

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 2, 2021 –9:04 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:

Dominic Atlan, Vice Chairman
Susan Bragstad
Richard Forster
Steve McLean
John Plasse

Absent:

Brian Oneto, Chairman

Also Present:

John Gedney, Executive Director, ACTC
Felicia Bridges, Administrative Secretary, ACTC
Cindy Engel, GIS Coordinator, ACTC
Dennis Agar, District Director, Caltrans District 10
Mauricio Serrano, Deputy Director of Maintenance, Caltrans District 10

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA: Vice Chairman Atlan stated he would like to revise the agenda by moving item #9- Caltrans Report to the top of the regular agenda items to accommodate the time of the Caltrans staff.

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

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

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Item #3- Caltrans Correspondence Letter: Commissioner Forster commented there are multiple good projects taking place in Amador County. However, he would like clarification regarding the SR49/Amador Structures item with a cost of \$5.6 million. Commissioner Forster noted his concern with projects like the Carson Transportation Management System item in the amount of \$33.6 million and the AMA-88 Mokelumne River Bridge Upgrade at \$10 million. He stated it is difficult to see these funds from the SB-1 program being spent on projects like these when cities and counties need funding for basic repair for roadways, and commented the SB-1 program may need to be re-evaluated in the near future.

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

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

Caltrans Report with Dennis Agar/Mauricio Serrano:

- Mr. Agar stated, in regards to the ongoing COVID-19 concern, Caltrans is still under emergency telework and looking to get their permanent telework program in place by November. They are also required to perform weekly testing for those that are not vaccinated or those that do not disclose.
- Regarding the Clean California Program, Sam Sherman has been appointed as the new Coordinator and his contact information was provided to the ACTC Executive Director. He will be working in collaboration with the district for litter abatement, beautification projects, and opportunities for free dump days to the public. There will be approximately \$300 million available in grant funding statewide.
- The Broadband effort is underway to expand the network for unserved or underserved communities with an amount of approximately \$2.7 billion to be allocated over the next five (5) years for 'middle mile' improvements. The first round of funding will include: Alpine, Mariposa, and Amador counties. Commissioner Plasse asked if this is to provide distribution of greater broadband services to outlying areas or improvements to the backbone from Amador County to the main fiberoptic lines. Mr. Agar responded the 'middle mile' means it is within the state highway system to provide opportunities of fiberoptic lines that can connect to and within the Caltrans system. Commissioner Forster stated this item will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda next week for discussion.
- Regarding work-zone safety, recently there were two (2) contractors that lost their lives, and Caltrans continues to ask the public to be work zone alert and to 'slow through the cone zone'. Commissioner Plasse asked if it is standard to have a California Highway Patrol (CHP) present at work zones. Mr. Agar replied there are contracts with CHP to be present, however there are times they are not available or they are not part of the contract.

Mr. Agar introduced Mr. Serrano who reviewed the Caltrans maintenance activities in the correspondence letter. He stated Caltrans is hiring additional staff in preparation of the winter season. Mr. Serrano commented regarding the Caldor Fire, it has burned approximately 205,000 acres with 25% containment, and Governor Newsom has proclaimed a State of Emergency for some counties including: Amador, Alpine, and Placer. There are road closures on SR 88 and 89, with no estimated time of re-opening. He stated some of Caltrans maintenance yards have been evacuated and Cal FIRE is currently using the maintenance station in Peddler Hill as a base station. He stated command for the fire will be split between US Forest Service and Cal FIRE, with the US Forest Service having their command center located at the Hard Rock Casino in Nevada. Cal FIRE will continue to have theirs located in Placerville.

Commissioner Forster stated, regarding the homeless encampments, the concerns currently are on private property or county property. Commissioner Forster reiterated a concern he brought forward at the last meeting regarding Caltrans highway cleaning efforts leaving litter buildup along the curbs. Mr. Agar stated he will have the traffic operations team look into this concern. Commissioner Forster also noted he has asked multiple times for clarification regarding paving projects performed by Caltrans and has received mixed feedback of the length required to pave adjacent and into local roadways. He asked to be provided a clear answer of how far the contractors should be paving in. He suggested having those details programmed in the contracts when going out for jobs so that it is known where county intersected roads are located, and that those are appropriately overlaid to the extent required by Caltrans rules.

Commissioner McLean stated the homeless encampment that was located behind Walmart in Martell has moved into Jackson and noted the City of Jackson has limited resources to handle this and stated any help would be

appreciated. He expressed concern with the signal located in Jackson at SR 49/SR 88 as the timing of the light seems to be off causing a backup in traffic. Mr. Agar stated he will have Caltrans District 10 Encampment Coordinator/staff follow-up with the city regarding the homeless encampment issue.

Vice Chairman Atlan noted, in regard to work to be performed on Main St./SR 104, over time the road has been overlaid and is a foot higher than it used to be. He asked that work performed by Caltrans address the DI as well as grinding down of the roadway and would like to have that item put on the project list next summer. He extended his appreciation to Caltrans for their coordination with the developer in expediting the completion of the Foothill Drive extension at the Wildflower development. Vice Chairman Atlan noted there was another accident on SR 104 near Mule Creek entrance and asked if lighting could be installed at that location.

FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program Amendment: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He stated that in regard to the Project, Programming, & Monitoring (PPM) funds, there was no authorization received from Caltrans in the previous fiscal year (FY) to expend those funds leaving two years of PPM funding as shown in Work Element 2.3- local Project Delivery Support 2020/21 and 2021/22 FY. The overall effect is a net zero impact on the budget.

Commissioner Forster asked why the \$160,228.06 is being recommended to move to the Administrative Savings Account. Mr. Gedney stated there is currently \$112,000 from prior year savings that is in the savings account, and the added \$160,228.06 would total \$270,000 in flexible funds available for allocation at the commissioners' discretion. He stated he could bring this item back at the next meeting to decide how to allocate those funds.

Commissioner Plasse asked, regarding the Administrative Savings Account allocation, if this was established due to the auditing requirements. Mr. Gedney responded yes there is an auditing requirement for any LTF recipients, in which ACTC sends all LTF to the county and sends RSTP funds to the cities. Mr. Gedney stated this Administrative Savings Account is primarily resulting from funding for the Transportation Planner position that has not been filled.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Bragstad, seconded by Commissioner Forster and carried to approve amendments to the FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program reflecting carryover funds from FY 2020/21.

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

Amador & Calaveras County Needs Assessment for Extreme Weather and Natural Disaster Prevention and Response Strategies-Phase 2: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

Commissioner Forster asked why the PCI data listed in the staff report would be needed when the county performs a report with that data approximately every five years. Mr. Gedney replied that it is not necessary, and was included in the staff report only as additional information. He noted his recommendation would be the vegetation encroachment/ tree canopy data.

Commissioner McLean commented there have been tree masticators seen in the Pine Grove area to aid in the effort of vegetation encroachment. Commissioner Forster added they are being used along SR 88 currently for widening of firebreaks in an effort to gain containment of the Caldor Fire.

Commissioner Plasse noted his concern regarding the use of LiDAR scanning and the costs associated with it, when an ocular evaluation could be performed at a much lower rate. He stated he believes the county is statutorily required to maintain at least 14' of vertical roadside clearance on county roadways. Ms. Engel replied

she cannot confirm the exact number, but they currently go as far as their equipment can reach and there are restrictions to what they are able to do due to right of way limitations of private property.

Ms. Engel stated, regarding the LiDAR scanning, she noted if there was concrete data of the vegetation available for grant applications, it would serve as a better chance to receive the grant funding. Commissioner Plasse stated while the road crews are out on the roadways already, they could perform an ocular evaluation and compile that data to be included in grant applications at a much lower rate than LiDAR scanning. She stated an inventory should be created to hold that data, and added she would be happy to help in such a process.

Commissioner McLean commented he agrees there should be an inventory established to provide a picture for State or Federal funding grants, and possibly in the future there could be a combination of both ocular and LiDAR work to evaluate and monitor the roadways.

Commissioner Plasse commented the evaluation could be performed with a simple excel spreadsheet used while performing the ocular evaluation.

Mr. Gedney reiterated he is not recommending all the items listed, but more specifically, the cost to drive the roadways and process the LiDAR data which would cost approximately \$2,560/lane mile as a general cost to receive that data. Mr. Gedney stated this would be good money spent to use in grant applications or, at least, to have this data to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for tree masticators to perform the vegetation management work. Commissioner Forster stated there are approximately 410 roadway miles in the county accumulating a large cost to perform the LiDAR work. Mr. Gedney stated he would not recommend performing this on all roadways, but rather prioritize roadways like the evacuation routes.

Vice Chairman Atlan stated he would prefer this work be funded through grants or partnering with the county not utilizing ACTC road funds.

Ms. Engel stated she could discuss coordinating work efforts with public works staff that she has previously worked with. Commissioner Forster stated he thinks this work could be done in partnership with the county but noted the discussion should start with Mr. Iley and public works department management. Commissioner Plasse agreed that communications should work from the top down and the road crew should be able to multitask or a new road crew should be established. Commissioner Forster commented that the road crew should be able to perform this additional task.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated he drives the upcountry roads often and encourages efforts to address the overgrown vegetation in that area.

Commissioner Plasse asked what is the funding source that would be used for LiDAR scanning. Mr. Gedney replied he does have a specific funding source recommended at this time, but ACTC does have discretionary funds available that are eligible for this type of work and if the board is interested in exploring this option, further information could be provided at another meeting. Vice Chairman Atlan asked if Amador County is available for FEMA funding due to the current fire, and noted if so, that funding could go towards this effort. Mr. Gedney replied he could gather more information and bring it back to the board.

Commissioners agreed they support the concept presented and asked to have further information and potential funding sources brought back for review.

Claims: Commissioner Forster asked what the Gaspers Electric bill in the amount of \$3,171.73 was for. Mr. Gedney replied this service was for the replacement and upgrade to LED lighting in the ACTC building.

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

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

ACTC Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Forster stated the changeable message sign projects seem to be more important than basic road rehabilitation projects.

Commissioner McLean stated he met with the airport commission and county supervisors regarding approval of rezoning some property on SR49/Jackson Gate Road where there is a proposal for commercial development property. Within that property, there are sections zoned as residential and they wanted to make that consistent with rest of the property.

ACTC Report: Mr. Gedney stated he had a meeting with the Caltrans District 10 Asset Integrator regarding projects and is looking forward to making a presentation to the board in the upcoming months.

Future Agenda Items:

- Enhanced GIS functions at ACTC

Adjournment:

At 10:20 a.m. the Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, October 7, 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.)