



REPORT TO DESIGN COMMISSION City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

HEARING
August 20, 2008

Members of the Design Commission:

Title: R Street Improvements Project, 10th Street to 13th Street
(TU37/T15056200)

Location/Council District: R Street -10th Street to 13th Street. Location Map – Attachment 2. (District 4)

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Design Commission review the proposed project and forward recommendations to the City Council.

Contact: Zuhair Amawi, Associate Civil Engineering, (916) 808-7620; Jon Blank, Supervising Engineer, (916) 808-7914

Presenters: None

Department: Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3434

Description/Analysis

Issue: Design Commission's approval is necessary to move forward with completion of the final design.

Policy Considerations: The action requested herein is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan to improve and expand public safety and achieve sustainability and enhance livability. The project design is consistent with the R Street Urban Design Plan adopted by the City Council on September 5, 2006 and the adopted Preservation Element of the General Plan and the adopted R Street Corridor District Supplemental Design Guidelines.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Environmental Planning Services has determined that the project as proposed may have potentially significant impacts to the environment. Mitigation measures have been incorporated in the project to reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study has been prepared for the project. In compliance with Section 15070(b)1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project plans to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. These mitigation measures address soils, air quality, transportation/circulation, biological resources, hazards, noise, public services, aesthetics and cultural resources. The mitigation measures are listed in the attached Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Exhibit D of Attachment 4).

On April 10, 2008, a Notice of Intent to Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was circulated for public comments for 30 days. One comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration was received during the public review period from the City Fire Department. The comment was related to notifying the Fire Department of any street closures during construction of the project. Staff is coordinating with the Fire Department on street closures and emergency access. There were no comments related to the adequacy of the environmental document.

Sustainability Considerations:


This Project is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan. It conforms with the Air Quality Focus Area by improving and optimizing transportation infrastructure.


Commission/Committee: This report was prepared prior to the Preservation Commission Hearing on August 6, 2008. Any comments or recommendations provided at the Preservation Commission Hearing will be discussed at the Design Commission Hearing.

Rationale for Recommendation: The project design has been based upon significant efforts on the part of the project team to incorporate design guideline recommendations in the R Street Urban Design Plan as well as the unique characteristics and features of the historic district, balancing these with drainage, engineering, safety and accessibility. Design Commission's approval recommendation will allow the City Council to approve the conceptual design plan and move forward with completion of the final design.

Financial Considerations: There are no financial actions associated with the recommendations in this report.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No, as no goods or services are being provided.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
for Zuhair Amawi
Associate Civil Engineer

Approved by: 
Nicholas Theocharides
Engineering Services Manager

Recommendation Approved:

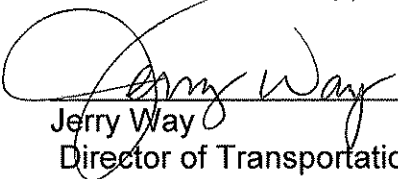

Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

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Attachment 1

Background

The project will construct roadway and streetscape improvements on R Street between 10th Street and 13th Street. This project consists of replacing the asphalt concrete roadway concrete, placing raised pedestrian walkways and valley gutters, installing industrial looking street lighting, and providing 90 degree and parallel parking along R Street.

On July 25, 2006, the City entered into agreements with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. to provide engineering design and environmental services for the R Street Improvements Project. This Project is within the R Street Preservation District and is part of the R Street Urban Design Plan which was approved by City Council on September 5, 2006.

The City of Sacramento's Environmental Planning Services conducted or caused to be conducted an initial study and identified potentially significant effects on the R Street Improvement Project. Revisions to the Project were made to avoid or reduce the potentially significant effects to a less than significant level, and, therefore, there was no substantial evidence that the Project as revised and conditioned would have a significant effect on the environment. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project was then completed, noticed and circulated in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines and the Sacramento Local Environmental Procedures.

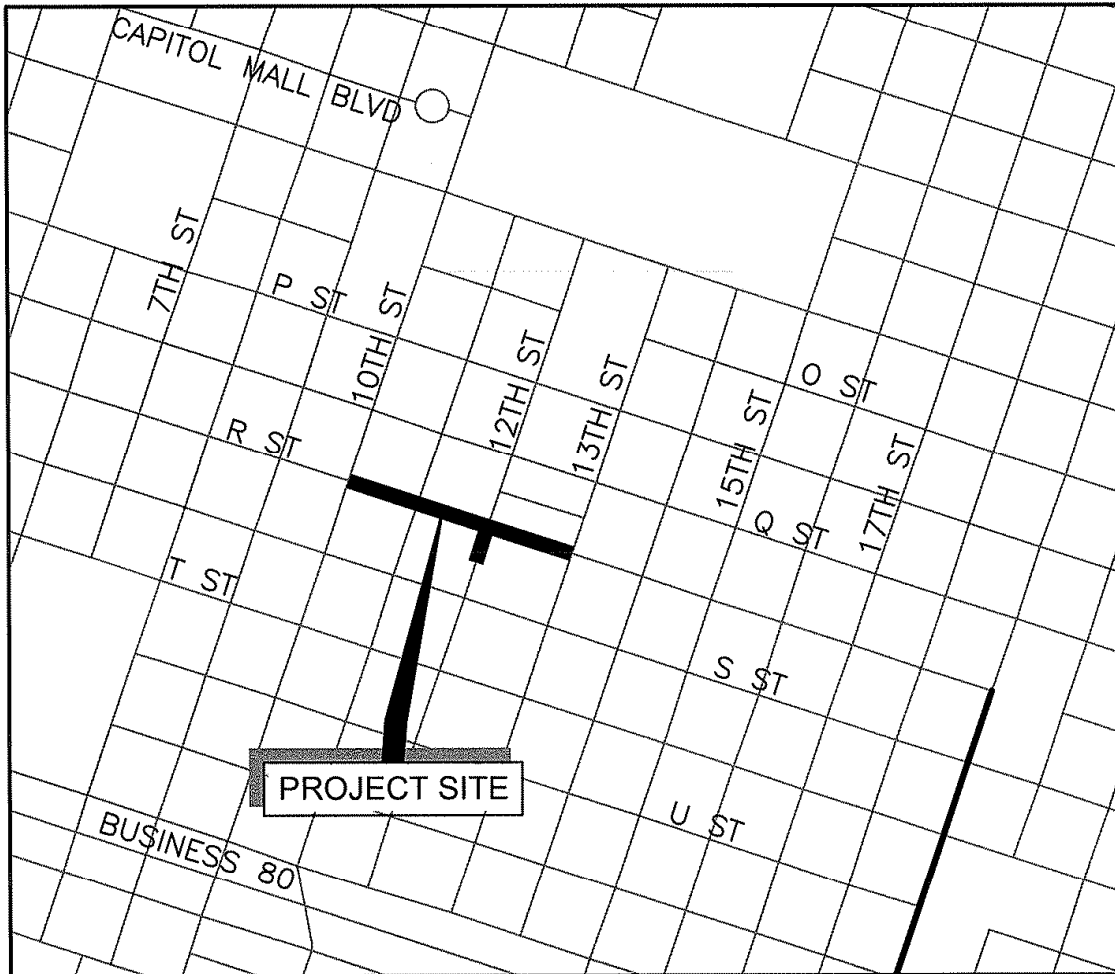
The Project has a federal funding component. A review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was required. The project documents were routed to the State Office of Historic Preservation and the California Department of Transportation for review. On March 14, 2008 the City received a Finding of No Adverse Impact (FONSI) for this project, consistent with the requirements of NEPA.

On April 10, 2008 a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the MND was circulated for public comments for 30 days. One comment was received during the public review period from the City Fire Department. The comment was related to notifying the Fire Department of any street closures during construction of the project. Staff is coordinating with the Fire Department on street closures and emergency access. There were no comments related to the adequacy of the environmental document.

This report was prepared prior to the Preservation Commission Hearing on August 6, 2008. Any comments or recommendations provided at the Preservation Commission Hearing will be discussed at the Design Commission Hearing. Design Commission's approval recommendation will allow staff to move forward with completion of the final design.

EXHIBIT A

Location map for:
R STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
10th STREET TO 13th STREET
PN: TU37 / T15056200



Map Contact: Boris Kiksmán
Date: January 2008

