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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the January 2020 Meeting

DATE: January 29, 2020

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) created under the State of California Government Code, Section 67920. As the RTPA for Nevada County, NCTC coordinates transportation planning for Grass Valley, Nevada City, Nevada County, and the Town of Truckee.

NCTC has seven board members. Four members are appointed by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, including two of its members and two Member-At-Large representatives. Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee each appoint one member.

The mission of NCTC is to plan, communicate, and coordinate with the citizens and decision-makers of Grass Valley, Nevada City, Nevada County, Truckee, and with Caltrans to identify transportation needs, propose solutions, and assist in implementing projects to create a balanced regional transportation system, while protecting the rural qualities and historic character of Nevada County.

Some of the activities to achieve NCTC's mission include:

- Develop a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which includes the actions, funding recommendations, and policy direction necessary to meet the needs of each transportation system component in the region.
- Communicate with Caltrans on proposed projects to be developed in the County of Nevada to ensure that the policies and goals of the RTP are implemented.
- Administer Transportation Development Act funding to ensure all statutory requirements are met.
- Manage Regional Improvement Program funds, Regional Surface Transportation Program funds, and Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee funds. Select and fund eligible transportation improvement projects based on those that are most effective and beneficial to the region.
- NCTC has been designated as the Airport Land Use Commission for the Nevada County Airport and provides staff for the Truckee Tahoe Airport Land Use Commission. The purpose of airport

land use commissions is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring the orderly expansion of airports and adoption of land use measures that minimize the public's exposure to excessive noise and safety hazards within the areas around the airports.

During 2019, NCTC provided funds to local agencies for transportation projects from the following sources:

Local Transportation Fund (LTF) - These funds are derived from one-quarter cent of the sales tax collected in Nevada County.

- Nevada County Transit Funding: \$1,184,798.50
- Grass Valley Transit Funding: \$372,210.96
- Nevada City Transit Funding: \$101,907.65
- Truckee Transit Funding: \$268,998.50
- Community Transit Services (CTS) projects - Nevada County: \$35,435.50, Truckee: \$7,167.25
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects, Nevada County: \$148,500.00, Grass Valley: \$125,000.00

Total LTF projects in 2019: \$2,244,018.36

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds - This funding program was established by the State of California for a wide variety of transportation projects. These funds may be used for transportation planning, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of public streets and highways and pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Grass Valley:

- Annual Street Rehabilitation: \$426,682.00
- Wolf Creek Trail: \$400,000.00

Total RSTP Projects in 2019: \$826,682.00

Total project funding disbursed by NCTC in 2019: \$3,070,700.36

Planning projects completed in 2019:

- Active Transportation Plan - The purpose of this project is to develop an Active Transportation Plan for the jurisdictions within Nevada County. The Active Transportation Plan assists jurisdictions in the implementation of transportation projects that improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility, consolidate pedestrian and bicycle plans, and is utilized for grant applications for the Caltrans Active Transportation Funding program. NCTC approved the Final Report at its July 2019 meeting.

- SR 49 Corridor System Management Plan Update - A Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) is used to outline the multi-jurisdictional and multi-modal management of a corridor experiencing delay due to congestion. A CSMP results in a listing and phasing plan of recommended operational improvements, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) strategies, and system expansion projects to preserve or improve performance measures within the corridor.

NCTC approved the final CSMP at its May 2019 NCTC meeting.

- Transit Funding Equity Study - This project reviewed the fiscal and operating characteristics of the Nevada County and Town of Truckee transit services to determine if the NCTC distribution policies provide an equitable amount of funding to each transit service. This project guides the allocation of funds for future transit operations.

The final report was presented to the Commission at its March 2019 meeting.

- Local Road Safety Plan – The State of California encourages local agencies to have a Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) to competitively obtain Highway Safety Improvement Program funds. NCTC staff is assisting Nevada County with the development of a LRSP. The purpose of NCTC's participation is to engage other local agencies in this effort. Nevada County developed the LRSP, and it was presented to the NCTC for endorsement at its March 2019 meeting.

Planning projects underway in 2019:

- RTP Implementation: Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Thresholds - Senate Bill 743 mandated the development of a new metric for determining the level of significance of transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is using consultant services to develop sample estimations of VMT generated by residential and commercial land use projects and provide recommendations for the establishment of VMT thresholds by Nevada County, Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Truckee.

It is anticipated this project will be complete by June 2020 with the consultant firm of Fehr & Peers presenting their Final Report at the May 2020 NCTC meeting.

- SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan – The purpose of this project is to develop a plan to implement projects that will improve safety, connectivity between transportation modes, and expand mobility options along this corridor in a cost-effective manner.

GHD presented the Final Report at the December 2019 NCTC meeting. However, the Agreement with the consultant firm of GHD for completion of the SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan is being extended to provide adequate time for preparation of grant applications seeking potential funding for construction.

- SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis – The purpose of this study is to analyze and recommend improvements for the intersection of SR 174 and SR 20 in Grass Valley. The study area includes several local streets that intersect with or pass under the two state routes known as “the Triangle” due to the shape formed by these streets. These include:
 - Local Highway (SR 174/Colfax Avenue)
 - Highway Frontage Roads (Tinloy Street and Hansen Way)
 - Highway Access Ramps (SR 49/SR 20 on-ramps and off-ramps)
 - South Auburn Street and Neal Street

The Agreement with the consultant firm GHD for completion of the SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis is being extended to provide adequate time for preparation of grant applications seeking potential funding for construction. It is anticipated GHD will present their Final Report at the March 2020 NCTC meeting.