



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
L-3

For the meeting of: October 7, 2014

Date: September 23, 2014

To: Board of Supervisors

From: **(P)** Thomas K. Mattson, Public Works Director

Subject: Unmet Transportation Needs Public Hearing for FY 2015-16

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Open a public hearing and receive the staff report and allow the public to comment on transit needs in the unincorporated areas of the County.
2. Close the public hearing and direct that the Clerk of the Board to forward an action summary of the meeting to the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) for inclusion in their hearing.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for representatives of various agencies and the general public to request specific transit services in the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County. Ultimately, a finding by the HCAOG board will have to be made as to whether there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

Unmet transit needs may be found to be *reasonable to meet* by means of the following criteria:

1. Pursuant to the requirements of Transportation Development Act (TDA) Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Statutes (Public Utilities Code Section 99401.5 (c), a determination of needs that are

Prepared by Thomas K. Mattson/jg CAO Approval Chris D. Higgins
 REVIEW: Auditor MSM County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
 Upon motion of Supervisor Sundberg Seconded by Supervisor Fennell
 Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass
 Nays _____
 Abstain _____
 Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. L-1
 Meeting of: January 14, 2014

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.
 Dated: Oct. 7, 2014
 By: Ann Huntwell
 Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

reasonable to meet shall not be made by comparing unmet transit needs with the need for streets and roads, for the allocation of LTF. The fact that an identified transit need cannot be fully met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet.

2. If a new, expanded or revised transit service fails to meet ridership or cost effectiveness standards after one full year of operation, reasonable efforts will be made and documented to rectify the situation during the following year of operation. If service has not met performance standards during the period required by the Transportation Development Act Statutes, and efforts to improve service productivity have been documented by the operator to be unsuccessful, the service will be subject to termination as not being reasonable to meet. Efforts to rectify the underperforming ridership may include but are not limited to increased outreach/marketing of service (newspaper placement), collaboration between organizations or agencies that work with potential ridership of the service and surveys documenting ways in which the service could be improved or made more attractive.
3. Evaluation of potential unmet needs shall be conducted by the LTF claimant that is expected to provide the new, expanded, or revised transit service. The LTF claimant shall review, evaluate, and indicate that the service is operationally feasible, including:
 - a. Forecast of anticipated ridership if service is provided.
 - b. Estimate of capital and operating cost for the provision of such services.
 - c. Determination if there are adequate roadways and selected turnouts to safely accommodate transit vehicles.
 - d. Determination that vehicles are currently available in the marketplace.
 - e. Determination if potential transit service duplicates existing services.
4. An unmet transit need may be determined to be unreasonable to meet because it is not feasible to initiate service within the coming fiscal year, due to the time required for vehicle acquisition, planning, or similar timing factors, or because additional information is needed to determine whether or not the unmet transit need is reasonable to meet. An unmet transit need shall not be determined unreasonable to meet more than once on these grounds.

The Humboldt County Association of Governments, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, is required to make the finding that there are not unmet transit needs which are reasonable to meet prior to approving fund claims for street and road purposes. This process is required by the TDA-LTF. Currently, the County Road Fund and Bicycle and Trailways program receive a portion of LTF funding.

In prior years, the unmet transit needs hearings were conducted around the last quarter of the fiscal year. The public hearing for FY 2014-15 was held in January 2014. In a letter dated July 28, 2014, HCAOG is requesting that the public hearings for FY 2015-16 be conducted and completed prior to September 30, 2014. This will provide LTF claimants sufficient time to evaluate potential unmet needs findings and consider any additional allocations in the new fiscal year's budget proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: If new unmet transit needs are identified and recommended for funding, the Trails and Roads budgets of the Public Works Department may be reduced in FY 2015-16 since LTF are allocated following a priority funding order namely: (1) TDA Administration, (2) Planning & Programming, (3) Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities, (4) Community Transit Service Agency, (5) Public Transit, and (6) Miscellaneous Allocations which include local streets and roads, entities contracted to provide public

transportation services, facilities exclusively for bicycles and pedestrians, and multimodal transportation terminal.

This project conforms to the Board of Supervisors' Core Roles of encouraging new local enterprise and ensuring proper operation of markets.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: HCAOG

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS: HCAOG Letter: FY 2015-16 Unmet Transit Needs Cycle; Request for Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Member Public Hearing Dates



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 444-8208
www.hcaog.net

July 28, 2014

Dear City Managers, CAO, Transit Operators:

**RE: FY 2015-16 Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Cycle;
Request for Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Member Public Hearing Dates**

Each year, the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG), as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), conducts a citizen participation process to assess unmet transit needs within Humboldt County. The State Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires HCAOG to hold at least one public hearing each year to receive public comments regarding unmet transit needs. Prior to allocating TDA funds for non-transit purposes, HCAOG must evaluate and make findings regarding the existence of needs in Humboldt County.

The HCAOG UTN public hearing will be held on September 18, 2014. In addition to HCAOG's statutorily required public hearing, HCAOG encourages its JPA member entities to conduct separate hearings to receive comments for their respective jurisdictions.

HCAOG is requesting its member agencies to also conduct UTN public hearings prior to September 30, 2014. It is requested that public hearing dates be provided to debra.dees@hcaog.net by **Friday, August 8**. HCAOG will publish a 30-day display ad in the Times Standard which will include a schedule of all hearing dates, times, and locations.

Public hearings are being scheduled earlier to provide a more timely UTN process for adoption of the annual UTN Report of Findings. A synopsis of the UTN process is attached for your information as well as a FY 2015-16 UTN Schedule.

Please contact Debra Dees, Associate Planner at debra.dees@hcaog.net or 444-8208 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Debra Dees
Associate Planner

Attachment:

- (1) UTN Synopsis
- (2) FY 2015-16 UTN Schedule