

LASSEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

June 22, 2020

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

1:30 P.M. Open Session

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1. **Convene**

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:55 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Roll Call: **Present:** Hammond, Herrera, McCourt, Schuster, Teeter
 Absent: Hemphill

1.2 Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Consent Calendar:

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond and seconded by Commissioner Herrera that the Commission adopt the agenda as posted and approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

1.21 Minutes Approval of the May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

Adopted Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

1.22 Payment of Clerici Consulting for Executive Secretary and LCTC staffing fees and costs in the amount of \$22,730.62.

Approved payment of claim by Clerici Consulting fees and costs in the amount of \$22,730.62, as shown in Invoice #009-1 for May 2020.

1.23 Authorize the Chairperson to approve future invoices from Clerici Consulting in months when LCTC does not meet.

Authorized the Chairperson to approve future invoices from Clerici Consulting in months when LCTC does not meet.

2. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT

No written communications were received.

Oral Comment: Elizabeth Nelson comment that the intersection of County Road A21 (Mooney Road) and SR 36 is dangerous. If you are merging onto SR 36 from A21, the angle makes it difficult to see traffic going east on SR 36, making the merge challenging. A traditional four-way crossing (at 90-degree angles) would be better. Mike Mogen from Caltrans commented that there is a CapM project scheduled along that stretch of SR 36 and that the intersection could be evaluated with that. Mike mentioned that there might be roundabout planned at that intersection, but it turned out it was not part of that project.

She also asked about the four bike trail segments that she had asked to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan. John Clerici responded that the one trail segment (part of the Bizz Johnson Trail) is already included in the RTP, and that the others can be included, but he wanted to make it part of a broader discussion of trails in the county.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Caltrans

Mike Mogen from Caltrans District 2 provided the following updates.

SR 36/ Main Street CapM – Close out on the project is almost done. Project will be finished by the end of July.

Fredonyer Summit Project/ SR 36 aka Good Fred and Morgan Summit (Tehama County) projects are up and running. There have been some longer traffic delays, 30 to 40 minutes, delays on the Good Fred project. The contract limit is 30 minutes, but when you take the road to dirt, the traffic tends to slow down. That can have a cumulative impact as the day goes on. The engineer and contractor are working on it. As the project progresses the delays should be reduced.

Highway 139 in Susanville – Road rehabilitation project. Since Complete Streets is part of their program, the state has been struggling on how to implement. Complete Streets will be adding shoulders (8foot) from Chestnut to the hospital. This will not be a bike lane, but it will be wide enough to act as one. Caltrans Headquarters added \$1 million for this effort. Commissioner McCourt asked if they were building and maintaining this stretch of SR 139. Mike responded yes.

Chester Causeway - 2024 major project which will be half roadway rehabilitation and half CapM. Project will include a roundabout near the middle of that. in the rehab portion. Commissioner Hammond asked about the safety aspects of roundabouts and large trucks. Mike responded that they are designed for that. If the trucks travel at the recommended speed, there are few accidents.

Commissioner Teeter asked if the striping on Main Street is done. Mike responded it will be done in a couple of weeks. Commissioner Teeter mentioned that the piano key crosswalks were different. He liked the design. Mike said that there were several options to chose from, and these were selected.

Commissioner Hammond asked if the state is expecting more heavy truck traffic on SR 36 and SR 44. Mike responded that these are freight corridors and so yes there should be, and in fact has been, an uptick in traffic.

Kevin Jones, Susanville Interim City Manager commented that they are trying to do radar studies (speed and traffic) on SR 36/Main Street, but have found it hard to do. Mike said that they need to work with Caltrans to set that up, and that they were planning similar studies and to work together.

3.2 CHP

No report was provided.

3.3 City of Susanville

No report was provided.

3.4 Lassen County

No report was provided.

3.5 Susanville Indian Rancheria

No report was provided.

4. New Business

4.01 Announcement of Items to be Discussed in Closed

No items were discussed in closed session.

4.02 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session

There was no closed session.

4.10 Action/Discussion Items

4.11 Fiscal Year 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs Determinations

The Commission was asked to adopt by motion: Resolution 20-05 finding that there are three new unmet transit needs in that are reasonable to meet for implementation in FY 2020/21: On-demand service to the Lake Forest area along Eagle Lake Road (as an extension of the West County Route), service along Richmond Road as an extension of the West County Route and Second Susanville Bus.

Genevieve Evans provided the Commission with an overview of the unmet needs process for this FY, and informed them that since the agenda had been published, that one of the unmet needs that was reasonable to meet (the Second City Route), no longer met the criteria. She advised that the staff report would be revised, and that the Resolution 20-05 should be amended to reflect the change as well.

It was moved by Commissioner Schuster and seconded by Commissioner Herrera to adopt Resolution 20-05 and the Unmet Needs findings as presented by staff, with the Second City Route removed. The motion was passed with the following vote:

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

4.12 LCTC Finances Update

Steve Borroum provided a report on the status of Commission Finances, and an assessment of funding trends for the upcoming fiscal year. They included:

TDA Income and Trends

With the Covid-19 constraints on the economy, 3rd quarter TDA income is off 11% over last FY, and that overall TDA income is off over the last four years by almost 30%. Overall staff is estimating that FY 20/21 will be down 8% from FY 19/20.

TDA and STA Allocations and Trends

Lassen County again lost population this last year. An overall 1.2% drop. Unincorporated area had a slight gain, but there was a significant loss within the City of Susanville. Total County 1/1/2020 population 28,833, including prisons (approx. 6,300).

On July 1st, we are prepared to release a portion (approximately 66%) of the FY 19/20 Article 8 allocations, with the remaining third released after we get the 4th quarter's TDA allotment from the State sometime in August.

LCTC staff have had constructive discussions with the new County Auditor. We have every confidence that they the auditor will be able to provide the Commission with the required quarterly fund status reports.

This was an information item for the Commission and no action was taken.

4.13 Fiscal Year 2020/21 Overall Work Program and Budget

The Commission was asked to adopt by motion, Resolution 20-06 approving the FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program and Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Hammond and seconded by Commissioner Herrera to adopt Resolution 20-06 and approve the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Overall Work Program and Budget as presented by staff. The motion was passed with the following vote:

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

4.14 Schedule of LCTC Meetings Fiscal Year 2020/21

The Commission was asked to adopt by motion the schedule of Commission meetings for the upcoming fiscal year.

It was moved by Commissioner Herrera and seconded by Commissioner Schuster to adopt the schedule of meetings as presented by staff. The motion was passed with the following vote:

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

5. Information Items

The Interim Executive Secretary provided the Commission with an update of all commission activities related to the following:

US 395 – Responding to a call for project from the Office of Emergency Management, staff is currently identifying near-term projects along US 395 from Hallelujah Junction to the Herlong turnoff, as well as expanding on project already identified on County Roads A25, and A26. Staff is working with Commissioner Hammond on this effort.

In addition, LCTC staff held a call with the US 395 consulting team to chart a path forward:

- *Monthly Coalition Team calls*
- *Establishment of the US 395 Coalition web and social media presence*
- *Focused outreach to specific Coalition partners or organizations of interest:*
 - *Economic Development Association of Western Nevada*
 - *Regional Transportation Commission*
 - *California Transportation Commission*

The Furgeson Group is continuing to develop a coalition website, and other social media. Working with your staff, they are also working on a strategy for funding their services after phase 1 is completed.

- SR36/Main Street -- Staff continue to work towards finishing the Complete Street and Safe Mobility Study, melding the objectives of the study (complete street and safety enhancement implementation along the SR 36 corridor to improve overall health and safety) with more immediate actions being taken by Caltrans in the wake of two fatal accidents in January. A full report on this effort will be brought back to the Commission at its August meeting. In addition, staff hopes to share an interactive website dedicated to providing current information on the SR36/Main Street, effort, platforms to engage the public on potential projects associated with the report, and potentially a way to report and track safety issues and concerns along the route.*
- State Transportation Funding – On January 10, 2020 Governor Newsom released a \$222.2 billion budget. In summary, the budget aligns with the Governor’s recent Executive Order (N-19-19), which directs state agencies to focus transportation investments on projects and programs which help meet the State’s climate goals. Nearly 80% of the proposed budget is focused on state transportation improvements which help meet the climate goals. These investments are focused on reducing vehicle miles travelled through mode-shift, increased transit ridership, housing production near jobs, and other innovative solutions.*

The May revise, released March 14, reflects a roughly 8% reduction in expenditures totaling \$203.3 billion. The portion of the budget going toward general government agencies took the biggest hit. Some agencies were impacted more than others, for example the line item for “transportation” shows a 17.3% reduction from FY 2019/2020. California is constitutionally required to enact a balanced budget. Therefore, the May revise proposes the following to make up the shortfall imposed by the COVID 19 economic crisis.

- Cancel \$6.1 billion in program expansions and spending increases*
- Redirecting \$2.4 billion in extraordinary payments to CalPERS to temporarily offset the state’s obligations to CalPERS in 2020-21 and 2021-22.*
- Reflects savings increased efficiency in state operations now and into the future. Draw down \$16.2 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) over three years, and allocate the Safety Net Reserve to offset increased costs in health and human services programs over the next two years.*
- Withdrawal of \$8.3 billion, including \$7.8 billion from the Rainy Day Fund and \$450 million from the Safety Net Reserve in 2020-21.*
- Borrow and transfer \$4.1 billion from special funds.*
- Temporarily suspend net operating losses and temporarily limit to \$5 million the amount of credits a taxpayer can use in any given tax year.*

- *Reflect the Administration's nationwide request of \$1 trillion in flexible federal funds*

*The full budget summary for the FY 2020-2021 May revise can be found here:
<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2020-21MR/#/BudgetSummary..>*

- *On June 3, 2020, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR), released text of the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act. The Committee will consider the INVEST in America Act at Committee markup scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th. The current surface transportation authorization expires September 30th.*

The INVEST in America Act authorizes nearly \$500 billion over five years to address some of the country's most urgent infrastructure needs, including:

- *Roadway, bridge, and transit maintenance*
- *Resilient infrastructure investment*
- *Designing streets that are safer for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists*
- *Putting the U.S. on a path toward zero emissions caused by the transportation sector*
- *Increasing funding for public transit with tools such as bus-only lanes and priority signaling*
- *Making investments in Amtrak to create a robust, reliable, and safe rail system*
- *Improving access to Federal funding to help communities around the country undertake transformative projects that are smarter, safer, and made to last*

A complete summary of the bill can be found here:

<https://transportation.house.gov/download/2020-invest-inamerica-bill-summary>.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Other Business

7.1 Matter brought forth by the Commission

Commissioner McCourt asked if we needed a special meeting in July to help the trails advocates with their grant proposal. The Executive Secretary said that the trail segment for the project they were promoting was already mentioned in the Regional Transportation Plan, and so a special meeting was not needed. He did say that he would work with the trail advocates to make sure that they got a letter of recommendation from the Commission, and a recital that showed that the project was supported by the RTP.

7.2 Next Commission Meeting

Next meeting of the LCTC will on Monday, August 10, 2020 at time 1:30 PM, in Jensen Hall at the Lassen County Fairgrounds.

7.3 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted for approval by:

John Clerici
Executive Secretary