

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 21, 2019
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
Alicia Meier, County DOT
Jacob King, MTA
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans
Paul Anderson (for Richard Shoemaker), City of
Point Arena - *via teleconference*

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Alexis Kelso, Caltrans

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Jesse Davis, County DPBS
Barbara Moed, AQMD
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – This is a standing agenda item to allow input from tribal representatives. There were no tribal representatives present.
4. **Approval of 5/22/19 Minutes** – Motion by Rick Seanor, seconded by Jacob King, and carried on roll call vote (*4 ayes; Anderson abstained*), to approve the minutes of 5/22/19 as submitted.
5. **FY 2018/19 Overall Work Program – Fourth Quarter Report** – Loretta reviewed the fourth quarter report and noted projects carried over to FY 2019/20.

A brief discussion ensued, and Rick advised that the contract for W.E 12 (Comprehensive ADA Access Plan Update – City of Ukiah) will be taken to the City Council for award on September 18. This work element is funded with FY 2017/18 PPM funds which expire 6/30/20.

6. **FY 2019/20 Final Overall Work Program – First Amendment** – Loretta reviewed her staff report, and advised that the First Amendment to the FY 2019/20 OWP was approved by MCOG on August 19, 2019. She explained that the timing of the August 19 MCOG meeting did not allow for a TAC recommendation, but the amendment was routine and only involved carryover funding.

She advised that \$15,564 in available PPM carryover funding was added to the \$50,000 “Reserve” for the Pavement Management Program (PMP) triennial update, which is expected to be programmed in the next OWP. Alicia requested consideration of adding photo or video documentation to the PMP update to document road conditions, as some funding requests submitted by the County (for road damage due to fire) were not approved due to lack of documentation of pre-fire conditions. Nephele agreed to look into that possibility, but noted it could change the scope of the project.

7. 2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – James reviewed his staff report and explained that the 2020 Fund Estimate identified a STIP programming target through FY 2024/25 of \$3,134,000 for the region. That total includes \$235,000 in Planning, Programming & Monitoring funds, leaving \$2,899,000 available for new or existing projects.

A discussion ensued about potential projects. Alicia commented that it would be good to program Right of Way funding for the North State Street project, as the alternatives analysis and cost estimates will be done by spring. Rick commented that the City of Ukiah hopes to have information in the next few months from the consultant looking at roundabout/ intersections at Bush and Low Gap, and other intersections in that area. Nephele commented that it might be wise to move out the Environmental funding (programmed for next FY) in that project as the potential roundabout has a lot of controversy.

James distributed application materials, which will also be emailed to members. Due dates were briefly discussed, with a *consensus* to establish a due date of 10/2/19 (a six week cycle). Nephele advised that applications are not required for existing commitments, but a letter describing any requested changes will be needed, along with a justification for readiness and updated programming forms. An application will be required for new projects or additional funding requests, and full components must be funded.

Nephele noted that capacity was reduced this cycle due to previous advances, but the 2022 STIP is expected to be a little higher as funding from SB 1 starts a “new normal”.

She said after TAC review in October, the Draft RTIP will be presented to the MCOG Board in November, followed by MCOG action on the Final RTIP in December.

8. LTF 2% Bike & Pedestrian Program – Loretta advised that there is approximately \$133,953 (*from FYs 2018/19 & 2019/20*) in MCOG’s Local Transportation Fund (LTF) 2% Bike & Pedestrian program available for allocation.

A brief discussion ensued. Nephele advised that these funds could be used as a match for Active Transportation Program grants. There was a *consensus* to use the same 10/2/19 due date as for STIP applications. Loretta will distribute the application forms by email.

9. FY 2020/21 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program - Application Guide/Call for Applications to be released on 8/16/19 – The 10/11/19 due date was noted. (*Note: staff noted after the meeting that the agenda incorrectly listed the due date as 10/4/19.*)

Tasha mentioned the earlier than usual due date, and offered to review draft applications. She welcomed members to contact her with questions, noting that Caltrans' website is down and many of the grant documents are not available online. Loretta noted a change on page 3 of the grant application guide, which only listed MPOs as eligible for Strategic Partnership – Transit grants. In past cycles, eligible applicants included RTPAs, with several other groups eligible as sub-applicants. Tasha offered to follow up on this change.

10. Staff Reports

10a. Report re City of Ukiah's Use of Highway Improvement Program (HIP) funds – Nephele advised that the City of Ukiah was awarded HIP funds for use on their downtown streetscape project, and she wanted to provide the TAC with an update on the status. Rick reported that STIP funds for the project were allocated in June, and the City was able to get the needed extension of the HSIP funds. He said the project is on track to be advertised this fall in coordination with a utility project, and the City is committed to funding the shortfall. Nephele noted the six month STIP award deadline.

10b. Legislative Update – (1) SB 152 (Beall) - Nephele reported that SB 152 (*opposed by MCOG*) which proposed changes to the Active Transportation Program, did not move forward this year, but could come back next year; (2) SB 277 (Frasier) – Nephele noted concerns with this bill which proposed changes to the Local Partnership Program, and advised that it was in the Senate Appropriation Committee's suspense file, and may or may not move forward. She said the California Transportation Commission requested amendments to consider the needs of very small agencies and allow established minimums, and advised that the MCOG Board approved sending a similar comment letter. Currently, Mendocino County's self-help cities receive a \$100,000 minimum under this program; and (3) ACA 1 – Local Government Financing: Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure – failed; and (4) AB 101 Budget Trailer Bill – approved by Governor, includes new grant programs that established housing as a big push at the state level. See additional notes below regarding housing programs.

10c. SB 743/Vehicle Miles Traveled – Regional Baseline Study – Loretta advised that the consultant (Fehr and Peers) was issued a “notice to proceed” today for this project.

10d. Fire Vulnerability Assessment & Fire Evacuation Preparedness Plan – Loretta advised that consultant proposals for this project are due to MCOG by September 13, and she will be contacting representatives to serve on a Consultant Selection Committee.

11. Miscellaneous

11a. Next Meeting – 9/25/19.

11b. Phil Dow's Retirement Party – Nephele advised that invitations will soon be sent out for Phil's retirement party at Rivino Winery on 9/26/19.

Electric Vehicles – Loretta reported on a press release from Sonoma Clean Power, announcing that Sonoma and Mendocino counties were selected for a “Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Installation Project” to expand publicly accessible EV infrastructure in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. The project is an initiative of the California Energy Commission and is scheduled to launch in October 2020.

Housing Programs – Nephele advised that there are several new housing programs which will benefit local agencies: (1) in November funding will be available to local agencies for housing related planning; HCD will be developing guidelines, and agencies will have until July 2020 to request funds; (2) funding will come to Councils of Governments to do regional projects or sub allocate, to encourage housing development and meet Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers. This is one-time money (\$410,000), however, there could be more in the future. Funding must be requested by 2021, and there is a lot of work needed to develop a budget and plan for the money before it can be used; and (3) Infill Infrastructure Grant Program – a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be coming out the end of November for this program, administered by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for capital infrastructure grants to support housing development. This program will likely be more applicable to cities than the County, but there may be some eligible County projects adjacent to city limits.

Nephele advised that she had a meeting on these new housing programs which was attended by city planning directors, but no County representatives attended.

12. Adjournment – 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

/le