

# BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

## DRAFT 2022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



**DRAFT**

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**Butte County Association of Governments  
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(Updated March 2022)**

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In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the MPO does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, and/or disability in the execution of this Public Participation Plan.

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## **I. Purpose and Background**

### **Purpose**

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Butte County, the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is required to implement a transportation planning process that is continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, resulting in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports metropolitan community development and social goals. BCAG is required to include a proactive public participation process that provides complete information, timely public notice, public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing all transportation plans and improvement programs.

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) includes, but is not limited to, lower income households, minorities, persons with disabilities, representatives from community and service organizations, tribal councils, affordable housing advocates, neighborhood groups, environmental advocates, home builder representatives, broad-based business organizations, landowners, commercial property interests, home owner associations, and other public agencies. The PPP also assists in identifying and addressing environmental justice and social equity issues. Citizen participation objectives include involvement of interested citizens, stakeholders, and representatives of community organizations.



Broad-based community participation is essential to the success of programs, plans and projects of BCAG. Ideas for public participation include:

- Value public participation and promote broad-based involvement by members of the community;
- Provide varied opportunities for public review and input;
- Treat all members of the public fairly by respecting and considering all citizen input as an important component of the planning and implementation process;
- Promote a culture of dialogue and partnership among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested citizens, and public officials;
- Use existing community groups and other organizations, as feasible;
- Encourage active public participation at the initial stages of the process, as well as throughout the process;
- Provide communication and agency reports that are clear, timely, and broadly distributed.

## **Background**

In an effort to reach out to the people of Butte County, and in response to the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), BCAG has updated its Public Participation Plan (PPP). This plan serves to formalize and follow public outreach strategies involving the populace in transportation planning decisions. BCAG is providing and implementing this PPP to reflect its current and future public involvement in response to federal and state guidelines and requirements.

The development of this PPP was done in consultation with BCAG's advisory committees. A series of public workshops were held in Chico, Gridley and Oroville. In an effort to educate and inform individuals who are normally not involved in the transportation planning process, BCAG partnered with Butte County Public Health in a series of public health fairs and vaccine clinics to underrepresented communities in Butte County. Social media for both BCAG and Butte Regional Transit was used as well as advertisements on the Butte Regional Transit fleet. A press release was made to all of its advisory committees, BCAG Board of Directors, BCAG website and local media. Announcement of the workshops and an invitation to provide comments or participate in the development of the PPP and other BCAG planning and programming projects were distributed to FHWA's regional state and federal contacts provided to BCAG, major freight carriers, social service agencies, BCAG's website and the local Tribal Governments. BCAG also advertised in the local newspapers of general circulation. BCAG's website was also has webpage to post relevant material at: <http://www.bcag.org/Resources/Public-Participation-Plan-PPP/index.html> . Appendix A identifies BCAG's outreach efforts and publication listing.

## **II. Compliance with Federal and State Requirements**

### **MAP 21**

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (Map 21) by Congress in 2012 was subsequently succeeded by the FAST Act in 2015. While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed on November 15, 2021 by President Biden, there are not any significant changes to the PPP. MAP 21 continued the strong federal emphasis on public participation, requiring that the public participation plans of metropolitan planning processes "be developed in consultation with all interested parties and provide that all interested parties have reasonable opportunities to comment on the contents of the transportation plan".

As outlined in the bill, methods to accommodate these goals, to the maximum extent possible, include:

- Holding any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;
- Employing visualization techniques to describe plans;

- Making public information available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web, as appropriate, to afford reasonable opportunity for consideration of public information.

Metropolitan public participation or involvement processes shall be coordinated with statewide public involvement processes wherever possible to enhance public consideration of the issues, plans, and programs, and reduce redundancies and costs.

SAFETEA-LU and MAP 21 expanded definition of participation by “interested parties” and is carried forward. Broadly defined, BCAG includes as its partners, groups and individuals who are affected by or involved with transportation in Butte County and the surrounding region. Examples include citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the transportation plan.

MAP 21 required that public meetings be held at convenient and accessible times and locations, that all plans and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be available by website, and that documents be written in easy, understandable language utilizing visual components. These elements are addressed in Section IV of this plan.

The Coronavirus disease (COVID 19) in 2019 brought a halt to public gatherings for a two year period. Many agencies including BCAG resorted to alternative public engagement methods such as remote zoom, webX, phone conference meetings and socially distant gatherings.

### **Senate Bill 375 – Sustainable Communities Strategy**

Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) prompts regional planning to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks through coordinated planning for long range transportations plans and regional land use plans and provides emissions-reducing goals for which regions can plan, and provides incentives for local governments and developers to follow new strategically-planned growth patterns.

As required by the legislation, BCAG shall develop a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) and alternative planning strategy (APS), if needed, as an additional element of the regional transportation plan. The legislation includes specific public participation requirements for the development of the SCS and APS, if needed, which have been addressed in the PPP. A summary of these requirements are listed below.

- Expanded stakeholder groups and consultation with agencies;
- Inclusion of multiple workshops and public hearings to inform the public regarding the development of the RTP and SCS/APS; and
- Broaden visual presentation of the RTP and SCS/APS.



## **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

Title VI states that “No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Title VI serves as the legal foundation for what is today referred to as environmental justice. Under Title VI, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has oversight responsibility for ensuring that recipients do not use DOT funds to subsidize discrimination based on race, color or national origin.

Presidential Executive Order 13166 requires federal agencies to implement measures to ensure that people who speak limited English have meaningful access to programs and activities that are conducted and/or funded by the federal government, consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Both DOT and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have implemented guidance or directives in furtherance of Executive Order 13166.

FTA Circular 4702.1B took effect on October 1, 2012 to provide recipients of FTA financial assistance with guidance and instructions necessary to carry out DOT Title VI regulations (49 CFR part 21) and to integrate into their programs and activities considerations expressed in the Department’s Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (“LEP”) Persons (70 FR 74087, December 14, 2005).”

Circular 4702.1B requires that MPOs submit to the state and FTA every three years a Title VI Program that includes:

A public participation plan that includes an outreach plan to engage minority and limited English proficient populations, as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Program submission. A recipient’s targeted public participation plan for minority populations may be part of efforts that extend more broadly to include other constituencies that are traditionally underserved, such as people with disabilities, low-income populations, and others.



In compliance with guidance and rules issued by DOT and FTA, the BCAG Board adopted a Plan for Special Language Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations (LEP Plan) in December 2018 and will be updated in 2022. BCAG’s Title VI Program, including the LEP Plan, was submitted to FTA in December 2018 and is posted on BCAG’s website. BCAG continues to take reasonable steps to ensure that all persons have meaningful access to its programs, services, and information, at no additional cost.



## Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 — Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations,” was signed by President Clinton on February 11, 1994. This order requires that disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations be identified and addressed in order to achieve environmental justice. The Order defines minority populations as Black/African American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaskan Native. Low-income populations are defined in the Order as persons whose household income (or in the case of a community or group, whose median household income) is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, with those at 80 percent of median income classified as low income and those at 50 percent of median income classified as very-low income.



### III. Goals, Objectives and Policies

It is important to have an ongoing program to involve citizens through the use of the advisory committees, public workshops, email interest sign ups, press releases and other public outreach activities. The effectiveness of any program and policy plan depends upon its success in meeting the expectations of the public. Further, plans and programs need to be reassessed periodically to determine if the public's evolving needs and expectations are adequately provided for through the plan. In order to ensure that this occurs, the public must be kept informed of activities, and must be given a meaningful opportunity to participate in the development and review of public policy plans and programs.

**Public Participation Goal:** The proactive public and agency involvement process for transportation planning shall provide complete information, timely public notice, and public access to key decisions; and shall support early and continuing involvement of the public in developing TIP's.

#### **Objective 1: Public input/consideration shall be an integral part of the BCAG decision-making process.**

**Policy 1.1** BCAG shall provide a 45-day comment period on the PPP prior to adoption by the BCAG Board of Directors. BCAG shall distribute the PPP to all member jurisdictions, the media, state and federal agencies, public libraries and other affected agencies within the region. In addition, BCAG

will provide a noticed public hearing prior to adoption of the public involvement policies. The PPP will be posted online at BCAG's website.

**Policy 1.2** BCAG shall provide a 30-day comment period prior to adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Findings. BCAG shall notice the public comment period on internet web media, the BCAG website and other media as available or appropriate. Local groups which may work with Limited English Proficiency residents will be specifically contacted to assist in extending the invitation to comment and participate. Copies of all documents included in the notice shall be available at the BCAG office, website and public libraries during the comment period.

In addition, BCAG shall provide a public hearing prior to adoption of the fore-mentioned plans. These required review periods allow agencies involved in the consultation process and the public to submit written comments to the draft document and supporting material. BCAG will have available bilingual assistance to assist in communication between Limited English Proficient residents.

An opportunity to provide comments in person will be made available with bilingual staff for the development of the FTIP and RTP. Announcements of the opportunity will be distributed on the B-Line Transit fleet which reaches most of the region.

**Policy 1.3** BCAG shall document and respond upon request, in writing, to comments received during the comment period provided for the RTP, TIP and the Air Quality Conformity Determination. Copies of all written comments and accompanying responses will be included as an appendix in the appropriate document.

**Policy 1.4** BCAG shall provide an additional 30-day comment period in those instances where significant public comment on a draft RTP or TIP requires additional public review. An additional notice on the transit fleet will be posted in Spanish and Hmong in a further attempt to reach Limited English Proficient residents in the region.

**Objective 2: Public Access. The public shall be provided timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes.**

**Policy 2.1** All BCAG plans and documents shall be made available for the public to review at the BCAG office and website. Copies of the RTP shall be distributed to public libraries in Butte County and, via the Transportation Advisory Committee, to local planning departments and other participating agencies. Access and copies of information shall be provided to the public and member agencies upon request. Individuals may formally make a

single request to be placed on an email notification distribution list for information concerning a specific program or project.

- Policy 2.2** Notices and agendas of all BCAG Board meetings shall be available to the public at a minimum of 3 calendar days (72 hours) before, except in cases of emergency meetings when 24 hours is allowed under the Ralph M. Brown Act (the Brown Act). Agendas will be posted at the BCAG office, on the website and at the meeting location where the BCAG Board meetings are scheduled to be held.
- Policy 2.3** BCAG shall provide reasonable access to technical and policy information used in the development of plans, the RTP and the TIP's. Notices in Spanish and Hmong will be posted on the B-Line Fleet. BCAG's website now has Google Translation available to assist residents that may not be proficient in English.
- Policy 2.4** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals needing special accommodations to participate in meetings should contact BCAG at least three working days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- Policy 2.5** All meetings and workshops of the BCAG Board and its advisory committees are open to the public, except as allowed by the Brown Act.

**Objective 3: Public outreach. Opportunities shall be created for all segments of the public to learn and become informed, particularly for those who can be expected to be directly affected by the outcome or those with special needs that may not be well-served by the existing transportation system.**

- Policy 3.1** Information pertaining to the adoption, revision, or amendment of all BCAG plans and transportation project priorities shall be available 72 hours prior to the date of the final action, unless in the course of an emergency meeting as allowed under the Brown Act.
- Policy 3.2** BCAG shall inform the public about issues and proposals under consideration through public workshops, newsletters, maps, electronic simulations, exhibits or other techniques, during the development of each of the transportation plans, program, studies, and projects for which BCAG is responsible. To the extent possible, material will be posted on-line at BCAG's website in which the material can be translated through Google Translation. Should BCAG be contacted directly or if there is an interest by an individual or group that may exist, BCAG will strive to ensure bilingual staff is available to assist and communicate with that person or group.

#### **Objective 4: Public Participation Plan review.**

**Policy 4.1** BCAG shall annually review the PPP public involvement process as part of the annual certification of BCAG's Overall Work Program & Budget, in cooperation with Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA. BCAG shall also annually review the PPP policies in terms of effectiveness in soliciting broad-based public input and inclusiveness of transportation stakeholders and traditionally underserved groups.

Subsequent revisions to the PPP will be submitted to each of the mentioned agencies for review and comments prior to approval by the BCAG Board of Directors.

#### **IV. Description of Public Participation/Involvement Activities**

In order to raise public awareness and educate members of the public regarding BCAG and the issues under consideration, BCAG utilizes the following:

- **Publications** - BCAG produces the BCAG Bulletin, an agency newsletter featuring updates on BCAG projects, programs and staff. The newsletter is circulated to approximately 350 agencies, businesses and individuals. The newsletter is also available upon request and is posted on the BCAG website.

Informational brochures are typically developed to assist in providing general information on a project, as well as comment sheets to provide feedback.

- **Board Meetings** - BCAG holds monthly Board of Directors' meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. The Board meetings are subject to compliance with the Brown Act; agenda's are posted a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting and are open to the public. All agenda materials are currently available to the public at the meetings or online.

Members of the public have the opportunity to speak at these meetings during public hearings and/or on agenda items when called upon by the Chair. For items not on the agenda, a public comment period is held during the "Items from the floor" portion of the meeting. Board action items, minutes and resolutions are made available at the BCAG office and on the website.

- **Media Relations** – Board agendas are provided to television, newspaper and other media contacts in an effort to keep them informed of upcoming issues and actions reviewed and/or voted on at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. Staff will continue to be responsive to media personnel requests in a timely manner.

- **Website** – *BCAG Online* provides an additional means to communicate with member agencies, state/federal agencies and the public. BCAG offers substantial

information about the agency, its programs, projects, and events via the Internet, including:

Calendar of Events	Board agendas/minutes
Overall Work Program & Budget	Major projects/studies
Regional Plans/Programs	Transit schedules & information
Demographics/Census Data	Weather/road conditions
Committee agendas	Traffic counts
Newsletter, maps & forms	
Links to other sites	

BCAG has posted information in an archive section that allows web users to access, view and print many documents. This archive section contains older records such as complete copies of past transportation plans, board minutes/agendas, fiscal and performance audits.

Web sites: [www.bcag.org](http://www.bcag.org)  
[www.BLineTransit.com](http://www.BLineTransit.com)  
[www.buttehcp.com](http://www.buttehcp.com)

- **Events** – BCAG has incidental public outreach events to keep the public informed of current projects. Examples of these events include public educational workshops on how to utilize the transit system, Spare the Air Week, and public outreach workshops for current projects that staff is involved in. In addition, staff will participate in other appropriate community events where an opportunity to reach and educate individuals who normally do not participate in the regional planning process can be included. Events for example may include Public Health Fairs, Bike Rodeos, California State University Chico events, Farmers Markets etc. In addition, interested individuals may sign up to be included in any BCAG planning or programming project or activity.
- **Public Notice and Review** – In order to inform the public that BCAG is seeking public input, announcements for public meetings, hearings, and/or workshops may be issued to local media including: Chico Enterprise Record, Oroville Mercury Register, Paradise Post, and the Gridley Herald. Advertisements may also be placed on local television channels as appropriate or a press release issued.

When requested or deemed appropriate, BCAG will translate these notices and /or announcements into other languages (as determined by the Environmental Justice Analysis of the subject or project area). A 30-day public review period and public hearing is required for the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment.

- **Public Hearings, Public Workshops, Public Comments** - Public hearings or workshops are also offered in order to give more attention to a specific item. As in the case of public forums, public hearings and workshops are held at an early stage in the process so that suggestions can be integrated into the final proposal. All significant comments made during these public hearings and workshops will receive due

consideration, a formal response, and will be included in the final document. In compliance with the Brown Act, all committee and board meetings include a formal public comment period. Past workshops have included topics such as habitat conservation, the Unmet Transit Needs process, and general transit. Public workshops are also held during the planning process for the RTP, the FTIP, and other plans of special interest including the development of this Public Participation Plan.

- **Written Materials** - Written information regarding BCAG activities is available on an ongoing basis. When preparing these documents, it is the goal of staff to make the information understandable to the layperson in the community, make the documents as concise as possible, reduce or eliminate jargon, and explain acronyms.

For staff reports, brief background and discussion sections are included in order to give proper context regarding an issue. Plans and all handouts and other documents for public review include summaries, pictures, graphs, maps and/or other visual aids in an effort to make them understandable and reader-friendly.

- **Accommodations** - Currently, every effort is made to schedule public events at locations accessible by transit users and all buildings for public events are ADA accessible for wheelchairs. Information regarding bicycle lockers/storage can also be researched upon request. Interpreters or other auxiliary aids will be arranged if requested at least 3 days prior to the meeting. Public meeting times vary between day and evening depending on the actual meeting and/or topic. Some public hearings are held in conjunction with BCAG's monthly Board of Directors meeting. Due to COVID 19 and social distancing, Governor Newsom allowed agencies to conduct remote meetings such as zoom as an alternative to meet in person while fulfilling public outreach objectives. The practice of zoom or remote meetings will be kept to enable an alternative participation method to the public.

## **V. Outreach to Traditionally Underserved Groups, Resource Agencies, and Additional Stakeholders**

Federal requirements for public participation plans include a process for seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low income and/or minority groups.

Representatives of low income communities have pointed out that these individuals are focused on meeting their survival needs, and public meetings are generally a low priority. However, if a project affects them directly, they are very interested and every effort should be made to include them in the process.



## **Executive Order 13166 – Limited English Proficiency**

Executive Order 13166 directs federal agencies, recipients and sub-recipients of federal financial assistance to examine the services provided, identify any need for services to those with limited English proficiency (LEP), and develop and implement a system providing services so LEP individuals have meaningful access to these services. As a recipient of federal funds, BCAG offers accommodations to individuals with special needs as appropriate and needed for the specific project or plan.

## **Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) & Transit Administrative Oversight Committee (TAOC)**

BCAG reaches out to low income communities and others traditionally underserved populations through the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and the Transit Administrative Oversight Committee (TAOC). The purpose of these committees is to recommend transit services that should be provided to the transit dependent community, which often includes low income individuals, as well as the elderly and disabled.

The SSTAC and TAOC may advise the BCAG Board of Directors regarding other transit issues, such as the coordination of specialized transportation services. As key plans are being developed, the SSTAC and TAOC are briefed by BCAG staff for input into the planning process. Comments are then presented to the BCAG Board for review. BCAG shall utilize the existing SSTAC required under California's Transportation Development Act (TDA), to identify unmet transportation needs within the planning area.

## **Tribal Governments**

BCAG provides outreach to the following Northern California tribal organizations in Butte County: Mechoopda Indian Tribe of the Chico Rancheria, Berry Creek Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria, KonKow Valley Band of Maidu Indians and Mooretown Rancheria. Each tribal organization has been invited to participate on BCAG's Transportation Advisory Committee. In addition, BCAG has adopted a separate "Policy for Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Governments." This has been included as Appendix A.

## **Resource Agencies**

BCAG engages resource agencies in plan development, specifically with the RTP/SCS, by distributing notifications of preparation for the RTP/SCS and the federal TIP for review and comment. These agencies include: state and local agencies, economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, tribal, land use management, natural resources, transportation, freight movement, congestion management, conservation and historic preservation agencies. The Resource Agency Listing for State and Federal Resource Agencies is maintained by the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Transportation Planning, and is



updated periodically. BCAG adds local organizations and contacts to this list and will update as necessary.

## **Additional Stakeholders**

In addition to those groups listed above, BCAG strongly encourages public involvement from individuals and groups of individuals who reside, or do business in a given area that may be affected by transportation decisions. They are the following:

- Private and public providers of transportation services, including, but not limited to, the trucking and rail freight industries, rail passenger industry, transit operators, taxi cab operators and airports.
- Specialized transportation service operators, including school buses and social service agencies providing transportation for seniors, and persons with disabilities.
- Those persons who utilize non-motorized modes of transportation such as bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Affordable housing advocates, neighborhood groups, environmental advocates, home builder representatives, broad-based business organizations, landowners, commercial property interests, and home owner associations.

BCAG shall involve these groups through those methods and activities listed in Section IV of this plan.

## **VI. Description of Committees Contributing to the Planning Process**

### **Advisory Committees**

BCAG has a variety of committees that assist in its planning and decision-making process. As a local government entity operating within the State of California, BCAG is subject to the State's open meeting laws identified in the Ralph M. Brown Act.

All monthly meetings of the BCAG Board of Directors and advisory committees are noticed and open to the public. Each of the committees meet as follows:

- **Transportation Advisory Committee** – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month, 10:00 am as needed
- **Social Service Transportation Advisory Council** – As necessary
- **Transit Administrative Oversight Committee** – Quarterly, 3:00 pm
- **BCAG Board of Directors** – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month, 9:00 am

The following is a description of the composition and function of each BCAG advisory committee:

The BCAG ***Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)*** includes representatives from each of the local jurisdiction's public works, planning, city and county technical staff, representatives from the Air District, Caltrans, and other affected agencies that have a

technical interest in the BCAG planning process as well as appointed citizens. The TAC is a vital link in the transportation planning process in that the committee provides the technical level analysis and input required in transportation project/program development. The TAC meets on a monthly basis as needed.

The BCAG ***Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)*** was established under the requirements of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), to ensure that unmet transit needs are identified within Butte County. The SSTAC meets on an as needed basis during the year to review information on possible unmet transit needs within Butte County, as part of the unmet transit needs process. The SSTAC also provides a forum to address other transportation issues facing disabled citizens. The SSTAC is a direct advisory council to the BCAG Board of Directors, and includes representation as directed by statute.

The BCAG ***Transit Administrative Oversight Committee (TAOC)*** was established as a result of the transit consolidation in Butte County. This committee includes administrative and staff representatives from the county, cities, town and BCAG. This committee meets as necessary to review and provide guidance concerning the B-Line transit service. The committee also provides recommendations to the BCAG Board of Directors on the Annual Transit Service Plan and Budget and other transit issues that may arise during the year that are not included in the plan. All transit policy and financial issues are reviewed with this committee prior to a recommendation being made to the BCAG Board of Directors. The TAOC meets on an as needed basis at least once a year.

The BCAG ***Board of Directors*** includes representatives from each of the local government entities within Butte County. The BCAG Board of Directors specifically includes one council representative from each of Butte County's five incorporated cities and town, and each of the five representatives of the Butte County Board of Supervisors. The BCAG Board of Directors is responsible for all policy decisions under the authority of BCAG, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

## **VII. Public Participation Measures of Effectiveness**

The strategies contained in the Public Participation Plan will be reviewed annually to determine if modification of any particular strategy is necessary or if additional strategies need to be incorporated into the plan. Evaluation tools to measure effectiveness in terms of reaching desired demographic groups or attaining stated goals will also be employed. Evaluation strategies may include, but not be limited to:

- Tabulation of media coverage
- Surveys
- Comment/feedback cards
- Website polling

- Periodic review and update of outreach mailing lists

As a result of the review process, BCAG has placed emphasis in participating as appropriate in other community sponsored events such as Public Health events or other community gatherings.

### **VIII. Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)**

The long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) prioritizes and guides all Butte County transportation development over a 20 year minimum period. The RTP/SCS is the comprehensive blueprint for transportation investment (transit, highway, local roads, bicycle and pedestrian projects), and establishes the financial foundation for how the region invests in its surface transportation system by identifying how much money is available to address critical transportation needs and setting the policy on how projected revenues may be spent. The RTP/SCS is updated at least once every four years to reflect reaffirmed or new planning priorities and changing projections of growth and travel demand based on a reasonable forecast of future revenues available to the region.

BCAG may prepare two technical companion documents for RTP/SCS updates: a program-level Environmental Impact Report per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, and a Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analyses per federal Clean Air Act requirements. Certain revisions to the RTP/SCS may warrant a revision or update to these technical documents.

### **Updating and Revising the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)**

A complete update of an existing regional transportation plan / sustainable communities strategy is required at least once every four years. The RTP/SCS may also be revised in between major updates under certain circumstances, as described in the table on page 12 and narrative below:

#### **RTP/SCS Update**

An RTP /SCS update is a complete update of the most current long-range regional transportation plan, which is prepared pursuant to state and federal requirements.

RTP/SCS updates include extensive public consultation and participation involving residents, public agency officials and stakeholder groups over a two to three year period. BCAG's advisory committees play key roles in providing feedback on the policy and investment strategies contained in the plan.

## **RTP/SCS Amendment**

An amendment is a revision to the long-range RTP/SCS, including adding or deleting a project, major changes in project/project phase costs, initiation dates, and/or design concept and scope (e.g., changing project locations or the number of through traffic lanes). Changes to projects that are included in the RTP/SCS only for illustrative purposes (such as in the financially unconstrained “vision” element) do not require an amendment. An amendment requires public review and comment, demonstration that the project can be completed based on expected funding, and/or a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation conformity mandates. Amendments that require an update to the air quality conformity analysis will be subject to the conformity and inter-agency consultation process.

## **RTP/SCS Administrative Modification**

This is a minor revision to the RTP/SCS for minor changes to project/project phase costs, funding sources, and initiation dates. An administrative modification does *not* require public review and comment, demonstration that the project can be completed based on expected funding, or a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation conformity requirements. Changes to projects that are included in the RTP/SCS’s financially unconstrained list may be changed without going through this process.

## Updating and Revising the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

Public Participation for RTP Update						[Procedures may not occur in order shown]
<b>1</b> Extensive public participation plan developed and executed over many months to provide early and continuing opportunities to comment  Public Outreach and Involvement  Program reviewed with advisory committees	<b>2</b> Numerous targeted workshops with BCAG advisory committees and stakeholder groups  BCAG database is used to notify public of opportunities to participate	<b>3</b> Opportunities to participate via the Web  Key draft documents posted to the Web for public review and comment and available for viewing at the BCAG offices	<b>4</b> Inter-governmental consultation, as appropriate  Review as appropriate based on Air Quality Conformity Protocol	<b>5</b> Draft plan is released for 30-day public review  At least one formal public hearing before BCAG Board of Directors  Extend public review period by 5-days if final RTP differs significantly from draft and raises new issues	<b>6</b> Adoption by the BCAG Board of Directors at a public meeting	
Public Participation for SCS/APS						[Procedures may not occur in order shown]
<b>1</b> After receipt of the technical report from the regional targets advisory committee (RTAC), BCAG shall conduct one public workshop within the region.	<b>2</b> Two informational meetings for members of the board of supervisors and city/town councils on the SCS/APS.  One meeting may be conducted if it is attended by representatives from the board of supervisors and city council members representing a majority of the population in the incorporated areas.  Notice of the meeting shall be sent to the clerk of the board of supervisors and to each city clerk.	<b>3</b> Public workshop to provide the public with information and tools necessary to provide a clear understanding of the issues and policy choices.  The workshop, to the extent practicable, shall include urban simulation computer modeling to create visual representations of the SCS and APS, if one is prepared.	<b>4</b> Preparation and circulation of a draft SCS and APS, if one is prepared, not less than 55 days before adoption of a final RTP.	<b>5</b> BCAG database is used to notify the public and stakeholders of opportunities to participate.  Database is a means for the public and stakeholders to receive notification based on a single request.	<b>6</b> Two public hearings on the draft SCS and APS, if one is prepared.  To the maximum extent feasible, the hearings shall be in different parts of the region.	<b>7</b> Adoption by the BCAG Board of Directors at a public meeting.

<b>Public Participation for RTP/SCS Amendment</b> <i>[Procedures may not occur in order shown]</i>					
<b>1</b> Notify public via Notification (e-mail)	<b>2</b> Review by BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee or BCAG Board of Directors  Posted in BCAG office  Posted on BCAG Web site	<b>3</b> Amendment Category	<b>4</b> Public Hearing Requirement	<b>5</b> Public Review Period, # of Days	<b>6</b> Approval
		<u>Category 1</u> -Administrative	n/a	n/a	BCAG Exec. Director
		<u>Category 2</u> - Formal Changes that do not impact the existing conformity determination	No	7	BCAG Exec. Director
		<u>Category 3</u> -Formal – Relying on existing conformity determination	No	7	BCAG Board
		<u>Category 4</u> -Formal – Requires a new conformity determination	Yes	14	BCAG Board / FHWA approves conformity

## **IX. Transportation Improvement Program**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) implements the policy and investment priorities expressed by the public and adopted by BCAG in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). In this way, public comments made as part of the RTP/SCS are reflected in the TIP as well. The TIP covers a four- or five-year timeframe, and all projects included in the TIP must be consistent with the RTP/SCS, which covers a minimum of 20 years. The TIP is a comprehensive listing of surface transportation projects including transit, highway, local roadway, bicycle and pedestrian investments in Butte County that:

- receive federal funds, or are
- subject to a federally required action, or are
- regionally significant, for federal air quality conformity purposes.

The TIP includes a financial plan that demonstrates there are sufficient revenues to ensure that the funds committed (or “programmed”) to the projects are available to implement the projects or project phases. Adoption of the TIP also requires a finding of conformity with federal transportation-air quality conformity mandates.

Individual project listings may be viewed at the BCAG website at:

<http://www.bcag.org/Planning/FTIP/index.html> . As part of BCAG’s commitment to public involvement, many projects in the TIP are mapped to present the online reader with a visual location of the project. BCAG’s mapping project is posted at: [https://gicwebsrv.csuchico.edu/webmaps/bcag\\_projects/prod/](https://gicwebsrv.csuchico.edu/webmaps/bcag_projects/prod/). Individuals without access to the Internet may view a printed copy of the project listings at the BCAG office at 326 Huss Drive, Suite 150 in Chico.

### **FTA “Program of Projects” and the TIP**

Individual FTA funded projects are included in the TIP. The opportunity for public participation for FTA funded projects or grants are therefore included and implied as part of the development of the TIP including applicable amendments. Therefore, public involvement activities and time established for public review and comments on the TIP satisfies the Program of Projects (POP) requirements for the FTA. This language was accepted by the Federal Transit Administration and the FTA Triennial Reviewers.

### **Updating and Revising the TIP**

Federal regulations require that the TIP be updated at least once every four years. From time to time, circumstances dictate that revisions be made to the TIP between updates. BCAG will consider such revisions when the circumstances prompting the change are compelling, and the change will not adversely affect transportation-air quality conformity or negatively impact the financial constraint findings of the TIP.



In addition to a TIP update, revisions to the TIP may occur as TIP Amendments, TIP Administrative Modifications and TIP Technical Corrections. Further explanation about TIP updates and how the types of amendments are processed are shown in the table on page 19 and narrative that follows.

BCAG maintains a free, subscription-based e-mail distribution list of individuals, transportation officials and staff interested in being informed of TIP-related changes and actions. Pertinent information may be distributed to recipients as needed to alert the individuals of notices and information regarding the development and approval of a new TIP and updates, such as the notice of a TIP update, notice and approval of the TIP amendments, and other information as deemed appropriate. This is a tool to help facilitate public review and comments as well as coordination with transportation and other public agencies. Anyone may sign up for the service by contacting BCAG by phone at 530-809-4616 or by email at [www.bcag.org/about\\_bcag/contact\\_us.html](http://www.bcag.org/about_bcag/contact_us.html).

### **TIP Update**

This is a complete update of the existing TIP, to reflect new or revised transportation investment strategies and priorities. An update of the TIP is required at least once every four years. Because all projects included in the TIP are consistent with the RTP/SCS, BCAG's extensive public outreach for development of the RTP/SCS is reflected in the TIP as well. The TIP implements, in the short-term, the financially constrained element of the RTP/SCS and is responsive to comments received during the development of the RTP/SCS. TIP updates will be subject to the conformity and interagency consultation procedures.

### **TIP Amendment**

This is a revision that involves a major change to the TIP, such as the addition or deletion of a project; a major change in project cost or project/project phase initiation date; or a major change in design concept or design scope (e.g., changing project termini or the number of through traffic lanes). An amendment is a revision that requires public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, or an air quality conformity determination. Amendments requiring a transportation-air quality conformity analysis will be subject to the conformity and interagency consultation procedures. TIP amendment procedures are in conformance with the latest available federal guidance. The public review period depends if a new regional emissions analysis is prepared. If so, then a 14 day minimum review period is required. If there is not a new regional emissions analysis, a minimum 7 day public review period is required. In most cases, the effected project has already been included in the RTP which has gone thru a more extensive review period.

### **TIP Modification**

A modification includes minor changes to a project's costs or to the cost of a project phase; minor changes to funding sources of previously included projects; and minor changes to the initiation date of a project or project phase. A modification does not require public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, or conformity

determination. Approved modifications are posted online at BCAG's website at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/FTIP/index.html>.

### **TIP Technical Correction**

Technical corrections may be made by BCAG staff as necessary. Technical corrections are not subject to a modification or amendment requirements, and may include revisions such as: changes to information and projects that are included only for illustrative purposes; changes to information outside of the TIP period; changes to information not required to be included in the TIP per federal regulations; or changes to correct data entry errors. These technical corrections cannot impact the cost, scope, or schedule within the TIP period, nor will they be subject to a public review and comment process, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination.

## Updating and Revising the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

<b>TIP Update</b> <i>[Procedures may not occur in order shown]</i>					
<b>1</b> Notify public via Notification (e-mail)  Notify public, including RTP/SCS participants, via U.S. mail; use appropriate lists within BCAG's database	<b>2</b> Review by BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee	<b>3</b> Intergovernmental consultation, as appropriate  30-day public review and comment period  Draft TIP at BCAG office and mail to public libraries in Butte County  Post on BCAG Web site	<b>4</b> Inform media, as appropriate  BCAG's response to significant comments compiled into an appendix in the final TIP  Extend public review period by 5-days if final TIP differs significantly from draft TIP and raises new material issues	<b>5</b> Review by BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee	<b>6</b> Adoption by BCAG Board of Directors at a public meeting  Approval by Caltrans  Approval by Federal Highway and Federal Transit administration (FHWA/FTA)
<b>TIP Amendment</b> <i>[Procedures may not occur in order shown. All procedures in accordance with Federal guidance]</i>					
<b>1</b> Notify public via Notification (e-mail)	<b>2</b> Review by BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee or BCAG Board of Directors  Post in BCAG office  Post on BCAG Web site (FTIP Webpage)	<b>3</b> Amendment Category <u>Category 1 - Modification</u>	<b>4</b> Public Hearing Requirement n/a	<b>5</b> Public Review Period, # of Days n/a	<b>6</b> Approval BCAG Exec. Dir. / Caltrans
		<u>Category 2 - Formal</u> Changes that do not impact the existing conformity determination	No	7	BCAG Exec. Director,  Approval by Caltrans & FHWA/FTA
		<u>Category 3 - Formal – Relying on existing conformity determination</u>	No	7	Approval by Caltrans & FHWA/FTA
		<u>Category 4 - Formal – Requires a new conformity determination</u>	Yes	14	Approval by Caltrans & FHWA/FTA

<b>TIP Technical Correction</b> <i>[Procedures may not occur in order shown]</i>		
<b>❶</b> No public review	<b>❷</b> Corrections by staff in CTIPS database	<b>❸</b> No approval required

## **X. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects**

By federal requirement, BCAG publishes at the end of each calendar year an annual listing of obligated projects, which is a record of project delivery for the previous year. The listing is also intended to increase the awareness of government spending on transportation projects to the public. Annual obligation reports are posted at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/FTIP/index.html>. Copies of this annual listing may be obtained by contacting BCAG.

## **XI. Comments**

To submit comments or for more information about Butte County Association of Governments please visit our website at [www.bcag.org](http://www.bcag.org).

This document has been translated to Spanish. BCAG staff is available to discuss any planning or programming project in Spanish. In addition, any transportation concern, including transit needs can be communicated in Spanish by phone or email.

Comments can be directed to:

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