



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 6a
HCAOG Board Meeting
January 18, 2024

DATE: January 9, 2024
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Beth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Amendment to Regional Transportation Plan to define Major Transit Stops**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Ridership by Stop Data
- Resolution 24-01

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:
 "The PAC recommends the HCAOG Board adopt Resolution 24-01 amending the Regional Transportation Plan, *VROOM 2022-2042*, to include defined major transit stops."

Staff Summary:

Over the last two years several housing related bills were passed through the State legislature with the intent to increase the speed and affordability of housing production. Among them was Assembly Bill 2097. AB 2097 was passed in September 2022 and prohibits a public agency from imposing any minimum automobile parking requirement on any residential, commercial, or other development project, as defined, that is located within 1/2 mile of public transit, as defined.

In the context of this bill, the definition of public transit relies on section 21155 of the Public Resources Code. "A major transit stop is as defined in Section 21064.3, except that, for purposes

of this section, it also includes major transit stops that are included in the applicable regional transportation plan.”

For reference, Section 21064.3 defines a major transit stop that meets any of the following:

- (a) An existing rail or bus rapid transit station.
- (b) A ferry terminal served by either a bus or rail transit service.
- (c) The intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods.

Because Humboldt County does not have transit stops that meet the above definition, only transit stops that we include in our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) would be subject to AB 2097 provisions.

Our current RTP, VROOM 2022-2042 was adopted in January 2022, prior to the passage of AB 2097, so we did not contemplate including/identifying major transit stops during that update.

Because there would be immediate benefits to identifying major transit stops, staff is recommending a phased approach. Initially defining specific stops that have the highest level of use. At a later time, an expanded definition could be considered. This could occur as part of the 2026 VROOM update, or prior.

The following specific stops are proposed to be included in the RTP as major transit stops due to their high level of use:

Stop Name	Sum of Avg Day Total Alighting (On+ Off)
CAL POLY LIBRARY CIRCLE	565
BAYSHORE MALL	344
ARCATA TRANSIT CENTER	316
F ST AND HARRIS ST	282
COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS	231
EUREKA TRANSIT CENTER	210
VALLEY WEST BLVD. (MCDONALDS)	175

A full list of average daily passenger alighting is included for all transit systems operated by Humboldt Transit Authority.

The stops that would be included in the amendment of the RTP are within the Cities of Eureka and Arcata, except for the stop at College of the Redwoods. Community Development Staff at Eureka, Arcata and the County have reviewed these locations and are in favor of them being included.

For future consideration Staff will work with all member jurisdictions to see if there is interest in developing a definition of major transit stops that would consider more data such as ability to transfer to other routes and frequency of service. There is also potential to consider a lower number of average daily alighting, which may be appropriate for lower population areas or communities where very few stops are available.

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 24-01 to amend the RTP to include the specific transit stops listed above as major transit stops.