

DANIELA FERNANDEZ – Nevada City City Council
SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
TOM IVY – Grass Valley City Council, Vice Chair
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 20, 2023

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 in the Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers, 125 E. Main Street, Grass Valley, California. Notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance and was scheduled for 9:45 a.m.

Members Present: Hardy Bullock, alternate
Tom Ivy
Ed Scofield
Jay Strauss
Duane Strawser
Jan Zabriskie

Members Absent: Susan Hoek

Staff Present: Mike Woodman, Executive Director
Aaron Hoyt, Deputy Executive Director
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 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
June 2023
2. NCTC Minutes
July 19, 2023 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Nevada County Transportation Commission Title VI Program Renewal
Resolution 23-23
4. State of Good Repair Project for FY 2023/24
Resolution 23-24

5. FY 2023-24 State Transit Assistance (STA) Allocation Revised Estimate
Adopt revised table
6. Certification of the 2023 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Applications
Resolution 23-25
7. Allocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds for the Update of the Nevada County Local Road Safety Plan
Resolution 23-26

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

ACTION ITEMS

8. Professional Services Agreement for State Advocacy Services
Resolution 23-27

Politico Group, a non-partisan advocacy firm, is the recommended consultant firm to provide state advocacy services for NCTC. Politico Group was established in 1974 and focuses on providing comprehensive advocacy services with a specific expertise in transportation. The agreement is for a three-year contract period and includes two optional one-year extensions. The state advocate will monitor and advise NCTC on legislation and assist with commenting on legislative proposals, developing strategies to help maximize funding, and advocate with state officials and legislative representatives to help NCTC be better represented in Sacramento. They will help advocate with the California State Transportation Agency, California Transportation Commission (CTC), Caltrans, Office of Planning and Research, and representatives within the California legislature, to bring focus to NCTC’s goals and issues. They will also work with the County’s advocacy firm to promote a unified voice in Sacramento.

Kiana Valentine with Politico Group has a long history of legislative advocacy. She started her career with California State Association of Counties, and from there started her own advocacy firm and then joined Politico Group. She is currently the Executive Director of Transportation California so she has been focused on transportation for most of her career, and has been involved with many state decisions related to transportation funding. On the question of potential conflicts of interest with other clients, Politico Group did not anticipate any conflicts in its work with NCTC. If any did arise, they would bring it to our attention and work to resolve the issue, and if necessary, bring in another advocacy firm to represent NCTC on the issue.

Staff will be working with Politico Group to develop NCTC’s legislative platform and goals for the year, and make contact with other local jurisdictions’ state and federal advocates to see that we are all in alignment on the issues at hand.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 23-27 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strauss / **SECOND:** Strawser
AYES: Bullock, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie

NOES: None
ABSENT: Hoek
ABSTAIN: None

9. Amendment 1 to the FY 2023/24 Overall Work Program
Resolution 23-28

Amendment 1 to the FY 2023/24 Overall Work Program addresses the reconciliation of the final expenditures from FY 2022/23 and adjusts the estimated revenue carryover amounts. Included in the amendment is an additional \$25,000 of Rural Planning Assistance grant funds that were approved in coordination with the Rural Counties Task Force for the Rural Induced Demand Study, to have the consultant provide additional support in working with state representatives to express the technical findings, recommendations and guidance to the various state agencies once the findings are complete.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 23-28 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strauss / SECOND: Strawser
AYES: Bullock, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hoek
ABSTAIN: None

10. Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with DKS Associates to Update the Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan
Resolution 23-29

Amendment 1 to the Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan agreement with DKS Associates provides increased consultant funding to allow for additional tasks such as more public outreach and a greater focus on disadvantaged communities in Nevada County. To date, there have been two virtual workshops, one each in the western and eastern portions of the county, and presentations to NCTC, Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Agency Association, and the Convene, Champion and Catalyze forums. Additional outreach efforts, including encouraging public involvement by using the online interactive tool, may continue to generate a higher level of public interest and participation.

Amendment 1 also adds assistance with the development of a regional definition of disadvantaged communities in Nevada County. Developing a definition for our regional disadvantaged communities, such as those who may be of lower income, households with no vehicles, residents with limited accessibility to goods and services, and so forth, will be useful data to have and may help local jurisdictions to be more competitive with future grant funding opportunities. Suggestions were made to connect with the Economic Resource Council and the Diversity Equity Inclusion Program Manager in Truckee.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 23-29 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Strauss
AYES: Bullock, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hoek
ABSTAIN: None

11. Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with DKS Associates for the Rural Induced Demand Study
Resolution 23-30

With funding received through the Rural Counties Task Force, the Rural Induced Demand Study addresses the questions of what causalities are needed to have induced demand in rural areas, how rural areas differ from urban areas, and how population growth, economy, and a number of other factors influence driving behaviors. Amendment 1 to the agreement increases the initial contract amount by \$25,000 to allow greater opportunity to meaningfully get the information from the study out to state agencies and other local bodies who then have influence over state policies and guidance on funding programs. This will likely include meetings with the California State Transportation Agency, working with the California Transportation Commission, talking with Caltrans headquarters staff, and working with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research responsible for implementing Senate Bill 743 in an effort to effectively communicate the findings and results from the study.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 23-30 by roll call vote

MOTION: Strauss / SECOND: Strawser

AYES: Bullock, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hoek

ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. Correspondence

- A. Senator Brian Dahle and Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, Draft 2023 State Highway System Management Plan: Climate and Adaptation and Resilience Funding, File 1200.4, 5/29/2023
- B. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2022-23 Third Quarter State of Good Repair Program Allocation, File 370.2.1, 5/17/2023
- C. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2022-23 Third Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 5/17/2023

13. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mike Woodman gave an overview of his report. NCTC staff in coordination with Caltrans District 3 submitted a Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program grant application to the California Transportation Commission for funding to construct evacuation improvements on State Route 49 between the Combie Road/Wolf Road intersection and Ponderosa Pines Way. The project proposes to construct northbound and southbound structurally engineered drivable shoulders and a two-way center left turn lane. These improvements would allow for contraflow during evacuation events to help reduce evacuation times. The grant application requested \$35 million of funding, and when combined with the State Highway Operations Protections Program funding that Caltrans District 3 has committed in partnership, it would allow for construction of the improvements on that segment of the

State Route 49 corridor. The grant funding recommendations are scheduled to be announced by the CTC in November.

Executive Director Woodman recently participated on two different panel sessions. The first session was at the American Planning Association Conference in Fresno where he moderated a panel on the research and application of the theory of Induced Demand and how there is a lack of data for applying the theory in rural areas. This conference was for planning professionals statewide and was well attended, including city, county and state representatives, individuals from academia, consulting firms, and the chair of the CTC. Mr. Woodman also participated at the Caltrans Local Development Review 2023 Statewide Workshop to discuss how local agencies have developed methodologies and thresholds to implement the new state requirements related to Vehicle Miles Traveled for land use projects from a rural perspective.

14. Caltrans Project Status Report: Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County.

Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Sam Vandell reviewed the September Caltrans Project Status Report.

There are two new projects on the Highway 49 corridor. The first is a pavement rehab project on State Route 49 in Placer County, from south of Dry Creek Road to the Bear River Bridge at the county line, that will upgrade sections of the pavement and drainage elements and add pedestrian facilities.

The second project on Highway 49 is from Wolf Road/Combie Road to Ponderosa Pines Way, and will bring shoulders to drivable standards and add a two-way left turn lane. The cost of this project is just shy of \$70 million, and Caltrans is working with NCTC and providing SHOPP project funds to this project, which will be programmed in March of 2024.

The Yuba Pass separation overhead bridge replacement project on Interstate 80 is scheduled for design completion this Fall, and construction to replace those bridges will start next construction season. The Safety Improvement project at Floriston has a construction target date of this winter. The Drum Bay Drainage Restoration project on Highway 80 has an environmental document that has been completed. The Donner Summit Rest Area Restoration Project is one of those locations that is very highly used and Caltrans is constantly working to keep them in good working order. Once the Project Initiation Document (PID) is completed, the project will be moving into the environmental and design phase.


The planned closures for the shutdown on Highway 20 for the Omega safety projects are coming up. Caltrans has made efforts to get the word out about the road closures through open houses, mailers to Washington area residents and those along the Highway 20 corridor, press releases, and radio spots. They are using Changeable Message Signs to alert drivers on Highway 80 as well as on Highway 20 and Highway 49 to take alternative routes. They are also coordinating some maintenance projects at the same time in those areas to minimize any traffic impacts of those travelers taking alternative routes.

There was a request to use the four-to-six-inch thin white rumble stripping in the new shoulders versus the one-foot-wide rumble strips that make it very dangerous for multi-use participants. Another request was to add traffic cameras at the junction of Highways 49 and 80 in Auburn, and at the Wolf Road/Combie Road intersection or Higgins Corner, to get more accurate reports of the traffic conditions in those areas. Caltrans is looking at putting more Changeable Message Signs in key areas such as on Highway 49 south of McKnight Way, and near La Barr Meadows Road, to provide information to travelers on travel times and other information pertinent to the traveling public.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been scheduled for November 8, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: November 8, 2023

By: 
Ed Scofield, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission