

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE BUTTE COUNTY  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
MAY 28, 2020**

The following minutes are a summary of actions taken by the Board of Directors. A digital recording of the actual meeting is available at BCAG's office located at 326 Huss Drive, Suite 150, Chico, CA.

Board Member Connelly called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the BCAG Conference Room, 326 Huss Drive, Suite 150, Chico CA.

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON**

Bill Connelly	Supervisor	District 1
Doug Teeter	Supervisor	District 5
Jody Jones	Councilmember	Town of Paradise

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA Zoom**

Tami Ritter	Supervisor	District 3
Angela Thompson	Councilmember	City of Biggs
Randall Stone	Mayor	City of Chico
Debra Lucero	Supervisor	District 2
Bruce Johnson	Mayor	City of Gridley

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Quintin Crye	Councilmember	City of Gridley
Chuck Reynolds	Mayor	City of Oroville
Steve Lambert	Supervisor	District 4

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jon Clark	Executive Director
Andy Newsum	Deputy Director
Victoria Proctor	Administrative Assistant
Julie Quinn	Chief Fiscal Officer
Jim Peplow	Senior Transit Planner
Sara Cain	Associate Senior Planner
Cheryl Massae	Human Resources Manager
Chris Devine	Planning Manager
Ivan Garcia	Transportation Programming Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Early, PlaceWorks  
 Andrea Howard, PlaceWorks  
 Jennifer Gastelum, PlaceWorks  
 Katherine Mattis

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3. Approval of Minutes from the April 23, 2020 BCAG Board of Directors Meeting**
- 4. Approval of Resolution 2019/20-16 to Implement Payroll Processes, Payroll Changes & Emergency Paid Sick Leave Related to COVID-19**

On motion by Board Member Ritter and seconded by Board Member Lucero, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

## **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

### **5: Approval of BCAG's 2020/21 Overall Work Program & Budget**

Staff presented the final 2020/21 Overall Work Program & Budget, which was presented in draft form in the April 2020 meeting. The Board and Staff had a general discussion about the twenty-six specific work elements included in the budget. It was noted by Staff that changes can and will be made on an as-needed basis.

On motion by Board Member Teeter and seconded by Board Member Jones, the 2020/21 Overall Work Program & Budget and Resolution 2019/20-15 were unanimously approved.

### **6: Approval of Butte Regional Transit 2020/21 Service Plan & Budget**

Staff presented the final Service Plan and Budget for Butte Regional Transit's 2020/21 Fiscal Year. A draft budget had been reviewed by Staff and the Board at the April 2020 Board meeting.

There was general discussion about the numbers presented, and how the CARES Act funding will replace lost fares during the Shelter in Place order and COVID-19 pandemic. The Board questioned whether the known changes in sales tax revenue estimates for State Transit Assistance funding and Local Transportation Funding. Staff assured the Board that an estimated decline of 16% was factored in, and the budget will be secured through other means as needed.

On motion by Board Member Teeter and seconded by Board Member Jones the Butte Regional Transit 2020/21 Service Plan and Budget was unanimously approved.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **7: Update on Development of 2020 Regional Housing Needs Plan**

Staff presented an update to the Regional Housing Needs Plan, which was last updated in 2012 and requires an update every eight years. This plan is mandated by California Government Code Section 65584 and requires a plan that covers Butte County as a whole, as well as all jurisdictions therein. Due to changes in requirements and funding available for this plan, namely the Regional Early Action Planning grant programs, Staff retained the consultant firm PlaceWorks to assist with the project.

The Board expressed discontent that they were not notified before this Board Meeting that the process of updating the plan and gathering public input had started, so Staff offered to add the Board to all future email distributions. Staff also will send out a Press Release notifying all news agencies in the area that this process has started, in order to gather more public engagement.

David Early from PlaceWorks was on hand to give a short presentation on the timeline for completing the RHNP and answer questions regarding methodology and what impact this will have on future planning for the jurisdictions covered. There was discussion between the Board, Staff, and the consultants regarding different aspects of the plan, with emphasis placed on how income brackets were defined and how different natural resources (such as water) were allocated. Mr. Early and his associates answered these questions as thoroughly as possible, making note that the housing affordability markers are based on Butte County's median income. Legally there is no way to further break down the income markers based on city versus county dwellings, and Mr. Early commented that the situation in Butte County is more equitable than in larger areas where these numbers are skewed heavily toward higher paying jobs.

A note was made by the Board that the stakeholder meeting held on May 19, 2020 was overwhelmingly attended by groups located inside Chico, with little input from groups outside the city itself. Prior to the meeting, an invitation was sent out to all known stakeholders in Butte County, the other organizations just did not attend.

This item will be brought to the Board monthly in order to keep everyone abreast of developments to this plan before it is taken for adoption in December. This item was presented for information purposes only.

### **8: Development of the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)**

The Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is required to be created every two years, and the 2021 FTIP is scheduled to be adopted at the August 27, 2020 Board meeting. The purpose of the FTIP is to identify all transportation-related project that require federal funding or other approval by the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration.

A draft 2021 FTIP will be presented at the July Transportation Advisory Committee and BCAG Board meetings. There is some doubt as to whether it will be needed given Senator Jim Beall is sponsoring Senate Bill 1291. If this bill is signed into law, it will forego California's requirement to update the FTIP for two years. If the bill is passed, Staff will continue to amend the current 2019 FTIP as needed since it is a four-year document that covers federal fiscal years 2018/19 through 2022/23.

There was general comments between Staff and the Board regarding the FTIP. This item was presented for information only.

### **9: Butte Regional Transit (B-Line) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report for FY 2019/20**

Staff presented key financial and statistical results for the Butte Regional Transit third quarter of fiscal year 2019/20. This is the first quarter that reflects no discrepancy of service due to the Camp Fire. However, the final weeks of March 2020 reflected depressed passenger revenues due to the Shelter in Place order that took effect on March 15, 2020.

When reviewing the stark decrease in ridership due to the pandemic, the Board asked for a comparison with what happened after the Camp Fire. In general terms, ridership was down about 25% after the Camp Fire, with an increase in urban ridership as more of the rural riders were relocated to Chico. Ridership as a result of the pandemic, however, was down 80% at the end of March and in April. This drop, as seen in the last two weeks of March for the third quarter, caused the urban fixed route system to drop below TDA farebox requirements.

There was general discussion between the Board and Staff regarding the state of ridership during the SIP order and what complaints were being fielded as a part of that. The complaints were as expected regarding route changes and driver/rider safety and personal protective equipment during this unprecedented time. Most routes have gone back to pre-SIP schedules, with the exception of the routes that service Chico State, and two commuter routes that were reduced due to decreased ridership.

The Board also questioned whether the Free Fare program, which started on April 13<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to conclude on May 31<sup>st</sup>, resulted in an increase in homeless riders using the buses as a shelter. Butte Regional Transit already had a policy in place that allowed a rider to ride the bus for one full loop (constituting between one to two hours depending on route) before asking them to leave the bus. This means that once the bus gets back to the original location the rider got on, they would have to vacate the bus, and this policy has resulted in no homeless using the buses as shelters during this time. There was general discussion about the rest of the report.

This item was presented for information purposes.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

**10: There were no items from the floor.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**11: Public Employee Annual Evaluation (Government Code 54957)**

After adjourning to a closed session, the Board members reconvened, and Chair Connelly announced that the Executive Director's 2019 Personnel Evaluation has been unanimously approved during said closed session. No additional comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, the BCAG Board meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

**Attest:**

*Jon Clark, Executive Director*  
*Victoria Proctor, Board Clerk*  
*Butte County Association of Governments*

6/25/20  
VP