

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 15, 2017
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Jason Wise, County DOT
Dave Carstensen, Caltrans
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Ben Kageyama, City of Ukiah (*for Rick Seanor*)
Scott Perkins, City of Fort Bragg (*for Tom Varga*)

Staff & Others Present

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

Via Teleconference

Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena
(*joined meeting at approx. 10:25 a.m.*)

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
AQMD Representative
Adele Phillips, County DPBS
Carla Meyer, MTA

- 1. Call to Order/Introductions** – Phil called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Self-introductions were made. **See note below --- all votes **after** the teleconference was activated at approx. 10:25 a.m. were conducted with a 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 1/31/17 Minutes** – Motion by Jason Wise, seconded by Dusty Duley, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of 1/31/17 as submitted.
- 5. FY 2017/18 Draft Overall Work Program** – Loretta reviewed her staff report and advised that proposed MCOG work elements and local agency requests were initially reviewed last month.

**10:25 a.m. (approx) - Richard Shoemaker joined the meeting by teleconference. Staff noted that all actions will now require a roll call vote, per Brown Act requirements.*

Loretta explained the need for increased Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for tasks that may not be eligible for Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds (*based on information received at a recent Caltrans training workshop*). Lisa advised that she will be meeting with Caltrans headquarters' staff in follow-up to the new RPA funding interpretations/restrictions.

Loretta briefly reviewed proposed work elements and advised that projects proposed for RPA funding must be of regional benefit. Dave Carstensen recommended emphasizing the regional aspect of the “Traffic Analysis for Realignment of Talmage Road” project.

Loretta explained that, as proposed in the Draft, there will be \$37,275 of RPA funds reserved and carried over for a future “to be determined” project (*subject to Caltrans’ approval and RPA carryover provisions*). Dave Carstensen suggested adding information about potential uses of the reserved RPA.

A general discussion ensued. Scott Perkins was invited to review the City of Fort Bragg’s proposed project, as no one from Fort Bragg was present last month when applications were reviewed. He summarized Fort Bragg’s proposed “Street Safety Plan” project, advising that it’s an update and broadening of the “2010 Residential Streets Safety Plan”.

Loretta reminded members of the requirement to submit quarterly OWP progress reports, advising that it’s been a challenge to obtain the reports. This effects MCOG’s submittal of the required quarterly report to Caltrans. She advised that MCOG staff is working on developing a local agency agreement (to pass down requirements for all funds that MCOG distributes to local agencies) and anticipates that it will be effective with the beginning of FY 2017/18.

Phil summarized that after TAC approval, the Draft OWP will be submitted to Caltrans for comment, and any necessary changes will then be made.

Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Scott Perkins, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – Wise, Carstensen, Duley, Kageyama, Perkins, Shoemaker; 0 noes; 3 absent – AQMD Representative, Phillips, Meyer), to approve sending the Draft FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program to Caltrans.

6. Active Transportation Plan – Nephela advised that the administrative draft of the Active Transportation Plan was distributed at the last TAC meeting, and comments were due by this meeting (February 15). She said she had received comments from only one local agency, and additional input is needed.

Nephela reviewed the short range and long range tables, and asked local agency staff to provide information to help fill in the blanks (*e.g. project description, existing use, proposed use, bicycle parking, etc.*) Information is also needed on completed projects.

A general discussion ensued, with several members providing comments on specific projects. Dave Carstensen reviewed a detailed list of comments, and added that he will obtain information on the Blosser Lane/Highway 20 intersection project, to help fill in the tables. Scott advised that he will submit comments by the end of the week. Phil advised that MCOG has bicycle and pedestrian counters that local agencies may use, once priorities are developed.

Nephela summarized that after the project lists are finalized, maps will be developed and the final plan will be sent out for TAC review. It is expected to be presented for MCOG approval in May.

7. Branscomb Road Pedestrian Bridge – Funding Options – Phil reported on this item. He stated that, following the last TAC meeting (*in which County DOT staff reported that all bids*

for this project were over budget by more than 200k), MCOG staff coordinated with County staff to apply for an extension of the contract award deadline. Nephele advised that the extension request will be on the March CTC agenda, and if approved, will extend the award deadline by 14 months and allow time to explore funding options. If not extended, the allocated construction funds (\$385k) will be lost, and the County may be required to repay funding received for pre-development phases (\$250k +/-). Phil advised that he will be unable to attend the March CTC meeting, but another staff member may attend, if needed.

Phil noted that MCOG has money invested in this project from several funding sources, and although costly, he would like to explore funding possibilities to avoid losing the project. A general discussion ensued, and the importance of this project to the community was noted.

Phil explained that MCOG has some RSTP d(1) project development funds (*from years of accumulated interest on RSTP d(1) funds*) that may be considered to help close the funding gap for construction, but he thinks the County should also contribute additional funding. This funding pot has previously been discussed with the TAC as a way to develop shelf projects. With accrued interest, there is now a balance of approximately \$202k.

Phil said he spoke with County Transportation Director Dashiell, who is supportive of the project and willing to request additional funding from the Board of Supervisors. Jason Wise noted that based on the low bid, approximately \$230k in additional construction funding would be needed; however, the project would need to be re-bid next spring.

Phil commented that MCOG could consider contributing half of the needed funding, with the County to provide the other half. He requested TAC feedback, and stated that unless there is a concern, he plans to bring this back to the TAC for a recommendation at a later meeting. No concerns were noted. This issue will likely be presented to MCOG and the Board of Supervisors in May.

8. Staff Reports

8a. North State Super Region Project Proposals – Phil explained that the CTC is preparing a report of transportation needs throughout the state, including different types of projects in various regions. He explained that, as Chair of the North State Super Region, he submitted examples of various modal types of project from the 16-county area that defines the Super Region. He advised that he submitted the Garcia River Bridge project on Windy Hollow Road as the sample project for Mendocino County.

Richard Shoemaker expressed concern with the submittal of the Garcia River bridge project, citing the inadequate condition of Windy Hollow Road and the burden it would place on the City of Point Arena to maintain it if it were to be used as an alternative to the state highway. He stated his preference for a viaduct on State Highway 1 as a better alternative to addressing the flooding/road closure issues in this area.

A discussion ensued. Phil explained that, although not a top priority, this bridge project been submitted as a sample project to illustrate the types of projects that could be done. It's been vetted through a planning process, and is listed as an option in the climate change study that Caltrans conducted. Nephele advised that this project was the top supported project during the recent RTP/ATP workshops held in Point Arena.

Richard expressed disappointment that the City of Point Arena has not been brought into the conversation with the County and the Tribe about this project.

Phil summarized that the deadline has passed, and he submitted the sample project list on Monday.

9. Miscellaneous

Potter Valley Turn-Off – Lisa expressed appreciation to Tasha Ahlstrand (Caltrans) for the quick follow-up on safety concerns about signs/arrows by the Potter Valley/Highway 20 turn-off, brought up by Lisa at last month's TAC meeting.

9a. Next Meeting – March 22 (if needed).

10. Adjournment – 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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