



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 7a
HCAOG Board Meeting
October 19, 2023

DATE: October 10, 2023
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Beth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **2023-2028 Humboldt County Transit Development Plan**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Enclosures:
 - 2023-2028 Transit Development Plan Final Draft Report and Appendices

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Receive TDP presentation from LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc (LSC);
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:

“The PAC recommends that the HCAOG Board adopt the 2023-2028 Transit Development Plan.

Staff Summary:

HCAOG contracted LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc (LSC) to complete the update to the Humboldt County Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP is a short-range transit plan to guide capital investments and service improvements over a five-year period. HCAOG updates the TDP every five years as this planning document serves as the primary justification for federal and state grants for transit operations and capital projects.

The TDP consists of 12 chapters beginning with an overview of demographics and existing transit services in Humboldt County. The evaluation of transit services analyzes operator performance data. Following a summary of public outreach, the TDP lists the service alternatives, capital requirements, financial considerations, marketing strategies, and performance standards. Chapter 11 is the Transit Development Plan which describes the

recommended service plan for each transit agency. For this TDP update Cal Poly Humboldt contributed financially to the Plan's development so that their plans for campus growth and student housing could be integrated into overall transit planning for the region. This allowed for integration of Cal Poly data and transit needs throughout the document and the development of an additional chapter dedicated to discussing Cal Poly Humboldt transit solutions.

Public involvement in the Plan included two public meetings: a daytime hybrid community meeting during the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting, and a second evening hybrid meeting to gather input on the service alternatives. An online survey was available from November 4 to December 2, 2022. A total of 183 people completed the survey. Additionally, a total of 155 people completed onboard passenger surveys on five separate transit services. Several involved members of the public participated in stakeholder interviews at the outset of the Plan. Lastly, a draft final report was circulated to interested parties and additional comments were received and addressed in the final draft of the plan.

The attached image of Figure 24 from the TDP shows a visual summary of the recommendations for service changes.

Key operating recommendations for HTA are:

- Express service on Redwood Transit System, beginning with Arcata to Eureka and expanding to Arcata to College of the Redwoods.
- Sunday service on RTS, and eventually ETS and A&MRTS
- Microtransit pilots utilizing DAR vehicles open to the public
 - Incremental introduction of microtransit in McKinleyville
 - Microtransit service to Samoa and Manila
- Implement microtransit for Fortuna Transit, and streamline RTS Weekday Fortuna Service
- Revise ETS Routes to Coordinate Service at EaRTH Center
- Eliminate Saturday Willow Creek service
- Evaluate Dial-A-Ride Funding Agreement

For A&MRTS, recommendations include:

- Implement the Green Route weekdays when Cal Poly is in session (this is a similar but different route than the new Green and Gold service)
- Operate an Orange Route Run at 6 – 7 AM on weekdays
- Implement Sunday service
- Pilot Arcata microtransit, including Bayside and Sun Valley

Additionally, capital improvement projects include new transit hubs, improvements to existing transit centers, Park and Ride facilities, and bus stop and bus stop access improvements.

The PAC is asked to make a recommendation for the HCAOG Board to adopt the 2023-2028 Transit Development Plan.



Figure 24
Humboldt County Transit Development Plan

