

**AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**July 15, 2009 – 6:40 P.M.**

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California on the above date, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

**Present on Roll Call:**

Greg Baldwin, Vice Chairman  
Pat Crosby  
Richard Forster  
Theodore Novelli, Alternate  
David Plank  
Dave Richards

**Absent:**

Louis Boitano, Chairman

**Also Present:**

Dan Brewer, Chief, Rural Planning & Administration, Caltrans District 10  
Charles Field, ACTC Executive Director  
Robyn Sheehan, ACTC Administrator  
Neil Peacock, ACTC Transportation Planner/Program Manager

**Agenda:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**Public Matters Not on the Agenda:** ACTC Executive Director Charles Field reported that Caltrans will not be able to work on environmental clearance for local projects submitted to Caltrans until they are finished processing the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) projects. At Caltrans request, ACTC staff and consultants have prepared and submitted a list of high priority projects that require Caltrans review. These projects will be at risk if they are delayed. The loss of these projects represents significantly more money and jobs than the ARRA projects awarded to Amador County.

Director Forster asked if Caltrans can subcontract these projects to other consultants if they don't have the time to perform the work. Mr. Field responded that this will likely be one of the ACTC's requests.

Director Plank asked if any grants can be cancelled because of the excessive delay. Mr. Field advised that they are at risk of costing more as opposed to being cancelled.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Consent Agenda Item No. 1 – Minutes:** Commissioner Forster stated that he will submit a technical correction to the minutes of May 20, 2009.

**Consent Agenda Item No. 5 – SR 49 Bypass Follow-up Items:** Mr. Field reported that Dr. Richards received his check from Caltrans for the driveway improvements.

### **Consent Agenda Item No. 6 – Tri-County State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Projects:**

Commissioner Richards stated that the Upcountry residents did not agree on any of the options for the Pine Grove Improvement project and there is a lack of funding. He asked for clarification concerning this project. Mr. Field advised that ACTC has not yet begun to spend the federal grant money for this project. Work conducted by the ACTC and its consultants in 2003 indicated that the south bypass option had the most support, the through-town project received the second most support, and the north bypass option received the least amount of support. Costs have escalated and Caltrans' latest estimate for a south bypass is \$85 million. When the ACTC asked the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for funding to initiate the environmental review and selection of the actual alternative, the CTC Chairman questioned where the ACTC will get \$85 million and stated that the environmental document will become ancient by the time the County can collect this amount of money. As a result, the ACTC reduced its funding target for the Pine Grove project to \$20-\$40 million. ACTC staff advised the community that there would not be enough money for a bypass and other alternatives would need to be explored. ACTC has been working to obtain federal earmark funds to do this work and now Caltrans will not let the ACTC have these federal funds. More information about this is to be discussed under the regular agenda item concerning the Pine Grove State Route (SR) 88 corridor project.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Plank, seconded by Commissioner Crosby, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as presented and discussed.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Sutter Hill Transit Center:** Mr. Field advised that ACTC project management consultant Matt Boyer, Dokken Engineering, has run into complications with the lowest bidder for construction of Phase IIA therefore this agenda item will need to be postponed

**Foothill Rideshare Program:** ACTC Rideshare program manager Renee Chapman reported that the Tuolumne County Transportation Council has authorized a rideshare sign up event at the Heald College in Stockton. Forty students from Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties attend the Stockton campus and 50-60 Amador County students attend the Rancho Cordova campus. She advised that the colleges were unable to conduct a survey of interested students due to year-end demands however they reported that they receive 2 to 3 requests per week for rideshare information. Ms. Chapman recommended that a format be developed so that the students can run the Rideshare registration program.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Novelli, and unanimously carried to authorize the Foothill Rideshare project manager to proceed with a one-time pilot project requiring approximately 26 hours to facilitate, organize, participate and prepare reports for two Rideshare Registration events during the 2009/10 school year at the Heald College Rancho Cordova and Stockton campuses.

**Caltrans Reports:** Dan Brewer, Chief, Rural Planning and Administration, Caltrans District 10, reported that Caltrans' furloughs have been increased to three days per month and this will impact the cities, counties and ACTC. He advised that the State Clearing House for CEQA is also being impacted by the furloughs. Beginning August the furlough days will be the first three Fridays of each month. Agencies should keep this in mind when submitting CEQA documents for review.

An update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines is being conducted by the California Transportation Commission with assistance from Caltrans. The Update is being driven by Senate Bill 375 that addresses climate change and green house gases.

In September Caltrans will hold a public workshop concerning the California Transportation Plan 2035 Update. The California Transportation Plan is a 20 year long-range plan that addresses policies in a broad sense, it is not a project. Commissioners asked ACTC staff to provide them with the workshop announcement via email.

Commissioner Baldwin asked Mr. Brewer if he has heard anything about toll roads. Mr. Brewer stated that he is not aware of any proposed toll roads in northern California.

Commissioner Forster asked if there is any hope in getting assistance with the top five priority projects discussed earlier. Mr. Brewer responded that he assumes this is a statewide policy and he will reiterate the Commission's concerns regarding its priority projects back to the District Director.

Commissioner Novelli stated that Highway 88 is a very beautiful, long highway and he asked if the State can improve some of Highway 88 from Jackson to the State line when the State gets some more money. Mr. Brewer stated that the lion's share of the funding for this purpose is provided through the STIP; 75% goes to the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and it is allocated by population. Mr. Field stated that Amador receives approximately \$1 million per year and there will be no STIP funds coming to Amador County this next year. Mr. Brewer concurred that, in the near term, there is no money for the STIP statewide and there is a \$1 billion shortfall for safety and maintenance (SHOPP) projects as well.

Commissioner Forster stated that most of the ARRA funds went to urban areas and if Caltrans will be focusing its efforts on the ARRA funded projects, then Amador County will be impacted again because Amador is in danger of losing its projects. It's a double hit for Amador County.

Commissioner Baldwin asked if Amador County passed a ½ cent sales tax would it help the County in the future. Mr. Brewer responded that it gives the County a new dedicated source of revenue and that revenue can be used as a local match to secure other funds that may not be available. It would strengthen the County's position. Mr. Field stated that if STIP funds become

available in 2009/10, the first priority would be safety projects and then projects that are already funded. Counties with a sales tax measure can be more creative and they will be more likely to leverage the available STIP funds. Amador is using its Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee program funds to leverage other funding sources but it is less effective than a sales tax.

**Pine Grove Context Sensitive Solution/State Route 88 Corridor Project:** Mr. Field advised that ACTC was not given authority to proceed using federal grant funds because it needs to have the entire amount of funds for environmental clearance before the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will give any part of the federal funds. Representatives from Caltrans Headquarters, Caltrans District 10, FHWA and ACTC have been working to resolve this matter. A meeting with these agencies is scheduled for July 16. ACTC was also advised that if it does not succeed with construction in ten years, then it will need to pay the federal grant funds back. Other issues under discussion are the consultant selection process, Disadvantage Business Enterprise process, and whether ACTC is eligible to be the implementing agency for this project. ACTC staff will email a brief report concerning the outcome of the July 16 meeting to the Commissioners.

**Amador County UPlan:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to authorize extension of intern services utilized to support the Amador County UPlan/Blueprint project as necessary for up to \$10,000.

**Claims:** Mr. Field explained that CH2M Hill, Inc. exceeded the contract budget because ACTC staff decided to alter the initial contracting process and this resulted in additional administrative costs to be incurred by the consultant.

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to approve the revised claim list as presented including the additional costs incurred by CH2M Hill, Inc.

**CLOSED SESSION** may be called for labor negotiations (pursuant to Government Code 54957.6), personnel matters (pursuant to Government Code 54957), real estate negotiations/acquisitions (pursuant to Government Code 54956.8), and/or pending or potential litigation (pursuant to Government Code 54956.9).

**Conference with Real Property Negotiators**

APN 044-420-007-000. (Trustees of the Munn Revocable Trust, Elgin Bowers, and Caroline F. Bowers) (Price and terms of payment) ACTC's Property Negotiators. Charles Field, Executive Director, Nancy Miller, Miller Owen and Trost, and Matt Boyer, Dokken Engineering

Mr. Field stated that there is no need for Closed Session. There has been an agreement on this matter and no action is required at this time.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Novelli, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting to **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 19, 2009**, at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California.

At 7:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Baldwin recessed the meeting.

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Louis Boitano, Chairman  
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:

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Recording Secretary

Note: Copies of referenced documents are available at the ACTC office.