

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday, August 19, 2013

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

ADDITIONAL AUDIOCONFERENCE LOCATION:

Caltrans District 1, 2430 6th 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 1:35 p.m. with Directors Benj Thomas, Holly Madrigal, Susan Ranochak, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC) joined by conference phone. Directors Doug Hammerstrom and John Pinches were absent. A new member representing Point Arena had not yet been appointed.

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

2. Public Hearing: Adoption of Resolution Amending 2013 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan. Executive Director Dow explained the reason for this proposed amendment to make a minor reallocation consistent with state law. Ms. Barrett stated this is to correct rounding errors in the allocation. The result is that two more housing units will be allocated for Point Arena, increasing the City's total allocation to three, with one in each income category, compared to 19 in the previous cycle. She verified that California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) concurs that the attached resolution is compliant. Mr. Dow reported that City of Point Arena has been advised and also concurs.

Upon motion by Thomas, second by Madrigal, and carried unanimously (*4 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 3 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the hearing was properly noticed.

The hearing was opened at 1:40 p.m. and closed at 1:41 p.m. with no one wishing to speak.

Upon motion by Thomas, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*4 Ayes – Thomas, Madrigal, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 3 Absent – Hammerstrom, Pinches, and a Point Arena representative*): IT IS ORDERED that staff is directed to forward the amendment as required and the following resolution is adopted:

Resolution No. M2013-13

Adopting a Technical Amendment to the
2013 Mendocino County Regional Housing Needs Plan
(Reso. #M2013-13 is incorporated herein by reference)

3. Convene as RTPA

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

Public Expression. None.

5 - 8. Regular Calendar.

5. Presentation and Acceptance of Report: Mendocino County Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regional Readiness Plan – W-Trans, Consultant. Mr. Dow turned the matter over to Ms. Orth, who had initiated and managed the project. She gave an overview of previous work and how it led to this planning study, acknowledged project team members including the consultant, local subcontractor REDI, sponsor Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, and a broad group of professionals and stakeholders. She thanked all who participated and expressed hope that the plan will lead to implementation of the recommended countywide network of plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) charging stations, as part of a wider interregional network.

She then introduced Mr. Steve Weinberger of W-Trans, who further described context of this effort and made a slide presentation covering the main elements of the written report. (A limited number of print copies were distributed; the Plan will be available at www.mendocinocog.org.) He and staff answered questions during the presentation including definition of “zero emission vehicle,” associated emissions from power generation, locations nearest the county lines, and equipment for dual charging ports.

Discussion by all included the following:

- Various criteria used for site selection
- Next phases that would evaluate potential sites in more detail and consider other issues identified in the plan
- Examples of cities’ costs for electricity
- Implementation and marketing approaches, such as a focus on tourism in the plan, to give ZEV travelers confidence in their driving range to leave their county and spend dollars here
- Opportunities for private enterprise using specialized vendors, while more isolated sites need emergency backup and are not likely to produce profits and therefore need a public network
- A future phase that could add State Route 162 and other remote areas
- Connections to the north as a lower priority, since Humboldt County’s current plan will not address a corridor approach
- Vendors such as ChargePoint offering mobile smartphone application and other services
- This plan’s emphasis on the public aspect, while both public and private efforts are encouraged in the interests of support for more use of electric vehicles.

Mr. Dow noted that California’s AB 32 law, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, with its goals to dramatically reduce emissions, was one of the motivators to produce some sort of plug-in EV regional plan. He recommended that the Council, and perhaps the member cities and county, begin thinking about ways to implement this plan. As defined in the plan’s next steps, an appropriate entity should be determined to lead this effort, keeping in mind whether this is a role MCOG should take on. This is an economic development issue as well as transportation, which can involve tourism agencies; staff will post a map on the website. He reported on his recent discussions with staff of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC, MCOG’s urban counterpart for the San Francisco Bay Area) about potential for a partnership to support efforts with funding sources not currently available to Mendocino County.

Chair Gjerde thanked staff for this timely work, noting the plan will be helpful in City of Fort Bragg’s preparation of a Climate Action Plan.

Upon motion by Madrigal, second by Thomas, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Thomas, Madrigal, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 3 Absent – Hammerstrom, Pinches, and a Point Arena representative): IT IS ORDERED that the Mendocino County Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regional Readiness Plan is accepted as prepared and presented by W-Trans.

6. Presentation: Pavement Management Program. Mr. Dow introduced this program funded by MCOG with database updates and analysis made periodically since 1994. Ms. Barrett then gave a slide presentation of Nichols Consulting Engineers' report. Points covered included definitions, Pavement Condition Index and ranges of scores, illustrations of various pavement conditions, and the principle of "Pay Now or Pay More Later" showing accelerating rates of deterioration compared to costs of repair. Mr. Dow emphasized the importance of repairing pavement before it reaches the need for total reconstruction, which would cost 15 times more than repair earlier in pavement life. Individual agency reports are available and staff could answer questions, but they were not cited in detail in this presentation. City of Point Arena pavement condition is included in County of Mendocino's report, because of the small number of miles in the City's system. Discussion included:

- Transportation dedicated sales taxes have contributed to improvements, but none have enough funding to keep up pavement condition. Federal ARRA stimulus funds also were allocated to three cities and the County for rehabilitation projects. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding was available for a limited time for this purpose, from 2006 bond funds. (Dow, Barrett)
- Status of the local transportation sales taxes: A mail ballot election this month could extend City of Fort Bragg's tax another ten years. MCOG had conducted a polling effort in 2001, when City of Ukiah voters were not as concerned about street condition; public safety was a higher priority at that time; results are evident now of that decision. The worst streets have been repaired in City of Willits. (Ranochak, Barrett, Dow, Madrigal)
- Asphalt prices have risen dramatically while funding has decreased. (Barrett)
- City staff would like to know any innovations available to stretch transportation dollars. (Madrigal)
- Discussion of various strategies; not all options are viable in each location. (All)
- This tool is very useful for City of Ukiah; staff is making good use of it. (Thomas)
- If field surveys are not done periodically, a computerized default rate of decline is applied. (Barrett)

No action was taken.

7. Discussion/Direction: 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Mr. Dow reviewed status and schedule for recommendations and approval over the next several months. He was encouraged to see over \$6 million of funding available for MCOG this cycle. He reminded the Council of \$2 million previously committed from future shares, for cost increases to the U.S. 101 bypass of Willits project, which CTC staff calculated into the net result of funds now available. A brief discussion followed. City of Willits will be meeting with MCOG's Regional Project Manager James Sookne to review proposed projects. Chair Gjerde asked about adding "Complete Streets" to MCOG's written policies. Mr. Dow noted this approach to designing non-motorized facilities into new construction is state law yet would be appropriate to include. The Council gave general direction to staff to add Complete Streets to MCOG's STIP policies and include this in agenda materials for the Technical Advisory Committee's upcoming meeting. No formal action was taken.

Director Jackman (PAC) left the meeting during Agenda Item #8.

8. Caltrans State Planning & Research (SPR) Grant Program. Ms. Ellard announced that Caltrans District 1 was awarded funds for two projects under this program and has asked MCOG to administer the grants. She briefly described each project, noting items included in agenda packet. Grant funds are available for administrative services for each project. Staff recommended approval

and addition of these two new work elements as proposed in the Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) amendment (to follow under Agenda Item #9).

- a. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing MCOG To Enter Into a Contract With Caltrans and Provide Project Administration for the “Mendocino/U.S.-101 Hopland (Main Street) Engineered Feasibility Study” in Mendocino County
- b. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing MCOG To Enter Into a Contract With Caltrans and Provide Project Administration for the “U.S.-101 Corridor Through the Greater Ukiah Area Microsimulation Model” in Mendocino County. Staff answered questions about this project, what it will provide, and how the model will work, with examples such as interchange improvements needed on US-101. The model will make projects more affordable by testing scenarios in advance, for example analysis of new big-box store impacts on the Talmage area.

Upon motion by Madrigal, second by Thomas, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*4 Ayes – Thomas, Madrigal, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 4 Absent – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Pinches, and a Point Arena representative*): IT IS ORDERED that the Executive Director is authorized to enter into and administer the grant contracts with Caltrans for these two studies and the following resolutions are adopted:

Resolution No. M2013-14

Authorizing Mendocino Council of Governments
To Enter Into a Contract With Caltrans and
Provide Project Administration for the
“Mendocino/U.S.-101 Hopland (Main Street)
Engineered Feasibility Study” in Mendocino County
(Reso. #M2013-14 is incorporated herein by reference)

Resolution No. M2013-15

Authorizing Mendocino Council of Governments
To Enter Into a Contract With Caltrans and
Provide Project Administration for the
“U.S.-101 Corridor Through the Greater Ukiah Area
Microsimulation Model” in Mendocino County
(Reso. #M2013-15 is incorporated herein by reference)

9 - 14. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Ranochak, second by Madrigal, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*4 Ayes – Thomas, Madrigal, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 4 Absent - Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Pinches, and Point Arena member*): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

9. Approval of First Amendment to Fiscal Year 2013/14 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP)

- *Adjusts carried over project budgets from estimates to actual amounts based on 2012/13 fiscal year-end claims paid (11 work elements)*
- *Adds two new projects funded by State Planning & Research funds, which Caltrans requested that MCOG administer: Work Element 21, “Hopland Engineered Feasibility Study” and Work Element 23, “Greater Ukiah Area Micro-Simulation Model.”*
- *Increases Total OWP funding from \$1,238,750 to \$1,692,968.*

10. Approval of June 3, 2013 Minutes – as written

11. Approval of May 28, 2013 Executive Committee Minutes – as written

- 12. Acceptance of Triennial Performance Audit of Mendocino Transit Authority**
- 13. Approval of Revised 2013 Board Calendar – Autumn On-Location Tour/Mobile Workshop**
- 14. Amendment of Fiscal Year 2012/13 Budget Prior to Closing August 30, 2013**
 - a. Approval of Mendocino Transit Authority’s Revised Claim for State Transit Assistance Capital Funds** – *Allocates an additional \$185,592 of available funds.*
 - b. Approval of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Supplemental Allocation** – *Allocates an unexpected increase of \$68,399 to the member Cities and County by formula according to adopted policy. Each member agency receives a supplement to their allocation between \$8,208 and \$19,816.*

15. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Ranochak, second by Madrigal, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (4 Ayes – Thomas, Madrigal, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 3 Absent – Hammerstrom, Pinches, and Point Arena member): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

16. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. General Manager Dan Baxter reported that the solar canopy project is expected to be complete within the next few weeks.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported that in June NCRA awarded a contract to NWP for remediation/cleanup at the Perkins Street rail depot in Ukiah. The July meeting had been cancelled. Still upcoming on NCRA’s agenda is right-of-way for the rail-trail project.
- c. MCOG Administration & Planning Staff. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff reports.
 1. *Summary of Meetings*
 2. *Vision Mendocino 2030 Regional Blueprint*. Ms. Barrett reported that staff would be coming to each member agency’s board or council to make presentations, starting with Point Arena, on recommendations of preferred scenarios. Information will be available on the project website: www.visionmendocino2030.org.
 3. *State Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)*
 4. *2012 STIP Projects Update: “Ukiah - Downtown Streetscape Improvements” and “Caltrans - Route 101 Scenic Vista at Confusion Hill”*
 5. *Miscellaneous*
- d. MCOG Directors. Director Madrigal reported that construction of the US-101 bypass of Willits is well underway, with some road closures. Work is scheduled through mid-October, with likely another ten days for East Hill Road’s full closure. She described traffic conditions in town. The City of Willits and bypass contractor reached an agreement for use of city streets, negotiating a grind-out and repaving of Baechtel Road from the city limits and a tipping fee of approximately \$20,000.
- e. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. No report.

17. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration