AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE

ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS
MEETING ID: 815 8635 6150
BY PHONE 1 (408) 638-0968
BY COMPUTER: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586356150

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 9:00 AM  Regular Meeting

A. Call Meeting to Order

B. Roll Call & Introductions

C. Community Members Communication
   Members of the community are invited to comment on items or issues not on the agenda.

D. Special Presentations

E. Consent Calendar
   By motion, recommend 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.

1. Minutes from the February 3, 2020 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 Systems.
   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 Agreement.
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 unrepresented employees. All changes require board authorization.

**Action Recommended:** Approve Amendments to the Classification Plan, Salary Schedule, and Job Descriptions by Adopting Resolution 21-05.

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.

**Action Recommended:** Approve the 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.

F. Items Removed from Consent Calendar

G. 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 has a proposed route reduction and modification that will improve efficiency.

**Action Recommended:**
A. Open a public hearing opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposed Eureka Transit System (ETS) service changes to the Saturday Routes.
B. After hearing comments, close the public hearing.
C. Make changes if necessary and approve consolidating the existing Eureka Transit System bus routes into two beginning July 1, 2021.

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.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Discuss and give direction about proposed projects. Authorize the General Manager to apply for grants that will provide funding for the proposed projects, including the RAISE and TIRCP grants.

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.

**Action Recommended:** Review, Discuss, and Direct Staff.
H. Board Communications

I. Staff Communications

J. Closed Session
   1. Public Comment
   2. The Board will go into Closed Session 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 sessions, a public report will be made by the Board Chair disclosing action taken as required.

K. Adjournment

Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) is committed to a policy of non-discrimination pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Persons who require special accommodations, accessible seating, or documentation in alternative formats under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact HTA at least two days prior to the meeting.

Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) se compromete a una norma de no discriminación de acuerdo a los requisitos del Artículo VI del Acto Derechos Civiles de 1964. Las personas que requieren alojamiento especial de acuerdo con el American with Disabilities Act, o personas que requieren servicios de traducción (libre de cargo) deben comunicarse con HTA al menos dos días antes de la reunión.
PRESENT
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 Paul Pitino, City of Arcata; Nancy Diamond; HTA Legal Counsel; Leann Schuetzle, AMRTS; Oona Smith, HCAOG; Michelle Zapata, HTA Employee & 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
None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
A Resolution of Recognition for Paul Pitino was presented by Chairperson Arroyo. Board members as well as attendees congratulated and thanked Paul for all of his time and work while serving on the HTA board.

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 Goldstein to approve the Consent Calendar.
Motion carries unanimously

1. Minutes from the December 2, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
   Action Recommended: Approve minutes
Items removed from the Consent Calendar
None

REPORTS
None

NEW BUSINESS
1. Samoa Transit Update
   General Manager Greg Pratt gave the board an update on the Samoa Transit service. He announced that it is currently at 1% of its farebox.

2. Bus Shelter Replacement Project
   General Manager Greg Pratt gave the board history of past bus shelter projects and that he continues to work with Councilmember Arroyo and Eureka City Manager for bus shelter improvements.

3. Election of Officers
   At the beginning of the year, new officers are elected to the following positions:
   Chair, Vice-Chair, and Finance & Operations Committee.
   The HTA Chair also serves on the Policy Advisory Committee for HCAOG.
   Chair: Vacant, Vice-Chair: Councilmember Arroyo
   Finance & Operations Committee: Bohn, Wilson, and Trent
   Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Councilmember Woodall for Councilmember Arroyo as HTA Chair and Councilmember Ladwig for HTA Vice-Chair. Members of the Finance & Operations Committee will remain as: Supervisor Bohn, Supervisor Wilson and Councilmember Trent.
   Motion carries unanimously

OLD BUSINESS
None

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS
Councilmember Arroyo gave Councilmember Goldstein, City of Arcata, a warm welcome to the HTA Board.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS
Director of Maintenance, Jim Wilson gave the board an update and information on the air purification system and the Microban AEGIS being applied in all of the buses.

CLOSED SESSION
None

ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.
TO: Chair Arroyo
   All Governing Board Members

FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE: May 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Grant Funds

The California Department of Transportation has notified its sub-recipients that there are FTA Section 5311(f) grant funds available for intercity bus services. This is a competitive grant for all rural agencies in the State of California. Staff is requesting approval from the HTA board to apply for $300,000 in Operating Assistance to help offset the costs for the Intercity Systems in Willow Creek and Southern Humboldt. HTA has been successful in applying to this grant program for the past 13 years and the Local Transportation Funds can and will be used as the local match if awarded.

**Action Recommended: Adopt Resolution 21-02 Authorizing Application for FTA Section 5311(f) Grant Funds and the General Manager to Sign the Grant Agreement.**
RESOLUTION NO. 21-02

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FTA SECTION 5311 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5311) WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital/operating assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer Section 5311 grants for transportation projects for the general public for the rural transit and intercity bus; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Transit Authority desires to apply for said financial assistance to permit operation of service/purchase of capital equipment in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Transit Authority has, to the maximum extent feasible, coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors does hereby Authorize the General Manager, to file and execute applications on behalf of with the Department to aid in the financing of capital/operating assistance projects pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G), as amended.

That the General Manager is authorized to execute and file all certification of assurances, contracts or agreements or any other document required by the Department.

That the General Manager is authorized to provide additional information as the Department may require in connection with the application for the Section 5311 projects.

That the General Manager is authorized to submit and approve request for reimbursement of funds from the Department for the Section 5311 project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors of the County of Humboldt, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Commission or Board Meeting held on the by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

(Please Print)
Name: ___Natalie Arroyo________________________ Title: ___HTA Board Chair________________

Signature: ____________________________________________________________________________ Date: ____________________________________________________________________________
TO:       Chair Arroyo  
          All Governing Board Members

FROM:     Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE:     May 5, 2021

SUBJECT:  5311 Regional Apportionment Grant Funds

Each fiscal year, Regionally Apportioned Federal funds become available to the region. Staff has not been notified by the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) that there is $846,187 available in this year’s Regional Apportionment Grant Fund program. CalTrans set the deadline for all agencies to submit their projects into the Online Electronic Grants Management System (Blackcat) by April 30, 2021. Although the deadline has passed, Staff has submitted the application and is being held pending board authorization.

For both Eureka Transit and Redwood Transit, Staff is requesting $341,187 for Operating Assistance and $495,000 for a Redwood Transit bus. HTA has been successful in applying to this grant program for the past 13 years and the Local Transportation Funds can and will be used as the local match if awarded.

**Action Recommended:** Adopt Resolution 21-03 Authorizing Application for FTA Section 5311 Grant Funds and the General Manager to Sign the Grant Agreement.
Sample Authorizing Resolution for FTA Funds  
State of California  
Division of Rail and Mass Transportation  

RESOLUTION NO. 21-03  

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FTA SECTION 5311 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5311) WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital/operating assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G); and  

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer Section 5311 grants for transportation projects for the general public for the rural transit and intercity bus; and  

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Transit Authority desires to apply for said financial assistance to permit operation of service/purchase of capital equipment in Humboldt County; and  

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Transit Authority has, to the maximum extent feasible, coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies).  

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors does hereby Authorize the General Manager, to file and execute applications on behalf of with the Department to aid in the financing of capital/operating assistance projects pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G), as amended.  

That the General Manager is authorized to execute and file all certification of assurances, contracts or agreements or any other document required by the Department.  

That the General Manager is authorized to provide additional information as the Department may require in connection with the application for the Section 5311 projects.  

That the General Manager is authorized to submit and approve request for reimbursement of funds from the Department for the Section 5311 project(s).  

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors of the County of Humboldt, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Commission or Board Meeting held on the by the following vote:  

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  

(Please Print)  
Name: ___Natalie Arroyo________________________  
Title: __HTA Board Chair__________________  
Signature: ______________________________  
Date: ______________________________
TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE: May 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Relief and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Call for Projects

On March 24, 2021 the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) sent out a Call for Projects for CRRSAA funds for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 discretionary funds in the amount of $2,237,106. Eligible projects are capital, planning and operating assistance.

The applications were due to Caltrans by April 30, 2021 and HTA Staff is requesting authorization from the HTA board to apply for Operating Assistance for the Eureka Transit Service and the Redwood Transit System. CRRSAA operating grant funds can be used through the end of fiscal year 2025. Although the deadline has passed, Staff has submitted the application and is being held pending board authorization.

Action Recommended: Adopt Resolution 21-04 Authorizing Application for CRRSAA, FTA Section 5311 Grant Funds and authorize the General Manager to Sign the Grant Agreement.
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FTA SECTION 5311 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5311) WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital/operating assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer Section 5311 grants for transportation projects for the general public for the rural transit and intercity bus; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Transit Authority desires to apply for said financial assistance to permit operation of service/purchase of capital equipment in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Transit Authority has, to the maximum extent feasible, coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors does hereby Authorize the General Manager, to file and execute applications on behalf of with the Department to aid in the financing of capital/operating assistance projects pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G), as amended.

That the General Manager is authorized to execute and file all certification of assurances, contracts or agreements or any other document required by the Department.

That the General Manager is authorized to provide additional information as the Department may require in connection with the application for the Section 5311 projects.

That the General Manager is authorized to submit and approve request for reimbursement of funds from the Department for the Section 5311 project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors of the County of Humboldt, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Commission or Board Meeting held on the by the following vote:

AYES: ________________________________
NOES: ________________________________
ABSENT: ________________________________

(Please Print)
Name: Natalie Arroyo
Title: HTA Board Chair

Signature: ________________________________
Date: ________________________________
TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members  
FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager  
DATE: May 5, 2021  
SUBJECT: Amendment to the and Classification Plan for Represented Employees

All changes to the Classification Plan, Salary Schedule, and Job Descriptions require board authorization. A summary of the proposed change is as follows:

Classification Plan  
Due to the pandemic, HTA has changed its cleaning and sanitizing procedures to make sure buses in-service are safe for the drivers and the public. In order to give more flexibility to the Maintenance Department to have buses fueled and keep up on daily cleanings, Staff is proposing adding another Vehicle Service Worker (VSW) to that department. Because duties of the Janitor position will be absorbed by the VSW and using the Cares Act grant to help fund the extra cleaning, there will not be any budget impacts.

Action Recommended: Approve Amendments to the Classification Plan by Adopting Resolution 21-05.
RESOLUTION 21-05
RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AMENDING THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND SALARY SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2012, Humboldt Transit Authority adopted Resolution 12-01 implementing the Personnel Policy for unrepresented employees and Salary Schedule and Classification plan for represented and unrepresented employees; and,

WHEREAS, these documents have been amended by Resolution 16-05, 16-12, 18-11 and 19-03, 20-11; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Directors of the Humboldt Transit Authority desires to amend its Salary Schedule and Classification Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors as follows:

1. Resolution 20-11 is hereby rescinded and replaced by Resolution 21-05 adopting the enclosed Classification Plan effective May 5, 2021.

2. The addition of a Vehicle Service Worker will be added to the Classification Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this fifth day of May 2021, on the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

_______________________________
Chair of the HTA Governing Board of Directors

_______________________________
HTA Secretary to the Board
TO:   Chair Arroyo  
      All Governing Board Members  

FROM:   Greg Pratt, General Manager  

DATE:   May 5, 2021  

SUBJECT:   Agreement between the Humboldt Transit Authority, City of Arcata, County of Humboldt and the Humboldt County Association of Governments Regarding Dial-A-Ride (DAR) Services Operating and Administrative Cost-Sharing.  

The Humboldt Transit Authority is the Coordinated Transportation Services Agency for the region and is tasked with consolidating contracts, zones, and schedules to streamline the system to keep costs down and make it easier for the passenger to navigate the system.  

Although Dial-A-Ride ridership has been low due to the pandemic, CAE Transport has been instrumental in assisting RTS, ETS, and AMRTS with providing transportation to passengers with disabilities. The last couple months DAR ridership has been steadily increasing as clients return to public transportation.  

The proposed contract is for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2021 with no increase in cost for services.  

Action Recommended: Approve the 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.
TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE: May 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Eureka Transit Service; Proposed Saturday Route Changes

Due to low ridership and underutilized bus stops on Saturdays, Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) is proposing consolidating its three existing Eureka Transit System routes into two (see Attachments B & C). Under the new plan, the Purple Route would be removed from the current schedule, and the existing Rainbow Route would be modified to maximize coverage.

Using passenger counters, HTA identified the least frequently utilized stops and determined which of the least utilized portions of the combined routes could be discontinued. In addition, HTA conducted a public outreach effort from March 1 through April 15, 2021. This included an online survey (see Attachment D), as well as an on-bus version of the survey, to capture both general community input and existing rider feedback.

The overall public response to the survey was minimal, with a total of seven responses received, and only one comment regarding the proposed changes to the draft plan. The responses resulted in requests for particular focus on the areas of West and 13th Street and West and 17th Street.

In conclusion, HTA recognizes that transit service is important to the community in general and especially to those who use it on a regular basis, with the majority of the survey respondents reporting using it frequently. With that in mind, we request you review and consider this information regarding the proposed route and schedule changes to the Eureka Transit Saturday Service. If approved the final plan (see Attachment E) will be announced to the general Public on June 1, 2021 and will take effect on July 1, 2021.

**Action Recommended:**

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

B. After hearing comments, close the public hearing.

C. Make changes if necessary and approve consolidating the existing Eureka Transit System bus routes into two beginning July 1, 2021.
Saturday ETS Service
Ridership By Route

Average Rides/Saturday

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow</td>
<td>100 (37%)</td>
<td>49 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>104 (39%)</td>
<td>56 (41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>65 (24%)</td>
<td>32 (23%)</td>
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</table>

ATTACHMENT A
ATTACHMENT C

PROPOSED ROUTES
ATTACHMENT D

ETS Saturday Service Changes

SURVEY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: ____________________

First Name: ________________________________________________

Last Name: ________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State_________ Zip_________

Email Address: _____________________________________________

DETAILS

Approval of Changes: (circle one)

DISAPPROVE

APPROVE

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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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Age Group

☐ Under 18 years ☐ 46 – 61 years

☐ 19 – 29 years ☐ 62 years +

☐ 30 – 45 years
List the Bus Stops that you would like to add:

What is the nature of your trip?

- [ ] Work
- [ ] School
- [ ] Childcare
- [ ] Shopping
- [ ] Recreational
- [ ] Other: ______________________________

How often do you ride the bus?

- [ ] Frequently
- [ ] Occasionally
- [ ] Rarely

What is your mode of transportation to the bus stop?

- [ ] Bicycle
- [ ] Car poll
- [ ] Car passenger
- [ ] Foot
- [ ] Motorbike
- [ ] No alternative used

Offer a Comment or Suggestion

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO:
Humboldt Transit Authority, 133 V Street, Eureka CA 95501
Email: info@hta.org Fax: 707-443-2032
Or give completed form to your local bus driver.
<table>
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<th>GOLD</th>
<th>RAINBOW</th>
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<td>H &amp; 3rd</td>
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<td>2nd &amp; L</td>
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<td>2nd &amp; Y / Target</td>
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<td>Summer &amp; 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer &amp; Wabash</td>
<td>Silvercrest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Del Norte &amp; Ca. (Sr. Center)</td>
<td>Myrtle &amp; Sunny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California &amp; Buhne</td>
<td>Myrtle &amp; Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>California &amp; Dollison</td>
<td>18th &amp; Myrtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson &amp; Summer</td>
<td>Myrtle Town Shops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henderson &amp; Spring</td>
<td>Myrtle &amp; Glenwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Clinic</td>
<td>Myrtle Ave Mark.</td>
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<td>Utah &amp; South</td>
<td>Myrtle &amp; Hall</td>
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<td>Redwood Acres</td>
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<td>Harris &amp; F</td>
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<td>K Mart</td>
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<td>Henderson &amp; A</td>
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<td>Bayshore Mall</td>
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<td>Harris &amp; Elizabeth</td>
<td>Henderson &amp; Spring</td>
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<td>Harris &amp; Summer</td>
<td>Henderson &amp; Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris &amp; Lowell</td>
<td>Forest Service</td>
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<td>F &amp; Harris</td>
<td>Bayshore Mall</td>
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<td>Break</td>
<td>Harris &amp; Central</td>
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<td>Leave F &amp; Harris</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>Huntoon &amp; I</td>
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TO:  Chair Arroyo  
     All Governing Board Members 

FROM:  Greg Pratt, General Manager  

DATE:  May 5, 2021  

SUBJECT:  Zero Emission Bus Fleet  

The California Air Resources Board Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Rule was adopted in December 2018 and requires all public transit agencies to gradually transition to a 100 percent zero-emission bus (ZEB) fleet. Beginning in 2026, 25% of new purchases must be ZEB’s and in 2029, 100% of new purchases by transit agencies must be ZEBs, with a goal for full transition by 2040. It applies to all transit agencies that own, operate, or lease buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 14,000 lbs. It includes standard, articulated, over-the-road, double-decker, and cutaway buses. The regulation encourages them to provide innovative first and last-mile connectivity and improved mobility for transit riders.

Based off the “Total Cost of Ownership Comparison between Fuel Cell and Battery Electric Transit Fleets for Humboldt County” report provided by the Schatz Energy Research Center earlier this year, zero-emission infrastructure and fleet replacement will cost approximately 35 million dollars. Over the last few months Staff has researched and identified potential grants that could provide much needed zero emissions infrastructure and convert almost half of the fleet to Zero Emission Vehicles. Below is a summary of projects to help HTA become compliant with the ICT Rule.

- Microgrid System (on-site solar carports with battery storage)
- 7 electric buses for ETS and increased electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Retrofit Maintenance Bays, to accommodate increased ZEBs
- 15 hydrogen fuel cell buses for RTS
- Hydrogen Fueling Station

Currently known funding possibilities include the federal “Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity” (RAISE) grant and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program” (TIRCP). The RAISE grant application is due in July of 2021, with a 0-20% local match requirement depending on the Humboldt County poverty rate. The TIRCP grant application will be due in October and has no local match requirement. Grant budgets have not yet been fully developed. However, we preliminarily anticipate seeking up to $20 million in RAISE grant funding and/or TIRCP funding depending on timing and success of our grant submission.
HTA’s eligibility for the RAISE and TIRCP grant, as well as other potential funding opportunities, would be greatly enhanced by improving transit in and out of Humboldt County through construction of an intermodal transit station. We have begun very early conversations with potential project partners and will update the Board as this project develops.

Staff will provide regular updates as the grant cycles proceed and grant budgets are developed.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Discuss and give direction about proposed projects. Authorize the General Manager to apply for grants that will provide funding for the proposed projects, including the RAISE and TIRCP grants.
Eureka Scattered Site Project

Project Summary

Linc Housing is developing a three-site scattered site project in Eureka, CA. The project sites are located at Sunny & Myrtle Avenues (32 apartments), 6th & M Streets (35 apartments), 8th & G Streets (40 apartments). Due to the proximity of all three project sites, Linc Housing can apply as one scattered site “project”. Each project site will include on-site automobile parking, short and long-term bicycle parking, an on-site live-in property manager (and on-site manager’s offices), on-site resident services (and on-site resident services offices), a large community room, a courtyard with children’s play equipment, and a laundry room.

Linc Housing and the City of Eureka will apply to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program on June 8, 2021. The AHSC program is funded by the State of California’s Cap & Trade program. The total funding request will be between $17.5 - $20 million. The AHSC application scope not only includes financing for each of the project sites, but a grant that will fund public transportation, infrastructure, and public safety improvements which will benefit future residents of the affordable housing sites, but also surrounding businesses and neighbors. The AHSC application will be highly competitive because the project is applying in the Rural Innovation Project Area pool where the average density per project is 15 units per acre (the Eureka Scattered Site Project is 101.9 units per acre). By October 28, 2021, the applicant team will know if the Eureka Scattered Site Project is awarded.

If awarded AHSC financing, Linc Housing will submit an application for 9% tax credits to the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) in March 2022. Tax credits are the primary source of funding for affordable housing in California. Competitive applications for 9% tax credits include well-amenitized project sites like the Eureka Scattered Site Project. Additionally, the most competitive applications for 9% tax credits apply using funding awards as leverage (such as the AHSC program). The Eureka Scattered Site Project would be highly competitive because it will leverage millions of dollars and scores full points in the latest iteration of CTCAC scoring criteria. If awarded 9% tax credits, the project will have all financing secured and will be able to begin construction in late 2022. All sites will be completed by 2024.

HTA Board Request

Linc Housing has requested five years of annual transit passes for 104 affordable housing units. Three years of the transit passes will be paid for using AHSC funds. Linc Housing is prepared to purchase an additional two years of annual passes. Since five years of annual passes would be purchased, Linc Housing seeks a reduced rate for a bulk purchase of annual passes. The purchase of transit passes is conditional upon receiving AHSC funding.
AHSC Scope / HTA Collaboration

As part of the AHSC application, the transportation scope includes several items that would benefit HTA including a new bus route, 1-2 express bus routes, an electric bus purchase, and capital improvements around bus stops near the three project sites. The estimated costs of these transportation improvements exceed $2.5 million. The transportation improvements are conditional upon receiving AHSC funding.

Project Renderings

Sunny & Myrtle:

6th & M:

6th Street Elevation

M Street Elevation
Aerial View of Project Sites

Local View of the Three Sites