

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 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

State Route 49 American River Confluence Study

El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) was awarded \$175,000 in State Highway Account grant funding for the SR 49 Confluence Study ("Study"). On September 2, 2021, EDCTC awarded the contract to DKS and Associates after completing an extensive procurement process. EDCTC staff and DKS will be meeting with Caltrans for the grant kickoff meeting in early October. Once the kickoff meeting is complete, staff will prepare a list of stakeholders and technical advisory committee for ratification at the November EDCTC meeting. The initial work on this effort will include user analysis and data acquisition to determine available data and gaps in the data that will need to be sourced through other means.

EI Dorado Hills Business Park Community Transportation Study

EDCTC received \$144,000 in Federal Highway Administration State Planning and Research funding to help El Dorado County and the business park association address potential changes to land use patterns and the transportation network in the area near the El Dorado/Sacramento County Line and the expanding City of Folsom on the south side of U.S. Highway 50. Extensive public and stakeholder outreach was completed for this effort including online videos, FAQs, and online content. The Draft Study was reviewed by the project team and extensively by El Dorado County DOT and planning staff. This was presented to the EDCTC at their September meeting and is currently out for public review through October 8, 2021. The final study is scheduled to be presented to EDCTC for adoption at the November meeting.

EI Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan

In June 2020, EDCTC received \$180,000 in Caltrans Planning grant funding to complete the *El Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus ("ZEB") Fleet Conversion Plan ("ZEB 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 ZEB Plan effort was initiated to allow for El Dorado Transit to reach a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Fleet by 2040. This effort also meets the requirements for El Dorado Transit to have a ZEB Rollout Plan ready for submission to CARB by July 1, 2023. Extensive public and stakeholder engagement was initiated back in March of 2021 to include a virtual public workshop and questionnaire posted online. 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 next round of virtual public outreach will begin Monday October 11th. The Final Plan is anticipated to be presented to the EDCTC and El Dorado Transit boards on November 4th, 2021.

Greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation, Community Safety, and Resiliency Plan

On June 22, 2021, EDCTC received \$250,000 in Caltrans planning grant funds to complete the Greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation, Community Safety, and Resiliency Plan ("wildfire plan"). This effort was initiated based on requests from Placerville residents and public agency leaders to address the project area's growing vulnerability to wildfire. The wildfire plan will deliver an evacuation strategy for the Greater Placerville area in El Dorado County. The project area includes the U.S. Highway 50 corridor from Pollock Pines through the City of Placerville and the principal and minor arterials and

major and minor collectors in the project area just north and south of U.S. 50. The Notice to Proceed was received from Caltrans on September 22, 2021. The Request for Proposals is scheduled to be released in November 2021.

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

CITY OF PLACERVILLE

Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2.2

City Council awarded the construction contract to Doug Veerkamp Engineering on January 12, 2021. Construction of the eastbound onramp is complete and was opened to the public in May 2021. This ramp provided a great benefit to the emergency response crews during the Caldor Fire which were based at the County Fairgrounds and used this ramp daily. The ramp metering poles will be installed this week, October 4 through 8, with no lane closure expected.

Broadway Sidewalks Project

The project improves pedestrian safety by constructing new curb, gutter, and sidewalk on four segments of Broadway between the Main Street/Mosquito Road/Broadway intersection and Orchard Lane, where there are currently no pedestrian facilities. The project is funded by Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. The project is progressing through right-of-way (ROW), utility agreements, and final design. The city plans to go out to bid January 2022 and award the construction contract late winter 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin spring 2022.

Placerville Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Project

The project will design bicycle facilities and sidewalks along Placerville Drive from west of the US 50 undercrossing to Green Valley Road, and sidewalk on the west side of Green Valley Road from Placerville Drive to Mallard Lane. In June 2016, EDCTC programmed \$1.1 million of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to the project. The consulting contract was awarded to Drake Haglan and Associates at the July 10, 2018, City Council meeting. At the March 7, 2019, meeting, EDCTC programmed \$680,303 in CMAQ funds to the project development phases. The City applied for the regional SACOG ATP on Thursday, December 3, 2020. On April 15, 2021, the SACOG Board of Directors awarded \$1.22 million in Regional ATP Cycle 5 funding to the project. The City anticipates completing environmental work in December 2021.

Placerville Station II

This project will construct a 50-space parking lot with new lighting and landscaping improvements including bicycle racks and lockers. The project will also improve the connection to the El Dorado Trail, and Transit, and Amtrak Bus service. The project area is the gravel lot adjacent to the existing Placerville Station (Mosquito Park and Ride) north of U.S. 50. In March 2019, EDCTC programmed \$645,000 in CMAQ funds to the project. The City Council awarded the Construction Management and Inspection Services contract to Coastland Civil Engineering, Inc. at the January 26, 2021, City Council meeting. The City anticipates going out to bid in winter 2022 with construction to begin spring 2022.

EL DORADO COUNTY

Clear Creek Road Scour Mitigation

EDCTC staff worked with El Dorado County, Caltrans Local Assistance, and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to allocate and approve \$458,614 in CRRSAA funding the El Dorado County Clear Creek Road Scour Mitigation Project. The project's first phase of funding was approved in August 2021 by the CTC.

There are additional El Dorado County led projects for which EDCTC has programmed funding. Rather than list all of the projects in this Executive Director's Report, the link to the current Project Monitoring Report is provided below for more detail and information about these ongoing efforts.

<https://www.edctc.org/files/7d8f7d5a8/Project+Monitoring+Report+March+2021.pdf>

EL DORADO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

El Dorado County Transit Authority

Consistent with State and National trends, El Dorado Transit continues to experience significant ridership deficits compared to pre-pandemic levels, but ridership has leveled out or even started to increase on some services over the last year. Demand Response (Dial-a-Ride, Sac Med, ADA Paratransit) was up 84% in August 2021 compared to August 2020, while the Sacramento Commuter Service was up 36.3% over the same time frame. However, fixed-route service, currently El Dorado Transit's largest source of riders, was down 18.1% between August 2021 and August 2020 (6,322 riders versus 7,716). EDCTC continues to work closely with El Dorado Transit to understand and shape the next generation of transit in El Dorado County.

CALTRANS

US Highway 50 Camino Safety Project

Caltrans awarded the contract to Security Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$26,932,859 for Phase 1, the full median barrier, wildlife undercrossing, and local roadway undercrossing just east of Lower Carson Road. Construction on the mainline of US 50 began in late 2020. The contractor recently completed the installation of the wildlife crossing and is currently completing the drainage and grading on either side of the crossing. The median drainage and barrier rail from Still Meadows to Camino Heights will be completed in the next few weeks. The contractor completed the northern half of the Ponderado Undercrossing and is currently working on the northern half of the bridge which is scheduled to be completed in November. Work has resumed on the EID waterline adjacent to Carson Rd and is scheduled to be completed in November. EDCTC staff has been participating in weekly project meetings to ensure impacts are mitigated for seasonal traffic and safety. The current progress is behind schedule due to several factors including a Covid outbreak within the construction crew, Caldor Fire suspension and challenges with utility relocation. Caltrans is working with the contractor to expedite project delivery in other areas to account for the delay and the project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2022.

SACOG

Region Parks and Trails Strategic Development Plan

EDCTC staff is serving as a partner on the development of the SACOG Region Parks and Trails Strategic Development Plan. This plan will integrate active transportation in the six-county Sacramento region, including the existing and planned facilities in El Dorado County.

Transportation Data Resources

EDCTC staff has been working with SACOG staff to evaluate and consider purchasing Replica Transportation Modeling data, currently under review by SACOG modeling staff. The Replica database is a comprehensive set of "big data" which includes an array of data points related to transportation, land use, and other socio-economic metrics. EDCTC is using this data for the US 50 Corridor Plan and will likely be utilizing this resource for future planning efforts. The dataset compiles data collected across multiple mobile and static collection tools into a very comprehensive yet scalable data resource platform. The data can be queried across geographic, socio-economic, and other attributes to provide specialized and very specific results. Through CALCOG, Replica data is now available at a discounted rate to assist transportation planning with regional agencies.

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.

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

State Transportation Funding

The 2021 California State Budget, passed in May, included over \$11 billion in transportation investments. Specifically, the proposal includes investments to shift further away from fossil fuel-based transportation technologies. However, \$3.4 billion which was designated for infrastructure, and which was contingent upon on a High-Speed Rail deal, reverted to the general fund due to lack of agreement. Two billion remains in place for State Highway Rehabilitation, Local Roads, and Bridges. Most of this \$2 billion is designated for the SHOPP and State STIP with only \$400 million designated for regional or local projects. None of the SB-1 funding programs were impacted by the return of infrastructure funding to the general fund.

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

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

State Transportation Legislation

Some of the California State Legislature bills related to transportation that may be of interest to EDCTC and its partner agencies are included below. Unless otherwise noted, these bills have been enrolled and presented to the Governor for consideration.

- **AB 9 - Fire safety: wildfires: fire adapted communities.** *(Approved 9/23/21)*
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 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 642 Wildfires.** *(Approved 9/28/21)*

Current law requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify areas of the state as very high fire hazard severity zones, as provided. Current law requires a local agency, within 30 days of receiving a transmittal from the director that identifies very high fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public review. This bill would require the director to also identify areas in the state as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones. The bill would modify the factors the director is required to use to classify areas into fire hazard severity zones, as provided. The bill would instead require a local agency, within 30 days of receiving a transmittal from the director that identifies fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public review and comment.
- **AB 773 Street closures and designations.**

This bill would authorize a local authority to adopt a rule or regulation by ordinance to implement a slow street program, which may include closures to vehicular traffic or through vehicular traffic of neighborhood local streets with connections to citywide bicycle networks, destinations that are within walking distance, or green space. The bill would require the local authority to meet specified conditions to implement a slow street, including a determination that closure or traffic restriction is necessary for the safety and protection of persons using the closed or restricted portion of the street, conducting an outreach and engagement process, and clearly designating the closure or traffic restriction with specific signage.
- **AB 1035 Department of Transportation and local agencies: streets and highways: recycled materials.**

This bill would require the Department of Transportation and a local agency that has jurisdiction over a street or highway, to the extent feasible and cost effective, to use advanced technologies and material recycling techniques that reduce the cost of maintaining and rehabilitating streets and highways and that exhibit reduced levels of greenhouse gas emissions through material choice and construction method. The bill would require, beginning January 1, 2023, a local agency that has jurisdiction over a street or highway, to the extent feasible and cost effective, to apply standard specifications that allow for the use of recycled materials in streets and highways, as specified. By increasing the duties of local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
- **AB 1157 Controller: transportation funds: distribution and reporting requirements.** *(Approved 9/22/21)*

Current law, for purposes of the State Transit Assistance Program, requires local transportation agencies to report to the Controller by June 15 of each year the public transportation operators within its jurisdiction that are eligible to claim specified local transportation funds. This bill would instead require local transportation agencies to report this information within 7 months after the end of each fiscal year.
- **SB 63 Fire prevention: vegetation management: public education: grants: defensible space: fire hazard severity zones.** *(Approved 9/28/21)*

This bill will, among other things, require the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify areas of the state as moderate and high fire hazard severity. The bill would modify the factors the director is required to use to identify areas into fire hazard severity zones, as provided. The bill would require a local agency to make this information available for public review and comment, as provided. By expanding the responsibility of a local agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

- **SB 156 Communications: broadband.** *(Approved 7/20/21)*
The Joint Exercise of Powers Act authorizes joint power entities created under that act to issue mortgage revenue bonds and industrial development bonds, as provided. This bill would authorize those joint power entities to also issue revenue bonds for the deployment of broadband infrastructure by a public entity or nonprofit organization, as provided.
- **SB 339 Vehicles: road usage charge pilot program.** *(Approved 9/24/21)*
Current law requires the Chair of the California Transportation Commission to create a Road Usage Charge (RUC) Technical Advisory Committee in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation. Under existing law, the purpose of the technical advisory committee is to guide the development and evaluation of a pilot program to assess the potential for mileage-based revenue collection as an alternative to the gas tax system. Current law requires the technical advisory committee to study RUC alternatives to the gas tax, gather public comment on issues and concerns related to the pilot program, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on the design of a pilot program, as specified. Current law repeals these provisions on January 1, 2023. This bill would extend the operation of these provisions until January 1, 2027.
- **SB 456 Fire prevention: wildfire and forest resilience: action plan: reports.** *(Approved 9/28/21)*
Pursuant to an executive order of Governor Brown, a Forest Management Task Force involving specified state agencies was convened and an action plan was created. This bill would rename the task force the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force and require the task force, including the agency and the department, on January 1, 2022, to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to track and ensure the achievement of the goals and key actions identified in the action plan, as provided. The bill would require the implementation strategy to address specified actions, including increasing the pace and scale of wildfire and forest resilience activities, as provided.

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.

Washington continues to work on a funding package to make an unprecedented investment in transportation and other infrastructure. As of today, October 6, 2021, the Democrats continue to negotiate the inner workings of both the infrastructure bill and much larger reconciliation bill. Both chambers must pass a final budget reconciliation package to then allow for the House to vote on the infrastructure bill. With so much yet to be determined, further analysis of the impacts of the federal legislature on transportation for EDCTC and its partners is hopeful at best.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting September 2, 2021)*

9/7/21	Trip the Green Light Meeting – AIM Consulting
9/7/21	Discussion with Mike Luken - PCTPA
9/7/21	Meeting with FHWA and Caltrans Regarding Sub-Allocation of FHWA Apportioned Funds to MPO's
9/8/21	Discussion with Celia McAdam – AIM Consulting
9/8/21	Discussion Regarding FHWA Meeting with Jerry Barton – EDCTC
9/8/21	Discussion with Maura Twomey – AMBAG

9/9/21 Camino Weekly Update – Caltrans
9/9/21 Meeting Regarding Cloud Migration Project with RTS
9/9/21 Meeting Regarding New Roadway Alignments – EDC DOT
9/13/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
9/14/21 SACOG/EDCTC/PCTPA Coordination Meeting
9/15/21 Discussion Regarding Caltrans Budgets with Keith Duncan
9/15/21 OA Best Management Practices Committee Meeting
9/16/21 SHSP Executive Leadership Meeting
9/16/21 Camino Weekly Update – Caltrans
9/16/21 Meeting With David Turch
9/16/21 SACOG Board Meeting
9/16/21 SHSP Steering Committee
9/17/21 RCTF Meeting
9/20/21 Meeting Regarding Return to Work and Transit with SACOG
9/21/21 2022 Local Partnership Program Workshop
9/21/21 Phone Call with Caltrans
9/22/21 Discussion Regarding AB361 with Amber Collins and Nephela Barrett
9/23/21 TCC Meeting
9/23/21 Camino Weekly Update
9/23/21 SACOG/EDCTC/PCTPA Coordination Meeting
9/23/21 TCEP Workshop
9/24/21 BOS Agenda Review with Rafael Martinez – EDC DOT
9/24/21 Mega-Region Meeting with MTC/SJCOG/SACOG
9/24/21 RCTF Discussion Regarding AB 361
9/27/21 EDCTC Staff Meeting
9/27/21 Meet and Greet with Maura Twomey – AMBAG and Steven Castillo - Caltrans
9/27/21 EDCTC TAC Meeting
9/27/21 SACOG/EDCTC/PCTPA Coordination Meeting
9/28/21 CFPG Meeting with Caltrans
9/28/21 CTC Solutions for Congested Corridors Workshop
9/29/21 CDAC Briefing with CALCOG
9/30/21 Camino Weekly Update - Caltrans
9/30/21 Phone Call Regarding Diamond Springs Gateway with Commissioner W. Thomas

10/4/21 Statewide Motorist Aid Committee and CalSAFE Annual Meeting
10/4/21 SACOG Policy and Innovation Meeting
10/4/21 SACOG Strategic Planning
10/5/21 Big Data Presentation
10/5/21 Phone Call with Eric Thronson
10/5/21 Phone Call Regarding VOIP Phones with RTS
10/6/21 IT Cloud Project Meeting with RTS
10/6/21 Board Room Training
10/6/21 Agenda Review with Chair Taylor
10/6/21 GovInvest Actuarial Review
10/6/21 Agenda Review with Commissioner Turnboo
10/7/21 Camino Weekly Update
10/7/21 SACOG Transportation Meeting
10/7/21 SACOG Land Use and Natural Resources Meeting