

## **TEHAMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

Present: Commissioners': George Russell; Gary Strack; Ron Warner; Charles Willard; and Robert Christison. Absent: Jim Byrne. Also present: Barbara O'Keeffe, Deputy Director of Public Works - Transportation.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Russell at 8:30 a.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Commissioner Warner, second by Commissioner Willard to approve the July 28, 2009 minutes as presented. Carried 5-0, (Commissioner Russell as to form) with 1 absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Warner thanked Staff for bringing the Los Molinos project to public attention through the Tehama County Fair.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.
5. **UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING:** Barbara O'Keeffe provided an overview of the annual process of the unmet needs. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council reviews public comments and makes a finding of one of the following:
  - There are no unmet transit needs.
  - There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.
  - There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

With no questions from the Commission, the Public Hearing opened at 8:34 a.m.

Lupe Green, Rancho Tehama resident: There are 4,000 residents in Rancho Tehama (has been documented by a Federal study and not the Census Bureau) without services. I have discussed this with the County and Rancho Tehama Reserve (RTR) was identified as a top unmet need. Seniors and high school students have no transportation. The reasons for not receiving services was that not many people participated daily in the service. The bus came to the front of RTR and the ranch goes back 7-10 miles and it is impossible for them to walk to the front of the ranch. Do you have statistics for all bus routes? Are there days when these routes are not being utilized? This is an unfair standard applied to RTR.

The other issue, Ms. Green continued, is funding. I know

funding has been cut and continues to be the case. Will this mean that we will never receive services? A small service has been added to Redding, but our need still has not been addressed. It seems it is a legal issue that I will check, that all parts of the County should be provided some type of transportation. Also, this public hearing should not only be published in the legal section of the paper, but listed it in the Calendar Section. I encourage you to push for more public transportation, especially in rural parts of the County where there are not modes of transportation.

With no further public input, the Public Hearing closed at 8:40 a.m.

Commissioner Russell added that with legal requirements for advertising, the Calendar Section could be a possibility. Experiments were tried in areas of the County to accommodate citizens and transportation. The ridership was not there, but hopefully when funding is available, and it puts us in the position to provide a service to Rancho Tehama, more will take advantage of the service.

6. **SOUTH AVENUE AND LOS MOLINOS PROJECT UPDATES:** Steve Rogers, Caltrans Project Manager for Tehama County, discussed regional projects in Tehama County.

South Avenue Public Information Campaign is working well. Impact on the closure of the northbound ramps will be the biggest impact on the public. The closure of the northbound ramp will be open tomorrow and as soon as the northbound on ramp is reopened to traffic, the northbound off ramp will be shut down. This will take more time, but expected to be within the 15-days allowed in the contract. It may even be a 10-day closure. The project is staying within the budget at this point.

Phase II, Mr. Rogers continued, there was savings in Phase I right of way acquisition and we feel we have enough money to purchase four of the remaining five parcels required in Phase II. One thing that needs to happen is it must be purchased in the City of Corning name and we will go through a co-op process. This should be complete within the next few months in order to acquire all but one right of way. Phase II, when funded will only need the last parcel to complete the acquisition.

Commissioner Strack complimented Caltrans on the South Avenue project and everyone, with the help of outreach, is happy with the results.

Mr. Rogers discussed the Los Molinos Phase I project. The design team has delivered the 95% review package. The review and comments are due on September 29, and at this point, the document will be sent to headquarters, and being on track, the award of the contract will be in April. The only

potential risk is bond sales will occur in the month of October. This is a bond funded capitol construction project and as long as the bond sales in October are successful, this project will go to construction next year. There are indications, the bond sales will be successful.

The County had almost \$80,000 in economic stimulus dollars contributed to the project. Landscaping and concrete, among some items, have been added to the project. That will be included in Phase I.

Ron Warner questioned when the traffic signal will begin and Mr. Rogers answered that typically with traffic signals, the signal will be turned on at the very last. A rough estimate would be fall, 2010.

Barbara O'Keeffe added the money contributed by the County was stimulus monies that had to meet twelve eligible categories of reconstruction, maintenance or capacity increasing. The Los Molinos project was the only eligible existing project.

7. **STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) UPDATE:** Barbara O'Keeffe discussed the STIP program by saying we are now preparing for the 2010 STIP. At this point, we have projects programmed in the 2008 STIP. This year, 2009/2010 we are 30% over programmed. We do not have enough money to allocate to the existing projects. Overall, how does this impact the 2010 STIP? What it means is, there is no new money in the 2010 STIP, so we will reprogramming or pushing out projects. At this time, the estimate is that 40% of the existing projects in the current STIP will be delayed. Specific to Tehama County, we are lucky to have two of the McCoy Bridges, shovel ready to go to construction. We anticipate that at the October TCTC meeting, we could have good news that the CTC will actually vote construction funding and the two bridges will proceed to construction. There are other projects that will be delayed, projects state-wide delayed. This trend continues to the next fiscal year which will make it difficult for the 2010/2011 year. It appears there is a 38% shortfall next year. All agencies have been asked by the CTC to review programs for the existing year and identify projects that we can adjust the schedule and push them out. As a result, hopefully there will be enough money to allocate to projects on the deferred list, which includes the McCoy bridges. We are fortunate the bridges rank high in priority on the deferred allocation list due to Federal funding that could be lost.
8. **CLAIMS:** Motion by Commissioner Warner, second by Commissioner Strack to approve the claims in the amount of \$5,492.86. Carried 5-0 with 1 absent.
9. **ADJOURN:** With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.