

G Street Underpass *Construction begins in July*

When the G Street undercrossing is completed 18 months from now it will provide a safe, quick route under the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad tracks.

The \$18 million project is paid for by state and local funding, with some help from the BNSF railroad.

The project will begin in July

and construction will last approximately a year and a half.

While a portion of G Street is closed for construction, please allow extra travel time because traffic on the through streets is expected to be heavier.

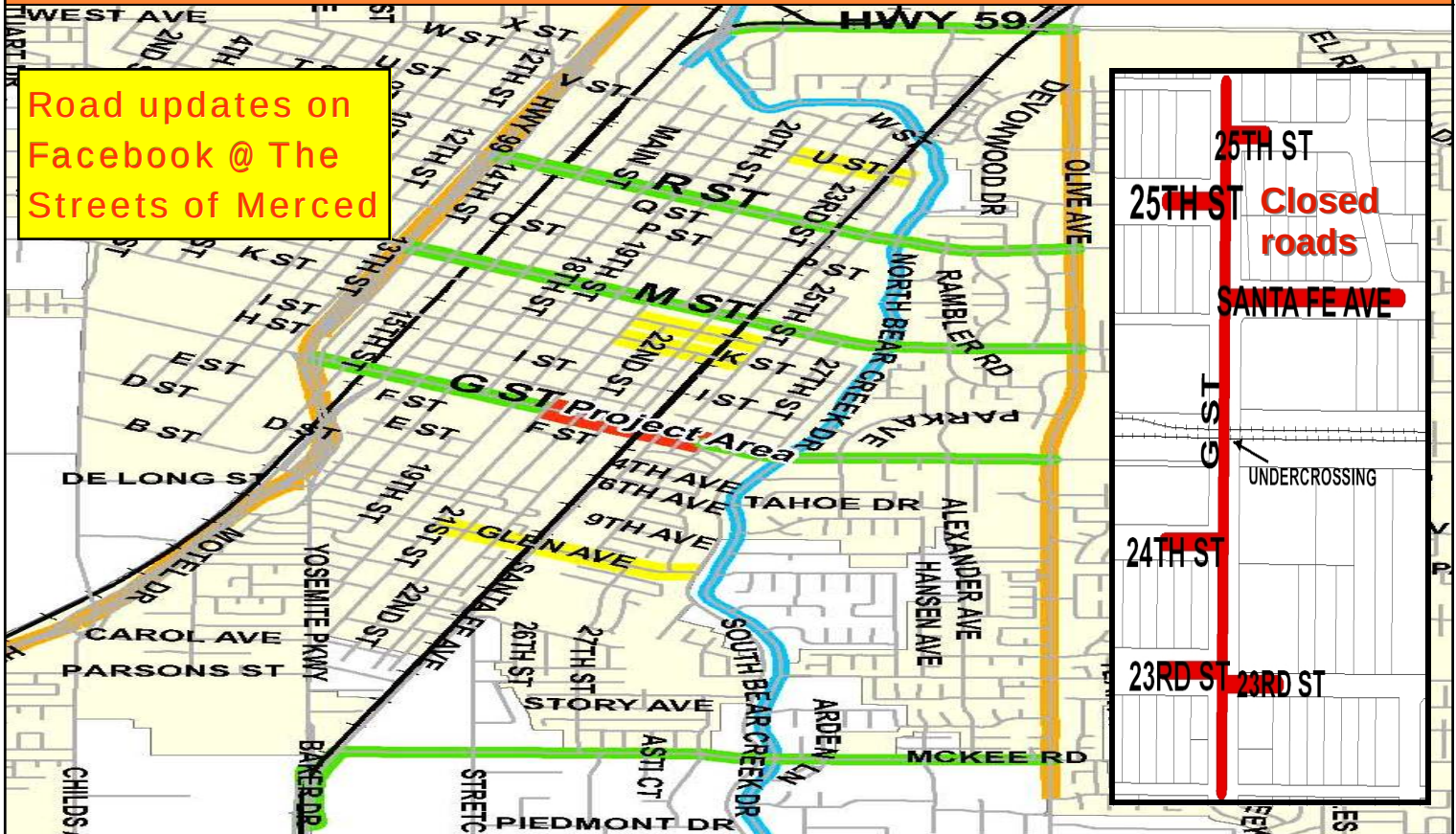
Follow the latest road and traffic updates on Facebook at "The Streets of Merced."

Tips on getting around town

- ✓ Plan your route ahead
- ✓ Allow additional travel time
- ✓ Start a carpool to reduce traffic
- ✓ Try telecommuting, it's truly green
- ✓ Alter work schedules, a half hour helps
- ✓ Ride the bus, let someone else drive
- ✓ Use your bike and get some exercise
- ✓ Walk and listen to the birds
- ✓ The end result is a safer crossing

Alternate North-South Routes Thru Town in Green
Hwy. 59, R Street, M Street and McKee Road via Bradley Overpass
Other Railroad Crossings in Yellow
U Street, Canal Street, K Street, Glen Avenue

Road updates on
Facebook @ The
Streets of Merced



Merced City Council

Mayor Bill Spriggs
Council Members:
Bill Blake
John Carlisle
Michele Gabriault-Acosta
Noah Lor
Josh Pedrozo
Mary-Michal Rawling

Contact the City Council by email at Citycouncil@cityofmerced.org, by calling 385-6834 or writing to Council members at the Civic Center address below.

Council meetings

The Council usually meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The Web site, www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Municipal Code, General Plan and other information. Contact the Newsletter at newsletter@CityofMerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write:

Merced Civic Center
Attn: Public Information Office
678 W. 18th St.
Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except holidays. It will be closed Memorial Day, May 31.

Call us

City Council	385-6834
City Manager	385-6834
City Attorney	385-6868
City Clerk	388-7100
Airport	385-6873
Code Enforcement.....	385-6861
Finance	388-7900
Inspection Services	385-6861
Personnel.....	388-7100
Planning Department.....	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...	385-6800
After hours	385-6905
Parks/CommServices	385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department..... 385-6891
Police Department 385-6912

Ask the City: It's not legal to dig in other's trash

Ask the City is an ongoing column answering questions that have been submitted to us by mail, email or phone. Readers can submit their questions to the addresses in the column on the left.

I found someone going through my trash can. I think they were just looking for bottles and cans, but I'm worried someone may steal my identity.

What can I do?

Phone call and email

"Dumpster diving" has become a cliché for people who haul things out of the trash for their own use, but it is a legitimate concern for several reasons.



Sometimes the people digging through the blue recycling container leave a mess on the ground that the property owner has to clean up.

Sometimes they are taking the CRV bottles and cans in the container, which is illegal.

And sometimes they are going through your containers looking for a credit card

receipt or a mailing that they can use or sell for identity theft. Anyone who has had their identity stolen knows what a pain it is to shut down

accounts and limit the damage.

The City used to have a staff member who followed up on reports of people rifling through the trash, but when he retired his position was eliminated as part of City-wide budget cuts.

If you are concerned, please call the Merced PD at 385-6912 and report someone dumpster diving.

Help the homeless and needy by giving

There are a number of programs and services providing help to the homeless and needy. Many non-profit or faith-based groups rely on donations to keep their programs going. You can help by giving to these groups:

The Salvation Army,

Second Baptist Church, St. Vincent de Paul and Merced Bethel Adventist Church have meals programs available.

Merced County Rescue Mission offers meals, clothing and shelter.

Merced Community

Action Agency has a shelter.

Catholic Charities offers shelter, food and clothing.

Valley Crisis Center has shelter and clothing.

Local churches also provide a variety of services.

Any and all of these groups would appreciate your help.

Think Green

Be careful what you put in your green and blue

Recycling and composting are good for the planet, and also good for helping us comply with AB 939, a law requiring cities to reduce the amount of stuff that ends up in the dump by turning it into compost or getting it recycled.

City residents have been pretty good about using the three container system, but some need a refresher.

The green container is only for green waste like lawn clippings, small branches and your Christmas tree during the season. IT IS NOT FOR GARBAGE. And don't put any of the green waste in a bag inside the container. That "contaminates" the load because it is assumed to be garbage.



The blue container is for recyclables, such as clean paper, cans and bottles. Due to some changes on the recyclers' end of the chain, we can only take No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.

Look at the bottom or side of the container for a little triangle with the number inside of it. Some of the items that are 1 or 2 plastics are:

Milk jugs, bleach, detergent, household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, soft drink, juice and water bottles, peanut butter, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers.

There are some trash and shopping bags that also are No. 2.

Thanks for doing your part to recycle, compost and reduce tonnage in the landfill.