

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2026

Primary Location:

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers
Room 1070, 501 Low Gap Road, 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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. with Directors present: John Haschak, Maureen Mulheren, Heather Criss, and Matthew Alaniz in Ukiah; Marcia Rafanan in Fort Bragg; and Tatiana Ahlstrand for Caltrans/PAC in Eureka. Director Jeff Hansen was excused for illness. Chair Haschak presiding.

Staff present in Ukiah: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; James Sookne, Program Manager; Michael Villa, Deputy Director; Orion Walker, Program Manager; Alexis Pedrotti, Project Manager.

Staff present by Zoom: Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst.

2. 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.

Following this item, Nephele Barrett, Executive Director, provided a staffing update, welcoming Julie St. Pierre as Administrative Assistant and meeting clerk, and congratulating Michael Villa on his promotion to Deputy Director.

3. Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). James Sookne, Program Manager, relayed that HCD requested additional changes on the draft methodology. A meeting with HCD will be held, and following that, revisions will be made with hopes of approval before the May 2026 MCOG meeting.

4. Convene as RTPA.

5. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.

6 - 9. Consent Calendar. Ms. Barrett provided a correction on page 1 of the minutes to state that Director Criss was nominated for Vice Chair.

Upon motion by Criss, second by Alaniz, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Alaniz, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved.

6. Approval of February 2, 2026, Minutes – as amended

7. Approval of February 26, 2026, Executive Committee Minutes – as written

8. Acceptance of 2024/25 MCOG Fiscal Audit – MCOG received a compliant audit with no findings or recommendations for management.

9. Adoption of Resolution Approving Addendum to the FY 2018/19 through 2021/22 Project List for the California State of Good Repair Program to Fund New Emergency Project & Ukiah Transit Center Project – Mendocino Transit Authority

Resolution No. M2026-01

Approving Addendum to the FY 2018/19 through 2021/22 Project List
for the California State of Good Repair Program to Fund
New Emergency Project & Ukiah Transit Center Project
(Reso. #M2026-01 is incorporated herein by reference)

10. Public Expression. Steve Henderson (a.k.a. Gizmo) inquired about controlled burns on the freeway edge by Caltrans and the CHP.

Chair Haschak responded. CalFire is working to create a more efficient plan for a controlled burn.

11. Regular Calendar. *Adoption of Resolution No. M2026-__ Approving The 2026 Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – Continued from March 2, 2026 (canceled meeting).* Mr. Sookne stated that a final version of the RTP and ATP are available on the website. MCOG is also conducting the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, as noted in Item 3. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) requires that the methodology for the allocation be approved by HCD prior to approval of the RTP. Because the methodology was not yet approved by HCD, this item will be continued to the May 2026 meeting. No action taken.

12. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Criss, second by Alaniz, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Alaniz, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

14. Reports - Information

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. Director Ahlstrand reported on several funding opportunities with applications opening in the coming months, including USDOT Safe Streets for All Program, Active Transportation Program, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), the Urban Greening Program, Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. A feasibility study for Seaside Creek Beach roadway and culvert improvements on MEN1 will be concluded in June 2027, and an additional feasibility study for the Mendocino State Route 128 will begin work in the new fiscal year. She provided additional updates on the Caltrans District Transit Plan, the Transit Policy Implementation

Action Plan, the Caltrans Climate Vulnerability Assessment, and the 2026 Caltrans District 1 Tribal Transportation Summit. Caltrans will be hosting two District 1 Transportation Planning Open Houses this summer.

- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Ms. Barrett reported that an application for the Transit and Inter City Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) is being developed to secure funding for the Ukiah Area Transit Center. As currently envisioned, the project will be mixed-use, incorporating a senior housing development in partnership with the City of Ukiah and a developer.
- c. Great Redwood Trail Agency. Director Mulheren reported that a meeting was held last week in which the Draft Master Plan was approved. On April 25th, a Grand Opening celebration for Phase 4 of the Great Rail Trail will take place. Chair Haschak added that the Master Plan is available online.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to the written staff report.
- e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. *Draft FY 2026/27 Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) & COG Budget*. Michael Villa, Deputy Director, summarized the budget process, and referred to the staff report. The budget includes the LTF, OWP planning grants, allocation from the SB125; Transit Capital Funding, Allocation for the Surface Transportation Block and Grant Program. The Area Apportionment Notice was mailed to eligible claimants. A budget workshop is scheduled in May, and for action at the June 2026 meeting.
 - ii. *Miscellaneous*. None.
 - iii. *Next Meeting Date*. Monday, May 4, 2026.

Chair Haschak invited public comment. Gizmo inquired about the upcoming Tribal Transportation Summit and expressed concern about the proposed location of the transit mall outlined within the feasibility study referred to during the MTA report. Director Ahlstrand responded to the question about the Summit.

- f. MCOG Planning Staff
 - i. *Draft 2026/27 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP)*. Alexis Pedrotti, Project Manager, gave an overview of the OWP process. A draft of the OWP was submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee for review and recommendation to be moved forward to Caltrans. She referenced the draft and provided clarity on a few budget items. Additionally, she mentioned there could be minor changes for pending grant applications. Some carryover projects, such as the Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study, the Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Program, and the Pavement Management Program, are included as placeholders with an unspecified dollar amount. No action required.
 - ii. *Work Element 5 – Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study*. Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst, reported that community input from surveys and workshops is being collected and analyzed to identify five priority sites for technical analysis by a consultant team. Initial survey results indicate that Point Carrillo Drive, Old Coast Highway, Port Road, and Lighthouse Road, are seen as top priorities.

- iii. *Work Element 11 – Pavement Management Program (PMP) Update.* Mr. Ortega reported that a contract with Nichols Consultant Engineers (NCE) has been fully executed. The ARRB vehicle began data collection in late March, and has since concluded collection in Fort Bragg, and is progressing in Willits. Data collection will proceed in county-maintained roads and the City of Ukiah. No action required.
- iv. *Miscellaneous.* None.
- g. Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Staff. Orion Walker, Energy Program Manager, reported that the training event in cooperation with PACE Supply was successful. An additional collaborative event with the North Coast Builders Exchange will be held in the coming weeks. He provided additional updates on the Education Employment summit, a new Public Services Program, ongoing educational outreach, and financing programs. Chair Haschak inquired about the Earth Day Celebrations, and then opened up to public questions. Gizmo inquired about the North Coast Builders Exchange Program.
- h. MCOG Directors. Chair Haschak reported that continued exploration of a sales tax item for road maintenance for the November election was approved.
- i. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Criss reported she attended the CALCOG Board Meeting in March, during which the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant was discussed, and authorization was granted to the work program priorities and to establish themselves as a 501c3. She provided updates on AB 1421 (road usage committee – supported by CalCOG), SB 979 (RHNA judicial review – opposed by CalCOG), AB 2002 (RHNA as an unfunded mandate), SB 908 (transit-oriented development – opposed by CalCOG), and reform of SB 375 (sustainable communities strategies).

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR