

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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July 5, 2016

032016-ELD-0024  
03-ELD-Various

Ms. Claudia Wade  
County of El Dorado  
Community Development Agency  
Planning Services  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

**Western Slope Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Traffic Impact Mitigation (TIM) Fee Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Ms. Wade:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review for the project referenced above. Caltrans' new mission, vision, and goals signal a modernization of our approach to California's transportation system. We review this project for impacts to the State Highway System (SHS) in keeping with our mission, vision and goals for sustainability/livability economy, and safety/health. We provide these comments consistent with the state's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy, and build communities, not sprawl.

The proposed project includes the major five-year update of the CIP and TIM Fee Program. The CIP identifies and prioritizes future transportation investments that will be required to meet the County's existing and future transportation needs for the next twenty-years. The TIM Fee Program collects development fees to offset the costs of impacts to the transportation system created by new development. The TIM Fee update ensures that the TIM Fees are appropriate and reasonable based on current market conditions and costs of construction/investment. The project compasses the Western Slope of El Dorado County. The following comments are based on the DEIR.

***Transportation and Circulation***

The Transportation and Circulation section of the EIR relies heavily on the Memo 2-3 Caltrans previously reviewed and commented on.

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system  
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

1. We understand that the Missouri Flat Master Circulation & Financing Plan Phase II (MC&FP II) is in progress and that it will address circulation issues in the area. However, the MC&FP II relies heavily on the Diamond Springs Parkway study, and we anticipate that is going to show the same results.
2. Subsequent analysis to Memo 2-3 has been completed (Diamond Springs Parkway Phase 1B, April 2016) for the Missouri Flat Interchange area. The analysis indicates that improvements will be needed at the interchange area to prevent ramp traffic from interfering with mainline traffic. These improvements should be incorporated into the CIP. The study also shows excessive southbound queuing north of Plaza Drive and Forni Road could have impacts on the operations of the interchange. These impacts should be addressed.
3. Are the proposed revisions to the General Plan (Table 2-2, page 2-11), to reduce some of the four-lane and six-lane future facilities shown on Table 2-4 (page 2-14) to major two-lane facilities? If so, have the traffic impacts been analyzed?
4. Please indicate the scope of improvements included in the United States Highway 50 (US 50)/Bass Lake Road Interchange Improvements – Phase 1 and Phase 2 project, (No. 58, Table 2-1, page 2-9) listed in the Proposed CIP Project List.
5. We would like to see the County find a method to preserve the ultimate footprint of the Bass Lake Road interchange, especially should the major development projects in the vicinity of the interchange be approved.

### ***Travel Forecasting and Modeling***

The use of a comparison between the previous model and current model outputs to eliminate potential projects, such as Missouri Flat Road Interchange, is not the most effective way to analyze future deficiencies.

We agree with the traffic analysis methodology, traffic analysis assumptions, and associated analysis results for US 50 for the existing and future scenarios.

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this project.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Eileen Cunningham, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator, at (916) 274-0639 or [eileen.cunningham@dot.ca.gov](mailto:eileen.cunningham@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ERIC FREDERICKS, Chief  
Transportation Planning – South Branch

c: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse