

April 30, 2009

SACOG authorizes \$76 million in economic stimulus funds for transit: Commuter buses, railyards track move, street improvements among projects funded

SACRAMENTO-The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Board of Directors March 19 authorized \$76 million for transportation projects in Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. This is in addition to \$32 million authorized in February for road rehabilitation.

Projects funded for El Dorado County are \$519,000 to replace one commuter bus and \$200,000 to El Dorado Transit for maintenance.

Folsom got \$850,000 for an East Bidwell pedestrian overcrossing and \$488,000 to replace seven demand-response vans.

Rancho Cordova got \$1 million to extend Internatinal Drive and build a bridge over the Folsom South Canal.

The amounts are based on the region's estimate of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama in February.

"This funding will put people to work improving our roads, buses and light rail. SACOG and local government agencies are working cooperatively to ensure that economic stimulus funds are spent efficiently and appropriately," said SACOG Board Chairman and Yolo County Supervisor Helen Thomson.

SACOG has been working with Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and Congressmembers Herger, Lungren, Matsui, McClintock, Tauscher and Thompson to ensure that these funds come to the region.

"Today, SACOG took an important step to effectively utilize the needed funds from the recovery act. Providing funding for local transit and road projects will provide our economy with good jobs and vital infrastructure improvements. I have worked closely with SACOG to ensure that these funds are used swiftly and address our regions greatest infrastructure needs," said Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

"Infrastructure funding needs to begin immediately if the Sacramento region is to realize economic recovery. Through the leadership of SACOG, our communities will begin to see much needed infrastructure improvements and job growth," said Congressman Dan Lungren.

Projects receiving funding range from trail track relocation at the downtown Sacramento Railyards; making local streets safe and accessible for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and transit; replacing and adding new buses, and maintaining existing buses and light rail.

SACOG anticipates at least \$120 million for the six-county region, but the total amount the region will receive for transportation from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act is not yet known. The state, through Caltrans, will control some of the funds. The U.S. Department of Transportation and Caltrans have not specified the exact amount that the region will receive, although based on past formulas, SACOG is anticipating a total of approximately \$72 million in road funds and \$37.8 million in transit funds.

Transportation projects must be ready to send out to bid (obligated) by May 29. Transit projects must be ready to send out to bid by Aug. 29.

The Mountain Democrat Newspaper is published Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday by Mountain Democrat Inc.

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