



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
[www. CityofSacramento.org](http://www.CityofSacramento.org)

CONSENT

July 21, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
 Members of the City Council

Subject: Support of Sacramento Regional Transit Phase Two Feasibility Study of Dos Rios Light Rail Station

Location/Council District: Richards Boulevard Redevelopment Area (District 1)

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution which supports Sacramento Regional Transit staff recommendation to conduct a Phase Two study of a new Light Rail station in the Dos Rios area.

Contact: Paul Blumberg, Senior Project Manager, 808-7223
 Wendy Saunders, Economic Development Director, 808-8196

Department: Economic Development Department

Division: Citywide Team

Organization No: 4451

Summary:

In June 2004, the City Council approved the allocation of \$470,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to study locating a Light Rail station in the Dos Rios area along the Northeast transit line. Since then Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) has developed and initiated a two-phase work program to study the feasibility of locating a station at this location. Phase One is complete and RT staff is recommending to the RT Board on July 25th that it continue with a Phase Two study. This report recommends City Council support of RT staff's recommendation to initiate the Phase Two feasibility study.

Committee/Commission Action: None.

Background Information:

In summer of 2004, the City Council provided CDBG funds to RT to conduct feasibility studies for a new Light Rail station in the Dos Rios area. In the fall of 2004, RT initiated

a Phase One feasibility study based on operational considerations, ridership and community input. Phase One is complete, and Phase Two will identify a preferred location for the station along North 12th Street. The Phase One study concluded that:

- A new Light Rail station in the Dos Rios area would generate new ridership.
- The station would provide accessibility to lower-income residents in the area and people who are highly transit dependent.
- The proposed California Indian Heritage Center could add a significant amount of riders to the station and system.
- Community input provided was generally in support of a new station; however, some community members identified significant concerns regarding problems caused by the transient population which may affect RT services.

City and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency staff see Light Rail as a potential catalyst for development while providing existing services to residents. The RT Phase Two study will also look at land uses which can enhance the functionality of the Light Rail station. The City has nearly completed a Gateway Streetscape Master Plan that will improve the image, circulation, and pedestrian safety of the area.

RT staff has asked that the City conduct land-use studies to consider higher-density land uses within a quarter mile of the Light Rail station in order to support the significant public investment at that location. Currently, the Gateway District includes many vacant or underutilized parcels. Evaluating the redevelopment of these sites to higher and best use is consistent with the City's adopted community plan policies, as contained in the Richards Boulevard Redevelopment Area Plan. City and Agency staff will be preparing conceptual studies to show how new land uses can support the Dos Rios Light Rail Station.

Staff recommends support of a Phase Two study that would consider the feasibility and optimal site for the station at various locations in the Dos Rios Area. Security for the station and its surrounding neighborhood, station design, surrounding land uses, street circulation, construction costs and funding strategies will also be evaluated in the Phase Two study.

On June 29, 2005, the Capitol Station District (CSD) Board of Directors approved a recommendation to support the staff recommendation, with the conditions that City staff undertake land-use and urban studies to show, 1) how land use can support the station, and 2) urban design features that can address safety in the station area. A copy of the CSD letter is included as Attachment 1.

Financial Considerations:

The funding for the Phase Two study is CDBG funds approved by City Council in June 2004.

The Phase Two study will evaluate the costs associated with developing the proposed station. At this time, RT estimates that the station will cost \$4 - 5 million. Funds for the

construction and operation of the station have not been identified and will need to be prioritized with other possible new Light Rail stations. Part of the Phase Two study will discuss funding strategies for the development of the station.

Environmental Considerations:

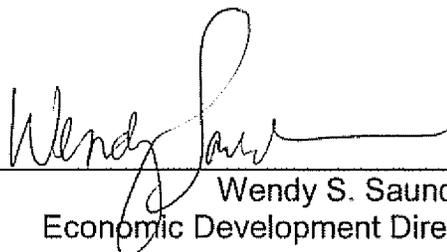
The action to support preparation of the Phase Two feasibility study is not a project subject to environmental review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 and is not a federal undertaking under NEPA.

Policy Considerations:

The recommendation is consistent with previously approved Council direction to fund feasibility studies with CDBG funds. The action recommended in the attached resolution is consistent with adopted City policy. Both the Central City Community Plan and Richards Boulevard Area Plan contain specific designations for a Dos Rios Light Rail Station along North 12th Street. While the location of a station in the vicinity of North 12th Street and Ahern has been specifically designated in the adopted Railyards/Richards Facility Element, the Phase Two analysis may propose locations immediately north or south of this site.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

No goods or services are being purchased.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Wendy S. Saunders
Economic Development Director

Approved by: 
Ray Kerridge
Assistant City Manager

Recommendation Approved:

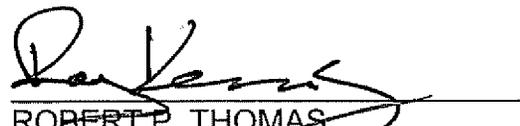
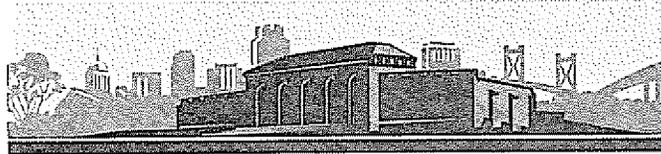

ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

Table of Contents:

Pg	1-3	Report
Pg	4	Attachment 1
Pg	5	Resolution



Capitol Station District

Mayor Heather Fargo
Sacramento City Council
915 I Street
Sacramento CA 95814

July 7, 2005

Dear Mayor Fargo and Sacramento City Councilmembers,

The Board of Directors of the Capitol Station District received a briefing by City staff at their June 29 Board meeting regarding the proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station feasibility study, phase II. Having actively participated in the outreach and comment component of the feasibility study's first phase and received ongoing briefings from Regional Transit staff on the project, the CSD Board of Directors has not yet taken a position either for or against the Dos Rios station project itself, pending further study of the proposed project. However, they have directed me to convey to you the following position regarding the feasibility study.

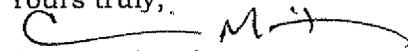
Because there are numerous questions and concerns in our community about the proposed station's location, management, security, ridership, and impact on our land use and redevelopment goals, the CSD Board of Directors voted unanimously to support City staff's proposal to conduct a land use analysis as part of the feasibility study's phase II, with the following conditions:

1. The support for moving forward with a land use analysis in the phase II feasibility study does not constitute tacit approval of the project as a whole, but signals our support for efforts to more fully understand the potential impact of the project.
2. The land use analysis should be used to inform any future decision-making on the proposed station, to ensure that the project will positively support, improve and enhance land uses in the redevelopment area and support our overall redevelopment goals.
3. The analysis and feasibility study should provide concrete examples of proposed land uses that are compatible with the proposed station and light rail transit.

We encourage you to support staff's proposal to conduct a land use study as part of the Dos Rios LRT station feasibility study phase II.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in improving the Capitol Station District.

Yours truly,


Connie Miottel
Executive Director

Cc: Supervisor Roger Dickinson
Dr. Beverly Scott, Regional Transit
Wendy Saunders, City Economic Development

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**SUPPORT FOR PREPARATION OF PHASE II STUDY
FOR THE DOS RIOS LIGHT RAIL STATION**

BACKGROUND

- A. On June 15, 2004, the City of Sacramento approved expenditure of Community Development Block Grant funds for a planning study to address the feasibility of developing the Dos Rios Light Rail Station, which was prepared by the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT).
- B. Phase One of this study has been completed and concludes that such a station is feasible and would benefit low income residents and employees within the Richards Blvd Redevelopment Project Area.
- C. The Phase One report will be presented to the RT Board of Directors on July 25, 2005, at which time that Board will consider whether to commence Phase Two of this study to further define the station location and design.
- D. Improving access to public transit for the existing and future residents and employees in the Richards Blvd Project Area is critical for stimulating revitalization of this relatively stagnant and blighted area of the City of Sacramento.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

The City hereby supports Sacramento Regional Transit's continued study of development of the proposed Dos Rios Light Rail Station along North 12th Street to serve the Richards Blvd Project Area. Phase Two analysis will consider alternative locations for the station between North B Street and the American River. The study will continue to involve community input and outreach.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on July 21, 2005 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Mayor Heather Fargo

Attest:

Shirley Concolino, City Clerk