

Approved 5/19/21

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference

April 21, 2021

Members Present

Chantell O’Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Alicia Meier, County DOT
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS (*arrived approx. 10:18 a.m.*)*

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Charlene Parker, MCOG Planning
Jessica Stull-Otto

Members Absent

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

- Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Individuals present on the Zoom meeting/teleconference were identified. **Staff was unaware that Mark Cliser joined the meeting late, until the meeting ended. Therefore, his name was not called during roll call votes.*
- Public Expression** – None.
- Input from Native American Tribal Governments’ Representatives** – No tribal representatives were present.
- Approval of 3/17/21 Minutes** - Dusty requested a correction on page 2, item #6, as follows: “...but the meeting was unproductive so they set up a site meeting virtual meeting setting didn’t allow for full evaluation so they set up a site meeting...” **Motion by Alicia Meier, seconded by Tim Eriksen, and carried on roll call vote (5 ayes – Duley, Meier, Eriksen, Andersen, Ahlstrand; 1 abstention – O’Neal) to approve the minutes of 3/17/21 as corrected.**
- Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding** – Nephele noted the first two rounds of HIP funding were awarded to Ukiah’s Downtown Streetscape project, and the third and fourth rounds include much smaller amounts. A total of \$169,176 is available (\$93,208 for FY 19/20, and \$75,968 for FY 20/21). She summarized that three projects have been discussed by the TAC for this funding: City of Willits’ Highway 20/Walnut Street crossing project; City of Ukiah’s Downtown Streetscape, Ph. 2 project; and the County’s Ackerman Creek bridge project.

Nephele advised she recently learned that Willits' project is not ready to move forward. Dusty and Tasha addressed this item, with Tasha explaining that Caltrans traffic safety staff conducted a field review on April 8, and it was determined that more time is needed for evaluation.

Of the two remaining projects, Nephele suggested the Ackerman Creek project makes the most sense, as the County hopes to go to construction this season, and if not, next year. While acknowledging the value of the second phase of the Downtown Streetscape project, she had concerns about timing, and since it received the first two rounds of funding, thought this would be an opportunity to share funding with other projects.

Tim expressed appreciation for Ukiah's project receiving the prior funding, and said he will be happy to be in a back-up position to the County's project. He added that timing could be quicker than expected, with the project possibly going to construction next season. Alicia commented on the importance of the Ackerman Creek bridge project, and said the County is just waiting for the bridge program funding to be allocated. Although the college has contributed some funds toward the local match, approx. \$1 million is still needed, and the bridge (*approx. \$11m construction cost*) does not qualify for toll credits, so any help with the local share will be very beneficial.

Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Dusty Duley, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – Duley, Meier, Eriksen, O'Neal, Andersen, Ahlstrand) to recommend to MCOG that the \$169,176 of HIP funds for years 3 and 4 be awarded to the County's Ackerman Creek bridge project.

It was briefly discussed whether Tim wanted to add to the motion that Ukiah's project would be in a back-up position, but he declined. Nephele noted staff can advise the MCOG Board of that discussion without making it a condition of approval.

6. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) (HR 133) Funding – James reviewed his staff report and explained the CTC approved a distribution formula for the CRRSAA funds based 50% on STBG formula and 50% on STIP formula, which resulted in a total of \$1,622,007 for the Mendocino County region. Of this amount, \$423,875 will flow through the STBG program, and \$1,198,132 through the STIP (including PPM of \$59,907).

He reviewed that at the last TAC meeting the TAC supported a formula funding distribution instead of a competitive application cycle. At the April MCOG Board meeting, the TAC's preference was presented, and the Board directed staff to develop formula distribution scenarios. He drafted several scenarios including base amounts plus 50/50 split of population and center-lane miles. Base amount options were: Scenario 1 (\$50,000); Scenario 2 (\$100,000); or Scenario 3 (\$150,000). Nephele suggested Scenario 2 was a good compromise, and several members expressed support for Scenario 2. No one expressed support for a different base amount.

Discussion continued with James explaining the various scenarios, and with James and Nephele responding to questions. Nephele addressed differences between funds administered through the STIP vs funds flowing through the STBG program, and referenced the draft CRRSAA program guidelines

included with the staff report. Some answers are not yet known (*i.e. can funds be added to projects already allocated, or to projects already under contract?*) and staff has asked (or can ask) CTC/Caltrans staff. Accelerated STIP timelines were noted for agencies wanting to program funds in the mid-cycle STIP.

The challenge of having to work with two different programs was noted, and it was agreed it would be easier for some agencies to not have to work with both STIP and STBG programs. During discussion, a new option emerged (*which James shared on Zoom, subsequently named “Scenario 2G”*) which would allocate only STIP funds to Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg, and only STBG funds to Point Arena; with a mix of STIP/STBG to the County. This scenario was supported by all, as the County (which receives the most money) would be the only agency receiving funds from both programs.

Motion by Dusty Duley, seconded by Chantell O’Neal, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – Duley, Meier, Eriksen, O’Neal, Andersen, Ahlstrand), to recommend that MCOG adopt Scenario #2G for distribution of the CRRSAA funds:

| | Scenario #2G | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | \$100,000 Base | | |
| | STIP | STBG | Total |
| County | \$ 599,619.45 | \$ 318,509.72 | \$ 918,129.17 |
| Ukiah | \$ 232,694.96 | \$ - | \$ 232,694.96 |
| Willits | \$ 144,050.60 | \$ - | \$ 144,050.60 |
| Fort Bragg | \$ 161,859.99 | \$ - | \$ 161,859.99 |
| Point Arena | \$ - | \$ 105,365.28 | \$ 105,365.28 |
| | | | |
| Total: | \$ 1,138,225.00 | \$ 423,875.00 | \$ 1,562,100.00 |

Nephele summarized that James will follow up with local agencies to get clarification on what agencies would like to do with their funds, and this item (*and any project lists, if ready*) will be presented for approval at the next MCOG meeting.

7. Staff Reports

7a. 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan Update – Loretta reported she is continuing to work with local agencies to gather information, and virtual public outreach is continuing through the public outreach platform “Social Pinpoint” on MCOG’s website. She reviewed online interaction numbers (*surveys completed, map comments, etc.*) and said staff plans to send out another round of advertisements soon to encourage more input. Jessica Stull-Otto, Round Valley MAC member, offered to share the outreach flyer with the RVMAC, and welcomed a presentation at an

upcoming meeting. She said several MACs are meeting tomorrow, and she offered to share the information. Nephele advised that she will also be attending the “big MAC” meeting tomorrow. Jessica suggested that staff also reach out to the Board of Supervisors, and other groups such as the Climate Advisory Committee, and said she would follow-up with an email including contact information.

Loretta and Nephele asked members to continue sharing the flyer and encouraged all to take the transportation survey. Nephele added the link to the project website to the chat:

<https://www.mendocinocog.org/regional-transportation-plan-rtp-active-transportation-plan-2022-update>

7b. Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Update – Loretta explained that each region is required to adopt a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan in order to qualify for certain federal funding sources. The purpose of these plans is to address transportation needs of elderly, disabled, and low-income individuals, and projects must be included in a Coordinated Plan to be eligible for funding. She said past projects have mainly included vehicles for senior centers, and Nephele added that senior center operations have also been eligible for the past few years under the expanded Sec. 5310 program (*which recently received federal stimulus funding*).

Loretta advised the state hired a consultant to help rural agencies develop their plans. The consultant has now submitted the proposed final plan, which has been posted on MCOG’s website, and is scheduled for MCOG adoption on May 3. This 2021 Coordinated Plan is an update to the 2015 plan.

7c. Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) – Update – Loretta said the consultant (TJKM) has requested that local agencies post a link on their agency website to the LRSP project page, and it looks like all have now done so. The next monthly meeting with consultant (*not a TAG meeting*) is April 26.

Nephele said she put a link to the LRSP website in the chat, and asked Jessica Stull-Otto to also advise the Round Valley MAC of this opportunity to provide input on safety concerns, which are not always reflected in accident reports. She said LRSPs are a requirement of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) program, which funds safety projects, and it is important to capture unreported safety concerns since the program is largely based on data. She asked Loretta to send the project website link (<https://www.mendocinocog.org/seeking-input-for-local-road-safety-plans>) to Jessica.

7d. MCOG May 3, 2021 Meeting – Virtual Tour of Ukiah Area Projects – Nephele announced this upcoming virtual tour of Ukiah area transportation projects. She explained that in-person tours of transportation projects in various areas of the County were held in the past to provide an opportunity for board members to visit areas of the County they may not often see, and this will be the first virtual tour. She noted she has reviewed the video, and complimented the quality presentation, including the use of drones to capture video.

7e. Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Department of Transportation’s National Infrastructure Investments – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) – Nephele noted this federal grant program, advising that it replaced the former BUILD program. She explained that it’s for large infrastructure projects, with an emphasis on economic development and

sustainability. She suggested the Orchard Avenue extension might be a good example of an eligible project, and noted the July 12 due date.

8. Miscellaneous

Active Transportation Program (ATP) Augmentation – Lisa mentioned that agencies are being asked to support CTC Commissioner Alvarado’s request for a one-time infusion of \$2 billion augmentation to the ATP program, in the state budget. Nephele said she hopes to take this to the MCOG Board if there is time, and noted the state budget surplus is due to revenues exceeding estimates, coupled with cuts to the last budget. Loretta offered to distribute the email/request so local agencies can take to their boards/councils, if interested.

Summer Intern – Lisa said she knows a college student (studying environmental engineering) who is looking for summer work, and invited members to contact her if they need a summer intern.

8a. Next Meeting – 5/19/21.

11. Adjournment – at approx. 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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