

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 1

P.O. BOX 3700 | EUREKA, CA 95502-3700
(707) 445-6600 | FAX (707) 441-6314 TTY 711www.dot.ca.gov

March 26, 2026

Mr. Brendan Byrd
Executive Director
Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 "I" Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. Brendan Byrd:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has provided comments in the comment matrix below.

As a reminder, the Final OWP package is due to Caltrans by June 1, 2026. The following items must be included in the final OWP package:

- The comment matrix with agency comments/response section completed acknowledging Caltrans comments on the draft OWP. The response needs to demonstrate where Caltrans comments were addressed within the Final OWP.
- Electronically signed Overall Work Program Agreement (OWPA)
- Budget Revenue Summary (BRS)
- Board Resolution approving the OWP
- Electronically signed Certifications and Assurances
- Final OWP and Appendices

Also enclosed please find the list of transportation planning activities planned for Caltrans in FY 2026-27 which should be included with other agency transportation planning activities to make up the Information Element in the OWP.

If you have questions, please contact Catharine Crayne at (707) 684-6880 or by email at, catharine.crayne@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Ahlstrand
Senior Transportation Planner
Regional Planning Branch
Caltrans District 1

c: Priscilla Martinez-Velez, Office Chief, Caltrans District 1
Brenda Caruso, Branch Chief, Caltrans HQ Regional Coordination Branch
Catharine Crayne, Regional Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 1
Morgan Cunneen-Franco, Regional Planning Liaison/Fund Specialist, Caltrans HQ Office
Regional and Community Planning
Amy Eberwein, Administrative Services Officer, Humboldt County Association of
Governments



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
General Comments:		
<p>Please identify coordination of activities with District 1 and describe how HCAOG responds to district concerns, System Planning documents, and corridor plans. For example, the district will be providing updates to the HCAOG TAC on the US 101 and SR 36 Corridor Management Plans, and we look forward to HCAOG participation in District 1's transportation planning engagement opportunities that highlight System Planning deliverables described in the Information Element section of the OWP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added clarifying language to Work Element 2 	
<p>Please include a discussion of how HCAOG is using the California Transportation Plan (CTP), including a discussion of how HCAOG uses the CTP to guide its planning activities is helpful as the CTP provides the state's long-range transportation vision, establishes statewide goals and priorities, and offers a policy framework that helps align regional planning with California's broader transportation objectives. Referencing the CTP in the OWP demonstrates coordination with State planning efforts, supports consistent statewide outcomes and funding alignment, and is grounding its regional decisions in the goals, strategies, and long-term direction outlined in the CTP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included some language on Page 6 	
<p>Please include a table, matrix, or other diagram showing which WEs accomplish the CTP 14 recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added 	
<p>Please include a discussion in the introduction of how HCAOG consults and coordinates with Federal Land Management Agencies. The existing process documented on page 2 can be edited to identify the documented structured process for outreach that outlines the roles and responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with Federal Land Management Agencies coordinated with sensitivity to timing of plan update cycles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional language added clarifying intent and relevancy to HCAOG work 	
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend putting Figure 1 (page 1) on its own page so it can be displayed in a larger size. Currently, it is very difficult to read. On page 4, second paragraph, please include mention of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved Figure 1 to it's own page. Added IIJA. Information has been updated 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On page 5, in the safety section, it is stated that 2020 is the most recent year data is available from the California Office of Traffic Safety. Can we confirm this is a correct statement? 		
<p>Federal Planning Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please note that IJJA made a slight word change to the Planning Factors, specifically planning factor number five. It should read as follows: <i>Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvement and State and local planned growth, <u>housing</u>, and economic development patterns.</i> Please remove reference to the Planning Emphasis Areas on page 15 as these have been rescinded by our Federal partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed planning factor five text Removed PEA reference. 	
<p>Budget Revenue Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please update the title over the WEs to say FY 26-27 instead of FY 25-26. Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) must estimate carryover funds in the Final OWP to continue invoicing prior-year funds at that start of the new fiscal year. As a reminder, RTPAs cannot carry over more than 25% of their annual RPA allocation, therefore, it is important that carryover funds are expended first. Please revise accordingly to include an RPA carryover estimate. Please ensure the WE names align with those included in the OWP pages to reduce confusion. The total budgets for WE 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, and 24 are incorrect. The correct total budget amounts are stated in the WEs respective funding tables. Please address accordingly to ensure consistency. The funding amounts included for WE 6, WE 19, and WE 25 differ from those in the WEs' funding tables. Please address accordingly to ensure consistency. For the Local Match Regional Entities (PAACT WE 24), please clarify the fiscal year the \$52,500 in which the local match has been secured from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed BRS FY. We have not been required to do this before. We add our carryover with an amendment once the new fiscal year begins. Fixed WE names. Fix budgets. Removed sentence for PAACT match. 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<p>regional entities. Because the funding covers a 3-year grant period, replace “next fiscal year” with the fiscal year.</p>		
Work Element Specific Comments:		
<p>WE 3 Overall Work Program Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please change “Caltrans Headquarters Office of Regional Planning (ORP)” to “Caltrans Headquarters Office of Regional and Community Planning (ORCP)”. • Please ensure HCAOG’s accounting system can differentiate funding types and amounts between Tasks to ensure Task 5 is not improperly billed for RPA funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed. • Time spent on non RPA elements is not billed to RPA. 	
<p>WE 4 Planning and Programming State Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Previous Work Completed Section in bullet two which discusses the procurement process, is “revised 2018” correct? • The Previous Work Completed Section could also contain (if relevant) STIP Delivery project status reporting, development/implementation/delivery of previous STIP, meetings with Caltrans staff on regionally significant highway projects. • In the description of FY 26/27 tasks, consider including “Assist with Grants and Applications” within one of the 9 tasks (or create new) as it is included in the funding table below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement process was last revised in 2018. • Added suggested text. • Added to Task #7 	
<p>WE 5 Project Delivery and Oversight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WE 5 includes activities related to project delivery, implementation monitoring, and project management. RPA funds are intended to support regional transportation planning, programming, and project development at a planning level. Please revise to clarify that activities are limited to planning, programming, and high-level project tracking, and remove project delivery or implementation. For example, PSRs should be limited to planning-level scoping and not detailed design or engineering. • “Task 1 through 9” should read “Task 1 through 5” on page 33. • Are specific projects able to be identified for Project Study Reports (PSR) and other documents? There does not appear to be funding associated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified planning-level PSRs. • Fixed. • Changed to clarify that HCAOG is supporting the development of PSRs. We cannot identify specific projects. Member agencies may 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<p>with this task in the table because the work is to be done by local and tribal governments, but there is no line for those responsible parties in the funding table.</p>	<p>propose projects and request supplementary funds for PSRs using funding from this work element.</p>	
<p>WE 7 Research, Collaboration and Transit Planning Grant Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It appears that the Previous Work Completed section has not been updated. Please update it to reflect specific activities conducted in FY 25-26, as applicable. Consider renaming this Work Element or amending the content. The title focuses on Transit Planning Grant development, but the Previous Work Completed section mentions Transportation Planning Grants, Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) and Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants. Alternatively, these items could be separated into another section. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed Fixed title. 	
<p>WE 11 RTP Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please clarify how HCAOG will implement the newly adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in FY 26-27 as mentioned in Task 1. It appears this may refer to supporting or advancing RTP policies and projects, however, please confirm that activities are limited to planning. Update Funding Source Table to indicate the RPA fund source. It currently states "RTP". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added example and word 'planning' preceding 'projects' Fixed. 	
<p>WE 13 Active Transportation and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please update the fiscal year in the table on page 44. The 2% pedestrian/bike set aside is not referenced in the OWP and could be noted in this section to give the reader a better overview of the funding process for active transportation projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed Work hours as part of WE 10 (TDA Fund). Added note in Task Products 	
<p>WE 14 Global Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated with additional CAP information 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It appears that the Previous Work Completed section has not been updated. Please update it to reflect specific activities conducted in FY 25-26, as applicable. This section would be enhanced with more information about the Comprehensive Adaptation & Implementation Plan (CAIP) and collaboration between HCAOG and Caltrans. For example, more information could be included in Task 6 in FY 2026-27. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left section as is for now. HCAOG continues to participate in plan development and next steps or expanded information have not yet been identified beyond the level currently outlined 	
<p>WE 15 Vibrant Neighborhoods and Land Use Transportation Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It appears that the Previous Work Completed section has not been updated. Please update it to reflect specific activities conducted in FY 25-26, as applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed 	
<p>WE 21 Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 (REAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please clarify the narrative regarding the allocation of the \$2.7 million grant. “Most of the funds are pass through funds...” could be re-phrased: “Of the \$2.7 million grant, \$2.2 million is passed through, with HCAOG retaining \$0.5 million for agency support of the two projects.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed 	
<p>WE 22 Safe Streets and Roads for All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please maintain past tense consistency within “Previous Work Completed” sections (e.g. ‘Coordinated, collaborated, and engaged with community stakeholders...’ in place of ‘Coordination, collaboration, and engage...’). Please consider replacing the text that says “This WE will provide administrative support for the grant. Most of the funds will be used to pay consultants to complete the planning work, with HCAOG receiving a small amount for administration” with “This work element will provide administrative support to assist with implementing the \$600,000 Humboldt County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan (HCRVZAP) and Demonstration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed. Deleted this section. Fixed Fixed This work element is project-specific and was not modified. Future work and coordinating 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<p>Projects. The work elements supplement the HCRVZAP with a \$51.6K allocation in the work element, with \$45K for work by a consultant."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task 1 lists a Request for Proposal (RFP) and hiring a consultant, which is already complete per the "previous work completed," Please clarify if this is for a new consultant. It appears the project administration part of task 1 could have a longer schedule since the steering committee meetings go into June. Suggest project administration ends when the project closes. It is anticipated that Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) will continue with future cycles. Please consider including language for future activities including staying abreast of development, pursue/help pursue implementation funding, etc. 	<p>funding opportunities regionally included in other work elements</p>	
<p>WE 23 Siting Analysis for North State Hydrogen Fueling Station Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This WE states that it will be funded in part by HCAOG reserves, however HCAOG reserves are not identified in the funding table or BRS. Please address accordingly. The Tasks for FY 2026-27 seem incomplete. The FY 2024-25 RPA Discretionary Grant Program funds awarded to HCAOG are set to expire on 06/30/2026. Please identify if there will be an extension request for these funds and a request to roll it over into the following fiscal year? Will the WE be expanded to include additional tasks including draft and final deliverables? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed Edits made. We will get an extension for this grant through December 31, 2026. 	
<p>WE 24 STPG Partnering Assets and Authorities for Comprehensive Transit (PAACT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tasks in this section must have the same or similar level of detail to the approved tasks in the approved grant scope of work. Please revise for consistency. This grant is behind schedule. Please confirm if the tasks and dates are current or need to be updated for WE 24. Under FY 2026-27 table "Notes: Agency responsibility, funding and schedule" consider adding a note that Tasks and Schedule dates may change (carry into the next FY) or need revision to reflect the current work status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were previously told that this WE had to match the grant agreement exactly. No changes have been made. 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<p>WE 25 STPG Loleta Safe Routes to School and Connectivity to Tribal Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tasks in this section must have the same or similar level of detail to the approved tasks in the approved grant scope of work. Please revise for consistency. Please add a note in the Task Products section (as included in WE 24): "The following work products summarize the work that is expected to be delivered in FY 26-27 and milestones to be achieved." Only include Task Products that will be delivered in FY 26-27. All other future FY tasks can be added to a Future Products section. Please ensure consistency in naming conventions used for administrative tasks for the Sustainable Transportation Planning grants. The Project Administration Task in WE 24 is listed as "01" and this should be consistent with WE 25. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were previously told that this WE had to match the grant agreement exactly. No changes have been made. Fixed Board Approval task removed as it is not anticipated until FY 27/28 Fixed. 	
Caltrans Recommendations:		
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Agency Responsibility, Funding and Schedule" tables, for each WE, have a single column "Agency". In some cases, this column includes both the responsible agency as well as a task. Consider replacing with two columns, one "Agency" and one "Project Description or Task". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed 	
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional new paragraph, between last and second-to-last paragraphs on bottom of page 2: "Population projections by the California Department of Finance anticipate Humboldt County's population will decrease by roughly one-half percent each year through 2070, with an increase in the share of residents over 65. If Humboldt's demographics change in this way, it highlights the need to plan land use and transportation in a way that assists an aging population to safely access services." California Department of Finance 2026 Population Projections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested paragraph added 	
<p>WE 7 Research, Collaboration and Transit Planning Grant Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please consider referencing the Caltrans Director's Transit Policy (DP40) to support alignment with statewide transit policy and SB 960. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will consider incorporating into future OWPs 	



FY 26-27 Draft OWP Comment Matrix – HCAOG

Comment:	Agency Response	Caltrans Response/Review
<p>WE 15 Vibrant Neighborhood and Land Use Transportation Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please consider incorporating transit infrastructure improvements within Caltrans right-of-way as a deliverable to support alignment with SB 960 and <u>Caltrans Director's Transit Policy (DP40)</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caltrans ROW transit infrastructure not specifically listed as a task deliverable, but note added to Tasks regarding coordination with Caltrans and Local Agencies on relevant transportation and land use projects 	
<p>WE 21 Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 (REAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please consider incorporating transit into Transit Oriented Development scope of work to support alignment with SB 960 and <u>Caltrans Director's Transit Policy (DP40)</u> for infrastructure improvements within the State Highway System right-of-way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment not incorporated, scopes for work element do not incorporate state ROW 	

INFORMATION ELEMENT

Per the Regional Planning Handbook, this Final Work Program includes an Information Element. The purpose of the Information Element is to list transportation planning activities that are being done by other agencies in the region.

<u>TITLE/PRODUCT(S)</u>	<u>ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LEAD AGENCY</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATE</u>
RTPA Outreach and Coordination	Ongoing and consistent project-related communication with RTPAs and local stakeholders. Quarterly CT/RTPA meetings, Milestone Reports, External Partner Project Communication Request Form.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Regional Planning Handbook update	An update to the 2017 Regional Planning Handbook	Caltrans	2026
District Transit Plan	Develop a District Transit Plan. Plan will identify regional transit needs, inventory infrastructure and facilities, identify transit priority improvements, and recommendations to integrate transit on the SHS, while meeting regional and state goals.	Caltrans	2027
Transit Implementation Action Plan	An action plan that will identify transit planning, projects, and data.	Caltrans	2026
Coordinated Public-Transit Human Services Plan	Update of the Coordinated Plan to identify transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provide strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation.	Caltrans HQ	2027
US 101 Multimodal Corridor Management Plan	US Route 101 Multimodal Corridor Management Plan in electronic form. Corridor Planning is a multimodal transportation planning approach that recognizes that transportation needs are based on the complex geographic, demographic, economic, and social characteristics of communities.	Caltrans	Fall 2026

SR 96 Multimodal Corridor Management Plan	District 1 System Planning will begin an early launch of the SR 96 CMP to develop the CMP in partnership with Caltrans District 2. The D2 CMP will be developed simultaneously with a Climate Resilience Grant Plan for the SR 96 Corridor.	Caltrans	FY 2027-28
CMP Factsheets	D1 System Planning will develop fact sheets when launching new CMPs for distribution to RTPAs and other local government stakeholders.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Non-Motorized Data Collection	Regular short-duration count schedule in District 1 to collect non-motorized data on a rotating, three-year basis.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan	The ITSP is a companion document to the CTP and will be prepared along the same timeframe as the CTP.	Caltrans	December 2026
California Transportation Plan	By statute, the CTP is required to updated every five years. A CTP update was due in 2025.	Caltrans	December 2026
D1 Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee	A districtwide committee to discuss pedestrian and bicycle activities and needs on the state highway system.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Eureka/Arcata Corridor: Comprehensive Adaption and Implementation Plan (CAIP)	Comprehensively assess the vulnerability of the Eureka Arcata US 101 corridor to sea level rise and develop a long-term plan to address impacts to the highway. The CAIP will inform and help prioritize project planning and actions based on technical research, scientific analysis, policy review, and community outreach regarding landscape exposure/sensitivity to SLR.	Caltrans	December 2027
Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments	Updating the Statewide Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments.	Caltrans HQ	2026
Tribal PID Outreach	Engage with Native American Tribal Governments during PID development and project scoping.	Caltrans	Ongoing

Tribal Transportation Summit	Annual spring Tribal Transportation Summits with the Native American Tribal Governments in District 1.	Caltrans	Annually
Grant Opportunity Collaboration	Partnering with RTPAs and local agencies on grant application development. Providing partners with current and relevant information on discretionary funding opportunities and collaborating on methods to improve projects and or strategize methods for being more competitive in current and future opportunities.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Non-SHOPP Project Initiation Document Nominations FY 26/27	Work with partners to identify non-SHOPP PID nominations for FY 26/27.	Caltrans	Winter/Spring 2026
Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS)	Foster linkage of Caltrans short, medium, and long-range planning to programming and project delivery. Utilize CSIS methodologies and processes to guide transportation investments decisions through a transparent and collaborative process.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Letters of Support and Partnership	Coordinate with partners to provide letters of support or partnership for locally and regionally significant projects.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Caltrans Engagement Portal	Online forum to engage with communities about Caltrans plans and projects. The external website allows the public to view project details, attend virtual/hybrid public meetings, take surveys, provide comments, and track project status. The internal site functions allow Caltrans to collect, store, categorize, track, retrieve, and respond to public comments for plans and projects.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Director's Policy on Community Engagement	Director's Policy Framework - 2024-2028 Caltrans Strategic Plan, Equity Goal: Demonstrate Caltrans' proactive commitment to meaningful community engagement. Establish clear expectations & a unified approach to community engagement across all Caltrans functions, promoting consistency, shared learning, and stronger relationships with the public.	Caltrans HQ	Spring 2027

District 1 Community Engagement Playbook (guidance document)	The District 1 Community Engagement Playbook (Playbook) is designed based on the Caltrans "Community Engagement Guidance for Plans and Projects: Statewide Playbook". The District Playbook is tailored to the region's unique communities, geographies, and demands. These documents are intended to help staff with internal continuity for engagement and conduct right-sized engagement for each plan, project, and community.	Caltrans	June 2027
Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Transportation Climate Adaptation Plan	FY 23-24 Climate Adaptation Planning grant for a two-phased project with coinciding deliverables that will improve the Rancheria's capacity and ability to build transportation and community resilience and adopt an innovative and effective Adaptation Plan for the Trinidad Rancheria.	Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	TBD
Yurok Tribe Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Evacuation Plan	FY 23-24 Climate Adaptation Planning grant to prepare a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Evacuation Plan in order for the Tribe to manage and operate its transportation system as climate change progresses and ensure that Tribal members and others within the Yurok Reservation have safe, adequate evacuation routes during extreme weather events.	Yurok Tribe	TBD
Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable and Comprehensive Long Range Tribal Transportation Plan	FY 2020-21 Sustainable Transportation Planning grant for an updated, sustainable Long Range Tribal Transportation Plan for the Trinidad Rancheria that integrates their Comprehensive Plan and development standards, multimodal transportation, and links with local and regional efforts.	Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	TBD