

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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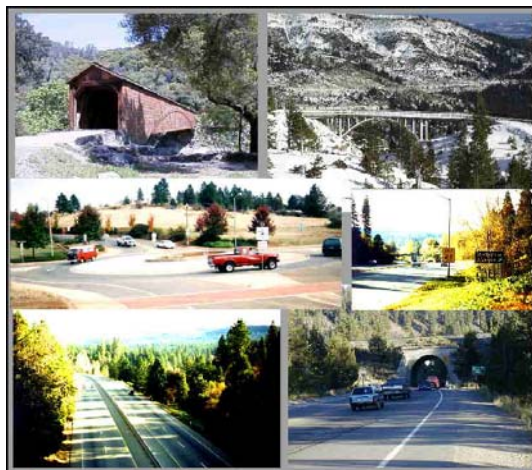
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Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is scheduled on: **Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 9:30 a.m., Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA.**

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101 Providence Mine Road, Suite 102
 Nevada City, CA 95959



NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Issue 41

September 2009

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Funding for Air Quality Projects

On September 16, 2009 the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) approved a total of \$2,621,092 of federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funds for seventeen transportation related projects in western Nevada County that will lead to emission reductions in the area. The funding for these projects was approved for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2009/10, 2010/11, and 2011/12. Western Nevada County was classified in 2004 as “non-attainment” for the federal 8-hour ozone standards, which qualifies NCTC to receive these funds. The Town of Truckee is not eligible for this funding source since eastern Nevada County is “in attainment” of the federal air quality standards.

The CMAQ project applications were prepared and submitted to the NCTC by the jurisdictions of Nevada County, Grass Valley, and Nevada City. The applications were reviewed and ranked by NCTC staff in coordination with the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. The approved projects are shown below.

FFY 2009/10

Jurisdiction	Project Description	CMAQ Funding
Nevada County	Government Center Pedestrian Walkway Connection Route Project	\$200,000
Grass Valley	Replace G.V. Fire Department 1980 Diesel Aerial Ladder Fire Truck	\$196,763
Nevada City	Ridge Rd./Zion St. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Improvement Project	\$200,000
Nevada City	Gold Flat Rd. Interchange Roundabouts - Preliminary Engineering	\$221,395
Nevada City	East Broad St. Sidewalk Connection to SR 49/North Bloomfield Rd. Crossing - Preliminary Engineering	\$40,000
Total		\$858,158

FFY 2010/11

Nevada County	Newtown Rd./Empress Rd. Corridor Preliminary Engineering for Class II Bike Lanes	\$258,000
Grass Valley	Replace a 1990 Diesel Utility Truck/Diesel Powered Air Compressor	\$80,000
Grass Valley	Sutton Way Pedestrian Accessibility Improvements	\$150,000
Grass Valley	Memorial Park and Condon Park Pedestrian Access Improvements	\$150,000
Nevada City	Replace Diesel Backhoe	\$85,000
Nevada City	Gold Flat Road Interchange Roundabouts - Preliminary Engineering	\$26,605
Nevada City	East Broad St. Sidewalk Connection to SR 49/North Bloomfield Rd. Crossing - Construction	\$124,000
Total		\$873,605

FFY 2011/12

Nevada County	Pleasant Valley Dr. Class I Bike Path/Class II Bike Lane - Preliminary Engineering	\$30,000
Nevada County	Newtown Rd./Empress Rd. Corridor Class II Bike Lanes-Right-of-Way	\$100,000
Nevada County	Combie Rd. Class I Bike Path - Construction	\$399,329
Nevada County	Brunswick Rd./East Bennett Rd. Class I Bike Path/Class II Bike Lane - Preliminary Engineering	\$30,000
Nevada County	La Barr Meadows Rd. Class I Bike Path/Class II Bike Lane - Preliminary Engineering	\$20,000
Grass Valley	Replace 1992 International 4900 Diesel Dump Body Truck	\$105,000
Grass Valley	Replace one 1999 Ford F450 Diesel Truck	\$35,000
Grass Valley	Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on East Main St. between Hughes Rd. and Idaho-Maryland Rd.	\$170,000
Total		\$889,329

CHP Enforcement Grant

A joint safety project between the California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Office of Traffic Safety, Nevada County Consolidated Fire Department, Grass Valley Police Department, Higgins Fire Department (CalFire), and Caltrans, has received a grant for \$210,000 to be used in the Grass Valley area. The Grass Valley CHP is the lead agency with Lieutenant Charles Whitmore, Commander, and Sergeant Mike Lawrence, Grant Coordinator, as the coordinators of the project. The grant duration is August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010 and will provide:

- 1,650 hours for CHP patrol, special enforcement, and air operations.
- 280 hours for Allied Agency involvement. Pending Office of Traffic Safety and Grass Valley City Council approval, the Grass Valley Police Department will assist with enforcement operations. Allied Agency hours will be used to assist CHP units with task force operations on the northern end of the corridor (adjacent to McKnight Way). This section of highway contains the transition from a two lane State Route to freeway, and has been the site of several fatal collisions in the past. Enforcement will focus on Primary Collision causing violations, DUI, Occupant Restraint usage and Cellular Telephone usage. All other use of Allied Agencies will be at the mutual agreement of the jurisdictions.
- Increased public affairs presentations.

As a result of the rise in collisions and fatal injuries on State Route (SR) 49 between the Placer County line and McKnight Way, "Citizens for Highway 49 Safety" (<http://www.citizensforhighway49safety.com/>) was formed in January 2006 by Bruce and Deborah Jones. They were hit head-on on SR 49 December 19, 2003. The first public town hall meeting was held on January 18, 2006 and over 300 concerned citizens and public officials attended to give input and suggest traffic safety improvements. A Safety Task Force was created with local officials and Caltrans to address what could be done short-term and long-term.



As a result of the public meetings, SR 49 was designated as a "Traffic Safety Corridor" from just north of Dry Creek Road in Placer County to McKnight Way in Grass Valley. The designation is assigned to a section of roadway with a higher than usual history of fatal and injury traffic collisions. Caltrans was able to obtain emergency funding to install center and roadway edge rumble strips, plus additional signage to get the attention of the driving public to slow down. Grass Valley CHP also stepped up enforcement along the corridor and collision statistics improved dramatically in 2006. The charts below are an indication of how CHP enforcement delivered a strong message to slow down and stay within legal limits.

Enforcement Statistics:

Year	2006	2007	2008
Speeding	2522	1524	702
Other	654	428	536
Total	3176	1952	1238

Accidents:

Year	2006	2007	2008
Injury/Fatal	30	27	21
Total Accidents	69	63	67



2005: Nine Fatalities

2006: Five Fatalities

2007: One Fatality

2008: One Fatality

Things to do to help prevent fatal and injury collisions:

- Slow down.** Speeding is the second leading overall cause of injury or death in traffic collisions next to drinking and driving.
- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance.** #1 cause of rear-end collisions is not allowing enough space between vehicles.
- Hang up the phone.** Studies show you are four times more likely to have a collision when you use a cell phone.
- Don't drive drunk.** Driving under the influence (medications too) is the greatest cause of fatal and injury collisions.
- Obey road signs.** SR 49 is a daytime headlight zone. Pass only in designated zones. Crossing over a rumble strip is illegal.
- Buckle up.** Wear your seat belt – it's the law. Child seats are required for children under six years old or 60 pounds.
- Drive as though your life depends on it. IT DOES!** Driving is the most dangerous elective activity you choose to do.

I-80 Projects Nearing Completion

Doug Lange, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for I-80 Improvement Projects, reported at the September 16, 2009 NCTC meeting that at the end of August Granite Construction Company had completed 82 of the 119 scheduled work days on the Colfax/Gold Run III Rehabilitation project. Plans are to have a completed project by mid-October. The work remaining on the project is the completion of concrete barriers, asphalt paving and striping, placing polyester/concrete overlays on the bridge deck, and placing slotted drains. This work will still require the eastbound and westbound lanes to be closed in the evening hours, which will continue to necessitate the detour of truck traffic up and down SR 49. There have been 66,000 trucks/buses/RV's detoured from westbound I-80 since the start of construction, and 395 were taken out of service due to the CHP brake inspection and safety checks.



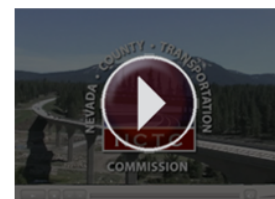
To get the latest information on all the I-80 corridor projects, go to www.getacross80.com.

New NCTC Website

The Nevada County Transportation Commission website has been reorganized and improved to provide easy access to information and services relating to the Commission. The Home Page describes our Mission and the various modes of transportation we impact, as well as listing our partners and the work we accomplish. A short video can be viewed that gives a visual explanation of what makes up our regional transportation system. Current and archived meeting information and newsletters are also available. Current projects are featured, and past and present reports are accessible.

NCTC staff had fun developing our new website with Diverse Network Associates, Inc. They not only gave us a new look with the website, but they also created a new logo for NCTC that provides a 21st century "branding" to our Commission. After a brief training session, staff now has the ability in-house to maintain and post up-to-date information on the website.

Our website address is www.nctc.ca.gov. Let us know what you think.



Click a link to visit official City / County Websites

Grass Valley →

Welcome to the new Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) website. Our website has been reorganized and improved to give you convenient access to a wide range of information about NCTC and the services we provide.

The Mission of the NCTC is to Plan, Communicate and Coordinate with the citizens and decision makers of Nevada County, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Truckee, and Caltrans to create a balanced regional transportation system.

This includes administration of regional, state, and federal funding for projects related to roadways, bridges, public transportation services, railways, airports, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian amenities. Throughout this process the NCTC seeks to protect the rural qualities and historic character of Nevada County.

In developing these transportation solutions, the NCTC initiates design concepts, engineering feasibility studies, environmental studies, and proposes funding sources to construct transportation improvements. Once these tasks are completed, projects are turned over to Caltrans or to a local jurisdiction for construction.