

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (ACTC) MINUTES**  
**October 5, 2023 – 9:37 a.m.**  
**ACTC Board Room-117 Valley View Way Sutter Creek, CA 95685**

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

**Present on Roll Call:**

Patrick Crew- Board of Supervisors, Chairman  
Steve McLean- City of Jackson, Vice Chairman  
Susan Bragstad- City of Amador City  
Richard Forster- Board of Supervisors  
John Plasse- Citizen at Large  
Dan Riordan- City of Sutter Creek

**Absent:**

None

**Also Present:**

John Gedney, Executive Director, ACTC  
Felicia Bridges, Administrative Analyst, ACTC  
Patricia Maggie Amarant, AT General Manager

**AGENDA:**

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

Ayes: Crew, McLean, Bragstad, Forster, Plasse, Riordan  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

**PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Steve Christensen, Amador County resident, stated he came to the meeting because he tried to access the meeting through Zoom Conferencing but was unable to. He noted he came to ACTC after the last meeting and explained the issue he had. He asked to have the problem addressed before the next meeting, but unfortunately that did not occur. Commissioners noted other individuals are currently accessing the Zoom Conferencing option.

Mr. Christensen also requested an update on projects including the SR 88/Pine Grove Improvement project and a project on Ridge Road that Senator Marie Alverado-Gil was able to get funding allocated for. He asked as they repave Ridge Road, if they would be able to perform fire mitigation work to provide approximately 10 feet of vegetation clearance as Ridge Road is an evacuation route. He also asked the status of the Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD) site consolidation plan.

Mr. Gedney apologized for the inconvenience and noted the issue will be resolved. Ms. Bridges stated this problem was brought to her last month by Mr. Christensen and the issue was due to an update of a PDF link needed on the website in order to provide access to the Zoom Conferencing website. This work was completed and the link now works. Mr. Christensen noted his attempt was from the “agenda packet” tab on the website.

Ms. Bridges clarified the link that provides access directly to Zoom is on the agenda located on the home page of the ACTC website, and noted she will update the directions presented on the agenda.

Mr. Gedney stated regarding the ACUSD site consolidation issue, he recently had a conversation with Mr. Critchfield who said that they are still working on the environmental document and traffic study and expect it to be completed in November. At that time, ACTC and other interested parties can work with ACUSD to help identify appropriate mitigation measures. Vice-Chairman McLean commented the timeline required to implement appropriate mitigation may not match up with the ACUSD's anticipated date of completion of site consolidation (August 2025).

Commissioner Forster stated Senator Alverado-Gil was able to gain \$2.3 million for road rehabilitation work on Ridge Road and that project should start during the next construction season. He stated he does not believe any fire mitigation work along the roadway is included in the budget and noted that kind of work would have to be coordinated with the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp. Mr. Christensen encouraged the board to have that work included in the budget to ensure a safe evacuation route for the citizens of Amador County.

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

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

Ayes: Crew, McLean, Bragstad, Forster, Plasse, Riordan  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**#4. FY 2024/25 Transportation Development Act Unmet Transit Needs Allocation Process:** Mr. Gedney reviewed the staff report. He reviewed last year's process that led to the expansion of Amador Transit's Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service into the lone and Plymouth regions.

Commissioner Forster asked if the last two (2) bullet points in the staff report cover the new expansion of DAR. Mr. Gedney replied it does apply broadly to include the DAR expanded services.

Commissioner Plasse provided a brief background of the Unmet Transit Needs process and the excess Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to new ACTC/AT board member Dan Riordan-Sutter Creek representative.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Plasse, and unanimously carried to approve the FY 2024/25 'Unmet Transit Need' and 'Reasonable to Meet' definitions, and schedule the Unmet Transit Need Public Hearing to be held during the December 7, 2023 ACTC meeting.

Ayes: Crew, McLean, Bragstad, Forster, Plasse, Riordan  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

**#5. Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program/ Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program Funding Opportunity:** Mr. Gedney reviewed the staff report. He stated a feasibility study itself could be included as part of the project.

Commissioner Forster stated he would like background research performed on hydrogen fuel technology and whether the conclusion leads to that alternative fuel as the future of fuel in our rural communities. Commissioner Plasse agreed and added the study should include data on the performance of hydrogen buses in mountainous terrain.

Commissioner Riordan asked if electric vehicles/infrastructure could also be included in the grant project. Mr. Gedney replied yes, both could be included in this project proposal.

Commissioner Bragstad noted an electric bus for the Sacramento route rather than a hydrogen fuel cell bus may be a better option. Ms. Amarant stated the difficulty with battery electric is the high costs for infrastructure installation and replacement batteries. The process to dispose of the batteries is also still very uncertain.

Commissioner Plasse noted it may be beneficial to work with other counties on a feasibility study of alternative fuels. Mr. Gedney agreed more research does need to be completed before we can choose one or the other method of alternative fuels.

Chairman Crew noted in the event we did apply for the purchase of hydrogen fuel cell buses, the industry is not prepared to deliver these buses in a timely manner.

Commissioners agreed that further in-house research needs to be performed specifically on the performance and the viability, before moving forward with a project proposal.

**#6. 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)- Process Update:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He stated we are still on target for a March 2024 RTP adoption date or possibly sooner. He then reviewed Attachment A and noted a “tracked changes” version and an “accepted version” were both included for review.

Commissioner Bragstad stated, regarding Attachment A-page 93 the paragraphs discussing ACTC’s recommendations on new development, and the mitigation of them, should not be removed from the document. Commissioner Plasse stated as Level of Service (LOS) is no longer used as part of the California Environmental Quality Act analysis, it is not a requirement to include that information in the document. Mr. Gedney replied the discussion related to LOS could remain in the document. However, as discussed in the previous workshops for this RTP update, the goal for this update is to downsize the focus more specifically on roadway improvements. Further, ACTC does not have the authority to tell the cities/county how to mitigate their potential traffic impacts from development. ACTC can only provide recommendations and funding as requested. Commissioner Plasse noted many of the comments made in the previous RTP Policy Element pertaining to development were only recommendations, not requirements (“should”, not “shall”).

Commissioner Riordan stated part of him is pleased to see such a large document downsized to a simpler version, but he has not had the time to review the items being removed. He noted this process is very unusual. Commissioner Forster agreed it is abnormal to minimize the bureaucracy in governmental agencies. However, this agency recognizes the limitations we have on putting enforcement actions on other municipalities.

Chairman Crew provided a brief review to Commissioner Riordan regarding the new direction of the 2024 RTP update as approved by this board and the process implemented to date. He emphasized the overarching goal is primarily focused on the rehabilitation and maintenance of local roadways in Amador County. Mr. Gedney did note that this document can be amended to include additional details at later dates.

Ms. Bridges clarified this Policy Element is only one section of the entire RTP document. There are additional sections that include the Action Element and the Financial Element, which will be updated and provided at later dates.

Mr. Gedney stated the jurisdictions have recognized the changes in policies and have provided projects to include in the updated table (Attachment C) that fit the new policies of ACTC. He highlighted staff has already

removed State highway projects from the list, and has suggested that the cities and County not provide projects for the regional list that include environmental, design, or right-of-way elements. Commissioner Plasse commented the projects submitted still seem to be a “wish list” and asked how does this board prioritize those projects. Mr. Gedney replied prioritization criteria can be established using Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and traffic counts and other criteria, but jurisdictions should also come forward to request the funding. Commissioner Riordan stated the prioritization criteria should be established before reviewing such projects.

Commissioner Forster left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners continued discussing potential criteria that include: PCI data, traffic counts, reduce congestion, local match for funding, etc.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Vice Chairman McLean, and carried to adopt the changes to the RTP Policy Element as presented by staff.

Ayes: Crew, McLean, Plasse  
Noes: Bragstad  
Absent: Forster  
Abstain: Riordan

The chairman recessed the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The Chairman resumed the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

**#7. 2020 Regional Transportation Plan-Amendment- Amador City Main St. Paving Project:** Mr. Gedney reviewed his staff report and attachments. He noted this same process took place a few years ago for the SR 88/SR 104/Jackson Valley Road intersection in order to initiate the project development process.

Commissioner Plasse clarified this is a new project that was not on the previous list, that is now trying to jump ahead of the other projects for funding. Mr. Gedney replied Amador City would like the current RTP to be amended to include this project to become eligible for funding, but not prioritized above any other project. He noted they would then complete a Project Study Report (PSR) Equivalent to ACTC to request funding.

Commissioner Riordan asked if other local jurisdictions have had an opportunity to submit projects and/or PSR Equivalents, and noted this process seems baffling. Mr. Gedney responded this information has been discussed at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings and staff has been assisting locals with the process. However, if the cities are not participating and completing the work, they are not eligible to apply for Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funding. He added this is new for ACTC because all RIP funding shares in the past have gone to the SR 88/Pine Grove Improvement Project.

Commissioner Riordan stated in an effort to provide fairness, would it make sense to wait to amend projects into the current RTP until next month when all potential projects have been submitted. Also in the meantime, staff can prepare criteria (as discussed in the previous agenda item) to use for choosing which projects to submit to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for RIP funding.

Commissioners discussed some of the major projects on the current RTP list including the Sutter Street Extension, Wicklow Way, and the Western Lone Regional Improvement Strategy and whether those projects are moving forward.

Commissioner Plasse stated this agenda item should be tabled until all cities that plan to submit PSR Equivalents have done so, and the crafting of a prioritization scoring criteria has been done.

Commissioners agreed to table this item until next month but discussed categories in the prioritization criteria may include: PCI data, Traffic counts, reduce congestion, efficiency, and local contribution (yes or no).

Commissioner Bragstad left the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Vice Chairman McLean, and carried to approve the revised claims list as presented.

Ayes: Crew, McLean, Plasse, Riordan

Noes: None

Absent: Bragstad, Forster

**#10. ACTC Commissioner Reports:** Commissioners welcomed Mr. Riordan to the ACTC board.

Commissioner Plasse applauded the county maintenance road crew on a job well done on recent repair work on French Bar Road.

**#11. ACTC Reports:** Mr. Gedney stated Cindy Engel-ACTC GIS Coordinator has recently retired. He highlighted her work for ACTC over the last nine (9) years including work on the UPLAN program, working with the county on mapping for parcel updates, the Tree Mortality project, Evacuation Route mapping, and the Extreme Weather Needs Assessment. Mr. Gedney extended his appreciation for all Ms. Engel's work. Commissioner Plasse commented Ms. Engel was a great asset, not just for this agency, but for the county as a whole. He added, she stepped up and went above and beyond her duties.

**#12. Caltrans Report with Gregoria Ponce-Office Chief of Rural Planning, Caltrans District 10:**

- Caltrans has issued a 'Call for Applications' for the FY 2024/25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Program. She noted a feasibility study regarding alternative fuels, as discussed in an earlier agenda item, would be supported by this program.
- The Federal Highway Administration has issued a 'Call for Applications' for the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator program, which will provide up to \$100 million in Federal funding to repair and replace existing but non-operational, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. The deadline for applications in November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Caltrans looks forward to continuing a successful partnership in implementing the Overall Work Program with ACTC.
- Ms. Ponce applauded ACTC on moving forward with the Policy Element of the 2024 RTP update, and requested a copy of the timeline of completion of the RTP. She asked if a Notice of Preparation and circulation of the Environmental Impact Report would be scheduled in January to accommodate the plan's completion date of March 2024. She added, as a responsible agency, Caltrans staff looks forward to commenting on the draft RTP.

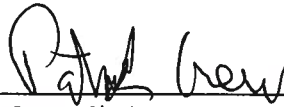
Mr. Gedney asked for a status update regarding the pending safety investigation of the intersection at Argonaut Lane/SR 88/SR 49, as it was previously estimated to be completed in August. Ms. Ponce replied she will forward that request to the traffic operations team for review.

Vice Chairman McLean stated the left turn lane (headed east onto SR 88) signal timing at the intersection at SR 88/SR 49 in Jackson still seems to be off, and asked if that could be looked at again. Ms. Ponce stated that concern was forwarded to the traffic operations team and they are reviewing the timing at that intersection.

**#13. Future Agenda Items:**

- Regional Transportation Improvement Program-scoring criteria/2020 RTP Amendments as needed
- 2024 Regional Transportation Plan-continued
- FY 2024/25 Annual Unmet Transit Needs Process- Annual Hearing in December

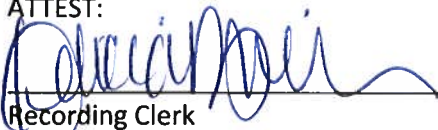
**#14. Adjournment:** At 12:10 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the regular meeting until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 117 Valley View Way Sutter Creek, CA 95685.



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Patrick Crew, Chairman  
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Recording Clerk

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