

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Primary Location

MCOG Office – 525 S. Main St., Ukiah (Upstairs Conference Room)

Teleconference Locations

*City of Fort Bragg – Engineering Office, 416 N. Franklin Street, Fort Bragg
City of Willits – Community Development Dept., 111 E. Commercial St., Willits
Point Arena City Hall, 451 School St., Point Arena
Caltrans District 1 – 1656 Union Street, Eureka, California*

April 15, 2026

Members Present

Chantell O' Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena
Jason Wise, MCDOT
Andrea Trincado, City of Ukiah
Catherine Crayne, Caltrans District 1
Davey Bowels, City of Willits
Liam Crowley, DPBS

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Hector Ortega, MCOG Planning
Kyle Finger, Caltrans
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning

Members Absent

Jacob King, MTA
Doug Gearhart, AQMD
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Alicia Winokur, MCDOT
Blake Batten, Caltrans District 1
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:00 a.m.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – None. Nephele noted that following discussion in the previous meeting outreach would continue to tribal governments to ensure they are aware that Tribal Government input is a standing agenda item and encourage participation.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 02/18/2026**–
Motion by Paul Andersen, seconded by Chantell O'Neal to approve February meeting minutes. Motion carried on roll call vote (4 ayes – Chantell, Liam, Paul, and Jason; and 1 Abstain–Davey Bowels).

5. **FY 2026/27 Approval of Final Overall Work Program (OWP) – Review & Recommendation-**

Alexis Pedrotti presented the proposed Final Fiscal Year 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP) for recommendation to the MCOG Board.

Alexis explained that the proposed Final OWP largely reflects the previously reviewed Draft OWP and continues to include the projects and activities previously discussed by the TAC. Alexis also noted that several carryover projects and placeholder funding amounts were incorporated into the Final OWP.

Alexis reported that Caltrans' comments on the Draft OWP had been received and addressed. The comments primarily consisted of minor edits, clarifications, formatting changes, and task refinements that did not substantially alter any projects, funding requests, or work elements previously discussed by the TAC.

Work Element 2 – Planning Management and General Coordination

Alexis reported that \$35,000 in Local Transportation Fund (LTF) revenue was removed from Work Element 2 and shifted into the Project Reserve following discussions between the Executive Committee and Budget Committee regarding consultant contract costs.

Alexis noted that this adjustment resulted in a corresponding increase to the Project Reserve balance.

Work Element 5 – Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study

Alexis included an estimated \$100,000 carryover placeholder since the project is expected to continue into FY 2026/27.

Work Element 7 – Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM)

An estimated \$25,000 in PPM carryover funding was included.

Alexis explained that the carryover provides flexibility for planning staff to begin utilizing PPM funds at the start of the fiscal year and avoid potential expiration issues. Actual carryover amounts will be adjusted through the amendment process.

Work Element 8 – Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program

Alexis included estimated carryover funding for the Regional VMT Mitigation Program, noting that the Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released and the project is expected to move forward quickly.

Work Element 10 – SR 20 Willits Multimodal Circulation and Intersection Improvement Study

Alexis explained that Work Element 10 remains a placeholder for a pending grant application associated with the SR 20 Willits Multimodal Circulation and Intersection Improvement Study.

Alexis stated that grant award announcements are anticipated in early to mid-summer. If awarded, the project scope and tasks would be added through the amendment process. If unsuccessful, the placeholder would be removed from the OWP.

Alexis further noted that the associated \$47,200 in local match funding would be returned to the Project Reserve if the grant application is unsuccessful.

Andrea Trincado asked whether the proposed SR 20 Willits project was intended to be solely an MCOG planning project or whether it would involve coordination with partner agencies.

Nephele clarified that while the grant application itself is being submitted by MCOG, the project would involve partnership and coordination with the City of Willits, Mendocino

County, and Caltrans because the corridor includes State Route 20/Main Street and extends beyond city limits.

Work Element 11 – Pavement Management Program Update

Alexis reported that the Pavement Management Program Update continues to move forward.

An estimated \$35,000 carryover was included to allow flexibility for completion of remaining tasks during the first quarter of FY 2026/27.

Alexis emphasized that the amount is only an estimate and actual carryover needs will be adjusted through the amendment process.

Work Element 16 – Multimodal Transportation Planning

Alexis reported that approximately \$5,000 in Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds were estimated for carryover to support ongoing planning staff activities.

Alexis explained that Caltrans requests estimated RPA carryovers be identified in the Final OWP, even when the anticipated amount is relatively small. Alexis reiterated that the Project Reserve increased as a result of shifting \$35,000 from Work Element 2.

Alexis directed the TAC to the OWP funding summary table and reported that the proposed Final FY 2026/27 OWP totals \$1,251,084.

Motion by Chantell O’Neal, seconded by Andrea Trincado, to approve recommendation to the MCOG board for approval of the 2026/27 OWP. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Chantell, Liam, Paul, Jason, and Andrea; and 1 Abstain–Davey Bowels).

6. Staff Reports (Verbal)

a. Sea-Level Rise Roadway Impact Study – Hector provided an update on the Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study. Hector reported that the consultant team continues to collect and evaluate community input as part of the site prioritization process. The information collected will be used as part of the ranking criteria, including roadway usage, network importance, and feasibility, to identify five priority sites for further technical analysis.

Approximately 130 community members participated in the project survey, which was open from December 18, 2025 through February 16, 2026. Initial survey results indicated that Point Cabrillo Drive, Old Coast Highway, Port Road, and Lighthouse Road were viewed as top priorities. Key concerns identified through the survey included bluff erosion, flooding, roadway failures, and maintaining emergency access.

Hector also reported that additional outreach was conducted through public workshops held on March 25, 2026 in Point Arena, March 26, 2026 in Fort Bragg, and a virtual workshop on March 31, 2026. Hector noted that input from the workshops was still being reviewed and compiled.

Following completion of the prioritization process, the consultant team will conduct detailed technical analysis of the five priority sites. The analysis will include identification of potential

adaptation strategies such as roadway elevation, realignment, and shoreline stabilization, along with conceptual cost estimates and feasibility evaluations.

b. Pavement Management Plan Update – Hector provided an update on the Mendocino County Pavement Management Program. Staff reported that the contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) has been fully executed, participating agencies have provided StreetSaver access, and database audits and updates have been completed.

Hector noted that ARRB Systems experienced a minor delay to field operations after the data collection vehicle was involved in an accident in early March 2026. Field data collection began the week of March 27, 2026, and the first project status meeting was held on April 1, 2026 to confirm activities and schedule adjustments.

Data collection for the City of Fort Bragg has been completed and, as of March 30, 2026, the City of Willits was approximately 41% complete and likely finalized by the meeting date. ARRB will next proceed with County-maintained roads followed by the City of Ukiah. Pending favorable weather conditions, overall data collection is anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2026. The next project status meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2026.

Nephele asked whether local agencies would have an opportunity to observe or participate in the automated pavement data collection process, noting that previous pavement management updates often included field demonstrations using manual inspection methods.

Andrea noted that ongoing fiber optic construction work within the City of Ukiah has temporarily resulted in potholing and roadway restoration impacts that may affect pavement conditions observed during the data collection process.

c. 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – Nephele provided a brief update regarding the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process. Nephele also explained that adoption of the RTP continues to be delayed due to ongoing Housing and Community Development (HCD) review of the RHNA methodology.

Nephele noted that recent changes to State requirements have significantly complicated the RHNA approval process compared to the prior cycle and that HCD continues to request revisions and additional clarification. Although the delay is not anticipated to create significant RTP compliance issues due to an approved extension from Caltrans, staff emphasized that the RHNA delay impacts local jurisdictions awaiting final allocations to complete their Housing Elements.

Nephele stated that MCOG remains hopeful that HCD approval can be obtained in time for RTP adoption at the May MCOG Board meeting. Nephele also noted that an updated RTP draft is available on the MCOG website.

d. Caltrans Milestone Report – Catharine Crayne provided a brief update regarding the Caltrans Milestone Report and noted that updated milestone information is anticipated to be available in June 2026. Staff also reminded TAC members that the report includes information regarding the Caltrans Project Communication Form process available to partner agencies for project-specific coordination and communication requests.

Davey Bowles requested clarification regarding the updated construction schedule for the Laytonville Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project, specifically whether construction activities would remain split between two construction seasons or be compressed into a single construction season. Additional questions were raised regarding the anticipated construction bid schedule and the status of several fish passage and culvert replacement projects.

Catharine Crayne stated that she would coordinate with Caltrans staff and provide follow-up information regarding the project schedules and funding status.

Additional discussion occurred regarding upcoming Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant award announcements, District Transit Plan outreach efforts, ATP application competitiveness, and several active grant opportunities, including Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), and Urban Greening funding programs.

7. **Miscellaneous**

Chantell O’Neal discussed the City of Fort Bragg’s potential interest in resubmitting a previous ATP application related to downtown trail connectivity and pedestrian improvements. Discussion included challenges associated with right-of-way coordination, easements, project scope, and demonstrating strong community support. Staff and TAC members also discussed opportunities to improve future applications through expanded outreach efforts, surveys, school engagement, and virtual community input tools.

Several active and upcoming grant opportunities were discussed, including the Active Transportation Program (ATP), Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), Urban Greening Program, and Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants. Discussion also included project competitiveness, technical assistance opportunities, public outreach strategies, and coordination efforts related to future grant applications and project development activities.

Next Meeting – 05/20/2026, if needed

8. **Adjournment** – approx. 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hector Ortega
/HO