



DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **\$9 million in bridge construction work to start this month Moving railroad tracks at downtown Railyards to follow with late June start date**

The City of Sacramento and Thomas Enterprises, Inc. are expected to start building bridges over the railroad tracks at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets this month, as part of the \$115 million infrastructure work to take place this summer and fall. Bids for construction of the largest piece of the work, moving the railroad tracks 500 feet north, will be re-advertised as the first round of bids came in \$12 million higher than the \$45 million budgeted, largely due to added features.

The department will ask City Council on Tuesday, May 11, to reject the bids. Legally, the City cannot award a contract when bids are significantly higher than the amount of funding on hand.

“As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, we are always looking for the biggest bang for the buck,” explained Jerry Way, director of the department of transportation. “First, the complexity of the project requires an inordinate number of specialty subcontractors. Secondly, we asked for some features and enhancements that are ‘nice to have,’ but not critical elements. We are in the process of simplifying some of the items requested or we are striking them for now because they can be added back in at a later phase of development. The benefit is we now know the costs of these items.”

The department expects to re-advertise for bids on May 12, open construction bids first week in June and award bids around mid to late June. Due to the City Council July 4 recess, a groundbreaking event has been rescheduled for Monday, July 12. The change in schedule does not jeopardize any of the \$77.6 million in federal or state funding that has been cobbled together for the new tracks, roads and bridges. The new start date also does not impede the overall project’s progress because the bridge work must be well underway before construction starts on new railroad tracks.

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## ***Track relocation project at Railyards, 2***

Work at the Sacramento Railyards is among the state's largest public works projects to get underway this summer. Construction, along with the historic Central Shops abatement work total a public investment of approximately \$115 million, which should sustain or create nearly 3,300 jobs over two years (according to the FHWA formula of one job per \$35,000 investment).

More information on the track relocation project and the planned multi-modal transit facility is at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/director/sitf/index.html>.

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*The Department of Transportation's mission is to ensure the City's transportation system supports and enriches the quality of life for present and future generations.*