

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday October 2, 2017

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

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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 1:32 p.m. with Directors Steve Scalmanini, Larry Stranske, Michael Cimolino, Scott Ignacio (Alt.), Susan Ranochak, Georgeanne Croskey, Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), and Chair Dan Gjerde presiding.

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

2. Convene as RTPA

3. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

4. Public Expression. None.

5. – 6 Regular Calendar

5. Consideration of Community Input Regarding the Replacement of Albion River Bridge.

Executive Director Dow referred to his written staff report. The Albion River Bridge agenda item was brought forward from the August 21 MCOG meeting's public comment. Mr. Dow summarized the concerns, regulations, and research efforts examined for long-term improvements on Highway 1 that include the Albion River Bridge. He explained some regulation standards that are considered when reviewing alternatives for the bridge, such as widening it to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use. Frank Demling, Project Manager for Caltrans District 1, was present to listen and address MCOG Board Members and public's questions. He gave a brief overview of completed and pending tasks, processes, and studies.

Chair Gjerde invited public comment. Public members came to the podium to present, and some submitted copies of written materials and photographs to the Council and for the public record.

- Tom Wodetzki, Albion resident, spoke of his concerns. He questioned the validity of Caltrans' reports and their plans to replace the Albion River Bridge. (Refer to written material submitted.)
- Peter Wells, Albion resident and owner/operator of Albion River Inn, spoke on his concerns about replacing the Albion River Bridge. Some of his concerns included a potential decrease in tourism, impacts on the scenic area, and the consequences of demolishing the old bridge and constructing a new one.
- Warren De Smidt, Albion resident, referred to a letter to Caltrans written by another Albion resident, Linda Perkins, in response to the Notice of Preparation for the Albion River Bridge. His concerns are of Caltrans' conducting studies, removal and replacement of the bridge, environmental impacts on salmonid species, aquatic resources, bald eagles, ospreys and other bird species, removal of eucalyptus trees, and alteration of natural landforms. His concerns

extend to the Salmon Creek Bridge project and seven other local bridges. The areas that are listed to be worked on, he claimed, would violate the California Environmental Quality Act (by separating the projects and ignoring cumulative impacts), the Coastal Act, and Mendocino County Coastal Element, Chapter 4. (Refer to written material submitted.)

- Hassan Astaneh, Professor, Structural Engineering Mechanics and Materials, explained that he was personally contracted by a local property owner to conduct independent studies on both Salmon Creek and Albion River bridges. He questioned the validity of the District 1 Caltrans routine Inspection Reports. He explained how the bridge rating is scored and why he questions the reports, specifically those conducted in 2015. Dr. Astaneh estimated that in about three weeks he would submit a report of his own findings to a Federal agency for review. Once the Federal agency examines his report he said he would send a copy, and volunteered to come back and review it with the MCOG Board.

Mr. Demling addressed comments made by the public members. He gave examples of Caltrans findings of the Albion River Bridge. He said the bridge deck was resurfaced last October; 816 bolts were replaced by a contractor in 2016, and timber has been replaced to maintain the bridge. He stated Caltrans District 1 can no longer provide the support necessary to maintain the wooden structure and that it is no longer sustainable. He addressed some of the environment concerns and encourages the group to review copies of the environmental reports that are available on Caltrans' website. Caltrans plans to conduct a Supplemental Value Analysis Study (VA) and a Life Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA) to assist in reviewing appropriate alternatives for the Albion River Bridge, and to bring information back to MCOG when completed. He estimates the whole process will take several months.

Mr. Demling then answered questions from the Board, including:

- What are the justifications for rating changes in the routine Inspection Reports? (Croskey)
- What, if any, information has Caltrans received from Dr. Astaneh in the past? Besides money, what other concerns does Caltrans have regarding the Albion River Bridge? Were there studies in other control sample areas tested outside the area of the bridge; and, are there any other wooden bridges in California in operation? (Cimolino)
- When is the public hearing going to be conducted? What information will be available for public to view prior to the hearing? (Scalmanini)
- Will the Coastal Commission be involved in the permit process, and at what part of the process? (Gjerde)

A motion was made by Director Ignacio, seconded by Director Scalmanini, to approve the staff recommendation. **Discussion on the motion:** Pending new information from Caltrans studies, the Board may consider bringing the matter back on a future Council agenda.

The motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (*7 Ayes – Scalmanini, Ignacio/Alt., Cimolino, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 1 Noes – Stranske; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that 1) The Council has heard the staff report, Caltrans' responses, and public concerns; and 2) in consideration of MCOG's role in the SHOPP program, the Council concludes that the public's interest has been served by the discussion at the regional level of the Albion River Bridge Replacement Project.

6. Report and Review of Covelo State Route 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project to Prepare for Upcoming Action to Complete Environmental Component. James Sookne, MCOG Project Manager, summarized the process of obtaining the Covelo/Round Valley Non-Motorized Needs Assessment and Engineered Feasibility Study. The study provided information used to identify the highest priorities and obtain funding through an Active Transportation Program (ATP)

grant, awarded in October 2014. Mr. Sookne explained tasks were divided into two different phases. In May 2016, environmental, design, and right-of-way work was contracted through GHD, Inc. for both phases of the project. Most of the environmental work has been completed and a draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document is in process. The CEQA document will be available for public comment in the next few weeks and public meetings will be held to collect and review community members' comments. He estimates that the final CEQA document will be presented to the MCOG Board at the December 2017 meeting for adoption. The CEQA draft report will be forwarded to the MCOG Board when it is received. Information only, no action was taken.

7 – 8. Consent Calendar: Upon motion by Director Ranochak, second by Director McCowen, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*8 Ayes – Scalmanini, Stranske, Ignacio (Alt.), Cimolino, Ranochak, Croskey, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the following consent items are approved:

7. Approval of August 21, 2017 Minutes – *As amended to clarify that Director Jackman joined the meeting via teleconference and not in person.*

8. Adoption of Resolutions Approving the Allocation of California Proposition 1B Funds, Fiscal Years 2015/16 and 2016/17 Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Account, for Mendocino Transit Authority's Eligible Projects.

Resolution No. M2017-11

Approving the Allocation of California Proposition 1B Funds, Fiscal Year 2015/16
Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Program
(Reso. #M2017-11 is incorporated herein by reference)

Resolution No. M2017-12

Approving the Allocation of California Proposition 1B Funds, Fiscal Year 2016/17
Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Program
(Reso. #M2017-12 is incorporated herein by reference)

9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Director Ranochak, second by Director Croskey, and carried unanimously (*7 Ayes; 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.

10. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. Ms. Carla Meyer, General Manager, gave a verbal report on the status of Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA). She stated that MTA is doing very well. They have streamlined their Human Resources and Finance divisions and converted to a new modern accounting system. They have convened a Route Committee that meets monthly to review all the routes and make decisions based on their recommendations and ridership data. RouteMatch was initially estimated to pay for itself in two years; Ms. Meyer was happy to announce that the new estimate is within one year. Since implementing RouteMatch, MTA has decreased the vehicles needed from four to two for Dial-A-Ride and still decreased wait times. The Dial-A-Ride program costs more to run than regular busses.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Mr. Dow reported there is activity on the depot site in Ukiah. There is a small bridge being put in for continuity between Hospital Drive and the property to gain access to the new courthouse. For full disclosure, Mr. Dow announced that his brother-in-law has the contract to construct the bridge.

- c. MCOG Staff – Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow said meetings for Senate Bill 1 have demanded a lot of time and travel to different locations in California. He referred to his written staff report and highlighted some of the meetings, as described in agenda item #10d1.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff.
 - 1. *Senate Bill 1 Implementation: Local Partnership and Trade Corridor Enhancement Programs*. Mr. Dow explained that three of the five cities in Mendocino County collect additional sales tax to be used specifically for transportation. As a reward and an incentive, those cities will receive funds from the Local Partnership Program. Willits, Fort Bragg, and Point Arena are Mendocino’s Self-Help cities. Mr. Dow explained how the guidelines committee determined to distribute the funds appropriately. Due to the size of the three cities, he brought concerns regarding the amounts the cities would be eligible for. In meetings to determine how the money will be dispersed, Mr. Dow spoke for the small cities/counties in California and requested they have a threshold amount for the smaller cities. It was decided that \$100,000 with a 50% match will be awarded to the smaller cities/counties who are Self-Help. The Trade Corridor Enhancement Program will affect Mendocino County more indirectly by the local counties utilizing the program, such as Lake County’s Highway 29 widening project and Richardson Grove realignment in Humboldt County. Information from attending the meetings for the Trade Corridor Enhancement may prove useful in the years to come on future Mendocino County projects.
 - 2. *California Mobility Investment Opportunities – July 2017 Report (Reflecting North State Super Region Input)*. Mr. Dow referred to his staff report.
 - 3. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- e. MCOG Planning Staff.
 - 1. *Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grants*. Mr. Dow reported that MCOG Staff are planning on submitting an application. The funding would provide for hiring of a consultant to do a countywide pedestrian inventory and Engineered Feasibility Study. Information from that study, such as project cost estimates, could potentially be used to apply for future grants.
 - 2. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- f. MCOG Directors. None.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. None.

11. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant