



City Council Chamber
1515 6th Street, Coachella, California
(760) 398-3502 ♦ www.coachella.org

AGENDA

OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF COACHELLA
PLANNING COMMISSION

March 04, 2026
6:00 PM

In-Person Meeting Location: City Council Chamber 1515 6th Street, Coachella, CA	If you would like to attend the meeting via Zoom, here is the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544257915?pwd=VTdHWitpYVdOUk1NQW8vZ1pqUm0zQT09 Or One tap mobile : +16694449171,,84544257915#,,, *380084# Or Telephone: US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 845 4425 7915 Passcode: 380084 Spanish: El idioma español está disponible en Zoom seleccionado la opción en la parte de abajo de la pantalla
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- Public comments may be received by 12:00 P.M. **either in person, via email, telephonically, or via Zoom** with a limit of **250 words, or three minutes:**
 - **In Real Time:**

If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period, use the “**raise hand**” function on your computer, or when using a phone, participants can raise their hand by pressing *9 on the keypad.
 - **In Writing:**

Written comments may be submitted to the City Council electronically via email to cityclerk@coachella.org. Transmittal **prior to the start** of the meeting is required. All written comments received will be forwarded to the City Council and entered into the record.
- The **live stream** of the meeting may be **viewed online** by accessing the city's website at www.coachella.org, and clicking on the "**Watch Council Meetings**" tab located on the home page, and then clicking on the "live" button.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

“At this time the Commission may announce any items being pulled from the agenda or continued to another date or request the moving of an item on the agenda.”

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes February 4, 2026

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

“The public may address the Commission on any item of interest to the public that is not on the agenda, but is within the subject matter jurisdiction thereof. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.”

REPORTS AND REQUESTS:

NON-HEARING ITEMS:

PUBLIC HEARING CALENDAR (QUASI-JUDICIAL):

INFORMATIONAL:

2. Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network
3. Brown Act Training

ADJOURNMENT:

*Complete Agenda Packets are available for public inspection at the
City Clerk's Office at 53-462 Enterprise Way, Coachella, California, and on the
City's website www.coachella.org.*

THIS MEETING IS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



MINUTES

OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF COACHELLA
PLANNING COMMISSION

February 4, 2026
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Lara.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

<u> X </u>	Chairperson Murillo
<u> X </u>	Vice Chairperson Fonseca
<u> X </u>	Commissioner Lara
<u> X </u>	Commissioner Ordorica
<u> X </u>	Commissioner Torres

Staff Present:

- *Kendra Reif, Community Development Director.
- *Vanessa Sanchez, Planning Technician.
- *Adrian Moreno, Associate Planner.
- *Jason Stevens, Information Technology Manager.
- *Jesus Medina, Information Technology Tech.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

“At this time the Commission may announce any items being pulled from the agenda or continued to another date or request the moving of an item on the agenda.”

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025.
2. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes December 17, 2025.

MOTION MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ORDORICA SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR FONSECA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioner Torres, Commissioner Ordorica, Commissioner Lara, Vice Chairperson Fonseca, Chairperson Murillo

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

“The public may address the Commission on any item of interest to the public that is not on the agenda, but is within the subject matter jurisdiction thereof. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.”

Public Comments Opened at 6:02 PM by Chairperson Murillo.

Public Comments Closed at 6:03 PM by Chairperson Murillo.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS:

NON-HEARING ITEMS:

PUBLIC HEARING CALENDAR (QUASI-JUDICIAL):

3. A Public Hearing to Consider Resolution No. PC 2026-02 of the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella: Request for conditional approval for Variance No. 25-05 for an existing, unpermitted, and detached 210 square-foot patio structure located less than five feet from the property line at 50346 Camino Loreto; and determining that the project is compliant with section 15073 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. Applicant: Alexis Velazquez.

Vanessa Sanchez, Planning Technician, gave a brief presentation for the item. A copy of the presentation is on file with the Planning Division.

Public Hearing Opened at 6:11 pm by Chairperson Murillo.

Eduardo Velazquez, Applicant, made himself available and provided comments.

Public Hearing Closed at 6:14 pm by Chairperson Murillo.

Carlos Velazquez, Applicant, made himself available and provided comments.

Alexis Velazquez, Applicant, made himself available and provided comments.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LARA AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR FONSECA RECOMMENDING THE PLANNING COMMISSION DENY VARIANCE NUMBER 20-05 WITH THE FINDINGS LISTED IN RESOLUTION NO. PC 2026-02 WITH A CONTINUACE TO A DATE AND TIME UNCERTAIN WHERE THE ITEM WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK BEFORE US AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioner Torres, Commissioner Lara, Commissioner Ordorica.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Fonseca, Chair Murillo.

ABSENT: None.

INFORMATIONAL:

*Planning Commissioners Academy, please let me know if you will be attending so I can make arrangements.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:43 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY,

KENDRA REIF

PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY

*Complete Agenda Packets are available for public inspection in the
Development Services Department at 53-990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, California, and on the
City's website www.coachella.org.*



STAFF REPORT
March 4, 2026

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Kendra Reif, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: COACHELLA RAIL STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY AND INTEGRATED LAND USE AND TRANSIT NETWORK

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Planning Commission receive and file this information.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Coachella in partnership with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate a proposed daily intercity passenger rail service connecting Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley. Key outcomes of this study thus far include the identification of Pueblo Viejo (Station Site 2) in Coachella as the preferred station location, the Station Layout and Design, the Station Area Plan, and the Economic Development Strategy.

This presentation will provide a Study Overview, the Station Layout and Design, the Station Area Plan, the Economic Development Strategy, and Next Steps.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network Presentation.



Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network

Coachella Planning Commission



March 4, 2026



Item 2.

Agenda

Item 2.

- Study Overview
- Station Layout & Design
- Station Area Plan
- Economic Development Strategy
- Next Steps

Study Overview

Study Purposes

Item 2.

- Evaluate potential locations for CV Rail station site and layover facility in Coachella
- Select the City's preferred station location
- For the preferred location, develop:
 - Preliminary engineering plans, architectural drawings, and connectivity plans for the rail station
 - Transit-oriented community plans and economic development strategies for the surrounding area



CV Rail and the Coachella Station Study

- Final selection of station locations will be determined in the NEPA/CEQA CV Rail Tier II/Project Environmental Document¹
- Analysis and information in this study will be utilized to help determine the final selection of the preferred alternative during formal NEPA/CEQA process
- Location of tracks for CV Rail are subject to negotiations and agreements with the host railroad
- This study does not commit the City to the approval or construction of any particular station location or design concept

1. Led by RCTC under the oversight of the Federal Railroad Administration and Caltrans Division of Rail.

Community Engagement

Item 2.

Pop up Events

- Eggstravaganza – April 12
- Movie Night – May 13
- Mariachi Festival – May 22
- Propsera Learning Exchange – May 29
- Independence Day – July 3
- Halloween Carnival – Oct 30
- Los Muertos Block Party – Nov 11
- Fiestas Azules – Jan 24
- DRD Health Resource Fair – Feb 7

Community Workshops

- November 21, 2024
- March 18, 2025
- July 24, 2025
- October 16, 2025

TAC Meetings

- Oct 24, 2024 – Introduction and Initial Sites
- Jan 30, 2025 – Station location evaluation
- Apr 24, 2025 – Preliminary station layout and land use vision
- Sept 11, 2025 – Station designs and land use plan
- Jan 15, 2026 – Refined design, plans, and strategies



Station Layout and Design

City's Preferred Station Site

Site 2 in Pueblo Viejo was recommended to City Council because it has good accessibility, the most supportive land use, and the fewest engineering constraints



Layover Facility Location

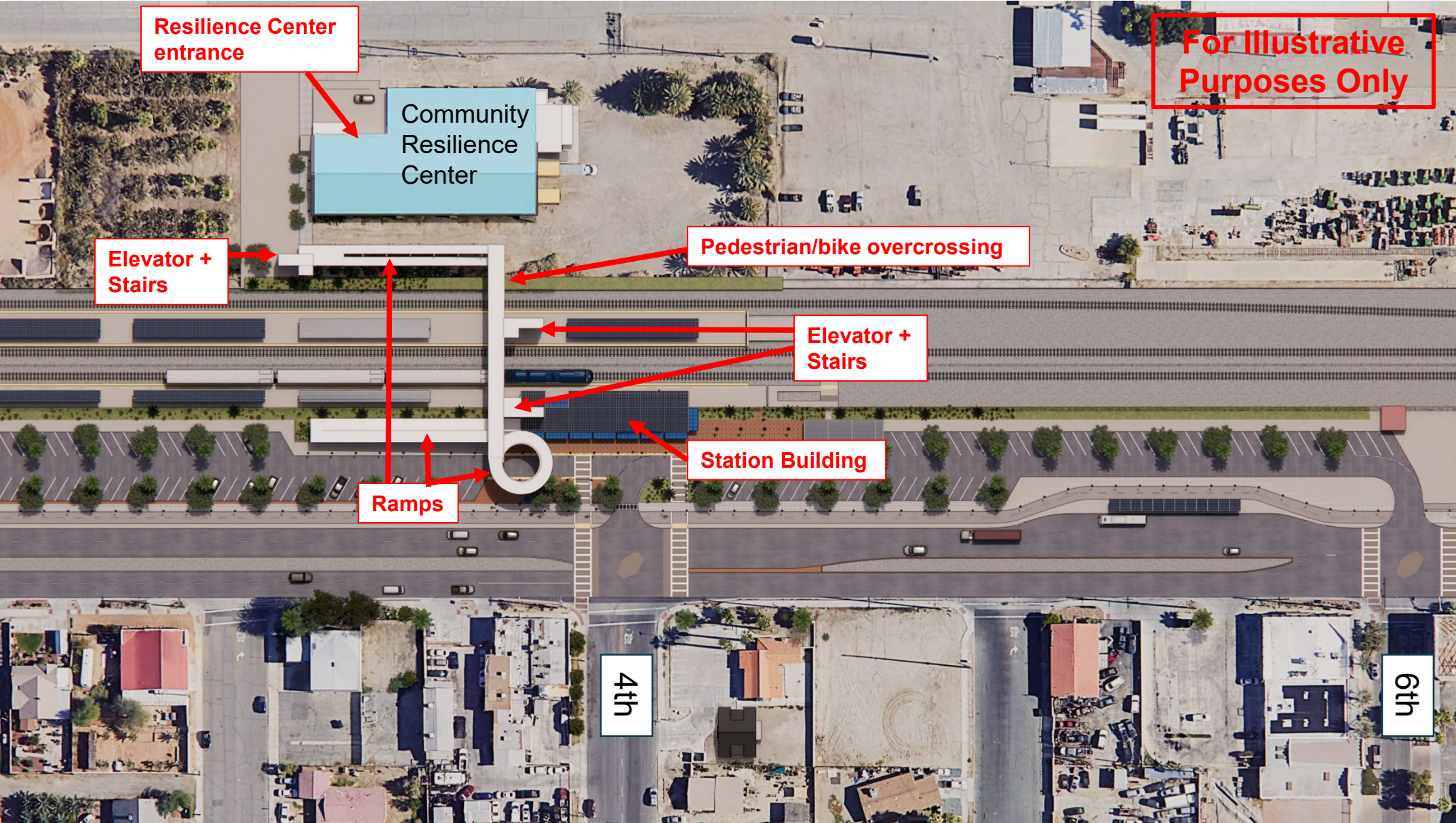
- South of Avenue 52 was determined to be the optimal location operationally
- More land is available on the east side of the railroad to accommodate facility elements:
 - 3 storage tracks
 - Train wash
 - Crew building
 - Truck access and employee parking



Proposed Station Layout - Access



Proposed Station Layout - Components



Station View

Item 2.

**For Illustrative
Purposes Only**





Station Area Plan

Organization of the Plan

Chapter 1 (Background & Purpose)

→ *purpose, context, and high-level goals of the Plan*

Chapter 2 (Illustrated Vision)

→ *desired outcomes for the station and surrounding built environment*

Chapter 3 (Plan Area Toolkit)

→ *strategies and guidelines for achieving the vision of Chapter 2*

Chapter 4 (Implementation)

→ *actions, policies, and phasing for implementing the Plan*

Chapter 1: Purpose of the Plan

Item 2.

- Builds on the vision of the General Plan and Revitalization Plan
- Supports the priorities of RHNA and REAP 2.0
- Enhances grant eligibility/competitiveness
- Leverages the prospect of passenger rail service to define and illustrate a community-led vision for the area
- Provides policy and guidance for achieving the vision



Chapter 1: Guiding Principles

Item 2.

The Station Area will be:

- Safe and Comfortable
- Inclusive
- Connected
- Engaging
- Sustainable
- Distinct



Chapter 1: Goals

Item 2.

- The Station Area will continue to evolve into a vibrant mixed-use environment
- The City's downtown will expand eastward, across the railroad
- Shops, restaurants, and civic facilities will draw residents and visitors
- Public improvements and new pedestrian-oriented development will provide a safe, comfortable, and attractive public realm
- The history and culture of Coachella will be acknowledged and celebrated
- The siting, design, and appointing of the rail station and adjacent areas will support effective rail operations
- The station and adjacent areas will function as a robust mobility hub

Illustrated Vision



Mobility

Complete streets providing equitable access for all modes of transportation

Art & Culture

Murals and art contributing to a vibrant and unique downtown

Topical Themes Applicable to All



Pueblo Viejo



Active ground floors in a mixed-use downtown environment



Public Realm Improvements Intended to create a beautiful, comfortable, safe, and active environment

Potential Station



Iconic train station with pedestrian and bicycle facilities located at the terminus of 4th Street



Bridge connecting both sides of the Plan Area: Pueblo Viejo and Downtown Expansion

Downtown Expansion



Opportunity for adaptive reuse of existing buildings in the initial phases



A walkable mixed use downtown environment, creating an extension of Pueblo Viejo

Chapter 2: Illustrated Vision – Pueblo Viejo

Item 2.



Tactical Activation



New Buildings Lining Streets



Active Streetscape Leading to Station



Chapter 2: Downtown Expansion

Item 2.

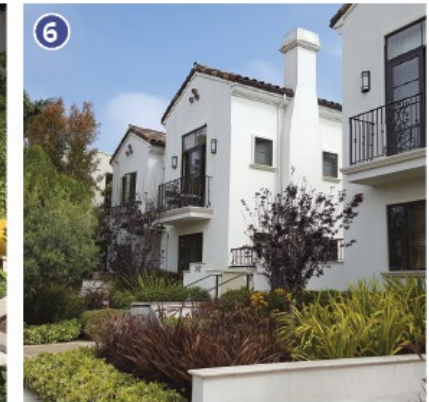
Wide Range of Uses in a Walkable Environment



Chapter 2: Downtown Expansion

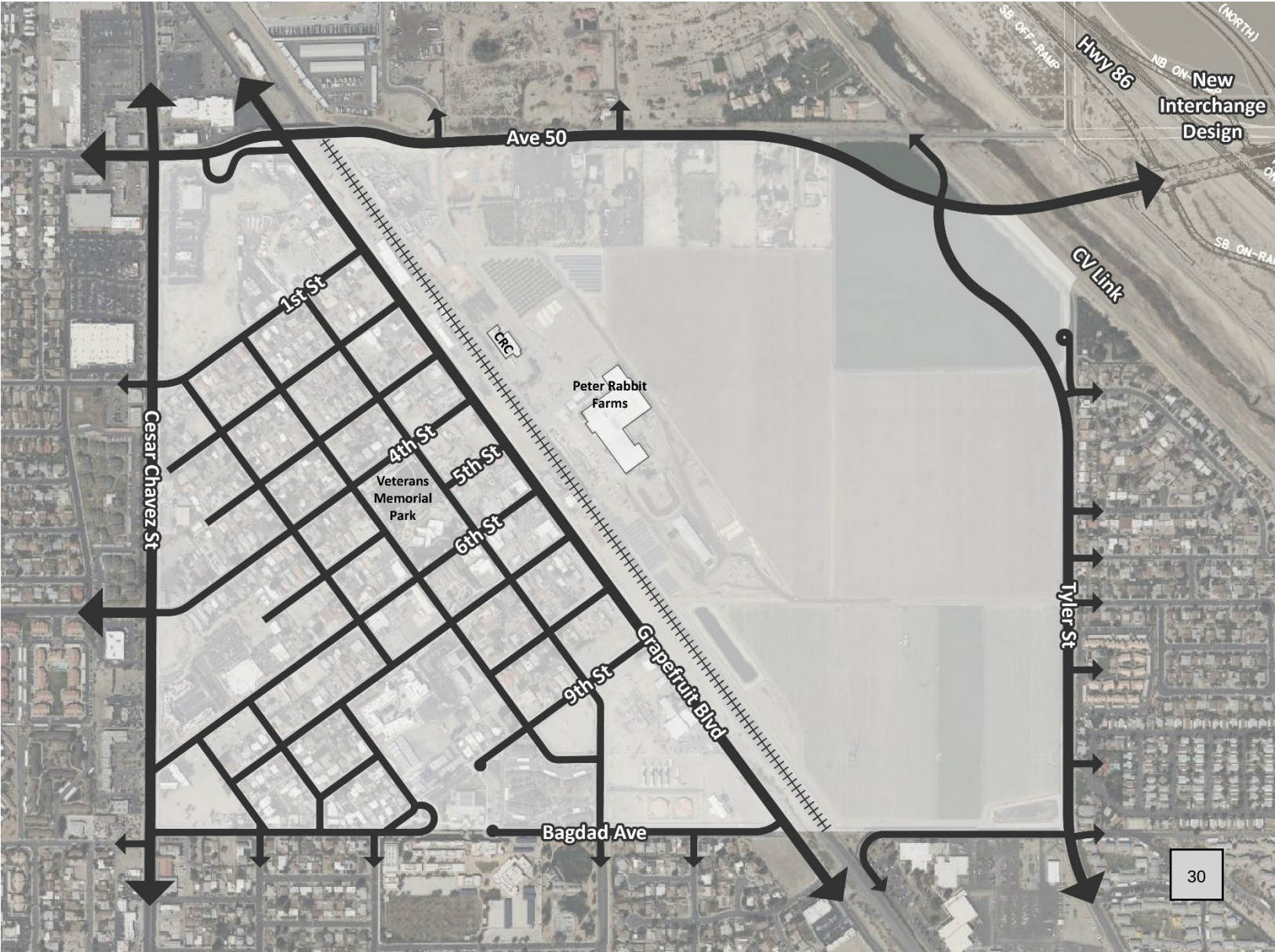
Item 2.

Wide Range of Uses in a Walkable Environment



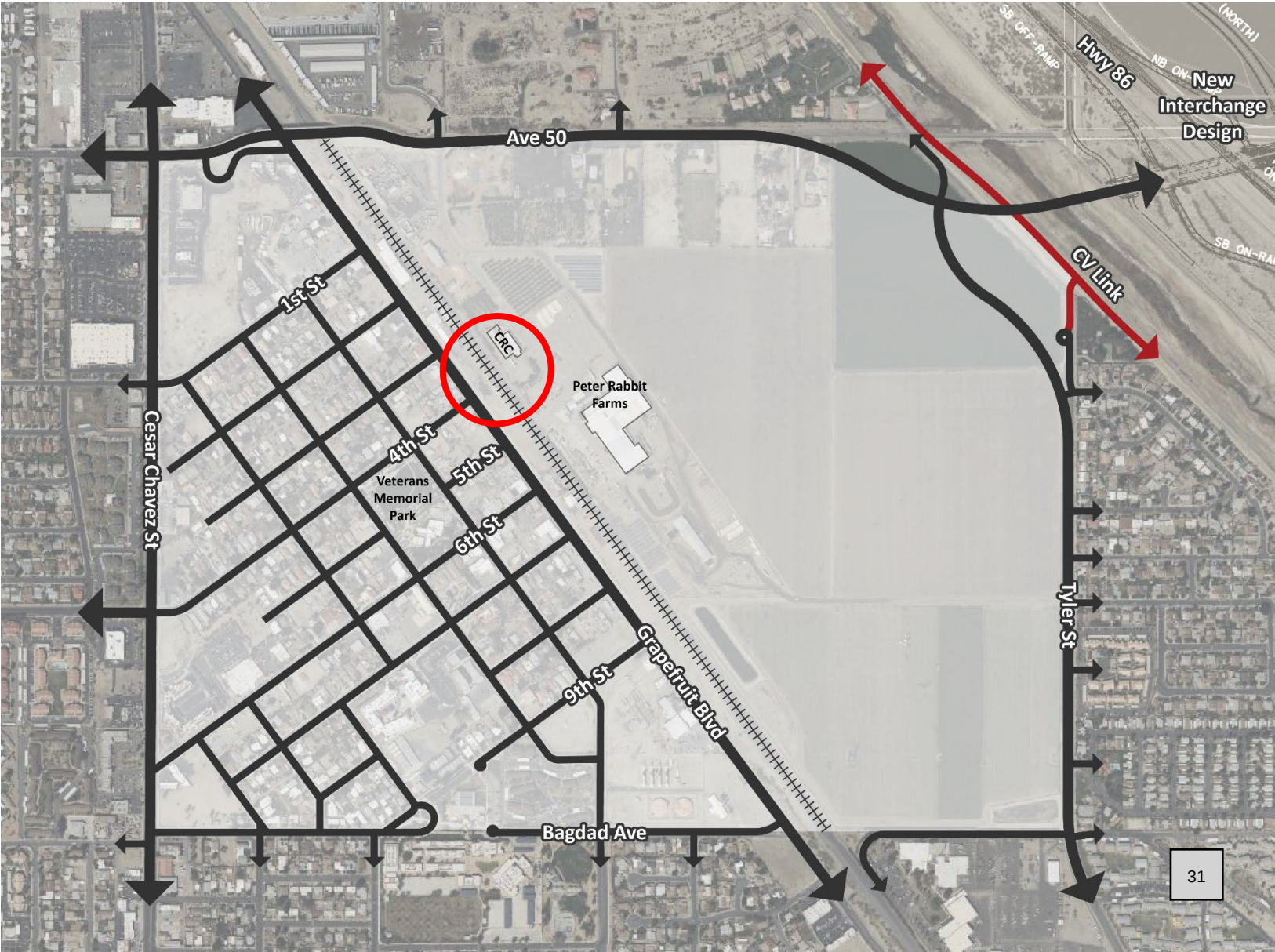
Chapter 3: Plan Area Toolkit

LEGEND
Existing Streets



Chapter 3: Plan Area Toolkit

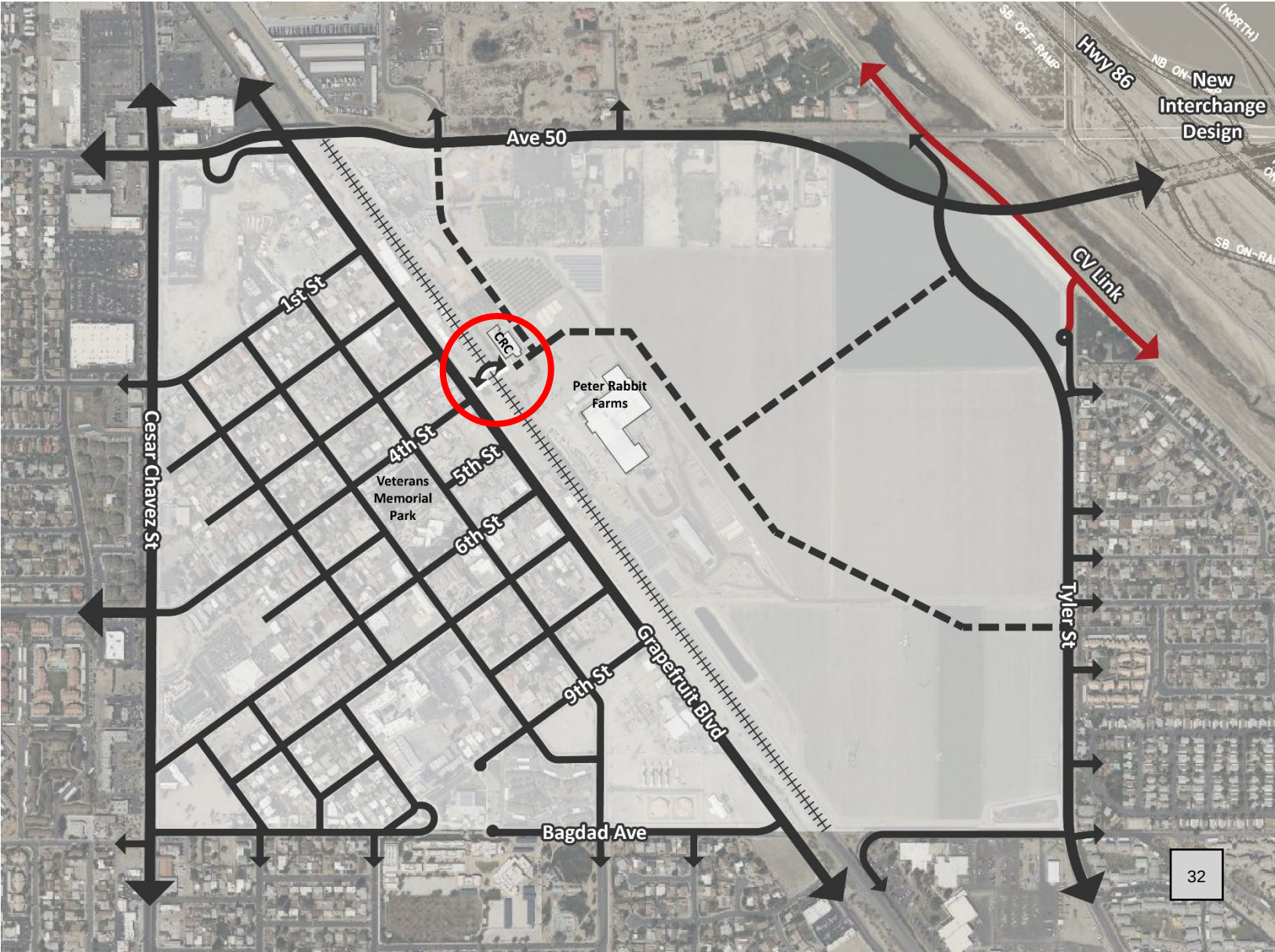
LEGEND
Existing Streets



Chapter 3: Plan Area Toolkit

LEGEND

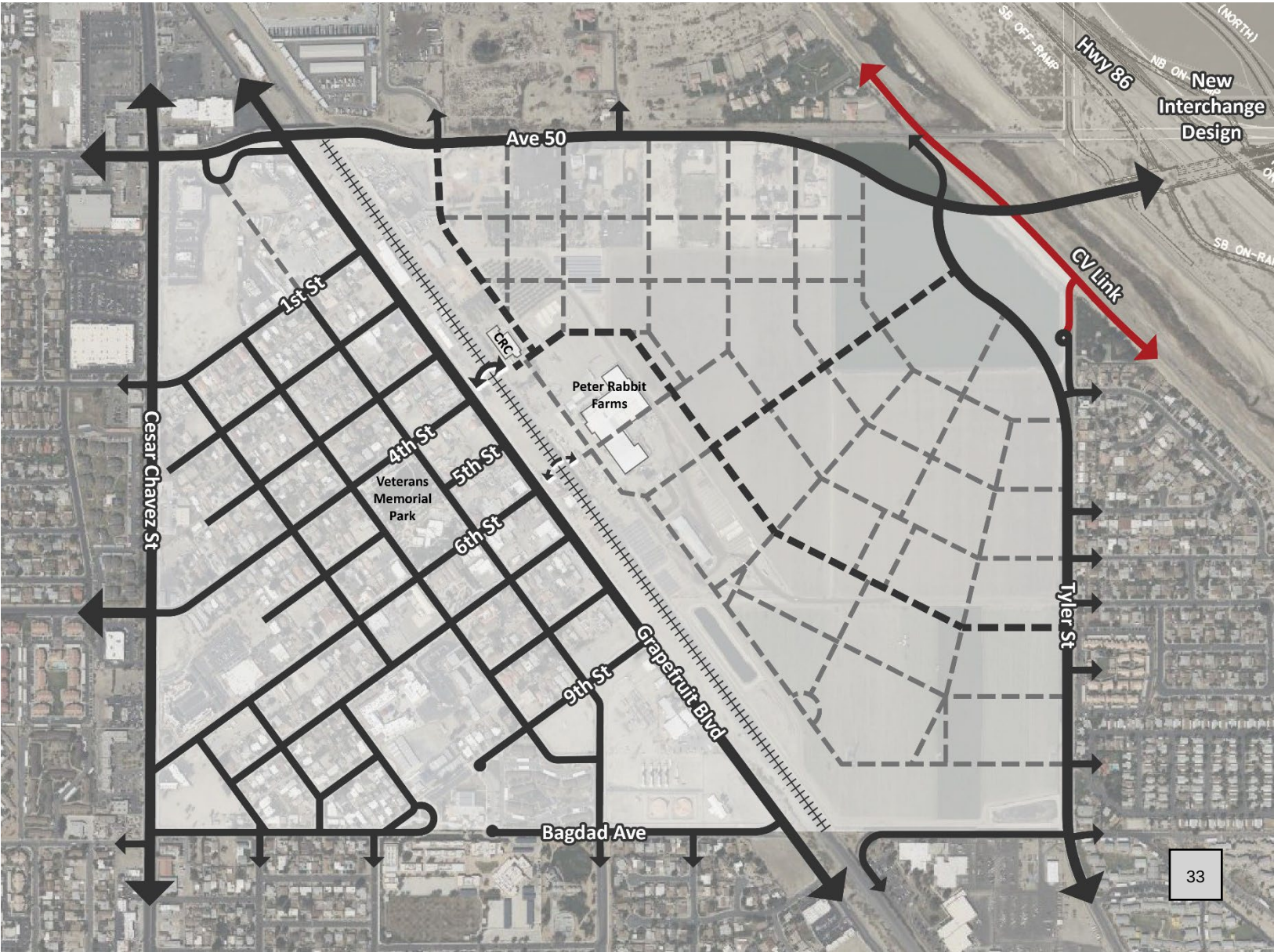
- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues



Chapter 3: Plan Area Toolkit

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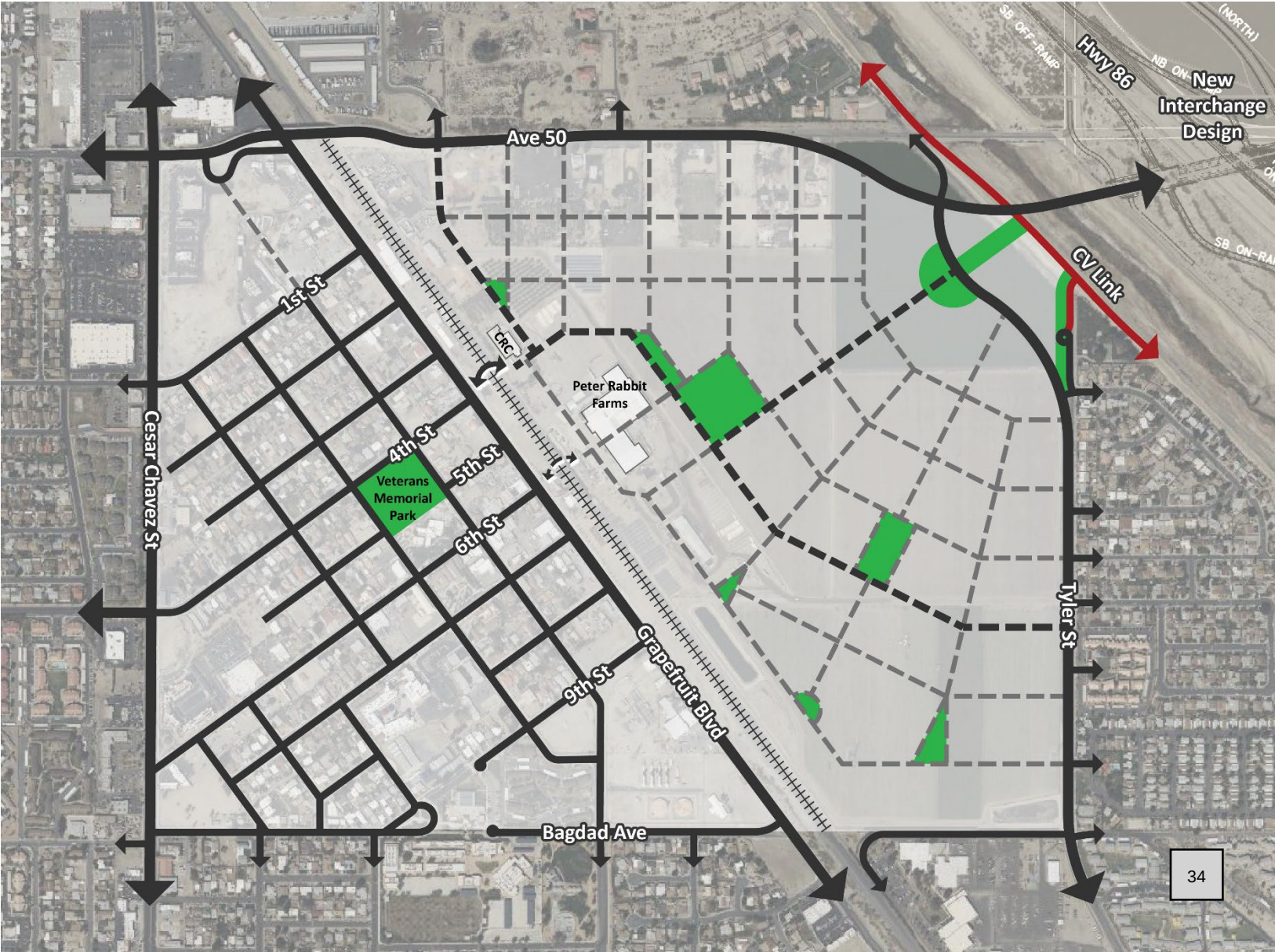
- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues
- Potential Neighborhood Streets



Chapter 3: Plan Area Toolkit

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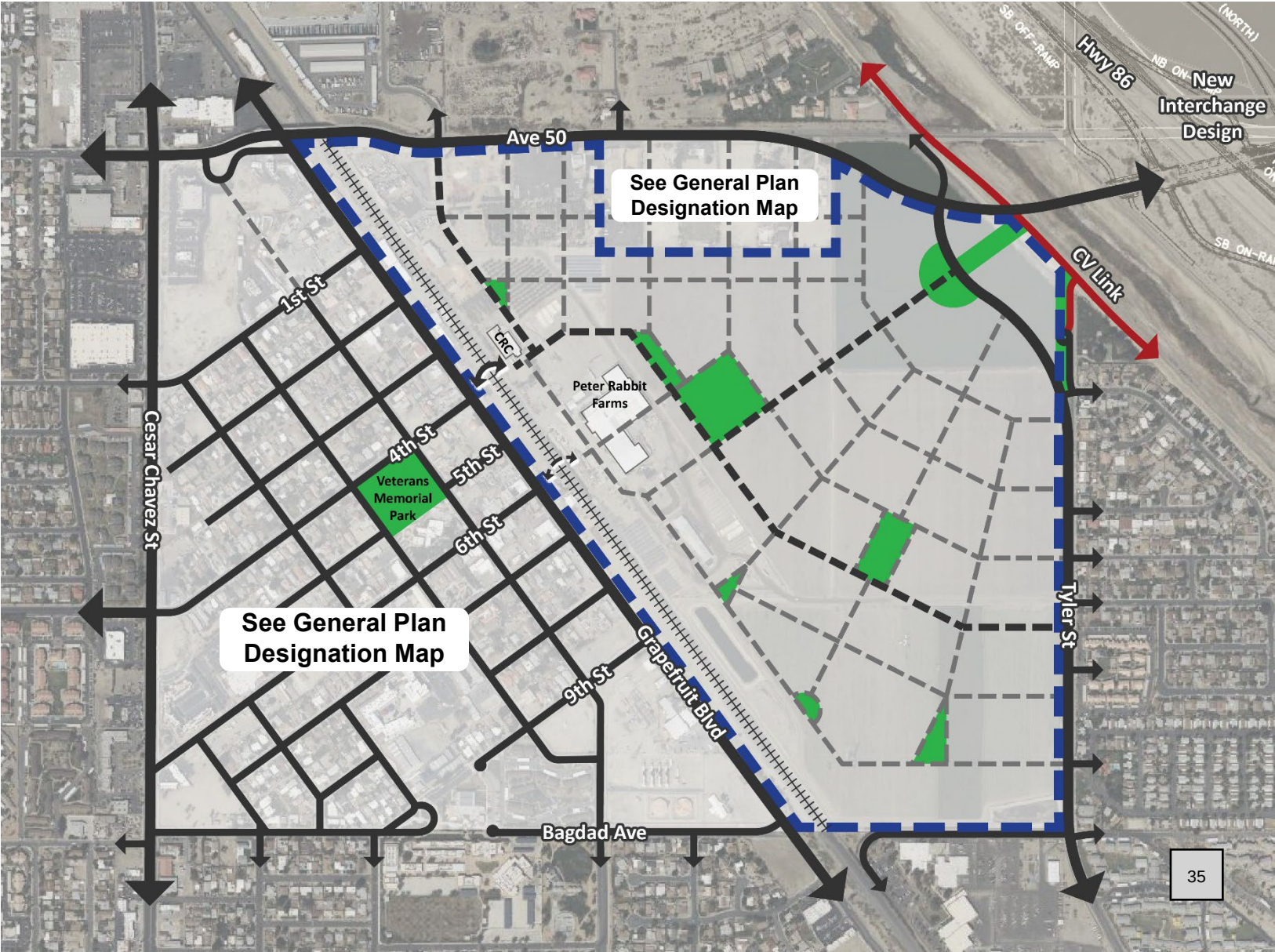
- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues
- Potential Neighborhood Streets
- Open Space (Green and/or Plaza)



Chapter 3: Land Use

LEGEND

- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues
- Potential Neighborhood Streets
- Open Space (Green and/or Plaza)
- Urban Employment Designation within the Urban Expansion Subarea



Chapter 3: Implementing the Adopted Housing Element

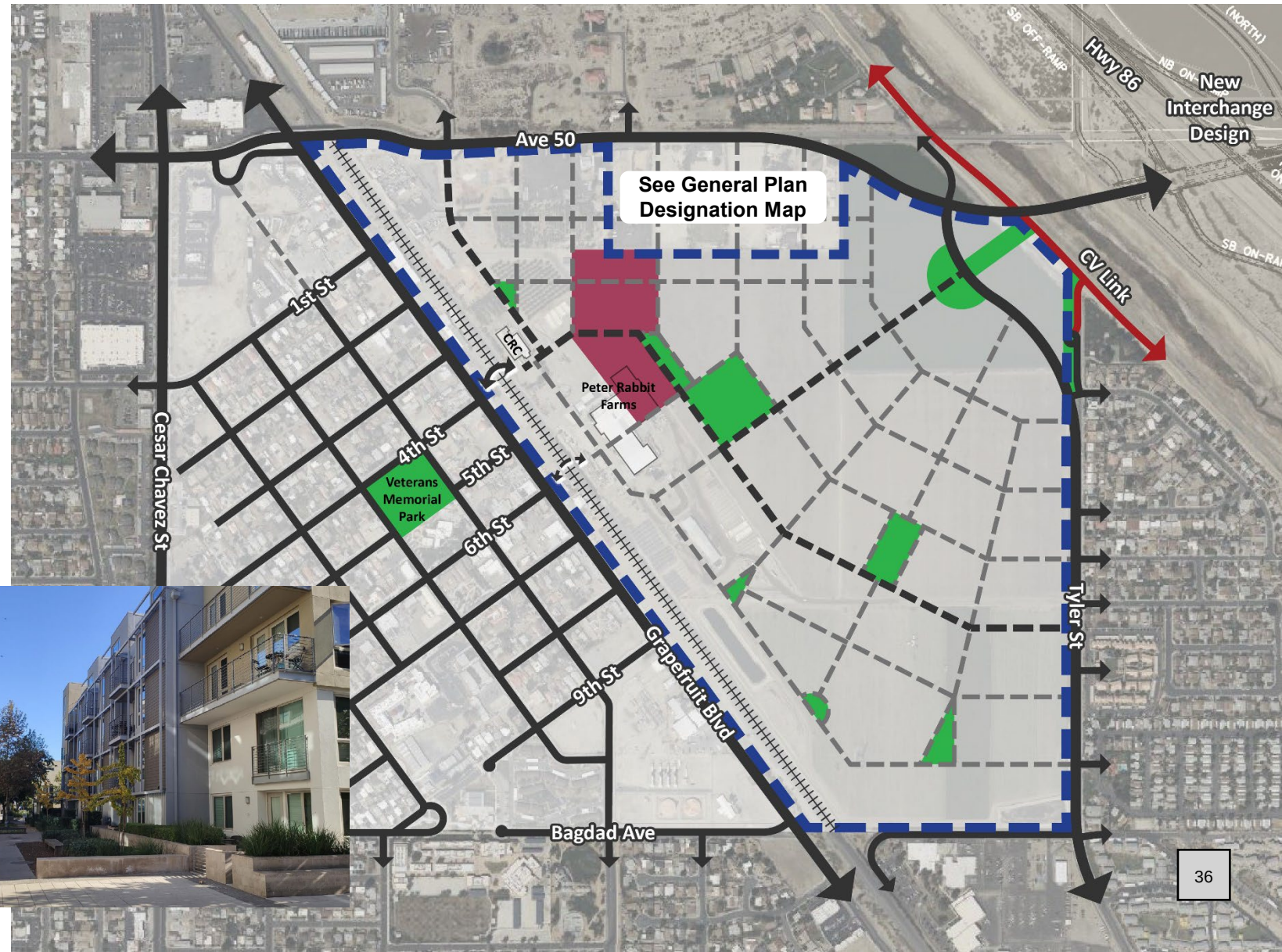
Item 2.

LEGEND

- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues
- Potential Neighborhood Streets
- Open Space (Green and/or Plaza)
- Urban Employment Designation within the Urban Expansion Subarea

Sub-Designations (example locations):

- U-E Core High



Chapter 3: Implementing the Adopted Housing Element

Item 2.

LEGEND

- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues
- Potential Neighborhood Streets
- Open Space (Green and/or Plaza)
- Urban Employment Designation within the Urban Expansion Subarea

Sub-Designations (example locations):

- U-E Core High
- U-E Core



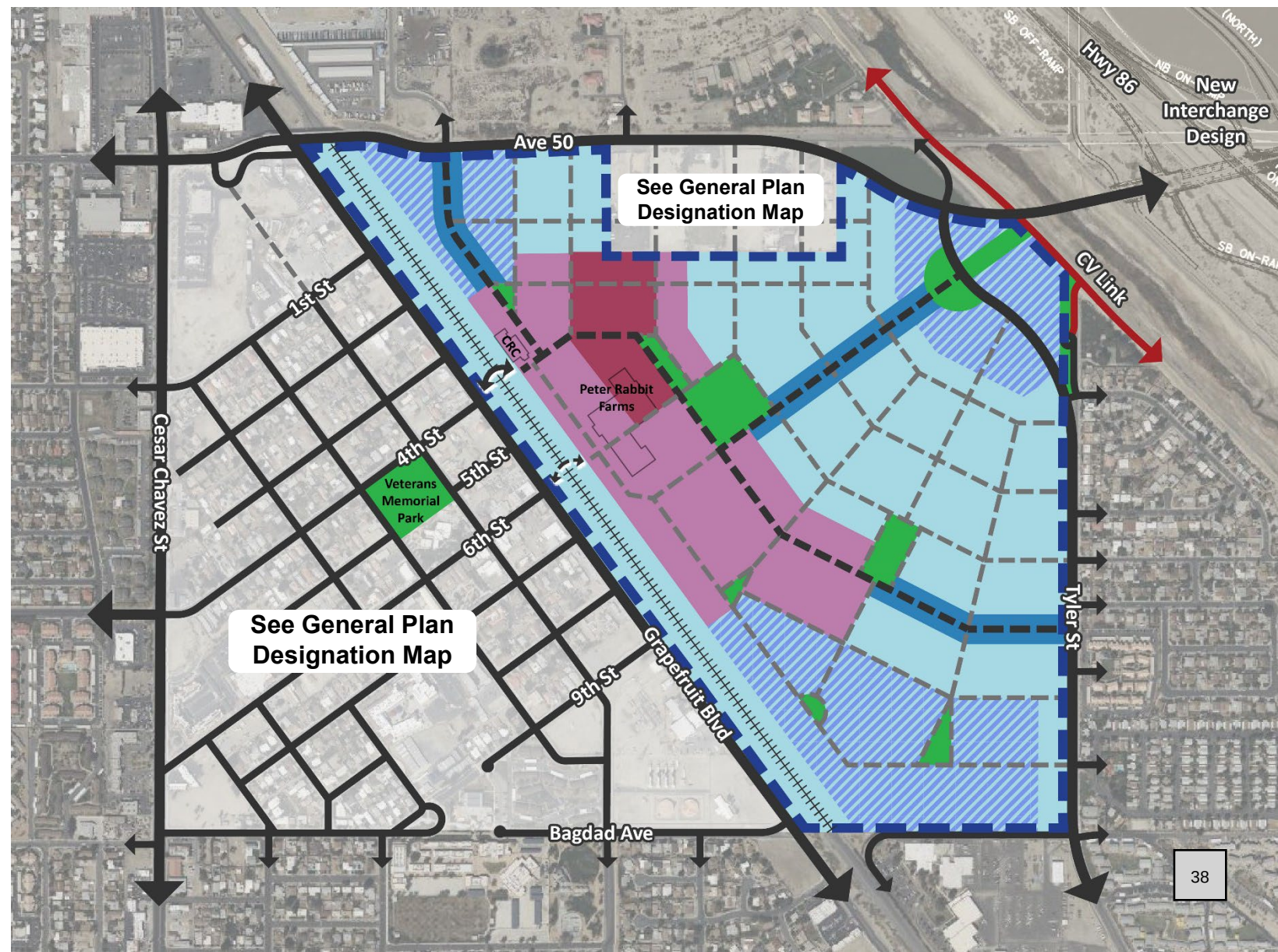
Chapter 3: Flexible Land Use Framework

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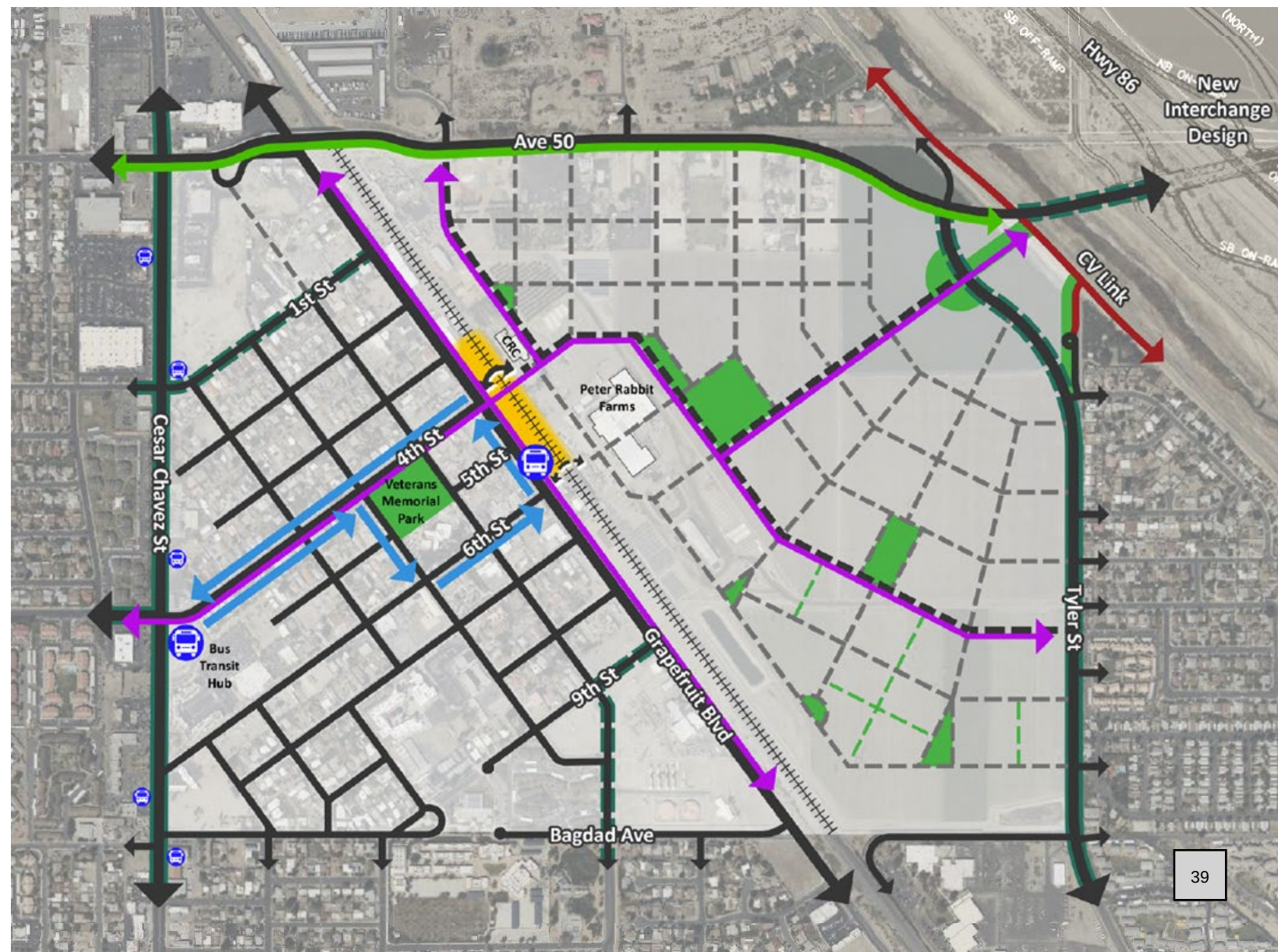
- Existing Streets
- Potential Neighborhood Avenues
- Potential Neighborhood Streets
- Open Space (Green and/or Plaza)
- Urban Employment Designation within the Urban Expansion Subarea

Sub-Designations (example locations):

- U-E Core High
- U-E Core
- U-E General
- U-E Corridor Frontage
- U-E Commercial Focus

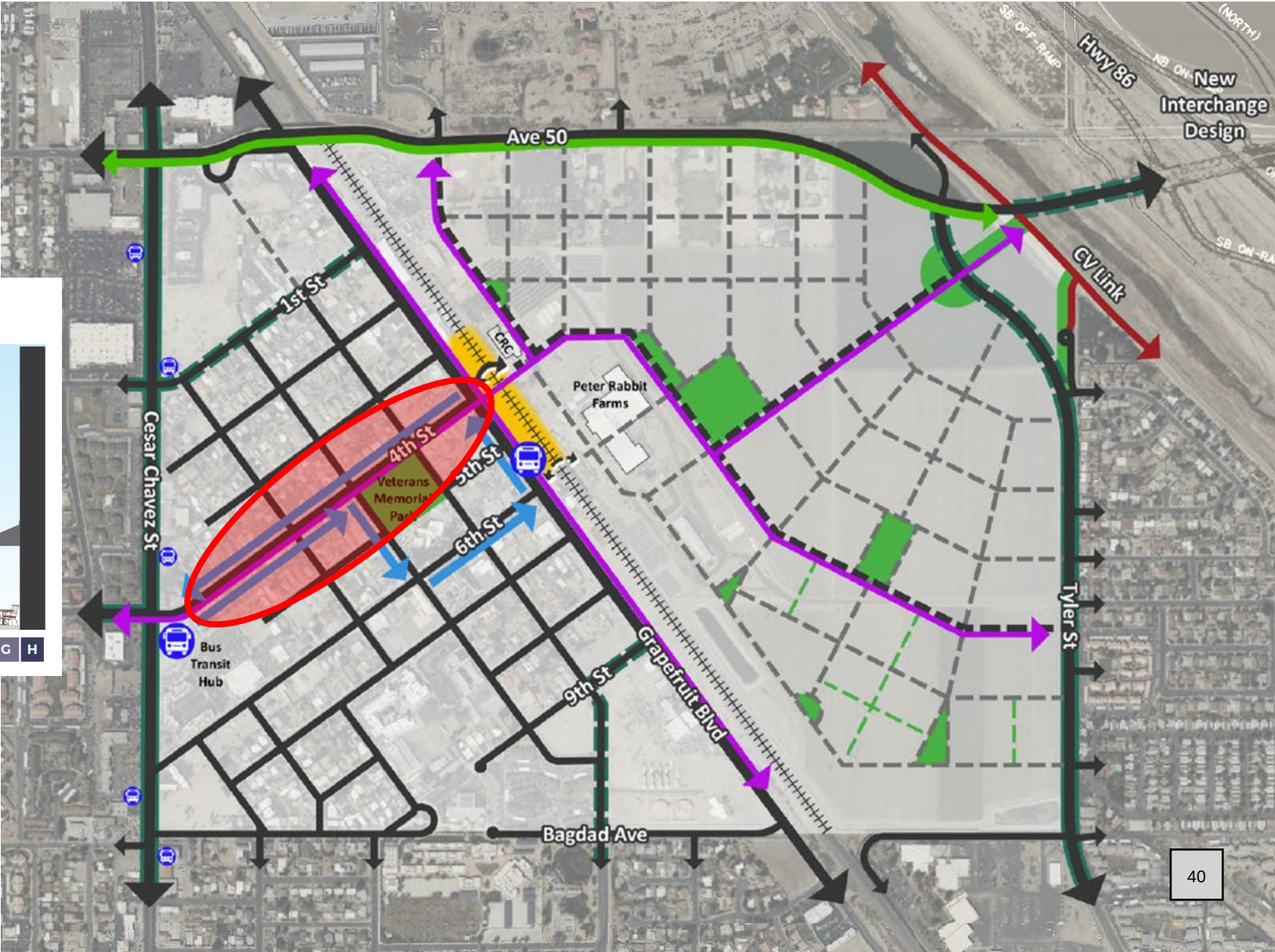
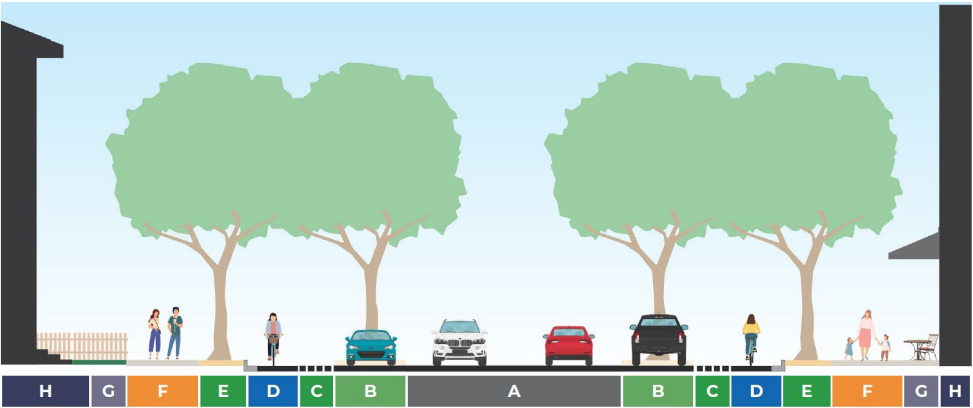


Item 2.



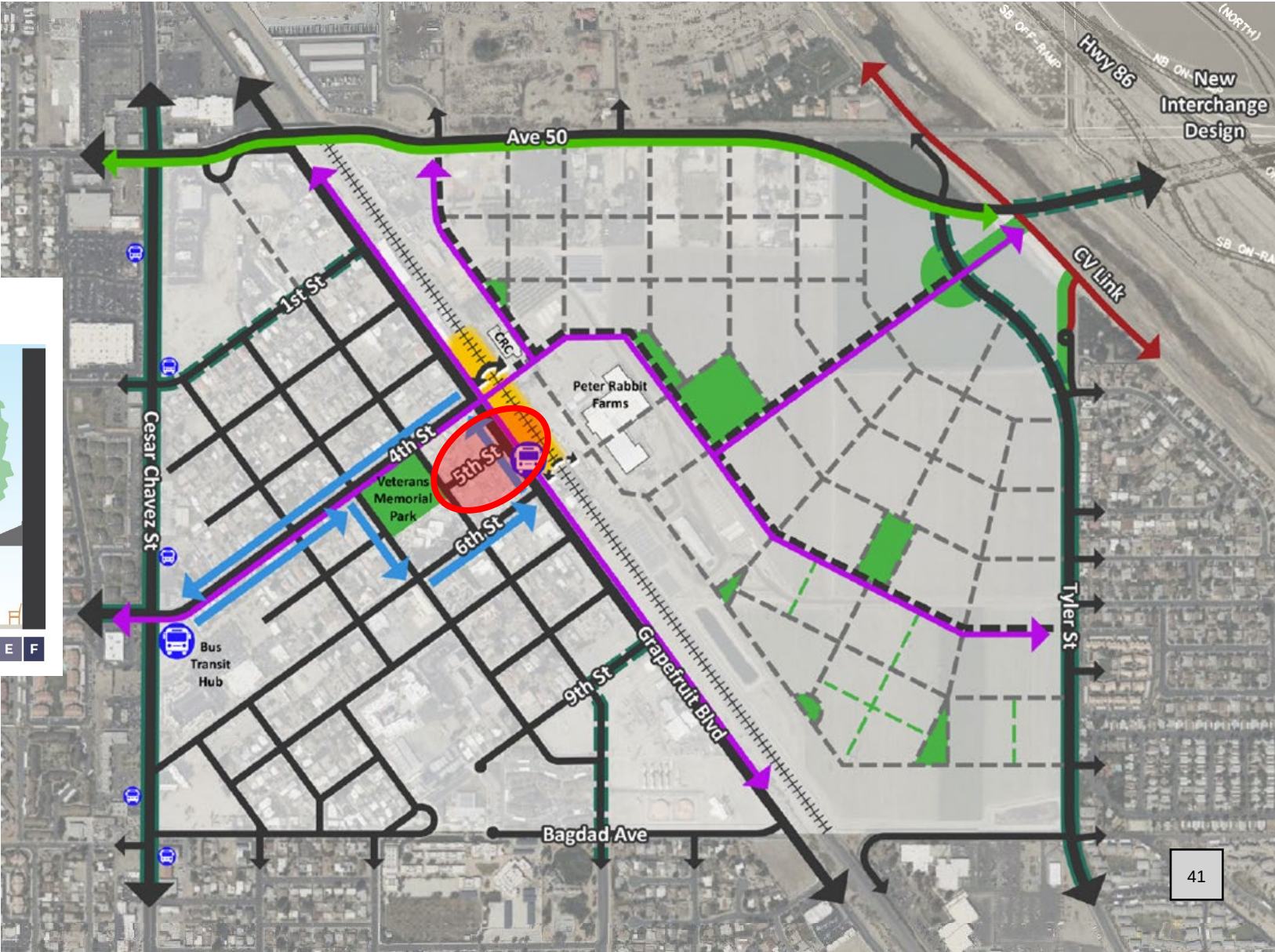
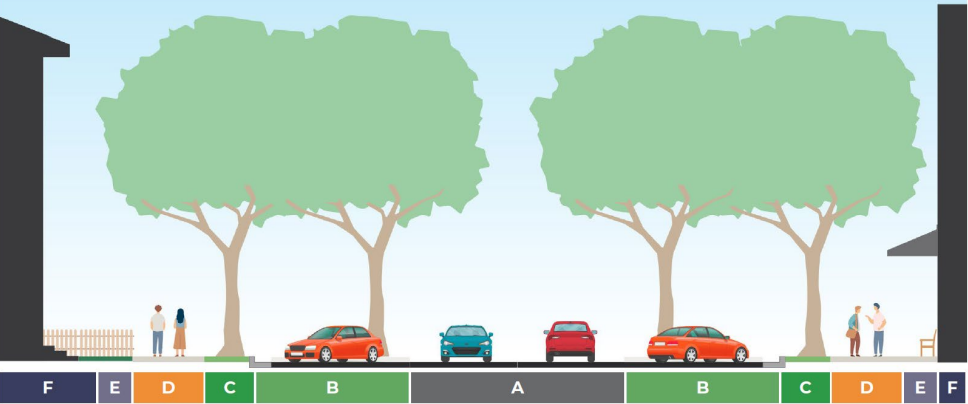
Chapter 3: Mobility Concepts

Pedestrian and Cyclist-Oriented 4th St



Chapter 3: Mobility Concepts

Additional Trees and Parking on 5th St



Chapter 4: Implementation

Phasing

- Contingent upon Many Factors
 - Funding
 - Staffing
- Critical to Success
 - Leadership
 - Coordination and partnerships with state, regional, and local agencies/organizations
 - Clear and flexible development/design standards and a straightforward entitlement process
 - Strategic public realm investments
 - Building Coachella's presence and brand

Near Term Actions

Near term actions focus on updates to the policy and regulatory framework for the Plan Area, initial coordination with individuals and groups with a stake in the future of the Plan Area, and identification of new funding mechanisms that provide the fiscal and financial resources for catalytic improvements and programs. Updated policies and standards will provide greater clarity and flexibility for the development community, while streamlining the development review process. Initial coordination with stakeholders will foster mutually beneficial partnerships, which in turn will build capacity and create new revenue streams.



Intermediate Term Actions

Intermediate term actions involve the inception of new programs (e.g., marketing and recruitment campaigns, workforce readiness programs, expanded transit service), the establishment of strategic partnerships, and the implementation of additional public realm improvements in Pueblo Viejo. In many respects, these intermediate term actions move the vision from concept to reality.



Long Term Actions

Most implementation actions related to Downtown Expansion are categorized as long term, given that there is currently no timeline for the conversion of farmland. Construction of the rail station and the initiation of passenger rail service are also listed as long term implementation actions, as the CV Rail project is still in an early stage of development and funding for construction has yet to be secured. These long term actions will be facilitated by near and intermediate term actions that foster favorable conditions for large-scale change with the planning area.



Item 2.

Chapter 4: Implementation

Policy/Action Framework

- Connectivity
- Housing
- Commerce/employment
- Sustainability/resiliency
- History/cultural heritage
- Rail operations

5. History and Cultural Heritage

The development of the Plan Area provides an opportunity to highlight Coachella's history and culture, including its association with Native American and Hispanic communities, the natural resources of the Coachella Valley, regional agricultural industry, and the railroad. The showcasing of Coachella's history and cultural heritage can contribute to efforts to render the Plan Area an attractive and engaging visitor destination.

Policy 5.1 Native American History and Culture. Pursue opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate local Native American history and culture.

- Action 5.1.1* Maintain dialogue with local tribal groups and seek their input on appropriate ways to acknowledge and celebrate tribal history and culture. (Near Term)
- Action 5.1.2* Support events that acknowledge and celebrate tribal history and culture. (Near Term)
- Action 5.1.3* Engage Temalpakh Farm on the prospect of establishing a retail and or dining venue in the Plan Area. (Near Term)
- Action 5.1.4* Consider posting a land acknowledgement in a public space within the Plan Area, perhaps as a plaque or monument. (Near Term)

Policy 5.2 Coachella's Origins as a Railroad Town. Acknowledge and celebrate Coachella's origins as a railroad town.

- Action 5.2.1* Showcase Coachella's origins as a railroad town through signage, public art, and community events. (Intermediate Term)
- Action 5.2.2* Consider opportunities to establish a railroad museum in the Plan Area, potentially in partnership with Union Pacific and/or other railroad entities. (Intermediate Term)
- Action 5.2.3* Encourage the establishment of a railroad-themed retail and/or dining venue in close proximity to the railroad (e.g., train car restaurant, replica of original Coachella train depot). (Intermediate Term)
- Action 5.2.4* In coordination with Union Pacific, consider establishing a safe and secure public viewing area where residents and visitors can view railroad activity. (Intermediate Term)

Economic Development Strategy

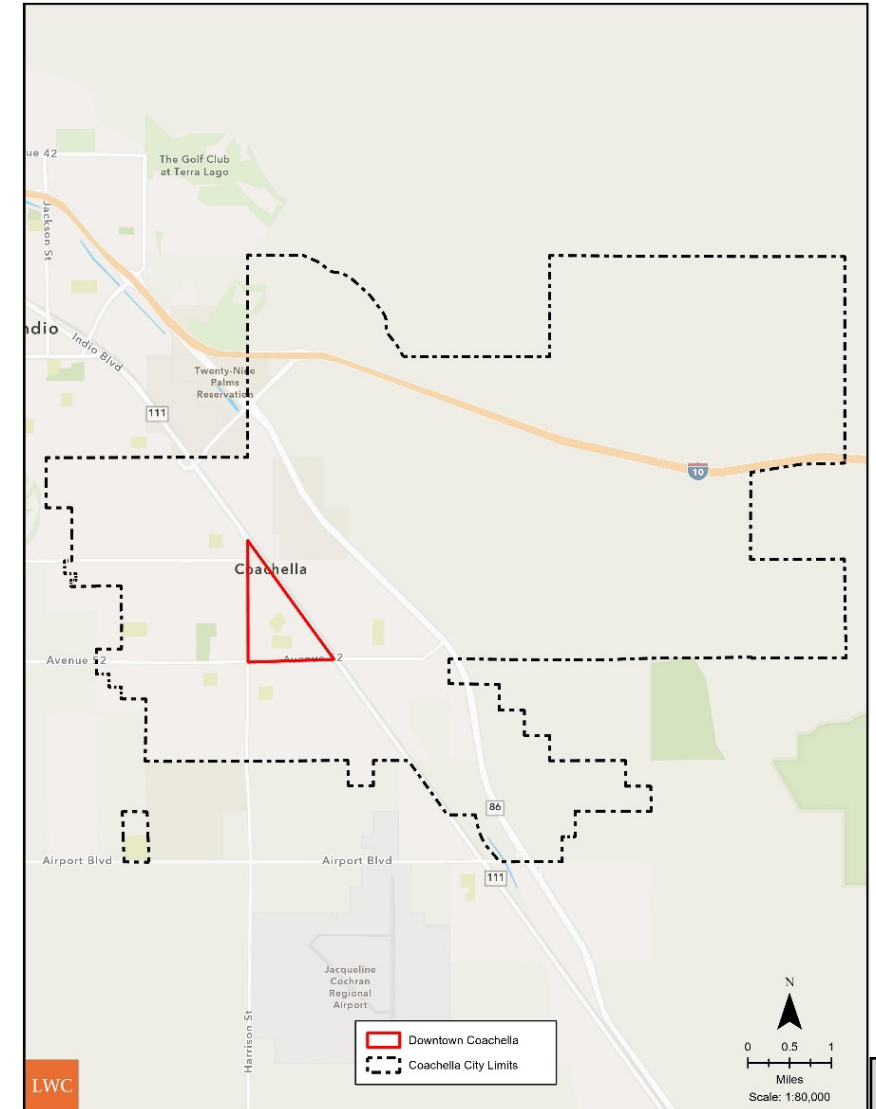
Market Area Analysis

Item 2.

City of Coachella vs. Coachella Valley

- Higher share of families with children:
 - 40% of households have children under 18, compared to 24% in the Coachella Valley
- Predominantly Hispanic/Latino community:
 - ~97% Hispanic or Latino (any race) compared to ~52% across the Coachella Valley
- Lower median household income:
 - ~\$68,000 in Coachella vs. ~\$85,000 in the Coachella Valley

City of Coachella and Downtown Coachella



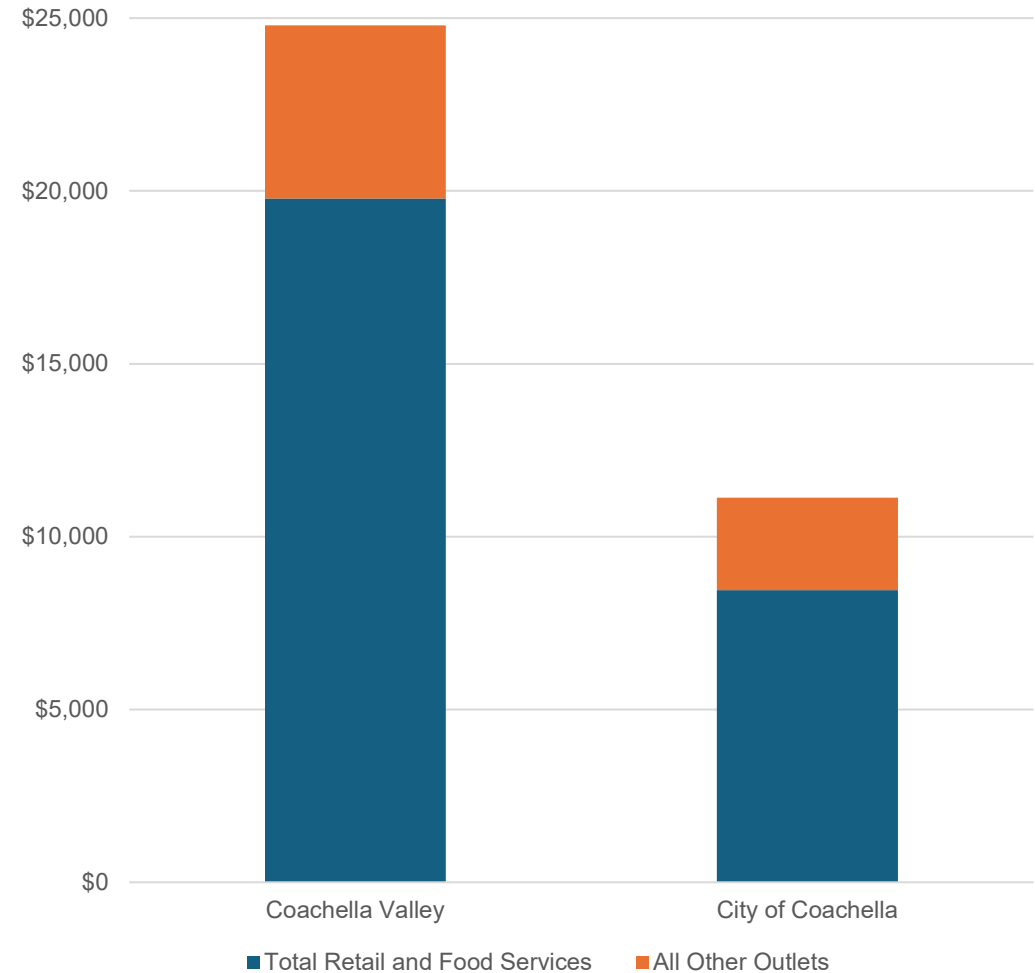
Market Area Analysis

Item 2.

Taxable Sales Leakage

- The City of Coachella has a spending gap of ~**\$13,600 per capita** compared to the Coachella Valley
- This gap reflects retail sales leakage and represents an opportunity to capture additional local spending.
- Largest Spending Gap Sectors
 - Food Services and Drinking Places
 - General Merchandise Stores
 - Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers

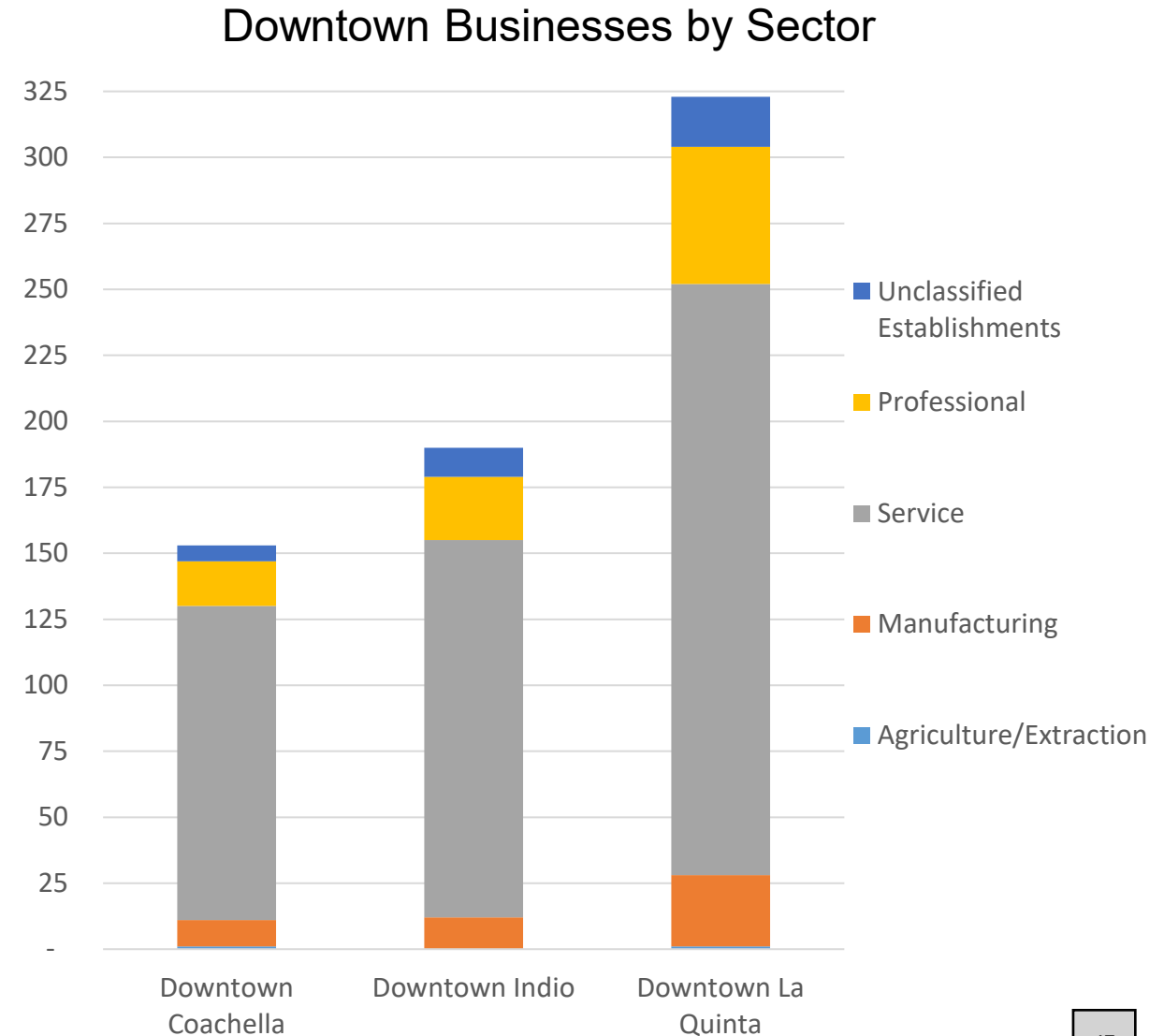
Taxable Transactions Per Capita 2022



Comparable and Competitive Environment

Item 2.

- Business count by Downtown:
 - Downtown Coachella: 153 businesses
 - Downtown Indio: 190 businesses
 - Downtown La Quinta: 324 businesses
- All three downtowns are service-sector focused
- Downtown Coachella has a higher share of agriculture/extraction related businesses
- La Quinta was viewed as a “one-stop shop” during focus groups



Comparable and Competitive Environment

Item 2.

- Business density and diversity matter
 - Strong mix of retail, service, and office uses
- Serve everyday community needs
 - Focus groups emphasized the importance of businesses that support daily, routine activities
- Downtown development priority
 - Façade improvement grants
 - Downtown Business Incentive Program
- Placemaking & events programming
 - Activates downtown spaces and supports local businesses

Downtown La Quinta Events



Top Left: *Certified Farmers Market*
Bottom Left: *Seasonal Events*
Top Right: *Art on Main Street*
Sources: City of La Quinta, Old Town La Quinta

Key Findings and Market Gaps

Item 2.



Quick-service restaurants and cafés offering affordable, family-friendly meals



Grocery and convenience stores tailored to larger households and frequent shoppers



Hair salons, barbershops, nail salons, and other personal care providers



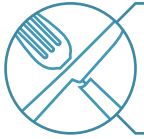
Tutoring centers, family clinics, and play-based learning spaces



Retailers serving cost-conscious shoppers



Banks and financial providers supporting the everyday needs of working families



Businesses celebrating Coachella's agricultural heritage while providing affordable access to fresh, healthy food

Next Steps

Study Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- Finalizing remaining deliverables – Area Plan, cost estimates, and phasing/implementation plan
- City Council presentation March 11, 2026
- Study will conclude by the end of March 2026
- Broader Coachella Valley Rail environmental and design process begins this year, with more opportunities for community engagement
- City of Coachella can begin implementing Area Plan and Economic Development Strategy recommendations



STAFF REPORT
March 4, 2026

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: City Attorney's Office, Best Best & Krieger, LLP

SUBJECT: Brown Act Training

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Planning Commission receive and file this information.

BACKGROUND:

Historically, the Planning Commission for the City of Coachella has received presentations and trainings regarding conflicts of interest laws and compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act). City staff in coordination with the City Attorney's office schedule in person trainings throughout the year.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

This training will provide a high-level overview of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) and recognizing Conflicts of Interest. Training on the Brown Act will include background on the Brown Act, what the Brown Act requires, and how this works in practice with the Planning Commission.

Training on Conflicts of Interest will include the general rules on personal financial interests, how to recognize when you may have a conflict, and how to recuse yourself at a meeting if you have conflict. The goal of the training is to help Commissioners comply with the law, learn best practices, promote positive public perceptions, and avoid legal problems.

Brown Act Overview

The Brown Act is California's "sunshine" law for local government. It is found in the California Government Code beginning at Section 54950. In a nutshell, it requires local government business to be conducted at open and public meetings, except in certain limited situations. The Brown Act is based upon state policy that the people must be informed so they can keep control over their government.

The requirements of the Brown Act apply to "legislative bodies" of local governmental agencies. The term "legislative body" is defined to include the governing body of a local agency (e.g., the city council) and any commission, committee, board or other body of the local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decision-making or advisory, that is created by formal action of a legislative body (Section 54952).

The central provision of the Brown Act requires that all “meetings” of a legislative body be open and public. The Brown Act definition of the term “meeting” (Section 54952.2) is a very broad definition that encompasses almost every gathering of a majority of members and includes:

“Any congregation of a majority of members of a legislative body at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body or the local agency to which it pertains.”

In plain English, this means that a meeting is any gathering of a majority of members to hear or discuss any item of city business or potential city business.

There are six specific types of gatherings that are not subject to the Brown Act. We refer to the exceptions as: (1) the individual contact exception; (2) the seminar and conference exception; (3) the community meeting exception; (4) the other legislative body exception; (5) the social or ceremonial occasion exception; and (6) the standing committee exception.

Unless a gathering of a majority of members falls within one of the exceptions discussed below, if a majority of members are in the same room and merely listen to a discussion of city business, then they will be participating in a Brown Act meeting that requires notice, an agenda, and a period for public comment.

Conflict of Interest Overview

The Political Reform Act of 1974 (Gov. Code sections 81000-91015) forms the foundation for California’s financial conflict of interest laws for public officials. The purpose is to cover both actual and apparent conflict of interest situations between a public official’s private interest and his or her public duties.

The basic rule is that no public official shall make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision if he or she knows, or has reason to know, that he or she has a financial interest in the decision.

What Should I Do if a Financial Conflict Exists? Do not participate in the discussion or render any opinion or advice, and do not act in any way that might influence the decision. State law requires you to publicly disclose your financial conflict of interest and excuse yourself from the meeting while the matter is being considered in open session. You do not have to excuse yourself on consent calendar items but must publicly disclose your financial interest. Violation of the Political Reform Act can result in administrative fines, civil penalties and criminal sanctions.

Other Conflict of Interest Laws

Self-Interested Contracts (Government Code Section 1090)

This key law prohibits you, as an elected or appointed official, from voting, discussing or negotiating a proposed contract or sale with your public agency if you will receive some financial gain or personal benefit from the contract or sale. Even if you abstain as a board member, the entire board or council is prohibited from entering into the contract. Any contract signed by a public agency board in violation of section 1090 is void. The rule is different if you are a decision-making employee not on the board or council. A public agency employee may disclose his or her financial

interest in the public agency contract and be disqualified from any involvement, allowing the board or council to legally enter the contract. Violation of this law will void the contract or sale and may result in permanent forfeiture of office for elected officials. There are limited exceptions to this law beyond the scope of this Guide.

Campaign Contributions (Government Code Section 84308)

If you are an appointed public official, or if you are an elected public official serving on an appointed board or commission, this law prohibits you from participating in proceedings on licenses, permits or other entitlements that affect a person, business or other entity from which you have received a campaign contribution of \$250 or more within the last 12 months.

Final Note

In general, California's Conflict of Interest laws impose strict restrictions on elected or appointed officials in their dealings with their public agencies. It forbids them from voting, discussing, or negotiating any proposed projects, contracts, sales, or other specific actions if they stand to gain financially or personally from such transactions. It is ultimately the commissioner's obligation to identify and disclose any such conflicts as outlined in statute. If a commissioner is unsure if there is a conflict of interest, they are encouraged to contact the City Attorney before the hearing.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

FISCAL IMPACTS

None.