

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 16, 2010 – 7:08 p.m.

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met at the 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, Chairman
Pat Crosby
Ted Novelli, Alternate
David Plank, Vice Chairman
John Plasse
Dave Richards

Absent:

Richard Forster

Also Present:

Tom Dumas, Chief, Metropolitan Planning, Caltrans District 10
Charles Field, ACTC Executive Director
Robyn Sheehan, ACTC Administrator
Neil Peacock, ACTC Planner/Program Manager

Agenda:

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

Public Matters Not on the Agenda: Aaron Brusatori, Amador City Mayor, requested that Consent Agenda Item No. 8, Amador City Bridge Replacement project be pulled for discussion so that the Caltrans' representative may relay the City's and ACTC's concerns to the District.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 8 – Amador City Bridge Replacement Project: Mr. Brusatori advised that the Amador City Bridge project is the number one priority for local assistance. The bridge project may be moving backwards by a year due to some technical environmental issues. He stated work conducted by the City was consistent with the environmental document that was prepared when Caltrans was replacing the bridge but when it was relinquished to the City of Amador City there were some discrepancies.

ACTC Executive Director Charles Field stated that approval of the final environmental studies were on track in February 2010 when a determination was made that Section 4F could not be handled programmatically; instead it must be handled individually for the project. The Department's 4F process requires many internal reviews, including Headquarters Legal and

approval by the Department of Interior. ACTC would like to appeal directly through the District Director to help expedite the process and keep the project on schedule.

Consent Agenda Item No. 4 – Tri-County State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Projects Report: Commissioner Plasse requested that Caltrans provide to the ACTC an estimate or accounting of the costs to date for the State Route 49 Bypass mitigation site project and where it stands in terms of its success.

Chairman Baldwin asked who will bare the cost if additional trees are required to be planted at the mitigation site. Tom Dumas, Chief of Caltrans Metropolitan Planning, stated that he will need to check with the Environmental Department. He advised that the Environmental Department will likely be making a presentation to the ACTC in response to its questions concerning the Caltrans' project on State Route 88.

Consent Agenda Item No. 6 Plymouth Circulation Improvement Project: Commissioner Plasse requested clarification concerning cost increases resulting from local controversy regarding the two alternatives. Chairman Baldwin responded that a few individuals are making a lot of noise; however, they did not show up for the roundabout demonstration.

Commissioner Plasse asked how a decision can be made between the two primary alternatives when cost estimates are not available and it is not known who will pay for what share.

ACTC Planner/Program Manager Neil Peacock reported that there are two parallel projects: the City's project concerning the specific intersection improvement and the ACTC's project concerning the citywide circulation improvement program. It was anticipated that the City would have completed its project by now but since it has not, the project impacts the citywide circulation planning project. In order to provide a comparable analysis, cost estimate, and finance plan, ACTC needs to provide them with the implications on a citywide basis of a signalized corridor versus a roundabout corridor.

Chairman Baldwin stated that the City's project was delayed due to State furloughs.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Foothill Rideshare Program: Renee Chapman, Foothill Rideshare project manager, stated that the Tri-County Rideshare Program has been in place for four years. The Rideshare Program helps to reduce vehicle miles traveled as well as pollutants going into the air. She reported that the program has established a rideshare website, park and ride sites in all three counties, and rideshare signage. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2010/11 is based on a contribution of \$9,000 from Amador County. If the Amador Air District awards Rideshare a grant in the amount of \$8,000, ACTC's contribution would be reduced by this amount.

Mr. Field advised that Alpine County gave ACTC \$15,863 in PTMISEA funds in exchange for including Alpine in the Rideshare Program at a cost of \$3,500 the first year and \$500 each

subsequent year. The ACTC's total contribution including the Alpine Rideshare work would either be \$12,500 or \$4,500 depending on whether or not the Air District grant funds are award.

Commissioner Plank asked if the Rideshare Program offers any financial subsidies. Ms. Chapman advised that a \$2000 vanpool subsidy is included for a new vanpool. The vanpool must originate or terminate in Amador County.

Commissioner Plasse asked why Tuolumne County is withdrawing its contribution to the Rideshare Program. Ms. Chapman responded that Tuolumne heard that ACTC was withdrawing from the program; however, it appears Tuolumne will continue to contribute to the program. She advised that the program is being reduced to a maintenance mode and therefore the counties' contributions are being reduced. Mr. Field clarified that the ACTC's contribution for the past three years has been funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds and these funds have now been expended. The contribution for 2010/11 will need to be funded with Local Transportation Funds.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Richards, seconded by Commission Novelli, and unanimously carried to approve the ACTC's participation in the Foothill Rideshare Program for fiscal year 2010/11 and to contribute either \$12,500 or \$4,500 in LTF funds.

Mr. Field asked Mr. Dumas if he would follow up on an inquiry that has been submitted to Caltrans to determine if CMAQ funds are available from the Statewide Program to fund the entire three county Rideshare Program.

Commissioner Plank asked Ms. Chapman to provide the Commissioners with a map showing the location of the Park and Ride facilities.

Transit Needs – Response to Public Hearing Comments: Mr. Field advised that four items will require additional follow-up effort and that responses to these items will be reported at the July 21 ACTC meeting.

Commissioner Plank suggested that ACTC communicate with the City of Jackson and Caltrans concerning the access to the Jackson Library. Commissioner Crosby suggested that passengers be delivered off-site of the library.

Commissioner Plasse advised that he will contact Amador County Behavioral Health concerning the vans that are not being utilized.

Amador County UPlan Project: Commissioner Plasse asked if the process takes into account all General Plans. Mr. Field responded that the first steps of UPlan will be to model all recently adopted City General Plans as well as the proposed County General Plan. The model will show the effects, benefits, and consequences of these plans.

Aaron Brusatori questioned how UPlan will improve transportation or operational improvements for the County. Mr. Field stated that UPlan encompasses much more than transportation and it acknowledges that everything is connected. ACTC is interested in deriving information that is needed for the Regional Transportation Plan and air quality conformance requirements. The rest

of the information is a gift to the County, cities and community with respect to mapped data, information, and the ability to conduct analysis on other subject areas as well.

Commissioner Plasse expressed concern that many components of the project, such as land use patterns, housing, habitat, farmland, etc., are not related to transportation. He also expressed concern that the scenarios that will be presented to the decision makers will have been reduced and limited through a review process by the public, stakeholders and interest groups.

Chairman Baldwin stated that the Commission has no interest in controlling land use in the County or cities. UPlan is intended to be a tool. Mr. Brusatori suggested that the Commission could adopt a statement or resolution concerning this intent.

Chairman Baldwin suggested that the second bullet point concerning housing should be deleted since this is covered in the General Plans. Mr. Field stated that the model can demonstrate the extent to which the Cities or County might meet the housing goals identified in the General Plans. When growth projections are applied, UPlan will show where people will likely live. It can show if there will be work-force housing, etc. This is not an ACTC function but the information will be available. The ACTC will extract the information that it needs for transportation purposes.

Commissioner Crosby suggested that the first sentence under Purpose include the words “and transportation system.”

Commissioner Plank stated that the Plan does not mention General Plans and how it interfaces with them. Mr. Field stated that the cities and County do not want the ACTC involved in their General Plans so UPlan is a separate exercise and will be offered to the cities to accept or reject.

Commissioner Plasse stated that if the emphasis is not on the General Plans, then the scenarios are based on public and stakeholder input. Mr. Field advised that the first model runs will be the General Plans of the County and cities and the runs will be reviewed with city and County planners for accuracy. If acceptable, it can be an analysis tool. If the results of the initial UPlan runs show unacceptable consequences, alternative scenarios can be run.

Commissioner Baldwin suggested that the second bullet on page one be changed to read “Track the supply of housing for all incomes.”

Gary Reinoehl, upcountry resident, expressed support for the make up of the stakeholder group. He stated that he believes there is a State law that states transportation does not have authority over land use.

In response to a query from Commissioner Plank concerning level of service, Mr. Field explained that UPlan will provide information as to where the population will likely occur in future years. The traffic engineer will run the traffic model with these UPlan outputs. This will show what happens to levels of service. If the level of service does not agree with the jurisdiction’s General Plan, then a discussion may ensue. The ACTC would not try to override a city or County policy and the ACTC has no authority in this area. Commissioner Plank suggested that a statement should be adopted by the ACTC concerning this policy.

Commissioner Plasse asked why three counties and two federal agencies are involved in a local planning process and he recommended that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management be eliminated from the stakeholder list. Mr. Field advised that the proposed stakeholder list is for the purpose of a one time interview session; it is not a committee.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Novelli, and carried to approve the UPlan initial stakeholder list with the elimination of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program: Mr. Field advised that bids received for construction of the Mission Boulevard project were significantly lower than anticipated; therefore, the balance of unexpended RTMF funds will be returned to the RTMF Program. The first two contenders for these funds are the Sutter Street Extension project and the Ione Bypass Phase II project. Since funds for these projects are not needed in the immediate future, the RTMF committee is recommending that funds be loaned to the Prospect Driver/SR 104 intersection project.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Plank, and unanimously carried to approve the 2008/09 Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Annual Report and oversight committee recommendations for 2009/10. The ACTC Chairman is authorized to execute an amendment to the RTMF Memorandum of Understanding creating a mid-tier fee for fast food drive-through restaurants not located on a State highway.

Employee Evaluations:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Richards, seconded by Commissioner Crosby, and carried to approve a two-year step increase for the ACTC Transportation Planner/Program Manager effective January 1, 2011, and a ten-year step increase for the ACTC Administrative Assistant effective April 1, 2011. No other salary or cost of living increases are granted for ACTC employees for fiscal year 2010/11.

Abstain: Commissioner Novelli

2010/11 Overall Work Program (OWP): Mr. Field stated that, based on the previous action concerning the Foothill Rideshare Program, the Overall Work Program will need to be adjusted to add \$12,500 in Local Transportation Funds for the Rideshare work element. If a grant from the Amador Air District is awarded, then the funds will be reduced.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Richards, seconded by Commissioner Plank, and unanimously carried to approve the 2010/11 Overall Work Program and to authorize the Executive Director to execute the OWP agreement with Caltrans.

Consultant Contracts: Commissioner Plasse asked if the funding has been received for the new contracts. Mr. Field responded that the CMX project is funded with Regional Surface Transportation Program funds that are carried over from FY 2009/10 and contracts for the Amador Regional Blueprint project are funded with grant funds that have been awarded but are provided on a reimbursement basis. Grant funds for the Long Range Transit Development Plan and Jackson Community Based Transportation Plan have not yet been awarded and these projects will be subject to the Request for Proposal process when and if the grant funds are awarded.

Commissioner Plank asked Mr. Field how many of the 23 projects he can effectively manage. Mr. Field responded that he can effectively manage 20 projects but it is difficult. Not all projects require the same amount of oversight.

Commissioner Plasse asked if the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program was previously brought before the Commission for consideration. Mr. Peacock advised that this grant opportunity was brought to the Commission a few months back and staff was authorized to submit a grant application. Mr. Field clarified that the grant application has not yet been submitted because the County and cities wish to take the lead on this project. The work element is a place holder and the funds shown are subject to change and the ACTC's involvement is subject to further clarification and discussion.

Chairman Baldwin asked if this has now become State law in order to get traffic off the roads. Mr. Peacock stated that there are a lot of different State laws, some affect ACTC and some affect land use agencies such as counties and cities. It appears the proposal by the County and cities is to meet new CEQA guidelines that are applicable to land use agencies.

Commissioner Plasse stated that he does not see the transportation connection. The project appears to fall into the land use category and something that would be deferred to the County and cities relative to the planning and development of their communities.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Plank, and unanimously carried to approve consultant contract renewals and amendments as presented and delete Work Element #23, Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program.

2010/11 ACTC Budget: Mr. Field stated that line item 52300 Professional Services will be decreased to reflect the deletion of Work Element #23, Sustainable Communities Planning Program.

Motion: It was moved by Commission Plank, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to approve the 2010/11 Budget with the exclusion of Work Element #23, Sustainable Communities Planning Program.

Local Transportation Fund Allocations and Apportionments for FY 2010/11: Commissioner Richards reminded the Commission that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Set-Aside funds that were approved as a loan to ARTS for cash flow purposes should be repaid when fiscally feasible.

Commissioner Plasse asked if ARTS is taking all of the LTF for transit and therefore no funds are left for street and road purposes. Mr. Field stated that ACTC is claiming \$157,200 for transportation planning and administration and ARTS is claiming the balance of \$717,800 of the projected fund estimate. This leaves a zero balance for street and road purposes.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to:

- Adopt resolutions allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for transportation planning and administration and the Amador Regional Transit claim
- Not allocate funds for the Pedestrian and Bicycle set-aside in FY 2010/11

- Authorize the Executive Director to send the appropriate allocation instructions to the County Auditor and advise the cities and County that there will be no LTF available for non-transit claims for FY 2010/11.

Resolution No. 10-27

Resolution allocating Local Transportation Funds for transportation planning and administration purposes for the 2010/11 fiscal year in the amount of \$156,700

Resolution No. 10-28

Resolution approving Amador Regional Transit System Local Transportation Fund Claim No. 1 for the 2010/11 fiscal year in the amount of \$717,558

Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Program

(PTMISEA): Mr. Field stated that he will bring the list of PTMISEA projects back to the ACTC at a later date to discuss the prioritization of the projects. It was agreed that ACTC should conduct some preliminary investigation concerning a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facility. Commissioner Plasse suggested partnering with PG&E because PG&E may be able to obtain grant funding. Mr. Dumas stated that PG&E helped the City of Lodi build a CNG station at the new Lodi transit facility.

Commissioner Crosby advised that CNG research was conducted by Terry Grillo and the information should be available at the ARTS office.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Plasse, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to approve changes to the PTMISEA Expenditure Plan as requested by Caltrans and proposed by staff.

Caltrans Report: Tom Dumas, Chief, Metropolitan Planning, Caltrans District 10, reported that Annette Clark, Chief of System Planning at District 10, is moving to Headquarters and will be working with Dan Brewer.

On June 22 District 10 staff will be meeting with City of Plymouth staff concerning the Plymouth Circulation Plan grant project. District 10 will also be meeting with City of Ione staff concerning the Ione Circulation Plan. Public outreach workshops for the SR 49 Transportation Concept Report will be advertised shortly.

Chairman Baldwin asked Mr. Dumas to check on the chips that are used for overlay projects. He stated that on State Route 16 two different chip sizes were used and there should be a universal chip size. He explained that the smaller chips create less road noise. Commissioner Novelli stated that the County uses different chip sizes depending on the pounds per square inch and volume of traffic.

Claims:

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

Adjournment:

At 9:24 p.m. Chairman Baldwin adjourned the meeting to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California.

Greg Baldwin, Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary

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