

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**15 DAY COMMENT PERIOD & PUBLIC HEARING**

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. As the MPO, BCAG is required to prepare a Federal Transportation Improvement program (FTIP) every two years and a Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) every four years. The purpose of the FTIP is to identify all transportation-related projects that require federal funding or other approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTIP identifies all non-federal, regionally significant projects for information and air quality emissions modeling purposes. The FTIP indicates the area's short-term plan for use of federal dollars and other resources for the maintenance, operation, and improvement of the transportation system and the achievement of federal air quality standards over the next four federal fiscal years. The purpose of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) is to establish regional goals, identify present and future needs, deficiencies, and constraints, analyze potential solutions, estimate available funding, and propose investments over a 20-year minimum horizon. The long range RTP/SCS and short-range FTIP are required to be consistent with each other. These amendments ensure their consistency. Notice is hereby given that:

The 2023 FTIP Amendment #03 and 2020 RTP/SCS Amendment #01 have been prepared and are available for public review. The purpose of these amendment is to ensure the 2023 FTIP thru Amendment #03 is consistent with the long-range 2020 RTP/SCS including the following changes described below:

**NEW NON-EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:**

1. **Town of Paradise - Roe Rd Extension Project.** This amendment programs \$60.4 million of which \$1.8 million is Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds and \$58.6 million is from Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds (CDBG-DR). The scope of the project is to complete Phase 1 to close gaps to four (4) north-south roadways which serve disconnected residential areas with new roadway links serving long dead-end streets including South Libby, Edgewood and Sawmill Roads to Pentz. Project includes environmental for the future planned 5-mile section between Pentz Road and Skyway. The project is capacity increasing, and therefore non-exempt and requires a new air quality emissions analysis and conformity determination. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.

**NEW EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:**

1. **Butte County – Cohasset Road Widening and Fire Safety Project.** This amendment programs \$1.4 million in HIP funds to prepare a feasibility study and preliminary engineering studies. The feasibility study will investigate alternatives for improving traffic flow during evacuation events such as pull-outs, shoulder widening, or any other efficient use of the existing roadway cross-section to improve the emergency evacuation economy, including intelligent transportation solutions, sign messaging and a fire warning system. Upon completion of this phase, the Butte County anticipates producing a chosen alternative and engineer's estimate that may be used to seek future state and federal funding. The project does not add thru lanes or capacity. The project is exempt from a regional emissions analysis per the Environmental Protection Agency's

Transportation Conformity Rule Section 93.126 Exempt Projects, Table 2 “Safety” indicating that projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature are exempt. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.

**TEHCNICAL CORRECTION TO EXISTING EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:**

1. **Town of Paradise - Go Paradise / Skyway Link Project.** This amendment is a technical correction to change the description of providing Class II bike lanes to providing a Class I Bike/Ped Path as approved by the California Transportation Commission. There is no change in funding or schedule. The project limits are on the Skyway between Bille Rd and Wagstaff Road. This is an existing project programmed in the FTIP. The project does not add thru lanes or capacity. The project is exempt from a regional emissions analysis per the Environmental Protection Agency’s Transportation Conformity Rule Section 93.126 Exempt Projects, Table 2 “Air Quality” indicating that bicycle and pedestrian facilities are exempt.

Since the 2023 FTIP Amendment #03 includes a new non-exempt project, the amendment includes a new conformity determination and regional emission analysis for the 2020 RTP and 2023 FTIP. A public hearing has been scheduled to solicit final comments from the public.

Details of these amendments can be found at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/FTIP/index.html> for the FTIP under Amendment #3 and at the RTP/SCS website at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTP--SCS/index.html> for Amendment #1.

**These amendments are scheduled to be approved by the BCAG Board of Directors on July 27, 2023, upon conclusion of the public hearing.** Information is also available for review at the Butte County Association of Governments office located at 326 Huss Drive, Suite 150, Chico CA 95928. Questions can be directed to Ivan Garcia, Programming Director at BCAG at 530-809-4616 or by e-mail at [igarcia@bcag.org](mailto:igarcia@bcag.org).