



## MOVING PLACER FORWARD: PLANNING, FUNDING, AND BUILDING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### Project Highlight | SR 65 Widening Project

If you turn off I-80 and onto SR 65 and begin heading north, you can't help but notice the bustling economic activity within this area. Shopping centers, office complexes and light industrial parks teeming with small, medium and large businesses are all located within the SR 65 corridor, and attract shoppers and employees from all around the region. If you delve a little further, you also notice numerous residential communities that are within a stone's throw from this highway. The residents of Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and South Placer travel SR 65 every day at all hours to work, shop or to go to some entertainment destination located along the highway.

"There are so many peak travel times on State Route 65 that you never know if you're going to be stuck in traffic, regardless of the time of day or night - and it will only get worse," said Celia McAdam, Executive Director of the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA). "We realize how important it is for the economic vitality and the quality of life for South Placer that we find a way to improve the conditions along SR 65."

PCTPA and those jurisdictions are focused on making transportation improvements to ensure that economic development keeps happening within the region. The staff at PCTPA works hard to find funding sources and deliver these critical transportation projects, such as the Lincoln Bypass, I-80/SR 65 Interchange improvements, and the Placer Parkway to name a few. Currently, preliminary work is getting underway on the SR 65 Widening Project.



"The SR 65 Widening Project is an important link in Placer County that will relieve congestion, improve highway operations and enhance safety to this segment of the highway" said Project Manager Luke McNeel-Caird. McNeel-Caird also said "the cost of the project is likely to be \$100 million. Since the project will rely on developer impact fees for funding, and it will likely be phased as funding becomes available."

PCTPA is currently seeking engineering consulting services to develop the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED), the next step required to developing the final project. The PA&ED will analyze the alternatives, recommend a solution and summarize environmental issues and clearance. Work on the PA&ED is expected to begin in September 2013.

The SR 65 corridor is identified as one of the three major regional job centers in SACOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the six-county region's 28-year plan for transportation improvements which is based on projections for growth in population, housing and jobs. These economic hubs need to offer good access for freight and supplies as well as employees to attract new businesses -- traffic congestion will make those businesses look elsewhere.

As the economy picks up and businesses begin to expand, those who live in the Placer region will need to decide how to make sure their communities are attractive to those businesses.

"While we were able to scrape together enough money to start this phase of the project," said McAdam, "the rest of the project is slated to be funded by developer impact fees. These funds come in an irregular flow, which means that this estimated \$100 million project will be built in phases as we have cash available. We are concerned that this could take a very long time which would leave traffic a bit challenging in the corridor until those funds come through."