

JAN ARBUCKLE – Grass Valley City Council, Vice Chair
 ANDREW BURTON – Member-At-Large
 SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
 ED SCOFIELD – Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Chair
 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 January 26, 2022

An online meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held via teleconference, in light of COVID-19 and the state of emergency proclamation and state and local recommended measures for physical distancing, on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. The meeting was held via Zoom. Notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Standing Orders: Commissioner Burton convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
 Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Adopt Resolution Making Findings and Determinations Authorizing Virtual Teleconference Meetings under Government Code Section 54953(e) (AB 361)
 Resolution 22-01
2. Financial Reports
 October 2021 and November 2021
3. NCTC Minutes
 November 17, 2021 NCTC Meeting Minutes

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Correspondence

- A. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2021-22 First Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 11/10/2021
- B. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2021-22 First Quarter State of Good Repair Program Allocation, File 370.2.1, 11/10/2021

5. Executive Director's Report

- READY Nevada County Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan

Executive Director Woodman gave an update on the READY Nevada County Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan. NCTC's consultant GHD Inc., and Rincon Consultants, Inc., have completed a review of the background, climate data, and projections for Nevada County, and have identified potential climate related impacts and weaknesses of the transportation system. The consultant conducted interviews with public officials, first responders and other key stakeholders from Nevada County and nearby communities impacted by recent extreme climate events to gather information and garner lessons learned. The consultant team held two online public workshops to give an overview of the project and provide an opportunity for input. The draft plan should be completed in April, and made available for public comment and presented at an online public workshop.

In 2021 Nevada County experienced several extreme climate related events, including wildfires, atmospheric rivers, and the significant tree damage in relation to the December snowfall that impacted mobility and/or transportation infrastructure. The lessons learned from these events will be incorporated into the adaptation strategies and recommendations to help mitigate the severity of climate related impacts, harden vulnerable infrastructure, and address mobility and safety for the transportation system. The consultants are coordinating with the cities and the county and the Office of Emergency Services for this planning study, and the project advisory committee includes first responders as well.

6. Project Status Reports:

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

Sam Vandell responded to a question from John Burnside, confirming that there will be a left turn pocket placed at Washington Road as part of the Omega Curves project on Highway 20. There will also be a left turn lane placed at Washington Ridge.

Mr. Vandell commented on the emergency contract that resulted from the December storms. The emergency contract was done through their maintenance division for approximately \$3.6 million, for all of the foothill locations including El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Yuba, and Sierra County. All of the tree clearing was within the state right of way, and included many trees that were of high risk of impacting travel on the highway. Most of Highway 49 south of Nevada City and Grass Valley has been done. Many of the oak trees have been cut back and trimmed as well. They are currently working just past the government center moving north on Highway 49, and are also working on Highway 174 from Grass Valley to Colfax.

Trees damaged by the severe storms along the highway near the Pioneer Trail are being removed for safety as well as future wildfire concerns. Their maintenance division is cutting the trees for safety first, and will come back to grind the stumps down at a later date. They will not be leaving piles of tree debris because it is a high fire area and they don't want to increase that hazard.

When there are severe conditions that cause safety hazards such as falling trees into the roadway, emergency contracts are engaged to eliminate these hazards to the public. These are emergency situations that need to be addressed immediately. Mr. Vandell said he would like to talk with his Public Information Officer about having more news releases in these situations to get the word out to the public about the emergency work that is being done. Executive Director Woodman suggested connecting with the PIO to see if there is an opportunity to do a press release to shed some light on the process, and get some accurate information out there about the work that Caltrans is doing.

There will be several staging areas on Highway 49 to give the work crews access to operate their grinders and remove the accumulated storm debris. Even though the snow is gone, there can still be high winds that damage trees and create hazards.

Commissioner Strawser commented that quite a few of the cycling folks have been approaching the Forest Service to get permission to clear some of the damaged trees off the Pioneer Trail in an effort to restore pedestrian, equestrian, and bike access to the trail, and they appreciate the work Caltrans is doing to clear the storm debris. Mr. Vandell agreed that getting crews available to clear debris along the trails will be a real challenge. Commissioner Burton added that a discussion topic in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors annual workshop will focus on recreation and our recreational assets, even more than has been in the past.

Caltrans is having discussions with the Town of Truckee about chain control locations on Highway 80. Executive Director Woodman commented that one of the concerns raised is the location of the chain control sites, where folks are trying to avoid the chain controls and therefore create an issue on the adjacent roadways and residential areas. Mr. Vandell said Jeff Thorsby will have more insight on that and has been contacted in that regard. He said there is a safety issue as well involving chain control sites just past a curve or on a curve, or over the crest of a curve where vehicles pulling off the road are not visible ahead of time, especially with trucks that need to decelerate and accelerate. He said it is a very challenging scenario and they are happy to discuss opportunities to address concerns and make improvements.

B. The Town of Truckee's Transit operations: Alfred Knotts, Truckee Transit Manager.

Alfred Knotts reviewed the Town of Truckee Transit Operations Report. They are seeing about a 10% increase in ridership across the board with people coming back to the systems, including additional ridership for Dial-A-Ride. They have seen a big increase based on new affordable housing near their

transit lines. They want to market existing services, to fill the seats they have right now rather than trying to grow the service levels. Some people don't realize the Dial-A-Ride system can meet their needs, so he wants to get the word out to some of those homeowner associations.

The micro-transit program is an on-demand app based on type of service, similar to Dial-A-Ride, but with more flexibility and more nimble. It doesn't typically require scheduling and reservations on a 24-hour type of basis. They want to identify some pilot programs potentially for this summer, to see if they can tap into the non-transit-dependent market, but not at the expense of people that rely on the system. They released a Request for Proposal to do a feasibility analysis and they have established a working group that includes members of the community that represent disadvantaged populations, low income folks, and homeowners associations, as well as the business community.

Truckee is in negotiations to purchase the North Balloon parcel for the Transit Center Relocation project, through the development agreement of Truckee Development Associates. It would serve both local routes as well as the Placer County TART system.

Truckee is developing an e-bike program. They had eight qualified vendors responding to an RFP that offered a broad spectrum of technologies, as well as operating models in terms of dock versus dockless. Dock is a fixed location where bikes can be checked out and there is a kiosk for financial transactions, or you can do it by your phone. Dockless systems are more associated with the scooter type model that are not fixed to a certain area. A GPS system is used to find the bikes and check them out. They are looking for a vendor that can provide seamless technology, seamless payment systems, and seamless apps. The presentation slides showed preliminary sites have been identified that are logical locations but also primary trip generators and origin destinations.

Measure R is a quarter cent sales tax that was passed in 2014. It generates approximately \$1.7 billion a year and has helped support the planning, design, construction, and management of the Legacy Trail. It has been very well received by the community. Measure R is due to sunset in 2024, so they did some public opinion surveys to see if there would be an appetite to increase the sales tax from a quarter cent to a half cent, and that resonated in the survey. They passed a resolution that authorized placement on the ballot for Town of Truckee voters, and if passed it could generate around \$3 million per year. The measure would have a no sunset clause or until ended by voters. The public opinion survey also gauged the overall sentiment within the community about transit and transportation, and what the perception is of the existing system, asking if they see value in the transit system, and if they would support improvements in the future. The survey came back rather favorable, and was a good barometer of how the community feels.

Mr. Knotts will plan on making a presentation to the Transit Services Commission outlining how the TART system works, how it melds into the local system, and how there could be benefits for the transit system in Nevada County.

ACTION: None – Information only.

7. 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 2022.

Commissioner Hoek nominated Ed Scofield as Chair of the Commission, and Jan Arbuckle as Vice Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Strawser seconded the nominations. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the commissioners present.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be March 16, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 

Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: March 16, 2022

By: 

Ed Scofield, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission