

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2021
TO: EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: WOODROW DELORIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following is an overview of the issues, projects, and coordination currently being advanced by EDCTC.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation Demand Management

In October EDCTC staff met with the new Executive Director of the 50 Corridor Transportation Management Association (TMA). The 50 Corridor TMA is a joint powers authority founded in 1994 that serves Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and El Dorado County. Their focus is working with employers and public agencies to reduce vehicle miles traveled in the region through transportation demand management programs such as vanpooling, carpooling, walking, and biking. As the restrictions of the pandemic lift, El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) staff will work with the TMA to identify new and innovative ways to provide residents with more transportation choices.

State Route 49 American River Confluence Study

EDCTC was awarded \$175,000 in State Highway Account grant funding for the SR 49 Confluence Study ("Study"). On September 2, 2021, EDCTC awarded the contract to DKS and Associates after completing an extensive procurement process. EDCTC staff, DKS, and Caltrans held the grant kickoff meeting on October 22. The initial work on this effort will include user analysis and data collection. The consultant team has begun on site data collection and assessments.

El Dorado Hills Business Park Community Transportation Study

EDCTC received \$144,000 in Federal Highway Administration State Planning and Research funding to help El Dorado County and the business park association address potential changes to land use patterns and the transportation network in the area near the El Dorado/Sacramento County Line and the expanding City of Folsom on the south side of U.S. Highway 50. Extensive public and stakeholder outreach was completed for this effort including online videos, FAQs, and online content. The Draft Study was reviewed by the project team and extensively by El Dorado County DOT and planning staff and presented to the EDCTC at their September meeting. The final study will be presented to EDCTC for adoption at the November meeting.

El Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan

In June 2020, EDCTC received \$180,000 in Caltrans Planning grant funding to complete the *El Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus ("ZEB") Fleet Conversion Plan ("ZEB Plan")*. The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit Regulation mandates the full conversion of transit bus fleets to zero-emission by 2040. The ZEB Plan effort was initiated to allow for El Dorado Transit to reach a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Fleet by 2040. This effort also meets the requirements for El Dorado Transit to have a ZEB Rollout Plan ready for submission to CARB by July 1, 2023. Extensive public and stakeholder engagement was initiated back in March of 2021, to include a virtual public workshop and questionnaire posted online. One hundred thirty-five community members participated in the online community questionnaire and a summary of their responses and comments has been posted to the project website. The Final Plan will be presented for adoption to the EDCTC and El Dorado Transit boards on November 4th, 2021.

Greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation, Community Safety, and Resiliency Plan

On June 22, 2021, EDCTC received \$250,000 in Caltrans planning grant funds to complete the Greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation, Community Safety, and Resiliency Plan ("wildfire plan"). This

effort was initiated based on requests from Placerville residents and public agency leaders to address the project area's growing vulnerability to wildfire. The wildfire plan will deliver an evacuation strategy for the Greater Placerville area in El Dorado County. The project area includes the U.S. Highway 50 corridor from Pollock Pines through the City of Placerville and the principal and minor arterials and major and minor collectors in the project area just north and south of U.S. 50. The Notice to Proceed was received from Caltrans on September 22, 2021. The Request for Proposals is scheduled to be released in November 2021.

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

CITY OF PLACERVILLE

US Highway 50 Corridor System User Analysis, Investment Strategy, and Access Control Action Plan (US 50 Corridor Plan)

EDCTC was awarded \$231,300 in Strategic Partnerships Transportation Planning grant funding for the US 50 Corridor Plan, now known as "The 50 Fix: Trip the Green Light" project. The project team has developed maps, a narrative, and a detailed traffic management plan outlining turning movements, barriers, detours, and signage. EDCTC and the City of Placerville have collaborated with AIM Consulting to develop a slogan, logo, website narrative, and video script. Due to the Caldor Fire, the "Trip the Green Light" project has been rescheduled to fall of 2022 to allow travel and traffic patterns to return to normal and to ensure useful outcomes from the Proof of Concept. The project team is finalizing the Access Control Action Plan and discussing next steps to determine the weekends and timeframes for which the US 50 signals in Placerville will be tripped to green in fall of 2022. The project team is also working on data collection for the System User analysis and preparing preliminary information for the investment strategy, with a presentation to the EDCTC planned at the December meeting.

Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2.2

City Council awarded the construction contract to Doug Veerkamp Engineering on January 12, 2021. Construction of the eastbound onramp is complete and was opened to the public in May 2021. This ramp provided a great benefit to the emergency response crews during the Caldor Fire which were based at the County Fairgrounds and used this ramp daily. The ramp metering poles were installed the first week of October, which was the final work item for this effort.

Broadway Sidewalks Project

The project improves pedestrian safety by constructing new curb, gutter, and sidewalk on four segments of Broadway between the Main Street/Mosquito Road/Broadway intersection and Orchard Lane, where there are currently no pedestrian facilities. The project is funded by Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. The project is progressing through right-of-way (ROW), utility agreements, and final design. The city plans to go out to bid January 2022 and award the construction contract late winter 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin spring 2022.

Placerville Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Project

The project will design bicycle facilities and sidewalks along Placerville Drive from west of the US 50 undercrossing to Green Valley Road, and sidewalk on the west side of Green Valley Road from Placerville Drive to Mallard Lane. In June 2016, EDCTC programmed \$1.1 million of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to the project. The consulting contract was awarded to Drake Haglan and Associates at the July 10, 2018, City Council meeting. At the March 7, 2019, meeting, EDCTC programmed \$680,303 in CMAQ funds to the project development phases. The City applied for the regional SACOG ATP on Thursday, December 3, 2020. On April 15, 2021, the SACOG Board of Directors awarded \$1.22 million in Regional ATP Cycle 5 funding to the project. The City anticipates completing environmental work in December 2021.

Placerville Station II

This project will construct a 50-space parking lot with new lighting and landscaping improvements including bicycle racks and lockers. The project will also improve the connection to the El Dorado

Trail, and Transit, and Amtrak Bus service. The project area is the gravel lot adjacent to the existing Placerville Station (Mosquito Park and Ride) north of U.S. 50. In March 2019, EDCTC programmed \$645,000 in CMAQ funds to the project. The City Council awarded the Construction Management and Inspection Services contract to Coastland Civil Engineering, Inc. at the January 26, 2021, City Council meeting. Placerville anticipates going out to bid in winter 2022 with construction to begin spring 2022.

EL DORADO COUNTY

Clear Creek Road Scour Mitigation

EDCTC staff worked with El Dorado County, Caltrans Local Assistance, and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to allocate and approve \$458,614 in CRRSAA funding the El Dorado County Clear Creek Road Scour Mitigation Project. The project's first phase of funding was approved in August 2021 by the CTC.

There are additional El Dorado County led projects for which EDCTC has programmed funding. Rather than list all of the projects in this Executive Director's Report, the link to the current Project Monitoring Report is provided below for more detail and information about these ongoing efforts. <https://www.edctc.org/files/7d8f7d5a8/Project+Monitoring+Report+March+2021.pdf>

EL DORADO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

El Dorado County Transit Authority

Consistent with State and National trends, El Dorado Transit continues to experience significant ridership deficits compared to pre-pandemic levels, but ridership has leveled out or even started to increase on some services over the last year. Although still down from pre-pandemic ridership, day-to-day ridership on the Dial-A-Ride service was up 12.1% and ADA Paratransit demand jumped 72.8% compared to September 2020. Local Fixed Route ridership was 13.7% lower compared to September 2020 due in part to the Caldor Fire evacuations in Pollock Pines and Camino from August 18th to September 7th. Sacramento Commuter service ridership increased by 9.3% compared to September 2020.

CALTRANS

US Highway 50 Camino Safety Project

Caltrans awarded the contract to Security Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$26,932,859 for Phase 1, the full median barrier, wildlife undercrossing, and local roadway undercrossing just east of Lower Carson Road. Construction on the mainline of US 50 began in late 2020. The contractor is currently constructing the southern half of the Pondorado Road undercrossing. Work on the EID's watermain on the north side of the highway has been slowed by utility conflicts and inclement weather but work is anticipated to resume within the week. Corrective work on the median barrier is scheduled to resume in the next two weeks. Grading and winterization work will continue at the wildlife crossing later this week. Caltrans is working with EDCTC staff and the local community on a plan to prevent illegal U-turns on eastbound 50 at Camino Heights especially during weekends when Apple Hill traffic is at a peak. Due to a high number of violations, Caltrans is planning to close off the access across US 50 at Camino Heights Drive. EDCTC staff has been participating in weekly project meetings to ensure impacts are mitigated for seasonal traffic and safety. The current progress is behind schedule due to several factors including a Covid outbreak within the construction crew, Caldor Fire suspension and challenges with utility relocation. Caltrans is working with the contractor to expedite project delivery in other areas to account for the delay and the project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2022.

SACOG

Region Parks and Trails Strategic Development Plan

EDCTC staff is serving as a partner on the development of the SACOG Region Parks and Trails Strategic Development Plan. This plan will integrate active transportation in the six-county Sacramento region, including the existing and planned facilities in El Dorado County.

Transportation Data Resources

EDCTC staff has been working with SACOG staff to evaluate and consider purchasing Replica Transportation Modeling data, currently under review by SACOG modeling staff. The Replica database is a comprehensive set of "big data" which includes an array of data points related to transportation, land use, and other socio-economic metrics. EDCTC is using this data for the US 50 Corridor Plan and will likely be utilizing this resource for future planning efforts. The dataset compiles data collected across multiple mobile and static collection tools into a very comprehensive yet scalable data resource platform. The data can be queried across geographic, socio-economic, and other attributes to provide specialized and very specific results. Through CALCOG, Replica data is now available at a discounted rate to assist transportation planning with regional agencies.

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Administrative Support

The federally required Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is known as the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) in the Sacramento Region. Managed by SACOG, the MTIP is a short-term listing of surface transportation projects that receive federal funds, are subject to a federally required action, or are regionally significant. EDCTC staff has taken on the responsibility of updating the MTIP with County projects for which EDCTC has programmed funding. This is similar to the support EDCTC has provided to the City of Placerville for some time. Taking on this effort will not only aid the County DOT staff but will provide EDCTC with a more involved role in project delivery, further improving oversight and ensuring funds are used appropriately.

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

State Transportation Funding

The 2021 California State Budget, passed in May, included over \$11 billion in transportation investments. Specifically, the proposal includes investments to shift further away from fossil fuel-based transportation technologies. However, \$3.4 billion which was designated for infrastructure, and which was contingent upon on a High-Speed Rail deal, reverted to the general fund due to lack of agreement. Two billion remains in place for State Highway Rehabilitation, Local Roads, and Bridges. Most of this \$2 billion is designated for the SHOPP and State STIP with only \$400 million designated for regional or local projects. None of the SB-1 funding programs were impacted by the return of infrastructure funding to the general fund.

More detail on the Governor's 2021-2022 Budget can be found here:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2021-22EN/#/BudgetSummary>

State Transportation Legislation

Some of the California State Legislature bills related to transportation that may be of interest to EDCTC and its partner agencies are included below. The bills included below are those approved by the Governor since the October EDCTC meeting. No additional bills have been introduced since that time.

- **AB 14 - Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund (Approved 10/8/21)**

This bill would authorize local educational agencies to report to the department their pupils' estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning. The bill would require the department of education, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to compile that information and to annually post that compiled information on the department's internet website.

- **AB 41 – Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (Approved 10/8/21)**

Current law provides that the Department of Transportation has full possession and control of state highways and associated property. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that will improve California's "Dig Once" policy and expedite the deployment of broadband infrastructure in communities that are currently unserved and underserved.

- **AB 43 – Traffic Safety (Approved 10/8/21)**

Current law establishes various default speed limits for vehicles upon highways, as specified. Current law authorizes state and local authorities to adjust these default speed limits, as specified, based upon certain findings determined by an engineering and traffic survey. Existing law defines an engineering and traffic survey and prescribes specified factors that must be included in the survey, including prevailing speeds and road conditions. Current law authorizes local authorities to consider additional factors, including pedestrian and bicyclist safety. This bill would authorize local authorities to consider the safety of vulnerable pedestrian groups, as specified.

- **AB 773 Street closures and designations. (Approved 10/6/21)**

This bill would authorize a local authority to adopt a rule or regulation by ordinance to implement a slow street program, which may include closures to vehicular traffic or through vehicular traffic of neighborhood local streets with connections to citywide bicycle networks, destinations that are within walking distance, or green space. The bill would require the local authority to meet specified conditions to implement a slow street, including a determination that closure or traffic restriction is necessary for the safety and protection of persons using the closed or restricted portion of the street, conducting an outreach and engagement process, and clearly designating the closure or traffic restriction with specific signage.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

President Biden signed a continuing resolution on October 1, 2021, funding the government through December 3, 2021. On October 2, 2021, the President signed into law a bill continuing authorization of the Highway Trust Fund through October 31, 2021, with hopes of passing a new transportation package before then.

Washington continues to work on a funding package to make an unprecedented investment in transportation and other infrastructure. As of today, November 2, 2021, the infrastructure investment plan awaits a vote in the House before it can be signed by the President. While reduced from the original proposed amount, the plan does increase investments in infrastructure by \$550 billion over five years.

It is anticipated that a larger package of spending measures will be taken up later this year, often referred to as an omnibus spending package, likely in December. This would include all 12 appropriations bills. The House Appropriations Transportation and HUD (THUD) Bill was approved by the full committee and includes \$84.1 billion, an increase of \$8.7 billion from 2021. Of this amount, \$15.5 billion would be directed to the Federal Transit Administration to support increased transit grant program revenue.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting September 2, 2021)*

10/8/21	Funding Discussion with David Turch
10/11/21	EDCTC Staff Meeting
10/11/21	Triennial Performance Audit Interview with Moore & Associates
10/12/21	STBGP Swap Discussion with Caltrans – Mark Samuelson
10/12/21	Discussion Regarding Diamond Springs – Michelle Smira
10/12/21	SACOG/EDCTC/PCTPA Coordination Meeting
10/12/21	SHSP Co-Lead Quarterly Meeting - Caltrans
10/12/21	RTPA Discussion with EDCTC Staff – Jerry Barton
10/12/21	GovInvest Actuarial Review
10/13-14/21	CTC Meeting
10/13/21	Return to Work and Transit Meeting
10/14/21	Camino Weekly Update – Caltrans
10/14/21	SHSP Steering Committee Meeting

10/18/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
10/18/21 SACOG Overview with Supervisor Thomas and Councilman Saragosa
10/19/21 FHWA Discussion with Matt Carpenter
10/19/21 Meeting with Caltrans
10/20/21 SACOG/SCAG/PCTPA/EDCTC - FHWA Meeting
10/21/21 Camino Weekly Update - Caltrans
10/21/21 SACOG Board Meeting
10/21/21 CDAC Briefing
10/21/21 CTC - TCEP Workshop
10/21/21 BOS Agenda Review with Rafael Martinez – EDC DOT
10/21/21 Community Chat – Supervisor Thomas
10/22/21 SR49 American River Confluence Study Kickoff Meeting with J. Damkowitch
10/25/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
10/25/21 EDCTC TAC Meeting
10/26/21 Phone Call with Legal Counsel – G. O'Hara
10/26/21 FHWA Discussion with Matt Carpenter
10/26/21 SACOG MTP SCS Kickoff Meeting
10/27/21 Transportation Discussion with D. Ashton - EDC CAO and M. Mauk - EDCTA
10/28/21 Camino Weekly Update - Caltrans
10/28/21 Camino Safety Project Public Meeting Follow Up - Caltrans
10/28/21 OA Best Management Practices Committee Meeting
10/28/21 50 TMA Discussion RCTF Discussion Regarding AB 361
11/1/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
11/1/21 Meeting with P. Rivas – City of Placerville
11/1/21 Draft ITIP Hearings - CTC
11/1/21 STBG-CMAQ Suballocation Pre-Meeting
11/3/21 CTC/CARB/HCD Meeting
11/3/21 Agenda Review with Chair Taylor
11/4/21 Camino Weekly Update – Caltrans
11/4/21 Agenda Review with Supervisor Thomas
11/4/21 SACOG Transportation Meeting
11/4/21 Agenda Review with Supervisor Turnboo
11/4/21 SACOG Land Use & Natural Resources Meeting