



**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 9b**  
HCAOG Board Meeting  
November 18, 2021

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DATE: November 4, 2021  
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)  
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Regional Planner  
SUBJECT: **Regional Transportation Plan Update 2021: Final Environmental Impact Report Addendum #2**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Contents:**

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Administrative draft of "Addendum #2 to the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Humboldt Regional Transportation Plan 2013-14 Update"

**Staff's Recommended Action:**

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss and direct staff to finalize Addendum #2 to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Regional Transportation Plan, for the Board to certify at their December meeting.

**Staff Summary:**

The HCAOG Board approves and adopts the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) only after certifying the necessary environmental document per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Today the PAC and Board are reviewing the "Addendum #2" in advance of certifying it in December, prior to adopting the RTP update.

For the update in 2013 (two cycles ago), the HCAOG Board certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (including an Initial Study) before adopting the RTP Update.

For the subsequent RTP update in 2017, the HCAOG Board adopted an addendum to the Final Program EIR (State Clearinghouse #2013102063; Resolution 17-17). Briefly stated, an addendum is appropriate where the changes to the project or plan "will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant effects than were identified in the certified EIR" (CEQA Guidelines

Section 15164).<sup>1</sup> The 2017 addendum added information and analysis to environmental topics: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change, Transportation/Circulation, and Long-Term Effects. The 2017 addendum found that the policies and projects included in the 2017 RTP update did not induce impacts that were more significant and did not require additional mitigation measures to what was included in the original Final EIR.

For the update in progress in 2021, HCAOG staff recommends updating the addendum, and, by extension, the Final EIR. Conditions of the regional transportation system have not changed substantially since the Final EIR was adopted. Likewise, the 2021 update, *VROOM 2022-2042*, proposes policies and actions within the scope and intent as that envisioned in the Final EIR. The *VROOM 2022-2042* update increases emphasis on transportation's role in addressing issues of climate change, housing, safety, and equity and establishes greenhouse gas emissions-reduction targets and performance measures into the elements. The major changes to the 2021 update consist of a new "Renewing Our Communities" chapter with Safe and Sustainable Transportation Targets, and a new "Land Use–Transportation Element."

The current environmental impact assessment concludes that the proposed plan update, *VROOM 2022-2042*, (1) is not anticipated to result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; and (2) would not require major revisions to the previously certified FEIR; therefore, impacts are deemed consistent with those in the FEIR. The proposed *VROOM 2022-2042* plan will not result in more significant impacts; neither changes to nor new mitigation measures are required.

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended (Nov. 4 meeting) that the Board approve the Addendum#2 to the Final EIR, accept comments and respond as necessary, and ultimately certify it before adopting the 2021 RTP update, *VROOM 2022-2042*.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 15164 also allow that "(c): An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the Final EIR."