

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



MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director

Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING July 21, 2021

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, July 21, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom. Notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jan Arbuckle
 Andy Burton
 Susan Hoek
 Ed Scofield
 Duane Strawser
 Jan Zabriskie

Members Absent: Ann Guerra

Staff Present: Mike Woodman, Executive Director
 Dan Landon, Executive Advisor
 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 8:33 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
 Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Town of Truckee Transit Administrative Analyst Kelly Beede informed the Commission that she is retiring the end of July from the Town of Truckee. She thanked the NCTC Commissioners and staff for their support in moving Transit forward in Truckee. Truckee Transit has made great strides over recent years and she is excited for Transit's future with her successor. Interviews were held last week and if their top candidate accepts the position, Truckee will be in amazing hands, and this candidate will take Transit to a new level through the support of the Nevada County Transportation Commission and staff along with the Truckee Town Council. Ms. Beede expressed it has been a pleasure working with everybody.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
April 2021 and May 2021
2. NCTC Minutes
May 19, 2021 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. HIP Bid Targets for FY 2020/21
Approve the Bid Target table as a basis for allocation from the HIP Fund for FY 2020/21.
4. State of Good Repair Projects for FY 2021/22
Resolution 21-13
5. Grass Valley, Nevada City, Town of Truckee, and Nevada County Local Participation Subrecipient Agreements for FY 2021/22
Resolution 21-14
6. Allocation Request from Nevada County
Resolution 21-15
7. Allocation Request from the Town of Truckee
Resolution 21-16

ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote

MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Arbuckle

AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser, Zabriskie

NOES: None

ABSENT: Guerra

ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

8. Professional Services Agreement for Fiscal and Compliance Audits
Resolution 21-17

In compliance with the Transportation Development Act, Fiscal and Compliance Audits are conducted annually for NCTC, as well as its claimants, and are presented to the Commission and submitted to the State Controller's Office. In May of this year, NCTC released a request for proposals from qualified firms to prepare Fiscal and Compliance Audits. Four proposals were received and reviewed by a selection committee that consisted of members of Nevada County Auditor-Controller's office, Town of Truckee, City of Grass Valley and NCTC staff.

Based on the review and scoring of the proposals, interviews were held with three firms, those being AGT, CLA and The Pun Group. Following the interviews, the selection committee chose The Pun Group to conduct the Fiscal and Compliance Audits for fiscal years 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23, with two additional option years.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 21-17 by roll call vote
MOTION: Scofield / SECOND: Zabriskie
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Guerra
ABSTAIN: None

9. Amendment 7, Professional Services Agreement for General Counsel Services with Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP
Resolution 21-18

The current contract with NCTC's legal counsel, Sloan Sakai Yeung and Wong LLP, expires on August 31, 2021. NCTC staff has been really pleased with the firm's performance, responsiveness, and overall knowledge and experience with regional transportation planning agencies and airport land use commissions, and their guidance in addressing the numerous legal questions and issues that are raised to them. NCTC staff very much appreciate the experience and relationship they have with the firm. Staff is recommending the extension of the contract for three years with two one-year options, commencing August 30, 2021.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 21-18 by roll call vote
MOTION: Hoek / SECOND: Arbuckle
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Guerra
ABSTAIN: None

10. Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan Final Report
Accept the Final Report

Item #10 was pulled from the agenda.

11. Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Final Report
Accept the Final Report

This item is accepting the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan as complete for terms of a contract with WSP. The draft was presented to the Transit Services Commission at their May 19 meeting and comments from the public as well as the TSC have been incorporated into the final report.

ACTION: Approved the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Final Report by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Arbuckle
AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Guerra
ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

14. Correspondence

- A. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2020/21 Third Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 5/18/2021.
- B. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2020/21 State of Good Repair Program Second Allocation, File 370.2.1, 5/18/2021.
- C. Mike Woodman, Executive Director, NCTC, Letter of Appreciation to Senator Brian Dahle, File 1200.4, 7/1/21.
- D. Mike Woodman, Executive Director, NCTC, Letter of Appreciation to Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, File 1200.4, 7/1/21.
- E. Mike Woodman, Chair, North State Super Region, Comments on the Draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), File 1030.2.4.5, 5/20/2021.
- F. Department of Transportation, Caltrans Seeks Community Feedback about Future SR-49 Projects, File 1200.4, 7/8/2021.

Mike Woodman, Chair of the North State Super Region, drafted a comment letter to the California State Transportation Agency, regarding the draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure. The comments raise key concerns that rural transportation projects not be put at a disadvantage in relation to shifting policies.

The Department of Transportation press release states Caltrans District 3 is working on a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for the State Route 49 corridor, in coordination with Nevada County Transportation Commission, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, as well stakeholders along the corridor, including CHP, first responders and the public. They are seeking public input through an online survey, and there will be additional public opportunities for input as the process moves along. The multimodal corridor plan project is a planning study that seeks to define what improvements are needed, interim, medium term, and long term, within the corridor, and what the deficiencies are. The intent is to position this project for funding to make the critical operational and safety improvements needed on the State Route 49 corridor in both Nevada and Placer Counties.

The State Route 49 Stakeholders Committee, a group that NCTC formed back in 2007 based on concerns for safety raised within the corridor, represents stakeholders, citizens, elected officials, NCTC, CHP and other first responders, and Caltrans. The focus of the group is to have continued communication relating to improvements within the corridor. The Committee will receive a presentation of the draft multimodal corridor plan. The Committee has not met since before the pandemic, and there has been a lot of progress identifying the issues and improvements that could be implemented, so it is time to share this information with the Committee and get their input.

There will be outreach to the South County Municipal Advisory Council to keep them informed as well. Caltrans has distributed information through their social media channels, email notifications, local radio stations and the local newspaper, and has been actively engaging local stakeholders and first

responders. They are soliciting input to identify the needs of the community such as bus routes and access for pedestrians and bicyclists along State Route 49.

Letters of appreciation were sent to Senator Brian Dahle and Assemblywoman Megan Dahle for their assistance in working with Caltrans headquarters and the California State Transportation Agency to get a support letter for NCTC's federal earmark requests.

15. Executive Director's Report

- Active Transportation Program State Budget Augmentation Update
- SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Submittal of Federal Earmark Requests Update
- Final Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure

Executive Director Woodman commented on the efforts to lobby the Governor to include supplemental funding to the Active Transportation Program due to the budget surplus. Stakeholders were requesting two billion dollars in augmentation for the Active Transportation Program, but the Governor's May revise included only \$500 million in additional funding. The Legislature also passed Senate Bill 129 amending the Budget Act of 2021, requiring additional legislation to make the ATP augmentation available for encumbrance or expenditure. Hopefully when the Legislature returns from recess, this legislation will get passed and the \$500 million augmentation will go into the Active Transportation Program.

Jim Day from Caltrans Local Assistance commented that the \$500 million will be split up between statewide urban and rural areas, large Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the statewide listing. Based on the scores of those listings for Caltrans District 3, the SR 174/SR 20 Intersection Analysis project in Grass Valley is the one project that is close enough to reach that dollar figure before they run out of money. The Nevada City SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan project is still a few points below, and the money will be used up by the projects ahead of it.

Mr. Woodman said the two billion dollars originally requested would have funded all five of Nevada County's Active Transportation Program submittals. NCTC staff has budgeted funding in the Overall Work Program to hire a consultant to revamp the previous application for the Nevada City SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan project and resubmit it, hopefully to be successful in the future. There will also be a debrief with CTC staff and on-site visits to review the project with them. Clearing the backlog of projects ahead of it should put the project in a good position to score very well in the next round of submittals in Spring 2022.

Congressman LaMalfa had selected the Nevada City SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan project as one of his five member designated projects. Unfortunately, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee did not select that project to move forward. However, Senator Padilla has submitted it for \$10 million, which means the first hurdle in the earmark process has been cleared, and hopefully that project will make the final list.

The California State Transportation Agency adopted the final Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure. The new strategy is intended to leverage existing transportation funding sources to address climate and equity goals put in place with this plan. NCTC staff will continue to work with the Rural Counties Task Force and the North State Super Region to make sure, through implementation of

the new policy guidance provided in this plan, that the investment strategies are not disadvantaged in critical rural infrastructure. Many of the comments that were provided through the North State Super Region and the Rural Counties Task Force were acknowledged and addressed in the adoption of the final plan. That indicates they heard us and recognize some of our challenges and concerns, but we have to keep a close eye on this and make sure that Caltrans takes this approach to leveraging existing funding to address climate change and greenhouse gas emission reductions, and does not leave rural projects behind. We will continue to be vocal with Caltrans and CalSTA to ensure that these critical rural projects continue to get funded.

The comments emphasized that the majority of the mostly urban based induced demand research indicates that short term benefits are quickly used up and those benefits then don't relieve congestion. The factors that drive induced vehicle miles traveled are not present in our corridors, and from our experience, we are reducing greenhouse gases and providing multimodal benefits, and the projects are critical for safety and wildfire evacuation. We support the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and additional funding for Transit to get passenger rail up to the Truckee Tahoe region to move folks without their cars would be huge. We are trying to be part of the solution and not be viewed as part of the problem.

16. Project Status Reports:

A. Caltrans Projects: Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County.

Sam Vandell reviewed the July Caltrans Project Status Report. Caltrans has completed design on the Nevada and Placer turnouts and will be looking to advertise this project next month. The Nevada 20 pavement improvement project has finished the planning cycle. For the Nevada 49 Corridor Improvement Project, the environmental document has been signed and it will be part of the 2022 SHOPP program. The Environmental phase will begin next spring.

The Omega Curve Correction project will have some tree clearing and utility relocation work beginning this fall, with construction starting next spring. This project will have a number of public engagement meetings regarding the upcoming road closures and schedule for completing the project. There is a high potential for collisions through there so this project is definitely needed for the safety of the traveling public.

Executive Director Woodman had a phone conversation with Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock concerning the State Route 20 corridor and the recent fatalities there. A meeting was suggested with Caltrans, NCTC, the Board of Supervisors, CHP, and first responders, to take a look at the corridor, maybe have Caltrans Safety do an analysis, and look at short, medium, and long term strategies to address safety in that corridor. Mr. Vandell agreed that this is a corridor of some concern, and they would welcome a meeting with those agencies and other stakeholders and possibly Caltrans Traffic Operations to come up with potential ideas for safety mitigation, implementation, and short term and long term goals. Curves could be improved, as well as shoulder widening and sight distance issues.

It was suggested to include Caleb Dardick from the Nevada County CEO's office in those meetings, who has been looking at recreation assets along that State Route 20 corridor, with an eye toward tourism and promotion, which has a direct impact on traffic in the corridor.

The construction delays on Highway 174 were discussed. Mr. Vandell said often the one-way traffic control is the best way to facilitate constructing a project, to avoid shutting down the road for short

periods of time in both directions. The paving will take several weeks to complete but they are ahead of schedule. They did receive some letters from individuals with evacuation concerns along Highway 174. They are in constant coordination with CHP at that location, and will coordinate with their staff to remove any construction vehicles and open all lanes to traffic if needed.

Caltrans uses social media such as Facebook and Twitter to provide information on their activities. Mr. Vandell said Caltrans' Public Information Officer does an excellent job, and they are open to help improve their social media presence. Chair Burton suggested there are some well-established social media networks in Nevada County, including the county itself, law enforcement agencies and others, and he encouraged Caltrans to create a strategy in partnership with those existing networks to get more of that information in front of the people that need to see it.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

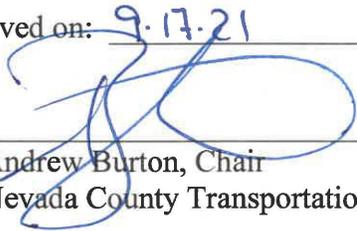
SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be September 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 

Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 9.17.21

By: 

Andrew Burton, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission