

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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Ed Scofield

Nevada County District II Supervisor

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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, April 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA**

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Issue 39

"Creating a better future by building upon successes of the past"

March 2009

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CMAQ 09/10 Call For Projects

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) federal funding is available in western Nevada County for transportation projects that can demonstrate emission reductions to help attain federal air quality standards. Western Nevada County was classified in 2004 as "non-attainment" for 8-hour ozone standards.

In April NCTC staff will send out a call for projects to the local jurisdictions for the remaining years of the current Federal State Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). The multi-year approach will encompass FFY 2009/10, 2010/11, and 2011/12. Proposed projects will be discussed at the July 15th NCTC meeting. This new programming approach would allow the jurisdictions to propose larger phased projects over several years through construction, and would provide a means to coordinate regional projects that have community-wide benefit. This process would also reduce the risk of losing CMAQ funds if a programmed project cannot be built.

Estimated apportionments are as follows: FFY 2009/10 = \$858,158; FFY 2010/11 = \$873,605; FFY 2011/12 = \$889,329. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Alternative fuels & vehicles
- Congestion reduction and traffic flow improvements
- Transit improvements
- Bicycle & pedestrian facilities and programs
- Public education and outreach
- Diesel engine retrofits
- Carpooling and vanpooling

NCTC



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was signed by President Obama. The Act is intended to provide a stimulus to the U.S. economy in the wake of the economic downturn brought about by the subprime mortgage crisis and the resulting credit crunch.

The ARRA economic stimulus bill provides \$27.5 billion for transportation projects throughout the U.S. The Act includes federal tax cuts, expansion of unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions, plus domestic spending in education, health care, and infrastructure, including the energy sector. It provides California an estimated \$2.57 billion of recovery funds for transportation projects. The estimated total of ARRA funds to be received by the County as a whole for roadway projects is \$3.7 million.

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) will be voting to approve the ARRA funding for transportation projects throughout the region at a special meeting on April 15th at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Thirty percent of the \$2.57 billion (\$771 million) for California will be sub-allocated to the regions through the Federal Surface Transportation Program. It is estimated that the Nevada County Region will receive approximately \$1.6 million for roadway projects. These funds must be obligated by the jurisdictions within one year of the date the state receives the funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The remaining 70% of the ARRA highway funds apportioned to the State of California (\$1.799 billion), per state legislation ABX 3-20, will also be allocated through the Federal Surface Transportation Program. For these funds, the state as a whole must obligate 50% of the funds within 120 days from the date the state receives the funds from the FHWA. It is estimated that the Nevada County region will receive an additional \$2.1 million for roadway projects.

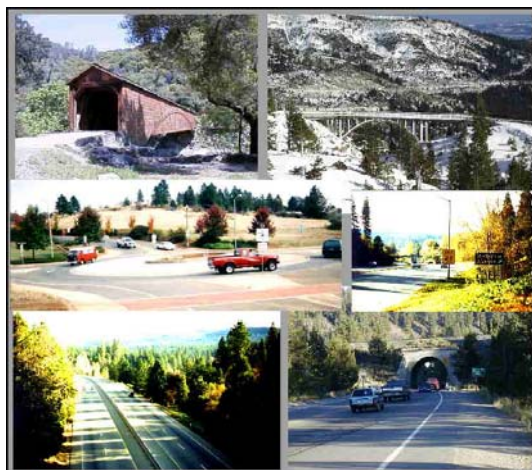
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Deteriorated roadways will be target projects for ARRA funds

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ARRA of 2009 - Continued

The following are samples of projects that have been submitted by the jurisdictions for ARRA funding, and will be discussed and reviewed at the April 15th NCTC meeting:

Jurisdiction	Project Location	Project Limits	Improvement Type
County of Nevada	La Barr Meadows Road	Grass Valley City limits to Dog Bar Road	Paved shoulders, related improvements, and asphalt overlay
County of Nevada	Magnolia Road	Lake of the Pines entrance eastwards past High School	Construct center turn lane and related roadway widening/improvements
County of Nevada	Eastern Overlay	Glenshire/Hirschdale Roads in Truckee	Asphalt overlay and striping
County of Nevada	Western Overlay	Pleasant Valley Road - 1.4 miles, Ridge Road - 1.0 miles, Tyler Foote Road - 2.1 miles	Asphalt overlay, pavement markers and striping
County of Nevada	Penn Valley Drive	Western Gateway Park to Pleasant Valley Road/Highway 20 intersection	Class I Bike Path
City of Grass Valley	South Auburn Street	South Auburn Street from Hwy. 20/49 to East Main Street and Hwy 20/49 to Empire Street (approximately)	Pavement reconstruction and overlay and drainage repair/replacement
City of Nevada City	Broad Street	Union Street to Commercial Street	Replace AC Pavement
Town of Truckee	Town of Truckee	Multiple Trail Construction Projects- Brockway Road Trail, Legacy Trail Phase 2, Legacy Trail Phase 3	Construct paved (separated) bikeway and recreational trails.



Estimated total of ARRA funds is \$3.7 million for Nevada County jurisdictions to use on roadway projects such as asphalt overlays.

In addition to the Federal Surface Transportation Program funding, ABX 3-20 sets aside 3% of the ARRA funding (approximately \$77 million statewide) for projects eligible for funding under the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program. State priorities for TE projects include projects employing community or state conservation corps, bicycle and pedestrian activities, and other TE eligible projects such as acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, and historic preservation and rehabilitation. From the \$77 million, \$130,909 is available for projects in Nevada County.

Transit Operators in Nevada County are also eligible to submit for ARRA 5311 funding for transit capital projects in the amount of \$647,061. The County of Nevada and Town of Truckee will be submitting applications to Caltrans in early April. No funding for transit operations was provided as part of the stimulus bill. Nevada County has a list of project requests that include improvements to the new Transit Transfer Facility to be located on Tinloy Street in Grass Valley, bus shelter construction and adjacent connecting sidewalks at various locations in western Nevada County, and preventative maintenance to transit vehicles to preserve and extend their service life. The total project costs for all of these are \$541,605. The Town of Truckee will be submitting requests totaling \$90,137 for the purchase and installation of a timber frame transit shelter at Donner Lake, benches for various transit stops, and fare boxes for vehicles. [NCTC](#)

New NCTC Commissioner



Ed Scofield was appointed in January to the NCTC

Ed Scofield – Ed is the newly elected Nevada County Supervisor representing District II. A native of Grass Valley, Ed has been involved with his community serving in many capacities, including a member of the Grass Valley City Council, President of the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, President of Grass Valley Rotary, and active with many other service organizations of our county.

Ed Scofield is probably best known as the CEO of the Nevada County Fair for the past twenty-six years. During his tenure with the Fair, he also was President of the Western Fairs Association, and was inducted into the Western Fairs Association Hall of Fame in 2003.

Ed was quoted as saying, “As the District II Supervisor, representing the South County, I am especially interested in the improvements to Highway 49, and I am excited about being an active member of the Nevada County Transportation Commission.” [NCTC](#)

I-80 Colfax/Gold Run III Improvement Project

Doug Lange, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for I-80 Improvement Projects, presented information at the November 19, 2008 NCTC Meeting on the Interstate 80 (I-80) Colfax/Gold Run III rehabilitation project. The project is located just east of the Colfax SR 174/80 junction to the Alta Road undercrossing. Construction plans are to apply an Asphalt/Concrete (A/C) overlay on 11.5 miles of severely distressed pavement, do median barrier replacement and drainage work along the median, reconstruct the bridge railing to current standards, and replace concrete bridge slabs. The minimum pavement design life will be 20 years. Work will begin on Tuesday, March 31st and go through November 30th of this year, subject to schedule changes due to inclement weather. Construction costs were initially estimated at \$70 million, but Mr. Lange said there will be some savings with the reduction of the project to one season. Garvey Bonds are being used to fund this project.

Mr. Lange reported the project has been divided into two sections: 1) Colfax to Secret Town – this section requires that the two westbound and eastbound I-80 lanes be closed during construction, with one section being closed at a time. Two planned detours will directly affect western Nevada County. This portion of I-80 is narrower, and a safety concern for night workers was stated as the reason behind the detours. Passenger vehicles will be detoured onto Rollins Lake Road/SR 174, during the night hours only, to accommodate construction crews. Trucks, buses and RVs will be diverted onto the SR 20/49 corridor also during the night time only. The detours are thought to be needed for approximately two months during the 2009 construction season. 2) The remainder of the project will handle day and night time traffic through the construction zone by using crossovers on I-80.

Caltrans held a public meeting in Colfax on November 6, 2008 to hear concerns from citizens. Nevada City residents mentioned concerns regarding the use of Jake brakes on trucks that will be rerouted down SR 20/49. Caltrans is working on ways to reduce a variety of impacts, including the accelerated noise levels caused by additional truck traffic. More signage along the route will be used to slow down trucks in downhill areas so the Jake brakes are not needed, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will step up patrol, and a media program will be used to encourage trucking companies to travel I-80 during the daytime to avoid the night detour. It was stressed that major accidents on SR 20/49 block travel to Truckee or to the Reno Airport. SR 20/49 is critical to local travel and twice in 2008, when traffic was diverted onto the route from I-80, a truck overturned and caused the roadway to be shut down for hours. Operator errors caused by the unfamiliarity of the roadway and the sharp curves encountered were cited as the cause of both accidents. Mr. Lange said those issues will be addressed.

A Notice of Detour was sent out by Caltrans in March alerting I-80 travelers of exposure to nighttime closures during the 2009 construction season. Closures will be one direction at a time between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. weekdays, and 10:00 a.m. on weekends. The closure schedule could vary throughout the construction season. There are several improvement projects along the I-80 corridor that will be under construction this summer and may impact travel time due to lane closures. For specific information on each project view this website: www.getacross80.com. [NCTC](#)

Planned detours shown at right

