

JAN ARBUCKLE – Grass Valley City Council
 ANDREW BURTON – Member-At-Large, Chair
 ANN GUERRA – Member-At-Large, Vice Chair
 SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
 ED SCOFIELD – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
 DUANE STRAWSER – Nevada City City Council
 JAN ZABRISKIE – Town of Truckee



MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director


Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

File: 1200.4.0.2, 1030.2.4.3, 1030.2.1.3,
 1030.2.3.2, 1430.7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Mike Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for May 2021

DATE: May 19, 2021

STATE ROUTE 49 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – SUBMITTAL OF FEDERAL EARMARK REQUESTS

NCTC staff, in coordination with the County Board of Supervisors Office and Nevada County Department of Public Works, submitted a federal earmark request in the amount of \$15 million necessary to fund the State Route (SR) 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1, for consideration by Congressman Doug LaMalfa and Senator Diane Feinstein.

Congressman LaMalfa has selected our project as one of his five Member Designated Project funding requests that were sent to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for funding consideration. While this does not guarantee that the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1 will be funded, it does clear the first hurdle in the process. If the project is ultimately selected by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for funding it would be dependent on the inclusion of the federal earmark projects as part of the federal reauthorization funding bill. A description of Phase 1 is provided below:

The SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1 proposes improvements to the highway between the terminus of the previous project at La Barr Meadows Road (Post Mile 10.8) and to the south of the McKnight Way Interchange (Post Mile 13.3). The improvements include construction of segments of northbound and southbound truck climbing lanes, auxiliary lanes, 10' shoulders, a 16' wide continuous two-way left-turn lane, and eliminates the existing merge points, improving the highway segment to four lanes. The project also includes right-turn lanes in the southbound direction at Crestview Drive, Smith Road, Bethel Church Way, and Wellswood Way.

This project will reduce the number of incidents of cross centerline, rear-end and sideswipe accidents in this segment. The widening of exterior shoulders to 10' standard width in Phase 1, along with the installation of both shoulder and centerline rumble strips, will assist in alerting fatigued or distracted drivers who drift out of their travel lane. These 10' shoulders will also accommodate bicyclists,

pedestrians, enforcement activities, and disabled vehicles. The two-way left-turn lane will allow traffic either leaving or entering SR 49 to move out of the primary travel lane into a dedicated refuge lane to make their turning movements or to safely accelerate and join traffic flow in their direction of travel. The truck climbing lane segments will allow slow moving trucks and vehicles the ability to climb steep grades and get back up to speed without impacting traffic operations.

Phase 2 proposes construction of a 22' median with safety barrier type 60M, which will decrease conflict points as drivers will no longer need to watch for oncoming traffic making left turns across their travel lanes and eliminate head-on accidents. The construction of two access controlled (either signalized or roundabouts) at-grade intersections and frontage roads will decrease conflict points from vehicles entering and exiting from the current local roads and driveways along SR 49.

READY NEVADA COUNTY EXTREME CLIMATE EVENT MOBILITY ADAPTATION PLAN

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) received a Caltrans FY 2020/21 Regional Planning Assistance Grant to prepare a transportation focused planning effort to identify the climate-related weaknesses of the transportation system in Nevada County, including but not limited to risks related to increased wildfire risks, heavy precipitation and snowfall events. The planning effort will provide actionable strategies for integration into transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and alignment with emergency response plans for the region. The planning effort is being conducted in coordination with the local jurisdictions, Caltrans District 3, the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, first responders, and input from public stakeholders.

This planning effort was initiated by NCTC in November of 2020 with the selection of GHD Inc. to assist the preparation of the study and to guide multiple public engagement activities. To date the consultant has conducted surveys with first responders and key stakeholders and collected existing conditions data for climate related vulnerabilities to the transportation system.

On May 5, 2021, NCTC and GHD Inc. held the first public workshop to kick off the study. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the project, present data collected on the existing conditions in the study area, and to provide an opportunity for input. The majority of the public input received at the workshop was focused on concerns related to wildfire evacuation routes. The consultant will document the input and continue to work with the Project Advisory Committee and begin the process of identifying and documenting vulnerabilities in the transportation system.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AUGMENTATION PROPOSAL

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) and a broad coalition of transportation, trade, and labor organizations is requesting that Governor Newsom and the legislature consider a one-time augmentation of \$2 billion from the General Fund surplus for the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The augmented funding would allow the Commission to fund the high quality, but unsuccessful project applications submitted to the severely oversubscribed 2021 ATP Cycle 5, down to an evaluation score of 60.

Commission staff believes that approximately \$1.5 billion would be needed to fully fund the remainder of these projects. Commission staff would work with Caltrans and applicants to address any deliverability issues prior to programming. The Commission was only able to fund 50 projects in the

Statewide and Small Urban and Rural components of the 2021 ATP, or approximately 11 percent of the 454 applications. Only 21 of the 47 counties from which the Commission received applications were represented in the adopted program.

The augmented program would expand the range of successful projects to 46 counties, including rural and disadvantaged communities. The additional funding would allow the program to provide immediate benefits and investments to almost 300 more projects that benefit disadvantaged communities throughout the state. The proposed augmentation if authorized would fund all five of the following projects submitted by Nevada County jurisdictions:

- SR 49 Multi-modal Corridor Improvement Project (NCTC/Nevada County/Nevada City)
- SR 174/49/20 Roundabout & Active Transportation Safety Project (NCTC/Grass Valley)
- Rough & Ready Highway Roundabout (Nevada County)
- Combie Road Active Transportation Project (Nevada County)
- Truckee River Legacy Trail Phase 4A (Town of Truckee)

WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As part of the regional transportation planning process, NCTC in coordination with Nevada County, contracted with GHD Inc. to update the Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan (WNCTDP). The purpose of the WNCTDP is to develop a five-year transit planning guide with recommendations to assist the Nevada County Transit Services Division in making sustainable operational adjustments and capital purchases for the fixed route transit system and paratransit services in western Nevada County.

The consultant has completed an analysis of existing demographics and economic conditions of the region as it relates to the need for public transit services, an evaluation of existing transit services, has conducted online surveys, and has developed draft service recommendations that focus on enhancing existing services, as well as meeting identified transit needs that are sustainable.

Draft recommendations for the updates of both the Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan (WNCTDP) and the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Service Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) will be presented at an online public workshop that will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM to receive public input. A flyer for the public workshop with information on how to participate is attached. Following the public workshop, the draft plan recommendations will be presented to the Transit Services Commission at their May meeting. Input received will be incorporated into the final reports that will be presented to NCTC for adoption at their July 21, 2021 meeting.

NEVADA COUNTY COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT – HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

As part of the regional transportation planning process, the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), in coordination with Nevada County and the Town of Truckee, contracted with the consultant firm GHD Inc. to update the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit - Human Service Transportation Plan. This countywide plan will help to facilitate continued coordination between health and human

services and transportation stakeholders, identify the existing transportation needs in Nevada County, and identify potential solutions. The Federal Transit Administration grant funding programs require projects be included in a current Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan in order to be eligible for funding.

The consultant has collected data regarding the public transportation options, human services transportation services, and private transportation options in western and eastern Nevada County. GHD Inc. has also documented the transit needs and gaps in service based on the review of demographic and economic data, unmet transit needs data, and input from stakeholder interviews, input collected via online surveys, as well as an online public workshop, and has prepared draft strategies directed at meeting the identified transit needs.

Draft recommendations for the updates of both the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Service Transportation Plan and the WNCTDP will be presented at an online public workshop that will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM to receive additional public input. A flyer for the workshop with information on how to participate is attached. Following the public workshop, the draft plan recommendations will be presented to the Transit Services Commission at their May meeting. Input received will be incorporated into the final reports that will be presented to NCTC for adoption at their July 21, 2021 meeting.

Public Workshop to Discuss Transit Services in Nevada County

Thursday, May 20th from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM



We want your feedback on transit and mobility recommendations

Thursday, May 20th from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Please join us to discuss recommendations for the Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan and Nevada County Coordinated Transit - Human Services Plan

Join the meeting online or by phone

Online:

Go to: www.Zoom.com

Select : Join Meeting

Enter WebID: 862 6496 0031

Enter Passcode: a61p59

By Phone:

Call 1 (669) 900-6833

Enter ID: 862 6496 0031

Enter Passcode: 320324



If you cannot attend, please provide comments to Christopher.Duddy@wsp.com