

## INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

UC San Diego Resource Management and Planning is requesting site endorsement for the East Campus Loop Road Improvement Project (Figure A). The project would consist of widening and realigning Health Sciences Drive, Medical Center Drive, and surrounding areas in order to improve access and create future building parcels. The project would implement a critical circulation enhancement that was identified in the 2018 Long Range Development Plan and associated East Campus Planning Study. The project's budget is estimated to be \$40M.

The existing campus entry at Health Sciences Drive and Regents Road currently requires motorists, particularly UC San Diego Health patients, to navigate several intersections on their way towards patient care facilities. The improved road would create a more direct and intuitive path of travel, as well as reduced travel times, to patient-centered facilities such as the Jacobs Medical Center, while also maximizing the development capacity of future building parcels.

The proposed road realignments would simplify patient and visitor wayfinding by strengthening a singular, flowing path towards the hospital and clinical services while also reducing decision points. In addition, a new, more direct, road connection across P785 would allow service vehicles to turn and continue directly towards the hospital, central utility plant, and clinical loading docks to the south.

The intersection of Health Sciences Drive and Medical Center Drive, between Athena Parking Structure and Moores Cancer Center, has a high volume of pedestrian crossings that hinders through-traffic towards the hospital and clinical destinations. Diverting this through-traffic and creating a patient-oriented cul-de-sac at the Cancer Center (per the East Campus Planning Study) would reduce conflict between pedestrians and vehicles and create a lower-stress drop-off/valet experience for patients and visitors.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project design will consider the road's function as a multimodal gateway to the campus. Multiple road realignments would include:

- Health Sciences Drive realignment to north of Athena Parking Garage
- Medical Center Drive North & South realignments to intersect Health Sciences Drive
- Removal of south end of the Medical Center Drive North to South connector road east of Moores Cancer Center
- Truncate Medical Center Drive between Athena Parking Structure and Shiley Eye Institute into a cul-de-sac at the Moores Cancer Center
- Conversion of the existing Health Sciences Drive into a pedestrian and micromobility-friendly corridor; thus extending the Health Science Walk public realm spine to the east
- New "smart" traffic signals at all intersections within the project, with the exception of a roundabout at the intersection of Medical Center Drive South and Athena Circle

The new roadways would provide vehicular traffic lanes in both directions and include bicycle lanes and sidewalks. The Athena Parking Structure has an existing vehicular access point at the northeast corner of the structure that is currently blocked with bollards. This access point would be opened once the existing access on the southeast corner is closed due to the conversion of Health Sciences Drive to "Health Sciences Walk" - a pedestrian and micromobility-only promenade.

Construction, expected to require a multi-phased approach to minimize impacts to parking and circulation, is anticipated to begin in early 2023 and expected to be completed by spring 2024.

## PROJECT SITE

As depicted in Figure B, the proposed roadway/circulation project would be located on the East Campus between the recently realigned Campus Point Drive and extend to Regents Road to the east. It would extend easterly north of Shiley Eye Institute, Athena Parking Structure, Medical Center Modular (MCM) buildings 1 and 2, Radiation Oncology, and south of the Transportation Services trailers as it extends to Regents Road. A secondary circulation segment would extend diagonally to the south of existing Health Sciences Drive and intersect with Medical Center Drive south of the Moores Cancer Center. This diagonal segment would also integrate with the boundary of the Science Research Park (SRP), located southeast of the project.

## PLANNING PARAMETERS

### Relationship to Long Range Development Plan (LRDP)

The project site is consistent with the road alignment depicted in the 2018 LRDP Land Use Plan and supports the following LRDP Goals (Chapter 3, page 69):

- “Create more clarity in the circulation and parking systems and a stronger sense of orientation around the campus to improve access and reduce congestion”
- “Strengthen public entries with effective landscaping and selective signage to provide attractive, visible gateways and make it easier to navigate the campus”
- “Provide intuitive and convenient patient access to healthcare facilities” and
- “Ensure efficient service and emergency vehicular access.”

### Relationship to 2021 East Campus Planning Study (ECPS)

The project site is consistent with and implements the realignment envisioned by the ECPS, contributing to a study goal of “user friendly

and intuitive circulation and wayfinding strategies to reduce user stress and encourage walking and biking.” The vision in the Plan emphasizes the importance of Regents Road/Health Sciences Drive campus entry as an important access point into the East Campus that balances access to the healthcare and research facilities in tandem with the existing Campus Point Drive entry. Per the vision, the existing Health Sciences Drive would be converted to a pedestrian mall - an extension of Health Sciences Walk. Motorists would be directed to new roads to the north or south of the pedestrian core. In addition, the intersections would be redesigned to better accommodate pedestrian movement.

The ECPS provides Landscape Guidelines, and more specifically Streetscape Guidelines, that will guide the project’s landscape restoration, while addressing storm water and sustainability requirements. Landscape and Streetscape Guidelines focus on enhancing wayfinding and reinforcing wellness through access to nature. Signage improvements would also be considered with the project.

### Displacement

The East Campus Loop Road displaces temporary structures and surface parking spaces in its proposed new alignment. The full extent of these displacements would be studied in design, as the adjacent parking lots, P703, P704, P760, P784, P785, would need to be reconfigured as part of the project.

While every effort would be made to minimize parking impacts, it is anticipated that approximately 500 to 600 parking spaces would be permanently displaced from surface parking lots P703, P704, P760, P784, and P785. Surface parking lots temporarily impacted by construction would be reconfigured and restored to surface parking as soon as possible. P785 is located within the SRP and would be impacted by future planned SRP development that would occur as early as fall 2023. The expansion of the SRP would

include structured parking to accommodate the needs of the SRP tenants, separate from campus parking supply.

The temporary MCM trailers 1 and 2, occupied by UC San Diego Health, would be impacted by the road realignment. It is likely that MCM 2 would require relocation or removal; MCM 1 may require partial removal due to the new vehicular access into Athena Parking Structure at the northeast corner.

### **Utility & Infrastructure**

Roadways continue to be a conduit for campus utilities. Further assessment for relocation of utilities and adequate space to accommodate infrastructure for future buildings would be required.

### **Environmental Considerations**

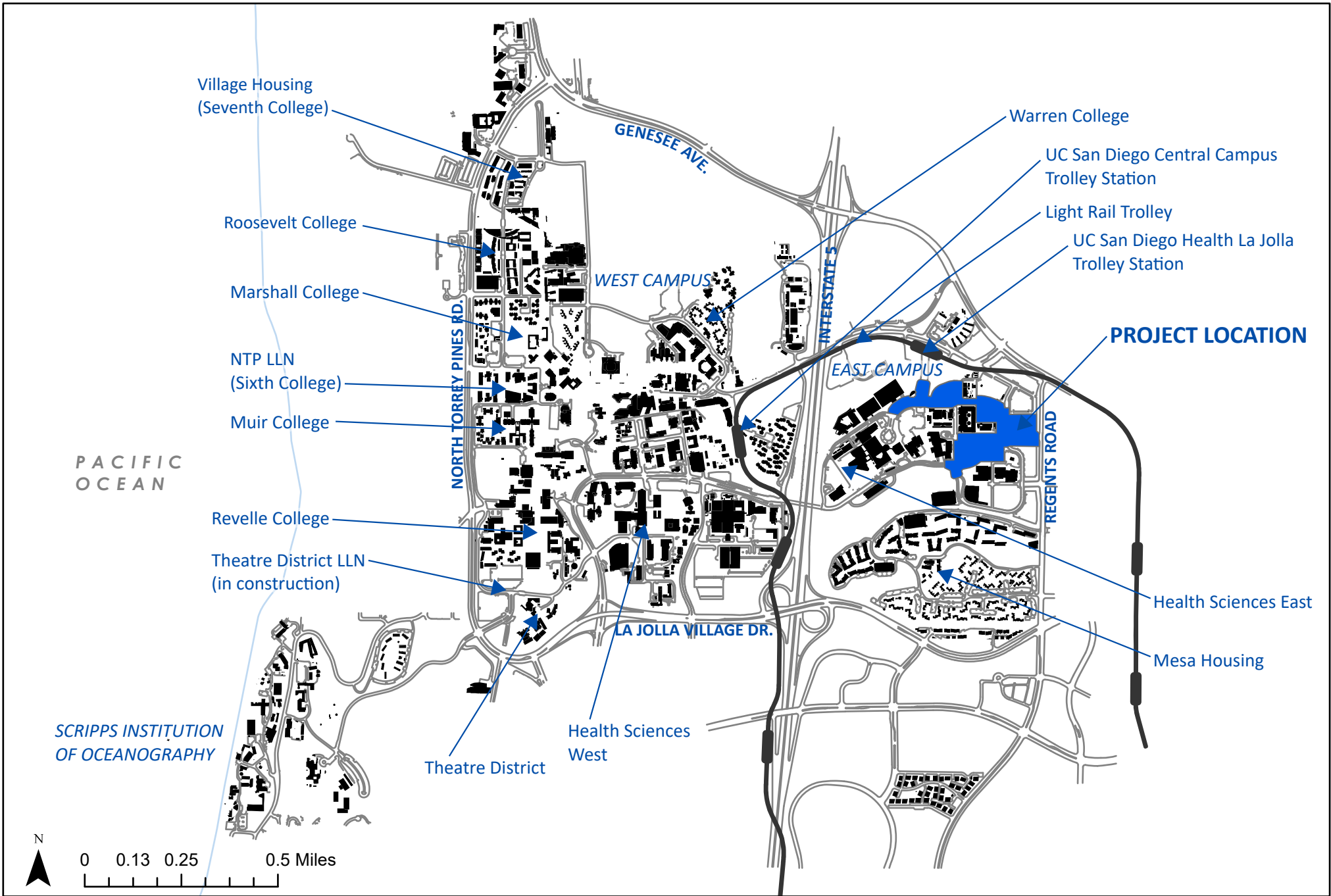
The proposed project would be subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Key environmental considerations would include aesthetics/visual resources, water quality, and hydrology.

### **Sustainability**

As an infrastructure project, the project would comply with all applicable policy measures as well as hydrology and stormwater permitting and best management practices.

### **RECOMMENDATION & PROCESS**

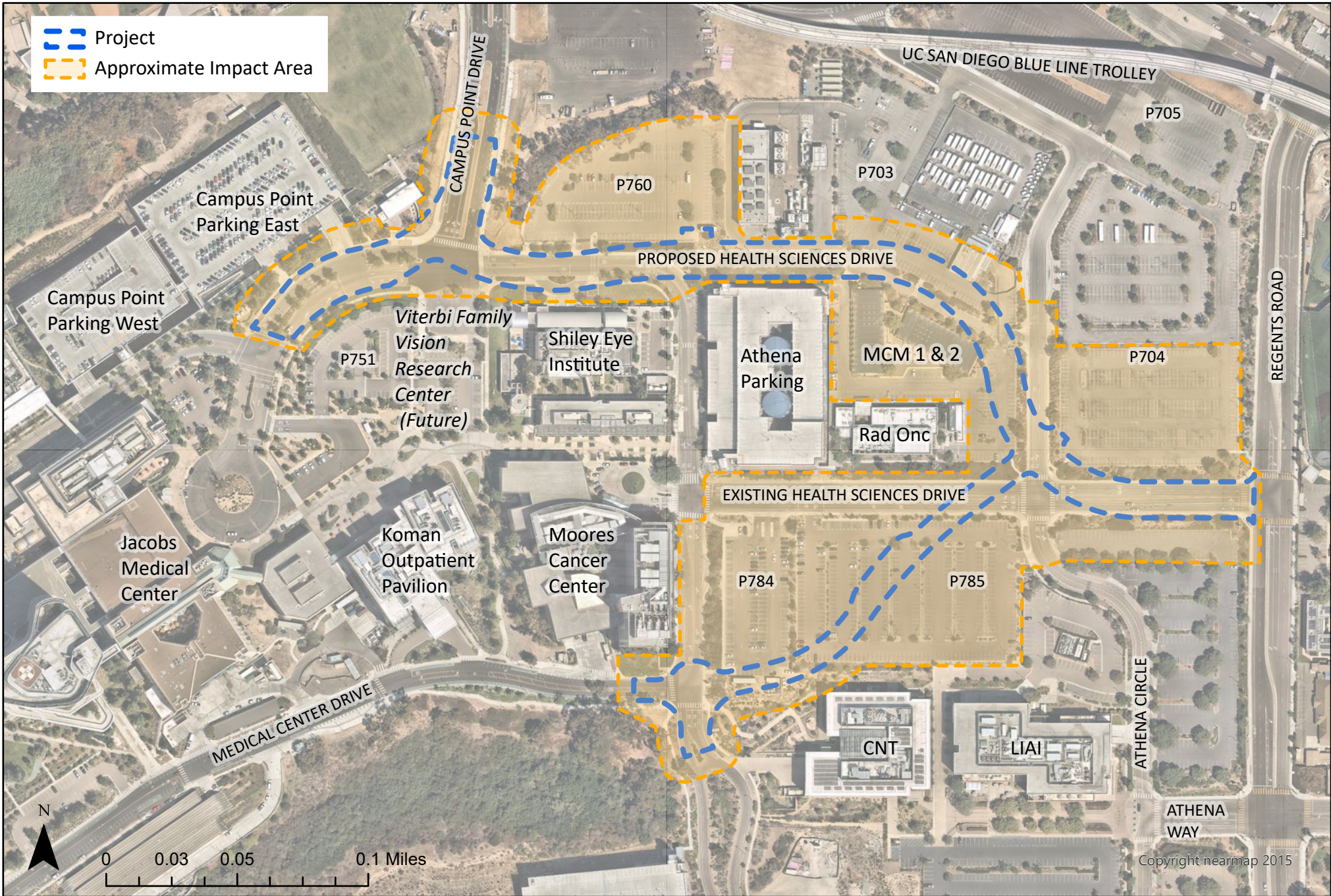
The site evaluation will be presented for information and potential endorsement at the January 20<sup>th</sup> C/CPC meeting.



East Campus Loop Road Improvements  
 Figure A - Project Location

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East Campus Loop Road Improvements  
 Project Site - Figure B

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