
INFORMATION DISCUSSION ITEM**STAFF REPORT**

DATE: AUGUST 6, 2009
TO: EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: WOODROW DELORIA, ASSOCIATE TRANSPORTATION PLANNER
SUBJECT: 2009 EL DORADO COUNTY/ CITY OF FOLSOM CHAMBER STUDY MISSION

REQUESTED ACTION

None. This item is for information and/or discussion only.

BACKGROUND

The Urban to Rural Study Mission to Boulder, Colorado was held July 11– 13. The participants are preparing a Power Point presentation to share the knowledge gained during the several days of the Urban to Rural sustainability tour. The Chief Executive Officer of the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, Laurel Brent-Bumb, is scheduling presentations to EDCTC and other interested agencies.

DISCUSSION

Study Mission activities were focused around the Rural to Urban connections between people, consumer goods/services, and the relationship they have with existing and planned development and transportation infrastructure. Boulder, Colorado is a high-level example of the effective balancing of transportation and land use planning efforts. Consequently, this has led to the establishment of a very strong sense of place and feeling of community throughout the City. People, and resulting businesses, are attracted to Boulder as it is built at a human scale offering ample opportunities for recreation, bike and pedestrian transportation, ample public transit in and around the city, safety, and a vibrant and active commercial core. This attraction has drawn a large-scale influx of high-tech and research industry jobs that provide significant employment opportunities and generate substantial tax revenue. This attraction is also due in part to the connections with the greater Denver Metropolitan area and the University of Colorado.

El Dorado County parallels the greater Boulder area in many ways. For example, El Dorado County has vast recreation opportunities, is located within a cost-effective distance for transport to and from the Sacramento metropolitan area of influence, and has college and university opportunities within its boundaries. Of particular interest to EDCTC, Richard Foy founding partner of the design firm Commarts, shared insights regarding planning, street design, sustainability, and the concept of shaping human behavior through complete streets methodologies. By adapting policies and development practices presented in Boulder to fit the character and direction of El Dorado County, we may be able to one day enhance the already high quality of life being experienced.

Approved for Agenda:

Kathryn F. Mathews, AICP
Executive Director