

JAN ARBUCKLE – Grass Valley City Council
ANDREW BURTON – Member-At-Large, Chair
CAROLYN WALLACE DEE – Town of Truckee
ANN GUERRA – Member-At-Large
SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair
ED SCOFIELD – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
DUANE STRAWSER – Nevada City City Council



DANIEL LANDON, Executive Director
MICHAEL WOODMAN, Deputy Executive Director

Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING October 7, 2020

An online meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held via teleconference, in light of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. The meeting was held via Zoom. Notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance. The meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: *Jan Arbuckle
 Andy Burton
 *Carolyn Wallace Dee
 Ann Guerra
 Susan Hoek
 Ed Scofield
 *Duane Strawser

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director
 Mike Woodman, Deputy Executive Director
 Kena Sannar, Transportation Planner
 Dale Sayles, Administrative Services Officer
 Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Chair Burton convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
Title: Executive Director.
2. Public Employment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
Title: Executive Director

Executive Director Daniel Landon officially tendered his resignation from Nevada County Transportation Commission, effective January 22, 2021. An Ad Hoc Committee made up of Commissioner Arbuckle, Commissioner Guerra, and Commissioner Scofield was formed and will look at the options available to our Commission on filling the Executive Director position. The committee will present a recommendation on how to proceed at the next scheduled NCTC meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
June and July 2020
2. NCTC Minutes
July 15, 2020 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Nevada County Transportation Commission Title VI Program Renewal
Resolution 20-38
4. Appointments to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
Approve appointments to the SSTAC.
5. FY 2020-21 State Transit Assistance (STA) Allocation Revised Estimate
Adopt the revised table as a basis for allocation for the STA Fund for FY 2020/21.
6. State of Good Repair Project for FY 2020/21: See staff report.
Resolution 20-39

ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote
MOTION: Arbuckle / **SECOND:** Dee
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield
NOES: None
ABSENT: Strawser
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

7. Accept the State Route 174/20 Intersection Analysis as Complete
Resolution 20-40

Executive Director Landon commented that the consulting firm GHD Inc. did an excellent job in designing a proposed improvement of the study area, and completed their analysis by preparing an application for Active Transportation Plan funding. We will know in the next couple of months whether the grant will be awarded to fund the project, but all in all the project was done very well.

Commissioner Arbuckle thanked staff and the consultant and said the City of Grass Valley is excited to be able to fix the Devil's Triangle area.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 20-40 by roll call vote
MOTION: Arbuckle / **SECOND:** Scofield
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield
NOES: None
ABSENT: Strawser
ABSTAIN: None

8. Accept the Nevada City State Route 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan as Complete Resolution 20-41

Executive Director Landon commented the consultant firm GHD Inc. worked with staff and with Caltrans and Federal Highways on the segment of Highway 49 from the SR 49/20 intersection at Uren Street, over to just past the Rood Center, developing a planning concept that included roundabouts and other pedestrian related improvements along that corridor. This project was also submitted in an application for Active Transportation Program funding. We will know later this fall as to the success or failure of that application.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 20-41 by roll call vote
MOTION: Scofield / **SECOND:** Arbuckle
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield
NOES: None
ABSENT: Strawser
ABSTAIN: None

**At this point, Commissioner Strawser joined the meeting.*

9. Accept SB 743 Vehicle Miles Traveled Implementation Project as Complete Resolution 20-42
Presentation by Rod Brown with Fehr & Peers.

Deputy Executive Director Mike Woodman commented that the consultant firm Fehr & Peers has completed the Senate Bill 743, Vehicle Miles Traveled Methodology and Threshold Recommendation Study. This was a study that staff funded to assist the local jurisdictions in implementing the requirements of Senate Bill 743. In addition to the recommendations, Fehr & Peers developed a screening tool to assist the local jurisdictions going forward in implementing Senate Bill 743. Fehr & Peers Transportation Planner Rod Brown gave a presentation on the highlights of the study and the planning effort.

Rod Brown's presentation slides and presentation transcript can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Projects/SB-743-VMT/index.html>

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 20-42 by roll call vote
MOTION: Dee / **SECOND:** Guerra
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

**At this point, Commissioner Arbuckle and Commissioner Dee left the meeting.*

10. Accept the NCTC/ Grass Valley Travel Demand Forecasting Model as Complete Resolution 20-43
Presentation by Vamsee Modugula with TJKM.

Executive Director Landon commented that one of the key tools staff uses is the Travel Demand Model. Staff retained the firm TJKM with Vamsee Modugula as the project manager to update the model and bring it to current levels, and to extend the forecasting year out into the future. Vamsee Modugula gave an overview of the work that was done on the Travel Demand Forecasting Model.

Vamsee Modugula's presentation slides and presentation transcript can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Traffic-Analysis-Data/Regional-Traffic-Model/index.html>

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 20-43 by roll call vote
MOTION: Guerra / SECOND: Scofield
AYES: Burton, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser
NOES: None
ABSENT: Arbuckle, Dee
ABSTAIN: None

11. Amendment 1 to the FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program Resolution 20-44

Executive Director Landon commented that each year staff makes adjustments to the budget based on the carry-over balances from the previous year. This year staff made adjustments based on the impacts of the pandemic, including telework expenses such as offsetting costs of internet and cellphone service. Inclusive of these changes, staff has been able to balance the budget and keep things moving forward.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 20-44 by roll call vote
MOTION: Guerra / SECOND: Scofield
AYES: Burton, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser
NOES: None
ABSENT: Arbuckle, Dee
ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. Correspondence
- A. Amarjeet S. Benipal, Department of Transportation District 3 Director, State Route 49 Safety Assessment Team and Stakeholders, File 1200.4.0.1, 7/13/2020.
- B. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2019-20 State of Good Repair Program Fourth Allocation, File 370.2.1, 8/24/2020.

- C. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2019-20 Fourth Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 8/24/2020.
- D. Mike Woodman, Chair, North State Super Region, Comments on the Draft Investment Strategies – Implementation of Executive Order N 19 19, File 1030.2.4.5, 8/12/20.

Executive Director Landon commented that Caltrans has updated the SR 49 Safety Assessment Report. There will be information coming out for the public in the near future, including videos explaining the project and what the impacts of it are, specifically the new safety projects identified for Highway 49. The public will have an opportunity to understand what those projects are and how soon they might be coming to fruition. The Safety Assessment Report is available to view on the NCTC website: <https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Projects/SR-49-Safety-Assessment-Report/index.html> to see the projections and potential projects.

Mr. Landon noted that Correspondence Item D is a letter from Mike Woodman, Chair of the North State Super Region, that outlines specific strategies and impacts from the recent executive order N 19 19, concerning transportation. He encouraged review of that letter and the work that Mr. Woodman is doing on behalf of not only NCTC, but the other 16 Northern counties in the State of California. View the North State Super Region letter on our website: <https://www.nctc.ca.gov/News/index.html>

13. Executive Director's Report

- READY Nevada County

Executive Director Landon commented that staff is moving forward with what they are calling READY Nevada County. The project is parallel with the work the Office of Emergency Services is doing, and seeks to identify the deficiencies and weaknesses in our transportation system related to such things as climate change and wildfire, and develop ways to improve our infrastructure and plan for those future events. Staff will interview consultants and will present a recommendation for the consultant on this project at the next Commission meeting. This project is being funded with a state grant that was applied for and received. Staff is working with Jenn Tamo, Office of Emergency Services, and Terry McMahan, County Fire Marshall.

14. Project Status Report

A. Caltrans Project Report

Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County, presented his report. He said Caltrans staff is working on presenting the content of the SR 49 Safety Assessment Report to the public.

Caltrans staff added a capital maintenance project for drainage and pavement rehabilitation from Rim Rock Road, just east of Nevada City up to the I-80/SR 20 junction, finishing design in May 2024 and construction in December of 2025.

The slope stabilization east of Truckee down by Floriston and Farad is having some anticipated impacts to traffic. There will be some potential rock blasting and rolling lane closures this week, from Hirschdale going to the east, and the Nevada State line coming from the west. These slope stabilizations

were from a couple years back when a harsh winter with a lot of rain caused many slope failures.

The Highway 174 relinquishment at Highway 20 is proceeding, and the environmental document is complete. Then Caltrans staff will start a relinquishment agreement with Grass Valley, and submit to the CTC for approval. They are hoping to have that done by early spring of 2021.

Mr. Vandell gave an update on the Highway 174 Safety Improvement project. Caltrans is proceeding with the stage one work, and the trees have been cleared. There was a concern with debris piling up and the contractor not getting it removed in a timely fashion. Part of that was due to the smoke and the ability of the crews to perform work in those conditions. That has been completed now and they are working on drainage items and widening of some of the roads, and also doing utility relocation work. The engineer has been working with property owners along the route. He has not heard anything negative about what's going on. He said the crew will be proceeding with as much work as they can get done this year and then finish it up next year.

Mr. Vandell gave a report on the Omega Curves project on Highway 20. This project was initially three projects combined into one safety project, one in the White Cloud area, one in the Low Hill area, and an operational project in the Low Hill area. The main purpose is to reduce collisions and improve sight distance. Caltrans will be realigning some of the worst curves and adding an eight-foot shoulder and a wildlife processing area to help reduce the number of wildlife impacts or collisions with vehicles. The environmental documents are completed, it was a routine environmental assessment for NEPA and then an initial study with a mitigated negative declaration. Design will be completed early next spring with advertisement to contractors in June, and begin construction in the late summer, early fall of 2021 with construction to be completed in December of 2025.

The special operations project will provide an eastbound left turn lane at Conservation Road and an eastbound left turn lane at Washington Road. There was a westbound turnout scheduled at post mile 28.1 that was removed after feedback from concerned residents, along with the Nevada County supervisor, Richard Anderson. It was determined that the turnout will be removed from the project due to the location and residents' concerns with the safety and the proximity to driveways and access to Highway 20. Caltrans may add another westbound turnout in a future project after more vetting can be done for a more suitable location.

Chair Burton asked if there was any discussion about adding a left turn lane near what is referred to as Five Mile House. He said this entire corridor is a recreation hub, especially on weekends. A lot of traffic comes up from out of the area to mountain bike, and the majority of the traffic parks at Five Mile House on the right-hand side heading eastbound. There is a parking area at Harmony Ridge Market on the left-hand side that mountain bikers use. There is also a right-hand turn onto Scott's Flat Road. The confluence of all three of those things makes it a dangerous location on a Saturday morning between 6:00 a.m. and noon to turn left, across traffic. Fortunately, the traffic is not terrible coming westbound at that time. But as the day continues, traffic does pick up. There are a lot of vehicles crossing lanes to go in both directions.

Commissioner Strawser said there are less than eight usable spots on the left in front of the market going eastbound. They are not supposed to park in the parking area of the store itself. Now that the restaurant has reopened across the street, parking is very limited. People crossing back and forth to get to their cars and bikes is an issue, as traffic comes through there typically at full speed. The next parking area is midway between the market and Conservation Camp Road, but big horse trailers can take up two thirds of that dirt area. It would need to be paved at some point to make it usable, especially during

the winter, when it gets completely covered in mud. He said they would appreciate any improvement that Caltrans makes.

Mr. Vandell said they do not have the funding to add anything at this point onto this project, not to mention the environmental studies that it would require and potential right-of-way impacts. Most of those projects are U.S. Forest Service property, and they are coordinating with them and obtaining those rights to the areas for the realignment. He said he can alert their operations and safety units and have them review this area, and maybe do some counts and studies.

Mr. Vandell said Caltrans met with Trisha from Nevada County and CHP about some accidents and collisions with pedestrians in the San Juan area, and they have completed a video assessment. They will do a visual inspection of the signs, what type of signs, and the visibility of the signs. They will provide information and any safety mitigation that can help with the San Juan area.

Mr. Vandell said the access to parking directly off of Highway 20 is pretty restricted. The U.S. Forest Service potential of expanding a parking area would be a great asset. COVID certainly impacted this, as people accessing it has increased, but also getting projects done really slowed down. He will alert traffic safety and operations to this area to see what they can do.

Commissioner Strawser commented that Highway 20 is listed as a scenic corridor, so many out of towners use it, not realizing there is no shoulder. Anything that can be done to widen the road to add shouldering is always welcome, they always encourage it when a job is being done.

Mr. Vandell commented even through the left turn lane additions, they are widening the eight-foot shoulders in the White Cloud and Low Hill areas. He said it is definitely a valuable asset for safety on all modes of vehicles going through the area.

Chair Burton asked if Caltrans can highlight that particular location as a problem area for future consideration. The Pioneer Trail runs from Nevada City all the way to Highway 80, and it is a high traffic recreation area. Anything that can be done to slow down traffic and create turnout opportunities will improve safety and usability.

Mr. Vandell said they have been working with the U.S. Forest Service and actually rerouting some of these trails because of the realignment of the roadway itself. There is a significant number of trails through the section and with the increased numbers of people wanting to use them, it is absolutely an impact. He said the next time they meet with the Forest Service they will see if they can find out any additional information.

Commissioner Strawser said one of the more popular loops, as riders leave Nevada City, they go Willow Valley, get on Pioneer Trail, go eastbound all the way up, and when they hit Skillman, they have to go back a half mile or a mile on Highway 20 to get to the turnoff to the town of Washington. He said it is scary, zero shoulder, and curvy, and if there is a truck or trailer, vehicles can't always see the cyclists coming around. For future reference, if we can add that in to consideration for shouldering, at least on the westbound side, that would be great to avoid a future issue with somebody being hurt. Mr. Vandell said he would make a note of that and bring it to their Operations and Safety Unit's attention.

ACTION: None – Information only.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

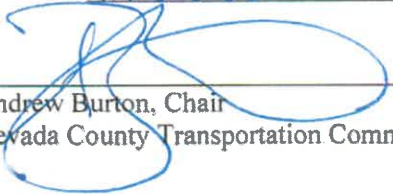
SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be November 18, 2020 via Zoom Webinar.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 

Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 11/18/2020 _____

By: 

Andrew Burton, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission