



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 7b
HCAOG Board Meeting
September 17, 2020

DATE: September 3, 2020
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: **Update of the *Regional Safe Routes to School Prioritization Tool***

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- *Regional SR2S Prioritization Tool*—2020 Update
- New School Rankings

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion,
"I move to recommend that the HCAOG Board approve the 2020 update of the "HCAOG Regional Safe Routes to School Prioritization Tool."

Staff Summary:

The function of the *Regional SR2S Prioritization Tool* is to collect objective information that illustrates each school's need, resources, and readiness for engaging in a project or program for Safe Routes to School. We have collected information on school demographics, fitness levels, and transportation infrastructure. We have compiled this information in the "school inventory," and we have assigned values (weights) to the criteria as a means to measure how poised schools are for SR2S and for applying for highly and increasingly competitive grant funds.

The *Regional Safe Routes to School Prioritization Tool* was first developed in 2012. HCAOG contracted with Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) to prepare the first Prioritization Tool, which included conducting walkability audits at two schools. In 2014 and 2016-17, RCAA and HCAOG updated the school data (“inventories”) for about half of the schools in the data set. School inventory updates are done by contacting each school directly and interviewing/surveying a school staff person or faculty. About 50 schools remain to be contacted for revising their information; HCAOG hopes to make those calls in the coming fiscal year. Note that “internal criteria” data is sourced from the school staff; “external criteria” data is compiled from census data and other independent sources.

This draft 2020 update is the first time we have updated the Prioritization Tool report and the first time we have rescored schools to get a new ranking. The new rankings reflect revised scoring metrics, which the TAC approved in June 2019.

The TAC reviewed the draft in June. The County of Humboldt Public Works, through Director Tom Mattson, added an update to the list of completed projects. The TAC did not seek any additional changes.