

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

COMMISSION

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING November 17, 2021

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, November 17, 2021. 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
 Susan Hoek
 Duane Strawser
 Jan Zabriskie

Members Absent: Andy Burton
 Ed Scofield

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

Standing Orders: Commissioner Hoek convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
 Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
 August 2021 and September 2021
2. NCTC Minutes
 September 15, 2021 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Proposed 2022 NCTC Meeting Schedule
 Approved

4. Allocation Request from County of Nevada for Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds for FY 2021/22 Projects
Resolution 21-22
5. Disposal of Surplus Equipment
Resolution 21-23
6. Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Annual Report for FY 2020/21
Approved

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

ACTION ITEMS

7. Professional Services Agreement to Prepare the Triennial Performance Audits
Resolution 21-24

This is a staff recommendation to execute an agreement with LSC Transportation Consultants Inc. to prepare the Triennial Performance Audits for Fiscal Years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. NCTC prepares and submits an audit of its performance on a triennial basis to Caltrans in order to continue receiving Transportation Development Act funding, used by NCTC for administration, planning and distribution for the provision of public transportation and non-motorized projects. The performance audit will also address how well NCTC is meeting its administrative and planning obligations under the Transportation Development Act, as well as its organization management and efficiency. Audits are also prepared for the transit operators that receive TDA allocations from NCTC, which include Nevada County Transit services and the Town of Truckee. Performance audits are also conducted for transit services that receive funding under Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act, which in this case includes Gold Country LIFT. These audits include a review of compliance with TDA requirements, status of prior audit recommendations and a functional review of the organization and planning activities.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 21-24 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / **SECOND:** Arbuckle
AYES: Arbuckle, Hoek, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Burton, Scofield
ABSTAIN: None

8. Amendment 1 to the FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program
Resolution 21-25

This is a staff recommendation to approve Amendment 1 to the current Fiscal Year 2021/22 Overall Work Program. This Amendment updates the estimated carryover revenue amounts based on the reconciled final year-end expenditure for the previous Fiscal Year 2020/21, and addresses minor increases in indirect costs. This Amendment creates two additional Work Elements to include the planning activities and budgets for the update of the Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan and the Rural Counties Task Force Rural Induced Demand Study, reflecting the \$125,000 Rural Planning Assistance grant that was awarded to the RCTF to conduct a study on induced demand in relation to rural highway projects. That study is being managed by NCTC staff on behalf of the Rural Counties Task Force.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 21-25 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Arbuckle
AYES: Arbuckle, Hoek, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Burton, Scofield
ABSTAIN: None

9. PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2021/22 Regional Transportation Improvement Program
Resolution 21-26

This is the staff recommendation for adoption of NCTC's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Regional Transportation Improvement Program of Projects for inclusion in the 2022 State Transportation Improvement Program, known as the STIP. Part of this recommendation action includes conducting a public hearing on the proposed RTIP. Revenues for projects included in the State Transportation Improvement Program are divided between two funding programs; 75% of the funding is available by formula to the regions and is known as Regional Improvement Program Funding. The other 25% is controlled by Caltrans and is known as Interregional Improvement Program Funding. Every two years, NCTC submits regional transportation projects to the California Transportation Commission for funding in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Projects from each county are then approved by the CTC.

Those projects are combined into the State Transportation Improvement Program, a five-year program of projects that gets updated every two years. A schedule for the proposed funding is established and the projects are considered eligible for funding. NCTC has a total of \$3,183,000 available for programming in the 2022 STIP through Fiscal Year 2026/27. During each STIP cycle, each Regional Transportation Planning Agency may utilize up to 5% of its Regional Improvement Program funds for Planning, Programming and Monitoring activities.

In Fiscal Years 2025/26 and 2026/27, NCTC has a total of \$177,000 available in the 2022 STIP for Planning, Programming and Monitoring. Staff is recommending \$88,500 be programmed in FY 2025/26 and another \$88,500 in FY 2026/27. Staff is also recommending programming \$3,000,000 of NCTC's Regional Improvement Program funding for the Right of Way phase for the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project Phase Two in Fiscal Year 2022/23. This is in partnership with Caltrans and will match \$3,000,000 of Interregional Improvement Program funding. The State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project begins at the limits of the previous La Barr Meadows Signalization

Project, and ends just south of the McKnight Way interchange, connecting to the four-lane Golden Center Freeway.

The project will focus on improving safety, evacuation capacity, operations, goods movement, and multimodal mobility. The project is designed to be funded in three phases, as state and federal transportation funding allows. Phase Two is construction of the southbound truck climbing lane, and 10 foot shoulders with rumble strips. It eliminates the merge points south of McKnight Way, improving the Southbound highway segment and increasing evacuation capacity. This phase will also include safety features such as wet night visibility striping, rumble strips, and pavement edge treatments.

A public comment from A. Bodily was read into the record, asking about property acquisitions and sound walls, and agreeing that improvements were needed on this segment. Mr. Woodman stated the sound walls are determined based on the sound studies that were conducted for the project, and that he would forward the public comment to Caltrans for follow up.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 21-26 by roll call vote
MOTION: Arbuckle / SECOND: Strawser
AYES: Arbuckle, Hoek, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Burton, Scofield
ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Correspondence

- A. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2020-21 State of Good Repair Program Fourth Allocation, File 370.2.1, 8/18/2021.
- B. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2020-21 Fourth Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 8/18/2021.
- C. Mike Woodman, NCTC Executive Director, Comments Draft 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan, File 1390.0, 9/10/2021.
- D. Mike Woodman, Chair, North State Super Region, Comments on the Draft 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan, File 1390.0, 9/10/2021.
- E. Erin Thompson, Chief, Office of Regional and Community Planning, Caltrans, FY 2021-22 State Rural Planning Assistance Award, File 1030.1.2, 10/20/2021.

Included in the correspondence are comment letters from NCTC and North State Super Region on the Draft 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan.

ACTION: None – Information only.

11. Executive Director’s Report

- Caltrans 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan Update
- Caltrans 2021 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program Funding Recommendations

Executive Director Woodman commented that Caltrans approved the 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan Update on October 1, 2021. Prior to approval, NCTC staff coordinated with the Rural Counties Task Force and North State Super Region to provide comments on the draft plan. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed scoring criteria that guides the investment decisions for the plan. In response to those comments, Caltrans headquarters addressed the concerns regarding the ITIP scoring criteria, which in turn was helpful in securing \$3,000,000 of partnership funding in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program recommendations.

NCTC and stakeholders have been advocating with Caltrans for funding from the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program, and due to their efforts, and support from our local and state agencies for this project, the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project was the only highway project proposed for funding. The other projects were rail and active transportation focused projects. The stakeholders did a great job. We highlighted the importance of the project, the multimodal benefits, as well as evacuation and safety and goods movement, and worked with Caltrans to identify why this project is so important to the community and this corridor.

Commissioner Hoek commented that we are fortunate to have Mike Woodman chairing the North State Super Region, and it is great that we are getting results from our efforts to secure this funding.

16. Project Status Reports:

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

Sam Vandell reviewed the November Caltrans Project Status Report. The Omega Curve Correction project on Highway 20 is anticipated to begin construction by the end of January. There will be a number of public meetings and information provided regarding the project impacts. The Gold Nugget project on Highway 20 is anticipated to begin construction fall 2023 with completion in winter 2024.

Mr. Vandell thanked Executive Director Woodman and his team for the efforts on the Nevada 49 Corridor Improvement Project. A major milestone was achieved on this project, and design is anticipated to be completed by fall 2025 with construction anticipated for winter 2026 and completion for winter 2028. They still need to identify and secure funding for the construction and portions of the Right of Way on this project. The Round Valley and Quail Creek project has been completed and finalized. In Placer County, for the Safety Barrier project south of the county line, the preferred alternative of two roundabouts will be installed with the median barrier. Construction will begin summer 2022 with completion in summer 2024. The project schedule might be updated due to Right of Way acquisition time lengths.

On Interstate 80, the Yuba Pass Bridge Replacement project is anticipating completion of the environmental document in winter 2022. The Rumble Strips project on I-80 in Truckee from West Donner Park overcrossing to Trout Creek undercrossing is expected to begin this coming Spring 2022 with completion in winter 2025.

In response to a question about the federal Infrastructure Bill, Mr. Vandell said it is heavily funded for transit projects, and highway projects are not as high a priority, but he hopes there will be some benefits for Nevada County. Mr. Woodman added it looks like there will be some funding for repair and rebuilding of our roads and bridges, with a focus on climate mitigation, resiliency, equity, and safety for all users, and a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through investment in public transit. There will also be funding for rail, the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency submitted for a Caltrans planning grant to look at extending the Amtrak passenger rail to Truckee, Tahoe and Reno, so there could potentially be funding for that. There is funding for the national network of EV chargers. The North State Super Region has been commenting to the California Energy Commission about this to make sure that charging infrastructure is installed across the North State Super Region, not just the populous areas of the state. To make our infrastructure resilient against impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, we want to make a push in the next reauthorization of transportation funding, to make improvements to our evacuation routes so people can safely evacuate in the event of wildfires that are driven by climate change. Staff will be working closely with Caltrans headquarters and other regional agencies to see how Nevada County and the rest of the regions can fit into this Infrastructure Bill.

Mr. Woodman said staff will continue to have discussions with Caltrans headquarters as well as the California State Transportation Agency to identify vegetation management funding for corridors like Highways 49 and 20 in high wildfire danger areas.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There was a reminder that the January meeting will be held a week later on January 26 due to a scheduling conflict.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be January 26, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: January 26, 2022

By:



Andrew Burton, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission