

# Blue Line

TO COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE



## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

### INTRODUCTION

The Blue Line to Cosumnes River College (CRC) light rail extension project is one of the highest priority transit projects in the region and, once completed, will extend light rail 4.3 miles south from the existing terminus at Meadowview Road to Cosumnes River College.

This \$270 million project has brought much-needed jobs to the Sacramento region and will provide an attractive alternative to driving. Revenue service is anticipated to begin in September 2015. The Blue Line to CRC project will add four new light rail stations (Morrison Creek, Franklin, Center Parkway and Cosumnes River College); 2,700 park-and-ride spaces; and a new transit center at the Cosumnes River College Station.



## Project Update

Construction crews have been able to take advantage of the dry weather over the summer months to make considerable progress on moving the project closer to completion. Light rail station platforms and track work are taking shape, with installation of mini-high platforms and the Overhead Contact System (OCS) making the light rail extension more recognizable.

The Traction Power Substations (TPSS) at Franklin Boulevard and Cosumnes River Boulevard were set in place on September 24.

Construction crews are still working south from Meadowview Road in the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) corridor. The soldier pile walls have been constructed and the sound walls are nearly completed in the corridor. Rail is being installed and ballast is being laid in the corridor, working from the south to the north.

Work in Parking Lot F at Cosumnes River College was completed and re-opened in October.



Center Parkway Station track work



Center Parkway Station construction



Cosumnes River College Station construction



Franklin Station platform work

## Meet RT's Director, Project Management



Ed Scofield has worked for RT for more than 18 years, and has been actively involved with the Blue Line to CRC project for almost six years. Ed was the Public Information Officer

responsible for outreach related to the first phase of the Blue Line (South Line Phase 1) project, which extended light rail from downtown Sacramento to Meadowview Road. Ed has since transitioned into the role of Director, Project Management for the second phase of the light rail extension that will serve Cosumnes River College in September 2015.

Ed is responsible for managing the activities needed for successful completion of the project, including addressing day-to-day critical issues and proposing solutions. Ed works directly with RT staff and the Blue Line to CRC construction management team. He shares the responsibility for overall project performance, and is the point-of-contact for matters pertaining to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and project management issues. Ed also has the primary responsibility to lead right-of-way acquisition and environmental activities for the project.

Ed enjoys working at RT. "The people I work with and the job that we do (building light rail extensions) makes going to work a pleasure," said Ed. "I'm excited about bringing light rail to Cosumnes River College in September 2015."



## Look Ahead

Over the next few months, the Blue Line to CRC light rail stations will start to take shape as RT's contractor installs fences, curb and gutters, and completes electrical work related to operating the system.

In addition, construction crews will install the necessary electrical components in preparation for the crossing gates and signals at grade crossings.

In the UPRR corridor, the contractor is expected to remove the temporary construction fencing and begin restoring the backyard areas that were used as temporary construction easement. This work is anticipated to begin before year's end. Utility work required prior to the installation of track across both Meadowview Road and Franklin Boulevard will be completed.

The pedestrian bridge deck for the Deer Lake Pedestrian Bridge is expected to be set in early 2015.

## Meadowview Road Closure

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 (8 P.M.) THROUGH  
MONDAY, JANUARY 26 (5 A.M.)

Construction activities related to RT's Blue Line to CRC light rail extension project will require a complete closure of Meadowview Road at the UPRR tracks beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, January 16, 2015, and continuing until 5 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2015.

RT's contractor will be installing light rail tracks across Meadowview Road as part of the Blue Line to CRC project. In addition to installing light rail tracks at this site, Meadowview Road between the UPRR tracks and

Detroit Boulevard must be reconstructed. Work will include rebuilding the curb, gutter and sidewalk in this area, completely removing the roadway, and re-paving this section of Meadowview Road.

Notifications about the Meadowview Road closure will be sent to adjacent neighborhoods to give motorists and pedestrians time to become familiar with the detours. The main detour will be 24th Street to Florin Road to Franklin Boulevard, and vice versa. Motorists can also use Freeport Boulevard or Center Parkway to travel to Florin Road.

In addition to mailed notifications, changeable message signs will be posted at key locations in the area to alert drivers to the road closure. RT will provide regular updates on Facebook, Twitter and the Blue Line to CRC website ([blueline2crc.com](http://blueline2crc.com)).

As with any construction, dates are subject to change based on weather and other conditions. Sign up for Construction Alerts to stay informed of Blue Line to CRC construction activities and traffic impacts.

## Additional Road Closures

In February, RT's contractor will temporarily close Franklin Boulevard just north of Cosumnes River Boulevard in order to install light rail tracks as part of the Blue Line to CRC project. Unlike Meadowview Road, road reconstruction is not necessary. Because of this, the closures will take place over multiple weekends. Details are still being developed and notifications will be provided well in advance of these closures.



Franklin Station park-and-ride construction



Installing rail at the Franklin Station



Installing rail on the Cosumnes River Boulevard bridge



UPRR corridor soundwall construction

## Questions and Answers

In each newsletter, RT outreach staff will answer questions that we have received about the Blue Line to CRC light rail extension project.

**Q: What is the light rail service frequency of the trains serving the future Cosumnes River College Station?**

**A:** Light rail trains will arrive and depart the Cosumnes River College Station every 15 minutes

**Q: Will there be level boarding (i.e., board light rail trains without climbing stairs from the station platform) at the new light rail stations?**

**A:** The new light rail stations are designed to accommodate level boarding, but RT's current fleet of light rail trains are not designed for level boarding at this time. RT is working towards replacing the existing light rail trains with "low-floor" trains in the future.

**Q: Will ridership determine how many light rail train cars will be used on the Blue Line to CRC?**

**A:** Ridership will not determine how many light rail train cars will serve the Blue Line to CRC. Light rail trains will operate with four cars during peak commute hours and fewer during off-peak hours. Due to the length of the station platform, RT cannot operate light rail service with more than four cars. A four-car train is approximately the length of a city block in downtown Sacramento. Operating with more cars would block intersections and cause major traffic delays.



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## Glossary of Terms

**Ballast:** Ballast is coarse gravel that's laid to form a bed for streets and railroads.

**Bridge Deck:** A bridge deck is the pedestrian walkway surface of a bridge.

**Grade Crossing:** A grade crossing is an intersection where a rail line crosses a road or path at the same level.

**Mini-High Platform:** A mini-high platform is a ramp located at each light rail station that allows universal accessibility for individuals that are not able to climb stairs or are in a wheelchair or other mobility device that need to board light rail trains.

**Overhead Contact System (OCS):** An overhead contact system is an overhead line or overhead wire used to transmit electrical energy to streetcars, trolleybuses or light rail trains.

**Soldier Pile Wall:** A soldier pile wall is an underground concrete retaining or barrier wall, which in this application separates the RT light rail track from the PG&E gas line.

**Traction Power Substation (TPSS):** A traction substation or traction current converter plant is an electrical substation that converts electric current to an appropriate frequency/voltage to distribute power to streetcars, trolleybuses or light rail trains.



**Blue Line to CRC project information line:**  
916-556-0113  
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