



## THE RIVER DISTRICT

### **Innovative Transportation Project Transforms Gateway to Downtown Through River District**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – July 2, 2012 -- A recently-completed transportation project in one of Sacramento's most up and coming business districts has transformed an industrial grade 1960s-style freeway intersection with a daily traffic count of over 30,000 into an attractive, safe and efficient interchange that features pedestrian friendly street crossings, bicycle facilities, and a unique architectural icon.

The project, located at I-5 and Richards Boulevard, serves as the northern gateway to downtown Sacramento through the River District, the 830-acre central city neighborhood now transitioning into a mixed use, transit oriented area.

The \$10 million project reduces traffic congestion, provides better traffic circulation and queuing of cars on and off Richards Boulevard during peak hours and makes it easier to walk and bicycle in the area. The project also includes a stunning lighted architectural feature that fills the I-5 underpass in blue, green and purple tones, representing the interplay of the nearby American and Sacramento Rivers.

Much like freeway systems located in downtowns across the nation, I-5 was built in the mid-1960s when cars were the focus of highway projects. The I-5

Richards interchange was constructed with narrow sidewalks, no bike facilities and limited lighting.

In addition to the widening the on-and off-ramps and parts of Richards Boulevard, and improving streets leading to the Richards Boulevard-Bercut Drive interchange, other enhancements include the extension of Bercut Drive south into the Railyards, pedestrian friendly and ADA compliant street crossings, bicycle facilities and bike lanes.

To enhance safety at the Richards-Bercut intersection, striping and colored concrete treatments make drivers more alert to pedestrians. New lighting provides safety for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

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[The River District](#), an 830-acre central city district, is quickly transitioning from a light-industrial, low-intensity commercial area into one of Sacramento's up and coming vibrant, mixed use, transit oriented communities. The historic commercial area will combine an eclectic mix of residential, office and commercial land uses designed to take advantage of multi-modal transportation options, riverfront views and open space. [www.riverdistrict.net](http://www.riverdistrict.net), (916) 321-5599.

**For More Information, Contact**

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