2014 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

ISSUE: BCAG is required to prepare and adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) by December 31, 2013 for the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DISCUSSION: The purpose of the RTIP is to identify programming recommendations for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is comprised of two components, the Regional Improvement Program (RIP) for projects nominated by regional agencies in California, such as BCAG and the Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) for projects nominated by Caltrans. The STIP is adopted by the California Transportation Commission.

The RTIP indicates the area's short-term plan for use of RIP and IIP dollars for transportation projects over the next five fiscal years beginning July 1, 2014. The draft 2014 RTIP “document” will be completed by October 2013. The 2014 RTIP is scheduled to be adopted by the BCAG Board of Directors at the December 12, 2013 Board meeting.

The Fund Estimate prepared by Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission identifies $12.4 million for the region. Funding is projected to be available in the last two years of the STIP. During the 2012 RTIP/STIP process, BCAG left an unprogrammed STIP balance with the purpose of programming the next SR 70 Passing Lane Project(s) as part of the 2014 STIP Cycle. Over the last two years, BCAG has been developing the required Project Initiation Document / Project Design Study for the SR 70 Corridor. BCAG anticipates the next SR 70 Passing lane project to cost between $25 and $30 million. As with the past SR 70 projects completed, Caltrans would be a funding partner at 50% participation. As such, staff anticipates all remaining programming capacity will be for the SR 70 Corridor.

BCAG is currently working with its consultants and Caltrans to identify the project limits and costs for the next SR 70 project recommendation. This item will continue to be presented as the RTIP is developed. Staff anticipates a preliminary draft document for the September TAC meeting.

Attached for your awareness is the public notice which will be posted in the local newspapers concerning the development of the 2014 RTIP.
REQUESTED ACTION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

Key staff: Jon Clark, Executive Director
          Andy Newsum, Deputy Director
          Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager
The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Butte County and its incorporated cities. BCAG is also the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Butte County and its incorporated cities. As the RTPA, BCAG is required to prepare a Regional Transportation Improvement program (RTIP) every two years. The purpose of the RTIP is to identify programming recommendations for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is comprised of two components, the Regional Improvement Program (RIP) for projects nominated by regional agencies in California, such as BCAG and the Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) for projects nominated by Caltrans. The STIP is adopted by the California Transportation Commission.

The RTIP indicates the area's short-term plan for use of RIP and IIP dollars for transportation projects over the next five fiscal years beginning July 1, 2014. The 2012 RTIP will be developed over the next couple of months and posted on the Internet at www.bcag.org. A draft document is anticipated to be completed by October 2013. The public is encouraged to participate and provide input to the RTIP or any other BCAG planning function. Once a draft document is completed, the RTIP will also be available at each of the Butte County public libraries. Comments on the RTIP are requested by December 1, 2013.

The 2014 RTIP is scheduled to be adopted by the BCAG Board of Directors at their December 12, 2013 Board meeting at the City of Chico Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. located at 421 Main Street, Chico, CA. Questions regarding the RTIP can be directed to Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager at BCAG at 530-879-2468 or by e-mail at igarcia@bcag.org.