

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**March 5, 2020 –9:30 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  
Keith Sweet  
Richard Forster  
Jon Colburn

**Absent**

John Plasse

**Also Present:**

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

**AGENDA:**

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

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

**2020 Committee Appointments:** The board approved the same committee appointments as Amador Transit approved in their March meeting (the same appointments as the previous year, 2019).

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Forster noted minor changes to the minutes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Forster and carried to approve the Consent Agenda as discussed.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**FY 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update-Re-adoption of the 2015 RTP:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and the process taken by ACTC to re-adopt the 2015 RTP pursuant to California Transportation Commission (CTC) guidelines. He stated public comment was received at the February meeting and those comments were incorporated in the final draft.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated his appreciation for clarification to policy 2F as requested during public comment at the February meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Colburn, seconded by Commissioner Forster, and carried to approve the re-adoption of the updated 2015 Regional Transportation Plan.

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

**Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Apportionment 'Swap':** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He noted there is still a process to go through for the Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding.

Chairman Oneto extended appreciation to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for working with ACTC to move forward with a 'swap' of funds.

Commissioner Forster commented it is disturbing that the process for the funding is so complicated, however the flexibility within the program to perform a swap to help smaller communities' complete projects is appreciated.

Commissioner Sweet asked regarding the next round of CMAQ funding, would the criteria change since it is from a different funding source. Mr. Gedney stated it will be up to the board as to how the criteria will change for the remaining years if it were to change.

Commissioners agreed to continue discussions on how to proceed with the criteria at the next meeting.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated he would like to see the continuation of the process that is in place already to fit the CMAQ criteria.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Colburn, and carried to approve staff recommendation.

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

**Draft FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program (OWP) Preliminary Budget:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Primarily, there is an increase in the Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to cover anticipated legal expenditures. Mr. Gedney continued the OWP document structure was reorganized in efforts to respond to Caltrans requirements (separating planning activities from project development activities).

Commissioner Sweet asked why there is no funding assigned to Work Element #4- Extreme Weather Needs Assessment. Mr. Gedney responded that he has to wait to show the exact amount until the amount can be reconciled from the prior year. He continued that the majority of the work performed in that element is from the consultant and the staff time utilized on this grant is a match to the in-kind service so it does not have a significant impact on the budget. Mr. Gedney added this is just a preliminary budget and a final budget with exact amounts would be brought back to the board for approval.

Commissioners continued discussion regarding budget items, specifically the travel demand model, and noted further discussion will need to take place regarding vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) as new regulations will take place in July 2020.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Sweet, and carried to approve the ACTC FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program Preliminary Budget for distribution to submit to Caltrans and local jurisdictions for review and comment.

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

Ms. Ebrahimi, legal counsel, recommended to perform roll call votes to follow the strict compliance of the Brown Act when there is a commissioner absent, a commissioner is participating by teleconference, or it is not a unanimous vote.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Colburn, seconded by Vice Chairman Atlan and carried to approve the recommendation of legal counsel.

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

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**Local Transportation Fund (LTF) FY 2020/21 Apportionment Estimates:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. Commissioners discussed the sales tax percentages.

Chairman Oneto asked for clarification regarding how the Pedestrian/Bicycle set aside fund is determined. Mr. Gedney replied it was set up to put 2 % of estimated LTF aside for the fund.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Colburn, and carried to approve, by resolution, allocating \$360,000 in Local Transportation Funds for transportation planning and administrative purposes for the 2020/21 fiscal year and \$17,160 in Local Transportation Funds to be set aside for pedestrian and bicycle facilities for the 2020/21 fiscal year pursuant to section 99233.3 and 99234 of the California Utilities Code.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Sweet, Colburn, Forster

Noes: None

Absent: Plasse

**Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP):** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He noted that in the Amador Transit (AT) meeting prior to the ACTC meeting it was agreed by the board to allow AT General Manager to be the authorized agent to process documents related to these funds. Mr. Gedney added this item is taken to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) for recommendations for the funding, and Ms. Amarant will provide her recommendations at the next board meeting.

Vice Chairman Atlan asked where these funds come from. Mr. Gedney replied they are from the Cap and Trade program.

Mr. Gedney stated there is a deadline of April 8, 2020 for the application and asked for direction as to where the funds be spent.

Ms. Amarant reviewed her recommendations as reduced fares (excluding Sacramento route) and operating cost of the newly expanded Dial-A-Ride service.

Commissioners continued discussion and asked to have the two recommendations brought back at the next meeting for final review.

Steve Christensen, Amador County resident, commented he was in favor of the reduced fare recommendation, and added some suggestions regarding the procurement of electric buses.

Direction was given to staff to bring this item back at the next meeting to review the recommendations of the AT General Manager, and approve by resolution, the recommendation chosen.

Ms. Ebrahimi suggested an addition to the motion, due to the Corona Virus, in the event the meeting cannot be held direction is provided that the AT General Manager may practice her discretion in processing the application in accordance of the discussions held today.

Vice Chairman Atlan stated he would feel more comfortable to incorporate reduced fares not free fares on specific routes or events but not the whole system.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Vice Chairman Atlan, and carried to approve, by resolution, authorizing the allocation of fiscal year 2019/20 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program funding in the amount of \$75,033 to Amador Transit, and due to the Corona Virus, in the event the meeting cannot be held, direction is provided that the AT General Manager may practice her discretion in processing the application in accordance to the discussions held today.

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

**Caltrans State Route 16 Relinquishment Proposal:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He stated it appears they are still trying to avoid reasonable protections to the interregional State highway.

Commissioner Forster stated Caltrans District 3 will relinquish the highway to Sacramento County at some point, and to say they will do it through encroachment permits, they are trying to avoid their responsibility under law by doing an environmental analysis.

Commissioner Colburn commented he is concerned about the transparency that did not occur in the past. Recently, Mr. Benipal stated they would have more transparency moving forward.

Commissioners discussed the upcoming meeting of the Homeowners Association of Rancho Murieta to be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> to include two County supervisors as well as Sacramento County and ACTC.

Commissioner Forster stated they claim to work collectively but they cannot seem to be honest and upfront regarding the process they are taking. He suggested a letter be written to Senator Beall and Assemblyman Frasier to highlight the issues that are taking place within this process, and that these entities are not honoring what they have been directed to do.

Commissioners continued discussions regarding next steps to take at this point, and agreed to move forward with legal counsel to prepare a letter and continue to attend the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meetings.

Ms. Ebrahimi clarified she would draft a letter to Assembly members and other interested parties, including CTC, explaining that despite the passage of the legislation, it appears that the purpose and intent of AB 652 in being circumvented through the piecemealing processing of development applications through Caltrans encroachment division without appropriately mitigating for the impacts on interregional transportation. She stated this would be a request for action, of a rescission of the existing legislation or new legislation, to address proper planning for the future.

Commissioner Forster asked Ms. Ponce if the current process being taken by Caltrans regarding the relinquishment to Sacramento County is common. Ms. Ponce replied part of the encroachment process, whether a facility is or is not going through relinquishment, Caltrans has an existing encroachment permit process where development plans come forward for consideration by Caltrans

and local interested parties. Then, the environmental process under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has the lead agency circulate the environmental document on behalf of the project proponent to solicit comment from all parties. She continued, Caltrans does then look at encroachment entitlements and provide comments at that time. Beyond that it is the responsibility of the lead agency to address those comments and formally incorporate them into the record pursuant to CEQA to determine whether they will approve, deny, or make changes to the project.

Commissioner Forster asked as Caltrans continues to go forward with the encroachment process knowing the vast amount of development that will take place along that roadway without a coordinated approach, why would the director want to continue that direction, and asked Ms. Ponce if Caltrans District 10 would go that direction. Ms. Ponce responded she would take that question back to Caltrans District 10 Director.

Commissioners discussed the continued efforts attending the CTC board meetings, and determined Commission members, ACTC staff, and representatives should continue attending.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Vice Chairman Atlan, and carried to approve the formulation of a letter as discussed as well as the continued presentation to the CTC board.

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

**ACTC Commissioner Reports:** None

**ACTC Report:** Mr. Gedney noted the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) call for projects was issued and proposals will be due at the June ACTC meeting.

**Caltrans Report by Gregoria Ponce:**

- Regarding the culvert issues in Drytown, the area was reviewed and maintenance is looking at improvements and details, specifically at the drains near the antique store, creating a new flow line through that area. Construction may take place in the 2022/23 season.
- The cameras located on signal lights on SR 104 and SR 124 are Caltrans cameras to collect traffic counts.
- Regarding the posts located at Tonzi Road/SR 49, contractor work was performed and material cleanup will occur prior to completing the project.
- The encroachment permit application for Wildflower subdivision is in review.
- The resurfacing that needs to be performed on Main St. in lone has been delayed until early 2021 with prework to start in late spring-summer with a one-season job.
- Regarding any scheduled vegetation control and fuel reduction efforts along highways and high fire hazard areas in Amador County, maintenance is creating fire strips to maintain buffers of 4-8 feet from the travel way to help prevent roadside fires, and other areas will be monitored and addressed as they arise. Brush control and weed eating will continue.
- A project is being developed for the SR 88/Red Corral area for clearing hazard trees and overgrown vegetation in the right-of-way.

Chairman Oneto asked if the project for the SR 88/ Red Corral area could extend from Jackson all along the highway to the Upcountry. Ms. Ponce replied she would take that question back for review.

Commissioner Forster stated he is aware there was vegetation control performed at the intersection of SR 124/Preston Avenue in Lone, but asked if anything is planned for that area due to high traffic volumes, especially at shift change for the prison.

Commissioner Colburn asked why there are temporary delineators on both sides of the bypass bridge in Sutter Creek. He stated the turn on to Greilich Road/SR 16 is dangerous due to the high speeds along the roadway, and asked if something could be installed there for safety. Commissioner Colburn also noted that the location of Empire St./Pacific/SR 49 in Plymouth is in need of a crosswalk for the safety of children crossing the highway before and after school.

Chairman Oneto stated on SR 49, one quarter mile from Drytown, some of the road markers appear too close to the road. He also asked how old the guardrail was on the bypass that was recently replaced, as there are other guardrails needing replacing.

Ms. Ponce stated she would take these items back for review and feedback.

**Approve Monthly Claims List:** Commissioner Forster asked what the payment to the City of Lone was for. Mr. Gedney replied it was for reimbursement of the radar speed signs.

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

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

**Future Agenda Items:**

- State Route 16
- FY 2018/19 AT/ACTC Fiscal & Compliance Audit

**Closed Session:** At 12:25 p.m. Chairman Oneto called for a Closed Session as noticed for: Conference with Legal Counsel-Potential Litigation and Conference with Labor Negotiators.

**Adjournment:**

At 1:24 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 2, 2020, 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.)

