

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 1, 2022 – 9:04 a.m.**

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met on the above date, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Pledge of Allegiance

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
Arvinder Bajwa, Deputy Director of Traffic Operations, Caltrans District 10

AGENDA: Chairman Atlan stated he would like to move Regular Item #11. Caltrans Report up to accommodate the time of the Caltrans representative prior to the Annual Unmet Transit Needs Hearing that will take place at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Bragstad and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the modifications to the order to accommodate Item #11 (Caltrans Report) and the Annual Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing.

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

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Mr. Gedney explained the City of Ione will rotate off the ACTC board following this December meeting and the City of Sutter Creek is on the schedule to fill that appointment. He extended appreciation on behalf of ACTC staff to Chairman Atlan for his service over the last six (6) years as a board member and Chairman for the 2022 calendar year. He highlighted Chairman Atlan's accomplishments that included: focused attention of the ACTC/AT budgets, resolution of PERS unfunded liability for ACTC and AT, continued efforts to protect interregional travel along SR 16, and most notably, assisting the resolution of the distribution formula for discretionary funding.

Chairman Atlan extended his appreciation for the kind words.

REGULAR AGENDA:

#11. Caltrans Report with Arvinder Bajwa:

- Regarding the request made for a High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) system at the crosswalk on SR 49 at Mel & Faye’s Diner in Jackson, an investigation was conducted and Caltrans staff has determined to proceed with the HAWK system at that location. He stated they will also add additional signage adjacent to that area. Mr. Gedney asked if Caltrans has a date of completion. Mr. Bajwa replied they could potentially start the Project Initiation District (PID) in spring 2023, PA&ED in 2024, and possibly completed in 2026.
- A customer service request was received with regard to the intersection of SR 49/Middle Bar Road, Caltrans staff will install signage and perform vegetation clearing.
- On SR 49 in Drytown, per Commission Oneto’s request, an investigation was completed and Caltrans will update and install curve and warning signage, which should be installed March 2023. Commissioner Oneto stated if there is availability to widen that stretch of roadway along with signage that may help.
- In lone at SR 88/SR 104, signage and flashing beacons have been installed and now Caltrans will install radar speed signs. The signs should be installed by next summer.

Commissioner Plasse asked if Caltrans has ever studied the effectiveness of additional signage on the roadways. He noted that the mitigation measures to be implemented seem to be primarily additional signage and asked at what point does the signage become ineffective. Mr. Bajwa replied Caltrans does monitor the traffic data and does challenge his team to look at what more can be done besides signage.

Commissioner Oneto stated the Caldor Fire tree removal work that was completed near Kirkwood was performed very inefficiently and noted he had previously asked Ms. Ponce about the details of the contract and would still like that information. Mr. Bajwa stated he would follow-up with regard to this item.

Mr. Bajwa stated an investigation was completed for a potential left turn pocket at the intersection of SR 88/Amador Station, however it did not meet warrants at this time. Commissioner Plasse expressed concern for that area due to a large housing subdivision that makes ingress and egress very dangerous there. Mr. Gedney stated communication previously took place with Sinaren Pheng regarding the potential to incorporate this project as part of a pavement project in the 2026 SHOPP. Commissioner Oneto commented a potential short-term fix may be vegetation clearance to improve the site distance at the intersection. Mr. Bajwa stated that would be a great opportunity and noted he would check with the Asset Management team.

Chairman Atlan stated he received notice from Ms. Ponce that the work to be performed on Main St. in lone was postponed until December 12th due to a local Christmas event and asked if the streetlight was installed at the intersection on SR 104/Mule Creek State Prison entrance. Chairman Atlan also requested the intersection in lone at SR 104/124/Shakeley Lane be reviewed again due to high volumes of traffic backing up primarily during shift change of the prison employees. He asked if a 4-way stop could be looked into for that intersection. Mr. Bajwa replied they could look further into it but he believes Caltrans is looking for partnership in funding for this item.

CONSENT AGENDA (Items #1-3):

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Oneto, seconded by Commissioner Crew, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

#8. Claims:

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

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

#9. ACTC Commissioner Reports: None

#10. ACTC Reports: Mr. Gedney stated he recently attended a conference with regard to zero emission buses. He noted the topic of discussion surrounded recent challenges being faced by agencies with the transition to zero emission buses. Discussion also centered on pros and cons of the two (2) competing technologies - battery electric and hydrogen fuel – with a clear consensus emerging that hydrogen fuel cell applications may be the most effective for the needs of the Amador region. Mr. Gedney stated he would like to bring back further information to the board at a later date to evaluate the future of how public agencies would convert their fleets. Commissioner Oneto noted his apprehension regarding converting to alternative fuels due to the issues currently taking place with battery electric vehicles.

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Atlan opened the public hearing at 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Gedney provided testimony on behalf of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC). and reviewed the SSTAC FY 2023/24 Transit Recommendation Chart submitted as input to the board.

Commissioner Bragstad asked if there have been any requests from Amador City residents. Ms. Amarant replied no.

Commissioner Plasse asked what project options were available for the Low Carbon Transit Operator Program (LCTOP) funding. Ms. Amarant responded that potential funding options include: vouchers, reduced fares/fare revenue, alternative transportation services like Dial-A-Ride (DAR), purchasing or construction to support zero-emission or low emission vehicles, the purchase of replacement vehicles in support of new expanded and enhanced transit, or the purchase of expansion zero emission vehicles.

Bonnie Gail, Transition Teacher-Amador County Office of Education, provided testimony on behalf of her students who participate in a transportation training program for adults from 18-22 years of age. She stated the school site is currently located at the Shenandoah Valley School in Plymouth due to the consolidation plan of the Amador County Unified School District and new construction taking place at Argonaut High School, which has forced them to relocate. Ms. Gail continued that she is requesting, on behalf of the students, a more equitable ability to provide DAR transportation services from Shenandoah Valley School to the students' various work places in the Jackson/Sutter Creek region to continue to learn to use the public transportation system as training to become more independent. She provided the individual request forms to the Administrative Secretary.

Andrea Kruse, employee of Argonaut High School, stated she is providing testimony on behalf of her senior students that will soon be transitioning to Ms. Gail's class as well as on behalf of her son who would also be needing transportation services to the Shenandoah Valley School and work places.

Commissioners agreed research should be conducted with regard to expanding the DAR services in the lone, Camanche, and Plymouth areas.

Ms. Amarant stated it would be more cost-effective to provide an on-call DAR service in some of these regions rather than an additional fixed route.

Commissioner Crew asked if any of the buses or vans that would be auctioned off could be gifted to their public agency to help run their own transportation training. Ms. Amarant replied there are no vans available to go for auction and noted the only vehicles going to auction are the larger buses. She did note that with board approval they could give one to another public agency when one becomes available.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Bragstad, seconded by Commissioner Crew, and unanimously carried to approve moving forward with item one (1) on the Short-Term Identified Transit Need Recommendation Chart to research the feasibility of expanding the Dial-A-Ride services in the lone, Camanche, and Plymouth (Shenandoah) areas and feasibility of whether the DAR service or a gifted bus to the school is the best option.

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

The public hearing closed at 10:39 a.m.

The Chairman recessed the ACTC meeting at 10:40 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. He then recessed the ACTC meeting at 10:50 a.m. to move into the Amador Transit meeting. At 11:10 a.m. the Chairman resumed the ACTC meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA:

#4. Amador County Unified School District Consolidation Plan-Traffic Impacts: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report. He stated the impacts of this consolidation plan has now spread wider into the community as ACTC is now receiving requests for DAR services for a program funded through the school district. From previous testimony at the Unmet Needs Hearing, this request arises from new construction taking place at Argonaut High School that has forced programs to move to more rural areas of the community.

Chairman Atlan asked, regarding the expenditures noted in the attached newspaper article, if developer impact fees can be spent in the various areas as noted in the article. He noted efforts should continue to ensure that any traffic impacts caused by this consolidation are addressed by the school district.

Mona Ebrahimi, ACTC Legal Counsel, stated ACTC is waiting for the school district to take a discretionary action that would trigger the need to comply with CEQA. At that point, an environmental analysis would be required; and, at that time, ACTC could review traffic impacts and provide comments. She noted that the last letter sent to the school district requested that ACTC be notified of any movement on the project.

Chairman Atlan noted that the bond did not pass and asked where would the District get the funding for this project and how would it be paid back. Ms. Ebrahimi replied at the October meeting District staff stated whether the bond passed or not they had collected sufficient funding to move forward with the project. Chairman Atlan noted the funding they have is from developer fees. Ms. Ebrahimi responded that the question identified relates to developer impact fees that are collected pursuant to Senate Bill 50, which caps the amount the developer will pay and identifies any payments, improvements, or fees a developer would have to pay the school district pursuant to any developer agreements. She continued that assuming they are collecting it for those purposes,

according to the Mitigation Fee Act, they need to expend those funds to offset the actual impacts that were generated by the development and not for something else. Ms. Ebrahimi stated the recourse to developers is that if those fees are being expended for something that has nothing to do with their project, then they can challenge the school district.

Mr. Gedney stated this is informational only at this time and will follow-up at a future meeting.

#5. FY 2021/22 Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Annual Report: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He stated in the report it does show no funding received from the City of Jackson however, after finalizing this agenda a check was received from Jackson and the final report will be amended to show the approximate \$34,000 received from Jackson. Mr. Gedney stated regarding a question brought up at the last ACTC meeting pertaining to the \$246,000 expenditure to the City of Jackson for the Sutter Street Extension project, that expenditure of funding was allocated from obligations shown in Attachment B-Obligations.

Chairman Atlan stated the mitigation fees should be reviewed as they are seven (7) years old. Mr. Gedney replied he would amend that item and the Sutter Street Extension project for the next RTMF committee meeting, which will be convened in the spring.

Ms. Bridges noted the board needs to elect an ACTC representative to serve on the RTMF committee for the next term.

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Atlan, seconded by Commissioner Oneto, and unanimously carried to elect Commissioner Plasse to serve as the ACTC representative on the FY 22/23 RTMF Oversight Committee.

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

#6. Streetlight Transportation Data Collection: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He noted in the past ACTC used the traffic model to estimate future projections for traffic data, but this new method utilizing cell phone 'ping' data seems much more efficient and cost-effective to develop the data needed.

Commissioner Plasse stated his concern with the streetlight data in the Texas A&M study shows the smaller the community, the higher the error rate with a bias to an overestimation. He continued that all of the data feeds into the regional traffic mitigation fee study that projects an average household makes 10 vehicle trips per day leading to such large fees. He noted the fee schedule needs to be reassessed since that was implemented on data equally as flawed as this.

Commissioners continued discussion regarding traffic counts in the County.

Mr. Gedney stated this is a technique to get the conversation started. He also highlighted as discussed in the previous meeting regarding the RTP, the board expressed their interest to focus priority towards the County's local roadways on the Tier 1 Table, and no longer be lead agency on State highway projects. He stated we would have to get traffic count info from somewhere whether it be Streetlight data or hose counts and noted to run the travel demand model to estimate future traffic we would still need to gather the traffic count data to input in the model.

Ms. Ebrahimi commented there was recent housing legislature passed that is now effective and impacts the County potentially due to certain housing projects. She stated if there is a proposed transit stop identified in an RTP, then they do not have to provide parking. She continued when thinking about planning for new transit stops just know that may mean no parking for housing projects in those housing communities.

Mr. Gedney recommended that the item be tabled and offered to bring back additional information at a future meeting.

Gary Reinoehl, Amador County resident, stated this Streetlight data is a very interesting way to approach traffic counts and having this information that is reliable would be useful for the RTP update.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Crew, and unanimously carried to table this item.

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

#7. ACTC Regional Transportation Plan-2024 Update: Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He stated his recommendation would be to only have local roadway projects on the Tier-1 (funded) Table and move State Highway projects to the Tier-2 (unfunded) Table. He stated when there is a project on the State highway system to be programmed through the State Highway Operations Protection Program, Caltrans could then ask ACTC for 'fair share' contribution to help fund it. He continued that the ACTC goal, going back to the fee program, would be to identify through the Nexus Study how many new trips from development are impacting a particular location, and that percentage of the new trips over existing trips would represent the ACTC 'fair-share' contribution.

Commissioner Plasse noted when trying to accommodate this 'fair share' contribution, Caltrans would have to be proactive when coming forward asking for that funding.

Ms. Ebrahimi stated they have previously entered into cooperative agreements with Caltrans. However, the issue here is determining the project in advance to identify whose responsibilities. She noted this may be a case-by-case basis, but could be implemented effectively.

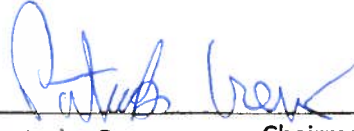
Mr. Gedney stated he will take this information to the local jurisdictions and discuss the projects on the list, and the potential direction ACTC is looking to go.

#12. Future Agenda Items: Chairman Atlan suggested reviewing the option to add a seat to the ACTC board so majority of the cities would hold a seat at all times.

- ACUSD School Consolidation Plan-Traffic Impacts
- Nexus Study-RTMF

Closed Session: At 12:14 p.m. Chairman Atlan called for a Closed Session as noticed: Items (a) and (b) Conference with Legal Counsel-Regarding initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of section 54956.9. At 12:50 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the closed session of ACTC and reported Item (a) information was received and Item (b) information was received and direction was given.

#13. Adjournment: At 12:51 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the regular meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 117 Valley View Way Sutter Creek, CA 95685.



Patrick Crew, Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

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