

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
September 8, 2010

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 in the Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Nate Beason, Ann Guerra, Sally Harris, Larry Jostes, Chauncey Poston, and Ed Scofield

Member Absent: Carolyn Wallace Dee

Staff Present: Daniel Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: Michael Woodman, Transportation Planner

Standing Orders: Vice Chairman Jostes convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 10:15 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Jostes asked for public comments at the beginning of the meeting. There were none.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports:
 - A. June 2010 and July 2010. *Approved.*
2. NCTC Minutes:

July 21, 2010 Meeting. *Approved.*
3. Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley. *Adopted Resolution 10-40 approving the City of Grass Valley's request for an allocation of \$25,000 of Pedestrian/Bicycle Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for the Safe Routes to School – West Main Street pedestrian/bicycle project for FY 2010/11.*

Commissioner Poston made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Beason seconded the motion. The motion passed with an abstention from Commissioner Scofield of the July 21, 2010 Minutes due to his absence from the meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Correspondence
 - A. California Transportation Commission – Excerpts from the 2010 Report of STIP Balances County and Interregional Shares. 8/13/10, File 1390.0.

Executive Director Landon commented that the report indicated that the balances are as they have been for the past few years. There is a \$5.7 million unprogrammed balance that is hoped to some day become available.

- B. City of Grass Valley – Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Meeting for the proposed Grass Valley Redevelopment Plan Fourth Amendment. 8/18/10, File 490.1. (In Commissioner’s packets only.)

Executive Director Landon said he included this to point out to the Commission that as the City of Grass Valley expands their redevelopment area to include the Dorsey Drive area, this could potentially add redevelopment funding to the Dorsey Drive Interchange project.

5. Executive Director’s Report

5.1 SR 49 Stakeholders Committee Meeting July 23, 2010

Executive Director Landon reported there were several action items noted in the meeting memo that resulted from the July 23rd meeting. He said there will be quarterly meetings to make sure things continue to move forward.

5.4 Tinloy Street Transit Transfer Facility

Executive Director Landon said that final approval was received from the Federal Transit Administration on the documents that Nevada County Public Works Department submitted. The project will be put out for advertisement in the next few weeks and the contract will be awarded on October 26th. Plans are to complete the project early in the summer of 2011.

5.6 Nevada County Pedestrian Improvement Plan

Executive Director Landon reported the progress on the Pedestrian Improvement Plan. Michael Woodman, NCTC Transportation Planner, was absent from the meeting in order to walk with the consultants from Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants to review some of the areas in Grass Valley and Nevada City that have been submitted for inclusion as potential improvements. The next day they planned to do a similar activity in the Town of Truckee.

Commissioner Guerra offered kudos to Michael Woodman and the consultants on the Pedestrian Improvement Plan. She thought the outreach was remarkable and she expects to see a good report come out of all the efforts put forth. She had heard about the outreach from many others and she personally had many invitations to participate.

5.7 Federal Fund Obligation – ARRA and CMAQ Status

Executive Director Landon acknowledged the Public Works Departments of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Nevada County who totally obligated the \$3,886,086 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and \$878,183 of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009/10. All of the funds have been secured through the approval process and the projects can move forward.

Commissioner Guerra congratulated everyone on their efforts to secure the funds since it can be a difficult process.

Commissioner Beason was also glad to see the funds obligated. He said if you look at all the agencies in Nevada County, such as schools and cities and the county, there is a total of \$50 or \$60 million in ARRA funds.

6. Caltrans District 3:

A. Project Status Report: Winder Bajwa, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County, was absent from the meeting. Executive Director Landon gave a brief report of the projects.

- *Dorsey Drive Interchange* – Executive Director Landon reported that Caltrans has one parcel in negotiations on Dorsey Drive and the City of Grass Valley has stated to the property owner what they are willing to do to allow the project to move forward.

Vice Chairman Jostes recalled that at the July meeting there was discussion of reviewing fundamentals of the project to get more in line with expected funding. He asked if there is a process in place to accomplish this. Executive Director Landon said the effort is in progress. He met with Tim Kiser, Grass Valley City Engineer and Public Works Director, and Doug Hobbs who represented the City of Nevada City. As engineers, Mr. Kiser and Mr. Hobbs identified some things in the plans that they wanted to query with Caltrans for possible phasing solutions. Mr. Kiser was to touch base with Steve Castleberry, Senior Engineer at Nevada County Public Works Department, to see what his thoughts were, and then take some combined comments to Caltrans. Vice Chairman Jostes asked if there would be progress reported at the November NCTC meeting or was it a longer term process. Mr. Landon thought there would be initial comments back from Caltrans by November and how the project could move forward.

Executive Director Landon noted that the statement from Federal Highways on the TIGER II grant process was that they would announce the awards of the grants sometime after September 15th, so something may be known by the November meeting if the City of Grass Valley was successful.

- *SR 49 Five Lane Widening at the La Barr Meadows Road Intersection* – Executive Director Landon stated, in response to an inquiry from Commission Beason, that he did not know why AT&T was slower than PG&E in moving their lines. Due to that delay the project is unable to start until the spring of 2011. Mr. Landon was told by a Caltrans employee that AT&T had around 10,000 pair of cables that had to be spliced and it was a laborious process.

Commissioner Poston asked if Caltrans had plans to implement erosion control efforts at the project site. Executive Director Landon said he would follow up on that question and send the Commissioners an email to report his findings.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the construction of the sound walls for the project could proceed since the residents in the mobile home parks have been impacted by the tree removal. Executive Director Landon said his understanding was that the three sound walls were probably going to be in the last phase of construction.

- *SR 89 Pedestrian Undercrossing and Mousehole Interim Improvements Project* – Executive Director Landon reported the Draft Environmental Document (DED) is slated to come out in early October and will be going to the Town of Truckee at one of their October meetings. The week of September 7th work was started inside the Mousehole to install a pedestrian actuated light that will only flash when a pedestrian is in the area instead of a continuously flashing beacon. Mr. Landon stated they are also shortening up the guard rail so pedestrians are able to access the tunnel easier and get through it more quickly. This is an interim project to be done now while waiting for the construction of the pedestrian tunnel.
- *Resurfacing of SR 20 from I-80 to Nevada City and Uren Street Restriping in Nevada City* – Executive Director Landon said the resurfacing project on SR 20 is moving forward with the asphalt in place and, according to Josh Susman, crews were working that day at the I-80 end of the project. The work has provided a much improved surface. Mr. Landon reported that the restriping of the Uren Street intersection was accomplished. He stated that Mr. Bajwa had made an error reporting in the previous meeting that the left turn from Uren Street onto the highway would be eliminated. The left turn movement is still allowed. Mr. Landon noted that there have been several public comments regarding the restriping as to the difficulty of exiting at Coyote Street when you are traveling southbound on SR 20. He said that Jim Brake, Caltrans Traffic Operations Engineer, was apprised of the situation and he spoke to the citizen that brought up the issue. The citizen reported back to Mr. Landon that there did not seem to be any movement on the part of Caltrans to want to restripe that portion of the intersection. Mr. Landon said the issue would be monitored as to the safety of that location.

Commissioner Scofield commented that there appears to be confusion in general as people travel southbound on SR 20 into that area. He said he has witnessed the tendency of people to be over on the right hand side of the highway in the right turn lane before they realize it and then they have to maneuver left across the hatched marks on the highway to go straight. Mr. Landon said that Caltrans put the cross-hatched area in to push through traffic over to the left lane, but then anyone desiring to exit at Coyote Street has to go across two lanes of traffic to get to the exit ramp, which creates a problem. Commissioner Harris said that is a big issue because if you miss the Coyote Street exit you have missed the downtown area of Nevada City and must turn around at Gold Flat Road.

Vice Chairman Jostes asked if there was a formal process, other than just having people comment, to review the effectiveness of this restriping. He said if it was causing problems that did not exist before, was there some way of looking at the current situation or does the Commission just have to wait to see what happens. Executive Director Landon said he will ask Jim Brake, who designed the restriping and is in charge of it, to determine if there is an appeal process. Mr. Landon said he will communicate to the Commission what he finds out in an email.

- *SR 49 Northbound Passing Lane Extension Project from Combie Road to Brewer Road* – This project is complete.

Commissioner Poston gave kudos on the passing lane extension project. He said his son drives that portion of SR 49 every day and he mentioned that the project has made a big difference for him with his evening commute home.

- *SR 49 Minor A Operational Projects* – Executive Director Landon said these four projects were discussed at the SR 49 Stakeholder Committee meeting and the Committee will

continue to monitor the progress of these projects. They are slated for construction in FY 2012/13.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Amendment I to the 2010/11 Overall Work Program

Executive Director Landon explained the changes needed to amend the 2010/11 Overall Work Program (OWP). The main need was to identify funds that were carried forward from FY 2009/10 into the current fiscal year. He said the update of the Nevada County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) needs to be funded, so staff has moved some of the State Planning Assistance funds out of Work Element (WE) 2.1 and put them into WE 2.4, which is Coordination of Regional Planning, to facilitate using a consultant to accomplish that update.

When Mr. Landon first planned for that update in the budget in May, his thought was for staff to do most of the formatting work of the document in-house during the current fiscal year, and then in the next fiscal year a consultant would be sought to provide the technical data needed to complete the plan. However, when Mr. Landon heard from the City of Grass Valley that the Loma Rica Ranch project appears to be moving forward again, and finding that there was \$60,000 of funding available to move into the ACLUP project, he thought it would be a good idea to get the land use plan updated sooner rather than later to be a part of the interaction on the Loma Rica Ranch project. He said that staff has talked to several consulting firms to estimate the cost to update the plan.

Commissioner Beason said he thought the developer of the Loma Rica Ranch was obligated to do some things and he wondered about the status of those actions, such as issues involving the airport. Mr. Landon responded there were comments from the previous Airport Land Use Commission about issues particularly with relationship to identifying some emergency landing areas as they did their development. He said as the environmental report comes forward, he will be able to determine if that was addressed or not. Commissioner Beason said that will be an issue. Commissioner Poston invited Commissioner Beason to the meeting the next evening with the Grass Valley City Council and Planning Commission regarding the Loma Rica Ranch project. Commissioner Beason commented that, as the project goes forward, the county and city should have more formal dialogues about the airport and several intersections that will be impacted, and how to address the impacts. Mr. Landon said he spoke to Tom Last, Grass Valley Planning Director, and he indicated that the Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report will be out by late September, so that will give the Commission and staff an opportunity to make comments.

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-41 approving Amendment I to the FY 2010/11 Overall Work Program. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Harris said starting the following week Broad Street was going to start being redone, with the surface ground down, removed, and rebuilt, for the first time in over fifty years. She said that is Nevada City's ARRA funded project. Commissioner Beason asked if there were plans to do something with Commercial Street. Commissioner Harris responded that the city is going to try a removable boardwalk that would take up a few parking spaces along Commercial Street. The idea is to make it more inviting for all kinds of people there, so it is one more tool to make that area useable

for everyone and not have such a problem with the legs across the sidewalk and those kinds of issues. The materials have been donated and it is a volunteer effort. The crosswalk will be removable if it causes more problems than it helps.

Commissioner Scofield made a comment for the record that at a SR 49 Stakeholders meeting there was a request from the Higgins Fire District to consider a pre-emptive device at Wolf/Combie Road that would allow fire and emergency vehicles to change the traffic lights as they are coming out. Just prior to their meeting there was an incident in that intersection involving one of the fire trucks. He said the pre-emptive device would also be needed at the Alta Sierra intersection. Commissioner Scofield noted that Executive Director Landon worked with Caltrans and they agreed to put this device into the La Barr Meadows Road widening project. He said it was a question of whose jurisdiction it is at Wolf/Combie Road. Caltrans does not seem to be interested in financing it. Higgins Fire District said it was a \$60,000 project for them. He knows Nevada County does not have the money and the fire department does not seem willing to do it themselves. Commissioner Scofield said he sees a need for the device and he would like to see it installed at those intersections. Executive Director Landon said that one of the things that came out of that stakeholders meeting was information from the Caltrans Local Assistance branch that there are two potential funding sources that are annual grants. He thought that Steve Castleberry from the Nevada County Public Works Department was possibly going to look into it. Commissioner Scofield noted that there was a great turnout of Caltrans staff at the stakeholders meeting and he appreciated their involvement.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is on November 17, 2010 at the Truckee Town Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Commissioner Poston moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Jostes adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Carolyn Wallace Dee, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission