

TEHAMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2001

Present: Vice-Chair Larry Stevens; Commissioners; George Russell, Ross Turner, Ron Warner and Charles Willard. Also present: Barbara O’Keeffe, Transit Manager and Kevin Rosser, Transportation Planner , Gerry Brownfield, Deputy Director and Gary Plunkett, Executive Director.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Vice-Chairperson Larry Stevens.

1. Minutes: Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Willard to approve the minutes of September 27, 2001 with corrections. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent. (No. 1. Vinita spelling correction and No. 2 Native Americans.
2. Public Comment: Kevin Rosser discussed staff attended the Rural Counties Task Force meeting. Under the STIP, Caltrans made the comment that the STIP has not met the expectations for capacity increasing projects.

The Local Assistance Manual is being rewritten and available on CD’s. Another book called Simple Projects is available.

In a program, the California Transportation Investment Strategy, which is a GIS program over the entire State, CTC wants to put all STIP projects on a map. Our County is coordinating this information in our GIS project through the Overall Work Program.

3. Announcements as accepted.
4. Flores Access Road Project Delivery Team Update: Gerry Brownfield discussed the current status of the Action Item list.
 - Redelineation of wetlands per Corps request: Mapping completed and sent to the Corps of Engineers. Approximate information December
 - Fairy shrimp dry sample analysis: Samples collected and sent to lab for analysis. Scheduled December to complete. Once results received, a standard format survey will be completed by North State Resources. Once complete, North State will revise their biological report to reflect the results.
 - Draft New Connection Report: Consultant will complete November 30th final draft and after review and revision will go to FHWA.
 - Biological Assessment and Draft EA format are waiting for results from items above and a format from Caltrans to complete.
5. PPM Update: Kevin Rosser announced the RTP has been sent back for final formatting to the consultant. To date, Quincy Engineering invoices have nearly reached \$80,000. Staff is of the opinion that with the remaining projects they may exceed expected costs.

6. South Avenue Interchange: Barbara O’Keeffe provided correspondence from District 2 sent to District Headquarters for the second time, requesting the South Avenue interchange project be included in the ITIP. This was denied for a second time. At this time, the State will not contribute ITIP funds for the project. The TAC has made recommendations to keep this project moving forward and the best course of action is to obtain environmental clearance.

The TAC recommendations are:

Program \$440,000 for Project Approval and Environmental Documents.
Obtain environmental clearance for the South Avenue project.
An immediate goal is for the acquisition of Right-of-Way for the project.
Pursue all possible funding options.
Consider phasing the improvements beginning with the north bound ramps then working on the south bound ramps

The Commissioners expressed concerns and frustrations with the decision of the State. The structure of the process seems to breed cynicism.

With regard to the correspondence sent to District Headquarters, it was questioned in the sentence, “In addition, as presented at the last Technical Advisory Committee meeting, there are less expensive alternatives that provide a good solution to problems experienced today.”

Gary Plunkett, answered the primary congestion problem is on the East side of the freeway where the Northbound traffic gets onto South Avenue and returns to I-5. The Phasing approach would solve the problem for the short-term and improve the short portion of South Avenue between I-5 and 99W. Completion of the environmental and purchase of property right of way needed for the whole project, and begin construction in phases. As land develops to the West, deal with the ramps on the West side and this area could possibly be funded by developers. Funding options would possibly be ITIP or, minor project Caltrans funds combined with STIP.

Motion by Commissioner Charles Willard to approve the Resolution 24-2001 and second by Director Turner. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

7. Update on Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP): Kevin Rosser stated that due to the complexity of the program, good estimates are needed on projects before programming. The City of Corning has South Avenue and Solano with the PSR’s completed. The City of Corning will use all funds for these projects. The City of Red Bluff is not programming their projects and leaving it as an unprogrammed balance for City Council to approve. The City of Tehama does not have enough funds to program for a project. Correspondence will be sent identifying six-months to one-year for engineer estimates and program the unprogrammed balance.

Gerry Brownfield added that what the County has done with regard to the project approval list is take the top eleven projects and applying for environmental only funding. This will begin the process and additional funding requests will be made.

No action was taken on this item.

8. State Route 89 Transportation Concept Report (TCR): Scott White and Kathy Graham of Caltrans gave a presentation on their future improvement projects. Scott White added that Caltrans is responsible for long-range planning akin to regional transportation plans. Long-range planning has not been done for several years by Caltrans. In the late 90's, long-range planning stopped when transportation planning monies were not available.

Kathy Graham explained the consensus based document by approaching staff of Public Works for direction regarding the route. Four miles of the County were involved. Suggestions of contacting Lassen Volcanic Park, Planning Department of Tehama County and Mt. Lassen Motor Transit were made. Five public meetings were held at Grey Eagle, Greenville, Burney, Mt. Shasta and McCloud. Suggestions by public included:

- Narrow shoulders
- Deer kill
- Greenville wants rehab with regard to beautification
- Grey Eagle traffic volume increase and possibly a by-pass
- McCloud interested in an under crossing for foot traffic
- Mt. Shasta junction of 89 and I-5 no weave area - safety issue
- Lassen Park toll area

Scott White added that Caltrans will submit the Draft TCR to this Commission for public comment and review at the December 2001 meeting. The final resolution will be submitted for adoption in January 2002.

9. Rural Transit System Grant Program (RSTGP): Barbara O'Keeffe announced the only eligible applicant for this grant is the City of Red Bluff. Three proposed grant applications were discussed.

- City of Red Bluff is preparing an application and providing the matching funds for the Red Bluff Bus & Ride.
- City of Red Bluff is proposing procurement of a Senior Nutrition/Multipurpose van and requesting matching funds.
- Staff is proposing procurement of two small paratransit vehicles by leveraging the available rolling stock funds.

An estimated 38% match for the vehicles would leave approximately \$74,000 remaining RIP for future use.

Staff requested the Commission:

- Approve Regional Improvement Program (RIP) Fund as Matching Funds
- Endorse Applications (Bus & Ride, Sr. Nutrition/Multi Purpose Van, small paratransit vehicles)
- Direct Staff to Prepare Grant Application for Paratransit Vehicles

Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Russell to approve staffs request. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

10. Grant Application for Transit Professional Development: Barbara O’Keeffe requested the Commission to direct staff to pursue grant funds and approve the letter of support.

Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Russell to approve staffs request. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.

11. Correspondence: Accepted as presented.
12. Warrants: Motion by Commissioner Russell and second by Commissioner Turner to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$73,776.69. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
13. Claims: Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Russell to approve the Claims in the amount of \$278.94. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
14. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.