



MENDOCINO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

367 North State Street~Ukiah~California~95482
www.mendocinocog.org

PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Administration: Suite 206
(707) 463-1859
Transportation Planning: Suite 204
(707) 234-3434

April 25, 2016

To: MCOG Board of Directors
From: Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO
Subject: Information Packet of May 2, 2016 Meeting - No Action Required

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The following items are attached.

1. Letter of Support for North State Express Connect – Letter dated April 21, 2016 from Executive Director Phil Dow to Shasta Regional Transportation Agency's Chair Leonard Moty expressing support for the application to fund the North State Express Connect transit project.
2. MCOG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Meeting minutes of February 17, 2016.



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April 21, 2016

Mr. Leonard Moty, Chair
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency
1255 East Street, Suite 202
Redding, CA 96001

Information # 1
MCOG Meeting
5/2/2016

RE: NORTH STATE EXPRESS CONNECT

Mendocino Council of Governments is supportive of Shasta Regional Transit Agency's (SRTA) application to fund the North State Express Connect along the I-5 Corridor from Redding to Sacramento. Development of the North State Express Connect is an example of SRTA's leadership as well as cooperation and coordination among NSSR members for the common benefit of rural northern California.

Although our jurisdiction is not in position to immediately benefit from the proposed service, we see long term benefit from successful implementation. Lake Transit Authority (LTA) already provides service to our largest city and county seat, Ukiah, on the US 101 corridor. From Ukiah, the remaining three incorporated cities in Mendocino County and well as the bulk of the county's unincorporated area can be reached by Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA). If Lake Transit Authority were to extend a route along State Route 20 to meet the North State Express Connect at Williams, public transportation access from Mendocino County to the Sacramento Valley could, for the first time, be a viable alternative to private vehicular transportation.

I also want to express our appreciation for the continued leadership and support role that the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) has provided for the 16 members of the North State Super Region (NSSR) coalition.

We wish you success in this competitive process.

Sincerely,

Phillip J. Dow, P.E.
Executive Director

Copy: Dan Gjerde, Chair
Bruce Richard, MTA
Mark Wall, LTA

MINUTES

Information # 2
MCOG Meeting
5/2/2016

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 17, 2016
MCOG Conference Room

Members Present

Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
Adele Phillips, County DPBS
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg
Sally Webster, MTA
Alicia Meier, County DOT

Staff & Others Present

Phil Dow, MCOG Administration
Nephele Barrett, MCOG Planning
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
Andrea Davis, Ukiah Valley Trail Group

Members Absent

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)
Bob Scaglione, AQMD
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena
Rod Wilburn, City of Willits

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** - Phil called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. Self-introductions were made.
2. **Public Expression – Orr Creek Pathway** - Andrea Davis, Ukiah Valley Trail Group volunteer, addressed the TAC about a proposed project of the “Orr Creek Greenway Group” to develop an Orr Creek pathway (a path that goes under U.S. 101 to the ballfields, east of the freeway) in Ukiah. She said the project is gaining support and is included in the City of Ukiah’s Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan. She presented a map illustrating the area, and asked for input on how to move the project forward.

Phil advised of Brown Act rules which do not allow for discussion today, as this item is not listed on the agenda. He offered to schedule it on a future agenda for TAC discussion and coordination, and thanked Andrea for the presentation.
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 Minutes of 1/13/16** – Moved by Rick Seanor, seconded by Sally Webster, and carried unanimously, to approve the 1/13/16 minutes.
5. **2015 Pacific Coast Bike Route (PCBR) Survey – Final Report (Caltrans)** – Tasha presented the 2015 PCBR Survey Final Report, which was finalized in January. (*The final report was included in e-mailed agenda packets*). She advised that although Caltrans District One had a program for counting cyclists, they did not have detailed data on users. This study

surveyed 535 touring cyclists in summer of 2015, and provides information on demographics, how users are using the route, difficult experiences, suggested improvements, and other feedback. She noted the information collected will have many uses for Caltrans and partner agencies, including providing data for grant applications. The Final Report includes a list of seven overarching issues identified by survey respondents (improvements to highway shoulders; improvements to route signage; maintenance of shoulders; establishment of alternate routes; more information about the route; development of tools for navigation; and encouragement of better driver behavior). Tasha advised that Caltrans has already started work on some of the next steps, including a signage plan, navigation app and touring guide.

Tom Varga inquired about bridge widening at Pudding Creek and Hare Creek, and Tasha offered to relay his questions to Caltrans staff. Regarding alternate routes, Tom advised that the City of Fort Bragg will likely apply for an ATP grant to build the central portion of the coastal trail.

A brief discussion ensued. Adele offered comments on maps and on the Final Report. Phil commented that lack of adequate shoulders was identified as a top problem, and he felt that's where efforts should be focused. He does not think the Active Transportation Program is a good fit because of the length of the route, but this study will be helpful in identifying funding sources. He advised the PCBR study MCOG sponsored a few years ago shows conditions every quarter mile along the route.

Tasha noted that two-thirds of the respondents were in Mendocino County. She advised that the Final Report is on Caltrans' website, and a follow-up study is planned for 2018.

6. FY 2016/17 Draft Overall Work Program – Phil reviewed that the application cycle for transportation planning projects for FY 2016/17 occurred last fall, and the process is now for the TAC to review and make a recommendation on the Draft OWP.

Loretta reviewed her staff report. She advised that no additional input on the Draft had been received since the last TAC meeting, and staff is proposing that the Draft include all submitted projects, as discussed last month. She noted that the two Bicycle and Pedestrian counters (@ *approx. \$3,500 each*) are proposed to be included in the Draft, but they may be removed from the Final OWP if determined to be eligible under the existing ATP Non-Infrastructure grant.

A general discussion ensued. As proposed by staff, the Draft FY 2016/17 Overall Work Program includes the following projects:

Agency	Project	Total
MCOG	W.E. 1 - Regional Government & Intergovernmental Coordination (<i>combines & renames former W.E. 1 & W.E. 2</i>)	\$145,250
City of Ukiah	W.E. 5 – Update Speed Zone Reports	\$ 40,000
Co. DOT	W.E. 6 – Combined Special Studies	\$ 60,000
MCOG	W.E. 7 – Planning, Programming & Monitoring	\$ 48,250
MCOG	W.E. 8 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Counters	\$ 7,000
MCOG	W.E. 10 – Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2017 Update	\$ 57,500

MCOG	W.E. 14 – Training	\$ 11,000
MTA	W.E. 15 – MTA Bus Stop Review, Ph. 3	\$ 25,000
MCOG	W.E. 16 – Multi-Modal Transportation Planning	\$ 28,000
MCOG	W.E. 17 – Pavement Management Program (PMP) Triennial Update	\$150,000
MCOG	W.E. 18 – Geographic Information System (GIS) Activities	\$ 5,600
MCOG	W.E. 20 – Grant Development & Assistance	\$ 20,500
MCOG	W.E. 22 – Safe Routes to School – ATP Non-Infrastructure Grant	\$ 53,000
Total		\$651,100

Moved by Tom Varga, seconded by Alicia Meier, and carried unanimously, to approve the FY 2016/17 Draft Overall Work Program totaling \$651,100, and direct staff to complete the Draft and submit to Caltrans by the March 1st due date.

7. **Active Transportation Program** – Phil advised that the next ATP application cycle will not be delayed, and a series of meetings on the guidelines is underway. Revised guidelines are scheduled for adoption at the March 17 CTC meeting, with the call for projects shortly thereafter. He advised that the proposed application deadline is June 15 (postmarks are acceptable) and the schedule allows for a longer review period, into late summer/early fall. Approval is expected in late fall.

Noting the amount of work involved, Phil encouraged an early start on applications and offered MCOG’s assistance. He said MCOG has received scores (on a per question basis) from the last cycle, so agencies can see where applications may be strengthened. He advised that because MCOG has no employees (as it’s administered under a professional services contract) the State has said it doesn’t meet the criteria for having a “person in responsible charge” and therefore cannot sponsor applications. He noted that an exception was made (after a very lengthy process) to allow MCOG to implement the approved Covelo Trail Project, but that is not expected to happen again.

Phil reported that some urban areas were concerned that they did not get their fair share in the last ATP cycle, because so many applicants were awarded the full ten points for disadvantaged communities (DAV). He said he’s on a committee that’s reviewing how to award the DAV points (i.e. five points if qualified for DAV, and up to five points on degrees of DAV severity) which should help bring overall scores down.

A brief discussion ensued. Tom noted the City of Fort Bragg’s interest in a possible application for the middle link of the coastal trail, which would eliminate a gap.

8. **2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** – Phil referenced a letter (included in agenda packet) he sent to legislators/officials summarizing the devastating impacts to the Mendocino region as a result of the deletion of approximately \$750 million statewide in the revised 2016 STIP Fund Estimate.

Nephele distributed the resolution adopted at the February 1 MCOG meeting (First Amendment to 2016 RTIP) and advised that the required RTIP cuts turned out to be more than anticipated.

She explained there was no time to obtain a TAC recommendation on the additional cuts, but she did communicate with impacted agencies. MCOG was given a target of \$3.7 million to delete, and staff proposed about \$3.1 million in deletions. Projects proposed for deletion were based on CTC's allocation priorities. She advised that CTC staff recommendations should be known in April, but it won't be known if MCOG's proposal is accepted until the STIP is adopted in May.

Nephele advised that MCOG's resolution states that deleted projects will have priority when funds are available for programming, if they remain agency priorities. Phil said he does not expect new funding capacity for a couple of STIP cycles, noting the existing \$7.5 million deficit for Willits Bypass mitigation projects. He suggested the Active Transportation Program and Highway Safety Improvement Program may be the only sources of capital funding for a while.

9. Staff Reports

9a. County Road and City (Ukiah) Street Sales Tax Measure – Nephele reported that MCOG funded a survey in the FY 2015/16 Overall Work Program to conduct a poll to explore voter support for transportation sales taxes in the unincorporated County and in the City of Ukiah.

She distributed and reviewed a summary of poll results, advising that surveys were conducted in January, with 400 surveys conducted in the County and 300 surveys in Ukiah. Poll results indicate 66% support, with 27.6% opposed, for the County; and 63.3% support, with 30.8% opposed, for the City of Ukiah. A one-half cent tax would generate approximately \$2 million annually, for each jurisdiction.

MCOG staff will be making presentations to the Board of Supervisors and Ukiah City Council in March on the poll results, and it will be up to those agencies to decide whether or not to pursue ballot measures, for either a specific tax (2/3 vote), or a general tax (50%, plus one vote). MCOG's role would be limited to providing education and information – no campaigning. Phil stated that he issued a press release on the positive poll numbers.

Nephele advised that after the survey was completed, staff learned that the Sheriff may also propose a one-half cent sales tax for a mental health facility on the same ballot in November. She advised that a committee member followed up with the Sheriff, and he is moving forward.

Phil noted that the Cities of Willits and Point Arena have transportation sales tax measures that do not have a sunset, and Fort Bragg's has a ten-year sunset. He expressed his opinion that these good poll numbers make it worth pursuing, and data from the Pavement Management Program is available to show the declining street/road conditions. He concluded that it's now up to the elected officials to decide, and it's looking like there is interest in pursuing a ballot measure.

Nephele offered to e-mail complete survey reports to interested agencies.

9b. Transportation Funding Outlook – Loretta referenced a matrix (included in the agenda packet) that compares several transportation funding proposals [SB 1x1 (Beall); AB 1591 (Frazier), and the Governor's 9/6/15 Proposal], and staff briefly reviewed the various proposals' components. All three proposals adjust the Price-Based Excise Tax, with proposed CPI

adjustments every three years thereafter (instead of the price-based adjustment which hurts local agencies when gas prices dip unexpectedly low.)

Phil stated he thinks the State will eventually go to some type of a vehicle road charge based on road usage, and noted that a pilot study is currently underway. He said volunteers are needed for the study, and assuming a successful trial period, the State hopes for implementation by 2020.

Nephele reviewed the significant drop in Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) revenues (the portion of the gas tax that goes to cities and counties).

Sally Webster excused at 12:04 p.m.

10. Miscellaneous

SB 743 and Traffic Modeling – Tom Varga advised that the City of Fort Bragg’s MCOG representative expressed interest in requesting funds for a micro-simulation model for the City of Fort Bragg, similar to the Greater Ukiah Area Micro-Simulation Model (GUAMM). He inquired about modeling capacity to obtain needed information for CEQA analysis under the new requirements of SB 743 regarding VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled), as well as a need for training on the new requirements. A brief discussion ensued, and it was noted that the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is working on implementation guidelines for SB 743. Tasha advised that issues are still being worked out, and implementation isn’t expected until 2018.

Phil stated that guidance from Caltrans’ modelers will be needed, and it was suggested that this topic be placed on a future TAC agenda.

California Statewide Needs Assessment – Nephele encouraged local agencies to provide information for the statewide needs assessment update by March 18. Information may be provided via www.savecaliforniastreet.org.

County General Plan – Adele advised that this is the time of year for County Planning staff to review action items for the County General Plan and Ukiah Valley Area Plan (UVAP) and she will be in contact with local agencies to obtain transportation related information.

Next Meeting – Phil advised that there may not be a March TAC meeting, unless a need arises.

11. Adjournment – 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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