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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DATE: January 21, 2026

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

On December 7, 2022, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded NCTC in coordination with Nevada City, \$13.8 million of State Active Transportation funding for the construction of the *State Route 49 Multi-modal Corridor Improvement Project*. The improvements are 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 former Nevada County Juvenile Hall driveway/SR 49. Caltrans District 3 has been designated as the implementing agency for the project and is working in coordination with NCTC and Nevada City. The project is currently in the Project Approval/Environmental Documentation phase. Funding for the Right-of-Way and Design phases are programmed in FY 2025/26 and construction funding in FY 2026/27.

On December 11, 2025, NCTC staff presented an overview of the improvements planned to be constructed, project schedule, and a summary of the comments received from the October 2, 2025, public Open House. At the Nevada City Council presentation, residents from Orchard Street indicated that they were concerned that the proposed roundabout at SR 49/Maidu Avenue/Orchard Street would result in increased traffic on their street from the improved access to the Eric Rood Government Center. Several of the neighbors on Orchard Street have requested NCTC and Caltrans consider not including entrance to the roundabout from Orchard Street and instead provide a right turn bypass with only eastbound access to SR 49, or to eliminate the roundabout and install crosswalks instead. Some residents from lower Coyote Street requested closing public access from SR 49. Other public comments included consideration for installing downward directed lighting to limit light pollution and installing landscaping appropriate for the scenic nature of the corridor.

The Council members also expressed concerns related to potential traffic increases on Orchard Street that may result from installation of a roundabout at the intersection of SR 49/Maidu Avenue. NCTC staff have been working with the Caltrans project team and Nevada City staff to determine how the

comments received can be addressed. Any modifications to the project concept approved in the grant application will need to be approved by the California Transportation Commission.

Additionally, in January the Caltrans project team provided updated construction cost estimates, and the construction phase of the project is approximately \$3 million above the grant funding approved for the project. NCTC staff will be engaging with 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.