



NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Grass Valley • Nevada City • Nevada County • Truckee

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

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

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the November 21, 2012 Meeting

DATE: November 7, 2012

1. NORTH STATE SUPER REGION

On October 25th the North State Super Region (NSSR) held a meeting in Eureka, which I attended via conference call. One of the main items on the agenda was a discussion of various proposals for implementation of the most recent federal transportation act (MAP-21) in California. Under MAP-21, there has been a consolidation of funding programs, and members of the NSSR are working to ensure that rural California agencies continue to receive an equitable share of the new funding programs. Members of the NSSR are communicating with Caltrans, California Transportation Commission, and legislative staff to make the case for a continuation of equitable funding distribution.

Another important item on the NSSR agenda was a report regarding status of the North State Transportation for Economic Development Study. The purpose of the study is to highlight regional transportation improvements that have the highest economic benefit, to build a business case for ongoing transportation infrastructure investment in the 16-County North State region, and to help the members of the NSSR compete for state and federal transportation funding.

The consultant team is working to provide the following outcomes from the study:

- Show the relationship between transportation investment and North State economic activity.
- Align transportation spending and economic development planning.
- Develop the foundation for funding proposals and public-private partnerships.
- Put resulting resources to work stimulating the North State's economy.

During the first phase of their work, the consulting team spent much of their time collecting information to document the "transportation and economic landscape" of the North State Super Region. During the collection of transportation related data, the consulting team included information on 873 segments covering all 3,350 miles of the State Highway System in the North State, and developed a traffic and highway database that can be used to estimate current and future levels of service. As part of this effort, the consulting team reviewed transportation plans and identified over 1,400 planned enhancements, including capacity enhancements to state highways,

county highways, local arterials and streets, enhancements to airport and transit facilities, and operational improvements, safety improvements, and bridge replacements. The database enables the consulting team to combine data to screen locations with potentially high benefits from a transportation standpoint. For example, locations with high traffic volumes, high percentage of truck traffic, and/or roadway segments that operate with a low level of service, can be identified as potential improvement locations.

As part of the economic profile, data regarding movement of commodities is being collected and refined. Further, the economic profile includes the following areas:

- Demographics.
- Employment, income and housing prices.
- Natural resources.
- Taxable sales.
- Tourism industry.

These data sets are being compared over the last decade and trends before and after 2006 are being identified. Preliminary information from this effort was presented at a meeting of the Upstate California Economic Development Corporation in October 2012. Additionally, in identifying economic patterns and opportunities, the consulting team is considering factors that affect economic attraction and growth, such as, relative energy costs, relative labor costs, and relative housing costs. Market accessibility and transportation access will also be included in the economic profile.

The next steps for the consulting team are to complete the data compendium (transportation and economic landscape) by the end of 2012, and include:

- Summary of economic initiatives.
- Final economic pattern analysis.
- Correlation of findings. (e.g., demographics with economic patterns analysis)
- Forecast of level of service and commodity flows.

The final report from the study is scheduled to be completed by December 2013.

2. REGIONAL TRAFFIC MODEL UPDATE

Our traffic model consultant, Fehr & Peers, has been working with Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Nevada County to identify changes in land use designations that have occurred since 2006. Between November 7th and 15th traffic counts will be conducted at 52 locations throughout the western part of the county. The land-use and traffic information will be used to calibrate the new traffic model base year. Calibration of the model involves looking at various characteristics of the model, such as trip generation, trip distribution, and trip assignment to ensure that the model is producing accurate forecasts that can be used for future planning purposes.

After work on the base year model is completed, Fehr & Peers will work with members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to develop future year land use forecasts, and then identify locations where roadway improvements will be needed.

Work on the base year model will be completed by this December, and future year traffic model forecasts and the identification of improvement locations will be done during January.

3. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS WORKSHOPS/PUBLIC HEARING

A joint public workshop with staff from NCTC, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency was held on October 4, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at the Tahoe City Public Utility District, Tahoe City, CA. Approximately seven people attended the workshop and provided comments on transit needs in North Tahoe/Truckee area. The participants provided the following input on unmet needs in Truckee and eastern Nevada County area:

- A year-round fixed route service on State Route 267 between the Town of Truckee and Kings Beach was requested.
- There is a need for out-of-the area transportation to Auburn, Nevada City, Reno, and Sacramento for medical and/or county services.
- There was a request to develop a regional Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee that addresses Resort Area Triangle social service transportation issues.
- Increased frequency (30 minute headways) and expanded hours of operation on both the Truckee Transit and Tahoe Area Regional Transit fixed route transit services would better accommodate work schedules and increase mobility.
- Fixed route transit service to the Glenshire subdivision was requested.

A Public Hearing to receive input on unmet transit needs in western Nevada County is scheduled to be held as part of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting on November 15, 2012 at 3:15 p.m., in the Hullender Room at Grass Valley City Hall.

NCTC staff also intends to schedule a public workshop in the Town of Truckee to gather additional input on unmet transit needs in early December. The comments received will be provided to the appropriate transit operators for consideration in transit planning activities.