

DRAFT

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 17, 2009

MCOG Conference Room – Ukiah, CA

Teleconferenced with Caltrans District 1 office, Eureka

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Goble, City of Ft. Bragg
John Speka, *for Nash Gonzalez, Co. DPBS*
Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
Dave Madrigal & Alan Falleri, City of Willits
Chris Brown, AQMD
Bob Parker, County DOT
Jesse Robertson, Caltrans (*via teleconference*)

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT

Phil Dow, MCOG
Loretta Ellard, MCOG
Nephele Barrett, MCOG
Brett Gronemeyer, Caltrans
Brandon Larsen, Caltrans
Darron Hill, Caltrans
Bob Baca, Caltrans (*via teleconference*)
Suzi Theiss, Caltrans (*via teleconference*)
Cheryl Willis, Caltrans (*via teleconference*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Claudia Hillary, City of Pt. Arena
Mitch Stogner, NCRA
Bruce Richard, MTA

1. **Call to Order** – Phil called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
2. **Public Expression** - None.
3. **Federal Economic Stimulus Funding (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) (ARRA) – Review & Ranking of Application Funding Requests Submitted by Local Agencies & Related 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment (Discussion & Recommendation to MCOG)**

Phil reviewed his staff reports and noted critical dates: March 23rd special MCOG meeting to consider recommendations from today's TAC meeting; March 26th local agency training from Caltrans' headquarters and District 1 staff; March 27th due date for RTPAs to submit project lists to the CTC; and June 17th deadline for federal obligation (for the 120 day cycle).

He then reviewed possible funding scenarios and explained that existing law would distribute the ARRA funds through both the RSTP and the STIP formulae, however proposed state legislation would send all the funding through the RSTP formula. Smaller counties will lose money under the proposed legislation because the RSTP formula is totally population based, whereas the STIP formula is partially based on State highway centerline miles. He stated that we can only go by existing law, but need to be prepared for both situations. Current funding estimates are:

Existing Law:	\$1.802 m RSTP (one-year to obligate)
	\$5.442 m STIP (obligate 50% by June 17, balance by March, 2010)
	50% = \$2.721 m
	\$7.244 m Total

Proposed Legislation: \$4.091 m (obligate 50% by June 17) 50% = \$2.046 m
\$4.091 m total

Phil stated that he reviewed projects to see if they could meet the 120 day or one-year criteria. He advised that he asked Caltrans staff to attend today's meeting to address project readiness, and explained that the priority today is to make recommendations on what projects can meet the 120 days, to commit at least \$2.72 million now. He added that the \$1.8 million is not subject to the 120 days, but it would be good to take advantage of the construction season and program as many good projects now that are ready.

Phil advised that there is a TE component to these funds, and there may be opportunity to get more than our share if we have projects that are ready. Potential TE projects were discussed, including: Covelo's existing TE project which needs approximately \$90k; Fort Bragg's sidewalk project; and Willits' Safe Routes to School project which could be a TE project. Brandon Larsen said the Fort Bragg project could be a quick approval as environmental is done, but the Covelo project would need to be reviewed as the environmental review is a few years old. Rick Seanor stated that the Ukiah Depot TE project could use additional TE funds, but Phil noted that the NCRA has talked of trying to sell the depot and this issue will be on their May agenda. Bob Baca requested TE submittals as soon as possible.

Phil reiterated the TAC's previous consensus on focusing on rehabilitation projects that could be ready to go quickly. Each agency's projects were discussed as follows:

Willits' Projects – Phil summarized his recommendation that none of Willits projects could be obligated within 120 days, but they could be considered for the one-year list. Brandon Larson stated concerns with getting through the NEPA process for the 120 day deadline, including the possibility of underground tanks analysis and archaeological studies. Dave Madrigal felt the projects could be ready to go in 120 days.

Fort Bragg's Projects – Phil noted that Elm Street is ineligible due to functional classification, while the others appear uncomplicated. Dave Goble stated that the top priorities are Pudding Creek (routine reconstruction), Harold Street (rehabilitation) and Dana Street projects (rehabilitation). Brandon Larson stated that all appear to be able to meet the 120 day deadline.

Ukiah's Projects – Rick Seanor advised that the City submitted South Dora Street because it's a main route which connects schools. Phil had concerns that it could meet the 120 days, but said it could be considered for the one-year list. During discussion it was noted that corner ramps were not included. Caltrans staff advised that ramps would be required at intersections, and that would make the meeting the 120 day deadline a concern.

County DOT's Projects – Phil explained that he separated the County's projects into what he thought would fit a 120 day and one-year list. Bob Parker distributed a hand-out of a previous formula that MCOG had used to distribute STIP funds, which he thought was a more equitable way to distribute the funds. He summarized the County's projects as important connectors and emergency routes, and also provided revised cost estimates and volumes for some of the projects. Discussion focused on the 120 day projects (per Phil's summary) and Brandon Larson commented that all of these (120 day) projects appear to be able to meet the deadline.

Phil asked Dave Madrigal if he could pull out the TE aspects out of the Blosser Lane project for a possible TE project, and Dave responded affirmatively.

Phil summarized his opinion that Willits and Ukiah have no projects that could be ready to go in 120 days, while Fort Bragg and the County do have projects that could meet that deadline. After discussion of agencies' priorities, he suggested that the TAC come up with a recommendation to MCOG that would program at least the \$2.721 million on a 120 day list, with other projects to be considered for a one-year list. Bob Parker objected to this approach, stating it would not give the County an equitable share of funding.

Discussion included whether or not to also recommend a one-year list at this time. Members commented that their priorities may be different for a one-year list, and would like the opportunity to come back with project submittals.

Motion by Chris Brown, seconded by Dave Goble, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes; 0 noes; 3 absent), the TAC recommends to MCOG the following projects for the "120 day" list, with agencies asked to come back with a "365 day" list:

Fort Bragg - Pudding Creek Reconstruction	\$ 361,000
Fort Bragg - Harold Street Rehabilitation	\$ 239,000
Fort Bragg - Dana Street Rehabilitation	\$ 328,000
County - West Road Overlay	\$ 278,000
County - Pudding Creek Overlay	\$ 395,000
County - Comptche Ukiah Road Overlay	<u>\$1,227,000</u>
Total	\$2,828,000

Discussion on Motion

Funding amounts should be known by the next TAC meeting, so the "365" day list could be reviewed then. Agencies were asked to submit projects for the "365 day" list by April 10th.

Motion by Dave Goble, seconded by Bob Parker, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes; 0 noes; 3 absent), the TAC recommends to MCOG support of MCOG staff pursuing maximum Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding for the County's Covelo TE project, Fort Bragg's Laurel Street Sidewalk and Pine Street Sidewalk projects, and Willits' Blosser Lane project.

Phil encouraged as many TAC members as possible to attend MCOG's special March 23rd meeting to support the TAC recommendations.

- 4. Schedule Next TAC Meeting Date – *Consensus* to meet next on April 22nd.**
- 5. Adjournment – at 5:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Assistant Executive Director

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