133 V Street
Eureka, CA 95501

A Public Entity Serving Humboldt County Since 1975

Office: (707) 443-0826
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www.hta.org

May 22, 2025

Brendan Byrd, Executive Director
Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

Subject: Humboldt Transit Authority 2025 Carbon Reduction Program Project

Dear Brendan,

Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) is requesting $965,677 of the Carbon Reduction Program 2025 funds to be allocated to HTA's Hydrogen Infrastructure Project. This is for our hydrogen project consisting of two elements:

1. Service Bay Maintenance Upgrades to Support Hydrogen Buses: $200,000
2. Construction of a Liquid Hydrogen Fueling Station: $765,677

This project aligns with all the three pillars of the California Transportation Carbon Reduction Strategy:

- Zero Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure: this project supports the constructions of infrastructure for HTA's transition to a zero emission hydrogen fleet.
- Active Transportation and Micromobility: this project supports the modernization of HTA's fleet which supports active transportation and micromobility solutions.
- Rail and Transit: this project supports modernizing a public transit fleet.

Map of Project Location

Both elements of this project will occur at HTA's Administrative and Maintenance Facility located at 133 V St., Eureka, CA 95501. Figure 1 shows a detail of the locations of these projects.

Figure 1: Location of both project elements.

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Element 1: Service Bay Maintenance Upgrades

These upgrades involve bringing 3 of 5 existing maintenance bays up to health and safety code, and altering these bays to allow maintenance of hydrogen buses. These alterations include modifying ventilation systems, adding hydrogen gas detectors, and installing visible and audible alarm systems. These upgrades are necessary in order to facilitate the transition to a hydrogen fleet. They will allow HTA to work on and maintain hydrogen buses in compliance with health and safety code.

HTA is nearly complete with the design and engineering phase (PS&E). A submittal package has been uploaded for review for the building permit. The available grant funds for the construction phase is $700,578 which has already been approved and allocated. The current engineering estimate for the project based on 30% designs (the estimate for the submittal package is waiting on comments from the City before completing) is $685,576. This indicates there is likely insufficient budget given that 100% designs still need to be completed, a competitive construction bid has yet to occur, and some budget should ideally be available for potential change orders. Therefore, HTA has requested an additional $200,000 under advisement from the A&E contractor to augment current TIRCP grant funds.

- CRP Funds: $200,000
- Match funds: $700,578 (350%) meets the minimum requirement of 11.47%

If there are remaining grant funds after the completion of the project, HTA could either return remaining CRP funds, or could apply the remaining funds to the EaRTH Center project to support the success of that project.[1]

Element 2: Hydrogen Fueling Station

This project involves the design/build construction of a liquid hydrogen fueling station. This station will be capable of fueling HTA's entire fleet which is planned for conversion to fuel cell technology by 2040. In addition, this station will have a public-access dispenser capable of fueling light and medium duty vehicles, providing a service to the general public and local fleets interested in pursuing hydrogen vehicles. This project supports HTA's compliance with the Innovative Clean Transit regulation, and supports the state's goals to transition the statewide on-road fleet of all vehicles to battery electric or hydrogen vehicles.

HTA is finalizing contract negotiations with the design/builder and expects to execute a contract in June. The price proposal for the project is $13,400,000. HTA has secured $8,370,318 in TIRCP grant funding for design and construction which is approved and allocated, and $7,000,000 in FTA Carbon Reduction Funds for design and construction which have been awarded and are expected to be obligated no later than September pending completion of NEPA in the next couple of months (assuming these funds are not pulled back by the federal administration). In total HTA has secured $15,370,318 in grant funding for this project element. This leaves a 14.7% contingency to cover potential construction delays, change orders, and/or significant pricing uncertainty associated with newly imposed tariffs.

[1] The EaRTH Center project also aligns with the three pillars of the Carbon Reduction Program.

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An immediate change order that HTA anticipates making is the integration of a second liquid hydrogen pump to add resiliency and redundancy to the design proposed. This comes from recommendations by multiple transit agencies and industry experts. Per early interviews with the design/builder, the expected cost of adding a second pump is in the vicinity of $500,000. The price is expected to be higher. HTA is requesting $765,677 in CRP funds to cover the cost of this expected change order. Without the CRP funding, HTA would be left with roughly 10% in contingency funding after this expected change order. To help ensure the success of this element of the project, HTA is requesting that the existing contingency funding remain, and this change order be secured with CRP funding.

- CRP Funds: $765,677
- Match funds: $15,370,318 (2,007%) meets the minimum requirement of 11.47%

If there are remaining grant funds after the completion of the project, HTA could either return remaining CRP funds, or could apply the remaining funds to the EaRTH Center project to support the success of that project.