

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 1
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April 6, 2022

Ms. Elizabeth Burks
Executive Director
Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 "I" Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501.

Dear Ms. Burks:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) draft 2022-23 Overall Work Program (OWP). Caltrans uses this letter as an opportunity to provide recommendations for approval of work elements that contain Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) and Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds. Funding for work elements in the OWP that do not contain these funds are not subject to Caltrans approval.

We thank HCAOG for developing a work program that is detailed and well-organized, and clearly articulates regional goals and priorities. We have the following comments for consideration prior to adopting the final work program:

OWP Work Elements. Work Elements (except for WE 11, RTP Implementation) have a section titled, "Previous and Ongoing Future Years' Work". This section should be split into two, individual sections to distinguish between the previously completed work (titled, Previous Work), and work that will continue (titled, Tasks) through multiple fiscal years. Each separate section should contain the information or tasks relevant for the work element. For new work elements, the Previous Work section would state, "none" or not applicable.

WE 4 – Planning and Programming State Funds. Under Task Products, item 8 appears to be incomplete (top of page 27). Please complete or remove this item, as appropriate.

WE 13 – Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update. This work element shows the TDP Update starting in FY 2022-23 with the final products carried over and delivered in FY 2023-24 (the adopted TDP). WEs completed over multiple years must provide a schedule with key milestones throughout the time of the project. Please provide additional detail for WE 13 relating to the schedule, milestones, tasks, and deliverables expected in the current fiscal year and continued into FY 2023-24.

WE 14 – Global Climate Change - Sea Level Rise. Please include a reference to climate change adaptation and resiliency in the purpose statement of this WE. Transportation infrastructure impacts from sea level rise will continue to be a key issue in Humboldt County.

Under the ongoing work item, “Research usage of E-Vehicles for impact on global climate change”, please add a reference to Executive Order Number-79-20. EO-N-79-20 is likely to play a key role in the deployment of zero-emission infrastructure and the adoption of ZEVs in the region.

The planned work could benefit from additional tasks and supporting information focused on how integrating transit planning with land use can facilitate climate goals of compact development, reduced vehicle trips and travel demand, and lower GHG emissions in Humboldt County.

WE 17 – Active Transportation and Safety. In tasks and analysis, consider emphasizing the integration of public transit and active transportation modes such as bicycling and walking to maximize first-last mile connectivity for all users and meet transportation goals.

WE 20 – HCAOG Website Update. We request that HCAOG provide a schedule that includes more specific details regarding completion dates for tasks in this work element, if possible.

General Comments.

- Attached to this comment letter please find the Information Element for Humboldt County. This is a list of regional transportation planning work that is not already captured in the Overall Work Program. Beginning with the 2022-23 fiscal year, Caltrans would like to provide the Technical Advisory Committee with a mid-year review on the Caltrans-funded activities contained in the Information Element. We hope to work with HCAOG for time on the TAC agenda to provide these updates.
- As a reminder, RTPAs should help facilitate the transportation planning process with transit agencies for activities such as the Unmet Transit Needs process, short- and long-range transit plans, coordinated public transit plans, ZEV planning, proper expenditure of TDA funds, and furthering transit goals through the transportation planning process.
- In the Introduction (page 7), discussion of WE 15's evaluation of roadway pavement conditions in the region should refer to the 2022-23 fiscal year.

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- In the Public Participation Process section (page 12), consider identifying any impacts to public outreach from the Covid-19 pandemic and strategies HCAOG is taking to ensure active public engagement. Update the status of the Public Participation Plan to reflect its adoption.
- In the Summary of Funding Needs (page 14), the OWP funding totals should be updated to reflect the 2022-23 fiscal year when that is available (use a placeholder and update the Fiscal Year).

HCAOG Response. We ask that HCAOG please utilize the Caltrans comment letter, responding to the recommendations and demonstrating that they acknowledge the feedback and are incorporating them into the Final OWP. The Final OWP is due May 13, 2022. Please ensure the following are included in the final OWP Package:

- Electronically signed OWPs
- Board Resolution
- Electronically signed Certifications and Assurances
- Appendices

As a reminder, Caltrans collects the Task Products listed in the OWP as deliverables that are funded with RPA, Sustainable Communities Competitive Grants, and RPA Discretionary grants. Please notify us when they are available.

We look forward to working with HCAOG on the work identified in this work program during the FY 2022-23. If you have any questions about the comments in this letter or would like to discuss further, please contact Saskia Rymer-Burnett at (707) 684-6889 or saskia.rymer-burnett@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Ahlstrand

TATIANA AHLSTRAND
Transportation Planning

Enclosures

1. Information Element

c: Saskia Rymer-Burnett, Caltrans District 1 Transportation Planning
Debbie Egger, Financial Manager, HCAOG
Brad Mettam, Deputy Director of Planning and Local Assistance, Caltrans District 1
Kevin Mariant, Associate Transportation Planner, Caltrans Headquarters

INFORMATION ELEMENT – HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Per Overall Work Program Guidelines, this Final Work Program includes an Information Element. The purpose of the Information Element is to list transportation planning activities that are being done by other agencies in the region.

<u>Title/Product(s)</u>	<u>Activity Description</u>	<u>Lead Agency</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Regional Transportation Planning Agency Outreach	Proposal for establishing meaningful and consistent project-related communication with RTPAs and local agency stakeholders.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Non-Motorized Traffic Census Effort	Regular count schedule in District 1 to collect non-motorized data on a rotating, three-year basis. Multiple locations within Humboldt County are scheduled for collection.	Caltrans	Annually
Active Transportation Census Design	A plan establishing guidelines, policies, and procedures for implementation of permanent count stations for the District. The count network is in the design/development stage by statisticians to help calibrate and integrate its use with Streetlight Data.	Caltrans	April 2024
District 1 Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee	A districtwide committee to discuss pedestrian and bicycle activities and needs on the state highway system.	Caltrans	Ongoing
Broadway Middle Couplet Project (EA 01-0L090)	Complete Streets improvements on Broadway (US-101) between Truesdale and 5 th Street, Eureka to address safety and operational concerns for motorized and non-motorized users. Two different design alternatives	Caltrans	Fall, 2022

	are under consideration. PID will be complete in Fall, 2022.		
District System Management Plan	The DSMP is a strategic policy and planning document focused on system preservation, operating, managing, and developing the transportation system.	Caltrans	2022/23
Growth Factor Updates	Reexamine factors that affect traffic projections for District 1. Develop methodology and proof of concept.	Caltrans	2022/23
Corridor Plan Updates for State Routes 36 and 255	Corridor Planning is a multimodal transportation planning approach that recognizes that transportation needs are based on the complex geographic, demographic, economic, and social characteristics of communities.	Caltrans	2022/23
Eureka/Arcata Corridor: Comprehensive Adaption and Implementation Plan (CAIP)	The CAIP is a climate action plan and roadmap to address the impacts of sea level rise on the Eureka/Arcata US 101 corridor, local infrastructure, and communities. It will inform and prioritize project planning and actions based on technical research, scientific analysis, policy review, and community outreach regarding landscape exposure/sensitivity to SLR.	Caltrans	December 2025
Climate Action Website	Launching a North Coast Climate Action website for District 1.	Caltrans	2022
Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments	Revising the District 1 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.	Caltrans	2022/23
Sea Level Guidance	Headquarters will be publishing Sea Level Guidance (SLR) for the Districts.	Caltrans	2022/23

<p>Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable and Comprehensive Long-Range Transportation Plan</p>	<p>FY 2020/21 Sustainable Transportation Planning grant for an updated, sustainable Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Trinidad Rancheria that integrates their Comprehensive Plan and development standards, multi modal transportation, and links with local and regional planning efforts.</p>	<p>Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria</p>	<p>February 2023</p>
<p>McKinleyville Multimodal Connections Project</p>	<p>FY 2020/21 Sustainable Transportation Planning grant for a multimodal plan with design concepts and implementation strategies to improve safety, access and connectivity for walking, biking, and transit in McKinleyville, to north Arcata and key destinations around Humboldt Bay.</p>	<p>Humboldt County</p>	<p>February 2023</p>
<p>Humboldt County Bay Trail Planning Study: Eureka to College of the Redwoods</p>	<p>FY 2021/22 Sustainable Transportation Planning grant for a study of a 3-mile extension of the Humboldt Bay Trail between Eureka and the College of the Redwoods by converting NCRA railroad along US 101 to a Class 1 bike path with Complete Streets design.</p>	<p>Humboldt County</p>	<p>March 2024</p>
<p>City of Eureka Bike Plan 2022</p>	<p>FY 2022/23 Sustainable Transportation Planning grant to develop a citywide bike plan for the city of Eureka. The Plan aims to develop a cohesive and connected multimodal network throughout the City to encourage mode shift, improve safe access to bikeways and walkways, and connects bicyclists to transit services.</p>	<p>City of Eureka</p>	<p>April 2025</p>

“Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment”