




Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission
FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the September 20, 2017 Meeting
DATE: September 12, 2017

1. STATE ROUTE 49 STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE

On August 15, 2017, the State Route (SR) 49 Stakeholders Committee met at the Grass Valley California Highway Patrol (CHP) office. CHP Commanders John Price (Auburn office) and George Steffenson (Grass Valley office) provided updates on accident and enforcement statistics for the Placer County and Nevada County portions of the SR 49 corridor. Caltrans representative Jim Graham presented a status report on 10 planned projects within the SR 49 corridor. Caltrans Deputy District Director Tom Brannon introduced a new design concept for future improvements in the corridor.

Captain John Price reported that during the last quarter of FY 16/17 there were two Property Damage Only (PDO) accidents in the Placer County portion of the SR 49 corridor. During the quarter there were 176 traffic stops and 121 citations issued.

Lieutenant George Steffenson stated that collisions from January through June in the Nevada County portion of the SR 49 corridor were up 76%, with 38 collisions in 2016 and 67 collisions in 2017. Lieutenant Steffenson stated that his office has conducted several special enforcement days and as a result, a total of 206 citations have been issued with 128 speed related, two improper turning movements, 55 registration citations, seven DUI citations, nine seatbelt citations, and five cell phone use citations. Lieutenant Steffenson indicated that his office will continue to focus on the SR 49 corridor and they intend to conduct two to three additional special enforcement days by the end of October.

In reviewing the Caltrans planned projects on SR 49 (see attached graphic), Jim Graham stated that Project #2, increased wattage at existing light at the Brewer Road intersection, has been completed. Projects #1, #3, and #4 will be completed during 2018.

Mr. Graham stated that an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) is being conducted for Project #5, installation of acceleration lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions at Wolf Road/Combie Road intersection. Approximately \$2 million of safety funds have been identified for this project and it is likely that additional funds from other sources will be needed to complete construction.

Completion of a Project Initiation Document (PID) is underway for Project #6. Environmental work will be completed during 2018 to facilitate the project being "ready to list" during FY 2019/20. Approximately \$2 million of safety funds have been identified for construction.

A PID for Project #7 is in final review, it is expected that the project will be ready for construction in 2024.

For Project #8, surveying is being conducted to determine the locations where shoulder widening is needed. There are approximately two miles of total length, and the shoulder widening will be added to other projects along the SR 49 Corridor.

Projects #9 and #10 are in the Placer County portion of the SR 49 Corridor and they are slated for construction in 2019.

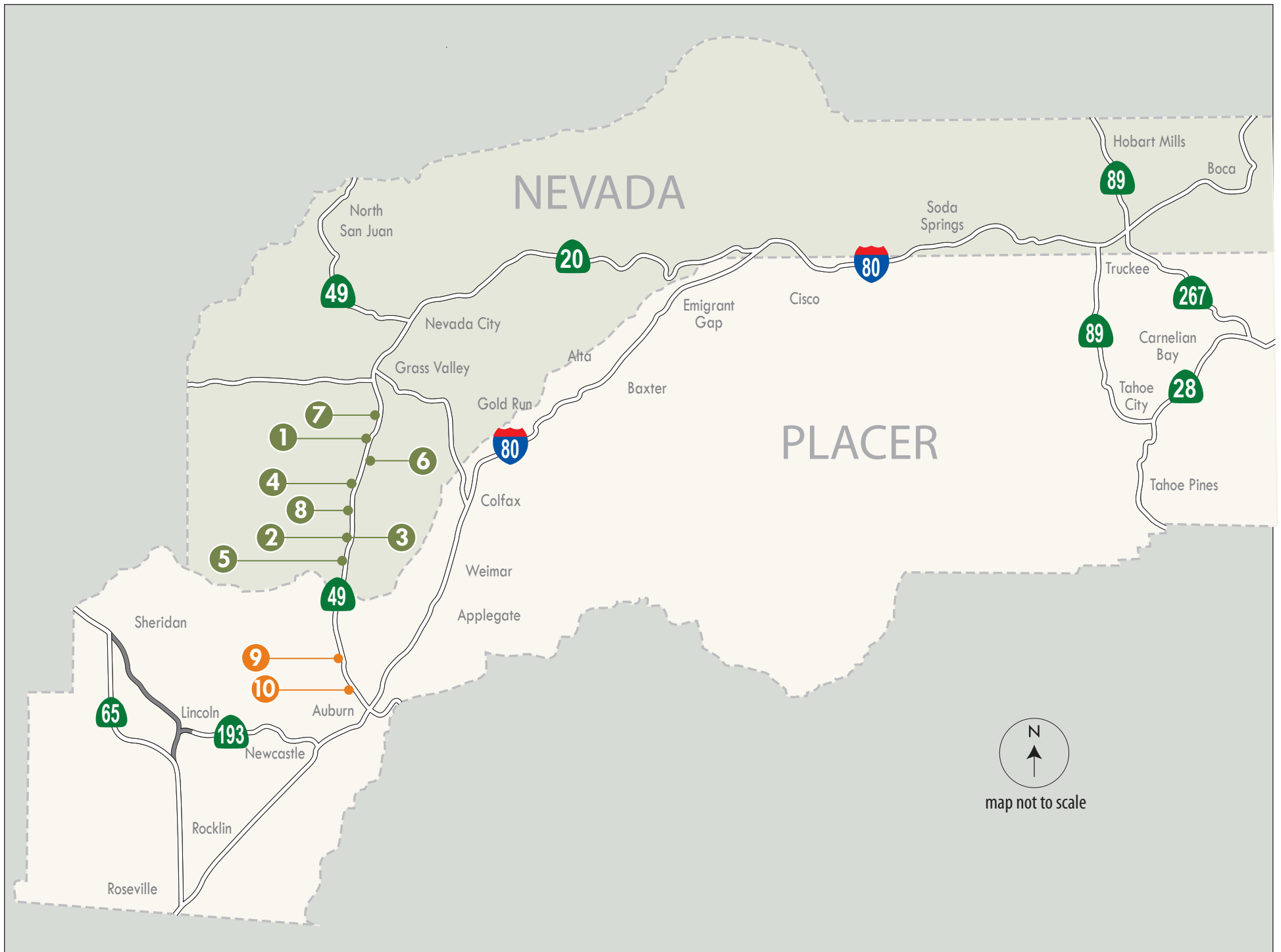
Deputy District Director Tom Brannon presented a new design concept for future improvements in the SR 49 corridor. The idea was developed following a review of the corridor by several Caltrans District 3 staff. The concept includes a median barrier to prevent head-on collisions, and the installation of roundabouts approximately every one to one-and-a-half miles along the corridor to reduce out of direction travel by residents living along the corridor. This design concept also includes two travel lanes in each direction to handle the volume of traffic. Implementation of this design concept will be discussed at future stakeholder committee meetings.

2017 ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS (AEP) INSTITUTE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

In acknowledgement of his understanding of the proposed implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 743 and his involvement with the Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF), NCTC Transportation Planner Mike Woodman participated as speaker on a panel at the August 4, 2017 AEP Institute Conference to provide an overview of implementation considerations in rural areas of the state.

SB 743 mandated the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop a new metric for determining the level of significance of transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). OPR has proposed to eliminate the use of Level of Service (LOS) and has proposed to replace it with Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) to determine whether land use development projects and capacity increasing transportation projects result in significant impacts under CEQA.

During the conference session, Mike highlighted the key differences between rural and urban areas of the state, provided examples of implementation challenges, and outlined key considerations. Mike has worked closely with the RCTF and OPR to ensure that the guidelines allow the flexibility needed by rural areas in order to establish reasonable thresholds of significance that are legally defensible. The AEP presentation was well received and Mike is currently coordinating with Caltrans to develop a training workshop on implementation of SB 743 for the members of the RCTF in November of 2017.



NEVADA COUNTY-PLANNED

- 1** Alta Sierra Drive - Install Flashing Beacons northbound and southbound directions
 Construction Time Frame: 2018
- 2** Brewer Road – Increase wattage at existing light. Work Order has been placed.
- 3** Brewer Road – Upgrade intersection lighting.
 Construction Time Frame: 2018
- 4** Install radar speed feedback signs.
 Locations: TBD
 Construction Time Frame: 2018
- 5** Wolf Road/Combie Road – Install acceleration lanes, northbound and southbound direction.
 Conceptual Approval will be submitted in May to Headquarters.
 Construction Time Frame: RTL 2019/2020
- 6** Round Valley Road/Quail Creek Drive – Install Two-Way Left Turn Lanes.
 Conceptual Approval will be submitted in May to Headquarters.
 Construction Time Frame: RTL 2019/2020

- 7** La Barr Meadows Road to McKnight Way

 - Widen shoulders to 8’ width
 - Construct a continuous two-way left-turn lane
 - Construct southbound right-turn lanes at Crestview Drive, Smith Road, Christian Life Way and Wellswood Way
 - Construct a northbound truck climbing lane
 - Install new TMS elements including CCTV, CMS, upgrade lighting and install fiber optic cables

Project Initiation Form – Approved
 Construction Time Frame: RTL 2023
- 8** Shoulder Widening to Current Standards – 2 miles total length. (Location - Varies)
 Construction Time Frame: As time allows, will be added to future projects.

PLACER COUNTY-PLANNED

- 9** Dry Creek Road – Upgrade lighting for pedestrians just north of Dry Creek Road.
 Construction Time Frame: 2019
- 10** Install Rumble Strips on Two-Way Left-Turn locations.
 Construction Time Frame: 2018/2019