



**MENDOCINO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

525 South Main Street~Ukiah~California~95482
www.mendocinocog.org

NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Administration: Suite B
(707) 463-1859
Transportation Planning: Suite G
(707) 234-3434

AGENDA

Monday, November 3, 2025

BUS AND WALKING TOUR OF UKIAH AREA TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Approximate Schedule:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12:15 pm - Depart 12:30 | County Administration Center 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah | Tour group boards MTA charter bus - <i>Rain or shine</i> |
| 12:30 pm <i>Call to Order/Roll Call, Convene as RTPA</i> | Ukiah Valley bus and walking tour | Tour Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Redemeyer Road extension (planned) ▪ Ackerman Creek Bridge construction ▪ North State St. roundabout (planned) ▪ Ukiah Downtown Streetscape ▪ Great Redwood Trail – <i>optional walk</i> ▪ New Courthouse construction |
| 3:30 / 3:45 | Brief recess | Return to Admin. Center, disembark and reconvene in adjacent building, 890 Bush St. |
| 3:45 / 4:00 pm - <i>Adjourn appx. 5pm</i> | UC Farm Advisors Conference Room County Agriculture Dept. building 890 North Bush Street, Ukiah | MCOG Board regular meeting |

* Transportation provided by Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA).
Members of the public may ride along on a space-available basis.
Email the MCOG office at lowbladj@dow-associates.com by 10:00 a.m. on day of tour to reserve a seat.

REGULAR MEETING

3:30-4:00 p.m. – *estimated start time*

Primary Location:

UC Farm Advisors Conference Room
890 North Bush Street, Ukiah

Teleconference Locations:

Fort Bragg City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg
Point Arena City Hall, 451 School St., Point Arena
Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union St., Eureka

General Public Teleconference:

Zoom videoconference link is provided by request. Please submit access request to info@mendocinocog.org or call MCOG Administration at (707) 463-1859.

Audio Call-in Option: 1 (669) 900-6833 (in CA)
Meeting ID: 830 3627 9619 Passcode: 293405

Attachments Posted

[Board of Directors - Mendocino Council of Governments \(mendocinocog.org\)](http://www.mendocinocog.org)

Additional Media

For live streaming and later viewing:

[Mendocino County Video](#) or find
[YouTube link at http://www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org) under Meetings

**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)**

NOTICE: Mendocino Council of Governments meets in person, in a hybrid format. Staff and a potential quorum meet in the Board of Supervisors chambers in Ukiah. Also, board members join remotely by teleconference (audio and video) from City Hall locations in Fort Bragg, Willits and Point Arena. Policy Advisory Committee member(s) usually join from Caltrans District 1 office in Eureka. The general public may join from any of these posted locations or by calling in to the teleconference.

Several ways to make public comments to MCOG's Board of Directors are available:

- In advance of the meeting: comments may be sent by email to info@mendocinocog.org or by using the form at <https://www.mendocinocog.org/contact-us>, to be read aloud into the public record. Please submit by 10:00 a.m. on the meeting date to ensure comments are received timely, and include the agenda item number(s) addressed.
- During the meeting: make oral comments in person, or on the conference call by phone or video, when public comment is invited by the Chair.

Thanks to all for your interest and cooperation.

NOTE: *All items are considered for action unless otherwise noted.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Convene as RTPA
3. Tour of Local Transportation Projects
4. Brief Recess as RTPA
5. Reconvene in Conference Room as Policy Advisory Committee
6. Assembly Bill 2449 Notifications and Considerations – *to receive and address requests from Board members to participate in the meeting from a non-posted location, subject to conditions set forth in AB 2449*

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items are considered for approval in accordance with Administrative Staff, Committee, and/or Directors' recommendations and will be enacted by a single motion. Items may be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration, upon request by a Director or citizen.

7. Approval of October 6, 2025 Minutes
8. Approval of Letter in Support of Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project

PUBLIC EXPRESSION – *Please refer to Notice above*

9. Participation is welcome in Council meetings. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person and not more than ten minutes per subject, so that everyone can be heard. "Public Expression" time is limited to matters under the Council's jurisdiction that may not have been considered by the Council previously and are not on the agenda. No action will be taken. Members of the public may comment also during specific agenda items when recognized by the Chair.

REGULAR CALENDAR

10. Discussion of Ukiah Valley Area Tour, Transportation Plans & Projects, and Related Matters
11. Discussion/Direction: Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

RATIFY ACTION

12. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee

REPORTS

13. Reports – Information – *No Action*
 - a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information
 - b. Mendocino Transit Authority
 - c. Great Redwood Trail Agency
 - d. MCOG Staff – Summary of Meetings
 - e. MCOG Administration Staff – *verbal reports*
 - i. Miscellaneous
 - ii. Next Meeting Date – Monday, December 1, 2025
 - f. MCOG Planning Staff
 - i. Draft 2026 Regional Transportation & Active Transportation Plan (RTP & ATP)
 - ii. Miscellaneous
 - g. Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Staff
 - h. MCOG Directors
 - i. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates

ADJOURNMENT

14. Adjourn

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) and TRANSLATION REQUESTS

Persons who require special accommodations, accessible seating, or documentation in alternative formats under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or persons who require interpretation services (free of charge) are advised to contact the MCOG office at (707) 463-1859, **at least five days** before the meeting.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento especial, asientos accesibles, o documentación en formatos alternativos de acuerdo con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, o personas que requieren servicios de interpretación (sin cargo) deben comunicarse con MCOG (707) 463-1859, por lo menos cinco días antes de la reunión.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The Brown Act, Section 54954.2, states that the Board may take action on off-agenda items when:

- a) a majority vote determines that an “emergency situation” exists as defined in Section 54956.5, **or**
- b) a two-thirds vote of the body, or a unanimous vote of those present, determines that there is a need to take immediate action and the need for action arose after the agenda was legally posted, **or**
- c) the item was continued from a prior, legally posted meeting not more than five calendar days before this meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

If agendaized, MCOG may adjourn to a closed session to consider litigation or personnel matters (i.e. contractor agreements). Discussion of litigation or pending litigation may be held in closed session by authority of Govt. Code Section 54956.9; discussion of personnel matters by authority of Govt. Code Section 54957.

POSTED 10/28/2025

Next Resolution Number: M2025-11



50 Years

1972 - 2022

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Primary Location:

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers
Room 1070, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

Teleconference Locations:

Fort Bragg City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg
Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits
Point Arena City Hall, 451 School St., Point Arena
Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union St., Eureka

General Public Teleconference by Zoom

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

[Mendocino County Video](#) or find
[YouTube link at http://www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org) under Meetings

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 and Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. with Directors present: John Haschak, Mike Carter, Madeline Cline, Heather Criss, and Matthew Alaniz in Ukiah; Jeff Hansen in Point Arena; Marcia Rafanan in Fort Bragg; and Tatiana Ahlstrand for Caltrans/PAC in Eureka. Chair Haschak presiding.

Staff present in Ukiah: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO; Jody Lowblad, Administrative Assistant; James Sookne, Program Manager; Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst; and Orion Walker, Energy Program Manager.

Staff present by Zoom: Michael Villa, Project Coordinator.

Guests present by Zoom: Katie Everett, Caltrans District 1, for Agenda item #12.

2. Assembly Bill 2449 Notifications and Considerations. This item is to receive and address requests from Board members to participate in the meeting from a non-posted location, subject to conditions set forth in AB 2449. There were no such requests.

3. Amendment of Administrative & Fiscal Services Contract with Dow & Associates to Add Staff for Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Duties and to Fund Administrative Staff Transition. Executive Director Barrett summarized her staff report, explaining changes to the NREN budget as a result of additional duties, and also the schedule for Ms. Orth's retirement (refer to Agenda 15e, Reports). Chair Haschak voiced appreciation to the NREN governing partners for reallocating funds to accommodate an increase for MCOG's program, showing unity and collaboration. Public comments were invited, hearing none.

Upon motion by Criss, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Rafanan, Cline, Alaniz, Hansen, Carter, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the proposed second amendment to the Dow & Associates Administrative & Fiscal

Services contract to add a new Energy Program Senior Specialist position, and additional part-time hours for the current Deputy Director/CFO on a temporary basis following her retirement, is approved.

4. Public Hearing: Draft Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Methodology. Program Manager Sookne reported proper notice of the hearing as provided in the agenda packet. He then explained new procedures for developing the Regional Housing Needs Assessment for the new cycle 2027 through 2035, briefly summarizing his written report. Ms. Barrett clarified the methodology is distinct from the actual allocation, so that work can continue on the draft allocation during a 60-day comment period available to the State Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD).

Chair Haschak praised the appeal letter that was sent to HCD (provided in the agenda packet) and appreciated all involved with drafting it.

The public hearing was opened at 1:50 p.m. Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, expressed appreciation for the work of MCOG staff. There were no further public comments.

In discussion, Director Cline asked how the Board could assist and support this conversation. Ms. Barrett suggested that long-term RHNA reform will need to be made through legislation, rather than the successive adjustments by HCD that make it more difficult to reach targets. Housing unit numbers issued by HCD must be incorporated into city and county Housing Elements of their general plans. The State may apply penalties for lack of compliance.

Director Haschak reported that CALCOG is addressing these problems statewide, noting the nexus with transportation.

Director Alaniz asked about options for action in the event MCOG's appeal is denied. Staff replied that according to statute, if no answer is received from HCD within 45 days, or if the appeal is denied, MCOG must proceed with the number of units originally assigned by HCD. Likewise, if no word from HCD within the 60-day window, MCOG may go forward with its proposed methodology. To further clarify exposure to any penalties, Mr. Sookne reported expected compliance with the previous cycle's assignment of 1,845 units, as compared to HCD's 6,456 units this cycle and MCOG's appeal for a reduction to 4,936 units, either of which will be difficult to achieve.

The hearing was closed at 1:55 p.m. No action was taken.

5. Convene as RTPA

6. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

7 - 8. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Alaniz, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*8 Ayes – Rafanan, Cline, Alaniz, Hansen, Carter, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved.

7. Approval of August 18, 2025 Minutes – as written

8. Adoption of Resolution Approving the FY 2025/26 Project List for the California State of Good Repair Program – Mendocino Transit Authority – Repair & Rehabilitation of Three Gillig Coach Buses – Heat and Air Systems

Resolution No. M2025-10

Approving the FY 2025/26 Project List for the
California State of Good Repair Program
(Reso. #M2025-10 is incorporated herein by reference)

9. Public Expression. Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, thanked Director Ahlstrand (Caltrans) for speaking with him about safety issues, and he approved of having a zero fatalities plan. He suggested an opportunity to discuss safety at a forum in the California Conservation Corps' new Willits facility the following Thursday. Also he called for awareness of bumps in the road at each end of the US-101 bypass of Willits, which can potentially cause sparks from trailer chains and ignite dry grass.

10. Presentation: Draft Noyo Harbor Multimodal Circulation Plan – MCOG Staff. Ms. Barrett made this presentation, noting the consultant’s presentations to other local groups. Highlights of the slides included:

- Statement of study purpose
- Harbor Context - existing conditions, operations and history
- Current conditions – limited multimodal access, lack of emergency route, opportunities
- September festival – 200+ attendees, 80+ survey responses at project booth, promotion
- October workshop – well attended, received comments, suggestions
- Stakeholder engagement – survey results, project team meetings, public involvement
- April two-day charrette workshop – walking tours, in-depth discussion, broad attendance
- Project recommendations – while no funding is identified to date for capital improvements, feedback is requested on eight recommendations:
 - Walkway into/through harbor – estimated construction cost \$2.2 million and \$1.5 million for two continuous walking access segments.
 - Parking reallocation – estimated cost \$10-\$20,000; business owners were receptive to this idea.
 - Stairway underneath the Noyo Bridge (SR-1) – estimated cost \$2.4 million; this was popular with attendees.
 - Wayfinding signage with cultural information – estimated cost \$29,000.
 - Bus routes to reduce traffic as a short-term MTA project – estimated cost \$165,000 per year.
 - Water taxis run by an operator other than MTA.
 - Emergency access extension and a coastal trail connection – estimated cost \$674,000; this involves issues with developing a road where property is privately owned, and would be implemented by City of Fort Bragg.
 - Intersection improvements at Highway 1 and North Harbor Drive – estimated cost \$3 million for a roundabout; this would be a long-term project, while short-term solutions may be available.
- Comments received to date – staff will circulate the summary to the Board.

The plan is anticipated to be finalized in November or December. There was no board discussion. The Chair opened to public comments.

Peter McNamee considered this an important plan. Recently the City of Fort Bragg and the Blue Economy group studied sea level rise, noting the harbor is at risk of flooding from storm surges and river drainage. This has been observed already with a recent king tide, doing major damage to the harbor, at a cost of more than \$1 million; he noted those affected. An objective of this plan was to address traffic issues, while there do not appear to be sea level rise study results. If MCOG allocates funding to these projects, the life cycle of the investments should be considered in light of these conditions. It is a complex issue.

Ms. Barrett responded that MCOG is working with the County on a Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study. Transportation infrastructure is just one part of planning for the harbor. City and other key stakeholders have been involved with the Noyo Harbor planning. In later phases, any implementation project arising from this plan will require design to be resilient to sea level rise impacts.

No action was taken. Information: <https://noyooceancollective.org/multimodal-circulation-plan/>

11. Presentation: Public Draft 2026 Regional Transportation & Active Transportation Plan (RTP & ATP) – MCOG Staff. Mr. Sookne made this presentation, noting various modal elements covered in this 20-year plan. The last RTP/ATP was adopted in 2022. The 2026 plan is tied to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), which will affect the schedule for adoption, targeted for the December or February meeting. Highlights of the slides included:

- Public outreach and data collected
- Goals, Objectives and Policies
- Financial/Funding constraints
- Action Plans for each modal element, i.e. State Highways, County Roads and City Streets, Active Transportation, Public Transit, and Tribal Transportation
- Next Steps – continued public outreach, public hearing and adoption of environmental documents, adoption of final plans.

The slide presentation is available at: <https://www.mendocinocog.org/2025-10-06-board-of-directors-public-hearing-and-presentations>.

In Board discussion, Director Hansen asked about the issue of Garcia River flooding on State Route 1. Staff will address this with Caltrans as a future project. Director Haschak reported comments heard about needing an additional off-ramp from the Willits Bypass at East Hill Road. Director Alaniz agreed with this assertion. Staff would have to discuss this with Caltrans.

In public comment, Peter McNamee summarized certain major themes in the presentation that he supported. He brought up three main issues of concern: rail, climate change, and reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Due to various problems identified with rail service or lack thereof, MCOG should seriously consider excluding rail from the plan.

Comments were noted by staff for the record. No action was taken.

12. Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project Update – Caltrans District 1. Ms. Barrett introduced Katie Everett, Project Manager, who made the presentation. Highlights included:

- Project status – funded and ready to list February 2026, right-of-way acquisition ongoing, construction in 2026-2027, coastal development permit appeal ongoing
- Features – turn lanes, bicycle lanes, crosswalks with beacons, radar feedback signs, improved drainage
- Two layouts shown – no on-street parking (not allowed by California Coastal Commission)
- Requested landscaping – requires maintenance agreement, working with County Board of Supervisors
- Native landscaping – to surround other areas of project
- Gualala Town Plan public improvement financing – can make improvements consistent with various methods, e.g. development fees, TOT, special district creation.

In Board discussion, Director Haschak asked whether landscaping would be eligible for a downtown beautification grant. Ms. Everett replied the project timeline would not allow for it. Ms. Barrett noted a grant would likely not cover ongoing maintenance. For the benefit of the newer board members, she gave some background of MCOG's support for the project.

In public comment, Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, cited examples of landscaping plans in Santa Rosa; perhaps annual contracts with local landscape professionals could be feasible.

No action was taken.

13. Allocation of Additional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Funds: \$215,000 from the Partnership Program for the Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project. Mr. Sookne summarized his written report of project background of this two-mile long trail, mostly on the state highway. Environmental work started in 2015 and design in 2018. Remaining work to complete construction is installation of a pedestrian bridge. Costs have risen during project delays and design changes, so additional funding was needed. To date MCOG has contributed a total of \$511,870, from its STBG Partnership program.

Director Cline left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

In discussion, Director Haschak noted project benefits already realized; there have been no fatalities since the trail was built. Mr. Sookne reported the corridor previously had a fatality rate of nearly 21 times the statewide average for similar facilities.

Director Alaniz acknowledged delays, noting this request is 40 percent of MCOG's funding to date, a significant increase. He asked the total cost of the project. Staff identified over \$8 million from all sources, putting this request in context of State grants and investments made.

Upon motion by Criss, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Rafanan, Alaniz, Hansen, Carter, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent – Cline): IT IS ORDERED that an additional \$215,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Partnership funding is allocated to the Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project, allowing the project to be completed as designed.

Information: <https://www.mendocinocog.org/covelo-sr-162-corridor-multi-purpose-trail>

14. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Carter, second by Criss, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Rafanan, Alaniz, Hansen, Carter, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent – Cline): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

15. Reports - Information

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. Director Ahlstrand reported on State Route 20 at Road 144 (East Side Road off-ramp in Redwood Valley), where the traffic safety team did a field review, noting two collisions since January 2025, so minor corrections will be made at the location. The annual planning grant program cycle is open for proposals, due November 21; district staff can work with applicants. The quarterly Milestone report will be updated soon. The district's transit plan is in progress with transit operators identifying needs on the state highway system.
- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Executive Director Jacob King reported a consultant had been hired for design of MTA's solar canopy and electric vehicle charging infrastructure project.
- c. Great Redwood Trail Agency. Director Haschak reported Senator McGuire secured \$50 million from Proposition 4, for completion of the master plan and environmental restoration of the Eel River canyon. A resolution was passed on the board's framework for environmental review, including CEQA exemption, cleanup of legacy toxic chemicals, tribal and other partnerships.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. The written summary was provided as usual. Ms. Orth reported on the recent 16-county North State Super Region meeting in Chico, where she gave a presentation of the North State ZEV Working Group, a sub-committee she initiated and has led since 2020 and will be handing off in October. The meeting was part of several events with the California Transportation Commission's Town Hall at Butte County Association of Governments. Chair Haschak thanked Ms. Orth for her leadership.
- e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. Status of Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Amendment Execution. Ms. Orth reported the last administrative steps for the amendment that was approved by all of the MCOG member governments to add energy efficiency and climate-related programs to the specific powers. To date, County of Mendocino and City of Fort Bragg had signed off, while the Cities of Ukiah, Willits, and Point Arena were pending. Board members asked whether they could assist; she would let them know if needed.

- ii. *Deputy Director & CFO Retirement & Recruitment.* Ms. Barrett reported that Ms. Orth would retire from full time at the end of December, then assist on a limited part time basis with a transition through September 2026 (end of a staffing contract year), and made appreciative remarks. Ms. Orth will have served as MCOG staff for 30 years, and she planned to complete the next fiscal audit and see the next budget through to adoption. The board members were encouraged to spread the word of this open position.
 - iii. *Miscellaneous.* The Clean California grant program released a new Call for Projects, due November 1, as noted in the Information Packet.
 - iv. *Next Meeting Date – Monday, November 3, 2025 – Transportation Tour – Ukiah Valley.* Ms. Barrett reported initial plans for the day, and asked the Board to expect to start earlier and stay longer than for a typical meeting. The group would likely gather at the County Administration Center to start the tour.
- f. MCOG Planning Staff
- i. *2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund Estimate and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).* Hector Ortega, Project Analyst, reported with details of the new cycle. Since MCOG had previously programmed an advance of funds from future cycles, no additional funding is available at this time. The Technical Advisory Committee was consulted on any needed changes, with none requested. A draft will be provided in November, and final adoption scheduled for the December meeting.
 - ii. *Work Element 5 – Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study.* The website is now live at www.MendocinoSLRstudy.org A draft community engagement plan has been reviewed by interested stakeholders and comments received.
 - iii. *Work Element 8 – Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program.* This grant-funded project was amended into MCOG’s Overall Work Program in August. Procurement of a consultant will begin as soon as notice to proceed is received from Caltrans.
 - iv. *Miscellaneous.* None.
- g. Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Staff. Energy Program Manager Orion Walker reviewed highlights of his written report. Phone-based home assessments were up and running, available to utility customers in the county, though not available to those off grid. Outreach activities continued, with free energy-saving kits. Staff would be traveling to Lake Tahoe in October to meet in person with the other governing partners (location is rotated). More information: <https://northernren.org/>
- h. MCOG Directors. None.
- i. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Haschak reported meeting with delegates virtually on September 29, where Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) reform and other ongoing statewide issues were discussed.

16. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO



MENDOCINO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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November 3, 2025

Agenda # 8
Consent Calendar
MCOG Meeting
11/3/2025

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Support for CDP 2024-0040, Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancements

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing on behalf of the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) to express support for the Coastal Development Permit for the Gualala Downtown Streetscape Project (CDP# 2024-0040). Support for the project permit was approved by the MCOG Board of Directors at their meeting of November 3, 2025.

The Gualala Downtown Streetscape project is a Caltrans implemented project that will provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities and vehicular circulation improvements on State Route 1 through downtown Gualala. There are currently no bike lanes or other bicycle infrastructure in the project area and almost no sidewalks. Pedestrians are forced to weave around parked vehicles, resulting in unsafe conditions and conflicts between modes. The project originated through community planning efforts conducted by MCOG and funded through State transportation planning grants. These planning efforts, which included extensive public engagement, identified a strong need for walking and biking infrastructure to enhance safety in the Gualala community along SR 1. Following these planning efforts, MCOG approved Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funding in 2013 for Caltrans to begin environmental work on the project. MCOG again awarded RIP funding for subsequent components of the project in 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2024, for a total of \$3,415,000. The conditions and the safety improvements that would be provided by the project resulted in the project being awarded a grant in 2022 from the highly competitive state Active Transportation Program grant of \$7.3 million for construction.

We are pleased to offer support for Coastal Development Permit 2024-0040, which will allow Caltrans to move forward with this project after many years of planning and project development and bring much needed safety and circulation benefits to the community.

Sincerely,

Nephele Barrett
Executive Director

cc: Liam Crowley, County DPBS
Katie Everett, Caltrans



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Discussion of 2026 STIP Fund Estimate & RTIP

DATE PREPARED: 10/27/25

MEETING DATE: 11/03/25

SUBMITTED BY: Hector Ortega, Project Analyst

BACKGROUND:

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a multi-year capital improvement program of transportation projects on and off the State Highway System, funded with revenues from the Transportation Investment Fund and other funding sources. STIP programming generally occurs every two years. The programming cycle begins with the release of a proposed fund estimate in July of odd-numbered years, followed by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adoption of the fund estimate in August (odd years). The fund estimate serves to identify the amount of new funds available for the programming of transportation projects. Programming of projects is done through development and adoption of a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The CTC adopted the Fund Estimate (FE) for the 2026 STIP at its August 14 meeting. There is \$280,000 in new Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) funds, which are used in MCOG's annual Overall Work Program, with no additional funding for new or existing projects. There is also no unprogrammed balance.

MCOG staff notified the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that no new funds are available and requested input on whether any changes were needed to existing projects.

Although there is no new funding available for projects, MCOG is still required to prepare and adopt an RTIP. Staff has developed a draft RTIP, which is attached for the Board's review and comment. The final RTIP will be presented to the Board for adoption at the December meeting.

ACTION REQUIRED: Review and discuss the draft 2026 RTIP.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and discuss the draft 2026 RTIP.

Mendocino Council of Governments

2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

DRAFT



INSERT COVER LETTER

2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (2026 RTIP)

Table of Contents

Page Number

Cover Letter

A. Overview and Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| Section 1. Executive Summary | X |
| Section 2. General Information | X |
| Section 3. Background of Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) | X |
| Section 4. Completion of Prior RTIP Projects | X |
| Section 5. RTIP Outreach and Participation | X |

B. 2026 STIP Regional Funding Request

| | |
|--|---|
| Section 6. 2026 STIP Regional Share and Request for Programming | X |
| Section 7. Overview of Other Funding Included in Delivery of RTIP Projects | X |
| Section 8. Interregional Transportation Improvement Program Funding/Needs | X |
| Section 9. Multi-Modal Corridors - Projects Planned Within the Corridor | X |
| Section 10. Highways to Boulevards Conversion Pilot Program | X |
| Section 11. Complete Streets Consideration | X |

C. Relationship of RTIP to RTP/SCS and Benefits of RTIP

| | |
|---|---|
| Section 12. Regional Level Performance Evaluation | X |
| Section 13. Regional and Statewide Benefits of RTIP | X |

D. Performance and Effectiveness of RTIP

| | |
|--|---|
| Section 14. Evaluation of the Cost Effectiveness of RTIP | X |
| Section 15. Project Specific Evaluation | X |

E. Detailed Project Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Section 16. Overview of Projects Programmed with RTIP Funding | X |
|---|---|

F. Appendices

| | |
|---|---|
| Section 17. Project Programming Request Forms | X |
| Section 18. Board Resolution or Documentation of 2026 RTIP Approval | X |
| Section 19. Fact Sheet | X |
| Section 20. Documentation on Coordination with Caltrans District (Optional) | X |
| Section 21. Detailed Project Programming Summary Table (Optional) | X |
| Section 22. Alternative Delivery Methods (Optional) | X |
| Section 23. Additional Appendices (Optional) | X |

Regional agency will complete the Table of Contents above.

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A. Overview and Schedule

Section 1. Executive Summary

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Mendocino County. MCOG is required by California State Law to prepare and adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) by December 15 of each odd numbered year. This RTIP has been developed in conformance with State law and the adopted 2022 Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan.

On August 14, 2025, the California Transportation Commission adopted the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program Fund Estimate. The fund estimate identified no available STIP programming through FY 2030/31 for the Mendocino County region, as future shares were advanced and utilized during the previous STIP cycle. Planning, Programming & Monitoring funds were identified in the amount of \$315,000.

Section 2. General Information

Insert contact information in the text fields below.

- **Mendocino Council of Governments**

- **Agency website links for Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). (insert links below)**
Regional Agency Website Link: <http://www.mendocinocog.org>
RTIP document link: <http://www.mendocinocog.org/mendocino-county-regional-plans>
RTP link: <http://www.mendocinocog.org/mendocino-county-regional-plans>

- **Regional Agency Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer Contact Information**

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <u>Name</u> | Nephele Barrett |
| <u>Title</u> | Executive Director |
| <u>Email</u> | barrettn@dow-associates.com |
| <u>Telephone</u> | 707-463-1859 |

- **RTIP Manager Staff Contact Information**

Name Hector Ortega
Title Regional Project Analyst
Address 525 S. Main St., Ste. G
City/State/Zip Ukiah, CA 95482
Email hortega@dbcteam.net
Telephone 707-234-3434

- **California Department of Transportation Headquarter Contact Information**

Name Sudha Kodali
Title Chief, Division of Financial Programming
Address Office of Capital Improvement Program, Department of Transportation
Mail Station 82. P.O. Box 942874
City/State/Zip Sacramento, CA 94274
Email sudha.kodali@dot.ca.gov / OCIP@dot.ca.gov

- **California Transportation Commission (CTC) Contact Information**

Name Kacey Moore-Gutierrez
Title Associate Deputy Director
Address 1120 N Street, Mail Station 52
City/State/Zip Sacramento, CA 95814
Email Kacey.Moore-Gutierrez@catc.ca.gov

Section 3. Background of Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

A. What is the Regional Transportation Improvement Program?

The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is a program of highway, local road, transit and active transportation projects that a region plans to fund with State and Federal revenue programmed by the California Transportation Commission in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The RTIP is developed biennially by the regions and is due to the Commission by December 15 of every odd numbered year. The program of projects in the RTIP is a subset of projects in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a federally mandated master transportation plan which guides a region's transportation investments over a 20-to-25-year

period. The RTP is based on all reasonably anticipated funding, including federal, state and local sources. Updated every 4 to 5 years, the RTP is developed through an extensive public participation process in the region and reflects the unique mobility, sustainability, and air quality needs of each region.

B. Regional Agency’s Historical and Current Approach to developing the RTIP

Since the passage of SB 45, MCOG has conducted a competitive and inclusive project selection process for utilizing funds available through the State Transportation Improvement Program. In several past STIP cycles, the majority of funding had been programmed for our highest regional project, the US 101 Bypass of Willits. This project had been identified as the highest priority project in our Regional Transportation Plan for many years. In years when the top priority did not need additional programming, other local projects were competitively selected using criteria approved by the MCOG Board. Local agencies and tribal governments have been involved in the process. The project recommendations are made by the Technical Advisory Committee then presented to the MCOG Board, typically in November. The final RTIP and project selection is then adopted by the MCOG Board at a public hearing in December.

Section 4. Completion of Prior RTIP Projects (Required per Section 78)

| Project Name and Location | Description | Summary of Improvements/Benefits |
|--|--|--|
| 2024 Road Rehabilitation on Mountain View Road | Along Mountain View Road (CR 510), from the intersection of State Highway (SH) 1 in Point Arena, mile post (MP) 0.00, to the intersection of SH 128 in Boonville, MP.24.5. Asphalt overlays on roadway segments with sharp turns and steep grades. | This project improved the pavement condition and has created a safer path of travel on one of the main east-west connectors between the south coast and inland Mendocino County. |

Section 5. RTIP Outreach and Participation

A. RTIP Development and Approval Schedule

| Action | Date |
|---|--------------------|
| CTC adopts Fund Estimate and Guidelines | August 14-15, 2025 |
| Caltrans identifies State Highway Needs | September 15, 2025 |
| Caltrans submits draft ITIP | October 15, 2025 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| CTC ITIP Hearing, North | October 30, 2025 |
| CTC ITIP Hearing, South | November 7, 2025 |
| Regional Agency adopts 2026 RTIP | December 1, 2025 |
| Regions submit RTP to CTC | December 15, 2025 |
| Caltrans submits ITIP to CTC | December 15, 2025 |
| CTC STIP Hearing, North | January 28, 2026 |
| CTC STIP Hearing, South | February 5, 2026 |
| CTC publishes staff recommendations | February 27, 2026 |
| CTC Adopts 2026 STIP | March 19-20, 2026 |

B. Community Engagement

RTP projects are derived from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is developed through extensive public participation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public participation process for the draft 2022 RTP was modified to comply with County and State health and safety regulations. In lieu of in-person community workshops, public input was gathered virtually through remote meetings (video and teleconference), and through Social Pinpoint, an on-line public outreach tool posted on MCOG's website. Through this online tool, individuals were able to take a survey, identify needs on a map, and provide additional comments. Public comments were also received through MCOG's website, email, and by telephone. A pre-recorded video presentation on the RTP update and other opportunities for public comment were provided on MCOG's website. Individual virtual presentations on the RTP update were provided to the Westport, Round Valley, Redwood Valley, and Laytonville Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs), many of which are located in disadvantaged communities. A virtual presentation was also provided to the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, and at a quarterly Caltrans District 1 Tribal meeting.

The 2026 RTP is currently being updated and is expected to be adopted by February 2026. As part of this process, extensive public outreach has taken place across the County, including participation at local fairs, farmers markets, and holiday parades, as well as presentations at town halls, city council meetings, and county Board of Supervisors' meetings. Online interactive mapping platforms first adopted during the pandemic have also continued to be used for the current update to collect location-specific feedback and input on transportation needs. Outreach efforts have reached all cities and unincorporated areas of Mendocino County to ensure broad community engagement.

The intent of these online public outreach tools, public and virtual meetings was to collect public input, assess needs, and identify priorities for projects in the Regional Transportation Plan. At these public and virtual meetings, council/committee members and members of the public informed MCOG of their most pressing transportation-related concerns, had the opportunity to ask questions

and get information from MCOG staff. These public input opportunities were advertised in a number of ways including press releases, email lists, social media, and on the MCOG website.

In addition to the public participation that goes into the RTP, the RTIP is then developed through a series of public meetings, including a public hearing which is noticed in regional newspapers.

Although there are no new projects proposed, the existing projects will provide both safety and circulation benefits throughout their respective communities. Complete streets and active transportation benefits will be provided through the bicycle and pedestrian projects and two roundabout projects are being planned which will provide significant improvement to safety, traffic flow and reduction of congestion in some of the most urban areas of the region. No negative community impacts have been identified at this time.

C. Consultation with Caltrans District (Required per Section 20)

Caltrans District: 1

MCOG works with Caltrans in preparation of the RTIP through the Technical Advisory Committee and through participation on the Policy Advisory Committee. For regionally funded projects on the State system, MCOG receives information from project managers at Caltrans regarding needed programming, which is then proposed in the RTIP.

B. 2026 STIP Regional Funding Request

Section 6. 2026 STIP Regional Share and Request for Programming

A. 2026 Regional Fund Share Per 2026 STIP Fund Estimate

Target: \$0

Maximum through FY 31/32: \$485,000

B. Advanced Project Development Element (ADPE)

There is no ADPE capacity identified for the 2026 STIP.

Section 7. Overview of Other Funding Included with Delivery of Regional Improvement Program Projects

[Click here to enter text.](#)

| RTP ID or Page # | Proposed 2026 RTIP | Total RTIP | Other Funding | | | | Total Project Cost |
|------------------|--|---------------|---------------|-----|------------|-------|--------------------|
| | | | ATP | HBP | Local | Other | |
| MC-007-26 | North State Street Intersection & Interchange Improvements | 16,202 | | | 250 | | 16,452 |
| Total | | 16,202 | | | 250 | | 16,452 |

Notes: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Section 8. Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) Funding and Needs

The purpose of the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) is to improve interregional mobility for people and goods in the State of California. As an interregional program, the ITIP is focused on increasing the throughput for highway and rail corridors of strategic importance outside the urbanized areas of the state. A sound transportation network between and connecting urbanized areas ports and borders is vital to the state's economic vitality. The ITIP is a five-year program managed by Caltrans and funded with 25% of new STIP revenues in each cycle. Developed in cooperation with regional transportation planning agencies to ensure an integrated transportation program, the ITIP promotes the goal of improving interregional mobility and connectivity across California. No ITIP funding was requested during the development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Section 9. Projects Planned within Multi-Modal Corridors

The primary corridors in the region are the US 101 Corridor, the SR 20 Corridor, and the SR 1 Corridor. There are no projects currently programmed in the RTIP on the state highway system. However, the North State Street Intersection and Interchange Improvement project will provide intersection improvements that will enhance operations of the US 101 on and off ramps in the north Ukiah area.

Section 10. Highways to Boulevards Conversion Pilot Program

One potential state route in Mendocino County that could be a candidate for a Highways to Boulevards Conversion Pilot Program is State Route (SR) 222, also known as Talmage Road. Although it provides necessary vehicular access to the Talmage community, SR 222 is underutilized and unsafe for nonmotorized users. It has the potential as a boulevard with the Dharma Realm Buddhist University at the eastern terminus and student/faculty traveling between Ukiah and university. The university has submitted a 3-phase development plan for additional campus buildings and dorms to accommodate increased enrollment, furthering the need for complete streets features on SR 222. Caltrans has looked into some complete streets improvements through the SHOPP, but those improvements will not fulfill all the needs. Caltrans is developing an interactive web-based SR 222 Corridor Plan that is currently in the public outreach phase. Once live, stakeholders and the public will be able to provide input to help Caltrans better prioritize improvements along the corridor. The draft plan includes the implementation of Class I and II bicycle lanes and pedestrian facilities.

11. Complete Streets Consideration (per Section 26)

The County's North State Street Intersection and Interchange Improvement project programmed in the RTIP will incorporate incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

C. Relationship of RTIP to RTP/SCS and Benefits of RTIP

Section 12. Regional Level Performance Evaluation (per Section 22A of the guidelines)

The Mendocino County region does not have a Sustainable Communities Strategy or Alternative Planning Scenario. The region is not currently monitoring the performance measures listed in the RTIP template other than Pavement Condition Index on local streets and roads. However, as there are no large-scale local road rehabilitation projects included in the STIP programming for the region, this measurement is not relevant to evaluation of this RTIP. As an alternative to the suggested measures, MCOG has prepared the following evaluation of the effectiveness of RTIP projects in achieving the goals and objectives of the RTP.

Below are relevant goals, objectives and policies excerpted from the 2022 Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan, adopted by MCOG February 7, 2022. Following these goals and policies is a table which summarizes the projects from the 2026 RTIP, some of which have been carried over from previous STIP cycles. Specific goals, objectives and performance measures are then listed which support each project.

Climate Change & the Environment Objectives & Policies (CCE)

- Policy CCE 2.2: Prioritize transportation projects which lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduce vehicle miles traveled and prioritize projects that can mitigate for VMT increasing projects.

Local Streets and Roads Objectives & Policies (LSR)

- Policy LSR 1.3: Prioritize improvements to principal local roadways, particularly those providing primary access to communities, those that connect to the State Highway system, or those that relieve the impact on the State Highway system.

Financial Objectives & Policies (F)

- Objective F 1: Maximize the effectiveness of transportation funding resources.
- Policy F 1.3: Direct Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funding in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to capital projects: (1) on state Highways (2) on major local highways that connect to State Highways (3) on major local highways that facilitate through traffic or otherwise relieve State Highways, or (4) on major local highways that serve communities not served by the State Highway system.

**Summary and Evaluation of Projects from the Mendocino County
2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program**

| Implementing Agency | Project | PPNO | Goals, Policies, Objectives & Performance Measures | Evaluation/Discussion |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|---|--|
| Mendocino County | North State Street Intersection & Interchange Improvements | 4590 | CCE Policy 2.2; LSR Policy 1.3; F Objective 1, Policy 1.3 | Construction of two roundabouts that will reduce vehicle idling at the KUKI intersection and southbound interchange. The project will improve operation at the US 101 off ramp that feeds into it. The STIP funded project will complete improvements to the location that will be partially funded through other sources. |

Key: CCE = Climate Change & the Environment LSR = Local Streets & Roads
F = Financial

Section 13. Regional and Statewide Benefits of RTIP

The existing project provides significant regional and statewide benefits.

It will provide both safety and circulation benefits throughout the Ukiah region. It will provide complete streets and active transportation benefits by incorporating bicycle and pedestrian elements. It will also provide significant improvement to traffic flow and reduction of congestion in one of the most urban areas of the region.

The project programmed in the RTIP serves a wide range of modes and provides a clear benefit to both the region and the state.

D. Performance and Effectiveness of RTIP

Section 14. Evaluation of Cost Effectiveness of RTIP (Required per Section 22B)

The region is not currently collecting quantitative data related to the cost effectiveness indicators listed in the RTIP template other than Pavement Condition Index on local streets and roads. We have, therefore, developed the following qualitative evaluation of the RTIP using the Rural Specific Cost Effectiveness Indicators.

Congestion Reduction: The North State Street Intersection and Interchange Improvement (NSS) project included in this RTIP is an intersection improvement that will provide roundabouts at congested intersections. These intersections are all at high volume locations which experience severe congestion at peak times. These improvements will significantly reduce vehicle idling and congestion by providing enhanced bicycle and pedestrian access through busy areas, encouraging greater use of these alternative forms of transportation and less vehicular travel in congested areas.

Infrastructure Condition: The NSS project will add new sidewalks and improve pavement conditions, resulting in improved quality to North State Street, which is the busiest road in the region.

Safety: The NSS project in the RTIP will result in fewer vehicle conflicts.

Environmental Sustainability: The NSS project in the RTIP will enhance environmental sustainability in the region's transportation system by decreasing idling and thereby decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Section 15. Project Specific Evaluation (Required per Section 22C and 22D)

MCOG is not proposing any new projects that require project specific evaluations.

E. Detailed Project Information

Section 16. Overview of Projects Programmed with RTIP Funding

Provide project information per Section 48 of the STIP Guidelines.

| AGENCY | PROJECT | Component | Prior | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 |
|--------|--|-----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| County | North State Street Intersection & Interchange Improvements | E&P | 132 | | | | | |
| | | PS&E | 1800 | | | | | |
| | | ROW | 370 | | | | | |
| | | CON | | 13,900 | | | | |
| MCOG | PPM | | | 129 | 129 | 104 | 104 | 103 |

F. Appendices

Section 17. Projects Programming Request Forms (Provide Cover Sheet) – Regional Agencies will add their PPRs in this section for each project included in the RTIP, whether it is a project reprogrammed from the 2024 STIP, or a new project.

Section 18. Board Resolution or Documentation of 2026 RTIP Approval (Provide Cover Sheet) – *Agencies will add their resolution or meeting minutes.*

Section 19. Fact Sheet (1-2 pages) (See Section 50) – The fact sheet will be posted on the Commission’s website and must comply with state and federal web accessibility laws and standards.

Section 20. Alternative Delivery Methods (Optional) (See Section 71)

Section 21. Additional Appendices (Optional)



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda #13d
Reports
MCOG Meeting
11/3/2025

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Summary of Meetings

DATE PREPARED: 10/28/2025

SUBMITTED BY: Jody Lowblad, Administrative Assistant

BACKGROUND: Since our last regular MCOG meeting packet, MCOG Administration and Planning staff have attended (or will have attended) the following meetings on behalf of MCOG:

| Date | Meeting/Event | Staff |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Oct. 1, 17, 29 | Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Programs Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 1 | NREN Public Outreach - Ukiah Senior Center | Walker |
| Oct. 1 | Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Workshop - Fort Bragg | Sookne & Ortega |
| Oct. 2 | RTP Workshop - Point Arena | Sookne & Ortega |
| Oct. 2 | RTP Workshop – Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) | Sookne |
| Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 23, 30 | NREN Residential Resource Acquisition (RA) Breakout Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 2 | NREN Admin. Meeting | Walker, Felice, Barrett, Lowblad & Orth |
| Oct. 3 | Mendocino College Automotive Tech Ribbon Cutting – EV Program | Orth |
| Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | NREN Residential Equity Breakout Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 6 | RTP Workshop - Ukiah | Ortega |
| Oct. 7 | CALCOG Directors Association of California (CDAC) in Sacramento | Barrett |
| Oct. 7 | 2026 RTP Update Public Draft Workshop - Zoom | Sookne & Ortega |
| Oct. 8 | Streamline Website DocAccess ADA Accessibility Agreement | Orth, Lowblad |
| Oct. 8, 21 | NREN Marketing Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 8, 22 | NREN Governing Partners Meeting | Barrett, Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 9 | NREN Finance Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 9 | NREN Mendocino RA Pipeline Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 14 | Brooktrails Second Access Project Devt. Team (PDT) Meeting | Barrett & Villa |
| Oct. 15 | NREN Public Outreach - Ukiah Senior Center | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 16 | CA Trans. Commission (CTC) Meeting –Merced - Remotely | Orth |
| Oct. 16, 17 | NREN Governing Partners Meeting in Truckee | Barrett, Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 20 | MCOG Board Tour Planning Meeting w/County & City staff | Barrett & Lowblad |
| Oct. 21 | NREN Commercial RA Breakout Meeting | Walker & Felice |
| Oct. 21 | Pavement Mgmt. Program (PMP) Consultant Selection Committee | Barrett, Davey-Bates, Ortega, Sookne, Pedrotti |
| Oct. 22 | North State ZEV Working Group | Orth |
| Oct. 28 | Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) Workshop | Barrett |
| Oct. 28 | SB 125 TIRCP-ZETCP Reporting with MTA Staff | Barrett & Orth |
| Oct. 29 | Caltrans/RTPA Management Meeting | Barrett & Davey-Bates |
| Oct. 30 | Redwood Region Rise Meeting | Barrett |

We will provide information to the Board regarding the outcome of any of these meetings as requested.

ACTION REQUIRED: None.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: None. This is for information only.



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

Agenda #13f
Reports
MCOG Meeting
11/3/2025

TITLE: Public Draft 2026 Regional Transportation
& Action Transportation Plan (RTP & ATP)

DATE PREPARED: 10/27/25

SUBMITTED BY: James Sookne, Program Manager

MEETING DATE: 11/3/25

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan (RTP/ATP) is the region's long-term planning document covering a 20-year time span intended to promote a safe and efficient transportation system for the movement of people and goods throughout the region. The primary purpose of the plan is to identify transportation needs and priority projects in all modes of transportation including streets, highways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, aviation and transit. Updated every four years, the RTP/ATP covers present and future transportation needs, deficiencies and constraints, as well as providing estimates of available funding for future transportation projects in the region.

On September 16, staff released the Public Draft RTP/ATP, which can be found on the MCOG website at: <https://www.mendocinocog.org/2026-regional-transportation-active-transportation-plan>. Staff presented the draft at the October 6 Board meeting. As part of the public outreach process, staff hosted four in-person public workshops around the county between September 22 and October 6. There was also a county-wide virtual workshop on October 7. Comments on the public draft will be taken from the Board, interested agencies, and the public through November 5 and incorporated as appropriate into a final draft, which will then be presented to the Board for adoption, tentatively in December. Public comments will also be accepted at the public hearing in December but will need to be received by November 5 to be considered for the updated draft.

ACTION REQUIRED: None. Informational only.

ALTERNATIVES: None.

RECOMMENDATION: None. Informational only.



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Update

DATE PREPARED: 10/28/25

MEETING DATE: 11/3/25

SUBMITTED BY: Orion Walker, Energy Program Manager

MCOG's NREN staff has been focusing on promoting and delivering our residential programs while continuing to work with our regional partners to develop our non-residential programs. Highlights of recent activity are as follows:

- Staff have been working with local Senior Centers to host events where seniors receive an energy efficiency kit, sign up for a phone-based home assessment, and chat with staff about energy-saving strategies. Two events were held at the Ukiah Senior Center in October, and upcoming events are scheduled in Willits and Fort Bragg.
- Staff (Executive Director and Energy Program Manager) traveled to Truckee for a strategic planning meeting with the governing partners on Oct. 16-17. The meeting focused on refining decision making and operations processes implementation plans for 2026/2027 and strategic planning for the next funding cycle beginning in 2028.
- Residential programs are ongoing, with rebate applications being received and processed, phone-based home assessments being conducted, and energy efficiency kits being distributed.
- Staff are currently conducting interviews to hire the additional Specialist position approved at last month's meeting. Once hired and trained, this new staff member will primarily assist with outreach and expanding capacity for delivering programs.
- Staff are working with regional partners to develop residential and non-residential "direct install" programs which will be launched in early 2026. These programs involve working directly with contractors to streamline installation and rebate processes for customers.
- Staff is working with regional partners on development/planning for roll out of additional programs next year: Workforce Education and Training, Codes and Standards, Financing, and Public Services.
- The regional website (northernren.org) continues to be updated and developed with additional content. Residents can sign up there for Free Energy Efficiency Kits, Rebates, and Energy Efficiency Home Assessments.

ACTION REQUIRED: No action required – information only.

ALTERNATIVES: None.

RECOMMENDATION: No action required – information only.