

Nevada County Transportation Commission

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates state and federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

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The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published quarterly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write or call the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is scheduled on: **Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., in the City of Grass Valley Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA.**

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NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

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Bicycle Recycle Project

The Bicycle Recycle Project at Seven Hills School in Nevada City trains students in bicycle building, repair, and maintenance. Fifth through eighth grade students participate by completing a focused bicycle mechanic curriculum and then they can choose a bicycle to rebuild that was donated by the community to the program. Once the bicycle is repaired, a student may keep their bicycle or donate it to a friend, a private family, or a variety of organizations with individuals who need transportation, such as clients of Nevada County's Hospitality House and Sacramento's Loaves and Fishes. Classes are held during the regular school day in a state-of-the-art building constructed in 2010 on school property that can accommodate 32 students at one time, is filled with bicycle parts and tools at individual work stations, and was made possible through a private donation.

The curriculum and hands-on repair are taught by Steve Davis, Program Director, who is the mastermind behind this project that he started in 1998 with his own money. His thinking was middle school children are the ideal age to learn mechanical skills that they can use for the rest of their lives. The repair process encourages problem-solving, critical thinking skills, team work, teaches good work habits, and gives the students a break from normal classroom sitting



Christian Lundmark, Michael Ash & Isaiah Carter learn from Steve Davis

so they can move around the shop and stimulate their minds by learning new skills and utilizing hand/eye techniques. A team of dedicated volunteers help out in the classroom and at community outreach events, and a long list of organizations in the community, as well as private donors, have helped to expand the project with financial aid. The program has trained over 1,500 students and built over 2,000 bicycles since it began. As Steve says, the program teaches so much more than bicycle repair as the students experience the importance of recycling old bicycles, and then once the bicycle is repaired, it is donated and could potentially become a sole mode of transportation for someone less fortunate. This gives the students a deeper look at the world around them, provides a social conscience, and increases their social skills. Steve stated, how often does an adolescent have the opportunity and privilege to help an adult or child by providing them with something they cannot provide for themselves. *(story continued on page 2)*



Justice Hinson, volunteer Richard Thomas & Sarah Skotnicki



Jackson Joyce and Jeremy Case work on the seat as a team



Codie Messerly and Paige Sundal enjoy learning bike repair

Bicycle Recycle Project (Continued)

Another great idea that was put into motion is a van that was converted into a fully equipped bike shop, which allows the students to take what they have learned outside of the classroom and into the community. Student mechanics repair bicycles at community events such as at bicycle safety rodeos, health fairs, and clinics at schools and in neighborhoods. Beginning in 2000, students have traveled to Sacramento each year to hold a bike clinic at Loaves and Fishes, a charitable organization that feeds the hungry and provides care for the homeless. Students provide free bicycle maintenance for guests, and then a raffle is held whereby guests can win student-built bikes they bring to give away from the Bicycle Recycle Project in Nevada City. Students get their picture taken with the lucky winners of their refurbished bikes and everyone has a great day together.

Steve Davis' next vision is to start an after-school program, the Bicycle Underground, where students are provided an alternative to "nothing to do" after school, and parents are relieved knowing where their children are until they can return from work. He is in the process of applying for a grant to fund the program.

So, if you have a bicycle sitting around that you would like to donate to the project, call Steve Davis at Seven Hills School (530) 265-1840, ext. 8143, to set up a time to deliver it to the school. Also, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer – all ages and skill levels are encouraged – for regular school day classes and/or after school activities, get in touch with Steve Davis. Lastly, if your heart has been stirred to contribute financially to the program, you can learn more at www.bicyclerecycleproject.com. The Bicycle Recycle Project is a non-profit educational program that is financed by grants, bicycle sales, and private donations. **NCTC**

"Building a Strong Foundation for Learning and Creativity"



Amy Fain and Hannah Talbott working together on a bike



Gage Rivera, Tommy Short, & Xavier Moya-Krill test drive their project



Inventory of bicycles waiting for repair



Owen Helmuth, Reid Young & Mathew Dal Bon proud of their work



Joe Pardini and Ryley Behr watch Steve Davis make a repair



Chloe Mead and Emerson Dunbar with their bike

Dorsey Drive Interchange Project Update

Dorsey Drive Interchange Project in Grass Valley got off to a great start this summer with a lot of earth moved and ramps formed for the southbound and northbound on and off ramps. The Dorsey Drive bridge that carries traffic across the freeway was widened on the south side and widening work was done along Dorsey Drive on the south side of the roadway.



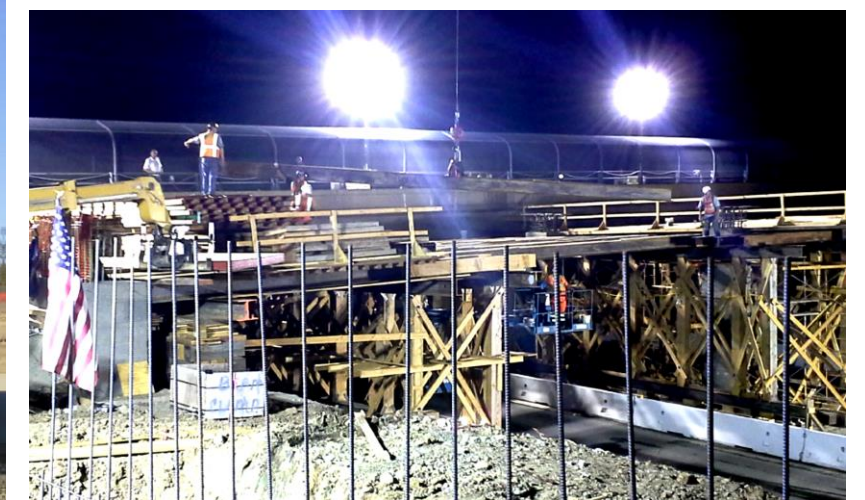
Dorsey Drive Interchange construction site with exit and entrance ramps and bridge widening under construction



Drilling hole 50 feet deep to install pile for freeway sign

Stage I of construction is coming to a close this December/January with minor sidewalk and bridge rail installation, the third sound wall installed, overhead sign structures installed, signal and lighting electrical installed, and decorative fencing installed. The steel reinforced framework for a freeway sign needs a hole drilled 50 feet deep; one drilling site took seven days to drill into rock to the required depth (see photo to left).

Stage II work in 2014 will include widening of the northern portion of the bridge over the freeway and construction of the northern side of Dorsey Drive. Other work in Stage II will be to construct Joerschke Drive improvements, place medians on Dorsey Drive, and place final asphalt on the freeway and Dorsey Drive. The planned completion of the interchange is fall of 2014. **NCTC**



Setting girders for bridge extension over SR 20/49 during night work