



MINUTES OF MEETING July 19, 2017

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 in the Town of Truckee Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, California. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jan Arbuckle, Carolyn Wallace Dee, Ann Guerra, Larry Jostes, Dan Miller, and Valerie Moberg*

Members Absent: Ed Scofield

Staff Present: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Dale Sayles, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Carol Lynn, newly hired Administrative Assistant

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATION: A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Administrative Assistant Toni Perry, who is retiring after 16 years with NCTC. Ms. Perry commented that working with the NCTC staff and Commissioners has been incredible and life-changing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Al Bulf from Nevada City, who was in attendance, came to the podium to speak. Mr. Bulf stated he helped start four rail systems, the fourth one going into operation now in Marin and Sonoma Counties. He stated he researched the German Auto Bans, and found when the retaining walls and tunnels were being built, the displaced top soil was given to farmers, as opposed to burying it in embankments that could potentially move during heavy rains. Mr. Bulf said in the Sierra area, he believed it would be best to limit the amount of automobile access. He spoke with UC Davis Professors Cahill and Goldman, who monitor the environment in Lake Tahoe, and they concluded the asphalt sealer in the local roads and parking lots, along with vehicle exhaust, is ruining the lake's environment. Mr. Bulf said he would like to see more emphasis on public transportation in our areas of recreation before they are ruined. He stated he discussed a new corridor for rail service in the Sierra area with a Chinese engineer who helped build the rail lines in Tibet, Nepal and Mongolia. The Chinese engineer said the construction of an electrified rail line in the Sierra area would be easy compared to the rail lines he had worked on. Mr. Bulf stated during his time in Japan the only way to Hakone National Park and Mount Fuji was through rail and bus service, and he believes we should emulate that.

**Commissioner Valerie Moberg arrived at 9:35 a.m. to the meeting.*

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports

A. April 2017 and May 2017. *Approved.*

2. NCTC Minutes

May 17, 2017 NCTC Meeting Minutes and June 7, 2017 NCTC Special Meeting Minutes. *Approved.*

3. Allocation Request from Nevada County. *Adopted Resolution 17-22 approving the allocation of \$1,010,759 from Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and \$324,487 from State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds for transit and paratransit operations, and \$125,000 from Community Transit Services (CTS) Funds for paratransit operations for FY 2017/18.*

4. Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley. *Adopted Resolution 17-23 approving the allocation of \$361,796 of LTF for transit/paratransit operations for FY 2017/18.*

5. Allocation Request from the City of Nevada City. *Adopted Resolution 17-24 approving the allocation of \$90,259 of LTF for transit/paratransit operations for FY 2017/18.*

6. Request from the County of Nevada to Rescind and Reallocate RSTP funds. *Adopted Resolution 17-25 approving the rescission of \$151,007.24 of RSTP funds for the Combie Road/Magnolia Road/Lake of the Pines Intersection Improvement Project, and the allocation of RSTP funds in the amount of \$151,007.24 for the Combie Road Corridor Improvement Project.*

7. Grass Valley, Nevada City, the Town of Truckee, and Nevada County Subrecipient Agreements. *Adopted Resolution 17-26 approving the Subrecipient Agreements between the NCTC and Nevada County, the Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.*

8. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 Program of Projects (POP). *Adopted Resolution 17-27 approving the FFY 2018 POP and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Certifications and Assurances of the Regional Transportation Planning Agency on behalf of the NCTC.*

9. Amendment 3 to the Professional Services Agreement for General Counsel Services with Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP, A Professional Corporation. *Approved Amendment 3 to the Professional Services Agreement for General Counsel Services with the law firm Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP, commencing August 30, 2017 through August 29, 2018.*

Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Jostes, Miller, and Moberg. (Commissioner Scofield was absent.)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Correspondence

- A. Bayareanewsgroup.com, Katy Murphy, Californians Give Big Thumbs Down to New Gas Tax, Poll Finds. File 570.0, 6/7/2017.

Commissioner Jostes asked Executive Director Landon if he had any comments regarding this news article. Mr. Landon replied he did not have any comments, however he thought it was an interesting article and the Commission might enjoy reading it. Commissioner Jostes commented he thought the story was not being communicated regarding the degradation of our infrastructure. He said he wished it would, as improvements are not free. He asked Mr. Landon if he expected this backlash. Mr. Landon replied he had not, and stated since there has been work done the last several years at the state level, he thought people understood there was a need for the gas tax, but perhaps the political presentation of the tax has been overwhelming.

11. Executive Director's Report

11.1 State Route 49 Stakeholders Committee

Executive Director Landon presented a Caltrans map showing planned projects on SR 49 in Nevada and Placer Counties, with a brief description of the projects being considered. Mr. Landon said he and Transportation Planner Mike Woodman had a phone conference last week with Amarjeet Benipal of Caltrans District 3, who said Caltrans is serious about moving forward with these plans. He stated there are small things, such as installing flashing beacons and improving lighting at Brewer Road, that will happen very soon, and other projects having longer time frames were listed with their estimated construction dates. He said they expect to receive quarterly reports from Caltrans as the projects move forward.

Executive Director Landon presented a CHP spreadsheet outlining the history of Collisions and Victims for the SR 49 corridor from Dry Creek Road to McKnight Way, from January 2007 to March 2017. Mr. Landon said the SR 49 Stakeholders Committee will be considering these statistics as they move forward in identifying locations for potential projects.

11.2 NCTC 2017 Annual Salary Cost of Living Adjustment

Executive Director Landon presented the statistics regarding the average cost of living increase provided by the local labor market to the journey level planner. The average of the labor market increases for 2017 is 2.375%. The NCTC Compensation Policy provides that NCTC will compare its compensation to other Regional Transportation Planning Agencies approximately every five years.

12. Project Status Report

- A. Caltrans Projects: Cameron Knudson, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County.

Mr. Knudson gave a summary of projects listed in the July Project Status Report.

- *SR 174 Safety Improvement from Maple Way to You Bet Road* – Mr. Knudson reported there was an informational Open House on May 24, 2017 that approximately 95 people attended. He said the majority of those attending the meeting were in opposition of the project, with many aspects they do not like. Mr. Knudson said Caltrans has put forward efforts to get information out to the public. He said Caltrans had received a letter from the Board of

Supervisors, which they responded to and sent a copy to Chairman Weston. He said he met with Nevada County Supervisor Heidi Hall, Public Works Director Trisha Tillotson, and Preserve Highway 174 group member Reginald King in an effort to clarify information. He said getting correct information out on the project would be ongoing.

Commissioner Guerra commented that the letter from the Board of Supervisors asked for modification, and asked Mr. Knudson if he had any more information regarding that. Mr. Knudson replied he spoke with Reginald King and asked that he bring back a more organized list of his group's concerns. He said that Executive Director Landon had volunteered to meet with them and assist with clarifying information. Mr. Knudson said he appreciated Mr. Landon's willingness to reach out and offer his services in this capacity.

- *SR 49 Widening to Five Lanes Starting at the North End of the La Barr Meadows Road Project to just before the McKnight Way Interchange* – Mr. Knudson reported there are additional studies required to prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). He said they met on June 19, 2017 to discuss the studies required concerning the archeological sites that could potentially be impacted by the project.

Executive Director Landon explained there were numerous old mining sites and home sites, including even privies, along the SR 49 corridor which need to be cataloged and verified whether or not they fall under California's historic preservation requirements.

- *SR 49 Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Overlay* – Mr. Knudson reported this paving project between the Yuba River and the Nevada County line has begun and will take the majority of the summer. He said this project will greatly improve the road.
- *SR 20 Yuba/Nevada Counties Safety Project to Widen Shoulders and Correct Curves* – Mr. Knudson clarified the location of the project is just south of Lower Smartsville Road, rather than from Mooney Flat Road to the Parks Bar Bridge as was previously stated. He said the project was about a mile and a half, which is about the same or shorter as the SR 174 project. He said there are two projects between Mooney Flat Road and the Parks Bar Bridge in Yuba County, and two more between Loma Rica Road and the Parks Bar Bridge, so there is a lot of work planned for SR 20.

Mr. Knudson stated he will be presenting several ongoing projects in his next report, including four Minor A and Minor B projects that are scheduled for completion by 2018.

Mr. Knudson reported two new safety projects on SR 20 Nevada County have been recently programmed. He said one of these new projects is near White Cloud Campground, and the other project is near Bear Valley, addressing curves in those areas.

Commissioner Dee asked what the status was on SR 89. Mr. Knudson replied the projects they discussed have been programmed and approved, but he understood Commissioner Dee was not happy with the work done. Commissioner Dee said they only cold-patched the areas, some of which are sinking already, and may fall into the river with the first freeze. She said patching a delaminated road will not be sufficient when winter comes. The road was already cracking when she and Mr. Knudson met and discussed the issue recently. She said she was aware they programmed \$2.5 million and didn't think the work done should have cost that amount, and the road still needs to be fixed. Mr. Knudson replied he will drive to the area and assess the current condition of the road.

Joan McCammon came to the podium to speak. She said she does not live on SR 174 but lives very close by, and was at the meeting to represent the Preserve Highway 174 group, which had 116 members as of two weeks prior. She said there could potentially be many more people in the group once information goes out regarding the Caltrans SR 174 Safety Improvement project. Ms. McCammon said she appreciated Executive Director Landon's willingness to reach out and help mitigate some aspects of the project. She said the current plan to clear cut trees 32 feet from the center line is way too drastic for a country road that has been there for years and one they all love, and she did not want Highway 174 to turn into another Highway 49. She referred to crash statistics that she had shared with Mr. Landon, as well as a precipitation chart that she said may help explain why there were 15 accidents on Highway 174 in 2011, and thought it may have an impact on the project.

ACTION ITEMS

13. Approval of Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Allocation Requests from the City of Grass Valley

Executive Director Landon reported this is a follow up to the RTMF update which was completed in January. Mr. Landon explained the City of Grass Valley is requesting allocation of funding to reimburse them for the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds which were the principal funding source for the Dorsey Drive Interchange project. The RDA sold bonds to finance the projects, and now the bonds need to be repaid. He said Resolution 17-28 would allocate \$4,386,462.84 back to the city for the Dorsey Drive Interchange project, funds that will be reimbursed over time as they are received. He said Resolution 17-29 allocates \$1,500,000 for the East Main and Bennett Street Intersection Improvement project that the City of Grass Valley completed in 2006. He requested approval for the reimbursement agreements for these two projects.

Commissioner Dee questioned why the funds were not withheld to pay back the bonds when the RDA was disbanded. She said this had been done in a similar situation in the City of Truckee. Mr. Landon replied the proceeds from selling the bonds were transferred to NCTC and were paid out as the project was completed, but just like buying a car and paying back the loan, RTMF funds are being used to pay back the bonds.

Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to adopt Resolution 17-28 approving the RTMF allocation requests from the City of Grass Valley for the Dorsey Drive Interchange, and Resolution 17-29 approving the RTMF allocation requests for the East Main Street / Bennett Street Intersection Improvement Project. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Jostes, Miller, and Moberg. (Commissioner Scofield was absent.)

14. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) Appointments

Transportation Planner Mike Woodman requested approval of appointments to the SSTAC, an advisory body to NCTC that participates in the annual identification of unmet transit needs, as well as advising the Commission on public transportation issues. Mr. Woodman said NCTC staff have conducted outreach efforts in eastern and western Nevada County to replace several members whose terms have expired, and members who retired. In response to the outreach, the following individuals responded for appointment: Kristin Ansell, advocate for individuals with disabilities, seeking to be reappointed as a representative of potential transit users with disabilities; Sarah Deardorff, Executive Director of Sierra Senior Services, who was in attendance, seeking to be reappointed as a representative of a local social service provider for seniors; Joe Glick, Program Coordinator of Sierra

Services for the Blind, seeking to be reappointed as a representative of transit users 60 years of age or older; Michelle Johnson, General Manager of Gold Country Lift, seeking to be reappointed as a representative of a local social service transportation provider for the disabled; Valerie Sharp with FREED Center for Independent Living, seeking to be reappointed as a representative of a local social service provider for the disabled. Mr. Woodman said there are currently four vacant positions on the SSTAC, including a representative of the Hispanic community in the Truckee area; a representative of a local social service provider for persons of limited means; a representative from the local consolidated transportation service agency (formerly Susan Healy-Harman's position, the new Transit Manager will be filling that spot); and a representative of a local social service provider for seniors. Mr. Woodman said they have been working with the Department of Social Services, Area 4 Agency on Aging, Nevada County Transit Services Division, and Family Resource Center in Truckee to fill those positions. He said they should have more appointments brought forward at the September 20, 2017 meeting submitted by those agencies to fill those spots. Mr. Woodman recommended approval of the SSTAC appointments and asked for questions.

Commissioner Jostes asked if there have been any public announcements made in the local newspaper or other venues that would alert the public of these vacancies. Mr. Woodman replied there have been announcements in the newspapers in eastern and western Nevada County, press releases in media websites such as YubaNet, the local radio stations, and posting on the NCTC website.

Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to approve the appointments to the SSTAC. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Jostes, Miller, and Moberg. (Commissioner Scofield was absent.)

15. Amendment I to the FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program (OWP)

Executive Director Landon said in accordance with the policy adopted in 2016, cost of living adjustments were surveyed among the local jurisdictions. The average of those cost of living adjustments was 2.375%. Mr. Landon requested the Commission approve a modification of the budget for an increase of \$5,282 to provide the adjustment to staff salaries, the source of the funding being the OWP LTF fund balance.

Commissioner Jostes said he was pleased with the efforts made to streamline this process and make it easier to understand, which appears to be working out. He said this was a nice way to make these adjustments go smoothly, and he commended everyone for the good work on improving the process.

Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to adopt Resolution 17-30 approving Amendment I to the FY 2017/18 Overall Work Program. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Jostes, Miller, and Moberg. (Commissioner Scofield was absent.)

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Arbuckle thanked NCTC on behalf of the City of Grass Valley for approving the RTMF funds for their projects.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

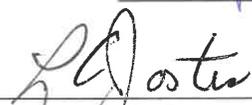
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC is on September 20, 2017 at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA, starting at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chairman Jostes adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Sept 20, 2017

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

