

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 7, 2019 – 9:00 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
Dominic Atlan, Vice Chairman
Richard Forster
Keith Sweet
John Plasse

Absent

Jon Colburn

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 Plasse, and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Steve Christenson, Sutter Creek resident, expressed concern about evacuations during a catastrophic fire. He noted that during the Camp Fire last year in the town of Paradise, trees and vegetation growing down to the edge of the roads caused cars and trucks trying to evacuate to burst into flames. Homeowners are required to have defensible space around their homes. Defensible space is also needed around evacuation routes (e.g., SR 88, SR 49, and SR 16). The County and Caltrans should work together to provide shoulders along the roads where they do not already exist. The State needs to keep defensible space along their highways by clearing back or trimming all trees and underbrush between the highway and property lines. All responsible agencies need to work with Caltrans and pressure legislative representatives to direct State funds to make the highways safe and passible during an evacuation.

Chairman Oneto noted that Caltrans Acting District Director Dan McElhinney was in attendance at today's meeting. Chairman Oneto commented that it appears to be more difficult to do shoulder work on highways that are now deemed to have sensitive, archeological sites.

Commissioner Forster commented that Amador County's tree mortality committee has been working on this issue for years now and are successfully mitigating dead and dying trees within Amador County's right of way. Caltrans, in addition to PG&E and other partners, have also been removing trees in their right of way which is improving some areas. Commissioner Forster also noted that clearing back from the road 100 feet will still not prevent catastrophic fires when there are 65 mile-per-hour winds.

Acting District 10 Director McElhinney thanked Mr. Christenson for his comments. Director McElhinney commented that he is familiar with rural highways and the issues with maintenance and traffic operations. He noted that in the 2018 Annual Report from the California Transportation Commission (CTC), Caltrans will work more closely with resource agencies and look for environmental opportunities to do the right thing and not let staff get bogged down with federal and State regulations. Each District within Caltrans will produce a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment that will be incorporated into projects. When the District 10 draft document is completed, it will be released for comments. Director McElhinney was the main editor for the study in the Bay Area.

Commissioner Plasse asked how the adoption of the Assessment process aids Caltrans in being able to perform rudimentary maintenance work along the highways. Director McElhinney commented that it starts with the Governor's Executive Order received over 10 years ago. That Order allows, and has Caltrans focus on, everything from planning through maintenance and operations to address climate change vulnerabilities. On the maintenance side, it provides an opportunity for Caltrans to highlight, with resource agencies, the importance of what needs to be done without a long permit process. It allows an opportunity to do what is right for safety and operations. On the project side, from the Project Initiation Document (PID) (through the environmental phase, design, and construction) it has helped bring the resource agencies together knowing that everyone is working toward the same goals. The Vulnerability Assessment is the first phase. Projects are then lined up to support the issues. Climate vulnerability includes fire, flooding, extreme temperature on pavement, etc.

Mr. Gedney thanked the Director for attending the meeting. Mr. Gedney noted that ACTC's draft Overall Work Program will be implementing a grant project to perform a needs assessment for extreme weather events in Amador and Calaveras Counties. A consultant team has been selected and an initial report will be brought before the Commission in the next couple of months.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Vice Chairman Atlan, and carried to approve Consent Agenda.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Plymouth Active Transportation Project: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Commissioner Forster asked if the reference to removing the Slurry Seal and replacing it with clean/sweep & FOG seal (page 2 of the application) was within the right of way of the city of Plymouth. If the area was within the County right-of-way, he did not want a product that would not hold up and eventually require higher maintenance costs. Jered Reinking, Amador County Public Works Director, commented that he thought a portion of the project was within the County as the City of Plymouth did request an encroachment permit. Chairman Oneto asked if the lane reduction to eleven (11) feet was in the city limits or County. Mr. Reinking noted that he has advised the City of Plymouth that the County standard requires twelve (12) foot lanes. Mr. Gedney advised that the design will be clarified and this item will be brought back to the next meeting. Mr. Gedney noted that the project has received a six month extension. The Commission agrees this is an important, safe-routes-to-school project.

Unmet Transit Needs Report: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Sweet, and carried to approve the Unmet Transit Needs and find, by resolution, that there are no Unmet Transit Needs that are Reasonable to Meet for FY 2019/20.

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

SR 88/104 Intersection Project Initiation Document: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Commissioner Forster requested information from Caltrans on the methodology they use for traffic safety analyses. Ms. Gregoria Ponce will look into having the methodology forwarded to the Commission. Director McElhinney commented that he will make the intersection project associated with the new casino a priority. Caltrans is working on finalizing a cooperative agreement with the Buena Vista Tribe. He has committed to provide a briefing to the County.

Commissioner Forster noted that the casino is planning to open on April 29 and the intersection signalization at SR 88/Buena Vista Road is supposed to be completed. The County is concerned that if the signalization or temporary signalization is not in place, it will force traffic onto lower and upper Jackson Valley Road causing a significant safety hazard with the increase in traffic. Director McElhinney agreed that anytime Caltrans is working with businesses during a major opening with a high volume of traffic, the business is expected to work on a traffic management plan that either includes signals installed or interim measures for the first week or month. Caltrans will make that clear with the casino. Commissioner Forster noted that the two current accidents (with one fatality), were during the time that Buena Vista Road was shut down for construction. Director McElhinney advised that construction and maintenance zone safety is a top priority for Caltrans.

Vice Chairman Atlan commented that he was surprised that Liberty Road was to receive intersection funding and none had been designated for upper or lower Jackson Valley Road. He would like Caltrans to revisit that decision. He had requested a reduction of the speed limit to 45 miles-per-hour between Buena Vista Road and the SR 104/88 intersection prior to the two current accidents at Jackson Valley

Road. Vice Chairman Atlan noted that there is a reduction on SR 88 near Walmart for traffic to enter and exit the businesses. Director McElhinney commented that Caltrans will look at the speed zones.

Commissioner Forster asked what Caltrans' position was regarding the required signalization from the casino at SR 88/Buena Vista Road. Director McElhinney stated that Caltrans wants a safe intersection. He believes there is time for the signal to be installed and working. He will work with the project team and the casino to try and have the signal completed and not use interim measures.

Commissioner Plasse asked if it would be part of Caltrans' responsibility to put in signage along the various access routes to the casino as to which route would be preferential for the traffic. For example, could signs encourage traffic to take Buena Vista Road rather than Jackson Valley Road. Director McElhinney replied that in similar projects, businesses like to get traffic routed as easily as possible. Casinos have been asked to provide signage, including oversize signs where appropriate, to guide drivers.

Staff will monitor the progress and bring back input next month. Commissioner Forster wants to make sure there are safety measures in place during the intersection construction.

2019/20 Draft Overall Work Program: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Commissioner Plasse asked about the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. Mr. Gedney replied that a Call for Projects was issued last fall. This funding does not show up in the Overall Work Program as it is not used for administration.

(Commissioner Colburn arrived at 9:55 a.m.)

Commissioner Forster commented that there is a lot of pedestrian traffic from The Oaks community to the Jackson Valley Road intersection where a store is located. He asked if some of the pedestrian/bicycle funds could be used for a project in that location in the future. Mr. Gedney replied that in the past, ACTC has either had a formal Call for Projects or approves ad hoc allocations based on requests. If there is a jurisdiction that would like to develop a project, seed money from the pedestrian/bicycle fund could be applied for or staff could assist a jurisdiction with an application for a future Active Transportation Project (ATP) cycle project.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Sweet, and unanimously carried to distribute the draft 2019/20 Overall Work Program to Caltrans staff for review and comment and to provide preliminary approval for the ACTC 2019/20 Administrative Budget.

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

Claims:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Plasse, and unanimously carried to approve the revised claims.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Forster, Plasse, Sweet, Colburn

Noes: None

Absent: None

ACTC Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Plasse reported that himself, Mr. Gedney, Commissioner Colburn, Commissioner Forster, ACTC legal representative Maggie Stern, Robert Naylor, and Jack Gorman (Vintner Association Executive Director) attended a meeting with CTC staff to discuss the SR 16 relinquishment to Sacramento County. Commissioner Colburn commented that it was a positive meeting, but it is not yet known what the follow-up actions will be.

Vice Chairman Atlan commented that the Lone City Council is concerned about Sacramento DOT replacing two bridges on the Michigan Bar Road in Lone. The road will be closed for six months and the City Council is concerned about the traffic at Preston Ave./124 going to SR 16. This closure will happen at the same time the new casino will be opening. It is hoped that Caltrans will work with Sacramento DOT as there are no mitigation measures in place. Vice Chairman Atlan also reported that there has been another accident at the crosswalk at Preston Ave./124 involving a child. Caltrans did look at the crosswalk last year and told the Council that warrants were not met, but that the City could install a flashing beacon. The Council is requesting help from District 10 and ACTC to again look at the intersection and install a beacon. Emails received by Vice Chairman Atlan regarding the pedestrian accident will be forwarded to Director McElhinney. The Council does intend to apply for another safe-routes-to-school grant in the future.

Director McElhinney commented that a letter was received and Caltrans will take another look at the crosswalk. He noted that recent options include the "HAWK System" which is a pedestrian beacon system that does not require the same warrants as signal warrants. Director McElhinney will work with his traffic and engineering staff to address these issues on State highways. Mr. Gedney noted that ACTC staff had investigated using a HAWK system a year or two ago in Pine Grove and at the time it was not a State-wide approved implementation measure. Director McElhinney noted that he was the Assistant District Director for sixteen (16) years for District 4 where there are over 35 HAWK systems installed or in progress. The HAWK system allows pedestrians to initiate the signal as needed and provides flashing red and solid red/amber light. He will clarify what is needed to go forward with this system and look for opportunities to initiate some of those projects in District 10.

Chairman Oneto commented that he appreciated the work that Caltrans did on SR 88 and SR 16 clearing the dead trees. Director McElhinney noted that there are approximately 800 employees in District 10, but only about 350 are in maintenance.

Commissioner Forster was interested in following up with Caltrans regarding whether or not they are required to maintain a road for 466 feet from a Caltrans rehab project on a State highway onto a County/city road.

ACTC Report: None

Caltrans Report by Gregoria Ponce:

- Caltrans will be doing additional maintenance work at the SR 16/Willow Creek Road intersection. Caltrans maintenance will do surveys to determine their responsibility with right-of-way maintenance; as it may not necessarily be from the center line of the highway. Chairman Oneto noted that it is not just at Willow Creek Road, but any County road leading off from a State highway and he would like to eventually have all those roads assessed for Caltrans road maintenance responsibility. Commissioner Forster asked what the standard/policy is for Caltrans doing work on an interconnecting County road. Director McElhinney commented that with County road connections there is an appropriate taper. It is Caltrans' goal to stay within the State right-of-way, but when working with a county, there is usually an agreed to limit line. Regarding the 466 foot maintenance requirement, there may have been an agreement in place. Commissioner Forster suggested that someone from Caltrans District 10 meet with the Amador County Public Works Director.
- There has been a request for an investigation for turn pocket striping at SR 16/Willow Creek Road from ACTC staff. That investigation has started. Another request for an investigation from ACTC staff will be sent for turn pocket striping at SR 16/Carbondale Road.

Future Agenda Items:

- SR 88/104 Project Initiation Document
- Progress report on extreme weather needs assessment
- Plymouth Active Transportation Project

CLOSED SESSION: At 10:20 a.m. the Chairman called for a Closed Session as noticed for Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation (one potential case). At 11:15 a.m. the Chairman resumed the regular session and reported that direction was given to staff.

Adjournment:

At 11:15 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 7, 2019, 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.)