



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director   
**DATE:** September 27, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** **Comprehensive Plan(s) Transportation Element Certifications,  
Resolution 10-16-25**

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### AT A GLANCE - ACTION

*The RTC Board is asked to take action on Resolution 10-16-25 to certify Comprehensive Plan updates of local jurisdictions in Clark County as required by Washington State's Growth Management Act. Resolution 10-16-25 covers the Comprehensive Plan updates of Clark County and the cities of east county; Camas and Washougal. Certification of updated plans from north county cities of Battle Ground, Ridgefield and La Center will be proposed for action at next month's RTC Board meeting. The City of Vancouver and the Town of Yacolt will update their Plans in the future.*

### INTRODUCTION

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the Clark, Klickitat and Skamania County region. As an RTPO, RTC has responsibility for the regional transportation planning process. One of the duties of an RTPO is to certify the transportation element of local Comprehensive Plans and any update to these Plans. The certification process reviews the transportation element within the Comprehensive Plan to assure conformance with the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and meets the requirements of Washington State's Level of Service (LOS) Bill. The Certification Process embodies the spirit of the GMA which requires coordination between jurisdictions and transportation agencies when planning under the GMA and requires consistency between transportation plans.

### HISTORY

The GMA Certification requirement was first addressed by the RTC Board in 1994 during development of the first Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County resulting from the State's Growth Management Act passed in 1990. The process to certify Comprehensive Plans was reviewed and updated by the RTC Board in 2003. Certification of local plans was ratified with subsequent updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Clark County.

After working with Regional Transportation Advisory Committee members and planners from local jurisdictions, as well as review by the RTC Board, the Board adopted Resolution 03-16-05, a Guide to RTC's Certification Process, on March 1, 2016. The Guide clarifies RTC's role in certifying local plans as part of Washington State's growth management planning process and

includes a checklist for local jurisdictions to complete to help them and RTC fulfill certification requirements. Both the Guide and the checklist are made available on [RTC's website](#).

### **RTC's GMA CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

There are 4 key elements to the certification process:

- Guidelines and Principles for certifying the local transportation elements of Comprehensive Plans are established.
- RTC must certify conformity of local Comprehensive Plan transportation elements with the Growth Management Act's requirements.
- RTC must certify consistency between local Comprehensive Plans and RTC's Regional Transportation Plan.
- RTC must certify that local jurisdictions have met the requirements of the state's Level of Service Bill.

### **USE OF RTC'S CHECKLIST**

RTC's Certification Process Guide includes a checklist for use by jurisdictions required to update their Growth Management Plans in 2016 and subsequent years. The checklist contains a series of questions related to the requirements of the GMA for developing transportation elements in local comprehensive plans and is used to determine the Plan's GMA compliance and consistency.

RTC has received updated Comprehensive Plans and completed certification checklists from local jurisdictions that have taken Comprehensive Plan update actions in 2016. Local jurisdictions submitted completed certification checklists to RTC acknowledging that their Comprehensive Plan update was coordinated with planning partners and the transportation element was coordinated with RTC, C-TRAN and WSDOT. The checklist asks for verification that transportation element update supports transportation policy themes found in federal, state and regional laws, guidance and plans as well as County-wide Transportation Planning Policies adopted by Clark County as part of its Comprehensive Growth Management Planning Process.

The Growth Management Act requires that the transportation elements of local Comprehensive Plans address certain issues. RTC's checklist requires local jurisdictions to acknowledge these issues are addressed in the transportation elements:

- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Goals and Policies including Consistency with County-Wide Planning Policies
- Inventory of Transportation System
- Land Use Assumptions Used in Estimating Travel Demand
- Data and Performance Measures including Level of Service
- Travel Forecasting
- Facilities and Service Needs

- Traffic Impacts to State-Owned Transportation Facilities Resulting from the Land Use Assumptions
- Demand Management Strategies
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Component
- Finance Plan

The transportation elements of local Comprehensive Plans also need to be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan. RTC's checklist requires local jurisdictions to confirm that the transportation element is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan regarding the following:

- Land Use Forecast
- Goals and Policies including Consistency with County-Wide Planning Policies
- Regional Travel Forecast Model Network and Transit Assumptions
- Level of Service Standards
- Goals and Policies
- Projects, Programs and Services
- Financial Plan and Funding Strategy
- Intergovernmental Coordination Efforts
- Transportation Demand Management and System Management Strategies

#### **CERTIFICATION OF UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLANS AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENTS**

RTC staff worked in coordination with local jurisdictions and their consultants during the course of the 2016 comprehensive plan update process. Overall, RTC recognizes the close cooperation between the state, region and locals in developing Plans within the Clark County region. RTC reviewed the completed checklists submitted by local jurisdictions and verified that the updated plans meet GMA requirements.

Resolution 10-16-25 recommends RTC's certification of the following comprehensive plan updates following RTC's verification of submitted checklist, review of the updated Comprehensive Plan and transportation element and recommendation from the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee:

#### **Clark County**

Clark County's 2016 Comprehensive Plan update was adopted by the Clark County Council on June 21, 2016. The County's Comprehensive Plan update included review of Countywide Planning Policies as well as update to the Plan's Chapter 5 transportation element. A Clark County Comprehensive Plan map showing the identified transportation needs in unincorporated Clark County is attached.

**Camas**

The City of Camas's 2016 Comprehensive Plan update was adopted by the Camas City Council on June 20, 2016. The 2016 Camas Comprehensive Plan update focusses on policies and emphasizes the integration of land use and transportation. A map showing Camas's Transportation Comprehensive Plan Map is attached.

**Washougal**

The City of Washougal's 2016 Comprehensive Plan update was adopted by the Washougal City Council on June 27, 2016. Update to Washougal's transportation element is only minor in scope with the addition of two transportation projects to Washougal's Capital Facilities Plan to allow the projects to be partially funded with local Transportation Impact Fees (TIFs). A more thorough update to Washougal's Comprehensive Plan and transportation Capital Facilities Plan is planned for later in 2016 and 2017. A map showing the City of Washougal's Transportation Circulation Plan: Proposed Roads and Road Improvements with Capital Facilities Projects Identified is attached.

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

RTC's certification of local comprehensive plans is consistent with State Growth Management planning process requirements. The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the local jurisdictions' completed checklists and recommended RTC Board action to certify the updated Plans.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

None. Work by RTC to complete Growth Management Act Certification requirements was anticipated and budgeted in the FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program under the Regional Transportation Plan work element.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Certifications, Resolution 10-16-25.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Jack Burkman  
Chair of the Board

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Matt Ransom  
Executive Director

Attachments: Transportation element maps of Clark County, Camas and Washougal

# TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

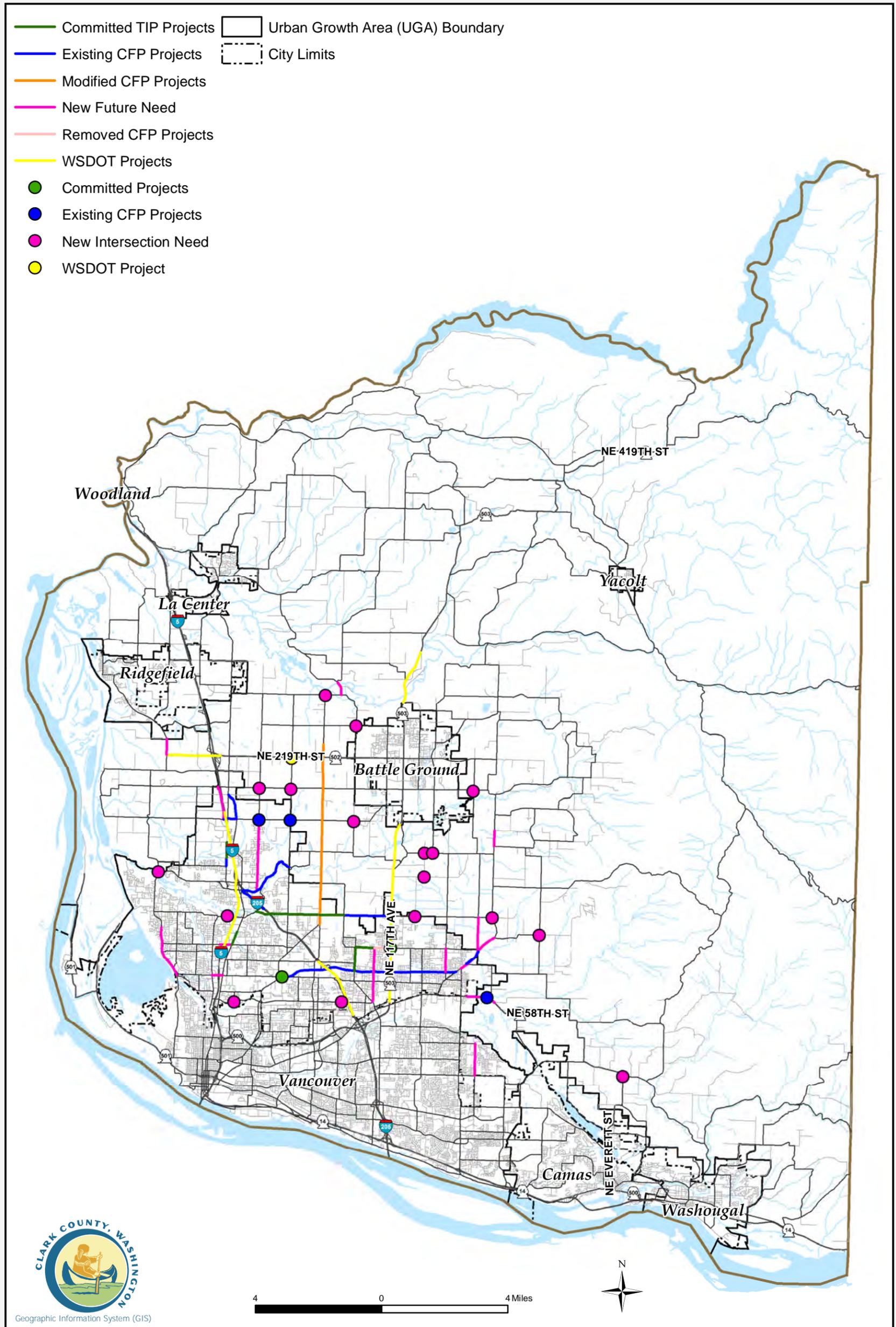
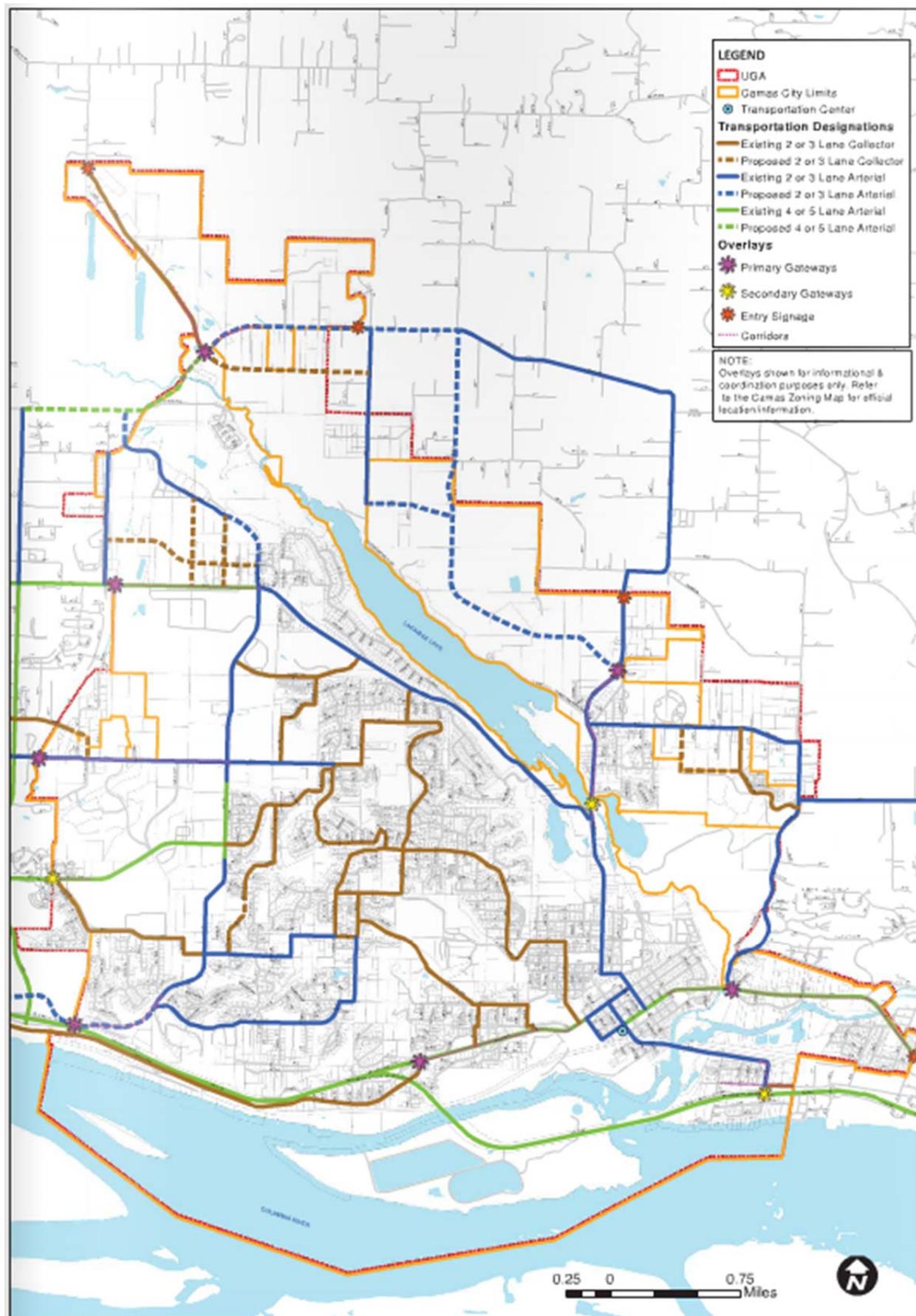


FIGURE 20



**CAMAS TRANSPORTATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP**  
 CAMAS, WA | Ordinance 16-010 Adopted June 2016



Figure 11. Proposed Capital Improvements

