



**HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING RECORD**

September 17, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
Eureka City Hall, Council Chambers
531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Present:

Mayor Mike Johnson (Chair)
Supervisor Steve Madrone (Via Zoom)
Mayor John Sawatzky
Mayor Cheryl Kelly (Alternate)
Mayor Kimberley White
Councilmember Skip Jorgensen

City of Fortuna
County of Humboldt
City of Blue Lake
City of Trinidad
City of Arcata
City of Ferndale

Policy Advisory Committee Members:

Tatiana Ahlstrand
Natalie Arroyo

Caltrans
Humboldt Transit Authority

Absent:

Mayor Kim Bergel
Councilmember Robert Orr

City of Eureka
City of Rio Dell

Staff:

Rob Holmlund
Amy Eberwein
Stevie Luther
Oona Smith

Executive Director
Fiscal Administrative Officer
Senior Regional Planner
Senior Regional Planner

1. Call to Order

Chair Johnson called the meeting of September 17, 2026, to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Adjournment of the HCAOG Board; Convening of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC convened to include representatives from Caltrans and Humboldt Transit Authority.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – None

4. Proclamations

a. Recognizing Transit Month 2026 and the Week Without Driving

Chair Johnson read the proclamation into the record. It was accepted by Colin Fiske of the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities.

5. Presentations

a. Siting Analysis for North State Hydrogen Fuel Station Network

Representatives from RebelGroup Americas presented the results of the Siting Analysis.

b. Ride Humboldt Flex

Humboldt Transit Authority General Manager Katie Collender presented information about Ride Humboldt Flex, the on-demand shared ride microtransit currently serving the region.

6. PAC Consent Calendar

Motion was made (Arroyo/Jorgensen) to approve the following consent items:

a. Meeting Record for August 20, 2026.

Motion was approved with Kelly abstaining.

7. Items Removed from PAC Consent Calendar – None

8. Discussion Items

a. Partnering Assets & Authorities for Comprehensive Transit (PAACT) Project: Drafts of Transit Network Concepts for Ridership vs. Coverage and Draft Survey Questions

Senior Regional Planner Oona Smith presented the draft Transit Network Concepts and draft survey questions.

9. Reconvening of the HCAOG Board

Motion was made (Sawatzky/White) to reconvene as the HCAOG Board and approve the PAC recommendations.

Motion was approved unanimously.

10. Board Consent Calendar

Motion was made (Kelly/Jorgensen) to approve the following consent items:

a. Draft HCAOG Social Media Policy

b. Draft HCAOG Surplus Property Disposal Policy

c. Draft HCAOG Personnel Policies and Procedures Revisions

Motion was approved unanimously.

11. Items Removed from Board Consent Calendar – None

12. HCAOG Staff and Board/PAC Member Reports

a. HCAOG Executive Director's Report

- Senior Regional Planner Oona Smith announced that September 19th is the Loleta Community Celebration day and HCAOG will be tabling for the Loleta Safe Routes to School and Tribal Connectivity project. Oona attending the North Coast Catalyst Convening to discuss regional and state level climate resiliency planning. The Regional Climate Action Plan Memorandum of Understanding will come to the Board in October for approval.
- Senior Regional Planner Stevie Luther shared that the Transportation Development Act Rules will be brought to the Board in October for revision approval. Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearings are scheduled at all City Councils in October. The

HCAOG UTN Public Hearing will take place at the November Board meeting and includes a State of Transit presentation.

- Executive Director Rob Holmlund shared a project status schedule, a CRTP presentation he attended, his recent experiences riding the local bus routes, regional transportation news updates, and the first Monthly M.I.N.U.T.E (Multimodal Insights, Neighborhood Updates, Transportation Education) a new monthly short education presentation that will be included in the Director's report at Board meetings.

b. Caltrans Report

PAC Member Tatiana Ahlstrand discussed the following:

- **Indianola Undercrossing:** The posted speed limit will be updated, approximately 45 days after the signal at Airport Road went live. In approx. 6-12 months an Engineering and Traffic Survey will be conducted as part of the vehicle code to determine the 85th percentile speed through the corridor. The survey is expected to yield a posted speed limit of 65mph.
- **Eureka Slough Bridges Emergency Project:** Myers Construction continues to construct the temporary trestle across the channel. The trestle will be used to perform repairs to the foundation at Pier 7. The trestle and in water repair work is expected to be completed by October 15th. Additional structure investigations are planned to determine whether additional repairs are necessary. There is not a definite timeline on when the repair work and additional investigations will be complete. For traffic control Caltrans is closing the southbound #2 lane (slow lane) Monday through Friday from approximately 9am to 1pm. The emergency project is separate from the major project to replace the Eureka Slough Bridges. The major project is targeting to meet Project Approval and Environmental Document in November of this year.
- **South Broadway Complete Streets:** The contractor has commenced striping work through the project limits, which will include enhanced pedestrian/cyclist striping at driveways and intersections as well as striping and bikeway posts for a Class IV separated bike lane. These are the final items of work to complete the project, and Caltrans is targeting to complete within the next 2 weeks.
- **FY 27-28 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants:** Applications are due by Friday, October 9th. District 1 is holding two more sessions of office hours on September 29th and October 6th. This program is a great way for our partners to take that initial step in the project development process.

c. Board/PAC Member Reports

- PAC Member Arroyo shared that Humboldt Transit Authority exceeded pre-Covid ridership levels for the first time last fiscal year and an overview on the costs and subsidies of transit. The temporary hydrogen fueling station is currently down and HTA is working to find another temporary fueler. She also discussed the southern Humboldt transit routes and their value.
- Mayor White discussed her recent experiences participating in Elected Officials to Protect America and how it related to transit.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.