



## MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING May 19, 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, May 19, 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  
Jan Zabriskie

Members Absent: Ann Guerra  
Duane Strawser

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 8:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

### CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports  
February 2021 and March 2021
2. NCTC Minutes  
March 17, 2021 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Program of Projects Resolution 21-06

4. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Program of Projects  
Resolution 21-07
5. Revised Findings of Apportionment for FY 2021/22  
Resolution 21-08
6. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Bid Targets for FY 2020/21  
Approve the Bid Target table as a basis for allocation from the RSTP Fund.
7. Disposal of Surplus Equipment  
Resolution 21-09
8. Agreement with Town of Truckee for Return of State Transit Assistance Unearned Revenue  
Authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of NCTC.
9. Approval of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program FY 2020/21 Funding Amounts  
Approve FY 2020/21 funding amounts and authorize the Executive Director to sign letters approving the Town of Truckee's Allocation Request.

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

10. Presentation: FY 2019/20 Fiscal and Compliance Audits  
Accept the FY 2019/20 Fiscal and Compliance Audits.

Robert D. Griffith, CPA with AGT gave his presentation on the FY 2019/20 Fiscal and Compliance Audits.

Robert Griffith's presentation slides and presentation transcript can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/Fiscal-Audits/index.html>

**ACTION: None – Information only.**

11. Professional Services Agreement with GHD Inc. to Update the Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program in Coordination with the Updates of the Nevada County Local Traffic Mitigation Fee and Grass Valley Traffic Impact Fee Programs  
Resolution 21-10

The consultant firm GHD Inc. has been selected to update the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program and will also be conducting the update of the Nevada County Local Traffic Mitigation Fee

Program and Grass Valley Traffic Impact Fee Programs through direct contracts through those entities. This action is to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with GHD Inc. which has been reviewed by NCTC's legal counsel.

**ACTION: Approved Resolution 21-10 by roll call vote**  
**MOTION: Hoek / SECOND: Arbuckle**  
**AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Zabriskie**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Guerra, Strawser**  
**ABSTAIN: None**

12. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Adjustments  
Resolution 21-11

NCTC staff in coordination with partner jurisdictions reviewed the CMAQ program and determined that there were not any approved CMAQ projects ready to be obligated prior to the close of the federal fiscal year. NCTC staff with support from the Technical Advisory Committee proposed to loan NCTC's CMAQ apportionment balance of \$2,987,395 to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for the current Federal Fiscal year, and to have the equal amount returned to NCTC by SACOG in the following Federal Fiscal Year 2021/22, which begins October 1, 2021. This exchange benefits NCTC by accommodating project delays, and it expands our programming capacity for the projects in the federal fiscal year in which the repayment occurs. This loan benefits SACOG by allowing them to deliver additional CMAQ projects in the current federal fiscal year.

The CMAQ funds are earmarked for several projects including the Rough and Ready Highway roundabout project and the McCourtney Road sidewalk project, and the remainder of that funding is available for new projects. Staff will do a call for projects for the unprogrammed portion of the CMAQ funds, which will account for the projects that have already been approved.

Mr. Woodman addressed the question of why Nevada County is not a member of SACOG. One of the main reasons is Nevada County's non-attainment status for air quality for the federal eight-hour ozone standard. If Nevada County were to be included in SACOG's planning boundary and the Sacramento area had an air quality conformity lapse, it could put federal funding at risk. By staying separate, Nevada County is an isolated rural non-attainment area, which makes the air quality attainment process much easier for our transportation projects.

Mr. Woodman addressed the question if this loaning of money creates a perception issue on the use of funds or is it fairly neutral. He said it is fairly neutral and supported by Caltrans because they do not like to have the federal funding sitting unused. It helps Caltrans to meet their obligation of federal funds that were provided for the federal fiscal year. There is no downside, it gives us a way to bank our CMAQ funds and avoid running into obligation timing issues.

Dan Landon said if Nevada County were to be part of SACOG, with most of the CMAQ funds being distributed based on population, the bulk of those funds would automatically go into the metropolitan area, so Nevada County would see a reduction in the amount of revenue. Not being a part of SACOG gives Nevada County a little more autonomy and an ability to deal with local projects.

Robin Van Valkenburg, Transit Services Manager for the Nevada County Transit Services Division, said it also makes obtaining transit funding easier as they are not competing with other small providers within the SACOG region. There are some benefits being a member of SACOG, there is a scale of economy in certain things like the connect card fair payment system, but you're also beholden to some

of those decisions as well. It makes it a little more difficult for folks to function and it puts another layer of reporting, another layer of observation, and another layer of politics to get through in order to achieve projects. We can still tap into their process and some of their projects, things like the fair payment systems, without necessarily being a part of SACOG.

**ACTION:** Approved Resolution 21-11 by roll call vote  
**MOTION:** Scofield / **SECOND:** Hoek  
**AYES:** Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Zabriskie  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Guerra, Strawser  
**ABSTAIN:** None

13. Final FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program  
Resolution 21-12

Executive Director Woodman commented the Draft Overall Work Program was presented to the Commission at their March meeting and subsequently presented to the local jurisdictions for their review and consideration, as well as to Caltrans. The Grass Valley City Council, Nevada City Council, Truckee Town Council and Nevada County Board of Supervisors have all passed resolutions approving the Draft OWP as presented. In finalizing the Fiscal Year 2020/21 OWP, we've integrated the general comments received from Caltrans and included some additional funding for a consultant to assist us with the next update of the Regional Transportation Plan.

**ACTION:** Approved Resolution 21-12 by roll call vote  
**MOTION:** Arbuckle / **SECOND:** Scofield  
**AYES:** Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Zabriskie  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Guerra, Strawser  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

14. Correspondence

- A. Doug LaMalfa, Member of Congress, Letter stating that the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project is being submitted to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, File 1030.2.2.1, 4/23/2021
- B. Senator Brian Dahle and Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, Urgent Time Sensitive Request for a Caltrans Letter of Support for the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1 (4E170) Congressman Doug LaMalfa Member Designated Project, File 1200.4.0.2, 4/29/2021
- C. Brian Estes, Fire Chief, CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Support for SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1 (STIP 4E170), File 1200.4.0.2, 4/29/2021

D. Toks Omishakin, Director, California Department of Transportation, Caltrans Support Letter regarding SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project Federal Funding Request, File 1200.4.0.2, 5/3/2021

Executive Director Woodman reported that Congressman Doug LaMalfa selected the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1 as one of his five member designated projects submitted to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for consideration of federal earmark funding. It does not guarantee funding, but it gets past the first hurdle and we thank the Congressman for recognizing the importance of this project. Senator Brian Dahle and Assemblywoman Megan Dahle assisted NCTC by requesting a letter of support from Caltrans headquarters. Caltrans District 3 had submitted a request to Caltrans headquarters for a support letter for this project, but it was not initially approved. It is a little bit troubling that it took this amount of effort to get a support letter from Caltrans headquarters for a project of this nature that aligns with the 2050 Caltrans California Transportation Plan and also with the direction coming from the California State Transportation Agency for the Climate Action Plan for Infrastructure (CAPTI). The project does not induce significant VMT and it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to the safety benefits that are really the main focus. Staff is planning to schedule a debrief with Caltrans headquarters to find out where the misunderstanding was in their interpretation of this project, and will continue to have conversations with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency regarding Caltrans' interpretation of CAPTI to ensure that rural projects similar to this are not being disadvantaged for state and federal funding. Staff would like to thank Commissioner Hoek for her assistance in working with Senator Dahle and Assemblywoman Dahle to get that discussion started.

15. Executive Director's Report

- State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project – Submittal of Federal Earmark Requests
- READY Nevada County – Extreme Climate Event and Adaptation Plan
- Active Transportation Program Augmentation Proposal
- Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan
- Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

NCTC staff in coordination with the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Office and Nevada County Public Works submitted the federal earmark request in the amount of \$15 million necessary to fund the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project - Phase 1 for consideration by Congressman Doug LaMalfa. It was also submitted to Senator Dianne Feinstein, and will be submitted for consideration to Senator Alex Padilla's Office. Congressmen LaMalfa selected our project as one of his five member designated requests. Thanks to Sarah Holyhead from the Nevada County Supervisor's Office for her help in putting these applications together and getting them submitted, as well as Commissioner Hoek and Supervisor Miller. It has been a team effort and staff appreciate the assistance and the lead from the County Board of Supervisors Office.

Mr. Woodman reviewed the READY Nevada County Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan. NCTC and consultant GHD Inc. held the first public workshop to kick off the study, provide an overview of the project, present the data collected on the existing conditions in the study area, and provide an opportunity for public input. The majority of public input received concerned wildfire evacuation routes. The consultant will begin the process of identifying the vulnerabilities in the

transportation system. Information on the project can be found on the project website, and a link to that website can be found on the NCTC website at <https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Projects/Ready-Nevada-County/index.html>

Mr. Woodman answered a question regarding the coordination efforts with the senior services providers in identifying potentially stranded seniors living in remote areas within the County. There are maps identifying census tracts with high concentration of senior population, as well as census tracts with the number of disabled residents within the County, and they reached out to facilities such as Gold Country Senior Center. That effort is ongoing, and it is an issue that Nevada County Office of Emergency Services as well as Nevada County Sheriff's Office are aware of, and looking at as part of the development of their zone evacuation system.

The California Transportation Commission and a broad coalition of transportation, trade and labor organizations is requesting that Governor Newsom and the legislature consider a one-time augmentation of \$2 billion from the general fund surplus for the Active Transportation Program. This would allow funding of high-quality projects that were submitted to the severely oversubscribed 2021 Active Transportation Program Cycle Five. The proposed augmentation would fund all five of the projects that were submitted by Nevada County jurisdictions, but those projects did not make the funding cutoff. Projects include the State Route 49 Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project, the State Route 174 49/20 roundabout, an Active Transportation safety project, the Rough and Ready Highway roundabout project, the Combie Road Active Transportation Project, and the Truckee River Legacy Trail Phase Four.

The consultant for the Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan update, and the Nevada County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Service Transportation Plan update has prepared the draft recommendations for both of those plans, and they were presented at an online workshop on May 20 to receive public input. The consultant presented the recommendations to the May Transit Services Commission meeting, and the input received will be incorporated into the final reports, which will then be presented to NCTC at their July meeting.

16. Project Status Reports:

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

Sam Vandell reviewed the May Caltrans Project Status Report. He thanked Mike Woodman for his efforts to get the earmark approval letters through Caltrans Headquarters Division. He applauded Mr. Woodman's efforts to get a debrief from headquarters to fully understand the single focus-point items that headquarters was having issues with, and said District 3 is in full support of Nevada County's efforts in securing this.

The design on the Omega Curves Project on Highway 20 east of White Cloud Campground to west of Zeibright Road is complete and is getting ready to advertise in June or early July, with an award of the contract to the lowest bidder in October. Dave Catania, the construction area senior for that area, will be administering that contract, and Jeff Johnson will be the resident engineer on that project. Jeff did the Dorsey Drive project, as well as several others in the area, and does a great job of communicating. Some of the trails have been impacted and some will be redesigned and relocated. The US Forest Service Trail Department will be rebuilding the trails, doing tree removal, and the major earthwork-moving part of the construction will start next construction season.

Mr. Vandell answered a question concerning vegetation management at the Banner overcrossing. He talked with the area maintenance person Shelley Pangman, who said vegetation was cleared on the west side of the intersection, but the east side wasn't initially identified as a problem. Now that the west side has been cleared, the east side looks to be the worst part of the interchange, much more wooded, but it has not been recognized as a major issue and he does not know of any plans to clear that area.

Mr. Vandell answered a question concerning vegetation management on Highway 20 between Penn Valley and Grass Valley. He said that corridor is a very wide right-of-way for the state and does not seem to have vegetation right off the edge of the traveled way causing issues with sight distance or vegetation overgrowing the highway. He said they do not have a project asking private property owners for clearance to thin out the vegetation or the trees on their property. To do that they would have to have an environmental clearance and it would take a significant amount of work and effort to do clearing or thinning on private property.

Commissioner Hoek suggested she could take pictures of the places where the trees touch the overpass, especially at Rex Reservoir and down the hill. She agreed that property owners on the private side need to do something, but the big concern is fires starting in the vegetation along the highway. She said the manzanita, even up at Ponderosa, comes down to the white fog line. Mr. Vandell said if she could provide photos that identified the issue, he would be happy to work with the maintenance crews to try resolving it. As flammable as manzanita is, if it is within the state right of way, they definitely want to get it removed. It is a safety concern. There is also the issue of funding. Caltrans did some thinning projects with grant money, but that money has long been depleted and spent.

Commissioner Hoek asked if there could be an update on vegetation management in North San Juan, to improve visibility of the traffic signs, and there was going to be a study on the summer traffic. Another person was just recently hit by a car there. Mr. Vandell said they planned on looking at sign placements, and making sure there is proper distance or visibility to those signs.

Executive Director Woodman said there are efforts underway to augment the Active Transportation Program and get supplemental funding to other programs such as the State Transportation Improvement Program. He suggested that working with Senator Dahle and Assemblywoman Dahle and Cal Fire, a request could be made for a one-time augmentation to provide for enhanced vegetation management of the high wildfire risk corridors along the state highways. Mr. Vandell said their maintenance department does coordinate with Cal Fire for some of this vegetation removal, but he heard that it has been a challenge for Cal Fire to fill those staff positions.

Mr. Vandell addressed the question if the Donner Pass safety rest area would be one of the sites where ZEV stations will be installed. He said there have been issues with acquiring the material for the actual charging, and it has been a very hard, long process, so he did not know yet if that was one of the sites.

Mr. Vandell addressed the question if the erosion control product that is sprayed onto slopes on I-80 towards Reno is permeable. He said that product is an emulsified combination of fertilizer and seed mix that has a component that helps it stick to the slopes and allows the seeds to germinate. It is an erosion control measure that helps stabilize the slope and it is biodegradable.

The fiber optic cable that is being installed near Acid Flats is to communicate with intelligent traffic system elements to provide information to link the overhead signs, flashing signs, and loop detectors and count stations.

There will be a public meeting for the safety project on SR 49 in Placer County to install a median barrier. There are two alternatives for the intersections at the ends of the median barrier to facilitate U-turn movements for people needing to make a left turn within that section, either a signal or a roundabout. Public notice about the meeting will be going out soon on social media and the Caltrans website, and copies of the project documents will be available at the Grass Valley and Nevada County libraries and at the Rood Center.

Caltrans' legal department is thoroughly reviewing the 4E170 Nevada 49 project from La Barr Meadows to McKnight Interchange, there will be a number of people relocated due to that project so those impacts will need to be studied and evaluated. There will be a public meeting sometime in June.

Jim Day with Caltrans District 3 sent a message giving a big thank you to Sam Vandell. Jim works with several other RTPAs and none of them get the support that Sam provides to NCTC each month, he is truly the benchmark for the Caltrans District 3 project managers. NCTC staff also appreciates the communication and coordination and partnership that Sam provides. Mr. Vandell thanked everyone for their kind words, and commented that Jim Day is a true professional who goes above and beyond. NCTC staff indicated they also greatly appreciate the assistance and efforts provided by Jim Day as well.


COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be July 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom Webinar.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 7-21-2021

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Burton, Chair  
Nevada County Transportation Commission