

Washington State Department of Transportation
Northwest Region
Attn: Mr. Harry Haslam
P.O. Box 330310
Seattle, WA 98133-9701

February 16th, 2016

College Way (SR 538) @ I-5
City of Mount Vernon

Dear Mr. Haslam,

The City of Mount Vernon is proposing to improve the interchange on College Way (SR538) at the underpass of I-5 to provide congestion relief, safety, and extend the life of the interchange. The project will add two additional lanes on College Way, move existing retaining walls, and re-channelize the existing roadway to add left turn capacity. Existing land use along the project corridor is commercial and is zoned as the General Commercial District. The project site is located within the legal geographic area of Township 34 North; Range 4 East; Section 18. See Figure 1.

The project will require additional right of way purchase for the purpose of roadway widening. All project activities will occur within the outlined area of potential effects, as will all staging activities. The maximum excavation depth is estimated to be 12 feet. See Figure 2 for all areas of potential effect (APE). Upon searching the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation's website, it was determined that there are no cultural or historical sites in the vicinity of the project.

We believe this project meets criteria for exemption A-13 and A-17 of the programmatic agreement between the Washington State Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation which lists activities that have minimal potential to cause effects on historic properties and therefore do not require additional Section 106 review. Exemption A-13 states: *"Work within interchanges or within medians of divided highways, within the demonstrated vertical and horizontal limits of previous construction or disturbance."* Exemption A-17 states: *"Construction of turning lanes and pockets, auxiliary lanes (e.g. truck climbing, acceleration, and deceleration lanes), sidewalks, and shoulder widening within the demonstrated vertical and horizontal limits of previous construction or disturbance."* As all impacted land is either fill from previous I-5 construction or paved commercial parking lots, we believe that the project meets the criteria for these exemptions. On behalf of the City of Mount Vernon, we request your assistance in obtaining concurrence from WSDOT's Environmental Office that the project is exempt from Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Should you need further information regarding this project please contact me at (425) 503-3629.

Sincerely,



Ross Widener
Widener & Associates

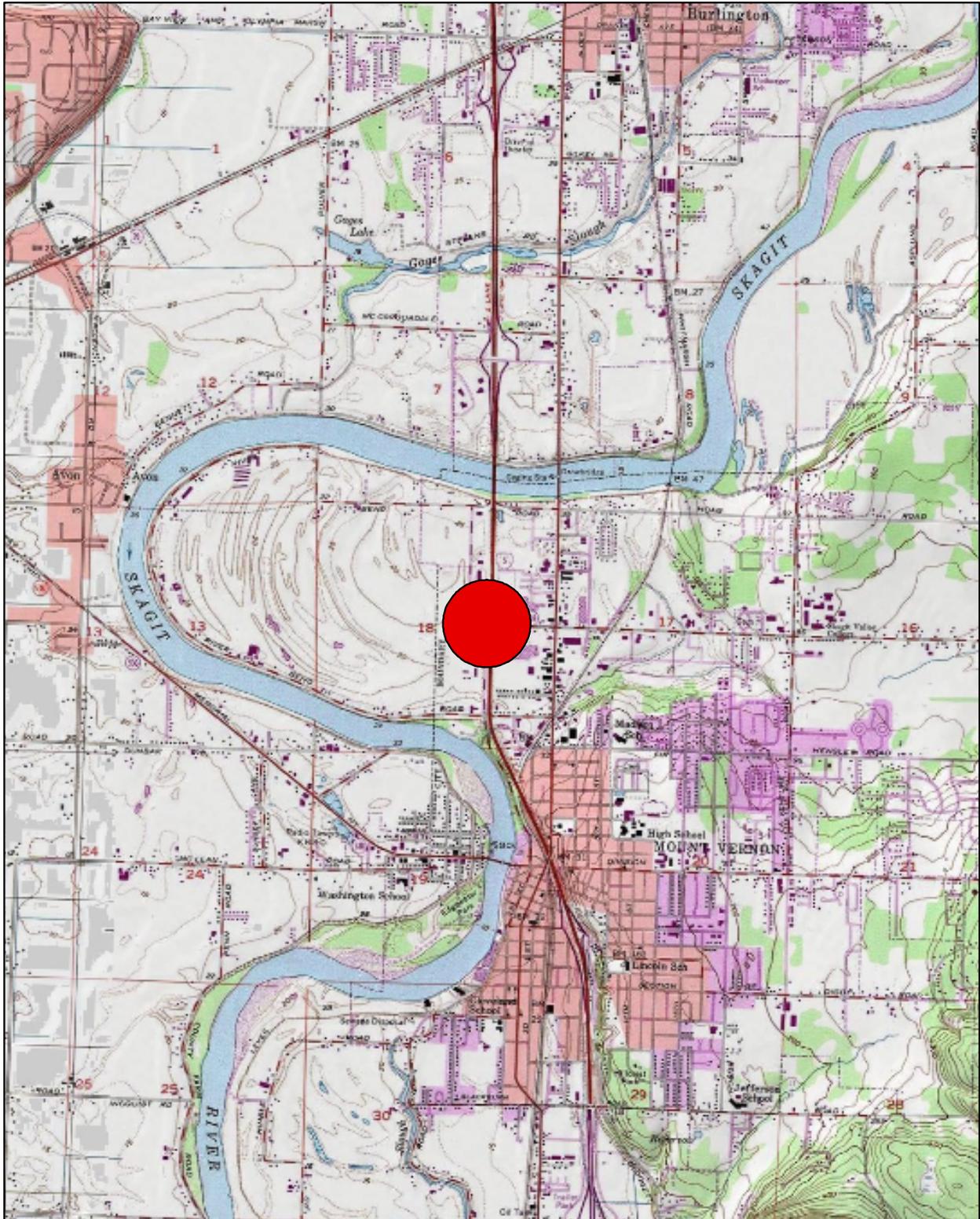
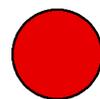


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

College Way (SR 538) @ I-5
City of Mount Vernon

January 22, 2016



Project Site



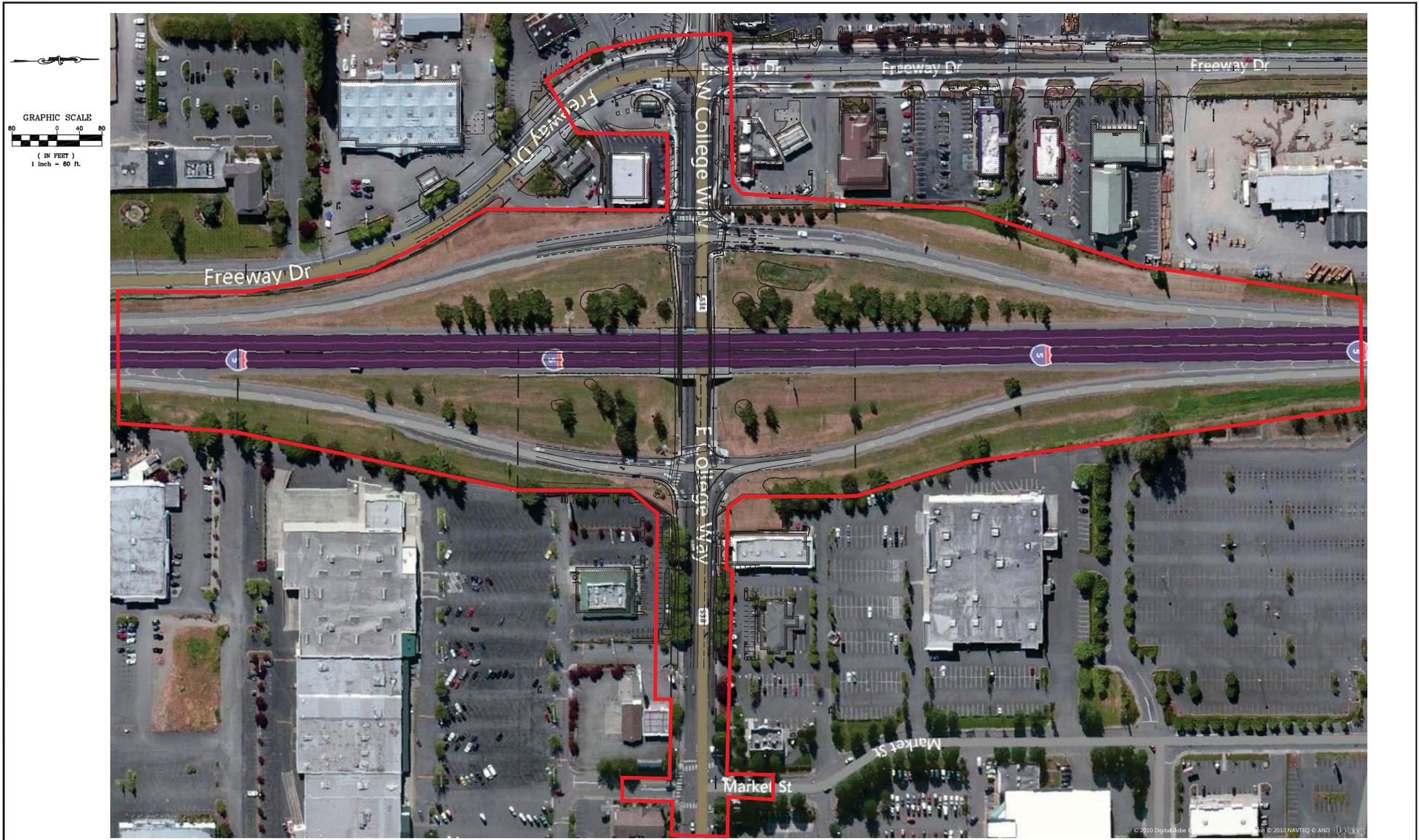


EXHIBIT	DESIGNED BY SPB	R&E Reichhardt & Ebe ENGINEERING INC P.O. Box 978 423 Front Street, Lynden, WA 98264 (360) 354-3687 818 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 (360) 855-1713	NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CITY OF MT. VERNON 910 CLEVELAND AVE. MT. VERNON, WA 98273	COLLEGE WAY WIDENING APE	DWG 15038 PRELIMINARY BASEMAP		DATE
	DRAWN BY SPB									JOB#	SCALE
	CHECKED BY IDW								15038	H: 1"=80' v: N/A	1/22/2016
											1 of 1

Figure 2