

## MINUTES

### MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 18, 2018  
MCOG Conference Room

#### **Members Present**

Bill Wood (for Alicia Meier), County DOT  
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena  
Jacob King, MTA  
Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah  
Dusty Duley, City of Willits

#### **Others Present**

Bob Butler, MTA  
Cathy McKeon, Caltrans

#### **Staff Present**

Phil Dow, MCOG Administration  
Nephele Barrett, MCOG Planning  
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning

#### **Members Absent**

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)  
Barbara Moed, AQMD  
Jesse Davis, County DPBS  
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans  
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Phil called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Self-introductions were made.
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 2/21/18 Minutes** – Jacob asked for clarification on page 3, regarding item #8 (FY 2018/19 Draft OWP), inquiring if an increase in Local Transportation Funds (LTF) would affect available funding for MTA. MCOG staff responded affirmatively, and Phil said he discussed increasing the amount of LTF in next year's Overall Work Program with MCOG's Executive Committee or Transit Productivity Committee earlier this year, and received support.

MCOG staff advised that Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) grant funds have been requested for the "ZEV/Alternate Fuels Readiness Plan Update" and if awarded, grant funds would replace the \$35,000 programmed for this project. Grant awards are expected to be announced in early May. MCOG staff confirmed that MTA could choose to withdraw their OWP project (Transit Designs Guidelines Manual) if the RPA grant is not funded, thus lowering OWP funding needs.

**Motion by Rick Seanor, seconded by Jacob King, and carried unanimously (5 ayes – Wood, Shoemaker, King, Seanor, Duley), to approve the minutes of 2/21/18, as submitted.**

**5. Update from Caltrans Project Manager Cathy McKeon on (1) Blosser Lane, (2) Willits Children Projects (Mitigation, Relinquishment, and Sherwood Road)** – Caltrans Project Manager Cathy McKeon advised that the Sherwood Road project was awarded to Granite Construction, and is scheduled to begin this June and be completed by fall 2019. The project will realign the intersection and add a new retaining wall and a new traffic signal.

She reported the Relinquishment project was approved on March 29, and sidewalk improvements will begin in May and continue through November, 2018. An open house was held in Willits last night, and went well. Caltrans will be contacting businesses 72 hours in advance of work. She said supplemental funding will be needed for both of these projects, so pavement work has been separated out, with some occurring this year and some next year.

Cathy reported the Mitigation project is now in the plant establishment phase, and Caltrans is working with Regional Water Quality to address grading issues. Ryan Creek and Up Creek bridge projects have been completed.

Cathy distributed and briefly reviewed plans for a proposed striping/pavement delineation project at the Blosser Lane/Highway 20 intersection to improve safety. Nephele advised that the safety of this intersection has often been mentioned by the public when MCOG has held community meetings in Willits, and Phil reiterated the long standing safety concerns at this intersection. Cathy said she will take back that input, and invited others to submit comments. This project is in the design phase.

Item #7 was discussed next so Cathy McKeon could be present.

**7. Consideration of Contributing Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Partnership Funding Program Funds to County's North State Street Traffic Modeling Project** – Phil summarized his staff report and advised that he has been in discussions with Caltrans staff and County DOT Director Dashiell regarding the US 101 interchange at North State Street and various County road intersections that impact the operation of the interchange.

He said Caltrans is pursuing two alternatives to improve the awkward northbound freeway access from North State Street, and is coordinating with local agencies. The County has a STIP project (a few years out) for improvements along North State Street that would affect the ramps, and is also studying the feasibility of extending Orchard Avenue north and possibly bringing the road out to North State in the future.

Phil suggested the whole area should be modeled to determine the best fit for the growth expected (Lovers Lane area, old Masonite area, etc.). The County has hired Omni-Means to do modeling using MCOG's Greater Ukiah Area Micro-Simulation Model (GUAMM), and Phil is recommending the TAC support a commitment of \$50,000 from the MCOG Partnership Funding Program to match a \$50,000 commitment from the County for this project.

A brief discussion ensued, and layout maps of Alternatives 1 and 2 were reviewed. Phil advised that Caltrans will pursue Alternative 1 (the most expensive) but may fall back on Alternative 2.

**Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Rick Seanor, and carried unanimously (5 ayes – Wood, Shoemaker, King, Seanor, Duley) the TAC recommends to MCOG that \$50,000 be expended from the MCOG Partnership Funding Program to match a \$50,000 commitment from Mendocino County to fund the North State Street – Hwy 101 Intersection/Interchange Project Study Report.**

Phil thanked Cathy McKeon for her presentations.

*Cathy McKeon & Bob Butler excused at 11:21a.m.*

**6. Discussion of TAC Interest in Future Presentation re: Aerial Drones** – Loretta inquired if TAC members would be interested in receiving a presentation on the benefits of aerial drones, at a future meeting. She advised that an individual who made a presentation at the February California Transportation Forum in Sacramento is offering a presentation.

After a brief discussion, there was a *consensus* to receive the presentation. Loretta will follow up on scheduling this for a future TAC meeting.

**8. Consideration of Contributing Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Partnership Funding Program Funds to City of Willits for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations** – Phil reviewed his staff report and explained the City of Willits is requesting financial support from MCOG in the funding of ADA retrofits for two electric vehicle charging stations in the City of Willits' parking lot.

A brief discussion ensued, and Dusty advised that the City encountered ADA issues and ended up merging the two stations into one site in the downtown City parking lot. A letter from the City of Willits was included in the agenda packet. The City is requesting \$5,000 from MCOG to fill the unanticipated funding gap.

Phil noted requests previously approved by MCOG to contribute funding to the City of Point Arena and the City of Fort Bragg for similar issues, and stated his hope that future cost estimates for EV charging stations are sufficient to cover ADA requirements.

**Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Jacob King, and carried unanimously (5 ayes – Wood, Shoemaker, King, Seanor, Duley) the TAC recommends to MCOG that \$5,000 be expended from the MCOG Partnership Funding Program to assist the City of Willits in meeting ADA requirements at two electric vehicle charging stations at a public parking lot in Willits.**

**9. SB 1 – Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017** – Phil briefly reported on this item. He advised that local agencies are now receiving only a fraction of the streets and roads funding that will be coming under SB 1, and advised that he has been working on revenue projections for local agencies. He said there was initial confusion about funding distributions, and various components kick in at different dates.

It was noted that the City of Willits applied for discretionary funds under the Local Partnership Program, and award recommendations are expected next month.

Rick Seanor advised that reports identifying FY 18/19 projects are due to the State by May 1, and noted that FY 18/19 funding amounts have more than doubled compared to last year.

Phil encouraged TAC members to talk about projects being funded with the gas tax increase when talking to the public, by providing information rather than advocating for SB 1.

## **10. Staff Reports**

10a. 2018 Pacific Coast Bike Route Survey – May Kick off – noted.

10b. California Freight Mobility Plan 2019 – Phil invited members to submit any comments or concerns on the Plan to him, as he sits on the California Freight Advisory Committee representing rural concerns.

10c. AB 1756 Brough – Repeal of SB 1 – Phil advised there are two efforts to repeal SB 1; legislation (AB 1756), as well as a signature gathering effort for an initiative.

10d. Pedestrian Facility Needs Inventory & Engineered Feasibility Study – MCOG staff noted that the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) kick-off meeting for this study follows today's TAC meeting. Study efforts will focus on the south coast portion of the project first.

10e. Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Grant Program – Applications due June 20, 2018 – This deadline was noted. The City of Willits may be submitting an application for a project which includes tree planting.

10f. California Transportation Commission (CTC) Town Hall – April 11-12, 2018 (Santa Rosa) – Phil briefly reported on the CTC town hall recently held in Santa Rosa. The agenda included overviews from Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) to present priority projects and hear local comments. The second day included a tour of Sonoma area local projects. Mendocino speakers included Phil, Richard Shoemaker, and Howard Dashiell.

Phil reported that the North State Super Region met in Lake County the day before the Town Hall, and discussed the need to emphasize that “one size does not fit all” and conditions are different in rural counties.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) – Nephele advised that the regional determination for total housing need was much higher than anticipated, at 3,845 (compared to 250 last time). Phil said this needs to be researched, as the number from the State never materializes. Nephele said she will set up a conference call with Housing and Community Development (HCD) and local agencies to discuss the high number.

CEQA Lawsuit – Covelo Trail – Phil advised that MCOG’s attorney is pursuing an automatic dismissal of the CEQA lawsuit on the Covelo trail project, as a required letter was not filed by the plaintiff’s attorney after MCOG adopted a Negative Declaration for this project.

City of Ukiah – Planning Manager – Rick Seanor announced that the City of Ukiah recently hired a new planning manager – Michelle Irace.

11b. Next Meeting - May 23, 2018

12. **Adjournment** – 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard  
Deputy Planner

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