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MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director
AARON HOYT, Deputy Executive Director


Grass Valley • Nevada City

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File: 740.0, 950.6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the May 18, 2022 Meeting

DATE: May 18, 2022

APPOINTMENT OF NEW NCTC COMMISSIONER

On May 10, 2022 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors appointed Jay Strauss to fill the NCTC Member-at-Large position formerly held by Andrew Burton. Mr. Strauss moved from Marin County to Penn Valley in 2018 and has a background in public service and community involvement. NCTC staff welcomes Mr. Strauss to the Commission.

SR 49 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - SUBMITTAL OF FEDERAL EARMARK REQUESTS UPDATE

NCTC staff in coordination with the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Office and Nevada County Department of Public Works submitted a federal earmark request in the amount of \$10 million necessary to fund the State Route (SR) 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phases 1 & 2, for consideration by Congressman Doug LaMalfa, Senator Alex Padilla, and Senator Diane Feinstein.

The SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phases 1 & 2 includes 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 between the terminus of the previous project at La Barr Meadows Road (Post Mile 10.8) and to south of the McKnight Way Interchange (Post Mile 13.3) 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.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE 6

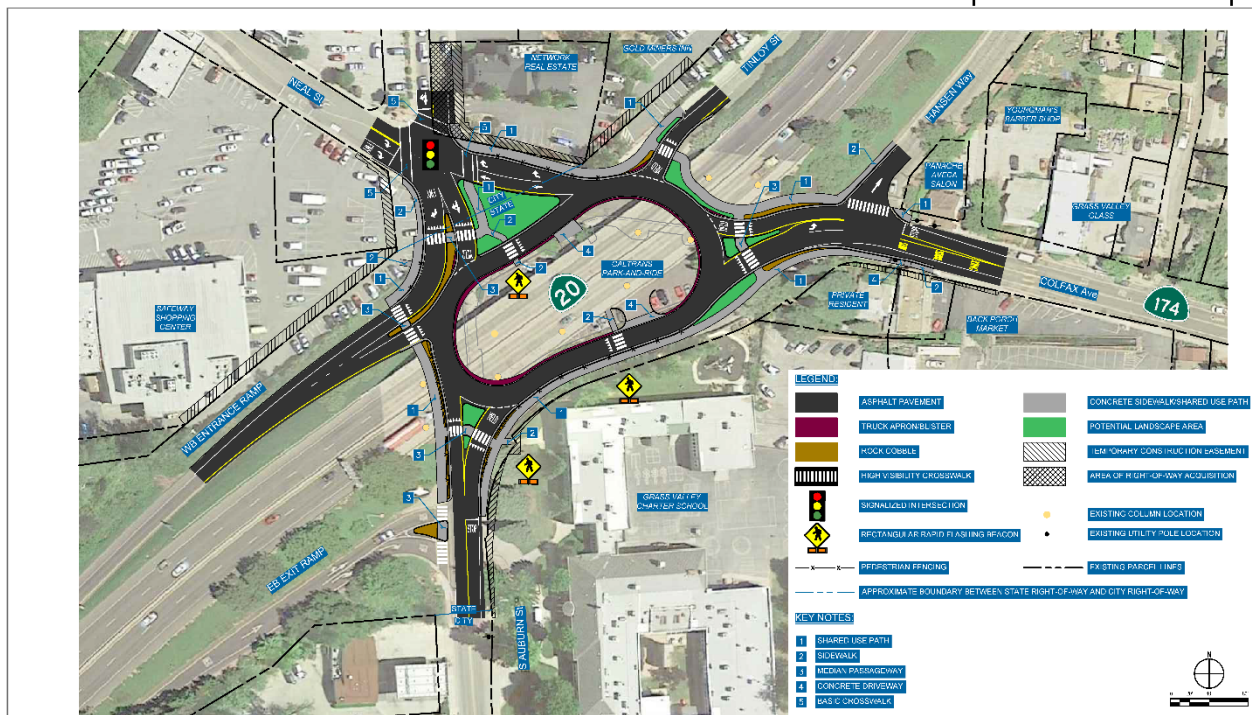
The Nevada County Transportation Commission in coordination with Nevada County, Grass Valley, and Nevada City and with the assistance of the transportation consulting firm GHD Inc. are working to update and resubmit the Active Transportation Program grant applications for the *State Route 49 Multi-*

modal Corridor Improvements, Nevada City and the SR 174/49/20 Roundabout & Active Transportation Safety Project. Cycle 6 grant applications are due by June 15, 2022.

The *SR 174/49/20 Roundabout & Active Transportation Safety Project* is intended to improve traffic operations and the safety and comfort for people walking and bicycling by simplifying a high-stress cluster of multiple intersections with an oblong single-lane roundabout that includes high-visibility crossings on all legs and a shared-use path. The project area today consists of seven closely spaced intersections, known as the Triangle, at the interchange of SR 174 with SR 49/20. Intersections are a mix of traffic signals and side-street stop signs, and people bicycling or walking through the area must navigate multiple long crossings with varied markings and support features.

A new oblong roundabout will consolidate four intersections, offering safety improvements for all modes of transportation. High-visibility marked crosswalks will be provided on all approaches, including advance yield lines and refuge islands. A rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) will be installed across S. Auburn Street near Grass Valley Charter Elementary School. Two marked crossings are also provided across the circulating lane to provide access to the Park and Ride lot, and will include RRFBs to support safe crossings for students and families to Grass Valley Charter Elementary School. A new shared-use path will be constructed around the roundabout, offering a safe path of travel for people walking and bicycling that is completely separated from motor vehicle traffic. An existing traffic signal at Neal Street and Auburn Street will be upgraded to improve pedestrian safety and coordinate with the adjacent roundabout.

Improvement Concept



SR 174/SR 20 Intersection Analysis

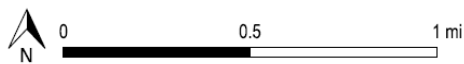
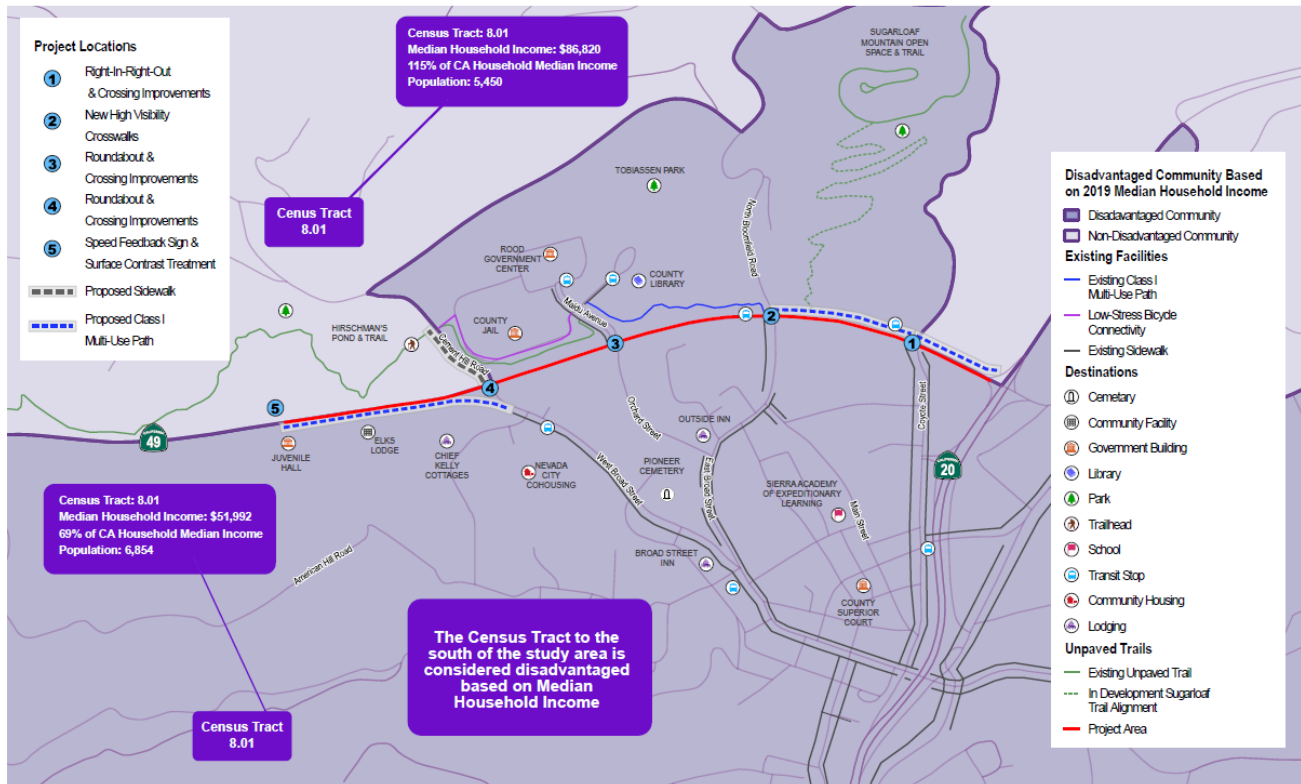
Grass Valley, California

The *State Route 49 Multi-modal Corridor Improvements, Nevada City* focuses on improving key intersections, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and improved crossings along the segment of SR 49 between the intersection of SR 20/49/Uren Street and County Juvenile Hall driveway/SR 49. The

improvements will allow active transportation users to travel along and across this section of the SR 49 corridor safely and comfortably while accessing important destinations near the project area.

Intersection improvement locations include SR 49 and Coyote Street, North Bloomfield Road/East Broad Street, Maidu Ave/Orchard Street, and Cement Hill Road/West Broad Street. North Bloomfield/East Broad Street is signal-controlled, while the remaining three are side-stop controlled. All feature safety concerns. SR 49/Coyote Street improvements include a right-in-right-out intersection reconfiguration, new lighting, and high-visibility crosswalks with refuge islands and rectangular rapid flashing beacons along both crossing legs. Crosswalks at North Bloomfield Road/East Broad Street will be improved with new high-visibility markings. Maidu Ave/Orchard Street and Cement Hill Road/West Broad Street improvements include single-lane roundabouts, new lighting, shared-use paths around the roundabout perimeter, and high-visibility crosswalks with median refuge islands at each intersection leg.

New shared-use paths and sidewalk in several locations will connect to existing and future trails. At the east end of the corridor, between SR 20 and North Bloomfield Road, a shared-use path will connect to the existing Rood Center Path at North Bloomfield Road, which extends to Helling Way. At the west end, a shared-use path will span from the Juvenile Hall driveway to West Broad Street. At Cement Hill Road/West Broad Street, the roundabout will connect to the shared-use path to the west at the southwest corner, and sidewalk along Cement Hill Road at the northeast corner. A sidewalk will also extend to the north to Hirschman's Trail.



MAP OF PROJECT BOUNDARIES, ACCESS & DESTINATIONS
STATE ROUTE 49 MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS
 NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Data Source: 2019 TIGER, 2019 Census, OSM 2019
 Map Produced April 2022

DEVELOPMENT OF SR 49 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT VIDEO

NCTC contracted with videographer Jeff Litton to prepare a video highlighting the key concerns and documenting the importance of funding improvements in the corridor. The video will be utilized to assist in efforts advocating for state and federal funding for the needed safety, evacuation, and operational improvements in the SR 49 corridor. This effort was done in coordination with the County of Nevada and key stakeholders including the Citizens for Highway 49 Safety, Fix49.org, Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities, CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, and the Nevada County Sheriff's Office.

NORTH STATE SUPER REGION UPDATE

The NSSR, formalized through a memorandum of agreement on October 20, 2010, represents a partnership between the combined sixteen Northern California Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, to provide a unified voice when addressing state and federal transportation funding and policy decisions and to establish coordination of transportation planning efforts.

At the March 11, 2022 North State Super Region (NSSR) meeting, John Clerici, Executive Director of the Lassen County Transportation Commission, was appointed to serve as Chair of the NSSR. Prior to Mr. Clerici, NCTC's Executive Director had served in this role from 2019 to 2022.