

## **Amador County Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee Program Annual Status Report for Fiscal Year 2019/20**

The purpose of this Annual Report is to document Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program history, describe project obligations, identify approved expenditures, account for new revenues, and describe new program modifications.

### **RTMF Program History**

In 2006, the County of Amador and all five (5) incorporated cities adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) to establish the RTMF program to collect fees on new building construction within Amador County for the purpose of mitigating traffic impacts on the regional roadway system. By statute, these fees can only be spent on a specified list of projects subject to a Nexus Plan that describes the relationship between the ‘project’ and its ‘impact’.

Pursuant to the original 2006 RTMF program agreement, fees collected by the cities and the County were set at a rate of \$283.20 per trip end. In Fiscal Year (FY) 07/08, the cities and County increased the fee (due to inflation) to \$304.00 per trip end. In FY 14/15, the fee schedule was modified again, increasing the Residential trip rate to \$388/trip end and reducing specific high-volume Commercial trip rates to \$167/trip end. The updated MOU, Fee Schedule (Attachment D), and Capital Improvement Program (Attachment C) was approved in FY 15/16 by the County and all five (5) member cities.

Since its inception, the RTMF program has helped to fund construction of seven (7) regionally significant transportation projects, shown below:

1. SR 88/104 (Martell – County)
2. Mission Boulevard (City of Jackson)
3. Court Street/SR 88 (City of Jackson)
4. SR 49/Main Street (City of Jackson)
5. Sutter-Ione Road (City of Sutter Creek)
6. SR 104/Prospect Drive-Bowers Drive (Sutter Creek)
7. SR 49/Main Street Roundabout (City of Plymouth)

In addition, the Program has obligated contributions toward the following projects currently in the planning or project development phase:

8. Sutter Street Extension/SR 49-88 (City of Jackson)
9. Western Ione Roadway Improvement Strategy (WIRIS) – (City of Ione)
10. Argonaut Lane/SR 49-88 (Martell - County)
11. Wicklow Way Extension

The RTMF Oversight Committee (OC) is comprised of one (1) appointed representative from each City and the County. The ACTC also appoints a representative. The OC meets annually to review the prior FY Annual Report, and provide recommendations for any funding, project, or other program adjustments to be considered for adoption by member agencies. In 2014/15, the cities and County agreed to modify the original MOU to state that the ACTC member would be a representative of the County.

As required by the MOU, each city and the County submits RTMF revenues to ACTC for deposit into an account solely designated for the RTMF program. In FY 19/20, the RTMF program received revenue from member jurisdictions (including interest earned) totaling **\$492,548**. Those FY 19/20 contributions are shown below:

• Amador County	=	\$ 147,144
• Ione	=	\$ 151,170
• Jackson	=	\$ 134,152
• Sutter Creek	=	\$ 0
• Plymouth	=	\$ 58,200
• Amador City	=	\$ 0

On Attachment A these contributions from member jurisdictions bring fund revenue since program inception to total **\$9,051,275**. Attachment B lists RTMF project revenue, approved expenditures, current obligations, and project status. (The projects shown as “Completed” were constructed with final expenditures recorded prior to FY 14/15.)

The following summary outlines the current status of RTMF-funded projects, current funding obligations, and actions of the RTMF OC through FY 19/20:

SR 104 - Prospect Drive/Bowers Drive Intersection/Realignment

The RTMF OC approved this project with the condition that the Gold Rush Ranch development project would repay the RTMF program for the entire cost of the project - \$1,482,127.

Conditions of Approval for the Gold Rush Ranch development project (City of Sutter Creek) required Gold Rush Ranch to repay the RTMF program for the total cost incurred for the SR 104 - Prospect Drive/Bowers Drive Intersection/Realignment project and to complete additional lane(s) and signalization before the first Gold Rush building permit could be approved. These Conditions mitigated impacts generated by additional traffic from the Gold Rush development pursuant to the Gold Rush Ranch EIR and project approval documents.

The Gold Rush Ranch Tentative Map is now expired. ACTC is in discussions with Sutter Creek representatives to consider appropriate mechanisms for repayment of Prospect Drive/Bowers Drive project costs.

SR 49/Main Street, Plymouth

The RTMF OC recommended \$200,000 to be programmed as a local match for the City of Plymouth’s SR 49/Main Street intersection project. This expenditure has been recorded. The Project was constructed at a cost of \$3.8 million.

Sutter Street Extension, Jackson

In past years, the RTMF OC obligated \$1,300,000 to the Sutter Street Extension project. In 2006, the City of Jackson spent \$387,586 acquiring a key piece of ROW leaving an obligated balance of \$912,414. In FY 08/09, the OC authorized the City of Jackson to initiate project development efforts utilizing the \$912,414 programmed balance.

Remediation efforts by the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Toxic Substances Control to retrofit the dam at the existing terminus of Sutter Street temporarily suspended project development efforts. In 2015, EPA approved a Phase 2 Removal Action. With the subsequent confirmation of satisfactory restoration of residential properties, EPA cleared the way for development efforts on the Sutter Street Extension project to recommence in 2019.

During this time period, a total of \$175,121 was expended leaving a balance of \$737,294 available for future project development efforts.

#### Western Ione Roadway Improvement System (WIRIS)

The WIRIS project, identified as mitigation in the Ione General Plan and cited in prior development approvals, received an initial obligation of \$618,975 from the RTMF program. In FY 09/10, at a cost of \$124,185, Dokken Engineering completed a Project Study Report (PSR) selecting a preferred alignment and funding strategy. At that time, the PSR estimated the total cost for the WIRIS to be \$113.4 million.

In FY 09/10, given reduced expectations for funding at the Federal, State, and Local level, the OC recommended continued funding for development of the WIRIS project at a cost not to exceed \$177,000. After work to revise the PSR work was undertaken, that effort was suspended after incurring an additional \$45,000 in expenditures.

During FY 14/15, the City again revised its planning effort to focus on a down-scaled WIRIS project - OC authorized \$131,721 for continued work on the WIRIS project. This effort was to focus on improvements to existing roadway alignments for use as a bypass alternative. In FY 16/17, the City of Ione requested an additional \$80,000 in RTMF funding to prepare the updated WIRIS Project Report. The WIRIS Project Report was completed in FY 17/18 and the City was reimbursed in the amount of \$211,721.

Project alternatives developed by the Report were presented to the Ione Planning Commission and may be presented to the Ione City County for its consideration of formal adoption of a preferred, alternative alignment. The OC agreed not to provide additional RTMF funding until the Ione City Council takes further action on the Project.

#### Argonaut Lane-SR 49/88 Intersection

In FY 07/08, citing Right of Way and Project Cost constraints, the OC recommended the project development process be suspended.

#### Wicklow Way Extension

In FY 15/16, the RTMF OC loaned up to 50% of funding from the Sutter Street Extension project to begin preliminary engineering for the Wicklow Way Extension project.

County staff estimated a cost of \$284,500 to prepare a Project Study Report (conduct environmental assessments and initiate preliminary engineering and design) for the Wicklow Way Extension project.

The \$284,500 loan was repaid to the Sutter Street Extension project utilizing subsequent, annual contributions to the RTMF program.

SR 88 / Pine Grove Improvements

During FY 17/18, the RTMF OC authorized programming \$1,000,000 in RTMF funding to be commitment to Construction costs for the Pine Grove Improvements project. This funding amount had been previously approved through adoption of the 2015 Amador County Regional Transportation Plan as shown on the attached RTP Tier I / RTMF Project list.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) modification – ATTACHMENT F

At its May 3, 2018 meeting, the RTMF OC recommended that the RTMF MOU be modified to designate the agreement as “binding” among participant jurisdictions. This action was taken in response to:

- 1) The City of Ione agreement with a developer resulting in the deferral/loss of \$504,000 to the RTMF program.
- 2) The lack of a formal mechanism to reimburse the RTMF program for costs related to the Bowers Dr/Prospect Dr project in the City of Sutter Creek.

The OC committee intention with the action is to ‘bind’ member jurisdictions to requirements, stated in the MOU under Exhibit D “Administrative Policies and Procedures”, that any recommendations for deferrals, reimbursements, and/or adjustments to RTMF fees be brought before the RTMF OC for review and approval.

No new funding actions or amendments to RTMF policies were approved during FY 19/20.

**FY 19/20 RTMF Fund Balance**

During FY 19/20, the RTMF program received additional revenue from its member jurisdictions (with interest) totaling \$341,378 (Attachment A). Attachment B shows total remaining unprogrammed fund balance of after accounting for current funding obligations. As of June 30, 2020, **\$1,048,844** is available for programming to eligible RTMF projects.

Attachment C lists current funding commitments toward projects on the RTMF Capital Improvement Program (CIP). (As approved through its adopted Nexus Study, the RTMF program maintains flexibility to fund any of the projects shown on the CIP Tier I listing.)

Attachment D shows the currently-adopted Fee Schedule. Also included with the packet are vicinity maps for RTMF-funded projects.