

# MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## APPROVED MINUTES Monday, November 3, 2025

### Primary Location:

UC Farm Advisors Conference Room  
890 North Bush Street, Ukiah

### Teleconference Locations:

Fort Bragg City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg  
Point Arena City Hall, 451 School St., Point Arena  
Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union St., Eureka

### General Public Teleconference by Zoom

### ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

[Mendocino County Video](http://www.mendocinocog.org) or find  
[YouTube link at http://www.mendocinocog.org under Meetings](http://www.mendocinocog.org)

**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 and Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. on the tour bus at County Administration Center in Ukiah with Directors present: John Haschak, Mike Carter, Madeline Cline, Heather Criss, and Matthew Alaniz. Arriving subsequently for the teleconference were Directors Jeff Hansen in Point Arena; Marcia Rafanan in Fort Bragg; and Tatiana Ahlstrand for Caltrans/PAC in Eureka. Chair Haschak presiding.

Staff present in Ukiah for Tour: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Michael Villa, Project Coordinator; and Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst. Scott Spears, A/V Specialist from County of Mendocino Information Technology provided video services as usual.

Staff present in Ukiah for Teleconference: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO; Jody Lowblad, Administrative Assistant; Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst; and Orion Walker, Energy Program Manager.

Tour Guest Presenters: Howard Dashiell, Director, and Alicia Winokur, Deputy Director, Engineering, Mendocino County Department of Transportation; Tim Erikson, P.E., Director of Public Works and City Engineer, and Andrea Trincado, Project and Grants Administrator, Community Development Department, City of Ukiah.

## **2. Convene as RTPA**

**3. Tour of Local Transportation Projects.** The tour itinerary covered destinations in the Ukiah Valley area. Major project highlights included:

- Redemeyer Road extension (planned)
- Ackerman Creek Bridge construction
- North State St. roundabout (planned)
- Ukiah Downtown Streetscape
- Great Redwood Trail – *optional walk*
- New Courthouse construction

Director Rafanan arrived on the teleconference at 3:30 p.m.; excused for another meeting at 3:40 p.m.

**4. Brief Recess as RTPA.** The tour group's bus returned and passengers disembarked.

Director Carter was excused from the meeting during recess at approximately 4:10 p.m.

**5. Reconvene in Conference Room as Policy Advisory Committee.** The meeting was reconvened at 4:15 p.m. with a quorum present in the UC Farm Advisors Conference Room.

**6. Assembly Bill 2449 Notifications and Considerations.** This item is to receive and address requests from Board members to participate in the meeting from a non-posted location, subject to conditions set forth in AB 2449. There were no such requests.

**7 - 8. Consent Calendar.** Executive Director Barrett advised removal of item #8 from the calendar, due to a conflict of interest for the two members representing County of Mendocino, which would hear an appeal of the Gualala Coastal Development Permit the next day; therefore those members would recuse themselves from the matter, leaving the lack of a quorum to take action. Chair Haschak concurred. **Upon motion** by Alaniz, second by Criss, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Cline, Alaniz, Hansen, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Rafanan and Carter*): IT IS ORDERED that the meeting minutes of October 6, 2025 are approved.

**7. Approval of October 6, 2025 Minutes – as written**

**8. Approval of Letter in Support of Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project**  
– no action taken

**9. Public Expression.** Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, thanked Caltrans for eradication work done at the US 101/SR 20 interchange near Calpella, removing vegetation that limited visibility for drivers.

**10. Discussion of Ukiah Valley Area Tour, Transportation Plans & Projects, and Related Matters.** The Chair and board members thanked staff for organizing the tour, agreeing it was well done. It was noted that a video recording would be posted online. Director Criss enjoyed the tour today, her first with MCOG, and looked forward to more such occasions. Director Alaniz remarked it was helpful to see projects first hand. No action was taken.

**11. Discussion/Direction: Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).** Hector Ortega, Project Analyst, gave a brief report of status. The draft was provided in the agenda packet. The final RTIP will be presented for adoption at the December meeting. Public comments were invited, and none heard. No action was taken.

**12. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee.** Upon motion by Criss, second by Cline, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*5 Ayes – Cline, Alaniz, Hansen, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Rafanan and Carter*): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

### **13. Reports - Information**

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. Director Ahlstrand reported Friday, November 7 as the deadline to submit draft planning grant applications for feedback. Final applications are due November 21. Progress was made on the district transit plan. The survey of transit needs on the state highway system was closed; staff would meet with Caltrans headquarters the following week to discuss survey findings and next steps. Results will be shared with MCOG.

- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Executive Director King was away at a conference. MTA was thanked for providing a bus and driver Luis Martinez, Operations Manager, for today's tour.
- c. Great Redwood Trail Agency. Director Haschak reported a public meeting and retreat would be held in Ukiah, November 21-22.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to the written report.
- e. MCOG Administration Staff
  - i. *Miscellaneous*. Ms. Barrett reported the new pedestrian bridge had been placed on the Covelo trail project. A time extension was requested from California Department of Fish & Wildlife; while not working in the creekbed, concrete would be poured in the vicinity. Staff will post photos on MCOG's website. A survey was released for the Voter Opinion Polling & Assessment for Unincorporated Mendocino County, with counsel approval.
  - ii. *Next Meeting Date*. Monday, December 1, 2025.
- f. MCOG Planning Staff
  - i. *Draft 2026 Regional Transportation & Active Transportation Plan (RTP & ATP)*. Hector Ortega gave a brief update. The Public Draft was released September 16, distributed and posted online. The Board received a presentation at the October 6 meeting. Five public workshops were held countywide. Comments must be received by November 5 to be considered for the final RTP/ATP. December 1 is the target for adoption in a public hearing.
  - ii. *Miscellaneous*. A community engagement plan is expected to start in November for Work Element 5, Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study. Procurement of a consultant will begin after a grant kickoff meeting with Caltrans for WE 8, Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program. WE 11, Pavement Management Program Update, is in process of procurement, with contract negotiations anticipated by end of month.
- g. Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Staff. Energy Program Manager Orion Walker referred to his written report. Additionally, Sonoma Clean Power had issued a Request for Proposals to help promote their Grid Savvy rewards program. NREN agreed to sign a letter of interest with County of Sonoma. Director Haschak, on SCP's board, supported the effort and noted the purpose was to reduce loads on the grid during peak times. More information: <https://northernren.org/>
- h. MCOG Directors. Director Hansen brought up Garcia River flooding. Director Ahlstrand offered to set up a meeting with Caltrans management to discuss with City of Point Arena.
- i. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Haschak as Delegate and Director Criss as Alternate both will attend the next meeting in person, on November 7 in Palm Desert.

Public comment on Reports: Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, commented that MTA flat-rate fares will begin soon. He then asked about the Hopland ADA project. Ms. Barrett explained that some components such as drainage and flashing crosswalk beacons would have impacted the small utility district with a high cost burden. Caltrans is seeking more time to resolve the issue, so temporarily postponed those features. Director Cline reported the bill that addressed the issue was vetoed, however another funding mechanism is being made available.

**14. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
By Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO