

Joint Chambers Commission of El Dorado County

To: California Transportation Commission
From: El Dorado County Joint Chambers of Commerce
Re: Support for the El Dorado County US 50 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Project



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Dear Commissioners,

The El Dorado County Joint Chambers of Commerce endorses the request of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) and Caltrans for \$20 million in Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funding to construct the El Dorado US 50 HOV lane project.

The Joint Chambers represents thousands businesses belonging to the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, the Cameron Park/ Shingle Springs Chamber of Commerce and the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce

The requested CMIA funding will assist El Dorado County with improving mobility along the 50 Corridor, both in El Dorado County and Sacramento County,

A key benefit of the project will be the enhancement of the county's commuter bus service which carries El Dorado County residents to work centers in Sacramento. The expansion of the HOV lanes from El Dorado Hills Boulevard to west of Bass Lake Road will potentially save transit users an additional 20 minutes off their morning and evening commute, compared to commuters using the mixed flow lanes.

The proposed project will construct eastbound and westbound HOV lanes in El Dorado County from approximately El Dorado Hills Boulevard to west of Bass Lake Road, which will extend the current HOV lane system and provide 15 continuous miles of eastbound and westbound HOV lanes between Sunrise Boulevard in Sacramento County and Bass Lake Road in El Dorado County. This project is considered the first major phase of the US 50 HOV lane network in El Dorado County, which is ultimately planned to extend east of the Shingle Springs area for a total of 23 miles of continuous HOV lanes.

Scheduled to begin construction in 2008, this project provides regional benefits, as it is estimated to eliminate over 1.2 million annual vehicle hours of delay and alleviate congestion pressure from the increasing travel demands associated with the surging wave of economic and residential growth in this corridor, including the cities of Folsom and Rancho Cordova.

This project is included in the EDCTC Regional Transportation Plan and the Sacramento Area Council of Government's (SACOG) Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and is consistent with SACOG's Blueprint Planning Principles, which include the need for enhanced mobility options such as transit, vanpooling and carpooling.

Laurel Brent-Bumb, CEO
On behalf of;
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
Shingle Springs/Cameron Park Chamber - El Dorado Hills Chamber

cc: Katherine Mathews, El Dorado Transportation Commission