



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 7b
Board Meeting
April 17, 2025

DATE: April 7, 2025
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Debbie Egger, Interim Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Transit Needs: Humboldt County's Roads/911 Emergency Response Measure O**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff Summary

Action Item

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. After receiving public comment and discussing, make the following motion:

“I move that the PAC recommend that the HCAOG Board consider approving Measure O Tax Funds be made available to transit agencies that meet the same eligibility requirements as the Transportation Development Act State Transit Assistance Funds and provide transit services to the general public, with the option to reassess eligibility requirements annually.”

Staff Summary:

At the SSTAC meeting held on March 5, Sean Quincy, Deputy County Administrative Officer, provided an informational update and PowerPoint presentation on Humboldt County's Roads/911 Emergency Response 1% Sales Tax—Measure O.

Discussions took place on how Measure O tax funds, specifically aimed at improving transit services, could address unmet needs in the Humboldt County region. There's been a history of challenges where Local Transportation Funds were already fully used by the County and cities like Eureka and Arcata to support transit services, which resulted in limited funding available for further needs.

In discussions with the Deputy County Administrative Officer and meetings with the Measure O Funding Workgroup, staff was asked to develop guidelines and establish who will be eligible to receive the funds while keeping in mind the intent of the transit portion being used to maintain and enhance transit services.

Given the number of unmet needs that are reasonable to meet but unable to be funded identified in the 2025–26 Unmet Transit Needs Report of Findings, this eligibility requirement could help ensure Measure O resources are directed toward addressing the most critical service gaps.

Staff presented a recommendation to HCAOG’s Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommending that Measure O funds be allocated to public transit agencies that adhere to the same eligibility standards as those required under the guidelines set for the State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds and that provide transit service to the general public. The funds would be restricted to supporting operational and capital expenses that directly enhance and maintain transit service, excluding large infrastructure projects like building construction that don't directly contribute to service expansion.

By sticking to these guidelines, the goal is to direct the Measure O resources toward meeting the most critical transit service gaps as outlined in the Unmet Transit Needs Report of Findings for the 2025–26 period. This seems to be a key step in making sure the funds are used efficiently and in a way that directly impacts the community’s transportation needs.

This recommendation has been reviewed by the HCAOG SSTAC and TAC and brought to the Board with their recommendation to approve the eligibility requirements with the option to reassess eligibility requirements annually.