

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2023
TO: EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: WOODROW DELORIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following is an overview of the issues, projects, and coordination currently being advanced by EDCTC.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Regional Transportation Plan

EDCTC is starting work on the 2025-2045 Regional Transportation Plan beginning with the development of a list of completed projects and establishment of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee. The Stakeholders Advisory Committee matrix was approved by the Commission at the November meeting. Roughly a two-year effort, plan development will begin with a stakeholder kickoff meeting in early 2024. Extensive public engagement and outreach will be foundational to ensure the public has ownership of the process and resulting plan.

Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy

EDCTC was awarded \$217,124 in Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funding for the preparation of a "Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy," to provide data, analytics, and information to support transportation investments across the west slope of El Dorado County. The completed planning strategy will support EDCTC in adapting to changes in transportation funding policies at the State and Federal levels that emphasize performance outcomes toward equity, adaptation, resiliency, and combating climate change. EDCTC has received a Notice to Proceed from Caltrans for the project and a Request for Proposals for consultant services was released on November 7th. Proposals are due December 22nd, and a contract award is anticipated at the February 2024 EDCTC meeting.

US 50 Camino Signage and Wayfinding Access Mitigation Plan

On September 6th, EDCTC applied for Rural Planning Assistance grant funding to support the US 50 Camino Signage and Wayfinding Access Mitigation Plan. On October 2nd, EDCTC received the award letter securing \$85,000 in Rural Planning Assistance grant funding. This plan will identify locations and a theme for signage and wayfinding infrastructure to help mitigate loss of access across US 50 from the recent US 50 Camino Safety Project. The scope of work includes extensive public and stakeholder engagement to establish a theme, which is consistent with the character of the area. EDCTC staff has received the Notice to Proceed. Staff released a Request for Proposals on November 3rd with a closing date of December 15th. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee matrix will be presented to the Commission for consideration on December 7th, 2023. The consultant contract is anticipated to be awarded at the February 2024 EDCTC meeting.

Greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness, Community Safety, and Resiliency Plan

During September, the project coordinated with Sheriff's OES, Cal Fire, and the El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience to conduct wildfire evacuation scenario modeling to assess the performance of the transportation system during an evacuation. The draft modeling results were shared with those agencies on November 16th, 2023. After incorporating comments received at that meeting, the modeling results and draft infrastructure project list will be shared with the Project Development Team (PDT) in late December 2023. The Draft Plan will be presented at the February 1st, 2024, EDCTC Board meeting.

El Dorado County and City of Placerville Active Transportation Plans

EDCTC supported El Dorado County staff with active transportation project grant applications and continues to assist with funding administration in support of project development as required. EDCTC is supporting El Dorado County and the City of Placerville with the adoption of Active Transportation Plans (ATP). The El Dorado County ATP is anticipated for formal adoption by the Board of Supervisors soon. EDCTC staff is also working with El Dorado County GIS staff on improvements and updates to the El Dorado County bike map which is featured on the EDCTC web page.

Active Transportation Program

The California Transportation Commission is holding stakeholder meetings for development of the Cycle 7 program guidelines. EDCTC has been attending meetings, coordinating with partner agencies, and preparing for the next round of competitive applications. EDCTC is also supporting El Dorado County Department of Transportation in meeting requirements for pre-construction bicycle and pedestrian counts by installing temporary counters along the El Dorado Trail for the Missouri Flat bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing, which is anticipated for construction in the coming months.

PARTNER AGENCY COORDINATION

EL DORADO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For the month of October 2023, ridership across all three (3) modes of service (Demand Response, Fixed Route, Commuter) continued to trend up. Fiscal Year-to-date ridership was up 19.5% overall. Compared to October 2022, overall ridership in October 2023 increased by 25.6% compared to the previous year. Demand Response ridership increased by 51.2%, Local Fixed Route ridership increased by 23.7%, and Commuter ridership increased by 10.9%. The Sacramento/Tahoe Connector service increased 3.6%.

In March 2023, EDCTA awarded a consulting contract to DanTec Associates to perform an update to the Short-Range Transit Plan. A public workshop was held at the May 4th EDCTA board meeting. Two additional public workshops were held May 3rd at Placerville Town Hall and at the El Dorado Hills CSD Pavilion. Transit and the consultant provided a virtual update on the Short-Range Transit Plan on September 11, 2023, that EDCTC staff participated in. The Draft Short-Range Transit Plan will be presented at the December 7th 2023, EDCTA Board meeting. EDCTC staff is working very closely with EDCTA on this effort to determine the next generation of transit service post pandemic.

State Climate Adaptation Program

On July 31st, 2023, in coordination with the City of Placerville, EDCTC staff submitted a Climate Adaptation Program application to the California Transportation Commission for the US 50 Trip to Green Congestion Management and Resiliency Strategy. The application requested \$3,750,000 to complete the Environmental Approvals, Engineering Design, and Right-of-Way to install the necessary infrastructure to conduct Trip to Green on an as needed basis. The Climate Adaptation Program staff recommendations were released this month, and the project is recommended for award of funding. The California Transportation Commission will consider the approval of the staff recommendations at their December 6th-7th meeting.

Federal PROTECT Program

EDCTC applied for Federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program funding on August 21st, 2023. The application requested \$3,750,000 to complete the Environmental Approvals, Engineering Design and Right-of-Way to install the necessary infrastructure to conduct Trip to Green on an as needed basis. The infrastructure will include items such as automated signs, signals, automatic and mechanical arm gates, rising bollards, permanent and/or relocatable barriers, channelizers, directional signage, and other hardscape improvements that support the implementation, safety, and operations of the project. The Federal PROTECT program awards are not anticipated until early 2024.

SMART Grant

EDCTC is also submitting a request for SMART Grant Stage 1 funding for the US 50 Trip to Green Congestion Management and Resiliency Strategy. The application will request \$1,500,000 which would fund the project through the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase. Recipients of Stage 1 funding are eligible to apply for Stage 2 funding which would support additional project development and potentially construction.

SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

EDCTC is working with SACOG, El Dorado County, and the City of Placerville on the next update of the MTP/SCS (2024 Blueprint). EDCTC staff will be participating in the review of consultant proposals for Regional Mobility Zones planning work set to take place beginning in 2024.

SACOG Regional Funding Round

EDCTC staff is serving on the SACOG Staff Member Funding Round Working Group. Director Deloria was appointed as the Chair of this six-county funding working group. Vice Chair Thomas was appointed as Chair of the SACOG Board Member Funding Working Group. This effort will help shape how future funding rounds are administered, including the performance metrics and criteria used for project ranking and selection. EDCTC staff will report to the Commission as this effort progresses over the next year.

Caltrans SR 49 SHOPP

Caltrans recently completed the emergency paving work on SR 49 from Cool to the American River Confluence. SR 49 was closed from 8:00 pm to 5:00 am October 24th and 25th. 1.75 miles was paved to improve roadway surface conditions after the severe weather experienced during the winter of 2022/2023. The striping was also just recently finished after the striping machine had broken down and needed to be repaired.

EDCTC PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

EDCTC staff has included all Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects, programmed by EDCTC in summer 2022, in the EDCTC Project Monitoring Report and SACOG MTIP. EDCTC continues to monitor CMAQ project delivery with both the City and County. Future CMAQ cycles will be competitive through SACOG and EDCTC will support partner agencies in preparing funding applications.

Urban Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Funds

EDCTC staff has included all Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funded projects, programmed by EDCTC in summer 2022, in the EDCTC Project Monitoring Report and SACOG MTIP. EDCTC continues to monitor STBG project delivery. Future STBG cycles will be competitive through SACOG, EDCTC will support partner agencies in preparing funding applications.

EDCTC is responsible for oversight of project delivery regarding transportation funding programmed to local agencies such as the City of Placerville and El Dorado County. One aspect of this oversight is ensuring that project invoicing is submitted consistent with the funding requirements for various State and Federal funding sources administered by Caltrans. One of the primary requirements is that projects are invoiced on a regular basis to ensure timely use of funds and retain all funds programmed to a given project. Caltrans monitors project delivery closely and maintains a published list of those projects which have not been invoiced within the last 6 months or more, known as the Inactive List. This list is published on the Caltrans website for local agencies such as EDCTC to monitor and work with local cities and counties to ensure invoices are submitted in a timely manner. Ultimately, if a city or county does not submit an invoice within 11 months and does not provide justification as to why, the obligated funds could be removed from the project and programmed elsewhere. The current inactive projects list was updated on December 4th, 2023. We are pleased to announce that only one project within EDCTC's jurisdiction with unexpended funds is on the current list. The Placerville Drive

Active Transportation Improvements project. To be clear, the City of Placerville only authorized the ATP funds in August due to some minor delays. The other three projects on the list have no unexpended balance and simply need to be closed out.

Agency	Project Name	Agency Action Required	Number of Months	Unexpended Balance
City of Placerville	In Placerville, along Placerville Dr. between Cold Springs Rd. and the Ray Lawyer Dr./Green Valley Rd. intersection, and along Green Valley Rd. from Placerville to Mallard Ln. Construct Class II and Class IV bicycle facilities, sidewalks, crossing improvements, curb ramps, and transit improvements.	Project is inactive. Funds at risk. Invoice immediately.	6	\$1,220,000.00
City of Placerville	Broadway from Blairs Ln. to Point View Dr. - Widen shoulders to add Class II Bike Lanes	Invoice returned to agency. Contact DLAE. 12/04/2023	28	\$0.00
City of Placerville	On the North Side of Fair Ln. from the County Government Center to County Fair Plaza - Construct sidewalk and Class II Bike Lane	Project is inactive. Funds at risk. Invoice immediately. Provide status to DLAE	32	\$0.00
City of Placerville	HWY 50 at Ray Lawyer Dr. New on-ramp, sidewalk, bike lane on local road.	Project is inactive. Funds at risk. Invoice immediately.	117	\$0.00

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

The Governor released the revised budget on May 12th, 2023, which included an increased budget shortfall of \$9 billion for a total budget gap of nearly \$32 billion in fiscal year 2023/24. Governor Newsom proposes to address this gap by shifting funding sources and internal borrowing. This would include shifting \$3.3 billion in existing commitments out of the general fund, including paying for \$1.1 billion in climate spending and \$1.1 billion in college student housing projects with bonds, and pulling back another \$1 billion in unused money from programs such as middle-class tax refunds and utility bill support for low-income residents. The state will also borrow \$1.2 billion from special funds and increase a tax on managed care health plans by \$2.5 billion. The Governor equates this significant shortfall to monthly tax revenues coming in billions below the forecast levels. It is important to note that the transportation funding under SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, is protected under Proposition 69. Proposition 69 was a state constitutional amendment which ensures revenues from SB 1 can only be used for transportation-related purposes. This was approved by voters in June 2018, locking the gas tax revenue to transportation only.

The California Legislature ended its 2023 session on September 14th. The Governor had until September 30th to sign or veto bills. Several bills that EDCTC staff is tracking related to transportation are listed below.

AB 6 – Friedman (D): Transportation Planning : Regional Transportation Plans: Solutions for Congested Corridors Program: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Current law requires each regional transportation plan to include a sustainable communities strategy prepared by each metropolitan planning organization, in order to, among other things, achieve certain targets established by the State Air Resources Board for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks in the region for 2020 and 2035, respectively. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would require regional transportation agencies to prioritize and fund transportation projects, including those funded by a local sales tax measure, that significantly contribute towards the goals outlined in a region's sustainable communities strategy and the state's climate goals.

Status: Failed Deadline in Senate (7/14/23) may be acted upon January 2024

AB 7 – Friedman (D): Transportation Planning: Project Selection Process

The Transportation Agency is under the supervision of the Secretary of Transportation, who has the power of general supervision over the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the California Transportation Commission, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Transportation, the High-Speed Rail Authority, and the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San

Pablo, and Suisun. The secretary, among other duties, is charged with developing and reporting to the Governor on legislative, budgetary, and administrative programs to accomplish coordinated planning and policy formulation in matters of public interest, including transportation projects. On and after January 1, 2025, and to the extent applicable and cost effective, this bill would require the agency, the Department of Transportation, and the California Transportation Commission to incorporate specified principles into their existing program funding guidelines and processes.

Status: Failed Deadline in Senate (7/14/23) may be acted upon January 2024

AB 295 – Fong, Vince (R): Department of Transportation: maintenance projects.

Would require the Department of Transportation to expedite roadside maintenance for specified projects related to roadside maintenance and the removal and clearing of material, as provided. The bill would also authorize local governmental entities, fire protection districts, fire safe councils, and tribal entities to notify the department of those projects related to roadside maintenance and the removal and clearing of material that have not been completed in an efficient and timely manner if the continued failure to complete these projects poses a clear and imminent danger, as provided. The bill would require the Division of Maintenance to begin the maintenance project within 90 days of being notified.

Status: Failed Deadline in Senate (7/14/23) may be acted upon January 2024

AB 388 – Connolly (D): Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: implementation strategies

Current law establishes the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to support regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop, prioritize, and implement strategies and projects that create fire adapted communities and landscapes by improving ecosystem health, community wildfire preparedness, and fire resilience. The bill would authorize conservancies, departments, and boards within the Natural Resources Agency to directly award regional block grants to eligible regional entities, forest collaboratives, and partnerships to implement regional plans, strategies, agreements, and initiatives. The bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide the task force and to post on its internet website a description, amount, and outcome of each regional block grant.

Status: Failed Deadline in Senate (7/14/23) may be acted upon January 2024

SB 507 – Gonzalez (D): Electric vehicle charging station infrastructure: assessments.

This Would establish a goal of putting at least 8,000,000 zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2030 for purposes of the statewide assessment and would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to also assess the electric vehicle charging infrastructure needed to support the levels of electric vehicle adoption required for the state to meet the goal of ensuring 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California are zero-emission vehicles by 2035, and evaluate the electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs of specified use cases to ensure an equitable deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Status: Failed Deadline in Senate (7/14/23) may be acted upon January 2024

SB 695 – Gonzalez (D): Department of Transportation: state highway system public data portal

This bill would require the Department, beginning November 1, 2024, to annually prepare and make available information and data about activities on the state highway system on a public data portal from the prior fiscal year. The bill would also require the department to prepare and make available, no later than June 30, 2024, data, and information about activities on the state highway system on a public data portal covering the period from July 1, 2012, to July 1, 2023. The bill would require the California Transportation Commission to include this data and information in its annual report to the Legislature. The bill would require the department to prepare and make available data and information on a public data portal on planned, pending projects on the state highway system.

Status: Approved by the Governor (10/8/23)

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

EDCTC staff is working with County, City of Placerville, and El Dorado Transit partners to consider, and to apply for, new and expanded competitive grant programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) anticipated to launch over the course of the next year. Some of the programs under consideration include the following:

- **Safe Streets for All (\$6 Billion)** – This program will provide funding directly to local and tribal governments to support their efforts to advance “vision zero” plans and other improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.
- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants (\$15 Billion)** – RAISE grants support surface transportation projects of local and/or regional significance.
- **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants (\$14 Billion)** – INFRA grants will offer needed aid to freight infrastructure by providing funding to state and local government for projects of regional or national significance. The BIL also raises the cap on multimodal projects to 30% of program funds.
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low and No Emission Bus Programs (\$5.6 Billion)** – BIL expands this competitive program which provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses as well as acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.
- **FTA Buses + Bus Facilities Competitive Program (\$2.0 Billion)** – This program provides competitive funding to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities.
- **MEGA Projects (\$15 Billion)** – This new National Infrastructure Project Assistance grant program will support multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects of national or regional significance.
- **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program (\$8.7 Billion)** – PROTECT will provide \$7.3 billion in formula funding to states and \$1.4 billion in competitive grants to eligible entities to increase the resilience of our transportation system. This includes funding for evacuation routes, coastal resilience, making existing infrastructure more resilient, or efforts to move infrastructure to nearby locations not continuously impacted by extreme weather and natural disasters.
- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) competitive grants for nationally significant bridges and other bridges (\$15.77 Billion)** – This new competitive grant program will assist state, local, federal, and tribal entities in rehabilitating or replacing bridges, including culverts. Large projects and bundling of smaller bridge projects will be eligible for funding.
- **Charging and fueling infrastructure discretionary grants (Up to \$2.5 Billion)** – This discretionary grant program will provide up to \$2.5 billion in funding to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and shop.
- **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (\$1 Billion)** – This new competitive program will provide dedicated funding to state, local, MPO, and tribal governments for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure.
- **FHWA Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (\$1.78 Billion)** – This discretionary program provides funding for the construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation

of nationally significant projects within, adjacent to, or accessing Federal and tribal lands. BIL amends this program to allow smaller projects to qualify for funding and allows 100% federal share for tribal projects.

- **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program (\$1 Billion)** – The SMART Grant program will be a programmed competition that will deliver competitive grants to states, local governments, and tribes for projects that improve transportation safety and efficiency.
- **Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (\$2 Billion)** – This new competitive grant program will improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas, increasing connectivity, improving safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting November 2, 2023)*

11/6/23	EDCTC Staff Meeting
11/6/23	Meeting with CalSTA
11/8/23	SACOG Staff Funding Round Working Group
11/8/23	2024 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program Hearing
11/9/23	SACOG Board of Directors Meeting
11/13/23	EDCTC Staff Meeting
11/16/23	Meeting with DKS Associates Results Review Meeting
11/16/23	Phone Call with EDCTA
11/17/23	Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
11/17/23	Rural Counties Task Force Meeting
11/20/23	EDCTC Staff Meeting
11/21/23	SACOG/PCTPA/EDCTC Monthly Coordination Meeting
11/21/23	Meeting with Caltrans – S. Takhar
11/22/23	Public Health RTP Demographics Discussion
11/22/23	EDCTC 2024 Workload Check-in
11/27/23	EDCTC Staff Meeting
11/27/23	EDCTC TAC Meeting
11/29/23	EDCTC Audit Review
11/29/23	Agenda Review with Chair Clerici
11/29/23	Agenda Review with Supervisor Turnboo
11/29/23	Google Maps Discussion
11/29/23	Meeting with Supervisor Parlin
11/30/23	Trip to Green Discussion with El Dorado County
12/1/23	Lotus Road Trail Discussion with El Dorado County – R. Martinez
12/1/23	Mosquito Bridge Project Issues and Opportunities Discussion
12/1/23	Local HSIP Advisory Committee Meeting
12/4/23	EDCTC Staff Meeting
12/4/23	FY 23/24 Grants Kick-off Meeting with Caltrans
12/5-6/23	California Transportation Commission Meeting
12/5/23	Caltrans District 3 Local Assistance Meeting
12/5/23	El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting
12/5/23	RTPA Group Meeting
12/7/23	SACOG Transportation Meeting
12/7/23	EDCTA Board Meeting