

MINUTES FOR THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 03, 2023

PRESENT

Board Members

Tami Trent, City of Fortuna
Julie Woodall, City of Rio Dell
Alex Stillman, City of Arcata
Leslie Castellano, City of Eureka
Natalie, Arroyo, County of Humboldt
Mike Wilson, County of Humboldt

ABSENT

Steve Ladwig, City of Trinidad

Staff

Greg Pratt, General Manager
Consuelo Espinosa, Human Resources Manager
Katie Collender, Finance Manager
Carolann Aggeler, Administration and Finance Assistant
Andi Evans, Bookkeeper
Brian Connors, Operations Manager
Sherry Dunlap, Safety & ADA Coordinator
Jim Wilson, Director of Maintenance

Jerome Qiriazzi, Transit Planner

Also in attendance were Nancy Diamond, HTA Legal Counsel; Catherine Sundquist, CAE Transport; Steve Luther, HCAOG; Oona Smith, HCAOG; Althea Christensen, Community Member; Mark Guest, Community Member.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Arroyo called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

ROLL CALL & Introductions

Introductions were made.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNICATION

None

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 Councilmember Woodall, second by Supervisor Wilson to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion carries unanimously.

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 March 29, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Action Recommended: Approve Minutes

2. Promoting Ridership on all HTA Systems.

To encourage ridership, Staff is seeking Board authorization to offer free bus rides for passengers under the age of 18. This would apply to all HTA systems.

Action Recommended: Authorize Staff to Promote Ridership on all HTA Systems by Offering Free Rides to Passengers Under the Age of 18 between June and August.

Reports

1. Draft January statistics and financial statements for all systems operated by HTA

Finance Manager Katie Collender gave the board an update on the financial statements for all systems, and that all systems are showing really good growth with the exception of the Dial-a-Ride system.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Scope of Work Change

General Manager Greg Pratt announced that due to the California Transportation Commission limiting the number of third-party contracts, each component of the project had to be revised by HTA Staff to the original Scope of Work and had to resubmit a revised budgetary plan to the CTC.

Motion by Councilmember Castellano, second by Supervisor Wilson to Adopt Resolution No. 20-06, a Resolution of the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors Revising Prior Approval Given in Resolution No. 22-26 to enter into agreements with the Schatz Energy Research Center and the Center for Transportation and the Environment Professional Services Related to the TIRCP Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Projects Update

- HTA's Cost Allocation Plan Approved: General Manager Greg Pratt announced that HTA is awaiting process to obtain up-front grant funds from CalSTA.
- Hydrogen Fueling Station: HTA is still working to get projects moving forward with a contract to be signed.
- Redwood Coast Express: HTA is still working towards January 1, 2024, as a start date and that Consuelo has been successfully recruiting bus drivers.
- Intermodal Transit Center: Update at the next board meeting in June.
- TIRCP Cycle 6 Grant Awarded: General Manager Greg Pratt announced that HTA is excited about the development of over-the-road Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Motor Coach Prototype which is the first in the Country.
- Branding: HTA plans to meet with all the stakeholders about the universal branding for all Humboldt County Systems, so that everyone is familiar with Ride Humboldt. Additionally, that the fare integration system is ready to start marketing, and that HTA has submitted a request for a case study that will also include the Far North Group.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Wilson informed the board that there will be a couple conferences in July, which will be an online forum referenced to Climate and discussion on commuting fleet vehicles.

Councilmember Arroyo informed staff that the board made decision to move forward with the public opinion research on items to go on the future ballot tax, that will improve parking conditions and include transit for funding streams.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

General Manager Greg Pratt announced that the FTA, Federal Infrastructure & Jobs Act that congress signed into law by President Joe Biden on November 15, 2021, will be providing funds for federal-aid highways, safety programs, and transit programs. With that, he suggested the idea of bringing on someone from Workforce Development to educate Staff and the Board on work force agreements.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) the board meet in closed session to discuss the following existing litigation: Charles Edwards and Ted Sheets dba ADA in MOTION vs. Humboldt Transit Authority, Greg Pratt, and Katie Collender, and Humboldt County Superior Court Case # CV2300002.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.