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OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

August 24, 1988

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SACRAMENTO, CA  
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Transportation and Community Development Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INTERAGENCY STUDY OF LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT EXTENSION**

**SUMMARY**

On August 23, 1988 the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, at the request of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), approved the concept of conducting an interagency study of a light rail extension from downtown to metropolitan airport.

**BACKGROUND**

While the Sacramento Regional Transit District's (SRTD) current plans call for an extension of a light rail line along the I-5 landscape corridor through South Natomas, City staff has serious concerns that this may not be the optimal alignment. At the same time the County has become interested in the possible extension of the line to metropolitan airport as a traffic mitigation measure. In addition, the City is in the process of forming an assessment district in North Natomas to provide the infrastructure, including a light rail line, to implement the community plan. It is clear that all three segments should be studied together as a joint effort of the City, County and SRTD.

**FINANCIAL DATA**

Cost estimate and funding sources will be reported by staff at a later date.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Transportation and Community Development Committee approve conducting an interagency study of a light rail transit extension from downtown to metropolitan airport and forward this item to the full Council.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER J. SLIPE  
City Manager

August 24, 1988

REC-111  
AUG 24 1988

To: Sacramento City Council  
From: Mike Eaton, Environmental Council of Sacramento  
re: Request for interagency study of northern LRT extension

This month witnessed an event with a very important real value, as well as a very important symbolic value. Property owners in the City portion of North Natomas have dedicated to Regional Transit about a mile of right-of-way for future light rail construction, pursuant to provisions of the NNCP.

With this action as a precipitating agent, we believe it would be timely for the County, the City, and Regional Transit to take a hard, close look at northern LRT corridor options and potential funding sources. The goals of this study would be three:

- to nail down alignments on the northern and southern end of the corridor, so we don't end up with a beast that has a middle but no head or tail;
- to identify potential funding sources for that extension; while Measure A is not an option, there may be other funding sources that can be tapped, particularly given the magnitude of development planned for the Natomas area and the looming desperate need for traffic relief in whatever form;
- to identify the optimal timing of a northern extension, in light of both overall transit system dynamics and development timelines in North and South Natomas.

There are a couple of reasons why northern LRT extension warrants serious examination now:

First, a new South Natomas Community Plan is before the City. The new plan creates an opportunity to identify an alignment, take the necessary steps to protect that alignment, and begin to consider land uses that will benefit from and be supportive of LRT within that corridor.

Second, Metro Airport's new master plan and terminal expansion plans are well advanced. If LRT is to go to the airport, as we believe it should, it should be fully integrated into the airport's physical design and operations so as to allow maximum mutual benefit to the airport and Regional Transit.

Finally, as intense development continues downtown, it will be important to identify the future transit corridor between downtown and South Natomas, and to begin taking steps to both preserve the opportunity to do light rail northward out of downtown and consider land uses that would be supportive of transit.

The Board of Supervisors approved this request on August 23, and Regional Transit staff have indicated a willingness to take participate in this study.