

# **MCOG BOARD ORIENTATION & PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**APRIL 2023**

[www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org)



# MCOG Background

- The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is the County's regional transportation planning agency (RTPA). MCOG was formalized in a joint powers agreement in 1972 after the Transportation Development Act (TDA) was passed.
- COG: General purpose regional agencies that can undertake any action in which their member cities and counties share in common.
- RTPA: County or multi-county entities charged by state law in meeting certain transportation planning requirements.
- JPA identifies specific powers:
  - Transportation Planning Agency
  - Economic development planning
  - Housing
  - Other specific powers authorized by resolution of member agencies

# MCOG Board Composition

Two county supervisors, one council member from each of the four incorporated cities and one countywide elected official/public appointee appointed by the Board of Supervisors make up MCOG Board membership.

A representative of Caltrans serves on the Policy Advisory Committee with the seven directors.

# MCOG Board Officers, Appointments & Committees

**Officers:** Chair & Vice Chair

**Standing Committees - Board:**

- Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Executive Committee
- Transit Productivity Committee (TPC)

**Standing Committees – Other:**

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

**Appointments:**

- CalCOG Delegate
- Covelo Trail Project Ad Hoc
- Climate Ad Hoc

# MCOG Staffing

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# MCOG Responsibilities

- Fiscal Oversight & Allocations
- Transportation Policy Development
- Advocacy
- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Management
- Transportation Planning
- Regional Housing Planning/RHNA
- Special Projects
- Rural REN – Regional Energy Network

# MCOG Responsibilities

## Oversight & Allocations

- Transportation Development Act (TDA)
  - Local Transportation Fund (LTF)
  - State Transit Assistance (STA)
  - Budget, Claims, Reports, Fiscal and Performance Audits
- Public Transit
  - Operations, Senior Center Contracts, Capital Reserve
- Unmet Transit Needs Process
  - Annual process to formally identify unmet transit needs
  - Established by TDA
  - Uses MCOG adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet”

# MCOG Programs

## MCOG Funding Programs

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) a.k.a. RSTP
  - Partnership Funding Program
  - Regional Project Management & Local Assistance
  - Funding by Formula to County and Cities
  - 22/23 through 25/26 – appx. \$1.3 mil annually – includes \$500,000 direct to County, \$800,000 for formula and MCOG programs
- 2% Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Program - competitive grants
  - 5 year average 19/20 through 23/24 - \$80,325 annually
  - Awarded approximately every two years
- Planning funds through Transportation Planning Work Program



# MCOG Programs

## **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

- Capital funding for transportation projects
- Adopted by the California Transportation Commission in March/April every even year
- State programs 25% of funding (IIP) and regions program 75% (RIP)
- MCOG prepares and adopts Regional Transportation Improvement Program every odd numbered year to program available STIP funds
- Ongoing management : Extensions, Amendments, Allocations, etc.

## **Carbon Reduction Program – upcoming federal source**

- Estimate \$161,000 annually for 5 years
- State priorities are bike/ped, rail/transit, ZEV infrastructure, and managed lanes
- Final apportionment and guidelines still pending

# MCOG Programs

## **Transportation Planning Work Program**

- Annual program funded by Local Transportation Funds (LTF), Rural Planning Assistance (RPA), Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) and State/Federal grants
- Projects (Work Elements) are consistent with goals of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Eligible participants are MCOG staff, cities and County and MTA
- Technical Advisory Committee reviews & recommends, MCOG Board adopts, Caltrans approves

# MCOG Programs

## **Examples of Work Elements**

### Annual

- Regional Government & Intergovernmental Coordination
- Planning Programming & Monitoring
- Training
- Multi-Modal Transportation Planning

### Periodic

- Pavement Management Program Updates – triennial
- Regional Transportation Plan Updates – every 4 years

### Local Agency Projects

### Grant Funded Projects

# MCOG Programs

## Grant Assistance

- Research & provide information to local agencies on upcoming grant opportunities
- Attend workshops to educate staff & inform local agencies
- Review and comment on grant program development
- For MCOG sponsored grants - apply for grants; administer funded projects
- For Local Agency grants - provide technical assistance; prepare grant applications/assist with preparation; provide local match; participate on project development teams (PDT)

# MCOG Responsibilities

## **Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan**

- Major regional transportation planning document
- Multi-modal
- Includes policies, needs, recommended actions (projects)
- Updated every four years (previously five)
- Development includes staff, TAC, SSTAC, public, stakeholders, MCOG Board
- Adoption by MCOG Board

# MCOG Responsibilities

## Other Plans

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Zero Emission Vehicle Regional Readiness Plan
- Community & Corridor Plans
- Feasibility Studies



# MCOG Responsibilities

## Special Projects

- Safe Routes to Schools Non-Infrastructure Program
- Implementation of Covelo SR 162 Multi-Purpose Trail Project



# Mendocino SAFE

The MCOG Board of Directors also serves as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) of Mendocino County, administering the Call Box program. \$1 per registered vehicle in Mendocino County are collected by DMV to manage the program.

- Planning
- Installation
- Monitoring & maintenance
- Monthly service fees
- 45 Satellite, 96 standard cellular call boxes
- SAFE meetings as needed
- Assessment of system resulting from network changes



# MCOG Responsibilities

## **Regional Planning for Housing**

- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
  - Occurs every 8 years (previously every 5 years)
  - Total needs for income levels established by State
  - Allocate needed housing units among cities and county
  - MCOG adopts, then agencies prepare Housing Elements
- Regional Early Action Planning
  - State created funding source (unknown if this will be a continuing program)
  - Current funds allocated to local agencies

# MCOG Responsibilities

## **Regional Role in Addressing Climate Change**

- MOU approved in 2022 to participate in RuralREN (Regional Energy Network)
- RENs were established by the California Public Utilities Commission to allow regions to design and administer energy efficient programs. Examples of activities include rebate programs, workforce training and technology development.
- Funded by the CPUC through the Public Goods Charge. Programs are customized and funded based on local needs.
- Currently under CPUC review, expect action in fall 2023

# Questions?

Refer to MCOG's Board Orientation & Reference Manual for further information and reference material.

Now available online at

[www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org)

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