



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 9e
HCAOG Board Meeting
October 21, 2021

DATE: October 13, 2021
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Regional Transportation Plan Update: Full Public Draft for Formal 30-Day Public Review & Comment Period**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Full Public Draft of RTP for Formal Public Review and Comment Period. Includes:
 - All RTP chapters and maps previously released
 - New "Global Climate Crisis" Administrative Draft
 - New "Financial Element" Administrative Draft
 - New administrative draft maps (6)

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Allow each agency to present their proposals;
4. Receive public comment;
5. Direct staff as necessary or consider making the motion,
"I move that the PAC recommend that the HCAOG Board approve the full public draft of the RTP update, *VROOM 2022-2042*, for the formal, final 30-day public review and comment period."

Staff Summary:

This month all the draft chapters for the Regional Transportation Plan update, *Variety in Rural Options of Mobility (VROOM) 2022-2042*, are presented for your review and comments. Two elements are new for your review: Global Climate Crisis, and the Financial Element (both are updated from the current 2017 RTP), as well as new and updated maps. Additionally, I have updated the "Renewing Our Communities" chapter (reviewed previously) with a summary of results/responses we heard from our public engagement efforts. The Board has previously

reviewed the administrative drafts of the remaining ten chapters, all of which the Board has already released to the public.

To date, staff has done “soft launches” for the individual drafts as they were approved for release. Now, with this full draft, we will begin a formal public review and comment period, and will do additional formal announcements, both targeted and general.

Staff has edited and reorganized to make the overall plan more clear and less redundant. We have not made any major substantive changes to the drafts already reviewed, with the one exception that “Renewing Our Communities” now summarizes what we heard from the public outreach and engagement efforts these past few months, and we have an appendix (very large) that describes the whole public outreach program to date. We will finish the appendix completely after the RTP survey closes on October 31 and we tally the final results.

The Full Public Draft is presented without strikeout/underlining. For your reference, the table below describes what staff reorganized or added since the administrative draft versions.

Element/chapter	Changes made since Administrative Draft
1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Aviation Element projects completed since 2017.
2. Renewing Our Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added “County Profile” demographics tables (previously in Introduction). • Added summary of results from public outreach/engagement program. • Added language to be consistent with adding “Health” to the Safety objective: “Safety and Health – Increase safety especially for the most vulnerable users (elderly, youth, pedestrians, bicyclists, people with disabilities). Advocate the health benefits of active transportation. Advocate for Vision Zero resolutions to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries to zero. • Moved (former) Policy CS-5 to this chapter: “HCAOG shall prioritize projects that have been planned and designed to bring economic benefits to communities that have had disproportionately low transportation investments and/or disproportionately high transportation harms.” • Inserted Safe & Sustainable Transportation Targets table. • Revised policy on Wiyot Honor Tax: POLICY EQUITY-1 – Land Acknowledgement: HCAOG benefits from using office space and Board meeting space in Eureka, which is unceded ancestral land of the Wiyot. HCAOG will work to secure a stable funding source with which to contribute to the voluntary Wiyot Honor Tax in order to monetarily compensate the Wiyot Tribe for this benefit. If HCAOG cannot access any governmental fund that allows this type of expenditure, HCAOG will advocate for policy that creates funds that allow this as an eligible use.
3. Global Climate Crisis	N/A (first administrative draft available now)
4. Tribal Transportation	<i>made only minor edit for clarity</i>
5. Emergency Transportation	<i>made only minor edits for clarity</i>

6. Land Use-Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved policies related to transit-oriented development (from Public Transportation Element) to this element. Streamlined policies to reduce redundancies. • Move project from this element to Global Climate Change Element: “Track the State’s pursuit to make more public right-of-way available for ZEV charging infrastructure. Support State efforts to strategically place charging stations, for battery electric and hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles, along California’s designated Alternative Fuel Corridors, and advocate for Humboldt and other rural areas to receive fair benefits of the alternative fuel transportation corridors. (<i>California Transportation Plan 2050</i> recommended action)”
7. Complete Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightly edited the goal: GOAL: Throughout Humboldt County, the streets, roads, and highway system meet the transportation and safety needs of all users, including pedestrians, transit users, bicyclists, motorists, the elderly, youth, and the disabled. The region’s jurisdictions have the resources to preserve, enhance, and maintain the roadway network to <u>support bicycle, bus, pedestrian, automobile, and truck travel complete streets and connected communities.</u> • Moved the following objectives to the GCC Element: <i>Increase number of electric-vehicle charger per capita; Reduce on-road transportation-related fossil fuel consumption in Humboldt County; and Increase percentage of electric-vehicle charging stations installed equitably in multi-family residential areas and higher density/lower-income areas.</i> • Separated Caltrans projects into its own projects table (Table <i>Streets-5</i>).
8. Commuter Trails	<i>made only minor edit for clarity</i>
9. Public Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved policies to more logical headings: support for transit-oriented development went to the Land Use-Transportation Element; support for increasing public transit funding moved to Efficient and Viable objective. • Moved policy on exploring benefits and tradeoffs of universal fare-free transit to the action element as an HCAOG project. • Removed list of potential funding sources because HCAOG does not have the authority to implement the methods.
10. Aviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the number of commercial carriers/flights available at Arcata/Eureka Airport. • Added: Solar array at Arcata/Eureka Airport to be operational in 2021. • Deleted forecasts made circa 2010-2013 (Table <i>Aviation-4</i> Aviation Forecast for Based Aircraft, 2010-2025; Table <i>Aviation-5</i>. Aviation Forecast for Annual Operations, 2010-2025; Table <i>Aviation-6</i>. Airport Enhancement Needs to Upgrade to Minimum Standards (2013)). • Consolidated policies to reduce redundancy. • Updated projects that have been completed. • Deleted performance measures that were not directly tied to aviation.

11. Goods Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised the Harbor District projects from 2018/19 implementation years to unknown. Deleted the Harbor District’s “Coastal Rail Service from the Samoa Peninsula to Scotia” project from project list. • Deleted performance measures for which there is no feasible data to collect and monitor and measures that were not directly tied to freight/goods movement.
12. Financial	N/A (first administrative draft available now)
Maps/Figures	<p>These were revised based on comments received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Arcata’s data for Class 1 Bike Routes map • Added airport ownership in Goods Movement map • Revised Transit Routes-Countywide map for accuracy <p>New administrative draft maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Centers Humboldt Bay • Population Centers Norther • Population Centers Southern • Transit Routes Arcata • Transit Routes Eureka • Transit Routes Fortuna

Contingent upon Board approval at the October 21 meeting, staff will kick-off the formal public review and comment period on Friday, October 22, or Monday, October 25. The comment period will last 30 days.

During the previous months of the informal review, HCAOG has received comments on the administrative drafts of RTP update. Most comments have regarded revising information for clarity, corrections, or more current detail. One issue that three people have commented on, however, regards the process or practice by which projects get listed in the RTP. One of the central purposes of RTPs is to identify, in an open process with community input, regional transportation projects that will help achieve the RTP’s goals. For some state and federal funding programs, projects must be listed in the adopted RTP to be eligible for funding. For discretionary, non-formula funds that HCAOG oversees, this is the case for Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) funding (which is part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)).

The three people wrote to request that HCAOG use criteria such as the new (draft) Safe & Sustainable Transportation (SST) Targets to vet and/or prioritize projects that get included in the RTP. While staff did not restrict jurisdictions in listing their projects in the current draft *VROOM 2022-2042*, we have been formulating potential project evaluation criteria, which has been an HCAOG objective since the last update and previous RTIP/STIP cycles. Staff’s concept is to include evaluation criteria questions in applications for discretionary, non-formula funding that HCAOG administers. Staff would draft and develop evaluation criteria with full participation from the TAC and SSTAC before bringing a recommended draft to the Board. After the criteria were adopted, if appropriate, staff could revise or update the RTP to incorporate it into the process for listing projects. We welcome the Board’s feedback and direction on this potential strategy going forward.

RTP Update schedule: The Board will review and consider certifying an updated EIR Addendum (per California Environmental Quality Act) November 18. The Board will consider adopting *VROOM 2022-2042* on December 16.