

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES
Monday, August 16, 2021

Teleconference Only
In compliance with Governor's Executive Order N-29-20

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 1:31 p.m. with Directors Jim Brown, Greta Kanne, Tess Albin-Smith, John Haschak, Tatiana Ahlstrand (Caltrans/PAC), and Dan Gjerde present by Zoom teleconference; Chair Gjerde presiding, Scott Ignacio absent. [Clerk's note: the Public Appointee seat was vacant.]

Staff present on the call: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director / CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Alexis Pedrotti, Project Manager; James Sookne, Program Manager; Danielle Casey, Program Coordinator; and Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant.

Note: Public comment was invited via online comment form; staff monitored for incoming comments throughout the meeting, reporting periodically.

2. Convene as RTPA

3. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

4. Public Expression. Tom Murphy of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) expressed concern over the extensions of due dates for the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project and asked the board to urge Caltrans not to delay any longer in adopting the basic concept, citing community input. He also listed safety concerns over the current state of Highway 1 passing through Gualala.

5. Presentation: California Active Transportation (CAT) Plan. Alexis Kelso of Caltrans District 1 presented the California Active Transportation (CAT) plan, which identifies challenges to people's ability to walk, bicycle, and reach transit on the state highway system in northern California. She shared information on different aspects of the plan such as data-driven needs analysis, public engagement efforts, and online map tools to review the draft plan and summary report.

In Board questions and discussion, Alexis stated that this is the first year that Caltrans has conducted this survey. Ms. Barrett reminded that comments for the survey are due September 3. Staff will review and comment on the draft plan. The final plan is expected to be released in October.

6. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Recommendations of April 26, 2021 and July 21, 2021

- a. Actions to Develop Solutions for Identified Unmet Transit Needs. Ms. Orth referred to her staff report and reported the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations:
 - The MCOG Board of Directors support further study through Caltrans planning grant proposals submitted in the current cycle by MCOG and MTA staffs, to be better positioned to meet several of the listed needs, such as #S-9 "*Mobility solutions for remote communities*" and related service to Brooktrails, Potter Valley, Covelo, and Laytonville
 - MTA staff research opportunities with outside partners such as Adventist Health to meet #S-1 "*Non-emergency medical transportation for patients discharged from hospitals during transit service off-hours.*"

- MCOG staff work with Walk & Bike Mendocino meet #M-3 “*Research on clean mobility grants for bikes and scooters.*”

She reported progress already underway, with the grant award received for MCOG’s “Feasibility Study – Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino County” and MTA discussions with Adventist Health. Planning staff can work on the third recommendation under the multimodal work element. Directors Gjerde and Albin-Smith voiced their support of the recommendations.

Upon motion by Director Brown, second by Director Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent – Ignacio*): IT IS ORDERED that the board supports further study of remote mobility solutions by endorsing the Caltrans planning grant to begin in September 2021, and directs staff to work with Walk & Bike Mendocino on research into clean mobility grants for bikes and scooters.

- b. Approval of Resolution Adopting Revised Formula for Allocating Local Transportation Funds to Senior Centers’ Specialized Services. Ms. Barrett gave a background of the funding situation for the five senior centers under contracts with Mendocino Transit Authority, as allocated by MCOG for specialized services. The distribution formula has not been revised since inception decades ago, while the services have changed over time. Senior center representatives on the Transit Productivity Committee have submitted proposed formulas for consideration. MCOG staff also developed several potential formula variations. The TPC met in July and considered six scenario alternatives, ultimately recommending approval of the senior centers’ preferred scenario. This scenario would be based on 100% service data, distributing 40% of funding based on passengers, 30% on service hours, and 30% on service miles. The TPC specified that the new formula would start with the FY 2022/23 budget and be based initially on 2019 data to capture pre-pandemic conditions. The formula would then be updated every three years, using an average of the previous three years of service data.

In board discussion, Director Brown mentioned how well the Transit Productivity Committee worked together to come to a decision and complimented staff and senior center representatives for their work on this issue. Director Gjerde noted that with Local Transportation Fund revenues coming in high, the timing is good for revision, as the impact would be easier on those centers receiving a reduction in the funding formula.

Upon motion by Director Haschak, second by Director Albin-Smith, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent – Ignacio*): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is approved.

Resolution No. M2021-10

Adopting Revised Formula for Allocating
Local Transportation Funds to
Senior Centers’ Specialized Services

[Reso. #M2021-10 is incorporated herein by reference]

7. Approval of Resolution Adopting Second Amendment to 2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Mr. Sookne explained that, as requested by the City of Willits, the amendment aims to program the \$144,000 portion of federal Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds that flow through the STIP in FY 2022/23 for the PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) phase of their Rail with Trail project, currently funded with an Active Transportation Program grant. In response to a question from Director Haschak, Director Kanne reported that the proposal had not yet come before the City, but she anticipated it would be met with approval.

Upon motion by Director Brown, second by Director Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent - Ignacio*): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is approved.

Resolution No. M2020-11

Adopting the Second Amendment to the
2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
[Reso. #M2021-11 is incorporated herein by reference]

8. Discussion/Direction: 2022 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund

Estimate. Mr. Sookne reported that a maximum funding amount is identified for the region of \$6,767,000. After deducting \$297,000 available for Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM), a target of \$4,593,000 is available for new programming on projects, with a maximum of \$6,470,000. MCOG staff, in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), will be developing the RTIP. In the 2020 RTIP, future funding commitments, when capacity allows, were identified for the following projects:

- N. State Street Intersection/Interchange –CON \$1,602,000 (County of Mendocino)
- Gualala Downtown Streetscape – CON up to \$3,050,000 (Caltrans)

He then reviewed funding amounts required for each project and presented options. Staff is seeking direction before consulting with the TAC. Ms. Barrett added that staff anticipates receiving a request from Caltrans to add approximately \$200,000 to the Gualala Downtown Streetscape in order to complete the environmental document for the project. Staff will also be seeking funds through the Active Transportation Program. Director Gjerde asked whether any new federal funds would come available in the near term; Ms. Barrett replied that staff will also be seeking state funds from the Caltrans Complete Streets program, and noted the new federal Innovative Concepts program (refer to Agenda #13e). The Chair invited public comment on the item. Public comments included:

- Robert Juengling, GMAC – The community of Gualala highly anticipates the completion of the Gualala Downtown Streetscape and have voiced approval of planning Scenarios 4a and 4b as the final design concept.
- Tom Murphy, GMAC – Further prolonged debate over the Gualala project would result in negative impacts; further data is unnecessary, and remaining disputes could be settled quickly with Caltrans now they are more fully staffed.

Mr. Sookne recapped options available including existing projects and opening to new proposals. Board discussion included:

- Preference not to jeopardize Gualala’s project. (Kanne)
- Take care of projects already on the books. Are any new proposals known? (Haschak)
- More information and options are requested prior to further direction and action. (Consensus)

Staff was directed to solicit TAC input including new project ideas and to bring the item back to the November board meeting, for action at the December meeting. No formal action was taken.

9-11. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Brown, second by Albin-Smith, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent – Ignacio*): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved.

9. Approval of June 3, 2021 Minutes - as written

10. Approval of Transit Productivity Committee Minutes of July 21, 2021 – as written

11. Approval of First Amendment to Fiscal Year 2021/22 Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) – *to program new grant funding in Work Element 5 and to carry over funds unexpended in FY 2020/21. Total OWP funding increased from \$862,480 to \$1,265,561, an increase of \$403,081. The Executive Director or designee is authorized to sign certifications and OWP Agreement, and forward to Caltrans as required*

12. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Albin-Smith, second by Brown, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent - Ignacio): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

13. Reports - Information

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. Director Ahlstrand stated that Caltrans staff will be providing an updated project status list at the next MCOG meeting, consistent with quarterly management meetings with RTPAs in the District. Director Gjerde appreciated California’s highways after traveling in Oregon and Washington, noting more safety features.
- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. No report.
- c. North Coast Railroad Authority. Director Haschak reported that there hasn’t been a new meeting. He attended the Hopland Municipal Advisory Council, where they discussed the conversion of the railroad to the Great Redwood Trail, and meetings with landowners in the Eel River canyon Ms. Ellard is tracking Senate Bill 69; next hearing scheduled for August 19.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to her written staff report.

Director Albin-Smith was excused for another commitment at approximately 3:00 p.m.

- e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. *Innovative Concepts Proposals Submitted – Biden Administration’s American Jobs Plan.* Ms. Barrett explained that, in preparation for potential federal funding proposed for infrastructure, Caltrans put out a call for Innovative Concept proposals that aligned with statewide transportation priorities. MCOG staff submitted six concepts: Brooktrails Second Access, Mobility Solutions in Rural Communities, Noyo Harbor Multimodal Improvement Project, Orchard Avenue Extension Phases I & II, an extension of the Rail Trail to Mendocino College, and a new Mendocino Transit Authority transit center in Ukiah. Appreciation was expressed to staff for submitting the broad range of proposals.
 - ii. *Miscellaneous.* None.
 - iii. *Next Meeting Date.* Monday, October 4, 2021.
- f. MCOG Planning Staff
 - i. *2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Action Transportation Update.* Ms. Ellard reported that staff has made many public input outreach efforts and listed them. Staff anticipates having a draft for public comment in September or October, which they will present to the Board in November.
 - ii. *Local Road Safety Plans Update: Report Your Area of Concern at Mendocino Safe Roads [www.mendocinosaferoads.com].* Ms. Ellard reported that staff has been working with the consultant, TJKM, and have finished the first round of five stakeholder workshops. She referred to the budget included in her written staff report. The project is scheduled to end in spring.

iii. *Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award.* Ms. Ellard gave an overview of the grant for MCOG's Feasibility Study – Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino County. The total grant awarded is \$177,060, with a required local match of \$22,940, for a total project of \$200,000. Director Gjerde was interested in researching rural ride-hailing services that could feed into the fixed transit routes, as part of the project scope. Appreciation was expressed for pursuing this project to meet transportation needs.

iv. *Miscellaneous.* None.

g. MCOG Directors. No reports.

h. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. There was no report.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant