



## MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING January 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 Tuesday, January 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  
Ann Guerra\*  
Susan Hoek  
Ed Scofield  
Duane Strawser  
Jan Zabriskie

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 8:36 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 Dan Landon on the occasion of his upcoming retirement from his position of Executive Director at the Nevada County Transportation Commission. Chair Burton listed some of Mr. Landon's many accomplishments in his position as Executive Director, and commented on how Mr. Landon is universally respected for his leadership of this organization. Chair Burton opened the floor for comments from Commissioners and staff, many of whom expressed their appreciation of Mr. Landon's hard work and mentorship over his remarkable career.

*\*At this point, Commissioner Guerra left the meeting.*

## CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports  
October and November 2020
2. NCTC Minutes  
November 18, 2020 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. State Transit Assistance (STA) Reissued Apportionments FY 2020/21  
Adopt revised table

**ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote**

**MOTION: Arbuckle/ SECOND: Scofield**

**AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser, Zabriskie (all except Minutes)**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Guerra**

**ABSTAIN: None**

## ACTION ITEMS

4. Amendment 2 to the FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program  
Resolution 21-01

This Amendment adds a project to update the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program. Executive Director Landon said this program needs to be updated every five years in accordance with the Mitigation Fee Act of the State of California. As part of the update, the consultant will look at the projects that are included for funding, determine if they are still viable and appropriate, and recommend adjustments to the fees as necessary.

**ACTION: Adopted Resolution 21-01 by roll call vote**

**MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Arbuckle**

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Guerra**

**ABSTAIN: None**

5. LTF Allocation Reserved in the Fund for Nevada County  
Resolution 21-02

Executive Director Landon said Nevada County has received a grant that will allow them to purchase two electric vehicles and associated charging system equipment. Nevada County is asking to reserve that portion of their funds until the funds can be expended, probably in about two years. Funds will be drawn out of this allocation as an upfront payment and then be reimbursed. Through the Transportation Development Act, there is a provision in statute and regulation that allows a reserve in the LTF fund for a future capital purchase. This would then accomplish the cashflow that the county would need to purchase these buses, which will be an exciting addition to the fleet.

Robin Van Valkenburgh, Transit Services Manager for Nevada County, said the buses will be 35 foot, low floor, fully battery electric transit buses, with a seating capacity of about 28. Since they are low floor buses, the boarding of wheelchair users will take about 90 seconds, as compared to five to seven minutes with their current vehicles, a huge benefit in terms of operational performance and staying on time. The purchase of these vehicles also fits within the California Air Resources Board mandated plan for all transit agencies to purchase 100% zero emissions vehicles by 2040. That process needs to be started by 2026, so they are getting a jump on that, and considering the cost of these vehicles, that is a good thing. The plan is to put them on Route 1 between Nevada City and Grass Valley.

Commissioner Scofield commented he believed the grant for this project is coming from the Northern Sierra Air Quality District, and the money became available because Nevada County is a district with special air issues. Mr. Scofield recalled that traveling to Washington DC with Dan Landon to garner support for legislation impacting rural counties was one of the highlights of his career, and it made a positive impact.

**ACTION: Adopted Resolution 21-02 by roll call vote**  
**MOTION: Scofield / SECOND: Strawser**  
**AYES: Arbuckle, Burton, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser, Zabriskie**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Guerra**  
**ABSTAIN: None**

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

##### 6. Correspondence

- A. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2020-21 First Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 11/18/2020
- B. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2020-21 State of Good Repair Program First Allocation, File 370.2.1, 11/18/2020
- C. Greenhorn FireWise Community, State Route 49 Draft Safety Assessment Report, File 1200.4, 12/6/20
- D. Scott's Flat Pines Road Neighborhood – FireWise Community (in training), HWY 49 Safety Assessment, File 1200.4, 12/7/20

Executive Director Landon said the letters from the Greenhorn FireWise Community and Scott's Flat Pines Road Neighborhood relate to NCTC's READY Nevada County project, and staff is appreciative of the public input on that project. Chair Burton asked if emergency transportation and egress for seniors is factored into the READY Nevada County plan. Mr. Landon replied that evacuation will be a part of the discussion, maybe not so much specific routes identified, but there will be policies and procedures in play that will allow for appropriate egress or evacuation of all the components of the community. Chair Burton and Commissioner Arbuckle volunteered to participate in those discussions when those meetings happen.

Mike Woodman added that these comments were submitted on the draft State Route 49 Safety Assessment, and the groups were concerned that wildfire risks weren't taken into account as part of that planning effort conducted by Caltrans. However, that planning effort was triggered by collisions and fatalities within the corridor and that was the focus of the study. He agreed with the concerns raised about needing to address wildfire risk and how it relates to transportation, and those risks will be assessed as part of the READY Nevada County study. He believes Caltrans is responding to those comments, and NCTC staff will also be including information about their upcoming planning effort.

7. Executive Director's Report

- 2020 Annual Report

Executive Director Landon commented this is our annual highlights of the functioning of NCTC, and he is really pleased that NCTC has been able to have such an impact fiscally and project wise on the community.

8. Project Status Report

A. Caltrans Project Report

Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Sam Vandell reviewed the Caltrans Project Report. Caltrans is updating some of the language on the Nevada 49 Corridor Improvement Project report and environmental document to incorporate and address some of the comments and concerns received from the Firewise Community. They anticipate holding a public meeting on the project, working with Mike Woodman on the forum that will be used and how to best present the information to the public.

Mr. Vandell said the Highway 49 Safety Barrier project in Placer County has a target design completion date of March 2022, and they plan to present a public meeting later this year on that project.

The Acid Flats project on Highway 80 near Floriston at Truckee River Bridges, updating the bridge pieces and fiber optic, has a design target completion of August 2026. The Rumble Strips project on Highway 80 has a construction target date of spring 2022, and completion is targeted for December 2022.

Commissioner Scofield commented that at the Wolf/Combie accelerator lanes, the slower traffic, especially northbound, tend to use the accelerator lane, moving over to allow more traffic to go by. Mr. Vandell replied some people are unfamiliar with how those accelerator lanes work and how to best take advantage of them. He said hopefully traffic will slowly learn what is best, and Caltrans will keep an eye on it. Commissioner Scofield said he was excited about the upcoming project to add left turn lanes on Highway 49 at Round Valley and Deer Creek roads.

Commissioner Hoek commented that Caltrans started a really good clearing project on Highway 20 between Grass Valley and Penn Valley, and asked when it will be completed. Mr. Vandell replied Caltrans is trying to secure funding from a FEMA grant to do the clearing or thinning on Highway 20, as well as Highway 49 east of Nevada City.

Commissioner Strawser commented the rumble strips on the new construction on Highway 20 past

Smartsville are still being done the old way, about a foot in from the white line, about a foot wide, impacting the new shoulder. A cyclist going from Smartsville across the bridge has to jump into the traffic lane. In past meetings he discussed how rumble strips are done in Southern California, only four to six inches wide and part of the white shoulder line, but in this brand new project Caltrans has gone back to the dangerous type. Mr. Vandell thanked Commissioner Strawser for bringing that to his attention, and pointed out the rumble strip design is part of a standard plan that is approved statewide for Caltrans' use, and for use on projects. Any deviation from that standard plan is called a design exception that requires special approval to get through headquarters. The current standard plan has the rumble strips one foot off, and he believed there is no standard plan where the rumble strips are on the actual fog line itself. He said he can inquire further from safety or operations or the signing and striping divisions to see if there has been any consideration with that. Typically new shoulders do have an eight foot width which is standard on a two lane highway, but they do want to make sure they are considering multi-modal and shared use of the shoulders for pedestrians and bicycles.

Commissioner Strawser stated they have submitted photos, through NCTC, of examples near Santa Barbara that showed the rumble strip as part of the white line. A subcontractor in the area said they were incorporating that newer design in all of their projects. Mr. Vandell replied he would inquire about it. If it is being applied in that area as part of the new standard, then it should certainly be done here on any projects that have not reached completion on design. He said he would look into it and bring an update to the next meeting.

**ACTION: None – Information only.**

#### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Chair Burton presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Carolyn Wallace Dee on the occasion of her upcoming retirement from her position of Commissioner on the Nevada County Transportation Commission, thanking her for her contributions to the commission and expressing that she has always had the best interests of her constituents in mind. Chair Burton opened the floor for comments from Commissioners and staff, many of whom expressed their appreciation for Ms. Dee's courage, dedication and commitment during her tenure on the Commission.

#### 9. Election of Officers:

It is the Commission's policy to elect a chair and vice chair for the year at the January meeting. Chair Burton opened the floor for nominations for the chair and vice chair for 2021.

Jan Arbuckle nominated Andy Burton as Chair of the Commission, and Ann Guerra as Vice Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Hoek seconded the nominations. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the commissioners present.

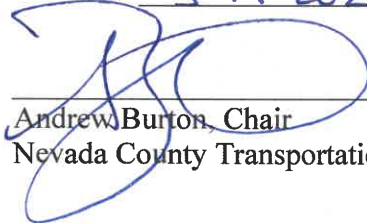
COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be March 17, 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:   
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Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 3-17-2021 \_\_\_\_\_

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