



11/5/2021

VIA EMAIL

RE: ACE Valley Rail- Midtown Sacramento Station

Dear Midtown Sacramento Station Project Team:

In review of the current plans and design elements for the Valley Rail Sacramento Extension- Midtown Station, WALKSacramento, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving quality of life and health equity through transportation, land use, and community development would like to offer our comments as to the location, integrative measures, and design elements of the proposed station.

Locating the station between 19th and 20th Street and along P and R Street affords those traveling to and from the station a significant degree of accessibility due to the pedestrian scale afforded by the mid-and downtown grid offering desirable amenities such as jobs, services, and entertainment. We believe this location will support the primary use of alternative transportation modes for accessing the station rather than relying on SOV's.

Station Enhancements

In review of the proposed enhancements offered in presentation slides, we offer the following comments:

It would be preferable to **utilize platform canopies which offer full coverage** and are not transparent. Given the summer temperatures and predictions of our future climate only getting warmer, protection from the sun should be offered to travelers. **It would be our preference to see utilization of the canopy roof garden designs** as this would provide shade, greenery, and carbon sequestration.

Please ensure that extra care is given to create an open inviting space at the South Main Plaza. The LRT guideway, columns and existing Capital Rubber Co. building create visual barriers in their close proximity.

We would prefer that a more active space than a community garden be utilized to anchor the plaza space. Incorporating food or entertainment-based services will help to generate higher turnover, creating a more enticing space that feels like a destination rather than a place to wait for transportation. With only two trains entering and departing per day, this will help activate the space while not in use by travelers.

Greenery should be abundant and utilized to help maintain visual privacy without solid barriers which may lead to feelings of confinement or being removed from external urban stimulants.

Circulation

Transit:

It has been noted during the presentation that **connections with SacRT Light Rail will be made**, and we would simply like to reinforce the importance of this in generating fewer VMT as a part of commuting to and from the station. **We support enhancing the bus stop located along 19th Street** in front of the

Truitt Bark Park to include seating, weather protection elements, wayfinding signage, and trash receptacles.

Bicycle:

Improvements to surrounding bike infrastructure by way of installing parking protected lanes are appreciated as are their locations. While we appreciate and acknowledge the safety provided by these lane types, **we strongly request that additional signage and safety measure be taken to ensure that pedestrians are aware and alert when crossing these lanes, particularly along 19th Street near the TNC/Transit zone.** When parking is full, it can make it challenging to see cyclists or even acknowledge a lane is present before entering. Particular care should be taken around the proposed mid-block crossings.

Long-term bicycle storage should be made available at each platform, ideally **at the South Main Plaza and southern end of the North Linear Plaza.** This would ensure minimal crowding of the platform by way of people walking their bikes to storage sites.

Pedestrian:

Pedestrian amenities should include an **abundance of seating, easy to interpret wayfinding signage that includes station navigation as well as surrounding landmarks, destinations, and transit connections.** As noted in the polling of desired features and concerns, we support the implementation of **abundant foliage and greenery** within the space as well as **cut off or full cutoff lighting** to ensure light pollution is kept to a minimum.

We would like to emphasize the importance of the mid-block crossings and their proposed locations. The two locations along 19th Street would not only support current pedestrian travel patterns, but will be key in providing safer crossings for those utilizing the TNC/adjacent bus stop for travel to and from the station as well as immediate access from the South Plaza to the Safeway shopping center across the street. The Q Street location is also critical in its provision of safe crossings for access to and from the North Linear Plaza.

Overall, we are very pleased with the potential designs and agreed upon location of the platforms and accompanying plazas. This station carries great potential to support reduced interregional SOV trips as well as localized traffic travelling to and from the station. The proposed design elements and themes being considered for the station are in alignment with our organization's commitment to improved quality of life for all community members through transportation, social, and health equity vantage points.

We look forward to continuing our involvement in the process. If you have any questions or comments concerning the content of this letter, please feel free to contact me at dmoore@walksacramento.org.

Sincerely,

David Moore
Project Coordinator