



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

SCOPING MEETING NOTICE

**Folsom Boulevard Widening and Ramona Avenue Extension Project
Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Assessment**

December 21, 2009

The City of Sacramento, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, will be the Lead Agency for the preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA).

The purpose of this NOP is to provide responsible agencies and interested persons with sufficient information describing the proposed project and the project's potential environmental effects to enable them to make a meaningful response as to the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR/EA. The responses to this NOP will help the City of Sacramento determine the scope of the EIR/EA and ensure an appropriate level of environmental review.

The City of Sacramento proposes to extend Ramona Avenue to the north to connect to Folsom Boulevard. The new improvements would conform to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks undercrossing on Folsom Boulevard and would extend to the US 50 undercrossing. A new road alignment would be constructed connecting Ramon Avenue to Folsom Boulevard. The extension would require a new at-grade crossing of the Placerville Branch, which is owned by the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor – Joint Powers Authority (SPCT_JPA) and maintained by Sacramento Regional Transit with trains operated by Union Pacific Railroad Company. The new roadway would include two lanes, one in each direction, bike lanes in both directions and a sidewalk on the northeast side only.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) includes the project in their 2009/2012 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP). In addition, the project is consistent with the 2030 Sacramento General Plan. The Southeast Area Transportation (SEAT) Study was approved by the City Council in 1999 and had identified the Ramona Extension as a key element of improvement for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle operations; therefore, the improvements under consideration would be consistent with the SEAT Study.

Plans for the Folsom Boulevard Widening and Ramona Avenue Extension Project were prepared as defined by the SEAT study (City of Sacramento 1999). The project proposes to widen Folsom Boulevard between U.S. 50 and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks undercrossing. There would be construction staging areas and utility relocations as part of the proposed project. It would also improve Ramona Avenue between Brighton Avenue and Cucamonga Avenue and provide a new extension of Ramona Avenue that would connect to Folsom Boulevard.

Improvements to Ramona Avenue between Cucamonga Avenue and Brighton Avenue would include widening the Ramona Avenue to include sidewalks with landscaping areas, on-street parallel parking, bike lanes, standard street lighting, and an upgraded drainage system. The proposed improvements would conform to the existing driveways and parking lots. In areas where there are no structures, the roadway would conform to the proposed right-of-way.

New right-of-way would be required for the project for the Ramona extension from Brighton Avenue to Folsom Boulevard. In addition sliver right-of-way takes will also be needed for Ramona Avenue widening between Cucamonga Avenue and Brighton Avenue and the Folsom Boulevard widening from the UPRR grade separation through the Highway 50 undercrossing.

Two options to the project will be analyzed in the environmental document:

Option 1: This alternative would widen Folsom Boulevard between U.S. 50 and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks undercrossing, while keeping the existing flood gates intact. It would also improve Ramona Avenue between Brighton Avenue and Cucamonga Avenue and would provide a new extension of Ramona Avenue that will connect to Folsom Boulevard.

Option 2: This alternative would widen Folsom Boulevard between U.S. 50 and the (UPRR) tracks undercrossing, at the same time removing and reconstructing the existing flood gates. It would also improve Ramona Avenue between Brighton Avenue and Cucamonga Avenue and would provide a new extension of Ramona Avenue that will connect to Folsom Boulevard.

The technical sections of the Draft EIR/EA will describe the existing conditions in the project and surrounding lands. It is currently anticipated that the following issues discussed in the EIR/EA include land use, aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural/historic resources, noise, hazardous materials, floodplain, land Use, community and relocation impacts, public services and utilities, and transportation and circulation.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed project are addressed and that all significant issues are identified, written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the proposed EIR/EA are invited from all interested parties. Written comments must be received either by mail or in person at the following address no later than **4:00 p.m. on January 20, 2010**. **Note that the public counter at Richard's Blvd is open from 9:00 to noon and from 1:00 to 4:00.**

Jennifer Hageman
City of Sacramento, Community Development Department
300 Richards Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 808-5538

A scoping meeting will be held for this project to help responsible and trustee agencies provide input about the scope and content of the environmental information they will need for the project. The meeting will be held at City of Sacramento offices, 300 Richards Boulevard, Room 221 from 11:45 to 1:15 on January 6, 2010. Please call Jennifer Hageman (916) 808-5538 if you have any questions.

