



US 50 Corridor Action Plan
Open House
December 8, 2022 | 5:00-7:00 p.m.

US 50 Corridor Action Plan Community Open House Event Summary

Introduction

On Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) and City of Placerville jointly hosted a community open house about the US 50 Corridor Action Plan. At this event, participants had a chance to hear updates on the Action Plan, to view the results of the Trip to Green demonstration weekends, and to provide feedback on next steps. A total of 32 community members attended the meeting, which was at the Placerville Town Hall located at 549 Main Street in Placerville.

Project Overview

As the primary transportation corridor extending through El Dorado County, US 50 highway serves the County's major population centers, including El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Diamond Springs, Placerville, Camino, and South Lake Tahoe. Peak month Average Daily Traffic (ADT) ranges from 106,000 at the west end of the County at Latrobe Road, to 16,800 at the junction of SR 89 in South Lake Tahoe (from 2017). To address long-term problems associated with limited data availability and a need for a comprehensive investment strategy for the US 50 Corridor, EDCTC in partnership with the City of Placerville, local and regional partners, and Caltrans District 3, is conducting system user analysis, identifying, and assessing innovative pricing and investment strategies for the US 50 Corridor. The project also includes data collection and development traffic management strategies, which led to the deployment of Trip to Green, a pilot project of access control along US 50 within the City of Placerville.

Workshop Purpose

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), the City of Placerville, and Caltrans are developing the US 50 Corridor Action Plan to consider creative solutions to the longstanding congestion issues on US 50 through Placerville. At this workshop, community members reviewed previous efforts to address traffic on US 50 and its existing conditions, received updates on the recent 'Trip to Green' Pilot Program, and learned about potential alternatives and solutions for traffic congestion issues. Representatives from the City of



Welcome Sign



Placerville, EDCTC, and the project consultant team were available to discuss the project and answer questions.

Stations

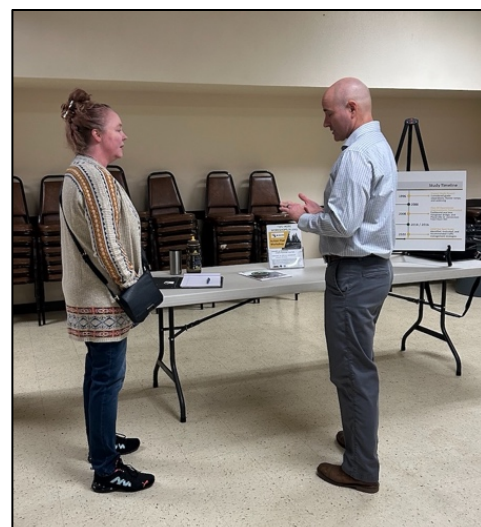
The workshop was structured in an open-house format with four stations, which allowed flexibility for participants to come and go as they please. These stations included: How We Got Here, Trip to Green Program, Traffic Model and System Analysis, and What Now/Next Steps. A detailed description of the four stations participants visited at the open house follows.

Welcome Table

This station included sign-in sheets and two project staff members welcoming participants and explaining the open house layout.

Station 1: How We Got Here

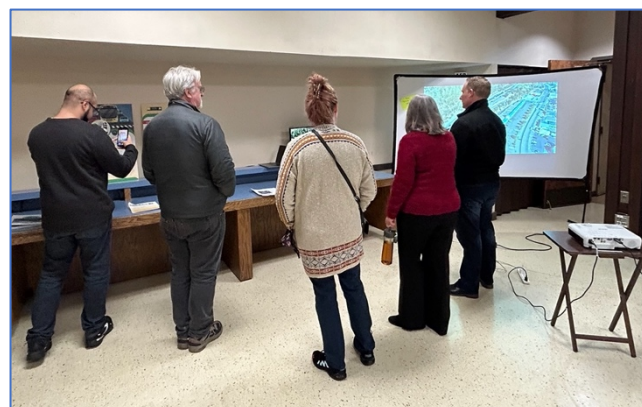
An EDCTC project member was at Station 1 to speak with the public about how we got to this point in the project. This station included an information board of the timeline of what has been done so far and a one-pager fact sheet explaining the traffic congestion problems for participants to take home.



Station 1 – How We Got Here

Station 2: Trip to Green Program

A City of Placerville project member was at Station 2 to speak about the Trip to Green program. This station included a video of drone footage showing traffic on US 50 on a Trip to Green weekend versus a non-Trip to Green weekend. An information board explaining the Trip to Green program and key takeaways was located at this station, along with a 72-page outreach summary detailing efforts made to let the public know about the Trip to Green weekends and questionnaire results given to the community a week after the last Trip to Green weekend.



Station 2 – Trip to Green Program



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Station 3: Traffic Model and System Analysis

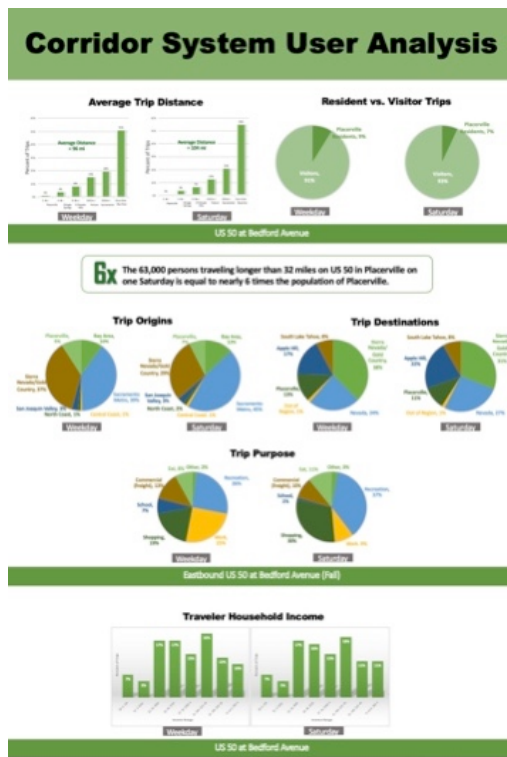
A project member from Wood Rodgers engineering firm was at Station 3 to discuss the traffic model and system analysis. This station included an information graphic comparing traffic data of a typical fall travel weekend with a Trip to Green weekend.

Station 4: What Now

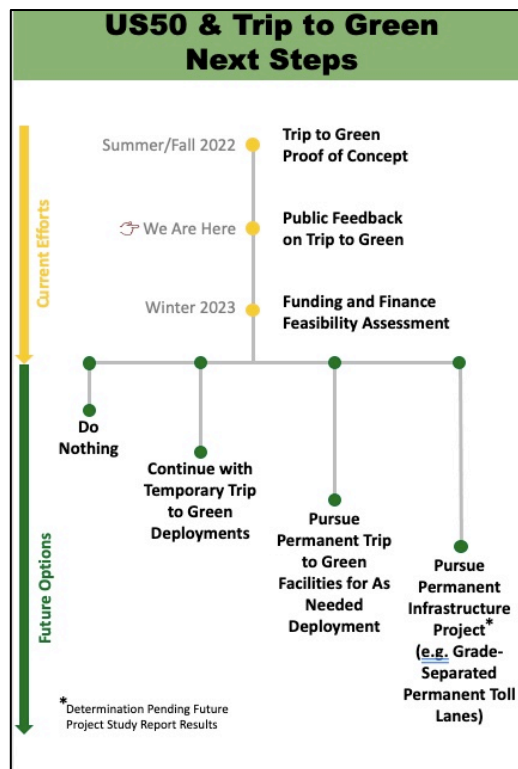
A Wood Rodgers project member was at Station 4 to explain possible future alternatives for dealing with US 50 traffic congestion. Some examples include grade separated toll lanes, flyovers, roundabouts, or do nothing. Station 4 included an information board of the US 50 Trip to Green's next steps and timeline.

Comment Card Table

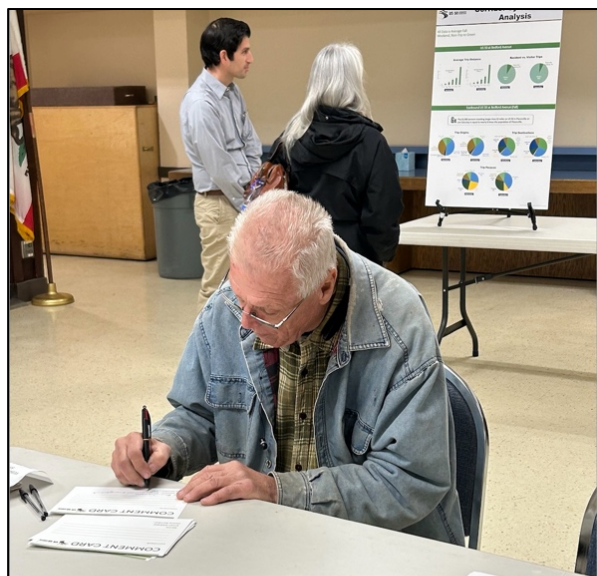
In the middle of the room was a table with comment cards and pens to encourage the community to give input on the project. A comment box was provided to collect comment cards. See "Community Input" below, for a detailed log of all comment cards submitted.



Station 3 - User Analysis Board



Station 4 - Timeline Board



Comment Card Table



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Publicity & Noticing

The project development team identified specific targeted audiences that that are being engaged throughout the US 50 Corridor Action Plan and Trip to Green projects. AIM Consulting created a stakeholder database of 220 unique contacts spanning community members, adjacent neighborhoods, emergency responders, distribution firms, main street businesses, nearby properties, Placerville Drive area businesses, and more.

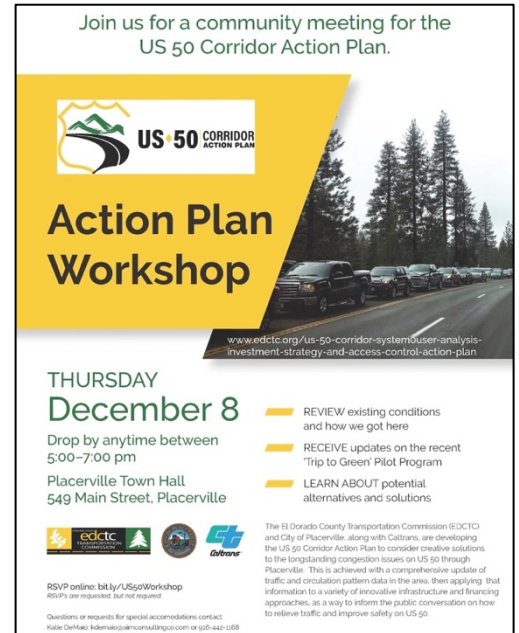
To publicize and notice this workshop, Personalized phone calls were made on November 15, November 29, and December 7 to inform people about the event and encourage their attendance. People in the stakeholder database received three rounds of emails on November 14, November 28, and December 6 including the event flyer, which they were encouraged to share with their organization. Furthermore, the flyer and event information was shared via social media weekly, including various Facebook groups specific to El Dorado County. Flyers were placed in local and downtown coffee shops, businesses, and restaurants two weeks before the event. Furthermore, one week before the event, on November 29, a news release was sent out to all local news sources.

Community Input

Seven community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the open house. The following comments were submitted on comment cards:

“I live next to HWY. 50 at Bedford Ave. On the Trip to Green weekends, it was much quieter on the highway, less noise, calmer without accelerating and braking, lessened siren noise, blessedly calm and less speeding to beat the lights!”

“Go green all through the month of October to the 1st weekend of November or until Veterans Day. Then green the weekend after thanksgiving.”



Open House Flyer



Figure 8: Project team member discusses project.



“Trip to Green should be implemented from Sept.15th the start of Apple Hill opening, until mid-Nov. End of the Christmas tree season! Trip to Green is an effective reduction thru W.B 50 for residents and merchants. Looking forward to a completed resolution that will positively affect the public, merchants, and residents.”

“Placing more EV chargers downtown would encourage more local businesses to use both from locals and thru traffic to/from Tahoe/Bay. Since the B of A chargers got installed our spending in town has gone up significantly. City hall parking lot would be a good spot.”

“On the detour maps, no right turn only signs for the Northside (Westbound) for Coloma Street, etc....The map is too busy.”

“For Trip to Green: Would like the ability to make a right turn from Canal St. to Hwy 50.”

“Would prefer the flyover or bridges over Cal/Bedford/49 for the long-term fix however the Trip to Green is very viable with some improvements. I.E sensors in highway 50 to activate automatic gates /signs/other to make the system automated to turn on automatically when traffic loads increase along with some other improvements.”

Next Steps

The project team has collected the comment cards to understand the community feedback.

A follow-up workshop is scheduled for January 19, 2023 to discuss permanent options for addressing US 50 traffic congestion, including funding and feasibility options for each, to obtain input from the community on what alternatives they like best. All those who have expressed interest by signing up will be able to stay up to date with the status of the project on the project website as well as email notifications.



Community members attending the workshop.