

SIERRA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
P. O. Box 98 – DOWNIEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95936

COMMISSIONERS

SHARON DRYDEN  
LILA HEUER  
PAUL ROEN – VICE CHAIR  
TERRY LEBLANC - COUNTY ALTERNATE

PAUL CUETO - CHAIR  
DORIE GAYNER  
JOY MARKUM  
BILL MERTTON

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

305 SOUTH LINCOLN  
SIERRAVILLE, CA

MINUTES

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.m. by Vice Chair Roen

**Roll Call:**

Commissioners Present: Dryden, Gayner, Heuer and Roen  
Commissioners Absent: Markum, Mertton and Cueto  
A Quorum was established.

Also in attendance: Dawson Stroud, Caltrans District 3, Transportation Planner, Regional Liaison; Sandra Loving, President Golden Rays Senior Citizens, Inc.; Carolyn Widman, Executive Director, Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County; Gloria Shelton, Transportation Coordinator, Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County; Bryan Davey, Executive Director; Thomas Graham, Transportation Planner and Suzanne Smith, Executive Secretary.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Led by Commissioner Gayner

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Commission Action:** Commissioner Dryden moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Gayner. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Commission Action:** Commissioner Dryden moved to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Gayner. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Davey introduced Sierra County Transportation Planner, Thomas Graham.

Ms. Widman announced her retirement from the Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County, and announced the new Executive Director will be Magdalene DeBerg. Commissioner Roen expressed, "He is very sorry to see Ms. Widman go". Mr. Davey thanked Ms. Widman for her years of service and commended her on a good job, saying it was a good experience and she will be missed.

**Public Comment Opportunity:**

No public comment was given.

**Transit Issues:**

A fund estimate spreadsheet was distributed showing the ongoing tabulations of the Local Transportation Fund (LTF), State Transit Assistance (STA) and State of Good Repair (SGR). Mr. Graham reported that so far this year the ¼ % Local Sales and Use Tax payments total \$23,377.81 comprising of July, August and September payments. The STA Funds 23FY 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ended with a balance of \$44,041.00 which is a 32% increase over 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 22FY and the SGR Fund 23FY ended with a balance of \$5,160.52 which is a 5% increase over 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 22FY. The balance in the STA/SGR account is \$138,882.94. Mr. Davey stated that is the funding available for capitol purchases.

Mr. Graham further reported he is currently working on the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 24FY, 5311 funding report due to Caltrans, October 4, 2023. The 5311 Fund is used for Transit Operations. The 5339 funding approval for the purchase of the two (2) new vans were received Monday, September 25, 2023 in the amount of \$160,240.00. The purchase of the vans are underway however, the previous quotes have expired. New quotes have been requested and are expected today. Mr. Davey explained the process for the purchase of the vans started in 2019 and that the anticipate wait time for the arrival of the vans once ordered are just a couple weeks for the minivan and the larger van could take several months.

**Overall Work Program:**

Mr. Graham reported the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 23FY is closed out and he is currently working on the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 24FY and will bring the new budget to our next meeting.

Mr. Davey stated there will be two (2) budget amendments presented at the next meeting reflecting the increasing cost of the van purchases and the carryover from last year's OWP funding.

**Regional Transportation Plan:**

Mr. Graham requested an approval to issue a Request for Proposals for preparation of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan update. Mr. Davey stated we normally hire a consultant to update the RTP however, moving forward Mr. Graham will be taking on the role of updating the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. Commissioner Dryden asked if there was money budgeted for the preparation of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan. The answer is yes, Work Element

4 in the OWP allocates \$20,000.00. Commissioner Dryden also asked if we were still under contract with Green Dot. Yes, we have a contract with Green Dot however, it does not include the scope of these services.

**Commission Action:** Request for Proposal for preparation for the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan was approved by consensus.

**Presentation by Sierra County Transportation Planner, Thomas Graham regarding Assembly Bill 43:**

Mr. Graham gave a brief presentation pertaining to Assembly Bill 43 pointing out that as of June 30, 2024, AB 43 grants local jurisdictions the ability to lower speed limits, in five (5) mile increments based on the context of their own communities. Local jurisdictions can also lower speeds in school zones that meet specific criteria. Mr. Graham noted that there can be no speed traps and local authorities shall issue only warning citations for violations of exceeding the speed limit by 10 mph or less for the first 30 days that a lower speed limit is in effect. There will also be an online tool developed for adjudicating infraction violations statewide.

A discussion ensued pertaining to the many location throughout the County where speeds are set at 35 and should be lowered. Mr. Davey clarified that there are certain criteria's to meet to allow local jurisdictions the ability to lower speeds. Sierra County should meet those criteria.

Commission Roen raised the question to Caltrans regarding the speed on a stretch of both Highway 89 and Highway 49 coming into Sierraville (all three sides). The speed limit goes from 55 mph to 35 mph. Commissioner Roen reminded Mr. Stroud there was a discussion held at the Coordination Meeting in May when Caltrans agreed a study showed the areas need to be "stepped down" from 55 mph to 45 mph to 35 mph. The speed limit signs still go from 55 mph to 35 mph. Commissioner Roen asked Mr. Stroud to follow up. Mr. Stroud will check into it.

**CALTRANS Report and Other Transportation Discussion/Direction Items and Updates**

**Caltrans Report:** Mr. Stroud did not have anything to report.

**Project Updates:** Mr. Davey reported that the two (2) bridge projects; Packer Lake Road over Salmon Creek Bridge Replacement and Salmon Lake Road Bridge over Church Creek Bridge Replacement projects are well underway. The Salmon Lake Road Bridge is wrapping up today! The Packer Lake Road Bridge is pouring the "deck" today and one additional pour next week which is a good stopping point for the project to winter through as this project will be a two (2) season project.

Mr. Davey also reported that a contract was awarded for the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PAED) phase for the Smithneck Road Rehabilitation project and Bike Path.

Mr. Davey reported that the North Yuba Fuel and Health Resilience project work is being done. Commissioner Roen commended Caltrans for their positive efforts working with the forest project.

Mr. Davey reported the HSIP Guardrail Replacement project is done and closed out.

**Other Transportation Issues:**

Commissioner Gayner reported the City of Loyalton has issues with the crosswalks on Hwy 49 / Main Street stating each crosswalk is in need of paint. Mr. Stroud stated that he knows who to contact to get the crosswalks painted.

**Schedule Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2023 at Sicrraville School.

**Adjourn:**


Vice Chair Roen adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.



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**Paul Cueto, Chair**  
Sierra County Transportation Commission

**ATTEST:**



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**Suzanne Smith,**  
Executive Secretary to the Commission