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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director 

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

DATE: May 20, 2020

### SENATE BILL 743 VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED METHODOLOGY AND THRESHOLD RECOMMENDATION STUDY:

Background: California Senate Bill 743 (SB 743), adopted in 2013, changed how transportation impacts are measured in the review of land use and transportation projects and plans under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). SB 743 represents a new paradigm in land use development and transportation planning across the state. The state's implementation of the legislation removed automobile delay as the primary environmental measure of transportation impacts, previously measured by traffic level of service (LOS), and replaces it with vehicle-miles traveled (VMT).

As part of the regional transportation planning process, NCTC has funded a planning study to provide recommendations for methodology, thresholds, and procedures for CEQA analysis of land use and transportation projects and plans in each of the jurisdictions within Nevada County in relation to implementation and compliance with SB 743. Local jurisdictions have until July 1 of 2020 to adopt VMT thresholds.

Status: NCTC's consultant, Fehr & Peers, has prepared the Draft Senate Bill 743 Implementation report that identifies the methodology and threshold setting recommendations. The consultant has also developed a VMT forecasting/screening tool that can be utilized by planning staff once the jurisdiction establishes a threshold. The next steps will involve the consultant assisting the jurisdictions to present recommendations for methodology and threshold adoption.

### WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN & NEVADA COUNTY COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT – HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATES

Background: As part of the regional transportation planning process, NCTC has funded a planning effort to update both the Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan (WNCTDP) and the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan.

The WNCTDP update will analyze a wide range of transit and paratransit service options, capital needs, institutional and management improvements, and financial alternatives in order to develop a financially constrained five-year short-range transit operating plan. The WNCTDP will include a year-by-year implementation schedule for all plan elements, identifying the responsible parties and financial requirements.

The Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan update is a countywide plan that will focus on ways to support and expand on the coordination activities and opportunities for transportation services among the various human service entities and the private and public transportation service providers. The plan will document existing needs and gaps in transportation services and identify operational and capital strategies to address them. 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.

Status: The transit planning consultant firm WSP is currently underway updating both plans concurrently. The consultant has begun collecting data in relation to existing transit services and demographics in order to analyze existing transit services. The consultant has worked with NCTC staff and the Project Advisory Committee to adjust their public engagement and input process in light of the current stay at home orders related to the ongoing pandemic. Following the analysis of existing transit services and initial public input, the consultant will begin the analysis of service alternatives.

## **STATE ROUTE 49 CORRIDOR PLAN AND ROADSIDE SAFETY AUDIT**

Caltrans District 3, in cooperation with NCTC and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA), has launched a coordinated effort to identify and seek funding for safety and operational improvements in the SR 49 corridor between Auburn and Grass Valley. Information developed during this coordinated effort will be disseminated through a Highway 49 Roadside Safety Audit Communication Plan (see attached). In addition to the participants identified in the Highway 49 Roadside Safety Audit Communication Plan, NCTC has reached out to state and federal legislators.

The first phase of this effort was the completion of a “Roadside Safety Audit” during the week of February 16th through the 22nd. Road Safety Audits/Assessments (RSAs) are a valuable tool used to evaluate road safety issues and to identify opportunities for improvement. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) defines an RSA as a “formal safety performance evaluation of an existing or future road or intersection by an independent, multidisciplinary team.”

Members of the SR 49 Roadside Safety Audit team included Caltrans Maintenance, Traffic Operations and Safety staff, representatives of California Highway Patrol, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), NCTC, PCTPA, and representatives of Fehr & Peers, a transportation planning consulting firm. The audit team reviewed accident data (see attached) and observed conditions throughout the corridor from Auburn to Grass Valley. Following the observation of operating conditions, the audit team identified problems/issues, potential safety treatments, and a long-term vision for the facility. The corridor was divided into four segments: 1) I-80 to Dry Creek Road, 2) Dry Creek Road to Wolf Road/Combie Road, 3) Wolf Road/Combie Road to La Barr Meadows Road, 4) La Barr Meadows Road to McKnight Way.

NCTC staff will schedule a Zoom Webinar meeting of the SR 49 Stakeholders Committee to update the committee members about this Roadside Safety Audit and review the draft report.

Following review and comment on the draft report, a final report will be prepared during June 2020. The report will identify Near-Term (0-2 years) and Mid-Term (2-10 years) improvements for the corridor.

Following completion of the roadside safety audit report, the SR 49 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) will be updated and expanded to encompass both Nevada and Placer counties. Caltrans will begin work on the update in June 2020, and it is expected that the document would be completed by January 2021.

attachments