

## **STAFF REPORT – EL DORADO COUNTY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

**To:** El Dorado County Planning Commission

**Agenda of:** August 12, 2010

**From:** Dan Bolster, Senior Transportation Planner

**Item No.:** 13

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OF THE 2010 EL DORADO COUNTY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

**LOCATION:** The plan encompasses the west slope of El Dorado County from approximately the area of Pollock Pines west to the County line in El Dorado Hills.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** Addendum to the 2005 Mitigated Negative Declaration

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve the Draft 2010 El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan and recommend the Board of Supervisors Certify the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopt the 2010 El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The current El Dorado County Bicycle Master Plan was adopted in January 2005. EDCTC prepared the 2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan for El Dorado County with two primary objectives; first, it will provide a blueprint for the development of an “ultimate bicycle transportation system.” Second, it will confirm that the plan continues to be in compliance with Caltrans Streets and Highways Code (sections 890-894.2, *appendix b*), enabling the County to be eligible for State Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds.

For the bicycle to become a viable transportation option in El Dorado County, some improvements are necessary both locally and regionally. There is continued development on the western slope of the County, with a majority of the most recent growth concentrated in El Dorado Hills near the Sacramento County line. The residential boom in El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park has increased the demand for transportation options. In more isolated areas, there is demand for the County to provide bicycle facilities within communities so residents can leave their cars at home for short, local trips.

The Bicycle Transportation Plan is a Policy Document that provides direction to the County for the construction and implementation of projects and programs that encourage bicycling for transportation. Future developments can be conditioned to construct the projects contained in the plan, and certain transportation funding may be accessed to implement Tier 1 and high priority projects.

The Bicycle Transportation Plan has numerous proposed projects and will take several years to implement, however in order to remain eligible for the State’s Bicycle Transportation Account funding, the plan will need to continue to be updated every 3-5 years.

Once completed, the ultimate bikeway system will provide a uniform network of on and off-street bikeways throughout the western slope of El Dorado County, which will support facilities and programs that encourage bicycling.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

**Purpose and Need:** The 2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) was developed to achieve the following objectives:

- The BTP provides a blueprint for the development of an “ultimate bicycle transportation system.”
- The BTP is in compliance with Caltrans Streets and Highways Code (sections 890-894.2, *appendix b*), enabling the County to be eligible for State Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds.

**Project Description:** The Bicycle Transportation Plan represents the efforts of the EDCTC staff, the Bicycle Transportation Plan Advisory Committee, El Dorado County, El Dorado Hills Community Services District and numerous dedicated citizens in the area. The plan was developed with the overall goal of *providing a safe, efficient and convenient network of bicycle facilities that establish alternative transportation as a viable option in El Dorado County and neighboring regions*. The plan addresses the following specific issues pertaining to non-motorized transportation:

1. Bicycle Commuting - Develop a bicycle transportation system that enhances the safety and convenience of bicycling to neighboring jurisdictions, employment centers, residential neighborhoods, campgrounds, parks, education, commercial and other activity centers in El Dorado County.
2. Safety and Education - Maximize bicycle safety.
3. Implementation and Maintenance – Identify detailed and prioritized improvements in the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan.
4. Land Use Development - Integrate bicycle and pedestrian planning with other regional and community planning, including land use and transportation.
5. Multi-Modal Integration - Maximize multi-modal connections to the bicycle transportation system.
6. Funding - Obtain all possible funding for plan implementation.
7. Connectivity - Develop a well-connected bikeway system.
8. The El Dorado Trail – In usable segments, develop Class I Bike Paths on the El Dorado Trail.

The proposed system of Class I, II, and III bikeways is slightly over 200 miles in length, and includes a strategy for development of Class I Bike Path along the entire Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC), also known as “The El Dorado Trail.” The development of the proposed system will provide better access to the County’s transit network and activity centers as well as encourage increased use of the bicycle as a transportation mode. An increase in bicycle transportation benefits the entire region in terms of improving air quality, reducing congestion and improving the health and overall quality of life for the residents of El Dorado County.

**General Plan:** The 2004 General Plan documents identify a need to develop and implement a plan that addresses non-motorized transportation. The 2004 General Plan Transportation Circulation Element includes the following goal, “To provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible non-motorized system that facilitates the use of the viable alternative transportation modes.”

The Goals and Policies of the 2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) address the Goals and Policies of the General Plan in a number of ways, as follows:

- ❑ The BTP proposes a bikeway network that connects major activity centers (employment, educational, civic, etc.)
- ❑ The BTP encourages a bikeway network that interfaces with other modes of transportation
- ❑ The BTP provides for support facilities that encourage the use of the bicycle as a transportation mode
- ❑ The BTP includes proposals to utilize abandoned public rights-of-way
- ❑ The BTP includes proposals for both on- and off-street bikeway facilities

**AGENCY COMMENTS:** In addition to ongoing input from the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the County Bicycle Transportation Plan was open to the public during the month of July. During that time several comments were received from the public, as well as public agencies, and those comments are included and responded to in the appendix of the document.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** An Addendum to the 2005 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will be completed and presented to the Board of Supervisors for Certification when the Bicycle Transportation Plan is presented for adoption.