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## **MCOG Releases Transportation Funds to Local Governments**

This week the Mendocino Council of Governments, acting as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, sent checks totalling \$381,764 to local member governments for transportation purposes, such as street and road maintenance and rehabilitation. The funds are for discretionary uses by regional transportation planning agencies and were distributed according to a formula adopted by MCOG, to the County of Mendocino Department of Transportation and the Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits and Point Arena.

"It's nice to have a source of transportation funds not specifically earmarked, which local jurisdictions can decide how best to use, whether for a particular project or to pool funds for a larger one," commented Michele White, Fort Bragg's Vice Mayor and representative on the MCOG Board of Directors. "Fort Bragg's share will likely be a piece of what we need to implement the City's downtown revitalization plan when it's ready to go. The d(1) funds will be money in the bank that can be used to start a first phase of our plan, such as parking or streetscaping improvements."

The funds are from the Congressional bill known as TEA-21, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, under the Surface Transportation Program (STP), Section 182.6 d(1). TEA-21 is a six-year program, and this distribution represents the third year of TEA-21 funds. Annual distributions will continue over the next three years.

MCOG allocated \$81,734 to the County, \$107,953 to Ukiah, \$74,042 to Fort Bragg, \$69,858 to Willits, and \$48,176 to Point Arena. The formula consists of an equal base amount for each entity and the remainder calculated by federal-aid road miles.

Much of the state and federal transportation funds allocated to our region are funneled through MCOG down to the local level. As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, MCOG programs or allocates various types of 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 Rail Authority, California Western Railroad, Mendocino Transit Authority, local airports, and others. Projects involve planning, capital

improvements, rehabilitation and maintenance, fleet replacement, and intermodal transit centers. For more information, call the MCOG office at 463-1859 or consult the agency's web site at [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org).

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