PALISADE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WORK SESSION

DATE:	August 8th, 2020
PRESENTED BY:	Allyson Shellhorn, *Community Development Director* Matt Lemon, *Utilities Director*
DEPARTMENT:	Planning/Utilities/Police/Fire
REFERENCE:	Town of Palisade Truck Route Update, 2020

SUMMARY:

Staff is looking for direction from the Town of Palisade Board of Trustees regarding the update of the Truck Route. Staff has been working on updating the former truck route to accommodate the growth in Palisade and concerns from the residents. Staff is presenting the updated truck route for discussion from the Board of Trustees. Please advise of any adjustments or changes that may be necessary. Once staff updates the Truck Route to accommodate direction from the Board, staff will present a finalized version, along with an ordinance for final approval. This updated map will then be dispersed to the community and business owners.

OVERVIEW:

Town of Palisade staff have been working together to update the truck route to meet the concerns of the citizens, as well as the needs of the local businesses. With the increase in traffic of larger delivery trucks, staff determined an update of the truck route was necessary to illustrate the ideal path for trucks to access business locations, as well as safely navigate through the Town of Palisade. Designating these routes through Town allows for proper enforcement of the truck routes from safety personnel and ensures the Town can plan for future maintenance and improvements of the specified streets.

Included in the truck route map are ideal routes for trucks to navigate within Town. Marked on the map are businesses that may require larger delivery trucks or semis, as well as the Golden Gate truck stop. These marked locations were represented on the map to properly show the dispersion of the routes and businesses. The former truck route needed to be slightly expanded upon to accommodate the needs and growth of the Town. The route also leaves areas where future development could occur, along North River Road, Highway 6, Elberta Avenue, and the Town Center.

Staff worked within departments to ensure the truck route was properly reviewed by safety personnel. Palisade Fire Chief Rupp, and Police Chief Funston, have both reviewed the truck route to resolve any safety concerns for staff, residents, and drivers. Both Chiefs have officially given their thumbs up of approval in regard to the update.

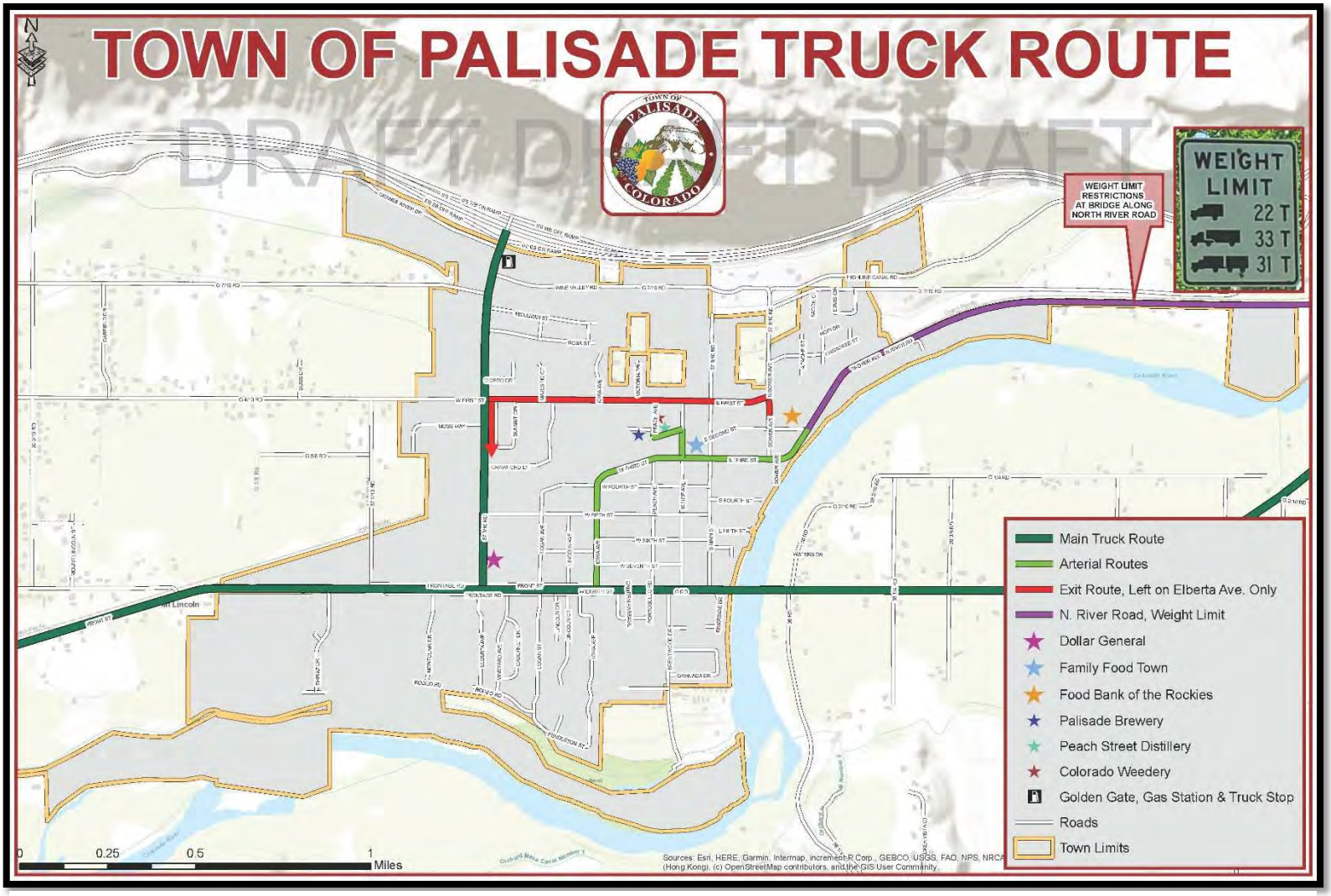
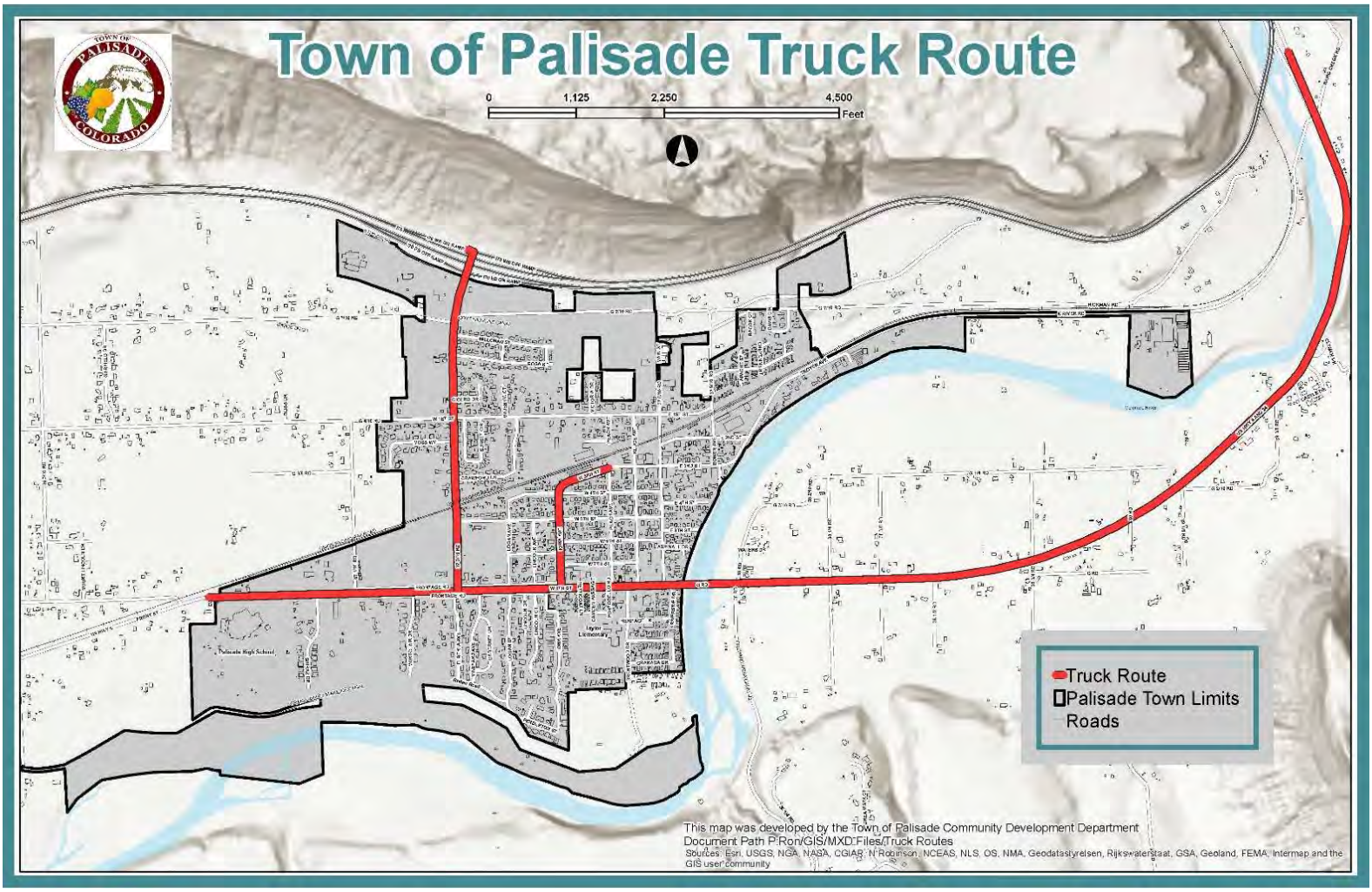


Figure 1: Truck Route Update, larger version is attached.

FORMER TRUCK ROUTE:

The former truck route was implemented beginning in 2006. This allowed for a designated truck route through Town limits to accommodate the businesses at the time and ensure larger vehicles could enter and exit Palisade safely. However, the former truck route does not include a preferred route along North River Road to accommodate lighter truck loads to the Food Bank, a preferred exit route, and smaller arterial routes to additional businesses within Town.

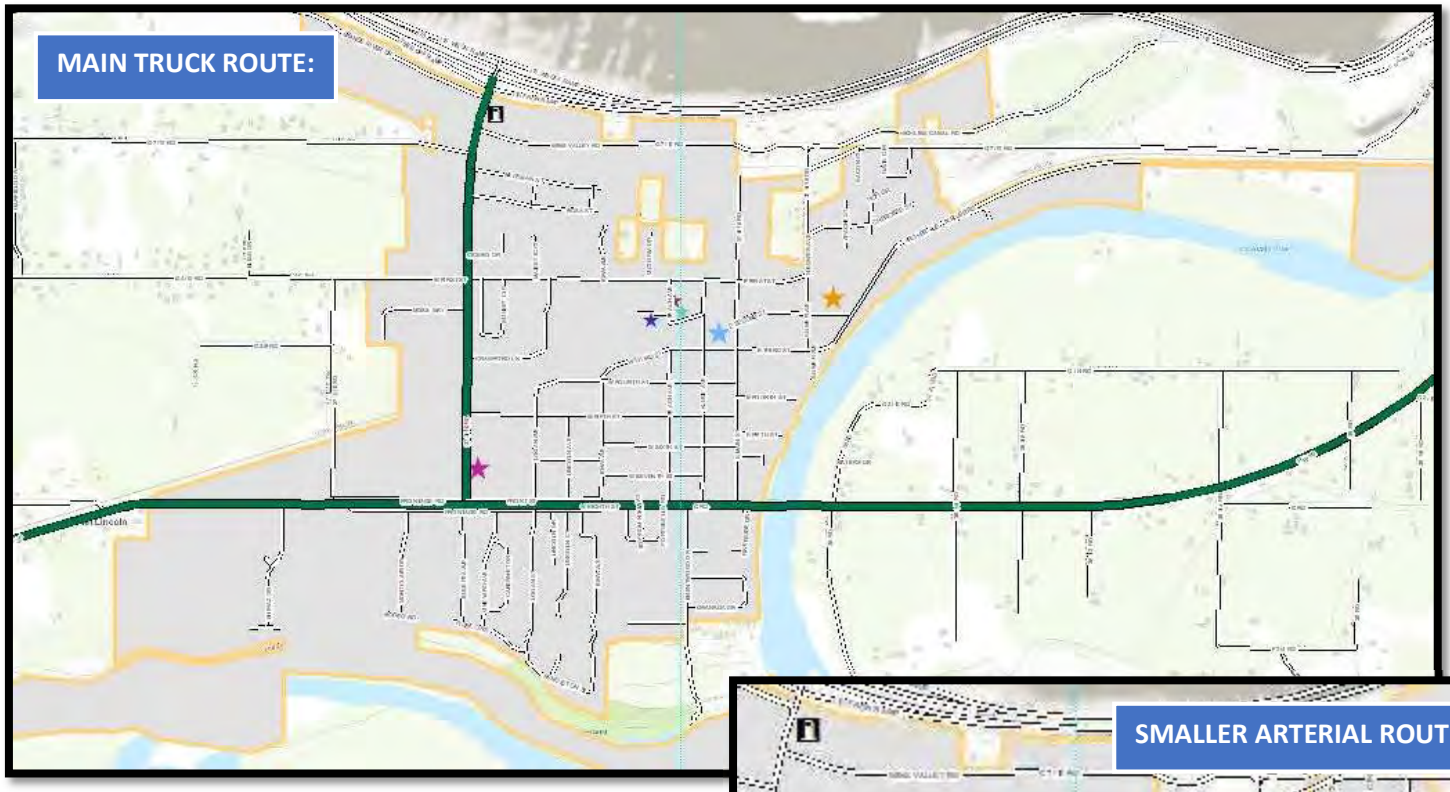


UPDATED TRUCK ROUTE:

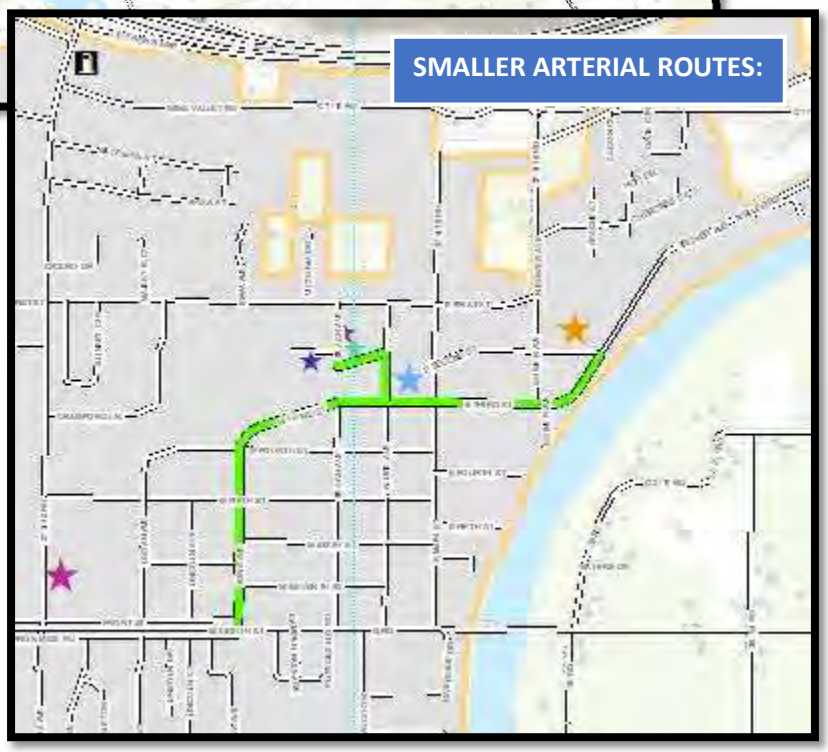
The current truck route was updated to better serve the needs of the community and the businesses. It also took into account street capability to ensure the routes could accommodate larger trucks and semis. The updated truck route will be presented to the public, businesses, and safety personnel once approved by the Board of Trustees. This will aid in ensuring the trucks follow the specified route while delivering to businesses in Town.

The truck route includes multiple aspects. A main route, a weight limited route along North River Road, an exit route from the Food Bank, and interior routes to the downtown area. It also includes point locations of businesses that receive larger deliveries, as well as the Golden Gate truck stop that serves the specific needs of the drivers and trucks/semis.

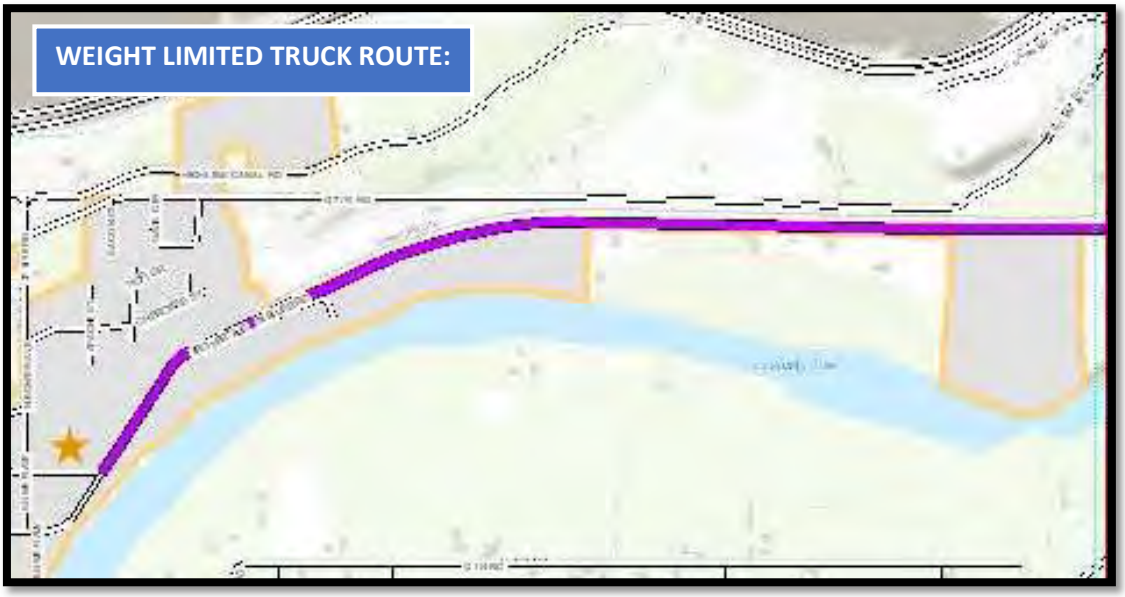
The main route, highlighted in green, is necessary to show the ideal routes to travel into and out of Town limits, and should be used whenever possible by drivers. Elberta Avenue and Highway 6 can accommodate the larger vehicles, higher traffic, and larger turning radii.



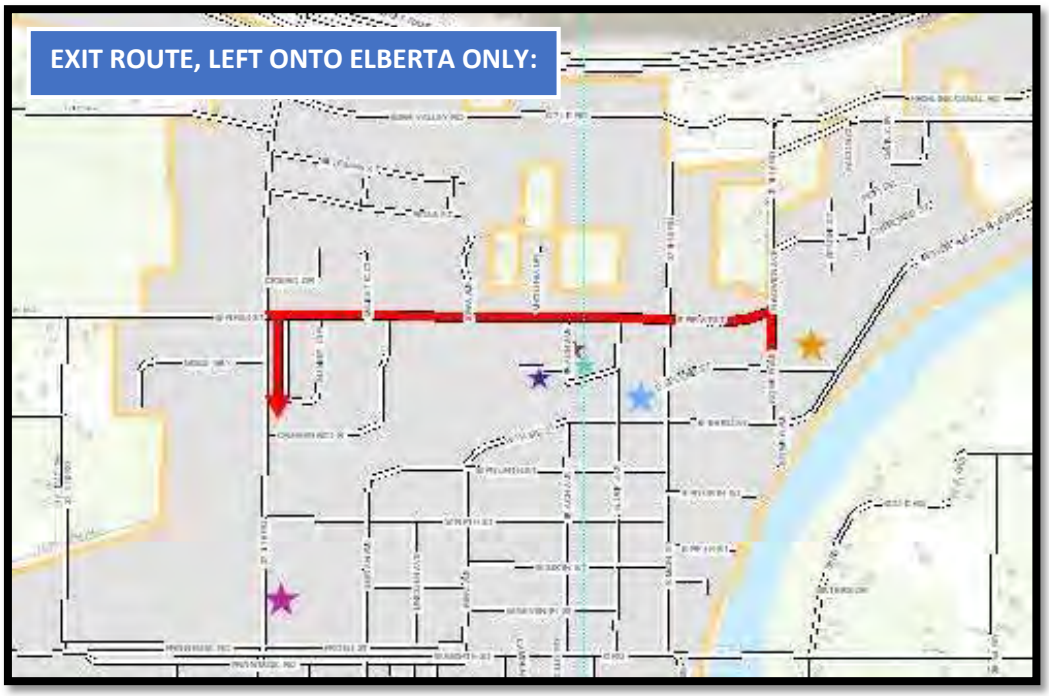
In addition to the main route, the updated truck route includes an arterial route, shown in lime green, that accommodates businesses in the Town Center. Specifying these businesses and their routes will help drivers navigate to their destination, rather than detouring onto smaller streets. Expanding off of the current truck route, which follows Iowa Avenue into the downtown area, the updated truck route includes smaller routes to reach businesses such as the Family Food Town, as well as the local brewery and distillery. This smaller, interior truck route, should allow for truck access to all of the businesses that require larger deliveries. Not only does this provide a route to access businesses, but also serves as the preferred exit route for drivers. Drivers should navigate out of Town in a similar manner that that came into Town.



The truck route update also includes an additional route along N. River Road. This addition is to accommodate the larger number of deliveries to the Food Bank of the Rockies. Since there is a weight limit on the bridge along N. River Rd., this route should only be utilized for trucks that meet those restrictions. It was necessary to include this as a route into the Food Bank as their current routes are a safety concern for residents.



Also to accommodate the needs of businesses, the truck route update includes an exit route from the Food Bank. After meeting with staff from the Food Bank, this was determined to be the safest and most direct route for trucks to exit after deliveries. The delivery location on the property of the Food Bank restricts the ways in which trucks can exit the property and therefor they must exit along Bower Avenue. Routing them from Bower Avenue, onto First Street is the most efficient exit route, since First Street can accommodate larger vehicles. The intersection at First Street and Elberta Avenue allow for trucks to turn left and head south towards Highway 6. This then allows trucks to exit Town limits along Highway 6. The intersection at First Street and Elberta Avenue does not allow for larger trucks to turn right, heading north on Elberta.



Since the route into and out of the Food Bank requires specific routes, staff intends on providing site specific truck routes to the business so truck drivers can follow the route without unnecessary detours. Other businesses can request a site specific truck route map from the Community Development Director which will show the business location, the truck route, and the preferred exit route for that business. These business specific maps will include the updated truck route as

the route to delivery of the businesses. Whenever possible, the exit route will be the same route utilized as the incoming route.

The Food Bank property demonstrates the need for an updated truck route. GPS technology often routes many truck drivers through Town streets that provide larger safety concerns for residents and drivers. These streets do not have the capability to accommodate larger trucks and semis. The Town is addressing this through meetings with Food Bank staff and the previously mentioned site specific maps. These maps will be provided to the Food Bank, where they can be distributed to the trucking companies and the drivers.

Where possible, delivery trucks to the Food Bank will be encouraged to utilize North River Road to for deliveries. If the trucks do not meet the weight limit, they will come in through Highway 6, and then onto Iowa Avenue towards E. Third Street to reach their destination. Due to the layout of the property, trucks will be required to exit the premises onto Bower Avenue and head north to First Street where they can use the wider intersection to turn left onto First Street and head towards the intersection of First and Elberta. This intersection can accommodate left turns from First Street onto Elberta, where trucks can then navigate back onto Highway 6 to exit the Town.

Signage:

Additionally, staff will also update signs and sign locations to educate drivers and the general public. New truck route signs will need to be placed along the updated route for clarity and to illustrate to drivers where they are permitted. Currently, the weight limit signs along North River Road are placed at locations that do not function for drivers. Drivers often see the weight limit sign when it is too late. Staff intends on relocating these signs to properly communicate to drivers the weight limit restrictions along the bridge on N. River Road. Staff is also looking to add a sign at the intersection of E. Second St. and N. River Road to alert drivers to the weight restrictions ahead. The update of the truck route is intended to primarily provide safety for the residents and the community, while ensuring drivers have safe and efficient routes as well.

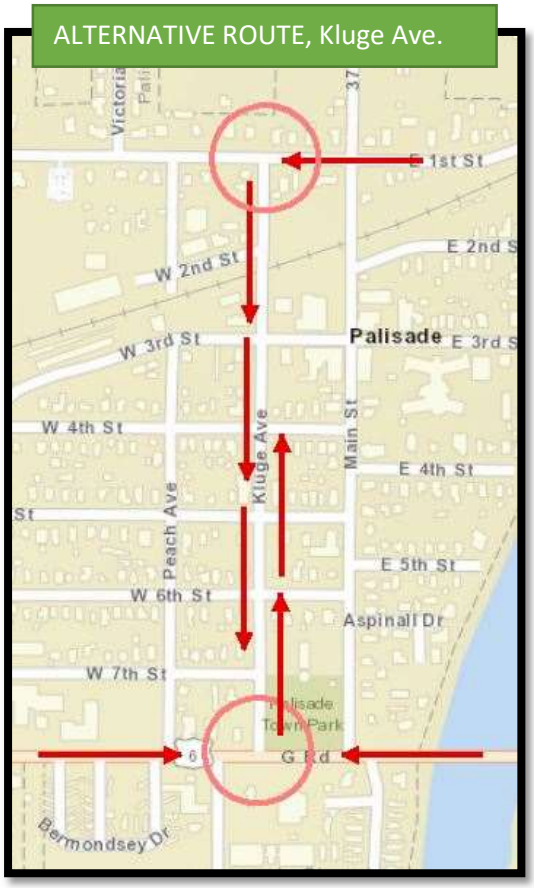
Education:

Staff intends on utilizing the updated truck route to educate drivers and businesses as to where larger delivery trucks and semis are permitted in Town. Staff will distribute the updated truck route to businesses, post the information on the Town's website, and circulate via social media. Signs will be placed along the truck route to effectively communicate to drivers where the truck route is located. Additionally, staff can create site specific truck routes for businesses that highlight their location and entry/exit routes using the updating map as a guide. These maps can then be distributed by businesses owners to delivery personnel.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES DISCUSSED:

While updating the truck route, staff looked into alternative routes to navigate drivers into and out of Town limits. One alternative route that was considered was to ask drivers to pass straight through the intersection of First and Elberta when heading West along First Street. Instead of turning left onto Elberta from First, drivers would be routed to the following intersection of G 4/10 and 37 1/10, where they would turn left onto 37 1/10 Road. Drivers would then continue on to Highway 6 to exit.

The intersection here, however, did not provide the necessary spacing and turn radius required for larger trucks and semis. Staff made multiple trips to drive this route and determine if it was feasible for the updated truck route. After many conversations between departments, this route was not considered as an option for the update.



The additional alternative route considered was to have trucks exit from First Street onto Kluge Avenue directing truck drivers back to Highway 6. Staff also considered directing trucks onto Kluge Avenue from Highway 6 towards the downtown area. This brought up many safety concerns from staff discussions for both residents and drivers. Staff was also concerned about routing trucks and semis to exit along Kluge due to the Veterans' Memorial Park and the Skate Park near Highway 6. Utilizing Kluge Avenue would not work as a route into or out of Town limits. Staff did not believe it was in the best interest of the community to put the truck route along Kluge due to all of the safety issues.

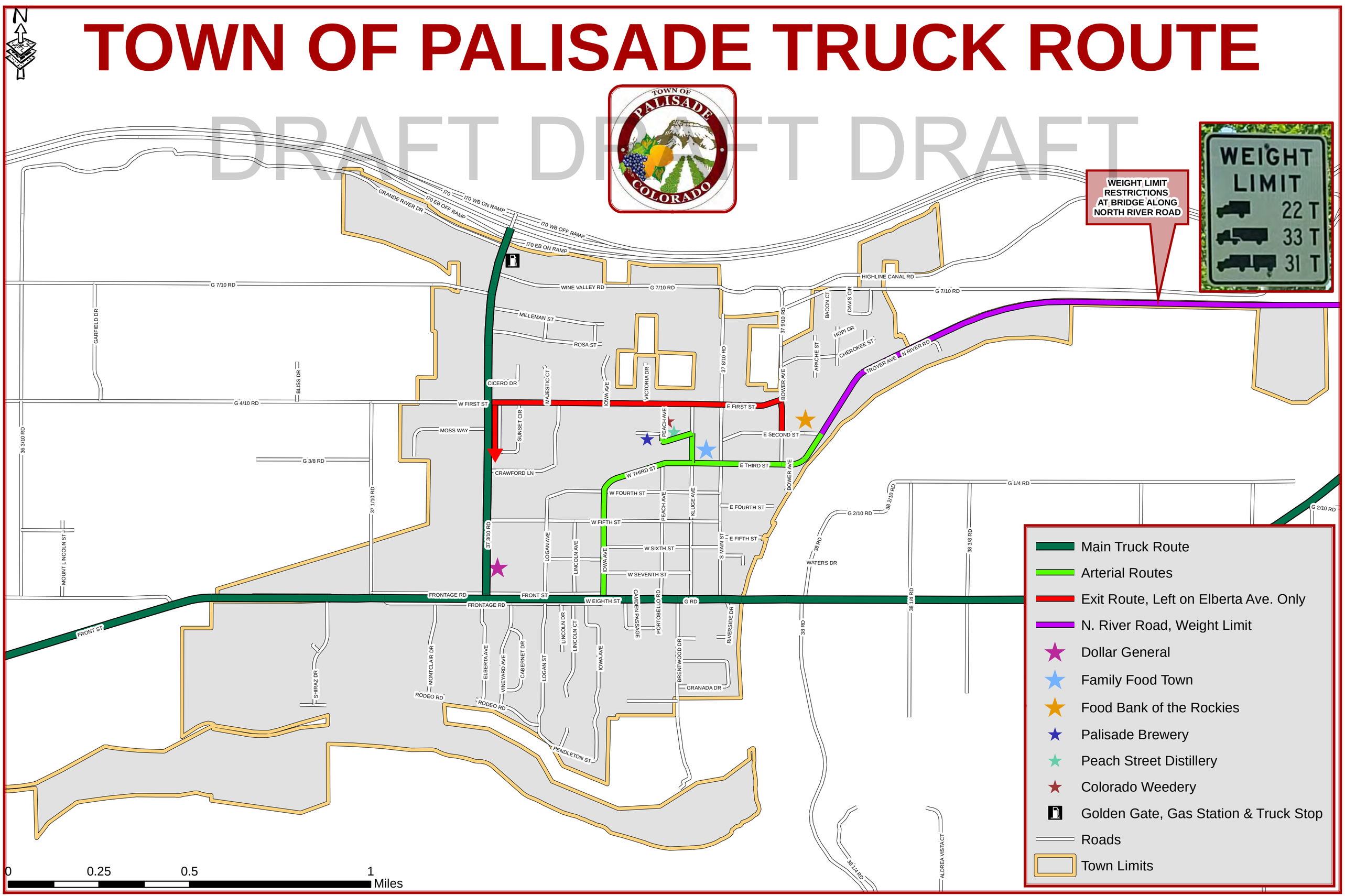
ATTACHMENTS:

Town of Palisade Updated DRAFT Truck Route

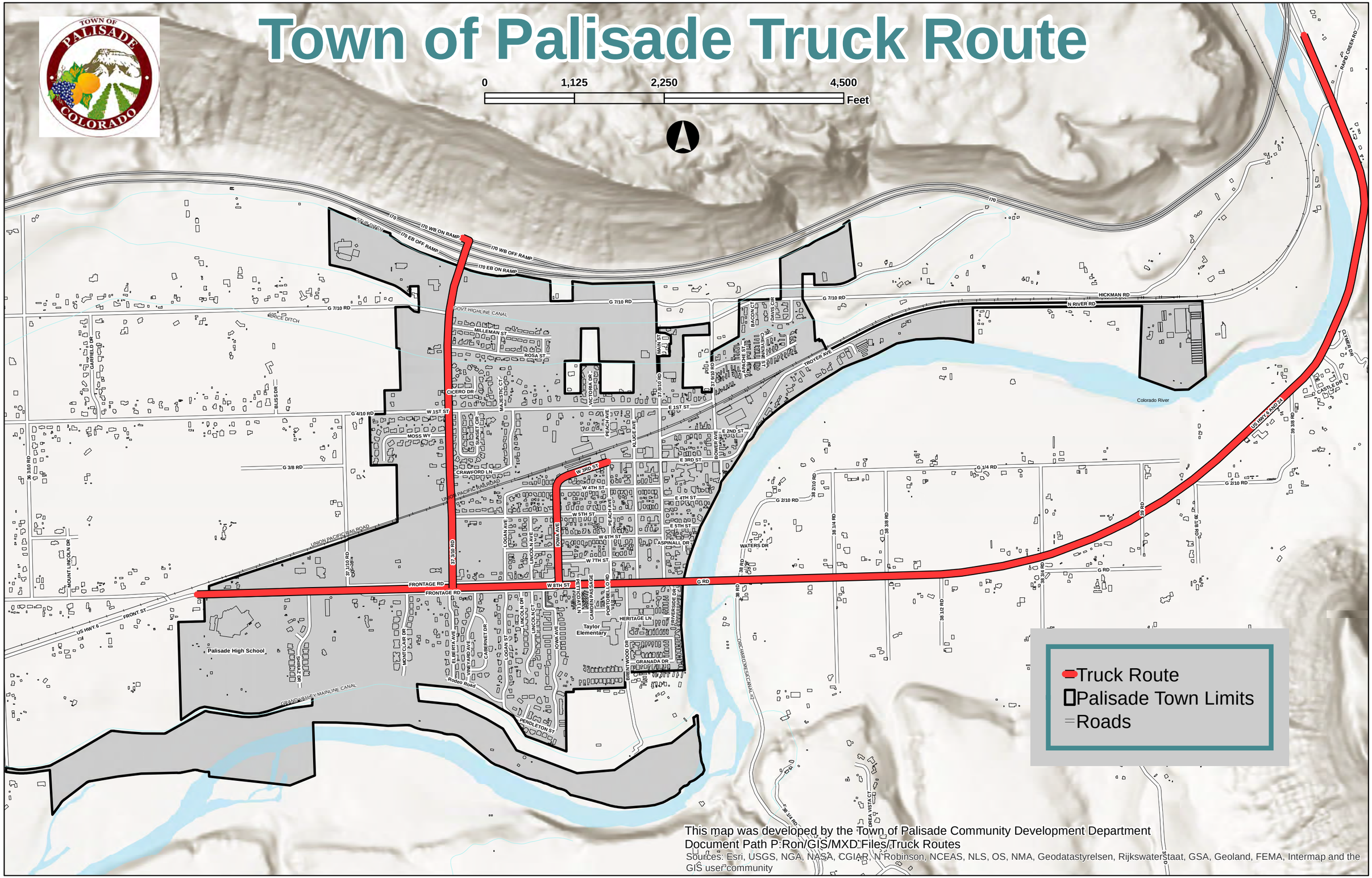
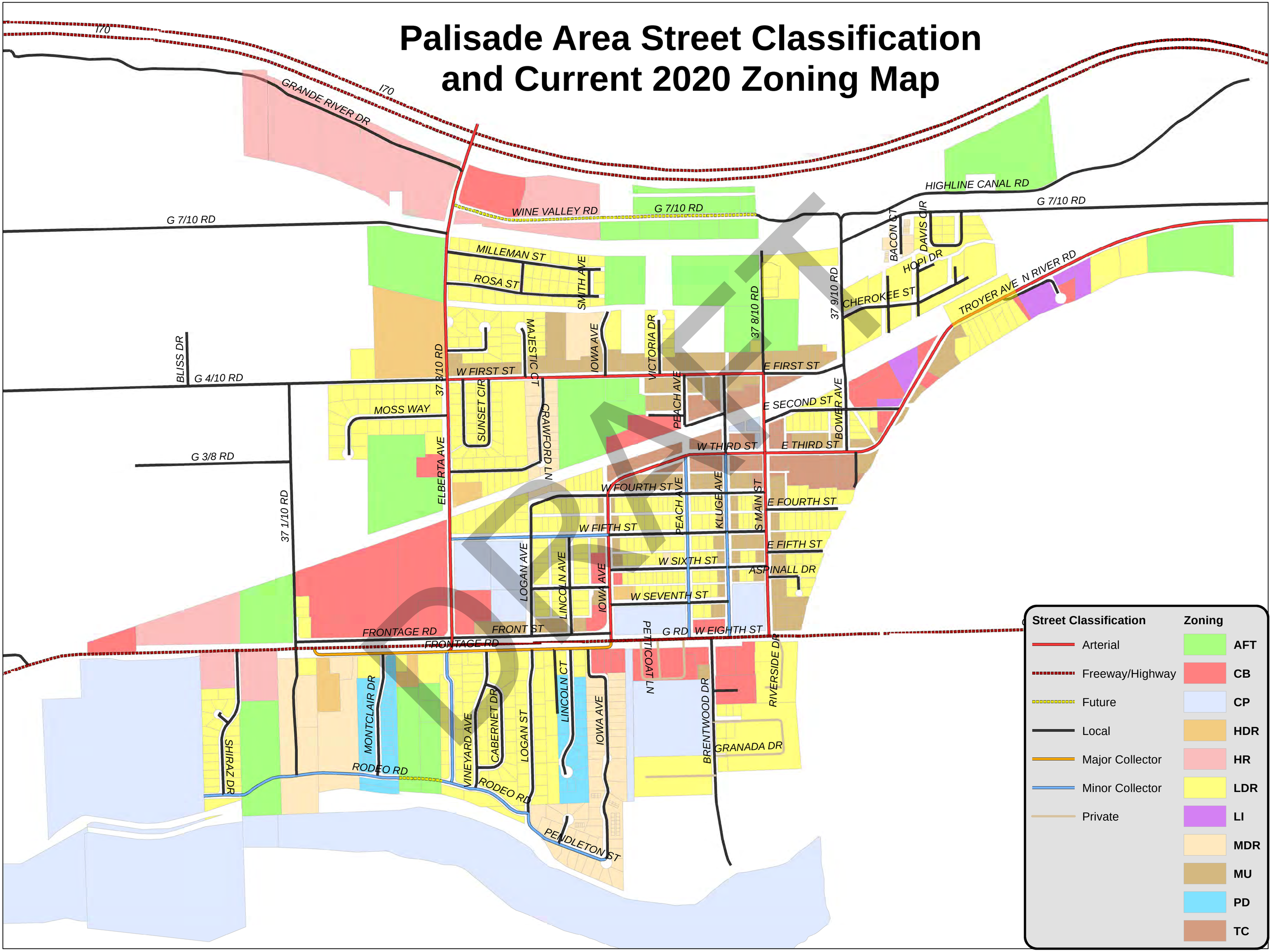
Current Town of Palisade Truck Route

Town of Palisade Street Classification Map, Adopted 2020

TOWN OF PALISADE TRUCK ROUTE



Town of Palisade Truck Route



Palisade Area Street Classification and Current 2020 Zoning Map