

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*

October 15, 2025

Members Present

Chantell O' Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena
Alicia Winokur, MCDOT
Blake Batten, Caltrans
Andrea Trincado, City of Ukiah

Members Absent

Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah
Liam Crowley, DPBS
Jacob King, MTA
Doug Gearhart, AQMD

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning
Michael Villa, MCOG Administration
Hector Ortega, MCOG Planning
Dave Shpak, Gualala Community Advisory
Committee

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.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 7/16/25**
A motion was made by Chantell O'Neal and seconded by Alicia Winokur to approve the July meeting minutes. Votes in favor: Alicia, Chantel, Blake, Andrea, Paul, Dusty.
5. **2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP)**
(Discussion)
Staff reported that the public draft of the Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan (RTP/ATP) was released in mid-September. Public workshops were held in Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Point Arena, and virtually. The public comment period remains open until November 5. Adoption is targeted for the December Board meeting pending the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) review of MCOG's draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment methodology; alternatively, February 2.

Paul Anderson emphasized the critical regional importance of the Garcia River crossing on Highway 1 due to frequent closures, lack of alternate routes, and significant impacts on

emergency response, school access, medical access, and community mobility. Dave Shpak added that Highway 1 is a critical lifeline for the South Coast and parts of the Midcoast, essential for health, fire, and life-safety access. Residents from communities such as Manchester and Irish Beach rely on this route to reach the nearest medical clinic, and highway closures prevent ambulances and consolidated fire districts—such as Redwood Coast and South Coast Fire—from providing effective emergency response. With the Windy Hollow Bridge option no longer feasible due to tribal preference, Highway 1 remains the sole connection, making its vulnerability a significant and unacceptable hazard. Dave Shpak urged that the Regional Transportation Plan clearly identify this corridor as a high-priority, lifeline project that cannot continue to be overlooked.

Staff reported that, in addition to comments regarding the Garcia River, major themes received so far include public feedback on the rail element and significant input about poor road conditions in Potter Valley, which has been the most frequent comment. Staff acknowledged the difficulty of securing funding for rehabilitation on Eastside Potter Valley Road, noting that STIP funding and grants such as FLAP and HSIP have limited feasibility due to cost constraints, underfunding, and insufficient accident data. Road maintenance grants remain scarce, though a potential local sales tax could help.

Public comments on RTP will be accepted until Board approval, but comments intended for incorporation should be submitted by the informal target of November 5, ahead of the November 19 TAC meeting and expected Board consideration in December.

6. Staff Reports (Verbal)

- a. Discussion of the FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program Development - Alexis announced the opening of the OWP application cycle. Approximately \$50,000 is available after accounting for committed costs including direct charges, training, StreetSaver fees, and a local match reserve. The OWP application deadline is December 1, 2025.
- b. 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program - Hector reported that the California Transportation Commission adopted the 2026 STIP fund estimate on August 14. The region will receive \$280,000 for planning, programming, and monitoring. No new project funding is available because the region has programmed up to its maximum share.
- c. Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Applications Due 11/21/25 - Staff announced that the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant cycle is open, with applications due November 21. MCOG anticipates submitting only one application due to staff capacity. Three project ideas were outlined: (1) a State Route 20 corridor study in Willits to revisit previous planning and support upcoming SHOPP projects; (2) an update to the U.S. 101 interchange study in Ukiah, focusing on locations such as Perkins, Gobbi, and the North State Street merge; and (3) a tribal transportation study to identify infrastructure needs serving tribal communities. Member agencies reported no active applications of their own. In response to a question, staff clarified that this grant program funds conceptual planning and would not be appropriate for advancing the Garcia/Gasker/Slough segment of State Route 1, which requires engineering-level work. MCOG will select one project to move forward.

d. Noyo Harbor Multimodal Circulation Plan - Staff Reported that all presentations have now been completed, including to the County Board of Supervisors, Fort Bragg City Council, the Harbor District, and the MCOG Board. Significant public and agency comments were received. Caltrans submitted extensive comments, and staff will be providing additional comments to the consultant team by next week to support finalizing the plan. The finalized plan is expected to return to the MCOG Board for approval in December.

e. Sea-Level Rise Roadway Impact Study - Staff reported that the draft literature review discussed at the previous TAC meeting has since been completed, and the project has made significant progress. The project website has been launched at *MendocinoCountiesSeaLevelRise.org*. MCOG is coordinating with the Mendocino County Department of Transportation and other stakeholders to review and finalize the community engagement plan; all comments have been submitted to the consultant, and the plan is expected to be ready by the end of the month. In response to a public question, staff clarified that the study's scope includes only local, non-Caltrans roads within city and county jurisdictions; State Route 1 locations such as Gasker Slough and the Garcia River area are not included. Caltrans is conducting a separate, similar effort for state highways.

7. **Miscellaneous**

Next Meeting – 11/19/2025, if needed

8. **Adjournment** – approx. 11:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hector Ortega
/HO