

**DEL NORTE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES: MAY 12, 2016 11 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner David Finigan, County, Chairman
Commissioner Gerry Hemmingsen, County
Commissioner Rick Holley, City
Commissioner Chris Howard, County
Commissioner Kathryn Murray, City
Commissioner Darrin Short, Vice-Chairman

Also Present: Nicole L. Burshem, P.S. Business Services
Tamera Leighton, Local Transportation Commission
Brad Mettam, Deputy District 1 Director, Caltrans
Sabrina Valentine, P.S. Business Services

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Finigan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Public comment period

Anyone wishing to make public comments regarding matters either on or off the agenda and within the Commission's jurisdiction may do so at this time; however, the Commission is not permitted to act on non-agenda items.

The following person(s) addressed the Commission: Elizabeth Burrows commented the seniors wanted to thank the Commission for the quality of life through Dial-A-Ride. The only thing they ask is for one day pick up for emergency pick-up with a one day rather than a two day notice. Chairman Finigan replied they thought they already had something similar, but they will look into it. Ms. Leighton commented she would have the question forwarded to Redwood Coast Transit Authority. Shelly Hourigan commented she has lived here for many years with her 21-year-old autistic grand daughter. She wanted to know if the fee for disabled riders could be looked at and addressed since they pay double the average rider. Chairman Finigan commented he thanks her for her comments/questions and will look into fare adjustments. Bill Lonsdale commented on several items on the consent agenda. Mr. Lonsdale complimented the commission for the fact Crescent City and Del Norte County continue to contribute 100% of the available TDA money for transit services. He feels it is commendable and defines the commitment the county has for convenient, affordable, and nice public transit system. Natalynne Delapp, Executive Director for the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) commented she is concerned about the content of the staff report regarding the Overall Work Plan and Regional Transportation Plan for 2016. The staff report characterized the comments as an insincere engagement with the public process driven by design, draining the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission budget by requiring extensive comments to our responses. These comments and statements are completely false. Ms. Delapp commented they submitted extensive comments because they have serious concerns. They were told if they have concerns it was to be expressed early in the process. Ms. Delapp reported that their concerns of the RTP were mainly directed at road safety, green house gasses, public process, and the inconsistencies of the STAA project. She

recommended the Commissioners read their comments because they merit a serious response to validate their concerns. Ms. Delapp reported the comments are not to drain the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission budget and we support three of the projects that are now being proposed for elimination. She expressed she feels the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission should budget for response to comments and is unacceptable for staff reports to blame the public. They have serious concerns about how CEQA was used in this process; we are going to continue to engage this. They hope the Commission takes their comments seriously and appreciate the input that the public is trying to provide through this process as we look into the future. Barbara Kennedy, Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities commented they are expressing concerns about Highway 197/199 STAA project. Their organization advocates for public transit and other modes of transportation such as bike and pedestrian trails. Together with that in light of climate change, Governor's priorities for reducing green house gasses, and deleting \$754 million worth of transportation projects due to reduction of gas taxes; is it really responding to these concerns to reduce greenhouse gasses and fiscal responsibility? They also question, how this project is going to coordinate with the Gateway Project. If the Gateway Project is meant to create a more workable and likeable community how will it interface with the largest most dangerous trucks on the road? She urges the Commission to take another look at the project in particular to the greenhouse gas emissions and the money allocated to enhancing projects that are more responsive to today. Eileen Cooper commented the word safe does not belong on the title of the STAA big truck project on Highway 199. The organization has concerns with how many accidents have been happening. There are other places along the river that are just as dangerous and the only way to determine those spots were by slowly following the truck with the California Highway Patrol to see where they hung over. She expressed that without putting a whole lot of clearance on that road it is a formula for disaster. She feels that the project was terrible and needs to be rejected. How many projects have 1,000 comments on it in this community? The public has spoken up because the truth has come out. We were promised something safe and not given something safe. We want our money to go to real safety projects and a look at the whole corridor for safety.

3. Adjourn to the Policy Advisory Committee

Chairman Finigan adjourned as the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission and immediately reconvened at the Policy Advisory Committee at 11:30 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items are considered routine in nature and voted on in one motion: Consider public comments or requests to pull matters from the consent agenda for separate action.

a) Minutes of March 17, 2016

Staff recommendation: By consensus, accept minutes of March 17, 2016.

b) Minutes of April 28, 2016

Staff recommendation: By consensus, accept minutes of April 28, 2016.

- c) **Redwood Coast Transit Authority Audit**
Staff recommendation: Accept fiscal audit.
- d) **Resolution No. 2016 06 allocating funds to Redwood Coast Transit Authority for operating expenses**
TAC and staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2016 6.
- e) **Resolution No. 2016 07 allocating Local Transportation Funds to Redwood Coast Transit Authority for capital expenses**
TAC and staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2016 7.
- f) **Resolution No. 2016 08 approving the Programming of FTA Section 5311(F) program funds totaling \$475,000**
TAC and staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2016 8.
- g) **Resolution No. 2016 09 approving the programming of FTA Section 5311 non- urbanized program funds for Redwood Coast Transit Authority operating assistance.**
TAC and staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2016 9.
- h) **Resolution No. 2016 10 authorizing the Executive Director to execute fund transfer agreements with the State Of California Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 STIP Planning, Programming and Monitoring Program**
Staff recommendation: Adoption resolution 2016 10.
- i) **Designate Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) membership.**
Staff recommendation: Approve the attached chart designating SSTAC membership.

On a motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Hemmingsen, and unanimously carried on a polled vote the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission approved and adopted the Consent Agenda item 3. a and c - g, as presented with corrections to the March 17, 2016 minutes. The minutes of April 28 will be brought back after checking to see if Commissioner Murray's question was answered.

POLICY and ADMINISTRATIVE

- j) **Receive information from Caltrans Office of Traffic Safety Chief David Morgan regarding US Highway 199 accidents and ADA compliance on US 101 in the urban area.**
Information only.
Discussion was held in regards to information from Caltrans Office of

Traffic Safety. David Morgan presented information on the US Highway 199 accidents as well as ADA improvements through the greater Crescent City urban area. Mr. Morgan reported that at mile marker 10.5 there have been three accidents within the last six months. The one in December was at 10.3 southbound and two recently at 10.5 northbound. Caltrans has initiated a \$6 million project, which will take three to five years to complete. As an immediate treatment, Caltrans is going to change the signs and put down high friction surface treatment. Mr. Morgan reported that he reviewed collision reports for the last five years and most accidents were on the outside (rock wall) side of the road and not on the river side. Ms. Leighton asked for a brief summary of the 3 to 5 year project. Mr. Morgan replied he doesn't know what he is doing at this time and as it develops he will determine what will be needed for that area. Chairman Finigan commented with the turnout there it looks as if it is one of the safer parts of the road. Mr. Morgan commented we have a table C to determine if there are significant collision rates at the location and that area has never come up. Commissioner Murray asked if the new types of surfaces are better than guard rails. Mr. Morgan commented the surface is designed to prevent people from sliding. Commissioner Murray commented Kevin Tucker reported the guardrail is not always a good safety option. Mr. Morgan agreed that in this case a guardrail would bounce them back into oncoming traffic creating a high possibility for a head-on collision, which is the most dangerous type. Mr. Mettam asked Mr. Morgan to clarify what the time frame is when he says immediately. Mr. Morgan responded that it means it will be within a month or two. Commissioner Murray reported the delay of the California Highway Patrol report is due to the lengthy time it took to get the first truck out of the river. Commissioner Murray asked where the recent fatality was on 199. Commissioner Short clarified it was by the tunnel, but not sure if there was a fatality. Commissioner Holley commented that there are stop lights being installed between Gasquet and Hiouchi and he doesn't know what this project it is for. Mr. Morgan reported he is not sure what maintenance project that is for and that he will report by email. Mr. Mettam commented that they would provide an update through Ms. Leighton for the Commission. Chairman Finigan thanked Mr. Morgan for the updates and appreciated that in the next 30 days there will be a fix in that area. Mr. Morgan reported there is an ADA sidewalk improvement project being implemented. There are 70 to 90 curve ramps going in, and he would like to pick up and fund the Gateway Project through his program. He is going to try and extend the limits of the ADA project to include the Gateway Project area and including the North end sidewalk, all the way up to the top of the Washington Boulevard ramp. Ms. Leighton clarified that the remaining portions of the Gateway Project would be covered under other funding programs, and this project only addresses the pedestrian improvements not the full project. There are many remaining components to look at in the future. Ms. Leighton expressed that she is grateful for the ADA project and is hopeful that Caltrans will expand

the current project limits through the Gateway areas.

k) Front Street Active Transportation Program match funds

TAC and staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2016 11 awarding to the City of Crescent City an amount not to exceed \$400,000 of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds and not to exceed a 20% match for the Front Street Active Transportation Program application.

Discussion was held in regards to Front Street Active Transportation Program match funds. Ms. Leighton commented City Engineer Eric Wier is here to answer any questions. In the last meeting we supported in assisting the city for consultant for developing an active transportation program grant application for some of the components for the Front Street Project. They are starting from scratch for the application and taking a look at the program to see if DNLTTC can help the City get the most points possible. If they don't receive the ATP funds than we will not be providing match funds. We don't have project costs and the intent is to help them get every point possible. Chairman Finigan asked if the recommendation is to adopt Resolution 2016 11. Commissioner Hemmingsen stated he was very supportive of the project and asked if the RSTP funds are the only funds available to use for this project; does it restrict any other projects. Ms. Leighton commented the RSTP funds are the only funds that could be used for Match Funds. Mr. Wier commented thanked the commission for considering this request. Front Street is a priority and we need to do something. The total pavement condition fix isn't as easy as an over lay. With the current funding situation we didn't have much of a choice, but to departmentalize it by funding different components as opportunities arise. On a motion by Commissioner Hemmingsen, seconded by Commissioner Short, and unanimously carried on a polled vote the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission approved and adopted Resolution 2016 11 Awarding to the City of Crescent City an amount not to exceed \$400,000 of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds and not to exceed a 20% match for the Front Street Active Transportation Program Application.

D) 2016-17 Overall Work Program

TAC and staff recommendation: Adopt resolution 2016 12 approving the Overall Work Program.

Discussion was held in regards to 2016-17 Overall Work Program. Ms. Leighton commented the Overall Work Program is an annual work program for the Commission and this is the work the commission is expected to do for the year. She is in a difficult position with the Overall Work Program. She applied for a \$13,000 grant for RPA funds. Ms. Leighton reported on the different elements, project, and reports in the Overall Work Program. She gave a brief summary of all of the work elements. Ms. Leighton recommended approving the Overall Work Program and the \$13,000 they have not yet received and stated that if

the funds are not received then the funding amount for Work Element I would be reduced and the project would begin later in the fiscal year. On a motion Commissioner Hemmingsen, second by Commissioner Holley, and unanimously carried on a polled vote the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission approved and adopted Resolution 2016 12 approving the Overall Work Program.

Public comment: Barbara Kennedy commented in Work Element D there was an allocation for \$64,000. This seems like a lot of money in light of the fiscal restraints. In addition product #2 is \$64,000 to defend in court. When you add in the \$13,000 it is adding up a lot of money. Chairman Finigan responded there is four tasks that our covered in that \$64,000.

m) Discussion items

- Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) – Ms. Leighton reported she has been doing research and has a meeting this afternoon with a group of folks that may be interested in coming together to get our people home when they our flown out for emergency services. At this time she has no more information, but is hoping arrive at common ground. This is available to anyone who is interested in providing a program that addresses the unmet needs. If anyone is interested in providing a proposal she encourages them to contact her. The maximum allocation was the 5% of the TDA allocation funding. Chairman Finigan applauded Ms. Leighton for finding solutions and taking the proactive positive way to identifying the partners.
- Last Chance Grade – Mr. Mettam commented they the Project Study Report will be completed by the end of June. Commissioner Murray asked if the Project Study Report will be by the June meeting and Mr. Mettam responded that he would get the information to them. Bill Lonsdale asked if there is any chance that the project could be built in five years as some local people running for office are claiming. Mr. Mettam commented that a five year time frame is not achievable unless there is an extraordinary event. Chair Finigan commented that even if there was a catastrophic failure doing a complete reroutes would be 6-8 years based on the average of the many alternatives being considered. Commissioner Murray commented there was talk about finding a place to put the dirt and that just finding a place to put the dirt is a complicated process in addition to all of the environmental considerations. Eileen Cooper asked if the public could get maps and more information on the two emergency routes that were mentioned by Green Diamond. Commissioner Hemmingsen clarified that an emergency route is used for emergency vehicles only and that maps.

4. Commissioner comments and reports.

The following Commissioners reported: Commissioner Hemmingsen reported there was a meeting in regards to the construction on Second Bridge and having trouble with traffic going on Howland Hill Road. They don't want a whole lot of traffic to go through there because the Park doesn't have state funds to fix that road. They don't know where to send the traffic in that situation and wanted to know if anyone had any ideas. No ideas were presented. Chairman Finigan suggested having a feedback on Howland Hill Road. Ms. Leighton commented she would contact parks for June or July meeting. Commissioner Murray commented she participated in Bike Walk and Roll and the parents appreciated her standing there with a slow sign. Commissioner Holley commented it was well attended and hopes to do it again.

5. Action on the recommendations of the Policy Advisory Committee

Adjourn as the Policy Advisory Committee, reconvene as the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission, and by polled vote, approve and adopt the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee in items listed above.

Chairman Finigan adjourned as the Policy Advisory Committee and immediately reconvened as the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission at 12:02 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Hemmingsen, seconded by Commissioner Short, and unanimously carried on a polled vote the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission approved the actions taken on above item 3. a.- m.

6. Adjourn to the regular meeting scheduled on June 9, 2016 at 11 a.m.

With no further business before the Commission, Chairman Finigan adjourned the meeting at 12:02 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 9, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted



Tamera Leighton, Executive Director