



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda # 6
Regular Calendar
MCOG Meeting
9/29/2014

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Discussion of Anderson Valley Transportation Planning Projects and Related Matters

SUBMITTED BY: Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration **DATE:** 9/18/2014

BACKGROUND:

In November 2006, MCOG took its Council meeting on the road in Gualala. This inspired the now annual tour of transportation projects in the countywide regional jurisdiction. In this way, our diverse membership has an opportunity to see firsthand some of the projects discussed and decided by this body.

These travels have taken us to Laytonville in 2007, to Fort Bragg in 2008, to Willits in 2009, and to Covelo/Round Valley in 2011. (In 2010 and 2011 we took more adventurous excursions to the Bay Area and to Davis and Sacramento, respectively.) In 2012 we visited Gualala again and Point Arena, then last year we returned to Covelo.

At this writing, we are preparing the itinerary and presentation materials for our first Council visit to Anderson Valley. Over the past year, staff, consultants and local stakeholders worked together on the State Route 128 Corridor Valley Trail Feasibility Study. We will visit some of the sites of potential projects prioritized in this community based planning effort. We will also point out any planned or ongoing County road projects, Safe Routes to Schools efforts, and Caltrans highway projects along the way. On hand to assist will be Howard Dashiell of MCDOT, Colleen Schenck of County Public Health, and Rex Jackman of Caltrans District 1.

Starting from the fairgrounds in Boonville, we plan to drive as far as Philo-Greenwood Road on the far side of Hendy Woods, then return by way of the schools, Anderson Valley Way, Mountain View Road intersection, and finish with a short walk around downtown Boonville. Lunch and our Council meeting will follow directly after the tour.

Short-range projects identified in the SR 128 Valley Trail study are:

- A one-mile demonstration of a Class I Bike Path with Major Trailhead on the “new highway” between Anderson Valley High School and Anderson Valley Elementary School
- Recreational Trail and Class III Bike Route along Anderson Valley Way (the old highway), running parallel to the new highway between the schools
- Boonville Traffic Calming and Crossing Improvements for safety enhancements in town.

Mid-Range (5-10 years) project sites we will visit:

- Shoulder Widening between Philo and Philo-Greenwood Road (southbound shoulder)
- Downtown Boonville Improvements to include sidewalks with street trees, parking delineation, bicycle lanes, and curb extensions at crossings.

Long-Range (10-20 years) projects we will visit:

- Class I Bike Path with Major Trailhead Completion extending for approximately three more miles beyond the schools, continuing northwest.

While there are projects proposed for the Redwoods to the west and Yorkville to the east, unfortunately there will not be enough time to travel that far.

You will note there are two phases proposed for central Boonville. The community expressed support for slowing highway traffic through town and this could possibly be addressed in the short term. It will be necessary to do this before tackling the more complex issues that will inevitably arise with the next round of improvements. The recommended bicycle lanes cannot be installed without making changes to downtown parking, which is likely to be controversial as we saw in Gualala. A parking inventory is recommended, along with further community dialog. Several options are identified in the study for consideration.

We anticipate an educational trip, stepping out of our routines to see yet another beautiful area of this far-flung region, and hope for a clear autumn day. We extend our thanks to the gallant and courteous Dan Baxter, General Manager of Mendocino Transit Authority, for providing a bus and driver.

ACTION REQUIRED:

None, only your thoughtful participation.

ALTERNATIVES:

Miss this rare opportunity or send your jurisdiction's Alternate representative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Contribute to a discussion of how Anderson Valley's efforts relate to other transportation improvement efforts in the region, in terms of multimodal planning, collaboration, leveraging of funds, and project delivery.