

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES
Tuesday, April 12, 2016

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

Additional Media:

YouTube link at <http://www.mendocinocog.org> under Meetings
Public Access TV Channel 65 and archives at <http://mendocinoaccess.org>

1. Call to Order / Roll Call. After the Board members' bus tour of Ukiah area transportation projects (courtesy of Mendocino Transit Authority) and lunch (approximately 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), the meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with Directors Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), Doug Hammerstrom, Steve Scalmanini, Larry Stranske, Jim Koogle, Susan Ranochak, Tom Woodhouse, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Nephele Barrett, Program Manager; and Leila Doyle, Administrative Assistant.

2. Convene as RTPA

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

Public Expression. None.

4 - 5. Regular Calendar.

4. Discussion of Ukiah Valley Tour, Transportation Planning Projects and Related Matters. Executive Director Dow expressed thanks to the Council for their attendance and stated he was pleased with the turnout of the tour and itinerary. He informed the Council that one item for discussion on the tour was unintentionally overlooked and he brought it up for discussion. Mr. Dow continued, he would like to see improved signal synchronization, and accordingly traffic flow, at KUKI Road and Empire Drive. In an effort to do so, he has been communicating with both the City of Ukiah and Mendocino County transportation departments about coordinating efforts and pooling resources to install computerized controls at these two traffic signals.

Mr. Dow invited Rick Seanor, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Ukiah, to elaborate on the new technology available to accomplish this goal. Mr. Seanor described a traffic management system developed by Rhythm Engineering that operates using a camera system set up at both signal lights to detect traffic flow and to make adjustments accordingly.

Board discussion on the tour included the following [not necessarily in order of occurrence]:

- The Northwestern Pacific Rail Trail project is exemplary and creates a blueprint for other communities that intend to construct similar projects, including Willits. (Jackman) A suggestion was made to persuade North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) to not require the fence between trail and tracks, as it adds costs to the project and serves no purpose. (Gjerde)
- Specifically enjoyed discussion on the proposed senior housing development project; the inclusion of the trail, and the built-in transportation element as a part of the plan is an intelligent and creative solution for housing projects. (Hammerstrom) It will be a competitive funding process. (Dow)
- Tour provided a great overview of the community and the work that has been done in Ukiah over the last several years. It is helpful to see potential and current projects in person and on the ground. (Koogle, Woodhouse, Stranske)
- These tours provide a clearer understanding of potential projects so that the Council can come forward with recommendations when funding is available. Tentative plans are for the

next MCOG tour to take place in Willits coinciding with the opening of the Willits bypass and would include the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan. (Dow)

No action was taken.

5. Public Hearing: Adoption of Resolution Revising the First Amendment to the 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Ms. Barrett summarized her staff report, reviewing the issues addressed at previous meetings regarding decreased funding during this State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle.

Originally, the funding estimate adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) provided no funding capacity, which meant a delay for regional transportation projects. The 2016 RTIP was adopted in December with this in mind. Shortly thereafter, the CTC revised their funding estimate based on updated revenue projections and indicated a negative balance of about \$750 million statewide. MCOG's region was asked to deprogram approximately \$3.7 million. In an effort to comply, staff worked with local agencies and deleted about \$3.1 million. This amendment was approved by MCOG in February and the revision was submitted to the CTC.

Since that time, staff has been informed by the CTC that the proposed changes are not consistent with STIP guidelines; projects in this fiscal year cannot be deleted. Staff has now revised the amendment to retain project components that were already programmed for this fiscal year. As a result, the environmental portion of the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project will remain, but will be delayed by one year, and only construction will be deleted for the City of Ukiah's roundabout at Low Gap and Bush; environmental, design, and right-of-way will be delayed to Fiscal Years 2019/20 and 2020/21. The revised resolution maintains language that assures the deleted projects hold priority for reprogramming in the STIP when capacity allows. Mr. Dow pointed out the reason these specific projects were chosen for deletion, even though they are programmed in the current fiscal year, is that they have not yet commenced.

Due to time constraints with the STIP adoption and CTC staff recommendations, the changes proposed in the resolution have already been submitted to the CTC. The changes will not be adopted however, until the STIP is adopted by the CTC in May. Any changes can still be submitted to the CTC.

Additional delays have been proposed by the CTC. One-year delays include; the construction component for the Eastside Potter Valley Road, the mitigation projects for the Willits bypass, and Phase I of the Ukiah Downtown Streetscape Project. Phase II of the Ukiah project will be delayed for a total of two years.

The Chair opened the public hearing at 1:56 p.m. With no one testifying, and no written testimony received from the public, the hearing was closed at 1:58 p.m.

Ms. Barrett clarified that in total, \$2.56 million has been deprogrammed, which is approximately \$1 million less than the CTC's recommendation. Director Gjerde asked for clarification about whether the CTC would make further recommendations. Ms. Barrett stated that while it is possible for further adjustments to be made, it is unlikely.

Upon motion by Director Hammerstrom, second by Director Stranske, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Scalmanini, Stranske, Koogle, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): **IT IS ORDERED** that the following resolution is adopted.

Resolution No. M2016-04

Revising the First Amendment to the
2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
(Reso. #M2016-04 is incorporated herein by reference)

6 - 10. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Director Woodhouse, second by Director Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hammerstrom, Scalmanini, Stranske, Koogle, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): **IT IS ORDERED** that consent items are approved:

6. **Approval of February 1, 2016 Minutes – as written.**
7. **Approval of February 23, 2016 Executive Committee Minutes – as written.**
8. **Adoption of Resolution Approving Mendocino Transit Authority's Grant Application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Program - Annual Regional Apportionment for Transit Operating Assistance**

Resolution No. M2016-05

Approving Mendocino Transit Authority's Grant Application for
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311
Non-Urbanized Program - Annual Regional Apportionment for Transit Operating Assistance
(Reso. #M2016-05 is incorporated herein by reference)

9. **Adoption of Resolution Approving the Programming of FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program Funds for Mendocino Transit Authority's Revised Project Proposal: "Expansion of Route 65 Service" – Phase 2**

Resolution No. M2016-06

Approving the Programming of FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program Funds for Mendocino
Transit Authority's Revised Project Proposal: "Expansion of Route 65 Service" – Phase 2
(Reso. #M2016-06 is incorporated herein by reference)

10. **Approval of Third Amendment to Fiscal Year 2015/16 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) – as recommended by staff:**
 - *Shifts \$19,496 from Work Elements 7 and 20 into Work Elements 1, which has the highest usage, i.e. day-to-day transportation planning activities.*
 - *No change to the OWP's total budget of \$2,047,233.*

11. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Director Hammerstrom, second by Director Woodhouse, and carried unanimously (7 Ayes – Hammerstrom, Scalmanini, Stranske, Koogler, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

12. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. Bruce Richard, Interim General Manager of Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) approached the podium to inform the Council that the MTA Board has found a candidate to assume the role of General Manager and has negotiated a contract. Once a residency is established, the contract will be signed. The anticipated timeline is approximately one month.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard stated that during the March meeting, it was reported the State Public Works Board would be approving the acquisition of 4.1 acres of the depot property, which was a \$3.65 million sale. This sale is from NCRA to the State of California for the new County Courthouse in Ukiah. On April 15, escrow is expected to close on the property.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff.
 1. *Westport Community Meeting, March 1, 2016.* Mr. Dow explained his intention to revisit communities where planning projects were previously completed; one of these is Westport. MCOG sponsored an Active Transportation Planning application during Cycle I that was unsuccessful, as it was not a good fit for the type of improvements being funded by this grant program. Other options for coastal projects along State Route 1 have

- been considered; a potential funding source is the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.
2. *US-101 Bypass of Willits Update*. Mr. Dow and Ms. Orth were invited on a tour of the Willits bypass last week. The tour provided some insight on what has been accomplished and what is left to be completed. The tentative opening date for the Willits bypass is September 16, 2016 for a ribbon cutting ceremony and open to traffic in November.
 3. *Miscellaneous*. One of the rules associated with a TIGER grant is that any one entity can only apply for up to three grants; this also applies to Caltrans. The sponsoring entity however, can be different from the operating entity. Mr. Dow reported that he received a response that morning from Caltrans; if MCOG submits the application, Caltrans is willing to be the implementing agency for a project on State Route 1.
- e. MCOG Planning Staff.
1. *Draft Fiscal Year 2016/17 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP)*. The MCOG Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the draft 2016/17 OWP at the February meeting and recommended submittal; it was submitted to Caltrans by the March 1 due date. Caltrans has already returned a comment letter. The letter is being reviewed and Caltrans comments are being incorporated. A list of projects has been included in the staff report for review by the Board before the final OWP is presented at the June board meeting for adoption.
 2. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- f. MCOG Directors. There were no reports.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Chair Gjerde and Ms. Orth reported on highlights of the recent annual Regional Leadership Forum:
- One presentation centered on the Hyper Loop, a high-speed transportation system incorporating pneumatic tubes in which pressurized capsules ride on an air cushion. A segment of this is being built in Southern California as a pilot project. Benefits are speed, safety, cost effectiveness and generation of energy. (Gjerde, Orth)
 - In smaller rural areas, where transit is not always cost effective, some transit agencies are pairing up with Uber and Lyft ridesharing services to fill the gap in service. Phone applications add to the convenience of these services. (Gjerde)
 - A speaker from Cal Poly presented on autonomous vehicles and provided a range for reference from level 0 through 5, with 0 being no autonomy and 5 referring to a driverless car. Much of this technology is dependent upon the infrastructure of the roads. Between 2026-2028 is the estimated “tipping point” when half of the vehicles on the road are expected to be autonomous. (Orth, Gjerde)
 - Discussion took place on active transportation; connecting health and transportation. (Orth)
 - New ideas for financing and ways to utilize COGs were discussed in which a focus was placed on investments for projects that will provide an ongoing return for the community during a time when the growth of income is declining. (Orth, Gjerde)
 - Presentations made at the forum are available at www.calcog.org.

13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Leila Doyle, Administrative Assistant