



**Supplemental Material
Received at the Meetings of
City Council
Redevelopment Agency
Housing Authority
Financing Authority
For**

May 22, 2007

Item #38: Streetcar Feasibility Study

- a. Article with picture from community news paper regarding the Sacramento Northern Railway line presented by speaker Don Souza.

By William Burg

Just about every Sacramento cyclist knows about the American River bike trail. Many, however, are unaware of Sacramento's other bike trail, which follows the mainline of the Sacramento Northern Railway.

Sacramento Northern (SN) was an electric interurban railroad that ran from Chico to Oakland via Sacramento. They provided interurban passenger service until 1941. SN continued as a freight railroad until being absorbed by Union Pacific in 1982. The SN mainline went north under the Southern Pacific mainline between 18th and 19th Streets, right next to the Blue Diamond almond plant, and from there over the American River into North Sacramento.

Sacramento Northern was contracted to provide commuter service from downtown Sacramento to North Sacramento. This line ran down what is now Arden Way to the end of the Swanston branch, roughly the location of the Swanston light rail station. SN also ran a unique train called the Elverta Scoots, which provided school train service from Rio Linda and Elverta to Sacramento. Interurban passenger and freight service continued north to Chico.

Portions of the SN mainline were converted to bike trails in the 1990s, allowing cyclists to make the same thrilling journey from Sacramento to Elverta and back again. The trail begins under the railroad levee between 19th and 20th Streets, next to the former Western Pacific mainline. First the cyclist enters the area once known as Haggin Yard, where SN's freight trains were assembled. North of the SN's old railroad bridge, now converted for foot and bicycle traffic, the mainline continues into North Sacramento and Del Paso Heights. The buttresses of the old SN bridge over Del Paso Boulevard still stand,



The modest North Sacramento station, along with others at Del Paso and Globe, allowed North Sacramento suburbanites easy access to downtown Sacramento on SN's commuter service.

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