



Community & Economic Development Department
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Case Number	Not Applicable
Request	A workshop to discuss the Riverside County Transportation Commission's Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station Improvements Project.
Project Location	Riverside Downtown Metrolink Station
Wards	2
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends a Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) workshop to discuss Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station Improvements Project.

BACKGROUND

At the December 16, 2020, October 20, 2021, and November 17, 2021 CHB Meetings, RCTC presented the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station Improvements Project to provide CHB an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns related to the project and demolition of the former Food Machinery Corporation (FMC) Plant #1, 3033 – 3091 Twelfth Street, on the northwest corner of Twelfth Street and Howard Avenue. The FMC complex was designated as City Landmark #102 on May 12, 1996. RCTC is the lead agency on the project and is not subject to City land use regulations or approvals.

At the October 20, 2021 presentation, RCTC reported that they received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the National Register evaluation completed for the building, as part of the Section 106 review. The evaluation found that the building was eligible for National Register of Historic Places under all four criteria. RCTC also reported that they were working with the SHPO to obtain concurrence on proposed avoidance alternatives to complete the Section 106 review. Because the project falls under the purview of the SHPO, any proposed demolition or alteration of the existing building does not require CHB or Historic Preservation Officer approval.

At the November 17, 2021 meeting, CHB requested that a workshop be agendaized at the December meeting to provide an opportunity for the Board Members to discuss initial comments on the DEIR with the understanding that CHB members would have time to review the document only preliminarily.

DISCUSSION

At the writing of this report, the DEIR Notice of Availability and DEIR have not been released. The expected release is December 3, 2021. The documents will be available to review at: <https://www.rctc.org/projects/riverside-dt-station-improvements/>. The DEIR will also be available for review in-person at the City of Riverside Planning Division, the Cesar Chavez Center, and the RCTC Office, located at 4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor, Riverside, CA 92501. RCTC has indicated that the DEIR will include a 60-day public comment period where 45 days is required per state law.

The City of Riverside staff will be reviewing and evaluating the DEIR to ensure the document adequately analyzes and mitigates all environmental impacts that may affect the City. Staff will submit a comment letter during the comment period, on behalf of the City, to request that RCTC address any inadequacies or omissions within the Final EIR.

Although staff's comments may largely reflect CHB concerns, individual board members may submit their own comments or concerns as a City resident.

Prepared by:	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer
Reviewed by:	David Murray, Principal Planner
Approved by:	Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner