

Town of Paradise (California) Skyway Corridor Plan



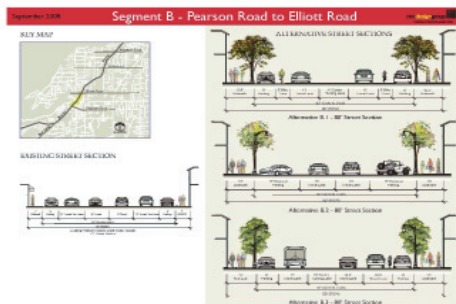
The “Skyway” serves as the Town of Paradise’s “Main Street” and primary connection to jobs and shopping in the County of Butte’s largest community, Chico, CA. Traffic volumes, speed and the roadway’s existing geometrics have forced Skyway to be less of a “Main Street” and more of an expressway, limiting the ability for the downtown area to flourish. The completed Skyway Corridor Plan developed measures intended to reduce vehicle speeds and attract pedestrian circulation while balancing traffic demands.

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) retained Whitlock & Weinberger Transportation, Inc. (W-Trans) and RRM Design Group to prepare the study for the corridor. The purpose of the study was to collaborate with staff from the Town of Paradise and area residents, established community-based organizations (CBOs), and other stakeholders to develop a community supported plan that addressed traffic safety, circulation, pedestrian, and aesthetic deficiencies within the existing corridor. Given the constraints in the corridor, various users of the Skyway and volume of traffic, it was critical that the team demonstrate that the adopted plan alternative would function from a traffic operations standpoint.

The adopted plan which was developed based on extensive traffic analysis, public workshops, and stakeholder meetings, includes reducing the four-lane roadway to three lanes in the downtown area, adding bicycle lanes, enhancing pedestrian crossing facilities, wider sidewalks, and maintaining traffic flow through targeted intersection improvements and coordination of traffic signals. Following a large wildfire near the community which occurred during the process, the plan was modified to eliminate any landscaped medians in

the three-lane section, and to include decorative pavement in the center lane to be used as a second evacuation lane in the event of future fires. The plan also includes a new parking lot and public gathering space near the core of downtown to further support the economic revitalization of the downtown area. Subsequent to this effort, the Town embarked on

a Downtown Capital Improvements Master Plan for other streets in the downtown area. Following adoption of this Plan, the Town intends to seek funding to implement the downtown portion of the Skyway Corridor Plan.



Skyway Corridor Plan - Downtown Area Median Paving Options
Segment B - Pearson Road to Elliott Road

The core of Downtown Paradise stretches from Pearson Road to Elliott Street. In this area, a group would transition from four-lane lanes (2 north, 2 south) and a center raised planted median turn lane to three-lane lanes (1 north, 1 south) with general paving denoting the center two-way left turn lane. Below are examples of special paving materials and treatments of a median from a paved lane to a raised median.

Example of special paving within median/counter-turn lane

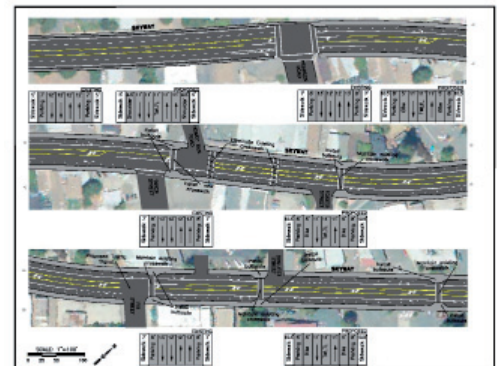
Example of transition from a paved median to a raised planted median

Example of special paving at crosswalks

Key Map

February 5, 2009

RRM Design Group W-Trans



W-Trans
 Steve Weinberger, 707-542-9500
www.w-trans.com

Butte County Association of Governments
 Brian Lasagna, 530-879-2468
www.bcag.org