



**MENDOCINO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**
367 North State Street~Suite 206~Ukiah~California~95482

PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Telephone 707-463-1859
Fax 707-463-2212
www.mendocinocog.org
mcog@mendocinocog.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 13, 2011

To: Mendocino County News Media

Contact: Phil Dow, Executive Director, Mendocino Council of Governments, 463-1859

MCOG Awards Over \$1.6 Million to Local Transportation Projects

City of Ukiah was the biggest winner in MCOG's biennial transportation funding awards. At its December 5 meeting, the Mendocino Council of Governments adopted the 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) of federally and state-funded projects in the countywide region. The City will receive a total of \$1,574,000 for three of its proposals, and Mendocino Transit Authority won \$88,000 to match a federal grant for six new hybrid-drive vans.

MCOG granted \$815,000 for the top-ranked enhancement project, Phase I of Ukiah's Downtown Streetscape Plan. This is the full amount available to the region from federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) program funds. Streetscape improvements will be made in the historic downtown, to include wider sidewalks, curb ramps, drainage, street lights and furniture, trees with grates, bicycle racks and signage. The streetscape work will be combined with a Ukiah Redevelopment Agency project that will reconfigure lanes and traffic flow, modify signals, repave and stripe, improve parking, and make other related upgrades to the selected area.

MCOG also programmed RTIP funds available to the Mendocino region. MTA's proposal to replace transit vehicles ranked first place for RTIP funds (\$88,000). Following in second and third place were Ukiah's proposals to construct a traffic signal at Gobbi Street and Waugh Lane (\$644,000), and to build a roundabout at Low Gap and North Bush (\$675,000). The first two were fully funded, and the Low Gap roundabout received \$115,000 for environmental review and design.

“The City Council and Staff are overjoyed at the prospect of initiating our Ukiah Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan with Transportation Enhancement funding available through the Mendocino Council of Governments,” remarked Mari Rodin, Mayor and Ukiah’s MCOG representative. “This is the first step in remaking our historic downtown into a pedestrian friendly environment that is not only good for the business community but also good for the quality of life of our citizens. We appreciate the consideration given by MCOG’s Technical Advisory Committee to our proposals for the downtown plan, as well as the much needed signal system on Gobbi Street at Waugh Lane and funding to initiate work on a roundabout at Low Gap and Bush.”

Eligible applicants are the County and four Cities, as member agencies of MCOG’s joint powers agreement, and MTA. Proposals received totaled \$1,919,000 for the TE program and \$4,174,000 for the RTIP funding. City of Fort Bragg and Mendocino County Department of Transportation competed with Ukiah and MTA for \$1.8 million of funds available this cycle.

The federal TE funds are intended for enhancements to the surface transportation system. Eligible projects include bicycle and pedestrian trails, scenic and historic preservation, landscaping and beautification, and wildlife habitat connectivity. RTIP funds are available for public transit; streets, roads and highways; and capital improvement transportation projects. Both funding sources are derived primarily from federal and state gasoline taxes.

MCOG formed as a joint powers agreement in 1972, as mandated by state law, to disburse state and federal funds for transportation, to provide regional planning, and to serve as a regional forum. MCOG is overseen by a board consisting of two county supervisors, a countywide public appointee, and one council member from each of the four incorporated cities. For more information, call the MCOG office at 463-1859 or consult the agency's web site at www.mendocinocog.org.

* * * * *