

Approved 11/17/21

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference

October 20, 2021

Members Present

Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Jason Wise, County DOT
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Barbara Moed, AQMD
Jacob King, MTA
Chantell O'Neal, City of Fort Bragg

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Charlene Parker, MCOG Planning
Alexis (Lexi) Pedrotti, MCOG Planning
Danielle Casey, MCOG Administration
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning
Paul Anderson, City of Point Arena
Destiny Preston, Caltrans

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:03 a.m. Individuals present on the Zoom meeting identified themselves.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – No tribal representatives were present.
4. **Approval of 9/15/21 Minutes** - Loretta noted the September minutes were not yet available and will be carried over to the next meeting.
5. **Draft Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan – 2022 Update** – Loretta recapped her staff report and advised that the draft RTP/ATP was posted to MCOG's website on 10/15/21. Email notices were distributed to a large list of stakeholders, along with press releases, advising of the draft being available for public review, and staff will continue to conduct public outreach between now and adoption in December.

Loretta reviewed the various components of the draft and provided a chapter by chapter overview of where the main changes occurred. She said the Active Transportation element will now also serve as the region's Active Transportation Plan. Lexi asked members to let her know of any needed changes to the ATP maps. James and Nephele summarized highlights of the Transit element.

Loretta asked that members supply any missing information for their agency, including “existing and proposed usage” in the ATP element, if available. MCOG still will continue to do outreach and accept comments between now and adoption of the plan.

Nephele noted that even though public comment will be accepted up until the time of plan adoption, it would be helpful to receive TAC comments in advance to incorporate as much input as possible before this is brought back for TAC recommendation at the November 17 meeting. A deadline of November 5 was set for TAC comment, and Loretta said she would follow up with an email to TAC members.

6. 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program – James summarized his staff report which explained funding amounts (target and maximum) available to the region for programming in the 2022 RTIP. After deducting funds for Planning, Programming, & Monitoring, a target of \$5,081,000 and a maximum of \$6,943,000 is available.

He said based on MCOG Board direction, staff issued a call for projects with a deadline of October 1. Only one application was received – a request from the County Department of Transportation to rearrange previously committed funds (\$1,602,000) for construction of their North State Street project. Due to increased cost estimates, the County would now like to program \$138,000 of the committed funds to the right of way component and leave the remaining \$1,464,000 unprogrammed. This will allow the County to request the remaining unprogrammed funds through allocation of the PS&E . They would prefer to program the additional \$1,464,000 to PS&E in the STIP; however, guidelines do not allow for programming funds to a component that is programmed in the current fiscal year.

Discussion ensued with Jason Wise responding to questions. It was noted that the County intends to apply for HSIP funding for the construction component of this project. MCOG staff was hopeful the project would be competitive for HSIP funding, noting the North Street corridor was one of the highest scoring high injury corridors during the Local Road Safety Plan development process.

In addition to the County’s request, James and Nephele reported that Caltrans has indicated a need for more funding for the PA&ED component of the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project. Nephele said she recently met with Caltrans and they are still working on the estimate to fully fund PA&ED, but it is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$200,000. She said the environmental document is expected to be recirculated early next year, and additional funding is needed. The additional funds for Gualala could be accommodated either by tapping into the existing future funding commitment (up to \$3,050,000) or taking it out of the current fund estimate.

Nephele and James said staff will be working with local agencies to program their COVID Relief STIP funds, as part of the 2022 RTIP. Nephele noted this could possibly be done later through an RTIP amendment but would ideally be done now through the RTIP as these funds have shorter deadlines than standard STIP funds. Discussion ensued on local agencies’ plans for the COVID Relief funds. James will follow-up with local agency staff on programming these funds.

Nephele said a TAC recommendation is needed on what should be included in the Draft RTIP, and the full RTIP will be presented at next month’s meeting for recommendation to MCOG. She said based on funding requests received, most of the available funding will remain unprogrammed at this time,

although it could be programmed in a later amendment. She stressed the need to ensure the County can use all of the funds requested for project development, because any unused funds will be lost.

Motion by Dusty Duley, seconded by Richard Shoemaker, to recommend approval of the County's request to allocate \$1,602,000 from the construction phase to the PS&E phase and right of way phase to finish out that component.

Discussion on motion/amendment

Nephele recommended the additional PA&ED funding request (approximately \$200,000) for the Gualala Streetscape Project be taken from the current fund estimate. Tasha requested the motion be amended to include programming additional funding for Gualala Streetscape Project from the current fund estimate. Maker and seconder of motion agreed to the amendment. Motion carried on roll call vote: 6 ayes – Benson, Duley, Shoemaker, Wise, Ahlstrand, Cliser.

The full RTIP will come back to the TAC next month for recommendation to MCOG.

7. Staff Reports

7a. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants – Update – James briefly reported on the draft Technical Assistance Plan (included in the agenda packet) received from Placeworks, the technical assistance team working with HCD. The draft plan includes a compilation of technical tools developed based on agency feedback during the REAP application process. They are looking for local agency feedback, and want to make sure there is no duplication of effort. James said a meeting is being planned with local agency representatives sometime around November 15-17. Nephele noted the meeting will include planning and community development staff, but TAC members may also send any comments on the draft plan to James.

Dusty asked if the deadline to expend SB 2 funds by the end of next June had been extended. Nephele and James had not heard of an extension, but staff will follow up.

7b. Local Road Safety Plans (LRSP) – Update – Loretta reported the consultant (TJKM) is currently holding the second round of stakeholder workshops. Workshops have been completed in Fort Bragg and Willits, the County workshop will be this afternoon, Ukiah's workshop is next week, and the Point Arena workshop date is pending. Consultants are gathering final input and formulating recommendations, and the project is going well.

7c. FY 2022-23 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Cycle – Application Deadline 10/27/21 – This upcoming grant program was briefly discussed, and Nephele invited members to reach out to MCOG for assistance with grant applications if needed.

7d. Clean CA Grant Program – Application Deadline February, 2022 (TBD) – Nephele briefly discussed this new grant program which provides funding for beautification and litter removal projects. Potential eligible project types were noted, and it was stated that projects must be ready to go as there is a short window for project completion. Members were invited to contact MCOG staff for help with grant applications, if needed. Loretta noted a third workshop had been scheduled for November 18.

Tasha reported Caltrans District 1 has received \$4.6 million (\$2.3 million each, over two cycles) in funding for infrastructure enhancement projects, under a separate component from the local grants and litter removal components. District 1 staff has been reviewing local planning documents and developing proposals for potential projects, pending review from Caltrans Headquarters. The project list has now been narrowed down to four potential projects:

- Covelo downtown connectivity and beautification – angled parking, street trees, raised planters, art, lighting
- Central Boonville beautification – crossing improvements, curb extensions, street trees
- Hopland Main Street connectivity – gateway monuments, art features
- Old Hopland Russian River Bridge connectivity – pedestrian activated beacon and additional non-motorized signage on SR 175 between Hopland and old Hopland

If approved, Tasha noted the projects will be implemented over the two phases of this grant program.

8. Miscellaneous

Caltrans – Tasha reported that Caltrans is initiating a safety project just south of Hopland on US 101 to widen the existing four foot (4') shoulders to eight foot (8') shoulders, and add a left turn and merge lane at the LaFranchi intersection and improve the intersection to accommodate trucks. In addition, there will be a second left turn striped in the southbound direction at the Solar Living facility, with additional improvements. She also advised that Caltrans is working with MCOG and the Hopland Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to plan a community meeting in February in tandem with the environmental document for the Hopland ADA project.

FY 2022-23 Overall Work Program – Nephele said Lexi will soon be sending TAC members information on soliciting projects for next year's OWP.

8a. Next Meeting – November 17, 2021.

9. Adjournment – Approx. 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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