

CHAPTER 2: ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), as the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency, has a number of different roles and responsibilities in the transportation activities of El Dorado County, as discussed below.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY (RTPA) DESIGNATION

The EDCTC was designated as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the western slope of El Dorado County on July 23, 1975, (and as amended April 4, 1979) per Article 11, Chapter 2, Division 3, Title 3 of the Government Code and organized per Chapter 3, Title 21 of the California Administrative Code. This planning and programming authority does not include that portion of the County within the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) planning boundaries (See figure 3-2). TRPA is the RTPA for the Tahoe Basin area. The EDCTC is operated under a Joint Powers Agreement between El Dorado County and the City of Placerville, which was executed on June 6, 1995.

As the RTPA for El Dorado County, EDCTC has prepared and/or updated the Regional Transportation Plan for El Dorado County every two to four years since 1976. Prior to 1976, Caltrans prepared the RTP for the County. EDCTC is responsible for developing and adopting a plan that conforms with the most recent version of the California Transportation Commission's *Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines*, revised December 1999 and December 2003, in order to ensure that EDCTC and its member jurisdictions continue to receive state and federal transportation planning and construction funds.

OTHER AGENCIES

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

The City of Placerville and County of El Dorado are member jurisdictions of the EDCTC. As members, each of the jurisdictions has direct input into EDCTC's decision-making process, both on a staff and commission level. The Commission consists of three members appointed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and three members appointed by the Placerville City Council. The District Director of Caltrans, District 3, or their designated representative and a representative from the City of South Lake Tahoe serve as ex-officio members of the Commission.

The input provided by the member jurisdictions directly affects the content and direction of the RTP. The member jurisdictions are represented on the EDCTC Policy Advisory Committee and RTP Advisory Committee. Further, jurisdictions recommend specific projects to be included in the action plan of the RTP. Any project that requires federal or state funding must be included in the RTP in order to be eligible. Many of the goals, objectives, and policies delineated in the RTP are implemented by the jurisdictions. The participation and agreement of all jurisdictions, therefore, is critical in implementing the RTP.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (CTC)

The California Transportation Commission is composed of members appointed by the Governor to oversee transportation funding in California. The CTC biennially adopts the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is a four-year capital improvement program for state and federal transportation funding. EDCTC recommends projects in the local Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to be considered by the CTC for inclusion in the STIP.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS)

Virtually all federal and state planning and construction funds are administered through Caltrans to EDCTC and its member jurisdictions. As a result, Caltrans is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the activities of EDCTC to ensure that transportation planning and programming requirements associated with these funding programs are met. The RTP is the cornerstone of these requirements, as local areas plan a comprehensive transportation system which identifies what improvements are most needed and how they will be funded.

Most federal and state programs administered by Caltrans require projects to be identified in a current RTP that meets state and federal guidelines in order for such projects to be funded. Without an adopted RTP, Caltrans could not distribute funds to EDCTC and its jurisdictions to build those projects, nor could Caltrans build its own projects within the region. As the owner operator of the state highway system, Caltrans has a vested interest in ensuring that a complete and conforming RTP is adopted.

Caltrans representatives participate in the development and review of the RTP. The agency is represented on the EDCTC Policy Advisory Committee and RTP Advisory Committee. Caltrans' perspective on pertinent transportation issues is sought, and Caltrans recommends projects to be included in the action plan. When the draft RTP is completed, it is sent to Caltrans District 3 and Headquarters for comments. Further, Caltrans Headquarters distributes the draft RTP to the appropriate divisions, such as Mass Transportation and Aeronautics, for more specific review. The comments received as a result of the review conducted by the various divisions of Caltrans are then incorporated, as appropriate, in the final RTP.

SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SACOG)

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. In addition, SACOG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Sacramento Metropolitan Area. As a result, SACOG acts as the MPO for the western slope of El Dorado County within the Federal Ozone Non-attainment Area.

EDCTC has the responsibility for the development and adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program for El Dorado County. SACOG has the responsibility for the development and adoption of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. SACOG also has the responsibility for making findings of conformity required under Section 176 of the Federal Clean Air Act with the designated Federal Ozone Non-attainment Area. Under the terms of a Memorandum EDCTC and SACOG entered into in June of 1994, EDCTC submits the Regional Transportation Plan for inclusion into the SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The planning process includes systematic public participation and input from advisory committees to EDCTC. The purpose of the advisory committees is to provide technical

assistance, advice, and recommendations to EDCTC to aid in fulfilling its responsibilities for a coordinated transportation planning process within El Dorado County. Assistance and input for preparation of the RTP has been provided by the following EDCTC advisory committees:

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The Policy Advisory Committee is composed of the City Manager(s), selected department heads representing the City of Placerville, the Chief Administrative Officer and selected department heads representing El Dorado County, a representative from El Dorado County Transit Authority, the Caltrans District 3 Liaison, a Caltrans District 3 Project Manager, and the SACOG Liaison. The PAC advises the EDCTC on technical issues and transportation/policy issues that will come before the Commission. Meetings are held on a monthly basis.

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC)

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council is a diverse group of persons representing senior, handicapped, and limited means populations, as well as commuters. SSTAC members are recruited and appointed by the EDCTC in accordance with Transportation Development Act statutes. The SSTAC meets several times throughout the year to discuss transit needs in El Dorado County.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The RTP Advisory Committee includes invited representatives from jurisdictions, communities, transit operators, tribal governments, bicycle groups, pedestrian advocates, freight/goods movement interests, environmental groups, taxpayer associations, chambers of commerce, and social service agencies. The RTP Advisory Committee, appointed by the EDCTC to reflect the diverse interest groups within El Dorado County, provides input during all phases of the RTP update process. Refer to Appendix B for RTP Advisory Committee meeting agendas.

CITY OF PLACERVILLE NON-MOTORIZED ADVISORY COMMITTEE/EL DORADO COUNTY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

These two committees assist EDCTC with bicycle and pedestrian issues including the development of bikeway and non-motorized plans. These advisory committees meet regularly to discuss pedestrian and bicycle issues, with a focus on improving the bikeway network throughout El Dorado County as well as improving access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. The City of Placerville Non-Motorized Advisory Committee and the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan Advisory Committee members are appointed by the EDCTC.

Additional advisory committees are established by the Commission on an as-needed basis. Refer to Appendix C for EDCTC Committees.

CONSULTATION WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The Shingle Springs Rancheria is located within El Dorado County. EDCTC conducted an early, formal consultation with the tribal chair (Appendix E) in order to discuss the Regional Transportation Plan process and consider the interests of the Shingle Springs Rancheria in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan.

GENERAL PUBLIC

All residents of El Dorado County are affected by transportation and, as such, are an important component of the transportation planning process. It is the public's needs and actions that determine the effectiveness of transportation plans. Throughout the development of the RTP, which is the primary planning document for transportation in El Dorado County, EDCTC actively solicits the participation of the general public.

Once a draft RTP is produced, general public involvement is solicited through public meetings and the public hearing process. In addition, citizen comments are encouraged and accepted at any point during the plan development. The draft RTP and environmental documentation are made available at county libraries, at jurisdiction offices, on the EDCTC web page, and at EDCTC offices. Citizens are invited to review the plan and make comments at a noticed public hearing, which takes place prior to plan adoption by the Commission. In accordance with RTP guidelines, the public hearings for the RTP must be noticed and posted at least 10 days prior to the hearing date. The environmental documentation is also made available for public review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and noticed prior to the public hearing.

OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The Regional Transportation Plan outlines the region's goals and policies for meeting current and future transportation needs and provides a foundation for transportation decision-making. Transportation planning is conducted by several agencies at all levels of government in El Dorado County. The plans and programs related to this RTP include: local general plans, the short and long range transit plan, non-motorized and bicycle facilities plans, other agencies' RTPs, the SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, the State Transportation Improvement Program, and Caltrans concept reports. The El Dorado County RTP is designed to be consistent with the adopted plans and programs.

LOCAL GENERAL PLANS

Local governments prepare circulation elements governing street and transportation system improvements for incorporation into their local general plans and capital improvement programs. By state law, local government circulation elements and capital improvement programs must be internally consistent with the land use elements of their general plans in order for the local general plan as a whole to be considered legally adequate. The capital improvement program contains improvements that are needed for implementation of the goals, policies and uses designated by the general plan for that jurisdiction. Locally significant transportation improvements are ultimately proposed for inclusion in the RTP if state or federal funds are used, or if the improvement is located on a regionally significant route. The RTP is consistent with existing general plans and local jurisdictions' capital improvement programs.

SHORT AND LONG RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

EDCTC adopted a 2025 Long Range Transit Plan and a 5-Year Short Range Transit Plan to improve and enhance transit services in 2002. The Short Range Plan includes service recommendations, a capital plan, an institutional and management plan, and a financial plan for the fiscal years 2003/04 – 2007/08. The Long Range Plan also includes service recommendations, a capital plan, an institutional and management plan, and a financial plan extending to 2025. The RTP is consistent with the Short and Long Range Transit Plan.

NON-MOTORIZED AND BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

EDCTC has developed both the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for the City of Placerville and the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan. Both plans include detailed lists of existing conditions, proposed projects and goals, objectives and policies to guide the development of projects and programs related to bicycle and pedestrian transportation. The RTP is consistent with the City of Placerville Non-Motorized Plan and the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan.

OTHER AGENCIES' REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Surrounding areas such as the Tahoe Basin, Placer County, Amador County, and the greater Sacramento region also prepare RTPs addressing similar issues and state required criteria. These plans are intended to coordinate with each other and address efficient and convenient interregional connections. In addition, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments develops a six-county (Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, Placer, and El Dorado) Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is based in part on the Placer County RTP and El Dorado County RTP. The SACOG MTP includes an air quality analysis that is required for the El Dorado County RTP. The RTP is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plans of surrounding areas.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTIP)

The RTIP is a four-year program of transportation projects for El Dorado County that includes: 1) federally funded transportation projects; and 2) projects nominated for inclusion in the STIP. The RTIP is adopted by EDCTC and is due to Caltrans and the CTC by December 15 of every odd year. The CTC adopts guidelines, policies and procedures to guide the STIP process. Projects in the RTIP must be consistent with the adopted RTP in order to be programmed into the STIP.

STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

In every even year, the CTC adopts the RTIPs from the regions of California, together with the Caltrans Interregional Transportation Improvement Program, to form the STIP. The STIP is a biennial four-year programming document listing all major capital outlay projects to be funded from state transportation funds allocated by the CTC. The CTC may accept or reject a region's RTIP in its entirety but may not reject specific projects in the RTIP according to State law. The RTP is consistent with the adopted STIP.

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL CLEAN AIR PLAN

The Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area for ozone includes the western slope of El Dorado County. The Sacramento Regional Clean Air Plan, or State Implementation Plan, was adopted in 1994 in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act. The RTP must conform with the State Implementation Plan. The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District is the local agency responsible for protecting the public and the environment from the effects of air pollution. The District's jurisdiction is all of El Dorado County, including the City of Placerville. The SACOG MTP includes an air quality conformity analysis that is required for the El Dorado County RTP.

CALTRANS PLANS

Caltrans prepares a District System Management Plan and route specific transportation concept reports for the regional highway system in El Dorado County that provide technical transportation information regarding the state highway system and the definitions regarding existing highway facilities and Level of Service. Caltrans published a District System Management Plan in 1992. In addition, Caltrans has prepared Transportation Concept Reports for State Route 49, US 50, State Route 89, State Route 153, and State Route 193. These plans cover a twenty-year time frame and provide technical assessments of transportation needs as well as the identification of problems that will result in planning and funding decisions relating to proposed improvements. The RTP is consistent with the published Caltrans plans.

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