

TEHAMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2001

Present: Chairman Ross Turner, Commissioners' Ron Warner, George Russell, Rex Roush, Larry Stevens and Charles Willard. Also present: Barbara O'Keeffe, Transit Manager, Kevin Rosser, Transportation Planner, Gary Plunkett, Director of Public Works, Mark Moses Assistant Director of Public Works-Admin., Michael Lydon, Engineer of Tehama County Public Works and Venita Philbrick of Red Bluff Trails United.

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 8:44 A.M.
2. MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Stevens and second by Commissioner Warner to accept the minutes. Carried 6-0 with 0 absent.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Willard discussed the need to recognize safety issues on the Salt Creek overflow bridges.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara O'Keeffe announced the March 6th meeting for Senior Provider and presented information on the "Graying in the Golden State."

It was the consensus of the Commission to move Item No. 8 to the front of the agenda due to the amount of visitors waiting for this item.

8. UPDATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS FEASIBILITY STUDY: Venita Philbrick presented to the Commission the completed Recreational Trails Feasibility Study. The study is consistent with two plans previously adopted by the Commission, Tehama County Bikeways Plans and the Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Philbrick asked for more support and keeping the vision of safe transportation from homes, schools and back.

Julie Bruer, a fifth grade Teacher, discussed the eight year effort of her 10 year old children to plan a trail system connecting schools, parks, sports fields and neighborhoods in Red Bluff. Ms. Bruer said she was disappointed TEA funds were going towards roads instead of building trails.

Commissioner Russell asked that the Commissions position be understood with regard to the road systems in Tehama County. Complaints from citizens with regard to the roads are received every day. He encouraged everyone to drive thru Los Molinos and other small communities and see the pot holes. If trails are a high priority for the Red Bluff City Council they need to set aside funding to build trails.

Commissioner Stevens discussed if there are concerns they can go before the Red Bluff City Council.

Commissioner Warner also discussed the conditions on the roads and the lack of funding causing the conditions they are presently in.

Student, Levi McCreery, requested the Commission support their mission.

9. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES (TEA) FUNDS: Barbara O’Keeffe presented two resolutions recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for adoption by the Commission. Also discussed was the conflicting information of the passed deadline for exchanging the 1999/00 funds. This Commission is not the only agency dealing with this matter. At present, staff had no deadline information in writing.

A motion by Commissioner Warner and second by Commissioner Roush to adopt Resolution 4-2001, authorizing the exchange of the 1999/2000 Transportation Enhancement Activities Funds in the amount of \$182,000. Motion carried 5-0 with 1 abstention by Commissioner Stevens.

Motion by Commissioner Warner and second by Commissioner Roush to adopt Resolution 5-2001 authorizing the exchange of the 2000/01 TEA funds in the amount of 188,000. Motion carried 5-0 with 1 abstention by Commissioner Stevens.

The meeting recessed at 9:24 a.m. and reconvened at 9:27 a.m. Returning to Item No. 4 on the Agenda Commissioner Willard left the meeting for a short period.

4. FORMAL RECOGNITION OF CITY MANAGER PETER HARVEY: Barbara O’Keeffe asked for adoption of Resolution No. 2-2001 by the Commission, recognizing Peter Harvey for his many years of public service. Mr. Harvey will be retiring. Chairman Turner presented Mr. Harvey with a token of appreciation and a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens and second by Commissioner Warner to adopt Resolution 2-2001. Carried by Commissioners present 5-0 with Commissioner Willard absent.
5. STIP DEADLINES AND PROJECTS REQUIRING EXTENSION/AMENDMENTS: Kevin Rosser, Transportation Planner requested the Commission amend the 2000 STIP for Planning, Programming and Monitoring funds. The request was due to the unexpended funds and inability to hire transportation planning staff. In order to maintain the required level of planning, programming and monitoring, a consultant was hired.

Commissioner Willard returned.

Commissioner Russell questioned Gary Plunkett, Public Works Director, if he was already planning in two or three years for Red Bank. Executive Director Plunkett stated the extension was due to the new alignment that would require additional environmental work. Kevin Rosser added the close out date was June 30th of this year and the CEQA document would not be complete before that time.

Motion by Commissioner Russell to adopt Resolution No. 3-2001 and second by Commissioner Roush. Carried 6-0 with 0 absent.

6. FLORES AVENUE UPDATE: Due to a family illness Mr. Brownfield was unable to attend the meeting. Mike Lydon, Engineer for Public Works, presented the Commissioners an update of the last meeting for the Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting. Included in the packet was the PDT updated action item list of the most recent meeting. CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) studies are proceeding as scheduled and the draft environmental document will be delivered at the March 7 PDT meeting. After review, Omni Means will incorporate any comments and have the draft ready for public review by March 23, 2001. Late in May, the final document for CEQA should be complete.

The new connection report is in the process. A separate team met February 7, regarding this issue. Omni Means is also in charge of this document. An update to the Commission will be presented at the next TCTC meeting. Shrimp studies continue and thus far nothing has been found. A reminder that if shrimp are found, it will increase the cost of the project. The studies should be complete in August to turn over to the State and Federal authorities for their concurrence.

Commissioner Turner questioned the time line for groundbreaking. Mr. Lydon answered if proceeding with the access road, the scheduled start up date should remain unchanged.

7. CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SYSTEM (CTIPS) REPORT FOR STIP FUNDING: Kevin Rosser presented an overview of the distribution of funding for Tehama County. He stated there are six projects scheduled for construction this year using STIP funds in the amount of \$2,098,000. There were no questions or comments on this item.
9. 2000/01 MID YEAR BUDGET REPORT: Mark Moses, Assistant Director of Public Works Admin. presented the budget report to the Commission. Commissioner Russell inquired if Mark had any concerns, with which he replied he did not, but that he would provide a recap of each page. LTF will exceed the County Auditors estimate of \$1,012,000. It is anticipated that \$1,174,000 will be received. STA will increase to \$154,000 next year. STA is funding ParaTRAX and comments will be made regarding that budget unit. Administration Fund reflects the new Planner for half the year. Commissioner Turner asked if overtime would be exceeded and Mark Moses replied that at this point in time there is work that is not being completed. Due to an accident, Barbara has had to limit the number of hours worked. It was stated that both TRAX/VanTrans line items for Contractor Payments were "bare bone" figures that may be exceeded. STA would fully fund ParaTRAX this year and with the increase in STA funds next year, STA could be programmed for TRAX. Staff also stated that VanTrans ticket sales were low. The decrease in ridership was noted last month.

Commissioner Russell left the meeting.

Peter Harvey, City Manager, questioned if the VanTrans buses were going to handle the ParaTRAX service within Red Bluff. He questioned if there was a separate accounting, which Barbara O’Keeffe answered yes, that the item was under ParaTRAX.

This item was accepted as presented.

11. CALIFORNIA ROADS & HIGHWAYS: Condition & Travel Trends; Barbara O’Keeffe presented the just released report comparing the California highways nationwide. California ranked third in the nation in percentages of major roads in need of improvement and ranked fourth also nationally on extra vehicle costs incurred from driving on roads in need of repair. This increasing cost will continue with the rise in population.
12. GREYHOUND GRANT PROPOSAL: Barbara O’Keeffe informed the Commission of the FTA funds available to enhance rural intercity bus services by connecting rural areas to urban communities. The proposed service is also required to provide connections with other transportation modes or facilities. Greyhound submitted a grant proposal for bus service from Eureka to Reno. The grant has conditional approval from Caltrans and Greyhound is required to have a letter of support from Mt. Lassen Motors and each Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) on the route.

Mt. Lassen Motors has communicated having a problem with a subsidized route due to the their current routes and the possibility of jeopardizing their business. A mutual understanding was reached between all stakeholders resulting in Greyhound modifying their proposal. Staff explained that once the modification is completed, they will contact local transit providers and RTPA and request support.

Commissioner Roush questioned the proposed route. Staff explained there is presently no service from Eureka to Redding and Greyhound prepared their grant to extend further.

Commissioner Turner requested staff keep the Commission informed of this matter.

Debbie Pederson, Caltrans District 2, explained that the FTA 5311 is a two year grant so the Company only has two years to get the route fully funded and it is only funded for 50% of the operating cost.

13. UPDATE ON 5310 (ELDERLY AND DISABLED) GRANT: Barbara O’Keeffe attended the workshop for the 5310 in January. Gaylen Norman, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator, corresponded with staff and stated the results of applying proved scoring criterial indicated the Senior Nutrition Center too low to continue pursuing the grant at this time.
14. CORRESPONDENCE: There were no questions from the Commission.
15. WARRANT REGISTER: Motion by Commissioner Warner to accept the Warrants. Second by Commissioner Roush. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

16. CLAIMS: Motion by Commissioner Willard and second by Commissioner Warner. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
17. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.