



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
March 31, 2009

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Sacramento River Crossing – Purpose and Need

Location/Council District: District 4

Recommendation: Direct staff to proceed with determining the purpose of and need for a new Sacramento River crossing and analyze crossing alternatives.

Contact: Fran Halbakken, Operations Manager, 808-7194

Presenters: Fran Halbakken, Operations Manager

Department: Transportation

Division: Office of the Director

Organization No: 15001041

Description/Analysis

Issue: In October 2006, the City Council authorized execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the City of West Sacramento to proceed with a Broadway Bridge concept and feasibility study. Upon subsequent work, staff found that it was premature to begin studying the feasibility of a Broadway Bridge project without first determining the purpose of a new crossing over the Sacramento River, and evaluating what is needed to meet that purpose and analyzing alternatives that match the purpose and need.

Policy Considerations: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the long range regional transportation plan developed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and its member agencies to guide future investments in the regional and local transportation system. Among the various projects needed to support development in the MTP 2035 is a new Sacramento River Crossing (transit, auto, bike and pedestrian) connecting downtown Sacramento and West Sacramento.

The new City of Sacramento General Plan also includes additional Sacramento River crossings. The policy documents do not specify the location or details, such as number of lanes, of a new river crossing.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The action of determining the purpose and need of a new Sacramento River Crossing is not defined as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If the project eventually moves into the preliminary design and environmental phase, it will be subject to environmental evaluation under CEQA guidelines and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) requirements.

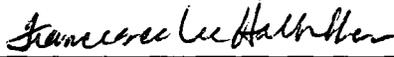
Sustainability Considerations: This project supports the City of Sacramento's sustainability goals to improve and optimize the transportation infrastructure.

Other: None

Rationale for Recommendation: A project involving a major investment of transportation funds and of such complexity will need to follow the federal project delivery process to become eligible for federal transportation funds. The first step in the federal process is to identify the need and purpose of the project.

Financial Considerations: On October 17, 2006, the City Council appropriated \$200,000 to the Broadway Bridge Concept and Feasibility Study Project (T15068800). As of March 9, 2009, the Broadway Bridge Concept and Feasibility Study Project (T15068800) has a budget of \$200,000 and an unobligated balance of \$191,616 comprised of Major Street Construction (Fund 2007) and General Fund (Fund 1001) funds. The City of West Sacramento also approved \$200,000 for the preliminary planning and feasibility study of this project. Between the two cities, \$400,000 was budgeted for the project.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Francesca Halbakken
Operations Manager

Approved by: 
David L. Spaur, CEcD, EDFP
Director, Economic Development Department

Approved by: 
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Attachment 1**BACKGROUND**

The 2003 update of the Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan (SRMP) envisioned “high quality and accessible public open space along the riverfront around which dense urban development can occur.” The SRMP identified the importance of establishing strong connections along and across the Sacramento River, linking neighborhoods and communities and providing maximum opportunity for alternative travel such as bicycles and pedestrians. One connectivity project identified was a multi-use (vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle) bridge across the Sacramento River, linking Broadway and the Pioneer Bluff area of West Sacramento.

In 2004, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) adopted the *Blueprint for the Future* to guide development in the metropolitan region. The Blueprint indicated a desired bridge between Sacramento and West Sacramento, through extension of Broadway.

Subsequently the Waterfront Coordinating Committee (WCC) was established by the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento to provide direction in implementation of the SRMP and other waterfront issues. In August 2006, the WCC directed staff to seek City Council approval to proceed with a study of the Broadway Bridge and allocate funding for the study. In October 2006, both City Councils entered into a Cooperative Agreement to proceed with a Broadway Bridge concept and feasibility study and appropriated \$200,000 each: \$400,000 total.

In May 2007, the Land Park Community Association and the Southside Park Neighborhood Association sent a petition to City Council requesting that an alternatives analysis be done to consider several options for a new Sacramento River crossing before beginning feasibility analysis of a Broadway Bridge.

In September 2007, the WCC received an informational report on the status of the Broadway Bridge project.

In March 2008, the SACOG Board adopted *MTP 2035*, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to guide regional transportation investments through the year 2035. A key finding of the MTP was that additional river crossings of both the Sacramento and American River are needed to support development envisioned in the Blueprint. For analysis purposes, the MTP modeled a bridge at Broadway as a future Sacramento River crossing. However the actual location of a future crossing has not been specified. The analysis indicated that a future Sacramento River crossing is critical as future traffic projections on Interstate 5 north of the junction with US 50 and on US 50 and Interstate 80 freeways in this area show extreme levels of congestion.

In March 2009, the City Council approved the General Plan 2030 which also includes new river crossings of both the Sacramento and American River. The General Plan does not provide specific locations for the additional crossings.

All of the above policy documents envision the Sacramento River crossing as a future project. Major projects such as these involve a planning, preliminary engineering, environmental, design, right-of-way, and funding process that extends over several years and includes multiple opportunities for public engagement. Identification of project purpose and need is the initial step in the process. In addition to the City of Sacramento and West Sacramento, anticipated stakeholders include the State Department of Transportation, SACOG, Regional Transit, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Walk Sacramento, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, disability groups, community associations, businesses and business organizations, and many others.

Under the recommended action, next steps would include:

- Develop purpose and need;
- Develop project alternatives that meet purpose and need;
- Perform traffic analysis to identify travel patterns and roadway volumes altered by various crossing alternatives and transit options;
- Evaluate alternatives in context of purpose and need.

A public outreach element would be integrated through all of the above steps. Further City Council action would be sought before proceeding to a technical feasibility study.