



February 14, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Daniel Abbes
City of Sacramento, Community Development Department
300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Dos Rios Hobby Condos (P21-023)

Dear Daniel Abbes:

Thank you for routing the Dos Rios Hobby Condos project to Civic Thread (formerly WALKSacramento). After reviewing the site, we are pleased to see its main entrance/exit planned closely to Richards Boulevard, where the nearest bus stops are located. As Civic Thread is recognized as a leader in community centered active transportation advocacy, and Safe Routes to School programming for the Greater Sacramento Region, our immediate concerns will regard bicyclist, pedestrian, and vehicle safety and access around the project site. We offer the following recommendations to improve the health-supportive features of the project.

Throughout the plans, it is not clear if the site will provide internal walking and biking paths between the building, clubhouse, and entrance/exit. The current design shows that if a resident was to visit the clubhouse from their live/work space, they would have two options to either travel through the aisles between buildings, or travel around the entire site on its surrounding sidewalks. As we know from human nature, the most used route is typically the quickest and easiest, and not necessarily the safest. For residents walking, biking, or rolling, who are looking to quickly access their clubhouse or the main route off Richards Boulevard, they will be sharing the aisle with cars and will be walking past garages with the likeliness of cars blindly backing out of their garages. We recommend striping within these aisles to designate clear and safe crossing areas for pedestrians and bicyclists who choose to navigate internally within the site without a car.

While this site is intended to be a live/work space, we identify potential concerns with future families' access to the nearest school (Smythe Academy Middle School) located

across the street off Dos Rios Street, as well as nearest bus stops and main roads off Richards Boulevard. The current plans show a disconnect between sidewalks to make way for entrance/exit driveways, while the neighboring streets are not supportive of people traveling by active transportation. As this development is in review, we call for the re-envisioning of the bike lanes and crosswalks surrounding it. While we understand changes to the road cannot be made overnight, we continue to advocate for safer routes to school and healthy destinations. We hope to see future additions to support protected modes of active transportation and further accessibility.

We suggest the following to help alleviate some of our mentioned safety concerns:

- Adding a marked crosswalk off Dos Rios Street and Vine Street to connect Dos Rios Hobby Condos and Smythe Academy Middle School.
- Providing a "Slow for Pedestrian Crossing" signage at the driveway exit on Street 10 off Dos Rios Street that is not obstructive to the driver's view. This will help remind and alert drivers of potential pedestrians that could be crossing the driveway to continue onto the sidewalk.
- If a Class II bike lane cannot fit on Dos Rios Street (between Richards Boulevard and Vine Street), we encourage markings for a sharrow to signify motorists to be alert and share the road with bicyclists.

Development projects that lead to more walking and active travel are critical to our community's future. Human beings need moderate exercise, such as walking, for about 30 minutes a day to promote physical health and well-being. Only 30% of the population in the Sacramento region is active at this minimal level, often due to limitations placed by a built environment not suited to walking and other types of physically active travel. A 30-minute walk is about one and a half miles. If more people could obtain regular exercise by walking and bicycling to their regular destinations, in lieu of driving, it could yield significant health improvements to the resident population of this area. Reduced driving would also decrease vehicle emissions and the prevalence of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other air pollution-related conditions. More trips by walking and bicycling could help reduce the current expensive burden on the health care system of providing medical care to more people with chronic conditions due to inactivity and poor air quality.

Civic Thread is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments

that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved public health and physical fitness, better air quality, a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in neighborhoods, and more sustainable communities and local economies.

Please notify Civic Thread of future routings or notices for this project.

Sincerely,

Pristina Zhang

Pristina Zhang, MPH
Project Manager