

JAN ARBUCKLE – Grass Valley City Council
ANDREW BURTON – Member-At-Large, Vice Chair
CAROLYN WALLACE DEE – Town of Truckee
ANN GUERRA – Member-At-Large, Chair
SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
ED SCOFIELD – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
DUANE STRAWSER – Nevada City City Council



DANIEL LANDON, Executive Director
MICHAEL WOODMAN, Deputy Executive Director

Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING September 18, 2019

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California. Notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jan Arbuckle
Carolyn Wallace Dee
Ann Guerra
Susan Hoek
Ed Scofield
Duane Strawser

Members Absent: Andy Burton

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

Standing Orders: Chair Guerra convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Chaplin, Banner Ridge
Crowded pine trees on the Highway 49 overpass at Banner Lava Cap Road are a fire hazard and evacuation obstacle. She would like the thicket thinned out on all four corners.

Matthew Coulter, Nevada County
Requested a restroom at Tinloy Station in Grass Valley. New braille pads are full of mud and unusable. Asked if the County keeps track of bicycle and pedestrian deaths and injuries. Would like evacuation routes considered at Greenhorn Access Road.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Agenda Item 1. Financial Reports – pulled from Consent Items
 - Agenda Item 7. Certification of the 2019 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Applications – pulled from Consent Items
2. NCTC Minutes
 - A. July 17, 2019 NCTC Meeting Minutes
 - B. July 24, 2019 NCTC Special Meeting Minutes
 3. Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with GHD to Develop the Nevada City SR 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan
Resolution 19-31
 4. Amendment 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with GHD to Prepare the SR 174/20 Intersection Analysis
Resolution 19-32
 5. FY 2019-20 State Transit Assistance (STA) Allocation Revised Estimate
Adopt the revised table
 6. State of Good Repair Project for FY 2019/20
Resolution 19-33
 8. SDRMA Memorandum of Understanding
Resolution 19-35
 9. Amendment 1 to the Subrecipient Agreement with the Town of Truckee
Resolution 19-36
 10. Amendment 1 to the Subrecipient Agreement with Nevada County
Resolution 19-37

ACTION: Approved Consent Items with exclusion of Agenda Item 1. and Agenda Item 7.

MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Dee

AYES: Arbuckle, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser

ABSTAIN: Dee abstained from Agenda Item 2.B.

ABSENT: Burton

1. Financial Reports
June 2019 and July 2019

Executive Director Landon made comment that the Local Transportation Fund balance for Grass Valley and Nevada City is in the negative due to estimates exceeding the actual amounts.

ACTION: Approved Financial Reports

MOTION: Scofield / SECOND: Arbuckle

AYES: Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser (unanimous)

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Burton

7. Certification of the 2019 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Applications
Resolution 19-34

Chair Guerra recused herself from the vote due to her involvement with Connecting Point, one of the entities submitting a grant application.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 19-34
MOTION: Dee / SECOND: Strawser
AYES: Arbuckle, Dee, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSED: Guerra
ABSENT: Burton

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11. Correspondence:

- A. Ann Guerra, Chair, Nevada County Transportation Commission, NCTC Letter to Caltrans District 3 Director Amarjeet Benipal re SR 174 Safety Improvement Project, File 1200.6, 7/24/19.
- B. Thomas L. Brannon, Deputy District Director, Division of Maintenance and Traffic Operations, California Department of Transportation, Caltrans Letter to NCTC Chair Ann Guerra re Highway 174 Safety Improvement Project, File 1200.6, 8/8/19.
- C. Philip Carville, Save Highway 174, Open Letter to the California Transportation Commission, File 1200.6, 8/19/19

There were no questions or comments on the Correspondence.

ACTION: None – Information only.

12. Executive Director's Report

- New Employee
- Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Status
- Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force
- Adoption of the State Transportation Improvement Program Fund Estimate by the California Transportation Commission

Executive Director Landon welcomed new employee Kena Sannar in the position of Transportation Planner.

ACTION: None – Information only.

13. Project Status Reports

A. Caltrans Project Report

Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Sam Vandell reviewed the September Caltrans Project Status Report. He addressed the comment made during Public Comment regarding the crowded pine trees at the highway overpass, saying the issue would be looked into. Commissioner Strawser requested that safe rumble strips be used in any new construction. Commissioner Hoek requested that attention be paid to removing dead and leaning trees before they fall. Commissioner Dee requested that attention be paid to the degradation of Highway 80 east of Truckee due to truck chain damage, and the condition of pavement dips and ruts on highway ramps. Commissioner Strawser suggested putting rough road signs in those areas. Commissioner Hoek suggested thinning pine trees on the section of Highway 20 between Grass Valley and Penn Valley. Caltrans Deputy District Director of Maintenance Tom Brannon responded that these issues would be looked into.

B. Highway 174 Safety Improvement Project Presentation

Caltrans District 3 Deputy District Director of Maintenance Tom Brannon gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Project. The presentation can be found on the NCTC website at <http://www.nctc.ca.gov/> on the sidebar under Current Topics. The presentation answered the seven points listed in Board of Supervisors Resolution 17-552 of the issues still in question by the Save Highway 174 group. The presentation addressed each point individually, including the Project Type 3 versus Type 1 and three years of data questions, providing answers, background information and documentation for each issue. The presentation also included the remaining Detail Design Issues from the Save Highway 174 Group, addressing concerns involving the width of the paved section, tree survey, and traffic calming measures. The presentation listed the upcoming schedule for the project.

Public Comment:

Charley Hooper, Dalmation Drive

Caltrans is not working in good faith to address concerns, their information is conflicting or misleading, many people were not aware of the public meetings due to short notice. He stated that the Caltrans standard is 4 to 5 foot shoulders, not 8 foot shoulders, so why is Caltrans not applying its standard in this case.

Tom Holdridge, Save Highway 174 group

He acknowledged significant progress on the slope issue. He put importance on wanting to receive written communication from Caltrans.

Matthew Coulter, Nevada County

The improvement project on Colfax Highway and Brunswick Road dramatically altered the road. Caltrans should address Highway 49 instead of Highway 174. Caltrans maintenance is lacking in our area. No landscaping in the Highway 174 project means spraying of Roundup. The Highway 174 project is out of perspective for Nevada County.

Jeffrey Thorsby, on behalf of Supervisor Heidi Hall

Supervisor Hall is dedicated to the outcome of this project and the concerns of the community. She will be working with the Public Works Director as well as reaching out to the community.

Linda Chaplin, Nevada County

She is concerned about the elimination of the rumble strip in the center line. She feels it is one of the most important safety features on the county roads. It is extremely effective, will not hinder wildlife like a concrete barrier would, and helps prevent head-on collisions.

Reg King, Save Highway 174 group

He cannot understand how a \$28 million complete reconstruction of a road would not require an Environmental Review. He believes the project to be a Type 1 project. There are safety improvements necessary, such as sight distances on portions of the project area, that will be key improvements that will be part of this new construction.

Joe Heckel, Save Highway 174 group

He thanked the Commission for the July 17 and 24 meetings and the letter that was sent to Caltrans. Thanked Executive Director Landon for facilitating the meetings between Caltrans and Save Highway 174 group. Acknowledged the recent advancements made by Caltrans in the project design. The group would like to push for more improvements and a better design. Caltrans has a policy called context sensitive solutions where a project is designed to the neighborhood it is proposed in. Would like to keep Highway 174 a rural, scenic, historic route. 40 foot wide pavement will be a startling change to the roadway that could affect speeds on Highway 174. Bring in Fire Safe Council for ideas on evacuation concerns.

Richard Jetto, representing Maria Disentio, property owner on Highway 174

Property will be significantly impacted by the proposed project. The Caltrans right-of-way agent has not treated them fairly. They feel they have not had good representation.

Phil Carville, Save Highway 174 group

Caltrans letter did not address Chair Guerra's letter. No one responded to his letter to the California Transportation Commission. Gave a large reproduction of his letter to Deputy District Director Tom Brannon.

ACTION: None – Information only.

ACTION ITEMS

14. GHD Presentation: Update on the Nevada City State Route 49 Multimodal Corridor Plan

GHD Principal Kamesh Vedula gave a presentation on the Corridor Plan. Possible improvements being studied include lighting, crosswalks, paved paths, sidewalks, flashing beacons, hybrid beacons, roundabouts, and channelization. The community strongly feels that crossing Highway 49 in this corridor is a concern, especially for pedestrians. The community is very interested in adding a sidewalk connecting Hirschman Trail to Highway 49. Missing trail pieces can be added to complete the existing trail and create a complete Class I bike path.

Commissioner Strawser supports roundabouts as a safe method. Commissioner Dee supports

roundabouts, there are nine of them in Truckee. Commissioner Hoek commented roundabouts need to be the right size for uses such as trucking. Mr. Vedula said the roundabouts would be a large 130 foot diameter. The draft plan will be available to the public for a 30 day period. Comments will be integrated into the final report in November.

Public Comment:

Linda Chaplin, Nevada City

White lights are extremely hard on the eyes, make it difficult to see people in crosswalks, and are not in character with rural areas. She prefers yellow LED lighting.

Matthew Coulter, Nevada County

He would like a solar powered light in front of the government center. Roundabouts are difficult for the disabled and visually impaired pedestrians according to Freed Center for Independent Living. Bright streetlights are a hazard and should be shielded.

ACTION: Comments accepted.

15. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Inflation Adjustment Correction
Resolution 19-38

Executive Director Landon gave an explanation of the correction to the RTMF Inflation Adjustment.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 19-38

MOTION: Scofield / SECOND: Dee

AYES: Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser (unanimous)

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Burton

16. Amendment 1 to the FY 2019/20 Overall Work Program
Resolution 19-39

Executive Director Landon gave an explanation of the changes addressed in Amendment 1.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution 19-39

MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Hoek

AYES: Arbuckle, Dee, Guerra, Hoek, Scofield, Strawser (unanimous)

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Burton

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no additional announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NCTC will be November 20, 2019, at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Eric Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California, starting at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Guerra called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Scofield made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Strawser seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Dec. 18, 2019

By: 
Ann Guerra, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission