

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
City of Willits – Community Development Dept., 111 E. Commercial St., Willits
Point Arena City Hall, 451 School St., Point Arena
Caltrans District 1 – 1656 Union Street, Eureka, California*

January 21, 2026

Members Present

Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah
Liam Crowley, DPBS
Jacob King, MTA
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Blake Batten, Caltrans
Alicia Winokur, County DOT
Chantell O' Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Paul Andersen, Pt. Arena

Members Absent

AQMD Representative

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning
Michael Villa, MCOG Administration
Hector Ortega, MCOG Planning
Kyle Finger, Caltrans
David Shpak, Gualala Municipal Advisory
Committee
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah
James Sookne, MCOG Planning

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:00 a.m.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives**- None.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 11/19/25**
Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Dustin Duley, and carried on roll call vote (7 ayes - O'Neal, Eriksen, Duley, Batten, Crowley, King, Winokur) to approve minutes of 11/19/2025
5. **2026 TAC Meeting Schedule (Information)**

The 2026 TAC meeting schedule was presented for informational purposes as an as-needed standard schedule, which is not typically formally approved. A correction was noted in the document indicating that the year referenced in the text should read 2026 rather than 2025. No further discussion occurred.
6. **FY 2026/27 Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) – Review Applications Received (Discussion)**

Alexis provided an overview of the FY 2026–27 Overall Work Program development process, noting that MCOG’s annual call for transportation planning projects was issued in October and closed on December 1. MCOG received one application, submitted by Mendocino County DOT for the Combined Special Studies work element. Alexis also reviewed key budget assumptions, including an estimated 4% increase to the Davey-Bates Consulting planning contract, bringing the projected total to \$528,681, pending final CPI updates. In addition, MCOG submitted a Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant application for the SR 20 Willits Multimodal Circulation & Intersection Improvement Study and is reserving an estimated local match of approximately \$47,200 until award decisions are announced. Alexis highlighted that \$38,784 is available as carryover in the project reserve from the FY 2025–26 OWP. Based on current inputs, total draft funding requests are estimated at \$653,381 (including the County DOT request, the planning contract, direct costs, and the pending local match), compared to estimated revenues of \$697,000, leaving an anticipated excess of \$43,903 that could be directed to the project reserve.

Alicia presented the County DOT application, explaining that the work element supports the County’s annual traffic safety review program, which evaluates approximately one-third of county-maintained roads each year on a three-year rotation. The effort includes reviewing signage and striping, analyzing collision data, investigating major incidents, and conducting speed surveys as needed to support project development, respond to collision trends, or address citizen complaints.

Dave Shpak asked which section of the county would be included in this year’s safety review program. Alicia Winneker responded that the 2026–27 report will focus on a review of the coastal area of the county.

The County’s project will be incorporated into the FY 2026–27 Draft Overall Work Program and will be brought back to the committee for action at a future meeting.

**7. 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
(Review/Recommendation)**

James noted that only minimal changes had been made from the previously circulated public draft. TAC comments were addressed, including clarification of language related to the Ukiah transit center and courthouse site at the City’s request, moving the Garcia River project from a long-term to a short-term timeframe, and adding the C.V. Starr charging project to the constrained and unconstrained project lists. Caltrans also submitted a detailed comment letter, and most comments were incorporated, including edits to the State Highway element, revisions to the Garcia River flooding issue discussion, , discussion of the two climate adaptation grants, revisions to the Pacific Coast Bike Route description, additional information in the transit section including the District Transit Plan, North State Express, and Amtrak. There were naming corrections made for consistency in the Rail Element and the addition of funding sources in the Financial Element. Adoption timing for the RTP remains delayed pending HCD review and approval of the RHNA methodology, as the RTP cannot be adopted until after those approvals. Other minor corrections were discussed. During public comment, Dave Shpak identified an error in the public feedback section for the Gualala area, noting the issue should reference Old Stage Road between the two Ocean Ridge Road intersections rather than Ocean Ridge Road, and staff requested he provide details via email. Dusty Duley also requested that the anticipated construction year for the Willits Rail Trail be updated to 2025–26.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan and

Active Transportation Plan, including the changes identified during this meeting and additional formatting changes to be made prior to adoption, to the MCOG Board by Jacob King, seconded by Dusty Duley, and carried on roll call vote (8 ayes - O'Neal, Eriksen, Duley, Batten, Crowley, King, Winokur, Andersen) to recommend approval to the MCOG board.

8. Staff Reports (Information)

a. Sea-Level Rise Roadway Impact Study- Hector stated that community engagement for the Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study has been launched, with the project survey posted on the project website and shared with partner agencies and stakeholders. The City of Fort Bragg also posted the survey, and appreciation was expressed for their support in outreach. The project team aims to complete community engagement and identify five priority sites by the end of the first quarter of this calendar year, after which technical studies will begin at the selected locations. Community workshop dates have not yet been finalized, and additional updates will be provided once they are scheduled.

b. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program - Hector stated that for the Regional VMT Mitigation Program, the Request for Proposals is currently in development and undergoing internal review. Hector indicated the goal is to release the RFP by the end of the month, with further updates to be provided once it has been issued.

c. Pavement Management Program (PMP) - Regarding the Pavement Management Program (PMP), the contract with NCE has been awarded and fully executed. Participating agencies have been asked to grant NCE access to their StreetSaver databases in advance of the project kickoff. Access has been received from most agencies, with access from Willits still pending due to difficulty reaching the appropriate contact. Dusty offered to assist with coordination. Alicia emphasized the urgency of moving the PMP forward, as the County hopes to use the updated pavement data to support a potential transportation sales tax measure that may be considered for the November ballot.

In discussion related to the potential sales tax measure, polling results were near the two-thirds approval threshold. A presentation of the polling results is scheduled for the Board of Supervisors on March 10, to be delivered by the project consultant. The group discussed a number of issues and ideas to build public understanding regarding a potential sales tax. Staff clarified that public agency employees may provide education and factual information about the measure but cannot advocate for its approval.

d. Caltrans Milestone Report - Blake reminded the group that if adoption of the RTP is delayed beyond the February deadline, MCOG should submit a formal extension request letter to Caltrans. The milestone package includes the PID Work Plan, quarterly milestone report, and a project map. Blake also highlighted a new pilot tool, the District 1 Project Communication Form, which allows TAC and Board members to indicate their desired level of involvement in specific Caltrans projects. A separate form must be submitted for each project, and Caltrans will follow up within approximately two weeks. In response to a question from Dave Shpak, it was clarified that the form is intended for TAC and Board members only, not the public, though Caltrans may have other engagement portal options available for broader participation in the future.

9. **Miscellaneous**– Liam mentioned that the appeal of the County’s Coastal Development permit for the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project is on the agenda for the Coastal Commission meeting on February 4th and that their staff is recommending upholding the county’s decision to approve the Coastal Development Permit. The next meeting scheduled for February 18 if needed.
10. **Adjournment** – approx. 11:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hector Ortega
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