



Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF MEETING November 14, 2018

A regular teleconference meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jan Arbuckle, Andrew Burton, Carolyn Wallace Dee, Ann Guerra, Dan Miller, Ed Scofield

Members Absent: Duane Strawser

Staff Present: Daniel Landon, Executive Director; Mike Woodman, Deputy Executive Director; Dale Sayles, Administration Services Officer; Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

NOTE: Commissioner Carolyn Wallace Dee attended the meeting by teleconference from the District 5 Board of Supervisors Conference Room located at the Nevada County Sheriff's Substation, 10879A Donner Pass Road, Truckee, California.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports

August 2018 and September 2018. *Approved.*

2. NCTC Minutes

September 19, 2018 NCTC Meeting Minutes. *Approved.*

3. Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Fehr & Peers to develop the Nevada County Active Transportation Plan (ATP). Adopted Resolution 18-43 approving Amendment 1 to the Agreement with Fehr & Peers to develop the Nevada County ATP, extending the termination date to June 30, 2019.

4. Amendment 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with GHD Inc. for the SR 49 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) (Phase 1). Adopted Resolution 18-44 approving Amendment 2 to the Agreement with GHD Inc. for the SR 49 CSMP (Phase 1), extending the termination date to March 31, 2019.
5. Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Annual Report for FY 2017/18. Approved the RTMF FY 2017/18 Annual Report.
6. Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule. Approved the 2019 NCTC Meeting Schedule.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11. Correspondence:
 - A. Chloe Massett, letter, regarding Highway 20, File 1200.2, 9/20/18.
 - B. Dan Landon, letter, Response to Letter Dated September 20, 2018 re: Highway 20, File 1200.2, 10/9/18.
 - C. Uli Paulin, President, Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association, letter, Pedestrian and Bicycle Path for Cement Hill Neighborhood, File 1030.2.2.3, 10/13/18.
 - D. City of Grass Valley Strategic Plan 2018 Administrative Draft, File 490.0, 10/18.

Executive Director Landon highlighted items on the Grass Valley Strategic Plan. He said projects are currently in process that are in sync with the City's goals of creating identifiable highway signage and gateways into the City to help promote a unique and captivating identity for the City of Grass Valley, and improving the appearance of Colfax Avenue (Highway 174), Main Street, and Old Highway 49. For the goal of making City entrance signs on Highway 49 East and West, possibly utilizing the overpasses and screen protective fencing as a backdrop, Mr. Landon said he has been in contact with the sign coordinator at Caltrans District 3 and he will continue to coordinate between Grass Valley and Caltrans to move forward on the signage. Mr. Landon referred to the project currently underway that addresses the City's goal of a plan to redesign the intersection at the freeway offramp at Colfax Avenue and South Auburn Street (possible roundabout) to improve traffic flow and pedestrian/cyclist access, encourage safer driving, and provide additional parking for downtown. For the City's goal of conducting proactive community engagement forums regarding sensitive traffic concerns and facilitate discussions with the responsible departments (Police, Engineering, etc.) on traffic related issues, Mr. Landon referred to the public kick-off meeting recently held by Nevada County Public Works and NCTC regarding the Local Road Safety Plan, and said he felt good about the coordination happening between City of Grass Valley and NCTC.

Commissioner Arbuckle said City of Grass Valley is appreciative of the coordination with NCTC, which is integral in getting projects like these accomplished.

8. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Landon showed PowerPoint slides from a presentation given by Public Works Director Trisha Tillotson at the recent Local Road Safety Plan kick-off meeting. The slides illustrated the purpose and objectives of a Local Road Safety Plan with diagrams that guide the viewer through the process. NCTC was the Outreach Coordinator for the Plan and identified stakeholders, many of which were present at the meeting. Mr. Landon said in 2017, although only 19% of Americans live in rural areas, 50% of fatalities occur on rural roads, so a key objective of the Safety Plan is to bring that statistic down. He said that Improper Turning is the highest collision factor in Nevada County, followed by Unsafe Speed, and the highest collision type is hitting objects such as trees. The Local Road Safety Plan will focus on strategies to alleviate those collision factors. The ultimate goal of the Local Road Safety Plan is to get to zero traffic fatalities in Nevada County.

Commissioner Scofield commented that having just seen the wildfire in Paradise and the evacuation issues there, vegetation and fire concerns need to be included in the Safety Plan, to a greater extent than for just sight distance concerns.

9. Project Status Reports

A. Caltrans Project Report

Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Jonathan Pray started his report by presenting a plaque to NCTC, as well as a certificate to Executive Director Dan Landon, for their efforts in facilitating the SR 89 Mousehole Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project, which was awarded the Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Award in the category of Intermodal Transportation System. Commissioner Dee thanked NCTC on behalf of the Town of Truckee for their assistance in funding the project.

- *SR 20 – Smartsville - Safety – Shoulder widening and curve improvements* – This safety project is just west of the county line in Yuba County. Construction has begun and is expected to be completed by November 2020.
- *SR 20 – Omega Curve Correction - Safety – Curve improvement, widen shoulders, add turnout* – These projects are east of Nevada City on Highway 20. White Cloud and Lowell Hill are areas with sharper curves that have a history of accidents. Safety improvements include correcting tight curves and widening the road. Omega Turnout will allow large trucks to pull over and vehicles to pass. Construction is expected to begin Spring 2021.

Executive Director Landon referred to a letter (included in the Correspondence section of this agenda) that brought up concerns about this section of SR 20, and NCTC's response citing the current Caltrans project in this area. Mr. Pray said Caltrans is also installing a rumble strip in this section. Commissioner Burton asked when construction will start. Mr. Pray said maybe as soon as this summer. Commissioner Miller suggested thinning trees there would be good.

- *SR 20 – Special Ops – Operational improvements – widen for left-turn pockets and roadway turnouts* – This project will add left-turn pockets and turnouts at Conservation Road and Washington Road, and will start construction in 2021.

- *SR 20 – Gold Nugget - Repair pavement, drainage, sign panels, ADA facilities, and roadside planting and irrigation. Install new storm water improvement, Maintenance Vehicle Pullouts (MVPs), and shoulder widening* – Much of this project is along the Golden Center Freeway, improving asphalt, drainage, electrical, and shoulder widening. This project has been delayed until funding becomes available.
- *SR 49 – Electrical Upgrades - Safety - Install flashing beacons at Alta Sierra Drive intersection, upgrade lighting at Brewer Road intersection, and install radar speed feedback signs at various locations* – These safety projects, initiated from the Highway 49 safety meetings, are in progress. The bid they received was too high to award so they will make some adjustments, such as using solar power, and will request bids again. Construction is expected to begin Summer 2019.
- *SR 49 – Placer County Line to Route 20 – Culvert Rehabilitation (North and South)* – These preventative maintenance projects will help prevent washouts on the road. The North project will start construction Spring 2019. Executive Director Landon said the SB 1-funded South project will move forward now since Proposition 6 (that would have repealed SB 1) did not pass.
- *SR 49 – Nev-49 Corridor Improvement Project - La Barr Meadows Road to McKnight Way – Widen SR 49 to a four-lane highway with a continuous median/left-turn lane and 8-foot shoulders* – This STIP – RIP (NCTC) project to widen the highway to four lanes, and add frontage roads and intersection control, is moving forward with environmental studies and traffic studies. Mr. Pray said they are looking for new funding opportunities for this project.
- *SR 49 – Nev-49 Corridor Improvement Project - La Barr Meadows Road to McKnight Way – Widen shoulders, construct two-way left-turn lane, southbound right-turn lane, and northbound truck climbing lane, install transportation management system elements, rehab pavement, and rehab culverts* – This SHOPP project is incremental toward the future widening project, and if funds become available, it may be combined with the widening project. The project is waiting to be programmed into the 2020 SHOPP. Executive Director Landon explained that NCTC put forward \$6 million for PA&ED and \$6 million for Plans, Specifications and Estimates, and hopes to leverage Caltrans and grant funding toward construction of the project. Chair Guerra referred to the recent pictures of people trying to flee Paradise during the fire, and said this project is critical for our area.
- *SR 49 – Wolf Road/Combie Road – Safety - Construct acceleration lanes* – This project for the acceleration lanes at the Wolf/Combie intersection will hopefully reduce collisions by giving drivers time to get up to speed when merging onto Highway 49. This project is expected to start construction by Spring 2020.
- *SR 49 – Round Valley Road – Safety - Construct two-way left-turn lane* – This project for the two-way left-turn lanes for better access at Quail Creek Drive and Round Valley Road will hopefully serve to reduce collisions in those areas. This project is expected to start construction by Spring 2020.
- *SR 49 – Twin Turbo Roundabouts – Safety - Construct concrete median barrier with roundabouts* – This project in Placer County will construct two roundabouts on SR 49 from 0.2 miles south of Lorenson Road to 0.4 miles north of Lone Star Road with a median barrier in between to reduce cross median collisions. If the roundabouts are successful they may be considered for more

locations on Highway 49. Executive Director Landon asked what the speed limit would be within the roundabouts. Mr. Pray replied it would be 25 mph, and the roundabouts will be designed so vehicles would not cross over each other but would stay in their lane within the roundabout. Commissioner Burton asked about public outreach. Mr. Pray replied there would be a public workshop to get feedback. Commissioner Dee said Truckee has a similar twin roundabout system they call a dogbone on Highway 89 and it has worked very well. She said there was very little resistance to the roundabout idea, in fact they have nine of them in town. She added roundabouts are great traffic calmers and keep cars from idling at stoplights. Commissioner Burton added the roundabouts work well even with the volume of recreational vehicle traffic in Truckee. Mr. Pray said that was great feedback. Referring to the roundabout plan on SR 49, Commissioner Scofield commented there is an issue with the location, a highway where people would be traveling at a fast rate and then need to slow down to 25 mph. Mr. Landon said there were a couple of high-speed roundabouts north of Truckee on Highway 89 that could be used as an example.

- *I-80 – Near Truckee from east of Kingvale Undercrossing to 0.2 mile west of Union Mills Bridge – Remove metal beam guard rail and replace with concrete barrier – This project is expected to start construction by Spring 2019.*
- *I-80 – Truckee at the Donner Pass Inspection Facility and at Floriston at the Floriston Sand and Salt Houses – Replace Sand House - Construction is expected to be completed by December 2019.*
- *In Glenn, Colusa and Nevada Counties at various locations. One location is at the Donner Safety Roadside Rest Area – In response to the Governor's order, this project proposes to install Zero Emission Vehicle charging stations at select Safety Roadside Rest Areas – This project is part of Governor Brown's plan to connect charging stations between cities so electric vehicles can more easily travel between them. Executive Director Landon referred to an article from the San Diego Association of Governments that said 12% of all vehicles in San Diego County are alternatively fueled and they are wanting more electric charging stations to support them. He said it will be interesting to see if the growth in electric vehicle use will spread north.*
- *I-80 – Slope Stabilization – Roadway preservation at various locations – Stabilize cut slope, construct rockfall wire mesh drapery and rockfall barrier, reduce rockfall hazard, rockfall mitigation – These projects on I-80 near Truckee are expected to complete construction between Spring 2020 and Spring 2022.*
- *SR 174 – at Brunswick Road – Install intersection lighting – This project at the Brunswick Y was delayed but is expected to complete construction in the Fall.*
- *SR 174 - Safety Improvement from Maple Way to You Bet Road - Realign curves, widen shoulders, add a left-turn lane at Greenhorn Access Road, and improve the clear recovery zone – This project is moving forward with the revised design, Caltrans is contacting property owners about right-of-way acquisitions, and continuing to meet with the Save Highway 174 group to minimize the impacts. Construction of the project is scheduled for Spring 2020.*
- *SR 174 – Grass Valley from Park Street to Highway 20 – Upgrade ADA infrastructure including curb ramps, cross slopes, driveways, etc – Caltrans is working with the City of Grass Valley to relinquish this section of highway (as well as Hansen and Tinloy Streets) to the city.*

- *SR 49, 89, 174 – Remove dead trees that have been killed by the bark beetle* – Caltrans will be identifying and removing trees this summer that have been damaged from the inside out due to the bark beetle and should be cut down before they fall. Botanists are helping to identify the dead trees.

Commissioner Arbuckle asked if Caltrans had a contingency plan to make SR 49 a one-way route in case of a wildfire evacuation. Trisha Tillotson approached the dais and said the Office of Emergency Services, Public Works and CHP are all working together to go over evacuation plans, and SR 49 as a one-way route is one of their considerations. She said the evacuation plans will be their top priority.

Chair Guerra thanked Mr. Pray and Truckee for including NCTC in the Caltrans 2018 Excellence in Transportation Award, and congratulated Truckee on the award.

B. Town of Truckee's Transit Operations Report

Truckee Administrative Analyst II Kelly Beede reviewed her report on Truckee TART Activity for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018/19. She said the Fixed Route ridership has increased 36.6 percent in the first quarter, due in part to providing free fares beginning July 1, 2018. Executive Director Landon said typically in the U.S. transit ridership is going down, but in Nevada County both transit systems are seeing an increase. The Fixed Route ridership increased 61.1 percent in September alone, and Mr. Landon said that indicated an increase in local residents using the transit service.

Ms. Beede reported that Green Dot Transportation Solutions has been chosen as the consultant for the Town's Transit Center Relocation Feasibility Study. She said they will seek community participation in this project.

The Town was awarded a competitive grant of \$67,696 from Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District to assist in funding the Highway 267 non-winter TART regional service between North Lake Tahoe and Truckee. The ridership has increased 20.5 percent and is projected to increase another 13 percent in FY 2018/19.

The Donner Summit Winter Shuttle will begin December 13 and will provide employee transportation to resorts, and opportunity for Donner Summit residents to connect to medical, social service, grocery, educational, dining, and entertainment destinations.

Truckee TART is on track to exceed the 10 percent minimum farebox requirement for FY 2018/19 operations, currently at 17.54 percent in the first quarter.

Chair Guerra asked if the farebox recovery percentage would be higher if it included shuttles. Ms. Beede replied yes it would be higher. Executive Director Landon said the shuttles are not being funded by Transportation Development Act funds, but rather by the general fund and partner contributions.

ACTION ITEMS

10. Professional Services Agreement with GHD Inc. to Prepare the SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis

Executive Director Landon said the project area is commonly known in the City of Grass Valley as the “devil’s triangle” intersection at the highway overpass and near Hennessey School. He said GHD Inc. gave a very impressive presentation, they had done a good amount of background work and were familiar with past projects in the area.

Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-45 approving the Agreement with GHD Inc. to prepare the SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Miller and Scofield. (Commissioner Strawser was absent).

11. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Recommendations for Federal Fiscal Years 2018/19 and 2019/20

Deputy Executive Director Woodman said in 2004 western Nevada County was designated as non-attainment for federal ozone standards, and therefore receives an annual apportionment of funding from the federal government based on population and air quality severity. NCTC manages the CMAQ program and approves the projects for the funding. Over the years Nevada County has seen an increase in CMAQ funding, partially due to other areas reaching attainment and dropping out of the recipients, and also due to an increase in the federal standards for air quality.

Resulting from a call for projects in August, the FFY 2018/19 funding will go to the McCourtney Road Active Transportation Connection Project in Grass Valley, and the Rough and Ready Highway/Ridge Road/Adam Avenue Intersection Improvements project in Nevada County. The McCourtney Road project will include installation of concrete sidewalk on McCourtney Road, improving crosswalks, curb ramps, striping and signage, and construction of a paved path that will connect the Wolf Creek Trail path to existing trails at the fairgrounds. The Rough and Ready Highway project will be preliminary engineering to realign two three-legged intersections to one four-legged intersection. The design will consider access, parking and traffic circulation for the new Yuba River Charter School.

The FFY 2019/20 funding will go to the construction of the Rough and Ready Highway/Ridge Road/Adam Avenue Intersection Improvements project, and additional funding for the previously approved Adams Street Sidewalk Project.

Commissioner Burton asked if the recent construction near Yuba River Charter School was coordinated with this project. Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works, said yes, the work was part of the school’s mitigation measures and it would tie in nicely with these proposed improvements. Commissioner Burton said he was concerned with the speed of traffic heading into the school zone at that location, and a roundabout would be helpful there. Commissioner Miller said there would need to be land acquisition for a roundabout at that location, but it is a dangerous spot and a roundabout would benefit everyone involved. Executive Director Landon said it was nice to not only work on the planning of a project but to be able to fund the construction as well. He acknowledged Mr. Woodman for managing the CMAQ program funding so that no federal government money is ever lost, and also getting some key projects done in the community. Commissioner Scofield asked if there was priority timing on the projects. Mr. Woodman replied no, and that ultimately it was up to the city and county to submit the paperwork to

Caltrans, which is then submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. The funding is currently available for all of the projects.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-46 approving the CMAQ Improvement Program Recommendations for FFY 2018/19 and 2019/20. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Miller and Scofield. (Commissioner Strawser was absent).

12. Amendment 2 to the FY 2018/19 Overall Work Program (OWP)

Executive Director Landon said after the submittal of the year-end expenditure report Caltrans informed staff there was more carry over of RPA funds than was allowed. This amendment shows the reduction of carry over and decrease in RPA funding that will be absorbed in the STIP Planning, Programming and Monitoring funding.


Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-47 approving Amendment 2 to the FY 2018/19 Overall Work Program. Commissioner Scofield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Aye votes from Commissioners Arbuckle, Burton, Dee, Guerra, Miller and Scofield. (Commissioner Strawser was absent).

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Guerra voiced her appreciation for the sidewalk being installed on Sutton Way that will be helpful to the many people that walk along Sutton Way on a daily basis, and gave kudos to the City of Grass Valley.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be January 16, 2019 at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Eric Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA, starting at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Guerra called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Arbuckle made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: January 16, 2019

By: 
Ann Guerra, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission