



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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AGENDA ITEM 5c
SSTAC Meeting
May 6, 2026

DATE: April 28, 2026
TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
FROM: Stevie Luther, Associate Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **SB 125 Long Term Financial Plan**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action Item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:
"I move that the SSTAC recommend the HCAOG Board accept the SB 125 Long Term Financial Plan and authorize staff to submit to CalSTA."

Staff Summary:

Senate Bill 125 is a statewide funding program to provide bridge funding for public transit systems to avoid falling off the fiscal cliff created by rising costs and changes in ridership post-Covid. Funds are allocated on a formula basis with a total of \$16,492,431 allocated to Humboldt County. HCAOG's regional allocation package was submitted in December 2023 and approved by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA).

The SB 125 statute requires HCAOG, as the RTPA, to submit a long-range financial plan by June 2026. The objective is to report on strategies the region and transit agencies have employed to manage costs, maintain cleanliness and safety, and generate revenue. With the passage of Measure O, the region can point to a significant new source of local revenue for transit. However, the 5-year budget forecast provided by HTA shows a structural deficit continues to exist. Absent the SB 125 funds, HTA would have a deficit of \$3,633,506 in FY 30-31. The strategies to increase ridership and improve efficiency, such as streamlining RTS, will continue to be a focus for HCAOG and HTA. Additionally, HTA proactively seeks out state and federal grants to support

capital and operations. If required, HTA will scale back operations and limit hours on low-performing routes.

The SSTAC is asked to review the plan and make a recommendation to the HCAOG Board to accept the plan for submittal to CalSTA.