Agenda	Board Meeting	Open/Closed	Information/Action	Issue
Item No.	Date	Session	Item	Date
8	09/28/15	Open	Information	09/23/15

Subject: 7th Street Light Rail Stations, Downtown Sacramento Development and Service to the Golden 1 Center

## **ISSUE**

Consider operational concerns regarding the light rail stations on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Downtown Sacramento as they relate to development in the area and service to the Golden 1 Center.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide staff with recommendations on next steps as appropriate.

## FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

## **DISCUSSION**

The 7<sup>th</sup> & K light rail station originally opened in 1987 with the light rail starter line. The K Street Mall has undergone many revisions in the past 27+ years. In 2010, the 7<sup>th</sup> & K light rail station was moved from its original location on K Street to its new location on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The City of Sacramento moved the station to address the redevelopment plans on K Street in the St. Rose of Lima Park area. 7<sup>th</sup> & K is a well-used station with approximately 1,000 daily boardings. 7<sup>th</sup> & Capitol, one block to the south, and 7<sup>th</sup> & I, two blocks to the north, each have approximately 500 daily boardings.

Long-term plans include a new alignment for the light rail line from K Street to H Street (Attachment 1). The Sacramento Valley Depot should be environmentally cleared by early 2016 and will then move into final design. This will ultimately result in a new light rail alignment with new stations at 12<sup>th</sup> & H and at the Depot. Staff expects that construction could begin as early as Spring 2017. The new light rail alignment will allow Blue Line trains to proceed north on 7<sup>th</sup> and east on H Street. The Streetcar will continue on a K Street alignment. This will likely result in heavier utilization of 7<sup>th</sup> & I station for light rail.

With the opening of the Golden 1 Center Entertainment and Sports Complex, combined with mixed development under construction at 700 K Street (Attachments 2 and 3), the 7<sup>th</sup> & K station presents significant operational challenges in its current configuration. The Golden 1 Center will be situated between J and L Streets and 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. Pedestrians will flow in and out of the arena complex at 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. The 700 K development will have frontage on 7<sup>th</sup> Street within the station area. The 7<sup>th</sup> & K station is situated on a sidewalk compressed by street furniture, trees, and building frontage. The existing conditions include a grade/slope of up to 6%. The track at this location curves onto K Street making the station feel more compressed. During peak hours, the rear cars on 4-car Blue Line trains curve around the corner from 7<sup>th</sup> onto K Street,

Approved:	Presented:
Final 09/23/15	
General Manager/CEO	

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potentially blocking pedestrian flows and sight lines. The increased crowds associated with the redevelopment in the area will exacerbate these issues. Unfortunately the design on 7<sup>th</sup> Street is not ideal to accommodate the large crowds expected to be departing events at the Golden 1 Center or the retail frontage anticipated on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

9<sup>th</sup> & K station is expected to be the primary station serving the Blue Line north in this area. 9<sup>th</sup> & K station is also in need of improved customer amenities. Properties between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets are for sale and/or under development. Existing street furniture, utility boxes and temporary fencing create challenges for pedestrian access and mobility around the 9<sup>th</sup> & K station. Due to the plans to move light rail from K to H Street, investment at this station will likely be limited to items necessary to accommodate larger evening crowds, such as increased lighting, enhanced security, and fare vending equipment.

Of the stations in the vicinity of the Golden 1 Center, 7<sup>th</sup> & Capitol has some of the best potential to be a flagship station for the downtown area. It serves all three light rail lines and is large, flat and well-situated. It will be able to accommodate the large departing crowds expected for event service. This station also dates to the original starter line and requires improved station amenities such as lighting, wayfinding, and new overhead canopies.

7<sup>th</sup> & K and 7<sup>th</sup> & Capitol station are approximately 1 ½ blocks apart. 7<sup>th</sup> & K and 7<sup>th</sup> & I are approximately 2 ½ blocks apart, with a total distance of 4 blocks between 7<sup>th</sup> & I and 7<sup>th</sup> & Capitol. In April 2006, the RT Board adopted station spacing guidelines that established "minimum station spacing" criteria to match certain circumstances. The guidance states that, "The minimum standard for "urban core," "downtown" and/or "town center" stations will be spaced no closer than 4 blocks where the geographic area is generally recognized by the community as such (the key example would be "downtown Sacramento")." In 2009, the TransitAction Plan proposed spacing of ¼ mile in the urban core. The plan clarified that the standards are only guidelines that planners and designers will need to adapt and adjust to match the specific circumstances and communities that specific routes will serve.

The 8<sup>th</sup> & K and 8<sup>th</sup> & Capitol stations are expected to be used by passengers going to the new Golden 1 Center. These stations require some updating, but passengers will be primarily unloading at this station and walking toward the Golden 1 Center or other downtown destinations. Possible upgrades include way-finding, signage, enhanced security, and lighting.

Staff has presented the operating plan for the Golden 1 Center to the RT Board, the joint System-Wide Improvement Initiative Working Groups, the Kings, the Downtown Partnership, the City of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). This initial outreach indicates that the 7<sup>th</sup> & Capitol station is preferred as the landmark station for the arena due to the previously described operational issues at 7<sup>th</sup> & K station.

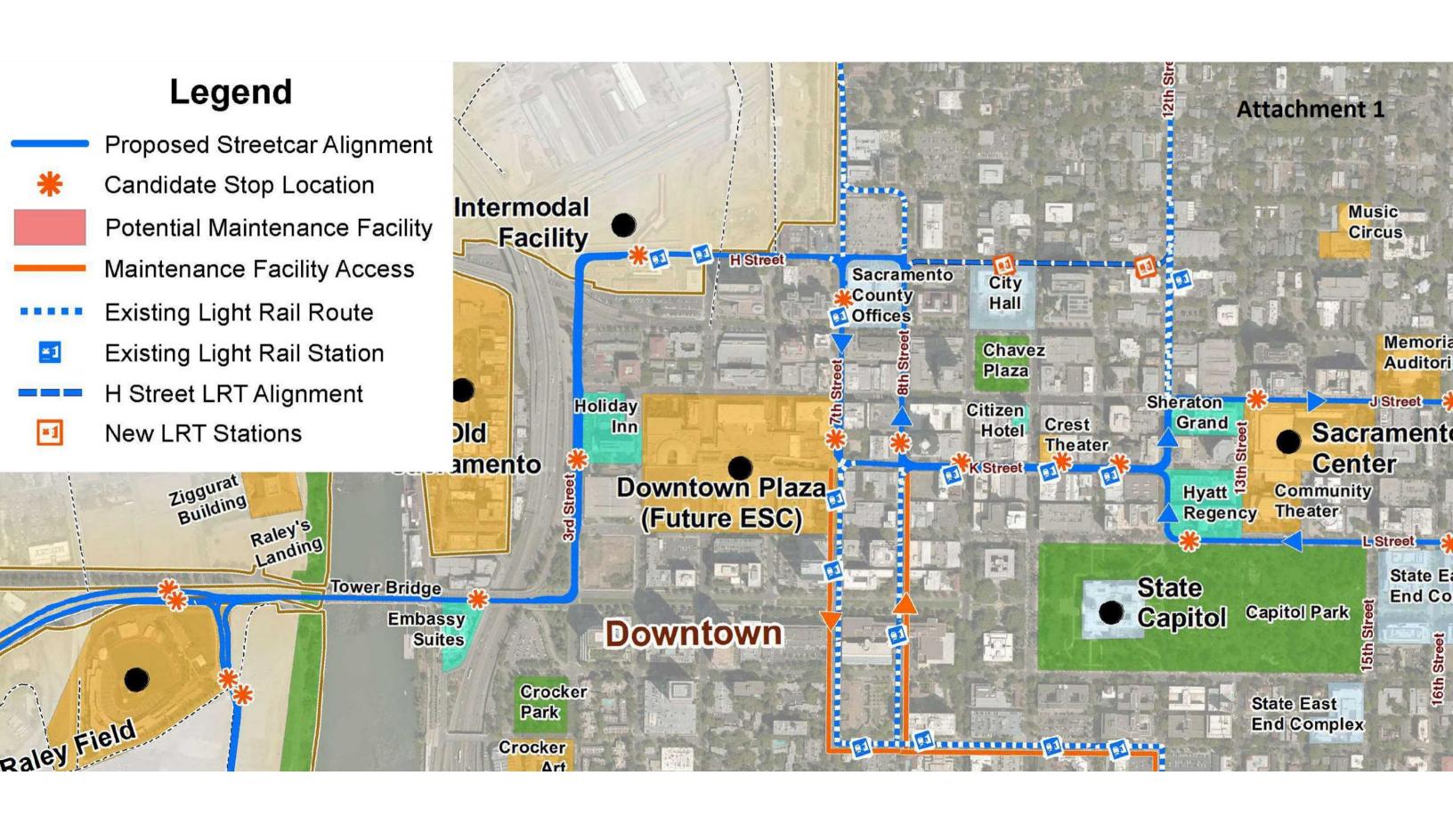
There are several options to address the operational issues presented on 7<sup>th</sup> Street:

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- 1. Leave the 7<sup>th</sup> & K station in its existing configuration, run three car trains during major events, and take additional measures to mitigate crowds. 7th Street will be closed for major events. Passengers could board the train from both sides with additional amenities to control pedestrian flow, such as temporary bollards on the street side of the train. Issues on the 7th street sidewalk will be difficult to mitigate (such as the compressed sidewalk, conflict with planned retail, and sidewalk grade/slope).
- 2. Move the station boarding area north of its existing location on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. This approach may conflict with planned development at 7<sup>th</sup> & J or 7<sup>th</sup> & L; however, it will be ideally situated for the new light rail alignment planned for H Street. It is also a large, flat space well-suited for a landmark station. However, the funding for a new station at this location has not been identified.
- 3. Close the 7<sup>th</sup> & K station entirely and direct passengers to the 7th & Capitol station. Significant upgrades planned for 7th & Capitol will accommodate most passengers. Costs to close the 7<sup>th</sup> & K station are estimated between \$140,000 and \$170,000.
- 4. Close the 7<sup>th</sup> & K station for major events only and direct passengers to the 7<sup>th</sup> & Capitol station.

Staff hopes to receive input from the Board regarding this issue, then schedule a public workshop(s) to present the service plan and options, schedule additional meetings with stakeholders, such as RT's Mobility Advisory Council, and develop a final recommendation for RT Board approval.

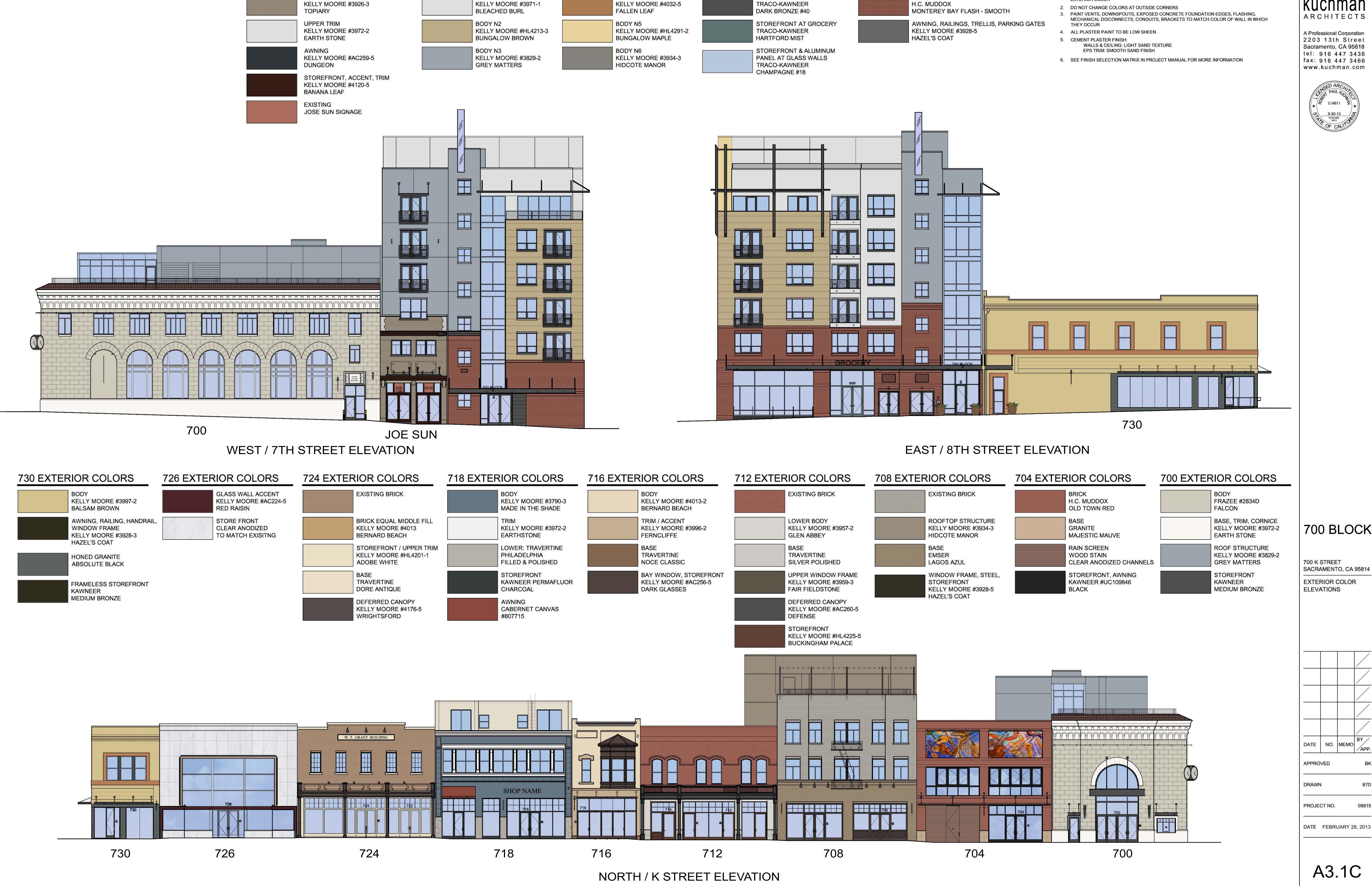




**EXTERIOR FINISH AND COLOR NOTES** 

1. SEE COLOR BOARDS PREPARED BY KUCHMAN ARCHITECTS TO CONFIRM EACH

**EXTERIOR COLOR** 



WINDOWS, STOREFRONT

JOE SUN EXTERIOR COLORS

**BRICK** 

EXTERIOR COLORS AT NEW CONSTRUCTION

BODY N1

ARCHITECTS

A Professional Corporation 2203 13th Street Sacramento, CA 95818 tel: 916 447 3436 fax: 916 447 3466 www.kuchman.com

700 BLOCK

EXTERIOR COLOR **ELEVATIONS** 

DATE NO. MEMO BY APP. DATE FEBRUARY 28, 2013

A3.1C

