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**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**October 3, 2019 –10:20 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:**

Dominic Atlan, Vice Chairman  
Marilyn Lewis (alternate for Keith Sweet)  
John Plasse  
Jon Colburn  
Richard Forster

**Absent**

Brian Oneto (meeting conflict)

**Also Present:**

John Gedney, ACTC Executive Director  
Felicia Bridges, ACTC Administrative Secretary  
Patricia Maggie Amarant, AT General Manager  
Gregoria Ponce, Office Chief, Caltrans District 10  
Maggie Stern, Attorney, Kronick Moskowitz Tiedeman & Girard.

**AGENDA:** Commissioner Colburn asked to have Item #11 and the Closed Session moved up to immediately follow the Consent Agenda due to the availability of the individuals involved.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Colburn, seconded by Commissioner Plasse, and carried to approve the Agenda with changes as discussed.

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

**PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Forster asked to have Item # 7 pulled for discussion. Vice Chairman Atlan stated his appreciation to Caltrans for the response to Items # 5 and 6.

**California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles:** Commissioner Forster expressed concern due to the last bullet point on Page 10. He stated that he is not in support of the California High-Speed Rail and suggested not to join the Coalition, but instead send a letter explaining why ACTC is unwilling to join.

Mr. Gedney stated the deadline is October 9, 2019.

Commissioners agreed to move item #7 to Regular Agenda for further discussion.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Colburn and carried to approve moving Item # 7 on Consent Agenda to Item # 16 on Regular Agenda.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Plasse, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda items # 1 through 6, and 8.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Caltrans State Route 16 Relinquishment Proposal:** Mr. Gedney introduced Robert Naylor (via conference call). Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He stated the response from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to have a complete traffic analysis performed was reduced to a traffic analysis of the current conditions only. Mr. Gedney stated he would have another opportunity for discussions with the CTC staff at their next meeting in Modesto. He noted the next step or only step left due to the response of the CTC is litigation, to challenge the environmental document to be prepared by Caltrans.

Mr. Gedney introduced Jack Gorman, Executive Director of the Amador Vintner’s Association, and stated that Mr. Gorman sent a letter directly to the CTC and Legislators.

Mr. Gorman expressed his concerns on behalf of the members of the Vintner’s Association and others in the same industry. He pointed out tourism to Amador County will plummet due to the traffic impacts on SR 16 following the relinquishment. Mr. Gorman explained that members sell their wine directly out of their tasting rooms making them highly dependent on tourism. He expressed the same issues will occur to the tourist industry across Amador County. Mr. Gorman acknowledged other counties can develop as they choose, however the State Agency responsible for interregional travel (Caltrans) should look at impacts to those impacted by its decisions. He explained a letter was sent to all the ACTC Commissioners and urged ACTC to continue forward progress for Amador County with lobbying and legal efforts. Another letter was sent to the CTC explaining concerns, and noting representatives of the Vintner’s Association would be present at both upcoming CTC meetings (October, November).

Commissioner Plasse complimented the letter.

Mr. Naylor noted there is no CTC meeting in November, that it will be held in December.

Commissioner Colburn expressed appreciation to Mr. Gorman for his efforts and asked if the growers are in support of the opposition. Mr. Gorman answered he had not heard any feedback yet, but would reach out for information.

Mr. Naylor stated Caltrans agreed to perform a baseline traffic analysis, and based on that, asked if a specific analysis to that particular 55,000 home/commercial development could be performed to provide stricter parameters on the relinquishment agreement. Mr. Gedney responded, two (2) analyses of that kind have been performed by ACTC staff/consultant. One in 2014, which was an extensive simulation study in coordination with Sacramento County at \$ 30,000. Most recently, a sketch level assessment, much less than \$30,000, which did look at the 55,000 homes/commercial development and gave an assessment of needing 10 lanes to accommodate traffic.

Mr. Gedney stated these analyses performed were not included in the Caltrans proposal for relinquishment. ACTC is asking Caltrans, as an option, to formally include the analysis in the environmental document. He noted, if Caltrans is able to relinquish SR 16 to Sacramento County without documentation, SR 16 will be removed from the interregional roadway system.

Ms. Stern, ACTC legal counsel, emphasized another purpose of requesting the traffic analysis is so the CTC can make the findings when finalizing the relinquishment, that doing so, would be in the “best interest of the State”. She added the argument for ACTC is “how can you make a finding without the information of the impact it will have on interregional transportation”? Ms. Stern stated the reasons for needing to perform a traffic analysis are to comply with CEQA, determine the impacts from the development that will occur, independently determine what the “best interests are for the State”, and establish a baseline to comply with AB 652.

Commissioner Plasse asked if there is a time frame where public comment will be accepted during the Project Initiation Report (PIR). Mr. Gedney replied “yes”, once the environmental phase is open there will be a time frame for formal comment/response.

Commissioner Colburn noted he and Mr. Gedney will be present at the CTC meeting in Modesto on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chairman Atlan extended his appreciation to Mr. Gorman and the Vintner’s Association for their role in this matter and expressed interest to have the Chamber of Commerce or Amador Tourist Agency resubmit letters to the CTC as well. Mr. Gorman replied he would reach out for their efforts.

Commissioners continued discussion and direction was given to provide comment on the PIR and attend future CTC meetings.

**Closed Session:** At 11:28 a.m. Vice Chairman Atlan called for a Closed Session as noticed for: Conference with Legal Counsel-Potential Litigation. At 11:55 a.m. the Vice Chairman resumed the regular meeting of ACTC and reported direction was given to staff.

Commissioners and Mr. Gedney extended appreciation to Ms. Stern as she will be leaving Kronick Moskovitz Tiedeman & Girard.

**Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Health Benefit Resolution:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Mr. Atlan asked if research of other companies has taken place. Mr. Gedney replied a bid was performed in 2016 for competitive rates- this was the most competitive.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried to approve, by resolution, the updated MOU and continue participation in the SDRMA Health Benefits Program.

Ayes: Atlan, Forster, Plasse, Colburn, Lewis

Noes: None

Absent: Oneto

**Regional Transportation Plan 2020 Update- Public Participation Process:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He explained the last RTP update performed in 2015 was extensive and due to the population growth not reaching the projections, he recommends to perform an administrative update to the document. Mr. Gedney explained that during the development of the last RTP update in 2015, there has been a statewide reduction in revenue. It has affected the planning of numerous projects on the list, the Pine Grove project was one of them. It began as a \$70 million bypass, but due to the lack of funding it has been revised down to a \$10 million project. Mr. Gedney stated the same is currently happening with the Western Lone Roadway Improvement Strategy (WIRIS) Project at \$108 million, the city of lone may consider a plan to shift the alternative to existing facilities. Also, the County and cities have convened an adhoc committee that is ongoing to consider becoming a Self-Help County through a sales tax measure. Mr. Gedney noted these were brought up due to interest in folding the public outreach for the sales tax measure in with the public outreach for the RTP update that would go out to the jurisdictions to identify need and have a requirement to identify the available funding for maintenance projects.

Commissioner Forster stated there is justification to prioritize or advance the WIRIS project to the top of the project list, based on the projections of population increase for the lone area by year 2035. He added the funding that is set aside for the Pine Grove project could be used on another project due to the project not getting finished fast enough.

Mr. Gedney continued that he included the funding program column to begin looking at prioritizing projects within programs and get more definitive prioritizing on the projects where efforts should be made. He added all projects on the Tier I list are eligible for Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program funding, but only certain ones have it programmed at this time. However, there is always the prerogative to move the funds to other priority projects.

Commissioner Plasse stated there is reluctance to provide funding towards projects that do not meet warrants from Caltrans (i.e. Pine Grove Corridor Project)

Commissioner Forster responded that Caltrans should look beyond the warrants and stated the intersection in lone at Preston Avenue/Shakeley Lane/SR 124 shouldn't wait for warrants due to high frustration levels of drivers and long wait times to merge onto the main roadway.

Vice Chairman Atlan noted he agrees the WIRIS project should be moved up the list even with modifications to the project itself.

Commissioner Plasse asked, because the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) deadline is approaching, if the County has made any further decisions on programming the State Transportation Improvement Program funds for acquisitions of right of way for the Pine Grove project. He noted that needs to be finalized first. Mr. Gedney replied that he spoke with Jered Reinking, Public Works Director, and they are working off an old cost estimate of \$14 million (officially approved cost estimate) and Mr. Reinking indicated that the County has lowered the cost estimate to approximately \$10 million total cost for the project. Mr. Gedney stated he is trying to prepare for the December requirement for the RTIP submittal, and should hear more from Mr. Reinking in November.

Direction was given from the Commissioners to distribute the information out to the cities and County for their review with the goal to update and reprioritize the Table 5 list of projects.

**Consent Agenda Item #7- California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles:**

Commissioner Forster stated he wants to send a letter stating that ACTC will not support the California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles because of the last bullet on Page 10, regarding the support of the California High Speed Rail Authority.

Commissioner Plasse voiced his support.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and carried not to approve ACTC as a signatory to the California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles due to the request that Congress prohibit U.S. DOT from terminating the cooperative grant agreement with the High Speed Rail Authority.

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

**ACTC Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Forster extended appreciation to Caltrans regarding paving work at the intersection of SR 124/ Willow Creek Road. He stated it appears they paved a large portion. He noted the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has indicated they are on watch during times of increased traffic at the casino. There has only been one (1) time they had to divert traffic at the intersection of Jackson Valley Road/Buena Vista Road because the casino reached 90% capacity. Commissioner Forster stated CHP is doing a great job working with the County regarding these issues.

He added an agreement has finally been made regarding the language on the signage for the Buena Vista Casino.

**ACTC Report:** Mr. Gedney explained that ACTC needs to dispose of a second commercial shredder. Mr. Gedney suggested reaching out to non-profit organizations within the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council group. Commissioners agreed with the suggestion.

**Caltrans Report by Gregoria Ponce:**

- Ms. Ponce stated Caltrans District 10 held a grant workshop webinar on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to cover the FY 2020/21 Caltrans Sustainable/Strategic Planning Grants. The deadline for applications is October 11, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., and grant announcements to all candidates are anticipated in Spring 2020.
- Ms. Ponce stated Caltrans District 10 had the pleasure to attend the Sutter Creek Bridge ribbon cutting.
- Additional crossroad symbol signs will be installed in advance of the intersection at SR 49/Sutter Lone Road (bypass).
- Tree trimming will be performed to make the existing signs more visible at SR 124/Preston Avenue post mile 5.766.
- Improvements are scheduled for West Main St./SR 104 in Lone. Warning signs will be installed to make that intersection and crosswalk more visible.
- Improvements are also scheduled at Preston Ave./Main St. in Lone, including additional signs and striping, widening visibility to bring attention to the intersection.
- "Cross traffic does not stop" signs for both Northbound and Southbound traffic will be installed at Church St. Also, pedestrian/bicycle signs to warn drivers and bicyclists of non-motorized traffic, and lane extension striping will be installed to assist the motorists moving through that area.

Commissioner Atlan asked if stop signs could be installed at Preston Ave./Shakeley Lane/SR 124 intersection due to the high volume of traffic already there and added it will only increase due to the new development in Castle Oaks. Commissioner Forster asked if a designated turn lane could be installed on the SR 124 side of the intersection. He noted a stoplight is what is really needed at that location. Ms. Ponce replied she would take back the questions for analysis.

Vice Chairman Atlan asked what the steps are to receive wayfinding signs for the Castle Oaks Golf Course. Ms. Ponce responded she will look at the existing signage on SR 88 to see what is currently in place and take the request back for evaluation.

Commissioner Colburn stated two (2) fatalities were had on SR 16 this week and the condition of the road is poor. He asked if the speed limit of 65 MPH should be decreased for safety.

Vice Chairman Atlan noted another fatality took place on SR 88 near the Jackson Valley Road/SR 104 intersection, that this area is an issue, and asked if the speed limit there should be decreased for safety. Ms. Ponce replied she would take these safety/speed questions back for review.

**Claims:** Commissioner Plasse asked for clarification that the payments to the cities are the Regional Surface Transportation Program allocations. Mr. Gedney replied "yes".

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

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

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- State Route 16
- Amador Railroad Crossings
- Regional Transportation Plan

**Adjournment:**

At 12:40 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 7, 2019, at the Amador County Transportation Commission Offices, 117 Valley View Way, Sutter Creek, California.



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Brian Oneto, Chairman  
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:

  
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Recording Secretary

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