



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richmond Hosts Downtown Walking Tour with State Legislators to Showcase Revitalization Efforts

Richmond, CA – Today, Mayor Eduardo and District 3 Councilmember Doria Robinson, members and founding leaders of the newly established Macdonald Avenue Corridor Task Force, welcomed Assemblymember Matt Haney (AD-17), representatives from Assemblymember Buffy Wicks's office (AD-14), representatives from Senator Jesse Arreguin's office (SD-7), and regional leaders for a Downtown Richmond Walking Tour.



Pictured: Mayor Eduardo, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Assemblymember Haney, regional leaders, and community partners during the Downtown Richmond Walking Tour

The event, organized in partnership with the RichmondMain Street Initiative (RMSI), showcased ongoing investments, community partnerships, and revitalization projects aimed at strengthening and reimagining Downtown Richmond.

The tour began at the RMSI office and featured introductions from local and state leaders, as well as updates on major initiatives, including:

- Richmond Rising Transformative Climate Community Hub – a \$35 million Transformative Climate Communities grant bringing a new hub to Downtown Richmond.
- BART/Amtrak Improvements and the Nevin–City Hall Bike Boulevard, supported by Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) and BAAQMD grants.
- The establishment of the Macdonald Avenue Revitalization Task Force, dedicated to activating and reimagining the corridor.
- The Lot: Downtown Richmond Food Court, a new small-vendor incubator and the city's latest food destination.

Participants then joined a guided walking tour through Downtown Richmond, led by RMSI Executive Director Sarah Wally. Stop highlighted key redevelopment sites, arts and cultural anchors, local businesses, and areas of future opportunity.

Additional attendees included the Richmond Chamber of Commerce President Vernon Whitmore, along with representatives from the City's Economic Development and Planning Departments and the Mayor's Office. Together, participants shared perspectives on development opportunities, business needs, and strategies to ensure the corridor becomes a welcoming and vibrant destination.

"I've been touring downtowns across California, and each has a unique story—Richmond's is one of partnership, bringing together the best minds to shape the future of its downtown," **said Assemblymember Matt Haney, chair of the Committee on Downtown Recovery.** "Our committee is focused on partnering with cities like Richmond to support and strengthen their local strategies to bring downtown back."

"We are proud to showcase Downtown Richmond and the vibrant businesses, arts, and cultural organizations that make it unique and need our support. Having our partners from BART, Capitol Corridor, and the local community walk alongside us underscores the importance of collaboration in building a thriving downtown," **said Mayor Eduardo.** "We are united in improving and reimagining our downtown while prioritizing affordability and opportunity for our residents. We want the very people who make Richmond so amazing to benefit from and enjoy its growth. We are especially grateful to Assemblymember Haney for visiting and seeing first-hand the opportunities and challenges our city faces as we work toward recovery and revitalization."

Event Partners & Participants

City of Richmond: Mayor Eduardo Martinez, City Manager Shasa Curl, Director of Community Development Lina Velasco, Economic Development staff, and Councilmember Doria Robinson (District 3)

State Leaders: Assemblymember Matt Haney, representatives from Assemblymember Buffy Wicks's office, and representatives from Senator Jesse Arreguin's office.

Regional Partners: BART Director Barnali Ghosh and Vernae Graham, Capitol Corridor Representative

Community Leaders: Richmond Main Street Initiative, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Leftside Printing, and others.

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