

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2019
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Jeremy Ronco (for Dusty Duley), City of Willits
Bill Wood (for Alicia Meier), County DOT
Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg

Staff Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Phil Dow, MCOG Administration
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning

Present via Teleconference

Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Jesse Davis, County DPBS
Jacob King, MTA
Barbara Moed, AQMD

- 1. Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Self-introductions were made. The meeting was teleconferenced with Caltrans District 1 (Eureka), thus requiring all votes to be taken by roll call.
- 2. Public Expression** – None.
- 3. Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – This is a standing agenda item to allow input from tribal representatives. There were no tribal representatives present.
- 4. Approval of 2/20/19 Minutes** – Motion by Rick Seanor, seconded by Tom Varga, and carried on roll call vote (*5 ayes & Shoemaker abstaining*) to approve the minutes of 2/20/19 as submitted.
- 5. Active Transportation Program – Potential Project List** – Nephele explained that Caltrans District 1 staff has developed a list of potential ATP grant projects for which Caltrans could seek funding under the next cycle (Cycle 5), and is seeking comment by March 29. She advised that Caltrans is an eligible ATP applicant as of Cycle 4, but their Cycle 4 applications were not competitive so they are starting early outreach for the next round.

She distributed the project list, advising that she added a column with her comments noting updated information and general comments. She reviewed the potential projects on the list, and a discussion ensued with staff and members commenting on various projects.

Discussion included projects that have had progress (i.e. completion of Branscomb Road pedestrian bridge; programmed ADA projects in Hopland; SR 162/Covelo multi-purpose trail – in process), as well as projects with little or no progress (i.e. Willits Blosser Lane non-motorized improvements; and SR 128 Corridor Valley trail). It was noted that some of the listed projects had been submitted for ATP funding in previous cycles but were unsuccessful (i.e. MacKerricher State Park Haul Road and Westport Multi-Use Coastal Trail). Potential applicants for the various projects were also briefly discussed.

Tasha advised that Caltrans is seeking input on highest priority projects. Nephele mentioned Willits Blosser Lane SR 20 intersection project as a high priority that has received a lot of community support, and encouraged members to submit their comments on the listed projects as well as any additional potential projects, to her for forwarding to Caltrans by March 29. She added that there will be additional opportunities to work with Caltrans before Cycle 5, and this effort is to provide input for early planning.

6. Discussion of MCOG's Regional Project Manager Position – Nephele reviewed her staff report which gave the history of how MCOG's "Regional Project Manager" position was developed after a strategic MCOG board planning workshop in 2010. She explained the position was first filled in 2012 by James Sookne, who served in that role until he moved to other duties at MCOG and Lake Area Planning Council in 2018.

She advised the position is currently vacant, and in response to a suggestion by the MCOG Board Chair, she would like to get TAC input on how the position is working (or how it could be improved) to meet local agencies' needs. She would also like to hear from members if there are specific tasks that should be added, before the position is advertised. She noted some tasks (e.g. traffic counts) are currently being performed by Phil Dow.

A discussion ensued. All four city TAC representatives commented on the helpful assistance James has provided with various programs, noting the value of the technical assistance and complexity of work. The increased reporting requirements coming under the various SB 1 program was mentioned as an area that would benefit from assistance by the regional manager position, which Nephele described as about a 2/3 position.

In response to a request, Nephele said she will distribute the regional manager job description to TAC members, and she encouraged members to send her any specific comments or suggestions.

Lisa mentioned that MCOG staff is looking into a project management/software type of program that may be of interest to local agencies and staff. Staff will follow up.

7. SB 743/Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – Technical Advisory of Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA – Loretta referenced the December 2018 Technical Advisory from the California Office of Planning & Research on SB 743 (included in agenda packet), and noted the January 1, 2020 implementation date for new requirements under SB 743.

She said it will not be known if MCOG's grant application for the SB 743/VMT Regional Baseline Study is successful until mid-May, when Caltrans transportation planning grant awards

are expected. If the grant application is unsuccessful, other possible funding options for this project will be pursued.

8. Staff Reports

8a. STIP Update – Nephele advised the CTC will be adopting the 2020 STIP Fund Estimate at their next meeting, so more information will be forthcoming. The need to consider cost increases for existing projects was mentioned.

8b. SB 1 Programs – Nephele reported that the CalSMART reporting program is being expanded to include reporting on several programs under SB 1, including Local Partnership and ATP programs. She advised she forwarded an email to members regarding March 25 training webinars on the new reporting program. She reminded members that project lists for Local Streets and Roads program are due in CalSMART by May 1, and approving resolutions must be approved separately from an agency's annual budget.

8c. Legislative Update – Nephele reported on the following: (1) there is a bill in the legislature which proposes withholding funds if an agency is not making adequate progress on housing production; however, there is now a move to change it to propose withholding funds if any agency does not have a compliant housing element, because housing production is out of the control of local agencies; and (2) there is a bill by Senator Beall which proposes to change the formula distribution of ATP funds to award 75% to large urban areas (from the current 40%), along with changes to the other pots, which would result in a major reduction to small urban and rural pots. She will monitor these bills.

9 Miscellaneous – Tom Varga briefly reported on how he responded to the recent ADA audit for Fort Bragg, and offered his notes to local agency staff. Loretta offered to schedule this item on a future agenda for discussion if desired. She will forward the information provided by Tom to TAC members.

8d. MCOG Professional Services Contracts (Administration & Planning) – Nephele briefly reported that the MCOG Board voted to move forward with one year contract extensions for the MCOG Administration and Planning professional services contracts, with details to be worked out with an adhoc committee. The current contracts expire 9/30/19.

10. Adjournment – 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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