

LOU CECI – Nevada City City Council
SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
TOM IVY – Grass Valley City Council, Chair
JAY STRAUSS – Member-At-Large
DUANE STRAWSER – Member-At-Large
ROBB TUCKER – Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair
JAN ZABRISKIE – Town of Truckee



MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director
AARON HOYT, Deputy Executive Director

Grass Valley • Nevada City

Nevada County • Truckee

MINUTES OF NCTC MEETING November 12, 2025

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, November 12, 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: Lou Ceci
Susan Hoek
Tom Ivy
Jay Strauss
Duane Strawser
Robb Tucker
Jan Zabriskie

Members Absent:

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 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Cement Hill Neighborhood Association Nevada City General Plan Scenic Corridor Overlay Considerations for State Route 49 Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project by Brian Bisnett

Brian gave a presentation on behalf of the Cement Hill Neighborhood Association regarding Nevada City's scenic corridor ordinance and landscape preferences for the State Route 49 corridor. He highlighted what works in the corridor (undeveloped stretches, hydraulic berms, topography, wood tone fencing, tree and shrub screening) and what doesn't work (unscreened structures, insufficient screening, limbed-up trees without understory vegetation). Brian proposed organic compositions for roundabouts including mounded earth, boulder formations, deciduous trees, and natural hardscapes.

Concerns were raised by the commissioners about water access and wildfire safety, suggesting that less vegetation along highways is preferable. It was noted that the Town of Truckee provides some good

examples of roundabouts with both sculptures and trees. A concern was raised about funding priorities, noting that many parts of the county need road improvements.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
July, August, September 2025
2. NCTC Minutes
September 17, 2025 NCTC Meeting Minutes
Called out for discussion
3. Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Annual Report for FY 2024/25
Approved

ACTION: Approved Consent Items excluding Item #2 September 17 2025 NCTC Meeting Minutes by roll call vote

MOTION: Ceci / **SECOND:** Strawser

AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie, Ivy

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

2. NCTC Minutes
September 17, 2025 NCTC Meeting Minutes

The September 17, 2025 NCTC Meeting Minutes were pulled from the consent calendar by Commissioner Strauss for discussion. He requested that the minutes be amended to include his comments during the Road User Charge Pilot Program discussion. He suggested that the state of California do away with the Road User Charge entirely and increase the state income tax instead, since everybody benefits from the roads, whether or not they are actually driving on them. Goods arrive to homes by way of trucks traveling on the roads, so there is no one in the state that is not benefiting in some way from the roads. Increasing the state income tax would spread the cost evenly. No action was taken and the revised minutes will be presented at the January 21, 2026 meeting for consideration of approval.

4. Approval of Final 2045 Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan Update
Resolution 25-31

The Commission discussed and approved the Final 2045 Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan update and associated environmental document. Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hoyt presented the plan, noting that it addresses traffic congestion, mobility, safety needs, and maintenance of the existing transportation system.

Aaron explained that the plan identifies approximately \$1.79 billion over a 20-year period, with 54% from state sources, 35% from local sources, and 11% from federal sources. He explained that 66.1% of funding will go toward maintaining existing infrastructure, 5.8% toward roadway operational and safety improvements, 17.3% toward transit, 8.7% toward bicycle and pedestrian projects, and 2% toward resiliency improvements.

In response to concerns voiced about wildfire safety and evacuation routes by commissioners, Executive Director Mike Woodman explained that the plan does identify wildfire risks and evacuation concerns and includes projects intended to improve evacuation efficiency such as the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project that will eliminate merge points on State Route 49 and add both northbound and southbound truck climbing lanes between McKnight Way and La Barr Meadows Road that have been identified as choke points during evacuation by emergency responders. The plan also includes construction of structurally engineered shoulders on SR 49 from just north of Alta Sierra Drive to Combie Road/Wolf Road that can be utilized to increase evacuation capacity. In the future, NCTC is hoping to partner with the UCLA Engineering and Research Team to utilize a cutting edge, multifaceted wildfire evacuation tool where different scenarios can be run with different types of wildfire ignition points, events, and times of year, and work in coordination with Nevada County OES and other county services. Executive Director Woodman committed to further expanding the focus on wildfire risks and evacuation in the next update of the plan.

For other local areas in the county such as Lake Wildwood, that have their own particular wildfire evacuation concerns, Mike indicated that the general direction for that is encompassed in the Goals, Objectives, and Policies, but there would need to be additional studies done working in coordination with Nevada County OES. NCTC would not necessarily be the lead on those but can partner with Nevada County OES to address some of those areas of concern.

Aaron acknowledged public participation was less than hoped but mentioned receiving 217 comments from the online platform, mostly focused on biking and active transportation. He said it would be beneficial to pursue some of the competitive grant programs to fund more of those active transportation projects. Mike added that the social pinpoint interactive online website has been very successful in previous planning studies like development of the Active Transportation Plan. It is a user-based system where someone can zoom into the map, find the area they are interested in, and pin comments directly on the map. Users have responded positively about the ability to see their area and see the other comments that people have posted.

Appreciation was given for the hard work being done by Mike and Aaron to provide rural representation in a very competitive environment to find the funding for local projects, especially considering the long time frame it takes to bring a project to completion.

Concern was raised about the need to clear highway corridors from vegetation that has caused problems during wildfires, and if done strategically, small areas at a time, finding the funding is achievable. Beyond just the wildfire risk, there are trees close to roadways that have been involved in multiple traffic accidents and fatalities that should be removed. Prioritizing funding to address this would help put focus on moving forward on safety improvement projects such as these.

The importance of finding funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure was expressed. Aaron provided a breakdown of local and state resources that contribute funding toward bicycle and pedestrian

projects in the county, including the Local Transportation Fund, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, general sales tax measures, and competitive Active Transportation Program grants.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 25-31 by roll call vote

MOTION: Hoek / SECOND: Strawser

AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie, Ivy

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. Amendment 1 to the FY 2025/26 Overall Work Program

Resolution 25-32

Executive Director Mike Woodman explained that Amendment 1 to the FY 2025/26 Overall Work Program addresses reconciliation of final expenditures from FY 2024/25 and adjusts estimated revenue carryover amounts. The total net budget increase of approximately \$182,903 includes increases in staff hours, direct costs, indirect costs, and contingency budget.

The Commission unanimously approved Amendment 1 to the FY 2025/26 Overall Work Program.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 25-32 by roll call vote

MOTION: Strauss / SECOND: Ceci

AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie, Ivy

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2025/26 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Resolution 25-33

The Commission held a Public Hearing for approval of the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The FY 2025/26 RTIP identifies \$4,073,000 in formula funding available to program in the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for regional transportation projects, after adjusting for a construction cost increase related to the State Route (SR) 49 Corridor Improvement Project between the McKnight Way interchange and La Barr Meadows Road.

During each STIP cycle, NCTC is allowed to program up to 5% of its regional improvement program funds for planning, programming, and monitoring (PPM) activities. NCTC has \$182,000 of PPM funds that they could program in the 2026 STIP. In consideration of NCTC's ongoing planning activities, as well as the programming and monitoring activities associated with the SR 49 Corridor Improvement Project and the SR 49 Grass Valley Wildfire Evacuation Project, Executive Director Mike Woodman recommended programming the \$182,000 for planning, programming, and monitoring activities and leaving the remaining \$3,891,000 unprogrammed to carry forward into the next STIP cycle.

There was discussion on the STIP cycle timeline and when the unprogrammed funds would be used, and if there was a risk of losing the unprogrammed funds. Mike explained there could be a scenario

where if the STIP revenue estimates came in severely under what the state had estimated, certain types of projects might be prioritized for funding, affecting which projects could be programmed at a certain point in time. The PPM funds would go towards staff time for monitoring and coordination but could also be used to fund planning studies or other planning activities.

The Public Hearing was opened and closed with no public comments, and the Commission unanimously adopted Resolution 25-33 approving the FY 2025/26 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 25-33 by roll call vote

MOTION: Strawser / SECOND: Hoek

AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie, Ivy

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Proposed 2026 NCTC Meeting Schedule

Approved

Executive Director Mike Woodman presented the proposed 2026 NCTC Meeting Schedule, developed in coordination with the Transit Services Commission, noting that the NCTC meeting in July is planned to be held at the Truckee Council Chambers. The Commission approved the schedule with the understanding that adjustments may be needed as the dates approach.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8. Correspondence

- A. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fourth Quarter State of Good Repair Program Allocation, File 370.2.1, 9/16/2025
- B. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fourth Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 9/16/2025

9. Executive Director's Report

NCTC Executive Director Mike Woodman reported on a community workshop held at the Miners Foundry on October 23, 2025 to present an overview of the Zion Street/Sacramento Street Pedestrian & Bike Mobility project, providing the potential concepts being considered for the corridor and receiving community input. The workshop included a presentation of the challenges and progress to date and followed up with small table discussions to talk through the concepts being presented and then report out their findings. The workshop was well attended, and members of the community were appreciative of the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the concepts being presented.

An Open House was held on October 2nd in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors chambers to present an overview of the improvements and the project schedule for the Nevada City SR 49

Multimodal Corridor project. The improvements in the corridor are intended to help reduce speeds and allow active transportation users to travel more safely and comfortably while accessing the various destinations throughout the corridor. The project runs from the State Route 20/49/Uren Street intersection to the County Juvenile Hall driveway. Caltrans District 3 has been designated as the implementing agency for the project and is working in coordination with NCTC and Nevada City. The comments received at the Open House included requests for downward-directed lighting, installing landscaping appropriate for the scenic corridor, and requests to consider not including entrance to the roundabout from Orchard Street which might result in increased traffic, but instead provide a right turn bypass that would allow eastbound access onto State Route 49 only. Mike noted there could potentially be some right of way impacts with that scenario. In addition, any significant changes to the project that was originally submitted in the grant would have to get approval from the California Transportation Commission.

Some of the residents from lower Coyote Street requested closing public access from State Route 49 onto their street. Mike noted that any changes to public access such as those suggested for Orchard Street or lower Coyote Street would need to be approved by the City of Nevada City in accordance with their adopted policies and procedures. NCTC staff will work with the City to see if there are other alternatives that could address the concerns expressed.

10. Project Status Report

Appreciation was expressed by the commissioners to Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County, for the merge arrows that have been installed at the Higgins Junction on State Route 49 past the Wolf/Combie intersection.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no commission announcements.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been scheduled for January 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Lynn
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Jan 21, 2026

By: R. T.
Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission