August 9, 2013

Greg Chew
Community Design Program Manager
Sacramento Area Association of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: CITY OF SACRAMENTO NORTH 12TH STREET STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Dear Mr. Chew:

I am pleased to submit the City of Sacramento’s application for the Sacramento Area Council of Government’s (SACOG’s) 2013 Community Design Funding Program for the North 12th Street Streetscapes Improvements Project. By the City Manager’s designation, I am acknowledging that this application is officially authorized by the jurisdiction.

The North 12th Street Streetscapes Improvements Project is an important gateway entering Downtown Sacramento in the heart of the River District. Improving this blighted corridor will convert this gateway into a safe, pedestrian and transit friendly corridor. We look forward to partnering with SACOG in providing these vital transportation improvements.

The City of Sacramento acknowledges and accepts the conditions under which SACOG will award Community Design Grants as outlined below.

Understanding Terms of Award Statement

Upon receiving funding through the SACOG Community Design Program for the application in this packet, I, as the authorized signatory for the City of Sacramento understand the following:

- The funding for the awarded project is for federal aid projects and the jurisdiction that I represent accepts the responsibility of undertaking federal aid funding.

- The staff person who is knowledgeable of federal aid requirements has reviewed the contents in this application and will be assigned as the lead person overseeing federal aid requirements throughout the delivery of this project. The jurisdiction acknowledges that if it does not have a qualified staff person or consultant to manage federal transportation funds, SACOG withholds the right to retract committed funding for this project.
• Delivery of the project as conveyed in the application in terms of scope, timeline and deliverables will be used to evaluate the success of this project. If the project is not delivered or completed with three years of receiving authorization by the funding source, this jurisdiction acknowledges that it may be penalized in future funding cycles of SACOG’s four regional funding programs, and in particular the Community Design Program. This will likely mean this project will be de-programmed of any its unused grant funding, plus this jurisdiction will be prohibited from applying the next round of funding in this program.

• All awarded projects, regardless of funding source, are required to submit to the SACOG Community Design Program Manager a quarterly update on the status of the project. The responsibility of submitting the 1 or 2 paragraph email to SACOG lies solely with the award recipient. Failure to do so may result in penalties to this jurisdiction in future funding cycles of SACOG’s four regional funding programs, and in particular the Community Design Program. If the awarded jurisdiction’s project manager changes during the course of the project, it is the responsibility of the jurisdiction to convey this Terms of Award Statement to the new project manager.

Lucinda Willcox, our Grants Program Manager, will be the lead contact person for this grant. She is the Department’s liaison to SACOG and Caltrans for federal funding, has attended all of the federal aid training courses offered by Caltrans, and overseen funding and compliance for numerous federal projects. Lucinda believes that she is qualified to manage federal aid funds and has reviewed all of the contents in the application. To the best of her knowledge this project is federal aid eligible.

We believe this project would advance the Blueprint principles and appreciate your consideration of programming funding for this project.

Sincerely,

Jerry Way
Director of Public Works

Sincerely,

Lucinda Willcox
Program Manager

Enclosures
## Project Summary Table #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsoring Agency</th>
<th>City of Sacramento</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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| **Lead Person and contact information (phone, email, mailing address)** | Ofelia Avalos, P.E., Project Manager  
Lucinda Willcox, Program Manager  
915 I Street, Room 2000,  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
(916) 808-5515  
oavalos@cityofsacramento.org |
| **Partner Organizations** | Sacramento Housing Redevelopment Agency (SHRA)  
Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) |
| **Grant Category** | Category #1 (Conventional Construction) or Category #2 (Complete Streets) |
| **Community Design Funds Requested** | **$1,199,900** |
| **Overall Committed Total Grant Project Costs** | **$190,000 CDBG funds**  
$155,460 – City of Sacramento transportation funds (11.47%) |
| **Local match and other funds** | $155,460 – City of Sacramento transportation funds (11.47%) |
| **Minimum Amount to Conduct Project (Categories 1 and 2 only)** | **$1,199,900.** This project is Phase 1 of the larger 12th Street Complete Streets Project. |
| **Project Description** | The North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Project is located at a major gateway entering Downtown. This high speed arterial is in an economically disadvantaged area, provides access to many social services and carries a heavy pedestrian volume. The existing eastside walkway is in state of disrepair, visually blighted, and located next to two sets of Regional Transit light rail tracks.  
This project will convert North 12th Street into a safe, pedestrian and transit friendly corridor by constructing a new 6 foot to 8 foot sidewalk on the east side, additional drainage, curb and gutter and a wrought iron fence separating pedestrians from the tracks. Where possible there will be a bioswale. Street lighting will increase the visibility and safety for the new sidewalk and train visibility. |
BACKGROUND

North 12th Street is a major north/south connector between North Sacramento and Downtown. It is located in the River District of Sacramento and is a southbound, one-way, four-lane arterial through the district. Formerly part of State Route 160, in 2001 the road became the City's responsibility to maintain under an agreement with Caltrans.

North 12th Street is fronted by a mix of retail establishments and social service providers. The eastern side of the street is paralleled by double tracks belonging to Sacramento Regional Transit (RT)'s Blue Line, with only a narrow sidewalk and short fence, broken in places, to protect pedestrians from passing light rail trains. The pedestrian walkway is a saw-tooth pattern of refurbished and broken sidewalks with utility poles and guy wires obstructing clear passage in places. Cars accessing North 12th Street from side streets approach it at approximately 45 degree angles, resulting in impaired visibility and unsafe crossing.

Major Sacramento employers such as Blue Diamond and General Produce are located nearby and provide economic opportunities for low income residents. These and other job-generating companies receive product deliveries requiring large trucks to access North 12th Street. The street is also a major commute route in the morning as northern Sacramento residents drive to their Downtown jobs. Average daily traffic counts approach 20,000 vehicles.

North 12th Street is a low income neighborhood with a median household income of less than $16,000, which is below the federal poverty level. There is a concentration of social service providers and public housing in the immediate area including Loaves and Fishes, a soup kitchen, mental health referral and homeless services provider; Salvation Army, an emergency shelter and interim post hospital care; Quinn Cottages, a transitional housing program; Women's Empowerment, providing training and mentoring for homeless women; El Hogar, a mental health clinic; and a State Parole office. Additionally, there is a Volunteers of America Aid In Kind Shelter facility adjacent to Quinn Cottages.

Related Planning and Development Efforts and Existing Commuter and Multi-modal Access

Given the importance and challenges in the area, the City has adopted a number of plans and implementing documents to address the area, in particular the River District Specific Plan which covers the larger area. The City received an environmental justice grant from Caltrans and is
completing the North 12th Street Complete Street Plan. Implementation of the North 12th Street Complete Street Plan is considered the "Phase II improvements" that the City expects to submit for funding in the next round when CEQA analysis is complete.

In addition, the Twin Rivers Public Housing Project with 210 extremely low income housing units abuts North 12th Street and is currently undergoing an extensive replanning effort. SHRA, the owner of Twin Rivers, intends to redevelop the 21-acre campus from 1940s garden-style bungalows to a modern complex with resident amenities and services. The new development is expected to support over 600 units with a mix of incomes. In connection, RT is planning the new Dos Rios light rail station to serve the area. This activity will also lead to an increase in pedestrians that will use North 12th Street in the near future, in addition to the current need for improvements.

The City wants to increase its multi-modal access by making a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly walkway as the first step in improving this highly used roadway. By adding sidewalk, lighting and amenities to the east side of the road, this will complete a roadway that can be safely shared by cars, light rail, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Not only will vehicles, commuters, bicyclists and pedestrians benefit from this proposed project but also the existing neighborhood. There are various types of commercial and residential uses and social services directly on North 12th Street and in the immediate vicinity of the project as depicted in Figure 3.1 below. Improving this road will enhance the neighborhood, its amenities, local quality of life and create a multi-modal access road that will improve economic vitality.
Community Participation

Community participation has been a critical component of the proposed design for the North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Project. The proposed improvements have been defined through a series of stakeholder meetings, public meetings Project Development Team meetings, questionnaires, and meetings as part of the development of the Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant for North 12th Complete Street Project and the earlier River District Specific Plan. Stakeholders identified lighting, curbs, gutters and sidewalks to be the first priority and North 12th Street was one of the streets that they chose to be improved first in the area.

Existing Facility

North 12th Street is a four-lane roadway serving vehicles and pedestrians traveling south into the Downtown Sacramento area. The outside, eastern-most travel lane is a dedicated lane for northbound light rail trains, and the next most eastern lane is shared between southbound cars and runs along the length of the District to the Alkali Flats Station. Northbound light rail tracks are separated from pedestrian traffic on the east side of North 12th Street by an intermittent chain link fence in some areas.

Pedestrian improvements on the east side of North 12th Street are limited and in poor shape. There is an uneven paved asphalt path that varies in width and contains numerous obstacles such as telephone and OCS poles for the light rail train. Pedestrian traffic is heavy on this path due to the combination of social services and businesses that operate on the east side of North 12th Street. The light rail train and pedestrian path are in close proximity and some areas lack a safety barrier. The deteriorating chain link fences and poor aesthetics add to the blight in the area. There is existing drainage on the corridor but additional drain inlets will need to be added when the curb, gutter and sidewalk is constructed. There is lighting on the west side of North 12th Street but along the east side is poorly lit and is limited to two mounted lights on existing telephone poles and two cobra-head lights.
North 12th Street is a major gateway into Downtown Sacramento and is used by all modes – light rail, transporting trucks, commuting motorists, bicycles and pedestrians. Removing blight and providing improvements is crucial to increase walkability and safety, improve accessibility, increase economic development and maximize connectivity.

*Pictures: Different sections of the east side of the current pathway of North 12th Street invaded with obstacles making it difficult and unsafe for pedestrians.*

**PROJECT ELEMENTS AND PHASING**

The City is currently completing the North 12th Complete Street Plan, funded by a Caltrans Environmental Justice grant that is developing a plan to make North 12th Street a complete street with safety, accessibility, energy efficiency and aesthetic improvements for all modes consistent with the SACOG Blueprint and the River District Specific Plan. The improvements identified in this North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Project are directly coordinated with and complement the overall work that is being proposed in the North 12th Complete Street Plan. This project is a piece of the bigger puzzle to bring vitality to North 12th Street as well as address the needs of an underserved population.

The project has been divided to two phases. Phase I, the subject of this funding application, will include enhanced sidewalk, decorative fencing, curb and gutter, improved drainage, pedestrian lighting and potential planters all on the east side of North 12th Street between North B Street and Richards Boulevard.
Phase II of the North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Project will include improvements to the west side of North 12th Street including enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities, improved lighting, additional greenscape, and improvements to the North 12th Street and North B Street intersection. Phase 2 is currently in the planning phase.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the proposed project is to support both the existing and the proposed land uses in the project area by improving local circulation, enhancing pedestrian safety, light rail safety, and enhancing the aesthetics of the area. The objectives of the project are to:

- Transform the existing blighted and unimproved section of North 12th Street into a safe, pedestrian and transit-friendly corridor.

- Remove sidewalk barriers in an area that has a high pedestrian volume and construct accessibility improvements that meet current design standards.

- Facilitate new urban development and encourage private investment within the River District.

- Improve the aesthetics of North 12th Street which serves as a gateway to downtown Sacramento.
Project Elements

Light Rail is a main component of this roadway and its proximity to the walkway along the east side presents challenges and a unique character to road and pedestrian pathway.

The North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements will reconstruct the east side of the street into a safe, bike and pedestrian-friendly public right-of-way. Specifically, the project design will include the following features:

- New accessible pedestrian 6 to 8 foot sidewalk. The City will consider decorative colored concrete and or stamp pattern consistent with promoting accessibility for all individuals.

- Drainage improvements to accommodate the new sidewalk, curb, and gutter.

- A decorative safety barrier /fence structure adjacent to the back of the proposed sidewalk to separate pedestrians from the light rail tracks. This can include a decorative wrought iron fence or other unique feature.

- A new fence along the back of sidewalk with greenscape in feasible places to improve the corridor aesthetics.

- Include a plant palette that utilizes adapted plant species that are appropriate for the Sacramento climate, and require minimal water.

- Installation of overhead street lighting to increase the visibility and safety along the newly enhanced walkway.

The project focus will be to create a pleasant environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders in an area with high pedestrian and light rail activity. The project will enhance the River District community, provide an improved entrance into Downtown Sacramento, and help eliminate existing blight.
The project report and design are currently underway and on schedule to be completed early next year. If federal funding is received, the City will also complete NEPA and make any necessary revisions to final design. Below are three cross sections that may be implemented in the final design depending on each adjacent property's characteristics, feasibility and stakeholders input.

**SOWK W/PLANTER AND CURB & GUTTER**

- LIGHT RAIL SOUTH BOUND
- LIGHT RAIL NORTH BOUND
- CURB & GUTTER TYPE 2
- 6" SIDEWALK
- 4.4' TO 4.6' MAX. 10'+ (AT RICHARDS BL)

**SOWK AND V-GUTTER**

- LIGHT RAIL SOUTH BOUND
- LIGHT RAIL NORTH BOUND
- V-GUTTER
- 6" SIDEWALK
- 4.4' TO 4.6' MAX. 10'+ (AT RICHARDS BL)

**SOWK W/PLANTER AND CURB**

- LIGHT RAIL SOUTH BOUND
- LIGHT RAIL NORTH BOUND
- CURB
- 6" SIDEWALK
- DRAINAGE PIPE
- 4.4' TO 4.6' MAX. 10'+ (AT RICHARDS BL)

**DAVISCOLORS.COM (Concrete Colors)**

- Autumn Gold
  5644
- Lakeside Brown
  6604
- Autumn Gold
  5644
- Salmon
  10134
SACOG Blueprint Principles

The proposed project is supportive of the Blueprint Planning Principles: It will encourage people to walk or bike, further the enhancement of the corridor, provide opportunity for mixed use land, eliminate blight, leverage private investment and maximize pedestrian and bicycle connections to surrounding neighborhoods and into downtown.

Transportation Choices - The project will provide a safe pedestrian connection from the River District into Downtown and will improve access to the future Light Rail Station as well as the system which is already in place.

Housing Diversity/Choices – The redevelopment of Twin Rivers Public Housing will add many mixed income units to this immediate vicinity. Additionally, the Dreher Basler Neighborhood, a small single family community, is located nearby and will benefit from this project. Emergency and transitional housing programs are located at nearby Salvation Army and Cottage Housing. The River District Specific Plan identifies North 12th Street area for urban mixed use infill development. The project will promote infill development by providing a safe pedestrian pathway into the downtown area and within the North 12th Street corridor.

Compact Development – The North 12th Street Streetscape will create neighborhood connections, walkability, and access to public transportation to support and encourage compact development. It will strengthen the future location of the Dos Rios Light Rail Station by providing safe access to it. It will support the future development of the Twin Rivers Public Housing Project as a mixed income, high density development.

Mixed Land Uses - The North 12th Street Corridor is already a mixed land use corridor with a mixture of industrial, commercial, social services, temporary housing and future permanent housing. This project will help revitalize the area and improve the mobility of pedestrians and transit along the corridor to reach their destinations in a safely. The project will help create a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood where area residents can easily access retail and employment opportunities and encourage redevelopment with more intense land uses.

Use of Existing Assets – The North 12th Street Streetscape Project will use the existing right-of-way and build off the existing light rail and street improvements. Additionally, the project’s design elements will encourage the reuse of adjacent properties and the restoration of existing buildings. Together the roadway and improvements will create a unique place to be for one of the most highly travelled corridors by both commuters and pedestrians.

Natural Resource Protection – As a project that promotes and encourages infill development, the improvements will help the environment by implementing a pathway that allows the public to walk and use public transportation thus resulting in decreased vehicular traffic. It will promote the reuse of existing buildings along the corridor and make it more attractive to locate a business in the area. The project allows easier and safer connections to transportation choices for people who choose to live within more urban areas.

Quality Design – The proposed project is within the River District Specific Plan which establishes quality public and private design guidelines for the area. These improvements will not only include much needed accessibility improvements, but through the use of decorative fencing and aesthetic treatments will enhance the corridor.

In addition, this project will vastly benefit lower-income individuals and families. The improvements provide safer access to social services of which many customers of these service providers arrive on foot or bicycle. Currently, residents must contend with substandard conditions. Thus, this project will benefit people who can’t (or can’t afford to) drive an automobile. The project will be built in a manner that complements the community by providing low income or minority members with a safe accessible path of travel.
PROJECT STATUS AND SCHEDULE

Environmental Clearance:
The proposed project is consistent with improvements envisioned in the approved EIR for the River District Specific Plan and City of Sacramento 2030 General Plan EIR and other studies in the area. Any additional documentation necessary under CEQA guidelines will be completed by the end of this calendar year (2013). If federal funding is secured for construction, the City can rely on all the information collected with the comprehensive CEQA documents and immediately move forward with preparation of NEPA documents, anticipated to be a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

Project Design:
The project is in the preliminary stages of design and completion of construction drawings is expected by April 2014 assuming NEPA clearance is received upon programming of federal funding.

Right of Way Acquisition:
No acquisition of right of way is needed for this project.

Schedule:
The preliminary and final design phase of the project is expected by April 2014. If federal funding is obtained, final design will not be completed until NEPA is complete. The project could begin construction in the summer of 2014. It has a short construction schedule and could be completed by November 2014.

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### Project Budget Summary - Table #2

**Project Name** North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Project

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SUPPORT LETTERS AND OTHER SUPPORTING MATERIALS
July 29, 2013

Greg Chew
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for North 12th Street Streetscape Project

Dear Mr. Chew:

As Executive Director of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), I am affirming our support for the City of Sacramento’s efforts to secure a Community Design Grant from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to improve the 12th Street Corridor. North 12th Street is a major gateway to downtown, Twin Rivers and the River District and every effort should be taken to enhance its functionality for all modes and abilities.

A Community Design Grant would compliment SHRA’s efforts to master plan a 218-unit public housing community and adjacent properties along North 12th Street. SHRA is investing significant resources to revitalize this outdated and distressed community into a complete neighborhood with mixed-use and mixed-income housing, well-functioning services and improved access to jobs and transportation choices.

This grant provides a tremendous opportunity to improve access for our current and future residents and make the corridor more pedestrian safe. As such, I strongly encourage and support the City of Sacramento’s application to SACOG for a Community Design Grant.

Sincerely,

La Shele Dozier
Executive Director
August 12, 2013

Mr. Gregory Chew
Community Design Funding Program Manager
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Coordination with City of Sacramento on North 12th Street and Dos Rios Station Projects for Community Design Grant Funding

Dear Mr. Chew,

Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) is aware of and supportive of the Community Design Grant application the City of Sacramento has submitted for sidewalk, fencing and related improvements along North 12th Street in the River District of Sacramento. RT has been working with the City on the North 12th Street improvements for over a year and has been involved in the identification of necessary improvements for both the near-term and long-term to meet the mobility needs of the community.

This $1.5M grant request would provide for construction of pedestrian improvements on the heavily traveled southeast side of North 12th Street between B Street and the proposed Dos Rios Station for which RT is also submitting a Community Design Grant request. These improvements will provide the crucial pedestrian link from our future station to be developed with the Twin Rivers redevelopment project and downtown Sacramento.

We fully support the City of Sacramento Community Design grant application and look forward to continuing our collaborative working relationship with the City as we collectively work to redevelop this area.

We hope that SACOG and the Review Committee concur in helping to achieve this goal by funding this, and RT’s, grant request and encourage your authorization of this funding request.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Wiley
General Manager/CEO
July 29, 2013

Greg Chew
Sacrament Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for North 12th Street Streetscape Project

Dear Greg,

As Executive Director of Sacrament Loaves & Fishes, I write this letter in support for the North 12th Street Streetscape Project. Loaves & Fishes is one of the largest integrated and comprehensive non-profits in the Sacramento area serving an average of 650 poor and homeless guests each day.

We are located on a 5-acre campus just north of downtown Sacramento. Many of our guests use the light rail system, sidewalks and bike paths off of 12th Street to access our daily programs.

Improvements on North 12th Street will greatly enhance the safety for all pedestrians, bicycle riders and motorists using the corridor. There is a great need for wider sidewalks, designated bike lanes, and a new barrier fence along North 12th Street.

The Streetscape Project will also greatly beautify our neighborhood and give our community a sense of pride!

Sincerely,

Sister Libby Fernandez, RSM
Executive Director
July 19, 2013

Greg Chew
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for North 12th Street Streetscape Project

Dear Greg,

The River District is pleased to offer support for the North 12th Streetscape Project. As the business association representing over 200 property owners and 250 businesses in the area, improvements to North 12th Street, its streetscape and this gateway to our District and downtown have been identified as a priority for the District.

A major gateway to downtown, North 12th Street serves a mix of uses that includes industrial, commercial, social services and residential, but lacks amenities for pedestrians and bicycles on a corridor that is not only served by light rail, but heavily travelled by vehicles and pedestrians.

This project will reconstruct the east side of the street into a safe, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly right-of-way with the following features:

- New, accessible sidewalks
- A well-designed and aesthetically pleasing barrier separating pedestrians from light rail tracks
- Overhead lighting for increased visibility and safety
- Aesthetic improvements to a corridor used by almost 20,000 daily to access the Capital of California.

When complete, North 12th Street will remove current blight and provide a pleasant environment for pedestrians, motorists and patrons of light rail. The project will enhance the creation of a walkable corridor to encourage mixed-use development in the area.

The River District encourages SACOG’s approval of a Community Design Grant for the North 12th Street Streetscape project.

Sincerely,

Patty Kleinknecht
Executive Director
RIVER DISTRICT SPECIFIC PLAN
Adopted by City Council on February 15, 2011

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

300 Richards Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95811
North 12th Street (south of Sproule Street)

View Orientation: Looking South
PRE-SUBMITTAL LETTER AND RESPONSE
July 26, 2013

Greg Chew
Community Design Funding Program Manager
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Pre-Submittal Letter for the Community Design Grant Program – North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements, Phase 1: North B Street to Richards Boulevard

Dear Mr. Chew:

On behalf of the City of Sacramento, we want to thank you for the opportunity to submit a pre-submittal letter for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments Sixth Round of the Community Design Grant Program. The City of Sacramento is providing this letter to receive approval to submit a Community Design Grant Application for the North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements, Phase 1.

The City of Sacramento would like to submit a conventional Community Design Grant proposal to fund Phase 1 of the North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements. The project would fund the construction of a sidewalk on the east side between North B Street and Richards Boulevard (see attached map and design).

**Sponsoring Jurisdiction:** City of Sacramento

**Name of Project:** North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements – Phase 1: North B Street to Richards Boulevard

**Project Category:** Category 1: Conventional

**Total Cost of Project:** $1,355,360

**Local Match:** $155,460 (Community Development Block Grant and Sacramento Transportation Sales Tax)

**Community Design Grant Requested:** $1,199,900
PROJECT OUTCOMES

The North 12th Street Streetscape Project is located at a major gateway entering Downtown Sacramento in the heart of the River District. This corridor is in an economically disadvantaged area and provides access to social services in the immediate vicinity, including the Salvation Army and Loaves and Fishes. The existing walkway on the east side of the street is in a state of disrepair, visually blighted, and is located directly next to two sets of Regional Transit light rail tracks. 12th Street carries a large traffic volume, and is a high speed arterial street. If awarded, the Community Design grant funds will be used to help achieve the following:

- Improve the existing blighted and unimproved section of North 12th Street into a safe, pedestrian and transit friendly corridor.
- Remove sidewalk barriers in an area that has a high pedestrian volume and construct accessibility improvements that meet current design standards.
- Facilitate new urban development and encourage private investment within the River District.
- Improve the aesthetics of 12th street which serves as a gateway in to downtown Sacramento.

PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK

The North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements will reconstruct the east side of the street into a safe, bike and pedestrian-friendly public right-of-way. Specifically, the project design will include the following features:

- New accessible pedestrian 6 to 8 foot sidewalk with colored concrete with a stamp pattern to enhance the pedestrian experience and give the area a unique identity.
- Drainage improvements to accommodate the new sidewalk, curb, and gutter.
- A decorative barrier rail structure adjacent to the back of the proposed sidewalk curb to separate pedestrians from the light rail tracks.
- A new fence along the back of sidewalk with greenscape to improve the corridor aesthetics
- Where possible between the sidewalk and light rail tracks a bioswale that will include a plant palette that utilizes adapted plant species that are appropriate for the Sacramento climate, and require minimal water.
- Installation of overhead street lighting to increase the visibility and safety along the newly enhanced walkway.

The project focus will be to create a pleasant environment for pedestrians, motorists, and transit riders in an area with high pedestrian and light rail activity. The project will enhance the River District community, provide an improved entrance into downtown Sacramento, and help erase the existing blight.
PROJECT STATUS AND SCHEDULE

Environmental Clearance: The project environmental CEQA documentation is underway and will be followed by the NEPA environmental clearance.

Project Design: The project is currently in preliminary design. Final design will be completed in spring 2014.

Right of Way Acquisition: No right of way acquisition is needed for this project.

Schedule:
- Finalize Design – April 2014
- RFA Process – March to June 2014
- Advertise & Award – August 2014
- Construction – September 2014 to November 2014

ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT

The City and Regional Transit have for some time considered the construction of a new Light Rail Station at Dos Rios in the Vicinity of Sunbeam Avenue. The station is needed to serve the residents and social service patrons in the district who currently have to utilize the Alkali Flats Station to the south which requires traveling through the North B Underpass which has limited pedestrian capacity. In addition, Twin Rivers Housing Project, a low income public housing project, has undertaken an extensive redevelopment planning project which will bring over 400 units to the immediate vicinity of this project. Both these future projects will increase the demand for a safe pedestrian travel way along the east side of 12th Street which the proposed project will provide.

PROMOTION OF BLUEPRINT PRINCIPLES

The proposed project promotes the Blueprint Project Principles in the following ways:

Transportation Choices - The project will provide a safe pedestrian connection from the River District into downtown and will improve access to the Light Rail system which is already in place. This corridor has high volumes of pedestrian, light rail, and vehicular traffic, and increased safety and convenience for pedestrians is needed.

Housing Diversity/Choices – Both the Gateway District Streetscape Master Plan and the River District Specific Plan of which 12th Street is a key element call for urban mixed use infill development. The areas includes some newer high density, affordable housing projects, including the Globe Mills historic reuse and the La Valentina housing project. This project will continue to promote infill development by providing a safe pedestrian pathway into the downtown area and within the 12th Street corridor.
Compact Development – The North 12th Street Streetscape will create neighborhood connections, walkability, and access to public transportation to support and encourage compact development that is emerging.

Mixed Land Uses - The North 12th Street Corridor is already a mixed land use corridor with a mixture of industrial, commercial, social services, temporary housing and permanent housing. This project will help revitalize the area and improve the mobility of pedestrians and transit along the corridor to reach their destinations safely. The project will help create a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood where area residents can easily access retail and employment opportunities and encourage redevelopment with more intense land uses.

Use of Existing Assets – The North 12th Street Streetscape Project will use the existing right-of-way and build off the existing light rail and street improvements. Additionally, the project’s design elements will encourage the reuse of adjacent properties and the restoration of existing buildings. Together the roadway and improvements will create a unique place for a highly travelled corridor by both commuters and pedestrians, and improve the gateway as an entrance into downtown.

Natural Resource Protection – As a project that promotes and encourages infill development, the improvements will help the environment by implementing a pathway that allows the public to walk and use public transportation thus resulting in decreased vehicular traffic. The project allows easier and safer connections to transportation choices for people who choose to live within more urban areas.

Quality Design – The proposed project is within the Gateway District Streetscapes Master Plan. The development of the Master Plan entailed an extensive public outreach which included a diverse group of land owners and stakeholders. The proposed project design will be consistent with the concepts and vision documented in the Master Plan.

I am trained in managing federal aid eligible projects and have reviewed and approved the contents of this pre-submittal letter. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this project in further detail, please find my contact information below:

Lucinda Willcox  
Program Manager  
City of Sacramento  
915 I Street, Room 2000  
Sacramento CA, 95814  
(916) 808-5052  
LWillcox@cityofsacramento.org

We look forward to working with you on this important and exciting project.
Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lucinda Willcox

c: Nicholas Theocharides
   Jesse Gotham
   Ofelia Avalos

Attachments
August 5, 2013

Lucinda Willcox
Program Manager
City of Sacramento
915 1 Street, Room 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Rc: North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Phase I (North B to Richards Blvd.)

Dear Ms. Willcox:

Thanks for providing us with the city of Sacramento’s pre-submittal letter for initial review for the North 12th Street Streetscape Improvements Phase I (North B to Richards Blvd.) as a potential candidate for Category 1 of the Community Design Funding Program. The main purpose of the pre-submittal letter is for the SACOG/Caltrans Review Team to help determine if your potential project is eligible for federal-aid funding through the Community Design Funding Program. Secondarily, it provides SACOG Review Team (comprised of SACOG and Caltrans staff) the opportunity to provide feedback on how well the proposed project fits the objectives of the program and what information it will look for in the application.

The SACOG/Caltrans Review Team has completed a review of your project, and the following are its comments:

1. The Team understands that your project would construct a 6 to 8 foot wide, color stamped sidewalk on the east side of North 12th Street between B Street and Richards Blvd. It would also include a decorative barrier rail structure adjacent to the back of the proposed sidewalk curb, a new fence on the back of the sidewalk with greenscape, and installation of overhead lighting.

2. This project is in the same location as a proposed Community Design project for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station by Regional Transit/Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. Jeff Damon at RT is the contact person and can be reached at 556-0506. Please be sure in the application to briefly describe how the two projects relate, and whether the city supports that project.

3. Color stamped concrete is generally not considered ADA accessible since it could be considered a non-smooth surface for travel paths. Please provide more details about this in your application.

4. Because utilities are involved in the project, approval of right-of-way certification may delay your Request for Authorization unless it has already been cleared (if so, please state so in your application). In addition, new drainage system improvements may be considered non-participatory elements.
5. The Team believes the proposed schedule may be too aggressive because it shows construction during the rainy season. Rain has implications associated with the resulting quality of the final improvements and with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the project.

6. Landscape maintenance funding is extremely limited in most jurisdictions. Please address how your agency will have the funds available to maintain landscape improvements. Your project contains landscaping improvements that can be funded with RSTP or TAP. Given the issues noted in item #9 below about these funds, please address how your agency would respond to a situation where no federal funds are available for landscaping.

7. The Team believes that this project is fundamentally federal aid eligible. You may submit an application for this project. It will most likely qualify for CMAQ, RSTP or TAP funds. Please be aware that the funding source in the fiscal year that you request may not be available. This may mean a later programming year or somehow advancing the project.

The following notes are sent to all applicants:

8. If you choose to apply for Community Design Program funding and your project is recommended for funding by the Community Design Evaluation Committee (the first of two review committees), you will be contacted to schedule at least one week in advance for a working meeting with the SACOG/Caltrans Review Committee on Wednesday, September 11th. Prior to the meeting, SACOG will ask you to submit a draft of a scope of work, schedule and detailed cost estimate and submit it by September 10. We do not expect these documents to be complete, but enough of it so that we may discuss it during the working meeting on Sept 11. After the meeting, then we’ll ask you to make revisions to those documents per the discussion in the interview. SACOG and your organization would need to agree upon the final version of those three documents by September 20.

9. Historically the Community Design Program was funded with STIP-TE and CMAQ funds with a very small amount of RSTP funds. Due to the uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the TA Program (the replacement of TE in MAP-21), more of the program funding will likely be needed from RSTP. However RSTP is a high demand fund type because that is the preferred fund type for most road projects. SACOG will need to prioritize the needs of RSTP between the SACOG funding programs. The order in which your project is ranked will be the order that SACOG will match funding types to projects. If the correct fund type is not available for your project, SACOG staff will need to either delay your project or may need to recommend not programming your project.

10. Project sponsors may be required to calculate the emissions benefits of your project. SACOG will ask you to perform this requirement only if and when there is a realistic possibility your project may receive Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding. For a project to spend CMAQ, it must show that it reduces emissions of certain types of pollutants.
11. Likewise, if the project is recommended for funding by the Community Design Evaluation Committee, and there is a realistic possibility that the project might receive Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding, then you may be asked to do two tasks. First, you may be asked to fill out an eligibility application for review. Secondly, there is a law that requires that SACOG give priority to TAP-eligible projects that partner with or employ the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (916) 386-8394 or the California Conservation Corps (916) 341-3129. During the interview on September 11, the Review Team will discuss how this issue may be addressed.

Based on the comments above, the Team believes that this project is mostly or entirely federal aid eligible as proposed. Please keep in mind that if the project that you apply for substantively changes from what you have written in your pre-submittal letter, you may need to re-send a new pre-submittal letter for SACOG review. Because of Ms. Willcox’s qualifications (the city's proposed federal aid manager) in managing federal-aid funding, SACOG will defer to her if and when a new letter is warranted. Also, if your jurisdiction decides to apply for the Community Design funding during this round, please include a copy of your pre-submittal letter and this response in your application.

If you have any questions about SACOG’s response, please feel free to contact me at (916) 340-6227.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gregory R. Chew
SACOG Community Design Program Manager