

TEHAMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2001

Present: Vice Chairman Larry Stevens, Commissioners; Warner, Russell, Willard and Turner. Absent: Chairman Rex Roush. Also present: Barbara O’Keeffe, Transit Manager, Kevin Rosser and Tim Bollmann, Transportation Planners and Andrea Fields, Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 2.

1. Call to Order at 9:03 a.m. by Vice Chairman Larry Stevens.
2. Approval of June 19, 2001 Minutes: Approval of June 19, 2001 minutes, no discussion, moved by Commissioner Turner and seconded by Commissioner Warner. No discussion, Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
3. Public Comment: Bill Brashears Laidlaw Project Manager stated that Laidlaw Vice President Beverly Edwards recently visited Tehama County. She was instrumental in addressing our local need for certified trainers. We now have two fully certified trainers locally to train new drivers. Bill also stated that Laidlaw provided mobility training to the Villa Columba residents last week. A TRAX bus was filled w/ residents and individuals were able to ride the bus and understand transfers. This community outreach was very well received.
4. Flores Access Road Project Delivery Team Update: Deputy Director/Project Manager Jerry Brownfield informed the Commission about the status of the environmental document. The last PDT team was August 1 and wetland delineation of the Area of Study was discussed. Jerry summarized that the Army Corp of Engineers found additional vernal pools on May 10, 2001. He pointed to the white spots on the map and stated that the additional vernal pools would probably be mapped in September and returned to the Corp for review.

Commission Turner questioned if the first phase of the vernal pool mapping was successful? It was stated that the original mapping was done in 1995 using information provided by Sugnet Associates. Commission Warner inquired about the cost of vernal pool mitigation? Brownfield quoted a cost of \$33,000 per acre depending on the ratio of mitigation.

The second item discussed at the PDT team was the fairy shrimp. Fairy shrimp was found on Gordon’s property. Both wet and dry season analysis have been completed. A sieve analysis is in process and anticipated to take two months due to the back log of analysis to be completed. Therefore, we expect to hear about the fairy shrimp in January.

Commission Willard asked if North State Resources studied the whole project area or the proposed area. Jerry stated they studied the proposed right-of-way area and sampled any place with water in that area.

Cultural and historical studies are also being done. It is anticipated that these would take two months.

The consultant Omni-Means submitted an administrative draft of the New Connection report to Caltrans. There was a meeting to discuss all the Caltrans comments. Jerry explained that a number of comments were beyond the scope of the connection report and were comments on design issues. He explained that the safety and operational issues are the focus and Caltrans will modify these comments to address these issues. Omni Means is in the process of responding to the comments and it is anticipated that there may be a response from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the New Connection Report in November on whether or not they will allow an interchange.

5. 2002 Regional Improvement Fund Distribution. Kevin Rosser reviewed the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations for the 2002 Regional Transportation Improvement Program and their recommendation for funding. Also prepared was a list of projects to be funded off the top and the distribution of monies for City and County agencies. A total of \$8,024,000 RIP funds are available for distribution.

Motion by Commissioner Warner and second by Commissioner Turner to accept the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation of funding distribution method, amount and balance for 2002 Regional Improvement Program Funds. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Russell to approve Resolution 16-2001. Second by Commissioner Willard and carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

6. Rescheduling TCTC Meetings in September and October and Regional Transportation Plan Update: Kevin Rosser advised of his receipt from Caltrans, correspondence stating that Caltrans had approved the adoption of the RTP September 18, 2001. During the RTIP/STIP TAC meeting, the recommendation was to again change the dates to October 30, 2001 for submittal of the RTP and adoption by the Commission. This also was approved by Caltrans.

It should be noted that due to this change of dates, it will be necessary to also change the TCTC meetings and deadlines for incorporating any public comments into the plan. Caltrans feels it is better that Tehama County miss the September deadline in order to have all the guidelines met and include all public comments.

Commissioner Russell asked that TCTC meetings be held on the original dates if at all possible due to previous appointments.

Motion by Commissioner Willard and second by Commissioner Turner to accept the time line for the Regional Transportation Plan. Motion Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Warner and second by Commissioner Willard to adopt Resolution 17-2001 rescheduling of the TCTC meetings and authorize the chairperson to sign the resolution. Motion carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

7. Rural Counties Task Force Meeting Update: Kevin Rosser reviewed the Rural Counties Task Force

meeting of July 20, 2001 and obstacles that prevent us from delivering projects in a timely manner.

Gary Plunkett, Executive Director, suggested to the RCTF that funding go directly to the project sponsor and not through Caltrans. This was given consideration by Commission members present, but Caltrans was not as receptive. This idea will be submitted again to the RCTF to propose new legislation and allow the recommendations of the AB 1012 team to follow through.

Barbara O’Keeffe added that this is not a new concept and the agencies are subject to audits.

Kevin Rosser addressed issues of Local Assistance and their undertaking to filling out the many forms available and to make them user friendly. Also, Kevin Rosser spoke regarding the District 2 shortage of personnel in Local Assistance and Planning.

8. Public Input Sought for California Transportation Plan: Barbara O’Keeffe presented information on soliciting public input for the California Transportation Plan at the workshop in Redding on September 6th. The information given will communicate our needs so that the document is representative of all needs throughout the State.

Andrea Fields discussed the inclusion of the rural counties input in this plan. In the past, this has been an urban planning document and not addressing rural issues. Scott White of District 2 will share a draft of the plan with the RTPA in December.

It was suggested the TRAX bus meet at one central location to transport people to this meeting.

9. Replacement Vehicle Procurement for TRAX and VanTrans: Barbara O’Keeffe presented the Commission with information on the procurement process for purchasing vehicles through the State Vehicle Contract, waiving the formal bid process. This fleet replacement plan is the recommendation of staff and our Consultant, Mark Wall. Specifications and costs are being reviewed by line item and this presentation, the Commission will find, is the best possible estimate. Staff asked the TCTC recommend procurement of replacement vehicles for TRAX and VanTrans to the Board of Supervisors and ask the waiving of the formal bid process and procure vehicles from the State Vehicle Contract.

Motion by Commissioner Russell to the plan for procurement/replacement vehicles be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Second by Commissioner Turner and carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Russell to waive the formal bidding process and procure vehicles from the State Vehicle Contract. Motion second by Commissioner Warner and carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

10. 2001 Tehama County Report Card: Barbara O’Keeffe distributed the complete 2001 County Report Card. Information in the report discusses transit and how the Commission’s roles have increased over the past.
11. 2000/2001 Annual Report for METS, TRAX, and VanTrans: Tim Bollmann updated the Commission

on the transit system.

- ▶ 9 Volunteer drivers for the METS Program
- ▶ Office Assistant (OA II) position for METS filling the needs with 960 hours per calendar year
- ▶ Next years scheduling may be changed due to limited hours of OA II

Commissioner Turner discussed the possibility of examining grants to carry this program along more economically or perhaps privatize the program.

Barbara O’Keeffe added the METS program is funded with local transportation funds and the program has decreased in cost which will be indicated in the final budget.

Commissioner Willard stated that when you examine the main factor, and the main factor being labor, the labor is volunteered and this represents a good combination of public/private partnership. With the structure of the program it is doubtful that the program could be more efficient.

With questions from City Manager of Red Bluff, Susie Price, requesting totals of METS costs summarizing administrative fees, and Public Works Director Gary Antone requesting a privatization summary of costs for METS, Commissioner Russell answered that before spending Staff time and effort to study the issues, evidence would have to be presented that showed there would be a way to save money compared to the money saved presently.

Commissioner Willard suggested that the Commission refer Staff to handle the situation and work with the City of Red Bluff to understand the information needed by City Manager Susie Price and Public Works Director Gary Antone. A report could be presented at a future meeting.

Vice Chairman Stevens added that this program takes time, and being cost effective, to have someone else complete the program and transport people when people need to go is the real issue with the METS program.

12. North Valley Services 5310 Application: Barbara O’Keeffe discussed the 98 out of 100 score received by North Valley Services from the 5310 State Review Committee. Marilyn Westbrook and Al Skaggs worked diligently on this project and their efforts were appreciated.

Commissioner Willard thanked North Valley Services for their efforts.

13. Correspondence was reviewed by Barbara O’Keeffe and accepted as presented.
14. Warrants: Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Warner to accept the Warrants of \$157,540.65 as presented. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
15. Claims: Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Willard to accept the Claims as presented of \$1,351.36. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
16. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.