



CALIFORNIA
High-Speed Rail Authority

Fresno to Bakersfield Final Supplemental EIR and Project Approval

Presented By: Diana Gomez, Andrew Bayne, and Mark A. McLoughlin

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Bakersfield City Hall



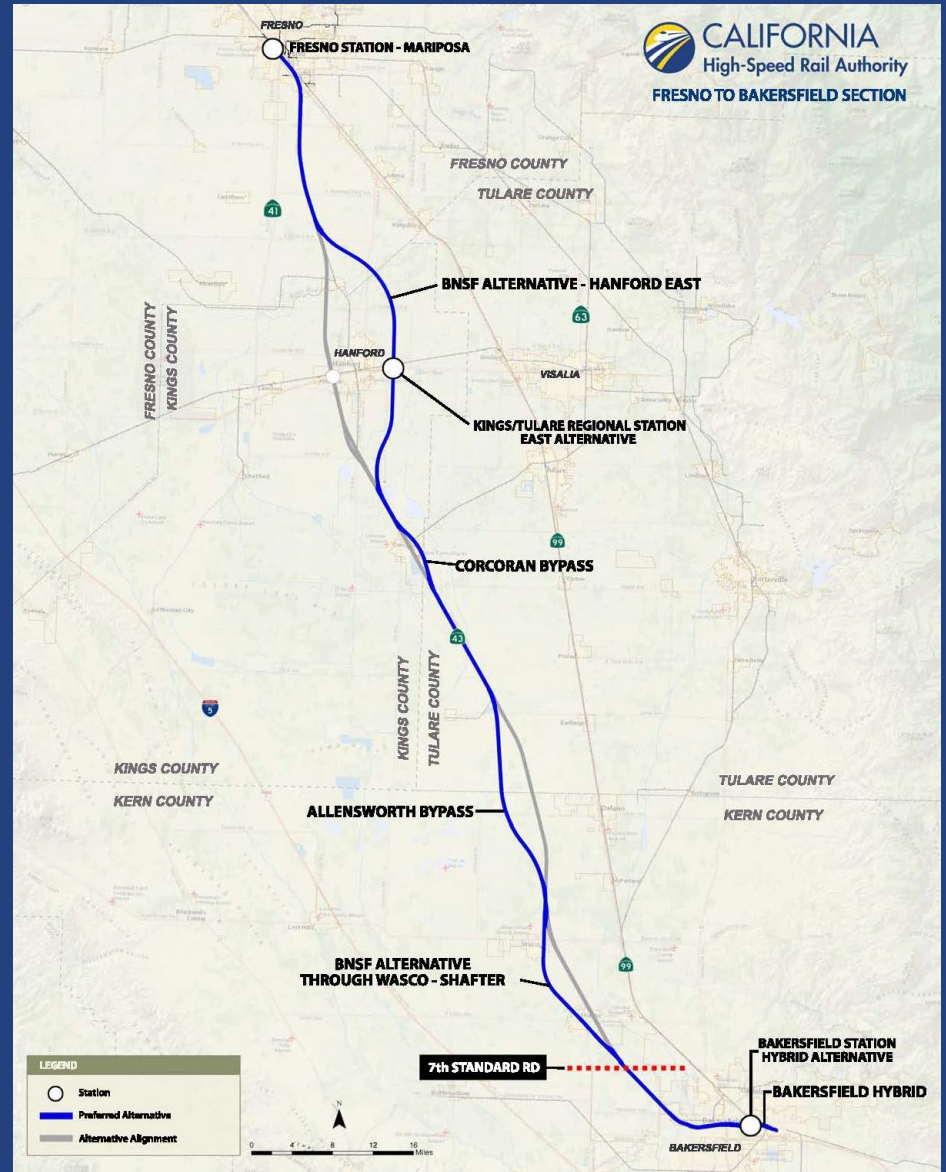
DIANA GOMEZ
CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

TODAY'S REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

- Certify the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Locally Generated Alternative
- Approve the Locally Generated Alternative from approximately Poplar Avenue near Shafter and including a Station at F Street in the City of Bakersfield
 - » Make CEQA findings
 - » Approve the mitigation program

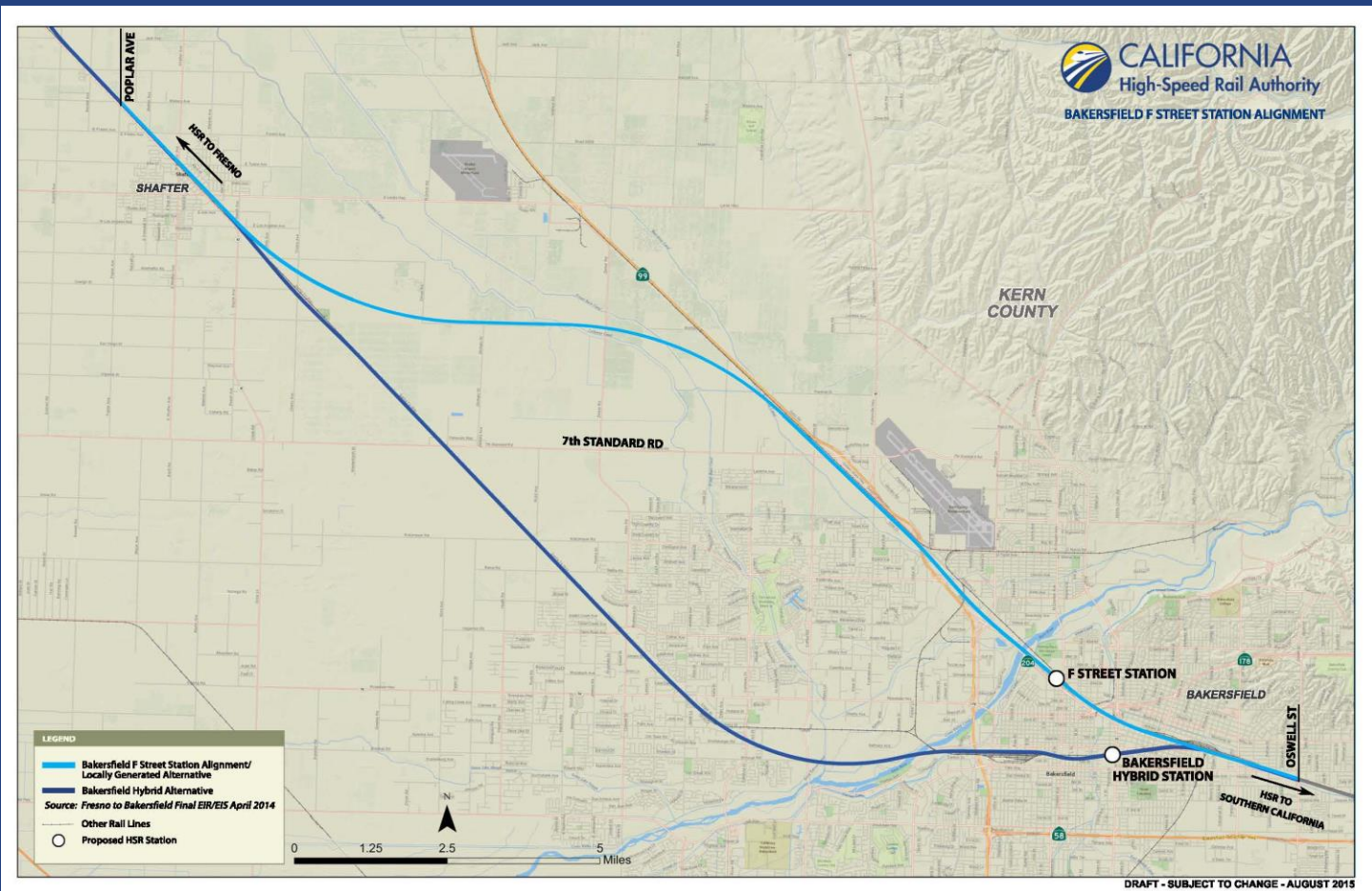
BACKGROUND

- Authority certified the 2014 Final EIR/EIS and approved the Fresno to Bakersfield Preferred Alternative to 7th Standard Road



LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- Authority and the City reached a settlement in December 2014 that had the Authority examine a Bakersfield locally generated alternative (LGA)



PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

- Since December 2014, the Authority has hosted more than 150 meetings with the public and agency representatives
 - » Approximately 25 Monthly Agency Coordination Meetings
 - » Approximately 125 stakeholder meetings
 - » 5 Open Houses
 - » 1 Public Hearing



RESULTS OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

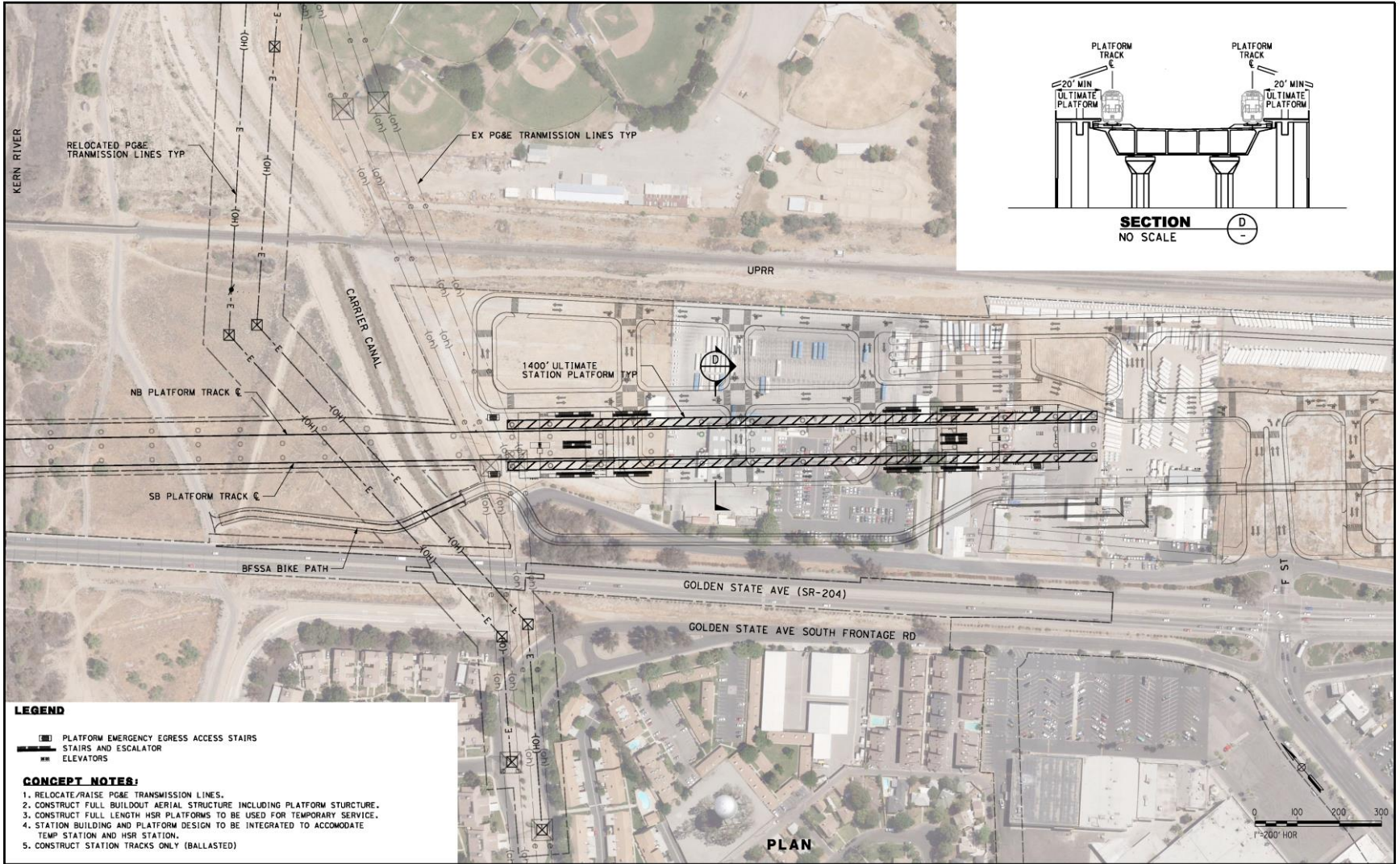
- The Authority participated in 6 technical working group meetings with the City of Shafter
- Shafter Retained Fill Option
 - HSR and BNSF on a retained fill section
 - At-grade crossings of BNSF through downtown Shafter would be eliminated
 - Coordinated with City to refine the alignment through the City



F STREET STATION

- Authority is committed to connecting the Silicon Valley to the Central Valley (from San Francisco to Bakersfield) as quickly as possible
- Authority likely would phase development of the station at F Street as service ramps up
- Several options were developed, evaluated and we will continue to meet with City to further refine options.
- The Authority has participated in 7 technical working group meetings with the City of Bakersfield
- The Authority continues to coordinate with the City of Bakersfield
 - » Vision Plan
 - » Station Design/Aesthetics

F STREET STATION: VTOV TERMINAL STATION



DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

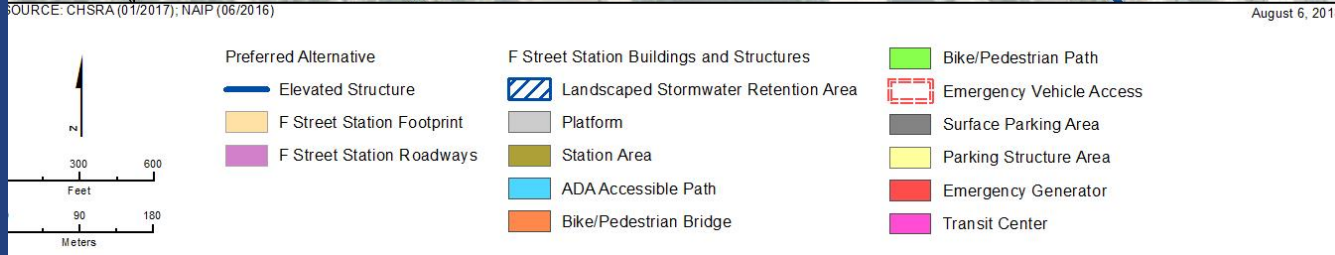
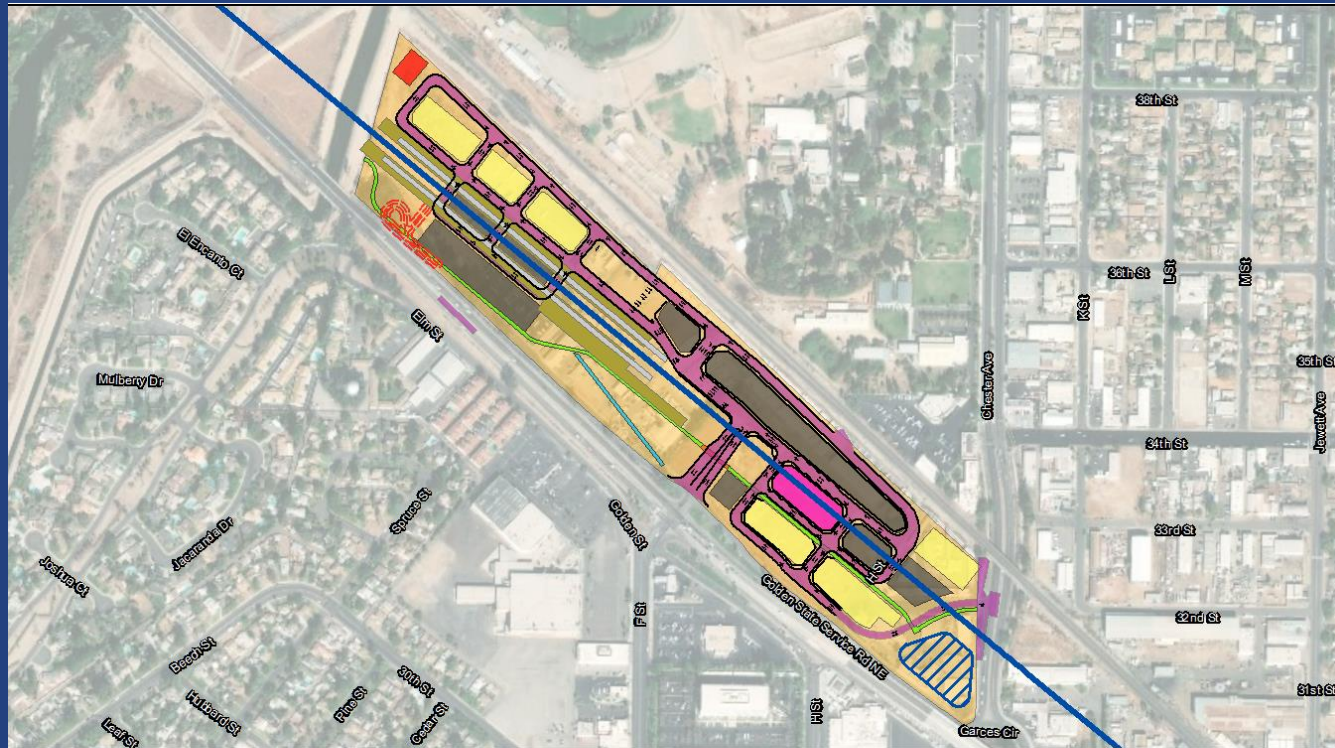
CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

EXHIBIT
BFSSA TEMPORARY STATION - CONCEPT D

DRAFT
DATE: 04/05/18

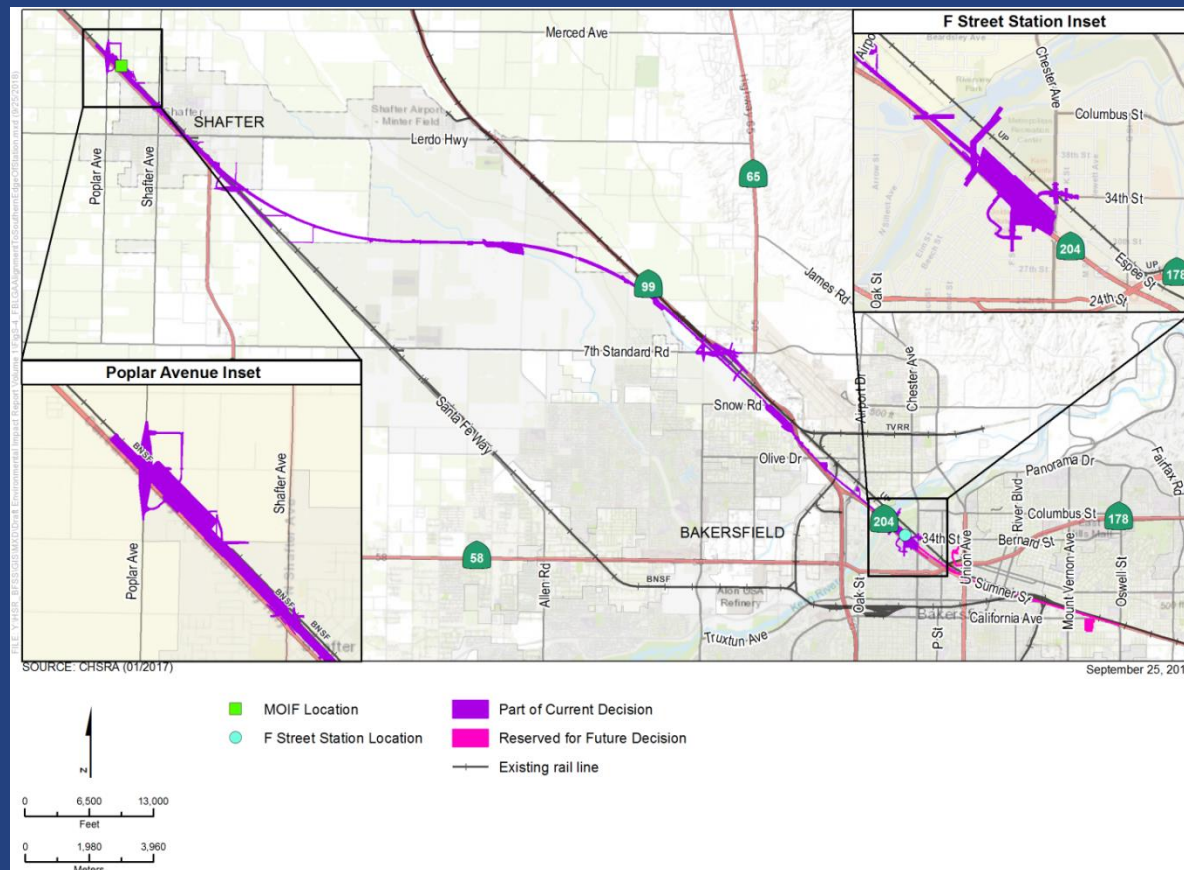
IN-LINE STATION

- F Street Station:



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

- The Authority Board identified the F-B LGA as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative at the May 10, 2016 Board Meeting
- Staff carried F-B LGA as the **Preferred Alternative** into the F-B Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS



ANDREW BAYNE
PROJECT MANAGER AND ENVIRONMENTAL TASK
LEAD

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

- **November 2017, Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS**
 - » 60-day review period (November 9, 2017-January 16, 2018)
 - » Public Hearing December 19, 2017
 - » Comments included written comments, project hotline, email comments, web-based comments, and oral comments at the Public Hearing
 - » The Authority received **286** submissions and **1,068** individual comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

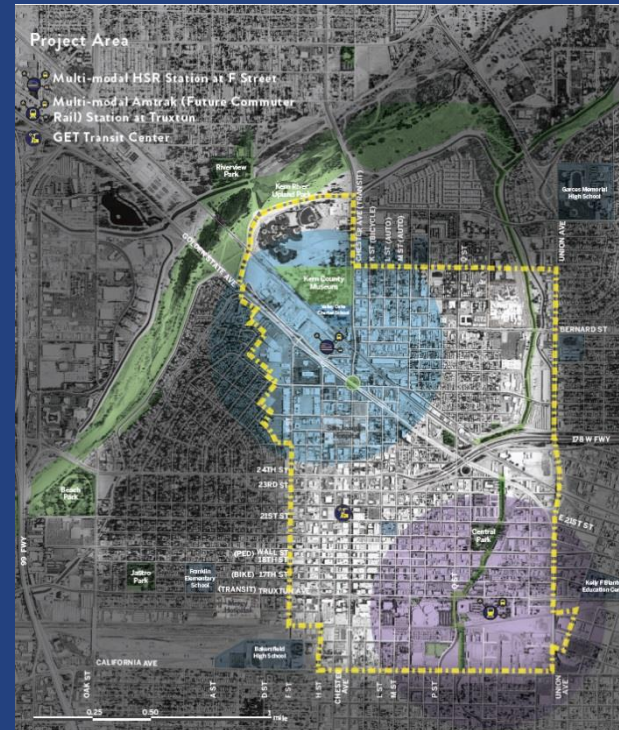
- Joint Document circulated for 60-day review
- Separate release of the Final Supplemental EIR and a Final Supplemental EIS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

- **Frequently submitted comments resulted in the development of standard responses**
 - » Proximity of F Street Station to Downtown and Amtrak Station
 - » Support of/Opposition to the Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated and May 2014 Project Alternatives
 - » Comments with Opinion Only
 - » HMF-Oil Refinery

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

- **Proximity of F Street Station to Downtown and Amtrak Station**
 - » Connectivity of HSR Station
 - » Redevelopment Opportunity



City of Bakersfield Station Area Vision Plan
(May 2018)

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

- **Support of/Opposition to the Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated and May 2014 Project Alternatives**

- » Socioeconomic

- » Transportation

- » Noise

- » Aesthetics



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

- **Comments with Opinion Only**

- » Station Location

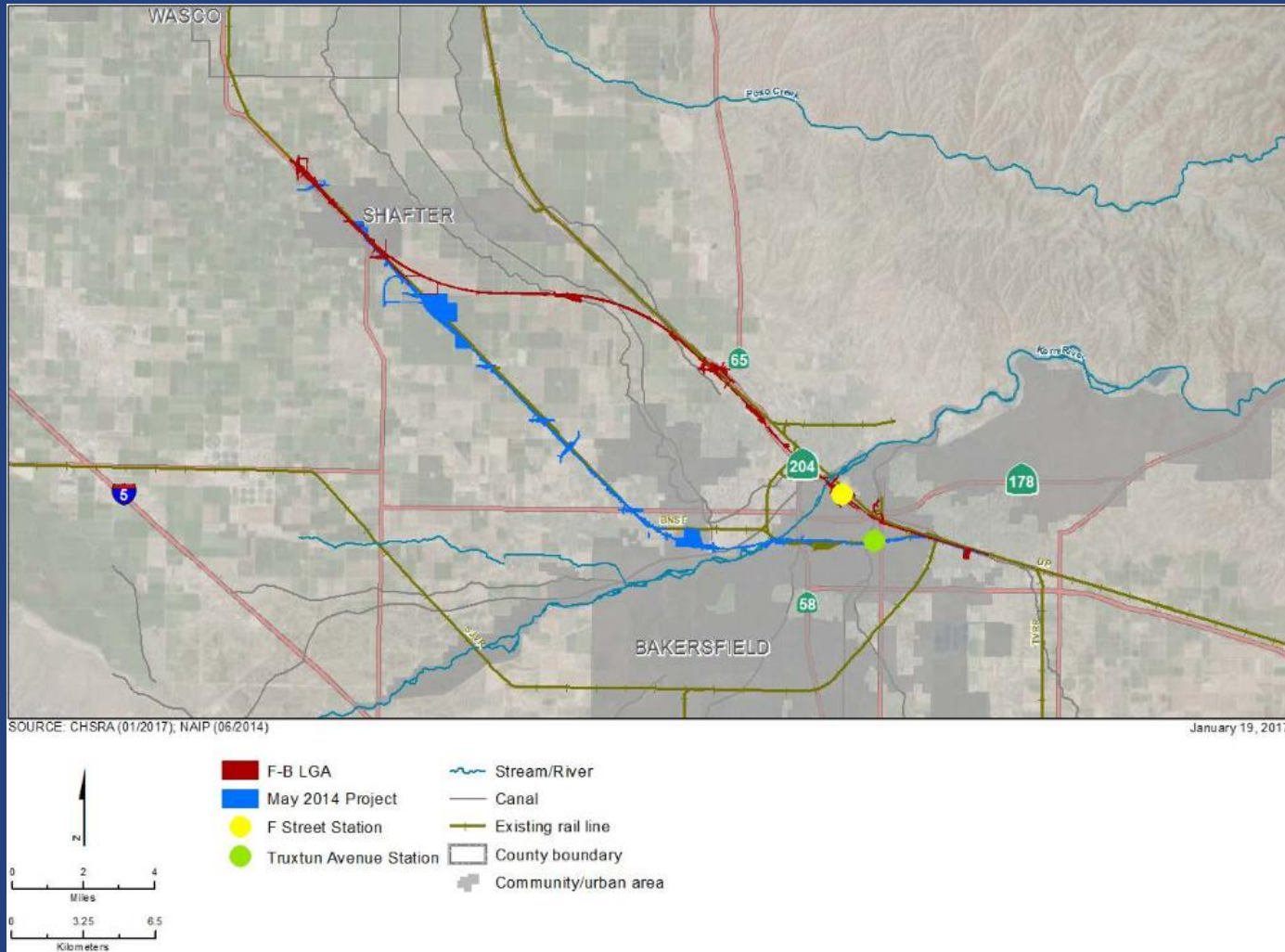
- » Local Jurisdictions

- » Program



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS

- General Standard Response – 11
HMF-Oil Refinery



ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED TO THE LGA

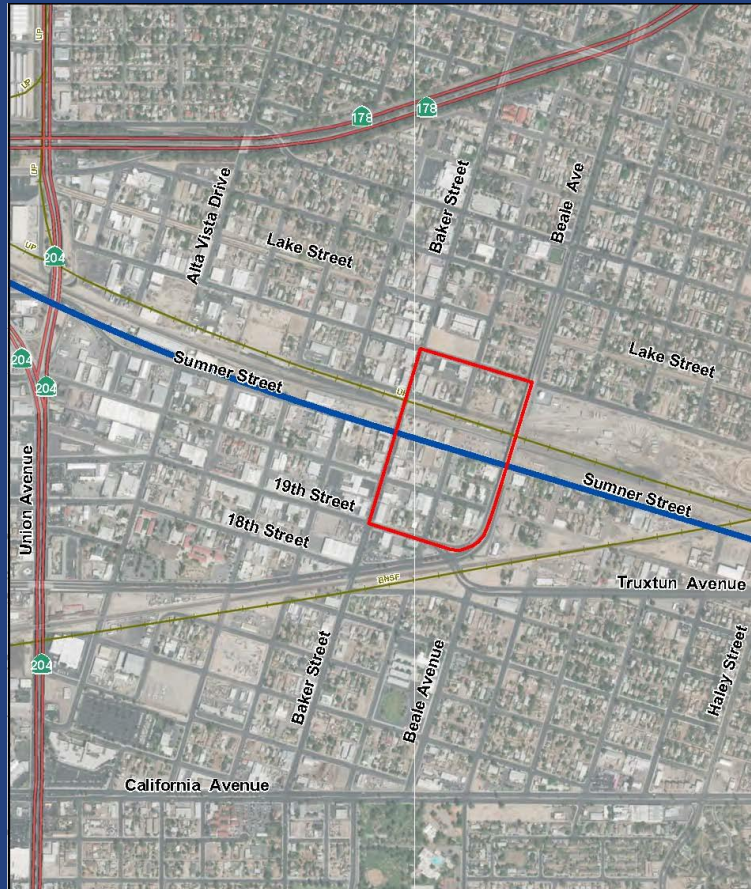
- Old Town Kern (along Sumner Street between Baker Street and Beale Avenue)
- Old Town Kern (along Sumner Street between Beale Avenue and Miller Street)
- Saco Ranch (7th Standard Road and Snow Road)

OLD TOWN KERN

- Summary/Discussion of Comments Received

Alternative Station Sites

- » Old Town Kern (along Sumner Street between Baker Street and Beale Avenue)

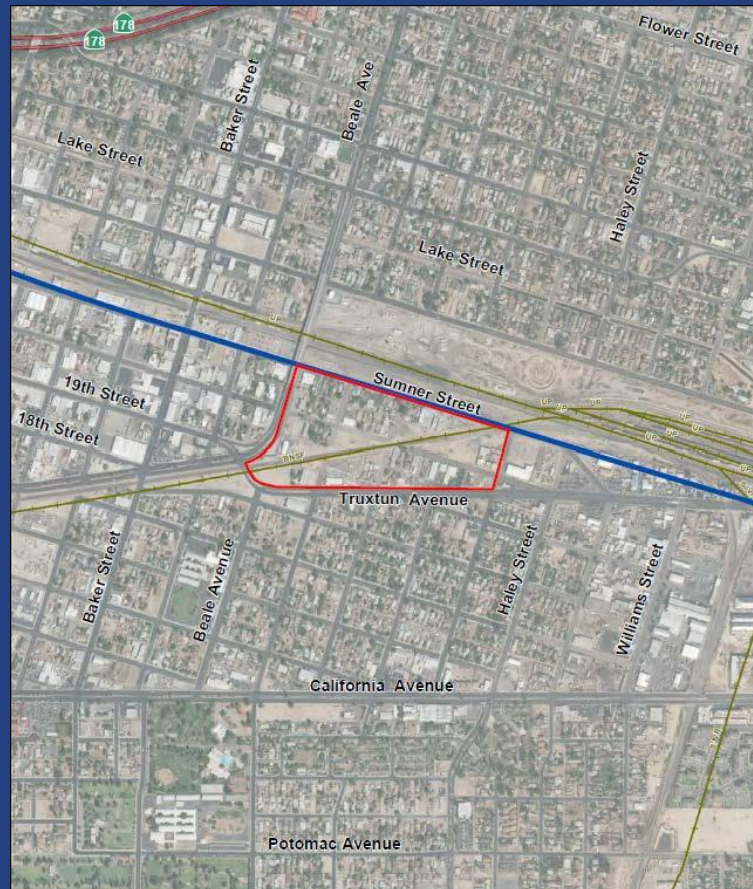


OLD TOWN KERN

- **Summary/Discussion of Comments Received**

- Alternative Station Sites

- » Old Town Kern (along Sumner Street between Beale Avenue and Miller Street)

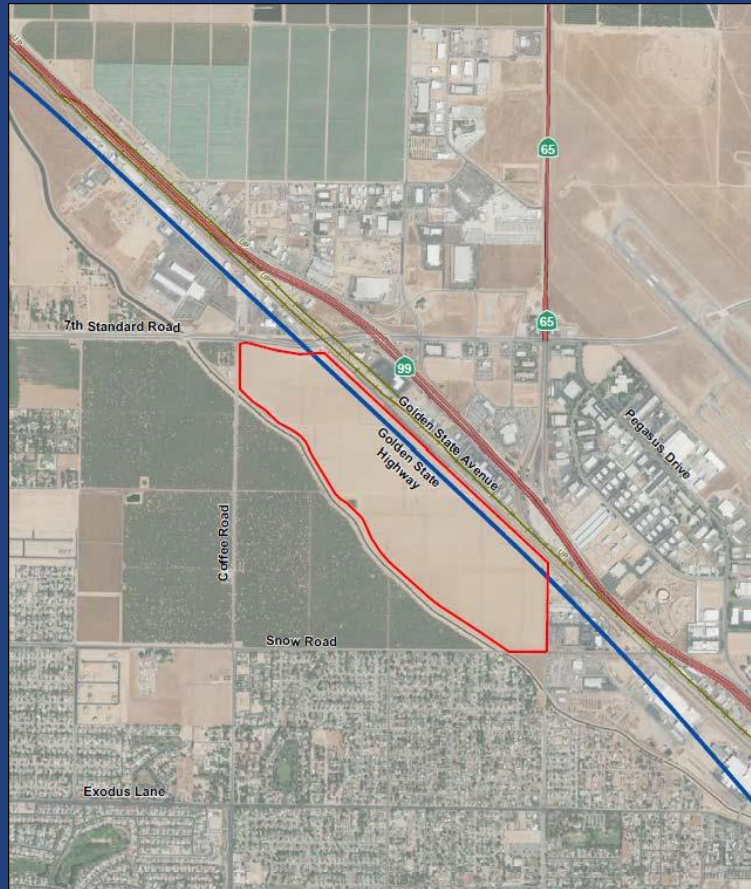


SACO RANCH

- Summary/Discussion of Comments Received

Alternative Station Sites

- » Saco Ranch – 7th Standard Road and Snow Road



TEXT REVISIONS RESULTING FROM COMMENTS

- **Summary/Discussion of Comments Received**

Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS Text Revisions

- » 88 comments resulted in text revisions
- » Revised text is shaded gray in the Final Supplemental EIR in Chapter 16

Chapter 16

Changes to the Final Report Resulting from Comments on the Draft Report

16.3.13 Section 3.11

On page 3.11-7, **Figure 3.11-3 Shafter Area: Safety and Security Existing Conditions** had changed GIS pathways.

In the first paragraph under Emergency Medical Services on page 3.11-9 of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the following bullet point was removed:

- ~~Mercy Southwest Hospital~~

In the first paragraph under Emergency Medical Services on page 3.11-9 of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the following changes were made:

- **Adventist Health Bakersfield Medical Center Campus**~~San Joaquin Community Hospital~~

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

- **The Project minimizes impacts by:**
 - » Including Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures
 - » Complying with applicable regulations
- **For each mitigation measure, the MMRP identifies:**
 - » The party responsible for implementation
 - » The timing of implementation
 - » The implementation mechanism
- **Construction would adhere to the MMRP**

REGULATORY AGENCY COORDINATION

- » In May 2017 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurred that the F-B LGA is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)
- » The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion Amendment (July 2018) that included the F-B LGA as part of the overall Fresno to Bakersfield Biological Opinion
- » In September 2018, the City of Bakersfield issued a concurrence with the Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact findings for the F-B LGA, which the City would not do for the 2014 alignment.
 - This relates to the potential impacts to parks and recreation and historic properties

MARK A. MCLOUGHLIN
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- **Shorter Alignment in Miles and Travel Times**
- **F Street Station Location Would Revitalize Station Location and Area Around Station**



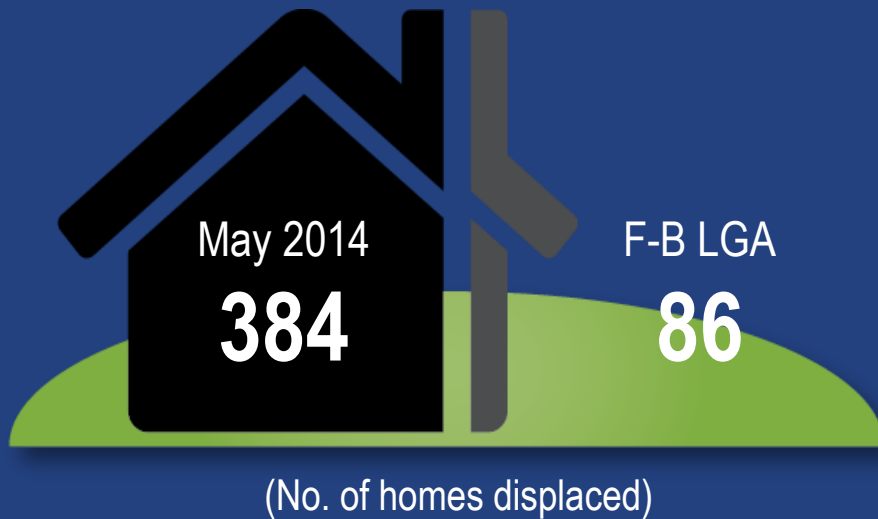
**F-B LGA:
Decreased
distance
travel times**



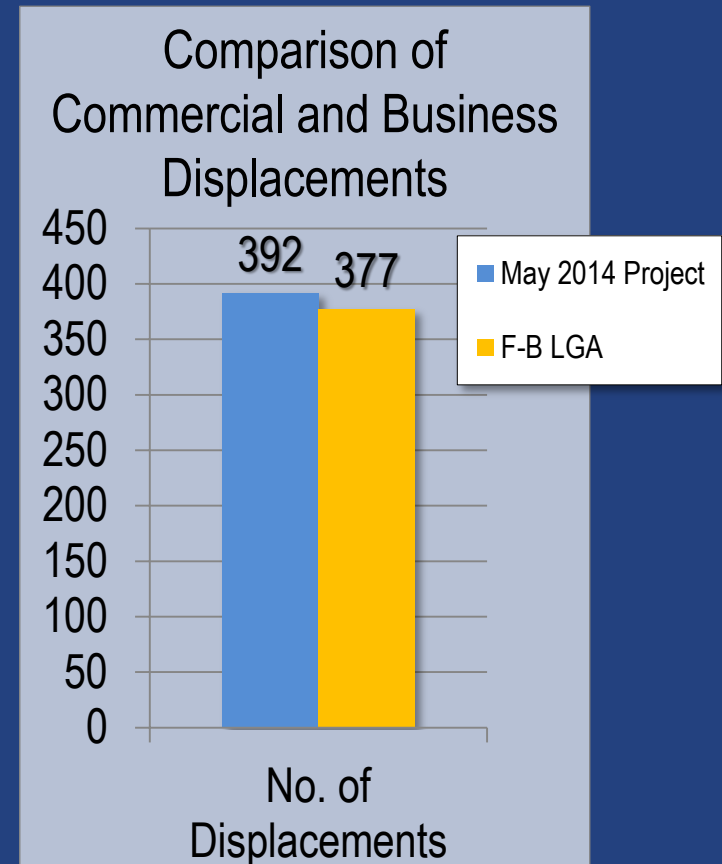
**F-B LGA:
Increased
economic
development
around F
street station**

BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- Shorter Alignment in Miles and Travel Times
- F Street Station Location Would Revitalize Station Location and Area Around Station
- Fewer Impacts to Homes, Businesses and Community Facilities



The **F-B LGA** would displace **78% fewer homes** than the **May 2014 Project**.



BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- Shorter Alignment in Miles and Travel Times
- F Street Station Location Would Revitalize Station Location and Area Around Station
- Fewer Impacts to Homes, Businesses and Community Facilities

The May 2014 Project would displace
11 Community Facilities



The F-B LGA would displace
7 Community Facilities



BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- **Shorter Alignment in Miles and Travel Times**
- **F Street Station Location Would Revitalize Station Location and Area Around Station**
- **Fewer Impacts to Homes, Businesses and Community Facilities**



BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- Less severe Section 4(f) uses



F-B LGA:
de minimis finding



May 2014
Project: No de
minimis finding

BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- Less severe Section 4(f) uses
- Fewer Impacts to Waters of the U.S.
- **Total direct impacts to Waters of the U.S.:**

May 2014 Project: 20.14 acres

F-B LGA:
17.14 acres

BENEFITS OF LOCALLY GENERATED ALTERNATIVE

- Less severe Section 4(f) uses
- Fewer Impacts to Waters of the U.S.
- Fewer Impacts to Important Farmlands
- **Permanent, direct impacts to Important Farmlands:**

May 2014 Project: 485 acres

F-B LGA:
372 acres

F-B LGA IS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

- » Shorter in miles and travel times
- » Fewer Impacts to Homes, Businesses and Community Facilities
- » More cost efficient
- » Revitalizes Bakersfield
- » Less severe Section 4(f) uses
- » Fewer Impacts to Waters of the U.S.
- » Fewer impacts to Important Farmlands

BENEFITS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

- » The benefits viewed both individually and collectively outweigh the adverse effects
 - Increased transportation alternatives
 - Improved air quality
 - Efficient land use planning
 - Employment opportunities during construction and operations
 - Equal access
 - Construct grade crossing in Shafter

REMAINDER OF BOARD MEETING

- Listen to public comments
- Direct staff to address public comments, as needed
- Requested Board action
 - » Board certification that the Final Supplemental EIR covering the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Locally Generated Alternative has been completed in compliance with CEQA
 - » Approval of Preferred Alternative from just north of Poplar Avenue south to and including the F Street Station