

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 January 24, 2024

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 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 10:00 a.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 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
October, November and December 2023
2. NCTC Minutes
November 8, 2023 NCTC Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote

MOTION: Strawser / **SECOND:** Strauss

AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

3. **Draft NCTC Legislative Platform** Resolution 24-01

Kiana Valentine and Chris Lee of Politico Group gave a presentation on the Draft NCTC Legislative Platform. The platform contains the policy principles that will guide NCTC's advocacy on state legislation, budget issues, policy and regulations. The platform focuses on five key legislative priority areas, including supporting safe multimodal travel for Nevada County communities; planning land use, fire safety and emergency response; public transportation operations and funding; transportation, demand management and broadband; and general government flexibility.

These foundational principles will be updated at the start of each new legislative session and will be used to actively engage with our state representatives to advance NCTC's project priorities, and help achieve overall advocacy goals. The legislative platform also streamlines the ability of NCTC staff to respond effectively to immediate action on pressing legislation, budget policy or regulatory issues throughout the year.

The Draft NCTC Legislative Platform presentation can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/documents/Reports/Politico-Group-Draft-NCTC-Legislative-Platform-presentation-Jan-24-2024.pdf>

ACTION: Approved Resolution 24-01 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / **SECOND:** Strauss
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. **Congestion Mitigation Air Quality/Carbon Reduction Program Projects Approval** Resolution 24-02

NCTC Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hoyt gave a presentation on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Both of these federal programs target air quality improvements, and NCTC manages these programs through a multi-year approach.

CMAQ can only be used in areas that do not meet the national ambient air quality standards for either ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter. Western Nevada County was designated non-attainment in June 2004. Eligible projects include active transportation, pedestrian sidewalks, bike trails, roundabouts, improvements that reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow, travel demand management such as vanpooling, and encouraging employer trip reduction programs.

The CRP program was approved through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a 2021 Federal bill that is intended to fund reduction of carbon dioxide through road and highway sources. This is the first apportionment of funding we've received for CRP of a total of approximately \$180,000 going forward for the next four years, for a total of five years' worth of funding. The continuation of this program beyond these five years will be dependent on future federal legislation to either extend the program or roll it into the next federal transportation bill.

The call for projects resulted in about \$857,000 in additional funding requests for cost increases of previously approved projects, along with almost \$2 million of new requests for projects, which would result in a shortfall in the current fiscal year. In addition, the longer projects are delayed, the more funding ends up going to cost increases over time.

In light of this, the recommendation is to secure a small loan with Tehama County Transportation Commission for \$411,569 in order to advance the projects that are being recommended for Fiscal Year 2023/24. The advantage to us is the ability to deliver these projects without pushing out in the future and potentially seeing greater cost increases, and it works well with our timing of other projects coming up in the future.

The projects proposed for CMAQ funding include the McCourtney Road Active Transportation Connection Project – Construction Phase, Ridge Road Active Transportation Project – Preliminary Engineering Phase, Boulder Street Sidewalk Project – Construction Phase, Railroad Avenue Sidewalk Project – Construction Phase, Searles Avenue Sidewalk Project – Construction Phase, Combie Road Multi-Purpose Trail – Construction Phase, and Rough and Ready Highway Roundabout & Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities on Ridge Road and Adams Avenue – Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way Phase.

For the Carbon Reduction Program funding, the Truckee Vanpool Pilot program is a collaboration with the Washoe County Regional Transportation Commission, and will help residents living in the Reno area to participate in the Vanpool program, making it easier for employees to get to employer destinations in Truckee.

There was a request for signal signage at the proposed roundabouts to avoid the traffic backup that often happens when drivers do not use signals when entering and exiting the roundabout.

Robin VanValkenburgh, the Transit Services Manager for Nevada County, addressed the idea of a thirty-minute shuttle service between Nevada City and Grass Valley, saying they have the funding and approval for implementing that service, but they would need the drivers in order to do it. He said if implemented, it would be another option for mitigating some of the parking and congestion issues in those areas.

The CMAQ/CRP Projects presentation can be viewed here:

<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Projects/CMAQ-Projects/index.html>

ACTION: Approved Resolution 24-02 by roll call vote
MOTION: Ceci / **SECOND:** Hoek
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Scofield, Strauss, Strawser, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Correspondence

- A. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2023-24 First Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 11/21/2023

B. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2023-24 First Quarter State of Good Repair Program Allocation, File 370.2.1, 11/21/2023

6. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mike Woodman gave an overview of his report. The California Transportation Commission approved the staff recommendation for the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program Grant Funding Awards. Included in that approval was NCTC's \$35 million request for the State Route 49 Grass Valley Wildfire Evacuation Route Project. The approved \$35 million funding would be combined with another \$66.5 million of State Highway Operations Protection Program funding provided through Caltrans District 3, allowing us to address the whole segment between Ponderosa Pines Way and Wolf Road/Combie Road to provide those critical improvements.

NCTC staff in coordination with the California Transportation Commission hosted an Active Transportation Program branch workshop to look at the upcoming Active Transportation Cycle, and allow opportunities for the jurisdictions to interact with the CTC on potential projects to see how they can make their projects more competitive in the upcoming cycle. NCTC staff coordinated with CTC staff and the local jurisdictions to do two site visits, looking at the Rough and Ready/Adams Avenue/Ridge Road Accessibility Improvement project, and toured the Wolf Creek Trail Accessibility Connectivity project for the expansion of the Wolf Creek Trail.

In January, NCTC staff, working with Robin VanValkenburgh and Nevada County Transit Services, submitted a grant application for the FY 2024/25 Caltrans Strategic Partnership Transit Planning Grant Program to fund a Comprehensive Operational Analysis, which will look at how existing services are delivered, and possible alternative delivery methods such as micro transit that may be more cost effective and efficient in the western side of the county. Grant awards will be released in the summer of 2024.

7. 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 Interstate 80, the slope stabilization project near Truckee, the roadway rehab project near Truckee from the Donner Park overcrossing to Trout Creek undercrossing, and the rockfall protection projects in Nevada and Sierra Counties are all complete.

There was a discussion on the perception that the improvements that were made on State Route 20 in Yuba County have caused an increase in traffic volumes. The improvements were essentially alignment and safety corrections rather than adding capacity to the roadway. Commute traffic tends to be higher during certain times of the day in the morning and afternoon. Caltrans is planning to look at addressing the section of Highway 20 between Grass Valley and Penn Valley to see what potential safety measures could be incorporated to improve safety on the corridor at that location.

There was a request to place merge arrows on Highway 49 southbound at the on and off ramps at the Wolf Road/Combie Road intersection, and to add traffic cameras at Higgins Corner and at the junction of Highways 49 and 80 in Auburn to get more accurate reports of the traffic conditions in those areas.

Appreciation was given for the improvements done on Highway 20 in the Omega project, the road feels very smooth and safe after the completion of the work.

8. Election of Officers

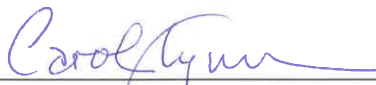
It is the Commission's policy to elect a chair and vice chair at the first meeting of the year. Chair Scofield opened the floor for nominations for the chair and vice chair for 2024.

Commissioner Scofield was nominated to remain Chair of the Commission, and Tom Ivy was nominated to remain Vice Chair of the Commission. The motions passed with a unanimous vote of the commissioners present.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been scheduled for March 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: March 20, 2024

By: 
Ed Scofield, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission