

## FINAL FUNDING FOR DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO RAILYARDS TRACK RELOCATION SECURED

*Local agencies meet deadlines for 100% of economic stimulus transportation projects*

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**Contact: Erik Johnson**  
**916-321-9000**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Transportation Commission (CTC) today allocated \$31 million in Proposition 1B of 2006 bond funds to the city of Sacramento to realign the Union Pacific tracks in the downtown railyards area. The project is the first phase of the larger Intermodal Station, which will be a hub for train, light rail, and buses, making travel easier across the region—and beyond. The track relocation will also help move more long-distance freight by rail, easing congestion on the freeways that converge in Sacramento.

“I’m extremely pleased that the California Transportation Commission approved the key funding today for the Railyards. This project is important to revitalizing our downtown and will be a tremendous regional asset as new residents, visitors, and workers come in and out of this area,” said Mayor Kevin Johnson.

Last week, the city met the final requirements to receive \$20 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding awarded by the SACOG Board of Directors in March for the rail relocation project. The project is the largest single award of funds from SACOG and has been a priority at SACOG for many years. The project also represents an effective partnership with state and federal elected officials and agencies.

Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg has played a significant role in securing state funding for this project. “I applaud the commission’s prompt action to ensure this mixed-use, transit-oriented development moves ahead. Swift allocation of the state bond funds is vital to keeping Californians employed in high-wage jobs and keeping federal funds pouring into the state,” Steinberg said.

Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui also played a significant role in providing federal funding for this project. “Today’s milestone is significant in that after a comprehensive regional decision making process SACOG has now authorized upwards of \$100 million of funding from the stimulus bill. The SACOG Board has done a tremendous job of spreading the money around different cities, regional priorities and ready-to-go projects,” the Congresswoman said.

Congresswoman Matsui continued, “I am also very pleased that the California Transportation Commission has now formally allocated the state share of the rail line relocation project. After years of work, this project is ready to move forward. I want to thank City staff, SACOG, Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration for working diligently to get this work done. Because of their work, we have met this important milestone and will be able to move forward. The federal funds will create local jobs, improve the safety of the rail corridor and increase rail efficiencies.”

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“We are grateful to our Congressional delegation, and state and federal transportation officials for their

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support in delivering these important projects to our region. I applaud all of the cities and counties in our region who have worked diligently to meet deadlines. Getting these projects moving quickly was critical to helping our economy, and we will reap the benefits in our communities for years to come,” said SACOG Board Chair and Yolo County Supervisor Helen Thomson.

Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties and their cities are in the process of using \$72 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to build transportation projects. Transit operators in these counties as well as in El Dorado and Placer are working on \$37 million in transit projects\*. In total, this represents \$109 million in projects that support local jobs and improve the transportation system. All local agencies in the region have submitted their applications for obligating ARRA funds to Caltrans. The state has until December 15 to pass the applications on to federal transportation officials.

The next economic stimulus funding opportunity for the region is through the highly competitive \$1.5 billion Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. SACOG submitted three projects: Phase 2 of the Sacramento Intermodal Station, infrastructure for barge operations at the Port of West Sacramento, and an interchange on U.S. 50 at Watt Avenue. The U.S. Department of Transportation will make funding decisions by February 2010.

\* El Dorado and Placer counties were separately awarded road funding through their transportation agencies.

*SACOG coordinates transportation planning, funding and project delivery for Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and the cities within them. SACOG also engages elected officials in land use and other regional issues.*

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