

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference

September 21, 2022

Members Present

Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena
Alicia Meier, County DOT
Jacob King, MTA
Dean Meester, Caltrans
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS, *arrived during item #6*
Heather Gurewitz, (for Chantell O’Neal) City of
Fort Bragg, *arrived during item #6*

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
Jesus Rodriguez, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Kyle Finger, Caltrans
Lucy Bartholomew, Blue Zones
Christa Unger, Caltrans
James Linderman (*for item #6*)
Janet Orth, MCOG Administration (*for item #7a*)

Members Absent

AQMD Representative

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:03 a.m. Individuals present were identified.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments’ Representatives** – No tribal representatives were present.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 5/18/22** – Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Paul Andersen, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – Duley, Eriksen, Andersen, Meier, King, Meester), to approve the minutes of 5/18/22.
5. **FY 2022-23 LTF 2% Bike & Pedestrian Program Application (Review/Recommendation)**
Loretta reviewed her staff report explaining that only one application had been received in response to MCOG’s “call for projects” for LTF 2% Bicycle and Pedestrian program funds, as follows:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Request</u>
Mendocino Co. Dept. of Transportation	Mendocino County Roadway Systemic Improvements I - S. State St., Ukiah (Laws Ave. – Beacon Lane) Crawford Rd., Covelo (Biggar Lane to Foothill Blvd.)	\$175,000

Alicia was invited to review the application, and she explained the request was for a portion of the local match for a larger HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program Project) application recently submitted by the County. She corrected the totals on the application to reflect that the bike and pedestrian components total \$2,821,200, while the overall total of all features is \$2,864,600. She noted

the County will need to identify the remainder of the required local match for this project, as well as for two other submitted HSIP projects.

Alicia mentioned the County's ATP Safe Routes to School application for Covelo, along with MCOG's trail project, stating she was happy to see projects planned for Covelo. Funding recommendations are expected to be known in October for ATP, and in December for HSIP.

Motion by Tim Eriksen, seconded by Dusty Duley, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – Duley, Eriksen, Andersen, Meier, King, Meester) to recommend approval of the County's LTF 2% Bike & Pedestrian application "Mendocino County Roadway Systemic Improvements I - S. State St. (Ukiah) and Crawford Rd. (Covelo)."

6. **SB 743 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)** – Loretta said this issue is on the agenda to allow for discussion of any SB 743 VMT related issue members would like to discuss. MCOG is interested in knowing if jurisdictions have adopted local VMT thresholds, and whether or not the screening tool that was developed is being used, as MCOG pays an annual fee of \$5,000 to Fehr and Peers to host the tool. She also noted staff received an inquiry asking if there's been any development regarding "mitigation banks".

Nephele said Caltrans is working on possibly taking on hosting the screening tool. She noted the eligibility of using Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds to develop mitigation plans came up in yesterday's District 1 RTPA directors' meeting, so it's something that's starting to be discussed.

Tim said Ukiah hasn't done anything about mitigation banks. Dusty said Willits hasn't done anything about mitigations banks, and hasn't adopted thresholds. They don't plan to follow Fehr and Peers' recommendations, as those don't work for Willits. They will be using the screening tool to support the environmental work for their land use element update, and are looking to expand their sphere of influence and ultimately annex land for new housing. He noted Fehr and Peers staff is on their project team to update the land use element, and they are aware of the issues with the model. Adoption of thresholds is on their list but he was not sure when that would happen.

Paul said Point Arena has not adopted a threshold and does not plan to do so, unless forced. Heather said Fort Bragg has no plans to adopt a threshold, and she did not think anything was planned for mitigation banks.

Alicia said her department has not been using the screening tool and they don't have mitigation banks. She was unsure if adoption of VMT thresholds would be a County Planning and Building action. James Linderman (*who briefly joined the meeting with Alicia*) said he thought both agencies would probably need to agree on a threshold for the County as a whole. They have not done anything so far, and he did not think County Planning and Building had either.

Loretta asked about the SB 743 agenda item on tonight's Ukiah City Council agenda, and Tim said he was not involved with it. He said Public Works has not done anything with thresholds, but the Community Development Department may be doing something related to the General Plan.

Dusty said he's had conversations with other jurisdictions regarding alternate ways of establishing thresholds that are a better fit for rural jurisdictions. He plans to follow up with them to see if there have been challenges to the thresholds, and he will report back to this group.

Mark noted the screening tool doesn't work well for projects in outlying areas. Country Planning has been reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis, and it's worked so far because they haven't received anything that would generate a high enough number of daily trips to require a traffic study. He was concerned, however, with how they would mitigate projects that don't pass the screening. He would like the County to adopt thresholds, and he's working on that. He said they've discussed mitigation banks, and exchanges are looking for mitigation options, but he's unsure how that would work.

Nephele acknowledged the good feedback, noting it's unfortunate things haven't worked out as hoped with the screening tool. MCOG will continue to follow up on this, perhaps with a more focused meeting with planning department representatives, and possibly in conjunction with REAP.

7. Staff Reports

7a. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants – James said he hoped agencies are moving forward with their REAP 1.0 projects. He said the expenditure deadline had been extended by one year to 6/30/24, so MCOG's deadline to submit a final invoice is 3/31/24, with invoices from local agencies needed before then. He reported REAP 2.0 application and final guidelines came out in late August/early September for REAP 2.0, and he will email the information to local agencies. REAP 2.0 includes \$30 million for rural agencies and tribes statewide, and Mendocino County is included in a north coast section that includes \$6.6 million for five counties. There's a \$5 million maximum and \$100,000 minimum per project, and projects must demonstrate a nexus. He reviewed the four funding goals: accelerating infill housing, work on building multi-modal communities, reducing VMT, and increasing transit ridership, and said applications are due December 31, 2022. Unlike REAP 1.0, all cities and counties and tribes in Mendocino County are eligible applicants. Funds must be encumbered by 6/30/24 and expended by 6/30/26. He plans to set up a meeting with local agencies.

Dusty reported that local planning directors recently held a housing summit and started discussing the need to create a regional housing strategy. He thought the REAP 2.0 funds might be a good funding source for that effort. He said the City of Willits is using their SB 2 funds to support the Land Use element update and Sphere of Influence amendment, which he hopes will be completed by next September. James and Nephele expressed interest in MCOG staff (as the agency with Regional Housing Needs Assessment authority) being included in housing meetings, and Dusty advised the initial meeting was for a narrow audience but an expanded audience will be invited to future meetings.

Janet Orth reported that she is working on updating the subrecipient agreements with member agencies. She noted the master agreement has now expired, so this is a good time to add in the housing funds, which will be part of the annual budget exhibit. She will be working with local agencies' administrative staff to get the agreements processed.

7b. Feasibility Study - Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino County
Loretta reported on the progress of this Caltrans grant-funded study, which is looking at developing alternatives to traditional transit service in the rural inland communities of Covelo, Laytonville, Potter Valley, Brooktrails, and Hopland. She said the consultant has held community listening sessions in all five communities, and input gathered is being analyzed. An online survey is being developed to go live in October (through Social Pinpoint, linked on MCOG's website) and a second household mailer will soon be distributed to advertise the survey. The project is scheduled to go through next summer, with presentation of the final plan anticipated at the August MCOG Board meeting.

7c. Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program – FY 2023/24 Cycle – Loretta advised the draft guidelines for this program are expected in October, with a 30-day comment period.

In addition to the usual planning grants (approx. \$32- \$34 million), \$50 million is expected to be available for climate adaptation planning grants. MCOG staff is interested in knowing if local agencies need assistance or want to partner on applications, and are asking local agencies to begin thinking of potential projects. MCOG staff will be assisting the City of Ukiah with a School Street planning grant since their School Street OWP application was not funded during the last cycle. Once the application cycle is announced, there is expected to be a six-week application cycle.

7d. Tire-Derived Aggregate (TDA) Grant Program – Applications Due 12-7-22 – Loretta briefly reported that this grant program (*for which the TAC received a presentation in May from a program representative*) is now soliciting grant applications, and the deadline to apply is December 7, 2022. The website for more information is www.calrecycle.ca.gov.

Christa Unger, Caltrans District One, said there is a growing body of research regarding storm water run-off and compounds found in tire aggregate that shows signs of mortality in juvenile salmon. She said streams in Mendocino County are heavily affected by storm water run-off and there is a big disconnect between the CalRecycle program that incentivizes the use of TDA and what the environmental agencies are finding. She expects to see an increased awareness of this issue with Regional Water Quality Board and California Department of fish and Wildlife, and said a future quarterly Local Assistance meeting may include a presentation on this issue. She invited members to contact her with questions at christa.unger@dot.ca.gov.

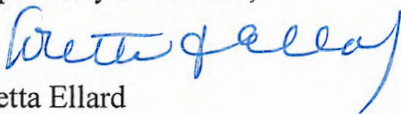
8. Miscellaneous

Clean CA Grant - Dump Days – Nephele said Caltrans has been coordinating local dump days through the Clean CA grant program, and there have been several in District 1. She reported on Covelo’s successful “dump week” which broke the record for participation, and thanked Caltrans for coordinating the program. More dump days are planned for next year.

8a. Next Meeting – 10/19/22, if needed.

9. Adjournment – approx. 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Loretta Ellard
Deputy Planner

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