



LC/CAPC

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION OUTREACH

A Newsletter by the Lake County/City Area Planning Council
"Lake County's Regional Transportation Planning Agency"

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LAKE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COALITION ANNOUNCES FREE BUS RIDES

AUGUST 16-20TH

by Lisa Davey-Bates/Mark Wall

More than 30 local non-profit and public agencies have united to offer free prizes, free bus fares, and daily grab bags during "Ride the Bus Week", August 16-20. The program is the brainchild of the Lake County Transportation Coalition (LCTC), a community coalition using seed money from a United Way grant to promote transportation options for families with young children. The Coalition hopes to entice everyone in Lake County to try the Lake Transit bus system.

"We were really surprised when the Lake County Transportation Coalition was formed and came up with this idea.", said Mark Wall, manager of Lake Transit. "It is really unique. I have never heard of such a big group of community agencies coming forward to promote public transit. We were so pleased with their idea, that Lake Transit is trying to match their commitment by making all of the bus fares free during the week. The public can ride all over the county, and even to Ukiah, for free."



*Mark Wall, Transit Manager
Lake Transit Authority*

To ride **free** residents must pick up a boarding pass at one of the following Lake Transit ticket distributors:

- North Shore Sentry Market & Deli, Nice
- Lakeview Supermarket, Lucerne
- Rays Food Place, Clearlake
- Angelina's, Lakeport
- Lake Transit, 9055 Highway 53, Ste. 1, Lower Lake

Continued on Page 4

HIGHWAY 20 NORTHSHORE TRAFFIC CALMING & BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

by Lisa Davey-Bates

The Lake County/City Area Planning Council (APC) and the County of Lake will embark on an intensive community planning activity to develop a vision for traffic calming and other safety and community enhancements for State Route 20 in the urban centers of Clearlake Oaks, Lucerne, and Nice, otherwise known as the "Northshore communities".

In May 2004, William Kranz, Executive Director, Area Planning Council, received notification from the State Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency that the project, in the amount of \$120,000, had been selected for funding through a Caltrans Livable Communities Grant.

The "Highway 20 Northshore Traffic Calming and Beautification Plan" will aim to create a blueprint to increase safety and mobility for all highway users, and develop safer routes to school for children, develop a plan for increased visual interest and beauty in the study area, increase the participation and enthusiasm of Northshore residents in partnering with local government to revitalize their communities, and complement our regional goal of redirecting truck and inter-regional traffic to the proposed principal arterial corridor of State Routes 20, 29, and 53.

Public participation in all three Northshore communities will be a high priority in developing the Plan. Copies of flyers, invitation letters, and other outreach materials will be sent to school districts, religious leaders, business owners, service organizations, tribal governments and others to generate involvement with the community. A consultant will be selected through a competitive bidding process to complete a traffic calming study and preliminary design for the project.

This plan is included as an element of the Area Planning Council's Work Program, and will likely be completed in Summer 2005. For questions regarding this project please call Lisa Davey-Bates at 463-1806 or Andy Peterson, County of Lake, 263-2736.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Page 2 – Jobs-Housing Report Released

Page 2 – It's TE Time!

Page 3 – Pavement Management Program

Page 3 – Transportation in and Around Your County

JOBS-HOUSING REPORT RELEASED

by Janet Orth

The statewide Inter-Regional Partnership (IRP) planning grants were concluded on June 30, 2004. The Wine Country IRP has released its final report on jobs-housing imbalances in Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties. The report presents the case that, even though a jobs-housing imbalance crisis may not yet be apparent in the Wine Country, the symptoms have taken hold and may overwhelm us if nothing is done. "I just don't want anybody to look back in 20 years and say they weren't warned," said Larry Wright, P.E., Dow & Associates.



Laurence Wright, P.E.,
Wine Country IRP Program Manager

This three-year project conducted new, in-depth research on where the jobs and housing are located in the four-county area and projected future costs through the year 2020. Lake County is one of the few affordable areas to live in the entire region, providing much of the housing for workers who commute to jobs in Santa Rosa and Petaluma metro areas, Napa County, and Ukiah. Safety and maintenance issues have emerged as a result of increased traffic on our rural roads.

The project also involved an extensive stakeholder outreach effort. A diverse group of community leaders were interviewed, and a Leadership Team was formed of both public and private sectors representatives to get feedback and direction for the project. A conference was held for all stakeholders interested in the problems of jobs-housing separation.

IT'S TE TIME!!!

by Lisa Davey-Bates

The Lake County/City Area Planning Council (APC), is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$917,000 in programming capacity for Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects in the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The TE Program is a capital-improvement program for projects that comply with federal environmental requirements and other federal regulations. Enhancement activities must have a direct relationship to the surface transportation system, and must be over and above normal projects. The funded activities must be accessible to the general public or targeted to a broad segment of the general public, and are restricted to 12 activities.

The Wine Country IRP Leadership Team's recommended actions for implementation have already started. These initial steps will focus on workforce housing through the Workforce Investment Boards, coordination of tourism among the four counties, coordination among the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, and information sharing on the Mendocino Council of Governments' (MCOG) website.



The program is unfunded at present; however we anticipate that State funds might eventually become available again to pick up where the program left off. Until then, we hope that others in the community will step up and make use of the information that was compiled under this IRP program.

The grants were made available by the California Housing & Community Development Department. The Wine Country partnership consisted of Mendocino Council of Governments as lead agency, Lake County/City Area Planning Council, and the Bay Area Association of Governments.

The report will be available by request on compact disc and will be posted soon to MCOG's website at www.mendocinocog.org.

Seven candidate projects were submitted by various agencies, with \$1.9 million in funding requests. The projects were reviewed and ranked by the APC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) during a special meeting in May 2004. The Area Planning Council reviewed the recommendations of the TAC at their meeting June 9th 2004. At that meeting testimony was heard from several agencies and businesses in support of projects located within their jurisdictions throughout Lake County. The final action taken by the APC Board was to approve two bikeway projects submitted by the Lake County Public Works Department, one pedestrian project in the City of Lakeport, and one pedestrian project in Kelseyville.

For more information regarding the TE program, please call Nephele Barrett at Dow & Associates, 463-1806.

UPDATE OF PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND GIS LINKAGE

by *Nephele Barrett*

The Area Planning Council has included in its 2004/2005 Work Program a project to update the pavement management programs (PMP) for the County of Lake, City of Lakeport, and City of Clearlake. Also included in the work element is a linkage between the pavement management program and geographic information system (GIS).

A PMP provides for a systematic method of determining roadway pavement maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. The PMP used in Lake County is a computerized system which includes a database of road conditions and a reporting system capable of providing various information including recommended maintenance and cost estimates.

As part of this project, the street and roadway sections throughout the County will be examined and given a score between 0 and 100, called a pavement condition index, or PCI. A newly constructed street would have a PCI of 100, while a failed street would have a PCI of 10 or less. Pavement conditions are classified according to PCI ranges as follows: Excellent (90-100), Very Good (70-89), Good (50-69), Poor (25-49) and Very Poor (0-24). By determining the current condition of streets, the program can determine the most cost effective expenditure of available funds.

Pavement maintenance follows the old colloquial saying of "pay me now, or pay me later." History has shown that it costs less to maintain streets in good condition than to repair streets that have failed. By allowing pavements to deteriorate, streets that once cost only \$1.75/sq. yd. to slurry seal may soon cost \$15.00/sq. yd. to overlay and upwards of \$47.00/sq. yd. to reconstruct.

Based on the principle that it costs less to maintain streets in good condition than bad, the Pavement Management System strives to develop a maintenance strategy that will first improve the overall condition of the network to an optimal PCI somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 to 90, and then sustain it at that level.

Unfortunately, many of the streets and roads in the area are already at the point of needing reconstruction. With current levels of funding for street rehabilitation and maintenance, only a small portion of the needed work can be done. In order to achieve even a mediocre overall network condition, additional sources of revenue will be needed.

Continued on Page 4

TRANSPORTATION IN AND AROUND YOUR COUNTY...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

by *Lisa Davey-Bates*

The Lake County/City Area Planning Council (APC) has incorporated in its 2004/2005 Regional Transportation Planning Work Program an element to update the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the long-range planning document for Lake County's transportation system through the year 2025. It is multi-modal, meaning it looks at all types of transportation such as the State highway system, the local road system, transit, aviation, bicycling and walking. It assesses current transportation, identifies needs and problems, and suggests actions to solve these problems and improve transportation throughout the region. The plan also considers financing options in relation to projects discussed within the plan. The Regional Transportation Plan area encompasses all of Lake County, including the incorporated cities of Clearlake and Lakeport.

RTPs are required to be updated every four years. Since the revision of the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan was extensive and funding has been significantly reduced/delayed for transportation-related projects, only minor changes are anticipated.

The Lake County/City Area Planning Council staff will focus primarily on interagency coordination, public involvement, Native American involvement and private sector involvement on the update to the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan. Several input methods such as public meetings, surveys, press releases, and circulation of the draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan may be implemented to meet this goal. For more information on the RTP process or specific projects, please call Lisa Davey-Bates, Dow & Associates, 463-1806.

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IS A PRODUCT OF ELEMENT 613 IN THE AREA PLANNING COUNCIL
2004/05 WORK PROGRAM
If you have any questions about this newsletter, call Lisa Davey-Bates at the office of
Dow & Associates at (707) 463-1806

RIDE THE BUS FREE AUGUST 16-20TH!



Free Bus RidesContinued from Page 1

Each boarding pass is also a contest entry form. When it is placed into the fare box on the bus, the rider is entered into that day's drawing, and also the Grand Prize **cash** drawing of \$500.00 on August 20th.

Grab bags hold items contributed by Coalition members and other agencies and businesses in Lake County that are intended to introduce the public to the many services available. Each day has a theme and the grab bags will feature items such as educational materials, first aid supplies, canvas bags, travel mugs, and more!

Ride The Bus Week concludes with a "sneak preview"

celebration at the new Lake Transit operations and maintenance headquarters (currently under construction) located at 9240 Highway 53, Lower Lake. The event is on August 20th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Transit service will be available to and from the facility throughout the celebration.

PMPContinued from Page 3

In addition to updating the pavement management program, work will also be done to link this program to GIS software. This will allow pavement condition to be viewed geographically. It will also show the geographical locations of recommended work. Having this capability provides another way of analyzing potential improvements and makes it possible to compare proposed pavement work with other proposed projects, such as utility work.

Over the next several months APC staff will be working with local agencies' staff and consultants to perform the necessary work which will include field surveys to determine current pavement condition, data input into individual databases for each jurisdiction, calculation of Pavement Condition Index, report generation, development of budget scenarios, and linkage of the PMP database and GIS street segment files, and training.