

AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2009 – 6:44 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:

Louis Boitano, Chairman
Greg Baldwin, Vice Chairman
Pat Crosby
Richard Forster
David Plank
Dave Richards

Also Present:

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

Agenda: A blue slip agenda item concerning a resolution for the Ione and Jackson Community Based Transportation Planning grant application was submitted by ACTC Transportation Planner/Program Manager Neil Peacock.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin, seconded by Commissioner Plank, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the addition of the blue slip agenda item concerning the Community Based Transportation Planning Grant.

Public Matters Not on the Agenda: ACTC Executive Director Charles Field disseminated a draft letter to Congressman Dan Lungren expressing thanks for his support of the 2009 Federal Appropriation for the State Route 88 Pine Grove Corridor improvement project. He stated that the Congressman has obtained a supplemental appropriation for this project in the amount of approximately \$185,000. Mr. Field stated that thanks are also due to the Amador County Board of Supervisors and County staff who sponsored this effort.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Ione Bypass – Western Ione Roadway Improvement Strategy: Ione City Planner Christopher Jordan provided an update concerning the Western Ione Roadway Improvement project. He stated that the City of Ione is in the process of updating its General Plan comprehensively for the

first time since 1982. The Update addresses circulation improvements in and around the Ione area and the Western Ione Roadway Improvement project is a critical piece of the mobility component. Coordination of the Western Ione Roadway Improvement project with the City's General Plan update have yielded substantial cost savings to the ACTC and the regional traffic mitigation fee program funds that have been programmed for future work on this project. Mr. Jordan reviewed the milestones that have been achieved during the last eight months and he explained the proposed alignment and roadway improvements.

ACTC consultant Matt Boyer, Dokken Engineering, explained the process of coordinating the General Plan Update and the Western Ione Roadway project with respect to traffic circulation improvements, land use planning, and funding scenarios. He also reviewed the proposed segments of the Western Ione Roadway project and the reasons that the recommended segments were selected. It is intended that this planning process will be consistent with the long range goals of Caltrans and the ACTC and also meet the City's needs. The next steps are to prepare a final phasing and funding strategy, obtain public input on Technical Memorandum #3, and prepare a Project Study Report for Project Development Support. Development of a Nexus Study to implement the funding strategy will also be forthcoming.

Community Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) Grant: Mr. Peacock stated that the ACTC is preparing a joint CBTP grant application for the Cities of Ione and Jackson to help develop a circulation improvement program. An authorizing resolution is required to accompany the grant submittal.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin, seconded by Commission Crosby, and unanimously carried to approve the resolution for the Ione and Jackson Community Based Transportation Planning Grant application.

Resolution No. 09-03

Resolution authorizing the application, acceptance, and execution of a Community Based Transportation Planning grant from the State of California Department of Transportation for purposes of community based circulation improvement plans for the Cities of Jackson and Ione.

Sutter Hill Transit Center: ACTC Program Management and Construction Management Consultant Matt Boyer, Dokken Engineering, stated that Caltrans is in the process of reviewing the Notice to Bidders and contract documents to ensure that all federal procurement requirements are properly included. Upon completion of Caltrans review, ACTC will be ready to publish the Notice to Bidders for construction of the Transit Center building.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Forster, seconded by Commissioner Richards, and unanimously carried to authorize staff to publish a Notice to Bidders for construction of the Sutter Hill Transit Center – Phase 2 (Transit Center Building).

Highway 49 Bypass Follow-up Items: Mr. Field provided a summary of the SR 49 Bypass Follow-up Report, which was provided by ACTC State Project Consultant Scott Maas, Maas & Associates.

Commissioner Forster stated that the grass is covering half of the Amador City sign at the 49 Bypass intersection and the grass should be removed.

Commissioner Crosby stated that compliments have been received concerning Sutter Creek's ADA sidewalks.

Kathleen Clark, Commission on Aging, stated that a sign directing traffic to turn left to Jackson has still not been installed. Commissioner Crosby concurred with Ms. Clark concerning the need for a directional sign. Chairman Boitano stated that ACTC consultant Scott Maas will be asked to look into the status of the sign.

Tri-County State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Projects: Commissioner Forster inquired concerning the cost overruns for the SR 4 Angels Camp Bypass project. Dan Brewer, Caltrans District 10, stated that part of the cost overruns were due to mine shafts that were found when drilling was undertaken for the bridge columns. Mr. Field stated that some cost overruns were incurred when cultural resources were located.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or Federal Economic Stimulus Program Follow-up: Mr. Field stated that information concerning the ARRA funds changes daily. Amador County's share has now been reduced from \$798,826 to \$490,892 but the portion of funds going into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) may be increased to approximately \$1.6 million. Obtaining the funds from the STIP will require an amendment to the Tri-County Memorandum of Understanding. Caltrans Director Will Kempton is working with the legislature to have more funding sent directly through the regional agencies via the Regional Surface Transportation Program and no money through the STIP. The latest advice received indicates that the legislature may take all of the ARRA funds for the State and no additional money will be available for the local agencies.

Commissioner Forster stated that he has heard there may be no money for the local agencies because the legislature is skeptical that the local jurisdictions will use the money as it was intended.

Pine Grove State Route 88 Corridor Project: Mr. Peacock stated that the ACTC will be using its existing consultants for the SR 88 Pine Grove Corridor project development effort. A Public Interest Finding for this purpose has been prepared and a resolution supporting the Public Interest Finding is required.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin, seconded by Commissioner Plank, and carried to approve:

- Resolution in support of Public Interest Findings for the Pine Grove Corridor Improvement Project
- Proposed schedule and milestones for the project
- Authorize the Chairman to execute contracts pending legal and Caltrans review and receipt of Notice to Proceed: Dokken Engineering \$61,435, Fehr & Peers \$76,774, CH2MHILL \$88,200, and De Novo Planning \$22,600.

Noes: Commissioner Richards

Resolution No. 09-04

Resolution in support of the Public Interest Finding issued pursuant to the Request for Authorization

Plymouth Community Based Circulation Plan: Commissioner Baldwin stated that Plymouth should be involved in project task #1.3, “Review planning process/determine circulation routes for study.” He suggested that review of reported accident history should cover the most recent five-year period instead of three-year period and that the trailer park should be included in Task 3.5 concerning traffic volume forecasts.

Commissioner Forster asked if this project will be based on traffic in the City limits or if it is based on the City’s sphere of influence. Mr. Peacock stated that it is based on the City’s current and proposed General Plan land use forecasts. Mr. Field stated that the City’s desired ultimate sphere of influence will be taken into consideration even though it’s not assured and the key is the funding strategy and prioritization of projects. The projects in the sphere will get built later or not at all and, since they are not needed by existing residents, they will get built or paid for by new development.

Commissioner Forster stated that the sphere of influence may not be approved by LAFCO because it includes Williamson Act properties and he is concerned that the ACTC will be spending money on consultants to look at a circulation plan based on a sphere of influence and General Plan that may be unrealistic. Commissioner Baldwin stated that the City has eight projects pending and the City wants to make sure it is ahead of the curve. This is grant money and the City believes it would be money wisely spent. In addition, four developers have contributed approximately \$65,000 towards a circulation element and traffic model to fold into this effort. He also stated that two projects push the sphere boundary and he would be surprised if LAFCO did not approve them.

Mr. Peacock stated that based on reasonable assumptions the ACTC is doing planning forecasts that include potential impacts and planning for unknowns is part of this process. Commissioner Forster stated that he agrees in planning for unknowns but it should also be realistic and the sphere is not realistic. Mr. Peacock stated that this concern will be relayed to staff and consultants working on this project.

Commissioner Plank stated that the ACTC should be apprised of the situation concerning the sphere of influence after this concern is discussed with Plymouth staff. Mr. Peacock stated that this will be made part of the progress reports brought to the Commission throughout the course of this project.

Chairman Boitano asked if approval of this work could be delayed until next month’s ACTC meeting. Commissioner Baldwin stated that the City would like to complete its General Plan by May or June therefore this work should not be delayed.

Commissioner Richards stated that the General Plan is expected to be completed by June but the General Plan does not contain a sphere of influence approved by LAFCO. Mr. Field stated that a city has the authority under general plan law to plan for the areas around the city and this has been

done for years. The County or LAFCO may not agree or approve until some time in the future but it still becomes a part of the city's general plan.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin to approve the proposed schedule and milestones for the Plymouth Circulation Improvement Project and approve contract amendments pending legal review.

The above motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Peacock stated that the grant is for ACTC to assist the City in development of an implementation program. The City will maintain and update the program and the City will determine how the program is structured.

Commissioner Crosby asked if the project is to be funded by a grant. Mr. Peacock responded yes and stated that the authorization to proceed has been received.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin, seconded by Commissioner Crosby, and carried to approve the proposed schedule and milestones for the Plymouth Circulation Improvement Project and the consultant contract amendments: Dokken Engineering \$41,145, Fehr & Peers \$22,578, CH2MHILL \$9,000, and De Novo Planning \$16,382.

Noes: Commissioner Forster

Abstain: Commissioner Richards

Chairman Boitano stated that the expressed concerns regarding the sphere of influence and spending funds needlessly should be taken back to the City.

Mr. Field stated that the UPlan would be a valuable tool to look at all of the cities' spheres of influence together with the County General Plan over the coming months. He stated that each of the cities are working on general plan amendments and they want to show their proposed spheres of influence and changes to land use.

Crossroads Development Project, Sutter Hill: Commissioner Richards asked if approval of the agreement can wait until the April ACTC meeting. Sutter Creek Assistant City Manager Sean Rabé stated that the developer hopes to obtain a building permit next week and begin the earthwork. The City is anxious for this project to go forward and it will also create jobs.

Mr. Field advised that ACTC legal counsel is drafting the agreement in consultation with Matt Griggs, the engineer who is familiar with the proposed improvements, value of the right of way, stakeholders, etc.

Commissioner Baldwin asked why the value, which is based on the actual purchase price of the property, is not being reduced based on the current decrease in real estate values. Mr. Rabé stated that the discussions and agreed upon credit go back to September 2008. He also stated that the amount of the credit will be approximately \$88,000 not \$230,000 and they will also be contributing about \$12,000 to the regional traffic mitigation fee program.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Crosby, seconded by Commissioner Forster, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman to execute, on behalf of the RTMF Program, the

agreement between the ACTC, City of Sutter Creek, and Petrovich Development Company concerning right of way, frontage improvements and Regional Traffic Mitigation Fee credits for the Crossroads development project consistent with the email correspondence and subject to approval by ACTC legal counsel.

Caltrans Report: Dan Brewer, Chief, Rural Planning and Administration, Caltrans District 10, reported that District 10 is holding a Local Assistance Workshop on March 19, 2009, at the District office. He also provided the following application submittal dates for upcoming grant programs:

- Consolidated Planning Grants – April 1, 2009
- Safe Routes to School Grants - April 15, 2009
- FTA 5311 ARRA Funds - April 17, 2009

Mr. Brewer advised that Caltrans has established a website for submittal of comments from the public and local agencies on the California Transportation Plan. The website is: californiatransportationplan2035.com.

Commissioner Forster asked Mr. Brewer to express the ACTC's appreciation to the Caltrans Director for advocating for the cities and counties concerning the ARRA funds. Mr. Brewer stated that the recommendation to the legislature to put all of the money into the State Highway Operations and Protection Program is coming from the Legislative Analysts office.

Claims:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Baldwin, seconded by Commissioner Plank, and unanimously carried to approve the revised claim list as presented.

Adjournment:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Richards, seconded by Commissioner Baldwin, and unanimously carried to adjourn to **6:00 p.m. April 15, 2009**, at the Amador County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California.

At 8:19 p.m. Chairman Boitano adjourned the meeting.

Louis Boitano, Chairman
Amador County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary

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