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NEWS RELEASE

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City meets deadline for \$20 million in federal stimulus funds

Track relocation project at Sacramento Valley Station on track to get started in May

The City of Sacramento Department of Transportation has met its December 1 deadline to secure \$20 million in federal stimulus money. The funds will be put toward the \$60 million cost of constructing new railroad tracks at the downtown depot.

Moving and realigning the railroad tracks 500 feet north will clear the way for the housing, shops, museums and entertainment venues at the railyards being developed by Thomas Enterprises and for future expansion of the depot into a world class regional multi modal transportation center.

“Last March, we learned the biggest chunk of stimulus money in Sacramento would be going to the Railyards *if* the project could be ready for construction in 9 months. With that looming deadline, City staff have been scrambling to work with multiple federal, state and local agencies, rail operators and utility companies to gain federal environmental clearance and secure project approvals and have everything turned in by Tuesday, December 1. I am pleased to say, yes, we made it!” said Mayor Kevin Johnson.

Johnson thanked Democratic Rep. Doris Matsui of Sacramento, the California Transportation Commission, Caltrans and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments for helping Sacramento secure the funds for this critical project. Based on the federal formula of one job per every \$35,000 investment, approximately 571 regional jobs are being sustained by the federal stimulus dollars in this project.

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Stimulus funds, 2

"After months of tireless work and preparation, I want to thank City staff, Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration for working diligently to meet the December deadline. Because of their work, we have met this important milestone and will be able to move forward on the rail line relocation project. The federal funds will create local jobs, improve the safety of the rail corridor and increase rail efficiencies," said Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui.

"Communities across the region will benefit from this project, by making train, light rail, and bus transportation easier and more convenient through the future expansion of the station. The track relocation will also help move more long-distance freight by rail, easing congestion on the freeways that converge in Sacramento," said SACOG Executive Director Mike McKeever.

Next week, the City will be requesting more than \$25 million in state Proposition 1B dollars. Together with the \$15 million acquired through a variety of other sources, the \$60 million project will be fully funded. Bids will go out in March, with groundbreaking slated for May. Work funded by the previously approved state Prop. 1C funds for roads and utilities within the railyards is already underway.

Background

- The station is the second busiest train depot in the state.
- The train tracks and Sacramento Valley Station rail depot are located on vital regional and national trade corridors. Its western juncture is at the Port of Oakland.
- The current facility cannot adequately serve the trade corridor. Rail tonnage is anticipated to double between now and 2025.
- The track relocation project will allow more freight trains to move through the area at more efficient speed and better facilitate the expected surge in regional rail ridership particularly between the Bay Area and Sacramento.
- For more information on the multi modal transportation facility planned for the depot, go to <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/director/sitf/index.html>
- For more information on the railyards, go to <http://www.sacramentorailyards.com/home/home.htm>