

Placer's Transportation Problem

Placer County is no stranger to congested freeways and LA style traffic. Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) has carefully managed finances and pinched every penny from Federal and State funds to help deliver the transportation projects necessary to solve Placer County's transportation dilemma. The new interchanges at I-80/Douglas Blvd and Sierra College Blvd, and the start of work on the I-80 Bottleneck are the result of those efforts.



But the fact is that Federal and State transportation funding is rapidly drying up. Funding from the infrastructure bonds is being offset by State budget deficits, which are again taking billions of promised transportation funding.

It is clear that if we want to solve the nightmare traffic scenario of 2030, we can't count on the State or the Feds – it will be up to Placer County residents.

What we can do with the money we've got...

- We can complete I-80 Bottleneck widening from Eureka Road to the Placer/Sacramento County line, and some additional improvements westbound to SR 65 by 2011. We can do the remaining eastbound improvements, possibly by 2022 or 2024
- We can build a 2 lane Lincoln Bypass with signalized intersections north of Ferrari Ranch Road, starting in 2008
- We can complete the I-80/Sierra College Boulevard interchange reconstruction.
- We can complete some operational improvements to SR 49 in North Auburn
- We can determine and preserve an alignment for a new road to connect SR 65 and SR 70/99 (Placer Parkway)
- We can run transit services at roughly today's levels
- We can widen a portion (perhaps half) of SR 65 between I-80 and Lincoln from 4 to 6 lanes around 2020
- We can continue to do maintenance on about half of our roads.

Without new, local money....

- No further improvements to I-80 would likely happen until 2035 or beyond.
- Lincoln Bypass will only be 2 lanes, not the 4 lane freeway that is needed.
- We won't be able to build the Placer Parkway until at least 2035
- We can't afford to add enough or the types of transit service to provide for the needs of our growing senior and disabled population
- We cannot afford to add commuter rail service on the Capitol Corridor
- The roads we cannot afford to maintain will suffer worsening pavement conditions, and repairs will be more costly.

And the list goes on...