



BCAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Item #13 Information

August 22, 2019

2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTIP) DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: Jon Clark, Executive Director

ISSUE: BCAG is required to prepare and adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) by December 31, 2019 identifying the regions project recommendations for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to be approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

DISCUSSION: BCAG staff is developing the 2020 RTIP identifying project recommendations for the 2020 STIP. The STIP is comprised of two (2) programs:

- 1) Regional Improvement Program (RIP). Projects nominated by the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) like BCAG
- 2) Interregional Improvement Program (IIP). Projects nominated by Caltrans.

The RIP program comprises 75% of the STIP programming capacity and the IIP program comprises the other 25%. The STIP is updated every two-years and is under the authority of the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

Prior to adoption of the STIP, the CTC prepares a *Fund Estimate (FE)* identifying funding levels for each county; referred to as “County Shares”. County Shares serve as the funding target for projects nominated by the regions in their respective RTIPs. The 2020 STIP will identify projects and funding for the five-year period of 2020/21 through 2024/25

Preparation of BCAG’s 2020 RTIP is being developed in consultation with the BCAG member agencies, Yuba County, the Sacramento Area Association of Governments (SACOG), Caltrans and the CTC staff. BCAG staff will have a Draft 2020 RTIP completed by October 2019 and will present a Final 2020 RTIP to the BCAG Board of Directors for their approval at the December 12, 2019 Board meeting.

DRAFT 2020 RTIP PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS & ISSUES

The Fund Estimate for Butte County identifies a maximum County Share programming target of **\$7,955,000**, this represents the maximum amount of RIP funding the Commission may program in Butte County.

Current 2018 STIP projects continuing in the 2020 STIP - (see attached SR 70 Corridor Map for Project Reference)

1) State Route 70 Passing Lane (Ophir Road to Palermo Road)

Project includes widening to four lanes with a continuous center left-turn lane (5 total lanes) and is currently under construction.

Funding = **\$48,600,000** - \$33 million (*State Highway Operations and Protection Program - SHOPP*), \$7.2 million (*IIP funds*), \$7.2 million (*RIP funds*)

2) State Route 70 Passing Lane (Palermo to Cox Lane)

Project includes widening to four lanes with a continuous center left-turn lane (5 total lanes) and is scheduled to begin construction in spring 2020.

Funding = **\$50,900,000** - \$36.9 million (*SHOPP*), \$6.6 million (*IIP funds*), \$6.6 million (*RIP funds*).

3) State Route 70 Passing Lane (East Gridley Rd to Butte/Yuba County Line)

Project includes widening to four lanes with a continuous center left-turn lane (5 total lanes) and is scheduled to begin construction in spring 2021.

Funding = **\$65,900,000** - \$44.1 million (*SHOPP*), \$10.9 million (*IIP funds*), \$10.9 million (*RIP funds*).

4) State Route 70 Passing Lane Segments 4 & 5 in Yuba County (Yuba/Butte County Line to Laurellen Road)

BCAG programmed \$4 million in RIP funds to Segments 4 & 5 in Yuba County for preparation of environmental documents for widening to four-lanes. Caltrans has a \$102.8 million SHOPP project programmed for Segments 4 & 5 that includes widening to two-lanes with a continuous center left-turn lane (3 total lanes).

Funding to construct widening to the ultimate 5 lane facility for Segments 4 & 5 is not programmed, \$32 million is needed to complete this widening. Development of the environmental documents is scheduled to begin in 2020.

Funding = **\$106,800,000** - \$102.8 million (*SHOPP*), \$4 million (*RIP funds*).

5) Midway Bridge Replacement across Butte Creek

Project is located on the Midway south of White Ave and crosses Butte Creek and Butte Creek Overflow. The project would replace 2 bridge structures with one longer bridge to address flooding and structural deficiencies. Funding for this project includes \$13,991,000 from the Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and \$1,499,000 in RIP funding (the RIP funding is for the local match requirement).

Due to environmental issues which included investigating new route alignments, the County was unable to meet its original project delivery deadline for this project, so the RIP funding has lapsed. Staff is recommending as part of the 2020 RTIP that the \$1,499,000 in RIP funding be reprogrammed as the local match for this project.

Funding = \$15,490,000 - \$13,991,000 million (HBP Program), \$1.4 million (RIP funds).

2020 RTIP ISSUES

The only project on the State Route 70 Corridor currently not fully funded are Segments 4 & 5 in Yuba County, widening of these two segments to four lanes with a continuous center left-turn lane (5 total lanes). This final project requires \$32 million

During the past two years, BCAG and Caltrans have had numerous meetings with representatives from Yuba County and SACOG requesting their funding support to finish these last two projects in Yuba County.

Caltrans had proposed the remaining \$32 million shortfall could be shared among the three agencies. Caltrans would contribute \$16 million from the IIP program, Yuba County/SACOG and BCAG would each contribute \$8 million from their respective RIP programs.

To date, Yuba County and SACOG have not provided any indication they will contribute the \$8 million as proposed by Caltrans. For this to occur, the Yuba County Board of Supervisors needs to make a recommendation to SACOG programming the \$8 million in RIP funds, an action they have not taken. BCAG staff has indicated we would recommend the BCAG Board to contribute \$8 million from our region, if Yuba County would do the same.

Fully funding Segments 4 & 5 in the 2020 STIP cycle is critical. If the full project widening is delayed, project costs will increase significantly with an increased risk of further fatalities along this section of the SR 70 corridor.

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With BCAG's 2020 RTIP nearing a Final Draft and with the lack of funding support provided by Yuba County and SACOG for Segments 4 & 5, it is possible these projects will not have a funding plan to be completed.

Should funding support from Yuba County and SACOG not occur, BCAG staff will recommend the \$4 million programmed by BCAG for Segments 4 & 5 to develop environmental documents be unprogrammed in the 2020 STIP cycle. These RIP funds could return to Butte County for other project needs.

Staff will continue to work with Caltrans, Yuba County and SACOG on resolving this issue. However, if Yuba County, SACOG and BCAG cannot agree to a funding plan to complete Segments 4 & 5, there is no purpose supporting preparation of the considered environmental documents.

REQUESTED ACTION: This item is presented for information and discussion. A complete RTIP document will be presented at the October Board meeting.

Key staff: Jon Clark, Executive Director
 Andy Newsum, Deputy Director
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