



Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING July 9, 2025

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 in the Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers, 125 E. Main Street, Grass Valley, California. Notice of the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance and was scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Daniela Fernandez (alternate)
Susan Hoek
Tom Ivy
Jay Strauss
Duane Strawser
Robb Tucker

Members Absent: Jan Zabriskie

Staff Present: Mike Woodman, Executive Director
Aaron Hoyt, Deputy Executive Director
Kena Sannar, Transportation Planner
Dale Sayles, Administrative Services Officer
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Chair Ivy convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
April, May 2025
2. NCTC Minutes
May 21, 2025 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. TDA Allocation Request from Nevada County
Resolution 25-18
4. TDA Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley
Resolution 25-19

5. TDA Allocation Request from the City of Nevada City
Resolution 25-20
6. TDA Allocation Request from the Town of Truckee
Resolution 25-21
7. Grass Valley, Nevada City, Town of Truckee, and Nevada County Local Participation Subrecipient Agreements for FY 2025/26
Resolution 25-22
8. Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Program of Projects
Resolution 25-23
9. Allocation Request from Grass Valley for Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds for FY 2024/25 Projects
Resolution 25-24

ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote

MOTION: Strauss / **SECOND:** Strawser

AYES: Fernandez, Hoek, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Ivy

NOES: None

ABSENT: Zabriskie

ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

10. FY 2024/25 Fiscal and Compliance Audits
Resolution 25-25

Ingrid Shepline of Richardson and Company presented the Fiscal and Compliance audits for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The results showed no audit findings for any of the entities and no instances of non-compliance nor any matters considered to be material weaknesses, and the Commission complied with the Transportation Development Act and the various other state guidelines governing the funding sources that it has administrative responsibility over. The Commission's financial statements received an unmodified opinion, and all jurisdictions were found to be in compliance with state regulations.

A recommendation noted for the County of Nevada audit is to determine the origin of \$802,254 reported as restricted net assets for capital purposes.

A recommendation noted for the Town of Truckee is for the Town to develop a plan to eliminate negative cash in the Transit Fund.

A recommendation noted for the Commission is to separate general ledger accounts for wages, taxes, and benefits.

ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote

MOTION: Strauss / **SECOND:** Strawser

AYES: Fernandez, Hoek, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Ivy

NOES: None

ABSENT: Zabriskie

ABSTAIN: None

11. Draft 2045 Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan Update Presentation
Provide comments

NCTC Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hoyt presented the Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update, prepared by NCTC's consultant DKS Associates. NCTC is required to prepare a long-range transportation plan for the county at large that identifies the regional priorities for transportation across all modes. The plan must include multimodal improvements and is informed through community engagement. Projects included in the plan can use the data provided to assist in pursuing state and federal funding through various competitive programs and even some formula programs. The plan is updated every five years and forecasts out over 20 years.

Three new goals included in this update are developing a future ready transportation system, ensuring infrastructure resiliency & disaster preparedness, and generating equity in public engagement. Public outreach included two virtual workshops, an interactive online mapping platform, and presentations to TNT/TMA, ATCI-MAPCO, and SSTAC organizations. Over the next 20 years, funding for projects will come from state, federal and local programs, and investments will be made in transit operations, roadway and bridge maintenance, safety improvements, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and resiliency projects.

The plan identified disadvantaged communities in Nevada County for the purpose of accessing future competitive grant opportunities. The methodology used to define these communities considers several indicators including racial minority, household income, language proficiency, housing costs, single-family households, age, limited mobility, those who don't have vehicles, and households without internet service. The plan aims to make jurisdictions more eligible for state and federal transportation funding, particularly for active transportation projects.

Key initiatives include transitioning to electric buses by 2029, improving road conditions, enhancing safety, and addressing climate resilience. Public workshops and feedback were incorporated into the plan, which will undergo further review and updates every five years.

A commissioner made a request to reprioritize funding for evacuation route clearing and vegetation management along state highways to enhance safety and prevent blockages during emergencies. While Caltrans acknowledges the importance of these projects, funding constraints and regulatory challenges, such as the inability to use state money on state land, hinder progress. It was suggested to explore alternative funding sources, revisit vegetation management standards, and collaborate with local agencies and Caltrans to address these issues. The importance of proactive measures to prevent fires from spreading was stressed, noting that evacuation route clearing could double as a natural fuel break.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. Executive Director's Report

NCTC Executive Director Mike Woodman gave an overview of his report.

There was a necessary funding adjustment to the jointly funded Caltrans and NCTC State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project on SR 49 between the McKnight Way interchange and La Barr Meadows Road due to an increase in construction costs. NCTC will fund its share of the cost increase with State Transportation Improvement Program funds which will be accounted for in the FY 25-26

Regional Transportation Improvement Program that will be brought to the commission for approval in November. The widening of the roadway as part of that project will help to address the vegetation management needed to reduce ladder fuels and create a wider fuel break along the corridor.

The California Rural Counties Task Force and NCTC were awarded a 2025 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Rural Induced Demand Study. NADO is a Washington DC based association that promotes programs and policies to strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards showcase organizations for noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, program delivery, and special initiatives. NCTC will receive the award at the National Regional Transportation Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

Through NCTC's continued coordination with the UCLA Engineering and Research Team, NCTC's Executive Director was contacted in May by the team to help coordinate support for a NASA IGNITE SBIR Phase II research grant funding opportunity to further the research of the OPAL AI decision-support tool being developed. The OPAL AI tool helps local agencies identify wildfire risk probability, identification of at-risk assets, and help improve wildfire preparedness. If successfully awarded grant funding, NCTC and the local jurisdictions within Nevada County would participate in a 3-year pilot to serve as a test bed region for the software platform and provide feedback and input on ways to enhance features. It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in October 2025.

11. Project Status Report

Caltrans District 3 Project Manager Sam Vandell gave an update on the current status of projects in Nevada County.

Mr. Vandell provided details on the Highway 49 project, which is ready for advertisement and aims to start construction next spring or summer. The project will incorporate a clear recovery zone, where a vehicle that runs off the road has an opportunity to correct itself and get back on the road. The process will include removing trees and other obstacles that might prevent a vehicle getting safely back onto the roadway. There will also be utility relocations done during the corridor widening, such as PG&E, AT&T, and NID, in order for the main contract work to begin.

Addressing a recent fatality on Highway 20, Mr. Vandell commented that the Caltrans Safety Office collects data on collisions and/or fatalities and responds with safety program projects. The Omega project on Highway 20 and the Highway 174 project were both initiated due to collisions and fatalities that occurred on those corridors. The state portion of the Highway 49 project is an 015 safety project, which is a proactive safety program that will allow Caltrans to improve the safety conditions on Highway 49 by improving sight distance and eliminating conflict points between slow moving vehicles and faster moving vehicles, allowing for easier access and egress off of the highway.

In address traffic delays during construction, Mr. Vandell mentioned the legal specifications in their contract that state there is a maximum timeframe of 20 minutes that is allowed for delays due to a closure. Construction staff should be notified if longer delays occur so they can help correct the situation. Caltrans does not anticipate having one-way traffic control or reversing traffic control on the Highway 49 project, the plan is to have one lane consistently open in each direction and a two-way left turn lane continuously operational during the construction of the project. Due to several projects being constructed at about the same time in the county, Caltrans will keep the public informed about the

progress of projects through regular updates, press releases and coordination with local agencies and NCTC to provide updates on the construction projects.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Fernandez announced that Nevada City's new mayor is to be Mayor Adam Klein.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been scheduled for September 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Lynn
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Sept 17, 2025

By: Thomas J Ivy
Tom Ivy, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission