

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 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

Regional Transportation Plan 2020-2040

The Final Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2020-2040 and Final EIR were adopted and certified at the November EDCTC meeting. All documents associated with the Final RTP and EIR have been posted on the Project web page located online here: <https://www.edctc.org/rtp2040>. The RTP Checklist has been transmitted to Caltrans and EDCTC is working with Caltrans to ensure all appropriate documentation is transmitted to Caltrans.

EI Dorado Hills Business Park Community Transportation Plan

Funded with \$144,000 in Federal Highway Administration State Planning and Research funding, this plan is working to address the increasing development interests in the area which is located near the EI Dorado/Sacramento County Line and the expanding City of Folsom on the south side of U.S. Highway 50. Transportation demand, active mobility, and multi-modal connectivity is central to this planning effort for several reasons, including: the geographic relationship of the business park to the Capital SouthEast Connector project; the potential for expanded transit services in the EI Dorado Hills area as a result of the ongoing efforts to locate a regional transit center there; the proximity to a substantial number of homes, businesses, offices, retail, and other activity centers. Three public outreach videos have been made available online to educate the public about the purpose and need for the transportation plan. The outreach videos set the stage for an interactive webinar held on October 22, 2020 and was attended by 39 people, many of whom provided constructive feedback. The interactive webinar was recorded and has been made available on the EDCTC project web page for additional viewing. EDCTC and the consultant team prepared a summary of the webinar and Frequently Asked Questions List for distribution to be posted on the project web page.

COORDINATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

EL DORADO COUNTY

Cycle Five Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Applications

EDCTC staff worked closely with EI 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
- EI Dorado Trail, Missouri Flat Road Pedestrian Overcrossing: \$5,129,000
- Diamond Springs Parkway Phase 1B: \$1,000,000

EI Dorado County Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) Fee Update

EDCTC staff has been working closely with EI Dorado County DOT on the update of the County's TIF fee program. Based on updated financial forecasts and changes to transportation funding over the past ten years, the funding estimates which help inform the TIF fee have changed, in some cases dramatically. EDCTC provided estimates for competitive grant and formulaic transportation funding to help right-size the financial forecast used in the development of the TIF fee program. The funding forecast provided by EDCTC is consistent with the financial forecast included in the 2020-2040 Regional Transportation Plan as well as the SACOG MTP/SCS.

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 project went out to bid on October 15, 2020 with bids opened on November 19, 2020. Doug Veerkamp Engineering was the only bid received. The City anticipates contract award in December or January and to begin tree removal in early 2021. EDCTC will be meeting on December 4, 2020 with Caltrans and the City of Placerville to determine if the ramp metering can be dropped from the project and allow the City to only install the conduit necessary to allow the future installation of ramp metering when needed.

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. On December 10, 2019, the City Council awarded the construction contract to Doug Veerkamp Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$4,491,800.30. Paving has been completed and the contractor has finished the roadway reconstruction from Academy Drive through the Point View Drive intersection along with work on Monterey Road. The final work, including roadway reconstruction and shoulder improvements near the Dollar Tree store, is complete as is the striping.

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 begin construction 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 winter of 2020. The City submitted an Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 application to support construction on September 15, 2020. The ATP Cycle 5 CTC staff recommendations will be posted by February 15, 2021.

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, but the project has been delayed by utility relocation efforts in consultation with PG&E. The project is scheduled to go to construction in April 2021.

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 received three proposals on the due date of October 7th. Interviews were held on October 15th. The consulting contract was awarded to Stantec on November 5, 2020. The project kickoff meeting was held via Zoom on November 23, 2020 with staff from El Dorado Transit, Caltrans, EDCTC, Stantec, and AIM Consulting.

Connect Card

Connect Card ridership is recorded each time a Connect Card is tapped onto the equipment in one of Transit's vehicles. The number of riders is tracked to evaluate system usage. On April 6, 2020 El Dorado Transit suspended collection of fares in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fares were reinstated on August 1, 2020. The number of taps and percentage of ridership trended upward in September, increasing to 3,366 taps and 34.7% of total ridership, and trended upward again in October with 3,692 taps for 36.1% of total ridership. However, transit ridership was down 70.3% in October 2020 compared to October 2019 (10,215 riders in October 2020 versus 34,375 in 2019).

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. A portion of Carson Road has only one lane open during this current phase of construction. Additional changeable message boards have been added to the project area to inform the travelling public of this lane shift. EDCTC staff has been participating in weekly project meetings to ensure impacts are mitigated for seasonal traffic and ultimately safety.

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 California Transportation Commission (CTC) is continuing with many of the competitive SB 1 transportation funding programs.

Active Transportation Program (ATP)

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 statewide ATP cycle five grant. Both the City and County are also submitting ATP applications for the regional SACOG funding round due December 3, 2020.

Local Partnership Program (LPP)

El Dorado County DOT applied for the 2020 LPP competitive funding round requesting \$5.32 million for the Diamond Springs Parkway Phase 1B. On November 16, 2020, the CTC staff recommendation was released and included the requested funding in the recommended projects list. It is anticipated that the CTC will award the funding to the County at the December 2-3 CTC meeting. This award reflects a great collaboration between the County and EDCTC. This award of LPP funding is a great success for El Dorado County amongst a pool of 62 applications requesting a total of \$647 million.

State Transportation Legislation

The State Legislature reconvenes on January 4, 2021. In addition to the corona virus, the focus of the Legislature remains 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, it would require the county to integrate the agreement into its emergency plan within 90 days.

- **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.

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 included 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

On September 30, 2020, the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the Government through December 11, 2020.

Infrastructure and Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Surface transportation legislation expired on September 30, 2020. However, it has been 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

COVID-19 stimulus and delayed appropriations appear set to merge into a multitrillion-dollar negotiation as Congress approaches the Dec. 11 expiration of the Continuing Resolution to fund the Government. Congressional leaders have sought to keep the two issues on separate tracks for months, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi has indicated that emergency funding will be added to the must-pass spending bill absent a separate coronavirus relief deal.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Wednesday (11/4/2020) he wants to pass a COVID-19 stimulus bill and all 12 fiscal 2021 appropriations bills before the end of the year. Both parties remain far apart on what a COVID-19 stimulus package should look like.

McConnell has repeatedly shut down requests of a \$1.9 trillion aid package that Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were discussing before the elections. McConnell instead put legislation (S. 178) on the Senate floor that would have provided about \$500 billion in additional aid. Democrats blocked that bill from advancing past a procedural vote.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting November 5, 2020)*

11/06/20	ALUCP Training
11/12/20	Caltrans Camino Update – Clark Peri
11/13/20	ISP Discussion – AireSpring and RTS
11/13/20	Caltrans US 50 Hot Spot Discussion – David Dosanjh
11/16/20	Financial Outlook Meeting – Karen Thompson
11/17/20	EDC BOS Meeting – TIM Fee Discussion
11/17/20	AIM US 50 Hot Spot Presentation Discussion – Celia McAdams
11/17/20	Caltrans and EDCTC Meeting – Sue Takhar
11/18/20	City, County, Transit Coordination Meeting
11/18/20	Caltrans Camino Update – Clark Peri
11/19/20	US 50 Corridor Interview – Wood Rogers
11/19/20	US 50 Corridor Interview – DKS
11/19/20	Meeting to Discuss Connector E1/E2 Segment Commissioner Hidahl/JPA
11/19/20	Review Financial Statements – Karen Thompson
11/20/20	RCTF Meeting
11/20/20	SACOG/MTC MegaRegion Meeting
11/23/20	TAC Meeting
11/24/20	EDCTC Audit Review
11/25/20	Caltrans Camino Update – Clark Peri
12/01/20	Elected Officials Meeting
12/02/20	Agenda Review – Shiva Frentzen
12/02/20	Caltrans Camino Update – Clark Peri
12/02/20	Agenda Review – Kara Taylor
12/02/20	California Transportation Commission