

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTE ORDER

Laytonville Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant Draft Plan

Monday, October 1, 2007

Laytonville Fire Department

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 1:33 p.m. with Directors Willis (PAC), Gjerde, McCowen, Dahlhoff, Pinches, and Colfax present. Chair Wharff and Vice Chair Jorgensen were excused.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration; Loretta Ellard, Assistant Executive Director; and Nephele Barrett, Senior Planner.

Dow made introductory remarks, explaining the absences of both the Chair and Vice Chair.

Upon motion by McCowen, second by Pinches, and carried unanimously (*5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that Director Dahlhoff is appointed Chair *pro tem* for this meeting.

6. Presentation of Laytonville Traffic Calming & Downtown Revitalization Draft Plan – Local Government Commission. Alison Pernell of Local Government Commission welcomed all to Laytonville and mentioned the Walking Tour that preceded the meeting. She then gave a slide presentation of the Draft Plan resulting from the project to date. An Administrative Draft of the Plan was handed out. Ms. Pernell outlined and handed out a summary of issues identified by the project's technical advisory committee, reporting actions to date and potential solutions. MCOG staff concurred with the information.

Discussion and Q&A addressed issues including:

- Trails: Director Pinches asked status of Coyote Trail in the plan, stating that the property owners have been trying for years to stop foot traffic through their property, because of vandalism. He would support public access only if the property owners did. Ms. Pernell agreed with that position and offered alternative solutions for trail development.
- Turning radius/pedestrian crossings: Director Gjerde asked whether the turning radius at Highway 101 and Branscomb Road could be made smaller. Ms. Pernell responded that the traffic consultant and design team recommended a 50-foot curb radius to accommodate large trucks. Discussion followed. Noting the wide radius is less conducive to pedestrian features, Ms. Pernell reported the design team's recommendations for placement of safe pedestrian crossings.
- Future 101 bypass of Laytonville: Noting highway conflicts with downtown, Director McCowen asked whether there had been any discussion of future alignment of Highway 101 in case a bypass were to be built. Director Willis (Caltrans) responded there are no plans for construction within the next 50 years, nor seriously contemplated, and would consider the issue if ever implemented. She said District 1 is supportive of the community planning process. Director Pinches noted that alternate parallel north-south routes are available. Dow noted that a Laytonville bypass would have a tremendous impact on the local economy.

- Existing conditions/traffic mitigations: Director Gjerde made a comparison to Hopland and noted that turn pockets can mitigate two-lane traffic. He supports this planning effort and agreed with the approach to make existing conditions more livable. He noted travel speeds and truck traffic, as well as noise from trucks changing gears while passing through downtown. Director Pinches stated there used to be far more truck traffic when mills were in operation, and that Humboldt and Trinity Counties are absorbing more truck traffic now on Highway 299.
- Zoning: Director Dahloff suggested deemphasizing Main street. Director Pinches noted the business district thrives on 101 traffic. Just one block west, Willis Avenue is zoned residential.
- **Public comment** (two present): Kent Westwood, Long Valley Health Center, and Robert D. Bell, Vets of Cahto, both said they had been involved and liked the plan.

Ms. Pernell thanked MCOG councilmembers and staff for sponsoring the project and for providing the local match funds, making this planning effort possible for the community. Dow thanked her in turn, noting it is rare to have someone of her qualifications available locally. Chair *pro tem* Dahlhoff, expressed appreciation to staff for setting up the meeting locally so that Board members could see the area.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration