

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Monday, March 21, 2016**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Reports1**

**Council to authorize the Emergency Management Director to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant and submit a letter of financial commitment to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.**

**Staff Contact: Kevin Spencer, Police Chief**

# Agenda Statement

Item No.

For meeting of: March 21, 2016

**AGENDA TITLE:** Council to authorize Emergency Management Director to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant and authorize the Emergency Management Director, as authorized contact for the Siren Project, to sign and send a letter of financial commitment to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and to affix the amount of the 25% match to the letter and make adjustments as needed up to a maximum amount of \$12,000.

**SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION:** Emergency Management

**PRESENTATION BY:** Tim Newman

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:** In December, 2015, the Council voted to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant funds in order to replace four outdoor warning sirens in the City of Scottsbluff. At that time, money was not yet available but NEMA requested we apply anyway to have an application on file, in case funds became available. In mid-February, NEMA advised us that funding was available up to \$48,000 for a siren project. This is a 75%/25% matching grant. Requesting permission to revise the grant application and reapply. Also, to sign a letter of financial commitment for the City's 25% matching portion up to an amount of \$12,000.

**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

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**EXHIBITS**

Resolution     Ordinance     Contract     Minutes     Plan/Map

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTIFICATION LIST:** Yes  No  Further Instructions

**APPROVAL FOR SUBMITTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

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Rev 3/1/99CClerk



## Outdoor Warning System

### Status and Recommendations

- Out of the six sirens in the City, the four sirens in need of replacement are 1955 Federal Signal Thunderbolts. These were discontinued in the early 1990s and parts are no longer available.
- The four oldest sirens are located at Westmoor (W 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue O), E 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Hwy 26 behind the Information Caboose, City Shops at Railway and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, and Overland Park at E 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
  - The siren at E 27<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 26 has failed to function in the past, but no problem was found by maintenance.
  - The siren at the City Shops fails to function and has been repaired at times. It has also activated on its own with a low growling sound. Corrosion in the electrical panel was the problem. The last time one of these malfunctioned, we relied on pictures from the Civil Defense Museum website to locate the possible problem.
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has given the City of Scottsbluff the approval to apply for Hazard Mitigation money up to \$48,000.
- Informational quotes received so far:
  - *Action Communications* Whelen WPS2910 (Omnidirectional Siren + Voice) - \$40,950
  - *American Signal Corp* iForce 3200 (Omnidirectional Siren + Voice) - \$45,700 (offering a 40% discount)
  - *Danko Fire Equipment* Federal Signal Modulator II (Omnidirectional Siren + Voice) - \$59,761
  
  - *Danko Fire Equipment* Federal Signal 2001-130 (Rotating Siren, No Voice) - \$38,545
- The standard is 70 decibels. The following is the distance at which the siren can be heard at 70dB
  - Whelen WPS2910 – 6100 feet      1.15 miles
  - ASC iForce 3200 – 5200 feet      0.98 miles
  - Federal Modulator II – 4200 feet      0.79 miles
  - Federal 2001-130 – 6400 feet      1.2 miles

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- My suggestion is to replace the siren at City Shops. But the replacement siren should be relocated to the area near the Public Safety Building. This is based on computer modeling and the close proximity the current siren is to the Overland Park siren (a mere nine city blocks).

- Omnidirectional Sirens with Voice are recommended. While the output of these are not as far as mechanical rotational sirens, the advantage is being able to give a voice message with what the emergency actually is makes them more versatile.
  - For example, messages can be given for Tornadoes, Chemical Spills, Evacuation Orders, Siren Testing, etc.
- After the 2016 installation of the recommended siren is complete, I recommend the city budget for the replacement of one siren per year in the following order
  - 2017 – East 27<sup>th</sup> and Highway 26.
  - 2018 – Westmoor (W 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue O) to be relocated to Cleveland Field based on computer modeling.
  - 2019 – Overland Park (E 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue)
  - 2020 – Landers Soccer Complex (E 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue)
- At this point, all current sirens would be replaced. It is my recommendation that the city add the following siren:
  - 2021 – Lacy Park (Highland Road and County Road 24)
- I recommend new placements at the following locations. These places are near outdoor activities where people would be less likely to have access to radio and TV stations.
  - 2022 – UNL Extension/Scottsbluff Country Club
  - 2023 – Scottsbluff Well Field/River View Golf Course
- Each year when available, Hazard Mitigation grant funds would be applied for to offset the city's cost. However, it should not be counted on, and I recommend the city budget for the full price of the siren every year.
- If a Hazard Mitigation grant is awarded, the money that the city has set aside for siren replacement could be used as a matching fund, or to purchase and install more than one siren in the given year. This could shorten the timeline for the overall project.

#### **Action Item**

- I am asking permission to proceed with the Hazard Mitigation application.
  - Council has already approved the original application in December for four sirens, however, at that time, it was unlikely we would receive funding and the estimates came in higher than expected.
- I am asking permission to sign a letter of financial commitment in my role as authorized contact for the grant application. This letter is required by FEMA that states the city is aware of the 25% matching commitment.
  - FEMA is allowing a maximum of \$48,000 for this project.
  - The city's 25% would be no more than \$12,000.

# Outdoor Warning Sirens

Seven-Year Plan for Replacement



# Currently

- Six sirens cover most of the city
  - One Whelen WPS2910 Omnidirectional Siren with Voice Messaging
    - Avenue I and W 33<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - One Federal Signal Model 2001-130 Rotational Siren (no Voice)
    - E 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and County Road 22 (Landers Soccer Complex)
  - Four Federal Signal Thunderbolts, built in or around 1955, Rotational Siren
    - Railway Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues, in the City Maintenance Yard.
    - E 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the Southeast Corner of Overland Park
    - E 27<sup>th</sup> Street and US Highway 26, behind the Information Caboose
    - W 16<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of the alley between Avenues “O” and “P”
  - Western Nebraska Regional Airport has their own omnidirectional siren but does not have voice messaging capabilities
  - Western Sugar has an internal siren system that can be activated by the communications center

Federal Signal 2001-130 Model. Modern Siren, but rotational and no voice messaging.



Soccer Complex



Northwood Park

Whelen WPS 2910 Omnidirectional siren with voice messaging. Installed 2011.

Federal Signal Thunderbolt Circa 1955. Has had some glitches in the past.



E 27<sup>th</sup> & Hwy 26



W 16<sup>th</sup> & Ave O

Federal Signal Thunderbolt Circa 1955. Has had some glitches in the past.

Federal Signal Thunderbolt Circa 1955. No known maintenance troubles.



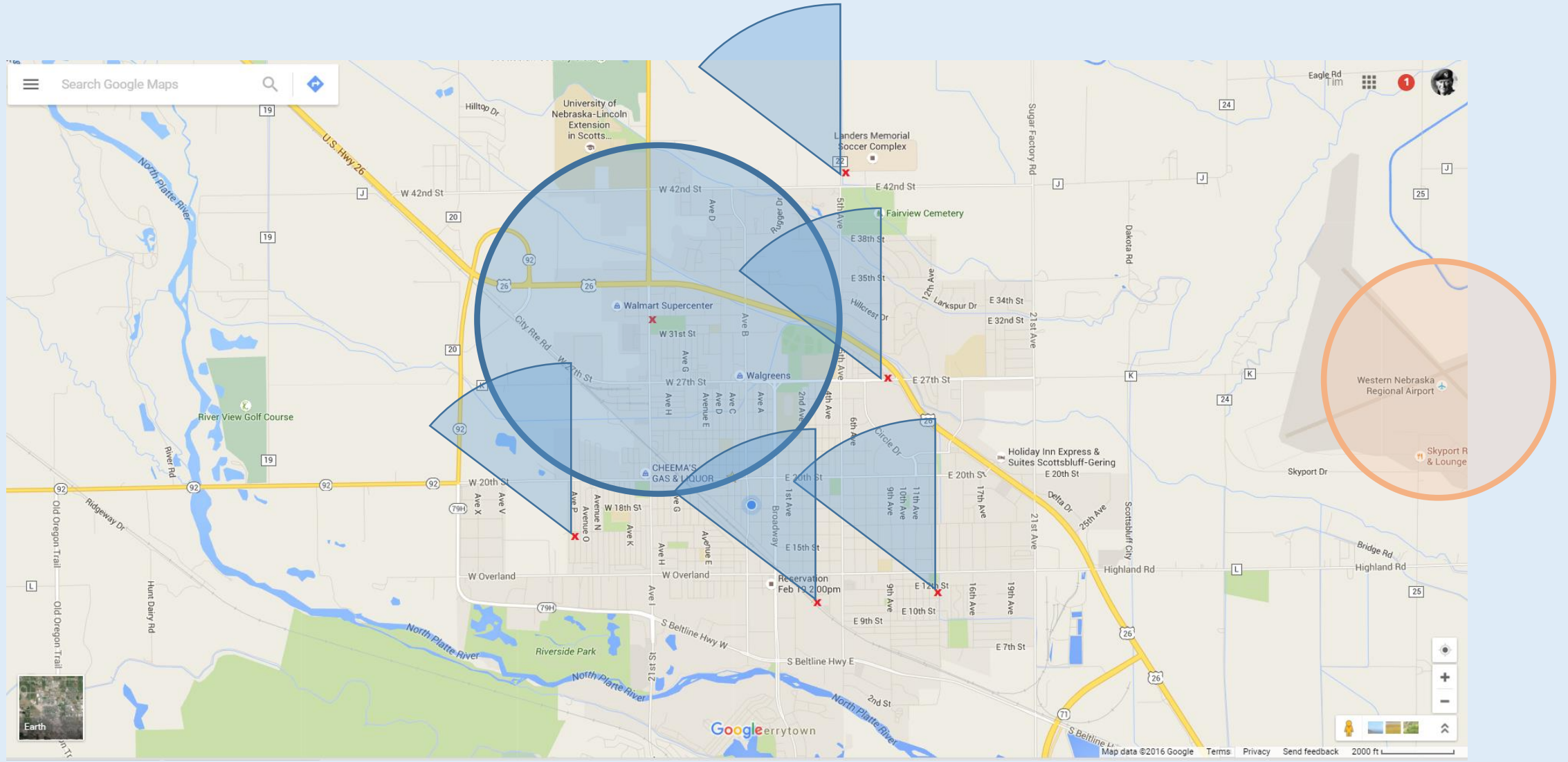
Overland Park



City Shops

Federal Signal Thunderbolt Circa 1955. Has had major problems and has failed to activate many times.

# What it looks like

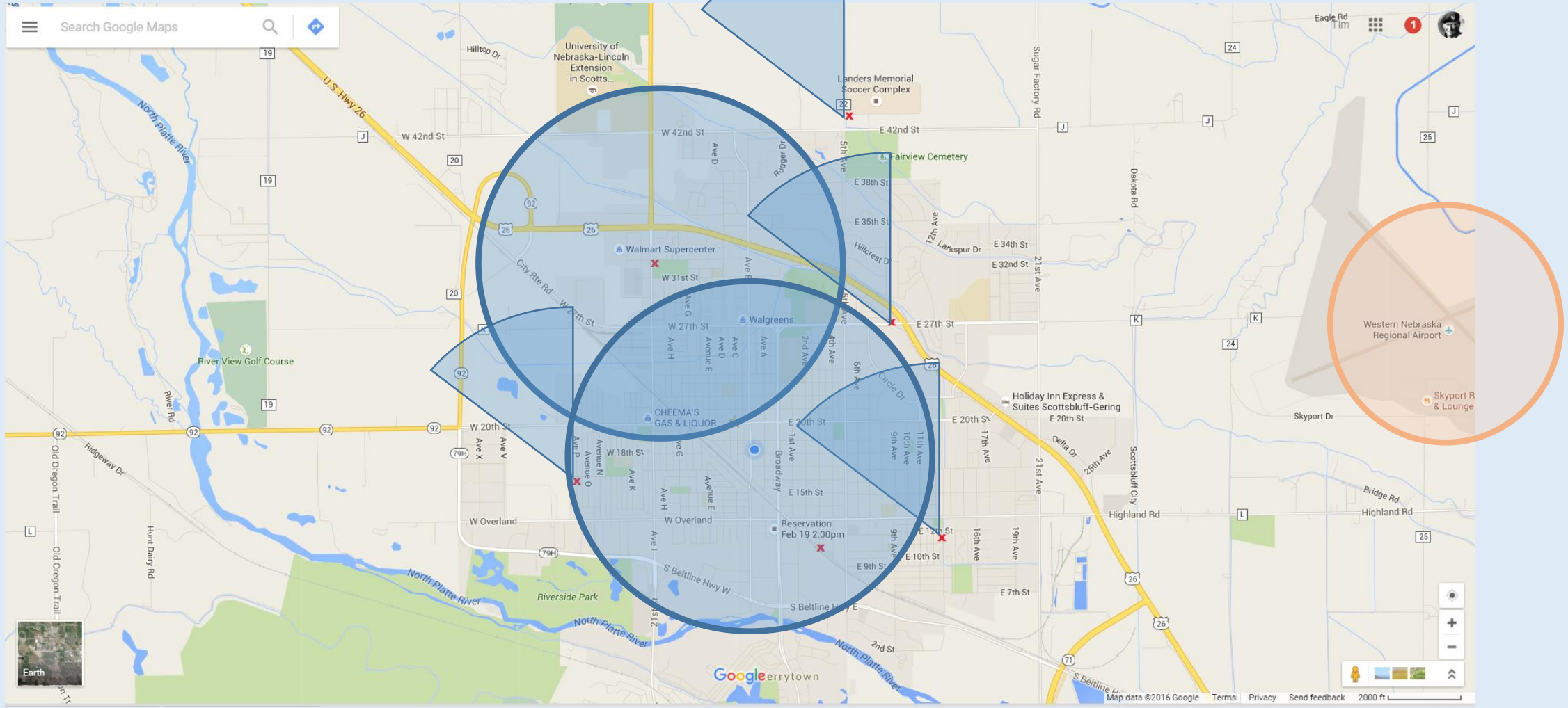




# DR-4225 Hazard Mitigation Grant

- Scottsbluff has been approved by NEMA to apply for funding under this grant for the replacement of one of the four oldest sirens. The maximum amount FEMA will allow for this project is \$48,000.
- Quotes received so far put the total cost for two modern sirens with voice messaging technology between \$40,950 and \$45,700.
- This grant is a 75% - 25% match, meaning the city will be reimbursed 75% of the total project cost. The city will be responsible for 25%
- This 25% match equals between \$10,237.50 and \$11,425.

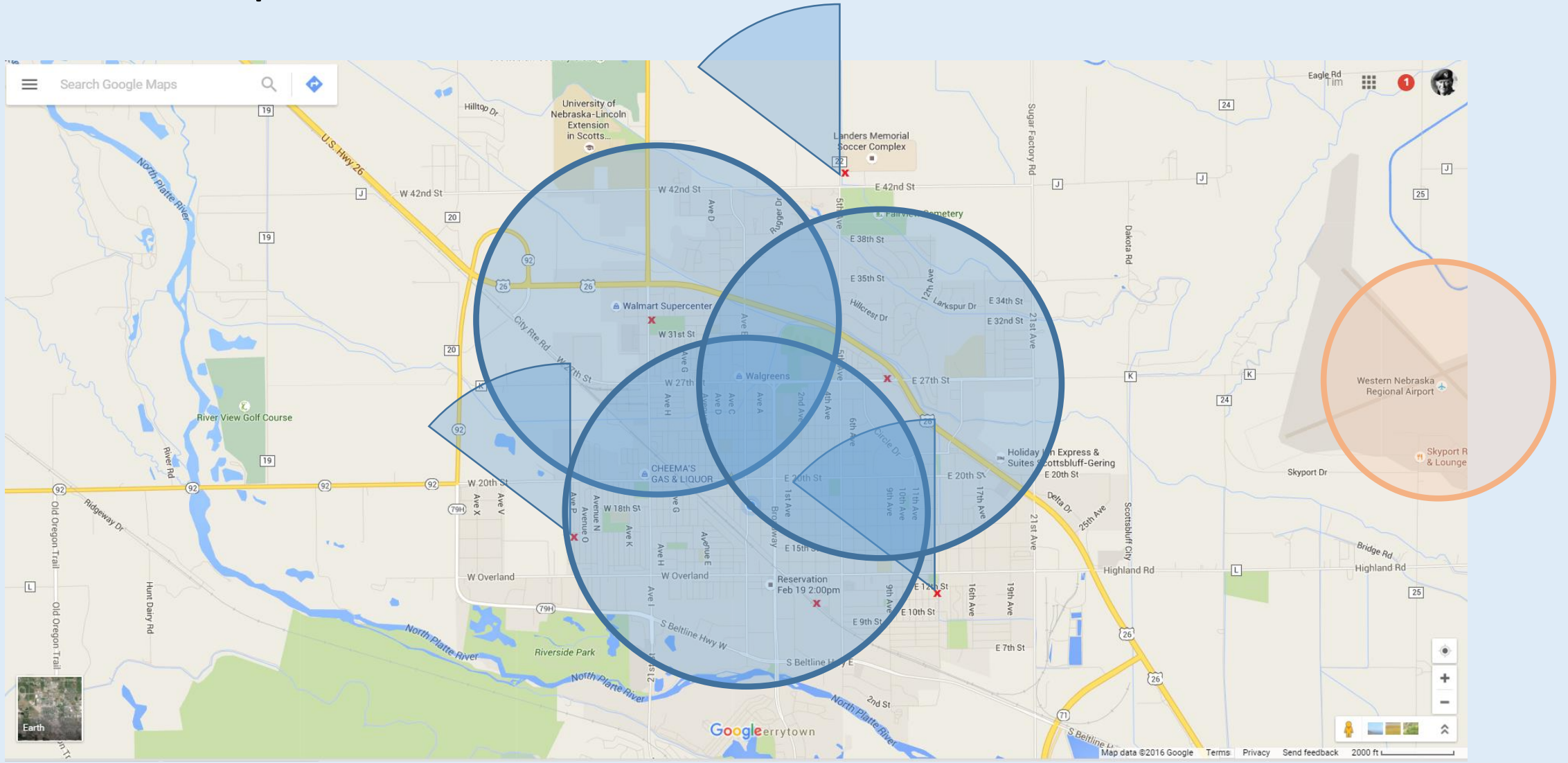
# The first replacement 2016



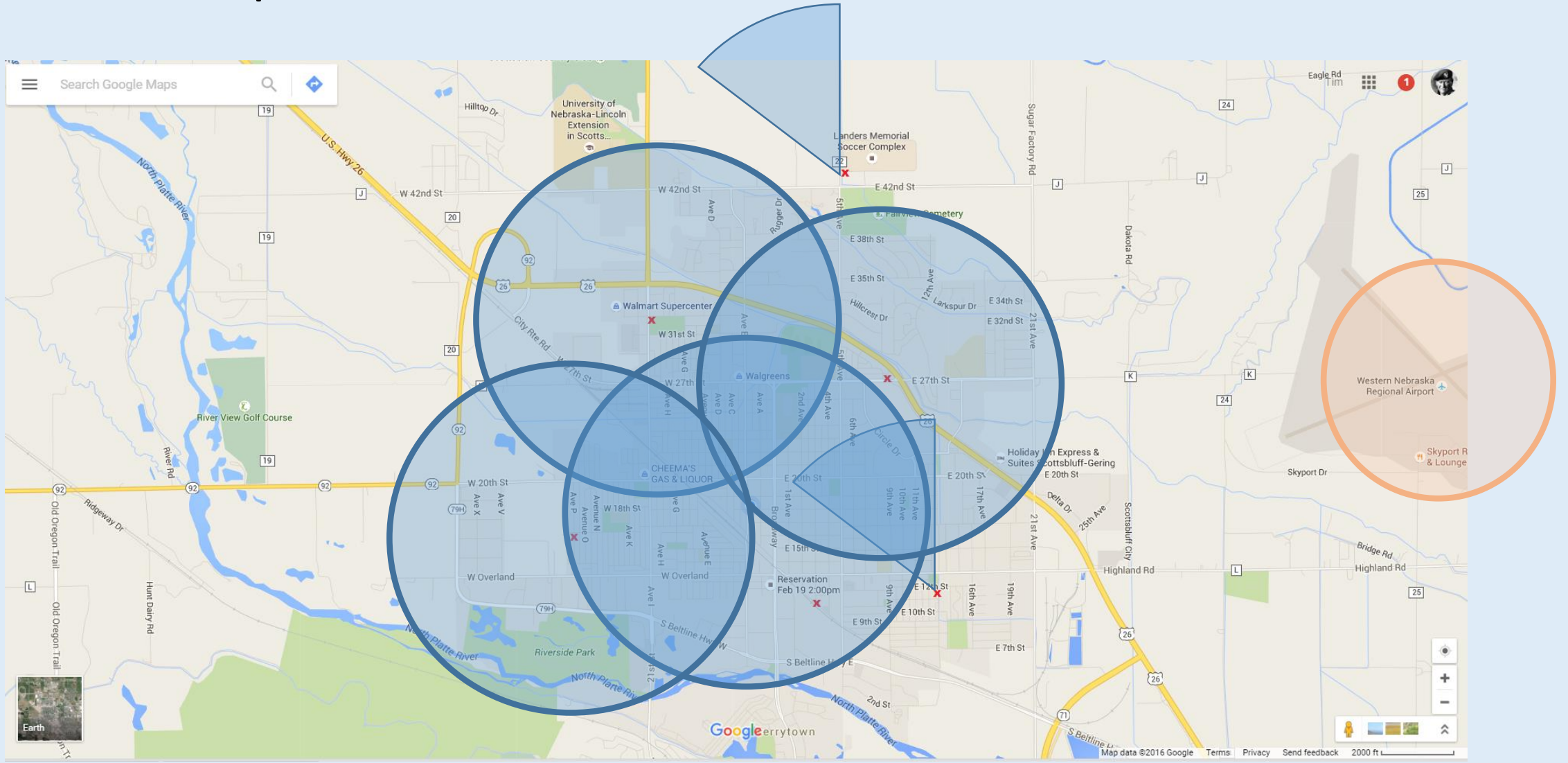
# Future Replacements

- I propose a plan to replace one siren per year until all sirens are of the omnidirectional, voice messaging type.
- After all sirens are replaced, I suggest adding sirens to cover areas that are likely to have citizens outside and away from TV and Radio.
- This would cost the city about \$41,000 to \$45,000 per year for seven years.
- Hazard Mitigation Grants would still be sought out to lessen the impact on local tax dollars.

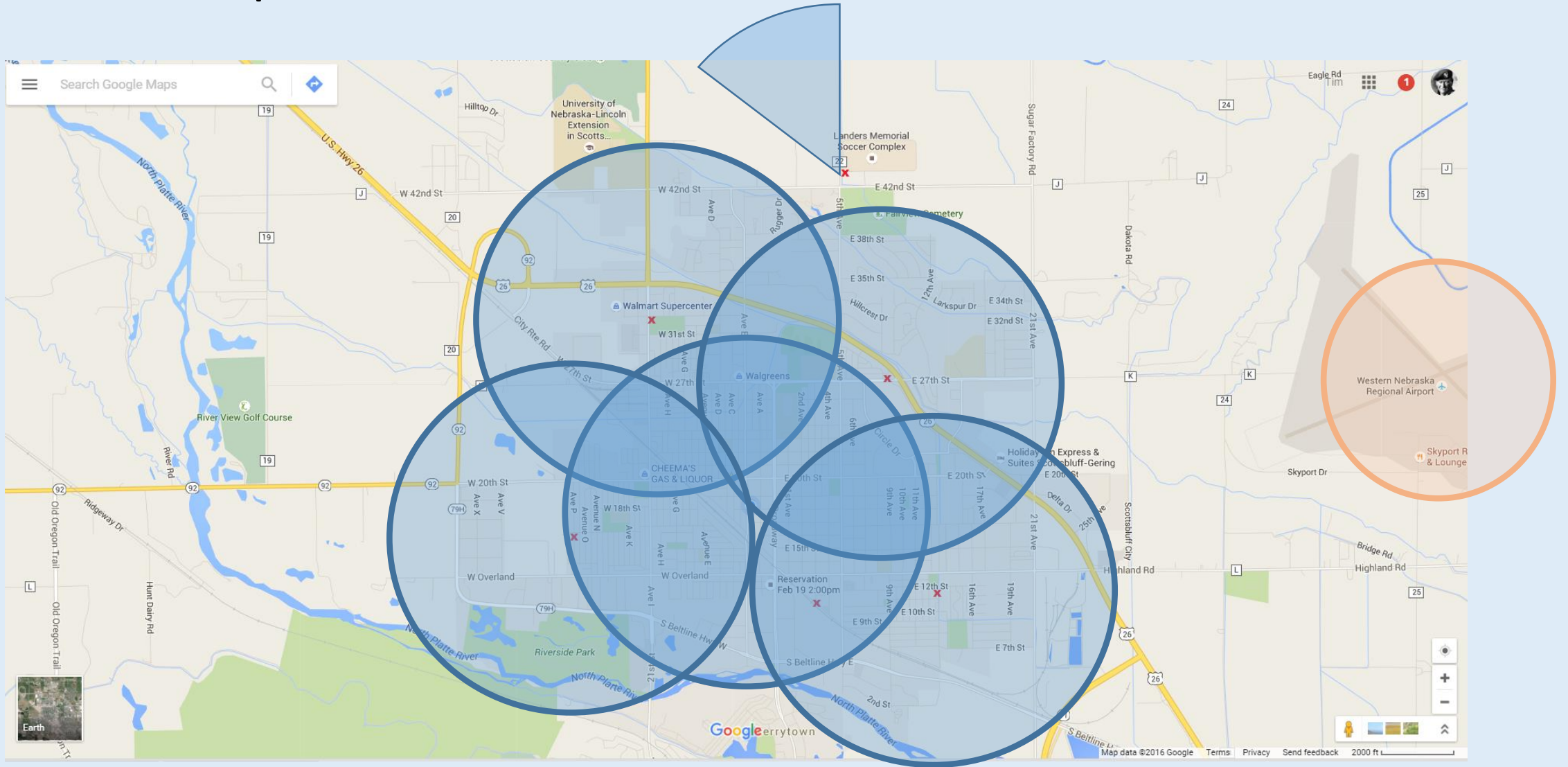
# 2017 Replacement – East 27<sup>th</sup> Street



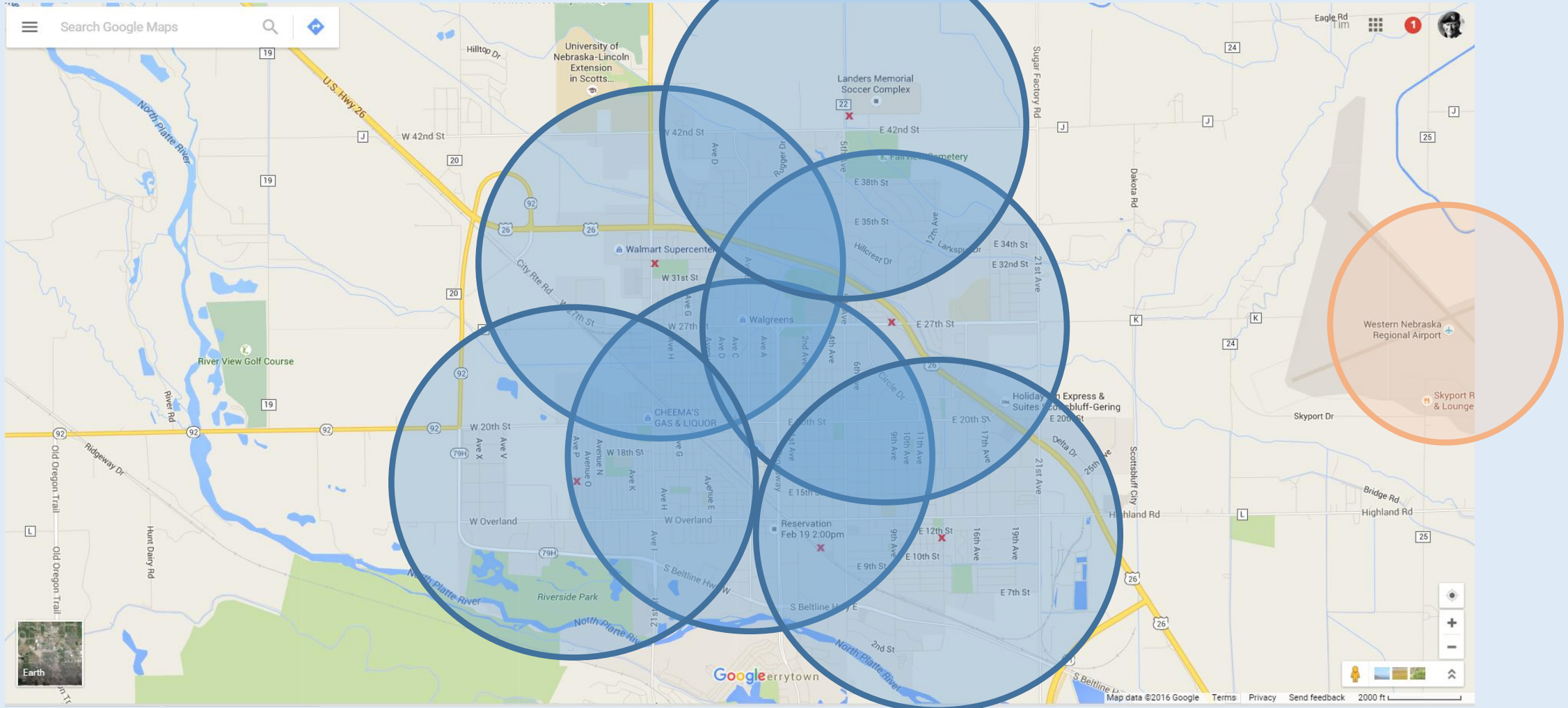
# 2018 Replacement - Westmoor



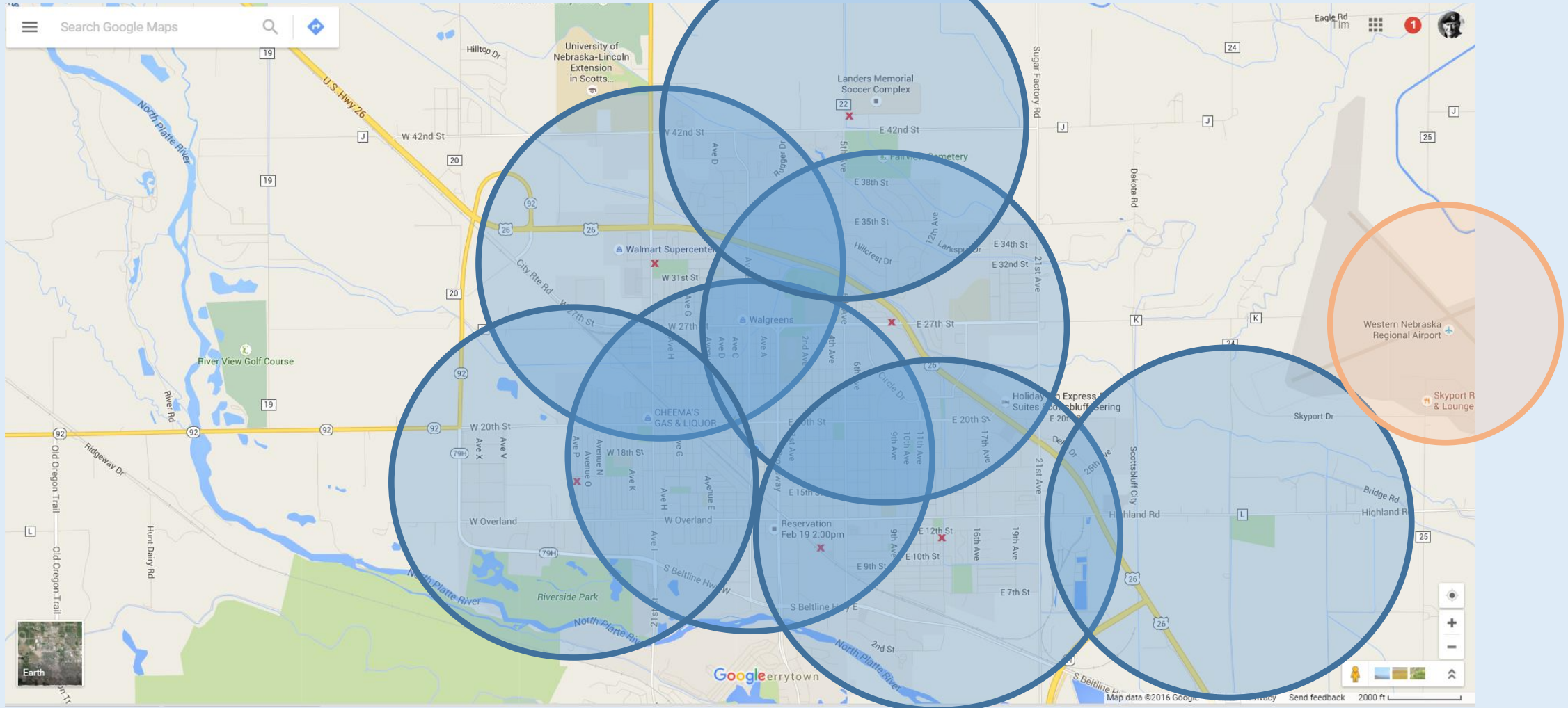
# 2019 Replacement – East Overland



# 2020 Replacement – Landers Soccer Complex

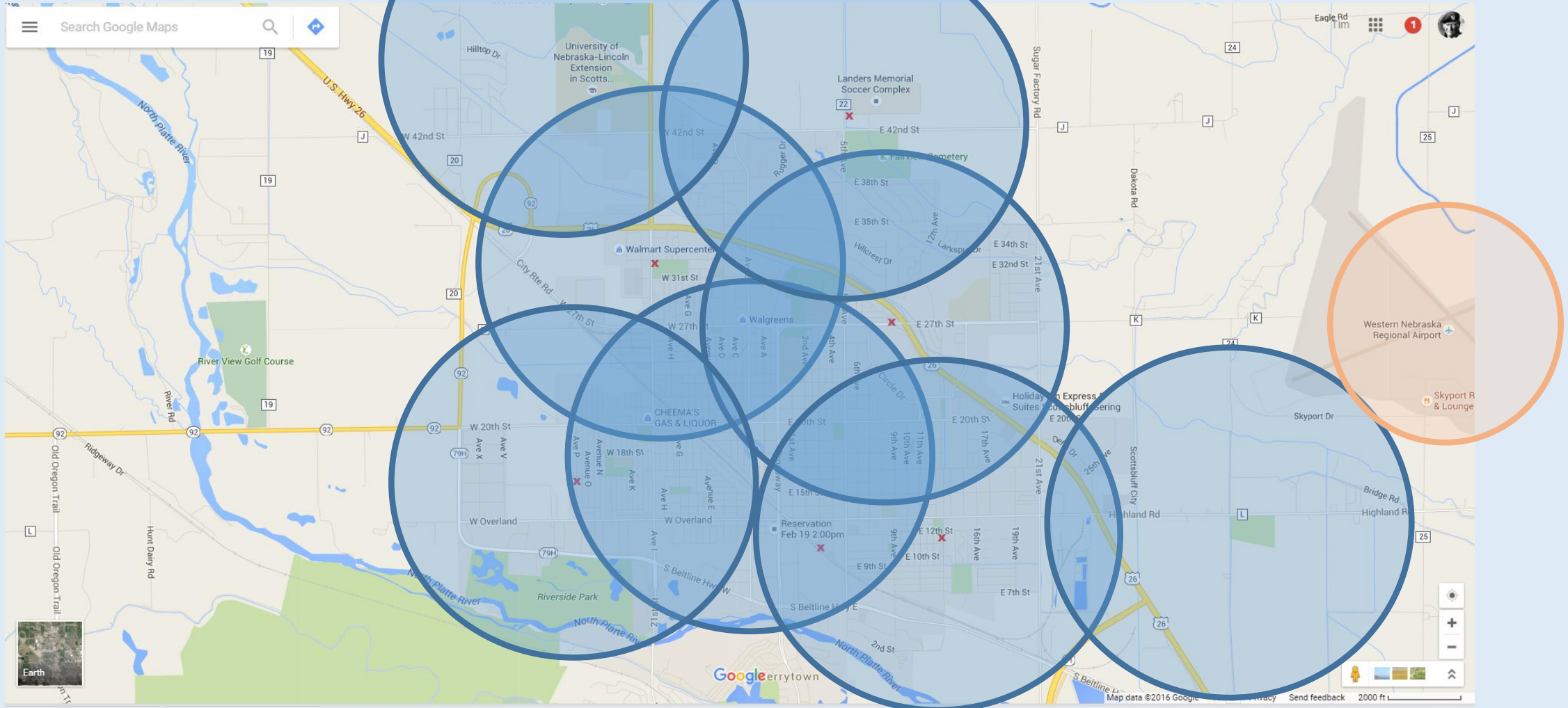


# 2021 New Placement – Lacy Park

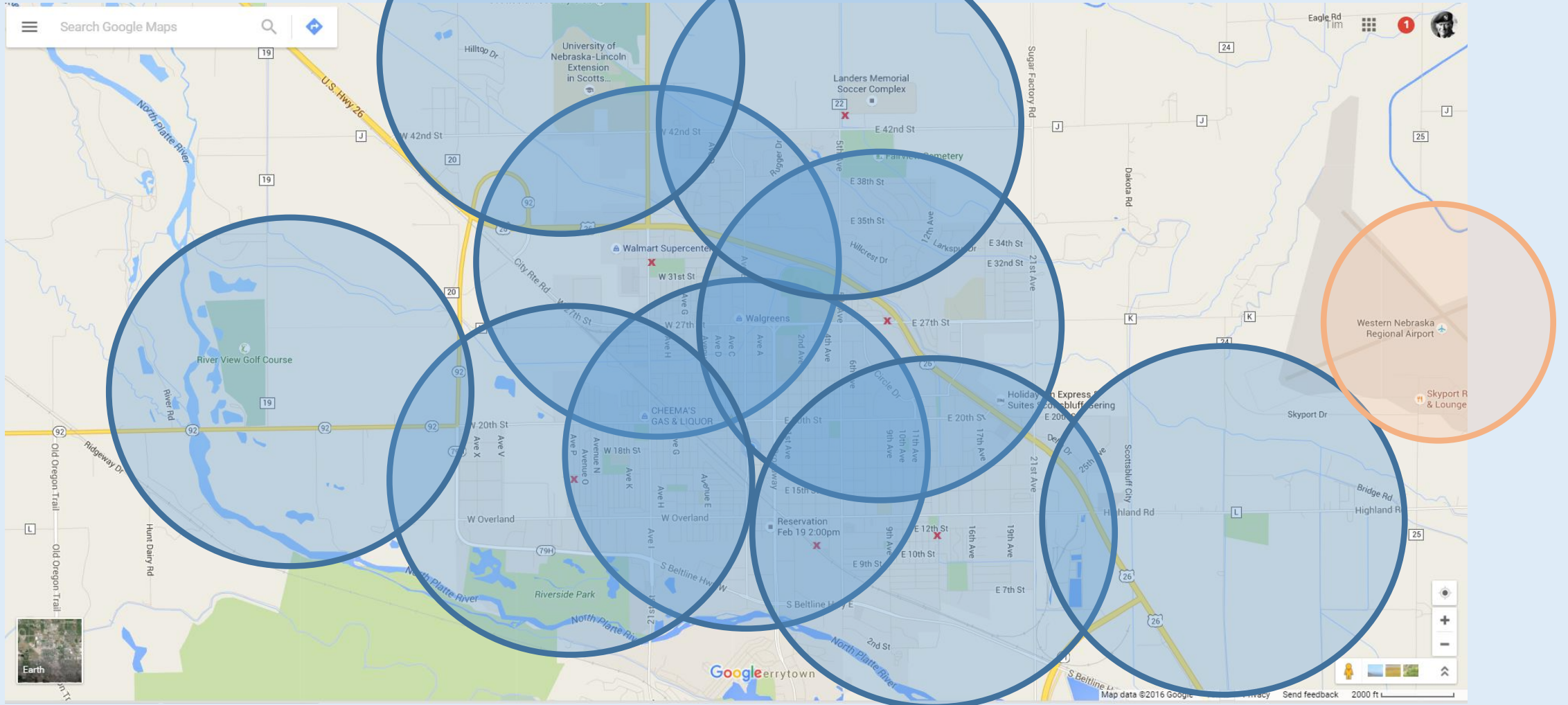




# 2022 New Placement – UNL Extension/Scottsbluff Country Club



# 2023 New Placement – Scottsbluff Well Field/River View Golf Course



# Questions?

Tim Newman, Director

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