

Nevada County Transportation Commission

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates state and federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

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The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published quarterly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write or call the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is scheduled on: **Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 9:30 a.m., Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA.**

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NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Issue 47

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Multi-Use Path Planned on SR 89 at Mousehole in Truckee

The Town of Truckee is working with Caltrans to design and build a safer path for pedestrians and bicyclists along State Route 89 at the "Mousehole". The focus is to improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists by constructing a multi-use path/tunnel on SR 89 in Truckee between West River Street and Deerfield Drive, adjacent to the vehicle tunnel known as the "Mousehole". The separate pedestrian tunnel was proposed during a Value Analysis conducted by Caltrans in February

2008 when the objective was to plan for interim and long-term solutions for the Mousehole. Without a funding source to design and build the long-term expansion of the vehicle tunnel, and local community leaders requesting interim safety improvements for the nonmotorized public using the Mousehole, the project development team changed the scope of the project in May 2009 to pursue construction of the pedestrian tunnel (on right).

The vehicle tunnel is 25 feet wide and 70 feet long, so when pedestrians from the nearby Donner Creek Mobile Home Park use the tunnel to reach the shopping center close by, it may cause drivers to slow down, swerve, or stop to avoid injury to those walking or bicycling (see photo below of current winter conditions). During the 2010 construction season, the flashing yellow beacons were upgraded to provide pedestrian activation, tunnel lighting was installed, the metal guardrail in front of the tunnel was removed, and a concrete transition barrier was installed at the entrance and exit of the Mousehole with crash cushions to provide interim safety enhancements.




Proposed pedestrian tunnel (on right) looking north on SR 89 at Truckee's "Mousehole"



Pedestrian safety diminishes even further when snow forces them onto the roadway

The planned multi-use path will extend the existing sidewalk at Deerfield Drive south to West River Street. A gravel trail located partially within state right-of-way just north of the Donner Creek Mobile Home driveway will be replaced with an ADA compliant trail between the driveway and the multi-use path. A smaller pedestrian tunnel will be bored through the embankment on the east side of the vehicle tunnel. An existing northbound bus stop located near the mobile home park driveway will be relocated 200 feet north and provide a bus turnout.

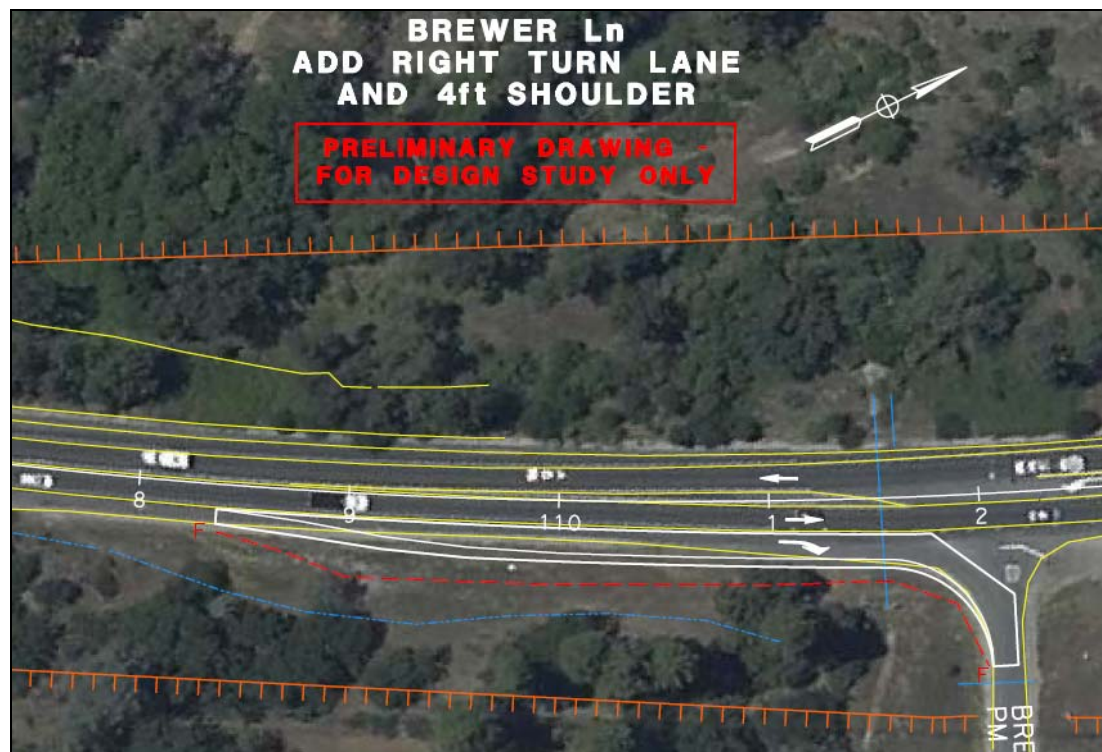
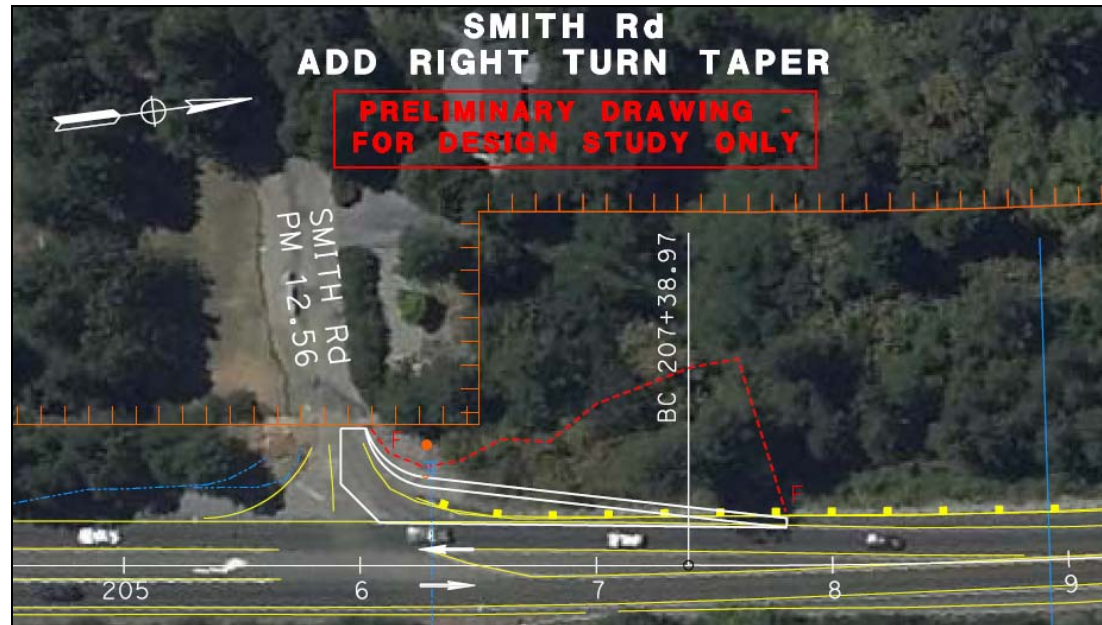
A funding source for construction of the pedestrian tunnel has not been identified as yet. On May 12, 2010 the estimated cost was \$5.2 million. Caltrans' Draft Project Report was approved and the Draft Environmental Document was released to the public for review on January 31. The Town will take over as lead agency later this year. 

SR 49 Planned Improvements

Operational improvements are planned south of Grass Valley with five projects that will provide safety enhancements and improved turn movements at key intersections. The projects are located at the intersections of SR 49 and Smith Road, Ladybird Drive, Cherry Lane, Carriage Road, and Brewer Road. Project Initiation Documents have been prepared and signed by Caltrans and they are proposed for programming in the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) Minor A Program in FY 2012/13. Current preliminary estimates were combined to create two projects as shown below:

- Smith Road - \$230,000
- Brewer Road - \$230,000 = **\$460,000**
- Carriage Road - \$280,000
- Cherry Lane - \$350,000
- Ladybird Drive - \$150,000 = **\$780,000**

These projects were identified during an update of the SR 49 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) in the summer of 2010. The SR 49 Stakeholders Committee gave their input to Caltrans concerning the CSMP and requested the safety improvements at these locations. The Stakeholders Committee consists of representatives from the Citizens for SR 49 Safety, Golden Oaks Homeowners Association, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, Nevada County staff, Grass Valley staff, and NCTC staff. [NCTC](#)



New NCTC Commissioner



Dan Miller

Dan Miller – Dan is the newly appointed member of the Nevada County Transportation Commission representing the Grass Valley City Council. Mr. Miller is serving his third term as a member of the City Council, having previously served two terms from 1989 to 1996. He was Mayor from 1991 to 1993 and was on the Grass Valley Planning Commission from 1997 to 2001. In 2001 he was elected to the Nevada Joint High School District Board of Trustees and served as President from 2003 to 2005. He has also served as President of the Sierra College Foundation - Nevada County Campus, and on the Board of Directors for the Grass Valley/Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of Directors for the Nevada County Country Club.

Dan and his wife Roxanne have two daughters, Lisa and Sonia, a son Brendon, and four grandchildren. Roxanne manages their downtown business, Future Generations, and Dan is a self-employed insurance agent.

Dan moved to Grass Valley with his family in 1962 and is a graduate of Nevada Union High School, Sierra College, and has a BA from Cal State University, Sacramento. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf with his wife and friends, enjoys travel, and is a long time 49er faithful and San Francisco Giants fan. [NCTC](#)

Dorsey Drive Interchange Update

The Dorsey Drive Interchange project is Grass Valley's #1 priority project. The Grass Valley City Council discussed their economic development strategies and priorities at their January 11, 2011 meeting, and they agreed that their number one priority project for economic development is the Dorsey Drive Interchange. City staff was directed to come back with recommendations on how to proceed to construct the interchange. At the January 25th City Council meeting, a plan was laid out as to how the city might proceed with creative ways to redirect various sources of funding they have to provide the shortfall of funds needed to take the project through construction. A Special Joint Meeting was held with the Grass Valley City Council on January 26th at the NCTC meeting to present to the Commission actions proposed by the City Council to move the Dorsey Drive Interchange project forward and to gain support from the Commission.

The city realizes that the current economic downturn has brought construction costs within reach of funding and they would like to capitalize on the opportunity to get the design work finished and the right-of-way acquired through Caltrans to send the project out to bid before prices escalate again. Caltrans recently gave the city updated construction costs of \$14 million, with the construction administration/support costs of \$3 million, which puts the total needed at \$17 million. NCTC has \$10.555 million programmed in the FY 2012/13 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The city, through actions at their January 25th council meeting, put forward \$5.235 million of Redevelopment Agency funds toward the Dorsey Drive project. The city requested NCTC consider taking action to redirect \$550,000 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to the project, and allocate \$451,000 of Regional Transportation Mitigation Fees (RTMF) for the Dorsey Drive Interchange. The final step to close the unfunded gap would be to request NCTC allocate \$250,000 to Grass Valley from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) fund in lieu of the city's overlay and slurry seal program for a few years. Plans were discussed to identify an additional \$1 million in contingency funds to cover any expenses over the \$17 million estimate.

The NCTC will be addressing the City of Grass Valley's requests concerning the redirection of funds to the Dorsey Drive Interchange project at their March 16, 2011 meeting. [NCTC](#)



Revised design at Joerschke Drive and the westbound off-ramp of SR 49 at Dorsey Drive