

# **MCOG BOARD ORIENTATION & PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**MARCH 2019**

[WWW.MENDOCINOCOG.ORG](http://WWW.MENDOCINOCOG.ORG)



# MCOG Background

- The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is the County's regional transportation planning agency (RTPA). MCOG was formed in a joint powers agreement in 1972 after the Transportation Development Act (TDA) was passed.
- COG: General purpose regional agencies that can undertake any action in which their member cities and counties share in common.
- RTPA: County or multi-county entities charged by state law in meeting certain transportation planning requirements.
- JPA identifies specific powers:
  - Transportation Planning Agency
  - Economic development planning
  - Other specific powers authorized by resolution of member agencies

# MCOG's Mission

- To provide regional, community, and inter-community transportation planning,
- To administer transportation funding and financing,
- To represent Mendocino County's interests at higher levels of government,
- To develop transportation projects for future funding,
- To provide technical assistance for transportation project delivery, to support rural/public transportation services,
- To administer grants for transportation/community enhancement projects, and
- To provide a forum to facilitate discussion on other matters of regional importance.

# MCOG Board Composition

Two county supervisors, one council member from each of the four incorporated cities and one countywide elected official/public appointee appointed by the Board of Supervisors make up MCOG Board membership.

A representative of Caltrans serves on the Policy Advisory Committee with the seven directors.

# MCOG Board Officers & Committees

**Officers:** Chair & Vice Chair

**Standing Committees - Board:**

- Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Executive Committee
- Transit Productivity Committee (TPC)

**Standing Committees – Other:**

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

# Mendocino SAFE

The MCOG board of directors also serves as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) of Mendocino County, administering the Call Box program. Funds in the amount of \$1 per registered vehicle in Mendocino County are collected by DMV to manage the program.

- Planning
- Installation
- Monitoring & maintenance
- Monthly service fees
- 45 Satellite, 96 standard cellular call boxes
- SAFE meetings as needed

# MCOG Staffing

MCOG staffing is provided by contract, as follows:

Dow & Associates – Administration & Fiscal Services,  
SAFE Administration

Davey-Bates Consulting – Planning Services, SAFE  
Planning & Operations

# MCOG Responsibilities

- Fiscal Oversight & Allocations
- Transportation Policy Development
- Advocacy
- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Management
- Transportation Planning
- Special Projects



# MCOG Responsibilities

## **Fiscal Oversight & Allocations**

- Transportation Development Act (TDA)
  - Local Transportation Fund (LTF)
  - State Transit Assistance (STA)
  - Budget, Claims, Reports, Fiscal and Performance Audits
- Public Transit
  - Operations, Senior Center Contracts, Capital Reserve
- Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
  - 3 RSTP programs created by MCOG Policy

# MCOG Responsibilities

## Unmet Transit Needs Process

- Annual process to formally identify unmet transit needs
- Established by TDA
- Uses MCOG adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet”
- Steps:
  - SSTAC develops list of potential unmet transit needs
  - MCOG holds public hearing to determine if any needs qualify based on adopted definition
  - Unmet transit needs are analyzed by MTA; TPC & SSTAC make recommendation
  - MCOG determines if any needs are “reasonable to meet” based on analysis and recommendation
  - If needs are reasonable to meet, they are to be identified in the Budget.

# MCOG Funding Programs

## **MCOG Funding Programs**

- Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
  - Partnership Funding Program
  - Regional Project Management & Local Assistance
  - Funding by Formula to County and Cities
- 2% Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Program - competitive grants
- Planning funds through the Transportation Planning Work Program

# MCOG Programs

## **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

- Capital funding for transportation projects
- Adopted by the California Transportation Commission in March/April every even year
- State programs 25% of funding (IIP) and regions program 75% (RIP)
- Each region receives Fund Estimate in preparation (includes PPM)

## **Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

- Developed and adopted by MCOG every odd numbered year
- Programs available STIP funding for the region
- May include future STIP funding commitments
- Local competitive application process
- Includes evaluation for RTP consistency
- Draft developed by staff and TAC
- Adopted by MCOG Board
- Ongoing management of projects: Extensions, Amendments, Allocations, etc.

# MCOG Programs

## **Transportation Planning Work Program**

- Annual program funded by Local Transportation Funds (LTF), Rural Planning Assistance (RPA), Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) and State/Federal grants
- Projects (Work Elements) are consistent with goals of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Eligible participants are MCOG staff, cities and County and MTA
- Technical Advisory Committee reviews & recommends, MCOG Board adopts, Caltrans approves

# MCOG Programs

## Examples of Work Elements

### Annual

- Regional Government & Intergovernmental Coordination – ongoing day-to-day coordination with State and local agencies
- Planning Programming & Monitoring – includes activities related to RTIP & STIP, and CTC coordination
- Training – provides funding to MCOG and local agencies for transportation-related training
- Multi-Modal Transportation Planning – Includes planning for bicycle, pedestrian, transit, rail, and all transportation modes
- Combined Special Studies – includes traffic surveys, speed zone studies, road system traffic safety review, traffic analysis support services for incorporated cities

# MCOG Programs

## Examples of Work Elements (cont.)

### Periodic

- Pavement Management Program Updates – *triennial*
- Regional Transportation Plan Updates – *every 4 years*

### Local Agency Projects

- City of Ukiah – Comprehensive ADA Access Plan Update
- City of Fort Bragg – Street Safety Plan
- Mendocino Co. Dept. of Transportation – Orchard Avenue Extension Feasibility Study – *Grant Match*
- MTA – Transit Designs Guidelines Manual

### Grant Funded Projects

- Pedestrian Facility Needs Inventory – Inland/North Coast
- Hopland Main Street Corridor Engineered Feasibility Report

# MCOG Programs

## **Grant Assistance**

- Research & provide information to local agencies on upcoming grant opportunities for various federal and state grant programs
- Attend grant workshops & webinars to educate staff & inform local agencies
- Review and comment on grant program guidelines
- For MCOG sponsored grants - apply for grants; administer funded projects
- For Local Agency grants - provide technical assistance; prepare grant applications/assist with preparation; provide local match; participate on project development teams (PDT)
- Grant programs include ATP, Caltrans Planning grants (Adaptation Planning & Sustainable Communities), SB 1 programs, Urban Greening, HSIP, Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation



# MCOG Plans

- Regional Transportation Plan
  - Major regional transportation planning document
  - Multi-modal
  - Includes policies, needs, recommended actions (projects)
  - Updated every four years (previously five)
  - Development includes staff, TAC, SSTAC, public, MCOG Board
  - Adoption by MCOG Board

# MCOG Plans

- Active Transportation Plan
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Zero Emission Vehicle Regional Readiness Plan
- Community & Corridor Plans

# MCOG Plans

- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
  - Process to allocate needed housing units among cities and county
  - Occurs every 8 years (previously every 5 years)
  - Total regional housing needs established by State
  - Specific number of housing units for different income levels
  - MCOG adopts allocation, then agencies prepare Housing Elements

# Questions?

Board members may refer to the MCOG Board Orientation & Reference Manual for further information and reference material including a list of frequently used acronyms.