

Yolo County Transportation Advisory Committee

2019 Activities

Adopted August 27, 2020

The Transportation Advisory Committee has four members, with supervisorial districts two and four currently unrepresented. Hans Strandgaard served as the TAC Chair and Sam Bivins as Vice-Chair from February 2019 to February 2020.

The TAC held ten meetings in 2019, during the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and December. Significant activities included the following:

- Regular updates by staff concerning Public Works Division transportation projects and activities, primarily by Director Panos Kokkas,
- Received reviews from City Engineers in Yolo County, such a review by Brent Meyer from Woodland concerning a possible connection of north-bound highway 113 to east-bound highway 5. The connection will be too expensive to begin construction soon, but traffic on Main Street is getting heavy, and CalTrans owns some of the ROW to make the connection. Mr. Meyer believes they will probably complete the project in 15-20 years. Mr. Meyer also discussed the rebuilding of Main Street, and also the plans to rebuild Court Street.
- Alan Mitchell, representing Winters, reported that they had put together a list of projects for self-help funding, but that the list has not been moving forward. SB1 money is still helping road repairs in Winters. There are no problems with the new PG&E facility. One problem has been needed improvement of pedestrian paths on the overpass over I 505. The city has been given \$250,000 from SACOG for planning of improvement of the pedestrian paths. Many new houses have been built in Winters, and new streets have been built to accommodate them,
- Terry Bassett, Executive of the Yolo County Transportation District reported on the status on the streetcar project. He reported that it is not moving forward because bids for the construction are 40-50% over the engineer's estimated budget. He reported that funds from the Volkswagen Emissions Lawsuit has been used for newer busses and charging facilities for electric autos. He also reported that light rail transportation may be extended over the Tower Bridge.
- Ongoing discussions about regular rainy season flooding of Wester's Corner, especially the section of the road that connects CR 32A with E. Chiles Road. That section was closed several times in late April. The county was considering installing swing gates so that they can more easily close the road in the future as people tend to drive around barricades that have been installed in the past. Concerns about the flooding of the County road were initially raised by the TAC, which was persistent in encouraging County DPW staff to raise the issue with Caltrans. Consistent with other priorities, County staff took up the matter of convincing Caltrans' of its responsibility for addressing the problem. It took time, but Caltrans eventually acknowledged that the flooding was created by a combination of factors under its control and is taking action to correct the problem in a creative and cooperative way. This effort has included the County and the City of Davis as active participants.
- The Committee discussed possible improvements to I-80 from Kidwell Road overpass to West Sacramento. Traffic jams due to lane reductions through Davis occur most afternoons, and various plans to add additional lanes are being studied.
- Bob Clarke, Public Work Director for Davis, spoke to the committee about transportation issues affecting the City and the County, including the NISHI development, Mace Blvd, I-80 Managed Lanes, CR 32A, I-80 Richards Interchange Improvements and the City's reorganization.
- Several discussions by the Committee involved the plans for removal of the railroad tracks on the Sacramento Weir, plus removal of the Fremont trestle over the Yolo Bypass. These removals will result in abandonment of the Sierra Northern Railway-owned Woodland Branch, but possible connection between the Sierra Northern Railway and the California Northern Railroad may allow current rail customers to continue to have rail service.
- The TAC has had several discussions resulting from the Union Pacific Railroad making it clear that they wish to remove the at-grade crossing where CR 105 and CR 22 crossing. There have been many accidents, some intentional, at the crossing. There is a committee working on a plan to move the crossing. Yolo County and the city of Davis have received funding to study alternative solutions to the problem.
- The Committee discussed options to improve traffic issues on Mace Blvd from the I-80 highway south to Montgomery Street. Changes made to Mace Blvd. have resulted in intersections with streets that make it impossible for autos to enter Mace Blvd. without ending in bicycle paths.
- Denix Anbiah, Director of Capital Projects and Transportation for the City of West Sacramento, provided the Committee with long-term plans to use funds remaining from the now dead construction of the streetcar project, including construction of a light rail extension over the Tower Bridge and south to the Raley Field baseball stadium, then south down 5th Street to houses and apartments known as the "Ironworks". Eventually, light rail could extend further south to Southport. Mr. Anbiah also discussed progress on the bridge being built to avoid the curve needed for cars to cross the I Street Bridge. He also said that the rail route is being planned to be West Sacramento's portion of the Yolo County Rail Relocation Project. One of the reasons for this would be to kick-start the entire relocation project.

The Committee examined the 2020 budget for Public Works Department, as they do annually. Director Panos Kokkas mentioned that the final budget for the had been approved in September. Panos has explained to the Committee that the majority of projects in 2019 has been to repair roads and bridges damaged from flooding during the unusually intense winter weather.