

# MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## Approved MINUTES

Monday, August 15, 2016

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors 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 1:30 p.m. with Directors Tatiana Ahlstrand (Alt., Caltrans/PAC), Steve Scalmanini, Larry Stranske, Susan Ranochak, Tom Woodhouse, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Directors Doug Hammerstrom and Jim Koogle were excused.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; and Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner.

**2. Convene as RTPA**

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

**Public Expression.** Austin McCaffery, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Specialist, Community Development Commission, introduced the Mendo-Lake Energy Watch program, which offers incentives and services in partnership with Pacific Gas & Electric Company, such as lighting and energy retrofits, for utility cost savings and efficiency.

**Regular Calendar.** None.

**5. Approval of First Amendment to Fiscal Year 2016/17 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP).** This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar by staff, due to necessary revisions. Ms. Ellard described the proposed amendments as routine adjustments to reflect project funding carried over to FY 2016/17, miscellaneous reconciliations, and updated planning staff rates. She handed out a revised staff report, explaining that the proposed carryover of Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds must be delayed until Caltrans has certified the 2015/16 fiscal year-end actual amounts expended. Another amendment will be requested at the next meeting in October, when the information is available.

- The current proposed amendment reflects carryover of Local Transportation Funds (LTF); State Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) funds; and State Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant funds.
- Funds are carried over from previous years for nine work elements, based on fiscal year-end actual amounts claimed.
- The planning staff contracted hourly rates for Davey-Bates Consulting services are adjusted by the Consumer Price Index inflation rate increase of 1.47% over the previous year, as authorized under the five-year contract.
- Funding of the work program is increased by \$179,497, from \$1,564,372 to a new total of \$1,743,869, using prior-year carryover, with no new funds.

**Upon motion** by Ranochak, second by Woodhouse, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Ahlstrand/PAC, Scalmanini, Stranske, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Hammerstrom, Koogle): IT IS ORDERED that the First Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2016/17 Overall Work Program (OWP) is approved as recommended by staff, and the Executive Director is authorized to sign appropriate certifications and a revised OWP Agreement as needed, and to forward to Caltrans as required.

[Clerk's Note: Vote on Agenda Item #5 occurred after Consent Calendar vote.]

**Consent Calendar.** Upon motion by Ranochak, second by Woodhouse, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Ahlstrand/PAC, Scalmanini, Stranske, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Hammerstrom, Koogle): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

4. **Approval of June 6, 2016 Minutes – as written**
6. **Acceptance of 2014/15 Mendocino Transit Authority Fiscal Audit – MTA received a clean audit report.**
7. **Acceptance of Greater Ukiah Area Micro-simulation Model Final Report by Caliper Corporation**
8. **Adoption of Resolution Approving State Program Supplement Agreements for Funded Active Transportation Program (ATP) Project: S.R. 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail, Phase 2 – Preliminary Engineering**

**Resolution No. M2016-14**

Approving State Program Supplement Agreements for  
Funded Active Transportation Program (ATP) Project:  
S.R. 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail, Phase 2 – Preliminary Engineering  
(Reso. #M2016-14 is incorporated herein by reference)

**9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee.** Upon motion by Ranochak, second by Woodhouse, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 Ayes – Scalmanini, Stranske, Ranochak, Woodhouse, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Hammerstrom, Koogle): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

**10. Reports - Information**

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. There was no report. Chair Gjerde reported riding the bus to Ukiah today.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported attending the recent NCRA board meeting in Novato the previous week, when three actions were approved with regard to property management. A two-year extension of the current agreement with Guillon, Inc. was approved for property management, sale of parcels and development of the Ukiah depot site. An exemption from competitive listing of the property sales was approved for NCRA's agreement with Guillon. There was discussion and public input on possible conflict and issues regarding the listing agreement itself, resulting in approval by a 6-3 vote.

The NWP operator is seeking funding to extend the railroad north; there is interest from Mendocino Forest Products to provide a loading site for shipping. Caltrans awarded a planning grant of \$276,000 to study feasibility of an east-west rail route in the northern counties.

c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report.

d. MCOG Administration Staff

1. *U.S. 101 Bypass of Willits Update*. Mr. Dow referred to the project manager's written monthly report and announced that Caltrans will open the bypass on November 3, with a ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on the viaduct. A bicycle event is planned for the morning, with opening to traffic that afternoon. Construction was 93% complete; the contractors were working on final paving, striping, signage, and other details.

Ms. Orth reported Caltrans' answer to a question last meeting as to use of herbicides in the mitigation properties. It was confirmed that none had been used and that subsequent contracts did not allow herbicides. Only mechanical or manual methods were used for plant removal.

2. *Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 3 Proposals Submitted*. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report. Four proposals were submitted by agencies in Mendocino County.

3. *Grant Proposal Submitted June 24, 2016 to California Energy Commission by ChargePoint with MCOG as Partner to Install Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on the U.S. 101 Corridor in Mendocino County and Northern Sonoma County*. Ms. Orth referred to her written report. ChargePoint submitted the proposal on time, with several subcontractors for installation, maintenance, education and analysis, in addition to MCOG's advisory role. Five sites were selected for installation of nine DC fast chargers. Awards are to be announced in the next month or two.

4. *National Drive Electric Week – September 10-18, Local Ukiah Event Saturday, Sept. 17*. Ms. Orth reported that last year she had organized an event, and this year the Ukiah Main Street Program was inviting plug-in electric vehicle (EV) owners to participate in their End of Summer Show-N-Shine Classic & Custom Car Show. Director Scalmanini suggested contacting EV stakeholders who participated in MCOG's May 2015 community forum.

5. *Proposal to U.S. Department of Energy to Form a Northern California Clean Cities Coalition to Foster Use of Low-Carbon Transportation Fuels*. Ms. Orth reported this proposal resulted from the recently completed Northwest California Alternative Transportation Fuels Readiness Project, in which MCOG participated with four other counties. A consensus of these agencies was to continue the effort by forming a coalition under the federal Clean Cities program, which would provide support if approved. She has been meeting with a core group to develop a proposal and if successful, staff would seek the Council's approval to continue with this work as part of its interregional coordination role and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) goals and objectives.

Mr. Dow noted reasons that staff has been involved in these last three agenda items, both with and without explicit direction from the Council. He had just finished reviewing new RTP guidelines, which include new policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He will be proud to report these various efforts, over the past six years since the last RTP was written, in the next update. Rural regions are expected to contribute even while in legal compliance with regulations. Chair Gjerde agreed that made sense and noted the rise of EVs as they are becoming more affordable.

6. *Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7 for Mobile Workshop & Tour of Willits Plans & Projects and US-101 Bypass.* Plans were discussed for the fall transportation tour. It was agreed there was no need to convene a formal business meeting, so the day's events would be educational and no action would be taken. A tour of the bypass would be led by Caltrans in the morning, followed by lunch, then an afternoon presentation and walking tour of the downtown area to look at plans for Main Street after relinquishment to the City of Willits. MTA will provide transportation. Staff will distribute a notice with details as usual.

7. *Miscellaneous.* Ms. Orth announced a position is open at Dow & Associates (one of the two MCOG staffing contractors) for an Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Dow elaborated on three items in the Council's Information Packet, his letters of support for projects seeking funds: the MacKerricher State Park Haul Road Repair & Enhancement Project; the Hopland Main Street Corridor safety and ADA improvements; and the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation's \$24 million Orr Creek Commons proposal for the Affordable Housing/Sustainable Communities state program.

e. MCOG Planning Staff. There were no reports.

f. MCOG Directors. Director Scalmanini reported that only the two incumbents had filed for the City Council seats open in this November's election. He also discussed status of the Costco development project in City of Ukiah, relative to mitigation measures for greenhouse gas emissions, traffic, and other impacts.

Mr. Dow answered a question about a change of zoning on North State Street at the former Masonite industrial site. He reported plans to make the northbound freeway onramp safer at that location.

Chair Gjerde reported recent improvements to State Route 20 (Willits-Fort Bragg) by Caltrans, including seven new turnouts with signage.

g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Mr. Dow briefly reported on the most recent CALCOG Directors Association meeting; all are waiting for a transportation funding bill. Senator Beall and Assemblymember Frazier were introducing new bills with comprehensive transportation reform and funding proposals.

Chair Gjerde discussed status of the Board of Supervisors' cannabis tax initiative, which would include some funding for streets and roads if passed by the voters.

**11. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO