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Subject: BCAG ICR Review – Confirmation of Proposed Action for 2023 FTIP Amendment #5 and 2020 RTP Amendment #2
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:07:22 AM
Attachments: [AQ Exempt Tablet 2020RTP 2023FTIP 20240311.pdf](#)
[Capacity Project List 20230607b.pdf](#)
[Public Notice Amendment 5 FTIP 2 RTP.pdf](#)

E – MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: Interagency Consultation Review (ICR) Group

FROM: Brian Lasagna, BCAG Regional Analyst

SUBJECT: ICR Review – Confirmation of Proposed Action for 2023 FTIP Amendment #5 and 2020 RTP Amendment #2

The purpose of this memo is to provide the ICR with the opportunity to comment regarding BCAG's proposed action for a formal amendment to the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The ICR is also being asked to concur with BCAG's proposal regarding the status of four (4) new projects.

The purpose of the amendment is to add four (4) new exempt projects and amend two (2) existing projects. Details regarding the amendment and projects are included below:

NEW EXEMPT FTIP PROJECTS:

- 1. City of Chico – Downtown Chico Complete Streets Project.** This amendment programs \$2.051 million in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds. In the City of Chico, on Main Street and Broadway Street, from the Esplanade to 11th Street, and adjacent streets. Construct various bicycle and pedestrian improvements to improve safety and connectivity from Bidwell Park, schools, and other surrounding destinations to the downtown area. 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. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.
- 2. Town of Paradise – Roe Rd Extension Preliminary Engineering for Phase 2 Project.** This amendment programs the preliminary engineering component only (PE) with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds and Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) funds. The engineering studies are for a new 3 lane road with bicycle and pedestrian facilities from South Libby Rd to State Route 191/ Clark Rd. to address emergency evacuation needs highlighted by the 2018 Paradise Camp Fire. 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 "Other" indicating that Engineering to assess social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed action or alternatives to that action 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.

3. **City of Oroville – Washington Ave. Complete Streets Project.** This amendment programs \$2 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funds. The scope of the project is to prepare the Preliminary Engineering (PE) on Washington Avenue from Oroville Dam Boulevard East to the railroad bridge just past Orange Avenue. The project will provide alternative transportation and mode shift choices to the Oroville community by rehabilitating the roadway with enhanced bike/pedestrian features. The project would provide a critical missing north/south link in the infrastructure network serving the community and the nearby high school. 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. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.
4. **City of Oroville – Table Mountain Blvd. Complete Streets Project.** This amendment programs \$0.5 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funds. The scope of the project is to prepare the Preliminary Engineering (PE) on Table Mountain Boulevard from the Montgomery Street Roundabout to the Thermalito Power Canal near County Center Drive. This project continues the City's effort to provide a major north/south bicycle and pedestrian network to provide safe alternative transportation to the community. 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. In addition, this is a new project not currently in the 2020 RTP, therefore the 2020 RTP is being amended to include the project.

EXISTING EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:

1. **City of Biggs – 2nd Street bike and Pedestrian Project.** This amendment programs \$800,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) to address a funding shortfall to complete the construction component for an existing project. The project is located on 2nd Street from W. Rio Bonito Road to H Street. The scope of the project is to construct new pedestrian and bicycle facilities to provide safe access to the existing routes in the city with new curbs and gutters, ADA compliant accessible access ramps and drainage improvements. The project provides improved access to bike trails, the high school both for school and outdoor recreation and access to the Rio Bonito Park, which the city is in the process of upgrading. 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.
2. **Various Agencies – Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhancement Program Grouped Listing Project.** This amendment programs \$1.188 million in FTA Section 5310 funds as approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) at the January 2024 Commission meetings. This amendment programs the funding for: BCAG/ Butte Regional Transit for 5 Full Size Vans; Help Central Inc. for a Mobility Management Project; and the Work Training Center for the Handicap for 3 large buses. 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 "Mass Transit" indicating that the purchase of transit vehicles, support vehicles and operating equipment are exempt.

Since the 2023 FTIP Amendment #05 and 2020 RTP/SCS Amendment #02 does not include any new non-exempt projects, per 40 CFR 93.126, the amendment is exempt from the requirement that a new conformity determination and regional emission analysis be performed.

For the purpose of the proposed amendment, BCAG states for the record:

1. Exempt Projects: No new conformity determination or regional emissions analysis is necessary for this proposed formal amendment. The projects being added, because of the amendment, are exempt from conformity or regional emissions analysis per EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule Section 93.126 Table 2 as referenced above.
2. TCM Implementation: There are no Transportation Control Measures in the approved Carbon Monoxide (CO) SIP and there is no approved Ozone or PM2.5 SIP applicable to Butte County. Because there are no TCMs in an approved SIP for Butte County, Butte County currently has no TCMs in place and therefore timely TCM implementation requirements do not apply.
3. Financial Constraint: The 2020 RTP and 2023 FTIP has been financially constrained in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 93.108 and consistent with the U.S. DOT metropolitan planning regulations (23 CFR Part 450).
4. Interagency and Public Consultation: The following portion applies after all consultation is complete - *For the 2023 FTIP Amendment #05, BCAG initially consulted on this amendment with its Interagency Consultation Review (ICR) group on March 12, 2024. BCAG staff provided a 15-day public review and comment period in compliance with BCAG's adopted Public Participation Plan (PPP). On March 12, 2024, legal notices were posted on the BCAG website. The proposed amendment has been circulated among staff from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Transit Agency (FTA), and Caltrans. Appendices contain copies of public notices and responses to public comments.*

BCAG staff is requesting that ICR members respond with any comments regarding the proposed amendment prior to Wednesday, March 27, 2024. In addition, BCAG is requesting concurrence of the proposed action by email response from the following agencies: FHWA/FTA, EPA, and Caltrans.

If members prefer a separate conference call to discuss, please let me know and I will begin to schedule. If no significant requests or comments are received by the ICR, BCAG will then move forward with completing public outreach and having the BCAG Board of Director's approval.

Included for the ICRs information is the latest project exemption table, regionally significant project listing, and public notice to the amendment.

If you have any questions, please give me a call, or send me an email.

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