

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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The El Dorado County 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was developed under the direction of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC). The RTP is designed to be a blueprint for the systematic development of a balanced, comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system, including but not limited to: roadways, transit, aviation, goods movement, bikeways, pedestrian facilities, transportation systems management and intelligent transportation systems. In addition, the RTP is action oriented and pragmatic, considering both the short-term (up to ten year) and long-term (ten to twenty year) periods.

This RTP is developed to fulfill the state requirements of AB 402 (Government Code Title 7, Chapter 2.5, Sections 65080-65082). The specific guidance of the California Transportation Commission Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines (revised December 1999 and December 2003) have been considered in developing this 2025 RTP.

## PURPOSE

In general, Regional Transportation Plans are developed to provide a clear vision of the regional transportation goals, objectives, and policies, complimented by short-term and long-term strategies for implementation. The vision must be both realistic and fiscally constrained. In addition to providing a vision, the RTP serves the following specific functions:

- ◆ Provides an assessment of the current modes of transportation and the potential of new travel options within the region
- ◆ Predicts the future needs for travel and goods movement
- ◆ Identifies and documents specific actions necessary to address the region's mobility and accessibility needs
- ◆ Identifies needed transportation improvements, in sufficient detail, to serve as a foundation for the:
  - ✓ Development of the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP)
  - ✓ Facilitation of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)/404 integration process decisions
  - ✓ Identification of project purpose and need
  - ✓ Development of an estimate of emissions impacts for demonstrating conformity with the air quality standards identified in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).
- ◆ Promotes consistency between the California Transportation Plan, the regional transportation plan and other transportation plans developed by cities, counties, special districts, private organizations, tribal governments, and state and federal agencies in responding to statewide and interregional transportation issues and needs

- ◆ Provides a forum for:
  - ✓ Participation and cooperation
  - ✓ Facilitation of partnerships that reconcile transportation issues which transcend regional boundaries
- ◆ Involves the public, federal, state and local agencies and Tribal Governments, as well as local elected officials, early in the transportation planning process so as to include them in discussions and decisions regarding the social, economic, air quality and environmental issues related to transportation.

The 2025 RTP, pending review by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), will become the El Dorado County portion of the SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

### REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Government Code Section 65080 states that Regional Transportation Plans shall include the following components:

A **policy element** that identifies the mobility goals, objectives, and policies of the region. This element outlines the process for implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan to guide decision-makers.

An **action element** that identifies programs and actions to implement the RTP in accordance with the goals, objectives, and policies set forth in the policy element. The institutional and legal actions needed to implement the Regional Transportation Plan and action plans are also discussed in this section, followed by a detailed assessment of all transportation modes. It is within the action element that priorities for regional transportation programs are established.

A **financial element** that summarizes the cost of implementing the projects in the RTP within a financially constrained environment. All anticipated transportation funding revenues are compared with the anticipated costs of the transportation programs and actions identified in the action element. If shortfalls are identified, strategies are developed to potentially fund the otherwise unfunded projects.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

**Environmental documentation** is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The environmental documentation states whether there will be an environmental impact of the plan and, if so, what that impact will be. Depending upon the scope of the plan and the local environment, the appropriate environmental documentation may be a negative declaration, a mitigated negative declaration, or a full environmental impact report (EIR).

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROCESS

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for El Dorado County, except for that portion of the County within the Tahoe Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). One of the fundamental responsibilities which results from this designation is the preparation of the County's Regional Transportation Plan.

Under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between EDCTC and SACOG, entered into in June of 1993 and amended in June of 1994, EDCTC submits the Regional Transportation Plan for inclusion into the SACOG (MTP). This process is important to both the SACOG MTP and the EDCTC RTP, as it allows for a locally developed RTP to be included in the regional air quality conformity process. This locally developed RTP process includes a local consensus of policies, projects, programs and funding decisions, which then become an integral part of the regional MTP.

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