

LASSEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

March 14, 2022

City of Susanville Council Chambers
66 North Lassen Street
Susanville, CA

1:30 P.M. Open Session

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1. Convene

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:23 P.M.

Roll Call: Present: Albaugh, Bridges (alternate), Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster

Absent: Hammond

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was deferred.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda:

It was moved by Commissioner Albaugh and seconded by Commissioner Hemphill that the Commission adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- Move Item 1.5 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson before Item 1.3 Approval of Consent Calendar*
- Move Item 4.13 Local Road Safety Plan Update to follow the approval of the Consent Calendar*

With the changes the Agenda was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Bridges, Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hammond

ABSTAIN: None

1.5 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The Commission was asked to elect a Chairperson to preside at meetings of the Commission for the balance of the calendar year 2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Albaugh and seconded by Commissioner Hemphill to nominate Mendy Schuster to be chair for the remainder of 2022. No other nominations were made. The motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Bridges, Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hammond
ABSTAIN: None

The Commission was asked to elect a Vice-Chairperson for the balance of the calendar year 2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Hemphill and seconded by Commissioner Bridges to nominate Aaron Albaugh to be Vice-chairperson for the remainder of 2022. No other nominations were made. The motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Bridges, Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hammond
ABSTAIN: None

1.3 Approval of the January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Commission was asked to adopt the Minutes of their January 10, 2022, Regular Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hemphill and seconded by Commissioner Herrera to approve the minutes as presented by staff. The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Bridges, Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hammond
ABSTAIN: None

1.4 Approval of Consent Calendar

Commissioner Albaugh had questions about Item 1.41 Payment of Clerici Consulting Invoice for Staffing Services. Specifically, he had concerns about the value being provided by staff, and whether tax money was being well spent. A lengthy conversation ensued with all Commissioners providing comment. The Executive Secretary provided examples of how the current staffing effort provided skills and experience that would be hard to duplicate if staffing returned to its pervious circumstances. He noted that the funding being used was specifically for Commission administration and planning activities, that it was by and large not transferable to other uses, and that much of the work was

required by statute. He added that if any Commissioner had concerns regarding staff work and their return on investment, that he was always available.

Elizabeth Norton commented that staff was always very responsive to her inquiries.

It was moved by Commissioner Hemphill and seconded by Commissioner Albaugh that that the Commission approve the Consent Calendar as presented by staff. The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Bridges, Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hammond
ABSTAIN: None

Item 4.13 Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Update – Note: The quality of the internet connection and zoom call deteriorated over the course of this item and failed before the end. Staff continued with the presentation by phone connection.

Gordon Shaw provided an overview and update of the LRSP. The presentation included the following;

- Purpose and need of doing an LRPS
- Existing crash history
 - Data summary
 - Location of crashes
 - Crash by type
 - Bike and Pedestrian incidents
 - How crash data for Lassen County compares to statewide averages
- Identified high crash corridors
- Recommended specific stie safety improvements

Commissioner Albaugh commented that this was valuable information, and that perhaps a second presentation could be done for the May meeting. The Executive Secretary commented that the document was being circulated for both agency and public comment and that the final plan would be brought back to the Commission in May. He added that separate presentations were planned for both the Board of Supervisors and the City Council in April.

Commissioner Herrera added that there did not seem to be a lot of data for Main Street/SR 36 or nearby roads.

The Executive Secretary added that this was for locally owned roads and not for the state highways. Data for SR 36 specifically would be in the Main Street/SR36 Safety Plan. Commissioner Herrera added that he thought there were more accidents and near misses from people using side streets to get around traffic on Main Street, but then coming back out to SR 36. The Executive Secretary responded that he would chat with Gordon about this and get additional information.

This was an information item and not action was taken by the Commission.

2. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT

No written communications were received.

No public comment was offered.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Caltrans

Mike Mogen was not present but provided staff with the following brief update:

- *Clean CA Susanville Gateway Monument: Caltrans is putting together the plans, specs and estimate for this project and plan to start construction late this summer. Should start in May. The Executive Secretary added that the City might be asking for a one year extension on the Gateway project.*
- *“Good-Fred”: Is still in suspension for the winter.*
- *Bordertown Wildlife Fence: Also is in winter hiatus but should start back up in May*

3.2 CHP

No report was provided by CHP.

3.3 City of Susanville

Erik Edholm confirmed that the Gateway project will likely be delayed a year to get the maintenance agreement completed.

3.4 Lassen County

Pete Heimbigner reported that the two county STIP projects (B&C) have been awarded construction contracts and are waiting for the beginning of construction season. Rehab B will begin late Summer or early fall. Rehab C will start in late May early June.

3.5 Susanville Indian Rancheria

No report was provided by Rancheria staff.

4 NEW BUSINESS

4.01 Announcement of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session

There was no closed session.

4.02 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session

There was no closed session.

4.10 Action/Discussion Items

4.11 Draft Fiscal Year 2022/23 Draft Overall Work Program and Budget

John Clerici reminded that the Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget is the primary management tool for the Commission and its staff. The OWP contains a description of the activities to be undertaken by the Commission in the coming fiscal year along with detailed budget information.

John provided an update of the major differences from the current OWP and the Draft OWP for next fiscal year. He noted that the primary difference was that the current OWP focused more on finishing some significant planning documents, next years would be more oriented to implementation.

John added that the Administrative Draft FY 2022/23 OWP and Budget was provided to Caltrans on February 28 (as required by statute) for review and comment. Lassen County, the City of Susanville, the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and other stakeholders were provided an overview of the proposed OWP and Budget at their March 7 TAC meeting. He noted that once Caltrans and agency review is complete, a revised Public Draft will be distributed for review and comment to a broader audience. The revised Draft FY 2022/23 OWP and Budget will be brought back to the Commission for comment and adoption at their May meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hemphill and seconded by Commissioner Bridges to adopt the staff recommendations to circulate the Draft FY 22/23 OWP and Budget for public review and comment. The motion was passed with the following vote:

AYES: Albaugh, Bridges, Hemphill, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hammond

ABSTAIN: None

4.12 FY 2022/23 Unmet Transit Needs – SSTAC Meeting

Genevieve Evans provided a brief report on the February 23rd, 2022, the LCTC SSTAC hearing. The meeting was intended to discuss potential unmet transit needs in Lassen County. Eight SSTAC members and other representatives of transportation providers and members of the public met in person and virtually at the Susanville City Council Chambers. She noted that the meeting was advertised to the public through notices in the local on-line publication, at City Hall, flyers on buses, notification on the LCTC Website (Lassenctc.com), LTSA website and through social media.

She summarized the potential transit needs which were brought up at the SSTAC meeting. They included:

- Out of county medical trips for all residents but mainly for persons not eligible for Medi-Cal*

- *Transit service to outlying areas such as Spaulding or Bucks Bay*
- *Transportation back to homes for people who were transported to a hospital by ambulance. Discharge often occurs in the middle of the night.*
- *A “Dine around Town” program which would get homebound seniors out and about to socialize.*

Education/information – Many residents, medical professionals and social workers are not aware of all the various transportation options in the area.

Genevieve concluded that staff will analyze the identified deficiencies and apply the “Unmet Transit Needs” and “Reasonable to Meet” definitions to make a recommendation to the LCTC as to whether the identified deficiencies should be considered as unmet needs and whether those unmet needs are reasonable to meet. The Unmet Transit Needs Report will be brought to the commission at the May meeting.

This was an information item and not action was taken by the Commission.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following is an overview of some of the issues, projects, and coordination currently being advanced by LCTC.

5.01 Executive Summary Report

The Executive Summary provided a brief update for the Commission. It included the following:

Active Transportation Plan (Bikes and Pedestrians)

Work on the ATP has entered an exciting new phase. Starting with some focused meetings with bicycle advocates in February (2/16 and 2/23), staff is preparing to hold two public meetings to engage a broader set of stakeholders. Two public meetings have been set for the end of March.

- *March 30 at the Westwood Depot Visitor Center 462-885 3rd and Ash Streets*
- *March 31 at the Susanville Railroad Depot Visitor Center, 601 Richmond Road*
Both open houses will start at 4:30 PM and go to 6 PM

The meetings will have an open house format with the following displays:

Regional Transportation Plan

Staff continues its update of the RTP. We have begun updating current conditions (Section 2 of the RTP) and have engaged the TAC to begin the process of updating project lists for the City, County and State facilities. The goal is to have the updates for both Sections 1 and 2 completed by the end of June.

US 395

Staff continues its work on the US 395 Coalition Building Effort. At our last meeting we reported that a memo describing in some detail 11 passing lanes identified by the TAC was delivered on January 10. Since then, the information has been assessed by staff. The information has also been shared with Congressman LaMalfa’s office, as well as the US 395 TAC. Ultimately this information, as well as other reports generated by this and other efforts, will be used to prepare the draft and final Funding Plan

which will close out this phase of work. By the terms of the grant funding received to do the project this must be completed by the end of June.

In addition, Commissioner Hammond travelled to Washington DC recently to engage both Federal Agencies and elected officials on behalf of the project.

Our next steps will include the following:

- *Continue to engage Congressman LaMalfa and his staff*
- *Engage elements of the Department of Defense (Sierra Army Depot) and coordinate our efforts with them to help obtain potential project funding*
- *Re-engage the US 395 Coalition*
- *Re-engage Lassen County Stakeholders*
- *Develop information materials based on our findings for use in promoting the identified improvements to applicable Federal and State entities*
- *Adoption of approved elements into the Regional Transportation Plan*

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Matter brought forth by the Commission

None.

7.2 Next Commission Meeting

Next meeting of the LCTC will be on Monday, May 9, 2022, at time 1:30 PM, at the City of Susanville, City Council Chambers, 66 North Lassen Street, Susanville, CA.

7.3 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Submitted for approval by:



John Clerici
Executive Secretary