

# MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES  
Monday, October 5, 2015

Brutocao School House Plaza, 13500 S. Highway 101, Hopland

**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.** After the Board members' bus tour of Hopland area transportation projects (courtesy of Mendocino Transit Authority) and lunch (approximately 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), the meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with Directors Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), Doug Hammerstrom, Alternate Holly Madrigal, Trevor Sanders, Susan Ranochak, Tom Woodhouse, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Steve Scalmanini was absent.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Nephele Barrett, Program Manager; James Sookne, Regional Project Manager; and Leila Doyle, Administrative Assistant.

**2. Convene as RTPA**

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

**Public Expression.** None.

**4 - 5. Regular Calendar**

**4. Presentation of Final Report by W-Trans and Possible Action by MCOG to Accept the Report: Hopland Main Street Corridor Engineered Feasibility Study.** Print and electronic copies of the report were provided in the agenda packet. Executive Director Dow introduced the issue and recognized the Brutocao family's generous contribution of providing this meeting space on three occasions during the study, in addition to today's board meeting, all at no cost to MCOG. He recognized Brutocao Cellars as a valuable member of the Hopland community. Staff thanked Mendocino Transit Authority for providing the bus and driver for today's tour. Mr. Dow noted the kinds of issues that can be observed when traveling through Hopland on US 101.

He then introduced Mr. Steve Weinberger, Principal, of Whitlock & Weinberger Transportation, Inc., known as W-Trans, as the primary consultant. Mr. Weinberger noted the sub-consultants, Alta Planning + Design, Local Government Commission and GHD, who participated in various aspects of the project. Downtown Hopland on US 101 and Old Hopland on SR 175 were the geographic scope.

Mr. Weinberger gave a slide presentation that covered Purpose & Goals, Results of Workshops, Summary of Preferred Plan, Project Costs, Project Prioritization, Project Phasing, and timeline. He discussed project activities and results, including:

- Concept of Complete Streets
- Visuals from drone overflights
- Traffic analysis and field inventories
- ADA requirements for crosswalks compared to existing conditions
- Community comments and preferences

- Concerns about a proposed roundabout and reasoning for this option
- Potential improvements in the Preferred Plan, including gateway entry signs, bicycle lanes, speed reduction measures, street trees, pedestrian crossing refuge islands, and other features
- An alternative route for bicycles along the rail corridor parallel to SR 175
- Shared use paths recommended for Old Hopland, with pavement treatments for traffic calming, such as colorized shoulders.

Project cost estimates were reviewed; total of all projects was estimated at \$9,983,400. Prioritization rankings were explained along with community feedback. Phasing of projects was included, with short term (5 years), mid-term (5-10) and long term (10-20). Mr. Weinberger then answered questions about crosswalk improvements and radar feedback devices.

Mr. Dow reviewed purpose of the tour, noting earlier examples and issues over the years, and discussed the Caltrans planning grants and choice of Hopland as MCOG's most recent focus. Scope was added to this study to accommodate some unfinished matters, including a third community workshop. He gave options for timing of acceptance of the final report and a brief overview of potential funding. Currently there are no funds available; this planning process and documenting community involvement are essential to securing future grants. He noted the long timeline to build identified improvements. A brief discussion ensued to clarify the process.

Director Jackman (PAC) gave Caltrans' perspective and history of this location including previous plans for a Hopland bypass, which in light of statewide priorities did not materialize, in favor of more cost-effective safety improvements. Caltrans saw the need to improve the existing facility, so MCOG received this planning grant to study feasibility in Hopland. Caltrans' approach to State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects is changing over the next few years; environmental and non-motorized improvements are recent priorities. They intend to elevate local plans in the implementation of these priorities.

Mr. Dow gave an example of Point Arena's planning grant, where the community plan led to short-term improvements, implementing features of the plan and ADA compliance upgrades, making use of state funds.

Ms. Ellard pointed out that Page 44 of the Final Report draft was to include a summary of the third workshop, and asked the Council to allow for this addition and final miscellaneous edits. The Chair noted the presence of Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg.

**Upon motion** by Woodhouse, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Madrigal/Alt., Sanders, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent - Scalmanini): IT IS ORDERED that the Hopland Main Street Corridor Engineered Feasibility Study Final Report is accepted, to include the remaining workshop summary and final miscellaneous edits.

## **5. Discussion of Hopland Area Tour, Transportation Planning Projects and Related Matters.**

Chair Gjerde moved to the next agenda item. There was no further discussion. No action was taken.

**6 - 8. Consent Calendar.** Upon motion by Woodhouse, second by Madrigal, and carried on roll call vote (5 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Sanders, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 2 Abstaining - Madrigal/Alt. and Ranochak; 1 Absent - Scalmanini): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

## **6. Approval of August 31, 2015 Minutes – as written**

7. **Approval of August 6, 2015 Executive Committee Minutes – as written**
8. **Adoption of Resolution Approving the Allocation of California Proposition 1B Funds, Fiscal Year 2014/15 Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA), for Mendocino Transit Authority’s Eligible Project**

**Resolution No. M2015-16**

Approving the Allocation of California Proposition 1B Funds,  
Fiscal Year 2014/15 Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and  
Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA), for Mendocino Transit Authority’s Eligible Project  
(Reso. #M2015-16 is incorporated herein by reference)

9. **Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee.** Upon motion by Ranochak, second by Woodhouse, and carried unanimously (*6 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 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 that MTA approved the purchase of two new busses to serve the expanded Route 65 to Santa Rosa. Some of the board meeting dates will change in October, November and December. On October 29 they will receive a demonstration of an electric-drive bus; with prices coming down, it might be feasible for MTA to acquire one, compatible with the existing solar array.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Alternate Madrigal reported briefly as a City representative on NCRA’s board. One of the old mill sites in Humboldt County is being considered for a re-use purpose along the railroad line.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff
  1. *California Transportation Commission (CTC) Town Hall Meeting, September 18*. Mr. Dow briefly reported the Commission’s periodic visit to a rural region, this time in Trinity County. He summarized his presentation on data compiled in a series of maps by the Center for Economic Development at CSU-Chico. Among the findings were indications that, compared to the rest California, rural residents have longer commutes and are responsible for up to 60 times more local streets and roads mileage per capita than our urban counterparts. This evidence supported his long-standing position that a typical statewide funding distribution formula based on population is not favorable to rural areas, therefore funding continues to lag far behind actual maintenance and improvement needs.
  2. *Active Transportation Program (ATP) Proposals – CTC Staff Recommendations*. Mr. Dow reported results, with three of six Mendocino County applications recommended for approval by the Commission. Construction of both phases of Covelo’s multi-use trail (submitted by MCOG staff) and City of Ukiah’s rail trail extension made the list. He noted the increased competition for the program this second cycle.
  3. *US-101 Bypass of Willits Update*. A written report was provided by Mauricio Serrano, Caltrans Project Manager, indicating the project was 81% complete as of September 24. Mr. Dow estimated that when secured for winter, it would likely be 85% complete. Director Woodhouse and Alternate Madrigal added details.

4. *National Drive Electric Week – MCOG’s Ride & Drive Event in Ukiah, September 19.* Ms. Orth reported on this successful local event she had organized as part of the fifth annual nonprofit event sponsored by Plug In America, Sierra Club, and Electric Auto Association. Electric vehicle owners at 196 events in the US, Canada and other countries volunteered to demonstrate their cars to the public, with over 130,000 in attendance. She thanked City of Ukiah and MCOG board members for their support; all direct costs were donated. The local event exhibited eight different current models, including the popular Tesla, reporting a total of 176,101 all-electric miles driven. A full report is available at <https://driveelectricweek.org/> (search Events for Ukiah details) and press release at [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org) under News.

Mr. Dow commented that as a rural area, MCOG has a responsibility, but is not required to meet any mitigation goals for greenhouse gas emissions. The Regional Transportation Plan calls for voluntary efforts such as this educational event. Chair Gjerde mentioned the Mendocino Land Trust project to install electric vehicle chargers in the State Parks and asked Ms. Orth about status of a Pacific Gas & Electric proposal for chargers, which she is monitoring. Mr. Dow emphasized the value of working with PG&E on implementation of the Regional Readiness Plan. Alternate Carter announced that a gasoline station development project in Laytonville will feature several electric vehicle charge ports and a hydrogen car fueling station.

5. *Miscellaneous.* Mr. Dow reiterated his intention to return over the next year to communities where MCOG has done planning activities, to meet with locals about the status of plans, progress made, and priorities for remaining improvements. It will also be an opportunity for public input on the next Regional Transportation Plan and new Active Transportation Plan.
- e. MCOG Planning Staff. Ms. Ellard announced that Caltrans Sustainable Communities transportation planning grants would be due at the end of October. Additionally, MCOG’s next annual transportation planning work program will be open for applications from the Technical Advisory Committee for six weeks, starting October 15.
- f. MCOG Directors. Alternate Madrigal was impressed by her recent observation of electric vehicle performance. Director Hammerstrom suggested it would be beneficial to have a follow-up study of results of the Covelo project; perhaps someone in transportation academia might be interested in showing how such plans were implemented. He predicted that the new trail will be well used by the community. Mr. Dow reported that he had hired Round Valley tribal members to log data on non-motorized demand and usage; he would like to follow up for MCOG’s own records. Director Gjerde noted in Fort Bragg the bicycle racks are often full, especially at school. Staff confirmed that MCOG’s Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Two Percent Bicycle & Pedestrian Program will be open for grant proposals before calendar year end, with at least \$100,000 available.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. There were no reports.

**11. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO