

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2020
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

El Dorado County 2020-2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

The Draft RTP has been posted on the Project web page located online here:

<https://www.edctc.org/rtp2040>. The Financial Element was presented to the EDCTC Board on September 3rd, and posted publicly online Friday, September 4th. The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the RTP was released for the 45 Day comment period beginning Friday, September 4th. The RTP Appendices including a Public Outreach Summary and required RTP checklist are complete and posted on the project web page. The Final RTP and EIR will be presented to the EDCTC Board for approval in November 2020.

US Highway 50 Hot Spot Study

The project team worked in early September to develop a survey and virtual workshop to share the four Draft alternatives with the public and garner input. This virtual public workshop and related survey was released on September 24, 2020, and is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/US50Placerville>. The survey will be online through October 16, 2020. Once the outreach is concluded, AIM consulting will summarize the input received and present it to the EDCTC in November.

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

EL DORADO COUNTY

Cycle Five Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Applications

EDCTC staff worked closely with El Dorado County DOT to review, edit, and support five applications for Cycle 5 of the ATP. The five applications included the following projects:

- Pony Express Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$1,440,000
- Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$496,000
- Golden Center Drive/Forni Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$1,982,000
- El Dorado Trail, Missouri Flat Road Pedestrian Overcrossing: \$5,129,000
- Diamond Springs Parkway Phase 1B: \$1,000,000

CITY OF PLACERVILLE

Western Placerville Interchanges Phase 2.2

The City of Placerville was granted a 12-month construction allocation extension of Local Partnership Program funds at the June 26-27, 2020 California Transportation Commission meeting. EDCTC worked closely with the City of Placerville and Caltrans to finalize the Stormwater Data Report on September 4, 2020. The City anticipates going out to bid on October 27, 2020 with contract award in December or January and begin tree removal in early 2021.

Upper Broadway Bike Lanes Project

On October 18, 2017, the California Transportation Commission awarded \$1,886,000 in 2017 ATP Augmentation to support this effort. Paving has been completed from Smith Flat Road to Point View Drive. The remaining concrete work at the eastern end of the project is underway now and

will be completed very soon. Once this work is completed, the contractor will finish the remaining roadway reconstruction from Academy Drive through the Point View Drive intersection along with work on Monterey Road. The final work will include roadway reconstruction and shoulder improvements near the Dollar Tree store.

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 ROW, utility agreements, and final design. The City plans to submit a request for authorization for construction funds in November 2020 with construction beginning in spring 2021.

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 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 PA&ED/PS&E and ROW phases. Environmental and cultural studies will be completed in fall/winter of 2020. The City submitted an Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 application to support construction on September 15, 2020.

Placerville Station II

The project is in the gravel lot, adjacent to the existing Placerville Station (Mosquito Park and Ride), north of US 50. In March 2019, EDCTC programmed \$645,000 in CMAQ funds to the project. The Mosquito Phase I utility project needs to finish, then Mosquito Phase II will pave Mosquito Road in September/October, then Placerville Station II will start construction. The City released the project for public bidding on August 25, 2020. The project is scheduled to go to construction in December 2020.

EL DORADO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan

On October 16, 2019, EDCTC submitted a FY 2020-2021 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grant application for \$180,000 (with \$45,000 of local matching funds) to fund the *El Dorado County Transit Authority Zero Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Plan*. On June 18, 2020, EDCTC received a letter from Caltrans confirming award of the \$180,000 planning grant. 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 project will develop a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Fleet Conversion Plan for El Dorado Transit to facilitate the 100% conversion of El Dorado Transit's current fleet of internal combustion vehicles to ZEB's by 2040. The project will also prepare El Dorado Transit's required ZEB Rollout Plan for submission to CARB by July 1, 2023. EDCTC released the RFP on September 3rd, and proposals are due October 7th. Interviews are scheduled for October 15th, with the contract scheduled to be awarded at the November 5th EDCTC Board meeting.

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. The contractor started work in September 2020. EDCTC will continue to seek funding to support Phase 2, the partial interchange at Upper Carson Road.

Construction on the mainline of US 50 has begun. The contractor is currently working toward the east end of the project, near the planned undercrossing just east of Lower Carson Road. They are

preparing the temporary access road to Carson Court on the north side of US 50 and working with El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) to relocate waterlines on both sides of US 50. As they are working on the north side EID line, they can start on the new undercrossing at that location. Mainline work for this area includes removing the existing median barrier in preparation of shifting traffic to start the bridge undercrossing construction.

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 the active transportation trails and routes in the Sacramento region, including the existing and planned facilities in El Dorado County.

Telework Program

EDCTC staff has been tracking SACOG's effort toward support and expansion of telework throughout the region. Never before has telework been implemented as broadly as it is today and SACOG is working to identify the means to continue telework efforts beyond the confines of the pandemic.

STATE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

State Transportation Funding

No changes have occurred with State transportation funding programs since the May revise released March 14, 2020. To recap, the May revise budget reflected a roughly 8% reduction in expenditures totaling \$203.3 billion. The portion of the budget going toward general government agencies took the biggest hit. Some agencies were impacted more than others. For example, the line item for "transportation" showed a 17.3% reduction from FY 2019/2020. California is constitutionally required to enact a balanced budget. Therefore, the May revise proposed the following to make up the shortfall imposed by the COVID-19 economic crisis:

- Cancel \$6.1 billion in program expansions and spending increases
- Redirect \$2.4 billion in extraordinary payments to CalPERS to temporarily offset the state's obligations to CalPERS in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.
- Reflects savings through increased efficiency in state operations now and into the future.
- Draw down \$16.2 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) over three years and allocate the Safety Net Reserve to offset increased costs in health and human services programs over the next two years.
- Withdrawal of \$8.3 billion, including \$7.8 billion from the Rainy Day Fund and \$450 million from the Safety Net Reserve in 2020-2021.
- Borrow and transfer \$4.1 billion from special funds.
- Temporarily suspend net operating losses and temporarily limit to \$5 million the amount of credits a taxpayer can use in any given tax year.
- Reflect the Administration's nationwide request of \$1 trillion in flexible federal funds

The full budget summary for the FY 2020-2021 May revise can be found here:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2020-21MR/#/BudgetSummary>.

Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1)

Some statewide transportation grant program deadlines were extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, to help restart and sustain the economy, the CTC is continuing with many of the competitive SB 1 transportation funding programs. EDCTC is working closely with City and County staff to develop a list of projects which are "shovel ready" to compete for these funds. Thus far, the City and County have submitted a total of six applications, totaling \$24,232,000, for the Active Transportation Program Cycle five grant.

State Transportation Legislation

On Monday, August 31, 2020, the State Legislature adjourned for the year. At the close of the legislative session, the focus remained on three issues, Housing, Police Reform, and Racial Justice and Equity, not transportation. However, some of the bills that we have been tracking, and may return in January 2021 when the legislature reconvenes, include the following:

- **AB 2730 – Access and functional needs: Agreement for emergency management and transportation**
 - Would authorize a county, including a city and county, to enter into an agreement with an adjacent county, upon the request of the adjacent county, for purposes of permitting the adjacent county to borrow, for compensation, the county's emergency management and transportation services in the event of an emergency that requires the evacuation and relocation of the access and functional needs population in the adjacent county. The bill would define an "adjacent county" for these purposes as a county within the same or a contiguous mutual aid region or regions, as defined. According to the bill, if a county, including a city and county, chooses to enter into an agreement under the bill's provisions, would require that the county integrate the agreement into its emergency plan within 90 days of entering into the agreement.
- **SB 45 – Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**
 - Authorizes General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for infrastructure related water, flood, and fire protection needs. Requires voter approval.
- **SB 1291 – Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program**
 - Current law requires each metropolitan planning organization and transportation planning agency, not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, to submit its Federal Transportation Improvement Program to the Department of Transportation for incorporation into the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. This bill would provide that a metropolitan planning organization or transportation planning agency is not required to submit a Federal Transportation Improvement Program to the department for 2020.
- **SB 1351 – Transportation planning**
 - Would create the Transportation Improvement Fee Subaccount in the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account and would continuously appropriate the revenues in the subaccount to the Department of Transportation and cities and counties as part of the same appropriation made to those entities from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

The House passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the Government through December 11, 2020, on September 22, by an overwhelming 359-57 vote. The bill includes the surface transportation funding and leaves existing funding levels the same. As of today, September 30, 2020, the bill remains in the Senate for its consideration, but will likely pass by midnight tonight to avoid a Government shutdown. Some Senators have objected that the CR does not contain additional funding for the school lunch program or the Commodity Credit Corporation, which provides funding for farmers.

The House approved the appropriations package containing the Transportation-HUD spending bill by a vote of 217 to 197, on July 31st. This vote was a party line vote. Normally these are bipartisan bills however, the Republican members objected to the additional \$75 billion in emergency funding related to COVID-19 that was inserted into the Transportation-HUD measure doubling the size of the bill compared to last year. Republican members also objected to the bill because they had not been involved in the drafting of the bill.

The House Transportation-HUD bill contains \$15.9 billion for transit formula grants, an increase of

\$5.8 billion above the FY 2020 enacted level. \$499 million is allocated in the bill for transit infrastructure discretionary grants, equal to the FY 2020 enacted level.

Infrastructure and Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Surface transportation legislation expired on September 30, 2020. However, it would be extended for one year. It was included in the Continuing Resolution as noted above and provides \$10.4 billion for the highway trust fund, \$3.2 billion for the mass transit account, and the Airport and Airway Trust Fund would get \$14 billion.

The House passed a 5-year \$494 billion Transportation Reauthorization Bill on July 20, 2020. The bill attempts to shift the focus on transportation policy toward environmental concerns. It increases transit funding by 150% over the last surface reauthorization measure. Additionally, transit projects would be eligible activities under several discretionary highway programs focusing on the environment.

COVID-19 Stimulus Update

House Democrats have proposed a \$2.4 trillion stimulus package. Senate Republicans have offered a \$1 trillion series of bills as a stimulus package.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi has directed House committee leaders to put together a trimmed down corona virus relief package. Democrats will need to trim about \$1 trillion from the legislation (HR 6800) the House passed in May. The House could vote on the rumored \$2.4 trillion bill as soon as this week.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting September 3, 2020)*

09/03/20	Caltrans Echo Summit Bridge Replacement Update
09/04-9/28/20	Caltrans Echo Summit Sidehill Viaduct Replacement – Weekday Briefings
09/04/20	EDCTC / City of Placerville / EDC 2x2 Meeting
09/08/20	TIM Fee Discussion – Rafael Martinez
09/08/20	Caltrans Coordination Meeting – Sue Takhar
09/09/20	US 50 Placerville Improvements Meeting
09/10/20	Caltrans/City of Placerville US 50 Traffic Meeting
09/11/20	ALF Meeting
09/15/20	Caltrans and EDCTC Meeting – Sue Takhar
09/16/20	TIM Fee Meeting – Rafael Martinez
09/17/20	SACOG Meeting
09/17/20	TIM Fee Discussion – Rafael Martinez
09/18/20	RCTF and Caltrans Meeting SB 743 Implementation Meeting
09/18/20	RCTF Meeting
09/21/20	TAC Meeting
09/24/20	Sac Metro Chamber Meeting Regarding Measure A – Mayor Steinberg
09/24/20	EDCTC DOT Webex – Patrick Bishop
09/25/20	CAP Meeting
09/28/20	Agenda Review with Shiva Frentzen
09/29/20	CalCOG CDAC Meeting
09/30/20	Agenda Review with Kara Taylor
09/30/20	Carl Hasty Tahoe Transportation District, One Tahoe Plan`
09/30/20	EDCTC SACOG Data and Workforce Planning Meeting
09/30/20	EDCTC DOT D3 Debrief – Maggie Schreiner