



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
 611 I Street, Suite B
 Eureka, CA 95501
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING RECORD

Regular Meeting
 November 18, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
 Conducted via Zoom Video Communications
 (in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20)

Present:

Councilmember Mike Johnson (Chair)	City of Fortuna
Mayor Adelene Jones	City of Blue Lake
Councilmember Susan Seaman	City of Eureka
Councilmember Emily Goldstein (Alternate)	City of Arcata
Councilmember Jack West	City of Trinidad

Policy Advisory Committee Member:

Rex Jackman (Alternate)	Caltrans District 1
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Staff:

Beth Burks	Executive Director
Debbie Egger	Fiscal Administrative Officer
Oona Smith	Senior Regional Planner
Stevie Luther	Associate Regional Planner

Absent:

Supervisor Virginia Bass	County of Humboldt
Mayor Don Hindley	City of Ferndale
Councilmember Gordon Johnson	City of Rio Dell
Councilmember Natalie Arroyo	Humboldt Transit Authority

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Mike Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., Fiscal Administrative Officer Debbie Egger called roll for attendance.

2. Assembly Bill 361 Findings to Allow Remote Meetings for HCAOG Board

Chair Johnson moved item 2 to the Consent Calendar.

3. Adjournment of the HCAOG Board; Convening of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC convened to include representation from Caltrans (with the Humboldt Transit Authority representative absent) for items specific to transportation.

4. Presentation - Caltrans District 1 Final Active Transportation Plan

- a. Alexis Kelso, Project Planning Liaison at Caltrans District 1, presented an overview of the District 1 Active Transportation Plan, which is part of Caltrans' comprehensive effort to identify locations with bicycle and pedestrian needs in each Caltrans district across California.

5. Public Hearing: Receive Comments on Unmet Transit Needs (UTN)

Associate Regional Planner Stevie Luther presented a summary of the annual UTN process. The public hearing was opened to receive public comments regarding transit service needs. No public comments were received.

6. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

There was no public participation on non-agenda items.

7. Consent Calendar

Motion was made (Jones/West) to approve the consent item:

- a. Approval of Meeting Record of October 21, 2021
- b. Assembly Bill 361 Findings to Allow Remote Meetings for HCAOG Board

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

No items were removed from the consent calendar.

9. PAC Action Items

a. Amendment to the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan and Adoption of the 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program [Resolutions 21-27 and 21-28]

Executive Director Burks presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Colin Fiske, Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP).

Motion was made (Seaman/Jones) to recommend that the HCAOG Board adopt Resolution 21-27 amending the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan to include the City of Rio Dell Neighborhood Connectivity project so that it will be eligible for inclusion in the 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, and that the Board adopt Resolution 21-28 approving the 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for submittal to the California Transportation Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Regional Transportation Plan: Environmental Impact Report Addendum #2

Senior Regional Planner Oona Smith presented the staff report and summarized that the Addendum #2 concludes that the proposed RTP update does not pose significant negative environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant impacts.

There were no public comments.

Motion was made (Seaman/West) to recommend that the HCAOG Board direct staff to finalize Addendum #2 to the Final EIR for the Regional Transportation Plan, for the Board to certify at their December meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

c. Regional Transportation Plan Update: Project and Equity Criteria

Senior Regional Planner Oona Smith reported "fix it first" criteria for the Complete Streets projects had been added to the RTP per the Technical Advisory Committee's request.

Ms. Smith reported that nine more people have sent public comments, bringing the total to 17 written comments received during the formal comment period; six of the new

commenters support the Safe and Sustainable Transportation targets and ask HCAOG to evaluate projects to ensure they meet the targets; a letter from Keep Eureka Beautiful asks HCAOG to add text describing the benefits of landscaping and street trees; a letter from the Humboldt Trails Council states support for active transportation policies and projects, especially for the trails network; and a letter on behalf of Humboldt Alliance for Responsible Planning (HARP) states concern with the US101 Trinidad Area Access Improvement Project and requests that HCAOG eliminate the project from the Complete Streets project table.

Ms. Smith described the Census indicators that were used for equity criteria to designate “disadvantaged communities” in the draft map.

Executive Director Burks presented draft language for initiating an approach to develop project evaluation criteria.

Public Comments:

Colin Fiske

Elaine Astrue (letter was read into the record)

Motion was made (Seaman/West) to recommend that the HCAOG Board direct staff to make changes to the final *VROOM* 2022-2042 Complete Streets Project Table to include the “fix it first” criterion, and to add an RTP policy:

HCAOG shall develop a tool or process to evaluate projects that qualify for discretionary non-formula funding available through HCAOG (such as STIP). The tool or process is intended to aid in prioritizing projects that provide the most benefit in achieving the priorities set forth in the RTP and the Safe and Sustainable Transportation targets.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Reconvening of the HCAOG Board

Motion was made (Jones/West) to reconvene as the HCAOG Board and approve PAC recommendations.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. HCAOG Staff and PAC Member Reports

This agenda item is reserved for matters that member of the PAC and staff may wish to present.

a. HCAOG Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Burks reported that (i) the federal infrastructure bill was signed and (ii) the December Board meeting would be cancelled.

b. Caltrans Report

Board member Jones asked about the status of Last Chance Grade. Caltrans PAC member Rex Jackman responded that at last report there were no new slides, and Caltrans had secured funding to complete environmental studies.

c. PAC Member Reports

None.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Oona Smith
Senior Regional Transportation Planner