

JAN ARBUCKLE – Grass Valley City Council, Vice Chair
 DANIELA FERNANDEZ – Nevada City City Council
 SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
 ED SCOFIELD – Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Chair
 JAY STRAUSS – Member-At-Large
 DUANE STRAWSER – Member-At-Large
 JAN ZABRISKIE – Town of Truckee



MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director
 AARON HOYT, Deputy Executive Director

Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING September 21, 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, September 21, 2022, 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
 Daniela Fernandez
 Susan Hoek
 Ed Scofield
 Jay Strauss
 Jan Zabriskie

Staff Present: Mike Woodman, Executive Director
 Aaron Hoyt, Deputy Executive Director
 Dan Landon, Executive Advisor
 Kena Sannar, Transportation Planner
 Dale Sayles, Administrative Services Officer
 Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

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

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: Submitted from A Bodily, questions and request for information regarding the status of the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project.

Executive Director Mike Woodman responded that he would be happy to follow up on this comment with an update on the different state and federal funding that NCTC is pursuing for the project. In addition, reaching out to our state and federal representatives in support of the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project would be beneficial, and staff would be happy to coordinate with interested persons as they do funding efforts to obtain support letters.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Adopt Resolution Making Findings and Determinations Authorizing Virtual Teleconference Meetings under Government Code Section 54953(e) (AB 361)
 Resolution 22-32

2. Financial Reports
June and July 2022
3. NCTC Minutes
July 20, 2022 NCTC Meeting Minutes
4. State of Good Repair Projects for FY 2021/22
Resolution 22-33
5. FY 2022-23 State Transit Assistance (STA) Allocation Revised Estimate
Adopted the revised table

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

ACTION ITEMS

6. Amendment 1 to the FY 2022/23 Overall Work Program
Resolution 22-34

This Amendment 1 to the FY 2022/23 Overall Work Program addresses the reconciliation of the final expenditures from last year and adjusts the estimated revenue carryover amounts. In addition, NCTC, in coordination with Nevada County, was awarded \$230,000 of Rural Assistance Planning grant funding for a planning study to analyze the steps required for electrification of the Nevada County Public Works and Public Transit fleet, as well as potential charging infrastructure at public facilities. NCTC staff is going to be managing that planning study on behalf of Nevada County. The Nevada County Fleet Electrification Study is included in Amendment 1, Work Element 2.4.6, which details the associated planning activities and grant funding.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 22-34 by roll call vote
MOTION: Zabriskie / **SECOND:** Arbuckle
AYES: Arbuckle, Fernandez, Hoek, Scofield, Strauss, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

7. Professional Services Agreement to Develop a Rural Induced Demand Study
Resolution 22-35

This agreement with DKS Associates is to prepare a study of rural induced demand. The theory of induced demand or induced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is based on urban research of congested highways and the effects of improvement projects. Past research indicated that if a transportation

improvement aimed at reducing congestion adds capacity, then instead of reducing congestion, it would eventually generate new trips and increase vehicle miles traveled. This study is important to Nevada County and other rural counties because the state has applied this theory of induced demand to its state funding criteria, thereby making capacity-increasing highway projects less competitive for funding. Rural agencies such as NCTC have been working with Caltrans and other state agencies to recognize that most capacity-increasing projects focused on safety, operations, and evacuation on rural corridors that are not heavily congested will not result in significant induced demand. This study will help to ensure that the applicability for rural highway projects is appropriately researched, and the study findings can be incorporated into state guidelines as appropriate.

This will be important for future improvement projects in the State Route 49 corridor to ensure that they remain competitive for state and federal funding programs. NCTC is managing this study on behalf of the Rural Counties Task Force, an advisory group to the California Transportation Commission with representatives from the 26 rural regional transportation planning agencies, including NCTC. The \$125,000 is funded through a Rural Assistance Planning grant.

Much of the research on this topic has been conducted on congested, urban corridors, and its implementation in state funding programs disadvantages rural projects. As an example, in the widening of State Route 49 from the Wolf/Combie intersection to the Bear River Bridge, in over 15 years of data the traffic volumes only increased by 0.08%. This study will do a deep dive into the existing research and make recommendations to improve some of the tools and guidance that Caltrans is using. The Project Advisory Committee will have representatives from rural regional transportation planning agencies, some smaller metropolitan planning organizations, the Regional Representatives of Rural Counties, as well as the California State Association of Counties, and hopefully a representative from the Institute for Transportation Engineers. The study results will likely be submitted to the Transportation Research Board for their review, which will hopefully address the issue of changes needed in funding programs and state guidelines. The needed improvements on State Route 49 would have been completed decades ago, if the appropriate formula funding had been available. It has been a struggle to get partner and state and federal funding to complete those improvements.

Commissioner Zabriskie asked if the study would address the extent to which public transportation can help reduce the need and cost of expanding our infrastructure. Mr. Woodman responded that although the study isn't specifically focused on that, it is recognized that especially for rural areas, the best measures for reducing vehicle miles traveled are providing mixed use, smart growth, and multimodal transportation options. The California Association of Pollution Control Officers has done a lot of research looking at ways that multimodal transportation options can mitigate and reduce VMT. Staff has advocated at the state level to increase the Transportation Development Act funding, because for transit to be a piece of the puzzle of reducing VMT and greenhouse gas emissions, the operating funding needs to be at a level that can provide high quality transit service.

Commissioner Arbuckle pointed out that in rural communities, for many people, driving is the best or only option, so the study needs to have a strong focus on making the roads safe and operational. The one size fits all approach that the state takes in its funding criteria does not work for rural communities.

Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director and Public Works Director for Nevada County shared that from a practical standpoint, the state VMT policies have been flawed and do negatively impact rural counties, so this study is highly needed. Without it, less funding for improvements will be available for our rural county. Other counties are in this same situation and are looking at doing a similar study.

There will be opportunities throughout the study process for the Commission to receive information on the study and provide some input, and a draft plan will be presented to the Commission for review and comments, which can then be incorporated into the plan.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 22-35 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strauss / SECOND: Hoek
AYES: Arbuckle, Fernandez, Hoek, Scofield, Strauss, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. NCTC Representative on Economic Resource Council
Appointed NCTC Representative

NCTC was previously represented on the Nevada County Economic Resource Council board of directors by former Commissioner Andrew Burton, who has resigned from the ERC after resigning from NCTC. Commissioner Scofield nominated Commissioner Strauss. Commissioner Strauss accepted the nomination, saying that he has a background in issues of business development and would be happy to take on the appointment.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. Correspondence

- A. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2021-22 State of Good Repair Program Fourth Allocation, File 370.2.1, 8/17/2022.
- B. Betty T. Yee, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2021-22 Fourth Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 8/17/2022.

10. Executive Director's Report

NCTC staff will be submitting two grant applications to the California Transportation Commission. These grant applications will be focused on securing funding for phase two of the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement projects, the southbound improvements. Staff will be submitting the funding for the southbound truck climbing lane and elimination of the southbound merge through the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and will submit for new access to the Transit Operations Center and eight zero emission buses for the Nevada County Connects transit fleet through the Solutions for Congested Corridors program. Meeting with CTC staff, they seem to be favorable of the projects and the approach, so we look forward to submitting these applications and trying to secure funding to align the southbound improvements for construction in 2026, with the northbound improvements of phase one that are already funded. Commissioner Scofield pointed out that a recent closure of Interstate 80 illustrated how important these projects are for traffic flow and safe evacuation routes.

The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), in coordination with the Rural Counties Task Force, hosted the first of several planned workshops focusing on sharing information, identifying challenges and exploring opportunities to help rural communities not be disadvantaged through the implementation of the California State Transportation Agency's Climate Action Plan for Transportation

Infrastructure policies. Executive Director Mike Woodman and Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hoyt sat on the planning committee for the workshop. It is really encouraging that CalSTA wants to initiate an ongoing dialogue to address some of the concerns raised, and to help rural agencies find ways to be more competitive. The upcoming meetings will be a follow up based on the input that was received and they will continue to have conversations going forward.

11. Project Status Report

Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County, reviewed the September Caltrans Project Status Report.

The turnouts located on Highway 20 and on Route 193 in Placer County have been constructed, so those projects are wrapped up and completed at this time.

Construction has been completed on the culvert rehabilitation on Highway 49 from the Placer County line to north of Lime Kiln Road.

The safety barrier project on Highway 49 in Placer County south of the Nevada County line has been extended, the design will be completed in the winter of 2022-23, and the expected construction will begin in the spring of 2024, with completion in the summer of 2025.

Commissioner Strauss asked what the process would be to see if Caltrans could provide a safety barrier or additional signage on Highway 20 between Grass Valley and Penn Valley, which seems to be a dangerous corridor with a history of accidents and the possibility of hydroplaning in inclement weather. Mr. Vandell commented that putting in a safety barrier would be an expensive process, and getting funding is always a challenge, but he would like to approach the Safety Division and have them do a field review to see what incremental improvements could be done to improve safety in that corridor. Mr. Woodman suggested perhaps a longer term solution could be preparing a corridor plan for SR 20 and get a sense of the desired design that would facilitate safety improvements.

Commission Hoek commented that part of the problem on Highway 20 is the speed that people are driving in that corridor, and that perhaps an increase in highway patrol presence could make a difference. She appreciated how responsive Caltrans has been in addressing the issues that have been brought up on that corridor, and gave kudos to them for the good job they have done on vegetation management in that area.

Commissioner Zabriskie gave kudos to Caltrans for the extension of the on ramp and off ramp at Highway 89 South in Truckee, saying it will be a wonderful safety addition for the town. Mr. Woodman gave appreciation to Caltrans for the vegetation management between Alta Sierra and McKnight Way, saying it was a much needed project and it is great to see the progress.

Alfred Knotts, Transportation and Transit Program Manager for the Town of Truckee, gave appreciation to Caltrans for the coordination and collaboration on projects benefitting Truckee, saying they appreciate Caltrans' support.


12. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54947, Public Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director, Michael Woodman

There was no reportable action during the Closed Session.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: Due to conferences, several commissioners said they will not be available on November 16.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been rescheduled for November 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Nov. 9, 2022

By: 
Ed Scofield, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission