



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 4c
SSTAC Meeting
March 4, 2026

DATE: February 25, 2026
TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Humboldt Partnering Assets & Authorities for Comprehensive Transit (PAACT) Project April Workshops**

DISCUSSION ITEM STAFF REPORT

Staff Summary:

As you may recall, HCAOG and HTA were awarded a Caltrans Strategic Partnerships–Transit Program grant for the PAACT (Partnering Assets & Authorities for Comprehensive Transit). The grant award is \$479,500, with a required local cash match of \$62,150 (11.47%).

To briefly summarize, the project’s scope of work is:

- Task 1. Establish Advisory Groups – Set foundation for consensus-building by engaging across governments & agencies for coordinating transit systems.
- Task 2. Comprehensive Plan for Regional Transit & Multimodal Networks & Networking – Define problem/vision/purpose statement for regional transit service. Develop an existing conditions report on community and regional characteristics. Analyze the transit market and assess regional operations.
- Task 3. Land Use-Transportation Policy Connections – Strengthen government-to-government ties for integrating land use & transit/active mobility in their standard procedures, including regular agency consultation with HTA.
- Task 4. Stakeholder Outreach, Engagement & Participation Strategies

Since February 2025, when the project kicked off, HCAOG has executed Memoranda of Understanding with all but one of the eight grant partners.¹ We have contracted a consultant team, made up of staff from DKS Associates (prime), Jarrett Walker + Associates, and GHD. We have had the kick-off meeting of the official Project Steering Working Group (PSWG), which represents eleven local jurisdictions/agencies (consisting of the eight grant partners plus the Yurok Tribe, City of Trinidad, and City of Fortuna).

¹ Official project partners are HTA; Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of Trinidad Rancheria; Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, and Trinidad; County of Humboldt (Planning & Building Dept.); and the Yurok Tribe.

The Jarrett Walker + Associates consultants are coming to Humboldt County for the last week of April. They will be holding workshops that could be of value and interest to SSTAC members.

- **Stakeholder Workshop** – April 28 @ 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A hands-on workshop with an educational “planning game” to learn the basic facts and trade-offs of transit proposals and choices.

- **Core Design Retreat** – April 29 and 30, @ 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This Retreat is designed to do two things at once:

- Develop network design ideas, within an operating cost limit, that are better than any planner could have designed alone, and
- Ensure that a range of key staff participate in the process that leads to draft “transit network concepts,” and thus clearly understand the outcomes.

The JWA consultants will refine, map, and analyze the draft concepts over the following 6-7 weeks. Refined concepts will then be presented to the public in July/August 2026.

- **Core Design Retreat “Check-ins”** – April 29 and 30, @ 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For core stakeholders who cannot attend the full day retreat.

Staff will provide more information and answer questions at the SSTAC meeting (Venues are pending). Staff are asking SSTAC members to consider if they would like to attend either of these events.