



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

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News Release

Contact: Linda Tucker, Media and Communications Specialist, 916/808-7523

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Project streamlines traffic flow, enhances road safety **Intersection improvement project opens at Richards Boulevard and 12th and 16th streets**

Councilmembers Raymond L. Tretheway, III and Steve Cohn and City staff are announcing the completion of the \$5 million Richards Boulevard Improvement Project and the activation of the new signalized intersections where Richards Boulevard meets 12th and 16th streets.

Previously, traffic moving eastbound along Richards Boulevard was forced to cross 12th Street to Sproule Avenue then to 16th Street and travel north. Traffic backed up from drivers being unable to travel between Richards Boulevard and Highway 160. Drivers can now make a left turn to and from Richards Boulevard from 12th and 16th streets, reducing out-of-direction travel.

Inbound traffic coming off of Highway 160, traveling at 45 miles per hour, will need to be aware that for the first time they will encounter a signal at Richards Boulevard and should prepare to slow down and stop for the red light. Outbound traffic will also need to prepare to stop at Richards.

“Now that this new signal is completed commuters will see greater mobility in the Richards area,” said Councilmember Tretheway. “In addition, as we move forward with future development like the railyards, this new project will improve traffic not just for today’s commuters, but tomorrow’s as well.”

“The completed project greatly benefits local residents, existing and planned businesses coming into this area and improves conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. We will realize the returns on this project for many years to come,” Councilmember Cohn commented.

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“The new intersection facilitates and encourages the area’s vitality and growth, which businesses, local residents and commuters will view as a plus,” Patty Kleinknecht, Executive Director of The River District said.

Additional project features:

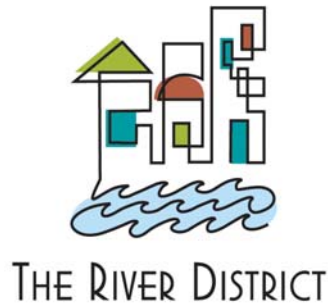
- New crosswalks access the completed and recently opened Two Rivers trails and the bridge crossing the American River. The trail may be accessed from 5th Street and 10th Street.
- Never used before in Sacramento, the four-arm crossing gates will stop all left turn traffic before Regional Transit Light Rail passes through the intersection. A new traffic signal pre-emption plan will ensure all vehicles are behind the gates.
- New curbs, lighting, landscaping, irrigation, guardrails, signing, striping, closed circuit television system, as well as pavement widening and reconstruction.

The Richards Boulevard Improvement Project was made possible with funds from federal, regional and local sources. To learn more about current and proposed projects, please visit the Department of Transportation website: <http://cityofsacramento.org/transportation>.

News interview suggestions

- Councilmember Raymond L. Tretheway III (District 1) at 916-808-7001
- Councilmember Steven Cohn (District 3) at 916-808-7003
- For project construction questions, please contact Karen Shipley who can facilitate an interview with the Engineering Services Division Manager.
- Patty Kleinknecht can be reached at The River District 916-321-5599. (For additional background, see The River District’s previously issued press release attached.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2007

CONTACT: Patty Kleinknecht, 916-321-5599

Intersection Opening Joins other Projects in The River District

The River District celebrates the opening of a new intersection where Richards Boulevard meets North 12th and North 16th Streets. This improvement will provide better traffic flow and greater safety for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. In addition, the project includes streetscape and landscape improvements. This is one of many projects creating excitement in The River District: The City of Sacramento is a new tenant with their purchase of Discovery Centre located at 300 Richards Boulevard. The building will house Police and other city departments and should be ready for occupancy in late 2007.

- The City of Sacramento recently completed and opened Two Rivers Trail, a 1.5 mile paved pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians. The trail runs through The River District from Tiscornia Park to Highway 160, along the levee on the south side of the American River. There is access from 5th Street and 10th Street. (for additional information contact JP Tindell, 916-808-1955)
- Developer Steven Ames of Brookhurst Homes plans to break ground on Two Rivers Village, a 93-unit single-family development located at North 10th Streets and Vine Avenue.
- Construction is underway at Tower Development's commercial/industrial site at North 10th Street between North B Street and Richards Boulevard with completion anticipated by summer, 2007. The project consists of five buildings ranging in size from 6,000 to 8,800 square feet designed to accommodate single- or multi-tenant use. Each building will have fenced storage yards.
- Developer Steve Goodwin and partners have completed the draft environmental impact review (EIR) on Township 9, the 65-acre historic site (the former Bercut-Richard Cannery) at North 7th Street and Richards Boulevard. The partners hope to begin construction at the site by the end of 2007. The project is a mixed-use 65-acre urban infill development.

The River District (formerly Capitol Station District) is a private, non-profit business association charged with managing and promoting programs to strengthen the economic and cultural well being of the Richards Boulevard/Railyards community. The District manages a Property & Business Improvement District (PBID), a self-imposed and self-governed property assessment district. The River District is located on downtown Sacramento's northern rim, just blocks from California's State Capitol. Its boundaries are the Sacramento River on the west, American River on the north, Union Pacific Railyards and mainline tracks on the south, and Sutter's Landing Park near Business I-80 on the east.

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