



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 8a
HCAOG Board Meeting
June 17, 2021

DATE: June 8, 2021
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Beth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Planning Grant**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Resolution 21-17

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
5. Consider making the motion,
“I move that the PAC recommend that the Board adopt Resolution 21-17 approving HCAOG as a partner in the Humboldt Transit Authority's application for a U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Grant.”

Staff Summary:

Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) is applying for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The project titled, Equitable and Sustainable Public Transit Planning for Rural America Project, would be completed in three phases. The first of which would be planning for a zero-emission fleet across existing local transit systems (including Tribal systems), exploring both electrification and hydrogen options as well as planning for and designing a new transit center and fueling infrastructure to support the transition.

The second phase would focus on an expansion of HTA services and explore how to decrease vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by increasing transit use in a rural setting. With particular focus on expanding routes equitably, including in areas that are defined as areas of persistent poverty in the grant terms.

The final phase would be working to conduct a nationwide survey of rural transit operators to obtain insight into the potential market for hydrogen or electric vehicles optimized for rural travel (long range and difficult terrain). This information would be used to encourage original equipment manufacturers to develop vehicles optimized for a rural setting.

HCAOG staff have been assisting with preparation of the grant application through Work Element 5: Project Delivery and Oversight which includes a task to assist local partners and transit agencies with grant applications.

Humboldt Transit Authority and HCOAG staff are requesting that HCAOG be a project partner in this application. Other project partners include the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Schatz Energy Research Center, and the Center for Transportation and the Environment (a national non-profit).

As a project partner, if the grant is awarded, HCOAG tasks would include assistance with grant management and reporting, assisting with solicitations for consultant services, and public outreach and education. All HCAOG staff time would be funded by the grant.