



Roadway Name Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

August 7, 2012



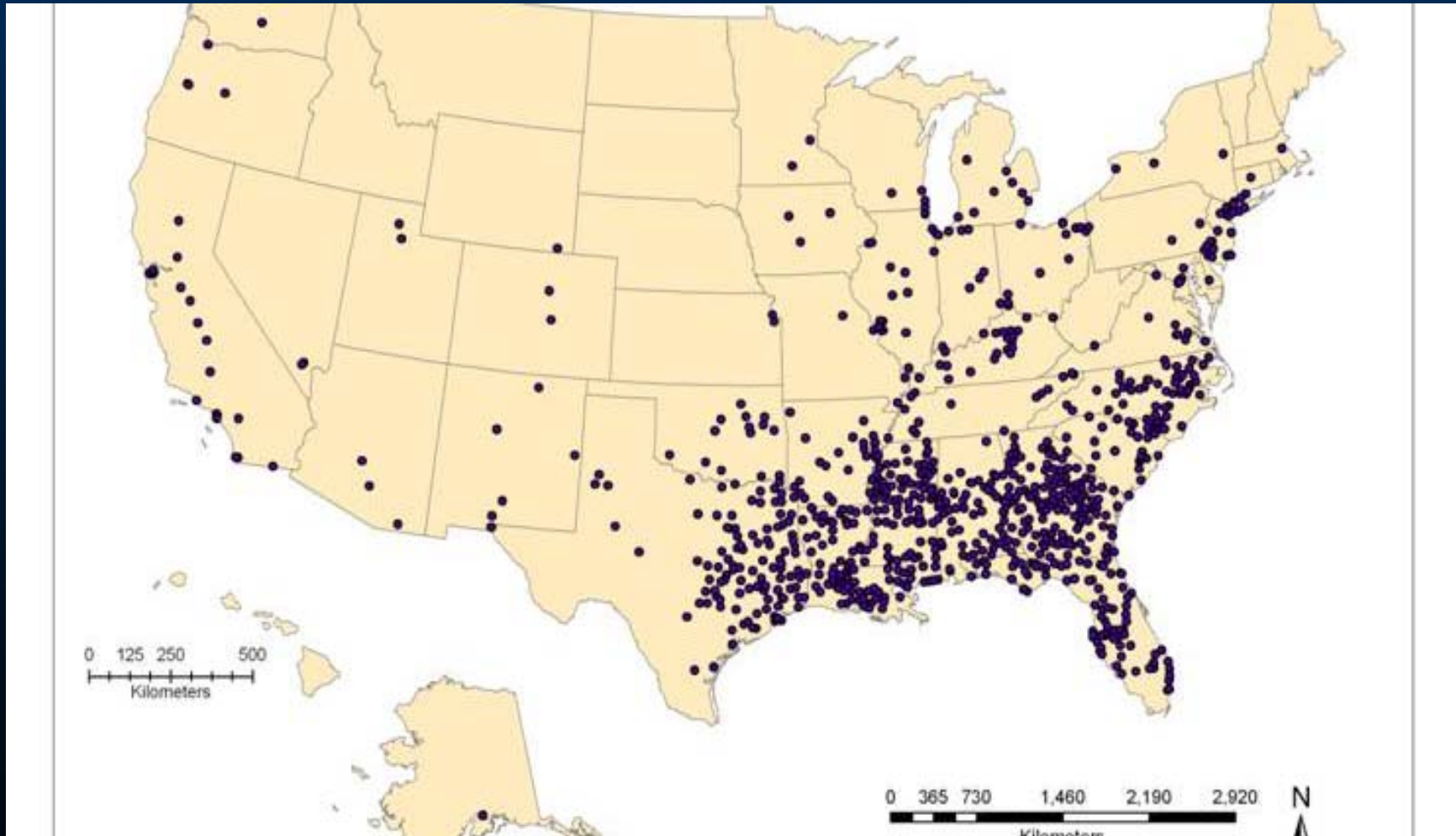
Background

- A request was received indicating the desire for staff to explore the option of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a roadway renaming or naming
 - Research conducted on current road naming/renaming procedures
 - Information collected on prominence of this practice
 - Staff explored the option for renaming an existing street and/or naming of a new street

History of Streets Named after Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Nearly 900 cities and towns in the U.S. have a street named after Dr. King
- Often associated with a prominent or public roadway
 - Near memorials, places of note, capitol buildings
 - Highways, interstates
 - Locations associated with or representing Dr. King's legacy
- Often abbreviated in various ways due to size of sign or ease of reference

Locations of MLK Roadways in U.S.



Source: mlkstreet.com

City Street Naming Procedure

- Street Naming and Addressing Procedures (SNAP) outlines best practices for new and renamed streets
 - New names assigned by developer, but must conform to safety requirements (no duplications, etc.)
 - City has done this via community input for public streets in the past
 - A City requested change can only be initiated by City Council or Address Coordinator; Non-compliance with the SNAP is the primary justification
 - Appeals for City requested change can be made to Council
 - Owner requested changes can occur via petition from property owner(s) and approved by Council

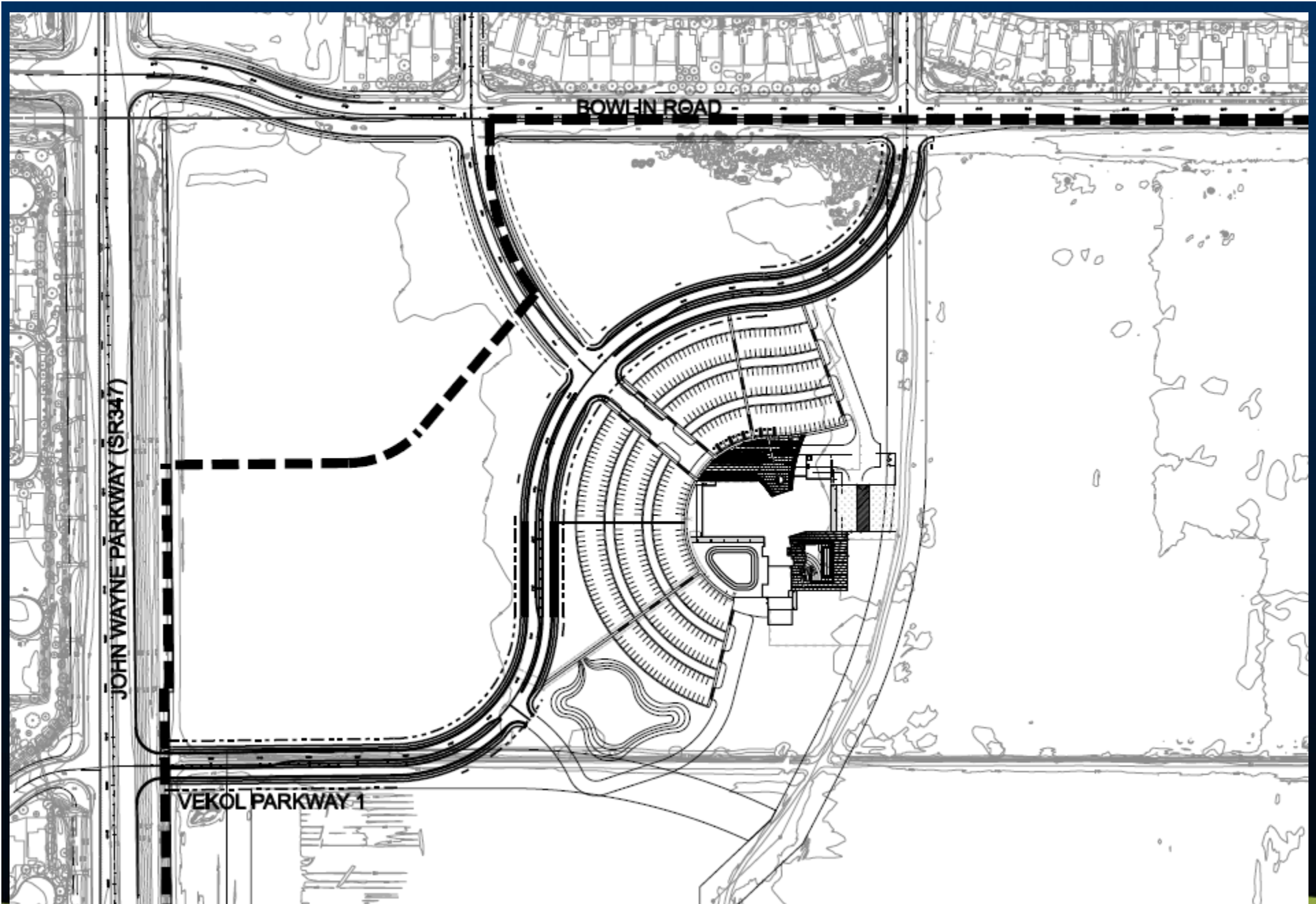


Possible Roadways Considered

- Renaming of existing roads
 - Most in Maricopa are residential, or already named in honor of historic residents
 - could cause financial impact to current property owners as well as the City to change (letterhead, signage, etc.)
- Identifying a prominent future roadway
 - In association with City Complex
 - In association with the Vekol Park

Staff Recommendation and Resolution

- Naming of Vekol Park roadway for Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Provides a place of honor along a significant public facility, built to provide quality of life services to all community members
 - Avoids hardship for any current property owners
 - Final Recommendation:
 - ***Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard***



“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.