

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
July 7, 2022 –9:53 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, Chairman  
Steve McLean, Vice Chairman  
Susan Bragstad  
Richard Forster  
Brian Oneto  
John Plasse

**Absent:**

None

**Also Present:**

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

**AGENDA:**

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

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

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

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

**#3. Draft 2022 Local Partnership Program Proposed Formulaic Funding Distribution:** Commissioner Plasse asked Mr. Gedney to provide further explanation of this item. Mr. Gedney stated this is an informational item only regarding a funding program which is part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and administered through the California Transportation Commission (CTC). He continued this program is only eligible to agencies that are taxing authorities. Mr. Gedney noted, a few years ago the ACTC hosted an ADHOC committee to discuss a sales tax measure, and this program is an incentive to encourage local agencies to enact voter-approved measures to help augment the gas tax revenues. He reviewed the list of agencies that have utilized this program to generate revenue. Chairman Atlan asked if this is applicable to cities as well as Counties. Mr. Gedney replied yes.

**#4. Caltrans Correspondence Letter:** Commissioner Forster commented, regarding *Page 5- Carson Transportation Management System (TMS) (EA 10-1G020, AMA-88-38.2/71.6)*, he still objects to this project. He stated this is a poor use of \$33.6 million through the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and noted a significant amount of the funding will most likely be spent on environmental approval. He added

funding like this would be better spent on the roads or other areas. Mr. Gedney added that the item above that, *Page 5- AMA-88 Pine Grove Improvements (EA 10-0G550, AMA- 88-21.6/24.6)* is referenced as a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project, however it does not clarify that it is funded through Amador County's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RIP) shares. He noted this is not a State funded project but rather a locally funded project. Mr. Gedney added there was recently an amendment in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that shows a reduction in cost to \$7.7 million for construction, with a total cost of \$10 million. He expressed his appreciation to Amador County for taking this project over and bringing down the overall cost.

Commissioner Oneto stated two (2) concerns, regarding *Page 2-Caldor Fire Emergency Contracts (EA 10-1N870 & 10-1N880: AMA-88 PM 62.5-ALP-88 PM 2.5)*, one was he received an email about a customer service request that was about traffic being held up and his concern about the tree mitigation work being performed by Kirkwood. He noted the work is taking quite some time and the equipment being used is not the appropriate equipment for the size of work to be completed. Commissioner Oneto asked if the contracts for this work are bid or 'time and materials'. He stated if they are a no-bid contract, then Caltrans is being taken advantage of and that is tax dollars being wasted.

Commissioner Oneto stated he saw large piles of what appears to be compost along SR 88, that are hot to the touch and could be a fire hazard. He stated it looks like Caltrans is using compost behind the concrete for the guardrails and asked why they are using that material because compost is expensive and will begin to grow vegetation even more, which is already a fire hazard.

Ms. Ponce replied she will reach out to the maintenance dept. to see how the Caldor Fire Emergency Contracts were bid, and how the work is being performed on SR 88 with regard to the application being used.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Oneto, seconded by Commissioner McLean, and unanimously carried to approve Consent Agenda as discussed.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**#6. Local Transportation Funds (LTF) FY 2022-23 Allocation Instructions:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Oneto, and unanimously carried to approve.

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

**#7. Status Update of Evacuation Route Vegetation Clearance:** Mr. Gedney stated at the June meeting there was a request from the public to provide an update regarding vegetation clearance along the primary evacuation routes. He introduced Ms. Cindy Engel, ACTC GIS Coordinator. Commissioner Forster asked if Mr. Christensen would be listening to this item, since he requested the update. Ms. Engel stated he is out of the country at this time. She did note she notified Mr. Christensen this item would be discussed at this meeting.

Ms. Engel reviewed her staff report. She stated Exhibit 1-Designated Evacuation Routes map was created in collaboration with the various agencies and have been made available to the community through the Amador County Fair, the local newspaper, and available to download using a QR code. She also noted the fire stations also use these as wall maps.

Commissioner Forster stated there have been many comments made on social media directed at the County for not having a GIS employee, and it is said the maps are not reaching the community well enough. He stated more efforts may need to be made with regard to getting the maps out to the public. Commissioner Oneto commented efforts have been made to make this information available but noted some people do not make the effort to look for it. Commissioner Bragstad suggested providing the maps at local post offices as senior citizens do not use the interactive maps and would prefer a hard copy version. Ms. Engel agreed with Commissioner Oneto that local agencies are making the information available to educate the public ahead of time to incorporate that information in their lives, however, many individuals do not prepare and look for that info as the event is happening. Ms. Engel commented there has some disconnect with incorporating the GIS work. She continued there are three (3) employees that have GIS skills but that is not their primary job function which has created a gap. She noted ACTC tries to assist as requested. Commissioner Forster stated that may be where some criticism is warranted, because that GIS position has yet to be put back into place, and it may be time the County review that position.

Commissioner Plasse extended his appreciation to Ms. Engel for providing information about where problems may be. Commissioner Oneto commented the maps should be made available but people should make themselves familiar with the various routes.

Commissioner Bragstad asked what a "Firewise Community" means. Ms. Engel responded it is a designation that is organized at a national level, where a community can apply to become a Firewise Community by developing an action plan and organize among themselves to make their community resilient. There are Firewise communities as small as 8 parcels and as big as 1,309 parcels (Camanche village) within our County. Given this designation, it assists communities to be more competitive in grant funding or gaining better insurance rates or preventing loss of insurance entirely.

Commissioner Forster suggested with regard to Page 2, 71 miles of Federal roads (Tribal and US Forest Service) should be separated.

Commissioner Plasse asked about the comment regarding the Fire Safe Council focusing primary on private roads. Commissioner Plasse noted many private roads are under Homeowner Associations and should be able to perform their own road maintenance and instead are having public dollars being utilized on private roads. Ms. Engel replied she cannot speak for the Fire Safe Council, but noted the number of private roads that are under a HOA is less than 50%. She stated the Fire Safe Council's goals, after listening to their presentation at the BOS meeting last week, are to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire with fuel breaks and ensure communities are prepared for wildfire risk by providing public information, home hardening tips, and encouraging Firewise community.

Commissioners extended their appreciation to the Fire Safe Council for all the work they do. Commissioner Forster stated the latest Grand Jury Report was critical of the County for not having a designated person in charge of all activities related to fire and rather yielding that to non-profit agencies like the Amador County Fire Safe Council. Commissioner Oneto stated the grand jury report missed it because if you look at what the fire safe council has done you couldn't hire better people to do the job.

Commissioners extended their appreciation to Ms. Engel for all her work over the years and noted that work has helped the County and the people of the County.

Mr. Gedney thanked the board for recognizing Ms. Engel's efforts to the community.

Chairman Atlan asked Ms. Engel to provide the maps to all city managers/clerks to post the information were applicable.

**#8. Claims:** Mr. Gedney noted there is a revised claims list for approval.

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

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

**#9. ACTC Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Oneto stated regarding the Electra Fire, Cal-FIRE got on top of it quickly and early. Commissioner Forster added Chief Blankenheim indicated we were fortunate not to have any competition for resources because we got everything asked for to fight this fire.

Commissioner McLean stated he has recovered from walking pneumonia and is feeling much better.

Chairman Atlan stated the Foothill Blvd. extension has been signed off by Caltrans. All the striping is complete and the road is fully active.

**#10. ACTC Reports:** Mr. Gedney stated the on-call consultant-GHD was able to assist ACTC to complete and submit the application to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) cycle 6 for the City of Jackson's Creek Walk proposal. He stated there were 414 applications received into the program this year throughout the state competing for \$500 million. Mr. Gedney noted this application serves as a template for agencies looking to apply in the next cycle.

**#11. Caltrans Report with Gregoria Ponce:**

- The California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP) is inviting partners to share ideas for bus lanes, transit priority signals, and more to help riders get to where they are going.
- Cycle 11 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Call for Projects is underway. Projects can include pedestrian safety, guardrails, or traffic signal improvements. Applications must be submitted electronically by September 12, 2022.
- One June 14<sup>th</sup> the Federal Highway Administration has a Call for Applications for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This grant program provides approximately \$2.4 billion for fiscal year 2022 grant awards. It is separate from, and supplemental to, the \$5.3 billion in bridge formula funding distributed to states earlier this year.
- Caltrans has released a Call for Letters of Support for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) competitive Bridge Investment Program.
- Caltrans has released a Call for Letters of Support for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. Eligible applicants include MPO's, political subdivision of a State Territory, federally recognized Tribal governments, etc. Letters of Support requests are due by July 22, 2022.
- The Federal Highway Administration seeks applications for Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Safety Fund (TTPSF) to Address Safety Issues and the application deadline is September 15, 2022.

- The Active Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) has a webinar training opportunity to provide an Update on California’s Crossing Guard- Training Program, guidelines, and resources. The webinar will take place on Thursday July 14, 2022 from 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
- Caltrans is happy to be moving forward with the successful collaboration with ACTC on the Overall Work Program. \*Reminder – Quarter 4: quarterly progress reports, request for reimbursement, certificate of expenditure and close-out are due respectively July 30<sup>th</sup> and close-out August 2022.

Chairman Atlan asked if park and ride grants are still available. He also asked when the repaving of Main Street in Ione will take place since he recently heard Caltrans found the project is bigger than initially thought and it will need to be reviewed. Ms. Ponce stated she will reach out to the maintenance team and provide that information in the next few days.

Commissioner Oneto asked to be updated on the items discussed in the Consent Agenda.

**#12. Future Agenda Items: None**

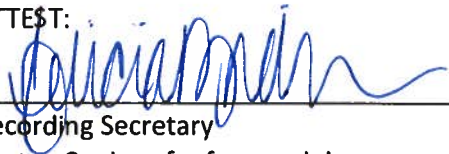
**#13. Adjournment:**

At 10:59 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the regular meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 4, 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.)