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December 9, 2009

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chairman
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Alvarado:

I write to strongly encourage you and your fellow commissioners to allocate \$32 million of Proposition 1B funds for Sacramento's Downtown Railyard projects—the Track Relocation project and the 6th Street Overcrossing—at your public hearing tomorrow.

I'm informed that the two Railyard items on your December 10th agenda are critical to ensuring the city receives an additional \$20 million in federal stimulus ARRA funds. These federal funds require that Sacramento receive the 1B allocation before the December 15th Caltrans ARRA deadline. In addition to the loss of federal stimulus funds if the city fails to secure their 1B allocation in December, Sacramento will also miss critical construction timelines that could result in the loss of \$47 million in Proposition 1C funding for infrastructure that is dependent on the Track Relocation project.

Obviously, the commission's December allocation of Sacramento's Proposition 1B Railyard funding is absolutely critical to ensuring that all the other funding components come together to complete the successful development of this important mixed-use, transit-oriented development in the city I call home.

Timing for this project is so important, in fact, that the city had proposed to lend the state the needed funds through private placement bonds in order to meet the federal stimulus deadline and the Prop 1C timetable. However, Caltrans, the State Department of Finance and the State Treasurer's Office informed city representatives that Prop. 1B funds would instead be made available for December CTC allocation; therefore, the private placement bond effort was abandoned last month.

I hope the Commission will take into consideration the unique circumstance that the city of Sacramento finds itself in and approve the Railyard allocation at your December 10th meeting.

I certainly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

DARRELL STEINBERG