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MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director  
AARON HOYT, Deputy Executive Director


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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DATE: May 20, 2026

### **NEVADA COMMUNITY FORUM - STATE ROUTE 49 IMPROVEMENTS**

On May 1, 2026, NCTC's Executive Director, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Sam Vandell, and Caltrans District 3 Construction Engineer Jeff Johnson participated on a panel as part of the Nevada County Community Forum. This moderated town hall style meeting was intended to provide information to the community on upcoming transportation improvements including the SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project, State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project, and SR 49 Grass Valley Evacuation Route project. The event was co-hosted by the Nevada County Community Forum and Sierra College Foundation and was held at the Sierra College Nevada County Campus Auditorium.

### **ZION STREET/SACRAMENTO STREET CORRIDOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MOBILITY/SCHOOL ACCESS STUDY**

On April 2, 2026, NCTC staff in coordination with the City of Nevada City and the consultant team from GHD, Inc. held the final public workshop for the Zion-Sacramento Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan at the Miners Foundry. This provided the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft improvement recommendations that were developed based on the community input from the first two workshops and physical constraints in the corridor. The main focus of this project is to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility, and access to local schools including connections to Deer Creek Elementary School and Seven Hills Middle School, in the Zion Street/Sacramento Street corridor from the intersection of Ridge Road/Nevada City Highway/Zion Street to the Sacramento Street/S. Pine Street intersection.

On May 13, 2026, NCTC and the consultant team GHD, Inc. attended a meeting of the Nevada City Council to present an overview of the public input received at the April 2, 2026 workshop and how concerns about the removal of parking in certain segments of the project limits could be addressed with design modifications.

## **STATE ROUTE 49 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS (NEVADA CITY)**

The SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project is intended to help reduce speeds through the corridor and allow active transportation users to travel along and across this section of the SR 49 corridor more safely and comfortably, while accessing important destinations along the segment of SR 49 between the intersection of SR 20/49/Uren Street and the County Juvenile Hall driveway/SR 49.

On April 8, 2026, NCTC staff attended the Nevada City Council meeting to provide an update on the project and how previously communicated community and Council concerns had been incorporated into the project. In January the Caltrans project team provided updated construction cost estimates, indicating the construction phase of the project was approximately \$5 million above the grant funding approved for the project. NCTC staff coordinated with the California Transportation Commission to determine if scope changes can be approved to address public and council comments and bring the project back within the grant funding approved for the project.

Working in coordination with Caltrans and Nevada City staff, the project scope was modified to remove the roundabout at the intersection of SR 49/Maidu Avenue/Orchard Street and instead implement a pedestrian crosswalk with a user activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon connecting Orchard Street to the multiuse trail on the north side of SR 49. Another minor scope change was made at the intersection of Coyote Street and SR 49 to eliminate the proposed left turn pockets, while still providing a user activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon connecting lower Coyote Street to the multiuse trail on the north side of SR 49 and the relocated bus stop at the corner of SR 49/Coyote Street. This scope modification addressed Council concerns about spending public funding on potential improvements that might be removed as part of a future mitigation if the Nevada County Courthouse relocates to the current forest service location off Coyote Street. The project scope modifications addressed the main community and Council concerns and brought the construction costs back within the approved grant funding.