

## MINUTES

### MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference*

November 17, 2021

#### **Members Present**

Dusty Duley, City of Willits  
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah  
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS  
Jacob King, MTA  
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena  
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans  
Chantell O’Neal, City of Fort Bragg

#### **Members Absent**

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)  
Barbara Moed, AQMD  
Alicia Meier, County DOT

#### **Staff & Others Present**

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration  
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning  
James Sookne, MCOG Planning  
Charlene Parker, MCOG Planning  
Danielle Casey, MCOG Administration  
Kyle Finger, Caltrans  
Destiny Preston, Caltrans  
Preston Allen, Caltrans  
Melissa Ghiglieri, Caltrans  
Paul Anderson, City of Point Arena  
Patricia Rabano, Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Blue Zone Representatives: Tina Tyler-O’Shea  
Dan Burden, Tony Hall, Lucy Bartholomew

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m. Individuals present identified themselves.
2. **Public Expression** – Richard Shoemaker congratulated Jacob King on his promotion at MTA.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments’ Representatives** – Patricia Rabano, Round Valley Indian Tribes, was present but had no comment. No other tribal representatives were present.
4. **Presentation from Blue Zones on Health & Transportation** – Lucy Bartholomew introduced the Blue Zones project, advising that it’s a five-year long community well-being initiative that helps make the “healthy choice, the easy choice for everybody.” Among other policy priorities, Blue Zones’ priorities include a focus on the “built environment” which is the main topic of today’s presentation. She introduced the local Blue Zones team led by Executive Director Tina Tyler-O’Shea, and national representatives Dan Burden and Tony Hull, walkability and bike and pedestrian experts.

Dan Burden gave a slide presentation, summarizing Blue Zones’ health and transportation concepts and illustrating example projects (roundabouts, road diets, etc.) that have been implemented in various communities. Blue Zones seeks to provide a pathway to health and safety, and make active transportation the easy choice. Dan reviewed Blue Zones longevity hot spots throughout the world where people live longer and healthier lives based on their lifestyle, and summarized health determinants as genetics (10%); environment (20%), healthy behaviors (50%), and access to care (10%). Dan and Tony invited members to attend the scheduled community walk audits in Fort Bragg

this afternoon, in Willits tomorrow morning, in Ukiah tomorrow afternoon, and at a virtual countywide summit on Friday.

Nephele thanked the Blue Zones team for the presentation.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

5a&b. 9/15/21 and 10/20/21 TAC Meetings – **Motion by Jason Benson, seconded by Richard Shoemaker, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Duley, O’Neal, Shoemaker, Ahlstrand, Cliser, King, Benson) to approve the minutes of 9/15/21 and 10/20/21.**

**6. Draft Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan – 2022 Update** – Loretta

reviewed her staff report and summarized staff’s work with the TAC over the last several months to obtain input on various section of the draft RTP/ATP. She noted that last month’s TAC meeting included a chapter-by-chapter overview of the draft plan, and advised that it was posted to MCOG’s website on October 15, and its availability was widely advertised. A presentation on the draft plan was provided to MCOG at their November meeting, and the proposed final plan will be scheduled for the December MCOG meeting. Per the four-year update cycle, adoption of the plan is due by February 5, 2022.

Loretta reported on comments received since the draft plan was posted, and reviewed minor edits and revised sections of the draft. She said a comment letter from Caltrans was received yesterday, which staff will be reviewing and addressing. Nephele asked that one of Caltrans’ comments to *“please consider including a policy that supports on-site truck parking for developments that will send or receive goods movement (agriculture, manufacturing, industrial, or retail land uses) to ensure truckers have safe and adequate parking to comply with federal regulations regarding breaks to wait for loading/unloading near the drop-off and/or pick-up points”* be discussed. She noted it seems to be in conflict with other viewpoints coming from the State, where there are changes in the thinking about parking requirements for development projects.

Chantell commented that truck parking is a challenge in the City of Fort Bragg, where drivers often must park large trucks overnight, resulting in noise complaints from residents. Paul said truck parking is also a problem in Point Arena, and asked if any parking studies had been done. Nephele referenced a statewide parking study that was presented at a CTC meeting, for which she will try to find more information. The complexities of this issue were discussed, and Nephele noted the need to be general about how it’s addressed in the RTP.

Loretta advised she added a project requested by Point Arena staff, and said she will continue to edit the draft as appropriate until it is presented to the MCOG Board. She requested the TAC make a recommendation on both the Negative Declaration and the draft plan. Nephele added that public comment will be received up until the day of adoption so there is potential for more changes, but they are not expected to be significant.

**Motion by Richard Shoemaker, seconded by Tasha Ahlstrand, to recommend approval of the draft document with the additions shown and not shown, and addition of the Port Road project that Point Arena requested to be added.**

**Discussion on motion/amendment**

**Richard amended the motion to also include recommended approval of the Negative Declaration, and the seconder of the motion agreed to the amendment. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Duley, O’Neal, Shoemaker, Ahlstrand, Cliser, King, Benson).**

7. **2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)** – James’ staff report which explained the background of available RTIP funds and the TAC’s recommendation from the October 20 meeting was included in the agenda packet, along with the draft RTIP. He reviewed the draft RTIP and advised of recent edits including edited goals and policy numbers for consistency with the RTP, updated charts, and information for the City of Willits’ CRRSAA funds, and said it also includes recommendations previously made by the TAC. He noted the programming years for MCOG’s PPM funds and some sections of the document are still being finalized.

Nephele said the RTIP will be on the December 6 MCOG agenda, and is due to Caltrans by December 15. She noted it will also include all of the Project Programming Requests (PPRs) for existing as well as new projects, and said any needed minor changes to existing projects could be made now as part of the RTIP, which would be easier than submitting a stand-alone amendment later.

A brief discussion ensued regarding programming years and other details for Ukiah’s projects, and Tim said staff would review and get back to James soon. Nephele reminded Ukiah staff that the CEQA document is needed before the PS&E component can be allocated for the roundabout.

**Motion by Jason Benson, seconded by Richard Shoemaker, to recommend to the MCOG Board approval of the 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes – Duley, O’Neal, Shoemaker, Ahlstrand, Cliser, King, Benson).**

8. **Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Invoices** – Nephele said a question about LRSP invoices came up in a recent Caltrans Local Assistance meeting, so she thought it might be helpful to have a discussion with TAC members. She asked if any agency had submitted LRSP invoices to Caltrans yet, and Chantell responded that Fort Bragg was waiting to submit one invoice at the end of the project, due to the small amount of funds (\$27,000). Nephele asked Kyle if there would be a problem with agencies submitting one invoice at project completion, and Kyle did not think that would be a problem. Dusty thanked Kyle for sending him sample invoices. Nephele also received the sample invoices if anyone needs them.

9. **Staff Reports**

9a. **Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants – Update** – Nephele and James reported on yesterday’s meeting with CA Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff. Nephele noted three local agencies’ staff were in attendance, and she thought it was a helpful meeting. James summarized that HCD staff reviewed the Regional Technical Assistance Plan (RTAP) and

asked for feedback, and one item that attendees liked was the “help desk.” He said MCOG is still awaiting the HCD agreement before invoices can be submitted.

Nephele noted there’s more pressure at the state level in the form of scoring criteria in transportation grant programs to have agencies go through the process to qualify for the “pro-housing” designation that was created a couple of years ago. She said MCOG staff will be reaching out to community development and planning staff to see if there is interest in this, and noted technical assistance from HCD and their consultant is available to assist agencies with the process.

9b. Clean CA Grant Program – Nephele advised the application deadline for this program has been set for February 1, 2022. She said there is funding available for local grants and she wanted to see if members had questions about the program.

She invited Preston Allen, Caltrans District 1, to give an update. Preston confirmed the February 1 application deadline, and said the application opened on December 1 and projects must be completed by June 30, 2024. He explained his role as the analyst for the District 1 Clean CA Initiative, and said he will be working with grant applicants throughout the process to offer general assistance and ensure that funded projects meet their milestones. He put his email in the chat box ([preston.allen@dot.ca.gov](mailto:preston.allen@dot.ca.gov)) and invited members to contact him, or Julia Peterson, the Clean CA Coordinator for District 1, with any questions. It was noted that a third Clean CA grant workshop was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, November 18.

Nephele asked if any agency planned to apply under this program, and Fort Bragg and Point Arena staff responded affirmatively.

**8. Miscellaneous**

FY 2022/23 Overall Work Program (OWP) Applications – Loretta reminded members that applications for next year’s transportation planning program (Overall Work Program) are due to MCOG on December 1.

8a. Next Meeting – December 15, 2021, if needed.

**9. Adjournment** – Approximately 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard  
Deputy Planner

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