

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 17, 2019
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
Bill Wood (for Alicia Meier), County DOT
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg
Jacob King, MTA
Barbara Moed, AQMD (*arrived @ 10:50 a.m.*)

Staff Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Jesse Davis, County DPBS
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. *The lack of a quorum was noted; all votes must pass by at least 2/3 of those present.*
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 3/20/19 Minutes** – Motion by Tom Varga, seconded by Rick Seanor, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of 3/20/19 as submitted.

Nephele moved to agenda item #7 while awaiting arrival of additional TAC members.

7. **Staff Reports (Information)**

7a. **Legislative Update – SB 127; SB 152; AB 1402; AB 1413; AB 1568**

SB 127 – Nephele summarized this bill would establish a new Division of Active Transportation within Caltrans, and require changes to the State Highway Operation and Protection Program, including requiring the SHOPP to include capital projects for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. She explained that although those are good projects, she does not feel the changes are appropriate for the SHOPP. She noted that Walk & Bike Mendocino is supporting the legislation. She plans to schedule this issue for discussion on an upcoming MCOG agenda.

AB 1413 – Nephele summarized that this bill would allow a subregion of a county to impose a sales tax on only a portion of the county. She also advised the Board of Supervisors, at yesterday's meeting, referred the transportation sales tax issue to a committee.

AB 1568 – Nephele summarized that this bill proposes to prevent local agencies from applying for some state grants (excluding Article XIX funding, e.g. HUTA) if they do not have a compliant

housing element. She noted that housing is a big deal at the state, with housing funding to be tied to transportation effective in 2025. Housing Element updates are due in August 2019, and housing production reports are also due. There are now SB 2 grants available to help local agencies with updates, and there may also be help in a trailer bill. She also plans to take this bill to MCOG to take a position.

SB 152 – Nephele advised that this bill proposes (*starting with the 2020 ATP cycle*) to change the distribution of ATP funds from the current breakdown: 50% statewide competitive; 40% MPOs; and 10% small urban/rural competitive; to a revised breakdown of: 25% statewide competitive; 60% MPOs; and 15% small urban/rural competitive.

She noted that although the small urban/rural pot would increase from 10 to 15%, the change would decrease overall funding available to our region with the large reduction in the statewide competitive pot. She said this bill was discussed by the North State Super Region, which has taken a position of opposition. It's also been discussed by the Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF) and several rural agencies are opposing it. She plans to schedule it on an upcoming MCOG agenda to consider taking a position of opposition.

AB 1402 – Nephele advised that this bill is similar to SB 152, but with proposed ATP formula changes of 10% statewide competitive; 75% to MPOs; and 15% to small urban/rural competitive.

7b. SB 2 Planning Grants – Applications Accepted Through Nov. 40, 2019 – This new grant program and timeline was briefly noted, and Nephele advised of an upcoming webinar on May 1.

7c. Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation (EEM) Grants – Project Proposals Due June 17, 2019 – Noted.

7d. SB 1 Programs – Nephele reminded members of the May 1 deadline to submit the resolution for eligibility for next year's Local Streets and Roads funding, noting that it must be a separate action from budget approval. Submittals must now go through the CalSMART system.

6. SB 743/Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – CEQA Guidelines Effective July 1, 2020 – Loretta briefly reported on recent training she attended regarding SB 743 implementation. She noted the FAQ information included in the packet, and advised that the effective date of this legislation is July 1, 2020 --- **not** January 1, 2020, as listed in some documents.

A brief discussion ensued, and staff advised that the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant award announcements are expected before the next TAC meeting. Loretta advised that preparation of the RFP can start as soon as possible if the grant is awarded, since that task is not part of the grant and does not need to await authorization to proceed. In response to an inquiry, Tom expressed interest in reviewing the RFP. If the grant is not awarded, the TAC will need to discuss other potential options on how to fund this project, if desired.

10:50 a.m. - Barbara Moed arrived.

5. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funding – Nephele reviewed her staff report and explained that MCOG has recently been notified by Caltrans of funding available to the region through the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP). She advised that the Mendocino region has an

apportionment of \$321,047 for FY 18/19, and \$227,866 for FY 17/18, and it is unknown if this will be an ongoing funding source. This is a new federal funding source available for road/street/highway construction projects (*environmental through construction, but construction must be included*) and the funds must be spent on facilities that are on the Federal Aid System, classified higher than a rural minor collector.

A discussion ensued and project parameters and timelines were reviewed. Nephele noted that projects should be near shovel-ready to meet the obligation and expenditure deadlines, so it may be preferable to dedicate the funding to an existing project that already has federal funding. If it goes to a new project, the project development process would need to proceed quickly.

She reviewed needed steps including approval by MCOG Board, then submittal of an FTIP Amendment to Caltrans before funds can be obligated, a process that can take three to four months. Potential projects were briefly discussed, and it was noted that the County's East Side Potter Valley Road project would not be a good candidate, as adding federal funding would trigger NEPA. Rick Seanor advised that the timing would work with Ukiah's Downtown Streetscape project which already has federal funding, and State Street is on the Federal Aid System. No other potential projects were mentioned. Nephele said she hoped to present a TAC recommendation to MCOG in May, but it could be delayed if additional time is needed.

Tom Varga made a motion to nominate Ukiah's Downtown Streetscape Project for the funding, with the condition that other agencies could suggest something else before the MCOG agenda deadline. After further discussion, the motion was dropped and there was a *consensus* to bring this back to the next TAC meeting to allow additional time for other suggestions.

8. Miscellaneous

Prop 68 Grants – Loretta advised of new Prop. 68 grants available for trails, noting she emailed information to TAC members yesterday.

Ukiah City Council – Rick reported that tonight's City Council agenda includes a presentation on the Capital Improvement Program, as well as the resolution for SB 1 funds. He also reported the City Electric Department will be installing four new electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot by the old post office (*and meeting ADA requirements*) and the City will be charging user fees. He advised that the downtown parking plan is still in the works, and is being coordinated with the streetscape project.

Hydrogen Powered Cars – Bill Wood mentioned the rise in hydrogen powered cars (fuel cell), and said he would bring this up during the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Advisory Meeting, following this meeting.

9. Adjournment – 11:55 a.m. (approx.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner
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