

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 1, 2021 –9:23 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
Susan Bragstad
Richard Forster
Steve McLean
John Plasse

Absent:

Dominic Atlan, Vice Chairman

Also Present:

John Gedney, Executive Director, ACTC
Felicia Bridges, Administrative Secretary, ACTC
Cindy Engel, GIS Coordinator, ACTC
Patricia Maggie Amarant, General Manager, Amador Transit
Marlon Regisford, Deputy District Director, Caltrans District 10
Mona Ebrahimi, ACTC Legal Counsel, Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard

AGENDA:

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

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

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Chairman Oneto noted Mr. Marlon Regisford, Deputy Director of Caltrans District 10 is attending the meeting in person, and extended his appreciation for the visit.

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Forster commented, regarding item #4- ACTC Comment Letter on Jackson Township Specific Plan Project Recirculated Draft EIR Report, the letter was written very well by legal counsel.

Item #1- Minutes of June 3, 2021:

Commissioner Plasse stated on page 2 it reads "*Commissioner Plasse asked if Sacramento County notified ACTC or ACTC Legal Counsel. Ms. Ebrahimi stated Legal Counsel was notified directly*", and asked to have Sacramento County affirm that the settlement agreement to notify of future developments on SR 16 is between ACTC and Sacramento County. Future notices should be provided to ACTC directly. Ms. Ebrahimi responded, a clarification to Sacramento County can be made asking for dual notification be performed, or all notices be directed to ACTC Executive Director.

Commissioner Plasse stated in the Caltrans report of the minutes, funding information about a grant program through the Department of Parks and Recreation was provided. He commented that even though that

information may not pertain to ACTC it does to other local agencies like Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA), and asked in the future to have any information received that may be applicable to other local agencies be passed on to them as a courtesy.

Item #4-ACTC Comment Letter on Jackson Township Specific Plan Project Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR):

Jon Colburn, Plymouth resident, stated the land use map looks to be the same as initially presented in 2013. He continued that there are five major arteries that appear to be the placement of additional intersection signals on SR 16.

Commissioner Plasse asked if anything on this land use map has changed from the original map of 2013. Mr. Gedney stated there appears to be no changes made.

Gary Reinoehl extended appreciation for the continuing efforts regarding SR 16 development.

Mr. Gedney extended his appreciation to Ms. Ebrahimi and her legal counsel team for their work performed.

Ms. Ebrahimi stated that she participated in the Sacramento County Planning Commission's June 28 meeting to receive any additional public comment regarding the draft EIR. She noted Planner Todd Smith stated 14 comments had been received and circulated to the commission, with ACTC's comments included in the packet. At the meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to close the public comment period for the Draft Recirculated EIR. ACTC's next steps are to continue monitoring and ensure that ACTC's comments have been responded to in the final EIR and the requests made are hopefully integrated into the project.

Commissioner Plasse asked if ACTC will need to continue engagement with Sacramento County to ensure our requests are implemented in the project. Ms. Ebrahimi replied yes, ACTC asked for parity with the Newbridge Settlement Agreement and also added questions that need clarification in the EIR. Commissioner Plasse asked if they will now be tasked to respond to those questions. Ms. Ebrahimi replied Sacramento County staff consultant should be working with the project advocate, first to see if they will voluntarily agree to the requests, if so the measures should be included in the EIR and a response provided to ACTC. She noted if not, ACTC would then ask why they are not moving forward with the requested measures, and at that point legal counsel would wait for direction from the ACTC board.

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

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Local Jurisdiction Radar Speed Sign Request: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He stated there are several vendors that offer these signs and there are a few ways to distribute these funds upon approval, which include: the recommendation in the staff report or have the local jurisdictions purchase them on their own with reimbursement from ACTC. Mr. Gedney continued some vendors may offer a discount if ACTC purchases them in a bulk order.

Commissioner Bragstad noted she provided a brochure with competitive pricing to ACTC. Mr. Gedney stated, as an example, if Amador City wanted to purchase them on their own, ACTC could authorize a 'cost not to exceed' in the amount of \$5,000.00 for reimbursement.

Commissioner Plasse asked what the funding source was for the original distribution to lone. Mr. Gedney replied it was also through the RSTP funding source.

Chairman Oneto commented securing a bulk order may offer a better price, but if a city wanted to purchase them on their own that would be acceptable with a cap amount in place. Mr. Gedney suggested a cap of \$4,700.00 per radar sign. He recommended the signs purchased previously because they have the capability to perform traffic counts, where some of the less expensive signs may not have the same specifications.

Ms. Amarant suggested installing a radar speed sign on Valley View Way in an attempt to slow down the travelers utilizing that stretch of road as a short cut. Commissioner Plasse noted that should be considered under the City of Sutter Creek's request. Ms. Amarant commented she would reimburse the city for half the cost.

Commissioner Forster commented he does encounter these signs and they do get your attention.

Mr. Gedney recommended to authorize increasing the sign request to fifteen, to include the one requested for Valley View Way. He stated he will work with the jurisdictions on options of how to procure them.

Commissioner Plasse asked if the cities perform the installation. Mr. Gedney replied yes, the cost is for the radar sign only.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated there is a sign on Ridge Road and having that sign in place does support the slowing of traffic.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Bragstad and carried to approve the staff recommendation with a modification to authorize the purchase of a total of 15 radar safety speed signs with a cap of \$4,700.00 per sign.

Under Discussion, Commissioner Plasse asked who the County representative is for the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Gedney replied Richard Vela is the representative and currently the Chairman.

Ayes: Oneto, Bragstad, Forster, McLean, Plasse

Noes: None

Absent: Atlan

Claims: Mr. Gedney noted on the revised claims list there is an invoice for ECORP in the amount of \$9,289.50 for additional work performed following the closeout of the Extreme Weather Needs Assessment Grant which would be paid out of the Local Transportation Funds.

Commissioner Plasse asked what the ESRI, Inc. invoice is for in the amount of \$ 2,000.00. Mr. Gedney responded it is the annual subscription of GIS software.

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

Ayes: Oneto, Bragstad, Forster, McLean, Plasse

Noes: None
Absent: Atlan

Amador & Calaveras Needs Assessment for Extreme Weather and Natural Disaster Prevention and Response

Strategies- Presentation of Final Report: Mr. Gedney stated the final report is included in the packet, which represents the closeout of the project. He noted there were some struggles with the scope of work that Caltrans assisted ACTC staff to overcome, however valuable time was lost upfront and also because of the pandemic, which led to authorization of the consultant to work past the end date of the contract. With that, the additional cost in the amount of \$9,289.50 to ECORP Consulting Inc. is included in the revised claims list to be paid out of local funds. Mr. Gedney commented that the funds were primarily spent on the consultant team in the amount of approximately \$138,000 with a minor amount of Ms. Engel's time reimbursed, leaving only \$4,600 of the original \$150,000 grant amount left unspent. He introduced Ms. Engel to present the final report.

Ms. Engel reviewed her staff report and Final Report.

Commissioner Forster commented, in regards to page 23 (Final Report)- Caltrans Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments, these projections appear to be a worst-case scenario. He added they should be looking back 1000 years at the changes in weather cycles over a longer period of time, not just utilizing the last 100 years.

Commissioner Plasse asked if Cal FIRE provides these evacuation route maps (included in this report) to the public, as they are the main source of information people will look to. Ms. Engel responded that CAL FIRE utilizes its own products, but these ACTC maps have been distributed to other local agencies.

Commissioner Forster commented the maps are a great asset to have, but if they are not able to be provided to the public they are less effective. He suggested Ms. Engel present this report to the Amador County Board of Supervisors and determine how to make these maps more accessible to the general public. Ms. Engel stated the maps have been distributed to local fire agencies as well as to the local CAL FIRE department to use by emergency responders, and community maps that show these routes are available to the public on Amador Fire Safe Council's website.

Commissioners agreed the general public should have access to these maps as a guide as well as following guidance from emergency responders and their best judgement. Commissioner Plasse emphasized that CAL FIRE should have these maps available on their website.

Mr. Gedney commented Ms. Engel's work has been primarily focused on support to local agencies, allowing them to incorporate these maps as they see applicable.

Commissioner McLean left at 10:20 a.m.

Ms. Amarant asked if the maps created have been distributed to the Amador County Community Preparedness Coalition. Ms. Engel confirmed that the report was presented at their December 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Forster commented recommendation #2-Apply the Community Vulnerability Model Assessment of the final report may assist in providing insurance agencies a better analysis of the fire risk in each city.

Commissioner Plasse stated collaboration among local agencies is effective as long as these agencies do not find themselves competing for grant funding. He continued there should be a mechanism in place to prevent

duplicated efforts and possibly have ACTC as the primary grant applicant for roadway improvements with other agencies as sub-recipients.

Mr. Gedney stated the goal of this project was to determine the gaps in extreme weather preparedness and aid the community where applicable. Based on this report, there are areas that need further analysis and ACTC would be glad to help the local jurisdictions with those efforts in the future as needed. He commented ACTC staff would be interested in presenting this information to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Commissioner Forster suggested once all the cities have been included in the Vulnerability Model Assessment it would be beneficial to present that data to the State Insurance Commissioner as a case to stabilize the insurance rates in the County.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, extended his appreciation to all local agencies and Caltrans for the work performed regarding extreme weather and overgrown vegetation in the County. He emphasized the importance, as a resident, of being aware of alternative evacuation routes available.

Jon Colburn, Amador County resident, stated the evacuation route maps are a great asset and asked if they could be made available to the CAL FIRE exhibit at the upcoming Amador County Fair. Ms. Engel responded the Amador Fire Safe Council will have an exhibit at the fair and will have community evacuation maps available for handout.

Commissioner Bragstad left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

ACTC Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Plasse commented, regarding SR 88 at Inspiration Drive East (Amador Pines Development), he was almost involved in a collision, as this intersection has no turn lanes which forces traveling vehicles to abruptly stop while vehicles turn onto that roadway. He noted he has brought this item up in previous meetings for review. Mr. Gedney explained this item to Mr. Regisford noting this issue was initially considered to be incorporated in a paving project already taking place by Caltrans. However, it was not applicable at that time. Mr. Gedney stated the hope is to incorporate it in a future State Highway Operation and Protection Program project. Mr. Regisford stated Caltrans would review this item.

Commissioner Forster stated there has been roadwork performed by Caltrans along SR 88 near Mace Meadows, and asked what the specific rule is regarding Caltrans responsibility for repaving into County roads. He noted what he has seen is approximately 10 feet, and thought it was 50 feet. Mr. Regisford replied he believes it is generally 50 feet but he would take that back for further review.

Chairman Oneto stated the area of SR 49 through Drytown to the SR49/SR 16 intersection has encountered multiple accidents and asked if widening the road could be considered. Mr. Gedney commented this section is an area of interest by the County for installing radar speed signs and asked if Caltrans could assist with the encroachment permit at that location. Mr. Regisford replied an investigation is planned for that location later in the year, however depending on what that may entail, partnering with ACTC on a project like that may be considered.

ACTC Report: Mr. Gedney stated there was a Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Oversight Committee meeting held on June 21, 2021 where no action was taken on any item, but discussion took place on the overall process and how projects can be advanced using RTMF funds as 'seed money' to help get through the project development phase. However, once a project is advanced to the construction phase, the project can become onerous due to limited funding available. Mr. Gedney continued, the current project moving forward is the Sutter Street Extension in Jackson, which includes a round-about or four-way stop intersection with a cost of \$8.5-9 million. He noted once the Pine Grove project is fully funded attention can shift to the next project (Sutter

Street Extension or West Lone Roadway Improvement Strategy). He reviewed the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) program and noted preliminary estimates for the next Fund Estimate shows Amador receiving approximately \$425,000 to be spread over the last two (2) years of the STIP. Mr. Gedney stated there is a meeting on the 19th where California Transportation Commission staff will provide more information regarding the estimate.

Commissioner Plasse commented most other counties spend their STIP funding on local road rehab and Amador County is spending theirs on the SR 88 Pine Grove Corridor Improvement Project (a State Highway). He asked, as the Pine Grove Project is approaching the construction phase, if Caltrans would be willing to perform the paving portion of that project as they have already been performing repaving along SR 88 through Pine Grove anyway. Mr. Regisford replied it would depend on the need of the project and programming of projects is based on the highest need.

Chairman Oneto stated a few years ago Caltrans performed repaving on SR 16 and SR 49, and now they will be performing culvert replacement. He asked why that was not completed in the proper order to avoid continuous road work. Mr. Regisford replied the goal is to avoid construction fatigue of the general public, but it does appear there was improper planning for that project.

Mr. Gedney commented that Dennis Agar, District 10 Director, had previously stated he would like to have the Caltrans Asset Management Plan Coordinator present to the ACTC Board and asked if/when that could take place. Mr. Regisford responded yes, and noted there is a new Asset Manager and an Asset Integrator whom would both be available for discussion with the Board.

Caltrans Report with Marlon Regisford:

- Mr. Regisford extended his appreciation for the ACTC'S Extreme Weather Needs Assessment report and noted the report is valuable to the local agencies and general public.
- Caltrans held a "Clean California" event in Stockton with Toks Omishakin (Director of Caltrans) and Dennis Agar (District 10 Director) present to pick up litter and show the efforts to clean up California adjacent to highway facilities. He asked if there are any litter or encampment issues please reach out to Caltrans. Commissioner Forster asked what is specifically done to address the homeless encampments along SR 99. Mr. Regisford replied Caltrans will partner with local agencies to provide services or try to relocate them to a safer location.
- The Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) Plan is being finalized and set to be released by the end of July.
- The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Charter is in final stages of drafting a charter, and estimate within the first quarter, will convene a kick-off committee meeting. They are looking for public participation and partnering local agencies to provide input regarding bicycle/pedestrian facilities. The contact person is Charles Carroll and can be contacted at Charles.carroll@dot.ca.gov.
- The Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant is currently open and competitive. This grant has a minimum award of \$500,000 and a max award of \$2 million. The deadline is August 21, 2021. The grant information is available at www.rd.usda.gov.
- The Low Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Technologies Research Development Demonstration and Deployment Program is another federal grant funding program, which is open until July 12, 2021.
- Regarding the pedestrian crosswalk button in Pine Grove that was blocked by fencing, the fencing was not installed by Caltrans, and local contractors are asked to follow the Caltrans Transportation Management Plan (TMP) that includes pedestrian/bicycle detours when granting encroachment permits. Local contractors are asked not to cover crosswalk buttons.
- In regards to drainage work on SR 104 in Lone, the bid for this work will go out in September of this year with contract approval estimated in November. Construction will take place late November/early December.

- Mr. Regisford noted Caltrans does not own a skip loader as the front loaders are more versatile, however they can rent one when needed.
- Regarding the high reflective signs, he stated this is a noted concern and Caltrans traffic operations team is looking into best practices for signage throughout the County.
- At Liberty Road on SR 88, the round-about construction has been initiated, and will cause some delays in travel.
- The SR 88/Irishtown Road intersection will be closed in late summer to construct a drainage culvert and will be ongoing until end of fall.

Future Agenda Items:

- Pine Grove Project Update/RTIP
- CMAQ Call for Projects
- LTF Apportionments
- RISE Grant Program

Adjournment:

At 11:43 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 117 Valley View Way Sutter Creek, CA 95685.



Dominic Atlan, Vice Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

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