

JAN ARBUCKLE – Grass Valley City Council  
 ANDREW BURTON – Member-At-Large, 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 September 15, 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, September 15, 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  
 Ed Scofield  
 Duane Strawser  
 Jan Zabriskie

Members Absent: Susan Hoek

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 8:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance  
 Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Chair Burton presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ann Guerra on the occasion of her retirement from her position as Commissioner on the Nevada County Transportation Commission. Chair Burton highlighted some of Ms. Guerra's many accomplishments during her tenure, saying she has been a longstanding advocate for seniors and people with disabilities in our community, and her involvement on the Commission was invaluable in representing their specific transportation needs throughout the county. Chair Burton opened the floor for comments from Commissioners and staff, many of whom expressed their appreciation of Ms. Guerra's dedication over the years.

## CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports  
June 2021 and July 2021
2. NCTC Minutes  
July 21, 2021 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley  
Resolution 21-19
4. Allocation Request from the City of Nevada City  
Resolution 21-20
5. FY 2021-22 State Transit Assistance (STA) Allocation Revised Estimate  
Adopt the revised table as a basis for allocation for the State Transit Assistance Fund for FY 2021/22

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

## ACTION ITEMS

6. Amendment 6, Professional Services Agreement for Airport Land Use Planning Services with Mead & Hunt, Inc  
Resolution 21-21

This contract amendment extends the agreement with Mead & Hunt, NCTC's on-call, airport land use planning consultant, for an additional three years with two one-year options. Mead & Hunt provide on-call services to NCTC in review of land use projects related to the Nevada County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. They assist in reviewing development projects to ensure that those projects are consistent with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan requirements.

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

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

The Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan serves as a planning guide and contains information for potential operational and capital improvements and investments over the five-year planning period. The consultant, WSP, has incorporated the public input and finished the report recommendations. Prior to implementation, Robin Van Valkenburg, Transit Manager for the Nevada County Transit Services Division, will bring those recommendations forward to the Transit Services Commission for consideration prior to approval.

**ACTION: Accepted the Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan Final Report**

**MOTION: Scofield / SECOND: Strawser**

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Hoek**

**ABSTAIN: None**

8. Proposed Commission Meeting Start Times

Discussion of Nevada County Transportation Commission and Transit Services Commission meeting start times.

Transit Services Commission meetings will start at 8:30 a.m., and Nevada County Transportation Commission meetings will start at 9:30 a.m. to better accommodate the running times for both meetings.

**ACTION: Approved Proposed Commission Meeting Start Times**

**MOTION: Arbuckle / SECOND: Strawser**

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Hoek**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

14. Correspondence

A. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2021/22 State of Good Repair Program Allocation Estimate, File 370.2.1, 7/30/2021.

**ACTION: None – Information only.**

15. Executive Director's Report

- NCTC 2021 Annual Salary Cost of Living Adjustment
- State Budget Active Transportation Program Augmentation Update

- Caltrans Releases Draft Environmental Document for the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project and Solicits Public Input
- Caltrans Preparation of the 2021 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program Funding Recommendations

Executive Director Woodman commented that NCTC staff has calculated the annual cost of living adjustment based on NCTC's policy of averaging the local jurisdictions' annual cost of living increase. The average for the labor market for 2021 is 3.38% which will go into effect retroactive to July 1st. For the Cities and County, rates are usually negotiated with their Labor Groups. Town of Truckee is unique in that they incorporate a performance-based increase along with the negotiated rate. Typically, the CPI is considered and then negotiations begin around that.

In the 2021 California State Budget, the Governor included \$500 million in funds to augment the Active Transportation Program. However, additional legislation was required to make that funding available, and the Legislature will not convene before the October deadline. The Legislature will pick up the issue again in the next session, and if that augmentation is funded, there is potential to fund the State Route 174/20 roundabout project in Grass Valley.

Caltrans has released the draft environmental document for the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project. Caltrans hosted the first of two online public workshops to discuss the project on September 7, the second workshop is scheduled for September 22. NCTC staff in coordination with Caltrans is making a strong push to get the word out across Western County to get public input on the proposed improvements as well the draft environmental document. The project is the next planned phase of improvements within the corridor, beginning at the limits of the previous La Barr Meadows signalization project and ending just south of McKnight Way on the Golden Center Freeway. It is designed to be funded in three phases, as state and federal transportation funding allows. The ultimate project includes a newly constructed frontage road system, and two intersections that will either be roundabouts or signalized. The project will also construct a northbound and southbound truck climbing lane, and eliminate the merge points that currently exist north and south of the project limits. In the southbound direction, it will provide right turn lanes at Wellswood Way, Bethel Church Way, Smith Road and Crestview Drive. The project will include eight-foot shoulders with rumble strips, an animal crossing, a tunnel under the freeway and a continuous median barrier in Phase Three. NCTC staff will pursue funding for the first two phases congruently at the same time, and will continue to advocate strongly for both state and federal funding. In the public input received so far, most people have been supportive of the improvements for safety.

Caltrans is preparing the 2021 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funding recommendations to improve mobility for people, goods and services across California on interregional highways and passenger rail corridors of strategic importance. State Route 49 is identified as a strategic interregional corridor and NCTC staff has been advocating for ITIP funding for the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project. NCTC staff, along with Board of Supervisors members Ed Scofield and Sue Hoek, NCTC chair Andrew Burton, and Alison Leman and Trisha Tillotson from the County of Nevada, along with representatives from CalFire, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District and the California Highway Patrol, recently met with Assemblywoman Megan Dahle on September 2, 2021 to discuss the importance of the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project, and to seek her assistance in advocating with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency. Assemblywoman Dahle welcomed the opportunity to assist in advocating for funding for the project in the 2021 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program. Commissioner Scofield commended NCTC staff for going above and beyond and bringing this project to where it is now due to their efforts.

The Ready Nevada County Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan is a planning study currently underway that will document the transportation system evacuation concerns related to State Route 49 as well as 267 South and 89 North in the Eastern part of the county. Highlighting the concerns on those routes will help in discussions with Caltrans and our state and federal partners. NCTC staff may further consider funding a micro-simulation of some of the evacuation scenarios of the area, studying what positive impacts improving the routes would do, which would help in advocating for funding.

NCTC has been doing corridor planning for the State Route 49 corridor since the early 1990s, and has continued to update those plans. Most recently, staff has partnered with Caltrans District 3 to update the State Route 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan, which looks at all of the needs and improvements within the corridor. Caltrans is in the process of preparing that plan.

#### 16. Project Status Reports:

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

Sam Vandell reviewed the September Caltrans Project Status Report. He appreciates NCTC's partnership and continued support with the work on the SR 49 corridor. Caltrans has completed the environmental document on the Gold Nugget project on Highway 20 from the SR 20/49 separation up to Rim Rock Lane, and they are moving forward into the design phase of the project.

Caltrans completed the first Open House meeting for the 4E170 Nev-49 Corridor Improvement Project, and is targeting September 22 for the next meeting and hoping to get better public outreach and more public input regarding the project. The review period for the environmental document runs through October 8, they will be taking comments from the public, providing responses, and incorporating them into the environmental document as well as updating the proposals for the project scope.

The environmental document for the Highway 49 Safety Barrier project in Placer County has been completed, and it will move on to the design phase. They are anticipating completion of the I-80 Zero Emission Vehicle charging stations this fall. They have had some challenges with this project, and the subcontractors have had trouble acquiring enough people and resources to get things installed and done. The Slope Stabilization project on I-80, a rockfall protection project east of Floriston Road to west of Farad Undercrossing, will be wrapping up this fall. For the ADA Upgrade project on the section of Highway 174 in Grass Valley, they are working on finalizing the relinquishment approval with the City of Grass Valley to complete the ADA upgrades.

Addressing evacuation concerns during road construction, Mr. Vandell said they have pre-construction meetings that bring in all the subcontractors as well as CHP, CalFire, first responders and traffic management center staff for discussions and an exchange of information. The goal is to contact the correct people to open up the necessary lanes to traffic. Some projects have numerous one-way traffic control closures with an extensive emergency response plan required for the contractor to open up those additional lanes within a certain period of time, and need the equipment, material and manpower to do so. When the River Fire broke out, Caltrans had the lanes on Highway 174 open in 10 minutes. The contractor was contacted directly by CalFire and removed his crews and material off the roadway to open both lanes. It was really impressive that they were able to do that and have that coordination completed, and those are efforts Caltrans likes to provide. They try to anticipate events like this and

have those emergency response plans developed and coordinated.


Executive Director Woodman introduced Alfred Knotts, Town of Truckee’s new Transit Manager replacing Kelly Beede who recently retired. Alfred has a history with the region. He has worked with the El Dorado County Transportation Commission and the Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Planning Agency, as well as being the transportation director with the City of Park City in Utah. He brings a breadth of knowledge of the region as well as transit management experience, and we are looking forward to working with him. Mr. Knotts said the Park City transportation system had 45 vehicles to carry 2 million passengers a year, and he has had 15 years of experience in the Tahoe Basin. He said it is very exciting to be back in our area. He spent time working with Mike in his early career, and Dan as well. He said he is glad to give his support and collaboration to advance awesome projects like the State Route 49 project and those in Eastern county as well, and is looking forward to working with us.

Executive Director Woodman welcomed Panos Kokkas, the new Nevada County Director of Public Works, and said he and Panos served together on the California Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Oversight Committee. Mr. Kokkas said he was happy to be here.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be November 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:   
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Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

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