

*Approved 11/15/23*

## MINUTES

### MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Primary Location

*MCOG Office – 525 S. Main St., Ukiah (Upstairs Conference Room)*

#### Teleconference Locations

*City of Point Arena - 451 School Street, Point Arena*

#### Members Present

Alicia Winokur, County DOT  
Dusty Duley, City of Willits  
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS  
Chantell O' Neal, City of Fort Bragg  
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena  
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah  
Dean Meester, Caltrans

#### Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration  
James Sookne, MCOG Planning  
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning  
Jesus Rodriguez, MCOG Planning  
Michael Villa, MCOG Administration  
Dave Shpak, Gualala MAC  
Kyle Finger, Caltrans  
Katie Everett, Caltrans  
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah

#### Members Absent

AQMD Representative  
Jacob King, MTA

October 25, 2023

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 1:02 p.m.
2. **Public Expression** – Dave Shpak expressed thanks to the Mendocino County Department of Transportation, particularly to Alicia and her team. He acknowledged the significant repair and maintenance efforts on Old Stage Road.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – None.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 9/27/23** –  
Motion by Jason Benson, seconded by Alicia Winokur, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Meier, O'Neal, Benson, Duley, Meester, Anderson, Cliser), to approve the minutes of 9/27/23.
5. **FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program – Third Amendment (Review/Recommendation)**  
Alexis Pedrotti presented the proposed amendment, following prior approvals of the initial and subsequent amendments with budgets set at \$894,365, \$1,086,672, and \$1,277,012 respectively. The focus was on the inclusion of a \$100,000 Caltrans Rural Planning Assistance Discretionary Grant to update and expand local road safety action plans. This grant required no local matching funds and increased the FY 2023/24 Overall Work Program total to \$1,377,012.

Dave Shpak expressed interest in joining the stakeholder group mentioned in the work plan and offered his participation. Alexis acknowledged the offer and agreed to pass the information to Loretta Ellard, who was leading the project.

**Motion by Dusty Duley, seconded by Alicia Winokur, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Meier, O’Neal, Benson, Duley, Meester, Anderson, Cliser), to recommend approval of the Third Amendment to the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program.**

**6. 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)/Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) (Ranking/Recommendation)**

James addressed the receipt of seven funding applications by September 29th. Discussions kicked off with presentations by agency representatives.

A discussion ensued over funding strategies and project prioritization, with some suggesting prioritizing smaller projects for immediate impact while considering leveraging future funding cycles. Members discussed the pros and cons of advancing funds from future cycles and the potential risks involved. The TAC also considered the state of the North State Street repairs and the Mountain View Road rehabilitation, recognizing the regional connectivity these projects offered and their necessity for commerce.

The TAC moved to prioritize projects, with divergent views from members on ranking, reflecting a mix of regional priorities. Tim Eriksen and Alicia Winokur shared differing perspectives, with the latter ranking the Ackerman Creek project highly. There was a general agreement on the importance of the roundabout projects for easing congestion and enhancing safety. A strategy emerged to allocate funds across a spectrum of projects, balancing the pressing needs of all, with a decision to draft recommendations for the next board meeting.

*Jason Benson leaves the meeting room.*

**Motion by Dusty Duley, seconded by Dean Meester, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Winokur, Duley, Meester, Anderson, Cliser) (2 Nays – O’Neal, Eriksen \*voting on behalf of Benson), to recommend programing the Mountain View Road, Comptche, Gualala, and State Street roundabout projects.**

*Jason Benson enters the meeting room.*

*Alicia Winokur exited the meeting.*

**7. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funding (Review/Recommendation)**

James had integrated feedback from the prior meeting, consolidating the first two scoring criteria and introducing a new one for region-wide benefits, assigning it a value of ten points, to keep the scoring system simple. The decision to cap points at thirty was upheld, reinforcing the notion that the scoring scale should remain proportional to the relatively modest funding pool. With the revisions completed, the updated policy was to be presented at the MCOG board meeting in November for adoption. The funding outlook, with a historical allocation of \$325,600 for the first two years, would have a projected continuation of funding at approximately \$165,000 to \$170,000 per annum for the subsequent three years.

**Motion by Dusty Duley, seconded by Benson, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – O’Neal, Anderson, Benson, Duley, Meester, Cliser), to the approve the updated policy and make a recommendation to the MCOG Board for approval.**

*Alicia Winokur entered the meeting.*

**8. Staff Reports**

**8a. 2025 Active Transportation Program (ATP) – Site Visits**

Nephele asked for input on the Active Transportation Program (ATP) site visits. Dusty highlighted the usefulness of virtual site visits, which are particularly advantageous for those concerned with travel. Jason mentioned that he was content over the funding received for certain projects and anticipation for the upcoming cycle. The Ukiah Downtown Streetscape Project was recognized positively by the TAC, with an acknowledgment of its potential competitiveness as an ATP application.

Alicia discussed the process for the ATP site visit registration for the visits scheduled from October through March of 2024. City of Fort Bragg's project, a connection of the coastal trail to the central business district, was highlighted for its high ranking in the Mendocino coast pedestrian feasibility study. Alicia mentioned the timeline for funding, with the first year being FY 2025-26. It was noted that projects would need to be ready, including environmental clearances and design, to be considered for funding.

**8b. Local Road Safety/Action Plan Updates – Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) Discretionary Grant**  
Nephele presented the Local Road Safety Action Plan updates and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The goal was to update local road safety plans to meet new funding requirements and incorporate additional data, including recent accident statistics. A condensed timeframe was acknowledged for these updates, emphasizing the need for efficiency.

**8c. FY 2024-25 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants – Application Deadline:1-18-24**  
Nephele mentioned the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants, with an application deadline set for January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The importance of these grants for planning projects was underscored, especially those related to climate change adaptation, such as sea-level rise and drivability. A virtual workshop was announced, along with forthcoming office hours to support those interested in the grants. Members shared agreements of the significance of careful planning and the avoidance of overcommitment when it comes to grants and projects.

**8d. Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and Zero Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP) – Information**

Nephele presented the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and Zero Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP) in light of the recent SB135. These programs were identified as essential for assisting transit agencies, particularly in urban areas hit by declining ridership since the pandemic, although less so in rural communities. Nephele acknowledged MCOG’s responsibility to program the funding, with an initial allocation package slated for the December MCOG board meeting, tapping into approximately \$11 million available over four years.

**8e. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) – Update**

James presented the requirement to submit a report to the state regarding the use of REAP funds. Chantell conveyed the intention to reallocate their designated REAP funds but indicated that staff were not prepared to proceed immediately. It was decided to amend the movement of the county's funds first,

with a note of urgency for Fort Bragg to expedite their decision-making process regarding the funds.

8f. MTA Ukiah Transit Center – Feasibility Study

Nephele discussed the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) Transit Center Feasibility Study, a significant component for SB125 funding. The study, focused on scouting potential sites in Ukiah, highlighted a promising location on Orchard, which had advanced to the stage of architectural renderings despite awaiting official MTA Board approval.

9. Miscellaneous

Nephele presented the Cal EVIP charger rebate opportunity. Applications are due December 9<sup>th</sup>.

9a. Next Meeting – 11/15/23, if needed.

10. Adjournment – approx. 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jesus Rodriguez  
/jr