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# Spring 2010 eNewsletter

Butte County Association of Governments and Butte Regional Transit

## New Bus Shelters Are a Big Hit

Butte Regional Transit staff is hearing the feedback from B-Line riders concerning the new bus shelters that were recently installed along the fixed route system – *and the word is, riders are very happy to have the new shelters.*

In October 2008, Stott Outdoor Advertising was awarded a contract by the BCAG Board of Directors to install and maintain new bus shelters along the B-Line fixed route transit system. Stott began installation of the shelters in the fall of 2009, a project that

included installation of fifty new ad shelters and the conversion of twenty-six existing shelters into ad shelters. The new shelter investment totaled nearly \$600,000, a cost that Stott will recover through the sale of advertising in the ad shelters. In time, Butte Regional Transit will also receive a portion of the advertising sales revenue. The need for new bus shelters along the B-Line fixed route has been something passengers have been requesting for some time now, in addition to better route and schedule information at bus stops. The addition of the fifty new shelters has made passengers very happy since they now have a place to wait for the bus that provides protection from the sun and rain, and features other amenities that include route and schedule information, benches, trash and recycle receptacles, and lighting. In addition to the new bus shelters, BCAG staff has also

installed new schedule holders at bus flag stop locations along the fixed route system (500 locations in total). The new schedule holders provide passengers with route and time schedule information at each flag pole stop, specific to that route. The addition of the route and schedule holders has also been very well appreciated by the B-Line passengers. Businesses interested in obtaining more information about the new B-Line ad shelters may contact Stott Outdoor Advertising at (530) 342-3235.



## Conservation Plan Development Continues

Several sections of the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) are nearing completion following multiple reviews by the Stakeholder Committee and Wildlife Agencies. Notably, the team has completed a draft impact assessment which is currently being used to inform the development of the Conservation Strategy.

The Conservation Strategy outlines the BRCP's important conservation goals, objectives, and measures that will lead to the eventual assembly of a preserve system in the planning area. This preserve system will provide for the long term conservation of the region's flora and fauna and their many distinct habitats. The Conservation Strategy proposes an integrated approach to

conservation by considering the different habitats, ecological scales, and management and monitoring needed to support biodiversity. Draft sections of the Conservation Strategy (Chapter 5 of the BRCP) and impact assessment (Chapter 4 of the BRCP) are available under the "Documents" section of the [www.buttehcp.com](http://www.buttehcp.com) website.



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## SSTAC Applications Being Accepted

BCAG is currently accepting applications and nominations for the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). SSTAC members review information on possible unmet transit needs within Butte County, as well as provide a forum to address other transportation issues facing persons who rely on public transit. The SSTAC is a direct advisory council to the BCAG Board of Directors and includes representation as directed by statute. The term of each appointment is 3 years. The council members meet on an "as needed" basis approximately 2-4 times per year during the work day.

While applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, to be considered for the 2010/2011 cycle, applications must be received by June 1, 2010. Applications for appointment are available by calling 879-2468 or are also available on the BCAG website at <http://www.bcag.org/Meetings--Agendas/Committees/SSTAC/index.html>.

## SR 70 Widening Project in Oroville Breaks Ground

Caltrans District 3 hosted a ground breaking ceremony for the State Route 70 widening project in Oroville on April 6. The project is getting under construction after a decade in the planning and development process by Caltrans District 3 and BCAG.

highway an additional 2 miles south through the SR 70/Ophir Road intersection. This project also contributes to the overall goal to make State Route 70 four-lanes throughout Butte County. The total construction cost of the project is

\$19.5 million; the firm of De Silva Gates is the contractor building the project. Construction of the State Route 70 widening is expected to start in mid April and is scheduled to be completed in November 2011.

On hand to participate in the groundbreaking were BCAG Board members Vice Chair Supervisor Bill Connelly, Supervisor Steve Lambert, Supervisor Kim Yamaguchi, and Vice Mayor of Oroville Jamie Johansson. Other representatives included Caltrans District Director Jody Jones, and field representatives from Congressman Tom McClintock's office, Senator Sam Aanestad's office, and Assemblyman Dan Logue's office.

The SR 70 Widening project will improve State Route 70 in Oroville by extending the current four lane



## 2010 Census Update

On April 23, 2010, the national Census mail participation rate hit 72% which equals the 2000 Census mark. Locally, Butte County is just 1% point away from meeting the 73% mail participation rate of the 2000 Census while the State of California is at 70%.

In early May the Census Bureau will begin shifting to the Non-Response Follow-Up phase of the 2010 Census. Locally, households who have either yet to mail back the questionnaire or who returned it sometime after April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 should be expecting to receive a visit from a census taker. Census takers

will attempt to contact each non-response household three (3) times by phone as well as three (3) times in person. Census takers will leave a double sided "Notice of Visit" in the household doorway that includes a phone number for the resident to schedule an appointment. When a personal visit is made, residents should ask to see the census takers ID and remember that census takers will never ask to enter a resident's home.

Please encourage others to participate in the Census by cooperating with census takers. Regional agencies, like BCAG,

and local communities rely on the information to carry out long term planning and receive financial apportionments based on census figures.

For assistance completing census forms please call 1-866-872-6868 or see [www.census2010.gov](http://www.census2010.gov) for more information.

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