

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2019
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

2020-2040 Dorado County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

RTP Advisory Committee meeting #3 was held on August 7, 2019. Committee members were provided with a presentation and opportunity to discuss the streets and roads project list anticipated for inclusion in the 2020-2040 RTP. The following Chapters of the Draft RTP 2020-2040 were also presented to the Advisory Committee members: Chapter 1, Introduction/Completed Project Lists; Ch. 2, Organizational Setting; Ch. 3, Physical Setting; and Chapter 5, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies. EDCTC staff has started work with the consultant team on the Environmental Impact Report for the RTP. The RTP Policy Element has been posted on the Project web page located online here: <https://www.edctc.org/rtp2040>. EDCTC staff has started work with the consultant team on the Environmental Impact Report for the RTP.

TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT

EI Dorado County Freeway Service Patrol (FSP)

FSP operates from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM and from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday on US 50 from the EI Dorado/Sacramento County line extending eastward to Greenstone Road. FSP is funded by the Capital Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways and the Caltrans FSP program; no local funds are required. In October 2019 FSP drivers assisted 109 motorists. A motorist who was assisted on November 6, 2019 completed the online survey and made the following comment.

"I was expecting to be stuck on the side of the road for at least an hour but the driver that helped me really saved the day! He was so polite, and the service was fast. He fixed up my tire, and let me know all about FSP's services in under 15 minutes. I feel safer knowing there are awesome people like this looking out for us on the roadways. Couldn't give him enough praise! Superhero in disguise!"

Walk to School Day

Walk to School Day was held on October 2, 2019. Northside School in Cool, Sierra, and Schnell Schools in Placerville, Blue Oak School in Cameron Park, and Valley View and Oak Meadow Schools in EI Dorado Hills participated. Water bottles were donated this year by Rainbow Orchards and Apples were donated by Boa Vista.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

EI Dorado County and City of Placerville Active Transportation Plans

An online public engagement tool was launched on April 25th to receive input on routes needing improvement, barriers to active transportation, and destinations. The Active Transportation Plan Advisory Committee meeting #3 took place on August 15th at the Cameron Park Community Services District. Committee members were given the opportunity to review and comment on maps containing proposed active transportation improvements throughout the west slope of the county. The consultant

is currently revising the maps and preparing the Draft Plan. The consultant is also revising maps and developing content to include in the Draft Plans. The Draft Active Transportation Plan will be completed in early November and presented to the EDCTC Board at the December meeting. Two public workshops will be held, one in Placerville and one in El Dorado Hills, in January to present the Draft Plans. The final plans are anticipated for adoption by EDCTC at the February meeting.

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

EL DORADO COUNTY

El Dorado Hills Business Park Community Transportation Plan

EDCTC worked with Caltrans to secure \$144,000 in State Planning and Research grant funds to support the El Dorado Hills Business Park Community Transportation Plan. The effort will be closely coordinated with El Dorado County and the El Dorado Hills Business Park Association to look at future traffic and circulation in and around the business park. An initial meeting with property and business owners was held on Tuesday September 10, 2019. EDCTC staff and the consultant team presented the project to the El Dorado Hills Business Park Association members on October 22nd. Land use and transportation planning is ongoing as well as preparations for a public workshop to take place early next year.

El Dorado County SB 743 Implementation Plan and Travel Demand Model Update

EDCTC staff worked very closely with the City of Placerville and El Dorado County DOT staff to finalize the SB 743 Implementation Plan and related technical components. EDCTC released a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for the update of the County's Travel Demand Model to include the necessary inputs and analytical tools to comply with the requirements of SB 743. EDCTC secured state Rural Planning Assistance funding to support this effort. EDCTC received one proposal by the October 2, 2019 deadline and will consider awarding the contract to Fehr and Peers at the November 7, 2019 EDCTC meeting. Once the contract is awarded, EDCTC will work very closely with El Dorado County DOT staff to implement the update to the model.

CITY OF PLACERVILLE

Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2

The ribbon cutting ceremony to open the project was held at noon on Tuesday, October 29th. The eastbound offramp, signalized intersection, park-and-ride lot, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities have been completed. Paving of Ray Lawyer Drive from Placerville Drive to the Ray Lawyer Drive Overcrossing and of Fairlane from Ray Lawyer Drive to approximately the old location of the Sheriff's Office was also completed. A few minor punch list items remain before construction is complete.

Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2.2

On May 16, 2018, the CTC awarded \$1,070,000 in LPP funds to the City of Placerville to advance delivery of the eastbound on-ramp for the Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2 project. The City released an RFP for Engineering Design and Environmental Consulting Services on January 16, 2019. On March 26, 2019 the City Council awarded the consulting contract to R.E.Y. Engineers, Inc. At the same meeting the City Council also approved a \$400,000 budget appropriation from the Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Fund to increase the budget for PA&ED.

The City of Placerville was granted a 12-month construction allocation extension of LPP funds at the June 26-27 CTC meeting. The new project schedule shows the construction allocation request approval by the CTC in May 2020 with the construction contract award in November 2020. The most recent Project Development Team (PDT) meeting was held on November 5th at Caltrans D3 HQ in Marysville.

Recent project milestones include:

- Design Standard Decision Documents (DSDD) approved October 2nd.

Upcoming milestones include:

- Receive Air Quality Conformity Concurrence from FHWA on November 7.
- Environmental Revalidation: NEPA approval on November 14.
- Confirm CEQA completion date at November 5th PDT.
- Approval of Supplemental Project Report (SPR) anticipated in late November.
- December 2019 / January 2020 – EDCTC staff coordinate with CTC staff on submission of E Resolution for consideration of future funding (required prior to allocation of LPP funds).

Upper Broadway Bike Lanes Project

On October 18, 2017, the California Transportation Commission awarded \$1,886,000 in 2017 ATP Augmentation – Statewide and Small Urban and Rural Components funding for the Upper Broadway Pedestrian Connection Project that will provide strategically located sidewalks and additional pedestrian improvements and new transit stops on Broadway between Schnell School Road and Point View Drive. The CTC allocated the construction funds at their June 26-27 meeting. On September 24th, the City Council awarded the Construction Management contract and authorized the project to go out to bid which occurred on October 24th. Bid packages will be opened in late November with the construction contract to be considered for award at the December 10th City Council meeting.

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 being delayed by ROW and utility relocation coordination and is now scheduled to go to construction in summer 2020.

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 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 7th meeting EDCTC programmed \$680,303 in CMAQ to the project PA&ED/PS&E and ROW phases. Environmental studies will be completed in fall of 2019.

Main Street/Cedar Ravine/Clay Street Intersection Improvement Project

Due to delay in the schedule, the City is seeking a second time extension from FHWA for the Highway Bridge Program funds. The City of Placerville is working on finalizing responses to comments received on the Environmental Document. The City anticipates completing CEQA and NEPA in January and June of 2020 respectively. Once the environmental work is done, the City will complete the final design and prepare to release bid documents in summer of 2021.

Placerville Station II

The project is in 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. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring or summer of 2020. The project includes:

- Construction of a 50-car parking lot with lighting and landscaping
- Bicycle racks and lockers
- Replacement of an existing water main and services
- Replacement of sewer connection
- Paving Mosquito Road between the westbound U.S. 50 off-ramp and Clay Street
- Realigning the existing El Dorado Trail
- Improved connection to El Dorado Transit and Amtrak Bus Service

SACOG

EDCTC is working closely with SACOG on the Advancing Innovative Mobility program. This effort will look at funding pilot projects throughout the SACOG region to explore new and innovative ways to move people and goods. SACOG is seeking a cross section of projects deployed throughout the urban, suburban, and rural communities in the region.

CALTRANS

US Highway 50 Hot Spot Study

On August 28, 2017 EDCTC and City of Placerville staff met with Caltrans to form a plan to identify and analyze improvements to traffic and circulation along the US 50 corridor through Placerville. This effort was formalized through the Caltrans led US 50 Corridor Hot Spot Study. Caltrans is leading this effort to identify issues and opportunities along US 50 from Placerville into the Tahoe Basin. The kickoff meeting was facilitated by Caltrans on October 28, 2018.

The first public workshop was held on July 29th at Town Hall in Placerville. Participants engaged with local stakeholders and the project team to help identify the desired path forward to improve congestion and safety on US 50 through Placerville. In addition to the public workshop, a survey was used to garner more input from those residents and visitors alike unable to attend the workshop. A second workshop will be held later this fall to complete the effort. Based on input received, the project schedule has been extended to account for additional work to be completed. EDCTC is currently working with Caltrans to expand the scope of the study to collect more traffic count data and provide planning level cost estimates for some of the proposed alternatives.

US Highway 50 Camino Safety Project

EDCTC has been working with Caltrans to develop a strategy to continue moving forward with the project. Caltrans has finalized the Project Report to include the first phase which will be the completion of the median barrier closure from Still Meadows Road to Upper Carson Road and a minimum undercrossing at Lower Carson Road. Caltrans, El Dorado County, and EDCTC will be developing a plan to deliver and fund the remaining elements. Caltrans held a public meeting on April 29, 2019 at Camino School to present the phased approach to the community members. EDCTC continues to seek out funding for the ultimate project to include an interchange at upper Carson Road. In mid-July EDCTC applied for the next round of Federal BUILD grant funding to support the preferred alternative. BUILD notification is expected by November 12, 2019.

Caltrans has recently prepared Phase 1, the full median barrier and undercrossing at Lower Carson Road, to go out to bid. If bids come in within budget, Caltrans expects to begin construction on Phase 1 in Spring of 2020.

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

State Transportation Funding

The next cycle of competitive SB 1 transportation funding programs will begin in the Winter of 2019. EDCTC is working closely with City and County staff to develop a list of projects which are "shovel ready" to compete for these funds.

State Transportation Legislation

Some proposed and recently voted bills that we are currently tracking include the following.

- **AB 285 (Friedman R) California Transportation Plan.**
 - Will require Caltrans to address in the California Transportation Plan how the state will achieve maximum feasible emissions reductions in order to attain a statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 40% below 1990 levels by the end of 2030.
 - Approved by Governor 10/8/2019

- **AB 422 (Frazier D) High-speed Rail: Performance Measurement**
 - Would require HSR to develop quarterly performance measurement reports and post them online
 - May be acted on Jan 2020
- **AB 380 (Frazier D) Office of the Transportation Inspector General**
 - Would eliminate the Independent Office of Audits and Investigations and would instead create the Independent Office of the Transportation Inspector General in state government, as an independent office that would not be a subdivision of any other government entity, to ensure that specified state agencies and all external entities that receive state and federal transportation funds are operating efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with federal and state laws.
 - May be acted upon Jan 2020
- **AB 553 (Melendez R) High-speed Rail Bonds: Housing**
 - Stops further bonds sales beyond the Phase 1 system and redirects unspent proceeds.
 - Failed passage, reconsideration granted.
- **AB 782 (Berman D) CEQA: Exemption: Public Agencies: Land Transfers**
 - Would exempt from CEQA the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of interest in land by a public agency for certain purposes, or the granting or acceptance of funding by a public agency for those purposes.
 - Approved by Governor 8/30/2019
- **AB 847 (Grayson D) Housing: Transportation-Related Impact Fees Grant Program**
 - Transfers miscellaneous revenues used to for transportation debt service to cities and counties that have been certified by HCD to have met their very low-income housing goals or low-income housing goals. Also creates similar preferences and bonuses in the ATP and LPP programs.
 - May be acted upon Jan 2020
- **AB 905 (Chen R) Department of Transportation: Highway Design Manual: Fire Prone Areas**
 - Requires Caltrans to update the Highway Design Manual to incorporate fire proofing in fire prone areas.
 - May be acted upon Jan 2020
- **AB 970 (Salas R) California Department on Aging: Grants for Transportation.**
 - Would require the California Department on Aging to administer a grant program to support transit trips for non-emergency medical trips via zero emission vehicles.
 - Vetoed by Governor 10/13/2019
- **AB 983 (Boerner Horvath D) Transportation Electrification**
 - Would require an electrical corporation to work with local agencies or regional planning agencies in its service territory with responsibility for planning electric vehicle deployment to determine where to install new electrical charging stations along local transit corridors.
 - May be acted upon Jan 2020
- **AB 1167 (Mathis R) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: High-speed Rail: Forestry and Fire Protection**
 - Would no longer continuously appropriate 25% of the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for certain components of a specified high-speed rail project. The bill, beginning with the 2021-22 fiscal year, would continuously appropriate 25% of the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the Department of Forestry and Fire

Protection to purchase new engines and equipment, hire new firefighters, and clear overgrowth or tree mortality and to the Firefighter Home Relief Trust Fund Program.

- Failed first hearing, reconsideration granted.
- **AB 1243 (Fong R) Traffic Relief and Road Improvement Act.**
 - Would create the Traffic Relief and Road Improvement Program to address specific congestion and deferred maintenance. The Bill would provide for deposits of existing revenue sources into a standalone account.
 - Referred to Assembly Committee on Transportation
- **AB 1350 (Gonzalez D) Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program**
 - Would create the Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program upon the appropriation of moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund by the Legislature and would require the Department of Transportation to administer the program. The bill would require the department to award available moneys to eligible participants, as defined, to provide free transit passes to persons under the age of 25 through new or existing transit pass programs, as specified.
 - May be acted upon Jan 2020
- **AB 1413 (Gloria D) Transportation: Local Transportation Authorities: Transactions and Use Taxes.**
 - Authorizes Placer County Transportation Planning Agency to impose a tax applicable to only a portion or sub district of Placer County and that the funds are spent in or to the benefit of that portion of the county. This would serve as a pilot to evaluate this application for other counties.
 - Approved by the Governor 10/11/2019
- **SB 127 (Wiener D) Transportation Funding: Active Transportation: Complete Streets.**
 - Would create an Active Transportation Asset Branch within the Transportation Asset Management Office and require the CTC to give high priority to increasing safety for and implementation of active modes.
 - Vetoed by the Governor 10/12/2019
- **SB 137 (Dodd D) Federal Transportation Funds: State Exchange Programs.**
 - Allows federal funds allocated ("exchanged") to local assistance to be exchanged for Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program funds.
 - Approved by the Governor 10/8/2019
- **SB 277 (Beall D) Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program: Local Partnership Program.**
 - Currently, \$200 million is appropriated to the Local Partnership Program (LPP), \$100 million directly allocated by formula to self-help counties and cities, and \$100 million awarded through a competitive process to those cities and counties with a uniform developer fee.
 - This bill would appropriate 85%, or \$170 million, to self-help cities and counties; and 15%, or \$30 million, for award through a competitive process for small counties, 100,000 population or less, and those with a uniform developer fee.
 - Vetoed by the Governor 10/12/2019

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Rule

In August 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency (NHTSA) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) proposed the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicle Rule. The rule, approved by the Trump Administration on September 19, 2019, will hold the national fuel efficiency standard at the 2020 levels. The rule also repeals California's waiver to establish higher fuel efficiency standards within the state. The rule revokes California's authority to implement the Advanced Clean Cars and Zero Emission Vehicle mandates.

In California, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Caltrans use a model (called "EMFAC") to demonstrate that each region and the state comply with the conformity requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. The current version assumes that current California clean vehicle standards will continue to operate in California. By rolling back those standards with the SAFE rule, the EMFAC model will not meet federal planning requirements. Therefore, projects will be ineligible to seek or utilize Federal funding until the EMFAC complies with the conformity requirements.

EDCTC is working closely with SACOG to ensure that the projects included in the current MTP will remain in compliance and will not lose federal funding due to the new SAFE rule. Currently, no projects have been identified that would be jeopardized due to a lack of non-conformity of the existing MTP. To get ahead of the SAFE rule taking effect, SACOG is planning to adopt their MTP before November 26, 2019. This MTP will include all projects for which EDCTC will be seeking State and Federal funding over the next 20 years.

The State of California has initiated litigation with the Federal administration to challenge the SAFE rule. However, this will likely take six months or more to resolve. Therefore, EDCTC is working closely with SACOG, CALCOG, the RCTF, and partner agencies to establish a path forward to keep projects underway and continue to seek funding for projects planned in the future.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting October 3, 2019)*

10/03	SAGE presentation
10/04	Cleve Morris, city of Placerville
10/08	CTC meeting
10/10	CTC Joint CTC/CARB
10/11	ALF Class
10/21	Hot Spot Study
10/22	CTC Workshops
10/24	SB 743 Local Agency Working Group
10/29	Western Placerville Interchanges Ribbon Cutting
11/05	Replica Demo
11/05	Chair Agenda Review
11/06	Matt Mauk, Transit
11/06	Rafael Martinez, EDC DOT re Funding Decline