

LOU CECI – Nevada City City Council  
SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
TOM IVY – Grass Valley City Council, Chair  
JAY STRAUSS – Member-At-Large  
DUANE STRAWSER – Member-At-Large  
ROBB TUCKER – Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair  
JAN ZABRISKIE – Town of Truckee



MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director  
AARON HOYT, Deputy Executive Director


Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

File: 950.6

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DATE: September 17, 2025

### **SCHEDULED PUBLIC OUTREACH: ZION STREET / SACRAMENTO STREET CORRIDOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MOBILITY / SCHOOL ACCESS IMPROVEMENT STUDY**

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) in coordination with the City of Nevada City has contracted with the consulting firm GHD Inc. to conduct a planning study and facilitate public outreach necessary to analyze potential improvements and develop recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility, safety, and access to schools 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.

The first in a series of public workshops was held on March 25, 2025, in the Forest Charter School – Multipurpose Room to kick-off the planning study and gather initial input on existing corridor conditions and concerns, as well as types of improvements that could be considered. The consultant team in consideration of the initial public input received along with right-of-way constraints has developed potential improvement concepts to be reviewed by the public. The potential improvement concepts will be presented at the Nevada City Council meeting to be held on **October 22, 2025** at 6:30 PM, located at Nevada City Hall, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959, and also presented at a Public Workshop at the Miner's Foundry to be held on **October 23, 2025** from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

### **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE: STATE ROUTE 49 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS (NEVADA CITY)**

On December 7, 2022, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded NCTC \$13.8 million of state Active Transportation funding for the *State Route 49 Multi-modal Corridor Improvement Project*. Caltrans District 3 has been designated as the lead agency for the project and is working in coordination with NCTC, Nevada City, and Nevada County. The project is currently in the Project Approval/ Environmental Documentation phase. A Public Open House is scheduled to be held **October 2, 2025**, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at the Eric Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, First Floor, Nevada City, CA 95959 to present an overview of the proposed improvements and project schedule.

The *State Route 49 Multi-modal Corridor Improvements (Nevada City)* focuses on improving key intersections, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and improved crossings along the segment of SR 49 between the intersection of SR 20/49/Uren Street and County Juvenile Hall driveway/SR 49. The improvements will help to reduce speeds in 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 near the project area.

### **CALTRANS DISTRICT 3 DEVELOPING CORRIDOR PLAN FOR STATE ROUTE 20**

Caltrans is underway with a planning effort to develop an updated long-range plan for the 123-mile segment of the SR 20 corridor through Nevada County, Yuba County, Sutter County, and Colusa County. The plan will explore ways to reduce congestion, assess roadway and intersection improvements, evaluate needs associated with future growth and climate stressors, safety improvements, and multimodal improvements (bike, pedestrian, and transit). Caltrans invites the public that drive the corridor to participate in an online survey that can be found at: <https://engage.dot.ca.gov/p03051>.

### **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PHASE II GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCED**

Through NCTC's continued coordination with the UCLA Engineering and Research Team, NCTC's Executive Director was contacted in May of 2025 by the team seeking assistance with coordinating the support for a NASA IGNITE SBIR Phase II research grant funding opportunity to partner with NCTC and the local jurisdictions in Nevada County to help further the research of the OPAL AI wildfire infrastructure mitigation decision-support tool.

In July 2025, NASA announced the research project had been awarded funding to continue the research and development. NCTC and the local jurisdictions within Nevada County will now have the opportunity to participate in a 3-year pilot to serve as a test bed region that would help to test the software platform and provide feedback and input on ways to enhance features.

The OPAL AI decision-support tool helps local agencies identify wildfire risk probability, identification of at-risk assets, and assist with prioritization of investments in the transportation road network to help improve wildfire preparedness. The tool currently includes the following capabilities:

- Dynamic Fire Risk Assessment: The ability to provide daily updated fire potential indices based on real-time weather, topography, and vegetation data would significantly enhance our understanding of changing risk levels compared to the static maps currently available.
- Infrastructure Vulnerability Analysis: The identification of at-risk infrastructure through comprehensive mapping would help us prioritize our limited mitigation resources more effectively.
- Scenario Planning: The ability to model specific fire ignition scenarios under typical wind conditions would support our Office of Emergency Services in preparing for the situations that concern them.
- Decision Support for Infrastructure Investments: The planning component could help model potential infrastructure improvements, potentially integrating with our existing systems.