



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION OUTREACH

A Newsletter by: Lake County/City Area Planning Council

Issue IX

Summer 2009

Stimulus Funds Help Pave Local Roads

Even before the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed on February 17th the Lake APC, Lake Transit, and local agencies were working to identify potential projects eligible for the "economic stimulus" funding, and to take steps to meet expected deadlines and requirements. The primary goal of the ARRA is creating jobs, making "project readiness" one of the top criteria for selecting specific projects. Regional projects, Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score, traffic volumes and other factors were also considered. The importance of "project readiness" is underscored by the ARRA requirement that the first portion of funding must be "obligated" (ready to send out to bid) by May 29, 2009. For the Lake APC and local agencies, that means projects that can be started this construction season.

On March 24th the Lake APC board members approved a prioritized list of road projects. Based on the available ARRA funding amount of \$2,425,960, the following pavement overlay projects scheduled for this year include:

County - Soda Bay Road from the end point of State Route 281 to Riviera West Drive (approximately two miles).

City of Lakeport - Forbes Street from Martin Street to Clear Lake Avenue.

City of Clearlake - Burns Valley Road from Lakeshore Drive to Old Highway 53, and Austin Road from Rumsey Road to 2,400 feet west.

If bids are low on the two Clearlake projects, the City of Clearlake is prepared to use those funds and add local funding for additional for pavement projects on por-

tions of Pomo Road and Arrowhead Road.

The Lake Transit Authority was able to apply for funding under several ARRA categories. Lake Transit will use these funds to buy three 16-passenger Paratransit buses and fund much needed preventative maintenance. Lake Transit has also applied for ARRA funding to buy four new buses, and radios and GPS equipment for the buses. Solar powered, lighted bus stops shelters will also be purchased and installed at stops including Ray's Foods (Clearlake), Middletown, and Lakeport. Both the Lake APC and Lake Transit have identified "contingency" projects in preparation for any future funds that may become available through the ARRA process. Drivers should expect traffic controls, detours and partial road closures during the paving projects.

APC Seeks Input on Regional Transportation Plan

The ability to move goods, as well as get to work, school, medical appointments and recreational activities, is dependent on an effective transportation system. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the long-range planning document for Lake County's transportation system through the year 2030.

The RTP provides a clear vision of the regional transportation goals, policies, objectives and strategies for an effective transportation system for Lake County. Updated every five years, the plan is required by State legislation. The plan is multi-modal and guides decisions about all types of transportation, including autos, trucks, bicycles, pedestrian (walking), aviation, buses (public transportation), and the related facilities needed for an effective transpor-

tation system.

Public input is a key component of the update of the Regional Transportation Plan which is currently underway. A survey designed to obtain your input is now available at www.lakeapc.org. Go to the link on the top of the Lake APC home page to provide your input on issues and priorities you believe are important for an effective transportation system for Lake County. Through the survey, you can indicate how you would spend available transportation dollars on a variety of transportation projects. Other opportunities to provide input, including public workshops, will take place later this year and the details will be posted at the www.lakeapc.org web site and made available through other media resources.



Inside this issue:

Commuter Survey	2
Who Has the Worst Roads in the State?	3
Call Box Corner	3
Local Bus Driver Receives Award	4



A Blueprint for Our Future

During March 2009, as a kickoff to the Lake County 2030 process, 132 Lake County residents gathered in a series of five identical evening and Saturday workshops to discuss in small groups what they value most about where they live, what they'd like to see improved, their visions for how the County should look in 2030, and their preferred approaches to a range of public policy issues.

The Lake County 2030 Blueprint process is a major initiative sponsored by the Lake County/City Area Planning Council (Lake APC) in cooperation with local public agencies and partially funded with grant funding

from Caltrans. Lake County 2030 springs from the recognition that coordinated visioning and planning at the regional level -- of land use, transportation, water, energy, and other important public policy areas -- is vital if the County is to grow in a healthy and sustainable manner. A key element in this visioning and planning is a grass-roots public involvement process that involves residents from the beginning. Based on the community workshops held in March, the Lake County 2030 regional Vision and Blueprint principles were developed and then presented at two follow-up workshops held in April.

Building on the community input received, the third and final phase of the Lake County 2030 Regional Blueprint will begin this fall with the development of alternative growth scenarios based on the Vision and Principles, a series of community workshops, and collaboration among various agencies and community organizations. Lake APC will consider the recommended "preferred alternative" that will then be offered as guidance for future, more specific, planning efforts by

the Cities of Lakeport and Clearlake, the County of Lake and other agencies involved in decisions that impact and direct growth and development in the region. A critical component of the project is implementation of the Vision and Principles through collaborative efforts among various agencies and organizations. The Lake County 2030 Regional Blueprint aims to further regional collaboration involving all jurisdictions in the region, including the County of Lake, the Cities of Clearlake and Lakeport, and Tribal communities. Central to this goal is the development of tools and resources to help move from the conceptual aspect of the Lake County 2030 Regional Blueprint to action at the local level by decision makers and community leaders.

For more information on Lake County 2030 Blueprint and to view the community workshop summaries and report, visit www.lakeapc.org and select the Lake County 2030 link on the right navigation bar.

Cleaner Roads for Lake County

Volunteers took to the streets of Clearlake for the combined efforts of the May 6th "Litter Removal and Enforcement Day" and the "Clearlake Community Clean-Up" Party. Caltrans coordinated roadside clean-up efforts along State Route 53. Cathy Wilson, with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), led the team of volunteers that tackled the streets of Clearlake, with support from the City of Clearlake, the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and the Lake County Department of Public Works who provided equipment and supplies. Both efforts were part of the Great American Cleanup event coordinated by Keep California Beautiful.

For those interested in helping keep the roads of Lake County clean, there are a number of options. During the year, there are one-day clean-up events similar to those held in Clearlake. Statewide, the Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides an avenue for individuals, organizations, or businesses to help maintain sections of roadside within Cali-

fornia's State Highway System. In Lake County, this includes State Routes 20, 29, 53, 175 and 281. Groups have the option to participate as volunteers or to hire a maintenance service provider to perform the work on their behalf. Adoptions usually span a two-mile stretch of roadside. For more information, contact Nita Brake-Mills at (707) 441-5761.

The County of Lake Adopt-a-Road program provides a similar opportunity for roads within the jurisdiction of the County. Participants commit to picking up litter for a period of two years along a two mile stretch of roadside a minimum of four times a year. For more information on how to



Community members including Lori Peters, Bill Stone, AJ Valencia and Clearlake Mayor Chuck Leonard took part in the Clearlake Community Cleanup on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

adopt a County road, contact Lori Price at (707) 263-2341.

Survey of Commuter Needs Underway in Lake County

The record gas prices in 2008 caused a significant increase in ridership on Lake Transit. Even when gas prices subsided, ridership was still higher than the previous year, and many of the new riders were using transit to commute to work for the first time. To further understand the situation, Lake APC conducted a commuter study of County employees to determine the need and desire for commuter service. "Working with the County to conduct the survey provided the opportunity to receive input from a significant group of commuters," said Lisa Davey-Bates, Executive Director of the Lake APC. The survey was distributed to approximately 950 County employees and 484 valid surveys were returned resulting in an excellent response rate of nearly 50%.

The survey results show a potential for increased transit use among County employees given commute patterns and their responses. Factors for a successful commuter service identified in the study include: limited stops, affordable convenient fares, convenient schedules, safe parking, and readily available information about schedules and services. "Input from commuters is critical to understanding their needs and adjusting our service to respond to changing demand. This survey provided valuable information, with respondents providing specific comments about their commute needs and ideas for improving bus service," stated Mark Wall, Manager of Lake Transit. The Lake APC and Lake Transit are interested in hearing from other commuters as well, and has now made the survey available on-line at www.lakeapc.org. "We encourage Lake County residents and employees to take a few minutes and complete the short survey so we can have a better understanding of their commuting needs" said Davey-Bates.

Call Box Corner

15 new Call Boxes are being installed along State Route 20 between the Colusa and Mendocino County lines. The new call boxes bring Lake County closer to a fully-implemented system with a Call Box every two miles. The new call boxes are being fitted with special antennae that are designed to function in areas of marginal cell service. To view a map of existing Call Boxes in Lake County, visit www.lakeapc.org. For more information about the Call Box Program, contact Alexis Pedrotti at (707) 263-7799.



Streets and Roads in Lake County Rank Worst in State

The roads in Lake County were rated the worst in California, and Lake County ranked as one of only four counties in the entire state to receive a "poor" rating on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) in the recently released report titled, **California Statewide Local Streets & Roads Needs Assessment**. The study was the first comprehensive statewide study of California's local street and road system. The study surveyed all of California's 58 counties and 478 cities in 2007-08. In addition to ranking the conditions of cities and counties in California, the study also presented transportation-funding needs for California over the next ten years. The study reports that 81% of the state's roads (based on miles of roadway) are the responsibility of cities and counties, yet "recent actions to remove city and county discretion over federal and state funding have diminished resources available to the local system."

Rural counties such as Lake County have low population compared to the miles of roadway to be maintained, and state and federal funding is often allocated based on population. Other challenges facing Lake County include a history of insufficient road standards when many of the County's subdivisions were constructed over 40 years ago, no local sales tax funding for road maintenance, and no mitigation fees for needed improvements resulting from traffic impacts of new development. These factors, combined with a continuing decrease in dedicated state and federal funding for local roads, add up to a dismal outlook for the future of Lake County's roads.

A common misperception is that property taxes are used in part to maintain local streets and roads, but that is not the case. The majority of State funding for roads and state highways comes from a combination of excise taxes on motor vehicle fuel (49.7%), sales tax on motor vehicle fuel (20.8%), and weight fees (14%). Some cities and counties in California have voted for local sales taxes for transportation funding for local streets and roads. But past attempts to create a sales tax for transportation projects have failed in Lake County. Other communities have established traffic mitigation fees and other funding programs to generate local money for local road projects. Currently, 19 counties have voted to approve special transportation sales taxes. The Lake APC recently completed a Countywide Regional Transportation Impact Fee Program study towards the goal of eventually establishing a program to provide partial funding for future transportation infrastructure needs resulting from new development. The challenge lies ahead of working on the details and implementing a fee funded program or a transportation sales tax.



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION OUTREACH

Lake County/City Area Planning Council
367 N. State Street, #206
Ukiah, CA 95482

PRSRT STD
ECR WSS
US POSTAGE PAID
autoZIP

Resident Customer

Contact the APC office at:

367 N. State Street, #206
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 263-7799

Lake APC Office Staff:

- Lisa Davey-Bates, Executive Director**
daveybatesL@dow-associates.com
- Phillip Dow, P.E., Planning Staff**
dowp@dow-associates.com
- Nephele Barrett, Senior Planner**
barrettn@dow-associates.com
- Terri Persons, Associate Planner**
personst@dow-associates.com
- Alexis Pedrotti, Administrative Assistant**
pedrottia@dow-associates.com
- Jeannie Clark, Receptionist**
clarkj@dow-associates.com

Bus Driver Receives “Above and Beyond” Award

Lake Transit bus driver Ruby Jo Scribner received the Sure-Lok Above and Beyond Award at the annual California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) conference in March. In the fall of 2008, Ruby Jo was driving ten passengers, including one in a wheelchair, on her route up the Glasgow Grade on Highway 29 between Lower Lake and Kelseyville. Noticing smoke coming from underneath the bus, she immediately pulled over. With smoke beginning to enter the bus, she quickly began evacuating all passengers. Without the use of the bus wheelchair lift, the wheelchair passenger was safely assisted off the bus, leaving the wheelchair behind. Once Ruby Jo had everyone safely off the bus, and a safe distance away, the front of the bus caught fire. CHP and local fire engines quickly responded to manage traffic and extinguish the fire. Another Lake Transit bus soon arrived to pick up all the passengers and continue on the route. The wheelchair was undamaged by the fire and eventually returned to the passenger.



Ruby Jo Scribner (center) at the CalACT awards is joined by Darlene Riley, Christine Scheffer, Mark Wall and David Baker.

We're on the Web!
www.lakeapc.org

Lake APC Board Members

- Roy Parmentier, Chair**
Lakeport City Council Member
- Jeff Smith, Vice-Chair**
Supervisor, County of Lake
- Jim Comstock**
Supervisor, County of Lake
- Chuck Leonard**
Clearlake City Council Member
- Judy Thein**
Clearlake City Council Member
- Ronald Bertsch**
Lakeport City Council Member
- Andrew Peterson**
Member at Large
- Ed Robey**
Member at Large