

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Primary Location

MCOG Office – 525 S. Main St., Ukiah (Upstairs Conference Room)

Teleconference Locations

*City of Fort Bragg – Engineering Office, 416 N. Franklin Street, Fort Bragg
9 Petticoat Lane, Broad Brook, CT*

City of Willits – Community Development Dept., 111 E. Commercial St., Willits

Members Present

Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah
Liam Crowley, DPBS
Mike Lydon
Jacob King, MTA
Alicia Winokur, County DOT

Members Absent

AQMD Representative
Tom Varga, City of Point Arena
Chantell O' Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Dusty Duley, City of Willits

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration (*for item #5*)
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning
Jesus Rodriguez, MCOG Planning
Michael Villa, MCOG Administration
Dave Shpak, Gualala MAC
Javier Silva
Walter Colon, City of Willits
Jen Buck, Caltrans
Lucy Bartholomew, Blue Zones
Megan Durbin, Wynn Coastal Planning
Amy Wynn, Wynn Coastal Planning
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah
Tatiana Ahlstrand, Caltrans

September 18, 2024

- Call to Order/Introductions** – Loretta called the meeting to order at approx. 10:00 a.m. She advised that Nephele was attending another meeting, and would be present virtually for agenda item #5.
- Public Expression** – Dave Shpak expressed appreciation for the Caltrans team for keeping the MCOG board updated on the State Route 1 project and highlighted concerns about landscape maintenance discussions between county staff and Caltrans. He also suggested involving local entities like the Gualala Community Center in long-term maintenance agreements.
- Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – Javier Silva, a member of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo, provided a brief introduction, mentioning his involvement with the Noyo Harbor multimodal circulation plan and other projects, though he clarified that he was not officially representing any tribal government.
- Approval of Minutes of 8/21/24**
Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Jacob King, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Winokur, Eriksen, Lydon, Crowley, King) to approve the minutes of 8/21/24.

5. Mendocino County Transportation Sales Tax Polling – Consideration of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Partnership Program Funding

Nephele explained that unincorporated Mendocino County is the only jurisdiction in the county without a transportation sales tax measure. Although the County has been included in previous voter polling efforts, the results have not been strong enough to pursue a measure. She explained there is renewed interests in exploring a sales tax measure, as maintenance needs continue to increase while funding does not.

She introduced a proposal to fund a voter poll for a potential transportation sales tax measure using \$55,000 from MCOG's Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Partnership Program. Alicia, County Department of Transportation, explained that the sales tax could generate around \$3.7 million annually, addressing critical road maintenance and restoring numerous maintenance positions. A brief discussion ensued, and Nephele noted that while the Partnership Program is primarily a capital program, there have been exceptions in the past.

Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Jacob King, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Winokur, Eriksen, Lydon, Crowley, King) to recommend to the MCOG Board approval of \$55,000 from MCOG's Partnership Program to conduct voter opinion surveys for a potential transportation sales tax in unincorporated Mendocino County.

6. Caltrans District 1

6a. Presentation – Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP)

Jen Buck presented updates on the Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP), and explained this process is used to determine the level of oversight needed for projects administered by local agencies but involving the state highway system. The presentation covered the different levels of project complexity, local agency responsibilities and Caltrans responsibilities, and the importance of early coordination between local agencies and Caltrans.

MCOG staff thanked Jen for the presentation, and Jen offered to send the presentation slides to Loretta for forwarding to TAC members unable to attend today.

6b. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Banks

Mike Lydon reported on his research into VMT mitigation banks, noting successful projects in urban areas like Los Angeles and ongoing development in rural areas. He highlighted a planning project to develop a VMT mitigation bank in Sonoma County that could serve as a model for Mendocino County. He will follow up with the Caltrans grant manager for the Sonoma County project and report back at a future TAC meeting. Brief discussion ensued, and Amy Wynn spoke about the need for mitigation banks on the coast. Loretta advised MCOG staff is considering this topic as a potential project for the next round of Caltrans planning grants.

6c. Ukiah Valley State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Project Map

Mike shared a map illustrating the geographic distribution of State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects in Ukiah Valley. The map included project status and estimated completion dates. The committee agreed that quarterly updates would be useful for tracking progress.

6d. Miscellaneous Reports

Tasha reported on the following: (1) The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant guidelines have

been released for a 30 day review period, then there will be a call for projects in the fall and Caltrans will host a workshop. This will be the last round of Climate Adaptation grants. There are now options for tribal grants with no local match requirement, and transit agencies are now eligible as lead applicants for Strategic Partnership – Transit grants. (2) SR 128 was nominated for a sea level rise study under the PROTECT program, but not selected. District 1 plans to reapply. (3) A “Director’s Policy” for public transit will be released this winter. (4) There will be a public meeting on October 9 for the Albion Bridge replacement project.

7. FY 2024/25 Overall Work Program – Second Amendment

Alexis Pedrotti presented the second amendment to the FY 2024/25 Overall Work Program (OWP), which involves two key changes. First, now that the procurement process for a new planning consultant contract with Davey-Bates Consulting has been completed and budget needs are known, \$95,000 in carryover funds from the previous DBC contract is being released. These funds are being reallocated to the Project Reserve, bringing the reserve total to \$174,560, which will be used for future projects, including the Pavement Management Program Update. Second, the amendment includes minor narrative updates to align with the scope of a new grant (Work Element 5 – Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study), ensuring consistency and accuracy between the grant’s terms and the OWP.

Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Jacob King, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Winokur, Eriksen, Lydon, Crowley, King) to recommend that MCOG approve the Second Amendment to the FY 2024/25 OWP.

8. Staff Reports

8a. Local Road Safety/Actions Plans Update Project

Loretta reported that Local Road Safety/Action Plans for Fort Bragg and Willits had been approved by their respective councils, and Ukiah’s plan is on tonight’s agenda. Point Arena had not yet confirmed approval, and the County’s plan will be on the 10/22 Board of Supervisors agenda. The final plans have been posted on the MCOG website as required by the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program, and Loretta asked agencies to send her updated plans if they make any revisions.

Loretta advised that the TAC will be the body to periodically review and monitor plan implementation, as required by the SS4A program, possibly quarterly or bi-annually.

8b. Noyo Harbor Multimodal Circulation Plan

Loretta reported that the Noyo Harbor Multimodal Circulation Plan, funded by a Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant, is progressing well. Public outreach efforts include a pop-up event at the September 21 Noyo Harbor Festival and a community workshop on October 21, 2024. A two-day design charrette is planned for April 2025. The project is expected to be completed by December 2025.

8c. Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study – Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning Grant

Loretta reported that the Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study, funded by a Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning Grant, is awaiting a notice to proceed, with an anticipated November 2024 start date. The project aims to assess vulnerabilities on State Route 1 and other coastal roads and develop mitigation strategies. The study is expected to take 18 months and will involve key collaboration with Mendocino County's Department of Transportation.

8d. 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Loretta reported that work has begun on the 2026 RTP and ATP. MCOG is partnering with GreenDOT Transportation Solutions to create a public engagement mapping tool for gathering community input on transportation needs. The plan is expected to be developed over the next 18 months, with public outreach, soliciting local agency short term and long term project lists, and updating goals and policies forming some of the initial work. Adoption is expected by February 2026.

9. Miscellaneous

None.

Next meeting - 10/16/24, if needed

10. Adjournment – approx. 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesus Rodriguez
/jr