

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

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Public transportation serves important roles in Western El Dorado County, providing mobility to area residents and employees, helping to solve environmental conditions, and contributing to the economy of the region. Like any business, it is important that an ongoing planning process be followed to guide the provision of public transportation services. The El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) was awarded a Transit Technical Assistance Grant by Caltrans to develop a Short Range Transit Plan for the western slope of El Dorado County. This plan updates a previous Short and Long Range Transit Plan conducted for the area in 2003, developed to span the years of 2003/04 through 2007/08. This current plan guides transit operations over the next five years (2008/09 through 2012/13). The EDCTC retained the services of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. (LSC) to develop this plan.

This *Plan* first presents a review of the setting for transit services such as demographic and employment conditions in Western El Dorado County, as well as a detailed analysis of current services being provided, and an evaluation of current goals and objectives for the El Dorado County Transit Authority. Next the overall demand for transit services in the region is evaluated. This information was then used to develop service, capital, financial, and institutional alternatives for EDCTA. Finally, a detailed five-year operating and financial plan is presented along with an approximate schedule for implementation.

### KEY STUDY ISSUES

The Social Services Transit Advisory Committee (SSTAC), EDCTC Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and EDCTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), along with transit staff, provided oversight and input for this Short Range Transit Plan. Through meetings with the advisory committees and the public, stakeholder interviews, and discussions with transit staff, the following key transit issues have been identified for the study:

- ♦ Needs for transit services are increasing, due to growth, development, and changes in demographics. In particular, the need for senior transportation is increasing as County residents “age in place.”
- ♦ Service to new development needs to be considered, particularly in El Dorado Hills (commercial and residential), Placerville, along Green Valley Road, and the Red Hawk Casino.
- ♦ Demand for the general public DAR system significantly exceeds the capacity.
- ♦ While there are mobility needs in remote rural portions of the area (particularly as an important link to social services), services already provided to these areas have low productivity.
- ♦ Some existing services have relatively low productivity and merit review.
- ♦ The need for transit services over the El Dorado/Sacramento County line is growing in both directions. The appropriate role of the EDCTA needs to be defined.

These issues provided guidance for the direction of the study.

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