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## Funds for Rail Yard OK'd

### Revitalization Planned for Site

BY DAN MCKAY  
Journal Staff Writer

The old Barelás rail yards look closer than ever to redevelopment.

City councilors on Monday unanimously approved the last piece of funding needed for the city to acquire the 27-acre property, which lies roughly near Second and Coal SW.

The rail yards site includes

shops — some 70-feet tall — built in the early 1900s. Private efforts to redevelop the area have failed over the past decade.

"We've come a long way," said Councilor Isaac Benton, who sponsored Monday's resolution. The repair shops "are built like a battleship. There's nothing like them left in the country."

The council resolution approves the last \$3 million in funding needed for the \$9.4 million purchase. The rest of the money was already available through state funds,

grants and other sources.

The last \$3 million would come from the city's "work force housing trust fund," which is backed by general obligation bonds.

The bill calls for the redevelopment plans to include at least 30 units of affordable housing and space for the nonprofit Wheels Museum, which will focus on transportation.

Benton said an economic analysis of the site will be performed in January. After that, the city will likely issue a request for proposals from private developers, he said.

"It's an opportunity to have a very deliberate process," he said.

Ultimately, then, most of the land may be sold to developers, allowing the city to recoup some of its investment, Benton said.

Several Barelás residents backed the project, as long as they have a say in the development plans.

"We have to be a part of the process along the way," Andrea Serrano said.



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The Barelás railyards are to be acquired by the city for redevelopment.

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