

MINUTES FOR THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE

May 5, 2021

PRESENT

ABSENT

Board Members

Rex Bohn, County of Humboldt
Mike Wilson, County of Humboldt
Emily Goldstein, City of Arcata
Tami Trent, City of Fortuna
Steve Ladwig, City of Trinidad
Natalie, Arroyo, City of Eureka
Julie Woodall, City of Rio Dell

Staff

Greg Pratt, General Manager
Consuelo Espinosa, Safety & ADA Coordinator
Brenda Fregoso, Secretary to the Board
Brian Connors, Operations Manager
Alene Webb, Finance Manager
Jim Wilson, Director of Maintenance

Also, in attendance was Nancy Diamond; HTA Legal Counsel; Jerome Carmen, Schatz Energy Research Center; Stevie Luther, HCAOG; Catherine Sundquist, City Cab; Oona Smith, HCAOG; Colin Fiske, Executive Director and President of the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP); Latanya Jacobs, City of Eureka resident, ABruce Christensen, City of Eureka resident.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Arroyo called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. General Manager Greg Pratt took roll call.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNICATION

Latanya Jacobs, City of Eureka resident, indicated that she would contact General Manager Greg Pratt via email with any concerns and questions.
ABruce Christensen, City of Eureka resident, addressed the board regarding restoring the ETS schedules as soon as possible as the time schedule is an inconvenience to commuters using transit to go to and from work. She also addressed bus stops being at a more signalized location and gave the board some examples.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

By motion, recommended the approval of the following items considered to be routine and enacted in one motion. Items may be removed from the Consent Calendar upon request and will be heard separately. Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Councilmember Ladwig to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion carries unanimously

1. Minutes from the February 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Action Recommended: Approve minutes

2. Federal Transit Administration 5311 (f) Grant Funds

Staff is recommending submitting an application for 5311 (f) funds for operating assistance for the Intercity Bus System.

Action Recommended: Adopt Resolution 21-02 Authorizing Application for FTA Section 5311 (f) Grant Funds and the General Manager to sign the Grant Agreement.

3. Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Grant Funds

Staff is recommending submitting an application for 5311 Regional Apportionment to purchase capital equipment and for operating assistance.

Action Recommended: Adopt Resolution 21-03 Authorizing Application for FTA Section 5311 Grant Funds and the General Manager to sign the Grant Application.

4. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) FTA 5311 Formula

The Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) informed agencies in the region that there are CRRSAA funds available through the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program.

Action Recommended: Adopt Resolution 21-04 Authorizing Application for CARES Act, FTA Section 5311 Grant Funds and authorize the General Manager to sign the Grant Agreement.

5. Amendment to the Humboldt Transit Authority Classification Plan for Represented Employees

To assist in expanded cleaning efforts and flexibility with scheduling, Staff is proposing changes to the Classification Plan for represented employees. All changes require board authorization.

Action Recommended: Approve Amendments to the Classification Plan, Salary Schedule, and Job Descriptions by Adopting Resolution 12-05.

6. Agreement between the Humboldt Transit Authority, City of Arcata, County of Humboldt and the Humboldt County Association of Governments regarding Dial-A-Ride Services Operating and Administrative Cost-Sharing.

Staff has prepared a funding agreement for Dial-A-Ride services in the region. The contract is for a one-year term and the amount will remain the same as the prior year.

~ Agreement Enclosed

Action Recommended: Approve the Agreement between the Humboldt Transit Authority, City of Arcata, County of Humboldt and Humboldt County Association of Governments regarding Dial-A-Ride Services Operating and Administrative Cost-Sharing.

Items removed from the Consent Calendar

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Eureka Transit Service; Proposed Saturday Route Changes

Since before the pandemic, the Purple Route on Saturday has struggled to make it's 10% minimum farebox. Using ridership data and automated passenger counters, Staff identified the underutilized bus stops and is proposing route reduction and modification that will improve efficiency.

General Manager Greg Pratt gave the board a brief history on Eureka Transit and its routes. He also directed the board to the attached information on ridership by routes and supporting documents. General Manager Pratt announced that he would like to thank Consuelo Espinosa, HTA's Transit Planner for all of her hard work and dedication in this project and that she did an excellent job.

Action Recommended:

A. Open a public hearing opportunity for members of the public to comment on three proposed Eureka Transit System (ETS) service changes to the Saturday Routes.

Latanya Jacobs, Eureka Resident, expressed to the board that she was concerned that the public was not full made aware of the survey and the potential changes. ABruce Christensen, Eureka Resident, express to the board that the maps on the schedules is a challenge to decipher.

B. After hearing comments, close public hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 9:21 a.m.

C. Make changes if necessary and approve consolidating the existing Eureka Transit System bus routes into two beginning July 1, 2021.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Councilmember Ladwig, to direct Staff to make any necessary changes and approve consolidating the existing Eureka Transit System bus routes into two beginning July 1, 2021.

Motion carries unanimously

2. Zero Emission Infrastructure & Fleets

The Innovative Clean Transit Rule requires all public agencies to completely convert their transit bus fleets to zero emissions buses (ZEB) by 2040. After 2029, the only buses sold in California will be zero emission.

General Manager Greg Pratt directed the board to page 23 of the agenda and gave a quick recap of the Zero Emission Infrastructure and Fleets.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Councilmember Ladwig to authorize the General Manager to apply for grants that will provide the funding for the proposed projects, including the RAISE and TIRCP grants.

Motion carries unanimously

3. City of Eureka; Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program

In addition to submitting a grant application for three housing units, the City of Eureka and Linc Housing will apply to the AHSC program for an electric bus, an extra route for the Eureka Transit Service, an express bus, annual Eureka Transit bus passes for each housing unit, and bus stop enhancements. Linc is requesting a discount for bulk annual passes.

General Manager Greg Pratt requests the boards support and gave a summary of the AHSC program. He also explained that Linc Housing has request five years of annual transit passes for 104 affordable housing units at a discounted cost to them.

Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Councilmember Ladwig to authorize Staff to offer Linc Housing and City of Eureka a 30% discount for bus passes for the AHSC program.

Motion carries unanimously

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None

CLOSED SESSION

1. Public Comment

None

2. The Board went into closed session at 10:10 a.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative: Jack Hughes; Employee organization: Local 1684, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

3. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1, at the conclusion of the closed session, a public report was made by the Board Chair Arroyo, with nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.