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Kathryn Mathews, Executive Director

DATE: MARCH 4, 2010
TO: EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: KATHRYN MATHEWS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following is a brief overview of some of the issues and projects currently being advanced by EDCTC. An asterisk () notes items on this month's Commission agenda.*

ADMINISTRATION

***Local Transportation Fund:** According to the El Dorado County Office of Auditor-Controller, Local Transportation Fund (LTF) revenues for the period July 1 – December 31, 2009 were up 7.85% over the revised estimate. The Auditor's estimated Transportation Development Act revenue for FY 2010/11 remains at \$3,583,000, the same level as estimated for FY 2009/10.

Triennial Performance Audits: As a result of the RFP process, the Commission approved a contract with LSC for the Triennial Performance Audits of EDCTC and EDCTA for the FY 06/07 – 08/09 period. At this time, LSC is completing the required field work. LSC prepared an administrative draft audit report for review by EDCTC and EDCTA staff, to be followed by presentation to the Commission at your April meeting. The Triennial Performance Audits are due to Caltrans no later than June 30, 2010.

AB 1204 (Huber / Gaines): AB 1204 was amended to incorporate the language unanimously approved by the Commission at your December meeting and Assembly Member Gaines joined Assembly Member Huber as co-author. On January 27, AB 1204 passed out of the Assembly and is now in the Senate. The El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce and El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce recently adopted support positions on AB 1204. A meeting with Senator Cox is scheduled for March 10 to review AB 1204 and gain his support.

Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC): Caltrans Division of Aeronautics recently notified EDCTC that funding for the updates of the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans may become available in FY 2010/11. The required application has been submitted, in the amount of \$250,000, for the three airports in the EDCTC region. Recommendations for funding will be on the May (Information Calendar) and June (Action Calendar) California Transportation Commission meeting agendas. Approved funding will likely be available in July or August, 2010.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

State and Local Partnership Program: The California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted the State and Local Partnership Program (SLPP) guidelines at the December 10/11, 2008 CTC meeting. EDCTC worked collaboratively with El Dorado County DOT and the City of Placerville to develop the most competitive projects for the first year of the five-year State and Local Partnership

Program. On April 16, the CTC adopted the initial SLPP program (through calendar year 2009) which included the City of Placerville's Point View Drive extension project. Based in part on EDCTC testimony, the CTC revised SLPP guidelines for the second year of the SLPP. Applications for the FY 09/10 funding cycle were due to the CTC August 15 for programming in October. On October 15, the CTC adopted the second year SLPP program, which included funding for the Silva Valley Parkway Widening, White Rock Road Widening, and Durock Road intersection / signalization projects. At the January 13 CTC meeting, the Commission allocated SLPP funds to the Point View Drive project. The three County projects remain on the "pending allocation" list.

STIP Project – Missouri Flat Phase 1B: The Missouri Flat Phase 1B project, including the bike/ped facility, was allocated at the May 14 CTC meeting. Funding for the project includes State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP), Proposition 1B, State ARRA TE, Regional ARRA TE, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and a federal appropriation. This complex funding scenario is illustrative of the partnership strategies employed to bring this important project to construction. On November 9, the Board of Supervisors awarded the Missouri Flat Phase 1B construction contract to De Silva Gates / Viking Joint Ventures. Construction began in January.

CMIA Project – HOV Lane Extension: At the September 25, 2008 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$20 million in Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funds to the US 50 HOV Lane project from El Dorado Hills Boulevard to Bass Lake Road. Funding for this project also includes El Dorado County TIM Fees and regional Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The construction contract was awarded to Nehemiah Construction, Inc., at the November 18, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting. CMIA project cost savings, in the amount of \$3.5 million, have been identified. EDCTC submitted a competitive application to the CTC to program the cost savings to the project to extend the eastbound HOV Lane to Post Mile 4.4 to facilitate a safe merge of the HOV Lane and allow full utilization of the public's investment. Caltrans is recommending the US 50 HOV Lane project as the number one priority in Northern California. The CTC will take action on the CMIA cost savings at the April CTC meeting.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on February 17. El Dorado County DOT has completed the Forni Road, Pony Express Trail, Lotus Road, and Malcolm Dixon Road overlay projects and has submitted a Request for Authorization for the Latrobe Road project. The City of Placerville has completed the Carson Road and Cold Springs Road overlay projects. The Missouri Flat Phase 1B project is utilizing \$174,000 in regional ARRA Transportation Enhancement and \$5 million in State ARRA Transportation Enhancement funding.

Jobs for Main Street: EDCTC was notified of the potential for a second round of economic stimulus funding, Jobs for Main Street Act, on January 7. EDCTC staff met with staff from El Dorado County and the City of Placerville to discuss potential projects on January 11. EDCTC submitted an FTIP amendment to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for federal programming action, on January 19. Due to the 90 day to award a contract deadline in the current H.R. 2847, El Dorado County and the City of Placerville proposed construction of several road rehabilitation projects with this federal funding, and the Commission approved the proposed projects at your February meeting. El Dorado County DOT has begun developing approved projects in order to meet the anticipated, expedited delivery deadlines. Federal Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding is also expected as a component of Jobs for Main Street. EDCTC staff has met with technical staff and pedestrian advocates in an effort to develop a number of pedestrian projects which can be delivered with TE funding.

Rural Safety Innovation Program (RSIP): EDCTC is coordinating the delivery of the Rural Safety Innovation Program (RSIP) grant project. The project was awarded \$304,000 in RSIP Federal-aid funds to install a collision countermeasure system at the intersection of Still Meadows Road and US 50. The system will automatically activate signs that will advise westbound and eastbound US 50

drivers of the presence and direction of approaching cross traffic. The project was advertised for construction bids on September 8 and bids were opened on October 6, with the low bid of \$140,000. As a result, EDCTC executed a revised contribution agreement with Caltrans to reflect a reduction in the required local match. Construction is scheduled to begin in April (weather permitting) and is scheduled to take 30 days. The project will serve as a demonstration project for Caltrans. This construction project is advancing on schedule and on budget.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

***SR 49 Realignment Study – Coloma to El Dorado:** The Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Program selected EDCTC to receive \$250,000 in Partnership Planning Grant Funds for the State Route 49 Realignment Study – Coloma to El Dorado. As a result of the RFP process, the contract for the SR 49 Realignment Study was awarded to TY Lin International. Approximately 130 people attended the first Open House held on April 30 at the Fairgrounds and over 100 people attended the second Open House held on October 14, also at the Fairgrounds. A progress report on the Study was presented at the November 5 EDCTC meeting and was presented to both the Board of Supervisors and the City Council on December 8. The Draft Study was presented at your February meeting and the SR 49 Realignment Study – Coloma to El Dorado is on your agenda today for final acceptance as complete. This planning project is advancing on schedule and within budget.

El Dorado County Rural Transit Emergency Preparedness Plan: The Caltrans Transit Technical Planning Assistance Grant Program selected EDCTC to receive \$46,000 in FY 2009/10 Transit Technical Planning Assistance Grant Funds to develop a Rural Transit Emergency Preparedness Plan, following the Rural Transit Emergency Preparedness Plan guidance developed by Caltrans. This Plan is being developed in house in close coordination with area emergency response providers and existing transit-oriented advisory committees, including the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, the EDCTC Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the EDCTA Transit TAC, and the SACOG Transit Coordinating Committee. This planning project is advancing on schedule and within budget.

City of Placerville and El Dorado County Bicycle Plan Updates: The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) met November 12, January 14, February 11, April 22, May 27, and August 19 to review the existing bicycle plans and existing conditions and to discuss proposed goals, objectives and policies, and proposed improvements. The draft plan is scheduled to be complete in April for review by the BAC. This planning project is advancing on schedule and within budget.

Regional Transportation Plan 2010 – 2030: The draft of the Policy Element, Chapters I – V, was approved by the Commission at the June meeting. EDCTC staff is currently focusing on the multi-modal Action Element, both short-term (1-10 years) and long-term (10-20) years. The RTP Advisory Committee met on January 14 to review the action elements by mode. EDCTC issued the RFP for the RTP environmental document on January 25, and a recommendation to enter into a contract with ESP is on your agenda today for action. The next RTP Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 25. This planning project is advancing on schedule and within budget.

El Dorado County Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP): The 2010 RTIP, approved at your December 3 Commission meeting, was submitted to the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans on January 28. The CTC Northern California 2010 STIP Hearing is scheduled for March 22 in Sacramento.

Federal Highway Reauthorization/Appropriations: The FFY 2011 appropriations request forms are due to Senator Feinstein on February 5 and Senator Boxer on February 12. Congressman McClintock is not accepting appropriations requests; however, EDCTC did submit High Priority Project (HPP) requests for Congressman McClintock's consideration. Congressman McClintock included the Western Placerville Interchanges HPP funding request for consideration in Reauthorization. HPP requests were also submitted to Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer. Please refer to the attached Monthly Activity Report prepared by Pete Evich of Van Scoyoc Associates.

EDCTC, working in collaboration with ED DOT, submitted an ARRA Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for consideration as a component of the California TIGER application. The proposed project, extension of the HOV Lanes from Bass Lake Grade to Ponderosa Road, was not funded; however, the FY 10 Transportation Appropriations Measure includes a \$600 million grant program for surface transportation infrastructure with a set-aside for rural projects. The TIGER project application will be refreshed and submitted for this federal funding program as soon as the grant solicitation is released.

EVENTS/MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Feb 8 participated in the Cap to Cap Transportation Team meeting, in Sacramento
- Feb 9 attended the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, in El Dorado Hills
- Feb 12 participated in the Cap to Cap Leadership Team meeting, in Sacramento
- Feb 17 participated in the Cap to Cap Transportation Team meeting, in Sacramento
- Feb 18 attended the SACOG Board Meeting, in Sacramento
- Feb 19 attended the Urban Land Institute seminar on Transit Oriented Development, in Rancho Cordova
- Feb 23 met with Maggie Townsley and Tom Zlotkowski regarding the Capital SouthEast Connector, in Folsom
- Feb 24 represented the Rural Counties Task Force at the Regional Transportation Planning Agency meeting, in Rancho Cordova
- Feb 24-25 represented the Rural Counties Task Force at the California Transportation Commission meeting, in Rancho Cordova
- Mar 2 participated in the Cap to Cap Transportation Team meeting, in Sacramento

KFM:

Attachments: A) Monthly Activity Report, Van Scoyoc Associates

EDCTC

**March
2010 Report**



Pete Evich, Vice President

FY 11 Appropriations - EDCTC Federal Project Requests

In February, VSA worked with EDCTC staff to submit the Commission's FY11 funding projects to the CA Senatorial Delegation. The Commission submitted the El Dorado Trail project to Senator Boxer's office on February 12 and the Silva Valley Interchange project to Senator Feinstein's office on February 5.

EDCTC and Van Scoyoc Associates met with the California Senatorial Delegation Washington DC staff last year on these projects. From those meetings, EDCTC received particularly positive feedback from Senator Boxer's office in regard to the El Dorado Trail Project. VSA will be arranging an El Dorado Trail bike ride/tour with Stacey Smith and Brandon Ida of Senator's Boxer's Sacramento office in the near future.

VSA will also be working with Director Mathews to schedule appropriations staff meetings in Washington to discuss EDCTC's FY11 requests during Cap-to-Cap. The Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee deadline for Members (Senators) to submit their priority projects is April 26. The Cap-to-Cap trip will occur from April 19 to April 21, which will be prior to Senate Appropriations Committee deadline for submitting requests to the Committee.

VSA will continue to monitor developments related to the FY11 Appropriations process and keep EDCTC up-to-date on next steps and necessary advocacy action items.

Federal Transportation Law Expired – Extension still on hold

The partisan gridlock in Congress has spilled over to the nation's highways and bridges as the Senate was unable to extend the law that governs the bulk of federal transportation programs before its expiration at midnight Sunday, February 28th. Until an extension is enacted, the federal government is unable to reimburse states for road work. As of March 2, an extension is still pending.

The Transportation Department said the law's expiration will force the furloughs of about 2,000 federal employees and that inspectors will be pulled from scores of construction projects, temporarily halting work on federal land. The furloughs and spending freeze could have far-reaching impacts, affecting everything from traditional state road work to transportation safety initiatives to even some stimulus projects.

The multi-year highway law was set to expire at the end of last September but had been continued by a series of one- and two-month extensions. The House signed off on another extension, the fifth, on Thursday. The Senate had planned to pass the extension Friday as part of a package of extensions including unemployment insurance, but the effort was blocked by Senator Jim Bunning (R-Ky.), who demanded that lawmakers find a way to offset the roughly \$10 billion package.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James Oberstar (D-Minn.) previously opposed any extension longer than a month or two in an attempt to keep the transportation issue on Congress' front burner, but he had agreed to extend the law through September as part of the House's \$150 billion jobs package. Oberstar has expressed concern over the extension in the Senate jobs bill because of how it divvies up roughly \$900 million in federal cash that was previously earmarked for major transportation projects. But according to the American Association of State Highway and Traffic Officials, he has secured a promise from Democratic leaders that his concerns will be addressed in future legislation, making him likely to go along with the Senate plan.

TIGER Grant Announcement

On February 17 the Administration awarded \$1.5 billion in federal transportation TIGER grants (The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant). Just over 50 major projects in 41 states received funding, including four in California. Unfortunately, the US 50 HOV project submitted by EDCTC was not selected for a TIGER grant award.

The TIGER Grant program emanated from the stimulus package and it was set up for innovative, long-term work that will likely take longer than some of the "shovel ready" projects that were the primary focus of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. TIGER has been lauded by a wide range of transportation advocates and received intense interest from states, which asked for a total of roughly \$57 billion from the \$1.5 billion program. DOT received nearly 1,400 applications for the program, with more than half of the total funding requested for highway and bridge projects, and the remainder split among transit, rail, port, and multi-modal proposals. Projects were eligible for a maximum of \$300 million under the program, but no individual project came close to that threshold. The three largest grants were awarded to freight projects: \$105 million to build two new intermodal facilities in Tennessee and Alabama along a Norfolk Southern route linking the Gulf Coast and the mid-Atlantic; \$100 million for a package of 78 projects addressing freight rail congestion in the Chicago area; and \$98 million to increase freight capacity along three major CSX corridors connecting the Midwest with the East Coast.

California received four grants totaling \$130 million, the most of any state. The four CA grants were:

1. Otay Mesa Port-of-Entry I-805/SR-905 Interchange from the San Diego Assn. of Governments (\$20.2 million)
2. California Green Trade Corridor/Marine Hwy Project from the Ports of Oakland, Stockton and West Sacramento (\$30 million)
3. Alameda Corridor East: Colton Crossing from CA DOT (\$33.8 million)
4. Doyle Drive Replacement from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and CA DOT (\$46 million)

Many in the transportation community cheered the creation of the grant program, saying that it could serve as a pilot program for performance-driven decision making ahead of the next

multiyear highway and transit bill. Traditionally, the bulk of federal transportation investment has been allocated according to funding formulas, but transportation experts and a number of lawmakers have called for an overhaul of the system to make it more innovative and mode-neutral. The transportation sector has lobbied lawmakers to reload the TIGER program with additional federal funding as part of jobs legislation, but has been unsuccessful to date.

The program has a number of similarities to a national infrastructure bank proposed by the White House that would provide direct federal funding and seed money for large-scale capital project grants that provide substantial economic benefit to the nation or a region. The Administration requested \$4 billion to launch the bank in the fiscal 2011 budget proposal, \$2.6 billion of which would be handed out in grants or loans during fiscal 2011.

FY10 National Infrastructure Investments Grant

The FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations measure which was signed into law in mid-December included a \$600 million grant program to support significant transportation projects in a wide variety of modes, including highways and bridges, public transportation, passenger and freight railroads, and port infrastructure.

The Department of Transportation will likely have an official grant opportunity announcement related to this program sometime later this month. VSA's understanding from a DOT official is that this pending grant solicitation will probably fund 10 to 12 projects. The statute language stated that DOT must award the grants by mid-September of this year. VSA will continue to monitor this grant, and as we learn additional information, we will promptly inform EDCTC. Also, VSA will try to arrange a meeting for EDCTC Director Mathews with DOT officials who will oversee this grant during Cap-to-Cap in April.