Press Release

from the Calaveras Planning Coalition

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County Approves Draft Regional Transportation Plan

On October 4, the County approved the Draft Regional Transportation Plan for Calaveras. The Calaveras Planning Coalition submitted comments and a letter to the Calaveras Council of Governments.

The CPC noted a few key projects in the RTP that have roadway safety as a key component. The RTP includes a realistic look at the ability to fund the needed roadway improvements, and identifies a list of the fundable projects. The CPC also noted that “Ratepayers and taxpayers need other local agencies to follow RTP’s lead, and to plan for the future we can afford.  We are calling on other local governments to follow CCOG’s lead, and to plan for a future with an affordable and desirable level of growth.”

While there were a few changes that the CPC recommended, what is mostly called for is for other local governments to follow CCOG’s lead, and to plan for a future with an affordable and desirable level of growth. There must be consistency between the RTP and local general plans. With the County currently updating the 1996 General Plan, this is a perfect opportunity to work together to achieve consistency. “The 2017 RTP includes policies to improve safety, aid the economy, and protect the environment.  We strongly encourage Calaveras County to achieve consistency with the 2017 RTP by including similar policies and implementation measures in its general plan circulation element. The County must be an active partner in these endeavors if people are to reap the benefits of these policies.”

In rural counties, roads play a pivotal role in our lives. For the good people of Calaveras County, roads are the arteries of commerce, public safety, community relations, and family life.  It is through the highways of Calaveras County that people commute, supply their businesses, and receive their customers.  Safe and uncongested thoroughfares are the difference between life and death when sheriff, fire, and ambulance services are called into action. Our rural roads take us to the pot lucks, dances, churches, and volunteer endeavors through which distant strangers, isolated by rural acreage, are transformed into close knit communities of caring neighbors.  It is on these roads that children return home from school, parents return home from work, and our loved ones take their last journey to their final resting places. In rural counties, roads are far more than just the means to get from point A to point B.  They are the essential threads that link together the many colors of our lives, and make our tapestries whole.”

The Calaveras Planning Coalition is a group of community organizations and individuals who

want a healthy and sustainable future for Calaveras County. They believe that public

participation is critical to a successful planning process. United behind eleven land use and

development principles, they seek to balance the conservation of local agricultural, natural and

historic resources, with the need to provide jobs, housing, safety, and services.