



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

15

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

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CONSENT
July 27, 2010

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

Title: Establishing the Streetcar Planning Study Project and Appropriating Funds

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution:** 1) establishing the Streetcar Planning Study Project (T15115800); 2) appropriating \$310,000 in federal funds (Fund 3703) and transferring \$90,000 in local funds (Fund 2001) from the Major Street Improvements Project (T15108000) to the Streetcar Planning Study Project (T15115800), and 3) authorizing the City Manager to execute a Program Supplement with Caltrans.

Contact: Azadeh Doherty, Principal Planner, 808-3137.

Presenters: None

Department: Transportation

Division: Office of the Director

Organization No: 15001041

Description/Analysis

Issue: As part of the 2010 federal and state programming, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) awarded a grant in the amount of \$310,000 in federal funds to the City of Sacramento for a Streetcar Planning Study. The City of Sacramento applied for these funds in order to perform a planning study that would evaluate the feasibility of alternative streetcar routes throughout strategic locations in the City, compare alignments for maximum economic, environmental and mobility benefits, and develop a priority list for funding and implementation.

Policy Considerations: The City's General Plan includes the following applicable policies:

M 1.2.1- Multimodal Choices. The City shall promote the development of an integrated, multi-modal transportation system that offers attractive choices among modes including pedestrianways, public transportation, roadways, bikeways, rail, waterways, and aviation and reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

M 1.2.3 - Multimodal Access. The City shall promote the provision of multimodal access to activity centers such as commercial centers and corridors, employment centers, transit stops/stations, airports, schools, parks, recreation areas, and tourist attractions.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act: This report concerns administrative activities that will not have an impact on the environment and do not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA (CEQA Guidelines sections 15061 (b)(3) and 15378 (b) (2)).

Sustainability Considerations: This project will contribute to the development of a streetcar system in Sacramento. Streetcars provide a convenient, clean, and energy efficient option for shorter midday trips that might otherwise occur by automobile. This strategy will support projected growth while minimizing the negative impacts on air quality and the environment.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: Acceptance and appropriation of funds is necessary to begin the planning work. This funding may only be used for the proposed Streetcar Planning Study.

Financial Considerations: The Sacramento Streetcar Planning Study Project (T15115800) is funded with \$310,000 of federal funds (Fund 3703) and \$90,000 in local funds (Fund 2001) to be transferred from the Major Streets Improvement project (T15108000) into the Sacramento Streetcar Planning Study Project (T15115800). No general funds are planned or allocated for this project.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE): This is a federally funded project. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) project participation requirements apply. Therefore, future activities carried out with this funding will comply with federal DBE requirements.

Respectfully Submitted by: Francesca Lee Halbakken
Francesca L. Halbakken
Operations Manager

Approved by: Jerry Way
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

Cassandra H. Vina
for Gus Vina
Interim City Manager

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Attachment 1

Background:

The Streetcar Planning Study will evaluate a wide range of potential streetcar options. The City of Sacramento 2030 General Plan focuses on higher density land uses in commercial corridors near job centers. Having a variety of transportation choices which include streetcars promotes accessible alternatives to the automobile and supports the City's economic, land use and transportation goals.

The proposed Streetcar Planning Study Project will evaluate the feasibility of alternative streetcar routes throughout strategic locations in the City, compare alignments for maximum economic, environmental and mobility benefits and develop a priority list for funding and implementation. The Project focuses on connecting some of the most active destinations in the City of Sacramento including: the dense urban central business district, the vacant 240 acre Railyards redevelopment area, the emerging commercial, arts, and entertainment neighborhood in Midtown, the R Street corridor, the Sacramento State University campus and the Arden Fair Mall.

In order to support the City's Green Initiative, over the next few decades an extensive network of transit options will be necessary to both serve the higher concentrations of people and jobs in Sacramento and minimize the increase in vehicle trips and vehicle miles produced by this growth. Streetcars provide a convenient, clean, and energy efficient option for shorter midday trips that might otherwise occur by automobile.

Since May 2006, the City of Sacramento has worked in partnership with the City of West Sacramento, Regional Transit (RT) and the Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD) to develop a streetcar project that will connect Downtown West Sacramento with Downtown Sacramento (Downtown Riverfront Streetcar line). Over the past several years, guided by a Policy Steering Committee (PSC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the initial phase of this streetcar project was designed. The first phase of this project will begin at the West Sacramento City Hall and end at the Tower Bridge. As part of this Streetcar Planning Study, the City of Sacramento will complete the planning work and determine the alignment for the Sacramento phase of this project.

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Establishing the Streetcar Planning Study Project, Authorizing Approval of Funding Agreement, and Appropriating Funds

BACKGROUND

- A. As part of the 2010 federal and state programming, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) awarded a grant in the amount of \$310,000 in federal funds to the City for a Streetcar Planning Study. This grant requires \$90,000 in matching funds and the source of local match is (Fund 2001) the Major Streets Improvement project.
- B. The City of Sacramento applied for these funds in order to perform a planning study that would evaluate the feasibility of alternative streetcar routes throughout strategic locations in the City.

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

- 1. The Streetcar Planning Study project (T15115800) is established as a new Capital Improvement Program.
- 2. The FY10/11 Capital Improvement Program is amended by appropriating federal grant funds in the amount of \$310,000 to the Streetcar Planning Study Project (T15115800), and \$90,000 (Fund 2001) for local match is transferred to the Streetcar Planning Study Project (T15115800) from the Major Streets Improvement Project (T151080000).
- 3. The City Manager is authorized to execute a Program Supplement with Caltrans.