



Mendocino COGnizance

News from
Mendocino Council of Governments, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency
"A cog in the wheels of our transportation system"

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Fort Bragg's New Streetscape

The coastal City of Fort Bragg is moving forward with a multi-phase renovation of streets and sidewalks in its historic downtown. Following a conceptual design resulting from the City's Downtown Revitalization Study in 2002, three phases are now substantially complete. So far the responses from both visitors and locals have been favorable.

The first phase, Main & Laurel Street Signalization and Streetscape Project, made pedestrian safety and other improvements to this busy intersection of Highway 1. Traffic signals, sidewalk corner bulbouts, crosswalks with stamped asphalt of special colors and textures, old-fashioned light fixtures, street trees, benches, and matching receptacles for waste and recycling were among the upgrades. Funds came from a Caltrans Pedestrian Safety Grant, an Urban Development Action Grant, and MCOG's Regional Surface Transportation Program funds.

The second phase, Franklin Street Reconstruction and Streetscape Project, covered design, engineering and total reconstruction of the northern half of Franklin Street, parallel to Highway 1. This project, funded by MCOG's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the City's Redevelopment Project Fund, was built in 2007. Within the Central Business District, installations included 11-foot wide sidewalks, trees, benches, bicycle racks, pedestrian crosswalk texture and color, ADA-compliant curb cuts for wheelchair access, historic-styled lamp posts, and some corner bulbouts. Together, these make the street environment safer and more accessible, pedestrian friendly and attractive to all.

The third phase, Downtown Streetscape Project, is fully funded for Spring 2009. Pedestrian improvements will be constructed on five east-west streets, from Highway 1 to Franklin Street. Funded by a Transportation Enhancement grant from MCOG, the City provided a substantial match of Redevelopment funds and the voter-approved local half-cent transportation sales taxes.

"This community could not have built these improvements without the state and federal transportation dollars and support from MCOG," said Dan Gjerde, a Fort Bragg councilmember and MCOG board member.

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L and Above R:
Curb cuts, pavement treatments and other new features at Laurel and Franklin Streets.



MCOG Highlights of 2007/08

Laytonville Plan Completed

On February 4, the Final Plan was accepted by the Council for the Traffic Calming & Downtown Revitalization: Planning for a Livable Community project, under Caltrans' Community Based Transportation Planning grant program. The plan and public hearing minutes are available online or by calling the MCOG office.

- See www.mendocinocog.org

Changes on the Council

Chair Marsha Wharff, our County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder, retired from public service in December. In February, Tami Jorgensen was elected Chair for 2008. Also, we welcome Sheriff Tom Allman to MCOG as the newly appointed countywide elected official.

- Roster and photo Page 4

California Regional Blueprint Planning

MCOG submitted a Phase 1 grant application to Caltrans on January 24.

- More info: <http://calblueprint.dot.ca.gov>

Unmet Transit Needs Identified

On December 4, MCOG heard public testimony of 25 needs and referred them to MTA for analysis.

- www.mendocinocog.org

2008 Calendar

Board Meetings

1st Monday at 1:30 p.m., nine to ten months a year, at Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, unless otherwise noted.

Planned highlights and recurring actions (subject to change):

- Feb. 4 Elect Officers, Make Committee Appointments
Executive Committee Recommendations:
 Dow & Associates Contract Extension for Staffing
TAC Recommendations: Adopt 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
- Mar. 3 Executive Committee Recommendations:
 Draft 2008/09 Budget
- Apr. 7 Meeting Cancelled
- May 5 TPC Recommendations:
 Unmet Transit Needs, Annual Transit Claim, MTA Performance Review
- June 9 Adopt 2008/09 RTPA Budget
 Adopt 2008/09 Planning Overall Work Program
 Make Annual Finding of Unmet Transit Needs
- July No Meeting in July
- Aug. 25 TAC Recommendations: Amend 2008/09 OWP
- Sept. No Meeting in September
- Oct. 6 City of Fort Bragg Project Tour - On Location TBA
- Nov. 3 Regular Business
- Dec. 1 SSTAC Recommendations:
 2009/10 Unmet Transit Needs - Public Hearing

Standing Committees

Executive Committee

January 25: Recommendation on Staffing Contract Extension

Feb. 19: Budget Recommendations for 2008/09

Transit Productivity Committee (TPC)

April - TBA: Unmet Transit Needs Recommendations, Review of Annual Transit Claim, and Annual Transit Performance

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

3rd Wed. monthly unless cancelled/rescheduled (refer to website)

Social Services Trans. Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Spring: FTA transit grant applications for programs serving elders and people living with disabilities. Fall: Unmet Transit Needs Workshop.

New improvements to Franklin Street in Fort Bragg make crossings safer and more pedestrian friendly.



Fort Bragg - from Page 1

A fourth phase, Highway 1 Circulation & Safety Improvements, has been programmed by MCOG in the 2008 RTIP. This final phase also improves the flow of vehicles on Highway 1 in downtown. Final design will go through public review in 2008, and construction funding will be available during the summer of 2012.

As with many projects of substantial size and scope, funds were pooled from various sources for a successful outcome. Our congratulations to all involved for a job well done! The project is an inspiring example to other communities in the Mendocino region.

More info: www.fortbragg.com or MCOG's website.

MCOG's Purpose

MCOG was formed as a joint powers agency in 1972, as mandated by state law, the Transportation Development Act (TDA). The Council primarily serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for our countywide region. Two county supervisors, a county elected official, and one council member from each of the four incorporated cities make up Board membership. A representative of Caltrans serves on the Policy Advisory Committee with the seven directors.

MCOG serves as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) of Mendocino County, administering the call box program. At times MCOG also is involved with housing and economic development. MCOG is a political subdivision of the State of California.

Acting as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, MCOG programs or allocates various types of local, state and federal transportation funds to Caltrans, the County of Mendocino and the four incorporated Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits, and Point Arena. In addition to projects on state highways and within its five member jurisdictions, MCOG helps support transportation activities of the North Coast Railroad Authority, Mendocino Transit Authority, local airports, and others. Projects involve planning, capital improvements, rehabilitation and maintenance, fleet replacement, and intermodal transit centers.

Fort Bragg Project Funding

Phase 1	\$ 196,000	Caltrans - Pedestrian Safety Grant	
	188,000	City - Urban Devt. Action Grant	
	50,007	MCOG - RSTP (federal funds)	
		Phase 1 Total	\$ 434,007
Phase 2	2,427,000	MCOG - 2002 & 2006 RTIP (state)	
	1,200,000	City - Redevelopment Fund, UDAG	
		Phase 2 Total	3,627,000
Phase 3	1,498,000	MCOG - TE Grant (federal funds)	
	700,000	City - Redevt., Trans. Sales Tax, UDAG	
		Phase 3 Total	2,198,000
Phase 4	2,281,000	MCOG - 2008 RTIP (state funds)	
	919,000	City - To be determined	
		Phase 4 Total	3,200,000
		GRAND TOTAL	\$ 9,459,007

2008 RTIP

The Council adopted the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) in a public hearing on February 4. Every other year this is done to program eligible projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), subject to approval by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

On October 24, 2007 the CTC issued a fund estimate that made available up to \$8.1 million of new funds for our region. At the November MCOG meeting, the Council considered several scenarios to make use of this funding. Executive Director Phil Dow cautioned the Council that the State's "minimum guarantee" is only \$149,000 and that funding allocations are highly dependent upon CTC priorities. The Council's decision was to emphasize State highway and major local projects that are consistent with CTC priorities. Staff and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) were directed to nominate applications, giving consideration to project readiness and existing project development efforts or planning documents when selecting candidate projects.

Five project nominations were received. In January, the TAC reviewed and ranked the proposals, and staff presented their recommendation to the Council at the February meeting.

After hearing testimony, deliberating extensively and making several attempts to craft a successful motion, the Council unanimously adopted the RTIP. A consensus emerged that it is in the region's best interests to concentrate funding on major highways that serve Mendocino County communities. The result was that a project was funded on Highway 1 in Fort Bragg as well as an augmentation of funding for the East Side Potter Valley Road reconstruction project. Additionally, a substantial amount was targeted for transit fleet vehicles.

Adopted 2008 RTIP

Planning, Programming & Monitoring	\$1,120,000
Highway One Circulation & Safety	
Improvements - Fort Bragg	2,281,000
FY 2012/13 Vehicle Purchases - MTA	1,207,000
East Side Potter Valley Road - MDOT	3,480,000
<u>Transportation Enhancement Reserve</u>	<u>714,000</u>
Total Programming	\$8,802,000

As usual, needs exceeded available funding. Also a long-term policy strategy for the RTIP has yet to be addressed. Now that the Willits Bypass project is moving forward, MCOG's previous multimodal policy is due to be revisited in light of new uncertainties in the State's current financial picture. Between now and the next STIP cycle, the Council will be faced with setting programming policy that can be effective for the foreseeable future.

"This is the first STIP cycle period in the post-Willits Bypass era," commented Executive Director Dow. "MCOG will be moving toward funding smaller, more manageable projects in the future--hopefully with much quicker results."

Meet Our Staff



Terri Persons started as an Associate Transportation Planner with Dow & Associates in August 2007, to serve both MCOG and its regional agency counterpart in Lake County, the Area Planning Council. An experienced planner with a B.A. degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and an M.A. from Sacramento State University, she is a valuable addition to our staff. While working at Caltrans in Sacramento, she developed a ride-sharing program. To date, she has been assigned to bicycle and pedestrian grant programs for MCOG such as Safe Routes to School, and also works with Nephele on the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plans.

Terri has a pilot's license and enjoys aviation. She and her husband Rich live in Lakeport, where they co-own a Cessna 182 for recreational flights around California.

MCOG Projects for 2007/08

The Planning program funds public projects with local, state and federal transportation revenues. MCOG staff develops and manages the program. The Technical Advisory Committee ranks and reviews project applications, which are subject to approval by the MCOG Board and Caltrans.

Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) Elements as Amended Feb. 4, 2008:

- 1 - Current Planning
- 2 - Long Range Planning
- 3 - City of Fort Bragg - Main Street Realignment
- 4 - County DOT - Road System Traffic Safety Review
- 5 - City of Ukiah - Storm Drain Study
- 6 - County DOT - Special Studies
- 7 - STIP Planning, Programming & Monitoring
- 8 - Laytonville Traffic Calming & Downtown Revitalization *
- 9 - Gualala Community Action Plan/Phase 2
- 10 - County DOT - ADA Comprehensive Access Plan *
- 11 - Ukiah - GIS Curb Ramp/Storm Drain Inventory *
- 14 - Training
- 15 - County Planning - State Route 1 Corridor Study *
- 16 - County Road System Right of Way Database/Phase 2
- 19 - City of Ukiah - Traffic Circulation Study/Phase 3 *
- 21 - AB 1600 Study - Ukiah Valley Area *
- 22 - County DOT - Brooktrails Second Access Study

* Carryover from prior year.

(Note: Some element numbers are unused this year.)
For program details, contact Loretta at MCOG.

Coordinated Transit Plan in Progress

The current federal transportation bill, "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) requires that regional agencies develop and adopt a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. This plan is to inventory available services, and to identify gaps in the system and duplication of services. The plan area will include all of Mendocino County and will encompass both public and private human services transportation, including transportation for elderly, disabled, and low-income populations.

To qualify for certain grant programs, such as FTA Section 5310 funding (for seniors and people with disabilities), Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program, and New Freedom program (disabled transportation/accessibility), projects must be identified or derived from the plan, starting with the next round of grant cycles.

Caltrans has hired the consulting firm Nelson\Nygaard to assist with rural plan development. Representatives from Nelson\Nygaard came to the area on January 9 and met with MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. In addition, they interviewed individual stakeholders, including MTA, senior centers, social services providers, and elected officials. The consultants gathered information on existing transportation services available throughout the county and additional transportation needs. The consultant is now finalizing an "existing conditions" report based on their findings. The needs identified through MCOG's recent Unmet Transit Needs process will also be incorporated into the report.

The next step will involve the public and further involve stakeholders. The consultants will return the week of April 28 to conduct public workshops, one in Fort Bragg and one in Ukiah. These will be opportunities for the public to give feedback on the consultant's report, to offer input on additional transit needs, and to prioritize implementation of needs. Check MCOG's website for details on the upcoming workshops. Your comments also can be directed to Nephele's attention at MCOG, by email or mail.



L and Above: Passengers board The Coaster.
Above R: Fort Bragg's new "historic" lamp posts with banners designed by a local artist.



L-R: Directors McCowen, Dahlhoff, Pinches, Jorgensen, Allman, Colfax, and Gjerde

Board of Directors

Tami Jorgensen, Chair
Willits City Councilmember
Dan Gjerde, Vice Chair
Fort Bragg City Councilmember
John Pinches, Exec. Committee
County Supervisor, 3rd District
Leslie Dahlhoff
Point Arena Mayor
John McCowen
Ukiah City Councilmember
David Colfax
County Supervisor, 5th District
Tom Allman
County Sheriff
Cheryl Willis
MCOG Policy Advisory Committee
Caltrans District 1 Planning Chief

Alternates

(by optional appointment)
Mari Rodin - Ukiah City Council
Dave Turner - Fort Bragg City Council
Holly Madrigal - Willits Mayor



MCOG Staff

Administration and Planning services are under contract with Dow & Associates. Staff includes:

Phil Dow, P. E., Executive Director
Loretta Ellard, Assistant Executive Director
Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration
Nephele Barrett, Senior Planner
Terri Persons, Associate Planner
Alexis Pedrotti, Administrative Assistant

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