



September 10, 2012

Planning and Land Use Management Committee  
Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, Chair  
Councilmember Jose Huizar  
Councilmember Mitchell Englander

**Re: Item #3: Motion regarding University of Southern California Health Sciences  
Campus Beautification**

Honorable Councilmembers:

The University of Southern California is embarking on a major beautification project at its Health Sciences Campus. USC is seeking Council approval of a motion introduced by Councilman Huizar to facilitate our Health Sciences Campus beautification project. As part of this project, USC will (a) underground the overhead utilities, (b) significantly widen the sidewalks to make for a safer walking environment and promote walkability, (c) plant additional street trees to beautify the public streets, (d) install decorative brick banding in the street crosswalks, intersections and sidewalks to enhance and beautify the pedestrian environment, (e) enhance vehicular access to the campus and Hazard Park, and (f) install monument signs to give the campus an identity. This comprehensive streetscape beautification project will make the campus more permeable to the community, much more pedestrian friendly and accessible, and will be a major benefit for the campus and community. The project represents a \$35 million dollar investment in the public infrastructure, and is being done voluntarily by the University. Examples of the beautification project are attached as exhibits to this letter.

The undergrounding of utilities has already begun, and will be completed in approximately May 2014. However, the streetscape improvements require an amendment to the General Plan in order to be accommodated. City Staff is processing our General Plan Amendment application to modify the street designations to allow non-standard City designs, such as widened sidewalks of 24, 18 and 10 feet, to be implemented.

The University has prepared plans for the requisite B Permits. Technically, however, City Staff cannot process the B permit plans until the General Plan Amendment is completed. Given the lengthy time to process a General Plan Amendment, City Staff advised the University to seek a Council motion that would direct the Bureau of Engineering and other City Departments to begin processing plans concurrent with the processing of the General Plan Amendment, so that there would be as little lag as possible between the utility undergrounding project, which is already underway, and the streetscape improvements. This parallel processing could substantially reduce the overall time that the public streets would be disrupted with construction between the utility undergrounding project and the streetscape beautification, and would be a major benefit for the campus and the community.

We respectfully request that you refer this item to Council, so that Council may direct the departments to begin processing plans while the General Plan Amendment is processed. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have, and look forward to being able to implement the streetscape beautification.

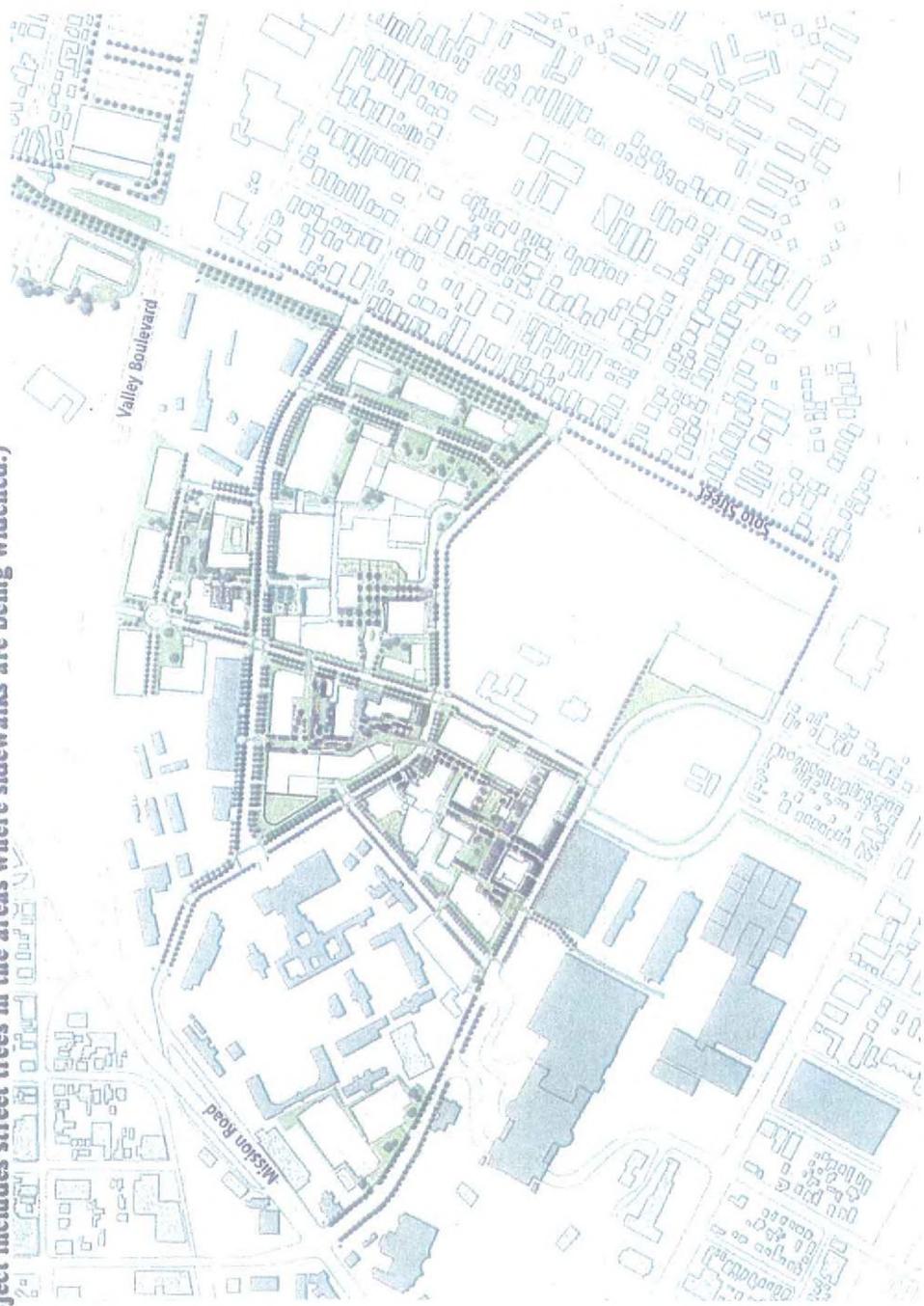
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KRASPE', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristina E. Raspe

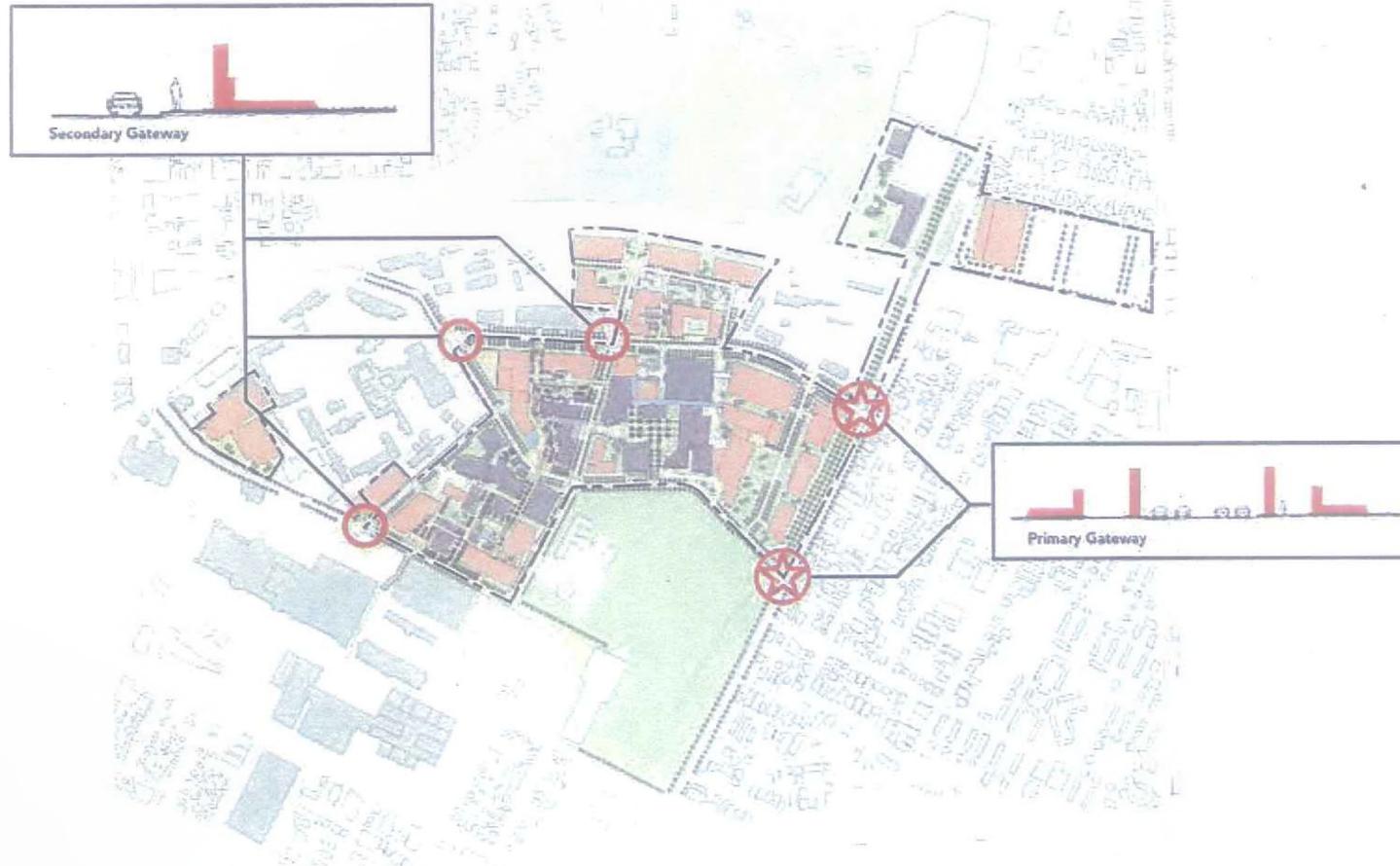
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**MAP SHOWING NEW STREET TREES AS ENVISIONED BY THE MASTER PLAN  
(This project includes street trees in the areas where sidewalks are being widened.)**

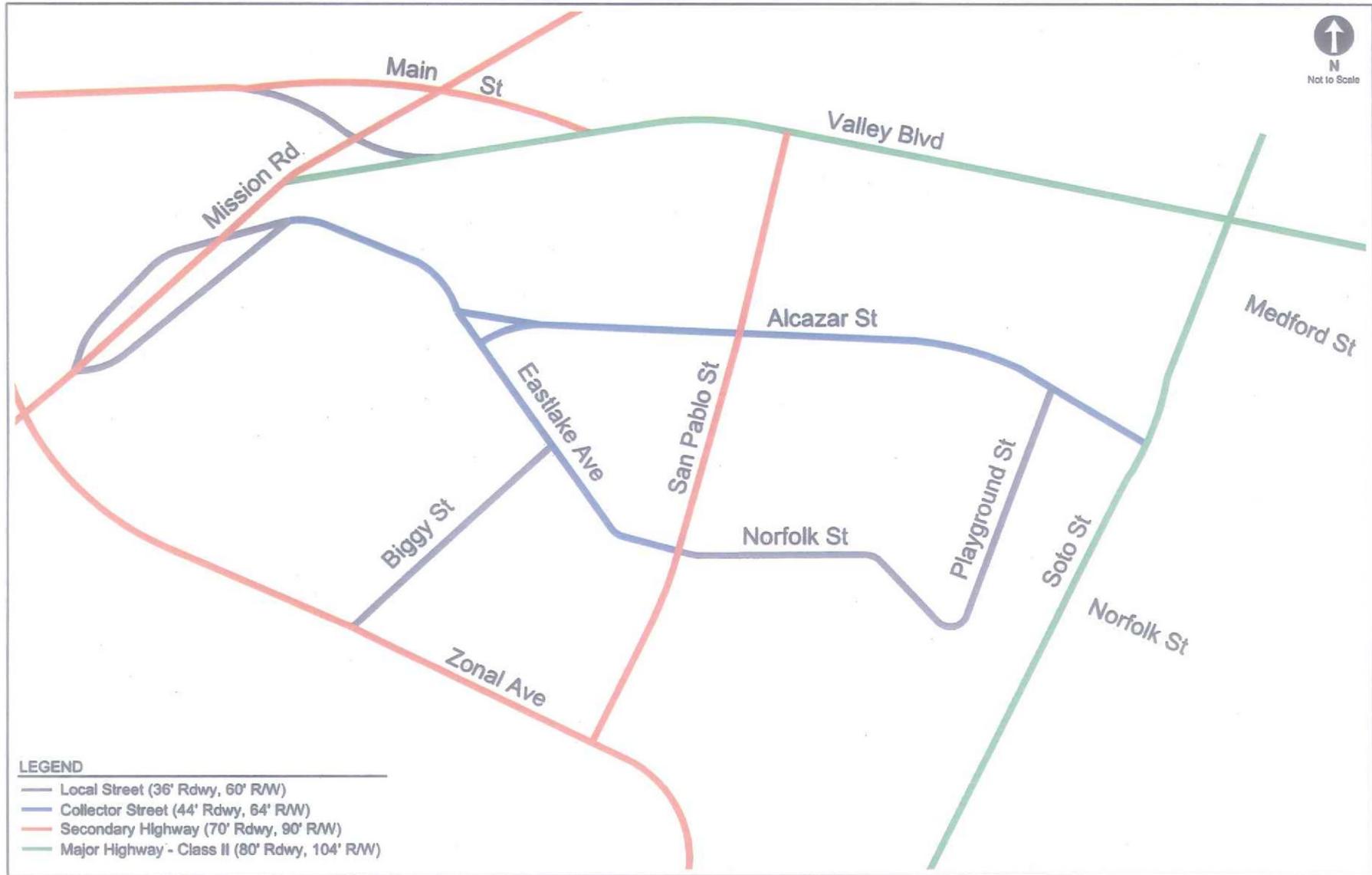


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MAP OF PRIMARY & SECONDARY GATEWAY LOCATIONS

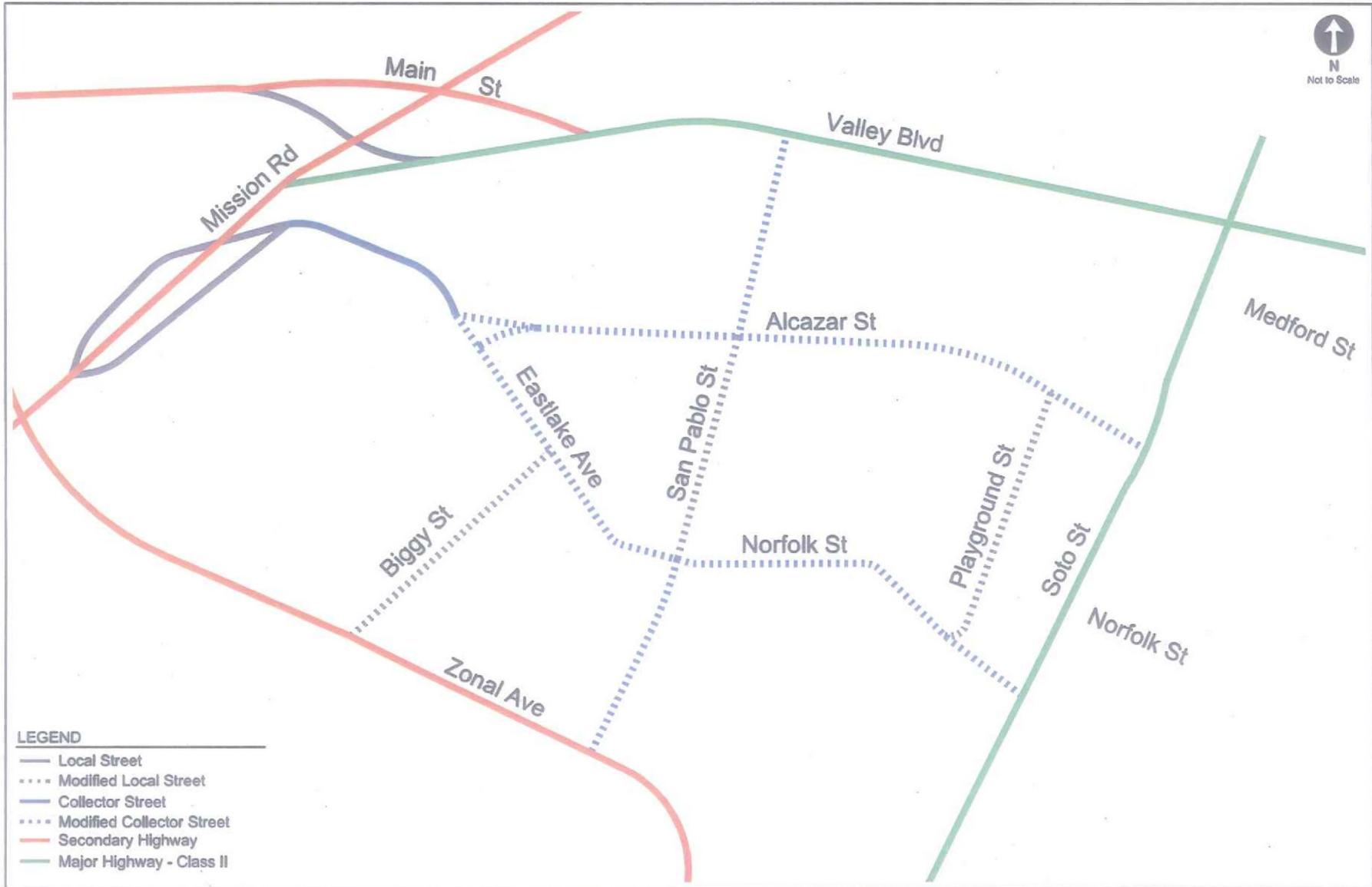


Primary and Secondary Entry Points



EXISTING STREET CLASSIFICATIONS

FIGURE  
1



PROPOSED STREET CLASSIFICATIONS

FIGURE  
2

