

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES
Monday, December 6, 2010
Ukiah City Council Chambers

ADDITIONAL AUDIOCONFERENCE LOCATION:
Caltrans District 1
1656 Union St., Eureka

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:
Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. with Directors Robertson (PAC), Sinnott, Stranske, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Jesse Robertson of Caltrans District 1 (PAC) joined the meeting by audioconference. Director Rodin arrived subsequently. Director Smith was absent.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration; Loretta Ellard, Assistant Executive Director; and Nephele Barrett, Senior Planner.

2. Convene as RTPA

3. Recess as RTPA - Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.

Public Expression. None.

4 - 8. Regular Calendar.

4. Public Hearing: Unmet Transit Needs for Fiscal Year 2011/12

- a. Finding of Proper Notice. Ms. Orth verified proper 30-day legal notice of the public hearing, citing proofs of publication from four local newspapers (copies included in the meeting materials). Three of the four published within 30 days of this hearing, and the fourth published 26 days prior to it. Additionally, the notice was posted on the MCOG website (www.mendocinocog.org) and was emailed to interested stakeholders on MCOG's listserve.

Upon motion by Sinnott, second by Stranske, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Robertson/PAC, Sinnott, Stranske, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Rodin and Smith): IT IS ORDERED that this public hearing on 2011/12 Unmet Transit Needs was properly noticed.

- b. Staff Report. Orth summarized the purpose of this hearing and the annual process as detailed in her written staff report, noting that, according to the Transportation Development Act, this process of identifying transit needs is not required of MCOG unless funds for streets and roads are to be allocated from Local Transportation Funds, which is unlikely under MCOG's current policy. However, staff recommends conducting the full process as usual, as it satisfies the citizen participation requirement of the Act and provides a method for MCOG to monitor and prioritize needs in the community.

Ms. Orth submitted as testimony a list of 20 unmet transit needs and 2 additional recommendations for more general transportation matters compiled by MCOG's Social

Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), which included input received by MTA from public meetings during the year. She then reviewed the required action and staff's recommendation to forward all testimony to Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) for analysis and later review by the Transit Productivity Committee. The "reasonable to meet" finding is made after the committee's recommendation, as part of budget adoption in June. She answered questions and Mr. Dow added remarks about past results of this annual process.

- c. Public Hearing. The Chair opened the hearing at 1:50 p.m. Orth reported that written testimony was invited in the public notices, and none had been received.

Bruce Richard, MTA General Manager, reported the following needs received by MTA's Board of Directors at their meeting of November 18, 2010:

- Fixed route bus service between Willits and Ukiah on Saturdays
- Extension of local Route 9 bus service in Ukiah to Mendocino College on Saturdays (to the extent that classes are held)
- Extension of Route 5 in Fort Bragg, from its northern terminus to the south end of the new trestle, perhaps on a trial basis during the summer.

He also noted the role of MTA's Board of Directors in receiving public testimony of unmet transit needs during the year.

The hearing was closed at 1:53 p.m.

- d. Board Action. **Upon motion** by Sinnott, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Robertson/PAC, Sinnott, Stranske, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Rodin and Smith*): IT IS ORDERED that 1) MCOG receives as testimony all needs reported by the SSTAC, MTA, and today's public hearing, 2) the testimony received includes "unmet transit needs" as qualified by MCOG's adopted definitions, and 3) all testimony is directed to Mendocino Transit Authority for analysis and to the Transit Productivity Committee for subsequent review and recommendation.

5. Presentation of North Hopland Upgrade Project Status. A handout was distributed summarizing the presentation. Mr. Steven Blair, Project Manager, Caltrans, introduced himself and reviewed history of the project, which started in the year 2000. The project now faces suspension and deprogramming by Caltrans for lack of an identified funding source. Ongoing studies are being concluded in preparation to shelve the project until funding can be identified.

Mr. Blair and another Caltrans engineer then answered questions. Discussion included:

- wetlands affected in the project area
- costs to Caltrans of shelving the project
- costs to MCOG (none to date, other than the Executive Director's time)
- economic conditions for transportation financing
- safety concerns on the north of Hopland section, with cross traffic points
- impacts of projects and global climate change on threatened species
- when the project might possibly be restarted (10-20 years)
- importance of regional funding support.

The Chair thanked the guests. No action was taken.

6. Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations of November 17, 2010: Two Percent Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Funding Awards. Ms. Ellard reported, summarized her staff report, and invited questions. An estimated \$167,000 is available for allocation. Five applications were received and ranked. Chair Gjerde reviewed the rankings.

Rick Seanor, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Ukiah, reported on status of a project previously allocated funds by MCOG, that of ADA-compliant curb ramps for sidewalks. There are complications with property owners at some locations. The City is evaluating alternative ramp designs to resolve those issues. He anticipates completion by the current fiscal year end.

Director Rodin arrived at approximately 2:20 p.m.

Upon motion by Pinches, second by Stranske, and carried on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Sinnott, Rodin, Stranske, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 1 No - Robertson/PAC; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent – Smith): IT IS ORDERED that the Technical Advisory Committee’s recommendation is approved to award Two Percent Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Funds as follows:

City of Point Arena	Pedestrian & Bike Facilities, Schools Project	\$74,785
City of Ukiah	NWP Rail Trail, Phase 1	66,215
City of Fort Bragg	Cedar Street Pedestrian Enhancement (Design)	26,000
	Total Funds Awarded	\$167,000

In a brief discussion, Director Robertson (PAC) explained the reason for his dissenting vote, that the awards might not be the highest and best use of this program. He would have preferred that Point Arena had received enough to match and fully fund its state grant-funded safety project, enabling completion of a “showcase project” for the region.

7. MCOG Strategic Planning: Discussion of Mission and Vision – continued from November 1, 2010. Ms. Orth reviewed the Council’s revisions made to date, and staff’s recommendations for fine-tuning the draft statements into a final version acceptable to the Council. Discussion followed.

Upon motion by Sinnott, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Robertson/PAC, Sinnott, Rodin, Stranske, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent –Smith): IT IS ORDERED that MCOG adopts the following Mission and Vision statements:

MCOG’s Mission	<p>The purpose of the Mendocino Council of Governments is to assist local governments in planning to address common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional, community, and intercommunity development.</p> <p>MCOG’s mission is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to provide regional, community, and intercommunity 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’s Vision	<p>Regional and local government working together to connect communities, create thriving town centers, and develop healthy, livable neighborhoods for drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders.</p>

8. Review of Draft 2011 Board Calendar. Chair Gjerde described his proposal to organize another MCOG “best practices” transportation tour, as was done last year in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has identified local hosts at City of Davis and Sacramento Area Council of Governments. The proposal was discussed, and staff will follow up to coordinate available dates. Mobile tours as proposed by staff were scheduled for Covelo and the South Coast in spring and fall respectively; staff will research logistics. With none objecting, staff will schedule Council meetings based on this calendar until amended. No action was taken.

9 - 11. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Rodin, second by Sinnott, and carried on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Robertson (PAC), Sinnott, Rodin, Stranske, Pinches, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 1 Abstaining - Ranochak; 1 Absent - Smith): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

9. Approval of November 1, 2010 Minutes – as written

10. Acceptance of Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Minutes of November 8, 2010 – as written

11. Appointments to Social Services Transportation Advisory Council – Reappoints Marissa Platt-Horning, Janet Kukulinsky, Patty Bruder and Dan Baxter to expiring seats; appoints Charles Bush to vacancy.

12. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Pinches, second by Sinnott, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Sinnott, Rodin, Stranske, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent –Smith): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

13. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. There was no report.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported on status of NCRA’s agreements with Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART).
- c. MCOG Administration & Planning Staff
 1. *Summary of Meetings.* Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report. Director Sinnott thanked him for attending a recent Point Arena City Council meeting to report on a transportation matter. She also mentioned the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council meeting, where she credited him with helping to resolve certain issues.
 2. *US-101 Bypass of Willits.* Director Pinches expressed appreciation for this report. Mr. Dow noted he plans to join a conference call on December 14 with Rep. Mike Thompson. Mr. Dow mentioned prospects for funding from the State’s Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) bond program.
 3. *Regional Blueprint Progress.* Ms. Barrett reported that since the last Council meeting, two more in a series of countywide public workshops were held on November 6. Two followup workshops, in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, will be held to present results of the public outreach. The consultants then will conclude this second phase of Blueprint planning, including recommendations for the third grant-funded phase. She then answered questions. Director Stranske noted turnout was good at the Willits workshop. Ms. Barrett reported that the Fort Bragg workshop had the highest attendance at 26 people.

Mr. Howard Dashiell, Director, Mendocino County Department of Transportation, reported on a meeting of the statewide association of county engineers, about provisions in Senate Bill 375 for farmland preservation incentive funds. A sustainable community strategy, as identified in the law, may include a credit available to counties to establish such a local fund. MDOT proposes a “Resource and Farmland Preservation Incentive Fund” consistent with Government Code 65080(b)(4)(b).

4. *Distribution of Revised Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan*. Ms. Barrett handed out the current version of the Draft RTP. She summarized changes and answered questions. The RTP next will undergo environmental review, which staff anticipates may be in the form of a supplement to the existing Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Further discussion included stormwater issues.

Mr. Dashiell, MDOT, reported that the County has adopted new stormwater standards as required some years ago. He clarified some issues of runoff and filtration.

5. *Miscellaneous*. Mr. Dow reported the Technical Advisory Committee’s concurrence for a presentation to be made to the Council on the Pavement Management Program sometime in next few months. Ms. Barrett noted the final report is available. Staff will post the report on MCOG’s website.

d. MCOG Directors. There were no reports.

- e. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. There was a discussion of the next delegates meeting to be held in Burlingame the following week. Chair Gjerde, as the Delegate, did not plan to attend. Mr. Dow described the main issues to be addressed relative to the State budget and other items, such as impacts of Propositions 22 and 26, which may require a legislative fix of the “gas tax swap” and other transportation funding matters. Also CALCOG will vote on its staffing contract with a new Executive Director.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration