

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 4, 2018 – 9:35 a.m.**

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met at the Amador County Transportation Commission Offices, 117 Valley View Way, Sutter Creek, California on the above date, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present on Roll Call:

Brian Oneto, Chairman
Tim Murphy, Vice Chairman
Jon Colburn
Richard Forster
Dominic Atlan

Absent:

John Plasse (hospital discharge)

Also Present:

John Gedney, ACTC Executive Director
Nancy Champlin, ACTC Administrative Secretary
Patricia Maggie Amarant, AT General Manager
Gregoria Ponce, Chief, Office of Rural Planning, Caltrans District 10

AGENDA:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Colburn, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Fiscal Year 2018/19 Legal Services Contract: Commissioner Colburn stated he was part of the selection panel and that two firms were interviewed. The panel decided on Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chairman Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Forster, and carried to approve Consent Agenda Item 1.

Ayes: Oneto, Colburn, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None

Absent: Plasse

Abstain: Atlan

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to approve Consent Agenda Items 2-10.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Colburn, Forster, Murphy

Noes: None

Absent: Plasse

REGULAR AGENDA:

FY 18/19 Planning Grant Awards: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Commissioner Forster asked about the cost/benefit ratio for the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. Mr. Gedney replied that ACTC offered administration of the Plan be carried out by Tuolumne County Transportation Council as they have transit under their Council and two planners on staff. ACTC will still receive the same benefits from the Plan. This is an update to a previous Coordinated Plan and is a requirement of all Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 recipients. Amador Transit and Common Ground Senior Services are such recipients.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Vice Chairman Murphy, and carried to approve amendments to the FY 18/19 Overall Work Program and to authorize work activities related to grants awarded under the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Program: (a) Extreme Weather Needs Assessment for Amador and Calaveras Counties, and (b) Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan for Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties.

Under discussion, Commissioner Forster commented that when applying for grants in the future, the cost/benefit ratio be considered.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Colburn, Forster, Murphy

Noes: None

Absent: Plasse

FY 19/20 Caltrans Planning Grant Proposals: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Chairman Oneto asked about the Alternative Fuel Study and Mr. Gedney noted that grant funds are a way to receive additional funding and enlist some expertise from consultants who can help guide the process with industry leaders. Commissioner Forster asked if is too late for the County to submit a grant and Mr. Gedney replied the date for submittal is November 30. Commissioner Forster would like to talk with the County Public Works Director about the Roadway Shoulder Improvement Origin-Destination Study.

Vice Chairman Murphy asked about the project with Tuolumne County regarding electric vehicles. Mr. Gedney replied that grant is from the Energy Commission to study potential fueling stations for plug-in electric vehicles throughout Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties.

At 9:45 a.m. Commission Colburn had to leave the meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to direct staff to prepare an application to the Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant program to request funding to continue the ACTC Internship Program initiated in FY 17/18 and an Alternative Fuel Study.

Under discussion Chairman Oneto asked if the Alternative Fuel Study would have a local match. Mr. Gedney replied yes, but typically staff time can be tracked and invoiced to provide in-kind services. Mr. Gedney noted that last year a solar feasibility grant was prepared and could be used along with data developed for the prior Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) feasibility study. Mr. Gedney added that the intent would be to get a focused effort and action plan on how to proceed.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse, Colburn

Low Carbon Transit Operations Program: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Commissioner Forster noted that a transit rider had requested one weekend a month ride into Sacramento and would it be feasible to use this funding on a trial basis. Mr. Gedney replied that those type of requests are part of the unmet transit needs testimony and process. He added that Sacramento was studied last year with a transit grant to connect with Greyhound. There was not enough projected ridership to support it as a regular service.

Vice Chairman Murphy asked who would be served with the shopping shuttle. Ms. Amarant replied that many of the mobile home parks in Calaveras and Amador Counties have senior residents who no longer drive. Common Ground in Calaveras County has been successful in taking residents to and from shopping. Ms. Amarant added that as part of Amador Transit's study, mobile home parks will be visited and surveyed. The survey would ask how many times transportation would be needed, what destination, and how many residents would use the service. Many mobile home parks have a club house where the information can be viewed. Vice Chairman Murphy suggested that a proposal include an upcountry satellite pickup location that individuals could access and not limit it to mobile home parks.

Nina Machado, First Five Amador and SSTAC member, also would like to see an option of another place such as the post office of community center for residents to access the shuttle service.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Vice Chairman Murphy, and carried to direct staff to consider using Low Carbon Transit Operations Program funds for a Shopping Shuttle service implemented through a partnership between Common Ground and Amador Transit, and to consider upcountry community locations in addition to mobile home parks and senior housing facilities.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse, Colburn

Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program: Mr. Gedney reviewed the staff report. Vice Chairman Murphy asked about when testing/measurements occur and the funding cycle. Mr. Gedney replied

that four years of funding is expected and he believes the testing is a rolling average. Most counties are expected to be in attainment in 2025. Commissioner Forster commented that there is no recognition from the government that part of Amador County's pollution is transported from drift to the mountain counties. There was general discussion regarding the use of these funds including purchase of buses/trolleys, bicycle racks, call for projects, pedestrian safety, etc.

Chairman Oneto commented that the Amador Air District may have funds available for retrofitting or purchasing new equipment.

City of Amador City Bike Rack Funding Request: Mr. Gedney reviewed the staff report.

Michael Vasquez, Amador City Council Member, asked the Commissioners to approve the request. Amador City is trying to attract bicycle riders and there is currently no place to lock bicycles.

Vice Chairman Murphy asked about the annual call for projects and Mr. Gedney replied that ACTC has done a call for projects, but the Commission also has the prerogative to give ad hoc allocations from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Trust Fund.

Gary Reinoehl, County resident, commented that he appreciates the request by Amador City and that it is a good use of the funds. He added that he regularly sees bicyclists in restaurants, staying overnight, and that some of the organized rides that occur in the County spend about \$16,000 per ride in the County. Bicycle facilities are needed in various areas.

Commissioner Forster asked how many bicycles one rack could accommodate and Mr. Vasquez replied approximately 10 - 12. Commissioner Atlan suggested funding a bicycle rack for each incorporated city and include an ACTC logo on the rack.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to fund two bicycle racks with the expenditure of \$2,000 for Amador City and to additionally fund an ACTC logo on each rack.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse, Colburn

Vice Chairman Murphy suggested a future agenda item consider bicycle racks in various places in addition to the cities. Ms. Amarant noted that all of the buses have racks for bicycles and the drivers keep track of how many times they are used. She will let the Commission know how many uses there are during a year.

Commissioner Forster commented that if multiple locations for bicycle racks are going to be determined, that they be located near some services (e.g., trash receptacles) and to not have them in remote locations.

SR 88/104 Intersection - Project Initiation Document (PID): Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Chairman Oneto asked if the project is moved to Tier 1, would State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funding still be available and Mr. Gedney replied "yes". Commissioner Forster commented that there are many vehicle near-misses at that location. Vice Chairman Murphy commented that this is the single most important safety project in the County. He suggested that staff recommendation be accepted and at the same time, if it fails to meet the State sponsored criteria, that ACTC commit the \$200,000 to move the project forward. Commissioner Atlan agreed and noted that he uses the intersection frequently and also observes many vehicle near-misses. A recent fatality has occurred at that intersection. Chairman Oneto also commented that the State has entered into a compact with the Buena Vista Tribe and all the intersections in that area will be impacted.

Commissioner Forster asked how long it would take Caltrans to perform a safety investigation and if they use specific date parameters. Ms. Ponce replied that when an investigation is initiated, it depends on the workload and usually takes about three months. Caltrans pulls data from their studies and CHP data of accidents that are reported. Vice Chairman Murphy noted that Caltrans data does not reflect the risk caused by increasing traffic from growth in lone, including the prison expansion, casino, and the complexity of the intersection.

Mr. Gedney commented that if the safety investigation resulted in warrants being met, Caltrans would become the lead agency and initiate the project, including it in the SHOPP. He added that even without meeting warrants, it may be approved as a State sponsored PID. If the project does not meet either of those requirements, the lead agency status would be either ACTC or the County.

Ms. Ponce commented that ACTC has been in contact with Caltrans and there are elements that have to be met in order to be a State sponsored project. She added that it would be prudent to strategize how to move forward should the project not be State sponsored. If it is determined to be State sponsored, would ACTC be able to retrieve committed funds or redirect them? Ms. Ponce suggested the project be moved to Tier 1 and that ACTC continue to talk with Caltrans and the County about how to move forward.

Mr. Gedney noted that there is not a priority list for construction funding (Regional Improvement Program shares) after the Pine Grove project. He added that ACTC has local funding available for the PID. The construction and environmental costs are not identified, but if the project could be ready for construction in the next few years, construction funding will be available.

Chairman Oneto asked if Caltrans has plans to improve the Buena Vista intersection which could have a bearing on the intersection at SR 88/104. Ms. Ponce replied that she is aware that the casino is moving forward and has some agreements to do work at various intersections. She will pull data on what intersections are identified for work and share that information with Mr. Gedney before the next meeting. Commissioner Forster asked when Caltrans would begin work on the Liberty Road/SR 88 and Buena Vista Road/SR 88 intersections as the casino is estimated to be opened at the end of April 2019.

Gary Reinoehl commented that he regularly uses that intersection and finds it unfortunate that some people have not taken the time to drive safer. He regularly sees drivers going 10 mph over the speed limit. He agrees that moving the project to Tier 1 is an appropriate action and hopes there would be

mitigation funding from the casino or Regional Traffic Mitigation Fees that could be used for this project. He added that he is reluctant to spend savings from one project that is not complete to start another project.

Nina Machado commented that it is disappointing that the improvements have not been done prior to the opening of the casino. This is a hazardous stretch of highway and there is an opportunity to make the improvement on the roadway. She would like to know if reports from the CHP indicate accidents only or also include unsafe speeding tickets. She noted that people accessing the current casino on New York Ranch Road often do not know where they are going and you can't rely on a driver making a good decision. She anticipates similar situations at the new casino.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chairman Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to direct staff to move this project to Tier 1 and initiate both a State sponsored and local option funding plan for a Project Initiation Document.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse, Colburn

FY 2018/19 Overall Work Program Amendments - FY 2017/18 Carryover Balance Reconciliation: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to approve, by resolution, amendments to the FY 18/19 Overall Work Program and to reconcile carryover balances in FY 17/18 Local Transportation Fund, Rural Planning Assistance, Regional Surface Transportation Program, Project Programming and Monitoring, and Consolidated Planning Grant funds.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse, Colburn

Claims:

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chairman Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried to approve the revised claims.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Murphy
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse, Colburn

ACTC Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Forster commented that Amador County Public Works is doing some safety improvements at Coal Mine Road and Sutter Lone Road/Paine Road. He noted that Buena Vista Road is open and that the roadway from Jackson Valley Road south on Buena Vista will be one lane traffic control for approximately four more weeks. Coal Mine Road will be a complete closure and traffic will be diverted to other roads. Commissioner Forster also asked Commissioner Atlan if he would contact the Lone Police regarding more enforcement coming into lone past the Catholic Church.

Commissioner Atlan commented that he is disappointed in the responses from Caltrans regarding the requests from the City of Lone as recorded in the minutes from the September meeting. He added that the City of Lone would like Caltrans to look into putting in a crosswalk by the Lone Elementary School crossing at SR 104/Foothill Blvd. Mr. Gedney suggested the City of Lone request a safety investigation.

Commissioner Atlan commented that he doesn't see CHP on the lower section of SR 88 and would like to know how many tickets they issue there vs. how many are issued on the Sutter Creek Bypass. He would like to see CHP on SR 88 more until stop lights are installed. Chairman Oneto suggested Commissioner Atlan contact the CHP directly and that ACTC also write a letter.

Chairman Oneto commented that he was glad to see that Caltrans has cut down the hazard trees along SR 88. He noted that a Class A contractor or a C-27 landscaping license was required in order to bid on the tree removal. Chairman Oneto asked why a tree service or logging contract was not allowed as that may have encouraged more local bids. He asked Ms. Ponce to provide some feedback.

Chairman Oneto also noted that the intersection at Fiddletown/Shenandoah is complete and functioning well.

ACTC Report: None

Caltrans Report by Gregoria Ponce:

- She will get back to Chairman Oneto on his items.
- Regarding the patch areas near the railroad brought up by Commissioner Plasse, the work was done by the railroad five or six years ago and not Caltrans. Caltrans did have maintenance check the area with hydraulics and did not find problems with potential base failure due to drainage. Maintenance will schedule a grinder dig out and try to repair some areas next spring.

Commissioner Forster would like Caltrans to look at the paving done on SR 124/Willow Creek Road. It does not look like any pavement was done onto Willow Creek Road. He asked if there is a distance that Caltrans is required to pave onto connecting roads. Ms. Ponce replied that typically when pavement work is done, they look at right of way. If Caltrans does go past that, it is for conformity or apron work. She will request information at that intersection. Commissioner Forster also reiterated the need for work on the two intersections at SR 88 at Liberty Road and Buena Vista Road before the casino opens. Ms. Ponce will forward the scheduling for Liberty Road, Buena Vista Road, and Jackson Valley Road. She will include information on whether Caltrans or another entity is the lead agency.

Vice Chairman Murphy asked if there was anything to report on the safety study for Sutter Lone Road/SR 49. Ms. Ponce replied she will check on the status.

Future Agenda Items:

- Bicycle racks in various places

Adjournment:

At 11:20 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 1, 2018, at the Amador County Transportation Commission Offices, 117 Valley View Way, Sutter Creek, California.



Brian Oneto, Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

(Note: Copies of referenced documents are available at the ACTC office.)