

# Media Advisory

**Contact:** Dan Bolster, EDCTC  
Senior Transportation Planner  
(530) 642-5262 or [dbolster@edctc.org](mailto:dbolster@edctc.org)

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## **El Dorado County Transportation Commission Awarded \$250,000 for State Route 49 Realignment Study**

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) was recently awarded a \$250,000 Partnership Planning grant by Caltrans to study the realignment of State Route (SR) 49 between the towns of Coloma and El Dorado. The purpose of the study is to explore alternative alignments of SR 49 between Coloma and El Dorado that will improve interregional and regional conditions on the state and regional transportation system by improving traffic operations. The SR 49 Realignment Study will begin in February 2009 and will examine alternatives that eliminate the existing alignment of SR 49 through Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and the at-grade intersection of SR 49 and US 50 in Placerville which will reduce travel times and congestion in the corridor. The study will also explore alternatives that relieve SR 49 traffic impacts to densely populated residential areas and business districts of the City of Placerville and the towns of Diamond Springs and El Dorado. The SR 49 Realignment Study will consider how potential new alignments may affect jobs, corridor demographics, population growth, as well as current and future traffic demand and transportation needs. Proposed new alignments of SR 49 will evaluate the utilization of existing local roads, which may reduce the amount of resources required to achieve improved conditions in the corridor. The SR 49 Realignment Study will also consider alternatives that maximize bicycle, pedestrian, and transit opportunities and contribute to the remedy for current and future deficiencies in transportation safety in the SR 49 corridor.

Public involvement and outreach are major components of the State Route 49 Realignment Study. In an effort to involve a broad range of potentially affected interests, the project will include two public open houses and the involvement of a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) made up of representatives from groups and organizations within the project area. The purpose of the SAC is to provide both policy and technical guidance to the EDCTC during the development of the State Route 49 Realignment Study.

For more project information, please contact Dan Bolster at (530) 642-5262 or visit the EDCTC Web site at [www.edctc.org](http://www.edctc.org) to view information about the study.