



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 6a
SSTAC Meeting
August 5, 2026

DATE: July 29, 2026
TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Partnering Assets & Authorities for Comprehensive Transit (PAACT)**
Project: Draft Survey for Feedback on Transit Network Concepts

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff Summary
- Draft Survey (link [PAACT Network Concepts Survey](#) and pdf enclosure)

Discussion Item:

1. Introduce the item as a discussion item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item, provide comments, and direct staff as applicable.

Staff Summary:

(See project background summary at end of staff report.)

At the June 3, 2026, SSTAC meeting, SSTAC members reviewed the administrative draft of transit network concepts, which the consultants (from Jarrett Walker + Associates) prepared based on work accomplished during the Core Design Retreat with the Project Steering Working Group. Recall that we are learning about and deliberating on two concepts: one concept emphasizes a “ridership” goal, which generally means more bus frequency; the other concept emphasizes “coverage,” which generally means covering more area/longer distances.

The SSTAC will now review the draft Network Concept Survey, which asks, in a nutshell, *do you prefer planning and investing in transit that emphasizes a “ridership” goal, or a “coverage” goal?* The survey includes maps depicting both concepts, showing hypothetical examples on three routes: Redwood Transit System, Arcata Transit System, and Eureka Transit System.

One of our primary goals—and challenges—is to convey that this project is meant to solicit feedback on priorities for policy direction. The concepts and discussion are not proposals for changing the existing transit routes.

Importantly, but counter-intuitively, which concept location or route you comment on is not significant, because your preference for the Ridership or Coverage approach applies overall and is important regardless of what route or community the concept illustrates.

Here is the survey link: [PAACT Network Concepts Survey \(draft\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rqk2v39) or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rqk2v39>

The survey is targeted to be released in August 2026 and will be open for approximately six weeks.

PAACT Project Background: Tasks and Official Partners

HCAOG and HTA were awarded a Caltrans Strategic Partnerships–Transit Program grant for the PAACT project. The grant award is \$479,500, with a required local cash match of \$62,150 (11.47%). The grant term is to June 30, 2027.

PAACT project’s scope of work is:

- 1) Establish Advisory Groups – Set foundation for consensus-building by engaging across governments & agencies for coordinating transit systems.
- 2) Comprehensive Plan for Regional Transit & Multimodal Networks & Networking – Define problem/vision/purpose statement for regional transit service. Develop an existing conditions report on community and regional characteristics. Analyze the transit market and assess regional operations.
- 3) Land Use-Transportation Policy Connections – Strengthen government-to-government ties for integrating land use & transit/active mobility in their standard procedures, including regular agency consultation with HTA.
- 4) Stakeholder Outreach, Engagement & Participation Strategies

Official grant partners, who are grant recipients and/or contributing matching funds, are:

- Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA)
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of Trinidad Rancheria
- City of Arcata
- City of Blue Lake
- City of Eureka (contributing local match, not receiving grant funds)
- City of Fortuna
- City of Trinidad (Has an executed MOA with HCAOG but has not participated so far)
- County of Humboldt–Planning & Building Dept.
- Yurok Tribe