

Piece of Manchester Center renovation plan to appear before Fresno City Council

By BoNhia
Lee



The main sign for Manchester Center shopping mall on Jan. 31, 2014.

ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — Fresno Bee Staff Photo [Buy Photo](#)

Plans to renovate the aging [Manchester Center](#) in central Fresno have floated around for almost three years.

The mall owners, [OmniNet Capital](#) based in Beverly Hills, and manager, Mo Bagunu, have been tight-lipped about what's coming.

But links to a [website](#) and a sleek YouTube [video](#) detailing plans to transform the old mall — once Fresno's premier shopping destination — at Blackstone and Shields avenues began circulating on social media early this week.

Bagunu said Wednesday afternoon that the company was not ready to discuss its plan even as details spread across the Internet.

Here's what to expect, the website and video said:

- a new mall entrance

- a redesigned facade with signage
- a two-story food court
- an exterior shopping area
- an events plaza

A new retail pad on the corner of Blackstone and Shields is also planned if the city of Fresno agrees to vacate portions of the public street and pedestrian walkway to accommodate the development.

Mall officials are expected to attend the city council meeting on Thursday where council members could vote to do away with the wide, right turning lane on that corner.

Bagunu confirmed the appearance. It remains to be seen, however, how close the company is to making an official announcement.

Contact BoNhia Lee: blee@fresnobee.com, (559) 441-6495 or [@bonhialee](https://twitter.com/bonhialee) on Twitter.