



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 4b SSTAC Meeting November 5, 2025

DATE: October 29, 2025
TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
FROM: Stephen Luther, Associate Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Regional Transportation Plan Update: Full Public Draft for Formal 30-Day Public Review & Comment Period**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Full Public Draft of RTP for Formal Public Review and Comment Period. Includes: All RTP chapters and maps

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Direct staff as necessary or consider making the motion,
"I move that the SSTAC recommend that the HCAOG Board approve the full public draft of the RTP update, *VROOM 2026-2046*, for the formal 30-day public review and comment period."

Staff Summary:

The full draft of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, *Variety in Rural Options of Mobility (VROOM) 2026-2046* is included in this packet for review and discussion. Staff presented an overview of the existing RTP at the September SSTAC meeting and received direction on the overall goals and content. Staff made an effort to respond to initial feedback by, for instance, highlighting accomplishments.

This is the first time the SSTAC is seeing the administrative updates to the RTP, and all changes are shown with track changes (except in Complete Streets where the formatting did not track changes). The previous update to *VROOM* was more substantive, with several entirely new elements, the inclusion of Safe and Sustainable Transportation Targets, and a reorganization of the plan's structure. In the proposed update "tune up" before the Council today, there are no new elements, the targets remain as is, and the structure is unchanged. The updates in this draft are

primarily focused on cleaning up information that is out of date. Additional details pointing to changes to policies or projects are included in the table below.

The “Renewing Our Communities” element will be updated with feedback from community outreach once the final survey results are in. We anticipate closing the online survey in mid-December. All comments received on the draft plan will be included in an appendix that will describe the whole public outreach program.

For your reference, the table below describes the updates.

Element/chapter	Changes made since Administrative Draft
1. Introduction	• Emphasized continuity with VROOM 2022, highlighting traffic safety and maintenance of existing infrastructure. • Updated section on HCAOG accomplishments since the last RTP and completed local and regional projects. • Minor updates to consistency with other plans, including reference to Humboldt County Climate Action Plan.
2. Renewing Our Communities	• Updated demographic data tables. • Pending summary of results from public outreach/engagement program. • Safe and Sustainable Targets (SST) are refined in this RTP to be more efficient in tracking and aligned with other key objectives. The proposed revisions are consistent with recommendations reviewed by the SSTAC, TAC, and Board in previous meetings. Proposed revisions include: ○ Addition of recommended metrics to quantify mode shift ○ Removal of targets that have been completed (ZEV (i) and (ii), Efficiency in New Housing (ii)) ○ Extension of timeline for ZEV infrastructure charging goal (note – goal is currently well behind target), housing access goal, and general plan zoning goal ○ Removal of school buses from ZEV transition (TAC recommendation) ○ Revision of fleet transition goals to reflect consistency with 1) HTA current fleet transition plans and 2) the California Clean Fleets Rule ○ Revision of Housing Goal (iv) to better align with current draft RHNA Cycle 7 methodology goals (i.e. small amount of housing continuing to be allocated to higher VMT jurisdictions) ○ Removal of ATP education goal (TAC recommendation, could also consider modifying) ○ Extended deadline and added ‘complete streets to discretionary funding goal.

3. Global Climate Change	• Removed the word “crisis.” (TAC recommendation) • Updated synopsis of global climate change impacts. • Updates to IPCC findings; state reports such as Statewide Climate Adaptation 2024; and countywide greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Tribal Transportation	• Removed Policy Tribal-2 because state legislation (Ramos 2023) addressed the issue of waiving sovereign immunity in transportation contracts. • Section pending additional updates from Tribal Transportation departments.
5. Emergency Transportation	• Revised narrative to recommend caution pursuing voluntary disaster registries based on state OES guidance. • Revised proposed project to be more actionable with regard to planning output. Concept is to partner with emergency planners to lead emergency evacuation planning for access and functional need (AFN) population, primarily through the SSTAC.
6. Land Use-Transportation	• Updated with new regional housing need determination and allocation methodology. • Removed background on California housing legislation, as housing laws are too numerous and frequent to be tracked within the RTP.
7. Complete Streets	• Project table – added 30% costs for projects being carried over. • Completed projects were highlighted. • Referenced the 2024 Complete Streets Bill which added transparency and accountability to how Caltrans implements its own Complete Street policy, including an increased focus on transit.
8. Commuter Trails	• Updates to trail work including completion of Humboldt Bay Trail!
9. Public Transportation	• Added major transit stops (previously added by resolution to the RTP in 2024). • Removed out of date information and historic background information. • Added information on new transit systems (RCX, microtransit). • Updated planning references, needs, and TDP recommended projects. • Small addition to policy Transit-4 to acknowledge the role of the SSTAC in administration of Measure O transit funds. • The Humboldt Transit Authority project list is pending updates.
10. Aviation	• Updated projects that have been completed.

11. Goods Movement	• Minor updates.
12. Financial	• Incorporated IIJA legislation into federal highway section. • Added Measure O revenue to tables. • Adjusted assumption of inflation costs from 2% to 2.5%. • Edits to Complete Streets finances to reflect current program funding. • Pending final updates to Complete Streets funding tallies. • Addition of new transit funding like TIRCP and SB125. • Minor adjustments to Goods Movement and Aviation financing. • Change in policy: removed project to complete a funding consistency analysis, and instead added policy for “Grant Leveraging with Discretionary Funds” (page 12-17)
Maps/Figures	Minor updates made to the existing maps

The SSTAC is invited to comment on any and all elements of the draft RTP, but there are several items of particular interest to the SSTAC. One is the project in the emergency transportation element. What are SSTAC member agencies currently working on in regard to preparing people with disabilities for emergency evacuations? What are the existing processes and programs, and does it make sense for HCAOG and the SSTAC to take a lead in regional coordinating? Does HTA have MOUs in place with jurisdictions for use in emergencies?

Another item for discussion is the Public Transportation Element, and reviewing the policies and needs section. Is anything inaccurate or missing? Does the Needs Assessment section adequately cover transit needs?

Following discussion, staff is asking the SSTAC to recommend the Board approve the enclosed drafts for public release. Staff will bring these elements to the HCAOG Board for them to approve as public-release drafts on November 20, 2025. Any minor edits to the administrative draft RTP that are suggested by the SSTAC and TAC will be incorporated into the draft brought to the Board. Staff will continue working internally on the draft, and as appropriate will address any additional concerns or comments that arise during the public review period.

Contingent upon Board approval at the November 20th meeting, staff will kick-off the formal public review and comment period on Friday, November 21, or Monday, November 24. The comment period will last 30 days.

The final draft of VROOM would come back to the SSTAC in February. The Board will consider certifying an updated EIR Addendum (per California Environmental Quality Act) and adopting *VROOM* 2026-2046 on February 19, 2026.