

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: May 22, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (4)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum – Historic Folsom Station Public Plaza Modifications Project (Resolution E-09-36)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, consider the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Historic Folsom Station Public Plaza Modifications Project (project) and approve the project to be considered for future funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission consider the MND and approve the project to allow for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: The project area is an approximate 2.1 acres known as the Folsom Historic Railroad Block. The area was conceived to be developed in three phases. Phase 1 consisted of a multi-modal transit facility and was completed in September 2005. Phase 2 was approved in January 2006 and included construction of a 315 space public parking garage. Construction for this phase was completed in March 2008. Phase 3 includes construction of three to four mixed use buildings (restaurants, offices and residences). Phase 3 was approved for construction by the Folsom Historic District Commission in March 2008. Phase 3 will construct a public plaza within and adjacent to the Folsom Historic Railroad Block Project. This phase will consist of improvements to the pedestrian and disabled access connection to the transit plaza (terminus of the gold line) including functional and attractive public open spaces and enhanced hardscape, sidewalks, landscaping and lighting. Funding for Phase 3 is provided, in part, through the STIP.

The MND addendum was prepared by the Folsom Redevelopment and Housing Agency (FRHA) on February 14, 2009, as the CEQA Lead Agency, to evaluate whether proposed public plaza modifications create new impacts or mitigation measures that were not previously evaluated by the FRHA in the 1997 Urban Design Master Plan MND and the January 2006 MND Addendum approved for the Folsom Historic District 2004 Implementation Plan.

Since the type and intensity of development that may result from the proposed Historic Folsom Station Public Plaza Modifications are within the scope of the project that was analyzed in the Railroad Block 1997 Urban Design Master Plan MND; and, since the proposed public plaza modifications do not present any changes that would alter the

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degree or type of significant impacts that were considered in the 1997 MND, it was concluded that the MND and Mitigation Monitoring Program approved in 1997 and the 2006 Addendum remain applicable to the plaza project, Phase 3. Mitigation measures were identified for impacts related to cultural, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, consultation with a qualified archaeologist prior to any grading, clearing, excavation or ground disturbance; employment of federal and state hazardous materials regulations during construction; and requiring excursion train operators to use warning devices of the minimum loudness required by law.

Phase 3 of the project is fully funded and is estimated to cost \$8,147,943. This phase is programmed with STIP TE (\$500,000), FTA (\$2,904,962) and local redevelopment funds (\$4,742,981). Construction is expected to begin in fiscal year 2009/10.

Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-36
- Project Location

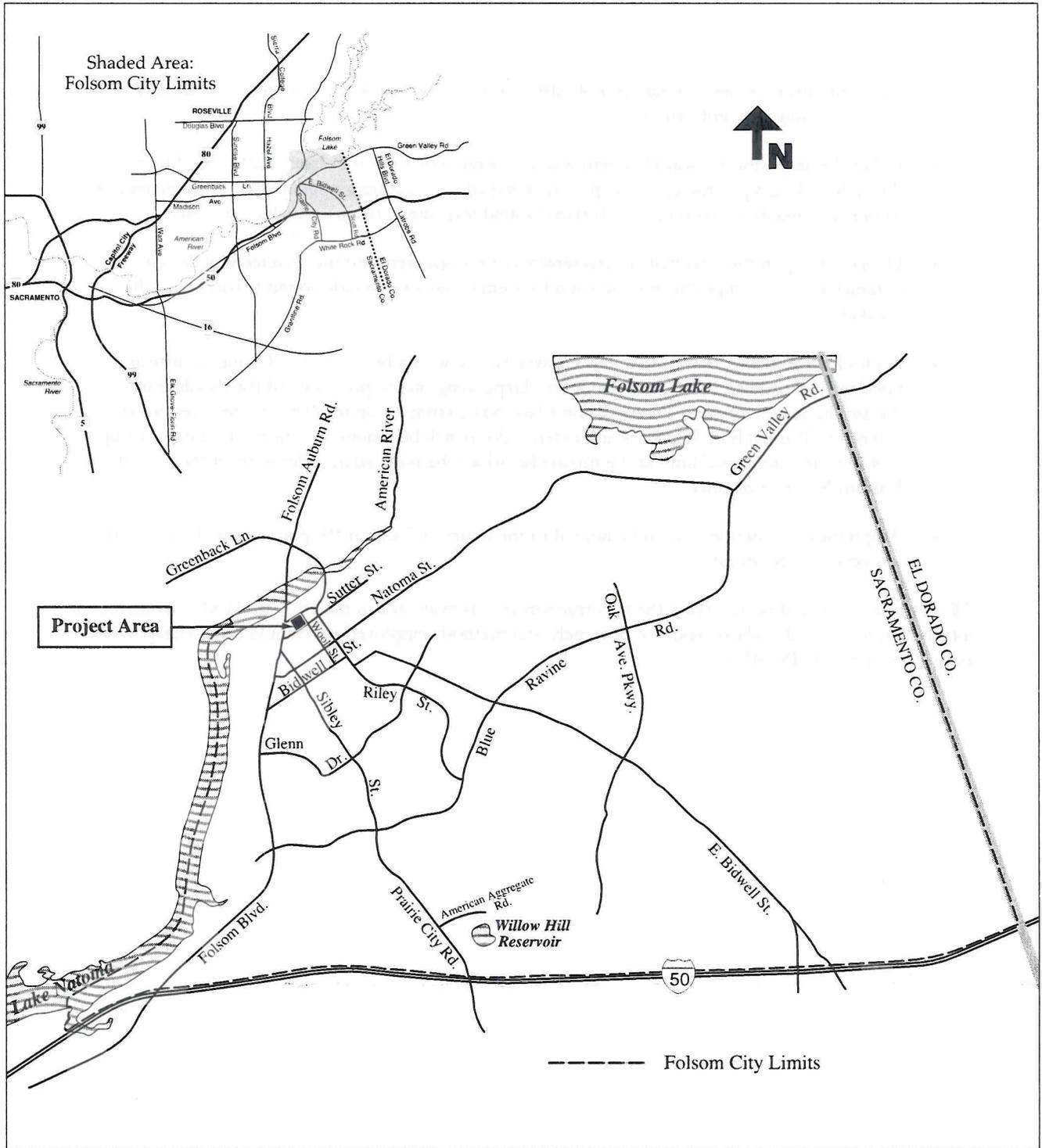
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

03-SAC

Resolution E-09-36

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the City of Folsom has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Historic Folsom Station Public Plaza Modifications
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the City of Folsom has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the project would construct a public plaza including pedestrian and disabled access connection improvements to the transit plaza (terminus to the gold line); and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum; and
- 1.5** **WHEREAS**, the City of Folsom has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the implementation, monitoring, and timing of mitigation measures identified to reduce identified environmental impacts to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



SOURCE: Planning Partners, January 2008

Historic Folsom Station Public Plaza Modifications

Figure 1
Regional Location