



BCAG ENewsletter

California Transportation Commission Allocates Funding for Construction of SR 99 Chico Auxiliary Lane Project

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$25 million to complete the construction of the second phase of the SR 99 Chico Auxiliary Lane Project. BCAG began development of this project in 2001, and completed a first phase project at the East First Avenue off-ramp in the spring of 2008. Phase 2 will complete the project and involves the construction of:

- Northbound SR 99 on ramp from SR 32 auxiliary lane and sound wall
- Southbound SR 99 on ramp from East First Avenue, auxiliary lane and southbound off-ramp at 32 and sound wall

The project, which was ready for construction a year ago, due to cost savings, BCAG was able to move forward and complete the rest of the project with the allocated funds. Funding for the construction of this final phase is comprised of \$19.209 million in State Route 99 Bond Funds and \$5.791 million in BCAG Regional Improvement Program funds. Construction is expected to take 3 years to complete as a result of the complex bridge structures over Bidwell Park.

Caltrans is the lead agency for delivering this project. The project is expected to be advertised in the next month with a contract awarded by June 2011.

Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)

2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico Ca, 95928
530-879-2468
www.bcag.org
www.buttehcp.com
www.BlineTransit.com



The rendering above shows the auxiliary lane project which shifts through lanes to the center median, and includes auxiliary lanes and sound walls to the outside.

SR 70 Passing Lane Project Receives Bids

On August 10, 2010 the California Transportation Commission allocated \$12 million for the construction of the SR 70 Passing Lane Project near East Gridley Road. The scope of the project is 0.7 miles south of East Gridley Road to 0.4 mile north of Cox Lane for a total passing lane distance of 3.5 miles in both directions. The total cost for the project including all components was nearly \$20 million.

Caltrans has received 5 bids and is expected to award the project in March 2011. Construction is expected to take 2 years to complete. This project was first programmed in 2007.



Butte Regional Conservation Plan

A Habitat Conservation Plan & Natural Communities Conservation Plan

Cities, County, Caltrans and Local Water Districts Partner to Develop BRCP

The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) has grown into a true regional partnership between several local government agencies, Caltrans District 3, and four water districts within Butte County including; Biggs West-Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District and Western Canal Water District. Through a state planning agreement, each entity has signed on and has agreed to “plan and work cooperatively together” to have their future project activities covered by the BRCP.

For city and county governments, the BRCP will provide state and federal endangered species act permits to cover their general plan activities including housing, retail, commercial development, and infrastructure projects. For Caltrans District 3, it will cover millions of dollars in state highway and safety improvements that are planned to be constructed within Butte County. For the water districts, canal and ditch maintenance activities will be covered, as will capital projects that are planned in the future.

For all entities and the public, the BRCP will provide certainty on the requirements and costs for environmental permitting, and, permits will be obtained through city and county planning departments. As a result, the costs and time saved for the state and federal permitting process will be significant. The BRCP is intended to be a 30-50 year plan, which will be consistent with the time period of the participating entities’ plans.

BCAG Working With the US Army Corps of Engineers to Integrate Section 404 Permitting Under BRCP

Activities that result in the discharge of fill or dredged materials into waters of the United States require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE regulates these activities through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act regulatory processes.

In addition to the USACE, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) regulate activities that would impact waters of the State and/or United States via CDFG Code 1600-1616, Section 401 of the CWA, and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. These state and federal regulatory agencies require aquatic functions and services lost, due to impacts, be replaced through compensatory mitigation.

In order to make the BRCP a true “one stop” permitting plan, integration of the USACE Section 404 and Section 10, and the RWQCB and CDFG 1600-1616 processes is an important component to be included in the BRCP.

In January, staff from BCAG, USACE and CDFG met to discuss the requirements and coordination that will be necessary to integrate the Sections 404 and 10, and the CDFG 1600 permitting processes into the BRCP. Both USACE and CDFG staff were very supportive and encouraged at the opportunity to work with BCAG and their participants to include their respective permitting process in the BRCP. As a result of this positive meeting, BCAG will be working with their consultant and the BRCP Stakeholder Committee to incorporate the necessary planning work to address USACE and CDFG permitting in the BRCP.

Adjustments to New B-Line Fixed Route Service Planned



In November, Butte Regional Transit implemented new routes and schedules that had been developed through a Market Based Transit Study prepared over the past year and a half. The new service changes came as a result of passenger surveys, prior year unmet transit needs testimony, ridership data, and public workshops where riders communicated service needs. The service changes were also developed working with a Stakeholder Committee and reviewed with the public prior to implementation.

While overall, the new service changes have been received favorably, there were a few routes and schedules that did not go as planned, and as a result, Butte Regional Transit staff heard numerous complaints and requests by riders to make further improvements.

To address rider's requests, Butte Regional Transit is developing service adjustments to some of the routes and schedules that have not met passenger and staff expectations.

Butte Regional Transit is planning to have the service adjustments identified by mid-February, then take them out to the public for review and comment. It is hoped that the service adjustments can be implemented by mid to late March.

Board Approves Supplemental Paratransit Service

Currently, paratransit service is provided to disabled and senior citizens within a three-quarter mile boundary of the fixed route bus system in Chico, Oroville and Paradise.

Starting July 1, 2011, B-Line paratransit service will expand its service area to include three additional one mile zones in each of the three cities, beyond the current $\frac{3}{4}$ mile service area to allow more residents access to paratransit service.

Fares for residents in the current $\frac{3}{4}$ mile service area will be the same, while fares will increase incrementally by zone the further a resident lives outside the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile core area - maximum fares not to exceed \$10.25.

BCAG Chair & Vice Chair elected at January Meeting



Supervisor Bill Connelly

Supervisor Bill Connelly was elected Chair of the BCAG Board of Directors for the 2011 calendar year. Supervisor Connelly has served as Vice Chair of the BCAG Board of Directors for the past two years, and has served on the Butte County Board of Supervisors since January 2005.

The City of Biggs Vice Mayor, Angela Thompson, was elected as the Vice Chair of the BCAG Board of Directors at the January Meeting. Vice Mayor Thompson was first elected to the Biggs City Council in 2008, and is starting her third year on the BCAG Board of Directors and her first year as a Board Officer.



Angela Thompson, City of Biggs- Vice Mayor

City of Oroville Transit Center Project Out to Bid

2011 BCAG Board of Directors

Bill Connelly (*Chair*)
Butte County Supervisor District 1

Larry Wahl
Butte County Supervisor District 2

Maureen Kirk
Butte County Supervisor District 3

Steve Lambert
Butte County Supervisor District 4

Kim Yamaguchi
Butte County Supervisor District 5

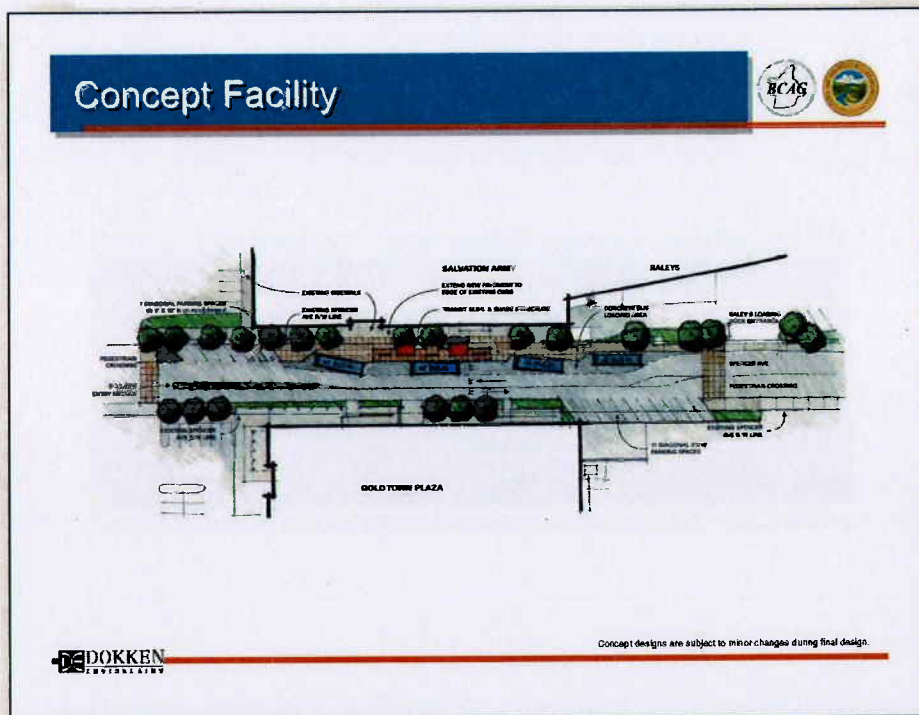
Angela Thompson (*Vice Chair*)
Vice Mayor, City of Biggs

Ann Schwab
Mayor, City of Chico

Jerry Ann Fichter
Mayor, City of Gridley

Linda Dahlmeier
Mayor, City of Oroville

Alan White
Mayor, Town of Paradise



The \$1.5 million dollar project is being funded in part by a federal appropriation, and by Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) funding.

BCAG has circulated an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction of the Spencer Avenue Transit Center located in the City of Oroville. Bids are due February 10th, 2011 at 2:00 pm.

BCAG began project development of a transit center in the City of Oroville on Spencer Avenue between Oro Dam Boulevard and Mitchell Street, in 2009. In December of 2010, the plans, specifications and estimate (PS&E) were completed and all necessary rights of were secured. Dokken Engineering was retained to design the project, and will perform construction administration as well.

The project involves constructing a transit center with public restrooms, bus turnouts, roadway rehabilitation, lighting and landscaping.

Upon receiving bids, BCAG will perform a proposal and bid analysis to determine the lowest **responsive** and **responsible** bidder. Federal and state public contracting code then requires the award of the construction contract to the contractor submitting the lowest responsible and responsive proposal and bid.

