

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*

February 18, 2025

Members Present

Chantell O' Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena
Jason Wise, MCDOT
Blake Batten, Caltrans
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah

Members Absent

Jacob King, MTA
Doug Gearhart, AQMD
Andrea Trincado, City of Ukiah
Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Liam Crowley, DPBS
Alicia Winokur, MCDOT

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Michael Villa, MCOG Administration
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Hector Ortega, MCOG Planning
Kyle Finger, Caltrans
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning
Dave Shpak, Gualala MAC
Valerie Stanley, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo
Indians

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** – Valerie Stanley from the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians participated via Zoom. Staff clarified that this is a standing TAC agenda item intended to provide tribal government representatives an opportunity to share transportation-related updates, concerns, plans, or projects relevant to MCOG's jurisdiction and activities.

Valerie stated that Sherwood Valley did not have any transportation-related updates to report at this time and requested that, sometime in the next few months, MCOG send a letter to the 10 tribal governments in Mendocino County and the 2 non-federally recognized tribes to inform them of this opportunity to bring transportation-related matters to the TAC. Nephele agreed that this would be a helpful step and indicated they would follow up. Nephele noted that while updating tribal contact information previously, MCOG had information for the Yokayo Tribe, but had difficulty locating contact information for Noyo, the other non-federally recognized tribe. Valerie confirmed that she is also the representative for Noyo and advised MCOG to contact her through Sherwood Valley so that information can be routed appropriately.

4. **Approval of Minutes of 01/21/2026–**
Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Blake Batten to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Chantell, Tim, Blake, Paul, Jason).

5. **FY 2026/27 Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) – Review & Recommendation** Alexis presented the Draft FY 2026–2027 Overall Work Program (OWP) and noted that only one project application was received for the upcoming OWP cycle, submitted by County DOT, and that the application was fully funded in the draft OWP after reviewing available funding and estimated revenues. The draft also includes previously discussed funding commitments, including the Davey-Bates Consulting planning staff contract; final budget figures for that contract will be incorporated into the final OWP once final CPI numbers and contract commitments are available. In addition, it was mentioned that MCOG staff submitted a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant application for the SR 20 Willits Multimodal Circulation and Intersection Improvement Study. The required local match of \$47,200 has been set aside under Work Element 10, though the grant funds themselves have not been included in the OWP because the award has not yet been announced. The draft OWP also includes annual direct expenses such as the RCTF license for StreetSaver and staff training.

Alexis indicated that several projects are expected to carry into FY 2026–2027, including the Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program, the Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study, and the Pavement Management Program Update. Additionally, Nephele added that a new task was added under Work Element 1 to periodically evaluate progress on Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) strategies, with TAC potentially serving as the group for this review a couple of times per year. The draft OWP will be submitted to Caltrans by the February 27, 2026, deadline, after which Caltrans comments will be incorporated, and the final OWP will return to TAC in April 2026 for review and recommendation.

Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Jason Wise, to approve the Draft 2026/27 Overall Work Program for submittal to Caltrans by the February 27th deadline. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 ayes – Chantell, Tim, Blake, Paul, Jason).

6. **Staff Reports (Verbal)**

a. Sea-Level Rise Roadway Impact Study – Hector reported that the project remains in the community engagement phase and that community workshops are anticipated to occur in March.

b. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program – Hector reported that the RFP remains under review and the goal is to distribute the RFP by the end of the week.

c. 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – James reported that comments on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) are currently being incorporated. James also noted that most of the submitted comments have already been addressed and that the draft RHNA methodology was sent to the

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) the previous week. HCD has up to 60 days to review and respond. HCD's review and approval is needed prior to the Board taking action on the methodology. Board approval of the final RHNA methodology is required prior to adoption of the RTP. Nephele indicated that the Public Outreach Appendix of the RTP remains to be completed and an updated draft will be released prior to presenting the plan to the Board for approval; however, staff noted that the revisions are expected to be minor and not significant enough to alter TAC's recommendation. Regarding the schedule, staff explained that the item had previously been continued to March, but this timeline now appears unlikely to align with HCD's review period of the RHNA methodology. Nephele indicated that adoption is tentatively anticipated in April or May 2026 depending on HCD's response timeline. Caltrans has approved an extension through the May meeting if necessary. Staff also noted that the delay primarily impacts local planning departments, which are unable to make substantial progress on their housing elements until the final RHNA numbers are available.

d. Caltrans Milestone Report – Blake invited questions on any projects included in the Caltrans Milestone Report and noted that projects listed in the PID Work Plan remain subject to change depending on funding availability. Blake also provided several additional updates. An update was given on the Proposition 4 Urban Greening Program, noting that guidelines were released earlier in the month and that funding will be awarded in two competitive cycles. Just over \$46 million is available in the first round, with approximately \$100 million expected to be available across subsequent cycles. Round 1 solicitations are anticipated to open in the spring, with grant awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$5 million. Eligible applicants include public agencies, nonprofits, special districts, and Native American tribal governments. The program supports projects focused on nature-based solutions, expanding green space to provide heat resilience, green streets and stormwater capture, and other climate resilience improvements. Scott Elsmore was identified as the district contact for the program. During discussion, Dave Shpak asked whether the Urban Greening Program would be available in rural locations such as Gualala. Staff responded that the program uses its own definition of “urban,” likely tied to a population threshold, and recommended reviewing the program guidelines for clarification.

Blake also provided an update on District Transit Plans, noting that the plans are currently in their second year of development. A draft report is expected in October 2026, with a draft engagement strategy and existing conditions summary anticipated in late February or early March. Public engagement is expected to occur between April and July. Additionally, Blake noted that Caltrans headquarters plans to announce awards for the FY 2026–2027 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant cycle in May, which is slightly earlier than usual. Staff also reported that Caltrans is developing a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for US 101, which will provide a long-term vision for the corridor. The anticipated timeline includes stakeholder consultation beginning in March, public outreach in April, and a final draft expected in fall 2026. Caltrans' system planning team may attend a future TAC meeting to provide a presentation and update on the effort. During additional discussion, Nephele noted that in a recent meeting regarding the Ukiah area roundabouts, she encouraged Caltrans to conduct more local outreach as part of the corridor management planning process, given the regional significance of the corridor.

During discussion of the Caltrans Milestone Report, additional information was provided regarding the Gualala Downtown Streetscape Project. Nephele noted that Mendocino County approved the project's Coastal Development Permit (CDP) several months ago. The decision was subsequently appealed to the Board of Supervisors, which upheld the CDP administrator's decision. The project was then appealed to the California Coastal Commission, which also upheld the county's decision. Nephele indicated that the appeal process for the CDP is now complete. Dave Shpak asked whether the December 10 milestone schedule remains current. Staff responded that an updated report is expected in mid-March, and that the December report remains the most recent available milestone report at this time, though the PID Work Plan and map have been updated.

7. **Miscellaneous**

Alexis noted that the Pavement Management Program (PMP) Update had not been included in the project updates but confirmed that the project has officially begun. She reported that the kickoff meeting has already taken place and that the project is moving forward quickly.

Next Meeting – 04/15/2026, if needed

8. **Adjournment** – approx. 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hector Ortega
/HO