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Build SMART and the Ped/Bike bridge

EDITOR: All across the United States, important infrastructure projects are being cancelled by short-sighted politicians responding to the Wall Street-manufactured financial crisis by insisting on “austerity” measures that will only deepen the crisis. The famous economist John Maynard Keynes advised President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression and came up with the formula to jump-start the economy by increasing public-sector infrastructure spending to compensate for the collapse of private-sector investment. The New Deal programs put millions back to work building bridges, dams, roads, electricity grids and public buildings. Unfortunately, FDR's political opponents came back to power and defunded many of the projects in the name of fiscal responsibility, inducing a double-dip recession that lasted until World War II. The SMART rail line and the Highway 101 bike/pedestrian overcrossing are classic examples of good long-term investments that would generate jobs and economic activity now and yield substantial benefits for generations to come. They also would help brand the region as a hospitable location for high-wage knowledge-economy companies that can choose to site their businesses where they can offer quality of life for their employees.

Build the train and the bridge. We've been here before. Don't get fooled again.

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