

AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2008 – 6:28 P.M.

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California on the above date, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present on Roll Call:

Louis Boitano, Chairman
Greg Baldwin
Richard Forster
Al Nunes, Vice Chairman
Dave Richards
Jerry Sherman

Also Present:

Dan Brewer, Chief, Rural Planning and Administration, Caltrans District 10
Charles Field, ACTC Executive Director
Robyn Sheehan, ACTC Administrator
Sean Rabé, ACTC Transportation Planner

Agenda:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Nunes, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Public Matters Not on the Agenda: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Baldwin, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Resolution No. 08-07

Resolution establishing a Records Retention Schedule and authorizing destruction of certain Commission records

Resolution No. 08-08

Resolution approving City of Ione Local Transportation fund claim for fiscal year 2006/07 in the amount of \$32,135.00

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing Concerning Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311(f) Grant Application in the Amount of \$400,000 for Construction of the Sutter Hill Transit Center:

ACTC Executive Director Charles Field stated that the ACTC, serving as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, is required to hold a public hearing prior to approving the FTA Section 5311(f) grant application for funding to help construct the Sutter Hill Transit Center. Mr. Field advised that the local match will be funded by Amador Regional Transit System's reserve account.

At 6:30 p.m. Chairman Boitano opened the public hearing.

No comments from the public were presented.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to adopt a resolution approving the programming of \$400,000 in FTA Section 5311(f) funds for the Sutter Hill Transit Center. It was also approved that the ACTC, serving as project sponsor and applicant for the Sutter Hill Transit Center:

- a. Concurs with the prior determination of the Amador Regional Transit System (ARTS) that as a provider of accessible demand-responsive transit service, ARTS is exempt from the requirement to have an Americans with Disabilities Act Paratransit Plan for providing complementary paratransit service.
- b. Adopts a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to: sign and submit the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) application; execute and file all related assurances and documents; provide additional information as may be required; and, submit and approve requests for reimbursement of funds.
- c. Directs staff to work with ARTS staff to transfer \$100,000 in formula State Transit Assistance funds to an account reserved to provide the matching funds for the FTA Section 5311(f) grant.

Resolution No. 08-09

Resolution authorizing filing an application for federal funding under FTA Section 5311(f) (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) with the California Department of Transportation and related actions

Resolution No. 08-10

Resolution approving programming of federal funding under FTA Section 5311(f) (49 U.S.C. Section 5311)

Highway 49 Bypass and 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP): Mr. Field reported that the Tri-Counties presentation to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) concerning the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program was well received and Caltrans Director Will Kempton and CTC Commission Kirk Lindsey spoke in favor of

continuing the Tri-County effort. The CTC's decision as to actual programming of requested funds will be in early May. Alpine and Calaveras Counties have signed the Tri-County Memorandum of Understanding.

A report concerning the 49 Bypass follow-up items has been provided by ACTC consultant Scott Maas and it is included in the agenda packet. The list of follow-up items has been reduced from 36 items to nine items. Commissioner Forster clarified that the City is working on an agreement with Caltrans to reimburse the City and the County. Mr. Field stated that the relocation of the entrance to the dentist office can be accomplished sooner if the City performs the work and receives reimbursement from Caltrans.

Commissioner Baldwin inquired about the State Route 49 Tree Replacement project in Martell. Mr. Field stated that this is a separate item being undertaken by the County and Sierra West Business Park. There are several items in the Cooperative Agreement and Maintenance Agreement with Caltrans that are unacceptable to the County. The agencies are trying to meet and work out the concerns.

Commissioner Sherman advised that Caltrans is working to locate underground utilities at the inside corner project in Ione. The County Administrative Officer and Ione City Manager are working together on this project.

Mr. Field stated that the SR 88/Defender Grade/Pioneer Elementary School intersection project is going to construction this summer.

Caltrans Reports: Commissioner Sherman advised Dan Brewer, Chief, Office of Rural Planning and Administration, Caltrans District 10, that the awning at Loretta's restaurant on SR 104/124 in Ione was torn off again. Mr. Brewer stated that he would communicate directly with Commissioner Sherman concerning this matter.

Mr. Brewer stated that amendments to the 2007/08 Overall Work Program must be submitted by April 1, 2008.

Commissioner Forster expressed appreciation for Caltrans' removal of the bush that was causing a visual obstruction at the intersection of SR 124 and Sutter-Ione Road.

Commissioner Sherman thanked Mr. Brewer for his responsiveness to matters for which he has contacted him.

Amador Foothills Railroad Line Abandonment: ACTC Transportation Planner Sean Rabé stated that ACTC staff is recommending that the Commission reverse its previous opposition to the abandonment of the rail line due to the costs associated with rehabilitating the line for passenger or freight use and due to safety issues associated with the railroad crossings at Highways 49 and 88. He advised that Martell Business Park/Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is going through the abandonment process for the rail line in the Martell Area. In addition, County staff and ACTC staff are proposing a four-way intersection at Wicklow Way and SR 88 that would use the railroad alignment to create an internal connection between Wicklow and the Martell Business Park.

Commissioner Sherman advised that the City of Ione would like to retain the line up to the intersection of SR 88 and Ridge Road. The Speeders have a lease on the line, they use the line, and they keep it maintained. It is good for recreation and there is a rail fair in Ione each year. Mr. Rabé stated that ACTC staff is only recommending abandonment of the rail line in the Martell Area. He also stated that the actions taken by ACTC have little to do with the Surface Transportation Board's decision.

Commissioner Nunes asked if ACTC would have control over the rail line if the line was abandoned and that it would not revert back to SPI property. Mr. Rabé responded that part of it in Martell would become a County Road. Sidewalks, bike and NEV lanes are identified in the Circulation Mapping Exercise (CMX) project for this part of the rail line right of way.

Commissioner Forster asked if any structures considered for removal have an historical designation and he stated that this designation may prevent their removal. Mr. Rabé responded that that only mitigation required is for SPI to document and take pictures of the historical structures.

Kathy Allen, Amador Citizens for Smart Growth (ACSG), asked if all of the rails will be removed. Commissioner Forster responded that only the rail line in the Martell area would be removed. Ms. Allen stated that the position of the ACSG, for the rail system as a whole, is to make sure Amador County does not lose its ability to have some type of mass transit at some time in the future. She also stated that commuter traffic and the price of gasoline are much greater than when the two rail reports were written. The report also did not look at Stockton and did not address revenues that would be generated from potential commuters.

Ruth Gottstein, resident of Volcano, stated that the ACTC should look at other communities that have train service, such as the city of Auburn. In addition, air quality control should be taken into consideration.

Chairman Boitano stated that persons should submit their comments in writing to the Surface Transportation Board since the Board will make the final decision.

Dave Butow, Historical Society, provided a brief history of correspondence he has sent to the Surface Transportation Board. He stated that the rail line from Martell to Ione is now on the State Historic Registry. He also stated that the abandonment is out of the County's jurisdiction and the current players are the State Office of Historic Preservation, the Surface Transportation Board and SPI. Mr. Butow stated that, according to his research, the cost to rehabilitate the rail line would be between \$1 to \$1.2 million per mile for freight service, which is less than the numbers provided in the 1993 report. This estimate does not include right of way, bridges and tunnels.

Commissioner Richards asked about the old Martell Depot and roundhouse. Mr. Butow stated that he proposed taking the footprint of the Martell Station and the surrounding buildings and moving them west.

Pat Crosby, resident of Sutter Creek, stated that the line should be preserved for light rail service from Sacramento and Stockton to the casinos and that the casinos could help fund the service.

Charlene Buckley, Amador County Historic Society (ACHS), expressed support for a train to bring tourists to Amador County and limousines could be available to take them to the casino, shopping or Shenandoah Valley. She stated that the history of California needs to be preserved. She also stated that the ACHS is trying to keep communications open with SPI. Commissioner Forster stated that the ACHS needs to communicate with the Emersons.

Debbie Dunn, resident of Pine Grove, expressed dismay that someone from outside Amador County could buy property in the County, submit an abandonment application to STB, and get the abandonment awarded. She asked if a portion of the rail line or right of way is accepted for abandonment does it jeopardize the rest of the line. Ms. Dunn stated that if any portion of the rail line is to be preserved, there needs to be some teeth in the General Plan to protect it. She also stated that according to Dave Brown the historic documentation has been turned in. She asked if ACHS can review the documentation that was submitted.

Commissioner Nunes suggested that the ACTC should not vote for or against the abandonment.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Sherman, and unanimously carried to table this item until the California State Historic Preservation Office and the Surface Transportation Board makes a decision.

2006/07 Overall Work Program (OWP) and Contract Amendments: Proposed amendments to consultant contracts were summarized by Mr. Field. He explained that the funds to increase these contracts would come from other projects that have not yet required any funds.

Commissioner Forster asked if the consultants' work and hours charged are reviewed. Mr. Field responded that each consultant provides a monthly progress report and detailed invoice which he reviews monthly. In addition, he generally works with these consultants on a weekly basis.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Nunes, and unanimously carried to approve the following contract amendments as well as an OWP amendment to shift funds between projects:

- Dokken Engineering – Local Project Development & Support – increase \$10,000
- Dokken Engineering – Transportation Funding Assistance – increase \$10,000
- Fehr & Peers – Traffic Engineering Assistance – increase \$5,000
- Mel Welsh – Alternative Transportation Planning Assistance – increase \$10,000

ACTC Planner Position: Mr. Field stated that Mr. Rabé has become a value to the ACTC and will be difficult to replace. The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Mr. Rabé for his work with the ACTC. Mr. Rabé thanked the ACTC for the opportunity that was provided to him.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of ACTC Planner/Project Manager Sean Rabé effective March 28, 2008. ACTC staff was authorized to advertise for an entry-level or mid-level planner and project manager for 30 days beginning March 20, 2008. The Personnel Committee (Commissioner Nunes and Sherman) will work with ACTC staff (Field and Sheehan) to review applications, conduct

interviews, and provide recommendations regarding the new employee during the Commission meeting of May 21, 2008.

Claims:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Nunes, and unanimously carried to approve the revised claim list as presented.

Adjournment:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Baldwin, and unanimously carried to adjourn to **6:00 p.m. April 16, 2008**, at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California.

At 7:45 p.m. Chairman Boitano adjourned the meeting.

Louis Boitano, Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST

Recording Secretary

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