



## CEQA Exemption Determination

### PROPERTY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Project Address</b>		<b>Block/Lot(s)</b>
SFMTA_ N Judah Terminal Safety Improvements and Lower Great Highw;		
<b>Case No.</b>		<b>Permit No.</b>
2023-005756ENV		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Addition/ Alteration</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Demolition (requires HRE for Category B Building)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Construction</b>
<p><b>Project description for Planning Department approval.</b></p> <p>The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) proposes to implement the N Judah Terminal Safety Improvements and Lower Great Highway Parking Changes Project (Project). The project would consist of design changes to address a pattern of collisions involving motorists and N Judah light rail vehicles at the Muni terminal located at the intersection of Judah Street, La Playa Street, and Lower Great Highway. The existing street configuration has multiple pinch points for motor vehicle traffic and limited visibility between motorists and pedestrians at several locations when light rail vehicles occupy the terminal. The project modifications were identified by SFMTA staff and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as necessary improvements to address safety concerns. In addition, changes to on-street parking are proposed on nearby Lower Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street in response to requests from area residents and the District 4 Board of Supervisors' office. The project site is within the California Coastal Zone.</p> <p>Full project description is attached below.</p>		

### EXEMPTION TYPE

<b>The project has been determined to be exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 1 - Existing Facilities. (CEQA Guidelines section 15301)</b> Interior and exterior alterations; additions under 10,000 sq. ft.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 3 - New Construction. (CEQA Guidelines section 15303)</b> Up to three new single-family residences or six dwelling units in one building; commercial/office structures; utility extensions; change of use under 10,000 sq. ft. if principally permitted or with a CU.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Class 32 - In-Fill Development. (CEQA Guidelines section 15332)</b> New Construction of seven or more units or additions greater than 10,000 sq. ft. and meets the conditions described below:</p> <p>(a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations.</p> <p>(b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than 5 acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.</p> <p>(c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered rare or threatened species.</p> <p>(d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.</p> <p>(e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other _____</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)).</b> It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT

**Comments:**

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

**Planner Signature:** Jennifer M Barbour Mckellar

## PROPERTY STATUS - HISTORIC RESOURCE

**PROPERTY IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Category A:</b> Known Historical Resource.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Category B:</b> Potential Historical Resource (over 45 years of age).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Category C:</b> Not a Historical Resource or Not Age Eligible (under 45 years of age).

## PROPOSED WORK CHECKLIST

<b>Check all that apply to the project.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Change of use and new construction.</b> Tenant improvements not included.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Regular maintenance or repair</b> to correct or repair deterioration, decay, or damage to building.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Window replacement</b> that meets the Department's <i>Window Replacement Standards</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Garage work.</b> A new opening that meets the <i>Guidelines for Adding Garages and Curb Cuts</i> , or replacement of a garage door in an existing opening that meets the Residential Design Guidelines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Deck, terrace construction, or fences</b> not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Mechanical equipment installation</b> that is not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dormer installation</b> that meets the requirements for exemption from public notification under <i>Zoning Administrator Bulletin No. 3: Dormer Windows</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Addition(s)</b> not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way for 150 feet in each direction; or does not extend vertically beyond the floor level of the top story of the structure, or does not cause the removal of architectural significant roofing features.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Façade or storefront alterations</b> that do not remove, alter, or obscure character -defining features.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Restoration</b> based upon documented evidence of a building's historic condition , such as historic photographs, plans, physical evidence, or similar buildings.
<b>Note: Project Planner must check box below before proceeding.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project is not listed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project involves scope of work listed above.

## ADVANCED HISTORICAL REVIEW

Check all that apply to the project.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Reclassification of property status.</b> (<i>Attach HRRER Part I relevant analysis; requires Principal Preservation Planner approval</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reclassify to Category A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Reclassify to Category C</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Lacks Historic Integrity</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Lacks Historic Significance</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project involves a <b>known historical resource (CEQA Category A)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project does not substantially impact character-defining features of a historic resource (see Comments)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project is compatible, yet differentiated, with a historic resource.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
<b>Note: If ANY box above is checked, a Preservation Planner MUST sign below.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Project can proceed with EXEMPTION REVIEW.</b> The project has been reviewed by the Preservation Planner and can proceed with exemption review.
<b>Comments by Preservation Planner:</b>	
<b>Preservation Planner Signature:</b>	

## EXEMPTION DETERMINATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>No further environmental review is required. The project is exempt under CEQA. There are no unusual circumstances that would result in a reasonable possibility of a significant effect.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Project Approval Action:</b> Approval by SFMTA Board</p>	<p><b>Signature:</b> Jennifer M Barbour Mckellar 10/24/2023</p>
	<p>Supporting documents are available for review on the San Francisco Property Information Map, which can be accessed at <a href="https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/">https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/</a>. Individual files can be viewed by clicking on the Planning Applications link, clicking the "More Details" link under the project's environmental record number (ENV) and then clicking on the "Related Documents" link.</p> <p>Once signed and dated, this document constitutes an exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31 of the SF Admin Code. Per Chapter 31, an appeal of an exemption determination to the Board of Supervisors shall be filed within 30 days after the Approval Action occurs at a noticed public hearing, or within 30 days after posting on the Planning Department's website a written decision or written notice of the Approval Action, if the approval is not made at a noticed public hearing.</p>	

### **Environmental Screening Comments (Continued)**

The proposed modifications are exempt under CEQA Guidelines section 15301(c): operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

No exceptions per CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply:

- a) Location exception does not apply to a class 1 categorical exemption,
- b) The project in combination with cumulative projects would not result in significant impacts,
- c) There are no unusual circumstances surrounding the project or project site,
- d) The project site is not along a state scenic highway,
- e) The project is not located on a hazardous waste list compiled pursuant to government code section 65962.5,  
and
- f) The project site is not within a historic district and does not contain nor is adjacent to any historic resources.  
The project does not include any excavation; therefore, no archeological resources would be affected.



Date: October 24, 2023  
To: Jennifer McKellar, San Francisco Planning Department  
From: Dustin White, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
Through: Forrest Chamberlain, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
Re: N Judah Terminal Safety Improvements and Lower Great Highway Parking Changes Project  
Case No.: 2023-005756ENV

## Project Description

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) proposes to implement the N Judah Terminal Safety Improvements and Lower Great Highway Parking Changes Project (Project). The project would consist of design changes to address a pattern of collisions involving motorists and N Judah light rail vehicles at the Muni terminal located at the intersection of Judah Street, La Playa Street, and Lower Great Highway. The existing street configuration has multiple pinch points for motor vehicle traffic and limited visibility between motorists and pedestrians at several locations when light rail vehicles occupy the terminal. The project modifications were identified by SFMTA staff and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as necessary improvements to address safety concerns. In addition, changes to on-street parking are proposed on nearby Lower Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street in response to requests from area residents and the District 4 Board of Supervisors' office. The project site is within the California Coastal Zone.

## Existing Conditions

### N Judah Muni Terminal (Judah Street/La Playa Street/Lower Great Highway Intersection)

La Playa Street consists of one travel lane in both the northbound and southbound directions at Judah Street with parallel parking on both sides of the street. Lower Great Highway also consists of one travel lane in both the northbound and southbound directions at Judah Street, with parallel parking on both sides of the street. La Playa Street and Lower Great Highway are parallel to one another and are separated by landscaped areas on both the north and south sides of the intersection at Judah Street. Judah Street consists of one travel lane in both the eastbound and westbound directions where it intersects La Playa Street and Lower Great Highway. The terminal for Muni's N Judah light rail vehicles is located within the center of the intersection of Judah Street, La Playa Street and Lower Great Highway. There are no turn restrictions at this intersection, except for one

southbound right-turn restriction on La Playa Street at Judah Street. Some motor vehicle movements are physically prohibited when a light rail vehicle is at the terminal. All intersection approaches are controlled by stop signs.

When light rail vehicles occupy the terminal there is limited street width for northbound and southbound motor vehicle traffic on La Playa Street to pass within intersection at Judah Street. There is also limited visibility between motorists on La Playa Street and pedestrians crossing La Playa Street at both the northern and southern crosswalks at the intersection at Judah Street.

#### Lower Great Highway (Lincoln Way to Kirkham Street)

Lower Great Highway consists of one travel lane in both the northbound and southbound directions for the three blocks between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street, with parallel parking on both sides of the street. Lower Great Highway is controlled by stop signs at the intersections with Lincoln Way, Judah Street, and Kirkham Street, but is uncontrolled at the intersection with Irving Street. See Attachment A: Existing Conditions and Attachment B: Existing and Proposed Design for more detail.

### **Proposed Project**

#### N Judah Muni Terminal (Judah Street/La Playa Street/Lower Great Highway Intersection)

The project would implement design changes to address a pattern of collisions involving motorists and N Judah light rail vehicles at the terminal. Between May 2019 and February 2023, there were 15 reported collisions involving N Judah light rail vehicles at the intersection of Judah Street, La Playa Street, and Lower Great Highway.

All vehicle movements that cross the N Judah terminal area would be restricted and additional motor vehicle movements would be restricted to improve pedestrian safety. Left turns and through movements would be restricted on northbound La Playa Street at Judah Street and on westbound Judah Street at La Playa Street (excepting Muni transit vehicles); right turns would be restricted on northbound Lower Great Highway at Judah Street; left turns would be restricted on southbound Lower Great Highway at Judah Street; southbound La Playa Street would be marked as a dead-end approaching Judah Street and all southbound traffic would be required to make U-turns.

Parking would be restricted on the east side of La Playa Street from Judah Street to 130 feet southerly and on the west side of La Playa Street from Judah Street to 77 feet northerly to accommodate realigned travel lanes designed to keep motor vehicles separated from the N Judah terminal area. Safe-hit posts would be installed around the N Judah terminal area to further prevent motorists from crossing over the facility. A bikeshare station would be installed on the west side of La Playa Street north of Judah Street.

#### Lower Great Highway (Lincoln Way to Kirkham Street)

The project would also make the following changes to on-street parking on Lower Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street as requested by area residents and the District 4 Board of

Supervisors' office. Parallel parking would be restricted on the east side of Lower Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street. Existing parallel parking would be converted to angled parking on the west side of Lower Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street, except within the stem of intersections at Irving Street and at Judah Street and immediately south of Judah Street. Three blue zones for accessible parking would be included on the west side of Lower Great Highway adjacent to existing curb ramps – one angled space south of Lincoln Way, one angled space south of Irving Street, and one parallel space south of Judah Street. A parallel passenger loading zone would be lengthened from approximately 20 feet to 50 feet on the west side of Lower Great Highway within the stem of the intersection at Judah Street. Three existing traffic calming speed cushions would be reconstructed to align the emergency vehicle wheel slots with realigned travel lanes on Lower Great Highway – one on each block between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street.

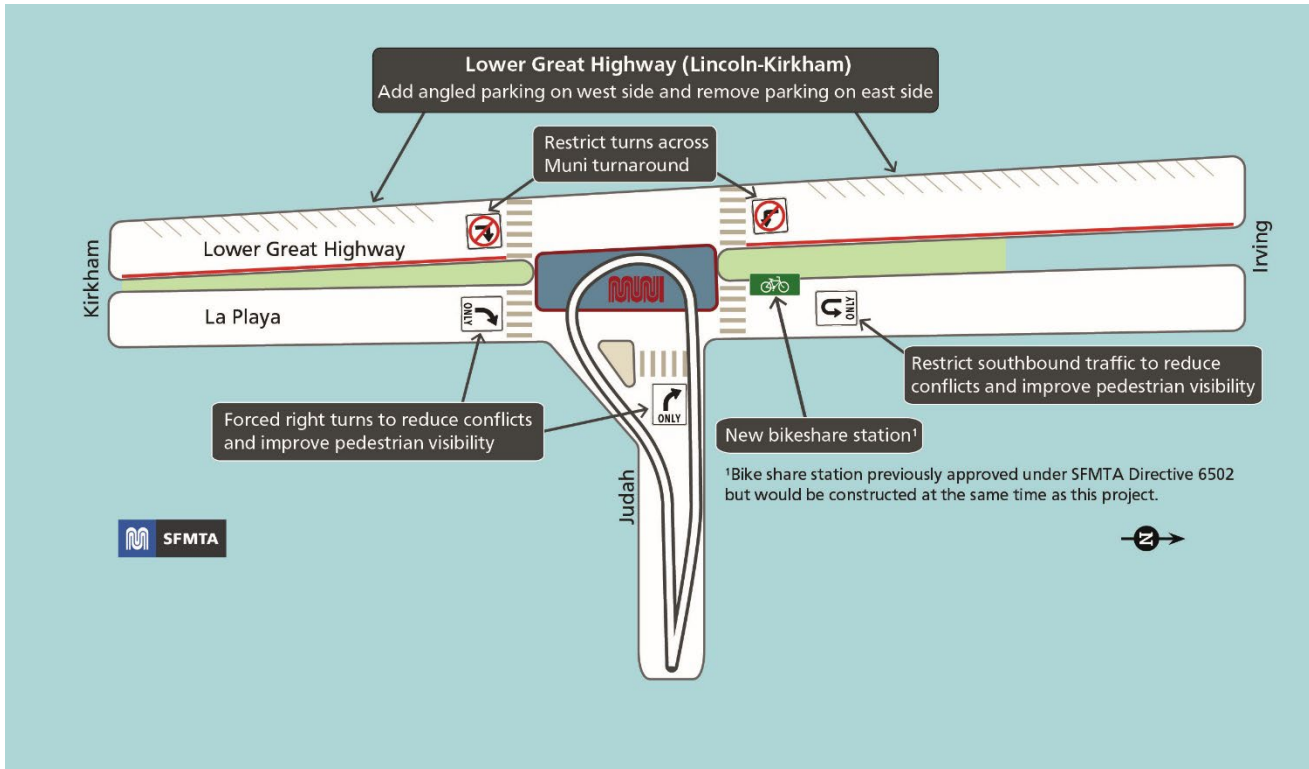


Figure 1. Proposed changes to N Judah Muni Terminal (Judah Street/La Playa Street/Lower Great Highway Intersection) and Lower Great Highway (Lincoln Way to Kirkham Street). The new bikeshare station depicted in the figure was approved under SFMTA Directive 6502 and environmentally cleared under Planning Record No. 2021-012477ENV.

Figure 1 illustrates the proposed project changes. See Attachment B: Existing and Proposed Design for more detail.

### Construction

All proposed design changes would be implemented by SFMTA crews except the reconstruction of three speed cushions which would be implemented by SF Public Works crews. Construction would be limited to removal and installation of pavement markings, signs and safe-hit posts and reconstruction of speed cushions. No excavation is proposed and there would be no ground disturbance, including from the installation of signs and safe-hit posts and the reconstruction of

speed cushions, which would be mounted on asphalt. The Project would not result in the removal of any existing on-street commercial or passenger loading spaces. The proposed changes to the N Judah terminal intersection would result in a net decrease of four on-street parking spaces. The proposed parking changes on Lower Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Kirkham Street would result in a net decrease of 20 on-street parking spaces.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Existing Conditions

Attachment B: Existing and Proposed Design

**Approval Action:**

The Approval Action as defined by San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 31, Section 31.04(h)(2) is SFMTA Board Approval. The approval action starts the 30-day appeal period for the environmental review determination under Administrative Code Section 31.16.



## Attachment A – Existing Conditions

Aerial view of N Judah terminal at intersection of La Playa Street, Judah Street, Lower Great Highway



View North on La Playa Street at Judah Street



View South on La Playa Street at Judah Street



View West on Judah Street at La Playa Street



View East from Lower Great Highway



View North on Lower Great Highway at Judah Street

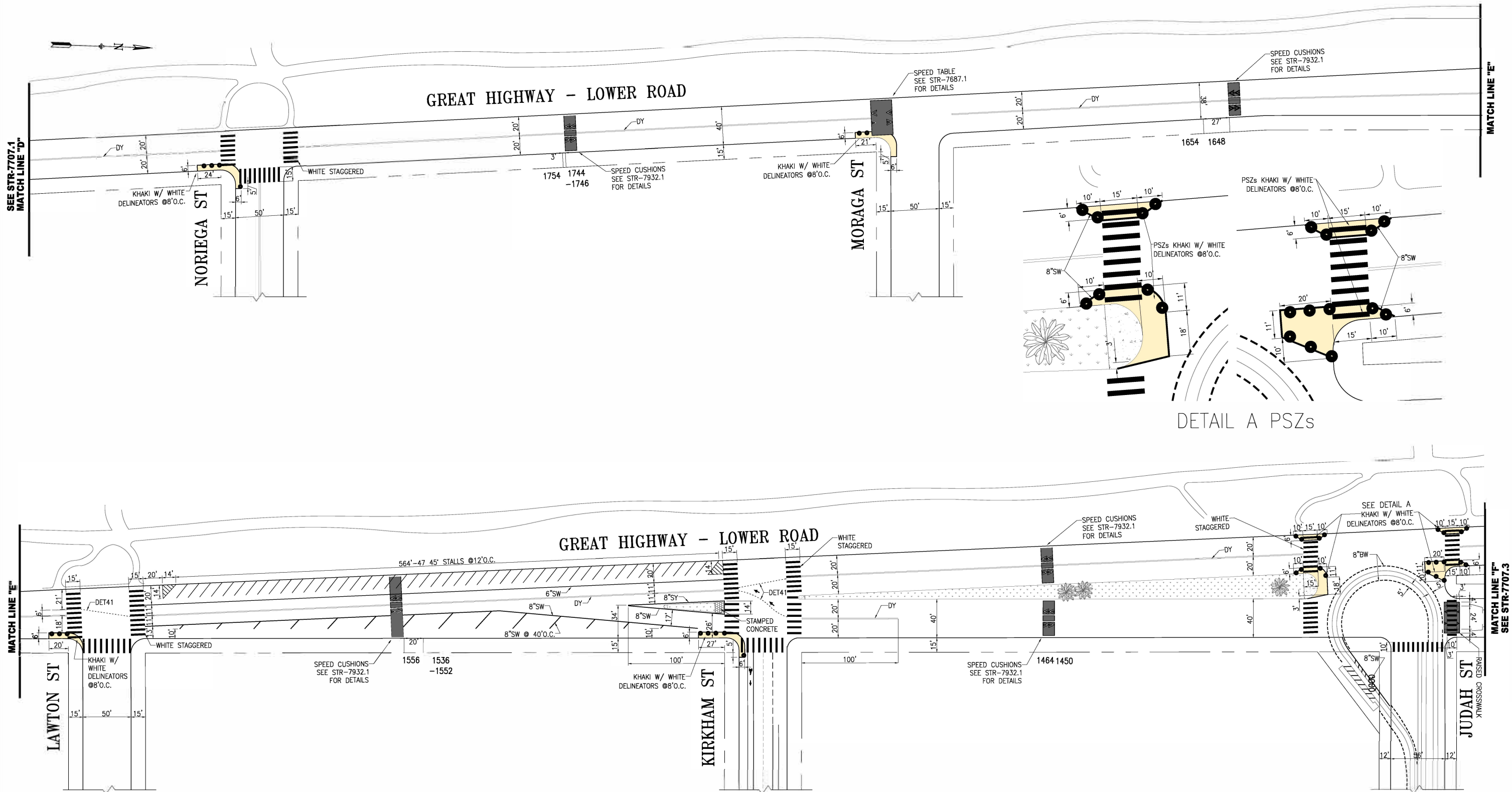


## View North on Lower Great Highway at Irving Street



## **Attachment B: Existing and Proposed Design**

# EXISTING STRIPING



NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP
1	06/20/21	SPEED HUMPS AND TABLE ON LWR GREAT HWY	M.GROWNEY	M.SALLABERRY
2	05/07/20	PSZ SHAPE CHANGE @ JUDAH	S.SHARIATI	K.LEUNG
3	08/14/19	ADDED RAISED XWALK @ JUDAH	S.SHARIATI	K.LEUNG
4	02/27/20	ADDED PSZ @ NORIEGA ST, MORAGA ST, LAWTON ST & KIRKHAM ST; ANGLED PARKING LINES, HATCHES, STRIPINGS LAWTON TO KIRKHAM; CONTIS, DET 41 & THRU ARROW @ KIRKHAM; PER FIELD UPDATE REMOVED DY, THRU ARROW	N.SMITH	M.SALLABERRY

TABLE OF REVISIONS  
CHECK WITH TRACING TO SEE IF YOU HAVE LATEST REVISION



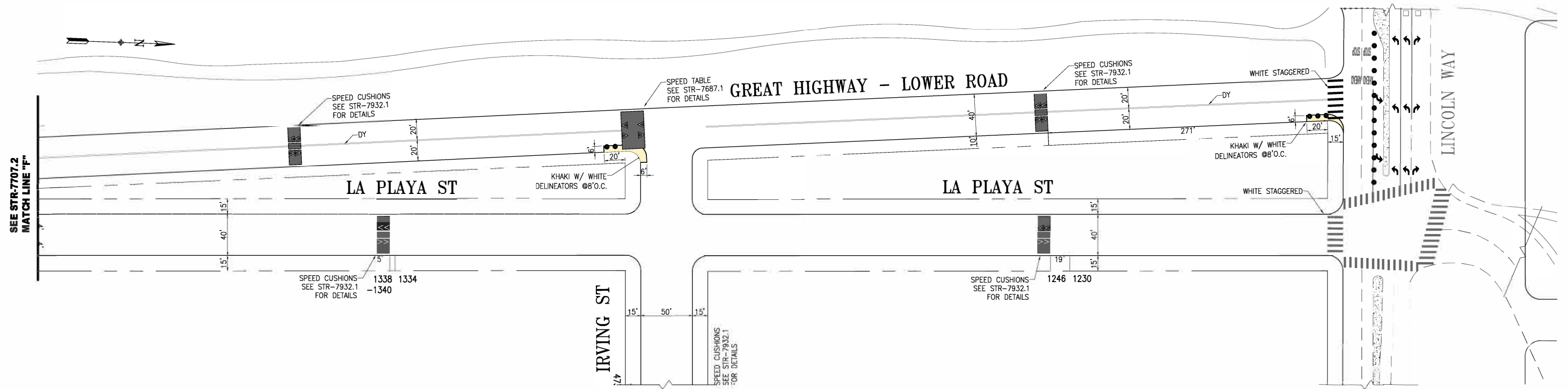
DRAWN: L. YEE		DATE: 01/15	
CHECKED: K. LIT WOO		DATE: 03/15	

APPROVED: BRIAN DUSSEAULT		DATE: 03/25/15	
SENIOR ENGINEER		DATE:	
APPROVED: RICARDO OLEA		DATE: 03/25/15	
CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER		DATE:	

SCALE: 1"=50'	TRAFFIC STRIPING	CONTRACT NO.
SHEET/SHEETS: 3 OF 4		DRAWING NO. STR-7707.2
GREAT HIGHWAY - LOWER ROAD NORIEGA STREET TO JUDAH STREET		FILE NO.
		REV. NO. 6

EXTERNAL REFERENCES: FONTS USED:  
SCALE FACTOR: PLOT SCALE:  
FILE NAME: Str-7707 Lower Rd (Sheet Blvd to Santiago)  
ORIGIN: OPERATIONS  
DATE:

# EXISTING STRIPING



NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP
36/20/21		SPEED HUMPS AND TABLE ON LWR GREAT HWY & LA PLAYA	M.GROWNEY	M.SALLABERRY
32/27/20		ADDED PSZ @ IRVING ST, LINCOLN WAY	N.SMITH	M.SALLABERRY

TABLE OF REVISIONS  
CHECK WITH TRACING TO SEE IF YOU HAVE LATEST REVISION



SUPERCEDES STR-2731 REV"7"	
DRAWN: L. YEE	DATE: 1/2015
CHECKED: K. LIT WOO	DATE: 3/2015

APPROVED	
BRIAN DUSSEAULT	03/25/15
SENIOR ENGINEER	DATE:
RICARDO OLEA	03/25/15
CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER	DATE:

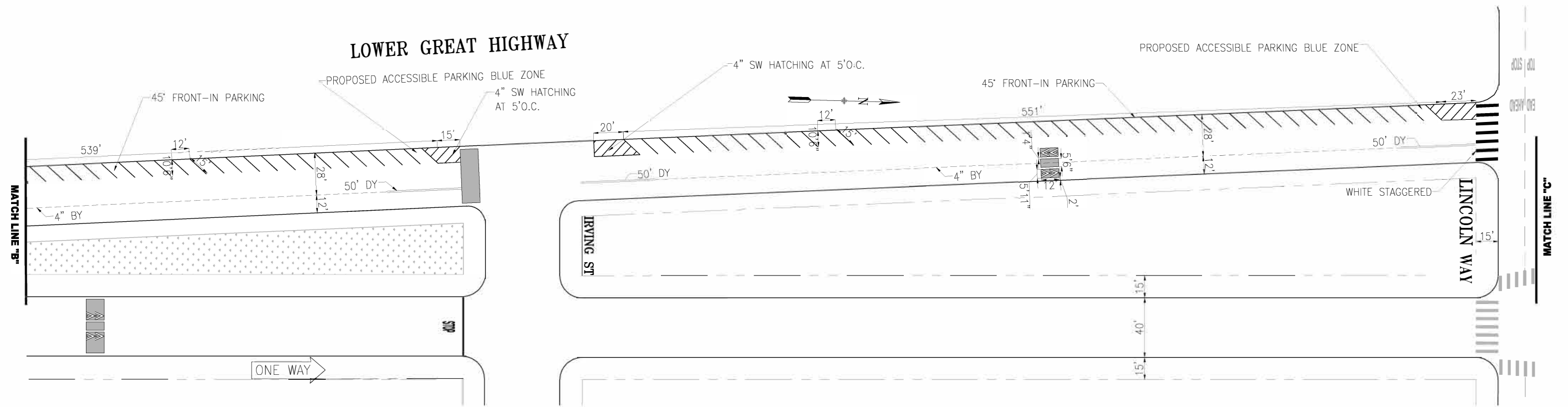
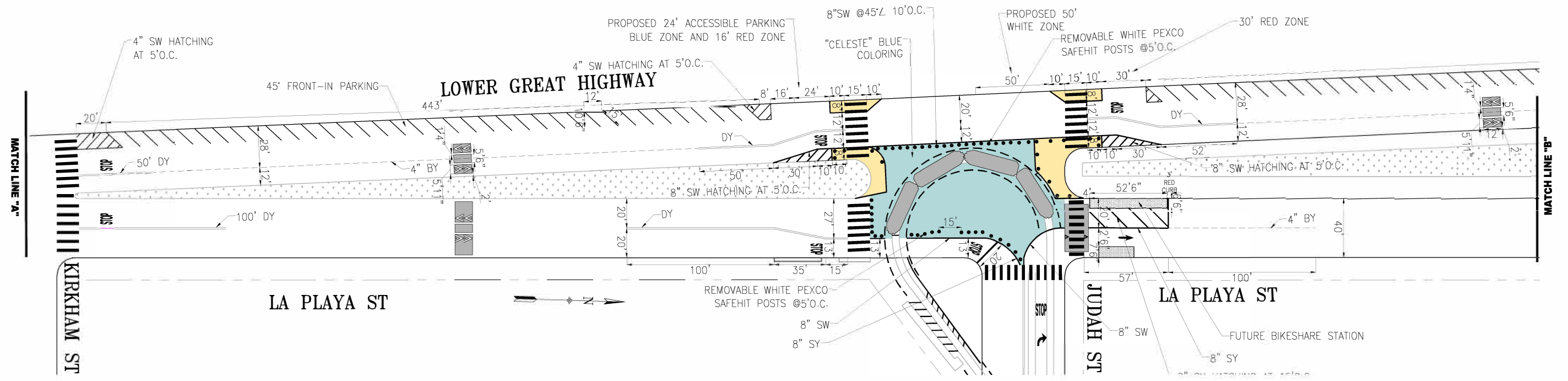
SCALE: 1"=50'
SHEET/SHEETS: 4 OF 4

TRAFFIC STRIPING
LA PLAYA & GREAT HIGHWAY - LOWER ROAD JUDAH STREET TO LINCOLN WAY

CONTRACT NO.
DRAWING NO. STR-7707.3
FILE NO.
REV. NO. 2

EXTERNAL REFERENCES:  
FONTS USED:  
SCALE FACTOR:  
PLOT SCALE:  
FILE NAME:  
DATE:  
Str-7707 Lower Rd (Sloat Blvd to Serrano)  
ORIGIN: OPERATIONS

# PROPOSED N JUDAH TERMINAL DESIGN WITH 45-DEGREE FRONT-IN PARKING ON LGH



NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP
TABLE OF REVISIONS				
CHECK WITH TRACING TO SEE IF YOU HAVE LATEST REVISION				



DRAWN:		DATE:		APPROVED:		SCALE:	
CHECKED:		DATE:		SENIOR ENGINEER:		SHEET/SHEETS:	
				CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER:		DATE:	

CONTRACT NO.
DRAWING NO.
FILE NO.
REV. NO.