

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

531 K Street • Eureka, California 95501-1146
Administration: 707-441-4203
Engineering: 707-441-4194
Utility Operations: 707-441-4364

publicworks@eureka.gov • www.eureka.gov

Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 I St. Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

March 21, 2024

Re: City of Eureka Request for TDA Article 3 - 2% Set Aside Funding for Bay to Zoo Trail

The City of Eureka is currently fulfilling a decades long vision of constructing the Bay to Zoo Trail. The project includes approximately 2 miles of Class 1 bike trail and 1 mile of Class 3 bike trail including a roundabout and improvements to 3 unsignalized intersections. The trail will run north and south from Humboldt Bay to the Sequoia Park Zoo, connecting downtown Eureka to residential communities.

In 2023, The City of Eureka was awarded \$8,999,000 in Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding to support environmental, design, right of way, and construction phases. The City of Eureka authorized a \$1,000,000 match from general funds. In addition, the Bay to Zoo Trail has been recommended for funding from the 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), in the amount of \$1,582,000.

With unavoidable rising costs beyond current available funding and the need for a vast and engaging community outreach plan, the City recognizes it will need to secure additional funding to successfully carry out the Bay to Zoo Trail vision.

The City of Eureka is requesting \$100,000 from the 2024 TDA Article 3 2% project solicitation. The City's responses to the Evaluation Criteria Questions and project site description are below. 8 1/2 x 11 location map is attached.

TDA Article 3 Evaluation Criteria Questions

1. Matching Funds

In 2023, the City of Eureka was awarded \$8,999,000 in Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding to support environmental, design, right of way, and construction phases. During the application period, the City of Eureka committed to a \$1,000,000 match in general funds. This match was formally allocated by Eureka City Council on February 6, 2024. This match is far greater than 50% of the requested TDA funds. Additionally, and further highlighting state and local support of the project, Bay to Zoo Trail has been recommended to receive \$1,582,000 from the 2024 STIP.

2. Safety

The Bay to Zoo Trail will improve safety by providing over two miles of Class 1 bike trail and non-motorized facilities in Eureka. The current active transportation routes through the project area have a high level of traffic stress and an elevated collision history. The project will provide safe routes to school and safe routes for residents and visitors to access essential community destinations.

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Transportation Safety
Stormwater

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Water Distribution
Wastewater Collection
Street Maintenance

Code Enforcement
Pretreatment
Equipment Operations

Utility Operations

Water Treatment
Wastewater Treatment

The project will provide a safe, protected crossing via a new roundabout on Myrtle Avenue at McFarlan, one of Eureka's busiest roadways where the nearest protected crossing is over 1000' away.

At the north end of the proposed trail project, access will be made to the Waterfront Trail with the only grade separated crossing of Highway 101 in Eureka. This is important as Highway 101 and Eureka streets have extremely high vehicle vs pedestrian collision rates. At the time of the 2022 ATP Application, there were 77.9 bicycle fatalities and injuries per 100,000 people over the previous 5 years, which was 2.1 times higher than Humboldt County and 2.3 times greater than California rates.

At the south end of the project, new intersection improvements are planned on Buhne Street and Harris and Dolbeer Streets, some more of Eureka's busiest streets. Safety improvements include enhanced lighting, radar speed feedback signs, flashing beacons, and new crosswalk and pavement markings.

3. Project Readiness

In February of 2024, the City of Eureka awarded GHD the preferred Consultant for the environmental and design phases for the Bay to Zoo Trail. The project is actively moving forward and is currently in the Project Approval & Environmental Document (PA&ED) stage with Caltrans. ATP funding currently has PA&ED phases programmed for FY 23/24, Right of Way Phase for FY 24/25, and Construction slated for FY 25/26.

4. Special Considerations

The benefits of the Bay to Zoo Trail are abundant. The Bay to Zoo Trail is located within three census tracts (tracts 5,6, and 7). According to California's Healthy Places Index (HPI) for census tract 5, only 4.43% have automobile access, making active transportation options essential for this area.

Another benefit is the trail provides a safe route to school for Zane Middle School (ZMS), providing the opportunity to walk and/or bike to and from school. ZMS is located directly on the route of the proposed trail. In a 2017 Parent Walking and Biking Survey, 75 respondents attributed vehicle speeds for not allowing students to walk or bike to school.

Improving and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is critical to the City along with its goals for Sea Level Rise Adaptation. With Eureka being a coastal City that is already seeing the effects of sea level rise, projects that reduce GHG emissions while providing for and adapting to sea level rise are critical to managing the City's transportation infrastructure in the future. The Bay to Zoo Trail project has the opportunity to foster mode shift, increase active transportation uses, reduce greenhouse gases, and beautify the City and transportation systems as a whole.

5. Maintenance of Project

Maintenance of the Bay to Zoo Trail will be done by City of Eureka parks and maintenance staff similar to any other trail system in Eureka. A large portion of the trail is along an existing sewer easement, already accessed and maintained by City staff. The Eureka Police Department employs Rangers (sworn and non-sworn) with the primary responsibility to patrol and keep trails and parks safe.

6. Connectivity

The importance of the Bay to Zoo Trail is its role as a connector. Just as the name implies, the project will connect residents and visitors from the downtown and waterfront to the oldest zoo in California and home of the Redwood Sky Walk. Along the way, trail users will have safe and direct access to Zane Middle School and Washington Elementary School as well as health care facilities such as Open Door Community Health Center, Redwood Urgent Care, and St. Josephs Hospital.

On a larger connection scale, the trail will connect City and County residents with the Waterfront Trail at Tydd Street, an additional 6.3 miles of existing Class 1 trail. With the eventual connection of the Arcata Bay Trail to the Eureka Waterfront Trail, users of the Bay to Zoo Trail will be able to connect to the City of Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt.

See attached 8 ½ x 11 Map

7. Regional Significance

The Bay to Zoo Trail is Regionally Significant to the City of Eureka, the unincorporated areas of Eureka (Myrtle town, Cutten, Ridgewood, Humboldt Hill) as well as Humboldt County as a whole. The trail will provide safe access to the unincorporated Eureka areas, particularly Cutten and Myrtle town. In the future it will also connect to the Arcata Bay Trail, providing access to the City of Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt. Eventually the Humboldt Bay Trail South will also provide access to the College of the Redwoods to the South.

8. Traffic Generators

The Bay to Zoo Trail will serve major bicycle and pedestrian traffic generators. The span of the trail begins on the north end of Eureka within close proximity to the Humboldt County Library, Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka City Hall, as well as the downtown and retail and commercial areas. As you head south on the trail there is access to the Eureka Dog Park, St. Josephs Hospital, Zane Middle School, and a densely populated residential area. On the south end of the trail there is access to Washington School and the Sequoia Park, Zoo, and Redwood Sky Walk. Just south of the trail is Walnut Street, the main connector to Cutten/Ridgewood Communities.

9. Multi-Modal Interface

The Bay to Zoo Trail will encourage multi-modal travel by providing a separate, non-motorized designated facility for bicyclists and pedestrians. A large portion of the City was constructed over a century ago, without the foresight for safe and comfortable multi-modal options. The trail will provide access to a protected route to cross the City and access a wide variety of services as well as use the trail for recreation, health, and wellness.

10. Supplemental Information

The Bay to Zoo Trail will be in the City of Eureka, within Humboldt County, California. Eureka is the County seat and home to the majority of Humboldt's resources and services. The Bay to Zoo Trail will begin at the north end of the City near Humboldt Bay and existing Waterfront Trail and head south through residential areas, ending at the Sequoia Park Zoo.

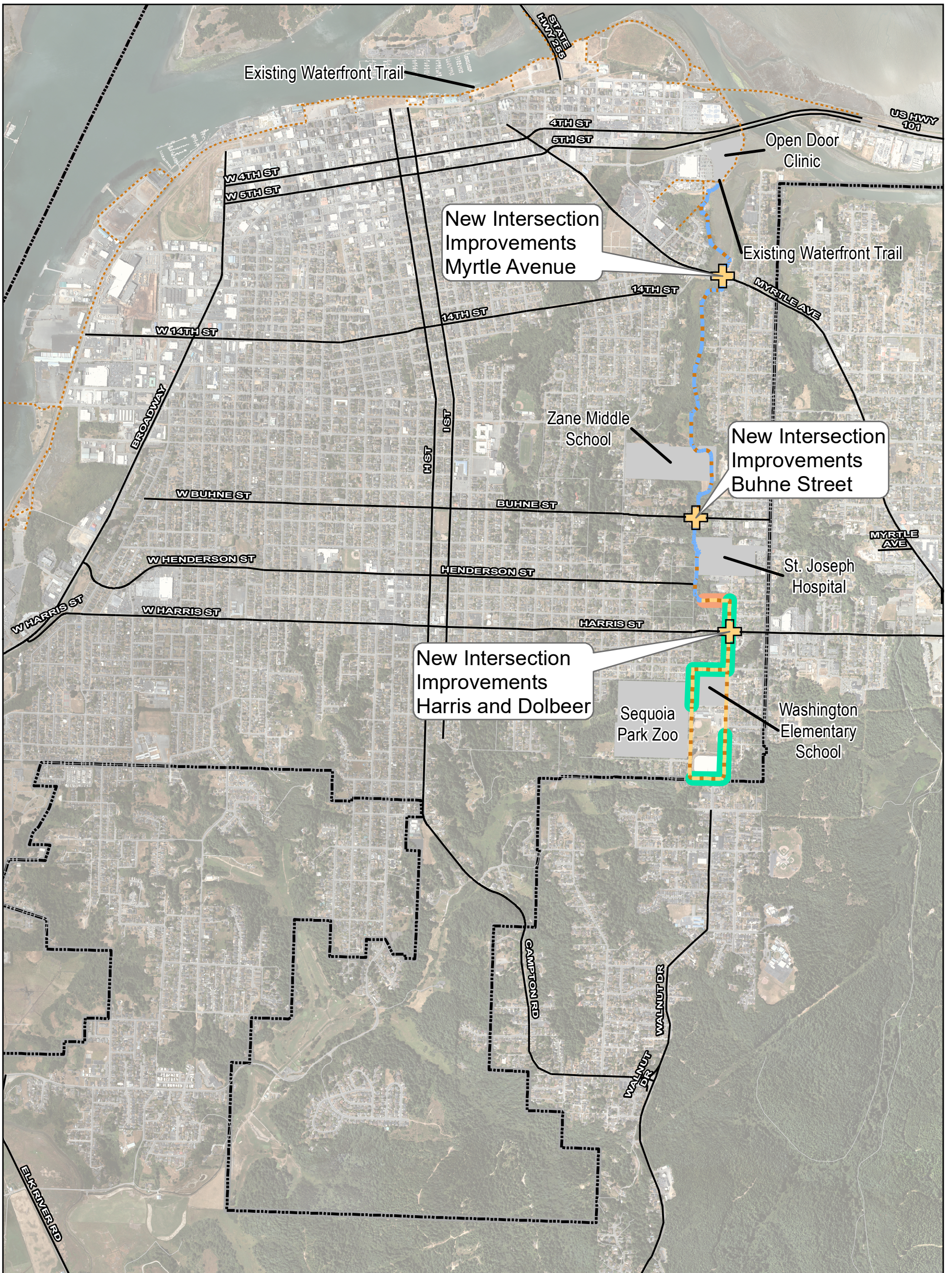
See attached 8 ½ x 11 Map

Thank you for considering this project. We believe the Bay to Zoo Trail will be impactful to all of Humboldt County and would be a great use of TDA Local Transportation Funds (LTF).

Sincerely,







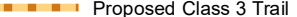





Jesse Willor
City Engineer



New Intersection Improvements
Myrtle Avenue

New Intersection Improvements
Buhne Street

New Intersection Improvements
Harris and Dolbeer

-  New Intersection Improvements
-  Existing Trails
-  Proposed Class 1 Trail
-  Major Streets
-  Proposed Class 3 Trail
-  Minor Streets
-  Sidewalk Expansion
-  Areas of Interest
-  New Sidewalk
-  Eureka City Limits



City of Eureka Bay to Zoo Trail Cycle 5 ATP Grant Application Project Location Map

1:20,000

