

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 3, 2015

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 3, 2015 at 7:36 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dennis Kavanaugh
David Luna
Dave Richins
Kevin Thompson

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Jim Smith
Dee Ann Mickelsen

1-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on updated Parks Bond allocation.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department Director Marc Heirshberg displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) related to the updated allocations of the 2012 Parks and Recreation Bond. He explained that it was necessary to reallocate funds, due to various circumstances, and that he was asked to follow-up with specific project costs and revised scheduled dates. He noted that the voters approved a \$70 million Parks and Recreation Bond Package in 2012, which would remain focused on the following areas:

- Park Conversion and Improvement Projects
- Community Partnership Projects
- Renovation and Enhancement Projects
- New Development Park Projects
- Bike and Pedestrian Path Projects

Mr. Heirshberg reviewed a list of projects to develop City-owned vacant land into useable park space. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1) He reported that the Signal Butte/Elliott Project was scheduled to begin in FY 17/18 and that the budget for this project has been reduced to \$1,843,430 from \$3,400,000 to cover impact fees as a result of a change in legislation. He added that the revised cost for all of the Park Conversion and Improvement Projects was \$5,940,000.

Mr. Heirshberg referred to the Community Partnership Projects which are being completed in conjunction with Mesa Public Schools (MPS) to convert school properties into parks and recreation facilities. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1) He explained that the community had requested the Mesa Aquatics Complex be relocated to Mesa High School and he reported that

\$3 million was moved from the Pioneer Park Project to accommodate that change. He added that the Mesa Aquatics Complex proved to be a great success with high attendance over the summer months. He reported that the overall revised cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects is \$16,800,000.

Mr. Heirshberg continued by reviewing the Renovation and Enhancements Park Projects. (See Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 1) He reported that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars will be reallocated to the Pioneer Park Project, in addition to \$1,450,000 that was originally allocated to lighting for Riverview Park. He explained that the construction of the splash pad at Pioneer Park was contingent on O & M funds becoming available.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that the initial budget for the Cubs spring training project at Riverview Park was based on the original level of service. He added that the bond program called to change the project to a regional showcase park, which came at a cost of \$9.3 million. He explained that Riverview Park has continued to be one of the premier destination parks in the Valley and the playground was named one of the top 50 in the country with a daily average of 1500 visitors.

Mr. Heirshberg provided an update on the following projects:

- Kleinman Park project scope has been reduced to meet neighborhood expectations and the revised budget was decreased to \$1,300,000.
- Federal Building slated for a design expansion with a revised budget of \$5,740,000.
- Greenfield Park Urban Fishing Lake has a revised budget of \$3,500,000 with the start of construction contingent on the O & M budget being available.

In response to a question from Councilmember Richins, City Engineer Beth Huning explained that the original budget for the Federal Building was only for basic interior improvements. She stated that staff has requested additional funds for improvements to the exterior as well as \$1 million for exhibits that were not included in the original budget.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, City Manager Christopher Brady clarified that the basement of the Federal Building was a shared space between the Arizona Museum of Natural History and the Mesa Historical Museum.

Ms. Huning informed Council that the work has not commenced at the Natural History Museum as all of the museum projects need to be completed simultaneously in order to make it more cost effective.

In response to a question from Councilmember Richins, Mr. Brady explained that staff was coming to Council to provide an update on available dollars for parks projects and to seek Council direction on the best way to reallocate those funds.

Mr. Heirshberg stated that the revised cost for the Renovation and Enhancement Park Projects is \$35,390,000.

Mr. Heirshberg discussed the new park development projects that will expand the parks system to provide additional amenities. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1) He explained that two out of three vacant parcels have been acquired at Monterrey Park for future development. He clarified that

the \$1,400,000 remaining in the budget is not enough to complete the project and staff will work with Councilmember Thompson on future plans for that site.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that the funding for the Bike and Pedestrian Path projects was increased to \$6,100,000 to cover the City's portion of the matching federal dollars received. (See Pages 8 and 9 of Attachment 1) He added that \$35 million of the \$70 million dollar bond package approved in 2012 has been utilized.

In response to a question from Councilmember Thompson, Mr. Brady clarified that Mesa has the funding to maintain the parks that are opening, but pointed out that he was unsure when the additional \$1 million necessary to maintain the other projects would become available.

Councilmember Richins requested that staff provide a chart of City parks and regional gaps, and the anticipated maintenance costs for each, in order to assist in prioritizing funds. He commented that he would support prioritizing the parks over the museum.

Councilmember Finter agreed that the parks projects may take higher priority, based on citizen feedback and the overwhelming community support of the parks projects.

Mayor Giles suggested that a visual map of the projects would be helpful in determining the gaps around the City. He voiced his concerns that southeast Mesa may need to be considered for park space due to its rapid growth, although some master planned communities have built parks into their plans. He added that Pioneer Park may be worth moving up on the schedule due to its lower maintenance costs compared to other projects. He pointed out that, due to its proximity to the Light Rail, Pioneer Park improvements could offer a guaranteed success as another regional showcase.

In response to concerns voiced by Council, Mr. Brady confirmed that staff would return to Council at a later date with a map of the current and proposed parks in order to show any regional gaps, projected costs of each, and time frames required to utilize federal funds.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh recalled that historic preservation was a key priority element in the bond election. He urged Council to exercise caution in further delaying improvements to the Arizona Historical Museum, which has been "slow-walked" for 16 years.

Councilmember Luna concurred with Councilmember Finter's statement regarding value engineering and potential cost savings.

Arts and Culture Director Cindy Ornstein clarified that the original \$3.1 million budget allocation for the museum was derived from a construction estimate six years prior and was only for exterior modifications. She indicated that the budget increased to \$5.74 million due to a change in scope, which added interior exhibits and an external façade. She confirmed that value engineering was used to reduce the cost.

Mr. Brady commented that the museum was the most difficult project to identify operating costs and emphasized the importance of having a plan in place, outside of city resources, that ensures continuation of operations for the facility.

Max Cox, a Mesa resident and a representative of the Pioneer Park Save Our Train Community, addressed the Council and expressed his appreciation to the Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department. He stated his desire to see the pioneer heritage maintained

at Pioneer Park and requested that the train be relocated to the front, along Main Street, to act as a monument that is more inviting to visitors. He suggested adding an option to the monthly utility bills for a voluntary \$1 donation to support parks maintenance or to possibly purchase a park pass to the museum.

Antonios Xanthoudakis, a Mesa resident and owner of Haven Burgers Restaurant, addressed the Council and expressed concern regarding Mesa installing a converter on the west side of Pioneer Park to accommodate lunch trucks. He emphasized that many downtown Mesa businesses struggled through three years of Light Rail construction and he felt that 1) it was not fair to now promote competition for those same businesses, and 2) it was not an efficient use of City funds. He added that the funds should instead be used for relocating the train at Pioneer Park to attract more visitors.

1-b. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on an update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway Project.

Mayor Giles thanked the Transportation Department, as well as the Police and Fire Departments, for all of their work during the recent storms.

Transportation Department Director Lenny Hulme introduced Deputy Transportation Director Erik Guderian who came to Mesa in May from the Town of Gilbert. Mr. Hulme indicated that staff is working to provide more connectivity throughout the City to satisfy the interest of the many adult communities. He highlighted the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan and explained that the following four guidelines are used to identify the necessary projects in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program:

- Provide access to the residents
- Provide access to destinations
- Provide access that does not conflict with traffic
- Provide access that uses existing Rights-of-Way (ROW)

Deputy Transportation Director Erik Guderian displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) related to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway Update. He remarked that staff does a great job of communicating with the public, which leads to shifting priorities. He reviewed a map showing the ultimate goal for Mesa's bicycle infrastructure and the five and ten year plan. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2) He explained that an official bike path currently runs along the Consolidated Canal from Baseline Road to Center Street, however, other canals throughout Mesa offer unofficial paths that are being used by residents. He noted that three projects would be brought to the next Council meeting in order to apply for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding.

Mr. Hulme indicated that another item for the next Council meeting was a grant for a smaller street sweeper that could easily access bike paths and other smaller radiuses within the City.

Mr. Guderian continued with the presentation and reviewed the projected paths that are currently under design or construction as follows (See Pages 3 and 4 of Attachment 2):

- Rio Salado Pathway – West City limit to Dobson Road, with completion date of April 2016.

- West Mesa Connector – Center Street to Dobson Road, with completion date of September 2016. A combination of canals and bicycle lanes along the roadway on Alma School Road and Country Club Drive.
- Tempe Canal Shared Use Path – Rio Salado Parkway to University Drive.
- Tempe Canal Shared Use Path – Alma School Road to Rio Salado Parkway.
- Eureka Canal Shared Use Path – Mountain View to 10th Street. A shared use lane along traffic.

Mr. Guderian explained that staff is working with ADOT to use their ROW to save costs on several projects and reviewed the map and photos (See Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 2). He indicated that staff's focus in the future was not only aligning the path with Loop 202, but also on ways to connect it with existing southeast Mesa neighborhoods and locations.

Mr. Hulme noted that, in relation to the park at Signal Butte and Elliott Roads, staff was working to use the network of neighborhood streets around the outside loop for that connection.

Mr. Gurderian reviewed the final maps showing connections from northeast Mesa to the Riverview area. (See Pages 7 and 8 of Attachment 2) He highlighted the following:

- Connect trails to the Granite Reef Dam and further east.
- The South Canal Shared Use Path connects to existing facilities to reach west Mesa and south Mesa.
- Staff is working with the Arizona Department of Transportation to use a site they are currently utilizing at Val Vista and Loop 202 as a parking lot/trail head to access the Lehi Falls monument.

Councilmember Finter commented that the trails are linear parks used by all generations and he was supportive of the project. He added that the Lehi area is a beautiful place to run and ride and getting tax dollars to support that is a great move.

Mayor Giles remarked that the trail system in the northeast part of town is fabulous but underdeveloped.

Mr. Hulme informed Council that staff has received many requests for events in the past and if the trail was developed to Granite Reef Dam, then Mesa could accommodate such events in the future.

Mayor Giles inquired if Salt River Project or Maricopa Association of Governments could offer funding to accelerate the projects. He thanked Mr. Guderian and Mr. Hulme for the presentation.

2. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

3. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Friday, September 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – Motorcycles on Main

Friday, September 4, 2015, 6:30 p.m. – Eastmark Concert in the Park

Friday, September 4, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – Las Sendas Food Truck Event

Sunday, September 6, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – Free Admission to Arizona Museum of Natural History

Thursday, September 10, 2015, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

4. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Councilmember Luna, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 8:51 a.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Carried unanimously.

- 4-a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (3)) Discussion or consultation with designated representatives of the City in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City's representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale, or lease of real property. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (7)) Discussion or consultation with the City Attorney in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City Attorney regarding the City's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(4))

1. Mesa Regional Fire and Medical Dispatch Center and Emergency Operations Center.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Executive Session adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 3rd day of September, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

hm
(attachments – 2)

2012 Parks and Recreation Bond Updated Allocations – Follow up

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015



History

- ▶ Voters approved \$70 million Parks and Recreation Bond Package in November 2012
- ▶ Bond Program focused on five areas
 - ▶ Park Conversion and Improvement Projects
 - ▶ Community Partnership Projects
 - ▶ Renovation and Enhancement Projects
 - ▶ New Development Park Projects
 - ▶ Bike and Pedestrian Path Projects

Park Conversion and Improvement Projects

- ▶ These Projects are developing City-owned vacant land into useable park space.
 - ▶ Desert Trails Park (McDowell/Recker) – Completed November 2014 - \$960,000
 - ▶ Mariposa Park (Medina/Hawes) – Completed March 2015 - \$850,000
 - ▶ Desert Arroyo Park (McKellips/Ellsworth) – Dedication on September 9, 2015 - \$2,285,000
 - ▶ Signal Butte/Elliott – Design Scheduled to commence in FY 17/18 with Water Treatment Facility
 - ▶ Original Budget - \$3,400,000 -- Revised Budget - \$1,843,400
 - ▶ Reductions occurred to cover impact fees after legislation change and increased project expenses at Mariposa Park and Riverview Park.
- ▶ Original cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$7,250,000
- ▶ Revised cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$5,940,000

Community Partnership Projects

- ▶ These Projects are being completed in conjunction with Mesa Public Schools to convert school properties into parks.
- ▶ Mesa Aquatics Complex – Completed May 2015 - \$8,000,000
 - ▶ Originally slated to be built at the former Taylor Aquatic Complex site at an estimated cost of \$5,000,000
 - ▶ Neighborhood asked City and Schools to work cooperatively to locate the project at Mesa High School
 - ▶ To accommodate the change in location \$3,000,000 was moved from the Pioneer Park Project
- ▶ Fiesta Sports Park (Fields at Mesa Education Center) – Property Transfer is complete and construction will begin January 2016
 - ▶ Original Budget - \$5,200,000 -- Revised Budget - \$5,300,000
- ▶ Eagles Park (Former Mesa Jr. High) – Property transfer is in escrow and final design is underway
 - ▶ Budget: \$3,500,000 in Bonds and \$3,000,000 in Federal dollars
 - ▶ Construction start: Contingent on operations and maintenance budget being available
- ▶ Original cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$13,700,000
- ▶ Revised cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$16,800,000

Renovation and Enhancement Park Projects

- ▶ These are renovating and enhancing the existing parks system
 - ▶ Pioneer Park Renovations – Final design will commence in FY16/17 and will focus on generating activity on the North half of the park
 - ▶ Original Project budget - \$6,000,000 – Revised Project Budget \$5,450,000
 - ▶ Project budget nearly restored out of savings from projects where scope has changed
 - ▶ Construction start: Contingent on operations and maintenance budget being available
 - ▶ Riverview Park – Opened January 2014 and is a premier destination park in the valley; playground was recently recognized as one of the Top 50 in the Country - \$9,300,000
 - ▶ Kleinman Park – Design to start Summer 2016
 - ▶ Original Budget - \$3,500,000 -- Revised Budget - \$1,300,000
 - ▶ Project scope reduced to meet neighborhood expectations. Improvements will include: shade over playground, reconstruction of four tennis courts, replacement of ballfield fencing

Renovation and Enhancement Park Projects – Continued

- ▶ These are renovating and enhancing the existing parks system (Continued)
 - ▶ Museum and Cultural Resources (Federal Building) – History Museum Expansion design concept is complete but total scope exceeds original budget allocation
 - ▶ Original budget - \$3,000,000 – Revised budget \$5,740,000
 - ▶ Greenfield Park Urban Fishing Lake – Design to commence in 2015
 - ▶ Original Budget - \$2,500,000 – Revised Budget - \$3,500,000
 - ▶ Construction start: Contingent on operations and maintenance budget being available
 - ▶ Existing Park Improvements and Enhancements – Ballfield lighting replacements, playground replacements, irrigation improvements are in progress Citywide – \$10,100,000
- ▶ Original cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$32,800,000
- ▶ Revised cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$35,390,000

New Park Development Projects

- ▶ These Projects will provide for expansion of the parks system to provide additional amenities
 - ▶ Buckhorn Baths – Agreement for acquisition could not be reached with property owners - \$21,570
 - ▶ Monterey Park – Two vacant parcels acquired for future development and integration of existing park. A temporary parking lot to assist with overflow parking was installed and perimeter trees were installed to shield the site from adjacent neighborhood
 - ▶ Budget - \$5,000,000 -- \$1,400,000 remaining
 - ▶ Mesa City Center – Design competition was held and winning design team is working on refining design concept and will return to Council for further direction
 - ▶ Budget - \$750,000 - \$610,700 remaining
- ▶ Original cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$10,750,000
- ▶ Revised cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$5,770,000

Bike and Pedestrian Paths

- ▶ These projects will provide enhanced connections to neighborhoods, transit, and recreation opportunities.
 - ▶ Riverview/Rio Salado
 - ▶ West Mesa Connector
 - ▶ Southeast Mesa Bike and Pedestrian Path Project
- ▶ Original cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$5,500,000
- ▶ Revised cost for Park Conversion and Improvement Projects - \$6,100,000

Highlights

- ▶ \$70 million dollar package approved in 2012 with first issuance in May of 2013.
- ▶ Today \$35 million dollars has been spent:
 - ▶ 106 ballfield light poles and lights were replaced at 25 fields throughout the City
 - ▶ Playgrounds have been replaced at Porter, Vista Monterey, Pequeno, Emerald
 - ▶ New surfacing at Augusta Ranch and Valencia
 - ▶ Design underway for new playgrounds at Gene Autry Park and Dobson Ranch Park
 - ▶ Irrigation improvements have been completed at Candlelight, Sherwood, Gene Autry
 - ▶ Design underway for Carriage Lane, Harmony, Meadowgreen, Fitch and Woodglen
 - ▶ New sign package was created and installation is ongoing throughout the parks system
 - ▶ Ongoing infrastructure improvements throughout parks and recreation facilities

Questions?



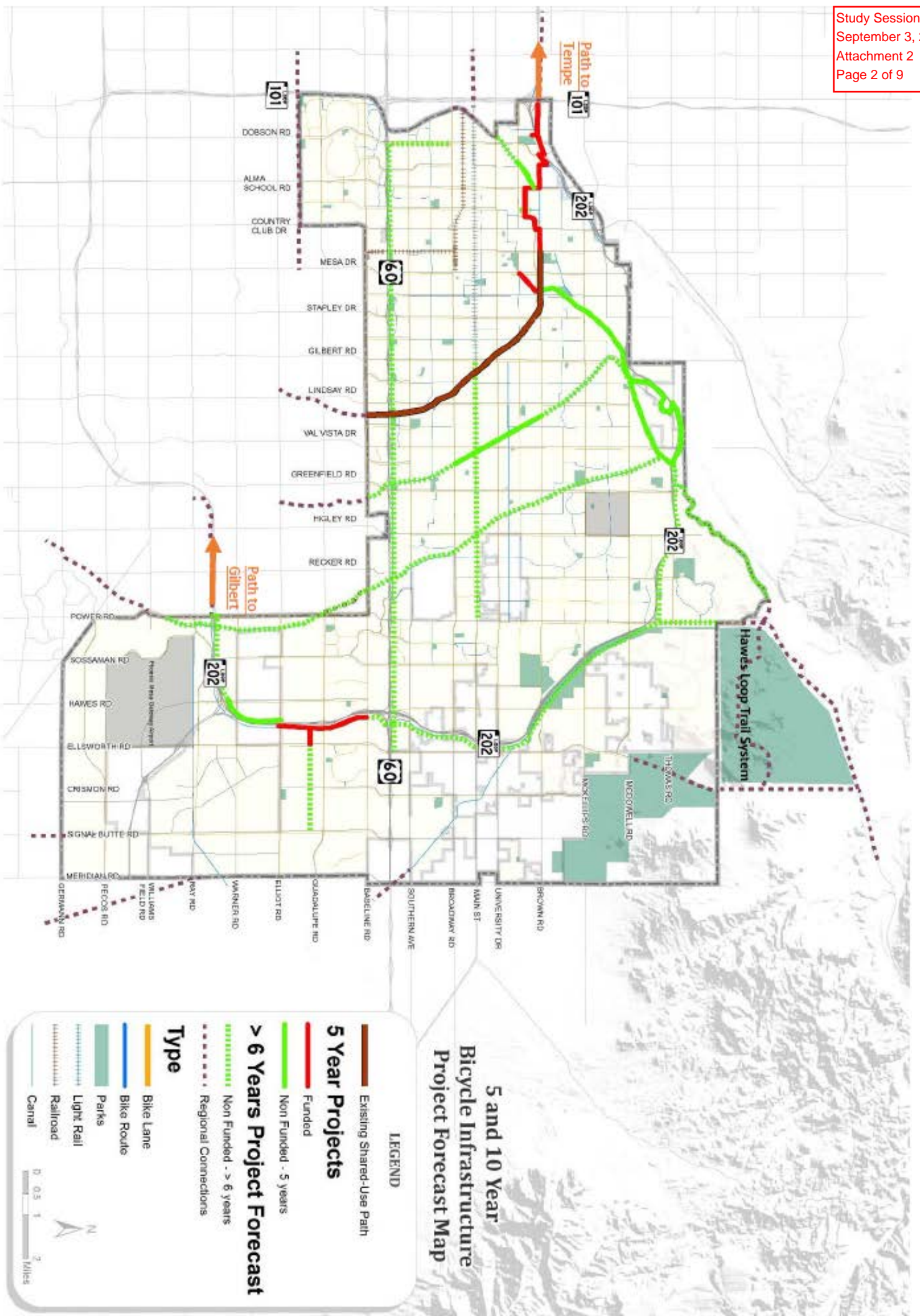


City of Mesa
Transportation Department

Bicycle & Pedestrian Pathway Update



mesa•az



5 and 10 Year Bicycle Infrastructure Project Forecast Map

Rio Salado Pathway
West City Limit to Dobson Rd
1.4 Miles
Completion Date April 2016

West Mesa Connector
Center St to Dobson Rd
3.2 Miles
Completion Date September 2016

Tempe Canal Shared Use Path
Rio Salado Parkway to University Dr.
1 Mile

Tempe Canal Shared Use Path
Alma School Rd to Rio Salado Parkway
.5 Miles

Eureka Canal Shared Use Path
Mountain View to 10th St.
.2 Miles

LEGEND

5 Year Projects

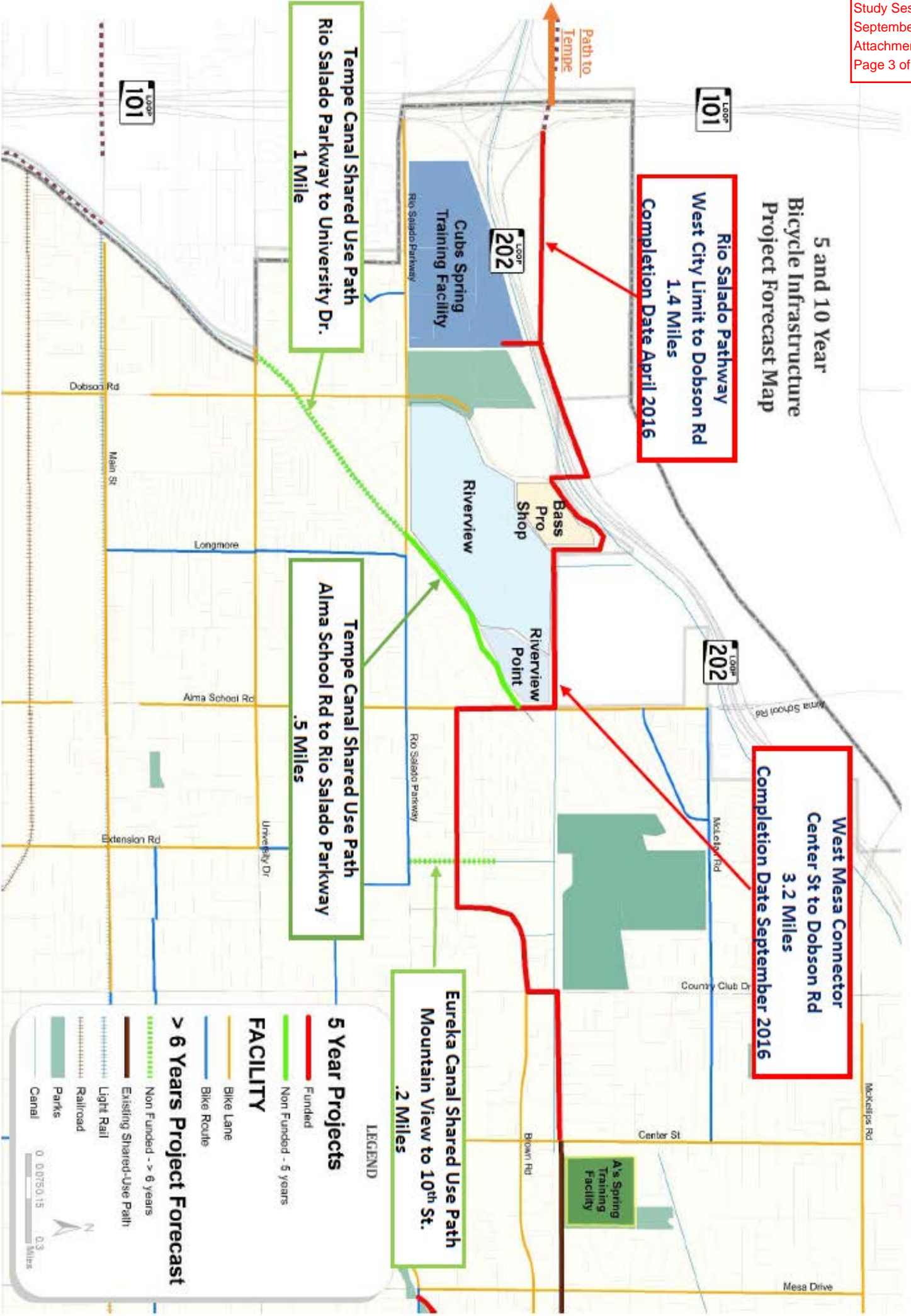
- Funded
- Non Funded - 5 years

FACILITY

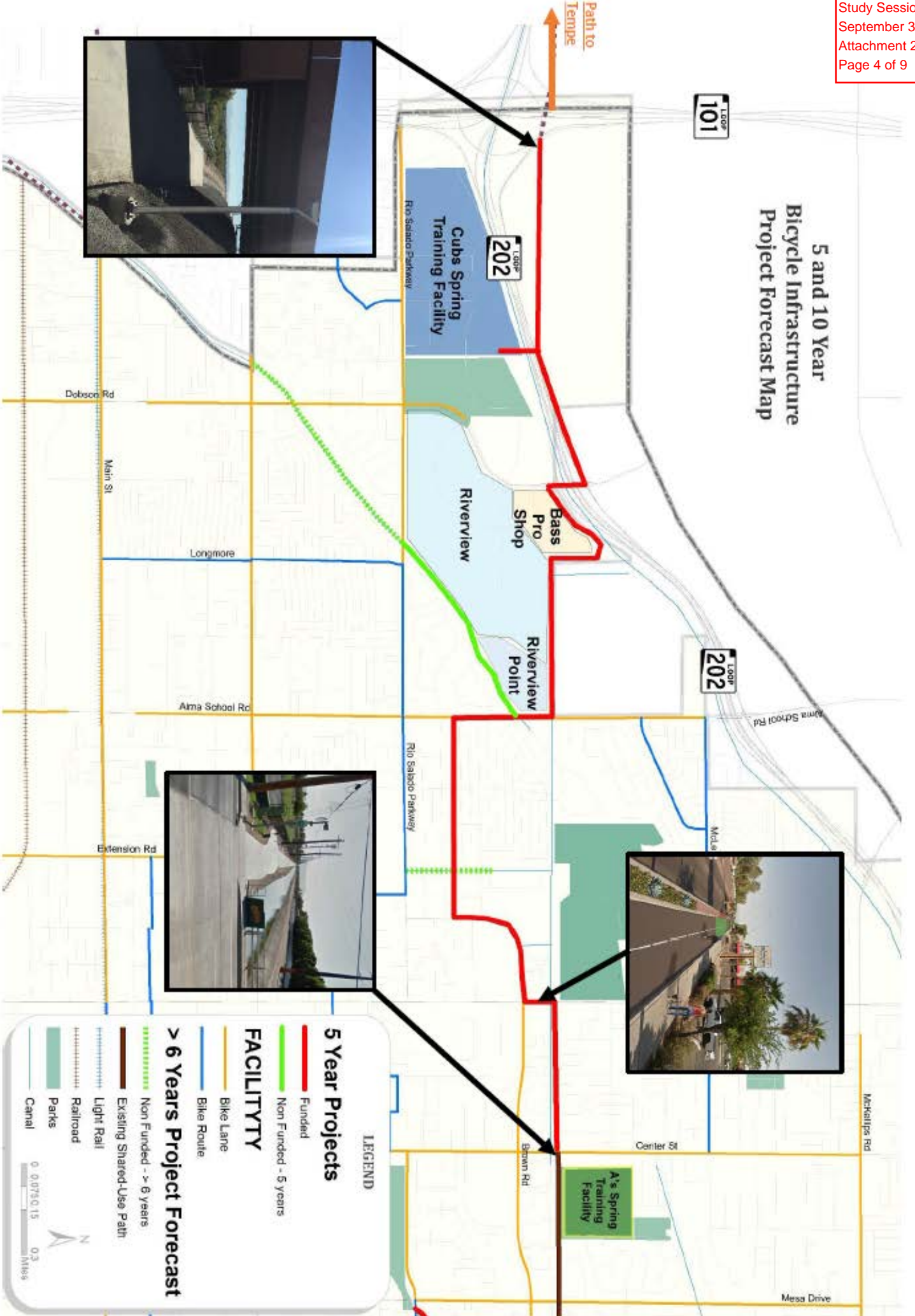
- Bike Lane
- Bike Route
- Light Rail
- Railroad
- Parks
- Canal

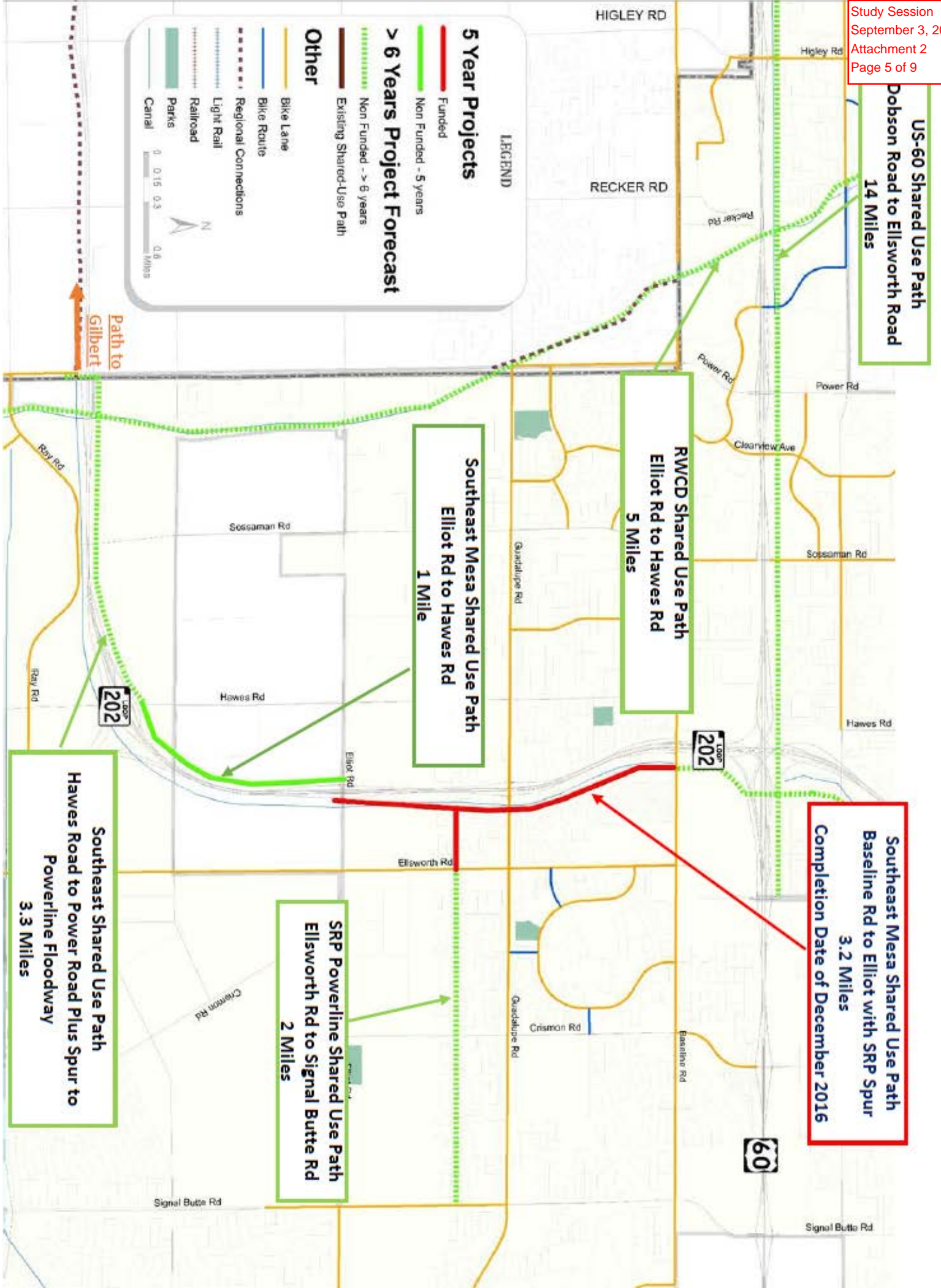
> 6 Years Project Forecast

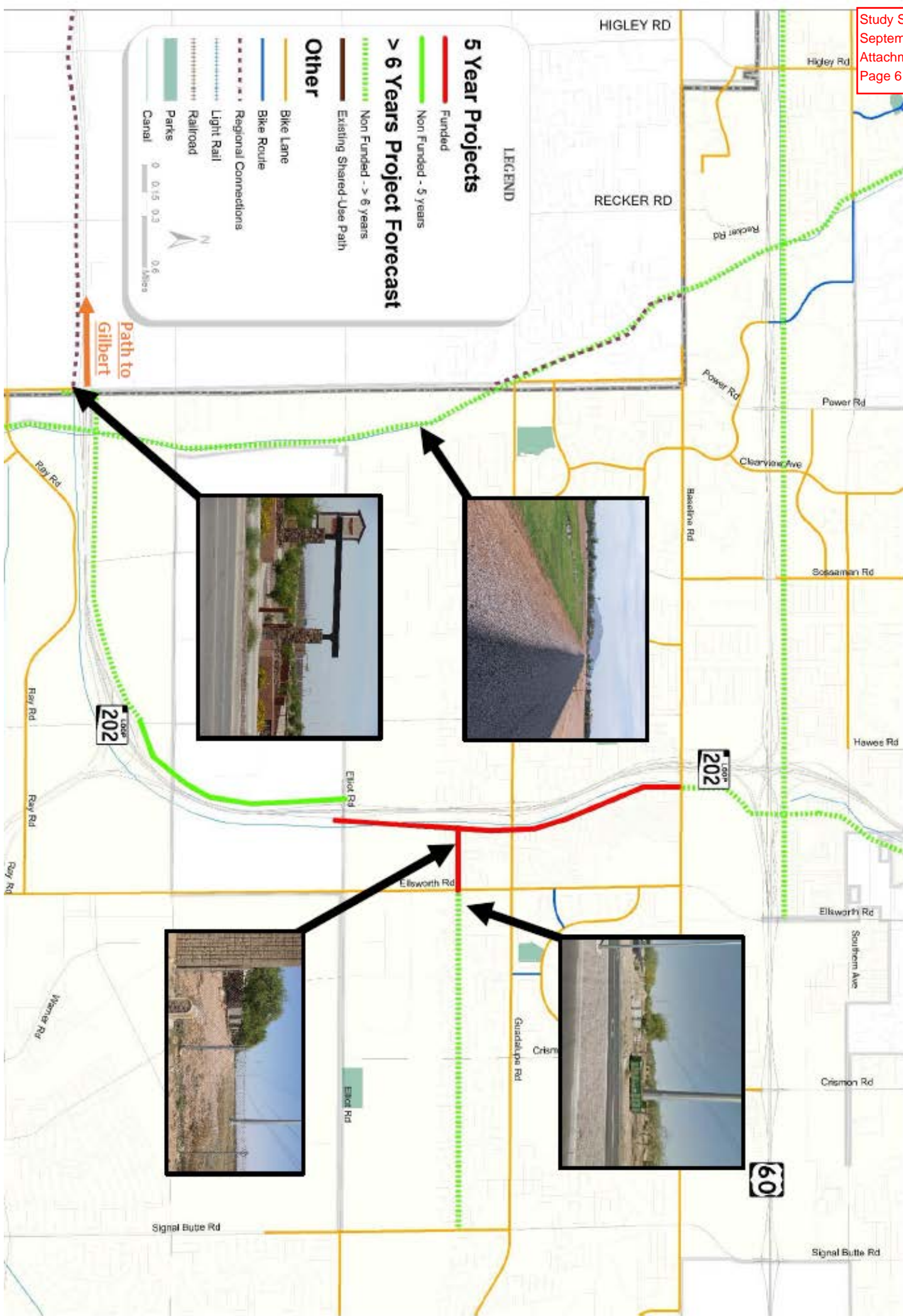
- Non Funded - > 6 years
- Existing Shared-Use Path

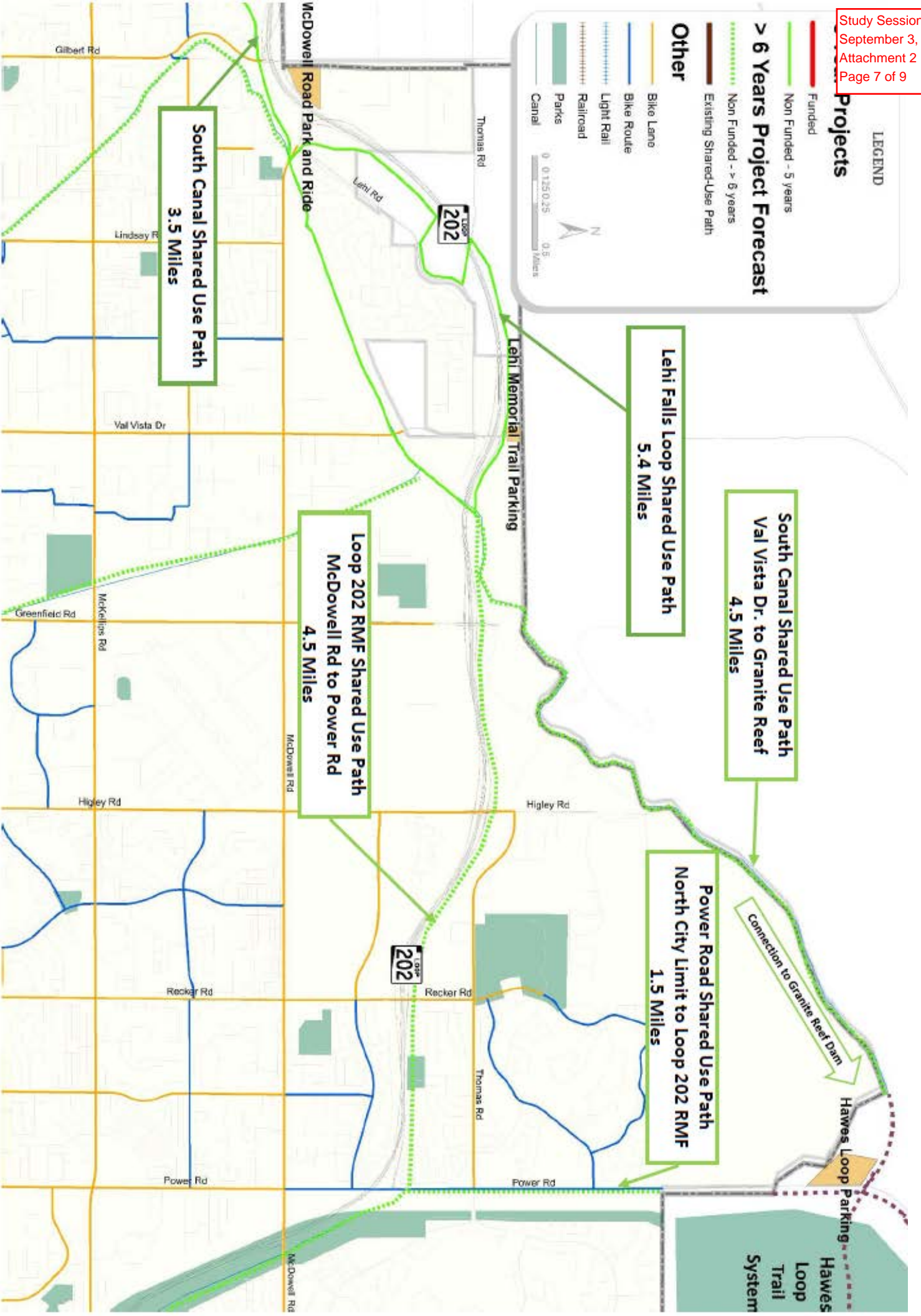


5 and 10 Year Bicycle Infrastructure Project Forecast Map











Questions?



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