

NEED & PURPOSE STATEMENT

NEED: The proposed action is needed for the reasons listed below.

- 1) Limited connectivity across the river creates longer trip lengths, which discourage walking and bicycling.
- 2) Longer trip lengths create dependence on automobile use that generates negative public health effects and adverse environmental effects such as emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- 3) Limited connectivity across the river creates concentrated vehicle traffic flows on existing bridges and their connecting approach roadways resulting in undesirable travel delays for vehicle traffic including public bus transit during weekday peak periods and special events.
- 4) Limited connectivity across the river reduces options for emergency response teams thereby increasing response times and limiting alternatives for evacuations.
- 5) I Street, Tower, and Pioneer Bridges do not fully comply with current design standards, which limit or restrict multi-modal use, increase seismic vulnerability, and exacerbate the potential effects of natural disasters.
- 6) Limited connectivity across the river is a barrier to economic activity, social exchanges, recreational opportunities, and access to jobs within the urban core of Sacramento and West Sacramento.
- 7) Limited connectivity to the riverfront reduces the potential to achieve planned urban development and re-development of opportunity sites identified in the adopted plans of Sacramento and West Sacramento.
- 8) Limited connectivity reduces opportunities to use the riverfront for enjoyment and recreation.

PURPOSE: The proposed action is intended to achieve the following objectives.

- 1) Increase the number of river crossings that meet current design standards and encourage travel by walking, bicycling, low energy vehicles, and public transit.
- 2) Increase the number of persons that can safely, efficiently, and reliably cross the river.
- 3) Increase options for emergency response teams to cross the river.
- 4) Increase options for evacuations.
- 5) Improve the connectivity to, and accessibility of, businesses, recreational areas, and new or re-development opportunity sites located in the urban core of Sacramento and West Sacramento.
- 6) Reduce trip length distances across the river between major origins and destinations.
- 7) Reduce the growth in vehicle miles of travel (VMT) and vehicle hours of delay (VHD).
- 8) Reduce the growth in transportation related energy use, air pollution emissions, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- 9) Reduce the growth in vehicle traffic on local neighborhood streets especially cut through traffic.
- 10) Minimize the use of Pioneer Bridge by local traffic.