



## Public Notice

Notice of Availability  
Environmental Assessment  
Notice of Availability/Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration  
for the  
Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Project

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) have prepared a joint Environmental Assessment (EA)/Initial Study (IS) to address the environmental effects of the proposed Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Project (Project) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970. FTA is serving as the lead agency for NEPA, and SACOG is the lead agency for CEQA. Other public agencies that have discretionary approval over the Project and are, therefore, responsible agencies under CEQA include the cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento, Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

SACOG, the City of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento, YCTD, and RT, have undertaken advanced planning, environmental, and engineering activities for the reintroduction of the streetcar to connect the cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento and their shared riverfront. It is anticipated that the development plans and growth projections for West Sacramento's redevelopment areas and Downtown Sacramento will generate greater travel demand for local mobility and roadway capacity than is currently available. The purpose of the Project is to improve transit service and local circulation by connecting West Sacramento and Downtown Sacramento with an alternative (non-auto) mode, and supporting existing and future development in the City of West Sacramento and Downtown Sacramento.

The 3.3-mile streetcar alignment would extend from the West Sacramento Civic Center to the Midtown entertainment and retail district in Sacramento. Several key destinations would be connected by the Project, including: Raley Field; Old Sacramento; the Sacramento Valley Station in the Railyards Specific Plan area; Downtown Plaza Mall; the historic Memorial Auditorium; the Sacramento Community Center Theater; the California State Capitol building; the Sacramento Entertainment and Sports Center; and the Sacramento Convention Center. The alignment also includes service to the Bridge District in West Sacramento along Riverfront Street and the relocation of existing light rail service from K Street to H Street between 7th and 12th streets in Downtown Sacramento, both to be constructed within 5 years of opening day operations.

The alignment for the proposed streetcar is primarily along existing city streets. New track would be laid for the entire alignment within West Sacramento and across Tower Bridge. East of Tower Bridge, new track would be installed in the road bed on Capitol Mall to 3rd Street and north on 3rd Street to the Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility where it would connect with existing LRT tracks that run east onto H Street. Short sections of new track would also be necessary on 7th Street from just north of J Street to K Street, and on 12th Street between K and L streets. The full lengths of J, L, and 19th streets would require new track. New track would also be placed on H Street between 8th and 12th streets to accommodate the relocation of LRT from K Street.

The proposed project includes the installation of 12 westbound and 13 eastbound stations. New station platforms would be concrete slabs constructed within the sidewalk and/or roadbed and would not require removal of any existing granite curbs or street trees. The traction power facilities (support poles, catenary poles, and substations) would also be located within the public right-of-way. Substations would convert electrical current to the proper voltage for streetcars. Support and catenary poles of the Overhead Contact System (OCS) will be spaced along the streetcar alignment and will be similar to the system that is currently in place today for the light rail system in Downtown Sacramento. Existing utility and LRT poles, and suitable buildings (i.e., not historic properties) will be used whenever possible to attach wires.

Two potential sites are being considered for a maintenance and storage facility (MSF). The MSF will accommodate daily and routine vehicle inspections, interior/exterior cleaning of the streetcars, preventive (scheduled) maintenance, unscheduled maintenance, and component change-out. Potential locations include: in Sacramento beneath the Business 80/50 elevated freeway in the area bounded by X Street, W Street, 19th Street, and RT's South Line LRT tracks (land currently owned by Caltrans and leased to the City of Sacramento for parking); and, a similar site in West Sacramento, beneath the Business 80/50 freeway (Pioneer Bridge) near South River Road and Mill Street/Riverfront Street in Caltrans right-of-way.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/INITIAL STUDY**

The EA/IS evaluates potential temporary and long-term impacts to: aesthetics and visual resources; air quality and greenhouse gasses; biological resources; historic, architectural, archaeological and paleontological resources; geology and soils; energy and public utilities; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; noise and vibration; parks and recreation; socioeconomics and regional growth; transportation; and, environmental justice. The EA/IS also includes mitigation and minimization measures to reduce potential adverse effects from the Project.

### **PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

The EA/IS is being distributed for a 30-day public review and comment period pursuant to NEPA, CEQA, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). FTA proposes a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b) that is subject to concurrence with the SHPO and review of the EA/IS. **The public review period will end on June 22, 2015.**

## **WHERE TO GET THE EA/IS**

The EA/IS and supporting technical studies are posted on both the SACOG website at:

<http://www.sacog.org/projects/streetcar/> and the project website at:

<http://www.riverfrontstreetcar.com/project-documents/>.

Copies are also available for review at:

SACOG  
1415 L Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

City of West Sacramento  
Community Development Department, Planning Division  
1110 West Capitol Avenue, 2nd Floor  
West Sacramento, CA, 95691

Sacramento Public Library  
Central Library  
828 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Arthur F. Turner Community Library  
1212 Merkley Avenue  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

For information and to obtain copies of the EA/IS and supporting studies, please contact:

Sabrina Bradbury  
Public Information Coordinator  
SACOG  
1415 L Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-340-6211

## **HOW TO COMMENT ON THE EA/IS**

Interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public can submit written, emailed or faxed copies during the public review period to the attention of:

Kirk Trost, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel  
Sacramento Area Council of Governments  
1415 L Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone: (916) 340 6210  
FAX: (916) 321-9551  
Email: [eaiscomments@sacog.org](mailto:eaiscomments@sacog.org)

**Comments must be received by the close of the public review period, June 22, 2015.**