

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
APRIL 16, 2008 - 6:15 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:**

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

**Also Present:**

Dan Brewer, Chief, Rural Planning & Administration, Caltrans District 10  
Charles Field, ACTC Executive Director  
Robyn Sheehan, ACTC Administrator  
Patrick Ireland, ARTS General Manager

**Agenda:**

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

**Absent:** Louis Boitano

**Public Matters Not on the Agenda:** Pat Crosby, resident of Sutter Creek, stated that he has been in communication with Siemens concerning light rail service in Amador County and Siemens indicated that they would be willing to meet with the County's transportation department. Mr. Crosby asked that the ACTC budget a small amount of money in fiscal year 2008/09 to study light rail service in Amador County.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Consent Agenda Item #4 – Highway 49 Bypass Status Report:** ACTC Executive Director Charles Field advised that Caltrans will be re-stripping the northbound lane of Highway 49 approaching Ridge Road/SR 104. The dedicated right-turn lane will be re-stripped to be a through and right-turn lane.

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

**Absent:** Louis Boitano

**Resolution No. 08-11**

Resolution approving the Federal Master Agreement No. 10-6127R and Program Supplement Agreement No. 004-N and authorizing the Executive Director to execute said agreements and all legal instruments pertaining to the Foothill Commuter Services Website Maintenance Project

**Resolution No. 08-12**

Resolution approving Program Supplement Agreement No. 005-N and authorizing the Executive Director to execute all legal instruments pertaining to CMAQ grant funds for the Sutter Hill Transit Center Project

**Resolution No. 08-13**

Resolution approving County of Amador Local Transportation fund claim for fiscal year 2006/07 in the amount of \$92,687.00

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Sutter Hill Transit Center:** ACTC project consultant Matt Boyer, Dokken Engineering, provided a presentation concerning the status of the Sutter Hill Transit Center (SHTC) project. Included in the presentation were design modifications as recommended by the Technical Advisory Team on March 31, 2008, and the project's preliminary cost estimate and budget as recommended by staff.

Commissioner Baldwin asked what will happen with the existing building when ACTC moves? ARTS General Manager Patrick Ireland stated that the current facility was designed with expansion space for ARTS' future growth. In the meantime, ACTC has been occupying a portion of the existing ARTS building and ARTS is now ready to expand into that space. Commissioner Baldwin expressed concern that there will be an increase in traffic because ARTS buses will be traveling between two facilities. Mr. Ireland responded that the ARTS maintenance and administrative facility will remain at the current location. ARTS buses currently travel between the existing facility and Valley View Way on a regular basis so no additional bus traffic will be added to the roads.

Mr. Boyer reported that the contract with Stantec Consulting for design and architectural services has been terminated and it is recommended that the ACTC negotiate with Cooper Thorne & Associates to pick up the design work and complete it within the existing budget and schedule.

There was discussion concerning the installation of a lift station in order to connect to the existing sewer line on Valley View Way or negotiating with the Allen family for a gravity sewer connection and easement. Mr. Field stated that staff would like authorization to negotiate the best option for the project. Caution was expressed concerning the installation of a lift station. Commissioner Forster asked if there was enough contingency in the project to negotiate with the Allen family. Mr. Field responded that the funding details for the project are still being worked out.

Commissioner Richards stated that the outdoor lighting fixtures need to include a shade on top so that the lights will not interfere with the airport traffic pattern. Commissioner Forster noted that the Sierra West Business Park near the motorcycle shop was required to make changes to their exterior lighting and ACTC staff could consult with them concerning requirements.

Commissioner Baldwin asked if the security camera system will be tied into the internet so that the property can be monitored from off site at any time. Mr. Boyer stated that he will look into this item. Commissioner Baldwin also suggested inside seating at the facility for the ARTS passengers. Mr. Boyer stated that if inside seating is not feasible, then some type of wind screening will be considered for the outside seating area. Mr. Field suggested that propane heaters might be installed in the rafters for the outside seating area.

Commissioner Forster inquired about a bicycle storage facility, trash receptacles for recyclables, feasibility of a metal roof, and solar panels. Mr. Boyer responded that bicycle storage has been included and he will note that receptacles for recyclables should be included as well. He stated that although a metal roof is more expensive initially, it is cost effective from a maintenance perspective and a metal roof has been recommended by the committee. The initial structure will not include solar panels but it is anticipated that a parking structure to provide shade and to accommodate solar panels would be included in a later phase.

In response to Commissioner Forster, Mr. Field advised that the contract with Stantec Consulting was terminated without cause in consultation with ACTC's legal counsel.

Mr. Field reported that rent or revenue from the Amador Council of Tourism is not anticipated at this time. Amador Council of Tourism will provide volunteers to occupy the building but they have not secured any grant funding to contribute at this time.

Commissioner Baldwin noted that elevations for future expansion to the facility should be considered with regard to sewer connections and that a stub out should be included in the initial construction to accommodate a future connection.

Mr. Boyer reported that funding for Phase I of the project is approximately \$600,000 short. ACTC staff and consultants are considering a swap of Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funds with other counties. Another option might be to borrow funds from the County's Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program. Commissioner Forster asked if it would be easier to borrow the money from the RTMF Program than to obtain funding from other counties? Mr. Field stated that he was saving the RTMF loan as a last option as it would be a time consuming process to get approval from all of the member agencies.

Commissioner Forster asked if the State environmental clearances are due to expire and will require updating? Mr. Boyer stated that he does not believe the State environmental clearances are due to expire but he is watching this closely.

Commissioner Baldwin stated that this item was not agendaized for action but, through the above discussion, staff and consultants should have adequate input and authorization to proceed with the project.

**Caltrans Reports:** Commissioner Forster asked if the property owner, Chris Gansberg, was notified by Caltrans concerning the Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project since the Initial Study states that the Gansberg's driveway will be relocated? Dan Brewer, Chief, Office of Rural Planning and Administration, Caltrans District 10, stated that he will check into this matter. Commissioner Forster also asked if Caltrans considered the effects of the potential Buena Vista Rancheria casino project on the Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project. He stated that if the casino project were to go forward in the near future and the casino is supposed to pay for highway and roadway improvements, then Caltrans' money will have been wasted making these improvements.

Commissioner Baldwin asked for an update on the Martell Tree Replacement project. Mr. Field stated that, due to other priorities, the County has not had time to work on the maintenance agreement. According to new Caltrans' policy, a cooperative agreement should not be required for this project.

**County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Road Mapping:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Baldwin, and unanimously carried to contribute \$5,000 in Rural Blueprint (UPlan) funding to Amador County for purposes of updating their Geographic Information Systems (GIS) road data.

**Absent:** Louis Boitano

**At 7:34 p.m. Louis Boitano arrived.**

**Workshop Concerning Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update:** ACTC consultant Gordon Shaw of LSC Transportation Consultants provided a presentation concerning the Transit Development Plan Update. The presentation focused on alternatives that LSC Transportation Consultants have evaluated regarding transit services, capital needs, institutional/administrative issues, and financial options.

Chairman Boitano asked if the Department of Motor Vehicle fee imposed by the Air Pollution Control District can be used as revenue for transit service. Mr. Shaw responded yes and he advised that El Dorado County uses these funds for shuttles during the County Fair and Apple Hill. In addition, Yuba County uses the Air Quality Fees to provide low cost summer youth bus passes.

Commissioner Nunes expressed concern for increasing the fare for elderly and disabled persons. He asked if the system would still be short of funds if the fee were increased. Mr. Shaw stated that it depends on what new services are added, the forecast for future Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues, and if any services are deleted.

Chairman Boitano inquired concerning appropriations at the federal level. Mr. Shaw stated that even if the 5311 Program grew substantially these funds would be a relatively small part of the transit program.

ARTS General Manager Patrick Ireland stated that services provided by ARTS to meet the expressed unmet needs will need to be more efficient than another service that will need to be

discontinued. Mr. Shaw has shown through his analysis that there are presently some inefficient service legs that could be discontinued and the funds could be shifted to a more efficient service route.

Mr. Shaw noted that ARTS currently provides a transit program that is well tuned to disabled, elderly and social service programs. It generally takes its riders to the door of their destination. This type of service is slow and not attractive to persons who own a vehicle. In Sacramento the transit stops every quarter mile, it is on a schedule, and the riders must be able to walk to the bus. The question will be, how far does the Commission want to bend the service to meet both needs? ARTS is limited by the year by year operating dollars it has to put the buses on the road. Mr. Shaw explained that the proposed two-bus service through the Sutter Hill area would allow ARTS to expand its market and it might be effective for both the locals and tourists.

Commissioner Baldwin suggested dropping the Kirkwood Ski bus. He stated that if 12 persons do show up on a Saturday, then the bus should go. Commissioner Baldwin also stated that because a recession is anticipated, the tax dollars should be used wisely. The elderly and infirmed should be a high priority.

Eric Kokernak, resident between Plymouth and Ione, stated that the Amador County Unified School District is considering charging for school bus transportation service. If this change occurs, it may have an effect on the ARTS transit system. Chairman Boitano stated that several years ago the School District attempted to charge for bus service. Many parents chose to drive their children to school and there was a significant increase in traffic that has not gone away. He suggested that the School Board be discouraged from implementing this action.

Commissioner Forster stated that the marginal routes should be considered for discontinuance unless funds can be obtained through Air District DMV fees or other sources. He also stated that if additional funding sources cannot be identified, then a fare increase should be considered. With significant increases in fuel, it will cost the riders more for an alternate source of transportation as well.

Commissioner Nunes stated that ARTS transit service is still the least expensive form of transportation. If further review indicates that a route should be discontinued, then it should be cut.

Commissioner Baldwin expressed support for an increase in fares.

Mr. Ireland asked the Commission to consider for further review the consultant's recommendation to add a shorter headway along the service corridor between Sutter Creek and Jackson that would attract "choice" riders. Choice riders are individuals who have the choice to use their car or transit. This would provide an express route in addition to the current route that would be more attractive to the choice riders. This should help support the rest of the system. Mr. Ireland stated that cuts of the least efficient routes would need to be made to support this new service.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin, seconded by Commissioner Sherman, and unanimously carried to authorize the consultant to fully review the addition of a shorter roadway along the service corridor between Sutter Creek and Jackson that would attract “choice” riders.

**Claims:**

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

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Chairman Boitano, seconded by Commissioner Sherman , and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting to **6:00 p.m. May 21, 2008**, at the Amador County Administration Center, 801 Court Street, Jackson California.

At 8:52 p.m. Chairman Boitano adjourned the meeting.

---

Louis Boitano, Chairman  
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST

---

Recording Secretary