



## BCAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Item #7 Action

July 27, 2023

### **PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF 2023 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – AMENDMENT #03**

**PREPARED BY:** Ivan Garcia, Programming Director

**ISSUE:** BCAG is required to amend the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for various local projects. This amendment includes a new air quality emissions analysis and conformity determination which requires a public hearing.

**DISCUSSION:** The purpose of the amendment is to add two new projects and amend an existing project. One new project is capacity increasing and requires a new air quality emissions analysis and conformity determination. Details regarding this amendment is described below:

#### **NEW NON-EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:**

1. **Town of Paradise - Roe Rd Extension Project.** This amendment programs \$60.4 million of which \$1.8 million is “Community Project Funding Congressionally Directed Spending” funds and \$58.6 million is from Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds (CDBG-DR). The scope of the project is to complete Phase 1 to close gaps to four (4) north-south roadways which serve disconnected residential areas with new roadway links serving long dead-end streets including South Libby, Edgewood and Sawmill Roads to Pentz. This project also includes the environmental component for the future planned 5-mile section between Pentz Road and Skyway. The project is capacity increasing, and therefore non-exempt and requires a new air quality emissions analysis and conformity determination. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.

#### **NEW EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:**

2. **Butte County – Cohasset Road Widening and Fire Safety Project.** This amendment programs \$1.4 million in “Community Project Funding

Congressionally Directed Spending” to prepare a feasibility study and preliminary engineering studies. The feasibility study will investigate alternatives for improving traffic flow during evacuation events such as pull-outs, shoulder widening, or any other efficient use of the existing roadway cross-section to improve the emergency evacuation, including intelligent transportation solutions, sign messaging and a fire warning system. Upon completion of this phase, Butte County Public Works anticipates producing a chosen alternative and engineer’s estimate that may be used to seek future state and federal funding. The project does not add thru lanes or capacity. The project is exempt from a regional emissions analysis per the Environmental Protection Agency’s Transportation Conformity Rule Section 93.126 Exempt Projects, Table 2 “Safety” indicating that projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature are exempt. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.

**TEHCNICAL CORRECTION TO EXISTING EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:**

- 3. Town of Paradise - Go Paradise / Skyway Link Project.** This amendment is a technical correction to change the description of providing Class II bike lanes to providing a Class I Bike/Ped Path as approved by the California Transportation Commission. There is no change in funding or schedule. The project limits are on the Skyway between Bille Rd and Wagstaff Road. This is an existing project programmed in the FTIP. The project does not add thru lanes or capacity. The project is exempt from a regional emissions analysis per the Environmental Protection Agency’s Transportation Conformity Rule Section 93.126 Exempt Projects, Table 2 “Air Quality” indicating that bicycle and pedestrian facilities are exempt.

Since the 2023 FTIP Amendment #03 includes a new non-exempt project, the amendment includes a new air quality emissions analysis and conformity determination for the 2020 RTP and 2023 FTIP.

This item was presented to the BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee and circulated to the Interagency Consultation Review group comprised of Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Transit Administration, Butte County Air Quality Management District, and the Air Resources Board. BCAG has received concurrence on this amendment from the Interagency Consultation group. In addition, A public noticed was placed regarding this amendment and public hearing prior to approval.

All information including project details have been posted at BCAG’s FTIP web page <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/FTIP/index.html> for the FTIP under Amendment #3 and at the RTP/SCS website at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTP--SCS/index.html> for [Amendment #1](#). An amendment summary has been attached to this memorandum.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff requests the Board chair open the public hearing to solicit final comments. If no significant changes are proposed, staff requests the BCAG Board approve Amendment #03 to the 2023 FTIP by Resolution # 2023/24-01. This resolution also authorizes staff to make any necessary minor technical changes to ensure timely state and federal approval. Any changes made will be presented to the BCAG Board.

Key Staff: Iván García, Programming Director  
Brian Lasagna, Regional Analyst