

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2020
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

US Highway 50 Hot Spot Study

Based on feedback from Placerville and El Dorado County, Caltrans initiated this study in 2018 to identify congestion and safety solutions at key segments along US 50 from Placerville into the Tahoe Basin. As is commonly known, the existing travel lanes and three at-grade signalized intersections are wholly insufficient to handle the current level of traffic demand on US 50 in and through Placerville. This condition creates long frustrating delays for recreational and interregional throughput. Residents are also frustrated because, whether they are using US 50 itself or just trying to get across it, the high levels of traffic create long wait times at these intersections. While the Caltrans led Study included stakeholder outreach to affected public agencies, it was quickly apparent to EDCTC that a strong and focused public participation program in the Placerville area would be needed. EDCTC was able to obtain a supplemental grant from Caltrans, hiring AIM Consulting to facilitate discussions with key stakeholders and provide a more widespread community outreach program to obtain input and address the concerns and issues in how the Hot Spot Study effort would affect US 50 through Placerville.

The project team released a survey and virtual public workshop on September 24, 2020. The survey and virtual workshop were made available online through October 16, 2020. By the October 16 deadline, more than 540 responses were received from community members. AIM consulting is developing the summary report and will present a final summary report to the EDCTC in December.

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

EDCTC was awarded \$185,040 in Strategic Partnerships Transportation Planning grant funding to support this effort. EDCTC, in partnership with local and regional partners and Caltrans District 3, will conduct system user analysis, identify, and assess innovative pricing and investment strategies for the US 50 Corridor. The project will also include data collection and develop traffic management strategies to prepare an access control action plan for future deployment of a pilot project along US 50 within the City of Placerville. The access control action plan within the City of Placerville will conduct a risk assessment and evaluate the circulation impacts and procedures necessary for implementation of an innovative pilot project to close off local access to US 50 at the three signalized intersections. The access control plan will outline how a closure will be conducted during highly congested periods, as informed by the aforementioned system user travel analysis, to determine the effectiveness of such a strategy and identify potential lower cost congestion improvements. EDCTC received the Notice to Proceed from Caltrans on October 8, 2020 and released the Request for Proposals. Proposals are due on November 16, 2020 and a contract award is anticipated at the December 3, 2020 EDCTC meeting.

EI Dorado Hills Business Park Community Transportation Plan

Funded with \$144,000 in Federal Highway Administration State Planning and Research funding, this plan is working to address the increasing development interests in the area which is located near the El Dorado/Sacramento County Line by the expanding City of Folsom on the south side of U.S. Highway 50. Transportation demand, active mobility, and multi-modal connectivity is central to this planning effort for several reasons, including: the geographic relationship of the business park to the

Capital SouthEast Connector project; the potential for expanded transit services in the EDH area as a result of the ongoing efforts to locate a regional transit center there; the proximity to a substantial number of homes, businesses, offices, retail, and other activity centers. Three public outreach videos have been made available online to educate the public about the purpose and need for the transportation plan. The outreach videos set the stage for an interactive webinar held on October 22, 2020 and was attended by 39 people, many of whom provided constructive feedback. The interactive webinar was recorded and has been made available on the EDCTC project web page for additional viewing

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

EL DORADO COUNTY

Cycle Five Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Applications

EDCTC staff worked closely with El Dorado County DOT to review, edit, and support five applications for Cycle 5 of the ATP. The five applications included the following projects:

- Pony Express Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$1,440,000
- Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$496,000
- Golden Center Drive/Forni Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$1,982,000
- El Dorado Trail, Missouri Flat Road Pedestrian Overcrossing: \$5,129,000
- Diamond Springs Parkway Phase 1B: \$1,000,000

El Dorado County Traffic Impact Mitigation (TIM) Fee Update

EDCTC staff has been working closely with El Dorado County DOT on the update of the County's TIM fee program. Based on updated financial forecasts and changes to transportation funding over the past ten years, the funding estimates which help inform the TIM fee have changed, in some cases dramatically. EDCTC provided estimates for competitive grant and formulaic transportation funding to help right-size the financial forecast used in the development of the TIM fee program. The funding forecast provided by EDCTC is consistent with the financial forecast included in the 2020-2040 Regional Transportation Plan as well as the SACOG MTP/SCS.

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

In 2018, 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. Following the completion of the plan EDCTC secured State Planning and Research funding and released a request for proposals to update the County's Travel Demand Model to include the necessary inputs and analytical tools to comply with the requirements of SB 743. EDCTC awarded the contract to Fehr and Peers at the November 7, 2019 EDCTC meeting. EDCTC staff has worked closely with El Dorado County DOT staff and Fehr and Peers to update the County's model. Fehr and Peers is now finalizing the technical memos which will close out the project.

CITY OF PLACERVILLE

Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2.2

The City of Placerville was granted a 12-month construction allocation extension of Local Partnership Program funds at the June 26-27, 2020 California Transportation Commission meeting. EDCTC worked closely with the City of Placerville and Caltrans to finalize the Stormwater Data Report on September 4, 2020. The City anticipates going out to bid on October 27, 2020 with contract award in December or January and begin tree removal in early 2021.

Upper Broadway Bike Lanes Project

On October 18, 2017, the California Transportation Commission awarded \$1,886,000 in 2017 ATP Augmentation to support this effort. Paving has been completed from Smith Flat Road to Point View Drive. The remaining concrete work at the eastern end of the project is underway now and will be completed very soon. The contractor has finished the roadway reconstruction from Academy Drive through the Point View Drive intersection along with work on Monterey Road.

The final work including roadway reconstruction and shoulder improvements near the Dollar Tree store is complete. The City is working on a striping plan to finalize the work.

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 ROW, utility agreements, and final design. The City plans to submit a request for authorization for construction funds in November 2020 with construction beginning in spring 2021.

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 7, 2019 meeting, EDCTC programmed \$680,303 in CMAQ funds to the project PA&ED/PS&E and ROW phases. Environmental and cultural studies will be completed in fall/winter of 2020. The City submitted an Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 application to support construction on September 15, 2020.

Placerville Station II

The project is in the gravel lot, adjacent to the existing Placerville Station (Mosquito Park and Ride), north of US 50. In March 2019, EDCTC programmed \$645,000 in CMAQ funds to the project. The Mosquito Phase I utility project needs to finish, then Mosquito Phase II will pave Mosquito Road in September/October, then Placerville Station II will start construction. The City released the project for public bidding on August 25, 2020. The project is scheduled to go to construction in April 2021.

EL DORADO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan

On October 16, 2019, EDCTC submitted a FY 2020-2021 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grant application for \$180,000 (with \$45,000 of local matching funds) to fund the *El Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan*. On June 18, 2020, EDCTC received a letter from Caltrans confirming award of the \$180,000 planning grant. 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 project will develop a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Fleet Conversion Plan for El Dorado Transit to facilitate the 100% conversion of El Dorado Transit's current fleet of internal combustion vehicles to ZEB's by 2040. The project will also prepare El Dorado Transit's required ZEB Rollout Plan for submission to CARB by July 1, 2023. EDCTC released the RFP on September 3rd and received three proposals on the due date of October 7th. Interviews were held on October 15th. On November 5th staff will recommend EDCTC award the consulting contract to Stantec.

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. The contractor started work in September 2020. EDCTC will continue to seek funding to support Phase 2, the partial interchange at Upper Carson Road.

Construction on the mainline of US 50 has begun. The contractor is currently working toward the east end of the project, near the planned undercrossing just east of Lower Carson Road. They are preparing the temporary access road to Carson Court on the north side of US 50 and working with El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) to relocate waterlines on both sides of US 50. As they are working

on the north side EID line, they can start on the new undercrossing at that location. Mainline work for this area includes removing the existing median barrier in preparation of shifting traffic to start the bridge undercrossing construction. EDCTC staff has been participating in weekly project meetings to ensure impacts are mitigated for seasonal traffic and ultimately safety.

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 the active transportation trails and routes in the Sacramento region, including the existing and planned facilities in El Dorado County.

Telework Program

EDCTC staff has been tracking SACOG's effort toward support and expansion of telework throughout the region. Never before has telework been implemented as broadly as it is today and SACOG is working to identify the means to continue telework efforts beyond the confines of the pandemic.

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

State Transportation Funding

No changes have occurred with State transportation funding programs since the May revise released March 14, 2020. To recap, the May revise budget reflected a roughly 8% reduction in expenditures totaling \$203.3 billion. The portion of the budget going toward general government agencies took the biggest hit. Some agencies were impacted more than others. For example, the line item for "transportation" showed a 17.3% reduction from FY 2019/2020. California is constitutionally required to enact a balanced budget. Therefore, the May revise proposed the following to make up the shortfall imposed by the COVID-19 economic crisis:

- Cancel \$6.1 billion in program expansions and spending increases
- Redirect \$2.4 billion in extraordinary payments to CalPERS to temporarily offset the state's obligations to CalPERS in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.
- Reflects savings through increased efficiency in state operations now and into the future.
- Draw down \$16.2 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) over three years and allocate the Safety Net Reserve to offset increased costs in health and human services programs over the next two years.
- Withdrawal of \$8.3 billion, including \$7.8 billion from the Rainy Day Fund and \$450 million from the Safety Net Reserve in 2020-2021.
- Borrow and transfer \$4.1 billion from special funds.
- Temporarily suspend net operating losses and temporarily limit to \$5 million the amount of credits a taxpayer can use in any given tax year.
- Reflect the Administration's nationwide request of \$1 trillion in flexible federal funds

The full budget summary for the FY 2020-2021 May revise can be found here:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2020-21MR/#/BudgetSummary>.

Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1)

Some statewide transportation grant program deadlines were extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, to help restart and sustain the economy, the CTC is continuing with many of the competitive SB 1 transportation funding programs. EDCTC is working closely with City and County staff to develop a list of projects which are "shovel ready" to compete for these funds. Thus far, the City and County have submitted a total of six applications, totaling \$24,232,000, for the Active Transportation Program Cycle five grant.

State Transportation Legislation

On Monday, August 31, 2020, the State Legislature adjourned for the year. At the close of the legislative session, the focus remained on three issues, Housing, Police Reform, and Racial Justice and Equity, not transportation. However, some of the bills that we have been tracking, and may return in January 2021 when the legislature reconvenes, include the following:

- **AB 2730 – Access and functional needs: Agreement for emergency management and transportation**
 - Would authorize a county, including a city and county, to enter into an agreement with an adjacent county, upon the request of the adjacent county, for purposes of permitting the adjacent county to borrow, for compensation, the county's emergency management and transportation services in the event of an emergency that requires the evacuation and relocation of the access and functional needs population in the adjacent county. The bill would define an "adjacent county" for these purposes as a county within the same or a contiguous mutual aid region or regions, as defined. According to the bill, if a county, including a city and county, chooses to enter into an agreement under the bill's provisions, would require that the county integrate the agreement into its emergency plan within 90 days of entering into the agreement.
- **SB 45 – Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**
 - Authorizes General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for infrastructure related water, flood, and fire protection needs. Requires voter approval.
- **SB 1291 – Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program**
 - Current law requires each metropolitan planning organization and transportation planning agency, not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, to submit its Federal Transportation Improvement Program to the Department of Transportation for incorporation into the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. This bill would provide that a metropolitan planning organization or transportation planning agency is not required to submit a Federal Transportation Improvement Program to the department for 2020.
- **SB 1351 – Transportation planning**
 - Would create the Transportation Improvement Fee Subaccount in the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account and would continuously appropriate the revenues in the subaccount to the Department of Transportation and cities and counties as part of the same appropriation made to those entities from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

On September 30, the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the Government through December 11, 2020.

Infrastructure and Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Surface transportation legislation expired on September 30, 2020. However, it would be extended for one year. It was included in the Continuing Resolution as noted above and provides \$10.4 billion for the highway trust fund, \$3.2 billion for the mass transit account, and the Airport and Airway Trust Fund would get \$14 billion.

The House passed a 5-year \$494 billion Transportation Reauthorization Bill on July 20, 2020. The bill attempts to shift the focus on transportation policy toward environmental concerns. It increases transit funding by 150% over the last surface reauthorization measure. Additionally, transit projects would be eligible activities under several discretionary highway programs focusing on the environment.

COVID-19 Stimulus Update

COVID-19 stimulus and delayed appropriations appear set to merge into a multitrillion-dollar negotiation as Congress approaches the Dec. 11 expiration of the Continuing Resolution to fund the Government. Congressional leaders have sought to keep the two issues on separate tracks for months, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi has indicated that emergency funding will be added to the must-pass spending bill absent a separate coronavirus relief deal.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Wednesday (11/4/2020) he wants to pass a COVID-19 stimulus bill and all 12 fiscal 2021 appropriations bills before the end of the year. Both parties remain far apart on what a COVID-19 stimulus package should look like.

McConnell has repeatedly shut down requests of a \$1.9 trillion aid package that Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were discussing before the elections. McConnell instead put legislation (S 178) on the Senate floor that would have provided about \$500 billion in additional aid. Democrats blocked that bill from advancing past a procedural vote.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting October 1, 2020)*

10/02/20	Caltrans Webex Meeting Apple Hill Event
10/02/20	Fiscal Audit Discussion
10/02/20	Deliver Retirement Gift for Garth Hopkins
10/05/20	Annual FSP Meeting
10/06/20	EDC DOT Meeting – Rafael Martinez
10/07/20	RTS ISP Discussion – Tony Snider
10/12/20	RTPA Legislative Workshop
10/15/20	SACOG Board Meeting
10/16/20	Camino Safety Project Sight Visit
10/16/20	EDC DOT TIM Fees, RHNA and Housing Element Meeting
10/20/20	CalSTA Executive Order N 19 19 Workshop
10/20/20	RTPA Meeting
10/20/20	EDC BOS Meeting – TIM Fee Discussion
10/20/20	Caltrans and EDCTC – Sue Takhar
10/22/20	CTC Meeting
10/26/20	EDCTC Tac Meeting
10/27/20	EDCTC Caltrans Webex US 50 Hot Spot Study Action Plan – Kevin Yount
10/28/20	Caltrans Camino Update – Clark Peri
10/28/20	DOT/Arup Interview
10/29/20	EDCTC EDC DOT Coordination Meeting
11/03/20	Agenda Review with Chair Frenzten
11/03/20	Agenda Review with Vice Chair Taylor
11/04/20	CTC/Carb Meeting