

Approved 5/24/23

MINUTES

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference

February 15, 2023

Members Present

Dusty Duley, City of Willits
Dean Meester, Caltrans
Jacob King, MTA
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS
Chantell O'Neal, City of Fort Bragg
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah (@10:16 a.m.)

Members Absent

AQMD Representative
Alicia Meier, County DOT

Staff & Others Present

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning
Jesus Rodriguez, MCOG Planning
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning
James Sookne, MCOG Planning
Michael Villa, MCOG Administration
Kyle Finger, Caltrans
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah
Dave Shpak

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:02 a.m.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – No tribal representatives were present.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 1/18/23** – Motion by Paul Andersen, seconded by Chantell O'Neal, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 ayes – Duley, Meester, King, Andersen, Cliser, O'Neal), to approve the minutes of 1/18/23.

5. **Proposed Draft FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program - Review/Recommendation**

Lexi reviewed her staff report and recapped last month's meeting wherein requested projects and estimated expenses and revenues were discussed. She said MCOG has now received the FY 23-24 LTF estimate, which is down, and the current year's revenue is also down. She reviewed proposed funding amounts which included a 10% cut to local agency requests, and said MCOG's Executive Committee has not yet met so the MCOG planning contract is still estimated at 4% CPI increase. She said Fort Bragg has withdrawn their FY 23-24 application and they've advised their current OWP project may be underfunded. Lexi and Nephele expressed concern that FY 24-25 revenues (including PPM funding) will continue to be down.

Chantell said Fort Bragg will open bids later this week for the current year's OWP project, and she'll soon know if there's a funding shortfall. She expressed concern that the recent amendment to the project may affect the cost to provide deliverables. Nephele said there is no policy for covering cost increases of OWP projects, but it could be considered since Fort Bragg dropped their FY 23-24 funding request. In response to an inquiry, Paul advised that Point Arena would cover the funding shortfall if their project request is cut by 10%.

The recommended motion was clarified to include a 10% reduction to agency requests (as shown on financial spreadsheets), removal of Fort Bragg's project per their request, and allowance for staff to make additional adjustments as needed, as new information is received.

Motion by Jacob King, seconded by Jason Benson, and carried unanimously on roll call vote, (*7 ayes – Duley, Meester, King, Andersen, Cliser, O'Neal, Benson*) to approve the Draft FY 2023/24 for submittal to Caltrans, as recommended.

6. Staff Reports

6a. Meeting with Caltrans re Traffic Model Update – SB 743 Screening Tool – Nephele explained MCOG sponsored an SB 743 study a few ago to develop thresholds and methodology for VMT analysis, and included in that study were recommendations to update the model and look at how the TAZs were laid out. Also, as part of that study, Fehr & Peers developed a screening tool to screen projects to identify if further VMT analysis was needed. She said MCOG staff learned that Caltrans was doing a model update for Lake and Mendocino counties, and staff wanted to see if the model changes would help with VMT analysis. She said staff also learned a new tool was included in the model update and was hoping to find out how that tool related to the tool developed by Fehr and Peers.

She summarized that MCOG staff met last week with the Caltrans modeling team, and it sounds like there have been no changes to the TAZ boundaries. She also learned that the new tool being developed is an analysis tool, not a screening tool, so MCOG would need to continue with the Fehr & Peers tool if agencies are interested in using a screening tool. She advised that hosting fees for the Fehr & Peer tool are increasing, so MCOG will need to pay the higher fees or find a new host. Discussions have been held with Caltrans about possibly hosting the tool on their site, but that's not available yet. Other potential hosts (e.g. County GIS departments) are possible, and will be discussed in the future.

At this time, MCOG needs to know if local agencies are using the Fehr & Peers tool. Mark said the County has not used the tool; Dusty said the City of Willits has not used the tool, but plans to as part of their EIR for the Land Use element update which must be completed by December. Chantell said Fort Bragg has not been using the tool. Several members said they like having the tool available; some have not had significant projects to need the tool. Dave Shpak asked what the County plans to use for the Local Coastal Plan, and Mark offered to check with coastal planning staff and follow up.

Loretta said Caltrans' consultant (Cambridge Systematics) offered to give the same model presentation to the TAC that staff received, if there was interest. Several TAC members expressed interest, and Dean agreed to check on scheduling a presentation for the March or April TAC meeting.

Nephele said the modeling consultant asked her to check with local agencies about expected growth in the County, so she asked members to email her (or Loretta or Dean) with information on where growth is expected to occur within the next decade or so. Mark said a big subdivision north of Fort Bragg is coming, and he noted the challenge of finding needed mitigation projects. These issues will be further discussed, likely at the next TAC meeting.

6b. Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino County – Feasibility Study

Loretta reported the consultant team recently held another round of virtual TAG and community meetings, but attendance was low. The team will work on getting more community input when they return in April for a third round of outreach. She said this project is scheduled to be completed this summer, with a presentation to the MCOG Board (and possibly MTA Board) in August.

Nephele noted that this last round of outreach was intentionally targeted toward people who had been involved previously, but got very little participation. Overall, it's been a good project with a lot of public involvement early on. The next round is expected to have better public involvement.

6c. MTA Ukiah Transit Center – Feasibility Study – Loretta briefly reported that not much has changed on this project since her report last month. A check-in meeting with the consultant (LSC) is scheduled soon to give staff an update on preliminary findings on the site analysis.

6d. MCOG Public Outreach with ChargePoint for Rural Electric Vehicle – As reported last month, Loretta advised that MCOG is helping ChargePoint gather public input on where to install 25 grant-funded (CA Energy Commission) electric vehicle charging stations in the Redwood Valley-Ukiah-Hopland area. A virtual community workshop is planned for 5:30 p.m. on March 16, and a virtual stakeholder workshop is planned for February 22 at 9:00 a.m. Zoom links for both workshops have been distributed by email and are posted on the MCOG website (www.mendocinocog.org).

Nephele expressed hope that representatives from the City of Ukiah and County can attend and provide feedback on charger locations.

6e. Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program – Applications due 3/9/23
Loretta noted the March 9 deadline and said Caltrans staff has offered to review draft applications if received two weeks before the deadline. MCOG staff is working on a Noyo Harbor planning grant with the City of Fort Bragg and County, and has provided assistance on Ukiah's application.

Nephele encouraged local agencies to consider these planning grants when they're thinking about applying for OWP planning projects, noting that OWP funding will likely be limited in the next years. Although the grants are more work than OWP applications, more funding is available, and it would leave OWP funds for more projects overall.

7. Miscellaneous

MCOG Training – Paul voiced interest in the traffic control training MCOG has sponsored for local agencies in the past, as staff turnover has created a need for new training. Loretta agreed to research this for a possible on-site training session this spring or summer.

Gualala Streetscape – Dave Shpak complimented Caltrans staff Caren Coonrod and the design team working on the Gualala Streetscape project for their visit to the community and willingness to engage with the community on the project. He also complimented Nephele and MCOG staff for work on this project.

7a. Next Meeting – 3/15/23, if needed.

8. Adjournment – approx. 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard
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