

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 November 8, 2023

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, November 8, 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 2:30 p.m.

Members Present: Lou Ceci, alternate
Susan Hoek
Tom Ivy
Ed Scofield
Jay Strauss
Duane Strawser
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 2:33 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: Al Bulf made a comment concerning the cost of energy and the importance of moving away from dependency on outside oil resources.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
July, August and September 2023
2. NCTC Minutes
September 20, 2023 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Proposed 2024 NCTC Meeting Schedule
Agenda item pulled for discussion

4. Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Annual Report for FY 2022/23
Approve report

ACTION: Approved Consent Items excluding Item 3 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / **SECOND:** Hoek
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

3. Proposed 2024 NCTC Meeting Schedule
Agenda item pulled for discussion

Staff recommended a start time of 10:00 a.m. to allow time at the conclusion of the Transit Services Commission meetings to do technical setup and prepare for the NCTC meeting.

ACTION: Approved Proposed 2024 NCTC Meeting Schedule by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / **SECOND:** Strauss
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2023/24 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Resolution 23-31

NCTC Executive Director Mike Woodman gave a presentation on the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The purpose of NCTC's Regional Transportation Improvement Program is to identify the priority projects and proposed funding recommendations for NCTC's formula share of the Regional Improvement Program funding for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For the 2023/24 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, NCTC staff proposes to program \$4,385,000 of available Regional Improvement Program funding for Phase Two of the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project in Federal Fiscal Year 2024/25, which will fulfill the required match requirement for the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program grant funding that was awarded to NCTC in June of 2023.

The RTIP Public Hearing presentation can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/Regional-Transportation-Improvement-Program/index.html>

ACTION: Approved Resolution 23-31 by roll call vote
MOTION: Hoek / **SECOND:** Strawser
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

6. Draft Allocation Plan for Senate Bill 125 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program / Zero Emission Transit Capital Program
Comments provided.

NCTC Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hoyt gave an overview of the draft list of projects for inclusion in the initial allocation plan for Senate Bill 125 funding. Senate Bill (SB) 125 created a new one-time funding source for transit funding. Statewide, approximately \$5.1 billion has been made available from a variety of different fund sources controlled by the state. \$12.3 million of that \$5.1 billion is coming to Nevada County, and the funds are distributed to Nevada County Transportation Commission and other regional transportation planning agencies based on formulas that are used for other existing programs. Within SB 125, there are two programs that will distribute funds that the Town of Truckee and Nevada County can apply for. One is through the existing Transit Inner City Rail Capital Program, otherwise known as TIRCP. The other is the Zero Emission Transit Capital Program. This is a new program that enables transit agencies and regions to transition their vehicle fleet over to zero emission buses.

Aaron Hoyt's presentation can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/Transit-Reports/index.html>

7. Rural Induced Demand Study Status Update
Comments provided.

In 2022, to address the lack of induced demand research in rural settings and context, the California Rural Counties Task Force approved \$150,000 to fund a Rural Induced Demand Study and selected the Nevada County Transportation Commission to manage that study process. NCTC selected the consultant team of DKS Associates, GHD Inc., and it also includes academic researcher Anurag Pande from Cal Poly. The theory of induced demand is based on urban research studies of congested highways and examines the resulting effects of transportation improvement projects. The research studies theorized that if transportation improvements in heavily congested urban and interstate corridors added new capacity to address that congestion, it would generate new trips and result in an increase of vehicle miles traveled and thereby reduce the anticipated congestion relief benefits of the project.

Rural agencies have repeatedly expressed concerns that rural transportation projects and rural highway corridors that are absent significant levels of congestion are being mischaracterized as inducing demand and being unfairly disadvantaged in state funding programs. The Rural Counties Task Force funded the study to get more research on rural context of induced demand. Jim Damkowitch, the lead for DKS Associates, and Don Hubbard, the lead for GHD Inc, provided a status update and reviewed the preliminary findings of the study.

Jim Damkowitch and Don Hubbard's presentation can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/RCTF-Rural-Induced-Demand-Study/index.html>

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8. Correspondence

- A. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2022-23 Fourth Quarter State of Good Repair Program Allocation, File 370.2.1, 9/14/2023.
- B. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2022-23 Fourth Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 9/14/2023.
- C. Nevada County Transportation Commission, Comments on Informal Draft Guidelines for SB 125 Formula-Based Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program & Zero Emission Transit Capital Program, File 200.1, 9/14/2023.

NCTC Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hoyt prepared the comment letter submitted to the California State Transportation Agency on the Draft Guidelines for SB 125 in coordination with our transit operators. Several of NCTC'S suggestions were addressed in the final guidelines. This is an example of how NCTC staff continue to remain engaged in state transportation policy and funding programs.

9. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mike Woodman gave an overview of his report. Staff is pleased to announce that on November 3rd, the California Transportation Commission recommended \$35 million for NCTC's application for the State Route 49 Grass Valley Wildfire Evacuation Route Project. Those recommendations will be approved by the CTC at their December 6-7, 2023 meetings. The proposed project is intended to help address existing evacuation barriers on the State Route 49 corridor between Combie Road/Wolf Road and Ponderosa Pines Way through construction of structurally engineered southbound and northbound shoulders. The shoulders will be 12 feet wide southbound and 8 feet wide northbound. A center two-way left turn lane will also improve safety and operations during non-emergency events, providing better access to the highway and the ability for CHP enforcement as well as disabled vehicles to enter and exit the highway. The project will also harden infrastructure and improve climate resiliency. This was a great coordinated partnership with Caltrans, as well as Nevada County OES, Cal Fire, Sheriff, CHP, our Firewise Communities, and other key stakeholder groups that supported this project.

NCTC intends to release a Call for Projects for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding. In 2004, western Nevada County was designated as non-attainment for the federal air quality ozone standards, and as a result receives about \$900,000 of CMAQ funds annually. NCTC will be doing a Call for Projects for \$2.4 million of CMAQ funds. A new program, the Carbon Reduction Program, focused on the same goals of reducing emissions, came out of the federal funding bill, and that is also to be administered by NCTC. That call will be for an additional \$366,000 of CRP funds. Only western Nevada County jurisdictions are eligible for CMAQ funding because they are the only ones within the non-attainment boundary. The Carbon Reduction Program funds are eligible to all the jurisdictions within Nevada County. Historically, we have focused on pedestrian and bicycle improvements through the program.

10. Project Status Reports

A. Caltrans Project Report: Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager, Nevada County.

Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Sam Vandell reviewed the November Caltrans Project Status Report. On the Yuba Pass Separation Overhead Bridge Replacement Project, the design was completed and it will go to the upcoming CTC meeting for allocation and advertisement shortly thereafter, with construction to start the summer of 2024.

There was a request to use the four-to-six-inch rumble stripping in the new shoulders versus the separated rumble strip that starts several inches inward from the white line, which results in loss of a third to a half of the usable shoulder. Also, since some of the area is lost due to garbage, debris, sand, and glass from the curb or guardrail, it is not best for multi-use. It should be at grade grading, no lift or bump from the previous asphalt, it needs to have a flush surface.

B. Truckee Tahoe Area Regional Transit Report – Alfred Knotts, Transportation Program Manager for Town of Truckee

Alfred Knotts, Transportation Program Manager for Town of Truckee, gave a presentation on the Truckee Tahoe Area Regional Transit Report, and the good results they have seen from their micro transit program, fixed route and Dial a Ride systems, and other ongoing and future projects.

Alfred Knott’s presentation can be viewed here:
<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/Transit-Reports/index.html>


COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: January 24, 2024

By: 
Ed Scofield, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission