

## **NINTH STREET BIKEWAY WILL CONNECT TO EMERYVILLE**

On June 26, 2007, the Berkeley City Council voted unanimously to adopt an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents required to purchase the real property known as the 9th Street Drill Track in southwest Berkeley from the Union Pacific Railroad Company for an amount not to exceed \$3,008,590 including closing costs, and adopting a notice of exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act for the purchase and subsequent construction of a bicycle path and a Fire Department warehouse on the property.

### **CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard currently terminates at Heinz Street, offering cyclists no good passage south of Ashby Avenue into Emeryville. The only alternate routes are indirect and follow roads heavy with motor vehicle traffic.

The City of Berkeley Fire Department currently leases a warehouse in another area of Berkeley for storage of emergency equipment. Under Measure Q, passed in 2000, funding is available to purchase property and construct a permanent warehouse for Fire Department emergency equipment.

### **BACKGROUND**

City staff have been working for years to plan and fund the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension, a proposed bikeway connecting Berkeley's 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard to the Doyle Street Greenway in Emeryville. The proposed project alignments will close the existing gap in bikeways between the intersection of Heinz and 9th Streets in West Berkeley and the Emeryville City limit, following abandoned railroad right-of-way and existing City roadways. Upon completion, the project will provide a safe, direct bicycle crossing of Ashby Avenue offering cyclists an unbroken, regional route through Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and into Oakland. In order to construct the bikeway and the warehouse, the City must first acquire the necessary right-of-way from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR): an abandoned spur track known as the 9th Street Drill Track that crosses Ashby Avenue, Folger, and Murray Streets between San Pablo Avenue and 7th Street. Public Works Transportation has coordinated extensively with the City Attorney's office on this project.

### **FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Acquisition of the 9th Street Drill Track would result in the expenditure of \$3,008,590. The City and UPRR have performed their own independent appraisals of the property and are in agreement that the fair market value of the property is \$3,000,000. Closing costs for this purchase price will not exceed \$8,590.

### **Summary of Funds : 9th Street Drill Track Acquisition**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
98-99 CMAQ (Federal)	\$315,766
05-06 RBPP CMAQ (Federal)	\$1,034,000
05-06 TDA 3 (State)	\$135,000
06-07 TDA 3 (State)	\$121,173
Measure B Bike/Pedestrian Funds (local)	\$402,651
Measure Q Bond Funds for Fire Dept Water System (local)	\$1,000,000

### **Total: \$3,008,590**

Funds for the acquisition would come from a variety of federal, State and local sources detailed in the table above. With the exception of the Measure B Bicycle and Pedestrian funds, all of the monies listed in the table have been allocated to the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension or the Fire Department warehouse projects and cannot be used for purposes other than this property acquisition. Public Works Transportation has been stockpiling its Measure B Bike/Ped funds for several years to finance this purchase and has a fund balance sufficient for this purpose. In addition to acquisition costs, subsequent to the purchase, construction of the bikeway is estimated to cost \$500,000, which will be covered by a grant the City has already secured from the State Bicycle Transportation Account. Measure Q was written to allow \$2,000,000 for purchase or construction of a warehouse facility to house the Mobile Water System equipment. After acquisition, the remaining \$1,000,000 in Measure Q funding will be used to cover construction of a prefab metal warehouse structure on the site.

**This document is a edited summary of the Berkeley City Council item. The edits were done by a member of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association and Berkeley Partners for Parks. The official city web page and agenda item can be found here:**

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/citycouncil/2007citycouncil/packet/062607/06-26a.htm>