

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
September 1, 2022 –9:14 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  
Patrick Crew (alternate for 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 (conference call line)

**AGENDA:**

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

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

**PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Commissioner Oneto stated a resident outside of Plymouth asked if there are currently any Safe Routes to School projects. He asked if that kind of project would be performed through ACTC or the County. Mr. Gedney replied ACTC could definitely assist with the application process.

Vice Chairman McLean stated he has been approached several times by the owner of the Linda Vista Hotel and the Holiday Inn in Jackson regarding weekend bus shuttle services to the wine country. Ms. Amarant responded there is a fine line on charter services. Commissioner Plasse noted it could be brought forward for discussion though.

**CONSENT AGENDA (Items #1-3):**

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

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

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**#4. Clean California- Plymouth Project:** Mr. Gedney introduced Plymouth City Council member Doug Sim who provided an update. Mr. Sim stated Caltrans had agreed to build a gateway trail from Zinfandel Parkway to the SR 49 Roundabout. He stated in previous attempts to reach out to Caltrans there was no success, until it was brought up at the last ACTC meeting. Since then, Caltrans has provided a concept drawing of the pathway and some options for beautification at the roundabout. Mr. Sim mentioned that the project was allocated approximately \$1 million and is required to be completed by November 2023. He offered to provide another update after their next meeting with Caltrans staff.

Commissioner Oneto stated the walk path should be pushed back farther from the highway for safety. Mr. Sim explained the proposed layout of the walking path and noted the Caltrans right-of-way is limited. He added that the speed limit through that stretch of highway is 40 mph and that individuals currently walk that stretch now and any modification would be an improvement.

Commissioner Plasse asked what the method will be for the crosswalk on SR 49. Mr. Sim replied he believes there will be a flashing light crosswalk system, but noted the details of that have not been addressed yet.

Commissioner Bragstad asked why the walk path cannot be entirely on one side. Mr. Sim replied they are avoiding the drainage ditch. That work would be costly and does not fit the Clean California beautification project specifications.

Commissioner Plasse asked how this project was initiated. Mr. Gedney stated this project was initiated through public outreach in Plymouth and then evolved with the help of Mr. Sam Sherman, Caltrans-District 10 Clean California Coordinator. Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and noted the items in the attachment are what will be implemented. He stated that Mr. Sherman is willing to provide more details to the board regarding this project at a future meeting.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated he is glad to see Caltrans performing outreach like this to start working with the communities to see what kinds of facilities the communities are interested in. As a pedestrian and bicyclist, he thinks the more width of the path adjacent to the highway the safer the individuals using that path will feel.

**#5. ACUSD School Site Consolidation Plan- Potential Traffic impacts:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He reached out to ACUSD staff - Mr. Sean Snider, Assistant Superintendent of Education and Mr. Critchfield, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services - regarding the plans for the consolidation. They provided some information (attachments to the staff report) and noted the plan for consolidation is a few years out. They stated ACUSD does plan to hire a consultant to perform a traffic study. Mr. Gedney noted that a main area of concern is the Argonaut Lane/SR 88 intersection, and their initial reaction to this concern was a suggestion to possibly install a dedicated turn pocket. Mr. Gedney

commented as for the financing, there are no dedicated funds for traffic mitigation detailed in the bond. He stated Mr. Critchfield did mention there is some flexibility in the bond language that could be used to justify expenditures of bond proceeds towards traffic mitigation. However, Mr. Critchfield stated that he would rather use developer fees which total \$4 million instead of bond proceeds for off-site traffic mitigation. On-site improvements and parking lot reconfigurations however, are in the plan and would be funded through the bond proceeds. As far as any other impacts, they suggested that the movement of junior high school students and the closure of Lone Elementary entirely would have a beneficial impact in general to the County. Mr. Gedney stated he did not write the letter to the ACUSD yet, but did have a good introductory conversation with ACUSD staff and based on the information provided today would like direction for next steps.

Commissioner Oneto stated while intersection improvements at Argonaut Lane/SR 88 or the Sutter Street Extension may alleviate some traffic concerns, a location that may better accommodate the overall traffic surrounding Argonaut High School would be the Wicklow Way Extension. He noted at this time he is not prepared to support the school consolidation.

Commissioner Plasse asked if the plan provided by the school district is subject to the same kind of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements as any other development project. Chairman Atlan commented the State (education board) can exempt itself from the EIR. He highlighted the SR 88/104 intersection (already the worst intersection in the county) and that adding approximately 600 more cars/40 buses to that highway system to get children to school from Lone is a major concern. Chairman Atlan continued that in addition to the doubling in traffic to Martell with no mitigation, they are removing walkability for the local children in each town to get to and from school by requiring them now to travel farther to get to school. He stated these future traffic issues that the school is creating will fall on ACTC in future years.

Commissioner Plasse suggested notifying the local newspaper of the traffic impacts that will occur if the school consolidation bond is approved in the election in the coming months - in this way the public has the information when they vote.

Chairman Atlan suggested writing the letter to ACUSD and the local newspaper expressing concern over the plan. Mr. Gedney stated he has initiated the conversation with the ACUSD staff and can take the points made today by this board back to them via email prior to moving forward with the letter. Commissioner Plasse suggested when responding back to ACUSD to also include the Wicklow Way Extension as a possible solution to the issue for the consolidation at Argonaut High School. Chairman Atlan added they should be notified they will have to deal with Caltrans regarding the traffic concerns on the State highway system.

Commissioner McLean noted he will take this item back to the city council as an agenda item as well.

Commissioners continued discussion regarding drafting a letter to the ACUSD regarding the traffic impacts that will come from this consolidation, especially with regard to opening day of the new school site if no changes are made in advance.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated this is a great example of how one agency's decisions can impact other agencies. He agreed with commissioners with regard to being proactive by writing these letters to educate the public and protect ACTC and other agencies from the costs that will be incurred by the ACUSD. He stated as a member of the public he fully supports the decision to send emails/letters to educate the public of the traffic impacts that will occur because of this project as well as expressing the negligence of the ACUSD in not providing funding to deal with it.

**#8. Claims:** Commissioner Oneto asked what the KAS Landscaping is. Mr. Gedney stated there was extensive work performed to the landscaping.

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

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

**#9. ACTC Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Bragstad suggested, regarding SR 49 in Plymouth, that a sidewalk should be installed from Zinfandel Parkway up to Empire Street only, with no walking path on the other side. Then, underground utilities could be installed and the area beautified with landscaping. She noted crossing SR 49 does not make sense.

Commissioner Oneto stated, regarding the truck traffic on Shenandoah Road, the trucks do work for CalRecycle and he has gotten no where with staff at that agency. Chairman Atlan suggested adding this item to Future Agenda Items due to continued damage to the roadways without reimbursement. Mr. Gedney stated he will work with Commissioner Oneto regarding how to present this item.

**#10. ACTC Reports:** None

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

- The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has allocated more than \$2.2 billion for transportation infrastructure as part of the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to repair and improve transportation infrastructure throughout the state.
- Caltrans has launched an Ambassador Program to allow for more comprehensive discussions regarding transportation-related projects in the region. The Ambassador for Amador County is Caroline Reyes.
- A 'Call for Projects' for grant funding has been issued through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program. The closing date for this is January 27, 2023. Details can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) or <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2022-nofo>.
- Caltrans has initiated a QuickMAP mobile app feature, which is a push notification, to help travelers be alerted to emergencies and road closures or conditions. Visit <https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> for more details on how to download the Quickmap feature.
- Caltrans has processed and approved the ACTC's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter OWP invoices and certification of expenditures and will send out reconciliation letters once that is finalized with headquarters.

Commissioner Plasse asked how the new Ambassador differentiates from the Caltrans Liaison, and who is the point of contact now. Ms. Ponce replied as part of the Ambassador program, Carolyn Reyes is the point of contact. However, the board may contact Ms. Ponce. She noted her position is oversight of the Overall Work Program, local development review, and travel coordination.

Commissioner Oneto stated it is more beneficial to have one point of contact, and asked if the communication is now split between the ambassador and the liaison. Ms. Ponce responded yes.

Commissioner Plasse asked to have Ms. Reyes' contact information forwarded to the board.

Chairman Atlan asked if there was any additional information regarding Main St. in Lone since the last update given noted work to be performed in October. He highlighted an event taking place in Lone on October 1<sup>st</sup> and hopes this Caltrans project does not interfere with that event. Ms. Ponce stated work is underway and they are working to get utilities relocated. She noted she will let the maintenance team know about the event in Lone and have them reach out to the City of Lone with more information.

Commissioner Oneto stated, regarding the roundabout in Plymouth, there used to be speed advisory signage upon entry and it's no longer there. He also asked for an update regarding tree work being performed along SR 88 near Kirkwood because that work has taken a long time. Ms. Ponce replied with regard to the signage in Plymouth, she will let the maintenance team know. She stated regarding the tree removal work being performed, she noted she sent some information forward but noted Caltrans is going through some transition with the maintenance team, but will look into that item farther.

Commissioner Oneto stated businesses on SR 88 in Pine Grove appear to be displeased with work performed for fire clearance along the roadway due to the traffic delay times. He asked if there is a way to perform that work quicker or add more workers to complete the work faster.

**#12. Future Agenda Items:**


- CalRecycle- Shenandoah Road truck traffic
- ACUSD School Consolidation Plan-Traffic Impacts

**#13. Adjournment:**

At 10:43 a.m. the Chairman adjourned the regular meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, October 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.)