

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	February 29, 2024
SUBJECT:	Receive an Update on the Envision 273 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan
AGENDA ITEM:	13
STAFF CONTACT:	Michael Kuker, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Envision 273 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan has been under development for a year. Staff will provide a project update on completed and planned outreach, the completed existing conditions report, project feasibility studies currently underway, and next steps.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors receive an update on the Envision 273 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan.

DISCUSSION:

Background – SRTA and Caltrans District 2 have partnered on a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan to help guide future improvements on and near the State Route (SR) 273 corridor. Staff last provided a project update to the board of directors on February 23, 2023. A history of past board actions is attached (Attachment A). Current activities are summarized below.

Grant Extension – Executing the joint powers agreement (JPA) between SRTA and Caltrans Headquarters required to administer the grant funds took longer than expected; resulting in a delay of over 16 months. SRTA staff is working with Caltrans on a grant extension agreement until early 2025 so that the original project scope of work as well as robust coordination and public outreach can continue as originally planned.

Advisory Committees – Two advisory committees were formed to help guide the planning process: the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC). The PAC is a staff-level committee that meets regularly to guide the effort, while the EAC is comprised of department heads representing the city of Anderson, city of Redding, Shasta County, and executive-level staff from SRTA and Caltrans District 2 that meet occasionally to ensure the project is aligning with the goals of their respective organizations and project scope of work.

Public Engagement – Since February 2023, SRTA performed a major round of public engagement about the Envision 273 plan including (but not limited to) four open house sessions; articles, interviews, and ads on multiple local media outlets (television, print, web, and radio); boosted social media posts; ongoing feedback opportunities on the project website (envision273.org) and presentations with various community groups to help build awareness and drive further engagement.

For the second half of the outreach process, SRTA staff is preparing a mailing to addresses located within a half-mile of the corridor to direct them to the website and survey. This will complement another round of major engagement in the Summer/Fall 2024 for public input on proposed improvement projects and strategies.

Existing Conditions Assessment – The consultant prepared an existing conditions technical report (Attachment B) and systems profiles document (Attachment C) to help visualize the findings of the corridor performance assessment. For evaluation purposes, the corridor was divided into ten segments and performance was assessed on a myriad of criteria within the following categories: operations and reliability, mobility and connectivity, safety, social equity, and sustainability. All segments were found to score poorly in all categories. A full overview of the criteria and methodology may be found in the technical report (Attachment B).

Feasibility Studies – Based on public feedback and consultation with the PAC and EAC, the following concepts or areas were identified for feasibility studies as part of this effort:

- Study of a full or partial reversion of one-way streets to two-way traffic in Downtown Redding.
- Study of the “micro-corridor” of 273 from East Street down to the California and Angelo Street intersection.
- Study of a separated multi-use path connecting the communities of Anderson and Redding.
- Study of a possible relocation and signalization of a railroad crossing in Shasta County.
- Study of a possible relocation of the Breslauer railroad crossing to Buenaventura Boulevard.
- Study of a boulevard treatment on the segment of SR 44 from the Sacramento River to Downtown Redding.

The feasibility studies will allow more in-depth study of particular corridor challenges or concepts based on community and partner agency input. The feasibility studies will use technical data to assess the practicality of proposed improvements—just because a concept is being studied does not necessarily mean it will be built or even recommended. The purpose is to explore available options, including pros and cons, and help refine efforts for the phasing of future investments since improvements to the corridor will take many years and significant grant funding to complete.

Next Steps – The feasibility studies will be completed, and potential projects and strategies will be identified and evaluated for the effectiveness of addressing corridor deficiencies. Projects and strategies will be grouped into scenarios and evaluated, then selected and prioritized for eventual implementation. As part of this effort, preliminary designs and other deliverables that can be leveraged in future state and federal grant funds may be developed for selected concepts. A draft version of the Envision 273 plan is anticipated to be presented at the December 2024 board meeting and a final draft for adoption in February 2025.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

SRTA is partnering with Caltrans District 2 on this effort. The project is being coordinated closely with local agencies and other stakeholders throughout the planning process. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on February 15, 2024, to review and discuss the information presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SRTA and Caltrans District 2 jointly received \$1,000,000 in competitive discretionary state grant funds for the effort, which has been programmed in the Overall Work Program. A required SRTA match of \$125,000 in Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) funds is also provided. SRTA executed a technical services agreement with GHD, totaling \$869,917 to provide consultant services to prepare the plan. The balance of the funds may be used for SRTA staff time and other needs identified during the planning process.



Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments:

A: History of Related SRTA Board of Directors Agenda Items

B: Existing Conditions Technical Report (<https://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9284/>)

C: System Profiles (<https://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9285/>)

History of Related SRTA Board of Directors Agenda Items

2021

Board of Directors Meeting on February 23, 2021

Agenda Item 16

- The board of directors receives a presentation on SRTA's application to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant Program.

Board of Directors Meeting on June 28, 2021

Agenda Item 10

- The board of directors approves Resolution 21-13, accepting the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant Program award of \$500,000.
- The board directs staff to begin procurement of consultant services.

2022

Board of Directors Meeting on April 28, 2022

Agenda Item 15

- The board of directors adopted Resolution 22-07, delegating authority to the executive director to enter into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with Caltrans for the purpose of developing the SR 273 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan.

Agenda Item 16

- The board of directors authorizes the executive director to execute a technical services agreement for consultant services to prepare the SR 273 Multimodal Corridor Plan, not to exceed \$869,924, contingent upon a fully executed JPA.

2023

Board of Directors Meeting on February 23, 2023

Agenda Item 16

- The board of directors receives a presentation on the SR 273 Multimodal Corridor Plan to refamiliarize the board with the plan's background, past board actions, and next steps.