

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 9, 2017
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Jason Wise, County DOT
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena
Robert Dostalek, County DPBS
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg
Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Alexis Kelso, Caltrans – *via teleconference*

Staff & Others Present

Phil Dow, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
Nephele Barrett, MCOG Planning
Howard Dashiell, County DOT
Janet Orth (*present for agenda item #10b*)

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Barbara Moed, AQMD
Carla Meyer, MTA

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Phil called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Self-introductions were made.
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 5/31/17 Minutes** – Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Tom Varga, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Wise, Shoemaker, Dostalek, Varga, Seanor, Duley, Kelso; 0 noes; 2 absent – Moed, Meyer) to approve the minutes of 5/31/17 as submitted.
5. **FY 2016/17 Overall Work Program – Fourth Quarter Report** – Loretta briefly reviewed the fourth quarter report, and noted carryover projects. Information only.
6. **FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program – First Amendment** – Loretta review the proposed First Amendment, noting adjustments to carryover amounts and other miscellaneous revisions. Proposed revisions include the addition of a new work element (W.E. 13) to provide the local match for the County's Orchard Avenue Extension Feasibility Study (*a recently approved Caltrans Sustainable Communities grant project*), and the deletion of MTA's Bus Stop Review Project, Phases 3 & 4 (W.E. 15), due to higher priorities by MTA staff.

A brief discussion ensued. Loretta advised that this amendment will increase the amount of reserved RPA (Rural Planning Assistance) funds to \$62,275, and the TAC will soon need to identify a project to program those funds, which have limited carryover provisions.

As proposed, the FY 2017/18 OWP will be revised from \$1,239,550 to \$1,433,716, an increase of \$194,166 (from available carryover funds).

Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Tom Varga, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Wise, Shoemaker, Dostalek, Varga, Seanor, Duley, Kelso; 0 noes; 2 absent – Moed, Meyer) to recommend that MCOG approve the First Amendment to the FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program.

7. **2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** – Nephele reviewed her staff report and explained that the California Transportation Commission is expected to adopt the 2018 STIP Fund Estimate at their August 18 meeting. The passage of SB 1 is expected to stabilize the STIP, and the estimate available for the Mendocino County region is \$3,000,000. That total includes \$298,000 for Planning, Programming & Monitoring, leaving \$2,702,000 for projects. She advised that the 2016 STIP experienced a funding shortfall which resulted in the deprogramming of \$2,656,000 in local projects, and suggested those projects should be considered priority for reprogramming in the 2018 cycle if they are still a priority for local agencies. The following projects were deleted from 2016 STIP:

(County) N. State St. Intersection/Interchange – E & P \$132,000; PS&E \$336,000
(Ukiah) Low Gap Road/N. Bush St. Roundabout – CON - \$703,000
(Fort Bragg) S. Main St. Bike & Ped Improvements – E & P \$45,000; PS&E \$110,000;
CON \$1,330,000

General discussion ensued. Howard advised that the County's project is still a priority, but it may need an updated PSR. Tom advised that Fort Bragg's project is still a priority. Rick advised that he will need to check on whether Ukiah's project is still a priority.

Nephele reported that Project Study Reports (PSRs) must be submitted with the RTIP, instead of later in the process. Phil advised that MCOG has a funding source for PSRs, if needed, and they could be prepared by a consultant. Nephele recalled that there is a PSR form for rehab projects; MCOG staff will check on the format.

Although this item is not on today's agenda for action, Nephele asked if there was a consensus that deleted projects are a priority. ***No objections were noted*** to considering deleted projects as priorities; however, this will come back to the TAC for formal recommendation prior to MCOG's adoption of the 2018 RTIP in December. Nephele asked project sponsors to provide updated costs by the September 20 TAC meeting; and advised that Ukiah's answer could wait until the October TAC meeting, if necessary.

Phil concluded that the good news in the 2018 Fund Estimate is that MCOG's deficit from the Willits Bypass is now paid, so the 2020 STIP is looking good for new projects.

8. Branscomb Road Pedestrian/Multi-Use Bridge over Ten Mile Creek – Consideration of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Development Funds – Phil

reiterated the challenges the County has experienced in getting this needed pedestrian bridge constructed. He noted the January 2017 bid process which resulted in bids ranging from approximately \$200,000 to \$400,000 over available funds, and said MCOG and the County have a lot of funds invested in this project. The current \$385,000 in STIP funds have been extended to allow the County time to come up with a funding solution, in order to not abandon the project and lose the \$385,000.

Phil explained his recommendation that MCOG contribute up to \$200,000 of accumulated RSTP funds for the construction phase of this project, which will supplement the \$385,000 in STIP funds, plus the previously committed \$131,000 in MCOG LTF 2% Bike & Pedestrian Funds, and the additional \$100,000 budgeted by the County in FY 2017/18, for a total available of \$816,000. Howard described the 120' long, 8' wide, ADA compliant, prefab metal bridge; addressed challenges (floodplain issues, abutment, etc.), and noted the importance of this critical link with local schools and other bike and pedestrian projects.

Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Dusty Duley, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Wise, Shoemaker, Dostalek, Varga, Seanor, Duley, Kelso; 0 noes; 2 absent – Moed, Meyer) to recommend that the MCOG Board commit up to \$200,000 in accumulated Regional Surface Transportation Program funds, matching \$100,000 of budgeted County funds on a 2:1 basis, as needed to fully fund the construction phase of the Branscomb Road Multi-Use Bridge project in Laytonville.

9. North State Street Signal Improvements – Consideration of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Partnership Funding Program Funds – Phil

explained his recommendation that MCOG contribute funding to the County/City of Ukiah project for coordination between the North State/KUKI signal and the North State/Ford/Empire signal. He said it was previously expected that this interconnect might be funded by the Pinoleville Tribe as mitigation to circulation impacts from their once-planned casino, but it's now clear that it must be funded with public funds. The good news is that modern technology has eliminated the need to interconnect by hard wire, and advanced equipment can be added to the controllers that will communicate electronically and automatically adjust timing patterns based on changing travel patterns.

Phil said the KUKI intersection lies wholly within the unincorporated territory, and only one leg of the North State/Ford/Empire signal lies within the City of Ukiah, so funding commitments are proportionate. He is proposing that MCOG contribute \$33,985 from MCOG's RSTP Partnership Funding Program toward the total project cost of \$90,785 (MCOG \$33,985; City of Ukiah \$9,710; County \$47,090).

A brief discussion ensued on other potential uses for these funds. Phil said the 2008 State Route 1 Corridor Study (*which is due for a ten-year update*) identified needed improvements on SR 1 (i.e. left turn pockets) which could be potential candidates for these partnership funds, along with other similar type projects.

Motion by Tom Varga, seconded by Richard Shoemaker, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Wise, Shoemaker, Dostalek, Varga, Seanor, Duley, Kelso; 0 noes; 2 absent – Moed, Meyer) to recommend to MCOG to commit \$33,985 from the Partnership Funding Program to supplement City of Ukiah and County of Mendocino funding for traffic signal coordination and upgrades on North State Street.

10. Staff Reports

10a. SB 1 – Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017 – Phil briefly reported on various programs under SB 1 programs: Local Streets & Roads – CTC is expected to adopt guidelines next week; includes more funding and increased local agency reporting requirements; there are also Maintenance of Effort requirements. Congested Corridors – Mendocino County is unlikely to get any funding. Trade Corridors – Mendocino region may have a future project (i.e. widening in North Hopland); possible project in Lake County – Lake 29 widening. Local Partnership – Phil has been the sole rural participant, attending meetings in support of base amount of funding for self-help cities, CTC staff is supportive; will be 50% formula / 50% competitive for first two years. Active Transportation Program – CTC adopted guidelines at June 29 meeting; supplemental ATP funding is available to advance projects or go down the unfunded list from last cycle; MCOG encouraged unsuccessful candidates from last cycle to resubmit, even though slim chance of funding. Annual ATP cycles will have approximately 75% more funding than in the past due to SB 1. SHOPP – Caltrans program, will have increased funding which will benefit state highway projects. STIP – Phil was happy that MCOG's debt on the Willits Bypass has been retired in the 2018 STIP.

Phil reported on the Transportation Asset Management program – an approach of breaking down silos and merging programs to take care of all things at once (i.e. culverts, sidewalk, etc.).

SB 1 Planning Grants – Loretta reported the application deadline is Oct. 27. (*Note –it was discovered after the TAC meeting that the deadline is Oct. 20.*) Phil noted that MCOG has sponsored grants in many communities identifying active transportation projects, but what is lacking is a comprehensive sidewalk inventory, identifying gap locations. He thought it would be a good future grant project to have an Engineered Feasibility Study to identify ready projects for the ongoing ATP program. A similar grant project was awarded in Lake County. This will be on the next TAC agenda for discussion.

Active Transportation Plan – Nephela advised that the maps for the Active Transportation Plan are expected to be sent to the TAC next week. The Final Plan may not be adopted by MCOG until October, if it's not ready for the August meeting. She will e-mail the Final Plan to TAC members, and if there are concerns it can be brought back to the TAC (*the draft was approved by the TAC at the last meeting, with maps to follow*).

11. Miscellaneous

Regional Transportation Plan Project Lists – Nephela reminded members that RTP project lists are due today.

Point Arena City Council – Richard Shoemaker reported that Caltrans representatives and Phil attended a recent City Council meeting to give a presentation on the Garcia river crossing.

City of Ukiah – Rick Seanor advised that the City’s Urban Greening Grant application made it through the first screening phase, and representatives from the grant program will conduct a walkthrough of the Rail Trail, Phase 3 project (from Clara Street to Brush Street) at the end of August.

10. Staff Reports

10b. Local Agency Subrecipient Agreement- Janet Orth advised that the Local Agency Subrecipient Agreement was sent to local agencies on August 1, with copies also provided to TAC members. Howard reported that County Counsel had some minor concerns, and Janet noted the need for consistency among all agencies. She will work with the County to address the questions.

11a. Next Meeting – September 20, 2017.

12. Adjournment - 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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