



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 5e
HCAOG Board Meeting
July 16, 2026

DATE: July 9, 2026
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Stevie Luther, Senior Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Fund Allocation Requests and Information on the 5311(f) Program**

STAFF REPORT

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- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Resolution 26-21 (5311)
- Resolution 26-22 (5311f)

Staff's Recommended Action:

Motions to be approved by consent:

"The PAC recommends the HCAOG Board adopt Resolution 26-21 approving the programming of FFY 2026 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program funds to the Humboldt Transit Authority for Operating Assistance."

and

"The PAC recommends the HCAOG Board adopt Resolution 26-22 authorizing the Executive Director to sign and execute a certification and assurance form for all FFY 2026 5311(f) applications that meet the program requirements."

Staff Summary:

On June 10, 2026, Caltrans announced a call for projects for Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 funding for the 2026 Federal Fiscal Years (FFY).

The FTA Section 5311 program is a formula-based program that provides funding to promote, enhance, and serve public transportation in rural areas. These are federal funds administered by Caltrans. HCAOG's role is to submit a regional program of projects to Caltrans identifying the allocation of the regional apportionment. Humboldt's allocation for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 is \$1,088,378. Eligible uses include operational, capital and planning activities. The HCAOG funding priority for 5311 is to fund operating assistance for transit agencies with a demonstrated shortfall based on the past year's audited operating budget. The Humboldt Transit Authority has

requested the entirety of the regional allocation to fund continued operations for HTA bus operations.

Caltrans also announced the availability of funding for the FFY 2026 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program. Eligible applicants for this program include all those eligible for the 5311-formula program in addition to private non-profit organizations that meet the requirements of the program. This program funds operating assistance for new, expansion, or continuation of service. A planning study for new service is also an eligible use. This is a competitive application and there is no regional Program of Projects requiring HCAOG approval. However, HCAOG is responsible for:

- Ensuring the project is consistent with the regional transportation plan
- Signing certification and assurances forms
- Local match certification and commitment of program funds.
- Supporting private carrier's service routes when such cross-jurisdictional boundaries form contiguous jurisdictions.

Applicants are encouraged to inform HCAOG of their intent to apply so that HCAOG staff can be prepared to deliver on the responsibilities noted above. HTA intends to apply for the intercity routes it operates. The Yurok Tribe Transportation Department is eligible to seek 5311(f) funds as well but has not confirmed whether they are planning to submit an application for this round. The resolution notes that the Yurok Tribe is eligible in the case the Tribe does apply.