

MINUTES FOR THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

November 1, 2023

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Board Members

Tami Trent, City of Fortuna  
Alex Stillman, City of Arcata  
Leslie Castellano, City of Eureka  
Steve Ladwig, City of Trinidad  
Debra L. Garnes, City of Rio Dell (Alt)  
Natalie Arroyo, County of Humboldt  
Mike Wilson, County of Humboldt

Staff

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

Also in attendance was Nancy Diamond, HTA's Legal Counsel; Vance Law, City of Arcata, and Members of the Public; Althea Christensen.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Arroyo called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

**ROLL CALL & Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNICATION**

Althea Christensen announced that West Avenue in Eureka would be closed and asked for alternative bus stops for the Eureka Transit System Purple Route.

Operations Manager, Brian Connors replied that he would be meeting with the City of Eureka project manager to identify alternative bus stops.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None

## 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.

*Motion by Supervisor Wilson, second by Councilmember Garnes to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.*

Minutes from November 1, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

### Items Removed from Consent Calendar

None

## Reports

### 1. Draft August 2023 statistics and financial statements for all systems operated by HTA

Finance Manger Katie Collender announced that we are in the second month of the new fiscal year and that the farebox is strong. She also added that the passenger count is up, as well as that the Redwood Transit System and the Eureka Transit System farebox is up by 16%.

## New Business

### 1. HTA Projects Update

HTA's Transit Planner Jerome Qiraizi gave the board an update on future projects:

- *The Adhoc Committee met on October 11, 2023, and approved the Qualified Bidders list to be released in a couple weeks.*
- *HTA staff have planned a pre-production meeting visit to New Fyler's production facility in Anniston, Alabama for a week of November 13, 2023.*
- *The new Willow Creek schedule has been implemented and Blue Lake bus service has been operating.*

Councilmember Arroyo made mention that she had the opportunity to have a discussion with HTA staff regarding facility needs for the HTA site and recommended future discussions.

Transit Planner Jerome Qiriazzi made mention that facility redesign and additional space will be needed for the long-term goal of redesigning the HTA Administrative and Maintenance Facility, including replacing the majority of buildings which are reaching their end of useful life. Finally, that HTA would be starting the CEQA process this month.

### 2. Microtransit Pilot Program Implementation Update

Finance Manger Katie Collender announced the soft launch of micotransit that took place on Monday, October 23, 2023, and that an email was submitted to stake holders, as well as to Danco for the Phylis Apartments for trial. Danco is subsidizing the pilot program and several users have contacted HTA requesting assistance for setting up the microtransit service app on their devices. She added that the microtransit service is not ready to be launched to the public as it is still in the testing phase. Riders can still book their rides online or by using the Ride Humboldt app, and that riders will be able to book rides by phone when the program is ready to launch to the general public. Additionally, that agencies will have the option to book rides for their consumers and that feedback is being collected after each ride.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

NONE

**CLOSED SESSION**

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.