



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 444-8208
www.hcaog.net

AGENDA ITEM 7b
HCAOG Board Meeting
April 20, 2017

DATE: April 13, 2017
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Marcella Clem, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funds**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:
"I move that the PAC recommend the HCAOG Board direct staff to request the California Transportation Commission move the \$2 million funding allocation for the Right of Way Phase for the Eureka-Arcata Corridor Improvement Project and the \$500,000 funding allocation for the Design Phase of the Humboldt Bay Trail (Eureka to Bracut) project out one year to 2018-19 ."

Staff Summary:

HCAOG currently has two projects programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The deadline to request changes to the current funding schedule is May 1st in order to be on the June 28th California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting agenda.

The Eureka-Arcata Corridor Improvement project has \$2 million dollars dedicated to Right of Way scheduled for allocation in the 2017-18 fiscal year. These funds, originally programmed in 2014, are earmarked for billboard removal due to a condition of approval by the Coastal

Commission as part of the Coastal Consistency Permit requirements. The Coastal Commission's condition of approval regarding Visual Impact Mitigation states:

Prior to or concurrent with its submittal to the Commission of a coastal development permit application for the project Caltrans will develop and submit a plan to provide mitigation for the visual impacts of the project by removing, to the maximum extent feasible, all billboards along the corridor, as well as other overhead infrastructure (such as power poles and power lines), and by steepening the inside slopes of the interchange to maximize the view towards the bay from Indianola Cutoff.

Last year, Caltrans was successful in negotiating the removal of ten of the fourteen billboards on the west side of the highway. The green dots represent billboards that have been removed and the blue dots represent ones that remain.



One remaining billboard, located on the bay at the Indianola Cutoff, was the single billboard proposed to be removed by HCAOG and Caltrans at the time of the Coastal Consistency hearing in 2013. That billboard was not one of the ten removed. Caltrans believes that the removal of the ten billboards meets the intent of the condition and does not believe that the removal of the

Indianola billboard is necessary. The simulated photograph below shows the view of the proposed interchange and existing billboard:



The final agreement on what is meant by the “maximum extent feasible” will ultimately be made by the Coastal Commission at a hearing for the Coastal Development Permit, not yet submitted. There is also one remaining billboard in the path of future Bay Trail alternatives. Staff recommends using a portion of these funds for the removal of that billboard. Until agreement is reached on this issue, Caltrans, HCAOG, and County staff recommend moving the funds out to the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The second project in the STIP is the Humboldt Bay Trail (Eureka to Bracut Segment) project. It has \$500,000 dedicated to the Design and Engineering Phase of the project and is scheduled for allocation in the 2017-18 fiscal year. The County is currently working on the Environmental Phase of the project and have requested that the \$500,000 be moved out to the 2018-19 fiscal year with the agreement that the request could be pulled from the CTC agenda if progress on the environmental phase changes.