



# **MCOG BOARD ORIENTATION & PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

[WWW.MENDOCINOCOG.ORG](http://WWW.MENDOCINOCOG.ORG)





# MCOG Background

- The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) was formed in a joint powers agreement in 1972 after the Transportation Development Act (TDA) was passed.
- COG: General purpose regional agencies that can undertake any action in which their member cities and counties share in common.
- RTPA: Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are County or multi-county entities charged by state law in meeting certain transportation planning requirements.
- JPA identifies specific powers:
  - Transportation Planning Agency
  - Economic development planning
  - Housing
  - Other specific powers authorized by member agencies

# MCOG Board Composition

Two county supervisors, one council member from each of the four incorporated cities and one countywide elected official/public appointee appointed by the Board of Supervisors make up MCOG Board membership.

A representative of Caltrans serves on the Policy Advisory Committee with the seven directors.



# MCOG Board Officers, Appointments & Committees

**Officers:** Chair & Vice Chair

**Standing Committees - Board:**

- Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Executive Committee
- Transit Productivity Committee (TPC)

**Standing Committees – Other:**

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

**Appointments:**

- CalCOG Delegate
- Covelo Trail Project Ad Hoc
- Climate Ad Hoc



# MCOG Staffing

MCOG staffing is provided by contract, as follows:

Dow & Associates – Administration & Fiscal Services, SAFE Administration, Northern Rural Energy Network

Nephele Barrett, Executive Director

Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO

Michael Villa, Regional Project Coordinator

Jody Lowblad, Administrative Assistant

Davey-Bates Consulting – Planning Services, SAFE Planning

Lisa Davey-Bates, Principal Planner

Alexis Pedrotti, Project Manager

James Sookne, Program Manager

Jaclyn Christian, Associate Planner

Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst

Charlene Parker, Planning Associate

Loretta Ellard, Senior Planner



# MCOG Responsibilities

- Fiscal Oversight & Allocations
- Transportation Policy Development
- Advocacy
- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Management
- Transportation Planning
- Regional Housing Planning/RHNA
- Special Projects
- Northern Rural Energy Network



# MCOG Responsibilities

## **Fiscal Oversight & Allocations**

- Transportation Development Act (TDA)
  - Local Transportation Fund (LTF)
  - State Transit Assistance (STA)
  - Budget, Claims, Reports, Fiscal and Performance Audits
- Public Transit
  - Operations, Senior Center Contracts, Capital Reserve
  - State of Good Repair Funding
  - SB 125 Funding Management – Transit & Intercity Rail Capital and Zero-Emission Transit Capital Programs
- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program
  - 3 STBG programs created by MCOG Policy

# MCOG Responsibilities

## Unmet Transit Needs Process

- Annual process to formally identify unmet transit needs
- Established by TDA
- Uses MCOG adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet”
- Steps:
  - SSTAC develops list of potential unmet transit needs
  - MCOG holds public hearing to determine if any needs qualify based on adopted definition
  - Unmet transit needs are analyzed by MTA; TPC & SSTAC make recommendation
  - MCOG determines if any needs are “reasonable to meet” based on analysis and recommendation
  - If needs are reasonable to meet, they are to be identified in the Budget.





# MCOG Funding Programs

## **MCOG Funding Programs**

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
  - Partnership Funding Program
  - Regional Project Management & Local Assistance
  - Funding by Formula to County and Cities
  - 22/23 through 25/26 – \$1.31 million annually
- 2% Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Program - competitive grants
  - \$73,770 in FY 24/25 budget
- Planning funds through the Transportation Planning Work Program



# MCOG Programs

## **Carbon Reduction Program**

- Estimate \$161,211 to \$164,435 annually for 5 years
- State priorities are bike/ped, rail /transit, ZEV infrastructure, and managed lanes

## **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

- Capital funding for transportation projects
- Adopted by the California Transportation Commission in March/April every even year
- State programs 25% of funding (IIP) and regions program 75% (RIP)
- Each region receives Fund Estimate in preparation (includes PPM)

## **Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

- Developed and adopted by MCOG every odd numbered year
- Process uses policies adopted by the MCOG Board
- Programs available STIP funding for the region
- May include future STIP funding commitments
- Local competitive application process
- Includes evaluation for RTP consistency
- Developed by staff and TAC, approved by MCOG Board
- Ongoing management of projects: Extensions, Amendments, Allocations, etc.

# MCOG Programs

## Current STIP Projects

- Mendocino County
  - North State Street Intersection and Interchange Improvements
    - Construction of two roundabouts that will reduce idling at the KUKI intersection and the southbound U.S. 101 interchange.
  - Road Rehabilitation on Mountain View Road
    - This project will improve the pavement condition and create a safer path of travel on one of the main east-west connectors between the south coast and inland Mendocino County.
- City of Ukiah
  - Roundabout at Low Gap Road & Bush Street
    - This project will provide a roundabout at this intersection, reducing idling and improving circulation on two arterials serving major activity centers.
- Caltrans
  - Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project
    - This project will provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the State highway, improving nonmotorized safety and accessibility in the busy downtown area.

# MCOG Programs

## **Transportation Planning Work Program**

- Annual program funded by Local Transportation Funds (LTF), Rural Planning Assistance (RPA), Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) and State/Federal grants
- Projects (Work Elements) are consistent with goals of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Eligible participants are MCOG staff, cities and County and MTA
- Technical Advisory Committee reviews & recommends, MCOG Board adopts, Caltrans approves

# MCOG Programs

## Examples of Work Elements

### Annual

- Regional Government & Intergovernmental Coordination
- Planning Programming & Monitoring
- Training
- Multi-Modal Transportation Planning

### Periodic

- Pavement Management Program Updates – *triennial*
- Regional Transportation Plan Updates – *every 4 years*

### Local Agency Projects

### Grant Funded Projects

# MCOG Programs

## Examples of Work Elements cont.

### Grant Funded Projects (Currently funded in OWP)

- Mendocino Co. Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study

This project is funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Climate Adaptation Planning grant. The overall objective of this project is to develop a feasibility study to analyze, identify, and propose modifications to at-risk Mendocino County coastal roads vulnerable to sea level encroachments and erosion. **Total funded project is \$400,000.**



# MCOG Programs

## Grant Funded Projects (Currently funded in OWP) cont'd

- Noyo Harbor Multimodal Circulation Plan

This project is funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Competitive FTA 5304 grant. This project is to identify, research, and analyze multimodal transportation access and circulation in and through the Noyo Harbor and recommend improvements for future implementation. **Total funded project is \$215,000.**





# MCOG Programs

## Grant Assistance

- Research & provide information to local agencies on upcoming grant opportunities for various federal and state grant programs
- Attend grant workshops & webinars to educate staff & inform local agencies
- Review and comment on grant program guidelines
- For MCOG sponsored grants - apply for grants; administer funded projects
- For Local Agency grants - provide technical assistance; prepare grant applications/assist with preparation; provide local match; participate on project development teams
- Grant programs include ATP, Caltrans Planning grants (Adaptation Planning & Sustainable Communities), SB 1 programs, Urban Greening, HSIP, Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation



# MCOG Plans

- **Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan**

- Major regional transportation planning document
- Multi-modal
- Includes policies, needs, recommended actions (projects)
- Updated every four years (previously five)
- Development includes staff, TAC, SSTAC, public, stakeholders, MCOG Board
- Adoption by MCOG Board
- **Current 2026 Plan Update Timeline**
  - ➡ Public Outreach / Goals & Policies Update: Summer 2024 – Winter 2024/25  
Visit [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org) to complete a survey or give input via interactive map.
  - Draft Development and release for Public Comment – Winter to Fall 2025
  - Final Plans developed and presented for adoption – Winter 2025 (December)

# MCOG Plans

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Zero Emission Vehicle Regional Readiness Plan
- Community & Corridor Plans
- Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan



# MCOG Plans

- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
  - Process to allocate needed housing units among cities and county
  - Occurs every 8 years (previously every 5 years)
  - Total regional housing needs established by State
  - Specific number of housing units for different income levels
  - MCOG adopts allocation, then agencies prepare Housing Elements

# MCOG Special Projects

- Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multipurpose Trail
  - The total project will construct a 2-mile-long, 10' wide multi-use Class I trail with 2' shoulders, adjacent and perpendicular to State Route (SR) 162 in the community of Covelo.
  - Collaboration between MCOG, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and Caltrans
  - Combination of ATP, Caltrans Complete Streets, and local MCOG funds
  - Project timeline
    - Planning: 2010 – 2014
    - Environmental: 2015 – 2017
    - Right of Way & Design: 2018 – 2022
    - Construction: 2022 – Present





# Northern Rural Energy Network

- Partnership with Lake Area Planning Council, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Sierra Business Council
- RENs deliver energy efficiency programs to harder to reach customers
- Seven programs
  - Residential Equity
  - Residential Resource
  - Non Residential Resource
  - Public Equity
  - Work Force Education and Training
  - Codes and Standards
  - Finance
- Final CPUC approval September 2024
- Programs launching in 2025 and 2026
- Funded through PG&E fees approved by the CPUC

# Mendocino SAFE

The MCOG board of directors also serves as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) of Mendocino County, administering the Call Box program. \$1 per registered vehicle in Mendocino County are collected by DMV to manage the program.

- Planning
- Installation
- Monitoring & maintenance
- Monthly service fees
- 45 Satellite, 96 standard cellular call boxes
- SAFE meetings as needed
- Assessment of system and replacement of equipment resulting from network changes

# Questions?

Board members may refer to the MCOG Board Orientation & Reference Manual for further information and reference material including a list of frequently used acronyms.