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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director *Daniel B. Landon*

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the January 2021 Meeting

DATE: January 19, 2021

2020 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 2020, 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: \$3,370,501.50
- Grass Valley Transit Funding: \$461,695.80
- Nevada City Transit Funding: \$112,815.28
- Truckee Transit Funding: \$446,753.50
- Community Transit Services (CTS) - Nevada County: \$171,692.50, Truckee: \$33,611.25
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects, Nevada City: \$34,000

Total LTF projects in 2020: \$4,631,069.63

State Transit Assistance Fund (STA) – By statute these funds are used for transit purposes. They are derived from statewide sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

- Nevada County Transit Funding: \$127,881.00
- Truckee Transit Funding: \$514,850.00

Total STA transit funding in 2020: \$642,731.00

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.

Nevada City

- Boulder Street Improvements: \$86,000.00

Nevada County

- Drainage and Shoulders: \$152,484.00
- General Maintenance: \$1,189,449.00
- Donner Shoulder Improvements: \$3,627.50
- Combie Road Corridor: \$583,174.00

Nevada County Transportation Commission

- SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis: \$20,000.00
- SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan: \$34,500.00

Total RSTP Projects in 2020: \$2,069,234.50

Total project funding disbursed by NCTC in 2020: \$7,343,035.13

Planning Projects Completed in 2020:

- Truckee Big Data Daily VMT Analysis – Outputs from the Town of Truckee’s PM Peak Hour travel demand model were scaled to daily volumes using the “Big Data” and provided relative traffic volumes over the course of a day. The “Big Data” will also help the Town and NCTC understand the seasonal variations in regional travel behavior, due to resort and other tourist traffic, to inform both the updates of the RTP and Town General Plan. Analysis of the data can assist in evaluating the ability of the regional transportation system to handle emergency evacuation scenarios depending on the time of day and season. The consultant developed the Daily VMT estimates and prepared the VMT Methodology Report for review and approval. The analysis was presented to the Truckee Town Council in May 2020.
- 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 used 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. The final report was presented to the Commission at its October 2020 NCTC meeting.
- SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan – This project provided needed recommendations for the improvement of roadway and traffic conditions in order to make it safer and easier for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to cross and travel along Highway 49 from the SR 20/SR 49/Uren Street intersection in Nevada City to the Nevada County Juvenile Hall. This required a focus on intersections and innovative ways to reduce motor vehicle speeds and expand mobility options along this corridor in a cost-effective manner. An Active Transportation Program funding grant was received to provide additional funding for this project. The final report was presented to the Commission at its October 2020 NCTC meeting.
- SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis – This study analyzed and recommended improvements for the intersection of State Route 174 and State Route 20 in Grass Valley. The study area included 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

An Active Transportation Program funding grant was received to provide additional funding for this project. The final report was presented to the Commission at its October 2020 NCTC meeting.

- NCTC/Grass Valley Travel Demand Forecasting Model - A Travel Demand Forecasting (TDF) model is a computer program that simulates traffic levels and travel patterns for a specific geographic area. Using this data, the model performs a series of calculations to determine trips generated, the beginning and ending location of each trip, and the route taken by the trip. The TDF model is a valuable tool for preparing long-range transportation planning studies, like the Regional Transportation Plan, and can be used to estimate the average daily and peak hour traffic volumes on major roads in response to planned population and employment growth, changes in transportation infrastructure, and policy assumptions, and provides a consistent platform to analyze different land use and transportation scenarios. The final report was presented to the Commission at its October 2020 NCTC meeting.

Planning Projects Underway in 2020:

- Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan Update – This update will provide guidance for the next five years for making operational adjustments, address capital needs, recent changes in funding levels, and changes in fixed route and paratransit operations. The consultant will evaluate the existing transit systems, research opportunities for improved coordination in the region, determine the most efficient approach to meet the needs of the public, and carefully identify where transit resources should be devoted over the plan period, utilizing origins and destinations and travel patterns. Public involvement and outreach activities are integral components of the study. The WNCTDP will include a year-by-year implementation schedule for all plan elements, identifying the responsible parties and financial requirements. The Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan Update agreement was approved at the January 29, 2020 NCTC meeting.
- Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update – This update will address existing transportation service gaps and operational and capital needs, and will facilitate continued coordination between health and human services and transportation stakeholders, identify the existing transportation needs in Nevada County, and identify potential solutions to address them. The consultant will evaluate the existing transit systems, research opportunities for improved coordination in the region, determine the most efficient approach to meet the needs of the public, and carefully identify where transit resources should be devoted over the plan period. Public involvement and outreach activities are integral components of the study. The Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update agreement was approved at the January 29, 2020 NCTC meeting.
- READY Nevada County Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan – In December 2019, NCTC staff began working on the concept of an Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan to identify the climate-related weaknesses of the transportation system in Nevada County. The plan would provide actionable strategies for integration into transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and emergency response plans for the region during extreme climate events such as fire, flood, snow/ice, and road closure. After submitting a grant application for State Rural Planning Assistance in January 2020, NCTC was awarded grant funds for the READY Nevada County Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan. The consultant GHD Inc. was chosen by the Selection Committee, which included representatives

from Nevada County, Office of Emergency Services, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, the cities of Nevada City and Grass Valley, and NCTC staff, to prepare the Plan. The READY Nevada County ECEMAP agreement was approved at the November 18, 2020 NCTC meeting.