



WETLAND EVALUATION REPORT & BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

**Work Program Item Number: 256422 1
Federal Aid Project Number: 1455-001-U**

**U.S. 301 (S.R. 41)
S.R. 39 to C.R. 54
Pasco County, Florida**

This project evaluates adding through lanes on U.S. 301 from S.R. 39 to C.R. 54 through Zephyrhills. A one-way pair system using 6th Street and/or 7th Street is being considered. The approximate length of the project is 2.6 miles.



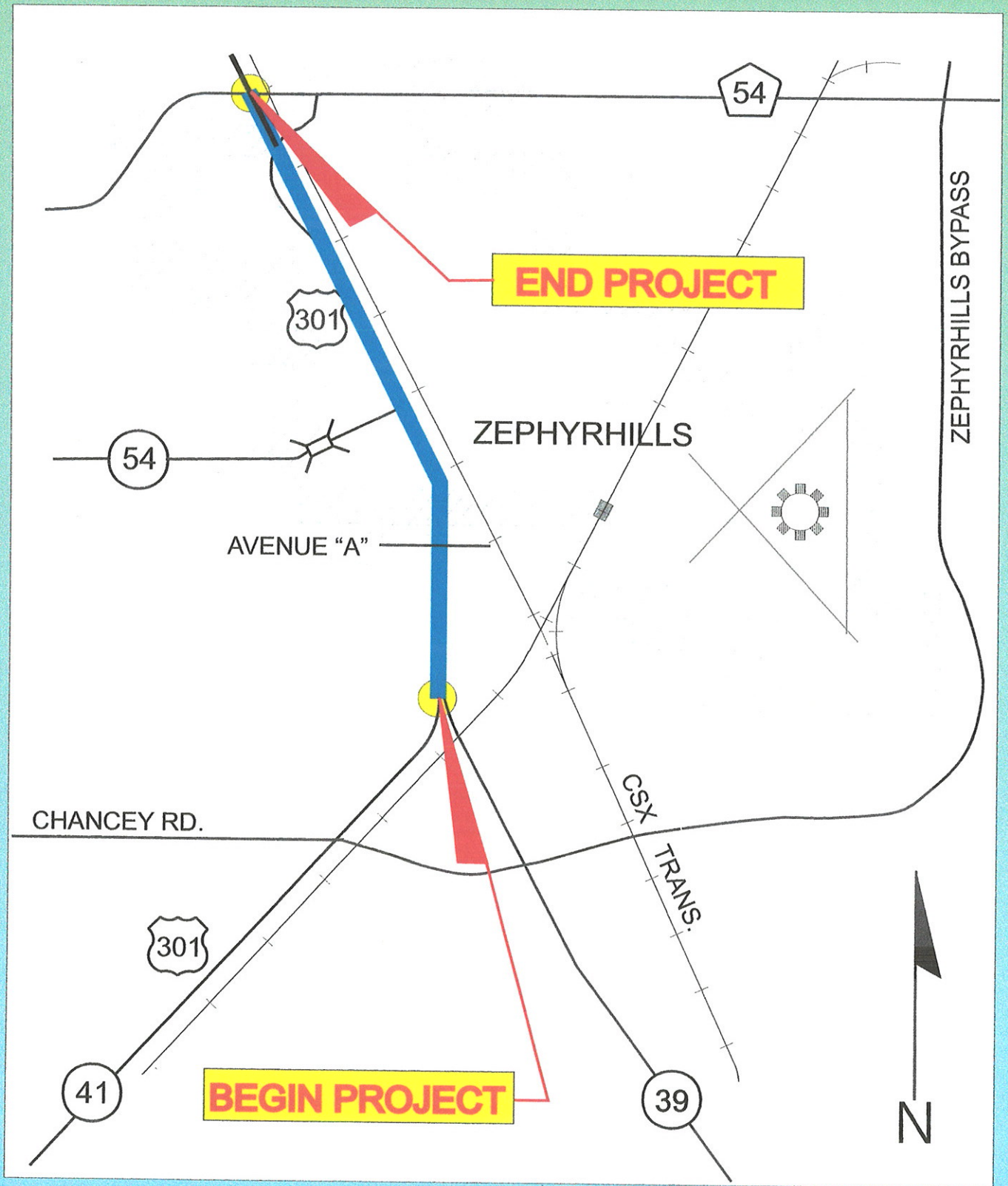
August 2000

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STATE OF FLORIDA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 DISTRICT 7

PROJECT
 LOCATION
 MAP

FIGURE 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Wetland Evaluation Report and Biological Assessment is among the various independent reports prepared as part of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study undertaken by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the proposed US 301 (SR 41) improvements. The purpose of this study is to collect data related to the potential impacts associated with the Build and No-Build Alternatives. The data obtained will be considered in determining the location and design of the proposed facility improvements.

The objective of the PD&E study is to provide documentation which will aid the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determine the location and type of improvements necessary to accommodate future traffic demands. The PD&E process satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and allows the project to be eligible for FHWA federal certification.

This report reviews potential environmental impacts (wetlands and wildlife) which may be associated with the proposed road improvements. Comments from the solicited agencies based on the review of this report will aid in the evaluation and selection of alternative alignments and typical sections in an effort to minimize impacts to wetland and wildlife habitat resources.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The US 301 corridor is a north/south primary arterial facility that connects Tampa, Zephyrhills, and Dade City. The proposed corridor study is from SR 39 to CR 54, an approximate distance of 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles). The location and limits of the current study are depicted in Figure 1. Portions of the study, from SR 39 to Avenue C, are located in unincorporated Pasco County. The remainder, Avenue C to CR 54, is within the limits of the City of Zephyrhills.

The existing facility is a two-lane rural roadway with twelve foot lanes, four foot paved shoulders, and open drainage ditches. A one-way pair system was created in 1996 by the City of Zephyrhills using 6th and 7th Streets as an alternate route to US 301. The City's one-way pair system begins at Avenue A for northbound traffic on 7th Street and terminates at Avenue C for southbound traffic on 6th Street.

2.1 Proposed Improvements

The proposed project involves widening the existing US 301 travel lanes to meet current standards and to evaluate the extension of the one-way streets, either 6th and/or 7th Streets, to SR 39. The improvements will also include a closed stormwater system with curb and gutter along with sidewalk accommodations. The various alternatives are depicted in Figures 2, 3, & 4.

3.0 NEED FOR PROJECT

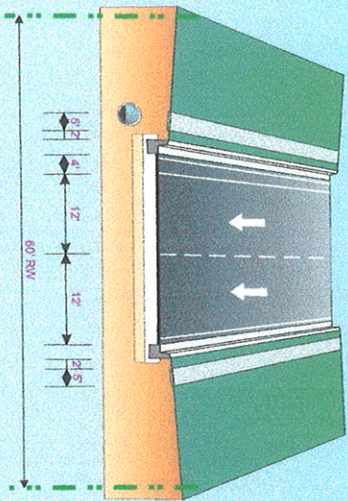
US 301 between SR 39 and CR 54 is a two-lane roadway which has operated since the original construction without any major improvements. The 1997 traffic volume along this portion of US

U.S. 301 ZEPHYRHILLS FROM S.R. 39 TO C.R. 54

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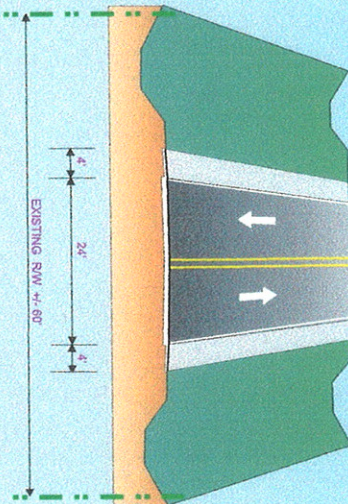
FEDERAL AID NO. 1455-001-U

**PROPOSED TWO LANE
ONE WAY
TYPICAL SECTION**



6TH STREET

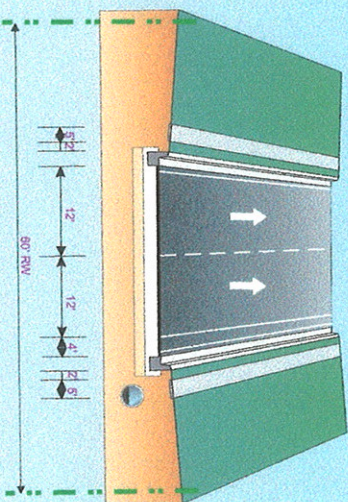
**EXISTING
TYPICAL SECTION**



U.S. 301

ALTERNATIVE 1

**PROPOSED TWO LANE
ONE WAY
TYPICAL SECTION**



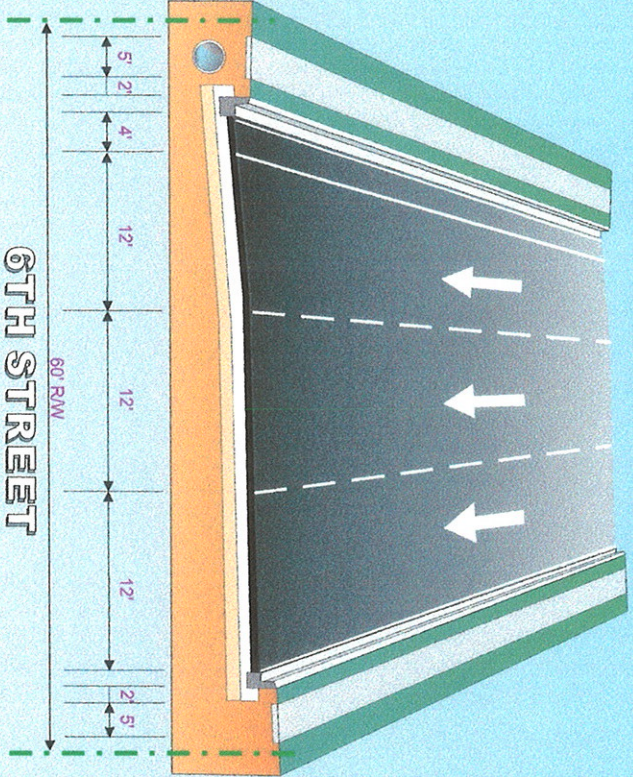
7TH STREET

U.S. 301 ZEPHYRHILLS FROM S.R. 39 TO C.R. 54

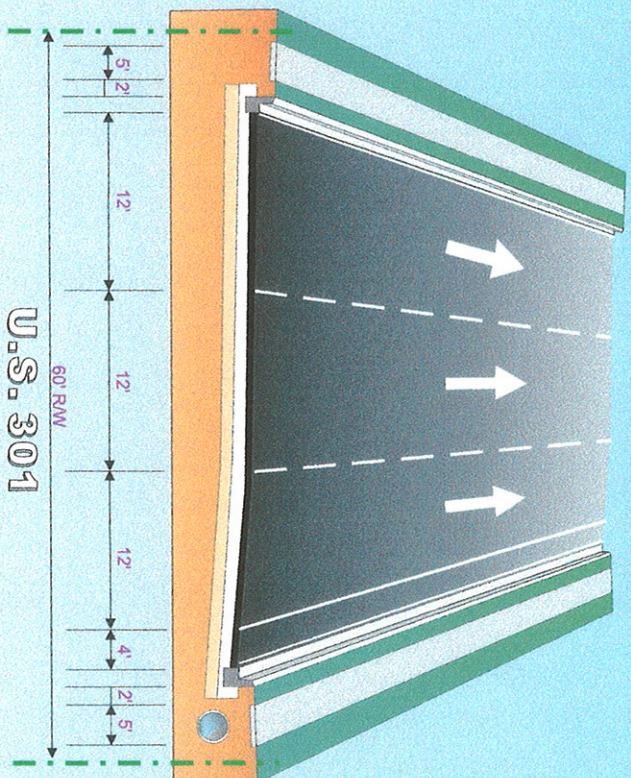
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PROPOSED THREE LANE ONE WAY
TYPICAL SECTION



PROPOSED THREE LANE ONE WAY
TYPICAL SECTION



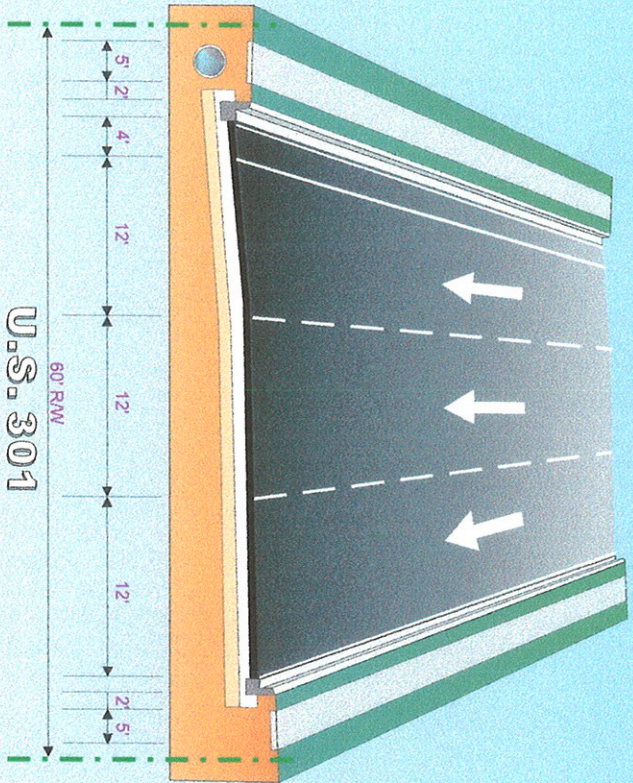
ALTERNATIVE 2

U.S. 301 ZEPHYRHILLS FROM S.R. 39 TO C.R. 54

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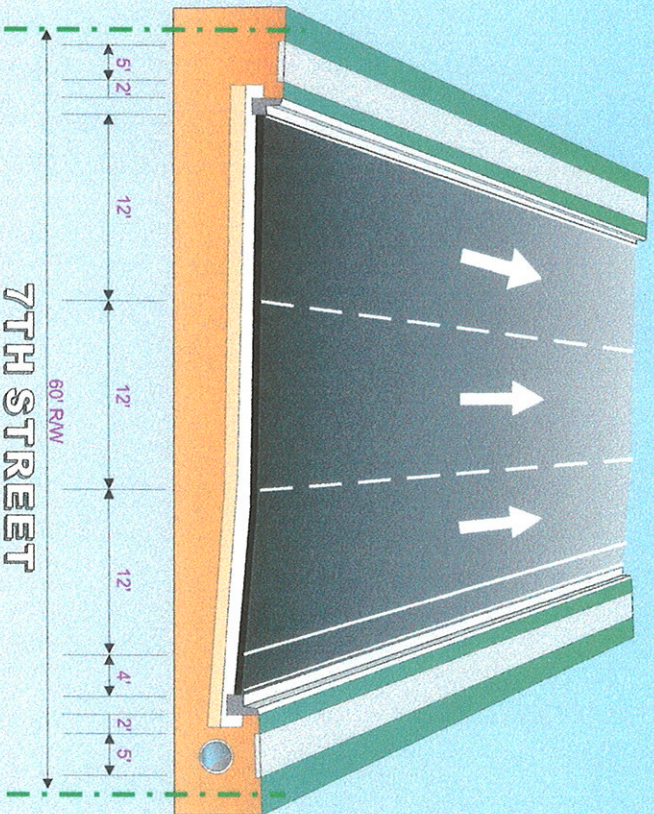
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PROPOSED THREE LANE ONE WAY
TYPICAL SECTION



U.S. 301

PROPOSED THREE LANE ONE WAY
TYPICAL SECTION



7TH STREET

ALTERNATIVE 3

301 was 17,300 vehicles per day (vpd). The projected traffic volume for the design year of 2025 is expected to be 38,200 vpd. To accommodate the projected traffic increase, this section of US 301 will require additional through lanes, two in each direction.

The Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the responsibility of developing a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the county to serve the needs of the metropolitan area over the next 20 to 25 years. The adopted 2020 LRTP, updated in 1999, has identified 6th Street and/or 7th Street to be extended as one-way roads which will result in two lanes in each direction. The LRTP recognizes 6th Street to be extended from Avenue C south to connect with US 301 just north of SR 39. Currently this portion of the road is a two-way street. The LRTP also identifies 7th Street to be extended from Avenue A south to connect with US 301 just north of SR 39. The existing road terminates at this point.

The Department has requested the Pasco County MPO amend the LRTP to change the northern limits from Avenue A to SR 54. Although 6th and 7th Streets are currently two lane, one-way roads north of Avenue A, the sections from Avenue A north to SR 54 will need to be upgraded to accommodate the additional traffic volumes and truck traffic anticipated after the one-way roads are extended. Pavement reconstruction, drainage improvements, and SR 54 intersection improvements will be investigated as part of this project.

4.0 WETLANDS

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands" (May 1977), the proposed project has been evaluated for potential impacts to wetlands. Preliminary wetland determinations were based on information from the US Geological Survey 7.5 minute series Zephyrhills Topographic Map, Soil Conservation Service's *Soil Survey of Pasco County*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Maps, and aerial photography. Wetland locations and boundaries were identified and delineated in March of 2000. Plan sheets with aerial images are included in Appendix A.

4.1 Wetland Impacts

No wetlands will be impacted by the current proposed improvements. There are no naturally occurring wetlands on the project within the area shown on the plan sheets. Several existing stormwater ponds occur throughout the study corridor. The plan sheets in Appendix A depict potential stormwater locations that the Department will continue to evaluate for the final design. At this point in time, the conceptual design does not identify the potential discharge into existing stormwater facilities.

5.0 FLOOD ZONES

In accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Pasco County, the flood zone boundaries have been evaluated for impacts to floodplains. A clarification of the flood designations is below:

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
A	Areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.
A1 - A30	Areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined.
B	Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and 500-year flood; or certain areas subject to 100-year flooding with average depths less than one (1) foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile; or areas protected by levees from the base flood.
C	Areas of minimal flooding.

Portions of the study area are located within the Zone A floodplain limits as shown on the Federal Insurance Rate Maps (Panel Numbers 120235 0005 C, 120230 0460 D). The proposed improvements would impact the floodplain longitudinally from S.R. 39 to Avenue C.

The proposed structures will perform hydraulically in a manner equal to or greater than existing structures and backwater surface elevations are not expected to increase. There will be no significant adverse impacts on the natural and beneficial floodplain values or any significant change in flood risks or damage. There will be no significant change in the potential for interruption or termination of emergency service evacuation routes. Therefore, it has been determined that this encroachment is not significant.

6.0 WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Suitable habitats for federally listed species were investigated for presence or absence by FDOT staff. The project corridor was mapped adhering to *Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System* (FDOT 1985). The aerials along with the classification legend are contained in Appendix A. Surveys were then conducted in each habitat type for species known to occur or utilize the classified habitats. These surveys were performed in March of 2000.

The proposed improvements are located in an urbanized area of Zephyrhills. No native habitat exists along the study corridor. No listed species were encountered during the field reconnaissances, nor are any species known to occur in the area.

7.0 FEDERAL SPECIES INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

The project has been evaluated for impacts on federally protected threatened and endangered species. A literature review was conducted to determine those possibly threatened or endangered species which may inhabit the project area.

Based on the above results of the literature review and the field surveys conducted for the proposed roadway improvements, the Department has determined that no federally listed threatened or endangered species will be affected by the project. Furthermore, the proposed project is not located in an area designated as critical habitat by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Therefore, FDOT on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration has determined that the proposed project will have "No Involvement" with any federally protected threatened or endangered species.

References

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United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. 1982. *Soil Survey of Pasco County, Florida*, Washington, D.C..

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APPENDIX A

Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System

Class Definitions

110	Residential, Low Density
140	Commercial and Services
175	Governmental
185	Parks and Zoos
212	Unimproved Pastures
423	Oak - Pine - Hickory
427	Live Oak
534	Reservoirs less than 10 acres

LEGEND

- EXISTING R/W —
- PROPOSED R/W CENTER —
- PROPOSED R/W LEFT —
- PROPOSED R/W RIGHT —
- PROPERTY LINES —

STATE PROJ. NO. 256422 1
SHEET NO. 01



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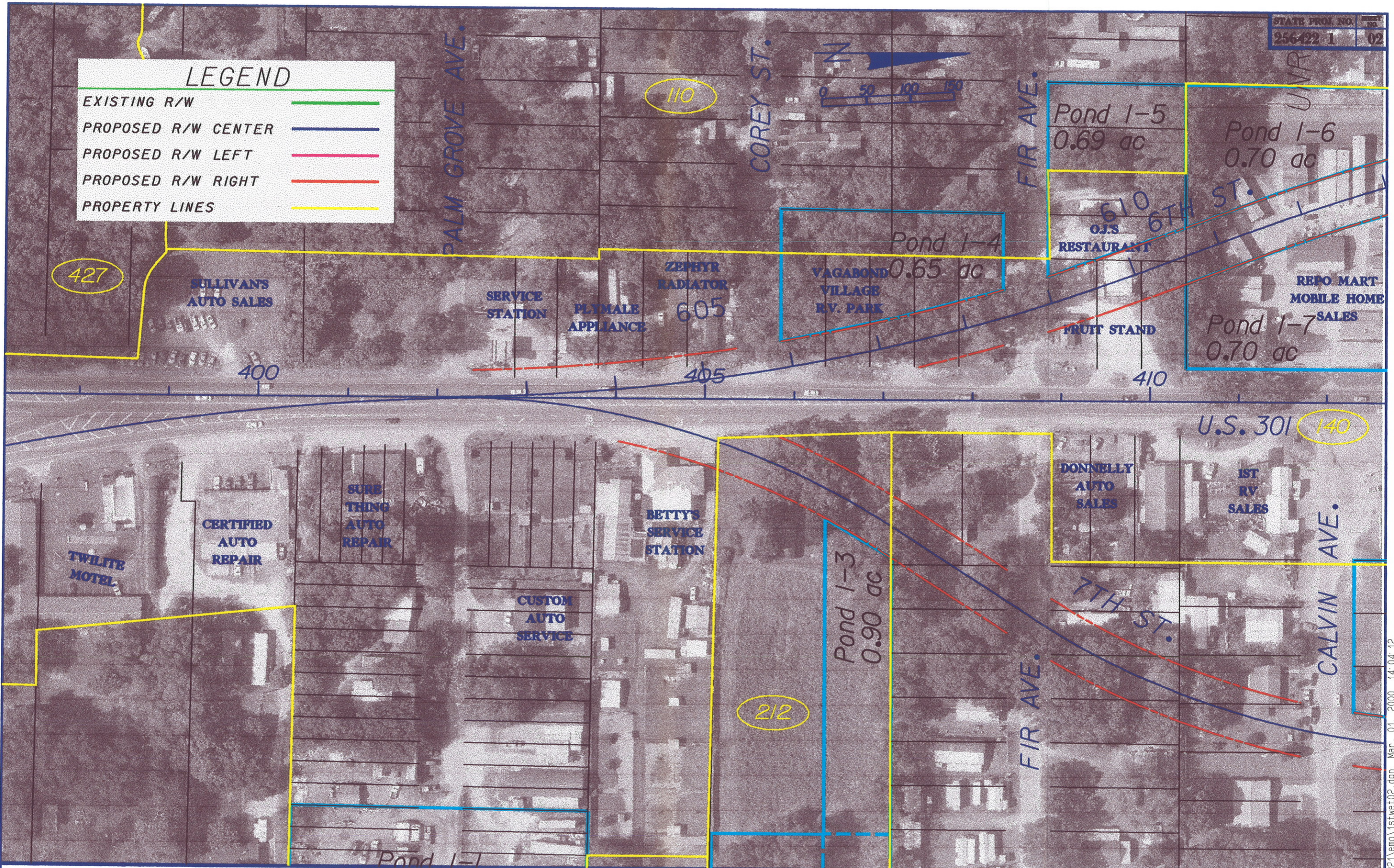
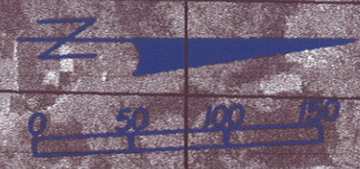
**HABITAT MAPPING
FLUCFCS**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

U.S. 301 IN ZEPHYRHILLS
APEX OF S.R. 39 TO C.R. 54

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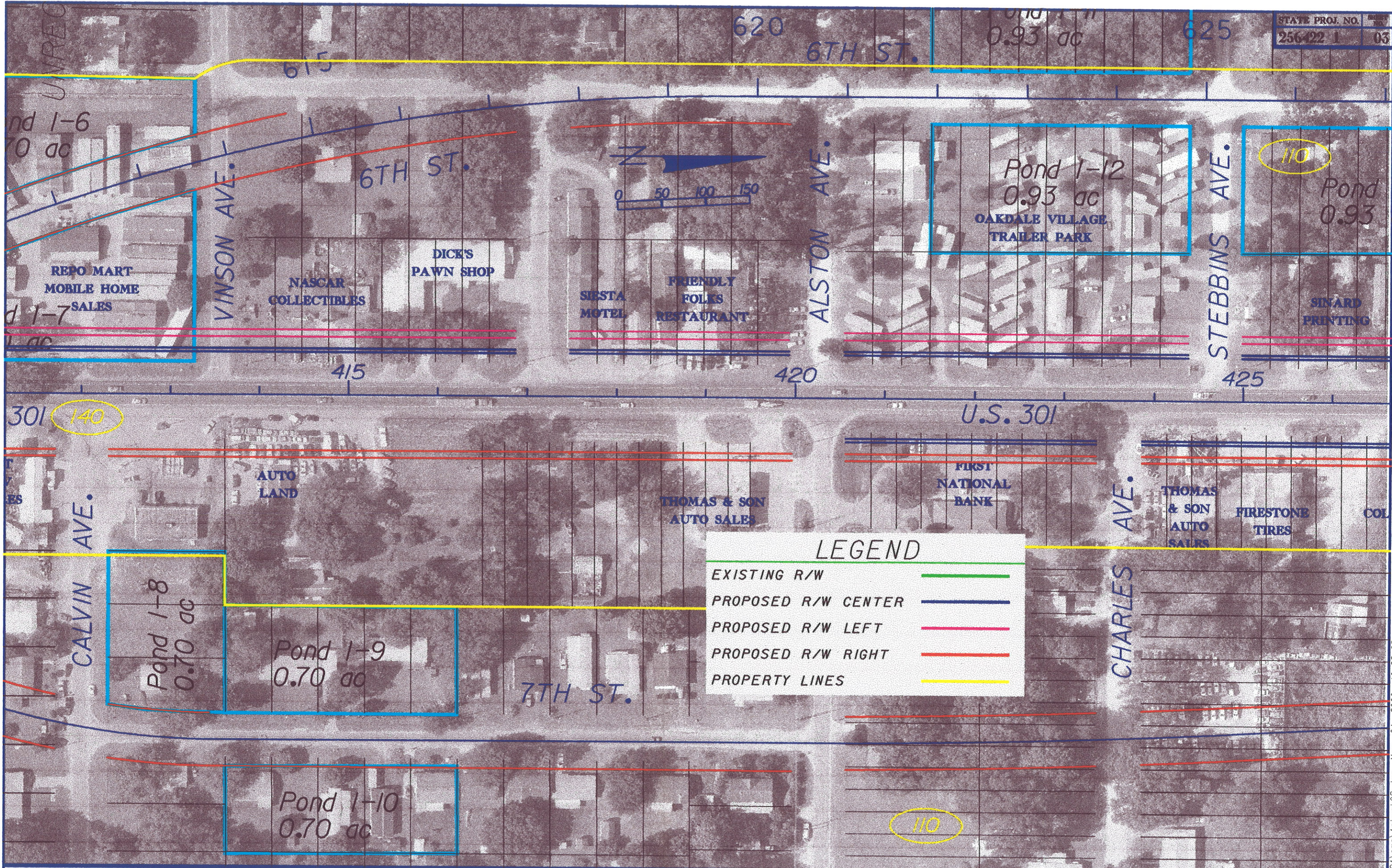


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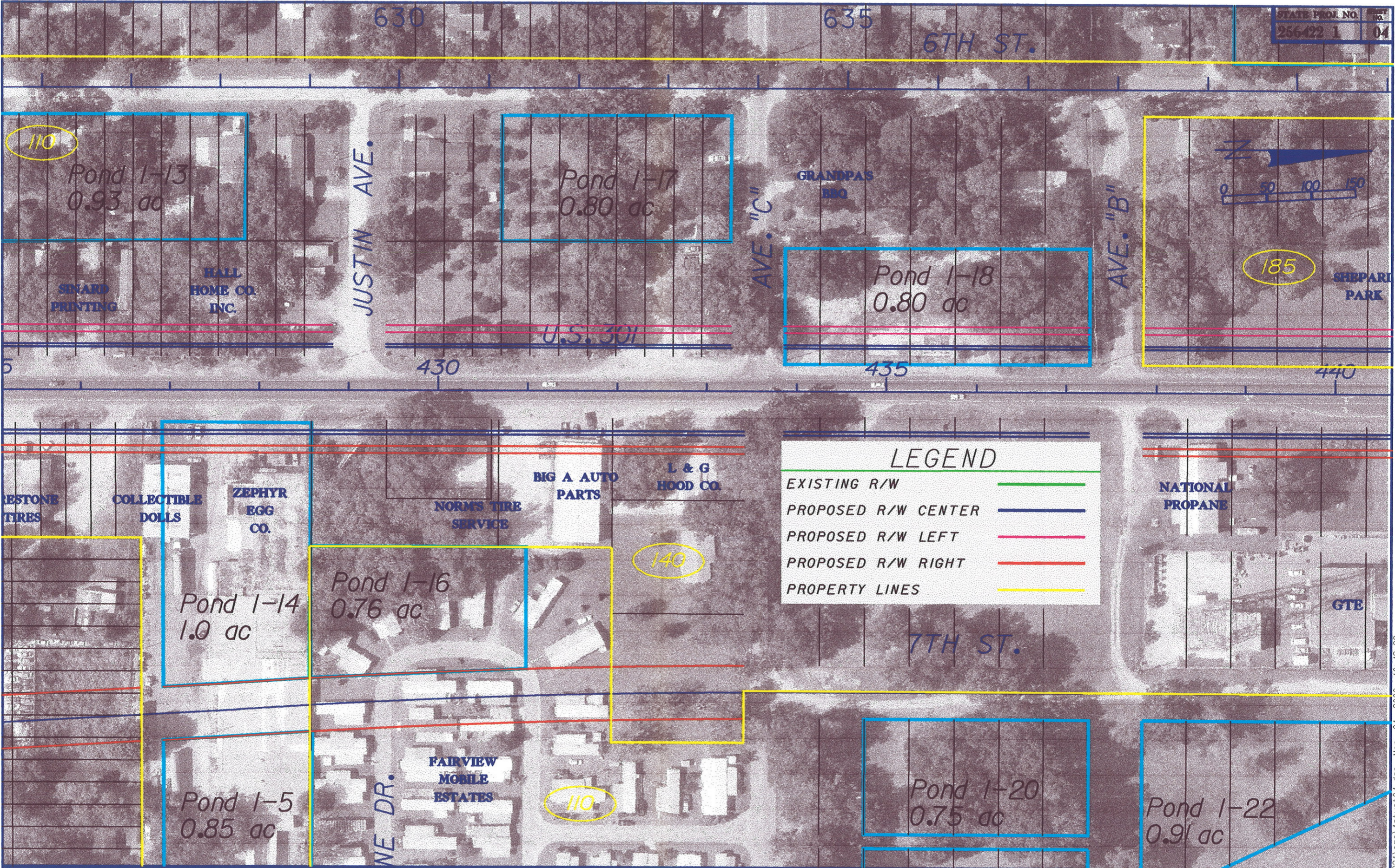
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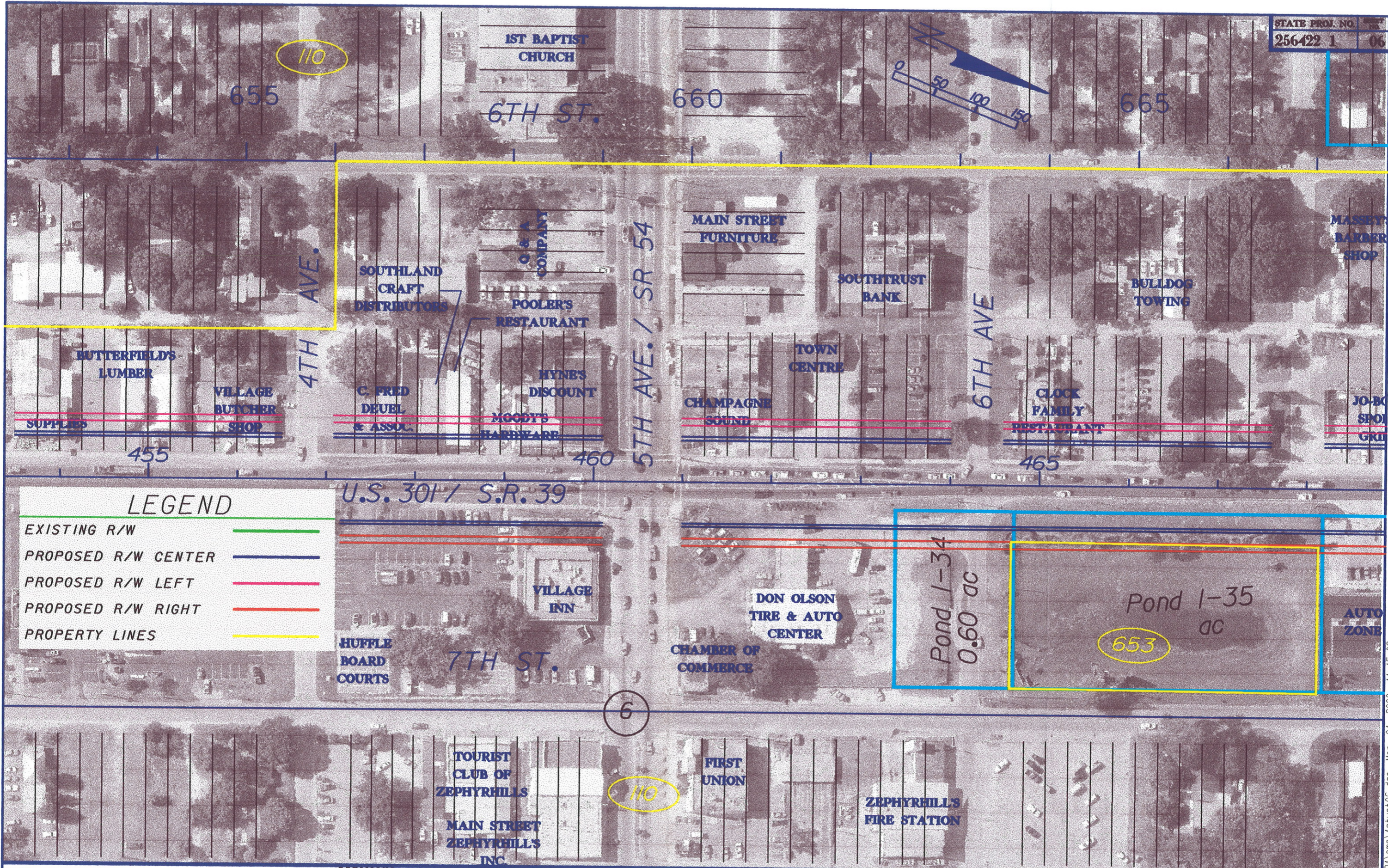
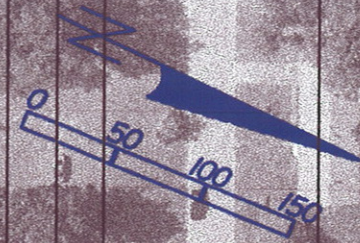
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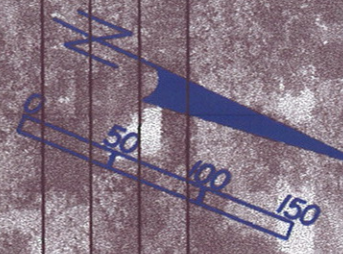
Pond 1-37
0.96 ac

Pond 1-39
0.96 ac

670 8TH AVE
110

6TH ST.

675 M.D.



BANES CHOICE APTS.

MASSETT'S BARBER SHOP

SUN TRUST BANK

BADCOCK

Pond 1-40
0.96 ac

AUTO QUALITY INC.
STATE TITLE AGENCY

LEGEND

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JO-ROB'S SPORT GRILL

BIG DON'S FURNITURE

B & B SUPPLY CORP.

CARPET OUTLET

EDWARD JONES INVESTMENT

10TH AVE.

11TH AVE.

470

475

480

U.S. 301 / S.R. 39

Pond 1-38
0.60 ac

STRIP STORES

FAMILY BUFFET

140

MIAMI SUBS (VACANT)

KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN

TOWNE SQUARE

Pond 1-41
0.80 ac

CENTURY CAR WASH

BURGER KING

7TH ST.

HEAD'S UP HAIR DESIGN

GEIGER'S FEED STORE

INSURANCE

SIGN SHOP

Pond 1-42
0.96 ac

INSURANCE

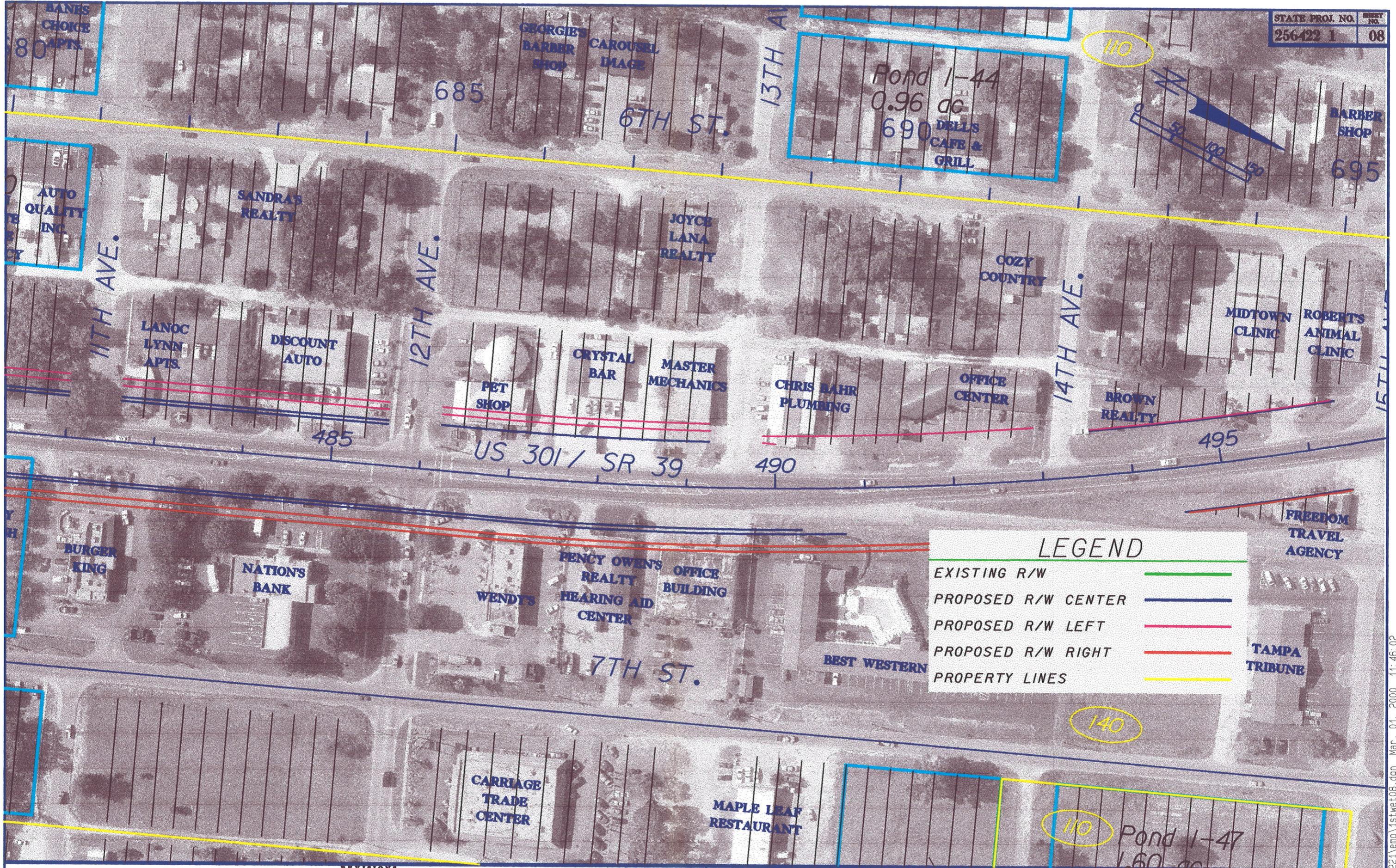
9TH AVE.

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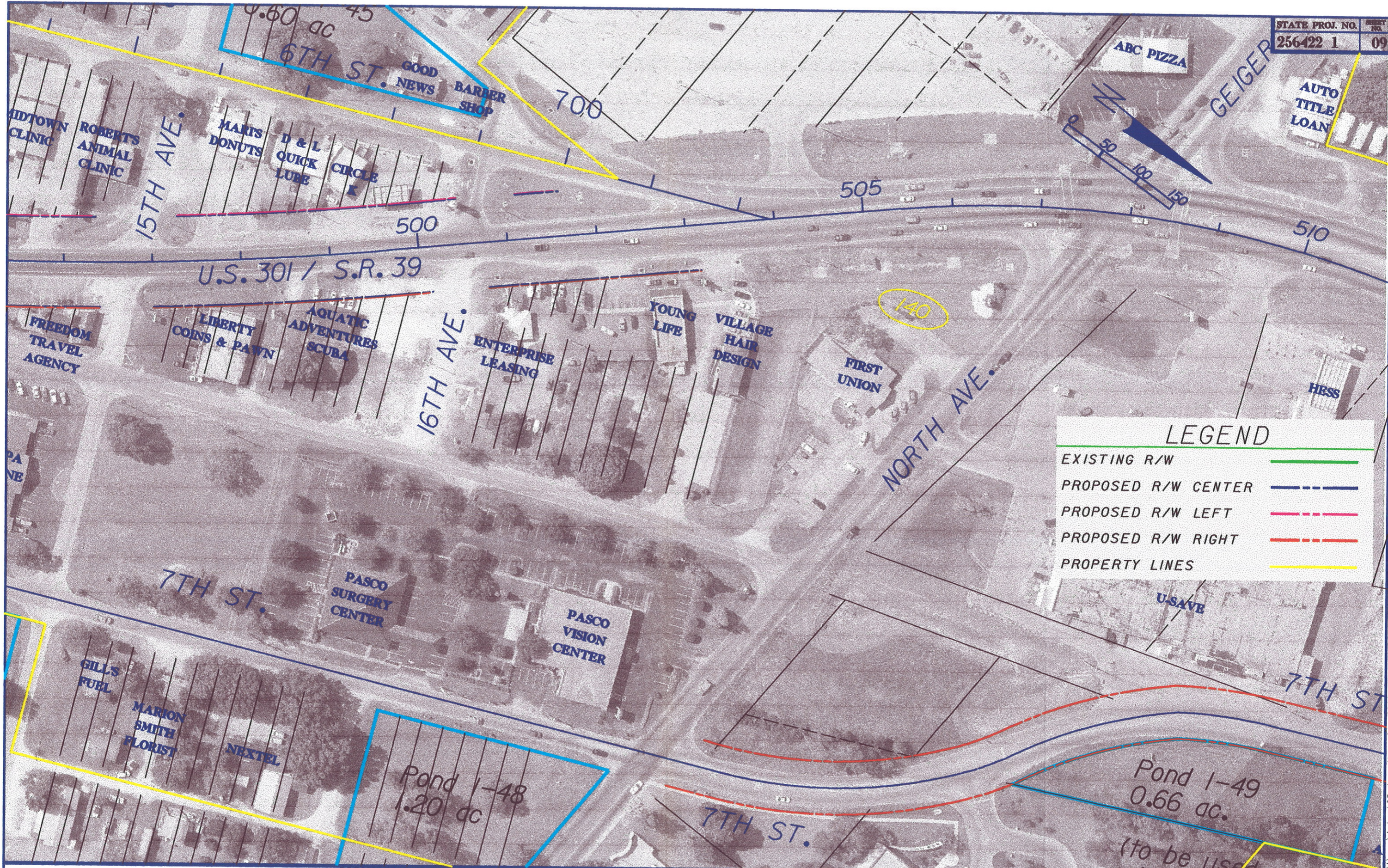


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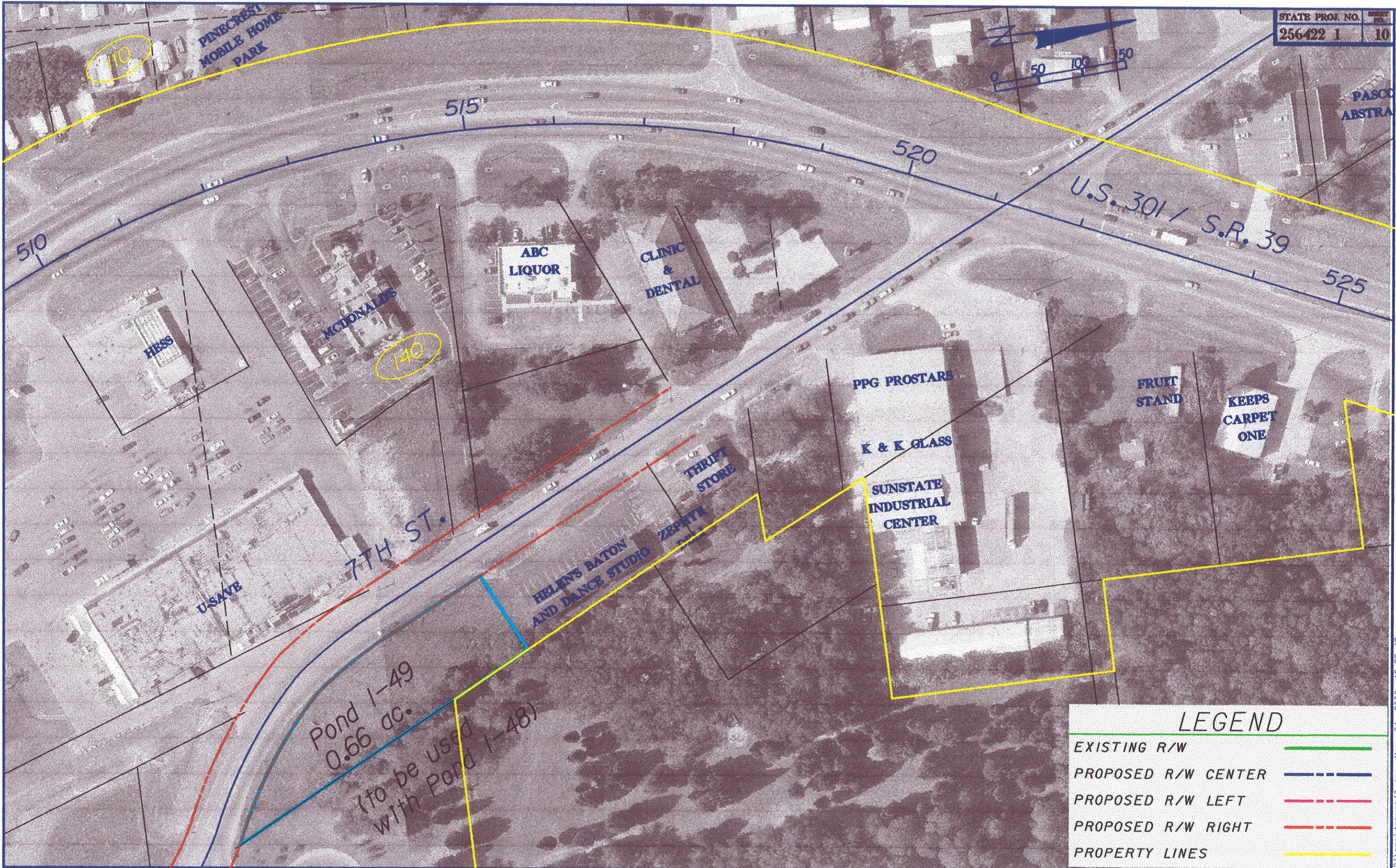
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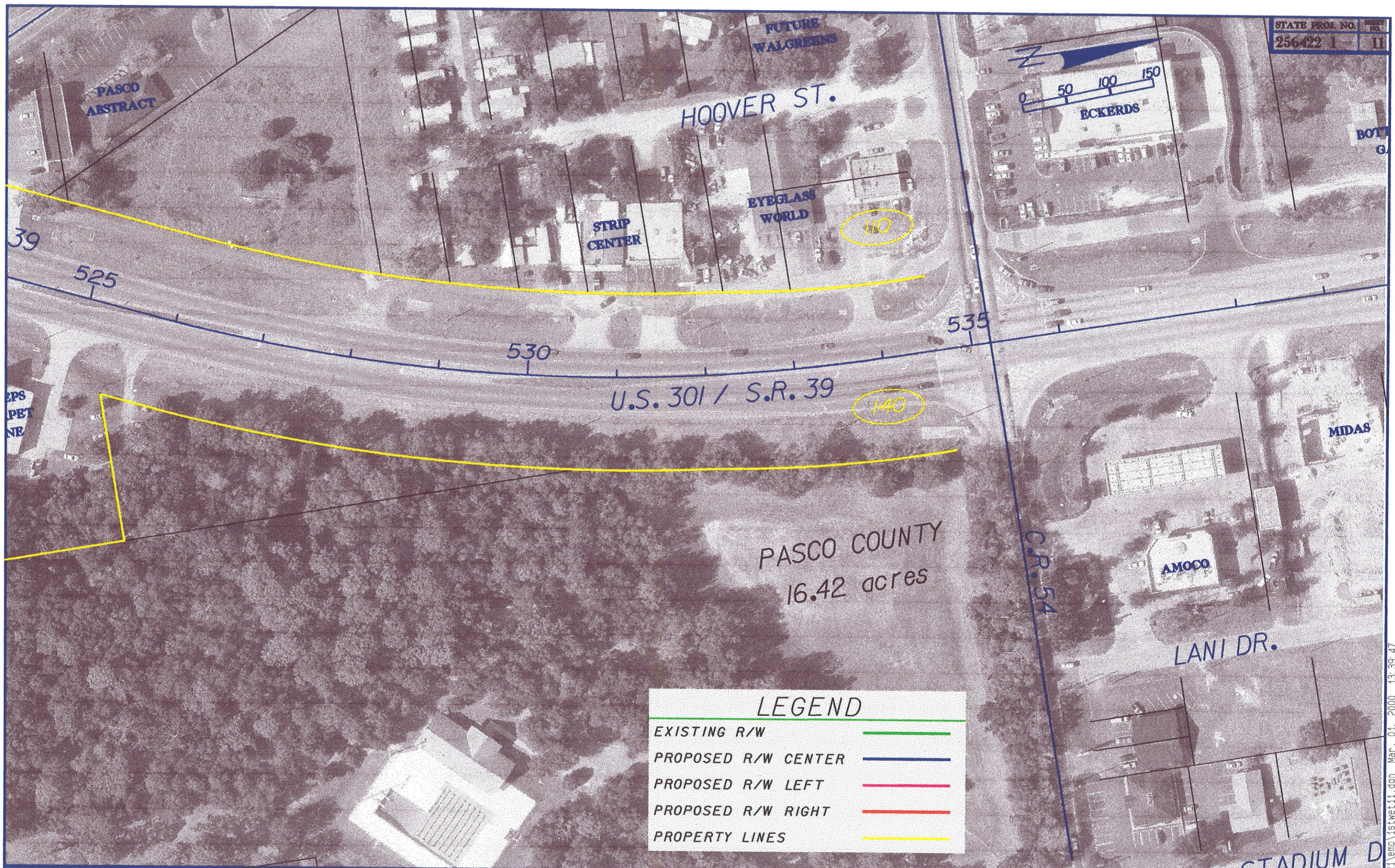
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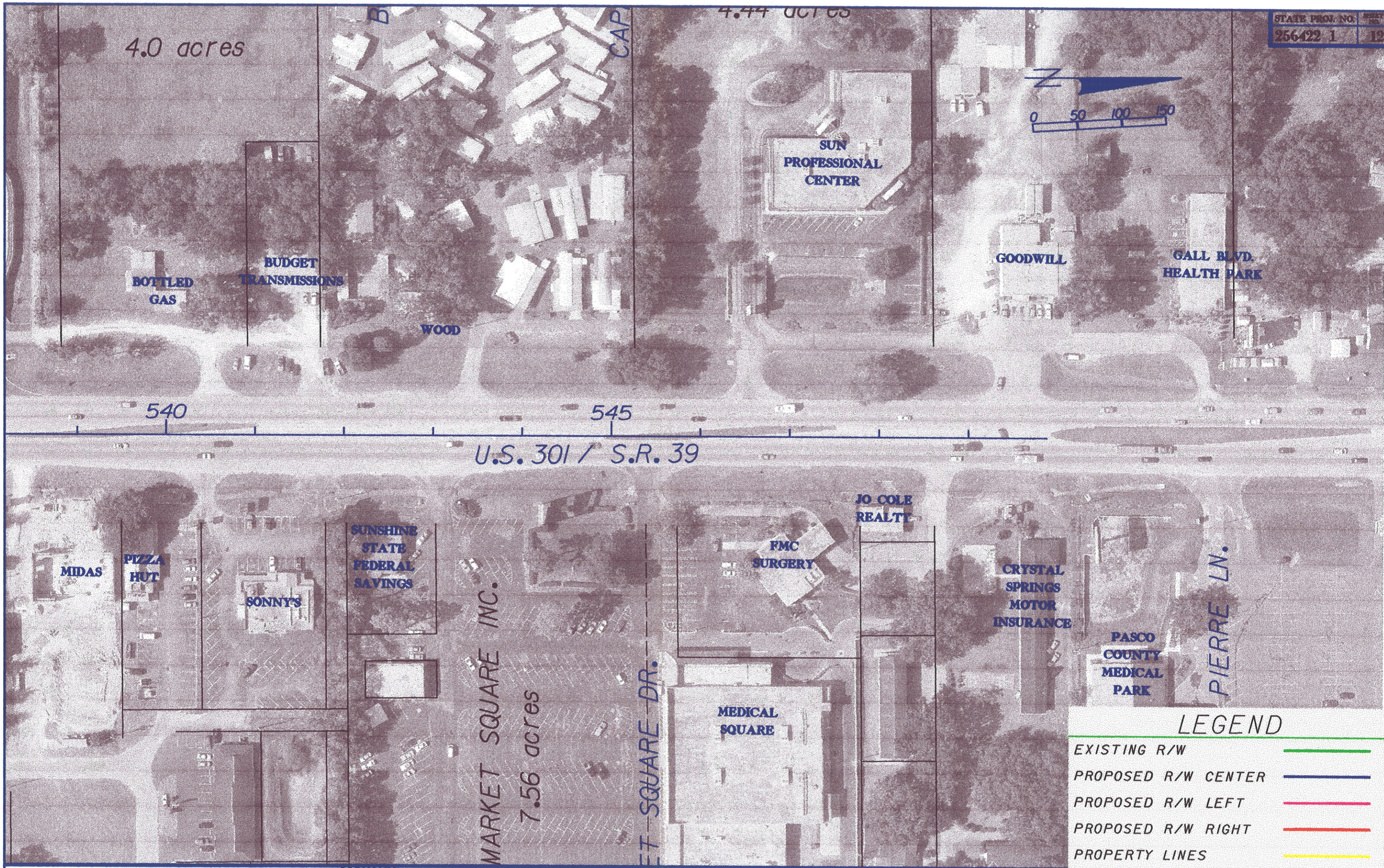
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