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MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director
 AARON HOYT, Deputy Executive Director


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File: 950.6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the July 19, 2023 Meeting

DATE: July 19, 2023

TRADE CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING AWARDED FOR STATE ROUTE 49 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - PHASE 2

In November of 2022, NCTC staff in coordination with Caltrans District 3 prepared and submitted a grant application to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) seeking construction funding for the State Route (SR) 49 Corridor Improvement Project - Phase 2. The CTC at their June 28, 2023 meeting, officially awarded the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) \$14.6 million of Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funding for southbound improvements on the State Route 49 corridor between the McKnight Way Interchange and La Barr Meadows Road.

The SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project - Phase 2 includes the construction of a southbound truck climbing lane and eliminating the southbound lane drop/merge point south of the McKnight Way Interchange. The total construction cost for the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 2 southbound improvements is \$19 million, which is comprised of the \$14.6 million of TCEP funding and \$4.4 million of matching funding.

With NCTC securing the funding for the southbound SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project - Phase 2 improvements, it will now allow for both the northbound improvements (Phase 1) and the southbound improvements (Phase 2) to be constructed together beginning in FY 2025/26. Constructing Phase 1 and Phase 2 congruently will result in construction cost savings and expedite delivery of the operational, safety, evacuation, and mobility benefits of Phase 1 and 2 combined within the project segment.

The SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project - Phase 1 includes construction of the northbound truck climbing lane, a continuous center two way left turn lane, 10' shoulders, and elimination of the northbound merge point, improving operations, safety, and mobility. Phase 1 also includes southbound right turn lanes at Wellswood Way, Bethel Church Way, Smith Road, and Crestview Drive. Other safety

features include enhanced wet night visibility striping, rumble strips, and pavement edge treatments. A wildlife undercrossing with fencing will also be installed as part of this phase to help reduce deer strikes.

NCTC coordinated and received support for the grant application from the County of Nevada, City of Grass Valley, City of Nevada City, CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities, the Grass Valley California Highway Patrol, Citizens for Highway 49 Safety, Fix 49.org, California Trucking Association, Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, and Senator Brian Dahle.

SOLUTIONS FOR CONGESTED CORRIDORS GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE

In December of 2022, NCTC staff also prepared and submitted a grant application to the CTC seeking Solutions for Congested Corridors (SCCP) funding for the construction of a new entrance off of SR 49 to the Nevada County Transit Operations Center, and the purchase of eight zero emission buses and associated charging infrastructure for the Nevada County Transit Services Division. This project was not recommended for SCCP funding in this cycle. NCTC staff will continue to coordinate with the Nevada County Transit Services Division to explore other funding options for these improvements.