

**TEHAMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 24, 1999**

The meeting was moved from 624 Washington Street to the First Baptist Church due to the number of people attending the meeting. The meeting was then called to order at 9:45 A.M. Present were Chairman Ron Warner, Commissioners' Earl Wintle, George Russell, Ross Turner, Rex Roush and Charles Willard. Also attending, Gary Plunkett, Executive Director, Barbara O'Keeffe, Transportation Manager, and numerous Caltrans Staff.

2. PUBLIC INFORMATION ITEM ON NORTH RED BLUFF INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Caltrans Representative, Barry Tippin, Project Manger, introduced members of Caltrans, Burt Brockett, Division Chief of Planning and Programming, John Oldham, Environmental Generalist, John McClaine, Project Engineer and Marlene Woods. Mr. Tippin presented to the Commission a Summary Packet of the project.

Review of Alternative No. 3: Extension off of 36W that connects into I-5. Issues listed: Convenient access to I-5 from westerly side; limited impact to residence; satisfies needs. Increase traffic at Hwy. 36 will cause construction Railroad pre-emption system at a cost of \$350,000. Other issues: Limited access to parcels; right of way purchase of the parcels; increase in traffic delay costs (\$0.15 autos/\$0.40 trucks). This alternative encroaches into the (Dibble Creek) Flood Plain and would require closure of the North Interchange. It was the feeling of Caltrans that there would be lesser service with this alternative on the eastern side Surrey Village area. This alternative will require widening a bridge which will exceed the cost. In addition to this, due to the grade of I-5, it was also Caltrans opinion a truck climbing lane was necessary requiring an additional lane. There is a potential that this alternative could exceed program dollars. The estimate for this project would \$6 million for construction and roughly \$400,000 for right of way (not including truck climbing lane) and in addition 135 cubic yards of dirt.

Review of Alternative No. 2: Located south of the existing 36W road. Selected because it has the ability to put the bridge on top of an existing knoll, minimizing dirt required. This alternative minimizes some of the impacts, and meets the basic needs statement. It can be constructed within the programmed costs. There are left turn conflicts between the interchange and the 36W connection. With 36W, people will be turning left onto 36W moving north. Additional people will be turning left into the interchange. Between the Dibble Creek Bridge and this alternative project, access to commercial property development with high access needs becomes limited. Increased traffic delay will be a problem. Potential need of a truck climbing lane. No direct connection to the east; 8 acres of commercial property

taken through right of way as well as closure of the North Interchange. The cost of this alternative is \$4.1 million without the truck climbing lane. 85,000 cubic yards of dirt are required and \$330,000 in right of ways.

Alternative No. 1: As presented at the January meeting, this requires replacement or widening of the existing bridge; signals on either end to handle traffic; improvements on Adobe Road up to Main Street. Issues include: Provides better access to the eastern residence of north Red Bluff; increased emergency access; satisfies the needs statement; constructed within the program dollars; allows the existing north Red Bluff interchange to remain open. Project is at an existing route which will not alter traffic patterns to the extent the other Alternatives will have. Other issues: Potential right of ways to the west, noise mitigation required due to increased traffic on Adobe Road, Elderberry bushes, lighting required on eastern side, and encroachment on flood plain as well as a minor encroachment on agricultural land. Cost of \$5 million for construction, \$500,000 right of way included relocation of the resident on west side and about 80,000 cubic yards of dirt that will be required (similar to Alternative No. 2). Caltrans sees the likelihood that this could be listed as a preferred alternative.

Mr. Tippen spoke regarding what would happen after today's meeting. Caltrans will formalize the discussions and issues on all alternatives, come forward with a final preferred alternative, work with Gary Plunkett, Barbara O'Keeffe, and Gary Antone to present an agenda item for endorsement.

Public Comment:

Jeritta Griego, Lisa Way resident, expressed concerns she had and presented names and letter from concerned resident's. Also, expressed concerns that studies conducted on Alternative No. 1; property values will be effected and project is being proposed as a money saving caustic on Adobe Road due to the structure that already exists. Homeowners should not take the brunt of it.

David Jenock, River Oak Drive in Surrey Village, opinion of Adobe Road project was the most effective. Other options do not serve the eastern population. The Adobe Road plan is consistent with the existing plans for the area and a coordinated approach to the way development is done. Mr. Jenock expressed concern of taking commercial land which Adobe Road minimizes. Although Mr. Jenock agreed with the Adobe Road project, he expressed concerns of the residence living close to the freeway. Caltrans should minimize the adverse impact for these people.

Bill Moule, Moule's Glass, Chamber of Commerce Member, gave history of members of the community in 1998 asking for traffic to be alleviated in town. A two year study was done, a plan was presented to Caltrans and rejected. From 1992 to 1994 the Chamber of Commerce has pushed for Adobe Road as a number one

priority to the Transportation Commission.

Gary Napier, resident of Wilcox Road, sympathized with Lisa Way residence. Mr. Napier stated the benefit of health and safety services of Alternative No. 1 and benefit the homes in Surrey Village and Wilcox area. Traveling north Main and Adobe Road, Mr. Napier remarked it would alleviate accidents and traffic.

Pierre Peets, Lisa Way resident, had a list of residence who were not in favor of the project. Concerns were: Bright lights, sound barrier only one-third of the way; trucks making turn around's on Lisa Way; let the County pay for road maintenance on Lisa Way. Mr. Peets stated he supported Alternative No. 2.

Mat McGlenn, Surrey Village resident, President of Chamber of Commerce, in favor of Adobe Road project. Mr. McGlenn agreed with Mr. Moule's opinion and it would be good for the County.

Larry Lucas, resident of Red Bluff since 1947, watched Red Bluff grow slowly and lose industry and jobs. Some source of income must be brought to Red Bluff to make it grow. Every day, dollars pass buy our door everyday. We need to bring tourists and/or any other service oriented dollars into the community to benefit the entire County. Alternative No. 1 makes the north end of town open on both ends to bring commercial dollars off the freeway. People on Lisa Way have justified concerns and we need to make sure they are mediated. Wilcox Oaks and Surrey Village also have concerns. The flow of emergency services out to this area certainly will be better served with the Adobe Road interchange. With their fire protection coming from Station 1 on Antelope Blvd., the quickest and easiest way is to bring the emergency vehicles off at Adobe and out to Wilcox and Surrey.

At 10:50 A.M. Chairman Warner closed the "Public Hearing" section. (Note: This was not a Public Hearing, but published as a Public Information Meeting.) A break was taken at this time.

The meeting resumed at 11:00 A.M.

Barry Tippin again reviewed the Alternatives and Issues. Commissioner Turner questioned the commitment of Caltrans for Alternative No. 1. Mr. Tippin submitted that Alternative No. 1 appears to be the preferred Alternative when comparing all factors and meeting the needs statement and general need of the City. With the environmental laws, there is no requirement that Caltrans list a preferred alternative. However, if there is an alternative that we feel is more likely to pursue, then it seems prudent to disclose the information at this time.

Barbara O'Keeffe spoke regarding the resuming of the meeting. Ms. O'Keeffe said, unfortunately the audience departed. The summary comments Mr. Tippin spoke were scheduled and due to the departure of a large majority of the public, there was

a forced interim break. This was agendized as closing comments. Chairman Warner apologized for any inconvenience and it was not intended to furnish information without public knowledge.

3. COMPLETION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

Commissioner Willard moved to authorize the Director to execute a contract to complete the 1998 RTP with Severson Consulting. Commissioner Willard questioned if the software under the retainer becomes the property of the Consultant or reverts to the TCTC upon completion of the RTP. Staff replied it is retained by the Consultant which was an example of the start-up costs. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Carried 6-0.

4. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION

Gary Plunkett, Director of Public Works, explained the minor revision to the Job Description for Transportation Planner from (Basic Function) the change of "under the direction of Deputy Director of Public Works", and (Representative Duties) Assists in the preparation and administration of the planning for "the Local Transportation Fund budget, State Transit Assistance fund, AB 466 Air Quality funds and STIP funds".

Commissioner Russell motioned for approval. Commissioner Willard questioned if Personnel Department had reviewed the changes. Gary Plunkett confirmed it had been reviewed by Dan Fulks and changes were made and coordinated by Personnel. Commissioner Wintle seconded the motion. Carried 6-0.

5. STATUS OF TWO VACANT TRANSPORTATION PLANNER POSITIONS

Gary Plunkett, gave information to the Commission regarding the open positions. Two advertising periods were accomplished with no response from either received. Presently, the salary range is being negotiated within the County and TCEA and hopefully resolved soon.

Chairman Warner commented that the Commission was not in compliance with an MOU which was with Caltrans. \$17 million is in jeopardy.

Commissioner Wintle expressed concern regarding the long-term negotiations and rate increase.

Gary Plunkett discussed these problems with Personnel and the issues were entered into the negotiations. Barbara O'Keeffe stated the Commission and the Board of Supervisors approved the Transportation Planner at the established range. In October of 1998, a new position allocation list reduced the salary 56%. With the help of Severson Consultant, Sharon Severson, working on one document (RTP),

we still have the MOU with the State requiring a Project Manager in position for program planning and monitoring. We are currently one of two County's within the State who do not have a Program Manager for the State projects (Adobe Road). Regarding salary, the survey was completed and provided to the Commission and Personnel. The previous salary range was within \$100 of the other four County's.

Marlene Woods clarified that Tehama County is one of two County's who has not returned the Funds Transfer Agreement as to what Tehama is planning to do with the allowed 2% for this position. Ms. Woods stated it is not required to fill the position, but it is a matter of having someone doing it.

At this point, the Commission moved to Agenda Item No. 10.

Commissioner Turner moved that as the Agenda was posted in access of two weeks ago, within 72 hours a need was shown to agendize Item No. 10, (Amend Resolution 9-1998 and Approve Attachment "A" of said Resolution). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Willard. Carried 6-0.

Motion to this Item No. 10 to take action subsequent to the posting of the Agenda by Commissioner Turner and seconded by Commissioner Willard. Carried 6-0.

Barbara O'Keeffe reiterated that in November of 1998, the Commission approved Resolution 9 and the Fund Transfer Agreement. Attachment "A" has been incorporated and identified the funds are retroactive as well as included that the work can be done by current staff or contracted. In addition, identifies the Department of Public Works is the administering agency. Some changes were anticipated with the initial implementation of the Fund Transfer Agreement. Attachment "A" and the modification to the resolution reflect the changes and take the place of the OWP Amendment allowing us to be reimbursed for past planning and monitoring work as well as providing reimbursement for the RTP.

Commissioner Willard moved to Amend Resolution 9-1998 and Approve Attachment "A" as referenced within the Resolution. Second by Commissioner Turner. Carried 6-0.

Commissioner Turner emphasized the expediency of the presentation by Caltrans, Staff examine using contracted employees to pursue matters.

6. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 1999

Motion to approve the January 20, 1999 minutes by Commissioner Russell, second by Commissioner Willard. Carried 6-0.

8. CLAIMS

U.S. Postal Service (envelopes) \$549.20

Motion to approve by Commissioner Wintle and seconded by Commissioner Turner.
Carried 6-0.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Harvey, City Manager of Red Bluff, commented on items heard at this meeting. Regarding the north interchange project, the City will be contributing a portion of repair to signals along Antelope as well as repair to the I-5 Antelope Interchange. One aspect discussed with Staff is that area of Main Street, from where Hwy. 36 goes off to the west, from there, the overpass and the connection to the subdivision in the County is programmed to revert to the City. At this point, it is an issue that should be brought before the Commission as an Agenda Item.

With regard to Agenda Item 10, Mr. Harvey said it was his opinion that there is not enough money in the percentages allocated to compensate the Cities, as well as the County, for the work done. Commissioner Turner questioned Mr. Harvey, that based on his comments, it was his understanding that he wanted the Commission examine the administrative costs procedures and Mr. Harvey agreed.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Chairman

Deputy/Secretary