## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2023

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy** 

for the Shasta Region – Shasta County

The Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for the Shasta Region Project (Proposed Project) (SCH#2014022018). SRTA has directed the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Proposed Project in compliance with CEQA. SRTA circulated a Notice of Preparation for the Proposed Project on October 11, 2022, and held an online public scoping meeting via Zoom on October 25, 2022. The purpose of a regional transportation plan is to "encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operations, and development of a regional intermodal transportation system that, when linked with appropriate land use planning, will serve the mobility needs of goods and people." (CTC 2017 RTP Guidelines). The underlying purpose of the 2022 RTP/SCS is to coordinate and facilitate the programming and budgeting of all transportation facilities and services within Shasta County through 2042 and demonstrate how the region will integrate transportation and land use planning to meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and in accordance with other state and federal regulations. The 2022 RTP/SCS will also show how SRTA will work with regional partners to meet the transportation needs of the region through 2042, considering existing and projected future land use patterns as well as forecasted population and job growth. The primary objective of the 2022 RTP/SCS is to comply with applicable regulatory requirements, including changes in legislative requirements that have occurred since the current 2018 RTP/SCS was adopted in October 2018.

# **Lead Agency Name and Physical Address:**

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) 1255 East Street, Suite 202 Redding, California 96001

#### **Contact Person and Mailing Address:**

Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) 1255 East Street, Suite 202 Redding, California 96001 srta@srta.ca.gov

**Project Location:** The proposed 2022 RTP/SCS is an update of the current 2018 RTP/SCS and involves the entirety of Shasta County, including the incorporated cities of Anderson, Redding, and Shasta Lake and all unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of the County of Shasta. The Shasta County region is located at the geographical center and transportation crossroads of northern California, situated at the north end of the Sacramento Valley, approximately 150 miles north of Sacramento and approximately 110 miles south of the Oregon border.

**Project Description:** The SEIR for the 2022 RTP/SCS will be a supplement to the 2015 RTP Program EIR and 2018 RTP/SCS SEIR (State Clearinghouse #2014022018). This is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the 2022 RTP/SCS because changes to existing conditions (including

regulatory updates), the transportation project list, and land use scenario evaluated in the 2022 RTP/SCS are expected to be minor relative to the 2015 RTP and 2018 RTP/SCS and would not substantially increase the severity of impacts previously identified. The 2022 RTP/SCS will address all transportation modes including motor vehicles, public transit (commuter and local), passenger rail, goods movement (rail freight and trucking), bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs, aviation systems, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), and transportation systems management (TSM) programs and projects within the horizon year of 2042. Specifically, the RTP component is intended to meet the region's transportation goals regarding current and future mobility needs through the identification of policies, actions, and a list of projects which will address these needs. The RTP will guide the development of the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP and FTIP) as well as other transportation programming documents and plans throughout the Shasta Region. The 2022 RTP will include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) element, as required by California Senate Bill 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375). SB 375 mandates reductions in regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger cars and light-duty trucks in accordance with targets established by CARB for each of the State's metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). As the MPO for Shasta County, SRTA will prepare an SCS that demonstrates how GHG reduction targets will be met through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning. SRTA will develop several possible growth scenarios to evaluate the effects of various land use and transportation choices and recommend a scenario that meets SB 375 targets of -4.0% GHG emissions per capita for 2035 from the 2005 baseline year.

**Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts:** The analysis in this SEIR concludes that, although certain impacts are considered significant or potentially significant, the majority of these impacts could be avoided or reduced to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures. All impacts would be less than significant after the implementation of mitigation measures, with the exception of impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, and wildfire, which would remain significant even after all feasible mitigation is implemented.

**Draft SEIR Review and Availability**: The public review and comment period for the Draft SEIR will extend for 45 days **beginning August 17, 2023, and ending October 2, 2023**. The Draft SEIR can be viewed and downloaded at the website below. Appendices will be made available upon request.

#### https://srta.ca.gov/355/2022-RTP

SRTA's office and the Redding Library, located at 1100 Parkview Ave, Redding, will also provide access to hardcopies of the Draft SEIR for the 2022 RTP/SCS and the Draft 2022 RTP/SCS. The library is open Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm.

**Public Meeting:** An in person and online presentation at a SRTA Board of Directors meeting will be available via Zoom for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the Draft SEIR and Draft RTP/SCS. The presentation will occur during a SRTA

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Board of Directors meeting on **Thursday, August 31, 2023**, from 3 pm to 5 pm. The meeting will be accessible via the Meeting ID and Passcode or link below:

Meeting ID: 842 1973 5379

Passcode: 304768

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84219735379?pwd=RnV6R253R0FEUE1ISm9vcC9id0NzUT09

**Comments and Questions**: Comments or questions related to environmental issues evaluated in the Draft SEIR may be directed to Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner (email preferred):

By email:

## srta@srta.ca.gov

Subject Line: 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Shasta Region

Or

By mail:

Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner Shasta Regional Transportation Agency 1255 East Street, Suite 202 Redding, California 96001