

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
December 2, 2021 –9:16 a.m.  
AMENDED REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETING**

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  
Susan Bragstad  
Patrick Crew (alternate for Richard Forster)  
Steve McLean  
John Plasse (conference call)

**Absent:**

None

**Also Present:**

John Gedney, Executive Director, ACTC  
Felicia Bridges, Administrative Secretary, ACTC  
Dennis Agar, Director, Caltrans District 10

**AGENDA:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Crew, seconded by Commissioner Bragstad and unanimously carried to approve the amended regular and special meeting agenda.

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA (Items 1-5):**

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

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

Under discussion, Chairman Oneto noted Mr. Agar is attending the meeting and extended his appreciation for his attendance.

**#5-Caltrans Correspondence Letter:** Chairman Oneto asked, in regard to the Project Updates- Carson Transportation Management System (TMS) (EA 10-1G020, AMA-88-38.2/71.6), what the installation of a vehicle detection system means. Mr. Agar responded the TMS is a system that ties the system together through a

network of transportation communication devices. These are tied to vehicle detection that monitors the amount of traffic through Caltrans routes and when there is a backup it triggers the transportation management center to provide 'real time' notifications of accidents or delays in the system.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**#14. Caltrans Report with Dennis Agar and Gregoria Ponce-Chief-Office of Rural Planning, Caltrans District 10:**

- Mr. Agar stated the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed last week and Caltrans looks forward to distributing those funds for California. He noted the funds will be awarded through a competitive process.
- Caltrans is assisting with the supply chain disruption by temporarily increasing the truck weight limits along the interstate highways and expediting permits.
- Regarding broadband efforts, Caltrans is focused on SR 88 but noted if there are areas/agencies in the County to help with providing middle mile connections to please forward that information.
- A call for Projects has been distributed under the Clean California Program and applications are due February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.
- The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has been holding various workshops for SB-1 competitive grant programs such as the Active Transportation Program and information for those can be found at the CTC website.
- Ms. Ponce stated Caltrans has released the 2021 Smart Mobility Framework Guide (SMF) and it is posted online. She stated the guide can be used as a starting point for those working to implement multimodal and sustainable transportation strategies in California.
- Caltrans has released a new interactive project reporting tool to support local agencies in managing Federal-aid projects and more information for this can be found at <http://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/projects/projects-with-expiring-end-dates>.
- Ms. Ponce stated there are two (2) funding opportunities available that include the CalSTA 2022 TIRCP Cycle 5 (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program) with a deadline for applications of no later than March 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Information can be found at <http://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/transit-intercity-rail-capital-prog>. The second opportunity is the Federal Transit Administration FY 2021 Enhancing Mobility Innovation Competitive Funding Opportunity with an application deadline of January 11, 2022. Information can be found at <http://www.transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/enhancing-mobility-innovation-fy-2021-notice-funding-opportunity>.

Vice Chairman Atlan asked who to contact regarding recreation location signs. Mr. Agar replied that would go through the Caltrans Traffic Operations Permit office. However, he recommended going directly through the Caltrans District 10 Deputy Director- Arvinder Bajwa and noted he will have Mr. Bajwa reach out directly.

Chairman Oneto stated he received reports of trucks having difficulty traveling through the new roundabout at Liberty Road and asked what the cause of this problem is. Mr. Agar replied the issue has been corrected but noted it was during the process of building up the pavement lift with the curb already installed, which left a lip, creating difficulty for trucks making the turns and even causing tire blow outs. He added once the final lift was completed that issue was eliminated and any claims received by Caltrans are being handled. Commissioner Bragstad asked when the project will be completed. Mr. Agar replied it should be complete (depending on weather) by spring 2022. Ms. Amarant stated upon approach of the roundabout she noticed there is no lighting, making it difficult to see, and asked if there are plans for lighting at that location. Mr. Agar stated he will review that concern and would follow-up.

Vice Chairman Atlan stated there is currently a study taking place regarding the Mule Creek State Prison entrance in lone with a completion date of Winter 2021, and asked if there is any further update that can be provided. Mr. Agar stated he will take that back for review to provide a more specific timeline.

Chairman Oneto stated regarding SR 49 in Drytown near the SR 16/49 intersection, there have been multiple accidents and asked if widening of that stretch of roadway can be reviewed. Commissioner Bragstad suggested lowering the speed limit along that roadway. Mr. Agar responded that a potential option involves legislation that will be effective in January, 2022 which allows cities/counties to look at lowering speed limits and provides opportunities to make those requests depending on the location. He asked to have the specific location and accident data from the California Highway Patrol provided to him for further review.

Chairman Oneto stated Caltrans District 3 responded to concerns that their staff was possibly utilizing Shenandoah Road for debris hauled from the Caldor Fire. He stated they were not opposed to rerouting, but there has been no further communication. Chairman Oneto stated there continues to be a heavy flow of truck traffic (approximately 100 trucks/day) on that road and asked if Mr. Agar could provide assistance with communications with District 3 staff. Mr. Agar replied he would reach out to his contact at District 3.

Chairman Oneto stated he made an inquiry regarding Greilich Road last month and received an email response that noted signage placement will be moved. He stated there is currently no sign there at all and asked to have that looked into. Chairman Oneto also noted on SR 49 in Drytown, Caltrans recently installed reflective markers but trucks are having difficulty utilizing the turnouts and asked if some of those can be removed. Ms. Ponce replied she will take those items back for review.

**#6. SR 16 Relinquishment-Jackson Township Specific Plan:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments.

Commissioner Bragstad stated she agrees with the statement made in Legal Counsel's letter-page 2, in regard to directing traffic onto Kiefer Boulevard instead of Jackson Road as a potential mitigation measure. Mr. Gedney stated that ACTC is currently in contact with Sacramento County and will report on progress.

**#7. State Treasurer's Office- Local Agency Investment Fund:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He stated his recommendation would be to move one (1) funding account, the Regional Traffic Mitigation Fund (RTMF), to the State Treasurer's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). He stated the RTMF account currently holds approximately \$4 million with \$2 million currently obligated to projects. Mr. Gedney continued that there are limitations on the funding transactions available throughout the year, but noted the RTMF account would fall within the activity that ACTC has for that account. He added the interest rate is nominally higher than what is currently being received.

Vice Chairman Atlan suggested to look into other options available such as a Certificate of Deposit (CD) rather than a LAIF. He suggested reaching out to the City of Lone and discussing what they have done in the past.

Commissioner Bragstad commented that Amador City looked into these options and LAIF was paying less and did not have insurance as a CD did. Mr. Gedney replied his primary objective is to ensure the funds are at the lowest risk possible.

Commissioners agreed to have staff perform further research on the options available for public entities and bring this item back.

**#11. Approve Monthly Claims list:** Mr. Gedney noted there is a revised claims list for approval with legal fees as the only addition.

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

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

**#12. ACTC Commissioner Reports:** None

**#15. Future Agenda Items:**

- FY 2022/23 ACTC budget
- FY 2020/21 Fiscal and Compliance Audits for ACTC/AT
- Truck traffic for debris haul from the Caldor Fire on Shenandoah Road- possible communications with Caltrans District 3, Cal-OES-CalRecycle.

**The Chairman recessed the ACTC meeting at 9:57 a.m. The Chairman resumed the meeting at 10:08 a.m.**

**UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING:** Chairman Oneto opened the public hearing at 10:08 a.m.

Ms. Karyn Gregorius introduced herself as the Executive Director of Arc of Amador and Chair of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). She provided a brief review of what the SSTAC does and noted there is great participation from the social services community within the county. Ms. Gregorius stated this year the elderly and disabled communities are still heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as stricter requirements (6-foot distancing) are in place causing operations to perform in a hybrid setting. She noted the ridership from the adult program is still there, however they are only able to utilize the transit services two (2) days a week instead of the previous five (5) days a week. Ms. Gregorius also noted that some riders who previously used charter services may have to use public transit in the future due to a lack of drivers in the charter industry. She then presented the FY 2022/23 Unmet Transit Needs Recommendation Chart. She stated all but one (1) recommendation have been moved to the long-term list. She explained this year's recommendation is only to Expand Dial-a-Ride (DAR) service throughout Amador County's rural areas, as needed. Ms. Gregorius stated this pertains specifically to the upcountry region where no DAR is available. Those clients do however qualify for a "fixed-route deviation", which requires the fixed route bus to deviate up to ¾ of a mile to pick up those qualified for DAR. This is now causing the upcountry routes to fall behind in time, making transit less reliable and desirable to commuters.

Chairman Oneto asked if the Arc of Amador's Annual Art Show will take place this year. Ms. Gregorius responded due to COVID-19 this event has been postponed until spring 2022. Chairman Oneto commented people need to socialize and that many children are struggling with the lack of social interaction. He stated hopefully we can return to a form of normalcy again soon.

Nina Machado, First 5 Amador/Amador Stars Board member, stated she is here to support Ms. Gregorius as well as provide a follow-up regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that the County has received. She noted they brought together a group of service organizations (including Arc of Amador) within the county months ago to look at needs the community has in regard to transportation and how to be creative with those funds in helping individuals access services especially during this unusual time we live in. Ms. Machado expressed appreciation to Chairman Oneto for his comment regarding socializing and that people are suffering from that lack of interaction. She noted that First 5 has created groups, specifically four (4) locations in outlying areas, to provide play groups that are more accessible for families. Ms. Machado also noted the Amador Stars program receives many calls for cancer/dialysis transport services as well as dental services

through the Medi-Cal program. She stated efforts will continue with the ARPA funds to try to assist with the various needs in the county.

Mr. Gedney stated staff will analyze the testimony provided today against the 'reasonable to meet' criteria and will provide recommendations to the board in February.

Chairman Oneto called for a motion to close the public hearing at 10:26 a.m.

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

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

**#8. ACTC CalPERS 'Classic' Unfunded Accrued Liability:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He stated ACTC currently pays approximately \$22,000/year in the annual budget toward the unfunded liability. Mr. Gedney stated Commissioner Crew recently asked to have a 3-year payoff scenario provided. He explained that plan would include an initial payment of \$150,000, \$84,000 for the 2 remaining years, and a total interest amount of approximately \$36,000. He noted the most aggressive plan would be to utilize the funds from the ACTC Administrative Savings Account to pay off the entire 'classic' unfunded accrued liability at one time. Mr. Gedney stated the Local Transportation Funds (LTF) can be used to pay down the unfunded liability and is available for 'streets and roads' purposes.

Chairman Oneto stated he would like the LTF funds to be proportionally divided among the cities and the county as done in the past for 'streets and roads' purposes. He added he is in favor of paying off the unfunded liability early to avoid additional interest from accruing.

Commissioner Crew stated the roadways in the county are deteriorating rapidly and funds should be used towards repairing them. However, he noted it may be more beneficial to pay the unfunded liability off within a few years to save on interest and then have those savings go towards road rehab.

Vice Chairman Atlan asked if the \$22,000/per year includes the interest. Mr. Gedney replied yes. Vice Chairman Atlan stated he would also like to see funding go towards roads but suggested if the board decides to pay more towards this then he suggests paying it off quickly to distribute more funding for roads in the near future.

Chairman Oneto noted his concern is if the rate of return drops.

Commissioner Plasse asked if ACTC is included in a pool of unfunded liability the same way Amador Transit (AT) is. Commissioner Plasse stated if ACTC pays off the unfunded liability within the pool, then it would be the pool's unfunded liability and not ACTC's actual employees unfunded liability. Mr. Gedney clarified it is associated with the specific employees in that classic program, which would include the retirees.

Commissioners agreed they would like to pay off the 'classic' unfunded liability under a 3-year payment plan, first by identifying the exact amount owed and then providing a budget resolution that includes where the funding will be allocated from.

Mr. Gedney commented there are similar scenarios available to handle AT's unfunded liability. Commissioner Crew suggested handling ACTC's unfunded liability first and see what happens with the economy in the next few

years before addressing AT's issue. Commissioners did ask Ms. Amarant, AT General Manager, to add this topic to AT future agenda items with possible payment scenarios for three (3) to five (5) years options.

**SPECIAL MEETING:** The Chairman opened the Special meeting at 10:52 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**Closed Session:** At 10:52 a.m. Chairman Oneto called for a Closed Session as noticed: Conference with Legal Counsel-Regarding initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of section 54956.9. At 11:48 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the special meeting of ACTC and reported direction was given to staff.

**#9. 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program- Adoption and submittal to the California Transportation Commission:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He stated staff is recommending not to accept PPM funds this cycle ACTC is authorized to program approximately \$30-40,000) and would rather add that to the accruing RIP shares. Commissioner Plasse asked if those funds are subject to 'use it or lose it' or are able to be reserved and held for use in future RTIP applications. Mr. Gedney replied that the funds are able to be held and used at a later date. He stated the amounts provided in the staff report do not add up to the full engineers estimate of \$8.7 million because Caltrans has asked not to include the \$1.25 million they will be contributing from the SHOPP as they provide their submittal to the CTC separately. Mr. Gedney noted a correction he will make to the Project Programming Request (PPR), under existing funding, he will move the \$4,140,000 from the R/W column to the Construction column.

Chairman Oneto asked what the status is of the Federal Earmark funding requested. Mr. Gedney replied Senator Feinstein's office lost the request due to staffing changes and ACTC staff has provided that the information and request again for \$3.5-5 million.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Bragstad, seconded by Commissioner Crew and unanimously carried to approve, by resolution, the Amador County 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to request the California Transportation Commission program funding for Construction Capital and support for the State Route 88/Pine Grove Improvements Project beginning in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

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

**#10. FY 2020/21 Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Annual Report:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments.

Commissioner Plasse stated the City of Jackson provided a waiver to the Jackson Rancheria Casino & Hotel for the development of an event center on French Bar Road, with the reason being they could not find an applicable category to place an event center in to calculate the dollar amount owed to the RTMF program. He asked if the RTMF Oversight Committee should look to correct that error as there are more event centers being developed and there should be a way to apply a fee to them. Mr. Gedney responded this could be a good topic of discussion for the RTMF committee meeting. Commissioners agreed there should be a formula in place.

Commissioners nominated Commissioner Plasse to serve as the representative to serve on the FY 2021/22 RTMF Oversight Committee.

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**Motion:** It was moved by Vice Chairman Atlan, seconded by Commissioner McLean and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Commissioner Plasse to serve as the ACTC representative on the FY 2021/22 RTMF Oversight Committee.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**#13. ACTC Report:** None

**#16. Adjournment:**

At 12:19 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 117 Valley View Way Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

  
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Dominic Atlan, Chairman  
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:

  
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Recording Secretary

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