

Genesee Board Working Groups

Southern Emergency Access Road

The 2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan commissioned by the Genesee Fire Protection District (GFPD) and previous planning efforts identified a need to address limited egress options and long evacuation times for GFPD residents in case of an emergency. Additional review and analysis were conducted by others, including the Genesee Fire & Safety Committee and the Southern EAR Tri-Board Working Group. Subsequently, the Genesee Foundation Board has taken steps to determine the feasibility and cost of an emergency evacuation route through the Southern Corridor, which is generally bounded by Daisy Lane, Montane Drive, Bitterroot Lane, and Highway 74. The route to be explored through this corridor is referred to as the Southern Emergency Access Route (“Southern EAR”). A conceptual plan for an evacuation road in this corridor was laid out in a 2021 study performed by Baseline Engineering. The Baseline Engineering Study assisted in identifying issues and providing context for discussions, however, an additional engineering study is necessary to obtain more detailed engineering and cost information, and to identify and consider alternative routes within the Southern Corridor.

The Genesee Board created a working group comprised of three Board members to lead work on the Southern EAR. The working group is in the process of selecting an engineering firm to conduct a study to identify one or more viable emergency access routes within the Southern Corridor, and to provide a project timeline, cost estimate and risk matrix for each identified option. Per the project plan, the working group, stakeholders, and the selected engineering company will then work collaboratively to identify financing sources. The working group will not enter into binding agreements, commit any funds, or make final decisions.

Prior to the formation of the Board working group, representatives of Genesee Foundation, Genesee Fire Protection District, and Genesee Water & Sanitation District came together to form the Tri-Board Working Group. The Tri-Board Working Group’s primary purpose is to create and employ a process for sharing information and identifying technical issues to support the potential development of a Southern EAR. The Tri-Board Group has compiled a summary of objectives and key parameters. The Tri-Board group has paused its meetings and activities while the engineering study is conducted. If one or more proposed evacuation routes crosses property owned by the Genesee Water & Sanitation District, the Tri-Board group will be positioned to address land rights and agreements necessary to move the project forward. The Tri-Board Group’s work is separate from the work of the Genesee Foundation working group.

The Genesee Fire Protection District continues to be an important contributor to work on the project.

The overarching goal of the Genesee Foundation Board is to develop and build an emergency access route that will serve the residents of Genesee in the event of an emergency.