

STEVE MIKLOS MAYOR OF FOLSOM

**Nominated by the City of Folsom
for “Public Champions for Business”
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce**



Steve Miklos has been the mayor of Folsom since 1996 and a member of the Folsom City Council since 1994. During his time in office, he has focused on improving the business environments of both the City of Folsom and the Sacramento region. His accomplishments include supporting construction of two regional bridges; helping bring light rail to Folsom; assisting businesses in moving to Folsom; helping develop a streamlined planning/inspections/permitting department; working to keep Folsom Dam Road open during lengthy repairs; assisting businesses during major events; negotiating a sponsorship for an aquatics center; working with a developer to build a park; acting as city liaison with the Folsom Chamber of Commerce; and giving young people positive experiences with the city and business.

Mayor Miklos is at the forefront of regional transportation improvements. He played a major role in getting two regional bridges built in Folsom and was mayor when both of them opened. He also worked to bring light rail to Folsom.

- **The Lake Natoma Crossing**, which opened in Folsom in August 1999, included not only the four-lane bridge but also improvements at the Greenback Lane/Folsom Auburn Road intersection and on Folsom Boulevard, as well as the innovative overpass known as the Leidesdorff Lid. This project improved traffic patterns in Folsom and completed a key regional transportation corridor that gives northeast Sacramento and south Placer County residents a direct route to Highway 50 and downtown Sacramento, improving the commute and facilitating access to area businesses. The opening of the new bridge



The Lake Natoma Crossing, which opened when Steve Miklos was mayor, eases traffic congestion and enhances Folsom’s historic district.

correlates with increased business development along Folsom Boulevard, the road that leads from the bridge south to Highway 50. The Lake Natoma Crossing is much more than a vehicle bridge. It benefits the whole Sacramento area by providing for future light rail service to Folsom, connecting with local and regional bike trails, and offering sidewalks, bike lanes and overlooks for pedestrians and bicyclists. Besides supporting the construction, Mayor Miklos' role in building this bridge included working with the city's transportation consultants to put together an innovative financing package that made funding the \$75 million bridge project possible.

- Mayor Miklos was instrumental in bringing home the **Folsom Historic Truss Bridge**. This bridge was originally built in Folsom in 1893, then moved to Siskiyou County in 1931. Under the leadership of Mayor Miklos, it was returned to Folsom in 1998 and rebuilt as a pedestrian crossing. The truss bridge now links to local trails and the American River Parkway trail system, giving pedestrians and bicyclists an alternate method of transportation. The bridge opened in April 2000. Project cost was \$2 million.

- Mayor Miklos played a major role in extending **light rail** to Folsom and eastern Sacramento County. As a member of the Sacramento Transportation Authority board, he helped obtain funding for the light rail extension and worked to keep the project a priority with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and Regional Transit. As a member of SACOG, he helped obtain needed additional funding. The light rail extension, a \$212 million project, will reduce commuter traffic along the Highway 50 corridor and make it convenient for shoppers and tourists to travel between Folsom and downtown Sacramento. The extension is expected to be completed in 2003.

Mayor Miklos set up an “Economic Development Strike Team” to assist new businesses in moving to Folsom. When a company approaches the city seeking to relocate or expand to Folsom, this team of local experts facilitates the process. Companies who have been helped by this effort have expressed appreciation for the speed and ease with which they were able to complete their transitions to Folsom. One such company was Air Touch Cellular, now Verizon Wireless, which



The Folsom Historic Truss Bridge, built in 1893, is now a bicycle and pedestrian crossing that links local and regional trails.



Verizon Wireless, helped by the “Economic Development Strike Team” during the permitting process, brought 800 jobs to the Sacramento region.

brought 800 jobs to the region. In this case, Miklos and the Strike Team helped Air Touch qualify for incentives. These efforts enabled the city to finalize Air Touch's arrangements ahead of the company's target date. Mayor Miklos considers the Strike Team to be one of his most important achievements for area businesses.

Mayor Miklos was the leader in setting up Folsom's new "PIP" department. PIP (for Planning, Inspections, and Permitting) is a unique Folsom department that was formed by combining all the permitting and inspecting functions in one location. The new department, which Mayor Miklos helped design, has streamlined the process for acquiring permits within the City of Folsom, in effect making permit acquisition a one-stop process. Mayor Miklos also established a procedure to allow the city to phase permits, enabling applicants to acquire portions of a permit rather than waiting until all the necessary elements of the permit are completed. This permit phasing allows businesses to begin projects in the most timely manner.

Mayor Miklos deserves most of the credit for keeping Folsom Dam Road open during lengthy work to repair the spill gates. At the time the spill gates failed, in 1995, Folsom and eastern Sacramento County had only two river crossings: Folsom Dam Road and two-lane Rainbow Bridge. With the dam road closed for the repair work, local traffic became severely congested. Businesses on both sides of the American River lost revenue, and access to and through the city was difficult. Miklos negotiated with federal representatives here and in Washington to keep the road open during daylight hours. The success of this effort was lauded by area business owners and residents.

Mayor Miklos set up an "Event Team" to assist local businesses when major events occur in Folsom. Miklos recognized that major events could be a source of untapped revenue for local businesses. He established an Event Team, much like his Economic Development Strike Team, that would move into action to help the event producers with their staging and also help local businesses serve the influx of visitors. Two such successful events in 2000 were the regional Little League playoffs and the BMX National Motocross championship. Because of the event team, area businesses were able to accommodate the visitors with additional products and expanded hours.



Steve Miklos worked to keep Folsom Dam Road open during repairs for the benefit of area businesses.



Steve Miklos helped businesses respond when the BMX National Motocross Championship came to Folsom.

Mayor Miklos handled the negotiations to land a lucrative Coca Cola sponsorship for the city. Because of Steve's efforts, Coca Cola now pays the city a guaranteed \$61,000 a year for five years for exclusive rights to place its products in city buildings and at city concession stands. The funds generated by this agreement will offset the maintenance costs of the Lembi Aquatics Center. This innovative partnering helped make the aquatics center financially feasible.

Mayor Miklos arranged for a developer to fund early completion of a neighborhood park. A new neighborhood on the north side of Folsom was in need of a park, which was to be built with developer fees collected as construction progressed. Mayor Miklos personally worked with the developer to negotiate an agreement whereby the developer advanced money so that Davies Park could be constructed immediately. The city repays the developer as fees are collected. The park is now in the second phase of construction.

Mayor Miklos has acted as liaison between the Folsom City Council and the Folsom Chamber of Commerce since being elected to the council in 1994. He regularly attends chamber board meetings to keep the lines of communication open between the city and the chamber, to the mutual benefit of both. Mayor Miklos is the first council member to establish such a presence with the chamber. He is also a member of the Folsom Economic Development Corporation, the chamber arm that supports and assists the local business community.

Mayor Miklos involves young people in government and business. He never misses an opportunity to work with local school children. One of his favorite projects is his "Art in the Mayor's Office" program. Each quarter, Folsom schools choose students' works of art to be displayed for three months in the mayor's office. The mayor introduces the artists at a reception and hands out their awards at a City Council meeting, which is rebroadcast on the local metro channel. The themes for the artwork have focused on local events, history and transportation, including the role of the railroad in Folsom's development and prosperity.



The Lembi Aquatics Center, now under construction, was made possible partly because of an agreement Steve Miklos negotiated between the city and Coca Cola.



Davies Park is being built ahead of schedule because of a financial agreement Steve Miklos worked out with the developer.