

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**December 12, 2019 –9:31 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  
John Plasse  
Keith Sweet  
Patrick Crew (alternate for Richard Forster)

**Absent**

Jon Colburn

**Also Present:**

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

**AGENDA:**

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

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

**PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Mr. Gedney stated a letter was received from Mr. Grant Vogel, President of the Amador Central Railroad (ACR), and he would like it summarized for the record. Mr. Gedney read the letter into the record as follows: *John, after hearing several rumors about the members of ACTC and the Board of Supervisors having off the record discussions about the safety of the railroad trestle, I thought this should be cleared up before it does any damage to the ACR. We are a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) sanctioned-class 1, non-insular tourist railroad, and as such are subject to periodic inspections under various sections of Title 49, inspected from all angles on a periodic basis, this includes: road bed, ties, rails, signals, operations of equipment and bridges, or trestles. The last inspection of the trestle in question was February 12, 2016, and it was sent to the FRA in Sacramento, to Anthony Smialek (director for the Western United States) and, in-turn was sent to the Chief of Trestle Inspections in Colorado. It was received back weeks later with a note on the first page*

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*stating "you are good to go". It is noted the trestle is designed to hold 235,000 pounds at one time. The last commercial*

*use was in 2004, with only smaller cars weighing 6,000 pounds currently used. The trestle has been struck by overhead vehicles two (2) or three (3) times and has not budged. Please do us all a favor, if anyone on the various boards has a question, please have them call or write the railroad, rather than have a rumor mill floating around. Have a great day and Merry Christmas. – Grant Vogel*

Commissioners thanked Mr. Vogel and agreed that the letter clears up the issue.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Vice Chairman Atlan asked to have items # 4 and 5 pulled for discussion. Mr. Gedney noted the second page of item # 4 Public Correspondence was accidentally left out of the packet. However, copies were given to the Commissioners at the beginning of the meeting, as well as copies provided for the public.

Mr. Jim Scully, Amador County Resident, author of the correspondence, stated he was present to answer any questions regarding the letter, and asked how the Lone Bypass Alternative Study project came to be in the hands of ACTC when it has not been approved by the City Council or the Planning Commission. Mr. Gedney responded it is not a pending project and is on the ACTC website because it was a study funded through the Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Committee. The planning study was completed adequately, and the city was reimbursed for the cost of doing that study under impact fees. Mr. Gedney gave a review of the Western Lone Roadway Improvement Strategy (WIRIS) project. He noted the study is just that, at this time, and if it were to go any further toward project development, it would have to be approved by the City Council and Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding the approved Lone Bypass Project and the Bypass Alternative Study. It was agreed to add detail to the Lone Bypass Study on the ACTC website to note that it is currently only a planning study.

Vice Chairman Atlan stated, regarding item # 5-SR 88/104 intersection improvement, it appears Caltrans has concluded a roundabout is the preferred project for that area. He asked what the time frame for this project will be. Mr. Gedney clarified that it is now part of the Project Initiation Document (PID) process to analyze the roundabout as an alternative. No determination has been made yet. Mr. Gedney stated Caltrans understands how important the improvement is needed, however, the process does take time.

Chairman Oneto commented there is heavy truck traffic along SR 88 that may have issues with a round-a-bout rather than a signal. He asked for clarification on the section Analysis Methodology-tables 1-3. Ms. Ponce replied she would take it back to the design team for better clarification.

Chairman Oneto asked Ms. Ponce, regarding item # 3- Caltrans Projects in Amador County, what *the install Carson area transportation management system (TMS)* on page 2-Amador County PIDS and ATP Grants means. Ms. Ponce replied it is Caltrans communication equipment that is partnering with all the Counties for various locations.

Commissioner Plasse noted a duplicated paragraph on page 4 of the November minutes should be removed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Vice Chairman Atlan, seconded by Commissioner Sweet and carried to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections made to the minutes.

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

**UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He introduced Ms. Karyn Gregorius, Chair of Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC), to present the SSTAC transit needs recommendation chart.

Chairman Oneto opened the public hearing.

Ms. Gregorius reviewed the recommendation chart to the board. Discussions ensued regarding transit needs and ongoing efforts to fill gaps in the system took place with the Commissioners.

Mr. Scully requested ACTC reach out to the school district to see if an arrangement could be made to work together to increase ridership and aid in the transport of children.

Commissioner Colburn arrived at 10:20 a.m.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Vice Chairman Atlan and unanimously approved to close the Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Crew and unanimously approved to accept the presentation given, request staff evaluate the unmet needs against the 'reasonable to meet' criteria, and provide recommendations.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP):** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Chairman Oneto expressed concerns regarding 'formalized driveways' on page 16 of the document. He stated a possible situation similar to one taking place in Plymouth may occur, where people's access is diminishing. He added this is something to continue to monitor. Mr. Gedney responded that those

concerns are addressed in the design, which the County is currently developing, and he stated he will take that concern back to Mr. Reinking.

**Motion:** It was moved by Vice Chairman Atlan, seconded by Commissioner Plasse and unanimously carried to approve the Amador County 2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program with programming for Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) purposes in the amount of \$191,000, and approve delivery to the California Transportation Commission pursuant to the deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

**FY 2018/19 Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Annual Report:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Commissioner Plasse asked regarding Attachment A, why it shows no contribution received from Lone, especially with it being a binding contract, and the development taking place. Vice Chairman Atlan replied he suspects it is due to the new rules on the building codes in 2019, and that developers may have pulled all building permits from the City of Lone last year or earlier in the fiscal year. Vice Chairman Atlan added he thinks it is a timing issue, as well as paying approximately \$304,527 in FY 17/18 to the RTMF fund.

Commissioner Plasse stated the report shows the Jackson Rancheria did participate in the RTMF Revenue previously and asked if they signed the binding MOU. Mr. Gedney replied they did contribute to the fund at one time but are not subject to the MOU.

Gary Reinoehl stated he has a disclosure issue in regards to items # 8 and 9, particularly the maps in item #8. He continued that he reviewed them sometime after the WIRIS project was approved by the City of Lone and it was not identified that a historic resource (CA-AMA-420/H) was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2007, also known as the Amador Central Railroad (ACR). It was also reaffirmed eligible in 2012 in a project conducted by Caltrans in another location that affected the ACR. This does not show up as eligible property in the WIRIS project or in the City of Lone's General Plan, and it has been overlooked somehow in other Environmental Impact Reports (EIR). Mr. Reinoehl added he is not sure why and noted he has copies of the 2007 and 2012 reports. Vice Chairman Atlan asked to have that information provided to the City of Lone for further review.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Sweet, and unanimously carried to approve the nomination of Supervisor/Commissioner Chair Oneto to act as ACTC representative to serve on the Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee Oversight Committee.

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

**FY 2019 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update- Re-adoption of 2015 RTP:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Commissioner Plasse asked if the Commissioners will have a chance to review any revisions or modifications offered prior to voting on re-adopting the 2015 RTP in February. Mr. Gedney replied yes, anything received will be passed on to the Board.

Commissioner Sweet asked if all jurisdictions had been notified. Mr. Gedney responded yes, and the project list was distributed months ago. Commissioner Sweet asked if Jackson responded. Mr. Gedney replied yes, they stated they have no recommended changes.

Ms. Ponce asked if the RTP will follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Mr. Gedney responded yes, if it is the intention to re-adopt under the California Transportation Commission (CTC) guidelines, ACTC will provide that notice of intention pursuant to CEQA. Ms. Ponce asked if the standards of the process will be followed. Mr. Gedney answered yes with the opportunity to review.

Mr. Reinoehl stated that with the changes in the RTMF, the goals, policies, and procedures of the RTP may need updating.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Crew, and unanimously carried to approve to publish, as appropriate, public notice of the ACTC intent to re-adopt the 2015 RTP Update, with minor additions and corrections, at the regular ACTC meeting in February 2020.

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

**(Amended) Caltrans State Route 16 Relinquishment Proposal:** Mr. Gedney explained the agenda was amended due to information received earlier in the week from Caltrans (included in packet). He introduced Rex Osborn (Plymouth City Manager) and Jack Gorman (Amador Vintner's Association) and noted they were present with him at the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting in Riverside on December 5, 2019. Mr. Gedney gave a review of the SR 16 Relinquishment process to explain the reason they attended the CTC meeting in December. He continued that prior to their testimony it was discovered a letter was circulating regarding Sacramento County's plans to suspend the relinquishment. His request to see the letter, prior to public comment at the meeting, was denied by Mr. Benipal. Mr. Gedney then presented a video of the public comment section of the December CTC meeting to the board showing Mr. Gedney, Mr. Gorman, and Mr. Osborn speaking in regards to SR 16. Mr. Gedney introduced Mona Ebrahimi, legal counsel.

Ms. Ebrahimi stated she sent a Public Record Request to both Sacramento County and Caltrans District 3 that was broad. She noted she had received response from Caltrans but had not yet from Sacramento County.

Mr. Osborn expressed his gratitude to the board for allowing him to take part in the process, and stated it appears that there are key people willing to listen. He added that their presence at the CTC meeting seemed beneficial, and it would be a good idea to continue to have CTC involved. He also noted the letter requested (dated November 5, 2019) was provided the day after the CTC meeting.

Mr. Gedney noted that, as stated by Mr. Gorman at the meeting, ACTC was never opposed to development, the only interest is proper management of the facility.

Commissioner Colburn asked to continue efforts determining the reason for the suspension of the relinquishment of SR 16 by Sacramento County.

**ACTC Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Sweet stated there was a fatality at SR 49/Main St./Sutter St. crosswalk. He asked Caltrans to have a safety review performed at that location.

Commissioner Colburn left the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

**ACTC Report:** None

**Caltrans Report by Gregoria Ponce:**

- Regarding the traffic signal light malfunction at the intersection of Highway 49/ Industry Blvd. in Martell, it appeared to be an isolated incident during one (1) of PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). All lights were blinking except one (1), maintenance observed that flash mode was on but the signal to the utility pole had a problem, which made it operate differently than the others. Maintenance will continue to monitor the intersections during outages to ensure consistency. Ms. Ponce noted if this happens in the future, contact Caltrans Transportation Management Center (TMC) directly, so they can remedy the problem immediately.
- In response to the issue of loose debris at the intersection of SR 88/Buena Vista Road, maintenance checked the area, and provided sweeping as needed. She noted that area was recently under construction, and they will continue to monitor the area.
- Regarding the trees on Climax Road, they were recently addressed by maintenance in terms of overall hanging vegetation, spot evaluation as pointed out will continue.
- Lone is on the rotation for Main Street to be resurfaced and the drains to be uncovered. She is still waiting on further information, and will send that information to the City of Lone once received.

Chairman Oneto stated there appear to be a significant number of accidents located near the intersection of SR16/49 North of Drytown. He asked if that can be evaluated. Ms. Ponce replied that formal complaints of roadways can be made on the Caltrans website and, she will take the item back for review.

Commissioner Plasse extended appreciation to Mr. McElhinney regarding the section of roadway on SR 104 West of Lone, where he had previously stated there were dips in the roadway that created distress and difficulty for drivers transporting livestock, and noted he promptly addressed the issue upon request.

**Approve Monthly Claims List:**

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

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Plasse, Sweet, Crew

Noes: None

Absent: Colburn

**Future Agenda Items:**

- State Route 16
- Highway Infrastructure Program
- Regional Transportation Plan

**Closed Session:** At 12:01 p.m.. Chairman Oneto called for a Closed Session as noticed for: Conference with Legal Counsel-Potential Litigation and Conference with Labor Negotiators.



Chairman

Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

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