

LOU CECI – Nevada City City Council, Vice Chair
SUSAN HOEK – Nevada County Board of Supervisors
TOM IVY – Grass Valley City Council
JAY STRAUSS – Member-At-Large
DUANE STRAWSER – Member-At-Large
ROBB TUCKER – Nevada County Board of Supervisors, 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 March 18, 2026

A regular meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 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

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

Standing Orders: Chair Tucker convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT: An email was submitted by Jeanie Koch, a Lake of the Pines resident, who raised concerns about an unsafe crosswalk connecting Lake of the Pines to Bear River High School. She stated that the crossing violates ADA standards and that her son cannot safely walk or bike to school due to poor visibility, vegetation overgrowth, and high vehicle speeds. She requested high visibility markings, vegetation clearing, widening the shoulder area, and installing flashing beacons. The comment was forwarded to Nevada County Public Works for review.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Financial Reports
November, December 2025
2. NCTC Minutes
January 21, 2026 NCTC Meeting Minutes
3. Revised Findings of Apportionment for FY 2025/26 and Preliminary Findings of Apportionment for FY 2026/27
Resolution 26-07 and 26-08

4. State Transit Assistance Preliminary Apportionments for FY 2026/27
Apportionment table approved
5. Approval of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) FY 2025/26 Funding Amounts
Funding amounts approved

ACTION: Approved Consent Items by roll call vote
MOTION: Ceci / **SECOND:** Strauss
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION ITEMS

6. Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement to Prepare the Zion Street/Sacramento Street Corridor Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility/School Access Study
Resolution 26-09

The commission approved Amendment 1 to the agreement with GHD Inc. for the Zion Street/Sacramento Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility and School Access Study, increasing the contract by \$29,084 to include a third community workshop to refine improvement concepts based on public feedback. The amendment will allow the project team to present a preferred design alternative to the community before formalizing it in the draft report.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 26-09 by roll call vote
MOTION: Ceci / **SECOND:** Strawser
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

7. Amendment 3 to the FY 2025/26 Overall Work Program
Resolution 26-10

The Commission approved Amendment 3 to the FY 2025/26 Overall Work Program, adjusting the budget to reflect the increased consultant expenditure for the Zion Street/Sacramento Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility and School Access Study to include a third workshop.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 26-10 by roll call vote
MOTION: Strawser / **SECOND:** Ceci
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. Draft FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program
Comments provided

The Commission reviewed the Draft FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program, detailing planning activities and budget allocations. The Draft OWP includes updates to the Nevada County Active Transportation Plan in coordination with local jurisdictions, and continues the Reenvisioning Transit in Western Nevada County study. No action was taken; the item was informational.

9. RTMF Annual Inflation Adjustment
Resolution 26-11

NCTC staff recommended no inflation adjustment to the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program for FY 2026/27 due to minimal change in the San Francisco Construction Cost Index, which is the 20-city index recommended by the consultant. The decision was supported by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Contractors Association, agreeing that the administrative burden of adjusting fees outweighed the benefit. The Commission approved the resolution.

ACTION: Approved Resolution 26-11 by roll call vote
MOTION: Hoek / **SECOND:** Strauss
AYES: Ceci, Hoek, Ivy, Strauss, Strawser, Tucker, Zabriskie
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Project Status Report

Sam Vandell, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County, presented the March Caltrans Project Report. Sam provided updates on several highway projects, including the Highway 49 Corridor Improvement Project. Tree removal and utility relocation are underway, with major earth work beginning in June.

The Highway 49 Multimodal Corridor project, to construct pedestrian crossings, shared-use paths, a roundabout, sidewalks, lighting, and signage on State Route 49 from SR 20 to the Nevada County Juvenile Hall driveway, will complete the design phase in spring of 2027, with construction to begin in the fall of 2027.

Sam introduced a new project to improve safety at the Highway 49/20 Uren Street intersection, which is scheduled to move into the design phase in April, with environmental documentation and community outreach to follow. Sam will be working closely with NCTC staff to make sure the needs and concerns regarding this intersection are addressed.

Commissioner Strawser advocated for the placement of rumble strips on shoulders to be integrated with the white fog line to maximize usable space for cyclists. Sam confirmed that while the standard policy is to build rumble strips 1-2 feet off the fog line, exceptions can be made to move them closer, and he agreed to set up a meeting with relevant units to discuss this further.

Sam confirmed that work to improve the condition of the road on Highway 20 between State Route 49 and Rough and Ready Highway may be delayed due to budget constraints, and will likely be moved to a later fiscal year.

Reed Hamilton of the Sierra Express Bicycle Club raised concerns about the lack of colored striping for bike lanes on Highway 49. Executive Director Mike Woodman detailed the planned improvements to shoulders along the corridor, explaining the use of class three multi-use shoulders that promote sharing of the roadway while providing a safer area for cyclists and pedestrians to use the corridor. Commissioners suggested adding signs to inform drivers that bikes are allowed on the shoulders. Mike commented that there would be meetings planned with Caltrans in the future to address issues and concerns.

11. Executive Director's Report

NCTC Executive Director Mike Woodman reviewed the Executive Director's Report. The pre-construction activities on the State Route 49 Corridor Improvement Project have begun with tree clearing and preparing for utilities relocation. Major construction activities are scheduled to start in June. The project scope includes construction of both a southbound and a northbound truck climbing lane between the McKnight Way interchange and the signal at La Barr Meadows Road. It will also include a 16-foot wide continuous two-way left turn lane, 10-foot shoulders, southbound right turn lanes at Bethel Church Way, Smith Road, and Crestview Drive, and construction of a new entrance to the Nevada County Transit Operations Center.

Other safety features planned include enhanced wet night visibility striping, rumble strips, a wildlife undercrossing, and some rounded pavement edge treatments, with the main purpose of the project to improve safety, operations, address identified evacuation bottlenecks, and improve evacuation efficiency. Caltrans is the lead agency and Granite Construction is the prime contractor for the project, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2029.

The Reenvisioning Transit in Western Nevada County and Comprehensive Operational Analysis is being done in coordination with the Nevada County Transit Services Division. The consulting firm Toole Design has been contracted to conduct this analysis that will look at operational efficiencies and alternative delivery methods such as micro-transit, an on-demand response system. The Town of Truckee has implemented micro-transit and it has been very successful. Funding will be a challenge, but the proposed recommendations could be advocated for funding at the state level.

Public outreach for the analysis has included an online survey, pop-up table events, and a public in-person workshop to receive input. Once the consultant develops some of these draft scenarios, another public workshop will be held for additional public input. The consultant will work closely with the Transit Services Commission and provide presentations to the jurisdictions in western Nevada County to get feedback. Considerations might include more coverage versus greater frequency, and the options of traditional delivery or alternative delivery, or a combination of both.

Commissioner Strauss proposed creating a formal process where matters and issues that are presented to the commission are docketed for follow up, with updates on the status of the docketed items reported back in the Executive Director's Report at subsequent commission meetings. He used as an example the bus stop on Highway 174 across the street from Gold Country Senior Services that is hard to see because it is obscured by a telephone pole. He also referenced the public comment earlier in the meeting about the dangerous crosswalk near Bear River High School. He would like issues such as these to be

followed up on with the appropriate persons or agencies, and then reported back to the commission by the Executive Director in his report. Mike agreed that these types of issues could be tracked, and if there is some movement by the jurisdiction on the particular issue, he is happy to report back on it.

Nevada County Transit Services Manager Robin Van Valkenburgh commented that in the current comprehensive operational analysis being done, that particular bus stop on Highway 174 has been put forward as an issue that should be mitigated to better serve that facility. Robin said he would work with NCTC staff and Grass Valley staff to find a better short-term as well as long-term scenario for that location, and would report back any project movement specific to the issue. He encouraged any other singular projects to be brought forward so that solutions could be found for them as well.

Commissioner Strawser added that a proactive approach during the planning of projects would be helpful, such as funds set aside during the planning process for improving the road facilities in the immediate area. He used as examples the traffic backups that occur at the Starbucks on Freeman Lane and the new UPS location near the Idaho-Maryland roundabout.


12. Correspondence

- A. California Transportation Commission, Highlights of the 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature, (Link to full report available at: <https://catc.ca.gov/reports-resources/annual-reports>), File 370.0, 1/25/2026
- B. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2025-26 Second Quarter State of Good Repair Program Allocation, File 370.2.1, 2/19/2026
- C. Malia M. Cohen, California State Controller, Fiscal Year 2025-26 Second Quarter State Transit Assistance Allocation, File 1370.0, 2/19/2026
- D. Michael Taylor, Public Comment – Transportation Commission’s discussion, File 720.11, 2/5/2026


COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS: The meeting adjourned with Commissioner Lou Ceci striking the gavel in honor of his late father, a former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the NCTC has been scheduled for May 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Carol Lynn, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: May 20, 2026

By: 
Robb Tucker, Chair
Nevada County Transportation Commission