



BCAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Item #6 Information

October 27, 2011

2012 STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) – DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT 2012 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR BUTTE COUNTY

PREPARED BY: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

ISSUE: BCAG is required to prepare and adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and submit it to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by December 15, 2011. The CTC then has the authority to approve the 2012 RTIP and include it as part of the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DISCUSSION: The 2012 RTIP is scheduled to be adopted by the BCAG Board of Directors at the December 8, 2011 Board meeting. The RTIP is then submitted to the California Transportation Commission for programming consideration into the 2012 STIP. The 2012 STIP covers the five year period between FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17.

As part of the RTIP/STIP development, Caltrans prepares a Fund Estimate (FE) to identify the available funding for each region for the five year period of the STIP. The FE includes a funding target for Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds and Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities. RIP funds are generally programmed to major highway projects, while TE funds are programmed towards enhancement projects such as pedestrian and bicycle projects.

BCAG's 2012 RTIP Fund Estimate identifies a funding level of **\$15.479 million** for RIP programming, and **\$838,000** for TE programming. The RIP funds may be available starting in the last two years of the STIP, *2015/16 and 2016/17*, while the TE funds may be available starting in the *2012/13 FY*.

In order for a project to be eligible for RTIP/STIP programming, an approved Project Study Report (PSR) or Project Initiation Document (PID) must be completed.

2012 RTIP/STIP RECOMMENDATIONS: BCAG staff has been working with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) during the past month to identify project recommendations for the RIP program and the TE program. Staff issued a call for new TE projects on August 26, 2011 with a programming target of \$2 million as supported by the Board at the August 25, 2011 Board meeting. Staff requested new TE applications to be submitted to BCAG by Friday, September 30, 2011. In addition, staff informed the Board that Butte County Public Works requested \$1.5 million in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds be used as the local match requirement for the Midway over Butte Creek Bridge funded in the Highway Bridge Program (HBP). At their October 13, 2011 meeting, the TAC reviewed and discussed the TE applications received and the draft project recommendations for RIP funding.

DRAFT 2012 RTIP/STIP RECOMENDATIONS

AGENCY	PROJECT	FUNDING RECOMMENDATION
	TE RECOMMENDATIONS	
County	Neal Rd Class 2 Bike Lane Project	\$ 1,500,000
Gridley	Downtown Streetscape Project	\$ 452,000
BCAG	Chico Bike Map Update	\$ 60,000
	Subtotal for TE Projects	\$ 2,012,000
	RIP RECOMMENDATIONS	
County	Butte County Midway over Butte Creek Project (Local Match)	\$ 1,499,000
BCAG	Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM)	\$ 740,000
BCAG	Reserve balance for future SR 70 Passing Lane Project in the 2014 STIP Cycle	\$ 11,228,000
	Subtotal for RIP Recommendations	\$ 13,467,000
	TOTAL 2012 RTIP RECOMMENDATIONS	\$ 15,479,000

Description of Transportation Enhancement Project Recommendations

Butte County Neal Rd Class 2 Bike Lane Project. The County has requested \$1.5 million in RIP TE funds. The County is proposing to improve traffic safety, circulation and promote intermodal transportation by providing Class 2 bike lanes along Neal Road as part of a planned contiguous bikeway facility from the Town of Paradise to the City of Chico as currently defined in the Butte County Bikeway Master Plan. The proposed project also enhances the bicycle ride ability of both Neal and Cohasset Roads for cyclists along these signature regional cycling routes. Specifically, the County is proposing the following:

- Complete design for phased improvements to widen Neal Rd to accommodate Class 2 bike lanes from Oro-Chico Hwy to the Town Limits (7.5 miles)
- Construct Phases 1 & 2 - Class 2 bike lanes from SR 99 to 4.7 miles east as the initial phase of work along with installation of "Share the Road" signage on the remainder of Neal Road (2.8 miles) to the Town Limits and within the Town of Paradise to the Skyway (1.7 miles.)
- "Share the Road" signage along Cohasset Road from Chico City Limits to the Cohasset School (11.5 miles.)

Gridley Hazel Street Rehabilitation Project. The City of Gridley has requested \$452,000 in RIP TE funds with \$286,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$738,000. The downtown revitalization project includes:

- Bulb-outs between Virginia and Vermont Streets that includes new layouts and hardscape design at bulb-outs and street crossings
- Create new and comfortable people spaces
- Develop new landscape areas and planting to enhance the intersection area
- Construct low walls to accent the entry into downtown
- Construct mid-block bulb-outs in front of active store fronts to provide pedestrian access along with outdoor dining and social areas
- Develop an entire landscaping plan for the area to create a comfortable atmosphere.

Chico Bike Map Update – BCAG staff has requested \$60,000 to update and reproduce the Chico Bike Map. As a result of recent significant project delivery accomplishments by the City of Chico including the SR 99 Corridor Bike Project and other bike and road projects, the bike map is in need to be updated. In addition, the bike map includes a transit layer in which routes have been modified by Butte Regional Transit in the spring of 2011.

Description of Regional Improvement Program (RIP) Project Recommendations

Midway over Butte Creek Bridge – Butte County has requested \$1.499 million to leverage towards \$13.991 million in federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds for this bridge replacement project. The proposed project constructs a new 1600 foot long multi-span prestressed cast-in-place concrete box girder with approximately 2300 feet of approach of roadway reconstruction. This project will replace 2 existing structures that currently span Butte Creek and Butte Creek Overflow. Both of the structures proposed to be replaced have low sufficiency ratings and have been determined to be “Structurally Deficient” by Caltrans Department of Structures Maintenance and Investigations. They are both load limited and are of sub-standard width. The structure over Butte Creek also carries a speed limit of 10 mph for vehicles over 10 tons. It has been determined that replacement of the bridges is the most feasible alternative.

Utilizing RIP funds to leverage towards federal HBP funds has been identified as a priority for funding consideration by the California Transportation Commission.

Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) – BCAG staff is requesting \$740,000 which represents the allowable 5% of Regional Improvement Program funding for PPM activities. These funds support the staff time necessary for various STIP projects in BCAG’s Overall Work Program and Budget. The funds requested cover the 5 year period of the STIP.

SR 70 Passing Lane Project – Reserve – BCAG staff is requesting that the remaining RIP fund balance of \$11,228,000 be reserved for the 2014 STIP Cycle in preparation for the next SR 70 Passing Lane Project south of Oroville. During the 2011/12 fiscal year, BCAG will begin the development of a Project Study Report/Preliminary Design Study (PSR/PDS) for the next SR 70 Passing Lane Project. A PSR/PDS is a requirement prior to programming the environmental component in the STIP. Typically, SR 70 Corridor projects have been jointly funded by BCAG and Caltrans at 50%. Reserving \$11.2 million would enable BCAG to nominate a jointly funded \$22-25 million passing lane project as part of the 2014 STIP Cycle.

Projects Not Recommended for Funding

Gridley SR 99 Pedestrian Sidewalk Project – The City of Gridley has requested \$600,000 in RIP TE funds for this project. The scope of the project includes construction of typical urban improvements such as curb, gutter, sidewalk, driveways and pedestrian ramps on the east side of S 99 within the City of Gridley from Obermeyer Avenue to approximately 1,800 feet north of Obermeyer Avenue. Based on the funding target supported by the BCAG Board at \$2 million for TE projects, staff

has recommended not funding the City's second TE priority project. However, BCAG staff will assist the City in pursuing other funding sources to complete this project. The City of Gridley is currently developing the environmental component.

BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee Summary

The TAC supported staffs 2012 RTIP recommendations for RIP and TE programming and suggested that the recommendations be reviewed by the BCAG Board of Directors.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion. A final 2012 RTIP document will be presented to the BCAG Board of Directors for adoption at the December 8, 2011 Board meeting.

Key Staff: Jon Clark, Executive Director
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