

*Approved 11/17/21*

## MINUTES

### MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference*

**September 15, 2021**

#### **Members Present**

Chantell O’Neal, City of Fort Bragg  
Alicia Meier, County DOT  
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS  
Andrew Stricklin, City of Ukiah  
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena  
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans  
Jim Robbins, City of Willits

#### **Members Absent**

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

#### **Staff & Others Present**

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration  
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning  
James Sookne, MCOG Planning  
Charlene Parker, MCOG Planning  
Alexis (Lexi) Pedrotti, MCOG Planning  
Danielle Casey, MCOG Administration  
Janet Orth, MCOG Administration  
Kyle Finger, Caltrans  
Destiny Preston, Caltrans  
Javier Silva, Manchester/Point Arena Tribe  
Patricia Rabano, Round Valley Tribe

- 1. Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:04 a.m. Individuals present on the Zoom meeting identified themselves.
- 2. Public Expression** – Chantell requested an update of Caltrans phone numbers, and Tasha offered to send her an updated list.
- 3. Input from Native American Tribal Governments’ Representatives** – Javier Silva, Manchester-Point Arena Tribe, offered his involvement with the RTP and updating the Manchester/Point Arena’s Tribe’s information. Patricia Rabano said she was attending today’s meeting to find out more about the RTP and the TAC. Nephele advised the RTP is on today’s agenda.
- 4. Approval of 5/19/21 Minutes - Motion by Tasha Ahlstrand, seconded by Chantell O’Neal, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – O’Neal, Meier, Cliser, Stricklin, Andersen, Ahlstrand, Robbins) to approve the minutes of 5/19/21.**
- 5. 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan Update** – Loretta reported on the 2022 RTP/ATP update currently underway. She said the first round of public outreach has been completed, and staff is working on development of the draft plan. Draft components of various elements have been sent to TAC members for review, and staff will continue to accept comments.

Loretta and Nephele reviewed questions regarding performance standards and whether or not it still makes sense to keep Level of Service (LOS) as a performance measure since SB 743 no longer allows LOS for CEQA. During discussion, Destiny suggested it may come into play with Coastal

Development permits and Local Coastal Plan amendments; Chantell said Fort Bragg is continuing to review projects for both LOS and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and Mark said the County Planning department is transitioning to VMT, but added the County General Plan does call for LOS standards. He will follow up further on this.

Loretta asked about the need to update the 2008 SR1 Corridor Study. Nephele thought it was a previous requirement for Local Coastal Plan amendments, but current requirements are unknown. MCOG has not received a request to update this study.

Loretta asked members to review the draft elements and provide missing information for their agency. She noted the Active Transportation element will serve as the region's Active Transportation Plan. The draft is expected to be completed by mid-to-late October, then another round of public outreach will begin. The draft RTP/ATP will be scheduled on the November TAC agenda for TAC recommendation. Staff will give a presentation on the draft to the MCOG Board in November, with adoption of the final scheduled for the December MCOG meeting.

Nephele gave more background on the RTP, MCOG's primary transportation planning document, noting that it is now updated every four years and covers a 20-year period. She said once the draft is available staff will do more public outreach and there will be additional opportunities to comment.

**6. 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** – James provided a recap of his staff report. He advised the CTC identified a Fund Estimate target of \$5,290,000 available to the region in Regional Improvement Program funding for the five-year STIP period, FY 22-23 through FY 26-27. A maximum amount of \$7,152,000 is also identified which includes funding expected to be available in the next County Share Period. After deducting \$209,000 for Planning, Programming, & Monitoring, a target of \$5,081,000 is available for programming, with a maximum of \$6,943,000.

He said the 2020 RTIP identifies future funding commitments for two projects: N. State Street Intersection/Interchange – CON \$1,602,000 (County of Mendocino); and Gualala Downtown Streetscape – CON up to \$3,050,000 (Caltrans). The County is ready to move forward with programming construction funds for North State Street, but construction cannot be programmed for the Gualala project because the full construction budget has not yet been secured. Nephele said an ATP application will be submitted again for the Gualala project in the next cycle (Spring, 2022).

James reported that the MCOG Board directed staff to issue a call for projects for the 2022 RTIP; however, the Board did not want to provide direction on whether or not to utilize the maximum funding without having first seen what projects would be proposed. If the maximum amount is utilized, \$2,291,000 would be available for new programming, after taking into account future commitments. If the target amount is utilized, \$429,000 would be available. Staff believes it makes sense to utilize the maximum share to accommodate future commitments.

A lengthy discussion ensued with James and Nephele responding to questions. Nephele said staff would need to look into whether State funds could be used to match Local Partnership Program (LPP) projects. James offered to follow-up with Alicia on moving funds between components for the North State Street project. James said staff will be working with local agencies to also program their

CRRSAA STIP formula funds as part of this RTIP, and it was noted that the CRRSAA funds have shorter allocation and expenditure deadlines than the regular STIP funds.

Nephele summarized that the RTIP application deadline is October 1 at 5:00 p.m. and staff is available to answer questions between now and then.

## **7. Staff Reports**

7a. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants – Update – Nephele reported on this program that was made available through 2019 legislation for regional planning to support implementation of housing elements. MCOG suballocated the majority of the regional funding to local agencies, and all agencies submitted applications. She wanted to check in to see where local agencies were with their activities, and share information from the CA Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on their plans for technical assistance.

Mark did not have an update for the County’s REAP activities at this time, and no other planning representatives were present to provide a report. Nephele said future TAC agendas will include this as a standing agenda item for reports. She reviewed via screenshare a chart from HCD which identified proposed needs, priorities, and technical tools to assist agencies, and said she would share the Mendocino County specific plan with the TAC and planning representatives when it’s received, and this item will be on the next agenda.

7b. Clean CA Grant Program – Nephele reported on this new litter abatement and beautification grant program recently announced by Caltrans. The application deadline will be in February 2022, and a fact sheet was included in the agenda packet. Tasha advised that Caltrans has been reviewing previous planning documents and studies to identify potential projects in District 1. She will report back to the TAC once the list is developed.

Brief discussion ensued regarding eligible project types, potential projects, and the short timeline (completion required by June 30, 2023). Loretta said she would distribute the grant guidelines, and Nephele encouraged members to start thinking early about conducting community outreach and gathering community support for potential applications.

7c. Local Road Safety Plans (LRSP) – Update – Loretta briefly reported on this project. She noted the consultant (TJKM) is currently awaiting feedback on the proposed countermeasures and getting ready to schedule individual project meetings with each local agency. The project is due to be completed in the spring in order to have the individual safety plans for each agency completed before the next HSIP application cycle, anticipated in March/April, 2022.

7d. Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Award – “Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino County” – Loretta reported that this grant project was awarded by Caltrans in June. The project is a feasibility study to look at challenges of transportation in remote communities that are not easily served by transit. MCOG staff will soon be starting development of the Request for Proposals after the “notice to proceed” is received, and will reach out to some TAC members about serving on a consultant selection committee.

Mark asked if Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) will be addressed in this study, and Nephele advised that VMT could come into play during analysis of potential solutions. She said the RFP could identify what should be used in the analysis.

**9. Miscellaneous**

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) – Janet advised she will be working on updating and revising the claiming procedures for this program (*formerly Regional Surface Transportation Program*) to better align procedures with the terms of the subrecipient agreements between MCOG and local agencies. The goal is to change the claiming procedures to a reimbursement basis rather than an advance, as is done with MCOG’s other programs. This could include a screening process to ensure project eligibility, and there could also be an option to approve advances for hardship situations. It was noted that most agencies, other than the County, are already using the reimbursement method. Janet said she will follow up with local agency finance department staff, and advised that she is also beginning development of the annual subrecipient agreements.

Caltrans – Miscellaneous – Tasha reported on the following: (1) In answer to a question raised earlier in today’s meeting, she said she was able to confirm with Local Assistance staff that LPP funds may be used to match STIP funds. Paul clarified his question was whether or not STIP funds could be used to supplement a match for LPP, and Tasha said she would forward information to Point Arena and MCOG staff. (2) Tasha noted the flyer Loretta previously forwarded to TAC members announcing the Sept. 23 Caltrans District 1 local grant webinar for the FY 2022/23 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program. (3) Caltrans is working with Cambridge Systematics to update the Lake and Mendocino Travel Demand Model, and Lisa Hockaday will be reaching out to local agencies for information, and she may attend a future TAC meeting to discuss this topic. (4) The State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) project list has been updated for 2022 and is available at <http://projectbook.dot.ca.gov/>.

Nephele noted that agenda item #7e was inadvertently skipped:

7e. FY 2022-23 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Cycle – Application Deadline 10/27/21 – This upcoming grant program was briefly discussed, and information on eligible categories and eligible applicants was included in the agenda packet.

8a. Next Meeting – October 20, 2021.

**10. Adjournment** – Approx. 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard  
Deputy Planner

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