



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 4d
HCAOG Board Meeting
February 19, 2026

DATE: February 10, 2026
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Stephen Luther, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: **Consultant Selection for 2026 Pavement Management System Update**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) Proposal

Staff's Recommended Action:

Motion to be approved by consent:

“I move that the PAC recommend that the HCAOG Board direct HCAOG’s Executive Director to enter into contract negotiations with NCE to conduct the 2026 Pavement Management System update.”

Staff Summary:

On December 4, 2025, HCAOG released a request for proposal (RFP) to retain the professional services of a qualified firm to assist with the 2026 Pavement Management System Update.

The consultant’s primary duties will be to update the pavement management inventory and pavement condition rating surveys for paved streets and roads in the seven cities and the unincorporated areas of the county, including roads on Tribal lands.

Six proposals were received in response to the RFP. The full proposals are attached. The RFP included a cost of services not to exceed \$215,000.

A scoring committee consisting of two HCAOG staff scored the proposals according to the RFP evaluation criteria. Given that there was a clear leader based on HCAOG’s scoring and agency staff availability was limited, the top two scoring proposals were reviewed by City of Eureka staff to validate. Based on the results of the scoring, staff recommends contracting with NCE for this service. NCE has provided Pavement Management System Update services to HCAOG in 2011, 2016 and 2021. They have substantial experience working with Regional Transportation Planning Agencies in rural areas of the state. In addition, NCE is the only proposal to clearly state their approach will cover 100% of roadways. Comparatively, other proposals state they would survey single lanes of multi-lane roads.

Table 1. Summary of proposal scoring.

Scoring Team	ARA	Atlas	Blue Dome	Fugro	NCE	QES
SL	84	74.5	63.25	79.5	97.5	90.25
BB	82	76.25	63	81.25	95.25	84
JW	-	-	-	-	100	98.5
Average Score	83	75.4	63.1	80.4	97.6	90.9

The TAC reviewed the consultant selection materials and supported the choice of NCE, noting that they have been a pleasure to work with and helpful in providing training on the StreetSaver platform.

The PAC is being asked to make a recommendation to the HCAOG Board to award the Pavement Management System contract to NCE and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a professional services contract. If approved by the Board, staff anticipate the work will begin on the contract in March 2026.