

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 23, 2018
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Tim Eriksen (for Rick Seanor), City of Ukiah
Alicia Meier, County DOT
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg
Jacob King, MTA (*arrived at 10:20 a.m.*)

Others Present

Kirsten Thuresson, Caltrans
Tom Feliz, 3DR – *via teleconference*

Staff Present

Phil Dow, MCOG Administration
Nephele Barrett, MCOG Planning
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Barbara Moed, AQMD
Jesse Davis, County DPBS
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Phil announced that due to health issues, he will not be continuing with MCOG duties, and existing staff will assume his duties. His contract with MCOG goes until October 2019.

He called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., and self-introductions were made.

2. **Public Expression** – None.

3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – This is a standing agenda item to allow input from tribal representatives. There were no tribal representatives present.

4. **Approval of 4/18/18 Minutes** – Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Alicia Meier, and carried unanimously (*5 ayes – Ahlstrand Duley, Eriksen, Meier, Varga*), to approve the minutes of 4/18/18, as submitted.

Loretta advised that agenda item #5 (remote presentation on aerial drones) is timed to begin at 10:15 a.m., so the following items were moved ahead on the agenda.

8. **SB 1 – Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017** – Loretta noted a recent press release from the California Transportation Commission advising that the CTC approved funding at their May 16 meeting for three competitive programs under SB 1: Local Partnership Program; Solutions for Congested Corridors Program; and Trade Corridors Enhancement Program. Also

under SB 1, the ATP Cycle 4 Guidelines were adopted on May 16 and the “call for projects” was opened, with an application deadline of 7/31/18.

9. Staff Reports

9a. Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) – Update – Nephela reported that the RHNA Methodology Committee will be meeting today to agree on a draft allocation that will be presented to MCOG in August, to divide the allocation among the County and cities, over an eight year planning period. She said the draft allocation is similar to what was used in 2008, and advised that an appeal letter has been submitted to State Housing and Community Development (HCD) appealing the high number received (*3,845, compared to 250 last update cycle*). It is unknown whether the appeal will be successful, so the committee will move forward with the numbers they have. The Final RHNA Plan is due in August.

Phil reported that CALCOG staff said they were unaware that Lake and Mendocino counties had to conduct RHNA processes, and would need to pay higher dues. He informed them that the planning agencies have nothing to do with the subject, but end up doing the process by default since they have the needed board representation.

Jacob King arrived at approx. 10:20 a.m.

5. Remote Presentation on Aerial Drones – Tom Feliz, 3DR - Loretta advised that, in follow-up to interest shown at the April TAC meeting, Tom Feliz (3DR) is present today via video-conference to provide a remote web presentation on aerial drones, via a “zoom web” meeting.

Tom proceeded to deliver a short video presentation on the various benefits of using drone technology for aerial surveys. He illustrated how using drones to survey and capture data on projects such as bridge replacements is more efficient and accurate than traditional methods. He referenced a special report from AASHTO (American and State Highway Transportation Officials) which reported that a growing number of State DOTs are using drones to improve safety and collect data faster and better.

A brief discussion ensued with Tom responding to questions. He welcomed members to contact him for more information. The TAC thanked him for the informational presentation.

6. Presentation on North State Street Interchange Project – Kirsten Thuresson, Advance Planning Project Engineer, Caltrans, distributed and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 Project Initiation Report (PIR) for the “North State Street – Northbound Onramp Improvement project”. She reviewed the Purpose and Need Statement “to improve safety and operations of the northbound onramp” and gave an overview of alignment Alternative 1 (\$14.2 million), Alternative 2 (\$9.6 million), Alternative 3 (\$10.7 million), and Alternative 4 (\$17.8 million), as well as a “no build” alternative.

A brief discussion ensued with Kirsten responding to questions. She advised that Alternative 1 is shown as the “most expensive, affordable alternative” (programmable alternative). The PA&ED (Project Approval & Environmental Document) phase will include further analysis of all

alternatives to determine the “preferred alternative”. Next steps are to complete the PIR and compete for funding (SB 1 Trade Corridor/STIP).

The TAC thanked Kirsten for the presentation.

7. FY 2018/19 Final Overall Work Program - Loretta reviewed her staff report, and advised that the proposed Final Work Program includes the projects recommended by the TAC in the Draft, as well as several carryover projects. She advised that staff responded to Caltrans’ comments on the Draft, which were minor, and she summarized final revisions. As proposed, the Final FY 2018/19 Overall Work Program totals \$1,221,126.

Motion by Tom Varga, seconded by Tasha Ahlstrand, and carried unanimously (6 ayes – Ahlstrand Duley, Eriksen, King, Meier, Varga), to recommend to MCOG approval of the FY 2018/19 Overall Work Program.

9b. Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 4 – Applications due 7/31/18 – The upcoming ATP Cycle 4 deadline was noted. Dusty advised that the City of Willits has been awarded a technical assistance grant and will be receiving help from the Local Government Commission in preparing their rail trail ATP grant application.

Dusty noted legislation in progress (SB 1029 McGuire) which would create the new Great Railroad Trail Agency and (eventually) construct a trail along the railroad from north of Willits into Humboldt County. MCOG staff is monitoring this legislation, which also calls for the abolishment of the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) and assignment of the railroad right of way south of Willits to the Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Board.

9c. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 9 - Applications due 8/31/18 – This upcoming deadline was noted.

10. Miscellaneous

10a. Next Meeting – 6/20/18 (*if needed*).

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) - Alicia advised that webinars are available regarding BUILD if members are interested.

Pedestrian Facilities Needs Study – Loretta advised that the Point Arena/South Coast workshop for this study will be held on June 19 in Point Arena.

11. Adjournment – 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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