

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 2, 2019 – 9:03 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
Patrick Crew (alternate for Richard Forster)
Keith Sweet

Absent

Richard Forster (medical)
John Plasse (family appointment)
Jon Colburn (late arrival)

Also Present:

John Gedney, ACTC Executive Director
Felicia Bridges, ACTC/AT Intern, Recording Secretary
Patricia Maggie Amarant, AT General Manager
Michele Demetras, Office of Rural Planning, Caltrans District 10

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA: Vice Chairman Atlan asked to move the Closed Session to the end of the ACTC board meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chairman Atlan, seconded by Commissioner Sweet, and carried to approve the modified Agenda.

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

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Chairman Oneto recognized Mr. McElhinney, recently appointed Director of Caltrans District 10. Mr. McElhinney stated he looks forward to working with ACTC in the long run. In regard to the railroad crossings on SR 88, 124, and 104, there is asphalt pavement worn out between the rails and on either side of the rails. Mr. McElhinney stated Caltrans is only responsible for the highways up to the railroads but understands that Amador Central Railroad (ACR) is a non-profit organization. He had a meeting with ACR, Ken Baxter (Caltrans Planning Department) and the maintenance team of Caltrans to come up with possible options. Mr. McElhinney continued that Caltrans does provide reimbursed maintenance work. A scope of work and an estimate are being developed by Caltrans for ACR. Chairman Oneto stated he appreciated that Caltrans and ACR

are working together to accomplish this goal. Commissioner Sweet added his appreciation and stated he hopes the quote is reasonable as he is part of the Amador County Historical Board, which owns the other half of the railroad, and is a non-profit organization with limited funds, so whatever help Caltrans can provide is appreciated.

Mr. McElhinney stated the quote would come down to day labor costs of the maintenance teams and supplies. He also appreciates patience through those work zones by drivers and reminded everyone it is Safety Awareness Month at Caltrans. The goal is to get everyone home safely.

Mr. McElhinney stated he has been working with California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Sheriff's office, and the Tribe on the traffic management plan in coordination with the new casino in Buena Vista. The temporary signalization at SR 88/Buena Vista Road was in place on April 25th prior to the casino's "soft" opening on April 29th, using an encroachment permit through Caltrans. He added other intersections are being monitored; SR 88/Liberty Road, SR 88/12, and SR 88/104. A meeting is taking place with Buena Vista Tribe staff and Caltrans staff to see what additional signing or other needs there are. Mr. McElhinney drove the route along Buena Vista Road and past the casino to watch traffic flow. He was pleased with the dedicated right arrow, left arrow, portable changing message signs, and advancing signal ahead beacons. However, he noticed the large amount of traffic parked along the sides of the roads, and that CHP was working in support of the event. He added over the next few weeks they will continue to monitor the situation closely, and asked for any feedback.

Vice Chairman Atlan heard complaints that the traffic was backed up all the way into the town of Lone, and said the parking at the casino seems to be an issue. Mr. McElhinney stated he was informed on opening day that by 5:00 p.m. CHP had closed the left turn into Buena Vista due to the backup for the casino and there does seem to be a traffic volume issue. As the weekend comes they will monitor that traffic flow and coordinate with CHP and the Sheriff's office.

Commissioner Sweet stated the parking issue will most likely continue to be a problem as many of the parking spaces are set-up for high roller customers only.

In regards to the SR 88/Liberty Road intersection, Mr. McElhinney asked his team to upgrade the signage there due to the new casino opening. He recognized that San Joaquin County did install flashing red beacons on the stop sign at Liberty Road, and has asked Caltrans staff to install flashing yellow beacons and upgrade the signage for "intersection ahead" as well as lighting in the interim. A plan is in process for an interim roundabout to be installed until the permanent roundabout is placed.

Commissioner Crew presented comments from a resident on Commissioner Forster's Facebook page regarding signage in Lone on Main Street, stating the signs are not prominent enough for travelers driving along SR 104 and SR 124. They end up going up East Main Street, which dead ends, and they cannot get back out. The hope is for more signs or bigger signs that provide better direction. Chairman Oneto suggested a sign for directions to the casino at that location in Lone, due to the increase in traffic going there. Mr. McElhinney stated Caltrans will look at those areas and be in contact with Mr. Gedney. He stated he will be meeting with Mr. Gedney frequently to exchange information and stay on track together.

Chairman Oneto stated there may be funding available for projects through Caltrans, and asked if possible to use for paving of turnout areas along SR 88/26, SR 16/124 intersections, Willow Creek Road/SR 16 (road connection), and Willow Creek Road/SR 124 (road connection). Mr. McElhinney stated he would find out and would continue to come to the ACTC meetings to keep the communication open.

Chairman Oneto asked if more vegetative fuel reduction along the State highways (major evacuation routes) could be performed. He also stated there are many trees that lean over the main roads and asked if there was a way to cut those down for preventative purposes. Ms. Demetras asked for specific locations to send crews out to evaluate the trees. Chairman Oneto stated they could provide that, however it seems like a larger issue due to the amount along the roads. Having a team go evaluate SR 88 upcountry and SR 49 towards Mokelumne Hill would be more beneficial. Mr. McElhinney added he spoke to the Chief of the tree crew and a contractor was brought on to take out trees previously, and that he would set up a meeting to discuss further tree concerns in the County. Mr. McElhinney stated they have been discussing how to better prepare for climate change impacts, especially wildfires. Also Caltrans is working on a Climate Vulnerability Assessment Study for the department for District 10. They are working on a draft with a consultant, WSP Consultants, to do an assessment and determine what amount of investment can be provided to address these climate change impacts such as; fires, floods, pavement issues, and culvert issues. Commissioner Sweet stated there are three or four severely leaning trees between the top of the highway on SR 49/88 going down into the city of Jackson on the right hand side.

Commissioner Colburn arrived at 9:40 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA: Commission Sweet stated he had questions on items 3 and 5. Commissioner Crew abstained from item 1.

Chairman Oneto included one change to the minutes.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Vice Chairman Atlan and carried to approve the revised Minutes of April 4, 2019.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Colburn, Sweet
Noes: None
Absent: Plasse
Abstain: Crew

Caltrans Correspondence Regarding High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) for SR 88/Church St. in Pine Grove: Commissioner Sweet asked if a request for a HAWK can be made for additional locations to the SR 88/Church Street that include SR 49 at the crosswalk located adjacent to Mel and Faye's Diner and a location in Lone. Mr. McElhinney responded that Caltrans will look into it and will keep ACTC updated.

Third Quarter Overall Work Program Expenditures: Commissioner Sweet asked why ACTC has approximately six months of funding left in the ACTC budget, and if that will be a large amount of

carry over for the next fiscal year. Mr. Gedney stated there will be a sizable carry over due to administrative savings with an open position in ACTC.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Crew, and carried to approve items 2-6 on the Consent Agenda.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Extreme Weather Needs Assessment for Amador & Calaveras Counties: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. A presentation by the consultant to the ACTC board and the Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG) would be the first step to show how the process works. Following that, appropriate stakeholders would be invited to participate, and the stakeholder engagement process would begin after that.

Commissioner Sweet asked who the stakeholders are for this assessment and how does this process keep going each year without losing momentum.

Mr. Gedney replied the stakeholders would be the responsible agencies who need to put out the fires, respond to flooding, and/or communicate to the public (i.e.; Fire Department, Sheriff's office, Public Works, O.E.S, Caltrans, PG&E, etc.). Mr. Gedney stated many other local agencies are performing their own assessments and ACTC can provide a forum to coordinate with others and share expertise and resources. He added that this feature of the THIRA/SPR approach sets up a base line where you can assess over time, see the progress, look at the gaps, quantify the gaps, look for funding, and annually update the plan based on the previous year's results.

Chairman Oneto stated this appears to be a good idea and appreciates the work towards it.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Crew, and carried to approve the consultant contract to provide support for the Amador and Calaveras Extreme Weather and Natural Disaster Needs Assessment in an amount not to exceed \$148,400.

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

Final FY 2019/20 Overall Work (OWP) Program and Budget: Mr. Gedney requested to table this item due to more revisions needed pursuant to Caltrans comments with the opportunity to adopt it in June.

Commissioner Sweet stated he would prefer a red annotated version of the OWP to see the revisions. He also stated in the Caltrans Update Recommendations (page 3) it states there are four (4) Tribes in Amador County and asked if that was correct and if so has there been any communication with the

Tribe. Mr. Gedney replied Caltrans has a Native American Liaison who would know more about that. He stated he would bring this item back next month.

Chairman Oneto agreed with Commissioner Sweet and this item would be brought back at the June meeting.

State Route 16 Relinquishment: Traffic Analysis

Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Based on conversations with California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff it was important to follow up with an overview, since a comprehensive traffic analysis has not been provided on the corridor. ACTC is working with CTC staff and Caltrans to see if they would include a requirement that a traffic flow analysis be performed as part of the relinquishment agreement. Mr. Traina, of the CTC staff, and Mr. Flournoy, Caltrans District 3, agreed that was a reasonable request. Mr. Gedney reviewed the traffic analysis.

Commissioner Colburn highlighted an error in the first study. Sacramento County and Caltrans knew the spacing they would have prior to ACTC doing the study, notably that some of the signalized intersections would be within one thousand feet of each other. There is no information describing traffic impacts related to signalized intersections closer than ½ mile spacing.

Chairman Oneto stated the numbers in Tables 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 (page 5) seem low and wondered if that is correct. Mr. Gedney stated he would find out.

Claims:

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

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

ACTC Commissioner Reports: Vice Chairman Atlan suggested to send a letter to Caltrans District 10 regarding a HAWK pedestrian crossing system in Lone, as was previously done for SR 88/Church St. in Pine Grove. He also stated Caltrans closed Michigan Bar Road for six (6) months. This redirects traffic to SR 124, and the traffic will continue to get worse through Lone because of that and the increased traffic to the casino.

Chairman Oneto agreed regarding the HAWK requests and asked to send one for the Jackson location.

ACTC Report: Mr. Gedney expressed appreciation for Mr. McElhinney and his staff. The Caltrans Safety staff met with former Commissioner Tim Murphy and the Police Chief of Sutter Creek at the SR 49/ Sutter Lone Road intersection. They reviewed the geometry at that intersection and were there at 2:30 p.m. (during school dismissal) and saw the traffic back up and issues at that location.

Caltrans Report by Michele Demetras:

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- Regarding the intersection of SR 124/Willow Creek Road, a survey crew went out and determined that it is Caltrans right-of-way at 169 feet from the stop bar to Willow Creek Road, and did confirm that section of roadway is in disrepair with potholes that need to be ground out and repaved. Caltrans will try to complete repairs this summer.
 - The Adaptation Planning Grant: Extreme Weather Needs Assessment revision to the scope of work and timeline was approved. Caltrans does not approve the contract between ACTC and the vendor though, that is up to ACTC.
 - A reminder of safety on the roadways due to the Safety Awareness Week, April 22nd-26th, which shows appreciation to the fallen workers (189 people since 1921) killed in the line of duty of their jobs.
 - Ms. Demetras stated the comment received from Facebook regarding the need for a crosswalk at SR 104 by the elementary school should be transferred to Local Assistance for further investigation and she would pass that information on.
 - Ms. Demetras will look into the SR 49 Bypass Bridge to see if any overlay is to be performed.

Future Agenda Items:

- OWP
- Extreme Weather Needs Grant
- Railroad Crossings
- HAWK letters update
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

Closed Session: At 10:37 a.m. Chairman Oneto called for a Closed Session. At 11:04 a.m. the Chairman resumed the regular meeting and reported direction was given to staff for 1. Property Negotiations.

Adjournment:

At 11:05 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 6, 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.)