

## California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING  
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July 6, 2023

Shannon Thaggard  
Transportation Planner  
Tuolumne County  
Transportation Council  
2 S. Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

### Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Plan Update

**SCH 2023060211**

Dear Ms. Thaggard,

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Tuolumne County Notice of Preparation (NOP) for your Regional Transportation Update (RTP) update.

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) is the designated regional transportation planning agency for Tuolumne County and is required by federal and state law to prepare and/or update a long range (20+ year) transportation planning document known as the RTP. The RTP is an action oriented document used to achieve a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. TCTC proposes to develop a comprehensive update to the 2016 RTP and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was prepared in support of it.

### **Caltrans has the following comments:**

#### **General Comments**

- We look forward to working with TCTC to advance the safety and accessibility of active transportation on and adjacent to the State Highway System in Tuolumne County through the promotion of widened paved shoulders, as well as support for projects that build separated/protected bicycle and shared use pathways.
- We support efforts to upgrade existing crosswalks to high visibility crosswalks in built environments, as well as the installation of other Complete Streets features, such as sidewalk gap-fill, pedestrian refuge islands, and leading pedestrian intervals (LPIs) when possible.
- Following guidance in Caltrans Director's Policy 37, we look forward to utilizing available opportunities to address multimodal transportation gaps and barriers in its projects.

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

- Following guidance from California Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAP-TI), we look forward to utilizing opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and promote mode shift where possible, so that residents in Tuolumne County's built environments do not have to depend as much on single occupancy vehicles for transportation as they have in the past.
- Please consider under the "Potential Environmental Impact" section, to include a lighting study. Please also keep in mind the Dark Skies Initiative and fugitive light emissions.
- Any projects that are within the state Right of Way (ROW) and in the RTP Plan should be submitted for review during the development stages.
- The proposed project development may affect the state highways. For any proposed development, the developer needs to ensure that the existing State drainage facilities will not be significantly impacted by the project. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage flowed into the State Right-of-Way, it may continue to do so with the conditions that peak flows may not be increased from the pre-construction quantity and the site runoff be treated to meet present storm water quality standards. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage did not flow into the State Right-of-Way, then it will not be allowed to flow into the State Right-of-Way at this time.
  - We, for any projects, would like to review drainage plans to understand flow patterns. Additional review will be done once drainage plans are submitted.
  - If any construction related activities will encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, including the EIR, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW, at the project site(s).
  - Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and be provided copies of the required permits prior to the start of any construction in Caltrans ROW.
- It is important to note that any advertising structure visible to the National Highway System (NHS) is subject to the provisions of the California Outdoor Advertising Act outlined in Business and Professions Code Section 5200 et seq. Any advertising structure that displays off-premises commercial copy visible from the NHS will require a permit from the Office of Outdoor Advertising (ODA).

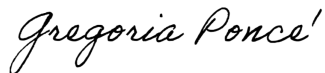
Any advertising structure that only advertises goods and services available on-premises will not require a permit from ODA, provided it adheres to the provisions of Business and Professions Code Section 5272 and 5274 and California Code of Regulations 2243 and 2246. Each of the proposed advertising structures should refrain from operating in any of the conditions outlined in Business and Professions Code Section 5403. For questions related to the ODA permit application process please visit our website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/oda/>

- Please ensure coordination with Caltrans' Broadband Middle Mile efforts and consider where feasible, if instead of construction, review for lease opportunities to reduce environmental impacts.

Caltrans suggest Tuolumne County continue to coordinate and consult with Caltrans to identify and address potential cumulative transportation impacts that may occur from this project and other developments arising from this Plan. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities.

Please contact David Karnes at (209) 986-9830 (david.karnes@dot.ca.gov), or me at (209) 483-7234 (Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Gregoria Ponce'  
Chief, Office of Rural Planning

c: Dennis Agar, District 10, Director  
Marlon Regisford, District 10, Deputy District Director, Planning

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bc: Elizabeth Hummel, Senior Environmental Scientist. Robyn Fong, Landscape Architect.  
Sonia Arellano, Traffic Operations. Brandon Yu, Hydraulic

