2020 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy for Butte County

Public Outreach Workshop

September 3, 2020  Chico, CA  4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83753351998?pwd=MTkyS3JyM1JNQm84Yll4VjRGT3RKUT09&from=msft

Meeting ID: 837 5335 1998
Passcode: 693818

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833

Prepared by:
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igarcia@bcag.org
Workshop Procedures

Welcome and Introductions

Workshop Procedures:

What will be presented
How to participate and ask questions
How to submit questions later
Appropriate time to comment

How to Stay Involved

Where to Find More Information

BCAG Website: www.bcag.org

Project Manager: Ivan Garcia, igarcia@bcag.org
Purpose of Public Workshop

- To inform the public of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) / Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and the preliminary draft transportation project list and land use scenarios.

- To provide the public an opportunity to engage in the planning process, provide input and learn about the project.

- Focus of the Workshop is to:
  - Discuss BCAG’s roles and responsibilities
  - Discuss the purpose of the RTP
  - Review preliminary draft transportation project list (short and long-term)
  - Discuss the purpose of the SCS
  - Review preliminary draft land use scenario
  - Discuss update process and timeline

Highways/Streets & Roads, Bike & Pedestrian, Transit, Rail, Aviation
What is BCAG?

- Federal designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Butte County. BCAG is also the transit operator for Butte Regional Transit (B-Line)

- BCAG Board of Directors – Includes all five County Supervisors one representative from each of the five incorporated cities/town

- Responsibilities –
  - Secure state and federal funding & ensure timely delivery
  - Prepare RTP/SCS and programming documents required to secure state and federal funding
  - Ensure public participation in the planning process
  - Butte Regional Transit Administrator
  - Planning or Project Management that benefit cities, town and county
Purpose of the Regional Transportation Plan

- Meet state and federal requirements for other planning and funding activities
- Serve as foundation for the development of:
  - Federal Transportation Improvement Program
  - Regional Transportation Improvement Program
  - Interregional Transportation Improvement Program
- The RTP/SCS has four main components:
  - Policy Element – Goals, policies & objectives
  - Action Element – Recommended projects by mode and fund source
  - Financial Element – Financial projections by fund source which project are constrained
  - Sustainable Communities Strategy – Integration of land use, housing, and transportation to reduce GHG’s
Camp Fire Impacts to Region

On November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire transformed the region by devastating the Town of Paradise which represented Butte County’s 2nd largest city (Town) with a pre-Camp Fire population of 26,256 in 2018 to a current population of 4,631 for January 1, 2020. As a result, BCAG is preparing a “Post Camp Fire Regional Population and Transportation Study”. The study will develop new:

- Population forecasts
- Housing forecasts
- Employment forecasts
- Travel / Transportation Data & Modeling
- Transit and Non-Motorized Plan Update

The results of this effort will be available to local and regional agencies who are in need of data to update their local plans and programs. In addition, the data will be used as a foundation for the development of the 2024 RTP/SCS. This study is anticipated to be completed by June of 2021.
## Regional Priorities – STIP

### STIP - Project and Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1. SR 70 Passing Lane Project – Segment 2.</th>
<th>RIP Funds Only Year of Expenditure dollars in thousands</th>
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<td>Termini @ south end of Segment 1. Project is 0.1 mile south of Palermo Rd to termini @ SR 70 Passing Lane Project (northern end) of SR70 E near Cox Lane. The scope of the project is to construct a 5-lane facility, 2 lanes per direction with center turn lane. Distance approx. 3.2 miles. Estimated cost is $53.4 million escalated. This project is funded with $36.9 million in Caltrans State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) Funds, $6.6 million in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds, $6.6 million in Caltrans Interregional Improvement Program funds (IIP) and $3.3 million in federal Demonstration funds. This project is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2021.</td>
<td>$ 6,600 (2020/21)</td>
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<th>2. SR 70 Passing Lane Project – Segment 3.</th>
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<td>Termini @ south end of SR 70 Passing Lanes approximately 0.4-mile South of East Gridley Rd to the Butte/Yuba County line. Project includes new bridge structures. The scope is to construct 5 lane facility, 2 lanes per direction with center turn lane where appropriate. Distance is approximately 2.7 miles. Estimated cost is $65.9 million escalated to FY 21/22 dollars. This project is funded with $44.1 million in Caltrans State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) Funds, $10.9 million in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds and $10.9 million in Caltrans Interregional Improvement Program funds (IIP). Project is anticipated to take 2 construction seasons to complete with a target in the winter of 2024.</td>
<td>$10,900 (2021/22) All Components</td>
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<th>3. Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM).</th>
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<td>This project consists of BCAG’s PPM activities related its transportation plans and programs. The annual average PPM programming level is estimated at $133,000 per year. This amount fluctuates with the STIP Fund Estimate.</td>
<td>$2,660 (2020-2040)</td>
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| 5. Regional Improvement Program (RIP) Reserve. Due to the project costs for the SR 70 Corridor and potential cost increases, no further regional projects are included at this time. In addition, due to the regional impacts associated with the Camp Fire and the development of the “Post Camp Fire Regional Population and Transportation Study”, a RIP fund reserve is being made for the 2020 RTP. Upon study completion and re-evaluation of regional transportation needs upon conclusion of the regional study, new RIP/STIP projects will be defined as part of the 2024 RTP/SCS. | $13,000 (2020-2040) |

| TOTAL | $33,160 |
## Currently Funded Projects
### Short-Term 2019 FTIP Projects

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<th>ATP</th>
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Currently Funded Projects -Continued

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## FTIP Summary – 4 Year Period

### 2019 FTIP - 4 Year Only Period

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### 4 Year Summary By Agency

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BCAG operates Butte Regional Transit (B-Line) for fixed route and paratransit service. The purpose of Transit in the RTP is to identify the existing route structure and to identify planned improvements.

The public is encouraged to voice their thoughts and opinions on what transit or other mass transportation improvements BCAG should be working on in the future.

In 2015, BCAG completed a Transit and Non-Motorized Plan to help guide the transit decision making process. Extensive public outreach was conducted to help plan the current transit system. The plan is posted online at: http://www.bcag.org/Planning/Transit--Non-Motorized-Transportation-Plan/index.html. The existing routes are later displayed. The current transit projects are based on this plan.
CHICO

There are 12 local routes that operate in the Chico Urban Area. All these routes, with the exception of Route 7 (which covers the east side of Chico), serve the Downtown Chico Transit Center at 2nd and Salem streets. All these routes provide at least hourly service throughout the day, with most adding half-hour service during peak times. Three of them (8, 9 & 15) run half-hour headways all day, with Route 15 providing 20-minute headways during peak periods. All the routes operate year-round, except Routes 8 & 9, which are designated as the Student Shuttles and only running when Chico State is in session.

In addition to the local Chico routes, there are four regional routes that also stage at the Chico Transit Center. These include Route 20 (Oroville), Route 32 (Gridley), and Routes 40 & 41 (Paradise & Magalia).

OROVILLE

Four local routes (24, 25, 26 & 27) provide hourly service to the Oroville area. These local routes operate Monday-Friday. In addition, two regional routes - Route 20 (Chico) and Route 30 (Gridley) also serve the Oroville Transit Center. Oroville had one additional route (Route 31 from Paradise), but that was discontinued after the Camp Fire.
PARADISE

The Paradise/Magalia Area is served by two routes - 40 & 41. These are regional routes from Chico that also provide local service to the ridge. After the Camp Fire bus service in the Paradise area was greatly affected. One route (31) was eliminated and the overall service hours were reduced by 44%.

GRIDLEY/BIGGS

Two regional routes, 30 (Oroville) & 32 (Chico) provide service Gridley/Biggs and act as the local service for this area.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

• Over 500 bus stops systemwide, with 150 having shelters
• Schedules at all stops, with some having Real-Time signage
• AVL/GPS installed on entire fleet, which allows passengers to access Real-Time bus arrival information. Also allows for tracking of boarding location to make route improvements
• Mobile Ticketing app being rolled out
• ??????
Transit – Paradise/Magalia Routes

Detailed Paradise Area Map

Corwin/Colter loop
Route 41 provides service only during peak hours. Refer to schedule fir times marked with thin symbol.

Flag Stop Areas
(Shaded gray)

In flag stop areas, stand at a safe location on the road side and wave to the driver to indicate that you wish to board the bus. The driver will only allow you to board if it is safe to do so. To get off the bus in a flag stop area, advise the driver well in advance so they can slow or stop. Refer to the schedule for exact flag stop locations. Refer to page 3 for more details on how to use flag stops.

At Stimpson/Magalia
A Child Migrant
Embrace
8:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Route X, Y & Z
Transit – Oroville Routes
Non-Motorized Transportation

BCAG works with each of the local jurisdictions to coordinate bicycle route improvements for the region and assists in developing grant applications for state and federal grant opportunities.

The following maps are from the City of Chico and Butte County’s Bicycle Plan.

What routes or projects should BCAG or the local jurisdictions be considering for the future?
Non-Motorized Transportation (Bicycle)
Financial Element

The following are BCAG financial sources for projects in the RTP /SCS. Forecasts are developed for each fund source identified below. The RTP/SCS is required to be financially constrained.

**Butte Regional Transit:**
- FTA Section 5307  
- FTA Section 5311  
- FTA Section 5311(f)  
- LCTOP  
- TDA

**Highways, Local Streets and Roads and Active Transportation:**
- Regional Improvement Program (RIP)
- Interregional Improvement Program (IIP)
- State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
- Highway Improvement Program (HIP)
- Highway Bridge Program (HBP)
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) - What is it?

- An element first included in the 2012 RTP with the passage of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) – Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008

- Demonstrates the integration of land use, housing, and transportation to reduce passenger vehicle (cars & light trucks) greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

- Goal to meet GHG emission reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the years 2020 and 2035
SCS – Goals

- **Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – The primary objective of the SCS is to meet GHG reduction targets established by the state, by reducing passenger vehicle travel.

- **Manage Region’s Growth** – Projections show that over the next 22 years, the region’s population will increase by ~38,000 people, an estimated 16,000 new homes will be needed, in addition to 11,000 rebuild homes from the Camp Fire, to accommodate this growth.

- **Provide Opportunities for Affordable Housing** – The SCS must be consistent with the Regional Housing Needs Plan, assuring that each community provides for a mix of housing affordable to all economic segments of the population.

- **Preserve Farmland and Natural Resources** – SCS must consider the region’s natural resources and prime farmlands.
SCS – Components

- **Land Use Allocation** - must identify the general location of different land use types, residential densities, and areas to house the region’s forecasted growth

- **Transportation Network** - financially constrained multimodal network which serves the transportation needs of the region
SCS – Strategies

Land Use
• Increase mixed use development and development in areas with existing infrastructure
• Increase residential/commercial density near transit
• Provide local housing for local workforce to improve the jobs – housing balance

Transportation
• Improve and expand transit
• Improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle facilities and infrastructure
• Improve linkages between modes of travel (auto, transit, bike, and walk)
• Minimize the addition of general-purpose road lanes
• Maintain the existing road network
2012 SCS

• First BCAG RTP to include SCS under SB375
• Land Use Focused – brought together several planning efforts
  • New local jurisdiction general plans
  • Regional habitat conservation plan
  • Regional blueprint efforts
  • Incorporated Regional Housing Needs Plan

2016 SCS

• Integrated the new Butte Long-Range Transit & Non-Motorized Plan
• Overall population and housing growth declined based on state forecasts
• Adjusted preferred “balanced” land use scenario based on new forecasts and development activity
2020 SCS

- Incorporate recommendations from BCAG’s 2018 SCS Progress Report.
  - Revise forecasted jobs, population, and housing
  - Adjust housing mix and jobs-housing ratio to align with recent trends
  - Review transportation investments based on new funding sources and current FTIP programming
  - Continue implementation of Long-Range Transit and Non-Motorized Plan
    - Remain on track with new bike/ped infrastructure
    - Increase frequency, expand and optimize existing service
  - Continue to monitor development within Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) – Urban Permit Areas
- Account for known impacts of Camp Fire and incorporate reasonable assumptions moving forward.
- Increase ability to model transit/bike/ped improvements of plan
2020 RTP/SCS Preliminary Draft
Land Use Scenario

Land Use

• Slower growth rate than past plans (>50% decrease), per CA Department of Finance Forecasts

• Continues development pattern included in past RTP/SCS with adjusted housing-mix and jobs-housing ratios

• Assumes ~75-85% rebuild of homes and businesses lost in Camp Fire, within burn area
Increase long-term ratio from **0.78** (2016 RTP/SCS) to **0.80** (2020 RTP/SCS)
Transportation Scenario

Transportation

- No additional freeway general-purpose lanes from past RTPs
- Implement long-range transit plan from 2016 RTP (currently updating with Post Camp Fire Study)
- Increased bike and pedestrian infrastructure

GHG Reductions

- Meets regional targets (Approx. -15% for year 2020 and -10% for year 2035)
Local Government Coordination

Local governments are directly involved in the development of the 2020 RTP/SCS.

**Planning Directors Working Group**
- Consists of planning professionals from local jurisdictions and the Butte LAFCO
- Provides direction and input regarding the land use allocation component of the RTP/SCS

**Transportation Advisory Committee**
- Established BCAG committee which provides input into the overall RTP
- Provides input into the transportation network component of the RTP/SCS
CEQA Benefits

Development projects which are consistent with the RTP/SCS may be eligible for CEQA streamlining.

Types of projects which may be eligible:

1) **Mixed-Use Residential Projects** (has at least 75% of the building square footage in residential)

2) **Transit Priority Project** (residential projects located near major transit stops which meet density and use requirements described in SB 375.)

3) **Sustainable Communities Projects** (meets transit priority projects + additional)
Public Involvement

Many opportunities are provided for public input into the 2020 RTP/SCS.

- Public Workshops – four rounds of workshops taking place throughout the region (August 2018, November 2019, September 2020, and October/November 2020).
- Public Hearings – conducted at regularly scheduled meetings of the BCAG Board of Directors
- Public Comment and Review Periods – noticed in the local newspapers and BCAG website
- Website and Email Notification List – ask to be placed on the RTP/SCS notification list and receive information regarding activities related to the SCS.

Email RTPComments@bcag.org
RTP/SCS Process Timeline

First Round Public Workshops (August 2018)


Second Round Public Workshops (November 2019)

Prepare Preliminary Transportation Project List and Land Use Scenarios (June 2019 – July 2020)

Third Round Public Workshop (September 2020)

Draft RTP/SCS, Environmental Impact Report, and Air Quality Analysis (September 2020)

Fourth Round Public Workshops (October/November 2020)

Final RTP/SCS to BCAG Board for Adoption (December 2020)
Next Steps

- Preliminary Draft Transportation Project List and Land Use Scenario
  - Public Review and Comment
  - BCAG Board of Director’s

- Draft RTP/SCS and EIR
  - Release for Public Comment in September/October 2020
  - Review

- Final RTP/SCS and EIR
  - Release November 2020
  - Considered for Adoption December 2020
Questions?

This is your opportunity to raise any questions and provide comments regarding the RTP and SCS.

WHEN WILL THE PLAN BE ADOPTED? – The RTP/SCS and EIR will be considered for adoption by the BCAG Board in December 2020. Once adopted, the Board can amend the RTP/SCS as necessary.

How DO I STAY INVOLVED? – Sign up to be included in the distribution of all material pertaining to the RTP/SCS (RTPcomments@bcag.org). As information is posted on BCAG’s website, you will be automatically notified by email or mail. BCAG staff has created a web page for the RTP at: http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTP-SCS/index.html

CONTACT

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THANK YOU