

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday, May 4, 2015

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

ADDITIONAL AUDIOCONFERENCE LOCATION:

Caltrans District 1, 2430 6th St., Eureka

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:
Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. with Directors Doug Hammerstrom, Steve Scalmanini, Larry Stranske, Tom Woodhouse, Susan Ranochak, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC) joined by telephone. Director Trevor Sanders arrived soon after, at the start of Agenda Item #4.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner.

2. Convene as RTPA

3. Recess as RTPA - Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.

Public Expression. None.

4 - 5. Regular Calendar.

4. Fiscal Year 2015/16 RTPA Budget Presentation & Workshop. Ms. Orth made a slide presentation that covered her written staff report, including the following recommendations, and an overview of the budget development process and trends affecting the proposed budget. Also covered were some current facts about the recent rapid increase in electric vehicles on the roads; the steep decline of the gasoline tax-funded federal Highway Trust Fund balance due to inflation and more fuel-efficient cars; and a growing movement to enact other, more sustainable ways of generating transportation revenues for public infrastructure. Questions and discussion by councilmembers and staff were encouraged throughout the presentation. In the draft budget presented, total estimated revenues from all sources were \$5,730,357 and total proposed allocations were \$5,375,206.

- a. Report of Revenues Fiscal Year to Date 2014/15. Local Transportation Fund (LTF) revenues from quarter-cent sales tax July-April are in excess of the budget estimate by \$112,174 (4.2%).
- b. Executive Committee Recommendations of February 24, 2015. The first draft budget prepared by staff was recommended for approval, including funds for Administration, Planning, Bicycle & Pedestrian, and Transit programs. The proposal fully funds the LTF Reserve at \$171,000 (5% of the County Auditor-Controller's LTF estimate), restoring MCOG's policy that had been partially waived for the past six years, releasing for allocation \$118,507 of the FY 2013/14 unrestricted balance of excess revenue.
- c. Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation of February 18, 2015 – Draft Planning Overall Work Program. Ms. Ellard reported funding allocations from various sources for the

Draft Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) that the TAC unanimously recommended for approval. The total draft program totals \$589,000 of new funds. She summarized each proposed work element, and noted that the program will increase to over \$1 million with the addition of new grants and carried over projects when the Final OWP is completed. Caltrans made minor comments on the draft OWP.

- d. Transit Productivity Committee Recommendations of April 29, 2015 - Mendocino Transit Authority's Annual Transit Claim and Unmet Transit Needs. Allocations to fund Mendocino Transit Authority's Annual Transit Claim were recommended for approval, for a total of \$3,650,990. The TPC recommended a finding that "1) MTA's Unmet Transit Needs analysis addresses the identified needs in the appropriate way; and 2) There are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for FY 2015/16:

#C-18 Service to the old Howard Hospital in Willits

#M-1 Saturday bus service between Willits and Ukiah

#S-7 Additional service on MTA's route connecting Fort Bragg with inland Mendocino County and Santa Rosa (partially met with inland service to Santa Rosa)

#M-9 Service to the new Howard Hospital campus in Willits"

Also reported was the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) at \$676,792, which funds MCOG's Partnership Funding Program, a Regional Project Manager for local assistance, and the balance distributed to member agencies for transportation uses.

The Chair invited public comment; no comments were received. Discussion included:

- The process of the funding cycle for MCOG's LTF Two Percent Bicycle & Pedestrian Program grant applications and project eligibility, such as pedestrian safety improvements, and timeframe for project delivery;
- The new Active Transportation Program projects and applications;
- A potential countywide sales tax initiative for transportation needs; how MCOG's planning program provides pavement condition data and voter surveys of public support; relationship of local sales taxes to pavement condition.

No action was taken.

5. Allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Partnership Program Funds for Branscomb Road Pedestrian/Multi-use Bridge over Ten Mile Creek in Laytonville.

Executive Director Dow gave an overview of this proposal. This project would link together several other projects in Laytonville's Action Plan that are in progress or already complete, funded by MCOG regional funds and other programs. There were no objections from Technical Advisory Committee members (and active support from five, not including County Transportation Department who would benefit) who were contacted before agenda posting, to use MCOG's Partnership Funding Program for the additional funds needed for the environmental phase of the project. Coincidentally, about \$35,000 expected as a refund from the State for the Simpson Lane roundabout project closeout was received, nearly the amount needed for this Laytonville project. Staff requested up to \$45,000, with certain statements made about policies for use of this funding source.

Upon motion by Woodhouse, second by Stranske, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Scalmanini, Stranske, Sanders, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the Board of Directors

- 1) Authorizes commitment of up to \$45,000 of RSTP Partnership Funding Program resources to complete the Environmental Phase of the Branscomb Road Pedestrian/Multi-Use Bridge over Ten Mile Creek in Laytonville;
- 2) Reaffirms that this program is for regional safety, operational and capacity-increasing projects that stimulate partnerships; and
- 3) Declares that this action does not set a precedent that the Partnership Funding Program is a source of funds to cover funding shortfalls of transportation projects implemented by MCOG's member entities.

6 - 8. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Stranske, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*8 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Scalmanini, Stranske, Sanders, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

6. Approval of April 6, 2015 Minutes – as written

7. Adoption of Resolution Approving Mendocino Transit Authority's Grant Application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Program

- Annual Regional Apportionment for Transit Operating Assistance

Resolution No. M2015-04

Approving the Programming of FTA Section 5311
Non-Urbanized Program Funds for
Mendocino Transit Authority Operating Assistance
(Reso. #M2015-04 is incorporated herein by reference)

8. Adoption of Resolution Approving the Allocation of California Proposition 1B Funds, Fiscal Year 2012/13 Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Program, for Mendocino Transit Authority's Eligible Project

Resolution No. M2015-05

Approving the Allocation of Proposition 1B Funds, Fiscal Year 2012/13
Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Program
(Reso. #M2015-04 is incorporated herein by reference)

9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy

Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Stranske, second by Woodhouse, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*7 Ayes – Hammerstrom, Scalmanini, Stranske, Sanders, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

10. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. General Manager Dan Baxter reported status of the Route 65 service expansion and answered questions.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. There was no report.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report, making note of a visit from Congressman Huffman's field representative, a meeting on transportation sales tax issues, and CALCOG's Regional Leadership Forum. He reported eleven attendees at MCOG's Active Transportation Program workshop for local grant applicants.

- d. MCOG Administration Staff
 1. *Active Transportation Program, Cycle 2*. Mr. Dow anticipated six applications from MCOG and other agencies in Mendocino County. Last year three of six proposals were funded in the first ATP cycle.
 2. *US-101 Bypass of Willits Update*. Mr. Dow referred to written report provided by Caltrans' project manager.
 3. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- e. MCOG Planning Staff.
 1. *Hopland "Main Street" Engineered Feasibility Study*. Ms. Ellard briefly reported status.
 2. *Greater Ukiah Area Micro-simulation Model Project*. Mr. Dow reported that the consultants are now in the model-building process.
 3. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- f. MCOG Directors. Director Stranske asked several questions about plug-in electric vehicle charging stations. Ms. Orth reported on technical issues, drivers' experiences and funding opportunities. Mr. Dow reminded the Council of MCOG's investment in a countywide Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regional Readiness Plan, reviewed issues involved, who might install chargers in rural areas, and the economic development possibilities. Director Scalmanini expressed his support for the plan and noted the lack of funding to date for a public charging network in the Mendocino County. On a related issue, Mr. Dow reported in the Information Packet an analysis of potential revenues for each city and county from Senator Beall's bill.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Chair Gjerde (Alternate Delegate), Director Sanders (Delegate), and Director Woodhouse reported on the annual Regional Leadership Forum, April 8-10 in Monterey. Memorable sessions included proposals to address the state and federal transportation funding crisis; a presentation by the Jobs Alliance on focus groups in 12 Central Valley communities and a survey finding that two of three Californians support a modest increase in tax for transportation; and the successful Lyft ridesharing company. Director Woodhouse appreciated attending and receiving the training. He and Director Gjerde expressed interest in the focus group approach over traditional phone surveys. The Chair asked Ms. Orth to comment on the forum, noting a presentation by PG&E on their proposal to install electric vehicle charging stations. She reported making contact with a representative of the utility to serve on MCOG's ZEV advisory group.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO