



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 6b
TAC Meeting
May 7, 2026

DATE: April 29, 2026
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Stephen Luther, Associate Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Draft Safe Routes to School Director Feasibility Report**

DISCUSSION ITEM STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff Summary
- Draft SRTS Feasibility Study

Staff Summary:

This report is being prepared as a work product for HCAOG's Vibrant Neighborhoods project funded by the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant. The goal of the report is to identify the feasibility of funding a regionwide, full-time Safe Routes to School (SRTS) staff position on a permanent basis. HCAOG, member agencies, schools, RCAA, and a broad group of many more stakeholders have been successful in bringing grant-funded Safe Routes programs to Humboldt County for years. The work has been effective in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety for youth and improving safe routes planning and infrastructure that benefits everyone in the community. However, programs have been piecemeal and lacked continuity due to the grant-funded nature. Given that other jurisdictions in California and many states have SRTS Director positions, HCAOG wanted to investigate the potential through this study.

The task originally called for a consultant, however HCAOG staff decided to take on preparation of the report in-house. County DHHS provided assistance in conducting stakeholder interviews and preparing the history of SRTS work. Melanie Williams of BikesThere, a long-time active transportation educator, is providing assistance on remaining interviews and documenting SRTS success stories.

The attached draft is a work in progress, as several key stakeholder interviews are still being arranged at the time of writing. Namely, being able to sit down with a representative of HCOE. A follow-up with Open Door is also necessary to ask more pointedly about their available funding. We would also welcome feedback from TAC discussion to incorporate in the study.

Key findings from the report include:

- Estimated minimum of \$100,000 annually to support full-time SRTS Director
- Identified recurring funding commitments total \$25,000 from the City of Arcata
- No private or philanthropic funding identified
- State funding is limited to the ATP non-infrastructure program

The TAC is asked to review the report and offer their feedback.