



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the project?

The Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento are beginning the process of planning to build a new low-level, “neighborhood friendly” bridge across the Sacramento River. The bridge will be located upstream of the existing I Street Bridge and will serve motorists more efficiently while providing better access for bicycles and pedestrians. The existing I Street Bridge will remain in place for commuter and freight trains, but all other modes of transportation will be shifted to the new bridge. To assist with the planning for the new bridge, the cities have hired a consultant team lead by Mark Thomas and Company in association with Modjeski and Masters. The team will be developing alternatives and analyzing environmental impacts over the next year.

Will the existing I Street Bridge continue to be used for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians? Can the upper deck of the bridge be used as a park once the project is complete?

The purpose of the I Street Bridge Replacement project is to provide a new bridge immediately upriver of the existing I Street Bridge for all modes (vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and the potential of a future street car) and to open up the water front by demolishing the approach viaducts. The existing I Street Bridge is owned by the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR). The continued use of the upper deck of the bridge would require separate funding and the support of UPRR.

In what phase is the project and what is included?

The current project phase is one of the many steps that are required to see this new bridge through to construction. The process started in 2010 with the Sacramento River Crossings Alternatives Study which recommended a new crossing of the Sacramento River north of the I Street Bridge. The study was approved by both the City of Sacramento and the City of West Sacramento in 2011. The I Street Bridge Replacement project is the next step in the process which will include preliminary engineering and environmental clearance for both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Once the environmental approvals are granted, the next step will be the final design and then construction of the bridge.

How is the project being funded?

In February 2013, the Sacramento City Council directed staff to apply for federal funds for a new river crossing north of the existing I Street Bridge. In May 2013, Caltrans allocated \$76.6 million in federal funds towards the design and construction of the new bridge and authorized the cities to begin preliminary engineering for all the associated improvements. The cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento have agreed to share the local expenses associated with delivering the project, this includes federal matching requirements and other non-federally eligible expenses. Total project costs are currently estimated at \$90 million.

What is the project timeline?

The consultant team of Mark Thomas and Company in association with Modjeski and Masters began work in spring of this year. Completion of the environmental documentation and preliminary engineering is expected by mid-2016.

How is this project related to the City’s planned Entertainment and Sports Center (ESC)?

The new bridge would contribute to the new development opportunities already being incentivized by the new arena. A new bridge that better serves all modes of transportation will improve access for visitors to the ESC.

What are the plans for the waterfront on either side?

The waterfront area, along the Sacramento River, holds tremendous potential for future development opportunities. Located along one of the major rivers that run through Sacramento, it is an area envisioned as a development project to reshape and add to Sacramento’s waterfront. The cities have worked together to adopt the Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan (2003), to accomplish this vision. Also the Railyards Specific Plan has been approved, the Washington Square Specific plan and other parkway plans are underway and being discussed.

How will the community be involved?

The I Street Bridge Replacement project includes a community engagement program to inform and involve the community throughout the process. The cities will be hosting community open house meetings throughout the projects duration to solicit input and provide project updates.

If you are interested in remaining informed, visit the project webpage to sign up for the mailing list: <http://bit.ly/Qb6lbt>