

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 1, 2021 –9:01 a.m.**

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met on the above date, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present on Roll Call:

Brian Oneto, Chairman
Dominic Atlan, Vice Chairman-conference call
Susan Bragstad
Patrick Crew- alternate for Richard Forster
Steve McLean
John Plasse

Absent:

None

Also Present:

John Gedney, Executive Director, ACTC
Felicia Bridges, Administrative Secretary, ACTC
Patricia Maggie Amarant, General Manager, Amador Transit
Gregoria Ponce, Office Chief-Rural Planning, Caltrans District 10

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA: Mr. Gedney asked to modify the agenda and hear Consent Agenda item #5- Litigation Settlement Agreement, then suspend the ACTC meeting until after the Amador Transit Board of Director meeting has completed.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Crew and unanimously carried to approve the Agenda with the modification to hear Consent Agenda item #5- Litigation Settlement Agreement, then suspend the ACTC meeting until after the Amador Transit Board of Directors meeting has completed.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Bragstad, Crew, McLean, Plasse
Noes: None
Absent: None

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA, Item #5-Litigation Settlement Agreement: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He highlighted the conditions of the agreement that include: securing the reservation of 14' of additional right-of-way (ROW) beyond the agreement that had been reached between the County of Sacramento and the Newbridge Project proponent. The additional ROW which extends into the

landscape corridor that was being preserved by the development, allows for an additional travel lane and 2' shoulder for 'transportation-related purposes' beyond the planned 6-lane ultimate facility along the SR 16 corridor adjacent to the frontage of the Newbridge development. The Settlement Agreement also secured an amendment to the Jackson Highway Corridor Transportation Mitigation Strategy to note that the County will prioritize Jackson highway improvements as feasible along with a commitment to consult with ACTC on any future projects that may impact traffic along SR 16; and importantly, a provision to reimburse ACTC legal fees incurred in bringing this suit in the amount of \$44,500.

Mr. Gedney introduced Ms. Mona Ebrahimi, ACTC legal Counsel, and extended his appreciation to Ms. Ebrahimi and her firm for the work performed on this case.

Ms. Ebrahimi stated she was pleased with the outcome of the settlement agreement for primary purposes that it provides short term traffic benefits to the residents and travelers to Amador County in that Jackson corridor improvements will be prioritized. Also, the Agreement provides long-term benefits since the 14' of additional ROW will limit further traffic inducing impacts that could exacerbate traffic on the Jackson corridor, and finally ACTC is re-engaging Caltrans and Sacramento County in establishing a direct form of communication on future projects. Ms. Ebrahimi thanked the board for their cooperation and enabling this to happen.

Chairman Oneto extended his appreciation to Ms. Ebrahimi. He stated we may not have gotten everything we wanted and that it took some time to get to this point, but is happy this will help the residents of Amador County in the long term.

Commissioner Plasse also extended his appreciation to Ms. Ebrahimi and her firm for their work performed over the years. He continued that over the course of the last nine (9) years of conflict over this topic, this is the most progress that ACTC has seen towards a favorable resolution. He agreed that this may not be the ultimate desired outcome but was pleased her firm was able to propose a solution that resulted in some tangible improvements.

The Chairman suspended the ACTC meeting at 9:09 a.m.

The ACTC resumed its meeting at 10:31 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Crew, seconded by Commissioner Bragstad and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Bragstad, Crew, McLean, Plasse

Noes: None

Absent: None

REGULAR AGENDA:

ACTC FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program (OWP) Amendment: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner McLean and carried to approve, by resolution, amendments to the ACTC FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program to reflect increases in the Legal Services Contract.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Bragstad, McLean, Plasse
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Crew

ACTC Revised FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He noted the total budget is approximately \$90,000 less than the previous year which is due to the expiration of the Extreme Weather Needs Assessment Grant.

Commissioner Plasse commented in previous years draft budgets the expenditures vs. actual page would be included for comparison purposes. Mr. Gedney replied he included the OWP Funding Source spreadsheet along with the line-item budget. He noted the previous agenda item contains last year's budget for comparison.

In regard to Work Element #3.5 - Transit Planning, Chairman Oneto asked for clarification on the programming of \$45,000 for consultant services. Mr. Gedney replied that it serves as a place holder for the possible use to update the Short-Range Transit Plan. However, Amador Transit did apply for a grant (and is awaiting response) to fund this activity through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Bragstad, seconded by Commissioner McLean and carried to approve the Overall Work Program and Administrative Budget for FY 2021/22.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Bragstad, McLean, Plasse
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Crew

Local Transportation Fund Allocation Instructions: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Chairman Oneto asked what Amador Transit's estimated claim might be. Mr. Gedney responded that last year's requested amount was \$622,000 - reduced from the prior year due to Coronavirus CARES Act funding and may be similar this year. Mr. Gedney stated the excess amount Local Transportation Fund 'excess' for this year may be approximately \$300,000-400,000 for streets and road purposes.

Approve Monthly Claims List: Mr. Gedney stated at the last meeting he pulled the final invoice for ECORP consulting Inc. in the amount of 47,000 – it now shows as \$38,000. The revision is due to the grant expiration on February 28th, 2021. As staff and the consultant was concluding this project he authorized the consultant to extend work until March 19th. Inadvertently, those expenditures were included in the final grant invoice and needed to be reversed. This explains why this item was pulled

from the Claims list. The consultant has since revised the invoice to include those charges under a separate billing since they are not authorized under the grant. Mr. Gedney stated the problem now is there is a remaining cost of \$9,000 to be paid to the consultant for the remaining work they performed. He stated he will bring this item back before the board to discuss payment options.

Chairman Plasse asked if the consultant knew what the timeline was for completion. Mr. Gedney stated that the timeline was clearly understood, but due to many mitigating factors he made the decision to authorize the additional work and will bring a clearer, subsequent explanation to the Board. He noted that staff worked closely with Caltrans through the invoicing process before and during the grant work; and, at one point Caltrans did authorize reimbursement of ACTC staff time that was not originally part of the contract bid. Though the staff time was originally intended to be 'in-kind' service, Caltrans staff did agree to reimburse some of that staff work.

Mr. Gedney asked to approve the revised claims list.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Bragstad and unanimously carried to approve the Revised Claims List as discussed.

Ayes: Oneto, Atlan, Bragstad, Crew, McLean, Plasse
Noes: None
Absent: None

ACTC Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Bragstad stated she may have a small project in Amador City coming up that she may anticipate the use of LTF funds for.

Commissioner Plasse stated as ACTC tries to send more funding back to the cities and County, it would be more beneficial in the long run if the cities and County could do a better job of training their public works staff to make quality repairs when repairs are necessitated. The repairs would last longer and result in less of a monetary need for repair and maintenance over time including: pulling ditches, grading, leveling, compaction, and overall long-term training needs.

Chairman Oneto stated the County is actively working on this topic and discussion has taken place to request private contracts for pulling ditches due to the workload the road crew currently has.

ACTC Report: None

Caltrans Report with Ms. Gregoria Ponce:

- Regarding the inquiry made about traffic turning right at the SR 124/104 (Preston Ave) intersection and the overall delay at that location, Caltrans traffic operations team is proposing traffic improvements and exploring how to move forward with a Project Initiation Document.
- Caltrans is working to reduce the fuel load in Amador County but currently has limited resources in the maintenance unit. Caltrans is in the process of hiring additional employees to help with fire prevention. They have expanded the Sonora maintenance crew to help alleviate weeds and brush, and help improve fire breaks throughout the mountain counties.

- Regarding regional planning, Caltrans looks forward to continued collaboration with ACTC on the Overall Work Program and the Extreme Weather Needs Assessment closeout.
- The California Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) and the California State Rail Plan are currently under development. A webinar for tribal engagement were held as part of the tribal outreach. A survey is being taken and is available until April 16, 2021 and can be found at www.research.net/itsp. The ITSP is set to be completed by December 31st 2021 and the State Rail Plan should be released in mid-2022. The outcomes of the workshops held can be found at www.caltrans/itsp2021.org.
- A statewide Disadvantaged Enterprise summit was held on March 30th with 536 attendees with a large portion of those requesting one-on-one further engagement with regards to engaging Caltrans with contracting work and opportunities and financial resources.
- A solicitation for Letters of Support was sent out to local partners requesting interest in supporting projects that may be earmarked through US House of Representatives Congressionally-directed funding. The call for Projects opened on March 19th and closed on the 25th. Caltrans staff is providing assistance for those who responded.
- Recently, a virtual crash data dashboard website through the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). It can be found at [www. https://shsp.dot.ca.gov/](https://shsp.dot.ca.gov/)
- A Call for Projects for STA 5311 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funding is available with approximately \$4.7 million apportioned to rural communities. Coronavirus Response supplemental appropriation application requests for FTA 5311 formula fund are due April 30th 2021.
- The Division of Rail and Mass Transit office issued a call for projects to all partners on March 25th, - regional apportionments are based on the 2010 Census.
- Additional federal grant opportunities for the rural transit assistance community rides grant program are available for proposals due May 10th. A webinar will be held on April 15th, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Atlan asked for an update regarding the repaving of Main St. in Ione. Ms. Ponce replied that Summer of 2021 is the approximate timeframe. She will follow up with more info.

Chairman Oneto extended appreciation for the shoulder work performed on SR 49 in Drytown and noted it was sorely needed.

Commissioner Plasse asked if Mr. Gedney will be applying for any of the local opportunity grants that Ms. Ponce had reviewed. Mr. Gedney responded yes, and highlighted the "Call for Projects" for letters of support that went out on March 19th. He stated he responded to Mr. Regisford with three (3) projects that the funding could be utilized for including: SR 88-Pine Grove Improvements, French Bar bridge in Jackson, and Carbondale Rd. bridge. He stated the local engineers for the bridge projects went to

Caltrans for construction funding and were told there is no funding available due to cost overruns of bridge projects in Stanislaus County.

Chairman Oneto expressed his concern on installing sidewalks on SR 88 in front of Pine Grove market as travelers park there frequently.

Future Agenda Items:

- Local Project Delivery
- FY 2021/22 Final OWP & Budget

Closed Session: At 11:10 a.m. Chairman Oneto called for a Closed Session as noticed: Conference with Labor Negotiators. At 12:07 p.m. the Chairman resumed the regular meeting of ACTC and reported direction was given.

Adjournment:

At 12:08 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 117 Valley View Way Sutter Creek, CA 95685.



Brian Oneto, Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

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