



DEPARTMENT OF
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NEWS RELEASE

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City awarded \$10.5 million from state to bring historic train depot up to current earthquake safety standards

The 85-year-old historic train depot at the downtown Railyards is going to be undergoing a significant seismic facelift beginning next month. The California Transportation Commission, Thursday, awarded the City \$10.5 million for the \$11 million construction project. The rest of the money is coming from federal funds.

The 50,000 square foot Sacramento Valley Station does not meet current standards for earthquake safety, so a retrofit is required to bring the facility up to current safety standards along with upgrades for people with disabilities.

“While more of a ‘behind the scenes’ project, it’s absolutely necessary to bring the station closer to the ideal modern transportation and civic destination,” said Hinda Chandler, senior architect overseeing the depot restoration.

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The work will take place under two construction contracts. The first, which is already out for bids, includes environmental remediation of unoccupied areas and some demolition. The second contract, which will go out to bid in June, will seek bids to reinforce walls and floors and the roof, which will address basic life/safety weaknesses in the building. The project will also add fire sprinklers and improve access to doors and restrooms.

The work is in addition to the construction of new railroad tracks at the Railyards, set to begin next month. The \$41.5 million contract was awarded to Granite Construction Company, Sacramento, at the March 22 City Council meeting. Relocating the current railroad tracks is the critical path to opening up the Railyards for development to proceed. Most of the Railyards property was taken over late last year by Inland American Real Estate Trust, Inc.

Together, both projects will sustain or create about 1500 construction-related jobs, per the Federal Highway Administration formula of one job for every \$35,000 of public dollars invested.

The Department of Transportation's mission is to ensure the City's transportation system supports and enriches the quality of life for present and future generations.
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