



DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

915 I STREET  
ROOM 2000  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2604

PH 916-808-7100  
FAX 916-808-5573

June 3, 2005

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

**SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REPORT BACK**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide, All Districts

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report recommends that the Council adopt staff's recommendation to:

- Initiate amendments to Chapter 12.20 of the City Code to increase the administrative penalty for violations of the code provisions relating to construction and other work on City Streets;
- Implement the short-term process improvements discussed in this report;
- Report back within 90 days with a review of best practices from other cities with similar construction growth management issues.

**CONTACT PERSON:**      **Nicholas Theocharides, Engineering Manager, 808-5065**  
   **Jerry Way, Street Manager, 808-6381**

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** June 14, 2005

**SUMMARY:**

This report provides background on the need for increased construction traffic control management and enforcement to minimize impacts from increasing building construction activity primarily in the downtown, recommends an increase in the City's administrative penalty for code violations relating to construction and other work in City Streets, and recommends that staff report back within 90 days with a review of best practices from other cities with similar construction growth management issues.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

None

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This report was requested during the Department of Transportation (DOT) budget hearing on Tuesday May 17, 2005 by the City Council. Construction activities in the City have increased significantly over the past several years resulting in increased congestion and disruption to traffic flow during peak business hours. With a major building development program currently under way in the downtown area, and future development of high rise towers, the City Council requested that staff review the City's current construction traffic control management and report back on ways to minimize inconvenience and reduce construction related traffic impacts. A list of current construction projects in the downtown area is shown as Attachment A. An overview map of constructions projects in the downtown area is shown as Attachment B1. Detail color maps showing the construction projects by quadrants and time of working hours are shown as Attachments B2-B5.

**Existing Polices & Practices**

The current Construction Right-of-Way Program was established in 1999. Right-of-Way staff in the Department of Transportation, coordinates construction activities in partnership with the Utilities Department, Development Services Department, Regional Transit, cable providers, SMUD, PG&E and private development construction contractors. Compliance control of construction activities within the right-of-way includes the following areas:

- Private Development Improvement Plans
- Encroachment Permits
- Street Use Permits
- Capital Improvement Projects

Right-of-Way staff identifies issues related to each project or permit and coordinates street use between contractors so that noise, traffic impacts, public safety and impacts to private property and the City's street infrastructure are minimized. The Right-of-Way Program staff is responsible for all information gathering, review coordination, schedule coordination, street infrastructure preservation, and public outreach and notification related to construction projects city-wide. Traffic control permit issuance is coordinated with Traffic Engineering. Traffic control plan enforcement responsibility is shared by DOT and Department of Utilities construction inspectors.

Currently there are over thirty active construction projects in the downtown area. With the recent construction start of the Amtrak Depot Light Rail Extension project, and the installation and relocation of major utilities in advance of that project, DOT has reallocated staff resources and assigned a Construction Supervising Engineer, and a Construction Inspector to meet the increased construction traffic control enforcement demand downtown. While this has improved construction traffic control with the current construction, there is a need for a more

comprehensive and permanent plan for the use of resources to handle the anticipated increased downtown construction activity.

#### Traffic Control Plan Monitoring and Enforcement

The City Council has established construction restrictions and moratoriums on primary streets throughout the City in order to minimize congestion and prohibit disruption of traffic flow during peak commute hours and on certain Holidays. Enforcement of restrictions is through the Administrative Penalty Ordinance, which provides for a \$500 penalty for street use violations as defined in Chapter 12.20 of the City Code. Raising the penalty amount should result in increased compliance.

Monitoring of construction activities and enforcement of the Administrative Penalty Ordinance is primarily the responsibility of 26 construction inspection staff assigned to the various projects throughout the city. Because inspectors are given multiple project assignments, it is not possible to provide monitoring and enforcement of traffic control measures on all projects on a full time basis.

#### Traffic Control Management

The City's Traffic Operations Center (TOC), located in the new City Hall building, is currently connected to all 250 downtown traffic signals and has the viewing capability to monitor and control traffic with the use of 18 closed circuit television cameras. The hours of operation for the TOC is weekdays from 7 AM to 6 PM.

The City's goal is to provide an acceptable balance between the efficient operation of the street system and construction. DOT strives to achieve this balance by restricting lane closures and construction operations to periods of time, which result in minimizing impacts to commuters, businesses, and residents. This may include requiring work to be done during the nighttime.

#### Construction Markings

This removal of construction markings is covered under City Code section 12.12.080, "Cleaning up Streets." At all times, the work of removing markings from the streets, including all obstructions (surplus materials, debris and waste matter of every description caused by and accumulated from the excavation) is the responsibility of the permittee.

#### **Short-Term Process Improvements**

The following recommendations are proposed as short-term process improvements to increase compliance with existing regulations:

- Maximize the use of existing resources by using on-street parking enforcement personnel and traffic investigators to report construction traffic control violations.
- Consolidate construction project and traffic control permit tracking information into a single database.
- Require the use of changeable message signs to display advisory information on expected delays and alternate routes as appropriate for projects.
- Require contractors to prominently display their traffic control permit and other information for quick identification and reporting.

- Provide one single telephone number to call for construction traffic issues.

### **Recommendations for Next Steps**

Staff recommends that the following two items be initiated as the next steps for improving construction traffic management.

1. Staff will initiate the process to Amend Chapter 12.20 of the City Code to increase the administrative penalty for violations of the code provisions relating to construction and other work in City Streets.
2. Staff will report back within 90 days with a review of best practices from other cities with similar construction growth management issues. The review will help to determine ways to measure the success of construction traffic management. Some elements to consider as measurements of success are:
  - Annual Citywide surveys that indicate residents, businesses and property owners are satisfied.
  - Developers and/or contractors indicate a well-balanced approach.
  - Feedback from the pedestrian, bicycle and disabled community.
  - Congestion impacts are continuously monitored with response times measured.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

None.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

None. The proposed City Code amendments are not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the general rule (15061(b)(3)) in that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

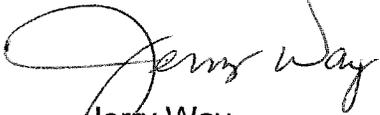
### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Improving enforcement of construction traffic control regulatory measures to reduce impacts on downtown streets are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goal of improving and diversifying the City's transportation system, and promoting and supporting economic vitality.

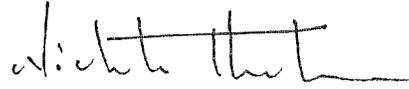
**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**

No goods or services are being purchased with this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Way  
Street Manager



Nicholas Theocharides  
Engineering Services Manager

**FOR CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION:**



ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager

Approved:



for: Marty Hanneman  
Director, Department of Transportation

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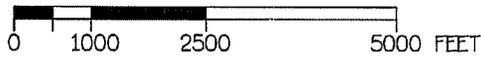
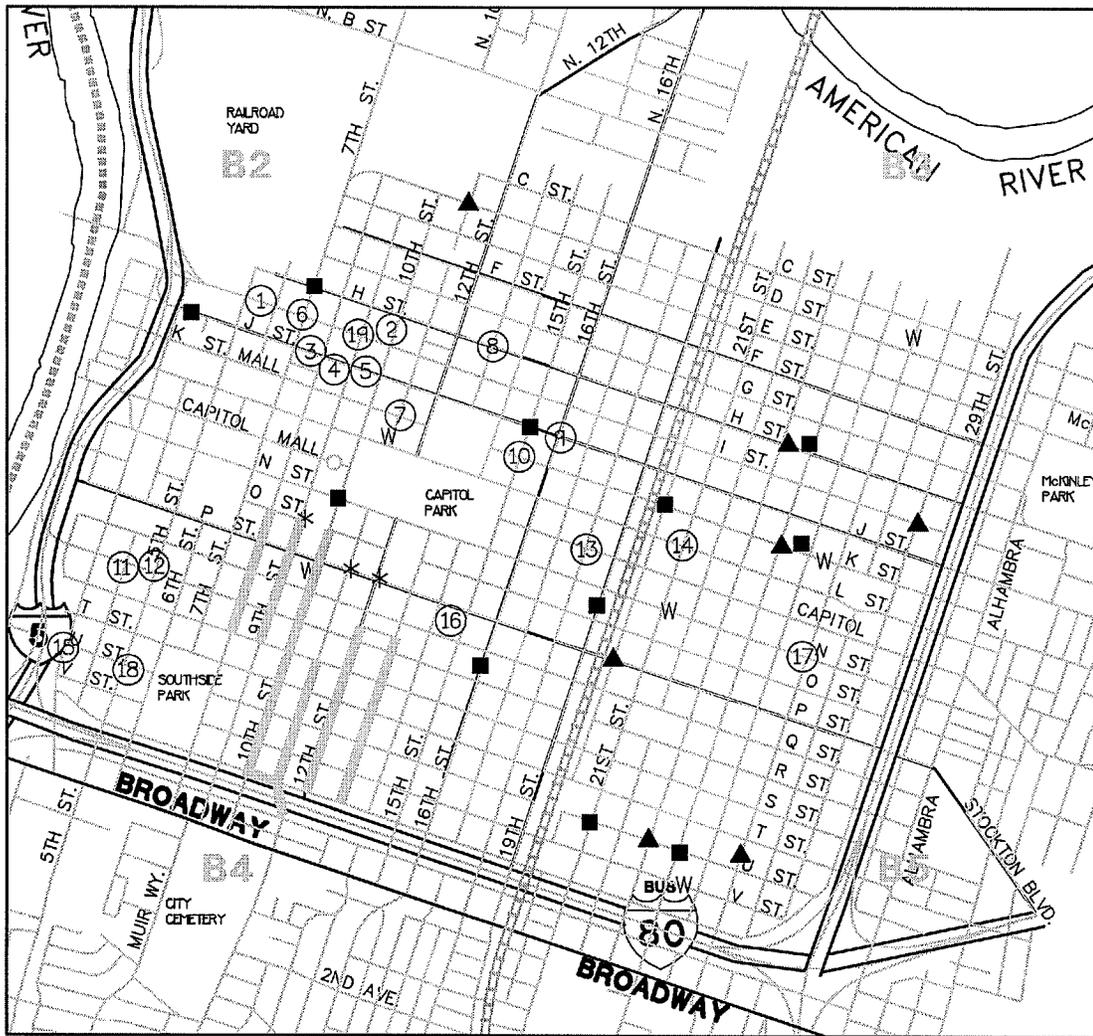
## LIST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project	Description
1.	Federal Building (501 I Street)
2.	City Hall (10 <sup>th</sup> St. between H/I Streets)
3.	Private Development & Utilities work (714 J Street and Merchant Street)
4.	Lofts (8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> Street and J/J-K Alley Street)
5.	Hollow sidewalk repairs (910 J Street)
6.	RT Amtrack extension project (7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> and I Streets)
7.	Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (11 <sup>th</sup> & K Streets)
8.	Private Development (1226/1228 H Street)
9.	Adjacent to PF Chang (1020 16 <sup>th</sup> Street)
10.	Commercial building (1500 K street)
11.	21 volt SMUD Improvements (Cal Pers – 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> /Q-R Streets)
12.	Cal Pers Headquarters (3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> /Q-R Streets)
13.	Apartment Complex (1801 Capital Avenue)
14.	3-Story Commercial Building (2110 L Street)
15.	Utilities project (3 <sup>rd</sup> St. between T/V Streets, U St. between 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Streets)
16.	Fremont Mews (15 <sup>th</sup> & P Streets)
17.	N Street Sewer replacement (N Street between 25 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Streets)
18.	U & S Inline Storage (utility project on 5 <sup>th</sup> St between S/V Streets, U St., 7 <sup>th</sup> St.)
19.	I Street Water Main Replacement (I Street between 5 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> Streets)
▲	Sidewalk replacement
■	Curb & Gutter replacement
*	Curb cuts
<b>W</b>	Water line repair
<b>Gray</b>	P G & E work

### Additional Resurfacing Projects Summer 2005

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (I-T Street)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street (P-V Street)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Street (F-L Street)

# CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA



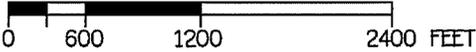
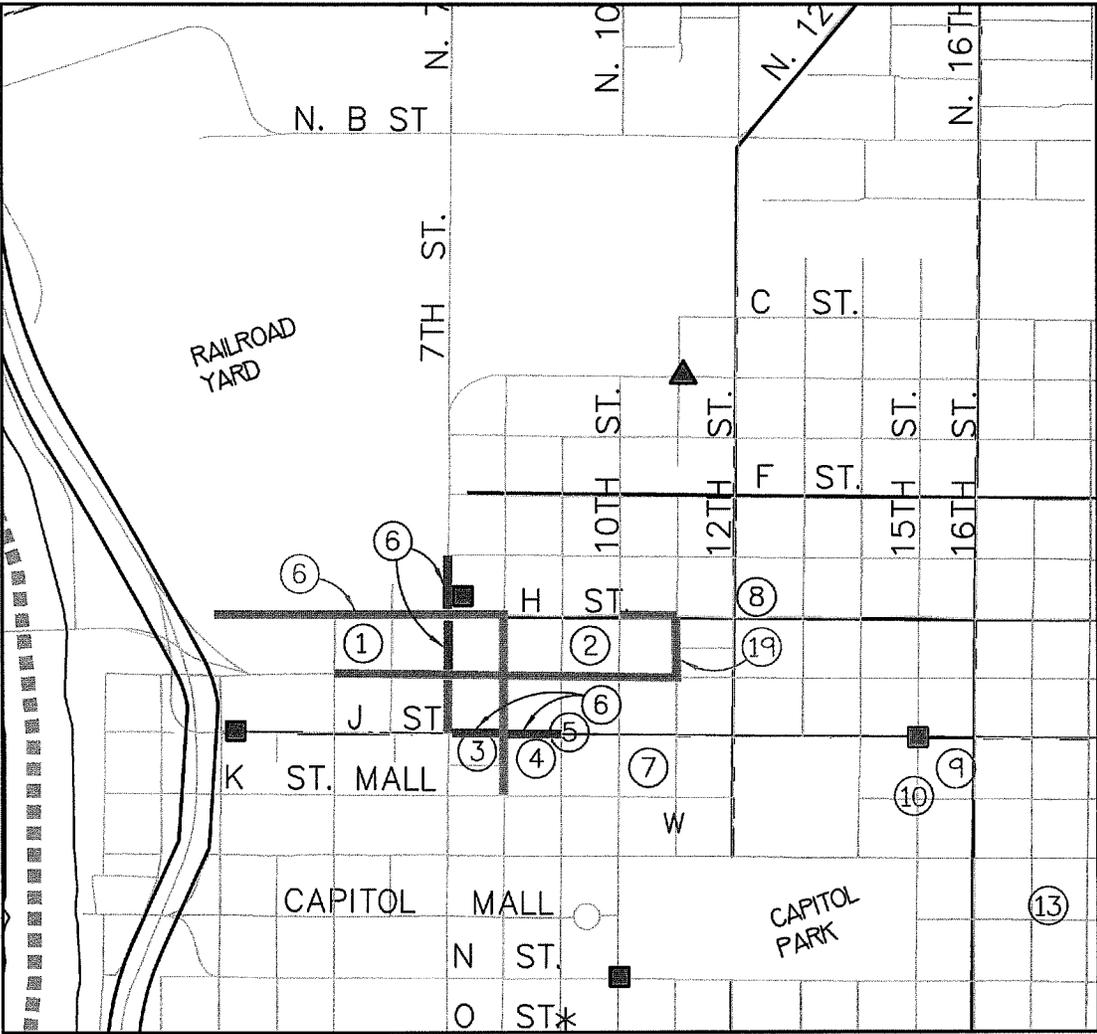
LEGEND:	
PROJECT	①
SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT	▲
CURB & GUTTER REPLACEMENT	■
CURB CUTS	*
WATER LINE REPAIR	W
PG&E GAS REPLACEMENT	▨

DETAIL MAPS:	SEE ATTACHMENT
NV QUADRANT	B2
NE QUADRANT	B3
SV QUADRANT	B4
SE QUADRANT	B5

## LOCATION MAP

MAP CONTACT: B. CAMERON  
DATE: 6/07/05

# CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA BY QUADRANT AND WORKING HOURS

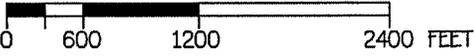
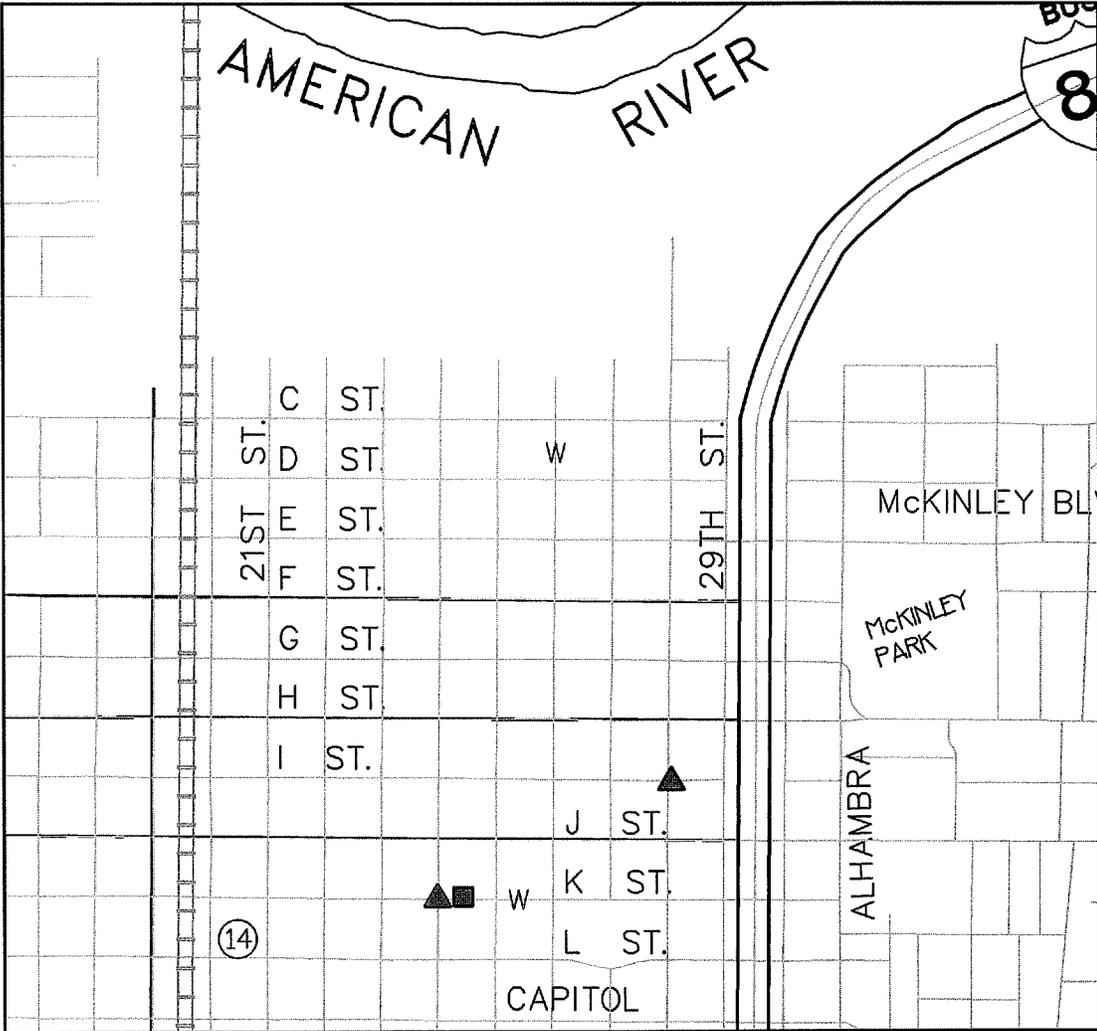


WORKING HOURS LEGEND:	DAYS	NIGHT/V.E.	COMBINED
PROJECT	①	①	①
PROJECT LIMITS	▬	▬	▬
SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT	▲	▲	▲
CURB & GUTTER REPLACEMENT	■	■	■
CURB CUTS	*	*	*
WATER LINE REPAIR	W	W	W

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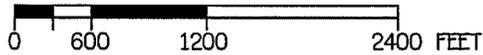


WORKING HOURS LEGEND:	DAYS	NIGHT/W.E.	COMBINED
PROJECT	①	①	①
PROJECT LIMITS	▬	▬	▬
SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT	▲	▲	▲
CURB & GUTTER REPLACEMENT	■	■	■
CURB CUTS	*	*	*
WATER LINE REPAIR	W	W	W

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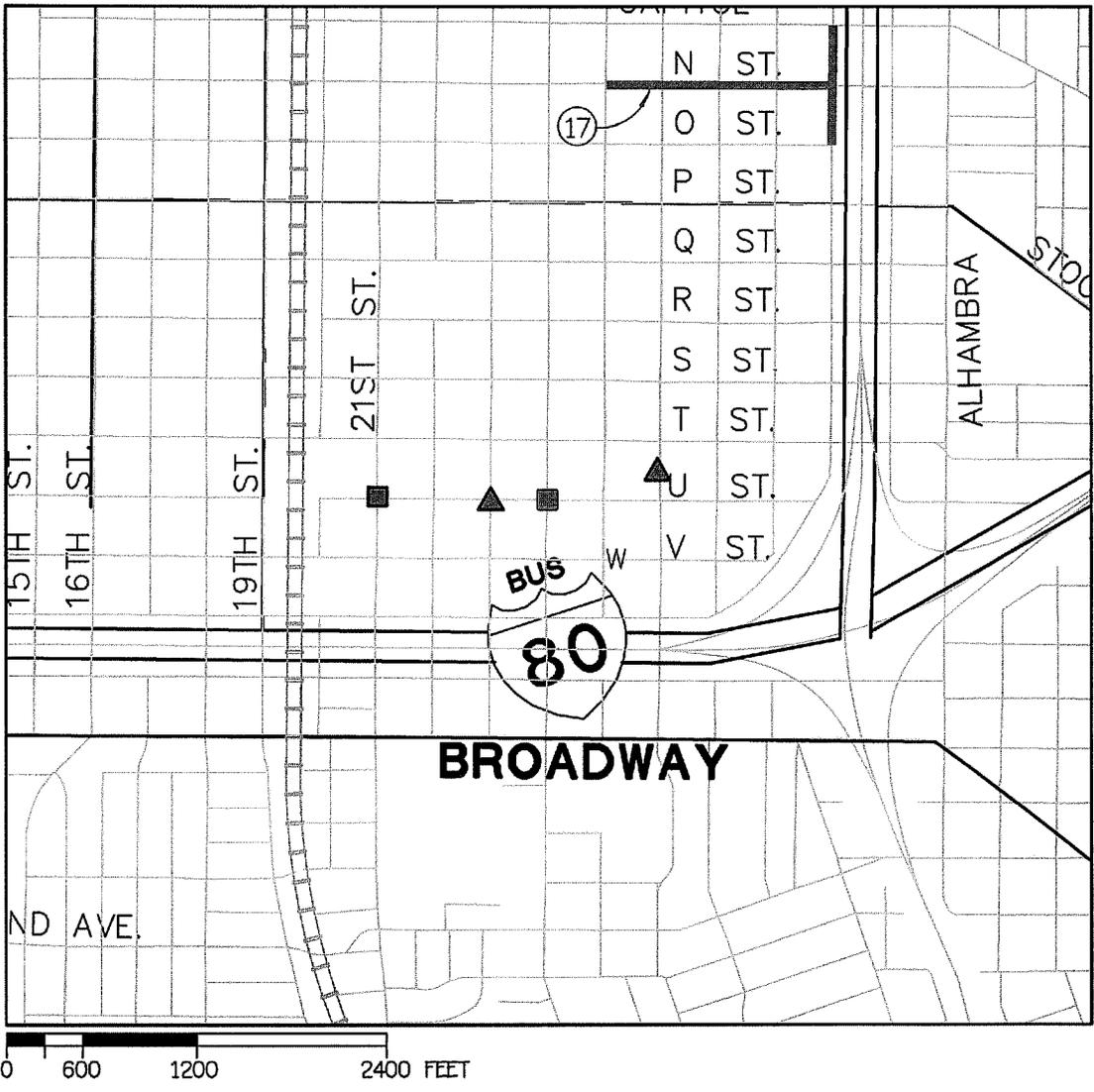


WORKING HOURS LEGEND:	DAYS	NIGHT/V.E.	COMBINED
PROJECT	①	①	①
PROJECT LIMITS	—	—	—
SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT	▲	▲	▲
CURB & GUTTER REPLACEMENT	■	■	■
CURB CUTS	*	*	*
WATER LINE REPAIR	W	W	W
PG&E GAS REPLACEMENT			

## LOCATION MAP

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WORKING HOURS LEGEND:	DAYS	NIGHT/V.E.	COMBINED
PROJECT	①	①	①
PROJECT LIMITS	▬	▬	▬
SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT	▲	▲	▲
CURB & GUTTER REPLACEMENT	■	■	■
CURB CUTS	*	*	*
WATER LINE REPAIR	W	W	W

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