

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday August 21, 2017

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

Additional Audioconference:

Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union St., Eureka

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

Find YouTube link at <http://www.mendocinocog.org> under Meetings

Or search Mendocino County Video at www.youtube.com

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 1:36 p.m. with Directors Steve Scalmanini, Susan Ranochak, Georgeanne Croskey, John McCowen (Alt. for Gjerde), Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC, via audioconference), and Larry Stranske; Vice Chair Stranske presiding. Directors Richey Wasserman, Michael Cimolino, and Dan Gjerde were all 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. Annemarie Weibel, Albion resident, provided information on the Albion River Bridge, which was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources this July. Ms. Weibel explained that dedication implies the bridge is worthy of preservation and protection. Caltrans is in the process of conducting an Environmental Impact Study to review necessary repairs, or replacement of the bridge, to ensure it is seismically sound and other criteria. Ms. Weibel request MCOG Board's support to assist the Albion Community in their endeavor to save the last wooden bridge on California's coastal highway.

Another Albion resident, Beth Bosk, brought her concerns and requested MCOG's involvement. One of her concerns is for State Highway 1, rural Mendocino County coastal routes, to remain scenic two-lane highway. Another concern is the potential damage by Caltrans' plans to upgrade the Albion Bridge. On July 27, 2017, Caltrans invited local residents on a field trip and notified the group of their intent to conduct a geotechnical investigation on the Albion River Bridge area. As part of the investigation they plan to cut trees in the Eucalyptus grove located on the northwestern side of the bridge. In addition, she is concerned that Caltrans plans to replace the current 28-foot wide bridge with a 50-foot wide bridge. That would shade the beach area below that people at the nearby campground enjoy. Ms. Bosk requested that MCOG get involved and ask additional questions about how the requirements for conducting the investigation and Caltrans' plans to replace the Albion Bridge would impact Mendocino County's policies on the scenic value of the coast.

The Chair agreed to place the matter on the next MCOG meeting agenda for further discussion.

5 – 7. Regular Calendar

5. Report and Discussion of 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund Estimate and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Nephele Barrett, Program Manager, summarized State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. Every other year the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopts a Fund Estimate (FE) for programs over the five-year STIP period. In the past, this fund has been viable but the recent passing of SB 1 has provided more stability to this funding source. The Mendocino County region's STIP programming target through FY 2022/23 is estimated at \$3,000,000 including Planning, Programming and Monitoring funds of \$298,000, leaving \$2,702,000 available for projects. An additional \$1,682,000 is available for an Advance Project Development Element. Previous deprogrammed projects may be considered a priority for reprogramming during the STIP cycle. A request to reassess the projects to determine relevance and current costs went to the local agencies. Once the local agencies submit the assessments, MCOG will develop the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) based on which projects are the most appropriate uses of the STIP funds. If there are enough funds available after the priorities are covered, MCOG will accept additional applications for projects. No action from the MCOG Board is required at this time.

Discussion included the Ukiah City Council's involvement with projects around the schools. Executive Director Dow summarized his communications with the school district regarding traffic studies of the area impacted by the schools near the proposed Low Gap Road and North Bush roundabout. No action was taken.

6. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Recommendations of August 9, 2017

- a. Approval of First Amendment to Fiscal Year 2017/18 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP). Ms. Ellard's written staff report explained the proposed First Amendment. As recommended by the TAC, adjustments would be made to carryover amounts for several work elements; additional carryover funds would be programmed; two work elements added; and one project deleted. Recommended changes are as follows:
 - Added Project - W.E. 13, Orchard Avenue Extension Feasibility Study – Grant Match, a new project (\$19,556 from LTF carryover funds)
 - Added Project - W.E. 17, Pavement Management Program Triennial Update, a carryover project (\$34,110 in PPM carryover funds)
 - Deleted Project – W.E. 15, MTA – Bus Stop Review, Ph. 3 & 4 (\$37,000: \$25,000 in RPA funds added to “Reserve” and \$12,000 in LTF funds available for future reprogramming)
 - Added Carryover funds – Work Elements 5, 7, 10, 14, 20, and 22
 - “Reserve for Future Projects – To Be Determined” – increased from \$37,275 to \$62,275 (\$25,000 from W.E. 15)
 - Total FY 2017/18 OWP funding is revised from \$1,239,550 to \$1,433,716, an increase of \$194,166, from carryover funds.

Upon motion by Director McCowen, second by Director Croskey, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – *Scalmanini, McCowen, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Stranske*; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that MCOG approves the First Amendment to FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program; authorize Executive Director to sign appropriate certifications and revised OWP Agreement, as needed; and forward to Caltrans, as required.

- b. Allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds to Match Mendocino County Department of Transportation Funds and State Funds for the Construction Phase of Branscomb Road Pedestrian/Multi-Use Bridge Over Ten Mile Creek in Laytonville. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report. He spoke on the recommendation to commit \$200,000 of unallocated Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds accumulated over 20 years, to complete construction of this project, as unanimously approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). MCOG Board's discussion on this item included the anticipated cost of the project. Technical complications caused delays and increased costs prior to completion of the project. If MCOG does not move forward with funding of the Branscomb Road Pedestrian/Multi-Use Bridge over Ten Mile Creek, the project would be abandoned, \$385,000 would have to be returned to the State. The bridge is still a top priority for the community and would connect significant bicycle and pedestrian investments already made by MCOG and others.

Upon motion by Director Croskey, second by Director Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Scalmanini, McCowen, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Stranske; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the staff and Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation is approved to commit up to \$200,000 in accumulated, unallocated Regional Surface Transportation Program funds, matching \$100,000 of budgeted County funds on a 2:1 basis, as needed to fully fund the construction phase of the Branscomb Road Pedestrian/Multi-Use Bridge Over Ten Mile Creek project in Laytonville.

- c. Allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds: Partnership Funding Program Funds to Supplement City of Ukiah and County of Mendocino Funding for North State Street Signal Improvements. Mr. Dow referred to his written report and reasons for the Partnership Funding Program request to approve funding for coordinating the North State/KUKI Signal and the North State/Ford/Empire signals in Ukiah. Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) sought bids to install state-of-the-art controllers that will coordinate the signals. This project has been found to be appropriate use of funds from the RSTP funding source.

Board discussion included: This is critically needed and an appropriate use of funds. (McCowen) Has coordination between Partnership and other planned project traffic studies in the same area, such as the Lover's Lane study, been considered? (Scalmanini) Mr. Howard Dashiell, MCDOT Director, referred to MCOG's 2002 study for the more comprehensive North State Street project. One of the tools now available is a micro-simulation model to specifically test alternatives in Ukiah area projects. Director Jackman added that this project and whatever improvements that could be made in that area, based on the studies, would be of great benefit relative to highway interchange operations.

Upon motion by Director McCowen, second by Director Scalmanini, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Scalmanini, McCowen, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Stranske; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the staff and Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation is approved to commit \$33,985 from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Partnership Funding Program to supplement City of Ukiah and County of Mendocino funding for traffic signal system coordination and upgrades on North State Street.

7. Consideration of Joining Other California Transportation Agencies as a Signatory to the California Federal Transportation Infrastructure Investment Principles. Mr. Dow referred

to his written staff report. He explained how joining other California Transportation Agencies as a signatory could benefit Mendocino County. Collaborating as a group is more effective and can maximize California's share of Federal funding. He gave an example from last year that California was able to claim additional Federal funds that other states did not claim. California's funds trickle down to the counties.

Upon motion by Director Scalmanini, second by Director Stranske, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Scalmanini, McCowen, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Stranske; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that MCOG agrees to join as a signatory agency to the document identified as "California Federal Transportation Infrastructure Investment Principles."

8 – 10. Consent Calendar: Upon motion by Director Ranochak, second by Director McCowen, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Scalmanini, McCowen, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Stranske; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the following consent items are approved:

8. Approval of June 5, 2017 Minutes – as written

9. Approval of July 25, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes – as written

10. Adoption of Resolution Allocating Local Transportation Funds to Mendocino Transit Authority for Acquisition of RouteMatch Software/Hardware System, Formalizing Action of July 25, 2017.

Resolution No. M2017-10

Allocating Supplemental Local Transportation Funds to Mendocino Transit Authority
(Reso. #M2017-10 is incorporated herein by reference)

11. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Director McCowen, second by Director Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*5 Ayes – Scalmanini, McCowen, Ranochak, Croskey, and Stranske; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

12. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. None.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Director McCowen reported on NCRA. The Judicial Council of California purchased 4.1 acres of the Ukiah Depot property as a future courthouse site. In the purchase agreement, NCRA is to construct infrastructure improvements for roadways and utilities into the property by October 30. He reported delays in meeting the deadline were due to delays in obtaining approval for access from Army Corps and State agencies. A request for an extension until June 30, 2018 was submitted to the Judicial Council. Also, California Transportation Commission (CTC) called for NCRA to submit a business plan or a shut-down plan; they gave NCRA an October deadline. The State Legislature will decide if NCRA will restore the line to possibly extend to Willits or shut it down. Mr. Dow attended the June CTC meeting and went over some of the questions CTC asked NCRA.
- c. MCOG Staff – Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow reported an increase in meetings that MCOG staffs have attended due to SB 1 passing into law
- d. MCOG Administration Staff.

1. *Local Agency Subrecipient Agreements Distributed August 1, 2017.* Ms. Orth gave an update on the progress of completing the Subrecipient Agreements that will close a compliance gap. Subrecipient Agreements outline requirements and obligations for funding sources allocated through MCOG. Ms. Orth referred to MCOG's template provided in the agenda packet that was approved by an independent legal counsel. Once the approval was received, exhibits and attachments were customized for specific local agencies. In attempts to get this in effect for the current fiscal year, to date: Fort Bragg's agreement is fully executed, Ukiah's is going to City Council in September, Mendocino County's is going through their legal counsel, Ms. Orth is waiting to hear back from Point Arena and Willits, and Mendocino Transit Authority's Subrecipient Agreement is still in draft form. Mr. Dow pointed out that this has been in the works for the last three years, but became a higher priority as State auditors continue to emphasize the requirement for ensuring accountability.
2. *Senate Bill 1 Implementation – Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.* Mr. Dow referred to his staff report that includes a summary of the new SB 1 programs and their relevance to MCOG. The report also includes existing Commission programs that SB 1 will affect as well. The most anticipated new SB 1 program is the Local Streets & Roads; money will be distributed directly to the Cities and Counties. The process has been adopted and money should be going out in November. The Trade Corridor Enhancement will assist the Richardson Grove project. Mendocino County will benefit indirectly by adjacent county projects such as the plans to widen Highway 29 in Lake County. The Local Partnership is a reward/incentive for the Self-Help cities (those with dedicated transportation sales taxes); he has been acting as an advocate for the small rural cities in development of this program. In Mendocino County that includes: Willits, Point Arena, and Fort Bragg. Mr. Dow referred to the attached SB 1 Implementation Schedule. He briefly explained the effects of SB 1 on existing programs: Active Transportation Program, State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), Transportation Asset Management, and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Regarding the Asset Management Program's effort to coordinate multiple entities within the same area prior to starting projects, Mr. Dashiell spoke of a benefit to Mendocino County being a smaller county making it easier to communicate between different departments/companies. A great benefit that SB 1 has already had for Mendocino County is that the STIP debt (advance shares) is retired sooner than anticipated, providing more funding for future projects.
3. *Miscellaneous.* None.
 - e. MCOG Planning Staff. Ms. Ellard explained that in addition to the Active Transportation Program, there will be another cycle of Caltrans funding that will provide \$25 million annually in transportation planning grants. The first call for projects will be out soon. Applications will be due in October. She has offered participants in the Technical Advisory Committee assistance in applying. Ms. Ellard is to attend a workshop on this program next week.
 - f. MCOG Directors. Director Scalmanini announced that four standard Level 2 Electric Vehicle chargers from the Tesla deal will be installed by the City of Ukiah, although not the fast chargers often used on highways.
 - g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. None.

13. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant