

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday May 1, 2017

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

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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 1:31 p.m. with Directors Rex Jackman, (Caltrans/PAC), Larry Stranske, Steve Scalmanini, Susan Ranochak, John McCowen (Alternate), Richey Wasserman, and Dan Gjerde; Chair Gjerde presiding. Michael Cimolino was excused.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Nephele Barrett, Program Manager; and Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant.

2. Convene as RTPA

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

4. Public Expression. None.

5 – 6. Regular Calendar

5. Consideration of State Route 1 Traffic Issues in Elk. Executive Director Dow summarized the issues contributing to the traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety issues through the town of Elk that were also discussed at the February 6, 2017 MCOG meeting. Mr. Dow introduced Mr. Norman deVall, resident of Elk and former County Supervisor, who was unable to attend the February MCOG meeting but wanted to ensure his concerns were heard. Mr. deVall explained how isolated the town of Elk is from medical care, which emphasizes the need to address safety issues. Traffic has further increased due to recent construction work in the area; this has increased the amount of people and traffic sharing the roadways.

Chair Gjerde reported that Mr. Darron Hill, of Traffic Safety with Caltrans District 1, looked into the issues described at the February MCOG meeting and was present at today's meeting. Mr. Hill spoke at the podium and told the group that Caltrans plans to put another feedback radar trailer close to the school, reviewing options to make improvements, add signage, and is in process of adding ADA ramps. Information collected from the radar feedback trailer can monitor and track for trends of possible violations. Creating sidewalks are not within Caltrans' responsibilities.

Director Jackman further explained the limitations from existing roads where Caltrans does not own right-of-way; Caltrans only maintains the area versus what they can achieve when the State owns that property. He also shared the challenges Caltrans faces to balance the uses of roadways when they are also part of a main street through a town. People use the road shoulders for bicycle and pedestrian traffic, off-street parking, and disabled vehicles, often at the same time.

California Highway Patrol Sergeant Erich Paarsch attended this meeting on direction of his supervisor Sergeant Emery to assist in addressing Mr. deVall's concerns. He reported that there are currently six (6) officers, four (4) assigned to patrol the North Coast and two (2) to patrol the South Coast, however, due to staff shortage there are often only one (1). The Highway Patrol is aware that the Elk community would like more enforcement but until additional resources become available, the focus is to patrol higher risk areas as their priority. He requested for anyone who notices or suspects specific trends or times where issues occur more frequently to contact them; they can work on different options to reduce the problem(s).

Mr. deVall requested that this agenda item be brought back in a year to see how the community reacts; he will provide additional visual aids to present to the Council. This would also allow a review of changes to the area after the construction is completed. Chair Gjerde and Executive Director Dow agreed to agendize the matter in May 2018.

6. Fiscal Year 2017/18 RTPA Budget Presentation & Workshop. Ms. Orth created a slide presentation that covered her written staff report. The presentation includes an overview of context and trends affecting the proposed budget such as the federal FAST Act, the state transportation funding bill SB 1, and the California Road Charge Pilot program, and recommendations. Questions and discussion by councilmembers and staff were encouraged. Details covered in her written staff report and the presentation included the following. No action was taken.

- a. Report of Revenues Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2017/18. Local Transportation Fund (LTF) sales tax receipts through April (8 of 12 months on the accrual basis) total \$2,435,728, at \$167,523 (7.4%) more than the FYTD budget estimate of \$2,268,205.
- b. Executive Committee Recommendations of January 20 and February 21, 2017. The committee unanimously recommended a draft budget that allocates Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for MCOG Administration, 2% Bicycle & Pedestrian, and Planning, with the remainder available for Transit consistent with established priorities for LTF. The Executive Committee also recommended allocating an LTF Reserve balance of \$175,000, at five percent using \$68,364 of LTF prior-year unallocated revenues; maintaining last year's allocation level for Mendocino Transit Authority at \$3,022,621 for transit operations, using LTF prior-year unallocated revenues to make up the shortfall; and temporarily reserving a balance of LTF prior-year unallocated revenues of \$350,194 during budget development, at least until the Unmet Transit Needs annual cycle is completed. Available funds from State Transit Assistance (STA) and MCOG's Capital Reserve fund balance are to be used for transit purposes.
- c. TAC Recommendation of February 15, 2017 – Draft Planning Overall Work Program. Ms. Ellard reported funding allocations from various sources for the Draft Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP), which was forwarded per requirement to Caltrans for comment by March 1. Ms. Ellard provided details in her staff report and a summary of funding sources worksheet for the Council to review. The total draft program is \$625,550. Additional carryover projects are expected to be added to the Final Work Program. This information was included in the agenda packet for information only; no action is required at this time.
- d. Transit Productivity Committee (TPC) Recommendations of April 19, 2017 – Mendocino Transit Authority's (MTA) Annual Transit Claim and Unmet Transit Needs. The annual transit claim was received timely from Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) on March 29. The TPC met to review the transit claim along with the Unmet Transit Needs analysis to consider "reasonable to meet" recommendations. The committee's recommendation includes to fully fund MTA's claim with two minor amendments; reserve \$421,059 as unallocated

revenue (until Unmet Transit Needs have been considered); and to make a finding that eight (8) needs on the FY 2017/18 list are considered reasonable to meet.

7 – 8. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Ranochak, second by McCowen, and carried unanimously (7 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items listed below are approved:

7. Approval of April 11, 2017 Minutes – as written

8. Acceptance of 2015/16 Mendocino Transit Authority Fiscal Audit. *Accept MTA's Fiscal Audit as presented by R.J. Ricciardi, Inc., CPAs; MTA received a clean audit.*

9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Wasserman, second by Scalmanini, and carried unanimously (6 Ayes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent): IT IS ORDERED the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

10. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. The April meeting was cancelled. An update on grant funding through the 5310 Grant Program for MTA is included below in Miscellaneous (*see 10d2*).
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard had nothing to report.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow referred to his written report.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff.
 1. *Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 – Transportation Funding to Mendocino County.* Mr. Dow referred to his staff report on the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 that had just been passed by the legislature. The report included preliminary information of how the funding may be awarded to the county, in whole, and to the cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits. The Act will assist to fund much needed repairs and maintenance of the County's and Cities' roads. Further details will be forthcoming regarding eligibility and reporting requirements.
 2. *Miscellaneous.* Mr. Dow reported that he received a notice of preliminary recommendations from the FTA Section 5310 Grant Program this morning. Recommendations include; South Coast Seniors for a replacement vehicle, a second small bus and funding for operating assistance; Redwood Coast Seniors for a small replacement bus; and Consolidated Tribal Health to receive a small replacement bus and funding for operating assistance. Mendocino Transit Authority applied for a Mobility Management position which has been recommended as well. Awards are expected to be approved by the California Transportation Commission in June.
- e. MCOG Planning Staff.
 1. *Current Transportation Grant Funding Opportunities.* Ms. Ellard updated on upcoming grants and calls for projects. Current opportunities include: a program through the Strategic Growth Council called the Urban Greening Grant Program and the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grants. Staff also provided a letter of support of the County to apply for the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) Grant to fund a project on the Eastside Potter Valley Road. There are several other programs that are being monitored to assist local agencies.

2. *Caltrans FY 2017-18 Sustainability Transportation Planning Grant Awards.* Ms. Ellard reported the County's Orchard Avenue Extension Feasibility Study application was approved.
 3. *Miscellaneous.* Ms. Ellard reported Mr. James Sookne, MCOG Administration Staff, started conducting bicycle and pedestrian counts at the elementary schools in seven communities in support of Active Transportation Safe Routes to School grants.
- f. MCOG Directors.
- Director Wasserman introduced Point Arena Mayor Scott Ignacio who was in the audience; Mr. Ignacio is on the LAFCO commission and he is also a new MCOG alternate director.
 - Director Scalmanini gave an update on his efforts for the new Ukiah Costco project to include meaningful greenhouse emissions reduction in their plans.
 - Director Stranske thanked City of Fort Bragg for leading last month's tour and for showing MCOG's group their plans and projects they have accomplished.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Nothing to report at this time.

11. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant