

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING
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August 21, 2023

Ms. Shannon Hansen
Public Works Director
Mariposa County Local
Transportation Commission (MCLTC)
4639 Ben Hur
Mariposa, CA 95338

SCH 2023070414
Regional Transportation Plan

Dear Ms. Hansen,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Mariposa County Local Transportation Commission (MCLTC) Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2024 Update.

Caltrans would like to commend MCLTC for providing an updated RTP that is clear, well supported with a documented public participation process, rich with graphics, illustrations and a detailed discussion of the region.

We would like to offer the comments below to assist in the development of the Plan:

GENERAL COMMENTS

- We appreciate MCLTC for promoting safety for all highway users in the RTP's Goal #1 to develop an adequate, safe and efficient regional roadway system for vehicles while accommodating walking and bicycling and maintaining Mariposa County's rural character.
- We commend MCLTC for the RTP format used for the style, ease to follow and understand the focus, goals and vision for Mariposa County.
- The RTP discusses the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for maintaining and preserving the existing local streets and road system while supporting multi-modes of travel, including pedestrian, bicycle, public transit, automobile and unmet needs for transportation systems.
- Overall, this RTP is comprehensive, well-written and supports transportation safety.
- Plan Update describes and addresses the transportation issues in the Mariposa County region; Identifies and quantifies short and long-range regional needs while promoting consistency of action among required state, regional and local agencies.

- MCLTC has acknowledged that local streets and roads are critical to provide an interconnected, multi-modal transportation system where every trip begins and
- We recommend creating a section dedicated to summarizing equity related efforts. For example, the RTP acknowledges that statewide issues include lack of equitable investments but it does not go into further detail. Another example is in the first goal under Policy 1.4.4. Though multiple goals within the document have policies that would help address equity related concerns such as Policy 2.2.2 “Provide demand responsive transit services for disabled and senior citizen residents not served by fixed-route service.” The document can go further to discuss equity concerns such as demonstrated within policy 2.2.2.
- We support coordination with Mariposa County with efforts to enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the State Highway System (SHS). To ensure separation and protection for bicyclists and pedestrians from motor vehicle traffic on state highways in built environments, we endorse the installation of connected sidewalks, as well as buffered Class II, Class IV, and Class I bicycle facilities where feasible.
- We endorse the widening of paved shoulders on rural highways where feasible. Doing this will assist in emergency and natural disaster evacuation efforts, reduce vehicle run-off-the-road risk on segments that have little to no paved shoulders, and reduce the level of traffic stress (LTS) by providing more space and separation for bicyclists using the state highway system.
- There has been a broad Department concern with the impacts to the SHS from ongoing climate change and with emergency evacuation routes since the Camp Fire in Butte County. We strongly support policy and planning elements to address future flooding and fire events on our highways, as well as updating as-needed emergency evacuation planning and routes which may include the SHS. One area of concern is the number and distribution of heliports as an alternative evacuation mode.
- We support the County reaching out to the Native American Heritage Commission to obtain a list of tribal contacts with knowledge of cultural resources in Mariposa County. Below is a list of tribes that were contacted for consultation regarding the RTP:
 - Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
 - Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
 - North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians
 - Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
 - Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
 - Tule River Indian Tribe
 - Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
 - Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band

INTRODUCTION

- Page 15-16 - We suggest including American Community Survey (ACS) data to create CA 2011 chart and graph so viewers can see how commute to work mode split changed within the State compared to Mariposa within the 10-year time cycle (Table 12 and Figure 7).
- Page 16, Table 15 – We suggest similar inclusion of CA 2017 data for Table 15.

POLICY ELEMENT

- Page 21, State Plans - We recommend the inclusion of the following sentence to the section, 'The California Transportation Plan (CTP) 2050 released in February 2021. : **"The CTP 2050 is the State's statutorily fiscally unconstrained long-range transportation roadmap for positive change"**. The long-range plan includes goals, policies, strategies, and performance measures that provide a common framework for guiding transportation decisions and investments by all levels of government and the private sector.'
- Page 21 - We recommend including the statement "The CTP identifies 14 recommendations which address the goals identified in the CTP 2050 vision".
- Page 22 - We also recommend formatting the list of the CTP 8 goals into bullets like that of the 14 recommendations to keep a consistent easy to read format.

ACTION ELEMENT

- We support the RTP's plan to develop an active transportation plan to support improvements for walking, bicycling, and electric vehicle usage.
- We support the effective strategies listed in this section for Mariposa County regarding land use, trip reduction, parking, neighborhood design, transit and clean vehicles and fuels.
- We support the RTP policies and programs improving public access to transit systems and alternative modes of transit, including bicycle use. We also support how the various roadway improvements would improve the local and regional roadway network for better emergency service delivery and eliminating existing design and safety hazards.
- Page 62, Figure 10 - Please consider updating the graphic In the Plan from the State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) to the 2011 – 2020 Finalized Data for Mariposa County. This information is online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/shsp>
- Page 62, second paragraph - Please change the title of the SHSP from the State Highway Safety Plan to the following: California Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- We support the Transportation Safety and Security Action Plan's short and long-term actions and partnerships with Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, and county agencies for improving traffic safety.

August 21, 2023
Ms. Shannon Hansen
Page 4

If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss these comments, please contact Lloyd Clark at (209) 986-9802 (Email: Lloyd.Clark@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 948-7325 (Email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregoria Ponce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

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

August 21, 2023
Ms. Shannon Hansen
Page 5

bc: Elizabeth Hummel, Environmental
Charles Carroll, Active Transportation
Cindy Utter, Headquarters (HQ) Safety Programs
Paul Bauldry, District 10, District Native American Liaison
Homer Zarzuela, Project Initiation and Forecasting
San Saeteurn, Long Range Planning