

Local Flood Control Agency and State Reevaluate Levee Safety in Response to New Federal Regulations

West Sacramento has a strong track record of successfully improving levees to meet or exceed federal safety regulations. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently changed those regulations based upon lessons learned from previous levee failures and new knowledge about effective levee systems. The West Sacramento Flood Control Agency and the State Department of Water Resources are evaluating area levees to determine the extent of necessary repairs and improvements. The evaluations will help the city estimate the cost of critical improvements and repairs and prioritize projects.

The flood control agency is pursuing federal and state funds to pay for most of the cost of levee evaluations, repairs and improvements. Acquiring federal and state funding will require a local match. Different sources will be tapped to provide the local match. Property owners will soon be asked to approve a ballot measure to establish a benefit assessment district for a portion of the local share. Bonds would be issued from annual parcel assessments to pay for levee maintenance and improvements. Developers will be asked to pay for the balance of the local share in the form of development fees.

The flood control agency will share levee evaluation results, projected costs, and financing strategies during a series of public information meetings.

The following meetings are to be held at West Sacramento Civic Center, 1110 West Capitol Ave.

- 6:30 p.m., **Tuesday, April 17**
- 6:30 p.m., **Tuesday, May 15**
- 6:30 p.m., **Tuesday, June 5**

Please . . .

No Motor Vehicles on Levees

Maybe it's the noise from off-road vehicles that drowns out the message, so let's try again: Driving motor vehicles on levees is against the law (California Vehicle Code 21116). Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles cause damage to levees, undermining the very levees that protect West Sacramento from high waters. When you observe this illegal use of levees, do your community a favor and call police

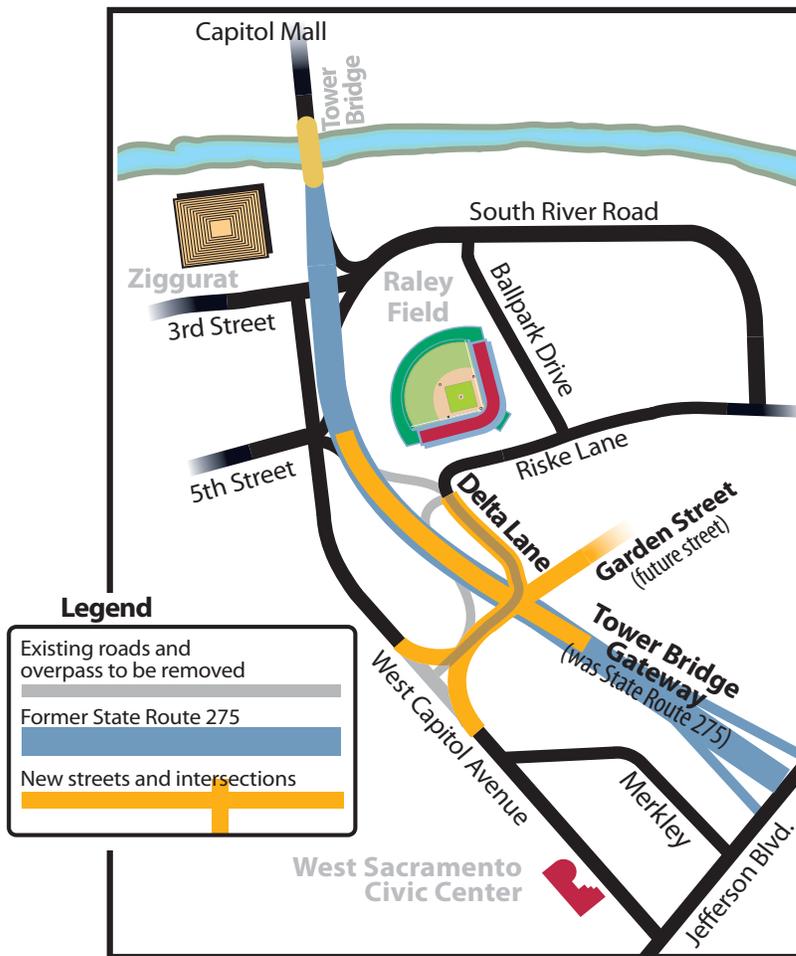


Changes Coming to Tower Bridge Gateway

The long awaited modifications to Tower Bridge Gateway—the former State Route 275 which was relinquished to the city in 2000—are scheduled to begin this spring.

Today Tower Bridge Gateway is a freeway-like passage that cuts across West Sacramento to the Tower Bridge. With substandard ramp connections and overpass structures, the current roadway is a barrier to connecting the area to the south, the Triangle area, and the area north, the Washington Neighborhood area.

The project this spring, identified as the “West Phase,” will modify Tower Bridge Gateway from the current freeway configuration to a city street from east of the Jefferson Boulevard interchange to the 5th Street on-ramp.



Project features:

- The Riske Lane overcrossing will be removed.
- Signalized intersections will be created with the proposed Garden Street at West Capitol Avenue and the proposed Garden Street/Delta Lane at Tower Bridge Gateway.
- Tower Bridge Gateway and Garden Street (old Delta Lane) will be widened.
- Landscaped areas will be added to both sides of the street.
- Bike lanes and sidewalks are also proposed.

The West Phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

Ultimate modifications to the Tower Bridge Gateway corridor would include the creation of three new at-grade intersections, at Riske Lane, Fifth Street, and Third Street, but this segment of the project, which is contingent upon the relocation of the Union Pacific railroad spur track and project funding, is a few years away.

However, with construction beginning on the west phase of the Tower Bridge Gateway and simultaneous construction to widen the Tower Bridge walkways, citizens are cautioned to drive safely, have patience, and expect construction delays. Please consider alternative routes to and from Sacramento, via the Pioneer or I Street bridges.