

Chapter 1 Introduction

Transportation considerations play a key role in the quality of life provided by any community. Access to social services and medical services, employment opportunities, educational resources and basic necessities are topics of universal concern, as they have a strong impact on the economy, ease of movement, and quality of life for the residents of an area. In addition to providing mobility to residents without easy access to a private automobile, transit services can provide a wide range of economic development and environmental benefits.

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) has retained LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., to prepare a 2025 Long Range Transit Plan (LRTP), and a 5-Year Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) to improve and enhance transit services. This plan document first presents and reviews the characteristics of the study area, including demographic factors. A thorough review of existing land use and transportation plans is then presented, focusing on the factors that impact the need for public transportation services. The operating history of the transit services provided in the study area is then reviewed, and the lessons learned from the service changes implemented as a result of previous plan efforts are analyzed. The document also includes an updated analysis of the demand for transit services in the study area, both presently and through 2025. This document then presents alternatives for providing transportation services, including operational, managerial and capital factors, for short- and long-range planning horizons. Finally, a detailed, financially constrained Short Range Transit Plan is presented for the future improvement in El Dorado County Transit Authority (EDCTA) services, as well as a more generalized Long Range Transit Plan. The SRTP is valid through the end of Fiscal Year 2007/08, while the LRTP is valid through 2025.

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