

# TEHAMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 P.M. Present: Chairman Ron Warner, George Russell, Ross Turner, Rex Roush, Charles Willard and alternate Larry Stevens. Absent: Earl Wintle. Also present: Gary Plunkett, Director of Public Works and Barbara O'Keeffe, Transit Manager, Debbie Pederson of Caltrans and Kent Lundberg of NCPR.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES JUNE 30, 1999:** Motion by Commissioner Ross Turner and second by George Russell to approve the minutes with a correction of:  
Page 3, Item 8, " Motion by Commissioner Willard and seconded by Commissioner Turner to adopt the Final Budget at the September meeting. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent." **Corrected vote:** Second by Commissioner Russell.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Barbara O'Keeffe, Transit Manager, received correspondence from Caltrans. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is requesting a special Transportation Commission meeting. This will be agendized in September.

Commissioner Willard suggested that Staff make the Board Office aware of this time period.

The Public Hearing will be continued next month for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). We anticipate the adoption of the RTP in October.

RSTP (TEA 21 Exchange Funds) have been received.

Staff received an invitation from Health Partnership Policy Committee for Coordination. They have requested information as to what is available and what the needs are with regard to transportation.

5. **UPDATE ON CALWORK'S TRANSIT SERVICES:** Rob Perry of Social Services Department, Employment and Training Workers Supervisor, presented information regarding transit services provided between the Learning Center, County of Tehama and Laidlaw Transit Services. Clients from Rancho Tehama, Orland, Corning, Gerber and Cottonwood have attended the Work Force Academy. One major issue, Rob stated, the Learning Center and Job Training received additional funds to serve welfare clients. They could not access participants until they went through a certain stage of the program. This is where the Welfare Department stepped forward and aided in transportation needs. Laidlaw and staff has done an excellent job assisting the department. The system has gone fairly smooth. Those who have taken advantage of the system have received access to more services to our County.
6. **JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) GRANT:** Barbara O'Keeffe presented that it is feasible to pursue a Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant. Please authorize the Executive Director and Transit Manager to work cooperatively with the Social Services Department, Job Training Center and Learning Center to submit a JARC Grant and provide it to Caltrans. This grant must be presented to Caltrans by September 17, 1999.

Motion by Commissioner Willard and second by Commissioner Roush to approve and authorize the Executive Director and Transit Manager to work cooperatively with the Social Services

Department, Job Training Center and Learning Center to submit a JARC grant application to Caltrans. With no further discussion the motion carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

7. **CALWORKS WORK ELEMENT AGREEMENT:** Barbara O’Keeffe reviewed with the Commission OWP 1999/00. A draft agreement presented provides a mechanism for the Department of Social Services to fund the CalWORKs work element this year.

Motion by Commissioner Russell and second by Commissioner Turner to approve the draft. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING FOR TEHAMA COUNTY BIKEWAYS PLAN:** The public hearing was opened at 1:15 p.m. Staff welcomed the public. Kent Lunberg who was responsible for plan was also present. Barbara O’Keeffe informed everyone that this is a starting point for the Bikeways Plan is the starting point for an opportunity to move forward with facilities within Tehama County. Some state and federal funding sources require an adopted plan. In California, there are less than a dozen adopted plans.

A) Public Testimony: Dan Baxtrom, President Red Bluff Trails United, a group that has formally been together for three years, and hoping the Commission will support us in building a plan that we have started a number of years ago. We would like to become a model for the County plan. We are hoping to provide safe transportation for school children from schools and major parks. There is, in Red Bluff, a creek called Brickyard Creek, which in the past has been an eyesore and a big portion of our plan would be down that creek tying in Red Bluff High School, Bidwell School and Jackson Heights, River Park and along the river. In the audience were Red Bluff Trail members. Many are teachers. Some high school students have been down into the creek to improve it. It would be a classroom extension. We appreciate the support of the Commission and the forethought, future visionary, because Red Bluff and Tehama County is recreation oriented and we feel this would tie in those recreation opportunities and hopefully bring positive things to the County.

Chuck Haden, Planning Department of the City of Red Bluff and member of Red Bluff Trails United, presented the Commission with a letter of support. (Exhibit A). On behalf of City Staff, and as a member of Red Bluff Trails United, Mr. Haden thanked the Commission for funding preparation of the Bikeways Plan. Mr. Haden read his letter.

Rosa Bledsoe, member of a housing area on Baker Road: A number of people walk daily on Baker Road and there is no shoulder. We are excited about the plan, but would encourage you to include Baker Road as well. Accidents with bicyclist have occurred on Baker and I would encourage you to think about Baker. Hwy. 36 to Main Street, if you could do that. Thank you.

June Morford, resident of Tehama County: Travels Baker to Walnut several times per day. I am here as a private citizen because of my deep concern, which got deepened after the death of a young boy on that road. I see often our high school students who practice their running, I see people walking, I see people on horseback. I think deeply, we would very much consider your funding this. I am here not only as a private citizen, but three years ago I chaired the tour of Tehama as a Kiwanian. I am currently the President of the Kiwanis of Red Bluff and I am the incoming Lt. Governor for Division 39 of Kiwanis International, California-Nevada-Hawaii District. We have great concern for the safety of our children. Please give this your deepest consideration.

Walter Dodd of Corning: Supports the Bikeways Plan, but did want to mention a concern. The legal notice entitled "Public Hearing to be Held" was published Friday, August 13, 1999 in the Red Bluff Daily News. The Public Hearing Law provides that such a public hearing notice run 10 days before the hearing. This article ran five days before today. That was my concern. I am not sure how many people read legal notices, and Barbara has told me that a legal notice wasn't required and that other people had been notified through previous meetings through the Transportation Commission. But, at the same time, there was my concern that if there had been a legal notice required, and I am not saying that there should or should not have been, that it should have complied with the state law. It requires a 10 days notice.

Barbara O'Keeffe acknowledged Mr. Dodd's comments: Many of you know that we posted this on June 25, 1999, on our Commission Agenda, as well as a front page article by the Daily News in July. The letters of transmittal with the Plan did announce this public hearing and those were in July. It was an August press release. The legal notice was run with the intent, so that people would not forget about this opportunity. That was complimented by a 2X2 ad, but his points are noticed. (NOTE: The California Bicycle Act does not require a public hearing for the plan.)

Connie Pettinger, resident of Red Bluff, read her letter before the Commission. (Exhibit B)

Roland Lent, Sacramento Discovery Center Board of Directors, and part of the Red Bluff Trails United: At our meeting out there, course the Forest Service basically owns the land and we are leasing a small portion for the Discovery Center itself, but we have almost five miles of trail out there and so we would also like to encourage the development of getting people out there and using the trails that are already there. Safely. We have some bridges and maybe we could find a way to come into the south end of town and across the river and really interconnect that, and then they would have five miles of basic trail (that is already built by the Forest Service) available for this town. That's something to consider also. Thank you.

Commissioner Rex Roush announced he would like to read into the record a letter from the City of Corning by Tom Russ, Director of Public Works. (Exhibit C)

The Public Hearing was closed at 1:25 P.M.

B) Chairman Ron Warner opened the agenda item for approval of the TCTC letter of support for the Bikeways Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Willard to send the letter of support from TCTC and to hopefully include some of the "flavor of the testimony" that was given today in support of that. Second by Commissioner Turner. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

Commissioner Russell commented that obviously the problem we always have is funding. To meet needs by adopting the Plan, it opens the door to grant applications and also a Senate Constitutional Amendment which will be discussed in today's agenda. I believe that voting on a half-cent sales tax in the general election allows a county to add a half cent, which in our case was \$2 million. If that happens, I think it would be advantageous for everyone. As you all know, we hear about roads and the fact that we need to do more. All the energies are competing for funding. The plan will be adopted, but the question is how quickly can you fund the needed changes. I mention that, because I thought it was a golden opportunity. When it comes up on the ballot, and nobody wants to raise their taxes, but I think there is a lot to be done and not enough money to do

it.

Commissioner Willard added that you need to do the work prior to the election. You need to talk to people about this and encourage them, if that is what you decide to do on Constitutional Amendment No. 3. Gary Plunkett, Director of Public Works, has estimated the County alone has \$20 million in projects that currently need to be done. It is not going to be an easy sell. The hook in the proposition is that if it doesn't pass in your county, you don't get the money. It certainly is an encouragement for people to work with that.

Barbara O'Keeffe thanked the Commissioners for recognizing this issue and invited those attending this meeting to sign up for information on funding sources.

9. **PUBLIC HEARING: 1998 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP):** Chairman Warner opened the Public Hearing at 1:35 P.M.

Staff comment: Barbara O'Keeffe announced the RTP for 1998 (Revision) was in her possession and for public review at City Halls, Library's and Public Works. A press release will be prepared for this plan also. Barbara also made note, there are rigorous requirements with regard to this plan. Pete Hathaway, Deputy Director of CTC, commented on RTP's noting that projects must be in the plan to be funded thru the STIP. The guidelines for the RTP are being revised and we will supply comments to Caltrans. We will continue the public hearing in September and we are working with our Planning Director, George Robson, regarding the environmental requirements of this plan.

No public comment.

Commissioner Willard added that hopes of getting through the confusion that has surrounded the implementation of SB 45 out of state level, and can reach a staff level, so that we can handle requirements that have come down for planning that have been shifted to our level. When we have that ability, then we can certainly coordinate all of our transportation and circulation plans in the County and the City so we can best serve the citizens of the county.

1:40 P.M. Chairman Warner announced the Public Hearing would be continued at the September meeting.

10. **SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (SCA) 3:** Barbara O'Keeffe requested direction from the TCTC with regard to SCA3. Since Tehama County is not a self-help county, we need an expenditure plan. This plan would outline where monies would be spent and approved by the Board of Supervisors and the City Council representing the majority of the Cities and County and population. Assemblyman Dick Dickerson also recognizes the need.

Commissioner Turner also recognized the need, but apprehensive when examining the list of supporters. Few are agricultural counties and it was a fear that some of this be reallocated in the future to mass transportation and not to our needs. If we have a safe guard, I can certainly support it.

Staff answered by saying that much of the discussion has been the need for farm-to-market improvements. Much has been discussed by the self-help county, how these dollars have greatly

improved the roadways and facilities (the farm-to-market). Please be advised that is not overlooked at the state or rural county task force level. That message is carried forward. You can program the monies to go where local leadership and voters approve it to go.

Commissioner Willard added that he was not in favor of restriction against mass transit, especially when decided it was a local priority. Although not agreeing with Commissioner Turner's comments or the direction, what I am excited about on this proposal is that it does bring the money back here so we have a local choice. While rural counties are not specifically mentioned here, certainly CSAC with the Housing and Transportation Commission is a reflection of all of the counties in California and recognize that it is a place we have representation and reflects that rural as well as suburban-urban prospective.

Commissioner Russell: We have to make the citizens of Tehama County aware of this. The expenditure plan to me, should not be complicated at all. You already have plans for the STIP. You have priorities and I think that shouldn't be a problem at all. I am supportive of doing all we can to make the community aware of this.

Staff asked for clarification from the TCTC: Would the Commission direct staff for this to pass out of the assembly and then commence work on the expenditure plan, as well as the direction of public out reach and how you want this carried forward.

Commissioner Turner answered: Certainly, my fellow members, I do not want them to interpret that I am opposed to this. I am hesitant, by looking at the endorsement of the people that are so much dependent on massive transit. I have already stated that if we have the prerogative to handle money the way we want to, then yes.

Commissioner Willard moved that Staff send a letter to Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) to agendize this item for consideration and solicit support from RCRC. Staff added that the same letter be sent to Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF) which specifically addresses transportation matters. Commissioner Willard accepted the amendment to the motion and Commissioner Turner seconded. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

Commissioner Willard authorized staff to send correspondence to Assemblyman Dickerson indicating our preliminary support for this idea of funding of info- structure changes and express the concern, perhaps, that the counties actually be designated as both receiving 100% of the money and the ones making the decision about the appropriation. Commissioner Roush seconded the motion. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

11. **AUDIT AGREEMENT:** Commissioner Willard moved to approve the agreement for auditing services with the State Controllers office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.
12. **SERVICE FOR CALFED BAY DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL COUNTIES:** Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Willard to approve. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

13. **UPDATE ON THE WOODSON BRIDGE SURVEY:** Staff gave information regarding the survey presented to Woodson Bridge Estates. Of 131 residents, 39 (approximately 30%) responded to the survey. Staff asked the Commission if they wanted specific questions answered. Commissioner Stevens asked that when Woodson Bridge Estates came before the Commission and requested service, of the 39 responding, how many are actually potential users of the system. Staff answered by reading from the survey: 9 did not respond (23% of the 39); 11 answered, 1 person in the household and 19 answered, 2 persons in the household.

Commissioner Russell requested staff give details and recommendations in one month. Commissioner Russell was not impressed by the fact that only 39 responded to the survey after having come before the Commission requesting service. Before contemplating, a breakdown is requested for any runs near there and what kind of service is there presently. Staff will tabulate results and send the Commission results and a list of questions.

Beverly Murphy, Manager of Woodson Estates, was questioned why the small response number. Ms. Murphy stated that those who returned the survey had interest. Many of the younger residents had transportation and were not interested. Commissioner Willard added that a 10% response was good. Lack of interest does not necessarily indicate a lack of need.

14. **RTIP AMENDMENT REQUEST BY CITY OF RED BLUFF:** Motion by Commissioner Russell TO ADOPT Resolution 16-1999 and approve the 1998 RTIP Amendment No. 2. Second by Commissioner Turner.

Peter Harvey, City Manager, apologized to staff after receiving the financing agreement August 3, 1999. Gary Antone, Red Bluff Director of Public Works, prior to going on vacation sent a letter to staff to be agendaized. This is the "main street project" involving the new interchange of I-5 and Hwy 36. The City of Red Bluff share is \$260,000. Actual cost is \$325,685.99. Caltrans has given the City a \$265,000 credit for trees they will remove in Dog Island Park and the City will then have to build a new sidewalk in the park. True cost is \$328,000. Mr. Harvey stated that this project benefits both the City and the County. The City Council would like the County to participate in funding improvements.

Commissioner Russell questioned Mr. Harvey's statements by asking, if it happens out of the county then we should say the city benefits from it and therefore.....how do you decide? Mr. Harvey answered: In the mainstream of things, through the TAC and the Commission, you will have to look more at projects that are a benefit to an area or broader area and how they are funded, vs. how we fund individual projects within the jurisdictions. I would submit that aspects of this project are of a broader benefit than just the City of Red Bluff.

Chairman Warner asked if Mr. Harvey was suggesting this be brought before the TAC and Mr. Harvey answered yes.

Motion carried 6-0 with 1 absent. with no further discussion.

**(B)ADOPT RESOLUTION 17-1999** and authorize the Executive Director and Transit Manager to prepare and execute all necessary documents for the 1998 RTIP Amendment \_\_\_\_\_. Motion by Commissioner Willard and second by Commissioner Turner. Carried 6-0 with 1 absent.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Accepted as presented.

16. **WARRANT REGISTER:** Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Willard to approve the June and July 1999 register.

<u>June 1999</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Pacific Bell (800 Line; TDA Admin Claim)	\$6.73
Pacific Bell (385-2200; TDA Admin Claim)	\$48.21
Corning Observer (Legal Publication)	\$37.00
Red Bluff Daily (Legal Notice Publication)	\$118.00
SACOG (Legal Notice Publication)	\$180.00
Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (Bus Shelter Transport)	\$315.00
Laidlaw(CalWORKS)	\$1,648.24
Laidlaw (Replacement/transmission #2)	\$2,465.57
Sharon Severson(6/1-7/7/99)	\$4,340.00
Sharon Severson (4/16-5/31/99)	\$6,860.00
Laidlaw Transit Svs (VanTrans June 99)	\$19,536.55
Laidlaw Transit Svs(TRAX June 99)	<u>\$22,499.93</u>
Sub Total	\$58,055.23

<u>July 1999</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Pacific Bell(800 Line; TDA Admin Claim)	\$6.64
Corning Chamber of Commerce(TRAX Event-Parade)	\$10.00
Pacific Bell(385-2200; TDA Admin Claim)	\$39.38
Copy Center (RTP Copies)	\$74.56
Impressive Print (TRAX Schedules/Tickets)	\$331.01
Laidlaw Transit Svs(VanTrans July)	\$20,385.99
Laidlaw Transit Svs(TRAX June 99)	<u>\$22,910.03</u>
Sub Total	\$43,757.61

**Total** **\$101,812.84**

17. **TRANSIT PROJECT TIME LINE:** Staff stated they did not have a draft to present to the Commission at this time.
18. **ADJOURN:** With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

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Deputy