



# NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Grass Valley • Nevada City • Nevada County • Truckee

## MINUTES OF MEETING May 16, 2012

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) and the Nevada County Airport Land Use Commission (NCALUC) was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 in the City of Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Nate Beason, Carolyn Wallace Dee, Ann Guerra, Sally Harris, Larry Jostes, Dan Miller, and Ed Scofield

**Staff Present:** Daniel Landon, Executive Director; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

**Standing Orders:** Chairman Jostes convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

**At 9:33 a.m. Chairman Jostes ADJOURNED THE NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND CONVENED THE NEVADA COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION.**

### CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), Existing Litigation. Name of Case: City of Grass Valley et al. v. Nevada County Airport Land Use Commission et al.; Nevada County Superior Court Case No. 77990.

Chairman Jostes announced the Closed Session with Legal Counsel. Commissioner Miller recused himself from the Closed Session. The other six Commissioners, Legal Counsel Nancy Miller with the firm Miller & Owen Attorneys at Law, and Executive Director Landon left the council chambers to meet in a private room.

Chairman Jostes reopened the meeting from the Closed Session at 10:03 a.m. He stated there was no information to report from the Closed Session.

**At 10:03 a.m. Chairman Jostes ADJOURNED THE NEVADA COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION AND RECONVENED THE NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION.**

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
  - A. March 2012. *Approved.*
2. NCTC/NCALUC Minutes
  - A. March 21, 2012 Meeting. *Approved.*
  - B. April 18, 2012 Special Meeting. *Approved.*
3. Revised Findings of Apportionment for FY 2012/13. *Adopted Resolution 12-11 approving the Revised Findings of Apportionment for FY 2012/13.*
4. Amend the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan and the Nevada County Pedestrian Improvement Plan to include the Nevada City Highway Lower Grass Valley Trail. *Adopted Resolution 12-12 to amend the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan and the Nevada County Pedestrian Improvement Plan to include construction of a pedestrian/bicycle trail from Nevada City Highway to Lower Grass Valley Road.*

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Scofield seconded the motion. The motion passed with an abstention from Commissioner Dee for the March and April Minutes due to her absence at those meetings.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Correspondence
  - A. Nevada County Economic Resource Council (ERC) – Invitation to a workshop on March 29<sup>th</sup> to improve broadband service in the area. 3/15/12, File 420.

Commissioner Beason commented on the Sierra Economic Development Corporation (SEDCorp) \$150,000 grant to launch a public-private partnership for digital access in Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Sierra and eastern Alpine Counties. He asked if anyone knew if it was going anywhere, since he knew that SEDCorp had three or four grants to look at this. Commissioner Beason said the county is working on a project called “Middle Mile” that is supposed to be completed in about one year. Commissioner Miller stated that Nevada County Supervisor Lamphier is the Board’s representative and Commissioner Beason said he would consult him.

6. Executive Director's Report

- 6.1 North State Super Region (NSSR) Transportation for Economic Development Study

Executive Director Landon noted that he attended the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the NSSR Transportation for Economic Development Study in Oroville and there were four counties present. He reported that the consultant is getting things moving and he will be doing either face-to-face or

phone interviews with both Sierra Business Council and the Nevada County Economic Resource Council to insure that our county's economic stakeholders are well informed and engaged in this process.

#### 6.2 Reauthorization of Federal Transportation Act

Executive Director Landon stated that no substantive action is expected on the Federal Transportation Act. He said conventional wisdom is that nothing will happen prior to the election and with a lame duck session afterwards there probably will not be any action then either. He said it may be up to a year from now before there is any real movement on the reauthorization act.

#### 6.3 Town of Truckee Mobility Needs Assessment

Executive Director Landon noted the Truckee Mobility Needs Assessment is wrapping up and Transportation Planner Mike Woodman has been managing the project very well.

#### 6.4 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program

Executive Director Landon said the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has met on the CMAQ Improvement Program and he recently received some information from Caltrans vis-à-vis the Federal Highway Administration that there will be a change in the way they look at vehicle replacements in the future, making the requirements more stringent. Staff shared that information with the TAC and they are waiting to see which projects TAC will propose, and then they will be brought before the Commission.

#### 6.5 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Executive Director Landon reported that Mike Woodman met with the SSTAC and their next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2012.

#### 7. Caltrans District 3 Project Status Report: Winder Bajwa, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County, and Trisha Tillotson, City of Grass Valley Senior Engineer

- *Dorsey Drive Interchange* – Ms. Tillotson reported that the Cooperative Agreement Amendment has been approved by all parties, and the Constructability Review was completed by Grass Valley's consultant, HDR, Inc., which consists of their review of the plans and specifications for the project. The plans were then submitted to Caltrans and the city expects any minor changes to the plans and specifications to be completed by the end of this month. Ms. Tillotson said, pending approval, Caltrans will be submitting the request to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in early June and it is expected they would approve the funds for the Dorsey Drive Interchange on July 26<sup>th</sup>. She stated the city has submitted their request for authorization for the project to Caltrans Local Assistance and they are expecting to get their E-76 approved by mid to late August. She said utility relocations are underway; PG&E is proceeding and AT&T is planning to complete their improvements by the end of the year. Ms. Tillotson asked for questions.

Chairman Jostes asked if the overrun costs for Right-of-Way that were reported and projected were still accurate and taken into account because the work is continuing until the end of the year. Mr. Bajwa replied that they are still within budget with the additional funds that were received and

nothing has changed. He thanked the Commission for the additional funds and said they did not see any further issues.

Commissioner Beason asked if action was expected on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the CTC meeting. Ms. Tillotson replied affirmatively. Commissioner Beason asked if they were very confident. Mr. Bajwa replied if the state budget is not approved, then the CTC cannot allocate any new funds. He was hoping the budget will be passed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, like last year, and then they could move forward with allocations and submit the fund requests for July and it was his understanding that the money should be there. Commissioner Beason questioned, presuming the allocation was approved, when would construction start. Ms. Tillotson said the earliest possible time would be winter of 2012; however, most likely the contractor would want to wait until spring 2013 and it would take two solid years of construction to complete.

Chairman Jostes asked for clarification about the budget that was mentioned, and if it was the federal or state budget being referred to. Mr. Bajwa said it would be the state budget. Chairman Jostes reviewed that there is still a federal reauthorization issue that is pending. Mr. Bajwa said once they get the CTC allocation, he does not see a problem with the federal reauthorization.

- *La Barr Meadows Road Widening Project* – Mr. Bajwa said the project has been under winter suspension and work should be starting again that week. The project is about 45% complete. It is scheduled that the project will be completed the end of this construction season.
- *SR 89 Mousehole Pedestrian Undercrossing Project* – Mr. Bajwa said Caltrans completed a 60% design review and all comments were submitted to the Town of Truckee. He said the Town is the lead on the project and they hired HDR, Inc. to do the design work. A Safety Review was done also and comments were given to the Town. He said the Town is waiting for Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to give their comments on the 60% design review, which they hope to receive by the end of May. Then they will start the final design of the project. He said the Town has sent letters to the utility companies to coordinate relocation of their hardware. Mr. Bajwa said it is planned to finish the final design by the end of 2012 and construction could start next year if the funds are available and the UPRR are in agreement, but he thought it would be later.

Commissioner Dee stated that the Town of Truckee is budgeting the project out to probably 2014/15. She said they did get the ADA grant from the CTC at the spring meeting and that provides about \$4.7 million in funding. She said whether Caltrans can release the money in 2014 will determine whether or not the Town can move ahead. At this point the Town is almost certain that the project will move out to 2015, which is very disappointing for them. She said because of the grant, the UPRR can no longer say it is not a funded project and they do not have to respond to the Town's submittals. The Town is hopeful the UPRR will determine its position on the project soon.

- *SR 20 Safety Project Between Penn Valley Road and Deadman's Flat Overcrossing* – Mr. Bajwa said this project is complete. The final act to install two radar units was accomplished in April.
- *SR 49 Minor A SHOPP Projects* – Mr. Bajwa said the project at Carriage Road, Ladybird Drive, and Cherry Lane has the environmental work completed, the Project Report is done, and the design work is underway and is scheduled for completion at the end of 2012. He said Caltrans will then submit the project for funding and will see what happens at that time. He

said their intent is to deliver and construct the project in the summer of 2013. Mr. Bajwa said this schedule will depend on the availability of funding due to the fact that the SHOPP Minor A Program funding has dwindled tremendously. He said they have cut the program in half, so projects are competing for the funds, even though this project is on the high priority list. Caltrans will try to have it funded by 2013.

Commissioner Beason commented that the project is slipping back one year from the original projected start date. Mr. Bajwa said Caltrans was hoping for 2012, but because of the budget cuts there will not be funding this year. Commissioner Beason asked the source of SHOPP funds. Mr. Bajwa said they come from the State Highway Account through gas taxes. He said, say \$2 billion is set aside in one year for SHOPP; then that money is distributed to the districts for the Major and Minor SHOPP programs. The Minor Program used to be \$150 million and they reduced it to \$100 million in the last year. Each district gets a lump sum every year and then the district puts in a list of projects they want to deliver. A project has to be \$1 million or less to be in that pot. There are other projects that are over \$1 million and that is called the Major SHOPP Program. He said District 3 used to get about \$5 or \$6 million, but that has been cut in half. Commissioner Beason said they are basically road funds that are categorized. Mr. Bajwa said it is up to the district's discretion, under the direction of District Director Jody Jones, who has the authority to fund different projects. He said most of the projects are safety related with a degree of urgency to fix an issue. Commissioner Beason asked if the project on SR 20 was a Major SHOPP project and Mr. Bajwa responded yes.

- *SR 20/49 Major SHOPP Rehabilitation Project from just East of Indian Springs Road to the Junction of SR 49 East of Nevada City* – Mr. Bajwa said these are two projects that were combined into one with funding of \$20 million. It starts around Indian Springs Road near Penn Valley, goes through town, and out to the turnoff for Downieville on SR 49. He said they are ready for allocation and they will submit it in July and hopefully the CTC will fund this project and Caltrans will advertise it and award the project this summer. He did not think the contractor will start the project until spring 2013, since they do not want to deal with all the winter regulations regarding water quality issues.

Commissioner Harris asked if the funding for this is in jeopardy relative to the state budget. Mr. Bajwa said only if the budget does not pass on time and then there would be a delay and they cannot allocate the money. Commissioner Scofield asked what rehabilitation meant. Mr. Bajwa responded that it means Caltrans is not adding any capacity or elements to the system like lanes or bridges; they just work on the pavement and use different strategies for different locations and different needs. Caltrans evaluates the pavement and sometimes they grind the pavement and overlay with a new layer, and sometimes they just overlay. Commissioner Harris said the project will, at a minimum, be an overlay of the entire section of highway. Mr. Bajwa said that was correct, except on the section of highway that they completed the overlay near Nevada City last year, and they will not pave near the Dorsey Drive Interchange project since that portion of highway is included in the Dorsey project scope. Caltrans will send out a press release once work begins. Mr. Bajwa said if the Commission would like more outreach there would be no problem with that. Commissioner Guerra asked if it would be one section at a time. Mr. Bajwa said yes, they would not close the roadway; there will always be a lane open and they will give notice of when they will start work. Commissioner Miller said if that project starts in 2013, and the Dorsey Drive project starts in 2013, the highway will be busy through there. Executive Director Landon asked if the majority of the work will be done at night and Mr. Bajwa said he thought it would be.

Commissioner Dee asked Mr. Bajwa if he could update the Commission on the I-80 projects. Mr. Bajwa replied that Sam Jordan is the Project Manager and he offered to ask Mr. Jordan to come to a

NCTC meeting to give the Commission an update on the I-80 corridor. Commissioner Dee said that day I-80 had one-lane of traffic for many miles around Kingvale on both sides of the interstate. She noticed that there were sections of pavement removed so it would stay one-lane until the work is finished on that section. Commissioner Dee said the work affects Nevada County dramatically and she asked if information could be sent to her. She said she is working on a huge transportation update because of the I-80 project and how it will impact their location for the summer. She added that the rehabilitation work on SR 89 was supposed to start May 1<sup>st</sup> and it is out for bid but not awarded, so that work probably will not start until July. Mr. Bajwa said he would get the information on all the projects and he will send it to Executive Director Landon and the Commission.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### 8. Amendment III to the 2011/12 FY Overall Work Program (OWP)

Executive Director Landon stated that Caltrans notified NCTC that they were going to give them a grant to update the Traffic Model; however, they needed those funds encumbered in the current fiscal year. Therefore, the budget was amended to include the grant funds and NCTC has three years to spend them. Mr. Landon said the work will actually start in the coming fiscal year.

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to adopt Resolution 12-13 approving Amendment III to the FY 2011/12 Overall Work Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dee. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 9. Final 2012/13 FY Overall Work Program

Executive Director Landon said staff put the draft OWP out to all agencies and had no comments from the Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, nor the Town of Truckee, nor Nevada County. He said comments were included in the final document from Caltrans and there was nothing of significance. Commissioner Beason asked if the fence issue with the short bike path project that Jerry Henderson proposed was ever resolved. Mr. Landon responded that it was not resolved. Commissioner Beason asked if Caltrans still wanted the county to pay \$10,000 to move the fence. Mr. Landon said, basically yes; Caltrans wants processing money in order to go through the release of right-of-way. Commissioner Beason did not know where the money would come from. Commissioner Harris asked if there were bicycle and pedestrian funds that could be used for this expense. Mr. Landon said there are funds if one of the agencies wanted to put that amount up for the project. Commissioner Beason said it is only for about 500 yards. Mr. Landon said it is not even the expense to move the fence; the Land Trust indicated they would take care of the fence. He said the \$10,000 is to process the release of right-of-way to a local agency. Mr. Landon said that is an issue that will be discussed at another meeting when staff has had time to line up all the necessary things to make it happen.

Commissioner Beason made a motion to adopt Resolution 12-14 approving the Final FY 2012/13 Overall Work Program. Commissioner Dee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. Final Western Nevada County Public Transportation Governance Study

Executive Director Landon said he would let Mike Woodman give a recap on the study, but reviewed that the study was approved that morning at the Transit Services Commission (TSC) meeting. Mike Woodman said the item before the Commission was the *Final Western Nevada County Public*

*Transportation Governance Study* and the action would be to accept the study as complete. He stated the report was presented to the TSC that morning and they accepted the document. Mr. Woodman said everyone was pleased with the work done by LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. and they all believe it will be a valuable resource in the future if governance options come up again.

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to adopt Resolution 12-15 accepting the *Western Nevada County Public Transportation Governance Study* final report as complete in accordance with the contract with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc.

#### 11. Closed Session: Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director

Chairman Jostes announced the Commission was going into a closed session and asked if there were any member of the public that would want to make a comment. He said after the performance evaluation there would be no further agenda items for the NCTC to discuss. There were no further comments.

The Commissioners and Executive Director Landon left the council chambers at 10:32 a.m. to meet in a private room. Chairman Jostes reconvened the Commission meeting at 10:51 a.m. and had nothing to report.

#### COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Harris said Nevada City was going out to bid on some of their summer work and was thankful for CMAQ funds that will be used to complete the sidewalk from where the county trail ends at SR 49 and East Broad Street down to Main Street in Nevada City. She said there will be a "safe routes to school" crossing at Main Street for two schools operating further down the street. Commissioner Harris reported that many other sidewalk projects are slated this summer; notably a sidewalk continuing where the Searles Street sidewalk ends near Ridge Road and the sidewalk will come around Ridge Road to Zion Street to complete the safe pedestrian walkway there. Commissioner Beason asked if you would be able to walk along the vacant lot on the south side of Zion Street. Commissioner Harris replied yes, and there are plans to do some stone work as well, similar to the retaining wall built last year closer to the school. She said Nevada City also received a grant from the Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba (CABY) River for about \$1.5 million to do some underground work that is necessary before resurfacing is completed with Measure S funds. Commissioner Harris thanked the Commission for their support with CMAQ funds.

Chairman Jostes reported that he and Commissioner Scofield and Executive Director Landon all attended an ERC workshop. He said the new ERC Director, John Blinder, is very aggressive in what he is trying to accomplish and this was a workshop to redefine goals and see what he should be taking on in the next year. Chairman Jostes said they went through a process and came up with some items that continue to focus on supporting and building businesses, particularly businesses that bring outside dollars into the community. He said that is where the ERC wants to continue to focus. He reported that things were a bit different this time and there were actually two committees formed with five board members on each committee who usually are in more of an observation role (as he would define it), but now they have a specific task to do over the next month or two in order to provide additional direction to John Blinder. Chairman Jostes said he was encouraged and he acknowledged that the board members are extremely busy, but he thought it was good that the board members actually are going to do some hands-on input to the Council. Commissioner Beason asked if Robert Trent of Sierra Commons had been going to those meetings. It was stated that he was at the meeting before last. Commissioner Beason said there was an article in the newspaper about all of

these people who were trying to start businesses. Chairman Jostes said there were three or four groups that were up front. Chairman Jostes stated that his personal observation was that the ERC was being more proactive and perhaps more focused than it has been. Commissioner Beason commented that Mr. Blinder cannot do the job all by himself, and he thought this new approach was good.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is on July 18, 2012 at the Town of Truckee Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Commissioner Guerra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Chairman Jostes adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Antoinette Perry  
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: July 18, 2012

By: L A Jostes  
Lawrence A. Jostes, Chairman  
Nevada County Transportation Commission