REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

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REGIONAL ISSUES
November 22, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Sacramento Regional Transit District – Streetcar Project

Location/Council District: Various locations, Citywide

Recommendation:

No Council action is requested.

Contact: Azadeh Doherty, Staff Aide, 808-3137
Presenters: Azadeh Doherty, Staff Aide; Dr. Beverly Scott, General Manager, Sacramento Regional Transit District
Department: Transportation
Division: Office of the Director
Organization No: 3416

Summary:

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) will present information regarding the potential of streetcar projects in Sacramento.

Committee/Commission Action:

On October 5, 2005 a report on this issue was presented to the Waterfront Advisory Committee (the governing body comprised of Mayors Fargo and Cabaldon, Councilmember Fong and West Sacramento Councilmember Pierson organized to implement the Joint Riverfront Master Plan). The Waterfront Advisory Committee discussed its role in planning and pursuing a streetcar system and provided the following direction:

> "Approved for recommendation to the Sacramento and West Sacramento City Councils that the Waterfront Advisory Committee provide leadership for a streetcar project. (1) as an advocate for a preferred route that links the two sides of the river with some of the major attractions within the waterfront plan area; (2) as a subcommittee of the councils from the two cities; and (3) as a guide in exploring funding options and pursuing opportunities. Directed staff to prepare a

joint report to both City Councils to introduce the streetcar project and the Committee's role in leadership of the project."

Background Information:

Over the past several months, the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) along with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) have led discussions on the revival of streetcars as well as the possibility of building a new streetcar line in Sacramento.

On September 23, 2005, RT hosted an educational "Capital Area Streetcar Summit". Currently, RT has hired several consultants to evaluate the operational and funding feasibility of this project. So far, a number of possible routes have been discussed:

- The route most frequently described is a 1.5 mile line running along Capitol Mall from the existing light rail stations at 7th/8th Streets, across the Tower Bridge, to West Capitol Avenue ending at the West Sacramento transit center across from the West Sacramento City Hall.
- Service to the Amtrak depot
- Extension to R Street
- A north/south line along the riverfront or further inland
- The convention center; K Street; and the Docks
- Railyards, Washington, and Triangle redevelopment areas
- California State University, Sacramento proposes a route linking the campus with the 65th Street light rail station
- Point West and Rancho Cordova are among the outlying areas that have also expressed interest in streetcars

The Waterfront Advisory Committee is interested in the streetcar system as it pertains to economic development and believes that such a system will add value to the center of the region and also promote the economic, cultural, and recreational goals of the waterfront plan. Furthermore, the Waterfront Advisory Committee has implied that the timing is right to consider a streetcar system because, with substantial new development proposed for the Capitol Mall and riverfront areas, there is a brief opportunity to secure private participation in the financing of this project.

Presently, RT has applied for several Community Design Planning Grants from SACOG to fund a Regional Streetcar Feasibility Study and a Streetcar Starter Line Project Implementation.

Financial Considerations:

None. This is an information item only.

Environmental Considerations:

The subject of this report is not considered a project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. The activity involves no physical construction and has no potential to cause a significant impact on the environment (CEQA Section 15061 (b)(3)).

Policy Considerations:

City's Strategic Plan supports projects that expand economic development throughout the City.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

No goods or services are being procured.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Francesca Halbakken
Planning & Policy Manager

Approved by: _____
Marty Hanneman
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

_____
For ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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