

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** DECEMBER 5, 2024  
**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**

#### **Regional Transportation Plan**

EDCTC staff has continued work on the Policy and Action Elements of the Regional Transportation Plan. Staff have finalized the lists for streets, highways and roadways, active transportation, and transit transportation project in coordination with El Dorado County, El Dorado Transit, City of Placerville, and SACOG staff. With the draft project list now finalized, EDCTC staff will transmit it to the Environmental Consultant to start work on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). EDCTC still has flexibility to add projects throughout our ongoing public outreach process. To date, four Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee meetings have been held in January, April, July, and October 2024. The next phase of RTP outreach will be conducted in coordination with the Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy using Social Pinpoint interactive mapping effort. Additionally, EDCTC staff is collaborating with our EIR consultant to prepare a comprehensive informational video for the RTP. The RTP EIR Scoping meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, beginning at 5pm.

#### **Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy**

EDCTC secured \$217,124 in sustainable transportation planning grant funding for the preparation of a "Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy" (Next Gen Strategy). This strategy will provide data, analytics, and information to support transportation investments across the west slope of El Dorado County. The consultant team prepared and launched a public outreach strategy and comprehensive transportation survey earlier this year. Project mapping was completed recently for both roadway and active transportation projects. On October 23rd, EDCTC launched an interactive Social Pinpoint mapping website to gather more public input on proposed projects. These projects will undergo further analysis for performance measurement and prioritization in the Next Gen Strategy. The Existing Conditions and Climate and Resiliency Reports have been finalized in their draft form.

#### **El Dorado County and City of Placerville Active Transportation**

EDCTC has taken responsibility for the collection of bicycle and pedestrian counter data from counters located on multi-use trails on the west slope. EDCTC is supporting El Dorado County Department of Transportation with the recent installation of temporary counters in the Pollock Pines area. The post-construction counts are required by the state Active Transportation Program for the recently completed Pony Express Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements project. The temporary counters were removed in late November and data is being prepared for the County early this month.

#### **State Active Transportation Program**

The Call for Projects for ATP Cycle 7 was issued in late March 2024, and applications were due June 17th, 2024. EDCTC assisted El Dorado County Transportation staff in developing two applications: one for the Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements project, and another for the Henningson Park/Lotus Road Multi-Use Trail project. However, a statewide reduction in available ATP funds has significantly decreased funding availability through the statewide ATP. The CTC announced the Statewide ATP funding recommendations on November 1st; unfortunately, neither of the submitted projects for El Dorado County was recommended for funding. EDCTC also supported El

Dorado County's efforts to prepare a revised application for the Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements project for the SACOG Regional Funding Round which was due on September 30th. SACOG is currently working through its selection process. This year, the SACOG Regional Funding Round has less funding available, with only \$4.7 million available for projects in the entire SACOG six county region.

## **PARTNER AGENCY COORDINATION**

### **EI Dorado Transit Authority**

For October 2024, ridership across all three modes of service increased. Overall fiscal year-to-date ridership rose 25.2% compared to the previous fiscal year. In October 2024, systemwide monthly passenger trips increased 25.2% compared to October 2023. Demand Response ridership rose 6.5%, Local Fixed Route ridership grew 15.3%, and Sacramento Commuter ridership increased 116.4%. Overall, Commuter ridership was up 84%, marking the fourth consecutive month with over a 70% increase compared to the same month in the previous year. However, the Sacramento/Tahoe Connector service experienced a decline of 18.9% in October 2024 compared to October 2023.

### **EI Dorado County**

EDCTC is monitoring County project allocation requests, bid awards, and planning activities for EDCTC related projects. EDCTC staff also monitors development activity, provides comment letters, and attends County planning TAC meetings as needed. EDCTC regularly collaborates with EI Dorado County staff to amend the SACOG MTIP for EI Dorado County DOT projects.

### **Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) offers Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program (WCPP) discretionary grants to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. EDCTC collaborated with Lisa Morgan, a dedicated member of the public, and staff from En2 Resources to prepare and submit a Wildlife Crossing Program Grant Application by the September 4th deadline. The application requested \$1.7 million in federal funding to investigate and identify the highest-priority locations for WVC improvements along the US 50 Corridor. The project area spans from EI Dorado Hills to the existing wildlife undercrossing just west of Placerville. The project will complete environmental permitting and engineering design for at least one new wildlife under-crossing (box culvert), improvements to existing culverts, and the installation of between five and seven miles of new barrier fencing to mitigate the high incidence of WVCs. US 50, between the Sacramento region and South Lake Tahoe, is one of the top designated "hotspots" in the State of California for WVCs and mortality. Grant award announcements are expected in early 2025.

### **City of Placerville**

#### **State Climate Adaptation Program**

At the December 2023 California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting, the City of Placerville and EDCTC received Climate Adaptation Program funding for the US 50 Trip to Green Congestion Management and Resiliency Strategy. The \$3.75 million will fund Environmental Approvals, Engineering Design, and Right-of-Way acquisition to install the necessary infrastructure for "Trip to Green" operations as needed. An allocation request of \$800,000 for the PA/ED phase was approved by the CTC at their August 2024 meeting. The City of Placerville released an RFP for consulting services for Environmental Documentation and Preliminary Engineering. One proposal was received, and EDCTC supported the City in reviewing and selecting the consultant in partnership with Caltrans. EDCTC continues to assist the City in coordinating with Caltrans and CTC on the LTCAP funding.

### **SACOG**

#### **Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy**

EDCTC is collaborating with SACOG, EI Dorado County, and the City of Placerville on the next

update of the MTP/SCS (2025 Blueprint). EDCTC has worked with SACOG, the City of Placerville and El Dorado County DOT to update projects in the MTIP and complete a comprehensive project list for the MTP and EDCTC RTP. EDCTC is also participating in the SACOG planning processes for the Mobility Zones Study and the US 50 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan. EDCTC staff is coordinating with SACOG on the Regional Trails Implementation Plan.

## **EDCTC PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Partner Agency Project Delivery**

EDCTC oversees project delivery regarding transportation funding programmed through Commission approval. This includes ensuring that project invoicing meets funding requirements for various state and federal funding sources administered by Caltrans. Caltrans Local Assistance requires local jurisdictions to invoice regularly to ensure timely fund use and retain all funds programmed for a given project. Caltrans monitors project delivery closely and maintains a published list of those projects that have not been invoiced within the last six months or more, known as the "Inactive List." This list is published on the Caltrans website for local agencies, such as EDCTC, to monitor and work with local cities and counties to ensure invoices are submitted in a timely manner. If an agency does not submit an invoice within 11 months and does not justify the delay, the obligated funds could be removed from the project and reallocated.

For the fourth consecutive month, neither the City of Placerville nor El Dorado County has any projects on the inactive list.

## **STATE TRANSPORTATION POLICY, FUNDING, and LEGISLATION**

### **Transportation Policy**

#### **Caltrans System Investments Strategy**

In early March, Caltrans released the Draft Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) for review and comment. The review period closed on April 15th, 2024. EDCTC staff have engaged with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) throughout the development of this recent draft, providing many comments and suggestions along the way. The Draft CSIS document and comment form can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/division-of-transportation-planning/corridor-and-system-planning/csis>. CSIS is a guiding policy for Caltrans to lead climate action and advance social equity through targeted transportation investments that are in alignment with the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI, 2021) set forth by CalSTA. CSIS will be used by Caltrans to determine how investments are made on the state system to support the policies and targets set in motion by Governor Newsom's two Executive Orders N-19-19 and N-79-20.

On December 3rd, 2024, EDCTC staff participated in a workshop with CalSTA and the Rural Counties Task Force to discuss the Draft CAPTI update. EDCTC will be a joint signatory on the letter being submitted from the RCTF reflecting the impacts of CAPTI on rural project funding and delivery.

### **California Legislation and Policy**

The California Legislature began their final recess for the year. On January 1st, 2025, new statutes will take effect with the legislature reconvening again on January 6th, 2025. EDCTC will track all of the new bill proposals in the legislature which are due to the Office of Legislative Council by January 24th, 2025, and provide the EDCTC with an overview in early February.

On November 8th, the California Air Resources Board approved new Low Carbon Fuel Standards (LCFS) to reduce fuel emissions by 30% by 2030 and net carbon neutrality by 2045. The LCFS

changes include updated targets to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels used in California or displace fuels such as diesel and gasoline with alternative fuels that are less carbon intense. It is estimated that this could potentially increase gasoline prices by up to 65 cents per gallon in California.

### **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING**

EDCTC staff is working with County, City of Placerville, and El Dorado Transit partners to consider, and to apply for, new and expanded competitive grant programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) anticipated to launch over the course of the next year. Given the recent change in administration, EDCTC will be working closely with regional, state, and federal partners to track and understand any changes to the current surface transportation bill. Some of the programs that continue to present opportunity, pending any changes by the new administration, include the following:

- **Safe Streets for All (\$6 Billion)** – This program will provide funding directly to local and tribal governments to support their efforts to advance “vision zero” plans and other improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.
- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants (\$15 Billion)** – RAISE grants support surface transportation projects of local and/or regional significance.
- **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants (\$14 Billion)** – INFRA grants will offer needed aid to freight infrastructure by providing funding to state and local government for projects of regional or national significance. The BIL also raises the cap on multimodal projects to 30% of program funds.
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low and No Emission Bus Programs (\$5.6 Billion)** – BIL expands this competitive program which provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses as well as acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.
- **FTA Buses + Bus Facilities Competitive Program (\$2.0 Billion)** – This program provides competitive funding to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities.
- **MEGA Projects (\$15 Billion)** – This new National Infrastructure Project Assistance grant program will support multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects of national or regional significance.
- **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program (\$8.7 Billion)** – PROTECT will provide \$7.3 billion in formula funding to states and \$1.4 billion in competitive grants to eligible entities to increase the resilience of our transportation system. This includes funding for evacuation routes, coastal resilience, making existing infrastructure more resilient, or efforts to move infrastructure to nearby locations not continuously impacted by extreme weather and natural disasters.
- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) competitive grants for nationally significant bridges and other bridges (\$15.77 Billion)** – This new competitive grant program will assist state, local, federal, and tribal entities in rehabilitating or replacing bridges, including culverts. Large projects and bundling of smaller bridge projects will be eligible for funding.
- **Charging and fueling infrastructure discretionary grants (Up to \$2.5 Billion)** – This discretionary grant program will provide up to \$2.5 billion in funding to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and shop.
- **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (\$1 Billion)** – This new competitive program will provide dedicated funding to state, local, MPO, and tribal governments for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure.
- **FHWA Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (\$1.78 Billion)** – This discretionary program provides funding for the construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation

of nationally significant projects within, adjacent to, or accessing Federal and tribal lands. BIL amends this program to allow smaller projects to qualify for funding and allows 100% federal share for tribal projects.

- **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program (\$1 Billion)** – The SMART Grant program will be a programmed competition that will deliver competitive grants to states, local governments, and tribes for projects that improve transportation safety and efficiency.
- **Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (\$2 Billion)** – This new competitive grant program will improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas, increasing connectivity, improving safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth.

#### **EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED** *(since the last Commission meeting November 7, 2024)*

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11/14/24 | SACOG Board Meeting  |
| 11/15/24 | CALCOG Fall Board Meeting  |
| 11/15/24 | RCTF Meeting   |
| 11/19/24 | Draft CAPTI Update – RTPA Workshop   |
| 11/19/24 | Caltrans/EDCTC Monthly Coordination Meeting – S. Takhar                    |
| 11/21/24 | LTCAP Discussion with the City of Placerville                              |
| 11/25/24 | US 50 Camino Signage and Wayfinding Plan Review with Merje                 |
| 11/25/24 | EDCTC TAC Meeting  |
| 12/2/24  | SACOG Policy and Innovation Meeting  |
| 12/2/24  | Diamond Springs Parkway and EDH Interchange Discussion with EDC DOT        |
| 12/2/24  | EDCTC FY 2023/24 Fiscal Audit Review with Chair Thomas and Vice Chair Neau |
| 12/3/24  | EDC Board of Supervisors Meeting   |
| 12/3/24  | RCTF/CAPTI Workshop  |
| 12/4/24  | Agenda Review with Supervisor Turnboo                                      |
| 12/4/24  | RTPA Meeting   |
| 12/4/24  | LTCAP US 50 Trip to Green Project Scope Discussion with Caltrans           |
| 12/5/24  | SACOG Transportation Committee Meeting                                     |
| 12/5/24  | EDCTA Board Meeting  |