



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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(707) 463-1859
Transportation Planning: Suite G
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AGENDA

Monday, November 1, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Teleconference

Zoom videoconference link provided to Council members and 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: 851 0249 5487 Passcode: 942562

Additional Media

For live streaming and later viewing:

<https://www.youtube.com/>, search for Mendocino County Video, or

YouTube link at <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: This meeting of the Mendocino Council of Governments will be conducted by teleconference (audio and video) and not available for in-person public participation, pursuant to the Assembly Bill 361, Brown Act: Remote Meetings During a State of Emergency. In order to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19, the public may participate in lieu of personal attendance in several ways. Since opportunities during the meeting are limited, we encourage submitting comments in advance.

- 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.
- During the meeting: email comments to info@mendocinocog.org or send comments using the form at <https://www.mendocinocog.org/contact-us>, to be made available as soon as possible to the Board of Directors, staff, and the general public as they are received and processed by staff.
- During the meeting: make oral comments 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. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

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.

4. Adoption of Resolution No. M2021-14 Making Continued Findings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 to Conduct Public Meetings Remotely for MCOG's Legislative and Advisory Bodies During the COVID-19 State of Emergency
5. Approval of October 4, 2021 Minutes

PUBLIC EXPRESSION – *Please refer to notice at top of this Agenda.*

6. 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

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

7. Review/Discussion: Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
8. Presentation and Discussion: Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
9. Discussion/Direction: Exploration of Options for Regional Energy Network and Climate Protection Agency

RATIFY ACTION

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

REPORTS

11. Reports – Information – *No Action*
 - a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information
 - b. Mendocino Transit Authority
 - c. North Coast Railroad Authority
 - d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings
 - e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. Position Open – Administrative Assistant – *verbal report*
 - ii. Miscellaneous
 - iii. Next Meeting Date – Monday, December 6, 2021
 - f. MCOG Planning Staff
 - i. Position Open – Administrative Assistant – *verbal report*
 - ii. Miscellaneous
 - g. MCOG Directors
 - h. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates

CLOSED SESSION

Any public reports of action taken in closed session will be made in accordance with Govt. Code sections 54957.1.

12. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Dewey-White v. Mendocino Council of Governments
Mendocino Superior Court Case No. SCUK-CVPT 18-70179

ADJOURNMENT

13. 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 de acuerdo con el Americans with Disabilities Act, o personas que requieren servicios de interpretación (libre de cargo) deben comunicarse con MCOG (707) 463-1859 al 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 10/27/2021

* Next Resolution Number: M2021-15

October 26, 2021

To: MCOG Board of Directors
From: Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO
Subject: Consent Calendar of November 1, 2021

The following agenda items are recommended for approval/action.

4. Adoption of Resolution No. M2021-14 Making Continued Findings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 to Conduct Public Meetings Remotely for MCOG's Legislative and Advisory Bodies During the COVID-19 State of Emergency – This makes findings required every 30 days to continue meeting by teleconference. This item (or any other) may be pulled from Consent for discussion.
– *Draft resolution attached*
5. Approval of October 4, 2021 Minutes – *attached*

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda # 4
Consent
MCOG Meeting
11/1/2021

BOARD of DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. M2021-14

MAKING CONTINUED FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361
TO CONDUCT REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR MCOG'S
LEGISLATIVE AND ADVISORY BODIES
DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS,

1. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is committed to preserving and fostering public access and participation in its meetings, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Government Code 54950 – 54963), which makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, subject to the existence of certain conditions;
2. A state of emergency was proclaimed by Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 on March 4, 2020, addressing the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, and remains in effect;
3. On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed into law AB 361, an urgency measure, that provides flexibility to government bodies, allowing them to meet virtually without conforming to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules during a declared state of emergency if: (a) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, (b) the legislative body is meeting to determine whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person presents imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, or (c) the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees;
4. In recent months, the Delta variant has surged in the United States and become the predominant COVID-19 variant, accounting for the majority of infections and hospitalizations, believed by medical experts to be twice as contagious as previous variants, and data has shown the variant has increased transmissibility even among some vaccinated people;
5. Due to the uncertainty and concerns about these current conditions, the Mendocino County Supervisors continue to meet remotely and not in their regular board chambers where MCOG typically has convened its meetings, and numerous state and local agencies including Caltrans continue to require their workforce to work from separate remote locations;
6. Given the heightened risks of the predominant variant of COVID-19 in the community, holding meetings with all members of the legislative body, staff, and the public in attendance in person in a shared indoor meeting space would pose an unnecessary and immediate risk to the attendees;
7. These virtual meetings have not diminished the public's ability to observe and participate and have expanded opportunities to do so for some communities, and MCOG continues to provide for public access to its remote meetings; and

8. On October 4, 2021, MCOG's Board of Directors made the above findings of fact by Resolution #M2021-12 including additional background and pertinent details; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT:

- The Mendocino Council of Governments adopts the recitals set forth above as findings of fact.
- MCOG has reconsidered circumstances of the state of emergency.
- MCOG hereby determines that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
- In accordance with AB 361, based on the findings and determinations herein, meetings of MCOG's legislative and advisory bodies will be held remotely by virtual means, suspending Brown Act teleconferencing rules while providing for all feasible means of public participation.
- This resolution shall be effective upon adoption and remain in effect until MCOG's next regular board meeting on December 6, 2021, when MCOG shall consider renewing its findings by subsequent resolution, in accordance with AB 361.

ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION was moved by Director _____, seconded by Director _____, and approved on this 1st day of November, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINING:

ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the Chairman declared the resolution adopted, AND SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director

Dan Gjerde, Chair

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda # 5
Consent
MCOG Meeting
11/1/2021

MINUTES

Monday, October 4, 2021

Teleconference Only

Pursuant to Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361

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 1:30 p.m. with Directors Jim Brown, Greta Kanne, Tess Albin-Smith, Scott Ignacio, John Haschak, Tatiana Ahlstrand (Caltrans/PAC), and Dan Gjerde present by Zoom teleconference; Chair Gjerde presiding. [Clerk's note: the Public Appointee seat was vacant.]

Staff present on the call: Nephelie 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. Adoption of Resolution Making Findings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 to Continue Remote Public Meetings for MCOG's Legislative and Advisory Bodies During the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Ms. Barrett referred to her written report and noted the Governor's executive orders that modified or waived portions of the Brown Act open meeting requirements due to COVID-19 had expired September 30. Staff researched actions allowed by AB 361 to continue meeting remotely, with findings to be made by resolution immediately and monthly thereafter. Requirements include a proclaimed state of emergency (currently still in effect) and recommendations by state or local authorities for social distancing.

In board discussion, Director Ignacio asked whether special meetings are required when more than 30 days have passed; Ms. Barrett replied that legal counsel attending a Rural Counties Task Force meeting advised that the intent would be met if the findings are made at the start of each regular meeting. Director Albin-Smith noted public comments are encouraged and in many cases made more accessible via the teleconference method.

The Chair invited public comment. Jessica Stull-Otto expressed hope that when meetings eventually resume in person, remote virtual attendance will remain available to the public.

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

Resolution No. M2021-12

Making Findings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361
to Continue Remote Public Meetings
for MCOG's Legislative and Advisory Bodies
During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

[Reso. #M2021-12 is incorporated herein by reference]

3. Convene as RTPA

4. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

5. Public Expression. None.

6. Adoption of Resolution Approving the FY 2021/22 Project List for the California State of Good Repair Program – Mendocino Transit Authority – Purchase of Three Battery-Electric Busses with Associated Charging Infrastructure. Ms. Orth gave background on the program and reported this is the fifth year of funding allocations. MCOG has available SGR funds of \$544,614. MTA’s proposal comes to \$537,203 of SGR funds, matched with \$344,475 from three other sources, for total project costs of \$881,678. The previous annual list was approved for a new Ukiah Transit Center hub. This year’s list eliminates that project, as SGR funds have a limited time for expenditure.

Jacob King, MTA Executive Director, reported that the first two new electric busses could be in service in Willits by month’s end, and the third running by Spring 2022 in Fort Bragg.

The Chair invited public comment. Peter McNamee of Grassroots Institute expressed support for the project.

Upon motion by Director Brown, second by Director Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*7 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is approved.

Resolution No. M2021-13

Approving the FY 2021/22 Project List for the
California State Of Good Repair Program

[Reso. #M2021-13 is incorporated herein by reference]

7. Authorization to Approve Setting Just Compensation and Commencement of First Written Offers and Negotiations for Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project. Ms. Barrett gave an update on the project. At this stage, a process of right-of-way acquisition is being conducted. Mr. Peter Field of the contracted consultant firm Bender Rosenthal, Inc. (BRI) was present to answer questions, and agreed with staff’s summary and recommendation.

In board discussion, Ms. Barrett and Mr. Sookne took questions, describing the trail location and service area. The total project cost is estimated at about \$6 million from all sources.

Upon motion by Director Haschak, second by Director Ignacio, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*7 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that authority is delegated to the Executive Director to 1) Set Just Compensation to acquire the necessary land rights for the Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project based upon the Fair Market Value established by the certified appraisals for each subject parcel identified in staff’s report, and 2) execute the Approval to Set Just Compensation forms as required.

8. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Brown, second by Ignacio, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*7 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved.

8. Approval of August 16, 2021 Minutes - as written

9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Albin-Smith, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

10. Reports - Information

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. There was no news to report. Director Kanne inquired about status of the Blosser Lane project in Willits; Ms. Ahlstrand will research and report back.
- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Executive Director King reported that new bus drivers have been hired and are in training to restore routes that had been cut back over the past year or so.
- c. North Coast Railroad Authority. Director Haschak gave an overview of the September 13 meeting. The Governor signed SB 69, which begins the transition of NCRA to become the Great Redwood Trail Agency in 2022. Now the “coal train” proposal for the corridor remains to be addressed; the Board of Supervisors has expressed opposition to it.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to her written staff report.
- e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. *Financial Update – Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues for FY 2020/21*. Ms. Orth reported a surplus at fiscal year end of \$835,284 in Local Transportation Funds, which by policy will remain in reserve until the FY 2022/23 budget is developed. This unrestricted balance is a full 20 percent above the official budget estimate of these sales tax revenues. Discussion followed on her report of the California Road Charge Pilot.
 - ii. *Miscellaneous*. Ms. Barrett reported a grant funding opportunity for wildfire evacuation routes, sent to the Technical Advisory Committee. Discussion followed on related mobility issues.
 - iii. *Next Meeting Date*. Monday, November 1, 2021.
- f. MCOG Planning Staff
 - i. *2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Action Transportation Update*. Ms. Ellard referred to her written report. The public review draft is to be posted for comments on October 15. A presentation will be made to the Council at the November 1 meeting.
 - ii. *Local Road Safety Plans Update*. Ms. Ellard reported progress, with several stakeholder workshops held by the consultant TJKM in the five community areas. She answered questions concerning crash data in Covelo.
 - iii. *Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants – Applications due October 27, 2021*. Ms. Ellard reported on the program.
 - iv. *2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Project Submittals*. Mr. Sookne reported that a proposal was received from Mendocino County Department of Transportation to add right-of-way funds to the North State Street interchange project.
 - v. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- g. MCOG Directors. Director Gjerde reported discussions with Grassroots Institute and with Sonoma County’s Regional Climate Protection Authority. He then appointed himself, Director Albin-Smith and Director Haschak to serve as an ad hoc committee for research into the possible formation of a Regional Energy Network or similar model to dispense rebates on home energy efficiency improvements.
- h. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Albin-Smith briefly reported highlights of the September 17 meeting with legislative updates.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant and Janet Orth, Deputy Director



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

Agenda # 7
Regular Calendar
MCOG Meeting
11/1/2021

TITLE: 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program – Project Recommendations

DATE PREPARED: 10/26/19
MEETING DATE: 11/01/19

SUBMITTED BY: James Sookne, Program Manager

BACKGROUND:

Each odd numbered year we consider the programming of projects that are to be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that goes into effect July 1 of the following year. We do this by developing our Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), which programs our Regional Improvement Program (RIP) shares of funding as identified by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in the Fund Estimate (FE). The 2022 FE identified a total of \$5,290,000 available to the region in RIP funding, which includes our target for Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) programming. After deducting the \$209,000 identified for PPM, \$5,081,000 is available for new programming on projects. This includes existing future funding commitments 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)

Applications for funding were due to MCOG on October 1. The only request that staff received was from the County to rearrange previously committed funds for the construction of their North State Street project.

Following the completion of an alternatives analysis in 2020, the County revised their engineer's estimate and identified cost increases in all components of the project. At this time, the County would like to program \$138,000 of the committed funds to the right of way component and leave the remaining \$1,464,000 unprogrammed. This will allow the County to request the remaining unprogrammed funds through allocation of the PS&E phase for a total of \$1,800,000 for this component when combined with the \$336,000 that is programmed for that component. The County would prefer to program the additional \$1,464,000 to the PS&E phase in the STIP; however, guidelines don't allow for programming funds to a component that is programmed in the current fiscal year.

The location of this project has been identified as a high priority area in the Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) and the County plans to submit a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application to fund the construction phase.

In addition to this request for funding changes from the County, Caltrans has also indicated that there is a need to increase funding for the PA&ED component of the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project. At the time of this report, an exact amount has not been determined, but it's expected to be around \$200,000 additional (adding to the \$340,000 programmed and allocated for the component). Because this is a Caltrans implemented project, it can be accomplished through a supplemental allocation. Within the RTIP, the addition can be accommodated either by tapping into the existing future funding commitment for the project which committed up to \$3,050,000 pending the outcome of an Active Transportation Program grant application and determination of eligible project components. It could also be accommodated by adding to the funds approved for the project.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed both requests at their meeting on October 20. After some discussion, the TAC made a recommendation to approve the County's request to rearrange the previously committed funds and to tap into the current Fund Estimate to increase the funding for the

PA&ED component of the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project by approximately \$200,000. This recommendation would utilize \$1,802,000 of the \$5,081,000 RIP funds available to the region, which includes an existing future funding commitment for the County's North State Street Intersection/Interchange Improvement project.

Based on the TAC's recommendation, a draft RTIP has been prepared that includes the programming described above. The previous funding commitment for the construction of the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project has been included as reserves in the document as well. In addition to the regular 2022 RTIP development process, staff has been working with agencies to program any unprogrammed COVID Relief STIP funds.

The draft RTIP has been included on this agenda as an opportunity for the Board to provide comment and discuss the document prior to proposed adoption in December. The full document (without appendices), which reflects the programming shown above, is included as an attachment for review.

ACTION REQUIRED: Discuss and comment on the 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The final will be presented at the December meeting.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and comment on the 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The final will be presented at the December meeting.



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda # 8
Regular Calendar
MCOG Meeting
11/1/2021

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Plan & Active Transportation Plan – Presentation

DATE PREPARED: 10/21/21

SUBMITTED BY: Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner

MEETING DATE: 11/01/21

BACKGROUND:

Over the past year or more MCOG staff has been working with local agencies and stakeholders to update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The RTP is the primary transportation planning document for the region.

The draft 2022 RTP/ATP was posted to MCOG's website on 10/15/21 for public review and comment, at <https://www.mendocinocog.org/draft-2022-regional-transportation-plan>. The appendices were posted on 10/20/21. Staff followed up with press releases to local news media and email notifications to a large mailing list of interested parties, tribes, and stakeholders, advising of the availability of the draft documents for public review. As previously reported, the public outreach process for this update has been virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff provided an overview of the draft plan at the 10/20/21 Technical Advisory Committee meeting, and requested TAC review and comment. The TAC is scheduled to make a recommendation on the draft plan at their 11/17/21 meeting.

Staff will be providing a PowerPoint presentation on the draft plan at this meeting. The following is a brief listing of changes to the various sections in chronological order; however, more detail will be provided in the PowerPoint presentation:

- Executive Summary – this included a routine update of basic information with highlights of short and long range projects for State, County, and City roads. The rail section was updated to note significant changes to rail transportation in the region.
- Introduction – this included a routine update, including information on the virtual public outreach process. Climate Change information was updated, and information was added on Caltrans District 1's 2019 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and MCOG's 2019/20 Fire Vulnerability Assessment & Emergency Evacuation Plan.
- Goals, Objectives Policies – this section was updated and reformatted. Major changes include enhanced Climate Change policies, deletion of the "Vision Mendocino 2030 Implementation" goal and revisions to the Land Use section. Goods Movement and Rail sections were revised to reflect major changes with North Coast Railroad Authority due to recently enacted legislation; and a new Public Health & Equity section was added.
- State Highway System – this section was updated and expanded with information on state routes from Caltrans Transportation Concept Reports. Public input was included, and the High Injury intersections and High Injury corridors from the Local Road Safety Plan analysis were added.

- County Roads & City Streets – this included an update of local agency information, substantial public comments, and added High Injury intersections and High Injury corridors from the Local Road Safety Plan analysis.
- Active Transportation System/Active Transportation Plan – this included a routine update of information, plus new Active Transportation Plan requirements. This section will now also serve as the region’s Active Transportation Plan and there will no longer be a separate stand-alone plan. Local agency and State project lists were updated, and tier 1 projects from MCOG’s 2019 Pedestrian Facility Needs study were included.
- Public Transit – this included a routine update of information. Major projects include updating MTA’s Short Range Transit Development Plan, developing a proposed Transit Hub Location Plan, and revamping/expanding MTA’s 2012 solar canopy project. Performance Measures were revised to include goals and measures related to Transit Investment/Climate Change.
- Rail Transportation – there were significant changes to this mode reflecting the transitioning of the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) to the new Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA), per SB 1029 (McGuire, 2018) and SB 69 (McGuire, 2021).
- Aviation, Maritime, Tribal Transportation & Financial Element – there were no major changes to these modes, routine information was updated.

Please review the draft and appendices at the link posted above. We look forward to receiving your comments. The final document will incorporate any needed changes based on Board member and stakeholder feedback, and will be presented for adoption at the 12/6/21 MCOG meeting.

ACTION REQUIRED: Receive presentation and discuss the Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan, and provide comments to be incorporated into the final plan.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss the Draft 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan and provide comments to be incorporated into the final plan. The final plan, along with the environmental document, will be scheduled for adoption at a public hearing on 12/6/21, following the required public review period.

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MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

Agenda # 9
Regular Calendar
MCOG Meeting
11/1/2021

TITLE: Regional Energy Network and Climate Protection Agency
Exploration and Options – Board Direction

DATE PREPARED: 10/22/21
MEETING DATE: 11/01/21

SUBMITTED BY: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director

BACKGROUND: In light of an increasing interest in reducing the region’s carbon footprint and climate impacts, the MCOG Board appointed an ad hoc committee for the purposes of exploring options for a regional role in these efforts. Based on other regional efforts around the State, the ad hoc committee discussed two potentially overlapping concepts—joining or creating a Regional Energy Network program and forming a regional climate protection agency.

Regional Energy Network

A Regional Energy Network (REN) is a program established through a California Public Utilities Commission application and approval process for the purpose of allowing local governments to design and administer energy efficient programs. Examples of REN activities include rebate programs, workforce training and technology development. The programs are funded by the CPUC through the Public Goods Charge that customers are already paying. Programs are customized and funded based on local needs.

Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is offering substantial rebates to Mendocino County customers (outside of the City of Ukiah's power service area) if customers hire a contractor certified by SCP and install any number of efficient electric residential and business devices. Rebates range from \$1,500-\$2,000 for the install of a ductless mini split, for example, or rebates of \$1,700 for the installation of a heat pump hot water heater (see <https://scpadvancedenergycenter.org/products> for additional information). In Sonoma County, a majority of this rebate is funded by the BayREN program, a Regional Energy Network covering the nine Bay Area counties.

For the time being, Sonoma Clean Power is providing the same rebates to Mendocino County customers, and providing the full rebate with SCP revenues, as Mendocino County customers live outside of the nine Bay Area region. However, SCP staff have noted it is not financially sustainable for SCP to indefinitely backfill funding unavailable from BayREN for Mendocino County customers.

In order to ensure that large rebates are available to Mendocino County residents and expand the pool of qualified contractors and employees in this field, the ad hoc committee has recommended that MCOG explore options for either joining the existing BayREN or proposing a new multi-jurisdictional Regional Energy Network. This could possibly be established with jurisdictions within Mendocino County, or as a Mendo-LakeREN, or NorthCoastREN, encompassing Mendocino and possibly Lake, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties.

Climate Protection Agency

Both Sonoma and Napa Counties have established regional climate protection agencies. In Sonoma County, the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) shares staff and a board with the Regional Transportation Planning Agency. The RCPA coordinates climate protection activities countywide and performs a variety of important related functions including advocacy, project management, planning, finance, grant applications and administration, and research. The RCPA provides a forum for local elected officials to engage in dialogue on countywide issues, and enables discussions among local and regional entities on a wide range of issues related to greenhouse gas reduction, including planning, program management, and project delivery. The Napa Climate Action Committee is a new Joint Powers Authority

formed for this purpose, with a board made up of elected officials from Napa County and the incorporated cities, similar to MCOG. The new JPA was just approved earlier this year. Their primary task at this point is conducting a greenhouse gas inventory, which will guide future projects. They are focusing on actions that will impact GHGs rather than a broader focus of general sustainability.

Ad Hoc Recommendation:

The ad hoc committee met on October 21, 2021, to discuss these concepts. There was unanimous support for exploring options for regional participation in one or both of these areas. The ad hoc committee recommended that the MCOG staff, in collaboration with the ad hoc, explore options for creating a regional climate agency and joining an existing or creating a new REN. In addition, the ad hoc also recommended that MCOG request that its member agencies endorse exploration of these concepts.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Provide direction to staff, in collaboration with the ad hoc committee, to explore options for joining an existing Regional Energy Network or developing a new Regional Energy Network program and forming a regional climate protection agency.
2. Provide direction to staff regarding submittal of requests to MCOG member agencies to endorse further exploration of both a Regional Energy Network program and a regional climate protection agency.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: The ad hoc committee has recommended the following:

1. Direct staff, in collaboration with the ad hoc committee, to explore options for joining an existing Regional Energy Network or developing a new Regional Energy Network program and forming a regional climate protection agency.
2. Direct staff to send requests to MCOG member agencies to endorse further exploration of both a Regional Energy Network program and a regional climate protection agency.



**MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STAFF REPORT**

**Agenda # 11d
Reports
MCOG Meeting
11/1/2021**

TITLE: Summary of Meetings

DATE PREPARED: 10.26.2021

SUBMITTED BY: Janet Orth, Deputy Director

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. 4 | Statewide CalSAFE | Pedrotti |
| Oct. 5 | Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) staff meeting | Barrett, Ellard |
| Oct. 5 | Blue Zones meeting | Barrett |
| Oct. 7 | Clean California Grant Program Guidelines workshop | Casey |
| Oct. 7 | Wildfire grant workshop | Barrett |
| Oct. 12 | Covelo Trail Project Development Team (PDT) meeting | Barrett |
| Oct. 12 | Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) Group | Barrett & Davey-Bates |
| Oct. 12 | Gualala PDT meeting | Barrett |
| Oct. 13 | California Transportation Commission (CTC) | Barrett & Davey-Bates |
| Oct. 13 | Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) housing program | Barrett |
| Oct. 14 | CTC meeting, continued | Barrett & Davey-Bates |
| Oct. 14 | Local Road Safety Plans – Willits stakeholder workshop #2 | Ellard, Barrett |
| Oct. 18 | Local Road Safety Plans – Fort Bragg stakeholders workshop #2 | Ellard, Barrett |
| Oct. 18 | Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino - kickoff | Barrett, Ellard, Pedrotti |
| Oct. 19 | SB 1 Guidelines Workshop – Local Partnership Program | Barrett |
| Oct. 20 | MCOG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) | Barrett, Ellard, Pedrotti, Sookne |
| Oct. 20 | Local Road Safety Plans – County stakeholders workshop #2 | Barrett, Ellard |
| Oct. 21 | Ad Hoc Committee – Regional Energy Network | Barrett, Davey-Bates, Orth |
| Oct. 25 | BayREN (Regional Energy Network) consultation | Barrett, Orth |
| Oct. 26-29 | CALACT 2021 Autumn Conference & Expo | Sookne |
| Oct. 26 | Covelo Trail PDT meeting | Barrett, Sookne |
| Oct. 27 | Local Road Safety Plans – Ukiah stakeholders workshop #2 | Barrett, Ellard |
| Oct. 28 | Local Roads Safety Program (LRSP) Monthly Check-In with TJKM | Barrett, Ellard |

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.