Project Title: Davis Amtrak Station Pilot Project Evaluation: Informing Long Term Solutions to the Davis Amtrak Station Access Barriers

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WHAT IS THE NEED?

Currently, the Davis Amtrak station has the third highest passenger usage along the Capitol Corridor and ridership is increasing. However, the parking lot fills up before 6 a.m. which limits potential ridership due to finite availability. Since the parking lot is free of charge, there is little interest and ability to add new parking capacity. Therefore, the City of Davis is exploring new mobility solutions to improve access to the station, make commuting by train easier, and enable potential passengers to make their commutes more productive, affordable, and travel-time competitive.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The research team will develop a set of scientific-based solutions to the Davis Amtrak Station Access Barriers. This project is an extension of the Phase I study, “Davis Amtrak Station Parking and Access Barriers”, which is a current seed grant project through the Pacific Southwest Region University Transportation Center.

In Phase I, the researchers aim to help the City of Davis to plan and implement a pilot program to improve access to the Davis Amtrak Station, partnering with Cool Davis, Unitrans from the University of California Davis, and the Capitol Corridor. Due to timing, the research analysts only assess the current conditions and barriers to using the Davis Amtrak station and the Capitol Corridor; and make recommendations to the City of Davis for the pilot.
In Phase II, the researchers will collaborate with the partners mentioned above, and focus on evaluating and implementing the pilot program and longer-term planning. They will conduct surveys targeting the residents and passengers during and after the implementation. Once the pilot has been completed, the research team will provide recommendations to the City of Davis.

**WHAT IS OUR GOAL?**

The Phase I research will inform the stakeholders the implementation of a pilot program to support the use of new mobility options and other modes to access the Davis station. The pilot will include Carzac, Lyft, and Transloc as partners. The proposed research will build on the Phase I study to evaluate the pilot and inform the development of a longer-term solution to the current access challenges at the Davis station. These changes and the results of the pilot project could be adapted to work at other Amtrak stations with similar issues.

**WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?**

The research team will be able to recommend longer-term program based on the research findings to increase ridership on the Capitol Corridor at the Davis station. These long-term recommendations will further improve the usage of the Capitol Corridor and Davis station.

**WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?**

The project was delayed due to changes in the City’s timeline for program implementation, and due to further delays and changes resulting from COVID-19. The survey was modified to account for transportation impacts resulting from COVID-19, and current and future changes in travel patterns that related to the project topics. This project is complete, and all deliverables will be submitted for review by November 2020.