



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2021
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARD: 2
SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY VINE STREET MOBILITY HUB PROJECT – UPDATE

ISSUE:

Update on the planned Vine Street Mobility Hub to be constructed by the Riverside Transit Agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Receive a presentation from the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) regarding the planned Vine Street Mobility Hub; and
2. Provide feedback to RTA regarding the planned facility.

BACKGROUND:

On July 9, 2020, the Mobility and Infrastructure Committee (Committee) received and filed a status update report from the Riverside Transit Agency regarding the planned Vine Street Mobility Hub. During the presentation, RTA outlined the importance of the Mobility Hub to support a multi-modal transportation network, enhance mobility, support sustainability goals, and improve the quality of life for the City and region.

DISCUSSION:

Purpose and Need

The Riverside Downtown Terminal outgrew its capacity due to the growing number of passengers and increased bus activity in Riverside. Additionally, the City of Riverside identified the downtown terminal as a prime location for their new library. In January 2017, a new Downtown Riverside Operating Plan (Plan) was put into place, and the Downtown Terminal was permanently closed. This new Plan allowed for new or enhanced modern bus stops that served streamlined, on-street transfers between routes in downtown Riverside. The Plan currently directs most terminating

routes to the new, temporary layover stops along Vine Street. However, there is a need for a permanent facility to support RTA's expansion plans, alleviate congestion downtown, provide layover amenities for coach operators and passengers and facilitate the implementation of a timed transfer system.

The City of Riverside's General Plan 2025 identified Vine Street as one of the preferred locations for a new mobility hub due to its proximity to the Metrolink station, major employment centers, County and City government centers, University of California, Riverside (UCR), Riverside Community College (RCC), Riverside Convention Center, multiple entertainment venues and urban housing complexes within the downtown core area. Thus, the Mobility Hub will function as a multi-modal transportation hub that supports connectivity between multiple transit agencies such as the RTA and SunLine Transit Agency in Riverside County; Omnitrans, the public transit provider in San Bernardino County; and Metrolink, the commuter rail service provider for Southern California.

Additionally, the City of Riverside completed a Marketplace District Vision Plan in partnership with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in July 2019. This plan identified the area where RTA owns land as a future Transit Oriented District (TOD) with mixed use development, creating a High-Quality Transit Area (HQTA) that will spur economic development and assist the City of Riverside with obtaining future grant funding. This vision is a long-range plan that produces a vision for 2048. The document is not regulatory and has not been formally adopted; however, RTA's Mobility Hub was designed with the knowledge of this Plan and the City of Riverside's future vision for the TOD.

Site Design

The Mobility Hub will support the future multi-modal transportation network and will enhance RTA's long-range transit plan. The Mobility Hub was developed with emerging technologies, energy sources, and mobility solutions in mind. Non-traditional modes, such as shared bikes, shared vehicles, electric vehicles, transportation network companies (TNCs), and pedestrian access will play a pivotal role in addressing the first mile/last mile mobility challenge of this region. State funding has been secured for urban greening, and the siting of the new trees have been designed in partnership with the City of Riverside's Urban Forestry Division. The project is a cohesive effort among all the key stakeholders, including the City, local transportation commission, various business owners, and community groups.

The Vine Street Mobility Hub A&E project was awarded to Psomas at the December 17, 2020, RTA Board of Directors meeting. The Project Development Team (PDT) was assembled and included representatives from Psomas, their subcontractors, RTA, and the City of Riverside. During the A&E phase, additional community outreach was completed to inform the public and solicit feedback on the project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, outreach was completed virtually from April 15-20, 2021, and from August 5-11, 2021. The virtual meeting room was visited 209 times during the final design, and 23 surveys were collected.

The Vine Street Mobility Hub includes 16 bus bays to accommodate current and future RTA bus service and associated facilities, including a coach operator's lounge, security office, storage area, restrooms, staff parking, community plaza, shade structures, and greenspace. The plans also include charging infrastructure for RTA's electric staff vehicles. The site is split into two central bus islands, each with custom overhead shelters and other rider amenities, including seating areas, trash receptacles, an information kiosk, real-time messaging signs, directional signs, lighting, closed-circuit television cameras, and bike storage. The overhead canopies will also include solar panels and lighting to minimize energy demand.

Next Steps

The final design for the Vine Street Mobility Hub has been completed. RTA anticipates awarding the project for construction in December of 2021. Construction would begin in January of 2022 and be completed in January of 2023.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The Vine Street Mobility Hub aligns directly with **Strategic Priority 6 – Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity** which is to: Ensure safe, reliable infrastructure that benefits the community and facilitates connection between people, place and information.

Specifically, the project will provide equitable access to sustainable modes of transportation (**Goal 6.1**), it will improve infrastructure to facilitate connectivity (**Goal 6.2**), and it makes use of new funding opportunities (**Goal 6.3**).

The project aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Riverside Transit Agency engaged the community throughout the mobility hub design process.
2. **Equity** – The Vine Street Mobility Hub will increase the diversity of mobility options offered near the Downtown Metrolink Station; transportation by bus is affordable and accessible.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – While a Transit Agency project, the City and RTA have partnered to secure grant funds for the Mobility Hub’s construction.
4. **Innovation** – The Mobility Hub will serve a dual-purpose as a community park; creating a space for commuters and residents to connect and relax.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Mobility Hub will support the use of new fuel technologies in RTA vehicles and makes use of solar panels to provide shade for waiting passengers.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachment: Presentation