



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 8b
TAC Meeting
November 4, 2021

DATE: October 27, 2021
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
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. Allow each agency to present their proposals;
4. Receive public comment;
5. Direct staff as necessary or consider making the motion,
"I move that the TAC recommend that the HCAOG Board approve the Addendum #2 to the Final EIR for the Regional Transportation Plan, accept and respond to comments as necessary, and certify it before adopting the 2021 RTP update, *VROOM 2022-2042*."

Staff Summary:

For the update to the Regional Transportation Plan in 2013 (two cycles ago), the HCAOG Board certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (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).¹

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 current update, 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.

RTP Update schedule: The Board will review the updated EIR addendum #2 on November 18. The formal public comment period on the full draft *VROOM 2022-2042* closes on November 21. The Board will consider certifying the addendum #2 and adopting *VROOM 2022-2042* on December 16.

¹ 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.”