct stop and where they need to go once they arrive at their stop. Ideally, real-time arrival information should also be included whenever possible in order to improve transit reliability and encourage transit usage.



*Station entry example.*



*Transit shelter example.*

## 6.5 PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION



Existing pedestrian crossing.

First/Last Mile connections often impact an individual's decision to utilize transit. Adequate pedestrian infrastructure, together with appropriate land use designations, can help to activate corridors and promote pedestrian activity. This section discusses some of the existing opportunities to improve the pedestrian environment within the Specific Plan area. If any of the strategies discussed in this Specific Plan conflict with the Step by Step Community Pedestrian Plan for Westmont/West Athens, the Step by Step plan supersedes the Specific Plan.

### 6.5.1 SIDEWALK HIERARCHY

Sidewalks must be recognized not as an amenity, but as the back bone of the pedestrian network. Sidewalks can present opportunities to transform streets into public spaces. In order to create a vibrant walking environment that encourages pedestrian activity, sidewalks need to be safe, connected, comfortable, accessible, and attractive.

Although sidewalks exist along major corridors within the Specific Plan area, most are narrow and do not support high levels of pedestrian activity. The Specific Plan proposes a sidewalk hierarchy to establish a physical framework for sidewalk design.

The sidewalk hierarchy is composed of three levels: Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. Each level within the hierarchy, as illustrated in Figure 6.21, is designed to support varying levels of pedestrian activity. Locations of each level corresponds with the locations of the various pathways in the Metro Pathways hierarchy. For instance, Level 1 sidewalks, which are the widest sidewalks, should be located along pathway arterials to accommodate high levels of pedestrian activity. Level 2 sidewalks should be located along pathway collectors to accommodate moderate levels of pedestrian activity, while Level 3 sidewalks should be reserved for low-density residential streets. The various levels of the sidewalk hierarchy are defined as follows:

- **Level 1:** Sidewalks are the widest sidewalks within the hierarchy and should have a minimum width of ten feet in order to support high pedestrian volumes and to accommodate the street trees, benches, outdoor seating, and other amenities. Level 1 sidewalks should be located along pathway arterials and areas with higher density, mixed-use, or commercial land use development. Space allocation for Level 1 sidewalks should favor the pedestrian and frontage zone to provide adequate passing space between pedestrians and to accommodate for store-front amenities such as outdoor seating within commercial or mixed-use zones.

- **Level 2:** Sidewalks are slightly narrower in width than Level 1 sidewalks and should have a minimum width of seven feet in order to accommodate moderate levels of pedestrian activity and to accommodate some pedestrian amenities. Level 2 sidewalks should be located along pathway collectors. Space allocation for Level 2 sidewalks should favor the pedestrian and furniture zone.
- **Level 3:** Sidewalks are the narrowest sidewalks within the hierarchy and should be located along low-density residential streets that do not carry high volumes of traffic or pedestrian activity. They should have a minimum width of five feet in order to meet American Disability Act (ADA) standards and largely if not totally favor the pedestrian zone.

Figure 6.21 illustrates the suggested locations of the various sidewalk levels. The Specific Plan, however, recognizes that sidewalk design and construction often occurs under constrained conditions, such as narrow right-of-ways, utilities, grading, and topography. These are all key factors to consider when designing and constructing accessible sidewalks.

Each level varies in their allocation of space amongst the frontage zone, pedestrian zone, furniture zone, and curb zone, which are illustrated in Figure 6.22 and defined as follows:

- **Frontage Zone:** The frontage zone encompasses the area of the sidewalk that separates pedestrians from the property line or building/store fronts. The frontages zone typically provides space for outdoor seating, store entrances, street vendors, and provides a buffer for pedestrians from opening doors and other architectural elements.
- **Pedestrian Zone:** The pedestrian zone is the area of the sidewalk that is specifically reserved for pedestrian travel. It should be free of obstacles, well-lit, and functional in all weather conditions. Street furniture, plantings, outdoor seating, utility boxes, and other elements should not protrude into the pedestrian zone. Additionally, the surface quality of the pedestrian zone is of key importance and should be smooth, stable, and slip resistant, with minimal gaps and rough surfaces.

**FIGURE 6.21: PEDESTRIAN NETWORK MAP**

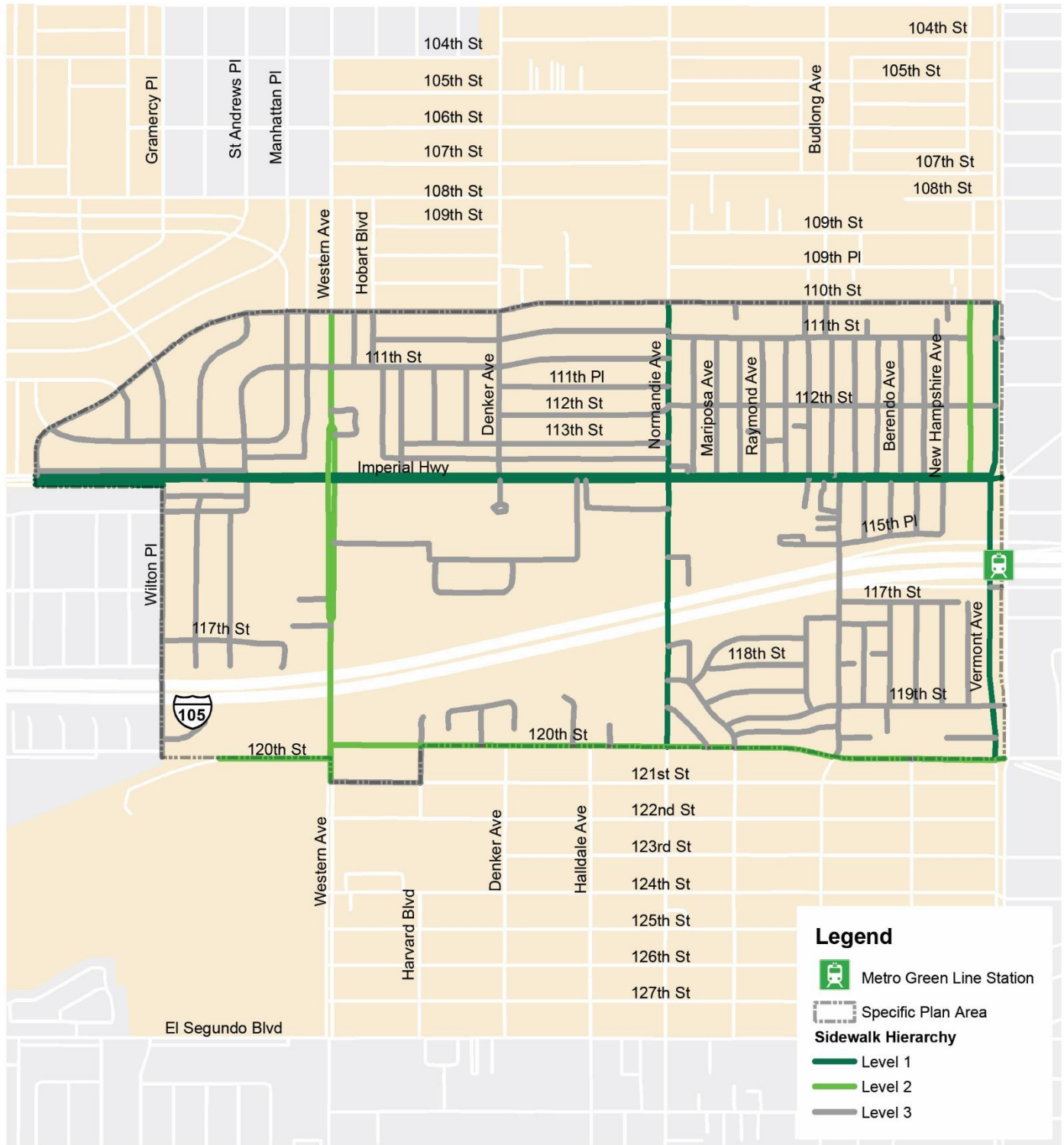
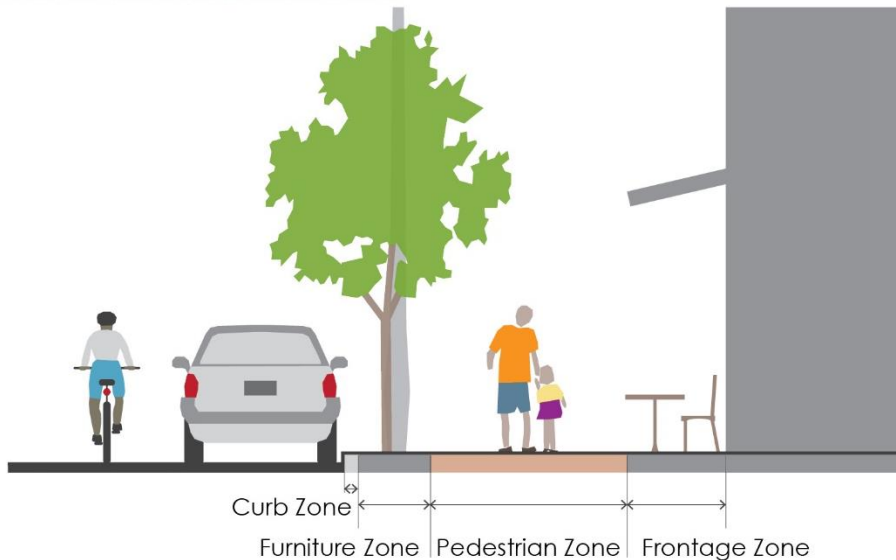


FIGURE 6.22: SIDEWALK ZONES



- Furniture Zone:** The furniture zone is the area of the sidewalk between the pedestrian zone and the street curb. The furniture zone provides space for utilities, such as traffic poles and fire hydrants, as well as amenities, such as benches, bus shelters, and street trees. Items placed in this zone must be strategically located so not to obstruct sight lines, prevent damage from vehicles on the street, and to allow for access to and from parked cars.
- Curb Zone:** The curb zone is the first six inches of sidewalk area immediately adjacent to the roadway. The curb zone discourages motor vehicles from driving onto the sidewalk, prevents excess water from collecting onto the sidewalk, and provides a valuable cue that separates the sidewalk from the roadway and vehicular traffic.

## 6.5.2 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

A safe and comprehensive pedestrian network requires the ability to complete two important functions: walking along streets and crossing streets safely. Enhancing the pedestrian environment helps advance the County's Vision Zero Initiative by aiming to reduce traffic fatalities, especially those involving pedestrians. Several tools exist to enhance the overall pedestrian experience and to help make crossing streets easier and safer for pedestrians. The Specific Plan recommends the following design guidelines to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing:



1. **Marked Crosswalks** - Marked crosswalks are a key element in providing safe pedestrian crossings. Crosswalks help to guide pedestrians and identify locations where it is safe to cross, as well as inform drivers of pedestrian movements. Crosswalks can be located at intersections, mid-block crossings, or uncontrolled crossings. Crosswalks shall meet basic requirements for visibility and shall follow guidelines set forth in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The Specific Plan recommends that crosswalks be in place at the following locations whenever possible:

- » All signalized intersections
- » Near key transit stops and stations
- » Locations with heavy pedestrian volumes
- » Along school walking routes

The Specific Plan proposes the following crosswalk improvements to improve pedestrian safety and crossing:

LOCATION	CORNER/LEG	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Western Ave/110th Street	East/West leg	Stripe continental crosswalk
Western Ave/111th Street	All legs	Restripe as continental crosswalk
Western Ave/Imperial Hwy	All legs	Restripe as continental school crosswalk
Western Ave/LA Southwest College	North/East/West legs	Stripe as continental school crosswalk
Vermont Ave/Vermont/Athens Metro Station	Mid-block	Stripe continental crosswalk
Vermont Ave/Vermont/Athens Metro Station	Mid-block	Add pedestrian signage

2. **Pedestrian Safety Islands** – Pedestrian safety islands provide pedestrians refuge and reduces the exposure time experienced at crossing wide intersections. They are recommended whenever pedestrians are required to cross three lanes of traffic in one direction. The Specific Plan proposes pedestrian islands at the following locations to improve pedestrian safety and crossing:

LOCATION	CORNER/LEG
Imperial Hwy/Western Ave.	East/West legs
Imperial Hwy/Normandie Ave	East/West legs
Imperial Hwy/Vermont Ave	East/West legs
Imperial Hwy/Denker Ave	East/West legs
Imperial Hwy/Budlong Ave	West leg

3. **Curb Extensions** – Curb extensions are traffic calming treatments that narrow the roadway to create safer and shorter crossing distance for pedestrians. They also help to improve the overall visibility of pedestrians by placing them in alignment with on-street parking. They are recommended on streets with high pedestrian volumes or along wide streets that are difficult to cross. The Specific Plan recommends curb extensions at the following locations to improve pedestrian safety and crossing:

LOCATION	CORNER/LEG
Western Ave/110th Street	South leg
Western Ave/111th Street	North/South legs

4. **Curb Ramps** – Curb ramps are critical features to improve accessibility for pedestrians with mobility limitations and visual impairments. They are recommended at all crosswalks to comply with ADA requirements. Curb ramps are currently found at all existing crosswalks in the Specific Plan area. Any proposed crosswalks should include curb ramps to ensure compliance with ADA requirements.
5. **Pedestrian Crossing Signage** – Pedestrian crossing signage is used to alert motorists of the presence of pedestrians along roadways. They are recommended at uncontrolled crossings to alert motorists in advance. Pedestrian crossing signage is currently found at all uncontrolled crossings in the Specific Plan area. Any proposed uncontrolled crossings should include pedestrian crossing signage. The Specific Plan recommends pedestrian crossing signage at the following additional locations to alert motorists of pedestrians and increase pedestrian safety.

LOCATION	CORNER/LEG
110th Street/Budlong Avenue	East/West legs

### 6.5.3 PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES

The pedestrian network plays a key role in creating vibrant public spaces that encourage social activity, as well as a sense of place and community. Pedestrian friendly sidewalks should incorporate amenities that are attractive, pleasant, offer visual stimulation, promote activity. The Specific Plan recommends that the following design guidelines for the installation of pedestrian amenities:

1. **Street Trees** – Street trees serve a variety of urban design functions such as acting as a pedestrian buffer, accentuating spaces, creating a sense of enclosure, providing shade and filtered light, and improving visual aesthetics along a corridor. Street trees should be incorporated whenever possible, especially along pathway arterials. All street trees should be planted in accordance with established County planting standards and Section 5.4.4.
2. **Seating and Shelter** – Seating provides a place to rest or wait. Providing comfortable places to sit can transform a sidewalk into a gathering place. Pedestrian seating and shelter is recommended to be installed at all transit stops. It should adhere to ADA standards and should not obstruct pedestrian pathways.
3. **Street Lights** – Street lights provide a sense of safety and security for pedestrians and waiting transit patrons and facilitate the safe movement of vehicular traffic. Appropriate levels of street lighting should be installed to provide consistent lighting along a corridor.
4. **Public Art** – Public art improves aesthetics along a corridor and can help unify an area or district or identify a neighborhood gateway.



*Pedestrian street light example.*



*Seating example.*

## 6.6 BICYCLE CIRCULATION

While transit and bicycling are complementary modes, issues of infrastructure connectivity often affects a person’s decision to bike to and from transit. The following section describes improvements to bicycle network to promote bicycling within the Specific Plan area.

### 6.6.1 BICYCLE FACILITY TYPES

Bikeways are facilities that are designated primarily for bicycle travel. They are generally divided into three types: Class I, Class II, and Class III.

- Class I (Bike Path) – Provides a completely separated right-of-way (off-street) designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with crossflow traffic minimized.
- Class II (Bike Lane) – Provides a restricted right-of-way (on-street) designated for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles with through travel by motor vehicles or pedestrians prohibited, but with crossflows by pedestrians and motorists permitted. Vehicle parking can be allowed to the right of bike lane if sufficient right-of-way width exists.
- Class III (Bike Route) – Provides for shared use with pedestrians or motor vehicles and is (on-street) designated by signs or permanent markings.
- Class IV (Cycle Track) – Provides physical separation from motor traffic using a vertical feature, designated for the exclusive use of bicycles. The separation may include grade separation, flexible posts, inflexible barriers, or on-street parking.

### 6.6.2 BICYCLE NETWORK

Figure 6.23 illustrates the level of bicycle accessibility within a three mile radius of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. Using the station as a starting point, all possible bicycle routes were mapped based on the street grid and then consolidated into a larger catchment shape or “bike shed”. Although there are 42 miles of existing bikeways within the three mile radius of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station, there are only 0.5 miles of existing Class II bikeways located within the Specific Plan area itself. The existing bicycle network within the Specific Plan area provides limited accessibility and connectivity. One of the main constraints of the existing bicycle network is the limited facilities to the west of the Vermont/Athens Green Line station and limited north-south access.



Example Bicycle Path – Class I.



Example Bicycle Lane – Class II.

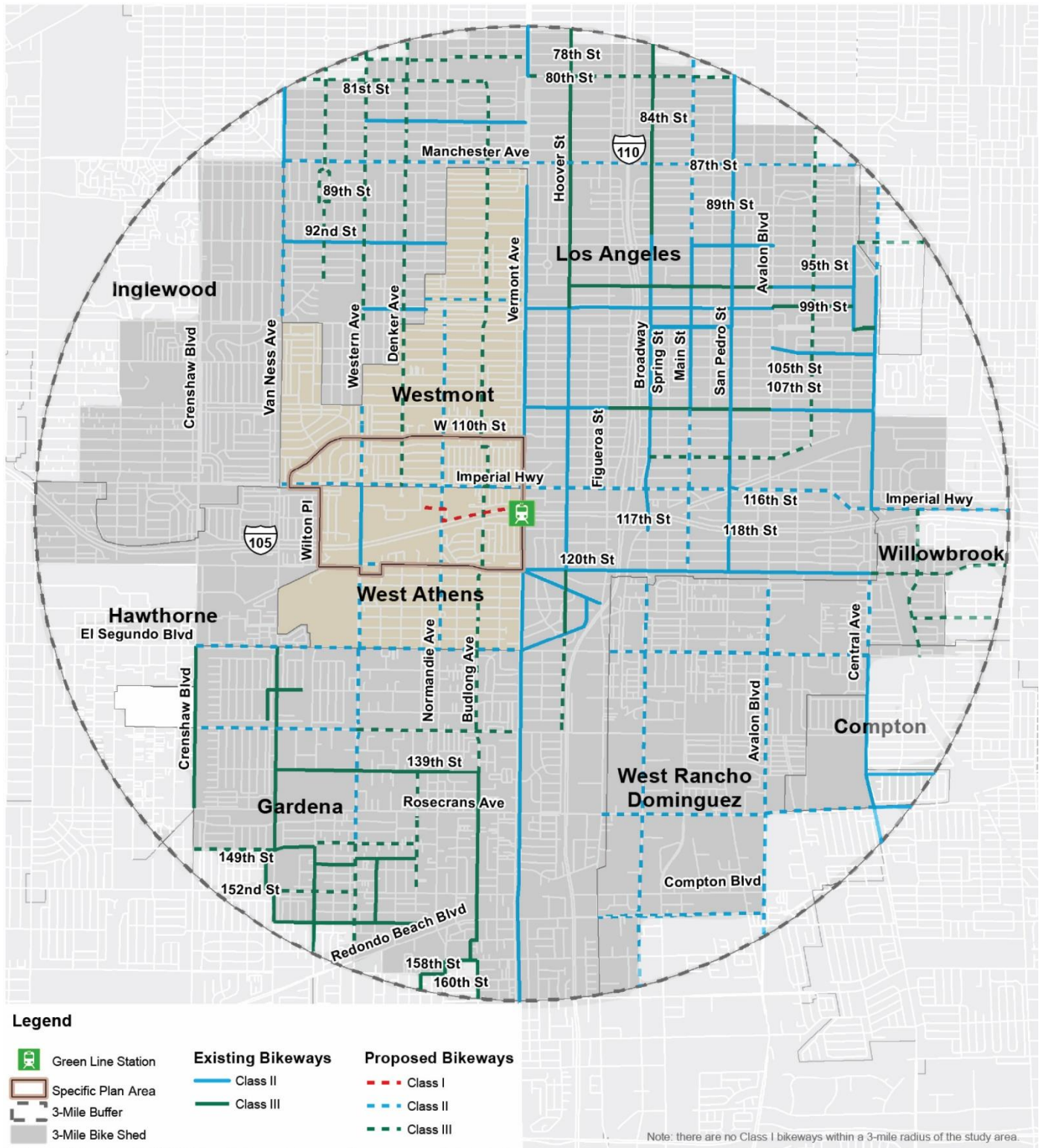


Example Bicycle Route with Sharrow – Class III



Example Separated Bikeway – Class IV.

**FIGURE 6.23: BICYCLE NETWORK MAP**

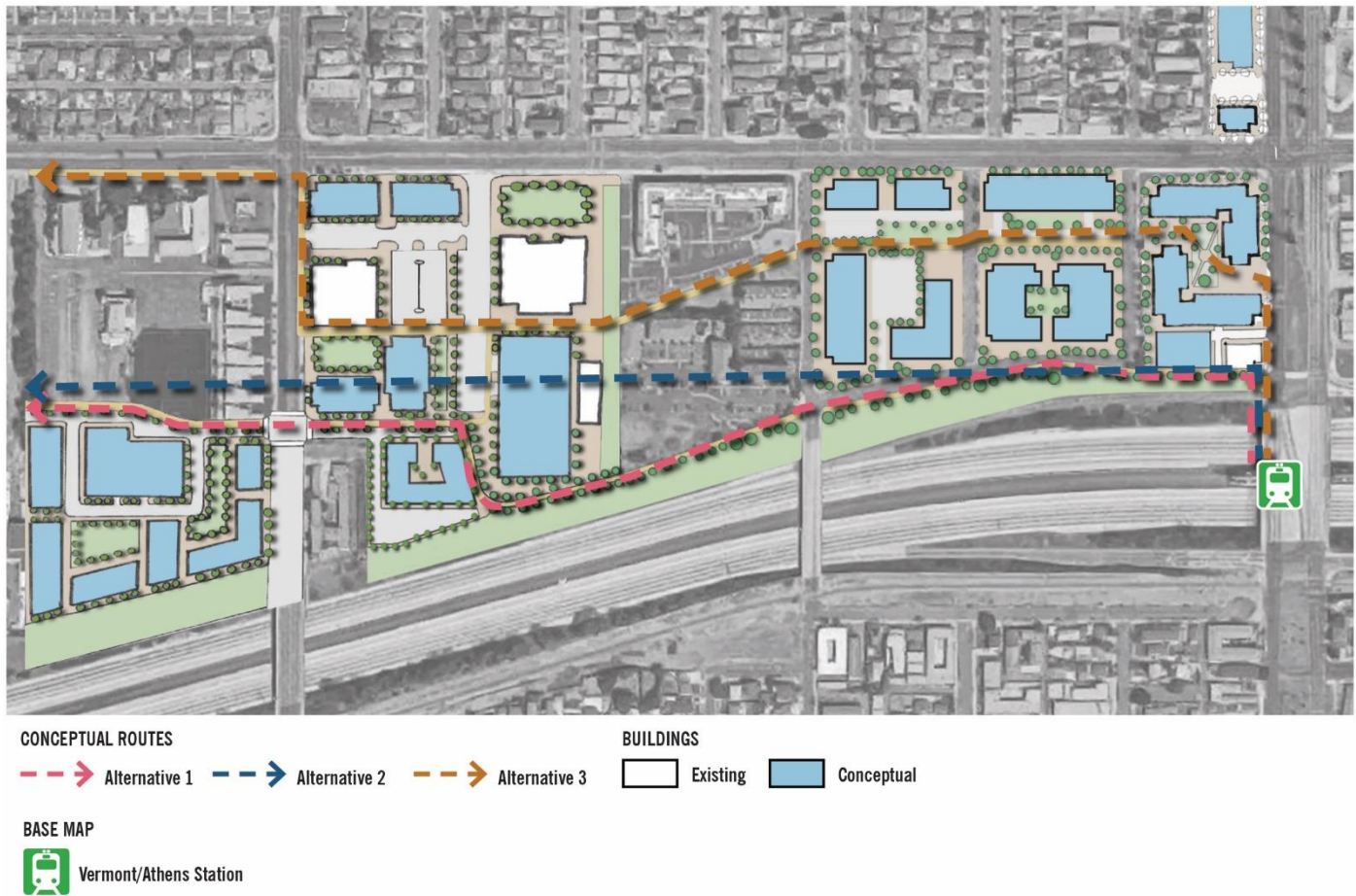


The Specific Plan proposes an additional 11 miles of bikeway, exceeding the proposed bike routes in the 2012 Los Angeles County Master Plan. These bikeways will improve connectivity within the Specific Plan area and connect to the regional bikeway network of neighboring cities, further contributing to the County's Vision Zero Action Plan.

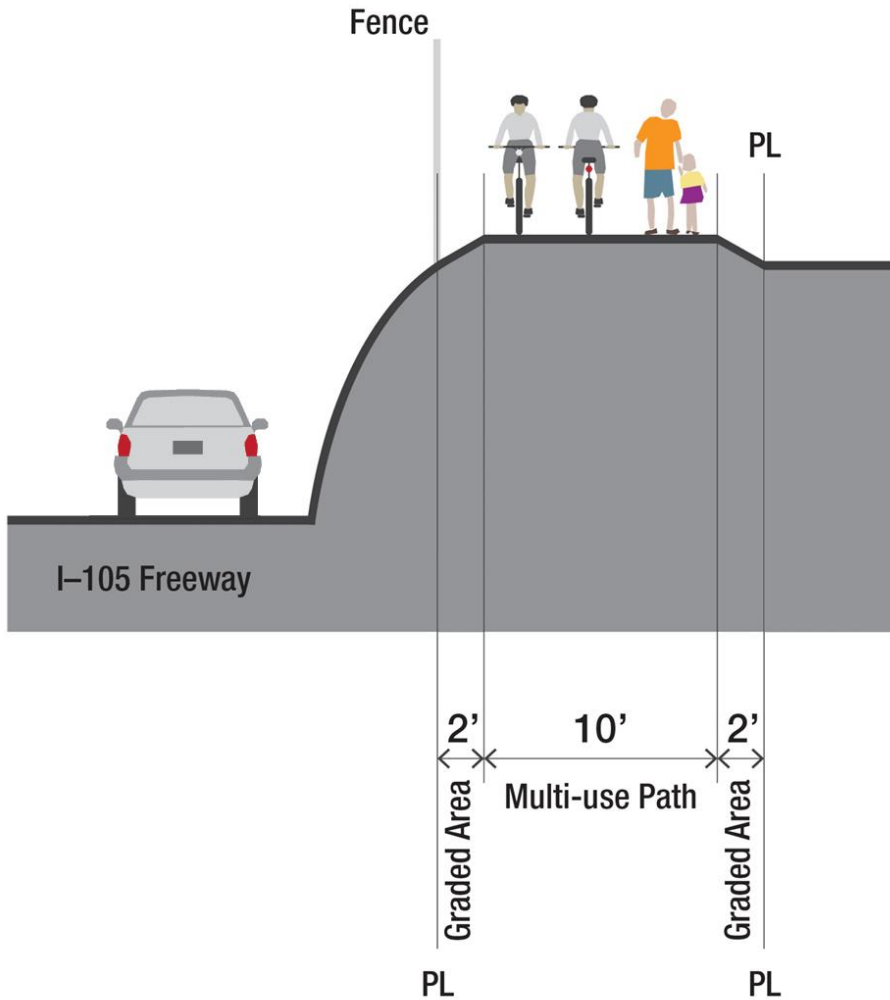
### **6.6.3 MULTI-USE PATH TO LASC**

To address the connection between LASC and the region's transit network, the Specific Plan proposes that a multi-use path from LASC to the Vermont/Athens Station, as conceptually illustrated in Figure 6.24 be constructed. Construction of this multi-use path would provide students and other users with a safe path to access transit in the area. Because this path could be located along the 105 freeway right of way in the preferred Alternative 1, regrading may be necessary for even sloping, along with a fence to separate the path from the freeway as illustrated in Figure 6.25. Additionally, crosswalk and traffic signals should be added to facilitate street crossings. Construction of this multi-use path should follow Caltrans Design Guidelines for Class I bike lanes and shall only commence after supportive new development is completed and adequate maintenance, including full-time security patrols, can be provided.

FIGURE 6.24: CONCEPTUAL FIRST/LAST MILE CONNECTION TO LASC



**FIGURE 6.25: MULTI-USE PATH SECTION (ALTERNATIVE 1)**



## 6.7 SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

Signage and wayfinding provides critical information to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders about the space that they are navigating. They help to assure safety and comfort as people traverse through unfamiliar neighborhoods and communities. Transit stops, such as the Vermont/Athens stop, should be identified with directional signage located along pathway arterials and collectors.

## 6.8 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program that focuses on helping children get to school safely by walking and bicycling. The West Athens Elementary School lies within the Specific Plan area, creating the need to develop a safe network of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for children to utilize. The Safe Routes to School plan for West Athens



*Wayfinding example.*



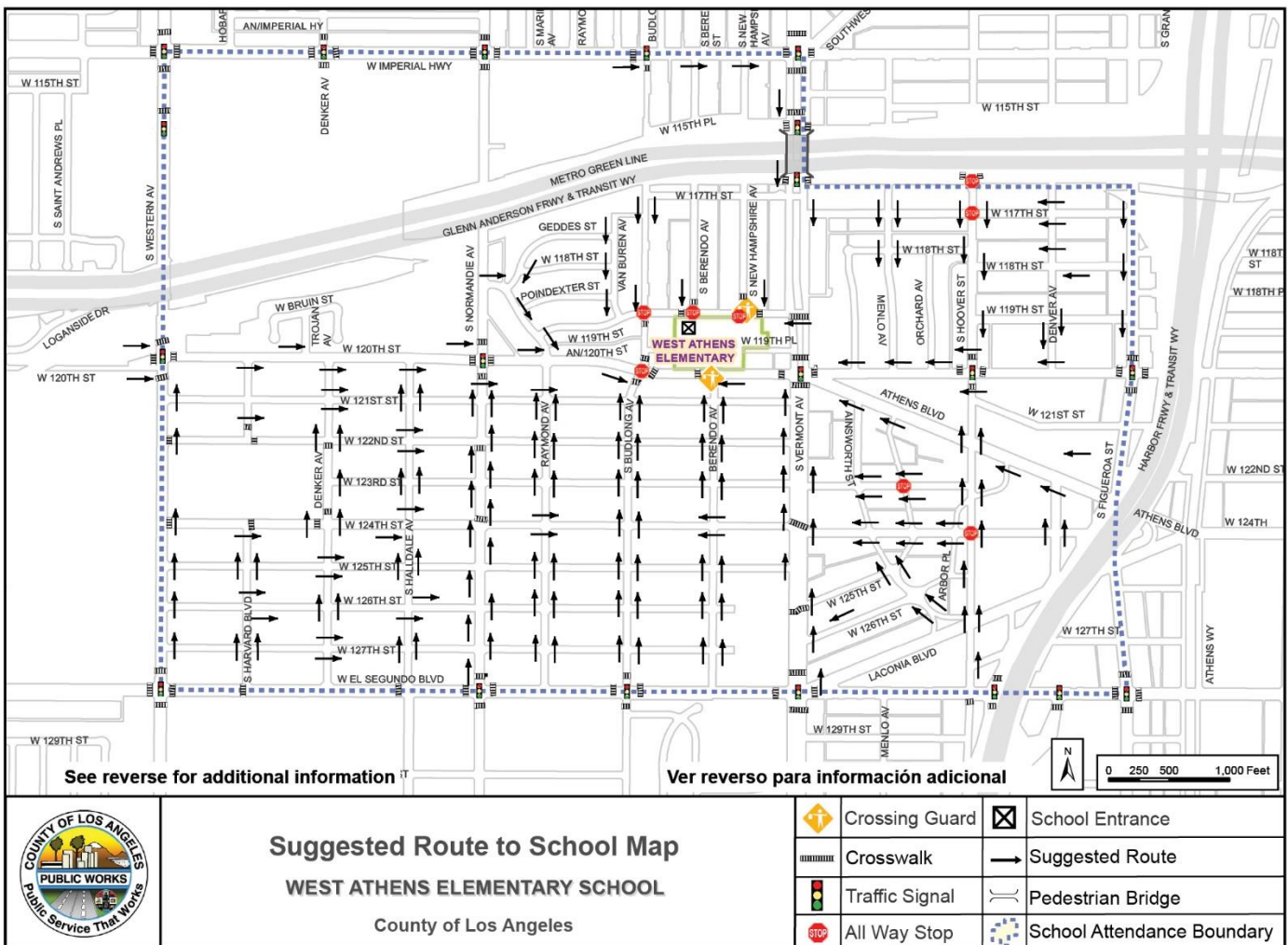


Example multi-use path.

Elementary School as suggested by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is illustrated in Figure 6.26. The Specific Plan proposes the following design guidelines to promote safer routes to school:

1. Appropriate levels of street lighting should be installed on both sides of wide streets.
2. Appropriate traffic controls, such as marked crosswalks, traffic signals, and warning signs or flashers should be utilized at pedestrian crossing locations.
3. Curb ramps with warning strips, such as truncated domes, should be provided at pedestrian street crossings to facilitate the safe crossings of pedestrians with mobility or vision impairments.

**FIGURE 6.26: WEST ATHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MAP**

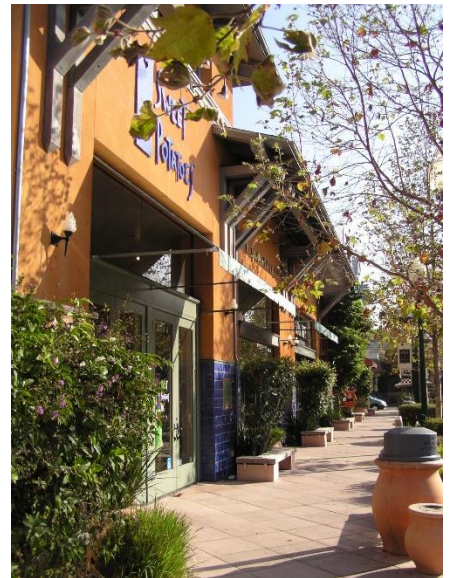


## 6.9 FIRST/LAST MILE STRATEGIES

In 2014, Metro approved its First/Last Mile Strategic Plan, which identifies design strategies to improve active transportation access and connections to public transit. The Specific Plan recognizes that the journeys to and from the station are key determinants of ridership and has identified strategies that focus on improving accessibility during the first and last miles of a transit rider's trip. These strategies include streetscape improvements, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, as well as signage and wayfinding improvements.

### 6.9.1 PATHWAYS

The Metro Pathways concept established in Metro's First/Last Mile Strategic Plan includes a hierarchy of pathways that extend to and from a transit station and is designed to support active modes of transportation. These pathways take into consideration the existing street network, key destinations, feeder transit services, existing and planned infrastructure, existing bike and pedestrian volumes, and surrounding land uses in order to design a physical active transportation network that improves transit station access. The Metro Pathways concept is comprised of two types of pathways, pathway arterials and pathway collectors. Pathway arterials serve as the main branches of the network, while pathway collectors serve as feeder routes. Figure 6.27 illustrates the Metro Pathway network surrounding the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station and includes pathway arterials, pathway collectors, existing Metro bus stops, key destinations, and suggested areas for wayfinding signage.

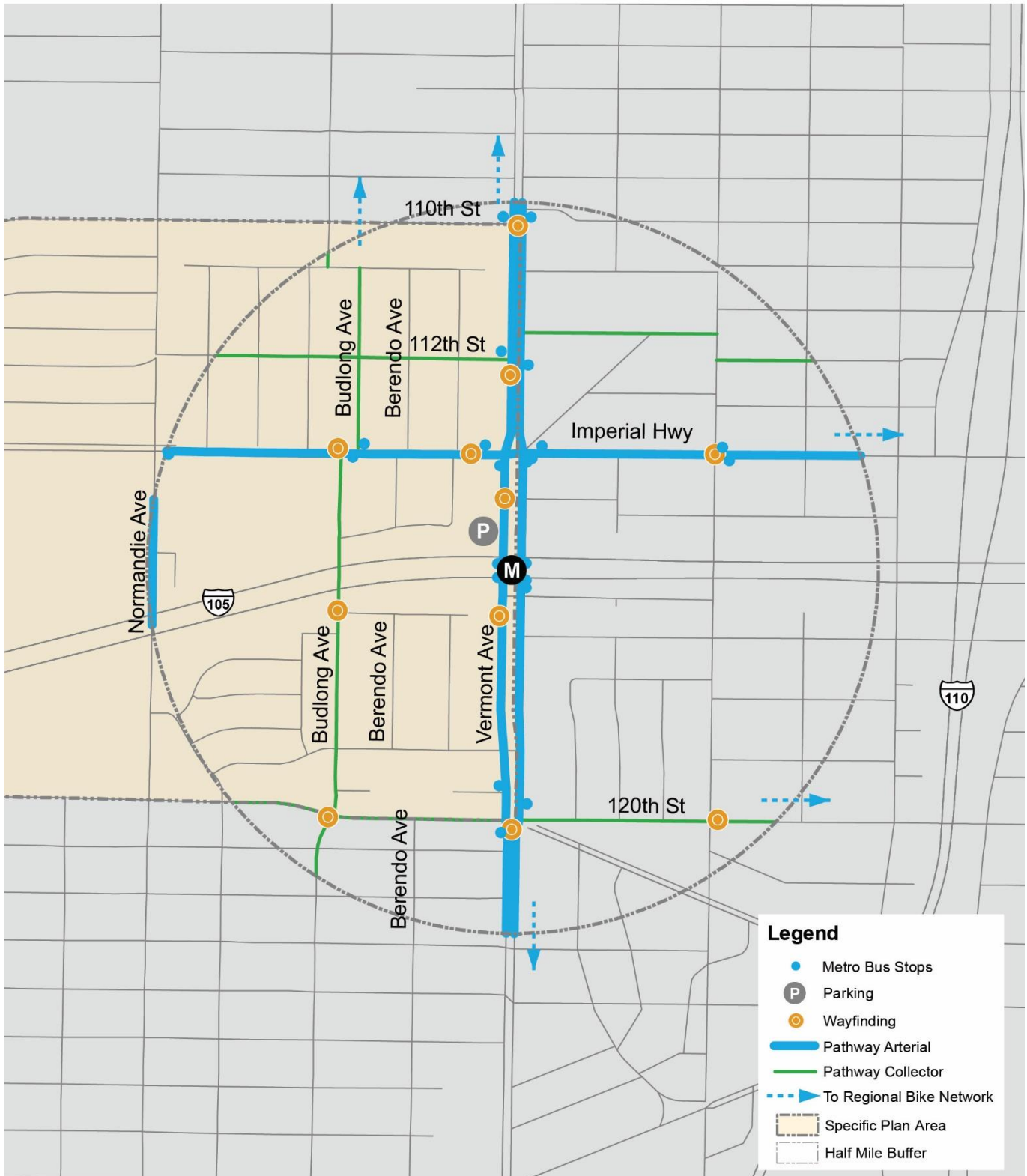


*Example Pathway.*

### 6.9.2 PATHWAY ARTERIALS

Pathway arterials are primary routes that extend from stations and support maximum throughput activity for active transportation users. They are designed to accommodate high levels of active transportation and a broad range of users. They typically include design treatments such as separated active transportation lanes, signal and crossing improvements, wayfinding, and plug-in components (i.e. bike share). Pathway arterials should typically radiate out from a station portal in at least four directions, and extend out at a minimum of one-half mile from the station to an upper limit of three miles from the station. Pathway arterials should also integrate the regional bikeway network at opportune points beyond the one-half mile access shed.

FIGURE 6.27: FIRST-AND LAST-MILE PATHWAY NETWORK



### 6.9.3 PATHWAY COLLECTORS

Pathway collectors are routes within the station area that both feed into pathway arterials and support crossing movements and general station area permeability. They work to reduce travel distances for non-motorized users by focusing on the provision of efficient access to pathway arterials. Pathway collectors include streets and routes located within the one-half mile access shed of a transit station and streets that feed into the main branch lines or pathway arterials. They typically include design considerations that improve intersection and mid-block crossings.

## 6.10 PARKING

Parking policies play a significant role in the viability and success of TODs. These policies can help to shape an area's travel behavior, community design, and local economic growth.

### 6.10.1 EXISTING PARKING SUPPLY

The existing parking supply within the planning area is comprised of a combination of on-street and off-street parking resources. Parking is currently free throughout the study area and each individual property is responsible for providing its own off-street parking resource to serve its existing land use. Existing parking locations are illustrated in Figure 6.28.



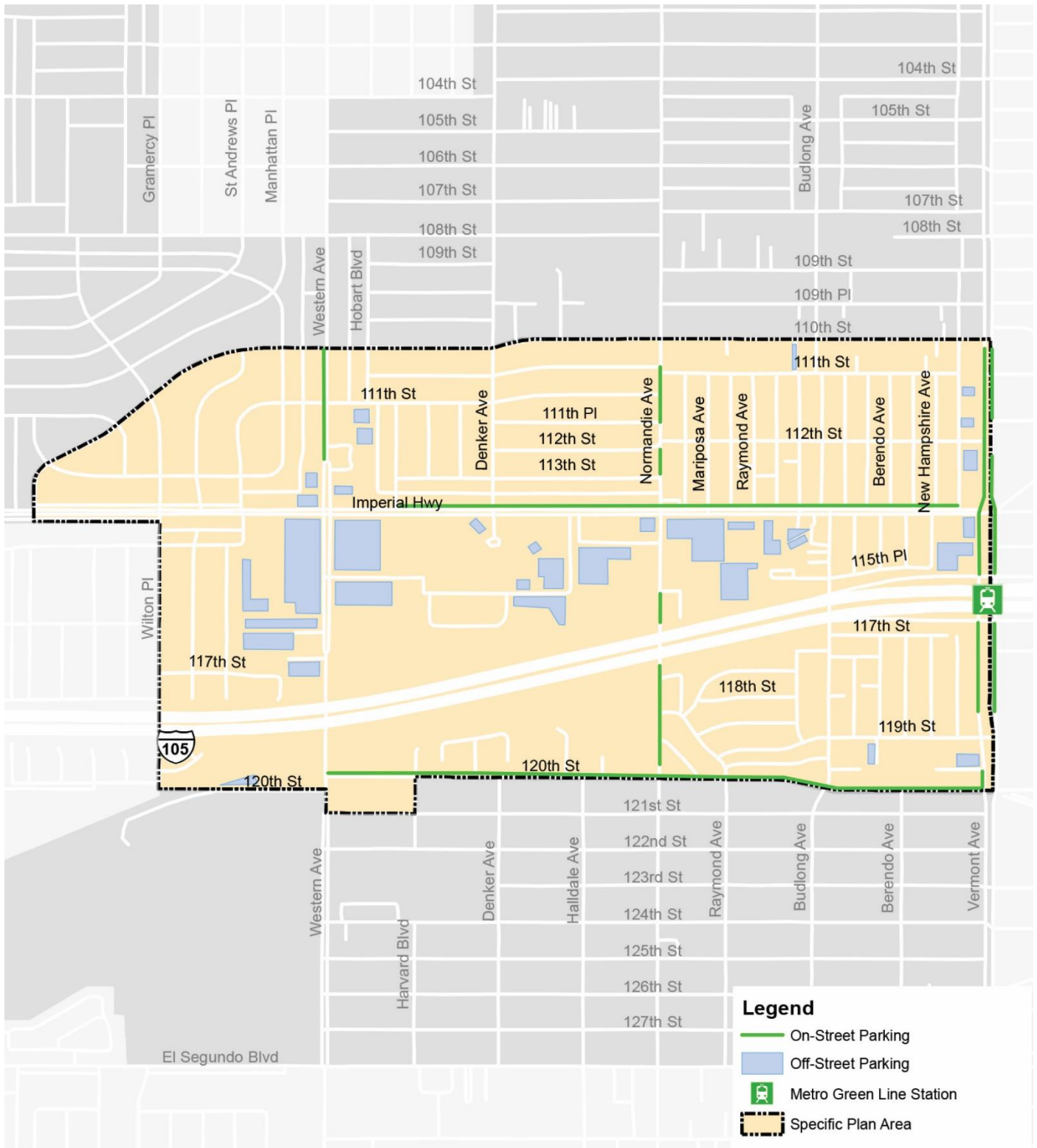
*Existing on-street parking.*

#### On-Street Parking

On-street parking is permitted along select major arterial roadways within the planning area. All on-street parking is currently free, with no metered parking present. Brief descriptions of the existing on-street parking supply by street are provided below.

- **Western Avenue:** On-street parking is allowed on both sides of the street for a small segment of Western Avenue between 110th Street and Imperial Highway.
- **Normandie Avenue:** On-street parking is allowed on both sides of the street for a small segment of between 110th Street and Imperial Highway and on one side of the street for a small segment between Imperial Highway and 120th Street.
- **Vermont Avenue:** On-street parking is allowed on both sides of the street along most, but not all of the corridor within the Specific Plan area.

FIGURE 6.28: EXISTING PARKING LOCATIONS



- Imperial Highway: On-street parking is allowed on the north side of the street along most, but not all of the corridor within the Specific Plan area.
- 120th Street: On-street parking is allowed on both sides of the street along most, but not all of the corridor within the Specific Plan area.

### **Off-Street Parking**

Off-street parking resources in the planning area are generally located on private property and are associated with their adjacent land use(s). Parking supply for these land uses is dictated by the minimum parking requirements contained in the County's Zoning Ordinance. Off-street parking lots associated with non-residential uses in the planning area are highlighted in Figure 6.28.

An existing park-and-ride lot is located on Vermont Avenue, north of the Vermont Metro Green Line Station. The park-and-ride lot contains 155 parking spaces and is owned by Caltrans, but operated by Metro. A consent decree established during the planning of the 105 freeway requires that free parking be maintained adjacent to the station, for which the park-and-ride lot provides. This park-and-ride lot is currently underutilized, with occupancy consistently observed to be well below 50% of capacity during weekdays.

For private commercial developments located within the Specific Plan area, off-street parking is typically supplied in surface parking lots located at the front of the property, adjacent to and accessed by the arterial roadways. No significant issues with off-street parking supply for commercial uses in the study area were identified. The properties appear to currently provide sufficient off-street parking supply for existing uses.

Multi-family residential developments in the planning area also provide their own off-street parking supply. Spillover on-street parking along Normandie Avenue and 120th Street was observed for multi-family residential developments within the planning area.

Although the LASC campus is one of the largest generators of parking demand within the Specific Plan boundary, evaluations of existing parking demand does not exceed existing parking supply. LASC officials have also confirmed that the existing parking supply is able to support demand as a majority of students utilize public transit to travel to the campus. Additionally, LASC has no plans to increase parking supply in their Campus Master Plan.

## 6.10.2 PROPOSED PARKING STRATEGIES

The Specific Plan proposes a set of parking strategies to manage short and long-term parking demand. The parking strategies identified in this section represent a proposed “toolbox” of parking strategies and are summarized in Table 6.1.

**TABLE 6.1: PARKING STRATEGIES**

<b>MODIFICATIONS TO PARKING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>CONCEPT</b>
Decreased Parking Requirements	<i>Decreasing minimum parking</i>	<i>Implement minimum parking requirement reductions for multi-family residential, commercial office, and small-scale retail land uses within the TOD Specific Plan area.</i>
	<i>Establishing maximum parking</i>	<i>Implement maximum parking standards in place of minimum parking standards to discourage overbuilding of parking supply.</i>
	<i>Commercial parking credits</i>	<i>Minimum parking requirements can be partially or completely satisfied through a parking credit program that allows new land uses to purchase credits up to the number of underutilized public parking spaces available in the area.</i>
	<i>Parking reductions for TDM measures</i>	<i>Allows for the reduction of off-street parking requirements if transportation demand management measures are implemented, such as the provision of car-share programs, transit passes, etc.</i>
	<i>Shared Parking</i>	<i>Permit mixed-use developments to share parking resources between land use with compatible use patterns. County should retain right to review and approve a shared use parking plan.</i>
Change of Use	<i>Implementing change of use parking standards</i>	<i>Encourage adaptive reuse of existing buildings that are limited in the number of parking spaces it can provide due to physical constraints for permitted land uses that can activate the district and streetscape, such as restaurants.</i>
Off Site Parking	<i>Option to provide parking off-site</i>	<i>Allows for the provision of parking at an off-site lot located within 1,500 feet of subject parcel.</i>

**TABLE 6.1: PARKING STRATEGIES**

MODIFICATIONS TO PARKING REQUIREMENTS		
REQUIREMENTS	STRATEGY	CONCEPT
Pricing	<i>Parking pricing</i>	<i>Charge motorists directly for the use of parking facilities.</i>
	<i>Unbundled parking</i>	<i>Rent or sell parking facilities separately from building space.</i>
Other	<i>In-lieu parking fees</i>	<i>Allows new proposed uses to pay a fee in place of providing all or a portion of the minimum parking required. Revenues from this program would be used to construct new public parking facilities.</i>

New development projects should provide sufficient parking on-site, which would allow the potential removal of on-street parking along major arterials and provides additional opportunities for enhancing multimodal travel and improving the existing streetscapes.

The Specific Plan provides modifications to the parking requirements contained in Chapter 22.112. These modifications are intended to provide a parking supply that supports TOD development and allows for greater flexibility in providing parking spaces.

Table 6.2 provides off-street parking requirements for the Specific Plan area.

**TABLE 6.2: PARKING REQUIREMENTS**

Standard	Minimum	Maximum
<b>R-1 / R-2 Zone</b>		
Single Family Residential	2.0/DU	2.0/DU
<b>R-3 Zone</b>		
Bachelor Apartment	0.60/DU	1.0/DU
1 Bedroom	0.90/DU	1.25/DU
2+ Bedroom	1.20/DU	2.0/DU
Guest*	0.15/DU	0.25/DU
<b>RPD Zone</b>		
Single Family Residential	2.0 / DU	2.0 / DU
<b>MXD-1 Zone</b>		
Bachelor Apartment	0.60 / DU	1.0 / DU
1 Bedroom	0.90 / DU	1.25 / DU



**TABLE 6.2: PARKING REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
2+ Bedroom	1.20 / DU	2.0 / DU
Guest	0.15 / DU	0.25 / DU
Office	1.50 / 1,000 sf	2.0 / 1,000 sf
Retail	2.50 / 1,000 sf	3.5 / 1,000 sf
Restaurant	7.00 / 1,000 sf	17.0 / 1,000 sf
<b>MXD-2 Zone</b>		
Bachelor Apartment	0.60/DU	1.0/DU
1 Bedroom	0.90/DU	1.0/DU
2+ Bedroom	1.20/DU	2.0/DU
Guest	0.15/DU	0.25/DU
Office	1.50 / 1,000 sf	2.0 / 1,000 sf
Retail	2.40 / 1,000 sf	3.0 / 1,000 sf
Restaurant	6.80 / 1,000 sf	12.0 / 1,000 sf
<b>C-2 Zone</b>		
Retail	3.0 / 1,000 sf	3.5 / 1,000 sf
<b>CC Zone</b>		
Office	2.0 / 1,000 sf	2.0 / 1,000 sf
<b>IT Zone</b>		
Schools	0.18 / per school population	0.2 / per school population

\*Guest parking is only required when calculated to be greater than 1 (one). Guest parking spots are rounded down to the nearest whole number.

# 07



**CHAPTER 7**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**



# CHAPTER 7 INFRASTRUCTURE

## 7.1 INTRODUCTION

The infrastructure discussion provides an overview of existing and future conditions for water, sewer, and storm drain systems serving the Specific Plan area. This section identifies the current conditions of these infrastructure systems, along with recommended upgrades to accommodate potential new development.

## 7.2 WATER

### 7.2.1 WATER SERVICES EXISTING CONDITIONS

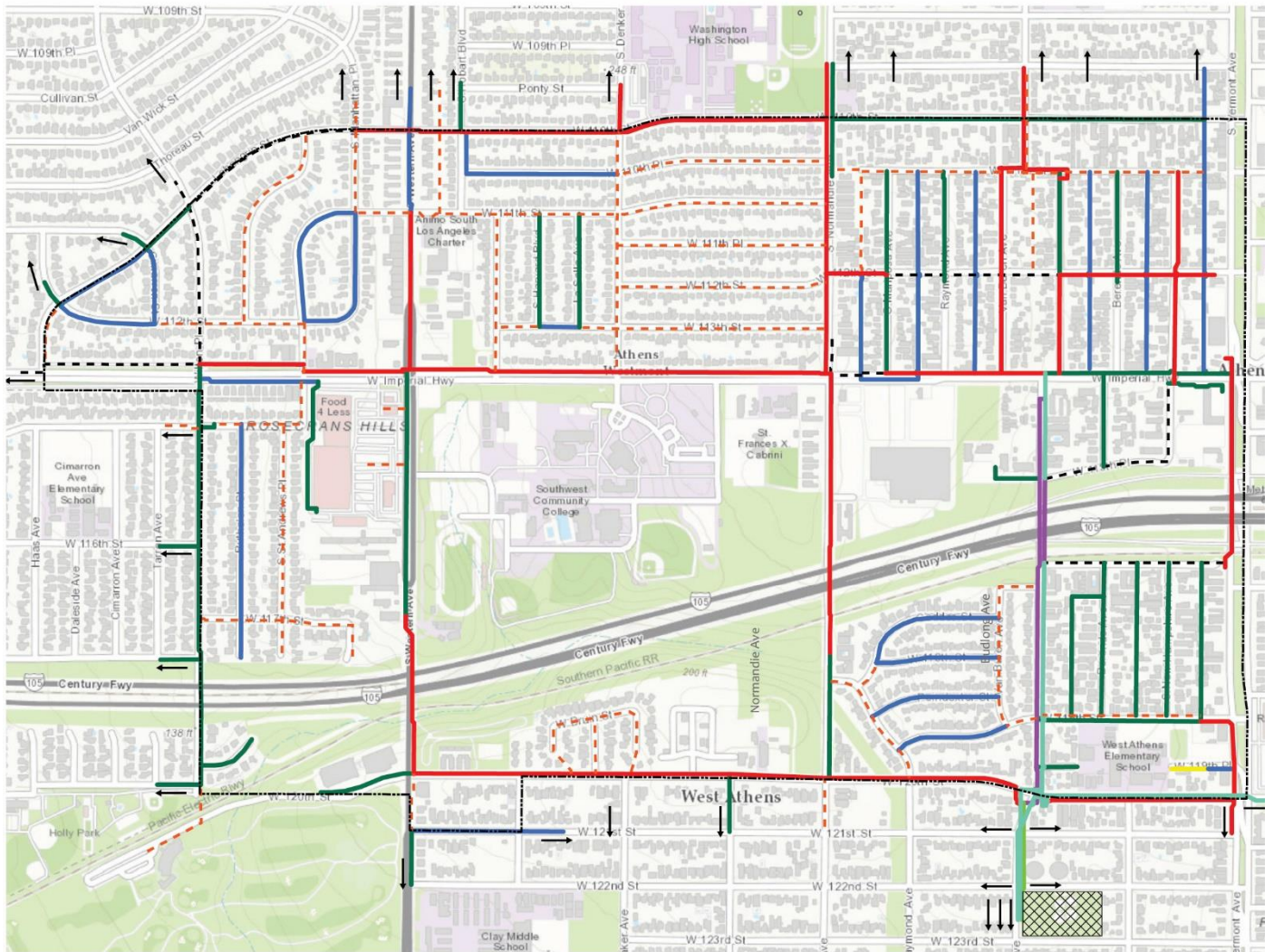
The Southwest District of the Golden State Water Company is the provider of potable water for the Specific Plan area. Water service needs are met by a combination of local groundwater and surface water purchased from both the Central Basin and the West Basin of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The Specific Plan area is serviced by pipe sizes varying from 2” connectors to 18” main lines. The vast majority of pipe is composed of one of two materials – cast iron and ductile iron. The largest pipe connects the Specific Plan area to the area south of the 105 freeway via three pipes - an 18” water main, a 16” water main, and a 14” water main, which also connects the system to the Budlong plant. These branch off and distribute water to the majority of the Specific Plan area. The service network is composed of 12” and 8” pipes for the main distribution trunks with 6” and 4” interconnectors. This web like connection allows for minimal headloss through parallel water flow. High flow is distributed through multiple pipes to reach its destination. The majority of distribution pipes off the main lines are 6” and 4” water lines. Figures 7.1 and 7.2 illustrate water pipe materials and size for the Specific Plan area.

Water supply requirements and flows were estimated using industry standards to determine capacities. The largest areas of water flow are located at the LASC campus and the southeast region of the Specific Plan area. These two areas’ proximity to three large water trunks as well as the interconnectivity of the pipe network allow adequate flow to meet the current demand.



FIGURE 7.2: WATER SYSTEM PIPE SIZE



- 2" Pipe
- 4" Pipe
- - - 6" Pipe
- 8" Pipe
- - - 10" Pipe
- 12" Pipe
- 14" Pipe
- 16" Pipe
- 18" Pipe

- Continuation/Direction of Water Pipes Outside Specific Plan Boundary
- - - Specific Plan Boundary
- ▨ Water Plant



Existing total flow of the Specific Plan area is capable of being carried via a single 16” line. Because the Specific Plan area contains multiple water line connections, the water demand to the area will increase due to demand from surrounding areas. Historic accounts from the water provider show the current infrastructure is adequate to provide the Specific Plan area with water.

The area is under continued upgrades from Golden State Water Company. The presence of cast iron and ductile iron pipe provide for extended useful life of existing pipes. These will require standard continued monitoring and maintenance from the water provider in order to identify leaks and pipe issues.

## 7.2.2 WATER SERVICES FUTURE CONDITIONS

The Specific Plan land use changes include a heavy influx of households and water flow in the southwest and northeast region of the Specific Plan area. The area was analyzed using a worst-case scenario for water demand following these guidelines:

- 300 gallons per day (GPD) per housing unit
- Demand for commercial space: 200 gallons/ 1000 square feet
- Demand for schools: 20 gallons per student, 50 gallons per teacher
- Maximum headloss in the pipe not to exceed 3.5 feet per 1000 feet of water pipeline

Using the estimated water demand guidelines noted above, the proposed land use changes would generate an increase in water flow into the Specific Plan area from 1.5 millions of gallons per day (MGD) to 2.5 MGD. Additionally, the proposed land use changes would generate a peak flow increase from 3.77 MGD to 6.25 MGD, which translates to a peak of 2,617 gallons per minute (gpm) and 4,337 gpm in the instantaneous flow to the area.

The Specific Plan area is analyzed in both pipeline flow capacity and storage capacity of existing water services. The Budlong water storage plant currently has a capacity of 1.5 million gallons. With the assumption that the plant is the primary provider to the Specific Plan area, this increase in flow would have to be addressed through increasing storage capacity at the plant.

Pipelines were analyzed with the primary metric being friction headloss through the pipe. With a 1,000 foot long pipe run, the headloss due to flow shall not exceed 3.5 feet. The two line flow to the majority of the plan area – 16” and 14” - provides adequate capacity to serve 4,337 gpm instantaneous peak flow through parallel flow without losing 3.5

feet of hydraulic head. Holistically, the Specific Plan area has distribution piping adequate for the total flow into the area. Each zone was analyzed in accordance to flow in that zone with the largest pipe in the area. The Specific Plan's network of piping allows for multiple pipe connections to transport water flow to the area. This allows the Specific Plan area to be served with minimal headloss through multiple parallel pipes.

An area of concern is the southwest corner of the Specific Plan area, which is bounded by Imperial Highway to the north and Western Avenue to the east. This area may be connected to another location capable of providing additional flow, but only has one 8" pipe connecting it to the Specific Plan area. The total flow to the area during peak withdrawal is 850 gpm, which creates a headloss of 13.3 feet per 1000 feet of pipe. There are existing connections west of the Specific Plan area which can help mitigate headloss from current connections, but existing flow capacity of the pipe would have to be expanded. A 12" pipe would provide the area with 1.93 feet of headloss.

This analysis is based off an assumption of flow into the area that is independent of factors in the surrounding area. The water provider, Golden State Water Company, will have to perform a holistic analysis to confirm these recommendations. The area of concern is highlighted in Figure 7.3.

## 7.3 SEWER SERVICES

### 7.3.1 SEWER SERVICES EXISTING CONDITIONS

Two sanitary systems exist within the Specific Plan area – local collection lines and trunk sewers. The local collection lines are a series of 8" gravity mains with laterals connecting to existing houses and buildings. All of these sewers are composed of Vitrified Clay Pipe (VCP), or Lined Clay Pipe (LCP, LVCP). All local sewer lines are owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD).

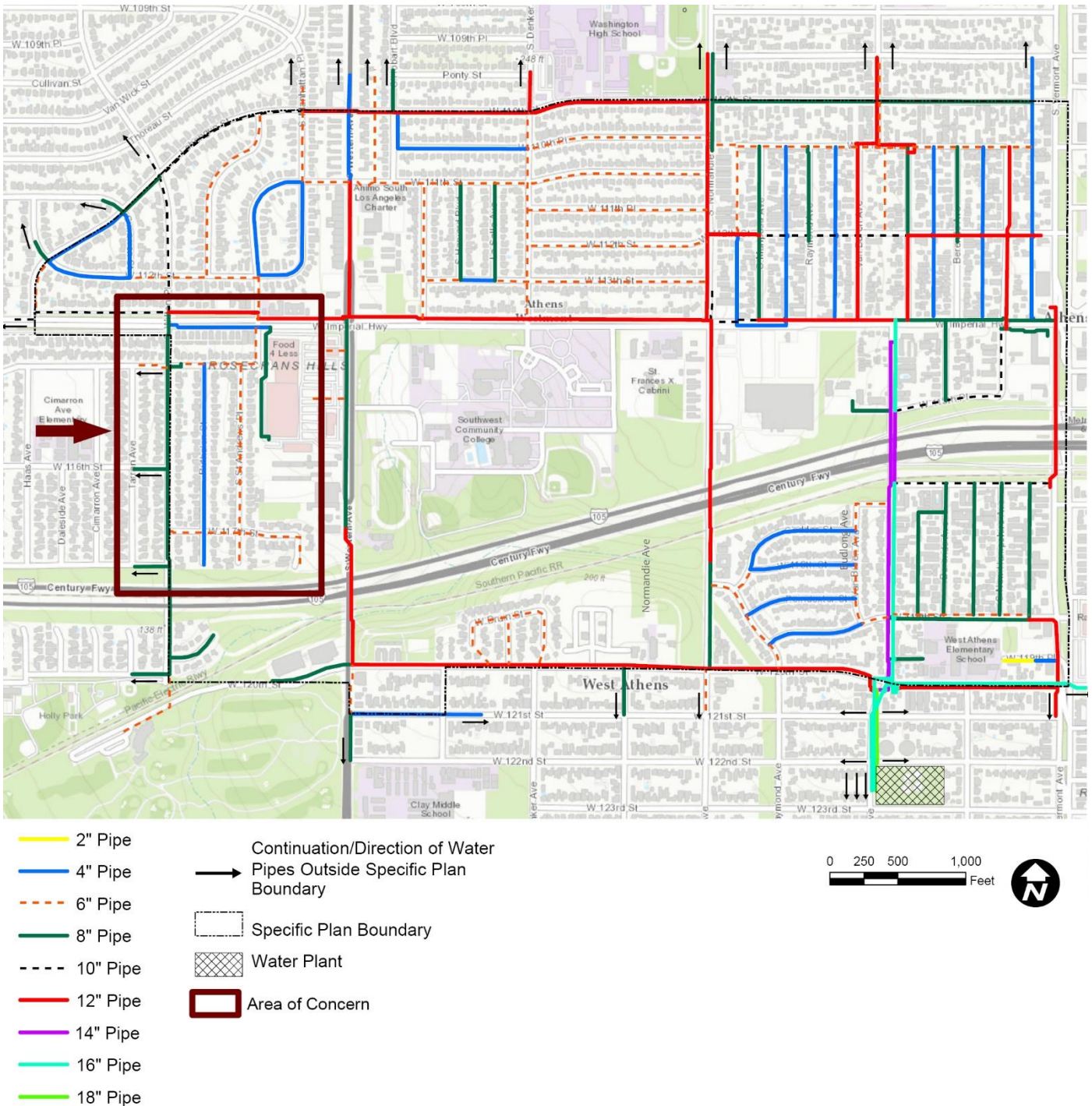
In 2009, the sewers in the Specific Plan area were inspected using a CCTV inspection for both structural and maintenance defects. During the inspection, the sewers were rated using the following criteria:

- Excellent: Minor or no defects. Unlikely to fail in the foreseeable future.
- Good: Defects that have not begun to deteriorate. Estimated to fail in 20+ years.
- Fair: Moderate defects that will continue to deteriorate. Estimated to fail in 10-20 years.



- Poor: Sever defects that will become grade 5 defects in the foreseeable future. Estimated to fail in 5-10 years.
- Immediate Attention: Defects requiring immediate attention. Has failed or will fail within 5 years.

**FIGURE 7.3: WATER SYSTEM AND AREAS OF CONCERN**



The Specific Plan area was rated on maintenance and structural defects using this scale. Structurally, 96% of pipe inspected was fair to excellent condition. Only 2% of pipes required immediate attention. After the assessment, areas in poor or worse condition were scheduled to be fixed within 24 months as part of an Accumulative Capital Outlay Project. Maintenance defects include grease build ups, line sags, and other issues excluding structural pipe damage that could potentially cause flow issues. During this inspection, 88% of the pipe was in fair to excellent condition with 2% needing immediate attention. The areas requiring attention were added to a routine cleaning schedule.

One trunk sewer services the area. The sewer starts on Budlong Avenue, south of Imperial Highway, follows 115th Place before cutting across the 105 freeway and following the Southern Pacific Railroad line out of the Specific Plan area. The trunk is a 12" VCP sewer which has a volumetric carrying capacity twice as high as a 2011 volumetric flow analysis. The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) rating system rates conditions of trunk sewers on a scale from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent). All segments of this sewer in the Specific Plan area have a condition rating of 4. The trunk sewer is adequately sized for current flows. The 8" sanitary collection lines are sufficient size to collect sanitary waste from houses, industries, and shops in the area and transport them to the main collection trunks. Figure 7.4 illustrates the various sewer lines in the Specific Plan area.

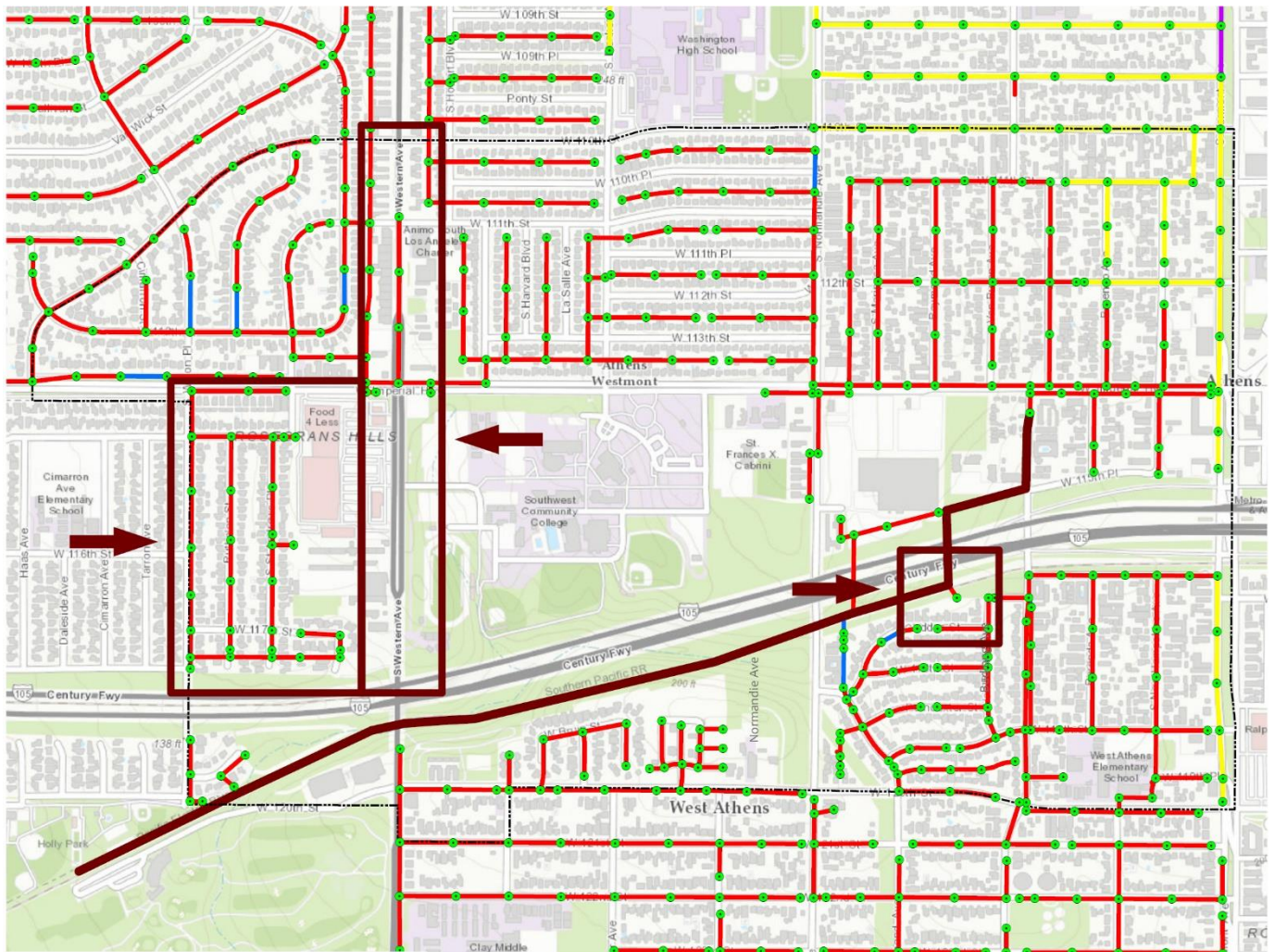
### **7.3.2 SEWER SERVICES FUTURE CONDITIONS**

Sewer services in the Specific Plan area would require updating in order to accommodate for the proposed land use buildout in the Specific Plan. The existing 12" trunk line servicing the Specific Plan area is only connected to a very small portion of the Los Angeles County collection lines highlighted in Figure 7.5.

The remaining lines are collected by trunks outside of the Specific Plan area. The northwest region of the Specific Plan area is collected by the Arlington Avenue trunk line, which travels down Van Ness Avenue. Because a majority of collection sewers are located within the CSLA R-1 Zone, which proposes little to no change, these sewers were determined to have adequate capacity support the proposed buildout.



**FIGURE 7.5: SANITARY UTILITIES AND AREAS OF CONCERN**



Specific Plan Boundary

Manholes

Sewer Trunk Line

**Mains**

10" VCP Gravity Lines

8" VCP Gravity Lines

8" LCP Gravity Lines

8" LVCP Gravity Lines

Area of Concern

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



The collection lines were analyzed using a cubic foot per second flow which was analyzed using the flows shown below:

- 300 gallons per day (GPD) per housing unit
- Demand for commercial space: 200 gallons/ 1000 square feet
- Demand for schools: 20 gallons per student, 50 gallons per teacher
- Maximum headloss in the pipe not to exceed 3.5 feet per 1000 feet of water pipeline

The proposed mixed use and commercial corridor along Western Avenue, north of the 105 freeway, was identified as an area of concern. The proposed land use buildout, which includes the CSLA MXD-2 located in the southwest region of the Specific Plan area, would generate an increase in flow and would exceed the capacities of the 8” lines in the area. These sewer lines collect into varying collection lines and the increased flow due to the proposed development would require additional inspection and analysis depending on exact flows of businesses included in the area.

Additionally, school owned sewers from the LASC campus collect into a 10” line which connects to the main trunk. These are adequate for the school’s usage, though their collection area is not shown on the map. The areas of concern are highlighted in Figure 7.5.

## **7.4 STORM WATER**

### **7.4.1 STORM DRAINAGE EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Stormwater runoff in the Specific Plan area is collected and distributed through a series of gravity mains owned and operated by DPW and Caltrans. The Specific Plan area is sloped towards the 105 freeway, with the majority of the catch basins placed to capture runoff that drains into the freeway cutout. The catch basins and gravity mains along the freeway are maintained by Caltrans and are in good condition. The catch basins and gravity mains that are not located within the right-of-way of the railroad and freeway are maintained by DPW and are in good condition.

The storm drainage in the area primarily follows the 105 freeway southwest before flowing out of the Specific Plan area. This gravity main and the mains in the northwest area of the Specific Plan drain to the Dominguez Channel, a 60’ x 14’ channel which transports the water south to the Port of Los Angeles. The northeast storm sewer drains to Compton Creek. The gravity mains are all reinforced pipe ranging from 18” to 48” in diameter.

The majority of the area is residential lots and open landscapes found at the schools. Because of this, stormwater runoff is partially captured by ground infiltration. The existing storm drainage network is shown in Figure 7.6.

## 7.4.2 STORM DRAINAGE FUTURE CONDITIONS

Stormwater services in the Specific Plan area are connected to a large network of open channel drains, which are tied to a larger collection basin. Stormwater flow in these channels is greatly dependent on upstream and downstream flow. Buildout of the Specific Plan will generate little increase in runoff to the existing drainage system, since a majority of the area is completely developed, however, there are a few areas of concern related to the potential reduction of existing pervious surfaces as highlighted in Figure 7.7.

One area of concern has to do with the existing vacant lots located along Western Avenue. Replacing these existing vacant lots with impervious surface and would increase stormwater runoff in the area unless stormwater management is in place. Stormwater management strategies such as onsite recapture and additional catch basins in the area should be considered to help address the potential increase in runoff.

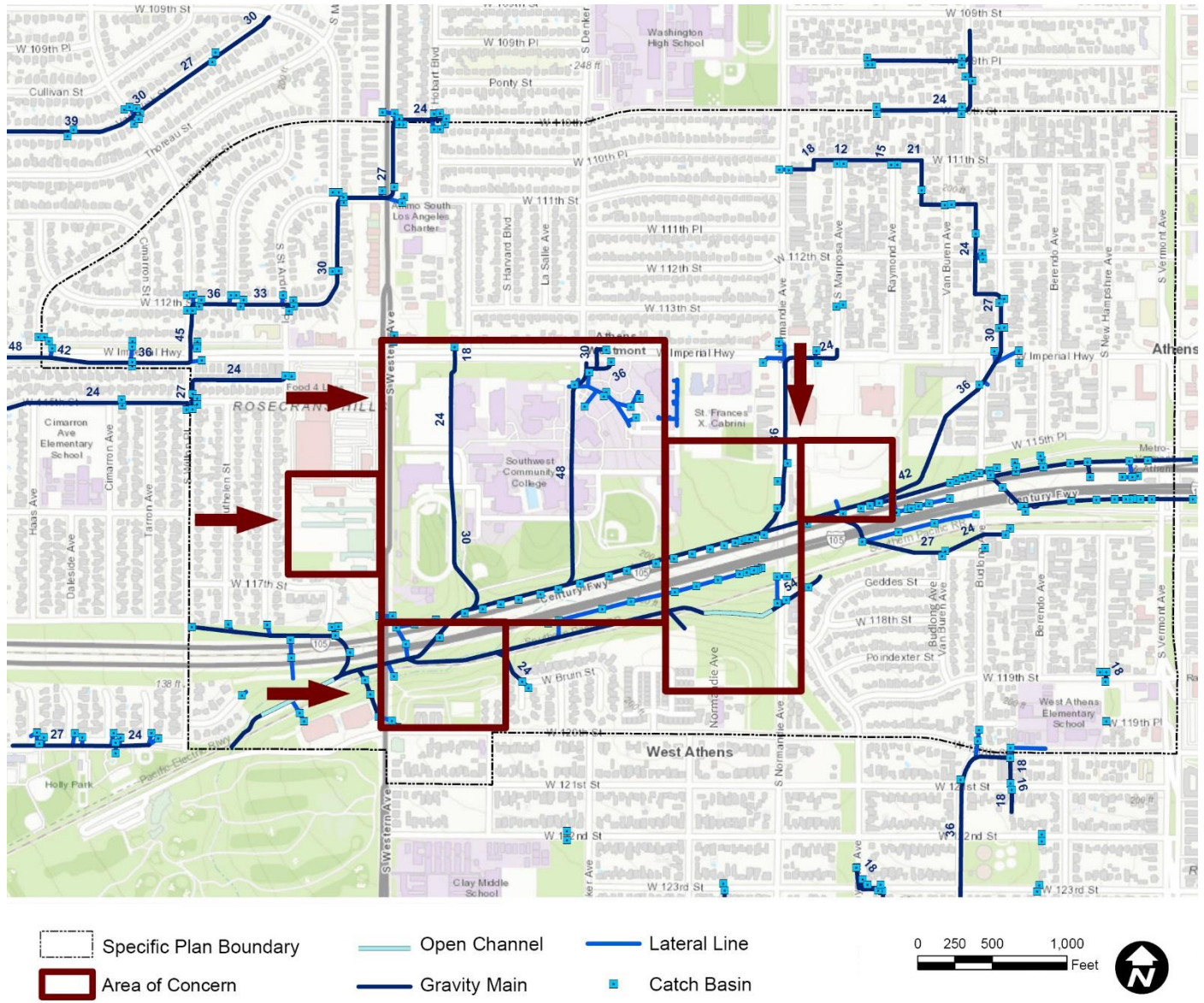
Additionally, attention is also required at the Normandie Avenue crossing of the 105 freeway. The proposed buildout would remove fully pervious surfaces within the area, which could potentially increase stormwater runoff. Furthermore, there is an existing network of catch basins in this location, which would require additional analysis in order to identify capacity and mitigation measures needed to delay the peak runoff during major storm events.

A similar area of concern is located at the LASC campus. If the buildout were to remove any pervious surfaces, such as the sports fields, the catch basins would have to be analyzed after sub-watershed delineation.

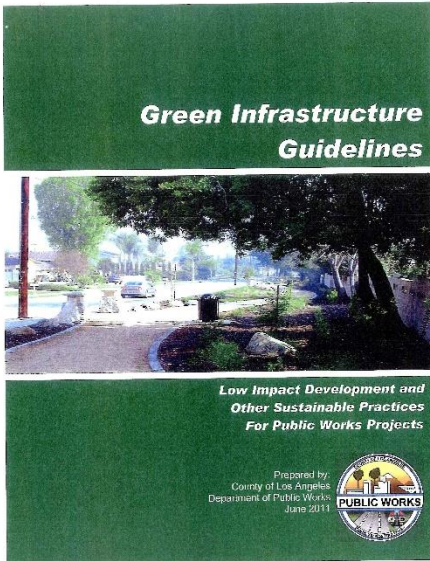
Recent trends from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicate rainfall events increasing in intensity, but decreasing in duration. This increased intensity does not allow as much stormwater to be captured by pervious surfaces and increases instantaneous flow on impervious surfaces. This trend should be monitored by the county's stormwater management team for future development.



**FIGURE 7.7: STORM DRAIN SYSTEM AND AREAS OF CONCERN**







## 7.5 GREEN STREETS

As a part of the Specific Plan, consideration should be given to incorporating Green Streets principles to improve the stormwater quality from streets. Stormwater runoff from impervious roadways washes pollutants, such as dirt, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, and trash, into nearby water bodies.

Green Streets feature a variety of stormwater management and landscaping strategies intended to improve water quality and drainage. Some examples include bioswales, sidewalk planters, street trees, and permeable pavements. These amenities improve drainage and the overall quality of stormwater runoff and can help improve the pedestrian environment and overall mobility.

DPW has developed Green Infrastructure Guidelines to guide new construction and reconstruction of road and flood projects. The goal of the guidelines is to incorporate sustainable practices into the design, construction, and operation of DPW's infrastructure. The guidelines provide low-impact development (LID) design options to consider during planning or designing of road and flood projects intended to manage stormwater runoff.

All new development in the Specific Plan area shall meet or exceed the Green Infrastructure Guidelines as set forth by DPW. The guidelines define roadway projects to include the new and reconstruction of public roads, maintenance access roads, road widening, medians, bike paths, sidewalks, parking lots, grade separation, etc. All new development shall incorporate the following best management practices as identified by the Green Infrastructure Guidelines:



### 7.5.1 PERMEABLE SURFACES

Permeable surfaces shall be incorporated unless demonstrated infeasible to allow infiltration of rainfall and to reduce the total volume of runoff, replenish groundwater, and improve water quality. Some of the guidelines for the application of permeable surfaces based on DPW's Green Infrastructure Guidelines are as follows:

1. Permeable sidewalks shall adhere to existing Public Works standards for sidewalk design.
2. Permeable access roads are not recommended for roadways with high volume of heavy vehicles, as heavy equipment and trucks can damage permeable surfaces.

3. Permeable pavement and underdrain systems for parking lots shall be directed toward LID-type best management practices when needed to achieve the required volume reduction.

## 7.5.2 VEGETATION AND LANDSCAPING

Vegetation and landscaping elements such as bioswales, vegetated buffers, planter/tree box filters, bioretention, and filter strips maximize available permeable space in an area to reduce runoff rates and pollutant concentrations in stormwater runoff. Some of the guidelines for the application of vegetation and landscaping based on DPW's Green Infrastructure Guidelines are as follows:

1. Vegetated swales shall be designed in accordance with Chapter 3 of DPW's Best Management Practices Design and Maintenance Manual.
2. Vegetated swales are recommended in areas where the slope is between one and six percent.
3. Plant species for vegetated swales shall be tolerant to both extreme wet and dry conditions. Refer to the vegetated swale plant list of DPW's Best Management Practices Design and Maintenance Manual.
4. Vegetated swales shall be greater than 100 linear feet in length and at least 12 inches in depth from the top of the sidewalk to the swale bottom.
5. Bioretention facilities shall be designed in accordance with Chapter 5 of DPW's Best Management Practices Design and Maintenance Manual.
6. Planting/tree box filter designs should typically incorporate a concrete vault filled with a bioretention soil mix and vegetation, and may contain an underdrain connected to an adjacent flood control conveyance.



Example bioswale.

## 7.6 SOLID WASTE

The Specific Plan area utilizes the residential/commercial franchise system for solid waste collection services. Currently, Consolidated Disposal Services provides trash collection and recycling services to the unincorporated residents of West Athens-Westmont under an exclusive residential franchise agreement with Los Angeles County.

Key issues surrounding waste management include larger volumes of waste being generated, lack of solid waste processing facilities to accommodate volumes of waste generated, and public opposition towards the construction of new solid waste management facilities. As

available space for landfills becomes more limited, local jurisdictions must implement effective waste management strategies to reduce solid waste volumes.

In 2014, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future. This roadmap outlines the process by which the County can implement strategies to reduce solid waste generation in unincorporated areas and with County operations. The Specific Plan area is part of this program, which includes goals of reducing solid waste destined for landfills by 80 percent by 2030 and 95 percent by 2040.

## **7.7 ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

Electricity is provided to the Specific Plan area by Southern California Edison (SCE), a private utility company. SCE sets its own service standards, with oversight from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and facility improvement strategies. Electricity is transmitted by above-ground power lines that currently supply sufficient electrical service to the Specific Plan and have adequate capacity to serve the area with buildout of the Plan.

## **7.8 NATURAL GAS**

The Southern California Gas Company, a subsidiary of Sempra Utilities (The Gas Company), a private utility company, is the natural gas service provider for the Specific Plan area. Natural gas pipelines exist along all major street rights-of-way within the area.

The analysis and decision on capacity to meet future demand under buildout of the Specific Plan will be conducted by The Gas Company in coordination with the County at the time development occurs and building plans are submitted.

## **7.9 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE**

AT&T and Charter Communications, two separate private utility companies, both provide local and long distance telecommunications services in the Specific Plan area. Charter Communications provides cable and high-speed internet services. Various wireless carriers provide service within the Specific Plan area.

# 08



**CHAPTER 8**

**IMPLEMENTATION**



# CHAPTER 8 IMPLEMENTATION

## 8.1 INTRODUCTION

Facilitating economic growth within the Specific Plan area will require concrete and sustained public intervention over the near- and long-term. Economic development in the context of the Specific Plan refers to support for the success and proliferation of businesses within the Specific Plan area, as well as support for increased employment opportunities, household incomes, skills, and overall economic security for area residents. The purpose of the economic development strategy is to provide a framework for the practical implementation and realization of the Specific Plan's economic development objectives. Specific actions are identified for Los Angeles County to take to achieve success in the Specific Plan area.

## 8.2 MARKET CONTEXT

Within the context of the West Athens and Westmont communities, there are several market issues that are anticipated to limit the near-term buildout of the Specific Plan's development capacity, and any economic development initiatives are likely to require public support. Like much of South Los Angeles, West Athens and Westmont have experienced years of disinvestment and higher concentrations of people experiencing homelessness and high crime rates, as compared to the rest of Los Angeles County. While there is a demonstrated demand for housing and related services, as shown in Table 8.1, commercial interest in the area is limited, and the resultant lower commercial and residential rents and sale prices, along with real and perceived safety concerns have limited market-rate private real estate investment. Although low housing costs in the area fill a much-needed gap in the local housing market, the lack of investment exacerbates a range of community stressors including overcrowding, homelessness and unemployment. There is a presence of national and regional retailers – i.e. Food4Less, HD Supply, Baskin Robbins, Burger King, and Carl's Jr., and some locally-owned businesses of moderate quality. However, until crime and safety issues are resolved, it is a challenge to attract credit-worthy tenants of the type who would support new commercial real estate development.

While this cycle of disinvestment has prevailed in the West Athens and Westmont communities for several decades, there are key community assets and opportunities within the Specific Plan area that can be leveraged to strengthen the neighborhood. The community's most important anchors, LASC and various County offices, are the largest

employment centers in the Specific Plan area and have a vested interest in engaging the community and supporting increased quality of life. Numerous religious institutions, non-profit organizations and K-12 schools, including four public elementary schools (two charter and two public), all play an invaluable role within the neighborhood and can be engaged to support various economic development initiatives. The neighborhood also has connections to major employment centers; in addition to the existing Vermont/Athens Station, future transit expansion would further increase the connectivity with regional employment centers. Metro is exploring transit investment along Vermont Avenue corridor and extensions of the Green Line to Torrance and LAX on the west and the Norwalk Metrolink station on the east. This Specific Plan, as well as future Vermont Avenue transit planning processes, presents an opportunity to align community anchors and implement an economic development strategy that will make the most of the community’s transit connections.

**TABLE 8.1: SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PLAN AREA DEMAND (2016-2035)**

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Retail</b> (Viable Square Feet)	<b>Office</b> (Viable Square Feet)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 270-815 Market Rate Units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Merchandise (50,000 sq. ft.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35,000 - 60,000 sq. ft.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,900 affordable units targeted for extremely low to low-income residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting Goods (6,000 sq. ft.)</li> <li>• Miscellaneous Retailers (21,000 sq. ft.)</li> <li>• Full-Service Restaurants (6,000 sq. ft.)</li> <li>• Limited-Service Restaurants (3,000 sq. ft.)</li> </ul>	

### 8.2.1 NEAR-TERM STRATEGIES (< 3-5 YEARS)

As noted above, several key quality of life issues must be resolved before the Specific Plan area can expect to see significant investment. The County should, in the near term, simultaneously expand existing initiatives and focus them on West Athens-Westmont to improve public safety and neighborhood image.

## Place-Based Initiatives

**The County's Planning and Public Works departments should prioritize the construction of bicycle, pedestrian, and placemaking infrastructure near the Vermont/Athens Station.** In collaboration with Metro, the County can conduct a first/last mile audit of the station area to identify barriers, the strengths of and other observations from the community the Vermont/Athens station is designed to serve. The analysis on safety, accessibility, transfers and aesthetics captured in the survey will prioritize improvements to the sidewalk, crossings, landscape, bike lanes and other amenities surrounding the station.

Improvements such as a safe pedestrian connections between the Station and LASC can have a catalytic impact by facilitating a direct connection between the largest economic and educational anchor with the transit stop. DPW should partner with local nonprofit organizations such as Investing in Place and community artists to design unique public spaces around the station and at other key nodes.

DPW should use station area bicycle, pedestrian, and placemaking frameworks to apply for grant funding through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC). This program, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), is funded by proceeds from the State's Cap and Trade Auction. The AHSC funds projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting mode-share towards non-automotive transportation and encourage transit-adjacent housing and development in disadvantaged communities. In addition to funding affordable housing development and housing-related infrastructure, the program also funds sustainable transit infrastructure capital projects and transit-related amenities capital projects. Developments are awarded up to \$20 million dollars in improvements. The new Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) is another program funded by State cap and trade auction funds, can be used to fund projects and programs with the goal of encouraging economic development in low-income communities through projects that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide access to transit.

**LACDC should promote its Facade Improvement Program to reduce blighted commercial buildings through coordination with landowners.** This grant program is administered through the LACDC as part of its Community Business Revitalization Program and is specifically targeted towards low-income, unincorporated areas of the County like West Athens and Westmont. The County should expand resources specifically within the Specific Plan area to engage property owners directly to make them aware of the program and offer technical assistance. Initial facade improvements should be targeted towards



existing streetfront retail near the key intersection of Western Avenue and Imperial Highway to encourage property owners to reinvest, bringing additional jobs and outside investment. This area has the strongest potential for commercial and residential development that serves both LASC and the community, in addition to the station area near Vermont Avenue and Imperial Highway.

### **Programmatic and Policy-Based Interventions**

#### **The LASD and others should coordinate a community engagement strategy to prevent and deter crime in the TOD Specific Plan area.**

Without a perception of safety near the transit station and along the key activity corridors of Imperial Highway, Vermont Avenue and Western Avenue, commercial tenants are unlikely to see the Specific Plan area as a desirable place to locate, limiting the provision of services and jobs within the community. The South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station, located roughly in the center of the Specific Plan area, already focuses attention on these issues, but should be given expanded resources to effectively address security and to deter crime. Collaboration should include representatives from existing programs, some of which already have a presence in the Specific Plan area, such as the Public Trust Partnership Program, Community Policing Teams, Community/Law Enforcement Partnership Program, and the Sheriff's Youth Foundation. Other key community members, specifically including business owners and employees, LASC representatives and nearby residents should be included. This effort should include organizations such as the West Athens Westmont Task Force and the Southwest Community Association.

**DPSS and Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs should build partnerships with LASC and others to expand skills training and job readiness classes on the LASC campus for residents to support community workforce development initiatives.** In addition to expanding specific educational programming, LASC should provide space to nonprofits, and other groups to provide these services. LASC should partner with the Small Business Concierge to create a more permanent presence on campus by co-locating a Small Business Development Center or an entrepreneurial incubator to support growth of local businesses.

The State of California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Program is one funding option that provides funding for programs that provide access to quality local job opportunities and workforce training. Programs that apply as a collaboration between different community entities (which could include LASC, the County, and other nonprofit organizations) are preferred. In addition, the County and LASC could apply for the EPA's Environmental

Workforce Development and Job Training Grant to recruit, train, and place predominantly low-income, minority, unemployed, and underemployed workers in jobs pertaining to the cleanup and assessment of brownfield sites in the community.

**Los Angeles County Military and Veterans Affairs and the LACDC should partner to establish a “motel initiative” to provide homeless housing and stabilize the neighborhood.** In 2016, the City of Los Angeles launched such a program to convert low-quality motels, which are often correlated with illicit behavior, into housing for homeless veterans. The location of homeless housing should be carefully considered, as such developments require supportive resources and are not necessarily appropriate in low-density residential communities. In the City of Los Angeles, the motel conversion has been less controversial as many see it as a substantial upgrade from the typical activity associated with the motels. Funding for the program comes from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, whose vouchers for landlords cover the cost of rent plus other supportive services such as case management and counseling.

**The formation of a Community Task Force (CTF) is recommended soon after the adoption of the Specific Plan.** This will help encourage continuing local engagement to carry out the community’s vision and goals as expressed in the Specific Plan. The CSLA CTF would be an advisory group that focuses on the preservation and beautification of existing single-family neighborhoods, recommending and maximizing enhancements to ensure the compatibility of new development, and recommending specific mobility improvements within the Specific Plan area. The CSLA CTF may be comprised of local residents, subcommittees and/or members of local community advocacy groups such as the Southwest Community Association and the West Athens-Westmont Task Force.

**DRP should encourage developers to offer universal design features, pursuant to the New Home Universal Design Option Checklist (AB 1400).** California law, section 17959.6 of the Health and Safety Code, requires a builder of new for-sale residential units to provide buyers with a list of specific “universal design features” which make a home safer and easier to use for persons who are aging or frail, or who have certain temporary or permanent activity limitations or disabilities. A developer is not required to provide the listed features during construction or at any other time, unless the developer has offered to provide a feature and the buyer has requested it and agreed to provide payment. DRP can further encourage developers of multifamily housing to incorporate universal design features within a portion of their project.

**TABLE 8.2: POTENTIAL ONGOING ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Outreach Method	Target Audience	Activities
CTF Meetings	CBOs, Interest Groups, Other Community Groups	Regular attendance at standing meetings with informational presentations to discuss community/neighborhood specific issues, challenges, opportunities and assets.
Community Events	CBOs, Faith-based Organizations, Advocacy and Interest Groups, Residents, General Public, Youth, Seniors, Local Businesses	Community presentations to increase awareness and participation in CTF activities.
Pop-up Workshops	CBOs, Faith-based Organizations, Advocacy and Interest Groups, Residents, General Public, Youth, Seniors, Local Businesses	Tabling Sessions to meet people where they are through pop-ups at community events, public facilities, parks, campuses, and other locations.
Online Engagement	General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blog to share information and update the public on activities within the neighborhood</li> <li>• List of Events/Outreach Calendar to provide information on upcoming events and track past events</li> <li>• Translated materials to assist non-English speakers</li> <li>• Surveys and Feedback for residents who may not be able to attend in-person to provide input at their convenience</li> <li>• Set up map.social for residents to share local knowledge on landmarks, likes, dislikes, needs within the community, etc.</li> <li>• Use of social media - Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor</li> <li>• Posting of videos on YouTube</li> <li>• Mad Mimi email notification to interest parties for project updates</li> <li>• Ethnic media to communicate with non-English speakers</li> </ul>
Youth Engagement	Elementary, Middle and High schools, Parent-Teacher Associations	Arts and Storytelling Contest and Planning Academy to mobilize youth to participate in the planning process and build capacity to help students articulate their vision for the future
College Engagement	LASC	Target LASC to get engaged with local planning issues
Collaboration with Arts Community	Arts Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Place It! method to identify values and guide community development through visioning.</li> <li>• Use art and storytelling to close the communication/knowledge gap with people who are not familiar with planning terms and concepts.</li> <li>• Promote community identity and placemaking through oral history, photos, and narratives exhibited in various mediums.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 8.3: NEAR-TERM STRATEGIES**

	Responsible Parties	Funding Sources
<b>Place-Based Interventions</b>		
Bicycle, pedestrian, and placemaking improvements	DRP & DPW	Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (CA), Transformative Climate Communities Program (CA), Measure M (Los Angeles County), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (US EPA)
Encourage Use of Facade Improvement Program	LACDC	Facade Improvement Program (Los Angeles County)
Implement Specific Plan design guidelines	DRP	
<b>Programmatic Interventions</b>		
Launch community-driven initiative to improve safety in the Specific Plan area	LASD & DPSS	
Expand skills training and job readiness courses at LASC	Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs	Transformative Climate Communities Program (CA), Innovative Transit Workforce Development Programs (US DOT)
Form Community Task Force (CSLA CTF)	DRP	
Encourage developers to offer universal design features	Developers and Builders	
Establish a homeless housing motel initiative	Los Angeles County Military and Veterans Affairs & LACDC	US Department of Veterans Affairs

## 8.2.2 MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (3-10 YEARS AND BEYOND)

Along with completing near-term strategies, the County should also focus on a series of place-based and programmatic interventions that will bring additional affordable housing to the Specific Plan area and increase opportunities for the local workforce. Several of the strategies require effective partnership between the County and LASC to catalyze neighborhood change and prepare for additional transit infrastructure investments.

### Place-Based Initiatives

**LAEDC should share parking facilities and subsidize land costs where possible to catalyze private development by lowering certain fixed development costs.** Real estate development projects in West Athens and Westmont that include affordable housing, retail, and/or office will be difficult for private developers to finance in the near-

to medium-term given the combination of land and development costs and low market rents. As one of the biggest landowners in the Specific Plan area, the County should look for opportunities to structure public-private partnerships that meet both public and private objectives. Stimulating private-sector development may require land and the shared use of parking at a County lot or facility. Relaxed parking requirements by the County's DRP for developments near the transit station would also help improve a developer's bottom line and therefore make a project in the Specific Plan area more viable.

The County, through LAEDC, should begin by identifying publicly-owned sites adjacent to potential development parcels where shared amenities such as a joint parking garage could feasibly serve a new residential and commercial base. In a second phase, the County and LASC should identify development sites and solicit developer interest through a public request for proposals process. The County should stipulate that any new developments incorporate shared community amenities (such as space for a library, workforce development center or health clinic) and commit to a certain level of residential affordability, if applicable, in exchange for public investment or discounted land. Through the process, the County should support projects which plan to use Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) or New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC), two federal programs which use tax-credits to generate private sector equity investments for projects to benefit low-income residents and communities. While NMTC are intended to spur commercial development, they can include a significant residential component as part of a mixed-use development.

LASC should pursue joint development opportunities on campus property to achieve college and community goals. The northwest corner of LASC's campus is currently occupied by a fenced surface parking lot that separates the campus from the most commercially-active intersection in the Specific Plan area. The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), of which the LASC is a member, has been active in joint development, including its current solicitation of a developer to build an office property on land next to West Los Angeles Community College. This project is expected to include community college facilities as part of a private office campus. A successful development at LASC could include student- and community-serving retail and restaurant spaces, flexible classroom or office space that could be used by an incubator or other entity, and potentially affordable housing units. This effort may require LASC to provide subsidized land, commitment to lease portions of the facilities, and access to other grants where appropriate.

## Programmatic and Policy-Based Initiatives

### **The County should encourage developers to partner with LASC to establish a programmatic off-campus presence in the community.**

Tutoring centers, job-preparedness centers, and incubators run by LASC and located off-campus can encourage economic development throughout the community. When located in streetfront retail spaces, these uses can also help to activate the streets increase the college's visibility and help new real estate developments get financing by acting as an anchor tenant. The LACDC incubator program or Small Business Development Center could also be an appropriate off-campus partnership between LASC and the County. While the location of an incubator in West Athens-Westmont may not be viable now, as the neighborhood improves, such a program could bring highly skilled people to the neighborhood and college. Such a project could leverage the presence of higher-skilled industries along the western portion of the 105 freeway, and would support LASC's commitment to equity as a core objective.

Both federal and state resources are available for workforce development programs in low-income communities. The Transformative Climate Communities program, for instance, provides a matching grant for programs that are run by multi-organization partnerships and expand economic opportunity, especially when those programs are located near transit stations. The USDOT's Innovative Transit Workforce Development Program also provides funding to innovative workforce development programs that leverages investment in public transportation to increase employment opportunities in emerging fields as well as public transportation. LASC, Metro, and the non-profit organizations are all eligible applicants for this funding which pays for program operating costs and some student stipends.

The Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs should target small business incentives to encourage the location of retail- and office-using businesses in the Specific Plan area. Currently, the Small Business Concierge supports small businesses in opening locations in unincorporated areas. This happens through individualized assistance, but the program currently lacks place-based financial incentives. Reserving incentive dollars for small business start-up and operating grants in low-income, unincorporated communities like the Specific Plan area could attract companies which might otherwise locate in neighboring municipalities.

While the County provides several low-interest loan programs for businesses, the most impactful incentives are reserved for manufacturing companies; there is no industrially-zoned land within the Specific Plan area for manufacturing. However, the County's Business

Expansion Loan Program could be a viable tool to support new private businesses and should be expanded and advertised. In addition, the County could use tax subvention agreements as a means of gap financing to incentivize larger businesses with a preference to locate along the 105 freeway.

**The County should encourage a mix of job-providing tenants in new developments within the Specific Plan area, such as nonprofit organizations, health care clinics, and public services.** These community-focused tenants require lower costs and are committed to the mission of community revitalization. These tenants should be integrated into streetfront retail space in new affordable housing developments, as part of a general requirement for active streetfronts.

While affecting uses within private buildings is mostly out of the County's control, as highly credit-worthy tenants, the County and the LACCD can act as first movers to support projects financially by leasing space within new developments for community-serving facilities such as health clinics, job training centers, or libraries. The DRP should encourage developers to include space for such uses, and the LACDC should facilitate connections where possible. The County should encourage developers and community-driven organizations seeking to locate in the Specific Plan area to pursue a New Markets Tax Credit allocation to support project gap financing.

The LACDC should seek funding from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Fund to support affordable housing development and preservation as well as housing-related infrastructure. The AHSC can fund new construction, acquisition and substantial rehabilitation, or conversion of nonresidential structures to residential, within a ½ mile of a transit stop. The program also funds capital improvements required by a locality, transit agency, or special district as a condition to the approval of the affordable housing development, as well as projects that promote energy efficiency, low impact design, renewable energy or urban greening. The Specific Plan area would be very well-positioned to receive funds from the state given the program's mission to support affordable housing, to revitalize low-income communities, and to encourage sustainable forms of transportation.

LAEDC should strategically evaluate real estate opportunities to facilitate private development that preserves long-term affordability within the neighborhood, partnering with the LACDC to make funding available for nonprofits to implement. Similar to a land banking strategy, the County could establish a quasi-public entity such as a County land banking authority, or engage a non-profit partner who could acquire vacant or underutilized parcels. These parcels could be assembled for redevelopment in line with market demand and sold to private

developers with conditions that they provide certain community benefits. This could be particularly useful for smaller footprint commercial parcels along Vermont, Western, and Normandie where ownership is dispersed but where larger, mixed-use developments may be desirable in the long run. The County could also encourage land trusting. Land trusts are typically non-profit organizations that acquire property to become long-term owners of land and protectors of affordability. These organizations sell buildings at an affordable price and to income-qualified households and lease the land at a very low cost to the homebuyer. There is currently one community land trust operating in South Los Angeles – T.R.U.S.T. South L.A. The County should begin discussions with T.R.U.S.T. South L.A. to better understand the viability of the model in the Specific Plan area.

**The County, in coordination with Metro, should continue to implement appropriate strategies from Metro’s Transit Supportive Planning Toolkit and Green Places Toolkit.** The Transit Supportive Toolkit details specific policies and programs that can be used to promote Transit Oriented Communities (TOC). The Toolkit provides strategies to encourage reduced passenger vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through increased rates of walking, biking, and transit usage. The Toolkit includes a wide range of policy and regulatory tools that have successfully been implemented throughout Southern California and across the State. The Green Places Toolkit provides resources to reimagine and reinvent public spaces. Transit-adjacent projects that facilitate access to Metro Bus and Metro Rail enhance the transit rider experience to and from stations and improve neighborhoods.

**TABLE 8.4: MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (3-10 YEARS AND BEYOND)**

	Responsible Parties	Funding Sources
<b>Place-Based Interventions</b>		
Public development of joint amenities	LAEDC	
LASC joint development	LASC	
<b>Programmatic Interventions</b>		
County and LASC establish off-campus community programming and facilities	DRP, Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs & LASC	Transformative Climate Communities Program (CA), Innovative Transit Workforce Development Programs (US DOT)
Develop small business incentives	Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs	Business Expansion Loan Program (Los Angeles County), Tax subvention agreements
Encourage a mix of job-providing tenants	DRP & LASC	New Markets Tax Credits, Low Income Housing Tax Credits



Affordable housing development, preservation and rehabilitation and infrastructure near station area	LACDC	Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program (CA)
Establish a land banking and/or land trusting strategy for the neighborhood	LAEDC & LACDC	
Continue to implement appropriate strategies from Metro's Transit Supportive Planning Toolkit and Green Places Toolkit	DRP & DPW	

## 8.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

There are a number of grant, loan, and value capture funding mechanisms that could finance the infrastructure and community benefits identified in this Specific Plan. These resources are detailed in this section.

### 8.3.1 LOCAL TAX INCREMENT AND ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

#### Los Angeles Country Park Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992, 1996, Proposition A

The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks & Beaches Measure (Measure A) was approved by voters in November 2016. This measure will replace expiring, voter-approved funding with new funding for parks, beaches, recreation and open spaces; and generate approximately \$92.7 million per year. Funding from the measure will be used to upgrade playground equipment, parks, recreation centers and senior centers; provide children in our community safe places to play and opportunities to participate in after school programs in parks and recreation centers; allow for implementation of drought-tolerant plants and use of recycled water and rainwater to reduce the amount of water wasted; and help protect and preserve undeveloped natural areas for future generations.

#### Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District

The Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) is a new funding mechanism that was signed into law on September 2014. Its main purpose is to finance a wide array of infrastructure projects with “community-wide significance,” from parks and brownfield remediation to transit improvements and affordable housing.

An EIFD can be created by a city, county, or joint powers authority to fund specific infrastructure and economic development projects as outlined in the financing plan. EIFDs can also leverage multiple funding streams to achieve these goals—including tax increment (if approved

by voters), assessment revenues, fees, and other sources such as state and federal grants.

EIFDs share a number of similarities to Community Revitalization Investment Authorities (CRIAs)—another funding mechanism recently passed in California to help carry out revitalization activities. However, a CRIA must operate within an investment area that meets the state’s criteria of a disadvantaged community (generally, the district must consist of households making no more than 80 percent of the state’s median household income).

Unlike a CRIA, however, an EIFD can be established without voter approval and does not require an affordable housing set-aside. EIFDs may not issue debt without a 55 percent vote of the district’s registered voters, nor can revenues be used to fund ongoing maintenance and operations. Because an EIFD’s strength lies in the power of tax increment financing, LASC’s tax exempt status would be a constraint because none of the assessed improvements associated with the campus could be applied toward the increment. Nonetheless, if the Specific Plan were to jumpstart a new wave of investment in the Specific Plan area, those revenues could be tapped for any number of improvements, including transit station improvements, water and sewer infrastructure, pedestrian connectivity, and other streetscape amenities.

### **Special Assessment Districts**

Special Assessment Districts can be used fund any improvement that provides a “direct and special” benefit to the assessed property. By this definition, improvements like the recommended medians, sidewalks, lighting, art, and benches that improve connectivity, as well as safety improvements like private security, can be funded via Special Assessment, while “general” benefits like schools may not.

There are two primary challenges in establishing Special Assessment Districts, particularly for those in already developed areas. The first is that total property taxes can only increase a certain amount before new development is disadvantaged relative to properties not subject to an assessment. The second challenge is that assessment districts require a majority vote of property owners weighted by property value to pass. All the affected properties must stand to benefit from that particular improvement, and no assessment can exceed the “reasonable cost” of its special benefit to that parcel. One benefit to forming a Special Assessment District in the case of the Specific Plan area, however, is that nonprofit uses like LASC would not be exempt from paying dues, thereby substantially increasing the available revenue stream.

## **Business Improvement District**

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a common type of Special Assessment District that assesses business and/or property owners to fund maintenance, marketing, and other activities, including additional public services or improvements. If such a district were to be formed in the Specific Plan area, funding could be applied toward enhanced sanitation and cleaning as well as other streetscape and pedestrian improvements.

The County would need to undertake extensive outreach to the property owners to educate them on the benefits and obtain majority support before moving forward with formation. If support can be obtained, a BID is a powerful tool for raising funds to provide enhancements to the area, but cannot be used to issue bonds.

Under the California Parking and Business Improvement Area Law of 1989 and Property and Business Improvement District Law of 1994, a district can be established via a County resolution of intent to form a BID. If a majority of property owners do not protest the resolution during a subsequent public hearing, an advisory board would be appointed. Once formed, a special assessment can be charged to commercial property or business owners for an amount proportional to the benefits they will receive.

## **Landscape and Lighting District**

Like a BID, a Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) is another type of Special Assessment District that could be applied in West Athens-Westmont to fund new street and pedestrian lights, landscaping, parkways, medians, and other amenities, and require benefits to accrue proportionately to the assessed properties. LLADs are more flexible than BIDs in that they can issue bonds and require a simple majority of property owners for formation. The Specific Plan area is already encompassed by one such LLAD that provides funding to maintain street lights. There have been no LLADs established by the County for amenities like pedestrian lighting; forming such a district in the Specific Plan area would require creating a new Special Assessment District dedicated to that purpose.

Given the same barrier to entry as a BID, formation of an LLAD that can issue bonds for the commercial areas that are supported by and include the LASC is a better approach for raising local funds than the formation of a BID.

## 8.3.2 OTHER LOCAL SOURCES OF FUNDS

### Development Impact Fees

Development impact fees are another potential funding source for affordable housing, parks, and recreational open space. These fees, paid by new residential and commercial development projects, must only be used to pay for improvements that can be demonstrated to serve new residents and businesses (from new development), but these fees can be combined with other funding sources to fund a project that serves both new and existing residents or businesses. A nexus study—which calculates the new increment of development, estimates the portion of an improvement project attributable to that increment of growth, and allocates the fee among the new development projects by land use—is required by state law for implementation. Additional impact fees, such as a transportation and traffic impact fee, could be considered as a means to fund additional improvements that enhance mobility.

### Revenue Bonds

Public activities that are revenue generating and create sufficient cash flow to cover operating costs and debt service can potentially issue tax-free municipal debt to cover the cost of capital improvements. A common example of this is revenue bonds for parking garage construction where there is pay parking.

### General Obligation Bonds and Other Public Debt

New commercial and lodging projects could generate significant new sales tax and transit occupancy (lodging) tax revenues that will flow into the County's General Fund. This new money could be used to finance debt service on tax-exempt debt obligations so that existing activities provided through the General Fund are not impacted. Such a General Obligation bond, however, requires a two-thirds vote of local residents (except for educational facilities) to approve. Alternatively, for facilities that can serve as collateral for debt, certificates of participation are a public finance technique that do not require voter approval.

In November 2016, Los Angeles County voters approved the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Protection Measure of 2016. The measure replaces funding under Proposition A (set to expire in 2019). The proposal is estimated to raise up to \$94 million annually. Such funding would be especially useful in West Athens-Westmont's case, given its pronounced lack of open space. According to the County's Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment, published in May 2016, West Athens-Westmont's "Park Need" category ranks "Very High," with one of the most acute shortages of park space in the County.

With the passage of the funding measure, the County should prioritize West Athens-Westmont as an early recipient of program funds.

### **Los Angeles County Parkland Dedication (Quimby) Ordinance**

Los Angeles County adopted Sections 21.24.340 and 21.24.350 and Sections 21.28.120, 21.28.130, 21.28.140 of the Los Angeles County Code (“Parkland Dedication Ordinance”), consistent with, and as permitted by the State’s Quimby Act. The ordinance requires that the subdivider of residential subdivision “provide local park space to serve the subdivision, pay a fee in lieu of the provisions of such park land...provide local park space containing less than the required obligation but developed with amenities equal in value to the park fee, or do a combination of the above” (Los Angeles County Code, Section 21.24.340 et seq.). For the purpose of the County’s Quimby Ordinance, the unincorporated areas are divided into 47 Park Planning Areas (PPAs), based on location and neighborhood characteristics. West Athens-Westmont is located in PAA #19.

## **8.3.3 REGIONAL AND STATE SOURCES OF FUNDS**

### **Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities**

The 2006 Global Warming Solutions Acts (AB 32) established a cap and trade system in California. The system establishes quarterly auctions of carbon allowances, whose proceeds are deposited into a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Using revenue from this fund, the Strategic Growth Council administers the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, which funds land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Approximately \$257 million in AHSC funding was announced in FY 2018-2019; potential projects in the Specific Plan could include the acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing, or the conversion of nonresidential structures to residential dwelling units. Affordable housing developers, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, and/or LACDC (Redevelopment successor agency) are all eligible applicants.

Projects that can show the Strategic Growth Council that they reduce vehicle miles traveled by locating near transit are most competitive for funds. However, the market for carbon emissions has shown itself to be relatively unstable. Rather than trading emission allowances, companies are reducing emissions. While this is certainly beneficial to the environment, it means that the future of this funding source is uncertain.

## **Infrastructure State Revolving Loan Fund**

The California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank) loans money for infrastructure projects around the state. The I-Bank is the state's general purpose financing authority that finances public infrastructure and private development projects that promote economic development and revitalize communities.

Eligible project categories in the Specific Plan area could include the rehabilitation of streets and highways, water supply and flood control, new parks and recreational facilities, expanded public transit, public safety features, and power and communications facilities.

Recent loan recipients in Southern California have included the City of San Gabriel, which borrowed \$3.8 million at 3.5 percent interest to upgrade, reconstruct, and rehabilitate its public streets.

## **Integrated Regional Water Management Grant**

Using funds from Proposition 1, the water bond passed by California voters in 2014, the California Department of Water Resources awarded over \$510 million in Integrated Regional Water Management Grants for planning and implementation projects throughout the state, with \$98 million specifically allocated to the Los Angeles region since 2016. Projects can include stormwater capture, water reuse, and other green streets measures.

Grant applications for implementation will be solicited at a future date; eligible projects for the Specific Plan area could include stormwater capture, water reuse, providing new open space, and other green streets measures.

## **Caltrans Active Transportation Program**

Caltrans's Active Transportation Program (ATP) consolidates various state and federal transportation programs, including the federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside), Bicycle Transportation Account, and state Safe Routes to School. Funding is distributed to three categories: statewide competition (50 percent), MPO projects for regions with 200,000 or more residents (40 percent), and small urban and rural regions with populations of less than 200,000 (10 percent).

Although some programs request only state funds, most include a combination of funding from all available sources.

The goal of ATP is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, including walking and biking, as well as the safety and mobility of non-motorized users. Eligible projects in the Specific Plan

area could include developing new bike- and walkways, including a pedestrian bridge, and adding new landscaping, traffic control devices, and enhanced street lighting.

SCAG administers the regional portion of the ATP and relies on the California Transportation Commission's Call for Proposals process to select the capital projects to be funded through the regional program.

### **8.3.4 FEDERAL SOURCES**

#### **Federal Transportation Sources**

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law in December 2015, and authorizes federal funding for a wide array of transit improvements through fiscal year 2020. It includes a number of potential funding sources that could benefit the Specific Plan area, including Capital Investment Grants, Urbanized Area Formula Grants, and Surface Transportation Block Grant Programs. These funds are administered through Caltrans's ATP program, described above.

The FAST Act also established a new National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau within the U.S. Department of Transportation to serve as a consolidated resource for providing local government agencies with federal funding, financing, and technical assistance.

#### **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program**

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) is one of the primary flexible funding sources available for transit at the local level. These funds may be used for a wide array of transit corridor capital improvements, including public transportation capital improvements, fringe and corridor parking facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intercity or intracity bus terminals and bus facilities.

STBG funding is apportioned directly to SCAG by the Federal Highway Administration. The funding is allocated by the State of California, with a nonfederal funding match requirement of 11.47 percent.

With respect to planning, STBG funds can be used for surface transportation planning activities, wetland mitigation, transit research and development, and environmental analysis. Other eligible projects under STP include transit safety improvements and most transportation control measures. STP funds are distributed in a state based on population and other programmatic categories.

#### **Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside**

Within the STBG funding above is a set amount called the Transportation Alternatives "Set-Aside" (formerly Transportation

Alternatives Program, or TAP). The TA Set-Aside finances projects defined as “transportation alternatives,” including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational programs, infrastructure projects for improving “nondriver” access to public transportation, enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation. It also funds activities related to the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which helped fund the construction of infrastructure-related projects on public roads and bicycle-pedestrian pathways near schools. A funding commitment in the vicinity of West Athens Elementary School, for example, could finance sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements and bridges, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements anywhere within two miles of the school.

State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and MPOs are not eligible entities as defined under the statute, and therefore are not eligible project sponsors for TA Set-Aside funds. However, such agencies may partner with an eligible entity project sponsor to carry out a project.

### **Economic Adjustment/Revolving Loan Fund**

The Economic Development Administration, a bureau in the U.S. Department of Commerce, administers the Economic Adjustment/Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), which assists state and local entities in creating and implementing strategies to improve local economic conditions in areas that have experienced structural change in their economic bases.

The RLF provides capital to help small businesses and entrepreneurs expand production capabilities with gap financing. Maximum loans are \$650,000 per borrower with terms of seven years for working capital, 15 years for fixed assets, and 20 years for real estate.



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The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 23, 2019  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
ATTACHMENT 1

Regional Planning Commission Resolution



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-  
WESTMONT  
PROJECT NO. 2016-000317-(2)  
ADVANCE PLANNING NO. RPPL 2016002080  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL 2017009622  
STATE CLEARINGHOUS NO. 2017051051**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles (County) Regional Planning Commission (Commission) has conducted a public hearing in the matter of Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont (Specific Plan) and associated Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on September 12, 2018, November 14, 2018, and May 29, 2019; which includes the following:

1. The Specific Plan that includes changes to zoning to encourage transit oriented development and promote active transportation. The Specific Plan would accommodate an additional 1,061 dwelling units and 1.7 million square feet of non-residential land use.
2. Zone Change to "SP" to designate the Specific Plan area.
3. Land Use Amendments to the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan to implement the new Specific Plan zones.
4. A Zoning Ordinance to incorporate the Specific Plan into Title 22.
5. The Programmatic EIR for the Specific Plan in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**WHEREAS**, the Commission finds as follows:

1. On October 6, 2015, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the update to the Los Angeles County General Plan (General Plan). The General Plan includes five guiding principles: employ smart growth; ensure community services and infrastructure are sufficient to accommodate growth; provide the foundation for a strong and diversified economy; promote excellence in environmental resource management; and provide healthy, livable, and equitable communities;
2. The General Plan includes the establishment of TODs as a main policy area. The General Plan designates 11 TODs that are areas located within a half-mile radius of an existing Metro Station and promotes infill development and active transportation strategies.
3. The General Plan update also repealed earlier TOD regulations and established the TOD Program (Implementation Program LU-2). This program calls for the preparation of a Specific Plan for each of the TOD areas.

4. This Specific Plan is the third TOD plan developed to implement this program and was initiated in January 2016. The Specific Plan area comprises approximately 658 acres adjacent to the Metro Green Line Vermont/Athens Station.
5. The Specific Plan provides land use and development standards for the Specific Plan area.
6. Designation of the Specific Plan requires a zone change within the West Athens-Westmont Zoned District from the zones specified in the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan to “SP (Specific Plan Zone).”
7. Implementation of the Specific Plan requires a General Plan Land Use Amendment to update the land uses specified in the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan to those specified in the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan.
8. The Vermont/Athens Station was selected for the County’s third TOD Specific Plan due to the proximity of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station, the 64-acre campus of Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Southwest Station and adjacent municipal service center. Significant public investments are planned and underway at LASC as the college implements its updated campus Master Plan. The Specific Plan area is also within two miles of aerospace industries in the City of Hawthorne as well as new Los Angeles Stadium and Entertainment District at Hollywood Park in the City of Inglewood.
9. A project task force of County departments, state agencies and local partners held three quarterly meetings starting in 2016, establishing relationships at the start of the project that carried through the environmental review. Members of the task force included staff from the County and County-family departments, including the Arts Commission, Community Development Commission, Fire Department, Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Health Services, Mental Health, the Sheriff’s Department and Metro. Other representatives were from Caltrans and Los Angeles Southwest College.
10. Sixteen outreach events, including four hosted workshops and meetings with public stakeholders, occurred in the community beginning in 2016. Throughout the planning process for the Specific Plan, Regional Planning staff met with and received input from the following local community groups: Southwest Community Association, West Athens-Westmont Task Force, West Athens-Westmont Best Start, and Los Angeles Southwest College. Regional Planning staff also attended and participated in stakeholder meetings for the Concerned Citizens of Willowbrook; the HawthorNEXT Specific Plan [for the nearby Metro Green Line Crenshaw Station]; the Second District Empowerment Congress, Economic Development Committee;

and at meetings with plot-holders at the West Athens Victory Garden, which is managed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust.

11. An EIR was prepared for this project in compliance with CEQA. A Draft EIR was circulated for public review and comments from May 16, 2018 to June 29, 2018, (45-days) in compliance with to CEQA reporting requirements. The Draft EIR was made available online as well as at the Woodcrest Library and the A.C. Bilbrew Library. The Notice of Completion and Availability of a Draft EIR was mailed and emailed to 3,931 postal addresses and 54 email addresses and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on May 15, 2018.
12. A public meeting to take comments on the Draft EIR was held on May 24, 2018. The County received four (4) comment letters on the DEIR. Two (2) people attended the DEIR public meeting during the statutory 45-day review period. All comments on the Draft EIR are reflected in the Response to Comments in the Final EIR.
13. The Regional Planning Commission discussed the project on September 12, 2018. Staff presented the project and findings of the Final EIR along with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations as well as the Zone Change Map, Zoning Ordinance, West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Amendments Map. A representative of the Southwest Community Association provided testimony and a letter to the Commission. Staff requested additional time to respond to constituent concerns as well as to incorporate some revisions into the Specific Plan related to housing affordability, mobility and sustainability and to clarify plan objectives. The hearing was continued to November 14, 2018.
14. On November 14, 2018, the Regional Planning Commission granted staff's request for additional time and continued the public hearing off-calendar.
15. A revised notice of public hearing was issued on April 26, 2019, and the project was presented to the Regional Planning Commission on May 29, 2019. Staff provided a revised final draft and an overview of the revisions incorporated. All changes incorporated into the revised draft are within the scope of the completed environmental review. Therefore, no changes needed to be made to the Final EIR, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations as well as the Zone Change Map, Zoning Ordinance and West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Amendments Map discussed previously.
16. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 22.60.174 and 22.60.175 of the County Code, the public hearing notice was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on

August 10, 2018. Additionally, 3,931 courtesy notices were mailed (and 54 emailed) to all property owners and other stakeholders.

17. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 22.60.174 and 22.60.175 of the County Code, the revised public hearing notice was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on April 26, 2019. Additionally, 3,935 courtesy notices were mailed (54 emailed) to all property owners and other stakeholders.
18. The EIR includes impacts related to air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems considered and reduced to less than significant with the implementation of the mitigation measures pursuant to CEQA reporting requirements. After the implementation of mitigation measures, the impacts that would remain significant and unavoidable include air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic. The Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations provides the written findings in connection with certification of an environmental impact report prior to approval of a project pursuant to Sections 15091 and 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code.
19. The location of the documents and other materials constituting the record of proceedings upon which the Commission's decision is based in this matter is at the County Department of Regional Planning, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hall of Records, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The custodian of such documents and materials shall be the Section Head of the Community Studies East Section.

**RESOLVED**, that the Commission recommends to the Board:

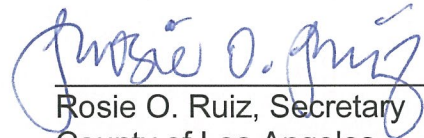
1. That the Board certify the Final EIR and find that it has been prepared in compliance with CEQA and the state and local agency guidelines related thereto and reflect the independent judgment of the Board.
2. That the Board consider, approve and certify the information contained in the Final EIR prior to approving Advance Planning No. RPPL 2016002080 and related actions.
3. That the Board determine that where significant adverse environmental effects of the project, as described in the Final EIR, could not be reduced to less than significant, the Specific Plan benefits, such as specific social, economic, legal, technological or other considerations outweigh the environmental effects of the project as stated in the attached CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding



Considerations for the project, which findings and statement are incorporated herein by reference.

4. That the Board consider, approve and certify the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project, included in the Final EIR and as modified to County format and implementation procedures, and pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code, find that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as modified by the County is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation.
5. That the Board consider, approve and adopt the Specific Plan, Zone Change Map, Zoning Ordinance, and West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Amendments Map.
6. That the Board determine that the Zone Change and West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Amendments serve the public health, safety and general welfare and are in conformity with good zoning practice, and are compatible with and supportive of, the goals and polices of the General Plan.

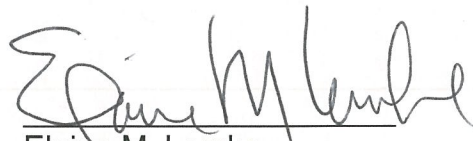
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by a majority of the voting members of the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission on May 29, 2019.



Rosie O. Ruiz, Secretary  
County of Los Angeles  
Regional Planning Commission

**VOTE:**

Concurring: 4  
Dissenting: 0  
Abstaining: 0  
Absent: 1



Elaine M. Lemke  
Assistant County Counsel

Action Date:  
May 29, 2019

AJB:DS:MK:LDF



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 23, 2019  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
ATTACHMENT 5

Commission Staff Reports and Correspondence





# Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



**Amy J. Bodek, AICP**  
Director of Regional Planning

**Dennis Slavin**  
Chief Deputy Director,  
Regional Planning

## SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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DATE ISSUED:	May 16, 2019	
MEETING DATE:	May 29, 2019	AGENDA 6 ITEM:
PROJECT NUMBER:	2016-000317-(2)	
PROJECT NAME:	CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT	
PLAN NUMBER(S):	ADVANCE PLANNING NO. RPPL2016002080 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2017009622 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017051051	
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT:	2	
PROJECT LOCATION:	WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT	
PROJECT PLANNER:	LEON D. FREEMAN, AICP LFREEMAN@PLANNING.LACOUNTY.GOV	

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

*The following recommendation is made prior to the public hearing and is subject to change based upon testimony and/or documentary evidence presented at the public hearing:*

The Department of Regional Planning staff ("Staff") recommends that the Regional Planning Commission adopt the attached resolution recommending approval of the *Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont*, Advance Planning Case No. RPPL2016002080 to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Staff recommends the following motion:

**I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, FIND THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION HAS**

REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE FINAL EIR, AND RECOMMEND THAT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CERTIFY THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ALONG WITH THE REQUIRED FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS AND ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL 2017009622) PURSUANT TO STATE AND LOCAL CEQA GUIDELINES.

I ALSO MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE *CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT*, ADV NO. RPPL2016002080, TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Project**

Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont (“Specific Plan”) offers an opportunity to create more engaging and vibrant places by leveraging the community’s assets, connecting uses and activities, and laying the groundwork for attracting future investment. The Specific Plan provides for mixed use areas with aesthetically pleasing building design and enhanced connectivity to make it easier to use public transportation, which is supported by bicycle and pedestrian improvements and revised parking requirements. The Specific Plan would permit the potential development of up to 1,061 additional residential units and approximately 1.7 million square feet of nonresidential development over existing conditions in the plan area.

### **B. Project Background**

This project was previously presented to the Regional Planning Commission (“Commission”) on September 12, 2018, and November 14, 2018. During the public hearing on September 12<sup>th</sup>, staff presented an overview of the Specific Plan, the findings of the Final Environmental Impact Report (“FEIR”) including the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations. The Zone Change Map, Zoning Ordinance, and the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Amendments Map were also included as part of the hearing package.

A representative of the Southwest Community Association provided testimony and submitted a letter (Exhibit C) attached to this report, to your Commission detailing certain concerns. Staff requested additional time to respond to the constituent’s concerns, clarify plan objectives, and incorporate certain revisions into the Specific Plan related to housing affordability, mobility and sustainability. The hearing was continued to November 14<sup>th</sup>. On that date, your Commission granted staff’s request for additional time and continued the public hearing off-calendar.

All revisions presented herein were made within the scope of the completed environmental review. Therefore, no changes were made to the FEIR, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, or the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations. Nor did the changes impact the Zone Change Map, Zoning Ordinance entry, or the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan Land Use Amendments Map previously provided to the Commission. The only documents affected by the additional work are the Specific Plan document (Exhibit A) and the Draft Resolution (Exhibit B) attached to this report.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

The entire Specific Plan document was reformatted, and minor revisions were made to regulations and use tables to ensure consistency with other sections of the Zoning Code and applicable State law. Some of these revisions include:

**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

Section 1.3.4, Relationship to Other Relevant Studies, Plans and Initiatives (see Exhibit A, page 1-19) was expanded to show that the Specific Plan supports and complements efforts related to:

- Addressing impediments to fair housing;
- Providing housing choice and affordability;
- Ensuring safe and Complete Streets; and
- Thinking about housing needs as we age.

**CHAPTER 2: VISION, GOALS, AND POLICIES**

The following additional polices in support of housing affordability and quality of life were added (see Exhibit A, page 2-3).

**Goal 2: A Diverse Mix of Land Uses and Transit Oriented Development**  
 Policy 2.7 Ensure adequate utilities including broadband internet to serve all residents.

**Goal 3: Affordable Housing Options**  
 Policy 3.2 Ensure the development of affordable units for special needs and low income households.

Policy 3.3 Allow for the integration of novel housing strategies such as Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units and “housing for homeless” solutions including “bridge” or temporary housing units to address homelessness in the plan area.

Policy 3.6 Ensure there is no net loss of restricted or naturally occurring affordable housing units in the community.

Policy 3.7 Discourage the conversion of affordable housing units to condominiums.

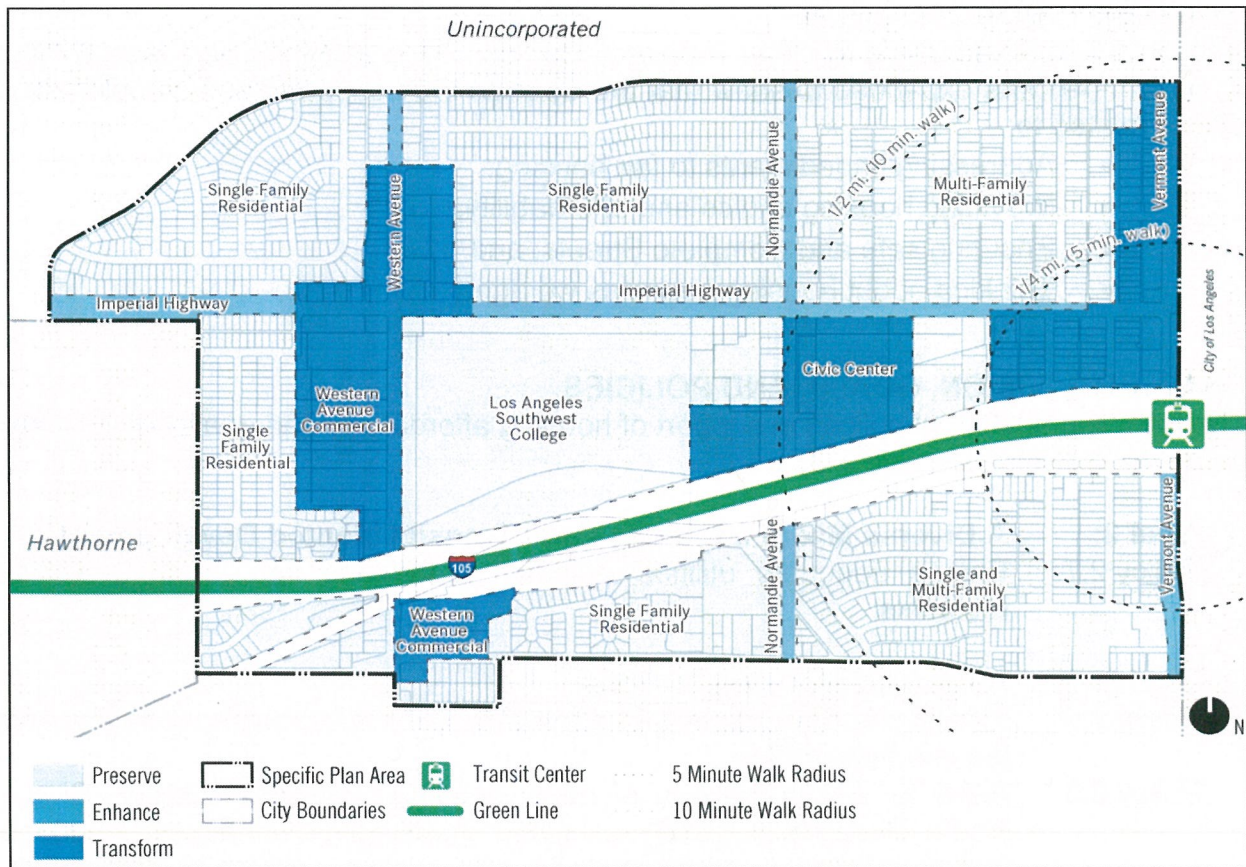
Policy 3.8 Ensure than any loss of existing affordable units (including market rate affordable units) are replaced at a minimum rate of one-for-one.

Policy 3.9 Support inclusionary housing policies that would increase the supply of affordable housing units.

- Goal 6: A Safe and Healthy Community**  
 Policy 6.5 Support initiatives to combat juvenile crime including after-school programs and gang and drug intervention programs.

**CHAPTER 3: LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK**

A new Framework Plan depicted below (see also Exhibit A, Figure 3.1 on page 3-2) was added to more clearly show what changes are proposed where. Areas shown as **“Transform”** are existing, mostly non-residentially zoned parcels where land use and zoning changes are proposed to encourage new development. Areas shown as **“Enhance”** are public rights-of-way highlighted for mobility and active transportation improvements. Areas shown as **“Preserve”** are existing neighborhoods and institutions that would be preserved to provide connectivity to and be served by compatible new development.



This Framework Plan is further refined through the Land Use Districts Map provided previously (Figure 3.2 on page 3-3). The Specific Plan is implemented through the Regulating Plan also provided previously (Figure 4.1 on page 4-2) along with the Development Standards (Chapter 4) and Design Guidelines (Chapter 5), and Mobility and Public Realm Improvements (Chapter 6).



**Chapter 4 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

Section 4.2, Special Requirements (page 4-3) was expanded to show that the Specific Plan contemplates and implements the most current County directives and initiatives to support new housing opportunities and provide quality transit oriented development.

The new Framework Plan and other changes specified herein clarify the objectives and intent of the Specific Plan in guiding new transit oriented development in the area.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The following was provided previously and is repeated here for your convenience.

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment, from May 16, 2018, to June 29, 2018, pursuant to CEQA reporting requirements. The DEIR was posted online, and a copy was sent to the Woodcrest Library and the A.C. Bilbrew Library. The Notice of Completion/Availability was mailed and emailed to 3,931 postal addresses and 54 email addresses and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on May 15, 2018. A public meeting to take comments on the DEIR was held on May 24, 2018. At the DEIR public meeting, the County received four (4) comment letters and no comments from two (2) attendees. All comments are addressed in the Response to Comments section of the FEIR.

The FEIR contains a summary of the potential environmental effects of the Specific Plan, the recommended mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid those effects, and the level of significance after mitigation. Implementation of the mitigation measures, as detailed in each environmental analysis section presented in the FEIR, would reduce most of the potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. However, even with the implementation of the mitigation measures, the plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts in the following areas: air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation and traffic. The FEIR, which includes the DEIR, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and the Response to Comments is available at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/Southwest/eir>.

All revisions that are the subject of this supplemental staff report remain within the scope of this completed environmental document.

**OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT****A. Public Comments**

Staff has not received any additional comments at the time of report preparation.

**B. Notification**

A revised notice of public hearing for the consideration of the Specific Plan and FEIR was mailed and emailed to 3,935 postal addresses and 54 email addresses and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on April 26, 2019. Furthermore, all materials including the Specific Plan and FEIR were made available on the project website, at the Woodcrest Library and A.C. Bilbrew Library and at the DRP offices

downtown. The FEIR was available for review at least 10 days prior to the public hearing date.

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Report  
Reviewed By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Mi Kim, Supervising Regional Planner

Report  
Approved By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Chung, AICP, Advance Planning Coordinator

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LIST OF ATTACHED EXHIBITS	
EXHIBIT A	Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont – Final Draft: March 2019
EXHIBIT B	Revised Draft Resolution of the Regional Planning Commission
EXHIBIT C	Public Correspondence dated 9/12/18

The Regional Planning Commission  
May 29, 2019  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
Exhibit C

Public Correspondence dated 9/12/18



A UNITED EFFORT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 47898  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90047

September 12, 2018  
Regional Planning Dept.  
County of Los Angeles  
320 W. Temple St.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

SUBJECT: CONNECT SOUTHWEST L.A.: - TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WEST-MONT.

We generally support the subject proposal, however, we share the following concerns:

I. Staff report page 7, par. #2 states in part, "Class II bike lane along Vermont Ave."

OUR POSITION: Installation of a class II bike lane as the street is currently constituted would require the elimination of one traffic lane. THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND WILL BE MET WITH STRONG RESISTANCE. This is a primary south bound artery to the 105 freeway as well as to the south bay.

Page 11;-West Athens-Westmont Community Plan(CSD). The provisions contained in the specific plan if approved must be integrated in with the existing CSD within the impacted locations. There should be our current CSD with amendments and a marriage between the two as to avoid confusion surrounding provisions of the two documents within the specific plan areas.

II. PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT COPY OF August 2018:

Page 49-sec. 4.3.3. This is clearly authorizing the use of imment domain to confiscate personal property. The language used in paragraph #2 and especially bullet point #3. THIS LANGUAGE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS GIVING THE COUNTY TO CONFISCATE PERSONAL PROPERTY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND MUST BE REMOVED! Portions of this plan involves residential properties.

Pages 54-86;- use regulation tables. References to various care facilities requiring conditional use permits(CUP) for six or fewer persons is in direct conflict with State of Calif. authority to exclusively regulate facilities with six or fewer persons.

Page 148-Walking path. (sec.6.5.3). Multi-use path. Without dedicated security along the entire length of this path, the element of danger to the users well being will be high and ever present. This location will be isolated away from any visible community activities or commerce.

Page 164. Park opportunities: The primary concern with establishing parks in the area is security.

A. POCKET PARKS: If not properly secured, they will become magnets for gangs and homeless individuals.

B. page 166. Open space referred to in fig. 6.17 presents a safety issue for ingress and egress into the space by having to cross three lanes of traffic on busy Vermont Ave., The space becomes a refuge for homeless individuals, underutilization due to being located on the boundary of two actively waring gangs, maintenance issues.

The failure of such a proposal is demonstrated by the same type of development done between 88th St. and 92nd.St. several years ago.

page 2 TOD

The space is sparcely used, some of the benches are home to homeless individuals, lack of maintenance is evidenced by the weeds, trash, etc. , there is no dedicated security .

THERE SHOULD BE NO IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY PROVISIONS OF THIS PLAN WITHOUT AN ACCOMPANYING PLAN FOR FINANCING SECURITY, MAINTENANCE, ETC. WHERE REQUIRED!

Respectfully submitted:



Henry Porter, Jr., President  
(323)757-5506hm.  
(323)273-6435cell



Los Angeles County  
Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



**Amy J. Bodek, AICP**  
Director

**Dennis Slavin**  
Chief Deputy Director

November 1, 2018

**TO:** David W. Louie, Chair  
Elvin W. Moon, Vice Chair  
Doug Smith, Commissioner  
Laura Shell, Commissioner  
Pat Modugno, Commissioner

**FROM:** Anita D. Gutierrez, MPL, AICP, Supervising Regional Planner  
Community Studies West Section

*mm for AG*

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE OFF-CALENDAR  
CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST  
ATHENS-WESTMONT  
Project No. 2016-000317-(2)  
Plan No. RPPL2016002080  
Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2017009622  
State Clearing House No. 2017051051  
November 14, 2018 - Agenda Item No. 6**

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE OFF-CALENDAR**




Since the Public Hearing on September 12, 2018, there have been further internal discussions related to sustainability and affordable housing that staff would like to take the opportunity to address. Staff will provide a brief summary of these proposed changes at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and will be requesting that the Commission continue the item off-calendar.

**I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING OFF-CALENDAR.**

If you need further information, please contact Leon Freeman at (213) 974-6406 or [lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov). Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

AJB:MC:AG:LF

320 West Temple Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • 213-974-6411 • TDD: 213-617-2292

   @LACDRP | [planning.lacounty.gov](http://planning.lacounty.gov)







Los Angeles County  
Department of Regional Planning



*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*

Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director

September 6, 2018

**TO:** David W. Louie, Chair  
Elvin W. Moon, Vice Chair  
Doug Smith, Commissioner  
Laura Shell, Commissioner  
Pat Modugno, Commissioner

**FROM:**  Anita D. Gutierrez, MPL, AICP, Supervising Regional Planner  
Community Studies West Section

**SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL MATERIALS/REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE  
CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST  
ATHENS-WESTMONT  
Project No. 2016-000317-(2), Plan No. RPPL2016002080  
Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2017009622  
State Clearing House No. 2017051051  
September 12, 2018 - Agenda Item No. 6**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Since the hearing package was prepared, additional correspondence for the project was received. One email was received on August 31, 2018, from a local resident. Staff responded to clarify that the new zoning would apply to affected properties within the Specific Plan area once the Specific Plan is adopted and takes effect. Staff also indicated that the resident's noted concerns would be forwarded to your Commission.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE**

Since the Notice of Public Hearing was provided in early August, there have been further internal discussions and a meeting with Metro related to sustainability, affordable housing and mobility that staff would like to take the opportunity to address. Staff anticipates this resulting in recommending some additional policies and regulations to strengthen the plan in those areas. Staff will still provide a presentation of the project on September 12, 2018 and would like to hear comments from the Commission and members of the public, however we will be requesting that the Commission continue the matter to October 24, 2018, to allow these additional discussions to conclude and any changes to be incorporated.

**I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING TO OCTOBER 24, 2018.**

If you need further information, please contact Leon Freeman at (213) 974-6406 or [lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov). Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

Exhibits:

- I. Constituent Email dated August 31, 2018

AJB:MC:AG:LF

The Regional Planning Commission  
September 12, 2018  
Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont  
Exhibit I

Constituent Email dated August 31, 2018



**From:** Pat Ruiz  
**To:** "DRP Southwest TOD"  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Public Hearing and Consideration of the Final EIR (Connect Southwest LA)  
**Date:** Friday, August 31, 2018 10:43:52 AM

---

Hi,

My comments I have regarding the proposals is the impact of high density Residential developments.

I live in the area shown in Map 3, Exhibit G...on New Hampshire Avenue.

If I am reading map correctly it says MU and RD 3.2 for the area I am located. Currently there are triplexes, a few single homes and some large apartment complexes on this side of the street...if proposal approved, would it apply until current properties are up for sale, to then be redeveloped?

Current Issues/concerns of high density developments:

Lack of parking provided on site...leading to illegal parking in alleys and parkways..double parking....as well as parking by rail road tracks.....cars get broken into..No security cameras by tracks.

Trash problem. Less care, because they rent and not own I guess.. more trash in vicinity of apartments and adjacent properties. Tenants trash neighborhood along with contractors doing work of apartment buildings/units. Much dumping in vicinity and by railroad tracks.

Dog Poop problem. Love dogs but owners need to clean up after them. Many apartment owners allow pets, but do not provide waste bags or receptacles.

Possible solutions/some help to problems:

Maybe Apartment owners should be required to provide more receptacles on site for trash and poop bags for tenants. More parking on site to avoid illegal/unsafe parking.

Regards  
Ms. Ruiz

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 30, 2018, at 7:54 AM, DRP Southwest TOD <[southwesttod@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:southwesttod@planning.lacounty.gov)> wrote:

(If you can't see the notice below, it is also available at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/Southwest/eir>)



Los Angeles County  
Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR  
CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT**

**PROJECT NO. 2016-000317  
PLAN NO. RPPL2016002080  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2017009622  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017051051**

The Los Angeles County ("County") Regional Planning Commission ("Commission") will conduct a public hearing to consider the EIR and project described below. You will have an opportunity to testify, or you can submit written comments to the planner below or at the public hearing. If the final decision on this proposal is challenged in court, testimony may be limited to issues raised before or at the public hearing.

**HEARING DATE AND TIME:** September 12, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

**HEARING LOCATION:** 320 West Temple St., Hall of Records, Rm. 150, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont ("Specific Plan") encompasses 658 acres generally bounded by Lohengrin/110<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, 120<sup>th</sup>/121<sup>st</sup> Street to the south, Wilton Pl/Western Ave to the west, and Vermont Ave to the east.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed project is a Transit Oriented District (TOD) Specific Plan that would permit the potential development of up to 1,061 additional residential units and approximately 1.7 million square feet of nonresidential development over existing conditions in the plan area. In total, buildout of the project would allow up to 4,518 residential units and approximately 3.5 million square feet of non-residential development.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:** As the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the County Regional Planning Commission will consider the certification of the Environmental Impact Report ("EIR"), which includes the Final EIR ("FEIR") and Draft EIR ("DEIR"). The Commission will also consider adoption of the County Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program ("MMRP"), the CEQA Findings of Fact, and a Statement of Overriding Considerations. The FEIR will be available for review at least 10 days prior to the public hearing date (Cal. Code of Reg. Title 14 Chap. 3 §15089(b)).

Notice of Public Hearing  
August 10, 2018  
Page 2 of 3

For more information regarding this application, contact Leon Freeman at (213) 974-6406 or SouthwestTOD@planning.lacounty.gov, or by mail at Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, 320 W. Temple St., Room 1356, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Project materials are available online at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/Southwest> and at the following libraries:

Woodcrest Library  
1340 W. 106<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

A.C. Bilbrew Library  
150 E. El Segundo Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90059

Project materials will also be available for public review Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at:

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Regional Planning  
Community Studies West Section  
320 West Temple Street, Room 1356  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

If you need reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at (213) 974-6488 (Voice) or (213) 617-2292 (TDD) with at least 3 business days' notice. **Si necesita más información por favor llame al (213) 974-6466.**

<image009.jpg>

This email is provided for your information. No further action is required on your part. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,  
Leon

Leon Freeman, Regional Planner  
Community Studies West Section  
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning  
320 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Direct: (213) 974-6406  
Our office is closed on Fridays.





Los Angeles County  
Department of Regional Planning




*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*

Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director

August 30, 2018

**TO:** David W. Louie, Chair  
Elvin W. Moon, Vice Chair  
Doug Smith, Commissioner  
Laura Shell, Commissioner  
Pat Modugno, Commissioner

**FROM:**  Anita D. Gutierrez, MPL, AICP, Supervising Regional Planner  
Community Studies West Section

**SUBJECT: CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST  
ATHENS-WESTMONT  
Project No. 2016-000317-(2)  
Plan No. RPPL2016002080  
Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2017009622  
State Clearing House No. 2017051051  
September 12, 2018 - Agenda Item No. 6**

The above-mentioned item is a request to recommend approval of Project No. 2016-000317-(2), Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont (Plan No. RPPL2016002080) and associated Environmental Impact Report (Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2017009622) to the Board of Supervisors.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Los Angeles County General Plan (General Plan), which was updated in November 2015, identifies 11 "Transit Oriented District" (TOD) priority areas along major transit corridors. These TOD areas are considered well-suited for higher density housing and mixed uses surrounding existing major commercial, employment, and civic activity nodes. The term "TOD" generally refers to areas, neighborhoods, or communities with concentrated residential, commercial, and mixed-use development served by high-quality transit. Successful TODs provide a variety of transportation options that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase transit ridership, promote walking and bicycling,

reduce vehicle miles traveled, and facilitate housing and employment opportunities for all residents in the region.

The General Plan established the TOD Program, which requires the preparation of Specific Plans for each area. These TOD Specific Plans are intended to address the unique characteristics and needs of each community with regard to access, connectivity, pedestrian improvements, and safety. Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont (Specific Plan) is the third of the 11 identified TOD areas to implement this program. The Specific Plan was initiated in January 2016, and was largely funded by a grant from Metro's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program with some additional funding provided by the Second District.

The Specific Plan regulates approximately 658 acres of unincorporated West Athens-Westmont focused within a half-mile radius of Metro's Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. This area was identified as a TOD due to the proximity of the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station, the 64-acre campus of Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Southwest Station and adjacent municipal service center. The Specific Plan area is also within two miles of aerospace industries in the City of Hawthorne as well as new Los Angeles Stadium and Entertainment District at Hollywood Park in the City of Inglewood.

### **PROPOSED PROJECT**

The Specific Plan is anticipated to guide future transit-oriented development throughout the project area in order to improve connectivity and access for all users and improve the safety, economic vitality, and overall quality of life for all stakeholders. The plan expands opportunities for more compact, infill development that remains compatible with the existing single-family neighborhoods and other land uses. The Specific Plan will be used in conjunction with the General Plan and County Code to provide more detailed design and development criteria for individual project proposals and public improvements in the project area. The plan defines the proposed land use plan, development standards, infrastructure improvements, design guidelines, and implementation program for any project proposed in the Specific Plan area. The Specific Plan would permit the potential development of up to 1,061 additional residential units and approximately 1.7 million square feet of nonresidential development over existing conditions in the plan area. In total, buildout of the project would allow up to 4,518 residential units and approximately 3.5 million square feet of non-residential development.

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project area is generally bounded by Lohengrin/110<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, 120<sup>th</sup>/121<sup>st</sup> Street to the south, Wilton Place/Western Avenue to the west, and Vermont Avenue to the east. The major north/south arterial roadways are Western Avenue, Normandie Avenue and Vermont Avenue. The main east/west arterial roadway is Imperial Highway.

The Specific Plan area is bisected by the I-105 Glenn Anderson Freeway which runs below grade through the area and accommodates Metro's Green Line light rail service in its center median. Just over half a mile to the east, the I-110 Harbor Freeway parallels Vermont Avenue.

### **GOALS OF THE SPECIFIC PLAN**

A specific vision and set of goals were defined for the Specific Plan based on input received from community members, the project task force, and County staff. The Specific Plan establishes the foundation for a more livable, accessible, and sustainable community by following these five Guiding Principles:

1. Promote uses in proximity to the transit station, along major streets, and at significant intersections that benefit from the economic opportunities afforded by the presence of the Green Line and major educational and public facilities.
2. Improve the public right of way to increase mobility options for pedestrians and bicyclists.
3. Enhance the sense of safety.
4. Ensure compatible development.
5. Improve the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station to make it more inviting to transit users.

Based on these principles, the Specific Plan lays out the following goals:

1. **A Mix of Land Uses.** Policies to achieve this goal include encouraging adaptive reuse and appropriately scaled infill, mixed-use developments (Policy 1.1) and promote a mix of uses and services to support the needs of families, youth, seniors, and a growing population (Policy 1.4).
2. **Affordable Housing Options.** Policies to achieve this goal include increasing the supply of different housing types affordable to the community (Policy 2.1); allowing for the integration of housing strategies such as Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units to alleviate the struggles of people experiencing homelessness (Policy 2.2); streamlining and expediting affordable housing projects through the project and environmental review process and coordinating with private and non-profit organizations (Policy 2.4) and ensuring there is no net loss of affordable housing units (Policy 2.5).
3. **A Diverse Economy.** Policies to achieve this goal include encouraging employment generating uses where possible by continuing to allow commercial uses along major corridors (Policy 3.1) and requiring that street frontages of commercial uses are located and designed to foster active pedestrian activity (Policy 3.3).

4. **A Variety of Mobility Options.** Policies to achieve this goal include providing a variety of transportation choices that promote accessible alternatives to the automobile including walking, biking and taking transit (Policy 4.2) and providing a safe and comfortable pedestrian network linking the transit station with LASC, commercial centers, county facilities and residential neighborhoods (Policy 4.6).
5. **A Safe and Healthy Community.** Policies to achieve this goal include incorporating more lighting and visibility along streets and pedestrian ways (Policy 5.1) and improving community health by supporting policies and programs aimed at promoting physical fitness and increasing access to healthy foods (Policy 5.5).
6. **Quality Parks, Open Space, and Public Space Infrastructure.** Policies to achieve this goal include encouraging the redesign of the west-side entrance to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station with ample amenities and improve the comfort and safety of transit users (Policy 6.2) and increasing recreational opportunities for the community by creating neighborhood pocket parks and finding other creative uses for underutilized open space (Policy 6.4).

## **LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK**

### **Land Use Districts**

The Specific Plan is divided into five land use districts to better address the unique characteristics within each area.

1. **Vermont Station Corridor.** This district encompasses the properties fronting Vermont Avenue from 110<sup>th</sup> to 120<sup>th</sup> Street and includes the west side entrance to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station. This area is intended to be developed over time as a transit supportive environment providing a higher-intensity mix of retail, office, restaurant uses and residential development in a compact, walkable setting. A variety of open spaces such as pocket parks and urban plazas could also be provided in this district.
2. **Civic Center.** This district encompasses the properties on the south side of Imperial Highway between Western Avenue and Budlong Avenue and is occupied by institutional land uses, including Los Angeles Southwest College, that share similar building form, massing, architectural design and relation to the street. Underutilized land owned by the County at the corner of Imperial Highway and Normandie Avenue has the potential to accommodate additional community-serving uses and the Specific plan will help facilitate the transition of these existing uses to a higher intensity development. Over time, the area would integrate the multifamily residential areas to the east into a more walkable, pedestrian-oriented district that is well connected to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station.

3. **Western Avenue Commercial Corridor.** This district is located on the north side of the I-105 freeway along Western Avenue and is suitable for community serving uses including infill commercial only as well as mixed use development that combine housing with retail, service, office and other uses to promote more pedestrian activity.
4. **Single Family Residential.** This district encompasses the residential neighborhoods north of the I-105 Freeway and west of Normandie Avenue, and south of the I-105 Freeway and west of Budlong Avenue. These neighborhoods consist of typical post-war single family housing tracts that are an important housing type benefiting the community. The Specific Plan aims to preserve these neighborhoods.
5. **Multifamily Residential.** This district encompasses residential neighborhoods north of the I-105 Freeway and east of Normandie Avenue and south of the I-105 Freeway and east of Budlong Avenue that consists mostly of multi-family duplexes, triplexes and apartment buildings built between 1920 and 1960 that are an important source of affordable housing. The Specific Plan provides opportunities for compatible development that promote transit supportive densities of affordable and work force housing close to transit and other services.

Specific strategies and conceptual plan drawings are included for each district to depict desirable building locations, streetscapes and relationship between buildings and open spaces. The strategies and concepts are not prescriptive but illustrate one alternative method of development consistent with the recommendations provided in the Specific Plan.

### **Regulating Code**

The regulating code establishes ten new zones. Each zone includes use regulations, built form regulations, building frontage standards, open space standards, landscape standards and other design standards addressing streetscape elements such as lighting, furnishings, public art, and outdoor dining. The purpose is to ensure cohesive, high quality design without dictating a particular architectural style and to foster innovative design features and site-appropriate architecture constructed with quality materials complemented by landscape and open spaces providing connectivity between uses.

**West Athens-Westmont Residential 1 (R-1).** Preserves the scale and form of the area's existing single-family residential neighborhoods. It accommodates primarily detached single-family homes at a density up to nine dwelling units per acre.

**West Athens-Westmont Residential 2 (R-2).** Provides opportunities for medium density housing including a variety of attached housing types such as courtyard housing, row homes, townhomes, and garden apartments containing multiple units up to 18 dwelling units per acre.

**West Athens-Westmont Residential 3 (R-3).** Accommodates medium density developments such as apartment or condominiums close to transit and other services at up to 30 dwelling units per acre.

**RPD-5000-10U - Residential Planned Development (RPD-5000-10U).** Standards are unchanged and remain consistent with Title 22 of the Los Angeles County code.

**Neighborhood Commercial (C-2).** Serves the local retail and service needs of the residents, employees and students in West Athens-Westmont allowing for the development of neighborhood-serving uses such as markets with ancillary goods, retail, services, and restaurants.

**Civic Center (CC).** Allows opportunities for non-civic uses including commercial, multifamily residential and public open space, where appropriate, to occur with civic uses located along Imperial Highway.

**Mixed Use 1 (MXD-1).** Promotes development of a mix of commercial, office, and residential uses up to 30 dwelling units per acre with an emphasis on neighborhood serving uses.

**Mixed Use 2 (MXD-2).** Supports a transit-supportive environment providing a higher-intensity mix of retail, office, restaurant uses, and residential development in a more compact and walkable setting with a density up to 60 dwelling units per acre.

**Public Institutional (IT).** Provides for established public uses including schools, parks, and other public uses for the purposes of community open space, recreation, sense of identity and safe connections to points of destination.

**Buffer Zone (B-1).** Provides a buffer from the I-105 Glenn Anderson Freeway appropriate for passive recreation, landscaping and parking lots. Buildings or permanent structures are not permitted under this category.

Comprehensive design guidelines for all zones ensure a high quality built environment. Design guidelines regulate building placement and orientation, frontages, and materials and provide consideration of public realm improvements for pedestrian circulation, landscaping, street trees, fences, walls and outdoor lighting.

### **MOBILITY AND PUBLIC REALM**

The Mobility Strategy for the Specific Plan describes the circulation improvements needed to support transit oriented development. A key component is the transformation of the

current network to one that places a higher priority on the principles of complete streets and multi-modal design. To support transit-oriented development, the plan sets the following mobility goals:

- Improve accessibility to transit through the provision of streetscape improvements, high quality bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, wayfinding signage and other enhancements consistent with Metro's First/Last Mile Strategic Plan.
- Design streets to facilitate safe, accessible connections between major destinations for multiple modes of transportation.
- Develop and incorporate parking management strategies that encourage the efficient use of parking resources and support programs that can reduce the parking supply needed.

The mobility goals are implemented through improvements coordinated with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, such as additional landscaping and bike lanes and multi-modal design along Vermont Avenue (Class II bike lanes), 120<sup>th</sup> Street (Class II bike lanes), Budlong Ave (Class III bike lanes), Western Avenue (Class II bike lanes) and Normandie Avenue (Class II bike lanes).

Along Vermont Avenue, the Specific Plan recommends redesigning the west-side entrance to the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station with ample amenities to improve the comfort and safety of transit users. The Specific Plan also proposes design guidelines to promote safer routes to school that include: appropriate levels of street lighting installed on both sides of wide streets, appropriate traffic controls at pedestrian crossings, and curb ramps with warning strips to facility the safe crossing of pedestrians including those with mobility or vision impairments.

Finally, the Plan seeks to remedy the lack of connectivity between the Vermont/Athens Green Line Station and LASC by recommending a multi-use path be constructed adjacent to the I-105 freeway right of way. This path would provide students and staff a safe and more direct path of travel making the Green Line a more attractive alternative for getting to the LASC campus.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**Infrastructure.** Addresses the critical infrastructure requirements associated with future development in the Specific Plan area, including water, sewer, stormwater, solid waste, and public services. This section identifies the specific water supply and sewer facilities within the plan area that may require upgrades and finds that other utilities and systems are adequate to accommodate potential new growth.

**Economic Development Strategy.** Facilitating economic growth within the Specific Plan area with require concrete and sustained public intervention. Economic development refers to support for the success and proliferatin of businesses as well as support for

increased employment opportunities, household incomes, skills and overall economic security. The Economic Development Strategy provides a framework for the practical implementation and realization of the Specific Plans economic development objectives with near-term and medium-term strategies:

Near-Term Strategies (Place-Based Interventions):

- Make Bicycle, Pedestrian and Placemaking Improvements
- Use the Façade Improvement Program
- Begin Brownfield Remediation Process at I-105/Normandie
- Implement Specific Plan Design Guidelines

Near-Term Strategies (Programmatic Interventions):

- Community-driven initiative to improve safety
- Expand skills training and job readiness with LASC
- Establish a homeless housing motel initiative

Medium- and Long-Term Strategies (Place-Based Interventions):

- Public Development of Joint Amenities
- Joint Development with LASC

Medium- and Long-Term Strategies (Programmatic Interventions):

- Establish off-campus community programming and facilities
- Develop small business incentives
- Encourage a mix of job-providing tenants
- Affordable housing development, preservation and rehabilitation
- Establish a land banking and/or land trusting strategy

## **PLAN CONSISTENCY**

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

The Specific Plan is consistent with and/or implements a number of policies and objectives of the General Plan. The General Plan emphasizes the concept of sustainability through its five guiding principles:

- Employ Smart Growth
- Ensure community services and infrastructure are sufficient to accommodate growth
- Provide the foundation for a strong and diverse economy
- Promote excellence in environmental resource management
- Provide healthy, livable and equitable communities



The General Plan includes the establishment of TODs as a main policy area. The Transit Oriented District Program (General Plan Implementation Program LU-2) includes the following goals:

- Increase walking, bicycling, and transit ridership and reduce vehicle miles traveled;
- Facilitate compact, mixed use development;
- Increase economic activity;
- Facilitate the public investment of infrastructure improvements; and,
- Streamline the environmental review process for future infill development projects.

The Transit Oriented District Program is also described in the General Plan Housing Element (Program 6). The following are some of the applicable General Plan Land Use Element and Housing Element policies:

Policy LU 4.1:	Encourage infill development in urban and suburban areas on vacant, underutilized, and/or brownfield sites.
Policy LU 4.3:	Encourage transit-oriented development in urban and suburban areas with the appropriate residential density along transit corridors and within station areas.
Policy LU 4.4:	Encourage mixed use development along major commercial corridors in urban and suburban areas.
Policy LU 5.1:	Encourage a mix of residential land use designations and development regulations that accommodate various densities, building types and styles.
Policy LU 5.2:	Encourage a diversity of commercial and retail services, and public facilities at various scales to meet regional and local needs.
Policy LU 5.3:	Support a mix of land uses that promote bicycling and walking, and reduce VMTs.
Policy LU 5.10:	Encourage employment opportunities and housing to be developed in proximity to one another.
Policy M 5.1:	Facilitate transit-oriented land uses and pedestrian-oriented design, particularly in the first-last mile connections to transit, to encourage transit ridership.
Policy M 5.2:	Implement parking strategies that facilitate transit use and reduce automobile dependence.
Policy PS/F 1.5:	Focus infrastructure investment, maintenance and expansion efforts where the General Plan encourages development.
Policy ED 2.5:	Encourage employment opportunities to be located in proximity to housing.
Policy ED 2.7:	Incentivize economic development and growth along existing transportation corridors and in urbanized areas.
Policy ED 4.4:	Incentivize infill development in urban and suburban areas that revitalizes underutilized commercial and industrial areas.

Policy 2.1: (Housing Element)	Support the development of housing for low and moderate income households and those with special needs near employment and transit.
Policy 2.2: (Housing Element)	Encourage mixed use developments along major commercial and transportation corridors.

The following are General Plan Goals with details and explanation of how the Specific Plan works toward achieving them.

- Infill development and redevelopment that strengthens and enhances communities.

Mixed use developments are encouraged along major avenues with comprehensive design guidelines that emphasize the street environment. Sidewalks are enlivened by encouraging widening, new bicycle infrastructure, street trees, and street furniture and by accommodating new uses like outdoor dining that would bring people outdoors.

- Vibrant, livable and healthy communities with a mix of land uses, services and amenities.

The Specific Plan designates areas that provide opportunities for retail and residential mixed use and adds potential for more opportunities for active transportation. A more intensive mixed use is also applied to provide potential for more employment generating uses that support the LASC campus while also providing new, desirable and affordable housing options in proximity to the Metro station and other local amenities.

- Land use planning and transportation management that facilitates the use of transit.

The Specific Plan focuses on enhancing connectivity between the LASC campus and the Vermont/Athens Green Line station but also recognizes the important role that buses play in the lives of area transit users. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements throughout the area will make it easier and more comfortable for people to access these services as well as the Metro station.

- A coordinated, reliable, and equitable network of public facilities that preserves resources, ensures public health and safety, and keeps pace with planned development.

The Specific Plan takes a measured approach that increases residential densities based on economic analysis of what the area could reasonably accommodate in the foreseeable future. This increased density is planned for with an understanding of the infrastructure investments identified and capital improvements that are needed as development occurs.

- Land use practices and regulations that foster economic development and growth.

The Specific Plan applies a land use strategy to take advantage of ongoing public investments in West Athens-Westmont by providing design guidelines and allowable densities for mixed development that will increase housing and employment opportunities and provide better access to the station. It allows the flexibility for areas to transition naturally as demand increases to meet the needs of students and residents who live, shop and work in the area.

- Sustainable communities with access to employment opportunities, community facilities and services, and amenities.

The Specific Plan implements a targeted mixed use strategy that balances preserving the community character of West Athens-Westmonts unique neighborhoods with opportunities of significant public investment in the region. The Specific Plan allows the area to grow to include commercial and residential mixed uses, increase housing densities, and provide for additional neighborhood-serving retail uses that will support and promote walking and biking.

#### **WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT COMMUNITY PLAN**

The West Athens-Westmont Community Plan was adopted on March 15, 1989, to establish land use and zoning that supported policies to preserve and improve the quality of life in the community. The land use polices recommended infill development and redevelopment to improve the economic base, while precluding intensification of existing residential neighborhoods. The Specific Plan replaces the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan provisions for the Specific Plan area. For consistency, the land use categories established in the West Athen-Westmont Community Plan are amended within the Specific Plan area to align with the updated land use categories provided in the General Plan. The West Athens-Westmont Community Plan is otherwise unchanged and remains in place for the portions of unincorporated West Athens-Westmont that are outside of the Specific Plan area.

#### **WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT (CSD)**

The West Athens-Westmont Community Standards District CSD is a zoning overlay district established to provide a means of implementing special development standards necessary to ensure the goals and policies of the West Athens-Westmont Community Plan. The Specific Plan also replaces the CSD provisions for the Specific Plan area. The West Athens-Westmont CSD is otherwise unchanged and remains in place for the portions of unincorporated West Athens-Westmont that are outside of the Specific Plan area.

## **STEP BY STEP LA COUNTY: PEDESTRIAN PLANS FOR UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES**

A concurrent effort in the West Athens-Westmont community, led by Public Health has also been underway. The Step by Step LA County: Pedestrian Plans for Unincorporated Communities program was initiated to provide a policy framework for how the County is proposing to get more people walking, make walking safer and support healthy active lifestyles. It includes comprehensive Community Pedestrian Plans for five unincorporated communities, including West Athens-Westmont, and provided opportunities for joint outreach and in-depth collaboration. It is currently under final review by the Department of Public Works and is anticipated to be presented to the Regional Planning Commission this fall and to the Board of Supervisors for adoption by the end of the year. The policies and recommendations in Step by Step LA County are compatible and complement the active transportation strategies in the Specific Plan.

## **MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)**

Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6, requires that an agency adopt a monitoring or reporting program for any project for which it has made findings pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 or adopted a Negative Declaration pursuant to 21080(c). Such a program is intended to ensure the implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration. The MMRP is included as Chapter 2 in the Final EIR, is included as an attachment to this memo, and can also be found on the Specific Plan web page.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was circulated for a 45 day public review and comment from May 16, 2018, to June 29, 2018, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reporting requirements. The DEIR was posted online and a copy was sent to the Woodcrest Library and the A.C. Bilbrew Library. The Notice of Completion/Availability was mailed and emailed to 3931 postal addresses and 54 email addresses and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on May 15, 2018. A public meeting to take comments on the Draft EIR was held on May 24, 2018. The County received four (4) comment letters and no comments from two (2) attendees at the DEIR public meeting. All comments are addressed in the Response to Comments section of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR).

The FEIR contains a summary of the potential environmental effects of the Specific Plan, the recommended mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid those effects, and the level of significance after mitigation. Implementation of the mitigation measures, as detailed in each environmental analysis section presented in the EIR, would reduce most of the potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. However, even with the implementation of the mitigation measures, the plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts in the following areas: air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse

gas emissions, and transportation and traffic. The FEIR, which includes the DEIR, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and Response to Comments is attached as Exhibit B and C.

### **NOTIFICATION**

A notice of public hearing and consideration of the Specific Plan and Final EIR was mailed and emailed to 3,931 postal addresses and 54 email addresses and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram on August 9, 2018. Furthermore, the Draft Specific Plan and EIR was made available on the project website, at the Woodcrest Library and A.C. Bilbrew Library and at the DRP offices downtown. The FEIR was available for review at least 10 days prior to the public hearing date.

### **OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

Sixteen outreach events, including four hosted workshops and meetings with public stakeholders, occurred in the community beginning in 2016. Throughout the planning process for the Specific Plan, Regional Planning staff met with and received input from the following local community groups: Southwest Community Association, West Athens-Westmont Task Force, West Athens-Westmont Best Startcritand Los Angeles Southwest College. Regional Planning staff also attended and participated stakeholder meetings for the Concerned Citizens of Willowbrook; the HawthorNEXT Specific Plan [for the nearby Metro Green Line Crenshaw Station]; the Second District Empowerment Congress, Economic Development Committee; and at meetings with plot-holders at the West Athens Victory Garden, which is managed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust.

### **HOSTED PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS**

- Public Workshop #1: April 7, 2016 – “SWOT Analysis” – Chester Washington Golf Course (26 attendees)
- Public Workshop #2: May 14, 2016 – “SWOT Analysis” – Chester Washing Golf Course (14 attendees)
- Public Meeting #3: October 6, 2016 – “Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, Goals & Objectives” – Helen Keller Park Community Recreation Room (21 attendees)
- Public Meeting #4 December 8, 2016 – “Opportunity Areas and Proposed Zoning” – Helen Keller Park Community Recreation Room (9 attendees)

### **COMMUNITY SURVEY AND OPEN HOUSE TABLES**

Another outreach tool utilized was an online survey provided to local stakeholders. This informal, information survey was released on March 17, 2016, and closed on February 6, 2017. A total of 57 surveys were collected. Additionally, DRP staff hosted information tables at the Weingart YMCA Wellness & Aquatic Center Healthy Kids Community Day, the 74th Street/Raymond Avenue Elementary School Fair, and the Juneteenth Community Celebration in Willowbrook.

### **COURTESY NOTICES AND MAILINGS**

More than 3,931 courtesy postcard notices were mailed and 54 emails sent to announce public meetings on April 7, 2016, (Public Workshop #1); May 14, 2016, (Public Workshop #2); October 6, 2016, (Public Workshop #3); December 4, 2016, (Public Workshop #4); June 15, 2017, (Public Scoping Meeting); and May 24, 2018 (Public Meeting to Take Comments on the Draft EIR).

### **PROJECT TASK FORCE**

A project task force of County departments, State agencies and local partners held five quarterly meetings starting in February 2016, establishing relationships at the start of the project that carried through to the environmental review. Members of the task force included staff from County and County-family departments including the Arts Commission, Community Development Commission, Fire Department, Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Health Services, Mental Health, the Sheriff's Department and Metro. Other representatives were from Los Angeles Southwest College as well as planning staff from Caltrans and planners from the cities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, and Los Angeles.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The following recommendation is made prior to the public hearing and is subject to change based upon the testimony and/or documentary evidence presented at the public hearing:

Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont offers an opportunity to create more engaging and vibrant places by leveraging the community's assets, connecting uses and activities and laying the groundwork for attracting future investment. The Specific Plan provides for mixed-use areas with aesthetically-pleasing building design and parking requirements complemented with bicycle and pedestrian public realm improvements that will enhance connectivity and make it easier to use public transportation.

Staff recommends the Regional Planning Commission close the public hearing, and adopt the resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors certify and adopt the EIR (Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2017009622; State Clearinghouse No. 2018051051), adopt the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and adopt a resolution recommending approval to the Board of Supervisors for Advance Planning Project No. 2016-000317.

**I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CERTIFY AND ADOPT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2017009622 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017051051) PREPARED FOR CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA: A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT ADVANCE PLANNING PROJECT NO. 2016-000317-(2) PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, ADOPT THE CEQA FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS, AND ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM.**

**I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPT THE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONNECT SOUTHWEST LA; A TOD SPECIFIC PLAN FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT ADVANCE PLANNING PROJECT NO. 2016-000317-(2).**

If you need further information, please contact Leon Freeman at (213) 974-6406 or [lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov). Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

Exhibits:

- A. Connect Southwest LA: A TOD Specific Plan for West Athens-Westmont – Public Hearing Draft, August 2018
- B. Final Environmental Impact Report on CD
- C. Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program
- D. CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- E. Draft Resolution of the Regional Planning Commission
- F. Draft Zoning Ordinance
- G. Community Plan Land Use Amendments
- H. Zone Change Map

AJB:MC:AG:LF

