

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
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

US Highway 50 Corridor System User Analysis, Investment Strategy, and Access Control Action Plan (US 50 Corridor Plan)

El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) was awarded \$231,300 in Strategic Partnerships Transportation Planning grant funding for the US 50 Corridor Plan, now known as "The 50 Fix: Trip the Green Light" project. The project team has developed maps, a narrative, and a detailed traffic management plan outlining turning movements, barriers, detours, and signage. EDCTC and the City of Placerville have collaborated with AIM Consulting to develop a slogan, logo, website narrative, and video script. The project team is working to determine when the appropriate time will be to roll out this pilot effort. The Caldor Fire incident is causing the team to regroup and pause implementation until further notice.

Initially, this effort was planned to reduce congestion and delay on US 50 through Placerville during peak harvest season. The intent was never to use this effort as an evacuation plan or simulation. However, the City of Placerville and Caltrans decided to implement the plan early to provide support for the evacuation of Pollock Pines due to the Caldor Fire. The timely implementation was a great success and provided for an efficient evacuation of many El Dorado County residents during a very stressful period. We are very grateful for the quick and accurate execution of this proof of concept during this evacuation. Thank you to Caltrans, the City of Placerville, EDCTC staff, and great planning work from the project team for making use of what we had in place to help in a time of need.

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Administrative Support

The federally required Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is known as the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) in the Sacramento Region. Managed by SACOG, the MTIP is a short-term listing of surface transportation projects that receive federal funds, are subject to a federally required action, or are regionally significant.

EDCTC staff has taken on the responsibility of updating the MTIP with County projects for which EDCTC has programmed funding. This is similar to the support EDCTC has provided to the City of Placerville for some time. Taking on this effort will not only aid the County DOT staff but will provide EDCTC with a more involved role in project delivery, further improving oversight and ensuring funds are used appropriately.

Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Fleet Conversion Plan

EDCTC received a FY 2020-2021 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grant to fund the *El Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan*. The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit Regulation mandates the full conversion of transit bus fleets to zero-emission by 2040. The first project development team meeting was held on March 30, 2021, the first SAC meeting was held on May 20th and the first virtual public workshop and online questionnaire were posted on the EDCTC website from July 19th to July 30th. One hundred

thirty-five community members participated in the online community questionnaire and a summary of their responses and comments has been posted to the project website. The Administrative Draft will be presented to the project team by August 16th followed by a second virtual public meeting the week of October 4th. The draft plan will be presented to the EDCTC and EDCTA boards October 7th, 2021.

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

State Transportation Funding

The 2021 California State Budget, passed in May, was increased from the proposed January budget by nearly \$41 billion, totaling \$268 billion. Higher than anticipated revenue gains from California residents and corporations combined with Federal and State interventions that helped mitigate the impacts of the COVID pandemic are cited as the justification for this increase. However, little if any of the increase in the budget will be allocated for transportation directly. Seven billion is allocated to address the digital divide across California, which will expand broadband and improve access to telecommuting and telemedicine.

The revised budget includes over \$11 billion in transportation investments. Specifically, the proposal includes investments to shift further away from fossil fuel-based transportation technologies including the following priority areas:

- Supporting zero emission vehicles and related infrastructure
- Advancing high speed rail and transit statewide
- Complete high priority transportation projects to support the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028
- Accelerate safety projects and key fix-it-first projects including state highways and bridges
- Improve safety and access for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Reduce at least 26 million metric tons of CO₂ while creating jobs and improving transportation options for disadvantaged communities.

More detail on the Governor's 2021-2022 Budget can be found here:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2021-22MR/#/BudgetSummary>.

State Transportation Legislation

Some of the California State Legislature bills that we have been tracking include the following:

- **AB 9 - Fire safety: wildfires: fire adapted communities.**
Would establish 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 watershed health, forest health, community wildfire preparedness, and fire resilience. The bill would provide block grants to regional entities to identify wildfire risks, foster collaboration, and prioritize and implement projects within the region.
- **AB 14 - Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund.**
This bill would authorize local educational agencies to report to the department their pupils' estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning. The bill would require the department of education, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to compile that information and to annually post that compiled information on the department's internet website.
- **AB 41 – Broadband Infrastructure Deployment**
Current law provides that the Department of Transportation has full possession and control of state highways and associated property. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that will improve California's "Dig Once" policy and expedite the deployment of broadband infrastructure in communities that are currently unserved and underserved.

- **AB 43 – Traffic Safety**
Would require, beginning June 1, 2022, and every 6 months thereafter, Caltrans to convene a committee of external design experts to advise on revisions to the Highway Design Manual.
- **AB 106 - Regions Rise Grant Program.**
Would establish the Regions Rise Grant Program within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for the purpose of supporting inclusive, cross-jurisdictional, and innovative engagement processes that lead to inclusive strategies to address barriers and challenges confronting communities in creating economic prosperity for all. This bill would require GO-Biz to develop and implement a process for the awarding of competitive grants to eligible applicants within the program. The bill would define an eligible applicant as a regional collective composed of a diverse set of public and private stakeholders who organize themselves around one or more community challenges or priorities impacting a region and meet certain requirements.
- **AB 122 - Vehicles: required stops: bicycles.**
Would require a person riding a bicycle, when approaching a stop sign at the entrance of an intersection, to yield the right-of-way to any vehicles that have stopped at the entrance of the intersection, have entered the intersection, or that are approaching on the intersecting highway close enough to constitute an immediate hazard, and shall continue to yield the right-of-way to those vehicles until reasonably safe to proceed.
- **AB 339 - State and local government: open meetings.**
This bill would require all public meetings, including gatherings using teleconference technology, to include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option that provides closed captioning services and requires both a call-in and an internet-based service option to be provided to the public.
- **AB 1037 - Infrastructure construction: digital construction technologies.**
Would require an infrastructure project that receives any state funding to deploy digital construction technologies, as defined, to reduce waste, inefficiency, rework, cost overruns, embodied carbon, and to improve delivery times and project quality.
- **SB 66 – California Council on the Future of Transportation: advisory committee: autonomous vehicle technology.**
Would require the Secretary of Transportation to establish an advisory committee, the California Council on the Future of Transportation, to provide the Governor and the Legislature with recommendations for changes in state policy to ensure that as autonomous vehicles are deployed, they enhance the state's efforts to increase road safety, promote equity, and meet public health and environmental objectives.
- **SB 99 - Community Energy Resilience Act of 2021.**
The bill would require a local agency plan to, among other things, ensure that a reliable electricity supply is maintained at critical facilities and identify areas most likely to experience a loss of electrical service.

State Transportation Policy

In addition to statewide legislation, EDCTC is tracking statewide transportation policies which impact project planning, funding, and delivery. Some of the recent policies we are currently tracking include the following:

Executive Order 79-20 (Sept 2020). Governor Newsom's order setting a target for 100% of all new cars, buses, and trucks sold in 2035 and beyond to be zero emission. Requires state agencies to develop charging and fueling infrastructure to support the effort, and to align other modes, such as rail, transit, and biking, to support an integrated system.

Executive Order N-19-19 (Sept 2019). Governor Newsom's order to address climate change through state investments, including CalPERS, and purchasing. Includes commitment to "accelerate" milestone of 5 million zero emission vehicle (ZEV) sales by 2025. Specifically for transportation investments, the order directs CalSTA to leverage the \$5 billion in annual spending for transportation construction, operations, and maintenance to reverse the trend of increased fuel consumption; align transportation spending to achieve the objectives in ARB's Climate Change Scoping Plan, where feasible; direct transportation investments to support housing production near jobs and according to state's smart growth principles (taking public health into account); reduce congestion by encouraging mode shifts, fund transit, walking, biking, and other active modes; and mitigate increases in transportation costs for lower income Californians.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

EDCTC has been engaged in distribution of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of 2021, signed on December 27, 2020. CRRSAA includes \$900 billion in supplemental appropriations for Covid relief. While a significant share is allocated directly to transit operations and capital, the act also includes funding to support surface transportation infrastructure, among other relief programs.

On August 24th, the House passed a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution and included a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. The bill offers a vision to upgrade the nation's crumbling physical infrastructure, improve environmental health and resiliency, and enhance safety and security. Passage in the House chamber along party lines, 220-212, included a commitment to vote on the final infrastructure bill by September 27th, 2021. More than 45% of the bill is focused on surface transportation including roads, bridges, railroads as well as power distribution lines. Thirteen percent of the bill will be focused on pollution controls, climate adaptation and resiliency, and cybersecurity defenses.

Federal earmarks have returned after an 11-year slumber. EDCTC worked closely with Congressman McClintock's office, but he has decided not to submit projects for this cycle of earmark funding. However, we were notified of an opportunity to submit projects to Senator Diane Feinstein for consideration of Federal discretionary funding. The next opportunities will likely be with the next Federal transportation bill and Federal appropriations process which concludes in October 2021.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting June 3, 2021)*

8/6/21	Zartico Debrief- Wish List Meeting
8/6/21	EDCTC Staff Meeting
8/6/21	Harvest Traffic Committee Update
8/9/21	SACOG Policy and Innovation Meeting
8/9/21	Placerville Station Phase II Meeting - Caltrans
8/9/21	BOS Agenda Review with Rafael Martinez – EDC DOT
8/10/21	SACOG/EDCTC/PCTPA Coordination Meeting
8/10/21	Triennial Performance Audit Interview Discussion – Interview Panel
8/12/21	SHSP Steering Committee Meeting
8/12/21	Camino Weekly Update – Caltrans

8/12/21 ITIP Scoring Criteria Meeting
8/12/21 Harvest Season Traffic Discussion – EDC DOT
8/12/21 MTP and SR 49 Overlay in El Dorado Discussion
8/16/21 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Target Methodology Workshop 9
8/16/21 SR 49 Confluence Study RFP Interview – Design Workshop
8/16/21 SR 49 Confluence Study RFP Interview - TJKM
8/16/21 SR 49 Confluence Study RFP Interview – Wood Rodgers
8/16/21 SR 49 Confluence Study RFP Interview – DKS
8/16/21 SR 49 Confluence Study RFP Interview – Green Dot
8/17/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
8/19/21 Camino Weekly Update - Caltrans
8/19/21 SACOG Board Meeting
8/23/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
8/23/21 EDCTC TAC Meeting
8/24/21 ITSP Draft Plan – Northern California Meeting
8/24/21 Funding Discussion with SACOG Re: Return to Work and Transit – R. Garcia
8/26/21 Camino Weekly Update - Caltrans
8/26/21 ITSP Draft Plan – Southern California
8/26/21 SHSP Steering Committee Meeting
8/26/21 OA Best Management Practices Committee Meeting
8/27/21 BOS Agenda Review with Rafael Martinez – EDC DOT
8/30/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
8/30/21 SACOG Policy & Innovation Meeting
8/30/21 Trip the Green Light Meeting
9/1/21 RTIP Meeting – EDCTC Planners
9/1/21 Agenda Review with Chair Taylor
9/2/21 Camino Weekly Update - Caltrans