

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2025
TO: EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: WOODROW DELORIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following is an overview of the issues, projects, and coordination currently being advanced by EDCTC.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

EDCTC staff continued work on the Policy and Action Elements of the RTP. Staff has finalized the streets, highways and roadways, active transportation and transit transportation project lists in coordination with El Dorado County, El Dorado Transit, the City of Placerville, and SACOG staff. With the draft project list now finalized, EDCTC staff has transmitted it to the Environmental Consultant to start work on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The RTP EIR Scoping meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Four Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee meetings have been held thus far in January, April, July, and October 2024. The next phase of RTP outreach is being conducted in coordination with the Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy Social Pinpoint interactive mapping effort which closed January 11. In January, EDCTC launched a comprehensive informational video for the RTP. The Draft Policy Element is scheduled to be presented to the Commission at the March 2025 meeting.

Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy

EDCTC was awarded \$217,124 in sustainable transportation planning grant funding for the preparation of a "Next Generation Transportation Investments Strategy" (Next Gen Strategy), to provide data, analytics, and information to support transportation investments across the west slope of El Dorado County. The consultant team prepared and launched a public outreach strategy and comprehensive transportation survey earlier this year. Project mapping was recently completed for both roadway and active transportation projects. On October 23, EDCTC launched an interactive Social Pinpoint mapping website to gather more input from the public on the proposed projects, which will be further analyzed for performance measurement and prioritization in the Next Gen Strategy. The Social Pinpoint platform closed on January 11. The consultant is currently compiling data to inform the RTP update.

El Dorado County and City of Placerville Active Transportation

EDCTC has assumed responsibility for the collection of bicycle and pedestrian counter data from counters located on multi-use trails on the west slope. EDCTC is supporting El Dorado County Department of Transportation with the recent installation of temporary counters in the Pollock Pines area. The post-construction counts are required by the state Active Transportation Program for the recently completed Pony Express Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements project. The temporary counters were removed in late November, and data is being prepared for the County early this month.

State Active Transportation Program (ATP)

EDCTC supported El Dorado County DOT with the preparation of two applications for ATP Cycle 7 funding in 2024: one for the Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements project and one for the Henningson Park/Lotus Road Bike Path. Neither of the projects was awarded funding. The statewide ATP funding level was reduced considerably in 2024, resulting in fewer projects being awarded across the state. EDCTC and El Dorado County staff met with California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans staff to discuss the application scoring and explored options to

improve the applications for a future funding round. SACOG is currently working through its selection process for the Regional ATP funding round. EDCTC supported El Dorado County DOT with an application for the Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements project. SACOG will announce the projects recommended for funding in the coming months. Only \$4.7 million is available for projects in the entire SACOG six county region.

PARTNER AGENCY COORDINATION

El Dorado Transit Authority

EDCTC will be supporting El Dorado Transit with the administration of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding. The guidelines were released in late December, and EDCTC staff is scheduled to attend the program webinars in early February.

For November and December 2024, ridership for Local Fixed Routes and Commuter Routes trended upward and Demand Response was declined slightly. Fiscal year-to-date ridership increased 25.7% overall.

November 2024: Overall ridership rose by 9.5% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Demand Response ridership declined by 2.5%, Local Fixed Route ridership increased by 2.0%, and Commuter ridership surged by 49.6%.

December 2024: Overall ridership grew by 31.0% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Demand Response ridership fell by 5.1%, Local Fixed Route ridership climbed by 32.6%, and Commuter ridership soared by 64.9%.

El Dorado County

EDCTC monitors County project allocation requests, bid awards, and planning activities for EDCTC-related projects. Staff also monitor development activity, provide comment letters and attends County planning TAC meetings when warranted. EDCTC regularly works with El Dorado County staff to amend the SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for El Dorado County DOT projects. Important amendments were completed for the Ponderosa Interchange Project in January 2025.

EDCTC collaborated with a dedicated member of the public, Lisa Morgan, and staff from En2 Resources to prepare and submit an FHWA-managed Wildlife Crossing Program Grant Application in fall 2024. The application requested \$1,700,000 in federal funding to investigate and identify the highest-priority locations for reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) along the US 50 Corridor. The project area spans from El Dorado Hills to the existing wildlife undercrossing just west of Placerville. Awards were announced in December 2024, but the project was not awarded funding. The project team has requested a debrief with the federal agency that administers the program.

City of Placerville

At the December 2023 California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting, the City of Placerville and EDCTC were awarded Climate Adaptation Program funding for the US 50 Trip to Green Congestion Management and Resiliency Strategy. The \$3,750,000 award will support Environmental Approvals, Engineering Design and Right-of-Way to install the necessary infrastructure to conduct Trip to Green on an as necessary. The City's request for \$800,000 in funding for the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) phase was approved by the CTC at their August 2024 meeting. The City of Placerville awarded a contract for consulting services for Environmental Documentation, Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way to Wood Rodgers in January 2025. EDCTC will continue collaborating with the City of Placerville and the consultant team as the project progresses.

EDCTC is also coordinating with the City of Placerville on multiple projects, including:

1. Cedar Ravine/Clay Street Bridge and Intersection Project – Addressing concerns related to the Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and the Clay Street Bridge.
2. Placerville Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements – Supporting the City's CTC extension request for construction funding beginning in March 2025.
3. Placerville Drive Connectivity – Assisting with engineering design and outreach for construction in August 2025.
4. Canal Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements – Providing engineering design support, project phasing, and funding coordination with SACOG ensuring the project phasing is reflected accurately in the MTIP.
5. Trip to Green – Ongoing involvement in funding administration and future project development team meetings anticipated to take place this year.
6. WPI Phase 2.3 – EDCTC will be supporting the City's STIP funding allocation request for FY 2025/26.

SACOG

Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

EDCTC is collaborating with SACOG, El Dorado County, and the City of Placerville on the 2025 update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). EDCTC has worked with SACOG, the City of Placerville, and El Dorado County DOT to update projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and compile a comprehensive project list for the MTP and the EDCTC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Additionally, EDCTC is actively participating in SACOG's planning processes for the Mobility Zones Study, the US 50 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan, and the Regional Trails Implementation Plan.

EDCTC PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION

Partner Agency Project Delivery

EDCTC oversees the delivery of transportation projects funded through Commission approval, ensuring compliance with funding requirements from various state and federal sources administered by Caltrans. Caltrans Local Assistance mandates that local jurisdictions invoice regularly to ensure timely use of funds and retention of programmed allocations.

Caltrans monitors project delivery closely and publishes an "Inactive List" of projects that have not been invoiced within the last six months. If an agency fails to submit an invoice within 11 months without justification, the obligated funds may be removed and reallocated. Currently, the City of Placerville has one project on the inactive list, the Broadway bike lanes project. The invoice has been submitted and is under review by Caltrans. El Dorado County has no projects on the inactive list on the west slope.

STATE TRANSPORTATION POLICY, FUNDING, and LEGISLATION

Transportation Policy

Caltrans System Investments Strategy

In early March 2024, Caltrans released the Draft Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) for review and comment, with the review period closing on April 15th, 2024. EDCTC has engaged with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) throughout the development of this recent draft, providing numerous comments and suggestions. The Draft CSIS document and comment form can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/division-of-transportation-planning/corridor-and-system-planning/csis>. CSIS serves as a guiding policy for

Caltrans to lead climate action and advance social equity through targeted transportation investments that are in alignment with the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI, 2021) set forth by CalSTA. CSIS will be used by Caltrans to determine how investments are made on the state system to support the policies and targets set in motion by Governor Newsom's two Executive Orders N-19-19 and N-79-20.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Caltrans is updating the 2020-2024 California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), incorporating data and regional input to develop strategies to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The updated SHSP is expected to be released in early February 2025. EDCTC, in collaboration with the Rural Counties Task Force, will provide input to ensure the plan accounts for extreme wildfire risk, an aspect previously overlooked in favor of coastal and valley-specific risks.

California State Budget 2025-2026

In January 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed the 2025-26 state budget, totaling \$322 billion, emphasizing investments in housing, transportation, healthcare, mental health, and clean energy.

Transportation Investments

The budget prioritizes transportation infrastructure aimed at combating climate change, including funding for public transit, active transportation, high-speed rail, and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.

Housing and Transportation Integration

The budget allocates additional funding to streamline housing production near public transit, potentially benefiting areas near the El Dorado/Sacramento County line by reducing congestion and promoting sustainable growth.

Climate and Environmental Initiatives

Significant investments are directed toward clean energy and climate programs, such as electric vehicle infrastructure expansion and zero-emission public transit. These initiatives could provide opportunities for El Dorado County to secure state funding for sustainable transportation projects.

Fiscal Outlook

The budget projects \$17 billion in reserves by the end of 2025-26, ensuring stability without cuts to core programs. The May revised budget will offer a clearer view of available revenues.

Implications for EDCTC

While the budget does not specify direct allocations for EDCTC, it emphasizes integrating housing and transportation while supporting climate initiatives. Engaging with state agencies to align county transportation plans with these priorities could improve funding prospects.

California Transportation Legislation and Policy

The California Legislature reconvened on January 6, 2025. EDCTC continues to track relevant bills to support or inform state transportation policy, including:

AB 13: Jeff Gonzalez (R) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The state board is required to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions to ensure that the statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as defined, no later than December 31, 2030. The act requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every

five years. This bill would require the state board to include greenhouse gas emissions from wildlands and forest fires in the scoping plan.

SB 2: Jones (R) Low-carbon fuel standard: regulations

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions to ensure that the statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as defined, no later than December 31, 2030. Pursuant to the act, the state board has adopted the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations. This bill would void specified amendments to the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations adopted by the state board on November 8, 2024. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgent statute.

AB 267: Macedo (R) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high-speed rail: water infrastructure and wildfire prevention

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act authorizes the state board to include in its regulation of those emissions the use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Existing law requires all revenue, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Existing law continuously appropriates 25% of the annual proceeds of the fund to the High-Speed Rail Authority for certain purposes. This bill would suspend the appropriation to the High-Speed Rail Authority for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fiscal years and would instead require those amounts from moneys collected by the state board to be transferred to the General Fund. The bill would specify that the transferred amounts shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to augment funding for water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

Trump Administration Transportation Policy Changes

Under the leadership of newly appointed Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, the Trump administration is implementing significant shifts in federal transportation policy, emphasizing deregulation and economic growth.

Appointment of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy

Sean Duffy, a former Wisconsin congressman, was confirmed as the U.S. Transportation Secretary in January 2025. His priorities include enhancing aviation safety, reducing regulatory burdens, and supporting self-driving vehicle development.

Policy Shifts and Deregulation Efforts

Secretary Duffy has rescinded diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies within the Department of Transportation (USDOT) and redirected grant and funding priorities toward economic development. Additionally, he has directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to revise fuel economy standards to lower required annual efficiency improvements.

Changes to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The administration is expected to reassess the IIJA, reducing regulations to accelerate federal infrastructure projects. This includes reversing certain environmental provisions to streamline project delivery.

Surface Transportation Bill Reauthorization

The reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill is a top priority. Discussions focus on funding allocations, regulatory reforms, and policy shifts favoring economic growth. The administration has also frozen new federal regulations and halted funding for electric vehicle charging stations, signaling a shift in priorities.

Implications for EDCTC

Many of the administration's priorities align with infrastructure needs in EDCTC's jurisdiction. EDCTC anticipates a strong federal advocacy effort in early 2025 to influence the next reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill. A draft advocacy platform will be presented to EDCTC in March.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED *(since the last Commission meeting December 5, 2024)*

12/6/24	CTC Meeting
12/6/24	SACOG REI Working Group Meeting
12/9/24	SACOG Planner Interviews Panel
12/10/24	SR 49 Light Discussion with Caltrans and EDC DOT
12/13/24	Mobility Zones Equity Priority Communities Map Discussion
12/16/24	CARTA Tolling Workshop
12/17/24	Statewide RTPA OWP Meeting
12/17/24	EDCTC and Caltrans Monthly Coordination Meeting
12/18/24	City of Placerville Projects Discussion
12/19/24	SACOG Board Meeting
12/19/24	CARTA Board Meeting
12/19/24	Regional Government and Public Affairs Advocates Meeting
12/20/24	Trip to Green Fund Focus Meeting with Caltrans
1/10/25	Cap-to-Cap Steering Committee Meeting
1/13/25	CARTA TAC Structure and Purpose Discussion
1/13/25	SACOG/PCTPA/EDCTC Monthly Coordination Meeting
1/15/25	Meet with Supervisor Ferrero
1/15/25	Meet with Supervisor Veerkamp
1/16/25	SACOG Board Meeting
1/16/25	Regional Government and Public Affairs Advocates Meeting
1/17/25	RCTF Meeting
1/21/25	EDCTC and Caltrans Monthly Coordination Meeting
1/22/25	CARTA Policy Workshop #2
1/22/25	Mobility Zones Discussion with SACOG
1/24/25	CARTA Policy Workshop #3
1/24/25	Coordination Phone Call with EDC DOT – R. Martinez
1/24/25	Cap-to-Cap Transportation Team Meeting
1/27/25	Clay Street Bridge Highway Bridge Program Coordination with Caltrans
1/27/25	EDCTC TAC Meeting
1/28/25	EDCTC Staff Annual Review – K. Thompson
1/28/25	EDCTC Staff Annual Review – J. Barton
1/29/25	CDAC Board Meeting
1/29/25	RTPA Meeting
1/30-31/25	CTC Commission Meeting
2/3/25	Agenda Review with Supervisor Ferrero
2/3/25	Agenda Review with Supervisor Turnboo
2/4/25	Agenda Review with Councilmember Neau
2/4/25	US50 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan TAC Meeting
2/6/25	SACOG Transportation Meeting
2/6/25	EDCTA Board Meeting