

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 #05 and 2020 RTP/SCS Amendment #02 have been prepared and are available for public review. The purpose of these amendment is to ensure the 2023 FTIP thru Amendment #05 is consistent with the long-range 2020 RTP/SCS including the following changes described below:

NEW EXEMPT FTIP PROJECT:

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 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:

5. **City of Biggs – 2nd Street bike and Pedestrian Project.** This amendment program \$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 curb 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.
6. **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.

- 7. SR 99 Corridor Bikeway Phase 5 – 20th Street Crossing Project.** This amendment deletes the project from the FTIP. This project has been allocated/obligated for funding and is no longer required to be included in the FTIP. This project was advanced by the City of Chico in 2023. 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 #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. Details of these amendments can be found at: <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/FTIP/index.html> for the FTIP under Amendment #5 and for the 2020 RTP/SCS at: <https://www.bcag.org/Projects/RTP--SCS/2020-RTPSCS/index.html> under Amendment #2.

This amendment #05 for the FTIP does not reflect a change in the design concept and scope of the projects for the conformity analysis years as assumed for the regional emissions analysis of the currently conforming RTP and TIP. This amendment meets all applicable transportation planning requirements per 23 CFR Part 450 (financial constraint, public involvement and consistency with the RTP). BCAG does not have any Transportation Control Measures in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and therefore the project does not interfere with any TCMs. A public hearing has been scheduled to solicit final comments from the public.

These amendments are scheduled to be approved by the BCAG Board of Directors on March 28, 2024, 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.